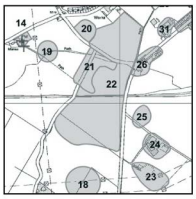
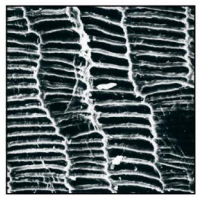
SABH










LAND TO THE SOUTH OF PINFORD LANE, BROMSASH, HEREFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by R and D Green

December 2016

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF PINFORD LANE, BROMSASH, HEREFORDSHIRE

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project info

HA JOB NO.	SABH
HAS NO.	1201
NGR	SO 65087 24083
PARISH	Linton
LOCAL AUTHORITY	Herefordshire County Council
OASIS REF.	headland3-261261
HER REF.	EHE80251

project team

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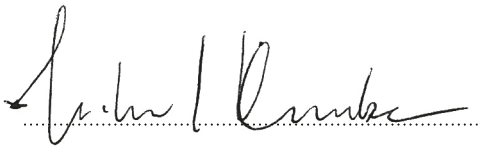
SPECIALISTS	Steve Thomson, Finds
APPROVED BY	Mike Kimber – Project Manager



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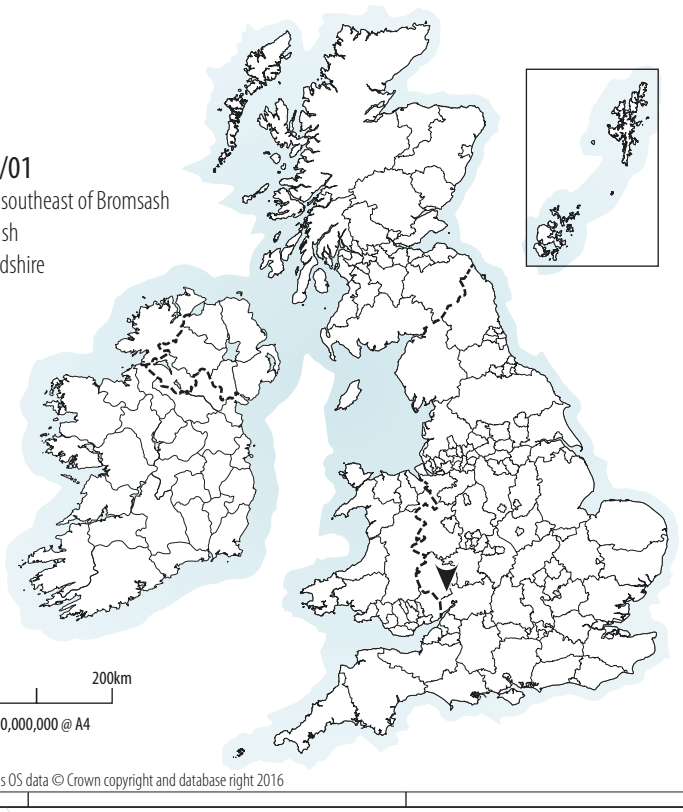
PROJECT SUMMARY

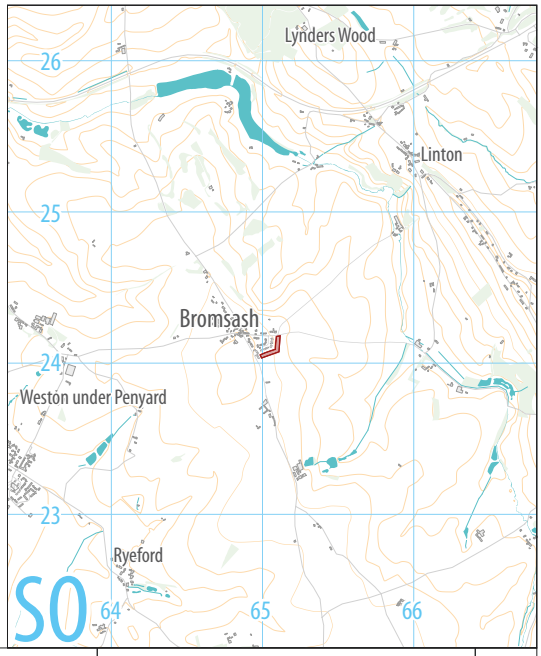
Archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching, was undertaken by Headland Archaeology on land to the south of Pinford Lane, Bromsash, Herefordshire. No archaeological features were evidenced. A representative sample of ironworking residues, indicative of bloomery furnace iron production, was recovered from plough-soils.

