

PRHH12



SOUTH HERFORD PARK AND RIDE

Archaeological Evaluation

for Bloor Homes Ltd

June 2013

SOUTH HEREFORD PARK AND RIDE

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for Bloor Homes Ltd

June 2013

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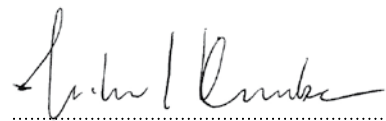
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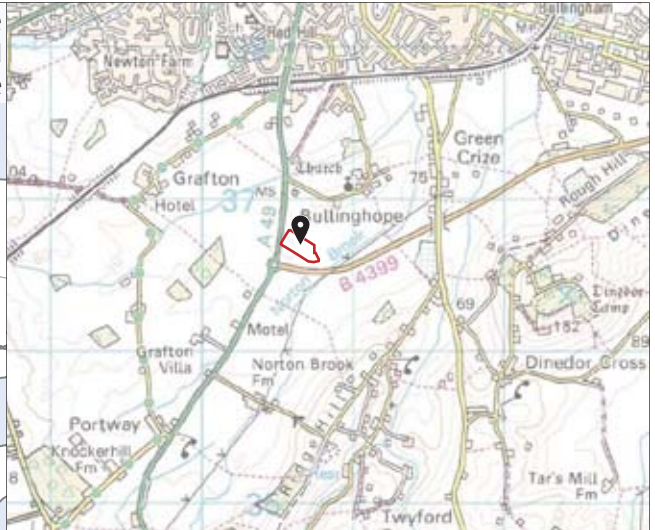
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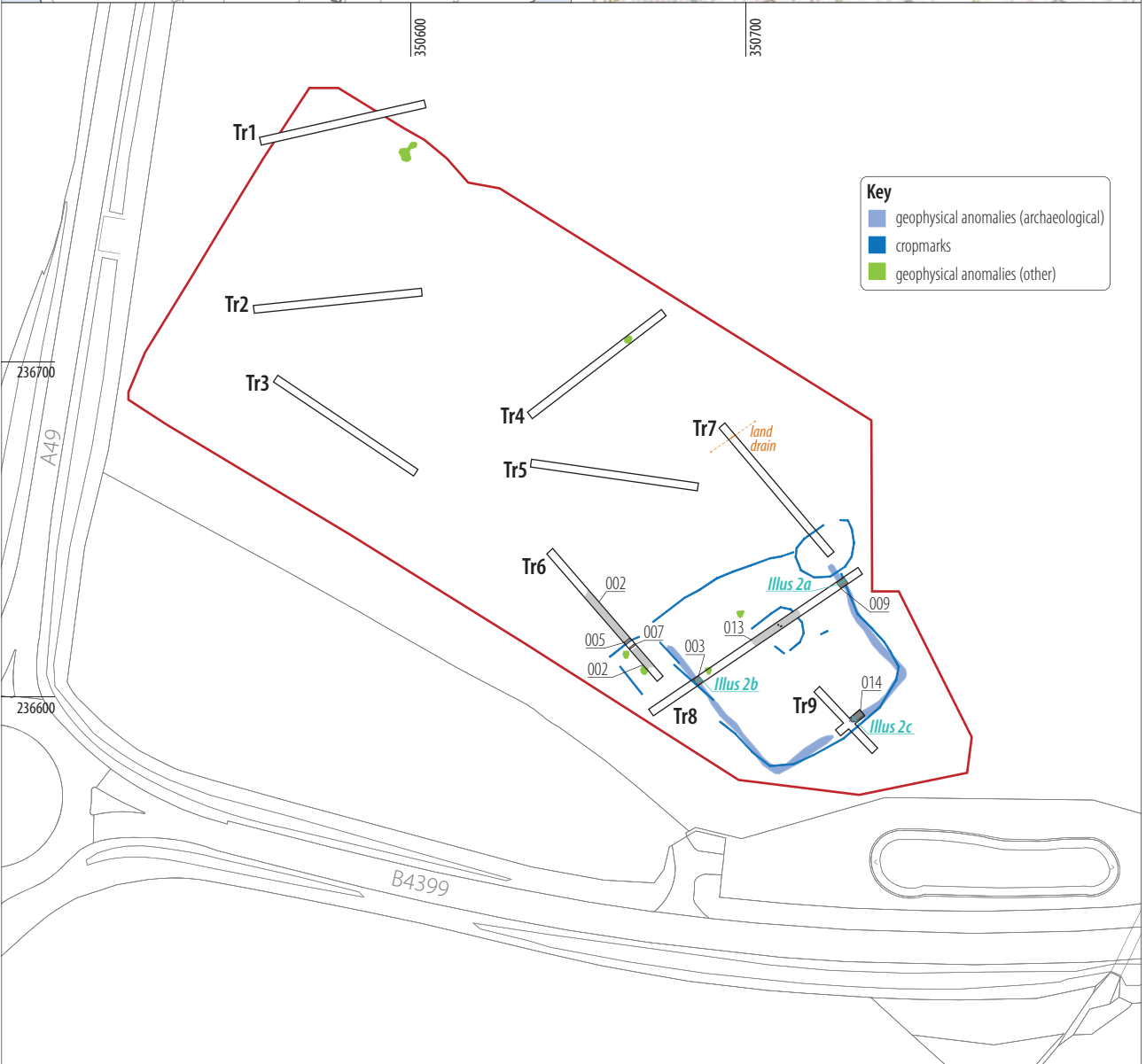
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Illus 1

