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HIGHFIELD FARM Burrs Lane, Barkway, Herts.

HN1164

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

HERITAGE NETWORK

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

HIGHFIELD FARM Burrs Lane, Barkway, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1164
Planning ref.: 1/14/00805
HER ref: 190/14

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Bardwell Winter Ltd

by

Mark Sycamore, BA

Report no. 945

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The front cover shows the site, looking south-west

Acknowledgements

The evaluation fieldwork for this project was carried out by Robin Densem, Greg Jones and Mark Sycamore. The report text and illustrations were compiled by Mark Sycamore and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Jamie Griffith of Bardwell Winter Ltd, and Andy Instone of the Historic Environment Team of Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Land at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane, Barkway, Herts SG8 8EP		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Barkway	Parish:	Barkway
Planning references:	14/00805/1	NGR:	TL 3847 3529
Client name and address:	Bardwell Winter Ltd, Royston Lane, Elmdon, CB11 4NB		
Nature of work:	New Residential	Current land use:	Derelict Farm
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After full determination (eg. As a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c. 9374m ²	Size of area investigated:	c. 238m ²
Site code:	HN1164	HER consultation ref:	190/14
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Trial trench evaluation	Archive recipient:	North Herts Museum Service
Start of work:	3/08/2015	Finish of work:	06/08/2015
Related HER nos:	None	Periods represented:	Prehistoric, Roman
OASIS UID:	heritage1-192652	Significant finds:	Prehistoric flint, Roman pottery, animal bone and worked stone.
Monument types:	Ditch, Pit		
Physical archive:	Yes		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed development site at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane, Barkway, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. The work was carried out as the first stage of a programme of archaeological work required by a condition on the planning consent for the development.

Seven trenches were excavated across the site, a residential development on the site of a former chicken farm. Four of these trenches contained archaeological features: four possible boundary ditches, two Roman and two of unknown date, and a single Roman pit.

On the basis of the results of the trial trenching, the risk that the proposed development might disturb remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *Moderate – High* for remains of Roman date and *Low* for remains of all other periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Bardwell Winter Ltd., to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of the proposed residential development of land at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane, Barkway, Hertfordshire.

1.2 The outline planning consent for the development (ref: ref. 14/00805/1) has been granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), subject to a standard archaeological condition (Condition 12) issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework*. The extent of the work required was set out in correspondence from the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological adviser to NHDC. This defined the need for a programme of archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area, followed by appropriate mitigation, if required. A full specification for the evaluation is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated October 2014 (Ashworth 2015).

1.3 The site, accessed from the east end of Burrs Lane, is located to the rear of nos.85-107a High Street, centred on NGR TL 3847 3529. The northern half of the plot is open ground, while a number of agricultural buildings belonging to Highfield Farm occupy the southern half. These are scheduled for demolition following the archaeological evaluation. The site is bounded to the north by a strip of pasture to the rear of properties fronting Burrs Lane; to the west by nos.85-107a High Street; to the south by a footpath forming part of the Hertfordshire Way leading to Nuthampstead; and to the east by a southern extension to Burrs Lane and open fields beyond (Figure 1).

1.4 The site lies adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Significance no.69 (AAS 69), as defined in the district Local Plan. This encompasses the medieval village of Barkway, named as *Berchewig* in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

1.5 The proposed development entails the construction of five new dwellings, with associated garages, outbuildings, services, landscaping and access.

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient information about the archaeological potential of the site and the impacts of the proposed development, to allow it to decide what further measures may be required, if any, to mitigate those impacts should the development be permitted to proceed.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The present site is located in the core of the modern village of Barkway (Figure 1), centred on NGR TL 3847 3529. The site lies on gently sloping ground at a height of approximately 125mAOD.

2.2 The local soils belong to the Hanslope Association (411d), described as '*Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion*' (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology consists of chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, overlain by glacially deposited till of the Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton (British Geological Survey).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate CIFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.5 Seven trial trenches were located across the site (Figure 2), by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures.

2.6 Within the trenches, topsoil and subsoil were removed using a 360-degree tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon and spoil from the machining was scanned visually and with a metal detector for ferrous and non-ferrous archaeological finds.

2.7 The open trenches were cleaned by hand, and inspected for any potential archaeological features and deposits.

2.8 The stratigraphy within the trenches was photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Plans of potential features and deposits were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:50, and sections at a scale of 1:10.

RESULTS

2.9 Seven trial trenches were opened across the area of the proposed development site (Figure 2). All of the trenches measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width.

2.10 The stratigraphy across the site consisted of dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay topsoil, 0.14 – 0.60m deep, overlying a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty clay subsoil (0.2- 0.5m deep), which in turn is overlying (in trenches 1-2) a brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay and (in trenches 3-7) a strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay natural (Plates 2 & 7). Trenches 1-3 contained several layers of topsoil and overburden - the original topsoil was sealed by an imported soil, overlying modern demolition material. The redeposited layers did not extend across Trenches 4-7.

