

AFTW/02



LAND WEST OF THE ALAMO GROUP, STATION ROAD, SALFORD PRIORS, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Bovis Homes

May 2016

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project info

HA JOB NO. AFTW/02
HAS NO. 1172
NGR SP 07673 51429
PARISH Salford Priors
LOCAL AUTHORITY Stratford on Avon District Council
OASIS REF. headland3-247203

project team

PROJECT MANAGER Luke Craddock Bennett
AUTHOR Stephen Thomson
FIELDWORK Iain Bennett, Liam Delaney, Stephen Thomson
GRAPHICS Mano Kapazoglou, Rafael Maya-Torcelly
SPECIALISTS Laura Bailey, Tim Holden – Environmental
Julie Franklin, Julie Lochrie, Paul Blinkhorn – Finds
APPROVED BY Luke Craddock-Bennett – Project Manager



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ARCHAEOLOGY**
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MIDLANDS & WEST

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

01432 364 901

midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



PROJECT SUMMARY

Archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching, was undertaken by Headland Archaeology on land to the west of the Alamo Group factory complex, Salford Priors, Warwickshire. The trenching identified drainage ditches of unknown date, associated with seasonally waterlogged land. A curvilinear ditch with associated post-holes may represent a stock enclosure. Medieval pottery of 11th to 13th century date and a single piece of prehistoric flint debitage was recovered from subsoil deposits, but no finds were recovered from within archaeological features.

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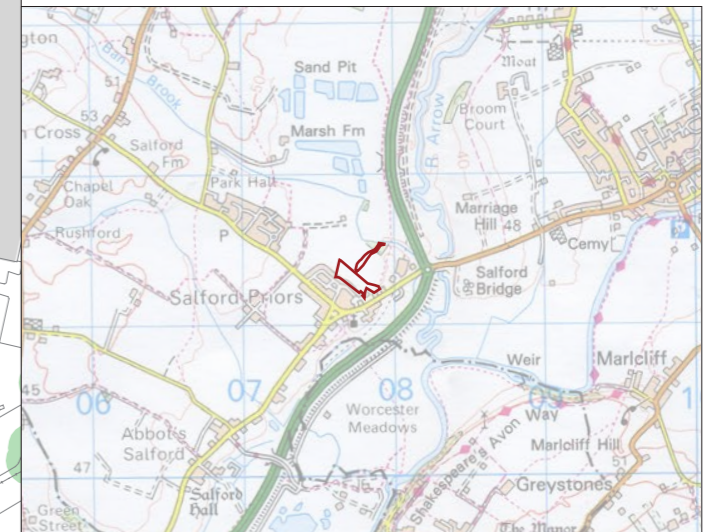
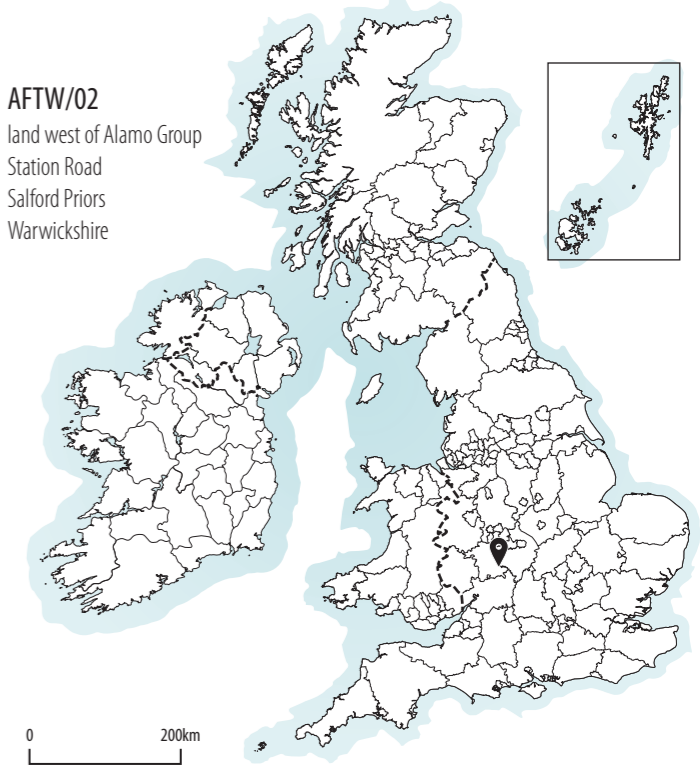
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AFTW/02
land west of Alamo Group
Station Road
Salford Priors
Warwickshire



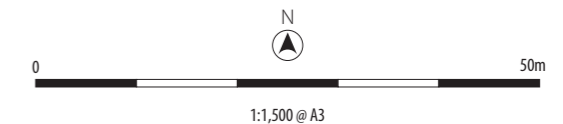
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MIDLANDS & WEST Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road
Hereford HR2 6JR
01432 364 901
www.headlandarchaeology.com

KEY

- site boundary
- trench location
- unexcavated trench location
- 1993 trench location



LAND WEST OF THE ALAMO GROUP, STATION ROAD, SALFORD PRIORS, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological site investigation on land at Salford Priors, Warwickshire. This site is proposed for residential development.

