

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme number: TR010066

6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

Appendix 6.3 Assessment Report for Archaeological Watching Brief

APFP Regulations 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 6

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Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009**

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
Development Consent Order 202[x]

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDICES
Appendix 6.3 Assessment Report for
Archaeological Watching Brief

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Rev 0	November 2024	Application Issue

JIWC23



A46, WALSGRAVE, COVENTRY

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Octavius Infrastructure

December 2023

A46, WALSGRAVE, COVENTRY

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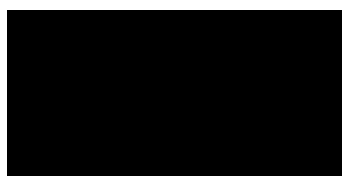
PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **JIWC23** / HA Report No **2023-124** / NGR **SP 38180 79419** /
Parish **Coventry** / Local Authority **Coventry City Council** / Fieldwork Date **22/05/23 - 23/05/23** / OASIS Ref.
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PROJECT SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd during the excavation of three ground investigation test pits, ahead of proposed upgrade works to the A46/B4082 roundabout on the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.

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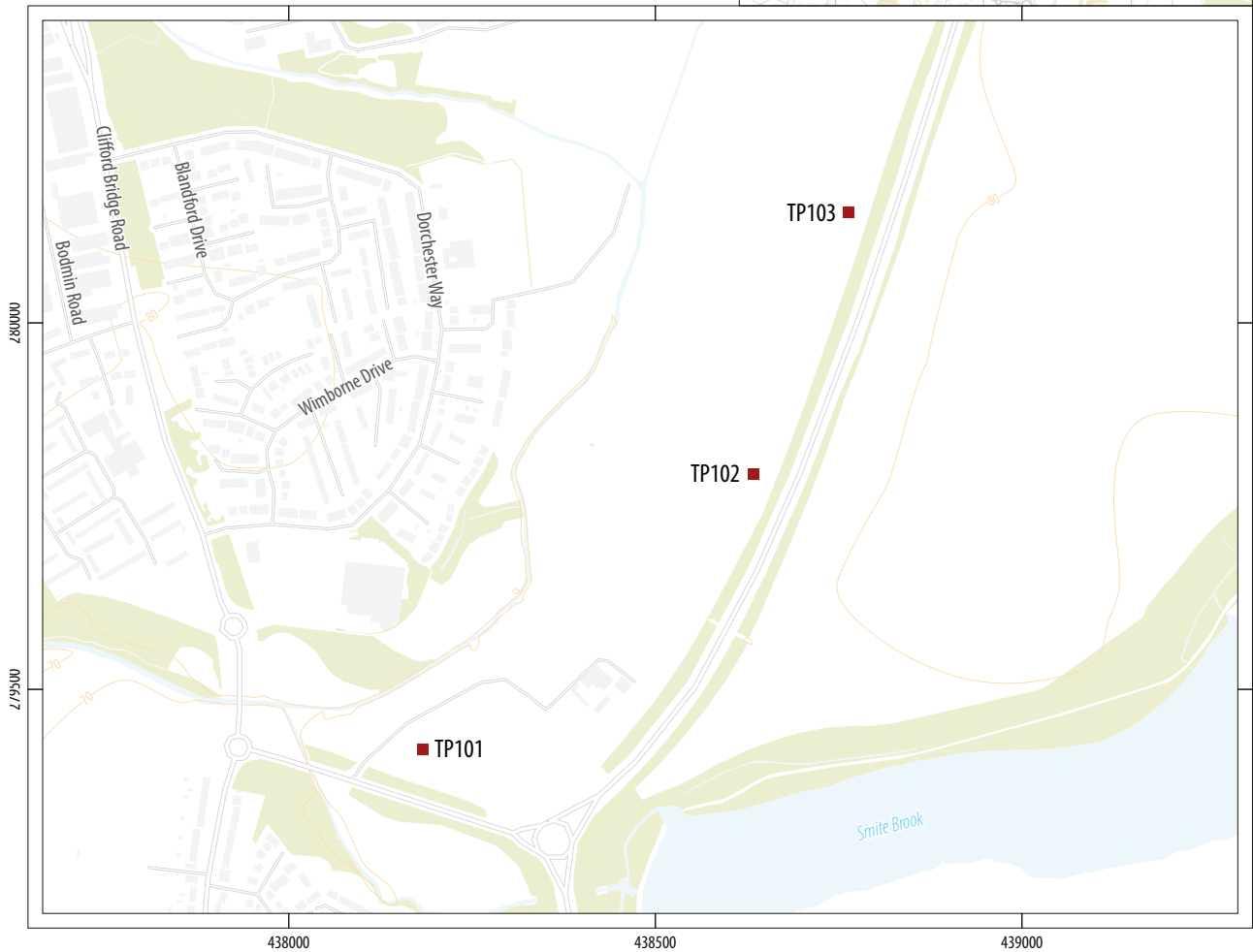
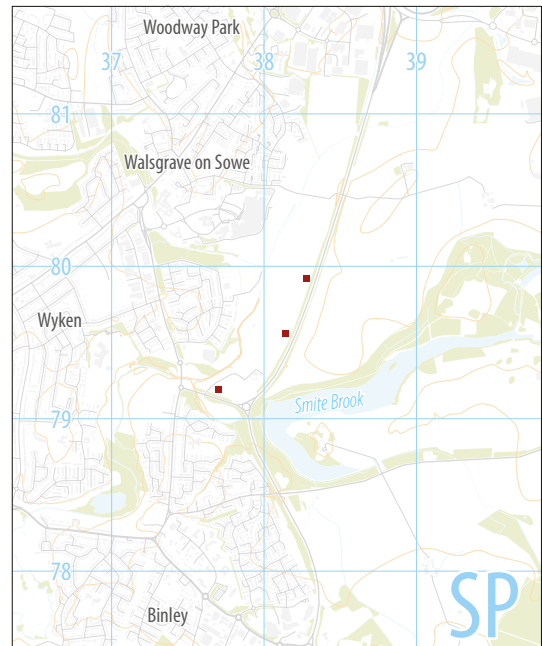
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A46 Junction Improvements
Walsgrave
Coventry

