

Programme of Archaeological Work

Fownhope Trunk Main Herefordshire

Laing O'Rourke for Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

NGR: SO 5335 3655, SO 5670 3660 & SO 5702 3690

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1. Non Technical Summary

A programme of archaeological work was carried out by Border Archaeology on behalf of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water/Laing O'Rourke in respect of the Fownhope Trunk Mains Water Pipeline Scheme (DCWW/LOR Ref. US 715), extending from the village of Dinedor through Holme Lacy, Mordiford and Woolhope to the DCWW facility at Woolhope Cockshoot.

Three locations within the pipeline corridor were identified as archaeologically sensitive:

- 1. The eastern end of a large field to the south of Dinedor deserted medieval village (DMV) (NGR SO 5335 3655: SMR Record No. 1001), where two distinct linear features are visible running north-south;*
- 2. An area of water meadow to the N of the B4399 at Holme Lacy Bridge exhibiting evidence of earthwork features (NGR SO 5670 3660: Not listed on SMR database);*
- 3. Fields located immediately south of Mordiford village, adjacent to the B4224 Mordiford to Fownhope road, where a series of human burials were discovered during the 19th century (NGR SO 5702 3690: SMR Record Nos. 8951, 8952).*

The removal of topsoil along the pipeline corridor was carried out under archaeological supervision in the first two locations, while Location 3 was additionally subject to archaeological field evaluation by means of three exploratory trenches, these being excavated in selected locations to identify any evidence of human remains. Two of these trenches, which were spaced 50m apart, measured 11m × 4m, with a further trench of 2m × 2m placed between them.

A series of land drains were identified to the south of Dinedor DMV but no evidence of earlier activity was revealed. Similarly, no sub-surface remains were revealed to the north of Holme Lacy Bridge, although the earthworks relating to a probable early field system were clearly visible on the ground. The three evaluation trenches to the south of Mordiford produced negative results; however, these investigations confirmed that no human remains were disturbed or destroyed during the groundworks phase of the scheme.