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Bovis Homes commissioned Headland Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an area of land to the west of the Alamo Group factory complex in Salford Priors, Warwickshire.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has granted outline planning permission for residential development on the site (14/01126/OUT), subject to Condition 18, which stipulates that 'no development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority'.

A written scheme of investigation was produced by Headland Archaeology (2016) and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to Stratford on Avon District Council.

The WSI proposes a phased approach to the archaeological work, with the results of the trial trench evaluation informing the need, or otherwise, for further work.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development site (**ILLUS 1**) comprises a c.2.4ha area of land located at NGR 407673, 251429 (site centre). The land is relatively flat at around 31m AOD and is currently unused rough pasture. A shallow depression towards the west of the site bisects the southern field where the land drops by approximately 0.50m.

The underlying solid geology within the site comprises Triassic Mercia Mudstone overlain by glacial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey website; (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>)). No superficial deposits are recorded for the site.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site has been subject to previous archaeological assessment. An archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the site was produced by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (Craddock-Bennett 2014). The potential for previously unknown archaeological remains occurring within the development area was considered to be high.

The site lies to the north of the medieval village of Salford Priors which was established during the Saxon period and likely centred about the parish church and surrounded by open fields; much of which would have taken the form of ridge and furrow systems. Aerial photography has identified ridge and furrow immediately northeast of the proposed development area.

A geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken within the proposed development area in 1993. The geophysical survey failed to produce any meaningful results, but the evaluation trenches uncovered a series of linear features, interpreted as possible boundary gullies and pits associated with closes or paddocks to the north-east of the medieval village.

Archaeological features containing pottery dated to the 13th – 16th centuries were identified in all seven trenches. The dated medieval features were generally aligned northeast to southwest, suggesting a linear arrangement of paddocks and closes on the edge of the medieval village.

A trial trench evaluation, carried out by Headland Archaeology, on the Alamo factory grounds (Craddock-Bennett 2013) did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

- › determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site;

- › determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- › determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from plough damage or from any other agricultural/industrial practices or later building activities;
- › investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development;
- › determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development;
- › disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the above mentioned WSI and the following documents:

- › Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- › Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a).

Trenches were set out as an array to provide a representative sample of the site. Prior to excavation, utility plans were consulted and a cable avoidance tool was used to check the presence of potential buried services. Trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator, fitted with a bladed bucket, to depths where archaeological features were identified or geological deposits encountered. Test sondages were mechanically excavated in Trenches 1, 6 and 8 to check the stratigraphic sequence.

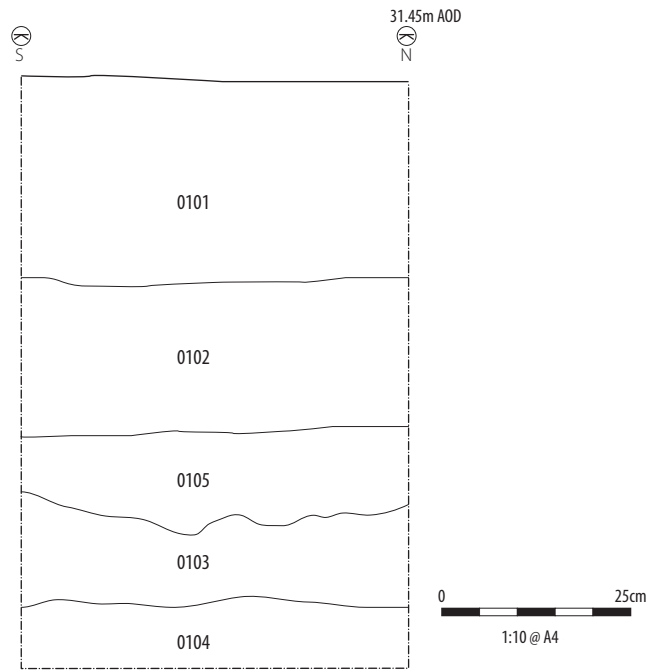
Due to the constant ingress of ground water in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, drainage sumps were mechanically excavated in areas of geological deposits, clear of archaeological remains, to facilitate drainage and assist excavation and understanding of identified features.

Due to excessive water-logging of the field where Trenches 9 and 10 were to be located, resulting in the bogging down of the mechanical excavator and heavy disturbance of the soils to the potential detriment of archaeological remains, it was agreed with the archaeological advisor that these trenches would not be excavated.

Exposed archaeological remains were recorded on pre-printed pro forma sheets and a representative sample of features identified was subsequently excavated by hand to determine form and function and to retrieve dateable material.