Site location

SOUTH HEREFORD PARK AND RIDE

Archaeological Evaluation

Bloor Homes Ltd appointed Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to conduct a programme of archaeological works, consisting of the excavation of seven, 50 m x 1.8 m, one, 75m x1.8m and one, 25m x1.8m wide evaluation trenches, targeting previously identified geophysical anomalies.

The work was undertaken as part of information to be submitted in support of a planning application for the construction of a Park and Ride scheme, associated access and other infrastructure at land to the north of the Rotherwas Relief Road, Grafton, Herefordshire (NGR SO 350627 236688).

The archaeological evaluation confirmed the results of a previous geophysical investigation and identified a significant series of occupation deposits, and boundary features relating to a Romano-British enclosure, located towards the south of the proposed development site. However, towards the northern end of the application area, the evaluation identified that features indicated on the geophysical survey were of a non-archaeological origin.

The identification of the geophysical anomalies indicates that the proposed development area has the potential for the survival of significant archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development. However, survival of the archaeological assets is highly dependant on the depth of ploughing and the build up of overburden within the site. The lower areas of the proposed development site have been proved to contain better-preserved remains when compared to the higher areas, the natural effect of soil creep providing a protective barrier from the damage associated with deep ploughing and modern agricultural activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was appointed by Bloor Homes Ltd to conduct a trial trenching evaluation in advance and in support of a planning application for the proposed development of Park and Ride scheme and associated infrastructure at land adjacent to the Rotherwas Relief Road, Grafton, Herefordshire (NGR SO 350627 236688).

Julian Cotton, the Archaeological Advisor to Herefordshire County Council requires an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development upon the significance of any previously unknown heritage assets within the proposed development area prior to the determination of any planning application.

This was to be undertaken via a scheme of trial trenching, following a previous geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012). The results of these phases of work will assist the determination of the planning application. This scope of work was encapsulated within a Project Design produced by Headland Archaeology (Kimber 2012) and agreed with the planning authority.

The evaluation was conducted between the 12th and 14th of December 2012

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed development area currently comprises agricultural land. It is located towards the north of the Rotherwas Relief Road (B4399) and east of the A49 (NGR SO 350627 236688). (*Illus 1*)

The area encompassed by the evaluation comprises of approximately 2.6ha, lying at 70.00m OD towards north of the site while gently sloping down towards its southern boundary (65.00m OD).

The underlying geology is recorded as being of the Raglan Mudstone Formation, a siltstone and mudstone with interbedded sedimentary bedrock, no superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012) relating to the proposed development was previously undertaken in connection with the planning application. The geophysical survey identified the presence of anomalies appearing to form a system of enclosures towards the southern boundary of the proposed site. These enclosures appeared likely to represent the remains of a Romano-British rural



settlement, organised on a linear layout on an approximately east-west alignment.

