



Land at 2, Church Lane Ridlington, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Ref: 2021/0083/FUL
Accession Number: OAKRM: 2021.22
Ref: 247890.03
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Site location Church Farm
2, Church Lane
Ridlington
LE15 9AL

County Rutland
National grid reference (NGR) 484765 302655 (SK 84765 02655)
Planning authority Rutland County Council
Planning reference 2021/0083/FUL
Museum name Rutland County Museum
Museum accession code OAKRM: 2021.22
OASIS ID wessexar1-502979

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Class Q Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.18-hectare parcel of land located at 2, Church Lane, Ridlington, Rutland (NGR 484765 302655) as a condition to the related planning application (2021/0083/FUL). Four trial trenches were excavated; no archaeological remains were encountered.

The evaluation succeeded in meeting its aims and objectives. With no archaeological remains observed, it would appear that the site is not of elevated archaeological potential, despite the quantity of evidence recorded in the vicinity of the village. There is no evidence from the evaluation that the site can contribute to any of the research questions set out in the site-specific objectives. The lack of remains may be in accordance with the semi-rural, village-edge location of the site as recorded on historic maps. That the site has suffered some disturbance, evident by the presence of modern material at a depth of 0.7 m below the modern ground surface in one of the trenches, may also account for the lack of earlier remains.

Given the very limited results of the evaluation, it is recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with Archaeology Data Service, and that deposition should involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Class Q Ltd for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Tom Helliwell. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, who monitored the project for Rutland County Council.



2 Church Lane, Ridlington, Rutland

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Class Q Ltd. ('the client') to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 0.18-ha parcel of land located at 2, Church Lane, Ridlington, Rutland, LE15 9AL. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 484765 302655 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the creation of a single detached 2.5 storey dwelling with associated driveway, parking and garage with first floor habitable space. A planning application (2021/0083/FUL) submitted to Rutland County Council was granted, subject to conditions, one of which relates to archaeological investigation. Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (PALCC) recommended that, prior to determination, the applicant should carry out:

'A field evaluation, by appropriate techniques including trial trenching, to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance, and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.'

1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) that detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The PALCC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The evaluation, comprising the excavation of four trial trenches (6% sample) was undertaken on the 15th and 16th November 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area is located in the village and parish of Ridlington, in the administrative district of Rutland. It lies within the historic core of the village, north-west of the junction of Holygate Road and Church Lane.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels within the site lie at approximately 158 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).



- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Sandstone, Limestone and Ironstone of the Northamptonshire Sand Formation, with no overlying superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior heritage statement (Witham Archaeology 2021), which includes a detailed account of known and potential historic environment assets in the area, and an assessment of the likely impact of the development upon both the historic built environment and sub-surface archaeological remains. A summary of the heritage statement is presented below.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

- 2.2.1 With the exception of the heritage statement, the site has not been the subject of any earlier archaeological surveys or investigations.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

- 2.3.1 The heritage statement (Witham Archaeology 2021) states that while the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record contains no records of prehistoric activity within the site, there is significant evidence of the period in the wider landscape.
- 2.3.2 A large number of lithic artefacts have been recovered in fields to the south and north-west of the village during a number of fieldwalking surveys carried out between 2015 and 2016 by the Rutland Local History and Record Society, the Rutland Field Research Group for Archaeology and History, and the University of Leicester as part of the Wing to Whatborough pipeline project.
- 2.3.3 These surveys recorded large assemblages of struck flints, tools and debitage dating from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. The heritage statement determined that such a high proportion of tools provides a strong indication of settlement activities in close proximity to the site.
- 2.3.4 A probable Bronze Age ring ditch is located to the north-east of the village. Excavations approximately 200 to the west of the site, along the Wing to Whatborough pipeline, identified a number of prehistoric features and stray artefacts including post-built structures, pit alignments and pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age.
- 2.3.5 A scheduled earthwork enclosure (NHLE 1005043) immediately to the west of West Lane, 100 m from the site, is thought to be either Bronze Age or Late Iron Age in origin. Excavations in the vicinity of this earthwork revealed its perimeter ditch survives at a depth of 1 m below ground level.

Iron Age to Romano-British

- 2.3.6 The heritage statement found that sites dating to the Iron Age and Roman period have been identified through fieldwalking, aerial photography and the excavations undertaken along the Wing to Whatborough water pipeline, with an apparent concentration of monuments on the southern side of the village.