Trench 1

2.11 Trench 1 was located near the northern edge of the site. It was orientated east-west, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m (Figure 2, Plate 1).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.7	Maximum Depth (m):	0.88	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.31	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	125.81
		Base	125.35			Base	125.27
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.4		
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.45		
-	Layer	10YR 5/4 Brown silty clay natural	-	-	> 0.01		

2.12 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.13 Trench 2 was located to the south west of trench 1. It was orientated north-west – south-east, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.96m (Figure 2, Plate 3).

Recorded Data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.96	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.85	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.49
		Base	125.90			Base	125.53
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.5		
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.4		
-	Layer	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown sandy clay natural	-	-	> 0.05		

2.14 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 2.

Trench 3

2.15 Trench 3 was located directly south of trench 1, near the centre of site. It was orientated east-west, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m (Figure 2, Plate 4).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.7	Maximum Depth (m):	1	Orientation	E-W		
Level at W End of Trench (mOD)			Top	126.37	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)			Top	126.36
			Base	125.43				Base	125.42
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.6				
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.4				
301	Cut	Linear with shallow sides and concave base. Orientated N-S. Contained Fills (302) and (303).	>1.7	0.65	0.12				
302	Fill	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown firm sandy silty clay. Fill of [301], contained Roman pottery, animal bone and a piece of flint of dubious quality.	>1.7	0.6	0.12				
303	Fill	10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown, with lenses of 10YR 4/1 dark grey. Firm sandy clay. Mixed deposit, may be result of subsidence whilst feature in use. Contained Roman pottery, animal bone and fragments of quernstone.	>1.7	0.05	0.12				
-	Layer	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown sandy clay natural	-	-	> 0.01				

2.16 Excavation revealed a shallow linear feature [301] in the centre of the trench, orientated north-south (Figures 3 & 4, Plate 5). It contained two fills: (302) consisted of firm dark greyish brown sandy silty clay and contained Roman pottery, animal bone and a piece of flint - this fill is likely the result of natural deposition once the feature was out of use; (303) consisted of a mixed deposit of dark grey and dark yellowish brown firm sandy clay - this fill is likely the result of part of the eastern side of the ditch subsiding into the feature whilst it was in use.

2.17 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 3.

Trench 4

2.18 Trench 4 was located in the south-east part of the site. It was orientated north-east – south-west, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m (Figure 2, Plate 6).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.7	Maximum Depth (m):	0.65	Orientation	NE-SW		
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	125.91	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	126.00
			Base	125.11				Base	125.36
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.25				
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.4				
401	Cut	Linear with steep sides and concave base. Orientated N-S. Contained Fill (402).	>1.7	0.9	0.45				
402	Fill	10YR 5/2 greyish brown friable silty clay. Fill of [401], contained Roman pottery.	>1.7	0.9	0.45				
-	Layer	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown sandy clay natural	-	-	>0.05				

2.19 Excavation revealed a linear feature [401] towards the south-western end of the trench, orientated north-south (Figures 3 & 4, Plate 8). It contained fill (402), a friable greyish brown silty clay that contained Roman pottery.

2.20 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 4.

Trench 5

2.21 Trench 5 was located to the south-east of Trench 4. It was orientated east-west, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m (Figure 2, Plate 9).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.7	Maximum Depth (m):	0.75	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	125.86	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	125.86
		Base	125.15			Base	125.26
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.5		
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.2		
-	Layer	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown sandy clay natural	-	-	> 0.05		

2.22 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 5.

Trench 6

2.23 Trench 6 was located in the south-west part of the site. It was orientated north-west – south-east, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m (Figure 2, Plate 10).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.7	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.80	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.48
		Base	126.10			Base	125.76
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.14		
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.41		
601	Cut	Small pit shallow sides and concave base. Contained Fill (602).	0.7	0.5	0.1		
602	Fill	10YR 3/1 very dark grey firm silty clay. Fill of [601], contained Roman pottery.	0.7	0.5	0.1		
-	Layer	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown sandy clay natural	-	-	> 0.05		

2.24 Excavation revealed a shallow sub-circular pit [601] at the north-western end of the trench (Figure 6, Plate 11). Its fill (602) consisted of firm very dark grey silty clay that contained Roman pottery. The trench also contained a possible linear near the centre, but flooding from two broken water pipes prevented further investigation or recording. It is possible that this linear could be related to those seen in Trench 7.

2.25 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 6.

