

A Report for Mrs J.Turner and Mrs Lalor

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Project: PJ 161

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1. Project Background

1.1. Site Location

Horsham cannot be described as a village, consisting only of a scatter of farms and cottages. It is rather a hamlet, lying amidst the hills of the Teme Valley on the western edge of Worcestershire, near the county boundary with Herefordshire, which is marked by the course of the River Teme. Horsham is reached via an unadopted dead-end lane off the B4197, which runs from Martley in the north to Knightwick further to the south (Figure 1).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on two separate sites, at the former site of Horsham Court, which survives only as low walls protruding from vegetation and Horsham Old Court, which remains as a semi-derelict standing building. Horsham Court is located adjacent to the unadopted lane to the rear of a 19th century stable block and The Old Court is reached via a track across fields at the end of the lane, which runs past Horsham Farm.

1.2. Project Details

A planning application has been made to Malvern Hills District Council by Mrs J. Turner and Mrs Lalor, via their agent Nick Joyce Architects of Barbourne, Worcester, to dismantle the remains of Horsham Old Court and to rebuild with additions on the former site of Horsham Court, less than a kilometre away (reference MH/04/2013).

The planning process determined that the proposed development might affect an archaeological site listed on the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record as 'a site of archaeological interest' (WSM 32588). As a result, the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, placed an 'archaeological evaluation' planning condition on the application, for which a brief of work was written (WHEAS 2005).

1.3. Reasons for the Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation was suggested as the appropriate response to the threat posed to the archaeological site by any proposed development.

An archaeological evaluation is defined as:

'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 on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present, fieldwork should determine their character, extent, quality, preservation and their worth at a local, national or international level as appropriate' (IFA 2001).

The archaeological work was proposed so that informed decisions could be made regarding the planning application based on the results of the evaluation, the present knowledge regarding the site and the damage to the archaeological integrity of the site that may be caused by any development or any ground disturbance.

2. Methods and Process

2.1. Project Specification

followed.

□ The archaeological project conforms to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2001). The project conforms to a brief prepared by The Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS 2006), for which a project proposal and detailed specification was produced (Mercian Archaeology 2006). ☐ Mercian Archaeology adhere to the service practice and health and safety policy as contained within the Mercian Archaeology Service Manual (Williams 2003) ☐ The record archive will be offered to the appropriate museum after discussion with the client and / or archaeological curator. The Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1997) will be adhered to. ☐ The Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, Institute of Field Archaeologists (1997) will also be followed Guidelines for Finds Work, Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) will be followed. The documentary research will follow the guidelines contained within the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (2001) ☐ Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections, Museum and Galleries Commission (1992) will be

□ Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations: Recommendation Regarding the Environmental Archaeology Component of Archaeological Evaluations in England, Association for

□ Conservation Guidelines No 2, United Kingdom Institute of Conservation.

☐ Management of Archaeological Projects 2, English Heritage 1991

Environmental Archaeology Working Paper Number 2 (1995)

2.2. Aims of the Project

The evaluation aimed to:

- Use the results of the archaeological work to produce a report highlighting: -
 - 1. The survival, location, condition, nature and date of any archaeological deposits.
 - 2. Make an analysis and interpretation of all identified natural and cultural deposits
 - 3. Make a brief record of the earthworks on the western side of the Old Court and to comment upon them.
- □ Based on the above, establish the significance, survival, condition and period of the archaeological remains and place them within context at local, regional or national level where relevant.

3. The Background

3.1. A Brief Archaeological Overview

Abbreviations in this section: -

WRO ~ Worcester Records Office

WHC ~ Worcester History Centre

VCH ~ *Victoria County History*

WSMR ~ Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record

WSM ~ Sites and Monuments Record number

Horsham was historically contained within the manor of Martley in the hundred of Doddingtree; Martley is now a Worcestershire county parish. A rental of 1465 indicates that Horsham is shrunken from that time when there were 12 holdings and a fishery at Godyes. There were two fields listed for Horsham, Old Field and Northam Meadow (transcription of WRO BA2566 705:153 in the WSMR parish box for Martley). Landscape historian Trevor Rowley lists Horsham as the site of a deserted medieval settlement, although the exact location of his proposed site is unclear (WSM 11244). The Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record lists Horsham Old Court as 'standing within a moated enclosure, which survives as a substantial earthwork to the west and south' (WSM 32588), this is further discussed below.

At Domesday, the lands of Martley extended to 13 hides with a further 5 hides at Suckley. It paid taxes in Worcestershire but its rents were due in Hereford. For a fuller commentary of the manorial history see VCH Volume IV.

The underlying geology of the area is Mercian mudstone with localised Bromsgrove and Helsby sandstone (British Geological Survey 1:250,000, 1990) with soils of the Eardiston Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1:50,000, sheet 150) over Keuper marl. The land is ideally suited to growing root crops, barley, wheat, beans and peas, with apples and pears grown for cider and perry and hops grown for use in beer production (VCH IV). There is a surviving pair of hop kilns at Lower Hilltop Farm (WSM 09583).

Documentary research regarding Horsham was problematic, not least, as there is a lack of indexed material, but also as there are contradictions in the names of buildings being referred to. In fact the building name 'Horsham Court' was only encountered once, being included in a reference to the marriage of John Physick to Louisa Smith, daughter of Nathaniel Smith esq of Horsham Court in April 1863. The marriage was at Rookwood in New Zealand .

(http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/Marriages.htm).

It is suggested that the Nash family lived at Horsham Court before they moved to the Noak in Martley in the 17th century (Barnard 1995, 129). However, an alternative source suggests that James Nash bought The Noak at Martley in 1660, before which, he was incumbent at Pudford Farm (www.martley.org.uk/people/nashclose.htm). It is clear that the Nash family owned estate in Martley, including Horsham, where they collected rents from 16 tenants in 1721 (WRO BA6382/6, 705:778), but it seems likely that the principal landowner was Thomas Foley who is recorded as purchasing Martley estate in 1670 and later selling it to the Ward family, whilst retaining the Witley Court estate (Martley Parish Pack, Worcestershire Libraries).

In 1730 Horsham manor was in the possession of Catherine Ward of Hallow. It is recorded that it was removed from her by her uncle Richard Ward as she was said to be a 'lunatic' (Cropp 2000).

The starting point for the background research was the Tithe Apportionment (see Cartography section below). This shows that in 1843 William Rogers owned and occupied Horsham Court, although it is not referred to as such. The Old Court, again not named as such, was owned by Lord William Ward and occupied by Ann Lench

The 1841 census shows that Ann Lench lived at 'Lower Horsham', which presumably is The Old Court, with agricultural labourers 'John Severn. And John Morris, indicating the property was by now of lower status than when first built. The occupancy of Horsham Court is unsure. Nathaniel Smith (referred to above) resided at Hill Top Farm with his father Nathaniel aged 63, and his sisters, Ann, Hannah, Mary, Fanny and servant Elizabeth Williams.

Earlier evidence came from Land Tax assessments, although again the results were poor. The assessments for 1781 and 1787 were of no use, as they contained no reference to Horsham (WRO BA 823/1, 152 and BA 823/4, 152). The 1831 assessment lists Nathaniel Smith at Horsham, most likely at Hill Top Farm. There is a listing for Court House Farm, owned by Lord Foley and occupied by ?Arnott Rogers. In view of the Rogers' occupying Horsham Court in 1843, it seems likely that Court House Farm is Horsham Court (WRO BA 823/35(ii), 152).

The 1817-18 assessment indicates that Nathaniel Smith occupied a house at Horsham owned by Thomas Smith, possibly his father. There is an Ann Rogers listed as a property owner, but this was occupied by William Davis (WRO BA 1636/5, 152).

Moving forward from the 1843 starting point of the Tithe Apportionment, the census returns were the best source of information. The 1851 census makes a distinction between Hill Top Farm, occupied by Ann Clevers and Hill Top occupied by Nathaniel Smith. There is no reference to Old Court, but one Edward Lench is listed at Horsham, living with his wife Mary, Susannah and Harriet his daughters and his mother Ann. It seems likely that this was at the Old Court.

