



Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead

Archaeological Evaluation Report

August 2017

Client: CgMs Consulting / Prologis

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: 6788

NGR: TL 0836 0764



Client Name: CgMs Consulting / Prologis
 Client Ref No.: -
 Document Title: Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
 Document Type: Evaluation Report
 Grid Reference: TL 0836 0764
 Planning Reference: -
 Site Code: HEMAG17
 Invoice Code: HEMAGEX
 Receiving Body:
 Accession No.: -

OA Document File Location: X:\h\Hemel Hempstead Maylands
 Gateway\003Project_Designs\001Current
 OA Graphics File Location: X:\h\Hemel Hempstead Maylands
 Gateway\003Project_Designs\001Current

Issue No: 1
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Maylands Gateway

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Prologis to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead, in July 2017. The work was designed to help define the limit of Roman settlement activity discovered during a previous evaluation. This will be used to inform the extent of the mitigation area.

The present evaluation uncovered a small number of Roman ditches, pits, a possible oven and other features dating from 1st to early 2nd century AD. Archaeological features from other periods were not discovered, although a number of features remain undated. Finds included Roman pottery, tile and bricks. In common with the earlier evaluation, modern landscaping works and quarry pits were revealed, leading to the burial and truncation of archaeological features in some cases. Extensive landscaping appears to have taken place to level a dry valley and create a running track and sports ground that previously stood at the site.

The nature of the Roman activity appears to be rural and domestic or agricultural in nature. This is in keeping with the evidence from the earlier evaluation. The presence of a scheduled Roman temple complex immediately to the north of the site is of particular interest, but no evidence of any religious or ritual activity was identified. The area of Roman activity extends to the south and west of the current proposed mitigation area.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Consulting and Prologis for commissioning this project. The project was commissioned by Paul Clark of CgMs Consulting Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Alison Tinniswood, Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Pickard. 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 Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Prologis to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief was set by Alison Tinniswood, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by CgMs Consulting detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented these specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (December 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the eastern edge of Hemel Hempstead, comprising approximately 13.45 hectares of land centered at NGR TL 0836 0764 (Fig 1.). The site is bounded to the south by Breakspear Way, to the east by Buncefield Lane, to the north by Wood Lane End and residential properties, and to the west by commercial properties. The eastern part of the site is located on a gentle south-west facing slope, and the western part of the site has been terraced to form a playing field and running track. The site slopes from 137m OD in the north-eastern corner to 128m at the southern boundary. The running track is at 126.5m OD.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the northern part of the site is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth Group, and chalk belonging to the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation/Seaford Chalk Formation across the southern part of the site. This is overlaid 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-eastern and south-western corners, and a portion of the southern part of the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment was undertaken for the site to characterise the nature of the archaeological activity in the area (CgMs 2016). The following summary is drawn from the desk-based assessment:
- 1.3.2 Excavation 85m north of the site identified transitional late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity, including pits, ditches, and post holes, with a further probable prehistoric ditch recorded 50m to the north-west of the site.
- 1.3.3 A scheduled Romano-Celtic temple complex at Wood Lane End (list entry number 1015490), thought to have been constructed during the early part of the 2nd century AD, is located 60m west of the site (Neal 1983; 1984). This comprises an extensive rectilinear temenos (sacred precinct), measuring 85m north-west/south-east and 75m

north-east/south-west, enclosed by a boundary wall. Within the temenos a sub-rectangular temple was identified, which may have stood to a height of at least 15m. A second building attached to the outer face of the north-western wall has been interpreted as a schola (place of learning). Remains of a rectangular ancillary building were discovered to the south-west of the schola, outside the temenos. The complex was extended during the mid 2nd century AD by the addition of a small bath suite just within the entrance to the temenos and a small square shrine or mausoleum was erected some 10m south-east of the temple.

- 1.3.4 Roman pits and postholes were identified 100m north of the site by evaluation trenching, with ditches forming part of a probable field system identified by excavation, 140m north-west of the site.
- 1.3.5 Work during widening of the M1, 1km to the west of the site, uncovered late Iron Age/Roman features including a trackway, lime kilns, a corn-drying oven, a field system, and part of a double-ditched curvilinear enclosure, with pits and postholes relating to possible structures in the enclosed area. A possible Roman building is also recorded 800m to the east of the site.
- 1.3.6 Further evidence for Roman buildings was recorded by excavation at Leverstock Green, 890m south-east of the site. The possible route of a Roman road has been identified 55m south-west of the site at its closest point.

1.4 Previous archaeological investigations

- 1.4.1 A geophysical survey of the site identified no anomalies of archaeological origin, with all the anomalies identified interpreted as modern or natural origin (Stratascan 2016).
- 1.4.2 A watching brief was subsequently maintained during the excavation of geotechnical test pits, which identified a single possible archaeological feature. In the eastern part of the site limited landscaping was identified, comprising a small area of potential terrace build up, whereas the south-western part of the site appeared to be heavily landscaped (Albion Archaeology 2016a).
- 1.4.3 A subsequent trial trenching exercise identified archaeological features within 17 of the 28 trenches, comprising a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pit, an Iron Age ditch, Roman ditches/gullies, pits, postholes and a drying oven, and post-medieval quarry pits (Albion Archaeology 2016b). Despite the proximity to the Scheduled Romano-Celtic temple complex, the Roman evidence from the trial trenches appeared to be domestic or agricultural in nature, not religious.
- 1.4.4 The nature and distribution of Roman features led to the identification of 'core' and 'peripheral' areas. The 'core' area contained the drying oven, ditches/gullies, pits and postholes. The 'peripheral' areas identified contained significantly fewer features – mainly ditches – and produced smaller quantities of finds. It is likely that the 'core' area represents domestic and agricultural activity and the 'peripheral' areas adjacent fields.
- 1.4.5 The evaluation also identified evidence for a palaeochannel, with twelve trenches containing modern made ground up to 1.8m thick, which appeared to have been dumped into a dry valley to level the site prior to the construction of the sports ground.

This resulted in areas where truncated archaeological features occur buried at significant depths, as well as areas where well-preserved features occur just below the modern subsoil.

