

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

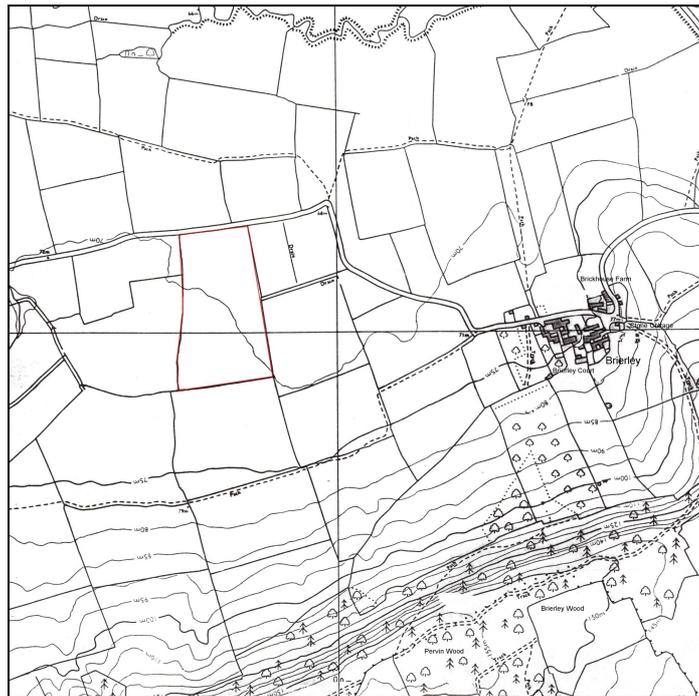
## Brierley Court Farm Brierley Leominster Herefordshire

*(In connection with planning application reference DCNC2009/0168/F)*

NGR SO 4900 5615

SMR No. 51593

JOB No. BA1009BCL



**Head Office:** Chapel Walk Burgess Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8DE

Tel: 01568 610101

**Winchester Office:** Unit 25 Basepoint Business Centre Winnall Valley Road Winchester Hampshire SO23 0LD

Tel: 01962 832720

Email: [neil@borderarchaeology.com](mailto:neil@borderarchaeology.com)

Web: [www.borderarchaeology.com](http://www.borderarchaeology.com)



## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Aim.....	5
3. Geology .....	5
4. Brief Historical & Archaeological Background .....	6
5. Scheme of works .....	7
6. Results.....	10
7. Interpretation & Conclusion.....	30
8. Copyright.....	31
9. References .....	31
10. Context Register .....	33

**Report specification**

Project management: Will Logan BA Dip.

Report compilation: Will Logan BA Dip. (Interim); George Children MA MfA (Final)

Artwork: Will Logan BA Dip.

Edited: Stephen Priestley MA

Approved: Neil Shurety Dip. M GMInstM



# 1. Non-Technical Summary

---

*Ten evaluation trenches were opened in March 2010 by Border Archaeology on behalf of S&A Group Ltd in fields to the west of Brierley Court Farm Leominster approved for development as seasonal agricultural workers' accommodation. Additionally, a single substantial drainage trench extending some 30m along the eastern boundary of the site was excavated under archaeological observation.*

*This area occupies a favourable location close to but slightly above the level of the fertile floodplain of the River Arrow, which would presumably have attracted human settlement throughout much of prehistory and later periods, being within easy reach of the riverine environment while also enjoying some protection from flooding due to its elevated position.*

*Previously, archaeological fieldwork carried out by Border Archaeology and others has revealed substantial evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation further to the west of the proposed development and it was anticipated that the present investigation would yield similar results; however, while some of the features revealed may represent postholes and pits of prehistoric date, this remained unproven due to the paucity of finds, and a number could clearly be identified as animal burrows or similar natural features.*

*Significantly, no evidence of the intensive later prehistoric and Roman settlement activity previously recorded by Border Archaeology in 2004 was identified during the course of the fieldwork, suggesting the eastern extent of this activity lay some distance to the west of the present site.*

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Border Archaeology was instructed in February 2010 by Jan-Willem Naerebout Esq., Group Operations Director, S & A Group Brook Farm Marden Herefordshire, to carry out an archaeological field evaluation of land to the west of Brierley Court Farm (NGR SO 4900 5615) prior to its development for use as Seasonal Agricultural Workers Accommodation (Planning ref: DCNC2009/0168/F) (Figure 1)
- 2.2 The proposed development comprises an Amenity Building (Welfare and Community Centre) and associated recreation facilities, including a football pitch and swimming pool, together with car-parking and access. The site located in an area of proven archaeological potential.

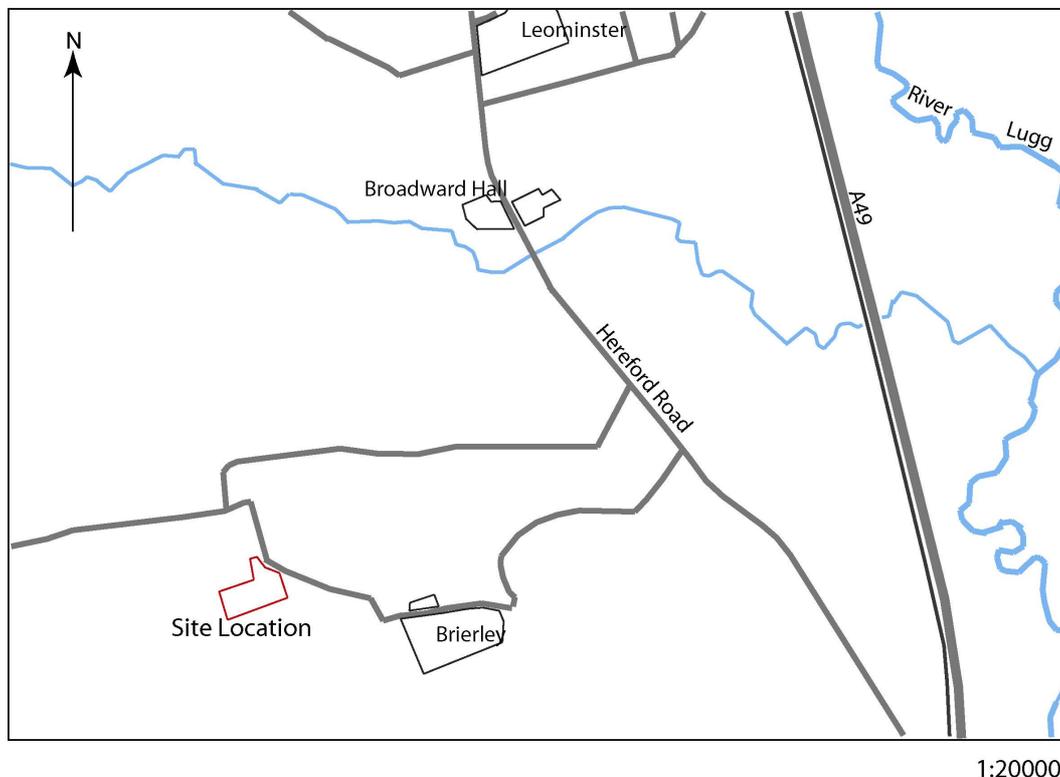


Figure 1: Plan showing location of site

- 2.3 As detailed in the Outline Programme of Works (evaluation) (OPWE) issued as part of the company's ISO 9001QA procedures, the maximum area related to this development is approximately measured at 6075m<sup>2</sup> and, in line with established guidelines, it was decided to evaluate five percent thereof, this being 304m<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.4 Trench locations were supplied to and agreed in consultation with Julian Cotton Esq., Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Archaeology, this final trench layout being related to the proposed development layout as detailed in Cooper



Partnership drawings supplied to Border Archaeology on behalf of S & A Group by Matt Hubbard, Esq. of Antony Asbury Associates Ltd.

- 2.5 A total of 10 evaluation trenches (Trenches 2-11) plus a single drainage trench extending roughly north-south along the eastern perimeter of the site (Trench 1) were opened within the development area and these were excavated to varying depths dependent upon the presumed level of impact in each location or to natural or to the first archaeological horizon being attained. Trench 1 was excavated under Archaeological Observation.
- 2.6 The Report has been prepared by the company's General Manager George Children MA MIFA for submission to Julian Cotton Esq., of Herefordshire Archaeology, and to S & A Group Ltd.

