

OVGL19



LAND EAST OF THE A417, MAIN ROAD, OVERTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. 18/01162/FUL

commissioned by GM Smith and Son

February 2019

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **OVGL19** / NGR **SO 8063 2219** / Parish **Maisemore** / Local Authority **Tewkesbury Borough Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland5-342091** / ArchiveRepository **Tewkesbury Museum**

PROJECT TEAM:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by GM Smith and son to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, prior to the determination of planning permission for the creation of a poultry unit and associated infrastructure, on land adjacent to the A417. The trial trenching comprised the second stage of the evaluation programme following on from a geophysical survey also carried out by Headland. Six trial trenches were excavated within which several modern field drains and plough scars, likely dating to the post-medieval period, were present. All of the trenches were devoid of archaeological features, confirming the results of the geophysical survey.

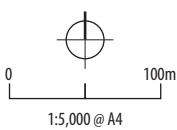
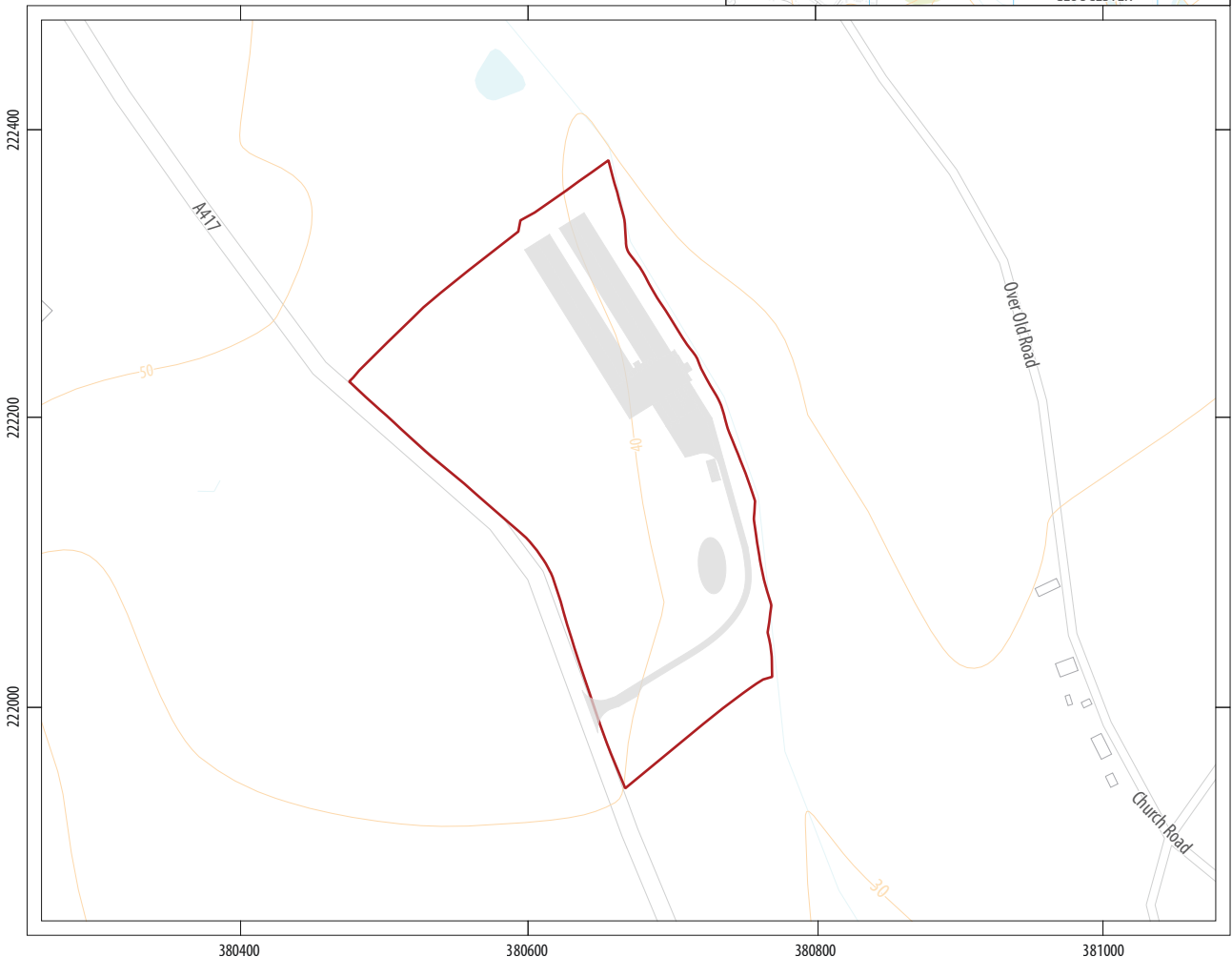
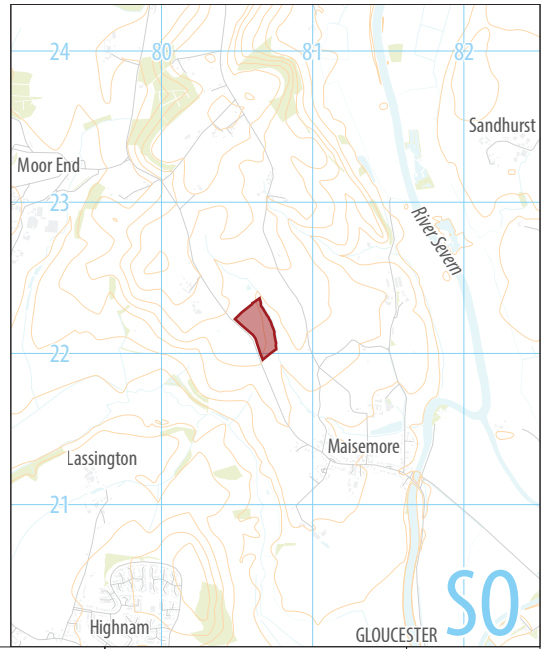
CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
1.2	SITE DESCRIPTION (LOCATION AND GEOLOGY)	1
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
2	OBJECTIVES	1
3	METHODOLOGY	3
3.1	EXCAVATION	3
3.2	RECORDING	3
4	RESULTS	4
4.1	INTRODUCTION	4
4.2	GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY	4
4.3	TRENCHES WITH NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES	5
5	CONCLUSION	5
6	REFERENCES	5
7	APPENDICES	6
	APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS	6

