

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Old Gloucester Road, Hayden,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Munding and David Sanchez

Site Code: OGC17/92

(SO 9150 2428)

**Land at Old Gloucester Road,
Hayden, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for ECUS Ltd

by Andrew MUNDIN and David Sanchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OGC 17/92

June 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Old Gloucester Road, Hayden, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Grid reference: SO 9150 2428

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th and 8th June 2017

Project Manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Sanchez

Site code: OGC 17/92

Area of site: c.3.1ha

Summary of results: In total, eleven trenches were excavated sampling the areas thought to contain features of archaeological interest based on a geophysical survey. However, only the remnants of agricultural furrows of medieval or post medieval date were revealed along with a single modern pit. No archaeological finds were encountered. The site is considered to have little archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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Land at Old Gloucester Road, Hayden, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 17/92

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Old Gloucester Road, Hayden, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (SO 9150 2428) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Daniel Bray, Assistant Heritage Consultant of ECUS Ltd, Unit 1, Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4JX on behalf of Finch Investments.

Planning consent is to be sought from Gloucestershire County Council to develop this 3.1ha greenfield site. The potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Bray 2017) and a non-intrusive magnetic survey of the field (Beaverstock 2017). The survey comprised the first stage of investigation at the site, with this report documenting the invasive investigation by trial trenching targeting and sampling the anomalies registered by the geophysical survey, in order to inform the planning process.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council and was also monitored by him. The fieldwork was supervised by David Sanchez with assistance from Cosmo Bacon on 7th and 8th June 2017. The site code is OGC 17/92. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of the Old Gloucester Road (B4634) (Fig.1 and 2). This is on the north-western edge of urban Cheltenham. The field is an irregularly shaped parcel of land, with a small brook with trees to the east and the road to the south. The west is bounded by an adjacent property and footpath to its north-west. Pilgrove Road Bridge crosses the brook immediately beyond the south-eastern corner of the site. There is a slight fall of the site to the north-eastwards with its lowest point 32m above Ordnance Datum from the south-west where the highest point is 36m aOD. The underlying geology is alluvium over Charmouth Mudstone (BGS Geoindex), formerly known as Lower Lias clay which forms the natural bedrock (BGS 1988).

Archaeological background

The potential of the site has been highlighted in the desk-based assessment (Bray 2017). In summary, the site lies within an area with a number of Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval sites and finds. Aerial photography, and the subsequent geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2017) identified surviving ridge and furrow (agricultural earthworks) on the central part of the site.

Objectives and methodology

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of proposed development.

Specific aims included:

to determine if archaeological relevant deposits or levels survived on the site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and

to determine if archaeological nature of any geophysical anomalies were present.

It was proposed to dig 11 trenches each 1.6-2m wide and 25m long (c. 2% of the site area). The trenching was located to sample the main identified magnetic anomalies as well as other 'blank' areas (Fig. 2). Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, or where the archaeological potential is uncertain, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy

the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or that might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2)

This trench was aligned NW - SE and was 24.7m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil which was a dark brown silt loam which overlay 0.2m of subsoil. This was a yellowish brown silty clay, in turn overlying natural clay, most likely alluvium. No finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2 and 3, Pl.1)

Trench 2 was aligned ESE - WNW and was 26m long and 0.4m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.15 depth of subsoil. This in turn overlay natural clay geology from a depth of 0.35m. This trench was positioned to investigate the furrows in this part of the field on the perpendicular. Three regular spaced furrows all between 0.7 - 1m wide were encountered. Once investigated all were shallow (less than 0.05m deep). The natural clay was encountered at 34.94m above OD. A test pit was dug into the ESE end of the trench and encountered grey clay 0.45m deep under the alluvium in this trench.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

This trench was aligned SE - NW and was 24.7m long and 0.27m deep. The stratigraphy contained 0.15m thick topsoil over a 0.2m thickness of subsoil. This in turn overlay natural clay geology from a depth of 0.35m. As in Trench 2, furrows were encountered, all on the same alignment.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

This trench was aligned SSW - NNE and was 26.3m long and 0.27m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil which overlay a 0.13m thickness of subsoil. This in turn overlying natural clay geology.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2, Pl.2)

Trench 5 was aligned SE - NW at the northern end of the site. It was 25.2m and 0.26m deep. This consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlaying 0.12 thick of subsoil. This in turn overlay natural clay geology from a depth of 0.26m deep. Two probable and a possible third furrow were noted in this trench.

