



Court-y-Park PIXLEY

(NGR SO 64 39)

Archaeological Evaluation



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Court-y-Park

Pixley

(NGR SO 64 39)

Archaeological Evaluation

Text and Site Work
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Court-y-Park

PIXLEY

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Archaeological evaluation

1. Summary

The project was undertaken in response to proposals to develop the site by Court-y-Park Golf and Leisure (Messrs. Mike Dudley and Martin Campbell).

The main aims were to investigate potential archaeology in the areas likely to be affected by the proposed development and to make satisfactory records of the findings.

The evaluation results came from 29 trenches, the locations of which were determined by the county archaeologist as part of a random sampling strategy.

The evaluation produced evidence for 15th/16th century activity in the region of the farmhouse, although the area has been heavily disturbed by subsequent activity, and no archaeology was found *in situ*.

The most significant archaeology on the site was discovered on open farmland to the north of the proposed club house and leisure facility.

Trench 21 in the north of the site revealed a shallow feature (2.3x2.0x0.15m) containing a charcoal rich deposit and random arrangement of large boulders. Severn Valley ware, Black Burnished, and Grey ware were contained within and around this feature, suggesting Roman activity dating to the late 3rd to 4th centuries.

The discovery of this feature prompted the opening of a further 4 trenches focusing on the southern end of Trench 21. Within one of these trenches (Trench 27) a linear feature extending across the full width of the trench (1.9m) was revealed. Cut into the natural red clay subsoil on a NW/SE alignment, the feature measured 1.3m in width and 0.52m in depth. Its length could not be determined due to the feature running into both the NW and SE Trench sections.

The charcoal rich fill of the feature contained a large amount of iron slag, kiln base and kiln lining. The high concentration of this material would suggest that the feature was near a location where Roman iron working was taking place. Pottery within this feature dated broadly to the mid-late 2nd to early 3rd centuries.

2. Introduction

Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Court-y-Park Golf and Leisure (Messrs. Mike Dudley and Martin Campbell) to archaeologically evaluate the site at Court-y-Park, Pixley prior to its conversion to an 18 hole golf course and leisure facility.

The fieldwork was conducted between 16/01/06 and 27/01/06.

The 140ha site is currently arable farmland surrounding a waste paper processing facility (Wye waste paper) and a 17th/18th century farmhouse and associated buildings. The site is bounded by the A438 Hereford to Ledbury road in the south, the Hereford to Malvern railway to the north, a public footpath and watercourse to the west, and arable farmland not in the ownership of the client to the east (Fig. 1).

The site ranges in height from 77.79mOD to 93.06mOD, the high ground being in the centre of the proposed development, steeply sloping down to low lying land in all directions. The western extremities of the site are heavily waterlogged due to their low lying position and proximity to a small watercourse.

The geology of the site varies according to elevation. In higher areas (T2, T25), sandstone bedrock is visible at only 0.40m below ground surface, covered by a thin red clay subsoil and disturbed plough soil. In the low lying areas adjacent to the watercourse, deep clay deposits have built up forming a rich organic soil (T9, T20).

The site OS reference is SO6439. A bench mark (83.95m O.D.) was located on a bridge carrying the A417 over the railway line at the NE of the site.

3. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project was to investigate the nature of and potential impact on any archaeological remains present on the proposed development site and provide a satisfactory record of such.

The main objectives were to

- Identify the date and nature of features or deposits.
- Assess survival condition and significance of features, deposits or structures in the study area.
- Produce a record of the features and deposits.
- Assess, analyse and report on the findings of the work.

4. Method

The positions of 25 trenches were set out by the client's architect Mr. Roger Gell, after the locations had been determined by the County Archaeologist (Fig.2). Ranging in length from 30m to 105m, the disturbed plough soil was stripped using a tracked excavator with a 1.90m wide toothless bucket. Deposits were removed until the first archaeological horizon was encountered or undisturbed natural subsoil uncovered. If there was any doubt regarding the correct depth in a particular trench a small sondage within the trench was excavated to a greater depth to rule out the presence of archaeology.

All trenches were recorded in the same manner. Due to the simple stratigraphy of all the trenches a 2.0m long representative section of each trench rather was recorded. The section was drawn at a scale of 1:20 at a point approximately half way along the length of the trench and the position recorded. Photographs were taken of the trench section, and a general overview of the trench was also taken using 35mm black and white and 35mm colour film. The trench was then visually inspected to identify archaeological features requiring further exploration.

Once all trenches had been opened and recorded as detailed above, any features which were considered to be of interest were investigated in an appropriate manner. Features were half sectioned, and following assessment by the excavator samples taken for further analysis. All finds were collected and context numbers assigned to deposits. Drawn and photographic records were made in both section and plan (1:20).

Due to the concentration of Roman pottery found within the southern end of T21, the County Archaeologist requested a further four trenches to be opened, focused on feature [21002]. The new trenches were recorded as before and archaeological features excavated. Due to the presence of iron slag in feature [27001], the decision was made to take into account the possibility of hammerscale during the sample processing.

To create an accurate record of trench positions an EDM survey was carried out allowing the trenches to be plotted in three dimensions.

5. Historical background

Forming the NE boundary of the site is the A417, which at this point follows the course of the Roman road linking Viroconium (Wroxeter) with Isca Silurum (Caerleon).

The Bishop's registers show that there was a chapel in the middle ages at Court-y-Park (King 1992) although the position is not recorded.

Historically, the main focus of the Court-y-park site is the now dilapidated farmhouse. Its position on a raised platform has led to suggestions that the mound is at least in part artificial, and furthermore that a series of ponds surrounding the building indicate the former existence of a moat. This however would appear unlikely due to the varying elevation of the ponds, the majority of which have subsequently been filled in.

The main block and the SW wing are late 16th/early 17th century and the NE wing was built as a separate cottage later in the 17th century, now joined to the main block (RCHM 1932). Much of the house has been refaced in brick, but some framing is exposed. The main house is now unoccupied and in a poor state of repair.

The 1887 Ordnance survey map (Fig.3) shows the presence of wooded areas abutting the A438 to the east of the entrance road, and to the NE of the main building. Still present at the time of the 1904 survey (Fig.4), the woods had been cleared by 1975 (Fig.5).

6. Results

Specific information about soil types and archaeological features is contained in a context database in the appendix at the back of this report. Section drawings of each trench can also be found here.

6.1. Blank trenches (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29)

These trenches are characterised by a layer of mid brown clay loam topsoil sitting upon a layer of red/dark pink heavy clay subsoil which forms part of the natural geological strata of the site. The trenches contained no features, archaeological or otherwise. The topsoil measured on average 35cm in depth, although this varied depending on the location of the trench. The red clay beneath had not been disturbed so we can confidently rule out the presence of archaeology within these trenches.

6.2. Trenches with varying geology (2,9,15,20,16)

Trench 2

The sandstone bedrock was visible in the central portion of this trench at a depth of 0.4m below ground surface. Lying immediately above the bedrock and further confirming the suggestion that it is a natural geological strata was the red clay (2001).

Trenches 9, 15 and 20

Between a layer of mid brown clay loam topsoil and the natural red clay subsoil strata, these trenches contained a heavy clay deposit varying in colour from light brown to greenish/yellowish brown. This deposit did not contain any archaeology and differed from the underlying red clay only in colour. A common factor in the location of these trenches is their position on lowlying waterlogged land alongside a watercourse. It seems likely that discolouration of the natural red clay has occurred due to the anaerobic conditions caused by the presence of water.

Trench 16

Patches of a grey stony deposit (16002) within the red clay (16001) were unique to this trench. It would seem possible that this is a natural mixing of sandstone bedrock with the red clay subsoil.

6.3. Trenches with modern disturbance (10,12)

Trench 10

Upper deposits consist of modern made up ground and the trench was heavily disturbed by modern intrusions and service pipes. Medieval pottery was present in association with modern material. There were no surviving archaeological horizons.

Trench 12

Upon stripping the turf and topsoil from this trench a layer of hardcore and brick rubble (12001) was uncovered over the first 12m of the western end of the trench. 0.15cm in depth and confined to the area of the trench covered by lawn associated with the main farm buildings. It would appear that this has been purposely laid to aid drainage. The presence of plastic and shooting clays within this deposit suggest that it is modern in date.

6.4. Trenches containing archaeology (21,26,27)

Trench 21 (Fig.7)

Mid brown clay loam topsoil covering the Red clay natural subsoil. Cut into the natural in the southern end of the trench was a shallow scoop [21002] containing a light brown clay deposit with a high density of charcoal flecks. Within this deposit, a number of large angular stones appear to have been dumped, lacking the form of a purposeful feature. An environmental sample was taken of the fill of this feature (21001) and was found to contain the following:

- Hearth slag
- Fragments of fired clay with charcoal and traces of slag
- Oak, Hazel and Hawthorn twigs
- Slight traces of spheroidal smithing slag

Towards the centre of the trench was a clearly defined posthole [21003], although no dating evidence was found within its fill and no features were found in relation to it.

Trench 26

Mid brown clay loam topsoil overlying red clay natural subsoil. What appears to be a posthole [26001] was found, although peppering of the subsoil by crop root action means uncertainty surrounds the suggestion that this is a genuine archaeological feature.

Trench 27 (Fig.8)

Mid brown clay loam topsoil overlying red clay natural subsoil. At the southern end a linear feature extending across the full width of the trench was revealed, cut into the natural subsoil. Excavation of 50% of the deposit (visible within the trench) revealed a rounded V-shape cut filled with a mid brown clay containing a high concentration of Roman pottery and metal - working slag. A sample was taken, which when analysed was found to contain

- Hearth slag
- Partly worked iron bars
- 5 small fragments of burnt bone
- Furnace lining
- A large amount of hammerscale (both fishscale and spheroidal type)
- Oak, Hazel, Field Maple and Hawthorn twigs.

7. Discussion

From the 29 trenches excavated, 3 revealed significant archaeology.

The pottery assemblage associated with these trenches securely dates the archaeology to the Roman period c.100AD – 400AD.

The two posthole features [21003] and [26001] contained no dating evidence, although their stratigraphic position would suggest that they are broadly contemporary with the larger Roman features [21002] and [27001]. No other structural features were found.

