

FTCW12/002



FORMER TRINITY CENTRE, WARE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by Croudace Homes

3/11/0384/OP

March 2013

revised August 2013

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HA Job no.: FTCW12/002

NGR: TL 36611 15121

Parish: Ware

Local authority: Hertfordshire

OASIS ref.: headland4-139353

Archive will be deposited with Ware Museum (WAEMT A25)

Project Manager	James Newbould
Author	Nuala C. Woodley
Fieldwork	Nuala C. Woodley
Graphics	Caroline Norrman
Approved by	James Newbould – Project Manager



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**Headland Archaeology
South & East**

Building 68A, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 850 878

southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



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LAND OF THE FORMER TRINITY CENTRE, WARE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted an evaluation at a development area the site of the former Trinity Centre, Ware, in order to provide further information on its archaeological potential. The work was commissioned by Croudace Homes. A total of ten trenches were excavated over the development area. No significant sub-surface archaeological remains were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Croudace Homes (the client) to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with the residential development at the former Trinity Centre in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Planning permission for the development was granted by East Herts Council (3/11/0384/OP) subject to a number of conditions, including one relating to archaeological works.

In order to fulfil this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (2012); setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation. This comprised magnetometry survey followed by a trial trenching investigation targeted on the geophysical results.

The geophysical survey took place in February 2013 (Headland Archaeology 2013). The fieldwork took place on 12th and 13th March 2013 and this report details the results of the evaluation.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Development Area (DA) lies on a gentle south-facing slope overlooking the River Ash and lies at C. 62.5m OD. It consists of open land that once formed playing fields for the Trinity Centre. Houses bound the southern and eastern edges of the site on Tower Road, Evergreen Road and Linwood Road. The western site boundary is formed by Lady Margaret Gardens and a play park green space, and the northern edge is bounded by hedgerows with open fields beyond. The DA is centred on NGR TL 36611 15121 with the

underlying geology consisting of Boulder Clay (British geological Survey map 239 – Hertford).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Around 600m to the north of the DA, the Historic Environment Record (HER) records two findspots of Palaeolithic hand axes. Furthermore, excavations in the nearby Lea valley have shown that it was occupied from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age although no other significant archaeological remains are known within the immediate vicinity of the DA.

The Roman town of Ware was located on the crossing point of the River Lea by Ermine Street, around 1km south-west of the DA. A late Iron Age settlement has been recorded as occupying the area of the later Roman settlement and following the Roman period, Ware became an important settlement in the Saxon period. This developed into the medieval and post-medieval core of Ware. Being around 1km north-east of the historic core, it is likely that land within the DA was under agricultural use during these periods. It is therefore possible that the DA would contain the remains of historic field systems from the Iron Age to post-medieval periods.

4 OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the investigation was:

- to identify and assess the particular significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by the relevant proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) (NPPF *National Planning Policy Framework* Policy P132); and

- to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any remains on the site in their cultural and environmental setting.
- to analyse any evidence retrieved in light of objectives contained within the frameworks of local and regional research. In this case they are provided by Medlycott (2011), Glazebrook (1997), Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and English Heritage (1991 & 1997).

Specifically, the aims of the investigation included:

- establishing the depth and character of archaeologically 'sterile' overburden;
- identifying, characterising and dating any potential archaeological remains within the site; and
- defining any constraints encountered during the evaluation and any potential constraints for further archaeological fieldwork.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Trenching

Ten 30m by 1.8m trenches were excavated across the DA, representing a 3% sample of the 1.8ha area. The trenches were laid out in order to test geophysical survey anomalies and blank areas within the DA. Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length and soil profile, can be found in Appendix 1.

A 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

Further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

Prior to any backfilling three sondages were excavated by machine in Trenches 3, 4 and 8 to test the natural geology. The sondages were excavated as marked on Illus 1 to confirm that natural geology had been reached across the site.

5.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All trenches were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded. A full photographic record including colour slide, black and white print and digital photographs was taken. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs

5.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database (headland4-139353).

The complete project archive will be deposited with Ware Museum within 12 months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

6 RESULTS

In general, the soil profile of the DA comprised 0.15m of mid brown grass turf lying over a deposit of light brown grey friable clay likely to be a buried ploughsoil. This deposit was uniform across the DA at 0.10m in thickness and overlay a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions (See Illus 2 & 3). The only exception to this soil profile was seen in Trench 4, where a deposit of black ash gravel material (0.10m) was underlying the turf. This is likely to be a levelling material.

Modern disturbance in the form of building debris pressed into the natural geology was recorded in Trench 7, whilst a dumped deposit of fragments of red brick were observed below the turf in trenches in the south of the DA. The brick fragments were modern in date and most likely derived from the construction of the nearby recently built houses.