Trench 6 (Fig.2)

This trench was aligned N - S and was 25m long and 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil which overlay a 0.1m thickness of subsoil, this in turn overlying natural clay geology. Two furrows were noted in this trench.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2 and 3, Pl.3)

This trench was aligned SE - NW and was 26.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil which overlay a 0.1m thickness of subsoil. This in turn overlying natural clay geology. No furrows were observed in the base of this trench.

Trench 8 (Fig.2)

This trench was aligned WNW - ESE and was 25.2m long and 0.2m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil which overlay a 0.1m thickness of subsoil. This in turn overlying natural clay geology. Four furrows were noted in this trench, all between 1.5.- 2.2m wide.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

This trench was 25.8m long and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil which overlay 0.1m of subsoil. This in turn overlying natural clay geology. One modern pit was encountered at 20m from the SW end of the trench.

Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

This trench was 25.8m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil which overlay 0.1m of subsoil. This in turn overlying natural clay geology. One furrow was present that corresponded with a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2, Pl.4)

This trench was 25.4m long and 0.3m deep (Pl. 4). It consisted of 0.2m topsoil overlying 0.1m thick subsoil over natural clay geology..

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered. Fragments of brick, tile and modern 'china' observed in the topsoil and furrow fills were retained on site.

Conclusion

The trenching exercise was successful in that it was carried out as intended and sampled and characterised the geophysical anomalies. However, this only confirmed the presence of ridge and furrow of medieval/ post-medieval date, with no earlier features underlying them of archaeological interest. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered. The site is considered to have little archaeological potential.

