

HARH/01



LAND ADJACENT TO HAWTHORN RISE, PETERCHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment and Trial Trench Evaluation

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on behalf of Mr Peter Smith*

P132707/0

April 2014



 **HEADLAND**
ARCHAEOLOGY



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Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment and Trial Trench Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench field evaluation in connection with a planning application to construct up to 89 dwellings on land adjacent to Hawthorn Rise in Peterchurch, Herefordshire. The field evaluation identified a small concentration of prehistoric features within the southern part of the proposed development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning background and objectives

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench field evaluation on land adjacent to Hawthorn Rise in Peterchurch, Herefordshire. The archaeological works relate to a planning application submitted to Herefordshire Council in October 2013 for the proposed residential development of the site (P132707/O).

The archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council, Mr. Julian Cotton, considered that the site had the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest. In accordance with relevant policy and best practice, the archaeological advisor requested that an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation be undertaken in order to provide sufficient information to allow the consideration of the planning application.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Mr. Paul Smith to undertake the required works in accordance with a project design agreed with the archaeological advisor (Craddock-Bennett 2014).

The following document comprises both an assessment as to whether any upstanding or buried remains of historic value are present within the site boundary, and an assessment of impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets.

1.2 Site location, description and setting

The proposed development site comprises an area of land located at NGR 334803,238508 (site centre). The total development site measures approximately 3.97ha.

The site comprises three pasture fields situated immediately to the north of the B4348 (the main road running through Peterchurch). The north-west of the site is bordered by Peterchurch Primary School and Bazley Lane. The Hawthorn Rise and Crossways housing developments form the south-eastern boundaries to the site. Open pasture land is present to the north-east of the site.

The north-eastern part of the site slopes down to the generally flat south and western parts. The topography and wooded nature of the north-eastern boundary prevents views beyond the site boundary. A public footpath follows the north-eastern site boundary and affords views of the village of Peterchurch including the proposed development area.

The village of Peterchurch is a linear settlement that has grown up either side of the B4348. Although likely to be of medieval origin, the settlement is architecturally undistinguished and the majority of the housing is post-medieval or later in date. The settlement is situated within the Golden Valley and underlain by Devensian-Diamicton till overlying the Raglan Mudstone bedrock.

2 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

2.1 National policy framework

National Planning Policy in England is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012. The policies in the NPPF are a material consideration that must be taken into account in development management decisions and in the development of Local Plans, where relevant. Therefore, the development management policies in the NPPF can be applied directly by the

decision-maker when determining whether development should proceed.

The NPPF supports a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and sets out the definitions of sustainability including protecting and enhancing the historic environment. **P131** of the NPPF states that

In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- The desirability of sustaining or enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation
- The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

The NPPF defines 'heritage assets' as *'a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'*.

The more important classes of heritage asset benefit from a presumption against harm. Broadly speaking, the categories of heritage asset are identified as:

Designated heritage assets A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area. The NPPF contains an almost overbearing presumption against allowing development proposals that would cause 'substantial harm' to such assets (para 132–133). Any lesser degree of harm must be weighed against the public benefits of the proposals (para 134) – and decision-makers must give 'great weight' to the asset's conservation (para 132).

Non-designated assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to a scheduled ancient monument. Such assets have the policies for designated heritage assets extended to them.

All other non-designated heritage assets. *'In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset'* (para 135).

2.2 Regional and local policy framework

The Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in March 2007 and guides development within the county. The UDP has the status of a Development Plan Document. It is operative as parts of the Local Development Framework and most of its policies have now been 'saved' (March 2010) until they are superseded by other emerging Development Plan Documents in the Local Development Framework.

Of the saved policies, the following are relevant to the protection of heritage assets within the proposed development area;

ARCH1 Archaeological assessments and field evaluations

Prior to the determination of applications for development on sites where there is a reason to believe there are remains of archaeological importance, an archaeological field evaluation may be required. In addition where proposals are put forward within AUA's (Archaeologically Important Urban Areas) that may affect the integrity of the historic character of such settlements a historic landscape appraisal will be expected.

S7 Natural and historic heritage

The historic heritage including archaeology, buildings and areas of historic or architectural importance, will be protected, restored, or enhanced.

HBA6 New development within conservation areas

Where the setting of and views into and out of the conservation area, including vistas and landmarks, are important to the character and appearance of the area they should be safeguarded.

HBA8 Locally important buildings

Development proposals which would adversely affect the appearance or setting of locally important buildings of architectural or historic interest, or buildings that make a valuable contribution to the character and appearance of the area, will not be permitted.

2.3 Guidance

Guidance to help practitioners implement this policy, including the legislative requirements that underpin it, is provided in *Planning for the Historic Environment Practice Guide* produced to support the previous Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010) but presently confirmed as relevant pending the release of updated guidance by English Heritage.

More recently English Heritage has issued detailed guidance on the *Setting of Heritage Assets* (2011). This guidance is based on principles and guidance already issued by English Heritage in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (2010), *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008). It provides a framework for assessing impacts based on the identification of an individual asset's cultural significance and the relationship between that and its surroundings followed by assessment of the degree to which change in the surroundings affects significance. Setting is often assessed in terms of visual relationships; however other relevant factors can include noise, smell, or the way in which an asset is encountered within its surroundings.

2.4 Research frameworks

The relevant research framework is *The Archaeology of the West Midlands* (Watt (ed.) 2006).

3 DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1 Objectives

The purpose of this document is to satisfy the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. In doing so, the document will;

- identify and describe the significance of known heritage assets that might be affected by the proposed development.
- assess the potential presence and significance of previously unknown heritage assets that might be affected by the proposed development.
- assess the effects the proposed development would have on the fabric and settings of known and potential heritage assets.

Furthermore, the document is intended to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposed development by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area (following Planning for the *Historic Environment Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* 2010).

3.2 Scope

This assessment comprises a baseline survey (documentary research and field survey) followed by an initial assessment of the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource. Desk based work has been carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (2012). Heritage assets are here as defined by the NPPF with a presumption that all pre 1st edition OS features are of historic interest. Selected later features (wartime, industrial etc.) are included in the definition if their particular circumstances merit it.