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION	VIII
ILLUS 2 SITE PLAN	2
ILLUS 3 TRENCH 1, LOOKING NORTH	3
ILLUS 4 TRENCH 6, LOOKING NORTH	4

Land east of the A417
Main Road
Overton
Gloucestershire



□ application area
■ proposed development footprint



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by GM Smith and Son ('the client') to carry out a programme of trial trenching on land east of the A417, Main Road, Overton, Gloucestershire (Illus 1), to inform a planning application (Ref 18/01162/FUL) for poultry units and associated infrastructure. The trial trench evaluation was required to provide information with regard to the presence or absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the Development Area (DA).

The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Harrison 2019a), which was submitted to and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to Gloucestershire County Council (AAGCC). The trial trench evaluation was carried out in accordance with the WSI and conforms to industry best practice (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c). The evaluation was carried out between the 23rd and 25th of January 2019 in dry and cloudy conditions.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION (LOCATION AND GEOLOGY)

The DA comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of land located within the north-east of an arable field 750m north-west of Maisemore and 330m south-east of Overton Farm, centred on SO 8063 2219. It is sited on the east-facing slope of a low ridge which extends north from Maisemore at 38m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The bedrock geology comprises interbedded mudstone and limestone of the Rugby Limestone Member. No superficial deposits are recorded (NERC 2019).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A Heritage Statement (ACD Environmental 2018) has confirmed the presence of Roman activity in the Overton area and the wider landscape is known to contain extensive archaeological remains relating to prehistoric and Roman activity and settlement.

