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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY  
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



**PERSIMMON HOMES SOUTH MIDLANDS**

**Yew Tree Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**DECEMBER 2015**

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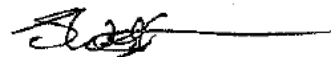
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Plate 3: Southeast facing section of pit feature [503]. Scale 0.4m.

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Plate 5: Northwest facing section of linear [803]. Scale 0.4m.

### **FIGURES (APPENDIX 3)**

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

## SUMMARY

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Midlands, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Yew Tree Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 9047 6111). The evaluation was primarily required to investigate the potential impact of the proposed housing development on the archaeological resource, for which a planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council.

The evaluation, consisting of fifty-one trenches, found very little in the way of extant archaeology, with the majority of recorded features and finds being of a post-medieval and modern date. It is likely that due to the paucity of topsoil across the site, any earlier archaeological remains, if present, would have been ploughed out.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Persimmon Homes South Midlands for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council for their assistance.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South Midlands (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Yew Tree Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 9047 6111; Figure 1). The evaluation is required to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and the impact upon it from the planned housing development for which an outline planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council (Ref: W/12/02336/OU).

1.1.2 The development lies within a landscape that has little previous work undertaken in the area and as such no significant archaeology is currently known. The site does lie to the south of the Roman town of *Salinae* however, and the presence of peripheral farming and/or industrial activities could not be ruled out. The proposed works are likely to affect below ground archaeological remains should they be present and as a result the Local Planning Authority required a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to investigate this.

1.1.3 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2014a).

1.1.4 This project conforms to a brief which was prepared in consultation with Adrian Scruby, Historic Environmental Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, on behalf of Wychavon District Council (Pers Comms: dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015). A written scheme of investigation (WAA 2015) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief provided and was approved by planning officer prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

1.1.5 In addition the archaeological evaluation conforms to the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for

Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014a).

- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014b).
- *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014c).
- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Morphe), English Heritage (2006).
- *Wardell Armstrong Archaeology: Excavation Manual*, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, internal document, edition 1.2 (WAA 2012).
- *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2010).

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Documentary Research**

- 2.1.1 A detailed search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Records was undertaken (Accessed August 2015) and included in the Written Scheme Of Investigation (WAA 2015), which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 500m from the area of investigation.

### **2.2 The Field Evaluation**

- 2.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 50 trenches measuring 50m in length by 1.80m in width across the proposed development area, which measures approximately 12.3 hectares in area, representing a 4% sample of the overall site. The trenches were placed using a random grid array. Trench 29 had to be moved 10m to the northeast, due to unmarked overhead power lines. As a result of this Trench 28 had to be shortened by 5m to accommodate this shift. Trench 13 was re-orientated and excavated to a length of 38m due to complications. As a result Trench 14 was moved 10m to the southeast and a new trench, 51, measuring 25m, was dug between Trenches 42 and 41, to make up for the lengths lost on other trenches.



2.2.2. The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WAA 2012).

2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (*Ibid*). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified;
- modern pottery;
- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.2.5 On completion the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

## 2.3 The Archive

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be

deposited with Worcestershire Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Worcestershire HER, or available upon request from Wardell Armstrong Archaeology. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WSM 67183**.

- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology as a part of this national project. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **wardella2-223866**.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Location and Geological Context**

- 3.1.1 The site is located to the immediate north of Newland Lane and bounded to the west by Newland Road, the east of the proposed development is defined by domestic housing associated with Tagwell Road whilst the north of the sites butts arable fields. The site is situated to the south of Droitwich Spa and the M5 lies roughly 500m to the east (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The area of investigation is approximately 12.3 hectares in size and is shaped with a thin rectangular access feeding north of Newland Lane which then blocks out to the east as far as the existing housing estate. A thinner extensions of the site continues to the west a smaller spur that extends to Newland Road.
- 3.1.3 At present the site comprises a large pastoral arable field that takes up the majority of the site area with a second smaller field comprising the western spur. The ground area of investigation lies within a landscape that gently undulates and drops progressively to the northeast towards the River Salwarpe. The highest part of the site is situated along the southern limit and lies at approximately 80m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) with the land dropping away to the north and east to a height of c.60m AOD.
- 3.1.4 The underlying solid geology is mapped as being on the interface of two geological bedrocks with the central and eastern parts of the site being situated atop Mercia Mudstone deposited between 200 and 251 million years ago in the Triassic period in a landscape dominated by hot deserts. The northwest corner of the site, by contrast, is mapped as sedimentary Halite, part of the Droitwich Halite Member formed 217 to 229 million years ago in silicate rich seas. No superficial deposits are recorded across the study area (BGS 2015).

### 3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 A detailed search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Records was undertaken prior to the fieldwork commencing to inform on the historical and archaeological background of the site and immediate vicinity.
- 3.2.2 The search identified probable medieval ridge and furrow to the west (HER ref: WSM 34365), and the route of Trench Lane (HER Ref: 46301) thought to be of similar date, runs to the south of the present area of investigation. In addition to this, four unlisted historical buildings dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century are known to be present in the immediate landscape along with a former clay extraction pit of similar date at Yew Tree Farm itself (HER Ref: 46299), a former air raid warden post dating from the Second World War still exists to the south (HER Ref: WSM 36434). Unstratified finds from the general area include a tusk from an *Elephas primigenius*, a gold coin dating to the Iron Age, Romano-British pottery and medieval coinage.
- 3.2.3 In the wider landscape the earliest known site was revealed at Bays Meadow in Droitwich itself dating back to the Mesolithic (HER Ref: WSM 03956), whilst further dispersed activities have been seen ranging through the Neolithic and Bronze Ages (HER Ref: WSM 00600; Woodiwiss 1992, 8).
- 3.2.4 Droitwich has long been exploited for its natural salt brines and the earliest concerted industrial attempt to utilise these can be seen in the middle Iron Age (HER Ref: WSM 21413), however it was not until the Romano-British period that the settlement took off as a major industrial centre. Identified in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as the Roman town of *Salinae* (VCH I, 209-9) the Roman settlement appears to have been relatively sizeable and this exploitation of the salt brines continued from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD through to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Berry, 1957; Hurst, 1992, 1997, 2002 & 2006; Woodiwiss, 1992)
- 3.2.5 Given the known historic and archaeological record, it was suggested in the written scheme of investigation that the proposed development site lies on the peripheries of the industrial centre of Droitwich and that if archaeological remains were revealed they would most likely be associated with dispersed features relating to land management and agriculture. However, it also noted that due to the limited previous archaeological work in this area the true potential of the site remained primarily an unknown quantity.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September, with fifty-one trenches excavated across the proposed development area (Figure 2). The trenches were placed using a random grid array to investigate a representative area of the proposed development. For details of the individual contexts please see Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Results

4.2.1 Trenches 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 37, 38, 40, 41, 45, 47 and 50 all contained only two deposits. The first of these was the natural, generally a mid-reddish pink compact clay, with varying levels of sub-rounded stone inclusions. The natural was often changeable, with patches of greenish white mottling common, as well as frequent areas where the natural changed to a light brown clay. Immediately overlying the natural in these trenches was the topsoil, invariably a mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt, with inclusions of modern CBM, modern pottery and charcoal flecking. The consistency of the topsoil ranged from soft, in the event of poor weather, to friable, in the event of good weather.

