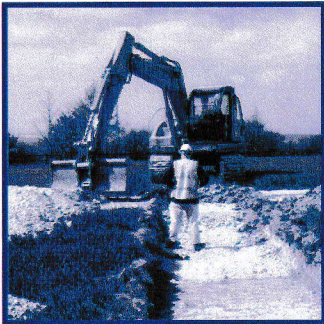


Wellesbourne Distribution Park  
Wellesbourne  
Warwickshire



**Archaeological Evaluation Report**



**Oxford Archaeology**

August 2004

**Client: Corstorphine and Wright**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 2359

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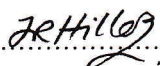
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## Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Loxey Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In July 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 2697 5485) on behalf of Corstorphine and Wright. The evaluation revealed evidence of extensive truncation and modern made ground throughout the development area. No evidence of archaeological remains or activity was encountered during the evaluation.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 19th and 20th of July 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Loxley Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 2697 5485) on behalf of Corstorphine and Wright. This was in respect of a planning application for the erection of a new storage unit with ancillary offices, service yard and car parking, perimeter fences and landscaping (Planning Application No.SO4/00742/FUL ). A brief was set by, and a WSI agreed with Edward Wilson, the Planning Archaeologist for Stratford on Avon District Council.

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated 5 km to the east of Stratford-upon-Avon on the south east edge of Wellesbourne Aerodrome (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the east by the A 429, to the north and west by access roads and to the south by an industrial estate. The site lies on alluvium overlying 2nd terrace gravel deposits at approximately 49 m OD. The site is presently used for industrial purposes and is 0.62 hectares in area.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate study (OA 2004), the results of which are presented below.

1.3.2 The proposed development lies in an area of known prehistoric and Romano-British potential. A number of significant monuments have been identified through aerial survey in the vicinity. These include Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record WA1141 and 6272; a complex of apparently Roman and pre-Roman enclosures to the north-west of the proposed development site. This area is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

1.3.3 There are further crop marks associated with the settlement activity, located on the 2nd terrace river gravel in the area, reflecting its suitability for early settlement.

1.3.4 In 1997 an archaeological evaluation took place to the north of the current application area. Trial trenching identified the remains of extensive medieval field system but could not determine whether evidence for earlier settlement had existed in this area.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving on the site. This was to include evidence for past environments with provisions for environmental sampling.
- 2.1.2 To clarify the nature and extent of any modern disturbance or intrusion onto the site.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

## 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of four trenches each measuring 30 m long and 2 m wide (Fig.2). These were sited to achieve a balance between archaeological potential and the constraints of working within a industrial site.

### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the natural geology or to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and where possible to retrieve dating evidence and environmental samples. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. All the trenches and features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and section drawings of features and sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features, sections and trenches were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

### 3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 No finds of archaeological significance were collected during the fieldwork.

### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 No deposits of paleo-environmental significance were encountered during the fieldwork.

### 3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 The results of the trial trenching are presented below followed by an overall discussion of the potential of the site.

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site was located on level ground. All the trenches came down onto natural drift geology represented by mixed sands and gravels. All the soil divisions were clearly defined with little or no mixing between the contexts. Groundwater was not encountered in any of the excavations.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

- 5.1.1 All the trenches displayed a broadly similar stratigraphy with the natural geology exposed at a depth of between 0.7 m and 0.8 m below ground level.
- 5.1.2 At the northern end of Trench 4, the top of a layer of tenacious grey natural clay (406) was exposed. This was overlaid by a friable reddish brown sandy gravel (405) which also formed the base of the other trenches (104, 203 and 306) (Fig.3, Sections 100, 200, 300 and 400). Within trenches 1, 3 and 4 this gravel was sealed by a layer of a friable dark reddish brown silty sand between 0.2 m and 0.25 m in depth (103, 305 and 404) representing a subsoil, probably a disturbed alluvial deposit. Cutting this layer within trench 3 was a modern land drain (307).
- 5.1.3 Overlying this in Trenches 3 and 4 was a 0.2 m thick spread of demolition debris (304 and 403), 20th century in date. Sealing the demolition deposits, the subsoil in Trench 1 and the natural gravel 203 in Trench 2 was a compacted reddish brown sandy silt containing many modern finds. These layers (102, 202, 302, 303 and 402) were of between 0.15 m and 0.5 m in depth and represent layers of made ground.
- 5.1.4 Completing the stratigraphy was a friable dark brown silt loam topsoil 0.2 m deep (101, 201, 301 and 401).