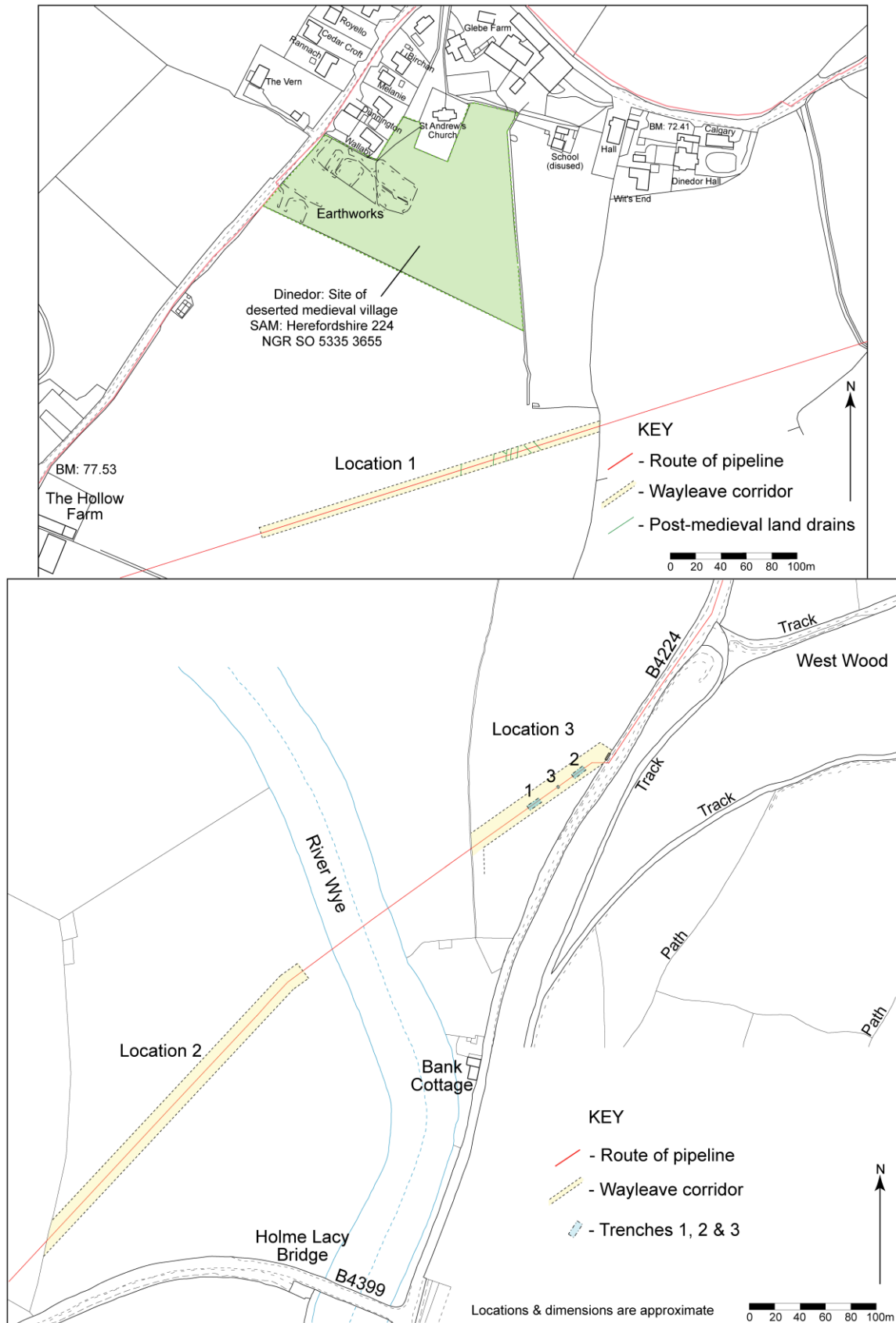


Fig. 1: Location plan

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Stewart Faulkner of Laing O'Rourke to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and field evaluation in respect of by the Fownhope Trunk Mains Scheme, extending from Dinedor through the villages of Holme Lacy, Mordiford and Woolhope to the DCWW facility at Woolhope Cockshoot.

Three locations within the pipeline corridor were identified as archaeologically sensitive (**Fig. 1**):

1. The eastern end of a large field to the S of Dinedor deserted medieval village (NGR SO 5335 3655: SMR Record No. 1001), where two distinct linear features are visible running N-S
2. An area of water meadow to the N of the B4399 at Holme Lacy Bridge exhibiting evidence of earthwork features (NGR SO 5670 3660: Not listed on SMR database)
3. Fields located immediately S of Mordiford village adjacent to the B4224 Mordiford to Fownhope road, which have revealed a series of inhumation burials (NGR SO 5702 3690: SMR Record Nos. 8951, 8952).

The initial phase of groundworks, namely the removal of topsoil along the pipeline wayleave corridor, was subject to a programme of archaeological observation at Locations 1 and 2. Location 3 was additionally subject to archaeological field evaluation, with trenching excavated in selected locations to determine the nature and extent of any surviving archaeological remains, specifically the series of human burials presumed to lie within the vicinity of the pipeline corridor.

Copies of the report will be sent to DCWW, Laing O'Rourke, Herefordshire Archaeology and the Herefordshire Sites & Monuments Record.

2.1 Soils & Geology

At Location 1 (Dinedor), the soils are predominantly typical brown earths of the Newnham series (541w), these being well-drained, reddish coarse and fine loamy soils over gravel, locally deep, the underlying geology consisting of river terrace drift.

Locations 2 & 3 (Holme Lacy Bridge & Mordiford) are characterised predominantly by typical brown alluvial soils of the TEME series (561b), these being deep stoneless permeable silty soils, with gravelly subsoil in places, overlying river alluvium.

