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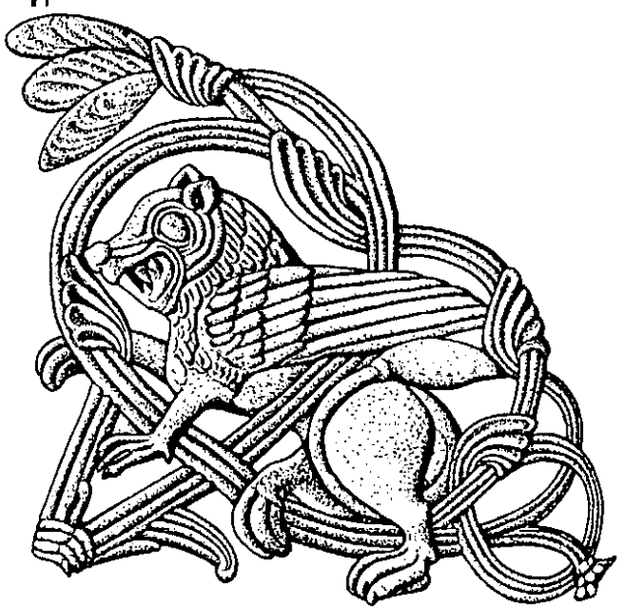

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

COUNTY COUNCIL

EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED RYEFORD BYPASS, WESTON UNDER PENYARD (STAGE 3)

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October 1995

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Worcester WR4 9LS

Project 1107
Report 405
HWCM 22965

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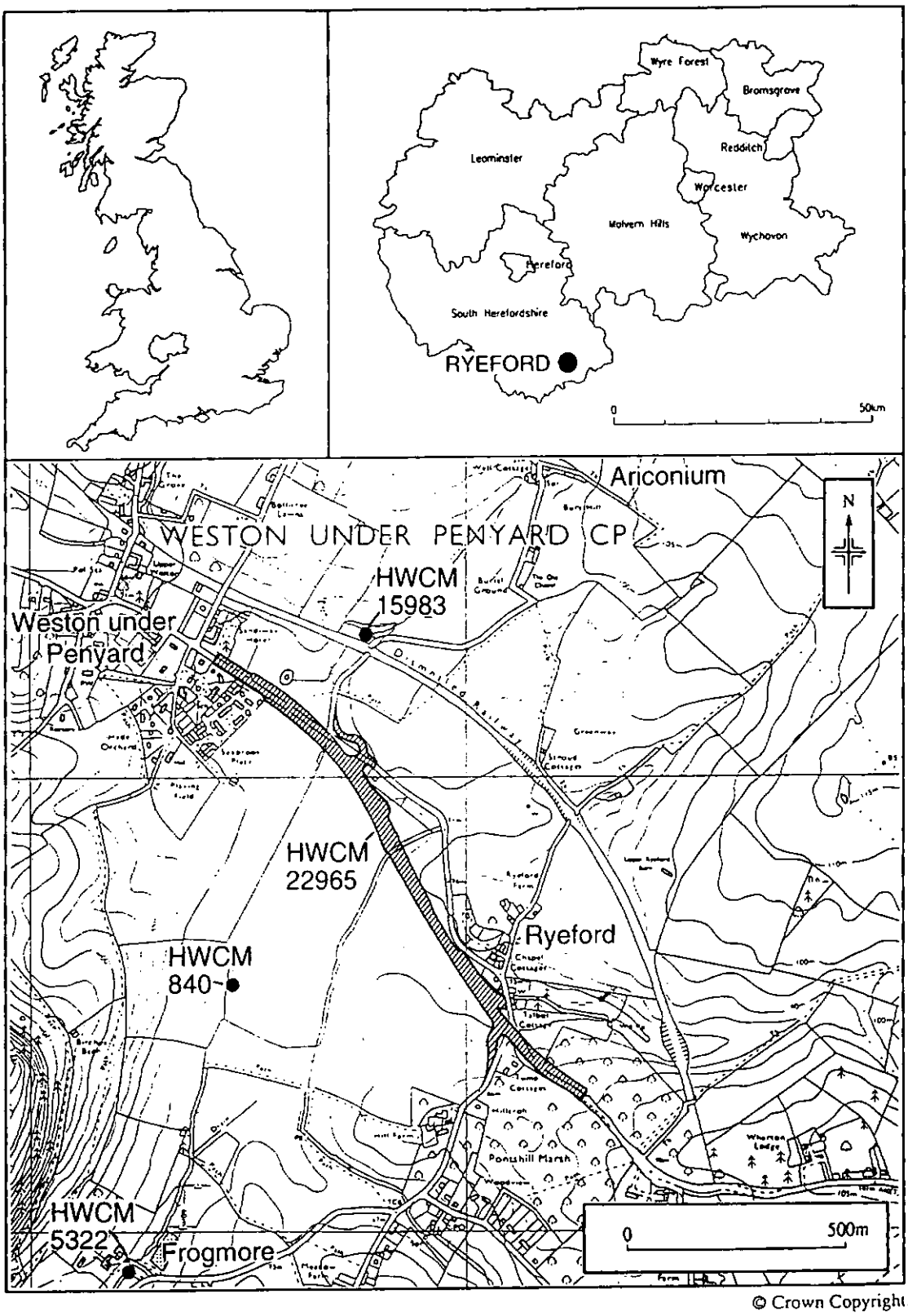


Figure 1: Location of the site

Evaluation of the proposed Ryeford Bypass, Weston under Penyard (stage 3)

M Napthan, E Pearson, S Ratkai

Part 1 Project summary

1 Reasons for the project

An evaluation was undertaken on the line of the proposed Ryeford bypass on behalf of the Civil Engineering Consultancy of Hereford and Worcester County Council. The proposed route passes through a number of areas of archaeological potential which were defined during an earlier stage of assessment (Fagan and Hurst 1994). The present evaluation was designed to provide further information on these areas of interest and form part of a programme of works required to mitigate the development's effects on archaeological aspects of the cultural heritage.

2 Outline of results and significance

Nine trenches totalling 440m in length were excavated across two fields. From these trenches three areas of archaeological significance were defined (Fig 6). The area of greatest significance lay to the west of The Elms and produced evidence of Roman occupation in the form of an artefactual scatter and cobbled surfacing. These were sealed by a buried ploughsoil which appeared to be of immediate post-Roman date. A slag and gravel road surface was encountered on the suspected line of one of the principal routes into the Roman industrial town of *Ariconium*. A ditch complex immediately to the east of the road surface contained substantial quantities of Roman domestic waste and slag.