### 3. Aim

---

- 3.1 The aim of the programme of archaeological field evaluation was to determine the character and extent of any archaeological remains surviving within the proposed development area such as to achieve a fuller understanding of the archaeological potential and sensitivity of the proposal.

### 4. Geology

---

- 4.1 The soils within the study area consist of typical argillic brown earths of the ESCRICK 1 series (571p), comprising deep, well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils, some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils subject to slight seasonal waterlogging and some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish fine silty soils. The quaternary drift geology consists of reddish till, while the underlying solid geology is of lower Old Red Sandstone.
- 4.2 According to a geomorphological survey of the Arrow Valley region carried out by Aberystwyth University in 2003, as part of a wider survey of the landscape and archaeology of the Arrow Valley, the study area is situated on the southern edge of the uppermost terrace of the Holocene valley floor of the River Arrow, which runs approximately 700m north of the study area (Macklin & Lewin, 2003, White, 2003, 61, Fig. 43).
- 4.3 This is highly significant, as the great majority of archaeological sites in the Arrow Valley, from the prehistoric through to the medieval period, recorded in the Herefordshire SMR (Sites and Monuments Record), are located on the Holocene valley edge or its uppermost terrace. This location would have provided easy access to the River Arrow while offering some protection from flooding, making it a particularly hospitable environment for human settlement and agriculture (White, 2003, 61).

## 5. Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

---

- 5.1 An investigation into the formation of the Arrow Valley landscape over the last 11,500 years carried out in 2003 by Aberystwyth University has shown that the study area lies on the southern margin of a geological terrace located on the edge of the valley floor. Early human settlers would have found this a particularly hospitable location as it would have provided easy access to the fertile floodplains of the River Arrow while offering protection from flooding (Macklin & Lewin, 2003; White, 2003, 61).
- 5.2 The study area and its wider locality have revealed evidence of Neolithic (4,500-2,300BC) and Bronze Age (2,300-700BC) occupation, while an Iron Age (700 BC-43 AD) presence is clearly visible in the form of the large hillfort of Ivington Camp, located 1.3km south of the study area. Until recently, it was believed that hillforts were the main focus of Iron Age settlement in the area, a conclusion based on slight evidence for other settlement types, and that, again based on limited evidence, these native populations were subsequently relocated to larger urban settlements during the Roman period (c.43 AD-410 AD).
- 5.3 However, this picture of rural settlement is now being revised, the Arrow Valley study mentioned above having identified at least five likely Iron Age farmstead enclosures within the Arrow Valley. Evidence of Roman settlement activity in the vicinity of the study area was found during a HWCC fieldwalking survey carried out in 1983. In two fields at Ivington Park, situated to the west and southwest of the study area (NGR SO 4840 5610; SO 4850 5590), a heavy concentration of Roman pottery was found, consisting predominantly of Severn Valley ware dating from the mid 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD (SMR Record nos. 9240; 9390).
- 5.4 Of major significance, however, were the results of an extensive programme of fieldwork carried out by Border Archaeology in 2004, which revealed substantial evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement activity in the field immediately adjacent to the western extent of the study area (SO 4800 5600) (SMR Record No. 42834) (Figure 1). Finds included prehistoric and Roman circular enclosures, a series of straight boundary features of Roman and prehistoric date, several pits with burning, two Roman corn driers and a substantial assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery (Cruse, 2004). These findings, together with those resulting from the earlier fieldwalking survey, strongly challenge the view that the area became depopulated during the Roman period.
- 5.5 The earliest record of a settlement at Brierley appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086. During the medieval period, the Brierley study area formed part of what was known as the Westfield, one of the open common arable fields of Brierley, first mentioned in 1327, when it belonged to Leominster Priory (founded 660 AD). The land would have been farmed by tenants of the priory who held it in return for performing fixed services, such as crop sowing and harvesting. Evidence of the cultivation techniques associated with medieval open field systems has been identified at Brierley, derived from modern aerial photography and documentary materials. An aerial photographic survey of the area surrounding Ivington Camp has identified evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation in fields to the south of Brierley Court (NGR SO 497 558), and



immediately to the northwest of Brickhouse Farm, a characteristic feature of strip farming within an open field system (SMR Record No. 7018; Sherlock, 1998) (**Figure 1**). Documentary evidence also confirms that ridge and furrow cultivation was common throughout the open arable fields of Brierley.

- 5.6 After the dissolution of Leominster Priory in 1539, its estates (including Brierley) remained in royal hands until 1620, when they were granted to the Duke of Buckingham. In 1692, the estates were purchased by the Coningsby family of Hampton Court and remained in their hands until 1809, when it was sold to the famous cotton manufacturer Richard Arkwright. The Arkwrights sold Brierley in 1837 and thereafter it passed through various owners, eventually being held by the Wood family of Ivington Park in about 1900.

## 6. Scheme of works

---

- 6.1 The field evaluation was carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) with the archaeological observation component being informed by *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* (2010) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2008) and to Herefordshire Archaeology's *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)* (Herefordshire Council 2004).

- 6.2 Ten evaluation trenches (Trenches 2-11) and a single drainage trench (Trench 1) were opened by machine within the study area, the dimensions and orientation of which were as follows:

Trench 1: 30m x 2m x 1.6m – N-S  
 Trench 2: 16m x 2m x 1.3m – N-S  
 Trench 3: 28m x 2m x 1.2m – N-S  
 Trench 4: 29m x 2m x 1.2m – E-W  
 Trench 5: 15m x 2m x 1.8m – E-W  
 Trench 6: 14.5m x 2m x 1.3m – N-S  
 Trench 7: 14m x 2m x 1.5m – N-S  
 Trench 8: 14.5m x 2m x 1.2m – N-S  
 Trench 9: 15m x 2m x 1.4m – N-S  
 Trench 10: 16m x 2m x 1.4m (N-S) & 5.5m x 2m x 1.4m (E-W)  
 Trench 11: 14.5m x 2m x 1.2m – E-W

For trench locations, see Figure 3 below

- 6.3 Deposits deemed to be of low archaeological potential were removed by machine under archaeological supervision, with all spoil and removed material being visually examined for artefacts, which were recorded and, where appropriate, retained. A series of features were revealed at the base of several trenches and these were trowelled and cleaned by hand, with investigation being sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality.



