

TFCS19



Land off Town Farm Crescent, Standon, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Archaeology Collective on behalf of Stonebond Properties Limited

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client: Archaeology Collective

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Schedule

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LAND OFF TOWN FARM CRESCENT, STANDON, HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of land off Town Farm Crescent, Standon, between the 13th and 15th May 2019. The work was commissioned by the Archaeology Collective, on behalf of Stonebond Properties Limited, in accordance with recommendations made by the Historic Environment Advisor at Hertfordshire County Council, as detailed on the archaeological condition placed on the planning application (East Herts District Council Planning Ref: 3/19/0408/FUL).

Five evaluation trenches were opened by machine. Those in the eastern and northern parts of the Development Area (DA) contained no archaeological features. Activity dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods was identified in the southwestern part of the DA. This comprised a medieval large linear feature or pit, a medieval east-west aligned field boundary, a post-medieval north-south aligned field boundary, two undated east-west ditches, and an undated quarry pit.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

A planning application was submitted for residential development of the Development Area (East Herts District Council Planning Ref: 3/19/0408/FUL). The Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire Council recommended that a condition be placed on planning consent, stating that a scheme of archaeological work was required (initially a trial trenching evaluation). Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd were commissioned by the Archaeology Collective to undertake this trial trenching evaluation,

This work followed the compilation of a desk-based assessment (MOLA 2015) which provided a comprehensive outline of the archaeological and historical background, and a geoenvironmental site investigation (RSK 2018).

A brief was prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire Council, outlining the archaeological works needed to fulfil the condition. Headland Archaeology then prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) on behalf of the Archaeology Collective (Headland Archaeology 2019); setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological evaluation. The WSI was submitted to and agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor.

This report details the results of the trial trenching evaluation.

1.2 Site Description

The Development Area (DA) is located in the southeastern part of Standon, Hertfordshire (Illus. 1). It is centred on NGR TL 39796 22643, bounded by Town Farm Crescent to the west, Stortford Road (A120) to the south, and open farmland to the north and east. It currently occupies a roughly square plot of land measuring 0.9ha on the southern slope of a hill (between c 74m and 80m AOD). It has until recently been under arable cultivation.

The solid geology of the DA comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), with superficial Head deposits in the southern part of the site (adjacent to Stortford Road) (NERC 2019). Ground investigations across the site identified 0.4-0.7m of topsoil, overlying 0.2m of Head deposits (in three test-pits TPs3-5), over chalk (RSK 2018). These Head deposits are at the bottom of the slope and are the result of colluvial processes.

The nearest watercourse is the River Rib which runs in a north to south direction just 250m to the west of the DA.

1.2 Archaeological Background

A comprehensive study of the background to the site is included in the desk-based assessment (MOLA 2015) and only a summary is presented here.

Mesolithic worked flint flakes were recovered from excavations at Station Road c 500m to the northwest of the DA (MHT606). Cropmarks of two Bronze Age barrows have been observed c 500m to the north of the DA (MHT2563, MHT7543).

Evidence for Iron Age activity has been found in Standon, including Late Iron Age ditches at Ralph Sadlier School c 1km to the northwest of the DA (MHT2152); Iron Age ditches, pits and cremations (MHT6465) in excavations c 750m to the northwest of the DA; and a cropmark of a rectilinear enclosure (MHT16793) c 300m to the northwest of the DA.

Standon is positioned in a valley close to the junction of two Roman roads, Stane Street and Ermine Street. There is further evidence for Roman activity in the area, including a 4th century villa (Niblett 2011); two tumuli containing Roman coins and pottery (VCH 1912); and two late Roman coins uncovered c 200m to the west of the DA (MHT1509). More recent fieldwork at Ralph Sadlier School, c 1km to the northwest of the DA, identified Roman pottery (MHT2152).

There is very little evidence for Saxon activity in the area, although Standon was recorded in the 1086 Domesday Book and there is the suggestion that the Church of St Mary was preceded by an earlier Saxon building (MHT4366) and that the post-medieval paper mill on the River Rib was on the site of a late Saxon watermill (MHT5766).

Standon itself developed in the medieval period. Some extant buildings, including the church, dating from the medieval period. During the medieval period, Stortford Road formed part of the Kings Highway, and there was a deer park and Knights Hospitaller's preceptory to the southeast of the DA. The DA was probably agricultural land at that time.

Standon continued to develop in the post-medieval period, but with the DA itself remaining outside of the settlement. Historic maps show the DA as agricultural land, with the 1839 Tithe Map depicting two parcels of land under arable cultivation.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General

In general, the purpose of the trial trenching evaluation was to identify and assess the particular significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by the proposal. This was to be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains exposed in the trenches, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The general aims of the investigation included:

- establishing the depth and character of archaeologically 'sterile' overburden;
- identifying, characterising and dating any potential archaeological remains within the site;
- defining 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* (Medlycott 2011) and covers issues including:

- Iron Age: Settlement types - "*Understanding more about these settlement patterns and use of the landscape is a key question...Distribution, density and dynamics need further study [including the] zonation of use/internal spaces, interaction with hinterland, location with ref to topography and geology, resources, communication routes etc.*" (Medlycott 2011, 30-31).

- Roman: Rural settlements and landscapes – “*what forms do the farms take, and is the planned farmstead widespread across the region?...how far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified?*” (Medlycott 2011, 47).

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with Hertford Museum, to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit. An online OASIS form will also be completed (OASIS ID: headland4-350204).

3. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out between the 13th and 15th May 2019. In total, 5 trenches were excavated within the DA. All were 50m in length and 1.8m in width (Illus. 1).

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.

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.

3.1 Recording

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014) and was in line with the approved WSI (Headland Archaeology 2019). 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. A metric scale was placed in order to be clearly visible in record photographs.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in Appendix I. Contexts are identified numerically by trench - i.e. Trench 01: (1001), Trench 02: (2001) - with cuts indicated by square brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. In most cases, segments excavated through features were 1.00m wide. In specifying directions, true north rather than grid north is used as the basic axis of reference.

Archaeological evidence was found in 3 of the 5 trenches, generally focused in the western and southern parts of the site (Illus. 2). This comprised several ditches, a quarry, and a linear feature or large pit containing medieval pottery.

4.2 Trench Results

4.2.1 Trench 1 (Illus 3-8)

Trench 1 was 50.00m long and 1.8m wide. It was oriented north-south, running close to and parallel with the row of houses on Town Farm Crescent, on the western side of the Development Area.

The natural layer (1003) was encountered at 0.35m beneath the present ground-surface. This was chalk, and into this several archaeological features had been cut.

In the southern part of the trench were three parallel east-west oriented ditches, one of which had a recut. These were spaced 2.00-2.50m apart (Illus. 3).