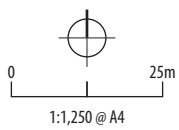
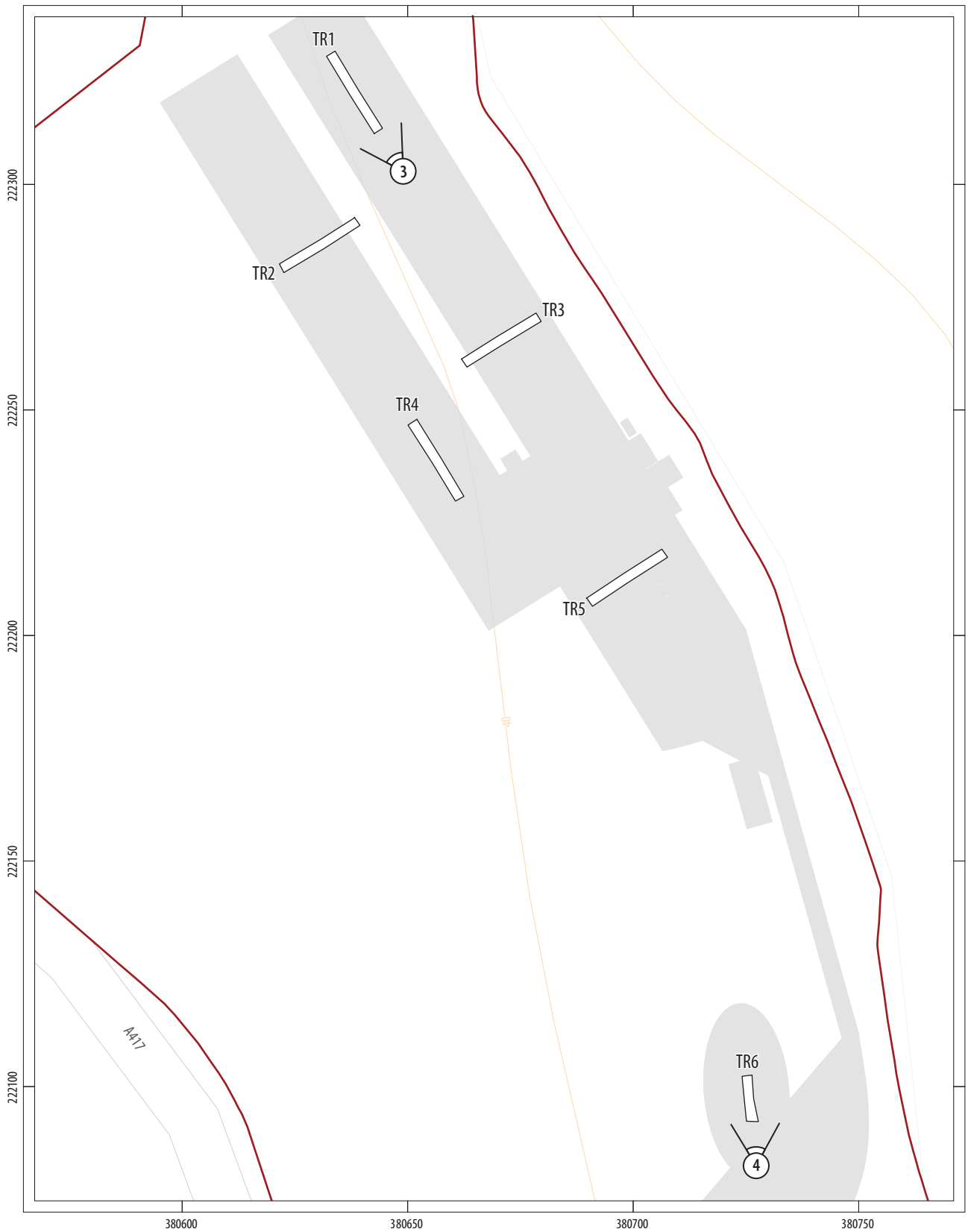
A geophysical magnetometer survey of the Application Area (Harrison 2019b) did not identify any anomalies of archaeological potential. On this basis, the archaeological potential of the site is assessed as very low.