The assessment utilised the following study areas (*Illus 1*):

Development area The potential for both the known buried archaeological remains and previously unrecorded assets to be affected by the development were considered.

Study area extending 1,000m from the centre of the proposed development area. Designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets recorded in the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and national databases were considered to further inform the assessment of the potential for previously unrecorded cultural heritage assets to exist within the Study Area; designated assets were considered in relation to potential effects upon setting.

3.3 Methods

The desk-based study has been based on readily available and relevant documentary sources. The following sources were consulted:

- Databases of designated assets held by English Heritage;
- Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR);
- Records of archaeological sites and events held by the National Monuments Record (NMR);
- Aerial photographs held by the County Historic Environment Record (and by the National Library of Air

Photos, Swindon);

- Historic mapping held by Hereford library;
- Other readily accessible published and online sources;
- Site visits on 3rd February and 6th April 2014.

The Grade I listed Wellbrook Manor was visited on 6th April 2014 in order to gather baseline setting data.

In carrying out this assessment, the cultural significance of assets has been considered in relation to the definition of significance provided in the NPPF;

The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations is due to its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting.

The above values have been used to identify the overall cultural significance of assets. This may be:

Very high	Assets of exceptional significance that may be valued internationally.
High	Assets that are of importance at a national scale. These are frequently designated, eg scheduled or listed, but may be undesignated.
Moderate	Assets that are of importance at a regional scale.
Low	Assets that are of importance at a local scale.
Negligible	Very poorly preserved or extremely common assets that are unlikely to be valued at any scale.

Effects are described in terms of the development's effect on the asset's cultural significance and the extent to which it will degrade or enhance the asset's significance.

3.4 Heritage assessment

Appendix 1 contains a list of heritage assets within the search area. The location of these assets is shown in *Illus 1*. Assets mentioned in the text which fall outside the search area are not illustrated.

3.4.1 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistory

The Golden Valley appears to have been a focus for prehistoric activity within Herefordshire. The main focus of this activity appears to be to the north of the proposed development area.

Arthurs' Stone (5.6km to the north of the development area) is a well preserved example of a chambered tomb. One of the largest assemblages of Neolithic pottery and flintwork in Herefordshire has been found in excavations at the nearby Neolithic enclosure on Dorstone Hill. The high density of flintwork and stone axes recovered from the northern part of the Golden Valley may suggest



Illus 2

Wellbrook Manor

Image supplied by the English Heritage Archive

that the area was a population centre during the Neolithic period (Ray 2007).

Although the high ground appears to contain the richest archaeological resource, evidence for prehistoric activity is also recorded in close proximity to the low-lying settlement of Peterchurch.

Twelve flint scatters have been identified within the 1km search area, the closest being located 200m to the north-east of the proposed development site (SMR 1514). A large number of chips and flakes were found in this field including a possible microlithic blade, suggestive of Mesolithic activity. The greatest density of prehistoric findspots within the search area is concentrated on the valley sides to the north of the development area; however lithic scatters have also been recovered from the base of the valley (SMR 51868, 51871, 51874).

Excavations undertaken in 2009 approximately 1.8km north-west of the proposed development area revealed four pits forming part of a probable prehistoric pit alignment (SMR 52083). No dating evidence was recovered from the features; however, an adjacent palaeochannel containing Roman pottery was believed to post-date the pit alignment.

The ploughed-out remains of a Bronze Age Round Barrow (SMR 11347) are recorded 550m north of the development area.

Lower Park Wood Camp Hillfort (SMR 1462) is located 1.2km to the south-east of the proposed development area. The remains of huts identified within the defended area have been dated to the 1st century BC. Later pottery recovered from the site suggests occupation until the middle of the 1st century AD.

Romano-British

The B4348 and the parallel lane on the opposite bank of the River Dore have been suggested as former Roman cavalry roads (Brown 2004). The Roman Army used the Black Mountains as a blocking position during its advance into Wales in c.50AD, and the Golden Valley was therefore of importance for surveillance. Intervisible cavalry roads with linking tracks were used to enable patrol routes to be varied and to reduce the likelihood of planned ambushes. No record of the suggested Roman roads is recorded on the SMR.

A single entry relating to Roman activity is recorded on the SMR. The 1933 excavation of a mound within Ton Wood (SMR 5013) identified fragments of soft, bright red pottery, believed to Samian ware (imported Roman pottery). The description suggests that the identification of the pottery as Samian is incorrect. Samian ware

is fired to high temperatures giving it a hard fabric. In light of this evidence, assignment of the mound feature to the Roman period is erroneous.

Although Roman pottery has been recovered from the palaeochannel excavated to the north of the search area (SMR 52083) and from excavations on Dorstone Hill, evidence for Roman activity within the search area is limited and largely unconfirmed.

Medieval

Peterchurch is not mentioned in the Domesday survey commissioned by William I in 1086, but this does not necessarily mean that no settlement existed on the site. Peterchurch boasts the largest Norman parish church in the county (SMR 5029). Excavations carried out within the nave and vestry of the church in 2009 (EHE 2012) identified wall foundations that diverged from the foundations of the extant building and may represent evidence of an earlier church (Shoosmith 2009).

There is the possibility that medieval settlement within the vicinity of the proposed development area was focussed not on Peterchurch, but to the east. A trackway and various platforms at Lyonshall (SMR 11165) indicate the presence of a deserted medieval settlement that was mentioned in the Domesday survey and medieval documents dating to the early 14th century. Further activity of this date is present immediately to the east of the site in the form of Wellbrook Manor (illus 2).

Wellbrook Manor (SMR 1125) was originally the dower house of the de la Hays of Urishay Castle. It is considered to be one of the best surviving examples in the county of a 14th century house with base-cruck hall and is a Grade I listed building. Earthen banks (SMR 2215) visible to the west of the existing manor house potentially relate to a moated enclosure suspected to be the site of an earlier manor house.

The early ownership of Peterchurch manor is unclear; however during the early 16th century it was among the possessions of Malvern Priory (Robinson 2001) and passed to the crown following the dissolution of the monasteries (1536–1541).