Ditch [1004] was at the southern end of the trench and was only partially revealed. It was 0.50m deep with medium sloping sides. The fill (1005) was a compact, mid grey-brown silty clay (Illus. 4).

Ditch [1006] was much shallower, with a maximum depth of 0.20m and gently sloping sides - the northern side being steeper than the southern one. It was 1.00m wide. The fill (1007) was a compact light grey-brown silty clay, containing a fragment of horse bone (Illus. 5).

Ditch [1008] was the largest of the three, despite being partially truncated by a re-cut on its northern side. It was 1.00m wide and 0.45m deep, with medium sloping sides and a concave base. It had two fills. The lower fill (1010) was a compact mid orange-brown sandy clay. The upper fill (1009) was a compact, mid grey-brown sandy clay, with frequent small stones, 14th – 16th century roof tile, a (residual) Mesolithic / Early Neolithic flint blade, and an animal bone fragment (Illus. 6-7).

The re-cut ditch [1011] was on the same east-west alignment. It was 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep, with a concave profile. The fill (1012) was a compact, mid orange-brown sandy clay, containing small-medium fragments of chalk (Illus. 6-7).

In the northern part of the trench, there was another linear east-west oriented feature. This was initially thought to be a ditch, though excavation revealed that it was more likely to be a quarry pit. Quarry [1013] was 3.00m wide and had vertical sides. It was shown to be at least 0.80m deep, with the base of the feature not reached. The four fills (1014) (1015) (1016) and (1017) consisted of horizontally layered sandy clays, containing small-medium stones, frequent fragments of chalk, and a small collection of animal bone fragments (Illus.8).

All these features were sealed by the subsoil (1002), which in turn was overlain by the modern plough-soil (1001).

4.2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 50.00m long and 1.80m wide, oriented east-west in the northern part of the Development Area.

The natural layer encountered at 0.35-0.45m beneath the ground-surface was chalk (2003). This was directly overlain by the subsoil (2002), which in turn was overlain by the modern plough-soil (2001). There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.2.3 Trench 3 (Illus 9-10)

Trench 3 was 50.00m long and 1.80m wide. It was oriented roughly north-south in the central part of the Development Area.

The natural layer encountered at 0.35-0.45m beneath the ground-surface was chalk (3003). Ploughing marks were visible in the southern part of the trench, where the blade of the plough had gouged linear scars, running in a north-south direction in the upper chalk surface.

There was only one archaeological feature. Ditch [3007] was 1.50m wide and extended across the trench in an east-west direction, on the projected course of ditch [1008] with re-cut [1011]. It is presumed to be the same ditch. The fill (3008) was a compact, mid grey-brown sandy clay, with occasional small stones and chalk fragments. This was not excavated, as the ditch had already been sampled in Trench 1 (Illus. 9).

The chalk natural and the single archaeological feature were directly overlain by the subsoil (3002), which in turn was overlain by the modern plough-soil (3001) (Illus 10).

4.2.4 Trench 4 (Illus 11)

Trench 4 was 50.00m long and 1.80m wide. It was oriented north to south along the eastern side of the Development Area.

The natural geological layer (4003), uncovered here at 0.45m beneath the ground-surface, was a marked contrast to the chalk geology found in trenches to the north and west. It consisted of a compact coarse mid red-brown sand, corresponding to superficial 'Head' deposits described by the British Geological Survey (BGS website). These formed through colluvial processes or 'hill creep', and, although not at the foot of the slope, may have filled in a small linear hollow running roughly north to south. A test pit was excavated through this by machine, revealing that it was 0.65m thick, sitting on the natural chalk (4005) at 1.10m down (Illus. 11).

The red brown sand natural was overlain by an interface layer (4004) – a compact orange brown sand containing moderate stone inclusions. Above the interface layer was the subsoil (4002), which in turn was overlain by the modern plough-soil (4001).

4.2.5 Trench 5 (Illus 12-14)

Trench 5 was 50.00m long and 1.80m wide. It was oriented roughly east to west in the southern part of the Development Area.

Both types of natural geologies encountered in the other trenches were found here - the chalk (5004) to the west, and the red-brown sand or superficial 'Head' deposits (5003) to the east, the latter being covered in places by a thin interface layer containing moderate amounts of small-medium stones (5005). This was initially taken as the natural surface, but subsequently removed by machine to reveal a linear feature or large pit beneath, cut into the true natural (5003).

The linear feature or large elongated pit [5008] was only partially uncovered as extended to the south beyond the edge of the trench (Illus 12-13). It was 4.00m long and at least 1.00m wide, with steep sides and a flat base. It was 0.50m deep. The function and purpose of the feature is unknown. The fill (5009) was a compact mid orange-brown silty sand, darker than the surrounding natural, containing medieval pottery (ten sherds of 12th-13th century sand-tempered coarsewares, four sherds of 14th-15th century south-east Midlands reduced ware, and a single 12th-14th century South Hertfordshire grey ware sherd).

At the western end of the trench, one side of a large ditch was visible (Illus 14-15). Because this feature extended beyond the limits of excavation and only the edge of it had been uncovered, the machine was used to excavate it, extending slightly the length of the trench. Ditch [5006] was at least 3.00m wide and up to 0.80m deep. It was aligned in a north-south direction, parallel to the western boundary of the field and the row of houses. It is suspected to be a field boundary ditch of post-medieval date. The single fill (5007) was a dark red-brown sandy clay with small fragments of chalk. No dateable artefacts or other finds were recovered though small fragments of fired brick or clay were noted in the upper part of the fill.

Overlying the interface layer and natural layers was the subsoil (5002), which was overlain by the modern ploughsoil (5001).

4.3 Finds

Amy Koonce, Rebecca Devaney, Jackie Wells

The finds assemblage numbered 17 sherds (211g) of pottery, 40 sherds (900g) of ceramic building material, three iron finds and one lithic. These were found in seven features across five separate trenches. The Mesolithic/early Neolithic, medieval and modern periods are represented. The finds are summarised by feature in Table 1 and a complete catalogue is given in Appendix III.

Table 1: Summary of finds assemblage by feature with spot dating (dating is for finds in the backfill of these features and does not necessarily date the features; small assemblages should be used with particular caution for dating purposes).

