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Land North-East of KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS Cuffley, Herts.

HN1184

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

[Revision B]

HERITAGE NETWORK

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

Land North-East of KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS Northaw Road East Cuffley, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1184
Planning ref.: pre-application
HER ref: 140/14

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Lands Improvement

by

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The front cover shows the site, looking north

Acknowledgements

The evaluation fieldwork for this project was carried out by Robin Densem, Greg Jones, Daniel Phillips and Mark Sycamore. The report text and illustrations were compiled by Greg Jones and Mark Sycamore and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land North-East of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, EN6 4RD		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Welwyn Hatfield Borough
Village/town:	Cuffley	Parish:	Cuffley
Planning references:	N/a	NGR:	TL 301 020
Client name and address:	Lands Improvement, 10 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1W 0EN		
Nature of work:	New Residential	Current land use:	Minimal cultivation
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	Pre-application	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	Area 1: 4.4ha; Area 2: 0.69ha	Size of area investigated:	Area 1: 1022.5m ² (2.3%); Area 2: 157.5m ² (2.3%)
Site code:	HN1184	Site Code:	-
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Trial trench evaluation	Archive recipient:	Welwyn Hatfield Museum
Start of work:	28/05/2015	Finish of work:	01/06/2015
Related HER nos:	None	Periods represented:	Post-medieval, Modern
OASIS UID:	heritage1-203477	Significant finds:	P/M Brick
Monument types:	Field boundary		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	Dawson, M., 2014 <i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment at Northaw Road, Cuffley, Hertfordshire</i> . CGMS Consulting Slater, J., 2014 <i>Land at Cuffley, Hertfordshire: Geophysical Survey Report</i> . Stratascan		

Synopsis:

In order to investigate the archaeological potential of land to the north-east of the King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in order to characterise data collected in desk-based research and a geophysical survey. This work is intended to advise a planning application for the development of the site for housing.

Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site, which is currently under cultivation. Two land boundaries were located and each was investigated in two separate trenches. Both survived as vestigial remains, heavily truncated by ploughing, but both had been previously identified from historic mapping and from the geophysical survey. The eastern of the two land boundaries, recorded in Trenches 3 and 17, represents the 17th century boundary to Theobald's Park; the western boundary, recorded in Trenches 6 and 12, continues the line of a boundary fossilised by South Drive, to the north, which is first shown on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map and was extant until at least 1960.

No evidence for the presence of archaeological remains of any period, except the post-medieval, was encountered in the course of the evaluation of the present site. The post-medieval remains were limited to two linear boundaries that survive as heavily truncated vestigial remains, whose location is clearly recorded on historic mapping.

The cumulative results of the three stages of investigation of the present site indicate that the risk that proposed development might disturb remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *Very Low* for all periods except the post-medieval. The two relict post-medieval boundaries are of local interest only and have been heavily degraded. It is considered that the record of these features, encompassed by the present investigations, represents adequate mitigation of their possible loss. Further investigation of the features is unlikely to recover any viable additional archaeological information.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *Lands Improvement*, as part of a programme of archaeological work carried out in advance of the proposed development of two sites located on Northaw Road East, Cuffley, Hertfordshire.

1.2 In line with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and in line with pre-application advice provided by the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological adviser to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC), three incremental stages of work have been undertaken in order to advise WHBC in advance of the determination of an application for planning consent for the proposed development.

1.3 The present work represents the third stage of investigation and took the form of trial trenching, intended to characterise the archaeological potential defined in the foregoing stages.

1.4 The desk-based assessment that formed the first stage of investigation, has indicated that the potential for encountering archaeological remains from the early post-medieval period, associated with the boundary to Theobalds Park, is high (Dawson 2014). The report stated that there is a lesser risk of encountering remains dating from earlier periods.

1.5 The geophysical survey that formed the second stage of investigation, recorded two linear anomalies in Area 1 that represent former field boundaries visible on historic mapping. A small discrete positive anomaly in the east of Area 1 was considered to have a possible archaeological origin, but a variety of other anomalies across the site were not considered to be significant (Slater 2014).

1.6 Both sites lie on the eastern side of Northaw Road East. Area 1 consists of an arable field located to the south-west of Cuffley School and north-east of the King George V Playing Fields, centered on NGR TL 304 020. It measures 4.89ha, and lies on a south facing slope. Area 2 is a small area of former arable land lying 150 metres to the south-west of Area 1, adjacent to the western corner of the playing fields and fronting on to Northaw Road East. It measures 0.63ha (Figure 2).

1.7 The aim of the evaluation has been to establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, to consider the local and regional, archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality in relation to current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and to offer recommendations on an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development, should it go ahead.

1.8 It was considered that the work had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of settlement in Cuffley from the prehistoric period onwards, and of the development of the rural economy in the medieval period.

1.9 The proposed development entails the construction of housing, with associated garages, outbuildings, services, landscaping and access.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area lies just outside the historic core of Cuffley. The site is situated on land that varies in height between approximately 55 and 69mAOD.

2.2 The local soils belong to the Windsor Association over Tertiary Clay described as *slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils. Some fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils and, locally on slopes, clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging* (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology consists of clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation (BGS).

STRATEGY

2.3 Trial trenching forms the third stage in an incremental process of investigation on the present site, intended to characterise the archaeological potential defined in the foregoing desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.

- The desk-based assessment concluded that the site had a low or very low potential for remains dating to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods. The report did note, however, that evidence relating to the former perimeter of Theobalds Park was expected to survive within the study area (Dawson 2014).
- The detailed gradiometry survey recorded two linear anomalies in Area 1, that equate to field boundaries illustrated on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map, and an anomaly interpreted as a possible pit. The remaining recorded features were interpreted as being of modern origin, including agricultural marks, modern services, and various forms of magnetic disturbance and debris (Slater 2014).

2.4 The trial trenching was intended to establish the nature of the stratigraphic sequence while minimising unnecessary destruction of the archaeological resource. The trenches were targeted both on geophysical anomalies and on potential ‘blank’ areas in order to allow meaningful conclusions to be drawn.

METHODOLOGY

2.5 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.6 All trenches were excavated using a 20-tonne tracked 360-degree excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless bucket. In Area 1, 19 linear trenches were excavated, each nominally measuring 25 x 2m, with an additional 5 x 5m trench located across the possible pit identified by geophysics at the eastern end of the site. In practice, a total area of 1022.5m² was opened up, representing a 2.3% sample of the 4.4ha site by area. In Area 2, 3 linear trenches were excavated, each nominally measuring 25 x 2m. In practice, a total area of 157.5m² was opened up, representing a 2.3% sample of the 0.69ha site by area.

