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Land at Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In June 2020, Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Group to undertake a field evaluation on land at Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead. Seventeen trial trenches were excavated within and around the footprint of an old industrial factory, representing a 4% sample of the proposed development area. The site is located near the Roman temple-mausoleum complex at Wood Lane End and had the potential to contain important archaeological remains.

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains and the stratigraphic sequence suggests that the site has been heavily truncated and disturbed by the previous land-use. Areas of undisturbed ground were extensively investigated to the east of the site, but again no archaeological remains were identified. The presence of demolition spoil, modern building remains and services restricted the layout of the trenching and necessitated the relocation of several trenches from the central area to the northern part of the site. A small number of finds of late post-medieval and modern date were recovered during the investigation from truncated furrows. Based on the results of the trenching, the site has been significantly truncated by modern disturbance and is considered to have low potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Ben Attfield, who was supported by Innes Glover Toma and Jim Mumford. Survey and digitising were carried out by Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Prologis to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed new warehouse development at Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead. Seventeen trenches were excavated across the site, representing a 4% sample of the development area. The site is located close to the Roman temple-mausoleum complex site at Wood Lane End and had the potential to preserve important archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition (4/01922/19/MFA) for the approved scheme. Discussion between Alison Tinniswood, Planning Archaeologist for Hertfordshire County Council, and Paul Clark, RPS Archaeological Consultant, detailed the authority's requirements for work necessary to fulfill the planning condition. The work was undertaken according to an approved written Scheme of investigation (RPS 2020). This document outlines the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance (CIfA 2014).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the east of Hemel Hempstead and is bounded to the south by Breakspear Way, to the west by Maylands Avenue, to the north by commercial properties and to the east by Prologis Park.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of 4.8 hectares of land centred at National Grid Reference TL 0807 0748 (Fig. 1). The site is largely flat at around 125m AOD. Until very recently, the northern half of the site comprised the concrete floor slab for a former factory with an area of car parking to the south. To the south of this area, several slight spoil mounds were visible on the LIDAR data. The slab was removed in recent times, with the former car parking area largely being covered by spoil heaps associated with this work. These remained *in situ* when OA began the evaluation.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2020) as clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth Group in the northern part of the site and chalk belonging to the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation/Seaford Chalk Formation across the southern part of the site. This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel belonging to the Clay-with Flints Formation across most of the site, with no superficial deposits recorded for the north-western corner of the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The wider archaeological background is laid out in detail in the WSI (RPS 2020) and is briefly summarised below.
- 1.3.2 Flint artefacts have been found within a 1km radius of the site, to the north-west and south-west and are recorded in the Historic Environment Record. During works associated with the M1 widening, pits, postholes and ditches of Neolithic, Bronze Age and early Iron Age date were recorded.

- 1.3.3 Hemele (Hemel Hempstead) was given to the bishop of London in AD 705 by Offa, King of Essex. By 1086, Domesday records the settlement as being located in the Hundred of Danish (Hertfordshire) with a population of 23. Evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity of the consists of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, which was revealed by excavation north of Wood End Lane. A lime kiln, structure, oven, boundary ditches, postholes and a trackway of medieval date were recorded during work on the M1 widening.
- 1.3.4 Preliminary drawings for the Ordnance Survey dated 1806 show the site to be located in a broadly agricultural landscape and laid out as a number of fields and isolated farmsteads. On the tithe map of 1843, the site forms part of three fields. On OS mapping of 1899, the site is unchanged, except for the addition of an internal trackway. OS mapping from 1964 to 2015 show the evolution of the site as an industrial complex, with the construction of buildings and hard standing associated with the Lucan Industries factory, later demolished.

1.4 Previous investigations

- 1.4.1 A previous ground investigation was undertaken across the site (DTS Raeburn 2016a; 2016b; WSP 2018; 2019), comprising ten cable-percussion boreholes, four window-sampling boreholes and 24 mechanically excavated trial pits in July 2016, with a further eleven trial pits and seven window samples excavated in December 2018. The investigations confirmed the general geology of the site and identified significant depths of made ground across much of the site, directly overlying the natural geology. This suggests that the site was stripped and truncated prior to the construction of the Lucas Industries buildings and associated car parking. The only exception to this general sequence of stratigraphy was a narrow strip at the southern edge of the site, to the south of the car parking area, which did not appear to have been previously disturbed, and where the topsoil was found overlying natural clay.
- 1.4.2 The northern half of the site is located within an Archaeological Alert Area (DAC_38). Excavations in the 1960s and 1980s at Wood Lane End revealed the remains of a Romano-British religious complex consisting of a temple-mausoleum and shrine enclosed by a partially walled temenos and associated buildings including a possible schola. Since its discovery, the Wood Lane End site has become protected as a scheduled monument (list number 1015490). In 2017, OA undertook an archaeological excavation at Maylands Gateway (NGR TL 0836 0764) immediately south of the religious complex (OA 2020). The substantial remains of a well-preserved early Roman-period lime kiln were discovered.
- 1.4.3 The temple was abandoned by the 3rd century AD, coinciding with a mid-late Roman phase of activity at Maylands Gateway characterised by the establishment of several corndryers alongside a vast quantity of charred plant remains.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives as laid out in the WSI were as follows:

- i. To determine as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- ii. To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
- iii. To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- iv. To assess the impact of previous land use on the site.
- v. To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits.
- vi. To establish the potential for previously unsuspected archaeological evidence.
- vii. To provide sufficient information on the archeological potential of the site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development be assessed.
- viii. To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
- ix. To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accessions to the Hertfordshire HER.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 17 trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.8m by 50m and representing a 4% sample of the development area. The location of some of the trenches had to be altered from their proposed position outlined in the WSI (RPS 2020) in the field owing the presence of services, modern structures, walls, spoil heaps and vegetation (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or to the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. Trenches and the up-cast spoil were scanned with a metal detector.

