



Archaeological Observation

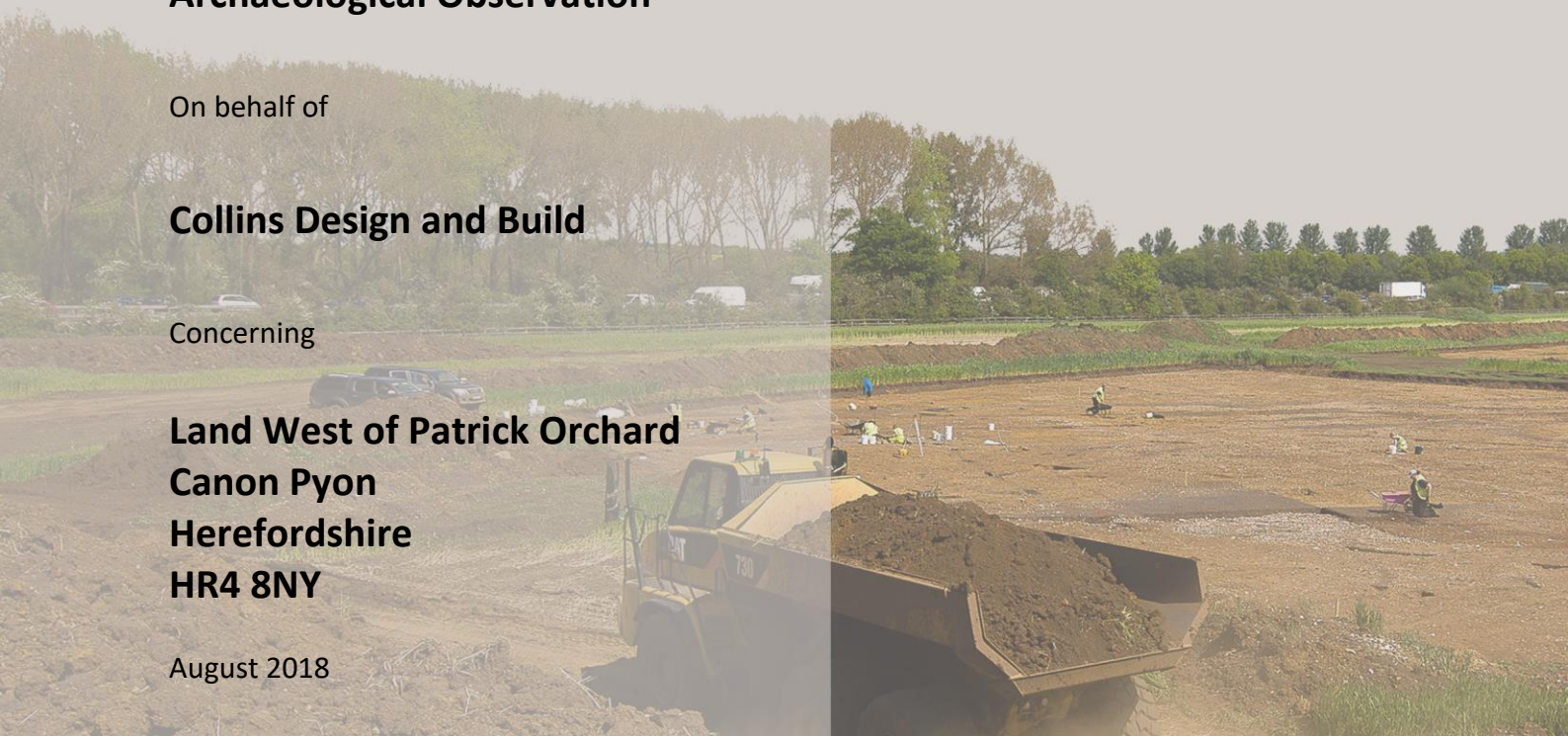
On behalf of

Collins Design and Build

Concerning

**Land West of Patrick Orchard
Canon Pyon
Herefordshire
HR4 8NY**

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Compilation:

K. H. Crooks BA (Hons)

Report Reference:

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Artwork:

Briannie Price BA (Hons)

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Editing:

George Children MA MCI fA

OS Licence Number:

100055758

Approved for Issue:

George Children MA MCI fA

Date:

August 2018

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

e: info@borderarchaeology.com

t: 01568 610101

Administration

The Plaza, Owen Way, Leominster Enterprise Park, Leominster, HR6 0LA

Post-Ex Facility – Leominster

Telephone 01568 610101

Email postex@borderarchaeology.com

Post-Ex Facility – Milton Keynes

Telephone 01908 533233

Email postexmk@borderarchaeology.com

REGIONAL OFFICES

Milton Keynes

Common Farm
Calverton Lane
Milton Keynes, MK19 6EU
t: 01908 533233

Leeds

No1 Leeds
26 Whitehall Road
Leeds, LS12 1BE
t: 0113 8187959

Shoreditch

The Old Fire Station,
140 Tabernacle Street,
London, EC2A 4SD
t: 02033 015670

Newport

Merlin House
No1 Langstone Business Park
Newport, NP18 2HJ
t: 01633 415339

Bristol

First Floor,
Citibase Bristol Aztec West,
Aztec Centre, Aztec West
Almondsbury,
Bristol, BS32 4TD
t: 0117 9110767

Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre,
Winnal Valley Road,
Winchester, SO23 0LD
t: 01962 832777



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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology was instructed by Russell Pryce Esq, Planning Manager, Collins Design and Build, to undertake Archaeological Observation (or 'watching brief') during groundworks for the construction of 27 dwellings on a 1.4ha site adjacent to the A4110, where it passes through the village of Canon Pyon.

The A4110 is considered to represent the line of Watling Street (West), the Roman road connecting Leintwardine (Bravinium) and Monmouth (Blestium). Potential was thus identified for encountering features or deposits associated with the construction of the road or with roadside settlement activity.

Whilst no Roman remains were revealed, the northwest part of the site, close to the Wellington Brook, which defines the site boundary in this area, contained evidence of later 12th-13th century activity (Plot 22), including a posthole suggesting the presence of structures, although the limited extent of the groundworks precludes any further discussion of these. It should be noted that few finds were present and those recovered lay some 10m from the features.

The features identified in Plot 22 were revealed only in areas of deeper excavation and were sealed beneath the subsoil. This suggests that other parts of the site where groundworks were shallower may also contain archaeological features or deposits that remained concealed at greater depth, although deep drainage excavations in the vicinity did not reveal any indication of further activity extending to the southeast, suggesting that any occupation was intermittent across the site.

