



global environmental solutions

**Ludlow Touring Park
Overton Road, Richard's Castle, Shropshire**

Archaeological Site Investigations

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CAPiTAL
Construction Management



CONTENTS

1.0	SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	Purpose of document.....	1
2.2	Planning background.....	2
2.3	Scheme design	2
3.0	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	4
3.1	Location and land-use	4
3.2	Geological, topographic and administrative background	4
3.3	Archaeological background	4
4.0	METHODOLOGY	6
4.1	Introduction	6
4.2	Trial Trenching and monitoring of construction activities.....	6
5.0	RESULTS	9
5.1	RAF Huts	9
5.2	Trial trenches.....	12
6.0	ARTEFACTS	26
6.1	Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint tool Trench 8 (spoil heap)	26
6.2	Coins & non-base metal from between Trenches 2/3 and 5 (Figure 22a) ...	26
6.3	Sealed deposits	26
6.4	Unstratified	28
6.5	Discussion of artefactual evidence	29
7.0	INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION	30
8.0	CLOSURE	35
9.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY	35

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location.....	1
Figure 2	Topographic survey and statutory designation: SSSI along river and river bank.....	3
Figure 3	Known archaeological sites, events, and listed buildings within 1km radius	5
Figure 4:	trench plan with old road superimposed from historic mapping.....	8
Figure 5	View looking north showing three surviving RAF huts with Ludlow in distance.....	9
Figure 6	RAF huts 1, 2 and 3 looking northwest.....	10
Figure 7	Air photograph taken in 28 th May 1947 showing extent of RAF training camp (RAF/CPE/UK/2095 frame 1135)	11
Figure 8	Aerial view of Trench 1 looking northwest.....	12
Figure 9	Aerial view of Trenches 2 and 3 looking northwest.....	13
Figure 10	Trench 3 section drawing showing water management features and old road	14
Figure 11	Trench 5 section through old road (505) and ditches (503 & 507)	14
Figure 12	Top: aerial view of Trench 5 looking south; below: detail of road from south	15
Figure 13	Trenches 7 and 8 and Hut 2 looking southeast (2m scale over old road in Trench 7)	16
Figure 14	Trench 7 section through old road	17
Figure 15	Trench 8 looking northwest.....	19
Figure 16	Trench 9 plan of eastern end and section through old road	20
Figure 17	Trench 9 photo of section through road looking northeast.....	21

Figure 18 Trench 9 aerial view showing road and ditches with possible discarded paving slabs.....	22
Figure 19 Trench 10 section and plan of old road	23
Figure 20 The top of the causeway embankment, and details of brick culvert.....	23
Figure 21 Top: section through water channel looking east; base: view north showing raised land surface over road	25
Figure 22: a) Selected metalwork; b) iron artefacts from Trench 5; c) pottery and tile from Trench 7 (context 712)	27
Figure 23 Comparative sections through old road	30
Figure 24 Estate map of 1815	31
Figure 25 Tithe Apportionments map of 1840	32
Figure 26 Aerial view showing possible weir in River Teme; old road in Trench 3 in foreground	34

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Catalogue of archaeological contexts	37
Appendix 2	Notes and Dimensions of RAF Huts	43
Appendix 3	Palaeoenvironmental Assessment Report	46

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1.0 SUMMARY

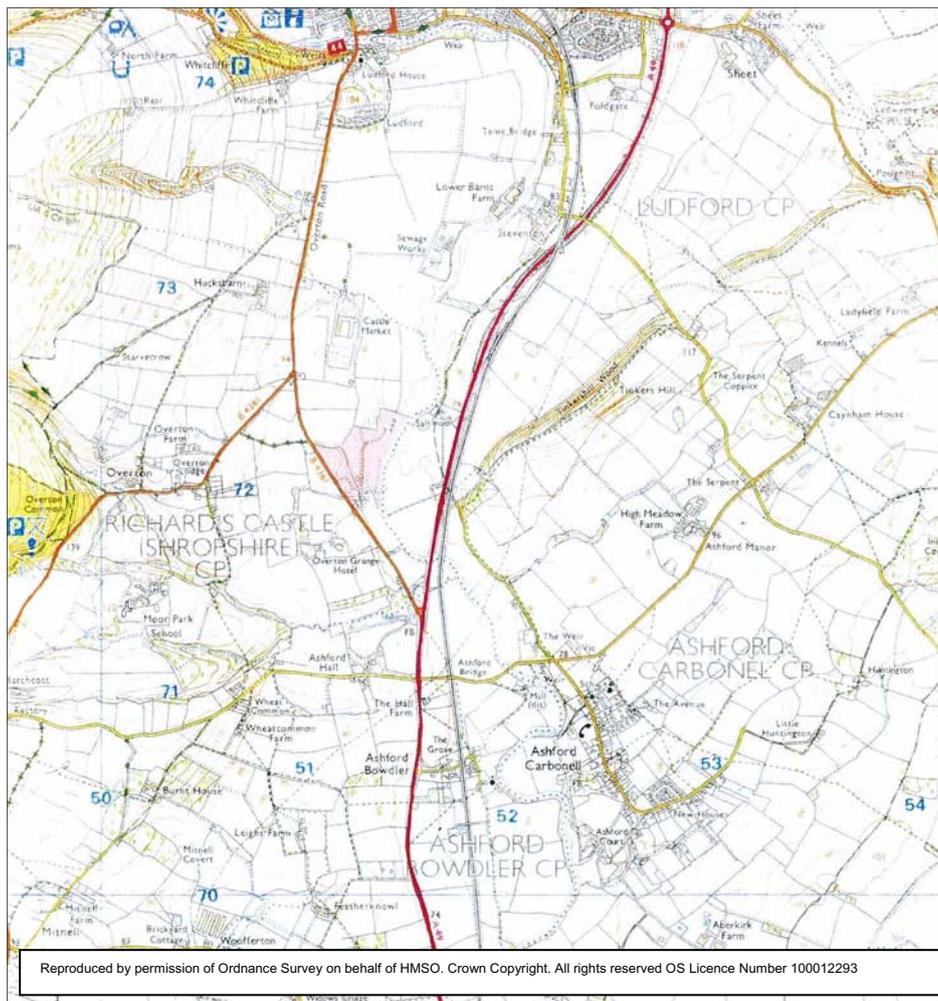
The physical remains of a north-south road c.5.8m wide consisting of a loosely compacted stone construction on a sandy-clay foundation were found. The road went out of use in the 1830s when a new turnpike was built, and it's construction was probably in the 18th century, possibly paved by mudstone slabs. A second route (possibly of prehistoric origin), Queb Lane, which ran from Overton to Saltmoor Well, was possibly detected. Water management features included a series of channels, ditches and linear depressions, which pre-dated the 18th century road. Field-name evidence could indicate the presence of a mill as well as meadow land.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose of document

This report documents a programme of archaeological investigation undertaken at Ludlow Touring Park, Overton Road, Ludlow, SY8 4AD (Figure 1: central point National Grid Reference SO512872185). The fieldwork was undertaken by SLR Consulting between May – September 2011 on behalf of Capital Construction Management (hereafter the Client).

Figure 1
Site location



2.2 Planning background

Planning consent was granted in April 2011 for a 135 pitch touring caravan park and associated development, including site office, on-site store, toilet and amenity blocks, waste store, works compound, children's play area, access arrangements and internal roads, footpaths and landscaping. As a condition on consent a programme of archaeological work was required; two Written Schemes of Investigation¹ were prepared to scope the archaeological programme, agreed with Shropshire Council on 3rd May and 6th June 2011.

2.3 Scheme design

The principal groundworks that required archaeological monitoring included construction of a permanent building, a flood attenuation pond, shallow hard-standing platforms for caravans, shallow roadways, and service trenches (in particular a foul water drain).

¹ *Ludlow Touring Park, Overton Road, Richard's Castle, Shropshire Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation* SLR Consulting April 2011; *Ludlow Touring Park, Overton Road, Richard's Castle, Shropshire Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation Phase 2* SLR Consulting June 2011

Figure 2
Topographic survey and statutory designation: SSSI along river and river bank



The design of the surface water drainage system utilizes the existing topography of the site. The existing brook crossing the site will be maintained and as such will continue to receive the majority of flows from the areas north west of the site.

3.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

3.1 Location and land-use

The land lies in the parish of Richard's Castle, Shropshire, within the township of Overton.

The site comprised an area of c.8ha, located 2km south of Ludford, Ludlow. It was bordered on the west side by the B4361 (Overton Road), on the east by the River Teme, to the north by hedged field boundaries, and to the south by Overton Service Station and a wooded area.

During the site investigation the land was in arable cultivation. It consisted of two large fields divided by a north-south hedged boundary, of which only the eastern field was considered to have much archaeological potential based on historical map evidence for an ancient road. An access track led east, south and northeast from the B4361 to the northeastern corner of the site, where three large sheds were located.

3.2 Geological, topographic and administrative background

The site geology comprises Devonian/Silurian mudstone covered by fluvio-glacial drift deposits of sands and gravels. Alluvial clays have been deposited in more recent times within the eastern part of the site, due to flooding from the River Teme. The land slopes eastwards towards the River Teme from a high point of 93.72m AOD in the north-western corner of the site to 71.35m AOD in the south-eastern corner.

3.3 Archaeological background

The baseline data acquired for the desk-based assessment² provides an overview of the historic environment as recorded from known archaeological remains (Figure 3). Of particular interest is that at least one, possibly two, routes crossed the application site in antiquity. The "Old Road" from Ludlow (Ludford) ran south to Ashford Bowdler and beyond; perhaps originating from a Roman road (Margary 613), this was replaced in the 1830s by a turnpike, which later became the B4361. There was also a west – east route formed by the "Old Lane" from Overton, which dog-legged through the western and southern parts of the application site to cross the Teme and continue through the Chalybeate Well at Saltmoor, along Tinkershill ridge, and beyond past Caynham Camp to the north-east.

During WW2 the land was used as an RAF training camp, and this is probably when the track was laid out and the sheds constructed.

No previous archaeological investigation has occurred within the site. Surrounding it there are a small number of known sites, and investigations or observations have taken place over several decades. The most informative of these was during evaluation of the route for the A49 Woofferton by-pass when cropmarks of ditched enclosures and the possible alignment of a Roman road were investigated, c.1km to the south of the application site.

² Ludlow Touring Park, Overton Road, Richard's Castle, Shropshire Archaeological Desk Based Assessment SLR Consulting April 2011

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

Consultation with Shropshire Council's Historic Environment Planning Officer identified a series of tasks for the archaeological programme to undertake which included:

- enquiries to the National Library of Air Photographs to see what WW2 and post-war photographs of the application site might exist;
- photographic recording of the three RAF huts before demolition;
- limited, targeted site investigations (trial trenching) of the road locations so as to clarify the nature of any archaeological remains that might survive;
- two test-pits to gather samples for palaeoenvironmental assessment of the site;
- archaeological monitoring during construction of deep ground disturbance such as in connection with the attenuation pond, service trenches, foundations for permanent building;
- post-excavation assessment and analysis as appropriate dependent on type of remains recorded; and
- production of a report that presents the results from the above investigations, interprets them and assesses the heritage value of the site.

4.2 Trial Trenching and monitoring of construction activities

4.2.1 Strategy and general approach

The trenching design targeted linear features (the old road and trackway) as a cost-effective method of undertaking evaluation, since it focused on areas of high potential, rather than blind sampling. Some of the areas of deeper disturbance which would be caused by the design scheme was also investigated by trenching.

Ten trenches up to 100m in length were excavated in May 2011 (Fig. 4). Seven of these were located within the eastern area of the site to trace the line of the old road and to have comparative sections so that a full record of its dimensions and construction could be made. In addition the southern-most trench also investigated the area of the attenuation pond, supplemented by a north-south oriented trench which was also located to test for any evidence of the prehistoric trackway in this zone. A ninth trench sampled for this trackway further west, oriented north-south through the zone of disturbance that would occur from construction of a shed and hard standing. A final trench was located to run through the footprint of the permanent site reception building south-westward – north-eastwards to see if this intercepted with the line of the old lane (and perhaps a more ancient trackway) from Overton, shown on historic mapping as following a circuitous route through the western side of the site.

The trial trenches and test pits were excavated with a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ("ditching") bucket 1.8m wide, under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The machine excavator removed the topsoil and overburden down to the first archaeologically significant level. Thereafter the remains were hand-excavated and recorded. Two bulk samples were taken for palaeoenvironmental assessment from organic-rich deposits within a clay matrix in Trenches 2 and 4.