- 1.4.6 On the basis of this evaluation, an area of 1.86 hectares was opened for excavation within the centre of the site. The present evaluation was designed to investigate the area around the excavation to define the limits of the archaeological activity, with the aim of extending the excavation if further evidence was discovered.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To refine the current mitigation area and to ensure that it covers an appropriate area.
- iv. To cover an area in the north-western corner of the site that was not accessible in the previous evaluation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A previous evaluation identified Roman remains in the centre of the site, although further trial trenching was requested to more accurately define the extent of the archaeological remains and ensure that the excavation covers the appropriate area. These trial trenches were placed primarily just beyond the area with the main concentration of archaeological features.

2.2.2 Thirteen trenches were opened (Trenches 29-41) measuring 20-50m long (Fig. 2). Two of the trenches (Trenches 31 and 32) were stepped for safety to a depth of 2m in order to remove thick deposits of modern made ground. A series of 2m by 2m test pits were excavated in the base of the trenches in order to reach undisturbed natural geology.

2.2.3 Topsoil and overburden were removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation ceased at either undisturbed natural deposits or the top of archaeological deposits.

2.2.4 Each trench was cleaned by hand as necessary to assist the identification and interpretation of exposed archaeological features and the nature of identified features was assessed by limited sample excavation. All exposed features were investigated. Discrete features (e.g. pits) were half-sectioned; as a minimum (where possible), a 1m wide section of each linear feature were excavated by hand.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the majority of the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of mid-brown orange to yellowish clay was discovered, with variable flint, gravel and silt inclusions. This was overlaid by a grey-brown subsoil with occasional flint, stones and chalk flecks. This in turn was overlaid dark grey-brown clay silt topsoil. However, Trenches 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 were located in a dry valley, and levelling deposits comprising clay silt were discovered in each of these trenches. A buried surface related to the dry valley was discovered and investigated with test pits in Trenches 31 and 32. Modern made ground was found below a tarmac carpark surface in Trench 41, and a clinker surface was found in Trench 29.
- 3.2.2 Some of the trenches had to be relocated or modified due to the presence of a service running north-south across the site. Also Trench 41 was confined due to access issues.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 30, 33, 37, 38 and 39. This comprised ditches, pits and other cut features. However, Roman CBM was also recovered in Trenches 31 and 32. Where dated, archaeological features belong to the Roman period.

3.4 Trench 30

- 3.4.1 Probable linear ditch 3004 was discovered in Trench 30. This was 0.3m deep and 1.1m wide with a curved base. In common with ditches in Trenches 33 and 37, the linear was aligned on a north-south orientation. No finds were discovered in the single fill.

3.5 Trench 33

- 3.5.1 North-south aligned ditch 3303 was found in Trench 33, and had similar dimensions to 3004 (Plate 4; Fig. 4). The ditch comprised three fills, with middle fill 3305 containing the majority of the Roman pottery discovered during the evaluation. This comprised 38 sherds weighing 354g, dating to the mid-late 1st century AD, and included sherds from a possible Verulamium cordoned necked jar. Upper fill 3306 contained two

further sherds of the same date. The grey clayey silt comprising 3305 appeared to have been deposited in a wet environment.

- 3.5.2 Sinkhole 3307 was also exposed extending to a depth of over 2m. This contained Roman CBM, fragments of a medieval or post-medieval flat brick, and 19th century glass and pottery.

3.6 Trench 37

- 3.6.1 A further possible north-south aligned ditch was found in Trench 37. This was 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep, and had a single fill. It is possible that the feature was variations in the natural geology.

3.7 Trench 38

- 3.7.1 Ditch terminus 3806 comprised the south-westerly end of a ditch running to the north-east (Plate 1; Fig. 4). This was 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep. Both of the fills contained Roman brick.
- 3.7.2 The southern edge of possible pond 3807 was found in Trench 38 (Fig. 4). The exposed area ran 9m east-west, was 0.5m deep, and contained an undiagnostic flint flake and a piece of Roman CBM.
- 3.7.3 Another large feature, 3810, was partially exposed in Trench 38 (Plate 2; Fig. 4). This appeared to be an oven, and was at least 2.0m long and 0.48m deep. The feature contained three fills, with Roman brick, tegula fragment and two very small sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.

3.8 Trench 39

- 3.8.1 A NE-SW linear feature, 3903, was found in Trench 39 (Fig. 5). This was narrower than 3806 as it was 0.45m wide and 0.23m deep. The single fill did not contain any finds.
- 3.8.2 Feature 3907 was only partially exposed in the north-east end of the trench (Plate 3; Fig. 5). The primary fill, 3906, contained two fragments of Roman brick and a possible dump of flint, and the upper fill, 3905, contained a larger piece of Roman brick and seven sherds of pottery dating to the mid-late 1st century AD. The nature of this feature remains unresolved.

3.9 Finds summary

- 3.9.1 A single undiagnostic flake was the only flint recovered from the site, suggesting a limited presence by prehistoric flint-using groups.
- 3.9.2 Three features, each from different trenches, produced early Roman pottery, all probably dating to the 1st century AD.
- 3.9.3 Roman tile and brick comprised the largest group of recovered material culture. CBM of this date was recovered from six features and two buried soils over five trenches. The majority could not be further assigned to a more specific period, except a corner fragment of a *tegula mammata* belonging to a type generally used during the first or early 2nd centuries AD. This early date corresponds with that of the pottery recorded during the evaluation.