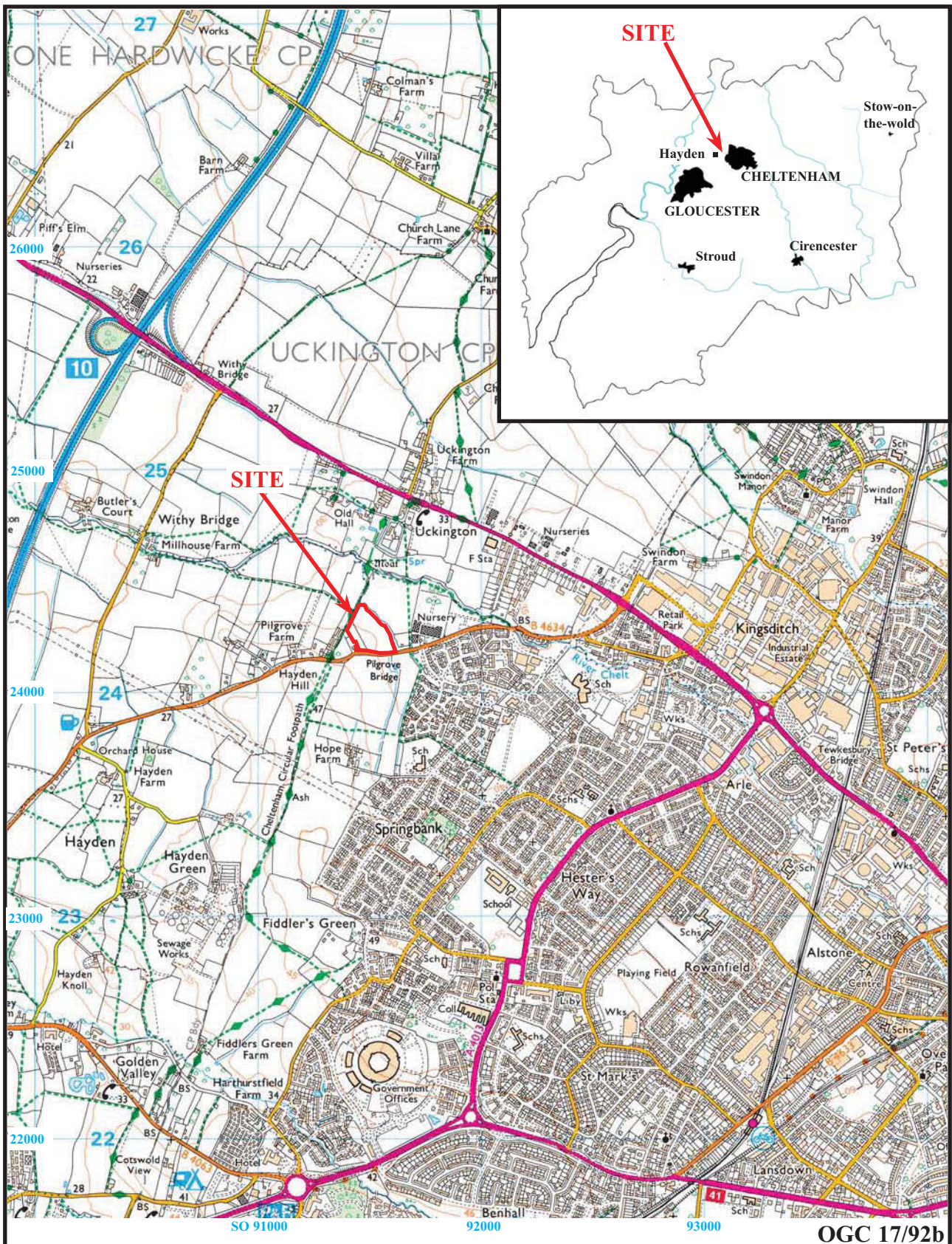
References

- Beaverstock, K, 2017, 'Land at Old Gloucester Road, Hayden, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, a magnetic geophysical survey', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **17/92a**, Reading
- Bray, D, 2017, 'Old Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, Historic Environment Assessment', unpublished client rep **9337**, ECUS Ltd, Charfield
- BGS, 1988, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 234 (Tewkesbury), Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m = at W or S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.7	1.6	0.4	0–0.2m dark brown silt topsoil; 0.2-0.4m yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.4m+ light reddish brown silty clay natural geology.
2	26	1.6	0.4	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural reddish brown silty clay geology. Modern furrows and modern pit. [PI. 1]
3	24.7	1.6	0.35	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural reddish brown silty clay geology. Modern furrows.
4	26.3	1.6	0.27	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m+ natural reddish brown silty clay geology.
5	25.2	1.6	0.26	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m+ natural reddish brown silty clay geology. Modern furrows. [PI. 2]
6	25.9	1.6	0.26	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.26 subsoil; 0.26m+ natural yellow brown silty clay geology. Modern furrows and land drainage.
7	26.5	1.6	0.4	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ natural yellow brown silty clay geology [PI. 3]
8	25.2	1.6	0.35	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ natural yellow brown silty clay geology. Modern furrows.
9	25.8	1.6	0.3	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ natural yellow brown silty clay geology. Modern pit.
10	25.8	1.6	0.4	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural yellow brown silty clay natural. Modern furrow.
11	25.4	1.6	0.3	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ natural reddish brown silty clay geology. [PI. 4]



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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Hayden, Cheltenham and within Gloucestershire.

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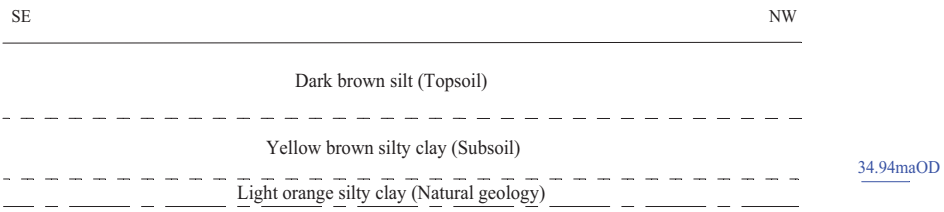
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Figure 2. Trenching compared to geophysical anomalies.

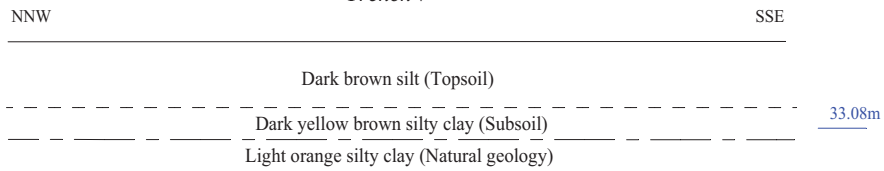


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Trench 2



Trench 7



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Figure 3. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at Old Gloucester Road, Hayden,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 7, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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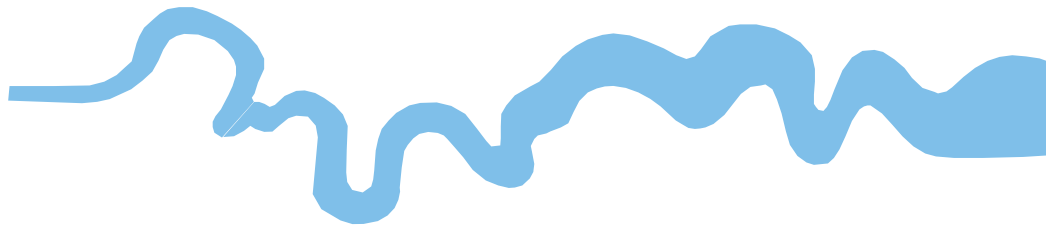
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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