Drawings of significant archaeological remains and the general stratigraphy of the site were produced at a scale of 1:10 where appropriate, or digitally surveyed.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The recorded



ILLUS 2 Section 001, stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1, east facing section

contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches and identified features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. An overall site plan of the trenches and recorded features was digitally produced. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

4 RESULTS

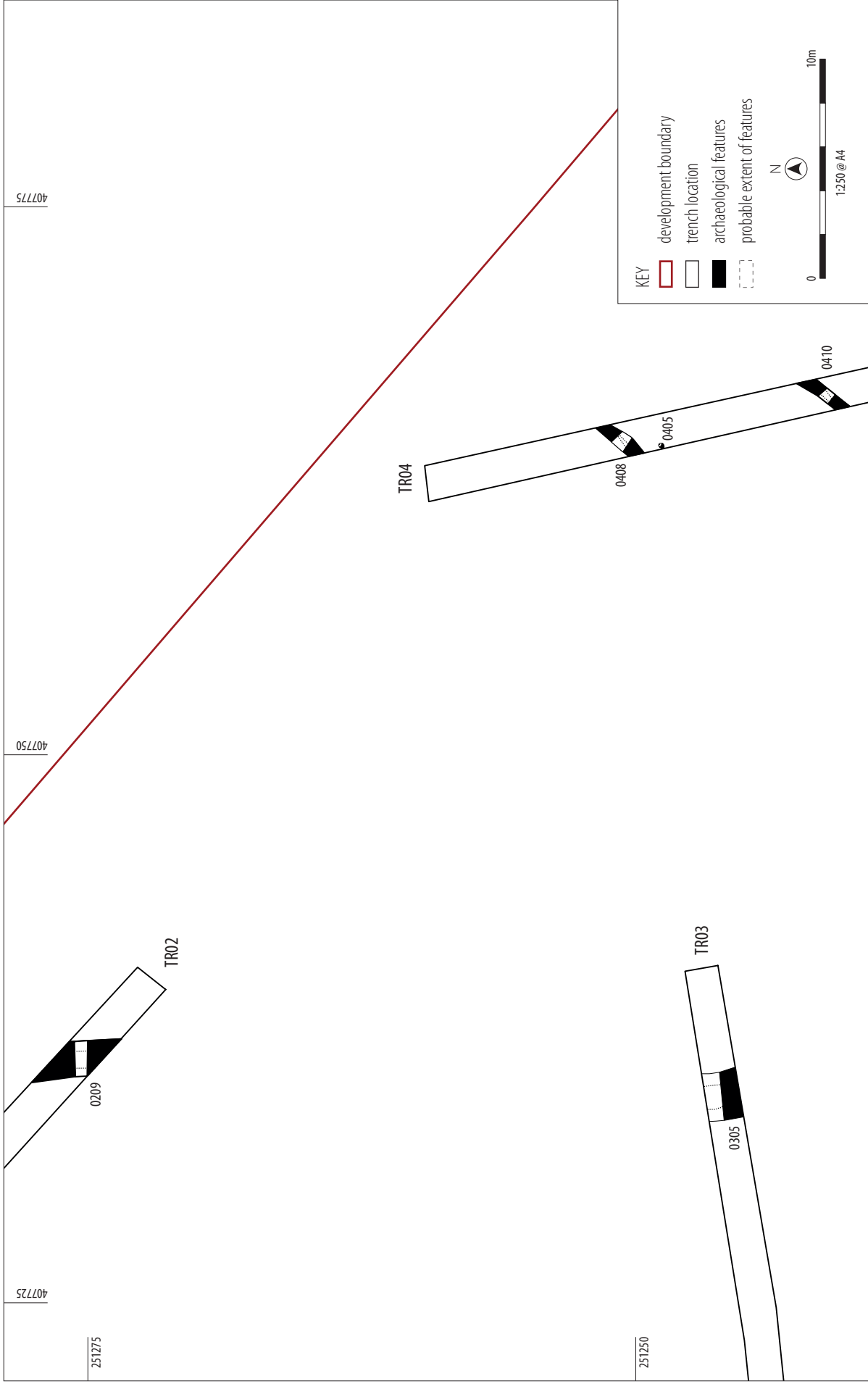
Complete context descriptions are included in Appendix 1 and finds and environmental data is included in Appendices 2 – 3.

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The earliest deposits encountered during the evaluation were glacio-fluvial in origin, comprising sandy clay gravels (eg (0104), (0603), (0803)) and sandy clays (eg (0103), (0203)). Within Trenches 8 and 12, these were encountered at depths of up to 1.55m below ground surface in test sondages.

Within the western extent of the site, the geological deposits were overlain by a dark grey silty clay ((0105), (0204), (0303) and (0527)) (ILLUS 2). There were no visibly identifiable organic remains within the deposit and an environmental sample from (0303) returned negative results. The deposit was interpreted as relating to seasonally waterlogged material with aerobic activity during dry periods causing the decay of the organic content. The deposit was less well developed and fragmentary in Trench 5 at its eastern extent.