The lower-lying areas alongside Tackford Brook and west of Ryeford consisted almost entirely of made ground and waterlain materials. This is the result of progressive infilling of the valleys and culverting of the streams which have rendered the former fording places obsolescent. The area to the west of Ryeford contained peat deposits associated with a single sherd of Iron Age or early Roman date. There remains a high probability that significant environmental material (especially if of Roman date) survives within the peaty deposits.

Previous work has located settlement in the near vicinity of the same Roman road identified to the west of The Elms, and running south-west from *Ariconium*. Work in Wig Meadow by Bridgewater (1959) and by Bevan (1978) has indicated the presence of at least two separate buildings near this road alignment. A further Roman building was identified during recent pipelaying operations by Welsh Water, 300m to the north of the proposed bypass (County Archaeological Service 1993). Together with the results of this project, these sites clearly indicate a dispersed pattern of settlement along this Roman road.

3 Conclusions

The present work, though necessarily of small-scale, has identified a Roman settlement in the immediate vicinity of a Roman road. The surviving features include gravelled surfaces and domestic waste in ditches. The Roman deposits were sealed by a buried ploughsoil and lie at a depth where they would not be damaged by modern ploughing, a high level of preservation may therefore be expected. The potential for contemporary environmental evidence from peat deposits to the west of Ryeford and on the Tackford Brook is especially important.

Part 2 Detailed report

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment which could then be integrated with the proposed road building programme.

5 Background

This report represents the third stage of the archaeological design of the bypass. Earlier stages included an initial consultation with the County Sites and Monuments Record (stage 1), and an assessment from existing sources (stage 2; Fagan and Hurst 1994). The project conforms to government policy and guidance on the design of this type development (DMRB 11).

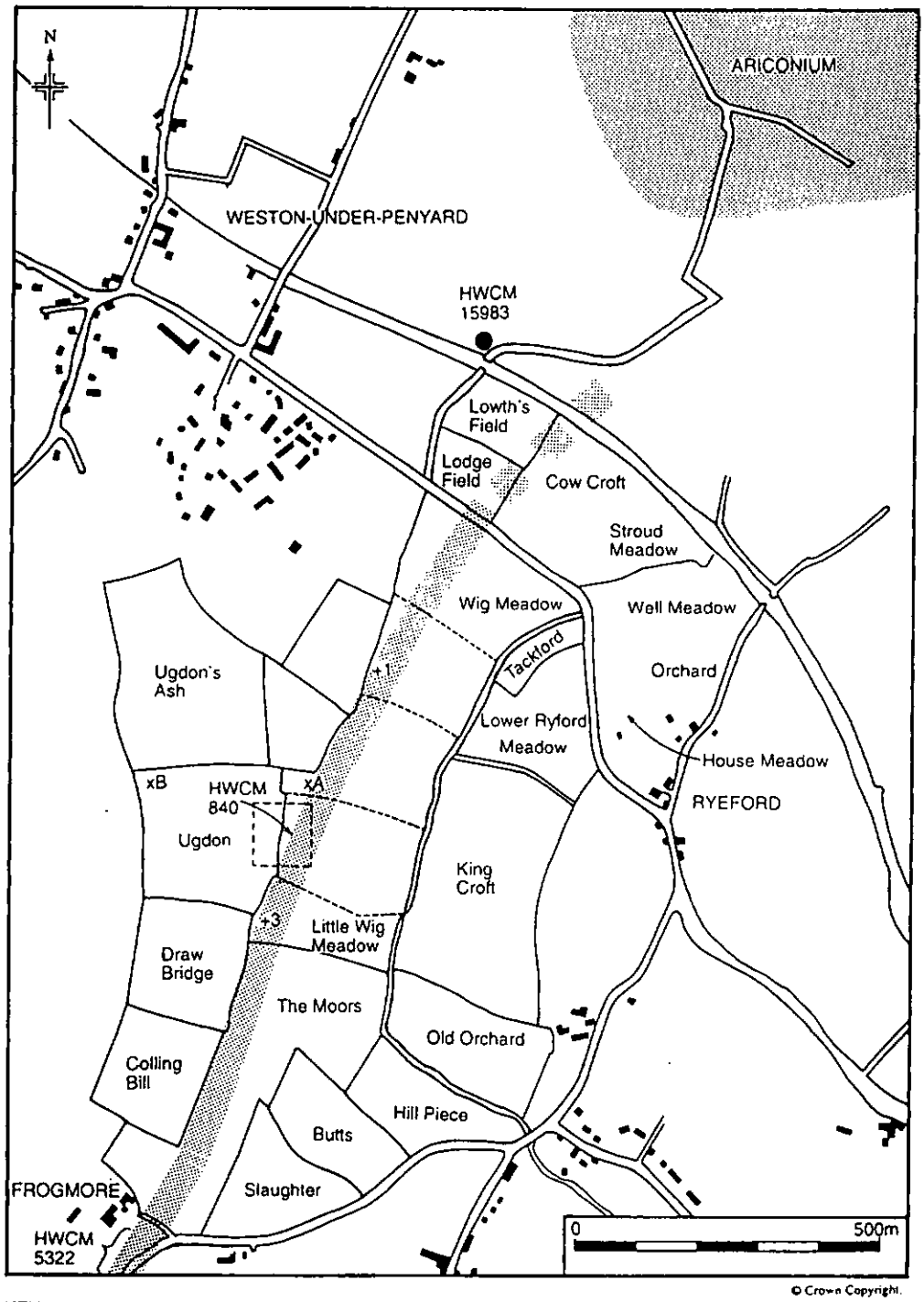
The proposed bypass lies to the south of the A40 Ross to Gloucester Road and runs between Weston-under-Penyard and Pontshill Lane (Fig 1). The area contains a considerable number of known archaeological sites and has already been discussed as part of an earlier assessment of the route (Fagan and Hurst 1994). The reader is referred to that report for an archaeological overview.

Additional material has come to the attention of the Service during this stage of the project in the form of the notes of a local amateur archaeologist Mr Elfed Bevan (1978) who has undertaken some excavation in the area. The principal finding of Bevans' excavations was a scatter of roof and floor-tile, along with pottery and slag in the south-western corner of Wig Meadow adjacent to the culverted Tackford Brook. The previous excavations of Bridgewater (1959) lay in the same area of the field but are not securely located, the grid references being contradictory to the measured locations where known. The locations of fieldwork described by Bevan and Bridgewater are given in Figure 2. These include some duplication as a result of the various methods of location but clearly indicate a linearity consistent with a former road line. The presence of a stone building foundation encountered by Mr Richard Evans in 1969, whilst laying drains in The Moors (Bevan 1978, 64) is of considerable interest as it suggests a settlement dispersed along the road line extending some 2km from *Ariconium* proper. The occupation, close to watercourses, may be of an industrial nature, being associated with iron working.