Feature [21002] is unlikely to have been created for a particular purpose, it is more likely that it was a natural depression that has gradually filled as a result of human activity in the vicinity. The arrangement of angular stones within the deposit appears far too irregular for any use or purpose to be inferred from them.

Feature [27001] gives a far greater indication of what human activity there is on the site in the Roman period. The cut (as revealed within the confines of the trench) is linear and therefore is likely to extend beyond the edges of the trench. The heavy concentration of finds relating to the production of iron suggest that this feature was open near to an area of metal-working.

Environmental analysis of the samples revealed that while the occurrence of hammerscale was very high within deposit (27002), a little over 20m away, deposit (21001) contained very little. Due to the earlier date attributed to (27002), this may suggest that metal-working on the site did not continue into the latter part of the 3rd century.

Small fragments of 'Tudor Green' dating to the 15th/16th century found within Trench 10 in the vicinity of the farmhouse would seem to confirm the belief that the house is of Medieval origin. However, heavy disturbance within this area somewhat obscures our understanding of the archaeology.

8. Conclusion

The aim of the project was to investigate and assess the archaeological remains and the potential impact upon them by the proposed development.

The objectives were to identify the nature and date of findings, condition and significance of deposits and or structures and to record and report on what was present.

The area around the farmhouse revealed a small amount of Medieval pottery, although the area is heavily disturbed.

The area in the north of the site which included trenches 21 and 26-29 revealed evidence for Roman metal-working with archaeology extending beyond the excavated trenches. A significant amount of Roman pottery was spread across the fields in this locality. The pottery dates show evidence for Roman occupation between the mid-late 2nd century and the 4th century. Although not necessarily continuous, this would suggest Roman occupation of the site for approximately 150 years.

9. Bibliography

RCHM (1932). *Inventory of monuments, Herefordshire East, Volume II*

King, R. (1992). Parish File

Appendix 1, Site Archive

1. 2x Trench Description (Site notes)
2. 1x EDM Survey Notes
3. 6x Photographic Register
4. 1x Drawing Register
5. 1x Environmental Sample Register
6. 2x Environmental Sample Sheets
7. 1x Context Register
8. 18x Context Sheets
9. 3x B&W Films 36 exp.
10. 3x B&W Films 36 exp.
11. 3x Sheets of drawings on permatrace
12. 6x Trench location plans
13. 1x Correspondence file
14. 1x This report

Appendix 2, Context database

Context Database - Court-y-Park, Pixley (HFD-MG-2006-04)

Trench 1

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
1000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.34	No
1001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil.	Trench	Trench	0.26NFE	No

Trench 2

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
2000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles.	Trench	Trench	0.32	No
2001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil.	Trench	Trench	0.08NFE	No
2002	Layer	Sandstone sedimentary bedrock	8 Trench	Trench	Unexcav.	No

Trench 3

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
3000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.5	No
3001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.44NFE	No

Trench 4

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
4000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.25	No
4001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.1NFE	No

Trench 5

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
5000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.38	No
5001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08NFE	No

Trench 6

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
6000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.32	No
6001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06NFE	No

Trench 7

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u>
7000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.6	No
7001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.3NFE	No

Trench 8

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
8000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.28	No
8001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy c clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.1NFE	No

Trench 9

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
9000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.28	No
9001	Layer	Light brown clay loam subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.18	No
9002	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Patches	Patches	Unexcav.	No

Trench 10

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
10000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.58	No
10001	Layer	Redeposited gravelly Red/Dark Pink clay	Trench	Trench	0.5	No
10002	Layer	Light brown clay	Trench	Trench	0.1	Yes
10003	Cut	Semi circular in plan (running into section).	1.57	0.8	0.2	
10004	Fill	Mid brown clay loam deposit with modern brick/plastic sheating	1.57	0.8	0.2	No
10005	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08NFE	No

Trench 11

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
11000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.26	No
11001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06NFE	No

Trench 12

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
12000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.38	No
12001	Layer	Hardcore and Brick rubble layer underneath lawn	12	Trench	0.15	No
12002	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06NFE	No

Trench 13

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
13000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.4	No
13001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.3NFE	No

Trench 14

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Find</u> s
14000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.4	No
14001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.04NFE	No

Trench 15

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
15000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.5	No
15001	Layer	Light brown clay loam subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.4NFE	No

Trench 16

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
16000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.3	No
16001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy c clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.2NFE	No
16002	Layer	Light Grey stoney cement like dep posit	Patches	Patches	Unexcav.	No

Trench 17

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
17000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.44	No
17001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	Unexcav.	No

Trench 18

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
18000	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.58NFE	No

Trench 19

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
19000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.28	No
19001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.12NFE	No

Trench 20

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
20000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.6	No
20001	Layer	Mixed yellowish/greenish grey clay	Trench	Trench	0.3	No
20002	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.2NFE	No

Trench 21

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
21000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.34	No
21001	Fill	Light brown clay deposit charcoal fleck inclusions (30%), Roman Pottery and Boulder arrangement.	2.3	Trench	0.2	Yes
21002	Cut	Shallow scoop for deposit 21001	2.3	Trench	0.2	
21003	Cut	Posthole	0.25	0.25	0.35	
21004	Fill	Heavy grey clay fill of 21003	0.25	0.25	0.35	Yes
21005	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.1NFE	No

Trench 22

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
22000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.4	No
22001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy c clay natura subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08NFE	No

Trench 23

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
23000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.38	No
23001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06NFE	No

Trench 24

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
24000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.38	No
24001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06NFE	No

Trench 25

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
25000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.34	No
25001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.04NFE	No

Trench 26

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
26000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.35	No
26001	Cut	Posthole	0.15	0.15	0.2	
26002	Fill	Heavy grey clay fill of 26001	0.15	0.15	0.2	No
26003	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.05NFE	No

Trench 27

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
27000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.35	No
27001	Cut	N/S aligned linear cut. V shaped in profile		1.3	0.52	
27002	Fill	Black/Dark grey charcoal, slag and pottery rich fill of cut 27001		1.3	0.52	Yes
27003	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.05NFE	No

Trench 28

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Flnds</u>
28000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occassional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.35	No
28001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.1NFE	No

Trench 29

<u>Context</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Width (m)</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u> Finds</u>
29000	Layer	Mid brown clay loam topsoil with occasional small pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.34	No
29001	Layer	Red/Dark Pink heavy clay natural subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06NFE	No

NFE = Not Fully Excavated

Appendix 3, Specialist reports

The Romano British Pottery from Court-Y-Park by C. Jane Evans

Summary

Excavation at Court Y Park produced 159 sherds of pottery weighing 3.5kg, mostly from two stratified deposits. The larger group, from linear ditch 27002, dated broadly to the mid-late 2nd to early 3rd centuries and was associated with ironworking debris. The smaller group, dating to the late 3rd to 4th centuries, came from a shallow feature with a round arrangement of boulders (21001). Both assemblages included diagnostic forms and fabrics, which provided good dating evidence.

Table 1: Summary of the assemblage by context

Context	Qty	% Qty	Wt. (g)	% Wt.	Av. Wt.	Rim EVE	% Rim EVE
21001	33	20.8%	574	16.4%	17	0.62	20.5%
27002	119	74.8%	2706	77.4%	23	2.3	76.2%
U/S	7	4.4%	217	6.2%	31	0.1	3.3%
Total	159		3497		22	3.02	

Methodology

The pottery was analysed using a hand lens at X10 magnification. Fabrics (Table 2) were recorded with reference to the Worcestershire County Fabric Series, formerly the Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Series (Hurst and Rees 1992, 200-209; www.worcestershireceramics.org). Where possible the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), the Kenchester fabric series (Tomber 1985, fiche frames 1-12), and the *Ariconium* fabric series (Willis forthcoming) were also cross referenced. Fabrics that correlate directly with the National Series are highlighted in bold in Table 2 below. The assemblage is quantified by sherd count, weight and rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent; Tables 1 and 3). Base EVEs are recorded in the archive. Precise form types and broad vessel classes (for example bowl, cook pot) were recorded. Evidence for decoration, manufacture, repair, use or reuse was sought, but much of the pottery was very abraded. The data was analysed using Microsoft Access 2002 and Microsoft Excel XP.

In the following report the pottery is discussed first by fabric, then by feature group. Diagnostic sherds from the two feature groups are illustrated.

Fabrics

A very narrow range of fabrics was recorded (Table 2), in part reflecting the small size of the assemblage studied. No imported pottery was included, no colour coated table wares, and only a single sherd of mortaria (Fabric 33.2/33.3). Most common were oxidised Severn Valley wares (Fabrics 12 and 12.15), wheelmade Malvernian ware (Fabric 19) and Dorset Black burnished ware (BB1; Fabric 22). The relative proportions of these fabrics varied depending on the method of quantification (Table 3). There were more sherds of Severn Valley ware. The greatest weight of pottery was in Malvernian ware, reflecting the presence of some substantial sherds from a large storage jar (Fig. 1.2 below). However, quantifying the assemblage by Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE), the method that that gives the best indication of actual

vessels represented, BB1 was surprisingly highly represented in the assemblage. Other reduced wares were represented in small quantities (Fabrics 12.1, 15, 149.1). The latter has no exact parallels in the Worcestershire County series, but may be a local equivalent of Fabric 149 (www.worcestershireceramics.org). A similar 'gritty micaceous grey ware,' dated broadly to c AD 30-400, was noted at Ariconium, though this contained gold mica.

Variations in fabrics were noted between the two feature groups. These are discussed in more detail below.