Other isolated anomalies or clusters of anomalies interpreted as archaeological in origin but not readily matching specific types of archaeological site were located at various locations within the proposed development.

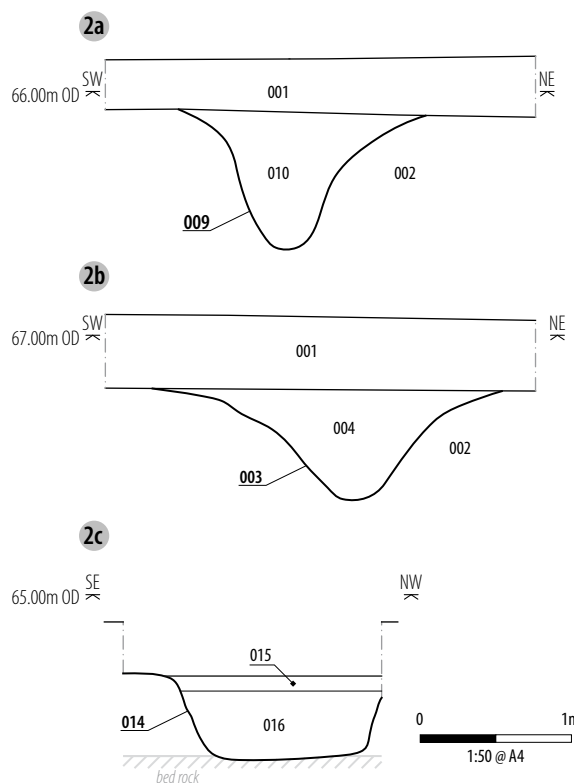
4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project were to ascertain whether any archaeological remains were present within the area of the proposed development, and to characterise them by date, extent, preservation, and significance.

The evaluation aimed to address the following questions:

- What is the nature, extent and condition of the presumed Romano-British settlement site detected by gradiometer survey in Area C and identified in aerial photographs
- Do the other areas of geophysical anomalies relate to archaeological features?

The information assembled during the trial trenching is intended to make it possible to establish the potential impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological assets present within the site boundary.



Illus 2

Sections

Evaluation trenches were photographed with graduated metric scales and include 35mm black-and-white archival prints, colour transparencies and digital reference photographs.

5. METHOD

5.1 Trial trenching

The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven 50 m x 1.8 m, one 75m x 1.8m and one 25m x 1.8m trenches, through the principal areas of the proposed development site (*Illus 1*). The evaluation trenches were originally located to investigate specific targets identified by the geophysical survey.

An alteration to the original position of trench 1 was necessary to avoid overhead power lines and an extension to trench 9 was required to locate the targeted anomaly identified in the geophysical survey.

Excavation of the evaluation trenches was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was under direct supervision of an archaeologist.

The excavated trenches were closely examined for any features and the spoil was re-examined in order to collect any unstratified artefacts.

5.2 Recording

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (IfA 2009). A plan of evaluation trenches and features encountered was created using an RTK Trimble GPS and updated onto an AutoCAD base plan of the development area

6. RESULTS

For the ease of reporting the excavation results, they have been displayed in a tabular form (Appendix 1). A brief, generalised description of the contexts present in the excavated trenches is given in this section.

The general stratigraphic make up the of the site within the proposed development area (Trenches 1–9) consisted of the present day plough soil [001] – a dark brown deposit 0.3–0.35m thick overlaying a geological deposit of red clay with banded green/grey clay inclusions.

The overall depth of the plough soil was notably different within the evaluation trenches that were positioned on the higher areas, when compared to the trenches located in the lower areas of the site. The changes in the depth of the plough soil are probably a direct result of soil creep

Surviving beneath the built up plough soil in the lower areas and within natural depressions in the geology, a dark brown silty loam [002 & 013] was noted, similar to the plough soil [001]. Deposit [002] survived within trenches 6, 8 and 9 and contained frequent inclusions of charcoal and occasional traces of pottery. The ephemeral nature of the deposit means that ploughing within the field has probably



Illus 3

Section across enclosure ditch [009]

removed most of the evidence for this level within the higher areas of the proposed development site.

