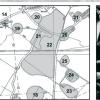
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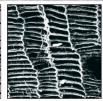














LAND AT ELMS FARM, WATLING STREET, HINKLEY, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. R18/03090

commissioned by A H Oliver and Son

June 2019





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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code EFHW19 / NGR SP 4137 9186 / Parish Stretton Baskerville / Local Authority Warwickshire County Council / OASIS Ref. headland5-353673 / Archive Repository The Warwickshire Museum

Hanison

PROJECT TEAM:

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Approved by David Harrison

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w www.headlandarchaeology.com









PROJECT SUMMARY

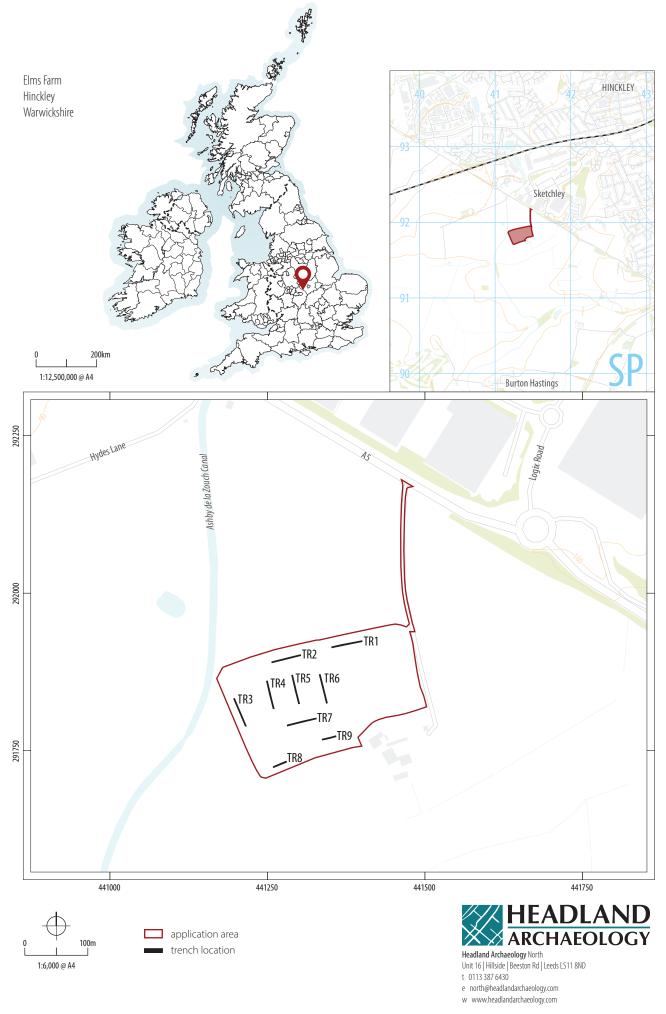
Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching on land at Elms Farm, Watling Street, Hinckley, prior to the determination of a planning application for the construction of four poultry sheds and associated infrastructure. The trial trench evaluation involved the excavation of nine trenches all of which were devoid of archaeological features. Therefore, on the basis of the evaluation, the archaeological potential of the proposed development is assessed as low.

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LAND AT ELMS FARM, WATLING STREET, HINKLEY, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by A H Oliver and Son (the client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching on land at Elms Farm, Watling Street, Hinckley, Warwickshire (Illus 1), prior to the determination of planning permission (R18/0390) for the construction of four poultry units and associated infrastructure. The works consisted of the excavation of seven trial trenches measuring 50m x 2m and two trial trenches measuring 25m x 2m (Illus 2).

Work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Harrison 2019) which was submitted to and approved by the Planning Archaeologist at Warwickshire County Council, John Robinson, and conforms with current industry best practices and the National Planning Policy Framework (ClfA 2014 a, b and 2016; and MHCLG 2018)

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION (LOCATION AND GEOLOGY)

The Application Area (AA) is located within a single sub-rectangular arable field, immediately north of Elms Farm centred at NGR SP 4137 9186, on the southern periphery of Hinckley, Leicestershire (Illus 1). The site is bounded by hedged field boundaries on all sides with the Ashby da la Zouch Canal passing the north-western corner of the site and Watling Street Roman Road 400m to the north.

