

TAYLOR WIMPEY WEST MIDLANDS

LAND NORTH OF PIXHAM FERRY LANE, KEMPSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

JULY 2017



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TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE

DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

SURVEY



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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service on behalf of Wardell Armstrong on land north of Pixham Ferry Lane, Kempsey, Worcestershire. The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Taylor Wimpey West Midlands who have applied to Malvern Hills District Council for planning consent to construct a new residential development.

Seventeen trenches were excavated across the site. A number of probable storage pits were identified, and a sample of them excavated. Whilst the pottery recovered from the features was of later Iron Age or Roman date, the proximity of a probable prehistoric enclosure some 200m to the west would suggest the former date.

The investigation also revealed several undated ditches. One of these is likely to relate to medieval or later land divisions; although predates at least the mid-19th century. The other ditches are likely to be older; possibly contemporary with the storage pits. An undated but probably early prehistoric possible hearth was also excavated. This lay in isolation from the other archaeological features identified.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (WAAS) was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong (WA) to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land north of Pixham Ferry Lane, Kempsey, Worcestershire (Site centred NGR: SO 8499 4836; Figure 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Taylor Wimpey West Midlands (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and impact upon it from the construction of up to 113 domestic dwellings with associated car parking, new estate roads and access, associated infrastructure and landscaping for which a planning application is being submitted to Malvern Hills District Council.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development was thought likely to affect below ground archaeological remains, should they be present and as a result the Local Planning Authority (LPA) 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, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2014a).
- 1.1.4 The project was prepared in consultation with Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council working on behalf of Malvern Hills District Council (Email: Dated 14th September 2016). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced (WAA 2016a) to provide a specific methodology based on the agreed works and this was approved by Adrian Scruby 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 by trial trenching 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 for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014c);
- Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Morphe), Historic England: London (HE 2015);
- Wardell Armstrong Archaeology: Excavation Manual, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, internal document, edition 1.2 (WAA 2012);
- Manual of service practice, recording manual, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, internal document (WAAS 2012);
- Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2012).



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Personnel

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation fieldwork was undertaken by WAAS on behalf of WA. The excavations were led by Peter Lovett (BSc hons.) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Nina O'Hare (BA hons.) and Morgan Murphy (BA hons.; MA). The project manager responsible for the internal quality of the work undertaken by WAAS was Tom Vaughan (BA hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc hons.; PG Cert; MCIfA). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report. C Jane Evans (BA, MA, MCIfA) contributed the finds report. Jonathan Webster (BA hons.), Project manager from WA led the project and undertook all negotiations and was also responsible for the quality of all work undertaken, he also proof read and edited this report before submission.

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA 2016b), which set out the known archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 1km from the development area.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

- 2.3.1 Fieldwork was undertaken between the 2nd and 8th May 2017. Seventeen trenches, amounting to just over 1,485m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 3.7ha, representing a sample of 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. A geophysical survey was carried out over the southern half of the site, the northern half being under crops at the time of the works and thus unable to be surveyed (WAA 2016c). No specific archaeological features could be discerned from the results of this work, so the trench locations were arrayed in a rough grid, to allow for as wide coverage as possible across the site. During the evaluation, several trenches had to be relocated due to overhead cables and the proximity to existing hedges. Trenches 1, 3, 11, and 14 were moved away from hedge lines; Trench 2 was moved slightly north to keep the site access clear; Trenches 8 and 9 were moved due to overhead cables and Trench 9 was shortened to 34m.
- 2.3.2 A second parcel of land was originally intended to be investigated, with a *c*.6m wide trench running roughly northwest to southeast in the field on the western side of Old



Road South. This was to enable the construction of a sewer pipe in advance of the housing development. It would have impacted upon a known enclosure site of probable prehistoric date (**WSM 02109**), but this stage of works remains pending. This stage of the project will now be conducted at a later date, and is not reported here.

2.3.3 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 observed;
- to establish the character of any potential features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- to recover artefactual materials from as many contexts as possible to allow for a refined chronological sequence of the site to be established;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material to gain an understanding on site preservations, potential and gain an understanding of formation processes;
- to provide the Local Planning Authority with a characterisation of the potential of the site so an informed decision can be made.

2.3.4 And specifically to:

- to investigate any anomalies noted and quality of data recovered during the previous archaeological geophysical survey (WAA 2016c).
- 2.3.5 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all possible features were inspected for their potential, selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and palaeoenvironmental samples. All features were excavated and recorded according to professional standards using the format set out in Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) excavation manual (WAA 2012) and WAAS standard practice (WAAS 2012).
- 2.3.6 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 and the dates used to help determine the broad date phasing for the site. On completion of the fieldwork, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (CIFA 2014c). Please note, the following categories of materials 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.
- 2.3.7 On completion of the investigations the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.4 The Archive

