

making sense of heritage

Vernon Arms, Saltway Hanbury, Worcestershire HER Ref: WSM 57022

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 102710.01 January 2014

I archaeology



Archaeological Evaluation

HER Ref: WSM 57022

Prepared for:

CgMs Consulting 43 Temple Row Birmingham B2 5LS

Prepared by: Wessex Archaeology Unit R6, Riverside Block Sheaf Bank Business Park Sheffield S2 3EN

www.wessexarch.co.uk

January 2014

102710



Quality Assurance

Project Code	102710	Accession Code		Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	396500 262840)	

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	1	СН	APN	Lto	16/01/14
File:	S:\Proje	cts\102710 (Vernon /	Arms, Salt Way,	Hanbury)\Report\	
v02	E				30/01/14
File:					
v03	F			Lto	31/01/14
File:	S:\PROJ	IECTS\102710 (Vern	ion Arms, Hanbu	ury)\Report\Submitted	1
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2014

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.

Archaeological Evaluation

Contents

ounna	ry	iii
Acknow	ledgements	iv
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project background	
1.2	The Site	
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1	Introduction	2
2.2	Historical background	2
2.3	Previous archaeological investigations	2
3	METHODOLOGY	2
3.1	General	2
3.2	Aims and objectives	3
3.3	Trenching	3
3.4	Finds	3
3.5	Environmental samples	3
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	4
4 4.1	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	
-		4
4.1	Introduction	4 4
4.1 4.2	Introduction General Site stratigraphy	4 4 5
4.1 4.2 5	Introduction General Site stratigraphy ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	4 4 5
4.1 4.2 5 5.1	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5
4.1 4.2 5 5.1 5.2	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5 5
4.1 4.2 5 5.1 5.2 5.3	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5 5 6
4.1 4.2 5 5.1 5.2 5.3 6	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6
4.1 4.2 5 5.1 5.2 5.3 6 6.1	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6
4.1 4.2 5 5.1 5.2 5.3 6 6.1 6.2	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 7
4.1 4.2 5 5.1 5.2 5.3 6 .1 6.1 6.2 6.3	Introduction	4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 7 7



8	STORAGE AND CURATION	8
8.1	Museum	8
8.2	Preparation of archive	8
8.3	Discard policy	8
8.4	Security copy	8
8.5	Copyright	8
9	REFERENCES 1	0
9 9.1	REFERENCES	
•	REFERENCES 1 Bibliography 1 Online sources 1	0
9.1	Bibliography 1	0 1
9.1 9.2	Bibliography	0 1 2

Tables

Table 1:	All finds by co	ntext (number/weig	ht in grammes)6
	7 m m do by 00	nioxi (numbor/worg	in in grannico	,

Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Plan of trenches 2, 3 and 4
- Figure 3: Northwest facing section of 203, 303 and 403, and southeast facing section of 205

Plates

- Plate 1: View of 203 from the northwest.
- Plate 2: View of 205 from the northwest
- Plate 3: View of 303 from the northwest
- Plate 4: View of 403 from the northwest.

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land near to the Vernon Arms, Saltway, Hanbury, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Site' centred on NGR 396500 262840).

The Site lies within land immediately southwest of the junction of Saltway, Hanbury Road, and the B4090, near to the Vernon Arms at Hanbury, Worcestershire. The Site is currently in use as pasture.

The Site has been subject to a Desk Based Assessment (DBA; CgMs 2013) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013). The DBA revealed evidence for a possible Romano-British fort identified from satelite imagery. The geophyscal survey revealed anomalies representing a possible ring ditch and linear features associated with the possible enclosure/fort.

Four trenches were excavated and were targetted on geophyisical anomalies; three trenches revealed archaeological remains (**Figure 1**). Trench 2 revealed two ditches; Trench 3 an intercutting curvilinear ditch and pit; and Trench 4 a ditch. All of the features, except for one of the ditches in Trench 2, contained archaeological artefacts dating to the Romano-British period (100 - 400 + AD). Pottery recovered from the fills of the ditches within Trenches 2 and 4 are indicative of settlement nearby.