The layer was sealed by a shallow dark brown silty clay subsoil (eg (0102), (0502)) and a dark grey, silty clay topsoil (eg (0101), (0501)).



ILLUS 3 Plan of Trenches 2, 3 and 4 showing recorded features



ILLUS 4 View of ditch [0305], looking north



ILLUS 5 View of ditch [0408] and post-hole [0405] looking north-west

Within Trenches 8 and 12, glacio-fluvial gravels (0803)/(1204) were sealed by a brownish red sandy clay (0804)/(1203). A sondage at the western end of Trench 8 revealed this to be between 0.62 and 0.95m deep, the deposit was interpreted as glacial in origin relating to pooling of material within a depression in the geology.

This deposit was observed to be sealed by a well-developed subsoil (eg (0802), (0702)) which was observed in all of the remaining trenches and was, in turn, sealed by the present topsoil (eg 0801). Pottery of medieval date and a single piece of flint debitage were recovered from subsoil deposits (0602), (0702) & (1202).

4.2 TRENCHES CONTAINING UNDATED REMAINS

Within Trench 2 (**ILLUS 3**), a linear cut [0209], oriented broadly north to south was interpreted as a drainage ditch. The ditch measured 1.47m wide by 0.47m deep and contained three fills, (0206), (0207) & (0208). The primary fill displayed suggestions of limited gleying. An environmental sample taken from the ditch returned negative results with only a few small fragments of charcoal present.

In Trench 3 (**ILLUS 3**), a ditch cut [0305] was identified as a continuation of [0209] measuring 2.30m wide and 0.40m deep (**ILLUS 4**). Two fills were recorded (0306) and (0307), the primary fill (0307) displaying similar characteristics to (0208).

Within Trench 4, a circular cut [0405] measuring 0.30 × 0.27m and 0.10m deep was identified as a post-hole. A light grey, slightly silty clayey sand (0404) formed the single fill of the feature.

To the north of the post-hole, a linear cut [0408] (**ILLUS 5**) measuring 0.80m wide and 0.34m deep was identified as a drainage ditch and contained a mid-yellowish brown silty clay (0406), which sealed a primary fill of mid-grey sandy clay (0407). The fills contained high levels of gravels with no anthropogenically derived material observed.

Approximately 9m to the south, a further linear cut [0410] measuring 0.62m wide and 0.09m deep was recorded as a further, heavily truncated drainage ditch. A single, manganese stained and gravelly, slightly sandy, silty clay (0409) formed the only fill of the ditch.

In Trench 5 a series of archaeological features was identified (**ILLUS 6**). At the north of the trench a curvilinear ditch [0506] measuring 0.70m wide and 0.26m deep was observed to curve from the south to the east. The ditch, which measured in excess of 8m in length, extended beyond the limits of the excavation. It contained a single fill of mid brownish red sandy gravel (0507) and an environmental sample taken from the deposit was archaeologically sterile. Overlying the ditch was a shallow spread of sandy clay gravel (0528) which was interpreted as relating to either ploughed out up-cast from the digging of the ditch, or backfilling to stabilise the ditch once it had gone out of use.

Within the base of the ditch, two post-holes [0510] and [0512] were identified. Measuring 0.20m × 0.14m and 0.24 × 0.14m respectively, the post-holes survived to a depth of c.0.25m depth and contained single fills of mid-brownish grey silty, sandy gravels, which suggested removal of the posts rather than in situ decay. The fills were very similar to those of the ditch fill and were not readily visible in section. The ingress of groundwater into the feature hindered full

understanding and as a result the precise association with the ditch could not be fully determined.

To the immediate south of the ditch, four further post-holes [0508], [0514] [0516] and [0518] were recorded (**ILLUS 6**). Measuring 0.46 × 0.36m and 0.21m deep, post-hole [0508] had steep sides and a flat base. An environmental sample taken from the fill proved archaeologically sterile.

Located south of the curvilinear ditch, two further ditch cuts [0520] and [0522] were recorded on an east-west orientation. Ditch [0520] measured 0.73m wide and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. Ditch [0522] displayed a similar profile and both ditches were filled with mid-brownish grey sandy clays and silts. The features were interpreted as drainage ditches.

A further probable ditch [0525], filled by mid-brownish grey sandy clay (0526), was identified on a north-south orientation. Due to the ingress of groundwater in the trench and likelihood of damaging the relationship with [0522] the ditch was not excavated, but the feature was recorded in plan.

Within Trench 7, a sub-circular cut [0709] measuring 0.40 × 0.33 × 0.06m was identified as a post-hole. The post-hole was heavily truncated and no dateable material was retrieved from the fill.

Towards the northern end of Trench 7 an indeterminate feature was identified. Two slots [0704] and [0705] were positioned through the feature as it initially appeared to be two separate entities. Excavation of the slots suggested that one larger amorphous feature existed with redeposited natural gravels (0706) overlying dark brown sandy clays (0705) and (0708). Abraded pottery of 11th to 13th century date was recovered from the latter deposits. The redeposited gravels were visible in the section of the trench and appeared to be sealed by the subsoil (0702), however, no cut was visible in section which defined the extent or form of the feature.