The results have been categorised in to areas with identified archaeological assets and those without. Within the grouping, no attempt has been made to illustrate a sequence of phasing to the archaeology assets as the interconnecting stratigraphic sequence between features was truncated by the action of modern agricultural practises.

6.1 Romano-British settlement

6.1.1 Trench 6

Beneath the plough soil [001] of Trench 6, a dark brown deposit with charcoal inclusions was identified, with an average depth of only 0.02m–0.03m, [002] was interpreted as the remnants of occupation debris.



Illus 4

Trench 6 – showing remains of occupation level above natural

Deposit [002] generally spread across the extent of the evaluation trench; however, the survival of this deposit was patchy in places due to the impact of modern ploughing.

Deposit [002] was cut by two parallel linear features [005 & 007] approximately 1m apart, aligned north-east to south-west. When sectioned, both were revealed to be shallow gullies with “D” shaped profiles (0.65m wide x 0.20m depth and 0.30m wide x 0.19m depth, respectively). (Illus 1)

Features [005] and [007], although not identified on the geophysical survey do appear on the aerial photography as a faint crop mark cutting across the location of trench 6 for approximately 10m.

6.1.2 Trench 8

During the excavation of Trench 8 a sequence of archaeological features was revealed. Towards the eastern end and the western of the evaluation trench two linear features ([003], [009]), both approximately aligned north south were identified these features were originally targeted as a result of the geophysical survey. The excavation of the features revealed two linear ditches approximately 3.00m wide, with similar sharp ‘u’ shaped profiles (Illus 2) and similar fills of a mid brown compact clay ([004] & [010]). Within [009], the eastern ditch, a large amount of Severn valley ware pottery vessels were recovered, the amount and concentration of vessels suggesting an area of high activity within the vicinity. The excavation of the western ditch [003] produced little in the way of datable wares, however the general size, profile and fill, suggested a contemporary relationship with [009].

The significance of the enclosure ditches is further emphasised by the identification of the remains of a possible occupation layer ([013])



Illus 5

Trench 8 – showing occupation deposit



within the confines of the boundary ditches. The deposit although similar to that seen in Trench 6 and Trench 9 was considerably darker due to a greater concentration of charcoal inclusions, especially towards the west edge of its extent. A group of three small stones also defined its western edge. These stones did not appear to be structural; however the limitations of the evaluation trench may have impaired this interpretation. Within the deposit [013] a number of pottery and bone fragments were noted, again the greater concentration being in the general vicinity of the group of stones.

Deposit [013] survived within the centre portion of Trench 8, due to a depression in the geology, whereas the areas surrounding the boundary ditches had been disturbed by the activity of modern ploughing, consequently removing any evidence for the continuation of [013]. Although a direct physical relationship cannot be proved, it would be a reasonable suggestion to group the boundary ditches [003] and [009] with layer [013], the grouping and nature of the features indicates that [013] is in fact the remains of the occupation area within the enclosure. Although the geophysical survey did not identify the [013], it is visible on the Aerial photographs of the site.

6.1.3 Trench 9

Evaluation trench 9 was targeted on geophysical anomaly identified as the entrance to the enclosure. The evaluation trench showed the anomaly to be a linear deposit, aligned east west and unlike the other ditches [014] contained a deposit of rounded stones [015]. Due to an instrumentation offset in the position of the geophysical results, Trench 9 required extending towards the east in order to hit the geophysical anomalies actual location.

4

Within Trench 9, the linear feature terminated in a rounded end, the section cut through the feature revealed that the entrance ditch



Illus 6

Trench 9 – detail of terminal end of enclosure ditch

contained a capping of rounded pebbles [015] to an approximate depth of 0.10m. Beneath [015] a similar deposit to that seen within the fill of the other boundary ditches was recorded [016] a very small quantity of animal bone was identified within this fill, the preservation of the small animal bone was very good and when examined exhibited butchering marks.