Although one of the ditches may correspond with a crop mark identified as a possible Romano-British fort identified by the HER through satellite imagery, the excavated section suggests the ditch had a non-military function. The linear ditches were aligned northwest-southeast and are likely to represent field enclosures; a curvilinear ditch and a pit may be indicative of stock control or possibly a structure. The Site occupies a plateau and would have afforded easy access to the Saltway. This would have made the Site attractive to past settlers.

The evaluation suggests that additional archaeological remains are likely to survive within the Site and date to the Romano-British period. However none of the features appear to relate to military use.

The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield Offices under project number **102710**. It will be deposited with a suitable musem in due course. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned CgMs Consulting, and the assistance of Cathy Patrick is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Harrison and Jonathan Buttery. The report was compiled by Chris Harrison and illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden. The finds were assessed by Loraine Mepham and the environmental samples were assessed by Ellen Simmons. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land near to the Vernon Arms, Saltway, Hanbury, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Site' centred on NGR 396500 262840).
- 1.1.2 The Site lies within land immediately southwest of the junction of Saltway, Hanbury Road, and the B4090, near to the Vernon Arms at Hanbury, Worcestershire. The Site is currently in use as pasture.
- 1.1.3 The Site has been subject to a Desk Based Assessment (DBA; CgMs 2013) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013). Following discussions between Mike Glyde of Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and Cathy Patrick (CgMs), a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching was programmed to inform a planning application for new housing.
- 1.1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) detailing how the evaluation would be carried out was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2014), and approved by the Client and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) prior to the scheme commencing.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises 1.8ha of arable land within land immediately southwest of the junction of Saltway, Hanbury Road, and the B4090, near to the Vernon Arms at Hanbury, Worcestershire. The Site is currently in use as arable land. Hanbury, Worcestershire (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group. The sharp increase in ground levels to Park Hill coincides with a change in geology to bands of the Blue Anchor Formation of Mudstone, Westbury Formation of sandstone and Westbury Formation of Mudstone. There is no superficial geology listed for the Site. A geological fault line runs around the eastern side of Hanbury and stops immediately to the north of the Site (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).
- 1.2.3 Levels within the Site decrease gently from the northwestern boundary (69m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and southeastern corner, towards the southwestern corner of the Site. Levels then rise steeply to the southeast of the Site, representing the ridge of Park Hill (89m AOD).
- 1.2.4 A northeast to southwest flowing watercourse represents the northwestern boundary of the Site and is the only watercourse which is mapped in Hanbury. The Seeley Brook is located further to the southeast.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following section summarises the Site historical and archaeological background as presented in the DBA (CgMs 2013).

2.2 Historical background

Introduction

2.2.1 There are no archaeological assets, although a crop mark of a possible Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure/fort has been identified within the Site boundaries.

Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.2 A cropmark covering the majority of the Site was thought to represent a possible early Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure or a late Iron Age or Romano-British fort. The Site sits within a known Romano-British landscape, on the line of the Saltway, an east-west trading route which connected the salt-producing town of Droitwich with Alcester and Ryknild Street. There are two proposed alignments for the Saltway – one running immediately north, and the other 600m to the south of the Site.

Saxon and medieval

2.2.3 There is no mention of Hanbury in the Domesday Survey, although a charter dating to the 7th century AD, dates the settlement to this period. The nature of the area appears to be an agricultural landscape interspersed with farmsteads and hamlets.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.2.4 Saxton's map of 1577 shows that the Site is located on the western edge of Frekenham Forest, to the west of Seeley Brook and to the east of Hanbury Hall Park.
- 2.2.5 The wider landscape is characterised by a series of farmsteads, which are mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1885. A brickworks is shown to the west of the Site on both the 1885 and 1905 Ordnance Survey maps.