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the *Guidelines for the deposition of archaeological Digital Archives to Museums Worcestershire* and the *Guidelines for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives into the Worcestershire County Museums Collection* and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Worcester Museum, with copies of the report sent to Worcestershire County HER, available on request. The original archive can be accessed using the unique project identifier **WSM 68015**.
- 2.4.2 WA supports the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S** (**OASIS**) project. This project aims to provide an online 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 on the findings of this project will be made available by WA as part of this national project. The project can be accessed under the unique project identifier **Wardella2-263871**.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The study site is located to the south-west of the village of Kempsey. It is bordered on the north and east by a housing estate, on the south by Pixham Ferry Lane, and on the west by Old Road South. The ground is relatively flat, and lies at roughly *c*.17m AOD.
- 3.1.2 The geology of the site consists of superficial deposits of Worcester Member Sand and Gravel, overlying Sidmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2017).
- 3.1.3 The archaeological context has been previously discussed in detail in both the DBA (WAA 2016b) and the WSI (WAA 2016a). Of particular note are the two probable prehistoric enclosures known through both cropmarks and geophysical survey, which lie in the field immediately to the west. The first is a double-ditched enclosure (WSM 02109) c.42m west of the western edge of the present site. The second, simpler enclosure (WSM 02111) lies c.230m north-west of the western edge of the site.
- 3.1.4 Historic mapping has shown that the site had been agricultural land since at least 1840, when it was divided into four parcels of land. It remained with such divisions until 1970, when only the north-west division remained, with the rest of the land as one field, as it is today.
- 3.1.5 The site at the time of the investigations has been under crops, though is laid fallow currently, with the exception of the northwest parcel, which has a crop in it.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Structural analysis

- 4.1.1 The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 16.
- 4.1.3 Trenches 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 17 were blank.

4.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

- 4.2.1 The natural stratum consisted predominantly of a soft yellow orange sand, with occasional striations of a firm pink clay with pebbles. It was observed at an average of c.0.65m below ground surface, in a range of between 0.53m and 0.87m.
- 4.2.2 A subsoil of between 0.20m to 0.38m in depth lay across the site, consisting of a soft yellowish brown silty sand.

4.3 Phase 2: Iron Age deposits

- 4.3.1 Ten pits were identified in Trench 3, of which three were sampled by excavation (Plate 2). Pit **304** emerged from the western edge of the trench, with approximately half of the feature visible in plan (Figs 3-4; Plate 3). It was circular, with steep sides and a flat base, measuring 0.25m deep by 0.93m wide by 2.15m long. It contained three fills; a main fill **(303)** of a soft mid brown silty sand containing pottery sherds, and two slumping deposits around the edges, indicative of edge collapse **(307)** & **(308)**. There was no indication of specific function from the material within the fills.
- 4.3.2 Pit **306** was similarly half revealed from the section, and appeared circular in plan (if extrapolated) (Fig 3; Plates 4 and 5). It contained a single fill **(305)** of soft yellow brown silty sand and measured 0.44m deep by 1.24m wide by 2.84m long, containing Iron Age pottery, and some charcoal flecks. The sides were not as steep as that in pit **304**, being a concave edge. The southern side appeared to have suffered from erosion, creating an irregular edge.
- 4.3.3 The final pit excavated in this trench was **310**, a sub-circular feature measuring 0.28m deep by 1m wide by 1.56m long. It had steep sides and a flat base, with a fill of soft orange brown silty sand **(309)**, containing moderate fire-cracked stone.
- 4.3.4 The remaining unexcavated pits were all circular or sub-circular in plan, and ranged in size from 1.5m to 2.3m in diameter.



- 4.3.5 A large pit, **504**, with steep sides and a flat base was excavated in Trench 5, and whilst it did not contain any dateable material, was morphologically similar to those in Trench 3 and therefore likely to be contemporary (Figs 3-4; Plate 6). It measured 0.24m deep and had a diameter of 1.4m.
- 4.3.6 Two other pits were excavated in Trench 5 (Fig 3; Plate 8), differing to those discussed above in shape, being more elongated. Neither feature was fully revealed within the trench. Pit **506** measured 0.5m deep by 0.86m wide by 0.56m long, and was filled by a soft orange brown sand **(505)** (Plate 7). Feature **508** was probably a pit, though its elongated shape may suggest that it was a linear feature that terminated within the trench. It measured 0.3m by 0.74m wide by 1.3m long, and had moderate to steep sides with a sloping base.
- 4.3.7 A small circular pit in Trench 13, **1306**, had steep sides and was 0.25m deep by 0.75m wide by 0.9m long (Plate 9). No finds were recovered and it is dated by association to the other pits.
- 4.3.8 A possible gully terminus, **1304**, was aligned northwest to southeast, and measured 0.19m deep by 1.28m wide. It was filled by a sterile soft yellow brown silty sand **(1303)** (Plate 10).
- 4.3.9 Three pits of probable Iron Age date were identified in Trench 16, of which two were excavated (Fig 3). All were suggestive of being storage pits. Circular pit **1604** was 0.24m deep by 0.8m wide by 1.24m long, and was filled by a sterile soft reddish brown silty sand **(1603)** (Plate 11). Pit **1606** was oval in shape, and was filled similarly to pit **1604**. It measured 0.38m in depth, 0.58m wide and 1.5m long.

4.4 Phase 4: undated deposits

- 4.4.1 Five ditches were identified and excavated. Three of these, **320**, **510**, and **1206**, seemed to represent one ditch, east to west across the site. In the excavated section in Trench 5, it appeared to cut the subsoil, suggesting that it is medieval or post-medieval in date. However, it does not align to any of the known field boundaries from the historic mapping, though these are only known from 1840 onwards. Ditch **510** measured at least 0.2m in depth and 0.52m in width, filled by a mid orange brown silty sand **(509)**.
- 4.4.2 The two remaining ditches did not match up with any other linear features. **1208** ran roughly parallel to ditch **1206**. Ditch **604** ran northwest to southeast and measured 0.21m by 1.2m wide (Plate 13).