2.2 Site specific Information

2.2.1 Location 1 (Dinedor)

To the S of Dinedor village, the pipeline route passes within 80m of a series of slight banks and ditches comprising the scheduled remains of a deserted medieval settlement. Although there appears to be no risk of impact on the settlement itself, the pipeline will bisect two distinct linear features that are visible running N-S across the eastern end of

the larger of two fields. It is unclear whether these represent natural depressions or possibly ditch or trackway features, which could be of medieval or post-medieval date.

2.2.2 Location 2 (Holme Lacy Bridge)

A series of low earthwork features has been identified by Border Archaeology from aerial photographs and a subsequent walkover survey to the SW of Mordiford, on the western bank of the River Wye, which appear to be cultivation and drainage features representing a relict field system of medieval or post-medieval date.

2.2.3 Location 3 (Mordiford)

To the S of Garlands Farm, two groups of inhumation burials were discovered in 1810 by a local antiquarian, although their date and provenance is at present unknown.

The location of this series of burials is described in an account of 1883; however, no description is given in the sources of the alignment of the burials, the condition of the buried remains or of any associated grave goods, which would give an indication as to their date. Consequently, they may represent isolated interments, mass graves or a planned cemetery.

The account of 1883 suggests that the burials may have dated from the Civil War period, although no records have been found to indicate that a major engagement occurred in this vicinity. However, it is perhaps significant that Scottish troops were stationed in the area during the Civil War, as evidenced by nearby place names such as 'Bagpiper's Tump'.

3. Methodology

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with archaeological practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Institute for Archaeologists 2001) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2001). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* and to Herefordshire Archaeology's *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)* (Herefordshire Council 2004).

At Location 1 (Dinedor), all ground-disturbance activity relating to the stripping of topsoil within the vicinity of the two linear features identified running N-S across the eastern end of the large field to the S of the deserted medieval settlement was observed. Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.35m within a wayleave corridor measuring approximately 280m × 8m.

At Location 2 (Holme Lacy Bridge), archaeological observation of topsoil removal was undertaken in the field to the N of the bridge (B4399) where evidence of a probable relict field system of medieval or post-medieval date was identified. Removal of topsoil to an average depth of 0.3m was observed over an area measuring approximately 400m × 15m.

Three evaluation trenches were opened at Location 3 (Mordiford) following the stripping of topsoil from an area measuring approximately 130m × 15m × 0.25m (average depth).

Trenches 1 and 2, measuring 11m × 4m, were orientated NE-SW and placed at 50m intervals along the pipeline wayleave corridor. These trenches were opened by machine under archaeological supervision and excavated to a depth of roughly 0.3m and thereafter excavation proceeded by hand to a depth of 0.7m. A machine was then used, again under archaeological supervision, to attain a final excavation depth of 1.5m.

Trench 3, measuring 2m × 2m was positioned between the first two trenches and was machine excavated under archaeological observation to a maximum depth of 1m. A temporary benchmark was established on the site with a value of 56.04m AOD.

All spoil and removed material were visually scanned for artefacts, which were recorded and, where appropriate, retained.

Full written, graphic and photographic records were be made using *pro-forma* record forms and sheets, these being in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual*.

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

A photographic record of all stratigraphic units was made using a 10.3MPX digital camera. Record views of contexts, samples or artefacts were taken, together with a representative photographic record of the progress of site works. All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

4. Results

4.1 Location 1 – Dinedor

This section of pipeline corridor was machined to an average depth of 0.3m (**Plate 1; Fig 1**). Three contexts were revealed, the uppermost being a friable mid brown silty sand topsoil (001), with very occasional small rounded stones, extending >280m × >8m to an average depth of 0.1m. This overlay a firm, slightly reddish-brown silty sand ploughsoil (002) incorporating abundant decomposing litter (straw), with occasional post-medieval pottery and CBM evident, extending >280m × >8m to a maximum depth of 0.19m. Underlying this was a moderately compact to firm reddish-brown sandy silt colluvial deposit (003) extending >50m × > 8m to a depth of >0.05m, which was cut by a series of NE-SW post-medieval land drains. These cuts measured 0.1m wide and were largely filled by medium angular sandstone fragments and post-medieval CBM

