

**COLLEGE FIELDS,
BANBURY,
OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR: SP 4650 3940
(Centred)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Report No. 447

October 2005

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SUMMARY

In September 2005 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at College Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 4650 3940 (centred)). The project was commissioned by CPM, on behalf of J.J.Gallagher Ltd and Hallam Land Management Ltd.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of forty eight 50m by 2m trenches, two additional trenches were also excavated as part of the contingency(Figure 2).

Archaeological features were restricted to a ditch and two gullies located in Trench 23, which have been provisionally dated to the Roman period. No structural remains were present within the evaluated area.

There was a general paucity of artefactual evidence across the site. This was generally restricted to a few sherds of modern china and glass in the ploughsoil, which were not retained. Several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from Trench 19, 46 and 50, along with fragments of animal bone from Trench 50, although these are most likely to have been imported to the site through manuring. A flint arrowhead was also recovered as a surface find 50m north of Trench 2.

The evaluation suggests that conditions for the preservation of archaeological deposits across the site are generally moderate, with the exception of the field containing Trenches 44 and 45 , where preservation conditions are poor. Overall, the results indicate that the area has low archaeological potential, with the exception of the area around Trench 23.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-Medieval

Period from *circa* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

For the purpose of this report Prehistoric is defined as being the period prior to the Roman invasion of AD43.

Roman

Period traditionally dated AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in September 2005 on land at College Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire. The project was commissioned by CPM, on behalf of J.J.Gallagher Ltd and Hallam Land Management Ltd.
- 1.2 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS/EN/ISO 9001: 2000 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant IFA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.
- 1.3 The Specification refers to two parcels of land (Area A and Area B) within the wider site of College Fields, Bodicote, which is located between the A4620 and the Oxford Canal on the south eastern outskirts of Banbury. The overall site is centred on NGR: SP 4650 3940 and, within it; the two adjoining parcels of land subject to evaluation are centred on NGR: SP 465 394 (Area A) and SP 466 382 (Area B).
- 1.4 This report confirms the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001) and a Specification for Archaeological Trial Trenching (CPM 2005). The Specification itself was prepared in accordance with a Brief issued by the archaeological advisor to Oxfordshire County Council.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological assessment of the site and the surrounding area was undertaken by CPM (2001) and should be read in conjunction with this report. The assessment demonstrated that there is evidence for possible prehistoric monuments in the local area, dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Limited evidence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement were identified in the wider study area. Medieval and post-medieval transport routes and associated structures were evident bordering the site to the northeast and southwest. There was little further evidence for activity within the site area, although a prehistoric stone tool was recovered during a site visit.
- 2.2 A geophysical (magnetometer) survey of the site was undertaken as a preliminary phase of archaeological evaluation by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services (WYAS) in January and February 2005. The survey involved magnetic scanning over the whole site, followed by a selected detailed survey. Scanning confirmed that changes in the magnetic background were linked to changes in the underlying geology. Remains of ridge and furrow were identified in the east and southwest of the site and linear anomalies across the site were interpreted as post-medieval field drains. The highest archaeological

potential was identified in the central part of the wider site, outside of the area of proposed development. This area is to be preserved as an area of public open space.

- 2.3 The study area therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.

- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- ii) To attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
- iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The project required the excavation of forty eight 50m x 2m trenches to provide a sample of the proposed development area. Trenches differed in their precise location from those shown in the specification in order to avoid constraints on the ground, whilst in some cases there was some slight drift in the locations of trenches predominantly due to the earlier removal of hedgerows and other boundary features. Trench 46 was relocated to avoid mature trees and Trench 47 was moved to avoid a main sewer. Trenches 8 and 24 were located away from grazed areas. Final trench locations are shown on Figure 2. A second phase of trenching comprising two 50m x 2m trenches was required, these locations are also shown on Figure 2.

