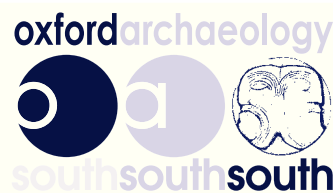


# Land at Blackburn Trading Estate Stanwell Surrey



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



January 2013

**Client: CgMs Consulting**

Issue No: 1


OA Job No: 5538

NGR: Centred on TQ 06537410





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# Land At Blackburn Trading Estate, Stanwell, Surrey

## *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Nick Taylor*

*and illustrated by Georgina Slater and Conan Parsons*

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## **Summary**

*In January 2013, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at Land at Blackburn Trading Estate, Northumberland Road, Stanwell, Surrey.*

*Features associated with the early 20th century development of the site for an animal feeds factory were recorded. No earlier archaeological features were present. Across much of the site, recent remediation work is likely to have removed any archaeological features which may have once existed.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation of land at Blackburn Trading Estate, Northumberland Road, Stanwell, Surrey (centred on TQ 0653 7410) (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 No brief was issued by Surrey County Council but a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2012) detailing the scope of the archaeological works was submitted to, and approved by, Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer of Surrey County Council.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (IfA 2008) and national and local policies on archaeology.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site comprises clay, silt and sand from the London Clay formation. The superficial geology is Taplow Gravel Formation, comprising sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 269, Windsor, 1999).
- 1.2.2 The site is level and lies at c. 21.74mOD.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2010) and is not reproduced here.
- 1.3.2 The majority of the site has been subject to 20<sup>th</sup> century development (CgMs 2010). This development has significantly reduced the archaeological potential across the majority of the site. Evaluation trenches targeted the periphery of the site, where the impact of modern truncation was suspected to be less (Fig 2). A single trench was located in the centre of the site in order to investigate the anticipated levels of truncation here.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank James Gidman of CgMs Consulting who commissioned the work, and Nick Truckle of Surrey County Council who monitored the evaluation. The project was managed for OA by Ken Welsh and the fieldwork was undertaken by Nick Taylor, assisted by Ben McAndrew.





## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, were to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

2.1.2 The specific aims of the archaeological works were to:

- Establish the presence or otherwise of archaeology relating to the Prehistoric and Roman period, and/or any other periods of human activity;
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use; and
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A series of seven evaluation trenches were excavated, each 20m x 1.8m, with a maximum proposed depth of 1.2m, or until geological deposits were reached (Fig 2).

2.2.2 The trench locations were modified slightly from that proposed in the WSI in order to avoid obstacles created by the recent demolition works.

2.2.3 All trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of the project archaeologist.

2.2.4 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with standard OAS practices (Wilkinson 1992).



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with general description of the soils encountered and followed by a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. An index of all trenches is presented in tabular form in Appendix A.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Trenches 1-6 were excavated through made ground deposits up to 1.1m thick. In Trenches 1-3, this was overlain by topsoil, 0.30m thick.

3.2.2 Trench 7 was excavated through a made ground deposit derived from recent demolition and remediation work. Although only excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m, it is understood that this deposit is at least 2m deep across the area affected by remediation works.

3.2.3 Trenches 2, 4 and 5 contained a mid brown silty clay deposit overlying the natural gravels, likely to be the remnant of a natural or plough-derived subsoil.

3.2.4 The surface of the natural gravels was revealed in all trenches other than Trench 7.

#### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Trench 5 contained archaeological features of recent origin. No archaeological features were revealed in the remaining trenches.

#### 3.4 Trench 5

3.4.1 Ditch 504 (Figs 2 and 3, and Plate 1), orientated NNE-SSW, was 3.58m wide and at least 1.0m deep. A complete stoneware jar (Plate 3) was recovered from fill 505. The ditch also contained numerous metal fragments which were not retained.

3.4.2 Pipe trench 506 (Fig. 3 and Plate 2) was orientated NNE. The trench contained the corroded remains of an iron pipe.