- 4.4.3 Two oval pits were excavated, one in Trench 8, and one in Trench 12. Pit **1204** (Plate 14) was 0.31m deep, 0.42m wide and 0.72m long, whilst pit **704** was 0.16m deep, 0.52m wide and 1.2m long. Both were filled with sterile sands and neither contained any material to suggest a date or function. A third pit **1308** excavated in Trench 13 was irregular in shape, and may have been the result of tree rooting.
- 4.4.4 A posthole (104; Plate 15) was excavated in Trench 1. It was small, at 0.16m deep,0.24m wide and 0.34m long, and had steep sides into a concave base. There were no finds, or evidence of a post pipe or packing, and it lay in isolation.
- 4.4.5 A shallow scoop feature was excavated in Trench 8. At first, due to some scorching seen at the top of the deposit, it was considered to be a potential hearth (804) (Plate 16). Upon excavation, little real form could be discerned, and it is likely to have been a shallow depression filled with subsoil, upon which some burning event had occurred. It measured just 0.08m deep, 0.6m wide and 1.4m long.

4.5 **Phase 5: modern deposits**

- 4.5.1 A thick topsoil of between 0.29m to 0.50m in depth lay across the site, consisting of reddish brown silty sand.
- 4.5.2 A deposit **605** containing articulated cattle bones was discovered in Trench 6, cutting through the subsoil (Plate 12). It is uncertain as to its date, but due to its good state of preservation and its position stratigraphically above the subsoil, it is suggested that it is relatively recent in date. Due to possible biological hazards inherent with such recent animal remains, it was not excavated.



5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1-3.

5.2 Quantification

5.2.1 Finds came from seven of the trenches excavated and from eleven contexts, mainly associated with the topsoil. Much of the pottery was fragmentary and abraded, which sometimes made precise identification difficult. Where finds could be dated they provided evidence for prehistoric, late Iron Age to Romano British, and post-medieval to modern activity (see Table 1).

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage.							
period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)		
Prehistoric	Stone	flint	flakes	2	2.2		
Iron Age/Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	60		
Romano-British	ceramic	earthenware	oven plate?	1	105		
Romano-British	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	3		
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	19		
post-medieval	ceramic	fired clay	clay pipe	1	9		
post-medieval/modern	Glass	pale green	droplet	1	4		
Modern	ceramic	earthenware	kiln furniture	1	5		
Modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	13		
Undated	Bone	animal bone	fragment	3	78		
Undated	ceramic	fired clay	brick/tile	1	17		
Undated	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	10	15		
undated	Stone	flint	fragment	1	17.4		



Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric.								
period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight(g)	average weight(g)			
Iron Age/Roman	3	Malvernian ware	2	60	30			
Romano-British	3.1?	Slab-built Malvernian ware?	1	105	105			
Romano-British	13	Sandy oxidized ware	1	3	3			
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	2	19	10			
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	13	13			
total			7	200	29			

5.3 Summary artefactual evidence by period

- 5.3.1 For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.
- 5.3.2 **Prehistoric:** The only evidence for definitively prehistoric activity came from the fill of a possible hearth in Trench 8 (**804**, fill **803**) which produced two burnt, struck flakes of flint. Neither was sufficiently diagnostic to provide closer dating (Rob Hedge pers comm). Another flint fragment was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14 (fill **1400**), but this was most likely plough-struck rather than worked.
- 5.3.3 **Iron Age/Romano-British**: A small quantity of Romano-British material was present. A thick sherd in a Malvernian fabric was found in a pit in Trench 3. This might be from the base of a large storage jar or might be a fragment of oven plate. If the former, this could date from the Middle Iron Age to early Romano-British periods. If oven plate, these are most common in late 3rd to 4th century deposits but are known from 2nd century contexts as well. The same pit produced two joining base sherds from a handmade Malvernian jar. This could not be closely dated either; it could be later Iron Age or early Romano-British. Given the presence of other Romano-British material from this area of the site, albeit it very small quantities, a Romano-British date is perhaps more likely. Another, abraded sherd of probable Romano-British pottery came from the topsoil in Trench 11 (fill **1100**).
- 5.3.4 **Post-medieval and modern**: The remaining finds were post-medieval, modern or undated. Single body sherds in brown glazed, post-medieval red ware were found in the topsoil of Trenches 5 and 13 (fills **500** and **1300** respectively). These date broadly



- to the 16th to 17th centuries. The only modern pottery was a sherd of stoneware found in the topsoil in Trench 8.
- 5.3.5 The topsoil in Trench 16 (fill **1600**) produced a complete clay pipe bowl, with a poorly impressed, heart-shaped stamp on the heel. The form dates broadly to the mid-17th century (Oswald 1975, fig 3, G.5). The only other finds of any significance were a kiln spacer, possibly from the Worcester porcelain works, found in the topsoil of Trench 8 (fill **800**) and a droplet of glass from the topsoil in Trench 11 (fill **1100**). Debris from the porcelain works, such as saggar and spacer fragments, was commonly dumped on fields around the city, perhaps to improve drainage. The glass droplet must have been associated with some heat process and was perhaps dumped in the same way.