2.2.3 The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Any potential features were investigated by hand and recorded.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated; eg pit 303 was a feature within Trench 3, while ditch 1608 was a feature within Trench 16.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was uniform. The natural geology of yellow-orange clay was overlain in the northern part of the site by levelling and rubble deposits. No subsoil was present in the north and central areas of the site, which had been previously stripped, and indeed there were indications that there was some truncation of the natural geology. This area also contained above-ground deposits of spoil and rubble, concrete and upstanding concrete structures.
- 3.2.2 Fewer disturbed sequences were seen in the south of the site, which were overlain by a layer of soil make-up, which in turn was sealed by topsoil. In this area the trenches were located as set out in the WSI.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and most of the trenches remained dry throughout. Trenches 4 and 11 became slightly flooded after opening but the trench base was observed before this occurred. Modern features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. There were no features of confirmed archaeological origin.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Features of confirmed archaeological origin were not present in any of the trenches. Late post-medieval, modern or undated probable natural features were present in Trenches 3, 6, 8, 9, and 16. The natural clay was overlain by a levelling layer or layers of dumped soil and modern rubble under tarmac or grass.

3.4 Northern area (Trenches 1-12; Figure 3, Plates 1-18 and 28-29)

- 3.4.1 Trenches 1 to 12 were located in the northern part of the site, within the footprint of the former building. This was reflected in the stratigraphy within the trenches, which consisted of levelling layers of concrete rubble and other modern debris. The thickness of this material varied from 0.35m in Trench 2 to 0.9m in Trench 9.
- 3.4.2 A very small number of features of probable modern or natural origin were located in these trenches. Trench 6 contained a possible narrow ditch (603; Figures 3 and plate 8). This was aligned broadly N-S and had a V-shaped profile (Figure 4). It measured 0.77m in width and 0.33m in depth and was filled with a dark brown sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.
- 3.4.3 A large, deep circular feature (905; Figure 3 and plate 19) was partially revealed by Trench 9. It measured 1.32m in width and at least 0.26m in depth; it was not bottomed owing to its location at the edge of the trench (Figure 4). It contained material in the

upper fill of clear post-medieval and probable modern date including brick, pottery of late 18th to 19th-century date and a modern white mug.

- 3.4.4 All other features were of modern origin and included a NE-SW aligned brick-lined modern service trench in Trench 3 (302) and two rubble-filled modern features towards the eastern end of this trench (not numbered). There was another rubble-filled modern ditch in Trench 4. These are probably all structural or service features related to the former factory.
- 3.4.5 There were remnants of a concrete surface in Trench 5 and extant concrete structural blocks in Trenches 1, 7, 10 and 11. In Trench 7 there were two irregular non-archaeological features, probably areas of modern disturbance. Two intersecting brick drains were located in Trench 8, and there was also an undated sub-circular feature filled with a brownish orange clay in the same trench (Plate 11). This may be natural in origin. A narrow linear feature filled with tarmac and modern debris crossed Trench 12 and may be a service trench.

3.5 Central area (Trench 13; Plates 19 and 26-27)

- 3.5.1 One trench was located in the central area of the site along the former tarmac access road (Trench 13). Excavation of the trench commenced, but had to be halted due to the presence of reinforced concrete located under the tarmac. No other trenches were possible in the central area due to the presence of services and upstanding concrete structures.

3.6 Southern area (Trenches 14-17; Figure 3, Plates 20-25 and 30)

- 3.6.1 Trenches 14, 15, 16 and 17 were located on the grassed area around the car park in the southern area of the site. The upper part of the stratigraphic sequence in these trenches comprised topsoil, which ranged from 0.15m deep in Trench 16 to 0.35m deep in Trench 14. There was subsoil in all of these trenches, ranging from 0.15m to 0.3m in thickness in all trenches apart from Trench 16, where it was up to 0.95m thick, suggesting that this deposit was laid to level uneven ground.
- 3.6.2 The only feature of possible archaeological origin in these trenches was a ditch (1604) in Trench 16 (Figures 3 and 4; Plate 22). There were no finds recovered from its brown silty clay fill, but two other similarly aligned features adjacent to it (1606 and 1608; Figure 4 and plates 23 and 24) were filled with modern material and tile of late 19th-century date and it is likely that feature 1604 is also of the same date. Ditch 1606 was seen extending through Trench 14, though was not numbered there. Trenches 15 and 17 were empty.

3.7 Finds and environmental summary

- 3.7.1 Three sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 11g were recovered from the evaluation. They were all common domestic wares with a date range of c 1780-1840. They were recovered from context 902, the upper fill of pit 905.
- 3.7.2 Nineteen pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 578g were recovered from four contexts. Fragments of post-medieval brick and roof tile were recovered from contexts 303 and 902 (fill of pit 905); all were 18th-19th century in date. Two

pieces of encaustic decorated floor tile were recovered from context 1605, fill of ditch 1606. These dated to c 1850-1900. Fragments of roof tile were also recovered from context 1607, fill of ditch 1608.

3.7.3 No features suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered to be a reliable indicator of the potential for archaeological remains within the site. There were some issues with access and some trenches could not be excavated due to the presence of modern building remains and concrete overburden. The layout of the trenches was adapted and as a result they were not evenly distributed across the site, as set out in the WSI. The adapted trench layout meant that more trenches were located in the northern part of the site. There were four located in the southern part of the site, as planned, but these were in slightly different locations. It was not possible to excavate any trenches in the central part of the site due to site constraints.
- 4.1.2 However, every effort was made to obtain an accurate picture of the stratigraphic sequence where possible and it was clear that the site had been heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the former factory building and associated services and that the potential for the existence of features of archaeological origin was low.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results of the evaluation confirm that there were no significant archaeological remains in the northern and southern parts of the site. The results obtained from the trenches that were excavated suggest that there is low archaeological potential for the site as a whole.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The remains uncovered were limited to a very small number of features which were either not dated or contained small amounts of material of late post-medieval or modern date. Some features and services were clearly related to the previous use of the site as an industrial unit. The site had been largely truncated by the construction of the earlier factory building and its services.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The features recorded during the evaluation are of no significance and the site has low potential for the presence of archaeological remains pre-dating the modern period.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. No topsoil, only occasional overburden of concrete blocks and buried modern services. Natural of yellow-orange clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.45	Concrete blocks	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of overburden made up of modern rubble, brick fragments, sand, ash and charcoal. Two modern drains. Natural of yellow-orange clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.35	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Brick lined service trench truncated a possible tree throw hole, two possible robber cuts for post medieval or modern foundations were present but not recorded in detail. Natural of yellow-orange clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.35-0.95	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
302	Structure	0.11	0.07	Modern services		
303	Fill	-	0.53	Fill of possible natural feature	CBM (1 pc 11g)	L18-19C
304	Cut	1.2	0.53	Possible natural feature		

