

DOHG/15



PROJECT ECLIPSE, DOWN HATHERLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Environmental Dimension Partnership
on behalf of Mace Group

January 2016

PROJECT ECLIPSE, DOWN HATHERLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Environmental Dimension Partnership
on behalf of Mace Group

January 2016

project info

HA JOB NO. DOHG/15
HAS NO. 1149
NGR SO 88006 22446
PARISH Down Hatherley
LOCAL AUTHORITY Tewkesbury Borough Council
OASIS REF. headland3-234905

project team

PROJECT MANAGER Luke Craddock-Bennett
AUTHOR Iain Bennett
FIELDWORK Iain Bennett, Tom Cochrane
GRAPHICS Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy
APPROVED BY Luke Craddock-Bennett – Project Manager



 **HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**
© 2015 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

MIDLANDS & WEST

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road, Hereford HR2 6JR

01432 364 901

midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



PROJECT SUMMARY

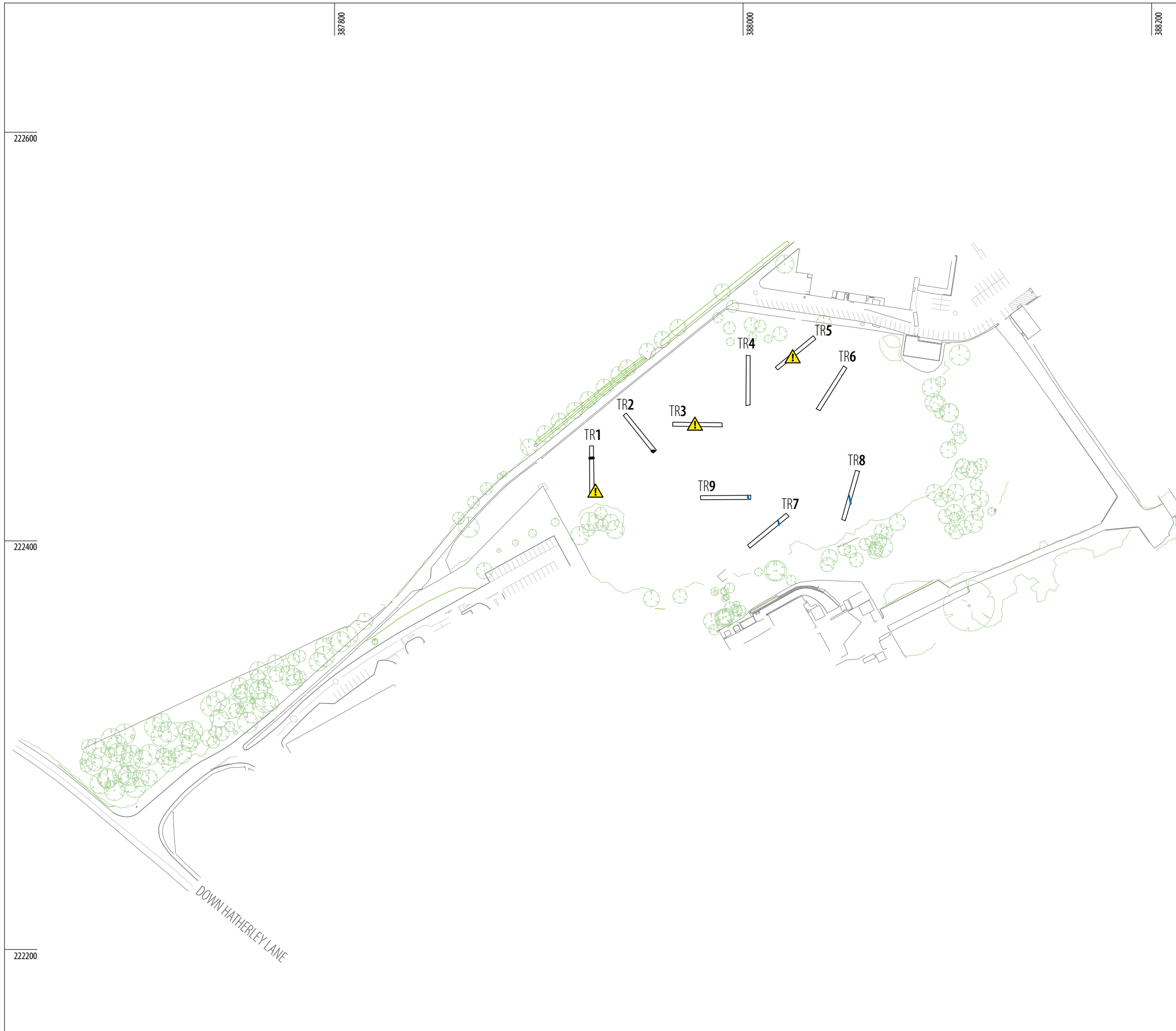
Headland Archaeology undertook a trial trench field evaluation on a plot of land in Down Hatherley, Gloucestershire. The evaluation identified modern overburden extending to a depth in excess of 1m below ground level. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the site works.

