



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT
UPPER WEAVELY FARM, TACKLEY, OXFORDSHIRE**

Centred: SP46321863

By
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On behalf of

JPPC

JULY 2012

REPORT FOR JPPC
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of a new burial ground on land at Upper Weaveley Farm, near Tackley, Oxfordshire. Twenty-four trenches were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of the archaeology. The majority of the trenches were blank, with the exception of trenches 7, 8 & 11. The most interesting archaeological features were within Trench 8, where two parallel ditches were recorded and sampled. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Geology (Figure 1)

The application area is located to the west of the A4260 north of the junction with the B4027 (NGR SP46321863). The current land use is agricultural and the geology is limestone Cornbrash. It lies at approximately 100m OD and it is approximately 11 hectares in area.

1.2 Planning Background

In February 2012 planning permission was sought from West Oxfordshire District Council to change the use of land at Upper Weaveley Farm from agricultural to a natural burial ground that includes a new access, footpaths, landscaping and a shelter for ceremonies (12/0346/P/FP). Due to the potential presence and disturbance of heritage assets an archaeological field evaluation was requested. This is in line with the NPPF and Local Plan Policies. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared a *Brief* for the field evaluation. This was followed by *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2012) which outlined the method by which the work would be carried out in order to achieve the aims of the evaluation.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is within an area of considerable archaeological potential. To the southeast is a group of features that have been interpreted as Neolithic long barrows. Concentrations of such monuments are unusual and would be expected to be within an area of ritual activity. A Bronze Age round barrow lies to the east. To the south west is the site of the medieval village of Weaveley. The site is identifiable as a series of slight earthworks.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

2.1 Project Objectives

The aims as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.

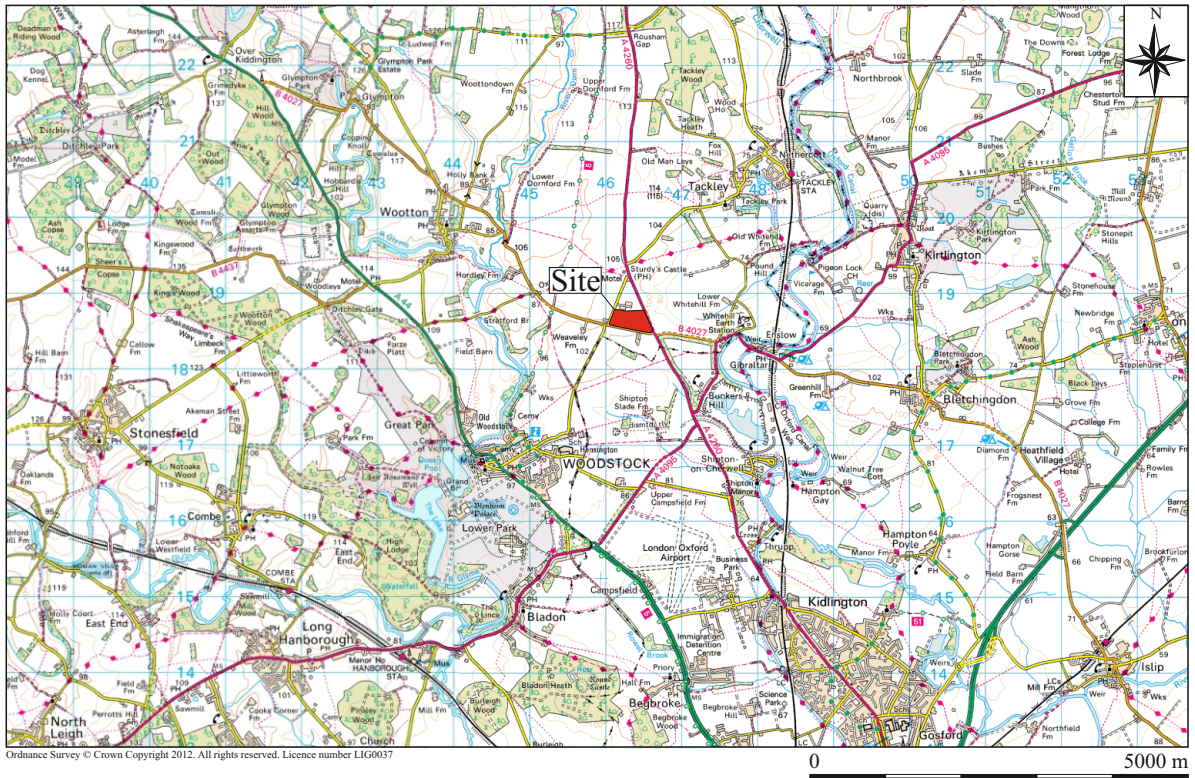


Figure 1. Site and trench locations over aerial photograph from 1945

In particular:

- To establish whether features related to the barrows in the area survive on the site.
- To establish whether features or artefacts related to the medieval village survive on the site.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the *Institute for Archaeologists* (2008) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of twenty-four trenches measuring 30m long, locations shown on Figure 1.

