

SCWS19



LAND OFF SALTERS CLOSE, WERRINGTON, STAFFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK
on behalf of Homes England

June 2019

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **SCWS19** / HAS No. **1343** / NGR **SJ 94078 47328** / Parish
Werrington / Local Authority **Staffordshire County Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland3-354246** / Archive Repository **Stoke-on-Trent Museums Service (Acc No. STKMG:2019.LH.57)**

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **Luke Craddock-Bennett** / Author **Tom Cochrane** / Fieldwork **Chris Sear, Tom Cochrane** / Graphics **Eleanor Winter**

Approved by **Luke Craddock-Bennett**



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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Homes England, through their agent Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Salters Close, Werrington, Staffordshire. Fourteen trenches were excavated in May 2019. The evaluation revealed 2 undated drainage ditches and several modern features, including drainage ditches, a posthole and a dump of domestic or demolition waste.

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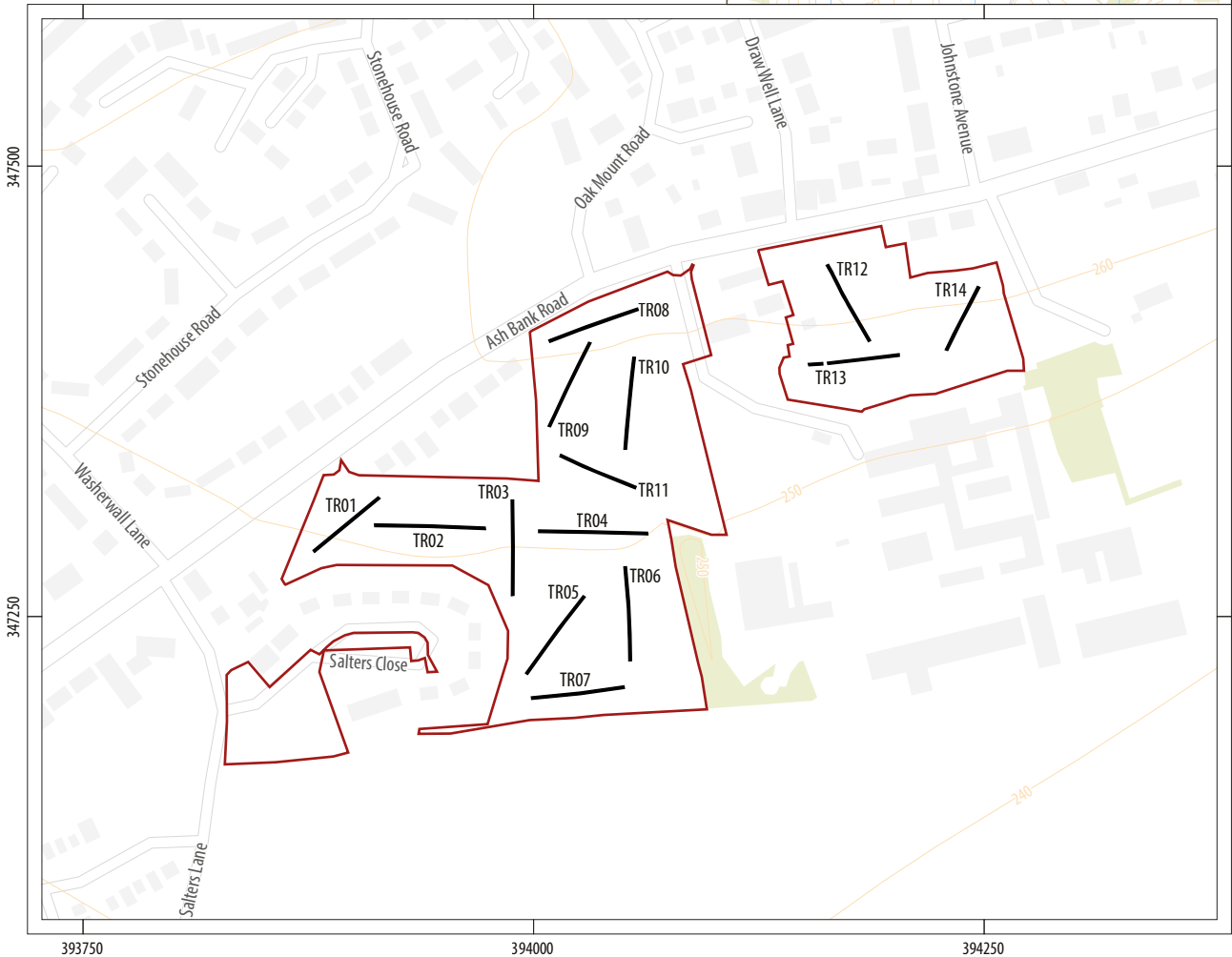
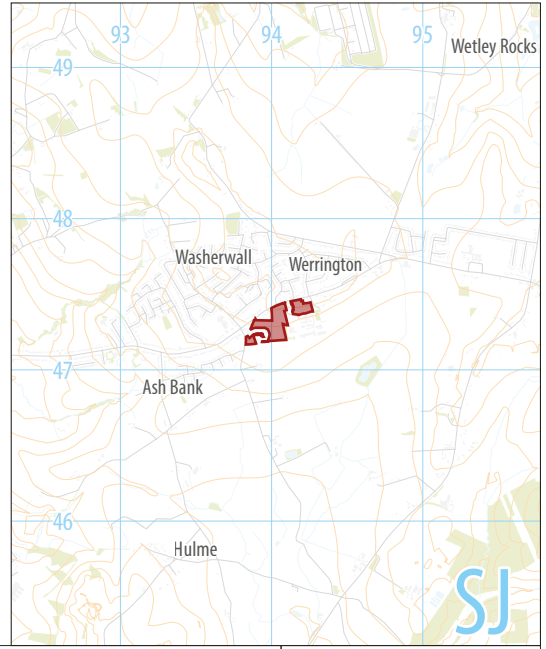
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Salters Close
Werrington
Staffordshire