No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified within the area of topsoil removal in this location



Plate 1: View SW of topsoil removal at Location 1

4.2 Location 2 – Holme Lacy Bridge

This section of pipeline corridor was machined to an average depth of 0.3m (**Plate 2; Fig. 1**) revealing two contexts, the uppermost of which (401) was a friable mid brown clayey silt topsoil containing occasional small sub-rounded stones and extending >400m × >15m to a maximum depth of 0.25m. This overlay a friable light yellowish-brown, slightly sandy silt subsoil (402) containing moderate amounts of charcoal flecking and small sub-rounded stones, extending >400m × >15m × > 0.05m.

No archaeologically significant finds or features were identified within the area of topsoil removal in this location.



Plate 2: View SW of Location 2

4.3 Location 3 – Mordiford

A single context was revealed during the removal of topsoil prior to the opening of three evaluation trenches. This deposit extended >120m × >15m to a maximum depth of 0.28m and consisted of friable, moderately charcoal-flecked mid brown clayey silt containing occasional small sub-rounded stones, ceramic sherds, CBM and glass.

4.3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located approximately 50m from the SW field boundary of the wayleave corridor (**Plate 3; Figs. 1-3**). The trench was orientated NE-SW and measured 11m × 4m. Three contexts were revealed beneath the largely removed topsoil deposit (101). The first of these was a friable light yellowish-brown, slightly sandy silt subsoil deposit (102) containing moderate charcoal flecking and small sub-rounded stones, together with occasional ceramic sherds, CBM and glass, which extended >11m (NE-SW) × >4m (NW-SE) × 0.14m (average depth). Underlying (102) was a firm mid yellowish-brown clay-silt-sand colluvium (103), containing occasional charcoal flecking and very occasional ceramic sherds, extending > 11m × >4m × 0.3m (average depth). This overlay a firm reddish-/greyish-brown clayey sand colluvium containing frequent degraded sandstone and extending >11m × >4m × >0.65m (104).



Plate 3: View SW of Trench 1 post-excitation

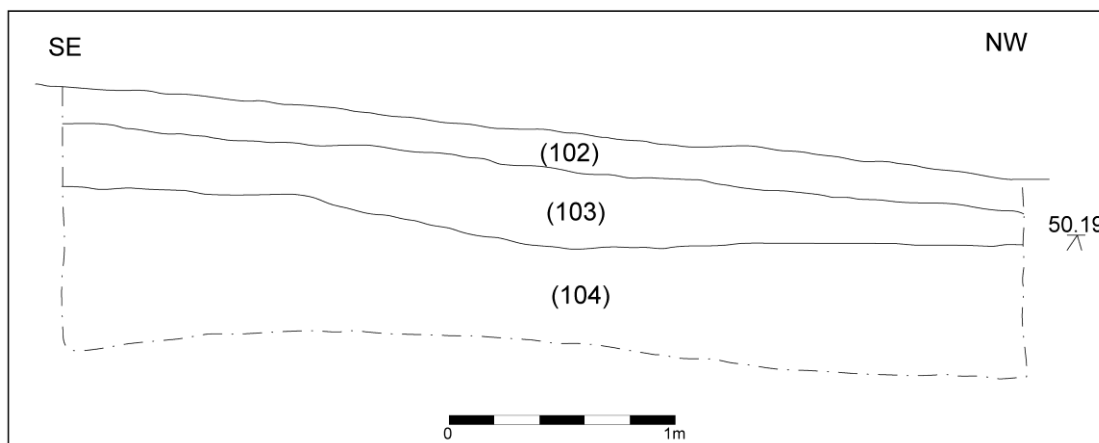


Fig 2: NE-facing sample section (Trench 1)

4.3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated NE-SW and measured 11m × 4m and was located 50m NE of Trench 1 (**Plate 4; Fig. 1 & 3**). Four contexts were revealed beneath the previously stripped topsoil, the three uppermost deposits - (202), (203), (204) - being identical in colour, texture and compaction to (102), (103) and (104). However, beneath (204) was revealed compact degraded sandstone forming a natural deposit extending >11m × >4m × > 0.05m (205).



