

GRWG19



LAND OFF PENNYLANDS WAY, WINCHCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

PLANNING REF. 18/00115/OUT

commissioned by Bloor Homes Western

April 2019

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PROJECT INFO:

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Winchcombe / Local Authority **Tewkesbury District Council** / OASIS Ref.
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological investigation on land to the south of Winchcombe School, off Pennylands Way, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire ahead of proposed residential development comprising the erection of 5 dwellings including access from Pennylands Way.

The archaeological works exposed evidence of post-medieval agricultural land-use represented by the remains of plough-furrows, respecting an east to west orientation. No features, deposits or materials pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered.

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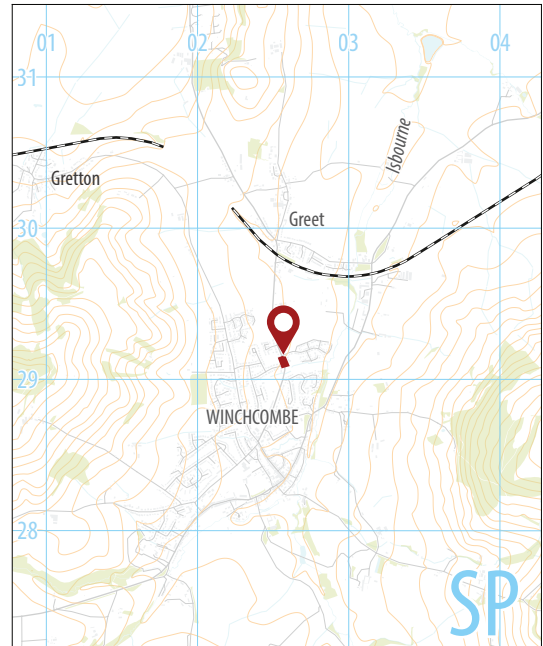
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Land off Pennylands Way
Winchcombe
Gloucestershire



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



0 30m
1:1,500 @ A4

 area of excavation
 trench location



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bloor Homes Western to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on land to the south of Winchcombe School, off Pennylands Way, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

Planning permission was granted by Tewkesbury District Council (18/00115/OUT) for the erection of 5 dwellings including access from the existing estate road (Pennylands Way). An archaeological condition (inter alia) has been placed on the development:

'No development shall take place within the application site 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 local planning authority'

Headland Archaeology prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2019) on behalf of Bloor Homes Western outlining the work methodology.

The Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted to and agreed by Mr. Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Archaeologist, acting as an advisor to Tewkesbury District Council.

The site is located within a small area of land previously forming part of a larger development. The initial planning application (12/01078/FUL) was granted in 2012 for a hybrid application, comprising a full application for 92 dwellings and an outline application for associated sports/recreational facilities and a medical or community-related facility within the larger site.

The area granted permission for 92 dwellings has subsequently been developed. This document relates to the part of the site previously identified for the construction of a new medical facility.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site comprises an area of land within the northern extent of the town of Winchcombe, located off Pennylands Way (centred at SP 02655 29131).