- 2.3.7 An alignment of circular pits of possible Iron Age to Romano-British date is visible as cropmarks in aerial photographs a short distance from the site to the south-east, close to Rowell's Lodge. These features are thought to be associated with an Iron Age/Roman trackway.
- 2.3.8 The pipeline excavations identified deposits of Iron Age and Roman date to the south and south-east of the village. Those features identified as Iron Age included an extensive spread of cut features including, pits and individual postholes.
- 2.3.9 Those features attributed to the Romano-British period included the remains of eight crop-drying kilns, a possible roundhouse, rectilinear enclosures and widespread evidence for iron smelting, with deposits of iron slag extending as far as the southern limits of the village.

Saxon

- 2.3.10 There is a distinct lack of recorded archaeological evidence for the Saxon period within the village and its environs. Although it is thought likely from documentary evidence that the village dates to the late Anglo-Saxon period, there is a lack of recorded archaeological evidence for the period within the village and its environs.

Medieval to post-medieval

- 2.3.11 The evidence for the medieval to post-medieval occupation of Ridlington derives from documentary sources, landscape assessment and field walking surveys.
- 2.3.12 Less than 50 m north of the site lies the church of St Margaret and St Andrew. The church dates to the 13th century, although the heritage statement states that there is strong evidence to suggest that it has Norman origins.
- 2.3.13 Fieldwalking surveys from the hinterland of the village have recovered extensive scatters of pottery, with some iron slag also found, demonstrating agricultural and small-scale industry activity spanning the early medieval to the late post-medieval periods. The presence of broad ridge and furrow earthworks to the south and north-west of the village represent the remains of the medieval village's open arable fields.

Cartographic analysis

- 2.3.14 The heritage statement recorded that the earliest detailed map of the site was the 1841 Tithe map of the Parish of Ridlington. The site at this time formed part of a larger plot that extended westwards. The map shows the site contained three buildings that are no longer extant: the first stood at the south-east corner of site, the second, a smaller building lay to the north-west and the third appears as an extension to the existing Church Farm Cottage. The Tithe Apportionment lists that this plot as containing a house, buildings, a yard, garden and homestead.
- 2.3.15 By 1885, historic mapping shows that these buildings had been removed and the site stood open. The heritage statement postulates that the demolition of these buildings was to make way for a number of agricultural buildings associated with Church Farm. The site is thought to have become part of the farm complex associated with Church Farm at this time.
- 2.3.16 By 1904, historic mapping shows that the site has been subdivided into three plots: a narrow strip to the north, a central paddock with main access to the road and a third enclosure to the west extending to the churchyard beyond. These internal boundaries had disappeared by the mid-20th century and, with the exception of short-lived small structure to the south-east, no further significant changes to the site occur.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, and the updated East Midlands Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012), the site-specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- examine evidence for remains of 18th-century buildings (depicted on the tithe map of 1841),
- examine evidence for the presence of regionally significant Palaeolithic and Mesolithic worked flints and the potential for further open-air sites,
- examine the evidence for potential prehistoric buried features indicative of settlement activity,
- examine the evidence for further archaeological features of Iron Age and Romano-British origin, analysing the nature of transition between the two periods,
- examine the potential for Saxon remains and assess the possibility that the existing street pattern may have first been established in the late Saxon period, and
- examine evidence for remains of medieval/post-medieval structures that may pre-date those visible on historic mapping.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Leica Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), connected to Leica's SmartNet service in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI. The WSI stipulated that three trenches were to be dug. However, trench 1 was, excavated as two separate 10 x 1.8 m trenches (1A and 1B), due to the presence of a modern access route in the middle of the proposed trench location (Fig. 1). Trench 3 was moved slightly and shortened to 15 m due to the presence of a broken-down vehicle in the south east corner of the site. Trench 2 was lengthened to 25 m to compensate for the reduction in the length of Trench 3.

4.2.2 The trial trenches were excavated in level spits using a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval.

4.2.4 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the PALCC were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.5 The Leica GNSS surveyed the location of the excavated trenches. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). Guidance for the treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The PALCC monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA.