4.3 TRENCHES WITH POST-MEDIEVAL REMAINS

At the southern end of Trench 5, a 6m long layer of reddish brown stone, brick and sandy clay (0503) was recorded. The layer contained frequent mortar and ceramic building material, coal fragments and lenses of red sand. The deposit was interpreted as related to demolition from construction activity and may have been an attempt at levelling or stabilising the ground in the area.

4.4 TRENCHES CONTAINING NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Trenches 1, 6, 8, 11 and 12 contained no archaeological features. A recent animal burial was observed in Trench 8 cut into the subsoil and was recorded photographically, with its location digitally surveyed.

5 DISCUSSION

Three broad stratigraphic areas were noted during the evaluation. To the east of the site and recorded in Trenches 8 and 12, some form of



ILLUS 6 Plan of Trench 5 features

depression or large hollow within the geology was subject to pooling of a sediment creating a greater stratigraphic depth (up to 1.55m), before the glacio-fluvial gravels were observed. A similar stratigraphic profile observed during an evaluation undertaken to the north-east of the site (Craddock-Bennett 2013) was interpreted as alluvial deposition within a former river channel.

To the west, in the area of Trenches 6 and 7, a well-developed sandy clay subsoil lay over the glacial gravels. From this area, medieval pottery was recovered in the subsoil together with a prehistoric flint. A similar sequence existed in Trench 11 to the far east of the investigation area, though 0.70m of made ground lay over the subsoil deposit. This area broadly corresponds with that evaluated in 1993 which revealed a density of features interpreted as relating to medieval agriculture.

Finally, at the western extent of the site, the ground surface dropped by approximately 0.50m to the north and there was a noticeably higher water content. Very little sand content was observed within the topsoil and subsoils, the latter being particularly shallow and overlying a seasonally waterlogged layer.

No dateable material was recovered from features identified within the west of the site. There was, in fact, a paucity of cultural material of any period in this area, with the anticipated debris of the modern period noticeably absent from topsoil and subsoil deposits. Given the wet conditions identified in this part of the site, it is highly likely that this area has been largely left as seasonally flooded land, with attempts to drain the site, through excavation of drainage ditches at its eastern extent. It would appear that this had not been particularly successful over time. Only a shallow subsoil had developed with a seasonally waterlogged layer identified below the subsoil. Limited agricultural use over a considerable time is suggested and it may have existed as summer pasture rather than arable land. Probable arable activity is likely to have occurred to the east of this.

The series of post-holes identified within the area, defined by the curving ditch in Trench 5, may suggest the presence of a fence or enclosure. No finds indicative of domestic occupation were recovered and rather than representing a dwelling it seems more likely that the post-holes define a perimeter fence line of a small enclosure of agricultural function, associated with and defined by the curvilinear ditch which may have served to drain the enclosure.

It is tempting to suggest a medieval date for the remains, given the activity identified during the 1993 evaluation. However, the density of ditches and activity recorded in the 1993 evaluation was not further evidenced in the excavated trenches during this phase of work. The presence of medieval pottery within the subsoil goes some way to corroborating agricultural activity of the period in the same locale as the 1993 trenches, but no further features of archaeological interest were identified within the previously evaluated area. It may be that the features identified in 1993 defined relatively small land parcels and a segmented system of drainage and land management.

The amorphous feature identified in Trench 7 appeared to contain redeposited soils. It is noted that geotechnical testing was carried out on the site some years ago and the feature identified may relate to that phase of work, however, the possibility that the feature relates to quarrying activity cannot be ruled out.

6 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has identified an area of undated archaeological activity in the vicinity of Trench 5. Ditches and post-holes of unknown date were identified and may represent a continuation of the medieval land use identified during the previous evaluation undertaken in 1993.

Evidence from the previous evaluation within the south and east of the site suggests that this area was utilised as agricultural land during the medieval period. Subsoil pottery finds during the current investigation may be indicative of manuring practices associated with arable cultivation and corroborate this interpretation, however the trenches excavated within this area failed to identify a density of archaeological features commensurate with the 1993 evaluation.

