

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF
LAND OFF JOHN TAYLOR WAY,
MORETON MORRELL,
WARWICKSHIRE



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Contents
Summary

1

Report

1 Background.....2
1.1 Reasons for the project 2
2 Aims2
3 Methods2
3.1 Personnel 2
3.2 Documentary research..... 2
3.3 Fieldwork strategy 2
3.4 Structural analysis..... 2
3.5 Statement of confidence in the methods and results 3
4 The application site3
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context..... 3
4.2 Current land-use 3
5 Structural analysis.....3
5.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits 3
5.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits 3
6 Synthesis3
7 Publication summary.....3
8 Acknowledgements4
9 Bibliography.....4

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at John Taylor Way, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire

Author: Andrew Walsh

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd on Land at John Taylor Way, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3084 5620). Nine evaluation trenches measuring 30m by 1.6m were excavated. Natural deposits consisting of red weathered mudstone with occasional light blue grey banding were revealed in all trenches and no archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on Land at John Taylor Way, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire (NGR 430840 256202). It was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Ltd (the 'client') on behalf of their client David Wilson Homes Mercia, in advance of a proposed residential development for which a planning application is in preparation.

The evaluation conformed to a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013) based on *Generic Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines for Warwickshire* issued by Warwickshire Museum Field Services. The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009).

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation were:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc AIfA FSA Scot and Timothy Cornah BA. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers BA MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MIfA.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by CgMs in advance of the archaeological evaluation (CgMs 2013) and this was consulted by the Project Leader prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013). Fieldwork was undertaken between the 4th and 6th November 2013.

Nine trenches, amounting to an area of 432m² in area, were excavated over the site area of c 10800ha, representing a sample of 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 180° wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.4 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.5 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The proposed development site is located on level ground with an elevation of approximately 57m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The site is bounded to the north and west by John Taylor Way, to the east by a residential development and to the south by a lane. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace sand and gravels (BGS 2013).

The archaeological and historical background of the site has been set out in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013) and will not be repeated here. The assessment indicated that due to the relatively favourable topographic position and underlying geology, there was some potential for the survival of prehistoric remains. It also demonstrated that the study site has a low potential for the presence of features from the Roman period onwards.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently used as agricultural land and is set to pasture.

5 Structural analysis

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and the trenches are illustrated in Plates 1-3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. Details of the site archive are presented in Appendix 2.

5.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

A natural deposit consisting of red weathered mudstone with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling was encountered in all trenches.

5.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Directly above the natural strata in all trenches was a light brownish red silty clay subsoil, overlain by a soft mid-grey brown silty clay topsoil. Two ceramic drains were exposed in Trench 7 and 8 but no other features were identified.

6 Synthesis

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified during the evaluation and it is concluded that there is a minimal potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the site.

7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd on Land at John Taylor Way, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3084 5620). Nine evaluation trenches measuring 30m by 1.6m were excavated. Natural deposits consisting of red weathered mudstone with occasional light blue grey banding were revealed in all trenches and no archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Cathy Patrick of CgMs for commissioning the work and for her help and support throughout, and Jonathan Clarke and Peter Wilkes of Warwickshire College for providing access to the site.

