

BLUN16



Archaeological Evaluation

Land off Bluntisham Road, Colne, Cambridgeshire

Client: Hastoe Homes Ltd.

BLUN16
OASIS:headland4-245404
Cambridgeshire Event Number: ECB4688

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LAND OFF BLUNTISHAM ROAD, COLNE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

EVALUATION

Summary

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of the land off Bluntisham Road, Colne in Cambridgeshire, between 26th and 29th of July 2016. The work was commissioned by Hastoe Homes Ltd. Seven trenches were excavated in the proposed Development Area, four of which contained archaeological remains. Two Heritage Assets were identified. These consisted of prehistoric ditch and pit; a Roman field boundary ditch and a Romano-British drainage ditch. The remains of a post-medieval pond, and traces of a modern orchard were also recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Hastoe Homes Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in connection with an application for the residential development of Land off Bluntisham Road, Colne, Cambridgeshire.

Hastoe Homes Ltd submitted a planning application for the construction of 12 houses within the DA (15/00570/FUL) The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) recommended that a condition be placed on planning consent, establishing the required scheme of archaeological works;

“Condition. No development shall take place within the area indicated 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. To safeguard archaeological interests in accordance with Policy En12 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan, 1995 and paragraphs 128 and 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). A pre-commencement condition is necessary in order to ensure that any archaeological remains are not damaged by development.”

The CHET produced a brief outlining the required archaeological works – the first stage of this comprised an archaeological trial trenching evaluation (CHET 2016).

Headland Archaeology then prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)_ (March 2016) on behalf of Hastoe Homes Ltd. setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation in the form of trial trench evaluation. The WSI was submitted to and agreed with the Cambridgeshire historic Environment Team (CHET) who advise the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This report details the results of the work.

1.2 Site Description

The development area (DA) comprises an approximately 1.35Ha parcel of land located to the south of the village of Colne, Cambridgeshire, centred on NRG TL 3714 7566 (Illus 1 & 3). It is positioned opposite 'Home Farm Close', with 'Greenacres' to the south and 'Bramley Lodge' to the north.

The DA is diamond-shaped and consisting of an open grassed field which has been fallow, with some trees along the southern and eastern sides. It lies on low flat land, at an elevation of approximately 10mAOD.

The topsoil is of a thick loam silt. There are no nearby watercourses but there is a old well within the boundaries of the adjacent property at the South.

The solid geology of the DA comprises the West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formation – a mudstone sedimentary bedrock. River Terrace deposits (sands and gravels) are recorded overlying this (BGS).

1.3 Archaeological Background

There is evidence for early prehistoric activity in this area. Palaeolithic stone and flint implements were uncovered during a watching brief on a pipeline to the south of the DA (HER 11722 and 11771). Neolithic – Bronze Age flints were also uncovered to the south-west of the DA (HER 03618), and a prehistoric pit uncovered during the pipeline watching brief (HER 11722A). This suggests that the area may have been exploited from a very early date.

There is greater evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British remains in the vicinity of the DA. Individual finds are common, including Iron Age pottery to the south and south-east of the DA (HER 03721, 03930), Romano-British pottery from various locations around the DA (HER 00946, 03572), and two Roman coins (HER 03604, 03578). Aerial photographic analysis has also revealed an extensive system of Iron Age – Romano-British drove ways and field systems to the north-east of Colne (ECB 2993). This demonstrates the wider existence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity in this area.

The village of Colne is recorded in the Domesday Survey; the Abbot of Ely held *six hides, with 18 households, 7 ploughs, meadow, woodland “1 league long and a half broad, and as much marsh.”* (Williams and Martin 2003, p553). No archaeological evidence for Saxon activity has yet been uncovered in this area.

Medieval activity has also been uncovered in the vicinity of the DA. This includes a designated moated manor to the north (DCB271), and the site of the medieval church (HER 03650). Evidence for medieval occupation has also been revealed by archaeological investigations, including a pottery kiln to the north (HER 03629), medieval pits and post-holes at Manor Farm (MCB17926), and finds of medieval pottery (HER 10865 and 11722B).

The village of Colne developed further in the post-medieval period reflected in the 16th and 17th century buildings present within Colne village. Investigations have uncovered archaeological evidence for this, including building materials and domestic refuse in the pipeline watching brief (HER 11722C), and the remains of a 17th – 18th century building at Manor Farm (MCB 17926).

Historic maps provide a useful record of the development of Colne – the DA is shown as within fields with a pond on the outskirts of the village in the early 20th century, and it forms part of an orchard on 20th century OS Maps (Illus 4).

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General

The methodology followed was outlined in the WSI (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. 2016) and designed to meet the requirements of the project brief (Gemma Stewart, Historic Environment Team, Growth & Economy Cambridgeshire County Council- February 2016).

Generally, the archaeological investigations were undertaken in order to:

- identify and assess the particular significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by the proposal.
- establish the depth and character of archaeologically ‘sterile’ overburden;
- identify, characterise and date any potential archaeological remains within the site;
- define any constraints encountered during the evaluation and any potential constraints for further archaeological fieldwork (e.g. areas of disturbance, service locations, etc.).

2.2 Specific

The local and regional research contexts are provided by Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England edited by Maria Medlycott East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (now updated online - http://www.eaareports.org.uk/framework_update.htm).

Any evidence retrieved during the works has been analysed in light of the objectives contained in this framework.

More specifically, the Research Framework includes the following research questions and topics that were incorporated into the WSI:

- Roman: Rural Settlement: "Settlement typology should be reviewed across the region to establish consistent terminology and test hierarchical models, and consider how and why such hierarchies developed" (Medlycott 2011, 47).
- Saxon: Rural Settlement: "The region would benefit from a detailed study of the changes in settlement types and forms over time during the early, middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods" (Medlycott 2011, 58).
- Medieval: Rural Settlement. "The origins and development of the different rural settlement types need further research, also the dynamics of medieval settlement" (Medlycott 2011, 70).

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the registered museum (Cambridgeshire County Store – Event Number: ECB4688) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit (ClfA 2014a; Headland Archaeology ref). An online OASIS form has been completed and will be ultimately submitted with the approved version of this report (OASIS ID: headland4-245404).

3. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out between the 26th and 29th July 2016. In total 7 trenches were excavated within the DA (Illus. 2). Six trenches were 20m in length and 1.6m wide, trench 7 was 1.8m wide at the north-northeast.

The trenches were set out in accordance with the agreed trench layout plan in the WSI using a Trimble GNSS device.

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden under direct archaeological supervision. Potential archaeological features were excavated by hand.

Investigation of archaeological remains was undertaken through hand excavation. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified archaeological or potentially archaeological remains were investigated and recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

Sieving by bucket sampling of 90l of topsoil from each trench was undertaken to attempt to characterise the artefact bearing potential of the DA soils.

Metal detecting was undertaken to aid the recovery of artefacts. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron.

There were no variations to the above methodology.

3.1 Recording

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014b) and was in line with the approved WSI (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd- Archaeological Evaluation, Land Off Bluntisham Road, Colne, Cambridgeshire, March 2016). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number. All recording was undertaken on pro forma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

A plan of the trenches and features across the entire site was recorded digitally using a GNSS device. A full photographic record was taken using digital photography and incorporating black and white print photographs where appropriate. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in the Appendix I. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (i.e. Trench 1: (101), Trench

2: (201) 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 we have completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects our adherence to the ClfA guidance on report production, which states that “*descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements*” (ClfA 2014b, 14, Section 5). Drawing upon the same document, we feel it is imperative to create a narrative which uses the evidence we gather to assign significance to heritage assets (remains) we encounter:

“If archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (ClfA 2014b, 14, Section 5).

We always utilise multiple data-sources when phasing and interpreting remains. This includes feature morphology (recognisable and datable feature types), datable artefactual material, stratigraphic position of feature (in heavily ploughed areas the presence of an intact subsoil sealing remains is given particular emphasis), the relative stratigraphic position of features (cutting or cut by). A range of other considerations also come into play. The limitation of datable artefactual material is recognised and we reflect on the possibility of intrusive material and the presence of residual material. We also recognise that most archaeological features are ‘filled’ by disuse fills and disused artefacts.

Archaeology was found in four of the seven trenches and there were generally focused in the western part of the site. The majority of the features were dated to the late Iron Age and early Roman period, and represent the remains of boundary and drainage ditches and a pit suggesting an agricultural use of the landscape. A later feature comprised the remains of a post-medieval pond and modern remains of 20th century orchards in the area.