2 OBJECTIVES

The scale and approach of the trial trench evaluation were designed to clarify the effects of the consented development on any unknown heritage assets by establishing the presence/absence, extent, character and significance of any archaeological remains. This would help inform the local authority of any potential impact caused by the development on the archaeological remains, determine areas of particular significance and help target specific areas of high archaeological interest either by preservation in situ or preservation by record as appropriate.

The objective was to be achieved by the excavation of six trenches comprising a 2.2% (220m²) sample of the proposed development footprint. The aim was to investigate apparently 'blank' areas in the absence of any anomalies of archaeological potential and to over an even sample of the proposed development footprint. The position and extent of the trenches were regulated based upon the results of the geophysical survey.

The archaeological investigations were undertaken to:



-  application area
-  proposed development footprint
-  trial trench location
-  photo location

ILLUS 2 Site plan



ILLUS 3 Trench 1, looking north

- › investigate any as yet unknown archaeological evidence, features and deposits, within the evaluation trenches and establish their location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, quality and state of preservation of the potential archaeological remains;
- › assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- › inform the formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains; and
- › produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for access to the HER.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be prepared in accordance with the Gloucestershire Archaeological Archive Standards (Gloucestershire Museums 2017) and organised and deposited with the local museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHODOLOGY

Six trenches were excavated (five measuring 20m x 2m and one measuring 10m x 2m). All trenches were set out in accordance with the agreed trench layout plan in the WSI.

3.1 EXCAVATION

The trenches were set out using a Trimble GNSS device in order that they could be relocated in relation to existing features and located within the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All trenches were excavated in spits to the archaeological horizon or natural deposits (whichever was reached first) by a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavator operated under archaeological supervision at all times. All subsequent excavation was carried out by hand. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to aid with the process of backfilling. All trenches were sterile of archaeological features and backfilled as soon as practically possible and following consultation with the AAGCC.

Archaeological investigation was carried out over the full area of each trench after cleaning to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits. No features of archaeological interest were present in any of the trenches.

Trowels, mattocks and shovels were used to clean collapsed soil from each trench bottom and for hand excavation and testing of possible features.

3.2 RECORDING

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014c) and was in line with the



ILLUS 4 Trench 6, looking north

approved WSI (Harrison 2019). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number and all recording was undertaken on proforma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards.

A plan of the trenches and levels across the entire site was recorded digitally using a Trimble GNSS device. No scaled sections of features were hand drawn on permatrace due to absence of archaeological features.

A written description of each trench was recorded on standard Headland Archaeology proforma sheets using an appropriate context recording system.

A full photographic record was taken using a digital camera. An appropriately sized metric scale was clearly visible within all record photographs apart from general working or post excavation shots.

below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects adherence to the ClfA guidance on report production, which states that ‘descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements’ (ClfA 2014c, 14). Drawing upon the same document it is imperative to create a narrative which uses the evidence gathered to assign significance to heritage assets (remains) encountered:

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 2014c, 14)

4 RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions are presented in Appendix 1 and a full photographic register is presented in Appendix 2. Contexts are identified numerically by trench; ie Trench 1 (00101), Trench 2 (00201). Cuts are indicated by squared brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised

4.2 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

Appendix 1 outlines in greater detail the stratigraphy of each trench. The majority of the trenches featured a similar stratigraphy comprising a greyish brown silty clay topsoil with rare rooting, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small CBM fragments and small rounded stones. This was excavated to a depth below ground level (BGL) of between 0.28m (Trench 4) to 0.38m (Trench 3). The natural deposits (Illus 3 and 4) comprised of a mid-orange red brown silty clay with frequent small to medium well-rounded pebble inclusions and several plough scars were clearly visible. This was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.47m BGL in Trench 6.

Trench 6 also contained a glacial deposit uncovered by a sondage excavated in the southern end of the trench to test the natural deposits. It consisted of a mid-grey yellow clay with degraded limestone fragments and was excavated to a depth of 0.59m BGL.

