

Upper Moor, Pershore

An Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

- S.1 An archaeological investigation, consisting of the excavation of eleven trial trenches, was carried out on land off Evesham Road, Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle, to assess the archaeological potential of the site ahead of development into an onion processing and sort plant.
- S.5 The majority of the features identified during the fieldwork were a series of ditches, probably a combination of field boundaries and drainage ditches of a Roman and late Roman date. These were sealed by modern ploughsoil and a buried, post-Medieval ploughsoil. All of the features showed signs of being truncated by later ploughing.
- S.5 No evidence of occupation layers was recorded, nor were any structural features, such as postholes or beam slots, identified within the trenches.
- S.5 Within the fills of a number of the ditches, relatively large pieces of masonry were found. This suggests the presence of a stone built building in the close vicinity of the site, although does not suggest that it is located within the bounds of the investigated area.
- S.5 The archaeological features will only be at risk by the proposed development if associated groundworks impact upon the archaeological resource. This can be successfully mitigated through an archaeological watching brief.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development site is located on Land Parcel 6500, Evesham Road, Upper Moor, Pershore, Worcestershire at National Grid Reference SO 9762 4785 (see Figure 1). This post-determination evaluation has been conducted on behalf of Sims & Woods to inform requirements for further mitigation (if necessary) ahead of the construction of a new onion washing and packing plant with associated landscaping, a spreading area, a dispatch area, settlement tanks, storage lakes and a balancing pond.
- 1.2 The proposed development site is located on a south-west facing valley slope overlooking the confluence of the Piddle Brook and the River Avon to the immediate north-west of Lower Moor at heights between 55 and 48 metres A.O.D. The site is currently used for arable. The local geology comprises calcareous clayey and fine loamy and silty clays to the north and coarse loamy soils to the south that overlie the Lower Lias Limestones and clays of the Lower Jurassic.
- 1.3 An archaeological assessment of the development site was completed in 2000 (RPS Consultants' report: *Upper Moor, Pershore, Worcestershire An Archaeological Assessment January 2000*). The assessment highlighted the existence of a Roman occupation site some 80 metres to the west. The evaluation undertaken by the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service in 1995, for the proposed Wyre Piddle By-pass, illustrated the high archaeological potential of the proposal site and its environs. The evaluation recovered two early Roman inhumations and scatters of building debris from surface collection to the immediate west of the proposal site. Taken together these may suggest a settlement site that extends eastwards towards the current proposal site. Geophysical survey and aerial photographic analysis have identified a number of possible ring ditches of possible Bronze Age date and enclosures of uncertain date, adjacent to the proposal site and also within the proposal site, in an area to remain in agricultural production.
- 1.4 A prehistoric and Roman settlement site has now been partially excavated as mitigation for the Wyre Piddle Bypass from some 300m to the west of the current proposal site. Additionally, fieldwalking has defined a Roman and prehistoric artefact scatter extending as far east as the proposal site.
- 1.5 One of the Wyre Piddle By-pass trial trenches was located within the current proposal site. This trench confirmed the presence of medieval ridge and furrow and located a number of ill-defined, undated, shallow truncated archaeological features. Further similar features in the

area of the washing/packing plant and associated construction and landscape features were evidenced by aerial photography.

- 1.6 A 'Brief for An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Part of Land Parcel 6500, Upper Moor, nr. Pershore, Worcestershire' was prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, County Archaeological Service of Worcestershire County Council, in December 1998. This brief has now been updated 'Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Work (Evaluation) at Land off Evesham Road, Upper Moor, Pershore, Worcestershire' 28 November 2001. RPS prepared a specification in response to the updated brief and to comply with the guidelines laid down in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*. *Planning Application No. W/98/1441 Construction of an Onion Washing/Packing Facility, lakes and a Balancing Pond at Upper Moor, Pershore, Worcestershire*.
- 1.7 This report includes the results of geophysical survey, fieldwalking, metal detecting and trial trenching comprising a 2% sample of the development site. The location of the trial trenches was agreed with the County Archaeologist with trenches placed in order to dissect areas of potential archaeological significance as highlighted by the geophysical and fieldwalking surveys. Trenches were also placed within apparently blank areas to test the reliability of the previous techniques and to provide adequate site coverage.
- 1.8 The project was managed and directed by Rob Masefield MA BSc AIFA with Graham Cruse BSc acting as site supervisor assisted by Emma Allen, Gavin Glover and Sam Worrall. This report was compiled by Rob Masefield and Gavin Glover.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation is to locate and record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be located within the development site, in order to ascertain their date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth. Should the evaluation produce positive results these will be analysed with regard to local, regional and national research frameworks.

2.2 The specific aims of this project are as follows:

To further characterise and provide dating evidence for known archaeological features in the area of Trench 7 of the Wyre Piddle Bypass evaluation and to establish whether artefact concentrations to the immediate west of the development proposal relate to prehistoric and Romano-British settlement or industrial features within the site.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 **Magnetometer Survey:** Stratascan conducted the magnetometer survey in two phases from December 2001 on the common grid to the fieldwalking and metal-detecting surveys using a FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer manufactured by Geoscan Research. Readings were to be taken at 0.5m centres along traverses 1m apart. This equates to 800 sampling points in a full 20x20m grid. The readings were down-loaded daily into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of the job the data was transferred to the office for processing and presentation using specialist software known as Geoplot 3. The processed data is shown in Figure 2; the interpreted data, showing potential features is given in Figure 3.
- 3.2 **Fieldwalking:** The fieldwalking was conducted in December 2001. The field was divided into some 15 transects 10m apart and denoted by letter prefixes (A, B, etc.). These were subdivided into 10m long stints, giving 10m grid squares (denoted A 0-10, A 10-20, etc.). All pottery, flint and iron finds were retained for analysis. Finds were catalogued, collected and labelled for their respective 10m grid squares. The results were presented to illustrate the distributions of artefact types by period (Figure 4).
- 3.3 **Metal-detecting:** Metal-detecting was also conducted in December 2001 using the same walk lines and collection units as the fieldwalking. All metal finds were collected, identified and catalogued. Results are shown on Figure 4.
- 3.4 **Trial Trenching:** The trenching was conducted from 15th April 2002 and comprised 11 trenches providing a 2% sample of the relevant site area (as shown on Figure 3). Sampled areas included the spreading area, landscaped areas, the dispatch area, settlement tanks, parking and hard-standing, the wash down area, washing and packing plant area and lakes at the balancing pond, in the southern area. These components represent an overall area of 55,855m² (54,355m² of which is north of the bypass line). A 2% sample comprises 1,117m².
- 3.5 The locations of the trial trenches were determined following the completion of the magnetometer survey and have targeted a number of linear features of interest. 'Blank areas' were also sampled in order to confirm the validity for the magnetometer survey and to provide evaluation in all areas of the proposal site.
- 3.6 Where trenches are opened by mechanical excavator, all undifferentiated topsoil or modern over burden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The machine removed spits of no more than 0.20 metres in depth moving along the length of the trench. Thereafter, all subsequent investigation of archaeological features or deposits was done by hand.

- Archaeological excavation respected the stratigraphy of archaeological layers, features, deposits and structures with contexts excavated in sequence.
- 3.7 At least 50% of the fills of all pits, postholes and other discrete archaeological features were excavated and at least 20% of the exposed lengths of ditches were excavated.
 - 3.8 Grid and benchmarks were established following behind mechanical stripping. A temporary benchmark (with corrected levels) and an accurate site grid were surveyed in using suitable instruments. The trenches were related to the O.S. grid and each trench has been allocated co-ordinates on the final plans. All areas of ground disturbance were accurately surveyed in and marked out prior to trial trenching beginning. The trenches were plotted onto the site location plan.
 - 3.9 Pre-excavation plan: prior to hand excavation a composite site plan was composed at a scale of 1:50.
 - 3.10 Sections: all sectioned and excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one long section was drawn of each archaeological trial trench to include profiles of the existing ground level and the levels of the underlying natural subsoils.
 - 3.11 The recording system used is comparable to the systems currently used by other archaeological contractors in the county of Worcestershire. All archaeological features, layers or deposits were allocated unique context numbers and were recorded on pro-forma context sheets detailing: character, contextual relationships, a detailed description, associated finds, interpretation and cross referencing to the drawn, photographic and finds records.
 - 3.12 On-site matrices were compiled during trial trenching such that the results of the written stratigraphical records could be fully analysed and phased.
 - 3.13 An adequate photographic record of the investigation was made to include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film) illustrating both the detail and context of the principal archaeological features and finds discovered.
 - 3.14 All photographic records included information detailing: site code; date; context(s); section number; a north arrow and a scale.
 - 3.15 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological features, deposits or layers encountered was drawn on plastic drafting film at an appropriate scale. The O.D. height of all principal strata and features was calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

- 3.16 A record or index was maintained of all site drawings and these will form part of the project archive. All site drawings contain the following information: site name; site number and code; scale; plan or section number; orientation, date and compiler.
- 3.17 Treatment of Finds and Samples: Organic samples were taken as appropriate and were processed and reported on by an appointed specialist.
- 3.18 All finds and samples were recorded, collected and labelled according to their individual stratagraphical context.

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 **Palaeolithic-Mesolithic:** Archaeological evidence from these early periods is typically sparse. The only known material of this period recovered from around the study area consists of two hand axes.
- 4.2 **Neolithic:** The sedentary nature of Neolithic peoples gives rise to more extensive archaeological remains than for previous periods. Cropmarks of a cursus and other possible associated features form part of the multi-period scheduled cropmark complex located to the south of Wyre Piddle. An archaeological evaluation in the area of the proposal site undertaken by the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service in 1995 in advance of the proposed construction of the Wyre Piddle By-pass recovered a number of Neolithic flint flakes and tools including a serrated blade.
- 4.3 **Bronze Age:** During the Bronze Age (c2000-650BC) agricultural activity intensified with more extensive woodland clearance. Agricultural settlement extended to the heavier soils as farming technology improved. The first metalworking took place with the use of bronze becoming well established for weapons and fine tools. Flint continued in use for everyday items such as knives and arrowheads. Three early Bronze Age crouched beaker burials were found in a gravel pit in 1933 to the south of the railway at Lower Moor. The Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record details a findspot of a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead to the north-east of Wyre Piddle.
- 4.4 An archaeological evaluation in the area of the proposed site that took place in advance of the proposed construction of the Wyre Piddle By-pass in 1995 by the Hereford and Worcester Archaeological Service, located evidence for Bronze Age settlement activity to the west of the proposal site. A preliminary geophysical survey located a number of anomalies that were interpreted as ring ditches (representing possible round-houses or funerary monuments). The archaeological trial trenching located a single settlement feature - a palisade slot. This was attributed to the Bronze Age from pottery evidence. The trial trenching also recovered a substantial worked flint assemblage. Other settlement features including several enclosure boundary ditches were also identified. These were dated to either the late Bronze Age or to the Iron Age.
- 4.5 **Iron Age:** Evaluations to the west of the site (for the Wyre Piddle By-pass, 1995) located substantial evidence for Iron Age settlement activity. A preliminary geophysical survey had located a number of anomalies that were interpreted as ring ditches or round houses and ditches. The archaeological trial trenching located a very dense concentration of Iron Age

settlement features within and to the north of the proposed road route corridor. These features were mainly ditches, some of which were sufficiently substantial to have had a possible defensive function. There was also evidence of upcast banks that suggested a defensive earthwork that may have been extant until post medieval times. The ditches appeared to represent multiple enclosures over several distinct phases of activity. One possible round house and several postholes and pits were also identified. All of this evidence suggests a possible Iron Age defensive settlement.

