



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**LAND NORTH OF NEW YATT ROAD,**

**NORTH LEIGH, OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR SP 3813 1314**

*On behalf of*

*CgMs Consulting*

**DECEMBER 2017**

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**Site Code:** NLNYR 17



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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land north of New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3813 1314). The evaluation consisted of seven 30m long trenches and all of the trenches consisted of a topsoil overlying the natural deposits. All seven trenches were devoid of any archaeological remains. Remains of a series of ridge and furrow earthworks were noted in the southwestern extent of site.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The site occupies two pasture fields, divided by a wooded field boundary, that are situated on the western limits of North Leigh. The site is defined by mature hedgerows and bounded to the south by New Yatt Road and to the north by Green Lane. The site is located on a gentle west facing slope, sloping from 131m AOD at its eastern boundary to 123m AOD at its western boundary. It is approximately 1.7ha in area and is centred at National Grid Reference SP 3813 1314. The underlying solid geology of the site is identified as mudstone belonging to the undifferentiated Oxford Clay and West Walton Formations. There are no superficial deposits recorded.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

West Oxfordshire District Council granted outline planning permission for residential development (16/01902/OUT). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological work. A Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017) for the condition was submitted. This evaluation was undertaken to a Stage 1 Method Statement (JMHS 2017).

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

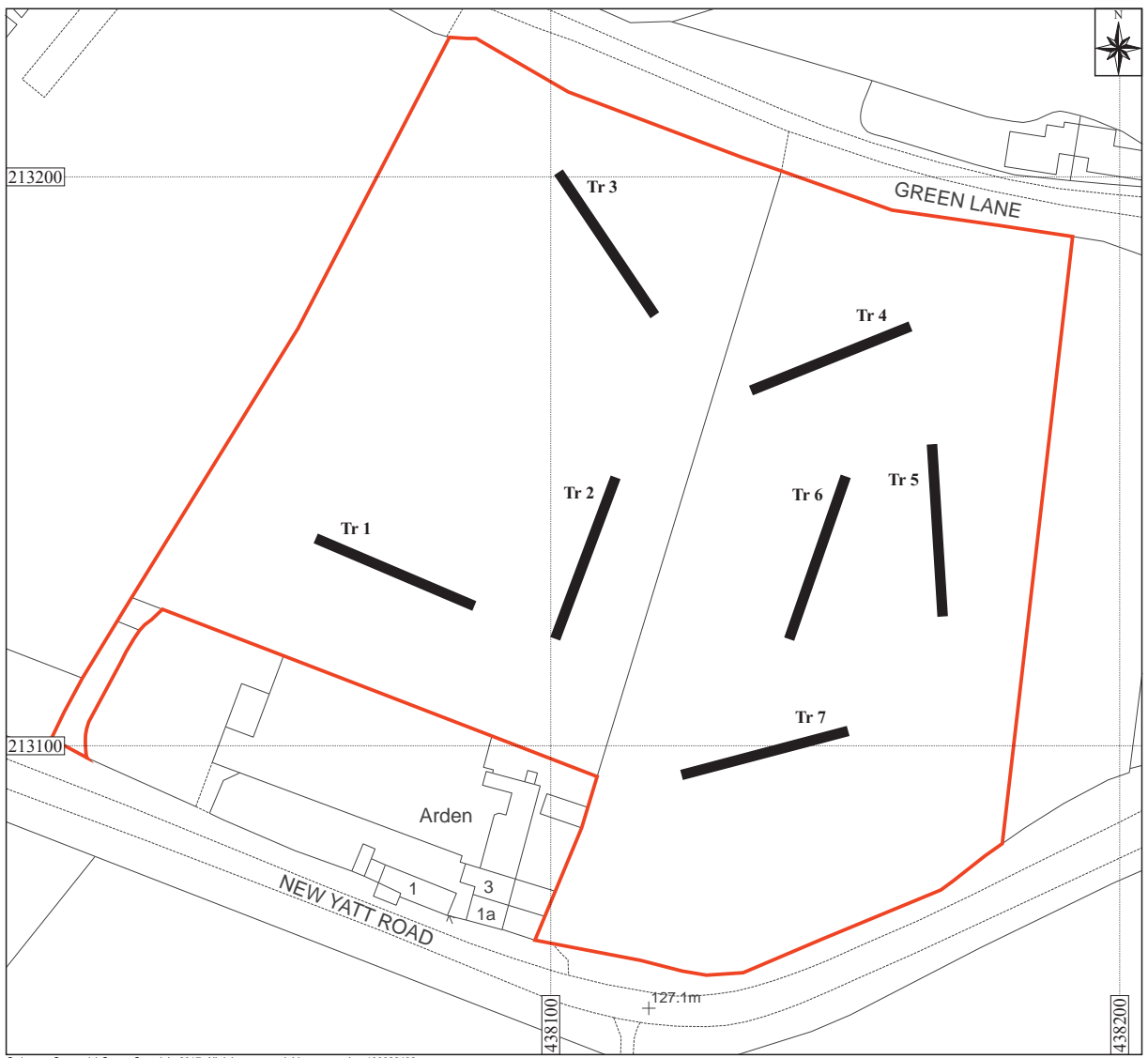
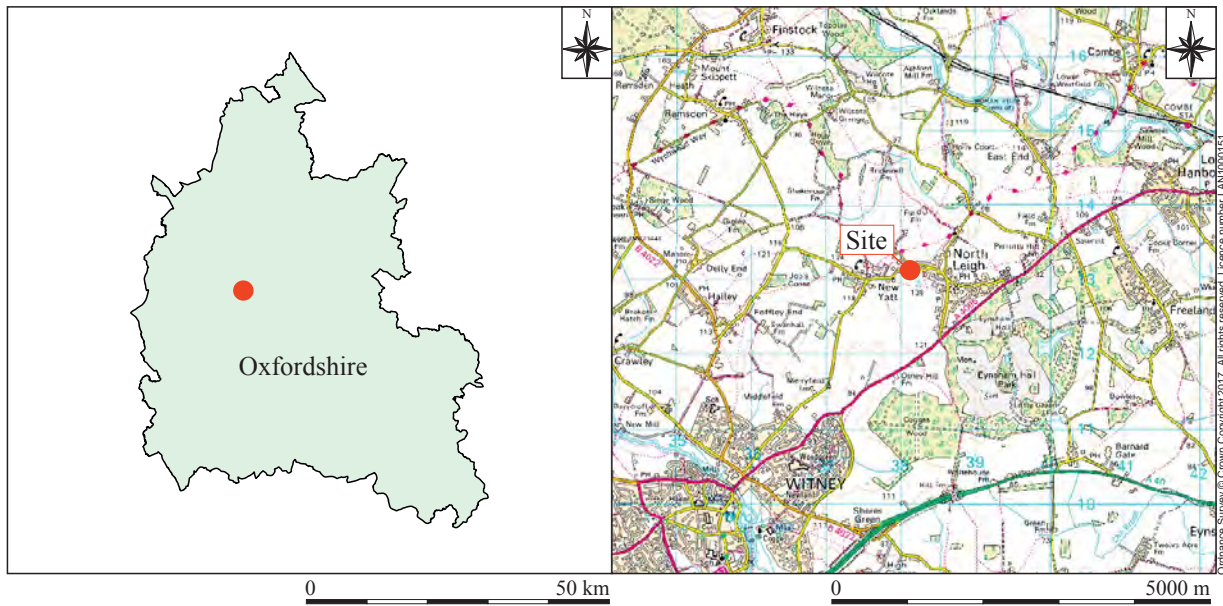
The archaeological background is given in a desk study (CgMs 2015).

