

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land north of Orchard Close,
Hallow, Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: OCW15/224

(SO 8285 5848)

Land north of Orchard Close, Hallow, Worcestershire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Mactaggart and Mickel Homes**

by Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OCW15/224

October 2015

Summary

Site name: Land north of Orchard Close, Hallow, Worcestershire

Grid reference: SO 8285 5848

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th – 29th September 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: OCW15/224

Worcestershire fieldwork reference: WSM67022.

Area of site: c. 3.5ha

Summary of results: Only a single undated gully was found, probably correlating with one of the ‘agricultural’ anomalies noted in the geophysical survey. The site appears to have been heavily ploughed in modern times. The other geophysical anomalies were not apparent but were in any case interpreted as resulting from recent agricultural activity. On the basis of these results, it is not considered that the proposed development site has any archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Service in due course, with fieldwork reference WSM67022.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.10.15 Steve Preston ✓ 07.10.15

Land north of Orchard Close, Hallow, Worcestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 15/224

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Orchard Close, Hallow, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8285 5848) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DP on behalf of Mactaggart and Mickel Homes Limited, 1 Atlantic Quay, 1 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8JB. A planning application (NH/14/01067) has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council for a residential development and associated infrastructure.

Geophysical survey on the site has suggested the presence of several anomalies which might be of archaeological origin, but of uncertain character and unknown date. Therefore, in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to inform the planning process, a field evaluation by means of trial trenching was requested. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification drawn up by Armour Heritage (Farr 2015) and approved by Mr Mike Glyde, County Archaeologist for Worcestershire County Council, and which was based on a brief supplied by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (Nash 2015).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Luis Esteves between 28th and 30th September 2015 and the site code is OCW15/224. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Service with reference code WSM67022.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of Hallow, just to the north-west of Worcester between the A443 and the River Severn (Fig. 1) which lies c. 640m to the east of the site. The site is a relatively flat parcel of land at an elevation of 45m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on a ridge between the otherwise quite steep valleys of the Severn to the east and Laughern Brook to the west. Most of the site area is under agricultural usage. The underlying geology as seen in the trenches is mapped as Fourth (Kidderminster) Terrace deposit (BGS 1993) of the River Severn. Much of the historic village core of Hallow is designated as the Hallow Conservation Area.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site as set out by a desk based assessment (AH 2013) and geophysical survey on the site itself (Fry 2014). In summary the potential stems from the site's location near the historic centre of Hallow which has early Medieval origins. An archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at Old Church Lane (Miller *et al.* 2004) approximately 300m to the south of the site revealed several features and deposits which were dated to the medieval period. These deposits were interpreted as outlying parts of a manorial complex, likely focused further south. Other archaeological fieldwork nearby has not produced significant results.

The geophysical survey conducted on a larger parcel of land which included the current site, identified a small number of features of possible archaeological interest, but the majority of anomalies were corresponded with mapped historic field boundaries, or were considered to be agricultural in origin.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project are:

- to ground truth the results of the recently completed geophysical survey;
- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;
- to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and
- to produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

It was proposed to excavate 28 trenches measuring 28m long by 2m wide, some targeting anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, and other trenches placed in 'blank' areas to act as a control sample. The trenches were to be excavated using a 360° type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision from an archaeologist, with the excavated spoil monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned, excavated and recorded in order to satisfy the objectives of the project.

Trenches 3, 20, 24 and 27 were located to target one geophysical anomaly, and seven trenches were positioned to confirm the nature and date of suspected agricultural boundaries and cultivation anomalies.

Results

Most of the trenches were dug as intended however, trenches 20, 21, 25 and 15 were moved slightly to avoid a public footpath which had been identified as a geophysical anomaly and therefore targeted (Fig. 3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned south to north and was 26m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned west to east and was 28m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.35m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned south to north and was 27.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 29m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.35m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned west to east and was 28m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned west to east and was 28.5m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 29.5m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 2 and 3)

Trench 9 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. A gully (1) was excavated (Pl. 3) at the north end of the trench. It was aligned more or less west-east, 0.50m wide, 0.16m deep with a single fill of light grey-brown gravelly sand (52) and contained no finds. It is broadly on the alignment of a number of parallel, likely agricultural anomalies from the geophysical survey but a second such anomaly, which this trench should have intercepted, was not apparent as a cut feature.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned south to north and was 27.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 27m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

Trench 12 was aligned south to north and was 26m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 28.2m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

