



Stoney Street Industrial Estate, Madley,
Herefordshire: archaeological evaluation

Daniel Lewis
2004



archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

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Cover Photograph: Aerial photograph over Madley study area



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Summary

Archenfield Archaeology was commissioned by Entech Europe Ltd (the client) to archaeologically evaluate 400sq metres of land on the proposed site of an integrated waste treatment and recycling facility, at Madley Industrial Estate, off Stoney Street, Herefordshire.

The evaluation took place in September 2004, and the results suggest that, although archaeological remains have been demonstrated in close proximity to the site (Sherlock 2003) none were present within the areas investigated by this evaluation.

All ten trenches were excavated onto natural mixed red clay/gravel deposits to an average depth of between 80-81m OD.

1.0 Introduction

NGR SO 4180 3710

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No 38505

Entech Europe Ltd (the client) commissioned a programme of archaeological work at the site known as Madley Industrial Estate, prior to the proposed development of an integrated waste treatment and recycling facility. This followed advice by Herefordshire Archaeology that a desk based assessment, walkover survey and archaeological evaluation be carried following Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16, 1990) and be in accordance with relevant policies in the local plan.

A brief for archaeological works relating to the site was issued by Herefordshire Archaeology on 02/06/2003. This stipulated that at least 400sq metres of the area of the proposed development be examined by means of excavation and that the precise positioning of trenches should be at the discretion of the archaeological contractor.

The subsequent research, evaluation excavation and recording exercise, undertaken by Archenfield Archaeology, were conducted in accordance with the stipulations of the brief.

This report outlines the results of this project.

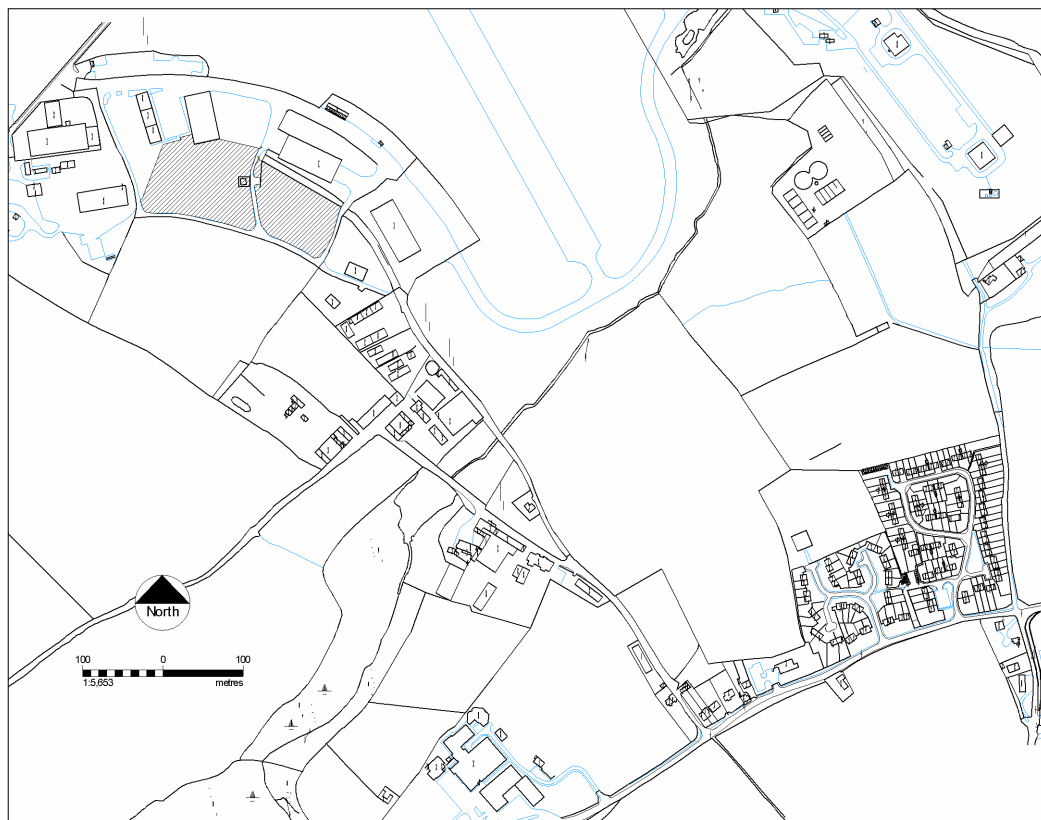
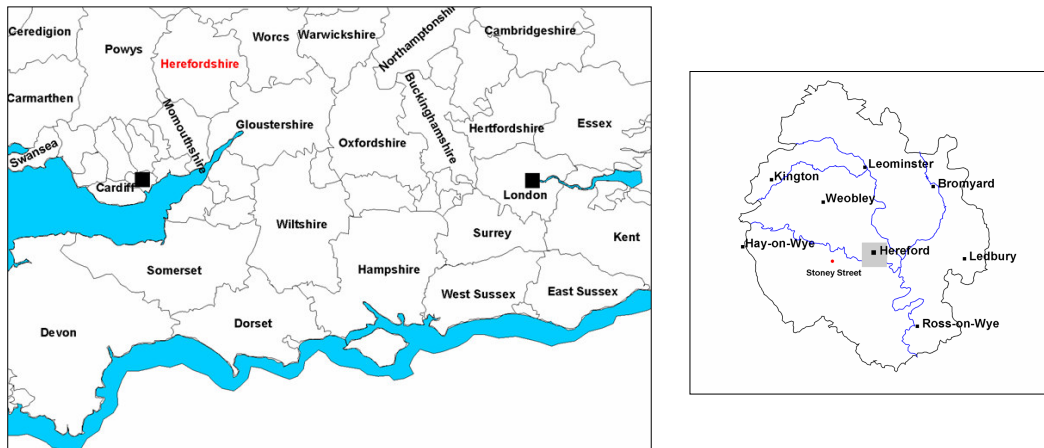