Trench 7

2.26 Trench 7 was located in the western part of site. It was orientated east-west, measured 20m in length by 1.7m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m (Figure 2, Plate 12).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	20	Width (m):	1.7	Maximum Depth (m):	0.8	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.53	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	126.88
		Base	125.61			Base	126.18
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/1 Dark grey silty clay silt topsoil	-	-	0.2		
-	Layer	10YR 4/6 Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil	-	-	0.5		
701	Cut	Linear with shallow to moderate sides and concave base. Orientated N-S. Contained Fill (702).	>1.7	0.7	0.2		
702	Fill	10YR 4/3 brown firm silty clay. Fill of [701], contained no finds.	>1.7	0.7	0.2		
703	Cut	Linear with shallow sides and concave base. Orientated E-W. Contained Fill (704).	>1.7	0.4	0.15		
704	Fill	10YR 5/8 yellowish brown firm silty clay. Fill of [703], contained 2 pieces of Mesolithic/Neolithic flint.	>1.7	0.4	0.15		
-	Layer	7.5YR 5/6 Strong brown sandy clay natural	-	-	> 0.1		

2.27 Excavation revealed two linear features [701] and [703] (Figures 5 and 6, Plates 13 and 14). They may form part of the same feature but this could not be confirmed within the trench width. [701] contained fill (702), a firm brown silty clay with no finds, while [703] contained fill (704) a firm yellowish brown silty clay. Two pieces of flint were recovered from this deposit, possibly Mesolithic or Neolithic in origin.

2.28 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 7.

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Finds concordance

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fe object		Slag		An bone		Flint		Stone	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
302	26	300	3	5	1	5			4	55	1	10		
303	6	25					3	40	1	5			2	1825
402	10	40												
602	3	3												
704											2	5		
Totals	45	368	3	5	1	5	3	40	5	60	3	15		

Pottery

2.29 A total of 45 sherds of pottery, weighing 368g, was recovered from 4 stratified contexts. The bulk of the assemblage, which comprised abraded bodysherds, dates to the 2nd century AD.

2.30 By far the largest fabric group from the site (37 sherds) comprised Romano-British greywares. Most of the assemblage, unsurprisingly, came from the kiln site at Hadham. The unsourced reduced wares consisted of four sherds from context (302), including two sherds from a single thick-walled storage jar, and one sherd from context (602).

2.31 Other coarsewares present included an unsourced oxidised sherd from (402) and a residual sherd of shell-and-grog tempered ware from (302).

2.32 Finewares were noticeably absent. The only imported fabric consisted of one small and battered scrap of samian in context (402). Three sherds from a probable Romano-British mica-dusted vessel were recovered from (302).

2.33 Although few diagnostic sherds were present, forms include a number of rims and rilled bodysherds from 'Braughing' jars in context (302) (form G21 - Going 1987, p.25, figure 9). These are a common form in Hertfordshire and date from the late 1st to the 4th century AD. The rim from the possible mica-dusted vessel, also from (302), could represent either a bowl or a jar with a slightly 'dished' rim.

Discussion

2.34 The pottery assemblage from the site is all of probable 2nd century AD date. No evidence for clearly late Roman forms or fabrics was present. The only group that could definitely be said to be in its place of primary deposition was the material from (302); the sherds from the other contexts had all suffered some abrasion, particularly the three scraps from (602). The presence of the pottery does, however, indicate Romano-British domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity, although the lack of finewares and imported wares would indicate a low status site, probably a rural farmstead.

Recommendations

2.35 The pottery from the present site is of fairly uniform date and indicative of occupation in the early Roman period. However, the small size of the assemblage and abraded state of much of the material suggests that the features may be of later date, with the pottery forming part of the backfill. On this basis, no further work is proposed on the pottery.

Animal Bone

2.36 Five pieces of animal bone were recovered from the site. The edges of the bones were heavily abraded, which made accurate identification difficult. A possible metatarsal was recovered from (303), another possible metatarsal, a fragment of vertebrae, a tooth and a fragment of skull were recovered from (302). All appear to be from cattle. The poor condition of the bones meant it was impossible to identify any evidence of butchery.

Recommendations

2.37 Based on the abraded and fragmentary nature of the bone, no further work on this assemblage is proposed.

Ceramic Building Material

2.38 Three scraps of modern and intrusive ceramic building material, weighing 5g, were collected from fill (302). No further work is proposed on this material, and it is proposed to discard it.

Iron object

2.39 One iron nail, weighing 5g, was recovered from context (302). The shank measures 50mm in length and is square in section. At the top, it measures 10mm in width, tapering to 3mm at the end. The point of the nail was broken off in antiquity. The sub-circular head measures 12mm in diameter and 2mm thick. The nail is badly corroded.

Recommendations

2.40 Although nails are common finds on Roman sites, there is no clear evidence to indicate that this object is of Roman date, given the presence of modern CBM in the context. No further work is proposed on this object.

Iron slag

2.41 Three pieces of iron slag, weighing 40g, were recovered from context (303). The fragments appear to be *slag prills*, that is, slag that has flowed into the cooler charcoal bed in the base of the furnace and solidified (Crew 1995). At least one of the pieces from the present site has charcoal impressions. The presence of the slag suggests the possibility of small-scale iron working in the vicinity.

Recommendations

2.42 Given the small size of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Stone

2.43 Two pieces of stone, weighing 1825g, were collected from context (303). The fragments represent two quernstones, one formed of red granite and the other of Pennine millstone grit. Their presence indicates domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Recommendations

2.44 Given the small size of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Flint

2.45 Three pieces of flint, weighing 15g, were recovered from 2 stratified contexts. Two pieces were from (704), one forming prismatic blade debitage, the other forming probable debitage from a different tool. One piece was recovered from (302), and may form an early stage core preparation, but this is dubious. The flints have been broadly identified as being Mesolithic or Neolithic in date.