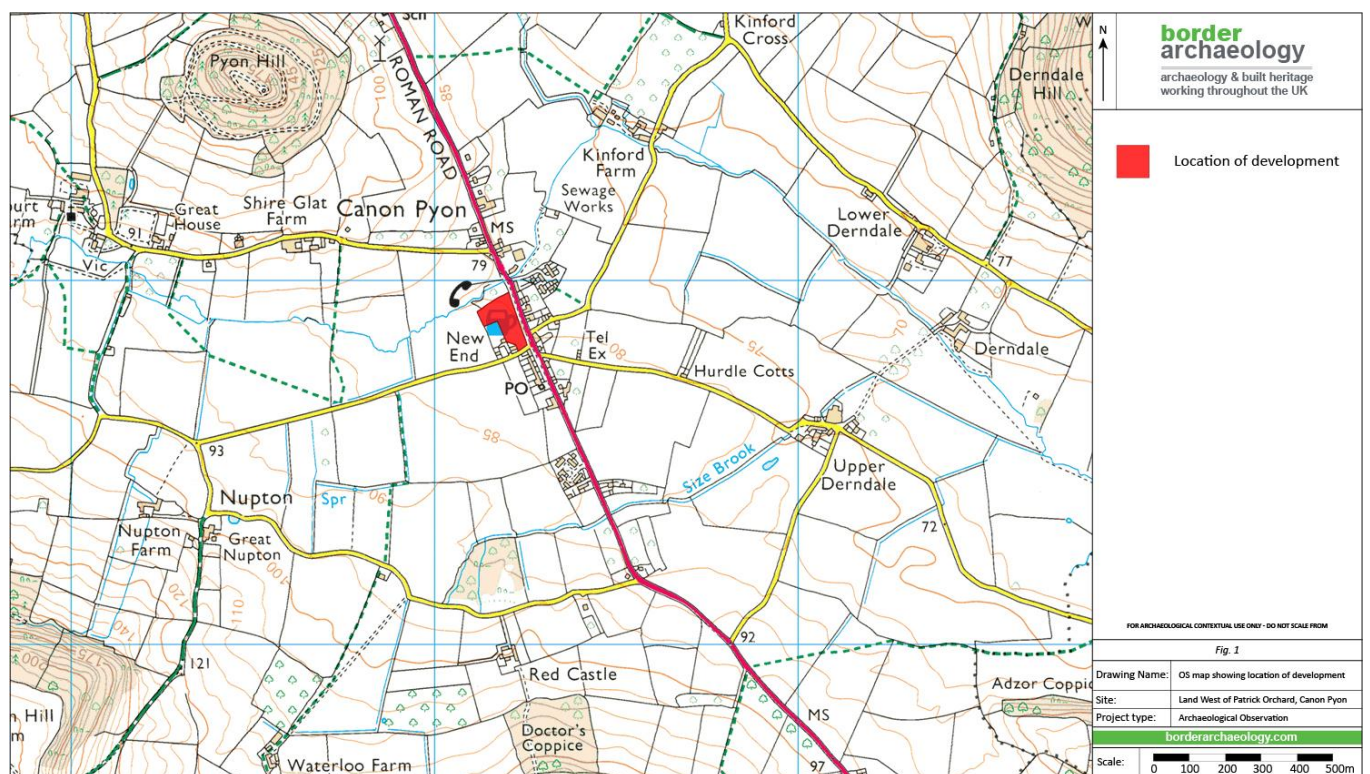
Shallow undated features containing charcoal and burnt bone were identified on the western side of Plot 20 but these appeared to have been fairly ephemeral.

Natural deposits consisted of alluvial gravels and clays, with evidence for alluvial deposition present across the site. Two subsoil deposits were recorded, both of which appeared to have been water-lain, as did the natural gravel to the west (Plots 16-22). The fact that the second of the subsoils sealed the features of probable medieval date described above suggests that this may have been deposited fairly recently. The wet conditions may provide an explanation for the paucity of evidence for occupation.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Russell Pryce Esq, Planning Manager, Collins Design & Build to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation (or 'watching brief') of groundworks for the construction of 27 dwellings (Plots 1-17), new access, sustainable drainage and landscape works on Land W of Patrick Orchard Canon Pyon Herefordshire HR4 8NY (NGR: SO: 46214 48912) (Planning Ref. P141917/F) (fig. 1).

Works on site took place between May 2016 and January 2018.



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2.1 Site Description

The development occupies a roadside location on the alignment of the former Roman road (Watling Street - West) linking the area around the small Roman town of Kenchester (*Magna*) with the Roman settlement of Leintwardine (*Bravinium*) to the N. The alignment of this road appears to be broadly the same as that of the modern A4110, passing through Bush Bank towards Red Castle, S of the village of Canon Pyon. There was therefore thought to be some potential for the discovery of finds or features associated with the road construction or with some form of roadside settlement activity.

2.2 Aims & Objectives

The aim of the Archaeological Observation was to locate and record any archaeological finds, features or deposits within the groundworks area and to confirm that no impact on the archaeological resource occurred during the course of the groundworks without the implementation of this proposed programme of archaeological work. Potential was specifically identified for the discovery of features or deposits associated with the construction of the former Roman road (Watling Street – West).

2.3 Soils & Geology

Soils are predominantly typical argillic or stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the ESCRICK 1 series (571p) overlying reddish till (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

The British Geological Society (BGS) records a band of alluvium in this specific area, which formed in a local environment previously dominated by watercourses and channels (BGS 2018).

Borehole data obtained some 175m SE of the site from two 2.5m deep test-pits opened roughly 10m apart recorded brown clayey topsoil overlying reddish-brown clay subsoil, which, in turn, overlay firm red clay with pieces of gravel. The basal deposit consisted of very firm gravelly red clay, which, in the second borehole, was a firm red clayey sandy gravel (BGS 2018).

3 Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

Evidence for prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site is somewhat scant. The nearest substantial site, comprising the earthwork remains of a possible Bronze Age round barrow (HER No. 31085), is located approximately 500m to the NE of the Grade I Listed Church of St Lawrence (LB No. 1081974) (SO 4501149176). The feature is some 20m in diameter and stands to a height of roughly 0.5m high; traces of field lynchets are visible up-slope and eastwards in the same field (Mould & Watt 2000, 56). Aerial reconnaissance has recorded a possible cropmark enclosure (HER No. 10376) NW of the site, near New End Bridge, comprising traces of a ditch.

The site lies alongside the projected route of Watling Street (West) (6c) extending for approximately 40 miles between Leintwardine (*Bravinium*) and Monmouth (*Blestium*), with a possible branch road leading off near Burghill Lodge to the small Roman town of Kenchester (*Magna*) (Margary 1973, 321).

The place-name 'Pyon' is derived from the OE *peona* + *eg*, meaning 'island infested with gnats or other insects', the *-eg* place-name element generally being used to identify high sites surrounded by marshland and which probably in this case refers to nearby 'Pyon Hill'. At the time of Domesday, Canon Pyon (HER No. 25799) comprised 12 hides paying tax, of which 'three of the Bishop's clerks' held 4½ hides (Thorn & Thorn 1983). A mill is also mentioned. The place-name is recorded as *Piona Can* in 1160-70 and as *Pyone Canonicorum* in 1221, indicating that it belonged to the canons of Hereford Cathedral (Coplestone-Crow 2009, 189).

4 Methodology

Archaeological Observation within the area specified was carried out in accordance with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - ClfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015). BA adheres to the ClfA Code of conduct (2014) and with *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)* (Herefordshire Council 2005) and is cognisant of *Archaeology & Development Supplementary Planning* (Herefordshire Council 2010).