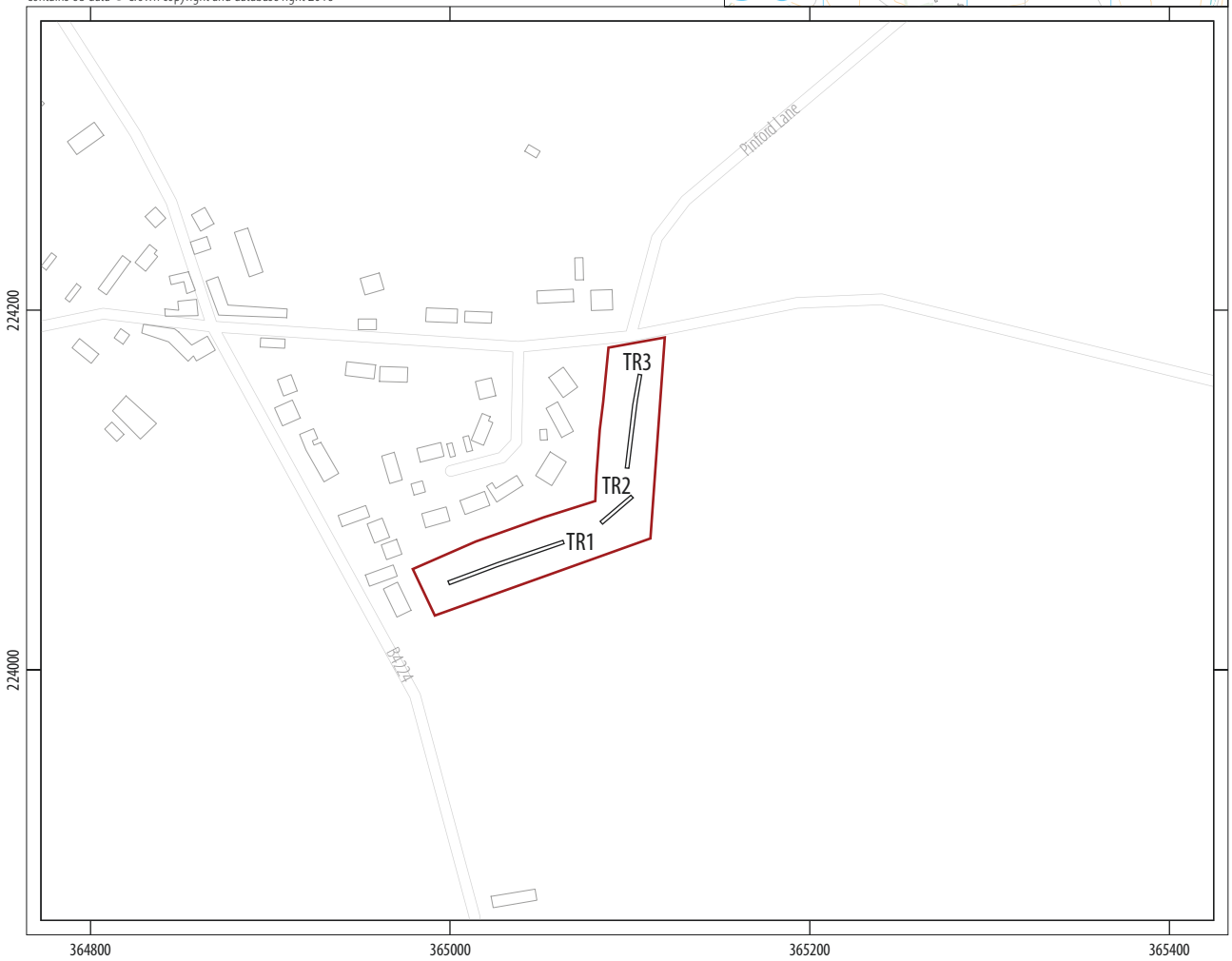
CONTENTS

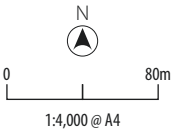
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SABH/01
land at southeast of Bromsash
Bromsash
Herefordshire









KEY
development boundary
trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF PINFORD LANE, BROMSASH, HEREFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological site investigation on land to the south of Pinford Lane, Bromsash, Herefordshire. Evaluation of the site consisted of the excavation of 3 trial trenches, totalling 147 linear metres and was undertaken on the 25th August 2016.

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

R & D Green intend to submit a planning application for residential development of the site to Herefordshire County Council. The archaeological advisor to the council requested that archaeological field evaluation be undertaken, in line with the NPPF.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological investigation and produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (Kimber 2016) for the archaeological works.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The site is located to the south of Pinford Lane, in the village of Bromsash in Herefordshire centred on NGR SO 65087 24083 (Illus 1).

Current land use is arable, with a potato crop within the field. Trenches were located on an area of a gentle east-west slope at approximately 108m AOD. The ground drops relatively steeply to an undulating valley to the east (Illus 2).

The underlying solid geology is formed of sandstones of the Brownstones Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 398 to 416 million years ago in the Devonian Period (NERC 2016).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development site is located to the east of the Roman Station of Ariconium. The scheduled area of Ariconium extends to within 175m of the western boundary of the development area.

Ariconium is located between the villages of Weston under Penyard and Bromsash. The site is mentioned in the 13th Iter of the Antonine Itinerary, where it is said to be 15 miles from Glevum (Gloucester) and 11 from Blestium (Monmouth).

The slope towards Weston-under-Penyard on the west is called Cinder Hill, and the ground here has turned up numerous scoriae (lumps of metal slag). Ariconium appears to have been an area of intensive iron working and possesses smelting furnaces and forges.