- 4.2 Topsoil and non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or natural, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved with the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter, the trenches were cleaned and all additional excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned by eye and with a metal detector in order to locate unstratified artefactual evidence.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation, the Specification issued by CPM and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

Area B

- 5.1 **Trench 1** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.46m (117.36m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (102), a dark orange brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.21m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (101), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.32m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.43m (117.60m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (202), a dark orange brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (201), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.32m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench. However a tanged and barbed flint arrowhead provisionally given a Mesolithic date was recovered as a surface find approximately 50m north of the eastern end of this trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 3** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.45m (117.80m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (302), a dark orange brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (301), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northeast-southwest alignment at intervals of approximately nine metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.4 **Trench 4** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.51m (118.48m OD) from the modern

ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (402), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.28m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (401), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.5 **Trench 5** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.49m (118.72m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (502), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.25m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (501), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.32m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.6 **Trench 6** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.48m (118.46m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (602), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.25m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (601), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.27m thick. A furrow aligned northeast-southwest was present at the southern end of the trench. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.7 **Trench 7** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.39m (118.08m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (702), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (701), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.22m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.8 **Trench 8** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.48m (119.46m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (802), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (801), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.35m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.9 **Trench 9** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.46m (119.26m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (902), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (901), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.26m thick. Two furrows on a northwest-southeast alignment were present at an interval of 30 metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.10 **Trench 10** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a brown orange/yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.43m (118.59m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1002), a mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.20m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1001), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.30m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northwest-southeast alignment at intervals of approximately fifteen metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.11 **Trench 11** was aligned approximately east southeast-west northwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.40m (118.12m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1102), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.21m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1101), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.26m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a north northeast-south southwest alignment at intervals of approximately eight metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.12 **Trench 12** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.38m (117.85m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1202), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.19m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1201), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick, which contained one sherd of 19th/20th century china and a piece of modern glass. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.13 **Trench 13** was aligned approximately north northwest-south southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.42m (118.49m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1302), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.19m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1301), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.24m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.14 **Trench 14** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.42m (118.18m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1402), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.26m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1401), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. One furrow on a northeast-southwest alignment was present. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.15 **Trench 15** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.45m (117.77m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1502), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1501), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. One furrow on a northeast-southwest alignment was present. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.16 **Trench 16** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.43m (118.25m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1602), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1601), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.25m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northeast-southwest alignment at intervals of approximately seven metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.17 **Trench 17** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.39m (118.00m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1702), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1701), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northeast-southwest alignment at intervals of approximately eight metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.18 **Trench 18** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.40m (118.81m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1802), a light pinkish brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.12m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1801), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.34m thick, which contained two sherds of 20th century china. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.19 **Trench 19** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.40m (118.53m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (1902), a light pinkish brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.10m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (1901), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.37m thick, which contained one sherd of heavily abraded Medieval pottery. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.20 **Trench 20** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow/orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.50m (119.58m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2002), a mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.26m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2001), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.21 **Trench 21** was aligned approximately north northeast-south southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.47m (119.20m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2102), a light pinkish brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2101), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.29m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northwest-southeast alignment at intervals of approximately nine metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.22 **Trench 22** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.43m (118.80m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2202), a mid orange/yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.18m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2201), a mid to dark brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.25m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.23 **Trench 23** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange/yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.35m (117.43m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2302), a mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.26m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2301), a dark brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.29m thick. One furrow was present, on a northeast-southwest alignment, along with three other archaeological features.
- 5.24 Feature [2303] was a north-south aligned shallow V-shaped ditch, which cut the natural deposits and was sealed by the subsoil. The ditch was visible for the whole width of the trench, with a width of 1.4m and depth of 0.26m. The ditch contained a single fill (2304), which comprised a dark brown plastic/compact clay, with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. A quantity of 1st-2nd century AD Roman pottery and four fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill.
- 5.25 Feature [2305] was present east of ditch [2303] and consisted of a northeast-southwest aligned gully, which cut the natural substrates and was sealed by the subsoil. The gully had a flat base, with steep sloping sides and was present for a length of over 2.5m, with a width of 0.47m and depth of 0.20m. The feature contained a single fill (2306), which comprised a dark orange brown compact

silty clay, with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. A small sherd of possible Roman pottery was recovered from the fill.