4.2.2 A number of other trenches – such as 17, 33, 35, 36, 39 and 44 – also contained a subsoil deposit, a brownish yellow sandy clay with some stone inclusions. This deposit often only survived as remnants, and was rarely continuous across the length of the trench. This is likely due to plough damage having truncated the subsoil, a theory supported by the presence of remnant subsoil in plough scars in Trenches 39 and 45.

4.2.3 The remaining trenches – barring Trenches 5 and 8 (see below) – contained a variety of modern and natural features, some of which were investigated archaeologically to categorise them. The remains of hedgerows were encountered in a number of trenches, such as in Trench 42 and Trench 46, categorised by having shallow, irregular sides and an uneven base, with finds of modern pottery, CBM and metalwork – including a shotgun shell. In other trenches, such as 19, 22 and 35, tree boles were discovered, characterised by having uneven sides and bases, fills akin to the topsoil and evidence for rooting either within the feature or radiating from it. In other trenches, such as 1, 3, 6, 21, 22 and 33, spreads of poorly sorted rounded and sub-rounded stones pressed into the surface of the natural show modern attempts at ground remediation, either to firm up the ground or act as soakaways is unknown. The latter interpretation is possibly more likely as many of these spreads quickly

became inundated once exposed. Evidence for ceramic land drains was encountered in other trenches, such as 17, 39 (Plate 1) and 48, invariably seen as narrow, vertical sided features, some of which still containing the ceramic pipe *in situ*. A number of trenches also contained natural hollows, for example trenches 1, 12, 17, 31 and 33. These were characterised by being shallow – usually less than 5cm in depth – irregular features filled by topsoil or colluvial aggregations.

- 4.2.4 Trench 31 contained significant modern features. These were: [3103], a curvilinear feature; [3104] and [3105], two modern rubbish pits (Plate 2); and (3106), a spread of modern dumping. All of these features were filled by a similar greyish black ashy silt deposit, with large amounts of modern glass, concrete, ironwork, CBM, plastic and some asbestos. The resident of Yew Tree Farm attested that these deposits were the results of rubbish dumping within the last 10 to 20 years (Pers. Comm. September 2015).
- 4.2.5 Trench 33 also contained a notable modern feature in [3307]. This roughly east-west aligned ditch had a moderate top of slope, sheer, straight sides, a sharp break of slope and a narrow U-shaped base. It ran across the width of the trench and, upon excavation, was revealed to be 0.53m deep. It was filled by (3306), a mid-brownish grey, firm, silty clay which contained occasional charcoal and small sub-rounded stone inclusions. The finds recovered from this context are all demonstrably modern, with modern CBM, undecayed animal teeth and barely rotted wood.
- 4.2.6 In terms of potential archaeology, only two trenches, 5 and 8, contained features that could not be proven to be either natural or modern in origin. In Trench 5, a small possible sub-circular pit, [503], was discovered, with a gradual top of slope, concave sides, a gradual break of slope and a broadly concave base (Plate 3). This pit was filled by (504), a mid-brownish grey compact clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones. No finds were recovered. As noted during excavation, the only salient distinction between the surrounding natural and the fill of this feature is in colour, as charcoal flecking is present in the natural.
- 4.2.7 Trench 8 contained a single, small linear feature, [803] (Plates 4 & 5). This roughly E-W aligned feature a moderate top of slope, concave sides, a moderate break of slope and a concave base. It was filled by (804) a mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay with occasional charcoal and moderate medium-large rounded stone inclusions. The ditch had a width of 0.53m and a depth of 0.15m. The full length of the feature is unknown as it extended beyond the eastern edge of Trench 8, however the terminus of the feature was present in the excavated area.

4.2.8 No finds were recovered, however a sample of the fill, with the good quality charcoal present within it, was taken for analysis.

4.2.9 For a full list of contexts and features by trench, please refer to Appendix 1 (see below).

## **5 FINDS ANALYSIS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 A total of 90 artefacts, weighing 9100g, were recovered from 29 contexts during an archaeological evaluation at Yew Tree Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire.

5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014c). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Museums Worcestershire.

5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and if applicable, further work will be recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley with contributions from David Jackson.

5.1.5 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1 (below).

Context	Tr No	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
304	3	CBM	1	17	PM-Mod	Misc fragment
701	7	CBM	6	1601	PM-Mod	Misc fragments
1201	12	CBM	3	890	PM-Mod	Brick fragments
1702	17	CBM	1	358	Mod	Pipe fragment
2101	21	CBM	1	96	PM-Mod	Overfired tile fragment
2501	25	CBM	2	134	PM-Mod	Tile fragments
2801	28	CBM	2	9	PM-Mod	Misc fragments
3306	33	CBM	3	182	PM-Mod	Brick fragments
4801	48	CBM	6	3070	PM	Brick fragments
4808	48	CBM	8	281	PM-Mod	Tile fragments
U/S	1	CBM	3	14	PM-Mod	Misc fragments
203	2	Ceramic	9	12	PM	
304	3	Ceramic	1	4	PM	Buckley-type CRE
601	6	Ceramic	2	13	PM	RWE & porcelain
1201	12	Ceramic	1	36	PM	Buckley-type CRE
1401	14	Ceramic	2	72	PM	Plate fragment, RWE, Buckley-type CRE
1601	16	Ceramic	1	14	RB?	Rim fragment
1701	17	Ceramic	1	10	PM	Overfired RRE
2101	21	Ceramic	1	13	PM	Base sherd
2301	23	Ceramic	3	14	PM	
2801	28	Ceramic	1	9	PM	Staffordshire slipware
2901	29	Ceramic	1	12	PM	Base sherd
3104	31	Ceramic	2	99	PM	Handle of teapot - Willow Pattern
3105	31	Ceramic	5	74	PM	RWE
3301	33	Ceramic	1	104	PM-Mod	Tile fragment
3601	36	Ceramic	1	43	PM	Buckley-type CRE
3608	36	Ceramic	1	8	PM	Buckley-type CRE
3906	39	Ceramic	1	24	PM	Buckley-type CRE
4203	42	Ceramic	1	2	PM	Rim sherd, RWE
4603	46	Ceramic	1	8	PM	Buckley-type CRE
4801	48	Ceramic	1	17	PM	Buckley-type CRE
U/S	4	Ceramic	2	18	PM	Willow pattern & RWE
U/S	15	Ceramic	1	9	PM	Buckley-type CRE
U/S	1	Ceramic	2	33	PM-Mod	Buckley-type CRE, porcelain
2501	25	Clay Pipe	1	2	PM	Undecorated stem fragment
U/S	1	Clay Pipe	1	2	PM	Undecorated stem fragment
U/S	15	Flint	1	2	PH	Half of proximal end of flake
1001	10	Glass	1	21	PM-Mod	Green bottle glass - body shard

Context	Tr No	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
4801	48	Glass	1	16	Mod	From a car headlight
U/S	4	Glass	1	4	PM	Bottle glass
U/S	1	Glass	1	1	Mod	Misc fragment
2901	29	Iron	2	42	PM-Mod	Knife fragment & nail
3105	31	Iron	1	31	PM-Mod	Nail
4603	46	Iron	1	340	Mod	Agricultural machinery - DISCARDED
4903	49	Iron	1	1339	Mod	20th C gin trap - DISCARDED
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90</b>	<b>9100</b>		

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Material & Context

Key:

PM: Post-medieval

Mod: Modern

PH: Prehistoric

CBM: Ceramic Building Material

Qty: Quantity

Wgt: Weight

CRE: Coarse Red Earthenware

RWE: Refined White Earthenware

RRE: Refined Red Earthenware

## 5.2 Roman Ceramics

5.2.1 A single rim sherd of potentially Roman pottery, weighing 14g, was recovered from deposit (1601). The sherd is in good condition. Identification of fabric types was conducted using the Worcestershire Ceramics online database wherever possible (<http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/>) [accessed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015].