The Portable Antiquities Officer for Shropshire was consulted to assist with understanding whether the range of material that had been found in the vicinity from metal-detecting could indicate the presence of a road, and during the investigation a metal-detectorist assisted the archaeological investigations by scanning the road and trackway alignments for metal artefacts. A range of metal and non-metal objects were recovered including several coins.

The project was monitored by the planning authority's archaeological advisor, Mick Krupa.

Construction of the attenuation pond in August 2011 and cutting of a drain through the line of the old road in September 2011 were monitored by an archaeologist.

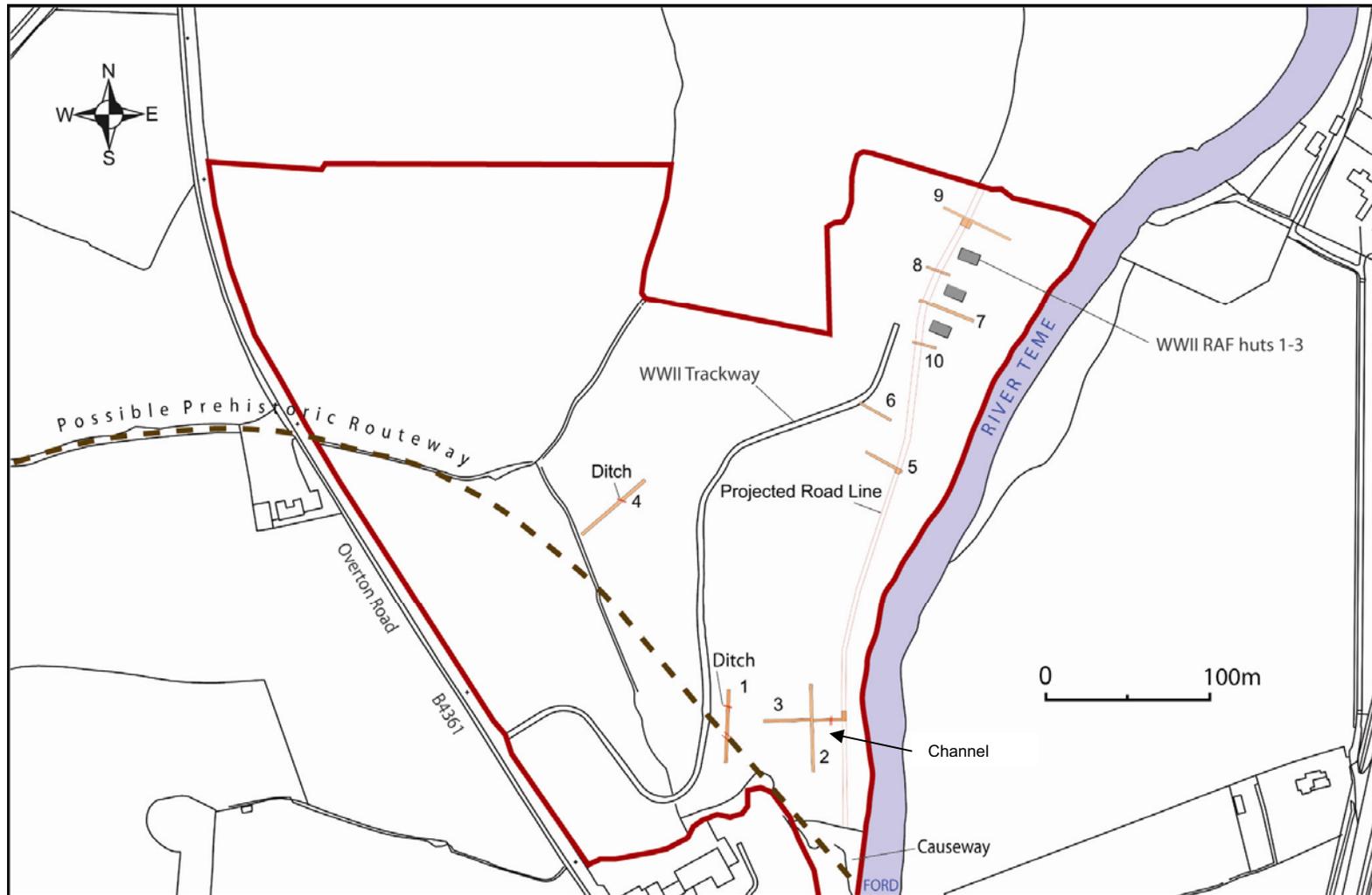
4.2.2 Fieldwork Recording

A detailed topographic survey of the site allowed accurate plotting of the trench locations and tied them in to OS base maps. Trenches and test-pits were recorded along one long face to ensure stratigraphic control, and a trench recording form was made for each trench. Photographs of each trench were taken before backfilling.

Archaeological deposits were recorded using a pro-forma recording system, and fully cross-referenced. The drawn record comprises plans and sections at suitable scales, typically plans at scale 1:100 for trench locations, 1:50 for trench recording, 1:20 for features and sections. A full catalogue of contexts recorded is provided in Appendix 1.

The RAF huts were photographically recorded in August 2011 prior to their demolition. Notes were also made of construction materials, previous doorways and other features to supplement the images.

**Figure 4: trench plan
with old road superimposed from historic mapping**



5.0 RESULTS

5.1 RAF Huts

The three surviving RAF huts (Figures 5 and 6) were recorded on 1st August 2011. All were of concrete block construction (460 x 220 x 225mm) and their dimensions were approximately 13 x 7m, with walls 2.2m in height and 240mm in width, supporting pitched asbestos corrugated-sheet roofs. Modifications from the standard design were evident in each, partly from their discrete original functions, but also from adaption in later years for farming purposes. According to the farmer they had been used for cooking and related activities when the training camp was in operation, most of which had consisted of tented accommodation. Sketch plans and photographs are included within Appendix 2.

**Figure 5 View looking north
showing three surviving RAF huts with Ludlow in distance**



5.1.1 Hut 1

The southern-most hut was 13 x 6.8m, with three iron-framed windows along the southern wall, and spaced along the northern wall two doors with two windows between them. In the east and west walls there were two windows in each. Three pillars were aligned along the centre of the interior to support the roof apex, and two sink units were built into the southeast and northeast corners. An interior division wall was located two-thirds of the length eastwards, and the walls were rendered with lime-based mortar.

5.1.2 Hut 2

The middle hut was 13.28 x 5.64m, with four windows, in-filled with concrete block, along the southern wall, and one centrally placed door that had also been filled in. At the southwest end an original entrance existed. The north wall had four surviving windows and a fifth blocked in, with a door in the northwest end, opposite to that in the southern wall. The east wall had one window high set, and two blocked in either side at a lower level. In the west

wall a doorway with window above (Figure 13), and decorative concrete frame around it, survived. Internally three pillars supported the roof and the interior walls had been rendered with lime-based mortar, scored to appear as large blocks.

Figure 6
RAF huts 1, 2 and 3 looking northwest



5.1.3 Hut 3

The northern-most hut was 13.77 x 6.66m, with two original doorways approximately in the centre of the southern and eastern walls. A wide modern entranceway had been added to the southwestern end. Along the northern wall there were nine windows, three for each of the rooms, and in the western wall there was a single blocked-in window offset from centre to the south. Two internal walls divided the building into three rooms, with the eastern one separate and only accessed externally, the other two being connected by a doorway at the south end of the internal division. The western room had been rendered with lime-based mortar.

5.1.4 RAF training camp

The camp in its heyday during the Second World War extended not only over the consented site, but also through the adjoining fields northwards towards Ludlow. A photograph taken in 1947 (Figure 7) shows the tracks, roundabouts, and arrays of huts which were still in evidence at that time. The nature of most of the camp is believed to have been of a temporary nature, with tents being used to accommodate the occupants, and only some of the essential facilities being provided with concrete huts.

**Figure 7 Air photograph taken in 28th May 1947
showing extent of RAF training camp (RAF/CPE/UK/2095 frame 1135)**



5.2 Trial trenches

5.2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 43m long, 1.8m wide, aligned north-south, located in the southwestern part of the site within the footprint of a planned building and designed to intercept a possible east-west prehistoric trackway (Figures 4 and 8). The uppermost layers represented ploughsoil over a thin band of made ground, which overlay alluvial/colluvial deposition. A boundary backfilled in 1985³ on an east - west alignment was found to be present in the north of the trench and a concrete drain in the middle. A slight rise and dryer zone in the underlying clays in the centre of the trench, seen in Figure 8 as a light grey colour, might indicate the line of the possible trackway.

Figure 8
Aerial view of Trench 1 looking northwest

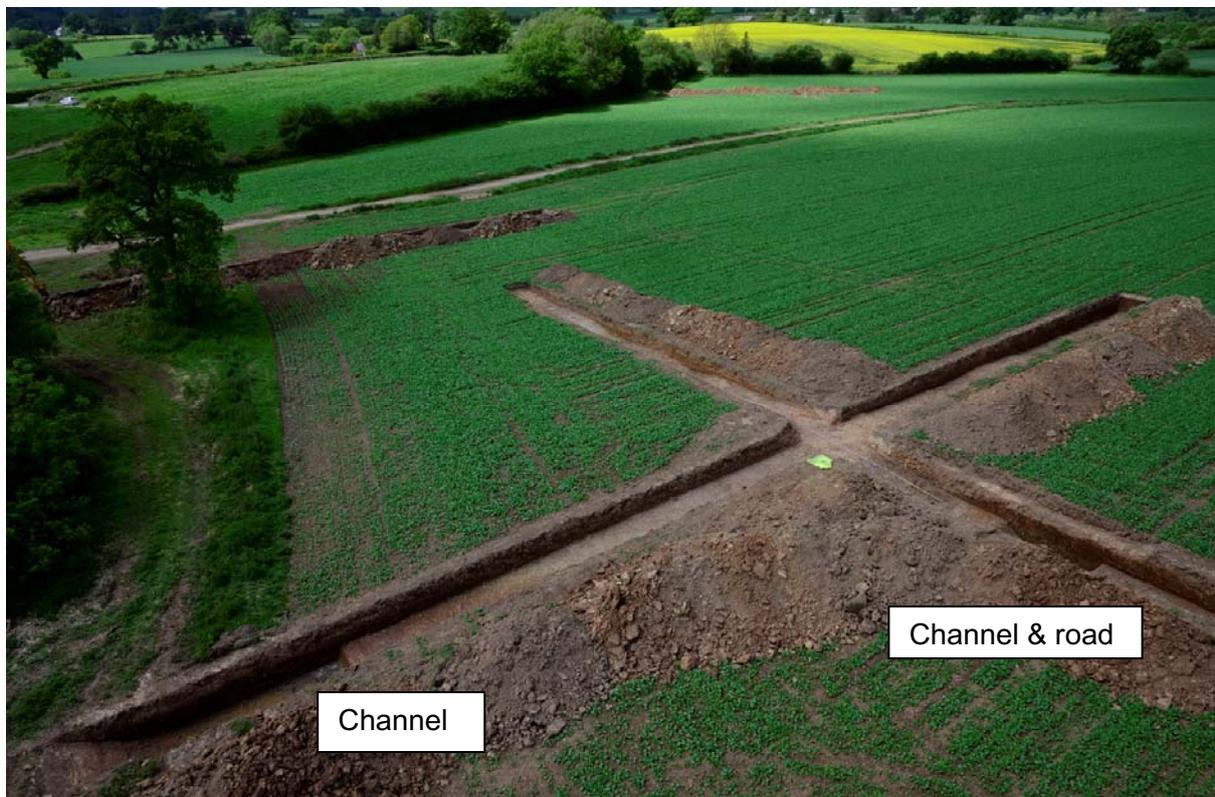


5.2.2 Trench 2 & 3 (Cross trench)

Trench 2 was 53m long, 1.8m wide, aligned north-south, located in the southeastern part of the site within the footprint of a flood attenuation pond and designed to cross the line of a possible east-west prehistoric trackway. The ploughsoil was 0.3m deep and overlay a subsoil of loose reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional stones which was seen to be <0.40m in depth. Most of the southern part of the trench contained a large linear feature interpreted as a water channel (208) filled by alluvial deposits comprising stony compacted sandy clay (203-207), with a significant organic content noted in the primary fill (205).