Tr	Feature Type	Cut No	Pottery (Medi) Count	Pottery (Medi) Wgt (g)	Pottery (PM) Count	Pottery (PM) Wgt (g)	Iron Count	Lithics Count	Lithics Wgt (g)	CBM Count	CBM Wgt (g)	Spot Date
1	ploughsoil	1001	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	220	Medi-Mod
1	ditch	1008	-	-	-	-	1	1	32	2	22	14 th -L16 th
2	ploughsoil	2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	212	14 th -L16 th

Tr	Feature Type	Cut No	Pottery (Medi) Count	Pottery (Medi) Wgt (g)	Pottery (PM) Count	Pottery (PM) Wgt (g)	Iron Count	Lithics Count	Lithics Wgt (g)	CBM Count	CBM Wgt (g)	Spot Date
-	-	-	-	-	2	56	-	-	-	4	87	PM-Mod
3	ploughsoil	3001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	274	14 th -L16 th
4	ploughsoil	4001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	85	Mod
5	ploughsoil	5001	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	13 th -14 th
5	linear/pit	5008	15	155	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13 th -14 th
-	Total	-	15	155	2	56	3	1	32	40	900	-

Methodology

The report includes hand-collected finds. The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (ClFA 2014; Watkinson & Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists. The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report (Appendix III).

The pottery was examined visually, using x20 magnification where necessary. It was recorded according to standards set out by specialist bodies (Barclay et al 2016; Slowikowski 2001).

Medieval pottery

A total of 15 sherds (155g), representing six vessels, were collected from linear/large pit [5008] in Trench 5. The sherds have a mean weight of 10g and are moderately abraded. They are all likely to be of local manufacture.

Table 2: Medieval pottery type series

Fabric	Dating	Sherds	Wgt (g)
Iron-rich sandy ware	12 th -13 th	4	32
Micaceous sandy ware	12 th -13 th	1	12
Reduced ware	14 th -15 th	4	62
Sandy coarseware	12 th -13 th	5	38
South Hertfordshire grey ware	m12 th -14 th	1	11
Total	-	15	155

The majority of the assemblage comprises ten sherds of 12th-13th century sand-tempered coarsewares (iron-rich sandy ware, micaceous sandy ware and sandy coarseware). Pottery of 14th-15th century date comprises four well-fired, wheel-thrown sherds in the south-east Midlands late medieval reduced ware tradition. No diagnostic vessel forms occur; a base angle is the sole feature sherd. A single South Hertfordshire grey ware sherd, dating from the mid-12th-14th centuries, completes the assemblage.

Post-medieval to modern pottery

A total of two sherds (56g) of post-medieval to modern pottery was retrieved from ploughsoil (3001). The sherds comprise a jar rim and a bowl body sherd in glazed red earthenware, broadly datable to the late 16th-19th centuries.

Metalwork

There were three iron finds, though only one was stratified. This was a nail with a flat square head and bent shaft in ditch [1008]. It is potentially contemporary with the late medieval ceramic building material within this feature.

The remaining two finds were both found in ploughsoil (1001, 5001). One was a fragment of heel iron from a heavy boot or shoe. The other is an agricultural tool of some kind though of odd form. It has part of a thick curved blade, broken at the end, but which appears to be sharpened on its outer rather than inner edge. It has a long thick square tang at the other. It may be part of a piece of farm machinery. Both finds are probably modern in date.

Lithics

A single piece of worked flint was recovered from ditch [1008] in Trench 1. The flint is a fairly large and thick blade, measuring 62mm long, 25mm wide, 16mm thick and weighing 32g. It has dorsal blade scars, a previous hinged termination and a clear cone and point of percussion. The piece is heavily damaged, particularly around the distal end, with chips to the edges and abraded negative ridges. The flint is chronologically undiagnostic but the dorsal blade scars indicate removal from a planned blade core, which is likely to derive from the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic. The find is clearly residual in this context.

Ceramic building material

There were 40 sherds (900g) of tile and brick retrieved from ploughsoil (1001, 2001, 3001, 4001 and 5001) and ditch [1008]. All but two of the sherds are plain, unglazed flat roof tile. The remaining two fragments of fired clay probably represent degraded brick or tile. Broadly datable from the 14th to late 16th century, the tiles occur in a fine oxidised sand-tempered fabric and range in thickness from 11–13mm. One retains a partial circular peg hole, indicating attachment by wooden pegs. The battered and abraded condition of the material is consistent with the recovery of most examples from ploughsoil.

Discussion

The earliest find is the lithic blade. It is an indication of prehistoric activity during the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic period in the general area, though it is clearly residual.

The medieval period provides the main point of interest in the assemblage. The finds seem to date ditch [1008] and linear/pit [5008]. Both may have been backfilled in the 14th century, though a longer span is entirely possible. The ditch contains building remains in the form of ceramic building material and an iron nail, though these are few and somewhat abraded and do not suggest a structure in the immediate vicinity. Further finds of late medieval ceramic building material were scattered through the ploughsoil, particularly in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. The linear/pit contains material of a more domestic nature in the form of pottery.

Evidence for later activity is more sparse and probably of an entirely agricultural nature.

Recommendations for further work

The finds suggest archaeological potential for medieval remains in the general area and in the vicinity of Trenches 1 and 5 in particular. Should further fieldwork be undertaken, then the assemblage should be re-evaluated in the light of any additional finds. As the assemblage stands, no further work is recommended on the finds as the small size and fragmentary nature of the assemblage limits the potential for further analysis.

Recommendations for archive

The pottery, ceramic building material and iron nail could be retained. As it stands, the rest of the material is of no further archaeological value and, if no further work is undertaken on the site, it is recommended they be discarded. The archive has been prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of Hertfordshire museums (Paul 2018).

4.4 Animal bone report

Laura Bailey

Introduction

Animal bone, hand-collected during an evaluation of land off Town Farm Crescent, Standon, Hertfordshire, was received for assessment. The site comprised various ditches and a quarry dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any faunal remains and to determine the potential of the material for indicating the character and significance of the deposit.

Method

Faunal remains were examined by eye or under low magnification and, as far as possible, identified to species and skeletal element, with reference to Schmid (1972) and Hillson (1992). Where it was not possible to identify fragments to taxon level, the bones were separated into size categories e.g. large mammal (cattle/horse), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, dog size) and small mammal (cat, rodent size).

State of preservation was recorded using a four-stage system of preservation ranging from excellent (surface clearly visible), good (surface clearly visible with slight erosion), moderate (surface not fully visible) to poor (unobservable surface).

No butchery marks or pathologies were noted in this assemblage.

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Appendix IV.

A very small (NISP 7) animal bone assemblage was hand collected from five deposits, including fills (1007) and (1009) of ditches [1006] and [1008] respectively; fill (1014) of quarry [1013]; topsoil (5001); and fill (5009) of pit [5008] (Appendix IV).

Preservation was mixed and ranged from good to poor. The MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) for each deposit was low. The bone recovered from fill (1007) of ditch [1006] was particularly poorly preserved, heavily eroded and weathered suggesting that it may have been exposed for some time prior to burial.

