

**LAND AT AVIAN LEA,
SELLARS ROAD,
HARDWICKE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: SO 798 130

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION.



West Facing Shot of Excavation Area

Report No. 1134

June 2016



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

**LAND AT AVIAN LEA,
SELLARS ROAD,
HARDWICKE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: SO 798 130

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION.

Report No. 1134

June 2016

Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

Author: Samuel McAdams BA.

Date: 22nd June 2016.

Approved: Roy King. BA. MCIfA.

QA Checked: Diana King. BA. MCIfA.

This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

Summary

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Project Background
- 3 Methodology
- 4 Results and Conclusion
- 5 References
- 6 Acknowledgements

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic Data

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Area of Excavation
- Figure 3: Section Drawings
- Figure 4: Post Excavation Site Plan

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purposes of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from Prehistoric times to the Modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period after *circa* AD 1500.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between *circa* AD 410 and AD 1066.

SUMMARY

On 8th January 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological excavation on land at Avian Lea, Sellars Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire (SO 798 130). The work was commissioned by Tim Jiggins.

The footing of the new build was reduced down up to 0.6m (15.8m AOD) below the Modern ground surface onto the natural yellow plastic clay. The clay was in turn sealed by a grey brown clay subsoil (1002), which was in turn sealed by Modern overburden (1001). The site was generally flat.

The excavation of the footprint of the new dwelling revealed the western edge of a large linear feature [1003]/[1005]. The eastern edge was not located within the excavated area. No dating material was recovered from feature [1003]/[1005], however one fragment of animal bone was recovered. Two sections were excavated into feature [1003]/[1005], however, due to a high water-table within this area, Section 1 was not able to be fully excavated.

Sections 1 and 2 demonstrate that the linear feature was at least 0.66m deep and at least 2.6m wide. From the revealed profiles it is likely that feature [1003]/[1005] was a substantial ditch, possibly a boundary ditch.

No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the excavated area.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 8th January 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation on land at Avian Lea, Sellars Road, Hardwicke, Gloucestershire (SO 798 130).
- 1.2 In accordance with Paragraph 141 of NPPF12 (National Planning Policy Framework 2012) a programme of archaeological mitigation, comprising of an archaeological excavation, was required prior to the construction of a dwelling.
- 1.3 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2015) and with CIFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Excavation/Watching Brief* (2011).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The village of Hardwicke is situated close to the Roman road which linked Bristol with Gloucester. The Church of St Nicholas (Grade I listed) is dated to the 13th century, but was built on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon Church. There are a number of listed buildings in the vicinity, including Old Hall (Grade II Listed) which dates to the 14th century and Tudor Cottage, also Grade II Listed, which dates to the late 16th century.
- 2.2 The topography of the area was generally flat, at approximately 12m AOD and the underlying geology comprises *Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone* (BGS; Geology of Britain Online Viewer).
- 2.3 Previous archaeological works have been carried out within the vicinity of the site. A recent housing development located *circa* 20m northwest of the proposed development has revealed extensive archaeological remains relating to a Roman agricultural landscape and included several cremation burials. An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation carried out by Foundations Archaeology in 2015 on land to the rear of Wayland (approximately 70m to the west of the current development) revealed a northwest-southeast aligned undated gully, a possible corner of a mid to late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure and a number of undated treethrows (Foundations Archaeology, 2015).
- 2.4 The site therefore had the potential to contain features, finds and deposits predominantly relating to the Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval periods.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The requirements of the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council, who is acting as archaeological advisor for Stroud District Council were that prior to development the footprint of the new dwelling (As shown on Figure 2) was to be stripped of its soil overburden and then subject to archaeological investigation.
- 3.2 Any non-significant overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or natural through the use of a mechanical excavator which was equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Due to site constraints the proposed excavation area could not be uncovered all at once. It was agreed with Gloucestershire County Council that the site could be excavated in phases and backfilled as the work progressed.
- 3.3 All cleaning and excavation of archaeological finds, deposits and features was conducted by hand.

