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# Hanwood Road Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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December 2013



**Hanwood Road  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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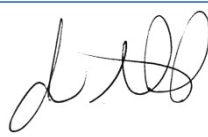
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# Hanwood Road Shrewsbury, Shropshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# **Hanwood Road Shrewsbury, Shropshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development of land to the north-west of Hanwood Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (hereafter named 'the Site') centred on NGR 346900 311600.

Previous work for an adjacent site (CgMs 2010) and geophysical survey indicated the potential for medieval activity across the Site. Following discussions with Andy Wigley of Shropshire County Council, and Cathy Patrick of CgMs, a 2% targeted trenched evaluation was proposed prior to development.

In all trenches, natural clay deposits were overlain by topsoil. The natural geology was typically described as an orange silty clay, and the topsoil as a greyish brown clayey silt. Topsoil depth varied between 0.28m and 0.60m, with a mean of 0.42m.

A north-east/south-west aligned earthwork visible on the surface and corresponding to a geophysical anomaly, was identified as a drainage channel in Trench 5, draining downslope to the north. Furrows were identified in Trenches 7, 8, 10, and 11. No other archaeological features or archaeologically significant stratified finds were identified or recovered.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 102071. The archive will be deposited with the local Museum under an accession number to be determined. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.



# **Hanwood Road Shrewsbury, Shropshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd and Wessex Archaeology are grateful to them in this regard. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by Chris Harrison, Charlotte Burton, and Phillip Roberts. The report was compiled by Matthew Weightman and the illustrations produced by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.



# Hanwood Road Shrewsbury, Shropshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to carry out a programme of Archaeological Evaluation at Hanwood Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (hereafter the 'Site').
- 1.1.2 The Site lies immediately southwest of Copthorne and south of an area of known cropmarks, thought to represent a field system and trackway, and historic hedgerows (CgMs 2010). The Site most likely formed agricultural land in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 1.1.3 Following discussions between Andy Wigley of Shropshire County Council (SCC) and Cathy Patrick (CgMs), a programme of archaeological evaluation was programmed to inform a planning application for new housing.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises 6ha of agricultural pasture to the southwest of Copthorne, on the western side of Shrewsbury, Shropshire (NGR 346900 311600). The Site is bounded by Hanwood Road to the south and east, housing to the east and agricultural land to the north and west.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises Salop Formation mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate. The superficial geology of the area is complex, mainly comprising Devensian diamicton till but also with Devensian glaciofluvial sand and gravel, and alluvial Quaternary clay, silt, sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is summarised from the Heritage Assessment (CgMs 2013) and an evaluation report for work on adjacent land (Worcestershire County Council 2013).

#### 2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 The Site has been subject to recent geophysical survey that identified a possible ditch in the north of the Site (Wessex Archaeology forthcoming).





## 2.3 Recent investigations in the wider landscape

- 2.3.1 Land to the north and north-west of the Site was previously evaluated by geophysical survey and six evaluation trenches. The investigation identified a possible trackway, sub-rectangular enclosures, and slag from smelting along with fired clay; although no dateable material was found (Worcestershire County Council 2013).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the project were:

- To record as far as is reasonably possible the location, extent, nature, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- To provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision about the need for additional archaeological mitigation;
- To investigate geophysical anomalies revealed by previous survey work;
- To make available the results of the work.

### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the evaluation of 12 trenches (**Figure 1**) measuring 50m by 2m. Trenches were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies located across the Site. All work was carried out in accordance with Wessex Archaeology and industry best practice (IfA 2008).

- 3.2.2 Mechanical excavation was conducted using a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of natural geology.

### 3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All recording was carried out using Wessex Archaeology proforma recording sheets, with representative sections and plans drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:10, or 1:20. A full photographic record was also maintained using digital photographic cameras.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following comprises a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within each trench contained in **Appendix 1**.

### 4.2 General

- 4.2.1 A shallow linear drainage channel (**503**) was identified in Trench 5, orientated north-east to south-west, draining to the north (**Plate 5**). The channel was cut through the natural



orange clay (**502**), and filled by colluvial deposit **504**, a grey silty clay (**Plate 6**). All contexts were overlain by a modern pasture topsoil (**501**). The feature corresponds to an anomaly identified from the geophysical survey and was visible as an earthwork in the field.