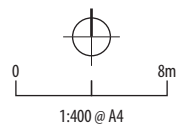
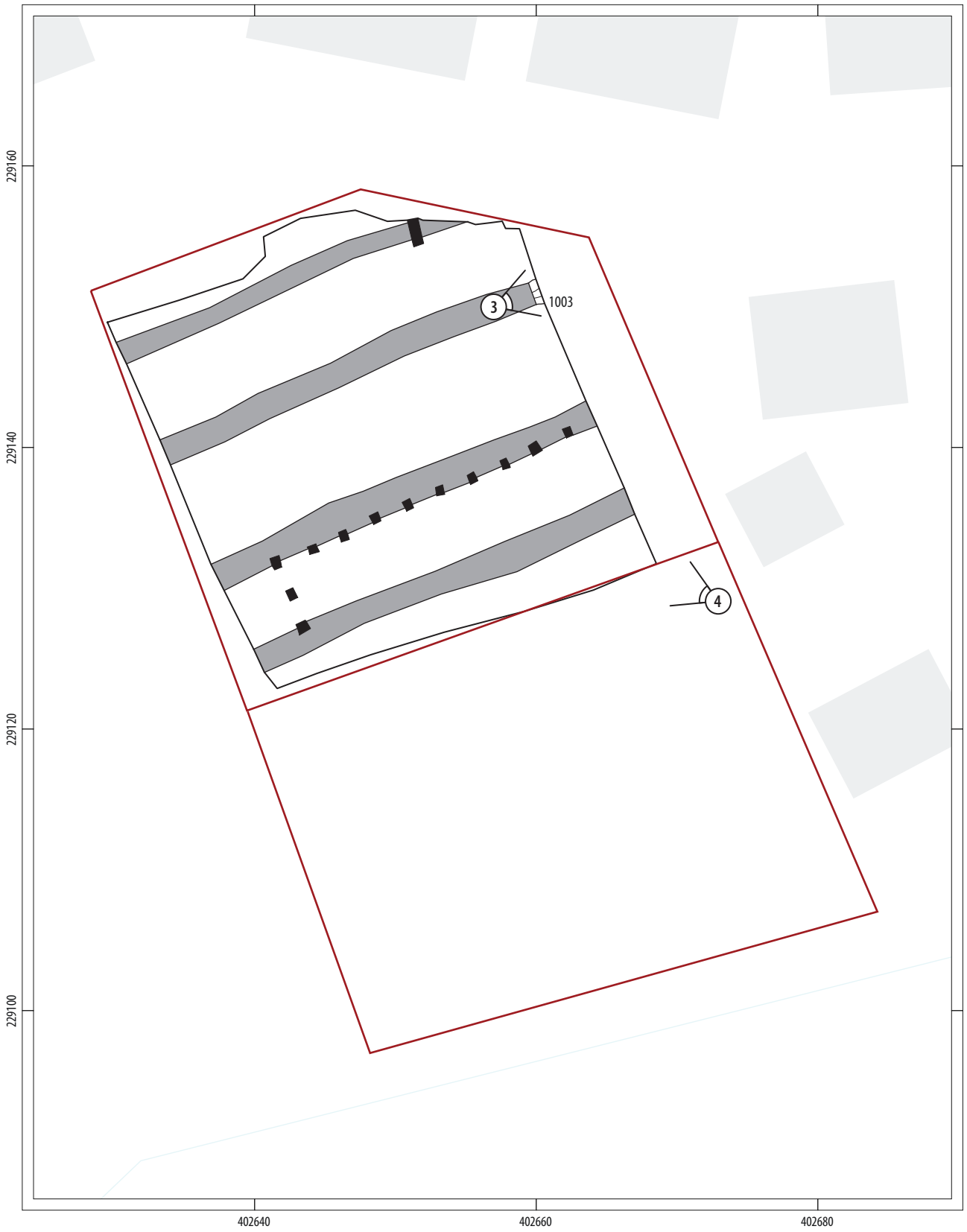
The proposed development area measures approximately 0.2ha and is bounded by residential development to the north and east, and Winchcombe Medical Centre to the west. A small brook (Cemetery Brook), a tributary of the River Isbourne, is located immediately to the south of the site.

The site is approximately 87m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and had been levelled during a cut and fill exercise undertaken to create a construction compound for the adjacent development scheme. Following the removal of the compound, the site has been left to fallow and has subsequently overgrown with weeds.

The bedrock geology consists of Mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 183 to 199 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. (NERC 2018).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background to the site is discussed within a Desk-based Assessment produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2010). Subsequent archaeological investigations were carried out comprising a geophysical survey (Bunn 2010), field evaluation



- area of excavation
- trench location
- unexcavated/excavated furrow
- modern feature
- photo direction

ILLUS 2 Site plan



ILLUS 3 West facing section of furrow [1003]

(Joyce 2011) and excavation (Havard and Holt 2013). These pieces of fieldwork were associated with the previous residential development, however, the geophysical survey and field evaluation also recovered data from the current area of investigation.

The following section is a summary based upon those accounts.

Prehistory

There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the wider development site. During archaeological excavation, undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2013, a cluster of small features was identified yielding an assemblage of worked flint likely of Mesolithic date, suggesting seasonal or temporary activity (Havard and Holt 2013). These features were located approximately 15m to the north of the Phase A excavation area indicating the potential to encounter further evidence within the current development site.

Roman

Located 180m to the north-west of the development area is the site of a Roman villa. This is designated a Scheduled Monument in recognition of the national archaeological importance of the remains (SM No. 21700). Prior to the construction of the previous residential development, various archaeological works (PCA 2010, CA 2011; 2013) recorded ditches indicative of field systems and trackways dated to the late Iron Age and early Roman periods, suggesting that the site had resided within the wider agricultural landscape associated with the villa and previous Iron Age settlement.

Medieval and post-medieval

Throughout the medieval period, the site is likely to have been predominantly under arable use with evidence of field systems and trackways recorded by previous archaeological works (CA 2010, 2011, 2013).

These pieces of fieldwork recorded evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation respecting an east to west orientation.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The methodology was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2019).

In general, the archaeological investigations were undertaken in order to:

- › Determine whether the cluster of shallow features containing evidence for Mesolithic activity identified during the previous excavation extended into the current development area.
- › Assess the extent, structure, and date of any archaeological features and deposits of archaeological interest;
- › To assess the artefactual and ecofactual potential of archaeological deposits;
- › To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;



ILLUS 4 General shot of site, looking north-west

- › To inform the formulation of further measures, if required, to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;

The regional research context is provided by the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Somerset Heritage Services 2012). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in this framework.