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench traversed by a N-S aligned modern feature containing over-burden material. Not recorded.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.45	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-

401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
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Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Remains of a concrete surface and stone rubble c.2m wide in the central area.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.4	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. A single N-S aligned ditch contained no finds and was not dated.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.35	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
602	Fill	-	0.33	Fill of ditch		
603	Cut	0.7	0.33	Ditch		

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Three modern features filled with rubble and contaminated with oil.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.3- 0.4	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two modern brick drains, possible pit or natural feature.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.35	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
802	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of possible pit		

803	Cut	0.77	0.4	Possible pit		
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Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.3-0.6	Levelling/overburden rubble	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
902	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of pit	Pot (3 sherds 11g) CBM (10 pcs 195g)	1780-1840 L18-19C
903	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of pit		
904	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of pit		
905	Cut	1.64	0.64	Pit		

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. A deep layer of levelling overlay the yellow-orange natural clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.9
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.9	Levelling/overburden rubble	-	-
1001	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two modern concrete blocks were located within the trench.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.33	Levelling/overburden rubble	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Modern linear filled with overburden material was located within the trench.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.4-0.5	Levelling/ rubble overburden	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench could only be excavated to 0.5m, the tarmac surface was removed to reveal reinforced concrete below. The trench could not proceed beyond this point.				Length (m)	0.25	
				Width (m)	2.20	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology, except for a modern linear that was a continuation of a ditch in trench 16. The natural was overlain by dark silty clay subsoil and topsoil.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2.20	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.9	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural was overlain by dark silty clay subsoil and topsoil.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2.20	
				Avg. depth (m)	1.1	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained three modern linear features cutting the natural. The natural was overlain by dark silty clay subsoil and topsoil.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	2.20	
				Avg. depth (m)	1.05	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.65-0.85	Soil levelling	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1603	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of modern ditch	-	-

1604	Cut	0.86	0.25	Modern ditch		
1605	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of modern ditch		
1606	Cut	0.59	0.22	Modern ditch		
1607	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of modern ditch		
1608	Cut	0.8	0.12	Modern ditch		

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural was overlain by dark silty clay subsoil and topsoil.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	1.1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.15	Levelling	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Post-medieval pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 Three sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 11g were recovered from a single context. Ordinary domestic wares were recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014).

Description

- B.1.2 **Context (902) Spot-date: c 1780-1840.** Description: 3 sherds (weight 11g). 1x very small sherd of Pearlware with blue-painted decoration (Fabric code: PEAR PNTD, c 1780-1840). 2x sherds possibly from a single dish/plate in developed Creamware (CREA DEV, c 1760-1830), including part of a rim flange and a flat base. These are commonplace tablewares of the period produced in Staffordshire or south Yorkshire.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.3 The pottery here has very little potential for further analysis and could be discarded - if so desired.

B.2 Ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 A total of 19 pieces of CBM weighing 578g were recovered from four contexts. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

Description

B.2.2 **Context (303) Spot-date: Late 18th to 19th century?** Description: 1 piece (weight 11g). A shapeless scrap of soft red brick. Smooth red terracotta-like fabric. Probably fairly modern.

B.2.3 **Context (902) Spot-date: Late 18th to 19th century?** Description: 10 pieces (weight 195g). 1x abraded scrap of soft red brick with traces of a side angle. Smooth red fabric as in (303). 9x smallish fragments and scraps of red peg-tile, including 2 with traces of circular nail-holes. These all occur in the same smooth red fabric with coarse inclusions and streaks of yellow clay.

B.2.4 **Context (1605) Spot-date: c 1850-1900.** Description: 2 pieces (weight 298g). 1x near-complete decorated 'encaustic' floor tile (c 1850-1900), weighing 298g. The latter is 75mm square x 16mm thick. Made from hard cream clay with an inlaid concentric design in black clay showing a small cross or quatrefoil within a circle within a square border. On the underside is a black bituminous adhesive or cement and a trace of a maker's mark. 1x fragment of L18-19C red peg-tile as above.

B.2.5 **Context (1607) Spot-date: Late 18th to 19th century?** Description: 6 pieces (weight 52g). Abraded scraps of red peg-tile.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.2.6 The assemblage here is in very poor condition and, apart from the decorated floor tile, has little or no potential for further research. Apart from the floor tile it has all been discarded.

