SALVAGE RECORDING ON THE TRIMPLEY TO BLACKSTONE AQUEDUCT, KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN

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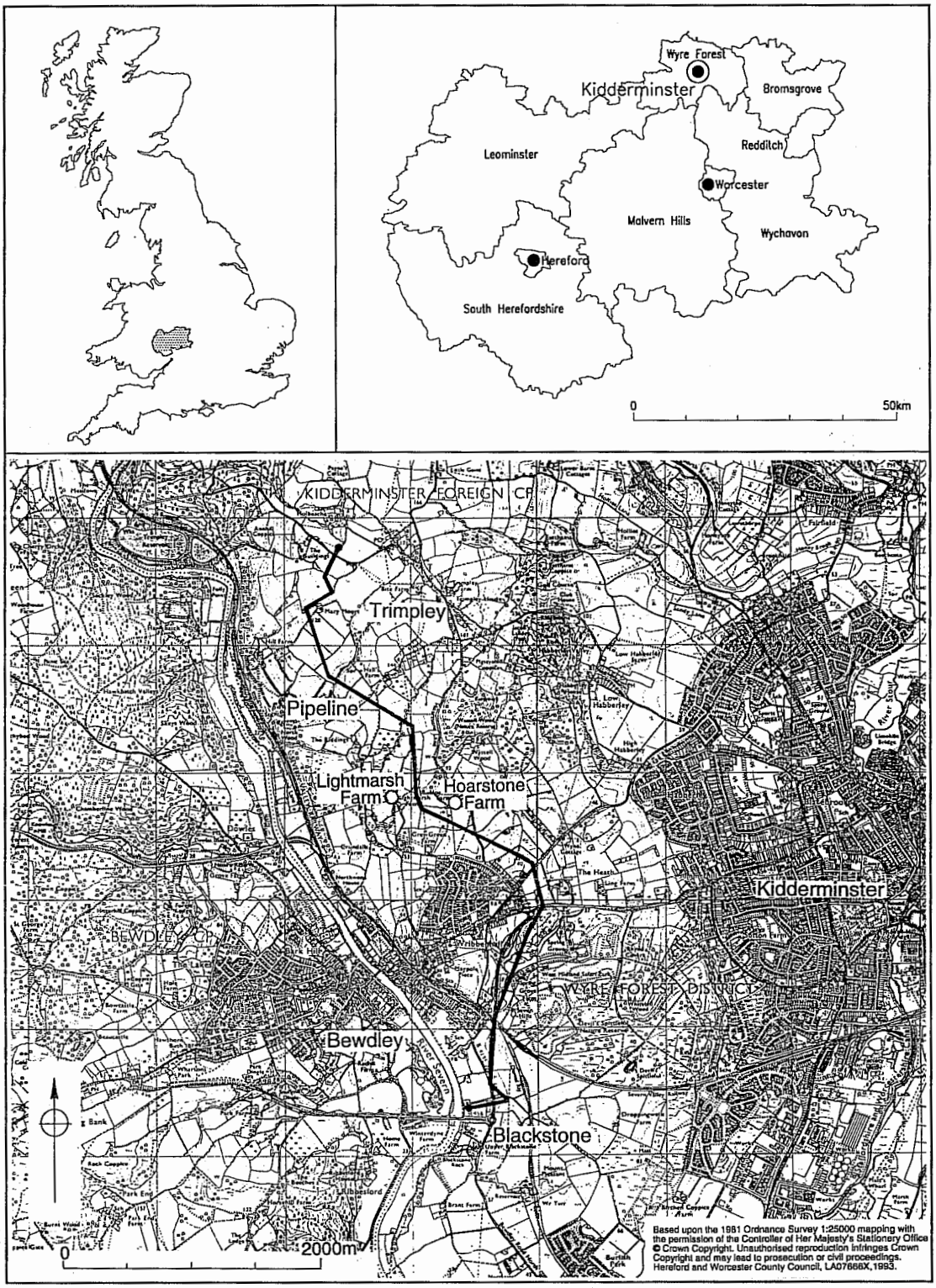

Figure 1 Location of the Trimpley to Blackstone Aqueduct

Salvage recording on the Trimpley to Blackstone Aqueduct

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1 Summary

Salvage recording was undertaken during the construction of a pipeline from Trimpley to Blackstone. The project formed part of a series of similar projects being undertaken by the County Archaeological Service on behalf of Severn Trent Water during the construction of a major new water main running north to south across the County. Significant deposits were excavated at three sites, all of which were previously unknown, and artefacts were recovered from many of the fields along the pipeline.

The first of the newly discovered sites, at Lightmarsh Farm, was of a Mesolithic occupation site (HWCM 15301). A total of 1,482 fragments of flint were recovered, mostly comprising waste material but also including 88 artefacts, typical of a Later Mesolithic narrow-blade industry. These were associated with features which may represent a temporary shelter and activity relating to a short period of occupation by a small band of hunters. Evidence of a fire included charred hazelnut fragments. A sample of these produced a radiocarbon date, which, when calibrated, suggests that the site dates to the earlier 8th millenium BC (OxA-4327 - 8800±80 BP), on a national basis an early date for a site characterised by a narrow-blade industry. This is one of the first Mesolithic sites in the region where excavation has produced a combination of features, artefacts, environmental remains and a radiocarbon date and as such is a very significant discovery.

Another important discovery was a Romano-British farmstead at Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15300). Elements of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure, with an entrance on its south side, were recorded. To the east of the entrance two ovens were excavated and charred cereal remains within these suggested that may have had a dual function, being used for corn drying and parching as well as for baking bread. Finds from the ditch suggested a relatively short period of occupation around the late 3rd to early 4th century.

Finally to the south of Hoarstone Farm, a single adult cremation was revealed, buried in a small hollow by a large pit (HWCM 15302). Dating evidence was poor and consequently radiocarbon dating of the cremation was undertaken. This has indicated a date falling between 663 and 773 AD. Cremations of this date have not previously been found this far west in the area. Since this date range falls within the 5th to 8th centuries, a poorly understood period of political, social and cultural change, this find is also of considerable importance.

Individually each of these sites is significant and, in conjunction with information from fieldwalking of the pipeline easement, previous work, chance finds and documentary research, this project has contributed significantly to our understanding of past landuse and settlement in the area from the Mesolithic to the present day.

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

Salvage recording was undertaken by the County Archaeological Service on behalf of Severn Trent Water on a pipeline in the north-east part of the county of Hereford and Worcester (Fig 1). The Trimpley to Blackstone Aqueduct will form part of a new system of mains extending north to south across the county with a number of spurs running from it to the west. The pipelines are being constructed through a series of projects over a number of years and will improve the reliability of water supplies in the region. The Trimpley to Blackstone Aqueduct was the fourth of these projects within the county and fieldwork was undertaken during the summer of 1992.

The project took place within the framework for archaeological response established within a Code of Practice for Conservation, Access and Recreation issued by the Department of the Environment in July 1989, and attaching to the Water Industry Act 1991. Section 11, iv of the Code refers specifically to pipelaying and states that;

> ...where damage to features of archaeological interest is unavoidable, arrangements should be made for an appropriate level of investigation – by an appropriate conservation body, and subsequent publication of results.

The route of the pipeline ran from north-west of the village of Trimpley, for approximately 5km, to a pumping station situated to the north of Blackstone, linking to existing lengths of main (Fig 1). An initial consultation phase had already assessed the route against existing information for the presence of known sites of archaeological interest (the County Sites and Monuments Record; Statutory Instruments 1988 no 1813). A number of known archaeological sites were, or potentially were, to be affected (Fig 2), however, it was not felt necessary to recommend revision of the route.

Since the pipeline would affect known sites, and since there was the potential for previously unknown sites to be discovered, it was recommended that provision for salvage recording be made along the northern part of the pipeline, to just north of Wribbenhall, where it crossed the road to Kidderminster. To the south of this point the pipeline followed the route of the Kidderminster Western Bypass, a recently constructed dual carriageway, and it was felt that any archaeological deposits within this area would have been disturbed by the road. Only at the southern end, in one field, did the line leave the road to join the pumping station at Blackstone. Here, provision for salvage recording was also recommended.

Salvage recording enables identification of any new sites revealed and recovery of information about their nature. It will also usually enhance knowledge of existing sites and provide general information regarding landuse and agricultural practice around former settlement sites. Through provision of a contingency team adequate cover was also provided for the salvage recording, through excavation, of any substantial significant deposits encountered.

Archaeological deposits were recorded at a number of sites and artefacts were recovered from the majority of the fields which were examined. At two sites,

one near Hoarstone Farm and the other near Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15300 and 15301; Fig 1), significant deposits were revealed and following negotiations with the Resident Engineer programmes of salvage recording were implemented using the contingency. The results of the salvage recording are summarised in this report (Sections 4.1 and 4.2) but are described and discussed in detail in two separate reports (Jackson *et al* 1994a and 1994b). This report describes the results of the work along the rest of the pipeline and discusses them in relation to the two larger sites and the results of other work in the area.

