

Archaeological Evaluation

Land adjacent to
The Willows
Lincoln Green Lane
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire

NGR: SO 889 313

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1. Non Technical Summary

Border Archaeology carried out a field evaluation of land adjacent to The Willows Lincoln Green Lane Tewkesbury Gloucestershire on July 9th 2009, the development area being located within the northern part of the registered battlefield of Tewkesbury, the site of an important battle during the Wars of the Roses (1471).

A single evaluation trench was opened in advance of a proposed stable block development, which revealed a possible post-medieval feature at 0.30m below final engineering depth. No finds or features dated earlier than the later post-medieval period were identified.

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Richard Davies Esq. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in respect of the proposed development of land adjacent to The Willows, Lincoln Green Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, (NGR: SO 889 313) (Fig. 1) in pursuance of a Brief issued by Charles Parry Esq. Senior Archaeological Officer Gloucestershire County Council.

Copies of this report will be sent to Mr Davies, Mr Parry and the Gloucestershire SMR.

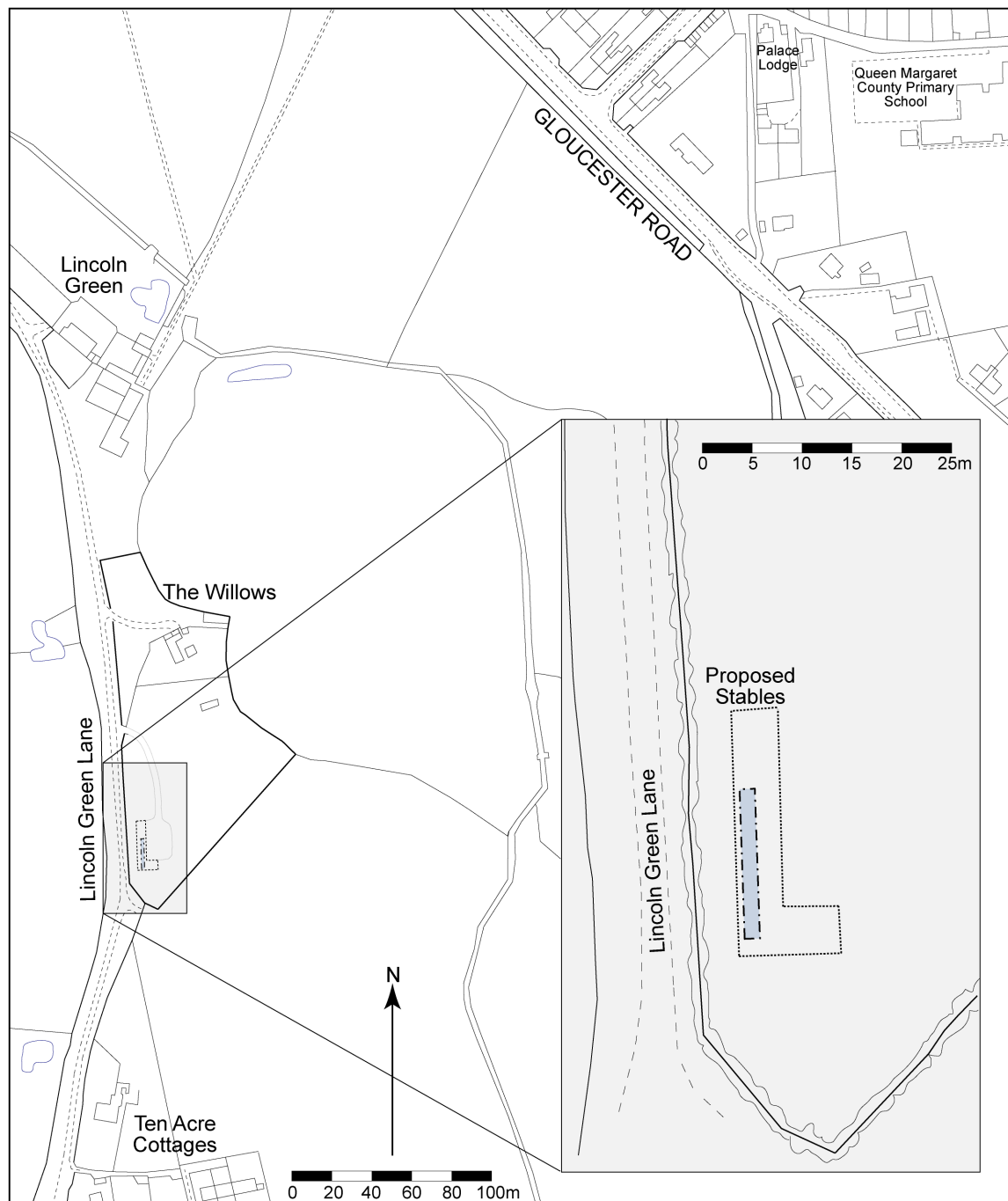


Fig. 1: Plan showing location of site and evaluation trenching

2.1 Soils & Geology

The area is characterised by typical calcareous pelosols of the EVESHAM 2 series (411b) and typical argillic pelosols of the WORCESTER series (431). The former consist of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils and some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey or fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils, the underlying geology being Jurassic and Cretaceous clay. The WORCESTER (431) soils consist of slowly permeable non-calcareous and calcareous reddish clayey soils over mudstone, which can be associated with similar non-calcareous fine loamy over clayey soils. The associated geology consists of Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone.

3. Methodology

Full written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) in *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2001). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*.