2.7 The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate, and spoil from the machining was scanned visually and using a metal detector for archaeological artefacts.

2.8 The exposed area was subsequent cleaned by hand, and potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.9 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:20.

RESULTS

2.10 Twenty three trial trenches were opened across the two areas of the proposed development site (Figure 2), following an agreed tracking route to minimise crop damage. All of the trenches measured 25m by 2.1m, with the exception of trench 19 which measured 5m by 5m.

2.11 The stratigraphy across the site consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) sandy clay topsoil, c.0.20 – 0.30m deep, overlying mixed 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact sandy clay and 10YR 6/3 pale brown firm clay natural (Plates 21 & 30).

Trench 1

2.12 Trench 1 was located in the south-eastern corner of Area 1, by the entrance to the field (Figure 2). It was orientated NE-SW and measured 25m in length by 2.1m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.41m (Figure 2, Plate 1).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.41	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	58.27	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	57.23
		Base	57.95			Base	56.77
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)			
				Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay silt topsoil		-	-	c.0.28	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown sandy clay natural		-	-	> 0.13	

2.13 No archaeological finds, cut features or deposits were revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.14 Trench 2 was located in the western half of Area 1 and was orientated east-west. It was specifically positioned to pick up scattered magnetic debris revealed during the geophysical survey which had potential to be of an archaeological origin (Figure 2, Plate 2).

Recorded Data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.55	Orientation	W-E
Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.39	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.40
		Base	61.16			Base	60.89
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)			
				Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay silt topsoil		-	-	c.0.35	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown sandy clay natural		-	-	> 0.2	

2.15 No evidence of archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 2. The magnetic debris is unlikely to be of archaeological origin.

Trench 3

2.16 Trench 3 (Plate 3) was located in the south-west corner of Area 1 and was positioned to pick up a NW-SE linear revealed during the geophysical survey (Figure 2). This linear corresponds with the boundary to Theobalds Park recorded on historic mapping.

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.5	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	59.34	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	57.83
		Base	58.88			Base	57.38
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)			
				Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay topsoil		-	-	c.0.4	
301	Cut	Irregular linear with irregular sides and base. Orientated NW-SE. Contained Fill (302).		>2.1	c.2	c.0.45	
302	Fill	10YR 4/3 brown firm sandy clay. Fill of [301], contained 6 fragments of 18 th /19 th C. brick and 1 fragment of pig tile.		>2.1	c.2	c.0.45	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown compact sandy clay natural		-	-	> 0.08	

2.17 Excavation revealed a shallow irregular linear feature [301] in the centre of the trench and orientated northwest-southeast (Figures 3 & 4, Plate 4). The fill (302) consisted of firm brown sandy clay and contained six fragments of brick dating to the late 18th /early 19th centuries, one fragment of post-medieval peg tile and a small sherd of black glass from a late post-medieval wine bottle.

2.18 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 3.

Trench 4

2.19 Trench 4 was located to the northwest of Trench 3 parallel to the south-western boundary of the Area 1 (Figure 2, Plate 5).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.5	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.48	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.68
			Base	59.09				Base	59.11
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay silt topsoil	-	-	c.0.2				
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown sandy clay natural	-	-	0.2				
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural	-	-	>0.1				

2.20 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 4.

Trench 5

2.21 Trench 5 was located to the northeast of Trench 4 roughly parallel to the south-western boundary of Area 1 and located specifically to target a potential linear feature which could be a land drain (Figure 2, Plate 6).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.6	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	61.41	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.28
			Base	60.79				Base	58.84
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay silt topsoil	-	-	c.0.27				
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown sandy clay natural	-	-	> 0.3				

2.22 The linear feature identified from the geophysics was revealed to be a land drain as anticipated. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 5 (Plate 6).

Trench 6

2.23 Trench 6 (Plate 7) was located in the central southern portion of Area 1 and was specifically positioned to pick up a NW-SE linear revealed during the geophysical survey (Figure 2). This linear corresponded with a field boundary identified on historic mapping from at least 1879.

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.72	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	58.20	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	58.22
			Base	57.58				Base	57.40
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.4	
601	Cut	Irregular linear with irregular sides and an irregular base. Contained fill (102). Hedgerow boundary.				>2.1	c.2	c.0.35	
602	Fill	10YR 4/3 brown firm sandy clay. Fill of [601], contained late post-medieval brick fragments.				>2.1	c.2	c.0.35	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	c.0.28	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 0.04	

2.24 Excavation revealed a shallow irregular linear feature [601] in the centre of the trench and orientated northwest-southeast (Figure 5&6, Plate 8). The fill (602) consisted of firm brown sandy clay and contained 2 fragments of brick dating to the late 18th /early 19th centuries.

2.25 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 6.

Trench 7

2.26 Trench 7 was located to the northeast of Trench 6 roughly perpendicular to the south-western boundary of Area 1 and located specifically to target potential linear features which could both be land drains (Figure 2, Plate 7).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.57	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.65	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.33
			Base	59.22				Base	58.76
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)				
					Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural			-	-	c.0.29		
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay			-	-	c.0.26		
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural			-	-	> 0.02		

2.27 The linear features identified from the geophysics were both revealed to be land drains as anticipated. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were located in Trench 7 (Plate 9).

Trench 8

2.28 Trench 8 was located to the east of Trench 7 roughly perpendicular to the south-western boundary of Area 1 and located specifically to target potential furrow features identified in the geophysical survey (Figure 2, Plate 10).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.46	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.22	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.30
		Base	60.67			Base	60.94
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural			-	-	c.0.28
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay			-	-	> 0.18

2.29 No evidence of agricultural furrows was observed during excavation. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 8 (Plate 10).

Trench 9

2.30 Trench 9 was located to the northeast of Trench 8, in the western corner of Area 1, parallel to the south-western boundary (Figure 2, Plate 11).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.5	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	64.84	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	63.46
		Base	64.46			Base	62.84
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural			-	-	c.0.25
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay			-	-	c.0.1
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural			-	-	> 0.15

2.31 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 9 (Plate 11).

Trench 10

2.32 Trench 10 was located to the north of Trench 9, in the north western corner of Area 1, (Figure 2, Plate 12).

Recorded Data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.7	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	64.20	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	63.80
		Base	63.76			Base	63.26
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural			-	-	c.0.4
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay			-	-	c.0.25
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural			-	-	> 0.05

2.33 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 10 (Plate 12).