6 Methods

6.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out in August 1995. Nine trenches (Fig 3) were excavated using an Ackermann 360 degree excavator with 1.65m toothless bucket. The trenches were located to coincide with the proposed road corridor and to test those areas defined as having high archaeological potential in the earlier assessment (Fagan and Hurst 1994). Trench depth was limited in a number of trenches (at the request of the landowners) to prevent damage to the



KEY
+1 Bridgewater's excavation: Wigg 1
+2 Bridgewater's excavation: Wigg 2
xA Bevan's excavation
xB Bevan,s excavation

Figure 2: Postulated route of the Roman road

land-drainage system. Natural subsoil or bedrock was encountered in all trenches except 5, 6 and 8 where silts, sands and alluvial clays were identified. Recording followed standard Service practice (County Archaeological Service Recording System 1993, as amended).

The excavation of trenches was undertaken by negotiation with the relevant landowners. Access for the purpose of excavation was not successfully negotiated for an area at the western end of the proposed bypass which had originally be included within the scheme of works. In undertaking the project the Service have attempted to respect the existing agricultural use of the land, which had in some cases restricted the preferred extent of works.

6.2 Artefacts

All artefacts encountered in the excavated features were retained in accordance with standard Service practice (County Archaeological Service Recording System 1993, as amended).

All the pottery was examined under x20 magnification and divided into fabric types in accordance with the county pottery type series (Hurst and Rees 1992). The vessel form, fabric and decoration etc was recorded on a *pro forma* suitable for computerisation (Table 1). The pottery was quantified by sherd count and by sherd weight. Other classes of artefacts were counted except slag which was recorded by weight only.

6.3 Environment

Sampling strategy
The environmental sampling policy was as defined in the County Archaeological Service Recording System (1993, as amended). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation and samples of 20 litres taken from two contexts, a roadside ditch containing (1102) domestic refuse of 3rd to 4th century date, and a dried peat layer (400), buried beneath alluvium, probably of late Iron Age or early Roman date.

The sample taken from context 1102 was processed by flotation followed by wet-sieving using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 500µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residue was fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flot was fully sorted using a low-power EMT light microscope and remains identified using modern reference specimens housed at the County Archaeological Service and follows the taxonomy of Clapham *et al* 1987. Results of the analysis are summarised in Table 2.

7 Analysis

A brief summary of the deposits recorded in each trench (Fig 3) is given here. Within the sequence Trench 10 was not actually allocated.

Trench 1 contained only modern features.

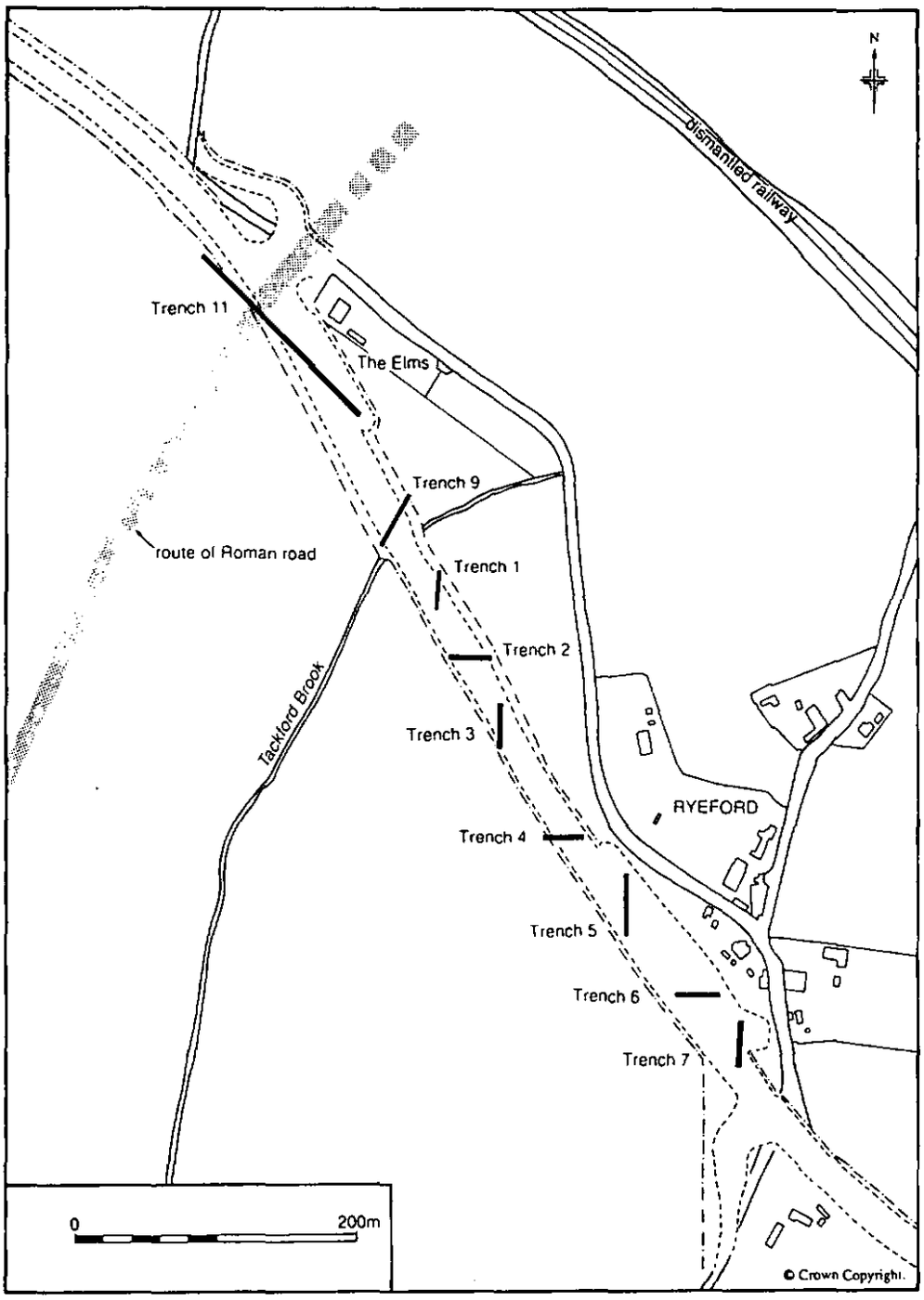


Figure 3: Trench locations

Trench 2 contained a single gully 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep aligned north south, which was devoid of finds and possibly natural in origin.