4.2 Trench Results

Archaeological remains were found in 4 of the 7 trenches (Illus. 2). These were generally focused in the western half of the site. The earliest features on site were gully and pit [504] and [507] followed by ditches [205], [305], [404] and [406] shared by trenches 2,3,4 and 5. The majority of the features in the other trenches were dated to the post-medieval or modern period, and represented the remains of arboricultural farming activities.

The natural substrate (102) was consistent across the site. In general, it was medium yellow/red brown sand and flint gravel severely disturbed by a modern orchard.

The overlying materials consisted in uneven remnants of plough horizons under a thick topsoil (100) of dark grey brown humic sandy gravelly silt severely disturbed by a modern orchard.

4.2.1 Prehistoric pit and gully

Trench 5 contained an Iron Age pit and a gully potentially contemporary in date.

Pit [507] (Illus. 11 and 12) was located close to the centre of trench 5 and extended beyond the northeastern side of the trench. It had variable stepped edges with narrow concave base and was 1.1m in length, 0.57m of exposed width and 0.44m deep. It was filled by deposit (506) composed of a dark grey/ black silt with frequent gravel inclusions and from which 17 sherds (47g) of handmade common Iron Age pottery were retrieved. Fill (506) was overlain by a lighter brown grey gravel silt sand deposit (505) which in turn contained 3 (22g) fragments of similar made Iron Age pottery. It has been interpreted as waste pit.

Gully [504] (Illus. 13) was aligned north to south and was 0.96m long in the trench, 0.4m wide and 0.04m deep. It was filled with (503) dark brown grey sand gravel silt. The remains were very shallow and interpreted to be the only surviving part of a possibly prehistoric field drain ditch due to its proximity to prehistoric waste pit [507].

4.2.2 Romano-British ditches

Trenches 2 and 3 (Appendix 1), contained ditches which were dated by pottery to the late Iron Age and Roman period.

Ditch [205] (Illus 5 and 6) was located at the northern end of trench 2 and orientated northwest-southeast. It had steep sides and a concave base and was visible 1.6m long and 1.78 wide within the trench and 1.11m deep. It contained a sequence of 3 homogenous deposits. The formation of the earliest fill (206) suggested the potential for an associated bank on the southern edge, which had subsided in the feature. The secondary fill (204) was composed of a sandy gravel silt and contained 4 (41g) fragments of grey ware Roman pottery. The upper fill (203) of this ditch was composed of a dark brown mix of sand, silt and gravel and contained a fragment of grey ware Roman pottery, an intrusive 17th/ 18th century clay pipe stem fragment, an undated sherd of ceramic building material and small residues (less than 1g) of hammerscale and magnetised gravel. A single lentil seed was found in the environmental sample taken. The feature was interpreted as a Roman field boundary.

Ditch [305] (Illus. 7 and 8) was located close to the centre of trench 3 and was orientated north-south. It has gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.6m long within the trench, 1.7m wide and 0.51 deep. The ditch was filled with deposits (304) and (303). The lower fill (304) was composed of a light grey sandy gravel silt with frequent naturally occurring flint fragments. Two (24g) fragments of prehistoric pottery were retrieved and a single grape seed from the environmental sample taken. The upper fill (303) was composed of a charcoal rich dark brown grey silty sand and contained 9 (101g) fragments of late Iron Age / early Roman pottery, including an unusual sandy strap handle. A number of pieces of CBM, both brick and tile fragments recovered from the fill are also likely to be of Roman date. The fills were formed by gradual silting from use and later disuse and localised waste dumping.

Ditches [404] and [406] (Illus. 9 and 10) were located at the southeastern end of trench 4, they both ran parallel across trench 4 in a north-northeast/ south-southwest orientation and appeared to be slightly curving. Both features were filled with similar deposits, (403) and (405) respectively, which were composed of dark brown grey gravel sand silt.

Ditch [404] (Illus. 10) was 1.6m in length within the trench intake, 1.23m wide and 0.24m deep. It had gradually sloping western edge, a steep eastern side and a concave base. Ditch [404] also contained a fragment (13g) of pottery dating to the Iron Age or early Saxon times.

Ditch [406] was 1.6m long in the trench, 0.61 wide and 0.12 deep. It had gradually sloping side and a concave base. Ditch [406] is potentially contemporary to [404] due to its similarities in shape, size and fill as well as its proximity and identical orientation and curve.

4.2.3 Post-medieval and Modern features

Trenches 5 and 6 exposed the remnants of a pond which is recorded on OS map until the 1970s (Illus 4).

The pond extended c.5.13m into the southeastern end of trench 5 and 5.5m into the eastern end of trench 6. The currently dried up pond appeared at an average depth of 0.6 below ground level.

4.2.4 Undated and features of a natural origin

Features [105], [107] and [109] (Illus. 2 and 4) in trench 1 were investigated and interpreted as tree boles.

Feature [208] which was located at the centre of trench 2 was investigated and sampled. The feature was in all likelihood a bioturbation from the modern orchard and contained traces of hammerscale and magnetised gravel residues (less than 1g).

Ditch [408] (Illus. 2) was located at the west of trench 4 and in close proximity to ditches [404] and [406]. Ditch [408] was a shallow gully orientated north-south and measured 1.6m within the trench limits, 0.4m wide and was 0.06m deep; it was filled by (407) dark brownish grey sandy silt with gravel.

Disturbance due to the 20th century orchard was general within most of the trenches, such as [308], [410], [412], [504], [604], [606] and [706] (Illus 2) identified as tree boles, tree throws and bioturbation due to root systems.

4.3 Bucket Sampling

The finds recovered through the sieving of topsoil included pottery dating to the post-medieval and modern periods, CBM (mostly modern), glass, and 2 small prehistoric lithic flakes. These finds are combined with the finds from the features in Table 2 and are discussed further in the finds report. Samples were taken from the end and middle of the all trenches. The results of the sampling mirror the pattern of archaeological activity found in the trial trenches.

4.4 Metal detecting

No metal finds were recovered by metal detecting or otherwise.

4.5 Finds

by Julie Franklin, Ian Rowlandson, Julie Lochrie

The finds assemblage numbered 74 sherds (675g) of pottery, 19 sherds (354g) of ceramic building material, and a handful of finds of lithics, glass, clay pipe and industrial waste. There were also a number of examples of ferruginous concretions recovered from topsoil and subsoil, but these appeared to be natural with no core metal and were discarded. The Iron Age and Romano-British periods are represented with other finds of post-medieval and modern date. Most finds derived from topsoil and subsoil, with a few stratified finds. The finds are summarised by feature in table 1, a complete catalogue is given at the end.

Trench	Feature	Pottery (PH) Count	Pottery (PH) Wgt	Pottery (Rom) Count	Pottery (Rom) Wgt	Pottery (PM-Mod) Count	Pottery (PM-Mod) Wgt	Clay Pipe Count	Glass Count	Lithics Count	CBM Count	CBM Wgt	Ind Waste Wgt	Dating
1	topsoil								2	2	4	20g		
1	gravel lens					5	176g				1	8g		Mod
1	subsoil					22	169g				2	43g		PM/Mod
2	topsoil								1		2	3g		
2	subsoil	1	1g											PH?
2	ditch 205			5	46g			1			1	2g	<0.5g	Rom with PM
2	furrow 208												<0.5g	?
3	topsoil							1		1	2	2g		
3	ditch 305	8	37g	3	92g						3	101g		E Rom
4	topsoil					1	7g			2	2	1g		
4	subsoil	5	10g											
4	Curving ditch 404	1	13g											IA/Sax
5	topsoil										1	16g		
5	subsoil	1	21g	1	12g									
5	pit 507	20	69g											IA
6	topsoil									1				
7	topsoil					1	22g				1	158g		
Total		36	151g	9	150g	29	374g	2	3	6	19	354g	<0.5g	

Table 1- Summary of finds assemblage by feature with spot dating

Prehistoric to Romano-British pottery

The pottery has been catalogued according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by The Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004) using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling & Precious 2014). Eight different types were noted (Table 2).

The pottery derived from a maximum of 18 vessels, with a total rim equivalent of 0.08. A small number of 'transitional' Late Iron Age to early Roman forms were present amongst this assemblage but a reasonable number of the handmade sherds may be considered to be broadly of Iron Age date.