Trench 11

2.34 Trench 11 was located to the southeast of Trench 10, in the western corner of Area 1, parallel to the south-western boundary (Figure 2, Plate 13).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.5	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	61.93	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	60.99
			Base	61.31				Base	60.57
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Laver	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	> 0.2	

2.35 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 11.

Trench 12

2.36 Trench 12 (Plate 14) was located in the northern central portion of Area 1 and was specifically positioned to pick up a NW-SE linear revealed during the geophysical survey (Figure 2). This linear corresponded with a field boundary hedge that was visible on early Ordnance Survey mapping and was a continuation of the boundary uncovered in Trench 6.

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.7	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.85	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	60.38
			Base	59.22				Base	59.74
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown compact sandy clay topsoil				-	-	c.0.3	
1201	Cut	Irregular linear with linear sides and an irregular base. Contained fill (1202). Boundary hedgerow, same as [603].				>2.1	c.1.1	c.0.3	
1202	Fill	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown compact sandy clay. Fill of [1201], contained 1 fragment of late 18 th / early 19 th century.				>2.1	c.1.1	c.0.3	
-	Laver	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown firm clay natural.				-	-	>0.4	

2.37 Excavation revealed an irregular linear feature [1201] roughly in the centre of the trench and orientated northwest-southeast (Plate 15). The fill (1202) consisted of yellowish brown compact sandy clay and contained a fragment of brick dating to the late 18th /early 19th centuries. This feature was a continuation of the hedgerow boundary revealed in Trench 6.

2.38 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 12.

Trench 13

2.39 Trench 13 was located to the east of Trench 12, parallel to the north-eastern boundary of Area 1, It was positioned to investigate a potential linear feature (Figure 2, Plate 16).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.65	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	64.02	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top	62.97
			Base	63.14				Base	62.47
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Laver	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 0.05	

2.40 The linear feature identified by geophysics was revealed to be a land drain. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 13 (Plate 16).

Trench 14

2.41 Trench 14 was located to the southeast of Trench 13, in the central portion of Area 1, parallel to the north-eastern boundary (Figure 2, Plate 17).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.8	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	66.14	Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	67.40
			Base	65.36				Base	66.84
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)				
					Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural			-	-	c.0.2		
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay			-	-	c.0.3		
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural			-	-	> 1.3		

2.42 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 14 (Plate 17).

Trench 15

2.43 Trench 15 was located to the south of Trench 14, in the eastern half of Area 1, orientated north-south (Figure 2, Plate 18).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.4	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	65.36	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top	63.24
			Base	63.84				Base	62.00
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 0.8	

2.44 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 15 (Plate 18).

Trench 16

2.45 Trench 16 was located to the north-east of Trench 15, in the north-eastern corner of Area 1, (Figure 2, Plate 19).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.2	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	66.42	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	65.62
			Base	65.30				Base	63.74
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.2	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	c.0.34	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 0.66	

2.46 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 16 (Plate 19).

Trench 17

2.47 Trench 17 (Plate 20 & 21) was located in the west corner of Area 1 and was specifically positioned to pick up a NW-SE linear revealed during the geophysical survey (Figure 2). This linear corresponded with a field boundary that was visible on early Ordnance Survey mapping and was a continuation of the boundary uncovered in Trench 3.

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.5	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	63.16	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	61.25
			Base	61.89				Base	59.85
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown compact sandy clay topsoil				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown firm clay				-	-	c.0.4	
1701	Cut	Irregular linear with irregular sides and an irregular base. Contained fill (1702). Hedgerow boundary same as [301].				>2.1	1.4	c.0.2	
1702	Fill	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact sandy clay. Fill of [1701], contained late 18 th / early 19 th century brick.				>2.1	1.4	c.0.2	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 pale brown clay natural				-	-	> 0.8	

2.48 Excavation revealed an irregular linear feature [1701] in the centre of the trench and orientated northwest-southeast (Figure 5&6, Plate 22). The fill (1702) consisted of yellowish brown compact sandy clay and contained a brick fragment dating to the late 18th / early 19th centuries. This feature was a continuation of the hedgerow boundary revealed in Trench 3.

2.49 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 17.

Trench 18

2.50 Trench 18 was located to the immediate east of Trench 2, in the western half of Area 1, and was orientated north-south. It was positioned to investigate potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey (Figure 2, Plate 18).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.7	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	62.11	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top	59.59
			Base	60.83				Base	57.95
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	c.0.4	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 1.0	

2.51 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 18 (Plate 23).

Trench 19

2.52 Trench 19 was located to the southeast of Trench 18, in the south-western corner of Area 1. Trench 19 was a small trench measuring 5m by 5m, designed specifically to target a magnetic spike picked up by the geophysical survey (Figure 2, Plate 24).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	5	Width (m):	5		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.6	Orientation	N/A	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	57.50	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	57.27
			Base	56.05				Base	55.57
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.25	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay				-	-	c.0.3	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 1.1	

2.53 Despite the magnetic response, excavation did not reveal any archaeological features, deposits or finds in Trench 19 (Plate 24).

Trench 20

2.54 Trench 20 was located in the south-eastern corner of Area 1, to the immediate south of Trench 19, orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 2, Plate 25).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.55	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	56.50	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	55.29
			Base	55.20				Base	53.84
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural	-	-	c.0.25				
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 yellowish brown compact clay	-	-	c.0.3				
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural	-	-	> 1.0				

2.55 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 20 (Plate 25).

Trench 21

2.56 Trench 21 was located in the northern half of Area 2 and orientated north-south (Figure 2, Plate 26).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	>2.1	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top	54.48	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top	53.33
			Base	53.25				Base	52.33
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural				-	-	c.0.25	
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural				-	-	> 1.75	

2.57 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 21 (Plate 26).

Trench 22

2.58 Trench 22 was located in the centre of Area 2, to the southwest of Trench 21 and orientated east - west (Figure 2, Plate 28).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1		Maximum Depth (m):	c.2.0	Orientation	E-W	
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)			Top	54.55	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)			Top	54.77
			Base	53.21				Base	53.76
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural	-	-	-				
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural	-	-	c1.5				

2.59 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 22 (Plate 28).