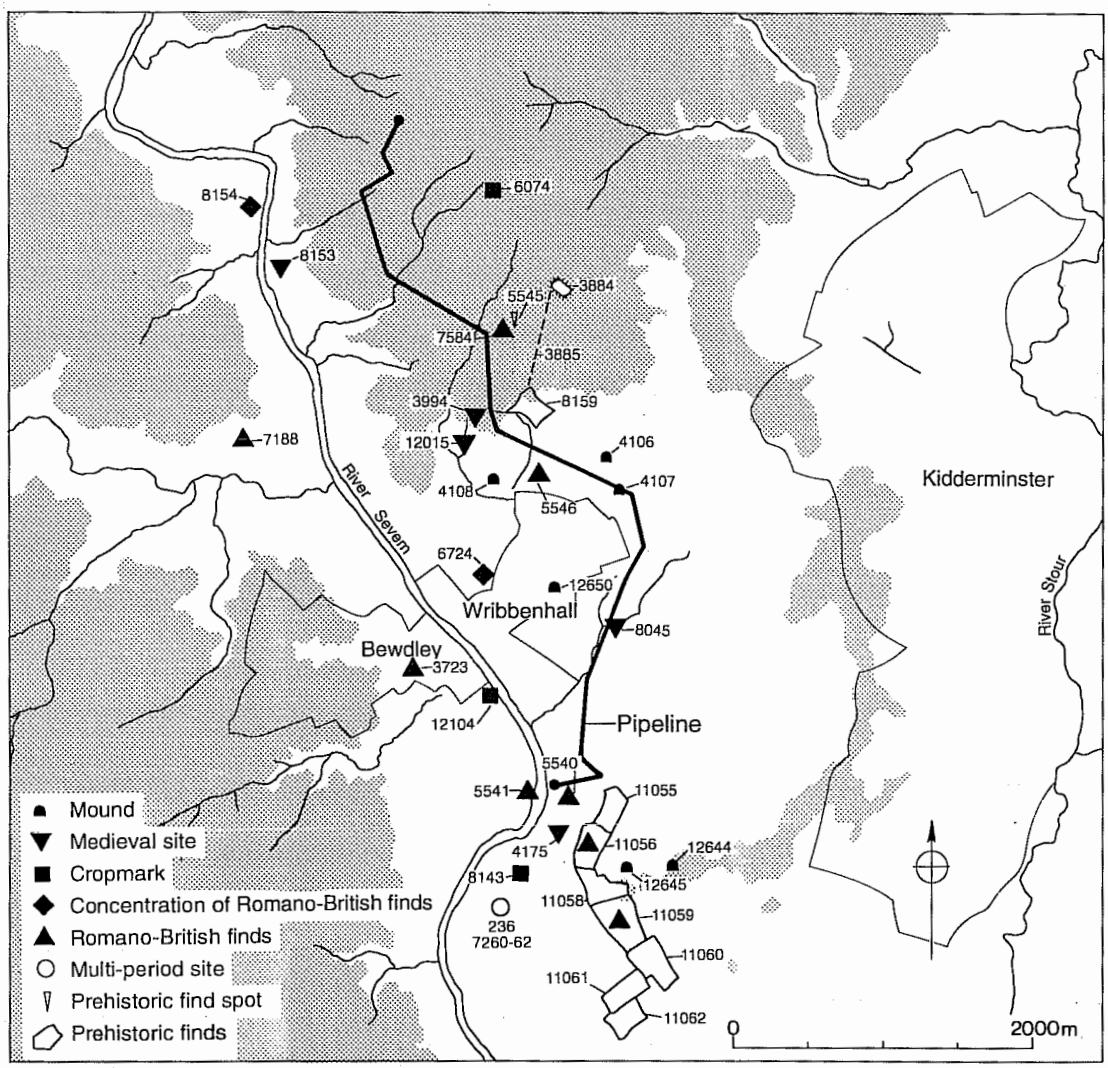

Figure 2 *Location of sites in the vicinity of the pipeline*

The results of such fieldwork are important, not only for enhancing our knowledge of past settlement and landuse, but also for the future management of archaeology in the county. Since only a narrow area of any one site is likely to be destroyed by the pipeline, not only is it possible to effectively preserve that area through a detailed archaeological record, but it also enables the development of effective future management of what survives to either side of the pipeline. In addition by studying the results of a

series of such linear developments, simple predictive models can be produced for settlement occurrence and landuse in different parts of the region. These allow a better understanding of the potential for survival of significant archaeological deposits in cases where future development may affect them.

2.2 Geology and topography

The landscape surrounding the pipeline is generally undulating, with increasingly steeply sloping hill and valley sides towards the north end (Fig 3). The ground level along the pipeline rises gently from the south end of the route (33.50m OD), to about its midpoint (50.00m OD) and then rises more rapidly, with the exception of a number of deep cut valleys, to a high point at the north end (142.25m OD). To the east and north the ground rises even higher to over 170m around Wassell Wood and Trimpley. This higher ground dominates the surrounding countryside and from it, streams, in narrow steep sided valleys, drain to the west into the River Severn and, to the east, into the River Stour, itself a tributary of the Severn.

The soils and the underlying geology in the fields in which salvage recording was undertaken fall into three groups (Table 2). To the north, towards Trimpley soils are of the Bromyard association, well drained reddish fine silty soils (Ragg *et al* 1984). These are occasionally affected by waterlogging but can be used as mixed farming land, supporting cereals and grass, though use is restricted to pasture on the steeper slopes. The underlying geology for these soils in this area is Old Red Sandstone. South of these the soils are of the Middleton Association, which are reddish fine silty and fine to coarse loamy soils overlying soft red Devonian silty shales and siltstones . These are subject to seasonal waterlogging and consequently, although they are readily cultivatable, landuse is restricted to grasslands and occasional cereals, both of which have a high yield. To the north these overlie Keele Beds and to the south they ovelie Bunter Sandstone. Finally to the south-east soils of the Hodnet association occur. These are similar to the Middleton Association soils but tend to deeper and better drained. Consequently these can support a wide range of crops and are particularly suited to root crops and winter cereals. These also overlie Bunter sandstone.

2.3 Historical origins

Much of the area within which salvage recording was undertaken lies in the parish of Kidderminster Foreign, the remainder within the parish of Bewdley and Wribbenhall. Kidderminster Foreign first appears as a separate parish from Kidderminster Borough in the 14th century (VCH III) and so the earliest documentary evidence for the north part of the pipeline is contained within the Domesday entry for Kidderminster which also included Wribbenhall at that time (Thorn and Thorn 1982).

Kidderminster's origins lie in the 8th century monastery at Sture-in-Usmere which can be equated with Ismere House and Usmere Pool in Kidderminster (VCH III). The monastery was completely destroyed by the Danes and Kidderminster was listed at Domesday in 1086 as part of the demense of King William I. Most of the estate is recorded as waste at this time, perhaps having never recovered from damage inflicted by the Danes. Clearly a considerable area was also wooded since the King added woodland at Kidderminster to the royal forest at Feckenham to the east (VCH III). Both Trimpley and Wribbenhall are listed as berewicks (outlying estates) of

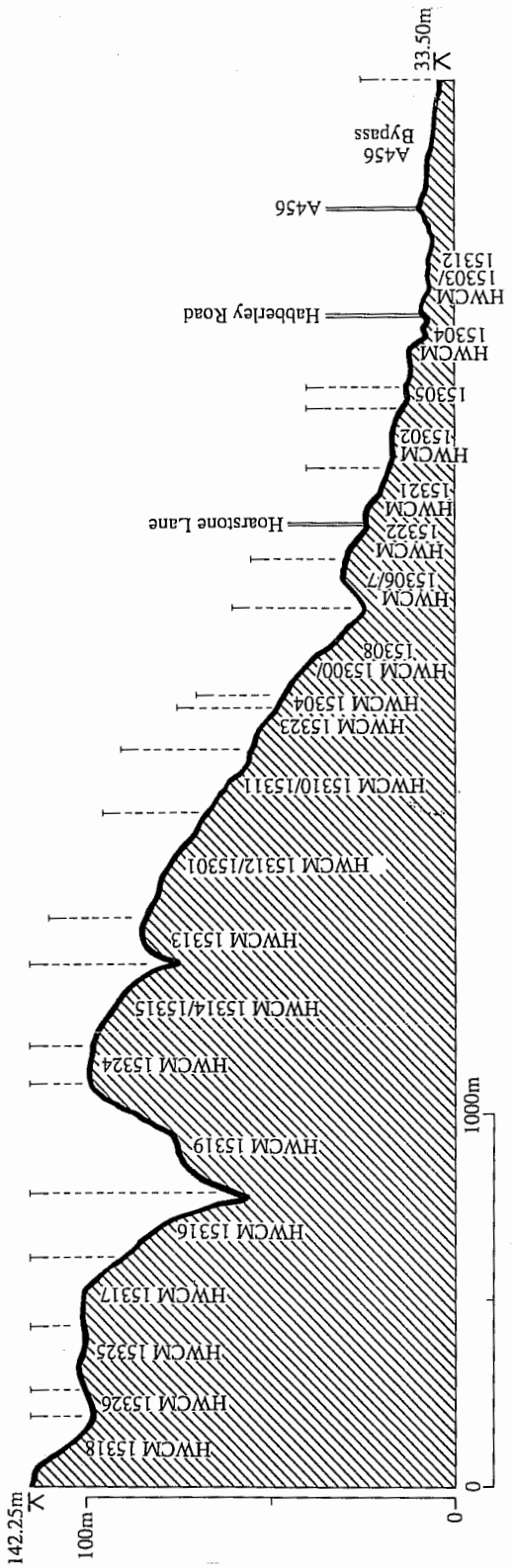

Figure 3 Accentuated profile, showing ground level along the pipeline route

Kidderminster. Two estates called Ribbesford are also mentioned in Domesday, and there is some dispute as to whether the area now known as Bewdley, on the west bank of the Severn, was in Ribbesford or Wribbenhall in 1086 (Burton 1890).

