

GFCL/01



# GRANGE FARM, CHURCH LAWFORD

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by C.W.Reay and Son

October 2017



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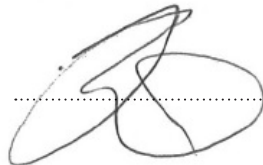
#### PROJECT INFO:

HA Job No. **GFCL/01** / HAS No. **HAS-1254** / NGR **SP 43946 76339** / Parish **Church Lawford** / Local Authority **Rugby Borough Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland3-293543** / Archive Repository **Rugby Art Gallery and Museum**

#### PROJECT TEAM:

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches at Grange Farm, Church Lawford, Warwickshire. A total of two trenches were excavated across the footprint of a new farm building. Root disturbance was evident in both trenches and indications of prehistoric human activity in the area were identified, in the form of an unstratified flint flake and fragments of highly degraded Neolithic pottery, recovered from a tree throw. No other archaeological deposits or features were identified.

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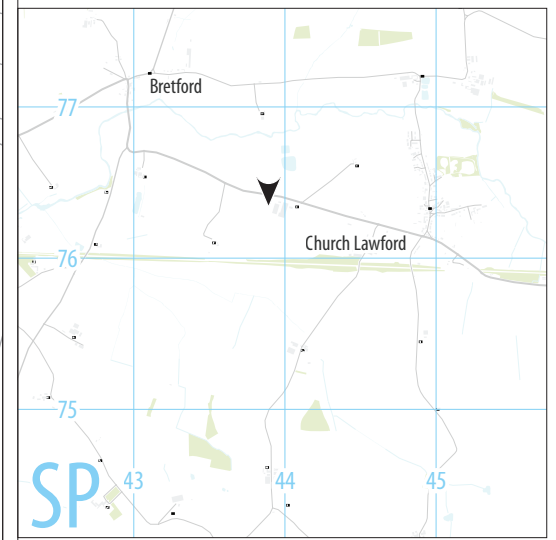
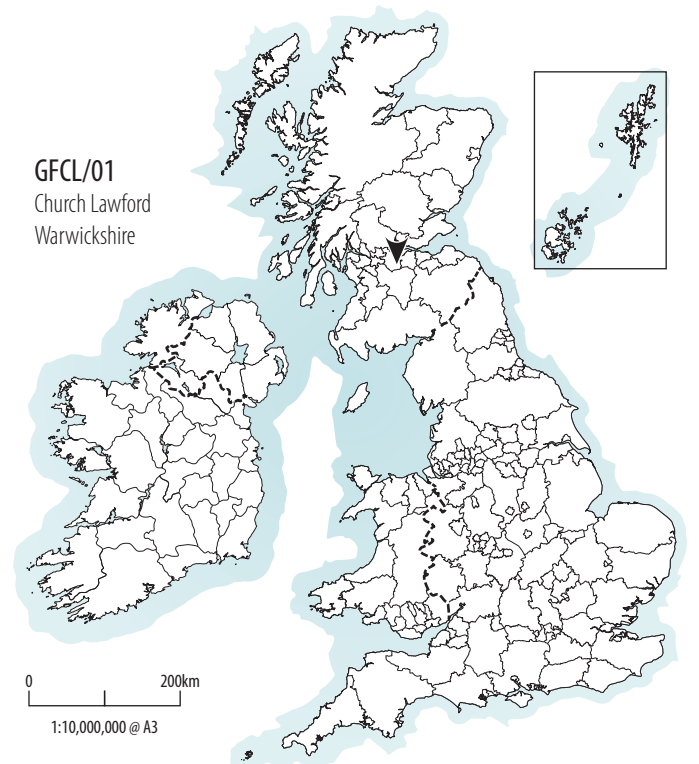
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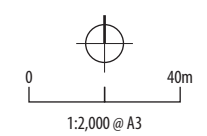


GFCL/01  
Church Lawford  
Warwickshire



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development boundary  
trench location

443800

443900

444000



# GRANGE FARM, CHURCH LAWFORD

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. were commissioned by C.W.Reay and Son to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation on 14th August 2017. The work comprised of two trenches, in advance of the construction of a farm building.

#### 1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning permission (Application no R17/0631) has been approved for the construction of a steel portal frame building for crop storage. Condition 4 of the planning permission states that

*'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their 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 local planning authority'*

The subsequent works were undertaken between in August 2017 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland 2017).