A small feature was investigated in Trench 10 but was discovered to be a small tree bowl with the

profile being typical of bioturbation and the backfill containing organic material.

Field drains were uncovered throughout the trenching and all were on a northwest-southeast orientation.

No archaeological remains were revealed in any of the ten trenches.

7 CONCLUSION

The DA is situated 1km north-east of the historic core of Ware. It is likely that this was a landscape of open field systems until the modern expansion of the town. The negative results of this evaluation support this assertion. This is also supported by HER records which comprise only find spots with no evidence of settlement activity within the DA and the surrounding land.

Across the DA, the presence of a buried ploughsoil directly above the natural clay geology and lack of subsoil is suggestive of a long regime of ploughing within the DA. The presence of levelling deposit and building debris in the southern part of the DA, directly below the turf, also demonstrates that it has undergone landscaping and/or grading in the recent past (presumably during the change of use from arable land to playing fields for the former Trinity Centre). Although archaeological potential within the DA was already low, it is possible these activities have removed any archaeological potential within the site.

7.1 Assessment of the impact of development on the significance of heritage assets

The change of use in the DA is from recreational grounds into housing. These changes will involve destructive groundworks, however, as no archaeological features were uncovered, the impact of these groundworks on heritage assets is nil. It is recommended that no further archaeological investigation is required.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographic sources

Brown, N and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper 8.

CgMs. 2009. *Trinity Centre Phase 2, Tower Road, Ware, Herts*. Unpub Report.

English Heritage 1997 *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda*. English Heritage.

Glazebrook, J. 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties - 1 Resource Assessment East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3*.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. 2012. *Archaeological Evaluation, Land of the former Trinity Centre, Ware, Hertfordshire*. Written Scheme of Investigation.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. 2013. *Land at the former Trinity Centre Ware, Hertfordshire Report on Archaeological Geophysical Survey 2013*

Medlycott, M 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.

8.2 Cartographic sources

British Geological Survey Map 239 - Hertford

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

Trench Number	Orientation	Description	Length (m)	Max Depth (m)
1	E - W	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil)(0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.30
2	N - S	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil) (0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.30
3	E - W	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil) (0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.35
4	E - W	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a levelling material of black ash gravel (present from 3m from west end of trench) (0.10m). Underlying this was a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil) (0.10m). Below, was a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.40
5	N - S	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil)(0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.30
6	E - W	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil)(0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.35
7	NNE - SSW	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions. In areas the natural geology has been disturbed by modern building disturbance and fragments of red bricks and debris are present in the clay.	30	0.20

8	E - W	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil)(0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.40
9	E - W	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil)(0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.35
10	N - S	Topsoil of mid brown turf grass (0.15m) overlying a light brown grey friable clay (probably buried ploughsoil)(0.10m). Underlying the topsoil is a natural geology of orange yellow clay with rare angular stone inclusions.	30	0.35

Context register

Context no.	Area	Description
1001	Tr 10	Cut' of small tree bowl / rooting
1002	Tr 10	Organic backfill of tree bowl