- 4.6 A number of find spots of Iron Age pottery have also been noted near by.
- 4.7 **Roman:** During the Roman period (AD43-AD410), a new road network was constructed and more organised rural settlement and intensive agricultural activity began with the establishment of the villa system. Frequently, the old field patterns were redefined or realigned to accommodate this new system.
- 4.8 It appears that a large Roman settlement once stood to the north of the By-pass route, and peripheral activity would have occurred further south.
- 4.9 Various findspots of Roman artefacts are scattered throughout the southern half of the Study Area, indicating extensive Roman activity. Cropmarks and a trackway have been identified on aerial photographs.
- 4.10 **Anglo-Saxon:** During the **Anglo-Saxon** period (AD410-D1066) the basis of the later medieval settlement pattern was established. There is some evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement activity from the early origins of some of the place names within the Study Area. Fladbury for example, may have had origins as a settlement from as early as the 7th century onwards. The medieval settlement of Hill similarly may have had earlier origins in the late Anglo-Saxon period. There are documentary references to *Hylle* of c.AD1050.
- 4.11 **Norman and Medieval:** The site of the former medieval settlement of Hill is marked by a complex of extensive earthworks to the south-east of Hill Court Farm. This evidence of medieval settlement shrinkage consists of a series of croft banks, enclosures and holloways that are all in turn surrounded by a well-defined earthwork bank. The nucleus of the medieval settlement may have centred on Hill Court Farm. Extensive remains of medieval ridge and furrow that may be associated with this medieval settlement survive to the west, north-east, and north-west of Hill House.
- 4.12 The earliest documentary reference to the place name of Wyre Piddle comes from the Domesday Survey of AD1086 as *Were*. Wyre may have some connection with the Wyre Forest to the north that may have originally have extended as far as Wyre Piddle.

- 4.13 The plan of the Grade B listed church at Wyre Piddle (RPS 4) appears to follow that of an earlier 12th century building. Although much of the church was rebuilt in 1888, the building retains 12th century components including a piscina and later medieval architectural features such as several 14th and 15th century windows.
- 4.14 The scheduled and Grade II listed Wyre Bridge (RPS 9) traverses the Piddle Brook and was reconstructed in 1930 to incorporate an earlier medieval bridge of ashlar construction. Archaeological monitoring of engineer's trial holes at the bridge by the Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeological Section in 1995 found no archaeological deposits.
- 4.15 There are a large number of cropmark areas of ridge and furrow that have been plotted from aerial photographic sources that have been attributed by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record to the medieval period by virtue of their form and function. These show much evidence that medieval settlement activity was widely scattered throughout the Study Area. These sites are grouped together to form distinct clusters of activity that may be associated with nearby medieval settlements. One such cluster of activity has already been noted around the shrunken medieval settlement of Hill. Aerial photographic research (in conjunction with an archaeological evaluation) undertaken by the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service in 1995 in advance of the construction of the proposed Wyre Piddle By-pass located evidence of medieval ridge and furrow. The subsequent evaluation confirmed the presence of these features and also located a single pit feature.
- 4.16 **Post-Medieval:** The Post-Medieval period has seen substantial changes to the landscape including the transformation from the feudal three-field system to the agrarian revolution and the accompanying enclosure of the lands that took place during the 18th-19th centuries. Accompanying technical change and innovation came with the industrial revolution and a further revolution in the means of transportation with the coming of the canals and the railways. The site of the former railway station at Wyre Halt exemplifies part of this revolution. Important local industries such as tanning and cider manufacture are represented by the site of a medieval and post medieval tannery in the garden of the unlisted Tan Pits Cottage, and the site of a post medieval cider mill near the outbuilding to the Cottage.
- 4.17 There are large numbers of listed buildings concentrated at Lower Moor, Hill and Wyre Piddle that date from the post medieval period. These are all Grade II listed buildings. One post medieval listed building is located very close to the southern boundary of the proposed development site at Upper Moor. This is a small Grade II listed 17th century cottage known as the Thatched Cottage.
- 4.18 There are also several unlisted local buildings within the Study Area that are of local architectural or historical interest such as the church of St. Thomas at Lower Moor. This was

opened in 1869. Further buildings within this category include the Wyre School, the Wesleyan Methodist chapel at Wyre Piddle and the Turnpike Tollhouse at Wyre Piddle.

- 4.19 **Undated:** A number of archaeological sites within the Study Area cannot be ascribed to any particular period, or have an uncertain function and purpose. These have been plotted from aerial photographic sources. The scheduled cropmark complex of a series of overlapping rectangular shaped enclosures and ring ditches located to the south of Wyre Piddle may be multi-period in origin. A cropmark complex of small co-joined enclosures of a possible early field system is situated some 250 metres to the east of the proposal site at Upper Moor.
- 4.20 Aerial photographic research associated with the 1995 archaeological evaluation of the proposed Wyre Piddle By-pass in 1995 by the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service located a cropmark complex within the area of the proposal site at Upper Moor. This comprises a series of possible boundary ditches and pits. The subsequent archaeological evaluation (Trench 7 of the Central Area) located a number of shallow and ill-defined archaeological features that were thought to be prehistoric in origin, but which produced no datable artefacts.
- 4.21 A scheduled cropmark complex of enclosures of a possible settlement site are located to the north of Spring Hill Farm. A further cropmark site may be associated with this scheduled complex is located to the north.
- 4.22 A further cropmark site that was discovered from aerial photographic sources by W.A.Baker in 1970 is situated to the immediate north of the Evesham Road. However, field investigation by the RCHME in 1989 could find no trace on the ground, the area then having been ploughed to a depth of 0.40 metres.
- 4.23 The cropmarks of a series of curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures are located some 450 metres to the west of the proposal site.
- 4.24 Various cropmark sites of uncertain origin and purpose that have also been plotted from aerial photographic sources have been noted by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record. These include cropmarks located to the east of Lower Moor the cropmarks of enclosures situated to the west of Fladbury and further cropmarks of a ditch and ridge and furrow located to the north-west of Hill.
- 4.25 Cropmarks of enclosures and a trackway have also been noted to the south-west of Lower End Farm. However, finds of Roman pottery have been made in the vicinity of these features and it is possible that there may be an association.

5 Results

Geophysical Survey Results

- 5.1 The geophysical survey identified a number of potential linear features and a few discrete anomalies. In the north of the site, ridge and furrow was also highlighted. It is important to note that the results of geophysical surveys are in part dependant upon the underlying geology and may be influenced by natural factors. Further, it is not possible to discriminate between natural and archaeological features. The results obtained indicate a rectilinear system of ditches, possibly a field system, in the centre of the site. Very faint traces of several linears, on a different alignment were identified further north. Similar fragments on the same alignment may also occur at the southern end of the site. Two arc-shaped features were picked up, possibly indicating pre-Roman round houses or burial mounds.

Fieldwalking Results

- 5.2 Prehistoric finds were scarce. Flint items comprised a single non-specifically datable retouched flint scraper and a single piece of fire-cracked flint (possible 'pot boiler'). This very low finds distribution indicated 'activity within the landscape' during the general prehistoric period but does not suggest settlement activity. It should be noted, however, that prehistoric pottery does not always survive within the ploughsoil and that these results could be misleading.
- 5.3 Roman pottery was found in low density across the field. Seven sherds were collected, the majority from the central area between 90m and 240m. Several oxidised sherds of the later Roman Oxfordshire industry have been identified by R Masfield. The scatter is of significantly low density as to suggest a lack of associated settlement within the field. The material may have derived from the manuring of contemporary fields, possibly from disturbed fills of Roman field ditches. In either case it is apparent that the development proposal is located within Romano-British agricultural land.
- 5.4 No medieval pottery or identifiable medieval tile was recovered suggesting low levels of activity within the development proposal site.
- 5.5 A total of 30 sherds of post-medieval and modern (17th-20th century) pottery were recovered in low density across the field. A further 221 pieces of post-medieval peg tile and machine made roof tile were noted. Other finds included iron agricultural fittings, bottle and window glass and

occasional bone. The post-medieval and modern finds are certainly the result of manuring practices.

The Metal Detecting Survey

- 5.6 The survey was conducted in December 2001. A total of 78 metal items were recovered; no significant artefacts or artefact distributions were found. The lack of Roman coins is consistent with the low levels of Roman pottery found by the fieldwalking survey.
- 5.7 All but 6 items were comprised of iron (largely nails and agricultural fittings) and none of these are likely to pre-date the post-medieval/modern period.
- 5.8 The non-iron items comprised aluminium, a copper button, a six pence coin, a copper piston fragment, a crushed aluminium cylinder and a stainless steel kitchen knife.
- 5.9 The distribution of metalwork is typical of a manuring scatter, although dumping of rubbish adjacent to the track along the western edge of the field is also demonstrated.

Trial Trenching Results

Trench 1 (Figure 5)

- 5.10 This trench was located in the southeast of the study area. A trench, 20m in length was opened and the modern ploughsoil (101) and a post-Medieval buried ploughsoil (102) were removed by mechanical excavator. Natural deposits, an orange/brown clayey sand (103), were encountered at a depth of 25.15m OD in the western end of the trench and 25.33m OD in the eastern end of the trench, approximately 0.6m below the present ground surface. The only feature of archaeological interest recorded was a ditch, 0.97m wide and 0.47m in depth, cut into the natural at the eastern end of the trench. It would seem likely that this NW-SE aligned feature represents a field boundary of Roman date. No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

- 5.11 Excavated to a length of 100m on an E-W orientation, trench 2 was positioned in the south of the study area and a number of features of archaeological interest were observed. The modern ploughsoil [200] and a buried post-Medieval ploughsoil [201] were removed to a depth of 26.10m OD in the west of the trench and 26.55m OD in the east, c.0.75m below the present field surface. At the eastern end of the trench a shallow ditch [206], 0.92m wide and 0.14m deep was recorded running N-S across the trench, probably a field boundary of Roman origin, truncated by later ploughing activity. Roughly 20 metres to the east of this a very similar,

parallel ditch [208], 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep could be seen. This may be from the same period as [206] and with a similar function. Further to the east, on the same alignment, two further ditches [210], 0.62m wide and 0.17m deep and [212], 0.75m wide and 0.13m deep, were excavated. Again the most likely interpretation seems to be truncated field boundaries. In the eastern third of the trench the only feature of archaeological significance was a gully [203] 0.45m deep, sealed by a spread of material (202). Although only a small portion of this feature was able to be excavated, it is, at present, believed to be a drainage gully. No datable material was recovered from this trench.