A written stratigraphic record was compiled using a context numbering system and archaeological deposits, features and structures were drawn in plan and section at a scale of 1:20 on gridded archivally stable film. A comprehensive photographic record was made using a high-resolution (10.3MPX) digital camera.



Plate 1: View of evaluation trench, looking N

Cognisant of the 250/300mm requisite engineering depth, a single evaluation trench measuring 15 × 1.5m was opened within the area of the proposed development (**Fig. 1; Plate 1**). A final excavation depth of approximately 0.60m was attained and two 1.5m long sondages were subsequently excavated at each end of the trench to a depth of 1m to ascertain natural deposits.

All spoil and removed material were visually scanned for artefacts, which were recorded and, where appropriate, retained. A temporary benchmark was established on the site with a value of 15.46m AOD.

4. Evaluation results

Five contexts were identified within the evaluation trench, the uppermost of which was a moderately compact dark brown silty clay topsoil containing moderate amounts of post-medieval pottery and CBM and small quantities of charcoal and burnt daub flecking (101).

Underlying this deposit was a 0.12–0.15m thick, firm mid greyish-brown silty clay containing frequent burnt daub, charcoal and mortar, which was concentrated particularly around the southern end of the trench (102). Also within this deposit were occasional to moderate fragments of later post-medieval pottery and CBM.

Context (102) overlaid a 0.30m thick firm light greyish-brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM (103), which extended across the entirety of the trench and also filled what appeared to be a shallow linear cut [105] located within the southern *sondage* (**Fig. 2; Plate 2**).



Plate 2: View S of linear [105]

This cut was located at a depth of more than 0.65m below existing ground level overlying natural geology (104); it extended roughly N–S for at least 1.4m and was more than 1.20m wide. Its precise nature was unclear; it appeared to represent either a natural undulation or the effects of later post-medieval landscaping activity.