- 5.26 Feature [2307] was present east of ditch [2303] and gully [2305] and consisted of a north-south aligned gully, which cut the natural substrates and was sealed by the subsoil. The gully had a flat base, with steep sloping sides and was present for the width of the trench, with a width of 0.32m and depth of 0.10m. The feature contained a single fill (2308), which comprised a dark orange brown compact silty clay, with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. A sherd of probable Late Iron Age-early Roman pottery and a fragment of CBM were recovered from the fill.
- 5.27 **Trench 24** was aligned approximately north northwest-south southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange/yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.42m (119.19m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2402), a mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.22m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2401), a dark brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.29m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northwest-southeast alignment at intervals of approximately nine metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.28 **Trench 25** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.47m (119.64m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2502), a light pinkish brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil was overlaid at the southern end of the trench by (2503), a thin layer of red brown clay silt, which was present for a length of 3m, with a thickness of 0.05m. This layer most likely represents an earlier topsoil. This and the rest of (2502) was then sealed by (2501), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.39m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.29 **Trench 26** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.49m (120.05m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2602), a light pinkish brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.17m thick. The subsoil was overlaid at the southern end of the trench by (2603), a thin layer of red brown clay silt, which was present for a length of 3m, with a thickness of 0.10m. This layer most likely represents an earlier topsoil. This and the rest of (2602) was then sealed by (2601), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.36m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.30 **Trench 27** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.39m (120.48m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2702), a light pinkish brown

silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.14m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2701), a mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil, up to 0.25m thick. Two furrows on a northeast-southwest alignment were present at the northern end of the trench at an interval of eleven metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.31 **Trench 28** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised an orange/yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.38m (120.10m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2802), a mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.16m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2801), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.32m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northwest-southeast alignment, at intervals of approximately eight metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.32 **Trench 29** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised an orange/yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.41m (120.55m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (2902), a mid orange brown silty clay subsoil, with occasional flint inclusions, up to 0.18m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (2901), a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. Ridge and furrow was present on a northwest-southeast alignment, at intervals of approximately nine metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.33 **Trench 30** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.44m (121.27m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3002), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3001), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.34 **Trench 31** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.43m (121.15m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3102), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3101), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. A furrow on a north-south alignment was present. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.35 **Trench 32** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.37m (121.12m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3202), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.18m thick. The subsoil was overlain

by (3201), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick. Two furrows on a northwest-southeast alignment were present, at an interval of twenty three metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.36 **Trench 33** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.45m (121.14m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3302), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.13m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3301), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick, which contained two sherds of 19th/20th century transfer printed china. Two furrows on a northwest-southeast alignment were present, at an interval of eighteen metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.37 **Trench 34** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.39m (121.76m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3402), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.19m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3401), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.26m thick, which contained three sherds of 20th century blue and white transfer chinaware and a shard of modern glass. Ridge and furrow on a northwest-southeast alignment were present, at intervals of approximately nine metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.38 **Trench 35** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.34m (121.72m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3502), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.10m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3501), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.26m thick. Ridge and furrow on a west northwest-east northeast alignment were present, at an interval of approximately nine metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.39 **Trench 36** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.53m (122.01m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3602), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.13m thick. The subsoil was overlaid at the western end of the trench by (3603), a layer of red brown silty clay, which was present for a length of 16m, with a thickness of 0.25m. This layer most likely represents an earlier topsoil. This and the rest of (3602) was then sealed by (3601), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.28m thick, which contained a two sherds of possible Bronze Age pottery, a few sherds of modern pottery and CBM. Two furrows on a northwest-southeast alignment

were present at the eastern end of the trench, with an interval of fourteen metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.40 **Trench 37** was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.46m (122.49m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3702), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.21m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3701), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.27m thick, which contained a few sherds of modern china. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.41 **Trench 38** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.45m (122.54m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3802), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.14m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3801), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.26m thick. A furrow on a northwest-southeast alignment was present. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.42 **Trench 39** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.33m (123.10m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (3902), a mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, with rare flint inclusions, up to 0.17m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (3901), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.23m thick. Probable ridge and furrow on a northwest-southeast alignment were present, at intervals of approximately ten metres. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