It is clear from Nathaniel Smiths' estate papers that he owned much estate around Horsham until he sold it at auction in 1857. The auction details shows much of the land around Horsham Court was owned by T.T.Roberts, with Lord Ward owning much of the remainder around Hilltop estate and William Rogers owned meadows in the valley towards the River Teme (WRO BA 4600/17/iv, 705:550).

The next census of 1861 confuses issues a little and it can only be determined that The Smith family were living at Horsham at this time. A William Rogers is listed as farming 515 acres, but the listing is for Berrow Farm and so it is possible that Nathaniel Smith had taken possession of Horsham Court from the Rogers family sometime between 1851 and 1861. The occupancy of the Old Court cannot be determined.

Nathaniel Smith died in 1868 and his will indicates that he was living at Knightwick and his son Nathaniel junior was incumbent at Horsham Court (WRO BA 4600/17/iv, 705:550).

The 1871 census lists Nathaniel Smith at Horsham House with his wife Emily Julia and their daughters Emily Julia and Lydia Maude, who were both born in Canada. Also listed for Horsham are Richard Amphlett Moule at Hill Top Farm, Thomas Rogers at Horsham Cottage and Mary Davis at The Old House, which is likely to be Old House Farm and not The Old Court.

The 1881 census indicates that Nathaniel Smith junior had probably died, as Emily Julia Smith was living at Horsham House with her two daughters Lydia Maud Rose and Fanny Elizabeth. The household had 3 servants. There is no indication of the occupancy of the Old Court. In 1891 Emily Smith was still the head of house at Horsham Court. Emily and her daughters were now joined by third daughter Emilie Rogers. One servant and a baliff are also listed.

In 1901 Fanny Elizabeth Smith is listed on the census as head of house and lived with Lydia Maud, her sister, John Ward her brother and 2 servants.

It appears that by 1918 The Old Court had been split into two cottages and both The Old Court and Horsham Court were in possession of the Earl of Dudley (Cropp 2000, 2). Both properties were sold at auction in 1918 as part of the Martley Estate. The auction brochure describes The Old Court (Lot 15, number 1116) as 'a pair of half-timbered black and white cottages with a well of water' and was now part of the holdings of Horsham Farm. The English Heritage Listed Buildings detail suggests that the property may have been split as early as the early 19th century. Horsham Court, referred to as Lower Hilltop Farm (Lot 14, number 1004) is described in some detail:

The house contains entrance hall with porch, lofty drawing room (16' 4" x 16' 4"), dining room (15' 3" x 14' 6"), breakfast room, back hall and passage, kitchen, dairy, pantry, back kitchen with furnace, sink and pump of soft water, well lighted landing, store closet, five bedrooms, servants bedroom and two cellars. Outside there is a courtyard with pump and well and front and back kitchen gardens.

The farm buildings are described in similar detail: -

Two hop kilns and hop room now used as a granary, cider mill, two-stall nag house, coach house, two pig-sty's, open shed, enclosed cow shed for four cows, calves pen, cart stable for four horses, gear room, mixing room with loft over, double bay barn with central driving bay, three bay carthouse and a wood shed in the orchard. (WRO BA10358, b989.9:970).

Horsham Court was lived in until the 1970's when it was demolished. A photograph of the newer 19th century part taken in the 1960's shows the scale of the house. The copyright to use the photograph in the report could not be acquired before printing and so a sketch has been used (Plate 1).

The listing detail for Horsham Court (pre-demolition) describe it as a 17th century brick house with two-stories and an attic and basement. There are six mullion and transom windows built in wood. Internally there are Queen Anne cupboards, doors and shutters and a 17th century oak staircase and balusters, there is timber framing to the oldest part to the rear.

There are references to the Old Court being the location of the court held by travelling assizes on the Midlands or Oxford circuit. The suggestion is that prisoners were held in cells on the lower floor and they were tried by travelling judges in the courtroom above at the Quarter Sessions (Barnard 1995, 130). The source for this is unclear, but may be a newspaper cutting attached to a photograph of the building, which states that 'magistrates courts were held at the Old Court until the Hundred House Court was established at Great Witley'. The newspaper clip appears to date from the time of the photograph in 1954 and it records that ' the cells are substantially the same and much remains of the courtroom, although the benches are removed' (WHC Acc No. 6338, class 681.072). The photograph also shows an attached structure with an ornate brick pier on the southern side of the building. This does not appear on any maps and its function is unknown. The present Hundred House at Great Witley is a replacement for an earlier one, which was a private residence. The replacement was built by Lord Foley in the late 18th century (www.rowberry.org/hhhist.html), suggesting that if the court theory is correct, Horsham Old Court was only used as such until around 1800.

3.2. The Cartography

In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed by Parliament, resulting in an extensive survey of land across England in order to produce a series of Tithe Apportionment Maps that relayed information about land ownership and use, aimed at converting the commutation of tithe in kind to land taxation (Hoskins 1972, 37). The Tithe Apportionment map of Martley, of which Horsham was a manor, was produced in 1843.

The map shows The Old Court in much the same plan form as today, although there is a small-attached extension projecting to the east, on the northern side. There is also a building shown on the western side between the plot boundary and the upstanding building. Ponds are shown on the outside of the plot boundary, to the south and west, also in similar form as today (the area depicted is the area covered by water, which may be seasonal). It is noticeable that there are many ponds across the area around Horsham.

The same map shows Horsham Court to be a substantial complex of buildings with enclosed areas, possibly gardens and surrounding fields.

The Tithe Apportionment shows that Old Court was owned by Lord William Ward and leased to Ann Lench, with surrounding fields. Horsham Court was in the ownership of William Rogers, who also occupied the buildings described as 'farmhouse, yards and buildings'.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 shows Horsham Court in similar configuration as the earlier tithe map. At Horsham Old Court, the detached building to the west had gone by this time, as had the attached extension, leaving the building in the same plan form as today. A well is shown on the eastern side of the building (Figure 2). Later Ordnance Survey plans were not consulted, as the information contained on the early maps was adequate for the purpose of the evaluation.

Cartographic Sources Used

Source	Reference Number
Martley Tithe Map and Apportionment (1843)	WRO BA 1572/461.1 s760
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" (1986) Worcestershire XXXVII.15	
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" (1904) Worcestershire XXXVII.15	

Other sources used are referenced within the report.

3.4. The Fieldwork Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 3rd, 4th and 5th of May 2006.

The areas to be trenched were surveyed using a Garrett Ultra GTA metal detector configured to detect all metals to a maximum depth of 15 centimetres. The spoil was also frequently scanned during the excavation process.

The evaluated area at Horsham Old Court (Site 1) totalled around 32 square metres, and 26 square metres at Horsham Court (Site 2). The trenches were excavated by JCB equipped with a 1.60 metre-ditching bucket. The trench locations are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Paul Williams carried out the evaluation for Mercian Archaeology assisted by Steve Rigby and Martin Cook.

The methodology adopted and the favourable working conditions meant that the aims and objectives of the brief could be fully met and the fieldwork was successfully concluded.

4. The Evaluation Results

Site 1: Old Horsham Court (WSM 35078)

The upstanding timber framed building on the site represents a shrunken portion of the original structure, indicating that part(s) of the building had been dismantled and removed, fallen down or were destroyed.

The evidence for a larger original building is based on several factors: -

- □ The northern frame of the building has empty mortises that indicate there was further framing to the north.
- □ A stone plinth could just be identified beneath vegetation at this corner of the building.
- □ A flattish platform exists alongside the upstanding structure.
- □ The chimneybreast, although heavily modified, shows the outline of a roof apex corresponding to the likely position of a building range.
- □ The hearth at the base of the chimney is too large to have been useful for heating the area now enclosed within the lean-to annexe.
- □ Accepted plan forms of buildings of similar date and scale suggest that the original form was possibly 'H' plan, with a northern cross wing and central hall now gone, or 'T' shaped, with the hall lost and only a southern cross wing, which still stands.