CONTENTS

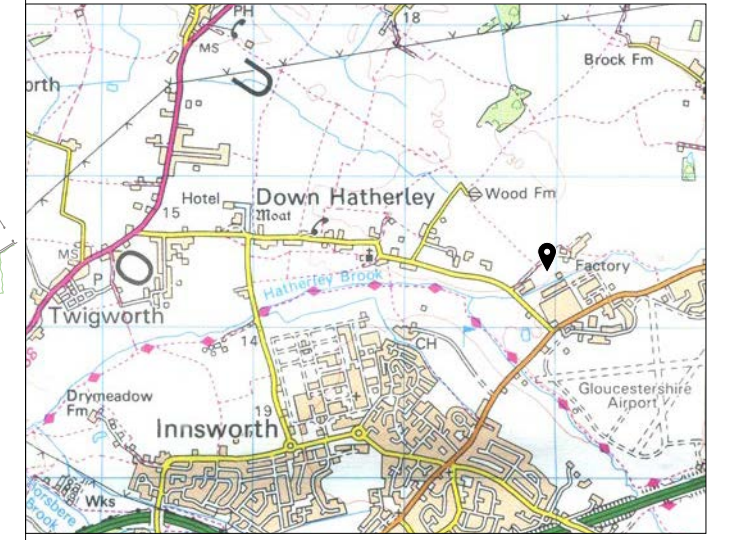
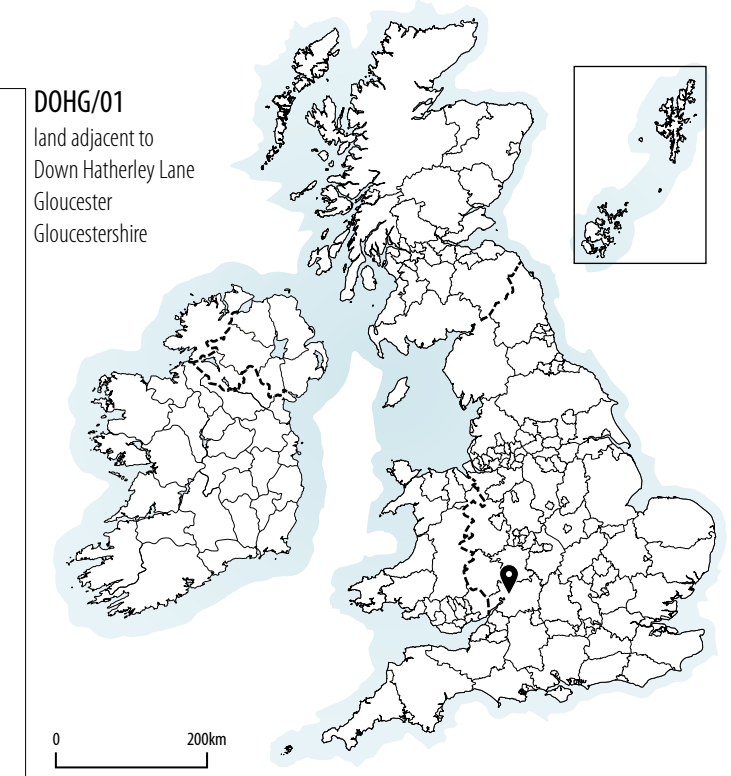
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES	1
1.2	SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING	1
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	1
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
3	METHOD	1
4	RESULTS	2
4.1	TRENCHES CONTAINING MADE GROUND	2
4.2	TRENCHES OUTSIDE AREA OF MADE GROUND	2
5	DISCUSSION	3
6	CONCLUSION	3
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
8	APPENDICES	4
	APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS	4

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1	SITE LOCATION	VII
ILLUS 2	NW FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 9	2
ILLUS 3	NW FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 5	2
ILLUS 4	W FACING SHOT OF TRENCH 3 SHOWING MODERN MATERIAL	2
ILLUS 5	NE FACING SHOT OF TRENCH 7	2

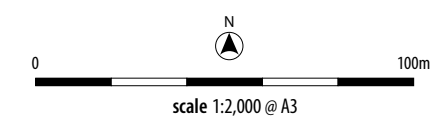


DOHG/01
land adjacent to
Down Hatherley Lane
Gloucester
Gloucestershire



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY
MIDLANDS & WEST Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road
Hereford HR2 6JR
01432 364 901
www.headlandarchaeology.com

- KEY
- trench location
 - pipe
 - drain
 - ▲ asbestos



PROJECT ECLIPSE, DOWN HATHERLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on land in Down Hatherley, Gloucestershire. Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake the works by Mace Group through their agent The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP).