Fabric Code	Fabric	Dating	Sherds	Wgt
GREY1	greyware	Rom	3	29g

GREY7	greyware	Rom	2	17g
IASA1	Common quartz tempered handmade/wheel finished	LIA – E Rom	7	14g
IASA2	Moderate grog/ clay pellets, fossil shell and quartz, handmade/ wheel finished	LIA – E Rom	7	54g
IASH	Handmade common fine shell and common medium quartz	IA	20	69g
OXL	pale oxidised fabric	E Rom	4	104g
SHSF	handmade with sparse fine shell-grits	Prehistoric?	1	1g
VESIC	Black and burnished with quartz and common chaff or grass vesicles.	IA / Sax?	1	13g
Total			45	301g

Table 2 –Prehistoric to Romano-British pottery type series

Of note from ditch [305] (303) was a wide strap handle with two cordons decorating the external surface. The vessel was made in a sandy fabric with light oxidised surfaces and a pale core (OXL). This vessel is unusual and the handle shape appears similar to examples from Longthorpe legionary works (Dannel & Wild 1987, Fig. 38. 1a & 10) and from Monument 97 (Rollo 2001, Fig. 41. 159) which had a similar form and cordoned decoration. The quartz sand within the fabrics is not a good match for a Verulamium region fabric and therefore a Godmanchester (Evans C J 2003) or other local early Roman source for this vessel would appear likely. Regrettably no form parallel can be made with the published pottery from the Godmanchester kilns. A small quantity of grey ware (GREY 1 and 7) was also present and a number of transitional ware vessels (IASA1-2).

A single chaff or grass tempered sherd was retrieved from curvilinear feature [404] (403). Examples of vessels with this fabric are known from Earith and Duxford (Webley 2013; Percival 2011). Also Saxon vessels of this type are known (Tipper 2013) and it is possible that this vessel represents renewed occupation in the post Roman period.

Extensive evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity are known from the Earith and Colne area (Evans C et al 2013) and the pottery from this site provides further evidence of Iron Age and early Roman activity.

Post medieval to modern pottery

Post-medieval pottery was mostly made up of glazed red earthenware, including several sherds from the same large jar found in trench 1. This can be dated broadly to the 17th to 19th centuries. There was also a single sherd of plain porcelain (gravel lens 103) which may be 18th century or later in date. Sherds were concentrated in trench 1, in the gravel lens (103) and subsoil, with further finds in the topsoil of trenches 4 and 7.

Clay pipe

Two sherds of clay pipe stem were recovered and dated between the 17th and early 20th centuries. One was apparently intrusive in otherwise Romano-British ditch [205]. The other was found in the topsoil of trench 3.

Glass

Three sherds of modern bottle glass were found in the topsoil of trenches 1 and 2.

Lithic

There are a total of six lithics, all of which were found in topsoil. They were retrieved during a programme of topsoil sieving. The lithics were all flint and include four edge retouched pieces, one flake and one indeterminate fragment. None are diagnostic of date although the atypical forms suggest they may be Bronze Age.

The small size of the lithic assemblage and lack of small flakes and chips suggests there is no evidence for on-site industries and these finds may be chance losses.

Ceramic Building Material

The 19 sherds (354g) of ceramic building material were typically made up of small brick or tile fragments and were largely unidentifiable. A large sherd found in trench 7 topsoil is possibly part of a Roman brick. Sherds from Roman ditch [305] include a large tile sherd which is also likely to be of Roman date.

Industrial Waste

A very small quantity of hammerscale and magnetised gravel weighing less than 1g was retrieved from two contexts in trench 2 (ditch [205], furrow [208]). The hammerscale was probably created by smelting activities, however, bioturbation or pre-deposition factors such as wind could account for their presence in the features.

Discussion of the finds assemblage

But for a few sherds of residual lithics, the earliest evidence for activity on site is in the Iron Age, with pit [507] and possibly curvilinear [404] dating to this period. Activity seems to have continued into the early Roman period in ditches [305] and [205]. There is little to characterise these periods, but a few pot sherds. The ceramic building material fragments might suggest a high status structure but these remains are too scant to suggest such a structure in the immediate vicinity. The post-medieval to modern find are of general domestic waste and may derive from manuring.

4.6 Environmental Report

By Angela Walker

Introduction

9 samples, ranging in volume from twenty to forty litres, were recovered during archaeological works in relation to the residential development of land off Bluntisham Road, Colne, Cambridgeshire. Samples were from the fills of various pits, ditches, a furrow and a tree bole, and range in date from Iron Age to modern. 4 of the 9 contexts that were bulk sampled also yielded hand collected bone material. This material was additional to the bulk samples. During excavation hand collected bone was also recovered from a further 6 contexts and formed part of this assessment.

The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any environmental remains in the samples and to characterize the assemblage as far as possible to enable sampling recommendations to be made for further work.

Method

Bulk 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. All samples were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006) and Zohary et al. (2012) nomenclature for wild taxa follows Stace (1997). After careful consideration of the uncharred seeds present in the samples they were determined to be a modern intrusive component and were therefore not considered further.

Basic quantification of the available data was used in order to characterize the animal bone assemblage as far as possible. Fragments were recorded together with their weight and level of preservation and included any signs of butchery or modification. Larger elements with clear diagnostic features were identified to species, where possible, Schmid (1972). However, where bone was very heavily fragmented and not possible to identify it was marked as indeterminate.

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Appendix VII (Retent samples), VI (Flot samples) and VIII (Hand collected bone). Material sufficient for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating is shown in the tables. The majority of samples had varying proportions of modern roots and occasional intrusive uncharred seeds.

Wood charcoal

Wood charcoal was present in varying quantities in all 9 samples. Charcoal sufficient for AMS dating was only recovered from 2 samples, deposit (203) the fill of ditch [205] and deposit (303) the upper fill of ditch [305].

Cereal grain

Cereal grain was recovered from 7 samples. Cereals present included bread/club wheat (*Triticum c.f. aestivo-compactum*), which was the most commonly occurring cereal, as well as hulled barley (*Hordeum c.f. distichum/H. vulgare*), spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), emmer wheat (*Triticum dococum*) and oats (*Avena sp.*) The grains exhibited mixed levels of preservation ranging from moderate to very poor, with the majority of specimens falling into the latter category.

Other charred plant remains

5 samples contained fruits from the pea family (*Fabaceae*). Garden pea (*Pisum sativum*) was positively identified from 3 of the samples but the majority of the other specimens were poorly preserved and were more broadly classified according to their size. A single lentil (*Lens culinaris*) was also recovered from 1 sample, deposit (203) the fill of ditch [205]. A single fragment of grape (*Vitis vinifera*) seed was recovered from the retent of deposit (304) the lower fill of ditch [305].

A number of charred 'weed seeds', (here used to include seeds, fruits, achene, caryopses etc) were recovered from 4 samples. Of the weed taxa present the majority were grasses (*Poaceae*), with a rare occurrence of wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*). These weed taxa are species common in arable fields and disturbed ground (Stace 1997).

The samples also contained a small quantity of material classified as charred indet. vesicular matter. This material was organic in origin and in some cases more than likely to be cereal, but was so poorly preserved that all diagnostic features such as shape, surface and countable elements were missing.

Animal bone

A small assemblage of fragmented animal bone was recovered from 15 contexts, this included hand collected material in addition to material extracted from the sample retents (Appendix VII and VIII). The assemblage comprised elements of the main domesticates; cattle and sheep/goat and pig. The horse teeth derived from a topsoil deposit and were a modern intrusive component and were therefore not considered further.

The most commonly occurring animal was cow; identifiable elements included fragments of a proximal metacarpal, metatarsal, tibia, distal radius, scapula and pelvis as well as teeth. The assemblage also contained fragments of a pig tibia, a sheep/goat maxilla with an in situ tooth and indet. rodent bones as well as indet. fragments and 2 fossilized shark teeth. The majority of the bone was fragmented and demonstrated mixed levels of preservation ranging from good to poor. A small number of bones exhibited butchery cut marks and animal gnaw marks.

Burnt bone

Deposits (203), (204), (207), (303) and (304) contained tiny fragments of indeterminate burnt animal bone.

Discussion

The small charred plant assemblage does not offer any significant information relating to site economy other than possible crop choices, though the range of species present is consistent with the spectra of crops commonly associated with Iron Age and Roman sites in the south east of England (Parks 2012).

Lentils and grape were among the new foods that were imported to Britain during the Roman period, though the distribution of lentil tends to be concentrated in the south-eastern part of the country (Van der Veen et al. 2008). Both lentil and grape were part of a sub group of foods that were either never grown in Britain or were only grown on a small scale or with difficulty (ibid). Evidence of viticulture in the form of vine bedding trenches was found at the sites of Grendon and Wollaston in the Nene Valley (Meadows et al. 2009) so this remains a possibility at the Bluntisham Road site.