- 3.9.4 A small quantity of medieval to post-medieval CBM comprised the only possible finds dating between the Roman and modern periods.
- 3.9.5 A number of 19th or early 20th century finds include glass, pottery, clothing and brick fragments. None of these were recovered from archaeological features.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The ground and weather conditions during the excavation were generally good with little perceivable impact on the results. Conditions were sufficiently good in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features.
- 4.1.2 It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features representation in the evaluation provided an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential in these areas of the site.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The objective of the evaluation was to more accurately define the extent of the Roman settlement activity exposed in the first phase of trial trenching. This identified a 'core' area of activity in the centre of the site (Albion Archaeology 2016b, fig. 11). The second phase of evaluation was designed to better define the edges of this archaeological activity in order for the mitigation area to cover the appropriate extent. The evaluation was successful in this regard as Trenches 33, 37, 38 and 39 uncovered further Roman activity suggesting the approximate edge of the settlement.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The limited number of Roman features uncovered during the evaluation is in keeping with the evidence from the earlier phase of trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2016b). Where more precise dating is available, these features can be placed to the 1st - 2nd century AD. The site appears to be domestic or agricultural in nature, although probably contemporary with or slightly earlier than the adjacent scheduled temple complex to the north (Neal 1984). Although the pottery assemblage from both phases of evaluation suggests that the activity was broadly contemporary with the temple complex, no evidence for religious or ritual activity was found.
- 4.3.2 Up to three ditches were found on a north-south orientation. A larger number of ditches on the same alignment were found during the earlier evaluation, and these may represent elements of a larger field system. Up to two other ditches were found on a north-east/south-west alignment during the current evaluation. The earlier phase of trial trenching found only one ditch on this orientation, in Trench 10, although up to four further ditches were found running south-east/north-west in nearby Trenches 24 and 25. It is possible that the perpendicular ditches in Trenches 24, 25, 38 and 39 represents a coherent multi-phased ditched feature(s) dating to the Roman period.
- 4.3.3 A number of other uncertain features dating to the Roman period were exposed. Of particular interest are the possible remains of an oven structure in Trench 38 (structure 3810). This may be similar to the 'T' shaped oven found within the previous evaluation and indicates the potential for further structures to be expected within the wider site. These features have walls constructed out of reused tile, brick and stone, potentially originating from a nearby structure.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The second phase of evaluation suggests the presence of a rural Roman settlement, conforming with the evidence from an earlier phase of trial trenching. The immediate proximity of the settlement to an apparently contemporary scheduled temple complex makes the site of particular interest as further work will be able to explore the relationship between two quite different types of site.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists mainly of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with flint nodules. In the western area a modern cut was filled with terram and clinker to form an area of hard standing.					Length (m)	48.5
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
2901	Layer	1.9+	0.1	Subsoil friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional stones and shattered flint nodules	-	-
2902	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm orange brown clay with flint nodules	-	-
2903	Fill	c. 24	0.20	Clinker and crushed stone dark grey/black loose sat on terram type material	-	-
2904	Cut	c.24	0.20	Cut for clinker surface	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench largely devoid of archaeology a single cut feature was recorded (mainly in section) that was undated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with flint nodules for the western part of the trench. A levelling layer was located under the subsoil to the east.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6 (West)- 1m (East)
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	1.9+	0.13	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3001	Layer	1.9+	0.52	Subsoil friable mid grey brown clay silt occ stone and flint	-	-
3002	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm orange brown clay with flint nodules	-	-
3003	Layer-	1.9+	0.5	Levelling deposit friable yellow brown clay silt occ stone and flint	-	-
3004	Cut	1.1	0.3	Linear cut with rounded sides and a concave base (seen in section mainly)	-	-
3005	Fill	1.1	0.3	Firm mid to light red brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 31						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench was dug in the dry valley that runs broadly NS across the site. Due to the c.2m depth of made ground, the trench was stepped down to the top of the buried soil horizon. A further machine dug sondage to natural was then excavated at either end of the trench. A buried topsoil and subsoil horizons were exposed over the natural to the west of the trench and the edge of the infilled channel was located to the east.				Length (m)	50	
				Width (m)	4 top 2 base	
				Avg. depth (m)	2	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occ stones	-	-
3101	Void				-	-
3102	Layer	1.9+	2	Made Ground mixed yellow brown clay and sandy silt rubble and clinker	-	-
3103	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm brown red clay with occ flint nodules	-	-
3104	Layer	1.9+	0.8	Buried subsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occ flint	-	-
3105	Cut	9+	2+-	Western edge of channel fairly sharp vertical side bottom not fully reached	-	-
3106	Fill	1.9+	0.5	Upper fill of channel firm yellow brown clay silt occ stone	-	-
3107	Fill	1.9+	1.5+-	Lower fill of channel grey brown clay silt chalk flecks and occ stones	RB CBM	Roman
3108	Fill	1.9+	0.1	Trample layer capping channel a mid blue grey silt clay possibly a reworked topsoil layer	-	-
3109	Layer	1.9+	0.3	Buried subsoil orange brown clay silt with 40% flint gravel	-	-
3110	Layer	1.9+	0.1	Buried topsoil blue grey brown sandy clay with occ flint	-	-
3111	Layer	1.9+	0.2	Buried subsoil orange brown clay silt with 40% flint gravel	-	-

Trench 32						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench was also dug in the dry valley that runs broadly NS across the site. Due to the depth of made ground c.2m the trench was stepped with machine dug sondage at either end of the trench. A buried topsoil and subsoil layer were located.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3201	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural soft orange brown clay with flint nodules	-	-
3202	Layer	1.9+	0.8	Made Ground mixed grey brown and yellow brown clay and sandy silt rubble and clinker	-	-
3203	Layer	1.9+	0.8	Made Ground mixed grey brown clay and sandy silt rubble and clinker (modern cable and rope)	-	-
3204	Layer	1.9+	0.25	Buried topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occ stones	RB CBM	Roman
3205	Layer	1.9+	0.6	Buried subsoil reddish brown clay silt with occ stones	-	-
3206	Layer	1.9+	0.25	Buried subsoil dark grey brown silt gravel with occ flint	-	-

Trench 33						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained a linear cut roughly aligned NS that contained Roman pottery. An Extensive sinkhole was located in the middle of the trench which was probably backfilled in the late 19 th century				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3301	Layer	1.9+	0.2	Subsoil friable mid grey brown clay silt occ chalk flecks, stone and flint	-	-
3302	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm brown red clay with flint nodules	-	-