3.4.3 Both features were overlain by made ground. The earliest made ground deposit, Layer 503 overlay pipe trench 506 but was cut by ditch 504 indicating that the two features are not contemporary.

#### 3.5 Finds summary

3.5.1 A stoneware storage jar, with no makers marks, was recovered from context 505. The jar dates to the late 19th/early 20th century.

3.5.2 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental reconstruction were present and no soil samples were taken.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Ground conditions were good, though the water table was high and excavated trenches flooded over the course of the evaluation. Archaeological features were, where present, easy to identify with edge definition clear on excavation.
- 4.1.2 It is therefore felt that the results of the evaluation provide a good indication of the character and distribution of archaeological deposits across the site.

### 4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 Natural gravels were exposed in all trenches other than Trench 7. The presence of a subsoil deposit in Trenches 2, 4 and 5 indicates that, in these areas, the surface of the gravels has not been truncated by 20th century activity. A borehole survey of the site (CNP 2009) also recorded the probable presence of subsoil, described as the upper part of the Taplow Gravels sequence, at a number of locations.
- 4.2.2 Trench 5 contained a ditch and a pipe trench (Plate 2) and it is likely that both features date to the late 19th or early 20th century. Historic map evidence indicates that the Court Farm factory was established prior to 1934 and it is thought that these features are associated with earlier phases of that factory.
- 4.2.3 All of the evaluation trenches contained recent made ground deposits. These derive from the successive development, redevelopment and demolition of the Court Farm factory during the 20th century. Within the central part of the site (Trench 7), the made ground deposits result from recent demolition and remediation work. It is understood that this remediation work has resulted in the reworking of the soil profile to a depth of at least 2m across the majority of the site (pers comm Ling Demolition).
- 4.2.4 While no archaeological deposits or features pre-dating the late 19th century were revealed, the possibility remains that, at the margins of the site only, earlier archaeological features could survive.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, modern demolition layers and modern made ground overlying natural gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.2	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	22	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.1	Made ground	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.7	Made ground	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel	-	-
104	Layer	-	0.4	Demolition layer	-	-

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and modern demolition layers overlying natural gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.2	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	20	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.5	Made ground	-	-

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern contaminated made ground layer, overlying natural gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.2	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	20	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.7	Made ground	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel	-	-



Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground and subsoil overlying natural gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		1
				<b>Width (m)</b>		2.2
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.5	Made ground	-	-
402	layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural silty gravel	-	-

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		W-E
Trench contained two modern ditches. Consists of modern demolition layers overlying modern contaminated made ground, subsoil and natural gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		1
				<b>Width (m)</b>		2.2
				<b>Length (m)</b>		21.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.06	Demolition layer	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.3	Demolition layer	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.4	Demolition layer	-	-
503	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	-	-
504	Cut	3.58	1	Modern ditch	-	-
505	Fill	3.58	1	Fill of 504	Stoneware jug	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> /early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
506	Cut	0.42	0.18	Modern ditch	-	-
507	Fill	0.42	0.18	Fill of 506	-	-
508	Layer	-	-	Natural silty gravel	-	-
509	Fill	0.42	0.18	Fill of 506	-	-
510	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
511	Layer	-	0.08	Made ground	-	-



Trench 6						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground overlying natural gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		1.1
				<b>Width (m)</b>		2.2
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.2	Made ground	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.6	Made ground	-	-
604	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel	-	-

Trench 7						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		1.2
				<b>Width (m)</b>		2.2
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	>1.2	Made ground	-	-



## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CNP, 2009 Environmental Assessment: Blackburn Trading Estate, Northumberland Close, Stanwell, Middlesex

British Geological Survey Sheet 269 Windsor 1:50,000 1999

CgMs, 2010 Blackburn Trading Estate, Stanwell, Surrey: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

CgMs, 2012 Blackburn Trading Estate, Stanwell, Surrey: Written Scheme of Investigation

Wilkinson, D (ed), 1992 Fieldwork Manual, unpublished

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Land at Blackburn Trading Estate

