



LAND AT THE MEAD, WESTBURY, WILTSHIRE

Trial Trenching

commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited

December 2013





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Joe Abrams

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Project Manager

Author Jake Streatfeild-James Fieldwork

Jake Streatfeild-James, Michelle Collings, Joe Berry, Anthony Clifton-Jones, Andrea Tynan

Caroline Norrman Graphics Laura Bailey, Tim Holden — Environmental Specialists

Julie Lochrie – Finds

Approved by Joe Abrams – Project Manager

2013 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

Headland Archaeology South & East

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

01525 850 878

southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com



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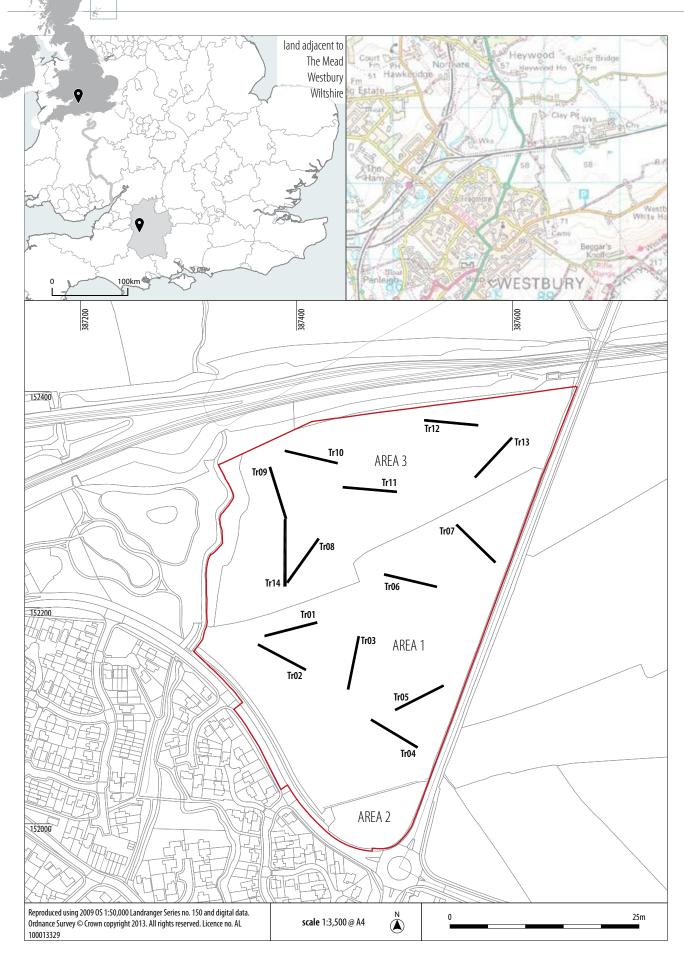
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Illus 1 *Site location*

2013 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

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Trial Trenching

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an evaluation at a proposed housing development on land north of The Mead, located on the north western edge of Westbury, Wiltshire. The evaluation was undertaken in order to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The work was commissioned by AMEC Ltd. A total of 14 trenches were excavated within the PDA.

The proposed development area has been subject to evaluation, and archaeological remains have been recorded across the site, dating to the prehistoric, and specifically the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age, and to the medieval to post-medieval periods. The most significant remains are located within and in the immediate vicinity of Trenches 1, 2 and 11.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning background

- 1.1.1 Gloucester Land Company Limited (hereafter 'the applicant') is proposing residential development of an area of green-field land to the north of The Mead, at Westbury (the proposed development area) to help meet the current housing shortfall in Wiltshire. The applicant is advised on planning matters by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited (the consultant).
- 1.1.2 The consultant prepared a Heritage Statement detailing the effect of the proposed development on designated and recorded non-designated heritage assets in and around the proposed development area (PDA) (AMEC 2013a). This was followed by a non-intrusive survey of the below-ground archaeology (Hale, 2013).
- 1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (AMEC, 2013b) for an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) was then agreed between the consultant (on behalf of the applicant) and Wiltshire County Council (WCC), which is advised on archaeological matters by the Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Officer (AO). The AO advised that an intrusive archaeological trial trench evaluation of 650 linear metres targeted on geophysical anomalies and cropmarks would be required in advance of any potential development in order to obtain further information on the sub-surface archaeological potential.

- These works were requested in accordance with government guidance as set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.4 Headland Archaeology (UK) Itd was then commissioned by the consultant to prepare a method statement (2013) for the evaluation, undertake the site works and produce a report (this document) on the results. The combined results of the non-intrusive and intrusive investigations will allow the AO to make their recommendation on the planning application.

1.2 Site location and geology

- 1.2.1 The PDA is located on the north west edge of Westbury; the site is centred on ST 8744 5223. It is bounded to the south by The Mead and recent housing development, to the north west by the embankment carrying the Great Western Railway, and to the north east by the A350 the main trunk route running north south between Melksham and Warminster. The PDA consists of pasture, intersected by mature hedgerows all of which appear on the 19th century ordnance survey sheets for the area.
- 1.2.2 The PDA is situated on low lying ground, overlooked by the steep chalk escarpment forming the western-most edge of Salisbury Plain. Several small water courses run off the escarpment, one of which forms the southern extent of the PDA. The background geology develops from the Kimmeridge Clay Formations (www.bgs.ac.uk).

During the investigation it was noted that clay with inclusions from local chalk formations (Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation) was interspersed with very waterlogged and gleyed deposits of greensand clay. This suggested that the original quaternary landscape consisted of low lying areas of standing water interspersed with areas of higher ground, consisting of alluvial soils, which originated on the Salisbury Plain plateau.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the PDA has been detailed in the Heritage Statement (AMEC 2013a) and is summarised here with all due acknowledgement.
- .3.2 The site contains a number of crop-mark groups which have been interpreted by the Historic Environment Record (HER) as possible archaeological remains of Prehistoric and medieval date. A circular crop-mark (HER ref. ST85SE616), thought to be indicative of possible prehistoric settlement, is situated on the northern edge of the PDA, close by the railway embankment. A linear cropmark, thought to be the remnant of a field boundary, runs from the south east limit of the site to the centre, before turning towards the north east (**Illus 2**).
- 1.3.3 Apart from these crop-marks, there are no other recorded heritage assets within the PDA. Previous archaeological works in the vicinity, associated with the construction of the Westbury Eastern Bypass (HER Refs. EWI6547, EWI6551 and EWI7005) have showed that the majority of archaeological activity surviving below ground level relates to systems of land management and subsistence patterns dating between the Bronze Age and the postmedieval period. It should be noted that an area of local regional significance has been identified at West of Town Farm (HER Refs. ST85SE207 ST85SE209), approximately 800m from the PDA, consisting of a midden site dating to the late Bronze Age Early Iron Age transition period, and an enclosed settlement dating to the Iron Age.
- 1.3.4 Subsequent evaluation within the PDA, using geophysical survey (Hale, 2013) carried out over the PDA revealed two sub-circular anomalies and a single linear anomaly, identified as being of possible anthropogenic origin, relating to prehistoric settlement, or the organisation of field systems. The geophysical survey also recorded the alignment of ridges and furrows belonging to the most recent cultivation system within the PDA (HER Ref. ST85SE649).
- 1.3.5 Archaeological evidence from the site and the surrounding area suggests that the PDA has the potential to contain archaeological deposits from the Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. The above findings were noted prior to trial trenching being undertaken and were considered during the investigation and in the production of this report.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives

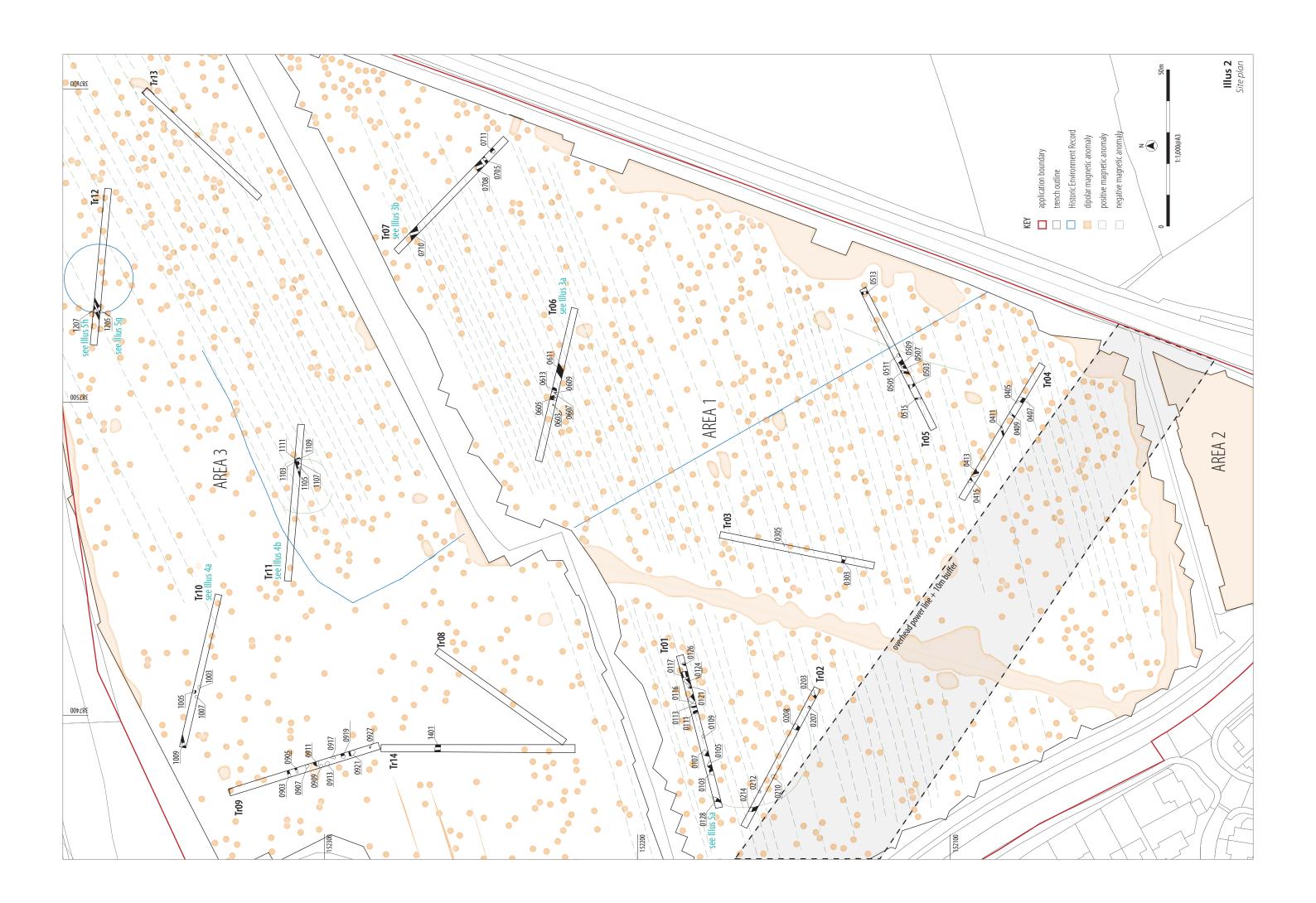
- 2.1.1 The objectives of the evaluation were:
 - to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to inform the planning application;
 - to provide sufficient trenching to sample the anomalies identified as a result of the previous geophysical survey and cropmarks recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - to identify and investigate the presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any known, suspected and as yet unknown archaeological features/deposits which may be present on the site;
 - to prepare a fully illustrated report on the results of the trial trenching that is compliant with all relevant guidance and good practice, including the IFA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2008);
 - to provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a suitable mitigation strategy and appropriate management of the archaeological resource, which is to be affected by the proposed development.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The fieldwork took place between 21st October and 5th November 2013. A total of 14 trenches were excavated amounting to 712.5 linear meters at 2m wide. The trenches were laid out in order to test geophysical survey anomalies and blank areas within the DA. A further trench was excavated (Trench 14) along the western boundary of the site, supplementing the sample area.
- 2.2.2 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.
- 2.2.3 Further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features was investigated by hand and all features were recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

2.3 Recording

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

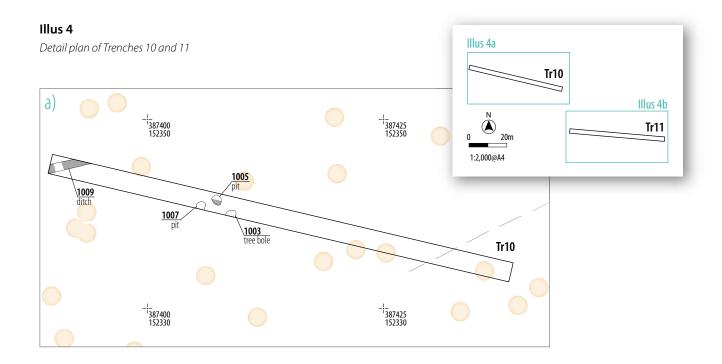


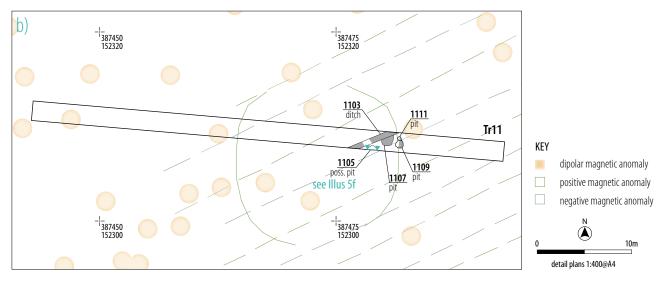
- 2.3.2 An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a differential GPS unit.
- 2.3.3 A full photographic record comprising colour slide and black and white print photographs was taken, supplemented with digital photography (See Appendix 3). A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length and depth are presented in Appendix 1.1 Technical details of individual contexts are presented in Appendix 1.2 Contexts are numbered by trench number: ie Trench 1 [0101], Trench 2 [0201]. Cut features are shown as [0101] whilst their fills are expressed as (0102) for example. The results are described in chronological order.