ClfA states (2014, 4) that the purpose of a watching brief is:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

Groundworks excavations were carried out by machine using an un-toothed bucket wherever possible and all ground-breaking works were carried out under archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were routinely checked for significant finds. External trenches measured 0.70m in width.

All archaeological deposits encountered were examined and trowelled by hand. Any such archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section.

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with BA's *Field Recording Manual* (2017). A written record was compiled using standard numbered context record sheets.

The drawn record was produced on gridded, archive-stable polyester drafting film at appropriate scales. A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established and plans and sections contain grid and level information relative to Ordnance Survey data. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A high-resolution digital photographic record was made comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. An appropriate scale was included and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Subject and direction of view details were recorded in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.



5 Results

5.1 Access Road, Trial Pits (TPs) and Drainage

5.1.1 Access Road

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3000		Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay turf; occasional post-medieval & modern pottery; 0.25m thick. Overlying (3004).	-	✓	-	-	-	Present across the site. Pottery not retained.
2	3001		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silty clay; very occasional rounded stones; 0.45m thick. Underlying (3000).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3002		Deposit	Fill of drain	Firm angular & sub-angular stones (>50%) in brown silty clay matrix; >50mm deep. Filled [3003]. Underlying (3004).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	3003		Cut	Land drain	Linear in plan; aligned NW/SE; sides steep/vertical, base not seen; >4.5m × 0.50m × >50mm. Cut (3001). Filled by (3002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	3004		Deposit	Layer	Rubble; discrete patches of compacted angular & sub-angular stones in brown silty clay matrix., 0.05m thick on E side of the site. Overlying (3002). Underlying (3000).	-	✓	-	✓	-	Defined by finds at base of (3000) and top of (3001) - finds not retained.
6	3005		Cut	Land drain	Linear in plan; aligned NE/SW; sides steep/vertical, base not seen; >4.5m × 0.30m × >50mm. Cut (3001). Filled by (3006).	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
7	3006		Deposit	Fill of drain	Firm angular & sub-angular stones (>50%) in brown silty clay matrix; >50mm deep. Filled [3005]. Underlying (3004).	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	3007		Layer	Natural	Dark red gleyed clay to purple red riverine gravel; >0.50m thick. Underlying (3001).	-	-	-	-		-
9	3008		Cut	Land drain	Linear in plan; aligned NW/SE; sides steep, base not seen >4m × 0.30m × >0.5m. Cut (3001). Filled by (3009)	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	3009		Deposit	Fill of drain [3008]	Firm angular & sub-angular stones (>50%) in brown silty clay matrix; >50mm deep. Fill of [3008]. Underlying (3004).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.1.2 TP 1

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3100		Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay turf; occasional small stones.; 0.20m thick. Overlying (3101).	-		-	-	-	Present across the site.
2	3101		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm red clay, some silty inclusions; very occasional rounded stones. 0.40m thick. Underlying (3100). Overlying (3102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3102		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm orange-red clay, silty inclusions; moderate small stones; 0.10m thick. Underlying (3101). Overlying (3103).	-	-	-	-	-	Early subsoil.
3	3103		Deposit	Natural	Bright purple-red gravel; medium-sized angular & sub-angular stones; >0.80m thick. Underlying (3102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.1.3 TP 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3200		Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact clean reddish-brown silty clay turf; 0.30m thick. Overlying (3201).	-	-	-	-	-	Present across site.
2	3201		Deposit	Subsoil	Clean bright reddish-brown silty clay; 0.70m thick. Overlying (3202).	-	-	-	-	-	Brighter than (3200).
3	3202		Deposit	Natural	Compact dark purple-red clay with gleying; moderate small stones (gravels); >0.50m deep in base. Underlying (3201).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.1.4 TP 3

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3300		Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay turf; occasional small stones.; 0.20m thick; overlying (3301).	-	-	-	-	-	Present across site.
2	3301		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown clay, some silty inclusions; very occasional rounded stones; 0.60m thick. Underlying (3300). Overlying (3302).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3302		Deposit	Natural	Compact dark reddish-purple clay; occasional angular green stones and some gleying. Underlying (3301), >0.70m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.1.5 TP 4

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3400		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay turf; occasional small stones; 0.20m thick. Overlying (3401).	-	-	-	-	-	Present across site.
2	3401		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silty clay; 0.40m thick; very occasional rounded stones. Underlying (3400).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3402		Deposit	Natural	Firm stony gravel & water-rolled cobbles in strongly purple red clay matrix; >0.90m thick Underlying (3401).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.1.6 Drainage

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3500		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compacted mid-brown silty clay; occasional small stones & black flecks, with rooting in upper surface; 0.25m thick. Overlying (3501).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3501		Deposit	Subsoil	Very firm reddish-brown silty clay; very occasional rounded stones; 0.40m thick. Underlying (3500). Overlying (3502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3502		Deposit	Subsoil	Very firm strongly reddish-brown silty clay; occasional manganese flecks. Underlying (3501). Overlying (3503).	-	-	-	-	-	Second subsoil present on N part of site - darker & more

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
											purple than (3501).
4	3503		Deposit	Natural	Purple-red gravel. Underlying (3502).	-	-	-	-	-	Observed in base of mains trench on N part of the site.

5.2 House Plots

5.2.1 Plot 1 & Plot 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	100		Deposit	Aggregate	Hard aggregate & 'Terram'; 0.30m thick. Overlying (101).	-	-	-	-	-	Topsoil removed when site established.
2	101		Deposit	Subsoil	Very firm reddish-brown silty clay; very occasional rounded stones; > 0.40m thick, trench wide. Underlying (100).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.2 Plot 3 & Plot 4

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	300		Deposit	Aggregate	Hard aggregate & 'Terram'; 0.05-0.20m thick. Overlying (301).	-	-	-	-	-	Previous surface.
2	301		Deposit	Topsoil	Firm reddish-brown silty clay; some organic content; <0.20m thick. Underlying (300). Overlying (302).	-	-	-	-	-	Partially removed when site established.
3	302		Deposit	Subsoil	Very firm reddish-brown silty clay; manganese flecks; >0.50m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.3 Plot 5

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	500		Deposit	Aggregate surface	Compact stone/aggregate & 'Terram'; 0.30m thick, overlying (501).	-	-	-	-	-	In NW part of footprint of Plot 5.
2	501		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay; occasional small stones & rooting; 0.10m thick (in NW), 0.40m thick (in SE). Underlying (500). Overlying (502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	502		Deposit	Subsoil	Strongly reddish-brown silty clay; occasional water-rolled pebbles; >0.60m thick. Underlying (501).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.4 Plot 6 & Plot 7

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	600		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay turf; occasional small stones & black flecks, rooting in upper surface; 0.30m thick. Overlying (601).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	601		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compact reddish-brown silty clay; very occasional rounded stones; 0.44m thick. Underlying (600). Overlying (602).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	602		Deposit	Natural	Strongly reddish-purple gravel; >0.05m thick. Underlying (601).	-	-	-	-	-	Observed on S side of building footprint only.