5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The natural geological substrate comprised a compacted mid-yellowish/orange brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions (eg, 302; Pl. 1–4). Its upper surface was found to lie 0.29 m below ground level (bgl) in trench 2, 0.35 m bgl in trench 1, and 0.7 m bgl in trench 3 (Pl. 5).
- 5.1.2 Topsoil consisted of a mid-brown silty clay with a firm compaction, 0.2 to 0.3 m thick (eg, 201). Within trench 1A, the topsoil was itself overlain by a 0.15 m thick deposit of loose pale pinkish grey sand (101), interpreted as modern waste/made ground.
- 5.1.3 None of the excavated trial trenches contained any archaeological remains.
- 5.1.4 Trench 3 contained, at the base of the topsoil, a patchy stony spread (303; depth not established) containing modern metalwork, glass, pottery and frogged brick. (Pl. 4). According to the landowner, the metalwork may have derived from a 1970s Ford Cortina that stood at this location for some duration.
- 5.1.5 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 No finds meeting the criteria for retention set out in the WSI were observed (Wessex Archaeology 2021).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Due to the nature of the deposits encountered, no environmental samples were collected.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Discussion

- 8.1.1 The evaluation succeeded in meeting its aims and objectives. With no archaeological remains observed, it would appear that the site is not of elevated archaeological potential, despite the quantity of evidence recorded in the vicinity of the village. There is no evidence from the evaluation that the site can contribute to any of the research questions set out in the site-specific objectives. The lack of remains may be in accordance with the semi-rural, village-edge location of the site as recorded on historic maps. Absence of evidence of the buildings recorded on the maps may be due to the shallowness of their footings, or their complete erasure. That the site has suffered some disturbance, evident by the presence of modern material at a depth of 0.7 m below the modern ground surface in trench 3, may also account for the lack of earlier remains.



9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. Rutland County Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code OAKRM : 2021.22.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 As agreed with Lorraine Cornwell, the Collections Manager at Rutland County Museum, no physical archive will be deposited.

9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

- 9.3.3 Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

Documentary records

- 9.3.4 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.5 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with Archaeology Data Service, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance).

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.



9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2; wessexar1-502979). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the PALCC on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 1A		Length 10 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.80 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Made ground	Sand. Light pinkish grey. Smaller components abundant 50% + medium & coarse sand angular, larger components moderate 15% angular. Loose compaction. Poorly sorted.	0.00 to 0.15
102		Topsoil	Silty clay. Mid yellowish brown. Smaller components moderate 10% fine & medium sand sub-angular, larger components none. Firm compaction. Very well sorted.	0.15 to 0.35
103		Natural	Silty clay. Mid orangeish brown. Smaller components moderate 15% medium & coarse sand sub-angular, larger components very common 30% fine medium & coarse gravel. Firm compaction. Well sorted.	0.35 to 0.8+

Trench No 1B		Length 10 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.35 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
=102		Topsoil	Silty clay. Mid yellowish brown. Smaller components moderate 10% fine & medium sand sub-angular, larger components none. Firm compaction. Very well sorted.	0.15 to 0.35
=103		Natural	Silty clay. Mid orangeish brown. Smaller components moderate 15% medium & coarse sand sub-angular, larger components very common 30% fine medium & coarse gravel. Firm compaction. Well sorted.	0.35+

Trench No 2		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.60 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Topsoil. Silty clay. Mid yellowish brown. Smaller components moderate 10% fine & medium sand sub-angular, larger components none. Firm compaction. Very well sorted.	0 to 0.29