Table	Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts.								
Context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	tpq date range	
304	ceramic	pot	2	60	Iron Age/ Roman			Iron Age/Roman	
305	ceramic	oven plate	1	105	Romano- British	late 3rd	4th	late 3rd-4th	
305	ceramic	fired clay	2	10	undated				
500	ceramic	pot	1	8	post-medieval	1500	1699	1500-1699	
503	ceramic	fired clay	7	2	undated			undated	
509	bone	animal bone	2	56	undated			medieval/ post-medieval	
509	ceramic	brick/tile	1	17	medieval/post -medieval				
800	ceramic	kiln furniture	1	5	modern	1750	2000	1800-2000	
800	ceramic	pot	1	13	modern	1800	1950		
803	stone	flint flakes	2	2.2	prehistoric			prehistoric	
1100	glass	glass droplet	1	4	post- medieval/ modern			post-medieval/ modern	
1100	ceramic	pot	1	3	Romano- British			Romano-British	
1300	bone	animal bone	1	22	undated			1500-1699	
1300	ceramic	pot	1	11	post-medieval	1500	1699		
1300	ceramic	fired clay	1	3	undated				
1400	stone	flint	1	17. 4	undated			undated	
1600	ceramic	clay pipe	1	9	post-medieval	1640	1660	1640-1660	

5.4 Conclusions and recommendations

5.4.1 The finds provide evidence for activity either on site or in the vicinity in the prehistoric,



late Iron Age and Romano-British, and post-medieval to modern periods.

5.4.2 No further analysis is required.

5.5 **Discard and retention**

5.5.1 Due to the known requirement for further works, it is not believed that any finds should be retained although the stamped clay pipe bowl may be worthy of recording the stamp by photography, though the agreement of the receiving museum is required for any course of action.



6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 4-6.
- 6.1.2 Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Table 4: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive.							
context sample charcoal charred plant uncharred artefacts							
				plant			
305	1	осс		abt*	occ burnt stone		
803	3	осс		abt*			
1205	2	осс	осс	abt*	occ coal, clinker, plaster, burnt stone		

- 6.1.3 Preservation of environmental remains was poor in all three samples, consisting of small, unidentifiable fragments of charcoal. A single unidentifiable charred cereal grain in an undated possible hearth fill (1205) [1206] was the only example of food or agricultural debris.
- 6.1.4 Little interpretation can be made of these remains, which suggest limited potential for recovery of environmental evidence in the form of animal bone, charred cereal crop waste or waterlogged organic remains, should further fieldwork be undertaken on this site.
- 6.1.5 Few samples for environmental remains have been taken as a result of fieldwork in the Kempsey area, and where samples have been taken, for example at Old Road South, Kempsey (Goad, Pearson and Darch 2003) few identifiable remains have been recovered.



Table 5: Plant remains from bulk samples.									
context	sample preservation type species detail				quantity/diversity				
305	1	?wa*	Fumaria sp, Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus,	misc	+++/low				
			Chenopodium album, Atriplex sp, Galium aparine						
305	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low				
803	3	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+++/low				
803	3	?wa*	Chenopodium album, Atriplex sp, Galium aparine	seed	+/low				
803	3	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low				
1205	2	ch	Cereal sp indet grain	grain	+/low				
1205	2	?wa*	Polygonum aviculare, Chenopodium album, Atriplex	seed	+/low				
			sp, Galium aparine, Sambucus nigra						
1205	2	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+++/low				
1205	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low				

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+
	* = probably modern and intrusive



7 SYNTHYSIS

- 7.1.1 The presence of a number of potential storage pits across the northern half of the site, in close proximity to a known enclosure of probable prehistoric date, suggests a likely contemporaneity. Recent work at Clifton Quarry c.1.5km to the south revealed a large Middle Iron Age landscape dedicated to grain processing and storage (Mann and Jackson forthcoming), including 678 postholes and 129 pits. Nearly half the pits were grouped into three distinct clusters. Such grouping could potentially be seen with the pits identified during these excavations. Certainly the northeastern corner of the study site had the greatest density. One solitary posthole was identified, though its location near the edge of the trench does offer the possibility that it does not exist in isolation.
- 7.1.2 The pottery recovered from the pits could not be tightly dated, and could reasonably be from the later Iron Age or Romano-British periods. If it was Romano-British, it would more likely be from the 3rd or 4th centuries. The ditches remain undated, though one at least is likely to be medieval or later. The remaining linear features could represent a field system contemporary with the pits.
- 7.1.3 The undated hearth was likely to be early prehistoric in date, given the presence of flint flakes, and if so, it remains in isolation in regards to the dates of the other archaeological features.
- 7.1.4 The ditches, though all undated, can be interpreted to some extent. The three excavated sections that align are considered likely to be a medieval or post-medieval field boundary, though one that predates the mid-19th century. The remaining features may be contemporary with the storage pits, and themselves represent an aspect of an earlier field system.



8 SIGNIFICANCE

8.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

8.1.1 The archaeological remains identified on the site were mainly dated to either the later Iron Age or late Romano-British periods, and consisted of probable storage pits. Alongside these were a number of undated ditches, some of which were probably medieval or later in date, although this is somewhat conjectural. A solitary posthole was also identified, but due to the restrictions inherent in trial trenching, it could be part of a larger structure that extends beyond the limits of the trench in which it was found.