Recommendations

2.46 Given the small size of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

3 Discussion

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies roughly in the centre of Barkway, on the east side of the High Street and south of Burrs lane, centered on NGR TL 384 352 (Figure 1). It measures 0.9374ha in area. The ground is fairly level and the site used to be a chicken farm.

3.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Hertfordshire has been consulted for an area covering a 500m radius from the present site.

- Only slight evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded from within a 500m radius of the present site. A Neolithic flint axe (HER 9071) was found on the bank of the River Quin, approximately 300m to the south-east.
- Roman artefacts have been discovered in Barkway, including a cosmetic implement (HER 9072) from the back garden of a property on the west side of High Street, approximately 150m to the south-west. At least one Roman coin hoard has been discovered in the village (HER 491), with the given NGR approximately 150m to the NNW. A further entry (HER 4027) notes a possible second hoard, but this may be a duplicate record. Part of a puddingstone quern of probable Roman date (HER 10262) was found in the near no.83 High Street, approximately 100m to the north-west.
- A number of small manorial estates are recorded at Barkway in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (HER 2688), suggesting occupation in the village by at least the late Saxon period. The present High Street follows the line of the Saxon *Bergwant*, the way over the hill which ran from Royston to Braughing and beyond. There was a medieval market place which extended across both sides of High Street. Its western half is now occupied by the Victorian village school. Excavation at the school in 1997 (HER 16130) revealed that the site consisted of wet ground which had been levelled up in the 1830s, in order to build the school. Although the finds from the levelling layer included medieval pottery, it appears that the material had been imported on to the site.
- The medieval buildings in the village have been largely lost following a series of fires before the mid 18th century.
- The parish church of St Mary Magdalene (HER 4297), approximately 350m to the north-west, is one of the very few surviving medieval buildings in the village. It lies close to Manor Farm on the west side of High Street. The church, which has origins in the 13th century, was substantially restored in the mid 19th century. A Wealden-type house, dating to the 15th century, survives at 93-97 High Street, approximately 200m to the south-west.
- A possible moat is located at Manor (formerly Parsonage) Farm (HER 4028), approximately 200m to the north-west.
- A number of buildings in the village date to the 16th century, including the farmhouse at Manor Farm (HER 10995), the Old Forge (HER 17920), and the Want House (HER 15764).
- Post-medieval mapping shows that the site lay in a large field to the east of properties fronting High Street. An estate map of 1807 (HALS 62631) names the field as Croat Mead, part of the estate of the Hon. John Peachey and Hester Elizabeth, his wife. The site remained undeveloped until the 1970s, when the present farm buildings were erected (www.old-maps.co.uk).

RESEARCH DESIGN

3.3 The aim of the evaluation has been to establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, to consider the local and regional, archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality in relation to current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and to offer recommendations on an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development, should it go ahead.

3.4 It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of:

- the origins and development of Barkway from the prehistoric period onwards; and,
- the development of medieval field systems and the rural economy.

COLLECTED DATA

3.5 The archaeological evaluation revealed four linear features, [301], [401], [701] and [703], which may represent boundary ditches. A further possible linear was noted in Trench 6, but not investigated due to the flooding of the trench. A small pit, [601], was also encountered. Based on the finds retrieved, features [301], [401] and [601] have been interpreted as Roman in date, whilst features [701] and [703] are of unknown date. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in the course of the work.

Confidence Rating

3.6 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis, the confidence rating for the work may be considered to be *High*.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

3.7 Seven trenches were excavated across the site, focused, as far as possible, on the footprints of the proposed new buildings and their associated access. Four of these trenches contained archaeological features: Ditch [301] in Trench 3, and Ditch [401] in Trench 4, contained finds that suggest that they are broadly contemporary, but their profile and orientation indicate that they are unlikely to be part of the same feature; Pit [601] in Trench 6 may be Roman in date but its function is unknown; and, Ditches [701] and [703] in Trench 7, were both undated but could form part of a small enclosure.

3.8 The archaeological features encountered and the finds recovered, including Roman pottery and fragments of quernstone, suggest a fairly rural landscape with a possible low status settlement nearby. The small assemblage of flint is unlikely to represent prehistoric occupation or even temporary occupation of the site, but is more likely to be the result of small-scale activity by people moving through the area.

3.9 On the basis of the results of the trial trenching, and given the likely impact depth of the development groundworks, there is a defined risk that those groundworks would damage or destroy remains of archaeological significance. The risk can be characterised as *Moderate – High* for remains of Roman date and *Low* for remains of all other periods.

MITIGATION

3.10 The nature and density of the archaeological remains encountered in the trial trenches suggest the presence of a low-status rural settlement in the vicinity, rather than being indicative of intensive settlement activity on the site itself.

3.11 On this basis, appropriate mitigation of the impact of the development on such remains might take the form of the monitoring of the development groundworks by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, with provision for the detailed recording, analysis and publication of any remains uncovered in the course of the works, and the deposition of a comprehensive archive with the local museum service.