5.2.2 The sherd closely resembles Fabric 30, Oxfordshire white colour-coated ware of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century date.

5.2.3 No further analysis is warranted.

## 5.3 Post-medieval Ceramics

5.3.1 A total of 42 sherds of post-medieval to modern ceramics, weighing 648g, were recovered from 21 deposits (Table 1).



5.3.2 Identification of fabric types was conducted using the Worcestershire Ceramics online database where possible (<http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/>) [accessed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015]. Additional sources were also used to identify fabric types (Poole 1995) (Mankowitz & Hagger 1968).

5.3.3 Nine sherds comprised Buckley-type coarse red earthenware of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date (Davey 1991). An overfired sherd of a refined red earthenware of a similar date was recovered from deposit (1701). Several sherds of Transfer Print ('Willow Pattern') were recovered as well as a sherd of Staffordshire slipware from deposit (2801) (Poole 1995, 40). Fragments of English porcelain (Mankowitz & Hagger 1968, 179) were recovered from Trenches 1 and 6 whilst a sherd of a Creamware plate was recovered from Trench 6. Vessel types include teapots, teacups, tureens, plates and saucers.

5.3.4 No further analysis is warranted on this assemblage.

#### 5.4 Ceramic Building Material

5.4.1 Thirty-six fragments of post-medieval to modern ceramic building material, weighing 6652g, were recovered from 11 deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition.

5.4.2 The fragments comprise miscellaneous tile and brick fragments.

5.4.3 No further analysis is warranted on this assemblage.

#### 5.5 Clay Tobacco Pipe

5.5.1 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 4g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition.

5.5.2 The fragments comprise undecorated stem fragments of post-medieval date.

5.5.3 No further analysis is necessary.

#### 5.6 Flint

5.6.1 A single flint flake, weighing 2g, was recovered from an unstratified deposit in Trench 15 (Table 1). The distal end of the flake has been snapped off but it is in good condition.

5.6.2 A general prehistoric date has been attributed to the flake; no further analysis is warranted.

## 5.7 Glass

5.7.1 Four fragments of post-medieval to modern glass, weighing 42g, were recovered from four deposits (Table 1). The shards are in moderate condition.

5.7.2 The fragments comprise bottle glass and a fragment of modern glass was recovered from deposit (4801). No further analysis is warranted on the shards.

## 5.8 Iron

5.8.1 Five fragments of modern iron, weighing 1752g, were recovered from four deposits (Table 1). The iron is in poor condition and a large quantity of rust corrosion is visible on the external surfaces.

5.8.2 The artefacts comprise three nails, a fragment of agricultural machinery and a 20<sup>th</sup> century gin trap. The iron artefacts are of little archaeological significance and were discarded.

## 5.9 Other

5.9.1 A partial modern shotgun cartridge was recovered from deposit (4603). The shotgun cartridge was not retained with the archive.

## 5.10 Statement of Potential

The finds assemblage is of low archaeological potential and no further work is necessary on the artefacts.

# 6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation three samples were taken for the purposes of archaeobotanical analysis. There were taken from linear feature [803] and two features which may be natural hollows, or tree-throws. In total this represents c.40 litres of analysed sediment. This material was taken to extract material that may aid the understanding of the depositional history of these context, as well as understand the levels of organic preservation found within the evaluated area; as per Historic England recommendations (2011). Furthermore the remains of wild plants may allow inferences to be made regarding the local environment.

## 6.2 Archaeobotanical Analysis

6.2.1 The samples were manually floated and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. In this case the residue and the flot are retained while the sand-silt-clay components are filtered

out. The sample was flotted over a 1mm plastic mesh, into which the residue was collected, then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit; no such material was recovered from the samples however. The residue samples were also scanned with a hand magnet to retrieve forms of magnetic material. This was done to retrieve residues of metallurgical activity, in particular hammer scale, spheroid hammer scale, fuel-ash slag and vitrified material which might be indicative of other high temperature non-metallurgical processes. Processing procedures and nomenclature follows the conventions set out by the Historic England (2015), however, not such anthropogenic material was recovered from the samples upon examination.

- 6.2.2 The washover was dried slowly and scanned at x40 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers et al. 2010; Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

### 6.3 Discussion of the Remains

- 6.3.1 The ecofactual evidence recovered from the soil samples all contained very low amounts of plant remains; with infrequent seeds and very low volumes of charcoal being recovered from the flot/washover material. The remains are summarised in Table 2. Notable however, sample <3> (3503) contained c.10 grams of charcoal, this being much more notably present than in the other two relatively sparse samples. The recovered plant remains consisted of low numbers of seeds of goosefoots (*Chenopodiaceae* species), as well as some other common species; deadnettle, brambleberry, medick and birch. The desiccated nature of these remains, and the absence of waterlogging, suggests they are probably modern intrusive material rather than preserved archaeological material.
- 6.3.2 No further work is recommended on this material at this time.

Sample	2	3	4
Context	804	3503	3505
Cut	803		
Feature	Linear	Natural	Natural
<i>Volume processed (litres)</i>	20	10	10
<i>Volume of retent(grams)</i>	3000	100	3100
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	>5	10	>5

***Residue contents (relative abundance 1-low; 2-c.+10%; 3-dominant)***

Charcoal		2	
Stones/gravel	3	3	3

***Flot matrix (relative abundance 1-low; 2-c.+10%; 3-dominant)***

Charcoal	1		2
Modern roots	3		3

***Other plant remains (Total counts)***

<i>Betula pendula (Birch)</i>		1	
<i>Chenopodiaceae species (goosefoots)</i>	1	1	1
<i>Medicago lupulina (Black medic)</i>		1	
<i>Lamium species (Deadnettles)</i>	1		
<i>Rubus species (Brambleberry)</i>	1		
Unid			

Table 2: Summary of archaeobotanical assessment

## 6.4 Zooarchaeology Assessment

6.4.1 A small amount of animal bone was also recovered during the evaluation. The association of this material with post-medieval ceramics suggests that this material is relatively modern in origin. Material was recovered from four contexts: (2801), (3104), (3105) and (3306). Most of this was recovered in relatively low amounts. (2801) produced a single cattle calcaneus which based on the criteria outlined by Silver (1969) would make this animal less than 3 years. A longbone fragment and a proximal cattle phalange were recovered from (3105), with bone bones showing signs of being moderately abraded. (3306) produced a single Equid (horse species) 2<sup>nd</sup> premolar. Based on the criteria the lack of penetration of the buccal fold and the more V-shaped rather than U-shaped lingual fold it is suggested that this may be a donkey tooth (*Equus asinus*). The largest selection of bones came from context (3104) where six relatively large fragments were recovered. All of these were cattle bone; 1 fragment of sacrum, 1 unfused distal radius epiphysis, 1 partly fused distal end of tibia, 1 left talus, 1 fragment of mandible and 1 fragment of innominate (iliac crest). Saw cuts from what appears to be a mechanic blade are present on the tibia and sacrum fragment in a manner which suggest both of these animals were butchered at a post-late 19<sup>th</sup> century abattoir. This would seem to confirm the evidence from the pottery that these deposits are relatively modern in formation.

