



Land to the rear of Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 16/02033/FUL
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**Land to the rear of Stone House,
Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the rear of 111 – 113 Corve Street, Ludlow in Shropshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a residential retirement development (Planning Ref: 16/02033/FUL). The development has been granted planning permission subject to the fulfilling of planning conditions, with the archaeological investigation of the site relating to condition 16 of planning consent.

A Heritage Statement was prepared to support the planning application. This initial desk-based work indicated a moderate potential for archaeological remains dating to the Medieval period, with the site occupying a position within the Medieval town, on the main northern arterial route and located within a group of burgage plots which have 12th century origins.

Following on from this research work, Hugh Hannaford, Senior Archaeological Advisor to Shropshire Council advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent as well as to inform the scope and need for any further archaeological work. The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, each trench measuring 20 m by 2 m.

Trench 1 identified modern truncation in the form of late 20th century services as well as concrete footings related to the late 1960s buildings on the site. Surviving beneath this at a depth of between 0.50 m and 0.90 m below the existing ground level was a series of archaeological features. The earliest features encountered were three pits dating to the 13th/14th century. An additional pit was also identified which contained no dating evidence but did contain a fill very similar to the securely dated medieval pits.

Post-medieval features were also identified within Trench 1. A remnant post-medieval garden soil was recorded, which contained a mixture of residual medieval and 18th to 19th century finds. Cutting this garden soil was a pit/gully terminus, a substantial ditch containing 19th to early 20th century pottery and a probable foundation cut for a path.

Trench 2 was over the footprint of a large modern drain and was abandoned after exploratory excavations. Medieval pottery was recovered however from the limited intrusive works. The trench could not be repositioned due to the tight confines of the site.

The evidence from Trench 1 is typical of back plot/garden activity expected within medieval burgage plots. The 19th /early 20th century features were also evidence of the use of this area as back garden plots into this period.

A second stage of archaeological investigations comprising watching brief on groundworks has been requested by Shropshire Council. The results of the watching brief will be reported on separately.



The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with Shropshire Museum under an accession number to be confirmed upon deposition. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.



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Acknowledgements

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

Thanks are also extended to Hugh Hannaford from Shropshire Council Archaeology Service and Gene Childs from Churchill Development for his assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Paula Whittaker and Nick Woodward between November 21st and 22nd 2016. Paula Whittaker directed the excavations and produced this report. Illustrations were prepared by Alix Sperr. The finds assemblage was processed by Ashley Tuck and examined by Lorraine Mephram with Lorrain Higbee reporting on the animal bone. Liz Chambers processed the environmental samples and Ines Lopez Doriga produced the environmental report.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the rear of 111 – 113 Corve Street, Ludlow, centred on NGR 351171, 275099 (Figure 1), hereafter 'the Site'. The work was carried out in advance of a proposed development of the Site consisting of the construction of a residential retirement complex (Planning Ref. 16/02033/FUL). The development has been granted planning permission subject to the fulfilling of planning conditions, with the archaeological investigation of the Site relating to condition 16 of planning consent.
- 1.1.2 An Heritage Statement (Purcell 2016) was prepared to support the planning application. This initial desk-based work indicated a moderate potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval period, with the Site occupying a position within the medieval town, on the main northern arterial route and is located within a group of burgage plots which have 12th century origins.
- 1.1.3 Following on from this research work, Hugh Hannaford, Senior Archaeological Advisor to Shropshire Council advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent as well as to inform the scope and need for any further archaeological work. The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, each trench measuring 20 m by 2 m.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CgMs (CgMs 2016) and approved by Hugh Hannaford prior to works commencing. This document outlined the scope and methodology for the excavation and subsequent reporting.

1.2 Scope of this document

- 1.2.1 This report provides a brief summary of the archaeological background of the Site, the methodologies employed during the evaluation and the results of the archaeological works.

1.3 The Site, geology and topography

- 1.3.1 The Site is located on the eastern side of Corve Street, close to its junction with Station Drive (Figure 1). The northern part of the Site is occupied by former 1960s council offices and the central part by a tarmac car park. There are a series of outbuildings along the southern boundary, which includes a former 19th century stable block. The topography of the Site is relatively level at 88.8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.2 The solid geology of the Site consists of Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation. Superficial geology is recorded as Bromfield Sand and

Gravel (BGS 2016). The River Corve is located 215 m to the west of the Site, feeding into the River Teme.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is a summary of the information held within the Heritage Statement (Purcell 2016) and WSI (CgMS 2016).

2.1.2 The Stone House site is Grade II listed and is situated within Ludlow Conservation Area.

2.1.3 Not listed but on the development site is a 19th century stable range to the west associated with Stone House, with a mid to late 20th century range to the east.