Trench 3 and Trench 4 (Figure 6)

- 5.12 These two trenches, located towards the east of the study area, were positioned to form a T-shape, trench 3 aligned roughly N-S, trench 4 abutting it roughly E-W. In the northern end of trench 3 a number of irregular features were shown to be root bowls rather than of any archaeological significance. However, roughly 35m from the northern end of the trench, a NW-SE aligned, probable boundary ditch [316], 1.3m wide, 0.53m deep was located. A section through the ditch suggests that it may have been recut, the fill (315) possibly being the remnants of the fill from the original ditch. Pottery from fills (314) and (315) indicate a date range between the late 2nd century A.D. and the early 4th century A.D. A possible pit [313], to the north of the ditch seems more likely to have been a root bowl. Roughly 80m from the northern end of the trench, close to where Trench 4 abutts it, an amorphous potential cut [310] c.0.50m x 0.85m and 0.15m deep was deemed to be a possible root bowl. Nearby a small, round cut, [308], 0.2m diameter and 0.20 deep seems likely to have been a posthole. Directly to the south of this was a possible terminal of a ditch, [303], 0.60m wide, 0.12m deep. It is possible that this is the terminal of ditch [404], a NE-SW ditch, 0.56m wide, 0.24m deep recorded close by in the perpendicular trench 4. The dating evidence gives a 2nd century date for [303] and a date of late 3rd-early 4th century for [404]. There is some evidence that ditch [404] may also have had a series of shallow postholes cut into the base of it. This may suggest a boundary function rather than one of drainage or water management. The apparent disparity in dates between [303] and [404] may be explained by the recutting or maintenance of this boundary. A further 10m southwards a layer of pebbles/cobbles (312), 0.8m x 0.7m, 0.10m deep was excavated. The function of this small patch of stones is uncertain. There is no evidence of burning that could suggest a hearth or a cut around them that could suggest some form of packing within a large posthole. At the southern end of trench 3 a NW-SE aligned ditch, 0.35m wide, 0.2m deep may have been for drainage or as a boundary. At the eastern end of trench 4 two large ditches were visible once a dark grey brown sandy clay layer (405), up to 0.12m thick, had been removed. This layer appears to have been an accumulation layer, or perhaps the remnants of a post Roman ploughsoil. It dates to the 4th century A.D. Directly

beneath (405) a large NE-SW ditch [410], 3.1m wide and 0.65m deep was partially excavated. This would seem likely to be a boundary ditch and possibly represents the recutting of a boundary as it truncates a N-S aligned ditch [409], 2.30m wide and 0.6m deep. The secondary fill (406) of ditch [409] consisted mainly of small stones and gravel, and is dated 4th century A.D. It would appear that this was an attempt to consolidate the softer primary fill (407), which is late 3rd century in date. Pottery collected from the fill of [410] was dated to the 2nd century A.D., though it is possible this is residual, given the dating of [409], which it cuts.

Trench 5 (Figure 7)

- 5.13 Trench 5 was located on the western side of the study area, 100 metres in length and aligned approximately north-south. The only feature of archaeological significance observed was an E-W ditch [503], 1.98m wide, 0.26m deep, possibly a truncated boundary or drainage ditch. Pottery from this ditch indicates an early Roman feature, of 2nd century date. Material recovered from the overlying alluvium dated to the 3rd century. Natural deposits occurred from a height of 26.58m OD. A substantial amount of disturbance from rooting was also highlighted in this trench.

Trench 6 (Figure 7)

- 5.14 Trench 6, 40m in length and aligned east-west, was positioned approximately in the centre of the site. Three furrows were recorded, running north-south across the trench, approximately 11m apart. Of archaeological interest, a NE-SW ditch [603], 1.57m wide and 0.58m deep was located approximately 13m from the western end of the trench, cut into the natural deposits from a height of 26.39m OD. It seems likely that this ditch represents a field boundary of late Roman date, around the early 5th century. Towards the eastern end of the trench another field boundary or possibly a drainage ditch [605] aligned in a NE-SW direction was excavated. The ditch was 1.49m wide, 0.61m deep, however its stepped profile may suggest that it had been recut. Its initial fill, (607), contained 4th century Roman pottery. Pottery of a similar date was collected from the modern ploughsoil (601).

Trench 7 (Figure 8)

- 5.15 Trench 7 was located a short distance to the north of trench 6 on an approximately east-west orientation. It was 100 metres long, topsoil and subsoil being removed by machine down to the natural deposits at 26.74m OD. 17m from the western end of the trench a NW-SE shallow ditch [706] was recorded, 0.65m wide and 0.2m deep. This would appear to be a drainage gully although the date is uncertain. Further to the east a large, NW-SE ditch [702], c3.35m wide and 0.55m deep was recorded as likely to have been a boundary ditch. In the central portion of the trench, three N-S orientated ditches were clearly visible. The largest of the

ditches [704], was 1.93m wide and 0.52m deep, containing a single fill (703). This U-shaped ditch would probably have been a field boundary. A single, large piece of fuel ash slag was found in (703), but is unlikely to indicate industrial working on the site. Parallel to this, a short distance to the east a smaller, shallower ditch [708] was recorded, 0.63m wide and 0.09m deep, which may be the remains of some form of earlier boundary ditch. Ditch [708] appears to be 3rd century in date. Ditch [712], close by to the east, (recorded as being 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep) is on the same alignment, but much later in date. Truncated by this feature was a shallow NW-SE ditch [710], 0.19m and only 0.06m deep. The function of this [710] is, at present unclear, although evidence from the geophysical survey suggests that it may be a curvilinear ditch. However, with only a small amount of the feature visible little more can be said with any certainty. A spread of material (713), to the east of this proved to be a shallow skim, possibly the remains of a buried ploughsoil or furrow. With the exception of the truncated ditch [708], all the features in this trench are of early 5th century (late Roman) date. The buried ploughsoil (715) may likewise be late Roman, though the dating material could have been disturbed from other features by later plough action.

Trench 8 (Figure 9)

- 5.16 Trench 8 was located a short distance to the north of trench 7 and was placed on the same alignment. The trench was opened by machine to a length of 40m and to a depth of around 0.8m, where natural deposits occurred. At the western extremity of the trench, a N-S ditch [803] was excavated, 1.35m wide and 0.40m deep. The full width of the ditch was not visible as it continued beyond the limit of the trench to the west. This was interpreted as a probable boundary ditch, perhaps a field boundary and appears to be early 5th century (late Roman). Approximately 20m from the western end of the trench a NW-SE ditch [801], 1.6m wide, 0.75m deep was located. Partially obscured by a post-Medieval field drain, this feature is possibly a boundary ditch. This too is Roman, dating to the 4th century. A further 5m to the east a NE-SW ditch [805], 1.85m wide and 0.35m deep was recorded and interpreted as a potential field boundary of late Roman date (4th-early 5th century). A large feature [807] further to the east proved to be another NW-SE ditch, 2.65m wide (although not fully excavated due to its orientation across the trench) and 0.55m deep. It is likely that this feature is a drainage or boundary ditch and is also of 4th century date. A single shred of Medieval pottery was found in the buried ploughsoil (810).

Trench 9 (Figure 9)

- 5.17 Trench 9 was located towards the eastern edge of the study area on an approximate N-S orientation. The trench was opened by machine to a length of 23.5m and to a depth of between 27.27m OD and 27.75m OD where natural deposits were observed. A single feature

of archaeological significance was recorded from the trench. Approximately 8m from the southern end of the trench a NW-SE U-shaped ditch, 1.15m wide and 0.26m deep was excavated. It seems likely that this is a field boundary or drainage ditch. No datable material was found in trench 9.

Trench 10

- 5.18 Trench 10, aligned approximately N-S, was positioned in the northwest corner of the site. No features of archaeological interest were observed within this trench. It is not clear whether this is due to an absence of activity or obliteration by later ridge and furrow.

Trench 11

- 5.19 Trench 11 was located towards the northeast of the study area on an approximate NE-SW alignment. No features of archaeological significance were recorded from the trench.

6 The Finds

- 6.1 The artefacts were assessed by Laura Griffin, the animal bone was analysed by Elizabeth Pearson, both of the Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service.
- 6.2 The environmental material was processed and analysed by Emma Allen of A C Archaeology Ltd.
- 6.3 The individual reports for the artefacts, bone and environmental material are presented as Appendices 2, 3 and 4 respectively.
- 6.4 Artefact Summary**
- 6.5 The artefacts consisted primarily of Roman pottery and some Roman tile, dated between the mid-late 1st century A.D. and early 5th century A.D. This later material is quite significant in this region. Preservation was fairly good, with moderate abrasion.
- 6.6 A single sherd of Medieval pot and a tiny quantity of Post-Medieval material were identified. Other finds comprised a single piece of copper alloy, some fired clay/daub, an oyster shell and a lump of fuel ash slag.
- 6.7 Bone Summary**
- 6.8 Animal bone was recovered from five trenches and the preservation was generally good. The assemblage represents mixed domestic waste with no indication of craft activities.
- 6.9 Environmental Summary**
- 6.10 A total of four samples were processed. Small quantities of charcoal were recovered from all four; possible carbonised grain seeds were identified in two samples, from contexts (403) and (606).

7 Discussion

- 7.1 **Prehistoric Evidence:** No evidence for prehistoric activity, either as features or artefacts, was uncovered during the excavation of the trenches. Only minimal prehistoric evidence was identified during fieldwalking.
- 7.2 **Roman Evidence:** Evidence for Roman activity on the site is comprised of a series of ditches. It seems most likely that the function of these features is either as boundary ditches, such as field boundaries or for drainage. No structural features were recorded, nor were there any occupation layers to suggest direct habitation on the site. Taken together, the features suggest agricultural usage of the land during the Roman period, with the study area given over to a field system. This tallies well with the fieldwalking data, which suggests pottery scatters resulting from manuring practices. Only limited excavation of the features was possible making a distinction between boundaries and drainage ditches problematic. It also hampers interpretation of any field system or boundary patterns. Large masonry blocks found within the fills of some of the ditches suggests a permanent stone building, perhaps the farmstead, being located in the close vicinity but there is no evidence for it being on the site of the proposed development.
- 7.3 The pottery recovered spans much of the Roman period, from the mid-late 1st century onwards. The assemblage consists of typically local wares, mostly coarse-wares and cooking pots, with a very small quantity of finer tablewares. Of particular note were 15 sherds of South Midlands Shell-tempered ware. This type of pottery is rare in this region and indicates activity into the late 4th and early 5th centuries A.D.
- 7.4 Of note is the fact distribution of the later Roman material and features. This seems to be focused on the centre of the site (trenches 6, 7 and 8), an area of activity clearly picked up by the geophysics. Earlier features occur to the south.
- 7.5 **Saxon Evidence:** No evidence of Saxon activity was recorded on the site.
- 7.6 **Medieval Evidence:** A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 8 (context (810)). This has been dated between 1100 and 1400 A.D.
- 7.7 **Post-Medieval Evidence:** Post-Medieval activity on the site appears to have been confined to agriculture. The remains of ridge and furrow farming was identified in some of the trenches and was also suggested by the geophysical survey. Later ceramic drainage pipes were also noted as being inserted once the ridge and furrow had been superseded, presumably during

the 18th and 19th centuries, after the enclosure acts. A small quantity of tile and brick was recovered, which is probably Post-Medieval in date.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The archaeological resource identified by the work undertaken on the site consists of Roman ditches, which suggest a Roman field system, rather than a settlement site. Although truncated by later ploughing, these features survive, cut into the natural geology at depths between 25.15m OD in the south of the site and 27.75m OD further north, on the higher ground.
- 8.2 There was a low density of artefactual evidence from the fills of the ditches, again suggesting the absence of settlement on the site. However, the presence of masonry blocks suggests that stone building are somewhere in the vicinity of the study area.
- 8.3 The earlier Roman activity seems to be to the south, while later Roman activity is focussed in the central area. Few significant archaeological resources occur or survive in the northern part of the study area.

9 The Archive

- 9.1 The archive for all the archaeological work consists of two main components comprising the paper archive and the artefactual remains. These are stored under the site code WSM 31639.
- 9.2 The paper archive consists of all the primary records from the fieldwalking and evaluation surveys. This includes context sheets, site registers, original plans and sections and photographs. The artefactual archive consists of all pottery, metalwork, flint and other finds. These have been washed, marked and stored by type and context.
- 9.3 This archive is currently held in store by RPS on their premises at The Old Barn, Deanes Close, Steventon, Abingdon, OX13 6SY. This archive will be deposited with the Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery following the completion of the project.