3303	Cut	1.04	0.33	Linear cut concave sides and a rounded base	-	Early Roman
3304	Fill	0.46	0.13	Firm yellow brown silty clay with moderate flint stones and occ c/coal	-	Early Roman
3305	Fill	0.18	0.93	Fill of ditch a grey silty clay and occ stones	ERB pottery	Early Roman
3306	Fill	1.04	0.17	Fill of ditch a dark brown grey clay silt and freq stones	ERB pottery and RB CBM	Early Roman
3307	Cut	7	3+	Sinkhole cut sides at 45 degrees to horizontal base not reached as voids opened up	-	-
3308	Fill	6	1.7	Moderate firm reddish brown silty clay occ chalk and stones fill of sinkhole	RB CBM	-
3309	Fill	6	1.7	Firm yellow brown silty clay occ chalk and stones fill of sinkhole	Med or post-med CBM, modern leather	-
3310	Fill	1.5	0.9	Loose yellow brown clay silt occ chalk and stones fill of sinkhole	Mod pot, glass, CBM, Metal	-
3311	Fill	1.04	0.17	Moderate firm brownish grey clay silt occ c/coal, chalk and stones fill of sinkhole	-	-
3312	Layer	c.8	0.3	Levelling layer in Southern baulk only a brownish yellow clay silt with stones	-	-

Trench 34

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying in places a layer of levelling onto the natural geology. Trench was split in two due to modern sewer pipe run.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	1.9+	0.12	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3401	Layer	1.9+	0.14	Subsoil friable mid grey brown clay silt occ chalk flecks, stone and flint	-	-
3402	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm brown red clay with flint nodules	-	-
3403	Layer	1.9+	0.29	Levelling layer reddish brownish yellow clay silt with stones	-	-

Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying in places a layer of levelling onto the natural geology. Trench was split in two due to modern sewer pipe run.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	1.9+	0.1	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3501	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Subsoil friable mid grey brown clay silt occ chalk flecks, stone and flint	-	-
3502	Layer	1.9+	0.29	Levelling layer reddish brown clay silt with stones	-	-
3503	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm brown red clay with flint nodules	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying in places a layer of levelling onto the natural geology. Several possible archaeological features were examined but were found to be geological in origin.					Length (m)	41
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3601	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Subsoil friable mid grey brown clay silt occ chalk flecks, stone and flint	-	-
3602	Layer	1.9+	0.16	Levelling layer reddish brownish clay silt with stones	-	-
3603	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm orange brown and red clay with flint nodules	-	-

Trench 37						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained one undated linear. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with flint nodules					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	1.9+	0.29	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3701	Layer	1.9+	0.11	Subsoil friable mid to light brown clay silt occ chalk flecks, stone and flint	-	-
3702	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm yellow brown clay with flint nodules and patches of gravelly clay	-	-
3703	Cut	0.7	0.12	Roughly NS aligned linear shallow sides and a rounded base	-	-
Fill	Fill	0.7	0.12	Friable yellow brown clay silt occ flint frags	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 38 contained three features, two dated to the Roman period and an undated feature that possibly corresponds to a pond located in Trench 4. At the West end of the trench topsoil and subsoil overlaid the natural geology of clay with flint nodules. To the east of the trench the topsoil sealed a dump of made ground that overlay a possible buried soil horizon. In turn the soil horizon sealed cuts 3807 and 3810.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3801	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Subsoil mid brown grey with orange brown mottling silty clay and occ flints and stones	-	-
3802	Layer	n/a	n/a	Natural firm yellow brown clay with flint nodules and patches of gravelly clay	-	-
3803	Layer	1.9+	0.7	Compact yellow orange silty clay redeposited natural with very occ CBM (mainly 19thC brick)	19th-cent CBM	19th-cent

3804	Fill	1.4+	0.2	Friable mid to dark blue grey clay silt occ flint and stones and c/coal flecks	RB CBM	Roman
3805	Fill	1.4+	0.33	Friable yellow brown clay silt occ flint and stones	RB CBM	Roman
3806	Cut	1.4+	0.33	Not fully exposed cut possibly a terminus or part of a pit side of cut to South is concave with a slightly rounded base	-	-
3807	Cut	9+	0.5+	Not fully exposed cut that ran along the northern edge of the trench side to South was fairly steep the base of the cut was not reached possibly southern end of pond first exc in Tr 4	-	-
3808	Fill	9+	0.18	Soft light grey clay silt occ stone and large flint nodules	-	-
3809	Fill	9+	0.28	Soft mid grey clay silt occ stone and moderate flint nodules	Flint, RB CBM	-
3810	Cut	2.8	0.48+	Not fully exposed ovoid cut that ran along the northern edge of the trench only partially excavated down to possibly in situ Roman CBM	-	Early Roman
3811	Fill	1.5+	n/a	Unexcavated possibly in situ Roman CBM part of disused oven?	RB CBM	Early Roman
3812	Fill	1.25+	0.3	Firm yellow brown silt clay occ chalk and flint flecks and frags possible clay lining	-	Early Roman
3813	Fill	1.7+	0.47	Firm light brown clay silt occ chalk and flint flecks and frags possible clay lining disuse deposit	ERB pottery, ERB CBM	Early Roman
3814	Layer	10+	0.38	Possible buried soil horizon sealing archaeological features a grey brown clay silt with occ stones, c/coal and CBM frags	-	-

Trench 39						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 39 contained two features: a linear aligned roughly EW that was undated and a partially exposed possible pit cut that contained fragmentary CBM.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
3901	Layer	1.9+	0.15	Subsoil mid brown grey with orange brown mottling silty clay and occ flints and stones	-	-
3902	Layer	n/a	n/a-	Natural firm yellow brown and grey brown clay with flint nodules	-	-
3903	Cut	0.45	0.23	NE-SW shallow linear ditch cut undated with gentle sides and a rounded base	-	-
3904	Fill	0.45	0.23	Silted fill of ditch firm mid brown grey clay	-	-
3905	Fill	1.3+	0.25	Backfilled fill of cut firm blue grey silt clay occ stones and c/coal	ERB pottery, RB CBM	Early Roman
3906	Fill	1.3+	0.35	Backfilled fill of cut firm yellow grey clay silt occ stones and c/coal basal fill	RB CBM	Early Roman
3907	Cut	1.3+	0.55+	Not fully exposed cut that possibly was a pit cut concave sides and base not fully exposed.	-	Early Roman