0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 200m
1:10,000 @ A4

■ proposed trial pit



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A46, WALSGRAVE, COVENTRY

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd were commissioned by Octavius Infrastructure (the client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief in relation to ground investigation (GI) works ahead of proposed upgrade works on the A46/B4082 roundabout in the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass.

No planning application has yet been submitted. Highways England intends to submit an application to grant a development consent order (DCO) for the A46 Walsgrave Junction. A program of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be implemented in the near future to support the application.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was commissioned and produced covering the scope of the project (Headland Archaeology 2023) and archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the 22nd May and 23rd May 2023. This report presents the results of that work.

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site was located at NGR SP 38180 79419 between 70–77m AOD and was relatively flat but sloping down to the north-west.

It lay immediately to the west of the A46, on arable fields adjacent to Hungerley Hall Farm. It was bounded by arable fields to the north and west, the B4082 to the south and the A46 to the east.

The underlying bedrock geology consisted of Mercia Mudstone Group, with superficial deposits of the Baginton Sand and Gravel Formation (NERC 2023). The overlying soils were characterised as freely draining acid loamy soils (Cranfield 2023).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is in an area located in proximity to four Grade II listed farm buildings and a Grade II* registered park and Garden (Coombe Abbey).

A geophysical survey highlighted anomalies likely to represent past agricultural activities such as ridge and furrow, and possible former field boundaries (GSB Prospection 2006). Additionally, the potential for paleoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits of interest in the vicinity was highlighted.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- › to monitor the excavations of three GI test pits, to inform further possible phases of archaeological or geoarchaeological works, by determining the archaeological potential of the development site. To determine the character, extent, and quality of any archaeological remains.
- › to provide information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding any requirement for further mitigation works.
- › to produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.



ILLUS 2 Looking north-east at TP1 under excavation

2 METHODOLOGY

All work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2020) and Standards and Guidance for a Watching Brief (CIfA 2014). A risk assessment and method statement (RAMS) was prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

2.1 SITE WORKS

GI test pitting works commenced on the 22nd of May 2023. The excavation of the three GI pits was undertaken by a contractor engaged by the client, these were monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Excavations were paused when necessary to allow for investigation of potential archaeological deposits. Upon completion of excavation the sequence of deposits for each pit was recorded.