Identifiable elements included a small fragment of cow scapula from topsoil (5001), and a sheep mandible and indeterminate long bone shaft fragments from fill (5009) of pit [5008]. A possible horse medial splint bone (MC2) was recovered from the fill (1007) of ditch [1006].

There was no detailed information (i.e. age and biometric) available for further study.

Discussion and recommendations

The animal bone assemblage contained elements of the main domesticates including horse, cow and sheep. The bone was generally poorly preserved and heavily fragmented and therefore offers little information on site economy.

No further work is recommended.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Summary of remains by Period

Prehistoric activity

No features dated to the prehistoric period were identified within the DA. One piece of worked flint, a blade of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date, was retrieved from ditch [1008]. This is an indicator of prehistoric activity in this area, but is residual in this feature.

Iron Age / Roman Activity

No features or finds dated to the Iron Age or Roman period were identified within the DA.

Medieval Activity

Two features dated to the medieval period were identified – ditch/pit [5008], and ditch [1008]/[3007].

Ditch/pit [5008] contained a substantial assemblage of medieval pottery, dated to the 12th-15th centuries. It is unclear, within the trench, whether this was the terminus of a ditch or part of a larger pit. Nonetheless, the presence of the pottery assemblage demonstrates that there was domestic occupation nearby.

Ditch [1008]/[3007] was likely a field boundary, as it is perpendicular to the current field boundaries and was observed in both Trenches 01 and 03. Roof tile dated to the 14th-16th centuries was recovered from [1008], suggesting that it was infilled before the 17th century. It is not shown on any post-medieval historic maps. The presence of ceramic building material within this ditch suggests that there were buildings in the vicinity.

It is possible that the undated ditches [1004] and [1006] could also be of medieval, as they were parallel to ditch [1008]/[3007].

These features relate to activity on the outskirts of the medieval settlement of Standon and adjacent to the Kings Highway. Ditch [1008]/[3007] was likely a field boundary (indicating that the land was under agricultural use), however the presence of the pottery assemblage within the ditch/pit [5008] demonstrates that there was domestic occupation nearby.

Post-Medieval / Modern Activity

Ditch [5006] is likely to have been a post-medieval field boundary, aligned north-south parallel to the western boundary of the field. It is not shown on any historic maps from the 19th century onwards (e.g. 1835 Inclosure Map, 1839 Tithe Map, 1878 First Edition OS Map), however its position parallel to the modern field system makes it likely that it formed part of the post-medieval field system.

A small quantity of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material was also found in the ploughsoil from across the DA.

Undated Activity

Ditches [1004] and [1006] and quarry [1008] contained no dateable finds. It seems most likely that they are of medieval or post-medieval date, particularly as the ditches were parallel to medieval ditch [1008]/[3007]. These features likely relate to the medieval and post-medieval agricultural use of the land.

5.2 Description of heritage assets

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench	Feature	Significance of heritage asset (Low, Medium, High) and of local, regional, national, international interest
HA1: Medieval features	01, 03, 05	[5008], [1008], [3007]	Medium significance of local and interest
HA2: Post-Medieval agricultural features	05	[5006]	Low significance of local interest.
HA3: Undated features	01	[1004], [1006], [1013]	Low significance of local interest.

Table 3: Description of heritage assets

HA1 comprises evidence for medieval activity – the pit or ditch [5008] which contained pottery dating to the 12th - 15th centuries; and the ditch [1008]/[3007] which contained roof tile dated to the 14th - 16th centuries. This is evidence for activity (agricultural and outskirts of settlement) on the outskirts of the medieval settlement of Standon, and is therefore considered to be of medium significance of local interest.

HA2 comprises the post-medieval field boundary [5006]. This is considered to have low significance of local interest, relating to post-medieval agricultural activity.

HA3 comprises the undated features – the two parallel ditches [1004] and [1006], and the quarry [1013]. It seems likely that these are also of medieval or post-medieval date, relating to the agricultural use of the area, and are considered to also have low significance of local interest.

6. CONCLUSION

The trial trenching evaluation revealed evidence for medieval activity on the outskirts of the medieval settlement of Standon. This comprised a large pit/ditch and a field boundary.

Evidence for the post-medieval agricultural use of the land was identified (the field boundary). The undated features (ditches and a quarry) also likely relate to the medieval or post-medieval agricultural use of the area.

These archaeological remains were concentrated in the south-western part of the DA, with no remains identified in the northern or eastern parts of the DA.

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Appendix I – Trench and Context Summary

Trench Number:	1				
Length	50.00m	Width	1.80m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.35m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.45m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(1001)	Topsoil layer. Loose, dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional small stones and fragments of chalk. Some plough scars visible running north-south.				0.00-0.15m
(1002)	Subsoil layer. Compact, medium grey-brown brown silty sand with frequent small chalk fragments.				0.15-0.35m
(1003)	Natural geological layer – chalk.				0.35m+
[1004]	Cut of ditch, running east-west, parallel sides, medium slope. Only partially excavated as near end of trench.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	0.60m	0.35-0.85m
(1005)	Fill of ditch [1004], Compact, mid grey-brown silty clay.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	0.60m+	0.35-0.85m
[1006]	Cut of ditch, running east-west, parallel sides, shallow, gentle sloping sides to concave base.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	1.00m	0.35-0.55m
(1007)	Fill of ditch [1006]. Compact light grey-brown silty clay with frequent fragments of chalk.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	1.00m	0.35-0.55m
[1008]	Cut of ditch, running east-west, parallel sides, steeply sloping to flat base, one side truncated by recut [1011].		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	1.00m	0.35-0.75m
(1009)	Upper fill of ditch [1008] Compact, mid grey-brown sandy clay, with frequent small stones.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)+	1.00m	0.35-0.55m
(1010)	Lower fill of ditch [1008], Compact mid orange-brown sandy clay, with frequent small fragments of chalk.		1.00m+		


[1011]	Re-cut of ditch [1008]. Parallel sides, running east-west. Gently sloping sides to concave base.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	0.80m	0.35-0.65m
(1012)	Fill of recut [1011]. Compact, mid orange-brown sandy clay, with small-medium fragments of chalk.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	0.80m	0.35-0.65m
[1013]	Cut of quarry, vertical sides, not fully excavated but observed to be over 0.80m deep.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	3.00m	0.30-1.10m+
(1014)	Upper fill of quarry [1013], Compact, light red-brown clay sand. Frequent small-medium chalk fragments.		1.80m+ (segment 1.00m)	3.00m	0.30-0.50m
(1015)	Fill of quarry [1013]. Compact mid red-brown sandy clay, with chalk fragments.		1.00m+	3.00m	0.50-0.70m
(1016)	Fill of quarry [1013]. Compact dark red-brown sandy clay, with chalk fragments.		1.00m+	3.00m	0.70-0.90m+
(1017)	Fill of quarry [1013]. Compact dark red-brown sandy clay, with chalk fragments and frequent stones.		1.00m+	3.00m+	0.90-1.10m