³ Farmer/ Landowner pers. comm

Figure 9
Aerial view of Trenches 2 and 3 looking northwest

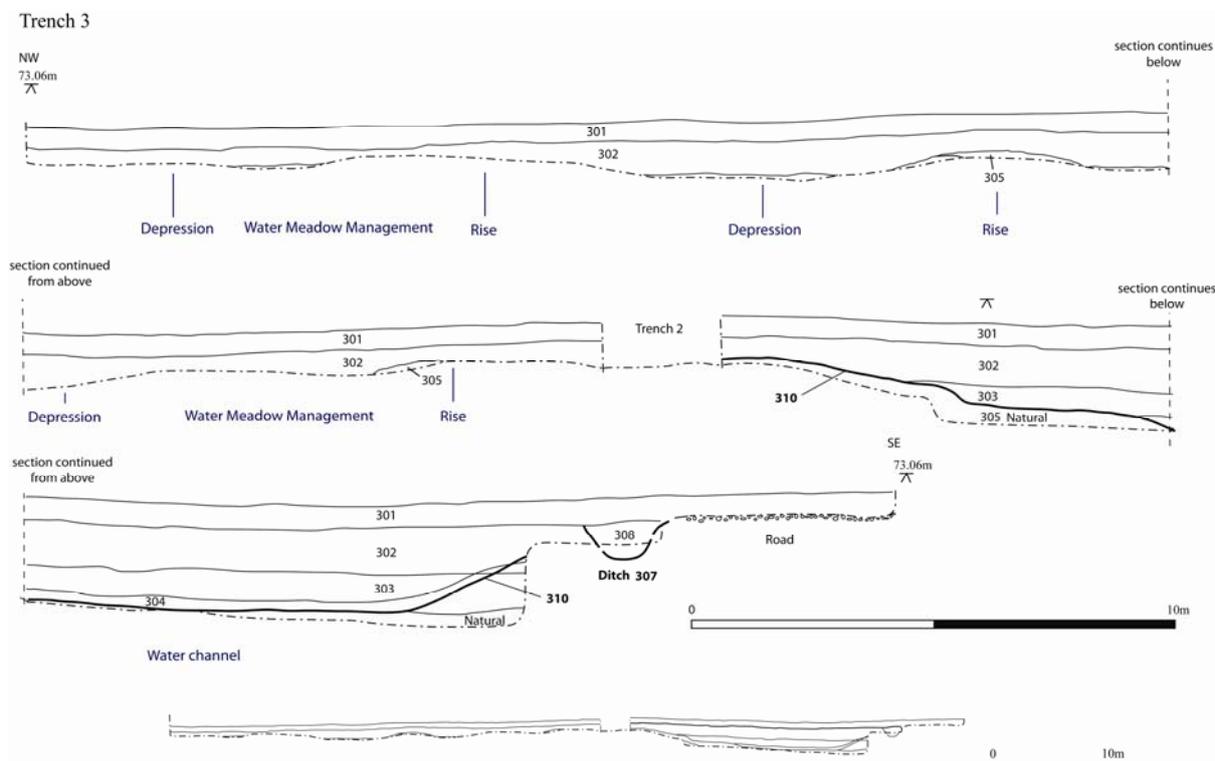


Trench 3 was 50m long, 1.8m wide, aligned east-west through the attenuation pond zone and designed to cross the line of the old road at the eastern end of the trench. Underlying the 0.3m depth of ploughsoil at the eastern end of Trench 3 the remains of the road were found, orientated approximately north – south, and a northern extension to the trench was opened to record the road, so that a total of 5.6m of its length was exposed. The road (309), 2.3m wide, 0.1m thick, had been damaged by ploughing, and lacked much of the stone metalling seen elsewhere. A 1m wide ditch, 0.7m deep, ran parallel to the road on its western side (307) and was filled by a sandy silt (308). The road appeared to rest on an alluvial deposit (303) which in turn overlay and filled a linear channel orientated northeast – southwest (310). The lowest fill within this channel was initial sedimentation (311) above which lay a grey clay (304), which contained organic material. This material was sampled⁴ but results were uninformative (see Appendix 3).

The orientation of the channel suggested a possible link here between the River Teme and a system of channels or streams within scrub to the south of the site. In the western part of Trench 3 a series of three or four north – south aligned undulations were observed with the length of each undulation (rise and depression) c.8m in total, ranging from 0.1 – 0.6m in depth below the topsoil (filled by the subsoil (302) with the “bank” element comprising natural gravel (305). These may represent the remains of water management features to help with improving meadowland, for which the water channel at the southern and eastern ends of the trenches might also have formed part.

⁴ (context 205, larger samples 4, 5, and smaller samples, 6, 7)

Figure 10
Trench 3 section drawing showing water management features and old road

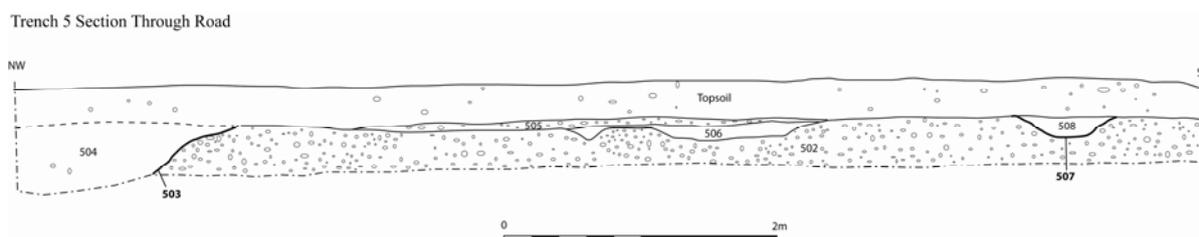


5.2.3 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 50m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northeast – southwest and located in the western part of the site over the footprint of a planned administrative building and designed to intercept the line of a possible prehistoric track. Underlying 0.3m ploughsoil a 0.4m thick sub-soil comprising colluvial deposits was found (402). The colluvium was cut in places by a land drainage system consisting of ceramic pipes (405, 407, 411). Sealed by the colluvial deposits an intermittent 0.1m thick organic-rich layer (403) was found above a naturally-deposited alluvial layer of red clay (404) (see Appendix 3, Plate 1). A northwest - southeast orientated linear deposit, presumed to have been a ditch (409), was the only archaeological feature at this horizon (Figure 4). It contained no datable material and was filled with material similar to the overlying colluvium (410).

The trench was more water-logged than the other trenches, which was perhaps surprising, considering its greater distance from the Teme. The organic layer (403) was sampled (samples 1,2, 3) and assessment of these remains has shown that they all derived from ash charcoal, suggesting an activity surface preserved between the alluvium and the colluvium (see Appendix 3).

Figure 11
Trench 5 section through old road (505) and ditches (503 & 507)



5.2.4 Trench 5

Trench 5 was 25m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northwest – southeast and located to intercept the line of the old road in the central eastern part of the site. A 9 x 1.8m extension was added to the south side of the east end of the trench to expose an area across the old road (Figures 11 and 12). At the east end of the trench, immediately underlying the 0.3m thick ploughsoil, were the remains of the road, in a similar plough-damaged state to the section found in Trench 3, and visible as a 3.7m wide, 0.06m thick, band of loosely packed stones in a silty-sand (505) and set into a 0.1m thick bedding layer of compacted sandy-clay (506). A linear feature, interpreted as a shallow ditch (507), 0.7m wide, 0.15m deep, filled by a sandy-silt (508) was observed to the east of the road, while to the west a larger ditch (503), 1.6m wide, 0.5m deep, containing a fill of compacted sandy-silt with large stones on top (504), was found, both orientated on the same alignment as the road. The larger stones in the ditch may represent part of an overlying paved surface for the road, which had been otherwise removed or robbed. No other archaeological features of value were observed in the trench. A waste pipe, probably associated with the RAF huts, was the only other feature. Between the road and the ditches part of the underlying natural gravels was found (502) suggesting that the road foundation had been scooped into the gravels or that usage had worn a slight hollow-way into the gravels, and to the west an alluvial deposit (509) at least 0.3m thick was seen which is an eastward continuation of similar deposits in Trench 4. At the eastern end of the trench the ploughsoil came down directly on to river gravels (502).

Figure 12
Top: aerial view of Trench 5 looking south; below: detail of road from south





5.2.5 Trench 6

Trench 6 was 23m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northwest – southeast and located to intercept the line of the old road in the central eastern part of the site. The trench was excavated to confirm the route of the road as indicated by Trenches 8 & 9. No archaeologically significant features, however, were located in this trench, which consisted of 0.3m thick ploughsoil overlying a 0.4m thick layer of probable alluvial deposition lying across the natural gravels and clays. The information gathered from Trenches 5, 7 and 10 revealed that the road changed direction towards the southeast.

Figure 13
Trenches 7 and 8 and Hut 2 looking southeast (2m scale over old road in Trench 7)

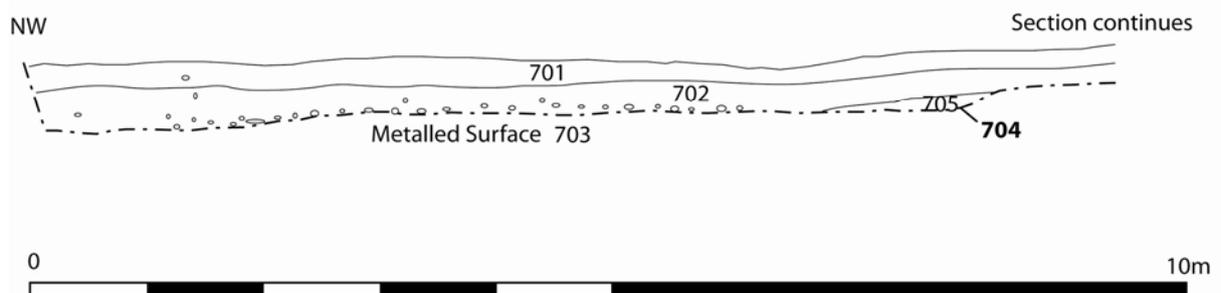


5.2.6 Trench 7

Trench 7 was 36m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northwest – southeast and located to intercept the line of the old road in the northern part of the site. The ploughsoil was 0.25m thick overlying a 0.25 - 0.5m subsoil of compacted orange-brown sandy clay with occasional stones (702) (Figures 13 and 14). The road, 5.8m wide, 0.15m thick, was located at the western end of the trench, with a loose stone metalling (703) orientated roughly northeast - southwest lying between two ditches, the western of which (711), was seen as a narrow band of clay. The eastern ditch (704) was 1.10m wide, >0.10m deep, with a silty clay fill (705). A thin band of dark grey-brown silt (712), 0.05m thick, lay above the road and below the subsoil. This contained a large assemblage of ceramic material, including ceramic building material (CBM; probably roof tile) and large fragments of a slipware dish, as well as later yellow ware, salt-glazed ware, stoneware and bone china giving a range of date from early 19th – early 20th centuries.

Figure 14
Trench 7 section through old road

Trench 7 Section Through Road



A notable change in the consistency of the underlying natural deposits from hard gravels to a considerably softer mixture of gravels and clays in the eastern part of the Trench was detected (the subsoil (702) was found to increase in thickness), and this was also noted in those trenches further north (Trenches 8 and 9). This change suggests the road may follow a natural ridge of harder gravels. The trench also seemed to confirm the farmer's memory that the land around the RAF huts had been built-up to make a level area for their construction, and a series of service trenches including metal pipes and drains (706 – 710) were found at the eastern end of the trench cutting the subsoil (702).

5.2.7 Trench 8

Trench 8 was 15m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northwest – southeast and located to intercept the line of the old road in the northern part of the site (Figure 13). Underlying 0.3m ploughsoil a 0.2m subsoil (813) was found at the northwestern end of the trench and 0.4m thick (807) at the southeastern end. Between these a disturbed deposit of subsoil was found (802 and 803) above the road which was orientated on a northeast - southwest alignment. Parallel ditches were located on either side of the road, of which the western one was the larger and more substantial.

A slot was excavated through the road to get a greater understanding of its composition. The road itself was revealed as a 5.2m wide, 0.1m thick layer of extremely loose stones and gravel, sitting on a 0.04 – 0.1m thick foundation layer of stony orange sandy-clay, similar to alluvium located in other trenches (Figure 15). The western ditch (809) was 1.3m wide, 0.3m deep, with a flat base and infilled by compacted sandy-clay (810). The eastern ditch (811) was 0.9m wide, 0.18m deep, and filled with compacted sandy-clay (812).