The site is flat at between 91m and 95m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The bedrock geology of the site consists of Mercian Mudstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago during the Triassic period. Superficial deposits consist of Bosworth Clay Member – Clay and silt which formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (NERC 2019).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The AA lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, approximately 400 metres to the south of the line of the A5 Watling Street Roman Road (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA420) and approximately 650m to the west of the site of two possible ring ditches of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (MWA2761). Two further possible ring ditches visible as cropmarks are located approximately 550m to the south west of the proposed development. The Deserted medieval village of Stretton Baskerville (MWA2762 and National Heritage List for England No. 1005732) settlement which is a scheduled monument is located approximately 620m to the south east of the proposed development.

There is the potential for the proposed groundworks to disturb archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the investigation is to identify and assess the significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by the relevant proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset). This was to be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The regional research context is provided by The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research (Watt (ed.) 2011).

The archaeological investigations were carried out in order to:

- assess extent, layout, structure and date of features and deposits of archaeological interest
- place, where possible, the identified features within their local and regional context

The site archive (photographs, drawings, context sheets, notes etc) will be organised and deposited with The Warwickshire Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit. An online OASIS form has been completed, reference no: headland5-353673, and is included in the report appendices.

3 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological trial trenching excavations took place between the 1st and 3rd of April 2019. The location of the trial trenches was decided upon after consultation with the Planning Archaeologist and were positioned to target all areas where invasive groundworks are proposed (Illus 2). Trench 3 and Trench 8 were positioned to target tree screening areas. Trench 1 was relocated in order to avoid an overhead cable and provided sufficient safe stand-off distance.

3.1 EXCAVATION

All trenches were set out using a differential GPS in accordance with the location plan agreed with the Planning Archaeologist. A cable avoidance tool (CAT Scanner) was used to scan trenches in advance of opening in order to scan for and identify the location of any buried services.

Excavation of the trial trenches was conducted by a 360° tracked excavator, equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up in a series of controlled spits. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Any further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.

3.2 RECORDING

The location of each trial trench was surveyed by a Trimble dGPS in order that these (and all archaeological features and deposits within them) can both be relocated in relation to existing landscape features and within the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

Archaeological features were photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, identifying individual contexts and the underlying natural deposits. A written description of features/deposits for each trial trench was recorded on pro-forma record sheets using an appropriate context recording system.

Digital photography was used for general photographic purposes, However, for archive purposes the photographic record of the site was taken using monochrome prints at a minimum format of 35mm. All such photographs included a graduated metric scale and a register of all photographs taken was kept.