2.2 RECORDING

All recording followed the recording methods set out in the CIfA Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2020) and the WSI. All recording was undertaken using Headland Archaeology pro-forma record sheets. Where stratified deposits were encountered, a Harris matrix was compiled. A digital photographic record was compiled with a graduated metric scale visible where appropriate.

2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The project archive has been compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by CIfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives

Forum (2011) and will be deposited digitally with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) accompanied by the relevant metadata. An online OASIS report has been completed, accompanied by a PDF report and boundary file.

3 RESULTS

Three GI pits were monitored on the 22nd and 23rd May 2023. There were no archaeological deposits present in any of the excavations. Each GI pit was uniquely numbered and likewise each deposit in the sequence was recorded. Full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1.1 and full photographic registers are presented in Appendix 1.2.

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Test pits 1 and 2 (TP1 and TP2) – located in the same cropped field, shared the same sequence of deposits and to similar depths below ground.

In TP1 the topsoil (010001) was a 0.20m mid-orangish brown, plastic silty clay, with angular and rounded stones inclusions. This lay over a subsoil (010002) 0.11m thick which was a firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay, with rounded stone inclusions. Below this the natural geology (010003) comprised of a firm mid-reddish orange clay and was observed to a depth of 2.21m below ground level (BGL).

The topsoil (020001) in TP2 was 0.15m thick and the same as in TP1. It overlay the same subsoil (020002) material as in TP1 but with modern brick and rubbish present. It was 0.30m thick. The natural geology



ILLUS 3 Looking south-west at north-east facing section through TP1 **ILLUS 4** Looking west at TP2 **ILLUS 5** Looking south-east at TP3

(020005) was recorded to 2.5m BLG below this, and was a firm mid-reddish orange clay with angular stones. Near its interface with the subsoil there was a fairly regular band of mid-brownish yellow silty sand.

TP3 was under grass with deeper and better developed soils. The topsoil (030001) was a 0.44m thick mid-greyish brown, plastic silty clay with angular and rounded stone inclusions. Below which the 0.23m thick subsoil (030002) was a firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay, with rounded stones. The natural geology (030003) was a firm mid-reddish orange clay. It was observed to the final excavated depth of 2.4m BGL.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

3.2 FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered throughout project.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

A total of 10 environmental samples were taken from deposits at the request of the consultant. The analysis of the samples demonstrated an absence of archaeologically significant environmental remains within any of the deposits, indicating there was little to no evidence for archaeological potential.

4 DISCUSSION

No evidence for archaeological features or deposits was observed during the excavation of the three GI pits that were opened during this phase of work. However, given that the total area (3.6m²) that was observed is incredibly limited, these results cannot be extrapolated as being representative of the remainder of the potential development area.

5 REFERENCES

- Archaeological Archives Forum (2011) *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer, and curation* (2nd edition)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020 *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed December 2023
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- Cranfield University (2023) *Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute, Soilscales*
- GSB Prospection Ltd (2006) *Geophysical Survey Report* 2006/77 EDP209 WALSGROVE Coventry
- Headland Archaeology (2023) *A46, Walsgrave, Coventry Written Scheme of Investigation* [unpublished client document]
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2023 *British Geological Survey*

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Test pit register

TP 01		TP DEPTH (M)	2.40
		TP DIMENSIONS (M)	2 X 0.60
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	THICKNESS
010001	Topsoil	Plastic mid-orangish brown silty clay, with angular and rounded stones	0.20m
010002	Subsoil	Firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay, with rounded stones modern brick and rubbish inclusions	0.11m
010003	Geological Subsoil	Firm mid-reddish orange clay	—
Summary: No data			
TP 02		TP DEPTH (M)	2.50
		TP DIMENSIONS (M)	2 X 0.60
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	THICKNESS
020001	Topsoil	Plastic mid-orangish brown silty clay, with angular and rounded stones	0.15m
020002	Subsoil	Firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay modern brick and rubbish inclusions	0.30m
020005	Geological Subsoil	Compact mid-brownish yellow silty sand Firm mid-reddish orange clay with angular stones	—
Summary: No data			

TP 03		TP DEPTH (M)	2.40
		TP DIMENSIONS (M)	2 X 0.60
CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION	THICKNESS
030001	Topsoil	Plastic mid-greyish brown silty clay, with angular and rounded stones	0.44m
030002	Subsoil	Firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay, with rounded stones modern brick and rubbish inclusions	0.23m
030003	Geological Subsoil	Firm mid-reddish orange clay	—
Summary: No data			