8.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

8.2.1 The proximity of these features to a known enclosure of probable prehistoric date helps to illuminate a possible Iron Age landscape, within the wider context of the later prehistory of the area.

8.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

- 8.3.1 Whilst the pits are concentrated mainly in the northeast corner of the site, such features can be easily missed by evaluation trenching, and therefore may extend further south and west, even into areas that have otherwise shown, by trial trenching, to be blank.
- 8.3.2 The archaeological features were buried beneath at least 0.50m of top and sub soils, sometimes extending up to 0.85m of overburden. The pits themselves were relatively shallow, often no greater than 0.30m in depth cut into the natural.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth bgs	Deposit description
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.38m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty sand
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	mod compact mid orange brown silty sand
102	Layer	Natural	0.56m	firm mid pinky red sandy clay and pebbles
103	Fill	fill of posthole 104	0.16m	soft mid orange brown sand x 0.26m x 0.34m
104	Cut	posthole	0.16m	X 0.26m x 0.34m

Trench 2

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth bgs	Deposit description
200	Layer	Topsoil	0.37m	mod compact mid reddish thick brown silty sand
201	Layer	Subsoil	0.22m	mod compact mid orange brown silty sand
202	Layer	Natural	0.59m	soft mid brownish orange and mid pinky grey sand and clay with pebbles

Trench 3

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth bgs	Deposit description
300	Layer	topsoil	D: 0.48m	friable light brownish grey sandy silt
301	Layer	subsoil	D: 0.20m	moderately compact



				light greyish orange sandy silt
302	Layer	natural	0.68m	soft light pinky orange with red patches sand with patches of gravel
303	Fill	fill of pit [304]	D: 0.25m W: 0.93m+	soft mid brown slightly silty sand
204	Out			
304	Cut	cut of storage pit	D: 0.25m	
			W: 0.93m+ Depth: 0.44m	
305	Fill	Fill of large pit	width:1.24m length: 2.84m	loose /soft light yellowish brown silty sand
306	Cut	Cut of large pit see (305)		
307	Fill	Slumping against east side of pit [304]	D: 0.27m W:	soft mid brownish pink sand
308	Fill	Slumping against north side of pit [304]	D: 0.16m W:	soft mid brownish pink sand
309	Fill	fill of storage pit [310]	depth: 0.28m length: 1.56m width: 1m	soft/ loose mid orange brown silty sand
310	Cut	cut of storage pit	depth: 0.28m length: 1.56m width: Unknown	
311	Fill	fill of pit [312]		
312	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit		
313	Fill	fill of pit [314]		
314	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit		
315	Fill	fill of pit [316]		
316	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit		
317	Fill	fill of pit [318]		
318	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit		



319	Fill	fill of ditch [320]	
320	Cut	cut of unexcavated ditch	
321	Fill	fill of pit [322]	
322	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit	
323	Fill	fill of pit [324]	
324	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit	
325	Fill	fill of pit [326]	
326	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit	
327	Fill	fill of ditch [328]	
328	Cut	cut of an unexcavated ditch	
329	Fill	fill of pit [330]	
330	Cut	cut of unexcavated pit	

Length: 25m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth bgs	Deposit description
400	Layer	topsoil	0.42m depth	mod compact mod greyish brown clay sand
401	Layer	subsoil	0.39m depth	soft mod yellowish brown siltly sand
402	Layer	natural	Depth unknown total trench depth= 0.87m	loose dark pinkie brown sand\ grit

Trench 5

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
500	Layer	topsoil	D: 0.40m	Friable Mid brownish grey Silty



				sand
501	Layer	subsoil	D: 0.2-0.3m	Moderately compact Mid orangey brown
502	Layer	natural	0.7m	Soft Pale pinkish brown with occasional red mottles Sand with occasional gravel patches
503	Fill	fill of pit [504]	Diameter: 1.40m Depth:	Friable Mid brown Silty
504	Pit	cut of storage pit	Diameter: 1.40m Depth:	
505	fill of [506]		Depth c.0.5m Width: 0.86m Length: 0.56m	Friable Mid organgey brown Gravelly sand
506	Cut	cut of pit or terminus	Depth: c. 0.5m? Width: 0.86m Length:	
507	Fill	fill of [508]	Depth: c.0.30m? Width: 0.74m Length:	Moderately compact Mid greyish brown Silty sand
508	Cut	cut of pit or terminus	Depth: c.0.30m? Width: 0.74m Length:	
509	Ditch Fill	fill of ditch [510]	D: 0.20m+ W: 0.52m	Friable Mid orangey brown Silty sand
510	Ditch Cut	cut of ditch	D: 0.20m+ W: 0.52m	

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
600	Layer	topsoil	0.35m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty sand
601	Layer	subsoil	0.24m	mod compact mid yellow brown silty



				sand
602	Layer	natural	0.54m	soft mid orange red sand and gravels
603	Fill	fill of ditch 604	0.21m t x 1.2mw x 1.28m l	soft mid grey brown silty sand
604	Cut	nw-se ditch	0.21m t x 1.2m w x1.28m l	
605	Fill	fill of cow burial	0.4m x1.8m x3m	soft mid yellow brown silty sand
606	Cut	pit for cow burial	0.4m x 1.8m x 3m	