Table 2: List of fabrics represented

Common Name	WCMF Fabric Code	National Code (Bold)/ Local code	Kenchester Code	Ariconium Code	Description/references (T&D = Tomber and Dore 1998)
Severn Valley ware	12 (12.14-19, 22, 24)	SVW OX 2	SVW	O14-O19, O22, O24	Standard oxidised fabric with sandstone, possibly local: T&D 149, Pl 122; Webster 1976, Rawes 1982; Bryant and Evans 2004, 246-250; Ixer forthcoming
	12 (12.15)		SVW	O15	With fine organic temper c.f. Evans et al. 2000, 17 fabrics O1 and O5?
Severn Valley ware, reduced	12.1	SVW RE	Grey ware	R20, R24, R33	Standard fabric, reduced: Bryant and Evans 2004, 253-4
Coarse sandy grey ware	15	SAND RE	Grey Ware	-	Hurst and Rees 1992, 202; Bryant and Evans 2004, 259
Wheel-thrown Malvernian ware	19	MAL RE W	Malv. WM	-	Hurst and Rees 1992, 203 Bryant and Evans 2004, 260-1
South-east Dorset BB1	22	DOR BB 1	BB1	B11	T&D 127, pl 100; Williams 1977; Seager Smith and Davies, 1993
Oxfordshire Red mortarium	33.2/33.3	OXF WH/ OXF RS	Oxford White CC/ Red CC	M22/M23	T&D 176, pls 147-8; Tomber 1985 fiche, 11
Herefordshire imitation BB1	149.1 New fabric				Abundant silver mica <1mm, particularly evident on surfaces rather than core. Moderate quartz sand, moderately sorted <1mm. Dark grey surface and grey core. Represented by a single sherd

Table 3 Summary of the pottery assemblages by Fabric

Fabric	Qty	% Qty	Wt.		Av. Wt.	Rim EVE	% Rim EVE
			(g)	% Wt			
12	48	30.2%	630	18.0%	13	0.53	17.5%
12.1	1	0.6%	27	0.8%	27	0.16	5.3%
12.15	36	22.6%	319	9.1%	9	0	0.0%
Total SVW	85	53.5%	976	27.9%	11	0.69	22.8%
149.1	1	0.6%	40	1.1%	40	0	0.0%
15	2	1.3%	4	0.1%	2	0	0.0%
19	24	15.1%	1585	45.3%	66	0.43	14.2%
Total Regional	112	70.4%	2605	74.5%	23	1.12	37.1%
22	46	28.9%	880	25.2%	19	1.9	62.9%
33	1	0.6%	12	0.3%	12	0	0.0%

Total Traded	47	29.6%	892	25.5%	19	1.9	62.9%
Total Pottery	159		3497		22	3.02	

Dating of the assemblages

All the dating evidence was provided by coarsewares; there was no samian, and only one sherd of mortaria. Linear ditch 27002 produced a number of forms broadly datable to the latter half of the 2nd or early 3rd centuries (Fig. 1.1, 1.4-6), along with some longer lived types (Fig.1.2, 1.3, 1.7). The only sherd that was inconsistent with this date was a body sherd from a BB1 jar, decorated with obtuse burnished cross hatch. This decoration is generally associated with later BB1 forms (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 231, WA type 3). The shallow feature, 21001, produced a typically late 3rd to 4th century assemblage, dated by diagnostic Severn Valley ware and BB1 forms (fig. 2.1-3, 2.5). The presence of a sherd of Oxfordshire colour coated mortaria is consistent with this date, though the body sherd was very abraded and it is uncertain whether it originally had a white (Young 2000 117-22) or red colour coat (op. cit. 127). The single sherd of 'Herefordshire imitation BB1' is also consistent with a later Roman date. A similar, local BB1 copy has been noted on Worcestershire sites dating to the late 4th century (www.worcestershireceramics.org, Fabric 149).

Figure 1: Illustrated pottery from 27002

Fabric 12, **SVW OX 2**: Severn Valley ware, plain oxidised

1.1 NB1.01

Moderately splayed tankard, dating broadly to the 2nd to 3rd centuries (Webster 1976 Fig. 7 E40-43). Diam. 16cm (10%). Dwg. 7

Fabric 19: Wheelmade Malvernian ware

1.2 JK22.04.

Large cook pot with a simple everted rim. At Worcester, this form has been dated 'later than the second half of the 2nd century' (Bryant and Evans 2004, fig 164 1, 2), becoming increasingly common in the later 3rd century (op. cit.). It is known to have been produced at the Hygienic Laundry kiln site in Malvern, dated to the 4th century (Peacock 1967, fig. 3, 20, 21, 28). Diam. 28cm (43%). Dwg 1

1.3 JK22.04

Similar, though smaller vessel. Diam 17cm (18%). Dwg 6

Fabric 22, **DOR BB1**: Dorset Black burnished ware

1.4 JK7.2

Cook pot with moderately everted rim, dating to the 2nd century (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA type 2, fig. 122). Very abraded. Diam. 13cm (15%). Dwg. 5

- 1.5 BI8.31
Flat rimmed bowl, dating to the mid to late 2nd century (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA Type 22, fig. 123). Decorated with burnished intersecting arcs (op. cit. fig. 132 D17). Diam. 20cm (29%). Dwg. 3
- 1.6 BI8.22
Bowl with a grooved rim, flange slightly higher than the slight internal bead. Dating broadly to the second half of the 2nd, or early 3rd century (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA type 24, fig. 141.151); Gillam dates the appearance of this form to c AD 180-210 (Gillam 1976, 67-70). Decorated with crudely burnished intersecting arcs Diam. 18cm (18%) Dwg. 4
- 1.7 DB16.01
Straight sided dish with a plain rim, a form produced from the 2nd century on (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA type 20, fig. 123). Diam. 18cm (67%). Dwg. 2

Figure 2: Illustrated pottery from 21001

Fabric 12, **SVW OX 2**: Severn Valley ware, plain oxidised

- 2.1 JW20.06
Short necked jar or bowl with an everted, slightly beaded rim, similar to forms noted at the Hygienic Laundry kiln site in Malvern, dated to the 4th century (Peacock 1967, 25, fig. 3 37). Diam. 26cm (11%). Dwg. 11

Fabric 12.1, **SVW OX 2**: Severn Valley ware, plain reduced

- 2.2 JW19.1
Short necked jar with a triangular rim, probably dating to the 4th century (Webster 1976, 25, similar to fig. 4 C22 but with a shorter neck). The vessel is probably over fired, and may not have been a deliberately reduced ware. Diam. 15cm (16%). Dwg. 12

Fabric 22, **DOR BB1**: Dorset Black burnished ware

- 2.3 BI8.25
Conical bowl with a dropped flange rim, a typically late 3rd to 4th century (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA type 25, fig. 124). With evidence of sooting below the rim, externally. Diam. 14cm (14%). Dwg. 10
- 2.4 DB16.01
Straight sided dish with a plain rim, a form produced from the 2nd century on (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA type 20, fig. 123). Diam. 19cm (16%). Dwg 9

2.5 DD16.01

Oval 'fish dish' with handle, a typical late 3rd to 4th century form (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA type 21, Fig. 123). Diam. NA. Dwg 8

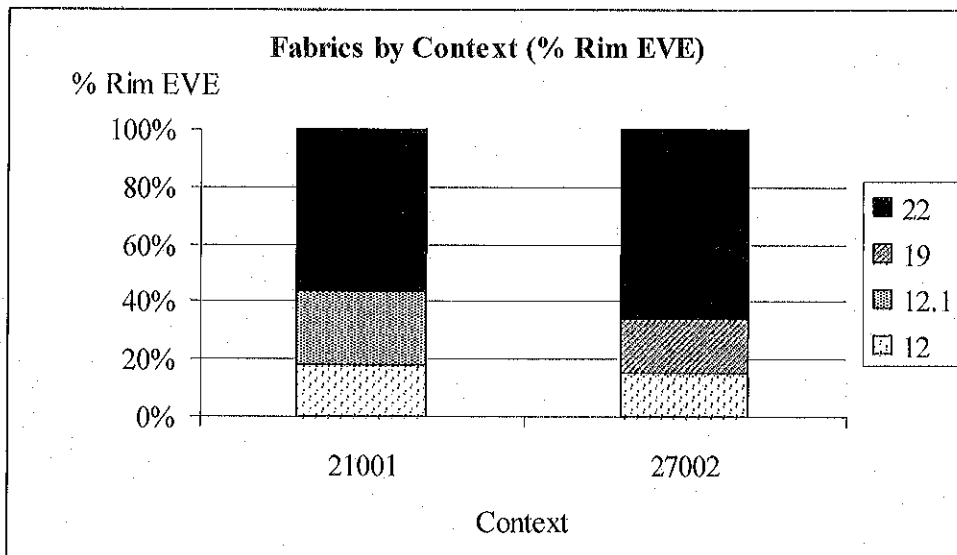
Comparison of the two Feature assemblages

Both assemblages produced a narrow range of fabrics. Looking at the fabric proportions by % Rim EVE (fig. 3a), both are dominated by vessels in BB1, with oxidised Severn Valley wares representing less than 20% and other reduced wares representing 19% and 26% respectively. There are variations in the actual fabrics present, most apparent when the assemblage is quantified by % weight (Figure 3b). The earlier group (27002) contains Malvernian ware (Fabric 19), which the later group (21001) does not, while the later group contains reduced Severn Valley ware (Fabric 12.1), Herefordshire imitation BB1 (Fabric 149.1) and Oxfordshire mortaria (Fabric 33.2/3). Both groups rely heavily on local or regional sources, the only significant evidence for longer distance supply coming from the Dorset BB1.

Both groups comprise a limited range of utilitarian vessels (Figure 4): Jars, dishes, bowls. The only real variations between these small groups are that Feature 21001 produced a mortarium fragment, and 27002, a tankard.