The area was evaluated using trial trenching designed to determine the original plan form of the building, the survival of associated deposits (floors, activity deposits etc) and to retrieve dating evidence. Three trenches were excavated by a JCB fitted with a ditching bucket. The first trench (T1) was laid out north-west to south-east parallel to the existing building in order to locate evidence for the front and rear of a possible hall and associated floor deposits. Trench T2 was laid out at right angles to thi, in order to determine evidence for a northern cross wing and Trench T3 was located on the far northern side of the site under contingency, as Trench T2 proved to be sterile.

Trench T1

A coarse grass and shallow dark greyish-brown loamy topsoil with small angular stones and frequent roots covered the site [100]. This was noticeably deeper onto the

slope to the west, indicating some movement down slope (hill wash). There was no definitive subsoil across the site and the topsoil lay over natural red and grey mottled marl [101=201=301].

Three cut features were encountered within this trench; a linear feature on the south-eastern side (Plate 2), a circular feature and a small slot centrally (Plate 3).

The linear feature ran north-east to south-west across the trench at right angle to the existing building. It was cut [107] into the natural to a maximum depth of 15 centimetres with a flat base and vertical sides. The cut contained large flat local stone blocks and it was clear that other stone had been removed, leaving gaps filled with greyish silty loam containing smaller stone fragments, brick and tile fragments and occasional pottery sherds [106]. The alignment and nature of the feature suggested that this was the partly robbed out foundation of a plinth wall, on which the rear elevation timber frame of the hall would have sat (more below).

The circular feature had been cut [104] into the natural glacial deposits [101]. It had a flat bottom, slightly concave sides and survived to a depth of around 15 centimetres. The feature had been lined with yellow puddling clay [103], which was notably very plastic in texture. At the centre of the clay circle was a shallow circular scoop containing a greyish-brown loamy fill [102] with frequent charcoal flecks. The interface between this fill and the yellow puddling clay was lined with very corroded iron plate, which was very fragile and broken down. This feature would have been an iron kibble (large pot), the curved base of which was supported on a bed of yellow clay to prevent the kibble being knocked, or tipped over when in use.

The circular feature appears to have been associated with a shallow slot [105] cut into the natural [101], which may have been a drain. The slot was filled with a greyish-brown sandy silt with a small percentage of clay containing frequent small angular stone fragments and fragmentary ceramic building material [108].

Trench T2

Trench T2 displayed the same stratigraphy as Trench T1, with a loamy topsoil [200] over the natural clay-marl deposits [201]. A test pit was sunk into the natural in order to confirm there had been no re-deposition of material from elsewhere. The pit was sunk to just over 1 metre (Plate 4) and this confirmed that the natural was undisturbed glacial deposit, rather than material redeposited from elsewhere. A patch of very decayed sandstone was encountered in the north-eastern corner of the trench, which was subsequently extended with Trench T3 at the northern end.

Trench T3

Trench T3 displayed the same stratigraphy as Trench T1 and Trench T2, with a loamy topsoil [300] over the natural clay-marl deposits [301]. The trench was cleaned by hand after initial excavation by JCB, to reveal the remains of three stone-wall foundations [302], representing the north west and eastern plinth walls of a building (Plates 5 and 6). The wall foundations were constructed in a mixture of larger ashlar sandstone slabs and smaller random stone rubble, with a thickness of around 50 centimetres. The building remains were on a slightly different alignment to the standing building.

Site 2: Horsham Court (WSM 35077)

The basic outline plan of Horsham Court can be determined from the early map evidence (see cartography section above). The documentary and photographic sources demonstrate that there was a house on the site from at least the 17th century.

The area was evaluated using trial trenching designed to determine the survival, extent and condition of buried deposits (walls, floors, activity deposits etc) and to retrieve dating evidence. Four trenches were excavated by a JCB fitted with a ditching bucket. The first trench (T1) was located in an attempt to find the north-western front elevation of the house and to test associated deposits. Trench T2 was laid out inside the building adjacent to Trench T1 in order to determine maximum depth of deposits by locating floors. Trench T3 was located against the south-eastern wall of the house (northern section) and trench T4 was located close to the southern corner of the same building. It was not possible to excavate over the footprint of the southern section of the house as it was covered by mature trees.

Trench T1

A build up of around 30 centimetres of vegetation and loamy soil [100] was removed by machine to reveal a brick and mortar wall [104] some 50 centimetres wide running at right angles to the trench edges (Plate 7). The alignment of this corresponded with upstanding wall on the southern edge of the site. Material was removed by hand from the northern face of the wall down to the level of the top of the foundation plinth; the wall survived to 85 centimetres above this level. The wall was cleaned, photographed and recorded. The construction was of orange handmade brick measuring an average of 2 %" thick in a whitish lime mortar utilising an English bond. A demolition layer of general building rubble in a loamy soil mixture [101] was removed to reveal a very compact gravel surface [102] below. This had been cut [103] by the foundation cut for wall [104]. The backfill of the foundation cut [105] contained one sherd of pottery, which dated from the late 18th century, although the cut was not fully excavated. The gravel surface was, therefore, earlier than the building on the front of the site and is likely to represent the approach drive to the documented earlier 17th century building to the rear (south-east).

Trench T2

Trench T2 was excavated to the rear of wall [104] against an upstanding wall [200]. The material removed was entirely a loose fill of building rubble in a loamy soil [201]. This material included the remains of a chimney pot of white fireclay (Plate 8). Below the rubble there was an intact brick floor with a linear drain run [202]. The floor to the top of the upstanding wall was around 2 metres (Plate 9).

Trench T3

Foliage and demolition / tumbled debris was cleaned away from the surface to reveal the line of a low brick wall [300]. A build up of around 35 centimetres of vegetation and loamy soil [301] was removed by machine to reveal a cobbled yard surface below [302]. This showed evidence of having been repaired frequently, with fragments of brick and roof tile. The wall appeared to be of two-phases, or repaired at some time,

the lower coursing of brick being 2 ½ to 2 ½ handmade, typically 17th century and the repaired or rebuilt sections larger and probably 18th century (Plate 10). The cobbled surface had been created by ramming the cobbles into a yellowish clay layer [303] below.

Trench T4

Trench T4 was located as far into the tree-covered area to the south of the site as possible, as this is where the earliest 17th century house appears to be, according to the cartographic and documentary evidence. Unfortunately, the trench was on the outside of the building plot and cut into a small outbuilding between the earlier building to the south and the later building to the north-west.

Foliage and demolition / tumbled debris [400] was cleaned away from the surface to reveal the line of a low brick wall [401] and a brick-yard surface below [402; Plate 11]. The brick sizes used in the construction, up to 3", suggests a Victorian date of construction. The remains of the earlier cobbled yard noted in Trench T3 was also observed in this trench, but had been cut through by the footprint of the outbuilding. A gap in the wall at the south-eastern corner of the trench appears to have been an entrance with a step down into the outbuilding. The brick floor had been disturbed and re-laid at some time. The floor was lifted to determine the reason why, and it was found that an iron water pipe had been laid below (403) below the floor. There was an iron stop valve [404] in a brick chamber centrally on the floor. The pipe is likely to have been part of some pumped water system, rather than a mains supply.

The natural glacial horizon [406] had been cut by the water pipe around 10 centimetres below the brick surface, which was laid into the remnant yellow clay that was originally laid down as foundation for the cobbled yard [405].

The Earthworks Survey

The Background

The Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record lists Horsham Old Court as 'standing within a moated enclosure, which survives as a substantial earthwork to the west and south' (WSM 32588). As a consequence, it was suggested that a basic survey of earthworks associated with the standing building be made.

The majority of moats in England date from the 13th and 14th centuries (Watson 1987, 1), although some are a little later. Moats were constructed for two prime reasons, firstly for defence or security and secondly as an ornamental feature, which may be seen as a symbol of status for the emerging middle classes of the medieval period.