**Site code:** STBLE13

**Grid reference:** Centred on TQ 06537410

**Type:** Evaluation

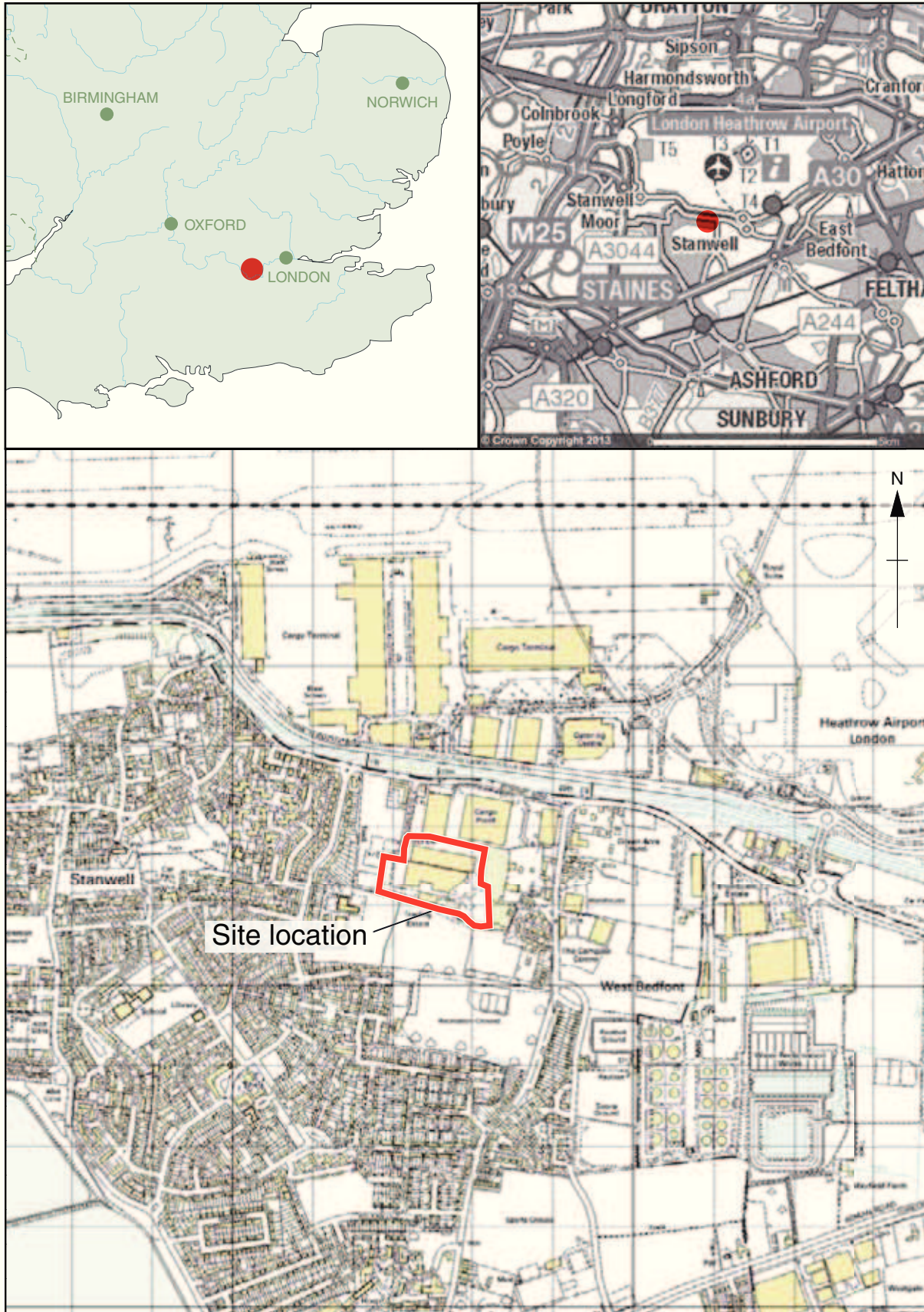
**Date and duration:** 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**Area of site:**

**Summary of results:** Features associated with the early 20th century development of the site for an animal feeds factory were recorded. No earlier archaeological features were present. Across much of the site, recent remediation work is likely to have removed any archaeological features which may have once existed.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Guildford Museum in due course, under an accession number to be confirmed.





