

OMAG/01



LAND AT OWDESWELL MANOR, ANDOVERSFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by Dr C Levinson

June 2015

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project team

PROJECT MANAGER Luke Craddock-Bennett
AUTHOR Iain Bennett
FIELDWORK Iain Bennett, Sam Thomas
GRAPHICS Rafael Maya-Torcely – Illustrations
Caroline Norrman – Typesetting
APPROVED BY Luke Craddock-Bennett – Project Manager



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MIDLANDS & WEST

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

01432 364 901
midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



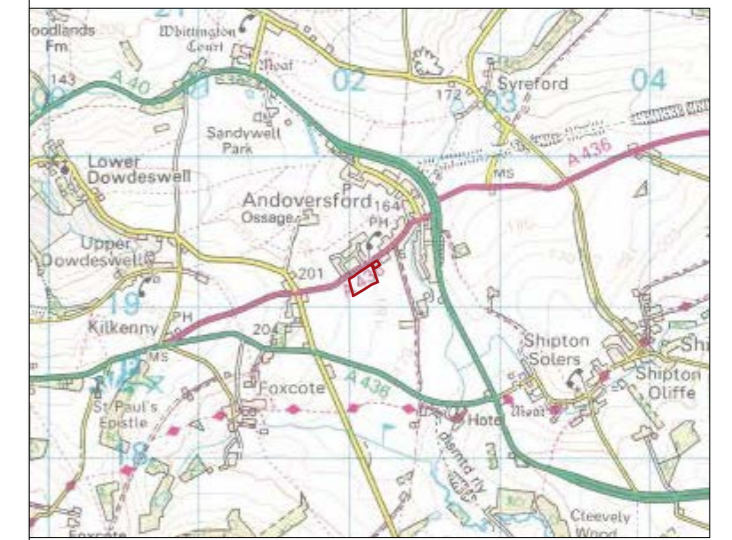
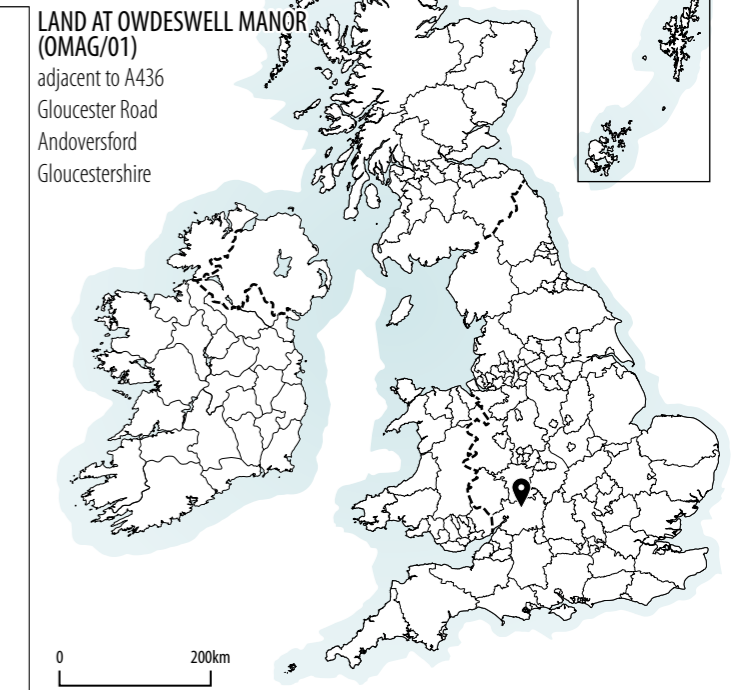