Figure 2: Supplied plan showing layout of proposed development

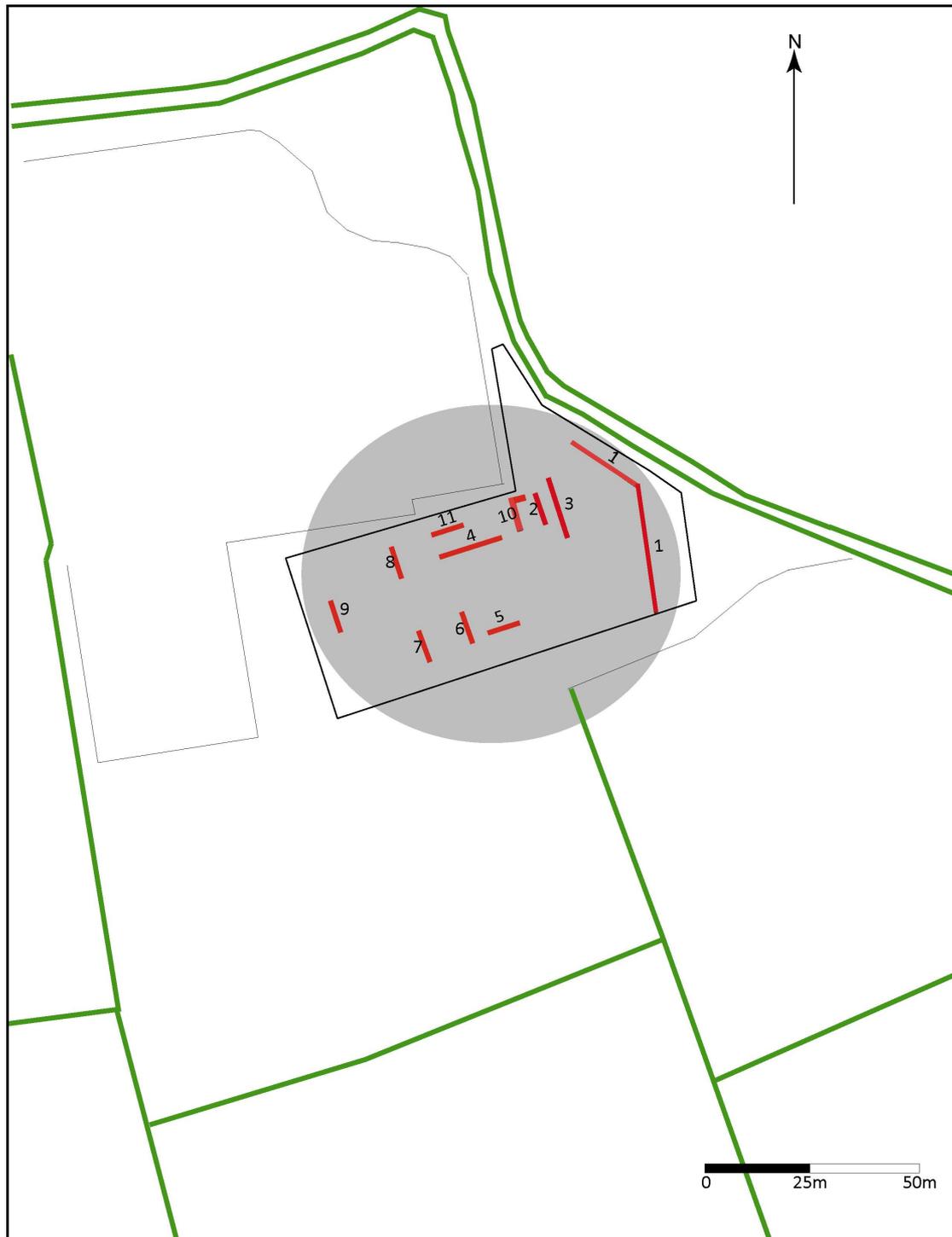


Figure 3: Plan based on Figure 2 above showing location of trenching in relation to development

#### 6.4 Recording

6.5 Full written, graphic and photographic records were made using *pro forma* record forms and sheets in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2008).



6.6 Plans and sections were produced at scales of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10, as appropriate, on *pro forma* gridded archivally stable polyester film, these containing grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings are numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

6.7 A photographic record of all stratigraphic units was compiled using a high-resolution digital camera, comprising record views of contexts, samples or artefacts, together with a representative record of the progress of site works. All photographic records are indexed and cross-referenced to written site records, with details concerning subject and direction of view maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

## 6.8 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

6.9 A small assemblage of artefactual material was recovered during the course of the investigation and these finds have been retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA, 2001) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal, 2001). The aim will be to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research purposes (IfA, 2001).

6.10 Artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site and these were examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified.

6.11 Processed assemblages have been boxed according to guidelines issued by Hereford City Museum and a register of contents compiled.

## 7. Results

---

### 7.1 Trench 1

7.2 Four contexts were observed during the course of the drainage trench excavation along the eastern perimeter of the site (Plate 1; Figure 3), the uppermost of which was (101), a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit consisting of cohesive mid brown clayey silt with occasional gravels and small rounded and subangular stones. This deposit extended across the entire excavated area and measured between 0.30 and 0.40m thick. No finds were recovered from this upper soil deposit. Underlying (101) was (102), an upper subsoil/colluvial deposit consisting of cohesive/firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt containing approximately five percent gravels and small stones, occasional charcoal flecking and occasional flecks and larger fragments of magnetite. This deposit was again present throughout the trenching at this level and measured some 0.55m in thickness.



*Plate 1: View southeast of drainage trench (Trench 1)*

- 7.3 Removal of the upper colluvial deposition revealed a cohesive/plastic mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt lower subsoil/colluvium/alluvium containing occasional small stones and gravels, charcoal and magnetite flecking and larger magnetite fragments (103). This deposit was up to 0.36m thick and extended beyond the trench limits. It overlay a firm mid pinkish-brown silty clay containing approximately 10 percent gravels and small stones and frequent flecks and fragments of magnetite (104) representing a natural fluvio-glacial till deposit extending throughout the base of the trench.



*Plate 2: South-facing section, Trench 1*

## 7.4 Trench 2

7.5 Trench 2 was located within the footprint of the new building (Plate 6; Figure 3). This revealed several features, none of which appeared to be of anthropogenic origin (Figure 4). The uppermost of the deposits encountered was a plough soil (201) consisting of cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt approximately 0.38m in thickness. Underlying this was a firm/cohesive mid pinkish-brown clayey silt colluvial deposit (202) approximately 0.60m thick. Beneath (202) was (203), a cohesive/plastic mid yellowish-brown clayey silt representing an early phase of alluvial deposition. This overlay the fill (204) of a rather irregular feature [205] (Plate 3) possibly resulting from human activity, although bioturbation is a more likely cause. Also underlying (203) was (206), the alluvial fill of [207] representing a second feature of either prehistoric anthropogenic origin or again more probably bioturbation (Plate 4). This measured up to 1.35m wide and 0.06m deep.

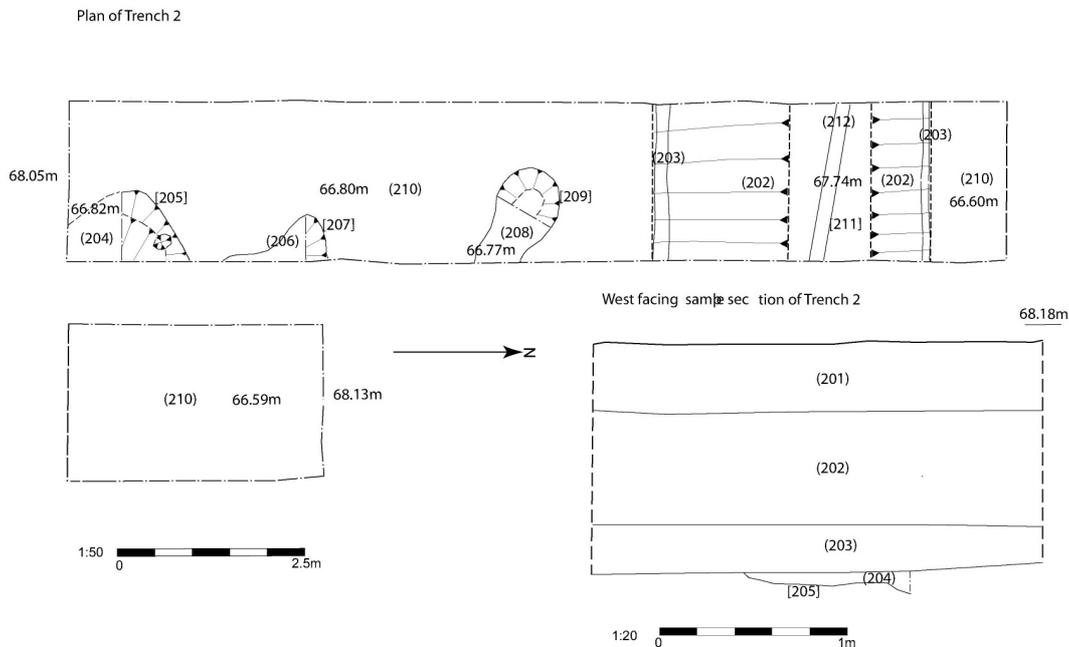


Figure 4: Trench 2 – Plan and west-facing sample section

7.6 Also underlying (203) was (208) a cohesive mid yellowish-brown clayey silt, very similar to (203). This filled [209], a rather amorphous linear cut measuring at least 1.4m long running into section, at least 0.85m wide and 0.08m deep with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base, which was only partly exposed (Plate 5). Of all the features revealed in this trench, [209] appeared the most convincingly to be the result of human activity. All of these features cut (210), a firm mid pinkish-brown silty clay natural till deposit.