Trench 14 was aligned south to north and was 27.6m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 15 (Fig. 3)

Trench 15 was aligned west to east and was 29m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

Trench 16 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 28.4m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3)

Trench 17 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recovered. One possible, slight linear feature within this trench was investigated and written off as natural, despite being roughly aligned on a weak geophysical anomaly (8) thought to be a 19th-century field boundary. However this feature was not visible in other trenches which intercepted its line and the similarity of alignment appears to be coincidental.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3)

Trench 18 was aligned west to east and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 19 (Fig. 3)

Trench 19 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

Trench 20 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 27.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 21 (Fig. 3)

Trench 21 was aligned SSE to NNW and was 27m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 22 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 22 was aligned west to east and was 28m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 23 (Fig. 3)

Trench 23 was aligned west to east and was 29.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 24 (Fig. 3)

Trench 24 was aligned west to east and was 28m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 25 (Fig. 3)

Trench 25 was aligned south to north and was 29m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 26

Trench 26 was aligned SSW to NNE and was 29m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 27 (Fig. 3)

Trench 27 was aligned west to east and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 28 (Fig. 3)

Trench 28 was aligned south to north and was 28m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, a single undated gully was found, probably correlating with one of the 'agricultural' anomalies noted in the geophysical survey. The other geophysical anomalies were not

apparent but were in any case interpreted as recent agricultural activity. On the basis of these results, it is not considered that the proposed development site has any archaeological potential.

References

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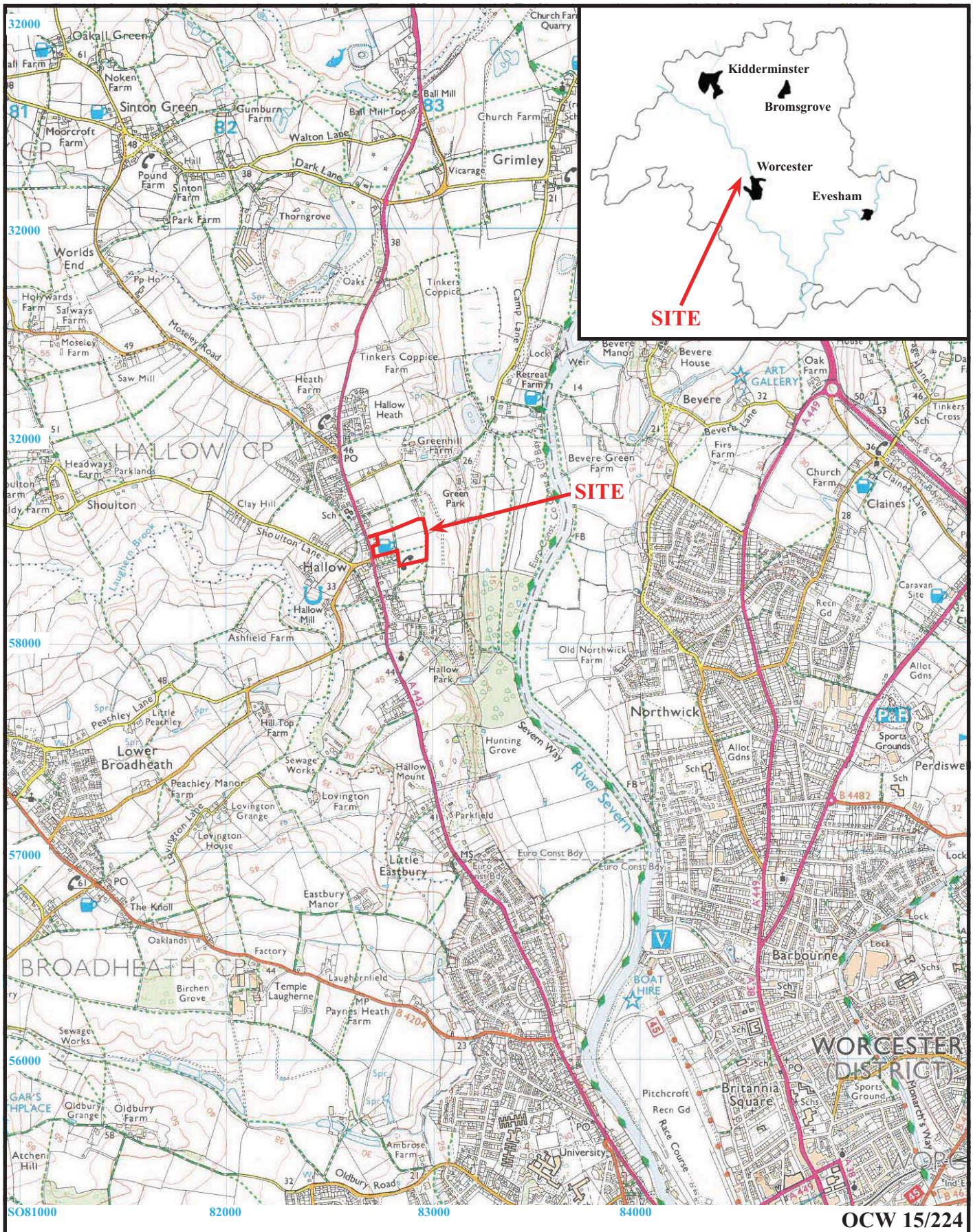
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southern or western ends