Trench 3 was devoid of features with the exception of a single land-drain.

Trench 4 contained a thin layer of peat (400) at its eastern end partially sealed by alluvial clays. A single sherd of limestone tempered ware of late Iron Age, or possibly Roman, date was recovered from the top of the peat. The trench was crossed by numerous land-drains. The peaty layer (400) consisted only of unidentifiable matter. However, as this peat has dried, possibly as a result of dropping of the water-table or seasonal wetting and drying, many of the organic remains are likely to have decayed.

Trench 5 was similar to Trench 4, having dried peat at its northern end. Natural alluvial clays were present throughout the trench.

Trench 6 consisted of alluvial clays and sands cut by a culvert and land drains.

Trench 7 lay on the slope parallel to Pontshill Lane and contained decayed red sandstone at the top, and red alluvial clays at the bottom of the slope. It was crossed by a former field boundary, identified by the farmer Mr Evans as of recent date, filled in by him.

Trench 8 lay at the western end of the proposed bypass but was not excavated as access was not available for machine trenching due to crop cover.

Trench 9 lay in the valley of the former Tackford Brook. The deposits exposed were exclusively alluvial sands with clay lenses. The large number of land-drains encountered prevented deeper excavation, but it is probable that peaty deposits are present in view of the "springy" nature of the ground.

Trench 11 was the most archaeologically significant. The western half lies across a gentle slope which runs up to the A40, whilst the eastern end runs across a steeper ridge which is centred on The Elms. The steeper ground proved to be almost devoid of finds and features, and the trench was excavated down to the underlying red sandstone at a depth of 0.65m. The western end (Fig 4) was more complex; beneath the modern ploughsoil there was a 0.2m deep deposit of fine red sandy loam devoid of finds, this sub-soil had the appearance of hillwash material. Beneath this was a buried ploughsoil (1101, dark greyish brown clay loam). The buried ploughsoil sealed a number of poorly defined Roman contexts (1103 and 1106) which appeared to consist of a linear feature, aligned east to west, with a gravelled surface at the base of a shallow cut. In the narrow confines of the trench only the southern edge of the feature was exposed.

The principal feature in this trench was a well defined surface of gravel and ironworking slag, readily identifiable as a road surface (1105; Fig 4). A thin scatter of Roman pottery and a brooch spring were present on the surface. The road surface was sealed by a pale yellow brown subsoil (1104), which also sealed an adjacent ditch (1102). The colour of this subsoil (1104) appeared to be influenced by iron staining from the slag surface, and contained Roman finds. It was otherwise similar to the hillwash deposit further along the trench.

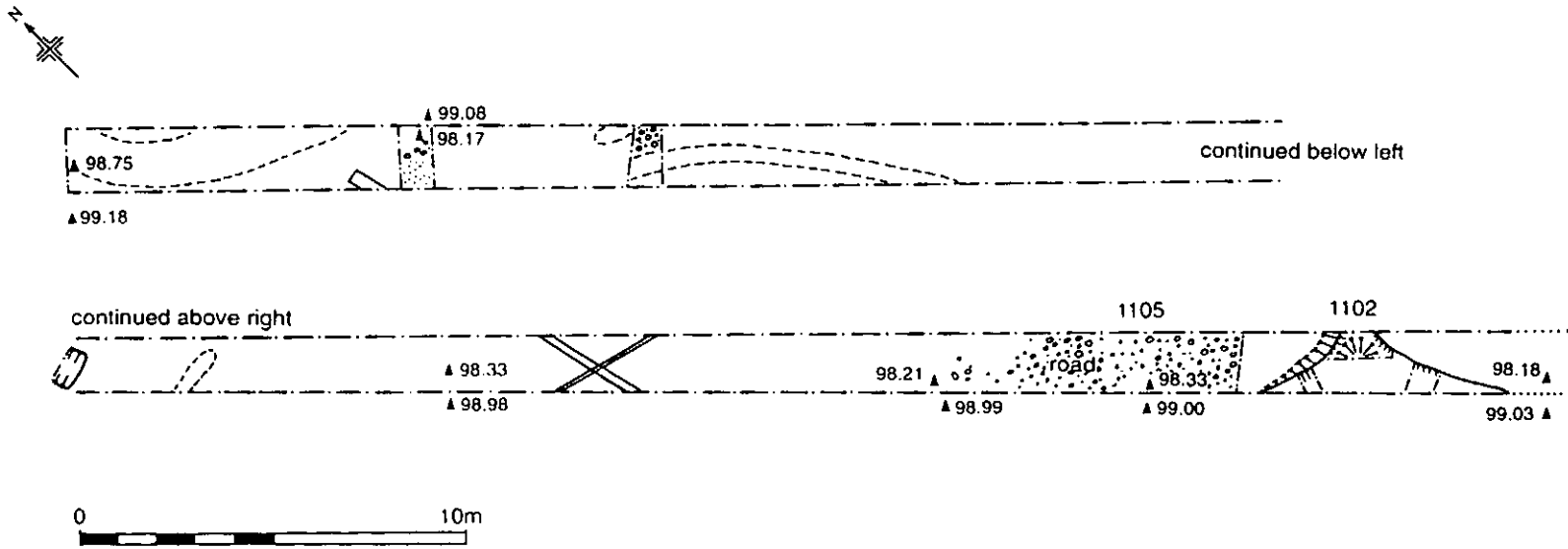


Figure 4: Western end of Trench 11

To the east of the road (1105) was the junction of three ditches, which appeared to all have one contemporary fill (1102; Figs 4 and 5). The alignment of the westernmost branch seems to be inconsistent with the apparent road alignment as it would cross the road approximately 2m to the south of the trench. These features are therefore unlikely to be contemporary. The fill (1102) represented an assemblage of 3-4th century refuse including, pottery and animal bone. The presence of a *mortarium* fragment enhances the probability that the material is of domestic origin. The quantities of slag in the fill may well derive from the road metalling.