The evaluation was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application for the creation of a new manufacturing facility and corporate headquarters on the site. The work was done with the aim of providing further information about the archaeological resource, and to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission.

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a project design (Craddock-Bennett 2015) submitted by Headland Archaeology, and agreed by the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council, Mr Charles Parry.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development site comprises 2ha of scrub land located at NGR 88006 22446 (**ILLUS 1**), and is bordered by an access lane to the north and east with playing fields directly north, a car park for Dowty sports and social club to the west and Hatherley Brook to the south.

The site is located at c.25m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The site falls sharply to the south towards Hatherley Brook and slopes gently down to the north and west towards an access lane.

Underlying geology is Mudstone and Limestone of the Rugby Limestone Member (British Geological Survey 2015).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based assessment produced by EDP in September 2015 (Gilmore, 2015) identified some limited potential for previously unrecorded activity within the site dating from the Romano-British period. A possible settlement site attributed to this period is located c.560m to the north of the site and the site is well situated for settlement (located on a gravel terrace). If present within the site, any archaeological remains attributed to this, and earlier periods, are likely to have been heavily truncated by the modern use of the site. Medieval and later activity is likely to be represented by nothing more than evidence of agricultural practices and buried remains of ridge and furrow, as evidenced in historic aerial photographs.

A magnetometer survey was undertaken by Stratascan in September 2015 (Davies, 2015). Magnetic disturbance was identified across the majority of the site, however no anomalies believed to be of archaeological significance were identified.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the extent, nature and importance of any buried heritage assets within the proposed development area.

Specifically the evaluation aimed to:

- Assess the nature of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey;
- Provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed development to be assessed;
- Assess the impact of previous land use on the site;



ILLUS 2 NW facing section of Trench 9 **ILLUS 3** NW facing section of Trench 5 **ILLUS 4** W facing shot of Trench 3 showing modern material **ILLUS 5** NE facing shot of Trench 7

- Produce a site archive for deposition with the local 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:

- ClfA 2015. Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation
- ClfA 2015. Standards and Guidance for the creation and compilation and deposition of archaeological archives

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 9 trenches measuring 25m by 1.8m in plan (equivalent to 2% of the proposed development area).

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil/upper subsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating when geological deposits were reached. In the case of Trenches 1–6 this was achieved through a sondage to establish the level of the natural. The remainder of the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m due to health and safety considerations.

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 (ClfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital colour 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

A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 1.1.

4.1 TRENCHES CONTAINING MADE GROUND

Trenches 1–6 contained modern overburden in two distinct layers (**ILLUS 2**). Topsoil comprised a brown silty clay with grey hue and measured between 0.23m and 0.30m in depth (e.g. 1000). Below this was a grey silty clay with yellow hue and occasional blue mottling (e.g. 6001), this was present between 0.46m and 0.75m below ground level (BGL) and overlay a brown sandy clay deposit with a yellow hue (e.g. 3002) that was present across the site between 0.36m and 0.75m BGL. This deposit contained frequent rubble and brick throughout. Below this was a black silty clay with a blue hue (e.g. 4003) that had substantial quantities of tarmac within it. The natural clay geology (e.g. 5004) was only reached through excavating sondages and had been stained a blue black by the above tarmac. Geological deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.97m and 1.19m BGL.

Trench 9 (**ILLUS 3**) contained a thin layer (0.11m) of modern overburden (9002) equivalent to the made ground identified in Trenches 1–6. Below this was a geological deposit of brown slightly silty clay with a yellow hue present at 0.64m BGL.

4.2 TRENCHES OUTSIDE AREA OF MADE GROUND

Trenches 7 (**ILLUS 4**) and 8 had a brown silty clay topsoil with grey hue (e.g. 7001) measuring between 0.26m and 0.30m in depth. Below this was a grey silty clay with a blue hue (e.g. 8002) measuring between 0.26m and 0.72m BGL. The natural geology was reached between 0.64m and 0.72m BGL and consisted of a brown slightly silty clay with a yellow hue.

5 DISCUSSION

Significant deposits of made ground were identified across the majority of the site. The presence of brick and rubble within the made ground deposit suggests that it relates to the demolition of buildings (**ILLUS 5**). The Desk-Based Assessment notes that the site was part of the Staverton Airfield complex and Dowty Aircraft Components Factory, and it seems likely that the made ground relates to demolition of buildings relating to these former land uses.

Deposits of made ground lay directly over geological material with no evidence for a buried topsoil or subsoil horizons. It would appear that the site was stripped of these deposits prior to the importation of made ground. This process may have resulted in the truncation or removal of deposits and features of archaeological significance that may have been present on the site.