Trench 23

2.60 Intro information Trench 23 was located to the southwest of Trench 22, in the south western corner of Area 1, orientated north south (Figure 2, Plate 29).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.1	Maximum Depth (m):	c.1.4	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	55.70	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	54.76
		Base	54.61			Base	53.49
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Layer	10YR 4/3 brown sandy clay natural			-	-	c.0.3
-	Layer	10YR 6/3 Pale brown compact clay natural			-	-	>1.1

2.61 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 23 (Plate 29).

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Finds concordance

Context	Brick		Tile		Glass	
	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)
302	7	1285	1	60	1	3
602	1	85				
1202	1	5				
1702	1	40				

Brick

2.62 10 brick fragments, weighing 1415g, was recovered from 4 stratified contexts. All of the fragments dated to the late 18th / early 19th centuries.

2.63 Given the small size of the assemblage, and their fragmentary condition, no further work is proposed on this material.

Tile

2.64 One fragment of abraded peg tile was uncovered from 1 stratified context. This fragment is likely to date to the late post-medieval period.

Recommendations

2.65 Due to the recent and undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Glass

2.66 One small sherd of black bottle glass was uncovered from 1 stratified context. This sherd comes from a wine bottle and dates to the late 18th / early 19th century.

Recommendations

2.67 Due to the recent date of this artefact, no further work is proposed.

3 Discussion

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Both investigation areas lie on the eastern side of Northaw Road East. Area 1 consists of an arable field located to the south-west of Cuffley School and north-east of the King George V Playing Fields, centered on NGR TL 304 020. It measures 4.4ha, and lies on a south facing slope. Area 2 is a small area of former arable land lying 150 metres to the south-west of Area 1, adjacent to the western corner of the playing fields and fronting on to Northaw Road East. It measures 0.69ha (Figure 1).

3.2 In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site. The overview set out below has been drawn from the Hertfordshire *Historic Environment Record* (HER), our own records and other sources. In 2014, a desk-based assessment was carried out (Dawson 2014) with the study area covering a radius of 1km from the centre of Area 1.

- The evidence for prehistoric activity is restricted to some flint finds. Three Mesolithic flint blades and wasters (HER 6262) have been found 650m to the north of the study area. A single late prehistoric flint has been found 950m to the north-east, near Cuffley Brook (HHER 2066).
- No Roman finds have been identified within the proposed development site. However, sections of a Roman Road have been identified 1km to the north-east of the study area, following the line of the Ridgeway. The road ran west to east from Verulamium (St Albans) but was only short-lived and was replaced by a route through Newgate Street, 2km to the north of the study area. The absence of settlement or agricultural evidence throughout the Roman period suggests the landscape may have remained predominantly woodland.
- Cuffley is located in the medieval parish of Northaw. The landscape of the Northaw area was mostly wooded during the Anglo-Saxon period.
- Little evidence remains from the medieval period. The place-name suggests clearance or assarting during the 12th century or earlier. A well, which contained a pair of medieval shoes and may therefore date to the medieval or early post-medieval period, was found 700m to the north (HER 1880).
- The landscape of the area may have been slowly cleared of woodland during the late medieval or early post-medieval periods, to form common land. When the eastern end of Area 1 was incorporated into Theobalds Parks, the land was recorded as being part of Northaw Common. Theobalds Park was a large deer park centred on Theobalds House at Cheshunt, 6km to the east of the study site.
- Cuffley was first recorded as 'Kuffele' in 1228. The name is believed to be from a personal name, 'Cuffa' and 'leah' meaning clearing in a wood.

3.3 Throughout the post-medieval period and to the present day, both sites appear to have been agricultural fields. The boundary line of Theobalds Park appears to survive in the cartographic record until the 1960s.

3.4 A geophysical survey (Slater 2014) identified two former field boundaries in Area 1 as the only probable archaeology on the site. A possible archaeological anomaly was also identified in the east of Area 1, but it was recognised that could equally be of natural or agricultural origin. The remaining anomalies were considered to be of modern origin, relating to agricultural activity, a buried service, land drains, scattered magnetic debris, ferrous objects and fencing.

3.5 The features identified in the geophysical survey are included in Figure 2.

RESEARCH DESIGN

3.6 The aim of the evaluation has been to establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, to consider the local and regional, archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality in relation to current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and to offer recommendations on an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development, should it go ahead.

3.7 It was considered that the work had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of settlement in Cuffley from the prehistoric period onwards, and of the development of the rural economy in the medieval period.

COLLECTED DATA

3.8 The archaeological evaluation revealed two heavily truncated land boundaries in four of the trenches, both of which can be identified in historic mapping and both of which were shown in the results of the geophysical survey. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in the course of the work.

3.9 The eastern of the two land boundaries, recorded in Trenches 3 and 17, represents the 17th century boundary to Theobald's Park; the western boundary, recorded in Trenches 6 and 12, continues the line of a boundary fossilised by South Drive, to the north, which is first shown on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map and was extant until at least 1960.

DISCUSSION

3.10 The present programme of trial trenching represents the third stage in an incremental process of investigation to establish and characterise the archaeological potential of the site, prior to the submission and determination of an application for outline planning consent for its development.

3.11 The preliminary desk-based assessment suggested that the present site had a low or very low archaeological potential. The evidence suggests that the area remained largely wooded until the late medieval period, when clearance established common fields serving the village of Cuffley to the north.

3.12 The subsequent geophysical survey encompassed the whole site. While clay geology can often give a poor response to magnetic survey, the recorded presence of weak anomalies such as deep-laid land drains, suggests that the survey was successful and that the paucity of anomalies of likely archaeological origin is a reliable indicator of archaeological potential.

3.13 Recognising that such conclusions cannot be considered to be definitive without being tested by intrusive investigation, a programme of trial trenching was undertaken in order to test the conclusions of the foregoing reports. The number and location of the trenches were considered sufficient to provide a reasonable and objective sample of the site based on the previously collected data.

3.14 Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site. Identified archaeological features were limited to two land boundaries, each of which was investigated in two separate trenches. Both survived as vestigial remains, heavily truncated by ploughing, but both had been previously identified from historic mapping and from the geophysical survey, and both are

considered to be post-medieval in date. No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were present in any of the trial trenches.

ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RISK

3.15 On the basis of the results of three incremental stages of archaeological investigation, the risk that proposed development of Areas 1 and 2 might disturb remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be *Very Low* for all periods except the post-medieval.