*Plate 3: View east showing slot through [205]*



*Plate 4: View east showing slot through feature [207]*



*Plate 5: View east of slot through [209]*



*Plate 6: View north showing Trench 2*

### 7.7 Trench 3

7.8 Seven contexts were revealed (Plate 7, 8; Figure 3), the uppermost of which was (301), a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit consisting of cohesive mid brown clayey silt with occasional gravels and small rounded and subangular stones, together with occasional charcoal flecks and larger fragments. This deposit extended across the entire excavated area and measured 0.34m in thickness. No finds were recovered from this upper soil deposit. Underlying (301) was (302), an upper subsoil/colluvial deposit consisting of cohesive/firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt containing approximately five percent gravels and small stones, occasional charcoal flecking and occasional flecks and larger fragments of magnetite. This deposit extended beyond the trench limits and measured 0.57m thick.



*Plate 7: View north of Trench 3*

- 7.9 Cutting (302) were two modern plastic land drains (304, 306). Removal of (302) and the modern drainage features revealed a cohesive/plastic mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt lower subsoil/colluvium/alluvium containing occasional small stones and gravels (303). This deposit, as exposed, was up to 0.2m in thickness and extended beyond the trench limits.



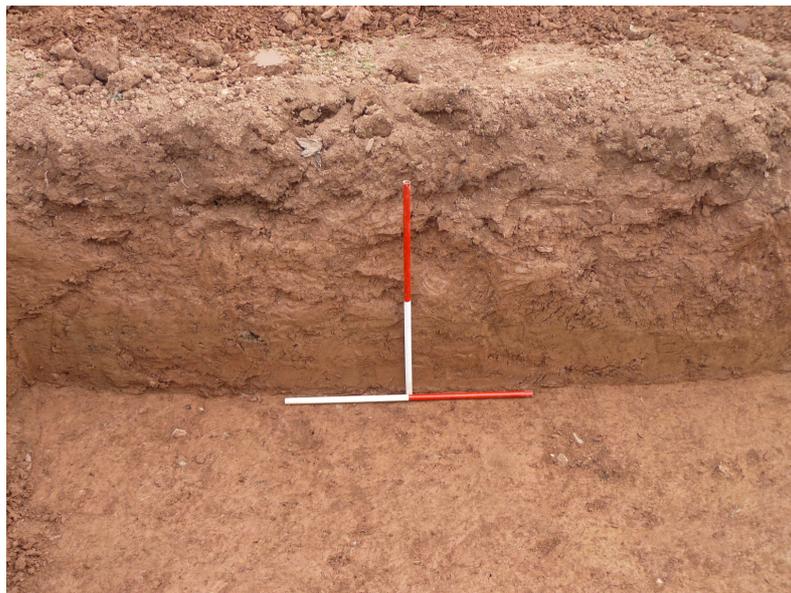
*Plate 8: View north of section at north end of Trench 3*

## 7.10 Trench 4

- 7.11 A single feature was located within the footprint of the proposed new building. The uppermost deposit in this trench was a cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt ploughsoil (401) up to 0.35m thick. This overlay a firm/cohesive mid pinkish-brown clayey silt colluvial deposit (402) measuring up to 0.52m thick, which in turn overlay a cohesive/plastic mid brown clayey silt (403) up to 0.37m thick again representing colluvial activity. This overlay (407), the fill of a sub-circular feature [408] partially lying within the trench, and consisted of firm light yellowish-brown silt (Plate 9). This feature was 1.05m wide and 0.11m deep. The exposed portion measured 0.52m running into the south-facing section. The feature may represent a small pit or bioturbatory feature, yielding no evidence to suggest the former. This feature cut natural deposit (404).



*Plate 9: View northeast showing feature [408]*



*Plate 10: View south showing north-facing section of Trench 4*

## 7.12 Trench 5

7.13 The cut of a pit of unknown function [504] was identified in the western extent of Trench 5, which was oriented approximately east-west within the area of the proposed access road and revealed five contexts. The uppermost deposit was a cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt ploughsoil up to 0.35m thick. This overlay a firm reddish-brown clayey silt colluvium (502) up to 0.34m in thickness, which yielded a single small heavily abraded fragment of residual Roman pottery/CBM. Beneath this was the fill (505) of 'pit' [504] consisting of firm yellowish-brown silt. [504] itself comprised an elongated rounded feature measuring 1.05m long, 0.34m wide and 0.13m deep with sides moderately sloping on the south and

steep on the north with a base sloping northwards. This feature cut (503), a natural clay and degraded stone deposit.



*Plate 11: View south of feature [504]*



*Plate 12: View south of north-facing section at east end of Trench 5*



*Plate 13: View west of Trench 5*

#### **7.14 Trench 6**

- 7.15 Six contexts were revealed, the uppermost of which was (601), a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit consisting of cohesive mid brown clayey silt with occasional gravels and small rounded and subangular stones. This deposit extended across the entire excavated area and measured 0.38m in thickness. No finds were recovered from this upper soil deposit. Underlying (601) was (602), a subsoil/colluvial deposit consisting of firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking. This deposit extended trench wide and measured some 0.26m in thickness.
- 7.16 Cutting (602) was a modern water pipe trench [604] measuring >2m x 0.5m x 0.55m, which was filled by a moderately compact mid brown slightly clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions.
- 7.17 Underlying (602) was (606), a distinct earlier colluvial deposit composed of firm mid brown clayey silt with occasional stone and pebble inclusions measuring 0.22m in thickness.
- 7.18 Removal of (606) revealed a natural till deposit consisting of stiff mid reddish-brown silty clay with moderate small stones and pebbles (603). This deposit, as revealed, was up to 0.48m in thickness and extended beyond the trench limits.



*Plate 14: View south showing north-facing section of Trench 6*



*Plate 15: View north of Trench 6*

## **7.19 Trench 7**

- 7.20 Two contexts were revealed, the uppermost of which was (701), a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit consisting of a firm/cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and small angular stones. This deposit extended across the entire excavated area and measured 0.36m in thickness. No finds were recovered from this upper soil deposit. Underlying (701) was (702), a firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt colluvial deposit containing occasional

rounded stones and charcoal flecking. A single abraded sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit.



*Plate 16: View south of north-facing section Trench 7*



*Plate 17: View north of Trench 7*

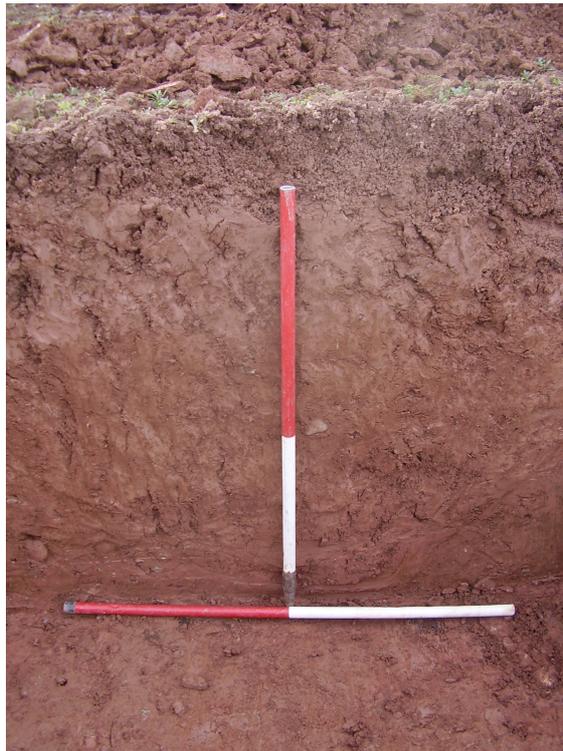
## **7.21 Trench 8**

7.22 Three contexts were revealed in this part of the site, the uppermost of which was (801), a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit consisting of cohesive mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional gravels, small rounded stones and charcoal flecking.



This deposit extended across the entire excavated area and measured between 0.38 and 0.44m in thickness. No finds were recovered from this upper soil deposit. Underlying (801) was (802), a subsoil/colluvial deposit consisting of firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt containing approximately 10 percent gravels and small pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and larger fragments. This deposit was again present throughout the trenching at this level and measured some 0.5m in thickness.