The trenches were excavated by a 360° type tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand (where necessary) prior to hand excavation of the archaeological deposits and features.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced using colour transparency, black and white and digital cameras. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

The work was monitored by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority Hugh Coddington.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts or walls; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Fig's 1 & 2)

The trenches were set out across the general area of the proposed new development. The lowest deposit noted within the trenches consisted of natural clays, which was reached between varying heights of 98.32 & 101.14m AOD. Four features within Trenches 1-3 & 12 were considered archaeological in origin during on site excavation, but following post-excavation analysis are now considered to be naturally formed hollows.

4.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig 1)

Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.35m (101.37m AOD) at the western end and 0.30m (101.12m AOD) at the eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (1/02). Overlying this was 0.30m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (1/01).

One irregular shaped feature was recorded at the eastern end of the trench 1/03, which had concave sides and flat base (Fig. 6). It was filled by 0.20m thick red brown clay silt (1/04) with no finds or inclusions. This feature was likely a natural hollow. It was sealed by topsoil (1/01)

4.1.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 1 & 5)

Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.36m (100.51m AOD) at the southern end and 0.29m (100.77m AOD) at the northern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (2/02). Overlying this was 0.30m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (2/01).

One feature was seen protruding from the baulk section of the southern end of the trench 2/03. It was 0.40m wide and had fairly steep concave sides and a gently rounded base. The feature was filled by 0.32m thick reddish brown clay silt (2/04), with no finds and was considered a probable naturally infilled tree hole.

4.1.3 Trench 3 (Fig 1)

Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.30m (100.51m AOD) at the western end and 0.26m (100.35m AOD) at the eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (3/02). Overlying this was 0.30m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (3/01).

One feature 3/03 was seen protruding from the southern baulk section of the trench. It had fairly steep but irregular shaped sides and a gently rounded base. The feature was filled by reddish brown clay silt (3/04), with no finds. This feature was also a natural hollow.

4.1.4 Trench 4 (Fig 1)

Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.30m (100.97m AOD) at the north-western end and 0.26m (100.78m AOD) at the south-eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (4/02). Overlying this was 0.30m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (4/01).

There were no features within this trench.

4.1.5 Trench 5 (Fig 1)

Trench 5 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.26m (100.60m AOD) at the northern end and 0.26m (100.50m AOD) at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (5/02). Overlying this was 0.26m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (5/01).

There were no features within this trench.

4.1.6 Trench 6 (Fig 1)

Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.28m (100.34m AOD) at the eastern end and 0.31m (100.45m AOD) at the western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay mixed with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (6/02). Overlying this was 0.31m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (6/01).

There were no features within this trench.

4.1.7 Trench 7 (Fig 1; Fig 2)

Trench 7 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.28m (99.77m AOD) at the eastern end and 0.27m (99.84m AOD) at the western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (7/02). Overlying this was 0.28m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (7/01).

One possible posthole 7/04 (Fig 2; Section 1) was observed at the base of the trench cut into natural geology (7/02). It was shallow sided and filled by 0.09m thick compact brown grey clay silt (7/05) with no finds. It was 0.16m across.

4.1.8 Trench 8 (Figs. 1-3)

Trench 8 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.29m (100.59m AOD) at the eastern end and 0.32m (100.52m AOD) at the western end.