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	26	2	0.65	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.65m subsoil; and 0.65m+ light orange brown gravely sand natural geology. [P1. 1]
2	28	2	0.6	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.6m; subsoil; 0.6m+ light brown red gravely sand natural geology.
3	28	2	0.5	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
4	27.5	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ light red brown gravely sand natural geology.
5	29	2	0.65	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m+ mid red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
6	28	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
7	28.5	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid yellow brown gravely sand natural geology.
8	29.5	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
9	28	2	0.5	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology. Gully 1. [P1s 2 and 3]
10	27.5	2	0.55	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.55 subsoil; 0.55m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
11	27	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
12	26	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
13	28.2	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
14	27.6	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
15	29	2	0.45	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
16	28.4	2	0.55	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
17	28	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ light yellow/red brown gravely sand natural geology.
18	28	2	0.5	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ light yellow/red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
19	28	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
20	27.5	2	0.5	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
21	27	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
22	28	2	0.6	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology. [P1. 4]
23	29.5	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ light brown red gravely sand natural geology.
24	28	2	0.55	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ light yellow red gravely sand natural geology.
25	29	2	0.5	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
26	29	2	0.5	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.
27	28	2	0.5	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown sandy gravel natural geology.
28	28	2	0.5	0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mid red brown gravely sand natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

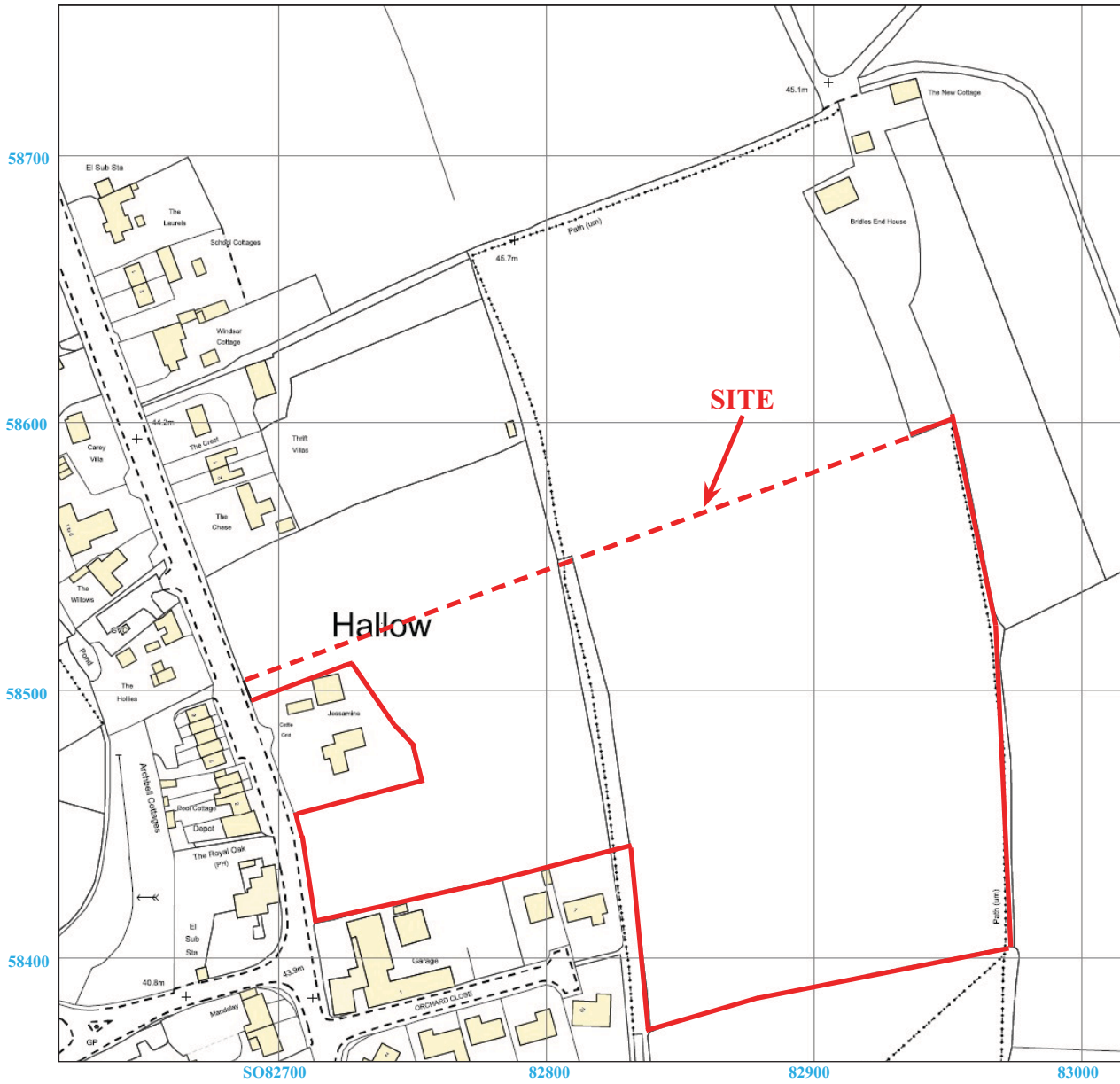
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
9	1	52	Gully	Unknown	None