7.23 Underlying (802) was natural (803) composed of firm mid pinkish-brown slightly silty clay containing approximately 10 percent mainly rounded gravels & pebbles.



*Plate 18: View west showing east-facing section of Trench 8*



Plate 19: View north of Trench 8

## 7.24 Trench 9

7.25 Four contexts were identified, the uppermost of which was (901), a firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt topsoil/plough soil exhibiting occasional pebbles and small stones, which extended trench wide to a thickness of 0.27m. This overlay (904) the backfill of an east-west aligned land drain [903] located in the southern extent of trench, consisting of loose mid grey sub angular stones/pebbles extending >2.00m x 0.20m x 0.30m. The drain was cut into (902), a firm/plastic mid reddish-brown clayey silt forming an upper sub soil/colluvial deposit.



Plate 20: View west of east-facing section of Trench 9 showing land drain [903]



*Plate 21: View north of Trench 9*

## 7.26 Trench 10

- 7.27 Trench 10 was located within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench was oriented north-south turning east-west at its northern end and revealed six features. The uppermost deposit encountered (1001) was a cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt ploughsoil extending to a depth of 0.50m below existing ground level. This overlay (1002) a firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt colluvium containing occasional charcoal flecking and extending to a thickness of 0.40m. Underlying this was (1003) a firm mid brown clayey silt colluvial deposit up to 0.3m thick, which overlay a series of fills. The first of these (1007) was composed of cohesive pale yellowish-brown clayey silt containing small sub-rounded stones and occasional larger angular stones, moderate charcoal flecking with occasional fragments and frequent flecks of degraded magnetite/sandstone, very similar in appearance to charcoal flecking. This material filled [1008], an elongated amorphous feature, the visible portion of which measured 1.7m, running into section. The feature was up to 0.93m wide and 0.27m deep with concave, slightly irregular sides and a slightly irregular base. Again, this feature may be archaeological or bioturbational in origin; its form and lack of finds prevented any firm interpretation.
- 7.28 The second feature [1009] was linear in form, possibly running into [1008], which, alternatively, may have truncated it. The visible extent of the feature was 1.4m. The width was 0.35m and the depth 0.05m with shallow sides and a concave base. This was filled by (1014) a firm mid yellowish-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles. Feature [1010] was circular in form, measuring 0.29m

in length, 0.24m wide and 0.19m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, possibly forming a posthole. This was filled by (1011), a firm yellowish-brown clayey silt which contained no diagnostic evidence. Feature [1012] was curvilinear in form measuring, as seen, 1.6m long, 0.44m wide, narrowing to the east, and up to 0.23m deep. This was a fairly straight-sided feature with an abrupt break of slope to a flattish base. Its form and profile suggested a possible shallow ditch feature or animal burrow. The fill (1013) consisted of cohesive pale yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt containing approximately five percent small gravels and sub-rounded stones, occasional charcoal flecking and fragments and frequent magnetite flecking. Feature [1015] was amorphous in form measuring approximately 1.6m long, 0.7m wide and 0.26m deep, with irregular concave sides and an irregular flat base. This was filled by (1016), a cohesive brownish-yellow clayey silt containing occasional magnetite fragments.

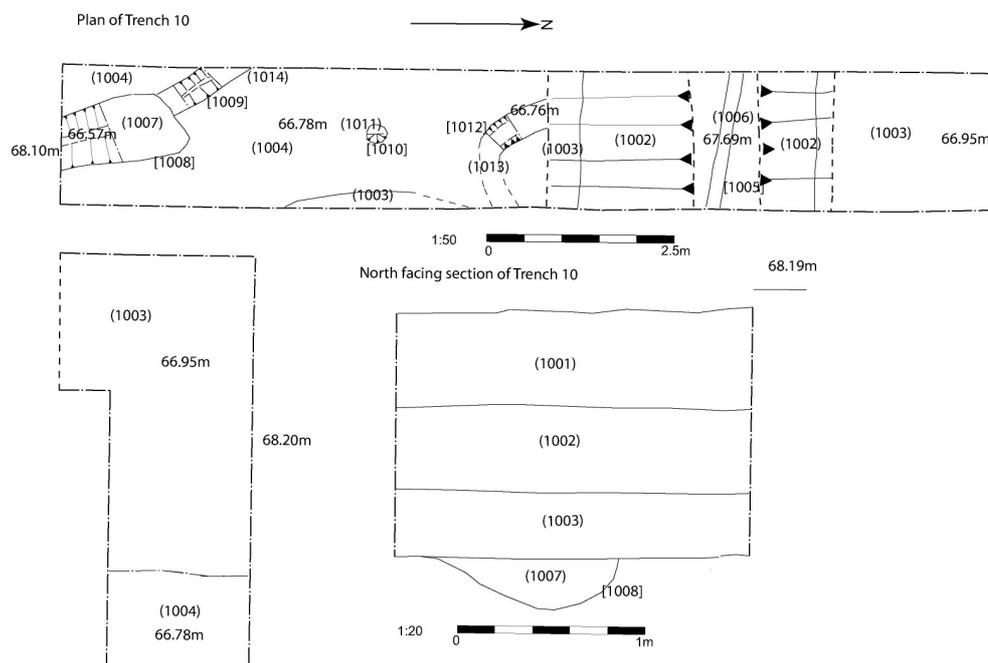
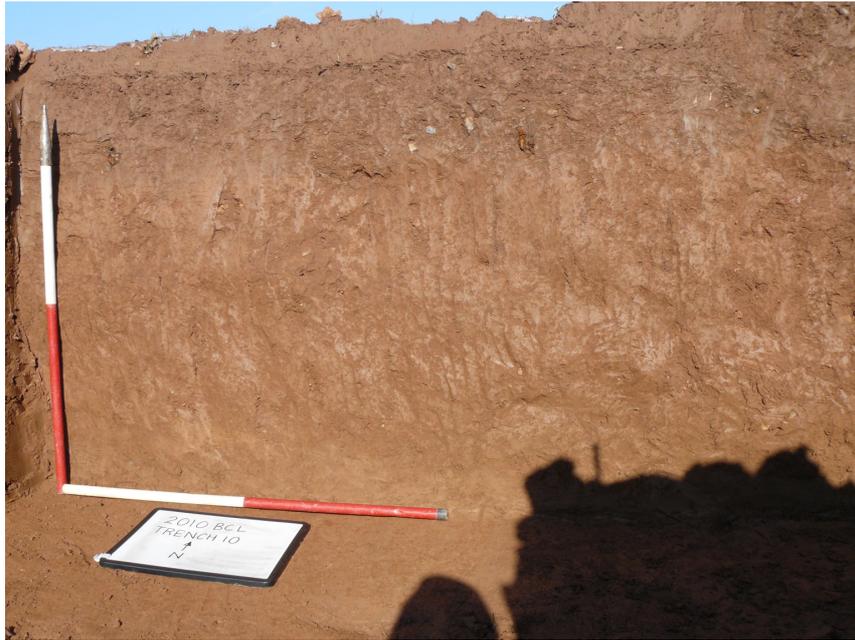


Figure 5: Plan and section showing features identified in Trench 10



*Plate 22: South-facing section of Trench 10*



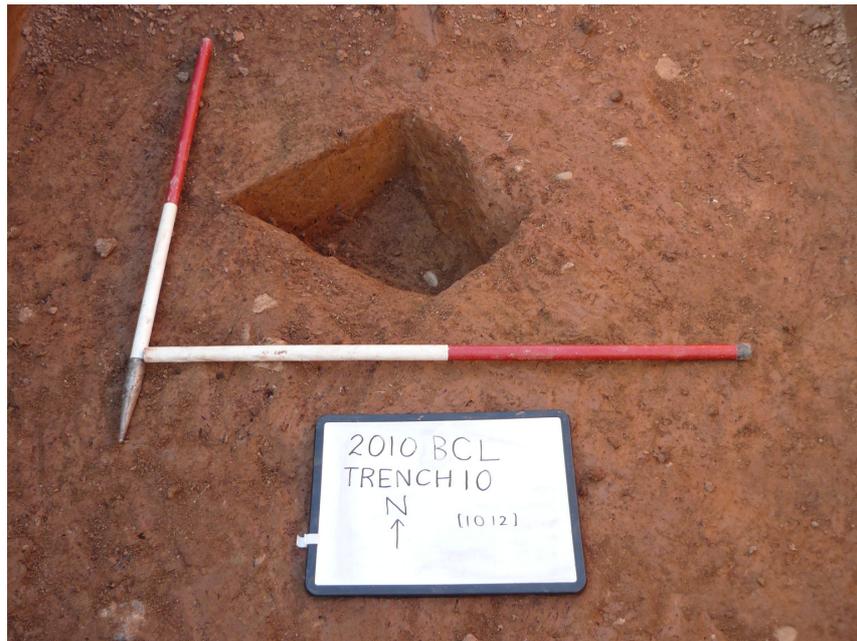
*Plate 23: View south of possible feature identified at south end of Trench 10*