4 RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

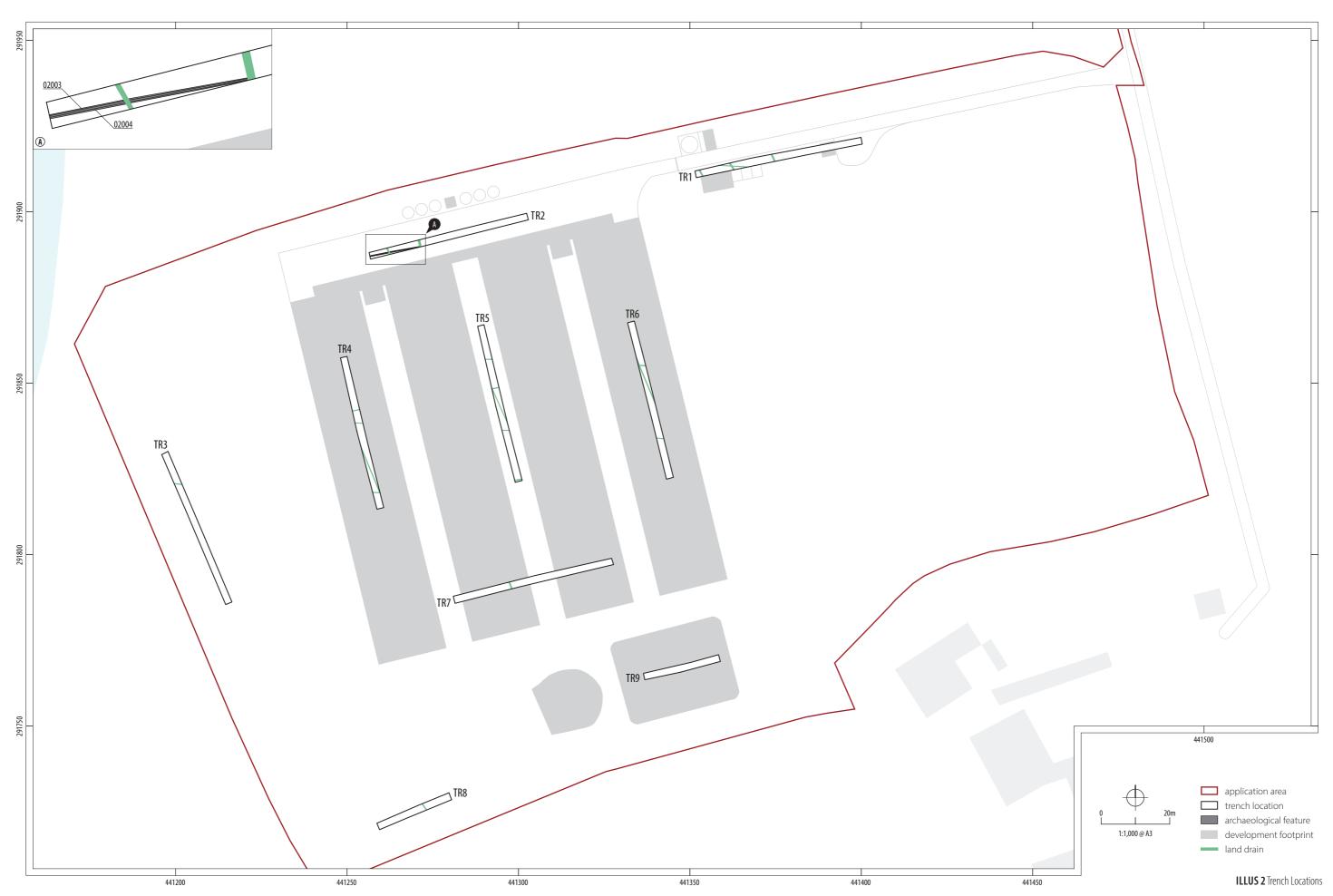
Nine trenches (Illus 3–5) were excavated and recorded measuring between 25m x 2m (Trenches 8 and 9) and 50m x 2m (Trenches 1–7) and varying in depth from 0.55m (Trenches 2 and 3) to 0.8m below ground level (bgl) (Trench 5). The stratigraphy was consistent throughout all nine trenches, although Trench 2 did not contain a subsoil deposit. The location of the trial trenches is shown on Illus 2.

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in Appendix 1.1. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (ie Trench 1: (01001), Trench 2: (02001)) with cuts indicated by squared 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 completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects adherence to the CIfA guidance on report production, which states that 'descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements' (CIfA 2014b, 14, Section 5). 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 a nd preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (CIFA 2014b, 14, Section 5)

4.2 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The topsoil in all nine trenches consisted of a dark brownish-grey sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones and frequent rooting. It varied in depth from 0.32m bgl (Trenches 3 and 6) to 0.44m bgl (Trench 7). Subsoil was found in all trenches except Trench 2 and consisted of a mid-brown yellow sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones and fine rooting, and measured between 0.19m (Trench 5) and 0.36m (Trench 9) in thickness. The natural deposits consisted of a mid-brown orange clay with rare small rounded and stones and rare very fine rooting. This was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m bgl (Trench 5).