Although the location of the medieval core of Peterchurch is yet to be established and evidence for occupation is limited, the visible presence of medieval farming within the surrounding fields is widespread. Thirty-three examples of ridge and furrow agricultural systems and one example of field lynchets are recorded within the 1km study area. The presence of ridge and furrow is recorded within the proposed development site (SMR 11271); however no visible earthworks were identified during the site visit.

Post-medieval

The Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project identifies seven historic farms dating to the post-medieval period within the search area. Evidence for post-medieval lime kilns (SMR 11335/6) has been recorded within woodland connected to Mowbage farm in the far north of the study area, and evidence for local quarrying is recorded to the north-east (SMR 40496) and south-west (SMR 40479) of the development area.

The remains of Peterchurch Railway Station (SMR 23398) can still be seen to the west of the church. The station was one of four stops on the largely unsuccessful Golden Valley Railway which was opened in 1881 and finally closed for good in 1957.

3.4.2 Cartographic history of the development area

Due to the closure of the Herefordshire records office at the time of the production of this report the map progression for the site was limited to the available resources at Hereford library, the Headland internal library and internet based resources.

The 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the historic core of Peterchurch clustered around the crossroads formed by the B4348, Bazley Lane and the short stretch of road leading to the church. The southern extent of the village is marked by the primary school. The collection of buildings related to Wellbrook Manor and its associated farms is of a comparable size to the village of Peterchurch. The proposed development area is farmland with the same field boundaries as are visible today. The land now occupied by the Crossways and Hawthorn Rise housing developments is undeveloped.

No change is evident on the Second Edition 1904 Ordnance Survey map. The beginnings of the Crossways development are recorded on the 1974 OS map, with houses present to the south of the lane connecting Wellbrook Manor to Peterchurch. The 1981–83 OS map records the housing estate at its modern extent. Hawthorn Rise has not been developed at this time.

3.4.3 Analysis of aerial photographs

The historical aerial photographic search identified six oblique images and seven vertical images covering the 1km study area. The vertical images were taken at too great a distance to provide meaningful information. The majority of the oblique images were taken of Wellbrook Manor; however, a single image provided a clear view of the site. No earthworks could be identified within the proposed development area, although ridge and furrow (SMR 11272) was identified in the field to the north of the development area.

3.4.4 Known heritage assets within the proposed development area

Visible standing archaeological remains

The presence of ridge and furrow landforms is recorded on the Herefordshire SMR (11271). A site visit on 6th April failed to identify these features. It is possible that they were observed during more favourable light conditions or have been ploughed out since the observation was made.

Designated heritage assets

There are no Scheduled Monuments within either the proposed development area or within the search area. The nearest Conservation Area to the proposed development is located at Dorstone, c.5km to the north of Peterchurch.

Listed buildings

A total of nine listed buildings are recorded within the 1km search area (Appendix 1).

Due to the close proximity of the proposed development to Wellbrook Manor (DHE 2953), and the high grading afforded to it (Grade I), special consideration was given to the potential impact that the development may have upon its setting. A site visit on 6th April 2014 established that the topography of the eastern part of the development area precluded a visual connection between the listed building and the proposed development site (Illus 3).

The only listed building with any visual connection to the development site is the Grade I listed Church of St. Peter (DHE 2957). This connection, however, only relates to the visibility of the church's spire from within the development area. The proposed development area will not have an impact upon the appreciation of the spire (a fibreglass copy of the original dating to the 1970s) and does not form an appreciable part of its setting.

Historic landscape character

The character of the land comprising the proposed development area is broadly defined as 'Enclosure of Common Arable Fields' and more specifically as 'Narrow Closes in Widely Spaced Groups'. The proposed development involves the removal of two hedgerows but broadly conforms to the existing field pattern.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

In order to evaluate the potential for buried archaeological remains within the development area, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken. Fieldwork took place between the 11th and 13th March 2014.

4.1 Aims and objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the extent, nature and importance of any buried heritage assets within the proposed development area.



Illus 3

View from centre of site looking E towards Wellbrook Manor

Specifically the evaluation aimed to:

- assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
- provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed.
- assess the impact of previous land use on the site.
- inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
- produce a site archive for deposition with Hereford Museum and to provide information for accession to the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record.