Moats were usually rectangular, with a ditch around 5-metres wide enclosing a central platform, often, but not always water filled. The water would be supplied by the diversion of a stream into the moat and may be part of a lagger water management system including fish ponds with controlling hatches / sluice gates. Water filled moats would have had a causeway or platform to provide access. Frequently moats were 'D' shaped, abstract, or not completely enclosed by a ditch (Steane 1984, 58-60), again suggesting status rather than security was the main factor in many cases. Moats usually

enclosed a building or buildings, but sometimes they appear without evidence for central buildings.

The remains of Horsham Old Court may be dated to the 17th century, or possibly a little earlier (by typology) and clearly lies outside the generally accepted date range for moat construction. This suggests that if the earthwork feature were a moat, it would either be associated with earlier structures, is rare for its late period or it is not a moat. One other scenario is that the proposed moat enclosed an area in the field to the west, rather than the building plot and only the eastern arm remains.

The Field Evidence

The earthwork feature (moat) is aligned approximately north-south along the western plot boundary of The Old Court. It is approximately 10 metres wide, with a depth of around 1.20 metres (Plates 13 and 14). The southern half of the feature contains water and is fed by a small stream, which flows through the shallow valley on the southern side of the plot boundary. There appears to be a slight return to the west at the northern end of the earthwork, although this is falsely enhanced by the approach track to The Old Court, which passes on the north, making use of the flattened top of a ridge for its route.. Three terminals of three ridges can be seen close to the northern end of the earthwork (Plate15), although the remainder have been ploughed out, probably over the last 150 years. The ridges may represent the physical remains of ridge and furrow agriculture to the west of the site, or more likely orchard terraces There is further evidence for ridge and furrow in the adjacent field to the south, where ridges can be just made out running approximately north-west to south-east, with later field boundaries aligned along them. A large badger sett at the northern end of the feature has somewhat altered the profile of the earthwork at this end.

There is a second wet pond on the southern side, separate from the north-south earthwork feature, which has been extensively modified by the hooves of cattle using it to water. The pond is pear shaped and appears very shallow. The earthworks are shown in Figure 5.

The Interpretation

Given the probable date of the construction of The Old Court as being around 1600 and the zenith of moat construction some 300 years earlier, it seems unlikely that the earthwork feature is a moat, in the recognised sense of the word. It is possible however, that the moat is an ornamental feature of status separating the undeniably high status building of The Old Court (extensive use of timber and internal elaboration), from the strip farming of the peasantry in the fields to the west. In the absence of any artefactual material from earlier than the 17th century from the evaluation, we can be relatively sure that the site was not developed until this time.

There is a further possibility to which the location of the earthwork is crucial. The pear shaped pond to the south essentially appears natural. The map evidence supports this as The Old Court property boundary respects the pond, indicating that it existed before the house. The north-south earthwork is clearly different in form and is certainly man made. The fact that is half filled with water suggests that it may seasonally fill up completely, but it cannot be determined from the evidence if it was intended to be filled with water.

The location, against the property boundary of the north-south earthwork cannot suggest if it is contemporary, later or earlier than the property, but the fact that it exists between the cultivation ridges to the west and the property boundary suggests that the ridges were in use and important by the time that the earthwork was excavated. A cursory glance at local maps indicates that there are many similar 'ponds' scattered across the landscape and it is possible that the earthwork in question is simply a marl pit, excavated at the edge of a field for convenience. Such clay pits would have provided the raw materials for bricks, which may have been fired locally in temporary clamps and used in local buildings.

5. The Artefacts

By Laura Griffin

5.1. Aims

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

The aims of the finds assessment were: -

- □ To identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts
- □ To describe the range of artefacts present
- □ To preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts

5.2. Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved artefacts were examined and identified, quantified and dated to period. Pottery fabrics are referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by the Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

Results of Analysis: Horsham Court (WSM 3507)

The artefactual assemblage from Horsham Court came from three stratified contexts (contexts 103, 301 and 400) and the ground surface (unstratified) and consisted of 22 finds weighing 605g. The group was primarily of post-medieval date, although a small amount of modern material was also identified (see Appendix 1, Tables 1 and 3).

Pottery formed the largest material group totalling 15 sherds and accounting for 68% of the assemblage recovered. The majority of sherds were moderately abraded,

although a small number displayed a higher level. All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric (see Appendix 1, Table 2).

A small number of diagnostic sherds were present and could be dated accordingly; the remaining undiagnostic sherds were datable by fabric type to the general period or production span. In general, the assemblage displayed a standard range of form and fabric types for a site spanning the above periods.

Other finds consisted of two fragments of two pieces of brick (context 301), one fragment of roofing tile (context 301), three fragments of glass (context 201) and an iron window fixing (context 301).

Discussion of the artefacts

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Post-medieval

Two contexts (105 and 400) could be attributed to the post-medieval period on the basis of a terminus post quem of 18th century.

Pottery from these contexts consisted of just two sherds; one of post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91; context 400) and one of creamware (fabric 84; context 105). The sherd of post-medieval buff ware was identified as coming from a jar or cup and was decorated using inlaid slip with an overglaze to give a yellow and brown finish, common to this period. The creamware sherd was only a small, highly abraded fragment but due to the narrow manufacturing period of this ware, could be dated fairly closely to between 1760 and 1795.

Remaining material of post-medieval date was either residual within modern context 301 or unstratified and could be dated from the mid 17th to 18th century. Pottery included three sherds of post-medieval red sandy ware, all decorated with dark brown glaze. Identifiable forms consisted of an everted rim jar (unstratified) and the base of a cup or jar vessel (context 201). A further base from a cup or jar was identified in post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91; unstratified) and displayed a similar glaze to that seen on the red sandy wares above.

Other pottery consisted of two undiagnostic sherds of post-medieval orange ware (fabric 90; context 201), which dated to the 18th century.

In addition to the pottery, other residual finds of post-medieval date included an iron barley twist casement window hook stay dateable to the 17th century. Other similar examples have been dated to 1637 (Alcock and Hall 2002, 31).

Modern

Contexts 201 and 301 had a terminus post quem of late 19th to 20th century. Pottery of this date consisted of two sherds of transfer decorated modern stone china (fabric 85; context 301), one sherd of miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4; unstratified),

which came from a bottle and four fragments of flowerpot (fabric 101; context 201 and unstratified).

Three pieces of glass (context 201), including the base from a pale green bottle with a Maltese cross moulded into it, were also attributed to this period. The remaining shards consisted of one small fragment and one from a bottle wall with the letters 'SE' moulded into it.

A large piece of modern roofing tile and two fragments of brick were also identified (context 301).

Results of Analysis The Old Court (WSM 30578)

The artefactual assemblage retrieved came from three stratified contexts (contexts 106, 108 and 200) and consisted of 23 finds weighing 433g. The group was primarily of post-medieval date, although a small amount of modern material was also identified (see Tables 1 and 3).

Pottery formed the largest material group totalling 11 sherds and accounting for 48% of the assemblage recovered. The majority of sherds were moderately abraded, although a small number displayed a higher level. All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric (see Table 2).

A small number of diagnostic sherds were present and could be dated accordingly, the remaining undiagnostic sherds were datable by fabric type to the general period or production span. In general, the assemblage displayed a standard range of form and fabric types for a site spanning the above periods.

Other finds consisted of two fragments of animal bone (context 108), two pieces of brick (context 106), three clay pipe stems (context 108), two fragments of roofing tile (context 106), two fragments of glass (contexts 106 and 108) and a small piece of undiagnostic fired clay (context 108).

Discussion of the artefacts

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Post-medieval

Two contexts could be attributed to the post-medieval period on the basis of a terminus post quem date. Context 200 could be dated to the late 17th century and context 106 to the 18th century.

Pottery from context 200 consisted of three sherds of post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78; context 200). These sherds all displayed a dark brown glaze characteristic of this fabric type, with one having an overfired appearance which is common amongst

vessels dating to the mid to late 17th century. This latter sherd was also identified as coming from either a small jar or cup form.

