

WPLS19



LAND TO THE NORTH OF SHEET ROAD, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE (PHASE INF/EMP/SUDS)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. 18/00797/VAR / 19/03233/DIS / 19/02351/DIS / 17/05983/FUL

commissioned by Aequus Land Ludlow Ltd

September 2019

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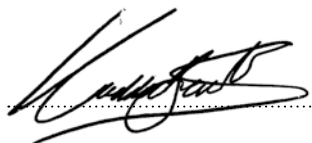
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PROJECT TEAM:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching, was undertaken by Headland Archaeology on land north of Sheet Road, Ludlow, Shropshire. Evidence for previous activity on the site was limited to a single ditch dating to the nineteenth century and linear features indicative of agricultural activity. Two conjoining sherds of a potential Roman imbrex were recovered from a subsoil deposit in Trench 5, however, no further artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered.

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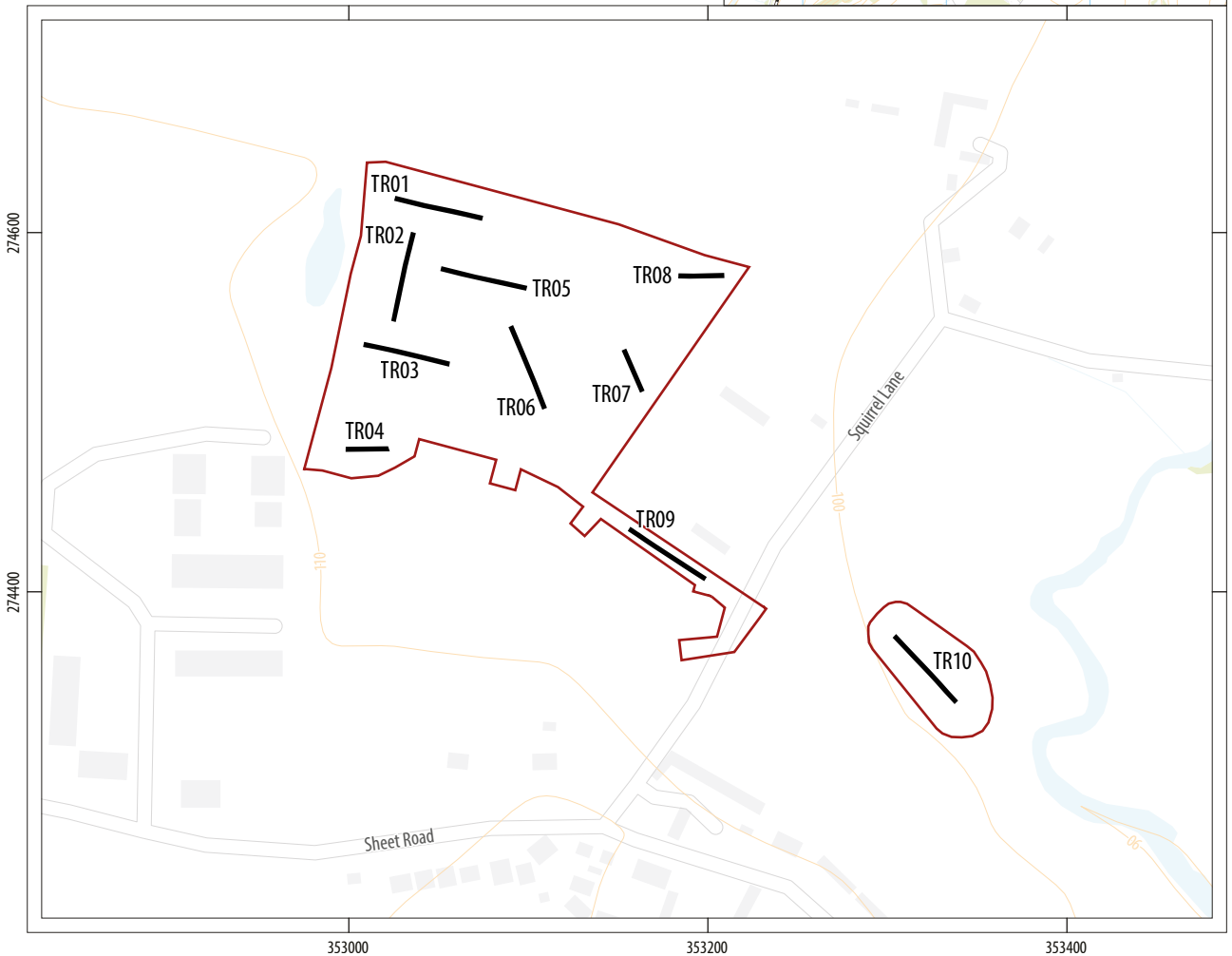
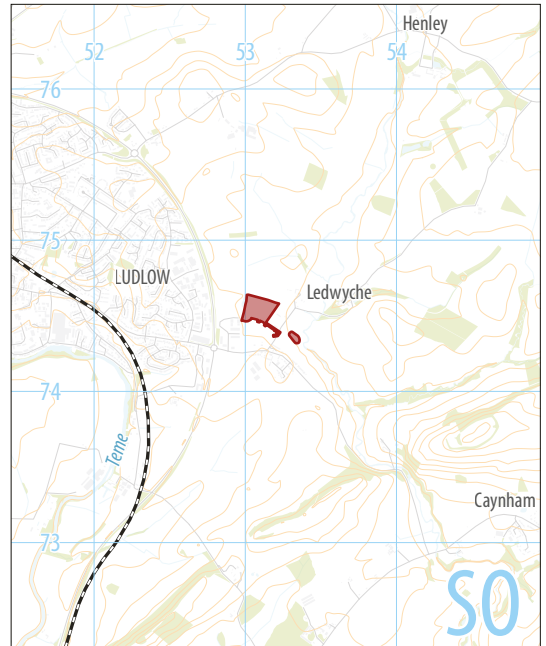
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Land north of Sheet Road
Ludlow
Shropshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 80m
1:4,000 @ A4