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

_og oo				
Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
700	Layer	topsoil	0.36m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty clay
701	Layer	subsoil	0.32m	mod compact mid yellow brown silty sand
702	Layer	natural	0.65m	soft mid reddish yellow sand with red clay swathes
703	Fill	fill of pit 704	0.16m x 0.52m x 1.2m	soft mid reddish brown silty sand
704	Cut	pit cut	0.16m x 0.52m x 1.2m	

Trench 8

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northeast to southwest

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
800	Layer	topsoil	0.32m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty sand
801	Layer	subsoil	0.38m	mod compact mid yellow brown silty



				sand
802	Layer	natural	0.69m	firm mid reddish pink sandy clay with gravels
803	Fill	fill of possible hearth 804	0.08m x 0.6m x 1.4m	firm mid yellow brown silty sand
804	Cut	possible hearth cut	0.08m x 0.6m x 1.4m	

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
900	Layer	topsoil	Depth: 0.46m	moderately compact mid brownish grey sandy silt
901	Layer	subsoil	Depth: 0.24m	compact mid greyish yellow sandy silt
902	Layer	natural	0.7m bgs	soft light pinky orange with mid red patches sand with gravel patches

Trench 10

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1000	Layer	topsoil	Depth: 0.44m	friable mid brownish grey sandy silt
1001	Layer	subsoil	Depth: 0.18m	moderately compact mid greyish yellow sandy silt
1002	Layer	natural	0.62m bgs	soft light pinkish orange with red patches sand with gravel patches



Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1100	Layer	topsoil	depth: 0.29m	compact mid yellowish brown sandy silt
1101	Layer	subsoil	depth: 0.24	mod compact light yellowish brown silty sand
1102	Layer	natural	0.53m bgs	soft mid pinkie orange silty sand

Trench 12

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1200	Layer	topsoil	depth:0.39m	mod compact dark yellowish brown sandy silt
1201	Layer	subsoil	depth: 0.33m	compact light yellowish brown silty sand
1202	Layer	natural	0.72m bgs	soft Mid orange yellow sand
1203	Fill	fill of pit [1204]	depth: 0.31m width: 0.42m length: 0.72m	soft mid pinkie brown sand
1204	Cut	cut of small pit see (1203)		
1205	Layer	fill of linear ditch [1206]	depth: 0.16m width: 0.69 length: 1.80m	soft mid greyish brown sandy silt
1206	Cut	cut of linear ditch see (1205)		
1207	Fill	fill of linear ditch	length: 1.80	mod compact mid yellowish brown silty sand



1208	Cut	cut of linear ditch	length: 1.80 width:	
			0.98m	

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1300	Layer	topsoil	0.39m	mod compact mid yellowish brown sandy silt
1301	Layer	subsoil	0.35m	soft light yellowish brown silty sand
1302	Layer	natural	0.74m bgs	loose dark pinkie brown silty sand
1303	Fill	fill of gully/pit	depth: 0.19m width: 1.28m length: 0.66m	compact mid yellowish brown silty sand
1304	Cut	cut of pit or gully	same as1303	full extent unknown figures represent extant in trench
1305	Fill	fill of pit	depth: 0.25m width: 0.75m length: 0.90m	soft mid organic brown silty sand
1306	Cut	cut of pit	same as1305	
1307	Fill	fill of tree bowl?	depth: 0.24m length: 2.68m width: 0.74m	soft mid yellowish brown silty sand
1308	Cut	cut of tree bowl or circular gully	see1307	

Trench 14

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: Northeast to southwest

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1400	Layer	topsoil	depth: 0.32m	compact mid greyish brown sandy silt
1401	Layer	subsoil	0.33m	compact mid



				yellowish b sandy silt	orown
1402	Layer	natural	0.65m bgs	soft/loose pinkie brown sand	dark silty

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1500	Layer	topsoil	0.33m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty sand
1501	Layer	subsoil	0.2m	mod compact mid yellow brown silty sand
1502	Layer	natural	0.53m bgs	soft mid orange red sands and gravels with pinky clay bands

Trench 16

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1600	Layer	topsoil	0.39m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty sand
1601	Layer	subsoil	0.3m	mod compact mid yellow brown silty sand
1602	Layer	natural	0.69m bgs	soft mid orange yellow sand with pinky clay bands
1603	Fill	fill of pit 1604	0.24m x 0.8m x1.24m	soft mid reddish brown silty sand
1604	Cut	oval pit	0.24m x 0.8m x1.24m	
1605	Fill	fill of pit 1606	0.38m d x0.58m w x 1.5m l	soft mid reddish brown silty sand



1606	Cut	circular pit	0.38m d x 0.58m w x 1.5m l	
1607	Fill	fill of pit 1608	2m w x 0.6m l	soft mid reddish brown silty sand
1608	Cut	unexcavated circular pit	2m w x 0.6m l	

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context	Feature type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1700	Layer	topsoil	0.47m	mod compact mid reddish brown silty sand
1701	Layer	subsoil	0.24m	mod compact mid yellowish brown silty sand
1702	Layer	natural	0.7m bgs	soft mid orange yellow sand with pinky clay bands



APPENDIX 2: IMAGES



Plate 1 General view of site, looking south-west





Plate 2 Trench 3, looking south (1m scales)



Plate 3 Pit 304, looking west (1m scales)





Plate 4 Pit 306, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 5 Pit 306, looking east (1m scales)





Plate 6 Pit 504, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 7 Pit 506, looking west (1m scale)





Plate 8 Trench 5, looking south (1m scales)