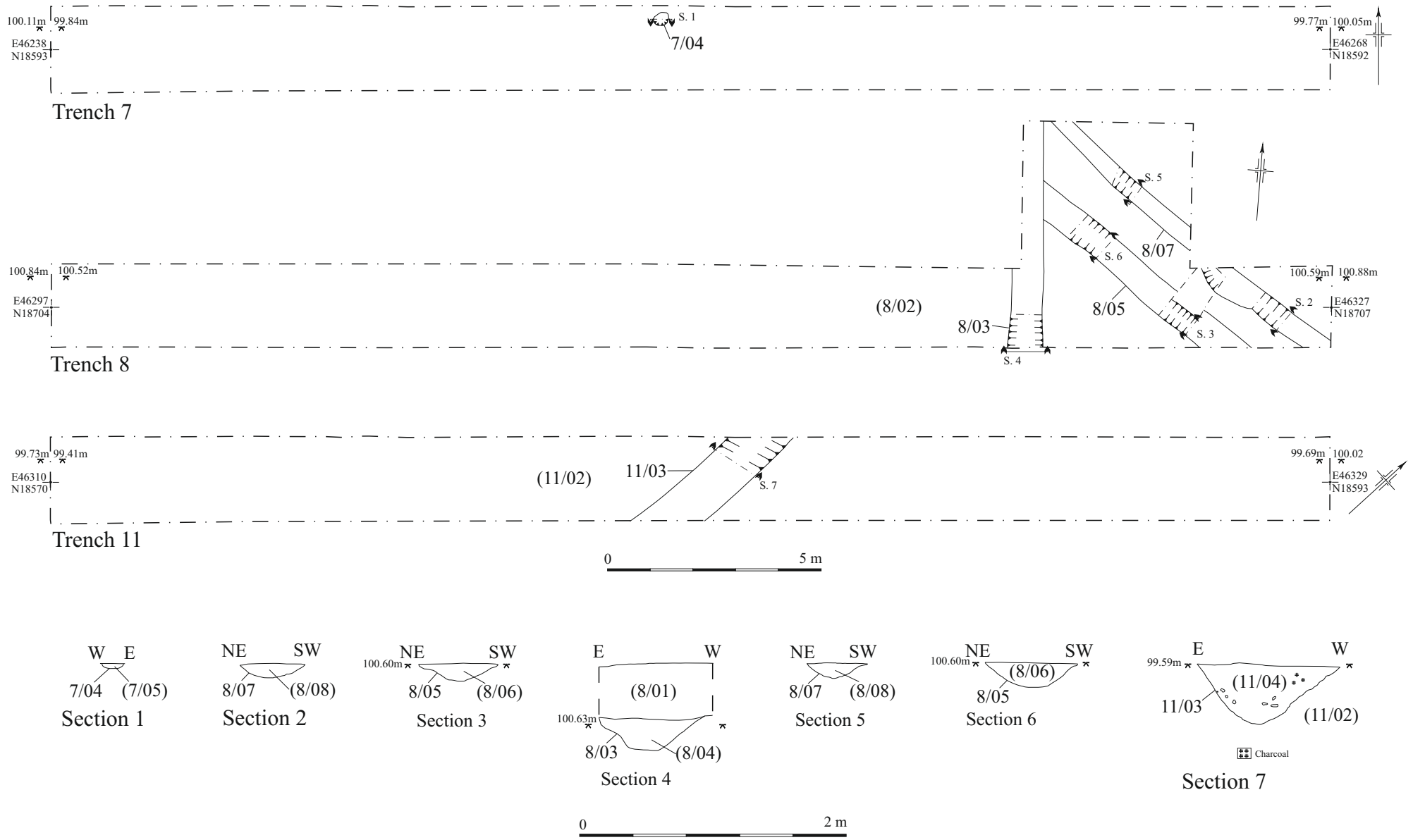


Figure 2. Trenches 7, 8 and 11, plans and sections

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash geology was seen at the base of the trench (8/02). Overlying this was 0.28m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (8/01).

Two ditches 8/05 & 8/07 (Fig. 4) were orientated on an approximate north-west south-east direction. Ditch 8/05 was 0.60m wide with gradually sloping concave sides and gently rounded base (Fig 2; Sections 3 & 6). It was filled by 0.20m thick firm orange brown sandy silt (8/06) with no finds.

Ditch 8/07 (Fig. 2; Sections 2 & 5) was 0.50-0.70m wide and also had gradually sloping concave sides and an almost flat base. It was filled by 0.09m thick mid orange brown sandy clay silty loam (8/08) with no finds.

Ditch 8/03 was orientated approximately north-south and was 0.70m wide and 0.22m deep with concave sides forming a roughly flat base (Fig 2; Section 4). It was filled by firm dark grey brown sandy clay loam with limestone inclusions and two fragments of foreign stone (8/04). This ditch can be seen on the 1945 aerial photograph (Fig 1).