3.12 The implementation of any mitigation strategy will be subject to the agreement of the LPA, as advised by the HET, and the approval of a Method Statement for the work to supplement the existing approved Project Design.

4 Sources Consulted

- Ashworth, H. 2014 *Land at Highfield Farm ,Burrs Lane, Barkway, Hertfordshire: Archaeological project design*. Heritage Network.
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5 Illustrations

Figure 1..... Site location
Figure 2..... Site layout
Figure 3..... Trenches 3 and 4: Plans
Figure 4..... Trenches 3 and 4: Sections
Figure 5..... Trenches 6 and 7: Plans
Figure 6..... Trenches 6 and 7: Sections

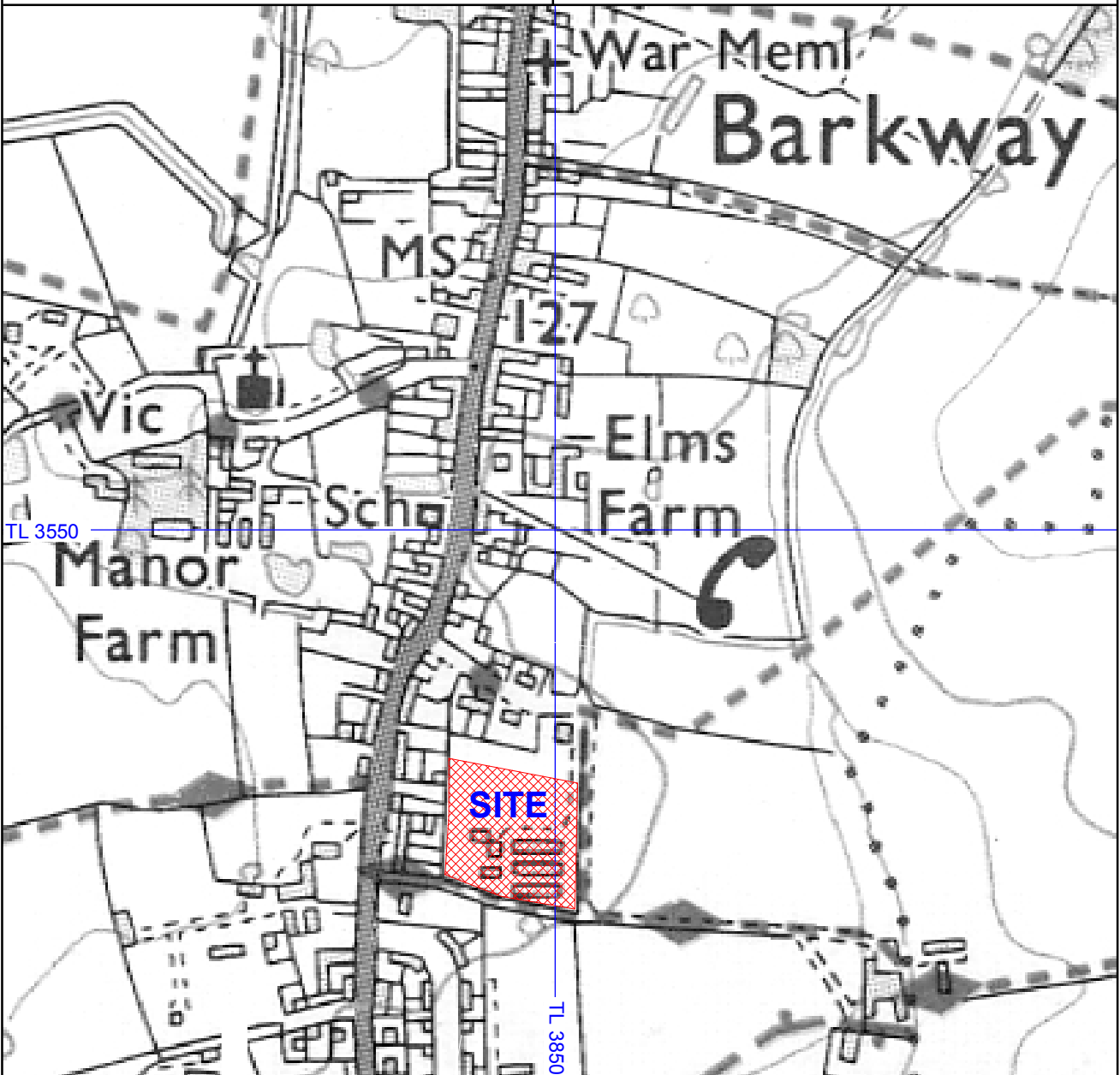
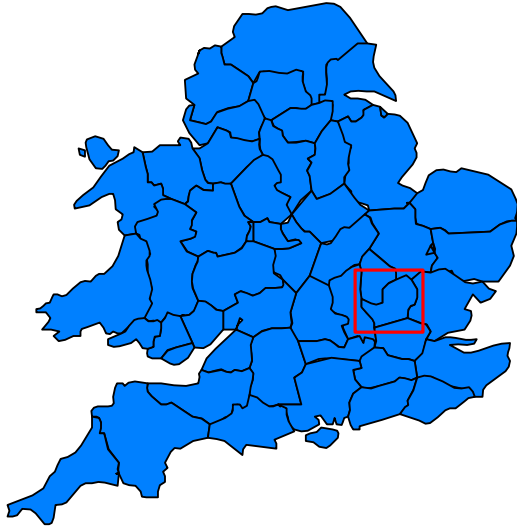
Plate 1..... Trench 1, looking east
Plate 2..... Trench 1, indicative section, looking north
Plate 3..... Trench 2, looking south east
Plate 4..... Trench 3, looking west
Plate 5..... Ditch [301], looking north
Plate 6..... Trench 4, looking north east
Plate 7..... Trench 4, indicative section, looking south east
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Plate 10..... Trench 6, looking south east
Plate 11..... Pit [601], looking south east
Plate 12..... Trench 7, looking west
Plate 13..... Ditch [701], looking north
Plate 14..... Ditch [703], looking south west