4.2 Method

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

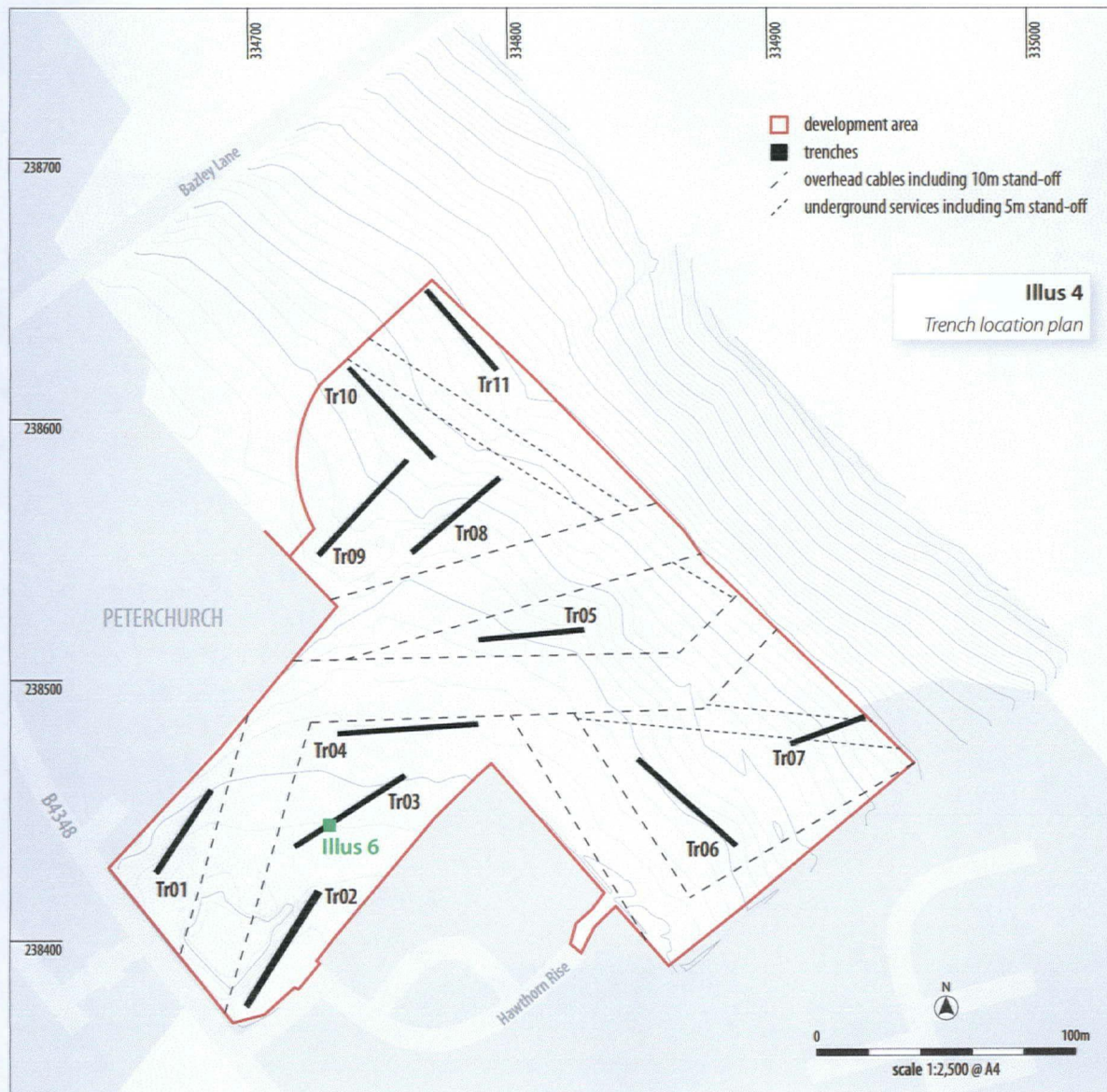
- *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000)
- *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001)

The evaluation comprised the excavation of approximately 2% of the proposed development area (not including proposed 'green' spaces) by means of sample trenches totalling 500 linear metres. The presence of a number of overhead and underground services influenced the positioning of trenches, but satisfactory coverage of the site was achieved (Illus 4).

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital photographic images and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Leica Total Station.



4.3 Results

A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 2.

4.3.1 General site stratigraphy

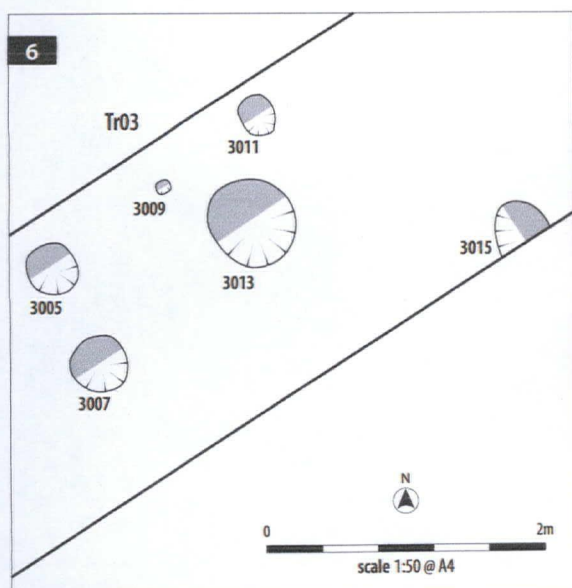
Topsoil [eg 1004, 2004] consisted of a dark brown silty clay with an orange hue and varied in depth between 0.10m and 0.22m. Two distinct strata of subsoil were identified below this; the upper deposit consisting of a light-mid brown silty clay [eg 1003, 2003], the lower deposit displaying the same composition but being darker in colour [eg 1002, 2002].

Geological drift deposits in the form of glacial till [eg 1001, 2001] were encountered at a depth of between 0.54m (Trench 2) and 1.17m (Trench 1). On average geological deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.70m (Illus 5)



Illus 5

Trench 3 – SE-facing section



Illus 6 & 7

Prehistoric features within Trench 3

4.3.2 Trench containing archaeological deposits (Trench 3)

Archaeologically significant deposits were encountered in a single trench (Trench 3). At a depth of 0.70m below the existing ground level, a group of six circular features was identified towards the south-western end of the trench (**Illus 6 & 7**). All the features within the group contained dark organic fills from which environmental samples were recovered (Appendix 4).

Features [3005], [3007], [3011] and [3015] (**Illus 8**) were similar in form and dimensions; measuring between 0.30m and 0.40m in diameter and between 0.13m and 0.18m in depth. Equidistant between features [3005] and [3011] was a smaller circular feature [3009] measuring 0.10m in diameter and 0.03m in depth. A larger feature [3013] measuring 0.66m in diameter and 0.22m in depth was located in a central position in relation to the other features.

Pottery was recovered from features [3005], [3007] and [3013]. Due to the small size of the assemblage and lack of diagnostic sherds

it proved difficult to date the material more closely than the broad prehistoric period (Appendix 3).

Assessment of the environmental samples (Appendix 4) established that the remains were neither abundant nor diverse. The presence of charcoal, bone and pottery suggests that the material probably derives from domestic activity.

4.3.3 Trenches containing post-glacial geological features (Trenches 9, 10 and 11)

Linear bands of gravel [9005, 10004, 11004] were observed at the level of geological deposits in the northern part of the site (**Illus 9**). The bands were orientated on a matching alignment to the slope of the ground and when excavated were found to be devoid of archaeological material. The features are likely to relate to the deposition of sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters (BGS 2014).

4.3.4 Blank trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8)

The majority of the trenches excavated within the site contained no evidence for human activity. The stratigraphy observed within these trenches is described within the general site stratigraphy section above.