3.16 Two relict post-medieval boundaries were recorded in the two stages of fieldwork and both are shown on historic mapping. The intrusive investigation of these boundaries demonstrate that they survive as vestigial features only, heavily truncated by ploughing. No meaningful data was extracted from the features beyond their actual location. Although there is a *High* risk that the proposed development would damage or destroy them, the archaeological significance of these features, which are of local interest and have been heavily degraded, may be considered to be *Minor*.

MITIGATION

3.17 No evidence for the presence of archaeological remains of any period, except the post-medieval, was encountered in the course of the evaluation of the present site. The post-medieval remains were limited to two linear boundaries that survive as heavily truncated vestigial remains, whose location is clearly recorded on historic mapping.

3.18 It is considered that the record of these features, encompassed by the present investigations, represents adequate mitigation of their possible loss. Further investigation of the features is unlikely to recover any viable additional archaeological information.

CONFIDENCE RATING

3.19 The conclusions of the present report draw upon and depend on the results of two foregoing stages of work:

- The desk-based assessment of the site (Dawson 2014) drew upon existing documentary and cartographic sources to establish its archaeological and historic context. While it might have benefitted from consideration of historic aerial photographs, the subsequent investigations have supported its conclusions.
- The geophysical survey of the site (Slater 2014) recorded a variety of weak anomalies that often do not show up in clay soils. This factor supports the conclusion that anomalies that might be associated with archaeological activity would have shown up, had they been present. Two linear features, which were subsequently shown to survive only as vestigial remains, were recorded and further support this conclusion.

3.20 The sample size for the evaluation stage was guided by the results of the geophysical survey in particular. A reasonable number of recorded magnetic were targeted, including all those considered to be of archaeological interest, and a sample of blank areas, sufficient to confirm that potential archaeological features were not being masked. Spoil was scanned visually and using a metal detector to recover any artefacts that might have been scoured from buried features as a result of ploughing. No significant unstratified artefacts were recovered. Weather and ground conditions, during the course of the fieldwork, were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

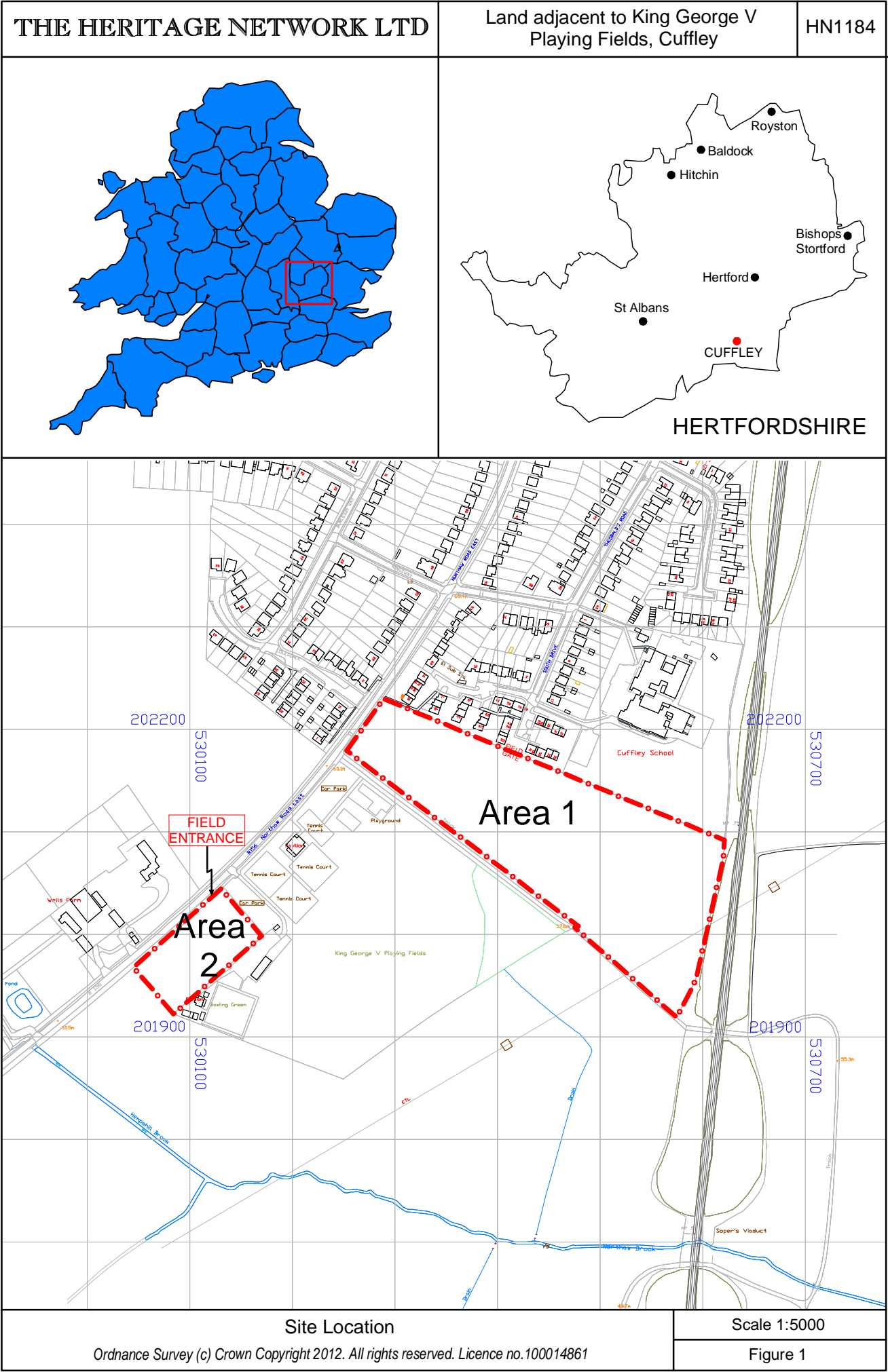
3.21 On this basis, the confidence rating for the work and its conclusions may be considered to be *High*.