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane,
Barkway, Herts

HN1164

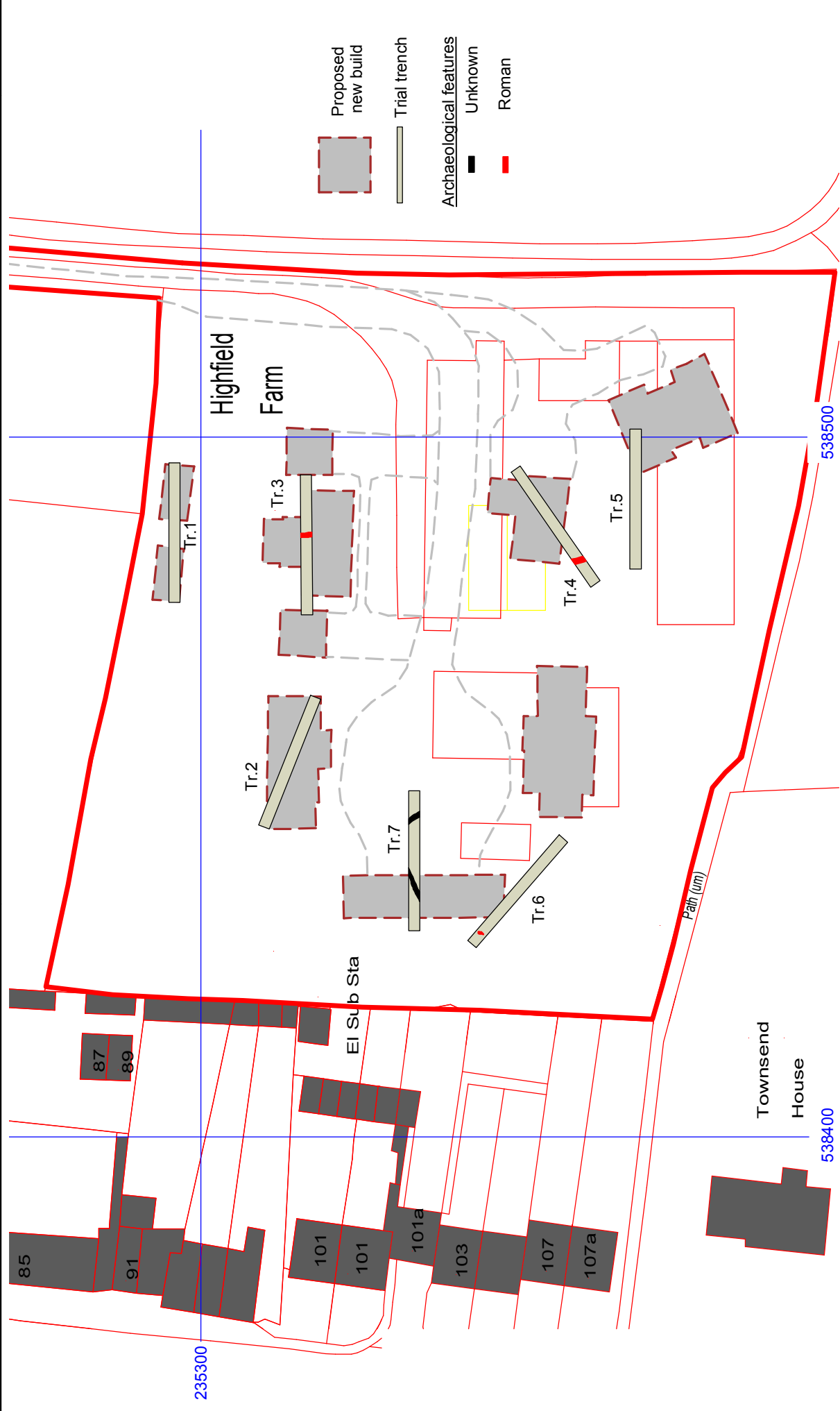


Site Location

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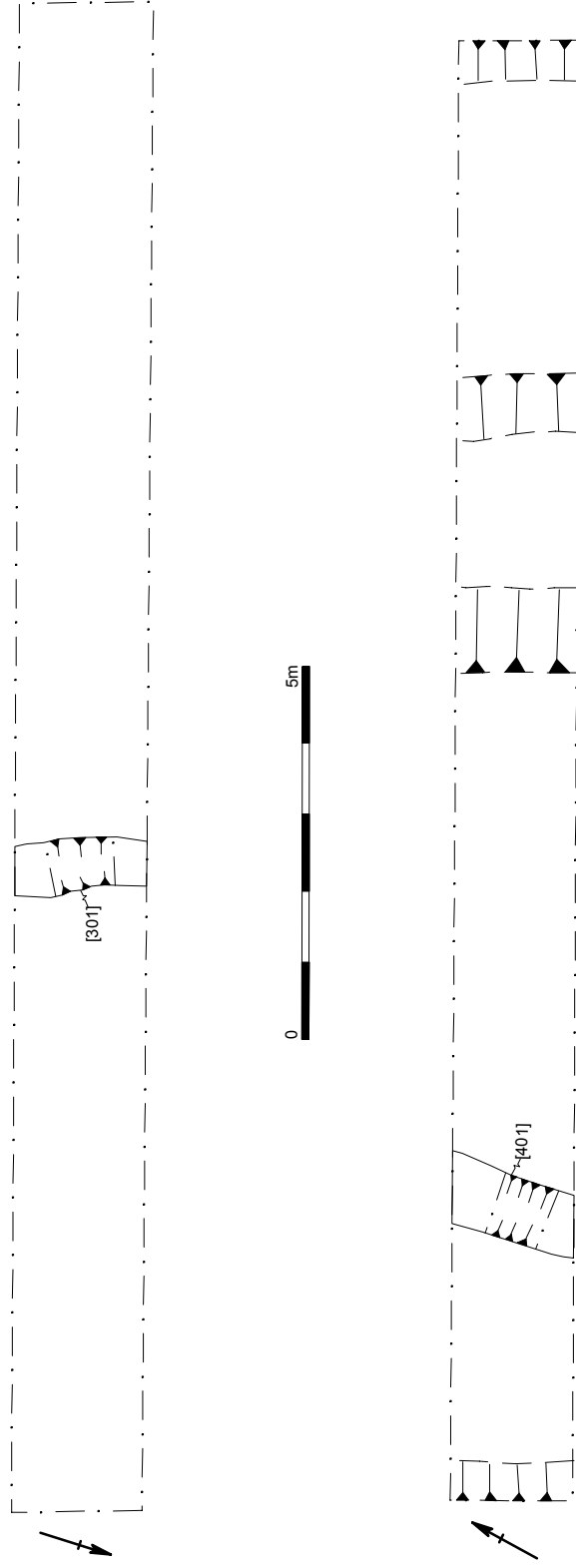