B.3 Iron object

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.3.1 A single iron object was recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

Description

- B.3.2 **Context (1605) Spot-date: 19th or 20th century?** Description: 1 piece (weight 452g). A very rusty/heavily corroded, iron, sheet-metal object. Roughly square in plan: 155mm x 140mm x c 10mm thick (originally perhaps c 5mm thick?). Along the wider 'top' edge the sheet has broken-off along a shallow angle or ridge. Function uncertain. It might be something like the end of a garden hoe or shovel. Or possibly a piece of sheet-metal cladding from something like the ridge of a wooden shed roof etc. Other interpretations are possible.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.3.3 The object appears to have very little potential for further analysis and could be discarded if wished.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2020 (Geology of Britain Viewer)

CIFA 2014 Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation

DTS Raeburn 2016a PRELIMINARY RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A PROPOSED FOOD DISCOUNT STORE AT MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

DTS Raeburn 2016b GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF A SITE AT MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE ('SITE B': PROPOSED RETAIL AND OFFICE DEVELOPMENT)

RPS, 2020 Land at Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, Witten Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trench Evaluation

MOLA 2014, London medieval and post-medieval pottery codes, Museum of London Archaeology, <http://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes> (Accessed 11 Jan 2019)

OA 2020: An Early Roman Lime Kiln and Later Roman Agricultural Processing at Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead: Archaeological Excavation Report, Oxford Archaeology client report 6788b

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WSP 2018 Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Preliminary Risk Assessment

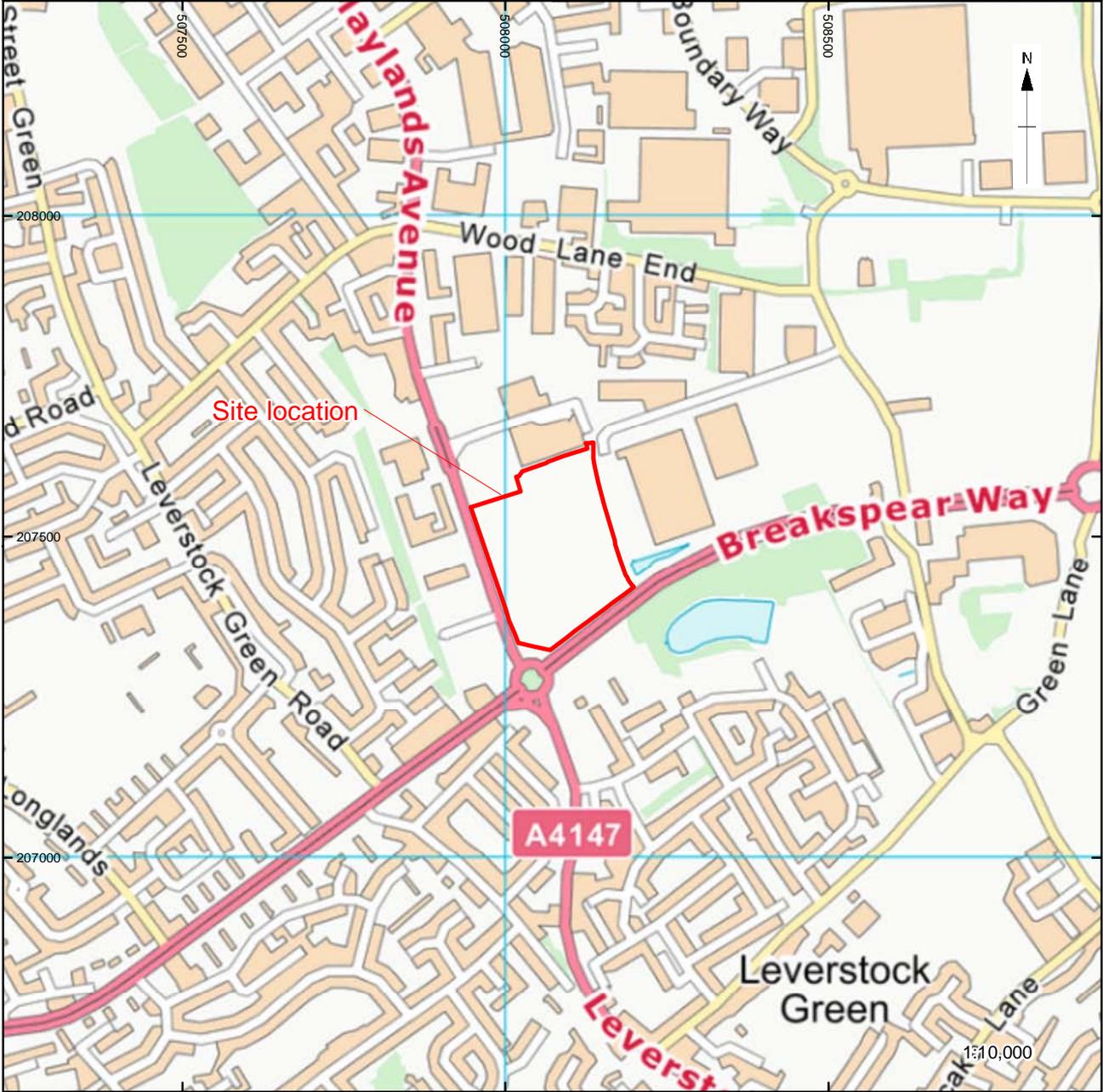
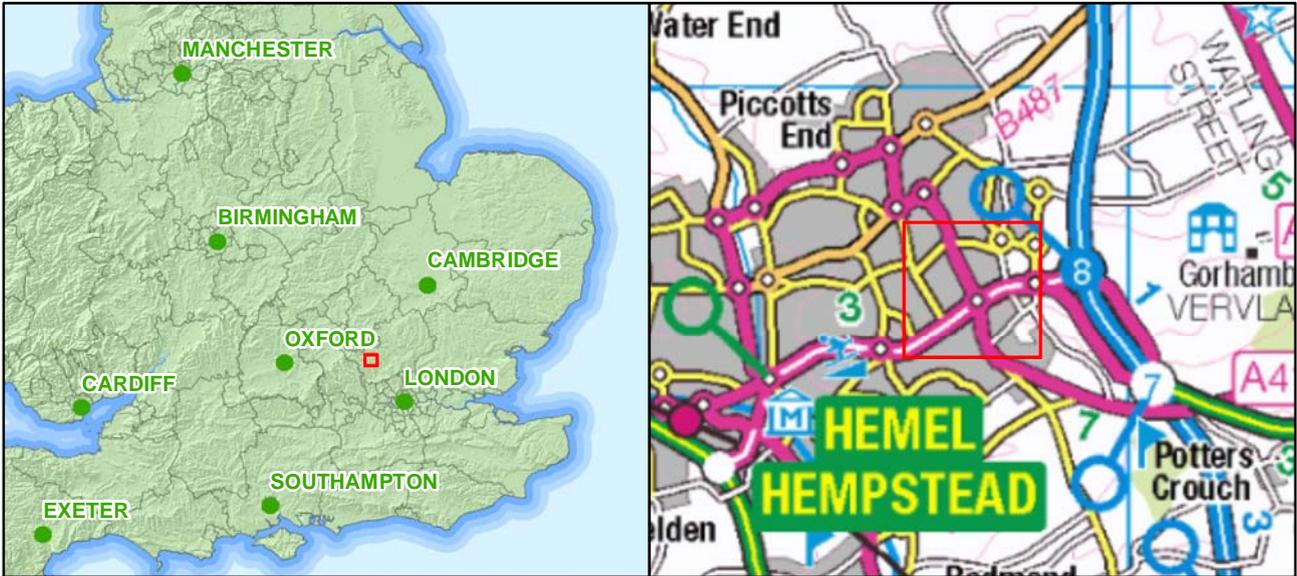
APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	HEMP20
Site code:	HEMPEV
Grid Reference	TL 0807 0748
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	June 2020
Area of Site	4.8 ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust in due course, under the following accession number: DACT: 4755.1.
Summary of Results:	<p>In June 2020 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by RPS Group to undertake a field evaluation on land at Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead. Seventeen trial trenches were excavated within and around the footprint of an old industrial factory, represent a 4% sample of the proposed development area. The site is located near to the Roman temple-mausoleum complex at Wood Lane End, and important archaeological remains may still survive underneath the modern foundations.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains and where it was possible to excavate trenches the stratigraphic sequence suggests that the site has been heavily truncated and disturbed by the previous land-use. Areas of undisturbed ground was extensively investigated to the east of the site, but no archaeological remains were also identified. Access issues relating to the locations of demolition spoil, modern building remains and services restricted the trenching and necessitated the relocation of several trenches from the central area to the northern part of the site. A small number of finds of late post-medieval and modern date were recovered during the investigation from truncated furrows. Based on the results of the trenching, the site has been significant truncated by modern disturbance and is considered to have low potential for the survival of archaeological remains.</p>