The roadside ditch (1102; Table 3) contained a small number of seeds, including charred seeds of sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella* agg) and uncharred seeds of spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (cf *Rubus* sp). A small number of cremated animal fragments were also found. The only hand-collected animal bone recovered included a small number of cow and sheep or goat teeth, and small unidentifiable bones from 1103 and 1106.

Artefacts

The pottery was composed mainly of Severn Valley ware and Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware. There were single sherds of an Oxford *mortarium*, greyware, a colour coated flagon rim-neck and one tiny samian sherd. There were also two handmade Malvernian sherds. The Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware (Peacock 1968, type B1), dates from the Iron Age. There is at present no clear evidence for the cessation of its use and it is possible that it continues into the early Roman period. The Oxford *mortarium* is parallelled in Young (1973, fig 2.10) and was not produced before "about the middle of the 3rd century". The flagon is narrow necked and likely to be a late type, possibly 4th century. From the pottery present a wide date range is represented.

The road surface and the soil overlying the road produced undiagnostic Severn Valley ware sherds and a single Malvernian sherd, seventeen sherds in all. It was not possible to closely date this Roman pottery. The roadside ditch contained 22 sherds, mainly Severn Valley ware but also a single sherd each of Malvernian ware, Oxford *mortarium*, a greyware sherd and a flagon rim (for dating of the *mortarium* and flagon see above). There were two Severn Valley ware rim sherds, one from a jar (probably dating to the 3rd century) and the other from a tankard.

There were three sherds from the cobbled surface. Two were in Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware and the third was a tiny fragment of samian. The layer above the cobbled surface contained 36 sherds, 14 of which were in Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware and the remainder were in Severn Valley ware. There were no sherds of identifiable form. Dating this surface is problematic. The limestone tempered ware is usually dated to the Iron Age (see above). There are therefore two possible interpretations, either there is a pre-Roman settlement in the area or the production of Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware continues into the Roman period.

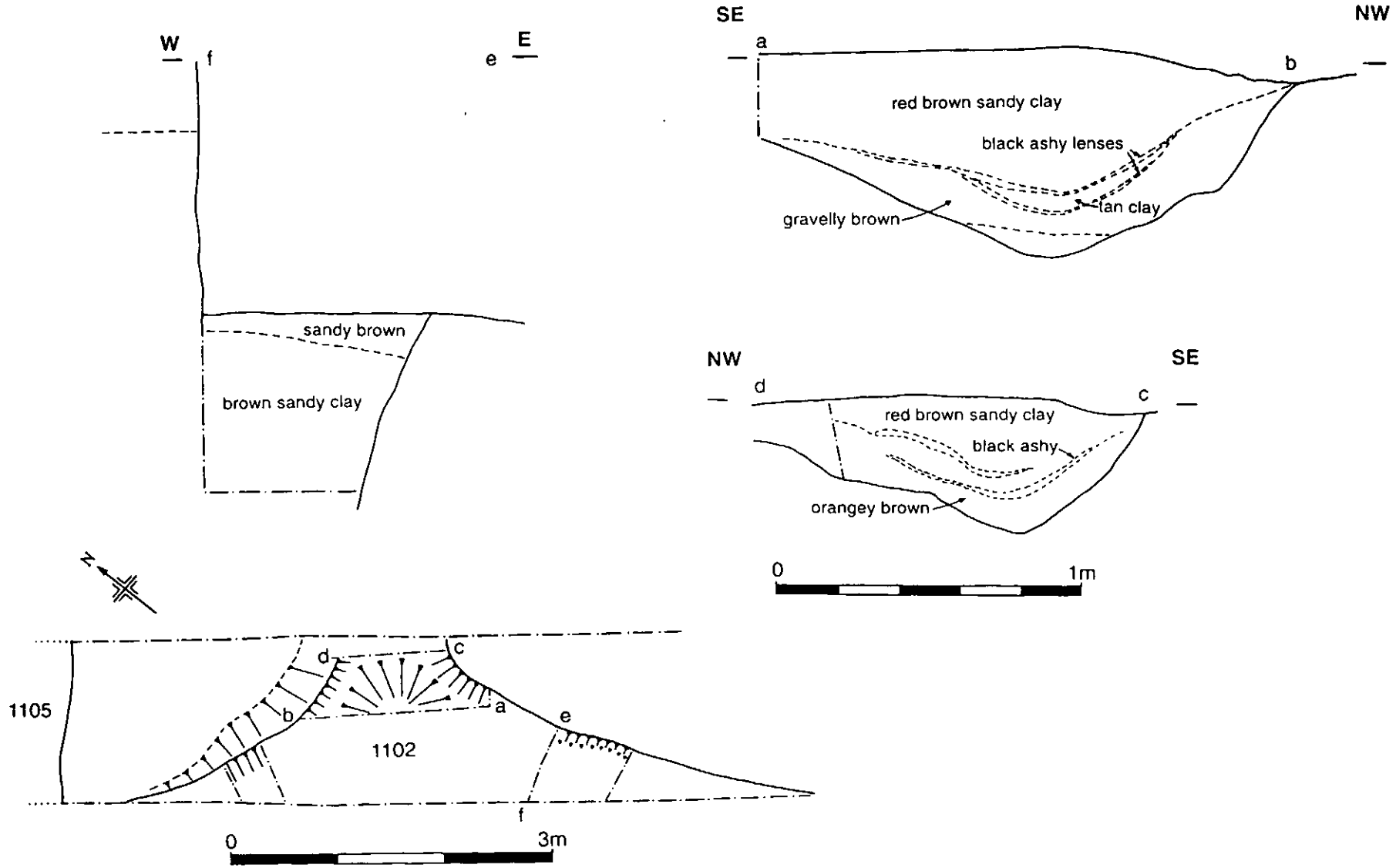


Figure 5: 1102: Plan detail and sections

8 Discussion

The evaluation has confirmed the suspected position of part of the Roman road from *Ariconium* to Mitcheldean. The presence of occupation debris in the northern part of Wig Meadows adds to the previous findings to the north and south of the current site and indicates that a linear settlement may have developed along the road. The nature of the occupation is unclear, as is its extent to the west. The gravelled surface (1106) may represent a working area or yard surface, though there is a possibility that it represents a minor road aligned east to west.

It seems likely that there was settlement in this area from at least the 1st century AD and that the road continued in use throughout the Roman period. The late pottery in the roadside ditch presumably dates the period when the road was going out of use, when the roadside ditches were no longer maintained.