Context 106 produced other finds including two fragments of brick, the top half of a small bottle and two pieces of flat roof tile. The largest fragment of this tile was nibbed and most interestingly, had a large fragment of clay pipe fired within its body, which was visible along the break. The fabric of the tile was similar to one commonly found in Worcestershire and known to have been produced within Worcester during the late medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Remaining material of post-medieval date was residual within modern context 108. Pottery included a further two sherds of post-medieval red sandy ware, both decorated with dark brown glaze. In addition, two sherds of post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91) were retrieved, including a large section of a slip-decorated globular cup of mid to late 17th century date (context 108). The other sherd of this fabric type consisted of a mottled ware handle and the base from a cup or jar decorated with a dark brown glaze similar to that seen on the above red ware vessels.

Other pottery consisted of a rim from a flared bowl of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69) which dated between the late 15th and early 17th century and the rim of a Midlands Yellow ware jar of 17th to 18th century date (fabric 77).

In addition to the pottery, other residual finds of post-medieval date included three clay pipe stems (context 108).

Modern

Context 108 had a terminus post quem of late 19th to 20th century. Pottery consisted of one sherd of transfer decorated modern stone china (fabric 85) and one sherd of miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4), which came from an inkwell.

Other finds of this period consisted of a small fragment of glass, two pieces of animal bone and a small piece of undiagnostic fired ceramic.

Significance

The post-medieval artefacts from this site form a well-dated group of domestic material. Although the site appears to have been disturbed post-deopsitionally, this assemblage was well preserved and datable to a relatively short period of 100 years at the most, between the mid 17th and 18th centuries.

6. Discussion of the Physical and Documentary Evidence

The evidence from the documentary sources (although scant) and the upstanding remains of the earlier buildings at Horsham Court and The Old Court suggest they are approximately contemporary and date to the 17th century. The later history of Horsham Court is slightly better documented and was the home of Nathaniel Smith and his family for much of the 19th and into the 20th century, before it was demolished in the 1970's.

The backfill of the foundation trench for the north-western elevation wall (cellar) contained a fragment of pottery dating from 1760-1795, a date that equates with the photographic evidence and the brick size, which suggested a late 18th century date of construction for this part of the house.

The earlier buildings at Horsham Court are believed to be on the south-east side of the site, where unfortunately no trenching was possible due to the presence of mature trees. A walk-over survey of the area, however, determined the existence of upstanding walls, almost totally obscured by vegetation, that are likely to be of 17th century date.

The map evidence shows Horsham Court in some detail and The Old Court is shown in much the same plan form as today, with a rectangular building to the west shown on the tithe map of 1843, which had gone by 1886. A photograph taken in 1954 shows a structure with ornate brick pier attached on the southern side of the house. A primary objective of the trial trenching at The Old Court was to identify the original plan of the building. In theory, this should have been relatively simple; by putting an east-west trench across the platform on the northern side of the building, the position of the side walls could be determined and by excavating a trench running north to south on the far northern side it would be possible to see if there was a second cross-wing on the opposite side to the standing structure. However, it was clear from the archaeological evidence that the site had been extensively robbed, with useful stone having been removed from site. The plinth wall which would have supported the sill beam of the hall on the western side was not evidenced in the trench, although the corresponding post has mortises and sawn off tenons indicating a frame must have ran north-west from this point. It was determined that all the stone had been robbed out and as the platform has a slight slope to the west, it is likely that the plinth on the western side was laid on the natural clay base, rather than being trenched in. The foundation trench for the rear wall was identified, partly as remaining stonework and partly as robbed out and backfilled trench. The corresponding post on the northern elevation of the upstanding structure, however, had no mortises to take the rear frame. Closer inspection of the elevation in this area indicated that the frame up to the chimney had been rebuilt: the first floor rail had been cut and a new rail scarfed on to it; other rails have been spliced into the structure; some of the timbers in the second phase framing are re-used and the panel infills on this side are of wattle and daub rather than the more expensive lath and plaster of the remainder of the building (Plates 16-17). The trench located to test the 'H' plan hypothesis proved to be devoid of archaeological deposits

apart from the suggestion of a possible wall in the north-eastern corned (decayed sandstone), so a further trench was excavated on the far northern side of the site to determine if this was a wall. The trench revealed well-preserved stone foundations of a probable detached building, indicating the site to be more complex than expected.

Unfortunately, due to the limitations of archaeological evaluation, it is impossible to define the true original plan of the standing building, or to demonstrate the association between the foundations on the northern side of the site and the standing building. It can be suggested from the evidence; however, that the building was probably not 'H' shaped in plan and the detached building to the north was possibly a detached kitchen.

Dating is also problematic and a little confusing. The finds assemblage all dated to 17th century and later, contemporary with the lifespan of the building as to be expected. The timber framed outshut, which survives at the north-eastern corner of the building has to post-date the demolition of the hall range, as does the timber-frame and wattle and daub panels to the northern elevation adjacent to the chimney. The wattle and daub suggests a likely 17th century date for the rebuild, so it seems that the building went into decline fairly rapidly, perhaps less than century after the construction date of the building.

The earthwork in the adjacent field proposed as a moat needs no further comment here as there is no obvious definite association between the earthwork and the evaluation site and the earthwork seems to be more a part of the wider landscape, possibly originally a marl extraction pit for local brick making.

6.1. Archaeological Potential and Comment

Horsham Old Court

There are archaeological remains associated with the lifespan of The Old Court buried close to the surface. Although there has been much robbing of re-useable material from the site, the remains are intact enough to inform on layout of buildings.

The evaluation was unable to confirm with certainty the original plan form of the house, although it can be suggested that the plan was possibly 'T' shaped with a detached building to the north, which may be an associated kitchen. The remains suggest that there is good potential to confirm the plan, but limited potential to identify definite use of space.

The map and photographic evidence suggests the presence of additional structures on the site, with a rectangular building depicted on the tithe map to the west and a structure, perhaps an enclosed yard shown on the southern side of the building on a photograph of 1954. The existence of a previously unknown structure as located by the trial trenching also suggests the possibility of further structures on the site dating from the 17th century.

The standing building fabric offers good potential for the better understanding of its use, development and decline.

Horsham Court

There are extensive upstanding remains of the 18th-19th century extensions of Horsham Court. The plan form of these can be determined from early maps and so it is arguable that their archaeological potential is limited, although Trench 3 indicates that the later buildings may have partly followed an earlier building footprint in this area.

There are also surviving upstanding remains of the earlier 17th century part of the courthouse in the south-eastern corner of the site. It is likely these are extensively damaged by tree roots, but still offer fair archaeological potential.

Potential for Disturbance of the Archaeological Deposits by the Development

At this early stage it is not known what form the development will take and therefore, whether any of the upstanding remains at Horsham Court could be integrated into the new build.

Undoubtedly, the dismantling and movement of the remains of The Old Court would disturb the surface of the site and would most likely damage archaeological deposits below as they lie relatively close to the surface. It is also assumed that all valuable building material would be removed from the site, which may include buried stone?

It seems likely from the overall evidence that some form of archaeological management or mitigation would be required at both sites.

7. Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at the former sites of Horsham Court and Old Horsham Court encountered significant archaeological remains, both upstanding and buried. Both sites are poorly documented, but the evidence suggests they were both substantial and high status houses in the 17th century. The archaeological evidence from Horsham Court determined that much of a later extension to the court, probably dating from the late 18th century, remained as partially upstanding walls. This section of the house had been built over the gravel access drive, or courtyard, to the earlier 17th century building to the rear of the site. This area was not evaluated as it was covered by mature trees, but upstanding walls were in evidence, covered by thick undergrowth.