APPENDIX

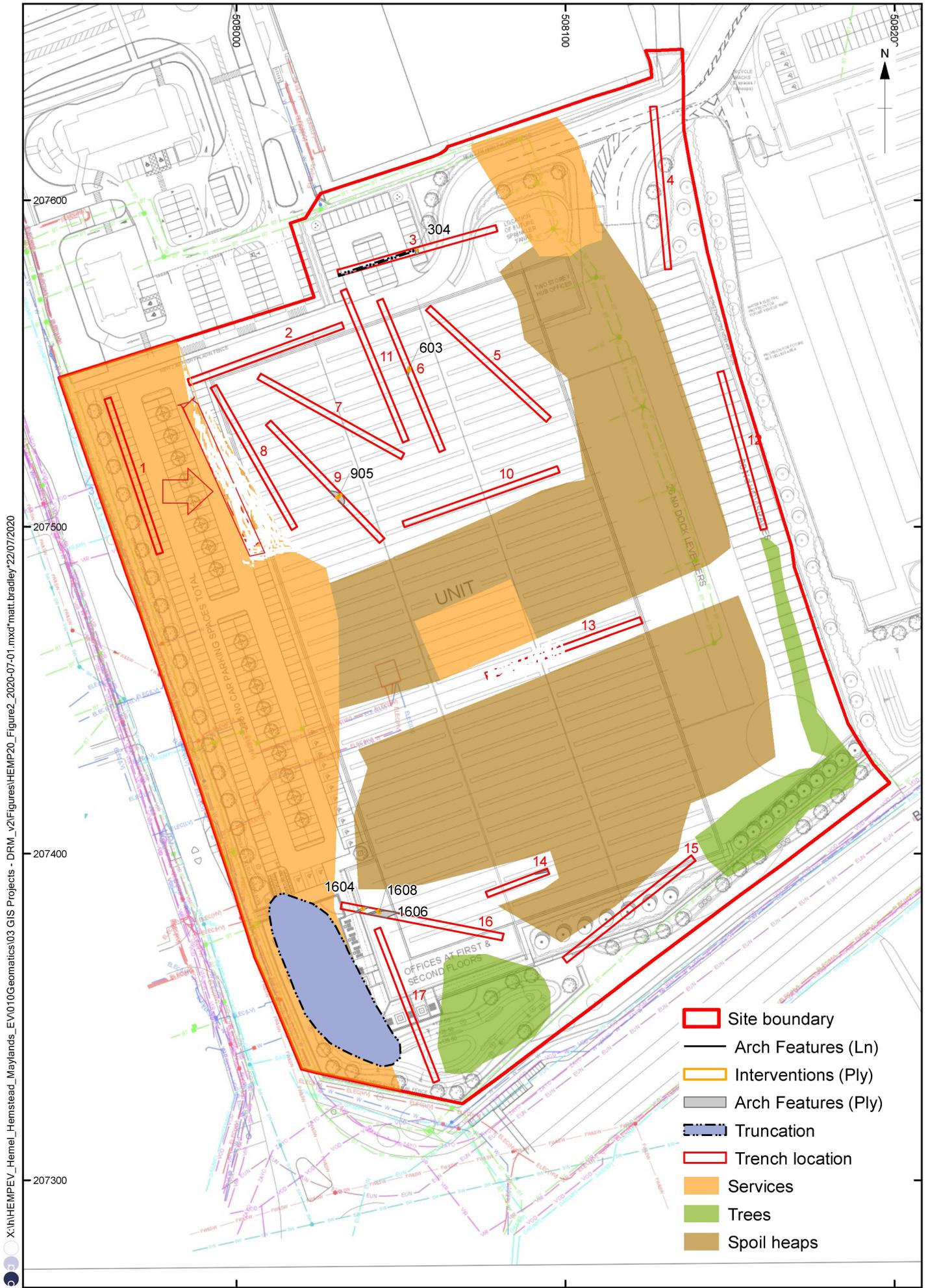
HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: Hemel Hempstead	Parish: Hemel Hempstead	
Planning application reference: 4/01922/19/MFA		
HER Enquiry reference: n/a		
Nature of application: Industrial/commercial units		
Present land use: Industrial		
Size of application area: 4.8ha	Size of area investigated: c. 2ha	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 0807 0748		
Site code (if applicable): HEMP20		
Contractor: Oxford Archaeology		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work: June 20	Start: 15/06/20	Finish: 19/06/20
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: DACT: 4755.1		
Related HER Nos: n/a	Periods represented: None	
Relevant previous summaries/reports RPS, 2020 Land at Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, Witten Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trench Evaluation		
Summary of fieldwork results: The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains and where it was possible to excavate trenches the stratigraphic sequence suggests that the site has been heavily truncated and disturbed by the previous land-use. Areas of undisturbed ground was extensively investigated to the east of the site, but no archaeological remains were also identified. Access issues relating to the locations of demolition spoil, modern building remains and services restricted the trenching and necessitated the relocation of several trenches from the central area to the northern part of the site. A small number of finds of late post-medieval and modern date were recovered during the investigation from truncated furrows. Based on the results of the trenching, the site has been significantly truncated by modern disturbance and is considered to have low potential for the survival of archaeological remains.		
Author of summary: Carl Champness	Date of summary: 06/11/20	