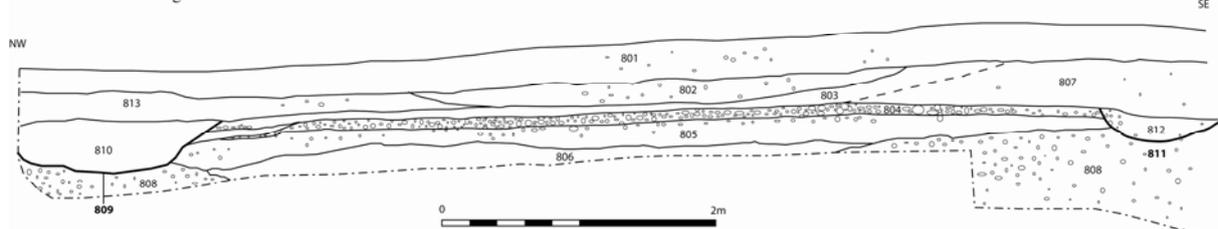
Consideration of the road's possible course suggested that it might be following a natural ridge of gravels, and that the alluvial material in the ditches and used as a foundation for the road, was mined locally and placed on the gravels to provide a consistent bedding material.

The material overlying the road (807/813) was a compacted sandy-clay. This deposit had been cut into from just under the topsoil resulting in a 3.6m wide shallow scoop. No dating evidence was recovered from this cut or its fill (802) of loose sandy-clay with angular stones. Proximity with the RAF buildings in this area might offer an explanation for this activity.

Figure 15
Trench 8 looking northwest



Trench 8 Section Through Road



5.2.8 Trench 9

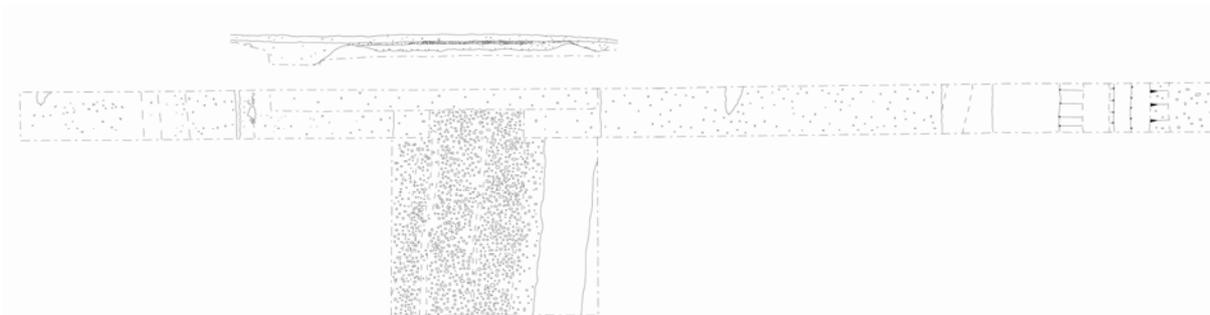
Trench 9 was 47m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northwest – southeast and located to intercept the line of the old road as it entered the site from the north (Figures 16, 17, and 18). The ploughsoil was 0.3m thick at the northwestern end, but only 0.1m thick at the southeastern end, and beneath this the old road was observed. The trench was extended along the line of the road to clarify its orientation, and a deeper slot was also excavated to gain a better understanding of its foundation. An 8m length of the trench over the road was widened by an additional 7m in order to record the road in plan as well as in section, exposing a total area of 8 x 8.8m. A 0.75m wide slot was cut through the road deposits over a length of 12.8m within the original trench in order to record the detail in the south-facing section.

The old road was located in the central-western part of the trench and was found to be 5.7m wide by 0.1m thick, orientated northeast – southwest. The road metalling comprised loosely compacted stones (904) bedded on a 0.15 – 0.22m thick foundation of sandy-clay (905) (Figure 17). Two possible wheel ruts were identified in the stony metalling (904) which followed the alignment of the old road (Figure 16), but investigation could not confirm whether they were ruts or plough marks. The road was flanked by a large 4.4m wide ditch

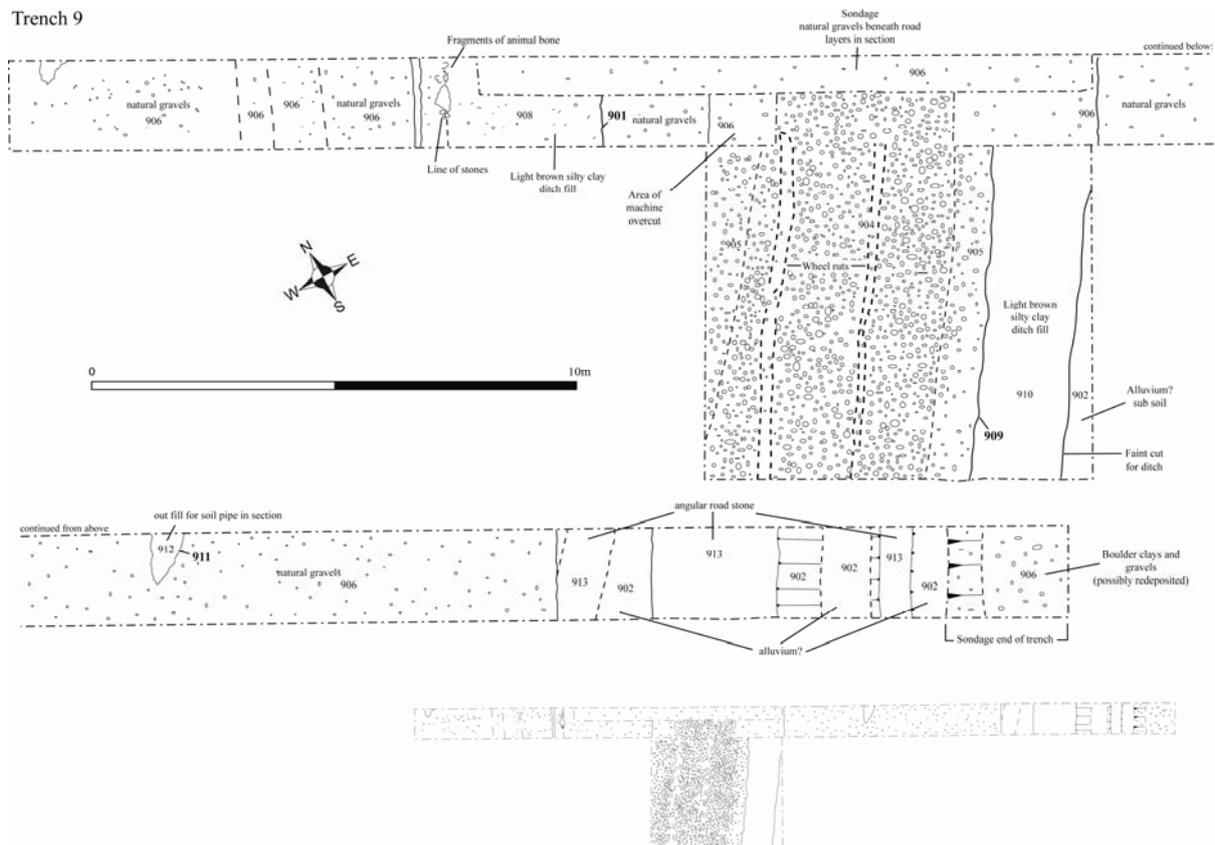
(907) to the west and a shallow, 1.6m wide ditch (909) to the east. Within the fill (908) of the western ditch were several larger flat mudstones, lying on top of each other, which were initially considered to be forming the base for a wall or boundary. Further investigation proved these to be loose in the fill of the ditch. Several pieces of bone (sheep/goat and cattle) were also recovered overlying the stones, as well as some 20th century ceramics and a narrow glass flask top.

Figure 16
Trench 9 plan of eastern end and section through old road

Trench 9 South West facing section



Trench 9



Although there was no evidence for robbing in this trench, and the road appeared to have a similar composition to that in Trench 8 (i.e. a thin layer of gravel and stones overlying an orange sandy-clay), the flat pieces of mudstone marking the edge of the western ditch fill, however, could represent broken and discarded fragments of the original paved surface of the road (Figures 16 and 18).

Figure 17
Trench 9 photo of section through road looking northeast



At the eastern end of this trench a gravelled surface was found, which appeared to relate to the RAF camp, as it overlay a build-up of deposits which were used to level up the land in order to construct the RAF huts (Figure 16). This was interpreted as a gravelled wartime track, and in the topsoil a range of 19th and 20th century ceramics and ironwork was found, including the base of a cup stamped NAAFI 1945. The natural gravels directly underlie the topsoil in this trench.

5.2.9 Trench 10

Trench 10 was 15m long, 1.8m wide, aligned northwest - southeast and located to trace the change in direction of the old road between the northern and central parts of the site (between the different alignments identified in Trenches 5 and 7). The position of this trench was determined on the evidence from high level photography⁵, which appeared to show a parch mark depicting the road's orientation between the two trenches. Ploughsoil of 0.2m thickness overlay a subsoil (1002) at the eastern end of the trench, but this had been cut by a series of features in the centre and western end.

⁵ Adam Stanford, Aerial-Cam

The ditches associated with the road were also located in this trench. The metalled part of the road (1011) was revealed as a loosely compacted continuous layer of rounded stones 3.8m wide, preserved beneath a deposit of loose sandy-silt (1008) containing a less dense stone inclusion and interpreted as a post-use layer of accumulation (Figure 19). Although the road was not excavated it possibly extended a further 2m to the east (total width 5.8m) as a deposit (1012) with a less dense concentration of stones was found beneath a later intrusion (1007). It is therefore possible that (1012) was a continuation of (1008) but was not fully excavated to the underlying road.

The road was orientated north – south and two parallel ditches were located on either side of the road, the westernmost of which was the larger (1009) and more substantial, at more than 1.8m in width. The ditches were not excavated although the eastern one (1005; 1.17m width) was filled by a tightly compacted sandy-clay (1006) containing occasional rounded stones, similar to the fill (1010) in the western ditch. The top of these ditches appear to have been cut from high up in the profile, now lost in the ploughsoil, and might relate to a late re-use of the road. It is more probable, however, that the area was levelled as part of construction for the RAF huts which would have truncated the upper deposits and perhaps contributed to the formation of (1008).

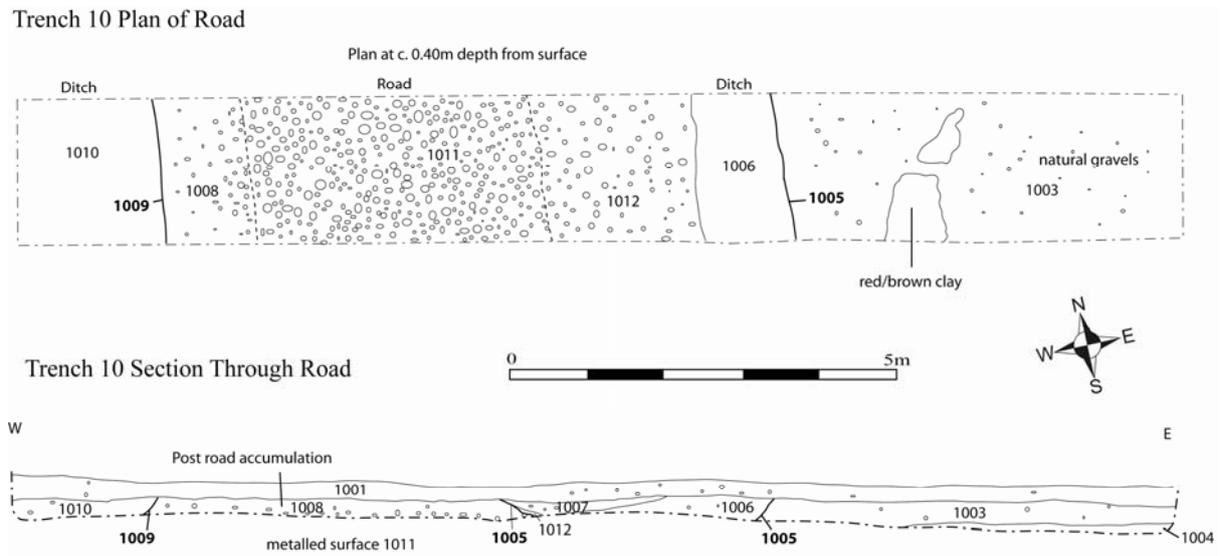
Figure 18

Trench 9 aerial view showing road and ditches with possible discarded paving slabs



(Note: northwards continuation of road as green lane beside hedge in field to north of site)

Figure 19
Trench 10 section and plan of old road



5.2.10 Continuation of the road as a causeway and agger with culverted stream

The old road continued as a causeway adjacent to the River Teme within the southeastern extremity of the site (shown on Figure 4). Although overgrown with vegetation, the road could be seen as a well-engineered structure which maintained the gradient of the road as it passed over a slight valley, formed by the outflow of a small stream. This stream now forms the sinuous boundary between the site and the garage to the south. The land to the north (the site) was drained by this stream via a tributary and a ditch(es) now in-filled but which originally ran through the site. The construction of the road, cambered and surfaced with pebbles, included a c.2m high earth embankment as the causeway (Figure 20), through which a brick-built culvert allowed the stream to pass on its way to the Teme. This demonstrates that the existing road is post-medieval in date, and probably of 18th century date.