4.3 TRENCHES WITH NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

No archaeological features or deposits were present in any of the trenches.

Trench 1, Trench 2 and Trench 4 contained modern field drains in a variety of orientations which broadly corresponded with linear trends identified by the geophysical survey (Harrison 2019b) Possible plough scars were recorded in all trenches.

5 CONCLUSION

The trial trenching evaluation confirmed the presence of field drains and scars in the sub-soil and natural deposits resulting from post-medieval ploughing. No archaeological features or deposits were present in any of the trenches confirming the results of the geophysical survey. Overall it is concluded that the archaeological potential of the DA is low. No further archaeological work is anticipated.

6 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 6th February 2019

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIFAS&GArchives_2.pdf accessed 6th February 2019

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014c *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GEvaluation_1.pdf accessed 6th February 2019

Gloucestershire Museums 2017 *Gloucestershire Archaeological Archive Standards: A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Gloucestershire* <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Gloucestershire%20Archaeological%20Archive%20Standards%20Version%201a%20January%202017.pdf> accessed 6th February 2019

Harrison D 2019a *Land east of the A147, Main Road, Overton, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching* [unpublished client report] Ref OVGL19

Harrison D 2019b *Land east of the A147, Main Road, Overton, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Survey* [unpublished client report] Ref MROG19

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2019 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 6th February 2019

Old Maps 2019 *OS County Series Gloucestershire* <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/> accessed 6th February 2019

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench and context register

* DBGL = Depth Below Ground Level

TR01				
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
20	2.3	0.25	0.35	NW-SE

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
00101	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay, firm and friable. Light and rooting, occasional small CBM inclusions, occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small sub angular stones.	0-0.35
00102	Natural: Mid orange red brown silty clay with occasional patches of a yellow grey gravel of mudstone and degraded limestone. Frequent small to medium sub angular stones.	0.35+

SUMMARY
No archaeological features were present. Two land drains orientated north west to south east were found.

TR02				
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
20	2.3	0.3	0.33	NE-SW

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
00201	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay, firm and friable. Light and rooting, occasional small CBM inclusions, occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small sub angular stones.	0-0.33
00202	Natural: Mid orange red brown silty clay with occasional patches of a yellow grey gravel of mudstone and degraded limestone. Frequent small to medium sub angular stones.	0.33+

SUMMARY
No archaeological features were present. One land drain orientated north west to south east was found.

TR03				
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
20	2.3	0.35	0.38	NE-SW

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
00301	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay, firm and friable. Light and rooting, occasional small CBM inclusions, occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small sub angular stones.	0-0.38
00302	Natural: Mid orange red brown silty clay with occasional patches of a yellow grey gravel of mudstone and degraded limestone. Frequent small to medium sub angular stones.	0.38+

SUMMARY

No archaeological features were present.

TR04				
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
20	2.3	0.25	0.28	NW-SE

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
00401	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay, firm and friable. Light and rooting, occasional small CBM inclusions, occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small sub angular stones.	0-0.28
00402	Natural: Mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional patches of a yellow grey gravel of mudstone and degraded limestone. Frequent small to medium sub angular stones.	0.28+

SUMMARY

No archaeological features were present. One land drain orientated north west to south east was found.

TR05				
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
20	2.3	0.3	0.33	NE-SW

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
00501	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay, firm and friable. Light and rooting, occasional small CBM inclusions, occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small sub angular stones.	0-0.29
00502	Natural: Mid orange red brown silty clay with occasional patches of a yellow grey gravel of mudstone and degraded limestone. Frequent small to medium sub angular stones.	0.29-0.33+

SUMMARY

No archaeological features were present.