— development boundary
— trench location



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Aequus Land Ludlow Ltd (the client), to undertake a programme of archaeological work in order to discharge post-consent conditions placed on planning applications for a mixed use development. The work took the form of an archaeological trial trench evaluation.

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Planning permission has been granted for mixed use development on land to the north of Sheet Road, Ludlow, Shropshire (Illus 1). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has advised that a trial trench evaluation should be undertaken in order to discharge the imposed archaeological conditions placed on planning ref 18/00797/VAR / 19/03233/DIS and associated extension of an access road and sustainable drainage attenuation pond 19/02351/DIS / 17/05983/FUL. The client has instructed Headland Archaeology to complete a programme of works to determine the archaeological potential of the site in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2019) and agreed with the archaeological advisor to Shropshire County Council.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development area (PDA) is centred on SO 53215 74488 and is split across two adjacent arable fields. The larger area of land (18/00797/VAR / 19/03233/DIS), is a fallow agricultural field enclosed by hedges. It is bounded to the east by Squirrel Lane, to

the south by Sheet Road, and by a business park and park and ride to the west. To the north lie further farm fields. An electrical substation is sited in the north east corner of the field. An attenuation pond is to be sited in a pasture field on the east side of Squirrel Lane and is bounded to the south by residential housing, and to the east by Ledwyche Brook. Further open fields lie to the north, and beyond Ledwyche Brook. The site encompasses approximately 2.8 hectares and is located at 110m AOD to the west and 100m AOD to the east over undulating land.