2.2 General History

2.2.1 The settlement of Ludlow is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 but it is thought that Ludlow Castle was established prior to this. The castle was built as a defence against the Welsh and the town soon grew up around it, successfully developing an early commercial trade in wool and cloth, with manufacturing mills on the nearby River Teme. The prosperity of the town is illustrated by the scale, of St Laurence's Church, the largest parish church in the country. Within the walls, the medieval town was laid out in a grid pattern with three parallel main streets of Mill Street, Broad, Street and Old Street running north to south, together with a pattern of cross streets and service lanes. An early route, out of the town to the north ran along Corve Street and was set out with suburban burgage plots in the early medieval period.

2.2.2 Corve Street is an historic route into the town from the north, marking the eastern boundary of the Norman town. A possible pre-historic route along the line of Corve Street has been suggested, leading towards the crossing at Corve Bridge. Burgages (long narrow plots of land) are documented as early as 1186 at the southern end of Corve Street, confirmed by archaeological evidence. The entire length of Corve Street was occupied by the late 12th century. The northern half has seen substantial rebuilding since the 17th century due to damage by Royalist defenders during the Civil War, illustrated by the less rigid plan form above Station Drive. Corve Street has played an important industrial role in the town since at least the 12th century due to its proximity to the river, with water required for the wool and cloth trades. Later, the early modern period saw the street develop as the centre of the leather trade – including dying and tanning to the north.

2.2.3 In the 15th century, Ludlow Castle became the seat of Edward V and his Council of the Marches, which governed Wales and the borders. This in turn brought further prosperity to the town, until a decline in the cloth trade in the 17th century, following the Civil War. This decline was offset by a growth in the leather industry, centred along Corve Street. The revival in the 18th century centred on the gloving trade but again, this trade collapsed following the Napoleonic Wars. Ludlow became a fashionable town to visit in the 18th century and Georgian architecture sprang up in the form of town houses, assembly rooms and hostleries, many of which were in fact earlier buildings that had been refaced. The revival petered out by the start of the 19th century and even when Ludlow was connected to the railway, it remained a provincial town.

2.3 Previous archaeological investigations

2.3.1 No known previous invasive archaeological investigations have been carried out within the Site boundary, though in 2012 there was a watching brief on the excavation of a

foundation trench to the rear of Stone House. Shallow stone foundations relating to an earlier rear yard were discovered, probably of 18th to 19th century date, though no artefacts were recovered.

- 2.3.2 A watching brief was carried out in 2005 on groundworks at a section of the former medieval St Leonard's Church, which is located 75 m west of the Site. No archaeology was found.
- 2.3.3 Excavations between 1983-85 within a former Carmelite friary, which was situated on land later occupied the cemetery of St Leonard's Church, revealed early phases of occupation of the friary, including 12th or 13th century stone foundations and later 14th century buildings.
- 2.3.4 An evaluation for the development of the Tesco site to the south of the Stone House discovered evidence of late medieval and post medieval stone founded buildings, including a cellar backfilled in the early 17th century. Earlier medieval timber buildings, hearths, floors, pits and ovens were also encountered demonstrating a complete stratigraphic sequence indicating continuous development on the site. A possible medieval tanning pit and elements of a medieval timber structure were also recorded.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Summary

3.1.1 The aims of the project as set out in the WSI were:

- *To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any archaeological evidence on the Site and to consider the archaeological interest of these in the wider context;*
- *To generate an archive which will allow future research of the remains to be undertaken;*
- *To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings; and*
- *To explore, and where possible and appropriate, implement measures to encourage public engagement with the findings.*

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMS 2016) and professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2015; CIfA 2014 a–c).
- 4.1.2 It was necessary to slightly alter the trench locations from that proposed in the WSI due to the presence of services, a monitoring well for the development and issues regarding machine access. The excavated trench locations are shown on Figure 1.
- 4.1.3 The archaeological fieldwork took place between 21st and 22nd November 2016. Weather conditions were extremely wet with the trenches subject to flooding.



4.2 Machine excavation

- 4.2.1 Overburden was removed using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5 m toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. The tarmac layer was broken up using a pneumatic drill and toothed bucket and was then removed with the ditching bucket. Overlying deposits were removed in a series of level spits down to the first archaeological horizon.

4.3 Hand excavation

- 4.3.1 Any archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define their extent. Archaeological features were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits, which may have been deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in-situ*.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. As per standard practice, excavated stratigraphic units were individually numbered and recorded, with the trench number forming the prefix for the context number. Hence, contexts 1000–1099 were reserved for use within Trench 1, contexts 2000–2099 were allocated to Trench 2.
- 4.4.2 Evaluation trenches and excavated deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied in to the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or – 100 mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 4.4.3 A photographic record was maintained using high specification digital photographic equipment.

4.5 Monitoring

- 4.5.1 A monitoring meeting was held on Tuesday 22nd November, attended by Cathy Patrick of CgMs and Hugh Hannaford Senior Archaeological Advisor to Shropshire Council, Historic Environment Archaeology Service. The archaeological works were signed off prior to the backfilling of the trenches.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 identified modern truncation in the form of late 20th century services as well as concrete footings related to the late 1960s buildings on Site. Surviving beneath this at a depth of between 0.50 m and 0.90 m below the existing ground level (bgl) was a series of archaeological features.
- 5.1.2 Trench 2 was over the footprint of a large drain and was abandoned after exploratory excavations. The trench could not be repositioned due to the tight confines of the Site.
- 5.1.3 A description of key features and deposits is presented below. A complete list of all features and context descriptions is presented within Appendix 1.