The origins of the names of Wribbenhall, Trimpley and Kidderminster all lie in Old English, and are names of individuals, *Wrybba, Trympa* and *Cydda* respectively (Mawer and Stenton 1927). Unfortunately these are not of much help in determining the origins of these settlements as personal names are difficult to interpret because they may arise as a place-name element out of a large number of circumstances and may reflect the name of the original settlers, owners or tenants (Gelling 1978, 111 and chapter 7).

Kidderminster appears to have developed as a town during the 13th century. Its wealth and growth owed much to the cloth industry based on the River Stour. By 1307, 67 burgesses lived there indicating that it was a thriving town. By the late 17th century, Kidderminster was a considerable size, and Nash recorded that it was continuing to increase at a rapid rate (Nash 1799). However, beyond the town the parish appears to have been largely rural. Nash also listed Trimpley and Wribbenhall, and noted that the land closest to the river was largely meadow and that the land towards the Severn, which is the area crossed by the pipeline, only yeilded its crops late in the year. In the 19th century a farm sale of Hoarstone Farm, dated 1843, and an earlier land sale including "Whorstone Farm", dated 1826, demonstrate that woodland was still extensive around the farm but that the agricultural land was regarded as "capital turnip and barley land" (County Record Office ref: BA 4600/379; 705:550). At the turn of the 20th century landuse is recorded and of 11,000 acres in the parish, 4,000 were arable, 4,000 meadow and 1,000 wooodland (VCH III). This division between pasture and arable reflects the suitability of the soils in the area for agriculture (see above), and it is interesting to note that woodland was still extensive.

At Blackstone the earliest known activity in this period is the hermitage which comprises two chambers, probably a cell and chapel (HWCM 4175; VCH III), cut into the large, dark coloured sandstone outcrop from which Blackstone derives its name (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 247-53). The origins of this hermitage which is situated above the River Severn, are not known.

2.4 Archaeological background

Sites in the area which have been previously recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) date to most periods with prehistoric and Roman sites being the most numerous (Table 1).

Prehistoric

Prehistoric finds have been recovered as surface finds from many locations in the area, however, apart from an Iron Age settlement at Blackstone (HWCM 236; Fig 2; Alan Hunt pers comm), and the earthworks of probable Iron Age date in Wassel Wood (HWCM 3884; Fig 2) no occupation sites have been identified in the vicinity. A number of undated cropmark enclosures (HWCM 6074, HWCM 8143 and HWCM 12104; Fig 2) are likely to be either Iron Age or Roman in date but have not been investigated.

Surface flint has been recovered from Hoarstone Farm, one of the farms in the vicinity of the pipeline, finds including a core, a microlith and a

microburin (HWCM 8159; Fig 2; Wymer 1977). Flint artefacts of various dates ranging from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age, were recovered during salvage recording on one of the earlier pipeline projects to the south running from Blackstone to Astley (HWCM 5540, 11055, 11056, 11058, 11059, 11060, 11061 and 11062; Fig 2; Dalwood 1992a) while Mesolithic and Bronze Age finds were recovered to the west of this pipeline during the 1970s at Blackstone (HWCM 7260 and 7262; Fig 2). A single gold coin of Iron Age date (HWCM 5545; Fig 2) is reported from one of the fields crossed by the pipeline. Further to the south, at Larford, excavations at a Romano-British site (HWCM 8071) also revealed an Iron Age pit and a Bronze Age barrow (HWCM 8072 and HWCM 8073; Walker 1958).

Roman

A number of Roman sites are known in the area. The majority of these are finds spots of coins and small quantities of pottery (HWCM 3723, HWCM 5446, HWCM 5540, HWCM 5541, HWCM 7188, HWCM 7584, HWCM 11056 and HWCM 11059; Fig 2). Apart from these, a number of possible Romano-British settlement sites exist in the area, known from more extensive finds scatters (HWCM 6724 and HWCM 8154; Fig 2).

Only one probable Romano-British settlement site has been identified in the near vicinity of the pipeline through excavation (HWCM 7260; Fig 2). Here, to the south of Blackstone, overlying an earlier Iron Age defended enclosure (HWCM 236), a Romano-British pottery assemblage was recovered during salvage excavations. This dated to the 2nd and 4th centuries and indicated two phases of Roman occupation at the site. Although this clearly attests to Roman settlement near to, or on the site no structures were located. The nature of the occupation and degree of continuity are uncertain and the finds are regarded as resulting from manuring of fields in the immediate vicinity of a settlement (Alan Hunt pers comm).

Further to the south a number of settlement sites have been investigated on the west side of the River Severn (HWCM 1136 and HWCM 8071). At the first of these, at Areley Kings, occupation seems to have been primarily agricultural lasting over a considerable period of time (Dinn and Hemingway 1992). No domestic buildings were identified, however associated assemblage of 3rd to 4th century domestic pottery recovered from an enclosure ditch suggested occupation in the vicinity. At the second of these sites, at Larford, excavations in the late 1950s revealed Romano-British ditched enclosures (Walker 1958 and 1959) containing a circular turf-built hut, traces of a second similar hut, two hearths and a well. The earliest Roman deposits were 1st or 2nd century in date but occupation appears to have been most intense in the 3rd and 4th century. East of this a number of intercutting ditched enclosures (HWCM 8070) were associated with pottery suggesting similar activity of a 3rd to 4th century date. Together these sites suggest that there was a pattern of scattered Romano-British farmsteads in the area south and west of Stourport (Dinn and Hemingway 1992).

Post-Roman

Running north to south through Wassel Wood, and passing to the west of the possible Iron Age hillfort (HWCM 3884), is a holloway which can be dated through documents to the Saxon period, but may be earlier (HWCM 3885; Fig 2).

Medieval
Apart from the documented settlements at Bewdley, Wribbenhall, Trimpley, Blackstone and Kidderminster and surviving medieval buidings, evidence of medieval occupation is limited. To the west of the pipeline, at Lightmarsh Farm a large, probably man-made, mound survives along with earthworks to its east (HWCM 12015; Fig 2). This may represent a motte and bailey castle, however no excavation has been undertaken and no documentary evidence exists to support this identification. To the immediate north of this further earthworks may represent a deserted medieval village (HWCM 3994).

A series of ponds to the east of Wribbenhall are probably medieval (HWCM 8045) and the site of a medieval chapel is recorded on the east bank of the River Severn near Hill Farm (HWCM 8153). The hermitage at Blackstone (HWCM 4175) still remains although it is not now used.

Undated mounds
A series of undated mounds are recorded in the area (HWCM 4106, HWCM 4107, HWCM 4108, HWCM 12650 and HWCM 12645; Fig 2), and a further undated circular cropmark, probably representing a further mound which has been ploughed out (HWCM 12644). A number of these have been closely externally examined however, their date remains unknown and apart from the fact that they appear partly, and maybe in some cases wholly, man-made nothing is known of their nature. One (HWCM 4106) is partly revetted by an undated and unbonded sandstone wall. Since the edge of one of these mounds (HWCM 4107) was slightly disturbed by the construction of the pipeline it was hoped that evidence might be revealed to resolve their date and character.

3 Methodology

The design of the project and the methodology used was based on similar pipeline projects already undertaken by the County Archaeological Service on behalf of Severn Trent Water. A number of these have already been completed and the results and methodology have been published (Dinn and Hemingway 1992; Dalwood 1992b; Jackson 1993). Since the methodology and approach are described in detail in the first of these publications only a brief summary is given here along with any variations in approach.

An initial preparation period for the project allowed the collection of existing data on the archaeology, history, topography and geology of the area traversed by the pipeline. Geological maps and published survey data were used to establish the solid geology and the soils of the fields crossed by the pipeline. Ordnance survey maps provided topographical details and the pattern of modern fields and settlements. These were used to provide base maps for the recording of data in the field.

Archaeological data available for the area was studied through use of the SMR to establish the existing archaeological framework for the area through which the pipeline was to pass. Historical data was collected through primary documentary sources (eg Domesday) and through secondary sources such as the Victoria County History for Worcestershire. In addition Tithe maps and awards and the inclosure maps and apportionments for the area were studied along with plans accompanying two 19th century land sale notices, including Hoarstone Farm. This was with the aim of studying historical landuse and

attempting to reconstruct the medieval field and settlement patterns in the vicinity of the pipeline from field boundaries and field names allied to topographic evidence, existing archaeological data and also documentary material. This hopefully would provide a context for the understanding of varying medieval artefact scatters resulting from the manuring of arable fields with rubbish from the settlements as had been done on an earlier pipeline (Jackson 1993). These desk-based studies provided a framework and background for the archaeological data collected.

The fieldwork was designed to fall into two clear stages, firstly recording of the stripped easement and secondly recording of the pipe trench. During the first stage the pipeline was visited during, or shortly after, removal of the topsoil. The freshly stripped area of the easement, was observed and intensively fieldwalked to record and retain artefacts in such a manner as to enable accurate plotting of the varying locations and densities of artefacts. All modern fields and each of the three sites at which recording was undertaken were allocated an individual SMR number for ease of recording and data manipulation (Fig 4).