The bedrock geology comprises Raglan Mudstone with superficial deposits of Little Sand and Gravel occupying the eastern part of the site (NERC 2019). The soils in the western part of the site are classified in the Soilscape 8 association, characterised as slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. In the east (overlying the sand and gravels) the soils are classified in the Soilscape 12 association, characterised as freely draining floodplain soils (Cranfield University 2019).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site does not contain any known heritage assets. A number of crop-mark sites of probable Iron Age to Roman date lie in the immediate surrounding area. The references cited here refer to Historic Environment Records. These include a cropmark suggested as a Roman Military site at The Sheet (HER PRN 04532), cropmark enclosure c 115m SE of Ledwyche Bridge (HER PRN 04596), cropmark enclosure c 300m S of Ledwyche Bridge (HER PRN 02115) and cropmarks of a circular enclosure c 370m N of Little Ledwyche Farm (HER PRN 02159).

Recent Portable Antiquities data provides additional evidence for a substantive Roman presence in the area. No previous archaeological work has been undertaken within the site boundaries.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the investigation are detailed in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2019).

The purpose of the evaluation is to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the of the impact of the proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area.

Observations made during the archaeological trial trenching will determine whether further archaeological work is required.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited with Shropshire Museums Service to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the above mentioned WSI and in accordance with the following documents:

- › Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)
- › Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a)

A total of seven trenches, measuring 50m in length and 1.80m in width and three trenches measuring 25m in length and 1.80m in width, were excavated. The work was undertaken on the 6th, 7th and 8th of August 2019.

Prior to excavation, utility plans were consulted and underground power services were located and marked on the ground by Western Power. A cable avoidance tool was used to check for the presence of further potential buried services.

Trenches were excavated using a 14t, 360°, tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a bladed bucket, to depths where archaeological features were identified, or geological deposits encountered.

Exposed archaeological remains were recorded on Headland Archaeology evaluation trench sheets and a representative sample of features identified were subsequently excavated by hand to determine form, function and retrieve dateable material.

Drawings of significant archaeological remains and the general stratigraphy of the site were produced at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 where appropriate or digitally surveyed.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfAc). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma context record sheets. Context numbers followed a two-digit format (eg 01, 02 etc) prefixed by the trench number. Digital and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches and identified features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. An overall site plan of

the trenches and recorded features was digitally produced. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

4 RESULTS

A summary of all trenches and recorded contexts is presented as Appendix 1. A plan of excavated trenches is presented in Illus 1. A preceding summary and description of the general stratigraphy across the site is also given.

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The site west of Squirrel Lane was not in use and was a fallow, previously cultivated field. Topsoil (0101), was present across the site to a depth of 0.25–0.30m. This deposit sealed a subsoil (0102), which continued to an average depth of 0.50m below ground level (BGL). Geological deposits of Raglan Mudstone (0103), were observed from a depth of 0.40m BGL. Pockets of colluvial material were present within undulations of the natural geology, below the subsoil, predominately in Tr09 – (0906), but variably present within other trenches. Their upper and lower interfaces were heavily diffused.

The site east of Squirrel Lane was under pasture. Topsoil (1001), was present to a depth of 0.24m BGL, with subsoil continuing to 0.50m BGL. The natural geology (1003) was the same Raglan mudstone formation present across the remainder of the site. This geological horizon sloped gently downwards from either end of Trench 10, meeting at a point 17m in from the south east end. At this point a channel 6.7m wide at the top and 0.70m deep (1.11m BGL) ran from the south west, downslope to the north east and towards Ledwyche Brook. It contained a single homogenous fine sandy clay deposit (1004); natural infilling as a result of low energy water action (Illus 3).