Plate 4: View SW showing Trench 2 post excavation

4.3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 2 × 2m, and was located approximately 80m from the SW field boundary of the wayleave corridor between Trench 1 and Trench 2 (**Plate 5; Figs. 1 & 3**). Three contexts were revealed, in addition to the previously largely removed topsoil deposit (301). This sequence of deposits - (302), (303), (304) - were essentially the same in terms of colour, texture and compaction as contexts (102), (103) and (104), as revealed in Trench 1, and (202), (203) and (204) in Trench 2.

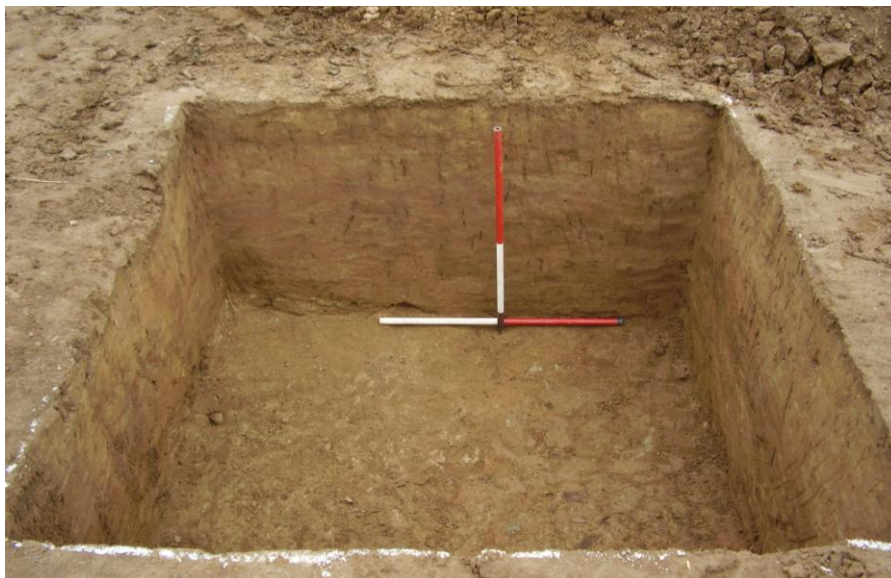


Plate 5: Post-excavation view NW of Trench 3

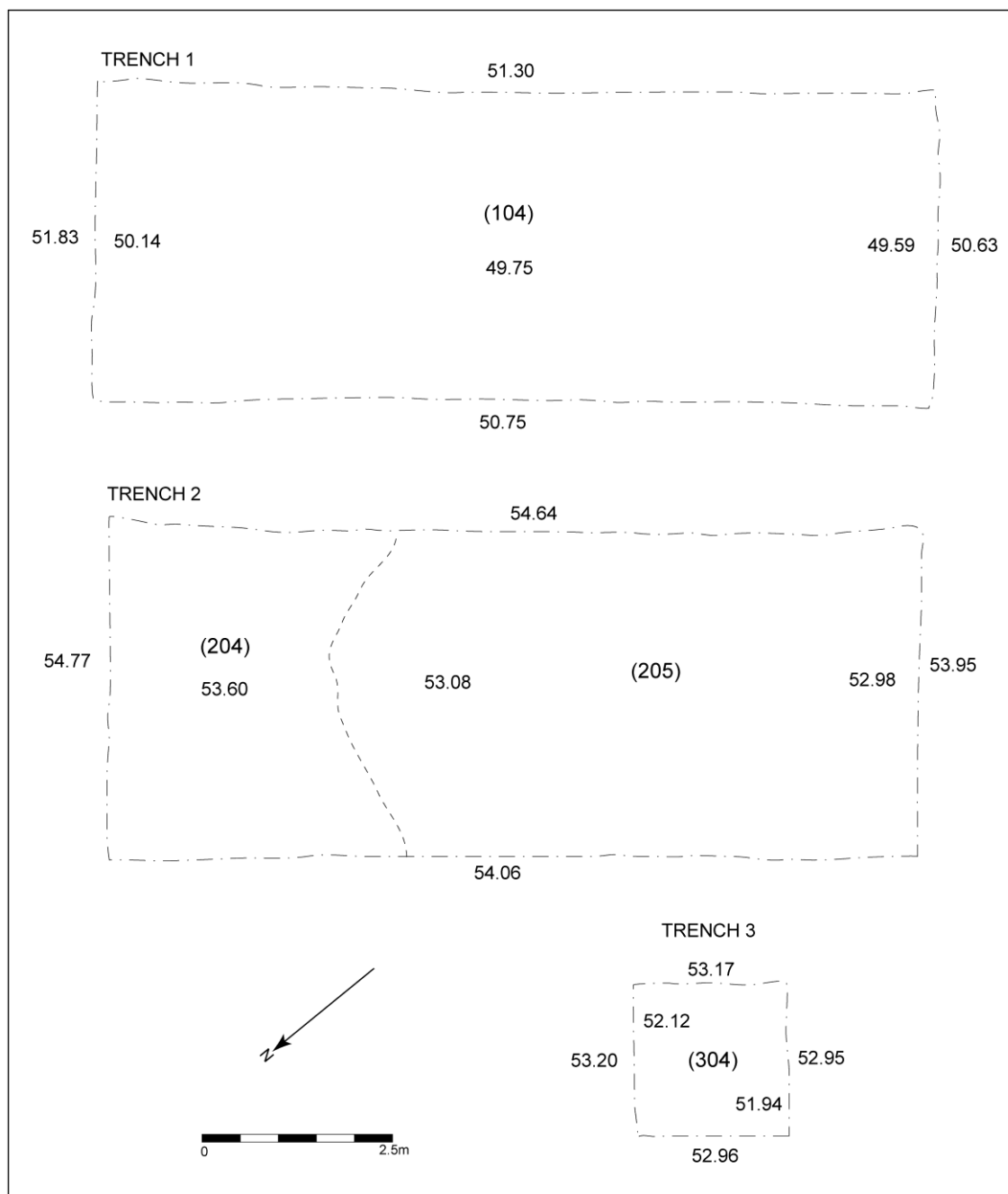


Fig 3: Post-excitation plans of Trench1, Trench 2 & Trench 3

5. Summary & Conclusion

The linear features clearly visible to the S of Dinedor DMV (Location 1) were not found to be associated with any sub-surface archaeological remains, although the groundworks in this area were relatively shallow, revealing mainly heavily disturbed plough soils.

Similarly at Location 2 (Holme Lacy Bridge), the relatively shallow depth of the topsoil strip reduced the likelihood of discovering any potential surviving evidence of earlier activity, although, again, earthwork features were clearly visible above ground.

Both the topsoil strip and the evaluation trenching to the S of Mordiford village (Location 3) produced negative results; however, the account of the discovery of human remains in this area (Cooke, 1883) is rather vague in terms of date and precise location and it is thus entirely possible that these burials are located elsewhere within the vicinity of the pipeline.

6. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

7. Bibliography

Cooke, W. (ed.), 1883, *Collections towards the History of the County of Hereford Vol. 3 – Greytree Hundred*, Hereford

SSEW, 1983, *Soil Survey of England and Wales*, Silsoe

8. Appendix 1: Context Register

LOCATION 1 - DINEDOR	
CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(001)	Friable mid brown silty sand extending >280m × >8m × 0.1m (average depth). Very occasional small rounded stones. Overlies (002).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil.</i>
(002)	Firm slightly reddish-brown silty sand with abundant decomposing litter (straw) and occasional post-medieval pottery and CBM, extending >280m × >8m × 0.19m (maximum depth). Underlies (001), overlies (003).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Ploughsoil.</i>
(003)	Moderately compact to firm reddish-brown sandy silt extending >50m × > 8m × >0.05m. Underlies (002)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposit</i>

LOCATION 2 – HOLME LACY BRIDGE	
CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(401)	Friable mid brown clay silt extending >400m × >15m × 0.25m (maximum depth). Occasional small sub-rounded stones. Overlies (402).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil.</i>
(402)	Friable light yellowish-brown slightly sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecking and small sub-rounded stones extending >400m × >15m × > 0.05m. Underlies (401).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Subsoil.</i>

LOCATION 3 - MORDIFORD	
Trench 1	
CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(101)	Friable mid brown clay silt, moderate charcoal flecking, occasional ceramic sherds, CMB, glass and small sub-rounded stones. Extends >130m × >15m × 0.25m (average depth). Overlies (102), same as (201) and (301).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil.</i>
(102)	Friable light yellowish-brown sandy silt, moderate charcoal flecking and sandstone fragments, occasional ceramic sherds, CBM and glass. Extends >11m × >4m × 0.14m (average depth). Underlies (101), overlies (103), same as (202) and (302).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Subsoil.</i>
(103)	Firm mid yellowish-brown clay-silt-sand, occasional charcoal flecking and very occasional ceramic sherds. Extends >11m × >4m × 0.3m (average depth). Underlies (102), overlies (104), same as (203) and (303).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposit</i>

LOCATION 3 - MORDIFORD	
Trench 1	
CONTEXT NO	DESCRIPTION
(104)	Firm reddish-/greyish-brown clay sand with frequent degraded sandstone inclusions. Extends > 11m x >4m x > 0.65m. Underlies (103), same as (204) and (304).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposit</i>
Trench 2	
(201)	Friable mid brown clayey silt, moderate charcoal flecking, occasional ceramic sherds, CMB and small sub-rounded stones. Extends >130m x >15m x 0.25m (average depth). Overlies (202), same as (101) and (301).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil.</i>
(202)	Friable light yellowish-brown sandy silt, moderate charcoal flecking & small sandstone fragments, occasional ceramic sherds and CBM. Extends >11m x >4m x 0.14m (average depth). Underlies (201), overlies (203), same as (102) and (302).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Subsoil.</i>
(203)	Firm mid yellowish-brown clay-silt-sand, occasional charcoal flecking. Extends >11m x >4m x 0.32m (average depth). Underlies (202), overlies (204), same as (103) and (303).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposition</i>
(204)	Firm reddish-/greyish-brown clayey sand, frequent degraded sandstone inclusions. Extends > 11m x >4m x 0.72m (maximum depth). Underlies (203), overlies (205), same as (104) and (304).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposition</i>
(205)	Compact degraded sandstone extending > 11m x >4m x >0.05m. Underlies (204)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural</i>
Trench 3	
(301)	Friable mid brown clayey silt, moderate charcoal flecking, occasional ceramic sherds, CBM and small sub-rounded stones. Extends >130m x >15m x 0.25m (average depth). Overlies (302), same as (101) and (201).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil.</i>
(302)	Friable light yellowish-brown sandy silt, moderate charcoal flecking and small sandstone fragments, occasional ceramic sherds, CBM and glass. Extends >2m x >2m x 0.15m (average depth). Underlies (301), overlies (303), same as (102) and (202).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Subsoil.</i>
(303)	Firm mid yellowish-brown clay-silt-sand, occasional charcoal flecking. Extends >2m x >2m x 0.15m (average depth). Underlies (302), overlies (304), same as (103) and (203).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposition</i>
(304)	Firm reddish-/greyish-brown clayey sand, frequent degraded sandstone inclusions. Extends > 2m x >2m x > 0.78m. Underlies (303), same as (104) and (204).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Colluvial deposition</i>



Document Control

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