6.4.2 No further work is recommended on this material at this time.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Conclusions**

- 7.1.1 Of the 51 trenches that were excavated over the course of the evaluation, only two – Trenches 5 and 8 – contained any features of a possibly archaeological origin. Both of these features are of an unknown function and date, owing to the lack of any finds. However, it can be postulated that [803] is of a post-medieval date, owing to the relative preservation of the charcoal lumps within its fill, with many pieces still having the grain of the wood visible. It is also probable that [503] is of a natural origin, with its fill appearing to consist of an accumulation of colluvium, possibly suggesting the feature is a natural hollow or other variation in the natural.
- 7.1.2 Two trenches contained noteworthy, if demonstrably modern, features. Trench 31 contained a series of modern rubbish pits and dumps, with large amounts of modern glass, plastic, CBM and other modern detritus present. These pits were further confirmed as modern by a local landowner, who was partially responsible for their creation. Trench 33 contained a single, large ditch, the fill of which contained modern pottery, CBM and wood. This feature possibly served as a boundary demarcation or similar.
- 7.1.3 The remaining trenches either contained demonstrably natural features, modern ground remediation attempts – i.e. soakaways and land drains – plough scarring, or nothing at all, with the topsoil immediately overlying the natural in the majority of cases.
- 7.1.4 To conclude, the evaluation found nothing that could be deemed ‘significant’ archaeology, with the two recorded archaeological features potentially being natural and/or modern in origin. Given the site’s location, with regards to the Roman town of *Salinae* (modern day Droitwich), and its prominent topography – the highest point of the site providing a clear vista of the lower-lying surroundings – it is perhaps strange that no archaeology was found within this fairly significant area. This paucity could, possibly, be explained by the relative lack of topsoil across much of the site, with some areas having less than 0.20m of stratigraphy overlying the natural substrate. This lack could have resulted in any archaeology present being ploughed out by subsequent agricultural practices. Further investigations in the wider area may confirm as to whether this is the case.

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## Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West

Minimum Depth: 0.40m                      Maximum Depth: 0.80m (Sondage)

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(101)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(102)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional charcoal and medium-large sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional light greyish-green clay mottling. Larger stones tend to be concentrated.
(103)	Deposit	Tree Bole/Natural Hollow	-	Extremely shallow natural feature. Filled by a dark brown silty clay.
(104)	Deposit	Soakaway/Land Drain	-	Probable land drain/soakaway, consisting of a roughly rectangular spread of large rounded stones pressed into the natural.
[105]	Cut	Plough Scar	-	Extremely shallow plough scar, largely lying outside of the trench. Filled by topsoil deposit (101)
(106)	Deposit	Charcoal Spread	~0.05m	Concentrated patch of charcoal. Possibly material that has worked down from topsoil deposit (101).



**Trench 2**

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(201)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.29m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(202)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Reddish-pink compact clay /w moderate medium-large sub-rounded to irregular stone inclusions.
(203)	Deposit	Hedgerow	0.10m	Modern hedgerow deposit orientated east-west approx. 10m from the northern end of trench. Gently sloping sides and an uneven base. Filled by a mid-brown silty clay, similar to topsoil (201). Contained modern pottery and charcoal flecks.

### Trench 3

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.45m

Maximum Depth: 0.84m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(301)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.24-0.34m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ small rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(302)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-orange compact clay /w occasional charcoal and small rounded stone inclusions. Larger stones tend to be concentrated.
(303)	Deposit	Soakaway/Land Drain	-	Probable land drain/soakaway, consisting of an irregular spread of large rounded stones pressed into the natural. Difficult to determine full extent/shape in plan as feature became rapidly inundated.
[304]	Cut	Plough Scar	-	Plough scar running southwest-northeast across the trench. Filled by topsoil (301) and contained flecks of charcoal and fragments of modern CBM.

#### Trench 4

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.55m                      Maximum Depth: 0.80m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(401)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.40m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(402)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional light greyish-green clay mottling.

#### Trench 5

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest  
 Minimum Depth: 0.34m                      Maximum Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(501)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.28m	Mid-reddish-brown, loose clayey silt topsoil w/ moderate small rounded stone inclusions and some modern CBM.
(502)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-orange compact clay /w occasional bands of yellow, occasional charcoal and small rounded/sub-rounded/sub-angular stone inclusions.
[503]	Cut	Possible Pit Cut	0.17m	Possible pit cut. Sub-circular in plan with a gradual top of slope, concave sides, a gradual break of slope and bowl shaped base. Potentially a natural hollow/variation in natural as no finds recovered and feature is reasonably irregular.
(504)	Cut	Fill of [503]	0.17m	Fill of possible pit [503]. Mid-brownish grey compact clay with occasional charcoal and small-medium rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. Only difference from surrounding natural was in colour, suggesting that this could be a natural variation/a feature that has naturally infilled.

### Trench 6

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast  
 Minimum Depth: 0.42m                      Maximum Depth: 0.70m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(601)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(602)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional light brownish red clay mottling.
(603)	Deposit	Possible Soakaway/Land Drain	-	30m from the North end of the trench there is a spread of sub-rounded stones pressed into the natural, possibly constituting a soakaway or field drain as seen in Trenches 1 and 3. Feature quickly became inundated.

### Trench 7

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.70m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(701)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.40m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(702)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional modern CBM 'squashed' into the surface. 17m from the eastern end of the trench the natural changes to a mid-brownish red compact clay w/ occasional small-medium irregular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 8

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.32m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(801)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.40m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly soft clayey silt topsoil w/ small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(802)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional mid-brownish yellow mottling. Small scattering of charcoal at North end of trench.
[803]	Cut	Cut of linear feature	0.15m	Cut of a small, narrow linear feature extending from the eastern baulk and running rough E-W. The terminus is present mid-way across the trench. A possible boundary or drainage function could be attributed to this feature. Likely modern.
(804)	Fill	Fill of [803]	0.15m	Fill of linear feature [803]. Consists of a mid-brownish grey silty firm clay w/ occasional charcoal and moderate medium-large rounded stone inclusions. Likely build-up of colluvium within the feature. Fairly complete and well preserved nature of charcoal inclusions is suggestive of a more modern date.

**Trench 9**

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.32m                      Maximum Depth: 0.40m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(901)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.32m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(902)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.

**Trench 10**

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.37m                      Maximum Depth: 0.59m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1001)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1002)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions.

### Trench 11

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1101)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.28m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1102)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w moderate small sub-rounded and rounded stone inclusions. Initially believed to be six possible plough scars orientated NNW/SSE, however upon cleaning these features were proven to be remnant topsoil stains (possibly caused by plough damage but not substantial enough to merit recording.

### Trench 12

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.38m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1201)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.22-0.33m	Mid- brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1202)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-large sub-rounded and rounded stone inclusions.
(1203)	Deposit	Natural Hollow	0.02m	8m from western edge of trench there is natural hollow, filled with topsoil deposit (1201). Contains occ. stones and small roots.

### Trench 13

Length: 38m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.40m                      Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1301)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1302)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions. At the northern end of the trench it changes to a firm light brown clay with moderate inclusions of irregular/sub-rounded small to medium stones and charcoal flecking.

