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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by JIL Developments Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation of the site of a proposed retail development. The fieldwork was completed between 15th and 25th November 2021. Twenty-seven trenches were excavated, representing a 5% sample of the 3.45ha site. No prior geophysical survey was undertaken, so the trenches were distributed evenly across the site rather than targeted on specific features.

Trenches 1, 9, 10 and 12 contained archaeological features, including three probable drainage ditches and one possible pit in Trench 12. All the features were investigated by hand but none produced artefacts and they are therefore undated. In the 19th century the site was part of a volunteer rifle range. No range structures lay within the site boundary, but it was crossed by a footpath which was re-routed at least once during the 19th century. The ditches found in the trenches seem to take their alignment from Warren Lane, to the east of the site, so are most likely to be medieval or post-medieval agricultural drains that pre-date the rifle range. No evidence for the 19th-century rifle range footpath was found in the trenches.

There was extensive evidence for recent landscaping and ground disturbance, particularly along the north-western edge of the previously developed John Lewis Home Store plot and the embankment of Fougeres Way. Associated previous groundworks in the same area include an extant drainage pond and a buried electrical cable. There was also evidence for ground disturbance along the north edge of the site where a water pipe has been installed in recent years.

Given the very sparse archaeological features encountered, limited range of features/deposits and lack of any artefacts or other dating evidence, no mitigation is recommended.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Tim Sperring, who was supported by Ben Attfield. Survey and digitising was carried out by Adam Rapiejko (site) and Marjaana Kohtamaki (office). Thanks are also extended to the OA archive team, who prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by JIL Developments Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation of the site of a proposed retail development, comprising retail warehousing and a detached drive-through restaurant.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 18/00405/AS). Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions between Dominic James of JIL Developments Ltd and Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council (KCC), established the scope of work required in outline. The detailed scope, including project aims, requirements and standards, was documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA (OA 2021). This report outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies, the *KCC Manual of Specifications Part B: Evaluation – Trial Trenching Requirements* (KCC nd a) and the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north-west of the town of Ashford in Kent, centred at NGR TR 00159 43906 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The irregularly shaped proposed development area consists of c 3.45ha of vacant grassland. The site is bounded by Fougeres Way (A20) and the John Lewis at Home retail unit to the south and south-east, Warren Nature Reserve to the north and north-east, and the Southeastern Railway line to the west.
- 1.2.3 The site lies on a gently undulating spur between the Bybrook and Great Stour valleys, the confluence of which lies c 1.5km to the south-east. The nearest substantial watercourse is the Bybrook, located c 0.5km east of the site. The south-west corner of the site lies at c 59m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), from which the ground slopes gently downwards towards the north-east corner, which is situated at c 51m aOD.
- 1.2.4 The British Geological Survey maps the geology of the majority of the site as sandstone and limestone of the Hythe Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 113–126 million years ago in the Cretaceous period (BGS 2021). The south-west corner of the site is mapped as sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Sandgate Formation, also formed in the Cretaceous period (ibid.). No overlying Quaternary superficial deposits are recorded within the site (ibid.). The Hythe and Sandgate Formations are both included in the Lower Greensand Group. The region defined by the Lower Greensand was historically known as the Chartland or Stone Hills. Much of this region was not suitable for agriculture due to the stony and infertile soils and was consequently exploited predominantly as woodland (Everitt 1986).