Figure 20
The top of the causeway embankment, and details of brick culvert





5.2.11 Watching Brief results

No significant results were obtained from the monitoring of groundworks during construction. The flood attenuation pond excavation revealed more of the water channel seen in Trenches 2 and 3, and made for an easier photograph of this feature in section (Figure 21a). Nothing further was observed during excavation for the foundations of the permanent reception building, and the old road was not disturbed by the construction of the new access road and general surface clearance of the field. The ground was raised slightly within the northern area adjacent to the RAF huts which should help to protect the remains of the old road in this location (Figure 21b).

Figure 21
Top: section through water channel looking east;
base: view north showing raised land surface over road



6.0 ARTEFACTS

6.1 Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint tool Trench 8 (spoil heap)

Clear light grey lustre opaque flint tool – bi-facial blade with point (at proximal end); worked on both edges – possible reworking on one [lateral] edge. Clear dorsal ridge and scarring on worked face. Bulb of percussion on underside (ventral surface); platform edge at distal end with abrasion surface; dimensions 49 x 29mm⁶.

6.2 Coins & non-base metal from between Trenches 2/3 and 5 (Figure 22a)

2 x copper-alloy flat disks 27 x 1mm, one with mineral-replaced textile threads adhering to it. Very regularly cut disks, no identification possible, but size and regular edge to circle suggests coins of late 17th or early 18th century⁷; size could suggest possible half-pennies.

1 x George VI 1939 half-penny 25mm diameter

2 x copper-alloy flat buttons: 30 x 2mm and 22 x 1mm

Trench 5:

1 x Victorian penny 30 x 1mm

1 x coin 30 x 1mm unidentifiable

1 x RAF button

1 x silvered copper-alloy buckle end, bow-shaped, 27 x 2mm (hand-made?)

6.3 Sealed deposits

6.3.1 Trench 5

The Track: iron handle, curving, 115 x 10 x 6mm (Figure 22a)

6.3.2 Trench 7 (712) (Figure 22c)

7 x slipware dish, black glaze with yellow streaks, 18th – 19th century⁸

1 x slipware dish, brown glaze 18th - 19th century

3 x brown salt-glazed vessel with lipped rim 19th century

7 x transfer stoneware (green NE letters and decoration on white) mid 19th century

1 x blue and white glazed china 19th century

3 x yellow ware late 19th/early 20th century

2 x black-glazed earthenware inverted rims 19th/20th century

⁶ Dr George Nash, pers. comm.

⁷ Spink 2010 *Coins of England & the United Kingdom*, p.348-9, 365, 385-6 Spink's 45th edition Standard Catalogue of British Coins

⁸ Draper J. 1984 *Post-Medieval Pottery 1650 – 1800* p. 17-19 Shire Archaeology

7 x tile fragments

1 x black glass bottle base

Figure 22:
a) Selected metalwork; b) iron artefacts from Trench 5;
c) pottery and tile from Trench 7 (context 712)





6.3.3 Trench 8

Interface between (805) and (806) 1 x glass slag, and 1 x iron (curved piece)

6.3.4 Trench 9 (908)

6 x white-glazed stoneware (military issue) 20th century

1 x black-glazed earthenware 20th century

1 x narrow neck and mouth of clear glass flask/bottle

3 x animal bone, 1 x coal, 1 x iron plate & rivet, 1 x unidentified plain pot sherd

6.4 Unstratified

6.4.1 Trench 1

4 x small body sherds hard red fabric, thin, shiny surface (flower pot or samian?)

1 x body sherd, soft red fabric, possibly medieval

1 x salt-glazed cream ware rim, grey & brown band decoration c.1700?

6.4.2 Trench 3

10 x iron fragments including horseshoe nails

2 x iron clamps? 20th century?

1 x bone-handled penknife 20th century

6.4.3 Trench 5

4 x clay-pipe stems

1 x brown glass

Collection of iron fragments (Figure 22b): 3 staples, 2 chain links, possible latch fittings etc

6.4.4 Trench 6

3 x iron nails 100mm length, plus many other iron fragments

1 x 20th century black glazed pot rim

1 x copper-alloy domed button or decorative appliqué 28 x 0.5mm (Figure 22a)

6.4.5 Trench 8

1 x iron nail 80mm length, plus 1 x animal bone

6.4.6 Trench 9

1 x lead-glazed light brown body sherd, medieval

1 x salt-glazed rim brown and cream glaze rim 19th century

1 x NAAFI 1945 base to cup, and 1 x stoneware rim 19th/20th century

3 x iron nails curved, plus asbestos tile, clay pipe stem, tile fragments, 8 x bone

6.5 Discussion of artefactual evidence

Very few artefacts were found within sealed deposits, but a collection of finds were made from spoil heaps, topsoil between trenches on the line of the road, and from the metal-detecting survey undertaken during trial trenching. The assemblage does not provide a detailed chronology for the old road, but reflects what could normally be expected to be found in a ploughed field. The 20th century material derives from its use as an RAF training camp, and the ironwork is consistent with what would be expected from agricultural use during the 20th and preceding centuries.

Two probable coins, unidentifiable but with some mineral-replaced textile adhering, found along the line of the road, could be of late 17th or early 18th century date, and large sherds from a slipware dish of similar date (712) could perhaps derive from use of the old road in that period.

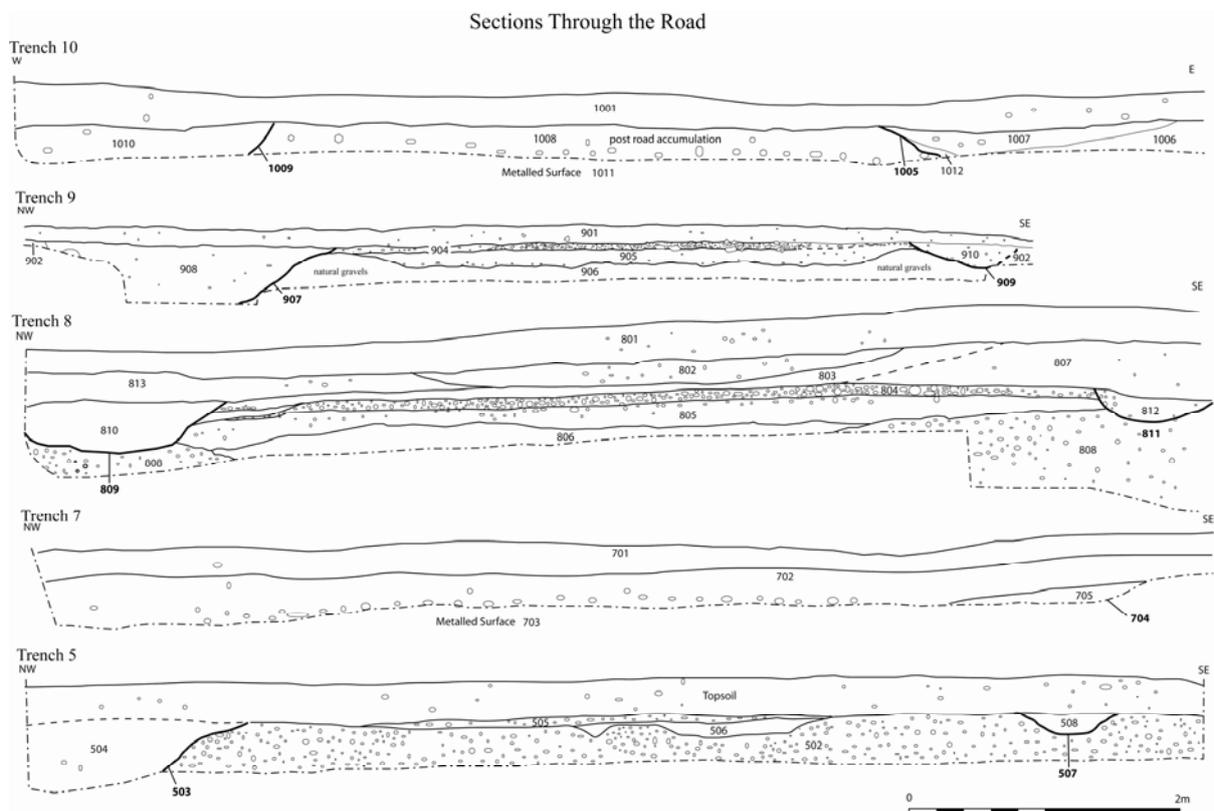
7.0 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

The comparative exposures of the old road have allowed a description to be produced (see Table 1 and Figure 23). Consistent characteristics are the presence of a c.0.1m thick stony deposit loosely set in a silty matrix, laid on a foundation of compacted sandy-clay (where excavated), with ditches to either side of which the western one was larger than the eastern one. The road's dimensions ranged from 2.3 – 5.8m in width, but four of the six sections were between 5.2 and 5.8m wide; plough damage or other disturbance might account for the reduced width in Trenches 3 and 5.

Table 1
Comparative dimensions for old road

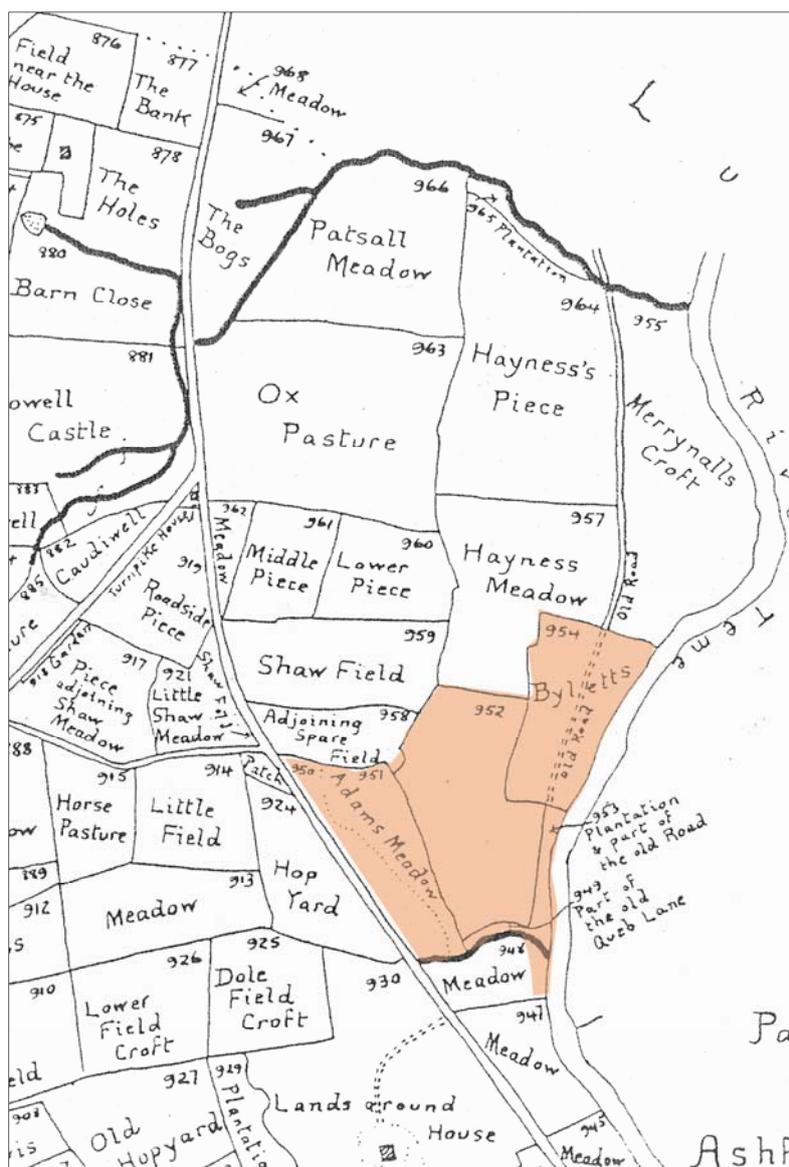
Trench No	Road dimensions	Western ditch	Eastern Ditch
3	2.3 x 0.10m	1.0 x 0.7m	
5	3.7 x 0.06m	1.6 x 0.5m	0.7 x 0.15m
7	5.8 x 0.15	0.4m	1.0 x >0.10m
8	5.2 x 0.10m	1.3 x 0.3m	0.9 x 0.18m
9	5.7 x 0.10m	4.4 x >0.9m	1.6 x 0.38m
10	5.8m	>2.0 x >0.30m	1.17 x 0.1m

Figure 23
Comparative sections through old road



The 1840 Tithe Apportionments map (Figure 25) shows that the new turnpike road had been built by this date and that the application site had largely acquired the field boundaries existing today (Field numbers 949 – 954), its southern boundary was outlined by a small stream. The old lane from Overton can be seen as a dotted line dividing Fields 950 and 951 (Adams Meadow) continuing to the river as “old Queb Lane”, and the old road from Ludlow is marked as still in partial use leading into the north-eastern corner of the site, Field 954 “Byletts”. The name Byletts could be derived from *by-* “place by” and *-let* “island” which can often be associated with mills⁹.