### Trench 14

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West  
 Minimum Depth: 0.31m                      Maximum Depth: 0.58m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1401)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small rounded stone inclusions.
(1402)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small sub-rounded irregular stone inclusions. There is some variation in the natural in this trench, with bands of light brown clay and orangey-brown clay interrupting the reddish pink substrate. Some charcoal flecking throughout. Possible evidence for plough scarring 9m from the western edge of the trench but the remnant feature was minimal and easily removed during cleaning.



### Trench 15

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West  
 Minimum Depth: 0.45m                      Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1501)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.26m	Dark greyish-brown, fairly loose silty clay topsoil w/ moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1502)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Light pinkish-brown compact clay /w frequent small-medium sub-rounded inclusions.
[1503]	Cut	Plough Scars	-	Evidence of plough scarring. Filled by a dark brown hard clay. Four such features are present, and they are all uniform in their approximate dimensions and appearance.

### Trench 16

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast  
 Minimum Depth: 0.33m                      Maximum Depth: 0.62m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1601)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly soft clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1602)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w frequent irregular stone inclusions for the first 13m from the northern end. Natural changes to a firm mid-brown clay with moderate, small, sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 17

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West

Minimum Depth: 0.50m                      Maximum Depth: 0.80m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1701)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Dark greyish brown, fairly firm clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1702)	Deposit	Subsoil Deposit	0.20m	Mid-yellowish brown, fairly loose, silty clay subsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Thickness varies, with this deposit being more significant at the western end of the trench.
(1703)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-pinkish brown firm clay w/ frequent small-large sub-rounded stone inclusions. Post-medieval land drain runs across the western end of the trench.
(1704)	Deposit	Natural Hollow	-	An irregularly shaped, very shallow natural hollow filled with a dark brown hard clay. No inclusions or finds recovered.

### Trench 18

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.32m                      Maximum Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1801)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.14-0.26m	Mid-brown, fairly soft clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1802)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions and light brown mottling. ~23m from the southern end of the trench is a spread of manganese.

### Trench 19

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: North-northwest-South-southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.37m

Maximum Depth: 0.59m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1901)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly soft clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1902)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional charcoal flecking and frequent small-large sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(1903)	Deposit	Tree Bole	0.07m	Located 9m from southern edge of trench. Roughly oval, shallow feature with uneven sides and an uneven base. Filled by a firm dark brown clay with patches of dark grey. Contained moderate, medium, sub-rounded stone inclusions, occasional roots and charcoal flecking.

**Trench 20**

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.20m

Maximum Depth: 0.42m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2001)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.18-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly soft clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2002)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Light brown firm clay /w moderate small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions.
[2003]	Cut	Plough Scars	0.10m	Located at southern end of trench and aligned NNW/SSE. Two parallel plough scars filled with a loose greyish brown clay w/ rare charcoal flecking, occasional small sub-rounded stones and small modern CBM. The sides of the feature are sharp, with a V-shaped base.

### Trench 21

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: East-West

Minimum Depth: 0.35m

Maximum Depth: 0.58m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2101)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2102)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional light brown mottling and moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions. 23m from the West end of the trench there is a small spread of stones pressed into the surface of the natural, possibly constituting a soakaway/land drain, such as those seen in Trenches 1 and 3.
(2103)	Deposit	Hedgerow	0.08m	A north-south orientated possible hedgerow with uneven sides and an uneven base. Filled by a loose, dark brown clay with frequent small-large, sub-rounded stones and occasional small roots.

## Trench 22

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.36m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2201)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly compact silty clay topsoil w/ moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2202)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-pinkish brown compact clay /w frequent small-large sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2203)	Deposit	Tree Bole	0.03-0.10m	Tree bole/natural hollow filled with a mixture of greyish brown clay and natural substrate. No finds but some roots present within context.
(2204)	Deposit	Topsoil Intrusion	<0.05m	Dark brown clay w/ tiny roots filling multiple small hollows. Irregularly shaped.
(2205)	Deposit	Land Drain/Soakaway	-	Spread of stones pressed into the surface of the natural, similar in form (and likely function) to those encountered within trenches 1 and 3.

### Trench 23

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2301)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.35m	Dark reddish-brown, fairly firm silty clay topsoil w/ moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.
(2302)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-brown compact clay /w moderate small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. Midway along the trench the natural becomes a lighter orangey-red in colour.
(2303)	Cut	Plough Scar	-	Modern plough scarring. Shallow feature filled with firm dark brown clay.
(2304)	Deposit	Topsoil Intrusion	-	Irregularly shaped intrusion of (2301) into the natural. Likely pressed down by ploughing/movement of machinery.

### Trench 24

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest  
 Minimum Depth: 0.38m                      Maximum Depth: 0.65m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2401)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.19-0.32m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2402)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Light brown compact clay /w frequent small-large sub-rounded stone inclusions. 12m from Western end the natural becomes mottled with reddish pink clay.

### Trench 25

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast  
 Minimum Depth: 0.29m                      Maximum Depth: 0.41m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2501)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2502)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 26

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest  
 Minimum Depth: 0.35m                      Maximum Depth: 0.55m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2601)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.16-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small-medium round and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2602)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and moderate small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions.



### Trench 27

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.26m                      Maximum Depth: 0.47m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2701)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.15-0.27m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2702)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and frequent small-large sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 28

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.27m                      Maximum Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2801)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.35m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ frequent small rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. Small amount of modern pot and bone recovered.
(2802)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-orangey purple compact clay w/ occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional rounded stones. 15m from southwest end the natural changes to a light orangey yellow compact clay. A modern water pipe runs across the trench ~15.50m from the SW end.

### Trench 29

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.45m                      Maximum Depth: 0.49m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2901)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(2902)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 30

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West  
 Minimum Depth: 0.29m                      Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3001)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly compact clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. 12m from the western end of the trench in the bottom of the topsoil is a small black plastic pipe – likely the same water pipe observed in trench 28.
(3002)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional medium sub-rounded stone inclusions. 19.50m from the western end of the trench the natural changes to a light brown clay with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 31

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.33m

Maximum Depth: 1.26m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3101)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.21-0.42m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ moderate medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(3102)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w mid-grey mottling and occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
[3103]	Cut	Modern Curvilinear Feature	0.20m	A gradually curving linear feature with sheer sides and an uneven base. Filled with a loose dark brown clay w/ moderate small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones. Also contained modern concrete and ironwork.
[3104]	Cut	Modern Rubbish Pit	-	A large modern rubbish pit, filled with a loose black ashy deposit which contained a large amount of modern CBM, glass, concrete, plastic detritus and metalwork. Cut by [3105].
[3105]	Cut	Modern Rubbish Pit	-	Extremely similar to [3104] in both size and content. Presence of modern rubbish tips corroborated and attested to by resident of Yew Tree Farm (pers. Comm.).
(3106)	Deposit	Natural Hollow	-	Natural hollow filled by a mid-grey loose sandy silt with moderate inclusions of small-medium rounded stones and modern glass/bottles/CBM.

### Trench 32

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.33m

Maximum Depth: 0.40m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3201)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.19-0.28m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(3202)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions. Changes 7m from the southern end of the trench to a light green clay.