4.2.2 No significant archaeological deposits were identified in any of the other eleven trenches. The stratigraphy in the remaining trenches consisted of an orange clay natural deposit (e.g. **102**) overlain by a grey silt topsoil (e.g. **101**) forming the modern pasture with a depth of between 0.28m and 0.60m with a mean of 0.42m (**Plates 1** through **14**). A transitional area between natural deposits was revealed in Trench 2 (**Plate 2**).

4.2.3 The remains of possible 'ridge and furrow' were identified in Trenches 7, 8, 10, and 11, comprising shallow deposits indistinguishable from the overlying topsoil. The furrows were visible as earthworks and measured c. 0.5m in width (**Plates 8** and **11**). Ceramic land drains were also identified in Trenches 1, 3, 4, and 5.

## **5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 No archaeologically significant stratified finds were recovered.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

6.1.1 A drainage channel and remnants of 'ridge and furrow' were revealed within the Site. No archaeologically significant stratified finds were recovered.

6.1.2 The presence of 'ridge and furrow' indicates that agricultural activity took place during the medieval or post-medieval period, but there is no evidence for any earlier activity.

## **7 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **7.1 Museum**

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with a local museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under an agreed accession code. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **7.2 Archive**

7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.



### **7.3 Security copy**

- 7.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



## 8 REFERENCES

### 8.1 Bibliography

Bibliographic references

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## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Trench No. 1		Max Depth: 0.34m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones.	0 - 0.34
102	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-orange brown silty-clay with 10% subrounded and subangular gravel less than 150mm.	0.34+

Trench No. 2		Max Depth: 0.28m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 40mm.	0 - 0.28
202	<b>Natural:</b> Changeable but predominantly mid-yellowish orange silty clay with 40% subrounded and sub angular, poorly sorted, gravel less than 100mm. To north end: mid-orange brown silty clay, mottled grey and 10% subrounded poorly sorted stones less than 50mm.	0.28+

Trench No. 3		Max Depth: 0.30m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 1% subrounded stones less than 30mm. Pasture.	0 - 0.30
302	<b>Natural:</b> Light-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 50mm. At centre of trench, very light-brownish grey clay mottled with orange.	0.30+

Trench No. 4		Max Depth: 0.35m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 50mm.	0 - 0.35
402	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 150mm.	0.35+

Trench No. 5		Max Depth: 0.70m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
501	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 40mm.	0 - 0.60
502	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 150mm.	0.60+
503	<b>Drainage Channel:</b> Shallow North-south linear cut into natural deposits, with concave moderately sloping sides, and a flat base.	0.60 - 0.70
504	<b>Drainage channel fill:</b> Light greyish brown silty clay, 30-40% subangular and well rounded pebbles less than 80mm.	0.60 - 0.70
Trench No. 6		Max Depth: 0.35m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
601	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 40mm.	0 - 0.35