4 RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The footing of the new build was reduced down up to 0.6m (15.8m AOD) below the Modern ground surface onto the natural yellow plastic clay. The clay was in turn sealed by a grey brown clay subsoil (1002), which was in turn sealed by Modern overburden (1001). The site was generally flat.
- 4.2 The excavation of the footprint of the new dwelling revealed the western edge of a large linear feature [1003]/[1005]. The eastern edge was not located within the excavated area. No dating material was recovered from feature [1003]/[1005], however one fragment of animal bone was recovered. Two sections were excavated into feature [1003]/[1005], however, due to a high water-table within this area, Section 1 was not able to be fully excavated.
- 4.3 Sections 1 and 2 demonstrate that the linear feature was at least 0.66m deep and at least 2.6m wide. From the revealed profiles it is likely that feature [1003]/[1005] was a substantial ditch, possibly a boundary ditch.
- 4.4 No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the excavated area.

5 REFERENCES

CIfA. 2011. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. Institute for Archaeologists. Reading.

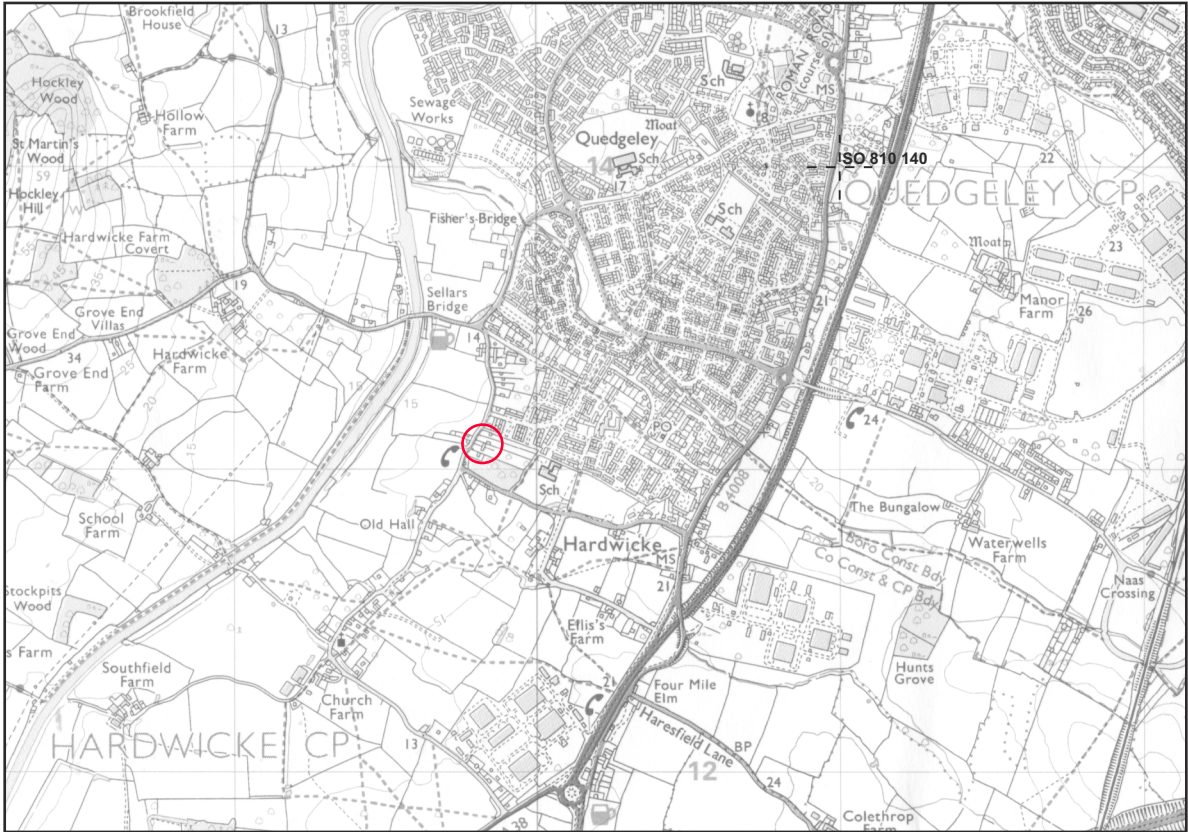
Foundations Archaeology. 2015. *Land at Avian Lea, Sellars Road, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation*. Unpublished Report.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry, the Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council and Tim Jiggins.