Trench 40						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay with flint nodules and occ gravel					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	1.9+	0.1	Topsoil dark grey brown clay silt with occasional stones	-	-
4001	Layer	1.9+	0.40	Subsoil mid grey brown clay silt and occ flints and stones	-	-
4002	Layer	n/a	n/a-	Natural firm yellow brown and grey brown clay with flint nodules and patches of gravelly clay	-	-

Trench 41						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Stepped trench due to large amount of made ground that came down onto truncated natural.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	4 top 2 base
					Avg. depth (m)	2
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer	3+	0.30	Tarmac car park surface with brick crush	-	-
4101	Layer	3+	1.7	Modern made ground mixed rubble and grey brown clay occ bricks and concrete	-	-
4102	Layer	n/a	n/a-	Natural firm yellow brown clay with flint nodules and patches of gravelly clay	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

4.4.2 Forty-nine sherds of pottery, weighing 478g, were recovered. The assemblage was fully recorded in accordance with recommended standards for pottery analysis (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016) and OA's guidelines for Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). Quantification was by sherd count, weight in grammes, minimum number of vessels based on rims, and estimated vessel equivalents, also based on rims (0.04 EVE corresponds to 4% of the rim surviving). The pottery is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Fabric	Description	Sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE	Type
C10	Shelly ware	11	158			
E30	Late Iron Age/Early Roman sandy fabric	2	61			
E80	Late Iron Age/Early Roman grog-tempered fabric	4	11			
E810	Late Iron Age/Early Roman grog-and-sand-tempered fabric	1	5			
E820	Late Iron Age/Early Roman grog-and-sand-tempered fabric	2	21	1	0.34	C Jar
O10	Fine oxidised ware	1	1			
O20	Sandy oxidised ware	1	5			
Q30	White-slipped reduced ware	19	147			
R20	Sandy reduced ware, including possible Verulamium-region grey ware	5	63	1	0.04	CD Medium-mouthed necked jar
R30	Medium-sandy reduced ware	3	6			
Total		49	478	2	0.38	

Table 1: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE	Spot-date
3305	38	354	2	0.38	Mid-late 1st century AD
3306	2	39			Mid-late 1st century AD
3813	2	1			Late Iron Age/early Roman
3905	7	84			Mid-late 1st century AD
Total	49	478	2	0.38	

Table 2: Quantification and date of the pottery by context

4.4.3 The largest group was collected from context 3305, a fill of ditch 3303. A cordoned necked jar (CD) in R20 ware – possibly a Verulamium-region product – in association with fabrics C10, E820, O10, O20, Q30 and R30 pointed to a date for deposition within the second half of the 1st century AD. A sherd in fabric Q30 belonging to the same

vessel represented in context 3305 was found in another fill (3306) of the ditch. The sherd was associated with fabrics E810 and E820, which are also likely to have been deposited during the mid/late 1st century AD. Two very small fragments of pottery, tentatively identified as grog-tempered ware (E80), were collected from a fill (3813) of cut 3810. More grog-tempered pottery was recovered from context 3905, a fill of ditch 3903. It was found with sandy reduced wares (R30) – a sherd of which, part of a shoulder from a jar, had rilled decoration – and a sandy fabric (E30) of late Iron Age tradition, dating this group to the mid/late 1st century AD.

- 4.4.4 Together, the assemblage spans the late Iron Age-early Roman period, and may date exclusively to the decades after the Roman conquest. The uniform dating and character of the assemblage suggests that the pottery belongs to the same phase of activity.
- 4.4.5 Overall, the mean sherd weight (weight / sherd count) is 9.8g, pointing to a highly fragmented assemblage. However, this masks a range of values, from 0.5g in context 3813 to 19.5g in context 3306. Moreover, relatively large proportions of single jars in fabrics C10 and Q30, represented by body and base sherds, were present in context 3305. This suggests that the pottery, though subject to a degree of redeposition, was recovered reasonably close to areas of use and initial discard.
- 4.4.6 Evidence of use was recorded on the CD-type jar in fabric R20. Carbonised deposits on the external surface of the neck point to the vessel being used for cooking.
- 4.4.7 The assemblage is too small to gain a firm view of settlement status, but fabric Q30, a specialist ware (cf. Booth 2004. 39-40) may hint at wider trade links.

4.5 Post-medieval Pottery

By John Cotter

- B.1.1 Two sherds of pottery weighing 82g were recovered from a single context, both of them late post-medieval. Given the small size of the assemblage a separate catalogue has not been constructed and instead the pottery is simply described and spot-dated below. Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). No further work is recommended.
- B.1.2 Context (3310) Spot-date: c 1875-1940: 2 sherds (82g). 1x fresh rim sherd from a small cream jug in English stoneware with a Bristol-type glaze (ENGs BRST). This has a round shoulder and conical lower wall with a bead rim on a short upright neck. A trace of a handle or pulled lip is visible on the rim. The fabric is a pale grey stoneware with a brown slip all over externally and a clear glaze internally. The date is c 1875-1940. The other piece is a large body sherd from a cylindrical jar in refined white earthenware (REFW, c 1806-1900+).

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

- B.2.1 A single struck flint was recovered from this evaluation (Table 3). The flint was an inner flake with clear signs of use along its left hand edge. The flake was recovered from probable pond 3808, was quite fresh and displayed very light cortication/patination. Unfortunately, the flint was not diagnostic, and the piece indicated only a very limited flint-related presence here during prehistory.

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
3809	Flake	Inner	Slightly irregular inner flake with use damage ventral and dorsal left edge	Undiagnostic

Table 3: Summary of the flint

B.3 Ceramic Building Material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

- B.3.1 A modest assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from thirteen contexts concentrated in five trenches (31, 32, 33, 38, 39). The majority of the assemblage was Roman but a small quantity of post-Roman was found in Trenches 33 and 38. All the material was fragmentary apart from one fairly recent complete brick and much of it was moderately to heavily abraded. The high mean fragment weight of 203g is largely accounted for by the dominance of brick in the assemblage. The CBM is summarised in Table 4.
- B.3.2 The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). The record includes quantification, fabric type, form, surface finish, markings and evidence of use/reuse (mortar, burning etc). The terminology for Roman tile follows Brodribb (1987). Fabrics were characterised with the aid of x20 hand lens.