TR06				
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
10	2.3	0.29	0.59	N-S

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
00601	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay, firm and friable. Light and rooting, occasional small CBM inclusions, occasional small charcoal flecks and frequent small sub angular stones.	0-0.32
00602	Natural: Mid orange red brown silty clay with occasional patches of a yellow grey gravel of mudstone and degraded limestone. Frequent small to medium sub angular stones.	0.32-0.47
00603	Glacial Clay: Mid grey yellow clay. Very firm and compact. Frequent small to large degraded limestone fragments. Found only in the sondage at the south of the trench.	0.47-0.59+

SUMMARY

No archaeological features were present. A sondage was excavated in the southern end of the trench to test the natural deposits.

Appendix 1.2 *Photographic register*

PHOTO	CAMERA	B/W	DIGITAL	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
01	Camera 200	N/A	100-0001	N/A	General shot of site access for 360 excavator.
02	Camera 200	N/A	100-0002	N/A	General shot of A417
03	Camera 200	N/A	100-0003	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
04	Camera 200	N/A	100-0004	N/A	General shot of A417
05	Camera 200	N/A	100-0005	N/A	General shot of site fencing.
06	Camera 200	N/A	100-0006	N/A	General shot of 360 excavator.
07	Camera 200	N/A	100-0007	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
08	Camera 200	N/A	100-0008	N/A	General shot of 360 excavator.
09	Camera 200	N/A	100-0009	N/A	General shot of 360 excavator.
10	Camera 200	N/A	100-0010	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
11	Camera 200	N/A	100-0011	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
12	Camera 200	N/A	100-0012	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
13	Camera 200	N/A	100-0013	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
14	Camera 200	N/A	100-0014	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
15	Camera 200	N/A	100-0015	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
16	Camera 200	N/A	100-0016	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
17	Camera 200	N/A	100-0017	N/A	Pre-excavation shot of site.
18	Camera 200	N/A	100-0018	SE	General shot of Trench 1.
19	Camera 200	N/A	100-0019	NW	General shot of Trench 1.
20	Camera 200	N/A	100-0020	NE	General shot of sondage through geological layer in Trench 1.
21	Camera 200	N/A	100-0021	NE	General shot of sondage through geological layer in Trench 1.
22	Camera 200	N/A	100-0022	NE	SW facing 1m rep section of Trench 1.
23	Camera 200	N/A	100-0023	SW	General shot of Trench 2.
24	Camera 200	N/A	100-0024	NE	General shot of Trench 2.
25	Camera 200	N/A	100-0025	SE	NW facing 1m rep section of Trench 2.
26	Camera 200	N/A	100-0026	N/A	General shot of NW access to site.
27	Camera 200	N/A	100-0027	N/A	General shot of NW access to site.
28	Camera 200	N/A	100-0028	NE	General shot of Trench 3.
29	Camera 200	N/A	100-0029	SW	General shot of Trench 3.
30	Camera 200	N/A	100-0030	SE	NW facing 1m rep section of Trench 3.
31	Camera 200	N/A	100-0031	SE	General shot of Trench 4.
32	Camera 200	N/A	100-0032	NW	General shot of Trench 4.
33	Camera 200	N/A	100-0033	SW	NE facing 1m rep section of Trench 4.
34	Camera 200	N/A	100-0034	NE	General shot of Trench 5.
35	Camera 200	N/A	100-0035	SW	General shot of Trench 5.
36	Camera 200	N/A	100-0036	SE	NW facing 1m rep section of Trench 5.
37	Camera 200	N/A	100-0037	S	General shot of Trench 6.
38	Camera 200	N/A	100-0038	N	General shot of Trench 6.
39	Camera 200	N/A	100-0039	W	E facing 1m rep section of Trench 6.
40	Camera 200	N/A	100-0040	N/A	Trench 1 and 2 backfilled.
41	Camera 200	N/A	100-0041	N/A	Trench 1 backfilled.
42	Camera 200	N/A	100-0042	N/A	Trench 2 backfilled.
43	Camera 200	N/A	100-0043	N/A	Trench 3 backfilled.
44	Camera 200	N/A	100-0044	N/A	Trench 4 backfilled.
45	Camera 200	N/A	100-0045	N/A	Trench 5 backfilled.
46	Camera 200	N/A	100-0046	N/A	Trench 6 backfilled.



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