Figure 1: Location plan (OS Superplan data reproduced under license drawing ref. No's 27120218/27120226)

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

The solid geology of the area consists of beds of the Old Red Sandstone (including Downtonian) with drifts of glacial sand and gravels lying over this (British Geological Survey data). The site is currently occupied by industrial buildings, hard standing and open grassland.

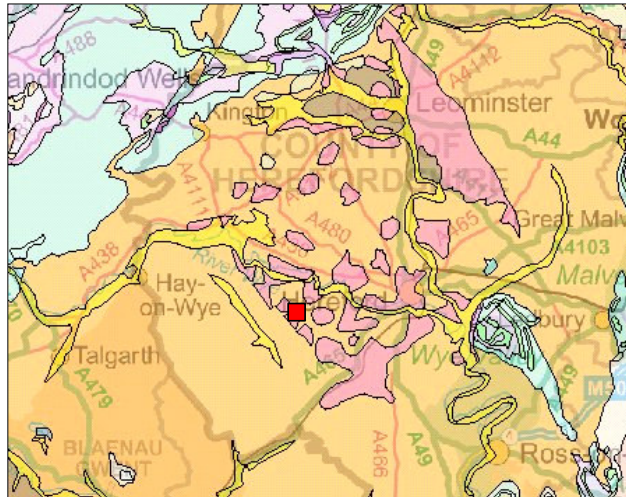


Figure 2: Geological base map; Solid geology and drift

2.2 Historical background

The site lies beside the Roman Road known as Stoney Street which connected Chester (Deva) with Caerleon (Isca) passing through two towns which lie within the present county of Herefordshire – Leintwardine (Branogenium) and Kenchester (Magnis).

With the collapse of Roman central government an area centred on southern Herefordshire emerged as the British kingdom of Ergyng, named from Ariconium, the Roman industrial town at Weston-under-Penyard, to the east of Ross-on-Wye (Coplestone-Crow, 1989, p2). Ergyng was once much more extensive than modern Archenfield. Ergyng would become known to the English as Archenfield.

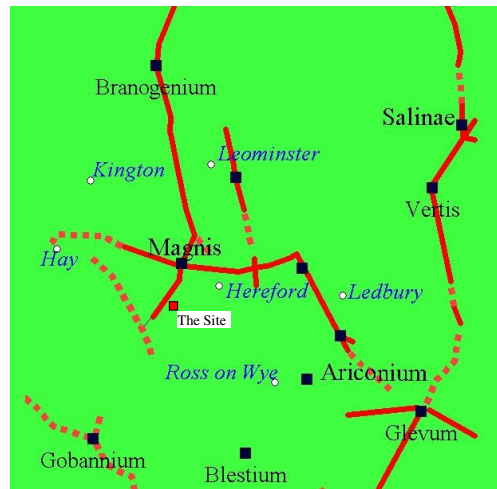


Figure 3: Principal Roman roads and towns in the area

Ergyng was the cradle of one of the several British bishoprics which ultimately formed the diocese of Llandaff. The recorded origins of the bishopric of Ergyng lie with the activities of St Dyfrig, or Dubricius who, according to legend, was born at Madley. The Welsh name for Madley was Lann Ebrdil – the Church of Ebrdil who was supposed to have been the mother of Dyfrig.

King Erb of Gwent and Ergyng granted land to the church in about 555 AD (LL, p76).¹ His son Peibio was 'King of Ergyng'. Peibio was followed by Cinuin and Gwyddgi, who were followed in turn by Gwrgan. Gwrgan is the last person recorded as King of Ergyng, and probably died in about 645 (Davies, W, 1982, p75). Gwrgan's daughter, Onbraust, married Meurig of Glywysing/Gwent, and Athrwys was their son, unifying both kingdoms.

Mercian expansion in the early 8th century led to conflict with Glywysing/Gwent and in 722 the British won a victory over the English at *Pencon*. The victor would have been King Ithel ap Morgan, and the temporary result would have been the continuation of the rule of Glywysing in Ergyng. The existence of a separate Ergyng polity of at least some sort in this period is suggested by a grant of land to the church by one Rhiadaf in about this time. Rhiadaf purchased the land for this purpose and granted in the presence of Ithel and the elders of Ergyng - *presentia iuthaili regis et nobilium seniosum ercyng*. The price may have included booty for it consisted of 24 items (possibly cattle), and 'a Saxon woman, a precious sword and valuable horse' (*saxonica muliere et gladio pretioso et equo ualente*) (LL, p185).