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

PHOTO	DIGITAL IMAGE	CONTEXTS SHOWN	DESCRIPTION	FACING	INITIALS	DATE
1	4	TP1	Working shot of TP1	NE	AW	22/05/23
2	5	TP1	Working shot of TP1	NE	AW	22/05/23
3	6	TP1	Working shot of TP1, SE Facing Sec	NW	AW	22/05/23
4	7	TP1	Working shot of TP1	NE	AW	22/05/23
5	8	TP1	Working shot of TP1, NE Facing Sec	SW	AW	22/05/23
6	9	TP1	Working shot of TP1, SW Facing Sec	NE	AW	22/05/23
7	10	TP1	Working shot of TP1, SW Facing Sec	NE	AW	22/05/23
8	11	TP1	Working shot of TP1, NE Facing Sec	SW	AW	22/05/23
9	12	TP1	Working shot of TP1, NW Facing Sec	SE	AW	22/05/23
10	13	TP1	Working shot of TP1, SE Facing Sec	NW	AW	22/05/23
11	14	Farmhouse Wall	Farmhouse wall	NW	AW	22/05/23
12	15	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
13	16	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
14	17	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
15	18	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
16	19	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
17	20	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
18	21	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SE	AW	22/05/23
19	22	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SE	AW	22/05/23
20	23	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SW	AW	22/05/23

PHOTO	DIGITAL IMAGE	CONTEXTS SHOWN	DESCRIPTION	FACING	INITIALS	DATE
21	24	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NE	AW	22/05/23
22	25	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SW	AW	22/05/23
23	26	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
24	27	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SE	AW	22/05/23
25	28	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SE	AW	22/05/23
26	29	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SW	AW	22/05/23
27	30	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	SW	AW	22/05/23
28	31	Farmhouse	Working shot farmhouse	NW	AW	22/05/23
29	32	TP2	Working shot of TP2	SE	AW	23/05/23
30	33	TP2	Working shot of TP2	SE	AW	23/05/23
31	34	TP2	Working shot of TP2, W Facing Sec	NE	AW	23/05/23
32	35	TP2	Working shot of TP2, S Facing Sec	N	AW	23/05/23
33	36	TP2	Working shot of TP2, E Facing Sec	W	AW	23/05/23
34	37	TP2	Working shot of TP2, N Facing Sec	S	AW	23/05/23
35	38	TP3	Working shot of TP3	SE	AW	23/05/23
36	39	TP3	Working shot of TP3	SE	AW	23/05/23
37	40	TP3	Working shot of TP3, NW Facing Sec	SE	AW	23/05/23
38	41	TP3	Working shot of TP3, SW Facing sec	NE	AW	23/05/23
39	42	TP3	Working shot of TP3, NE Facing Sec	SW	AW	23/05/23
40	43	TP3	Working shot of TP3, SE Facing Sec	NW	AW	23/05/23

Appendix 1.3 Sample register

SAMPLE	VOL(L)	% OF CONTEXT	FILL/DEPOSIT	HEAVY CLAY	WATER LOGGED	BURIAL	H&S ALERT	NOTES	INITIALS	DATE
001	0.25	N/A	010001	—	—	—	—	Topsoil	AW	22/05/23
002	0.25	N/A	010002	—	—	—	—	Subsoil	AW	22/05/23
003	0.25	N/A	010003	x	—	—	—	Geological subsoil	AW	22/05/23
004	0.25	N/A	020001	—	—	—	—	Topsoil	AW	23/05/23
005	0.25	N/A	020002	—	—	—	—	Subsoil	AW	23/05/23
006	0.25	N/A	020003	—	—	—	—	Subsoil	AW	23/05/23
007	0.25	N/A	020004	—	—	—	—	Sandy layer	AW	23/05/23
008	0.25	N/A	020005	x	—	—	—	Geological subsoil	AW	23/05/23
009	0.25	N/A	030001	—	—	—	—	Topsoil	AW	23/05/23
010	0.25	N/A	030002	—	—	—	—	Subsoil	AW	23/05/23
011	0.25	N/A	030003	x	—	—	—	Geological subsoil	AW	23/05/23



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