Horsham Old Court remains as a semi-derelict three-storey timber framed building of high status, over a sandstone basement. Physical and typological evidence indicates the building was formerly larger and extended to the north. The trial trenches confirmed this, although the definitive plan could not be determined, due to the limitation of evaluation trenching and the robbing of useful building material from the original build, which was evidenced as negative results. Trenching on the northern side of the house platform encountered three walls of a stone building on a slightly different alignment to the upstanding building, suggesting that it was a separate detached building, possibly a kitchen. There were no dateable artefacts that suggested the site was occupied before the 17th century.

The earthwork features to the south and west of The Old Court site have been interpreted as part of a moated enclosure associated with the building, or perhaps earlier buildings. However, the standing building dates from some 300 years later than the zenith of moat construction and there was no evidence for occupation prior to the 17th century, so this seems unlikely. The map evidence suggests that the southern feature is a natural pond, as it is respected by the property boundary and it is possible, although not definite, that the earthwork on the western side is a marl pit, where local brick makers would have dug clay. Its location is at the edge of a series of cultivation ditches, suggesting it was located away from productive land, of course this is speculative as the field may have reverted to pasture by the time the earthwork was excavated.

8. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mrs J. Turner and the tenant of Horsham Farm for their co-operation and interest in the project. Thanks are also due to Nick Joyce and Alex Matthews of Nick Joyce Architects in Worcester, Steve Rigby and Martin Cook for their work on site and to Mick George for operating the JCB; Laura Griffin for the finds analysis and report, Emma Hancox of Worcestershire Historic Environment Record for undertaking the SMR search and to Malcolm Atkin, Worcestershire County Archaeologist and Mike Glyde, Worcestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist. The author would also like to thank the staff of Worcester History Centre and Worcester Records Office.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Artefactual Analysis of material From Horsham Court (WSM 35077)

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Post-medieval pottery	8	153
Modern pottery	7	56
Tile	1	86
Brick	2	106
Glass	3	78
Iron	1	126

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
101	Miscellaneous modern wares	4	30
78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	3	52
81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	14
84	Creamware	1	1
85	Modern stone china	2	12
90	Post-medieval orange ware	2	66
91	Post-medieval buff ware	2	34

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery fabric type

Context	Material	Total	Weight (g)	Date range	Period
0	Modern pottery	4	32	19-20C	MOD
0	Post-medieval pottery	2	50	Mid-late 17C	PMD
105	Post-medieval pottery	1	1	1760-1795	PMD
201	Glass	1	6		PMD-MOD
201	Vessel glass	2	72		PMD-MOD
201	Modern pottery	1	12	19-20C	MOD
201	Post-medieval pottery	2	66	18-19C	PMD
201	Post-medieval pottery	1	24	Mid-late 17C	PMD
301	Brick	2	106		PMD/MOD
301	Iron window fitting	1	126		MOD
301	Modern pottery	2	12	Late 19-20C	MOD
301	Post-medieval pottery	1	8	17-18C	PMD
301	Tile	1	86	19-20C	MOD
400	Post-medieval pottery	1	4	Mid 17-18C	PMD

Table 3: Summary of the assemblage from Horsham Court (WSM 35077)

Appendix 2: Artefactual Analysis of material From The Old Court (WSM 35078)

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Post medieval pottery	9	149
Modern pottery	2	19
Brick	2	86
Tile	2	120
Fired clay	1	10
Clay pipe stem	3	6
Glass	2	19
Animal bone	2	34

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage The Old Court (WSM 30578)

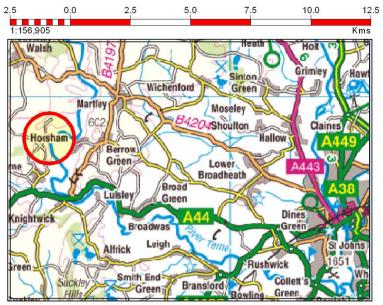
Fabric number	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)	Period
69	Oxidised gazed Malvernian ware	1	72	Post-medieval
77	Midlands yellow ware	1	1	Post-medieval
78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	5	24	Post-medieval
81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	18	Modern
85	Modern stone china	1	1	Modern
91	Post-medieval buff ware	2	52	Post-medieval

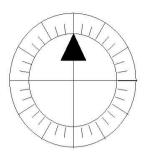
Table 2: Quantification of the pottery from The Old Court (WSM 30578) by fabric type

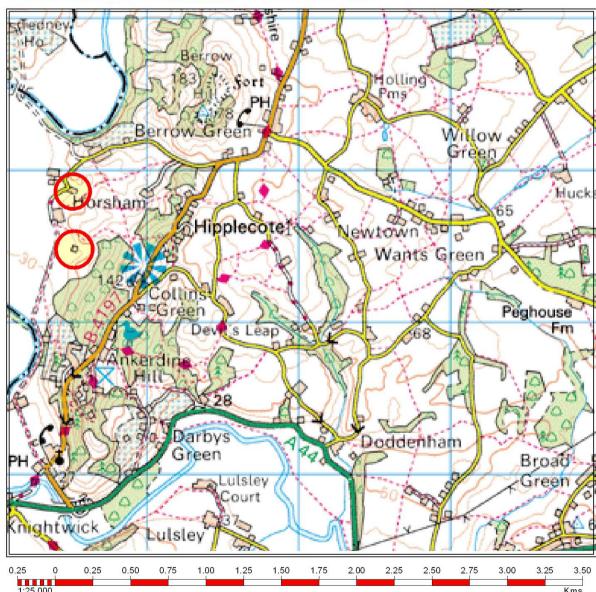
Context	Material	Total	Weight (g)	Date range	Period
106	Brick	2	86		PMD
106	Vessel glass	1	18		PMD
106	Tile	1	8		PMD
106	Tile	1	112	Late 15-17C	PMD
108	Animal bone	2	34		
108	Fired clay	1	10		
108	Glass	1	1		
108	Clay pipe stem	3	6		PMD
108	Modern pottery	1	1	Late19-20C	MOD
108	Modern pottery	1	18	Mid 19C+	MOD
108	Post-medieval pottery	2	11	17-18C	PMD
108	Post-medieval pottery	2	10	17C	PMD
108	Post-medieval pottery	1	72	Late 15-early 17C	PMD
108	Post-medieval pottery	1	42	Mid-late 17C	PMD
200	Post-medieval pottery	2	10	Late 17-18C	PMD
200	Post-medieval pottery	1	4	Mid-late 17C	PMD

Table 3: Summary of the assemblage The Old Court (WSM 30578)