ILLUS 3 General post excavation shot of Trench 5 facing north-west

Trenches containing red brick drains

Trench 2 contained a red brick field drain [02004] (Illus 6) which was initially investigated as it was thought to be a possible wall. The drain was contained in cut [02003], which was aligned east to west, extending outside the trench and measuring 14.7m in length, 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base. The drain [02004] consisted of a series of red bricks which measured 0.24m x 0.12m x 0.07m and featured a 'half-moon' shape in its base which formed a circular shape when paired with a second brick. No stamp or frog was visible, and the bonding agent appeared to be the same as the fill deposit (02005). The cut was filled with (02005) a plastic mid-grey sandy clay with occasional very small stone inclusions. The drain was truncated by two later field drains which were construction from sandstone rubble. Trenches 4 and 5 also contained similar red brick drains.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation revealed no evidence of archaeological activity in any of the trenches investigated. Field drains observed in all nine trenches attest to land management and an attempt to drain a clay site likely prone to waterlogging.

In the absence of any archaeological remains it is assessed that the proposed development will not impact on any known or unknown heritage assets. No further archaeological work is anticipated.

6 REFERENCES

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Trenching [unpublished client report] Headland Ref: E19-107

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 2018 National Planning Policy Framework https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf accessed 4th April 2019

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2019 *British Geological Survey* http://www.bgs.ac.uk/ accessed 4th April 2019



7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench and context register

* DBGL = Depth Below Ground Level

	TR 1	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D	MAX. D (M)
					(IVI)	
		E-W	50.00	2.02	0.57	0.78
	CONTEXT				*D BGL (M)	
	(01001)				0-0.34	
	(01002) Subsoil: Mid brownish yellow sandy clay. Moderate small rounded stones. Occasional roots. (01003) Natural: Mid orangish brown clay. Occasional small rounded stones. Occasional roots.			0.34-0.55		
					0.55+ (NFE)	

SUMMARY: THREE ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAINS RUNNING N-S ACROSS THE WIDTH OF THE TRENCH, THE CENTRE DRAIN CUTTING THE TOP OF A LAND DRAIN BURIED IN GRAVEL RUNNING NW-SE.

TR 2	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	E-W	50.00	2.02	0.48	0.55
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION				*D BGL (M)
(02001)	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey sandy clay. Frequent roots. Moderate small rounded stones.				0-0.36
(02002)	Natural: Mid yellowish brown clay. Moderate plough scars. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots.				0.36 - 0.53+ (NFE)
[02003]	Cut for possible red brick drain.				_
[02004]	Possible red brick drain.				=
(02005)	Fill of [02003].			-	

SUMMARY: SINGLE COURSE ROW OF BRICKS RUNNING E-W ATTHE WEST END OF THE TRENCH – FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALED THIS TO BE A FORM OF SQUARED LAND DRAIN. CROSSES A ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAIN RUNNING N-S ATTHE WEST END OF THE TRENCH.

TR3	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	N-S	50.00	2.02	0.43	0.55
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION				*D BGL (M)

(03001) Topsoil: Dark brownish grey sandy clay. 0–0.32 Frequent roots. Moderate small rounded stones. Occasional small CBM flecks.

(03002)	Subsoil: Mid brownish yellow sandy clay. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots.	0.32-0.52
(03003)	Natural: Mix of mid brownish orange sandy clay & mid grey clay. Patches of greyish white sand. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots. Occasional plough scars.	0.52+ (NFE)

SUMMARY: POSSIBLE BURIED LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W TOWARDS THE NORTHERN END OF THE TRENCH.

TR4	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	N-S	50.00	2.02	0.60	0.74
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION				*D BGL (M)
(04001)	roots. Moderate small to medium sized rounded stones.				0-0.40
(04002)					0.40-0.71
(04003)	04003) Natural: Mix of mid brownish orange sandy clay & mid grey clay. Patches of light greyish white sand. Occasional small to medium rounded stones. Occasional roots.			0.71+ (NFE)	

SUMMARY: FOUR, POSSIBLY FIVE LAND DRAINS. FROM NORTH TO SOUTH: SQUARED SECTION BRICK LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W; GRAVEL BURIED LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W; POSSIBLE SOIL BURIED LAND DRAIN RUNNING NW-SE; SANDSTONE LAND DRAIN RUNNING ROUGHLY N-S; GRAVEL BURIED LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W.