2.3 **Previous archaeological investigations**

2.3.1 The Site has been subjected to a recent geophysical survey, the results of which have directed the placement of the trenching (**Figure 1**). The survey revealed anomalies representing a possible ring ditch and linear features associated with the enclosure/fort. There is also a findspot of one sherd of Roman pottery just to the north of the Site boundary. In addition, there has been geophysical survey of land set back from the junction of Saltway and Hanbury Road which recorded anomalies coinciding with existing earthworks, evaluation of an 18th century farmstead on an adjacent site and building recording of barns at Woodrow Farm and at Park Farm.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

3.1.1 The methodology for the evaluation can be found in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014). Archaeology guidelines and procedures conform to industry best practice, as outlined in guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2009), the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC 2001) and the relevant local and regional frameworks.



3.2 Aims and objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the project were:

• To record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;

• To provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation;

- To investigate geophysical anomalies revealed by survey;
- To investigate the presence or lack thereof a possible Roman fort;
- To make available the results of the work.

3.3 Trenching

- 3.3.1 The setting out of the evaluation trenches in accordance with the agreed Site plan (Figure 1), was within +or- 100mm using a survey grade GPS. The trenches were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid. The trenching comprised three trenches measuring 30m by 2m, one 20m by 2m, and were targeted on geophysical anomalies (see Figure 1).
- 3.3.2 Prior to any mechanical excavation each trench was scanned with a CAT to check for uncharted services.
- 3.3.3 Overburden was removed using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil/overburden was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first.
- 3.3.4 Any revealed deposits were hand cleaned, excavated and recorded in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's standard guidelines. Once the aims of the project had been met, the trenches were backfilled with the excavated material in reverse order.
- 3.3.5 Any revealed deposits were hand cleaned where necessary. All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. The features were planned using a GPS and each excavated intervention was hand planned and located with respect to the Ordnance Survey Grid and Datum. A photographic record was made using 35mm film and digital images.

3.4 Finds

3.4.1 The finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992; IfA 2008b).

3.5 Environmental samples

3.5.1 Archaeological deposits were sampled for the recovery of environmental remains in accordance with relevant guidance (English Heritage 2011) and the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2014).



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following is a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Trench locations are shown on **Figure 1** and the recorded contexts are summarised in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 The Site occupies a slight plateau to the south of the modern Saltway. Although the precise location of the Roman Saltway is postulated as either to the north or south of the Site, the evaluation targeted features that would have been easily accessible from the road.
- 4.1.3 Four trenches were excavated and were targetted on geophyisical anomalies; three trenches revealed archaeological remains (Figure 1). Trench 2 revealed two ditches; Trench 3 an intercutting curvilinear ditch and pit; and Trench 4 a ditch. All of the features, except for one of the ditches in Trench 2, contained archaeological artefacts dating to the Romano-British period (100 400+ AD). The results are presented below.

4.2 General Site stratigraphy

4.2.1 Typically the stratigraphy comprised topsoil, measuring between 0.28 and 0.38m in depth, overlaying natural. Natural deposits consisted of reddish brown clay.

Trench 1

4.2.2 Trench 1 targeted four northwest-southeast aligned geophysical anomalies within the west of the Site. Topsoil was removed to reveal natural red clay at a depth of 0.38m. No archaeology was revealed.

Trench 2 (Figure 2 and 3)

4.2.3 Trench 2 was located east of Trench 1 within the centre of the Site. Topsoil was removed to reveal natural at a depth of 0.35m. Cut within the natural was a linear and a curvilinear ditch (203 and 205; Plates 1 and 2) corresponding with geophysical anomalies. Ditch 203 was 1.4m wide, 0.58m deep, 'V' shaped and, filled by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (204). The fill contained Romano-British pottery. The curvilinear ditch 205 was a shallow 1m wide, 'U' shaped ditch and filled by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (206). The different section shapes of ditches 203 and 205 suggest that the ditches were not the same feature but rather two separate ditches with different purposes or dates.