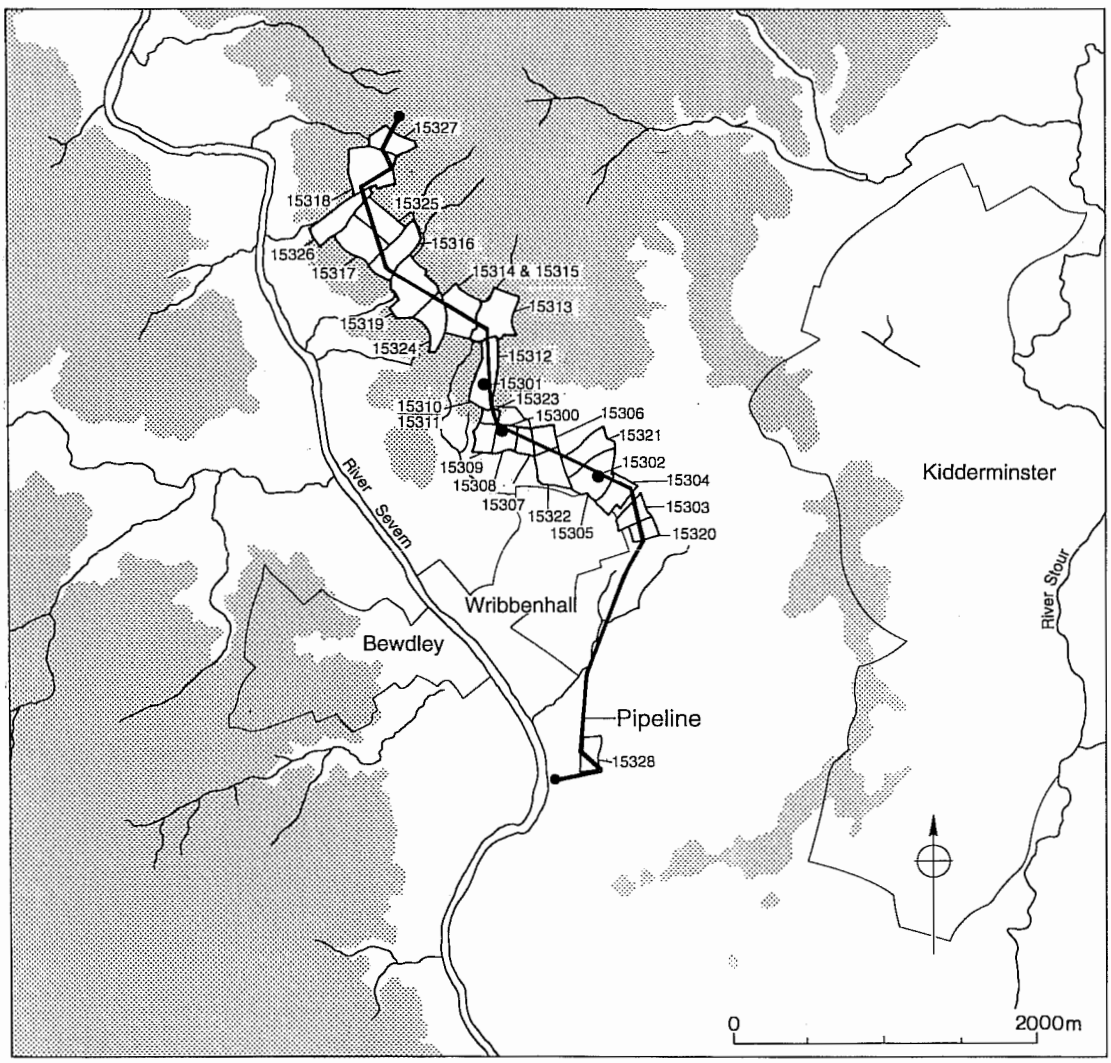

Figure 4 Route of pipeline showing County Sites and Monuments Record numbers allocated

Any surviving archaeological deposits were to be investigated and artefacts, if present, were collected from within them. In addition the spoil at the side of the easement was examined for artefacts. A record was also made of the current landuse and topography of each field and of soils and geological deposits revealed. In two fields (HWCM 15300 and HWCM 15301; Fig 4) significant deposits were present which could not be effectivly recorded through the core team and programmes of salvage recording implimented through the contingency. The methodologies for those sites were developed to suit the particular conditions of each of them and are described in the individual reports produced for them (Jackson *et al* 1994a and 1994b). A brief summary of the results from each of those sites is presented in this report along with the results of the work on the remainder of the route.

Due to the results of the first stage of the fieldwork (fieldwalking of the stripped easement and salvage recording of significant deposits at a number of locations) salvage recording throughout pipe trenching was not felt to be justified, and so was undertaken only in those areas where significant archaeological deposits had been revealed (HWCM 15300, HWCM 15301 and HWCM 15302) or areas of possible further interest such as where the pipeline crossed streams or areas where concentrations of artefacts had been recorded but no deposits located.

The final phase of the project involved the analysis of the data recovered in the field and integration of those results with the background research. This report presents the results of the project and summarises the background, methodology and aims of the work. A seperate report has been produced for both of the significant sites at which salvage recording occurred (HWCM 15300 and HWCM 15301; Jackson *et al* 1994a and 1994b). Finally a report on both of these sites and the pipeline in general will be produced for publication in the Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society.

Pottery
Pottery fabrics were identified macroscopically (with occasional use of a low powered microscope), and recorded on *pro forma* sheets (AS10). Fabrics are referred to by common names, and referenced to a published fabric series with detailed descriptions (Hurst and Rees 1992). Quantification of the pottery is by sherd number, unless otherwise stated.

Flint
The methodology employed is exactly the same as that described in the companion report to Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15301), involving the use of a hand lens X10 magnification. The assemblage was studied with particular reference to surface material collected from the vicinity of Kinver Edge in the West Midlands by the Stour and Smestow Archaeological Group in the 1970s and 1980s (Bevan 1993) as well as being compared to other Midlands flint assemblages.

4 Analysis and results

In total the easement was observed following stripping of topsoil in 25 fields. In three of the fields buried archaeological remains were observed and salvage excavation and recording undertaken (HWCM 15300, HWCM 15301, HWCM 15302; Fig 4). The results of these are summarised below (for finds quantification see Tables 3 and 4).

In addition to these three sites artefacts were recovered from fifteen other fields and further deposits were investigated in two adjoining fields where the pipeline passed close to one of a number of undated mounds in the area (HWCM 4107; Fig 2).

4.1 Prehistoric

One prehistoric occupation site was identified during the project, where investigation of a significant concentration of flint artefacts led to salvage recording of a Mesolithic occupation site (HWCM 15301; Fig 4)near Lightmarsh Farm. Here, a total of 1,482 fragments of flint were recovered, mostly comprising waste material but also including 88 artefacts, typologically comparable to Later Mesolithic assemblages from the Kinver area and elsewhere in the region (Jackson *et al* 1994b). These were associated with a number of features, including postholes, a gully, a possible pit and a D-shaped feature possibly representing the hole left by the disturbed root mass of a fallen tree. Evidence of a fire included charred hazelnut fragments, charcoal and burnt stone and flint although no hearth was positively identified. These features coincided with the area observed to have the greatest concentration of flint and have been interpreted as representing a temporary shelter and activity associated with a short period of occupation by a small band of hunters. A sample of the hazelnut fragments produced a radiocarbon date which when calibrated suggests that the site dates to the earlier 8th millenium BC (OxA-4327 - 8800±80 BP).

Flint artefacts were also thinly scattered across the area of fieldwork with between one and five flints retrieved from six of the fields (15306, 15308, 15309, 15312, 15313 and 15316; Table 5; Fig 4). In two fields higher concentrations were recorded (HWCM 15311, 26 fragments; HWCM 15315, 16 fragments). These were all recovered through fieldwalking of the stripped easement. A higher concentration was also recovered as residual material during salvage recording at the site of a Romano-British farmstead enclosure (HWCM 15300, 7 fragments). None of the three concentrations (HWCM 15300, HWCM 15311 and HWCM 15315) were associated with contemporary features. Apart from flint artefacts no prehistoric artefacts were recovered.

The small flint assemblage from Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15300), comprising seven items in total, consisted of several flakes of derived pebble flint including a primary flake (with cortical survival) and two burnt flakes. The flint used, which ranges from light to medium grey, cream, yellow and beige, was comparable to that used to produce the large assemblage at Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15301) which was the largest assemblage of flint from any of the Trimpley to Blackstone pipeline sites and as discussed above has been interpreted as a Mesolithic hunting camp.

The residuality of the small group from Hoarstone Farm (and all the pipeline sites except HWCM 15301) precludes the identification of definite occupation 'sites,' but the presence of a backed blade, 34x7x4mm, of yellow/beige flint, suggests some form of Mesolithic activity in the area, perhaps connected with Lightmarsh Farm. Past finds in the area include a core, a microlith and a microburin from Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 5159; Fig 2; Wymer 1977, 347).

The flint tools and flakes collected from the pipeline sites, excluding Lightmarsh Farm, were small in number (37 items), however the resulting assemblage contains some known chronologically-diagnostic tool types (from sites HWCM 15300, HWCM 15308, HWCM 15301, HWCM 15311, HWCM 15313 and HWCM 15315), suggestive of a general Later Mesolithic date for the total assemblage. This is further supported by the proximity of the flint finds to Lightmarsh Farm which can be regarded as a camp, possibly a single episode of occupation during the Mesolithic period (see above). The find-spots which are generally regarded as contemporary with Lightmarsh Farm may relate to satellite activities connected with the camp, or to the existence of other sites in a settlement system, isolated knapping episodes or 'background noise'. The smaller sites are generally represented by a few waste flakes but some include known Later Mesolithic tools which are discussed below:

Mesolithic tools

A retouched piece from HWCM 15308, (34x16x6mm), possibly a scraper fragment, made of cream-coloured flint is steeply worked along one edge in exactly the same way as the microliths from Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15301).