Trench Number	2					
Length	50.00m		Width		1.80m	
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.35m		Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance		0.45m	
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)				
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth	
(2001)	Topsoil layer. Loose, dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional small stones and fragments of chalk.				0.00-0.15m	
(2002)	Subsoil layer. Compact, medium grey-brown brown silty sand with frequent small chalk fragments.				0.15-0.40m	
(2003)	Natural geological deposit – chalk				0.40m+	

Trench Number	3					
Length	50.00m	Width	1.80m			
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.35m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.45m			
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)				
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth	
(3001)	Topsoil layer. Loose, dark grey-brown silty clay, with occasional small stones and fragments of chalk.				0.00-0.20m	
(3002)	Subsoil layer. Compact, medium grey-brown brown silty sand with frequent small chalk fragments.				0.20-0.45m	
(3003)	Natural geological layer – chalk				0.45m+	
[3007]	Cut of ditch, parallel sides, running east-west, not excavated, continuation of ditch [1008].		1.80m+	1.50m	0.36m+-	
(3008)	Fill of ditch [3007]. Compact, mid grey-brown sandy clay, with occasional small stones and chalk fragments. Not excavated.		1.80m+	1.50m	0.36m+	

Trench Number	4					
Length	50.00m	Width	1.80m			
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0,35m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.50m			
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)				
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth	

(4001)	Topsoil layer. Loose dark brown silty sand.				0.00-0.20m
(4002)	Subsoil layer. Compact mid red-brown silty sand with occasional small stones.				0.20-0.45m
(4003)	Natural geological layer. Compact mid red brown sand.				0.45m+
(4004)	Interface layer between (14002) and (14003), containing moderate stone inclusions.				0.40-0.45m
(4005)	Natural geological layer – chalk.				1.10m+

Trench Number	5				
Length	50.00m	Width	1.80m		
Minimum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.35m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological significance	0.50m		
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Diameter	Length	Width	Depth
(5001)	Topsoil layer. Loose, mid grey-brown silty sand.				0.00-0.20m
(5002)	Subsoil layer, compact, mid red-brown silty sand.				0.20-0.35m
(5003)	Natural geological layer – mid red brown sand.				0.40m+
(5004)	Natural geological layer – chalk.				0.35.m+
(5005)	Interface layer between (5002) and (5004). Light red brown sand containing moderate amounts of small-medium stones.				0.35-0.40m
[5006]	Cut of ditch, parallel sides, running north-south. Medium slope to concave base. Because only partially visible at end of trench, this feature was machine-excavated in order to gain data on profile and depth .		1.80m+	3.20m+	1.10m
(5007)	Fill of ditch [5006]. Loose, dark red-brown sandy clay, with occasional small-medium stones. No finds and therefore undated, but overlaid and sealed by subsoil layer (5002).		1.80m*	3.20m+	1.10m
[5008]	Cut of linear feature or large pit. Near vertical sides to flattish base.		4.00m (1.00m segment)	1.00m+	0.50m
(5009)	Fill of linear feature of pit [5008]. Compact mid orange-brown silty, containing pottery		4.00m (1.00m segment)	1.00m+	0.50m

Appendix II – Photographic Register

Photo number	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
1	P1000173	S	Pre-ex shot of field, from NW corner
2	P1000174	SE	Pre-ex shot of field, from NW corner
3	P1000175	E	Pre-ex shot of field, from NW corner
4	P1000176	E	Tr 2, trench after machining
5	P1000177	W	Tr 2, trench after machining
6	P1000178	N	Tr 2, south-facing section
7	P1000179	E	Tr 4, west-facing section of slot through natural sand (4003) to chalk (4005)
8	P1000180	E	Tr 4, west-facing section of slot through natural sand (4003) to chalk (4005)
9	P1000181	W	Tr 5, trench after machining
10	P1000182	E	Tr 5, trench after machining
11	P1000183	N	Tr 5, south-facing section
12	P1000184	N	Tr 3, trench after machining
13	P1000185	S	Tr 3, trench after machining
14	P1000186	W	Tr 3, east-facing section
15	P1000187	N	Tr 4, trench after machining
16	P1000188	S	Tr 4, trench after machining
17	P1000189	S	Tr 1, southern part, three ditches [1004] [1006] [1008] / [1011]
18	P1000190	N	Tr 1, southern part, three ditches [1004] [1006] [1008] / [1011]
19	P1000191	E	Tr 1, ditch [1004], west-facing section
20	P1000192	S	Tr 1, ditch [1004], north-facing section
21	P1000193	E	Tr 1, ditch [1006], west-facing section
22	P1000194	E	Tr 1, ditch [1008] / [1011], west-facing section
23	P1000195	E	Tr 1, ditch [1008] / [1011], west-facing section
24	P1000196	S	Tr 1, ditch [1008] / [1011], north-facing section
25	P1000197	W	Tr 1, ditch [1008] / [1011], east-facing section
26	P1000198	N	Tr 1, working shot, excavation of quarry [1013]
27	P1000199	E	Tr 1, working shot, excavation of quarry [1013]
28	P1000200	N	Tr 1, working shot, excavation of quarry [1013]
29	P1000201	W	Tr 5, working shot, further machining, removal of (5005), uncovering of [5008]
30	P1000202	E	Tr 5, working shot, further machining, removal of (5005), uncovering of [5008]
31	P1000203	E	Tr 5, working shot, further machining, removal of (5005), uncovering of [5008]
32	P1000204	E	Tr 5, working shot, further machining, removal of (5005), uncovering of [5008]
33	P1000205	E	Tr 5, working shot, further machining, removal of (5005), uncovering of [5008]
34	P1000206	N	Tr 1, southern part, post-x
35	P1000207	S	Tr 5, north-facing section, ditch [5006]
36	P1000208	S	Tr 5, north-facing section, linear feature or pit [5008]
37	P1000209	S	Tr 5, north-facing section, linear feature or pit [5008]

38	P1000210	E	Tr 5, working shot, surveying
39	P1000211	E	Tr 5, linear feature or pit [5008], post-x
40	P1000212	W	Tr 5, linear feature or pit [5008], change from one type of natural to another
41	P1000213	W	Tr 5, linear feature or pit [5008], change from one type of natural to another
42	P1000214	N	Tr 1, quarry [1008]
43	P1000215	S	Tr 1, quarry [1008]
44	P1000216	E	Tr 1, west-facing section, quarry [1008]
45	P1000217	W	Tr 1, east-facing section, quarry [1008]
46	P1000218	W	Tr 5 backfilled
47	P1000219	S	Tr 4 backfilled
48	P1000220	S	Tr 3 backfilled
49	P1000221	E	Tr 2 backfilled
50	P1000222	N	Tr 1 backfilled