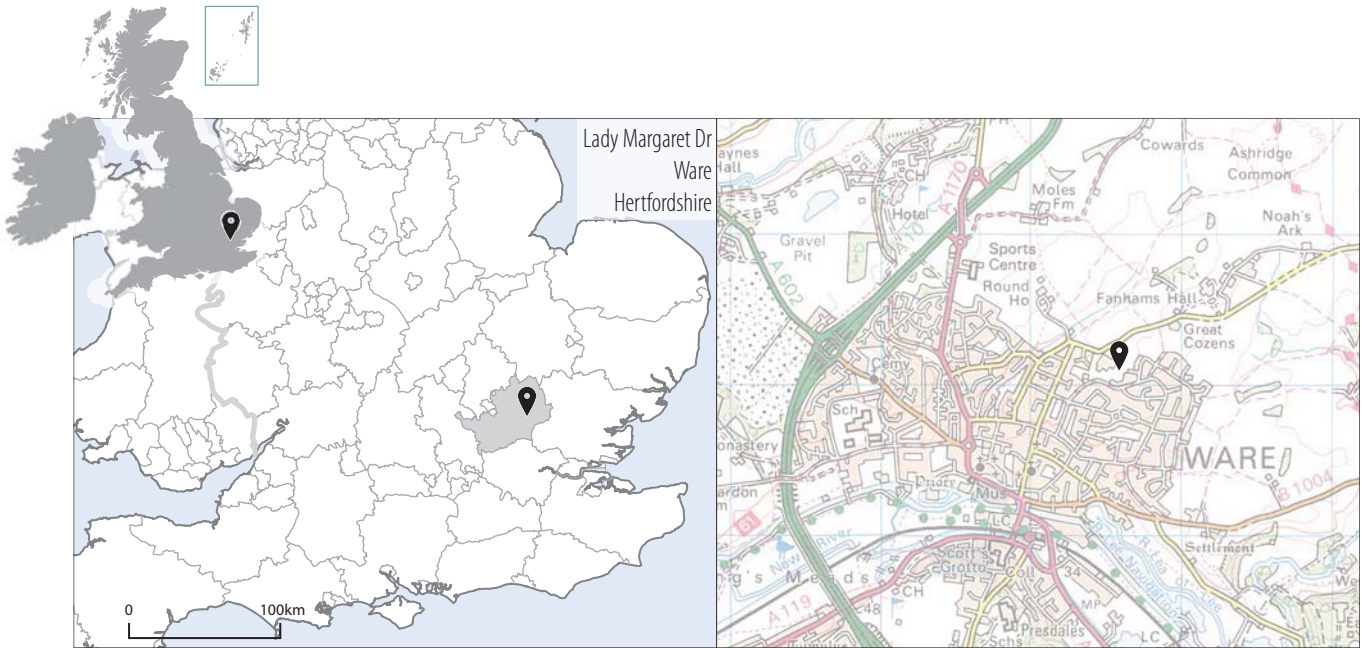
Photographic register

Frame no.	Direction	Description
001	S	Site Conditions
002	E	Site Conditions
003	N	Site Conditions
004	E	Site Conditions - Gate entrance
005	E	TR 1 Post-ex
006	E	TR 1 Post-ex
007	S	Tr 2 Post-ex
008	E	Tr 3 Post-ex
009	W	Tr 4 Post-ex
010	E	Tr 4 Post-ex
011	N	Tr 5 Post-ex
012	E	Tr 6 Post-ex
013	NE	Tr 7 Post-ex
014	NW	Tr 7 Post-ex SEF section
015	W	Tr 8 Post-ex
016	W	Tr 9 Post-ex
017	NE	Tr 10 [1001] very poor light
018	E	Tr 10 [1001] very poor light
019	S	Tr 10 Post-ex
020	NW	Natural geology test Tr 4
021	S	Natural geology test Tr 8

Frame no.	Direction	Description
022	N	Natural geology test Tr 3
023	NE	Tr 10 [1001] re-take
024	E	Tr 10 [1001] re-take
025	NE	Tr 7 Modern disturbance
026	NE	Working shots of site and backfilling
027	S	Working shots of site and backfilling
028	N	Working shots of site and backfilling
029	N	Working shots of site and backfilling
030	E	Working shots of site and backfilling
031	SW	Working shots of site and backfilling
032	W	Working shots of site and backfilling
033	SE	Working shots of site and backfilling

9.2 Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Former Trinity Centre, Ware, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Ware	
Village/Town: Ware	Parish: Ware	
Planning application reference: 3/11/0384/OP		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Private		
Nature of application: Housing		
Present land use: Greenfield		
Size of application area: 1.77ha	Size of area investigated: 0.05ha (3% sample)	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 36611 15121		
Site code (if applicable): FTCW12		
Site director/Organization: James Newbould (MfA) – Headland Archaeology		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 12.03.13	Finish: 15.03.13
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Ware museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented:	
Relevant previous summaries/reports:		
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted an evaluation at a development area the site of the former Trinity Centre, Ware, in order to provide further information on its archaeological potential. The work was commissioned by Croudace Homes. A total of ten trenches were excavated over the development area. No significant sub-surface archaeological remains were revealed.</i>		
Author of summary: Nuala Woodley	Date of summary: 15/03/2013	



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100013329

scale 1:800 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location

Illus 2

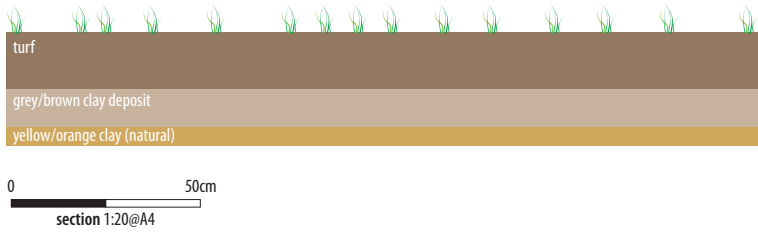
Typical trenching result (Trench 4)



Illus 3

North facing section of Trench 8





Illus 4
Typical soil profile across site

Trench 1



Trench 4



Trench 2



Trench 5



Trench 3



Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 9



Trench 8



Trench 10





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**Headland Archaeology
North East**

13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705
northeast@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
North West**

10 Payne Street
Glasgow G4 0LF

0141 354 8100
northwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
Midlands & West**

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

01432 364 901
midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
South & East**

Building 68A, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 861 578
southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com