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Figure 1: Site location



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- Site boundary
- Arch Features (Ln)
- Interventions (Ply)
- Arch Features (Ply)
- Truncation
- Trench location
- Services
- Trees
- Spoil heaps

Figure 2 : Trench locations

0 1:1,500 @ A4 100 m

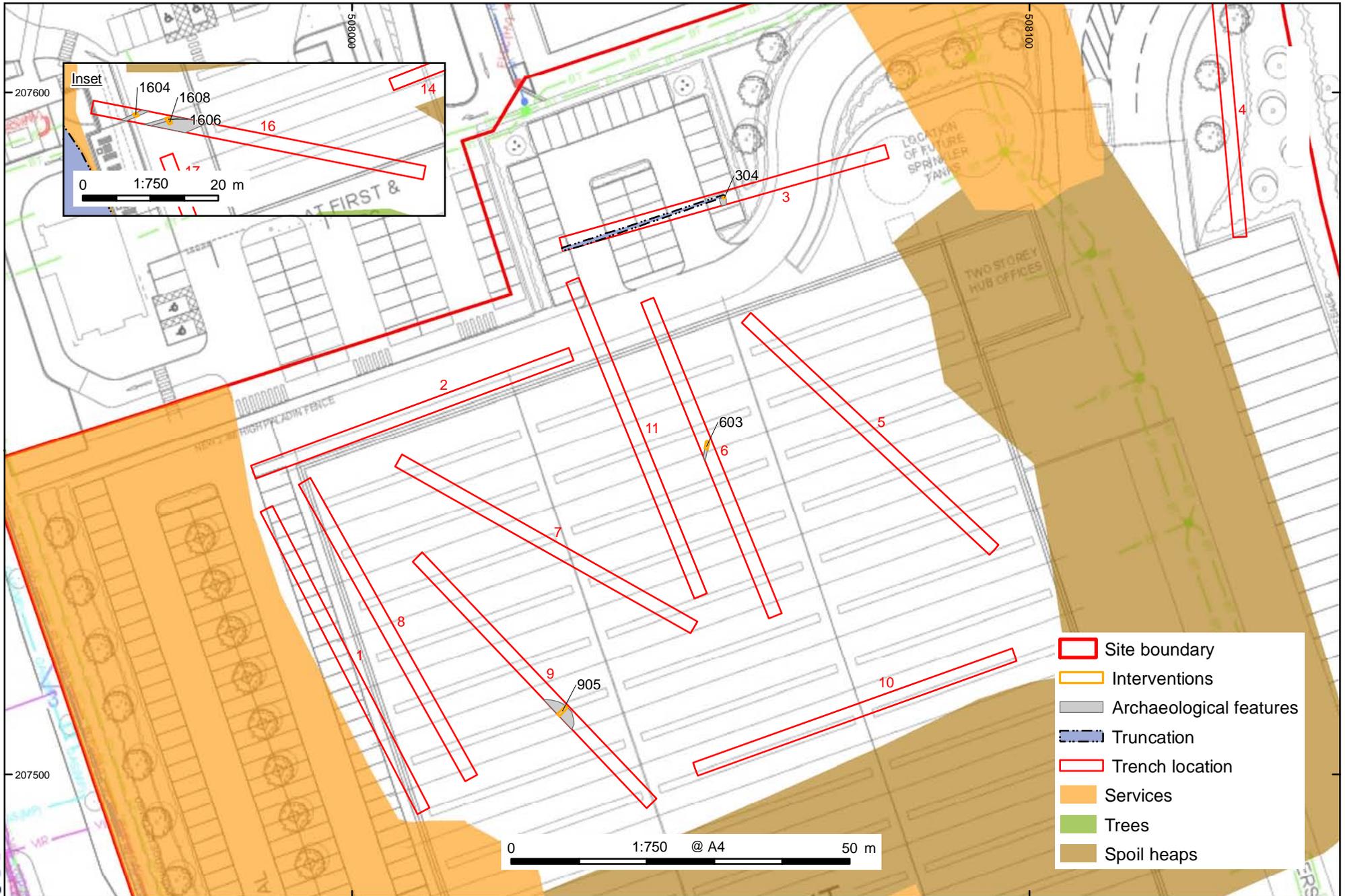


Figure 3 : Detailed plan of trenches 1-11 (with inset of trench 16)