¹ *Cil Hal* - Pencoyd in South Herefordshire.

However, the initiative passed to the Mercians by 743 (ASC) when Cuthred of Wessex joined the Mercian king, Æthelbald, in laying waste the border lands.

Ithel had regained control of at least the greater part of Eryng in 745, and returned 11 churches there to Bishop Berthwyn of Eryng after the Saxon devastation (Davies, W, 1979, p113). The grant returning these churches is recorded in the Book of Llandaff (*LL*, p185). It records the destruction of the border towards Hereford by the 'most treacherous Saxon race' (*saxonica gente infidelissima*).

The territory regained in 745 included the district later known as Mawfield, which lay on the right bank of the Wye upstream of Hereford. This area, *Campo Malocho*, the Latin form of the Welsh *Mais Mail Lochou* (Coplestone-Crow, 1989), includes Eaton Bishop, Madley, Moccas and Kingstone. Mais Mail Lochou seems to have the meaning *field of the servant of Lochou*. Lochou may be identified with Llacheu, who although in legend is the son of Arthur, may originally have been a deity (Rhys, 1895, p24). Mawfield also has the name Insulam Ebrdil in early sources (Coplestone-Crow) and is identified as the patrimony of St Dyfrig. Mawfield was probably only finally lost by Glywyssing in the later 9th century when the Mercians overran an area extending from Mochros to the Dore to the Worm to the Tarader (*Liber Landavensis*, p134). By Domesday, unlike *Arcenefelde*, this area was totally anglicised.

The Domesday entry for Webton reads:

'Webton. Berton holds from him. 1/2 hide. ... 1 plough there. The value is and was 15s. Gerald and Berner hold from him. Edwyn held it. 2 1/2 hides. 7 smallholders with 3 ploughs. Value now 10s' (Thorn & Thorn, 1983).

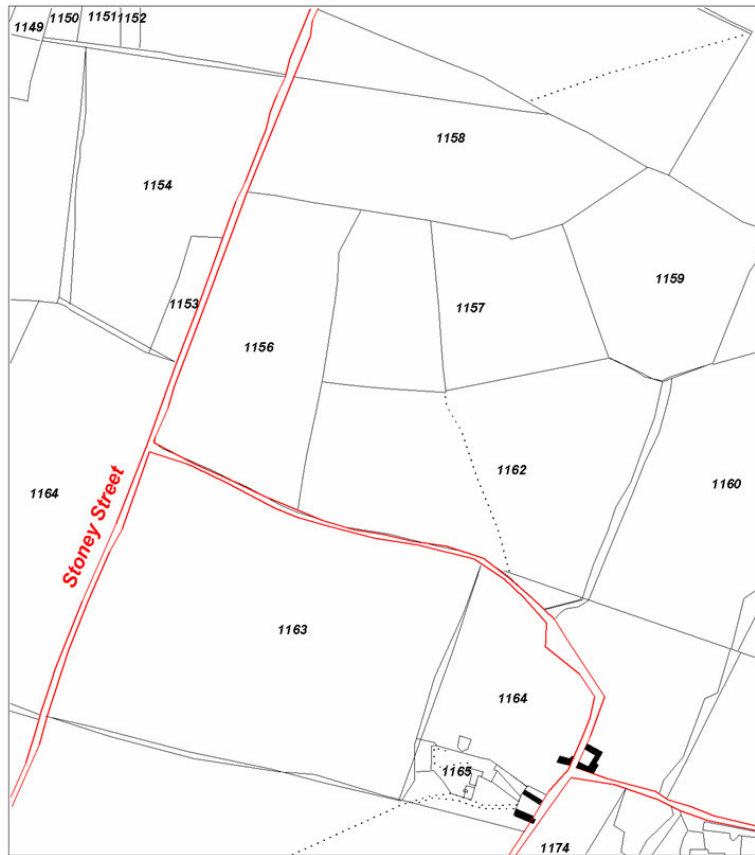


Figure 4: The 1840 tithe map showing the line of Stoney Street (running South West- North East) and Webton (at the bottom right)

In 1840 the fields (**1162** on the plan see figure 4 above), which the site occupies, are recorded in the Tithes Apportionments for Madley Parish as being part of Webton. At this date they belong to Dickinson Newson Esquire and the tenant is Jonathan Davies. By 1876 the tenant of Webton is listed as William Davies in Littlebury's Directory of Herefordshire for that year.

