



**Helipebs Premier Works, Sisson Road
Elmbridge, Gloucester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Helipebs (Holdings) Ltd


CA Project: 4933
CA Report: 14312

September 2014

Helipebs Premier Works, Sisson Road
Elmbridge, Gloucester
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4933
CA Report: 14312

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date	12 September 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Helpebs Premier Works
Location:	Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester
NGR:	SO 8565 1885
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	7-9 July 2014
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	HPE 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2014 at Helpebs Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester. A total of seven trenches were excavated.

An undated ditch, a post-medieval quarry pit and furrows were all identified. Modern truncation was identified particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Helipebs (Holdings) Ltd at Helipebs Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8565 1885; Fig. 1). The evaluation was requested by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council (GCC), prior to determination of a forthcoming planning application.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) and approved by Andrew Armstrong (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong including a site visit on 8 July 2014.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is c.1.67ha in extent, and comprises an approximately trapezoidal land parcel at the western end of Sisson Road. The evaluation area was constrained by elements of the site still being in use and also known service alignments. As such, the trench sample was not distributed evenly. It is bordered by railway line on the south-east, a factory site on the south-west and a playing field to the north-east. The site is bordered on the north-west by housing. The site lies at approximately 23m AOD. The majority of the area is level save that area to the south of the industrial units where the ground level has been increased.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014). Localised areas of gravel and clay were identified, mainly in the western and northern parts of the site.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 This site has been subject to desk based assessment (CA 2012). This assessment, and a review of recently completed archaeological fieldwork, are summarised below.
- 1.6 Lower Palaeolithic flint flakes have been recovered from gravel deposits 300m south-west of the site. A flint axe-head, tentatively dated to the Mesolithic period, was recovered approximately 600m south-east of the site at 167 Barnwood Road (CA 2012).
- 1.7 The line of Ermin Street, the Roman road which linked Cirencester and Gloucester, passes 400m south-west of the site. The line of this route is still in use as Barnwood Road. A focus of Roman activity appears to have been present 500m to the south of the site, adjacent to Ermin Street (CA 2012). Two watching briefs, 20-48 Sandylease (NMRAD no. 652932) to the north and Sisson End (GCCHER no. 1239) to the north-west, recovered unstratified Roman ceramic building material and pottery.
- 1.8 An archaeological evaluation was carried out c.100m to the south-east (CA 2014b). The earliest datable features encountered were a series of predominantly north-west/south-east-aligned ditches containing 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery. Evidence of medieval and/or later agricultural practice was identified throughout the site in the form of predominantly north-east/south-west-aligned plough furrows. These were associated with post-medieval/early modern land drains. Several undated features were also noted.
- 1.9 The site was in use as engineering works by at least 1923, as illustrated by the OS imprint from that year. It is not clear when various landscaping occurred (particularly in the west of the site), though the site may have been altered during the construction of the railway embankment (as illustrated on the 1903 OS imprint).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable the GCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the

development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 8 measured 25m in length, Trench 4 measured 10m in length, Trench 7 measured 15m in length, Trenches 2, 5 and 6 measured approximately 5m in length; all were 1.8m in width. Trenches 2 and 3 were not excavated due to the presence of buried services and Trench 4 was not fully excavated due to the presence buried asbestos respectively. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.
- 2.2 The natural substrate was similar throughout site and consisted of gravel in a sandy matrix and clay that was revealed at an approximate depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). It was sealed by approximately 0.15m of subsoil which, in turn, was overlain by approximately 0.15m of topsoil (in some areas reworked). In the south of the site, this was sealed by approximately 0.3m of modern overburden. Furrows were identified within Trenches 1, 7 and 8. Modern disturbance was identified within Trenches 2, 4 and 8 (the latter including a linear ditch) with significant disturbance identified throughout Trenches 5 and 6 to a depth of at least 1.7m bpgl. No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1-6.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 Subsoil 703 was cut by quarry pit 705 (Fig. 3, Section AA) which was partially exposed in plan. Following partial excavation (with the agreement of Andrew Armstrong) it measured at least 3.5m in width and 0.81m in depth with moderate sides and flat base. It contained re-deposited sand 708 sealed by clay silt 707. This was overlain by clay silt 706 from which a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. It was sealed by reworked topsoil 702.