5.2 Natural geology

- 5.2.1 The natural was seen in either end of the Trench 1, being a reddish orange brown slightly clayey silt (1012). A 1.31 m deep sondage was excavated in the east end of the trench to verify the nature of this deposit. Natural geology was identified at a depth of 1.10 m bgl.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was 20 m x 2 m in size, aligned east to west and parallel to the present council building, perpendicular to Corve St. (Figure 2, Plates 1 and 2). The trench was adjusted slightly from the original location due to a monitoring well put in place for the forthcoming development. After machining approximately 9 m in length along the trench from the eastern end, a concrete sealed service trench was encountered at a depth of 0.28 m bgl which ran for the remaining 11 m of the trench. As such, the trench was stepped out, 0.5 m to the north to allow the complete length of the trench to be excavated.
- 5.3.2 The stratigraphic sequence was consistent along its length. Underlying the modern tarmac and its bedding layer (1001) was another construction made ground layer, of pale brown silt clay (1002) with frequent small pebbles and grit forming a well compacted solid layer. Layers 1001 -1002 ceased at a depth of 0.50 m bgl. Beneath these layers were a number of concrete plinths and concrete filled service trenches all probably associated with the council offices that were located here in the 1960s. Post-medieval and medieval layers were encountered at depths between 0.50 m and 1.10 m bgl.

5.4 Medieval features

- 5.4.1 Cut through the natural subsoil 1007 was a small sub circular pit (1006), with a length of 0.70 m, width 0.38 m and depth of 0.2 m. The fill (1005) was a mixed mid orangey brown, slightly clayey silt, with orange silt mottles (Plate 3). This contained small fragments of animal bone some of which appeared burnt and one sherd of glazed ware dated to the 13th – 14th century. Charred sprouted barley grains were found in the environmental sample from this pit.
- 5.4.2 Within the central portion of the trench pit or gully terminal 1019 was identified (Plate 4). The feature had a length of 0.68 m+, a width of 0.48 m and a depth of 0.2 m. No artefacts were found in the mid orange brown silty clay fill (1020); an environmental sample of the fill contained barley grains.
- 5.4.3 Two intercutting pits were found at the west end of Trench 1 (Plate 5 and 6). The pits were only faintly visible due to the presence of a natural sub soil (1007), which made the edges of the features harder to distinguish. Both cuts (1014 and 1016) were concave in profile with steep edges. Cut 1014 had a length of 1.50 m with a width of over 0.9 m and depth of 0.46 m. Cut 1016 had a length of 2.0 m with a width of over 1.2 m and a depth of 0.62 m. The fills were homogenous, being a mid-brownish grey slightly clayey silt (1013 and 1015) with yellowish orange redeposited natural patches. One piece of green glazed pottery was found in fill 1015 and was dated to the 13th to 14th century. Animal bone was also recovered. Occasional charcoal flecks were present the environmental samples contained evidence of grains such as wheat, barley (that had already spouted/germinated), oats and legumes.

5.5 Post-medieval features

- 5.5.1 Sealed beneath the car park overburden, at a depth of 0.50 m below ground level, a dark brown clayey silt with charcoal inclusions and grit (1003) was recorded. A similar layer (1004) was recorded beneath 1003. Both layers contained pottery, the upper layer (1003) included post-medieval and medieval pottery sherds, alongside clay pipe stems and a

green glass wine bottle fragment dated to the late 17th or 18th century. This layer was probably the remnant of a post medieval topsoil/garden soil truncated by the 1960s development in the area. Layer 1004 was a mid-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and inclusions of pottery and animal bone. Some of the sherds were from medieval sandy wares dated to the 13th to 14th century, some were post-medieval in date; the latter included an 18th century cylindrical tankard with annular reeding in manganese mottled ware. A fragment from a glazed, crested ridge tile (with knife-cut crest), possibly dating to the 14th century was also found. Layers 1003 and 1004 had a combined thickness of 0.30 m.

- 5.5.2 Two post-medieval features were seen at the eastern end of the trench cutting through layer 1003 (Figure 2, Plate 7). Cut 1010 was a linear feature, aligned north to south across the 2 m width of the trench edge. The feature was 0.4 m wide, more than 0.6 m deep and extended beyond the edge of excavation. It contained a fill of mid to dark brown clayey silt (1011), which had incorporated blue willow ware, patterned china dating to the 19th to early 20th century. The feature possibly represents a drainage/boundary ditch. A possible shallow foundation cut (1017; Plate 8) was also identified. Cut 1017 was north to south aligned across the width of the trench, had a depth of 0.1 m, seen for a length of width of 0.6m. It was filled with a mixed redeposited mid orange sandy silt with frequent lime mortar fragments and flecks. This linear was possibly related to 19th to early 20th century footpaths.