Figure 1: Location of the Site







Location of the Sites at Horsham

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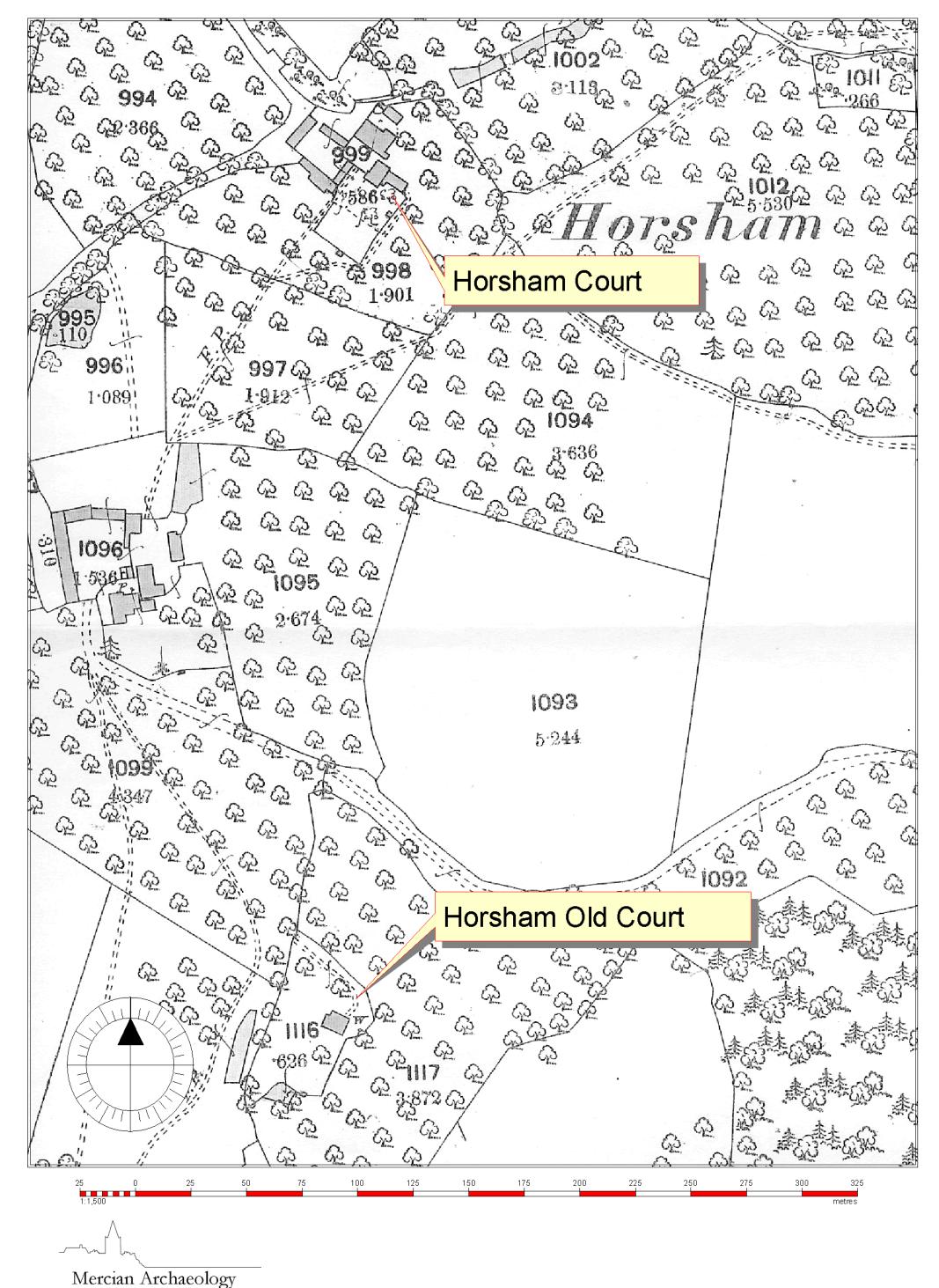


Figure 2: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1886)

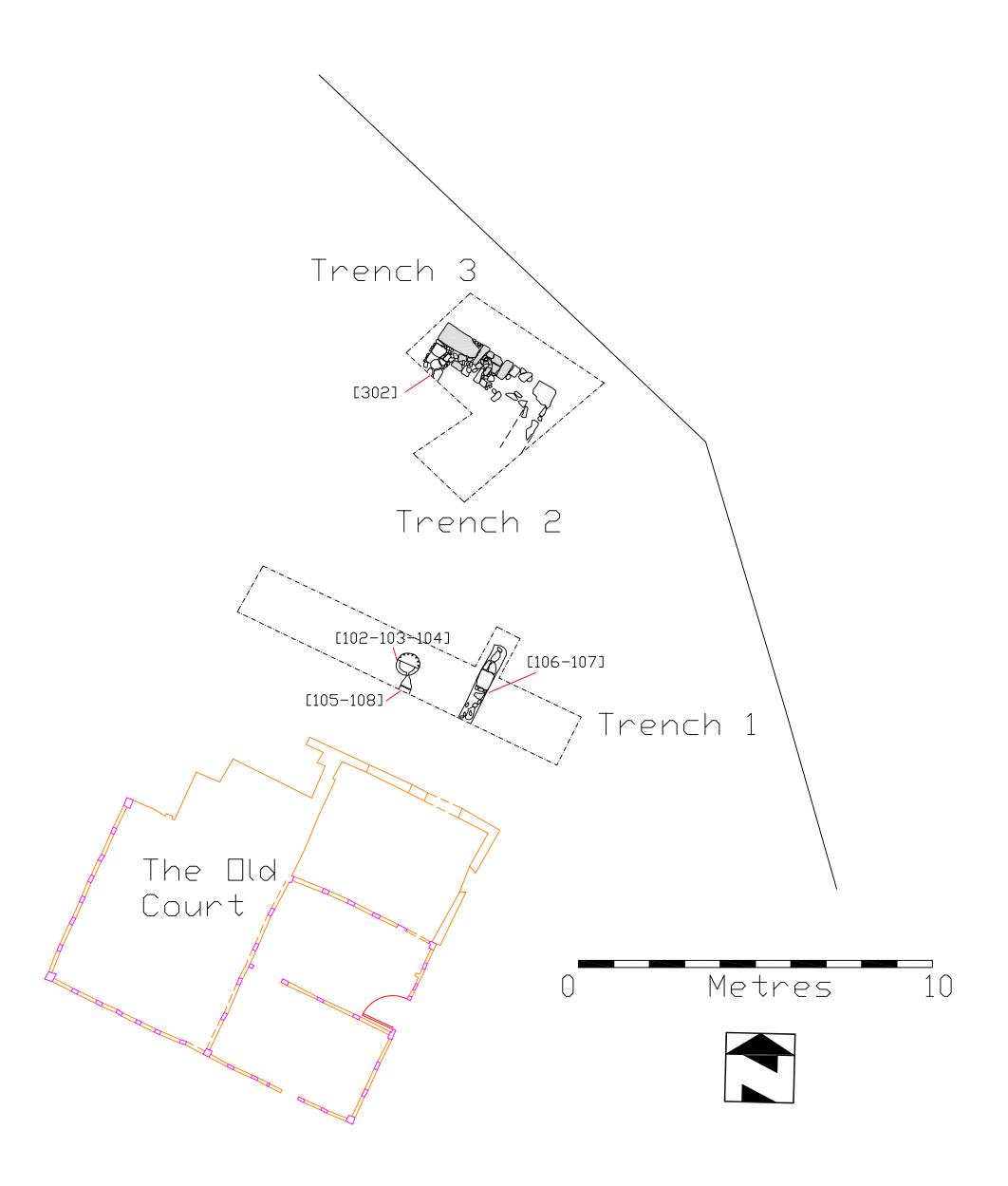


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan at Horsham Court (including part of a building plan survey by Laser Surveys, Essex)