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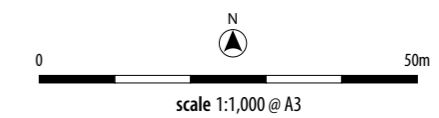
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ILLUS 5		2
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- INTERPRETATION OF MAGNETOMETER ANOMALIES
- positive linear anomaly (possible ditch-like feature)
 - positive anomaly (magnetically enhanced material)
 - discrete positive response (possible pit-like feature)
 - strong dipolar anomaly (ferrous object)
 - zone of magnetically variable response (possible quarry)
 - linear anomaly (agricultural origin)

- KEY
- development boundary
 - furrows
 - trench location



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY

SCOTLAND

13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
0131 467 7705
www.headlandarchaeology.com

ILLUS 1
Site location

LAND AT OWDESWELL MANOR, ANDOVERSFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook a trial trench field evaluation on a plot of land at Owdeswell Manor, Andoversford, Gloucestershire. The evaluation confirmed the presence of agricultural furrows previously identified by geophysical survey. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified within the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on an area of land at Owdeswell Manor, Andoversford, Gloucestershire. The archaeological works, commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP), on behalf of Dr C Levinson, relate to the intended planning application for a residential development on the site.

The evaluation was undertaken to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by EDP, on behalf of Dr C Levinson to undertake the required works in accordance with a project design agreed with the archaeological advisor (Craddock-Bennett 2015).

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development site (**Illus 1**) is located to the west of Andoversford, Gloucestershire and comprises an area of land located at NGR 402102 219216 (site centre). The total development site occupies two areas of pasture land separated by a hedge and measures approximately 1.9ha in size.

The site is located on the southern side of Gloucester Road and just to the west of its junction with the A40. The site is bound by

Gloucester Road to the north, a small area of scrubland to the north-east and pasture to the east, south and west.

The site is at its highest to the west, sloping gently to the east and north-east. Immediately prior to the current works, the site was used for horse pasture.

The underlying geology of the site comprises limestone sedimentary bedrock of the Birdlip Limestone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded on the site (BGS 2015).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological and heritage assessment prepared by EDP (2015) concluded that, given the limited presence of remains in the vicinity of the site, there was a low potential for the identification of previously unrecorded activity dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods. Medieval and later activity was likely to be represented by nothing more than ploughsoils, field boundaries and drainage features.

Following consultation with the local planning authority archaeological advisor a geophysical survey was undertaken (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2015). The survey revealed a number of discrete positive responses that appeared to relate to pit like features, possibly of natural origin. A small number of short linear anomalies were also located but were not thought to be of archaeological origin. Evidence for agricultural activity was also identified.



ILLUS 2
NW facing shot of Trench 7



ILLUS 3
S facing section of furrow [106]



ILLUS 4
NE facing section of furrow [308]



ILLUS 5
NW facing shot of geological feature in Trench 5

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the implication of the development proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area (following the *National Planning Policy Framework*).

Specifically the evaluation aimed to:

- Assess the nature of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey;
- Provide sufficient information on the potential heritage assets on the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed development to be assessed;
- Produce a site archive for deposition with Gloucester Museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)
- *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)

The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven trenches each measuring 30m in length and 1.6m in width. The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with turf, topsoil/upper subsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording

was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital photographic images and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

4 RESULTS

The location of features discussed below can be found on **Illus 1**. A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 1.

4.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

Geological deposits were consistent across the site. Very frequent small-medium sized sub-angular limestone rocks were present in the mid orange-brown sandy clay (**Illus 2**). This was encountered between 0.2 and 0.25m below ground level (BGL) across the site. A thin subsoil was present, between 0.1 and 0.2m BGL that consisted on a mid-greyish brown sandy clay with a moderate amount of small-medium sized sub-angular stones. The topsoil comprised a mid brown-grey friable sandy clay with occasional small-medium sized angular stones throughout, and was a very thin deposit of 0.1m in thickness.

4.2 TRENCHES CONTAINING FURROWS

Two furrows, [104, 106] were recorded in Trench 1, these were in the locations of anomalies noted by the geophysical survey running north-west/south-east. Upon investigation they were found to have irregular edges and bases with a single homogenous fill containing no archaeological finds or datable material (**Illus 3**).

