

Land North-East of Upton Marina, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP, SAMPLE



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1698

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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Planning Archaeologist:	Adrian Scruby
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SUMMARY

Archaeological strip map and sample investigations over an area 800m² (WSM 68508) targeted on a Roman ditch identified in a previous evaluation was undertaken on behalf of The Historic Environment Consultancy. The evaluated ditch was revealed 7.4m wide by 1.03m deep and contained pottery of early Roman date. The function of the feature remains poorly understood although it seems likely to relate to nearby settlement. Medieval pottery in the top of the ditch suggests that it was an open earthwork for a considerable period of time. No additional or associated features were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by the Malvern Hills District Council for residential development on land north-east of Upton Marina, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire (13/00431). Worcestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist Adrian Scruby had advised the planning authority that a programme of archaeological work should be carried out before the development commenced in order to allow for the mitigation of any archaeological remains that might survive in the area.
- 1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent required that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Historic Environment Consultancy 2016) following on from a phase of archaeological evaluation (Worcestershire Archaeology 2013).
- 1.4 This report presents the results of the investigation of a targeted area of investigation undertaken in July 2016. The project archive will be temporarily stored at the Archaeology Warwickshire premises prior to deposition with Worcestershire Museum (Site Code WU16).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is situated to the north of Upton upon Severn and north of the River Severn, and located on the south side of the Upton to Baughton Road (A4104). The site is centred on national grid reference SP 4846 7386 in the parish of Ripple.
- 2.2 The site slopes roughly from north to south towards the river. The underlying geology of the site is Sidmouth Mudstone overlaid by Quaternary gravels (BGS 2014).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity within the development area.
- 3.2 A desk based assessment was undertaken for the site (Archaeological Services 2013) and this was followed by an archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2013, consisting of 15 trenches across the site, revealed a single ditch like feature, which contained pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Worcestershire Archaeology 2013).
- 3.3 Two sherds of later medieval pottery have been recovered from the site. The medieval settlement at Holly Green and a possible medieval settlement at Rag House suggest that the site was used as agricultural land in the medieval and post medieval periods.

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the strip, map and sample was to determine if there were any significant archaeological remains associated with the Roman feature identified in the previous evaluation; to form a further understanding of the ditch and the value and potential of any associated remains to shed light on the usage of the site. Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.
- 4.2 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits both associated with and in addition to the recorded ditch feature which extended across the area. The results would then be disseminated in an appropriate format.

4.3 An area 40m long and 20m wide positioned around evaluation Trench 10 (Worcestershire Archaeology 2013) was opened up by a 8-tonne, 360° excavator with a 1.60m wide, toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and other plough soils were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until either the top of archaeological remains or geological natural was reached.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Geological natural dark yellowish brown sand and gravel (1001) was encountered across the majority of the stripped area, with a reddish brown clay and gravel variation in the north-west corner. Above this was a simple sequence of deposits.

Deposit sequence summary

Deposit description	Area investigation (2016)	Evaluation (2013)*	Thickness	Levels (aOD)	Interpretation
Dark grey brown sandy silt	1000	1000	0.25m-0.35m	21.85m-20.36m	Topsoil
Yellowish brown silty clay	1006	-	0.3m-0.38m	20.21m-21.55m	Natural soil horizon
Yellowish brown sand and gravel	1001	1001	-	19.86m-21.73m	Geological natural

* Worcestershire Archaeology 2013

Roman

5.2 Ditch 1007 extended approximately south-west to north-east for 20m across the area, roughly conforming to that recorded as ditch 1003 in the evaluation. Here it was up to 7.45m wide and up to 1.03m deep with a steeper southern edge and filled with greyish brown sandy silt (1008) from which 15 sherds of pottery were recovered during the strip, map and record phase of work. It diminished in depth towards the eastern side where it was recorded as 0.5m deep.

5.3 Ditch 1003 had been recorded 1.66m wide by 0.43m deep with a recut (1005) identified to the east.

5.4 No other archaeological features were revealed within the investigated area.

Finds

5.5 The ditch contained over 40 sherds of 1st to 3rd century AD pottery (recovered during the evaluation phase and the second phase of work) along with several medieval sherds which were presumably intrusive, or at least deposited in the top of the infilling feature.

