

Cades Farm Phase 2, Wellington, Somerset

NGR ST14882096

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

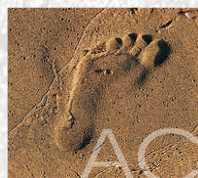
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On behalf of:
Persimmon Homes (South West) Ltd
and
Heron Land

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archaeology

CADES FARM PHASE 2, WELLINGTON, SOMERSET (ST14882096)

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation on land forming Phase 2 of a proposed residential development adjacent to Cades Farm, Wellington, Somerset (ST14882096), was carried out by AC archaeology during October 2010. The site of the proposed development occupies an area of approximately 20 hectares and lies to the northeast of Wellington, within an area where previous archaeological investigations have identified evidence for late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of eight trenches, with a combined length of 240m, located within a single field within the northern fringe of the development site, in order to confirm the results of the previous geophysical survey. The trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.29-0.50m through a layer sequence of topsoil, over alluvial subsoil then onto clay, sand and gravel natural subsoil. With the exception of a modern drain and a small quantity of 19th century and later finds, no evidence for archaeological activity was present.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This report sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation carried out on land forming Phase 2 of a residential development adjacent to Cades Farm, Wellington, Somerset (ST14882096). The work was carried out by AC archaeology on 14/15 October 2010, and was commissioned by EDP on behalf of Persimmon Homes (South West) Ltd and Heron Land.
- 1.2** The site covers a total area of approximately 20 hectares and is located to the northeast of Wellington, immediately south of Taunton Road (Fig. 1). It is situated on currently agricultural land (Plate 1), which slopes gently down to the north, at between 66m OD (southwest) and 51m (north).
- 1.3** The underlying solid geology comprises Permo-Triassic Mudstone of the Whimple 1 association across most of the site, although in the northeast corner there is Otter Sandstone.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Recent work carried out by AC archaeology during 2009 and 2010, to the northwest of the site (Fig. 1), identified a late Iron Age trapezoidal enclosure, a Romano-British double-ditched circular enclosure with central pit, as well as a complex arrangement of linear ditches representing evidence for field systems of Romano-British date. A large quantity of Romano-British pottery was also recovered.
- 2.2** An initial desk-based assessment carried out for the present site (EDP 2010) has not identified any additional sites of archaeological interest within the area. A geophysical survey undertaken as part of this assessment recorded a few linear anomalies, as well as an area of high magnetic responses in the northwest of the site.

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site and, in doing so, confirm the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a method statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2010) and with reference to *Somerset County Council Heritage Service Archaeology Handbook* (Somerset County Council 2009). It comprised the machine excavation of eight trenches, with each trench measuring 30m long and 1.9m wide. The trenches were located within a single field at the northern edge of the proposed development site and are shown on Fig. 1. Each trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.2** The site was recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. All levels have been related to Ordnance Datum and spoil heaps were scanned for displaced finds.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1** The trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.29-0.50m below ground level onto mixed red clay, sand and gravel natural subsoil. The overlying layer sequence comprised between 0.10-0.30m of mid brown clay silt topsoil, above 0.15-0.31m of mid red brown silty clay alluvial subsoil (Figs 2 & 3, Plates 2 & 3). The recorded layer sequence for each trench is tabulated in Appendix 1.
- 5.2** No significant *in situ* archaeological deposits or features were observed during the evaluation. A single northeast to southwest aligned linear feature identified during the geophysical survey and crossing Trenches 1 and 6 was identified as a modern redundant drain. The area of high magnetic response in the northwest of the site may have been formed as a result of variations in the natural geology. Several finds of 19th and 20th century date (blue and white transfer print pottery, china, brick, tile, glass etc) were noted within the topsoil, but were not retained.