### 2 SITE LOCATION (ILLUS 1)

The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as the site) is located within the farmyard at the western side of Grange Farm, Church Lawford (centred on NGR SP 43946 76339). The site occupies an area of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of open pasture, bounded by the A428 to the north and fields to the west and south. The area of the development site is 1,000m<sup>2</sup>.

### 3 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The bedrock geology is the Penarth group, which consists of argillaceous rocks and interbedded limestone formed in a shallow sea setting during the Triassic Period (NERC 2017). The superficial deposits consist of River Terrace Deposits, 4 – Sand and Gravel. These were formed in a riverine setting during the Quaternary Period (NERC 2017).

The soils on the site are described as loamy, with a naturally high level of groundwater (Cranfield University 2107).

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are no designated heritage assets with the confines of the site, however there have been a number of areas and artefacts of historical interest that have been located within 1km of the site.

#### 4.1 PREHISTORIC

The only confirmed site dating to the Mesolithic period, in close proximity to the site comprised a flint scatter consisting of over fifty cores and crude flakes identified 325m north-west of the site.

In the immediate vicinity of the site a number of Neolithic enclosures were identified during survey works associated with the installation of a pipeline. Further nearby Neolithic activity is well recorded, the entire landscape of Church Lawford and nearby Kings' Newham is dominated by a Neolithic to early Bronze Age monument complex (Palmer 2002).

Evidence of Iron Age settlement was also revealed as part of excavations associated with pipeline works.

#### 4.2 ROMAN-ANGLO SAXON

The Romano British evidence in the vicinity of the site is represented by a series of artefacts recovered as a result of metal detecting.

Similarly, a single Anglo-Saxon artefact was also found as a result of metal detecting.

#### 4.3 MEDIEVAL

The village of Church Lawford is referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086, giving mention of a manor house and mill. The church of St Peter was constructed during the 13th Century.



**ILLUS 2** General shot of Trench 1, facing east



**ILLUS 3** Trench 2 baulk section, facing west



**ILLUS 4** Tree throw [105], facing west

Numerous artefacts dating to the medieval period have been identified within 1km of the site.

#### 4.4 POST-MEDIEVAL

To the immediate north of the site, the remains of a series of lime kilns are visible as a series of earthworks and brick foundations.

Aerial photography has highlighted a series of features, spread throughout the field systems that are currently undated. These consist primarily of linear earthworks, seen as cropmarks. The closest of these to the site is approximately 650m to the west.

#### 4.5 HISTORIC MAPPING

The earliest known map of the area was made for the Duke of Buccleuch in 1720, on which the field system within which the site is located is recorded under the name Hearth-hill. No structures are evident and trees appear to occupy the site of the farm. Farm buildings subsequently appear as structures, on the tithe map of 1850, entitled Grange Farm.

On the 1st Edition OS map (1886), the farm is recorded as The Grange. In the area of the site, to the west of the building layout, shows a number of trees, perhaps indicative of a small orchard or similar, which had been removed in advance of the publication of the 2nd edition OS map (1906).

### 5 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- › Cifa 2014b Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation;
- › Cifa 2014c Standards and Guidance for the creation and compilation and deposition of archaeological archives.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches, comprising approximately 5.6% of the total development footprint. They were excavated using a 5 tonne excavator with a 1.4m wide ditching bucket. The original trench layout incorporated an area occupied by large spoil heaps. The trenches were moved 5m to the south to avoid this area.

Trench 1 was on an approximate east- west alignment and was 15m in length, with Trench 2 on an approximate north-south alignment, measuring 20m in length. The trenches were excavated to a width of approximately 1.7m.

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil/subsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating when geological deposits were reached.

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

Following machining, excavation of any archaeological features and deposits was to be carried out by hand and recording done in accordance with the Clfa Standards and Guidance (Clfa 2014) and with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bain 2017).

High resolution digital photographs and 35mm black and white negatives form the site photographic record. Where appropriate, sections and stratigraphic sequences were to be recorded digitally, with sections and plans of individual features hand drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

## 6 RESULTS

Full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1 – Registers

The undisturbed geology was consistent across site and was formed of compact, light brown-orange clay sand, with frequent rounded river cobbles and patches of gravel. The gravel patches increased in frequency towards the south. This deposit was encountered at an average depth of 0.54m below ground level (BGL). (Illus 2)

A layer of subsoil sealed the geological deposits. This was formed of a mid-orange brown sandy clay with occasional medium rounded stones and some root intrusion. Throughout this layer there were occasional flecks of charcoal and rare small fragments of ceramic building material. This was visible across the site and was, on average, between 0.2 to 0.54m BGL. The subsoil was overlain by a 0.20m thick, mid-grey brown, sandy clay topsoil displaying evidence of frequent root intrusion (Illus 3).