9 Bibliography

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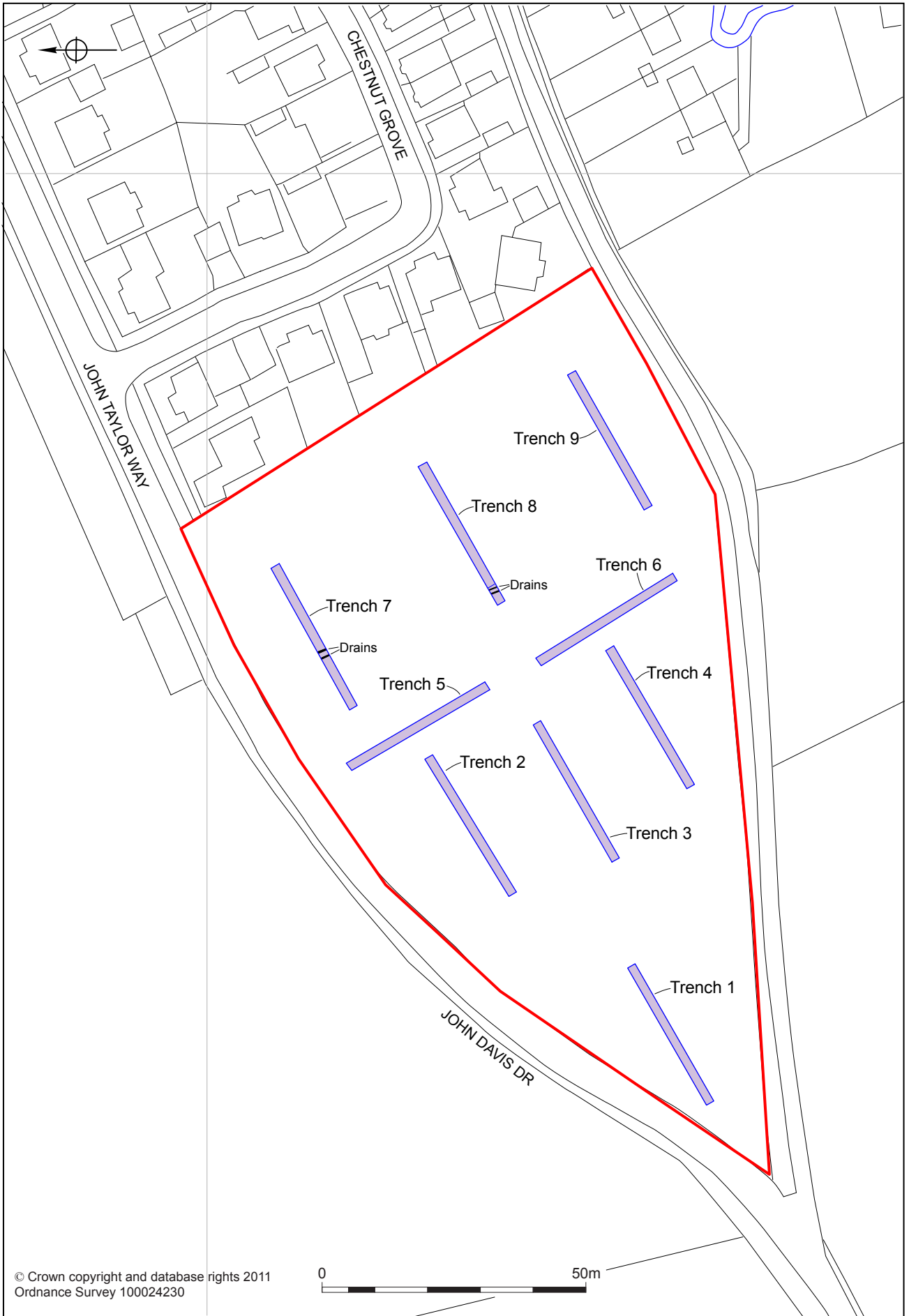
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Figures



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Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 2. Trench 5 facing north west



Plate 3. South east facing section of Trench 7

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.80m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.72m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
101	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.30m
102	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.30-0.51m
103	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.51m+

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.40m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.74m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
201	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.33m
202	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.33-0.55m
203	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.55m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.50m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
301	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.27m
302	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.27-0.61m
303	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.61m+

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.30m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.74m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
401	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.33m
402	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.33-0.55m
403	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.55m+

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.40m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
501	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.28m
502	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.28-0.46m
503	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.46m+

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.40m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.74m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
601	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.30m
602	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.30-0.55m
603	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.55m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.80m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.87m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
701	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.28m
702	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.28-0.64m
703	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.64m+

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.30m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.72m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
801	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.28m
802	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.28-0.52m
803	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.52m+

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.5m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
901	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional angular small stones and frequent rooting.	0.0-0.27m
902	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay with very occasional small angular stones.	0.27-0.55m
903	Natural	Red clay (mudstone) with occasional light blue grey banding and mottling.	0.55m+

Appendix 2 The archive (site code: P4232)

The archive consists of:

- 3 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 40 Digital photographs
- 9 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Warwickshire Museum
The Butts
Warwick
CV34 4SS
Tel. Warwick (01926) 412500