TR 5	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	N-S	50.00	2.02	0.48	0.80
CONTEXT	CONTEXT DESCRIPTION (05001) Topsoil: Dark brownish grey sandy clay. Frequent roots. Moderate small rounded stones. (05002) Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Occasional small rounded stones. Occasional roots.				*D BGL (M)
(05001)					0-0.52
(05002)					0.52-0.71
(05003) Natural: Mix of mid brownish orange sandy clay & mid grey clay. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots.			0.71+ (NFE)		

SUMMARY: FIVE LAND DRAINS. FROM NORTH TO SOUTH: GRAVEL BURIED LAND DRAIN RUNNING ROUGHLY E-W; SQUARED SECTION BRICK LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W; ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAIN RUNNING NW-SE; GRAVEL BURIED LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W; SQUARED SECTION BRICK LAND DRAIN RUNNING E-W.

LAND AT ELMS FARM, WATLING STREET, HINKLEY, WARWICKSHIRE EFHW19

	TR 6	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
		N-S	50.00	2.02	0.55	0.70
	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*D BGL (M)	
	(06001)	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey sandy clay. Frequent roots. Moderate small rounded stones.			0-0.32	
	(06002) Natural: Mix of mid brownish orange sandy clay and mid grey clay. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots. (06003) Subsoil (Only present towards the north end): Mid brownish yellow clay. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots.			0.52+ (NFE)		
				0.32-0.52		

SUMMARY: THREE LAND DRAINS, TWO GRAVEL BURIED LAND DRAINS RUNNING E-W ACROSS THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN ENDS OF THE TRENCH, AND ONE ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAIN RUNNING NW-SE ACROSS THE CENTRE.

TR 7	ORIENTATION	MAX. D (M)				
	E-W	50.00	2.02	0.52	0.72	
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION				*D BGL (M)	
(07001)	Topsoil: Dark brown roots. Occasional sm rounded stones.	0-0.44				
(07002)	Subsoil: Mid brownish yellow sandy clay. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional plough scars. Occasional roots.					
(07003) Natural: Mix of mid brownish orange sandy clay & mid grey clay. Some patches of greyish white sand. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional plough scars. Occasional roots.						
SUMMARY: TWO ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAINS RUNNING N-S, ONE AT THE EASTERN END OF THE TRENCH AND ONE AT THE CENTRE.						

TR 8	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	E-W	20.00	2.02	0.62	0.64
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION				*D BGL (M)
(08001)	Topsoil: Dark brown roots. Moderate smastones.	0-0.37			
(08002)	Subsoil: Mid browni Occasional small to stones. Occasional r	0.37-0.62			
(08003)	Natural: Mix of mid I & mid grey clay. Mic at the eastern and v with moderate mec inclusions. Occasion rounded stones. Oc	0.62+ (NFE)			

SUMMARY: ONE ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAIN RUNNING N-S AT THE EASTERN END OF THE TRENCH.

TR9	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	E-W	20.00	2.02	0.68	0.75
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)			

(09001) Topsoil: Dark brownish grey sandy clay. Frequent 0-0.41 roots. Moderate small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional small CBM fragments.

(09002) Subsoil: Mid brownish yellow sandy clay. 0.41–0.76 Moderate roots. Occasional small rounded

(09003) Natural: Mix of mid brownish orange sandy clay 0.76+ (NFE) & mid grey clay. Occasional small to medium sized rounded stones. Occasional roots.

SUMMARY: ROUGH SANDSTONE LAND DRAIN RUNNING N-S ATTHE WESTERN END OF THE TRENCH – LARGELY TRUNCATED BY MACHINE.

