

CHMH18



# CHURCH HOUSE FARM, MORETON ON LUGG, HEREFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. P172919  
EHE NO. 80383

commissioned by Bell Homes

February 2019



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### PROJECT INFO:

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. was commissioned by Bell Homes to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Church House Farm in Moreton on Lugg, Herefordshire. The work was undertaken to satisfy a planning condition relating to the construction of a 64 dwelling housing development. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of eight trenches in January 2019. The trenching identified one undated drainage ditch and an alluvial deposit, though to be associated with a potential palaeochannel on the site.

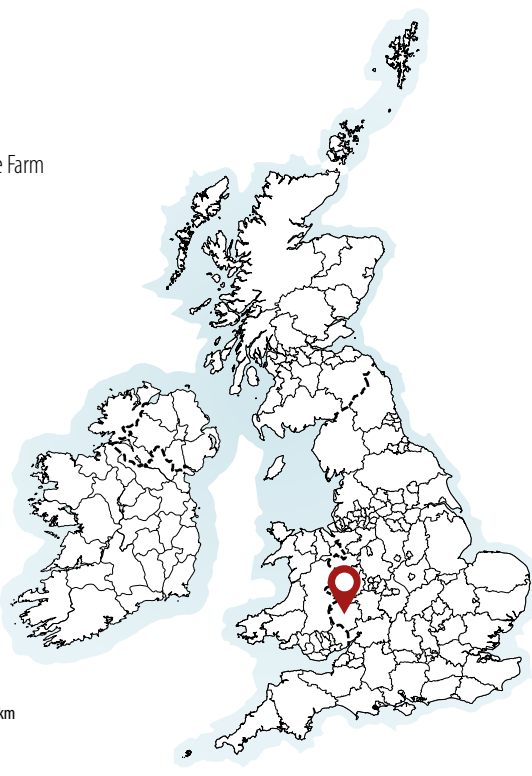
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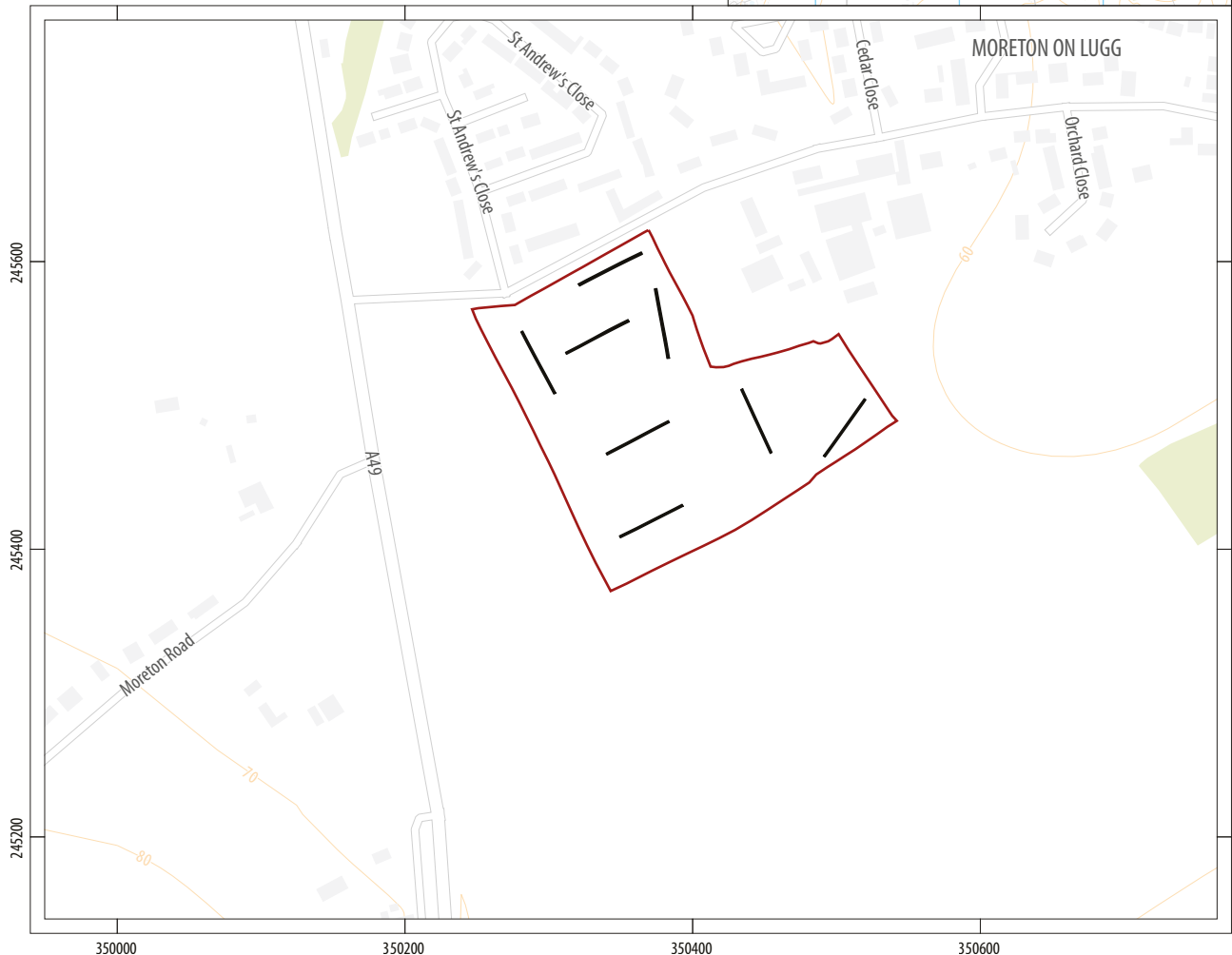
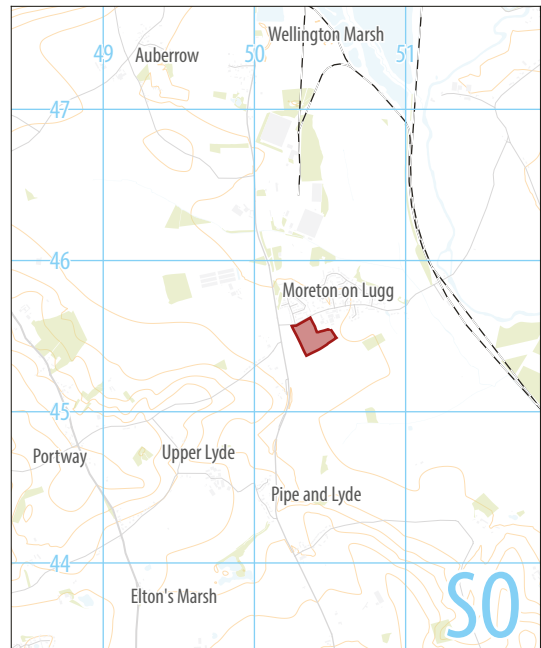
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Land at Church House Farm  
 Moreton on Lugg  
 Herefordshire