- 5.5.3 Pit or gully terminal 1009 could be seen cutting through layer 1004 (Plate 8). Feature 1009 had a length of 0.98 m+, a width of 0.78 m and a depth of 0.2 m. Its fill (1008) contained frequent charcoal fragments and a clay tobacco pipe stem alongside residual medieval pottery.

5.6 Trench 2

- 5.6.1 Trench 2 was aligned east-west located in the flower beds and pavement parallel to the council buildings, it had a shortened length of 4 m x 2 m width (Plates 9 and 10). The excavation of the western end of the trench was located on the limit of the development boundary to avoid an electric cable further to the east. Only four metres of the trench were excavated because a concrete filled service trench with three brown plastic pipes recorded at a depth of 0.55 m to 0.9 m. The remaining length of Trench 2 was over the footprint of this drain and further groundworks were abandoned after exploratory excavations. The trench could not be repositioned due to the tight confines of the Site.

- 5.6.2 Beneath red brick paving (2001) for the footpath and its grey gravel bedding layer (2002) a dense layer of aggregate, mixed pebbles and small sub angular stones in a brown grey gritty silt (2007) was recorded. This sealed a layer of concrete, which in turn was sealing three brown plastic pipes seen at a depth of 0.55 m bgl. The plastic pipes were aligned on the same east to west direction as the trench. A wider foundation of concrete was observed on base of northern side of the trench at a depth of 0.9 m.

5.7 Medieval deposits

- 5.7.1 Surviving on the northern edge of the modern truncation was a layer of mid grey brown slightly clayey silt (2006), with small stone inclusions as well as pottery and animal bone. The pottery dates to the 13th to 14th century, and comprises a fragment of jug strap handle with slashed/stabbed decoration. Cutting through this layer, and observed only in section (Plate 11), was cut 2005. Cut 2005 was 0.6 m wide, 0.7 m deep and filled with mid brown grey gravelly silt (2004). Fill 2004 was similar to 2007 and was therefore, possibly related to further service trenching.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Finds

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered, consisting largely of pottery and animal bone. The occurrence of other material types was extremely limited. The assemblage ranges in date from medieval to post-medieval.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Of the 41 sherds of pottery recovered, ten sherds are medieval, and the remainder are post-medieval/modern (Table 2).
- 6.2.2 All the medieval sherds are in sandy fabrics; most are glazed, and these include two jug strap handles with slashed/stabbed decoration (contexts 1004, 2006). Other sherds are undiagnostic body sherds, but possibly also derive from jugs. In addition, one unglazed, internally bevelled rim sherd from context 1004 is probably from a jar. A date range of 13th to 14th century is suggested for these sherds, and they provide the sole dating evidence for 1005, 1015 and 2006. Other sherds were found residually in context 1004.
- 6.2.3 The post-medieval/modern wares consist largely of redwares. One rim sherd from 1008 is from a convex bowl, broadly dated as post-medieval but unlikely to be earlier than 17th century. Most of the redware sherds from 1004 and 1003/4 belong to unglazed flowerpots of 19th/20th century date. Alongside these are one sherd from an 18th century cylindrical tankard with annular reeding in manganese mottled ware (1003), four sherds from a transfer-printed refined whiteware plate (1011), and two sherds of yellow ware, from a kitchenware bowl (1003/4), the two latter groups of 19th/20th century date.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 The CBM, most of which was recovered from context 1004, comprises three fragments of peg tile, one fragment from a glazed, crested ridge tile (with knife-cut crest), two fragments of floor tile (one glazed), and three brick fragments. The glazed floor tile and ridge tile are likely to be medieval; the brick fragments are post-medieval. Other pieces are broadly dated as medieval/post-medieval.

6.4 Animal Bone

- 6.4.1 The small assemblage of animal bone is very fragmentary; some fragments (particularly from context 1007) show high levels of abrasion. Identifiable bones belong mainly to sheep, with a focus on the lower leg (metapodials, phalanx, tibia, radius, scapula, tooth), with one cattle metapodial and one phalanx.

6.5 Other Finds

- 6.5.1 Other finds comprise two clay pipe stem fragments, one fragment from a green wine bottle of late 17th or 18th century and the base from a bottle of 19th or 20th century; and a very corroded iron nail.