The finds

- 2.4 Finds recovered from evaluation included pottery and ceramic building material. Codings for medieval and post-medieval fabrics given in the text and Appendix B in parenthesis correspond to the Gloucester pottery type series codes as defined by Vince (unpublished).

Roman

- 2.5 Fill 106 of furrow 107 produced a single unfeathered bodysherd in a sand-tempered, oxidised fabric. This cannot be dated more precisely than to the Roman period.

Medieval

- 2.7 A single unfeathered bodysherd of Malvernian unglazed ware (TF40) was recovered from furrow fill 106 of furrow 107. This ware type was manufactured in the area

between the Malvern Hills and the River Severn during the 12th to 14th centuries (Bryant 2004, 298-300).

- 2.8 Fill 706 of quarry pit 705 produced two joining bodysherds of oxidised Malvernian glazed ware (TF52) which is dateable to the 12th to 17th centuries (Vince unpublished).

Post-medieval

- 2.9 Fill 809 of furrow 808 produced a rimsherd from a large jar or bowl, with scored decoration on the rim, in a glazed earthenware fabric dating to the 16th to 18th centuries.
- 2.10 A rimsherd from a plate with piecrust-decorated rim in Staffordshire combed slipware (TF72) was recorded in fill 706 of quarry pit. This type of pottery was produced during the late 17th and 18th centuries (Vince unpublished).

Ceramic building material

- 2.11 A total of four fragments of ceramic building material of probable Roman date were recovered from fills 106 and 110 of furrows 107 and 109 respectively. All were too fragmentary for further classification.
- 2.12 Fill 809 of furrow 808 produced a fragment of post-medieval brick.

Faunal remains

- 2.13 A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from fill 110 of furrow 109 which, although well preserved, was unidentifiable to element or species.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see archaeological background), a single post-medieval quarry pit and an undated ditch were the only archaeological features identified. Given the stratigraphic location of the features, it is likely that they are relatively recent though none can be attributed to any specific illustrated feature on available cartographic sources.

3.2 While the evaluation trench sample was necessarily targeted based on area availability, the results demonstrate that parts of the site have been heavily impacted by early modern and modern activities. While the possibility that areas outside this sample retain archaeological features cannot be discounted, the evaluation has demonstrated that in the south, south-east and east of the site preservation is likely to be poor.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Jay Wood and Ian Barnes. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The illustrations were prepared by CA illustrator. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 10 June 2014

Bryant, V. 2004 'Medieval and early post-medieval pottery', in Dalwood, H. and Edwards, R. 2004, 281-339.