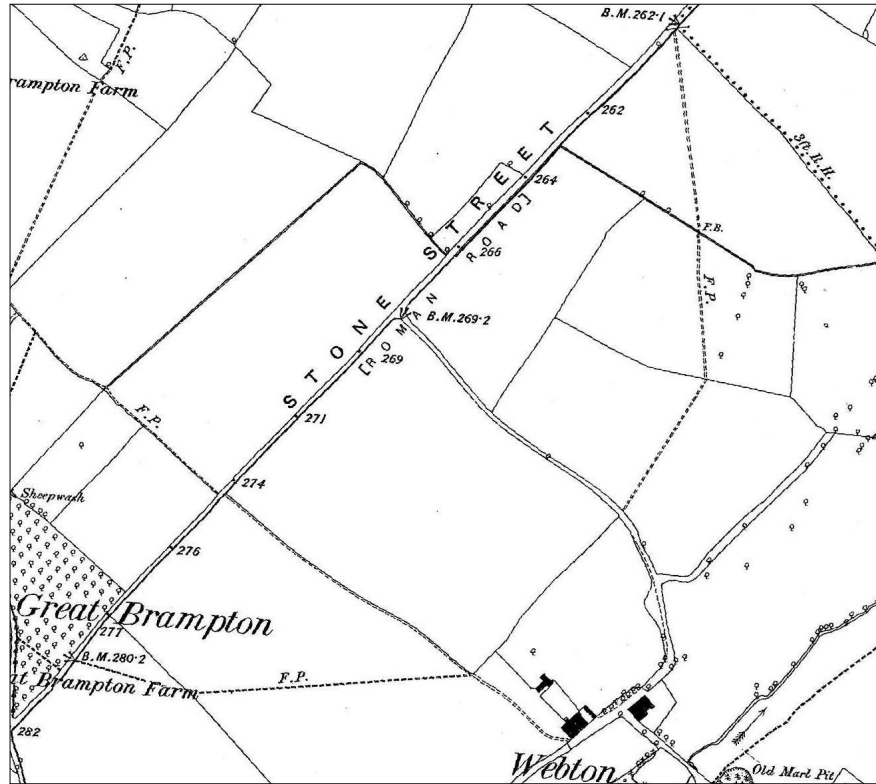


Figure 5: Extract from the 1st edition 1887 Ordnance Survey map

The 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st edition map shows that the pattern of field boundaries on and around the site has remained largely unchanged. A footpath linking Great Brampton Farm with Webton and then following the lane linking Webton to Stoney Street before turning north-west to run across the site to rejoin Stoney Street just south of Street House Farm is marked.

The site remained in use as mixed arable/pasture land until the mid 20th century (1941) when the site was acquired by the Ministry of Defence. RAF Madley and the associated 'dispersed' sites were used as a training base for aircrew, radar operators and other personnel. After the end of the war many of the buildings were reclaimed but some of the hangars and other ancillary buildings were reused. In the later 20th century the site has been used as a mixed use light industrial business park.

2.3 Archaeological background

Archaeologists from Archenfield Archaeology monitored the excavation by machine of twelve trial pits on 5th August 2003. The trial pits were an average of 4m long by 1.5m wide and were excavated to an average depth of 1.8m, with several excavated to below 2.3m. The stratigraphy shown in the section of these trenches was largely similar in nature and consisted of 0.20-0.35m of topsoil, frequently containing a mixture of modern rubble, lying over pale brown silty clay subsoil mixed with pebbles. This overlay the natural mid red clay mixed with gravel. This tended to become progressively more gravelly towards the bottom of the trenches. Several of the trenches revealed the concrete bases of the military buildings that previously occupied the site. A single flint flake was found in one trench, in the north eastern corner of the site. No other archaeological finds or features were revealed during the watching brief.

The walkover survey confirmed that the majority of the site is covered by flat open scrubby grassland. Industrial buildings, including a former aircraft hangar, occupy the rest of the site. These have areas of hard standing around them, consisting of layers of hardcore and access roads. The site is bounded by the concrete surfaced peritrack associated with the World War Two airfield. A buried concrete water tank occupies the central portion of the area.

A full search was made of the known archaeological and historical data held by the Herefordshire SMR, the NMR and the County Records Office. The data retrieved has been incorporated into a table (Sherlock, 2003). The major archaeological sites close to the site are shown in figure 4.