Area A

- 5.43 **Trench 40** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a light orange yellow clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.73m (96.38m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (4002), a dark orange clay silt subsoil, up to 0.40m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (4001), a dark grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.35m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.44 **Trench 41** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a blue/grey orange brown clay, at an average depth of 0.65m (96.31m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (4103), a thin layer of brown and orange sand alluvium, which was only present for 10m at the northern end of the trench, with a thickness of 0.10m. This and the rest of the natural deposits were then sealed by (4102), a mid brown orange clay silt subsoil, up to 0.33m thick. The

subsoil was then overlaid by (4101), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.24m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.45 **Trench 42** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a blue/grey orange clay, at a depth of 0.65m (95.91m OD) from the modern ground surface at the northeastern end and at a depth of 0.75m (97.93m OD) at the southwestern end. The natural deposits were overlaid by (4202), a mid brown orange clay silt subsoil, up to 0.35m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (4201), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.38m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.46 **Trench 43** was aligned approximately north-south and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a blue/grey orange brown clay, at an average depth of 0.65m (96.43m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (4303), a thin layer of brown and yellow sand alluvium, up to 0.14m thick. This was then sealed by (4302), a mid brown orange clay silt subsoil, up to 0.15m thick. The subsoil was then overlaid by (4301), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.29m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.47 **Trench 44** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated to a depth of up to 2m (96.80m OD at the eastern end and 99.98m at the western end) from the modern ground surface. The trench contained successive layers of modern dumping, this deposit was over 1.5m deep and was not bottomed. This was then sealed by (4402), a mixed yellow and orange sandy clay, up to 0.94m thick, which contained frequent inclusions of modern debris and appeared to be imported material to seal the modern dumping. This was in turn sealed by (4401), a thin layer of dark brown clay silt topsoil, up to 0.14m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.48 **Trench 45** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated to a depth of up to 1.9m (99.39m OD at the northeastern end and 101.25m OD at the western end) from the modern ground surface. The trench contained successive layers of modern dumping, similar to Trench 44, this deposit was over 1.2m deep and was not bottomed. This was then sealed by (4502), a mixed yellow and orange sandy clay, up to 1m thick, which contained frequent inclusions of modern debris and appeared to be imported material to seal the modern dumping. This was in turn sealed by (4501), a thin layer of dark brown clay silt topsoil, up to 0.14m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.49 **Trench 46** was aligned approximately east northeast-west southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid grey orange clay, at an average depth of 0.52m (97.17m OD at the eastern end and 99.34m OD at the western end) from the modern ground surface. The natural deposits were overlaid by (4602), a mid brown orange clay silt subsoil, up to 0.23m thick, which contained three abraded sherds of Roman pottery. The subsoil was

overlain by (4601), a mid grey brown silty clay ploughsoil, up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

- 5.50 **Trench 47** was aligned approximately east-west and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a blue/grey clay, at a depth of 1.04m (92.28m OD) from the modern ground surface at the eastern end and at a depth of 0.68m (94.49m OD) at the western end. The natural deposits at the eastern end were overlaid by (4704), an orange clay sand alluvium layer, up to 0.26m thick, which continued for approximately 20m. This and the rest of the natural deposits were then sealed by (4703), a pale yellow grey clay-sand alluvium layer, up to 0.31m thick. This was in turn sealed by (4702), a mid brown orange clay sand subsoil, up to 0.26m thick. The subsoil was then overlain by (4701), a dark brown sandy clay ploughsoil, up to 0.38m thick, which contained rare fragments of CBM. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.51 **Trench 48** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a white grey clay, with sand patches, at a depth of 0.47m (94.10m OD) from the modern ground surface at the northeastern end and at a depth of 0.70m (94.94m OD) at the southwestern end. The natural deposits at the eastern end were overlaid by (4803), a pale yellow grey clay sand alluvium layer, up to 0.17m thick. This was in turn sealed by (4802), a mid brown orange clay sand subsoil, up to 0.30m thick. The subsoil was then overlain by (4801), a dark brown sandy clay ploughsoil, up to 0.35m thick. No archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.52 Two trenches were excavated as part of a contingency in order to test the extent of the Roman activity identified in Trench 23.
- 5.53 **Trench 49** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange/yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.45m, 116.35m OD from the modern ground surface at the northeastern end and 117.25m OD at the southwestern end. The natural deposits were overlaid by (4902), a mid orange grey silty clay subsoil, with rare flint and occasional limestone inclusions, up to 0.26m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (4901), a dark brown grey silt clay ploughsoil, up to 0.20m thick. Two furrows were present, on a northwest-southeast alignment. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.
- 5.54 **Trench 50** was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was excavated onto the natural substrates, which comprised a mid orange/yellow brown clay with limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.33m, 115.51m OD from the modern ground surface at the northeastern end and 117.02m OD at the southwestern end. The natural deposits were overlaid by (5002), a mid brown/grey clay silt subsoil, with rare flint and occasional limestone inclusions, up to 0.26m thick. The subsoil was overlain by (5001), a dark brown grey clay silt ploughsoil, up to 0.15m thick. One furrow was present, on a northwest-