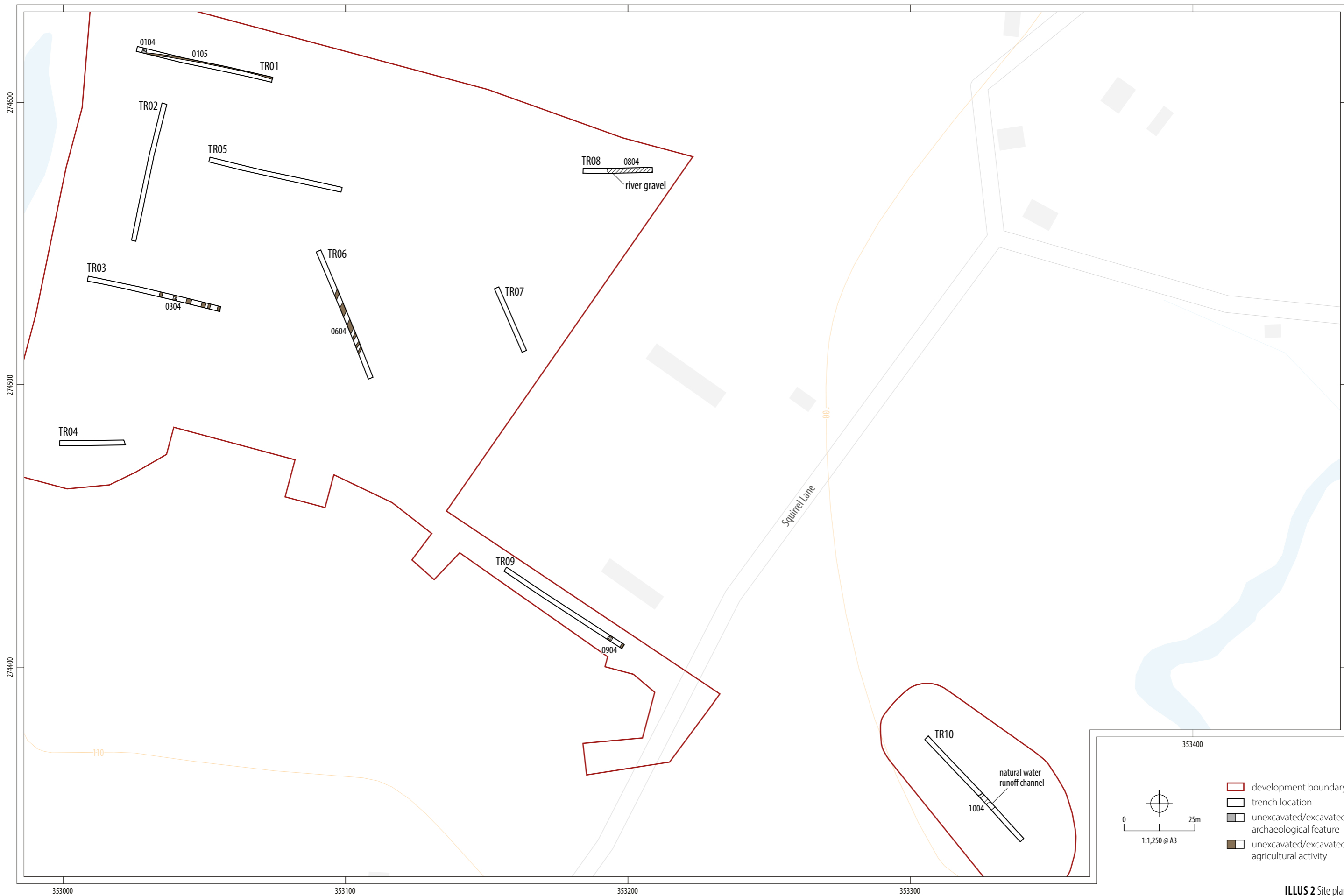
4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

A north to south aligned ditch [0104], was recorded at the west end of Trench 01, to a maximum depth of 0.61m BGL (Illus 4), cutting an earlier broadly east to west aligned plough scar [0105]. The ditch was filled with a silty clay (0107) which contained cultural material dating to the 19th century. The first edition OS map shows a dwelling, Honey Meadow Cottage, in the north west corner of the field (c 15m to the north west). The property is shown within a small enclosed area and with a north west to south east aligned access path running from it to the junction of Sheet Road and Squirrel Lane. Ditch [0104], with its domestic debris, is interpreted as being part of the property enclosure, or its associated footpath.