Finds summary

Context	Fabric	Code	Qty	Wt (g)	Comment	Date
1002 *	Malvernian coarseware	3	6	54		43-200
	Severn valley ware	12.2	6	78		43-200
1004 *	Malvernian coarseware	3	3	136		43-200
	Grey ware	14	12	116		100-200
	Severn valley ware	12.2	4	148		43-200
1008	Severn valley ware	12.2	9	79		43-200
	Grey ware	14	4	58	Abraded	100-300
	Unglazed ware	55	2	18	Very abraded(1)	1200-1600
unstrat	Oxizised Malvernian ware*	69	1	8		1200-1600
	Worcester type *	55	1	12	Abraded	1200-1620

* Worcestershire Archaeology 2013

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The strip, map and sample was designed to target an area around the ditch revealed during the evaluation and to record this and any other associated remains or deposits. In the event, no other archaeological remains were encountered.

6.2 It is highly probable that the ditch(s) recorded in the evaluation and in this latest work represent the same feature, despite there being significant differences. Whilst the location and alignment of the features was similar there were significant differences size and character. This is most likely explained by the fact that the full extent of the feature was not appreciated in the confines of the evaluation trench, although this does not explain the reported smaller recut not being evident in the stripping phase.

- 6.3 The 7m wide ditch was not encountered elsewhere on the site and seems likely therefore to have been a localised or isolated feature. Its profile and proportion seem most likely to have been to do with drainage. It was located at the break of slope between the general south-westerly slope towards the river and a gentle slope northwards.
- 6.4 The nature of this pottery assemblage and the presence of a fragment of lava quern or rubbing stone suggest that Roman settlement lies in the near vicinity.
- 6.5 A very small assemblage of 4 medieval sherds of pottery was recovered during the preceding evaluation and the recent phase of work. Two of these sherds were recorded from upper fill 1008, which may indicate its longevity as an earthwork. However no other archaeological remains or *in situ* features associated with medieval activity were revealed. This would suggest that the finds are the result of agricultural activity including the manuring of fields across the site.
- 6..6 It is likely the site was part of extensive fields associated with nearby medieval settlement and the presence of evidence of ridge and furrow immediately to the north-west of the site would support this idea (ASDU 2014). The site remained as agricultural fields and orchard through the post-medieval and modern periods (Archaeological Services 2013).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

Archaeological Services Durham University 2013 *Upton Marina, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire, Archaeological desk-based assessment*

BGS 2014 British Geological Survey Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed August 2016.

Historic Environment Consultancy 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Strip, Map, Sample, Upton Marina, Land northeast of Upton Marina, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire. Goring on Thames*

Ordnance Survey 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, Worcestershire, Sheet 47,

Worcestershire Archaeology 2013 *Archaeological Evaluation at Land North-East of Upton Marina, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire, Worcester*



1. Area investigated



2. Ditch 1007 (Section A)



3. Ditch 1007 looking south-west

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1000	Layer			Topsoil
1001	Layer			Geological Natural
1002	(Worcestershire Archaeology 2013)			Ditch
1003	(Worcestershire Archaeology 2013)			Ditch
1004	(Worcestershire Archaeology 2013)			Ditch
1005	(Worcestershire Archaeology 2013)			Ditch
1006	Layer			Sub-soil horizon
1007	Large linear cut	7.45m	1.03m	
1008	Fill of cut 1007			

B List of Finds

Context	Type	Number	Comments
1008	Pottery	11	1st-3rd century
	Pottery	2	13th-16th century
	Quern/rubbing stone fragment	1	

C List of Samples

Context	Type	Number	Comments
1008	?Ditch fill	2	Bulk samples taken on site from the fill ¹

¹Note: Bulk soil samples were taken from ditch 1008 during excavation in order to test for the presence of any additional remains. Processing was undertaken at Archaeology Warwickshire offices using a floatation tank and sieving through a 300 micron mesh. This process demonstrated that the soil contained no significant evidence for charred plant remains other than typical wood charcoal. No evidence for waterlogged material was present.