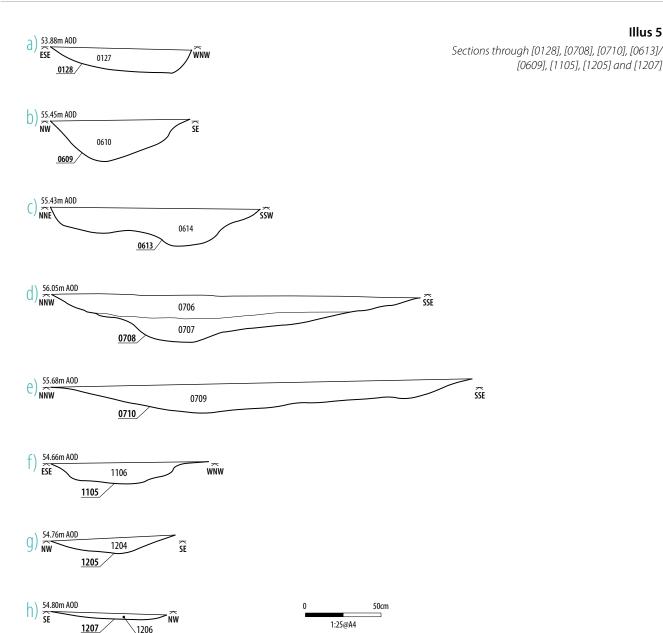




- Topsoil, Subsoil and Natural were numerically ordered 3.1.2 as (trench prefix) 00, 01 and 02 (see Appendix 1.2). Overburden generally comprised topsoil in the form of a humic dark black brown clayey silt, to a depth of 0.30m below ground level (bgl). Subsoil was identified across the site, and at depths between 0.30 and 0.75m bgl, mainly as a 'b' horizon of the topsoil layer, which had been modified by rapid and frequent changes in the water table. Ceramic fragments were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in order to provide a date range for the improvement of the field system (Section 4.2). Two distinct deposits of natural subsoil were identified within the DA. At the west end of the site, adjacent to the watercourse, the subsoil was deposited directly onto a waterlogged and gleyed deposit of greensand clay. Rising from ~54m AOD to ~57m AOD in a north easterly direction, the natural subsoil had more frequent inclusions of chalk and flint, in the form of small angular fragments.
- 3.1.3 The assemblage of flint recovered from site was generally very abraded, with one or two exceptions, and also showed signed of patination, suggesting exposure to air and water over a long period. The low lying nature of the site and the proximity of a water course to the west suggest that the majority of flints have been carried into the soil matrix, by natural erosive processes, and have subsequently been incorporated into the fill of features, including tree boles and the medieval and post-medieval ditches crossing the site (see 5.2).
- 3.1.4 The correspondence between crop-marks and geophysical anomalies was found to be variable across the site. The circular geophysics anomaly in trench 11 was identified where its eastern edge intersected with the trench, and was linked to a number of small pits. It is possible that the pits, [1105], [1107] [1109] and [1111] could be part of a circular arrangement (Illus 4b). The western side of this anomaly had been truncated below the level of the natural subsoil. Trench 5 targeted

[0609], [1105], [1205] and [1207]

Illus 5



a linear magnetic anomaly, which was not observed as being cut into the subsoil or natural drift geology. In Trench 12, the cropmark was not observed as a negative feature, although the possibility that the cropmark might correspond with the anomaly in Trench 11, having been misplaced during the process of air-photo rectification was noted. The sub circular anomaly in Trenches 1 and 2 was located, and is discussed below (Section 3.6)

Twelve trenches were found to contain negative 3.1.5 features cut into the natural subsoil; of these trenches 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 could be said to contain features which were definitely anthropogenic. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 14 contained features which were identified as tree throws and boles. These were investigated and recorded according to the WSI and method statement. Trenches 8 and 13 were sterile and contained no trace of archaeological activity.

3.2 **Prehistoric**

3.2.1

A large semi circular magnetic anomaly was recorded during the geophysical survey (Illus 2). A linear feature [0127]/(0128) and [0214]/(0215), with a light orange brown fill consisting of silty clay (Illus 2; 5a & 6) was investigated. At the south west end of Trench 1, the feature appeared between two distinct patches of natural subsoil. To the south and west of the feature the subsoil was very gleyed clay, while to the north and east, the feature appeared to be cut into a natural bank of alluvial clay; with frequent inclusions of chalk gravel and angular flint gravel (Section 1.2.2). The appearance of this feature in the section suggests it could be anthropogenic in origin, having a broad concave base. Large sub circular ditches are usually associated with prehistoric settlement and this could be one such example. It is also not unknown for prehistoric settlements to target low lying, waterlogged areas in order to exploit a range of resources, usually on a seasonal basis.







Illus 6

S facing section through feature [0128]

Illus 7

NW facing section through tree hole [0613] with pit [0609] in foreground

Illus 8

W facing section through ditch [0708]

- 3.2.2 Trench 11 contained a series of small, concave pits with single fills, all of which contained an assemblage of poorly struck flint consistent with later prehistoric activity (see 5.1). These features corresponded with a circular geophysical survey anomaly, suggesting a circular arrangement of postholes, roughly twenty meters in diameter. Confirmation of the presence of a circular arrangement of features would, however, require further investigation.
- 3.2.3 Upon investigation Trench 10 revealed a small cluster of pits with concave bases and single fills (Illus 4a). [1005] and [1007] were excavated by hand, but revealed no artefactual or ecofactual material, the balance of probability suggests that these features represent an episode of pit-digging dating coinciding roughly with Pit [0609] in Trench 6 (Section 3.2.5) which returned a single fresh blade dating no later than the early Bronze Age.
- 324 A number of features within the PDA were excavated and found to contain an assemblage of struck flint. [0303]/ [0304] was found to contain rare evidence for skilled flint knapping, containing a prepared platform flake, (Section 5.1). This fragment, along with the vast majority of the flint assemblage was badly water-rolled and abraded, with signs of patination, suggesting that it may have been residual in amongst the material which made up fill (0304). The form and lack of skill in preparing these badly abraded flints suggests an Iron Age date (Section 5.1), therefore, if they to be interpreted as intrusive, it follows that the majority of pits and tree boles where these flints are present postdate the Iron Age.
- 3.2.5 Further evidence for prehistoric activity was dispersed across the centre of the DA (Trenches 6, 11 and 10). The evidence

Illus 9

W facing section through ditch [0710]

Illus 10

Features in Trench 11; [1103], [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111] with pit [0609] in foreground

Illus 11

NW facing section through possible pit [1105]

for prehistoric activity consisted of three groups of small sub-circular and oval pits with steep sided cuts and rounded concave bases. In Trench 6, a single pit [0609] and tree bole [0613] were found to be intercutting (Illus 3). The single fill of [0609] contained an assemblage of flint which included a long, thin blade struck from a well maintained core, and appears to pre date the rest of the assemblage, most likely to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age (Section 5.2). The freshness of the blade sets it apart from the other flints on site, suggesting that it might not be a residual find incorporated into (0610), but may have been part of a structured deposit.

