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**Plot 1000 Tachbrook Park
Olympus Way/Apollo Ave
Warwick**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. MK005/15

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Town Hall
Creed St
Wolverton
Milton Keynes
MK12 5LY

T: 01908 226124

miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	M A O'Brien
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BA MPhil PhD MCIfA
Editor	Mark Roberts
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**Plot 1000,
Olympus Ave/Apollo Way,
Tachbrook Park, Warwick**

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SUMMARY

Five evaluation trenches were excavated in an area of scrub/grass at Plot 1000, Olympus Ave/Apollo Way, Tachbrook Park, Warwick. The Site had been recently stripped and the upper levels of the sands and gravels had been removed and then perhaps used as a construction compound. Tarmac and concrete rubble road ways and one of red blaes crossed the site and areas had been built up with subsoil. No archaeological remains were present.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2015 at Plot 1000, Olympus Ave/Apollo Way, Tachbrook Park, Warwick (NGR: SP 30699 64445) . The work was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology on behalf of A C Lloyd with plant supplied by B Line. The site has planning permission granted by Warwick District Council for the erection of a 4-storey office building with associated access, car parking, landscaping and planting. This archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (dated March 2015) which was produced by Prospect Archaeology.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Tachbrook Business Park is situated between the town centres of Warwick and Leamington Spa. It extends over an area of more than 53ha and plots have been developed over the last 20 years. The present site, Plot 1000, is located at the junction of Olympus Avenue and Apollo Way. It is a sub-rectangular plot in the north-western part of the business park. It is currently under grass with some shrubbery and is c.1.5ha in extent. There is an electricity sub-station in the south-east corner (Fig. 1).

The Site (Fig. 1) has two main levels; the southern half was approximately 1m lower than the northern half, from which it was separated by a disused tarmac road (Fig. 2) and some hardstanding at the east of the site. It was apparent that the site had been subject to earthmoving in the past few years as marker pins were still present.

1.3 Archaeological Background and Previous Work

The development site lies within an area of some archaeological potential, in an area of Warwick that was open agricultural land until the 20th century. Enclosures, including possible ring ditches, are visible as crop marks 400m to the south-west of this site on aerial photographs (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 4562, MWA 3688). Recent evaluation across that area has identified widespread activity dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. A further linear feature of possibly archaeological origin is also visible on historic aerial photographs 170m to the south-west (MWA 19385).

1.4 Project Aims

In general terms, the purposes of the evaluation were to:

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigation measures to be undertaken either in advance of and/or during development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

All machine excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned in relation to the recommendations of the WSI and located on a site plan, along with the archaeological features and above OD levels (Fig. 1), using a Magellan GPS.

Archaeological remains were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to Cifa standards (Cifa 2014) and CFA's quality manuals.

The stratification of all excavated areas was noted whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

2.2 Trial Trenches

At the time of the evaluation the Site was disused, with public access for foot traffic across the site. The trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological control.

In accordance with the WSI, the trenches were excavated to the top of the undisturbed natural strata or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

The natural substrate (contexts 13, 22, 32, 41 and 52) throughout the site consisted of mid-light brown silty sand with pebbles. In the southern half of the site this had evolved into a topsoil (Fig. 3) while in the northern half of the site it was sealed by a grey-brown silty sand with pebbles and which was capped by topsoil (Figs 4 and 5). A tarmac track

ran through Trenches 1 and 5 (Fig. 3) and formed the divide between the two areas. A red blaes track entered the site from the north and was seen in Trench 2.

Table 1: Trench Descriptions

Context	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Feature	Description
Trench 1					
10	50	1.8	0.22	Topsoil	Loose, mid brown, silty sand with occasional pebbles.
11	-	-	-	Subsoil	Firm, grey, silty sand with occasional pebbles.
12	-	-	-	Modern – Concrete tarmac	Firm, black modern tarmac and rubble .
13	-	-	-	Natural Geology	Firm, orange-brown, silty sand with occasional pebbles.
Trench 2					
20	50	1.8	0.22	Top Soil	Loose, mid brown silty sand with occasional large pebbles.
21	-	-	-	Tarmac & Red blaes track	Firm, black& red track of concrete and red blaes.
22	-	-	-	Natural Geology	Firm orange-brown, silty sand with occasional pebbles.
Trench 3					
30	50	1.8	.22	Topsoil	Loose, mid brown, silty sand with occasional large pebbles.
31	-	-	-	Tarmac concrete track	Firm black grey layer of tarmac and concrete rubble track.
32	-	-	-	Natural geology	Firm orange-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.
Trench 4					
40	50	1.8	0.22	Top Soil	Loose mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.
41	-	-	-	Natural Geology	Firm orange-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.
Trench 5					
50	50	1.8	.22	Top soil	Loose mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.
51	-	-	-	Tarmac concrete Track	Firm black layer of concrete track.
52	-	-	-	Natural Geology	Firm orange brown, silty sand with occasional pebbles.

3.2 Archaeological Features

There were no archaeological features or deposits.

3.3 Finds

No finds were recovered.

4. DISCUSSION

The natural geology across the entire Site showed no signs of weathering as one would expect if topsoil formation had occurred in the past; there were no signs of bioturbation. It is clear that the upper levels of sands and gravels had been removed. The southern part of the Site was lower than the northern part and the natural geology was in the process of forming topsoil. Some ramps for access between the lower southern and higher, northern portions of the Site were present and these were made of the natural geology (Figs 1 and 3). The northern part of the site beyond the road way was higher and the overburden was deeper but the subsoil appeared to be re-deposited natural which was capped by a poor topsoil. Tarmac and red blaes trackways were visible leading to the north and marker pins with warning tape were present.