In addition to the plough scar [0105], in Trench 01, further examples of agricultural activity were recorded in trenches 03, 06 and 09, in the form of remnant ridge and furrow. The alignments of each were similar – broadly NNE-SSW, in line with the current boundaries of Squirrel Lane and the hedge line on the west side of the field (Illus 5).

4.3 BLANK TRENCHES

Trenches 02, 04, 05, 07, 08, and 10 did not contain any archaeological remains.





ILLUS 3 Looking south at north-east facing section through natural water runoff channel (1004) **ILLUS 4** Looking north at section through post-medieval ditch [0104] **ILLUS 5** Looking north-east at remnant ridge and furrow [0304]

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

by Amy Koonce & Julie Franklin

The finds assemblage numbered five sherds (26g) of pottery, two sherds (659g) of ceramic building material, a clay pipe stem and a handful of finds of lead, iron and glass. These were found in two deposits in two separate trenches. Most finds are modern, one is potentially Roman. The finds are summarised by feature in Table 1 and a complete catalogue is given in Appendix 2.

TABLE 1 Summary of finds assemblage by feature/deposit with spot dating (dating is for finds in the backfill of these features and does not necessarily date the features; small assemblages should be used with particular caution for dating purposes).

TR	FEATURE TYPE	CUT	POTTERY (MOD)		LEAD	IRON	GLASS	CLAY PIPE	CBM		SPOT DATE
			QTY	WGT (G)					QTY	WGT (G)	
01	linear	0104	5	26	1	2	4	1	1	53	19th
05	subsoil	0502	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	606	Rom
TOTAL			5	26	1	2	4	1	3	659	-

5.1 METHODOLOGY

All finds were hand collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (CifAa 2014; Watkinson & Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists. The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

The pottery was examined visually, using x20 magnification where necessary. It was recorded according to standards set out by specialist bodies (Barclay et al 2016; Slowikowski 2001).

Modern pottery

Five sherds (26g) of modern pottery were retrieved from linear [0104] in Trench 01. The assemblage includes Willow pattern, a stoneware jar, glazed refined earthenware with a slip decoration and possible spongeware. The finds are of 19th-century or later date.

Metalwork

A lead alloy find and two iron nails were retrieved from linear [0104] in Trench 01. The function of the lead alloy find is unclear. It has a screw-threaded knob at one end indicating it was fixed to something else. It may be the pendant part of a furniture drop handle or a pendulum weight.

Glass

Four fragments of glass were retrieved from linear [0104] in Trench 01. Two of the sherds comprise colourless bottle glass, one is a near complete marble and the remaining is a sherd which is opaque turquoise in colour. The turquoise sherd's function is unclear. All are modern in date.

Clay pipe

A single clay pipe stem was retrieved from linear [0104] in Trench 01. It is stamped 'NOAH RODE-/BROSELE-', indicating it was manufactured by the Broseley Pipeworks in Shropshire under Noah Roden. There are two makers of this name recorded working in 1770–1829 and 1800–1855 (Oswald 1975, 191).

Ceramic building material

Three sherds (659g) of tile were retrieved. One was a single sherd of wall tile in a red fabric from linear [0104] in Trench 01. It is clearly modern in date. The other sherds were the only finds from Trench 5, found in subsoil (0502). They were conjoining pieces of the same thick curving tile, in a red fabric. Its form suggests it is a Roman imbrex. It is 23mm thick, though there are no other surviving complete dimensions.

5.2 DISCUSSION

The imbrex may derive from the roof of a Roman structure of some status though as it was found singly in the subsoil, it is not necessarily indicative of such a structure in the immediate vicinity. Imbrex could also be used to build drains (McCornish 2015, 11–12).

