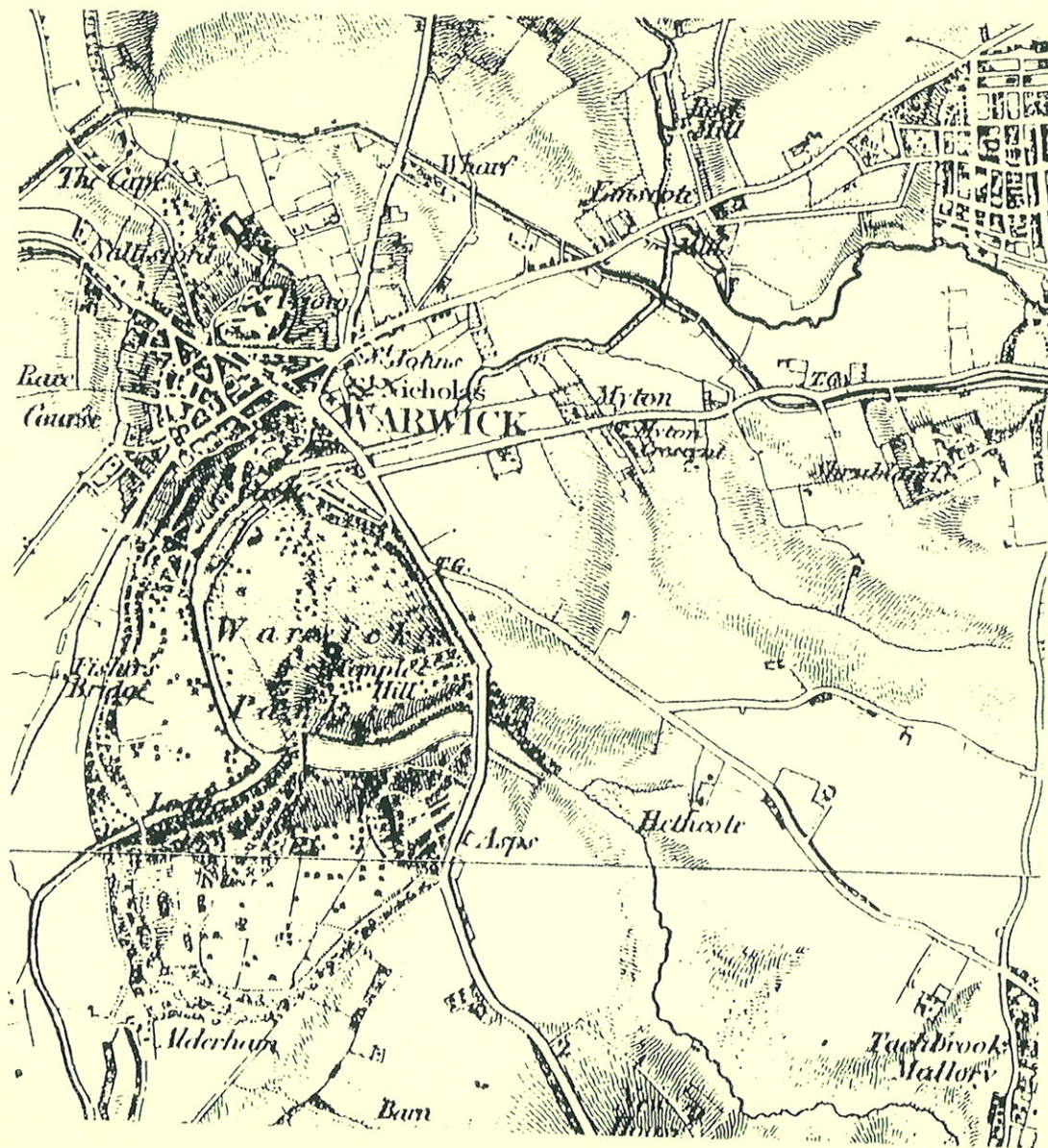


# Land at Heathcote Way, Warwick

## Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeological Unit

October 1994

**LAND AT HEATHCOTE WAY, WARWICK**  
**NGR SP 3050 6410**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Development of land at Heathcote Way, Warwick is under consideration. Warwickshire Museum have advised that submission of a planning application will result in a recommendation to the local Planning Authority for a pre-determination archaeological field evaluation to be carried out, in order to obtain and supply the Planning Authority with further information, so that an informal planning decision can be made. Accordingly Salmon Developments commissioned the Oxford Archaeological Unit to undertake an evaluation, which was carried out in October 1994.