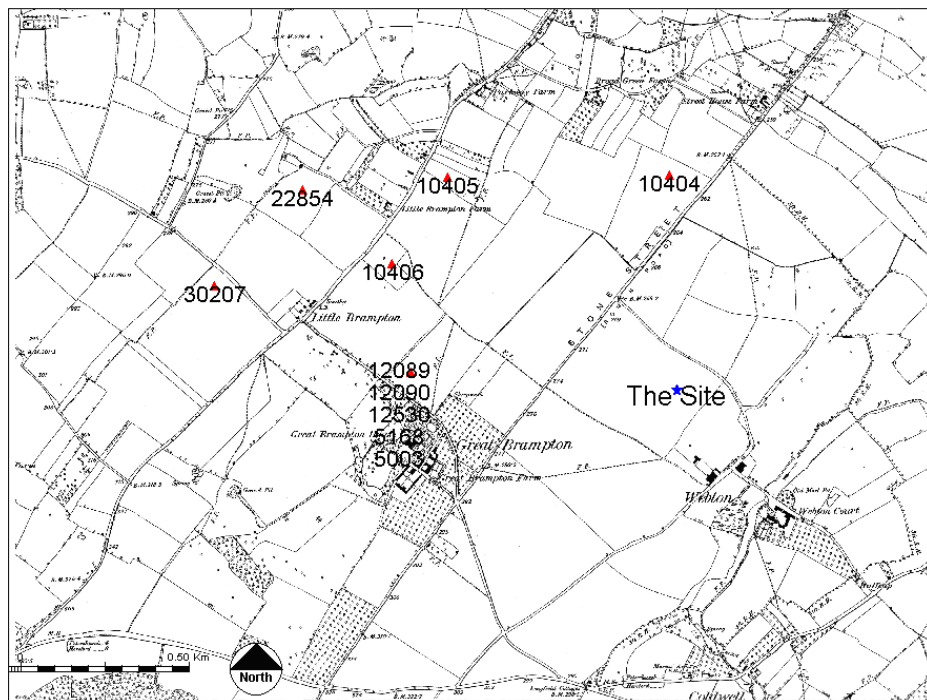


Figure 6: Archaeological sites identified from aerial photographs and key sites recorded in the Herefordshire Sites & Monuments Record overlaid onto the 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map

Prehistoric sites

An important Bronze Age hoard was discovered during the ploughing of a field for potatoes in the area of the site in 1982 (**SMR 5003**). Due to the sensitivity of this type of find the SMR data gives only a 4-figure grid reference for this site (SO 41 37). It has been interpreted as being a makers hoard, consisting of at least 6 looped palstaves & 3 socketed & looped axes. This was a very rare occurrence and a very significant assemblage of artefacts that are evidence for a sophisticated culture capable of manufacturing, or trading objects of high status and value.

An Iron Age coin was found in 1981 (**SMR 12090**) near Stone Street. It was identified as being a Dobunnic stater (Shoemith 1981). This was a rare example of the discovery of Iron Age coinage in Herefordshire.

An enclosure identified from aerial photographs (**SMR 10404**; SO 418 375) lies immediately to the north west of the site. This is a rectangular enclosure consisting of double ditches that lies within an outer ditch. It has not been archaeologically investigated by excavation, but its morphology is similar to many enclosure sites in the region. These are usually interpreted as dating from the Iron Age or Romano British periods.

Two small circular anomalies have been identified from aerial photography close to the western extent of the airfield and north-east and east of Little Brampton Farm (**SMR 10405/10406** SO 410 372). These have been interpreted as being ring ditches of an undated period.

Roman sites

In the field immediately to the south-west of Little Brampton Farm a rectangular sided enclosure has been identified from aerial photography (**SMR 30207**). This is a square feature with some evidence of internal division. It has been interpreted (Musson 1996) as being a possible marching camp or a villa site with an enclosure of the Roman period.

To the north of Little Brampton an almost entirely square enclosure with an entrance and a possible pit within the interior is evident in a series of aerial photographs (**SMR 22854**, SO 406 375). The sides of the enclosure are circa 150 metres long. Further linear features exist in the surrounding fields and these may be associated with the feature. This has been interpreted (Dinn, J. 1985) as an enclosure of Roman date.

The site is bordered to the west by the line of Stony Street, the Roman road linking the settlements of Chester (Deva) with Caerleon (Isca) (see figure 3). Two Roman lamps and an urn are recorded as having been found near Stony Street (**SMR 5168** SO 4100 3700).

Medieval sites

Webton, to the south-east of the site is recorded as a settlement at Domesday (see 5.2 above). Some evidence of the agricultural and settlement activity associated with this site may therefore still exist close to or on the site itself.

Post Medieval sites

The site of two houses and gardens are recorded to the north of Coldwell, Kingstone in the 1842 Kingstone tithe award (**SMR 18713**, SO 4192 3608).

The site of a post medieval brickworks (**SMR 32350** SO 4053 3625) is recorded on the 1840 tithe map at Brick Clamp Piece, 300 metres to the South West of Great Brampton. A pool in the field possibly represents the clay pit for this.

Great Brampton House (still extant) is recorded as being an C18th house (**SMR 25992** SO 4096 3679).

Twentieth century military sites

Madley Airfield (**SMR 12530** SO 4100 3700) and the various elements of the RAF Madley Dispersed Camp (**SMR 25166** SO 4052 3725; **25167** SO 4063 3715; **25169** SO 4100 3607; **25172** SO 4135 3612; **25177** SO 4099 3649; **25178** SO 4070 3608; **25179** SO 4053 3617) were built around 1940 – 1941. The airfield became operational in 1941 as an aircrew and ground wireless operators training station. The runways were reinforced with 'Sommerfeld Tracking' (a technique which used pre formed concrete slabs linked together with tarmac laid on top) in 1943, when the need to allow heavy aircraft to take off and land became paramount.

The airfield ancillary buildings consisted of 3 Hinaidi-type hangars, 2 Callender-Hamilton hangars (still in existence) and 13 blisters. The living and mess sites were widely dispersed (see figures 7 & 8). The airfield was visited by General George S Patton jnr. in (1944) and Rudolph Hess (1946), the latter on his way to Nuremburg trials. Most of the Nissan type huts were salvaged and sold immediately after the war, but the concrete bases on which they were built and the outer peritrack are still extant.