The profile of [014] differed both in depth and shape; the ditch was considerable shallower, possible due to the change in the local geology, as the lower level of the ditch was cut onto a level that consisted of weathered bedrock, no further features were identified within the trench.

6.2 Trenches containing no archaeology within Area C

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 proved archaeologically sterile.

Within trench 7, towards the northern end, a ceramic land drain aligned north-east south-west, was observed, the land drain aligned with an unidentified geophysical anomaly.

7. DISCUSSION

The evaluation of the area encompassed by the proposed development has confirmed the presence, first indicated by aerial photography, then geophysical survey, of a Romano-British site within the field assigned to the proposed park and ride scheme. There was a good concurrence between linear anomalies detected by geophysics, and actual linear features found during the evaluation. The horizons of cultural material were detected less well by the remote sensing.

The finds assemblage was predominantly made up of pottery (Appendix 2). In addition there was a small collection of ceramic building material, one iron find and a small amount of ironworking waste. However, but for two post-medieval finds, all appears to date to the later 1st- 2nd century AD. No evidence of earlier Iron Age or later Dark Age occupation was found.

The vast majority of the pottery consisted of Severn Valley ware and comprised of a variety of forms including tankards, several jars, a curved wall dish, a butt beaker and a cordoned closed vessel.

The overall condition of the Roman pottery was very well preserved and consisted of some large sherds from single vessels, many with moderately fresh breaks, particularly from Ditch [009], fill [010]

The evidence from site points to the existence of linear boundary features, which may have formed a rectangular enclosure. A plausible explanation for these features is a combination of stock management, and the definition of a residential area. In general, the linear features were well preserved and have retained artefactual and some ecofactual evidence relevant to further understanding of the archaeological remains (Appendix 3).

There is also some evidence remaining suggesting the presence of thin occupation horizons, particularly within Trenches 6 and 8. . In

the case of deposit [013], the presence of ceramic material, animal bone and its central location within the enclosure, lends weight to its interpretation as the remains of an occupation horizon. It is plausible that the possible surfaces [006] identified in Trench 6 and [002] in Trench 9 also represent a heavily truncated occupation deposit.

However, the occupation deposits are thin and appear vulnerable to plough damage. This suggests that they have a greater sensitivity to damage than the identified boundary features, but also is likely to mean that their evidential value has already been and will continue to be degraded.

The crop-marks visible on aerial photographs generally did not translate into visible sub-surface features when not also visible as geophysical anomalies. This suggests that plough attrition is an ongoing effect upon buried archaeological remains within this area.

The remains located within the proposed development area have the character of a small rural domestic settlement within which, ranges of agricultural and pastoral activities typical to the period were likely to be taking place. Remains of domestic character are likely to be present in poorly preserved form, however remains relating to landscape division, where present, will have a better level of survival.

Within the area evaluated, the surviving evidence for a single settlement seems confined to the area directly north of the B4933, and it is likely that the extent recorded by geophysical survey is close to the true extent of the archaeological remains. There was no evidence that remains associated with the identified enclosure, were present elsewhere, within the proposed development site, other than in the area of trenches 6, 8 and 9.

No further analysis or publication is warranted on the finds recovered to date from the evaluation (see conclusions to specialist assessments: appendices). However, if a programme of archaeological work is undertaken in connection with the construction of the proposed scheme, the results from the evaluation should be included in the analysis of any further recovered evidence.

8. ARCHIVE

The archive is currently located at Headland Archaeology's premises (Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Westfield Trading Estate, Hereford, HR4 9NZ) and will be deposited with the Hereford Museum within six months of report acceptance.

9. REFERENCES

Institute for Archaeologists 2007 *Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, and transfer.*

Smalley, R 2012 *"Green Crize": Report on Archaeological Geophysical Survey*" Stratascan.