3.2.6 It is important to note that no prehistoric ceramics were recovered from any features uncovered during the evaluation.

3.3 Medieval

3.3.1 Evidence for medieval activity was only recorded in one trench at the north of the DA. Trench 7 contained two parallel linear features running southwestnortheast. Upon investigation these features were found to be shallow, at 0.40m deep, [0708] being 2.4m wide, and [0710] being 2.8m wide. Located on the chalky clay subsoil at the north end of the site, these features were interpreted as the possible remains of a field system pre-dating the postmedieval water meadow, which forms the latest archaeological horizon on site (Section 3.5). A sherd of abraded greyware was recovered from the primary fill of [0708]: identified as postmedieval, and potentially intrusive. One of these linear features was observed continuing as far as Trench 6 [0611]/ [0612], but appeared to have terminated before running any further south west.







Illus 12

NE facing section through features 1205] and [1207]

3.3.2 The comparable lack of other ceramic fabrics suggests a separation in time between the gradual infilling of these linear features and the deposition of midden material in the topsoil. [0708], [0710] and [0610] all share the general alignment of the south west - north east field boundary, with it's characteristic 'dog-leg' suggestive of the reverse 'S' shape associated with ridge and furrow ploughing. These linear features could, therefore, be an artefact of a ridge and furrow system which was subsequently improved. Their spacing could be suggestive of drainage, or possibly or property delineations within a strip-field system.



Bettey, 1977). The construction of water meadows is known in Dorset from the early 17th century (Bettey, 1977: 37); at Westbury such systems have been undated.

3.4 Post-medieval

- 3.4.1 The most recent archaeological horizon across the site is characterized by a rich, humic topsoil, which was found to contain rich assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), ceramic fragments and animal bone, the combination of which suggests the development of an agricultural anthrosol through repeated deposition of waste material. Datable artefacts were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in order to provide a date bracket for enrichment of the soil at The Mead (Section 5).
- 3.4.2 The enrichment of the soil appears to coincide with the construction of a network of earthworks across the site, noticeably in the north west of the site, which could suggest this parcel of land was incorporated into a network of water meadows. The assemblage of ceramics recovered from the topsoil and subsoil across the site gives a range of dates from the 18th to 19th centuries, with a single outlier, in the form of a fragment of Staffordshire Slipware dating to the mid 17th to mid-late 18th centuries (Section 5.2). The balance of probability suggests that the process of improvement was ongoing at some time during the around the mid to late 18th centuries.

3.5 Description of the significance of the heritage assets

3.5.1 The local and regional research contexts are provided by Webster (2007) the aims of which are to survey and evaluate our current understanding of the region's historic environment. The construction of water meadows is known to have been a major undertaking, cutting across social and geographical boundaries, requiring a significant investment from landowners and tenants (Webster, 2007;

- 3.5.2 The presence of Prehistoric pit groups is of local interest. Pit digging in the prehistoric period is observed across the British Isles, whilst some prehistoric pits may contain structured deposits suggestive of curation and deposition of cultural material (Anderson-Whymark & Thomas, 2012) the assemblages within these pits were severely limited, possibly due to local factors inhibiting preservation of faunal remains and low fired ceramics (ie. a highly mobile water table).
- 3.5.3 The possible medieval furlong boundaries represent a phase of activity which pre-dates the post-medieval enrichment of the soil.
- 3.5.4 Although the trial trenching only revealed moderate archaeological evidence for past activity of any date the results contribute to our general understanding of Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity in the local area.

Table 1Summary of the significant heritage assets identified by the trial trenching

Description	Trench	Context	Significance of HA (Low, Medium, High) and of local, regional, national, international interest
HA1 —Post medieval Field System	All trenches	Topsoil / Subsoil / Earthworks	Low significance of regional interest
HA2 — Prehistoric pit groups and circular ditches	01, 02, 06,10,11	[0128] [0208] [0214] [0609] [0611] [1005] [1105] [1109]	Moderate/regional — Low/local significance
HA3 — Medieval Field Boundaries	106, 07	[610] [708] [710]	Low significance of local interest

4 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Laura Bailey & Tim Holden

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Seven samples ranging in volume from 10 to 30 litres were processed for environmental assessment. The samples were taken from various features including the fills of pits and ditches. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any palaeoenvironmental remains in the samples and to assess the potential of the materials for any indication of the function of the features. The environmental remains are quantified in Tables 2 and 3. Fragments of animal bone hand-collected during the evaluation are presented in Table 4.

4.2 Methodology

- 4.2.1 The samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 μm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed. All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006).
- 4.2.2 Hand collected animal bone from 3 contexts (1200, 1300 and 1201) was submitted for assessment. The aims of the assessment were to provide a basic quantification of the

- available data, to characterise the assemblage as far as possible and to help identify the potential of the data-set to benefit from further analysis.
- 4.2.3 Numbers of identifiable bone fragments were recorded, together with the preservation and any signs of modification of the bone. Where possible, fragments were identified to species level using Schmid 1972. However, where bone was very fragmented and not possible to identify it was marked as indeterminate (Table 3).

4.3 Results

- 4.3.1 Results of the assessment are presented in **Tables 2** (Retent samples), **3** (Flot samples) and **4** (Animal bone).
- 4.3.2 Small fragments of wood charcoal, measuring less than 1mm, were present in small quantities in the retents from the fill (0110) of pit [0109] but not retained due to the small size.
- 4.3.3 The retents of all of the samples, with the exception of Context (0127), from the fill of feature [0128], contained terrestrial snail shell. Terrestrial snail shell was also recovered from the flots (0707, 0709 and 1104) taken from ditches [0708], [0710] and [1103] respectively. However, given the amount of modern root matter within the samples it is likely that the snail shells are modern. Small fragments of marine shell were recovered from the retents of Sample 7 from the fill (0127) of feature [0128].
- 4.3.4 The animal bone assemblage comprised 24 bone fragments recovered from topsoil (1200, 1300) and subsoil (1201) weighing 377g in total (**Table 4**). The majority of bone was poorly preserved and heavily fragmented with poor surface preservation with modern breaks.

Table 2Summary of retent samples

Context	Sample	Trench	Sample Vol (I)	Shell		Charco	al	Coal	Comments
				Marine	Terrestrial	Qty	Max Size (cm)		
0127	7	01	10	++	-	_	_	+	_
0304	1	03	10	_	_	-	-	-	Sterile
0707	3	07	10	_	-	_	-	_	Sterile
0709	4	07	10	_	-	_	-	_	Sterile
1006	2	10	10	_	-	_	-	_	Sterile
1104	6	11	10	_	+	_	-	_	_
1110	5	01	30	-	-	+	<0.5	-	Charcoal not retained.