Trench 3 contained three furrows measuring between 0.15m and 0.25m in depth. Furrow [304] appears to represent the continuation of furrow [106]. Two further furrows [306, 308] were investigated running east-west with their possible continuations seen in Trench 4 [404, 406] where two other furrows were investigated with the same orientation and similar dimensions (**Illus 4**).

4.3 BLANK TRENCHES

No features or significant deposits were identified in Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7.

5 DISCUSSION

The excavation has confirmed the presence of a number of the linear and agricultural anomalies noted by the geophysical survey as furrows. A number of pit-like features (targeted by Trenches 2 and 5) were also identified but upon investigation were found to be naturally occurring geological hollows (**Illus 5**).

6 CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation identified the presence of a number of undated furrows. No finds were recovered from the site and no features of archaeological significance were identified.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2015 *Land at Owdeswell Manor, Andoversford, Gloucestershire; Magnetometer Survey Report* Ref: 602.

BGS 2015 *British Geological Survey* [online] www.bgs.ac.uk

Craddock-Bennett, L 2015 *Land at Owdeswell Manor, Andoversford, Gloucestershire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Project code: OMAG/01.

EDP 2015 *Land at Owdeswell Manor, Andoversford: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment*.



8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

TR1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	ENE - WSW	30	1.5	0.30

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
101	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid brown grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
102	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.2
103	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone).	0.2+
104	Cut of Furrow – Irregular sides and base, D : 0.10m, W : 0.5m	0.2
105	Fill of [104] – Light orangey brown sandy clay, occasional small-medium angular stones. D : 0.10m, W : 0.5m	0.2
106	Cut of furrow – Irregular sides and base, D : 0.12m, 0.4m	0.2
107	Fill of [106] – Light orangey brown sandy clay, occasional small-medium angular stones. D : 0.12m, W : 0.5m.	0.2

Summary

2 x furrows running N-S at either end of the trench. Relates to geophysics results.

TR2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NNW - SSW	30	1.5	0.3

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
201	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid brown grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
202	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.2
203	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone).	0.2+

Summary

No archaeology – geological anomaly in centre of trench.

TR3	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW - SE	30	1.5	0.4

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
301	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid brown grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
302	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.2
303	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone). At NW end of trench becomes a lighter orange-brown.	0.2+

304	Cut of Furrow – Irregular edges and base. D : 0.13m, W : 0.38m.	0.2
305	Fill of [304] – Light orangey brown sandy clay, occasional small-medium angular stones. D : 0.13m, W : 0.38m.	0.2
306	Cut of furrow – Irregular in plan, gently sloping edges, irregular base. D : 0.16, W : 0.6m	0.2
307	Fill of [306] – mid orange brown, sandy clay, firm, occasional small – medium stones. Occasional flecks of charcoal. D : 0.16m, W : 0.6m	0.2
308	Cut of Furrow [308] – Linear, gently sloping sides, and irregular base. D : 0.2m, W : 0.6m	0.2
309	Fill of [308], Light orange brown clayey sand, loose/friable occasional small angular stones. D : 0.2m, W : 0.6m	0.2

Summary

3 x furrows – [304] at SE end of trench orientated N-S is continuation of [106] in TR1. The other two are orientated E-W.

TR4	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NNW - SSW	30	1.5	0.3

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid brown grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
402	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.2
403	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone).	0.2
404	Cut of furrow – linear in plan, irregular gentle sides, concave base. D : 0.15m, W : 0.6m.	0.2
405	Fill of [404] – Light orangey brown sandy clay, occasional small-medium angular stones. D : 0.15m, W : 0.6m.	0.2
406	Cut of furrow – Linear in plan, irregular gentle sides, and concave base. D : 0.35m, W : 2m	0.2
407	Fill of [406] – Light orangey brown sandy clay, occasional small-medium angular stones. D : 0.35m, W : 2m.	0.2

Summary

2 x furrows orientated E – W.