5.2.5 Plot 8

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	800		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay; occasional small stones & black flecks, rooting in upper surface; 0.30m thick. Overlying (801).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	801		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compact strongly reddish-brown silty clay; 0.42m thick. Underlying (800). Overlying (802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	802		Deposit	Natural	Strongly red clay; sub angular micaceous sandstone; >0.05m thick. Underlying (801).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.6 Plot 9

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	900		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-reddish brown silty clay; occasional stones, black & white flecking, rooting in upper surface; 0.20m thick. Overlying (901).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	901		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silty clay; occasional stones; 0.30m thick. Underlying (900). Overlying (902).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	902		Deposit	Natural	Very strongly orange-brown silty clay; occasional/moderate water-rolled stones; >0.20m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposits on E side of Plot 9
4	903		Deposit	Natural	Reddish-brown gravel & water-rolled cobbles; >0.20m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposits on W side of plot

5.2.7 Plot 10 & Plot 11

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1000		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-reddish-brown silty clay; occasional stones, black & white flecks, rooting in upper surface; c. 0.20m thick. Overlying (1001).	-	✓	-	-	-	Removed prior to excavation of footings. C19/C20 pottery - not retained.
2	1001		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm strongly reddish-brown silty clay; occasional stones; 0.50m thick. Underlying (1000). Overlying (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	1002		Deposit	Natural	Firm purple-red stony gravel; water-rolled cobbles & larger stones; >0.50m thick. Underlying (1201).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.8 Plot 12-Plot 14

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1200		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm red silty clay; 0.10m thick, trench wide. Overlying (1201)	-	-	-	-	-	Upper part of deposit removed prior to AO.
2	1201		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silty clay; 0.20m thick. Underlying (1200). Overlying (1202).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1202		Deposit	Natural	Firm red clay; patches of stony gravel & water-rolled cobbles in strongly purple red clay matrix; >0.30m thick. Underlying (1201).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.9 Plot 15 & Plot 16

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1500		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silty clay; few visible inclusions; 0.50m thick. Overlying (1501),	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
2	1501		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm strongly purple-brown silty clay; manganese flecking; >0.15m thick. Underlying (1500).	-	-	-	-	-	On Plot 15 & SE side of Plot 16.
3	1502		Deposit	Natural	Firm greenish-black gravel; >0.15m thick. Underlying (1501).	-	-	-	-	-	On NW side of Plot 15.

5.2.10 Plot 17 & Plot 18

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1700		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay turf; occasional post-medieval & modern pottery; 0.20m thick. Overlying (1701).	-	✓	-	-	-	Pottery not retained.
2	1701		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft but firmly compacted strongly reddish-brown silty clay; manganese flecking; >0.40m thick. Underlying (1701).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.11 Plot 19

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1900		Deposit	Topsoil (present across site)	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay; occasional post-medieval & modern pottery; 0.25m thick. Overlying (1902), (1905) (1907). Same as (3000).	-	✓	-	-	-	Pottery not retained.
2	1901		Cut	Land drain	Linear in plan; aligned NE/SW; sides steeply sloping, base not seen; >20m × 0.48m × >0.50m. Cut (1903). Filled by (1902).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1902		Deposit	Fill of drain [1902]	Friable pinkish-brown gravel; small-to-medium stones in silty clay matrix. 0.48m wide and >0.50m deep. Fill of [1901].	-	-	-	-	-	Gravel likely redeposited natural in drain fill. No pipe seen during topsoil strip or footings excavations.
4	1903		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm pale pink-brown clayey silt; occasional small stones & manganese flecks; c.0.50m thick throughout. Overlying (1908).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1904		Cut	Land drain	Linear in plan; aligned NE/SW; >8m (length) × 0.48m (width). Cut (1903). Filled by (1905).	-	-	-	-	-	Seen in plan only.
6	1905		Deposit	Fill of land drain	Friable pink-brown gravel; small-to-medium stones in silty clay matrix; 0.48m wide. Fill of [1904].	-	-	-	-	-	As for (1902) above.
7	1906		Cut	Land drain	Linear in plan; aligned NW/SE; >6m (length) × 0.40m (width). Cut (1903). Filled by (1907).	-	-	-	-	-	Seen in plan only.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
8	1907		Deposit	Fill of land drain	Friable pink-brown gravel; small-to-medium stones in silty clay matrix; 0.48m wide. Fill of [1906].	-	-	-	-	-	As for (1902) above.
9	1908		Deposit	Natural	Red-brown & very dark red-brown/purple mixed gravel/clay. Underlying (1903).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.12 Plot 20

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2000		Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay; c.0.15m thick. Overlying (2006).	-	-	-	-	-	Present across site. Removed prior to footings excavations.
2	2001		Cut	Shallow pit	Gradual break of slope top, irregular sides sloping gradually to shallow concave base; 0.90m (width) × c. 0.20m (depth). Cut (2007). Filled by (2002).	-	-	-	-	-	Seen in section only.
2	2002		Deposit	Fill of [2001]	Compact reddish-brown silty clay; moderate-to-frequent charcoal fragments, small stones, occasional white flecks. Underlying (2006). Fill of [2001].	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2003		Cut	Small pit	Sharp break of slope top, smooth sloping sides and shallow curve to concave base; 0.90m (width) × 0.40m (depth). Filled by (2004), (2005). Cut (2007).	-	-	-	-	-	Seen in section only. Slope shallower to SW.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
4	2004		Deposit	Upper fill of [2003]	Compact pinkish-brown silty clay; moderate-to-frequent small charcoal flecks, occasional small stones; 0.50m (width) × c.0.18m (depth). Underlying (2006). Overlying (2005). Fill of [2003].	-	-	-	-	-	Seen in section only.
5	2005		Deposit	Lower fill of (2003)	Compact silty clay; frequent charcoal flecks, moderate small sandstone fragments; maximum 0.30m thick. Underlying (2004). Fill of [2003].	-	-	-	-	-	More charcoal present than in (2004) overlying.
6	2006		Deposit	Subsoil	Strongly reddish-brown silty clay; very sparse rounded sandstone fragments; 0.20m thick in Plot 20. Underlying (2000). Overlying (2007).	-	-	-	-	-	Sealed (2002) and (2004).
7	2007		Deposit	Subsoil	Strongly reddish-brown silty clay; few visible inclusions; >0.40m thick in Plot 20. Underlying (2006). Cut by [2001], [2003].	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.13 Plot 21

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2100	Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay; occasional post-medieval & modern pottery; 0.25m thick. Overlying (3004).	-	✓	-	-	-	Topsoil present across site. Pottery not retained
2	2101	Deposit	Subsoil	Firm red-brown silty clay; very occasional rounded stones; 0.45m deep. Underlying (2100). Overlying (2102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	2102	Deposit	Natural	Friable dark reddish-purple gravel, blackened in places. Underlying (2101).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	2103	Cut	Interface between natural gravel (2102) and clay (2104)	Steep break of slope at top, sloping sides and gentle curve towards base (base underlying required depth and not seen). > 12m N/S x > 14m E/W x > 0.50m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	2104	Deposit	Natural	Stiff pinkish-grey silty clay; occasional manganese flecks & gravel. Overlying [2103]. Underlying (2101).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.14 Plot 22

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2200	Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown clay; occasional black flecks & small-medium rounded & sub-rounded stones; 0.30m thick. Overlying (2201). Underlying (2208).	-	-	-	-	-	Upper subsoil in Plot 22.
2	2201	Deposit	Subsoil	Bright reddish-brown clay; occasional-moderate charcoal flecking, larger fragments of charcoal & occasional small daub/burnt clay fragments; 0.20m thick across N part of plot. Underlying (2200). Overlying (2202). Cut by [2206].	-	✓	-	-	<1>	Earlier subsoil. Slightly more compact & yellower than (2200), which contained fewer inclusions.