The environmental remains were poorly preserved from this site. Although the results show no evidence of specific human activity or activity near the peat deposits, this may be a result of deterioration of the peat at this level. The roadside ditch contained domestic pottery. The only environmental evidence of human activity is the occasional charred seed of sheep's sorrel commonly found amongst assemblages of charred cereal debris resulting from crop processing, and occasional fragments of burnt animal bone. The ditch also appears to have been wet or boggy, with stands of spike-rush. Bands of peat are known to exist deeper in the alluvium (Mr Evans pers comm), and these may contain identifiable remains.

Although little animal bone was found, the slightly acidic soil conditions may have limited its survival. Waterlogged deposits were not well preserved at this site, however, identifiable remains have been recovered from deposits adjacent to the stream in the past (County Archaeological Service 1993) and may possibly survive in similar conditions within the general locality.

The deposits to the west of Ryeford and alongside Tackford Brook are of considerable potential for environmental deposits, though existing land use constraints prohibited their full assessment.

Artefacts

The density of artefacts recovered from Trench 11 was high, though the overall assemblage from the site was small. The state of preservation of the finds was very poor. Pottery sherds were small, worn and often crumbling. There were few closely datable artefacts. A spring fragment from a copper alloy brooch may date to the 2nd century.

9 Significance

In considering significance, the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments (DoE 1990, annex 4), have been used as a guide. These nationally accepted criteria are used for assessing the importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not, however, be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgment based on the individual circumstances of a case.

The assessment of significance specifically relates to an area of principal interest (Fig 6) identified as a result of this project. Related to this are two areas of secondary interest (Fig 6) and the Roman town of *Ariconium*.

The material recovered from the evaluation principally represents the 3rd-4th centuries, there is also some Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware which may be of late Iron Age or early Roman date. This matches previous findings from *Ariconium*.

Roman roadside settlement sites are common nationally and regionally, however, they are not well studied regionally. This site evidently has strong links with *Ariconium* with its important metal working industries as the principal access route to the raw materials (Forest of Dean) runs through this site. The position of this settlement close to marshy areas with a good water supply indicates a probable metal working origin. Little research has been undertaken on metal working sites in the region, a high "Rarity" value is therefore considered appropriate.

The closely related Roman town of *Ariconium* has a poorly understood history, with a single contemporary Roman reference. There are, however, several antiquarian references to the post-Roman history of the site, and during the last century there have been several excavations, both amateur and professional. A syllogy of the previous findings is in the early stages of compilation (cf County Archaeological Service 1995). There is a high "Documentary" value for a closely related site.

The site of *Ariconium* is partially scheduled as an ancient monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The area of principal interest lies outside the scheduled and known urban areas (Dalwood 1995), but represents part of a pattern of settlement dispersed along one of the major roads leading to the town. There is therefore a very high "Group Value". The relationship of the area of principal interest to the town's predominant iron working industry is especially important. The presence of a major routeway from the probable source of coal and iron-ore (Forest of Dean), combined with a readily available water supply indicates that some industrial processes were carried on outside the town. This site adds considerably to the knowledge of the settlement pattern.

The non-organic remains encountered were well preserved and appeared not to be seriously truncated. The "Survival and Condition" rating is therefore high. The area has been progressively buried by hillwash and is therefore not vulnerable to shallow surface activity. Significant deposits were only encountered 0.6m below surface level. The depth and possible presence of waterlogged conditions in the Tackford Brook valley indicate that anaerobic preservation may be expected for some deposits. This analysis has shown that deposits containing preserved organic remains survive in this area. Such remains are generally rare, moreover, by their study, data can be accumulated which may provide information on a changing environment over a long period of time, and on the affect of management of the land by man.

Deposits are vulnerable to destruction by the road-building works. The outline plans available at present indicate that the area of principal interest will be affected by road-building.