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



0 80m
1:4,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location



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ILLUS 1 Site location

LAND OFF SALTERS CLOSE, WERRINGTON, STAFFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Homes England are seeking to apply for outline planning consent for the residential development of land off Salters Close, Werrington, Staffordshire. Following pre-application consultation with Staffordshire County Council it was advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be a condition of any planning permission granted. However, Homes England wished to de-risk the site and consequently the field evaluation was carried out prior to submission of the application, in order for the need for any further excavation or recording to be established at an early stage. Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Homes England, through their agent Wood, to undertake the required archaeological evaluation.

Wood prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the works (Doc Ref. 41103iR010 WSI draft) which was reviewed and approved by the Staffordshire County Archaeologist, Shane Kelleher. The WSI defined the requirement of the archaeological works and was supplemented by an Archaeological Method Statement (Craddock-Bennett 2019) which provided evidence of how the requirements of the WSI would be addressed.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The application site is centred on NGR SJ 94078 47328 on the south side of Ash Bank Road, Werrington, in the Staffordshire Moorlands district of Staffordshire (Illus 1).

Underlying geology in the south of the site comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Millstone Grit Group overlain by Devensian-Diamicton Till. A band of Rough Rock Sandstone occupies the northern part of the site (NERC 2019).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Wood produced a desk-based assessment (DBA) which will accompany the planning application. The overall conclusion was that the site had a long history of pastoral and agricultural use, with little evidence of historical change within the proposed development areas. The presence of a prehistoric lithic scatter immediately adjacent to the site suggested that contemporary activity may occur in the local vicinity.

2 OBJECTIVES

In general, 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

3 METHODOLOGY

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 14 trenches measuring between 45m and 65m in length, and 1.6m in width were excavated across the extent of the site (Illus 2). All trenches were opened by a CAT 432F 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 28th and 31st May 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. The photographic record comprised black and white prints supplemented by corresponding digital photographs, 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.