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR01	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.60

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0101	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel	0–0.24
0102	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel and pea gravel	0.24–0.42
0103	Natural geological deposit – Light yellowish brown clay containing rare gravel	0.52–0.71
0104	Natural geological deposit – Light blueish grey clay containing frequent gravel	0.71–L.O.E.
0105	Layer – Dark grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing occasional gravel	0.42–0.52

Summary: No archaeological remains

TR02	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.50

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0201	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel	0–0.26
0202	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel and pea gravel	0.26–0.43
0203	Natural geological deposit – Light yellowish brown clay containing rare gravel	0.43–0.50 (LOE)
0204	Layer – Dark grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing occasional gravel	0.50
0205	Natural Geological deposit – Light yellowish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.50
0206	Fill of 0209 – Mid yellowish brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing frequent gravel	0.50
0207	Fill of 0209 Mid yellowish brown slightly silty clay containing rare pea gravel	0.68
0208	Fill of 0209 Mid grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent pea gravel and rare charcoal flecks	0.75
0209	Linear cut, NW-SE orientation, 1.47m wide × 0.47m deep, step sides, uneven flat base – drainage ditch	0.50

Summary: Single ditch - undated

TR03	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.50

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0301	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel	0–0.25
0302	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel and pea gravel	0.25–0.41
0303	Layer – Dark grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing occasional gravel	0.36–0.41
0304	Natural Geological Deposit – Light yellowish brown clay containing rare gravel	0.41–0.54 (L.O.E.)
0305	Linear cut, N-S orientation 2.30m wide × 0.40m deep, steep sides flat base – Drainage ditch	0.50
0306	Fill of 0305 – Greyish brown silty clay containing occasional stone and charcoal	0.50
0307	Fill of 0305 Greyish black stoney, silty clay containing gravel and charcoal flecks	0.50
0308	Sub-circular cut, 0.38 × 0.25m, likely geology (not excavated due to water ingress)	0.50
0309	Fill of 0308 Dark grey silty clay	0.50
0310	Sub-circular cut, 0.21 × 0.19m, likely geology (not excavated due to water ingress)	0.50
0311	Fill of 0310, dark grey silty clay	0.50
0312	Sub-circular cut, 0.24 × 0.21m, likely geology (not excavated due to water ingress)	0.50
0313	Fill of 0312, dark grey silty clay	0.50

Summary: Ditch cut, 3 discrete patches of geology.

TR04	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.50–0.60

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0401	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel	0–0.30
0402	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel and pea gravel	0.30–0.49
0403	Natural Geological deposit – Light yellowish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.40–0.49 (LOE)
0404	Fill of 0405 Light grey slightly silty, clayey sand containing occasional pea gravel	0.50
0405	Sub-circular cut, 0.30 × 0.27m × 0.10m deep, steep sides slightly rounded base. Post-hole	0.50
0406	Fill of 0408 – Mid yellowish brown silty clay containing frequent pea gravels	0.50
0407	Fill of 0408 - Mid-grey sandy clay containing frequent pea gravel	0.50
0408	Linear cut, NE-SW orientation, steep sides, concave base, 0.80m wide × 0.34m deep	0.50

0409	Fill of 0410 – Mid greyish brown slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent pea gravel and manganese stains and fragments	0.60
0410	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, heavily truncated, gradually sloping sides, uneven concave base, 0.72 wide 0.09m deep	0.60

Summary: Two ditches, post-hole

TR05	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE-SW	30	1.6	0.55

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL(M)
0501	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel	0–0.30
0502	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay containing frequent rounded and angular gravel and pea gravel	0.25–0.60
0503	Demolition/levelling – Red-brown and grey Brick, stone and clayey sand with frequent mortar fragments, tile, coal and dumps of red sand	0.30–0.60
0504	Natural Geological deposit – Light blueish grey sandy gravels	0.63 (L.O.E.)
0505	Natural Geological deposit – Light yellowish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.56–0.63 (L.O.E)
0506	Curvilinear cut, curves from south to northeast, >8m long, 0.70m wide and 0.26m deep, steep sides, concave base, ditch cut	0.60
0507	Fill of 0506 – mid brownish red sandy gravel containing occasional small rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.60
0508	Sub-circular cut, 0.46 × 0.36m × 0.21m deep, steep sides flat base – Post-hole	0.60
0509	Fill of 0508 – Mid-brownish grey sandy clay containing frequent gravel	0.60
0510	Sub-circular cut, 0.20 × 0.19m × 0.26m deep, steep sides, flat base – post-hole	0.60
0511	Fill of 0510, mid brownish grey sandy gravel	0.60
0512	Sub-circular cut, 0.24 × 0.14m × 0.25m deep, steep sides, flat base, Post-hole	0.60
0513	Fill of 0512 – mid brownish grey silty sand containing occasional gravel	0.60
0514	Sub-circular cut, 0.28 × 0.24m, not excavated – probable post-hole	0.60
0515	Fill of 0514 – mid brownish grey sandy clay	0.60
0516	Sub-circular cut, 0.26 × 0.25m not excavated – probable post-hole	0.60
0517	Fill of 0516 – mid brownish grey sandy clay	0.60
0518	Sub-circular cut, 0.17 × 0.10m, not excavated – probable post-hole	0.60
0519	Fill of 0518 – mid brownish grey silty sand	0.60
0520	Linear cut, E-W orientation, steep sides, rounded base, >3.26m long × 0.73m wide and 0.22m deep – drainage ditch	0.55
0521	Fill of 0520 – mid brownish grey sandy clay containing occasional gravel	0.55
0522	Linear cut, E-W orientation, >3.50m long, 0.40m wide × 0.21m deep, steep sides rounded base – drainage ditch	0.55