The presence of peas and lentil alongside the cereal grains (as well as the weed seeds) offers potential insight into crop processing at the site. The charred plant assemblage is composed of material that is of a similar size and does not contain any cereal chaff or smaller weed seeds. This suggests that it is likely to be the remains of the final product i.e. the cleaned cereal grains and peas and the most likely explanation for its charring is during an accident or conflagration in the kitchen thereafter finding its way into the various pits and ditches from which the current samples derive.

The animal bone assemblage provides limited information pertaining to site economy despite the presence of domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) in small quantities in the fills of various pits and ditches. Due to the very small size and fragmented nature of the assemblage, it is unlikely that analysis at this stage would provide significant further information other than dietary preferences and practiced butchery techniques. The identifiable bones present in the assemblage represent middle and low utility bones which carry less amounts of meat and so likely represent the less desirable elements discarded during the butchery process. The presence of gnaw marks and the overall mixed preservation of the material suggests that the bones were left exposed for a period of time before deposition thus confirming the idea of unrequired or waste material.

Although the charred plant assemblage is small the range of species present is of interest so the species data will be added to upcoming archaeobotanical databases cataloguing data sets by period and plant type.

Dating potential of the remains

All 9 bulk samples contain sufficient material for AMS dating.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Quality of preservation

The depth of overburden at the site varied from 0.22m to 0.75m. In those parts of the site (such as the eastern edge) where overburden was deeper the few remains were better preserved. Disturbance due to modern Orchard, planting, growth and removal was apparent at this site. This was recorded in the 20th century historic mapping.

5.2 Summary of remains

Prehistoric Activity

But for a few sherds of residual lithics, the earliest evidence for activity on site is in the Iron Age, with pit [507] and possibly curvilinear [404] dating to this period.

Romano-British activity

Activity seems to have continued into the early Roman period. Four ditches were observed on the site and dated to the Roman period. Those features were located in trenches 2,3 and 4. In particular ditches [305] and [205]. There is little to characterise these periods, but a few pot sherds. The ceramic building material fragments are suggestive of a relatively high status structure but these remains are too scant to suggest such a structure in the immediate vicinity.

The environmental evidence of the site was typical of the region, with fragments of the main domesticates; cattle and sheep/goat and pig. As well as a small amount of cereal seeds consistent with the crops commonly associated with Iron Age and Roman sites in the south east of England.

Single lentil and grape seeds indicate consumption of processed products.

Modern Activity

All the trenches of the DA showed evidence of bioturbation with tree throws, tree boles and root system holes present. These very probably related to 20th century orchards, recorded on 1970s Ordnance Survey maps. The post-medieval to modern find are of general domestic waste and may derive from manuring.

5.3 Description of heritage assets and impact assessment

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench	Feature	Significance of heritage asset (Low, Moderate, High) and of local, regional, national, international interest
HA1: Romano-British activity	02, 03, 04	[205], [305],	High significance of local and regional interest
HA2: Iron Age activity	02, 03, 05, 06	[404] [406], [504] [507]	High significance of local and regional interest

Table 3 Description of heritage assets

The impact assessment is based on Illustration 2 where the archaeological features are overlain onto the development site layout plan. No archaeological features were found in the eastern part of the DA and therefore no impacts are predicted in this part of the DA.

HA1 comprises the evidence for Romano-British activity that is best defined as group of ditches. This consists of a boundary ditch, a field drain ditch and the twin ditches of a possible enclosure. This is considered to have high significance of local interest and there will be a direct impact on it during construction.

HA2 is the evidence for prehistoric/ Iron Age occupation and comprises pit and the shallow remains of a drainage ditch. This is considered to have low to moderate significance of local and regional interest; however, there will be direct impact on different elements of during construction. Features [504] and [507] may be impacted by the construction of the housing development.

6. CONCLUSION

Two Heritage Assets have been identified within the development area and direct impacts on some features within them have been predicted. It is possible that there may be further impact on features that have not been identified during trial trenching.

The amount of material recovered is consistent with a relatively low density of archaeology, however there are one or two items; the unusual Roman pottery handle, the fragments of brick and tile and the presence of processed seeds and the grape seed, that are of interest. It is likely that the archaeology recorded is on the periphery of any relatively high status activity. The presence of such material in the evaluation adds to the regional record.

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Appendix I – Trench and Context Summary

Trench Number	1	Orientation:	E-W		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.40m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.62m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(100)	Topsoil – Dark grey brown humic sandy gravelly silt	-	20m +	1.6m +	0.35m
(101)	Subsoil – Mid/light grey sandy gravelly silt and yellow/ white redeposited gravel.	-	5m	1.6m +	0.25m
(102)	Natural – Mottled and patchy dark/ mid orange/ yellowish brown and patches of mid grey and gravel lenses in and below the topsoil.	-	20m +	1.6m +	-
(103)	Gravel lenses in the topsoil from recent road works.	-	20m+	1.6+	0.12
(104)	Fill of tree throw [105] unexcavated	-	2.83m	0.89m	-
[105]	Cut of tree throw/bole	-	2.83m	0.89m	-
(106)	Fill of tree bole [107]	-	0.94m	0.84m	0.10
[107]	Cut of tree bole	-	0.94m	0.84m	0.10
(108)	Fill of unexcavated tree throw/bole	-	1.65m+	0.75m	-
[109]	Cut of unexcavated tree throw/bole	-	1.65m+	0.75m	-

Trench Number	2	Orientation:	N-S		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.50m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.90m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(200)	Topsoil – Dark grey brown humic sandy gravelly silt	-	20m +	1.6m +	0.90m
(201)	Subsoil – Very thin sandy gravel silt, mid brownish grey in patches at the southern end	-	7m	1.6m +	0.02m
(202)	Natural – Dark yellowish orange gravel and sand with mottled very rooted patches of white sandy silt	-	20m +	1.6m +	-
(203)	Fill of ditch [205]	-	1.6m +	1.78m+	0.49
(204)	Secondary fill of ditch [205]	-	1.6m +	1.18m	0.54m
[205]	Cut of ditch	-	1.6m +	1.78m+	1.11m
(206)	Basal fill of ditch [205]	-	1m	0.5m	0.19m
(207)	Fill of furrow	-	1.6m +	0.90m	0.14m
(208)	Furrow	-	1.6m +	0.90m	0.14m

Trench Number	3	Orientation:	E-W		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.60m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.80m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(300)	Topsoil – Dark grey brown humic sandy gravelly silt	-	20m +	1.6m+	0.70m
(301)	Subsoil – Thin/gravelly sandy silt	-	20m +	1.6m+	0.10
(302)	Natural - Mottled white/orange gravelly sand	-	20m +	1.6m+	-
(303)	Upper fill of ditch [305]	-	1.60m	0.85m	0.11m
(304)	Lower fill of ditch [305]	-	1.60m	1.70m	0.40m
[305]	Cut of ditch	-	1.60m	1.70m	0.51m
(306)	Fill of tree bole	-	1.6m+	0.81m	0.16m
[307]	Cut of tree bole at end of trench 3	-	1.6m+	0.81m	0.16m
(308)	Tree bole fill unexcavated	-	1.6m+	1.63m	-
[309]	Cut of tree bole unexcavated	-	1.6m+	1.63m	-

Trench Number	4	Orientation:	NE-SW		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.30m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.60m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(400)	Topsoil – Dark grey brown humic sandy gravelly silt	-	20m +	1.6m+	0.50m
(401)	Subsoil – Thin light grey sandy gravel/ silt. At east end only.	-	6.5m	1.6m+	0.10m
(402)	Natural – Light grey/ yellow brown gravel/ sandy patches	-	20m +	1.6m+	-
(403)	Fill of possible curvilinear ditch [404]	-	1.6m+	1.23m	0.24m
[404]	Cut of possible curvilinear ditch	-	1.6m+	1.23m	0.24m
(405)	Fill of possible curvilinear ditch[406]	-	1.6m+	0.61m	0.12m
[406]	Cut of possible curvilinear ditch	-	1.6m+	0.61m	0.12m
(407)	Fill of gully [408]	-	1.6m+	0.40m	0.06m
[408]	Cut of shallow gully	-	1.6m+	0.40m	0.06m
(409)	Fill of tree bole [410] unexcavated	-	1.6m+	1.68m	-
[410]	Cut of tree bole- unexcavated	-	1.6m+	1.68m	-
(411)	Fill of tree bole [412]– unexcavated	-	1.1m+	0.92m	-
[412]	Cut of tree bole- unexcavated	-	1.1m+	0.92m	-