Fabrics

- B.3.3 The Roman fabrics are all made in a very fine sandy clay (Fabric D), which may also contain low-moderate densities of coarser quartz sand (Fabric C). These bear some resemblance to Museum of London (MoL) fabrics 3023/3060 and 2459 respectively. Some examples of fabric D have very fine black speckling, which is also a distinctive feature of MoL fabric 3023/3060. The latter is thought to originate from tileries at Radlett, whilst MoL fabric 2459 comes from kilns at Brockley Hill, both situated in Hertfordshire. A fine sandy fabric with cream marl streaks and pellets of varying density and coarseness have been designated as Fabric E.

The Roman tile

- B.3.4 Roman tile included a few pieces of roofing material (tegula and imbrex) but the majority consisted of brick. Only one tegula fragment could be identified by the

remains of a broken flange, but it is probable that much of the flat tile derives from tegula based on their thickness of 22-26mm. One flat tile has a short length finger groove, which is probably a partial signature mark and indicative of tegula. The majority of the Roman tile comprised brick fragments, identified on the basis of thickness or corners when present. These ranged in thickness from 32 to 53mm, suggesting that a range of brick types and sizes are represented. Several had evidence of burning or heat discolouration and on two areas of moulding sand had vitrified, suggesting use or reuse in hearths or ovens: Roman hearths and ovens were frequently constructed of brick or flat tiles. One of the bricks had an imprint of a small hoof, possibly ovicaprid or small deer.

- B.3.5 A single large corner fragment of a *tegula mammata* from context 3813 was differentiated from the brick on the basis of a *mamma* in the form of an irregular large rounded boss of clay 53x59mm and 17mm high inset into the surface in the corner of the brick. This example can be classified as type A (Brodrigg, 1987, 60-2) and could be from one of Brodrigg's subtypes b, c, d or g. Brodrigg suggests the *mammæ* on this type were too shallow for use as cavity walling, in contrast to his type B variety, and that the *mammæ* were probably intended as keying for use as flooring and were used in this manner in the bath house at Beauport Park. However, there is no evidence of wear on the opposite surface to suggest use as flooring on the example from this site. This form was generally in use during the first or early second centuries. It is possible that some of the other brick fragments derive from this form, but do not include sections with the distinctive *mamma* attached.

The medieval-post medieval CBM

- B.3.6 Medieval and post-medieval CBM, was only found in two contexts 3309 and 3803. The former produced fragments of flat roof tile and a few broken amorphous pieces, probably brick, which are assumed to be contemporary with the tile, but could be Roman. The roof tile included a couple of more crudely made thicker fragments 14 and 15mm thick with grass impressions, which are likely to be medieval in date. The remaining more neatly made pieces, 13-14mm thick, two of which had narrow wiped margins 5 and 6mm wide along the edges, are post-medieval, of 16th-18th century date. A complete frogged brick was found in context 3803 and dates to the 19th century. It is probably machine-made with smooth surfaces and sharp arises in a yellow marl clay fabric and measures 65 x 106 x 221mm. It has a neat oval frog with rounded ends and straight sides and a concave profile. The use of yellow bricks to imitate stonework was common throughout the 19th century.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- B.3.7 The quantity of Roman tile concentrated in a limited area suggests the presence of a Roman settlement. The limited amount of roof tile implies that it is unlikely that any masonry buildings with tiled roofs were present in the immediate vicinity. The dominance of brick with evidence of burning suggests that the material was being re-used for small structures such as hearths or ovens. This is confirmed by the identification of a probable oven base (3810) in Trench 38 from which much of the brick derived (ctx 3811, 3813). The brick and tile has probably been obtained second

hand for such purposes from buildings, elsewhere during renovation or demolition, such as a villa or urban settlement, or possibly from the nearby temple complex that underwent various changes during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

- B.3.8 The medieval – post-medieval tile and brick was found dumped in the top of a sink hole (3307) and a levelling layer (3803) and as such represents material brought in from elsewhere to infill and level the hollows.
- B.3.9 The assemblage is fully recorded and if further excavation takes place on the site, the evaluation assemblage should be fully integrated into future analysis and a published report. Some discard could probably be undertaken at that point in the light of a larger assemblage if recommended by the specialist.

Context	Nos	Wt g	Spot date	Forms	Comments
3107	4	287	Roman	Tegula, brick, flat tile, indeterminate	Indeterminate fragments burnt
3204	1	81	Roman	Flat tile	
3306	6	527	Roman	Flat tile/tegula, imbrex, Brick	Part of Signature mark on flat tile/tegula. Burnt surfaces on both flat tile and brick.
3308	1	40	Roman	Flat tile	
3309	12	548	Med-Postmed	Roof (flat), Brick/indet	grass imprints; two wiped margins
3803	1	2448	LC19	Frogged brick	Yellow brick. Neat oval frog. Hack and kiss marks. Possible cloth impression.
3804	7	898	Roman	Brick, Imbrex?, Indeterminate	Small brick fragment possibly heat discoloured.
3805	1	398	Roman	Brick	
3809	1	9	Roman	Indeterminate	
3811	1	451	Roman	Brick	Areas of burning on all surfaces
3813	19	5993	Early Roman	Brick, Tegula mammata	Hoof print. Burning & heat discolouration on several
3905	3	262	Roman	Brick	
3906	2	15	Roman	Indeterminate	Probably brick

Table 4: Summary and spot dating of the CBM assemblage by context

B.4 Glass

By I R Scott

- B.4.1 There are 38 pieces of glass all from context 3310. Most is vessel glass, but there are two pieces of colourless window glass that is probably comparatively modern.
- B.4.2 The vessel glass includes three complete or almost complete medicine or medicinal tonic bottles of late 19th-century date. There is a glass stopper and part of a second stopper possibly used with the medicine bottles. There is also the base of large medicine bottle, of rectangular section with rounded corners in pale blue glass, which

was embossed with horizontal lines marking doses. The base of another possible tonic bottle of oval section was also found. One interesting piece was the body of a small 'torpedo bottle embossed: 'J BURGESS | OXFORD ROAD | LUTON'. The mineral water factory of J Burgess was located at No. 3 Oxford Road, Luton. Most 'Torpedo' bottles date to between c 1870 and 1910.