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

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
1003			1/5	
1003/4	1/17	1/40	5/193	1 clay pipe; 1 glass
1004	53/348	9/715	27/570	1 iron; 1 glass
1005	4/7		1 /2	
1007	7/32			
1008	4/17		1/49	1 clay pipe
1011		1/63	4/26	
1015	16/51		1/15	
2006	1/29		1/70	
Total	86/492	11/818	41/930	

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Ware type	No	Wt	Comments	Date
1003	Manganese mottled ware	1	5	Cylindrical tankard with annular reeding	C18
1003/4	Yellow ware	2	41	Bowl	C19/C20
1003/4	Redware	1	115	Black glazed	C17+
1003/4	Redware	2	37	Unglazed flowerpot	C19/C20
1004	Redware	2	31		C17+
1004	Redware	18	439	Unglazed flowerpot (at least 2 vessels)	C19/C20
1004	Medieval sandy ware	3	31	1 jar rim	C13/C14
1004	Medieval glazed ware	4	69	Jug strap handle, slashed	C13/C14
1005	Medieval glazed ware	1	2		C13/C14
1008	Redware	1	49	Convex bowl, glazed	C17+
1011	Refined whiteware	4	26	Transfer-printed plate	C19/C20
1015	Medieval glazed ware	1	15		C13/C14
2006	Medieval glazed ware	1	70	Jug strap handle, slashed	C13/C14

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from a series of medieval and post-medieval pits and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is the evaluation of the quality of plant remains preserved at the site and the potential for further sampling.

- 7.2.2 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions were detected, such as earthworm eggs and insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence/absence of other environmental remains such as molluscs, animal bone and insects (if anoxic conditions for their preservation are present), is recorded in Table 3.
- 7.2.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

7.3 Results: Charred plant remains

- 7.3.1 The flots were generally small. There were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Although postdepositional disturbance is minimal, charred material was not particularly abundant and poorly preserved.
- 7.3.2 The assemblages are dominated by barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains, the majority of which are sprouted. Other remains of domestic crops include naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) grains, legumes (Viciaeae, which could include peas, beans or vetches) and possibly oats (*Avena cf. sativa*).
- 7.3.3 These assemblages are consistent with the presumed medieval and post-medieval chronology of the features.
- 7.3.4 The poor preservation of the grains seems to be a pre-carbonisation condition of the plant remains rather than a result of carbonisation. This suggests the majority of the assemblage was sprouted.



Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Comments
1009	1008	101	23	35	<1%, A, E, I	B	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains (germinated), Triticeae grain fragments	-	-	1ml/2ml	Mature + roundwood	Moll-t	Poor
1014	1013	102	27	50	<1%, A*	A	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains (germinated), <i>Triticum sp. (inc. aestivum/turgidum)</i> grains, Triticeae fragments	C	Large Viciaeae, Poaceae, <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> , indet bud	3ml/5ml	Mature + roundwood	-	Poor
1016	1015	103	35	150	<1%, A*, E, I	A	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grains (germinated), <i>Triticum sp. (inc. aestivum/turgidum)</i> , <i>Avena cf. sativa</i>	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragments, Poaceae, <i>Avena sp.</i> , Viciaeae, indet cupules, indet tuber.	10ml/20ml	Mature + roundwood	-	Poor
1019	1020	104	8	20	<1%, B, E	C	-	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain	C	Indet.	5ml/1ml	Mature	-	Poor

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 Trench 1 identified modern truncation in the form of late 20th century services as well as concrete footings related to the late 1960s buildings on site. Surviving beneath this at a depth of between 0.50 m and 0.90 m below the existing ground level was a series of archaeological features. The earliest features encountered were three pits dating to the 13th/14th century. An additional pit was also identified which contained no dating evidence, but did contain a fill very similar to the securely dated medieval pits.
- 8.1.2 Post-medieval features were also identified within Trench 1. A remnant post-medieval garden soil was recorded, which contained a mixture of residual medieval and 18th to 19th century finds. Cutting this garden soil was a pit/gully terminus, a substantial ditch containing 19th to early 20th century pottery and a probable foundation cut for a path.
- 8.1.3 The evidence from Trench 1 is typical of back plot/garden activity expected within medieval burgage plots.
- 8.1.4 The two slightly larger pit features (1013 and 1015) dating to the 13th to 14th century appeared to be rapidly backfilled. This may suggest they have been excavated for the natural sandy silt, possibly for use as building material. Similar intercutting pits have been seen elsewhere, once one pit is excavated for the aggregate, the next is dug adjacent to this and the topsoil and subsoil that is extracted from this becomes the backfill of the neighbouring pit.
- 8.1.5 Of interest in the environmental samples from these medieval pits and the smaller pit dated to 13th to 14th century was that they all contained barley grain seeds that had germinated/sprouted slightly. It is difficult with a such small assemblage to ascertain whether this may be due to have being used for malting or whether they were spoiled before use.
- 8.1.6 The 19th /early 20th century features were also evidence of the use of this area as back garden plots into this period.
- 8.1.7 Ditch 1010, dating to the 19th to 20th century and seen in the eastern end of Trench 1, may be associated with the greenhouses that can be seen located in the back plots of Stone House on the late 19th century OS maps. Shallow cut (1017) is most likely related to the footpath across the gardens that were also depicted on these plans (OS 1885).
- 8.1.8 The concrete foundations seen aligned in a north to south direction across the eastern half of Trench 1 are approximately located in the same position as the late 1960s council offices (OS 1968, 1:2500). These were later demolished and rebuilt in the late 1980s.
- 8.1.9 Trench 2 was over the footprint of a large drain and was abandoned after exploratory excavations. Medieval pottery was recovered however from the limited intrusive works. The trench could not be repositioned due to the tight confines of the Site.