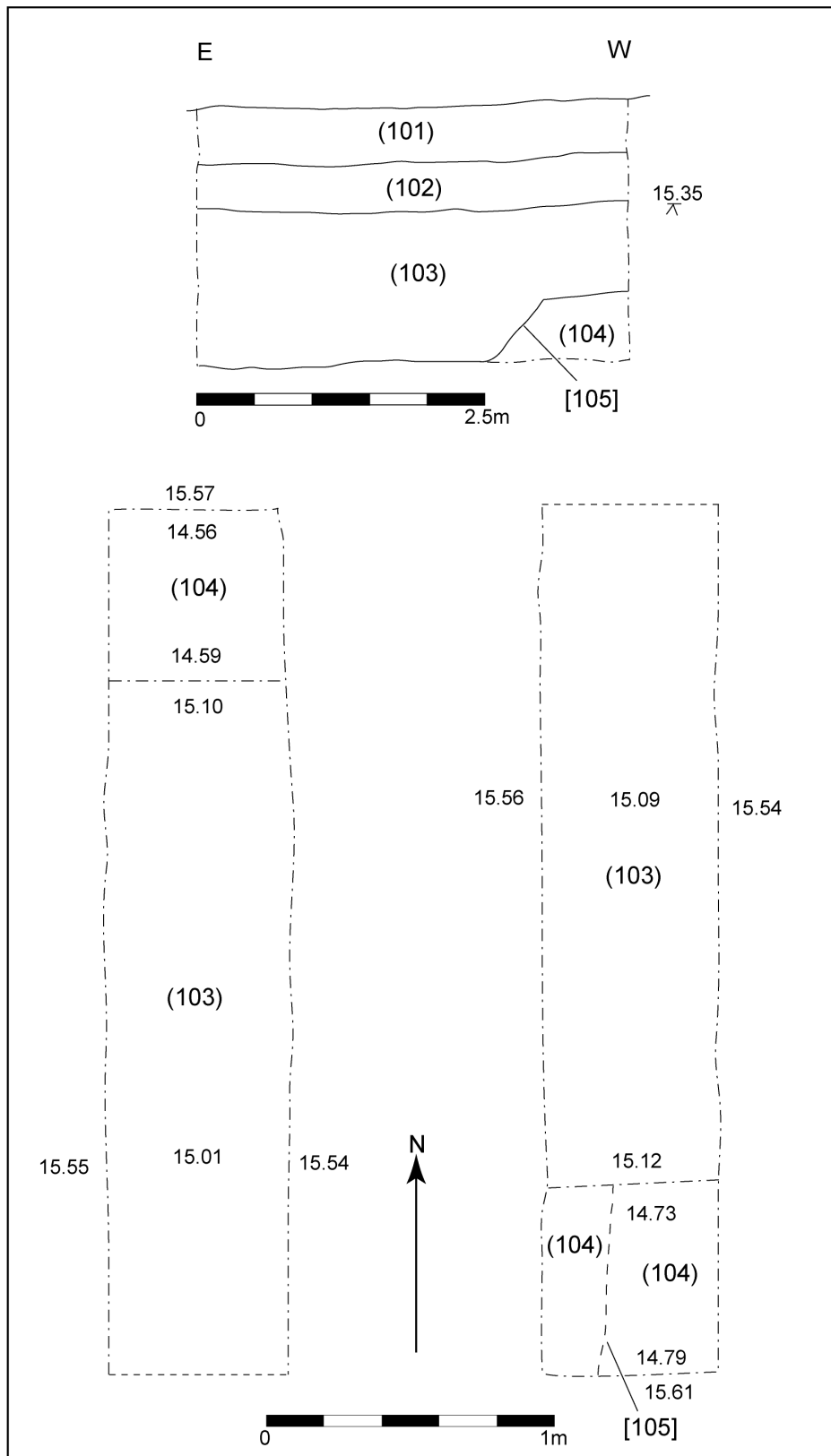


Fig 2: N-facing section and post-ex plan



5. Summary & Conclusion

The evaluation trench revealed a single, late post-medieval feature at approximately 0.30m below the proposed level of engineering impact.

A spread of burnt daub, mortar and charcoal in (102) suggests the presence of post-medieval settlement activity within the vicinity of the site and may well be associated with the pump-house structure recorded in this location on the OS 2nd edition 6-inch map of 1902. The association of this material with blue 'willow pattern' wares confirms its later post-medieval date.

No other archaeological features were located within the trench and no finds predating the post-medieval period were recovered.

6. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

7. Bibliography

Gloucestershire SMR printout

English Heritage, 1995, *English Heritage Battlefield Report: Tewkesbury 1471*, www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Tewkesbury.pdf

Joyce, S., 2008, *The Willows Lincoln Green Lane Tewkesbury: Archaeological Evaluation*, Cotswold Archaeology

SSEW, 1983, *Soil Survey of England and Wales*, Silsoe

8. Cartography

1902 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6 inch map

Appendix 1: Context Register

CONTEXT NO.	DESCRIPTION
(101)	Moderately compact dark greyish-brown silty clay; moderate amounts of CBM, occasional burnt daub, charcoal flecking, post-medieval pottery & glass. Dimensions: >15.00 x >1.50 x 0.22 x 0.35m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Heavily root disturbed topsoil.</i>
(102)	Firm mid greyish-brown silty clay; frequent burnt daub, charcoal and mortar to S and moderate small subangular and sub-rounded stones; occasional post-medieval pottery and chert. Dimensions: >15.00 x >1.50 x 0.12–0.15m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Heavily bio-turbated subsoil.</i>
(103)	Firm light greyish-brown silty clay; moderate amounts of small & medium subangular stones & river washed pebbles; occasional pieces of chert. Dimensions: >15.00 x >1.50 x 0.30m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bio-turbated subsoil.</i>
(104)	Firm mid greyish-brown silty clay; occasional sandstone/mudstone fragments. Dimensions: >3.00 x >1.50 x > 0.34m.
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology.</i>
(105)	N–S linear cut measuring >1.40 x >1.20 x 0.14m; corners not revealed; break of slope top moderate, sides sloping, break of slope base gradual, base flat/sloping to E. Filled by (103).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible cut or natural undulation into (104). If the former, then provenance unknown but may relate to post-medieval landscaping activity.</i>



Document Control

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