APPENDIX 1 – STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
Excavation Area: 11.4m x 7.3m. Natural = Yellow plastic clay.						
1001	na	na	0.1	Modern overburden: Garden soil and gritty gravel.	1002	na
1002	na	na	0.5	Subsoil: Grey brown clay.	1003	1001
[1003]	4.6+	2.3+	0.25+	Linear cut: Shallow sloping profile, only western edge present. Contained fill (1004). Equivalent to [1005].	Natural	1002
1004	4.6+	2.3+	0.25+	Fill of [1003]. Grey brown clay. No finds or inclusions present.	[1003]	1002
[1005]	4.6+	3+	0.66	Linear cut: Steep sloping profile, only western edge present. Contained fills (1006), (1007) and (1008). Equivalent to [1003].	Natural	1002
1006	0.6+	1.7+	0.24	Basal fill of [1005]. Grey plastic clay with rare charcoal.	[1005]	1007
1007	0.6+	1.7+	0.23	Secondary fill of [1005]. Beige brown plastic clay with rare charcoal.	1006	1008
1008	4.6+	3+	0.19	Upper fill of [1005]. Brown plastic clay with rare charcoal and one piece of bone.	1007	1002



© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2016.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: ALH15

Accession Code:

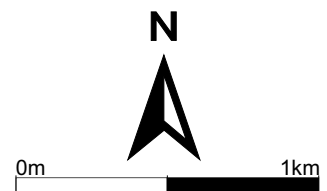
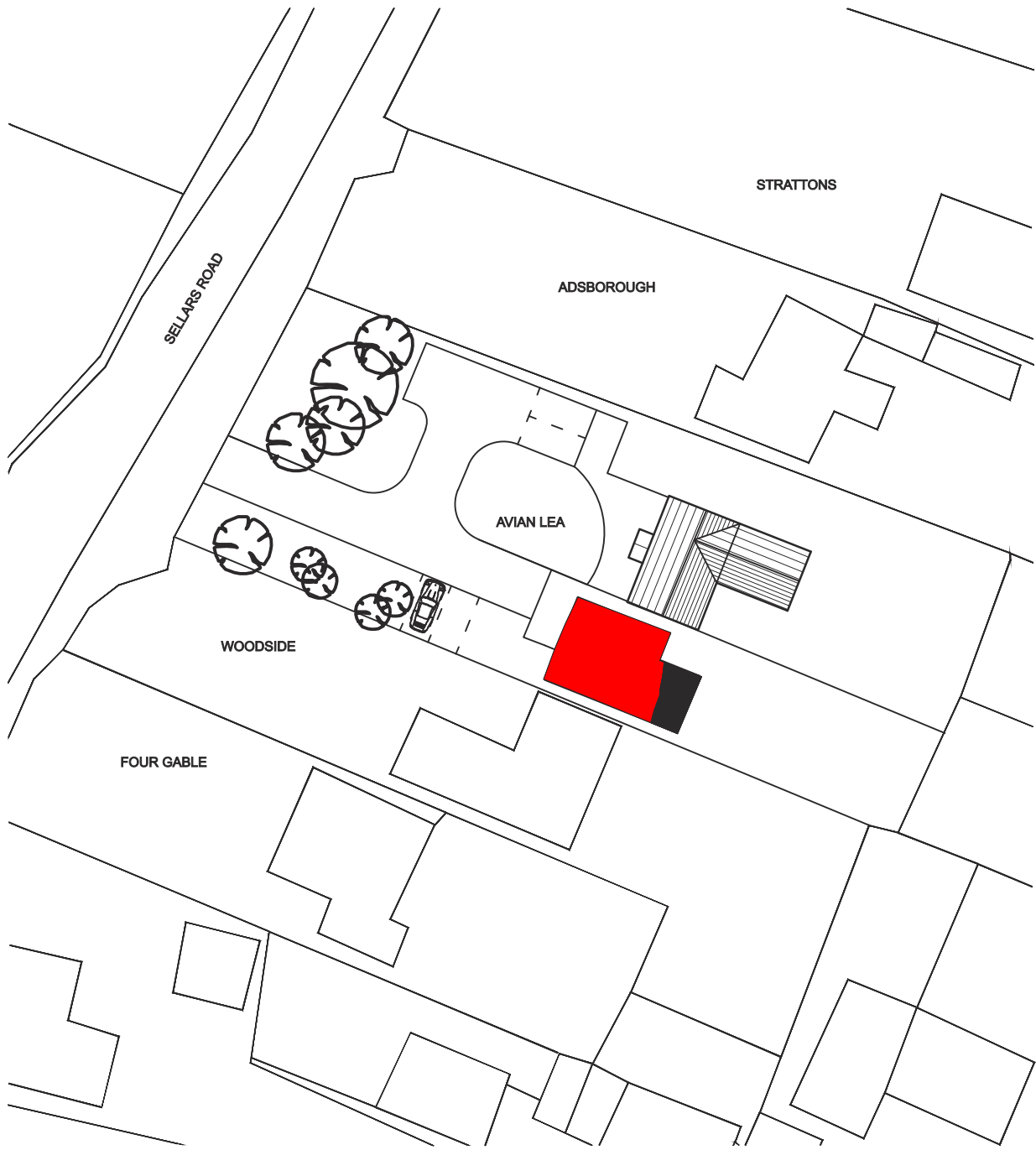