A light grey microlith, a possible scalene triangle attempt, came from HWCM 15315, (24x5x2mm). This microlith is similar in size and form to examples from Lightmarsh Farm (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 8:1,4,9 and 16), with which it is considered contemporary, and to examples from Bower Farm, Rugeley, Staffordshire (Saville 1986, fig 5: 208, 231).

Two chronologically diagnostic cores were also collected. A medium grey single-platform blade core (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 6:6) came from HWCM 15311. This type of core is typically Mesolithic (Wymer 1977, fig 2:21), and slight retouching along the striking platform suggests its re-use as a scraper. It is similar to an example from Lightmarsh Farm (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 6:2) and this form has been identified in field collections from the Kinver area (Bevan 1993), where it has been described as 'pyramidal' (Saville 1973/4). At 35g, it is heavier than the Kinver cores, which have an average weight of under 10g.

An opposed-platform core (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 6:5) came from HWCM 15313. This small light grey core, weighing only 11g, is another typically Mesolithic form (Wymer 1977, fig 22), designed for the production of very narrow blades. A further two examples of this type, one complete (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 6:1) and a second, partially shattered example (from HWCM 15301, context 54), have been recorded at Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15301).

A flake core was found at HWCM 15315. This core is in a very abraded condition and is made of poor quality cream flint, the same type of flint used to produce a worn and equally abraded, partially-burnt, scraper found at the same site with a core fragment, a number of waste flakes and the microlith described above. The microlith strongly suggests a chronological relationship with Lightmarsh Farm to which the other eleven items may belong or, conversely, the microlith might be the result of accidental tool loss. The small group from HWCM 15315 represents more intense activity than some of the other sites (eg HWCM 15306, 15309, 15312 and 15313), perhaps the debris of several prehistoric episodes through time.

A second site where a more intense phase of activity is suggested is HWCM 15311 where the assemblage comprises the single platform core described above (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 6:6), two core fragments and sixteen waste flakes, two of which were burnt. Despite the small size of the group, the presence of Mesolithic tool types, some of which can be related to the Lightmarsh Farm assemblage, is suggestive of flint knapping, and possibly occupation.

4.2 **Roman**

Roman deposits were recorded at two sites revealed during the project, at Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15300) and at Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15301). In addition to the deposits at these two sites, Roman pottery was recovered from the modern ploughsoil in five of the fields examined, including both of the fields which contained Roman deposits (HWCM 15302, HWCM 15306, HWCM 15300/15308 and possibly HWCM 15305). This was all Severn Valley ware (fabric 12), a local type that typically predominates in collections of Roman pottery in the area (Webster 1976; Timby 1990, 243). It was dated to the mid 1st to 4th century AD. There was also a fragment of possible Roman roof tile (*tegula*; HWCM 15312).

At Lightmarsh Farm, two ditches, probably representing field boundaries were recorded in association with prehistoric deposits (HWCM 15301). Artefactual evidence was poor but indicated an earlier Roman date for the fills of these ditches. The domestic character of the artefacts which included loomweight fragments suggested that these boundaries lay close to an associated settlement.

Hoarstone Farm
At Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15300) a ditch punctuated by a narrow entrance formed the south side of a rectilinear ditched Romano-British farmstead enclosure (Jackson *et al* 1994a). Parts of the east and west sides were also recorded. Within the enclosure, close to the ditch and to the east of the entrance, two ovens were excavated. Although domestic and agricultural buidings were not identified within the area recorded it is probably safe to assume that such buildings would have lain somewhere within the enclosure.

Charred plant remains recovered from the ovens suggest that they may have had a dual role, functioning as both bread baking and grain drying ovens. There was evidence for both spelt and barley which were probably locally grown. A pottery assemblage, exhibiting a good range of vessel forms and fabric types, was associated with these deposits and suggested that the site dated to the later 3rd or early 4th century. The potentially short-lived occupation of the site meant that problems of residuality were minimalised and the group is considered significant since it may be a representative collection of pottery in use in the middle Severn Valley at this period of the Roman occupation.

4.3 **Post-Roman** (7th-8th century)

A solitary human cremation (HWCM 15302; Figs 4 and 5) was recovered from a shallow feature, 0.20m deep. There were no associated artefacts. Immediately adjacent to this was a large pit 2.40m in diameter and 1.40m deep, containing several fragments of a small whetstone and a single abraded sherd of Roman pottery. The fill of this was largely redeposited natural

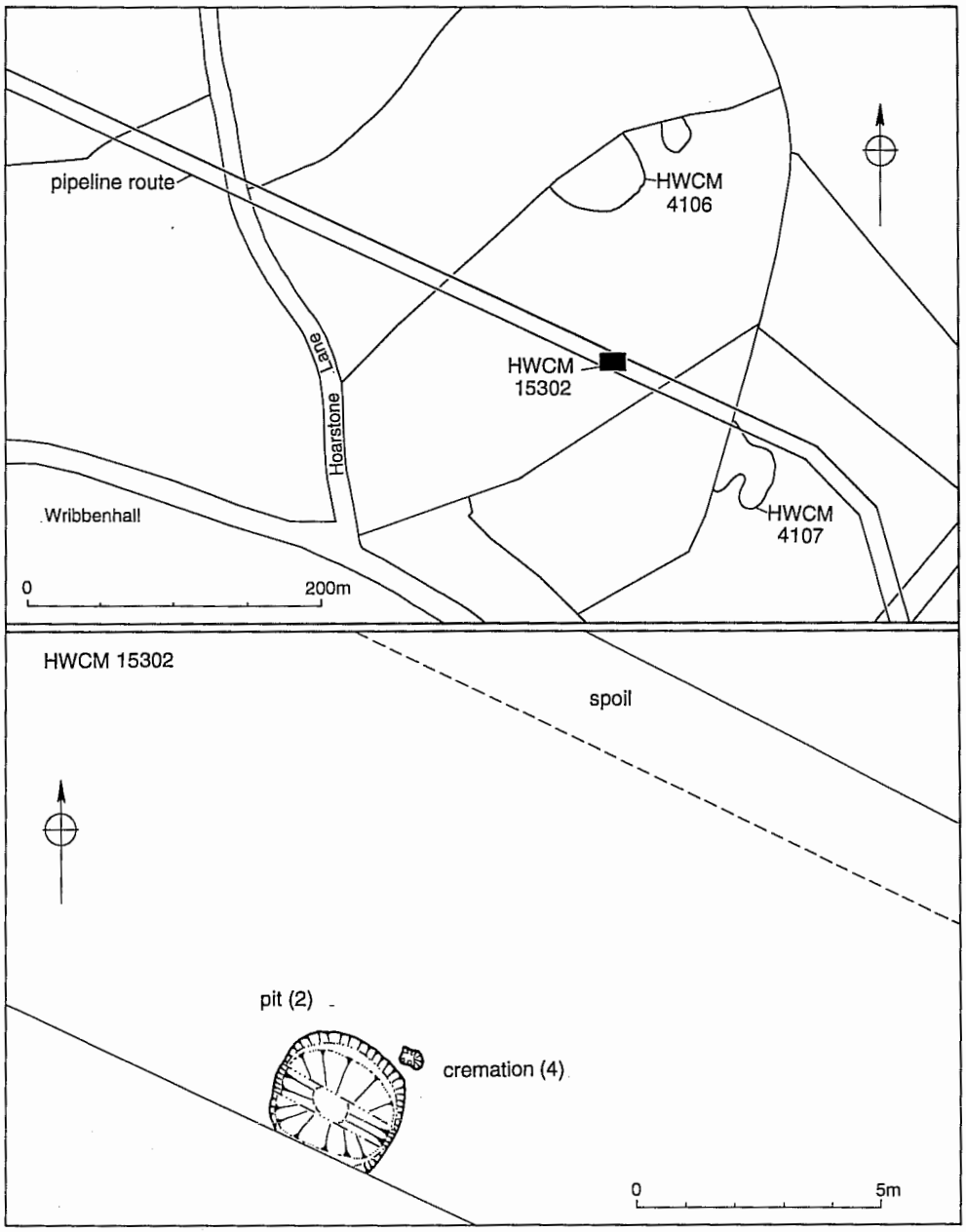

Figure 5 Cremation and pit at Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15302)

material but two bands of ash and charcoal were present towards its base, one of which yielded a fragment of burnt bone.

The cremation was of an adult. Due to the small fragment size and relatively small proportion of the cremated body present it was not possible to determine sex or estimate stature. No pathologies were noted (Appendix 2). The apparently small proportion of the cremation present in the shallow cut suggests that the feature was truncated, probably through ploughing.

A sample from the cremation was sent for radiocarbon dating and produced a date of 1300±50 BP (GU-3473). The calibrated age range from this is, at 1 *sigma*, cal AD 663-773, and is determined from the University of Washington, Quaternary Isotope Laboratory, Radiocarbon Dating Program, 1987.

No artefacts or other deposits than those described above were revealed dating to this period.

4.4 Medieval

No medieval deposits were recorded during the course of the project however medieval finds were recovered from four fields (HWCM 15307, HWCM 15308, HWCM 15310 and HWCM 15312; Fig 4).