Figure 3: Fabrics by context

a) % Rim EVE



b) % Weight

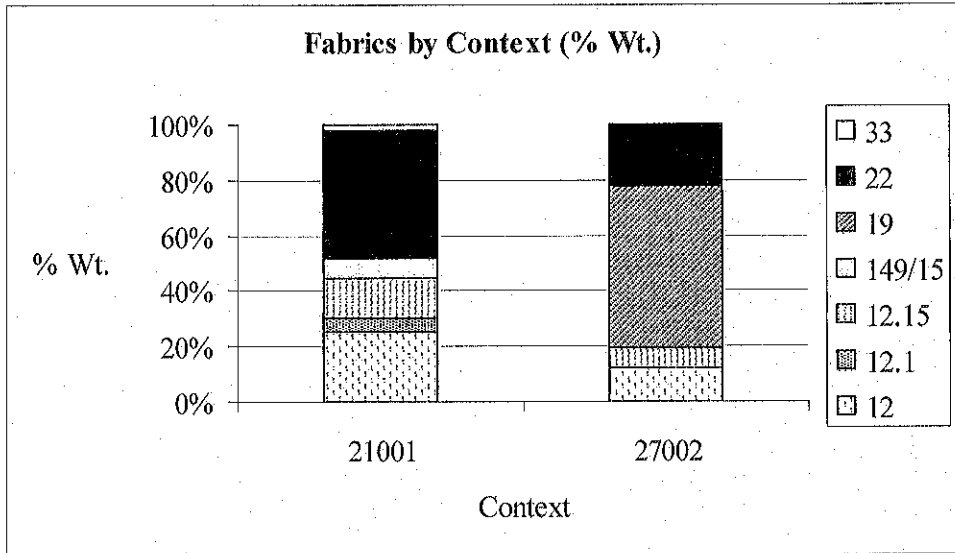
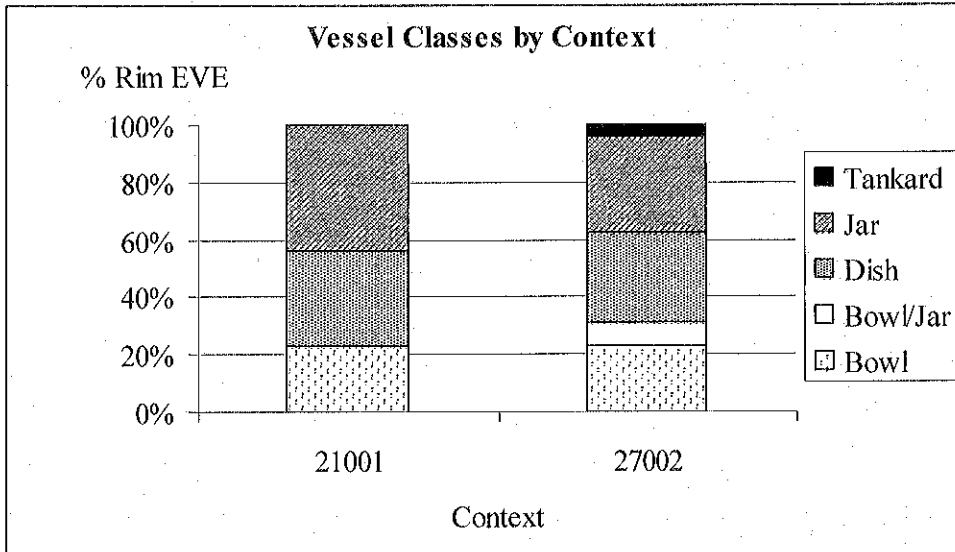


Figure 4: Vessel classes by context



Discussion

This assemblage adds to the growing, and much needed (Allen and Fulford 1996, 259-60; Evans forthcoming a) body of quantified Roman pottery data from Herefordshire. It is, however, a very small assemblage, so caution must be exercised regarding the use of negative evidence, in particular the complete absence of amphorae, samian or other colour coated table wares, and the paucity of mortaria. Bearing this in mind, however, the assemblage does fit broadly within the pattern of rural supply noted elsewhere in Herefordshire, for example in the Frome Valley (Evans forthcoming b), the Arrow Valley (Evans 2003), and at Bradbury Lines (Evans forthcoming c). Most of the pottery comes from local or regional sources, the only significant 'traded' pottery being Dorset Black burnished ware. Both chronological groups represent a range of utilitarian vessels that might be used in food preparation and storage; mainly coarse ware jars and BB1 bowls and dishes. There is no evidence for more formalised dining, that might be attested, for example, by

flagons, beakers, cups, or even copies of Samian bowls in Severn Valley ware. This, and the other rural assemblages, contrast with the evidence from Kenchester (Tomber 1985, Table 2). This, albeit much larger, assemblage included a range of imported amphorae, mortaria, and table wares, as well as a range of traded wares from major Romano-British producers.

The relatively high proportion of BB1 in both chronological groups on this site, particularly when quantified by % rim EVE, may be significant. Allen and Fulford, in their study of the distribution of BB1, noted that the low density of excavated sites, and consequent lack of quantified data, inhibited their studies of distribution patterns in this region (Allen and Fulford *op. cit.*). The proportions of BB1 on this site might support their hypothesis that the Wroxeter area was supplied by a route through Herefordshire, along the road from Kenchester (*op. cit.*). The evidence from other Herefordshire sites, however, (Griffin *forthcoming*), suggests that there may be more complex patterns to be explored.

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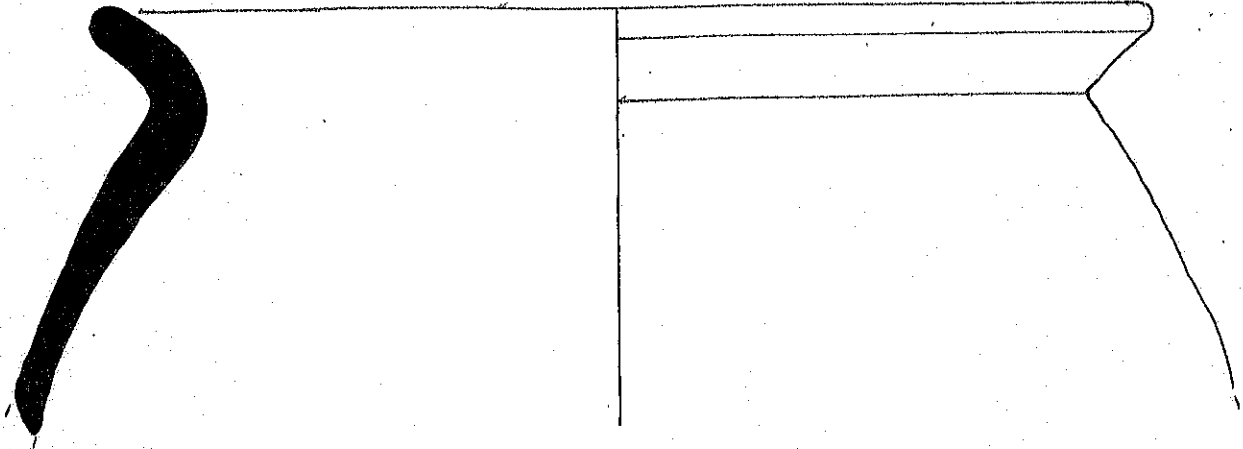
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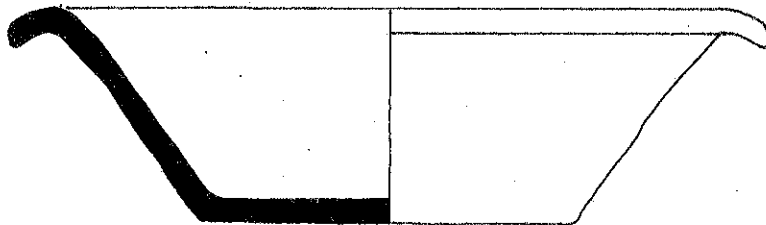
Illustrated Pottery



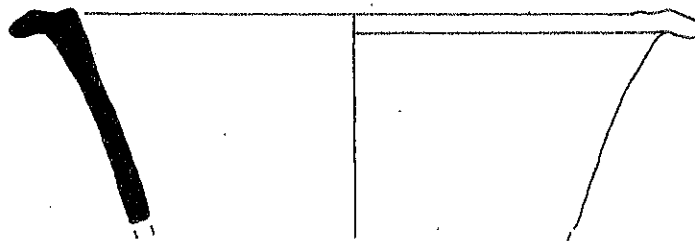
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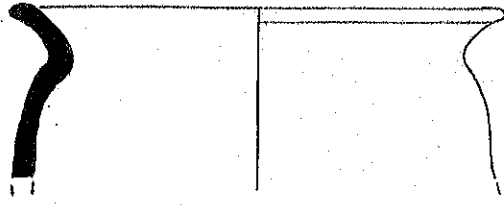
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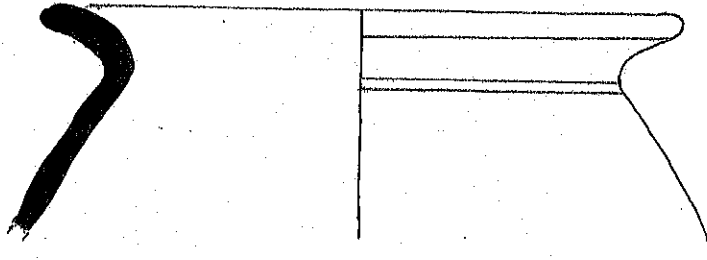
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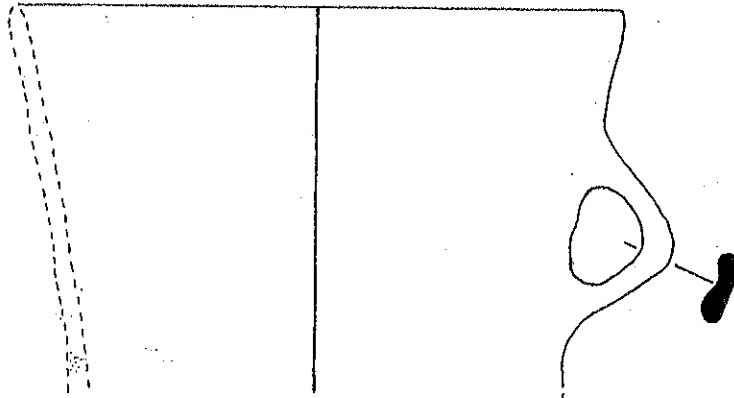
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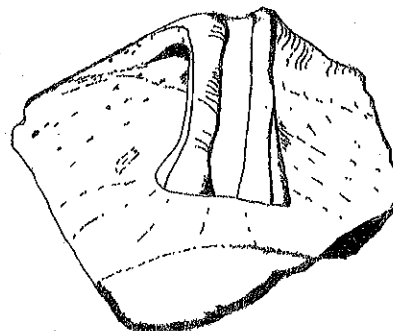
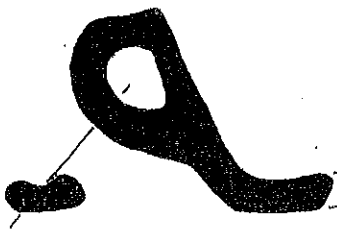
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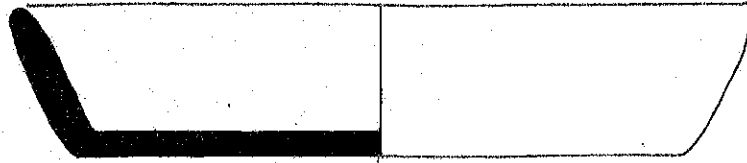