0 200km  
 1:12,500,000 @ A4



245600  
 245400  
 245200  
 350000 350200 350400 350600

0 100m  
 1:5,000 @ A4

development boundary  
 trench location



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# CHURCH HOUSE FARM, MORETON ON LUGG, HEREFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Outline planning permission (P172919) was granted by Herefordshire District Council on 16th July 2018 for a proposed housing development adjacent to Church House Farm in Moreton on Lugg, Herefordshire. Bell Homes commissioned Headland Archaeology to design a programme of archaeological work to satisfy Condition 8 of the planning permission, which stipulates that:

*'No development shall commence until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This programme shall be in accordance with a brief prepared by the County Archaeology Service.'*

Informal discussions between Headland Archaeology and the County Archaeology Service identified an appropriate programme of work, in the form of a trial trench evaluation of the site. This evaluation was intended to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the need, or otherwise, for further investigatory work. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology for this trial trench evaluation (Craddock-Bennett 2019) and agreed with the local planning authority.

#### 1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The site is currently farmland located to the south of the Moreton-Marden road within the village of Moreton on Lugg, Herefordshire (SO 50377 45498) (Illus 1). It is bounded by Church House Farm to the east, farmland to the south and west, and the main village spine road to the north.

Three bands of geological material were identified within the site. Gravel predominates in the north-east of the site, with mudstone present over the central part. Along the south-eastern boundary of the site, colluvial deposits, interpreted as representing a palaeochannel are present (Cotswold 2017).