4.1.9 Trench 9 (Fig 1)

Trench 9 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.27m (100.13m AOD) at the north-eastern end and 0.35m (100.59m AOD) at the south-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (9/02). Overlying this was 0.35m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (9/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.10 Trench 10 (Fig 1)

Trench 10 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.35m (100.07m AOD) at the northern end and 0.29m (99.88m AOD) at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (10/02). Overlying this was 0.28m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (10/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.11 Trench 11 (Fig 1)

Trench 11 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.33m (99.69m AOD) at the north-eastern end and 0.32m (99.41m AOD) at the south-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (11/02). Overlying this was 0.33m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (11/01).

A ditch was orientated approximately north south and was 0.44m thick with one mid brown sandy silt fill (11/04) (Figure 2; Section 7). This ditch was modern as seen on the 1940's aerial photograph (Fig. 1) and was seen in Trench 8.

4.1.12 Trench 12 (Fig 1)

Trench 12 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.32m (99.25m AOD) at the north-western end and 0.33m (99.02m AOD) at the south-eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (12/02). Overlying this was 0.33m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (12/01).

There was one feature that was tested but this was considered to be natural.

4.1.13 Trench 13 (Fig 1)

Trench 13 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.25m (100.36m AOD) at the north-western end and 0.29m (100.13m AOD) at the south-eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (13/02). Overlying this was 0.29m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (13/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.13 Trench 14 (Fig 1)

Trench 14 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.53m (99.28m AOD) at the northern end and 0.37m (99.24m AOD) at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (14/02). Overlying this was 0.37-0.53m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (14/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench. Some possible features were tested but were all confirmed as natural tree or solution hollows.

4.1.15 Trench 15 (Fig 1)

Trench 15 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.68m (99.59m AOD) at the north-eastern end and 0.52m (99.76m AOD) at the south-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash geology was seen at the base of the trench (15/02). Overlying this was 0.52-0.68m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (15/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.16 Trench 16 (Fig 1)

Trench 16 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.40m (99.46m AOD) at the eastern end and 0.28m (99.62m AOD) at the western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (16/02). Overlying this was 0.40m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (16/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.17 Trench 17 (Fig 1)

Trench 17 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.28m (99.43m AOD) at the north-eastern end and 0.m (99.62m AOD) at the western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash geology was at the base of the trench (17/02). Overlying this was 0.40m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (17/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.18 Trench 18 (Fig 1)

Trench 18 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.25m (98.93m AOD) at the eastern end and 0.28m (98.89m AOD) at the western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (18/02). Overlying this was 0.40m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (18/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.19 Trench 19 (Fig 1)

Trench 19 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.36m (99.46m AOD) at the north-eastern end and 0.22m (99.40m AOD) at the south-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was at the base of the trench (19/02). Overlying this was 0.22-0.36m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (19/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.20 Trench 20 (Fig 1)

Trench 20 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.26m (99.61m AOD) at the north-western end and 0.22m (99.32m AOD) at the south-eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash geology was seen at the base of the trench (20/02). Overlying this was 0.26m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (20/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.21 Trench 21 (Fig 1)

Trench 21 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.33m (99.53m AOD) at the south-eastern end and 0.26m (99.66m AOD) at the north-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (21/02). Overlying this was 0.26m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (21/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.22 Trench 22 (Fig 1)

Trench 22 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.24m (99.21m AOD) at the northern end and 0.36m (99.38m AOD) at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash geology was at the base of the trench (22/02). Overlying this was 0.26m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (22/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.23 Trench 23 (Fig 1)

Trench 23 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.22m (98.81m AOD) at the north-eastern end and 0.29m (98.75m AOD) at the south-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash geology was at the base of the trench (23/02). Overlying this was 0.29m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (23/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.1.24 Trench 24 (Fig 1)

Trench 24 was excavated to a length of 30m (1.8m wide) and the varying depths of between 0.31m (98.53m AOD) at the north-western end and 0.24m (98.32m AOD) at the south-eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay.

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural mottled clay with limestone Cornbrash was seen at the base of the trench (24/02). Overlying this was 0.29m thick mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil (24/01).

There were no archaeological features within this trench.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The excavation of the trenches took place during summer but in changeable weather conditions. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

5 FINDS

Only two modern (20th century) ceramic fragments were recovered from (11/04) but not retained.

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation was successful in determining the archaeological potential of the site and the character of any below ground features and deposits. The excavations enabled an assessment of the depth, quality and nature of the features encountered. The trenches were generally blank with small anomalies investigated and tested within trenches 1-3. The features although had sides and edges were considered during post-excavation to be natural solution hollows common within this type of geology.