southeast alignment, which contained five sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of animal bone. No other archaeological features were present within this trench.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified that archaeological features are present within the site area, although they appear to be restricted to the northern edge of the plateau in Trench 23, overlooking the valley. Small quantities of archaeological material were also recovered from Trenches 19, 46 and 50, as well as an unstratified prehistoric arrowhead north of Trench 2. However, these remains would not be unexpected over such a wide area and given that human populations are known to have been settled in the wider area. Some material may also have been imported to the site through manuring.
- 6.2 The features present in Trench 23 consisted of a wide, shallow ditch and two small gullies. The gullies were of similar appearance and fills, all of which appear to date to the earlier part of the Roman period. It would seem likely that the two gullies were contemporary and may intersect 1m north of the trench boundary. These features could represent drainage channels, although they did not continue through to Trench 49. Ditch [2303] also did not continue through to Trench 49 and so must either terminate or turn at some point to the north of Trench 23. No structural evidence was present within any of the evaluated areas.
- 6.3 The field which contained Trenches 44 and 45, appeared to have been utilised for landfill and may contain contaminated deposits.
- 6.4 Where evaluation trenches overlap with geophysical results there is a direct correlation for the orientation of the ridge and furrow.
- 6.5 The results of the evaluation confirm low archaeological potential for all areas except within the vicinity of Trench 23. It should, however, be noted that unstratified flint implements have been recovered during these works and from a site visit by CPM and, as elsewhere, the possibility of discrete, ephemeral prehistoric deposits cannot be entirely discounted. However, the topography and geology of the site are unlikely to have been attractive to earlier communities for settlement.

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APPENDIX 1: THE POTTERY by Dr Jane Timby

Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in a small assemblage of 35 sherds (276 g) of pottery and one fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) from five trenches. Most of the sherds, at least 31, date to the early Roman period; the remainder comprise one medieval sherd, and three possible prehistoric sherds. In general the sherds were in poor, well-fragmented condition with an overall average sherd size of just 8 g. The assemblage was scanned to assess its likely date and quantified.

Prehistoric

Two small joining grog-tempered basesherds were recovered from Trench 36 which may be from a Bronze Age vessel on the basis of wall thickness, fabric and firing. However, it should be noted that grog-tempered Roman sherds came from the same site and it is possible that these sherds are late Iron Age or early Roman. Similarly a sherd of oolitic limestone tempered ware came from Trench 23 (2308), which may be Iron Age or early Roman.

Roman

A group of 22 sherds was recovered from a single context (2304) with a further sherd from (2306), three from (4602) and five unstratified sherds from Trench 50. The group from (2304) comprises a number of grog and grog and shell-tempered ware alongside wheelmade grey, sandy, necked jar which would be typical of the early Roman period. The sherds from Trenches 46 and 50 are extremely small and not closely datable other than Roman. It cannot be ascertained whether these might be contemporary with those from Trench 23. A small abraded fragment of possible CBM also came from (2308).

Medieval

A single sherd of green glazed jug of Brill-Boarstall type was recovered from Trench 19.

Further work

The present assemblage is too small and in too poor a condition to merit any further work.