4 RESULTS

4.1 GENERAL 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 [0603] whilst their fills are expressed as (0604) for example.

The site showed a relatively consistent soil profile across the entire area. The underlying geological deposit across the majority of the site was a mid-brownish orange sand, which contained frequent medium to large sandstone pieces. Variation was noted in this to the south of site, where this deposit gave way to a light orangey yellow sandy clay. This generally corresponded with this area being lower lying, flatter land.

Overlying this deposit was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil, containing occasional small, sub rounded stones. This was observed in all trenches and had thicknesses ranging between 0.25m and 0.45m, showing a general trend to be deeper on the flatter areas of land (Illus 3).

4.2 TRENCHES WITH NO ARCHAEOLOGY

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 or 10.

4.3 TRENCHES CONTAINING UNDATED FEATURES

Trench 9 contained one linear feature [0903], located towards the northeast end of the trench (Illus 4). This feature was oriented northeast-southwest and measured 1.35m wide and 0.22m in depth. It had a wide, shallow profile and contained a single fill (0904), which was a greyish brown silty sand loam with frequent sub-angular stones of various sizes. This feature was interpreted as likely a drainage feature, with the fill being the result of natural sedimentation from surface run off. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Trench 11 contained a linear ditch (1104), oriented north-south, towards the southeast end of the trench (Illus 5). It measured 0.75m wide and was 0.15m deep, with a wide shallow profile, similar to that of [0903]. It contained a single fill (1105), which was a dark greyish brown silty sand loam. Similar to (0904), the deposit was interpreted as a result of sedimentation from surface run off. The ditch itself likely held some form of drainage purpose, especially given its downslope orientation. No datable material was recovered from this ditch.

4.4 TRENCHES CONTAINING MODERN FEATURES

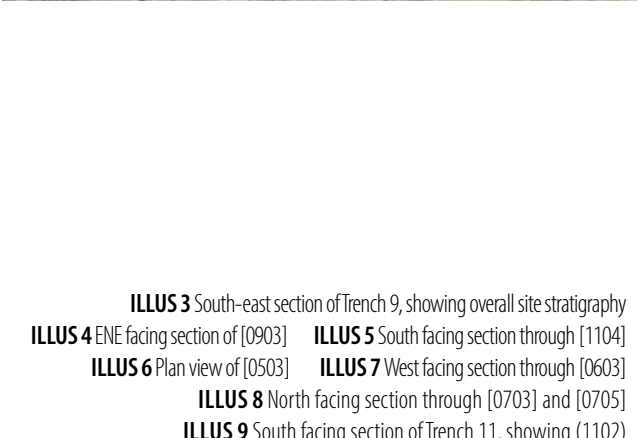
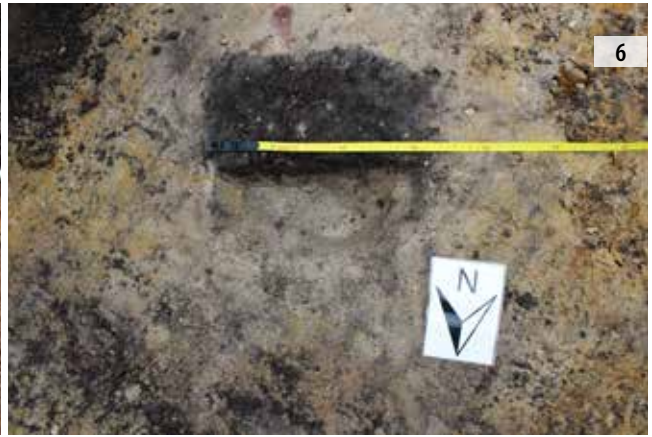
In Trench 5, one small discrete feature [0503] was noted, which was located towards the southwest end of the trench (Illus 6). It measured 0.33m X 0.33m, with a depth of 0.08m, and was square in plan. It contained a homogenous dark brown silty loam, very similar to that of the topsoil in the trench. It seems likely that this feature is some form of posthole and, given its regular shape and the nature of the fill, it is most likely to be of a modern date.