Within Trenches 8 & 11 were the only definite archaeological features. Trench 8 had two parallel ditches orientated on the same north-east south-west alignment probably contemporary or near contemporary, with one being the re-establishment of the other. No finds were recovered from the ditches but stratigraphically they are earlier than ditch 8/03 which has been proven as a modern field boundary ditch as seen from aerial photos from the 1940's (Fig. 1). The same ditch within Trench 11 can also be proven to be modern from the finds and the aerial photograph.

A confidence rating is high that the best possible results.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The drawn records	

Physical record

There were no finds

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service when an accession number has been obtained.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OCAS 2012 *Upper Weavely Farm; Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Unpub OCAS Document

APPENDIX 1; Evaluation Trench Results Summary.

Trench	Easting	Northing	Features	Depth of topsoil (m)	Height of natural m OD
1	E-446136.5162 W-446107.6515	E-218692.5177 W-218701.0232	NONE	0.30	101.12- 101.37
2	N-446182.8638 S-446182.1313	N-218673.8232 S-218643.7104	NONE	0.30	100.51- 100.77
3	NE-446189.0687 SW-446161.5071	NE-218629.0515 SW-218616.9611	NONE	0.30	100.18- 100.35
4	NW446229.5238 SE-446255.1833	NW-218723.5561 SE-218707.7545	NONE	0.30	100.78- 100.97
5	N-446276.7395 S-446276.0181	N-218709.1095 S-218679.0365	NONE	0.26	100.50- 100.60
6	E-446280.8452 W-446250.7598	E-218662.1685 W-218662.9109	NONE	0.31	100.34- 100.45
7	E-446268.3957 W-446238.3159	E-218592.4740 W-218593.1731	NONE	0.28	99.84-99.77
8	E-446327.1391 W-446297.1911	E-218707.6200 W-218704.7277	DITCH X 3	0.28	100.52- 100.59
9	NE-446346.0454 SW-446325.8318	NE-218673.9454 SW-218651.6263	NONE	0.35	100.13- 100.24
10	N-446296.2966 S- 446295.6931	N-218636.9826 S- 218606.8724	NONE	0.30	99.88- 100.07
11	NE-446329.8955 SW-446310.5348	NE-218593.5440 SW-218570.4395	DITCH	0.28	99.41-99.69
12	NW-446352.5398 SE-446375.0434	NW-218570.2802 SE-218550.2912	NONE	0.33	99.02-99.25
13	NW-446354.3182 SE-446377.0178	NW-218695.7942 SE-218676.0281	NONE	0.29	100.13- 100.36
14	N-446399.9543 S-446399.2661	N-218616.5816 S-218586.4760	NONE	0.37- 0.53	99.24-99.28
15	NE-446433.1163 SW-446412.9982	NE-218713.7508 SW-218691.3287	NONE	0.52- 0.68	99.59-99.76
16	E-446439.1642 W-446409.1239	E-218642.8855 W-218643.7713	NONE	0.40	99.46-99.62
17	NE-446444.7847 SW-446424.8403	NE-218626.0819 SW-218603.5122	NONE	0.40	99.28-99.43
18	E-446466.8732 W-446436.7807	E-218553.8643 W-218554.6886	NONE	0.22- 0.36	98.89-98.93
19	NE-446484.8873 SW-446464.8016	NE-218605.0175 SW218582.6219	NONE	0.36	99.10-99.18
20	NW-446477.9809 SE-446500.5290	NW-218705.7255 SE-218685.7239	NONE	0.26	99.32-99.61
21	NW-446476.0196 SE-446498.5920	NW-218658.0215 SE-218638.0843	NONE	0.30	99.20-99.40
22	N-446502.9035	N-218610.6706	NONE	0.34	99.02-99.21

Trench	Easting	Northing	Features	Depth of topsoil (m)	Height of natural m OD
	S-446502.3735	S-218580.5767			
23	NE-446546.1190 SW-446526.3588	NE-218565.6954 SW-218542.9866	NONE	0.29	98.75-98.81
24	NW-446552.1135 SE-446574.6744	NW-218536.8620 SE-218516.9742	NONE	0.29	98.32-98.53

Figure 3; Trench 8 looking west



Figure 5; General shot of Trench 2



Figure 4; Trench 8 showing two ditches 8/04 & 8/06



Figure 6; Feature 1/03, considered natural