A trial trench evaluation at Laburnum Cottage (Bennett 2016), which lies between Ariconium and the proposed development area, uncovered a single pit containing sherds of Romano-British pottery and iron-working slag.

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.

ILLUS 2 General view of site looking east **ILLUS 3** General view Trench 3 looking north **ILLUS 4** Profile of stratigraphy Trench 1, looking north

3 METHOD

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

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

Trenches were set positioned 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 14 tonne mechanical excavator, fitted with a bladed bucket, to depths where archaeological features were identified or geological deposits encountered.

Due to the presence of irrigation pipes to the east and south, and a public right of way, trench positions and dimensions were altered and slightly repositioned from initially intended positions to provide the same linear metreage sample.

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 and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches and stratigraphy, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. An overall site plan of the trenches was digitally produced. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

4 RESULTS

Complete context descriptions are included in Appendix 1 and finds data is included in Appendix 2.

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY (ILLUS 3 & 4)

The earliest deposit encountered was a brownish pink clayey sand and sandstone identified in all three trenches (102, 202, 302) which represented underlying geological deposits. Plough scarring was evidenced within the top of the geological deposits, in line with the existing crop orientation.

Within Trench 2, an 8 to 9m wide depression or 'hollow' within the geology contained a subsoil deposit (203) from which iron tap slag was recovered.

Sealing the subsoil deposit and geological deposits, was the present plough-soil (101,201,203).

Modern glazed pottery, clay pipe stems and ceramic building material was noted within the plough-soil but not retained.

A sample of iron working residues (tap slag and fuel ash slag) was recovered from (101) and (201). A density of these residues was noted particularly in the vicinity of Trench 1.