- B.4.3 An almost complete possible perfume bottle of oval section was also recovered. The base of a coffee or sauce bottle of square section with slightly rounded corners was recovered and two flat sherds possibly from a second similar square section bottle were also found. The base of a small cylindrical bottle and the neck from a similar bottle were found. The vessel glass was all moulded but there is no clear evidence that any of the glass was produced using an automatic bottle making machine, suggesting that the glass was probably largely of late 19th-century date. Other glass included the top of the neck of later 19th-century wine bottle and a large flat vessel sherd in dark olive green glass probably from a square section bottle. The surface of the latter suggested that it had been made in a dip mould. There were a number of smaller sherds of vessel glass from bottles and jars, including a small body sherd in cobalt blue glass.
- B.4.4 There are three sherds probably from decorative table ware or bowls, one in colourless glass, plain but with a moulded border around the rim, another in colourless glass but including elements in milky pale blue glass and the third piece appears to be a handle made in pale blue glass.

B.5 Small Finds

By I R Scott

- B.5.1 The only small finds recovered came from context 3309, and comprise parts of a comparatively modern hobnail boot, a fragment of woollen cloth and an associated button.
- B.5.2 The remains of the boot comprise the heel and part of the sole with iron hobnails, and part of the upper with cu alloy eyelets and rivets, the latter serving as hooks for the laces.
- B.5.3 The fragment of cloth looks to be wool, and associated with it is a hollow two-piece button now badly corroded and encrusted.
- B.5.4 The finds probably date to the very late 19th or first half of the 20th century.

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APPENDIX D

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead
Site code:	HEMAG17
Grid Reference	TL 0836 0764
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	10/7/17-21/7/17
Area of Site	13.45 hectares
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 Museum in due course, under the following accession number: HEMAG17.

Summary of Results: Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Maylands Gateway, Hemel Hempstead, in July 2017. The work was designed to define the limit of Roman settlement activity discovered during a previous evaluation. This will be used to inform the extent of the mitigation area.

The present evaluation uncovered a small number of Roman ditches, pits, a possible oven and other features. Archaeological features from other periods were not discovered, although a number of features remain undated. Finds included Roman pottery, tile and bricks, and where more precise phasing was possible, these dated to the early Roman period. In common with the earlier evaluation, modern landscaping works were revealed, leading to the burial of archaeological features in some cases. This appears to have taken place to level a dry valley, and evidence of a related palaeochannel was discovered.

The nature of the Roman activity appears to be rural, and domestic or agricultural in nature. This is in keeping with the evidence from the earlier evaluation. The presence of a scheduled temple complex immediately to the north of the site is of particular interest. The area of activity extends to the south and west of the current mitigation area.

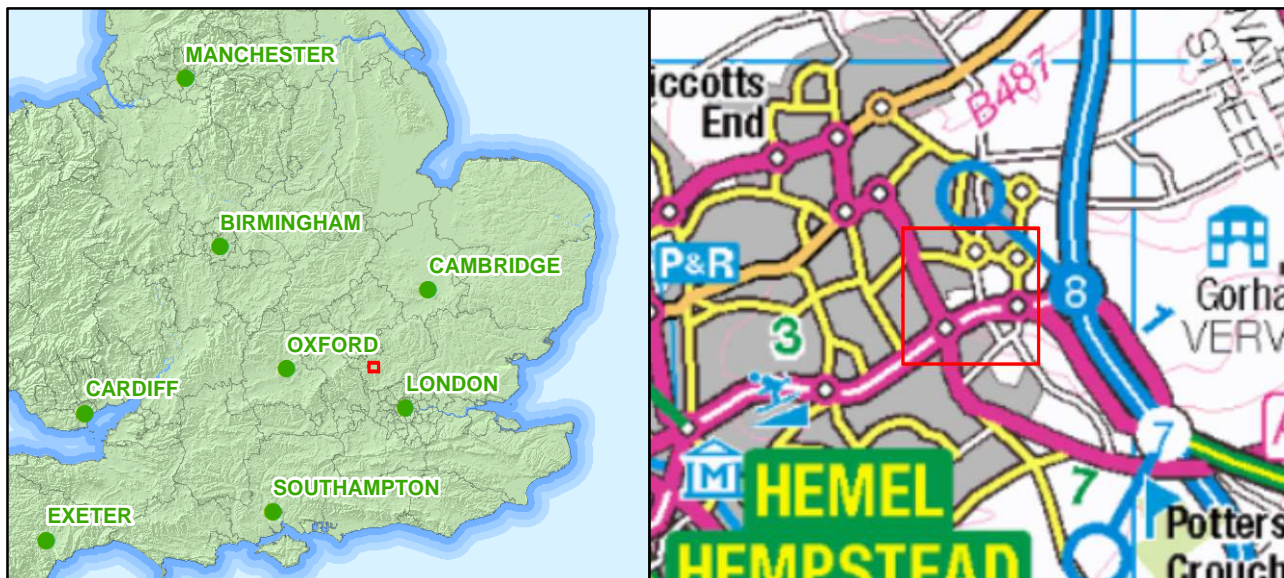


Figure 1: Site location

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Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 100 m
Scale at A3 1:2000