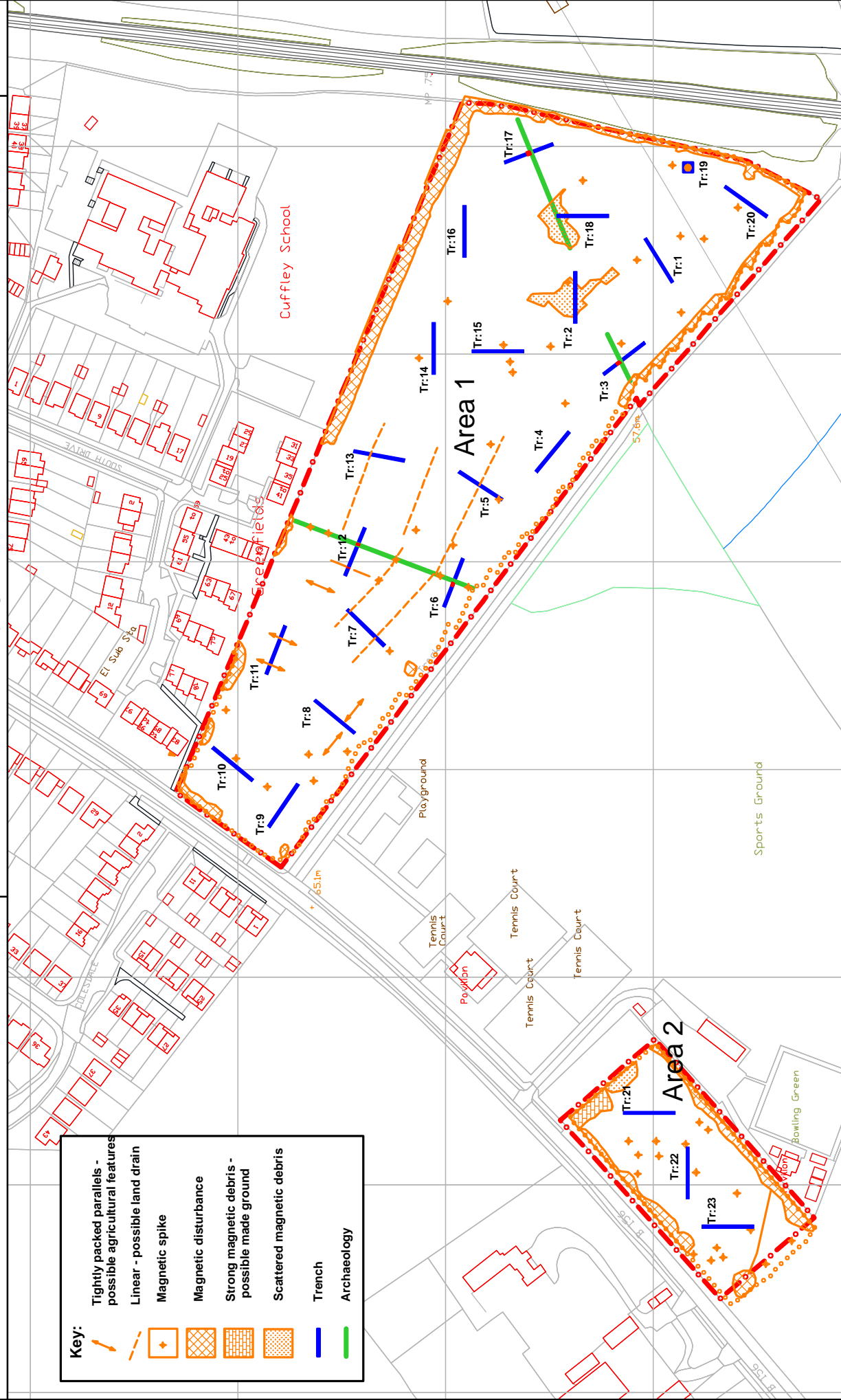
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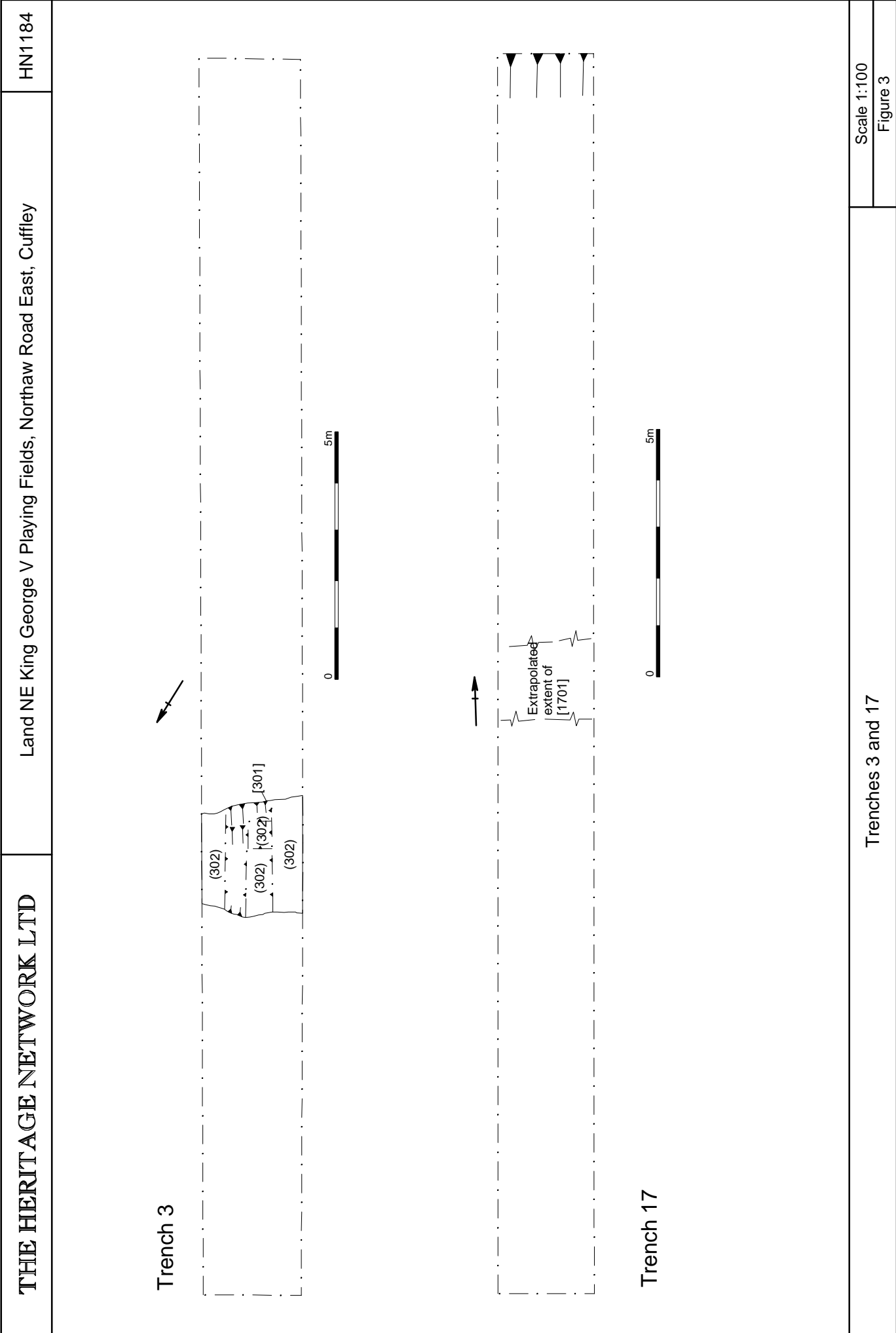
5 Illustrations