10 Bibliography

Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record, Worcestershire Archaeological Service,
Woodbury Hall University College, Worcester WR2 8AJ

RPS Consultants 2000 'Upper Moor, Pershore, Worcester. *An Archaeological Assessment*'

Appendices

Appendix 1

Context Summary Table

| Context Number | Type | Comments |
|----------------|---------|---|
| 212 | Cut | Probable N-S boundary ditch, 0.75m wide, 0.13m deep. |
| 213 | Fill | Light grey brown silty clay, single fill of [212] |
| 300 | Layer | Topsoil. |
| 301 | Layer | Buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium. |
| 302 | Fill | Mid-dark grey brown silty clay fill of putative ditch terminal [303] |
| 303 | Cut | Possible terminal of a ditch, 0.60m wide, 0.12m deep. |
| 304 | Cut | NW-SE aligned cut, 0.40m wide, 0.25m deep. Possible drainage ditch. May be a field drain. |
| 305 | Fill | Light grey-brown silty clay fill of [304] |
| 306 | Cut | NW-SE aligned ditch, 0.35m wide, 0.2m deep. Possible field drain. |
| 307 | Fill | Light grey brown, silty clay fill of [306] |
| 308 | Cut | Small, round cut, 0.20 diameter, 0.20 deep. Possible posthole. |
| 309 | Fill | Dark grey brown sandy clay. Fill of possible posthole [308] |
| 310 | Cut? | Amorphous potential cut c.0.50m x 0.85m, 0.15m deep. Possible root bowl. |
| 311 | Fill | Mixed fill of [310] |
| 312 | Layer | Layer of pebbles/cobbles, 0.8m x 0.7m, 0.10m deep. |
| 313 | Natural | Mixed colour sandy clay natural deposit. |
| 314 | Fill | Dark brown grey sandy clay secondary fill of [316] |
| 315 | Fill | Mixed orange and grey brown clay sand primary fill of [316] |
| 316 | Cut | NW-SE probable boundary ditch, 1.3m wide, 0.53m deep. |

| Context Number | Type | Comments |
|----------------|---------|---|
| 400 | Layer | Ploughsoil, c0.60m deep. |
| 401 | Void | Void |
| 402 | Natural | Grey brown sandy clay natural. |
| 403 | Fill | Dark grey brown silty clay single fill of ditch [404] |
| 404 | Cut | NE-SW ditch, 0.56m wide, 0.24m deep. Probably same as cut[303], possible boundary or drainage ditch. |
| 405 | Layer | Dark grey brown sandy clay layer up to 0.12m thick, apparently seals [408] |
| 406 | Fill | Pebbly fill of [409] up to 0.06m thick, may have been used to consolidate the softer primary fill [407]. Cut by [410] |
| 407 | Fill | Orange brown sandy clay primary fill of [409]. 0.6m thick. |
| 408 | Fill | Grey brown sandy clay fill of ditch [410]. |
| 409 | Cut | N-S aligned ditch 2.30m wide, 0.6m deep. Boundary ditch. |
| 410 | Cut | NE-SW ditch. 3.1m wide, 0.65m deep. Probable boundary ditch. |
| 501 | Layer | Ploughsoil |
| 502 | Layer | Buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium. |
| 503 | Cut | E-W ditch, 1.98m wide, 0.26m deep. Possibly a truncated boundary or drainage ditch. |
| 504 | Fill | Grey brown silty clay single fill of [503] |
| 505 | Natural | Orange yellow sandy clay natural. |
| 601 | Layer | Ploughsoil |
| 602 | Layer | Buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium. |

| Context Number | Type | Comments |
|----------------|---------|---|
| 603 | Cut | NE-SW ditch, 1.57m wide, 0.58m deep. Not fully excavated. Possible boundary or drainage ditch. |
| 604 | Fill | Brownish grey clay silt fill of [603] |
| 605 | Cut | NE-SW ditch, 1.49m wide, 0.61m deep. Stepped profile may suggest a recut at some time but not obvious from section. |
| 606 | Fill | Dark brownish grey clay silt secondary fill of [605]. 0.27m deep. |
| 607 | Fill | Pale orange grey silty clay primary fill of [605]. 0.34m deep. |
| 608 | Natural | Orange yellow silt clay sand natural. |
| 700 | Fill | Dark grey brown clay silt secondary fill of [702], up to 0.37m deep. |
| 701 | Fill | Light brown grey clay silt primary fill of [702], up to 0.2m deep. |
| 702 | Cut | NW-SE ditch, c3.35m wide, 0.55m deep. Probable large boundary ditch. |
| 703 | Fill | Dark brownish grey silty clay, single fill of [704] |
| 704 | Cut | NE-SW U-shaped ditch, 1.93m wide, 0.52m deep. Probable boundary ditch. |
| 705 | Fill | Orange brown silty clay, single fill of [706] |
| 706 | Cut | NW-SE shallow ditch, 0.65m wide, 0.2m deep. Probable drainage gully, may be recent! |
| 707 | Fill | Grey brown silty clay, single fill of [708] |
| 708 | Cut | N-S shallow ditch, 0.63m wide, only 0.09m deep. Possible truncated boundary ditch. |
| 709 | Fill | Grey brown silty clay single fill of [710] |

| Context Number | Type | Comments |
|----------------|---------|---|
| 710 | Cut | NW-SE shallow gully, 0.19m wide, 0.06m deep. Uncertain function, truncated by [712] |
| 711 | Fill | Dark grey brown silty clay. Single Fill of ditch [712] |
| 712 | Cut | N-S ditch, 0.6m wide, 0.3m deep. Cuts [710]. Possible boundary ditch |
| 713 | Layer | Thin spread of grey brown silty clay. |
| 714 | Layer | Modern Ploughsoil |
| 715 | Layer | Buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium. |
| 716 | Natural | Mid orange yellow silt clay sand natural. |
| 800 | Fill | Mid grey silty clay, single fill of [803] |
| 801 | Cut | NW-SE ditch, 1.6m wide, 0.75m deep. Possibly a boundary ditch. |
| 802 | Fill | Mid grey silty clay fill of ditch [803] |
| 803 | Cut | N-S ditch, 1.35m wide, 0.40m deep. Probable boundary ditch, perhaps a field boundary. |
| 804 | Fill | Mid grey silty clay, single fill of [805] |
| 805 | Cut | NE-SW ditch, 1.85m wide, 0.35m deep. Probable field boundary ditch. |
| 806 | Fill | Mid grey brown silty clay fill of ditch [807] |
| 807 | Cut | NW-SE ditch, 2.65m wide(estimated, not fully excavated), 0.55m deep. |
| 808 | Natural | Mid orange brown silt clay sand, natural deposit |
| 809 | Layer | Modern ploughsoil, 0.45m thick. |
| 810 | Layer | Mid orange brown silt sand clay buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium. |
| 901 | Layer | Modern ploughsoil |

| Context Number | Type | Comments |
|----------------|---------|--|
| 902 | Layer | Yellow brown silty sandy clay, buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium. |
| 903 | Cut | NW-SE U-shaped ditch, 1.15m wide, 0.26m deep. Possible field boundary or drainage ditch. |
| 904 | Fill | Mid grey brown silty clay, single fill of [903] |
| 905 | Natural | Mid orange yellow sandy clay natural. |
| 1001 | Layer | Modern ploughsoil. |
| 1002 | Layer | Buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium |
| 1003 | Layer | Mid yellow orange sandy clay natural. |
| 1101 | Layer | Modern ploughsoil |
| 1102 | Layer | Buried ploughsoil/reworked alluvium |
| 1103 | Natural | Mid orange brown sandy clay natural. |

Appendix 2

The Artefacts

The Artefacts by Laura Griffin

1.1.1 Artefactual analysis

Aims

The brief required an assessment of the quantity, range and potential of artefactual material from the excavation.

The aims of the finds assessment were:

- a) to identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts
- b) to describe the range of artefacts present
- c) to preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts
- d) to make recommendations about the future analysis, reporting, and other appropriate requirements of artefacts.

This assessment report covers artefacts of all periods recovered from the site.

1.1.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 97 database and a paper copy provided.

Pottery fabrics are referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by the Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

1.1.4 Results of analysis

A summary of the artefacts recovered can be seen in Table 1. The assemblage retrieved ranged from Roman-modern in date, with the majority of material dating to the Roman period. The level of preservation was relatively good for this area good with moderate levels of abrasion noted on pottery from both stratified and disturbed contexts.

Pottery formed the largest artefact group accounting for 89% of the assemblage. Sherds of all periods were identified and grouped by fabric, see Table 2. Diagnostic sherds could be dated by use of parallel forms, whilst undiagnostic pieces were dateable to the general period or production span on the basis of fabric type.

Ceramic building material formed the second largest material group. A total of 38 fragments of tile could be dated to the Roman period, the remainder were fragments of flat roof tile either of a long-lived type produced between the 13th and 18th centuries or modern in date. The single fragment of brick was modern in date.

A total of 4 fragments of fired clay were retrieved from contexts 604, 703, 802 and 804. These were small, undiagnostic and appeared to be burnt and may have been used in either domestic or industrial contexts. In addition, a large piece of fuel ash slag was retrieved from context 703.

Other finds consisted of a small fragment of copper alloy sheet (context 715) and a fragment of oyster shell (context 703).

1.1.4 Discussion of the artefacts

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated based on the evidence recorded (see Table 3) and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Roman

Pottery

The material of this date consisted primarily of pottery, comprising 422 sherds weighing 6319g. Forms present indicated use of the site throughout the Roman period from the mid-late 1st century onwards. A large proportion of residual sherds could be identified within the ditch fill in particular.

In general, the range of fabrics and forms within the assemblage was fairly standard in composition for a rural site of this period in range of fabrics and forms. However a number of sherds of South Midlands shell-tempered ware (fabric 23) were identified, indicating use of the site into the late 4th and possibly the early 5th centuries.

The assemblage was dominated by locally produced coarsewares; primarily Severn Valley wares (fabrics 12, 12.1 12.2 and 12.3). Of these, the oxidised fabrics (12 and 12.2) formed the larger proportion with a variety of forms identified, consisting primarily of standard storage jars, wide-mouthed jars. In general, sherds of the organically tempered type (fabric 12.2) were of earlier date being 1st-2nd century. Diagnostic forms of this fabric identified on other sites (Griffin, forthcoming) within the county have also indicated a higher occurrence of large vessels within this fabric group.

Reduced Severn Valley wares (fabrics 12.1 and 12.3) were significantly smaller in number and consisted of a narrower range of forms, primarily common storage jars. Once more, the organically tempered variant (fabric 12.3) is only thought to have been produced during the early Roman period.

Other local wares identified within the assemblage were those of Malvernian origin (fabrics 3, 3.2 and 19). However, these were in relatively low frequency in comparison to Severn Valley wares and comprised a narrow range of forms, primarily tubby cooking pots, and imitation Black-burnished ware jars.

Other sherds thought to be of local origin within the assemblage were those of fine grey sandy ware (fabric 14) and coarse grey sandy ware (fabric 15), although both of these fabrics were only found in small amounts.

In addition to the above reduced wares, four sherds were identified as micaceous ware (fabric 21). The diagnostic sherds were identified as Black-burnished ware I imitations and could be dated from the later 2nd century onwards. It is not clear where pottery of this fabric was produced, but the highly micaceous fabric may indicate a Herefordshire origin. A further six sherds, thought to be a variant of this fabric (fabric 21.3) were also identified. Forms within both this assemblage and others previously excavated within the county indicate sherds of this variant to predate those of fabric 21 itself, dating to between the 1st and early 2nd centuries (J. Evans pers comm.; Griffin, forthcoming).

Non-local wares consisted primarily of Black-burnished ware I (fabric 22) everted rim jars and plain-rimmed bowls. The majority of these sherds were small, undiagnostic body fragments. However, those that could be dated were generally of 2nd-early 3rd century date. Many sherds of this fabric displayed sooting, indicating use in the cooking of foodstuffs over and open fire.