In addition to the general aims, the archaeological investigation may give an opportunity to address the following specific research objectives:

Research Aim 3 Address apparent ‘gaps’ in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge.

Research Aim 10 Address our lack of understanding of key transitional periods.

Research Aim 16 Increase the use and improve the targeting of scientific dating.

Research Aim 17 Improve the quality and quantity of environmental data and our understanding of what it represents.

Research Aim 19 Improve our understanding of wild and domestic animals in the past.

Research Aim 20 Improve our understanding of wild and cultivated plants in the past.

Research Aim 21 Improve our understanding of the environmental aspects of farming.

Research objectives will be reviewed in the light of the results of the excavation.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be deposited in the local museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

2 METHOD

An archaeological investigation was undertaken between 18th and 19th March. The proposed strategy was to excavate the site in two phases. Phase A comprised the mechanical excavation of the northern half of the proposed development site (measuring c1,000m²) with excavation only being extended into the southern part of the site (Phase B) if significant archaeological remains were identified in the Phase A area.

After the removal of the overburden and following consultation with Mr. Charles Parry, advisor to Tewkesbury District Council, stripping ceased following the excavation of the Phase A area. This was due to the low-value of the archaeological remains exposed. After

completion of characterisation and survey of the exposed remains, the overburden was reinstated.

All recording followed ClfA Standards and guidance. All deposits identified during the excavation were given unique numbers and recorded on pro-forma record sheets, recording the level at which deposits were encountered below current ground level (bcgl). Digital photographs were taken of the excavation and reinstatement process, and any archaeological significant features and deposits.

A plan of the excavation and features across the site was recorded digitally with a Trimble dGPS using standard Headland Archaeology methodology.

3 RESULTS (ILLUS 1)

Full context descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in Appendix 1. Contexts are identified numerically with cuts indicated by square brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating presented in this report.

The archaeological remains comprise evidence of the post-medieval agricultural landscape, represented by plough-furrows.

No archaeology pre-dating the post-medieval period was encountered during archaeological works.

Also, evidence of compound construction, which had previously occupied the site, in the form of concrete stanchions was observed during mechanical excavation.

3.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The overburden comprised silt and weeds that had accumulated during the period between the removal of the compound and the current investigation. The archaeological horizon/geological substrate was encountered at a depth between 0.05–0.10m bcgl. The geological substrate comprised red-brown sandy clay with outcrops of limestone and weathered limestone 'brash'.

3.2 POST-MEDIEVAL AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE (ILLUS 2, 3 AND 4)

The remains of plough-furrows were identified, respecting an east to west orientation. Each furrow measured between 2–2.20m in width and at a distance of between 6–8m apart.

Furrow [1003] measured 0.30m in depth and contained a single phase of deposition (Illus 3).

A sherd of 18th century glazed pottery, a fragment of red brick, clay pipe stem and animal bones was recovered. These artefacts were noted but not retained.

4 DISCUSSION

The archaeological investigation indicates that the removal of the overlying plough-soil and the construction and subsequent removal of the compound caused minimal truncation and impact upon the archaeological horizon.

The plough furrows identified on the current site correlate with the orientation recorded during the investigations on the adjacent site (PCA 2010, CA 2011; 2013) suggesting they relate to or are contemporary with the same system. The furrows had previously been dated to the 12th through to the 15th century (Havard and Holt 2013), however, the current excavation recovered artefacts dated to the 18th century, suggesting a continuation of use into the post-medieval period.

5 CONCLUSION

The remains of an open field system were encountered, indicating that the development site resides in an area used as arable land during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

No features, deposits or materials pre-dating the post-medieval agricultural landscape were recorded or observed during the archaeological investigation.

6 REFERENCES

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- National Environment Research Council (NERC) 2018 *British Geological Survey* <http://bgs.ac.uk> accessed 20 March 2019

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

*D BGL = Depth below ground level

PHASE A			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
30	30	0.05	0.10
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
(1001)	Overburden – Overgrowth containing silt and weeds.	0.10	
(1002)	Natural – Medium red-brown sandy clay with outcrops of limestone.	N/A	
[1003]	Cut of furrow – Linear furrow, aligned E/W.	0.30	
(1004)	Fill of furrow – Dark red-brown clay with occasional sub-angular limestone.	0.30	
<p>SUMMARY: OVERLYING PLOUGH-SOILS REMOVED DURING COMPOUND SET UP ASSOCIATED WITH PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT.</p> <p>4X FURROWS EXPOSED, ALIGNED E/W MEASURING BETWEEN 2–2.20M.</p> <p>NO ARCHAEOLOGY PREDATING THE POST-MEDIEVAL AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE WAS ENCOUNTERED.</p>			



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