Trench 3 (Figure 2 and 3)

- 4.2.4 Trench 3 was located southeast of Trench 2 and targeted two parallel northwestsoutheast aligned linear geophysical anomalies. Topsoil was removed to reveal natural at a depth of 0.32m. Cut within the natural was a ditch (**303**; **Plate 3**), which corresponded with the southernmost geophysical anomaly targeted by the trench. The ditch was cut by a pit (**307**). The northern most geophysical anomaly was not revealed.
- 4.2.5 The ditch (**303**) was 0.53m wide and 0.62m deep, and 'V' shaped. The ditch was filled by mid-greyish brown clay at its base (**309**) overlain by mid-greyish brown silty clay with poorly sorted frequent large flecks of charcoal (**308**). Cut into **308** was a 0.7m in diameter and 0.39m deep pit (**307**). The pit was filled by a thin layer of charcoal (**306**) overlain by mid-greyish brown clay with infrequent small charcoal flecks (**305**).
- 4.2.6 Overlaying **305** and **308** was a layer of light greyish brown silty clay (**304**) which had formed within a shallow 'U' shaped water formed hollow.



Trench 4 (Figure 2 and 3)

- 4.2.7 Trench 4 was located to the northeast of trench 2 and 3 and targeted a linear northwestsoutheast aligned geophysical anomaly. Topsoil was removed to reveal natural at a depth of 0.28m. Cut within the natural was a 3.1m wide shallow 'U' shaped ditch (**403**; **Plate 4**). The ditch was filled with a mid-reddish brown silty clay (**406**) overlain by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (**405**). The ditch was recut as a shallow 1.56m wide 'U' shaped ditch (**407**) filled with bluish grey silty clay (**404**).
- 4.2.8 A small steep 'U' shaped gully was cut into the top of **404** and **405** by water and filled with reddish brown silty clay. A further wide and shallow (3.1m in width and 0.1m in depth) water formed hollow (**410**), similar to that revealed in Trench 3 (**304**), was formed within the top of fills **404** and **405**.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced finds deriving from contexts in three of the trenches excavated (Trenches 2, 3 and 4); quantities by material type and by context are given in **Table 1**. All datable finds are Romano-British.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Pottery provides the principal dating evidence for the Site. All 26 sherds are Romano-British, and include six sherds of Severn Valley oxidised ware (Worcestershire fabric 12), two of Oxfordshire whiteware (fabric 33.1), three of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (fabric 29), ten of coarse greyware (fabric 15), and five of coarse oxidised wares (fabric 13).
- 5.2.2 Both whiteware sherds belong to mortaria: one from ditch **403** is from a Young type M6 vessel, dated AD 100-170 (Young 1977), while the second, from ditch **407**, a possible recut of 403, is from a Young type M22 (AD 240-400+). Also from ditch **403** (upper fill **405**) came an Oxfordshire colour-coated flanged bowl, imitating samian form 38 (Young type C51, dated AD 240-400+), and two wide-mouth jars in Severn Valley ware (Webster 1976, class C). Two joining sherds of Oxfordshire-colour-coated ware from ditch **203**, from a closed form, are also likely to be of later 3rd or 4th century date. Three everted rim jars in coarse greyware from possible ditch re-cut **407**, and one from ditch **203**, are not particularly chronologically distinctive. The only other diagnostic sherd is from a flanged bowl with internal lip in Severn Valley ware (Webster 1976, class F) of probable 2nd/3rd century AD date (slumped layer **305** overlying features **303** and **307**).

5.3 Other Finds

5.3.1 Other finds comprise a very small quantity of animal bone (sheep mandible and tooth fragments); a single piece of ceramic building material, undiagnostic but almost certainly Romano-British; and a single piece of undiagnostic fired clay, of uncertain date and origin.