British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>

Kimber, M 2012 *South Hereford Park and Ride: WSI for Archaeological Trial Trenching.* Written Scheme of Investigation, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

Institute for Archaeologists 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*



10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Trench	Description
001	Across site	Plough soil, mid-brown, ploughed in crop debris (0.30m-0.35m depth)
002	Across site	Natural, clay –pink-light brown-0.15m +
003	8	Cut-linear, filled by [004], Tr 8 –2.00m by 0.80m - ditch
004	8	Fill of [003] –mid brown clay
005	6	Cut-linear, filled by [006], Tr 6-0.7m by 0.20m – small gully
006	6	Fill of [005] –mid brown clay
007	6	Cut-linear, filled by [008], Tr 6-0.7m by 0.20m – small gully
008	6	Fill of [005] –mid brown clay
009	8	Cut-linear, filled by [010], Tr 8 –3.00m by 0.85m - ditch
010	8	Fill of [009] –mid brown clay
011	6	– Deposit-surface- mid-dark brown –charcoal flecks
012	9	– Deposit-surface- mid-dark brown –charcoal flecks
013	8	Deposit-surface- mid-dark brown –charcoal flecks
014	9	Cut-linear, filled by [015,016], Tr 9 terminal end of enclosure ditch
015	9	Secondary Fill of [014] above 016 stone deposit 0.15m
016	9	Fill of [014] –mid brown clay

Appendix 1.2 Drawing register

Drawing	Section	Plan	Description
1	–	Plan	Plan of site and features (location plan-gps surveyed)
2	Section	–	Section 1 Tr 8 [009]
3	Section	–	Section 2 Tr 8 [003]
4	Section	–	Section 3 Tr 9 [014]

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	B/W	C/S	Digital	Direction	Description
1	✓	✓	✓	WWN	General view of Trench 3 (Wet Weather)
2	✓	✓	✓	W	General view of Trench 2
3	–	–	✓	SE	General view of Trench 7
4	✓	✓	✓	E	General view of Trench 8 ditch pre ex
5	✓	✓	✓	E	General view of Trench 8 ditch pre ex
6	✓	✓	✓	E	General view of Trench 8 ditch pre ex

Photo	B/W	C/S	Digital	Direction	Description
7	✓	✓	✓	E	General view of Trench 9
8	✓	✓	✓	SE	General view of Trench 9
9	✓	✓	✓	N	General view of Trench 8 ditch
10	✓	✓	✓	NE	General view of Trench 6 ditch [005]
11	✓	✓	✓	NE	General view of Trench 1 ditch
12	✓	✓	✓	SW	General view of Trench 6 ditch [007]
13	✓	✓	✓	–	Trench 8 pot in [009] ditch slot
14	✓	✓	✓	SE	Trench 6 general post ex
15	✓	✓	✓	N	Trench 8 north half
16	✓	✓	✓	NE	General view of Trench 5
17	✓	✓	✓	NE	General view of Trench 4
18	✓	✓	✓	E	Trench 9 ditch [011]
19	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 ditch [011]
20	✓	✓	✓	S	Trench 9 ditch [011]
21	✓	✓	✓	S	Trench 9 ditch [011]
22	–	–	✓	W	Trench 8 ditch [003]
23	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 8
24	✓	✓	✓	SE	Trench 8
25	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 8
26	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 8
27	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
28	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
29	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
30	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
31	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
32	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
33	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
34	✓	✓	✓	W	Trench 9 General view
35	✓	✓	✓	N	South facing section of [010] trench 8
36	✓	✓	✓	N	Slot [010] trench 8
37	✓	✓	✓	N	Slot [010] trench 8
38	–	–	✓	NE	Slot [010] trench 8
39	✓	✓	✓	NW	Slot [010] trench 8
40	✓	✓	–	E	Slot [010] trench 8

Appendix 2 Appendix 2 – Finds Assessment

by Julie Franklin & Jane Timby

Introduction

The finds assemblage was predominantly made up of pottery. In addition there was a small collection of ceramic building material, one iron find and a small amount of ironworking waste. But for two post-medieval finds, all appears to date to the Roman period.