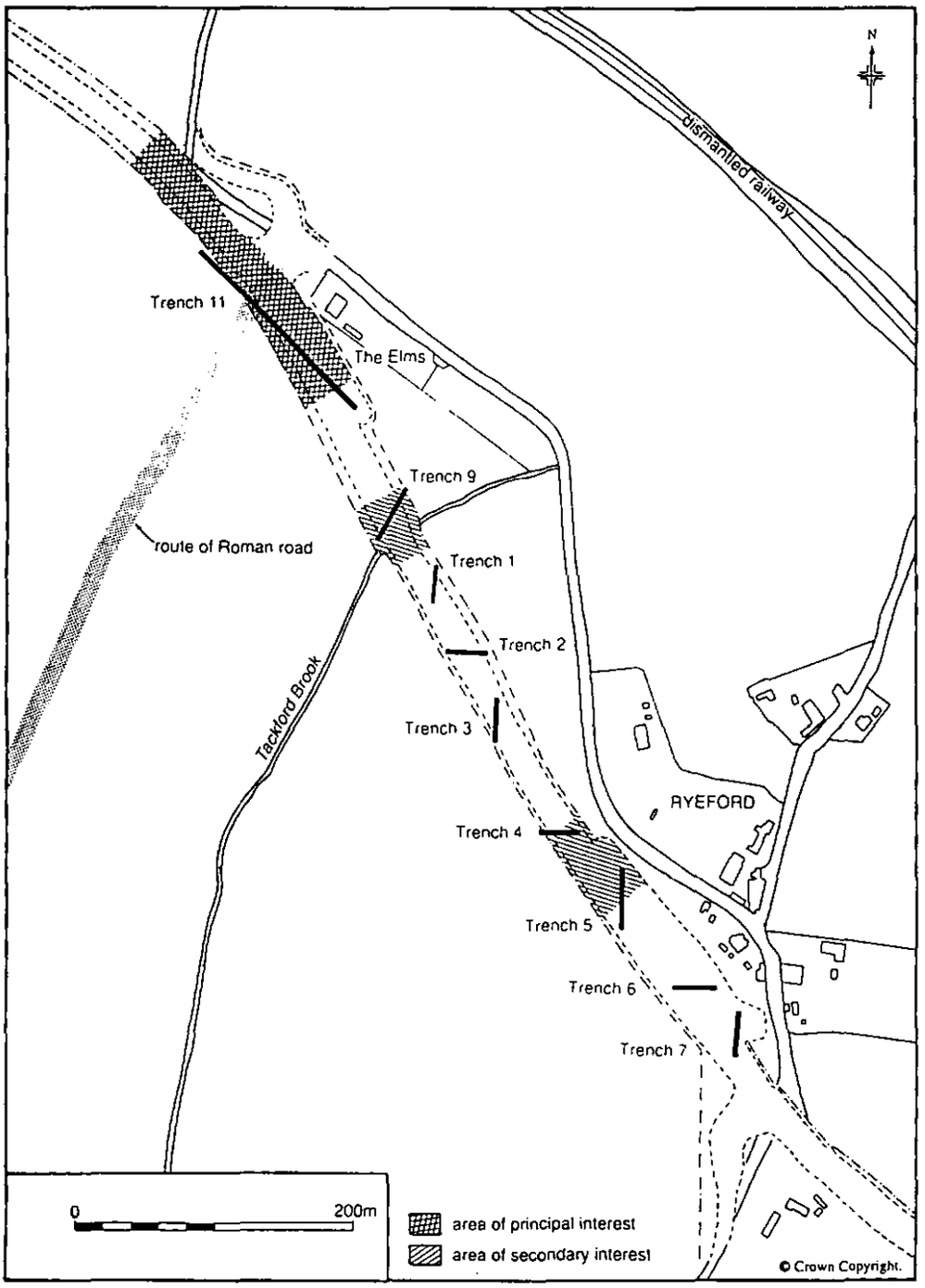


Figure 6: Areas of archaeological significance

10 Recommendations

The road building programme will involve stripping of topsoil and substantial earth-moving along all of the proposed route. The principal area of archaeological interest is a Roman settlement. This lies at the Weston-under-Penyard end of the route (Fig 6). Secondary areas of interest lie in the stream valleys of the Tackford Brook and Ryeford Brook (west of Ryeford), where well preserved environmental evidence is likely to exist.

The following seeks to outline archaeological recommendations, these may be further detailed though briefs and specifications prepared at a later date.

The area of principal interest is of considerable importance and its recording prior to its destruction would appear to be justified. In achieving a reasonable level of archaeological works the research priorities which make this site important should be addressed. The following research priorities have been identified:

* the relationship of the site with the Roman town of *Ariconium*,

* the part played by the site in the Roman iron industry,

* addition to the current state of knowledge on the technology of the Roman iron industry.

To achieve this (within the area to be affected) the record of the site should be capable of determining the following:

* the dated development of the site through time,

* characterise the nature of activity on the site (or for each part of the site, should different functional areas be identified) for each phase of its development,

* the environment context of the site locally,

* the economic context of the site within Roman Britain.

Programme implications
The archaeological recording of the principal area of interest is likely to occur over a period of 12 weeks. Either this period should be allowed in the construction programme (to the exclusion of the construction contractor), or the purchase of this area of land (and access to it) brought forward to facilitate archaeological works.

Archaeological recording of the two areas of secondary archaeological interest may be accommodated within the construction programme. Deposits requiring recording are not associated with settlement and the evidence is of an environmental nature. The retrieval of samples and recording is a relatively rapid procedure and may be expected to follow the progress of construction (without interruption to it). A watching brief is therefore recommended for these areas.

11 Academic summary

The route of the proposed Ryeford Bypass lies across the postulated line of a Roman road between the Roman industrial town of Ariconium and Mitcheldean and the development was subject to an evaluation. Nine trenches totalling 440m in length were excavated across two fields. From these trenches three areas of archaeological significance were defined. The area of greatest significance lay to the west of The Elms and produced evidence of Roman occupation in the form of an artefactual scatter and cobbled surfacing. These were sealed by a buried ploughsoil which appeared to be of immediate post-Roman date. A slag and gravel road surface was encountered on line of the road. A ditch complex immediately to the east of the road surface contained substantial quantities of Roman domestic waste and slag.

The lower-lying areas alongside Tackford Brook and west of Ryeford consisted almost entirely of made ground and waterlain materials. This is the result of progressive infilling of the valleys and culverting of the streams which have rendered the former fording places obsolescent. The area to the west of Ryeford contained peat deposits associated with a single sherd of Iron Age or early Roman date. There remains a high probability that significant environmental material (especially if of Roman date) survives within the peaty deposits.

Previous work along the route of this road and in the vicinity of the town has located at least two separate building. A further Roman building was identified during recent pipelaying operations by Welsh Water, 300m to the north of the proposed bypass. Together with the results of this project, these sites clearly indicate a dispersed pattern of settlement along this Roman road.

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intend to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The Client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

12 The archive

The archive consists of:

10 Context records AS1
5 Context finds sheets AS8
4 Scale drawings
1 Box of finds
Colour slides and black and white prints

The project archive will be placed at:

Hereford and Worcester County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

13 Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank John Harper, David Garton and Ruth Gwynn of Environmental Services HWCC; Elfed D Bevan of Ryeford for their assistance with the project. Thanks also to Liz Rudd for assistance on site.

The two landowners Mr R G Evans and Mr B Davies are also thanked for allowing access to the site.

14 Personnel

The site team included David Wichbold and Nigel Topping (Archaeological Assistants). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt, the artefactual report is by Stephanie Ratkai and the environmental remains were reported on by Elizabeth Pearson Msc.

The project was co-ordinated by Robin Jackson (Assistant Project Officer) and the report edited by Simon Woodiwiss (Principal Field Archaeologist).

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16 Abbreviations and glossary

HWCM - Numbers prefixed with "HWCM" are the primary reference numbers used by the Hereford and Worcester County Sites and Monuments Record.

HWCC - Hereford and Worcester County Council.

HWCRO - Hereford and Worcester County Records Office.

CMHTS - Central Marches Historic Towns Survey

Table 1 **The finds**

Context	1100	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	4000	Total
Pottery (shd no)	9	22	36	13	4	2	1	87
Pottery (weight)	26g	144g	82g	66g	13g	5g	5g	341g
Fired clay		12	1					13
Iron		1						1
Copper alloy				1				1
Slag		5154g	584g			50g		5788g
Animal bone			8			4		12

Table 2 **Summary of results**

Context no	Type	Large mammal bone	charred plant	waterl. plant
400	peat layer	occ	occ	occ
1102	ditch	occ		
1103	lin feature	occ		
1106	"	occ		

key:

occ = occasional

Table 3 **The plant remains**

botanical name	common name	habitat	1102
Charred plant remains			
Rumex acetosella agg	sheep's sorrel	A	1
unidentified			3
Waterlogged plant remains			
cf *Rubus* sp	bramble etc	CD	+
Sambucus nigra	elderberry	CD	+
Eleocharis sp	spike-rush	E	++
unidentified			1

Habitat key
A = cultivated ground
B = disturbed ground
C = woodlands, hedgerows and scrub etc.
D = grasslands, meadows, and heathland
E = aquatic/wet habitats: ditches, streambanks etc
F = cultivar

Abundance key
+ = 1-10
++ = 11-50
+++ = 51-100
++++= 100+

Appendix 1

Guidance for the construction contract

On letting the contract of a road scheme the construction contractor is often left with the responsibility of locating compounds, selecting borrow pits and areas for soil storage. These activities can lie outside of the scope of the Department of Transport's *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*. They can, however, have a damaging effect on archaeological sites. The following guidance is to assist the contractor in avoiding such damage.