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The conditions in the field were dry and clear with relatively little intrusion by modern features such as services and land drains.
- 6.1.2 The distribution and percentage sample of the site is believed to have given a good reflection of the overall archaeological potential of the site.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The results of the evaluation show that little or no archaeological remains exist on the site. Two explanations for this suggest themselves:-

- 6.2.2 The presence of alluvial deposits suggest that this site may have been part of a wetland area and has always been considered to be of marginal or pastoral agricultural use only, with no settlement or field division taking place.
- 6.2.3 The deposits of made ground and demolition debris lying directly on top of the alluvial subsoil and the natural gravel suggests a degree of truncation has taken place in recent history. A possible sequence is that the original topsoil and underlying deposits have been stripped off, deposits of made ground dumped and levelled, and the stripped material reinstated. This activity would have destroyed any archaeological features within the stripped material, although any deeper features such as ditches and pits would probably have impinged into the underlying gravels and would have survived, if they had been present.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1						
	101	Layer	0.0 m - 0.2 m	Present day topsoil	-	-
	102	Layer	0.2 m - 0.6 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
	103	Layer	0.6 m - 0.8 m	Subsoil	-	-
	104	Layer	0.8 m - >1.07 m	Natural sands and gravels	-	-
2						
	201	Layer	0.0 m - 0.2 m	Present day topsoil	-	-
	202	Layer	0.2 m - 0.7 m	Made ground	Brick, Glass	C20th
	203	Layer	0.7 m - >0.85 m	Natural sands, gravel and corn brash	-	-
3						
	301	Layer	0.0 m - 0.2 m	Present day topsoil	-	-
	302	Layer	0.2 m - 0.4 m	Made ground	Brick, Tile	C20th
	303	Layer	0.4 m - 0.6 m	Made ground	Brick	C20th
	304	Layer	0.6 m - 0.65 m	Spread of demolition material	Brick	C19th - C20th
	305	Layer	0.65 m - 0.8 m	Subsoil	-	-
	306	Layer	0.8 m - >1.0 m	Natural sands and gravel	-	-
	307	Cut	0.65 m - 1.5 m	Modern land drain trench	-	C19th - C20th
	308	Fill	0.65 m - 1.5 m	Backfill of drainage trench	-	C19th - C20th
4						
	401	Layer	0.0 m - 0.15 m	Present day topsoil	-	-
	402	Layer	0.15 m - 0.3 m	Made ground	Brick, Tile	C20th



<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
4						
	403	Layer	0.3 m - 0.5 m	Spread of building debris	Brick, Plastic	C20th
	404	Layer	0.5 m - 0.7 m	Subsoil	-	-
	405	Layer	0.7 m - >0.85 m	Natural sands and gravel	-	-
	406	Layer	0.7 m - >0.9 m	Natural clay	-	-

**APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluations*

OA, 2004 *Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Loxley Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

OAU, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

Warwickshire Museum, 2004 *Brief for Archaeological Work. Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Loxley Road, Wellesbourne, Warwick*

**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Loxley Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire

**Site code:** WEDP 04

**Grid reference:** SP 2697 5485

**Type of evaluation:** 4 machine dug 30 m long trenches

**Date and duration of project:** 2 days, 19th and 20th of July 2004

**Summary of results:** Extensive deposits of modern made ground, no archaeological remains or activity encountered

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Warwickshire County Museums Service in due course.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

