

Archaeological Observation

**Southways
Eardisley
Herefordshire**

**NGR: SO 31285 49201
SMR No: 48018**

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Report specification

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1. Non-Technical Summary

The trenching revealed no deposits, features or structures of archaeological significance. A dump of undressed and irregular stones found in the western part of the site showed no evidence of having formed a structure.

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2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mrs H Davies on behalf of Mr and Mrs S Davies, Laxton Farm, Bodenham, Herefordshire, to carry out archaeological observation of the principal groundworks for a new dwelling at Southways Eardisley Herefordshire (Planning Ref: DCNW2004/1538/F).

Copies of this report will be submitted to Mr and Mrs Davies, Herefordshire Archaeology and the County Sites and Monuments Record.

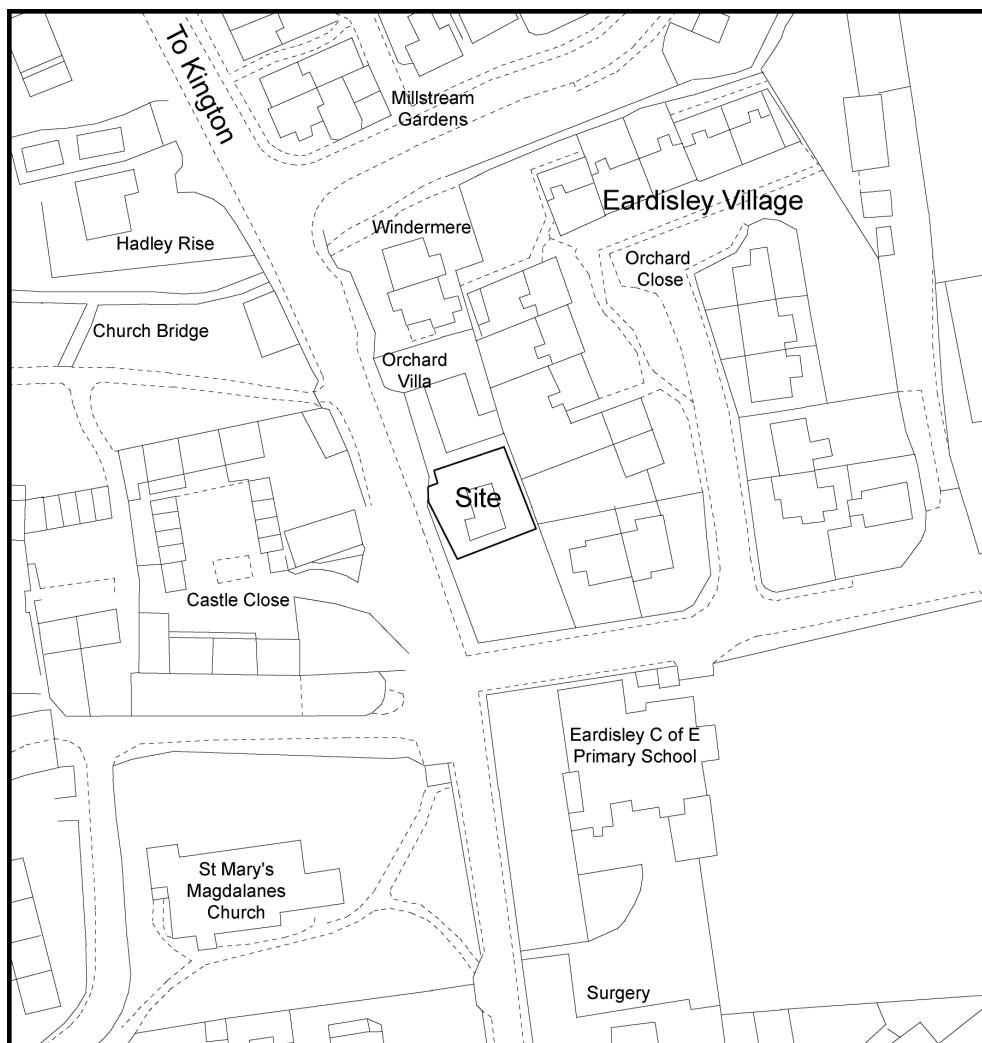


Fig. 1 Plan showing location of site

3. Geology

The Eardisley area has typical stagnogley soils of the VERNOLDS series (711k) and typical alluvial gley soils of the HOLLINGTON series (811c). The VERNOLDS (711k) soils consist of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish silty soils, with some coarse loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging.

There are also some deep stoneless silty soils in alluvium, affected by groundwater. The underlying geology consists of reddish till.

The HOLLINGTON 811(c) soils are deep stoneless reddish fine silty and clayey soils variably affected by groundwater, the underlying geology comprising reddish river alluvium.

4. Methodology

Archaeological observation was carried out in accordance with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (October 1994, revised September 2001). Border Archaeology adheres to the IFA *Code of conduct* (September 2002) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (September 2002).

The area of the proposed development was machine excavated under archaeological supervision. The excavation of trenching continued to a required depth of roughly 1.0m below the existing ground level, this depth being maintained across the site.