**Land north of Orchard Close, Main Road, Hallow,
Worcestershire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hallow and Worcestershire.

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**Land north of Orchard Close, Main Road, Hallow,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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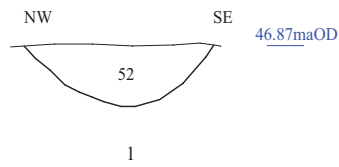
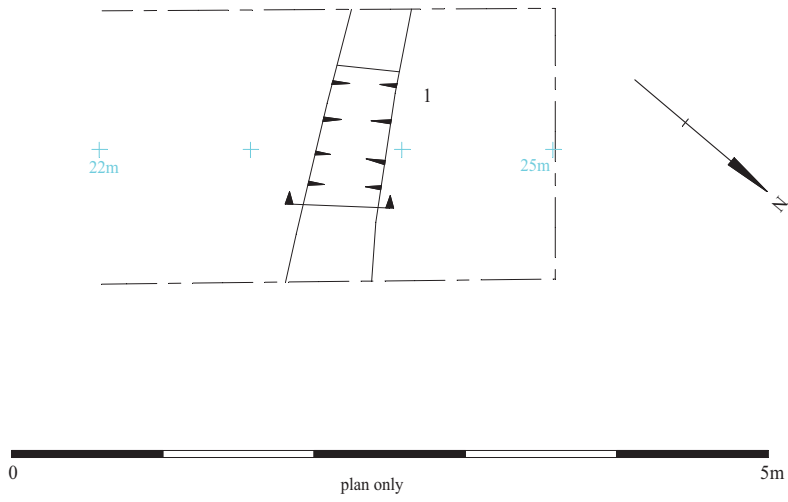
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 9



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 9.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 9, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land north of Orchard Close, Main Road, Hallow,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 9, gully 1, looking east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m



Plate 4. Trench 22, looking east Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.

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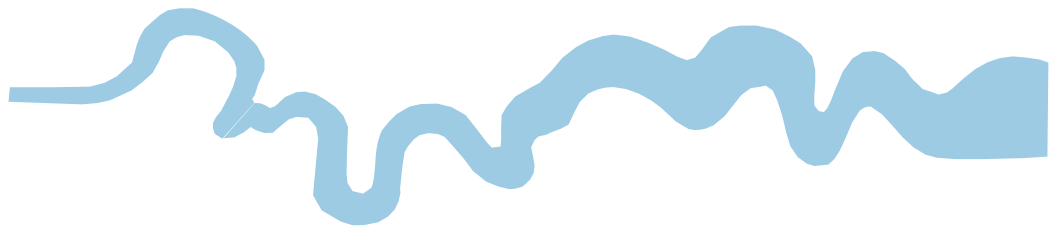
Land north of Orchard Close, Main Road, Hallow,
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Plates 3 - 4.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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