Other sherds clearly from vessels associated with the preparation of foodstuffs included sherds from two mortaria vessels. The first was that of an Oxfordshire white mortarium (fabric 33.2; context 802) which could be dated to between AD240-400. This sherd had also been burnt following disposal. The other vessel consisted of five adjoining sherds from two contexts and was also of Oxford manufacture (fabric 33; contexts 700 and 701). Although of slightly different form, this vessel could also be allocated the same dates as that above (Young 1977).

However, perhaps the most interesting coarseware sherds identified within the assemblage were of South Midlands Shell-tempered ware. A total of 15 sherds were identified, all from ditch fills within the 700 and 800 context ranges (contexts 701, 703, 711, 715, 800 and 802). Such sherds are rarely found in this region and are a good indication of late activity spanning from the later 4th and into the early 5th century. All sherds were relatively well preserved with a number displaying soot deposits. These sherds are likely to have succeeded Black-burnished ware I as the most commonly used cooking pot vessels during the late Roman period in this region.

Fine wares were present in small amounts and consisted of two fragments of red/brown Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (fabric 29; contexts 700 and 711), a single sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (fabric 28; context 802) dating to between the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Three sherds of Samian ware were identified, coming from two plain vessels. The first was identified as a platter (form Dragendorf 79; context 403) and the second as from the rim of a bowl (possibly Dragendorf 31R or 37; context 311). Both are likely to be of 2nd-3rd century date.

Ceramic building material

The ceramic building material of Roman date consisted of 34 pieces of Roman tile, all fragmentary. The majority of this material was of a fine-grained fabric and likely to have been produced locally. No pieces were diagnostic or displayed any markings.

All fired clay was from contexts of Roman date.

Other finds

Other finds within contexts of Roman date included a small fragment of copper alloy sheet from ditch context 715. The piece is not datable, but pottery from the context has allocated a *terminus post quem* of early 5th century to the feature. A small fragment of oyster shell was also retrieved from context 703.

Medieval and Later

Medieval material consisted of a strap handle sherd from a glazed Worcester-type sandy ware jug or pitcher (fabric 64.1; context 810), dating between the 12th and 15th centuries. Other material of post-Roman date consisted of building material in the form of flat roofing tile and brick.

1.1.5 **Significance and recommendations**

The main significance of this assemblage is the presence of South Midlands shell tempered ware which may indicate the continuation of settlement on the site up until or past the end of the Roman period. Such pottery is rare on rural sites within the South Worcestershire area, where the use of Roman ceramic vessels does not appear to go beyond the 4th century.

Much work has recently been carried out in the Wyre Piddle area in advance of the development of the Wyre Piddle Bypass (sites WSM 30575 and WSM 30576) and the results from this site and

associated artefacts will provide further information regarding the development of this area during the Roman period. The presence of late material within a series of ditches may suggest the movement of the focus of settlement within this area in the later Roman period.

The relatively well-preserved nature of the material from this site and the volume of material from a small area would suggest great potential for further investigation in this area, particularly regarding activity during the late Roman period.

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Table 1: Quantification of material

| Material | Total | Weight (g) |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Roman pottery | 422 | 6319 |
| Medieval pottery | 1 | 66 |
| Tile | 1 | 2 |
| Roman tile | 39 | 1052 |
| Medieval/Post-medieval tile | 3 | 19 |
| Brick | 1 | 12 |
| Copper alloy | 1 | 2 |
| Fired clay | 4 | 22 |
| Oyster shell | 1 | 1 |
| Slag | 1 | 55 |

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by fabric

| Fabric | Fabric name | Total sherds | Weight (g) |
|--------|--|--------------|------------|
| 3 | Handmade Malvernian ware | 5 | 210 |
| 3.2 | Malvernian tubby cooking pot fabric | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | Oxidised Severn Valley ware | 332 | 4659 |
| 12.1 | Reduced Severn Valley ware | 10 | 58 |
| 12.2 | Organically tempered oxidised Severn Valley ware | 3 | 136 |
| 12.3 | Organically tempered reduced Severn Valley ware | 1 | 8 |
| 14 | Fine sandy grey ware | 2 | 63 |
| 15 | Coarse sandy grey ware | 2 | 47 |
| 19 | Wheel-thrown Malvernian ware | 6 | 48 |
| 21 | Micaceous ware | 4 | 86 |
| 21.3 | Variant Micaceous ware | 6 | 133 |
| 22 | Black-burnished ware I | 19 | 115 |
| 23 | South Midlands shell tempered ware | 17 | 223 |
| 28 | Nene Valley colour coated ware | 1 | 1 |
| 29 | Red/brown Oxfordshire colour coated ware | 2 | 10 |
| 33 | Oxfordshire mortaria | 5 | 326 |
| 33.1 | Oxfordshire white mortaria | 1 | 97 |
| 43 | Samian ware | 3 | 94 |
| 64.1 | Glazed sandy Worcester-type ware | 1 | 66 |
| 98 | Miscellaneous Roman wares | 2 | 4 |

Table 3: Dating of contexts as indicated by the pottery

| Context | <i>Terminus post quem</i> |
|---------|---|
| 301 | 3 rd /4 th century |
| 302 | 2 nd century |
| 311 | Mid 3 rd century |
| 314 | 2 nd /3 rd century |
| 315 | Early 3 rd century |
| 403 | Late 3 rd /4 th century |
| 405 | 4 th century |
| 406 | 4 th century |
| 407 | Late 3 rd century |
| 408 | 2 nd century |
| 502 | 3 rd century |
| 504 | 2 nd century |
| 601 | 4 th century |
| 604 | Early 5 th century |
| 607 | 4 th century |
| 700 | Early 5 th century |
| 701 | Early 5 th century |
| 703 | Early 5 th century |
| 707 | 3 rd century |
| 711 | Early 5 th century |
| 715 | Early 5 th century |
| 800 | Early 5 th century |
| 802 | 4 th century |
| 804 | 4 th century |

| Context - | <i>Terminus post quem</i> |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 805 | Early 5 th century |
| 806 | 4 th century |
| 810 | 15 th century |

Appendix 3

Faunal Remains Report

Environmental remains from an evaluation at the proposed Onion Processing Plant, Wyre Piddle

Elizabeth Pearson

1 Methods

1.1 Fieldwork and sampling policy

The environmental sampling policy was as defined by RPS. No environmental samples, but large animal bone was hand-collected during fieldwork.

1.2 Analysis

The animal bone was identified using modern reference material housed at the County Archaeological Service, and with the aid of identification guides by Hillson (1992) and Schmid (1972).

2 Results

A total of 3.0 kg of animal bone was hand-collected from datable contexts. The bone was generally well preserved, with the exception of bone in contexts 211 and 403. Large domesticated cattle and sheep or goat fragments were common. Occasional pig tooth and jaw were also identified as well as a horse scapula (butchered) and a fragment of possible red deer antler.

Occasional butchery marks were noted and possible evidence of mild pathological disease on two bones in contexts 403 (cattle pelvis) and 703 (cattle phalange). Two unfused juvenile bones were also present in contexts 711 and 802. A variety of anatomical parts were represented.

As this is a small assemblage, it is difficult to provide detailed interpretation of the remains. The variety of anatomical parts, showing varied degrees of fragmentation, suggests that this is mixed domestic waste rather than waste from industrial or craft activities such as tanning or horn working.

3 Significance

Although this is a small assemblage the bone is generally well-preserved. Should a larger area be excavated on the site in the future, it is likely to yield a sufficiently large assemblage, in good condition, which would provide data on animal husbandry of local significance.

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Table 1: Animal bone

| Context | Species | Element | Part | Unfuse | Butcher | Pat | Other | Meas | Preser | Fragment | No |
|---------|--------------|------------|-------|--------|---------|-----|-------|------|--------|----------|----|
| 211 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| 211 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 403 | Bos | pelvis | | | | Y? | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 403 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 403 | lge ungulate | limb | shaft | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 403 | sm ungulate | vertebra | | Y | | | | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 403 | ungulate | | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 406 | indet | indet | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| 604 | Ovis/Capra | tooth | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 604 | Ovis/Capra | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 604 | Ovis/Capra | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 604 | ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| 604 | ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 607 | Bos | humerus | d | | ch | | | Y | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 703 | Bos | phalange | w | | | | | Y | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 703 | Bos | metapodial | d | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 703 | Bos | ulna | troch | | | | | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 703 | Bos | scapula | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 703 | Bos | phalange | w | | | | | Y | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 703 | Bos | humerus | d | | | Y? | | Y | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 703 | Cervus | antler | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 703 | Equus | scapula | p+s | | ch | | | Y | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 703 | indet | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 17 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | mandible | ramus | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | limb | | | ch | | | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | limb | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | rib | shaft | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 10 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | scapula | spine | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 703 | lge ungulate | rib | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 703 | Ovis/Capra | mandible | ramus | | | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 703 | Ovis/Capra | mandible | ramus | | | | | Y | 3 | 3 | 1 |

Field Section

| Context | Species | Element | Part | Unfuse | Butcher | Pat | Other | Meas | Preser | Fragment | No |
|---------|--------------|------------|-------|--------|---------|-----|-------|------|--------|----------|----|
| 703 | sm ungulate | rib | shaft | | | | | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 703 | sm ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 703 | sm ungulate | ulna | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 703 | Sus | tooth | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 703 | Sus | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 711 | Ovis/Capra | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 711 | sm ungulate | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 711 | sm ungulate | mandible? | | coron | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | scapula | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | horncore | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 802 | Bos | u mandible | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | pelvis | a+s | | kn | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | pelvis | a+s | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | pelvis | a+s | | ch | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 802 | indet | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | limb | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | skull | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | rib | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | femur | | p | ch | | | Y | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 802 | Ovis/Capra | radius | p+s | | ch | | | Y | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | sm ungulate | limb | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 804 | Bos | pelvis | | | | | Y | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 804 | Ovis/Capra | tooth | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Key:

Element

a = acetabular p = proximal

s = shaft

d = distal

w = whole

c = coronoid process

l = trochlear

Butchery

ch = chopped

kn = knife mark

Preservation rated 1-5 (good – poor)

Fragmentation rated 1-5 (whole-very fragmented)

Field Section

| Context | Species | Element | Part | Unfuse | Butcher | Pat | Other | Meas | Preser | Fragment | No |
|---------|--------------|------------|-------|--------|---------|-----|-------|------|--------|----------|----|
| 703 | sm ungulate | rib | shaft | | | | | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 703 | sm ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 703 | sm ungulate | ulna | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 703 | Sus | tooth | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 703 | Sus | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 711 | Ovis/Capra | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 711 | sm ungulate | mandible | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 711 | sm ungulate | mandible? | | coron | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | scapula | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | horncore | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 802 | Bos | u mandible | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | pelvis | a+s | | kn | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | pelvis | a+s | | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | Bos | pelvis | a+s | | ch | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 802 | indet | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | limb | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | skull | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | rib | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | indet | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 802 | lge ungulate | femur | | p | ch | | | Y | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 802 | Ovis/Capra | radius | p+s | | ch | | | Y | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 802 | sm ungulate | limb | shaft | | ch | | | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 804 | Bos | pelvis | | | | | Y | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 804 | Ovis/Capra | tooth | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Key:

Element

a = acetabular p = proximal s = shaft

d = distal w = whole

c = coronoid process

l = trochlear

Butchery

ch = chopped

kn = knife mark

Preservation rated 1-5 (good – poor)

Fragmentation rated 1-5 (whole-very fragmented)

Appendix 4

Environmental Report

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

by Emma Allen

Introduction

A total of four sub-samples was processed, and selected on the basis of representative feature and context types present on the site. The aim of this analysis was to determine the presence, range, level of preservation and quality of environmental remains within features and to enable the preparation of a sample strategy for any future archaeological work on the site.