Key: + = rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

Table 3 *Flotation sample results*

Context	Sample	Trench	Total flot Vol (ml)	Other plant remains	Comments
0127	7	01	5	-	Sterile
0304	1	03	15	Modern roots +	-
0707	3	07	15	Modern roots +	Contains terrestrial snail shell
0709	4	07	15	Modern roots +	Contains terrestrial snail shell
1006	2	10	5	Modern roots +	_
1104	6	11	15	Modern roots +	Contains terrestrial snail shell
1110	5	11	30	Modern roots +	_
Key: +=	rare (1-5), -	++=000	asional (6-1	5), +++= common (16-	-50) and ++++=

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

Table 4 *Summary of animal bone assemblage*

abundant (>50)

Context	Weight (g)		Large ungulate	Medium ungulate (e.g. pig/sheep/ goat)	Indeterminate
1200	126	6	3	2	1
1300	51	7	6	1	-
1201	200	3	3	-	_
Total	377	9	12	3	1

- 4.3.5 The assemblage was dominated by fragments of long bone from large ungulates. Cattle bones were the most numerous, with lesser quantities of rib and long bone of small ungulate.
- 4.3.6 A brick fragment was recovered from environmental samples from the fill (0304) of Ditch [0303]. Lithics were recovered from the retents of samples from the fills 0304, 0707, 1004, 1006, 0709, 1110, 1104, 0127 of Ditches 0303, 0708, 1003, 0710 Pits, 1109, 1105 and Linear feature 0128 respectively and will be discussed as the subject of a separate finds report (Section 5).

4.4 Discussion

4.4.1 The samples contained few environmental remains and there is no scope for further work. The majority of the animal bone was recovered from the topsoil and is therefore likely to be the result of material brought to site from elsewhere, by, for example, manuring. Finds recovered from the topsoil also supports the theory that the topsoil was imported. Aside from possible manuring, the animal bone assemblage offers little insight into site activity. Neither the animal bone, nor the environmental samples offer any scope for further work.

5 FINDS

Julie Lochrie

5.1.1 The finds assemblage recovered from the site during the evaluation numbers 84 lithics, 55 sherds of pottery, 1346g of CBM, five sherds of glass and five clay pipe fragments. These were found in 25 contexts across 12 trenches. The finds are quantified by trench and context in **Table 5** and a finds catalogue has been provided at the end of the report.

Trench	Context	Lithics (PH)	Pottery (PM-Mod)	СВМ	Glass	Clay Pipe
01	0100	-	4	-	_	-
01	0101	_	_	_	1	_
01	0127	3	1	_	_	_
02	0200	-	5	-	-	_
03	0300	_	5	38g	_	_
03	0304	12	_	1g	_	_
04	0400	-	12	-	1	3
04	0401	_	6	18g	1	_
05	0504	11	_	_	_	_
05	0508	2	_	_	_	_
05	0514	13	_	_	_	_
06	0606	2	_	_	-	_
06	0610	5	_	_	-	_
07	0706	2	2	_	_	_
07	0707	3	_	-	-	_
07	0709	4	1	_	-	-
09	0928	3	-	_	-	-
10	1000	-	_	166g	-	_
10	1006	6	_	_	-	-
10	1010	5	_	-	-	_
11	1104	8	_	_	_	_
11	1110	5	_	_	_	_
12	1200	-	7	463g	-	_
12	1201	-	_	-	1	1
13	1300	_	12	660g	1	1
Total	-	84	55	1346g	5	5

Table 5

Quantification of finds by trench, with spot dating

5.1 Lithics

5.1.1 Chipped stone finds were found in seven trenches (1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11), from a mixture of linear and pit features.

They are all made of a medium-grained, brown-grey flint and mostly abraded to lightly abraded with frequent, light patination. The assemblage consists of crudely reduced debitage, some possible core fragments and an edge retouched flake fragment, totalling 84 pieces.

- 5.1.2 The debitage shows little skill in reducing flint. The pieces have been mostly struck freehand and are very irregular in shape and size. Only one flake, from feature [0303], shows a formal, prepared platform. One other piece which stands out from the assemblage is a long, thin blade from pit [0609], measuring 51mm x 14mm x 4mm, which has longitudinal dorsal scars from previous blade removals. This shows skilled reduction and is at odds with the rest of the assemblage.
- 5.1.3 The reduction methods seem to point to a later prehistoric date; however the fine, thin blade may indicate an earlier date for some of the activity. As the condition of the flint is mostly abraded it would seem to suggest some movement, either they have sat on a ground surface before being incorporated into deposits or they have been disturbed by later activity. It seems most probable the lithics represent material of mixed date.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery is a mixture of post-medieval reduced and oxidised wares (ie. glazed redwares and greywares) and modern whitewares, although a piece of Staffordshire slipware was found in the topsoil of Trench 1. The mixture of dates and their retrieval from mostly topsoil contexts indicates they are not in situ; they may not even derive from features within the locale and have most likely been transported to the area through manuring.

5.3 Other finds

5.3.1 Small quantities of CBM, glass and clay pipe were found in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 10, 12 and 13. The glass and clay pipe are modern in date (ie post dating the 1750s) and the CBM is post-medieval to modern; the small abraded fragments of brick and tile make tighter dating impossible at the assessment stage. These likely derive from the same activity as the pottery.

5.4 Finds Catalogue

5.4.1 None of the finds, at present, have any scope for further work. If future mitigation revealed more finds the assemblage would need re-assessed. A full catalogue is available in Appendix 2.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 The land at The Mead has produced a number of archaeological features of significance, spread across a block of land which is situated within the range of a small

watercourse nearby. This investigation has suggested that this land has been marginal, without a specific focus of human activity in a low lying in a stretch of land, surrounded by a number of hill forts and enclosed settlements which are currently dated to the Iron Age.

- 6.1.2 Processes of erosion and deposition have been instrumental in forming the site, with much of the chalk and flint likely to have been deposited during periods of flooding, when water is likely to have flowed off Salisbury Plain, located just to the east. This would account for the frequent finds of patinated and abraded flints in the fills of ditches and tree boles, none of which can be securely dated, but most likely originate some time after the end of the Iron Age.
- 6.1.3 Instances of pit digging are widely reported in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, with examples being found across the British Isles. Assemblages within these pits can include faunal or plant remains, however, local ground conditions have not been suitable for the preservation either and lithics may be the only material likely to survive. It is also important to observe that there were no prehistoric ceramics recovered from any of the features; it could be that local conditions have also destroyed what remained of any low fired ceramics. It is also possible that, if the majority of the lithics were transported onto site via alluvial deposits, any ceramic fragments would have been abraded to the point where they existed only as crumbs.
- 6.1.4 Of the circular geophysical anomalies, both of which have been located and investigated, one has been interpreted as a possible prehistoric ring ditch or anthropogenic exaggeration of a natural feature [0128], [0214]; the other has been interpreted as a possible circular arrangement of pits or post-holes [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111].
- 6.1.5 The presence of a water meadow system to the north of Westbury has been unrecorded in the archaeological record, and the results of this field evaluation serve to fill in the gap which previously existed in out knowledge of historic land use in the area. The social significance of water meadows has been explored at length elsewhere (Bettey, 1977), but briefly, the impact of the system in this area is likely to have disrupted previous land holding agreements; benefiting some, with extended growing seasons and richer pasture, whilst exposing others to eviction and the disruption of rights of access to land which was previously held in common.
- 6.1.6 The proposed development area has been subject to evaluation, and archaeological remains have been recorded across the site, dating to the prehistoric, and specifically the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age, and to the medieval to post-medieval periods. The most significant remains are located within and in the immediate vicinity of Trenches 1, 2 and 11.