4.4 Discussion

The field evaluation identified an area of prehistoric activity within Trench 3. Unfortunately, due to the limits of the evaluation trench it was not possible to define the extent of this activity. It is clear that feature [3015] continued to the



Illus 8

Pit feature [3015] (camera facing NE)

Illus 9

Alluvial channel within Trench 9 (camera facing NE)



east, beyond the limit of the excavated area. There is also the potential for further features to be present to the west.

The similarity of the fills of the features and contemporaneous pot sherds recovered from three of the features suggest that all the features belong to the same period and are likely to have been created as part of a single event. The similar dimensions of features [3005], [3007], [3011] and [3015] suggests that they shared a common purpose; most likely as post-holes for structural timbers. The larger feature [3013] within the apparent centre of the arrangement may represent a small fire pit.

The depth of the features (0.03–0.22m) suggests that only the bases of the features survive. The features were not identified at a higher level suggesting that the tops of the features (and the contemporary ground level) have been truncated by later ploughing.

Due to the limited area excavated, it is not possible to say with certainty what the arrangement of features represents. The concentration of the features within a small area of the trench, suggests that the archaeological activity is limited and clearly does not extend to the north-east or south-west. It is possible that further post-holes are present to the east or west which may resolve the features into a coherent 'floor-plan'.

development area. This activity is likely to be confined to the vicinity of Trench 3, as no evidence for prehistoric activity was identified within the other trenches.

The potential for heritage assets dating to the Roman period is negligible. The status of the B4348 as a former Roman cavalry road is unconfirmed, and the identification of Roman pottery from Ton Wood is dubious.

Trial trenching has established that there is no evidence for medieval settlement within the sampled areas of the proposed development site. Although evidence for ridge and furrow has previously been recorded in the east of the site, no evidence for this was found during a site visit and trial trenching. The potential for heritage assets dating to this period is therefore considered negligible.

5 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

5.1 Known heritage assets

The trial trench evaluation has identified a heritage asset within the proposed development area. The asset takes the form of a potential post-hole arrangement dating to the prehistoric period. One of the post-holes extends beyond the excavated area. The heritage value of the post-hole arrangement derives from its archaeological importance. In comparison to the wealth of prehistoric remains recorded within the wider region the features are considered to be important at a local rather than a regional scale. In accordance with the definition of significance provided by NPPF the asset is considered to be of low significance.

No further heritage assets have been identified within the site or study area that are at risk of harm from the proposed development.

5.2 Potential heritage assets

The occurrence of numerous lithic scatters dating to the prehistoric period and the results of the field evaluation indicate that there is a high potential for further remains of prehistoric date within the

The predominant activity identified within the SMR dating to the post-medieval period is farming. No evidence for former field boundaries or agricultural buildings was identified during the field evaluation and the cartographic evidence suggests little change in boundaries has occurred, potentially since the land was enclosed. For this reason, the potential for heritage assets dating to this period is considered to be negligible.

Description of potential HA	Significance of potential HA (High, Medium, Low, Negligible)	Likelihood of it occurring within the development area (High, Medium, Low, Negligible)
Possible further remains of prehistoric date	Low (likely to be of local significance)	High (Identified post-hole arrangement likely to extend beyond excavated area)

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Description of proposed development

Planning permission is being sort for a residential development of 89 dwellings with associated landscaping (P132707/O)

The proposed development will inevitably involve ground-disturbing activities that would have a destructive effect upon any archaeological remains within the footprint of the development.

The setting of identified heritage assets within the study area was assessed. The development will not have any foreseeable negative effects upon the setting of heritage assets.

The field evaluation identified a grouping of archaeological features dating to the prehistoric period. There is the potential for additional features of this period to be present within the vicinity of those already identified.

Depending on the layout of the development there is the potential for the features identified (and further features in the vicinity) to be disturbed by the proposed development.

7 CONCLUSION

The development proposals are in line with the principles laid out in national and local planning policy.

The proposed development will not have a negative impact upon the setting of any designated heritage assets.

The trial trench evaluation identified a grouping of prehistoric features of local archaeological significance. The potential for further buried assets within the proposed development area is considered high, but these are likely to be present over a limited area in the vicinity of Trench 3.

This assessment fulfils the requirement in national planning policy to provide sufficient information on the significance of heritage assets that could be affected by the proposed development.

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9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Heritage assets

Headland ID (HA)	Issuing authority ID	Designation/type	Description
1	SMR11105	HER Monument	Post-medieval The Forge, Peterstone. L16th - E17th century.
2	SMR11165	HER Monument	Medieval Lyonshall, Deserted Medieval Village. Deserted c1900 when the farm was sold. Mentioned in Domesday.
3	SMR1125 / DHE2953	HER Mon / Listed Building I	Medieval Wellbrook Manor, 14th century Manor house.
4	SMR11264	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
5	SMR11265	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
6	SMR11266	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
7	SMR11267	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
8	SMR11268	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
9	SMR11269	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
10	SMR11270	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
11	SMR11271	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
12	SMR11272	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
13	SMR11273	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
14	SMR11274	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
15	SMR11275	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
16	SMR11276	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
17	SMR11278	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
18	SMR11279	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
19	SMR11280	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
20	SMR11281	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
21	SMR11282	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
22	SMR11283	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
23	SMR11287	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
24	SMR11288	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
25	SMR11289	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
26	SMR1130	HER Monument	Prehistoric Flint Scatter. Flakes and Scrapers recovered from NE corner of field.
27	SMR11304	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
28	SMR11306	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
29	SMR11307	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
30	SMR1131	HER Monument	Undated Place name evidence. Field labeled 'Churchfield' on tithe award of 1845.
31	SMR11314	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
32	SMR11315	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
33	SMR11317	HER Monument	Medieval Ridge and Furrow
34	SMR1133	HER Monument	Medieval Series of lynchets