**Trench 33**

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.26m

Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3301)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.15-0.20m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly firm clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional charcoal and moderate small-large, rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(3302)	Deposit	Subsoil Deposit	0.00m-0.20m	Mid-yellowish-red firm sandy clay w/ occasional charcoal and small-large rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions. Not continuous across the length of the trench.
(3303)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-purplish red firm sandy clay w/ occasional small-large rounded and sub-rounded.
(3304)	Deposit	Natural Hollow	0.005m	Irregularly shaped small natural hollow filled with topsoil deposit (3301).
(3305)	Deposit	Possible Soakaway/Levelling Deposit	-	Spread of poorly sorted medium-large, rounded and sub-rounded stones pressed into the surface of the natural substrate. Similar in appearance to the features seen in Trenches 1 and 3 suggesting a similar function/origin.
(3306)	Fill	Fill of [3307]	0.53m	Mid-brownish grey, firm, silty clay w/ occasional charcoal and small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Modern material such as undecayed wood and CBM recovered from this deposit, suggesting a modern date. Formed by silting up?
[3307]	Cut	Modern Ditch	0.53m	Cut of a roughly E-W aligned modern ditch. Moderate top of slope, sheer, straight sides and a sharp break of slope. Base is a narrow U-shape. Possible boundary function?
(3308)	Deposit	Spread of Modern Material	-	Spread of modern material. Identical in composition/colour/inclusions to (3306). Likely an infilled natural hollow or similar.

### Trench 34

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West

Minimum Depth: 0.27m                      Maximum Depth: 0.66m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3401)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.18-0.39m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(3402)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional light green patches and mottling. No inclusions.

### Trench 35

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.40m                      Maximum Depth: 0.55m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3501)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(3502)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and moderate small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions.
(3503)	Deposit	Tree Bole	0.35m	Irregularly shaped feature filled by a black silty clay w/ moderate charcoal and frequent irregular stones. The fill of this feature extends beneath the surrounding natural, suggesting this is a burnt out tree bole.
[3504]	Cut	Geotechnical Test Pit	0.02m	Northeast-southwest orientated rectangular feature. Filled by a firm dark brown clay w/ frequent, medium, irregular stones. Appears to be the base of a geotechnical test pit (Nick Daffern, Pers. Comm.)
(3505)	Deposit	Tree Bole	0.17m	Irregularly shaped feature with an uneven base. Filled by a firm dark brown clay. Likely a tree bole or similar natural hollow.
(3506)	Deposit	Subsoil Deposit	-	Only present in the vicinity of (3505). Yellowish brown, loose, sandy clay w/ occasional irregular stones.

### Trench 36

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.37m

Maximum Depth: 0.55m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3601)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.21m	Mid-reddish-brown, fairly firm clayey silt topsoil w/ moderate charcoal and occasional small-large rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(3602)	Deposit	Subsoil Deposit	0.16-0.34m	Mid-yellowish red, firm, sandy clay w/ occasional charcoal and moderate small-large rounded/sub-rounded stones.
(3603)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	-	Mid-purplish red, firm, sandy clay w/ small-large rounded/sub-rounded stones. Occasional blueish white mottling.
(3604)	Deposit	Natural Hollow	0.06m	Small irregularly shaped natural hollow filled with topsoil deposit (3601). Located 5m from SW end of trench.
(3605)	Deposit	Tree bole	0.22m	Irregularly shaped feature filled by a mid-greyish brown, firm, silty clay w/ occasional small sub-rounded stones. Evidence for rooting radiating away from the feature and poss. Evidence for a tap root in the centre is highly suggestive of a tree bole.



### Trench 37

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.46m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3701)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.23-0.28m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no inclusions.
(3702)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w no inclusions. 10m spread of a compact light brown substrate at the northern end of the trench.

### Trench 38

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West  
 Minimum Depth: 0.44m                      Maximum Depth: 0.62m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3801)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.15-0.32m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no inclusions.
(3802)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions. Has some patches of light brown and light green mottling throughout the trench.

### Trench 39

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.44m

Maximum Depth: 0.73m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3901)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.33m	Mid-greyish-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small sub-rounded stone and root inclusions.
(3902)	Deposit	Subsoil Deposit	?	Light reddish brown, loose, clayey silt.
(3903)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	-	Mid-reddish brown, compact clay w/ light yellowish brown mottling and occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones.
[3904]	Cut	Land Drain	0.25m	Vertical sided feature containing a mid-yellowish brown fill. Fill contains frequent charcoal flecking and occasional rounded/sub-rounded stone inclusions
[3905]	Cut	Furrow	0.07m	N-S aligned furrow with shallow sloping sides
(3906)	Fill	Fill of [3905]	0.07m	Light brownish yellow fill w/ occasional small stones.
[3907]	Cut	Furrow	-	Identical to/parallel to [3905], located slightly northeast of it. Likely another plough furrow.

#### Trench 40

Length: 46m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: East-West

Minimum Depth: 0.35m                      Maximum Depth: 0.70m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4001)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no stone inclusions.
(4002)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and occasional small sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions.

#### Trench 41

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.38m                      Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4101)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.18-0.32m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no stone inclusions.
(4102)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Modern field drain located at the NE end of the trench.

## Trench 42

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.29m

Maximum Depth: 0.54m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4201)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.14-0.38m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(4202)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and moderate small-medium sub-rounded and irregular stone inclusions. 15m from the south end of the trench the natural changes to a light brown compact clay. 6m from the same edge is an E-W aligned field drain.
(4203)	Deposit	Hedgerow	-	East-west orientated hedgerow, similar in size and shape to (4603). Northern edge is gradual whereas the southern is sharp. Concave base. Filled by a loose dark brown clayey silt, similar to (4201), w/ occasional small stone inclusions.

### Trench 43

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northeast-Southwest  
 Minimum Depth: 0.39m                      Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4301)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.26m	Mid-brown, fairly loose silty clay topsoil w/ root inclusions
(4302)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-brownish red compact clay /w light brown mottling and moderate small-medium sub-rounded and rounded stone inclusions.
[4303]	Cut	Furrow	-	A series of furrows aligned N-S across the trench. All similar to a feature categorised in Trench 39 – [3905] – which was identified as a furrow. Filled by a light brownish yellow silt.

### Trench 44

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.28m                      Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4401)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.25-0.30m	Mid-reddish brown, fairly firm clayey silt topsoil w/ moderate charcoal flecking and moderate small-large rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(4402)	Deposit	Subsoil Deposit	0.00m-0.14m	A light brownish yellow friable sandy clay w/ occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions. Only survives in extremely plough-truncated remnants.
(4403)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	-	Mid-purplish red, firm, sandy clay w/ occasional small-large rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 45

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.28m                      Maximum Depth: 0.49m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4501)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.16-0.26m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no stone inclusions.
(4502)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w moderate small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
[4503]	Cut	Plough Furrow	0.02m	Base of a plough furrow visible in the trench. NE-SW aligned and filled with a loose light brown sandy clay w/ moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(4504)	Deposit	Natural Hollow	-	Natural hollow filled with a deposit extremely similar to that found within [4503].

### Trench 46

Length: 43m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South  
 Minimum Depth: 0.31m                      Maximum Depth: 0.61m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4601)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30-0.36m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no stone inclusions.
(4602)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Light brown, compact, clay w/ occasional, small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(4603)	Deposit	Hedgerow	0.30m	Very similar to (4203). East-West orientated hedgerow base, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by a dark brown, firm clay with stones in the base.

### Trench 47

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast  
 Minimum Depth: 0.40m                      Maximum Depth: 0.80m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4701)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.22-0.33m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional small rounded stone inclusions.
(4702)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Small animal burrows present in natural.