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Figure 1

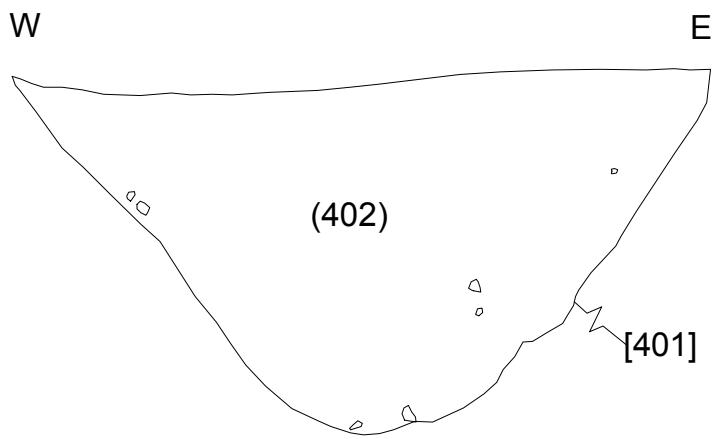
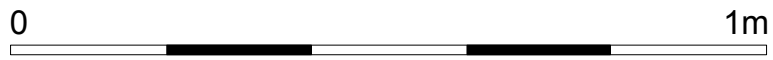
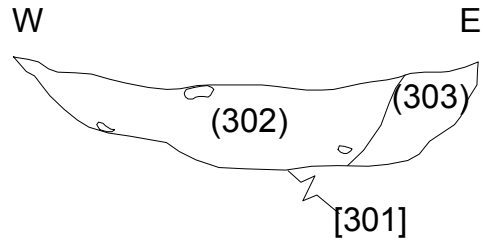