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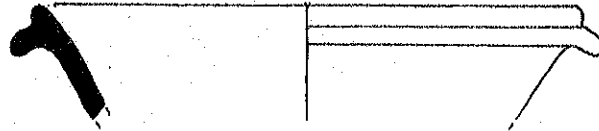


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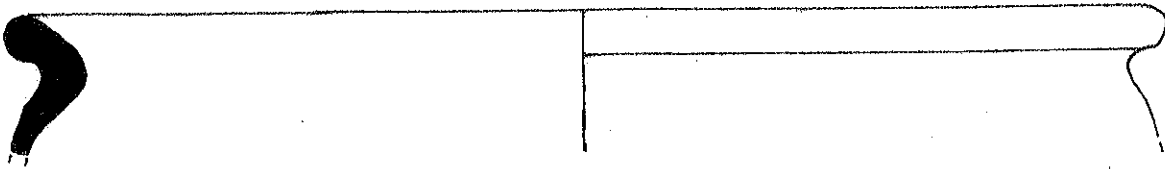




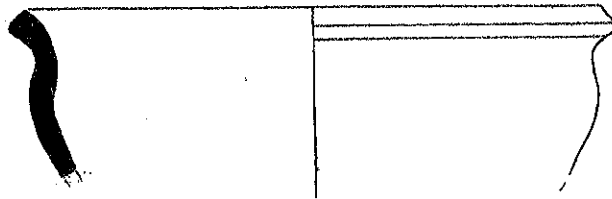
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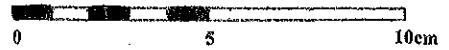
Drawing 10



Drawing 11



Drawing 12



Court y Park
Environmental and slag samples
Dr. Graham Morgan c/o University of Leicester

20 March 2006

21001 slag:

Burnt clay, with vesicular fayalite, charcoal traces, fuel ash slag and rust. This is hearth slag, total weight 35g.

27002 slag:

1] Vesicular fayalite with rust and charcoal, hearth slag, total weight 390g.

2] Partly worked iron bars, with hearth slag coatings, total weight 210g. These may be iron objects lost in the hearth.

27002 furnace lining:

Burnt, fine sandy micaceous clay, with some fuel ash glazing, partial vitrification and traces of fayalite slag, total weight 200g. This may be furnace lining but the degree of burning suggests a lower temperature hearth, as used in iron working.

Flots

21001 [2]

>2mm

Fragments of fired clay with charcoal and traces of slag.

Species present:

Oak, Hazel and hawthorn type, all twigs, about 20mm diameter.

< 2mm

As >2mm but with slight traces of spheroidal smithing slag.

27002 [1]

>2mm

Vitrified and vesicular fired clay with charcoal, pottery and traces of iron working slags.

Species present:

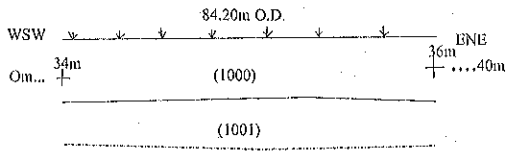
Oak, hazel, field maple, hawthorn type, all between 10mm and 20mm diameter.

<2mm

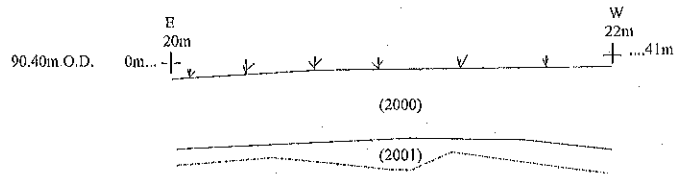
as >2mm with marked quantities of hammer scale and spheroidal smithing slag.

This whole collection is typical of iron working hearth residues. The composite fayalite [iron silicate] rust, charcoal and fired clay masses are those commonly associated with the manufacture or re-working of iron objects.

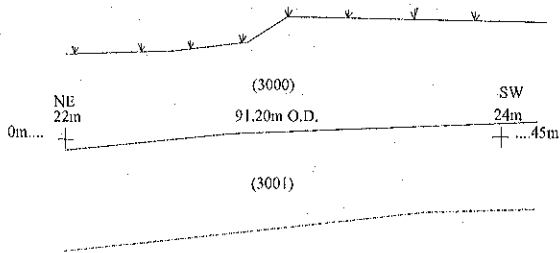
Appendix 4. Site drawings



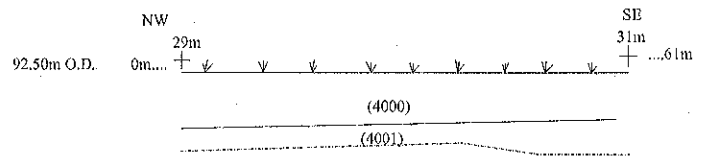
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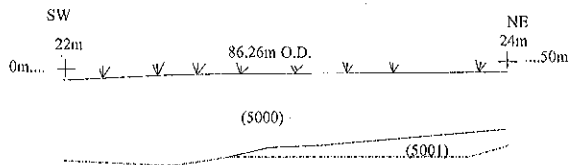
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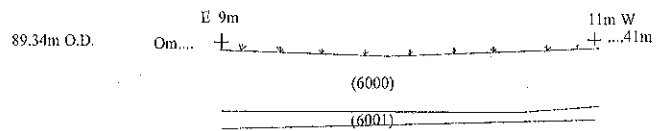
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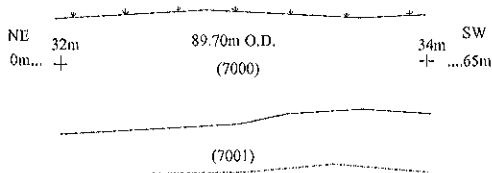
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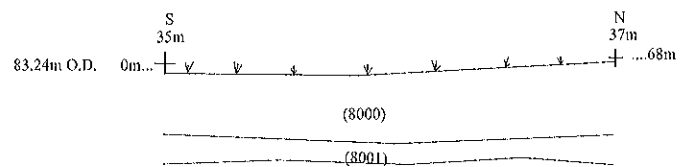
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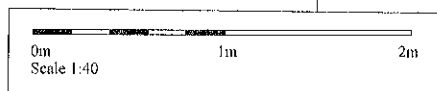
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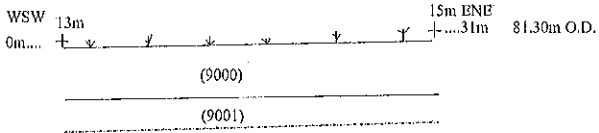


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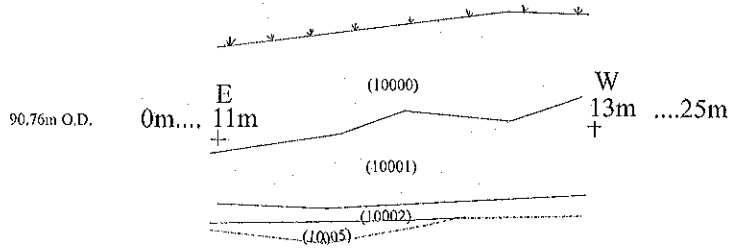


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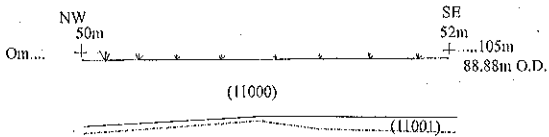




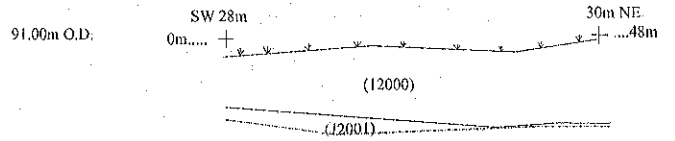
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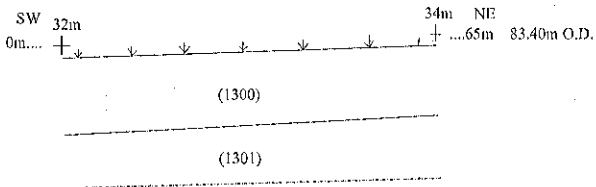
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Drawing Number 7



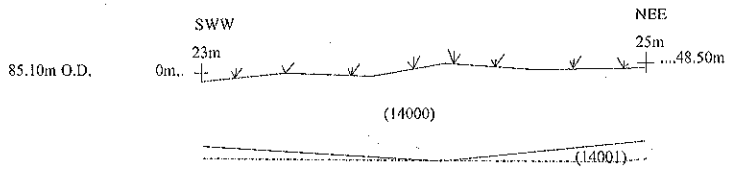
Trench 11
SW Facing Section
Drawing Number 2



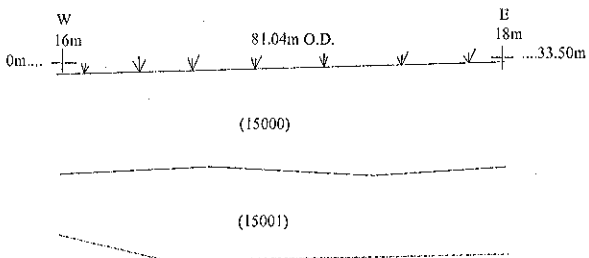
Trench 12
SE Facing Section
Drawing Number 1



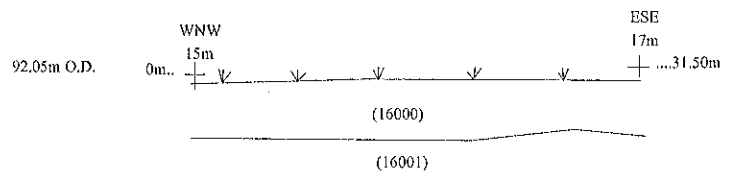
Trench 13
SE Facing Section
Drawing Number 14