- 1.2.5 Previous archaeological work undertaken immediately adjacent to the site encountered natural deposits of mid reddish orange and light brownish yellow clay with variable gravel inclusions at 51.4–56.8m aOD, below subsoil and topsoil c 0.5–0.6m thick (ASE 2013).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (DBA) produced by CgMs Heritage (now part of RPS) in 2018 (CgMs 2018) and will not be reproduced in full here. The following section summarises the results of the DBA.
- 1.3.2 Limited evidence of earlier prehistoric activity has been identified within the wider area, generally comprising isolated worked flints. Archaeological remains of later prehistoric date are also generally limited to scattered and residual finds of worked flint, metalwork and pottery.
- 1.3.3 Two phases of archaeological investigation have been undertaken directly adjacent to the site in advance of the first phase of retail development of land at the M20 Junction 9 and Drivers Roundabout. A programme of archaeological monitoring carried out in 2010 revealed a small number of parallel ditches suggestive of a droveway that may have dated to the mid–late Iron Age (SWAT 2011). A subsequent phase of trial-trench evaluation was carried out in 2013, which uncovered a series of shallow, poorly dated ditches that probably formed part of a wider agricultural field system of possible prehistoric date; one ditch was the probable continuation of the mid–late Iron Age ditch recorded during the 2010 watching brief (ASE 2013). Two undiagnostic flint flakes were also recovered from a ditch during the evaluation (*ibid.*). Further evidence suggestive of Iron Age activity has been recorded within the wider Ashford area.
- 1.3.4 Multiple phases of archaeological investigation were undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) between 2004 and 2011 at the nearby site of Repton Park, also known as Ashford Barracks (for dates and a brief summary see ASE 2013). The investigations uncovered a variety of ditches, pits, postholes and tree-throw holes, indicative of several phases of enclosure and low-level agricultural land use dating to the late Iron Age to Roman period. The remains are also suggestive of possible Bronze Age activity at the site, as well as medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity.
- 1.3.5 Possible evidence for a nucleated Roman settlement has been identified within the Ashford area; the route of the Roman road connecting Benenden and Canterbury is located c 1.1km to the east of the site. The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm was located c 3.7 km south-west of Fougeres Way at an important Roman road junction and crossing over the Whitewater Dyke, a tributary of the River Great Stour. Limited remains of late Iron Age to Roman date recorded within the wider area provide some evidence of low-level occupation and burial activity during the Roman period. No archaeological remains dating to the Roman period were identified during the 2010 and 2013 investigations adjacent to the site (SWAT 2011; ASE 2013).
- 1.3.6 Documentary records dating to the 10th and 11th centuries, including Domesday Book (AD 1086), make reference to Ashford, suggesting at least late Saxon origins for the

settlement, though two 9th-century documents may hint at earlier origins. Finds of Anglo-Saxon date within the wider landscape are limited to scattered coins and two 7th-century burials.

- 1.3.7 Ashford developed into a small market town in the late medieval period, located at a road junction and river crossing at the confluence of the Great and East Stour rivers. Limited evidence of rural occupation has been recorded within the wider area, suggesting that the landscape was largely used for agricultural purposes during the medieval period. Previous investigations adjacent to the site did not reveal medieval remains (SWAT 2011; ASE 2013).
- 1.3.8 Historic mapping and aerial photographs demonstrate the continued agricultural use of the landscape during the post-medieval period and into the modern era. This is also attested by small quantities of later post-medieval/modern finds in topsoil deposits as recorded by the 2013 evaluation adjacent to the site (ASE 2013).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within the proposed development site and to enable a suitable mitigation strategy for any remains to be devised and implemented before development takes place.

2.2 Site specific aims

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains;
- iii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
- vi. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site; and
- ix. To disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production of a fieldwork report; and
- x. To enable the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the requirement of any further archaeological work required on site.

2.2.2 The programme of trial trenching was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by the *South East Research Framework* (KCC nd b).

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 As detailed in the WSI, the evaluation comprised the excavation of 27 trenches, each intended to measure c 30m by 1.8m in plan. The trenches represented a c 5% sample of the proposed development area. The trenches were located to provide an even coverage of the site whilst also allowing for appropriate safety margins around known buried utilities crossing the site. Trenches 12, 19, 21 and 22 were shortened and/or relocated to avoid an area of thick modern made ground and landscaping.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, including a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix A. No artefacts or environmental samples were recovered.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was variable, partly due to a geological boundary that runs through the site, and partly due to modern disturbance and landscaping. Trenches along the western side of the site exposed variable light yellowish brown sandy clay forming the surface of the bedrock. The solid geology was overlain by a yellow-brown sandy silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil. The deposits in the central and eastern parts of the site were of darker yellowish/reddish brown colour with a more clayey composition. This change may reflect the boundary between the Hythe and Sandgate Beds which BGS mapping shows running through the south-west corner of the site.