TR5	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE - SW	30	1.5	0.4

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
501	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid-brown/grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
502	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.3
503	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone).	0.3+

Summary

No archaeology. 1 x elongated geological anomaly/tree throw noted in the geophysics.

TR	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
6	NNW - SSE	30	1.5	0.3

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
601	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid-brown/grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
602	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.2
603	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone).	0.2+

Summary

No archaeology.

TR7	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE - SW	30	1.5	0.3

Context	Description	D of deposit (mBGL)
701	Topsoil – Vegetation layer, mid brown grey, clayey sand, very friable, dry, loose, occasional small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.0 – 0.1
702	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, moist, moderate small – medium sub-angular stones.	0.1 – 0.2
703	Natural – Mid orange brown, clayey sand, firm but friable, very, very frequent small – medium sized sub angular stone (limestone).	0.2+

Summary

No archaeology.



APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	B&W	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
001	–	64	W	General site shot from entrance
002	–	65	N	General site shot from entrance
003	–	66	NW	General site shot from centre
004	–	67	SW	General site shot from NE corner
005	–	68	–	Working shot stripping turfTR1
006	–	69	–	Working shot stripping turfTR1
007	–	70	–	Working shot stripping turfTR1
008	36	71	–	IDShot
009	35	72	NNW	TR1 Sample section
010	34	73	ENE	TR1 Possible furrow at west end
011	33	74	SSE	TR1 section of eastern furrow
012	32	75	WSW	TR1 General trench shot
013	31	76	SW	TR3 section of furrow at NW end
014	30	77	NE	TR3 Section of furrow at centre of trench
015	29	78	NW	TR3 plan of furrow at SE end of TR3
016	28	79	SE	TR3 General trench shot
017	27	80	WNW	TR2 General trench shot
018	26	81	SSW	TR2 Sample section
019	25	82	WSW	TR4 Section of furrow at SSE end of trench
020	24	83	NNW	TR4 Plan of furrow at NNW end
021	23	84	NNW	TR4 General trench shot
022	22	85	SE	TR6 General trench shot
023	21	86	SW	TR6 Sample section
024	20	87	NW	TR5 Geological Anomaly—oblique
025	19	88	SE	TR5 Sample section
026	18	89	NE	TR5 General trench shot
027	–	90	–	TR1 Backfilling in progress
028	–	91	–	TR1 Backfilling in progress
029	17	92	NE	TR7 General trench shot
030	16	93	NW	TR7 Sample section
031	–	94	SW	TR7 Post-Ex
032	–	95	ENE	TR1 Post-ex
033	–	96	SSW	TR2 Post-ex
034	–	97	NNE	TR2 Post-ex
035	–	98	NNW	TR6 Backfilling in progress
036	–	99	NE	TR5 Post-ex
037	–	100	SW	TR5 Post-ex
038	–	101	NNW	TR4 Post-ex
039	–	102	SSE	TR4 Post-ex
040	–	103	SE	TR3 Post-ex
041	–	104	NW	TR3 Post-ex
042	–	105	NE	TR3 Post-ex
043	–	106	–	Grass seed in TR3
044	–	107	W	General site shot
045	–	108	NW	General site shot
046	–	109	E	General site shot
047	–	110	S	General site shot
048	–	111	W	General site shot
049	–	112	SSE	TR6 Post-ex
050	–	113	NNW	TR6 Post-ex



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SOUTH & EAST

Headland Archaeology
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

T 01525 861 578

E southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

MIDLANDS & WEST

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

T 01432 364 901

E midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

NORTH

Headland Archaeology
Unit 16, Hillside, Beeston Road
Leeds LS11 8ND

T 0113 387 6430

E north@headlandarchaeology.com

SCOTLAND

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

T 0131 467 7705

E scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com