The majority of the assemblage is modern in date, indicating a certain amount of 19th-century domestic waste was mixed with deposits filling linear [0104].

Recommendations for further work

The assemblage is small, most of the finds are modern and the only older find is poorly stratified. Thus, no further work is recommended on the finds as the assemblage stands. Should further work be undertaken, then the assemblage should be re-evaluated in the light of any additional finds.

Recommendations for archive

The sherds of imbrex could be retained. As it stands, the rest of the material is of no further archaeological value and if no further work is undertaken on the site, it is recommended they be discarded. The archive has been prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of Shropshire Museums Service (SMS 2015).

the only other feature of note (Ditch 0104) dating to the nineteenth century or later.

Two conjoining pieces of Roman tile are of note, and point to activity of this date within the wider area. Their discovery as an isolated find within a subsoil deposit does not however provide evidence for Roman activity within the site itself.

The evaluation has confirmed that the proposed development area has a low potential for archaeological activity of any period.

7 REFERENCES

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6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

A paucity of archaeological remains was identified across the site. Negative features were predominantly agricultural in origin, with

Shropshire Museums Service (SMS) 2015 *Shropshire Museums, Collections and Curatorial Services, Standards for the Preparation and Deposition of Archaeology Archives* Shrewsbury

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

*DBGL = Depth Below Ground Level

TR01	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	50	1.80	0.55
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)
0101	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions			0–0.30
0102	Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions			0.30–0.54
0103	Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation			0.54+
0104	N-S Linear: Rounded profile; L ≥1.80m, W 1.36m, D 0.31m – Agricultural boundary and/or drainage ditch			0.61
0105	ESE-WNW Linear: Rounded profile; L ≥0.60m, W 0.53m, D ≥0.07m – Probable plough scarring			0.54+
0106	Fill of [0105]: Mid orangey brown, silty clay			0.54+
0107	Fill of [0104]: Mid orangey brown, silty clay with occasional medium to large angular stones, rare very small charcoal, occasional small pottery, occasional medium CBM, rare small CTP, rare small glass, rare medium metal items, and rare glass marble inclusions			0.54+

SUMMARY: 2X LINEAR FEATURES. 1 X DITCH, PROBABLY RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, AND 1 X PLOUGH SCAR

TR02	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	N-S	50	1.80	0.70
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)
0201	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, fine sandy clay with occasional medium angular and rounded stones, occasional very small charcoal and occasional very small clinker inclusions			0–0.36
0202	Subsoil: Light orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with rare medium to large angular stones and frequent very small charcoal inclusions			0.36–0.54
0203	Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation			0.54+

SUMMARY: NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

TR03	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	50	1.80	0.65
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)
0301	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions			0–0.17
0302	Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions			0.17–0.35
0303	Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation			0.35+
0304	5x N-S Linears: Shallow, rounded profiles; L ≥1.80m, W 1.26m, D 0.11m – Furrow remnants			0.35+
0305	Fill of [0304]: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small and large angular stones and rare small charcoal inclusions as well as moderate frequency patches of redeposited natural (0303)			0.35+

SUMMARY: 4X AND 1 PARTIALLY EXPOSED N-S REMNANTS OF RIDGE AND FURROW ACROSS W END OF TRENCH

TR04	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	25	1.80	0.50
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)
0401	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions			0–0.31
0402	Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions			0.31–0.41
0403	Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation			0.41+

SUMMARY: NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

TR05	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	50	1.80	0.75
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)
0501	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, fine sandy clay with occasional medium angular and rounded stones, occasional very small charcoal and occasional very small clinker inclusions			0–0.28
0502	Subsoil: Light orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with rare medium to large angular stones and frequent very small charcoal inclusions			0.28–0.63
0503	Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation			0.63+

0504 Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, very slightly clayey fine sand, related to mudstone formation 0.63+