8.2 Conclusions

- 8.2.1 It is apparent that the land close to the present upstanding council offices has been heavily disturbed by services associated with the late 1980 rebuild of the offices, as well as earlier buildings and services constructed in the 1960s and 1970s. However, in the

areas between this truncation, medieval and post-medieval archaeological features have survived at a depth greater than 0.5 m below the current ground level.

9 ARCHIVE, STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with Shropshire Museum under an accession number to be agreed upon deposition. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code (115140/TBC), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *One cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;*
- *One file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.*

9.2 Storage

9.2.1 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Northern Region in Sheffield.

9.3 Selection Policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, given the relatively small quantities of material recovered, their nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of relatively recent date), the archaeological potential of the finds for further research is considered to be extremely limited, and their retention for long-term curation is not warranted.

9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003.

9.5 Security Copy

9.5.1 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.

10 REFERENCES

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10.2 Online sources

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions by trench

Trench 1		Trench dimensions: 20 m x 2 m				
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth (m)
1001	Layer	Dark grey tarmac layer and blue grey gravel and silt bedding layer .		Tarmac		0.00 – 0.32
1002	Layer	Solid pale brown beige limestone gravel and grit		Made ground		0.12 – 0.32
1003	Layer	Dark greyish brown loamy silt with rare charcoal, tobacco pipe, glass, crushed CBM and pottery.		Garden soil		0.32 - 0.5
1004	Layer	Mid brown clayey silt, occasional small stones, rare pottery, charcoal and bone inclusions.		Garden soil		0.5 – 1.1
1005	Fill	Mid orangey brown slightly clayey silt.	1006	Pit Fill		1.1 – 1.25
1006	Cut		1005	Pit Cut	Sub-circular/oval small pit with steep concave sides and concave base, a length of 0.70m, width 0.38m and depth of 0.2m	1.1 – 1.25
1007	Layer	Mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil		Layer		1.1 – 1.22
1008	Fill	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, rare animal bone and pottery sherds.	1009	Pit/gully terminal Fill		1 – 1.2
1009	Cut			Pit/ gully terminal Cut	Sub-circular/oval pit or terminal end of gully, with gradually sloping concave sides and flattish base with a length of 0.98m+, width 0.78m and depth of 0.2m	1 – 1.2
1010	Cut			Linear Cut	Linear cut seen for the length of the trench 2m, width of 0.42m + wide, vertical sides with a depth over 0.5m deep	0.7 – 1.2
1011	Fill	Mid to dark brown slightly clayey silt, rare pottery sherds and mortar fragments	1010	Linear Fill		0.7 – 1.2
1012	Layer	Mid, bright brown reddish orange sandy silt		Natural		1.2 +
1013	Fill	Mid brownish grey slightly clayey silt with yellowish orange redeposited natural patches	1014	Pit Fill		0.95 – 1.4
1014	Cut			Pit Cut	Sub-circular pit, concave base, gradually sloping edges. , a length of 1.50m, width 0.9m + and depth of 0.44m	0.95 – 1.4
1015	Fill	Mid brownish grey slightly clayey silt with yellowish orange redeposited natural patches, rare charcoal, animal bone and pottery inclusions	1016	Pit Fill		0.95 – 1.62
1016	Cut			Pit Cut	Sub-circular pit, concave base, gradually sloping edges. , a length of 2m, width 1.2m + and depth of 0.62m	0.95 – 1.62
1017	Cut			Pit Cut	Linear, length of 2.4m x 0.8m + wide, depth of 0.13m	0.5 – 0.63



Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth (m)
1018	Fill	Mid to light orange brown snady, gritty silt wit hfrequent crème mortar fragments and mottling	1018	Pit Fill		0.5 – 0.63
1019	Cut			Pit/ gully terminal Cut	pit or gully terminal cut , length of 0.68m+, width 0.48m and depth of 0.2m	1.04 – 1.14
1020	Fill	Mid orange brown silt clay, rare charcoal	1019	Fill/ gully terminal		.04 – 1.14

Trench 2						
Trench dimensions: 4m x 2m						
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Cut description	Depth
2001	Layer	Red brick paving with orange sand bedding layer		Brick paving		0.00 – 0.6
2002	Layer	Mid grey, silty sand and gravel		Made ground		0.6 – 0.14
2003	Layer	Grey concrete		Concrete capping		0.14 – 0.5
2004	Fill	Mid grey brown gritty gravelly silt		Fill		0.2 – 0.9
2005	Cut			Cut	Steep sided pit cut, seen in section only, 0.6m wide at the top, 0.25m towards the base, 0.7m deep	0.2 – 0.9
2006	Layer	Mid brownish grey slightly clayey silt, rare charcoal, animal bone and pottery inclusions		Garden soil		0.2 – 0.9
2007	Fill	mixed pebbles and small sub angular stones in a brown grey gritty silt		Services backfill		0.2 – 0.88
2008	Layer	Grey concrete on base of services trench		Services backfill		0.88 – 0.9