202		Natural	Silty clay. Mid orangeish brown. Smaller components moderate 15% medium & coarse sand sub-angular, larger components very common 30% fine medium & coarse gravel. Firm compaction. Well sorted.	0.29+
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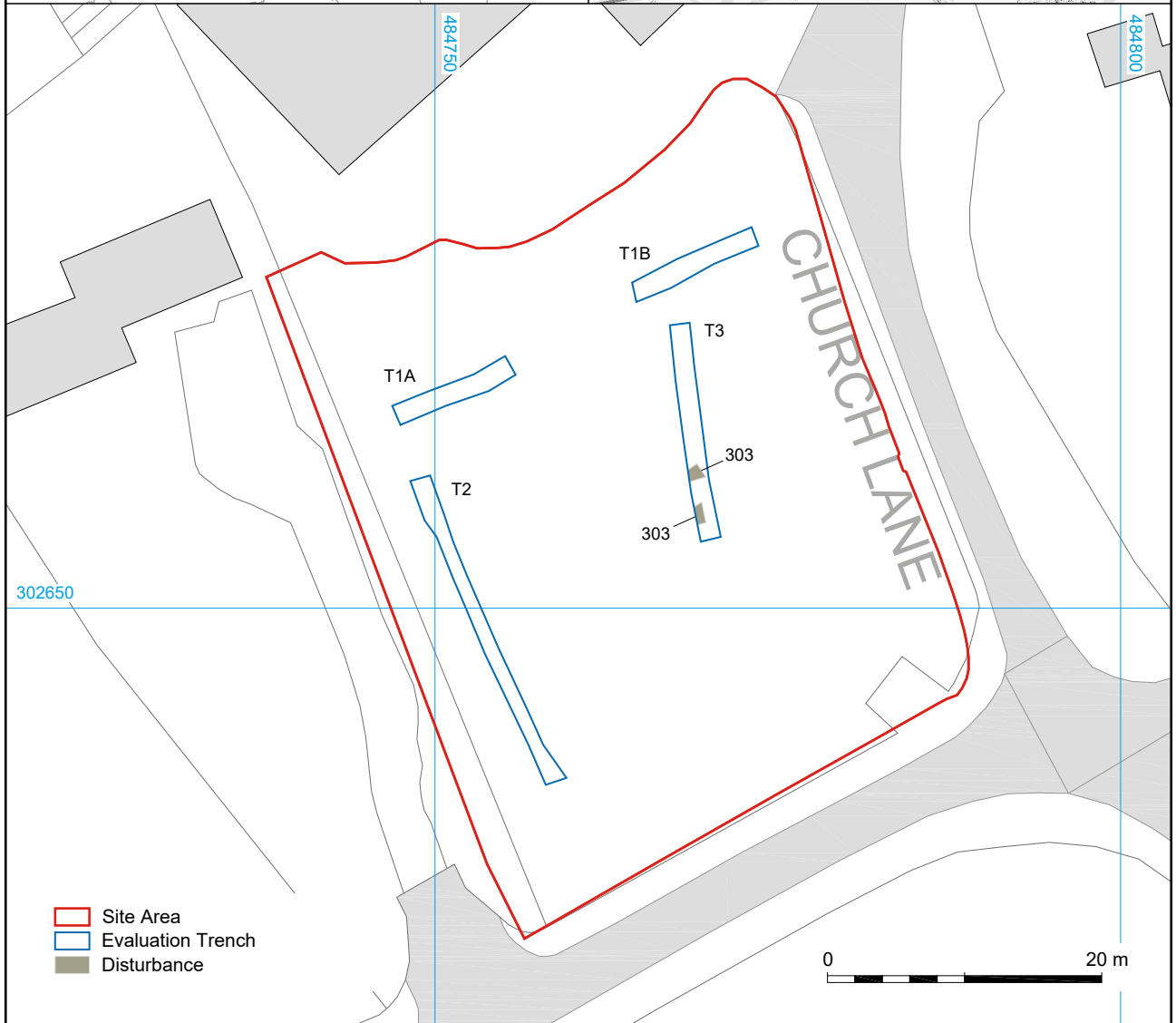
Trench No 3		Length 20 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Topsoil. Silty clay. Mid yellowish brown. Smaller components moderate 10% fine & medium sand sub-angular, larger components none. Firm compaction. Very well sorted.	0 to 0.70
302		Natural	Silty clay. Mid orangeish brown. Smaller components moderate 15% medium & coarse sand sub-angular, larger components very common 30% fine medium and coarse gravel. Firm compaction. Well sorted.	0.70 +
303		Spread	Stony patches with modern material observed.	0.90




Appendix 2 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-502979

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-502979
Project Name	Evaluation at 2 Church Lane, Ridlington, Rutland
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	247890
Planning Id	2021/0083/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	15-Nov-2021 - 16-Nov-2021
Location	2 Church Lane, Ridlington, Rutland NGR : SK 84765 02655 LL : 52.615062716498, - 0.749482500719495 12 Fig : 484765,302655
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Rutland District : Rutland Parish : Ridlington
Project Methodology	Excavation of four evaluation trenches.
Project Results	No archaeological remains uncovered.
Keywords	
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive



	Coordinate system: OSGB36 National Grid Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2021 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	06/12/2021	Revision number:	0
	Scale:	1:500 at A4	Created by:	AW
	Path:	S:\PROJECTS\247890\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2021_12_06		

Site and trench locations

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1A, view from west, with 1 m scales



Plate 2: Trench 1B, view from east, with 1 m scales


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	Date:	06/12/2021	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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Plate 3: Trench 2, view from south, with 1 m scales



Plate 4: Trench 3 with modern spread 303, view from north, with 0.4 m scale



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Plate 5: Trench 3, representative section, with 1 m scale

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