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Context Trench / Area Description

Cut of tree bole

Cut of tree throw

Cut of tree throw

Fill of [105]

Fill of [107]

Fill of [109]

105

106

107

108

109

110

Minimum depth

to archaeology

Tr1

Tr1

Tr1

Tr1

Tr1

Tr1

					110	Tr1	Fill of [109]
1	50	ENE-WSW	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.3m sub soil; 0.3m+ natural	0.3m	111	Tr1	Cut of tree bole
	50	NW-SE	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.34m subsoil;	0.34m	112	Tr1	Fill of [111]
			0.34m+ natural		113	Tr1	Cut of tree bole
3	50	NNE-SSW	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m+ natural	0.26m	114	Tr1	Fill of [113]
	50	NW-SE	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.27m subsoil;	0.27m	115	Tr1	Fill of [116]
			0.27m+ natural		116	Tr1	Cut of tree throw
	50	NE-SW	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ natural	0.5m	117	Tr1	Cut of natural feature
	50	WNW-ESE	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.35m subsoil;	0.35m	118	Tr1	Fill of [117]
	50	VVIVV-LJL	0.35m+ natural	0.55111	119	Tr1	Fill of [121]
	50	NW-SE	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.45m subsoil;	0.45m	120	Tr1	Fill of [121]
	50	NE CIT	0.45m+ natural	. = 0	121	Tr1	Cut of tree throw
	50	NE-SW	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.72m subsoil; 0.72m+ natural	0./2m	122	Tr1	Fill of [124]
	50	NNW-SSE	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.75m subsoil;	0.75m	123	Tr1	Fill of [124]
			0.75m+ natural		124	Tr1	Cut of tree throw
	50	WNW-ESE	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.7m subsoil; 0.7m+ natural	0.7m	125	Tr1	Fill of [126]; dark orangish brown clayey silt
	50	WNW-ESE	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.42m subsoil;	0.42m	126	Tr1	Cut of possible pit/ditch terminus; 1.2m wide, 1.2m long, 0.25m deep
	50	WWW EJE	0.42m+ natural	0.12111	127	Tr1	Fill of [128]; mid grey brown silty clay
	50	WNW-ESE	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.7m subsoil; 0.7m+ natural	0.7m	128	Tr1	Cut of possible palaeochannel or ring ditch; 1.2m wide, 0.15m deep
	50	NE-SW	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ natural	0.38m	200	Tr2	Topsoil – friable mid brown silt, occasional small rounded stones 0.00 – 0.22m
	50	N-S	0-0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.7m subsoil; 0.7m+ natural	0.7m	201	Tr2	Subsoil – mid grey crumbly soft silty clay occasional small rounded stones 0.22 – 0.34m
ope	endix 1.2	Context r	egister		202	Tr2	Natural – mid brown grey silty clay, frequent chalk fragemnts and flint fragments, some areas of gleyed grey clay
onte	xt Trench / A	Area Descrip	tion		203	Tr2	Cut of tree bole
00	Tr1		friable mid brown silt, occasional small rou	ınded stones	204	Tr2	Fill of [203]
\1	T-1	0.00-0.2		المعمد المصدية	205	Tr2	Cut of gulley; 0.6m wide, 0.25m deep
)1	Tr1		mid grey crumbly soft silty clay occasional 22 – 0.36m	Small rounded	206	Tr2	Fill of [205]; Mid orangish brown silty clay
2	Tr1		mid brown grey silty clay, frequent chalk fi	ragemnts and flint	207	Tr2	Rooting
_		_	ts, some areas of gleyed grey clay		208	Tr2	Cut of geofact or tree bole
3	Tr1	Cut of tre			209	Tr2	Fill of [208]
04	Tr1	Fill of [10	131		210	Tr2	Cut of possible plough scar