The samples were processed using *AC archaeology* standard flotation procedures, with the flots being collected in 5.6mm, 4mm and 500 micron aperture sieves. This material was then rapidly sorted, identified and quantified using a x8 magnification hand lens. The soil samples ranged in volume depending on the type of deposit, but wherever possible 10 litres was taken. The sub-samples were all 5 litres.

Results

All samples produced environmental material and the results are presented in Table 1. Each of the samples contained small amounts of charcoal, which consisted of small fragmentary pieces where identification of species would not be possible. Two samples contained several possible carbonised grain seeds (contexts 403 and 606).

Artefacts recovered from the sample residue of context 403 consist of two small coarseware body sherds, probably Roman, and one small fragment of ceramic tile.

Table 1 : Results from environmental processing

| Sample No | Context No | Environmental | | | | Artefacts | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|----|----|----|-----------|--------|-----|--------|
| | | Volume litres | Ch | Pl | Mo | Pottery | | CBM | |
| | | | | | | No | Wt (g) | No | Wt (g) |
| | 403 | 5 | * | ** | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | 407 | 5 | * | - | - | | | | |
| | 408 | 5 | * | - | - | | | | |
| | 606 | 5 | * | ** | - | | | | |

Key: Ch= charcoal, Pl= plant macrofossils, Mo= molluscs
* occasional ** several ***frequent ****abundant

Figures

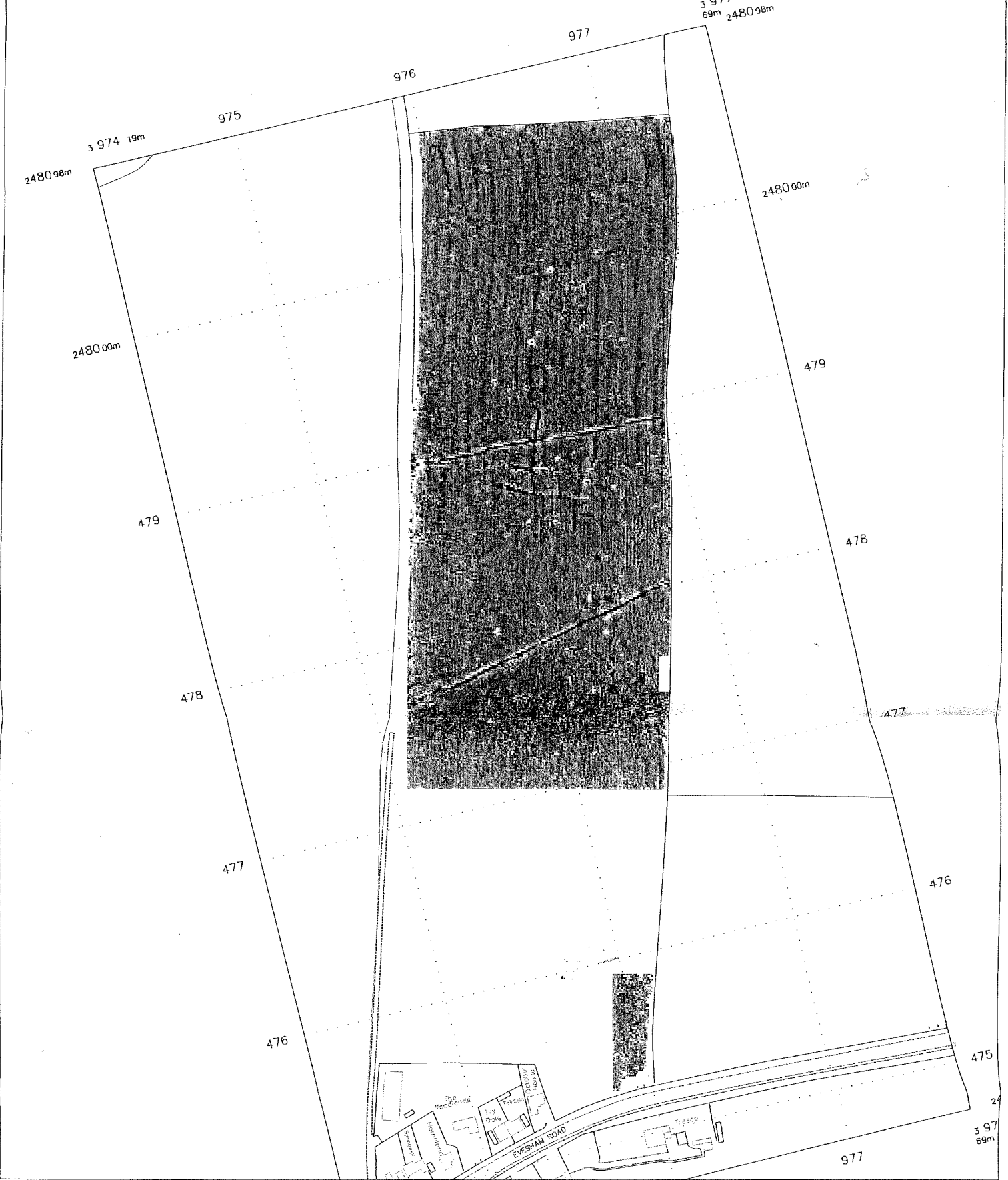


WYCHAVON DISTRICT

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Key:
 Site Location

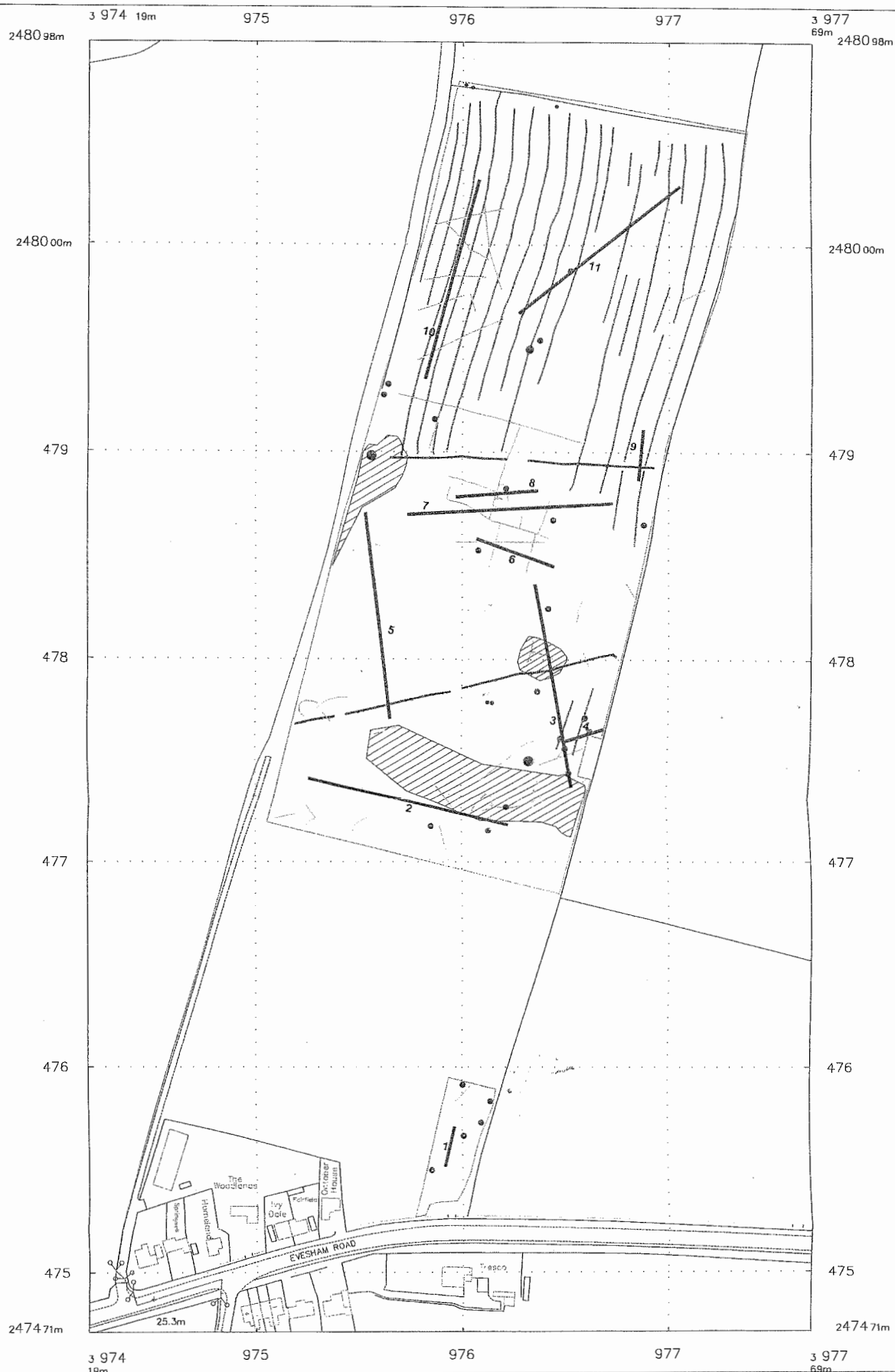
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| PROJECT | |
| Upper Moor, Pershore | |
| TITLE | |
| Site Location | |
| PROJECT NUMBER | DRAWING NUMBER |
| R3938B | RPSC 1 |
| SCALE | DATE |
| 1:50,000 | December 2001 |



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| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Project | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | |
| Title | | | |
| Geophysical Survey Data | | | |
| Scale | Drawn By | Date | Checked By |
| 1:500 | MJP | 05/02 | |
| Project No. | Drawing No. | | Revision |
| N9965b | Figure 2 | | |