#### 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017. The assessment identified the potential for post-medieval horticultural soils associated with a former eighteenth century building within the north-western corner of the site.

Potential was identified for remnants associated with former medieval roads/trackways within the north-western corner of the site and along its northern, western and eastern boundaries; for later prehistoric deposits and palaeoenvironmental remains within the south of the site; and for vestigial medieval/post-medieval settlement features along the northern and eastern site boundaries.

A geophysical survey (Sumo 2017) undertaken in 2017 did not identify any anomalies of archaeological interest.

### 2 OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the programme of works were as follows:

- › To gather further information to try and establish the presence/absence, character, and extent of any archaeological remains within the areas to be impacted by the proposed development, and to inform further strategies should they be necessary.

- › To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

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### 3 METHOD

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

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

A total of eight trenches (each measuring 50 x 1.6m) were excavated across the extent of the site (Illus 2). All trenches were opened by a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision and were excavated in controlled spits. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology, with spoil being stored beside the trench. All fieldwork was carried out between 16th and 18th January 2019.

Exposed archaeological remains were recorded on pro forma record sheets and identified features were excavated by hand. 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. A photographic record comprised black and white prints supplemented by corresponding digital photograph, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible in each photograph. An overall site plan of the trenches and recorded features was digitally produced and was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system. Sections through stratigraphic units were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:20.

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### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

Complete context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1. Contexts are numbered by trench number; ie Trench 1 [0101], Trench 2 [0201]. Cut features are shown as [0605] whilst their fills are expressed as (0606) for example.

The soil profile showed some definable variability across the site, mainly between the slightly higher ground to the north (Illus 3) and the somewhat lower lying ground to the south.

The natural geological deposit encountered in all trenches was a light orangey brown sandy clay, with mid brownish red patches and large irregular areas of coarse gravels (eg 0103) To the north of the site, within Trenches 1 to 4, this was encountered between depths of 0.45m and 0.75m below ground level, being generally deeper to the west of the site. To the south of site, within Trenches 5, 6 and 8,

this deposit was encountered between depths of 0.80 to 1.10m. The depth of this deposit was changeable in Trench 7, being at a depth of 0.20m in the north end of the trench, and not reached at a depth of 0.7m in the south.

Overlying this deposit, within Trenches 5 to 8, was a mid-yellowish brown soft silty clay, interpreted as an alluvial deposit (eg 0503). This was present across the entirety of Trenches 5 and 8, where sondages showed it to be between 0.50m and 0.55m in thickness (Illus 4 & 5). In Trench 6 this deposit was present in the north eastern 30m of the trench, where all but the eastern 10m of the deposit was removed to expose the underlying geology. In this trench it was seen to have a maximum thickness of 0.30m. In Trench 7, it was present in the southern 20m of the trench but was not removed. Across these trenches this deposit was encountered at depths between 0.55m and 0.70m. This deposit was not observed in Trenches 1 to 4.

Overlying these deposits within every trench was a subsoil consisting of a mid-reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones (eg 0102). It was observed to have a variable thickness of between 0.20m and 0.40m across all trenches, with no obvious pattern to this variability.

Above this subsoil was a mid-reddish brown silty clay topsoil, which contained occasional small sub rounded stones (eg 0101). It was recorded as having thickness varying between 0.20m and 0.40m across the site.

#### 4.2 TRENCH 6

Trench 6 contained one small linear ditch [0605], located in the south western end of the trench. The feature was orientated roughly east-west and measured 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep with a generally "U" shaped profile (Illus 6). It contained a single fill (0606), which comprised a mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones. This was interpreted as being the result of gradual sedimentation of material into the ditch over time. No dating evidence was recovered from this ditch. It is likely that this feature was some form of agricultural boundary and likely had some form of drainage function, especially given its position in one of the lowest lying parts of the field.

#### 4.3 ALL OTHER TRENCHES

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8. Some possible plough scarring was noted in the natural geology of Trenches 2 and 3.

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### 5 CONCLUSION

Feature [0605] was not visible on the geophysical survey of the site. This is probably due to its shallow nature, which is in turn probably due to a high level of truncation. It appears to be some form of agricultural boundary of unknown date.

The alluvial deposit seen within Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8 appear to be associated with a palaeochannel running through the south-west part of the site. The presence of this feature was previously identified







**ILLUS 3** South-east facing section of Trench 3, showing general site stratigraphy

in the geological assessment of the site forming part of the desk-based assessment (Cotswold 2017).