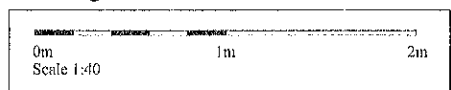
Trench 14
SSE Facing Section
Drawing Number 6

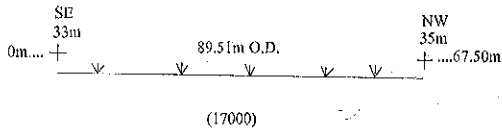


Trench 15
S Facing Section
Drawing Number 15

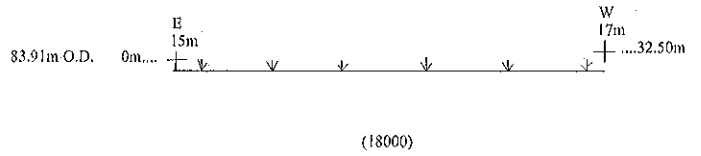


Trench 16
SSW Facing Section
Drawing Number 16

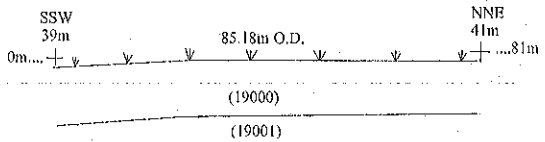




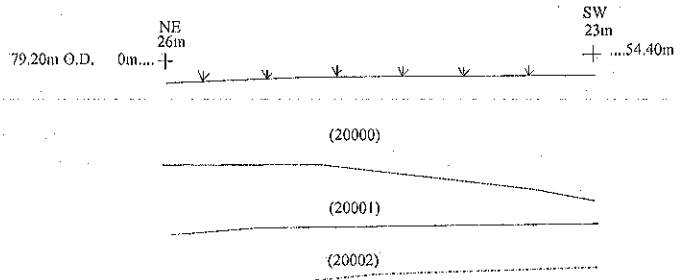
Trench 17
NE Facing Section
Drawing Number 25



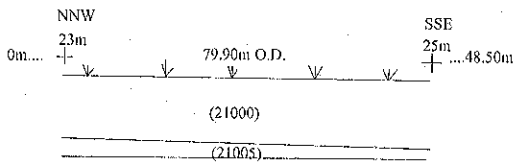
Trench 18
N Facing Section
Drawing Number 18



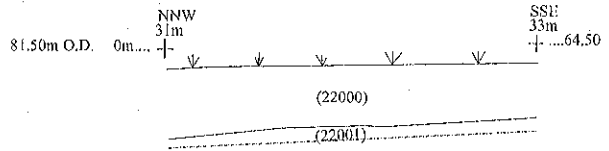
Trench 19
ESE Facing Section
Drawing Number 17



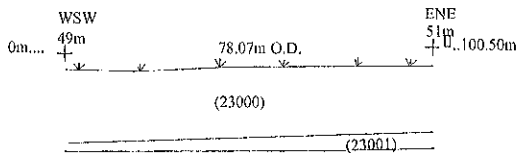
Trench 20
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 19



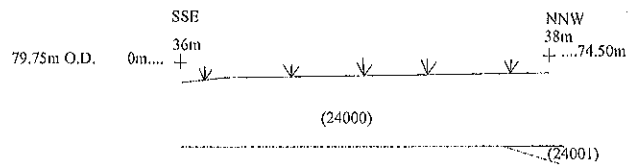
Trench 21
WSW Facing Section
Drawing Number 26



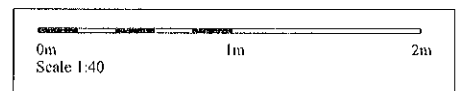
Trench 22
WSW Facing Section
Drawing Number 21

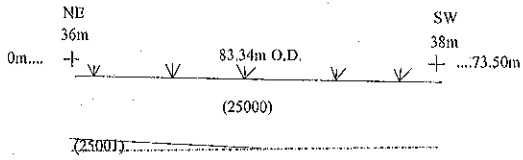


Trench 23
SSE Facing Section
Drawing Number 20

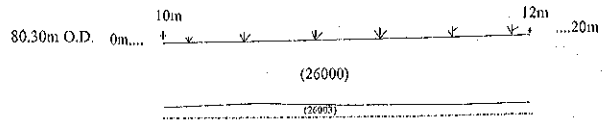


Trench 24
ESE Facing Section
Drawing Number 22

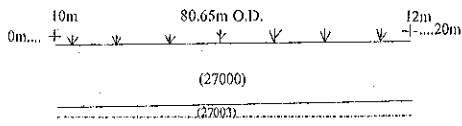




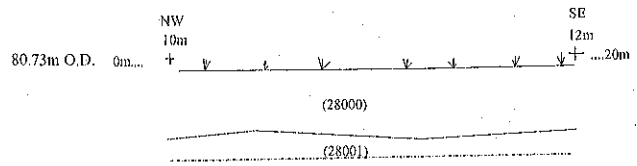
Trench 25
NW Facing Section
Drawing Number 23



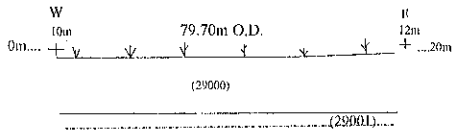
Trench 26
SW Facing Section
Drawing Number 31



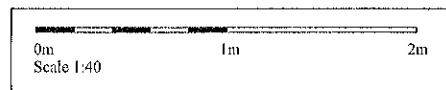
Trench 27
S Facing Section
Drawing Number 33

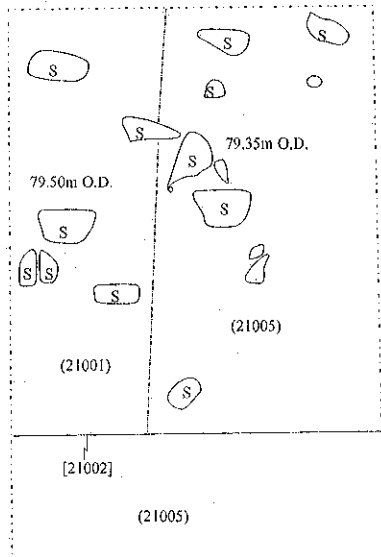


Trench 28
SW Facing Section
Drawing Number 32

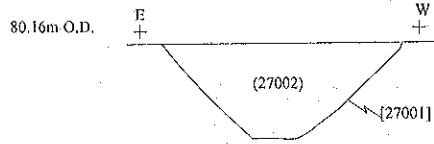


Trench 29
S Facing Section
Drawing Number 34

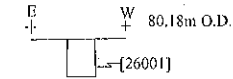
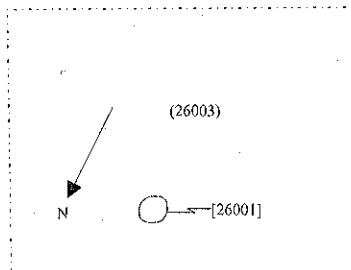




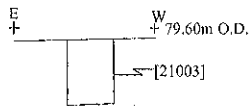
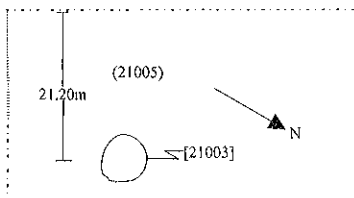
Trench 21
Plan of SW end
Drawing Number 26



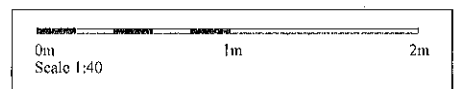
Trench 27
Section through [27001]
1:20
Drawing Number 28