*Plate 24: View south showing feature [1008] at south end of Trench 10*



*Plate 25: View north of feature [1010] representing a possible posthole*



*Plate 26: View north of curvilinear feature [1012]*



*Plate 27: View southwest of feature [1009] at southern end of Trench 10*



Plate 28: View north of feature [1015] in Trench 10

## 7.29 Trench 11

7.30 Two features were identified in Trench 11, which was oriented east-west in the northwest corner of the proposed building footprint. The uppermost deposit revealed within the trench was a cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt containing occasional pebbles (1101) and extending to a thickness of 0.40m. Underlying this was a firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt colluvium (1102) with occasional charcoal flecking measuring 0.42m thick. This overlay (1103) a firm mid brown clayey silt colluvium with occasional pebble inclusions measuring 0.20m thick, which in turn overlay the fills of two features. The first of these was [1105] an elongated, possibly linear feature measuring >1.20m in length, 0.60m wide and 0.21m deep with steep sides and a concave base possibly representing a small pit or ditch/channel terminus. The fill (1106) was similar to (1103), but slightly paler, consisting of firm mid to light reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional medium flat stones. The second feature [1107] was again linear in form (northeast-southwest) measuring 1.60m long, >1.20m wide and 0.16m deep with gently/moderately sloping sides and a flat base, possibly forming a shallow drainage cut partially visible at the eastern extent of the trench. This was filled by (1108), a firm pale to light reddish-brown clayey silt again similar to (1103) with occasional small and medium stones, possibly representing a gradual silting of this feature



*Plate 29: View of north-facing section at east end of Trench 11*



*Plate 30: View east of Trench 11*



*Plate 31: View north-northeast of feature [1105]*



*Plate 32: View east showing feature [1107]*

## 8. Interpretation & Conclusion

---

- 8.1 Some of the features revealed in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 10 and 11 are difficult to characterise; a number appear unequivocally to be of natural origin and the result of bioturbation while others cannot so readily be dismissed as such.
- 8.2 The presence of charcoal in some of the deposits, while not conclusively an indicator of human activity, suggests at least the possibility that some features are of anthropogenic origin and that this area located to the west of Brierley Court Farm witnessed some level of prehistoric activity prior to its known occupation during the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods.



- 8.3 In addition to obvious modern/post-medieval drainage channels, a series of features of possibly resulting from prehistoric human activity were identified in five of the trenches opened. These were revealed beneath a sequence of colluvial deposits, apparently laid down uniformly across the site, at between 66.78m and 67.27m OD giving depths of between 0.87m and 1.42m below existing ground level.
- 8.4 In conclusion, the largely negative findings are somewhat surprising in view of the intensity of prehistoric and Romano-British activity recorded in fields to the west of the present site, which were investigated by Border Archaeology in 2004 and which produced highly significant results suggesting this area had remained in use from the late prehistoric (1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC) into the Romano-British period. The finds included a substantial near circular (penannular) ditch of possible late Bronze Age or Iron Age date, together with a series of probable late prehistoric and Roman field boundaries, evidence of industrial activity and a very large amount of pottery.
- 8.5 To this extent, the evaluation results are of value as they tend to provide some indication as to the eastern extent of Romano-British settlement activity in this area, although no clear settlement boundary has been identified. They do additionally hint at the possibility of earlier (prehistoric) occupation, which may have been anticipated, given the favourable location of the study area on the southern margin of a geological terrace offering access to the River Arrow floodplain whilst affording protection from flooding.

## 9. Copyright

---

- 9.1 Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the Council for the use of the report by the client and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

## 10. References

---

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record: SMR Printout

Border Archaeology, 2008, *Field Recording Manual*

Brown, D. H., 2007, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, AAF

Cruse, G., 2004, *Brierley Court, Brierley, Herefordshire: Archaeological Excavation*, Border Archaeology Report No. BA0407SAPBRP2



English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE) Project Management Methodology*

IfA, 2001, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

IfA, 2010, *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

IfA, 2008, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

IfA, 2008, *Draft Standard and Guidance for the creation, preparation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Macklin, M. G. & Lewin, J., 2003, 'River sediments, great floods and centennial-scale climate change', *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 18 (2), 101-5

MGC, 1994, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*

Sherlock, H., 1998, *Project Research Design: An approach to the archaeological interpretation of the historic landscape surrounding an Iron Age Hillfort*

Walker, K., 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, UKIC

Watkinson, D. & Neal, V., 2001, *First Aid for Finds*, London

White, P., 2003, *The Arrow Valley, Herefordshire: Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation*, Hereford



## 11. Context Register

### 11.1 Trench 1

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(101)	Cohesive mid brown clayey silt; occasional gravels & small sub rounded & sub angular stones; trench wide to a thickness of 0.30-0.40m. Overlies (102)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(102)	Cohesive/firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; c.5% gravels & small stones, occasional charcoal & magnetite flecks/fragments; trench wide to an average thickness of 0.55m. Overlies (103), underlies (101)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(103)	Cohesive/plastic mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt; occasional small stones/gravels, occasional charcoal & magnetite flecks/fragments; trench wide up to 0.36m thickness (average 0.24m). Overlies (104), underlies (102)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower sub soil/colluvium/alluvium</i>
(104)	Firm mid pinkish-brown silty clay; c. 10% gravels & small stones; frequent flecks/fragments of magnetite; trench wide – not fully excavated. Overlies N/A, underlies (103)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural fluvio-glacial till deposit</i>

### 11.2 Trench 2

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(201)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional gavel & small sub /sub angular rounded sandstone fragments, occasional charcoal flecks/fragments; trench wide to an average thickness of 0.38m. Overlies (212)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(202)	Firm/cohesive mid pinkish-brown clayey silt; occasional gravels & (mainly small) sub angular & sub rounded stones. Overlies (203), underlies (211)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(203)	Cohesive/plastic mid yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt; occasional gravels & small stones & charcoal flecks; trench wide to a thickness of up to 0.26m. Overlies (204), (206), (208), underlies (202)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Early phase of alluviation</i>
(204)	Cohesive mid yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt; moderate charcoal & magnetite flecks; up to 0.11m thick, as revealed. Underlies (203), fills [205]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Alluvial fill of [205]</i>
[205]	Cut; oval/amorphous in form (edge partly unclear & runs into section); orientation N/A; up to 1.65m diameter (as revealed) & >0.11m depth; break of slope top gradual, sides gradual/irregular, break of slope base indiscernible, base irregular/uneven. Cuts (210), filled by (204)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Either a nebulous prehistoric feature or, more likely, a tree hollow.</i>