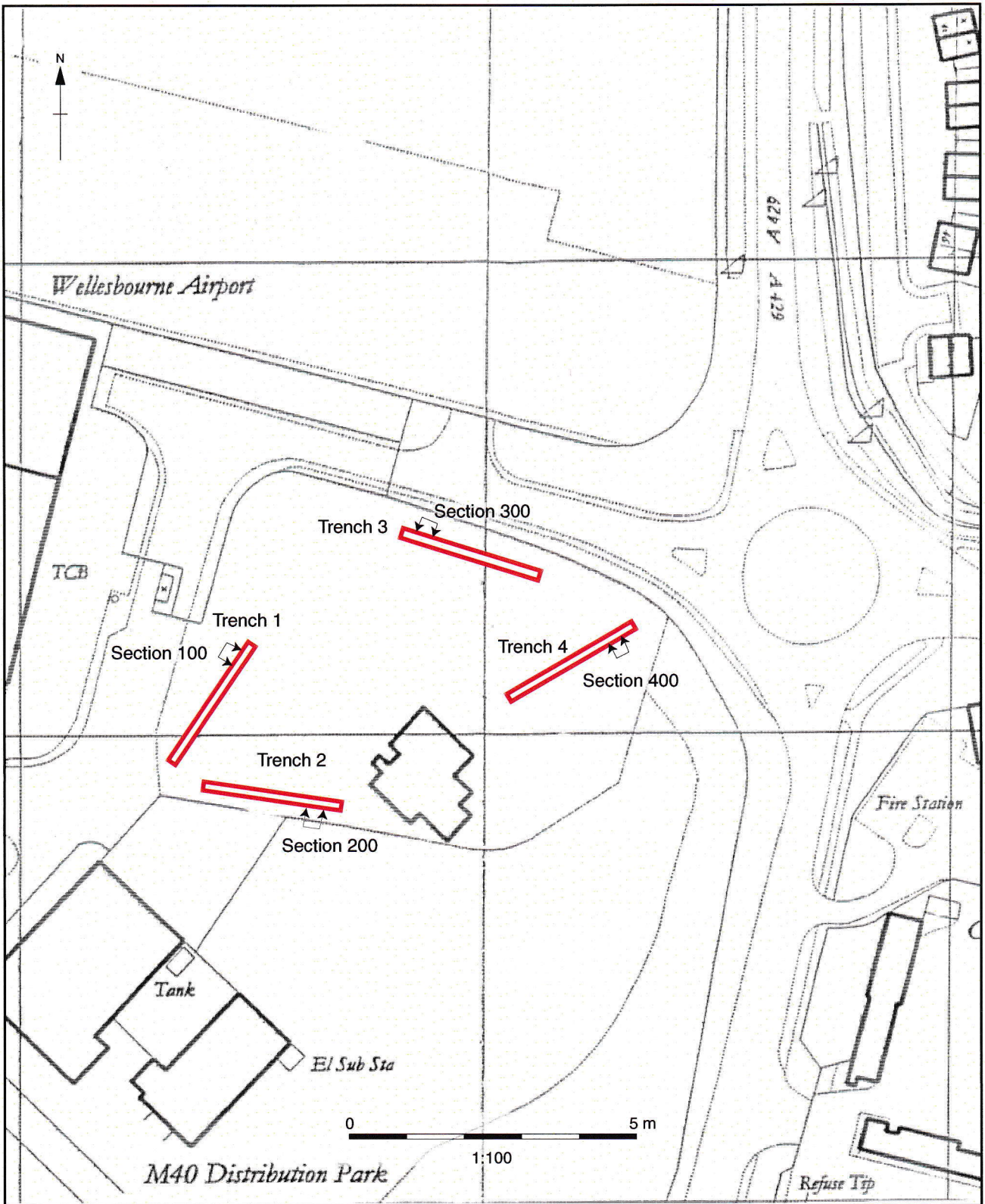


Figure 2: Trench location

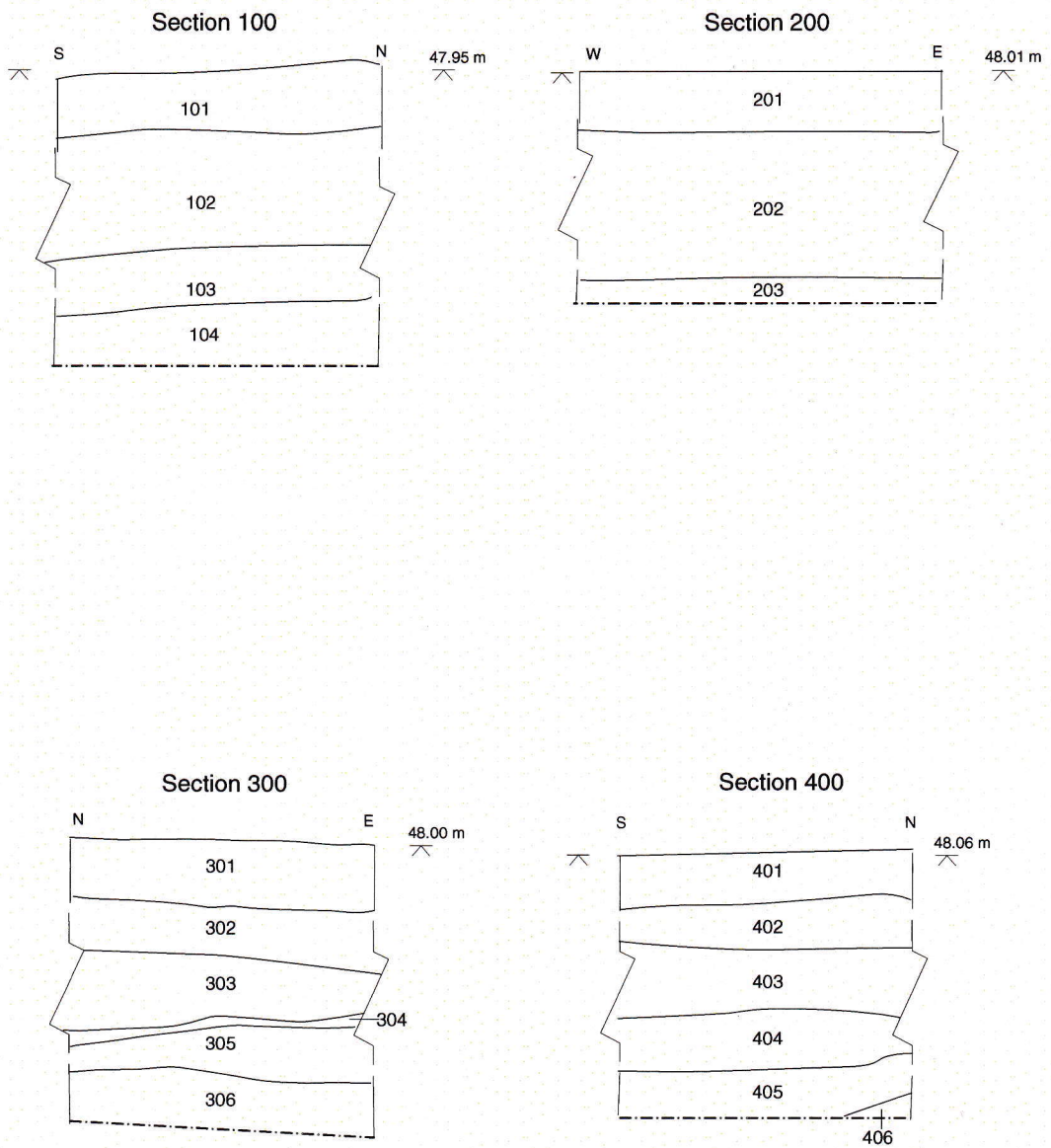


Figure 3: Sections



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