Context	Animal Bone	СВМ	Fired Clay	Pottery
204			1/7	9/123
304				2/40
305	6/14			
404	9/22	1/42		7/94
405	1/2			6/198
406				2/12
TOTALS	16/38	1/42	1/7	26/467

 Table 1:
 All finds by context (number/weight in grammes)

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk samples, one of ten litres and one of thirty litres in volume, were taken from possible Romano British pit fill **306** and Romano British ditch fill **404**, in order to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected on a 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flots and heavy residue were air dried. The residues were scanned for metallurgical debris such as hammer scale, using a large magnet and the > 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was fully sorted for organic remains and artefacts and weighed. Where no potential for the recovery of < 2mm artefacts, such as fish bone was noted, the < 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was also then weighed and discarded.
- 6.2.2 The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (English Heritage, 2011). The main aim of this assessment was to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any archaeobotanical material present within the samples. A further aim was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.
- 6.2.3 A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning under a low power binocular microscope (x7-x45) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. This data is recorded in Appendix 2. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g. Berggren, 1981; Anderberg, 1994; Cappers et al, 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).
- 6.2.4 Sample **301** from pit fill **306** contained a moderate proportion of intrusive roots along with a low density of charred plant remains and wood charcoal. Around twenty charred barley grains (Hordeum sp.) were present, some of which retained fragments of epidermis and could be identified as hulled barley. Also present was one spelt wheat glume base (Triticum spelta) and around ten wild or weed plant seeds which included medick / clover



(Medicago / Trifolium), black bindweed (Fallopia convolvulus), goosefoots (Chenopodium spp.) and grass family (Poaceae).

6.2.5 Sample **401** from possible boundary ditch fill **404** was dominated by intrusive roots along with a low density of charred plant remains and a moderate density of wood charcoal. Three charred cereal grains were present, which included free threshing wheat (Triticum sp.) and indeterminate wheat (Triticum indet.). Also present was a single unidentified charred wild or weed plant seed.

6.3 Further potential

Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 No further analysis of the charred plant remains present in the samples would be recommended due to the paucity of material represented.
- 6.3.2 A sufficient quantity of charred barley grains for use in radiocarbon dating was present in sample **301**. However, due to the low density of charred material overall in sample **301**, radiocarbon dating would not be recommended due to the possibility that charred cereal grains may be intrusive.

Wood charcoal

- 6.3.3 The charcoal fragments present in both samples were generally of diffuse porous taxa although it was not possible to identify these further with the use of low power magnification.
- 6.3.4 A sufficient quantity of wood charcoal fragments was present in sample **401** for further analysis. This analysis would be expected to provide evidence relating to the nature of the local environment as well as to the selection of wood for use as fuel.
- 6.3.5 Wood charcoal suitable for use in radiocarbon dating, in the form of round wood around 5mm in diameter, was present in sample **401**. Should any wood charcoal fragments be sent for radiocarbon dating however, it would be recommended that these be fully identified and recorded.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The geophysical survey and trial trenching revealed evidence for a series of ditches aligned northwest-southeast, as well as a curvilinear ditch and a pit. Sherds of Romano-British pottery recovered from the fills of ditches revealed in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 suggests that the ditches date to this period. The sherds recovered appear to have not moved much after deposition and the high quantities of pottery recovered from the fills of ditches **403** and **203** are indicative of settlement within the Site.
- 7.1.2 Although one of the ditches may correspond with a crop mark identified as a possible Romano-British fort identified by the HER through satellite imagery, the excavated section suggests the ditch had a non-military function. The linear ditches were aligned northwest-southeast and are likely to represent field enclosures; a curvilinear ditch and a pit may be indicative of stock control or possibly a structure. The Site occupies a plateau and would have afforded easy access to the Saltway. This would have made the Site attractive to past settlers.



7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The majority of the features identified in the trenches corresponded with geophysical anomalies, with only one feature identified through the geophysical survey not identified within the trenching (Trench 3). The evaluation suggests that additional archaeological remains are likely to survive within the Site and date to the Romano-British period. However, none of the features appear to relate to military use.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive from the fieldwork will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course under a relevant accession number. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 **Preparation of archive**

- 8.2.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992; UKIC 2001; Brown 2011). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 100720.
- 8.2.2 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the relevant museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.5 Copyright

8.5.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown

Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.5.2 Wessex Archaeology retains full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