3.2.2 In the western half of the site archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, as the feature fills were slightly darker. Feature visibility in the eastern half of the site was more difficult due a lack of contrast between the feature fills, subsoil and natural geology. This was exacerbated by extensive modern disturbance and reworking of the natural soils, particularly along the north, south and eastern edges of the site.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were fair. There was some rainfall during the work, but flooding did not occur in the trenches.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 9, 10 and 12. They comprised three ditches (Trenches 1, 9, 10) and one pit (Trench 12). Two faint linear trends in Trench 9 were investigated and found to be non-archaeological. One of the ditches in Trench 10 (1005) was clearly modern and quite recently backfilled, as it was cut through the subsoil and had a fill derived from the topsoil. The other features were sealed by the subsoil layer covering the site.

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 7; Plates 1–2)

3.4.1 Ditch 103, the only feature encountered in Trench 1, was 1.4m wide and 0.28m deep (Fig. 7, sections 100 and 101, Plate 2). It was aligned NNW–SSE and located in the central part of the trench. No finds were recovered from its single fill (104).

3.5 Trench 9 (Figs 4 and 7; Plates 10–11)

3.5.1 Ditch 904, which was 0.81m wide and 0.39m deep, was located towards the southern end of the trench and was aligned NE–SW. It was faint in plan, visually defined by a

slightly darker-coloured soil than the bedrock. The feature was filled with deposit 905, from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 7, sections 900 and 901, Plate 11).

- 3.5.2 Two other very faint linear soil marks (902 and 903) were tested and found to be non-archaeological (Fig. 4). They could be natural glacial features or infilling slight depressions in the surface of the bedrock.

3.6 Trench 10 (Figs 5 and 7; Plates 12–13)

- 3.6.1 Ditch 1003, which was 2.2m wide and 0.51m deep, was located towards the western end of the trench and was aligned NE–SW. It was faint in plan, visually defined by a slightly darker-coloured soil than the bedrock. The feature was filled with deposit 1004, from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 7, sections 1000 and 1001, Plates 12–13).

- 3.6.2 Ditch 1005 was a clearly modern drainage ditch, quite recently infilled. It was cut through the subsoil and the fill was similar in appearance to the topsoil. It was tested by hand excavation, but not recorded in detail. No artefacts were recovered from the fill.

3.7 Trench 12 (Figs 6 and 7; Plates 15–16)

- 3.7.1 Pit 1203, which was 0.85m wide and 0.27m deep, was located towards the south end of the trench and was the only feature encountered in Trench 12. It was faint in plan and is not certainly an archaeological feature. It appeared to be sealed by the subsoil, but no artefacts were recovered from the single fill (1204) and it remains undated.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 No artefacts were recovered from the trenches.