6 CONCLUSION

The evaluation confirmed that the excavated areas of the proposed development site contained no archaeological remains from any period. A deposit of made ground was found across the majority of the site which lay directly on top of the geological horizon.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Craddock-Bennett, L 2015 *Project Eclipse, Down Hatherley, Gloucestershire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

CIfA 2014 *Standards and Guidance for the creation and compilation and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Davies, R 2015 *Down Hatherley, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Survey Report* Stratascan.

Gilmore, R 2015 *Project Eclipse: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment* The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd.

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench and context register

* D BGL = Depth below ground level

TR1

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	1	Max. D (m)	1.4
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
1000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0–0.15	
1001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.15–0.67	
1002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.67–0.90	
1003	Modern deposit – Tarmac and dark black brown silty clay. Loose, occasional degraded metal objects.	0.90–1.07	
1004	Natural – Mid blue brown clay, firm, no inclusions.	1.07+	

TR2

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	1.03	Max. D (m)	1.13
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
2000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0–0.18	
2001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.18–0.57	
2002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.57–0.82	
2003	Modern deposit – Tarmac and dark black brown silty clay. Loose, occasional degraded metal objects.	0.82–1.00+	

TR3

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	0.96	Max. D (m)	1.05
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
3000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0–0.22	
3001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.22–0.46	
3002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.46–0.71	
3003	Modern deposit – Tarmac and dark black brown silty clay. Loose, occasional degraded metal objects.	0.71–1.00+	

TR4

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	1.03	Max. D (m)	1.44
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
4000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0–0.29	
4001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.29–0.75	
4002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.75–0.88	
4003	Modern deposit – Tarmac and dark black brown silty clay. Loose, occasional degraded metal objects.	0.88–1.19	
4004	Natural – Mid blue brown clay, firm, no inclusions.	1.19+	

TR5

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	0.95	Max. D (m)	1.26
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
5000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0–0.20	
5001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.20–0.52	
5002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.52–0.81	
5003	Modern deposit – Tarmac and dark black brown silty clay. Loose, occasional degraded metal objects.	0.81–0.94	
5004	Natural – Mid blue brown clay, firm, no inclusions.	0.94+	

TR6

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	0.94	Max. D (m)	1.07
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
6000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	0–0.16	
6001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.16–0.36	
6002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.36–0.58	
6003	Modern deposit – Tarmac and dark black brown silty clay. Loose, occasional degraded metal objects.	0.58–0.88	
6004	Natural – Mid blue brown clay, firm, no inclusions.	0.88+	

TR7

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	0.69	Max. D (m)	0.84
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
7000	Topsoil – Mid grey brown silty clay	0–0.30	
7001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.30–0.64	
7002	Natural – mid yellow brown silty clay, firm, plastic, no inclusions.	0.64+	

TR8

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	0.72	Max. D (m)	1.28
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
8000	Topsoil – Mid grey brown silty clay	0–0.26	
8001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.26–0.72	
8002	Natural – mid yellow brown silty clay, firm, plastic, no inclusions.	0.72+	

TR9

L (m)	25	W (m)	1.8
Avg. D (m)	0.68	Max. D (m)	1.05
Context	Description	*D BGL (m)	
9000	Topsoil – Mid grey brown silty clay	0–0.23	
9001	Modern deposit - Mid yellowish grey with blue grey mottling, slightly silty clay, very plastic consistency.	0.23–0.54	
9002	Modern deposit – Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent brick inclusions – some mortared together.	0.54–0.65	
9003	Natural – mid yellow brown silty clay, firm, plastic, no inclusions.	0.65+	

Appendix 1.2 Photo register

Photo	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	36	01	–	Film I.D shot - B&W film 1232
02	35	02	NE	Trench 5 - Trench shot
03	34	03	SE	Asbestos in trench 5
04	33	04	NE	Trench 1 - Trench shot
05	32	05	W	Trench 1 - Sample section
06	31	06	NE	Trench 9 - Trench shot
07	30	07	S	Shot of asbestos in trench 1
08	29	08	NW	Trench 9 - Sample section
09	28	09	NE	Trench 7 - Trench shot
10	27	10	NW	Trench 7 - Sample section
11	26	11	SW	Trench 8 - Trench shot
12	25	12	NW	Trench 8 - Sample section
13	24	13	NE	Trench 6 - Trench shot
14	23	14	SE	Trench 6 - Sample section
15	22	15	NW	Trench 5 - Sample section
16	21	16	N	Trench 4 - Trench shot
17	20	17	E	Trench 4 - Sample section
18	19	18	W	Trench 3 - Trench shot
19	18	19	S	Trench 3 - Sample section
20	17	20	NW	Trench 2 - Trench shot
21	16	21	NE	Trench 2 - Sample section



SOUTH & EAST

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

01525 861 578

southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

MIDLANDS & WEST

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road
Hereford HR2 6JR

01432 364 901

midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

NORTH

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

0113 387 6430

north@headlandarchaeology.com

SCOTLAND

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com