## **LOCATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The site lies on 4th terrace river gravels. Aerial photographs show a number of undated cropmark enclosures and ring ditches immediately to the west of the proposal area (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No. WA 4562). The proposal area is a vacant plot of land lying on the outskirts of a large modern industrial estate.

## **STRATEGY**

Three trenches were excavated using a JCB equipped with a 1.60 m wide ditching bucket. As a result of the nature of deposits encountered, particularly compacted clay layers, the JCB was replaced with a larger machine equipped with a 1.80 m wide bucket. Owing to the shallow nature and recent origin of the topsoil, a strategy of topsoil sieving (for surface artefacts) was abandoned, with the agreement of Douglas Moir of Warwick Museum.

## **RESULTS**

No archaeological remains were located.

Trench 1: Length 30 m, width 1.60 m. Maximum depth, 1.04 m.

Trench 2: Length 30 m, width 1.80 m. Maximum depth, 1.19 m.

Trench 3: Length 30 m, width 1.60 m. Maximum depth, 1.60 m.

Trench 4: Length 30 m, width 1.60 m. Maximum depth, 0.98 m.

Trench 5: Length 10 m, width 1.80 m. Maximum depth, 1.38 m.

An almost identical sequence of deposits occurred in each trench. These deposits are summarised in tabular form below. Above the natural subsoil (in trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5) were layers of dark-grey and pinkish-red compacted clay (containing frequent quartzite pebble inclusions), layers of sand, and at the top of the sequence, a layer of recently formed topsoil. A layer of pink-brown clay (303) mixed with lenses of sand (302) was excavated to a depth of 1.60 m below topsoil in trench 3.

The only finds from these deposits were modern bricks, glass and metal objects. The finds were not retained.

Two modern land drains, aligned N-S were present in trench 1. A shallow linear depression aligned NW-SE, 109, was set into a layer of red-brown sand (105). The fill of 109 produced no finds, and it was not thought to be a real feature.