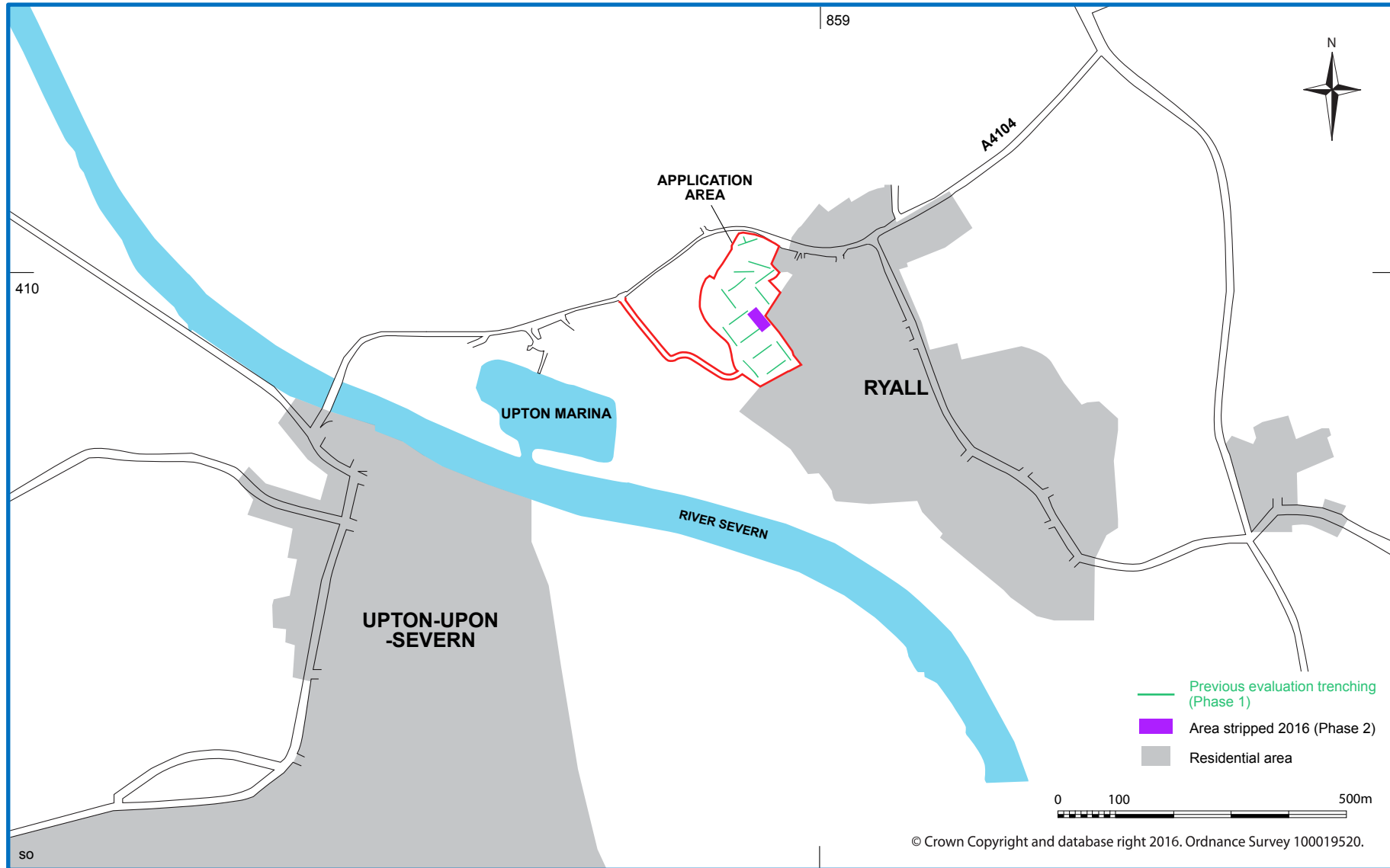


Fig 1: Location of application area

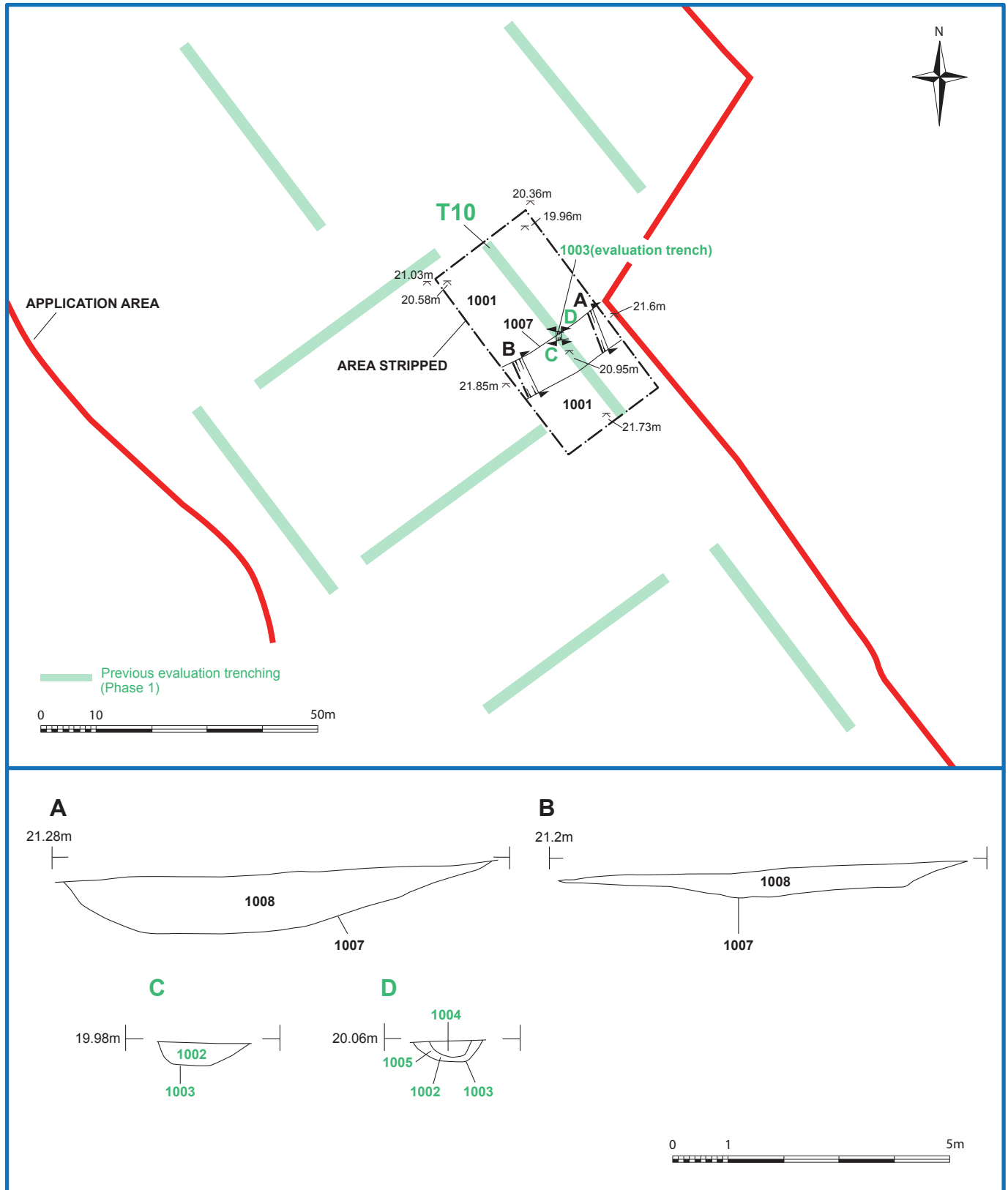


Fig 2: Location of area stripped, with sections A and B (Ditch 1007), and sections C and D (Ditch 1003) from 2013 evaluation (Worcestershire Archaeology)