### Trench 48

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: Northwest-Southeast  
 Minimum Depth: 0.60m                      Maximum Depth: 0.90m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4801)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30m	Dark reddish brown, firm, silty clay w/ occasional, small, sub-rounded stones.
(4802)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-pinkish brown, compact clay w/ clusters of small-medium, sub-rounded stones near the southern end of the trench.
[4803]	Cut	Land Drain	0.05m	Vertical sided feature with ceramic land drain pipe still <i>in situ</i> . Fill of cut is formed of a mixed redeposited natural.
(4804)	Deposit	Topsoil Intrusion	<0.05m	Natural hollow? Filled by a dark reddish brown clay w/ inclusions of modern CBM, some bone and small amounts of charcoal.

### Trench 49

Length: 50m

Width: 1.80m

Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4901)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.30-0.35m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ occasional medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(4902)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(4903)	Deposit	Animal Burrow	-	Irregular shaped feature with an uneven base. Filled with a loose, dark brown clay w/ small root inclusions. Extends from the east facing section into the natural substrate.
[4904]	Cut	Plough Scar	0.09m	Possible Plough Scar. Sharply sloping sides and a V-shaped base are suggestive of this. Filled by a loose mid-brown clay w/rare charcoal flecking.
[4905]	Cut	Field Drain	0.09m	East-west orientated field drain. Filled by a light brown clay w/ frequent inclusions of ceramic drain pipe and occ. charcoal flecks.



### Trench 50

Length: 50m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.29m                      Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(5001)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.30m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no stone inclusions.
(5002)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and occasional small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### Trench 51

Length: 25m                      Width: 1.80m                      Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.35m                      Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(5101)	Deposit	Topsoil Deposit	0.20-0.29m	Mid-brown, fairly loose clayey silt topsoil w/ no stone inclusions.
(5102)	Deposit	Natural Substrate	N/A	Mid-reddish-pink compact clay /w light brown mottling and moderate small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions.
(5103)	Deposit	Tree Bole	0.10m	An irregularly shaped feature that extends beneath the south facing section of the trench. Filled by a dark brown silty clay w/ occasional sub-rounded stones and root inclusions.

## APPENDIX 2: PLATES



**Plate 1:** General view of Trench 39 showing furrows, facing southwest. Scale 2x1m.



**Plate 2:** Modern rubbish pits in Trench 31, facing south. Scale 2x1m



**Plate 3:** Southeast facing section of pit feature [503]. Scale 0.4m



**Plate 4:** General view of Trench 8 facing south. Scale 2x1m.



**Plate 5:** Northwest facing section of linear [803]. Scale 0.4m.

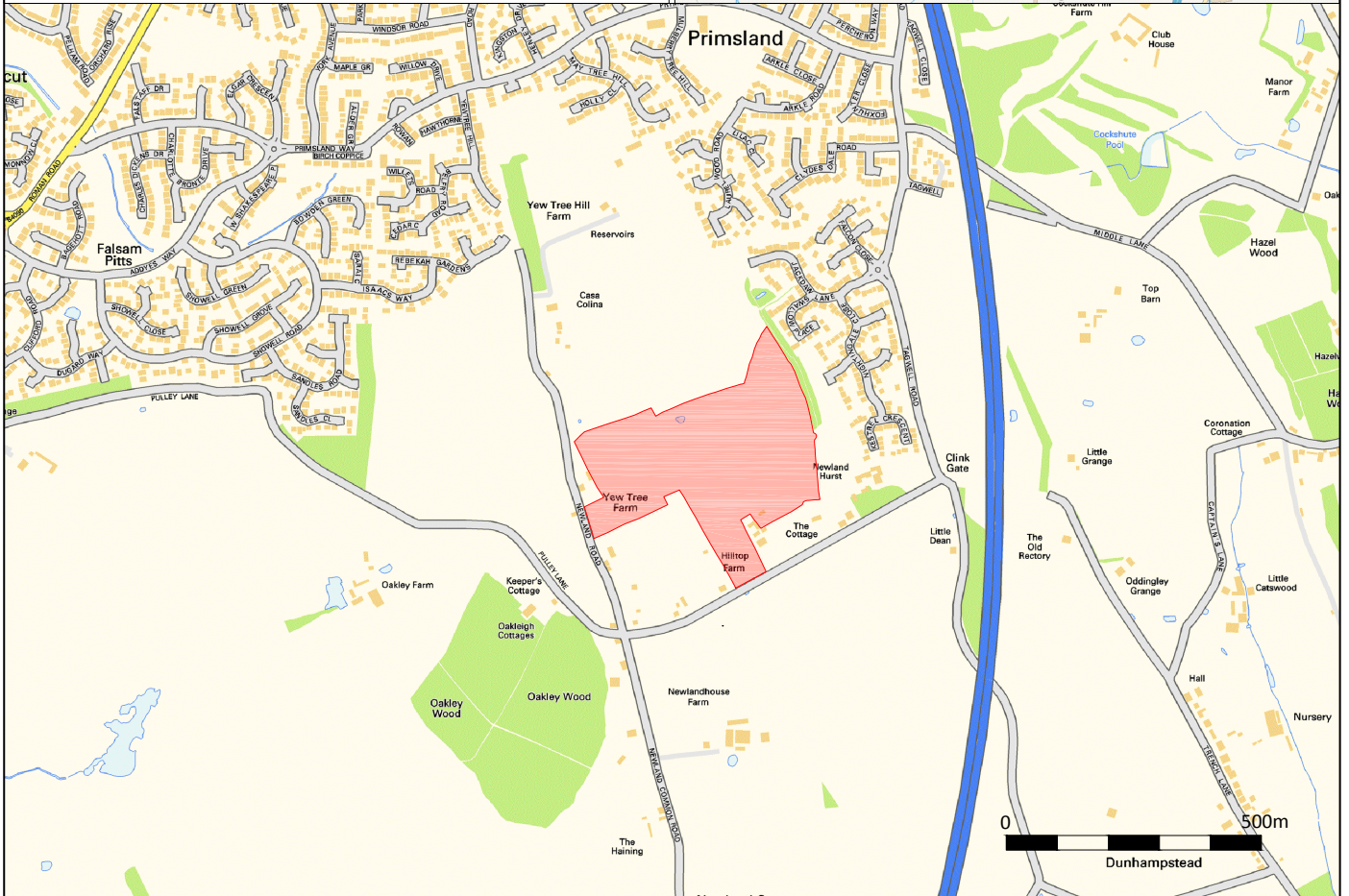
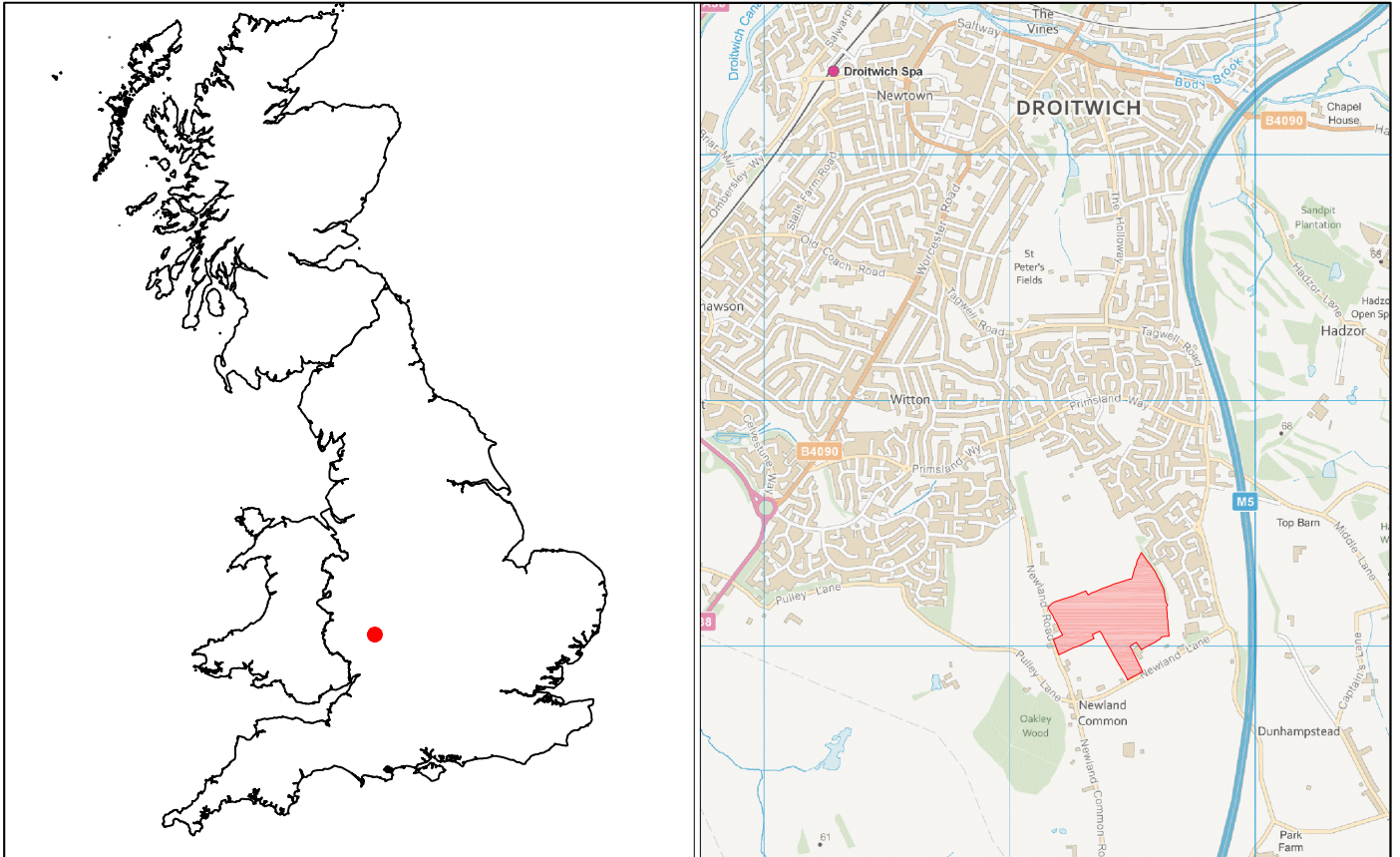
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**APPENDIX 3: FIGURES**