8

Appendix 1

Appendix 1.1

Trench Length

APPENDICES

Site records

Trench register

Depth of deposits

Orientation

					Description	
	rench / Area	Description		t Trench / Area	<u>·</u>	
211 Tr	r2	Fill of [210]	505	Tr5	Cut of gulley; 0.4m wide, 0.25m deep	
212 Tr	r2	Cut of possible plough scar	506	Tr5	Fill of [505]; light brownish grey silty clay	
.13 Tr	r2	Fill of [212]	507	Tr5	Cut of tree bole	
214 Tr	ir2	Cut of possible palaeochannel or ring ditch; 1.4m wide, 0.19m deep	508	Tr5	Fill of [507]	
.15 Tr	ir2	Fill of [214]; light orangish brown silty clay	509	Tr5	Cut of tree bole	
			510	Tr5	Fill of [509]	
00 Tr	r3	Topsoil – Blackish dark brown clayey silt 0.00 – 0.22m	511	Tr5	Cut of tree bole	
101 Tr	i3	Subsoil – Greyish brown clay 0.22 – 0.26m	512	Tr5	Fill of [511]	
602 Tr	i3	Natural – Greenish grey mottled clay 0.26 – 0.36m	513	Tr5	Cut of ditch; 0.7m wide, 0.3m deep	
03 Tr	i3	Cut of shallow ditch; 1.2m wide, 0.15m deep	514	Tr5	Fill of [513]; mid greyish brown silty clay	
04 Tr	ir3	Fill of [303]; mid orangish brown clay	515	Tr5	Cut of possible gulley; 0.4m wide, 0.2m deep	
05 Tr	ir3	Cut of gulley; 0.5m wide, 0.18m deep	516	Tr5	Fill of [516]; mid greyish brown silty clay	
06 Tr	ir3	Fill of [305]; mide greyish brown silty clay				
			600	Tr6	Topsoil - friable mid brown silt, occasional small rounded stones	
100 Tr	r4	Topsoil – Blackish dark brown clayey silt 0.00 – 0.29m	604	T.C	0.00 - 0.22m	
101 Tr	r4	Subsoil - Greyish brown clay 0.29 - 0.50m	601	Tr6	Subsoil – mid grey crumbly soft silty clay occasional small rounde stones 0.22 – 0.35m	
02 Tr	r4	Natural - Greenish grey mottled clay 0.50 - 0.56m	602	Tr6	Natural - Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flints	
03 Tr	r4	VOID			0.35 - 0.45m	
104 Tr	r4	Fill of [405]; light brownish orange clayey silty	603	Tr6	Cut of posthole; 0.5m wide, 0.09m deep	
105 Tr	r4	Cut of pit; 0.7m long, 0.1m deep	604	Tr6	Fill of [603]; mid greyish brown silty clay	
106 Tr	r4	Fill of [407]; mid brownish orange clayey silt	605	Tr6	Cut of gulley; 0.4m wide, 0.2m deep	
107 Tr	r4	Cut of ditch; 1.6m wide; 0.17m deep	606	Tr6	Fill of [605]; mid greyish brown silty clay	
08 Tr	r4	Fill of [409]; light greyish orange silty clay	607	Tr6	Cut of gulley; 0.5m wide, 0.15m deep	
.09 Tr	r4	Cut of gulley; 0.4m wide, 0.07m deep	608	Tr6	Fill of [607]; mid greyish brown silty clay	
-10 Tr	r4	Fill of ditch [411]; light brownish orange silty clay	609	Tr6	Cut of pit; 0.7m long, 0.65m wide, 0.3m deep	
-11 Tr	r4	Cut of ditch; 0.65m wide, 0.15m deep	610	Tr6	Fill of [609]; light greyish brown silty clay	
-12 Tr	r4	Fill of [413]	611	Tr6	Cut of ditch (unexcavated)	
-13 Tr	r4	Cut of tree throw	612	Tr6	Fill of [611]	
.14 Tr	r4	Fill of [414]	613	Tr6	Cut of tree bole	
15 Tr	ir4	Cut of tree throw	614	Tr6	Fill of [613]	
00 Tr	r5	Topsoil – friable mid brown silt, occasional small rounded stones 0.00 – 0.30m	700	Tr7	Topsoil – friable mid brown silt, occasional small rounded stones 0.00 – 0.18m	
01 Tr	r5	Subsoil – mid grey crumbly soft silty day occasional small rounded stones 0.30 – 0.60m	701	Tr7	Subsoil – mid grey crumbly soft silty clay occasional small rounde stones $0.180.27m$	
02 Tr	r5	Natural – mid brown grey silty clay, frequent chalk fragments and flint fragments, some areas of gleyed grey clay	702	Tr7	Natural – mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flints 0.27 – 0.45m	
03 Tr	r5	Cut of possible furrow; 1.1m wide, 0.08m deep	704	Tr7	Fill of [705]; mid brownish grey clayey silt	
04 Tr	r5	Fill of [503]; mid greyish brown silty clay	705	Tr7	Cut of ditch; 1m wide, 0.2m deep	

0

ontext	Trench / Ar	rea Description	Photo	Facing	Description
207	Tr12	Cut of ditch; 1m wide, 0.05m deep	035	N	S facing section through posthole [927]
			036	E	W facing section through tree bole [1404]
ppen	dix 1.3	Photographic register	037	NE	Sw facing section through pit [405] and gulley [407]
hoto	Facing	Description	038	NW	Natural feature in trench 4
)1	_	ID shot	039	NE	Sw facing section through ditch [409]
02	_	ld shot	040	NE	Sw facing section through tree bole [203] and gulley [205]
03	SE	Trench 2	041	SE	Rooting [207]
04	SSE	Trench 1	042	E	W facing section through tree bole [208]
05	ESE	Trench 6	043	W	E facing section through tree bole [210]
06	_	Trench 5	044	E	W facing section through tree bole [212]
07	ESE	Trench 13	045	W	E facing section through gulley [411]
08	W	Trench 7	046	E	W facing section through tree bole [413]
109	NW	Trench 11	047	SE	NW facing section through tree bole [415]
10	_	VOID	048	S	N facing section through tree bole [103]
11	NW	SE facing section through tree bole [509]	049	S	N facing section through tree bole [105]
12	NW	SE facing section through tree bole [511]	050	S	N facing section through tree bole [109]
13	NW	SE facing section through tree bole [507]	051	S	N facing section through tree bole [107]
14	NW	SE facing section through tree bole[505]	052	E	W facing section through tree bole [111]
15	SE	NW facing section through gulley [515]	053	W	E facing section through tree bole [113]
16	N	S facing section through feature [503]	054	SE	NW facing section through tree throw [115]
17	N	S facing section through ditch [513]	055	_	Tree throw [115] - overexposed
18	N	Trench 4	056	_	Tree throw [115] – overexposed
19	N	Trench 9	057	W	E facing section through three throw [115]
20	N	Trench 8	058	E	Tree throw 115
21	W	Trench 12	059	N	S facing section through tree bole [117]
22	W	Trench 10	060	S	N facing section through ditch [303]
23	W	E facing section through ditch [903]	061	E	W facing section through gulley [305]
24	E	W facing section through Gulley terminus [905]	062	E	W facing section through gulley [305]
25	E	W facing section through tree bole [907]	063	SE	NW facing section through tree throws [121] and [124]
26	E	W facing section through tree bole [917]	064	SW	NE facing section through tree throw [124]
27	E	W facing section through tree bole [917]	065	NE	SW facing section through posthole [603]
28	N	Trench 3 (drained)	066	NE	SW facing section through gulley [605]
29	W	E facing section through tree bole [913]	067	N	S facing section through gulley [607]
30	N	S facing section through tree bole [911]	068	NE	Gulleys [605] and [607]
31	E	W facing section through tree bole [911]	069	SE	NW facing section through tree bole [613] with pit [609] in foregroun
32	E	W facing section through tree bole [919]	070	W	E facing section through tree throw/pit/ditch terminus [126]
33	N	S facing section through tree bole [921]	071	S	N facing section through baulk section of [126]
34	W	E facing section through tree bole [909]	072	W	E facing section through ditch [705]

Size(I)

10.00

10.00

10.00

10.00

30.00

10.00

10.00

Description

Fill of ditch [303]

Fill of pit [1009]

Fill of ditch [708]

Fill of ditch [710]

Fill of pit [1109]

Fill of gulley [1103]

Fill of possible ditch/palaeochannel [128]

Sample

001

002

003

004

005

006

007

Context

(304)

(1006)

(707)

(709)

(1110)

(1104)

(127)

Photo	Facing	Description
073	S	N facing section through pit [1005]
074	S	N facing section through tree bole [1003]
075	S	N facing section through tree bole [1007]
076	E	W facing section through ditch [708]
077	E	W facing section through ditch [1009]
078	E	W facing section through ditch [710]
079	E	W facing section through ditch [710]
080	SE	Ditch [710]
081	NW	Ditch [710]
082	E	W facing section through ditch [710]
083	NE	Features in Trench 11; [1103], [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111]
084	NE	Features in Trench 11; [1103], [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111]
085	NE	Features in Trench 11; [1103], [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111]
086	NE	Features in Trench 11; [1103], [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111]
087	NE	Features in Trench 11; [1103], [1105], [1107], [1109], [1111]
088	N	Gulley [1103]
089	N	S facing section through gulley [1103]
090	SE	NW facing section through possible pit [1105]
091	SE	NW facing section through possible pit [1105]
092	NE	SW facing section through pits [1109] and [1111]
093	NE	SW facing section through pits [1109] and [1111]
094	SW	NE facing section through ditches [1205] and [1207]
095	S	Ditches [1205] and [1207]
096	SW	NE facing section through ditches [1205] and [1207]
097	N	S facing baulk section through possible ditch [128]
098	S	N facing section through possible ditch/palaeochannel [214]
099	NE	SW facing section through tree bowl [711]
100	NE	Tree bowl [711]
101	NE	SW facing section through tree bowl [711]