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation. The programme of work has confirmed the results of the preceding geophysical survey in suggesting that the proposed development site has a low potential for archaeological remains.

## 6 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesOfConduct.pdf> accessed 10 January 2019

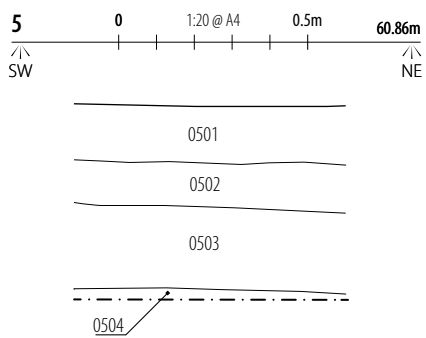
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Reading) [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GFieldevaluation\\_1.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GFieldevaluation_1.pdf) accessed 10 January 2019

Cotswold Archaeology 2017 *Land West of Church House Farm, Moreton on Lugg, Herefordshire: Archaeological Desked-Based Assessment* [unpublished client document] Cotswold Archaeology Report: 17141

Craddock-Bennett L 2019 *Land to the west of Church House Farm, Moreton on Lugg, Herefordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology, Ref. CHMH

Sumo 2017 *Land west of Church House Farm, Moreton on Lugg, Herefordshire. Survey Report No. 11315* [unpublished client document] Sumo Services Ltd





**ILLUS 4** South-east facing section of sondage in Trench 5, showing alluvium (0503) **ILLUS 5** Representative section of Trench 5, showing alluvium (0503) **ILLUS 6** South-east facing section of [0605]

## 7 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR01			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.50	0.60

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0101	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.25
0102	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.25–0.56
0103	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	0.56+

**SUMMARY**  
 Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly higher ground to the north. No archaeology present

TR02			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.42	0.52

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0201	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.25
0202	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.25–0.45
0203	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	0.45+

**SUMMARY**  
 Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly higher ground to the north. No archaeology present. Some plough scars noted across the trench

TR03			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.50	0.55

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0301	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.30
0302	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.30–0.50
0303	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	0.50+

**SUMMARY**  
 Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly higher ground to the north. No archaeology present. Some plough scars noted across the trench

TR04			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.6	0.70	0.74

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0401	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.40
0402	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.40–0.74
0403	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	0.74+

**SUMMARY**  
 Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly higher ground to the north. No archaeology present.

TR05			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.6	0.75	1.00

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0501	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.30
0502	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.30–0.70
0503	Alluvium – Mid yellowish brown soft silty clay, with some patches of mid pinkish red	0.70–1.00
0504	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	1.00+

**SUMMARY**  
 Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly lower ground to the south. No archaeology present. Alluvium present throughout entire trench. Sondage dug at west end to determine depth of alluvium.

TR06			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.6	0.80	0.80

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0601	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.30
0602	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.30–0.60
0603	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	0.80+
0604	Alluvium – Mid yellowish brown soft silty clay, with some patches of mid pinkish red	0.50–0.80
0605	Cut of linear ditch	0.80–0.90
0606	Fill of [0605]	0.80–0.90

**SUMMARY**  
 Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly lower ground to the south. 1x ditch located in the west end of the trench. Alluvium present on the east side of the trench, which was removed with the exception of c. 10m at the east end

TR07			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	0.60	0.50	0.70

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0701	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.20
0702	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.20–0.50
0703	Alluvium – Mid yellowish brown soft silty clay, with some patches of mid pinkish red	0.50+
0704	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	0.50+

**SUMMARY**

Located on slight slope down to the south. No archaeology present. Alluvium present in the southern 20m of the trench.

TR08			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.6	0.55	1.10

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
0801	Topsoil – Mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stones	0–0.25
0802	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silty clay with frequent small sub rounded stones	0.25–0.55
0803	Alluvium – Mid yellowish brown soft silty clay, with some patches of mid pinkish red	0.55–1.10
0804	Natural – Light orangey brown sandy clay and mid brownish red coarse gravels	1.10+

**SUMMARY**

Located on relatively flat pasture land on slightly lower ground to the south. No archaeology present. Alluvium present throughout entire trench. Sondage dug at north east end to determine depth of alluvium.







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