11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: wessexar1-272380

Project details

Project name	Land to the rear of Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the rear of 111 - 113 Corve Street, Ludlow in Shropshire. The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a residential retirement development (Planning Ref: 16/02033/FUL). The development has been granted planning permission subject to the fulfilling of planning conditions, with the archaeological investigation of the site fulfilling condition 16 of planning consent. The site has not previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment. A Heritage Statement was prepared to support the planning application. This initial desk-based work indicated a moderate potential for archaeological remains dating to the Medieval period, with the site occupying a position within the Medieval town, on the main northern arterial route and is located within a group of burgrave plots which have 12th century origins. Following on from this research work, Hugh Hannaford, Senior Archaeological Advisor to Shropshire Council advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation was required to provide sufficient information on which to determine the application and inform the scope and need for any further archaeological work. The archaeological works comprised the excavation of two trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, each trench measuring 20 m by 2 m.
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	115140 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	16/02033/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SHROPSHIRE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LUDLOW Land to the rear of Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire
Postcode	SY8 1DG

Site coordinates	SO 51171 75099 52.371375562153 -2.717292931401 52 22 16 N 002 43 02 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 88.8m Max: 88.8m

Project creators

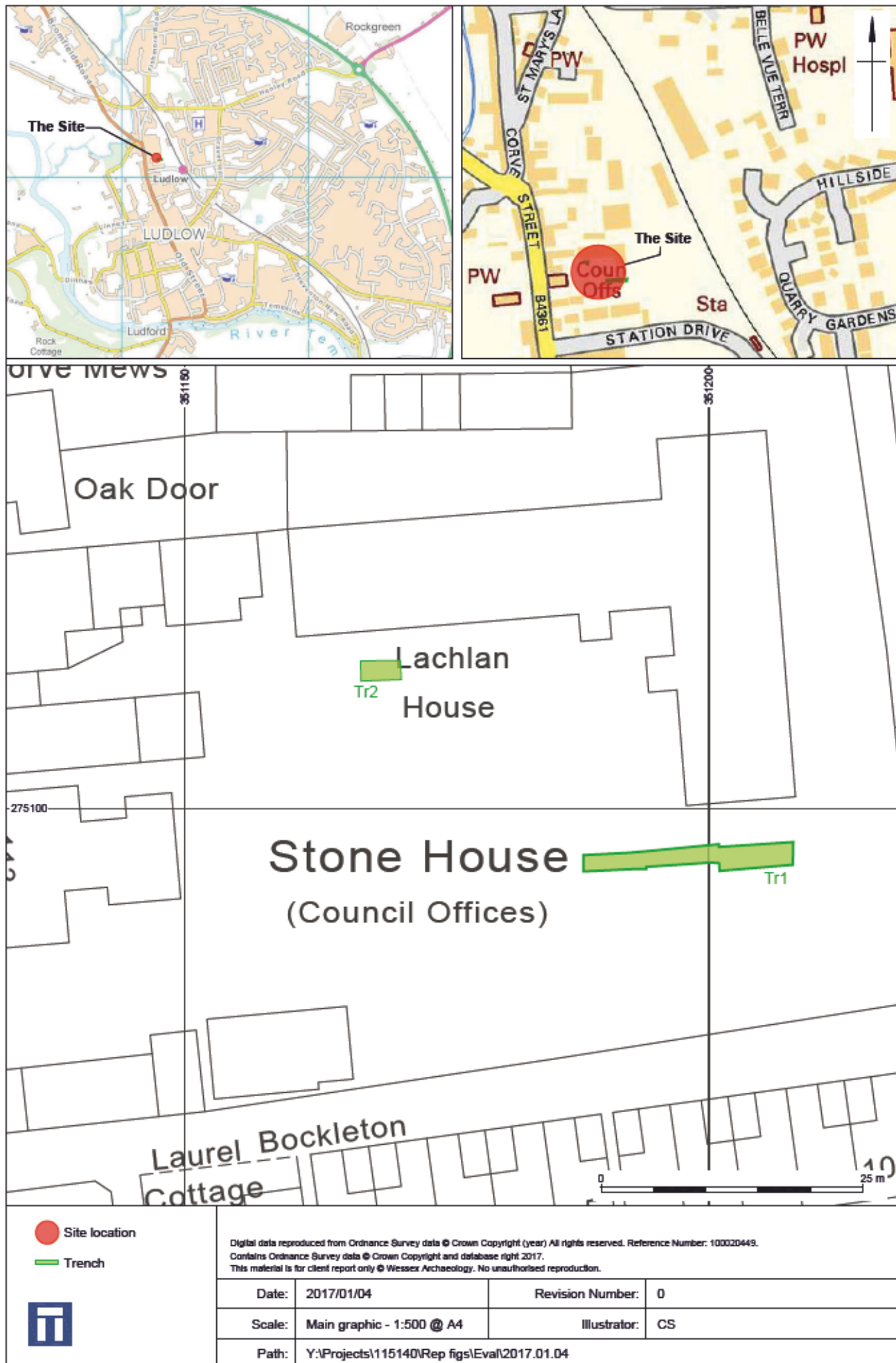
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Paula Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Shropshire Museum Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Shropshire Museum Service
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