- ADS, 2013, Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Anderberg, A. L., 1994, Atlas of Seeds and Small Fruits of Northwest-European Plant Species with Morphological Descriptions, Part 4: Resedaceae-Umberliferae. Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History
- Berggren, G., 1981, Atlas of Seeds and Small Fruits of Northwest-European Plant Species, with Morphological Descriptions, Part 3: Salicaceae-Crucifera. Stockholm: Swedish Museum of Natural History
- Brown, D.H., 2011, Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- Cappers, R. T. J. Bekker, R.M. Jans, J.E.A., 2006, Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Eelde: Barkhuis Publishing
- CgMs, 2013, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land at the Vernon Arms, Salt Way, Hanbury, Worcestershire, unpublished client report CP/15741
- English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, From Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition)
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008a, Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008b, Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2010, Codes of Conduct
- Jacomet, S., 2006, Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites 2nd edition. Basel: IPAS Basal University
- English Heritage, 2011, Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, center for Archaeology Guidlines.
- Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of* Archaeological Collections
- SMA, 1993, Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- SMA, 1995, Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Stace, C., 2010, New Flora of the British Isles (3rd edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

- United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC), 2001, *Guidlines for the Preperation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*
- Stratascan, 2013, Vernon Arms, Saltway, Hanbury, Worcestershire, Geophysical Survey, unpublished client report
- Webster, P.V., 1976, Severn Valley ware: a preliminary study, Trans. Bristol Gloucs Archaeol. Soc. 94, 18-46
- Wessex Archaeology, 2014, Vernon Arms, Salt Way, Hanbury, Worcestershire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation Trenching
- Young, C.J., 1977, The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region, Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 43

9.2 Online sources

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain online viewer, accessed 16/01/14, http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringgeology/geologyofbritain/viewer.html

http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/

10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1:Context Descriptions

Trench No. 1		Dimensions: 30 x 2m Max depth: 0.38m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil – mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.38
102	Natural – reddish brown clay	0.38+
Trench No. 2		Dimensions: 30 x 2m Max depth: 1.09m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
202	Topsoil – mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.35
201	Natural – reddish brown clay	0.35+
203	Cut – 'V' shaped ditch	0.35-1.09
204	Fill of 203 – greyish brown silty clay	0.35-1.09
205	Cut – 'U' shaped ditch	0.35-0.74
206	Fill of 205 – mid greyish brown	0.35-0.74
Trench No. 3		Dimensions: 30 x 2m Max depth: 0.82m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil – mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.32
302	Natural – reddish brown clay	0.32+
303	Cut – 'V' shaped ditch	0.32-0.82
304	Layer – infilled slump at top of 305 and 308	0.32-0.45
305	Fill – mid greyish brown silty clay upper fill of 307	0.32 -0.58
306	Fill – charcoal deposit at base of 307	0.58-0.63
307	Cut – circular pit cutting 308	0.32-0.65
308	Fill – greyish brown silty clay, with frequent large charcoal flecks, upper fill of 304.	0.32-0.65
309	Fill – mid greyish brown silty clay lower fill of 304	0.65-0.82
Trench No. 4		Dimensions: 20 x 2m Max depth: 0.8m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil – mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.28
402	Natural – reddish brown clay	0.38
403	Cut – large 'U' shaped ditch	0.28-0.80
404	Fill – dark greyish brown silty clay filling 407 and cut by 408	0.38-0.68
405	Fill – upper mid greyish brown silty clay fill of 403 and cut by 408	0.38-0.68
406	Fill – mid reddish brown silty clay with iron panning filling the base of 403	0.68-0.8
407	Cut – possible re-cut of 403 forming a small 'U' and filled by 404	0.38-0.68
408	Cut – thin steep 'U' shaped gulley possibly water formed	0.38-0.52
409	Fill – yellowish brown silty clay fill of 408	0.38-0.52