Figure 25
Tithe Apportionments map of 1840



⁹ Foxall H.D.G. 1980 *Shropshire Field Names* p.41 Shropshire Archaeological Society; see also Cameron K. 1996 *English Place Names* p.96, 170 Batsford

These two maps are crucial to understanding the development of the historic landscape and communication routes within it, and help with interpretation of the archaeological remains found at the site. They provide an end date for the old road (1830s), and the tentative identification of late 17th or early 18th century coins, as well as some 18th century ceramics, found along the road during the investigation would be consistent with its use prior to construction of the turnpike. The brick-built culvert beneath the causeway, however, appears more likely to be of 19th century date than earlier. There is no evidence for a Roman origin, as suggested by Margary for example, based on the surviving physical remains excavated during this investigation, and the stratigraphic relationship of the road constructed over the in-filled water channel in Trench 3 shows that it post-dates the use of this feature.

In Trench 2 and 3 a large water channel and a series of undulations were recorded, and the road was found to have been constructed over the in-filled channel showing that this water feature was from an earlier period. In addition another water feature (a drainage ditch) was discovered in Trench 1 running towards the stream on the southern boundary, and within this trench a zone of slightly higher and dryer natural geology could possibly indicate the line the trackway (Queb Lane) that might have been part of a prehistoric route¹⁰. This putative prehistoric route would have crossed the Teme adjacent to the southeastern extremity of the site, opposite Saltmoor Well. The maps shown in Figures 24 and 25 record the fact that much of the land adjacent to the river was used as meadows, and the interpretation for the undulations seen in Trench 2 is that these were some form of water management feature to enhance the meadow-land; this activity was developed during the 16th – 18th centuries and was an agricultural improvement for sheep and corn farming¹¹. The channel could have been designed to supply the water meadows, but its substantial size could suggest another possibility as a leat supplying a watermill. The name Byletts has been found in connection with mills elsewhere in Shropshire and a feature in the River Teme half-way along the eastern boundary of the site, looked like a possible weir (Figure 26), perhaps for deflecting water into the channel, and effectively creating an “island” in the southeastern part of the site. Whatever its function, the most likely date for the channel is medieval or post-medieval.

¹⁰ Richard’s Castle parish file, Shropshire Archives, taken from Ordnance Survey field notes OS30

¹¹ Wood E.F. 1997 *Historical Britain*, p.80

Figure 26
Aerial view showing possible weir in River Teme; old road in Trench 3 in foreground



8.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Capital Construction Management and Morris Leisure; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

This project was managed by Tim Malim SLR Consulting Ltd, who also wrote the report. It was commissioned by William Onions of Capital Construction Management on behalf of Edward Goddard of Morris Leisure Ltd. The archaeological site investigation, recording and subsequent monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Tom Wellicome of Archaeological Landscape Investigation, assisted by Adam Stanford of Aerial-Cam, and Howard Murphy kindly undertook metal-detecting survey during the investigations. The illustrations have been completed by Caroline Malim SLR Consulting Ltd. Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental assessed the palaeoenvironmental samples, and Dr George Nash of SLR Consulting Ltd examined the worked flint and advised on the ceramic identification. Peter Reavill the Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme supplied useful background information, and Mick Krupa of Shropshire Council monitored the archaeological programme on behalf of the local planning authority. Steve Roberts and Phil Jennings of Capital Construction Management helped with coordination and access for site works and the topographic site survey.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of archaeological contexts

Context Number	Context type	Interpretation	Trench	Fill of	Filled by	Strat earlier than	Strat later than	Same as	Description (colour, texture, inclusions, shape/form)	Dimensions	Plan Number	Section number	Photo Numbers	Sample Number	Finds	Spot Date	Context Number
101	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	1				102, 103	201, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>14.5 x >1.8 x 0.30m	Not seen	1.1		NA	Occasional post med. CBM and pot (not retained)	Modern	101
102	Deposit	Make-up deposit	1			101	107,110		Loosely compacted pink sandy clay with occasional rounded and sub-angular stones	>30.5 x > 1.8 x 0.30 - 0.40m	Not seen	1.1		NA	Occasional post med. CBM and pot (not retained)	Modern	102
103	Structure?	Possible wall foundation/ remnants	1			101	105		Approximately E - W orientated linear line of mudstones, with no visible bonding or coursing. The stones have been disturbed during the deposition of (102), but are aligned on same orientation as ditch [106]	>1.8 x 0.30 x 0.10m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Post medieval	103
104	Deposit	Alluvial/ Colluvial deposition	1			108	105		Moderately to well compacted reddish brown sandy clay with occasional rounded stones	>43.0 x >1.8 x <0.50m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	104
105	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	1			104		207	Loosely to moderately compacted gravels and yellow/ pinkish red and grey clays	>43.0 x >1.8 x <0.20m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	105
106	Cut	Cut of post medieval drainage/ boundary ditch	1		107	107	108		E - W orientated linear cut with moderate break of slope top, and apparently steeply sloping sides, not fully excavated/ evaluated. Backfilled by farmer in mid-1980s	3.30 x >1.8 x >0.10m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Post medieval	106
107	Fill	Fill of ditch (106)	1	106		102	107		Loosely compacted dark brown silty sand with moderate amounts of post medieval CBM, occasional white glazed wares and sub-angular stones	3.30 x >1.8 x >0.10m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Post medieval (mid-1980s from anecdotal evidence)	107
108	Deposit	Earlier topsoil/ plough soil	1			106, 109	104		Loosely to moderately compacted mid-brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stones	>28.0 x >1.8 x c.0.10m	Not seen	1.1		NA	Occasional post med. CBM and pot (not retained)	Post medieval	108
109	Cut	Cut of 1980s concrete land drain pipe	1		110	110	108		Approximately E - W orientated linear cut with a sharp break of slope top, and near vertical sides. Base not excavated.	>1.9 x 0.60 x >0.60m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Post medieval (mid-1980s from anecdotal evidence)	109
110	Fill	Fill of drain cut (109)	1	109		102	109		Loosely compacted mixture of pink clay and light brown sandy silt, with occasional angular and rounded stones	>1.9 x 0.60 x >0.60m	1.2	1.1		NA	None	Post medieval (mid-1980s from anecdotal evidence)	110
201	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	2				202	101, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>53.40 x >1.80 x 0.25 - 0.30m	Not seen	2.1		NA	Occasional iron (Fe) nails	Modern	201
202	Deposit	Sub-soil	2			201	203	302	Variable band of loosely compacted dark reddish brown silty sandy clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones.	>53.4 x >1.80 x <0.40m	Not seen	2.1		NA	None	Post med.	202
203	Deposit	Alluvial deposition	2			202	205		Tightly compacted orange brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and sub-angular stones	>53.4 x >1.80 x <0.50m	2.2	2.1		NA	None	Unknown	203
204	Deposit	Alluvial deposition	2			203	205		Tightly compacted red brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and sub-angular stones	>53.4 x >1.80 x >0.20m	2.2	2.1		NA	None	Unknown	204
205	Fill	Fill of 'natural' water channel (208)	2	208		206	208		Tightly compacted greyish clay with moderate charcoal and organic inclusions	>15.0 x >1.80 x 0.25m	2.2	Not seen		4, 5, 6, 7	None	Unknown	205

206	Fill	Fill of 'natural' water channel (208)	2		204	205	303	Tightly compacted orange sandy clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>15.0 x >1.80 x 0.40m	2.2	Not seen		NA	None	Unknown	206
207	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	2		208		105	Loosely to moderately compacted gravels and yellow/ pinkish red and grey clays. There is greater variability in this makeup due to this trench being nearer to the river with patches of gravel and clay interspersed below the alluvial deposits	>43.0 x >1.80 x <0.20m	2.2	2.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	207
208	Cut?	Natural water channel course?	2		205, 206	205	207	Not fully investigated in this trench. Large cut orientated NE - SW. Break of slope top: sharp. Sides: appear steeply sloping but not fully investigated.	>15.0 x >1.80 x >0.65m	2.2	Not seen		NA	None	Unknown	208
301	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	3			308, 309	101, 201 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>49.70 x >1.80 x 0.30m	Not seen	3.1		NA	Occasional post medieval ceramic (not retained)	Modern	301
302	Deposit	Sub-soil, alluvium	3		307, 309	303	202	Tightly compacted orangey red sandy clay with occasional rounded and sub-angular stones	>49.70 x >1.80 x <0.50m	Not seen	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	302
303	Fill	Alluvial fill of (310)	3	310	302	304	206	Tightly compacted orange sandy clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	8.00 x >1.80 x >c. 0.40m	3.3	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	303
304	Fill	Organically rich fill of (310)	3	310	303	311		Tightly compacted greyish clay with occasional charcoal? and organic inclusions	8.00 x >1.80 x <0.40m	Not seen	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	304
305	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	3		310	306		Loosely to moderately compacted gravels and yellow/ pinkish red and grey clays.	>44.20 x >1.80 x >0.40m	Not seen	3.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	305
306	Deposit	Natural clay deposit	3		305			Moderately compacted pink clay	>5.00 x >1.80 x >0.20m	3.3	3.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	306
307	Cut	Ditch, gully associated with metallated surface (309)	3		308	302		Approximately N - S orientated cut with a moderate break of slope top, steeply sloping sides, moderate to sharp break of slope base and concave base	>1.80 x 1.0 (at widest) x 0.70m (at deepest)	3.2, 3.3	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	307
308	Fill	Fill of ditch (307)	3		301	307		Moderately compacted light brown clay sandy silt with occasional small angular stones	>1.80 x 1.0 (at widest) x 0.70m (at deepest)	3.2, 3.3	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	308
309	Deposit	Plough degraded road/ metallated surface	3		301	302	505, 703, 804, 905, 1011	Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling) in a mid to dark brown silty sand matrix. Orientated approximately N - S	>5.60 x 2.30 x c.0.10m	3.2	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	309
310	Cut?	Natural water channel course?	3		303, 304, 311	311	305	NE - SW orientated possibly natural cut with a moderate to sharp break of slope top, moderately sloping sides, moderate break of slope base and a roughly flat base	13.0 x >1.80 x 0.70m	Not seen	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	310
311	Fill?	Natural sediment accumulation	3	310	304	310		Loosely compacted light brown gravelly silt	>1.80 x >1.80 x 0.58m	Not seen	3.1		NA	None	Unknown	311
401	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	4			402	101, 201 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>49.20 x >1.80 x 0.30m	Not seen	4.1		NA	Occasional post med. ceramic (not retained)	Modern	401
402	Deposit	Sub-soil/ colluvium	4		406, 408, 410, 412	401		Moderately compacted orange to reddish brown sandy clay	>49.20 x >1.80 x 0.30m	Not seen	4.1		NA	None	Unknown	402
403	Deposit	Organically rich early surface horizon	4		405, 407, 409, 411	404		Loosely to moderately compacted reddish grey silty clay with frequent organic inclusions	>49.20 x >1.80 x c.0.10m	4.2	4.1		1, 2, 3	None	Unknown	403
404	Deposit	Natural clay deposit/	4		403			Tightly compacted red clay	>49.20 x >1.80 x	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Unknown	404