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	2202	Deposit	Gravel surface	Fairly loose fine black gravel; 2.20m N/S × >0.70m E/W × >0.20m. Overlying/abutting (2204). Underlying (2201).	-	-	-	-	<3>	Although blackened, the material was not obviously sooty or organic.
4	2203	Deposit	Surface or dump	Firmly compacted pale brownish-pink gritty clay; frequent orange, green & black flecks, discrete brown silty patches; 3m N/S × >0.60m E/W × 0.12m. Underlying (2204).	-	-	-	-	-	May have continued to the N, but this could not be ascertained within limit of excavation.
5	2204	Deposit	Surface or dump	Firmly compacted yellowish-brown clay silty; occasional-moderate small black flecks; 2.30m N/S × >0.60m E/W × >0.20m. Underlying (2202). Overlying (2203).	-	-	-	-	<2>	As seen in trench, did not appear to extend beyond limits of (2203). Possibly same as (2205).
6	2205	Deposit	Surface or dump	Firmly compacted yellowish-brown clay; moderate black flecks; 2.10m N/S × >0.60m E/W × >0.30m. Underlying (2201).	-	-	-	-	-	Deposit continued underlying (2201) to N. May be the same as (2204) but seen in T3.
7	2206	Cut	Posthole	Possibly circular in plan; break of slope top sharp, sides vertical, break of slope base sharp, base sloping steeply to E;	-	-	-	-	-	Seen in section.

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
				0.28m (diameter) × 0.18m (depth). Cut (2201). Filled by (2207).						
8	2207	Deposit	Fill	Firm mid-brown silty clay; moderate charcoal (more frequent towards base). Fill of [2206]. Underlying (2200).	-	-	-	-	<4>	-
9	2208	Deposit	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown turf topsoil present across plot 22. 0.20m thick and overlying (2200). Same as (3000) etc. across the site	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.15 Plot 23

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2300	Deposit	Topsoil	Fairly compact mid-brown silty clay; occasional post-medieval & modern pottery; 0.25m thick. Overlying (2301).	-	✓	-	-	-	Present across site.
2	2301	Deposit	Discrete irregular dumps of modern rubble	Loose rubble; modern pottery (MMW & TPW), CBM, breeze-blocks, coal & charcoal flecks; 5m × 5m to 0.30m × 0.30m, max 0.20m thick. Underlying (2300). Overlying (2302).	-	✓	-	-	-	Possibly bulldozed into topsoil/subsoil but no clear cut
3	2302	Deposit	Subsoil	Firm mid- to pale pinkish-brown silty clay; occasional small stones & black flecks (manganese); 0.50m thick. Underlying (2300) and overlying (2303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	2303	Deposit	Natural	Firm mid-reddish-brown clay with blue grey gleying. Underlying (2302).	-	-	-	-	-	Present in base of footings in Plot 23.

5.2.16 Plot 24

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2400	Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay turf; 0.20m thick. Contained occasional post-medieval and modern pottery. Overlying (2401).	-	✓	-	-	-	Removed prior to foundation excavations. Pottery not retained.
2	2401	Deposit	Subsoil	Compact but soft material, strongly reddish-brown silty clay; >0.40m thick. Underlying (2400).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.17 Plot 25

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2500	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay turf; 0.15m thick. Overlying (2501).	-	-	-	-	-	Removed prior to trenching.
2	2501	Deposit	Subsoil	Firm but soft strongly reddish-brown silty clay; occasional manganese flecking; 0.50m thick. Underlying (2500).	-	-	-	-	-	Deposit brighter towards base.
3	2502	Deposit	Subsoil/natural interface	Firm dark reddish-brown silty clay; >0.10m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	Present on NE side of plot.

5.2.18 Plot 26

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2600	Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay turf; 0.20m thick. Overlying (2601).	-	-	-	-	-	Present across site.
2	2601	Deposit	Subsoil	Firm strongly reddish-brown silty clay; manganese flecking; >0.40m thick. Underlying (2601).	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2.19 Plot 27

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2700	Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-brown silty clay; c.0.20m thick. Overlying (2701).	-	-	-	-	-	Removed prior to AO.
2	2701	Deposit	Subsoil	Firmly compacted strongly reddish-brown silty clay; 0.60m thick. Underlying (2700).	-	-	-	-	-	Observed to a depth of >3m in adjacent mains trenches.
3	2702	Deposit	Natural	Dark red gravel mixed with clay	-	-	-	-	-	At base of trench.

6 Discussion

All groundworks were carried out under Archaeological Observation, these comprising topsoil removal, foundation trenching and drainage excavations.

No evidence was found relating to Roman Watling Street (West), with most of the site being devoid of archaeological features and deposits. Plot 22 on the NW side (*fig. 4*), however, revealed evidence for possible surfaces, (2202), (2203), (2204) & (2205), and a single posthole [2206]; whilst these features contained no pottery for dating purposes, two sherds of later 12th -13th century pottery were recovered from the immediate vicinity. Additionally, two pits, [2001] & [2003], which were 0.20m and 0.40m deep, respectively, were recorded on the W side of Plot 20; neither pit contained dating evidence (*fig. 3*).



Fig. 3: Plan showing location of Plot 20 and pits [2001] & [2003]

It would appear likely, based on a paucity of evidence, that any occupation would have been intermittent and ephemeral, this area possibly representing a floodplain, with subsoils forming by a process of alluviation. Two subsoil deposits were recorded in both parts of the site where features were identified (Plot 20 & Plot 22). The

medieval pottery noted above was recovered from the surface of the lower of these subsoils (2201) in Plot 22, some 8m to the NE of the posthole and surfaces. This was the only artefactual evidence from the site dating to earlier than the later post-medieval period.

The pits, [2001] & [2003], located on the W side of Plot 20 were stratigraphically similar to the surfaces and posthole revealed in Plot 22, being sealed by a silty subsoil (2006). As was the case with regard to the posthole in Plot 22, these were not revealed in plan and were seen only in the foundation trench section.