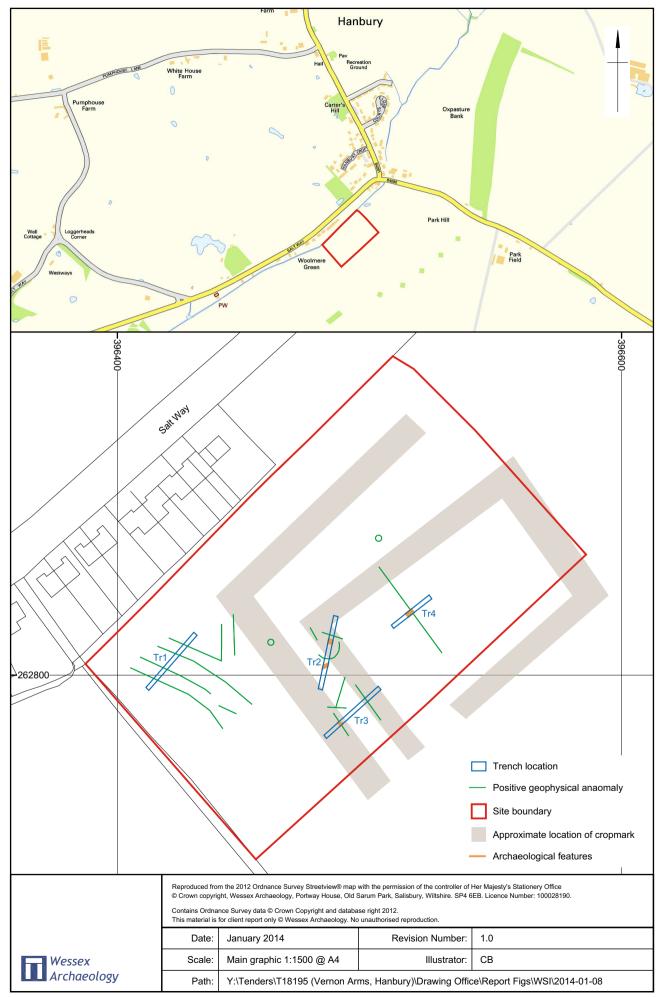


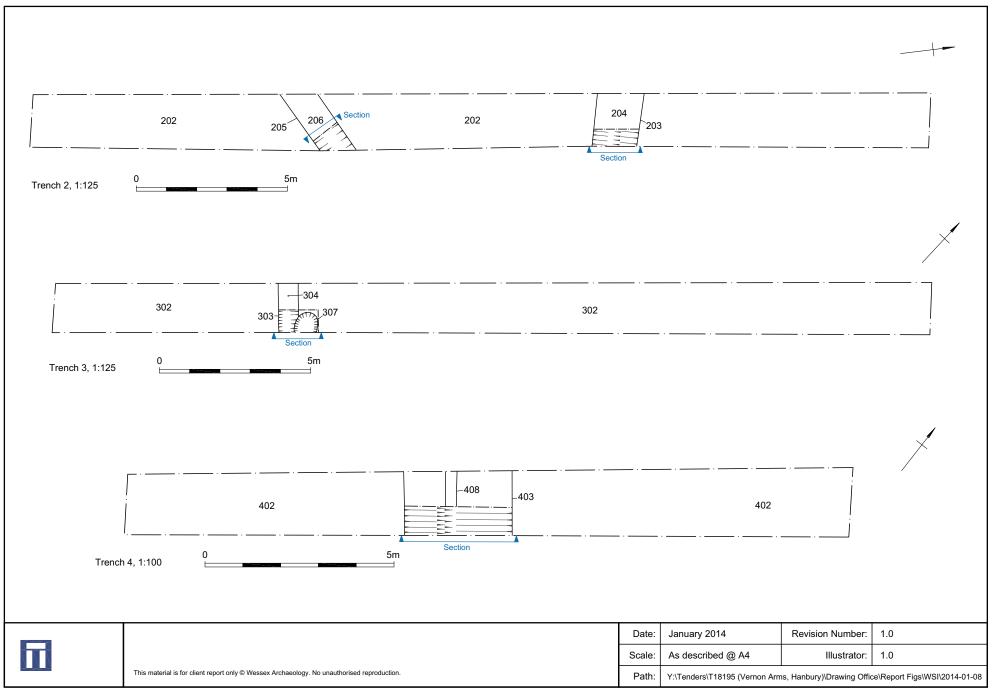
410	Layer – mid yellowish brown silty clay forming a layer within a	0.28-0.38
410	shallow dip in	0.28-0.38

