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Land at Waterwells Drive Quedgeley, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



WA ref: 109200.01
May 2015



**Land at Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley,
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Figure 1: Site plan showing trench locations

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Cover photo: Trench 5 general shot

Plate 1: Representative section of trench 1, south-east facing

Plate 2: General view of site from the south-east



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Stride Treglown on behalf of Haley Securities Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land at Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley, on the outskirts of Gloucester (centred on NGR SO 81509 12591).

On the basis of the perceived archaeological potential for the area the Gloucester City Archaeologist, acting as advisor to the Local Planning Authority, requested that six evaluation trenches should be dug across the proposed development footprint. Due to issues with access to particular parts of site and ecological constraints five extended trenches were excavated, whilst maintaining the agreed overall excavation percentage.

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

The fieldwork was carried out over three days from the 29th of April to the 1st of May 2015.



Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Tom Lamshead of Stride Treglown, on behalf of Haley Securities Ltd. who funded the project. The collaborative support and advice of Andrew Armstrong (Gloucester City Archaeologist) is gratefully acknowledged.

The evaluation was directed by Luke Jarvis and Michael Fleming, assisted by Sean Rice and Roy Krakowicz. This report was written and compiled by Luke Jarvis. The illustrations were produced by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed by Cai Mason.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Stride Treglown on behalf of Haley Securities Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land intended for development as a steelwork manufacturing facility with offices. at Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 81509 12591, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'; **Figure 1**). At the time of writing, the development proposals are at pre-application stage (Ref. 15/00319/PREAPP).
- 1.1.2 The fieldwork was carried out over three days from the 29th of April to the 1st of May 2015, and comprised the excavation of five trenches. Four of which measured 40m x 2m and one of which measured 20m x 2m.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence/absence, date, and significance of any archaeological remains that may have survived within the proposed development area, in order to provide sufficient information to inform a decision on the need for further archaeological investigation and/or mitigation.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a single 1.38ha enclosure of undeveloped land at Waterwells Drive, in Quedgeley, Gloucestershire. The land is bounded by Waterwells Drive to the north and Marconi Drive to the east, Jessop Court to the south and light industrial units forming part of Waterwells Business Park to the west. The Diamor Brook flows in a westerly direction across the northern end of the Site.
- 1.2.2 The Site is level at approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The solid geology comprises Jurassic Mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) (British Geological Survey 2015).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 A summary of the archaeological and historical background is drawn from *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation* (Armstrong nd), the Heritage Gateway and ADS.
- 1.3.2 There have been a number of significant archaeological discoveries to the south of the Site at Hunts Grove in Hardwicke. In 1999 a desk-based assessment and walkover survey implied extensive Romano-British activity including a settlement and cemetery (Anon 1999). A Magnetometry survey and subsequent evaluation in 2005 exposed mid Iron Age to late Romano-British field systems and a possible Iron Age burial and cremation (Heard 2005 and Thacker 2005). In 2010 a Roman pennanular ditch or gully (HER 42731) and four Roman ditches (HER 42730) were recorded. Archaeological investigations in 2012 identified a series of Iron Age and Roman-period settlement sites.
- 1.3.3 More recently, in 2014 archaeological investigations to the west, at Mayo's Land on Bristol Road, recorded Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity. Given that similar features have also been discovered to the north of the site around RAF Quedgeley the Site was considered to have some potential to contain archaeological remains.



2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Project Aim

2.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), the principle aim of the archaeological evaluation is to identify the presence/absence, date and significance of any archaeological features or deposits within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

2.2 Project Objectives

2.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives are defined:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.*

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex 2015) approved by the City Archaeologist. Trench locations were scanned using a cable detecting device. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The turf, topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to facilitate appropriate backfilling and consolidation of each trench following the completion of recording.

3.1.2 The evaluation consisted of five trenches, four of which measured 40m x 2m and one of which measured 20m x 2m. As opposed to six 30m x 2m trenches originally intended due to unexpected site constraints including stockpiling of materials and vegetation (**Plate 2**). However the five excavated trenches were extended to maintain the approved area of the site evaluated.

3.1.3 All potential archaeological features and deposits were assigned a unique context number. Features were hand excavated in order to ascertain their nature, date and function, and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets.

3.1.4 A digital photographic record was created of both the original and final condition of the trenches excavated.

3.1.5 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

3.1.6 Andrew Armstrong (Gloucester City Archaeologist) was kept informed of the progress of the archaeological fieldwork.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The underlying geology of the Site comprised grey Lias clay to the south and mid yellowish-brown clay to the north at a depth of 1 to 1.2m from the surface. This was typically overlain by a yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil at 0.30 to 0.80m, covered by a mid-brown silty clay topsoil (**Plate 1**). This sequence was consistent across site though notably deeper at the north end of site adjacent to the stream.
- 4.1.2 No features or finds were uncovered in the evaluation trenches, nor were any residual finds present within the topsoil or subsoil.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Despite the evidence of significant Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the surrounding area there is no evidence of any archaeological activity on site.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 A digital copy of the project archive will be retained for future reference. The digital archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury under Site Code 109200. Deposition of the archive with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

6.2 Preparation of Archive

- 6.2.1 The complete digital site archive, which will comprise scanned paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital survey data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

6.3 OASIS

- 6.3.1 An OASIS online record has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the evaluation have been entered under OASIS ID - wessexar1-210325. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Gloucester Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

6.4 Security Copy

- 6.4.1 In line with current best practice (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.