4.5 Post-medieval

Apart from land drains observed in many of the fields, no deposits of this date were recorded, however, finds were recovered from fourteen of the fields examined and also from both the Lightmarsh Farm and Hoarstone Farm sites and the fields in which they were located (Table 2). The pottery fabrics represented were post-medieval red wares (fabric 78), post-medieval buff wares (fabric 91), white salt-glazed stoneware (fabric 81.5), porcelain (fabric 83), creamware (fabric 84) and modern china (fabric 85). Other finds were glass, ceramic flat roof tile, clay pipe, iron and copper alloy.

4.6 Undated deposits

The pipeline easement passed very close to the undated mound (HWCM 4107) sitting on the boundary between two of the fields it crossed (HWCM 15304 and HWCM 15305). To the west of the field boundary (HWCM 15305), topsoil, subsoil and decayed natural overlying solid sandstone bedrock were observed to thicken considerably from 0.50-0.60m to over 1.10m at about 25-30m from the boundary. These filled a broad shallow hollow in the bedrock which is probably natural in origin and has filled as a result of erosion. No dating material was recovered. It is possible that exposure to erosion of the surface of the topsoil through ploughing had accelerated the natural process.

To the east side of the boundary, very little topsoil or subsoil was present, sandstone being only 0.15-0.20m below modern ground surface across much of the field (HWCM 15304). By the mound, where the stripped area disturbed its edge, close observation failed to reveal any obvious man-made origin for the mound. Here, a deposit of fragmented sandstone overlaid the solid sandstone. This may be a naturally weathered deposit but the possibility

that it resulted from material being dumped onto a natural outcrop of rock to enhance it could not be excluded.

5 Discussion

5.1 Prehistoric

The prehistoric period was not well represented on the Trimpley to Blackstone Aqueduct with the notable exception of the Mesolithic. The Mesolithic is well-represented in flint scatters and find-spots to the north of Trimpley as far as Burcote House near Bridgnorth, and especially around Kinver Edge and in the nearby parish of Wolverley and Cookley. Although finds of this period are common in the Midlands, the recovery of all aspects of the Mesolithic site repertoire is problematic since certain elements, especially riverine sites, may have been lost through post-Mesolithic alluviation and gravel extraction (Saville 1981; Bevan 1993). Recently, however, a small Later Mesolithic riverside site has been reported at Kisses' Barn Farm near Polesworth, Warwickshire (Brown 1992). Previously, the Mesolithic period has been represented in the area only by microlith-dominated, high-ground surface assemblages (Saville 1981).

In the Kinver Survey the majority of potentially Later Mesolithic 'sites' are located on high ground near to water sources, whilst some larger low-lying sites have been identified, perhaps representing different elements of a cyclical settlement system.

In a regional context, the Lightmarsh Farm assemblage has been related to Later Mesolithic assemblages from Bourne Pool, Aldridge and two Staffordshire rock shelter sites at Wetton Mill, Manifold Valley and Bower Farm, Rugeley (Saville 1972-3, 1976 and 1986). Interestingly, the site at Bower Farm is located on similar geological formations as Kinver Edge, although there is no evidence at the present time for prehistoric cave occupation at the latter site. Such high-ground vantage points may represent another element of the Later Mesolithic site repertoire.

The Lightmarsh Farm assemblage has also been successfully related to a large surface assemblage from Kinver Edge using length:breadth ratios of waste flakes, confirming a common Later Mesolithic date, although closer chronological resolution is not currently possible. Whilst the low incidence of complete flakes from the other sites identified on the Trimpley to Blackstone Aqueduct precludes further comparisons, the presence of distinctive Later Mesolithic tool types on some of these sites, the majority of which have parallels at both Lightmarsh Farm and in the Kinver material, strongly suggests contemporaneity, certainly on a local level. The presence of higher concentrations of surface scatters at two of these sites (HWCM 15311, 26 fragments; HWCM 15315, 16 fragments) and as residual material on the site of the Romano-British farmstead at Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15300) indicate the presence of further Mesolithic activity in the vicinity perhaps relating to satellite activities connected with the Lightmarsh Farm camp or relating to other sites in a more complex settlement system, isolated knapping episodes or "background noise".

Regionally these newly identified sites are of considerable importance, especially Lightmarsh Farm which is presently the only Mesolithic

occupation site in the county, with the exception of King Arthur's Cave in Herefordshire (HWCM 7139), where Mesolithic artefacts have been recovered from contemporary features. The associated environmental remains and radiocarbon dates make this site one of the most important recognised to date in the region for the Mesolithic. In conjunction with the series of sites extending to the north through Wolverley and Cookley and beyond to the Kinver area, this site has significantly added to our understanding of the Mesolithic in the West Midlands area, suggesting fairly extensive exploitation, probably by hunting bands, of the hills to the east of the River Severn and on either side of its tributary the River Stour. A pollen diagram from peat beds at Cookley, only about 1km from Lightmarsh Farm demonstrates that the area was characteristically heavily wooded during the Mesolithic (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 10), and it seems certain that it was this woodland which the hunters were exploiting.

The single carbon date for the site, OxA-4327 = 8800±80 BC, places the Mesolithic occupation at Lightmarsh Farm in the period covered by the end of the Earlier Mesolithic and the beginning of the Later Mesolithic, in what is basically a transitional period. The Earlier Mesolithic is unrepresented in the Midlands, where typologically Earlier Mesolithic assemblages have not been identified but Later Mesolithic sites are common. If the carbon date is accepted, this assemblage may represent a trend towards miniaturisation and geometrification in the area at what is, nationally, an early date, although parallels do exist at a number of sites around the country.

Apart from a scraper of probable Bronze Age date recovered from the topsoil at Lightmarsh Farm (Jackson *et al* 1994b, fig 9:4), no deposits or artefacts of other clearly prehistoric date were recovered. However, the pollen diagram from Cookley does clearly reflect major deforestation, with a significant fall in tree pollen and a corresponding increase of cereal and grass pollen, during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age, clearly the result of clearance for agriculture.

5.2 Roman

The boundary ditches recorded at Lightmarsh Farm, are considered to represent elements of a field system in close proximity to domestic settlement. Artefacts recovered from the fill of these suggested that they dated to the early Roman period. The alignment of the ditches was only slightly at variance with alignment of the late 3rd to early 4th century Romano-British farmstead enclosure site at Hoarstone Farm. It can be suggested from this that there may be a degree of continuity of field systems throughout the Roman period, although settlement location appears to have varied.

The Hoarstone Farm settlement when looked at in conjuntion with others in this part of the Severn Valley, supports the suggestion that the area had a complex pattern of rural settlement based around small farmstead enclosures (Dinn and Hemingway 1992; Jackson *et al* 1994a). The agricultural economy probably relied on both arable and pastoral practice with perhaps a greater emphasis on the former in the area around Hoarstone Farm, but on the latter, around Astley to the south. One particular trend which can be discerned, from these sites, is the apparent expansion of rural settlement in the 3rd and 4th centuries, a pattern which has been observed elsewhere in the Roman period.

5.3 **Post-Roman** (7th-8th century)

The discovery of a cremation dating to between the mid 7th and mid 8th centuries in this area is of considerable interest, as was the pit adjacent to it which is considered to be contemporary since it contained a small fragment of calcined bone. The function of the pit is uncertain, although it may represent a cremation pit or ritual feature associated with the cremation which must be considered representative of pagan rather than Christian burial practice at this time. The bone had been cremated at an apparently high temperature (Appendix 2) and this factor combined with the apparent contemporaneity of the adjacent pit may indicate that the cremation was not undertaken hurriedly but with a degree of care and attention to ritual. Its isolation is perhaps suggestive of a one-off event, although it is tempting to speculate that further, possibly contemporary, pagan burial sites may be represented by the undated mounds in the area, two of which (HWCM 4106 and HWCM 4107) lie within 200m of the cremation. The latter of these was slightly disturbed by the pipeline but whether it is entirely natural in origin, or whether it has been enhanced deliberately, remains unclear.

The date (cal AD 663-773) and location, even if it is an isolated example, are of great interest. The period from the 5th to 8th centuries, within which the date of the cremation falls, is particularly poorly understood in Worcestershire, suffering from a combination of limited historical documentation and a lack of archaeological data. There is consequently only a limited archaeological and historical framework within which the cremation can be considered.

The area to the west of the River Severn, falling within the central and northern parts of Worcestershire, has been suggested as an area for a strong survival of a Romano-British element in the population during the post-Roman period (Hooke 1981, 56). This British 'enclave' has been suggested as a likely area for the survival of traditions of Christianity dating from the Roman period, and falls, during the 6th century, between the Anglo-Saxon pagan kingdoms to the south, east and north, and the Celtic Christian kingdoms to the west (Brook 1992). This area fell under the control of the Anglo-Saxons sometime after the battles of Dyrham (577) and Fethanleage (584) which appear to have shattered the native British control of the area. This probably gave rise to the circumstances which lead to the creation of the kingdom of the Hwicce under Anglo-Saxon influence, although elements of the kingdom may already have existed (Bassett 1989, 3-27).

The Hwiccan kingdom may have been the creation of Penda, a Mercian who defeated the West Saxons at Cirencester in 628 and gained overlordship of this area (Brooks 1989). The Mercian kingdom, which Penda probably ruled from *c*626-654, lay to the north of the Hwiccan kingdom and was the dominant Anglo-Saxon kingdom in England in the later 7th and 8th centuries. Penda was a pagan but his son and successor, Paeda, was baptised in 654 when he came to the throne. In 679 the bishopric was established at Worcester, where probable Christian burials dating to the late 5th or early 6th century have been found under the cathedral suggesting that a church had existed there for a considerable time, perhaps even since Roman times. Thus historically as far as can be established the cremation, though clearly pagan and probably Anglo-Saxon, is located in an area where Christianity may have survived uninterrupted from Roman times, in a predominantly British area. Furthermore it is dated within a period when the Anglo-Saxon, hitherto pagan, Kings of Mercia who had political control of the area, were

undergoing conversion to Christianity, a change which presumably must have been reflected in the Anglo-Saxon elements of the population as a whole.