Pit [2001] cut into subsoil (2007) measured 0.90m wide and was 0.20m depth. It had gradually sloping sides and a shallow concave base and contained a firmly compacted fill with charcoal inclusions and white flecks that may have been burnt bone. These were more frequent towards the base of the feature and it is possible that, following deposition of the lower part of the fill, the open feature silted up gradually before being sealed by (2006).

Pit [2003] lay 2m to the W of [2001] and was 0.90m width and 0.40m depth, with sloping sides (shallower on the SW side) and a concave base. Of the two fills, the earliest was a firm reddish-brown silt clay with frequent charcoal flecking, occasional white flecks, possibly burnt bone, and moderate small-to-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones (2005).

Overlying (2005), fill (2004) was a pinkish-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and small pea-gravel. It was considerably cleaner than (2005) and, like [2001], it may represent natural silting.

Plot 22 (*fig. 4*) lay about 40m to the NW of Plot 20 and the features were similarly positioned - adjacent to, but not on, a bank of gravel. As was the case with the two subsoils in Plot 20, there was no evidence for either occupation or a turf-line on the surface of the lower of the subsoils (2201), a potentially water-lain deposit of silty clay likely dating to the 13th century. A sample of this deposit was found to contain the highest proportion of charcoal of any of the sampled deposits on the site and included a single fragment identifiable as probable oak. Its interpretative significance, however, was considered to be low, as an assemblage such as this would not be considered uncommon in subsoils, especially those that were fluvially deposited (*Appendix 2*).

On the E edge of Plot 22, a small posthole [2206] cut subsoil (2201). Posthole [2206] measured 0.28m in diameter and was 0.18m deep, with largely vertical sides curving steeply to a flat base which did, however, slope down to the E. The fill (2207) was a firm mid-brown silty clay that was sampled in its entirety and was found to be completely sterile, suggesting immediate backfilling with natural material (*Appendix 2*). No finds were recovered from (2207) and it cannot be proved that the feature was contemporary with the surfaces present to its W or, indeed, with two sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the upper surface of (2201), although this may be the case. However, it did suggest that structures may have been present on this part of the site. The medieval pottery was found some 10m from the posthole.

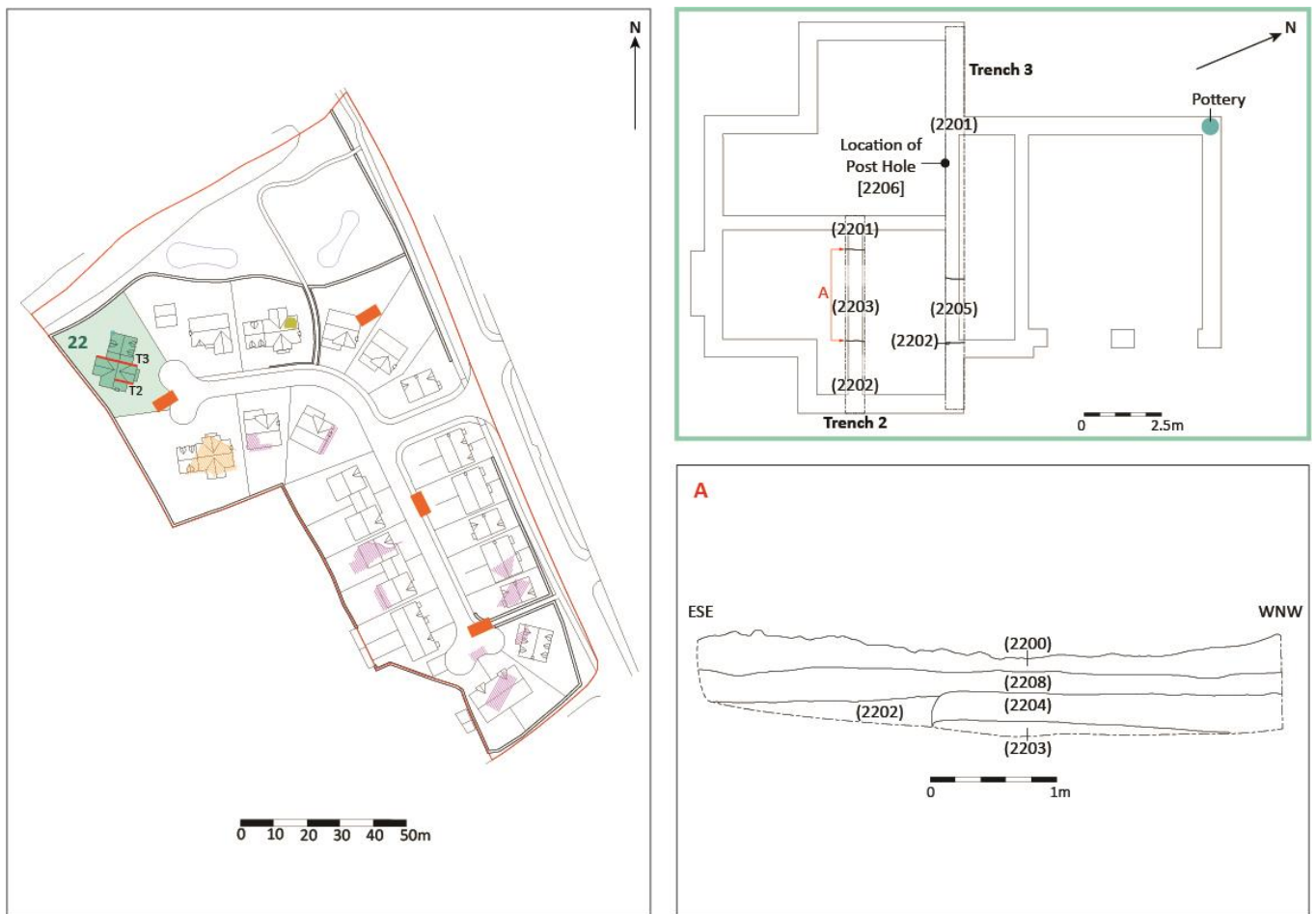


Fig. 4: Plan showing location of Plot 22 & trench section.

The pottery (*Appendix 1*) was dated to the 12th to the earlier part of the 13th century at a time of peak population before the effects of worsening climatic conditions and the Black Death. It was therefore a period during which pressure on land may have necessitated the exploitation of marginal areas.

Some 5m to the SW of posthole [2206] layer (2203) was a firm pinkish-brown gritty clay with frequent orange and green flecks together with flecks of charcoal and discrete brown silty patches. The inclusions appeared likely to have derived from a process involving heat, which may have been industrial rather than purely domestic in nature, although this is by no means certain. If this were the case then no evidence as to what it may have been was recovered either on site or from the samples taken (*Appendix 2*).

Overlying (2203) layer (2204) was a firm yellowish-brown clay silt, a maximum of 0.20m thick and with occasional small black flecks. The yellowish colour, in contrast to the strongly reddish-brown natural clay and subsoil, suggested that it had been subject to a process which had discoloured it. Although charcoal was recovered from a sample <2> taken from this deposit, it was in insufficient quantities for any conclusions to be drawn (*Appendix 2*). (2204) was a potential surface deposit or dumped deposit. A similar deposit (2205) to the E lay above the earlier subsoil (2201). The latest archaeological layer consisted of loose grey-black gravels (2202) that appeared to abut

(2204). It measured more than 2.20m N/S and more than 0.70m E/W. Although it was black in colour, it was not sooty or otherwise organic. The sterility of a sample from (2202) suggests the deposit was of natural origin.