602	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 50mm.	0.35+
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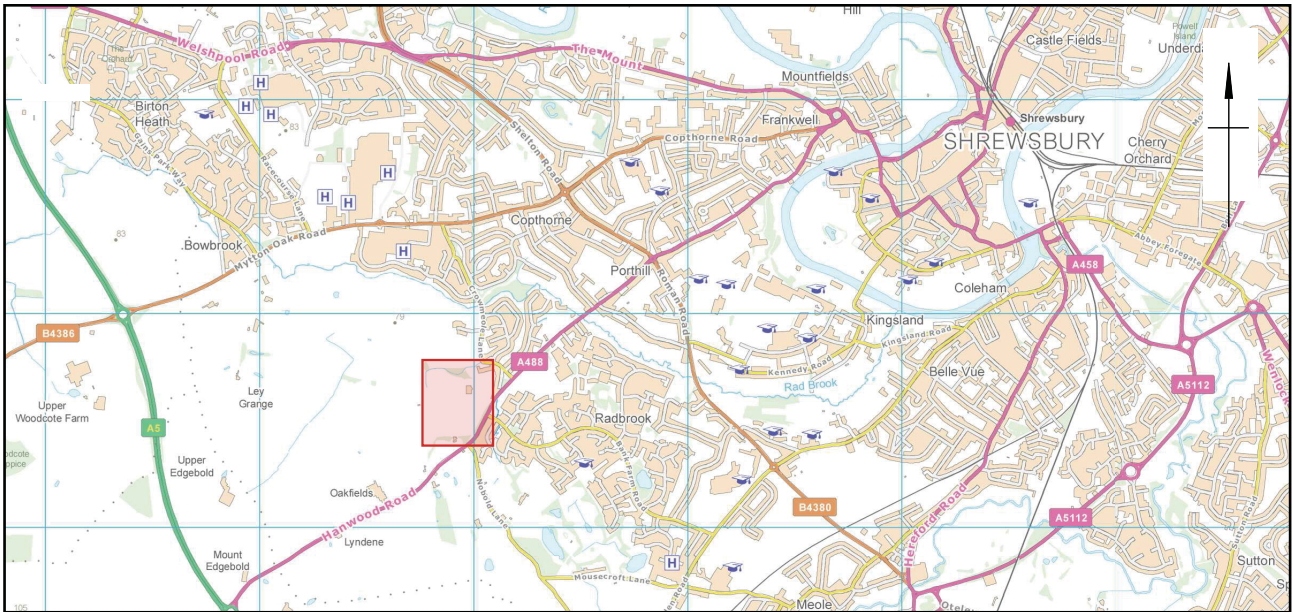
<b>Trench No. 7</b>		<b>Max Depth: 0.46m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
701	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 40mm.	0 – 0.46
702	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 50mm.	0.46+

<b>Trench No. 8</b>		<b>Max Depth: 0.52m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
801	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 40mm.	0 – 0.52
802	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 150mm.	0.52+

<b>Trench No. 9</b>		<b>Max Depth: 0.70m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
901	<b>Topsoil:</b> Greyish brown clayey silt, loose with rooting and bioturbation, occasional small subrounded stone inclusions.	0 – 0.40
902	<b>Natural:</b> Orangey brown, firm, clayey sand, occasional medium to large well rounded pebbles.	0.40+

<b>Trench No. 10</b>		<b>Max Depth: 0.76m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
1001	<b>Topsoil:</b> Greyish brown clayey silt, loose with rooting and bioturbation, occasional small subrounded stone inclusions.	0 – 0.55
1002	<b>Natural:</b> Orangey brown, firm, clayey sand, occasional medium to large well rounded pebbles.	0.55+

<b>Trench No. 11</b>		<b>Max Depth: 0.40m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
1101	<b>Topsoil:</b> Mid-greyish brown clayey silt with 2% subrounded stones less than 40mm.	0 – 0.40
1102	<b>Natural:</b> Mid-brownish orange silty clay with 10% subrounded stones less than 50mm.	0.40+
<b>Trench No. 12</b>		<b>Max Depth: 0.76m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
1201	<b>Topsoil:</b> Greyish brown clayey silt, loose with rooting and bioturbation.	0 – 0.49
1202	<b>Natural:</b> Orangey brown, firm, clayey sand, occasional medium to large well rounded pebbles.	0.49+



Trench

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Evaluation trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, general shot, facing east



Plate 2: Trench 2, showing change in natural, facing south


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Plate 3: Trench 3, general shot, facing south-east



Plate 4: Trench 4, general shot, facing south


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Plate 5: Trench 5, general shot, facing east



Plate 6: Trench 5, drainage channel **503**, facing north


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Plate 7: Trench 6, general shot, facing south



Plate 8: Trench 7, showing furrows, facing north


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Plate 9: Trench 8, general shot, facing north-east



Plate 10: Trench 9, general shot, facing south


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Plate 11: Trench 10, showing furrows, facing south



Plate 12: Trench 11, general shot, facing north



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Plate 13: Trench 12, general shot, facing east



Plate 14: Trench 12, representative section, facing south

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