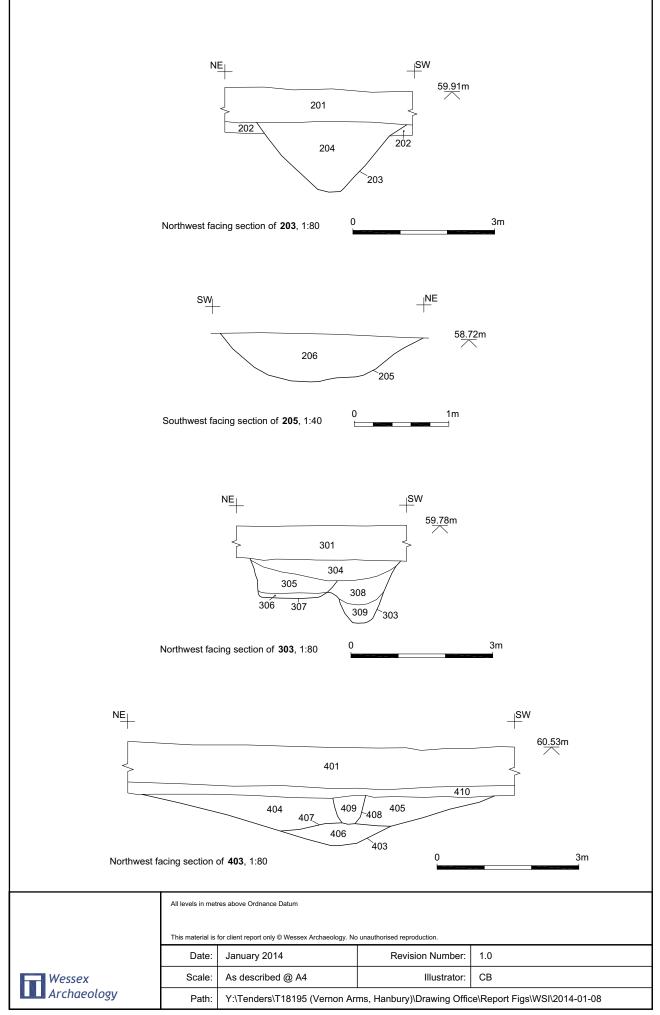


10.2 Appendix 2: Environmental Data

	Samp	les		Flot								
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol.	Flot	%			I Plant Re	1	Charcoal	Other	Analysis
i eature		Sample	Ltrs	(ml)	roots	Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments	>4/2mm	Other	Analysis
307	306	301	10	60	40	A	С	В	19 Hordeum sp. (hulled grains), 1 <i>Triticum</i> <i>spelta</i> glume base, 1 <i>Medicago /</i> <i>Trifolium</i> , 2 <i>Fallopia</i> <i>convolvulus</i> , 5 <i>Chenopodiu</i> <i>m</i> spp., 1 Poaceae	2/30		-
403	404	401	30	120	90	С	С	С	1 <i>Triticum</i> sp. (free threshing wheat grain) 2 <i>Triticum</i> indet. grains, 1 culm node, 1 wild / weed plant seed	>100/>100		Charcoal







Northwest facing section of 203, 303 and 403, and southeast facing section of 205



Plate 1: View of 203 from the northwest



Plate 2: View of 205 from the northwest

	This material is for client report only @ Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.						
_	Date: 23/01/2014		Revision Number:	0			
	Scale:	not to scale	Illustrator:	СВ			
	Path:	Y:\Projects\102710 (Vernon Arms, Hanbury)\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Evaluation\2014-01-08					



Plate 3: View of 303 from the northwest



Plate 4: View of 403 from the northwest

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.						
_	Date:	23/01/2014	Revision Number:	0			
	Scale:	not to scale	Illustrator:	СВ			
	Path:	Y:\Projects\102710 (Vernon Arms, Hanbury)\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Evaluation\2014-01-08					





salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh

Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.