Trench 26
Plan and Section of Posthole [26001]
Drawing Number 29



Trench 21
Plan and Section of Posthole [21003]
Drawing Number 30



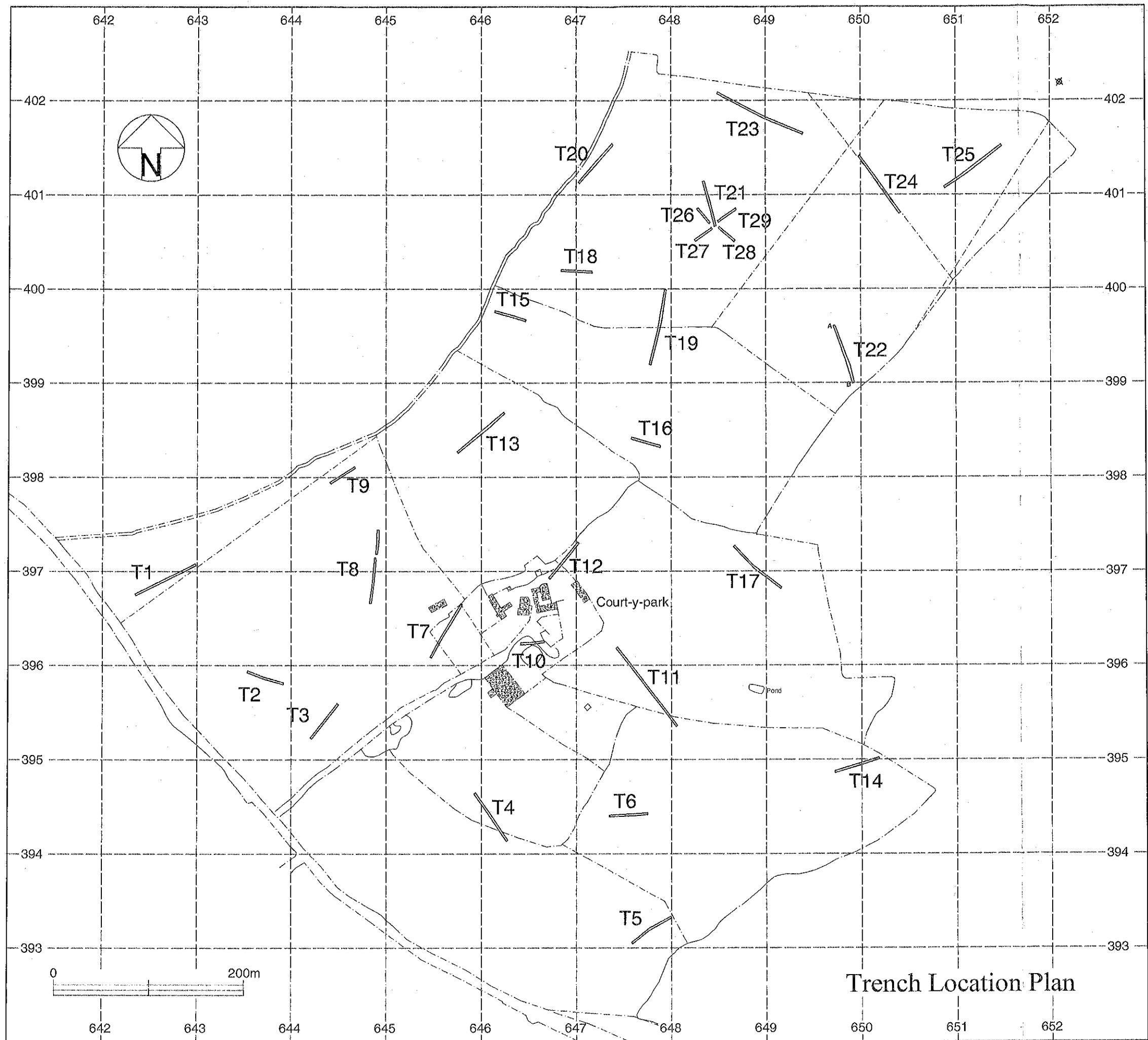


Figure 2

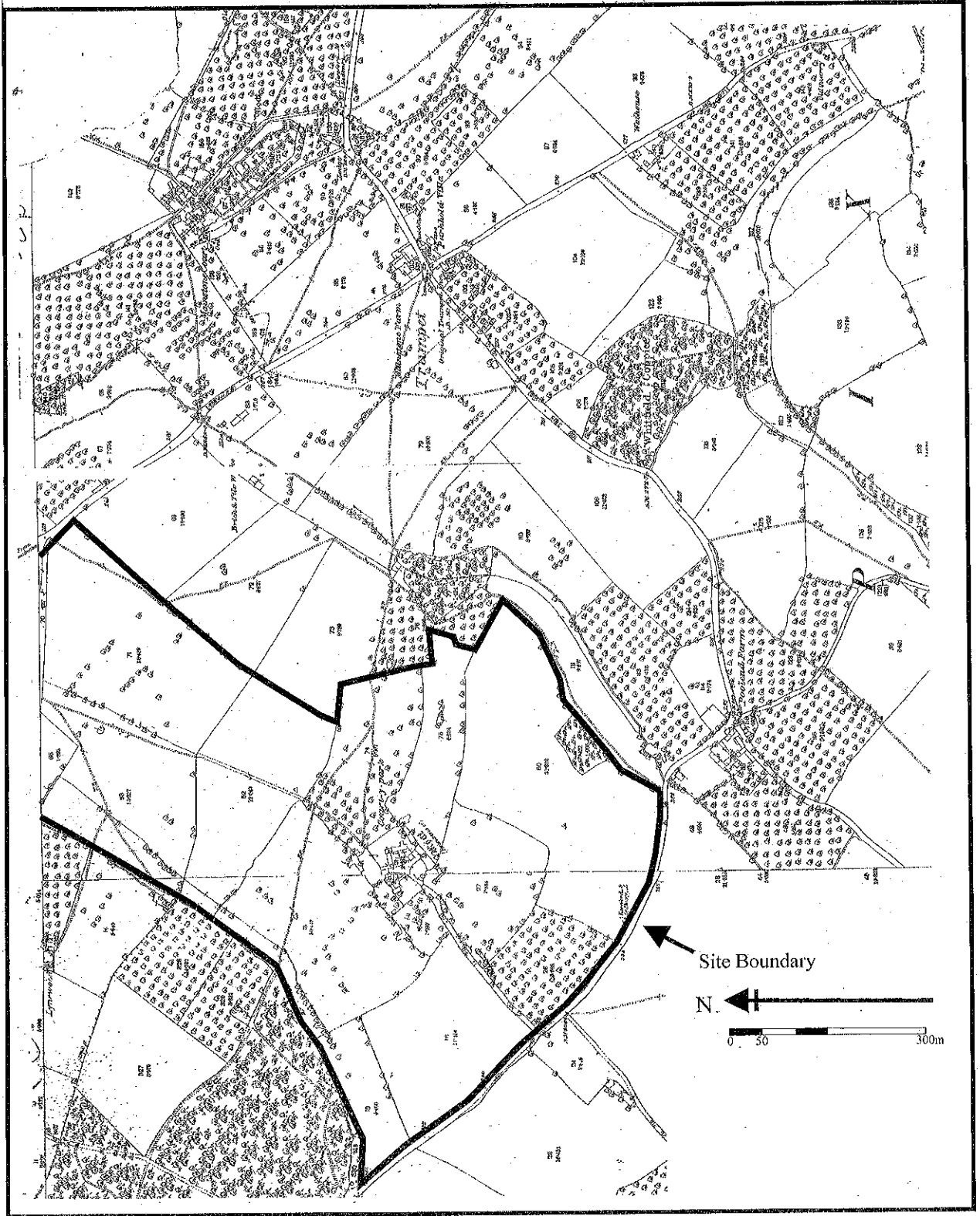


Figure 3

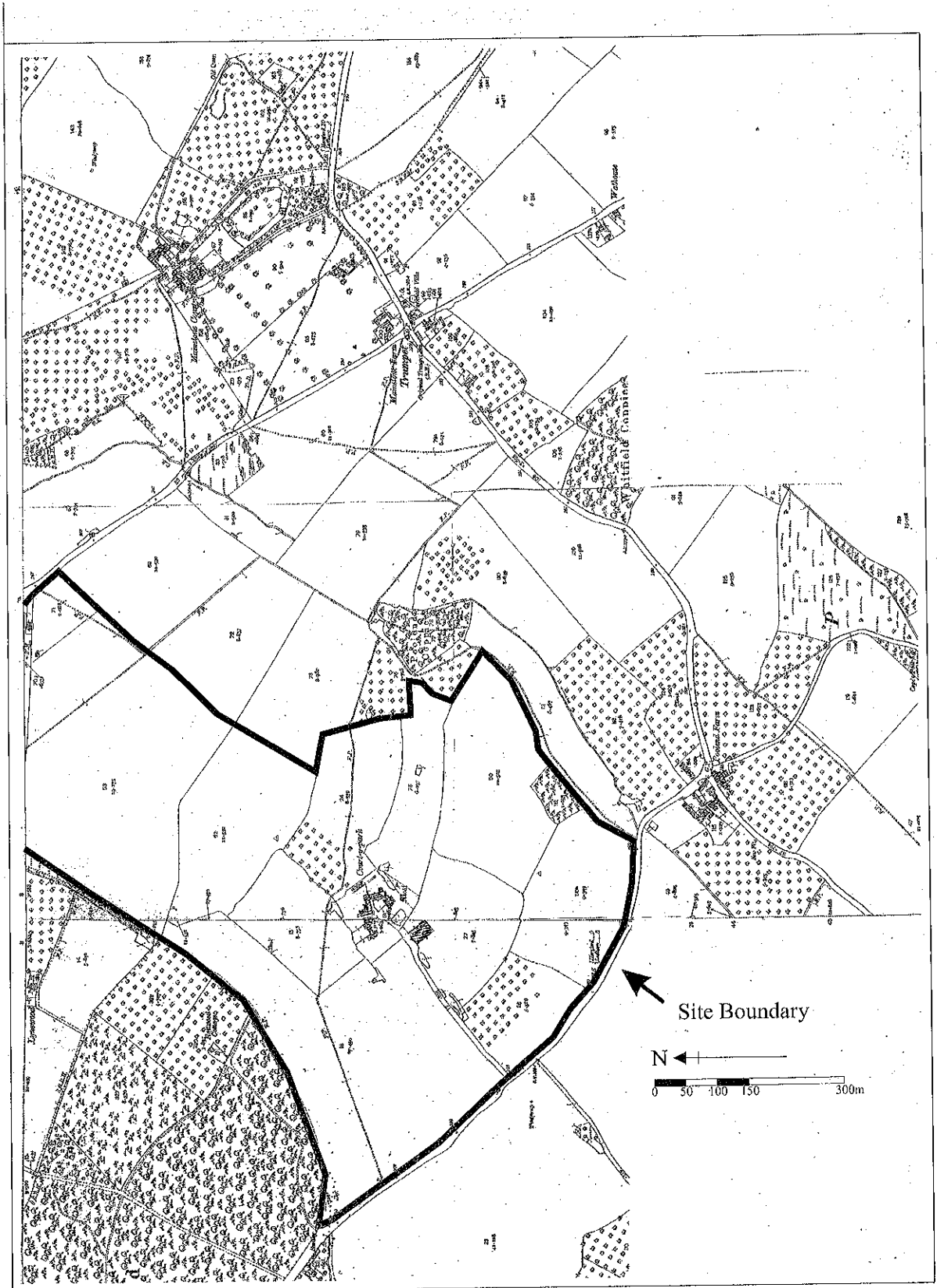


Figure 4

1975 O/S Map with SMR sites

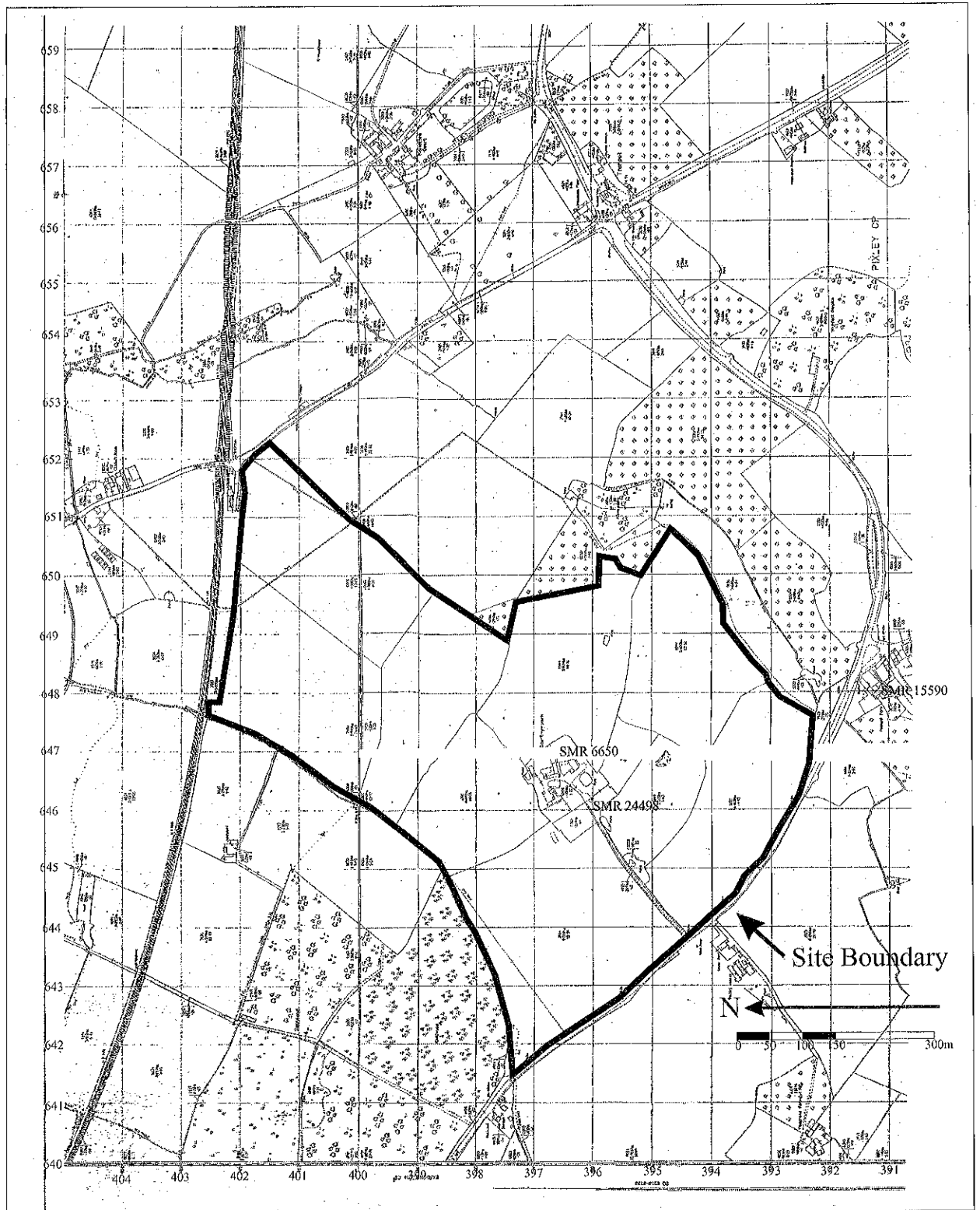


Figure 5

SMR sites in the locality of Court-y-Park

Records 1 to 14 from 14 total

SMR No	Site name	Parish	NGR	Period / Site type
32364	Brick Clamp Orchard	Munsley	SO 6352 3918	Post Medieval / BRICKWORKS
24498	Eastwood Park, Pixley	Pixley	SO 6460 3960	Post Medieval / LANDSCAPE PARK
6650	Court y Park, Pixley	Pixley	SO 6469 3965	Post Medieval / Dwelling Medieval / Chapel
15590	Farm buildings, Pool End Farm, Pixley	Pixley	SO 6480 3910	Post Medieval / Barn
18144	Pigeonhouse, W of Poolend Farm, Pixley	Pixley	SO 6480 3910	Post Medieval / Dovecote
30557	Roadside water source, Putley Common	Putley	SO 6381 3812	Post Medieval / WATER SUPPLY SITE
18719	House (site), E of School, Putley	Putley	SO 6411 3823	Post Medieval / Dwelling