A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by Stratscan (2016) which did not identify anything of archaeological significance other than remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.



Key  Site boundary  Evaluation trench

Figure 1: Site location

- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* and *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Stage 1 Method Statement.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

Seven evaluation trenches 30m long by 1.6m wide was excavated across the proposed site of the development.

Excavation was undertaken with an 8t excavator using a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of "natural" deposits or any higher archaeological horizon under direct archaeological supervision.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

### **4 RESULTS (Fig. 1)**

#### **4.1 Trenches**

Trench 1 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.2m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (1/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (1/02). The trench

was devoid of any archaeological features except for the partial earthworks of three ridge and furrows orientated northeast – southwest surviving to a height of c. 0.1m within the topsoil layer (1/01). These were spaced c. 3m apart and were only visible in this extent of the field.



Plate. 1 Trench 1

Trench 2 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.24m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (2/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (2/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 3 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.2m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (3/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (3/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 4 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.15m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (4/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (4/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 5 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.22m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (5/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (5/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 6 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.28m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (6/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (6/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 7 was 30m long and 1.6m wide and consisted of a 0.3m thick layer of a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (7/ 01) that overlay the natural sandy clay (7/02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

#### **4.2 Reliability of results**

The evaluation was undertaken in good weather conditions and the natural horizon was clear, thus the reliability of the results is considered to be good.

### **5 FINDS**

No finds were recovered from any of the trenches.

### **6 DISCUSSION**

All seven trenches were devoid of any below ground archaeological features. In the immediate area around Trench 1 (Fig. 1) to the southwestern extent of the site a series of shallow ridge and furrows were still existing as earthworks within the topsoil.

### **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CgMs Consulting, 2015 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Land off Green Lane, North Leigh, Oxfordshire.* Unpublished document

CgMs Consulting, 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Mitigation. Land North of New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Oxfordshire.* Unpublished document

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*

John Moore Heritage Services 2017 *Land North of New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Oxfordshire Stage 1 – Archaeological Evaluation Method Statement.* Unpublished client report

Stratascan 2016 *Geophysical Survey Report. North Leigh, Oxfordshire.* Unpublished client report



| Context          | Type    | Description           | Depth | Width | Length | Findings | Interpretation | Date |
|------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------|-------|--------|----------|----------------|------|
| <b>Trench 1</b>  |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 1/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.2m  | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 1/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |
| <b>Trench 2</b>  |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 2/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.24m | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 2/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |
| <b>Trench 3</b>  |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 3/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.2m  | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 3/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |
| <b>Trench 4</b>  |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 4/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.15m | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 4/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |
| <b>Trench 5-</b> |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 5/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.22m | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 5/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |
| <b>Trench 6</b>  |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 6/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.28m | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 6/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |
| <b>Trench 7</b>  |         |                       |       |       |        |          |                |      |
| 7/01             | Deposit | Mid-brown silty loam  | 0.3m  | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Topsoil        |      |
| 7/02             | Deposit | Mid-yellow sandy clay | -     | 1.6m  | 30m    | -        | Natural        |      |