Figure 2: Trench layout

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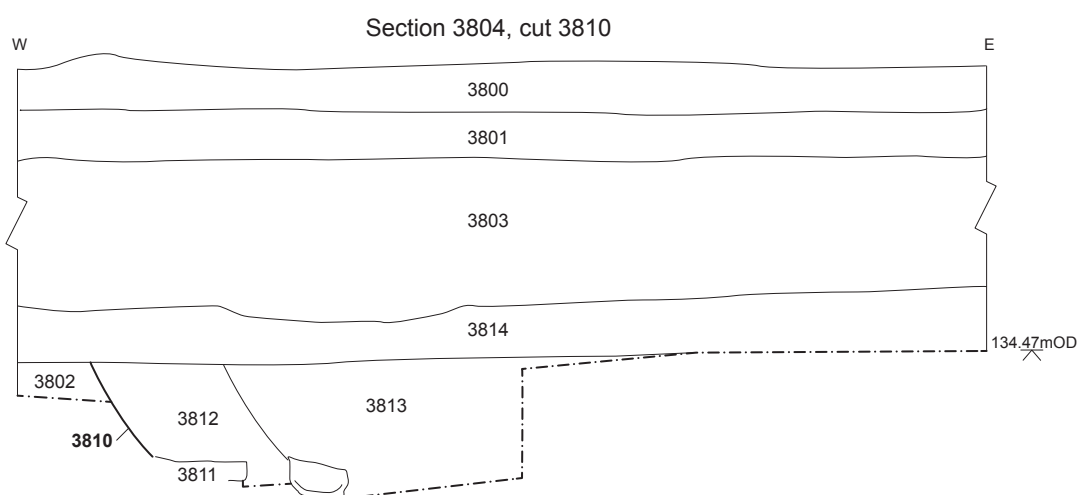
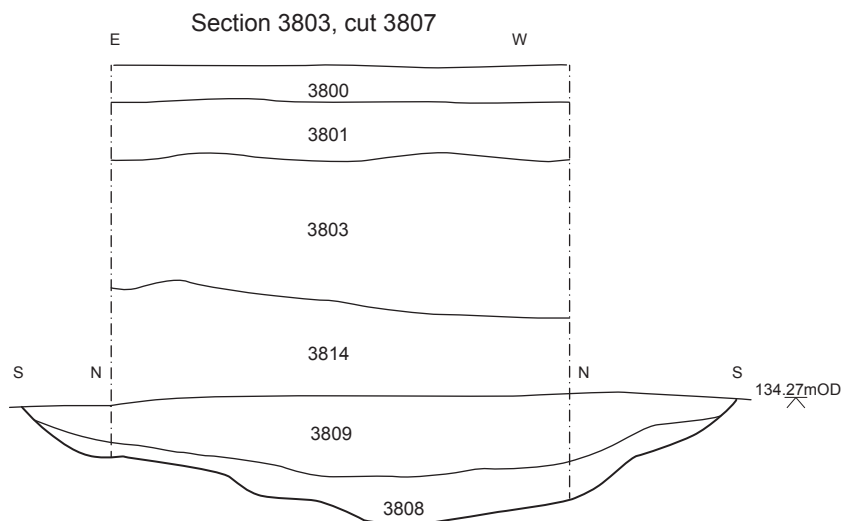
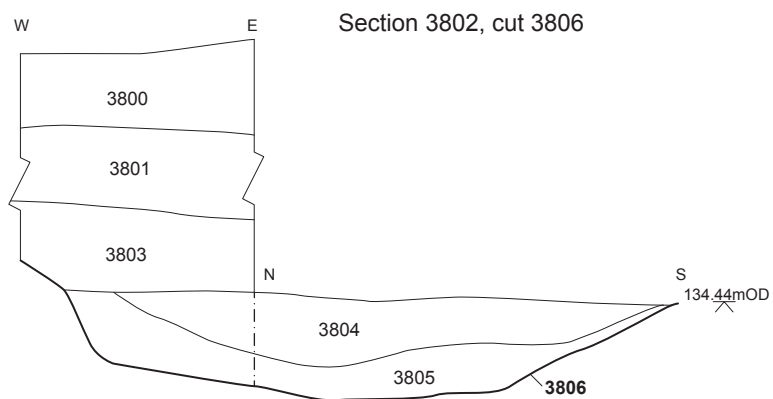
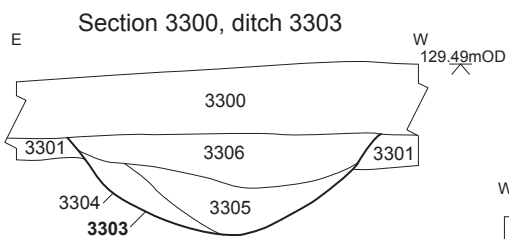


Figure 4: Selected sections

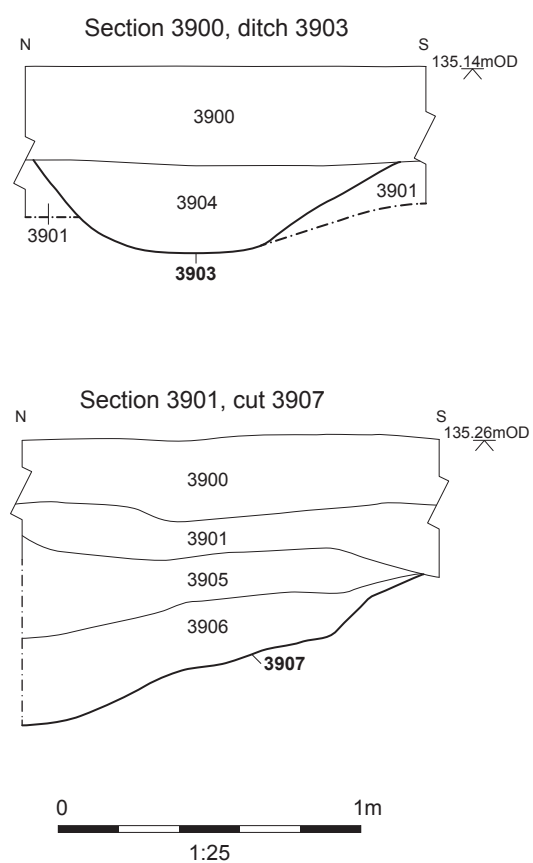


Figure 5: Selected sections



Plate 1: Ditch terminus 3806 within Trench 38 (1m scale)



Plate 2: Possible oven 3810 within Trench 38 (1m scale)



Plate 3: Feature 3907 within Trench 39 (1m scale)



Plate 4: Roman ditch 3303 within Trench 33 (1m scale)



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