Trench Number	5	Orientation:	NW-SE		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.50m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	1.00m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(500)	Topsoil – Dark grey brown sandy silt/ gravel	-	20m +	1.6m+	0.75m
(501)	Subsoil – Dark to Light orange/ grey gravel	-	17m	1.6m+	0.25m
(502)	Natural – Dark orange sandy gravel, fading into light grey gravel and then into dark brown/ orange mottled clay/ gravel above dark blue grey clay.	-	20m +	1.6m+	-
(503)	Fill of gully/ drain	-	0.96m	0.40m	0.04m
[504]	Cut of gully/ drain	-	0.96m	0.40m	0.04m
(505)	Upper fill of pit [507]	-	1.10m	0.57m	0.27m
(506)	Lower fill of pit [507]	-	1.10m	0.33m	0.16m
[507]	Cut of pit	-	1.10m	0.57m	0.44m
(508)	Remains of a pond	-	5.13	1.6m	0.3m
(509)	Blue clay- natural alluvial deposits	-	20m+	1.6m+	0.25m

Trench Number	6	Orientation:	ENE-WSW		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.35m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.75m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(600)	Topsoil – Dark grey brown humic sandy gravelly silt	-	20m +	1.6m+	0.80m
(601)	Subsoil – Thin insubstantial grey gravel	-			>0.10m
(602)	Natural – Light grey gravel fading into orange sandy gravel and then into dark brown/ dark orange clay silt	-	20m +	1.6m+	-
(603)	Fill of small tree bowl [604]	-	0.67m	0.54m	0.08m
[604]	Cut of small tree bole	-	0.67m	0.54m	0.08m
(605)	Fill of larger tree throw [606]	-	1.00m	0.50m	0.30m
[606]	Cut of larger tree throw	-	1.00m	0.50m	0.30m
(607)	Remains of a pond	-	5.5	1.6m+	0.5m

Trench Number	7	Orientation:	NNW-SSE		
Length	20.00m	Width	1.60m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.25m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.46m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(700)	Topsoil – Dark grey humic sandy gravelly silt	-	20m +	1.6m+	0.35m
(701)	Natural – Dark orange/ brown with mottled and patchy mid grey silt and gravel	-	20m +	1.6m+	-
(703)	Fill of tree bole [704] –unexcavated	-	1.6m+	1.5m	-
[704]	Cut of tree bole	-	1.6m+	1.5m	-
(705)	Fill of tree bole [706]- unexcavated	-	1.6m+	Max. 3.12m	-
[706]	Cut of tree bole	-	1.6m+	Max. 3.12m	-

Appendix II – Photographic Register

Photo number	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
1		E	Trench 3 looking east
2		E	Trench 3 looking east
3		E	Trench 3 looking east
4		W	Trench 3 looking west
5		W	Trench 3 looking west
6		W	Trench 3 looking west
7		S	Trench 2 looking north
8		S	Trench 2 looking north
9		N	Trench 2 looking south
10		N	Trench 2 looking south
11		N	Pre-ex [205] trench 2
12		W	Trench 1 looking east
13		W	Trench 1 looking east
14			VOID
15		E	Trench 1 looking west
16		E	Trench 1 looking west
17		S	Shot of (103) in trench 1 looking south
18			VOID
19		SW	Trench 4 looking northeast
20		SW	Trench 4 looking northeast
21		NE	Trench 4 looking southwest
22		NE	Trench 4 looking southwest
23		NE	Trench 4 looking southwest

24		NE	Trench 4 looking southwest
25		SSE	North-northwest end of trench 7. trench stake out.
26		NNW	Trench 7 looking south-southeast
27		NNW	Trench 7 looking south-southeast
28		SSE	Trench 7 looking north-northwest
29		SSE	Trench 7 looking north-northwest
30		NW	Trench 5 looking southeast
31		NW	Trench 5 looking southeast
32		SE	Trench 5 looking northwest
33		SE	Trench 5 looking northwest
34		ENE	Trench 6 looking west-northwest
35		ENE	Trench 6 looking west-northwest
36		WSW	Trench 6 looking east-northeast
37		WSW	Trench 6 looking east-northeast
38		W	East facing section of ditch [205] in trench 2
39		W	East facing section of ditch [205] in trench 2
40		S	North facing section of ditch [305] in trench 3
41		N	South facing section of ditch [305] in trench 3
42		N	South facing section of ditch [305] in trench 3
43		N	South facing section of ditch [305] in trench 3
44		-	Water table test pits
45		-	Water table test pits
46		SE	Northwest facing section of ditch [404] in trench 4
47		SE	Northwest facing section of ditch [406] in trench 4
48		SE	Northwest facing section of ditches [404] & [406] in trench 4
49		W	East facing section through tree root hole [604] in trench 6
50		W	East facing sondage through tree throw [606] in trench 6
51		NW	South east facing section of tree throw [606]
52		W	East facing section of tree throw [606]
53			VOID
54		W	East end of trench 3 record shot of (306) [307]
55		N	South facing section of ditch [205]
56		E	Tree bole [107] looking west
57		N	South facing segment of trench 1 showing gravels (103)
58		N	Slot through tree bole [207] west facing section
59		N	Slot through tree bole [207] west facing section
60		N	South facing sample of tree throw (103) at west end of trench 1
61		NW	Southeast facing section of end of trench 6 showing pond (607)
62		SE	Northwest facing section of end of trench 6 showing pond (607)
63		SE	Northwest facing section of end of trench 6 showing pond (607)
64		NE	Southwest facing section of end of trench 5 showing pond (509)
65		SW	Northeast facing section of end of trench 5 showing pond (509)
66		SW	Northeast facing section of end of trench 5 showing pond (509)
67		N	Section through tree bole [307]
68		E	Tree bole at eastern end of trench 3 – (308) [309]

69		NW	Trench 5 trial pit to test the geology- alluvial deposits
70		NW	Trench 5 trial pit to test the geology- alluvial deposits
71		NW	Southeast facing section of pit [507]
72		NE	Plan shot of gully [504]
73		SW	Plan of gully [504] showing north-northeast facing section
74		SW	Sample shot of root systems [410] in trench 4
75		NE	Sample shot of tree bole [412] in trench 4
76		NE	Sample shot of tree bole [412] in trench 4
77		SE	Plan shot of gully [408]
78		SSE	North-northwestfacing section through gully [408]
79		SSE	North-northwest facing section through gully [408]
80		SSE	North-northwest facing section through gully [408]
81		NE	General view of site
82		E	General view of site and trench 3 backfilled
83		E	Trench 3 backfilled
84		N	Trench 2 backfilled
85		E	Trench 1 backfilled
86		SW	Trench 4 backfill in progress
87		SSE	Trench 7 backfilled
88		SSE	Trench 7 backfilled
89		NW	Workshot in trench 5
90		ENE	Trench 4 backfilled
91		NW	Trench 5 backfill in progress
92		S	Remains of orchard in adjacent land at south.
93		S	Old willow near remains of pond- scheduled to be felled
94		W	Trench 6 backfilled
95		NW	Trench 5 backfilled

Appendix III – Sample Register

Sample Number	Context Number	Description
100	106	20l bulk sample of tree bole fill
200	203	20l bulk sample of the upper fill of possible Roman ditch [205]
201	204	40l bulk sample of secondary fill of possible Roman ditch [205]
203	206	20l bulk sample of basal fill of possible Roman ditch [205]
300	304	40l bulk sample basal fill of possible Roman ditch [305]
301	303	40l bulk sample of upper fill of possible Roman ditch [305]
500	505	20l bulk sample of upper fill of pit [507]
501	506	20l bulk sample of lower fill of pit [507]

Appendix IV—Drawing Register

Drawing Number	Type	Scale	Description
1	Section	1:10	South facing section of ditch [305]
2	Section	1:10	East facing section of ditch [205]
3	Section	1:10	Southeast facing section of pit [507]
4	Section	1:10	Northwest facing section of ditch [404]
5	Section	1:10	Northwest facing section of ditch [406]
6	Section	1:10	South facing section of gully [504]