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- to monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.
- to make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- to make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed. To record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- to make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.
- to ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- to ensure that the location and of the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.
- to record negative evidence and to consider its implications.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- Ten trenches were dug by means of a JCB digger using a 1.6m wide smooth bucket. Ten trenches were placed around the site in order to spatially cover all areas of future groundwork.
- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.
- Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.
- The presences of artefacts were recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location.
- All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log.
- Staff carrying out the evaluation excavation followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy
- Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

- All retained artefacts and ecofacts were cleaned, conserved and catalogued.
- All data were entered into a Microsoft ©Access relational database.

5.0 Results

5.1 Stratigraphy

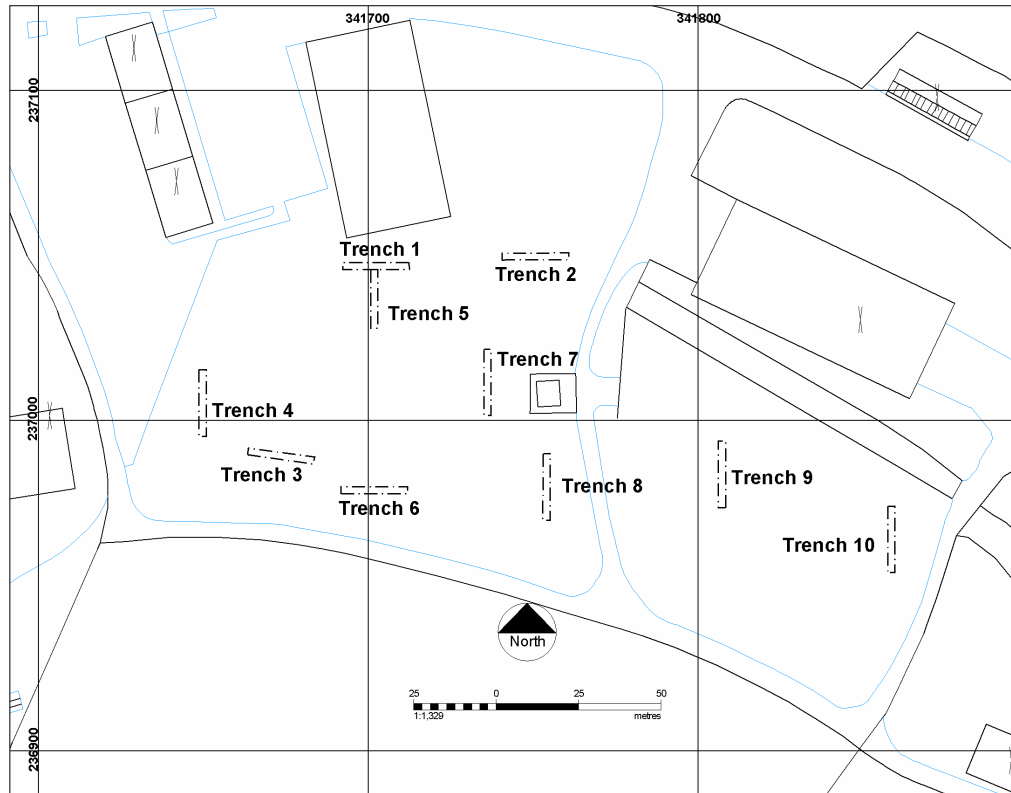


Figure 7: Location plan of the evaluation trenches and the layout of the proposed buildings

Ten trenches were excavated measuring 20 metres by 2 m, with a total area of 400sq m stripped for evaluation. All of the trenches were excavated down to natural mixed pinkish-red clay/gravel deposits (3) through layers of topsoil (1) and subsoil (2).

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located north of the proposed waste facility building and south of the present site building/office used by Entect Europe Ltd. The trench measured 20m by 2m, orientated east-west, and excavated onto natural deposits, to a depth of 0.50m (80.15m OD) in the east and 0.40 m (80.42m OD) in the west.

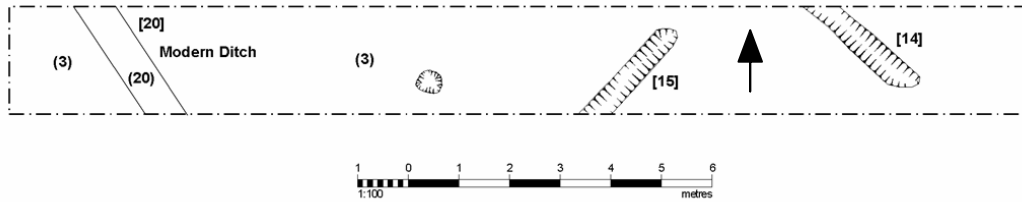
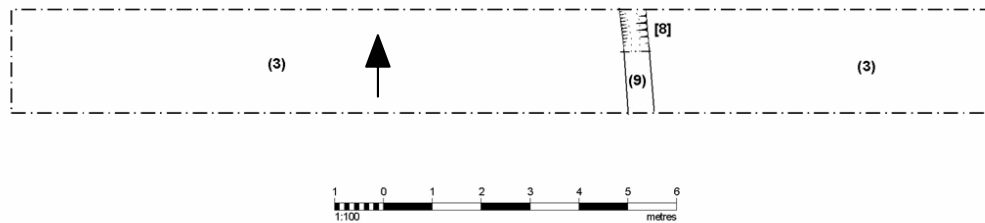


Figure 8: Plan of trench 1

A service trench [20] orientated north-west/south-east was located in the west of trench 1 and was filled with a clean pea-gravel. Two possible ditches [15] and [14] orientated north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east, were cut through layer 3 and filled by layers 17 and 16.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located north of the proposed waste facility building and south-east of the site building/office used by Entech Europe Ltd. The trench measured 20m by 2m, was orientated east-west, and excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.50m (80.92m OD) in the east, and 0.60m (80.87m OD) in the west.