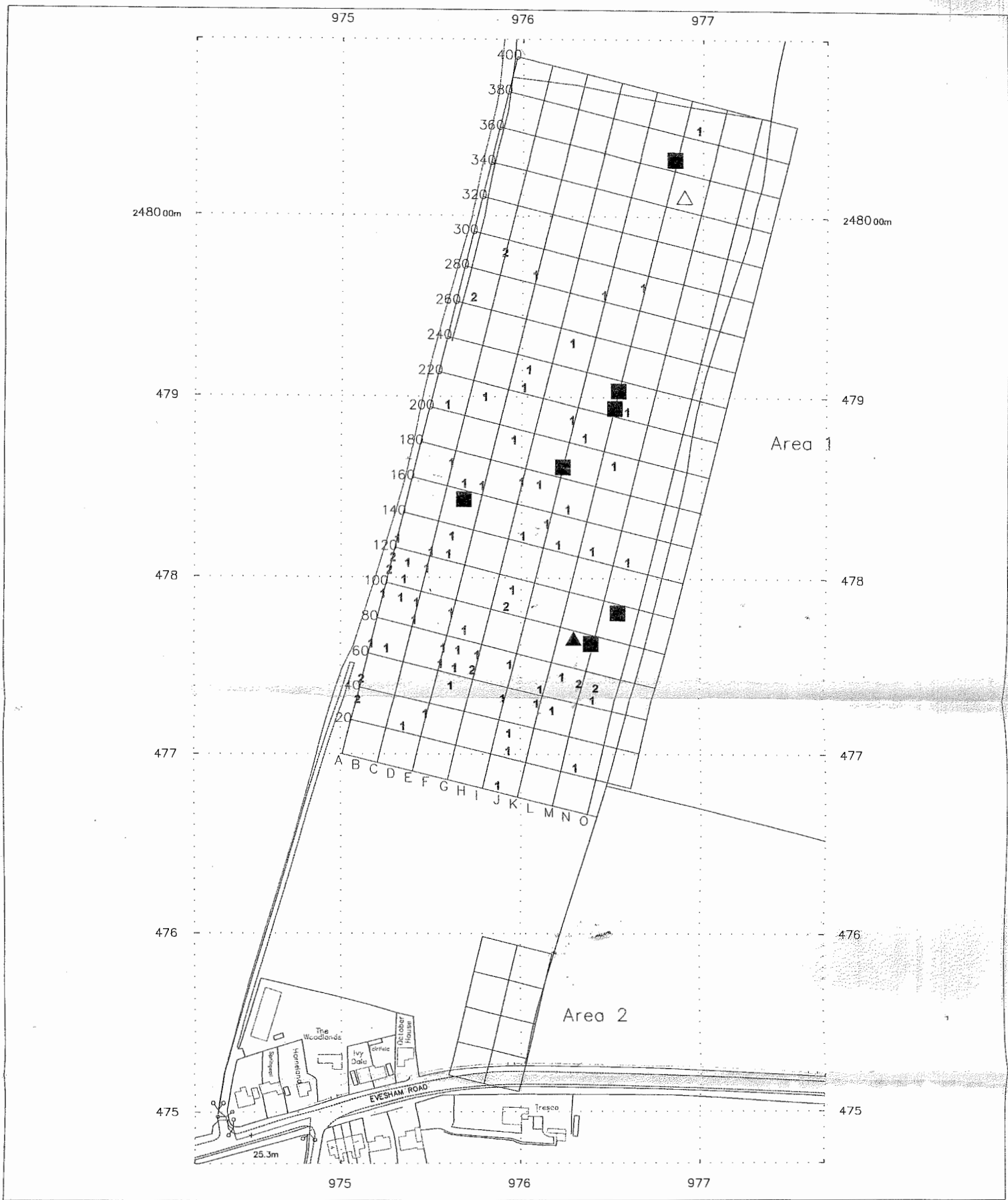


| | |
|--|---|
| | Positive linear anomaly - reverse s-shaped ridge and furrow |
| | Positive linear anomaly - possible archaeological feature |
| | Discrete positive anomaly with negative return - ferrous object |
| | Discrete positive anomaly - possible pit |
| | Magnetic debris |
| | Strong discrete positive linear anomaly - clay pipeline or archaeological feature |
| | Evaluation Trench |



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|---|-------------|-------|------------|
| Project | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | |
| Title | | | |
| Interpreted Geophysical Survey Data and Trench Plan | | | |
| Scale | Drawn By | Date | Checked By |
| 1:500 | MJP | 05/02 | |
| Project No. | Drawing No. | | Revision |
| N9965b | Figure 3 | | |



| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Metal Find; number represents quantity found |
| ■ | Roman Pottery |
| ▲ | Prehistoric Worked Flint |
| △ | ?Prehistoric Burnt Flint |



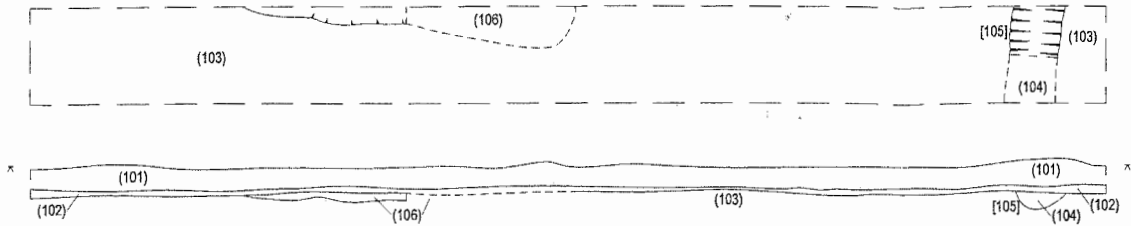
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Project
Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle

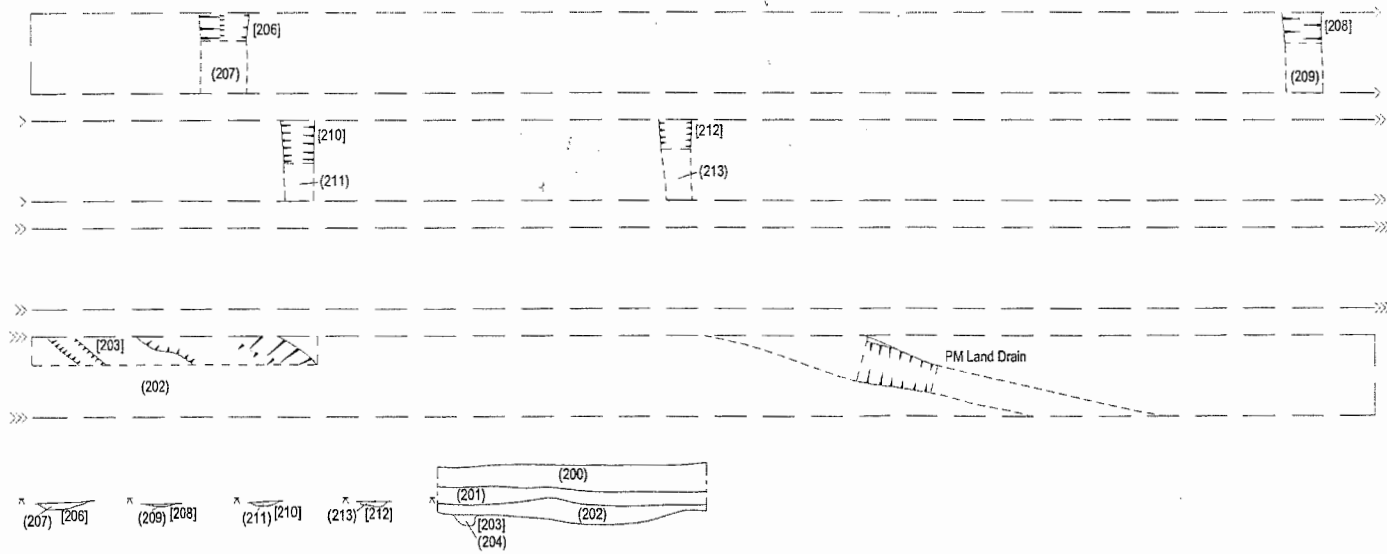
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Results of Fieldwalking and Metal Detecting Surveys

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| Scale 1:500 | Drawn By MJP | Date 05/02 | Checked By | Date | Approved By | Date |
| Project No. N9965b | Drawing No. Figure 4 | | Revision | | | |

Trench 1 Plan and Section



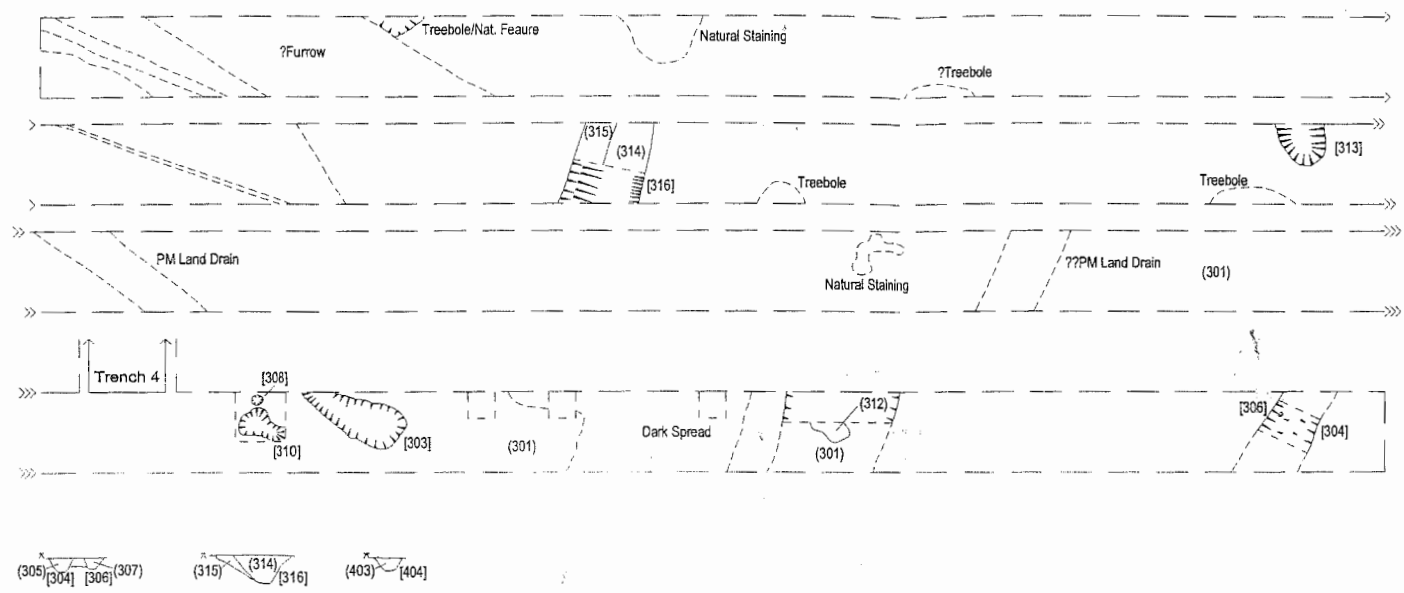
Trench 2 Plan and Sections



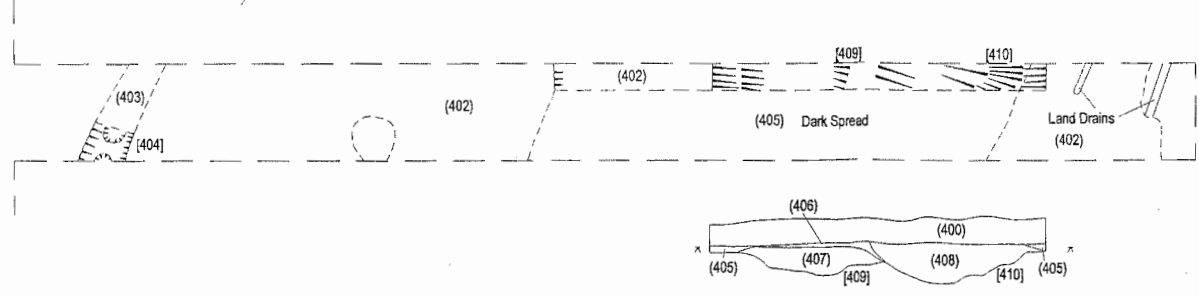
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|--|-------------|-------|------------|
| Project | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | |
| Title | | | |
| Trench 1 and Trench 2 Plans and Sections | | | |
| Scale | Drawn By | Date | Checked By |
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| N9965b | Figure 5 | | |