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Dalwood, H. and Edwards, R. 2004 *Excavations at Deansway, Worcester 1988-89: Romano-British small town to late medieval city*. Research Report 139. York. Council for British Archaeology.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		topsoil	mid grey-brown silty clay			0.26	
1	101	layer		subsoil	dark grey yellow-brown clay sand			0.27	
1	102	layer		natural substrate	mid orange yellow gravel in sand matrix				
1	103	cut		furrow	aligned NW/SE				
1	104	fill	103	furrow fill	mid grey yellow-brown silty sand				
1	105	cut		furrow	aligned NW/SE				
1	106	fill	105	furrow fill	mid grey yellow-brown silty sand				
1	107	cut		furrow	aligned NW/SE				
1	108	fill	107	furrow fill	mid grey yellow-brown silty sand				
1	109	cut		furrow	aligned N/S				
1	110	fill	109	furrow fill	dark grey yellow-brown silty sand				
1	111	cut		field drain	aligned NW/SE				
1	112	fill	111	field drain fill	mixed dark grey yellow brown silty sand and mid blue-grey clay				
1	113	cut		field drain	aligned NW/SE				
1	114	fill		field drain fill	mixed dark-grey yellow brown silty sand and mid blue-grey clay				
2	200	layer		hard standing	compact crushed limestone			0.2	
2	201	layer		made ground	mid yellow brown silt clay with CBM and charcoal inclusions			0.1	
2	202	cut		service	aligned N/S				
2	203	fill	202	service fill	rubble				
4	400	layer		turf	dark grey-brown silty clay			0.15	
4	401	layer		buried topsoil	mid grey-brown silty clay			0.24	
4	402	layer		subsoil	mid grey-yellow brown clay sand			0.2	
4	403	layer		natural substrate	mid orange yellow gravel in sand matrix				
4	404	deposi		dump	dark black-grey silt clay with modern rubble, wood, plastic	8.1	>1.8	>1.1	
5	500	layer		hard standing	compact crushed limestone			0.3	
5	501	cut		modern truncation	steep side	>5.0	>1.8	>1.4	
5	502	fill	501	modern truncation fill	dark brown-black silty clay with brick rubble, wood and concrete	>5.0	>1.8	>1.4	
5	503	layer		natural substrate	mid brown-yellow clay				
6	600	layer		hard standing	compact limestone gravel			0.25	
6	601	cut		modern truncation	steep side	>5.0	>1.8	>1.7	
6	602	fill	601	upper fill	dark grey-black silt clay with wood and brick	>5.0	>1.8	0.5	
6	603	fill	601	middle fill	brown-yellow gravels	>5.0	>1.8	0.3	
6	604	fill	601	lower fill	dark blue/black silt clay, hydrocarbon contamination, wood and concrete	>5.0	>1.8	0.7	
6	605	layer		natural substrate	blue-grey clay				
7	700	layer		road surface	re-enforced concrete			0.1	
7	701	layer		consolidation	limestone rubble			0.17	
7	702	layer		buried topsoil	mid-dark brown-grey clay silt			0.15	
7	703	layer		subsoil	mid brown-yellow clay silt with gravel inclusions			0.13	

7	704	layer		natural substrate	light yellow gravels				
7	705	cut		quarry pit	irregular in plan, moderate sides, flat base	3.5	>1.8	0.81	
7	706	fill	705	upper fill	mid grey-brown clay silt		>1.8	0.68	
7	707	fill	705	middle fill	mid brown-grey clay silt		>1.8	0.1	
7	708	fill	705	lower fill	mid brown-yellow clay sand		>1.8	0.11	
7	709	cut		furrow	aligned N/S				
7	710	fill	709	furrow fill	mid grey-brown silt clay				
8	800	layer		hard standing	dark brown-black clay silt with limestone rubble and gravel			0.15	
8	801	layer		hard standing	limestone rubble			0.2	
8	502	layer		buried topsoil	mid-dark brown-grey silt clay with CBM rubble			0.11	
8	803	layer		subsoil	mid brown-yellow clay silt and gravel			0.13	
8	804	layer		natural substrate	light yellow gravels and sand				
8	805	cut		ditch	aligned NE/SW, moderate sides, concave base	>2.0	0.8	0.28	
8	806	fill	805	ditch fill	mid brown-yellow clay silt	>2.0	0.8	0.24	
8	807	fill	805	ditch fill	mid brown-yellow clay silt gravel		0.74	0.09	
8	808	cut		furrow	aligned N/S				
8	809	fill	808	furrow fill	mid brown clay silt with charcoal				
8	810	cut		furrow	aligned N/S				
8	811	fill	810	furrow fill	mid brown clay silt with charcoal				
8	812	cut		furrow	aligned N/S				
8	813	fill	812	furrow fill	mid brown clay silt with charcoal				
8	814	cut		furrow	aligned N/S				
8	815	fill	814	furrow fill	mid brown clay silt with charcoal				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
106	Roman pottery: sand-tempered, oxidised fabric	1	11	C12-C14
	Medieval pottery: Malvernian unglazed ware	1	11	
	Roman ceramic building material	3	17	
110	Roman ceramic building material	1	26	RB?
	Animal bone : medium-sized mammal	1	5	
706	Medieval pottery: Oxidised Malvernian glazed fabric	2	17	C12-EC17
	Post-medieval pottery: yellow slipware	1	12	
809	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	44	C16-C18
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: brick	1	9	
	Shell	1	21	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Heliwebs Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2014 at Heliwebs Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester. Seven trenches were excavated. An undated ditch, a post-medieval quarry pit and furrows were all identified. Modern truncation was identified throughout site.	
Project dates	7 – 9 July 2014	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2012)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c.1.67ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8565 1885	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Pottery
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets, context sheets, section drawings
Digital	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Heliwebs Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14312		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Helios Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4933
DRAWN BY JB
APPROVED BY LM