Appendix V – Finds Catalogue

Trench	Feature	Context	Sample	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
1	topsoil	100		4	20	CBM	Brick	fragments	
1	topsoil	100		2	15	Glass	Bottle	green & colourless bottle sherds	20th-present
1	topsoil	100		2	14	Lithics	Tool & Debitage	secondary edge retouched flake and indeterminate piece	PH
1	subsoil	101		2	43	CBM	Brick	fragment	
1	subsoil	101		22	169	Pottery (PM)	GRE	mostly from same brown glazed jug/jar	17th-19th
1	gravel lens	103		1	8	CBM	Brick/Tile	fragment	
1	gravel lens	103		1	6	Pottery (Mod)	Porcelain	ring base from teacup or small bowl, plain	18th-present
1	gravel lens	103		4	170	Pottery (PM)	GRE	various large sherds	17th-19th
2	topsoil	200		2	3	CBM	Brick	fragments	
2	topsoil	200		1	4	Glass	Bottle	chunk of dark green bottle glass	18th-present
2	subsoil	201		1	1	Pottery (PH)	SHSF	HMBS; R; SCRAP ?DATE	PH?
2	ditch 205	203		1	2	CBM	Brick/Tile	fragment	
2	ditch 205	203		1	5	Clay Pipe	Stem	wide bore	17th-18th
2	ditch 205	203	200		0	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	hammerscale and magnetised gravel	
2	ditch 205	203		1	5	Pottery (Rom)	GREY1	BS; GREY1= Common sandy grey ware 0.3-0.7mm with rare flint and calcareous inclusions- coarse Horningsea fabric?; Form CLSD	Rom
2	ditch 205	204		2	24	Pottery (Rom)	GREY1	BS; Form CLSD; 2 vessels; abraded	Rom
2	ditch 205	204		2	17	Pottery (Rom)	GREY7	BS; SHLDR; RILLED SHOULDER; GREY7= Early grey ware- abundant quartz and occasional flint- wheel made/wheel finished; Form J	Rom
2	furrow 208	208	203		0	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	hammerscale and magnetised gravel	
3	topsoil	300		2	2	CBM	Brick/Tile	fragments	
3	topsoil	300		1	2	Clay Pipe	Stem	intermediate bore	17th-E20th

Trench	Feature	Context	Sample	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
3	topsoil	300		1	20	Lithics	Tool	secondary edge retouched flake	PH
3	ditch 305	303	301	2	3	CBM	Brick/Tile	fragments	
3	ditch 305	303		1	98	CBM	Tile	coarse sherd	RB/PM
3	ditch 305	303	307	2	4	Pottery (PH)	IASA1	BS; 2 vessels; very abraded	LIA-E Rom
3	ditch 305	303	307	3	7	Pottery (PH)	IASA2	RIM; EVERTED OR NECKED; Form JB	LIA-E Rom
3	ditch 305	303	307	1	2	Pottery (PH)	IASA2	BS; abraded	LIA-E Rom
3	ditch 305	303		2	91	Pottery (Rom)	OXL	HANDLE; HIGH ARCHED HANDLE; LIGHT FIRED CORE AND PALE ORANGE OXIDISED EXTERNAL; Form FL; CORD decoration	E Rom
3	ditch 305	303	307	1	1	Pottery (Rom)	OXL	BS; PERHAPS SAME VESSEL AS HANDLE	E Rom
3	ditch 305	304		2	24	Pottery (PH)	IASA2	RIM; R; Form JBNK; rim diam 20; concretion	LIA-E Rom
4	topsoil	400		2	1	CBM	Brick/Tile	fragments	
4	topsoil	400		2	4	Lithics	Tool & Debitage	secondary edge retouched flake and primary flake	PH
4	topsoil	400		1	7	Pottery (PM)	GRE	handle sherd	17th-19th
4	subsoil	401		5	10	Pottery (PH)	IASA1	BS	LIA-E Rom
4	curvilinear 404	403		1	13	Pottery (PH)	VESIC	BS; R; BLACK AND BURNISHED EXTERNAL AND WIPED EXTERNAL; QUARTZ SAND 0.4-0.8MM; COMMON CHAFF OR GRASSUP TO 3.5MM; Form JB; HM	IA/Sax
5	topsoil	500		1	16	CBM	Brick/Tile	fragment	
5	subsoil	501		1	21	Pottery (PH)	IASA2	BS; Form JBL; WM; ; abraded	LIA-E Rom
5	subsoil	501		1	12	Pottery (Rom)	OXL	BS; Form CLSD; abraded	E Rom
5	pit 507	505		3	22	Pottery (PH)	IASH	BS; R; COMMON FINE SHELL AND COMMON MEDIUM QUARTZ; Form JB; HM; joins 506	IA
5	pit 507	506	501	17	47	Pottery (PH)	IASH	BS; R; COMMON FINE SHELL AND COMMON MEDIUM QUARTZ; Form JB; HM; joins 505	IA
6	topsoil	600		1	4	Lithics	Tool	secondary edge retouched flake, hard hammer with cortical platform and inverse retouch to left lateral	PH
7	topsoil	700		1	158	CBM	Brick/Tile	sherd of dense tile/brick, T 35, pilae?	RB?
7	topsoil	700		1	22	Pottery (PM)	GRE	jar sherd	17th-19th

Appendix VI – Environmental Flotation Catalogue

Total flot Vol (ml)	Barley	Bread /club wheat	cf. Spelt wheat	Emmer wheat	Wheat	Oat	Indet. cereal	Lentil	Lathyrus/ Pisum	Lathyrus/ Pisum (2-4 mm)	Lathyrus/ Pisum (> 4 mm)	Weeds	Other Charred plant remains	Charred indet. vesicular matter	Charcoal Quantity	Charcoal Max size (mm)	Material sufficient for AMS	Comments
80		+							+		+	+		+	+	3	Y	poor preservation of charred plant remains. Planorbidae snail
50		++	+				+	+	+	+	+				++	6	Y	grasses > 2mm. Mixed preservation, generally poor.
20		+	+				+				+				+	5	Y	Poor preservation
30																	N	no charred plant remains including charcoal present
150	+	+++	+	+	+	+			++	+		+			+	8	Y	grasses > 2mm, mixed preservation but generally poor
30		++										+			++	5	Y	grasses > 2mm
60		++	+		+	+				++	+	+	+		+++	10	Y	grasses > 2mm, wild radish fruit, charred tuber. Mixed preservation, generally poor
30		+			+												Y	Poor preservation
10																	N	no charred plant remains including charcoal present

Key: + = rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (16-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 10mm is sufficient for identification and AMS dating

Appendix VII – Environmental Residue Catalogue

Context Number	Sample Number	Feature	Sample Vol (l)	Ceramic		Stone		Burnt bone	Unburnt bone		Shell	Charred plant	Charcoal		Material sufficient for AMS Dating	Comments
				Pottery	Tile	Lithics	Stone	Mammal	Mammal	Fish	Terrestrial		Quantity	Max Size (mm)		
106	100	Fill of tree bole [107]	20												N	No charred plant remains present
203	200	Fill of ditch [205]	20	+		+++	++++	+	+			+	++	10	Y	Grains of bread/club wheat and cereal indet. Pig mandible fragment (7.0g), small mammal bones (0.1g), burnt bone fragments (0.3g)
204	201	Secondary fill of ditch [205]	40					+	+			+	++	5	Y	Cereal indet. grains, indet. bone fragments (2.1g), burnt bone fragment (0.1g)
206	202	Basal fill of ditch [205]	20						+	+		+	+	8	Y	Grains of bread/club wheat and cereal indet. Fossilised shark tooth (0.1g), indet bone fragment
207	203	Fill of furrow [208]	40			+	+	+	+		+	+	++	7	Y	Grains of bread/club wheat and cereal indet. Planorbidae snail, indet. mammal bone fragments (2.1g), tooth fragment (1.4g), burnt bone fragment (0.1g)
304	300	Lower fill of ditch [305]	40					+	+	+		+	++	5	N	Grape seed fragment, cereal indet. grain (very poor preservation) grasses >2mm, charred vesicular matter. The cereal grain should be sufficient for AMS dating but given its poor state of preservation it's suitability can not be guaranteed. Bone fragments (5.9g) including indet. sheep/goat, mouse and a fossilised shark tooth. Burnt bone fragments (0.2g)
303	301	Upper fill of ditch [305]	40	++	+			+	+			+	+++	11	Y	cereal indet. grains. Mixed indet. bone fragments including cattle scapula end fragment, cattle astragalus fragments and a cattle pelvis fragment with gnaw marks (39.5g) as well as an indet. mammal long bone fragment exhibiting butchery marks (5.5g), sheep/goat maxilla fragment with tooth in situ (4.2g), Burnt bone fragments (3.9g)
505	500	Upper fill of pit [507]	20						+				+	8	N	indet. mammal bone fragments (6.6g)
506	501	Lower fill of pit [507]	20	++				+	+				+++	7	Y	Cereal indet. grains. Indet. bone fragments (9.4g), indet. burnt bone fragment (3.2g)