3.9 Environmental summary

- 3.9.1 No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental soil sampling were encountered in the trenches.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was conducted in winter conditions under variable lighting conditions and with periodic rainfall, although there were no issues with flooding in the trenches.
- 4.1.2 There was no evidence that the site has ever been ploughed. In the eastern half of the site the surface of the bedrock was difficult to determine in some trenches due to a lack of contrast between the bedrock and the overlying subsoil sequence. The trenches had to be overcut to confirm that the bedrock had been reached. This difficulty was exacerbated in parts of the site that had been subject to recent landscaping and ground disturbance, particularly along the north-western edge of the previously developed John Lewis Home Store plot and the embankment of Fougeres Way. Associated previous groundworks in the same area included an extant drainage pond and a buried electrical cable. In this part of the site variably thick made ground deposits were encountered. There was also evidence for ground disturbance along the north edge of the site, where a water pipe has been installed in recent years.
- 4.1.3 In spite of the above minor issues the results of the evaluation can be considered reliable.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The trial trenching has successfully characterised the site sequence and established that the proposed development will not adversely affect any significant archaeological assets. Given the scarcity and limited range of features discovered, and absence of dating or environmental evidence, none of the site-specific research objectives outlined in paragraph 2.1.2 can be addressed.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The small number of linear features recorded in Trenches 1, 9 and 10 were reasonably well defined in plan and section but produced no artefactual dating evidence. Two of the ditches, in adjacent Trenches 9 and 10 (903 and 1003) are on the same NNE–SSW line and appear to be parts of the same feature (Fig. 5). Modern ditch 1005 in Trench 10 is on a slightly different alignment from ditch 1003, but sufficiently similar that it could be part of the same broad phase of drainage ditches. Ditch 103 in Trench 1 was on a roughly perpendicular NW–SE alignment. The Desk-based Assessment indicated that the site was historically used as meadowland during the post-medieval period (CgMs 2018). In the 19th century it was also part of a volunteer rifle range. No range structures lay within the site, but it was crossed by a single footpath linking the firing point at the south end with target butts at the north end. The route of the path change during the 19th century following a change to the layout of the range. No evidence for either route of the footpath was found in the trenches. Ditches 903 and 1003 are located in the same part of the site as one of the footpath routes, as shown on the 1870–1 OS map, but they are on a markedly different alignment (CgMs 2018, fig. 7). The ditches seem to take their alignment from Warren Lane, to the east of the site, so

are more likely to be medieval or post-medieval agricultural drains that pre-date the rifle range. The range footpaths as depicted on the historic maps seem to have been ephemeral, probably unsurfaced features (CgMs 2018, figs 7–9).

- 4.3.2 The only other feature identified was pit 1203, a small probable pit in Trench 12. In isolation and with no dating evidence little can be said about it.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 Given the very low density of archaeology present, and the absence of associated dating or clear functional evidence, the features recorded in Trenches 1, 9, 10 and 12 are of low archaeological significance. Most of the trenches contained no features at all.
- 4.4.2 No mitigation is recommended.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Topsoil over made ground and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural. 1 ditch investigated but no dating evidence. No finds.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
101	Layer			0.4	Made ground		
102	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown clayey sandy silt.		
103	Cut		1.4	0.28	Ditch		
104	Fill	103	1.4	0.28	Secondary Fill. Grey-brown sandy silt		
105	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil made ground and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.7
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.16	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
201	Layer			0.34	Made ground		
202	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil over made ground and subsoil over sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.65
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer			0.16	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
301	Layer			0.29	Made ground		
302	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		

303	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
401	Layer			0.25	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
402	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 5							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer			0.15	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
501	Layer			0.35	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
502	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 6							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.41
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer			0.18	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
601	Layer			0.23	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
602	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 7							

General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil over sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
701	Layer			0.25	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
702	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
801	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
802	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural. Trench revealed 1 undated ditch. No finds					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.43
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.15	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
901	Layer			0.28	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
902	Unexcavated feature				Natural geological feature, tested by hand excavation		
903	Unexcavated feature				Natural geological feature, tested by hand excavation		
904	Cut		0.81	0.39	Ditch		

905	Fill	904	0.81	0.39	Secondary Fill. Mid-brown grey silty sand		
906	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 10							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural. Trench revealed 2 undated ditches. No finds					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.15	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
1001	Layer			0.35	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
1002	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
1003	Cut		2.2	0.51	Ditch		
1004	Fill	1003	2.2	0.51	Secondary Fill. Mid-brown grey sandy silt		
1005	Modern drainage ditch				Modern drainage ditch, quite recently infilled. Cut through subsoil. Fill is similar to topsoil. (tested by hand excavation, not recorded in detail).		
Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil overlying made ground					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.15	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
1101	Layer			0.85	Made ground		
1102	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 12							
General description					Orientation		
					Length (m)		17