Headland ID (HA)	Issuing authority ID	Designation/type		Description
35	SMR11331	HER Monument	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow
36	SMR11334	HER Monument	Undated	Undated mount situated to the east of the River Dore. Interpreted as remains of modern derelict building.
37	SMR11335	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Site of post-medieval lime kilns. Not identified during site visit.
38	SMR11336	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Site of post-medieval lime kilns.
39	SMR11337	HER Monument	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow
40	SMR11343	HER Monument	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow
41	SMR11344	HER Monument	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow
42	SMR11346	HER Monument	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow
43	SMR11347	HER Monument	Prehistoric	Site of Bronze Age Round Barrow. Ploughed out.
44	SMR1208	HER Monument	Undated	St. Peters Well. Undated well and 19th century font. Used by Baptist congregation within living memory for Baptisms
45	SMR1246	HER Monument	Prehistoric	Flint Scatter. Poor quality flints recovered from north face of slope.
46	SMR1250	HER Monument	Prehistoric	Flint Scatter. Very pronounced working area within centre of field. Chips, flakes and scrapers.
47	SMR1514	HER Monument	Prehistoric	Flint Scatter. Large number of chips and flakes found within this field, including possible microlith.
48	SMR1530	HER Monument	Prehistoric	Flints. Chips and flakes including one potential blade.
49	SMR2215	HER Monument	Medieval	Rectangular enclosure and former moat. Potentially site of earlier Wellbrook Manor. Medieval
50	SMR23398	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Site of Peterchurch Railway Station. Post-Medieval
51	SMR34053	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Wellbrook Manor Garden
52	SMR34717	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Wesleyan Methodist Chapel
53	SMR35663	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Particular Baptist Chapel
54	SMR40479	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Quarry
55	SMR40496	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Quarry
56	SMR42032	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Horsepool Bridge
57	SMR4334	HER Monument	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow
58	SMR43950	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Water Meadow - Surviving as earthworks
59	SMR45496	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Mowbach Farm
60	SMR45498	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Hinton Green Farm
61	SMR45502	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Site of Bridge Barn
62	SMR45503	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Upper Wellbrook Farm
63	SMR45505	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Slade Farm
64	SMR45506	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Site of Old Rectory Farm
65	SMR45507	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Former farm on site of Fairfield High School
66	SMR45508 / DHE2944	HER Mon / Listed Building II	Post-medieval	Penlan Farmhouse. Late 16th century with 17th century additions.
67	SMR5013	HER Monument	Roman	Mound in Ton Wood. Samian like pottery recovered from within. Multiple layers of burning evident.
68	SMR5028	HER Monument	Post-medieval	Cottages 80 yards NE of Church.
69	SMR5029 / DHE2957	HER Mon / Listed Building I	Medieval	Church of St. Peter. Large Norman Church - Mid 12th century. Tower built L13th - E14th century.
70	SMR5030 / DHE2959	HER Mon / Listed Building II	Post-medieval	Hinton Court. 17th century house and barns.
71	SMR5031 / DHE2961	HER Mon / Listed Building II	Medieval	Hinton Farmhouse. Parts of building date to L15th - E16th century.

Headland ID (HA)	Issuing authority ID	Designation/type	Description
72	SMRS032	HER Monument	Post-medieval Cottage. SW Corner of crossroads, Hinton.
73	SMRS101	HER Monument	Post-medieval Lyons Hall House. Ruins of house and farm buildings.
74	SMRS108	HER Monument	Post-medieval 17th century cottage SE of Irenant Farm.
75	SMRS1868	HER Monument	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.
76	SMRS1871	HER Monument	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.
77	SMRS1874	HER Monument	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.
78	SMRS1902	HER Monument	Post-medieval Artefact Scatter. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.
79	SMRS1903	HER Monument	Medieval Possible shrunken medieval settlement, watermill and earlier artefacts.
80	SMRS1904	HER Monument	Post-medieval Artefact Scatter. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.
81	SMRS1907	HER Monument	Post-medieval Artefact Scatter. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.
82	SMR8444	HER Monument	Prehistoric Flint site. Lyonshall.
83	SMR8445	HER Monument	Prehistoric Flint site. Pentwyn.
84	SMR8446	HER Monument	Prehistoric Flint site. Wellbrooke Farm.
85	SMR8447	HER Monument	Prehistoric Flint site. Wellbrooke Farm.
86	SMRS055	HER Monument	Post-medieval Hinton Hall. 16th century origins with later additions.
87	EHE2012	HER Event	Medieval Archaeological watching brief and excavation carried out in 2009 during the lowering of floor level in Church of St. Peter. Significant number of burials dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods were encountered.
88	EHE42302	HER Event	Post-Medieval Recording work prior to demolition of 19th century chapel. Subsequent monitoring during excavation of foundations revealed no deposits of archaeological significance.
89	EHE51965	HER Event	Various Golden Valley Community Enterprise Programme Survey (1983). Fieldwalking and Landscape Survey identified a number of the monuments entered in this table.
90	DHE2960	HER Listed Building II	Post-medieval 17th century barn with 20th century alterations.
91	DHE2958	HER Listed Building II	Post-medieval Brown Memorial. Early 19th century chest tomb within St. Peter's churchyard.
92	DHE2955	HER Listed Building II	Post-medieval Crossways House. Early 17th century, extended 18th century.
93	DHE2956	HER Listed Building II	Post-medieval Milestone. Dated 1840. Located 120m NE of church.

Appendix 2 Trench and context register

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
1	1001	Dark orange/brown silty clay with patchy gravel inclusions (predominantly at north end of trench). Geological deposit.	40m x 2.1m	1.17m +
	1002	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Occasional small pebbles. Subsoil.	—	0.53m – 1.17m
	1003	Light-mid orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Occasional small pebbles. Subsoil.	—	0.22m – 0.53m
	1004	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	—	0.00m – 0.22m

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
2	2001	Dark orange/brown silty clay with patchy gravel inclusions Geological deposit.	50m x 2.1m	0.54m +
	2002	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Occasional small pebbles. Subsoil.	—	0.35m – 0.54m
	2003	Light-mid orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Occasional small pebbles. Subsoil.	—	0.12m – 0.35m
	2004	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	—	0.00m – 0.12m