It is possible that it was consolidation of a surface, lying above earlier working or occupation surfaces (2203) and (2204). The discolouration may have been a result of later inundation. It was noticeable that in Plot 21 similar discolouration was seen in the natural gravel.

The fact that posthole [2206]/(2207) was sealed by the later subsoil (2200) means that it is possible that further features could remain sealed beneath (2200) but were simply not present in the limited areas available for examination in the sections and bases of the foundation trenches. Similarly, the pottery was recovered from the very NE-most corner of the foundations adjacent to an area which remained undisturbed.



Plate 1: Layer (2204)

Investigation of the remaining foundation trenches of Plot 22 took place but no further cut features were present.

The ephemeral nature of the features and the lack of finds might suggest temporary occupation of the site and a marginal, subsistence economy. The fact that features on both Plots 20 and 22 were sealed by a similar red brown subsoil may imply that they were abandoned as a result of flooding of the site. A substantial gravel deposit, with medium to large water rolled cobbles and smaller stones particularly on the S and W parts of the site, together with silting deposits, suggested that parts of the site may previously have been a watercourse.

The place-name elements *peona* and *eg* from which 'Pyon' derives, refer to an island infested with gnats (Copleston-Crow: 1989). *Eg* denoted an 'island' in a marshy area and if, as is suggested, this refers to Pyon Hill, it suggests the development area has historically been marshy and may thus have remained marginal land throughout. Further evidence for flooding may be the presence of the two silty 'subsoils', e.g. (2201) and (2007).

The earliest buildings to survive on the main road through Canon Pyon date to the 17th or 18th centuries and it is possible that the place-name 'New End' could indicate that the present village (at a distance of about 1km from the medieval parish church) may have developed during the post-medieval period on a reclaimed area, which was only drained in fairly recent times.

Straightening of field boundaries during the post-medieval period, together with straightening and deepening of watercourses, would have reduced the likelihood of flooding. The work had taken place by the later part of the 19th century and is shown on the 1st Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1886.

Indeed, a substantial gravel deposit over the S and W side of the site consisting of water-rolled cobbles, gravel and small stones indicated that parts of the site may have previously been a watercourse. This was particularly apparent in Plot 10 and Plot 11 where substantial stones were present at a comparatively shallow depth. Additionally, a considerable amount of manganese concretion was noted in the surrounding purple-red clay, also suggesting waterlogging. The full depth of the gravel was not established as it lay beneath the construction depth and was more than 1m beneath the existing surface in Plot 10 and Plot 11.

It is possible that the Roman road was routed elsewhere to avoid difficult terrain at this point; the Wellington Brook marking the northern extent of the site appears to have been straightened and deepened to control flooding and to drain the area.



Plate 2: View SE of gravel (2102)

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8.1 Cartography

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map (Herefordshire XVIII.3) - 1886

9 Appendix 1 Pottery

*K. H. Crooks BA
Border Archaeology*

Two small sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of the lower subsoil (2201) during excavation of the foundations on Plot 22 in the NW part of the site.

Both were from a jar or cooking pot manufactured in the Malvern area (Hereford fabric B1: Vince 1985; Fig. 59). The in-turned rim suggests a date in the later 12th or 13th century.

9.1 Reference

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10 Appendix 2 Palaeoenvironmental report

Amy Bunce BSc MA ACIfA
Border Archaeology

10.1 Non-Technical Summary

This report has been prepared by the Palaeoenvironmental Department at Border Archaeology (BA) to facilitate and elucidate the palaeoeconomic interpretations of a sequence of features discovered during Archaeological Observation of construction groundworks for 27 dwellings on land to the W of Patrick Orchard Canon Pyon Herefordshire HR4 8NY.

Four samples comprising 50ℓ of material were processed by flotation, these originating from a sequence of deposits and a fill largely identified as potentially of medieval date.

The sampling produced only charcoal fragments, which would likely have been windblown, except for one larger fragment of probable oak. This may suggest a lack of domestic occupation in the area.

10.2 Introduction

This report details the results from four samples, constituting a total of 50ℓ of soil, retrieved from three deposits and one posthole fill.

In accordance with the WSI (BA 2016), 40ℓ-60ℓ or 100% of the deposits were sampled. However, the nature of Archaeological Observation resulted in four samples comprising 50ℓ of material being received by the Palaeoenvironmental Department and processed through flotation with the resultant archaeological and archaeobotanical material sorted and identified.

The samples were processed by means of flotation and any potential archaeobotanical remains from both the floating element and the heavier residue/retent were sorted and visually identified. The nature and interpretative significance of the recovered remains is detailed in Section 10.5.1 below.

The four samples were taken in multiples of 10ℓ sample buckets and derived from four contexts, from which between 10ℓ and 20ℓ were taken, dependent on the ability to sample secure contexts. The results are presented by context in Section 10.5.2 below.

10.3 Site Description

The land comprising the observation was under development at the time and observation was conducted on a periodic basis, as required.

10.3.1 Soils and Geology

The surrounding geology was of the red till of Herefordshire, generally a good environmental for organic preservation with few taphonomic variables.

10.4 Methodology

10.4.1 Objectives of analysis

The purpose of the palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy implemented during archaeological observation is the retrieval of non-specific palaeoenvironmental remains and the further characterisation of features that cannot be fully investigated due to the confines of the non-archaeological works. Information garnered should inform on the features revealed whose destruction was necessitated by works but monitored by the archaeologist.

Sampling methodology followed the *Palaeoenvironmental Department Manual* (BA 2017) for environmental sampling and processing and with reference to Historic England guidance (Campbell *et al.* 2011). On site, the samples were collected in sample buckets and identified by context and sample number. Following receipt into the Palaeoenvironmental Department, they were assigned bucket numbers for tracking purpose. The samples were not subject to sub-sampling and their entirety was processed by means of flotation.

Flotation was undertaken in Siraf-style tanks (Williams 1973) with a 500µm retent mesh and 250µm flot sieve. No refloating was required for these samples. Retents were initially scanned by magnet to retrieve any archaeometallurgical debris and a sieve bank was used to facilitate visual sorting with the smaller fractions sorted by means of magnifying lamp and/or illuminated stereo zoom microscopy ($\leq \times 10$). The flots were sorted entirely by means of illuminated stereo zoom microscopy ($\leq \times 10$). The results of this analysis are reported with the flot and retent data recombined; due to limited to no variance in the species being reported.

10.4.2 Personnel

Flotation and primary analysis were undertaken by staff within BA's Palaeoenvironmental Department supervised by Robin Putland BSc MSc. The Palaeoenvironmental Department is managed under the post-excavation remit of Janice McLeish MA and consists of a minimum of 10 members of staff, predominantly with postgraduate palaeoenvironmental qualifications. This work was further assisted by BA's field staff as part of a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Analysis and identification were only undertaken by the palaeoenvironmental department under the guidance of Robin Putland BSc MSc and Amy Bunce BSc MA ACIfA, who additionally maintains directorial control.