	<i>Irregularity of 'cut' points towards bioturbation, as does the absence of cultural material.</i>
(206)	Cohesive mid yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt; moderate charcoal magnetite & charcoal flecks; >1.35m diameter & >0.06m depth. Underlies (203), fills [207]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Alluvial fill of [207]</i>
[207]	Cut: amorphous in form; >1.35m width & >0.06m depth; orientation unclear; break of slope top gradual, sides gradual, break of slope base imperceptible, base rounded/irregular. Cuts (210), filled by (206)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>As [205] above</i>
(208)	Cohesive mid yellowish-brown clayey silt; moderate charcoal flecks & occasional fragments, moderate magnetite flecks/fragments; >0.08m width & >0.06m depth (runs into section). Underlies (203), fills [209]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Alluvial fill very similar to (203) and may represent earlier 'infilling' of voids/hollows as part of continuous process</i>
[209]	Cut; amorphous/linear in form; orientation unclear; >1.40m × >0.85m × 0.08m; break of slope top gradual, sides gradual, break of slope base imperceptible, base rounded (not fully revealed). Cuts (210), filled by (208)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Either prehistoric ditch feature of bioturbation (e.g. an animal burrow)</i>
(210)	Firm mid pinkish-brown silty clay; c. 10% sub angular & sub rounded gravels & small stones; frequent fleck & occasional fragments of magnetite; trench wide, depth unknown. Cut by [205], [207], [209]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fluvio-glacial till deposit</i>
[211]	Cut; linear in form; orientation E-W; break of slope top sharp, sides vertical, break of slope not excavated, base not excavated; 0.20m × 2.20m × 0.30m. Cuts (202), filled by (212)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of modern land drain</i>
(212)	Moderately compact reddish-brown silty clay; frequent gravel/ plastic piping; >0.30m × 0.20m × >2.20m. Underlies (201), fills [211]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of modern land drain</i>

### 11.3 Trench 3

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(301)	Cohesive mid brown clayey silt; occasional gravels & small sub rounded & sub angular stones, charcoal flecks/fragments; trench wide to a thickness of 0.34m. Overlies (304), (306)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/ plough soil</i>
(302)	Cohesive/firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; c.5% gravels & small stones, charcoal flecks, magnetite flecks & fragments; trench wide up to 0.57m thick. Underlies (307), (305), overlies (303)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(303)	Cohesive/ plastic mid greyish-brown slightly clayey silt; occasional small stones & gravels; trench wide > 0.20m thickness. Underlies (302)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower sub soil/colluvium/alluvium</i>
(304)	Moderately compact reddish-brown silty clay; frequent gravel/ plastic piping; >0.30m × 0.20m × >2.20m. Underlies (301), fills [305]



<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern plastic land drain</i>
[305]	Cut; linear in form; orientation E-W; break of slope top sharp, sides vertical, break of slope not excavated, base not excavated; 0.20m x 2.20m x 0.30m. Cuts (302), filled by (304)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of modern land drain</i>
(306)	Moderately compact reddish-brown silty clay; frequent gravel/plastic piping; >0.30m x 0.20m x >2.20m. Underlies (301), fills [307]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Plastic pipe &amp; backfill of modern land drain</i>
[307]	Cut; linear in form; orientation E-W; break of slope top sharp, sides vertical, break of slope not excavated, base not excavated; 0.20m x 2.20m x 0.30m. Cuts (302), filled by (306)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of modern land drain</i>

#### 11.4 Trench 4

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(401)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional gravels & small sub angular/sub rounded stones; trench wide to 0.35m thickness. Overlies (406)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(402)	Firm/cohesive mid pinkish-brown clayey silt; occasional gravels & small sub angular & sub rounded stones; trench wide to 0.52m in thickness. Underlies (405), overlies (403).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(403)	Cohesive/plastic mid brown clayey silt; occasional gravels & small stones; trench wide to 0.37m thickness. Underlies (402), overlies (407)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower sub soil/colluvium</i>
(404)	Firm mid pinkish-brown slightly silty clay; c.10% gravels & small stones; trench wide to unknown depth. Underlies (408)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural</i>
[405]	Cut; linear in form; oriented WNW-ESE; >10.00m x 0.20m x >0.65m. Cuts (402), filled by (406)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of modern land drain</i>
(101)	Moderately compact reddish-brown silty clay; frequent gravel/plastic piping; >10.00m x 0.20m x >0.65m. Underlies (401), fills [405]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern plastic land drain</i>
(407)	Firm light yellowish-brown silt; moderate charcoal flecking & degraded stone; 0.11m 0.52m x >1.05m. Underlies (403), fills [408]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of sub circular feature partially within trench</i>
[408]	Cut; sub circular in form; oriented NE-SW; >1.05m x 0.52m x 0.11m; break of slope top gradual, sides gradually sloping, break of slope base gradual, base concave. Cuts (404), filled by (407)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible small pit feature</i>

#### 11.5 Trench 5

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(501)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional small pebbles; trench wide to a thickness of 0.35m. Overlies (502)



<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(502)	Firm reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional charcoal flecking; trench wide to a thickness of 0.34m. 1 x small heavily abraded residual fragment of Roman pottery/CBM (retained). Underlies (501), overlies (505)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(503)	Firm mid reddish-brown clay; occasional degraded stone; trench wide to a thickness of >0.07m. Underlies (504)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural</i>
[504]	Cut; elongated/rounded in form; oriented E-W; 1.05m x 0.34m x 0.13m; break of slope top sharp, sides moderately sloping (S) steep (N); break of slope base imperceptible (S) moderately sharp (N), base sloping to N. Cuts (503), filled by (505)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of pit of unknown date and function located in western extent of trench</i>
(505)	Firm yellowish-brown silt; occasional degraded stone; 1.05m x 0.34m x 0.13m. Underlies (502), fills [504]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit</i>

## 11.6 Trench 6

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(601)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional pebbles; trench wide to a thickness of 0.33m. Overlies (605)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(602)	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional charcoal flecking; trench wide to a thickness of 0.26m. Underlies (604), overlies (606)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(603)	Hard reddish-brown silty clay; occasional/moderate pebbles & small stones; >2.40m x 2.00m x >0.48m
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural till</i>
[604]	Cut; linear in form; oriented E-W; >2.00m x 0.50m x >0.55m; break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping, break of slope base unknown as unexcavated, base unknown as unexcavated. Cuts (602), filled by (605)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for modern water pipe</i>
(605)	Moderately compact mid brown silt/clayey silt; occasional stones; >2.00m x 0.50m x >0.55m. Underlies (601), fills [604]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Backfill of modern pipe trench</i>
(606)	Firm mid brown clayey silt; occasional/moderate pebbles/stones; trench wide to a thickness of 0.22m
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower colluvial deposit</i>

## 11.7 Trench 7

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(701)	Firm/cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional pebbles & small angular stones; trench wide to a thickness of 0.36m. Overlies (702)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>



(702)	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional rounded stones/charcoal flecking; trench wide to a thickness of 0.33m; 1 x sherd (probably residual) Roman pottery. Underlies (701)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Colluvial deposition</i>

### 11.8 Trench 8

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(801)	Cohesive mid greyish-brown clayey silt; occasional small rounded gravels & charcoal flecks; trench wide to a thickness of 0.38m – 0.44m. Overlies (802)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(802)	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; c.10% mainly small rounded gravels/rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks/fragments; trench wide to a thickness of 0.50m (merging with overlying deposit). Overlies (803), underlies (801)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Hillwash/colluvium/sub soil</i>
(803)	Firm mid pinkish-brown slightly silty clay; c.10% mainly rounded gravels & pebbles; trench wide to an unknown depth. Underlies (802)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Natural</i>

### 11.9 Trench 9

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(901)	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional pebbles & small stones; trench wide to a thickness of 0.27m. Overlies (904)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Topsoil/plough soil</i>
(902)	Firm/plastic mid reddish-brown clayey silt; trench wide to a thickness of >0.32m. Cut by (903)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
[903]	Cut; linear in form; oriented E-W; break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping, break of slope base not excavated, base not excavated; >2.00m x 0.2m x 0.3m. Cuts (902), filled by (904)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Cut of land drain in southern extent of trench</i>
(904)	Loose mid grey sub angular stones/ pebbles; >2.00m x 0.2m x 0.3m. Underlies (901), fills [903]
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Backfill of land drain</i>

### 11.10 Trench 10

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(1001)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional pebbles; trench wide to a thickness of 0.50m. Overlies (1006)
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Topsoil/ plough soil</i>
(1002)	Firm mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional charcoal flecking; trench wide to a thickness of 0.04m. Underlies (1005), overlies (1003).
<b>INTERPRETATION:</b>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(1003)	Firm mid brown clayey silt; occasional/moderate pebbles/stones; trench wide to a thickness of 0.30m. Underlies (1002), overlies (1007),