FIGURE 1: Site Location



© Crown Copyright and Database Right 2016.
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722

Site Code: ALH15
Accession Code:

 EXCAVATION AREA
 LINEAR FEATURE
 [1003] [1005]




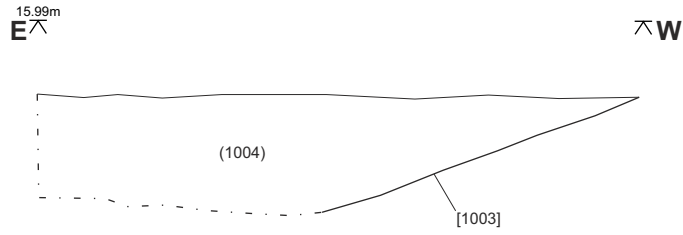
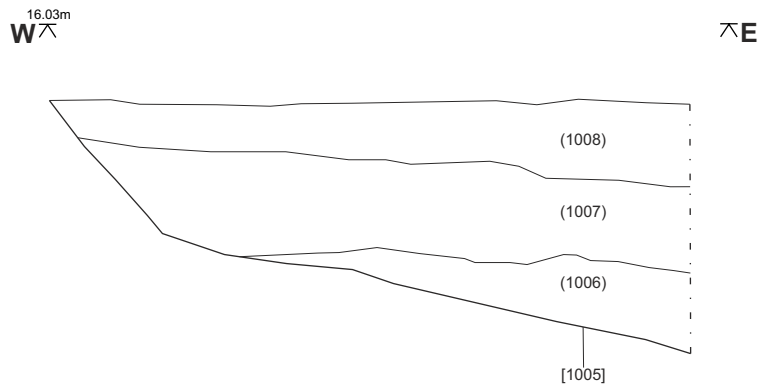


FIGURE 2: Excavation Area

SEC 1: NORTH FACING SECTION [1003]



SEC 2: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1005]



Site Code: ALH15
Accession Code:



FIGURE 3: Section Drawings

Site Code: ALH15
Accession Code:

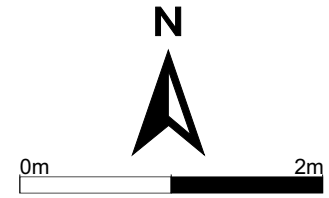


FIGURE 4: Post Excavation Site Plan