Appendix III – Finds Catalogue

ID	Trench	Context	Feature type	Cut number	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Notes	Conserv	Illustratio	Spot Date	Period	Box
1	1	1001	ploughsoil	1001	1	299	Iron	tool	curved blade with edge on exterior side, broken, one square-socketed end				Mod	Mod	
12	1	1001	ploughsoil	1001	6	220	CBM	roof tile	Plain flat roof tile; Th 11-13mm				14th-L16th	Medi-PM	
2	1	1009	ditch	1008	1	7	Iron	nail	Goodall type 1, complete, clawed shank						
4	1	1009	ditch	1008	1	32	Lithics	blade	thick blade, 62mm long, 25mm wide & 16mm thick, parallel lateral edges, dorsal blade				Meso/eNeol		

ID	Trench	Context	Feature type	Cut number	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Notes	Conserv	Illustratio	Spot Date	Period	Box
									scars, previous hinged removal, clear cone & point of percussion; very light cortication; heavily damaged, abraded negative ridges, chips to edges						
13	1	1009	ditch	1008	1	14	CBM	roof tile	Plain flat roof tile; Th 11mm				14th-L16th	Medi-PM	
14	1	1009	ditch	1008	1	8	CBM	brick/tile	Amorphous fired clay fragment – degraded brick or tile						
15	2	2001	ploughsoil	2001	7	212	CBM	roof tile	Plain flat roof tile; Th 11-13mm				14th-L16th	Medi-PM	
5	3	3001	ploughsoil	3001	2	56	Pottery (PM)	Glazed red earthenware	Jar rim; bowl body sherd				L16th-19th	PM-Mod	
16	3	3001	ploughsoil	3001	4	87	CBM	roof tile	Plain flat roof tile; Th 11-13mm				14th-L16th	Medi-PM	
17	4	4001	ploughsoil	4001	16	274	CBM	roof tile	Plain flat roof tile; Th 11-13mm				14th-L16th	Medi-PM	
3	5	5001	ploughsoil	5001	1	22	Iron	heel iron	broken in half				19th-20th	Mod	
18	5	5001	ploughsoil	5001	5	85	CBM	roof tile	Plain flat roof tile, one with partial peg hole; Th 11-12mm				14th-L16th	Medi-PM	
6	5	5009	linear/pit	5008	5	38	Pottery (Medi)	Sandy coarseware	Plain body sherds				12th-13th	Medi	
7	5	5009	linear/pit	5008	1	12	Pottery (Medi)	Micaceous sandy ware	Lightly combed body sherd				12th-13th	Medi	
8	5	5009	linear/pit	5008	2	11	Pottery (Medi)	Iron-rich sandy ware	1 vessel: plain body sherds				12th-13th	Medi	

ID	Trench	Context	Feature type	Cut number	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Notes	Conserv	Illustratio	Spot Date	Period	Box
9	5	5009	linear/pit	5008	2	21	Pottery (Medi)	Iron-rich sandy ware	1 vessel: base angle				12th-13th	Medi	
10	5	5009	linear/pit	5008	1	11	Pottery (Medi)	South Hertfordshire grey ware	Plain body sherd				m12th-14th	Medi	
11	5	5009	linear/pit	5008	4	62	Pottery (Medi)	Reduced ware	1 vessel + linear combing				14th-15th	Medi	

Appendix IV – Animal Bone Catalogue

Context	Hand collected	Deposit	Pres	NISP	MNI	Weight (g)										Comments
							Horse		Cattle		Large mammal indet	Sheep/goat		Medium mammal indet		
							Teeth	Bones	Teeth	Bones	Bones	Teeth	Bones	Bones		
1007	Y	Fill of ditch [1006]	Poor	1	1	6.8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Horse MC2 fragment
1009	Y	Fill of ditch [1008]	Moderate	1	1	19.5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Indet bone fragments
1014	Y	Fill of quarry [1013]	Poor	1	1	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Rib fragment
5001	Y	Topsoil	Moderate	1	1	20	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Cow-scapula fragment
5009	Y	Fill of pit [5008]	Good	3	2	21.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	Sheep mandible fragment. Indet longbone fragments

Appendix V – HER Summary

Site name and address: Land off Town Farm Crescent, Standon, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District:	
Village/Town: Standon	Parish: Standon	
Planning application reference: 3/19/0408/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Archaeology Collective		
Nature of application: Archaeological Evaluation		
Present land use: Arable Cultivation		
Size of application area: 0.9ha	Size of area investigated: Five 50m x 1.8m trenches	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 39796 22643		
Site code (if applicable): TCFS19		
Site director/Organization: Matt Edgeworth		
Type of work: Archaeological investigation		
Date of work:	Start: 13/05/19	Finish: 15/05/19
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Hertford Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Mesolithic, Neolithic, Medieval, Modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports		

WSI: Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Town Farm Crescent, Standon, Hertfordshire – Written Scheme of Investigation	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Archaeological evidence was found in 3 of the 5 trenches, generally focused in the western and southern parts of the site. This comprised several ditches, a quarry, and a linear feature or large pit containing medieval pottery.</p> <p>The finds assemblage numbered 17 sherds (211g) of pottery, 40 sherds (900g) of ceramic building material, three iron finds and one lithic. These were found in seven features across five separate trenches. The Mesolithic/early Neolithic, medieval and modern periods are represented.</p>	
Author of summary: Emmet Fennelly	Date of summary: 28/06/19

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION

ILLUS 2 TRENCH AND FEATURE LOCATIONS

ILLUS 3 TRENCH 1, THREE PARALLEL DITCHES: [1004], [1006] AND [1008]

ILLUS 4 TRENCH 1, WEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [1004]

ILLUS 5 TRENCH 1, WEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [1006]

ILLUS 6 TRENCH 1, WEST FACING SECTION DRAWING OF DITCH [1008] WITH RECUT [1011]

ILLUS 7 TRENCH 1, WEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [1008] WITH RECUT [1011]

ILLUS 8 TRENCH 1, EAST FACING SECTION, QUARRY [1013]. NOTE VERTICAL EDGE ON NORTHERN SIDE.