A shallow ditch [8] orientated east-west, cut the natural red clay/gravel (3). The ditch was filled by a single fill (9) and covered by the subsoil (2).

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located inside the south-east corner of the proposed waste facility building. The trench measured 20m by 2m, was orientated north-west south-east, and excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.30m (81.24m OD) in the east, and 0.40m (81.21m OD) in the west.

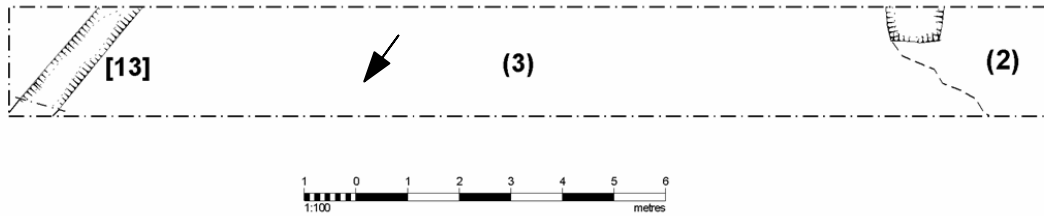


Figure 9: Plan of trench 3

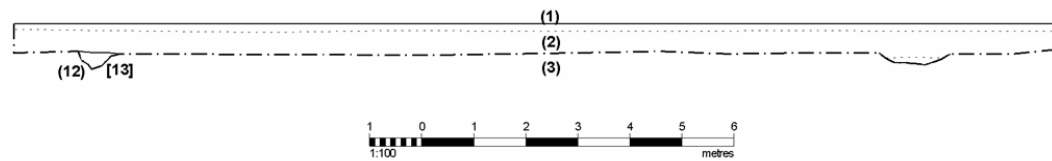


Figure 10: North facing section of trench 3

A possible linear ditch (13) cut layer 3 in the west of the trench. The ditch was orientated north-east/south-west and was filled by a single context (12) that consisted of a pale yellow/brown silty-clay that was dry and compact, with 3 flecks of charcoal and occasional small stones. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.65m (80.85m OD).



Plate 1: Cross section through ditch 13

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located inside the footprint of the proposed waste facility building, at the far west of the site. The trench measured 20m by 2m, was orientated roughly north-south, and excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.30m (81.63m OD) in the north, and 0.40m (81.61m OD) in the south.

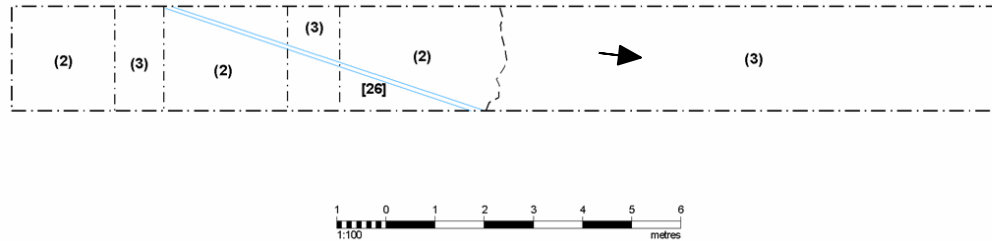


Figure 11: Plan of trench 4

Two sondages were excavated within the trench through layer 2, to a depth of 0.60m. They were excavated onto natural deposits (3) at a depth of 81.17m-81.38m OD.



Plate 2: Service pipe in trench 4

The trench contained a modern water pipe [26] orientated north-east/south-west, but no significant archaeological features.



Plate 3: Looking south across the site



Plate 4: Looking south-west across the site.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located immediately south of trench 1 and measured 18m by 2m. The trench was orientated north-south, and was excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.60m (80.96m OD) in the north, and 0.70m (81.14m OD) in the south.

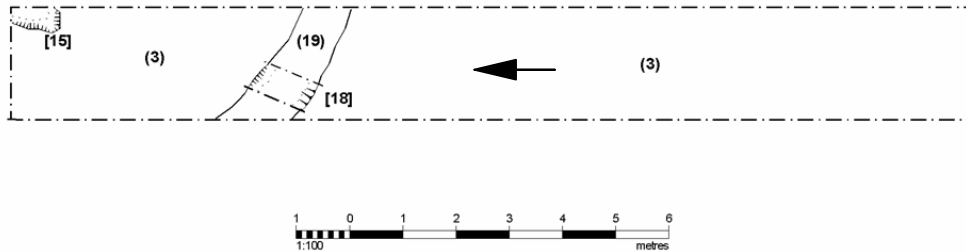


Figure 12: Plan of trench 5

A shallow ditch orientated south-east/north-west cut the natural deposits (3) and had a single fill (19) of very compact, medium red-brown, silt-clay containing frequent patches and bands of rounded, mostly mixed sandstone gravel with stone up to 200 mm in length.