Not to scale

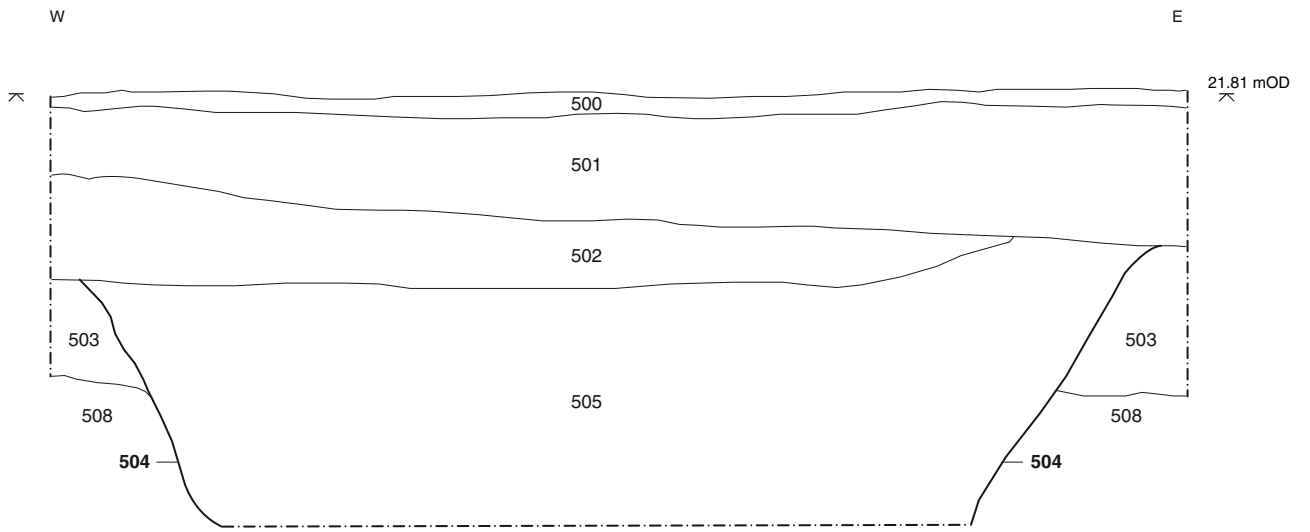
Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench location plan

CHECKED BY:

### Section 500



### Section 502

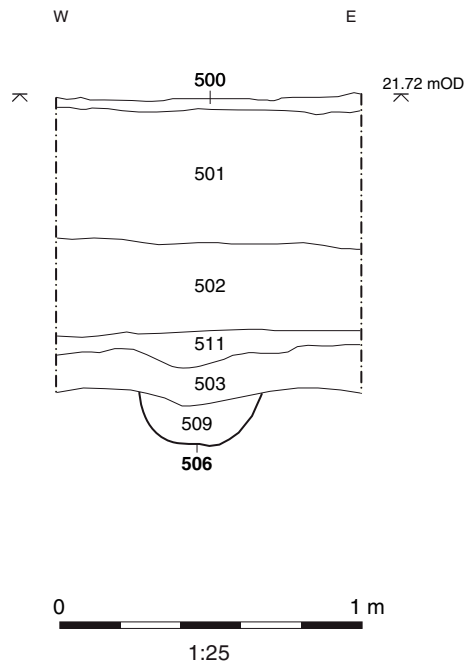


Figure 3: Trench 5, sections



Plate 1: Section 500, ditch 504. View to south.



Plate 2: Section 502, ditch 506. View to north.



Plate 3: Late 19th/early 20th century stoneware jar



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