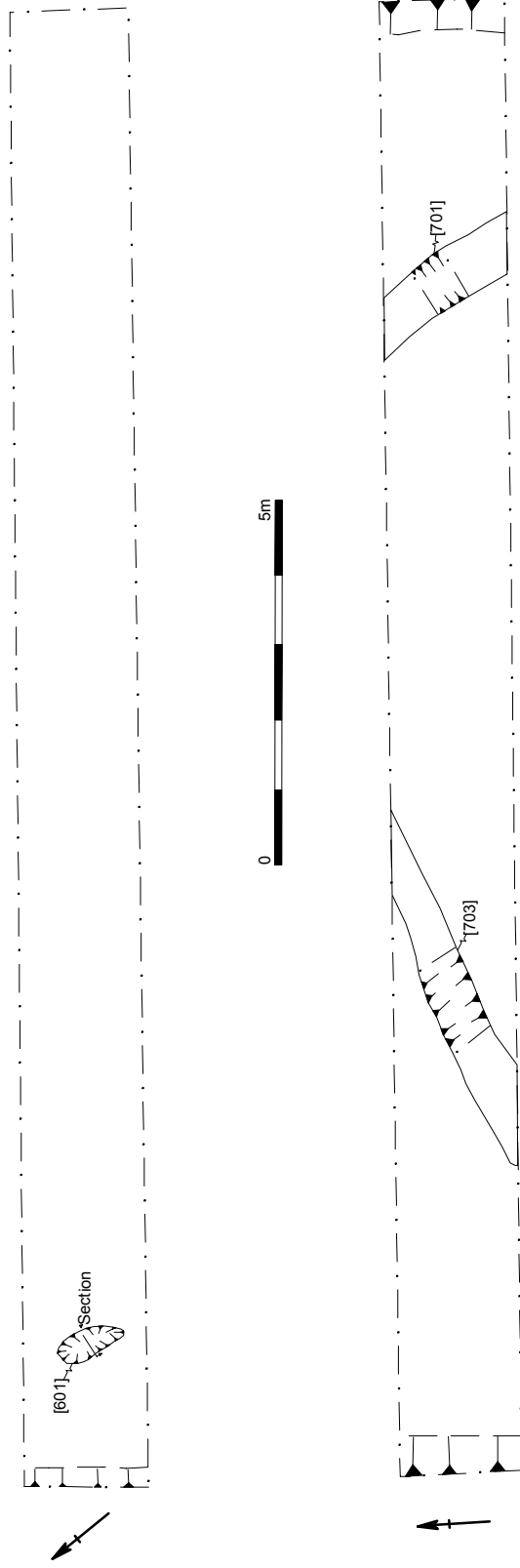
Trench layout
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Figure 2

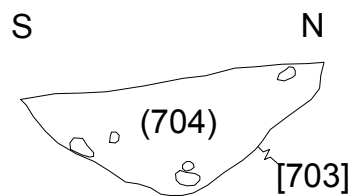
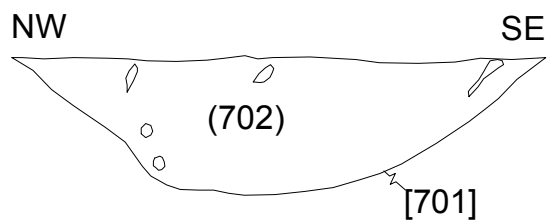
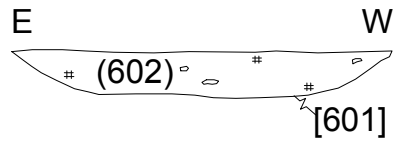


Plans of trenches 3 and 4





Plan of trenches 6 and 7



KEY

- Flint
- # Charcoal



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2: Trench 1, indicative section, looking north



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking south east



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking west



Plate 5: Ditch [301], looking north



Plate 6: Trench 4, looking north east



Plate 7: Trench 4, indicative section, looking south east



Plate 8: Ditch [401], looking north



Plate 9: Trench 5, looking west



Plate 10: Trench 6, looking south east



Plate 11: Pit [601], looking south east



Plate 12: Trench 7, looking west



Plate 13: Ditch [701], looking north



Plate 14: Ditch [703], looking south west

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-192652	
Project name	Land at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane, Barkway, Herts SG8 8EP
Short description of the project	<p>In order to investigate the archaeological potential of land at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane, Barkway, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in order to meet a condition on the planning consent.</p> <p>Seven trenches were excavated across the site. Four of these trenches contained archaeological features. Four boundary ditches (two Roman and two of unknown date) and a single Roman pit. No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in any of the trial trenches.</p> <p>On the basis of the results of the trial trenching, the risk that the proposed development might disturb remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be <i>Moderate – High</i> for Roman and <i>Low</i> for all other periods.</p>
Project dates	Start: 03-08-2015 End: 06-08-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1164 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	Ditch, Pit
Significant Finds	Ceramic Roman, Worked stone Roman, Animal bone Roman, Flint Early Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE, BARKWAY, Land at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane
Study area	238m ²
Site coordinates	NGR - TL 384 353
Height OD / Depth	Min: 125.11m Max: 126.88m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Proj Design originator	Heritage Network
Project director	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bardwell Winter Ltd, Royston Lane, Elmdon, CB11 4NB
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Physical Contents	Pottery, Animal bone, Worked stone and flint
Digital Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Digital Media	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Paper Media	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Project bibliography	
Title	Land at Highfield Farm, Burrs Lane, Barkway, Herts
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sycamore, M.
Other bibliographic details	Report no: 945

Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth
Description	A4 bound paper report with green cover, 16 text pages, 6 figures 14 plates