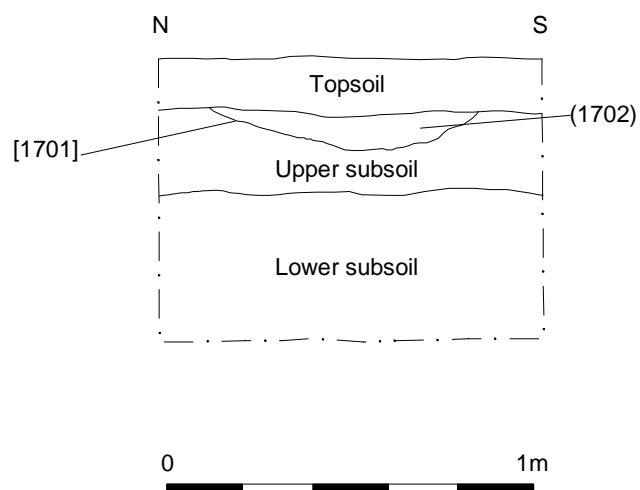
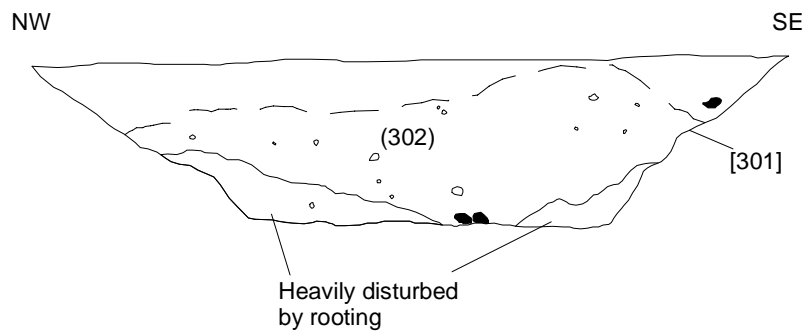
Figure 1.....	Site location
Figure 2.....	Trench locations
Figure 3.....	Trenches 3 and 17: Plans
Figure 4.....	Trenches 3 and 17: Sections
Figure 5.....	Trenches 6 and 12: Plans
Figure 6.....	Trenches 6 and 12: Sections
Plate 1.....	Trench 1, looking SW
Plate 2.....	Trench 2, looking W
Plate 3.....	Trench 3, looking SE
Plate 4.....	Ditch [301], looking NE
Plate 5.....	Trench 4, looking NW
Plate 6.....	Trench 5, looking N
Plate 7.....	Trench 6, looking W
Plate 8.....	Ditch [601], looking W
Plate 9.....	Trench 7, looking NE
Plate 10.....	Trench 8, looking SW
Plate 11.....	Trench 9, looking SW
Plate 12.....	Trench 10, looking NE
Plate 13.....	Trench 11, looking E
Plate 14.....	Trench 12, looking E
Plate 15.....	Ditch [1201], looking NE
Plate 16.....	Trench 13, looking NE
Plate 17.....	Trench 14, looking SE
Plate 18.....	Trench 15, looking S
Plate 19.....	Trench 16, looking NW
Plate 20.....	Trench 17, looking S
Plate 21.....	Trench 17, section, looking E
Plate 22.....	Ditch [1701], looking E
Plate 23.....	Trench 18, looking N
Plate 24.....	Trench 19, looking W
Plate 25.....	Trench 20, looking SW
Plate 26.....	Trench 21, looking N
Plate 27.....	Trench 21, sondage, looking W
Plate 28.....	Trench 22, looking W
Plate 29.....	Trench 23, looking N
Plate 30.....	Trench 23, section, looking W





Trench locations overlying geophysical results

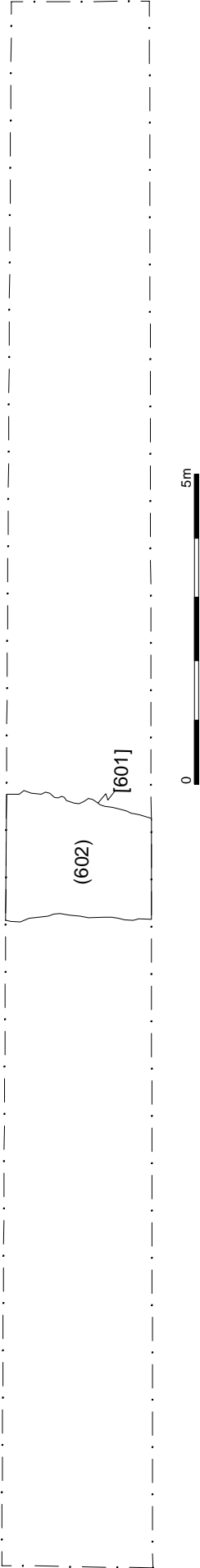
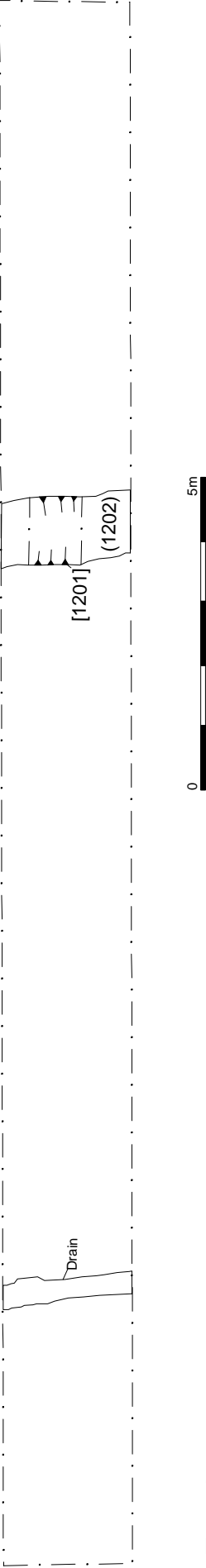