Wardell Armstrong  
Archaeology  
2015

PROJECT: Land at Yew Tree Fram, Droitwich, Worcestershire  
 DRAWN BY: JW  
 PROJECT No: CP11083  
 CLIENT: Persimmon Homes South Midlands  
 DATE: December 2015



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Figure 1: Site Location

PROJECT:

Yew Tree Farm,  
Droitwich, Worcestershire

CLIENT:







Persimmon Homes  
South Midlands

SCALE: 1:2,000 at A3

DRAWN BY: JW

DATE: December 2015

KEY:

-  Trench
-  Potential archaeology
-  Modern feature
-  Furrow
-  'Natural' feature
-  Site limit

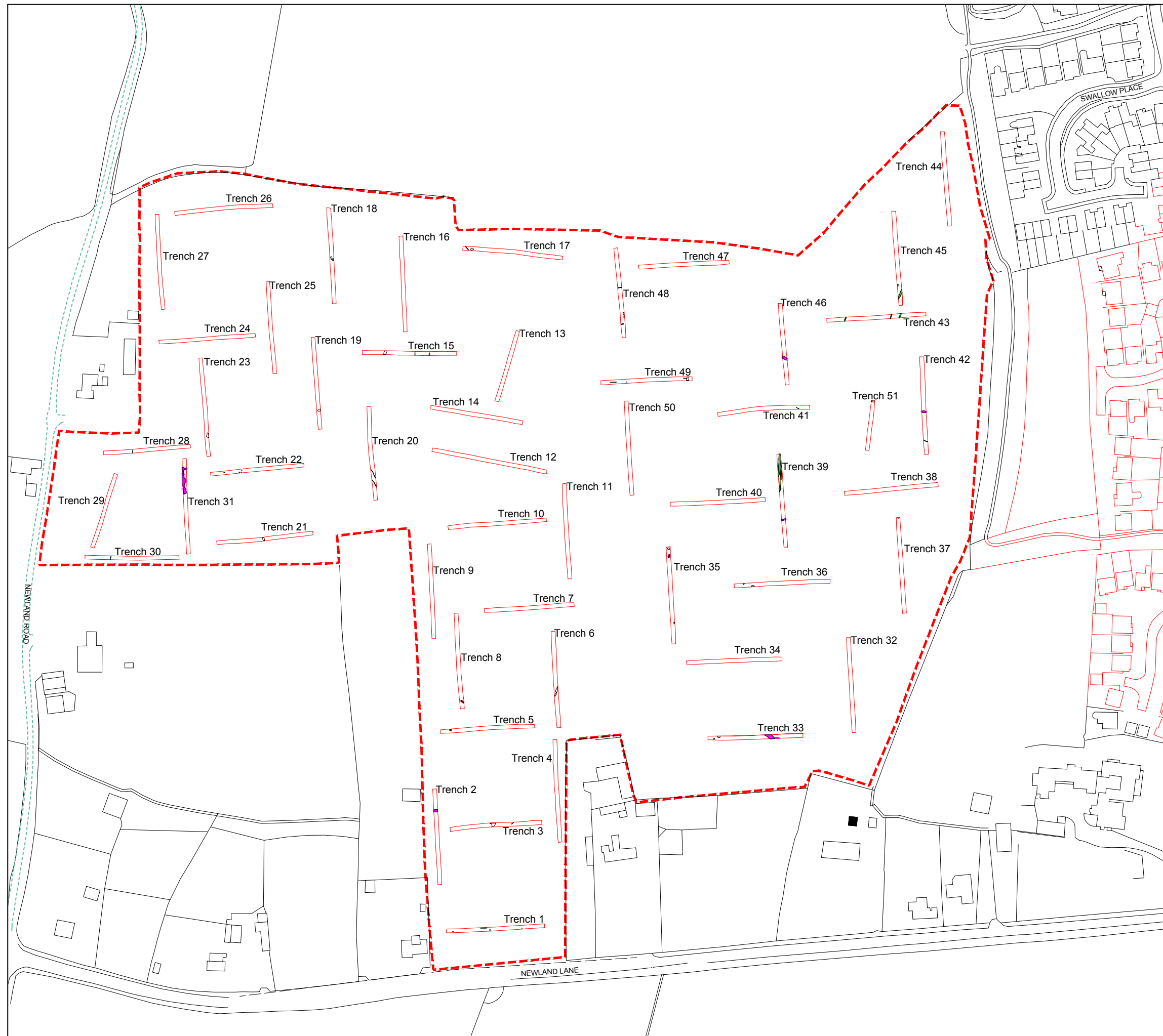


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REPORT No:

CP11083

FIGURE 2: Plan of excavated trenches showing all features



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