Trench 6 contained a single linear feature [0603] (Illus 7). This was oriented east-west and was located near to the centre of the trench. The feature measured 1.88m wide and 0.38m deep, with a generally "U" shaped profile. It was filled with a single fill (0604), which was a blackish brown silty clay loam with occasional lenses of yellowish brown sandy clay. This deposit appeared to be derivative of the topsoil, with the lenses being derived from the natural geology. It is likely this ditch was for drainage purposes, given its position in the lowest point of the field, and the heterogeneity of the fill is suggestive of deliberate backfill of this feature. This feature was also present in Trench 5, where it could only be seen in section in the trench edge and was visibly cutting the topsoil. This, coupled with the nature of the fill, suggests a modern date for this feature, although no dating evidence was recovered from it.

Trench 7 contained two intercutting ditches, [0703] and [0705] (Illus 8). These were both oriented approximately north-south and were located towards the east end of the trench. They both contained one fill each; (0704) and (0706) respectively. Fill (0704) was a blackish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sized sub-rounded stones, and (0706) was a mid-brown silty clay loam with similar inclusions. Both of these deposits appeared to be the result of natural sedimentation into these ditches. It seems likely that these were drainage ditches, as they are positioned in a low lying area of the field. It was seen that ditch [0705] was the later of the two ditches, although it appeared to be simply a re-cutting of the earlier



ILLUS 2 Site plan



ILLUS 3 South-east section of Trench 9, showing overall site stratigraphy
ILLUS 4 ENE facing section of [0903] **ILLUS 5** South facing section through [1104]
ILLUS 6 Plan view of [0503] **ILLUS 7** West facing section through [0603]
ILLUS 8 North facing section through [0703] and [0705]
ILLUS 9 South facing section of Trench 11, showing [1102]

ditch, [0703]. Modern CBM and pottery were observed in fill (0704), suggesting a modern date for this feature. These ditches were also observed in the northeast end of Trench 5, where pieces of modern tile were noted in the surface of the fills.

At the south eastern end of Trench 11, overlying the natural geology and underlying the topsoil, was deposit (1102). This was a dark greyish brown clayey, sandy silt, with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks, occasional stones of varying sizes and rare pieces of modern CBM (Illus 9). The deposit was observed to have a thickness of 0.48m and thinned out to nothing to the west. It was visible in the surrounding area as a raised area in the landscape and is most likely a build-up of material associated with a large demolition spoil heap, located directly east of the trench.

A number of modern linear features were identified in Trenches 12, 13 and 14. These were seen to contain obviously modern material and are noted on illustration 2. Within Trench 12 a large cut was observed, containing large quantities of modern pottery and CBM and is possibly a dump of domestic or demolition waste related to the residential plot to the west.

5 CONCLUSION

Features [1104] and [0903] are the only undated features uncovered on the site. These appear to have held some form of drainage function and are probably agricultural in nature. Given their similarities and relatively close proximity it is possible that these features are of a similar date, although this cannot be attested. All other features uncovered during the evaluation were shown to be modern in date.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation. The programme of work has shown that the proposed development site has a negligible potential for archaeological remains.

The site archive will be deposited with Stoke-on-Trent Museum Service under accession number STKMG:2019.LH.57.