5. CONCLUSIONS

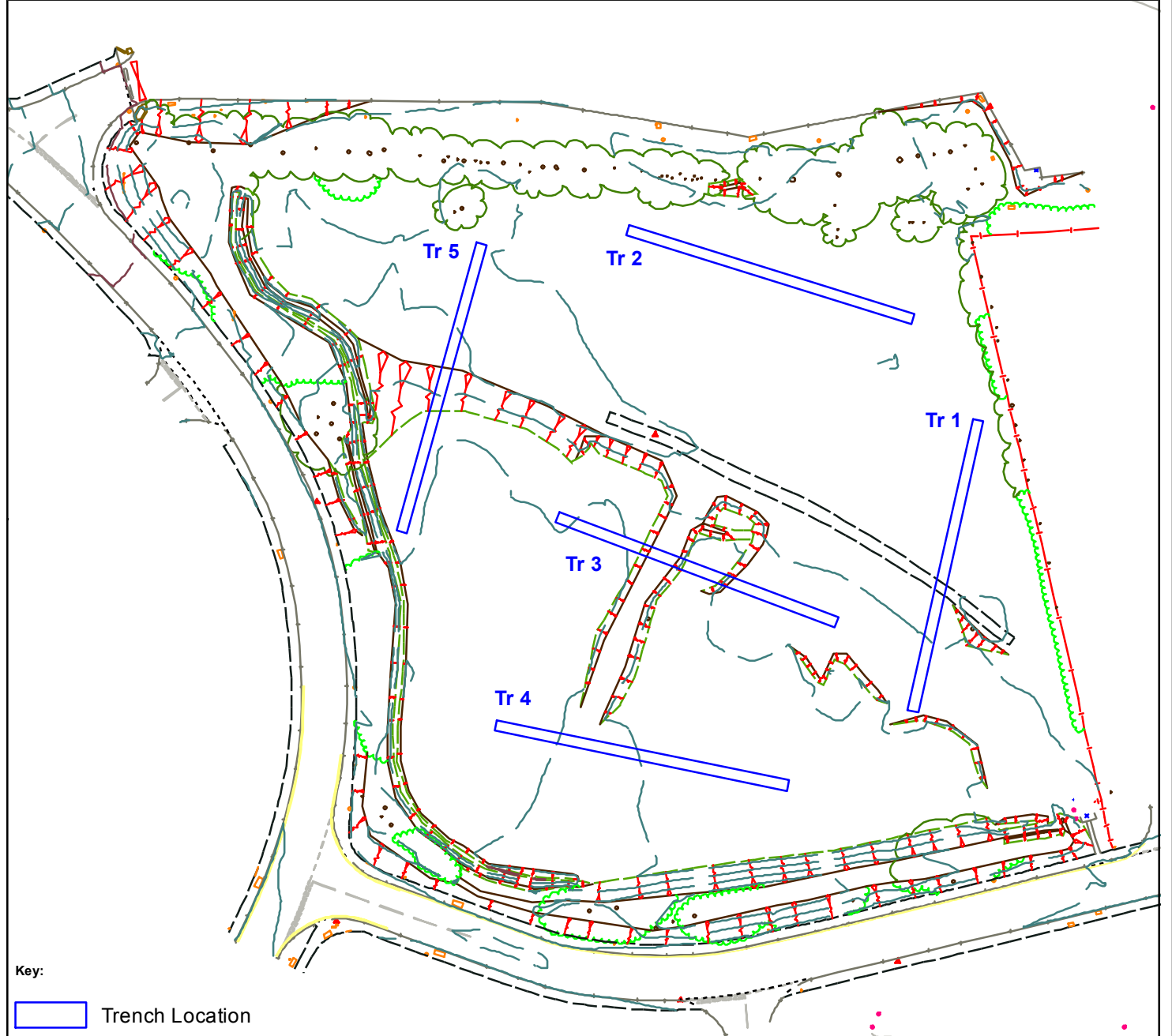
Five evaluation trenches were excavated at Plot 1000, Olympus Ave/Apollo Way, Tachbrook Park, Warwick. The Site had been recently used perhaps as a construction compound and the upper levels of the sands and gravels had been removed. Road ways crossed the site and areas had been built up with subsoil. No archaeological remains were present.

6. REFERENCES

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014

CIfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014.

Prospect Archaeology 2015, *Olympus Ave/Apollo Way, Tachbrook Park, Warwick CV34 6BF, Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation* NGR: SP 30699 64445 Planning Ref.: W/14/1846 March 2015



Key:
 Trench Location

CFA
 ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Town Hall
 Creed Street
 Wolverton
 Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
 T: 01908 226124
 miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Location Plan showing position of trenches

Project:
Plot 1000 Tachbrook Park, Warwick

Fig.No: 1	Report: MK008/15	Drawn by: SW	CKD: MK	Date: 18/05/2015
Client: Prospect Archaeology				
Scale: 1:1,000				

0 50m

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Fig. 2 - Road across the site



Fig. 3 - Trench 4



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Town Hall
 Creed Street
 Wolverton
 Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:	Fig. 2 - 3	Report: MK008/15	Drawn: SW	CKD: MR	Date: 19/05/15
	Client: Prospect Archaeology				
Project: Plot 1000 Tachbrook Park, Warwick					



Fig. 4 - Trench 1



Fig. 5 - Trench 5



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Town Hall
 Creed Street
 Wolverton
 Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:	Fig. 4 - 5	Report: MK008/15	Drawn: SW	CKD: MR	Date: 19/05/15
Client:	Prospect Archaeology				
Project:	Plot 1000 Tachbrook Park, Warwick				