		colluvium								>0.50m							
405	Cut	Land Drain	4		406	406	403		Orientated NW - SE. Sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base, flat to concave base. Probably cut from (402), but cut not clear in section/ profile	>2.0 x 0.30 x c.0.20m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Post-medieval	405
406	Fill	of cut [405]	4	405		402	405		Moderately compacted reddish brown sandy clay with ceramic land drain pipe	>2.0 x 0.30 x c.0.20m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Post-medieval	406
407	Cut	Land Drain	4		408	408	403		Orientated NW - SE. Sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base, flat to concave base. Probably cut from (402), but cut not clear in section/ profile	>2.0 x 0.30 x c.0.20m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Post-medieval	407
408	Fill	of cut [407]	4	407		402	407		Moderately compacted reddish brown sandy clay with ceramic land drain pipe	>2.0 x 0.30 x c.0.20m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Post-medieval	408
409	Cut	Early ditch boundary	4		410	410	403		Sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base, flat to concave base.	>1.80 x 0.80 x 0.40m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Unknown	409
410	Fill	of cut [409]	4	409		402	409		Moderately compacted greyish brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of weathered mudstone	>1.80 x 0.80 x 0.40m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Unknown	410
411	Cut	Land Drain	4		412	412	403		Orientated NW - SE. Sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base, flat to concave base. Probably cut from (402), but cut not clear in section/ profile	>2.0 x 0.30 x c.0.20m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Post-medieval	411
412	Fill	of cut [411]	4	411		402	411		Moderately compacted reddish brown sandy clay with ceramic land drain pipe	>2.0 x 0.30 x c.0.20m	4.2	4.1		NA	None	Post-medieval	412
501	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	5				504, 508	101, 201 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>25.0 x >1.80 x c.0.30m	Not seen	5.1		NA	None	Modern	501
502	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	5			506, 507		105, 207, 305 etc	Loosely to moderately compacted gravels with clays, with percentage of clays increasing to east and river	>25.0 x >1.80 x >0.75m	5.2	5.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	502
503	Cut	Cut of ditch associated with road (505)	5		504	504	505, 509		Larger of two ditches flanking road (505) at western side, and orientated N - S. Gentle to moderate break of slope top, moderately sloping sides, moderate break of slope base and concave base	>3.70 x 1.90 x c. 1.20m (at deepest)	Not seen	5.3		NA	None	Unknown	503
504	Fill	fill of ditch [505]	5	503		501	503		Loosely to moderately compacted light brown clay sandy silt with occasional angular stones, rounded stones and occasional large angular mudstones (possibly part of a road surface)	>3.70 x 1.90 x c. 1.20m (at deepest)	Not seen	5.3		NA	None	Unknown	504
505	Deposit	Plough degraded road/ metallated surface	5			503	506	309, 703, 804, 905, 1011	Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling) in a mid to dark brown silty sand matrix. Orientated N - S	>3.70 x 1.80 x 0.20m (at deepest)	5.2	5.3		NA	None	Unknown	505
506	Deposit	Remnants of bedding material for road (505)	5			505	502		Moderately compacted orange brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular stones	>1.80 x 1.80 x 0.40m (at deepest)	Not seen	5.3		NA	None	Unknown	506
507	Cut	Cut of smaller ditch associated with road (505)	5		508	508	502		Smaller eastern ditch associated with road (505). Orientated approximately N- S. Gentle break of slope top, gently sloping sides, gentle break of slope base, slightly concave base	>3.70 x 0.90 x 0.30m	Not seen	5.3		NA	None	Unknown	507
508	Fill	fill of ditch [507]	5	507		501	507		Light brown clayey sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	>3.70 x 0.90 x 0.30m	Not seen	5.3		NA	None	Unknown	508
509	Deposit	Subsoil/ alluvium	5			503	502		Loosely compacted orange brown sandy clay with occasional small angular stone inclusions	>12.50 x >1.80 x c. 0.30m	Not seen	5.1		NA	None	Unknown	509
601	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	6				602	101, 201, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>22.70 x >1.80 x <0.35m	Not seen	6.1		NA	Occasional post med. pot and CBM (not retained)	Modern	601
602	Deposit	Sub-soil/ alluvium	6			601	603		Moderately compacted orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones	>22.70 x >1.80 x <0.45m	Not seen	6.1		NA	None	Unknown	602

603	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	6		602		105, 207	Loosely to moderately compacted gravels with clay inclusions	>22.70 x >1.80 x >0.20m	6.2	Not seen		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	603
701	Deposit	Topsoil	7			706, 708, 710	101, 201, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>36.50 x >1.80 x <0.25m	Not seen	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	701
702	Deposit	Sub-soil	7		706, 707, 709	712		Moderately compacted orangey brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones	>36.50 x >1.80 x <0.70m	Not seen	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	702
703	Deposit	Metalled Surface of road	7		712	711	309, 505, 804, 905, 1011	Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling) Orientated NE - SW	5.80 x >1.80 x <0.15m	7.2	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	703
704	Cut	Cut of ditch/ gulley associated with road (703)	7	705	705	711		Linear cut orientated NE - SW. Gentle break of slope top, gently sloping sides, base not excavated.	>1.80 x 1.10 x Not excavated	7.2	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	704
705	Fill	fill of [704]	7	704	712	704		Moderately compacted light brown clayey sandy silt with occasional rounded stones	>1.80 x 1.10 x Not excavated	7.2	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	705
706	Context	Lead pipe, associated with RAF buildings	7		701	702		Lead pipe orientated NE - SW, appears to link two RAF huts and is probably a water pipe.	>1.90 x 0.08 x 0.08m	7.2	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	706
707	Cut	Foul pipe cut	7	708	708	702		N - S orientated cut with a sharp break of slop top and steeply sloping sides. Base not excavated	>2.70 x 0.50 x >0.60m	7.2	7.1		NA	None	WW2?	707
708	Fill	of [707]	7	707	701	707		Loosely compacted mid. brown sandy clay with frequent angular stones and a glazed ceramic pipe running through its fill	>2.70 x 0.50 x >0.60m	7.2	7.1		NA	None	WW2?	708
709	Cut	Ditch/ linear pit, probably associated with RAF structures	7	710	710	702		NE - SW orientated sharp break of slop top, steeply sloping sides, sharp break of slope base and slightly concave base	>1.80 x c.0.70 x 1.40m	7.2	7.1		NA	None	Unknown	709
710	Fill	of [709]	7	709	701	709		Light brown clayey sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones, a charcoal lense was observed within this fill	>1.80 x c.0.70 x 1.40m	Not seen	7.1		NA	Rare post med. pot	Post med.	710
711	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	7		703, 704			Loosely to moderately compacted gravels with clays, with percentage of clays increasing to east and river	>36.50 x >1.80 x >0.20m	7.2	7.1		NA	None	Natural/ post glacial	711
712	Deposit	Thin lense of material overlying road (703)	7		702	703, 705		Dark greyish brown silt deposit	5.80 x >1.80 x <0.05m	Not seen	7.1		NA	Moderate post medieval pottery and ceramics, including bakewell style wares	Post med.	712
801	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	8		802		101, 201, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>14.90 x >1.80 x c.0.28m	Not seen	8.1, 8.3		NA	1 x worked flint	Modern	801
802	Deposit	Possible robbing activity	8		801	813		Loosely compacted orange brown sandy clay with occasional small angular stone inclusions	3.60 x > 1.80 x 0.18m	Not seen	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	802
803	Deposit	Possible robbing activity	8		809	807		Loosely compacted light brown sandy clay with occasional small angular and rounded stone inclusions	5.75 x >1.80 x c.0.12m	Not seen	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	803
804	Deposit	Metalled Surface of road	8		807	805	309, 505, 703, 905, 1011	Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling). Orientated NE - SW	c.5.00 x >1.80 x c.0.10m	8.2	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	804
805	Deposit	Bedding material for road (804)	8		804, 811	806		Moderately compacted orange brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular stones	6.10 x >1.80 x c.0.20m	Not seen	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	805
806	Deposit	Natural clay	8		805	808		Tightly compacted pinkish red clay	6.60 x >1.80	Not	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	806

		deposit								x 0.20m	seen							
807	Deposit	Sub-soil	8			803	804, 812		Moderately compacted light brown sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stones	3.90 x >1.80 x c. 0.30m	Not seen	8.1, 8.3		NA	None	Unknown	807	
808	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	8			806			Loosely to moderately compacted gravels with clays	>14.90 x >1.80 x >0.60m		8.2	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	808
809	Cut	Cut of ditch associated with road (804)	8		810	810	813		NE to SW orientated linear cut, with moderate break of slope top, steeply sloping to nr. vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and undulating to concave base	>1.80 x 1.42 x 0.40m		8.2	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	809
810	Fill	of ditch [809]	8	809		813	809		Moderately to tightly compacted light brown silty sandy clay with occasional angular stone inclusions	>1.80 x 1.42 x 0.40m		8.2	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	810
811	Cut	Cut of ditch associated with road (804)	8		812	812	805		NE to SW orientated linear cut, with moderate break of slope top, moderately to gently sloping sides, gentle break of slope base and undulating to concave base	>1.80 x 0.85 x 0.17m		8.2	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	811
812	Fill	of ditch [811]	8	811		807	811		Moderately to tightly compacted light brown silty sandy clay with occasional angular stone inclusions	>1.80 x 0.85 x 0.17m		8.2	8.3		NA	None	Unknown	812
813	Deposit	Sub-soil	8			802	810	105, 207	Moderately compacted light brown sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stones	7.60 x >1.80 x c. 0.42m	Not seen	8.1, 8.3		NA	None	Unknown	813	
901	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	9				903, 908, 910, 912	101, 201, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>47.00 x >1.80 x <0.30m	Not seen	9.1, 9.3		NA	Occasional clay pipe and post med. pot, including 1 x dated 1945	Modern	901	
902	Deposit	Sub-soil/ alluvium	9			903, 907, 909, 911	906	807	Moderately compacted light orangey brown sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stones	>47.00 x >1.80 x <0.30m		9.2	9.1, 9.3		NA	None	Unknown	902
903	Deposit	Gravel hard standing, probably relating to RAF huts	9				901	902	Loosely to moderately compacted gravel surface	7.25 x >1.80 x c. 0.08m		9.2	Not seen		NA	None	WW2?	903
904	Deposit	Metalled surface of road	9			907, 909	905	309, 505, 703, 804, 1011	Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling). Orientated NE - SW	>8.35 x c. 4.50 x c. 0.10m		9.2	9.3		NA	None	Unknown	904
905	Deposit	Bedding material for road (904)	9			904	906		Moderately compacted orange brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular stones	8.30 x >1.80 x <0.22m		9.2	9.3		NA	None	Unknown	905
906	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	9			902, 905			Moderately compacted gravels with clays	>47.00 x >1.80 x >0.60m		9.2	9.1, 9.3		NA	None	Unknown	906
907	Cut	Cut of large ditch/ pit associated with road (904)	9		908	908	902, 904		Linear cut orientated NE - SW. Gentle break of slope top, steeply sloping sides, moderate break of slope base, concave base.	4.20 x >1.80 x 0.84m		9.2	9.3		NA	None	Post med.	907
908	Fill	of ditch/ pit [907]	9	907		901	907		Moderately to tightly compacted light brown silty sandy clay with occasional angular stone inclusions, inc. large mudstones, aligned on the same alignment as the cut	4.20 x >1.80 x 0.84m		9.2	9.3		NA	Occasional animal bone (sheep/ goat), post medieval pot	Post med.	908
909	Cut	Smaller drainage ditch/ gulley to east of road	9		910	910	902, 904		Linear cut orientated NE - SW. Moderate break of slope top, gentle to moderate sloping sides, gentle break of slope base, concave base	>1.80 x 1.60 x 0.36m		9.2	9.3		NA	None	Unknown	909
910	Fill	of ditch/ gulley [909]	9	909		901	909		Moderately to tightly compacted light brown silty sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stone inclusions	>1.80 x 1.60 x 0.36m		9.2	9.3		NA	None	Unknown	910