6. COMMENT

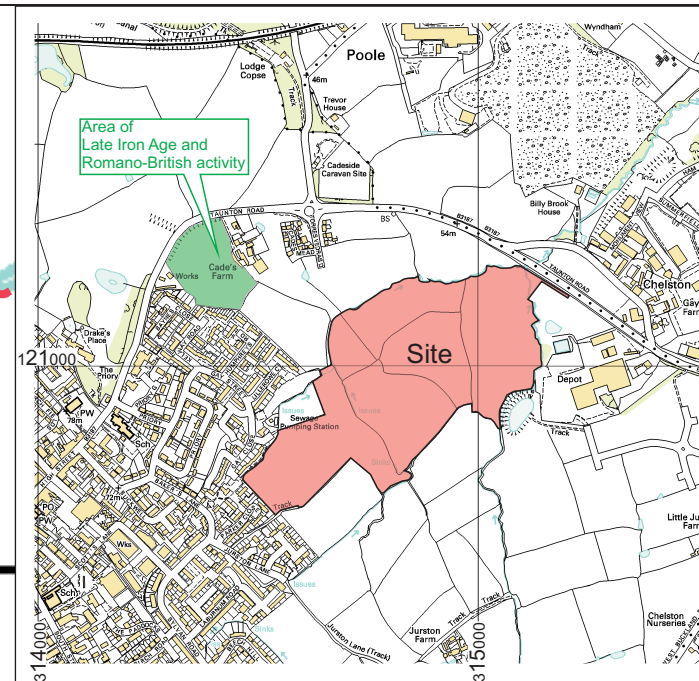
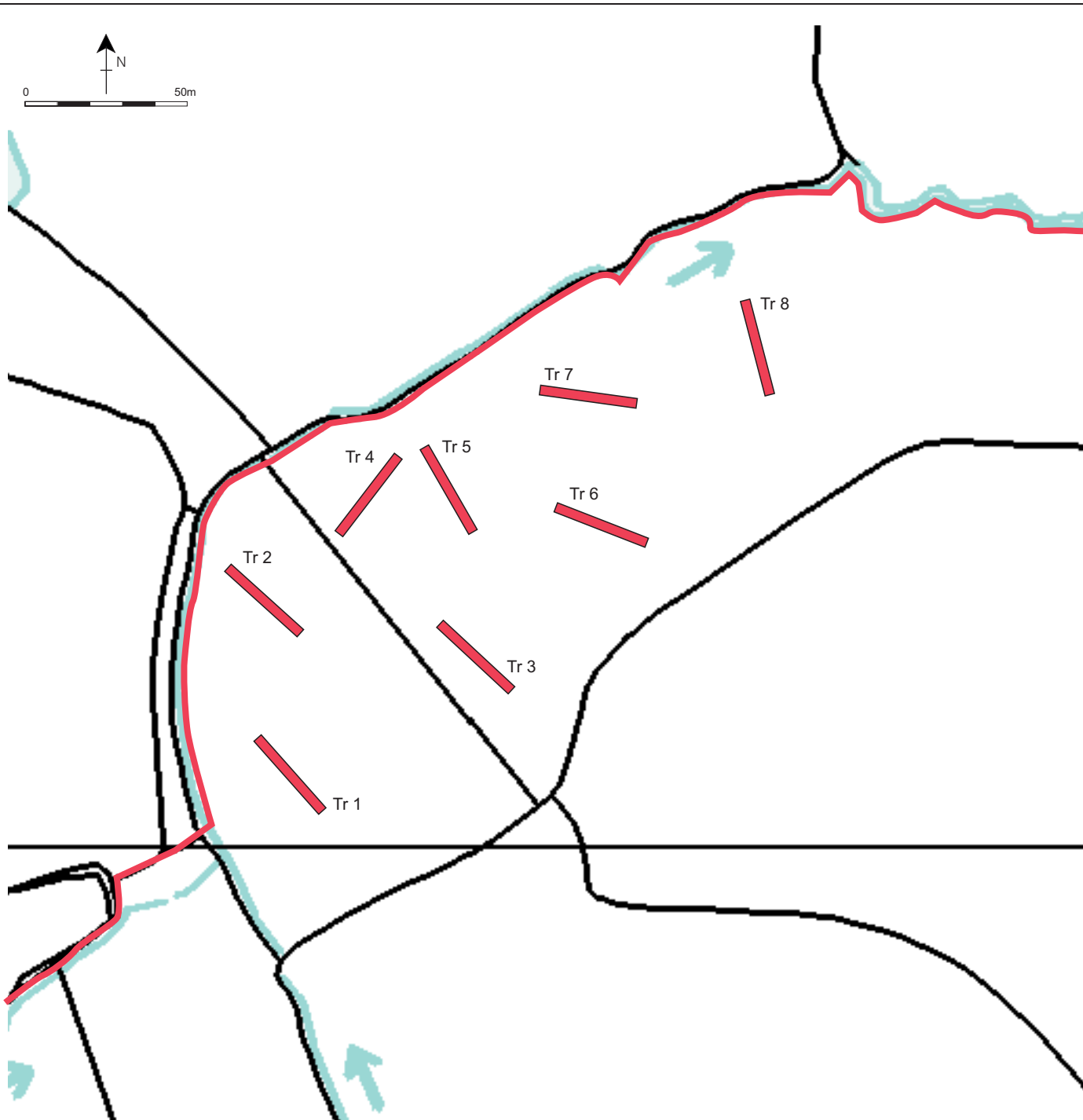
- 6.1** There was no evidence in any trench for any pre-modern archaeological features or finds. This absence, coupled with the good trench coverage, indicates that the proposed development will not impact on any significant buried archaeological remains.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 7.1** The paper and digital archive are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited under the accession number TTNCM 109/2010 at Somerset County Museum, Taunton. The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 84925.