7459	The Brainge, Putley	Putley	SO 6474 3810	Post Medieval / Dwelling
18223	Houses (site), Durlow Common, Tarrington	Tarrington	SO 6308 3932	Post Medieval / Dwelling Post Medieval / Settlement- shrunk
35662	Unsectarian Mission Room, Durlow Common	Tarrington	SO 6320 3915	Post Medieval / Chapel
31157	Durlow Common Landscape Park	Tarrington	SO 6320 3940	Post-Medieval / Landscape Park
25354	Hopkilns, Lower Eastwood Farm, Tarrington	Tarrington	SO 6380 3980	Post Medieval / Hopkiln
18221	House (site), E of Lwr Bastwood Farm, Tarrington	Tarrington	SO 6403 3974	Post Medieval / Dwelling
32480	Brick Lamp Orchard	Woolhope	SO 6440 3805	Post Medieval / BRICKWORKS

Reproduced from Herefordshire SMR online (www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk)

Figure 6

Photographs

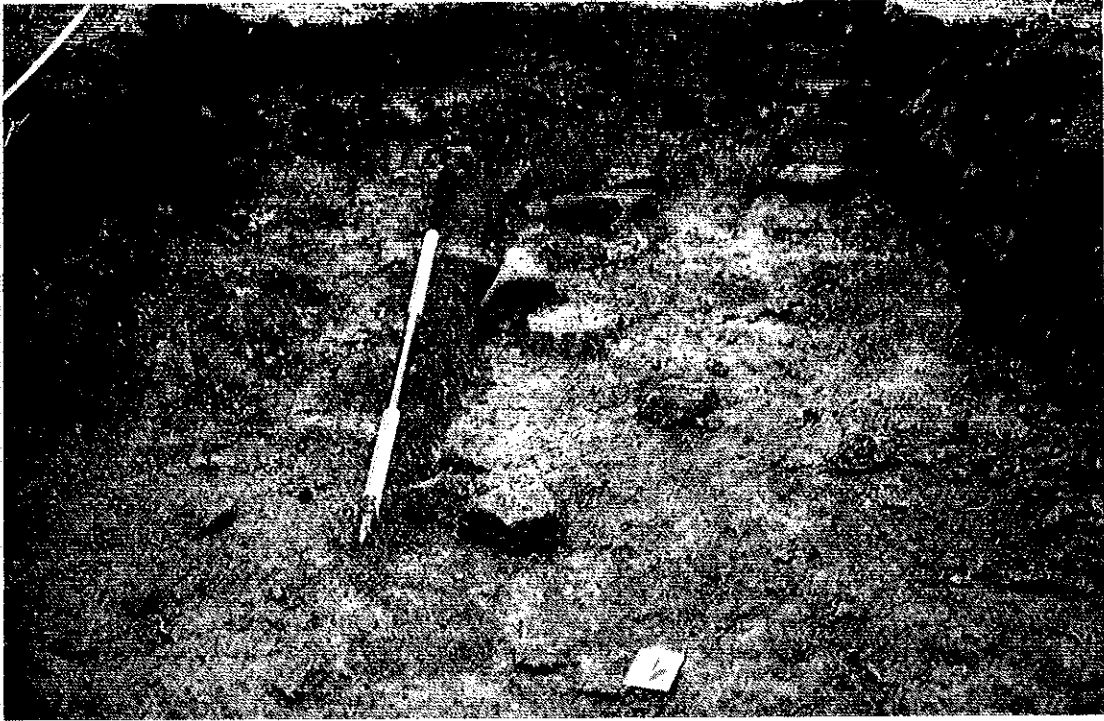


Figure 7 - Stone arrangement and deposit (21001), containing Roman pottery c.100-400AD

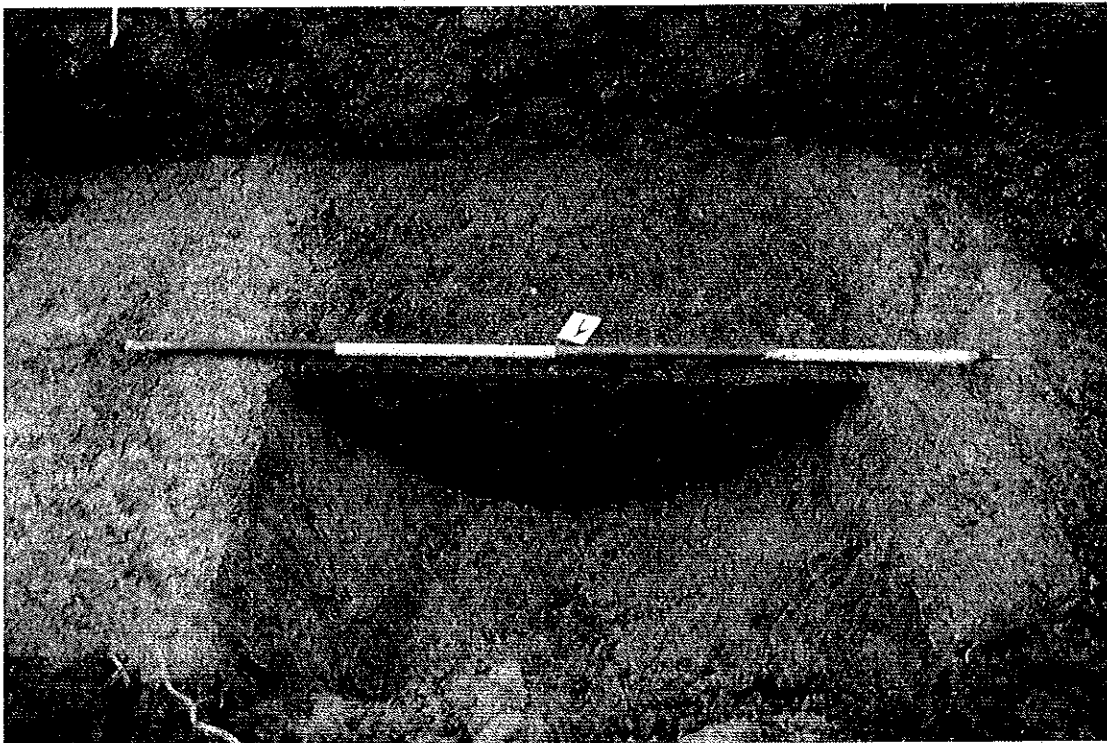


Figure 8 - Linear feature (27001) Half section showing fill (27002) containing large amounts of iron working debris and Roman pottery.