Archaeologically the cremation seems similarly to stand out. No pagan Anglo-Saxon burials have been found to the west of the River Severn. To the east, plots of such burials show that within the county the only Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies at Upton Snodsbury (HWCM 599) to the east of Worcester, and that the only concentration of burial sites lies in the area of the confluence of the Severn and the Avon, near the border with Gloucestershire, around Bredon (Pretty 1989, fig 12.1). Evidence of settlement dated to this period is very limited in the area with the exception of the well stratified and dated deposits revealed at Upwich in Droitwich (Hurst 1991). Much of what there is cannot be reliably associated with any particular social, ethnic or political group that historical records suggest might have been present in the county. Thus archaeological evidence supports the idea that Anglo-Saxon influence did not spread west into much of the county until after the battles of Dyrham (577) and Fethanleage (584), and even after that the paucity of Anglo-Saxon pagan burials suggests that they had either already been converted or were being converted when they arrived.

Thus the cremation represents the most western and northern burial of its kind and date in the county, and it is also of a late date for a cremation since even the earlier end of the date range (663-773) is very close to the period when Christian burial practice would be expected. If the date range is broadened to gain a greater degree of certainty for the true date lying within the radiocarbon date range provided (ie at 2 *sigma*, giving a 95.4% certainty, cal AD 650-854) the date still is still, at best, late for a cremation (650).

Thus both archaeologically and historically the cremation appears to be somewhat isolated and anomalous. The most obvious explanations for its existence are that it represents an Anglo-Saxon who has died too far from any pagan cemetery to be carried back, perhaps being a traveller, or, it may be that pagan traditions were allowed within a predominantly Christian area and that this represents a member of the local population, perhaps a settler of Anglo-Saxon origin. In support of the latter suggestion it is perhaps significant that three of the local place-names (Wribbenhall, Trimpley and Kidderminster) have Old English origins although these cannot be dated or reliably interpreted in relation to the origins of those settlements.

5.4 Medieval

The paucity of medieval artefacts recovered from the Trimpley to Blackstone pipeline is perhaps surprising. Medieval settlement is well represented in the area with all of the main settlements of today (Trimpley, Wribbenhall and Kidderminster) dating from the medieval period at least. Those artefacts that have been recovered probably result from manuring of arable land but it seems likely that local soil conditions, especially to the north part of the pipeline, may have restricted arable use. The addition of woodland in the area to the Royal Forest of Feckenham (VCH III) suggests that woodland may have formed a significant element of the medieval landscape in the area. Interestingly comparison with the Roman material suggests that arable landuse was more extensive at the earlier date than it was in the medieval period, since medieval pottery was actually scarcer, though this may reflect differing agricultural practices, distance from settlements or other factors.

5.5 Post-medieval

By far the most numerous off-site artefacts dated to this period. In particular 18th and 19th century material was recovered from the fields around Hoarstone Farm, probably reflecting manuring of arable land with domestic refuse, possibly suggesting attempts to improve and expand arable land in the area.

6 Conclusions

Deposits and artefacts revealed a long period of human activity and occupation in the area ranging from the Mesolithic to the current day. The earliest evidence of human exploitation of the area was the Mesolithic hunting camp identified at Lightmarsh Farm. This site dated to the earlier 8th millenium BC, and represents one of the earliest occupation sites excavated to date in the region. Small but significant concentrations of flint comparable to the Mesolithic material from Lightmarsh Farm were found as residual material at a later site and also as unstratified artefact scatters in two other fields. These may represent contemporary off site knapping episodes or may indicate a wider pattern of Mesolithic occupation and activity in the vicinity.

No further prehistoric activity was represented, with the exception of a single scraper of possible Bronze Age date and some loom weight fragments of possibly late Iron Age date in two ditches at Lightmarsh Farm. However, these along with the probable Iron Age hillfort in Wassel Wood, the gold coin of similar date found to the south-west of the site and various other finds scatters and deposits in the area suggest fairly continuous activity in the area throughout the prehistoric period. The Cookley pollen diagram demonstrates that from the late Neolithic/Bronze Age major deforestation of the area was occuring almost certainly the result of deliberate clearance for agriculture.

The Romano-British farmstead at Hoarstone Farm dating to later 3rd to early 4th century and the earlier date of the low level domestic activity evidenced by finds from two boundary ditches at Lightmarsh Farm demonstrate continuing exploitation of the area by farmers during the Roman period. Thin scatters of Roman pottery were found in the fields near the farmstead at Hoarstone Farm and probably relate to the practice of manuring arable land with domestic refuse. This material and the ovens identified at the farmstead suggest arable farming, but the relative paucity of the material and the nature of local soils suggest that much of the land may have been pasture and that farming was probably mixed and much dependant on soil type.

For the post-Roman period evidence is limited, however, the single, 7th-8th century cremation represents a significant discovery for a period which is generally extremely poorly represented in the archaeological record. The presence of a cremation at this location, and of this date is somewhat unusual given the current distribution of pagan cremations in the region and the probable religious and political climate in the region.

Documentary evidence dates Kidderminster at least to the 8th century and the other settlements in the area were in existence by Domesday (1086). The medieval period was poorly represented on the pipeline with only a very limited scatter of medieval pottery recovered. However, documentary evidence demonstrates that both Kidderminster and Bewdley were important settlements.

Woodland appears to have been important in the area and pasture. The paucity of medieval artefacts recovered suggests that arable landuse was even more limited than evidence indicates for the Roman period, although this may relate to other factors not evident from the results of this project.

The post-medieval period was considerably better represented in artefact scatters, especially material dating to the 17th-18th century. This may indicate an increase in arable farming with deliberate improvement of farmland through extensive manuring with domestic refuse. That the land increasingly was considered suitable for arable farming is reflected in the 19th century farmsale of Hoarstone Farm which was advertised as "capital turnip and barley land", however at the turn of the century when landuse is first recorded pasture and arable use were evenly divided in the area.

The project has demonstrated that occupation sites survive well in the area even for such sites as the Mesolithic hunting camp at Lightmarsh Farm where features were probably never particularly substantial. At Hoarstone Farm the survival of the bases of two ovens as well as deeper cut features reinforces the evidence for good survival of archaeological deposits in the area. Preservation of associated artefacts and charred plant remains was also good although bones did not survive at either of the sites, bone preservation being generally poor in the area. A significant characteristic of these deposits and associated assemblages was the absence of complex deposits and the short span of occupation which meant that the common problems of disturbance and residuality were minimised. Associated with the occupation sites identified was evidence of other activity in the form of artefact scatters, suggesting that off-site archaeology also has the potential to survive and provide information regarding former landuse and settlement.

The results of the work on this stretch of the pipeline are of great significance. Three significant sites were identified through the project and considered in conjunction with artefact scatters from the remainder of the route, historical research and existing archaeological knowledge have provided a large amount of information relating to settlement and landuse in the area over many millenia.

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8 Personnel

The project was coordinated by Robin Jackson, BA AIFA (Assistant Project Officer).

David Wichbold (Archaeological Assistant) coordinated much of the fieldwork, assisted by Tony Clarke, PIFA; David Coombes, BA; Paul Godbehere; Douglas Moir, BA AIFA; and Andrew Towle, BA PIFA

(Archaeological Assistants); Clare de Rouffignac MA GiBiol AIFA (Environmental Archaeologist); and Laura Templeton BA AIFA MAAIS (Illustrator).

Finds identification and reporting was undertaken by Derek Hurst MA AIFA (Project Officer). Environmental analysis and reporting was undertaken by Clare de Rouffignac. Analysis and reporting on the cremation was undertaken by Stephanie Pinter-Bellows.

The report was produced by Robin Jackson with contributions on the finds by Derek Hurst and Lynne Bevan and on the environmental remains by Clare de Rouffignac. Illustrations for the report were undertaken by Laura Templeton and Carolyn Hunt PIFA MAAIS (Illustrator).

The report was edited by Simon Woodiwiss BA AIFA.