ILLUS 9 TRENCH 3, LOOKING SOUTH, WITH DITCH [3007] VISIBLE

ILLUS 10 TRENCH 3, WEST FACING REPRESENTATIVE SECTION

ILLUS 11 TRENCH 4, WEST FACING SECTION OF SEGMENT CUT THROUGH ORANGE SANDY CLAY NATURAL DOWN TO CHALK

ILLUS 12 TRENCH 5, WRAP-AROUND SECTION OF LINEAR FEATURE OR PIT [5008]

ILLUS 13 TRENCH 5, NORTH FACING SECTION, LINEAR FEATURE OR PIT [5008]

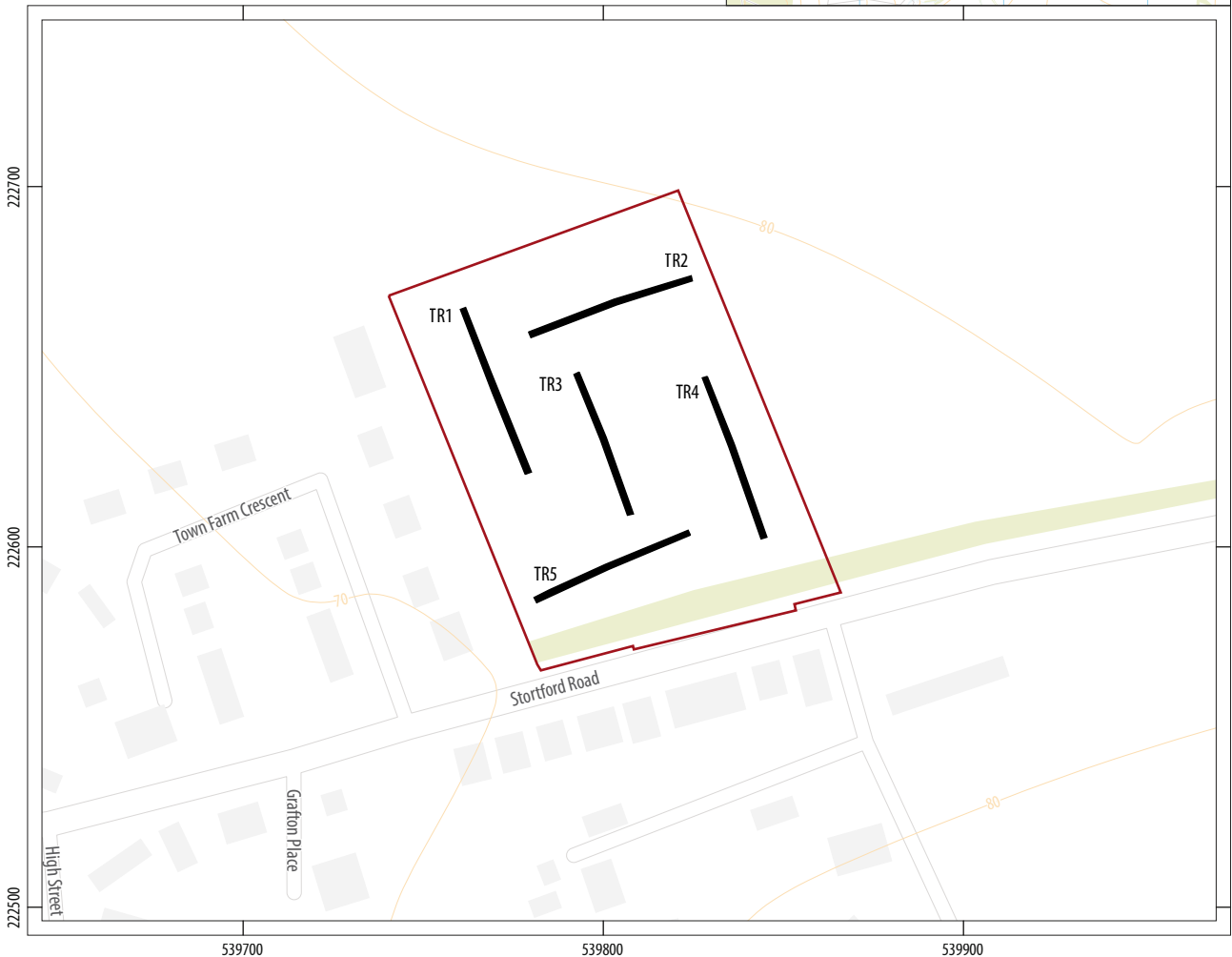
ILLUS 14 TRENCH 5, NORTH FACING SECTION, DITCH [5006]

ILLUS 15 TRENCH 5, NORTH FACING SECTION DRAWING OF DITCH [5006]

Town Farm Crescent
Standon
Hertfordshire



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

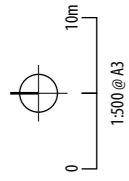
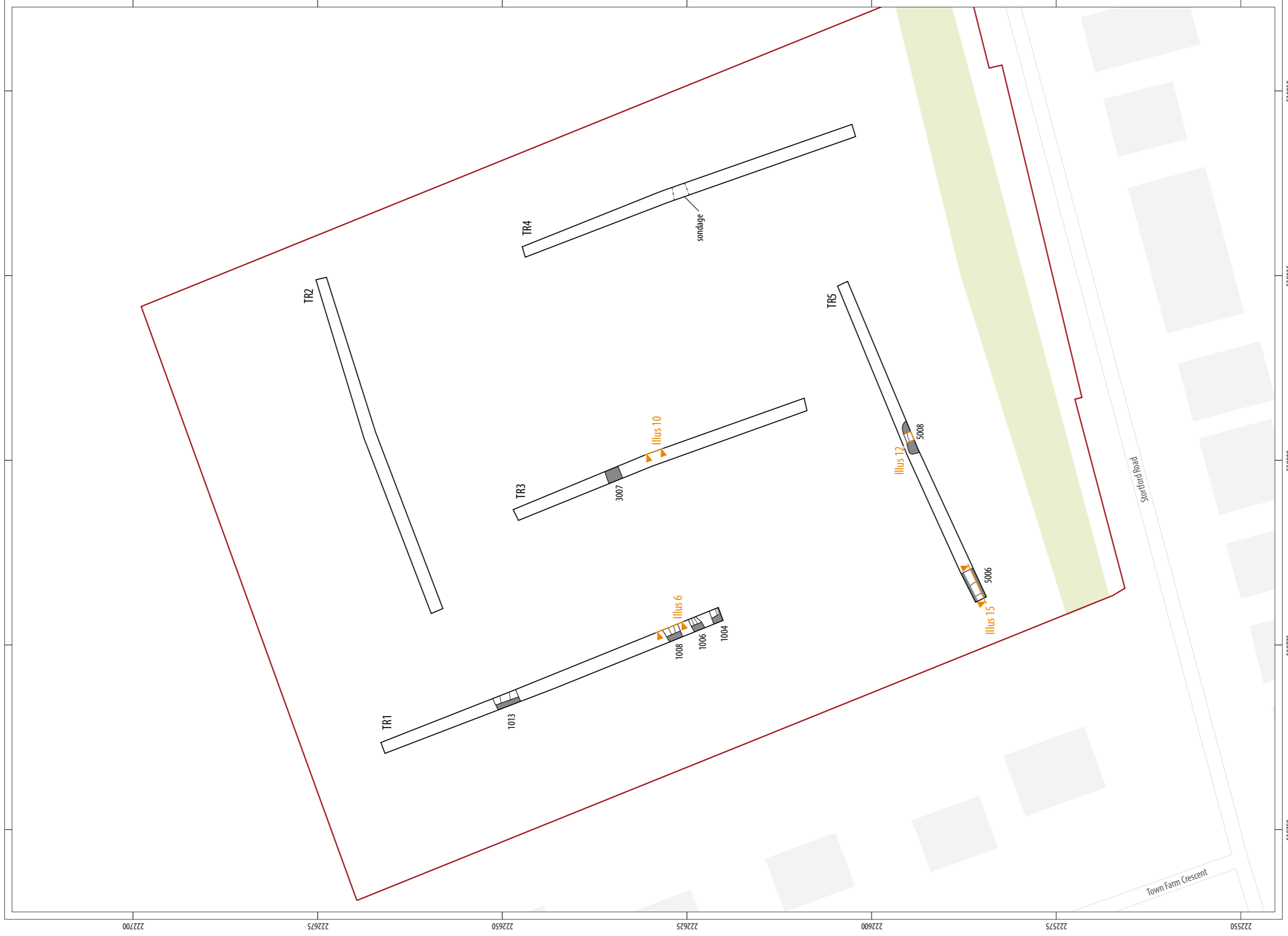