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

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PHOTO	COLOUR SLIDE	BLACK AND WHITE	DIGITAL	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
001	N/A	Film 1, 33	100-0099	N/A	ID Shot
002	N/A	N/A	100-0100	N/A	Pre-ex shot of field
003	N/A	N/A	100-0101	N/A	Pre-ex shot of field
004	N/A	N/A	100-0102	N/A	Pre-ex shot of field
005	N/A	N/A	100-0103	N/A	Pre-ex shot of field
006	N/A	N/A	100-0104	N/A	Pre-ex shot of field
007	N/A	Film 1, 32	100-0105	W	General shot of TR2 post-ex
008	N/A	Film 1, 31	100-0106	E	General shot of TR2 post-ex
009	N/A	Film 1, 30	100-0107	N	S facing 1m repeated section –TR2
010	N/A	Film 1, 29	100-0108	W	Red brick drain [02004] facing W – TR2
011	N/A	Film 1, 28	100-0109	W	Red brick drain [02004] facing W – TR2

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PHOTO	COLOUR SLIDE	BLACK AND WHITE	DIGITAL	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO	COLOUR SLIDE	BLACK AND WHITE	DIGITAL	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
012	N/A	Film 1, 27	100-0110	W	General shot of TR1 post-ex	024	N/A	Film 1, 15	100-0122	S	General shot of TR4 post-ex
013	N/A	Film 1, 26	100-0111	N	S facing 1m repeated section – TR1	025	N/A	Film 1, 14	100-0123	N	General shot of TR4 post-ex
014	N/A	Film 1, 25	100-0112	E	General shot of TR1 post-ex	026	N/A	Film 1, 13	100-0124	E	W facing 1m repeated section – TR4
015	N/A	Film 1, 24	100-0113	N	General shot of TR6 post-ex	027	N/A	Film 1, 12	100-0125	Е	General shot of TR7 post-ex
016	N/A	Film 1, 23	100-0114	S	General shot of TR6 post-ex	028	N/A	Film 1, 11	100-0126	W	General shot of TR7 post-ex
017	N/A	Film 1, 22	100-0115	Е	W facing 1m repeated section – TR6	029	N/A	Film 1, 10	100-0127	S	N facing 1m repeated section – TR7
018	N/A	Film 1, 21	100-0116	W	General shot of TR9 post-ex	030	N/A	Film 1, 9	100-0128	W	General shot of TR8 post-ex
019	N/A	Film 1, 20	100-0117	Е	General shot of TR9 post-ex	031	N/A	Film 1,8	100-0129	Е	General shot of TR8 post-ex
020	N/A	Film 1, 19	100-0118	N	S facing 1m repeated section –TR9	032	N/A	Film 1, 7	100-0130	S	N facing 1m repeated section – TR8
021	N/A	Film 1, 18	100-0119	N	General shot of TR5 post-ex	033	N/A	Film 1, 6	100-0131	W	General shot of TR3 post-ex
022	N/A	Film 1, 17	100-0120	S	General shot of TR5 post-ex	034	N/A	Film 1,5	100-0132	Е	General shot of TR3 post-ex
023	N/A	Film 1, 16	100-0121	Е	W facing 1m repeated section –TR5	035	N/A	Film 1, 4	100-0133	N	S facing 1m repeated section – TR3

APPENDIX 2 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: headland5-353673

Project details	
Project name	Land at Elms Farm, Watling Street, Hinkley, Warwickshire
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching on land at Elms Farm, Watling Street, Hinckley, prior to the determination of a planning application for the construction of four poultry sheds and associated infrastructure. The trial trench evaluation involved the excavation of nine trenches all of which were devoid of archaeological features. Therefore, on the basis of the evaluation, the archaeological potential of the proposed development is assessed as low
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2019 End: 03-04-2019
Previous/future work	No/No
Any associated project reference codes	EFHW19 – Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	R18/03090 – Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 – Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	N/A
Monument type	N/A
Significant Finds	N/A
Significant Finds	N/A
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE RUGBY STRETTON BASKERVILLE Land at Elms Farm, Watling Street, Hinkley, Warwickshire
Study area	800 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 4137 9186 52.522680466755 -1.390194209548 52 31 21 N 001 23 24 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology
Project brief originator	Warwickshire County Council
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology
Project director/manager	Harrison, D
Project supervisor	Roberts, P
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	In house
Digital Contents	g"Survey"

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