	(1013), (1011)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower sub soil/colluvium</i>
(1004)	Firm mid pinkish-brown slightly silty clay; c.10% mainly small rounded gravels; trench wide – no visible depth. Underlies (1012), (1002), (1010)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural</i>
[1005]	Cut; linear in form; oriented E-W; >1.90m x 0.10m – depth and profile unknown. Cuts (1002), filled by (1006)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for land drain</i>
(1006)	Moderately compact mid grey gravel; >1.90m x 0.10m – depth unknown. Underlies (1001), fills [1005]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Backfill of land drain</i>
(1007)	Cohesive pale yellowish-brown clayey silt; c.5% small sub rounded gravels & occasional larger angular stones, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional fragments, fragments % flecks of degraded magnetite/sandstone. >1.70m (N-S) x 0.98m (E-W) x 0.27m. Underlies (1003), fills [1008]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of pit (?), which may be anthropogenic or possibly the result of bioturbation</i>
[1008]	Cut; elongated/amorphous in form; oriented N-S; break of slope top gradual (E) sharp (W), sides concave slightly irregular, break of slope base imperceptible, base rounded slightly irregular; >1.70m (N-S) x 0.98m (E-W) x 0.27m. Cuts (1004), filled by (1007)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for an enigmatic feature of possible human origin or resulting from bioturbation. Shape in plan and absence of finds do not aid interpretation, neither does the proximity of other features</i>
[1009]	Cut; linear in form; oriented NW-SE; break of slope top gradual, sides shallow, break of slope base gradual, base concave; >1.40m x c.0.35m x c.0.05m. Cuts (1004), filled by (1014)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible ditch/channel running into [1008]</i>
[1010]	Cut; circular in form; orientation N/A; break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping; break of slope base imperceptible, base concave; 0.29m x 0.24m x 0.19m. Cuts (1004), filled by (1011)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible posthole</i>
(1011)	Firm mid yellowish-brown slight clayey silt; 0.29m x 0.24m x 0.19m. Underlies (1003), fills [1010]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of possible posthole [1010]</i>
[1012]	Cut; curvilinear in form; orientation N/A; break of slope to sharp, sides fairly straight c.70-80°, break of slope base sharp, base flattish; >1.60m x 0.44m (narrowing to E) x 0.23m (maximum depth). Cuts (1004), filled by (1013)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Possible shallow ditch, although more likely an animal burrow based on form of feature</i>
(1013)	Cohesive pale yellowish-brown slightly clayey silt; c.5% mainly small gravels & sub rounded stones, occasional charcoal flecks & fragments, frequent magnetite flecking. >1.60m x 0.44m (narrowing to E) x 0.23m (maximum depth). Underlies (1003), fills [1012]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of possible ditch or animal burrow</i>
(1014)	Firm mid yellowish-brown clayey silt; occasional small rounded pebbles; >1.40m x c.0.35m x c.0.05m. Underlies (1008), fills [1009]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of possible ditch/channel [1009]</i>



(1015)	Cut; amorphous in plan; orientation N/A; break of slope top gradual, sides irregular, break of slope base gradual, base irregular; 1.60m x 0.70m x 0.26m. Cuts (1004), filled by (1016)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of feature in NE corner of trench</i>
(1016)	Cohesive mid brownish-yellow clayey silt; occasional magnetite; 1.60m x 0.70m x 0.26m. Underlies (1003), fills [1015]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of feature in NE corner of trench</i>

### 11.11 Trench 11

CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(1101)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional pebbles; trench wide to a thickness of 0.40m. Overlies (1102)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil/ plough soil</i>
(1102)	Firm light-mid reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional charcoal flecking; trench wide to a thickness of 0.42m. Underlies (1005), overlies (1003).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper sub soil/colluvium</i>
(1103)	Firm mid brown clayey silt; occasional/moderate pebbles/stones; trench wide to a thickness of 0.20m. Underlies (1102), overlies (1106), (1108)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower sub soil/colluvium</i>
(1104)	Firm mid pinkish-brown slightly silty clay; c.10% mainly small rounded gravels & pebbles & smaller rounded stones; trench wide to a visible depth of 0.15m. Underlies (1105), (1107)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural</i>
[1105]	Cut; elongated, linear (?) in form; oriented NE-SW; break of slope top sharp, sides steep/moderate, break of slope base imperceptible, base concave; >1.20m x 0.60m x 0.21m. Underlies (1106), cuts (1104)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Shallow ditch/channel terminating in trench</i>
(1106)	Firm mid-light reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional medium flat pebbles; >1.20m x 0.60m x 0.21m. Underlies (1108), fills [1105]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [1105] probably representing gradual silting of feature rather than deliberate backfilling</i>
[1107]	Cut; linear (?) in form; oriented NE-SW; break of slope top sharp, sides gradually/moderately sloping, break of slope base imperceptible, base flat; >1.60m x >1.20m x 0.16m. Cuts (1104), filled by (1108)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Shallow drainage channel partially visible at eastern end of trench</i>
(1108)	Firm light reddish-brown clayey silt; occasional small-medium pebbles; >1.60m x >1.20m x 0.16m. Underlies (1103), fills [1107].
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Fill of [1107], probably representing the gradual silting of the feature</i>



## Site Summary

<i>Report Title</i>	Archaeological Evaluation at Brierley Court Farm Brierley Leominster Herefordshire
<i>Contractor's Name and Address</i>	Border Archaeology PO Box 36 Leominster Herefordshire, HR6 OYA
<i>Site Name</i>	Fields to the west of Brierley Court Farm
<i>Grid Reference</i>	NGR SO 4900 5615 Planning Application No: DCNC2009/0168/F
<i>SMR number</i>	51593
<i>Date of Field Work</i>	March 2010
<i>Date of Report</i>	April 2011
	<b>NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS</b>
<i>Pottery</i>	<i>Period:</i> Post med (C19 china) <i>No of sherds:</i> None retained
<i>Other</i>	<i>Period:</i> Roman (Residual) <i>Quantity:</i> Two sherds retained
	<b>NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED</b>
<i>Sieving for charred plant remains</i>	<i>No of features sampled:</i> N/A <i>No of buckets:</i> N/A
<i>C14/scientific dates</i>	<i>No and Type:</i> N/A <i>Result:</i> N/A
<i>Pollen</i>	<i>No of columns/spot samples:</i> N/A <i>Name of pollen specialist:</i> N/A
<i>Bone</i>	<i>Number of buckets sieved for bone:</i> N/A <i>Quantity Recovered:</i> N/A <i>Period:</i> N/A
<i>Other</i>	<i>Type and specialist:</i> N/A
<i>Summary of the report</i>	<p>Ten evaluation trenches were opened by Border Archaeology on behalf of S&amp;A Group Ltd in fields to the west of Brierley Court Farm Leominster approved for development as seasonal agricultural workers' accommodation. Additionally, a single substantial drainage trench extending some 30m along the eastern boundary of the site was excavated under archaeological observation.</p> <p>This area occupies a favourable location close to but slightly above the level of the fertile floodplain of the River Arrow, which would presumably have attracted human settlement throughout much of prehistory and later periods, being within easy reach of the riverine environment while also enjoying some protection from flooding due to its elevated position.</p> <p>Previously, archaeological fieldwork carried out by Border Archaeology and others has revealed substantial evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation further to the west of the proposed development and it was anticipated that the present investigation would yield similar results; however, while some of the features revealed may represent postholes and pits of prehistoric date, this remained unproven due to the paucity of finds, and a number could clearly be identified as animal burrows or similar natural features.</p> <p>Significantly, no evidence of the intensive later prehistoric and Roman settlement activity previously recorded by Border Archaeology in 2004 was identified during the course of the fieldwork, suggesting the eastern extent of this activity lay some distance to the west of the present site.</p>



## Document Control

<b>Job title</b>	Archaeological Evaluation at Brierley Court Farm Brierley Leominster Herefordshire	<b>Job No</b>	BA1009BCL
<b>Report written by</b>	<i>William Logan BA Pg Dip &amp; George Children MA MfA</i>		
<b>Report edited by</b>	<i>Stephen Priestley MA</i>		
<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved for issue</b>
1	Final	April; 2011	<i>Neil Shurety Dip.M. G.M.Inst.M</i>