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

NB charcoal over 10mm is sufficient for identification and AMS dating

Appendix VIII – Animal Bone Catalogue

Context Number	Feature	Weight (g)	Preservation	Comments
203	Fill of ditch [205]	295.4	good	pig tibia, cattle unfused distal radius with gnaw marks, cattle tooth - 3rd molar well worn, cattle skull fragment, cattle rib fragment
204	Secondary fill of ditch [205]	167.7	good	cattle tibia fragment with gnaw marks, cattle distal tibia fragment, indet. fragments
300	Topsoil	8	poor	Sheep/goat incisor, indet. fragments
301	Subsoil	0.2	poor	indet. fragment
303	Upper fill of ditch [305]	14.6	poor	large mammal skull fragments
304	Lower fill of ditch [305]	64.2	poor	cattle proximal metacarpal and associated fragments, indet. fragments
400	Topsoil	135.5	good	cattle proximal metatarsal with butchery marks and gnaw marks
501	Subsoil	3.8	moderate	cattle adult pre-molar
508	Remains of a pond	65.1	moderate	cattle proximal radius
700	topsoil	161.2	good	Horse teeth - upper right 3rd molar (potential for aging the horse based on tooth wear)

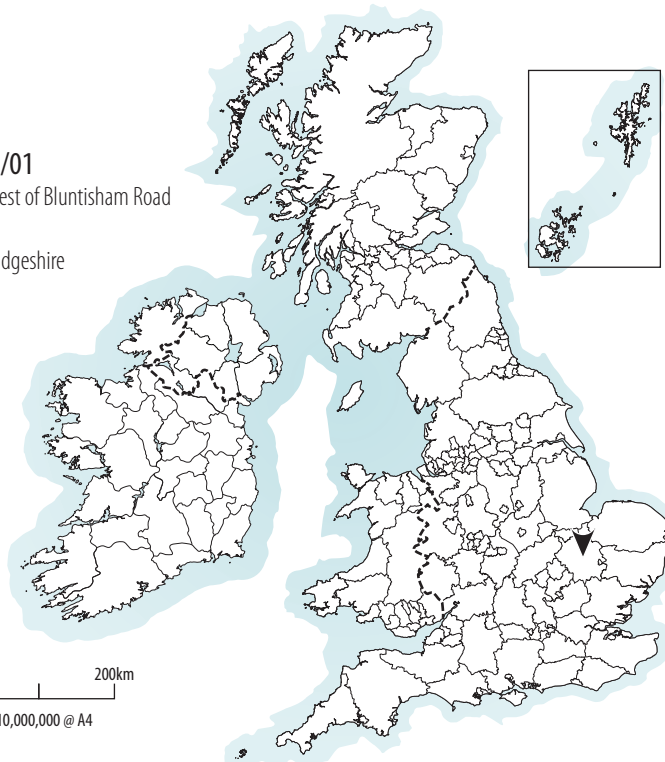
Appendix IX– OASIS Form

OASIS ID: headland4-245404	
Project details	
Project name	Bluntisham Road, Colne
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation for Hastoe Homes Ltd on land off Bluntisham Road, Colne, Cambridgeshire. Between 26th and 29th of July 2016; 7 trenches were excavated in the proposed Development Area, 4 of which contained archaeological remains. 2 Heritage Assets were identified. These consisted of prehistoric (IA) ditch and pit, Romano-British ditches. A post-medieval pond and modern orchard related tree throws were also identified.
Project dates	Start: 26-07-2016 End: 29-07-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	LITHIC Bronze Age
Significant Finds	CBM Uncertain
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE COLNE Land off Bluntisham Road
Postcode	PE28 3LY
Study area	1.35 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3714 7566 52.361410469864 0.014212343839 52 21 41 N 000 00 51 E Point
Lat/Long Datum (other)	52,361838/0,01258760
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Antony Walsh
Project supervisor	Emma Jeffery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hastoe Homes Ltd.
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Report", "Section", "Survey"
Entered by	Astrid Lesley Nathan (astrid.nathan@headlandarchaeology.com)
Entered on	23 August 2016

BLUN/01

land west of Bluntisham Road
Colne
Cambridgeshire



0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4



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KEY
[Red outline] development boundary
[Black rectangle] trench location

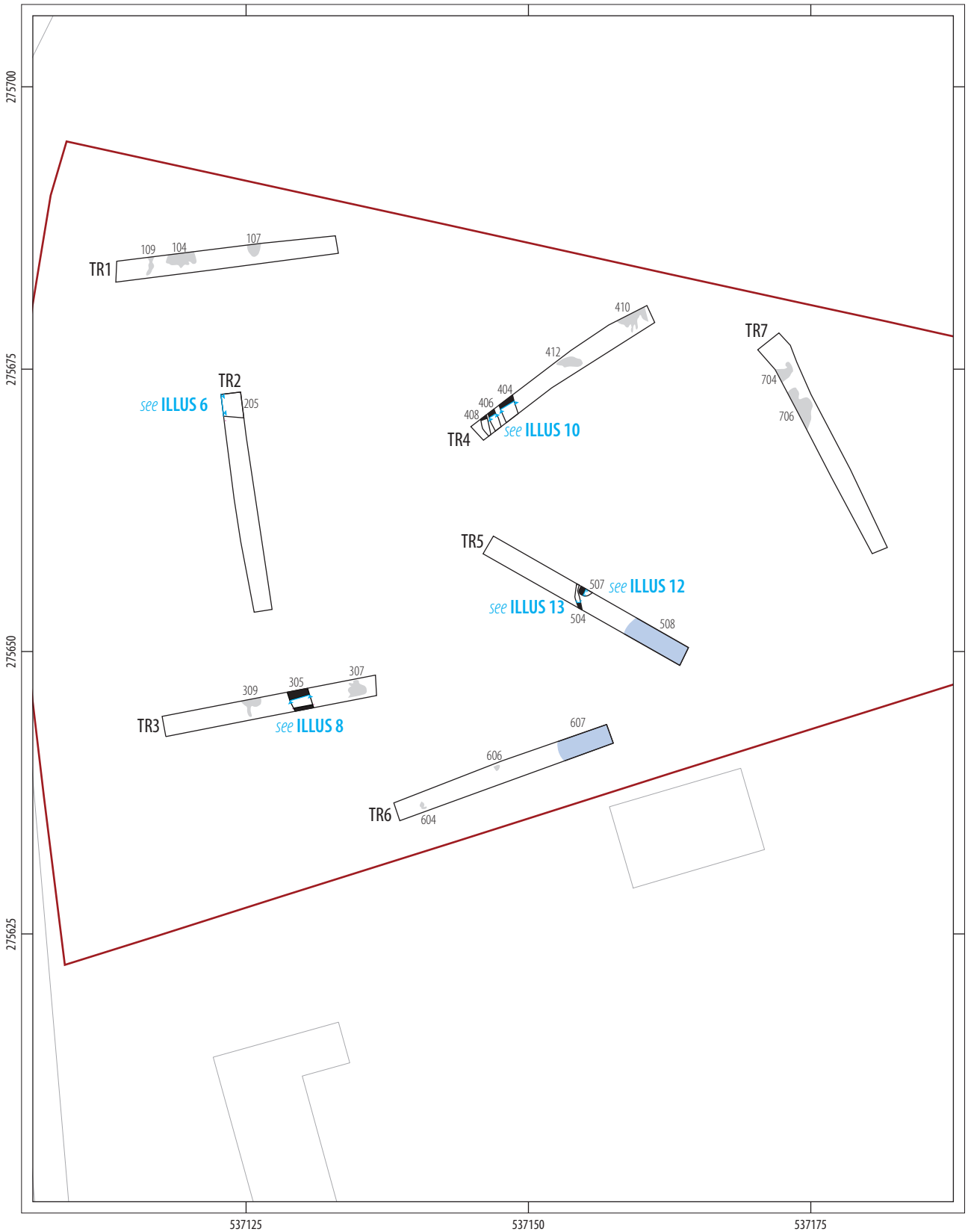
N
0 50m
1:2,500 @ A4

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY

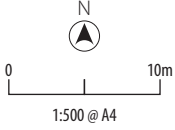
SOUTH & EAST

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Bedfordshire MK45 4HS
01525 861 578
www.headlandarchaeology.com