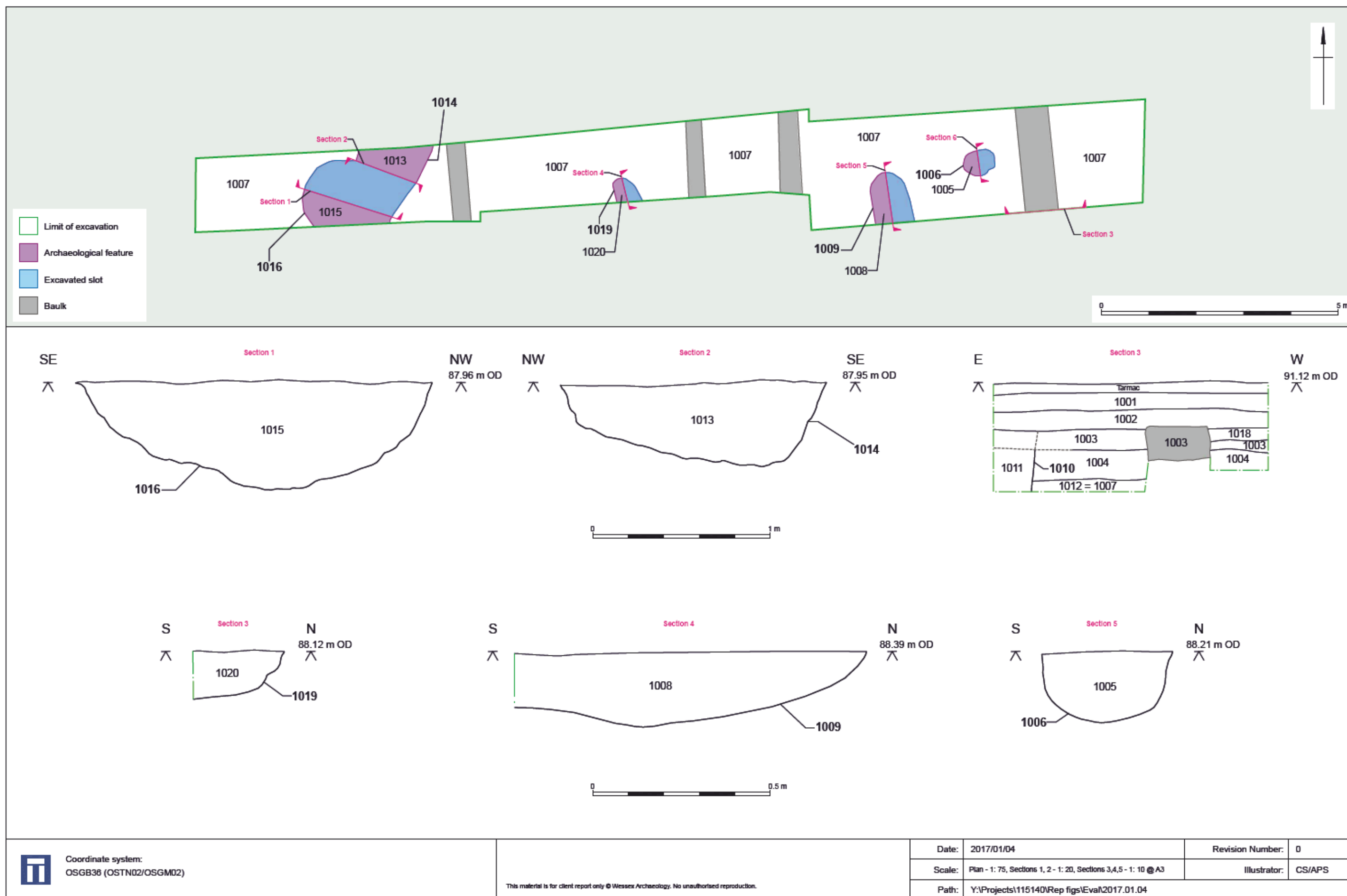
**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the rear of Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Whittaker, P.
Other bibliographic details	115140.01
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	A4 comb bound laser printed report
Entered by	H.Holbrook (A.tuck@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	4 January 2017



Site and trench locations

Figure 1



Plan and sections of Trench 1

Figure 2



Plate 1: General shot of Trench 1, view from the east



Plate 2: General shot of Trench 1, view from the west



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Plate 3: Detail shot of pit 1006 post-excavation



Plate 4: Detail shot of feature 1019

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Plate 5: Detail shot of section through pit 1016



Plate 6: Detail shot of section through pit 1014

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Plate 7: Detail shot of section through linear 1010



Plate 8: Detail shot of section through linear 1017 and pit 1009



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Plate 9: General shot of Trench 2, view from the west showing modern service trench



Plate 10: Detail shot of Trench 2, south facing section through pit 2005

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