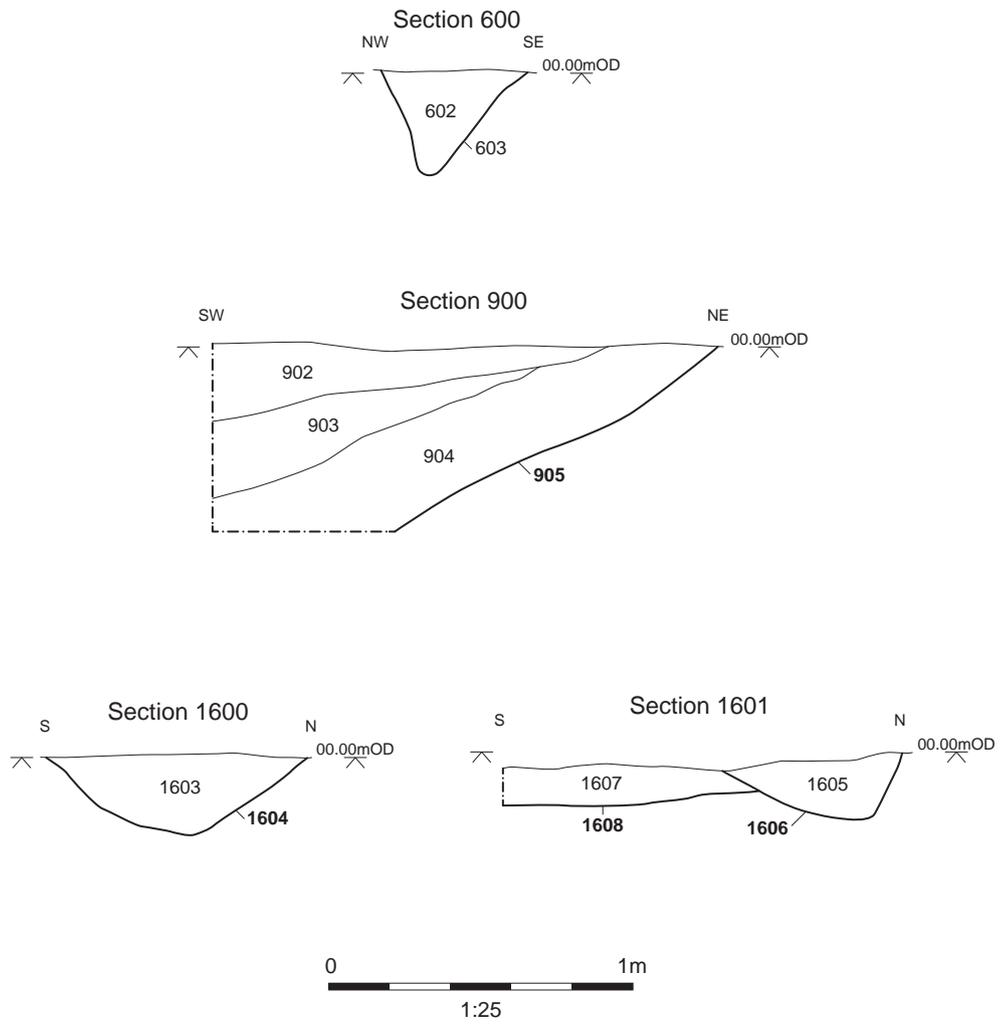


Figure 4: Trench sections



Plate 1: View to NW Trench 1, 1x2m 1x1m scale



Plate 2: View to W, Trench 2, 1x1x2m scale



Plate 3: View to N, S. 300 of feature (304) 1x1m scale

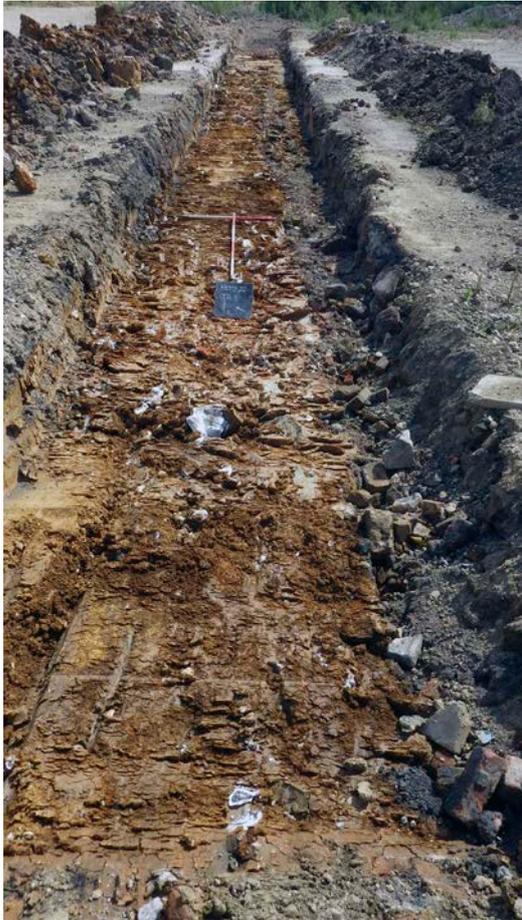


Plate 4: View to E Trench 3, 1x2m scale



Plate 5: View to W Trench 3, 1x2m scale



Plate 6: View to NW Trench 4, 1x2m 1x1m scale



Plate 7: View to SE Trench 5, 1x2m scale



Plate 8: View to NE, S. 600 (603) 1x0.3m scale



Plate 9: View to NW Trench 6, 1x2m scale



Plate 10: View to SE Trench 7, 1x2m scale



Plate 11: View to SE, S. 800 (803) 1x1m scale



Plate 12: View to SE Trench 8, 1x2m 1x1m scale



Plate 13: View to NW Trench 9, 1x2m scale



Plate 14: View to NW S. 900 (905) 1x1m scale



Plate 15: View to SW feature (905) 1x1m scale

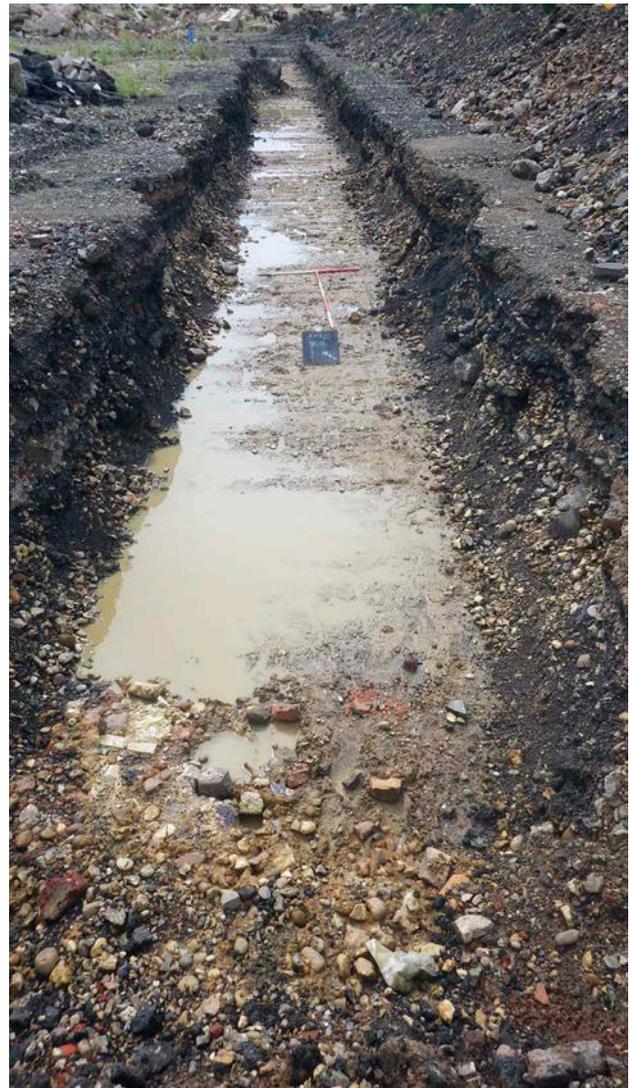