ILLUS 1 Site location



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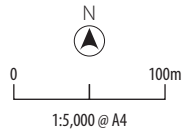
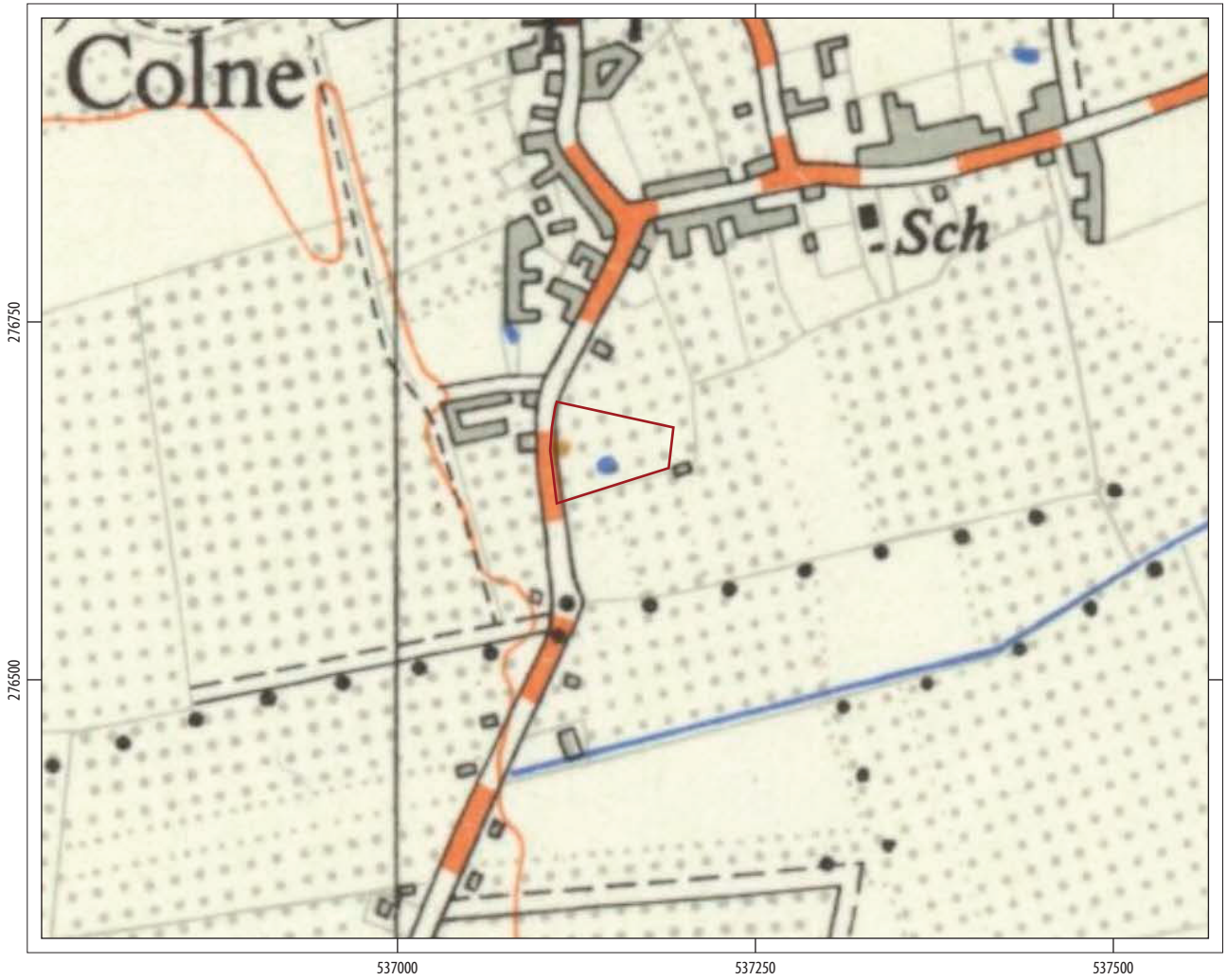


- KEY**
- development boundary
 - trench location
 - archaeological features
 - tree boles and throws
 - modern/post-medieval pond

ILLUS 2 Trench plan

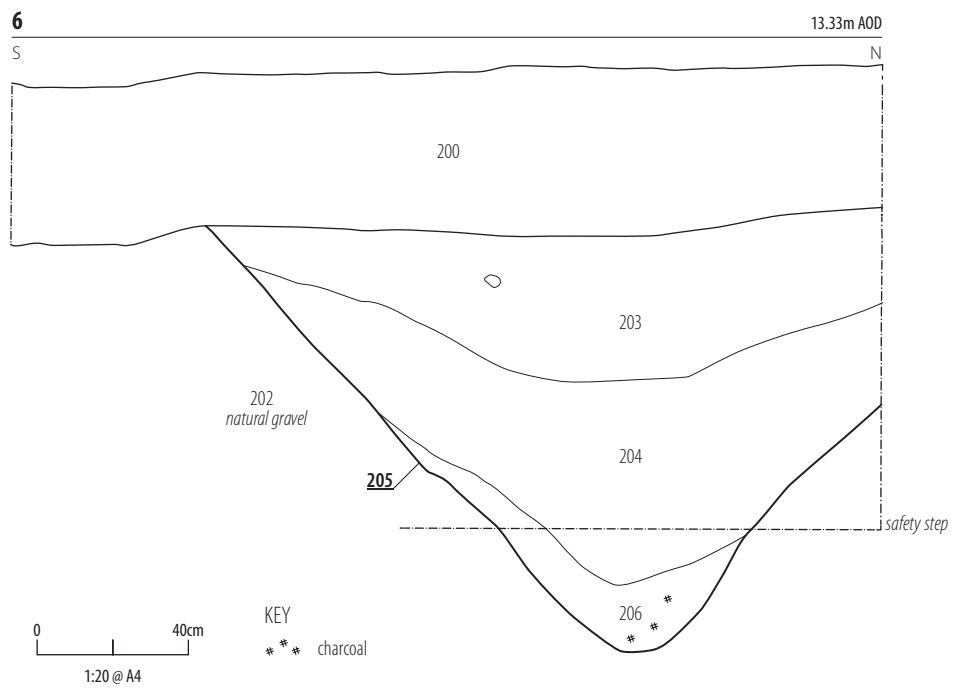


ILLUS 3 General view of site looking north east



KEY
[Red rectangle] development boundary

ILLUS 4 OS map 1937–1961



ILLUS 5-6 View of east facing section of ditch [205]



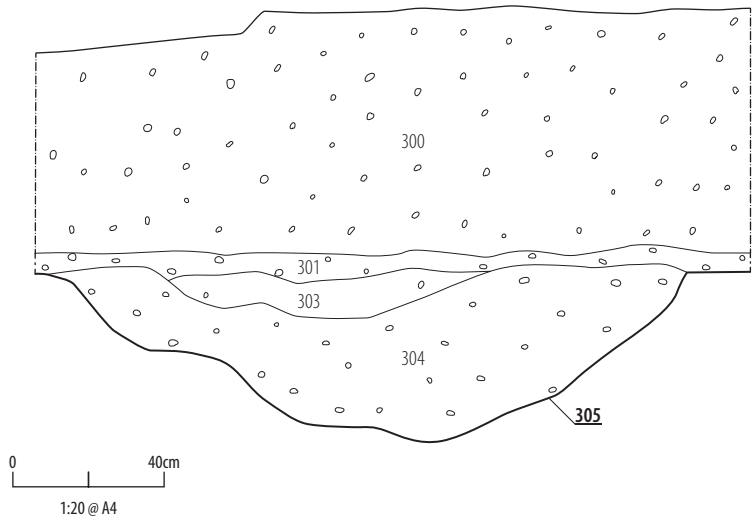
7

8

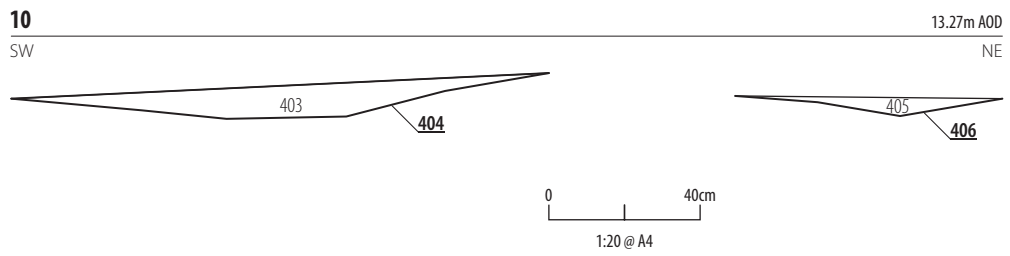
13.80m AOD

W

E



ILLUS 7-8 View of south facing section of ditch [305]

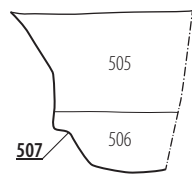


ILLUS 9 View of southeast facing section of ditches [404] and [406]t **ILLUS 10** SE facing profile of ditch [404] and [406]



ILLUS 11 View of SE facing section of pit [507] **ILLUS 12** SE facing section of pit [507]

12 13.32m AOD
 SW NE



0 20cm
 1:10 @ A4

13 13.37m AOD
E W



0 20cm
1:10 @ A4

ILLUS 13 N facing profile of gully [504]



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