Trench revealed 1 pit. Topsoil and made ground subsoil overlying sandy clay natural. Trench shortened and moved north to avoid thick made ground by roundabout.					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.15	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
1201	Layer			0.35	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
1202	Layer				Natural. Orange brown clayey sandy silt		
1203	Cut		0.85	0.27	Pit		
1204	Fill	1203	0.85	0.27	Secondary Fill. Light brown grey silty sand		
1205	Layer			0.3	Made ground		
Trench 13							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
1301	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
1302	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 14							
General description					Orientation		SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil subsoil over sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.46
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
1401	Layer			0.26	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
1402	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		

Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil over sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		0.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer			0.4	Topsoil. Thick deposit of imported (?) topsoil, with seemingly no subsoil?		
1501	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 16							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
1601	Layer			0.3	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
1602	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown orange clayey sandy silt		
Trench 17							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.65
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 18							
General description					Orientation		W-E
Trench cuts through a deep layer of modern made ground (western part), with natural geology shown clearly in eastern part; no archaeology present.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1.2
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 19							
General description					Orientation		W-E
Empty trench, moved 1.5m east, due to eco-grid stone drain in E-part; Topsoil and modern made ground overlay subsoil (sandy silt) and natural (silt); no archaeology present; no finds					Length (m)		28
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 20							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Empty trench with topsoil and modern made ground overlying subsoil and natural geology (similar to silty colluvium- see trench 23, 21 for reference); no archaeology detected; no finds					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 21							
General description					Orientation		NW-ES
Trench point 21.2 moved to point 22.2 to avoid obstacle; Topsoil and a layer of modern made ground overlay subsoil (mid greyish- brown, sandy silt). Underneath the upper subsoil was a further subsoil layer of light-mid orangey brown silty colluvium (understood here as natural geology); no finds. Solid geology not clearly identified.					Length (m)		31
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 22							
General description					Orientation		W-E
Trench moved; Sequence of layers similar to Trench 21; No archaeology present; no finds					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
Trench 23							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.8

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
2301	Layer			0.5	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
2302	Layer				Natural. Yellow red brown clayey sandy silt		
Trench 24							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.8
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer			0.23	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
2401	Layer			0.57	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
2402	Layer				Natural. Yellow red brown sandy clayey silt		
Trench 25							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Grey-brown sandy silt		
2501	Layer			0.35	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
2502	Layer				Natural. Yellow red brown clayey sandy silt		
Trench 26							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.75
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Grey brown sandy silt		

2601	Layer			0.4	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
2602	Layer				Natural. Yellow red brown clayey sandy silt		
Trench 27							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy clay natural.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.8
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer			0.4	Topsoil. Grey brown sandy silt		
2701	Layer			0.4	Subsoil. Yellow brown sandy silt		
2702	Layer				Natural. Yellow red brown clayey sandy silt		

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Fougeres Way, Ashford
Site code:	ASFOU21
Grid Reference	TR 00159 43906
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	15 th –25 th November 2021
Area of Site	3.45ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with a museum to be determined.
Summary of Results:	<p>Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by JIL Developments Ltd to undertake a trial-trench evaluation of the site of a proposed retail development. Twenty-seven trenches were excavated, representing a 5% sample of the 3.45ha site. No prior geophysical survey was undertaken so they were distributed evenly across the site rather than targeted on specific features.</p> <p>Trenches 1, 9, 10 and 12 contained archaeological features, including three probable drainage ditches and one possible pit in Trench 12. All the features were investigated by hand but none produced artefacts and they are therefore undated. In the 19th century the site was part of a volunteer rifle range. No range structures lay within the site boundary, but it was crossed by a footpath which was re-routed at least once during the 19th century. The ditches found in the trenches seem to take their alignment from Warren Lane, to the east of the site, so are most likely to be medieval or post-medieval agricultural drains that pre-date the rifle range. No evidence for the 19th century rifle range footpaths was found in the trenches.</p> <p>There was extensive evidence for recent landscaping and ground disturbance, particularly along the southern and northern sides of the site, caused by recent developments and utility installations.</p>