SUMMARY: NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

0804 Natural Geology: River gravels; interbedded in (0803) 0.38+

SUMMARY: NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

TR06	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	50	1.8	0.45
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)

0601 Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions 0–0.25

0602 Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions 0.25–0.37

0603 Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation 0.37+

0604 RECORDED IN PLAN: 6x N-S Linears: L ≥ 1.80m, W 0.8–2.6m; filled by Mid yellowish brown, fine sandy clay with occasional very small manganese inclusions – Furrow remnants 0.37+

SUMMARY: REMNANT OF N-S RIDGE AND FURROW

TR09	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	50	1.80	0.55
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)

0901 Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions 0–0.25

0902 Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions 0.25–0.44

0903 Fill of [0904]: Mid/pale orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small to medium rounded and angular stone, moderate very small coarse sand/grit and moderate very small charcoal inclusions 0.44+

0904 2x N-S Linears: Shallow, slightly rounded profile; L ≥ 1.80m, W 1.65m, D 0.12m – Furrow remnants 0.44+

0905 Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation 0.44/0.77+

0906 Colluvial Layer: Soft, mid yellowish brown, fine sandy silty clay with occasional medium angular stone inclusions 0.44–0.77

SUMMARY: REMNANTS OF N-S RIDGE AND FURROW

TR07	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	25	1.80	0.97
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)

0701 Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions 0–0.15

0702 Subsoil: Light orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with rare medium to large angular stones and frequent very small charcoal inclusions 0.15–0.53

0703 Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation 0.53+

SUMMARY: NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

TR10	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.57
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)

1001 Topsoil: Mid reddish brown, fine sandy silt with occasional small to large angular stone, occasional small pottery, and rare small glass inclusions 0–0.24

1002 Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small angular stone and rare small charcoal inclusions 0.24–0.50

1003 Natural Geology: Mid pink mottled with light grey, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation 0.50/1.20+

1004 Fill of natural channel: Mid orangey brown, clayey silt with occasional small to medium rounded stone and frequent small manganese inclusions 0.50–1.20

1005 Colluvial spread: Mid brownish pink, fine sandy clay with moderate very small manganese inclusions 0.30–0.50

SUMMARY: NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

TR08	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	E-W	25	1.80	0.55
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			*DBGL (M)

0801 Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular stones, rare very small manganese, and rare small pottery and CBM inclusions 0–0.17

0802 Subsoil: Mid orangey brown, fine sandy clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone and moderate charcoal inclusions 0.17–0.38

0803 Natural Geology: Mid brownish red, fine sandy clay with patches of mudstone formation 0.38+

APPENDIX 2 FINDS CATALOGUE

TR	CONTEXT	FEATURE	QTY	WEIGHT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
1	107	104	5	26	Pottery (Mod)	modern	includes blue transfer printed rim sherd with Willow pattern, stoneware jar rim, glazed refined earthenware with slip decoration, possible spongeware	1800+
1	107	104	2	3	Glass	bottle	colourless transparent fragments	19th+
1	107	104	1	2	Glass	object	fragment of opaque turquoise glass, function unclear	Mod
1	107	104	1	6	Glass	marble	nearly complete, broken in half, light green translucent with white swirls, diam 17mm	Mod
1	107	104	1	2	Clay Pipe	stem	broken in two pieces, stamped 'NOAH RODE-/BROSELE-' (Noah Roden/Broseley, two makers of this name, dated 1770–1829, 1800–55 (Oswald 1975, 191)	L18th–M19th
1	107	104	1	44	Lead	handle?	Long object with hexagonal section. Moulded decoration on all sides, knob with screw thread at one end indicates part of a larger object. Possibly pendant part of drop handle or end of pendulum? L 72 x W 11mm	19th+
1	107	104	2	31	Iron	nails		
1	107	104	1	53	CBM	tile	red fabric, 10mm thick	Mod
5	502	502	2	606	CBM	imbrex?	conjoining sherds, 23mm thick	Rom?



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