0523	Fill of 0522, mid brown, sandy silt	0.55
0524	Natural feature shrub/tree throw	0.60
0525	Linear cut, >1.80m long, 0.65m wide – drainage cut	0.60
0526	Fill of 0525 – Mid brownish grey sandy clay	0.60
0527	Layer – Dark grey slightly sandy, silty clay containing occasional gravel	0.48
0528		

Summary: Post-holes, possible enclosure ditch, drainage ditches

TR06	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	30	1.6	0.70

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0601	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing occasional gravel and frequent pea gravel	0–0.30
0602	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay, containing frequent gravel and occasional charcoal fragments	0.30–0.73
0603	Natural Geological deposit – Light yellowish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.73 (LOE)

Summary: No archaeological remains

TR07	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.75

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0701	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing occasional gravel and frequent pea gravel	0–0.30
0702	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay, containing frequent gravel and occasional charcoal fragments	0.30–0.82
0703	Natural Geological Deposit – Reddish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.70–0.82(LOE)
0704	Amorphous, possible linear or large sub-circular feature, gradually sloping sides, flat base – indeterminate function – possible quarrying pit	0.70
0705	Fill of 0704 – Dark brown sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and frequent gravel	0.70
0706	Deposit – redeposited natural gravels – reddish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.40
0707	Amorphous, possible linear or sub-circular cut, gradually sloping sides, flat base – indeterminate function, possible quarrying pit	0.70
0708	Fill of 0707 – dark brown sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and frequent gravel	0.70
0709	Cub-circular cut, steep sides rounded base, 0.40 × 0.33m × 0.06m deep – post-hole	0.70
0710	Fill of 0710 – Mid reddish brown sandy clay	0.70

Summary: Indeterminate feature – possible quarrying pit, post-hole

TR08	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	30	1.6	1.00

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0801	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing occasional gravel and frequent pea gravel	0–0.35 / 0.45
0802	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay, containing frequent gravel and occasional charcoal fragments	0.35/0.45–0.60/0.70
0803	Natural Geological Deposit – Reddish brown sandy clay and gravel	1.10–1.55 (LOE)
0804	Natural Geological deposit – Mid reddish brown sandy clay	0.60–1.55

Summary: No archaeological remains

TR11	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE-SW	15	1.6	0.70

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
1101	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing occasional gravel and frequent pea gravel	0–0.12
1102	Made ground – Mid brown sandy clay and construction debris	0.12 – 0.80
1103	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay, containing frequent gravel and occasional charcoal fragments	0.80–1.18
1104	Natural Geological Deposit – Reddish brown sandy clay and gravel	1.18 (L.O.E.)

Summary: No archaeological remains

TR12	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	15	1.6	0.80

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
1201	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing occasional gravel and frequent pea gravel	0–0.28
1202	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay, containing frequent gravel and occasional charcoal fragments	0.28–0.45
1203	Natural Geological deposit – Mid reddish brown sandy clay	0.45–0.1.07
1204	Natural Geological Deposit – Reddish brown sandy clay and gravel	0.80–1.07

Summary: No archaeological remains

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

JULIE FRANKLIN, PAUL BLINKHORN, JULIE LOCHRIE

The finds assemblage numbered eight sherds (51g) of pottery, two very small fragments (<0.5g) of possible ceramic building material and one lithic find. Most of the finds are of medieval date. A summary of the assemblage is given in Table A2.1. A complete catalogue is given at the end.

TR	FEATURE	POTTERY (MEDI)		CBM		LITHICS		DATING
		COUNT	WGT	COUNT	WGT	COUNT	WGT	
03	Layer 0303	–	–	1	<0.5g	–	–	?
05	curvilinear 0506	–	–	1	<0.5g	–	–	?
06	Subsoil	3	20g	–	–	–	–	13th–14th
07	poss quarry/ geotechnical pit 0704	1	12g	–	–	–	–	11th–12th
07	poss quarry/ geotechnical pit 0707	1	4g	–	–	–	–	12th–13th
07	Subsoil	1	8g	–	–	1	2g	L14th–17th
12	Subsoil	2	7g	–	–	–	–	13th
TOTAL		8	51G	2	<0.5G	1	2G	

TABLE A2.1 Finds summary by feature

Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised eight sherds with a total weight of 51g. It was all medieval. It was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive).

FABRIC				
CODE	NAME	DATING	SHERDS	WGT
CO01	Calcareous Oolitic Ware	11th – 12th	1	12
RS02	Warwickshire Grey Ware	13th–14th	4	25
SLM01	Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware	L14th – 17th	1	8
Sq02	Warwick Sandy Ware	12th – 13th	1	2
Sq25	Alcester type Ware	12th – 13th	1	4
TOTAL			8	51

Table A2.2 Pottery type series

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region. All the sherds are fairly small, and most show some sign of abrasion, indicating that they are all the product of secondary deposition or are residual. The sherd of Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware (SLM01, Trench 7 subsoil) is from the rim of a jug, the rest of the assemblage is all unglazed jars sherds, including two small rim sherds. This is a typical pattern for assemblages of the period in the region.