911	Cut	Waste/ utility pipe trench cut	9		912	912	902		Linear cut orientated N - S. Sharp break of slope top, steeply sloping to vertical sides and a sharp break of slope base and concave base	>1.80 x 0.65 x 0.30m	9.2	9.1		NA	None	WW2?	911
912	Fill	of utility cut [911]		911		901	911		Loosely compacted reddish brown clayey silt with a glazed ceramic waste pipe	>1.80 x 0.65 x 0.30m	9.2	9.1		NA	None	WW2?	912
1001	Deposit	Topsoil/ Plough soil	10				1007, 1010	101, 201, 301 etc	Loosely compacted mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions	>15.0 x >1.80 x c. 0.20m	Not seen	10.1		NA	None	Modern	1001
1002	Deposit	Sub-soil	10			1005	1004		Moderately compacted light orangey brown sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stones	>5.32 x >1.80 x c. 0.27m	Not seen	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1002
1003	Deposit	Natural gravels and clays	10			1004			Moderately compacted gravels with clays	>5.32 x >1.80 x >0.05m	10.2	Not seen		NA	None	Unknown	1003
1004	Deposit	Natural clay accumulation?	10			1002	1005		Moderately compacted pinkish red clay	2.95 x >1.80 x 0.08m	Not seen	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1004
1005	Cut	Cut of ditch associated with road (1011)	10		1006, 1007	1006	1002, 1008		Linear cut orientated N - S. Moderate break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, base not excavated	>1.80 x 1.17 x >0.20m	10.2	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1005
1006	Fill	Earlier fill of ditch (1005)	10	1005		1007	1005		Moderately to tightly compacted light brown silty sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stone inclusions	>1.80 x 1.17 x >0.10m	10.2	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1006
1007	Fill	Later fill of ditch (1005), possibly associated with robbing activity	10	1005		1001	1006		Loosely compacted light brown sandy clay silt with moderate rounded and sub angular stones	>1.80 x 1.17 x 0.10m	Not seen	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1007
1008	Deposit	Post road disuse accumulation material	10			1005, 1009	1011		Loosely compacted greyish brown sandy clay silt with moderate rounded and sub angular stones	5.10 x >1.80 x 0.22m	Not seen	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1008
1009	Cut	Continuation of larger ditch running along eastern side of road (1011)	10		1010	1010	1008		Linear cut orientated N - S. Gentle break of slope top, steeply sloping sides, base not excavated	>1.85 x >1.80 x >0.25m	10.2	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1009
1010	Fill	of (1009)	10	1009		1001	1009		Moderately to tightly compacted light brown silty sandy clay with occasional angular and rounded stone inclusions	>1.85 x >1.80 x >0.25m	10.2	10.1		NA	None	Unknown	1010
1011	Deposit	Metalled surface of road	10			1008		309, 505, 703, 804, 904	Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling)	3.80 x >1.80 x Not excavated	10.2	Not seen		NA	None	Unknown	1011
1012	Deposit	Possible extension of (1011)	10			1008			Rounded and sub-angular/ sub rounded pebbles (metalling). More thinly spread than (1011). Orientated N - S	1.95 x >1.80 x Not excavated	10.2	Not seen		NA	None	Unknown	1012
		Enclosure ditch							Fill of Bioturbation/natural feature								
		Enclosure ditch fill							Cut of Bioturbation								
		Pit/Post-hole							Fill of Natural Feature								
		Pit/Post-hole fill							Natural Drift Geology								
		Grave							Bedrock								
		Grave fill															

Top: Hut 1 interior shots: a) Northwestern room facing SW; b) northwest end looking NW; c) southeastern room with sinks in situ looking SE



Base: Hut 2 interior shots: a) northwestern wall looking N; b) centre southwestern wall looking S; c) southwest corner and west wall looking S

Top: a) Hut 2 southeastern interior facing SE; b) Hut 2 northeastern elevation facing SW; c) Hut 3 interior northwestern room facing N;



Base Hut 3 interior: a) middle room facing SW; b) southeastern room facing W showing partition wall; c) Hut 3 southeastern room interior facing E;

Appendix 3: Palaeoenvironmental Assessment Report

An assessment of the palaeoenvironmental potential of deposits from Ludlow Caravan Park,
Ludlow

by

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June 2011

Summary

*During the evaluation of a proposed caravan park at Overton Road, Ludlow, Shropshire undertaken by SLR Consulting Ltd palaeoenvironmental samples were recovered. The trenches were located along the floodplain of the river Teme and along the higher ground. Two samples were assessed for the presence of charred plant remains and charcoal, one from the fill of a water channel (possibly man-made) and one from an interface between colluvium and a floodplain deposit. The fill of the water channel yielded small pieces of charred material too small and degraded to identify. The sample recovered from the colluvial and floodplain interface contained an abundance of *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) charcoal. It is unclear whether this represents the remains of a deliberate or natural fire. Further excavations may yield samples that would further clarify this. No further work is recommended on this material.*

1. INTRODUCTION

A series of two samples from deposits excavated at Ludlow caravan park were submitted for an evaluation of their environmental potential. The excavation was carried out by SLR Consulting Ltd in June 2011. The samples were recovered from the fill of a water channel (S.N 004 – [205]) and an interface/transitional zone between possible colluvium and original floodplain deposit (S.N 003 – [403], Plate 1).

A programme of soil sampling from sealed contexts was implemented during the excavation. The aim of the sampling was to assess the type of preservation and the potential of the biological remains in the reconstruction of:

- Any human activities undertaken on the site
- The environment of the surrounding area

2. METHODS

The material was submitted to Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental and it was then processed by staff using their standard water flotation methods. The flot (the sum of the material from each sample that floats) was sieved to 0.5mm and air dried. The heavy residue (the material which does not float) from S.N 003 [403] was examined, but the decision was made not to examine S.N 004 [205] as the residue was thick grey clay with no organic components. The material was examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x40.

A four point semi quantitative scale was used, from '1' – one or a few specimens (less than an estimated six per kg of raw sediment) to '4' – abundant remains (many specimens per kg or a major component of the matrix). Data were recorded on paper and subsequently on a personal computer using a Microsoft Access database.

The flot was then sieved into convenient fractions (4, 2, 1 and 0.3mm) for sorting and identification of charcoal fragments. Identifiable material was only present within the 4 and 2mm fractions. A random selection of ideally 100 fragments of charcoal of varying sizes was made, which were then identified. Where samples did not contain 100 identifiable fragments, all fragments were studied and recorded. This information is recorded with the results of the assessment in Table 2 below. Identification was made using the wood identification guides of Scweingruber (1978) and Hather (2000).

Taxa identified only to genus cannot be identified more closely due to a lack of defining characteristics in charcoal material.

3. RESULTS

The components recorded from each of the samples are presented in Table 1.

Charcoal remains were present in both samples and scored a '4' on the abundance scale in the material recovered from the colluvial interface [403] (S.N 003) and a '1' in the material recovered from the fill of a water channel [205] (S.N 004). The preservation of the charcoal fragments was very good within S.N 003. Most of the charcoal was firm and crisp and allowed for clean breaks to the material permitting clean surfaces where identifiable characteristics were visible. Of one hundred fragments examined, all were identifiable as *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash). The charred material in S.N 004 was not identifiable as it was too small. Table 2 below shows the results of the charcoal assessment.

4. DISCUSSION

Generally, there are various, largely unquantifiable, factors that affect the representation of species in charcoal samples including bias in contemporary collection, inclusive of social and economic factors, and various factors of taphonomy and conservation (Thery-Parisot 2002). On account of these considerations, the identified taxa are not considered to be proportionately representative of the availability of wood resources in the surrounding environment in a definitive sense, and are possibly reflective of particular choice of fire making fuel from these resources. However, as the source is a colluvial deposit – ie. The parent material is derived from elsewhere – it cannot be conclusively said at this stage that this material is the result of anthropogenic activities and not natural processes.

The samples produced little environmental material, with the exception of the charcoal from S.N 003 [403]. These charcoal remains showed the exploitation of a single species native to Britain – Ash. All the charcoal is the same species and of a similar preservation level and the context from which it derives has been interpreted as an 'organically rich early surface horizon' which is the interface between a colluvial and alluvial deposit (Plate 1). It is possible that deposits remain sealed beneath this alluvium that may yield more substantial palaeoenvironmental deposits. It appears that the field drain/brook at the south west end of Trench 4 (near to the S.N 003 location) may be a former water course that may have deposited this alluvium.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The samples have been assessed, and any interpretable data has been retrieved. No further work is required on any of the samples. If further alluvial deposits are encountered there is the potential for palaeoenvironmental remains to be preserved beneath them. Any material recovered by further excavations should be processed to 0.3mm in accordance with

standardised processing methods such as Kenward *et al.* 1980, and the English Heritage guidelines for Environmental Archaeology.

ARCHIVE

All extracted fossils and flots are currently stored with the site archive in the stores at Birmingham Archaeology, along with a paper and electronic record pertaining to the work described here.

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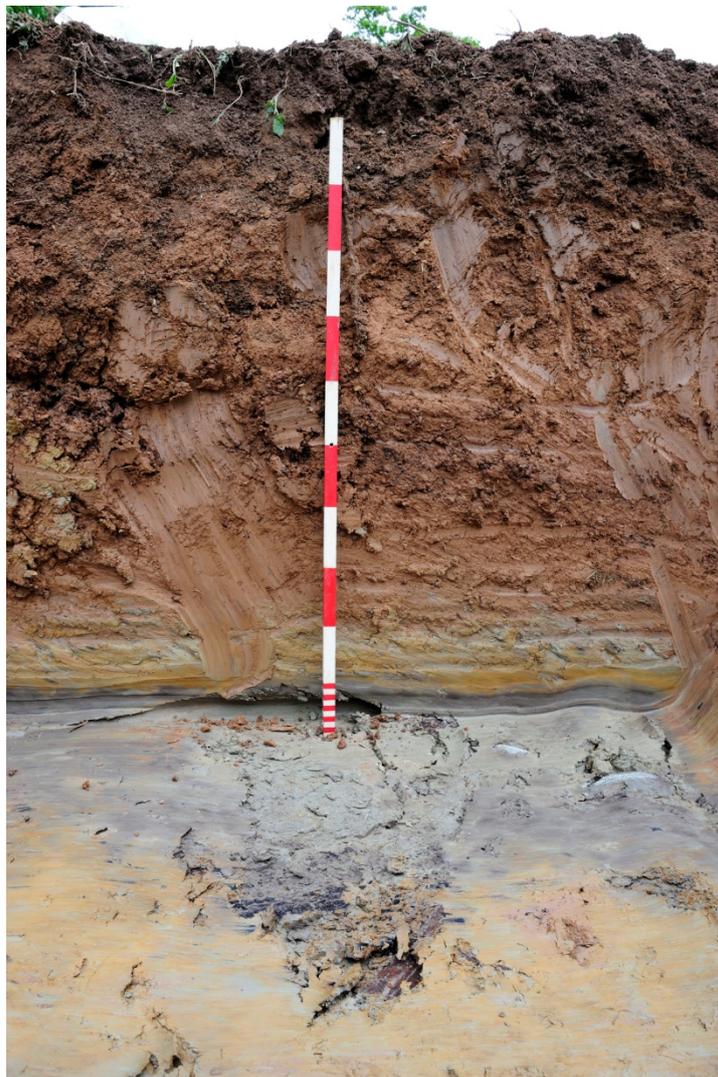


Plate 1: Trench 4 alluvial and colluvial deposits

Table 1.

Components of the subsamples from deposits recovered at Ludlow caravan park, Ludlow.

Semi quantitative score of the components of the samples is based on a four point scale, from '1' – one or a few remains (less than an estimated six per kg of raw sediment) to '4' – abundant remains (many per kg or a major component of the matrix).

Sample No.	003	004
Context No.	403	205
Charcoal fgts.	4	1
Earthworm egg capsules		1
Herbaceous detritus	3	4
Sand	2	2

Table 2.

Complete list of taxa recovered from deposits at deposits recovered at Ludlow caravan park, Ludlow.

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Schweingruber (1978). Numbers are identified charcoal fragment for each sample.

Name	Vernacular	Sample 003 (403)
		100+ fgts max. size-29mm
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	100



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