DATE 14-07-2014
REVISION 00
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature
-  furrow
-  modern



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PROJECT TITLE
Helipeb Premier Works, Sisson Road, Elmbridge, Gloucester.

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

PROJECT NO. 4933 DATE 14-07-2014
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LMJ/ATB SCALE@A4 1:1000

FIGURE NO.

2





Trench 7, Quarry pit 705, looking south (scale 1m)

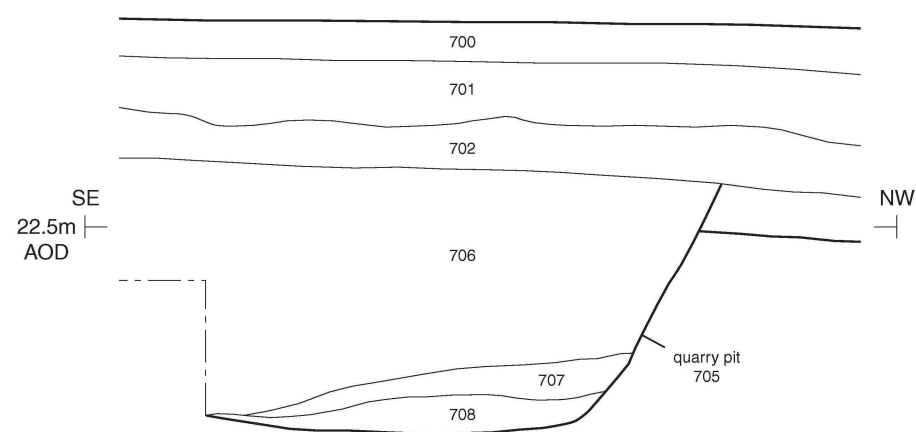


Trench 8, Ditch 805, looking north-east (scale 0.4m)

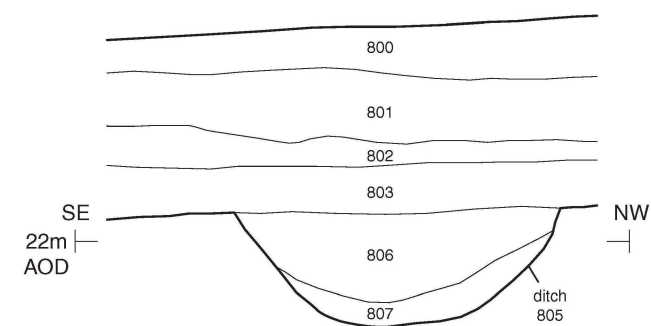


Trench 8, Ditch 805, looking south-west (scale 1m)

Trench 7, Section AA



Trench 8, Section BB




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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 7 and 8: sections and
 photographs**

PROJECT NO. 4933	DATE 14-07-2014	FIGURE NO.
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