8. REFERENCES

- EDP, 2010, *Cades Farm Phase 2, Wellington, Somerset: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Unpublished document for clients
- Valentin, J., 2010, *Proposed Phase 2 development at Cades Farm, Wellington, Somerset: Method statement for an archaeological trench evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document for client, ref. ACD224/1/1



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PROJECT

Cades Farm, Wellington:
Phase 2 evaluation

TITLE

Fig 1:
Site and trench location



AC archaeology

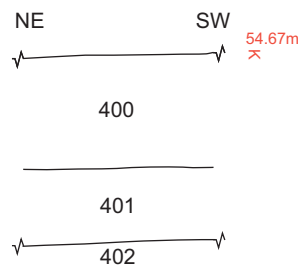


Fig. 2:
Representative section of
southwest end of Trench 4

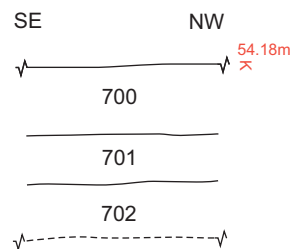


Fig. 3:
Representative section of
southeast end of Trench 7



Plate 1: General view of site, looking to north



Plate 2: Trench 6, looking to southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Representative section, southwest end of Trench 4,
facing southeast (scale 1m)

Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
100	0-0.10	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
101	0.10-0.39	Mid red brown firm silt clay with occasional small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
102	0.39+	Mid grey red firm clay with occasional small-medium gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

Trench 2			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
200	0-0.30	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
201	0.30-0.45	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
202	0.45+	Mid red brown firm clay with loose sand and medium-large sub angular gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

Trench 3			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90m	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
300	0-0.20	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
301	0.20-0.34	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
302	0.34+	Mixed red brown and light orange brown sand clay with medium-large gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

Trench 4			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90m	Alignment: NE-SW
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
400	0-0.30	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
401	0.30-0.50	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
402	0.50+	Light red brown firm clay with patches of loose sand and medium-large gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 5			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90m	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
500	0-0.14	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
501	0.14-0.45	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
502	0.45+	Mid grey red firm clay with occasional small-medium gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

Trench 6			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90m	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
600	0-0.30	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
601	0.30-0.45	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
602	0.45+	Dark red brown firm clay and loose light yellow brown sand	Natural subsoil		

Trench 7			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90m	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation		
700	0-0.16	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
701	0.16-0.0.29	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
702	0.29+	Mid grey red firm clay with occasional small-medium gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

Trench 8			Length: 30m	Width: 1.90m	Alignment: NW-SE
Context	Depth below	Description	Interpretation		
800	0-0.25	Mid brown soft clay silt with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil		
801	0.25-0.35	Mid red brown firm silt clay with rare small-medium sub angular stones <0.05m	Alluvial subsoil		
802	0.35+	Mid grey red firm clay with occasional small-medium gravels <0.20m	Natural subsoil		

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