0 40m
1:2,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location



Headland Archaeology South & East
Building 68C | West Park | Silsoe | Bedfordshire MK45 4HS
t 01525 861 578
e southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com
w www.headlandarchaeology.com

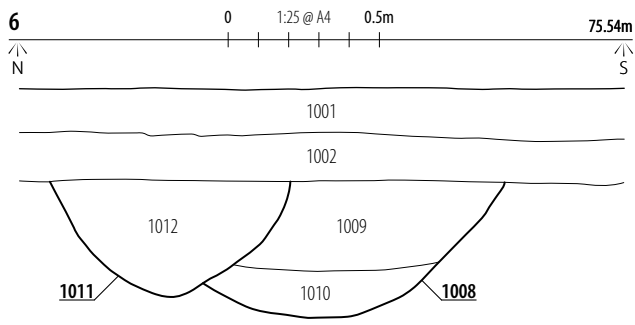


- development boundary
- trench location
- unexcavated/excavated archaeological feature

ILLUS 2 Trench and feature locations



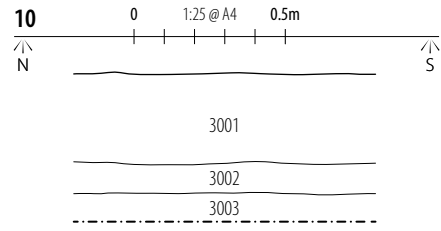
ILLUS 3 Trench 1, three parallel ditches: [1004], [1006] and [1008] **ILLUS 4** Trench 1, west facing section of ditch [1004] **ILLUS 5** Trench 1, west facing section of ditch [1006]



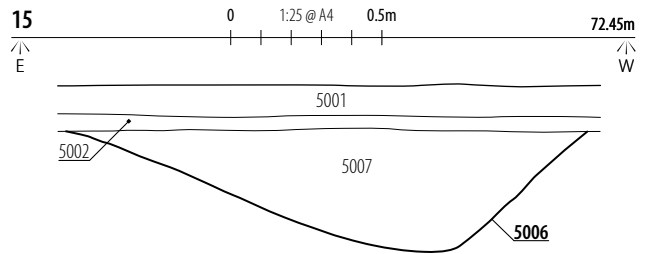
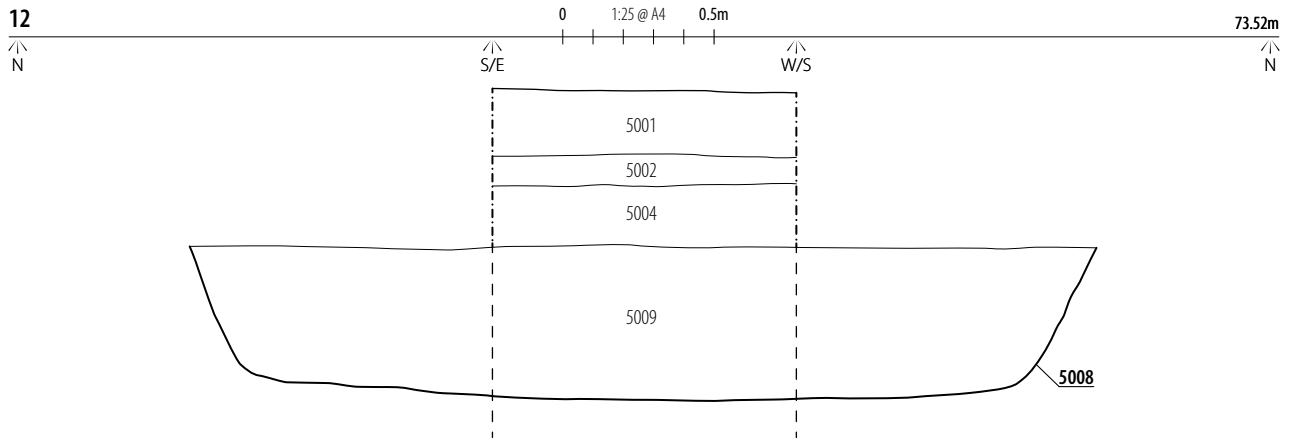
ILLUS 6 Trench 1, west facing section drawing of ditch [1008] with recut [1011]

ILLUS 7 Trench 1, west facing section of ditch [1008] with recut [1011]

ILLUS 8 Trench 1, east facing section, quarry [1013]. Note vertical edge on northern side.



ILLUS 9 Trench 3, looking south, with ditch [3007] visible **ILLUS 10** Trench 3, west facing representative section **ILLUS 11** Trench 4, west facing section of segment cut through orange sandy clay natural down to chalk



ILLUS 12 Trench 5, wrap-around section of linear feature or pit [5008] **ILLUS 13** Trench 5, north facing section, linear feature or pit [5008] **ILLUS 14** Trench 5, north facing section, ditch [5006] **ILLUS 15** Trench 5, north facing section drawing of ditch [5006]