Plate 16: View to SW Trench 10, 1x2m scale



Plate 17: View to NW Trench 11, 1x2m & 1x1m scales



Plate 18: View to NW Trench 12, 1x2m & 1x1m scale



Plate 19: View to SW Trench 13 (unexcavated) 1x2m
1x1m scale



Plate 20: View to SE Trench 14, 1x2m 1x1m scales



Plate 21: View to NE Trench 15, 1x2m 1x1m scales



Plate 22: View to W, S.1600 (1604) 1x0.5m scale



Plate 23: View to W, S.1601 (1606, 1608) 1x1m scale



Plate 24: View to SE Trench 16, 1x2m 1x1m scales



Plate 25: View to NW Trench 17, 1x2m 1x1m scales



Plate 26: View to NW, structure and concrete near Trench 13



Plate 27: View to S, spoil and rubble heaps between Trenches 13 & 14



Plate 28: View to SE, rubble spoil heap near Trenches 4 & 5

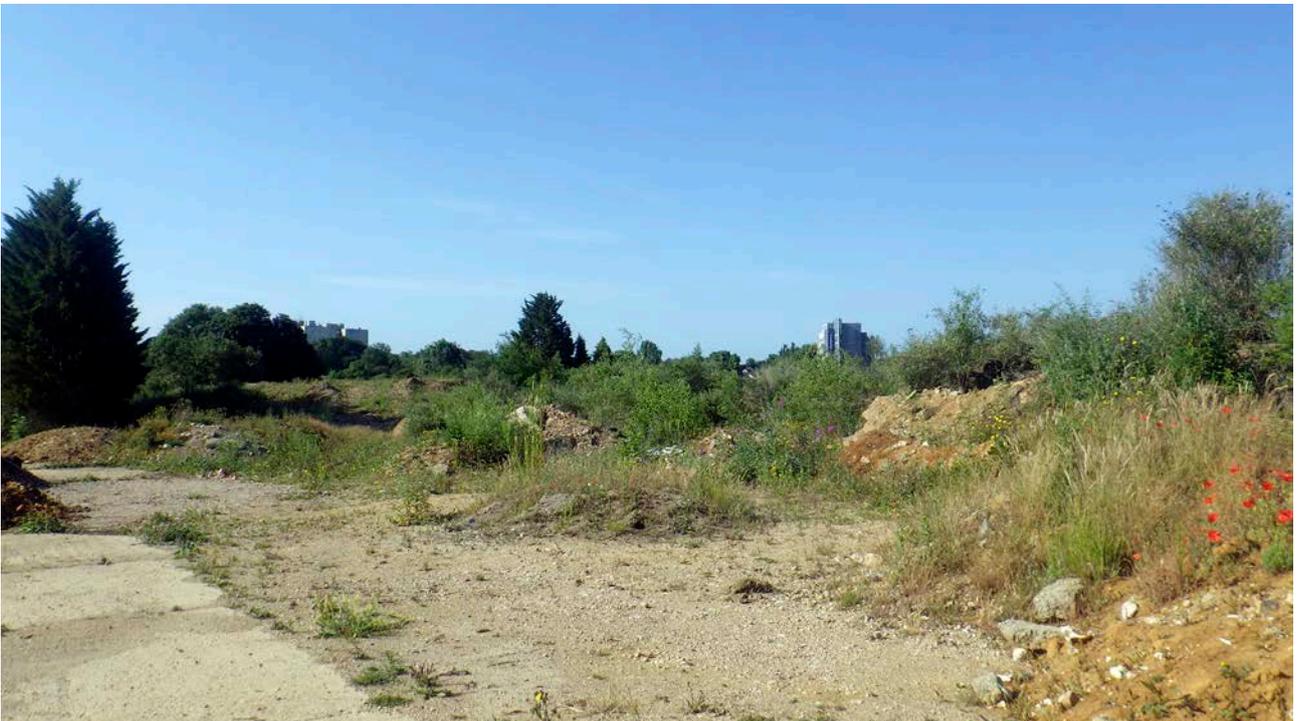


Plate 29: View to SE, rubble spoil heap near Trench 10



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