Assemblage summary*Roman pottery*

The Roman pottery made a small assemblage of 201 sherds of pottery, weighing 3514g. The sherds are very well preserved overall with some large pieces. There are several sherds from single vessels, many with moderately fresh breaks, particularly from Ditch [009], fill (010). The average sherd size of 17.5 g reflects this good preservation and suggests that much of the material has come from undisturbed archaeological deposits.

Pottery was recovered from six individual contexts most of which are ditch or feature fills. Ditch [009] produced 85% of the total assemblage, some 170 sherds. Other features, in particular ditches [007] and [003] produced miniscule crumbs which cannot be accurately dated.

For the purposes of this assessment the material was scanned macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on firing colour and inclusions (type, size and frequency) in the clay. The sorted fabrics were quantified by sherd count and weight and a note made of the forms present from the rim sherds. Known named traded Roman wares were coded using the National Roman fabric reference collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998). A cross-reference is made where applicable to the Herefordshire and Worcestershire (H & W) fabric type series. Table 1 summarises the data for each context with provisional spot dates. Although several sherds showed fresh breaks these were counted individually.

Most of the Roman assemblage comprised local wares, in particular oxidised Severn Valley ware (SVW OX) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 148) accompanied by a range of other vessels. There is a single regional import but no continental traded wares.

A substantial amount of the Severn Valley ware is of the earlier variant, labelled here SVW EA, which is characterized by frequent organic matter in the clay and is typical of mid-late 1st century AD levels.

The Severn Valley ware includes a variety of forms including tankards, several jars, a curved wall dish, a butt beaker and a cordoned closed vessel.

Other named wares include a few handmade sherds from the Malvernian area including Malvernian rock-tempered ware (MAL RE A) and Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware (MAL REB), the latter probably from the area of the Woolhope Hills.

The only imported sherd is a small piece of Dorset black burnished ware (DOR BB1) from Poole Harbour, Dorset which is unlikely to have come to the area before the early 2nd century although earlier sherds have been found in South Wales.

Post-medieval pottery

One sherd (3g) of post-medieval white stoneware was found, unstratified in Trench 6.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired clay]

There were 10 sherds (136g) of ceramic building materials, though none can be definitively tied to the Roman period. A fragment from (016) and four irregular fragments of fired clay or pot found in (010/015) could be of Roman date by association with Roman pottery. Three small fragments found unstratified in Trench 6 are of uncertain date.

A broken roof tile with a projecting nib meanwhile is clearly of post-medieval date and was found apparently intrusive in an otherwise Roman ditch fill (010).

Metalwork and metalworking

These finds amounted to an iron nail and a small collection (1g) of magnetic residue. Both were recovered from ditch fill (008). Neither can be dated. They are associated only with unidentifiable crumbs of pottery. They could be of Roman date, but equally could be later.

Discussion

All the Roman pottery would support a later 1st–2nd century AD date.

The distribution is uneven, because, as noted above most of the pottery was recovered from a single feature with only a few sherds from other features. Ditch [009] suggests a later 1st or early 2nd century date. An associated post-Roman tile in this ditch is likely to be intrusive.

Context (013), a possible feature fill, contains the DOR BB1 sherd and a local oxidised jar which suggest a 2nd century date for this horizon.

The finds from ditches [003] and [007] are too small to identify or date. The presence of potential Roman CBM from ditch [014] along with a piece of 1st-century MAL RE B suggests this could be 1st –century or later.

Potential and recommendations

This is a modest assemblage of Roman pottery, which is really too small to characterize the site other than to intimate that there was activity in the 1st to 2nd century AD. Based on the sample recovered so far it suggests a rural site of some nature.

The preservation however, is good which suggests a well-preserved archaeological site.

If no further work is undertaken at the site the group would merit a very brief note accompanied by 6 to 7 illustrations. If further work is undertaken the group here should be taken into account.

The ceramic building material and other finds are of no further value.



References

Tomber, R & Dore, J 1998 *The National Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook*, Museum of London / English Heritage/ British Museum.