No archaeological features were identified in any of the excavated trenches.

5 DISCUSSION

The shallow nature of the stratigraphic sequence on the site is likely to be due to the site's topography, with the ground sloping away steeply to the east of the investigation area and colluviation probably causing denudation of the soils on the site.

The 'hollow' within Trench 2 is likely to have been part of a natural gully formed by water run-off activity. An extant topographic feature of this type is visible to the south of the investigation area.

Iron working residues recovered during the investigation are typical of those found on sites with bloomery smelting furnaces. Given the proximity of the Roman town of Ariconium, it is highly likely that the residues recovered relate to iron production from the Romano-British period. Such material is commonly found in proximity to Ariconium. The land-owner also indicated that soil had been imported from fields in another part of the village (R Green pers. com.), suggesting that the residues recovered may be redeposited and relate to general industrial waste associated with the Roman town rather than smelting works within the immediate vicinity.

6 CONCLUSION

The investigation found no archaeological remains or features, suggesting that the site lies outside of the extent of the Romano-British town of Ariconium and that it has probably existed as agricultural land for some length of time.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground surface

TR01	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	68	1.85	0.35
CONTEXT	**DESCRIPTION**			**DBGL (M)**
101	Plough-soil – Mid-reddish brown, slightly silty, clayey sand containing frequent angular stones and occasional charcoal fragments			0 – 0.35
102	Geological deposit – Brownish pink clayey sand and sandstone			0.35 (LOE)

Summary: No archaeological remains

TR02	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE-SW	22	1.85	0.70
CONTEXT	**DESCRIPTION**			**DBGL (M)**
201	Plough-soil – Mid-reddish brown, slightly silty, clayey sand containing frequent angular stones and occasional charcoal fragments			0 – 0.40
202	Geological deposit – Brownish pink clayey sand and sandstone			0.40/0.70 (LOE)
203	Subsoil – Mid-brown clayey sand containing occasional charcoal fragments, angular gravel and small angular sandstones			0.40 – 0.70

Summary: No archaeological remains

TR03	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	N-S	52	1.85	0.37
CONTEXT	**DESCRIPTION**			**DBGL (M)**
301	Plough-soil – Mid-reddish brown, slightly silty, clayey sand containing frequent angular stones and occasional charcoal fragments			0 – 0.40
302	Geological deposit – Brownish pink clayey sand and sandstone			0.40 (LOE)

Summary: No archaeological remains

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

The assemblage numbers 12 fragments of industrial waste weighing 1,912g. The assemblage represented a selective sample of wider distribution through topsoil and subsoil deposits.

The majority of the recovered material is heavy and dense presenting a flowed appearance, typical of tapping slags related to iron smelting in a bloomery furnace. The lighter more vesicular slag is also likely to derive from iron-working, possibly the same process or a different one. A single fragment of sandstone presented a glassy appearance to one side, suggesting exposure to extremely high temperature and may also have derived from a furnace.

The finds suggest that iron-smelting took place in the vicinity of the site. Given the location of the Roman town of Ariconium (associated with Romano-British iron production), 175m to the west of the site, it is highly likely that the assemblage derives from that area. Industrial residues are commonly found in the area and their presence on this site is most likely reflective of that, rather than the presence of activity within the development area.

Finds catalogue

TR	CONTEXT	CONTEXT NOTES	QTY	WEIGHT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION
2	201	Topsoil	2	611	Industrial waste	Slag	Heavy, dense fragments, flowed appearance
2	203	Subsoil	1	179	Industrial waste	Slag	Dense fragment, flowed appearance
3	301	Topsoil	8	1090	Industrial waste	Slag	Some with flowed appearance, generally dense, heavy, one larger piece, lighter, slightly vesicular and glassy
3	301	Topsoil	1	32	Industrial waste	Burnt stone	Small fragment of sandstone, heat affected glassy appearance on one sides

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