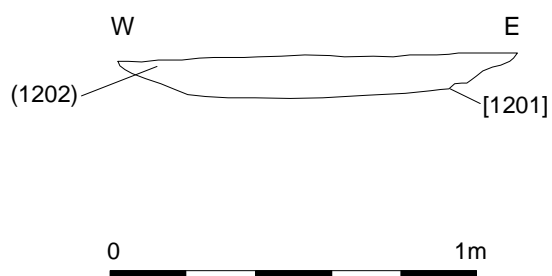
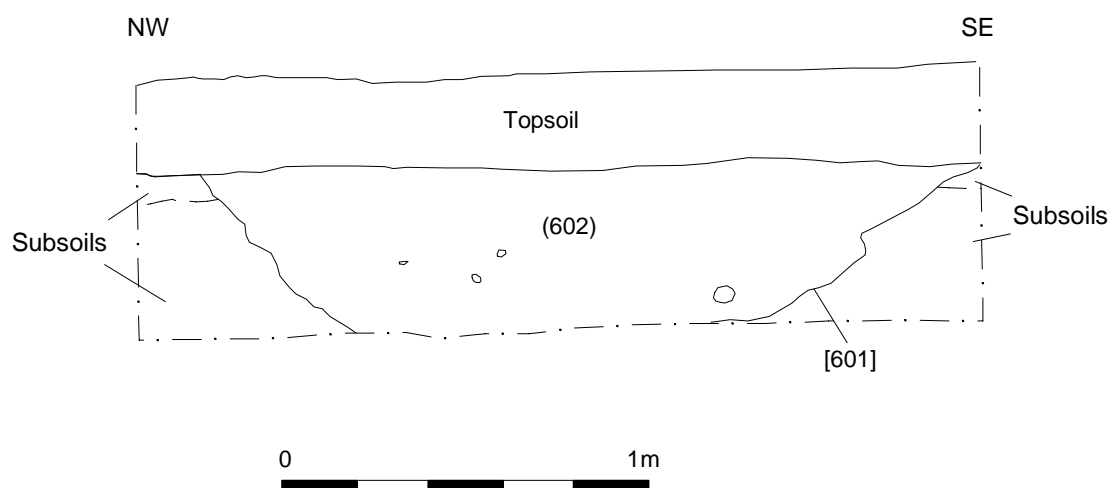


Sections of hedgerow boundary [301] and [1701]

Scale 1:20

Figure 4

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land NE of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road, Cuffley	HN1184
<div data-bbox="331 1944 363 2078">Trench 6</div>  <div data-bbox="1150 1921 1182 2078">Trench 12</div> 		
Trenches 6 and 12		
		Scale 1:100
		Figure 5



Sections of Hedgerow Boundary [601] and [1201]

Scale 1:20

Figure 6



Plate 01 - Trench 1, looking SW



Plate 02 - Trench 2, looking W



Plate 03 - Trench 3, looking SE



Plate 04 - Feature [301], looking NE



Plate 05 - Trench 4, looking NW



Plate 06 - Trench 5, looking N



Plate 07 - Trench 6, looking W



Plate 08 - Feature 601, looking NE



Plate 09 - Trench 7, looking NE



Plate 10 - Trench 8, looking SW



Plate 11 - Trench 9, looking SW



Plate 12 - Trench 10, looking NE



Plate 13 - Trench 11, looking E



Plate 14 - Trench 12, looking E



Plate 15 - Feature 1201, looking NE



Plate 16 - Trench 13, looking NE



Plate 17 - Trench 14, looking SE



Plate 18 - Trench 15, looking S



Plate 19 - Trench 16, looking NW



Plate 20 - Trench 17, looking S



Plate 21 - Trench 17, section, looking E



Plate 22 - Feature 1701, looking E



Plate 23 - Trench 18, looking N



Plate 24 - Trench 19, looking W



Plate 25 - Trench 20, looking SW



Plate 26 - Trench 21, looking N



Plate 27 - Trench 21, sondage, looking W



Plate 28 - Trench 22, looking W



Plate 29 - Trench 23, looking N



Plate 30 - Trench 23, section, looking W

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Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: <i>heritage1-203477</i>	
Project name	Land North-East of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, EN6 4RD
Short description of the project	<p>In order to investigate the archaeological potential of land to the north-east of the King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in order to characterise data collected in desk-based research and a geophysical survey. This work is intended to advise a planning application for the development of the site for housing.</p> <p>Twenty-three trenches were excavated across the site, which is currently under cultivation. Two land boundaries were located and each was investigated in two separate trenches. Both survived as vestigial remains, heavily truncated by ploughing, but both had been previously identified from historic mapping and from the geophysical survey. The eastern of the two land boundaries, recorded in Trenches 3 and 17, represents the 17th century boundary to Theobald's Park; the western boundary, recorded in Trenches 6 and 12, continues the line of a boundary fossilised by South Drive, to the north, which is first shown on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map and was extant until at least 1960.</p> <p>No evidence for the presence of archaeological remains of any period, except the post-medieval, was encountered in the course of the evaluation of the present site. The post-medieval remains were limited to two linear boundaries that survive as heavily truncated vestigial remains, whose location is clearly recorded on historic mapping.</p> <p>The cumulative results of the three stages of investigation of the present site indicate that the risk that proposed development might disturb remains of archaeological significance may be considered to be <i>Very Low</i> for all periods except the post-medieval. The two relict post-medieval boundaries are of local interest only and have been heavily degraded. It is considered that the record of these features, encompassed by the present investigations, represents adequate mitigation of their possible loss. Further investigation of the features is unlikely to recover any viable additional archaeological information.</p>
Project dates	Start: 28-05-2015 End: 01-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1184 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	Ditch
Significant Finds	Ceramic Modern
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE, CUFFLEY, Land NE of Northaw Road East
Study area	c. 51847m ²
Site coordinates	NGR - TL 301 020
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52.33m Max: 67.4m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Proj Design originator	Heritage Network
Project director	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lands Improvement, 10 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1W 0EN
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Welwyn and Hatfield Museum Services
Physical Contents	None
Digital Archive recipient	Welwyn and Hatfield Museum Services
Digital Media	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Welwyn and Hatfield Museum Services
Paper Media	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Project bibliography	
Title	Land North-East of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road, Cuffley, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report no: 937
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth
Description	A4 bound paper report with green cover, 20 text pages, 6 figures, 30 plates