Trench 3 Plan and Sections

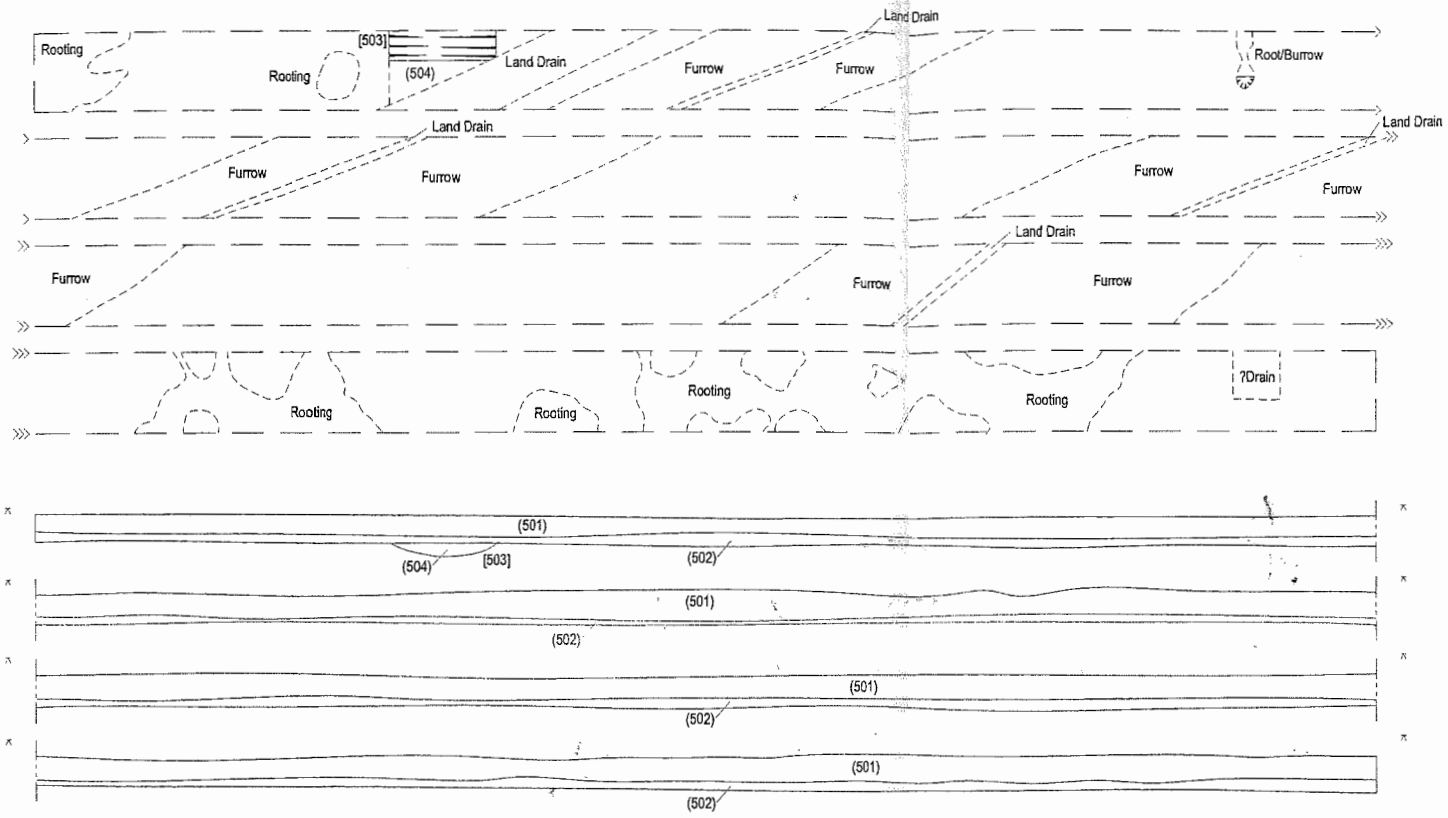


Trench 4 Plan and Section

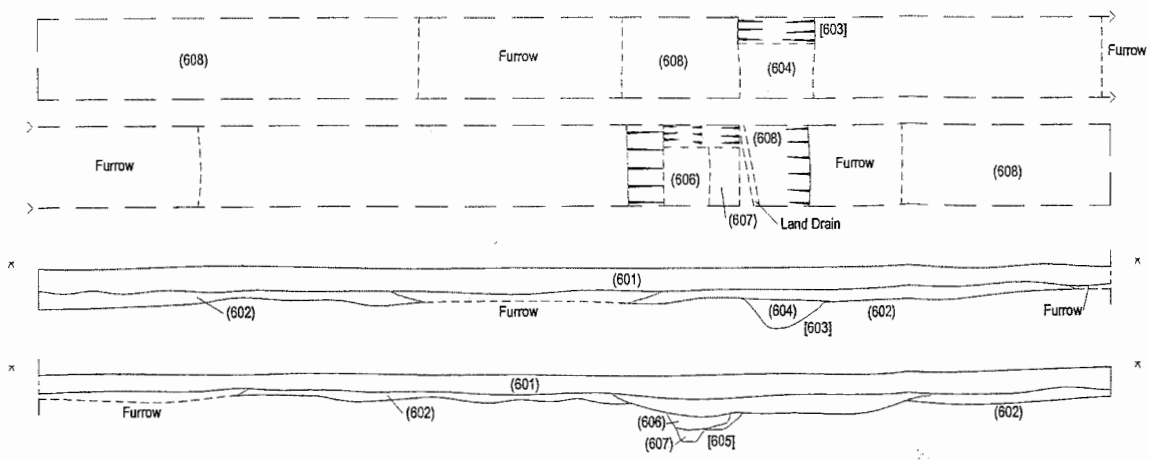


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| Project | | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | | |
| Title | | | | |
| Trench 3 and Trench 4 Plans and Sections | | | | |
| Scale | Drawn By | Date | Checked By | Approved By |
| 1:100 | MJP | 05/02 | | |
| Project No. | | | Revision | |
| N9965b | | | Figure 6 | |

Trench 5 Plan and Section



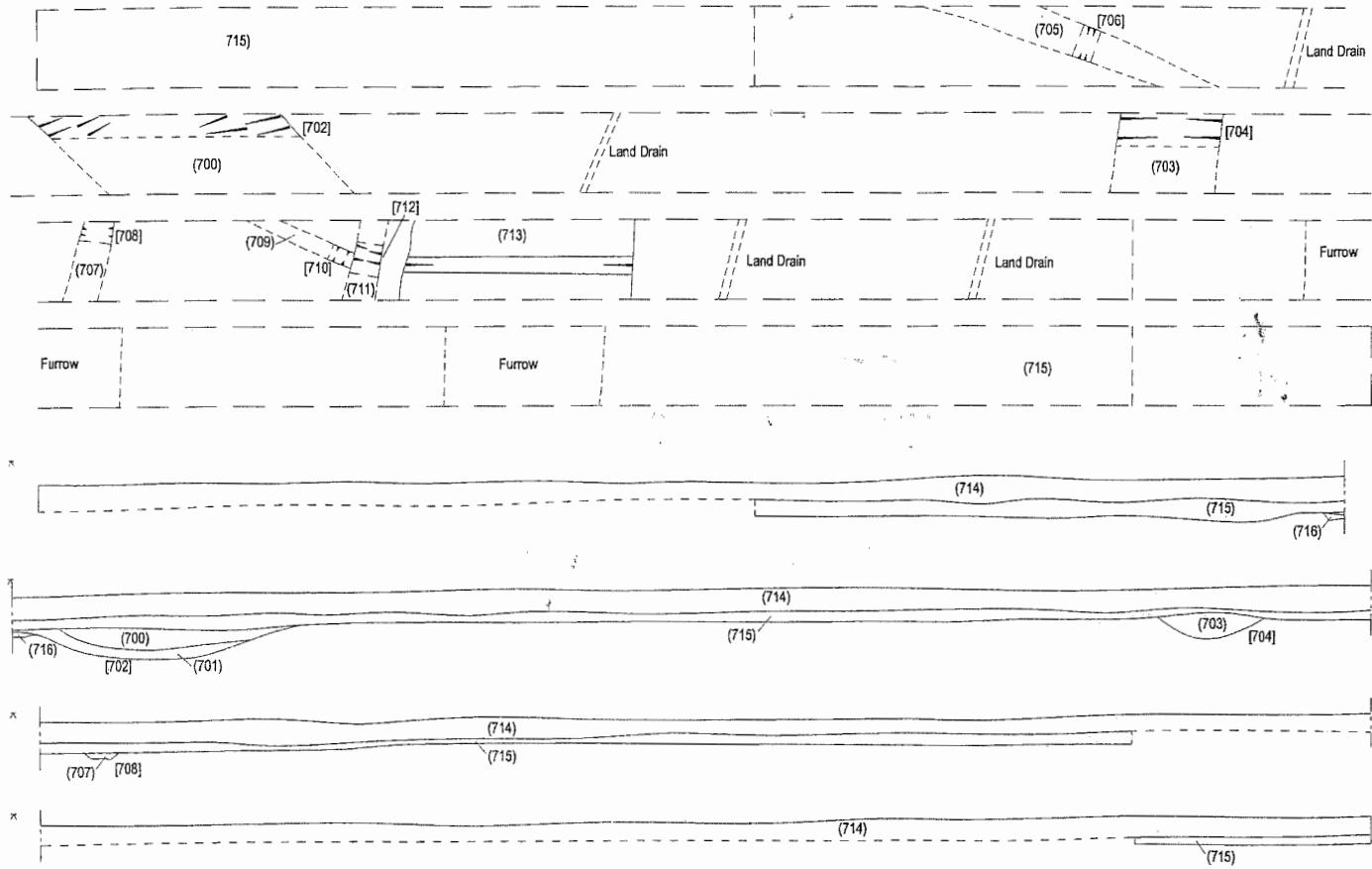
Trench 6 Plan and Section



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| | | | |
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| Project | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | |
| Title | | | |
| Trench 5 and Trench 6 Plans and Sections | | | |
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| Project No. | Drawing No. | | Revision |
| N9965b | Figure 7 | | |

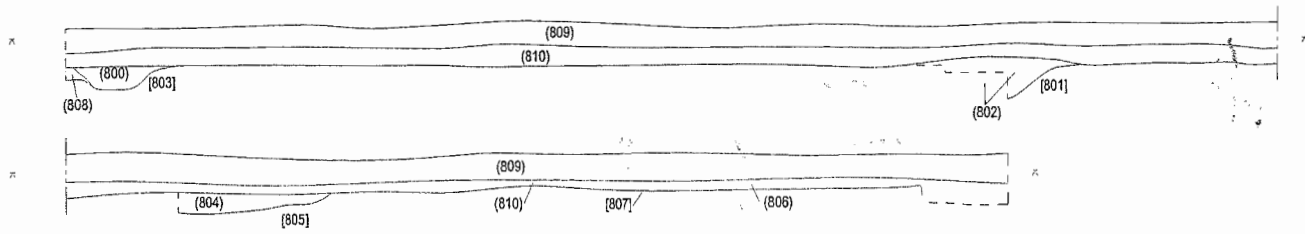
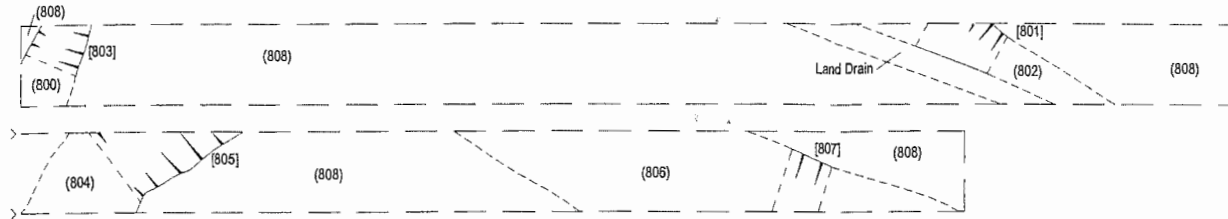
Trench 7 Plan and Section



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| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Project | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | |
| Title | | | |
| Trench 7 Plan and Section | | | |
| Scale | Drawn By | Date | Checked By |
| 1:100 | MJP | 05/02 | |
| Project No. | Drawing No. | | Revision |
| N9965b | Figure 8 | | |

Trench 8 Plan and Section



Trench 9 Plan and Section



| | | | | | |
|--|----------|-------|-------------|------|-------------|
| Project | | | | | |
| Upper Moor, Wyre Piddle | | | | | |
| Title | | | | | |
| Trench 8 and Trench 9 Plans and Sections | | | | | |
| Scale | Drawn By | Date | Checked By | Date | Approved By |
| 1:100 | MJP | 05/02 | | | |
| Project No. | | | Drawing No. | | Revision |
| N9965b | | | Figure 9 | | |