Pottery & CBM catalogue

Trench	Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Material	Fabric	H&W	Forms	Date
3	010	21	289	Pottery (Rom)	MALREB	4.1	—	LIA-EROM
3	010	95	2587	Pottery (Rom)	SVWEA	12.2	tankard, wide-mouthed jar, flared rim jar, expanded rim jar	AD50-100
3	010	2	114	CBM	CBM	—	—	PM
3	010	6	5	Pottery (Rom)	CRUMBS	—	—	ROM
3	010	2	4	Pottery (Rom)	MALREA	3	—	C1-C2
3	010	1	2	Pottery (Rom)	SAND	98	—	C1-C2
3	010	45	542	Pottery (Rom)	SVWOX	12	cavetto rim jar, flared rim jar, curved wall dish, pendant rimmed jar	C1-C2
3	010	4	17	CBM	FCLAY/ POT?	—	—	?ROM
6	—	3	4	CBM	CBM	—	—	NO DATE
6	—	1	3	Pottery (PM)	PMED	—	—	PM
6	008	1	0	Pottery	CRUMB	—	—	NO DATE
8	004	1	0	Pottery	CRUMB	—	—	NO DATE
8	013	1	5	Pottery (Rom)	DORBB1	22	—	C2
8	013	1	17	Pottery (Rom)	OXID	98	jar	C1-C2
8	013	2	16	Pottery (Rom)	SVWOX	12	—	C1-C2
9	016	1	1	CBM	CBM	—	—	ROM
9	016	25	47	Pottery (Rom)	MALREB	4.1	—	LIA-EROM

Finds catalogue

Trench	Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Date
6	008	1		Iron	Nail	ROM-MOD
6	008		1	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	NO DATE

Headland Archaeology

Appendix 3 Sample assessment

by Dr Tim Holden

Method

Five bulk samples were received for flotation and wet sieving (Table A3.1) together with one hand collected fragment of bone.

The samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

Results

Flots

The flots comprised modern seeds, root and stem fragments none of which are of any archaeological significance.

Retents

The results from the retents are itemised in Table A3.1. Of these, two categories of material are of potential significance

Charcoal Although all samples contained small fragments of charcoal only three contain material that could reliably be used for a radiocarbon date. The sample from (010) contains more than 10 fragments and would therefore provide the most secure date.

Animal bone Two retents produced animal bone – (010) contained fragments from what appears to be the same large mammal tooth. (016) contained a number of bone fragments some of which may have been burnt and others that were unburnt but in a poor condition. Most appear to be long bone fragments but two, from a small/medium sized animal, retained surviving epiphyses that might enable a more complete identification if required (possibly a dog/cat or even large bird).

Hand collected

A single fragment of large mammal long bone c. 5cm (7g weight) was recovered from (016). In isolation this is of little interpretative value.

Discussion

The environmental remains are neither abundant nor diverse. They were recovered from a series of ditch fills and are not likely to be related to the primary function of those features. The presence of low levels of charcoal and bone in the fills is most likely to be a result of casual accumulation rather than deliberate dumping, brought about by a mixture of human and natural agents. Their survival is largely a result of their deposition in a protected position within a negative feature. The evidence from the artefacts indicates a domestic assemblage of Roman date and the environmental remains are consistent with this.

As items of archaeological significance the charcoal and bone offer little information of the environment of the site per se. However, the charcoal could be used for radiocarbon dating if required and further analysis of the bone from (016) could, at best, provide a single species identification but this is unlikely to add significantly to the understanding of the site.

Table A3.1

Retent sample results

Context	Sample	Sample Vol (l)	Ceramic Pottery		Industrial Waste	Unburnt bone	Charcoal	Material available for AMS Dating	Cinders	Comments
			Roman	Mag res						
004	–	5	+	–	–	+	1.0	Charcoal +	–	–
006	2	5	–	–	–	+	1.2	Charcoal +	–	–
008	–	10	+	+	–	+	0.8	–	+	–
010	–	10	++	–	–	+++	1.2	Charcoal +, Unburnt Bone +	–	Bone = fragmented tooth fragments
016	–	10	–	–	–	+++	+	Unburnt Bone +++	+	Mainly fragmentary longbone but with two small/medium epiphyses. Some probably calcined

Key: + = rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating



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