External and internal specialists were consulted for all archaeological finds and faunal material recovered from palaeoenvironmental samples. Archaeological, archaeometallurgical and archaeozoological assemblages from the palaeoenvironmental material were recombined with the full site assemblages to ensure unbiased and broader specialist reporting on those materials.

10.5 Description of Results

10.5.1 Description and implications of materials recovered

Detailed below are the general implications of the discovery of certain materials within the palaeoenvironmental samples. Section 10.5.2 details such information by context. Of particular note is the absence of any material other than charcoal.

- **Shell**

Terrestrial shell comprises that from snails that may have been present in the area during deposition of the fills. Identification of the species represented highlights any ecological niches preferred by certain species in the environments they inhabited.

Archaeomalacological identification is undertaken in-house by Robin Putland BSc MSc, additionally utilising reference texts (Cameron 2008) (Evans 1972; Kerney & Cameron 1979; Welter-Schultes 2012). Environmental interpretations were based upon a combined autecological and synecological approach as advised by Davies (Davies 2008), using ecological groups for terrestrial and freshwater species as designated by Evans (Evans 1972) and Sparks (Sparks 1961) respectively. The ecological preferences of each species were inferred by reference to Kerney and Cameron (Kerney & Cameron 1979) and Welter-Schultes (Welter-Schultes 2012).

Interpretations of palaeoenvironments using mollusca are limited by taphonomic uncertainty, due to the effects of gravity, bioturbation and re-deposition by hydrological processes affecting the distribution of shells within sediments, processes which are understood only superficially (Lowe & Walker 1997). Additionally, only well-preserved shells are suitable for identification; therefore, the recovered fauna may not be representative of the true fauna. Limitations of autecology and synecology, relating to uniformitarian assumptions, the poorly understood factors influencing the distribution of a particular species, the broad ranges of environments inhabited by many molluscan species (Davies 2008), unknown associations between past molluscan fauna (Bush 1988) and the lack of applicable modern analogues for past environments limit the extent with which palaeoenvironments can be reconstructed using this method.

No molluscan assemblage was present, which may be indicative of soil conditions.

- **Charcoal**

Charcoal is ubiquitous in palaeoenvironmental samples as it is used in domestic, funerary and industrial settings or may be present as a result of accidental firings. Identification of the wood species making up the charcoal assemblage can add valuable data as to wood selection for the varying purposes.

While often relied upon for dating, in particular C^{14} , charcoal is not the best material to use. Charcoal is subject to the 'Old Wood problem', whereby wood is known to be frequently reused and charcoal redeposited. In addition, wood grows over many years and it is not possible to know precisely where within the tree a charcoal fragment has derived.

Anthracological analysis is undertaken in-house by Amy Bunce BSc MA ACIfA, additionally utilising reference keys (Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990; Schweingruber 1990). Anthracological analysis was generally undertaken at $\times 100$ magnification, although higher magnifications to $\times 400$ were used where necessary. Lighting was by incident lighting with transmitted lighting where necessary. Charcoal was transversally sectioned with tangential or radial sectioning undertaken where required. Any waterlogged wood present will be presented in a separate Wood Identification and Technology report.

The charcoal was too infrequent and too small in size for identification, except for one fragment that was c.4mm in size and of a ring porous species that was almost certainly oak.

- Charred archaeobotanical material

Charred archaeobotanical material is generally the most illustrative palaeoeconomic remnant. Charring is generally accepted to be almost solely of anthropogenic origin and the material can therefore be used to directly reconstruct the past agricultural or consumer economy and diet. Caution must be taken by the intrinsic bias a charred assemblage presents over the uncharred plant remains of palaeoeconomic utility. However, such variance is built into the study of charred plant remains.

Archaeobotanical identification is undertaken in-house by the Palaeoenvironmental Department under the guidance of Robin Putland BSc MSc, utilising reference texts that include the most valid to the British assemblages (Anderburg 1994; Berggren 1969, 1981; Groningen Institute of Archaeology 2006-present; Jacomet 2006; Martin & Barkley 2000; Renfrew 1973; Schoch *et al.*, 1988), with classification following Stace (Stace 2010).

No charred archaeobotanical material was present, which may suggest a lack of nearby domestic production.

10.5.2 Description of palaeoenvironmental remains by selected context

Detailed below are the palaeoenvironmental remains from each context and an assessment of the localised palaeoenvironment reconstruction has been attempted. Results for all contexts can be observed in the table below.

- (2201)

(2201) was a potentially water-lain deposit of silty clay subsoil likely dating to the 13th century. (2201) contained the highest proportion of charcoal and included the one fragment of identifiable charcoal, that of probable oak. However, this assemblage would not be uncommon in subsoils, especially fluvially deposited subsoils.

- (2202)

(2202) was a deposit of loose grey-black gravels that was sampled as they may have represented a domestic surface. However, the sample was completely sterile, which suggests that the deposit had a solely natural origin.

- (2204)

(2204) was a potential surface deposit or dumped deposit. Only occasional charcoal was retrieved from the sampling and, therefore, very little can be ascertained from the material.

- (2207)

(2207) was a probable posthole fill sampled 100%. However, it was completely sterile, which may suggest immediate backfilling with natural material.

10.6 Table of results

The following table details the abundance results from both the archaeobotanical material and the archaeological finds. Weight and quantity records have been recorded but are not presented here due to the variation between materials.

Abundance key: + = rare; ++ = occasional; +++ = common; ++++ = abundant.

Context no.			2201	2202	2204	2207
Sample no.			1	3	2	4
Sample part			1/2	2/2	1/1	1/1
Bucket no.			E6884	E6885	E6883	E6886
Sample vol. (mℓ)			100	100	2100	800
% sample analysed			100	100	100	100
Waterlogged?			N	N	N	N
Refloated?			N	N	N	N
Latin name	Common name	Plant part				
Charcoal						
<i>Quercus</i> sp. (cf)	Oak	stemwood (2+ years)	+			
Indeterminate <2mm	Indeterminate	fragments	++	+		+

10.7 Conclusions and recommendations

The intention of the non-specific palaeoenvironmental sampling was largely successful in confirming or contradicting archaeological interpretations. However, the results contained nothing that could reconstruct palaeoenvironments or archaeological activity. The charcoal was almost solely likely to have been incorporated as windblown material and it seems highly plausible that no occupation was represented by the contexts sampled.

10.7.1 Recommendations

Due to the nature of the materials recovered and full analysis undertaken; no further work is recommended.

Retention of the materials detailed above as an incorporation of the site archive for deposition with the museum is recommended.

10.8 Copyright

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Compilation	K. H. Crooks BA		
Edited by	George Children MA MCIfA		
Artwork	Briannie Price BA (Hons)		
Artwork approved	Holly Litherland BA (Hons)		
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