Ceramic building material

Two very small fragments of red ceramic were found in Trenches 3 and 5. They may be fragments of ceramic building material but are too small to provide any further information.

Lithics

A single lithic find was retrieved from subsoil in Trench 7. It is a light to medium brown, fine-grained, translucent flint flake. There is a break to the right distal corner and a small retouched notch to the left distal corner. The flake is hard hammer with a large section of the platform forming the left lateral. It is most likely Neolithic to early Bronze Age in date, however it was found in subsoil with no other prehistoric finds in the vicinity and is certainly residual.

Discussion

The earliest find is the single lithic found in the Trench 7 subsoil. It is probably of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date but is clearly residual.

The medieval finds are few but indicate low level activity at the site from the 12th to 14th century, possibly for longer. They also provide a tentative 12th century date for the possible quarry pits found in Trench 7.

References

Ratkai, S & Soden, I in archive *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series*.

Appendix 2.1 Finds catalogue

TR	CONTEXT	CONTEXT NOTES	SAMPLE	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
03	0303	layer	3	1	0	CBM	Fragment		
05	0507	curvilinear 506	4	1	0	CBM	Fragment		
06	0602	subsoil		3	20	Pottery (Medi)	RS02	Warwickshire Grey Ware	13th–14th
07	0702	subsoil		1	8	Pottery (Medi)	SLM01	Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware, jug rim	L14th–17th
07	0702	subsoil		1	2	Lithics	Tool	Light to medium brown, fine-grained, translucent flint flake. There is a break to the right distal corner and a small retouched notch to the left distal corner. The flake is hard hammer with a large section of the platform forming the left lateral.	Neol–EBA
07	0705	poss quarry pit 704		1	12	Pottery (Medi)	CO01	Calcareous Oolitic Ware	11th–12th
07	0708	poss quarry pit 707		1	4	Pottery (Medi)	Sq25	Alcester-type Ware	12th–13th
12	1202	subsoil		1	5	Pottery (Medi)	RS02	Warwickshire Grey Ware	13th–14th
12	1202	subsoil		1	2	Pottery (Medi)	Sq02	Warwick Sandy Ware	12th–13th

APPENDIX 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

LAURA BAILEY, TIM HOLDEN

Introduction

Four samples taken during archaeological work at land west of the Alamo Group, Station Road, Warwickshire, were received for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The site comprised drainage ditches of unknown date, associated with seasonally waterlogged land and a possible small enclosure with associated post-holes. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any environmental remains in the samples and to characterize the assemblage as far as possible.

Methodology

Bulk samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. All samples were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications up to x45. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006) and Zohary et al. (2012).

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Tables A3.1 (Flot samples) and A3.2 (Retent samples). None of the samples contained material suitable for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating. The majority of samples had a high proportion of modern roots.

Wood charcoal

Three samples contained small quantities of heavily fragmented and abraded wood charcoal (TABLE A3.1). Due to the small size of the charcoal it was not possible to establish whether it was oak or non-oak.

Animal bone

A small fragment of indeterminate animal bone was present in the fill (0507) of curvilinear feature [0506].

Discussion

The environmental assemblage offers no insight into site economy. No suitable material was recovered for radiocarbon dating.

References

Cappers, RTJ, Bekker, RM & Jans, JEA 2006 *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands* Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library, Groningen.

Zohary, D, Hopf, M & Weiss, E 2012 *Domestication of Plants in the Old World* Oxford; Oxford University Press.

CONTEXT	SAMPLE	FEATURE	SAMPLE VOL (L)	DAUB	UNBURNT BONE		CHARCOAL		MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR AMS DATING
					MAMMAL	QTY	MAX SIZE (MM)		
0208	2	Fill of Linear [209]	20	-	-	+	2	No	
0303	3	Silty clay	10	+	-	-	-	No	
0507	4	Fill of curvilinear feature [506]	20	+	+	+	3	No	
0508	5	Sub-circular cut	10	-	-	+	4	No	

Key: += rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

TABLE A3.1 Retent sample results

CONTEXT	SAMPLE	FEATURE	TOTAL FLOT VOL (ML)	CHARCOAL		COMMENTS
				QTY	MAX SIZE (MM)	
0208	2	Fill of Linear [0209]	50	+	5	Modern roots. Archaeologically sterile
0303	3	Silty clay	50	-	-	Modern roots. Archaeologically sterile
0507	4	Fill of curvilinear feature [0506]	100	-	-	Modern roots. Archaeologically sterile
0508	5	Sub-circular cut	20	-	-	Modern roots. Archaeologically sterile

Key: += rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (16-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

TABLE A3.2 Flotation Sample Results



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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