## **CONCLUSION**

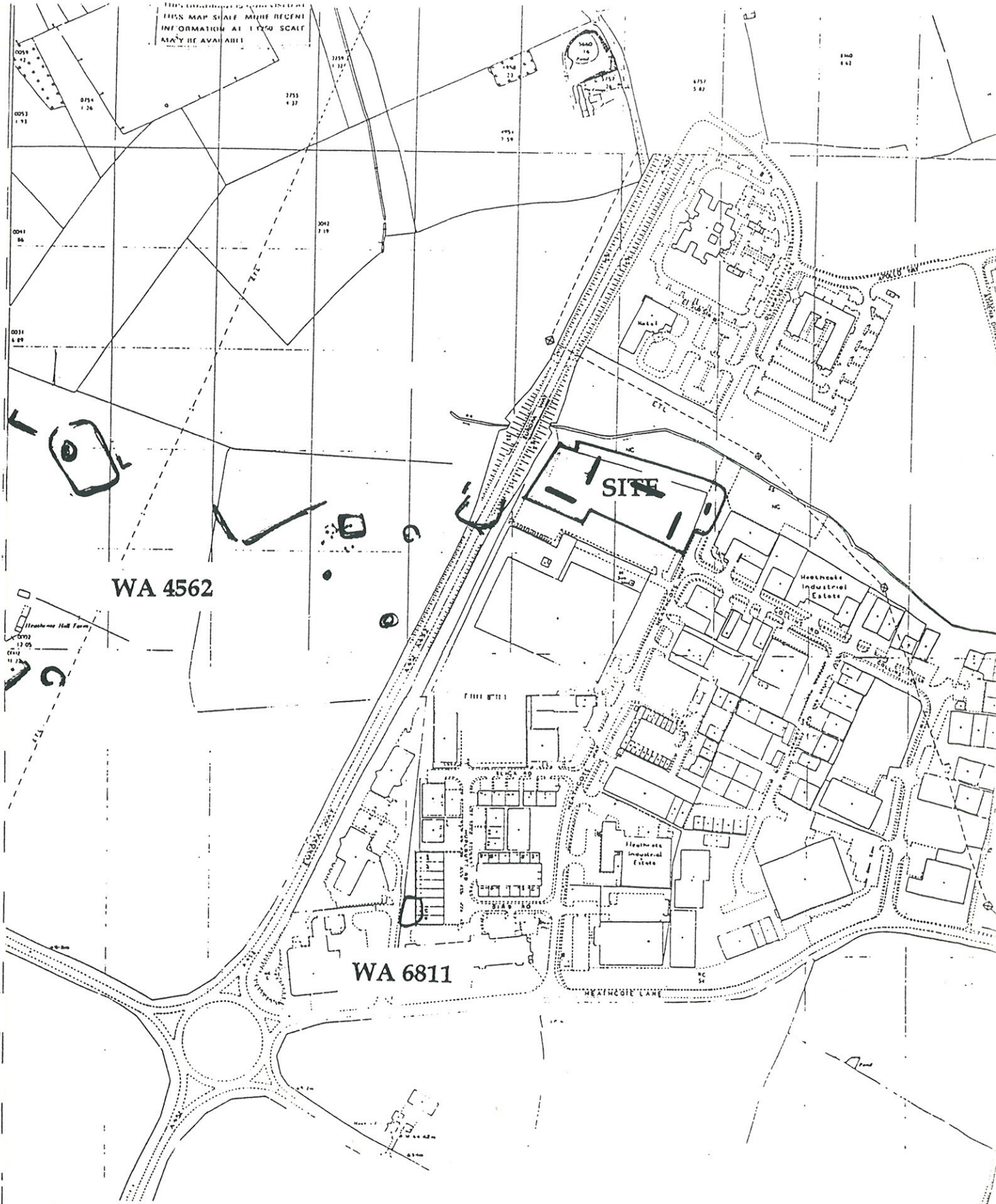
The area of land evaluated is clearly a land-fill site, probably formed at the time of the construction of the industrial estate. No former soil horizons were seen in the trench sections, so it seems likely that these layers were stripped from the site, prior to its use as a dumping ground. No features were found where the natural subsoil was exposed.

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Oxford Archaeological Unit  
October 1994

## TABLE OF CONTEXTS

TRENCH	CTX	COMMENTS
1	101	Topsoil, recent
1	102	Layer, reddish-brown sand and gravel
1	103	Sandy loam and gravel
1	104	Same as 103
1	105	Layer, red-brown sand
1	106	Layer, sand and gravel, ?natural
1	107	Layer, brown-pink silty clay
1	108	Modern ceramic drain
1	109	Cut for 108
1	110	Fill of 108
1	111	Plastic land drain
2	201	Silt loam, topsoil
2	202	Red-brown sandy loam
2	203	Brown loam mixed with sand and clay
2	204	Loam
2	205	Yellow-brown silty sand, ?subsoil
2	206	Brown-pink silty clay
2	207	As 205, but inclusions of 206
2	208	Sand/gravel within 203
3	301	Silt loam-topsoil
3	302	Sand
3	303	Dark-red clay, lenses of 302
4	401	Loam-topsoil
4	402	Yellow-brown sand
4	403	Loam layer, ?recent turf line
4	404	Sand
4	405	Mid-brown sandy silt with stones
4	406	Dark-red clay
4	407	Sandy gravel and stones, natural
5	500	Silt loam, topsoil
5	501	Loam, includes brick, glass, wood etc.
5	502	Dark grey clay
5	503	Red-brown sandy clay, ?subsoil

THIS INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY  
THIS MAP SHALL BE MORE RECENT  
INFORMATION AT 1:500 SCALE  
MAY BE AVAILABLE



Trench Location Plan 1:5000

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