Plate 9 Pit 1306, looking west (0.5m scale)





Plate 10 Gully 1304, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Plate 11 Pit 1604, looking north-west (0.5m scale)





Plate 12 Cattle bone in pit in Trench 6, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 13 Ditch 604, looking north (1m scale)





Plate 14 Pit 1204 (fully excavated), looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Plate 15 Posthole 104, looking west (0.5m scale)



Plate 16 Possible hearth, looking south (0.5m scale)



APPENDIX 3: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The archive (site code: WSM 68105)

The archive consists of:

1

2	Field progress reports AS2	
121	Digital photographs	
7	Scale drawings	
1	Box of finds	
1	CD-Rom/DVDs	

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

Museums Worcestershire

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416



APPENDIX 4: SUMMARY DATA FOR WORCESTERSHIRE HER

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage.								
period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)			
prehistoric	stone	flint	flakes	2	2.2			
Iron Age/Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	60			
Romano-British	ceramic	earthenware	oven plate?	1	105			
Romano-British	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	3			
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	19			
post-medieval	ceramic	fired clay	clay pipe	1	9			
post-medieval/modern	glass	pale green	droplet	1	4			
Modern	ceramic	earthenware	kiln furniture	1	5			
Modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	13			
Undated	bone	animal bone	fragment	3	78			
Undated	ceramic	fired clay	brick/tile	1	17			
Undated	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	10	15			
Undated	stone	flint	fragment	1	17.4			

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric.							
period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight(g)	average weight(g)		
Iron Age/Roman	3	Malvernian ware	2	60	30		
Romano-British	3.1?	Slab-built Malvernian ware?	1	105	105		
Romano-British	13	Sandy oxidized ware	1	3	3		
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	2	19	10		
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	13	13		



total	7	200	29	

Table	Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts.								
Context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	tpq date range	
304	ceramic	pot	2	60	Iron Age/ Roman			Iron Age/Roman	
305	ceramic	oven plate	1	105	Romano- British	late 3rd	4th	late 3rd-4th	
305	ceramic	fired clay	2	10	undated				
500	ceramic	pot	1	8	post-medieval	1500	1699	1500-1699	
503	ceramic	fired clay	7	2	undated			undated	
509	bone	animal bone	2	56	undated			medieval/ post-medieval	
509	ceramic	brick/tile	1	17	medieval/post -medieval				
800	ceramic	kiln furniture	1	5	modern	1750	2000	1800-2000	
800	ceramic	pot	1	13	modern	1800	1950		
803	stone	flint flakes	2	2.2	prehistoric			prehistoric	
1100	glass	glass droplet	1	4	post- medieval/ modern			post-medieval/ modern	
1100	ceramic	pot	1	3	Romano- British			Roman	
1300	bone	animal bone	1	22	undated			1500-1699	
1300	ceramic	pot	1	11	post-medieval	1500	1699		
1300	ceramic	fired clay	1	3	undated				
1400	stone	flint	1	17. 4	undated			undated	
1600	ceramic	clay pipe	1	9	post-medieval	1640	1660	1640-1660	



Table 4: L	Table 4: List of bulk samples.								
context	sample	feature type	fill of	period	sample	volume	residue	flot	
					volume	processed	assessed	assessed	
					(L)	(L)			
305	1	pit	306	Iron Age	10	10	Yes	Yes	
1205	2	linear	1206	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes	
803	3	hearth	804	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes	

Table 5: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive.						
context	sample	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred	artefacts	
				plant		
305	1	осс		abt*	occ burnt stone	
803	3	осс		abt*		
1205	2	осс	осс	abt*	occ coal, clinker, plaster, burnt stone	

Table 6:	Table 6: Plant remains from bulk samples.							
context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity			
305	1	?wa*	Fumaria sp, Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus,	misc	+++/low			
			Chenopodium album, Atriplex sp, Galium aparine					
305	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low			
803	3	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+++/low			
803	3	?wa*	Chenopodium album, Atriplex sp, Galium aparine	seed	+/low			
803	3	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low			
1205	2	ch	Cereal sp indet grain	grain	+/low			
1205	2	?wa*	Polygonum aviculare, Chenopodium album, Atriplex	seed	+/low			
			sp, Galium aparine, Sambucus nigra					
1205	2	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+++/low			
1205	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low			



Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+
	* = probably modern and intrusive