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
3	3001	Dark orange/brown silty clay with patchy gravel inclusions Geological deposit.	50m x 2.1m	0.70m +
	3002	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Occasional small pebbles. Subsoil.	—	0.40m – 0.70m
	3003	Light-mid orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Occasional small pebbles. Subsoil.	—	0.13m – 0.40m
	3004	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	—	0.00m – 0.13m
	3005	Cut of small pit or post-hole. 0.37m (L) x 0.37m (W) x 0.14m (D).	—	0.70m – 0.84m
	3006	Fill of [3005]. Dark grey/black clayey silt. Charcoal rich.	—	0.70m – 0.84m
	3007	Cut of small pit or post-hole. 0.40m (L) x 0.40m (W) x 0.15m (D).	—	0.70m – 0.85m

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
	3008	Fill of [3007]. Dark grey/black clayey silt. Charcoal rich.	—	0.70m – 0.85m
	3009	Cut of possible stake hole. 0.10m (L) x 0.09m (W) x 0.03m (D).	—	0.70m – 0.73m
	3010	Fill of [3009]. Dark grey/black clayey silt. Charcoal rich.	—	0.70m – 0.73m
	3011	Cut of small pit or post-hole. 0.30m (L) x 0.25m (W) x 0.18m (D).	—	0.70m – 0.88m
	3012	Fill of [3011]. Dark grey/black clayey silt. Charcoal rich.	—	0.70m – 0.88m
	3013	Cut for potential hearth feature. 0.66m (L) x 0.58m (W) x 0.22m (D).	—	0.70m – 0.92m
	3014	Fill of [3013]. Dark grey/black clayey silt. Charcoal rich.	—	0.70m – 0.92m
	3015	Cut of small pit or post-hole. 0.40m+ (L) x 0.41m (W) x 0.13m (D).	—	0.70m – 0.83m
	3016	Fill of [3015]. Dark grey/black clayey silt. Charcoal rich.	—	0.70m – 0.83m

Summary of excavation

Six charcoal rich features in an arrangement suggestive of a post-built feature with central hearth. Prehistoric pottery recovered from group.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
4	4001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	30m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	4002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.46m
	4003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.46m – 0.66m
	4004	Red/brown silty clay. Mottled with lenses of yellow clay. Small inclusions of degraded sandstone. Geological deposits.	—	0.66m – 0.91m+

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
5	5001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	40m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	5002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.45m
	5003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.45m – 0.70m

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
	5004	Red/brown silty clay. Mottled with lenses of yellow clay. Small inclusions of degraded sandstone. Geological deposits.	—	0.70m – 0.95m+
	5005	Deposit of degraded natural bedrock at north-west of trench.	—	Not excavated

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
6	6001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	50m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.15m
	6002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.15m – 0.45m
	6003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.45m – 0.70m
	6004	Red/brown silty clay. Mottled with lenses of yellow clay. Small inclusions of degraded sandstone. Geological deposits.	—	0.70m – 0.90m+

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified. Possible manganese flecks present in base of trench [6004]. Geological deposits at shallower level at south-eastern end of trench.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
7	7001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	30m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	7002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.40m
	7003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.40m – 0.70m
	7004	Red/brown silty clay. Mottled with lenses of yellow clay. Small inclusions of degraded sandstone. Geological deposits.	—	0.70m – 0.80m+

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified. Iron water pipe passing through trench on north-west to south-east orientation.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
8	8001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	50m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	8002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.45m

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
	8003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.45m – 0.75m
	8004	Red/brown silty clay. Mottled with lenses of yellow clay. Small inclusions of degraded sandstone. Geological deposits.	—	0.75m – 0.80m+

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified. Blue plastic water pipe passing through trench on north to south orientation.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
9	9001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	30m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	9002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.40m
	9003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.40m – 0.70m
	9004	Red/brown silty clay. Mottled with lenses of yellow clay. Small inclusions of degraded sandstone. Geological deposits.	—	0.70m – 0.80m+
	9005	Band of red gravel (approximately 1m wide) running down centre of trench. Geological variation.	—	0.70m – 0.80m

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified. A band of gravel running down the centre of the trench was investigated. It appears to represent a channel within the natural deposits indicating water flow.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
10	10001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	50m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	10002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.40m
	10003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10–20%. Subsoil.	—	0.40m – 0.70m
	10004	Two bands of red gravel identified running across trench (downhill).	—	0.70m – 0.80m

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified. Bands of gravel identified at the level of the lower subsoil deposit [10003]. The gravel bands follow the topography of the site and appear to relate to water flows.

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
11	11001	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Firm. Topsoil.	40m x 2.1m	0.00m – 0.10m
	11002	Light-mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Subsoil.	—	0.10m – 0.40m
	11003	Mid red/brown silty clay. Firm. Degraded stone inclusions 10-20%. Subsoil.	—	0.40m – 0.70m
	11004	Band of red gravel identified running across trench (downhill).	—	0.70m – 0.80m

Summary of excavation

No archaeological finds or features identified. Band of gravel identified at the level of the lower subsoil deposit (11003). The gravel band follows the topography of the site and appears to relate to water flow.

Appendix 3 Finds assessment

Jane Timby

The assemblage comprises 48 sherds of pottery, weighing 280g, accompanied by three very small pieces (4g) of fired clay. All the pottery dates to the prehistoric period but there are very few chronologically diagnostic sherds present in terms of fabric or form.

The sherds were recovered from three contexts within Trench 30 (3006, 3008 and 3014) and are of mixed preservation, including larger pieces and smaller much abraded crumbs.

The material was scanned macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on firing, colour and inclusions (type, size and frequency) in the clay. The fabrics types were quantified by sherd count and weight and can be found summarized in the Finds Catalogue.

Pottery and Fired Clay

The pottery assemblage comprises handmade vessels in largely reduced (grey), coarsely gritted, wares. There would appear to be a minimum of three vessels present based on sherd form and fabric but many of the fragments were little more than abraded crumbs which cannot be ascribed to any form.. This is a very small assemblage which is difficult to date closely, other than as prehistoric. The character of the material and the heavy nature of the tempering might suggest this might be more specifically Bronze Age in date but further material would be required to corroborate this.