6.5 Copyright

- 6.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.



7 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1: Trench Tables

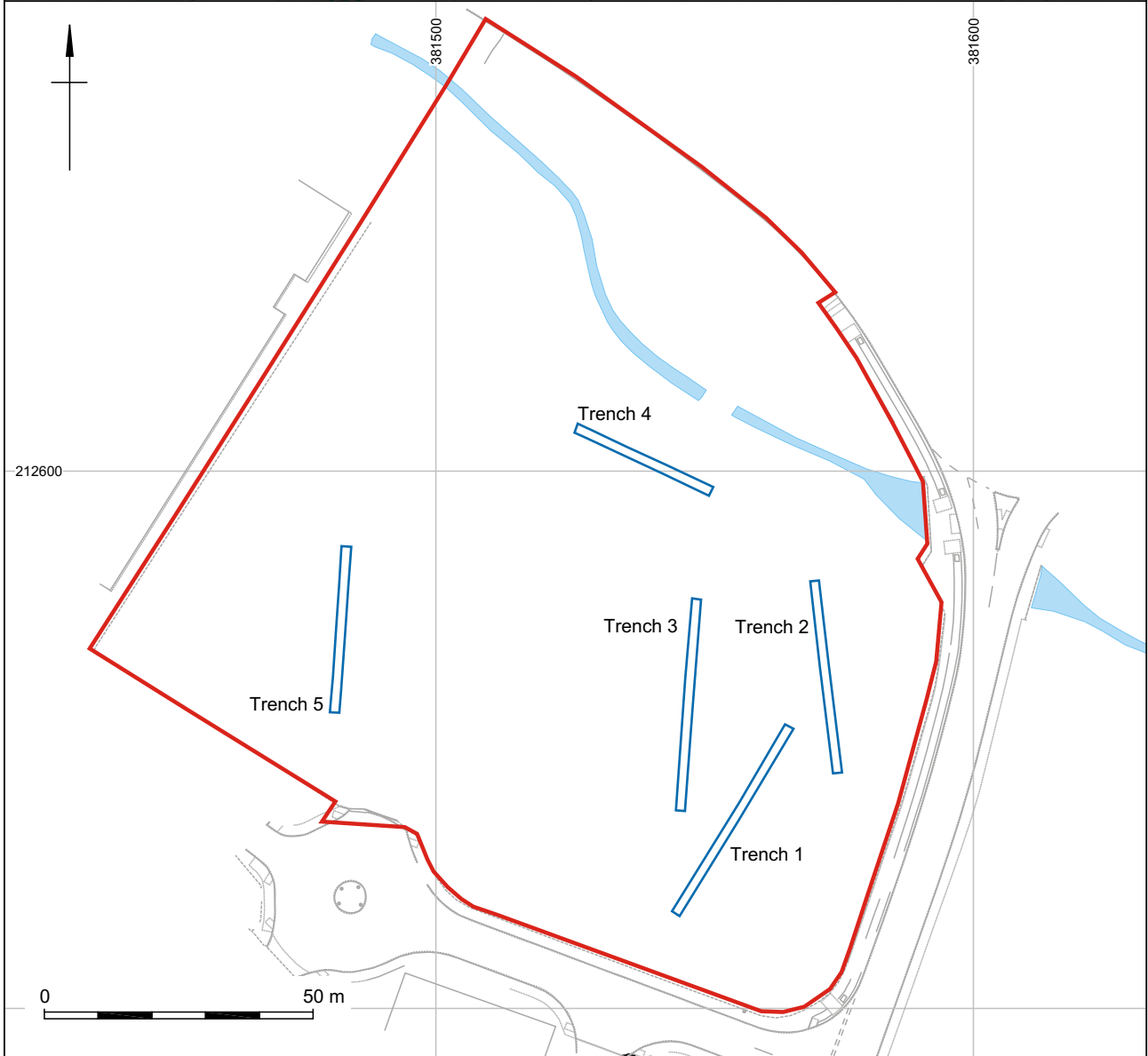
Trench 1				
Dimensions: 40m x 2m x 0.70m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
100	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0-0.30
101	Subsoil	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.3-0.50
102	Natural	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.50-0.56

Trench 2				
Dimensions: 40m x 2m x 0.70m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
200	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0-0.30
201	Subsoil	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.3-0.50
202	Natural	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.50-0.56

Trench 3				
Dimensions: 40m x 2m x 0.70m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
300	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0-0.30
301	Subsoil	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.3-0.50
302	Natural	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.50-0.56

Trench 4				
Dimensions: 40m x 2m x 0.70m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
400	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0-0.30
401	Subsoil	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.3-0.50
402	Natural	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.50-0.56

Trench 5				
Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.70m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
500	Topsoil	Mid-brown / greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0-0.30
501	Subsoil	Mid-brown / reddish brown sandy loam.	Whole trench	0.3-0.50
502	Natural	Greyish brown sandy silt loam.	Whole trench	0.50-0.56



- ▭ Site boundary
- ▭ Evaluation trench
- ▭ Water



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Site location plan


Figure 1



Plate 1: south-east facing representative section of Trench 1



Plate 2: General view of site from the south-east

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