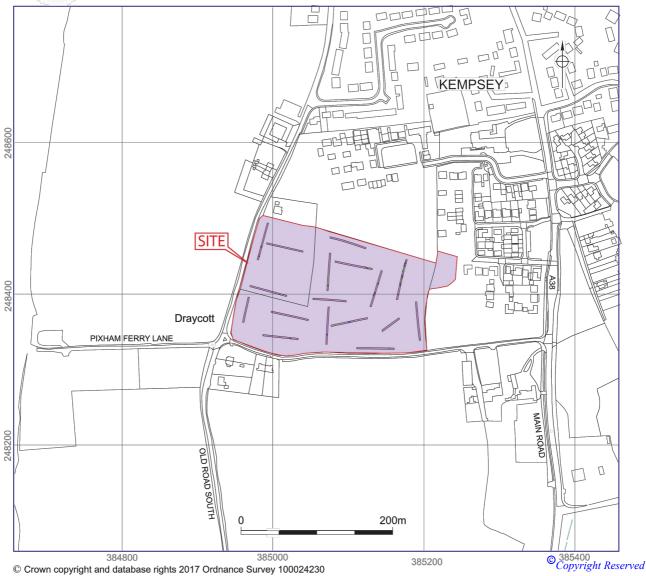


APPENDIX 5: FIGURES

DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING







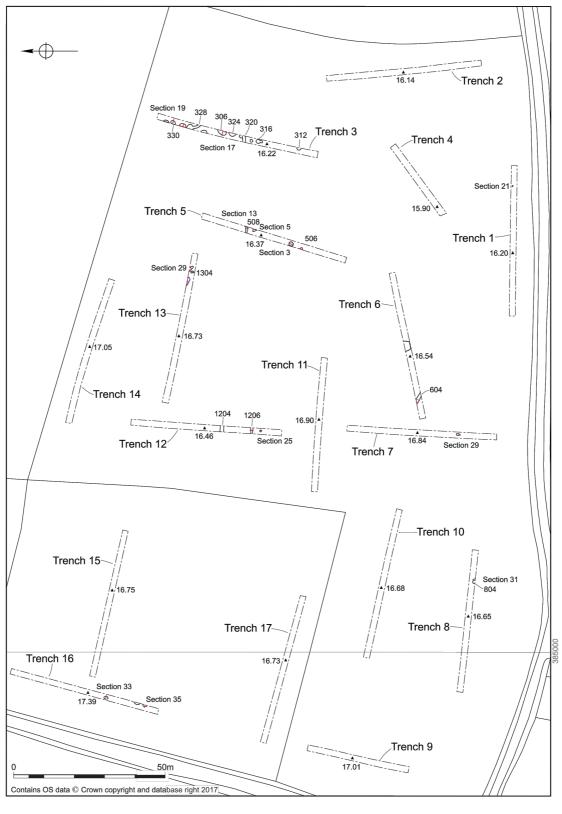
CLIENT REV BM11241-006 001 Taylor Wimpey West Midlands. DATE SIZE A4 1: 5,000 19/06/2017 PROJECT Land north of Pixham Ferry Lane, Kempsey, Worcestershire. DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY СН JW ND

Figure 1: Site Location.

DRAWING TITLE



your earth our world



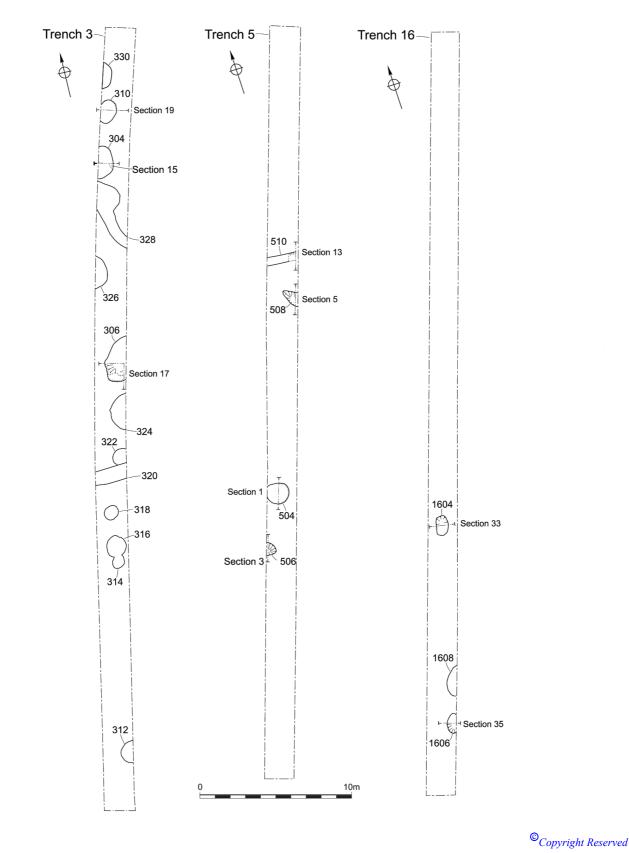
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Taylor Wimpey West Midlands.		BM11241-007	BM11241-007		
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Worcestershire.		CH	JW	ND	
DRAWING TITLE				·	

Figure 2: Trench locations and features.



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CLIENT REV BM11241-008 001 Taylor Wimpey West Midlands. SIZE SCALE DATE 1: 250 19/06/2017 A4 PROJECT Land north of Pixham Ferry Lane, Kempsey, Worcestershire. DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY JW СН ND

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 3: Trenches 3, 5 and 16; plans.



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DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING SECTION 1: PIT 504 S 503 504 SECTION 13: DITCH 510 Ν 500 bone pot 509 502 502 rooting/leaching 510 **SECTION 15: STORAGE PIT 304** 0 300 301 Ε S W 16.38m AOD 🦟 303 303 307 slumping 308 slumping 304 **SECTION 19: STORAGE PIT 310** Ε W √ 16.46m AOD 309 310 1m 1:20 ©Copyright Reserved CLIENT REV BM11241-009 001 Taylor Wimpey West Midlands. SIZE DATE SCALE A4 1: 20 19/06/2017 PROJECT Land north of Pixham Ferry Lane, DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY Kempsey, Worcestershire. СН JW ND DRAWING TITLE your earth our world Figure 4: Sections 1, 13, 15 and 19.

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