6 REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesOfConduct.pdf> accessed 3 June 2019
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfA&GFieldevaluation_1.pdf accessed 3 June 2019
- Craddock-Bennett L 2019 *Land off Salters Close, Werrington, Staffordshire (Werrington MoJ): Method Statement for Archaeological Evaluation* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology, Ref. SCWS
- Glyde, M 2019 Werrington MoJ: *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching* Wood Doc Ref. 41103iR010 WSI draft
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2019 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 3 June 2019

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR01			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	1.6	0.25	0.60
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0101	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.25	
0102	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.25+	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, RELATIVELY LEVEL GROUND			

TR02			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
65	1.6	0.40	0.46
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0201	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.40	
0202	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.40+	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPES GENTLY TO THE SOUTH			

TR03			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.50	0.53
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0301	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.50	
0302	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.50+	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING GENTLY SOUTH			

TR04			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
60	1.6	0.45	0.55
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0401	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.45	
0402	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.45+	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING GENTLY SOUTH			

TR05			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.40	0.45
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0501	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.41	
0502	Natural – Mid to light orangey yellow sandy clay	0.41+	
0503	Cut of posthole	0.41 – 0.49	
0504	Fill of [0503]	0.41 – 0.49	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING SLIGHTLY SOUTH			

TR06			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
60	1.6	0.35	0.40
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0601	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.35	
0602	Natural – Mid to light orangey yellow sandy clay	0.35+	
0603	Cut of linear	0.35 - 0.73	
0604	Fill of [0604]	0.35 – 0.73	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING GENTLY SOUTH			

TR07			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.40	0.40
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0701	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.40	
0702	Natural - Mid to light orangey yellow sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments	0.40+	
0703	Cut of linear	0.40 – 0.59	
0704	Fill of [0703]	0.40 – 0.59	
0705	Cut of linear	0.40 – 0.60	
0706	Fill of [0705]	0.40 – 0.60	
SUMMARY ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING SLIGHTLY SOUTH			

TR08			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.30	0.50
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0801	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.30	
0802	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.30+	
SUMMARY ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING SOUTH			

TR09			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.35	0.36
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0901	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.35	
0902	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.35+	
0903	Cut of linear	0.35 – 0.57	
0904	Fill of [0903]	0.35 – 0.57	
SUMMARY ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING STEEPLY SOUTH			

TR10			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.40	0.45
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
1001	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.40	
1002	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.40+	
SUMMARY ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING STEEPLY SOUTH			

TR11			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.45	0.80
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
1101	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.32	
1102	Made ground – Dark greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt, occasional charcoal and modern brick pieces	0.32 – 0.80	
1103	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.80+	
1104	Cut of linear	0.32 – 0.47	
1105	Fill of [1104]	0.32 – 0.47	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING SOUTH			

TR12			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.31	0.35
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
1201	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.31	
1202	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.31+	
SUMMARY: ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING STEEPLY SOUTH			

TR13			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
55	1.6	0.30	0.35
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
1301	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.30	
1302	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.30+	
SUMMARY ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING STEEPLY SOUTH			

TR14			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
45	1.6	0.32	0.35
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
1401	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.32	
1402	Natural – Mid brownish orange sand and sandstone fragments	0.32+	
SUMMARY ROUGH GRASSLAND, SLOPING STEEPLY SOUTH			

APPENDIX 2 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: *headland3-354246*

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Land of Salters Close, Werrington, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. was commissioned by Homes England, through their agent Wood, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Salters Close, Werrington, Staffordshire. 14 trenches were excavated in May 2019. The evaluation revealed 2 undated drainage ditches and several modern features, including drainage ditches, a posthole and a dump of domestic or demolition waste.
Project dates	Start: 28-05-2019 End: 31-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SCWS - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS WERRINGTON Land off Salters Close
Postcode	ST9 0DB
Study area	43000 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 94078 47328 53.022907161142 -2.088297942801 53 01 22 N 002 05 17 W Point
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
Project brief originator	CLIENT
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project director/manager	Luke Craddock-Bennett
Project supervisor	Tom Cochrane
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"; "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

Paper Media available	""Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Section""
Entered by	Tom Cochrane (Tom.Cochrane@headlandarchaeology.com)
Entered on	6 June 2019



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