Two fabric types can be discriminated: one with a calcareous component along with various rock fragments; the other quartzite-based with slightly finer rock inclusions. Both fabrics contain a common to moderate frequency of ill-sorted inclusions ranging from fine up to 5-6mm in size. Detailed petrological analysis would be required to ascertain the exact character of the inclusions and their likely source but there appears to be an igneous or metamorphic component.

In terms of form several sherds from (3008) appears to come from a moderately thick-walled, closed vessel with a heavy flat base perhaps akin to an urn or large jar. The wall thickness averages around 10mm whilst the base is 12-14mm thick. An abraded rim recovered from (3006) is from a thinner-walled, closed vessel with an undifferentiated rim, slightly bevelled on the interior face, and straight slightly inwardly flaring walls.

Potential for further analysis

The small size and limited range exhibited by the assemblage limits the accuracy to which it can be dated other than broadly as prehistoric. Detailed research would be required to ascertain the petrology of the fabrics and to compare the material with local geology and other prehistoric pottery from the locality which is likely to be very sparse or similarly not closely dated. This alone could make the assemblage of some significance.

No further work is recommended at this stage unless additional material is recovered from the site in which case this group should be taken into account. Should further work take place it would

be appropriate to have the assemblage examined by an earlier prehistoric ceramic specialist.

Finds catalogue

Trench	Context	Sample	Sherds	Weight(g)	Fabric	Form	Period
30	3006	—	6	30	ROCK	rim/body	PH
30	3006	1	15	15	QTZ/RK	crumbs	PH
30	3008	—	7	22	ROCK	body/base	PH
30	3008	2	9	10	ROCK	crumbs	PH
30	3008	—	1	2	ROCK	body	PH
30	3014	4	1	2	fclay	—	PH
30	3014	4	7	105	ROCK	body/base	PH
30	3014	—	1	93	ROCK	base	PH
30	3014	4	2	3	ROCK	crumbs	PH
30	3014	4	2	2	fclay	—	PH

Appendix 4 Environmental sample assessment

Laura Bailey & Tim Holden

This report presents the results of an assessment of palaeoenvironmental samples taken during the course of excavation at Hawthorn Rise, Peterchurch. Five samples, ranging in size from 2 to 10 litres, were received for flotation, wet sieving and environmental assessment. The aims of the assessment were primarily to evaluate the potential of the material to provide evidence regarding the original function of the features and to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any environmental remains in the samples.

Method

The samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed. All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006).

Results

The results of the sample processing are presented in Tables A1 (Retent sample) and A2 (Flotation samples). Suitable material for Accelerated Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating is also identified in each table.

Charred plant remains

Wood charcoal Wood charcoal was present in varying quantities in both flot and retent samples (see Tables A1 and A2). The majority was <1cm diameter suggesting that they are more likely to relate to background burning than any in-situ burning events. Some larger charcoal fragments were recovered from the fills (3014 and 3016) of post-holes [3013] and [3015]. Charcoal was identified as oak/ non-oak where possible. A number of possible softwood fragments were observed in the fill (3008) of post-hole [3007]. Charcoal of a suitable size for identification and radiocarbon dating was recovered from the retents of all samples.

Other plant remains A possible acorn (c.f. *Quercus* sp.) cup and a blackthorn/ sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) seed were recovered from the retents from the fill (3016) of post-hole [3015].

A single charred ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) seed and several bulbous internodes of onion couch grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) were recovered from the fill (3008) of post-hole 3007.

Finds A small amount of pottery was recovered from the fills 3006, 3008 and 3014 of post-holes [3017, 3009 and 3015] and will be discussed as the subject of a separate finds report.

Burnt Bone Small fragments of burnt bone amounting to 10g and 2g respectively were recovered from the fills 3016 and 3006 of post-holes [3015 and 3005]. The bone was heavily fragmented and therefore impossible to identify to species level.

Discussion

The environmental remains are neither abundant nor diverse. The presence of charcoal, bone and pottery suggests that the material probably derives from domestic activity but it is unclear where the focus of activity was. It is possible that the presence of underground parts of onion couch is the result of uprooted grass possibly used as tinder. The other botanical remains identified would be in keeping with materials used as tinder, fuel or incidentally charred and are of no major significance.

Although little can be said regarding the function of the features from the environmental assemblage there is evidence for the habitats being exploited. The softwood, non-oak, oak, sloe and couch grass suggest that a variety of habitats were being exploited for fuel. Blackthorn, or sloe, grows in hedgerows, copses and open woodland while onion couch and plantain would have been common in the open ground, hedge bottoms, road-sides and around settlements.

Recommendations

Overall, the assemblage presents little scope for further work.

References

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Table A1

Retent sample results

Context	Sample	Sample Vol (l)	Ceramic	Burnt bone	Charred Seed	Charcoal		Material available for AMS Dating	Comments
			Pottery	Mammal		Qty	Max size (cm)		
3006	1	5	++	++	—	+++	1.3	Charcoal +, Burnt Bone +	Charcoal oak
3008	2	5	++	—	—	+++	1.1	Charcoal +	Charcoal oak
3012	3	2	—	—	—	+++	1.0	Charcoal +	Charcoal oak
3014	4	10	++	+	—	+++	2.8	Charcoal ++	Burnt Bone not retained charcoal non-oak
3016	5	10	—	++++	+	++++	3.0	Charcoal +++++, Burnt Bone +++++	Retent sample contained, Charcoal oak and non-oak (ind. Softwood) – c.f. Quercus cup and Prunus spinosa seed

Key: + = rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

Table A2

Flotation sample results

Context	Sample	Total flot Vol (ml)	Charred plant remains	Charcoal		Material available for AMS	Comments
				Qty	Max size (cm)		
3006	1	25	—	+++	0.5	—	Charcoal oak and non-oak, also contains terrestrial snail shell
3008	2	25	Plantago lanceolata+, Rhizomes +, Arrhenatherum elatius + basal internodes (onion couch grass)	++	<1mm	—	Charcoal non-oak (softwood)
3012	3	5	—	+	<1mm	—	—
3014	4	40	—	+++	<1mm	—	Charcoal non-oak
3016	5	30	—	+++	1.5	Charcoal +	Charcoal oak and non-oak, also contains small burnt bone fragments



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