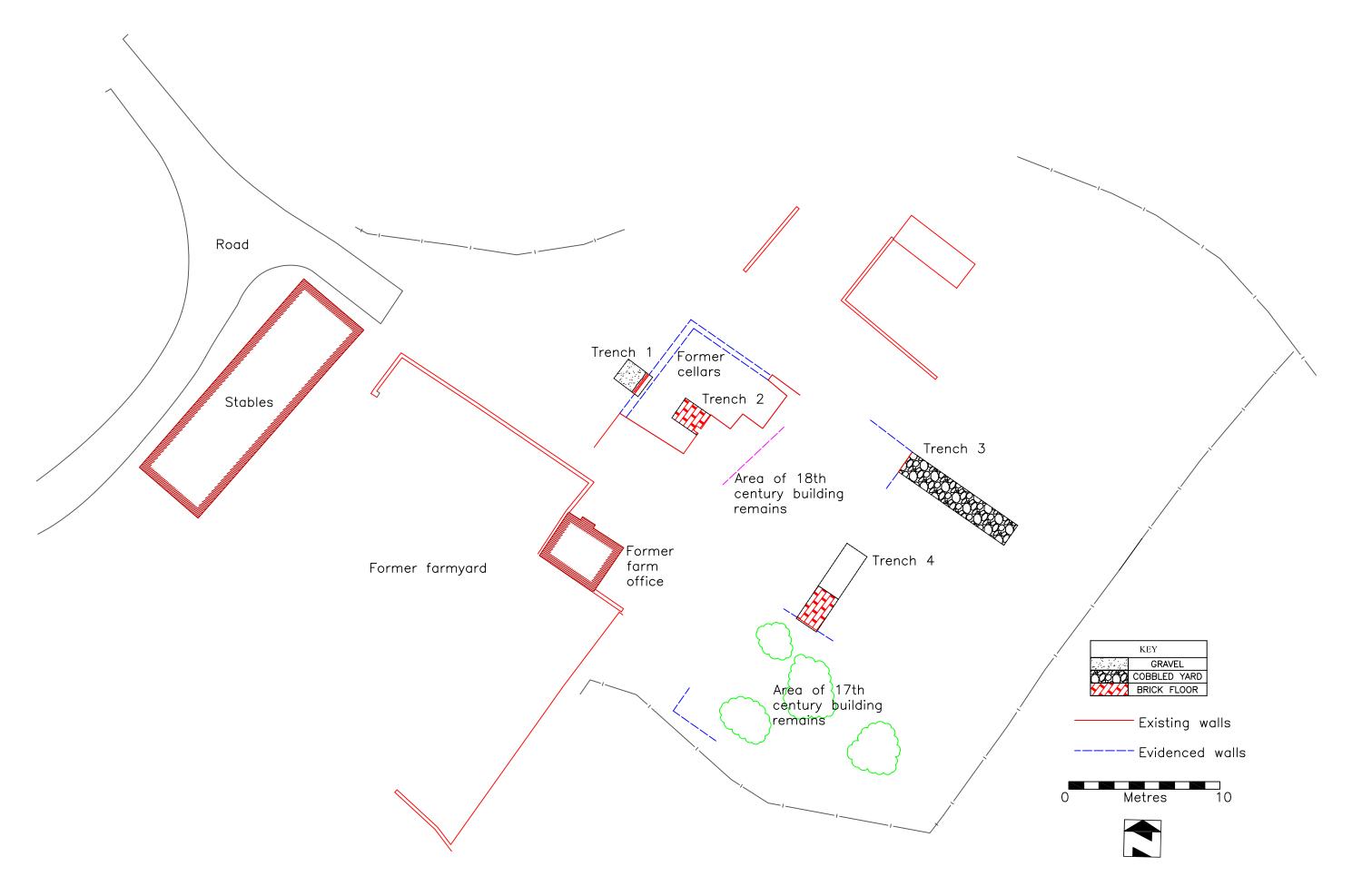


Figure 4: Trench Location Plan at Horsham Court (including part of a landscape survey by Laser Surveys, Essex)

Figure 5: The Earthwork at Horsham Old Court

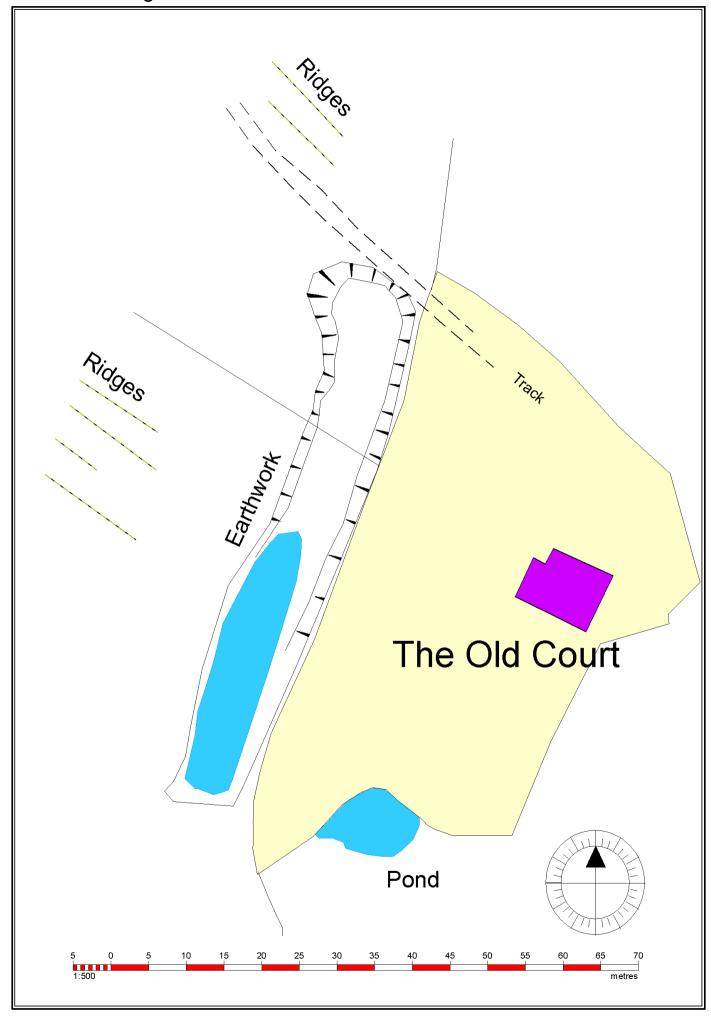


Plate 1: Sketch of Horsham Court based on photograph of 1963. View from the stables at the roadside

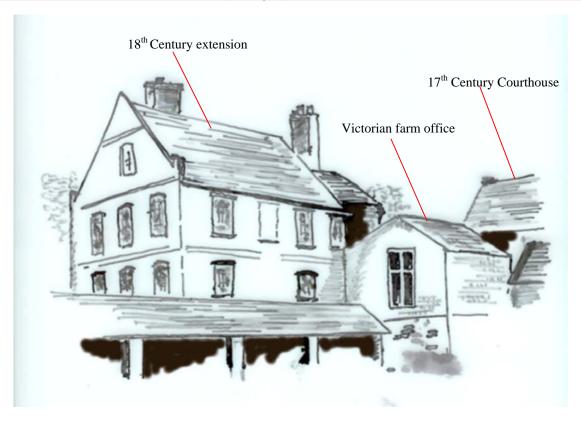


Plate 2:

Eastern plinth wall foundation of The Old Court [106/107] (scale 1 metre)





Plate 4:

Trench 2 during excavation (Scale 1 metre)





Plate 6:

Wall [302] in Trench 3 at The Old Court looking south-east (Scales 1 metre)



Plate 7: Wall [104] and gravel surface [102] in Trench 1 at The Horsham Court looking south-east (Scale 1 metres)



Plate 8: Broken chimney pot from Trench 1 at Horsham Court (Scale 1 metre)



Plate 9: Wall [200] and cellar floor [202] in Trench 2 at The Horsham Court looking south (Scales 1 metres)



Plate 10: Wall [300] and cobbled surface [302] in Trench 31 at Horsham Court looking north-west (Scale 1 metre)



Plate 11: Wall [401] and brick floor [402] in Trench 4 at The Horsham Court looking south-west (Scale 1 metres)



Plate 12:

Iron water pipe below brick floor in Trench 4 at Horsham Court

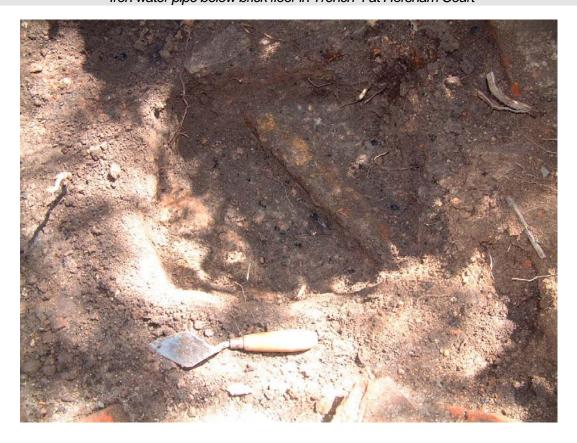


Plate 13: Earthwork on the southern side of The Old Court, looking south towards the pool at the southern end.



Plate 14: Earthwork at The Old Court looking south from the northern end from the approach track.





Plate 16: Replaced timber framing to the northern elevation of The Old Court, probably late 17th century.





Plate 18:

The Old Court in its landscape, looking east.





Plate 20: The Old Court and ancient Yew, which is probably contemporary with the build, looking north-east