Appendi	x 1.4	Drawing register				
Drawing	Scale	Plan/Section	Description			
001	1:10	Section	SW facing section through tree bole [203] and gulley [205]			
002	1:10	Section	NW facing section through tree throws [121] and [124]			
003	1:10	Section	NE facing section through tree throw [124]			
004	1:10	Section	W facing section through ditch [708]			

Appendix 1.5 Sample register

Appendix 2 Finds catalogue

Trench	Context	Sample	Qty	Weigh (g)	t Material	Object	Description	Period
)1	0100	-	4	144	Pottery (PM)	Various	Redware and Staffordshire slipware	PM
1	0101	-	1	22	Glass	Bottle	Body sherd of green bottle glass	Mod
)1	0127	7	1	1	Pottery (PM)	Whiteware	Very small fragment	Mod
01	0127	7	3	7	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded flakes	PH
02	0200	-	5	75	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Various	Redware, greyware, whiteware	PM-Mod
03	0300	-	5	81	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Various	Whiteware, stoneware, redware	PM-Mod
03	0300	-	1	38	CBM	Tile	Small fragment of probable roof or chimney tile	PM-Mod
)3	0304	-	5	1	CBM	Brick	Small abraded, red, hard-fired fragments of possible brick	PM-Mod
03	0304	-	2	13	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint.	PH
03	0304	1	10	25	Lithics	Debitage and tool	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Lightly abraded and patinated flake, hard hammer percussion and a simple prepared platform. Flake and edge retouched fragment, poorly executed alternating lateral retouch to one edge and some possible removals to the opposing lateral	PH
)4	0400	-	12	145	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Various	Redware, greyware, whiteware	PM-Mod
)4	0400	-	3	10	Clay Pipe	Stem	Narrow bores	Mod
)4	0400	-	1	59	Glass	Bottle	Base sherd of green bottle glass	
04	0401	-	1	18	CBM	Brick	Small fragment	PM-Mod
)4	0401	-	6	56	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Various	Redware and whiteware	PM-Mod
)4	0401	-	1	17	Glass	Bottle	Body sherd of green bottle glass	Mod
)5	0504	-	11	96	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded and lightly patinated, flakes and one chunk which may be a possible core	PH
)5	0508	-	2	56	Lithics	Core and debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded possible core fragment and flake	PH
)	514	-	13	57	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded and patinated chunk, flakes and chips	PH
ó	606	-	2	24	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Lightly abraded flakes	PH
j	610	-	5	68	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded flakes and a fairly fresh blade	PH
7	706	-	2	8	Pottery (PM)	Greyware	Abraded body sherd	PM
7	706	-	2	18	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded flakes	PH
7	707	3	8	23	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded and lightly patinated flakes and chips	PH
7	709	4	7	48	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded chunk (possibly used as core), and flakes	PH
7	709	4	1	13	Pottery (PM)	Greyware	Abraded body sherds	PM
9	928	-	3	20	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded and lightly patinated possible core fragment and flakes	PH
10	1000	-	1	166	CBM	Pan Tile	Edge sherd of pan tile	PM-Mod
10	1006	2	5	19	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Lightly abraded flakes	PH
0	1006	-	1	2	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Patinated and abraded flake fragment	PH
10	1010	-	5	28	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded, lightly patinated, broken flakes	PH
11	1104	-	2	8	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Lightly abraded flakes, one with a probable remains of a platform to its right lateral	PH
11	1104	6	6	35	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Abraded and lightly patinated flakes and a fresh chip (honey brown)	PH

Trench	Context	Sample	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Period
11	1110	5	4	13	Lithics	Debitage	Dark brown-grey, medium grained flint. Lightly abraded flakes	PH
12	1200	-	6	399	CBM	Brick	Various brick fragments, abraded	PM-Mod
12	1200	-	2	64	CBM	Pan Tile	Sherds of pan tile	PM-Mod
12	1200	-	7	115	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Various	Redware, greware, whiteware, porcelain	PM-Mod
12	1201	-	11	5	Glass	Bottle	Body sherd of green bottle glass	Mod
12	1201	-	1	3	Clay Pipe	Stem	Narrow bore	Mod
13	1300	-	12	108	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Various	Redware and whiteware	PM-Mod
13	1300	-	1	1	Clay Pipe	Stem	Narrow bore	Mod
13	1300	-	1	660	CBM	Brick	Fragment of a brick	PM-Mod
13	1300	-	1	32	Glass	Bottle	Base sherd of green bottle glass	Mod

























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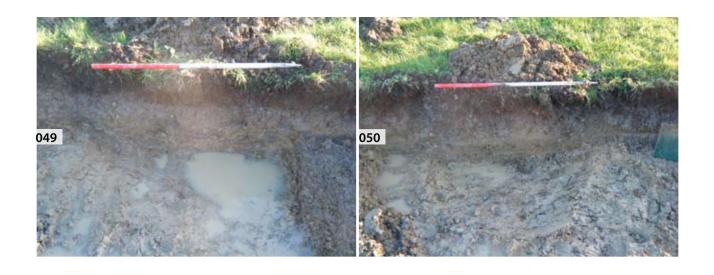


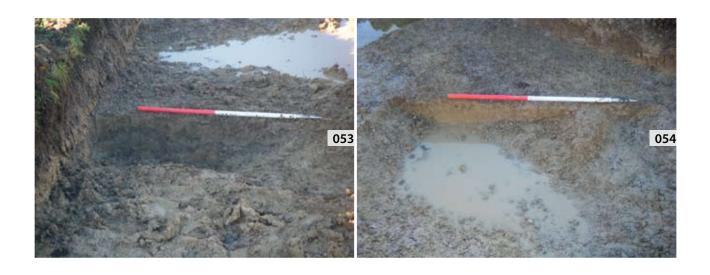


































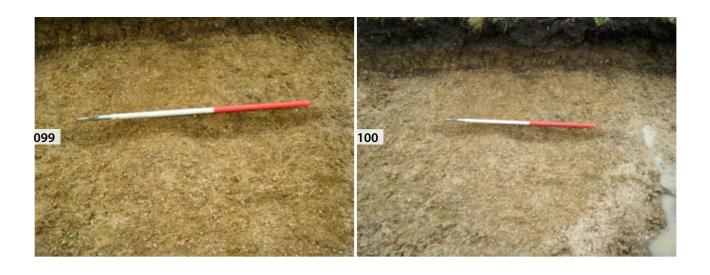












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Headland Archaeology North East

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