This appendix may be extracted and appended to tender documents, it may or may not be made a formal part of the contract.

This appendix does not cover the three archaeological sites specifically identified in the report to which it relates. One of these is recommended for excavation prior to construction commencing, the other two are recommended for an archaeological watching brief with the archaeological team working under the direction of the Client's resident engineer, and explicitly without jeopardising progress of the construction contractor.

The Service has produced this appendix to the best of its ability and knowledge. It was correct at the time the report was written (October 1995). The Service is, however, not a statutory recipient of legal designations (such as scheduled ancient monuments). The location and implications of statutory designations must be checked by the construction contractor. The Service will not accept any responsibility for changes or variation from the information it has provided.

The area represented on the enclosed plan is also limited in extent. All of the consultees listed below must be consulted when considering works outside of this area.

Designations such as listed buildings, conservation areas etc have not been included.

Compounds, borrow pits, soil storage , or other groundworks (temporary or otherwise) should not be undertaken on or in the vicinity of the following sites (see plan).

Scheduled ancient monuments
These are designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Areas Act 1979 as archaeological sites which are of national importance in the opinion of the Secretary of State for National Heritage. They are legally protected for this reason and cannot be affected in any way without first obtaining the consent of the Secretary of State. Without consent, damage to scheduled ancient monuments is an offence. The Secretary of State is advised by English Heritage who should be contacted for further advice.

Other sites of archaeological interest
These are registered with the County Sites and Monuments Record (held by the County Archaeological Service). They have no specific statutory protection, however, they are usually important and should be avoided. Only those sites which the Service consider to have existing evidence that they may be of importance have been represented on the plan. There are many others within the area of the plan, but as yet these are not known to be of any potential importance. The Service is happy to advise on any of these

archaeological sites.

Archaeological sites discovered during development
Unless covered by the above, or some other statute, these sites again have no statutory protection. Current practice usually rests on voluntary discussion to reach a satisfactory compromise. English Heritage and the County Archaeological Service (Hereford and Worcester County Council) are able to advise on this circumstance. Consideration may be given to insurance cover.

Contacts

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0171 973 3000

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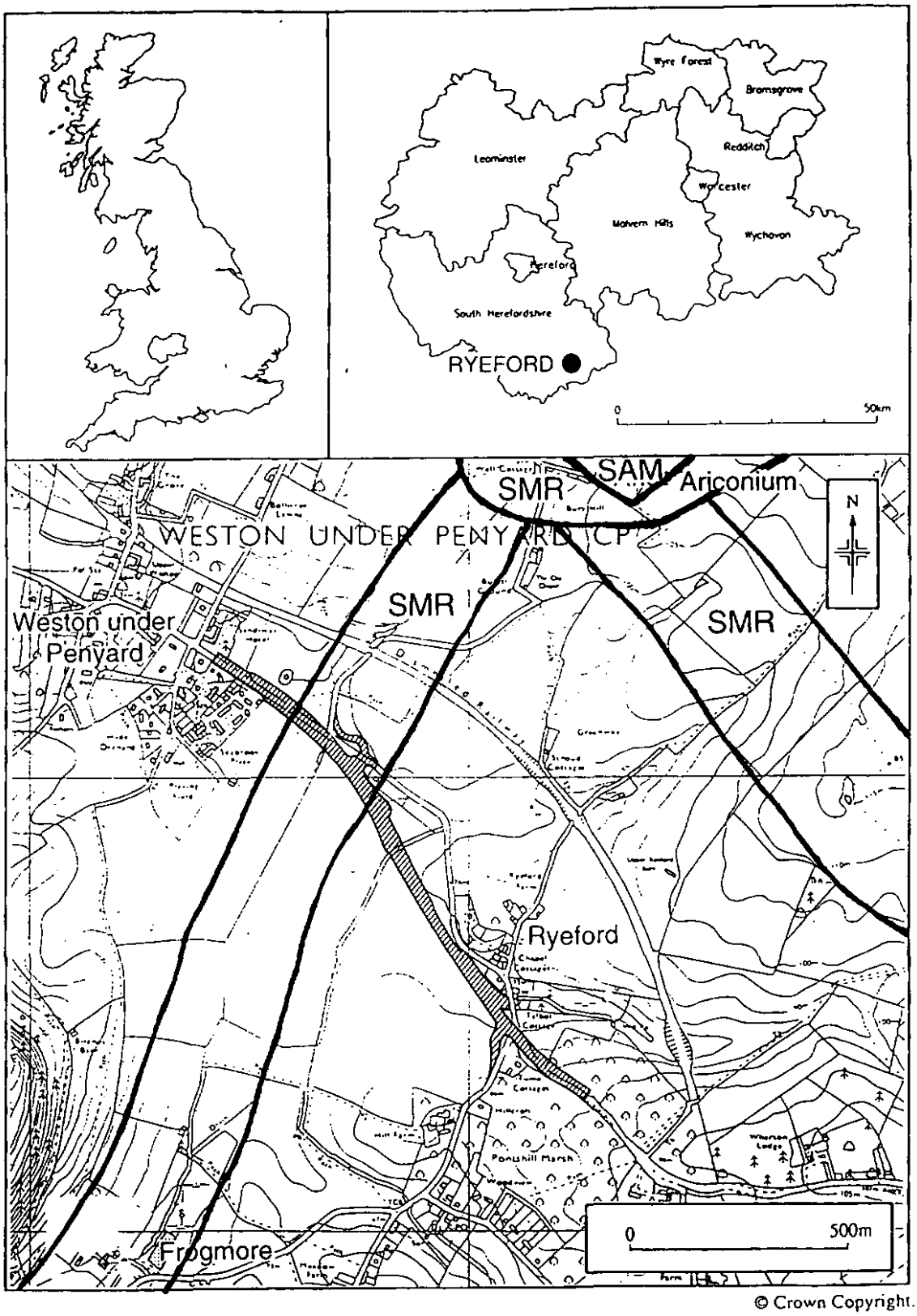
01905 458608



Guidance for construction contractor

SAM	Scheduled ancient monument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record