All spoil was scanned for artefacts. Any artefacts recovered from the spoil were recorded but not retained.

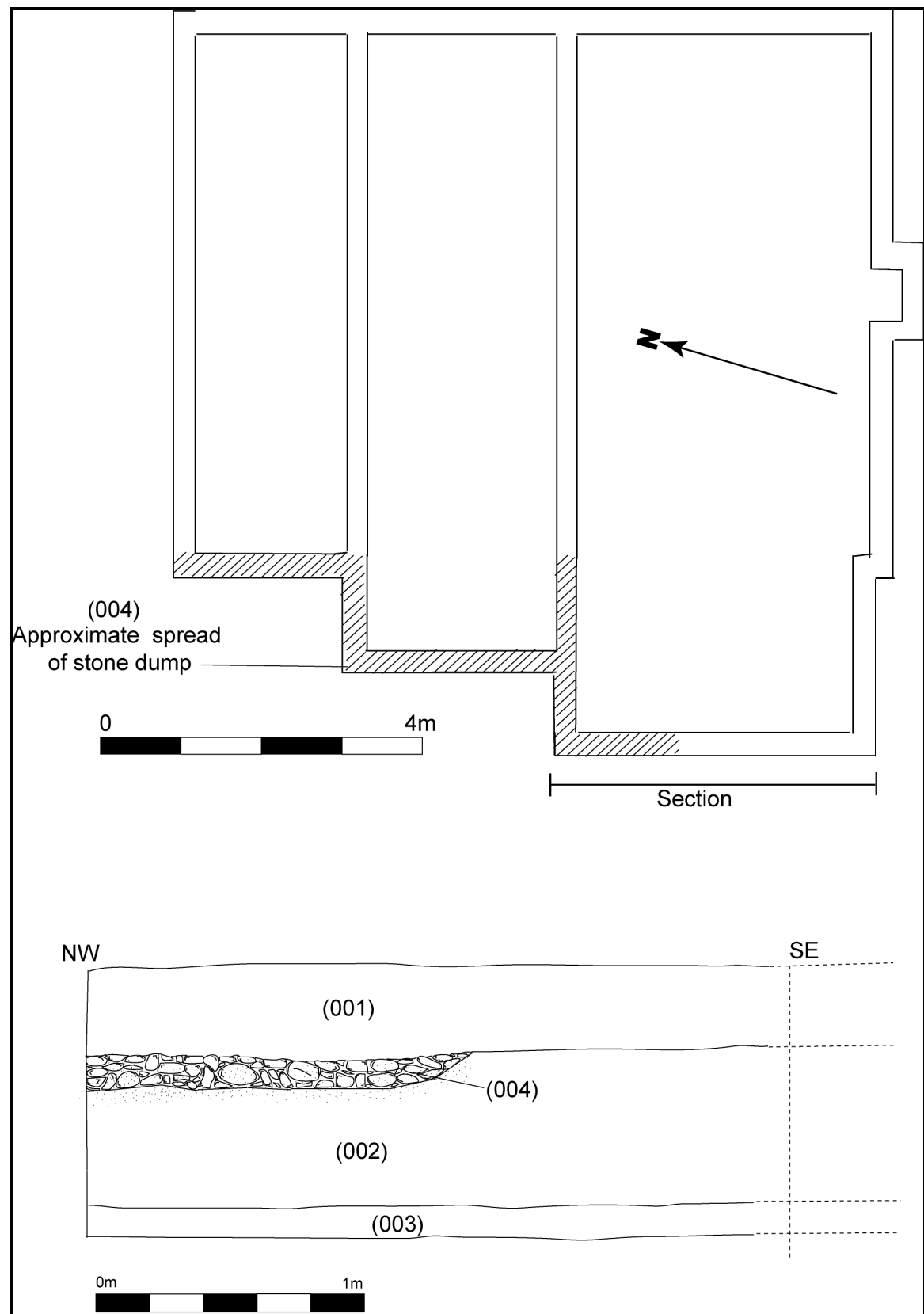
The depth and complexity of deposits across the site was assessed. Limited written and photographic records of all machine-excavated areas were made in accordance with best archaeological practice.

5. Archaeological Observation

The trenching revealed a soil profile comprising three contexts, the first of which was a moderately compacted, mid brown silty topsoil measuring approximately 0.30m in thickness (001). Underlying this was a pinkish-brown clayey-silt with occasional small stones measuring approximately 0.60m in thickness (002). Underlying this deposit was a yellowish-brown silt extending to the base of the trench (003).

Revealed within the western section of trenching was a dump of stones (004), these being undressed and irregular, with no evidence of having been structural, whether *in situ* or elsewhere, and no evidence of bonding.

No significant archaeological deposits, features or structures were identified during the groundworks.



Figs 2 & 3 Plan of trenching indicating extent of stone dump (004) and (below) SW facing section



Plate 1 View of the site looking SW



Plate 2 View of trenching looking W



Plate 3 E-facing trench section

6. Conclusion

The groundworks revealed no significant archaeological deposits, features or structures. A dump of undressed and irregular stones found in the western part of the site showed no evidence of having been structural.

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