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10 Abbreviations

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

HWCC - Hereford and Worcester County Council

CRO - County Record Office

VCH - Victoria County History

Table 1 **Sites in the vicinity registered on the County Sites and Monuments Record**

Site	Type	Description
Prehistoric		
236	Buried remains	Iron Age settlement. Rectilinear, banked and ditched enclosure
3884	Earthworks	Probable Iron Age Hill fort
8159	Artefacts	Surface collection. Mesolithic flint
5540	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
5545	Artefact	Surface find. Iron Age gold coin
7261	Artefacts	Bronze Age finds from excavation at 236 (see above)
7262	Artefacts	Mesolithic finds from excavation at 236 (see above)
8072	Buried remains	Iron Age pit from excavations at 8071 (see below)
8073	Buried remains	Ring ditch. Bronze Age barrow
11055	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
11056	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
11058	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
11059	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
11060	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
11061	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
11062	Artefacts	Surface collection. Flint
Roman		
1136	Buried remains	Occupation. Enclosure ditch and ?aisled barn
3723	Artefacts	Surface finds. Coins. ?Hoard
5446	Artefacts	Surface finds. Silver coins
5540	Artefact	Surface collection. Pottery
5541	Artefacts	Surface collection. Pottery
6724	Artefacts	Extensive scatter. ?Settlement
7188	Artefact	Surface find. Bowl
7260	Buried remains	Deposits at excavation at 236 (see above) No structures but possibly a settlement
7584	Artefacts	Surface finds. Fibula and Bronze object
8070	Buried remains	Intercutting ditched enclosures. Probable settlement
8071	Buried remains	Four ditched enclosures, a circular turf-built hut, traces of a second hut, 2 hearths, and a well
8154	Artefacts	Extensive scatter, including coins. Possibly a settlement
11056	Artefact	Surface collection. Bead
11059	Artefacts	Surface collection. Pottery
Post-Roman		
3885	Earthwork	Holloway. Saxon or earlier.
Medieval		
3994	Earthworks	Probable deserted medieval village associated with 12105
4175	Building	Hermitage at Blackstone

Site	Type	Description
8045	Earthworks	Ponds
8153	Documentary	Site of medieval chapel
12105	Earthworks	Substantial, probably man-made, mound. ?Site of motte and bailey castle
Undated		
4106	Earthwork	Mound
4107	Earthwork	Mound
4108	Earthwork	Mound
6074	Cropmark	Enclosure
8143	Cropmark	Enclosure
12104	Cropmark	Enclosure
12644	Cropmark	?Ploughed out mound
12645	Earthwork	Mound
12650	Earthwork	Mound

Table 2 **Summary of results**

HWCM	OS Parcel No	Landuse	Soil association	Solid	Tithe/Inclosure	Other SMR	Summary of results
15300	1566	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	The Pool Close (1828)	15308	Romano-British farmstead enclosure
15301	0210/0325	Pasture	Middleton	Keele Beds	Brick Kiln & Far Wood Piece (1775)	15312	Mesolithic occupation site
15302	7344	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	Gossy Close & Pit Close (1826)	4106	7th-8th century cremation and pit
15303	0017	Scrub	Hodnet	Bunter Sandstone	Lightmarsh Green (1775)		Artefacts: PMed
15304	0031	Scrub	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	No record found		Negative evidence
15305	7733	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	Finger Piece (1826)	4107	Artefacts: Rom, PMed
15306	4165	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	Hoarstone Close (1826)		Artefacts: Meso, Rom, PMed
15307	2864	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	The Lower Orchard (1826)		Artefacts: Later Med, PMed
15308	1566	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	The Pool Close (1826)	15300	Artefacts: Meso, Rom, Med, PMed
15309	0166	Pasture	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	Piece Behind Cottage (1775)		Artefacts: Meso, PMed
15310	0006	Pasture	Middleton	Keele Beds	Far Wood Piece (1775)		Artefacts: Med, PMed
15311	0006	Pasture	Middleton	Keele Beds	Far Wood Piece (1775)		Artefacts: Meso (?occupation)
15312	0325/0210	Pasture	Middleton	Keele Beds	Brick Kiln & Far Wood Piece (1775)	15301	Artefacts: Meso, Med, PMed
15313	0739	Arable	Middleton	Keele Beds	Great Lanes & Lower Lanes (1826)	5445 & 7584	Artefacts: Meso, PMed
15314	8549	No record	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	No record found		Artefacts: PMed
15315	8549	No record	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	No record found		Artefacts: Meso (?occupation)
15316	5000	Pasture	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	Tumpy Piece & Wilson's Far Corner (1775)		Artefacts: Meso, PMed
15317	1700	Pasture	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	7 Acres, 6 Acres, Banky Field & Lower Wilsons (1775)		Negative evidence
15318	2544	Arable	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	Far Bayes, Near Bayes, Mitchel's A Good Piece (1775)		Artefacts: PMed
15319	4972/5558	Pasture	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	No record found		Artefacts: PMed
15320	0007	Scrub	Hodnet	Bunter Sandstone	No record found		Negative evidence
15321	6958	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	Broad Leasow & Gossy Close (1826)		Negative evidence
15322	4545	Arable	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	Kanskeys Pieces (1826)		Negative evidence
15323	9881	Pasture	Middleton	Bunter Sandstone	No record found		Negative evidence
15324	6843	No record	Middleton	Old Red Sandstone	No record found		Negative evidence
15325	3700	Arable	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	7 Acres, 6 Acres, Banky Field & Lower Wilsons (1775)		Negative evidence
15326	0002	Pasture	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	The Slang or Lime Kiln Close (1775)		Negative evidence
15327	3962	Arable	Bromyard	Old Red Sandstone	No record found		Negative evidence
15328	7457	Arable		Old Red Sandstone	No record found		Artefacts: PMed

Table 3 **Sites HWCM 15302-15328: finds quantification**

Pottery (sherd count)	
Roman	7
Medieval	3
Post-medieval	107
Clay pipe	5
Building materials	
Tile	19
Metalwork	
Iron	1
Copper alloy	1
Glass	
Vessels	7
Other	1
Bone	1
Oyster shell	1
Other finds	
Flint	46

Table 4 **All sites on the Trimpley to Blackstone aqueduct: finds quantification**

Pottery (sherd count)		
	Roman	362
	Medieval	3
	Post-medieval	121
Clay pipe		11
Building materials		
	Tile	65
	Fired clay	43
	Other ceramic	2
Metalwork		
	Iron	3
	Copper alloy	1
Glass		
	Vessels	17
	Other	1
Bone		1
Oyster shell		1
Stone		
	Flint	1534
	Object	1
	Burnt stone	8
Slag		8
Total (all sites)		2174

Table 5 **Flint** (Excluding HWCM 15301)

Site	Microlith/ backed point	scraper	core	p	s	t	burnt
15300us	1				1	1	
15300c7				1	1		2
15306							1
15308		1frag			1	1	1
15309					1	1	
15311		1 core/scraper	*2frags	1	3	8	4
15312					2		
15313			1	1	1	1	
15315	1	1	2(1fr)	1	4	3	
15316				1			
Totals:	2	2	6*	5	14	15	8

Totals: Tools: 4
Cores: 6
Flakes: 42

Overall: 52 items

Key
p=primary flake
bs=secondary flake
t=tertiary flake
*inc: core/scraper

Appendix 1 **The archive**

The archive consists of:

Hoarstone Farm (HWCM 15300)

Primary records

30 Context records AS1
6 Photographic records AS3
1 Drawing catalogue AS4
2 Context number catalogue sheets AS5
32 Context finds records AS8
1 Harris matrix
9 Scale drawings
1 Box of finds
2 Colour slide films (71 shots)
3 Black and white print films (86 shots)

Post-excavation analysis records

1 Abbreviated context description
1 Annotated matrix
23 Pottery records AS10
8 Finds catalogue sheets

Lightmarsh Farm (HWCM 15301)

Primary records

43 Context records AS1
4 Photographic records AS3
1 Drawing catalogue AS4
2 Context number catalogue sheets AS5
36 Context finds records AS8
1 Harris matrix
5 Scale drawings
1 Boxes of finds
2 Colour slide films (46 shots)
2 Black and white print films (46 shots)

Post-excavation analysis records

1 Abbreviated context description
1 Annotated matrix
7 Pottery records AS10
7 Finds catologue records

Other sites

Primary records

6 Context records AS1
13 Fieldwork progress reports AS2
2 Photographic records AS3
1 Context number catalogue sheets AS5
33 Context finds records AS8
29 Field survey records AS22
10 Weekly time sheets

1	Sites and monuments index
16	Scale drawings (based on OS 1:10000 map copies)
1	Box of finds
1	Colour slide film (7 shots)
1	Black and white print films (19 shots)

Post-excavation analysis records

1	Abbreviated site description
15	Pottery records AS10
3	Finds catalogue sheets

Copies of all documents and plans used for background research are also held within the archive.

All primary records and finds are kept at:

County Archaeological Service
Hereford and Worcester County Council
Tetbury Drive
Warndon
Worcester WR4 9LS

Tel Worcester (0905) 58608

A security copy of the archive has been placed at;

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

Tel Hartlebury (0299) 250416

Appendix 2 **Cremated human bone from HWCM 15302, Kidderminster Foreign**
by Stephanie Pinter-Bellows

The cremated human bone (3) from a shallow feature possibly associated with an adjacent large pit was examined. The cremated bone consists of 500g. The maximum length of fragment was 52mm. The fragment size and anatomical distribution is shown below. The bone appears to come from one individual, an adult of unknown sex. Ageing was accomplished using the criteria of the Workshop of European Anthropologists (1980). No pathologies were noted. It was not possible to estimate a stature.

The weight reveals that little of the skeleton was included in the pit. The quantity of bone recoverable from a modern adult cremation is between 160-3600g; and archaeological adult cremations have an average of *c*800g (McKinley 1989). In cremations from all archaeological periods it would appear that only part of the human remains needed to be placed in the urn or pit. The fragments included in the pit (3) are mainly unidentified shaft fragments; though all parts of the body are represented and smaller bones and bone fragments such as tooth roots and hand and foot phalanges are present. The colour of the fragments are a white-grey, with fissures throughout the shaft fragments. the white-grey colour is suggestive of a temperature of above about 940°C, the highest temperature stage (Shipham *et al* 1984).

Fragment size and anatomical distribution of cremation (3)

Fragment size distribution			Anatomical fragment distribution		
− 10mm	200g	40%	Unid	410g	82% of total
− 5mm	205g	41%	Skull	25g	28% of identified frags
− 2mm	95g	19%	Axial	10g	11% of identified frags
			U Limb	10g	11% of identified frags
			L Limb	45g	50% of identified frags