Evidence of root disturbance and associated tree boles was seen throughout both trenches. However, in Trench 1 there was one more clearly defined than those elsewhere. This was hand excavated and recorded in order to establish its provenance.

The feature [105] was represented by an irregularly shaped hollow, with an uneven, undulating base. It was 1.02m in length, and 0.49m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.11m. It was filled by deposit (104), a mid-brown orange clay sand, with an interface that merged in places with the geology (103). Frequent, small-medium sized, rounded stones were encountered within its matrix. A number of small, highly degraded pottery fragments were recovered from the deposit.

A fragment of worked flint was also uncovered with the subsoil of Trench 1.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trench 2.

## 7 FINDS ANALYSIS

The finds assemblage consists of 16 sherds of prehistoric pottery and a single flint flake. These were both found in Trench 1 and both are likely to date between the early to middle Neolithic.

The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (Clfa 2014c;

Watkinson & Neal 1998). The pottery was examined visually, using x20 magnification where necessary. It was assessed according to standards set out by specialist bodies (PCRG 2010). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists. The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

The pottery comprises 16 small fragments from a Neolithic Carinated Bowl. The sherds have a burnished exterior and come from the carination itself which is rounded and gradually angled. They were recovered from a shallow deposit (104) within tree bole [105].

The flint flake was found in the subsoil and likely derives from the same activity as the carinated bowl, but is itself un-datable beyond being broadly prehistoric.

## 8 DISCUSSION

The earliest cartographic evidence suggests that trees occupied the immediate vicinity of the site, both prior to and subsequent to the establishment of Grange Farm. Evidence of root disturbance throughout both trenches supports the cartographic evidence. Tree bole [105], from which the pottery was recovered, represented the largest example of root disturbance within either trench and, whilst the pottery almost certainly originates from the vicinity, no evidence of the original deposit from which it came was identified. It seems likely that any archaeological features or deposits that may have occupied the site have been severely truncated or destroyed as a result of intensive root activity. The finds from this site, while small in quantity, are relevant in light of the archaeology found nearby.

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## 10 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 TRENCH REGISTER

DBGL = depth below ground level

| TR01  | ORIENTATION  | L (M) | W (M) | AV. D (M) |
|---|--|-------|-------|-----------|
|   | E-W  | 15    | 1.80  | 0.55      |
| CONTEXT   | DESCRIPTION  |       |       | DBGL (M)  |
| 101   | Topsoil- mid grey brown sandy clay w/ frequent rooting   |       |       | 0–0.20    |
| 102   | Subsoil- mid orange brown sandy clay w/ occasional med rounded stones + some root intrusion- occ. Charcoal fragments |       |       | 0.20–0.53 |
| 103   | Natural- light brown orange sand, compact w/ frequent rounded river cobbles particularly in patches                  |       |       | 0.53+     |
| 104   | Fill of [105]  |       |       |           |
| 105   | Cut of tree throw/pit  |       |       |           |
| Summary: Adjacent to farm buildings in undulating pasture field. Areas of condensed stone cobbles can be seen. Tree boles/plant throw can be seen in the subsoil. |  |       |       |           |

| TR02  | ORIENTATION  | L (M) | W (M) | AV. D (M) |
|---|--|-------|-------|-----------|
|   | N-S  | 20    | 1.80  | 0.56      |
| CONTEXT   | DESCRIPTION  |       |       | DBGL (M)  |
| 101   | Topsoil- mid grey brown sandy clay w/ frequent rooting   |       |       | 0–0.20    |
| 102   | Subsoil- mid orange brown sandy clay w/ occasional rooting + occasional rounded small-med stones, occasional charcoal flecks |       |       | 0.20–0.55 |
| 103   | Natural- light brown orange sand, compact, w/ frequent rounded river cobbles and some gravel patches                         |       |       | 0.55+     |
| Summary: Adjacent to farm buildings, across pasture field |  |       |       |           |





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