Feature 15 is the possible terminus of a shallow ditch that cut layer 3, and continues north-east across trench 1.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located inside the footprint of the proposed waste facility building and measured 18m by 2m. The trench was orientated north-south and excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.50m (80.99m OD) in the east, and 0.60m (80.95m OD) in the west.

No significant archaeological deposits were observed in the trench.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was located within the footprint of the proposed waste facility building. The trench measured 18m by 2m, was orientated north-south, and excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.70m (80.57m OD) in the north and 0.65m (80.75m OD) in the south.

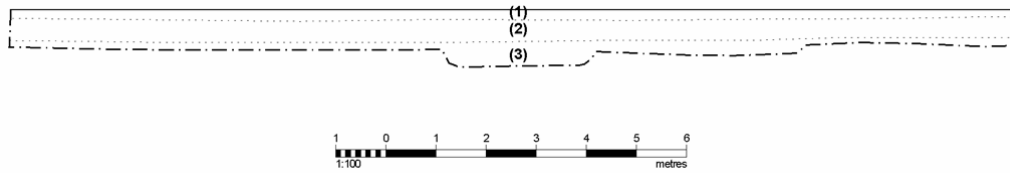


Figure 13: Section cut onto natural red clay/gravel deposits (3)



Plate 5: Natural red clay/gravel (3) in trench 7

The deepest section of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.10m (80.45m OD) to clearly establish layer 3 as the natural deposit.

No significant archaeological deposits were observed in the trench.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located within the footprint of the proposed waste facility building and measured 18m by 2m. The trench was orientated north-south, and was excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.90m (80.45m OD) in the north, and 0.30m (80.89m OD) in the south.

No significant archaeological deposits were observed in the trench.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was located east of the footprint of the proposed waste facility building, and measured 18m by 2m. The trench was orientated north-south, and excavated onto natural deposits, to a depth of 0.60m (80.59m OD) in the south, and 0.40m (80.62m OD) in the north.

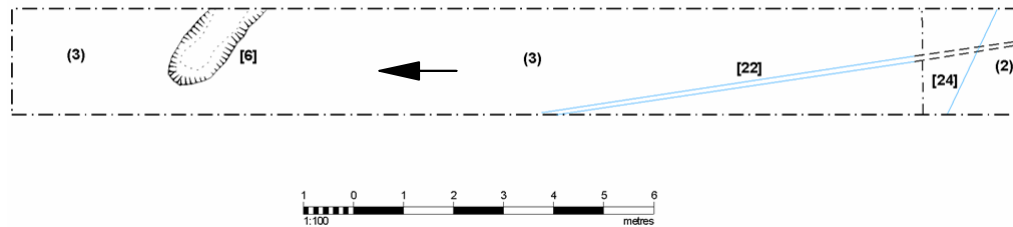


Figure 14: Plan of trench 9

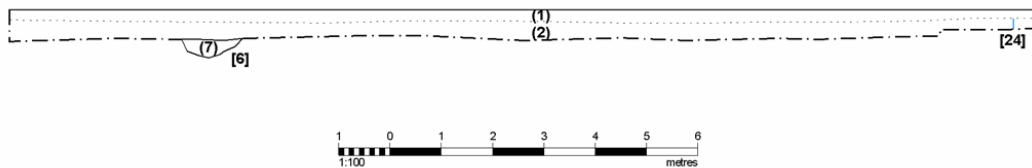


Figure 15: Section of trench 9

A feature [6] orientated south-east/north-west cut the natural deposits (3) and was filled a single fill (7). The feature was undefined and irregular, and possibly the result of animal disturbance.

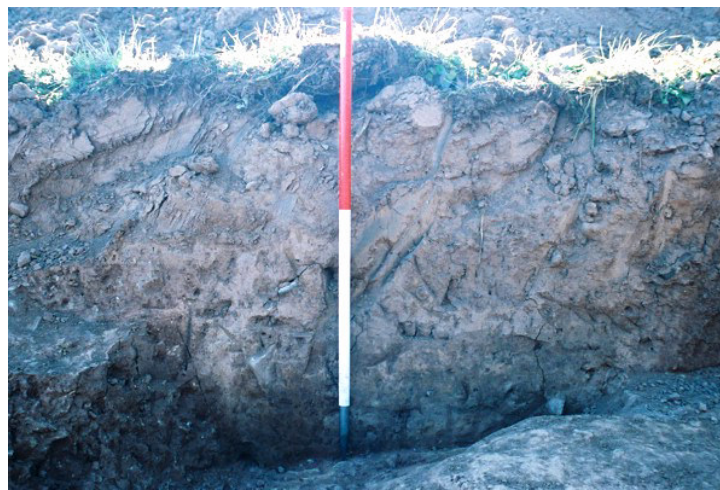


Plate 6: The east section of ditch 6

Trench 10

Trench 10 was located at the east end of the site, and measured 20m by 2m. The trench was orientated north-south, and excavated onto natural deposits to a depth of 0.50m (80.76m OD) in the north, and 0.50m (80.87m OD) in the south.

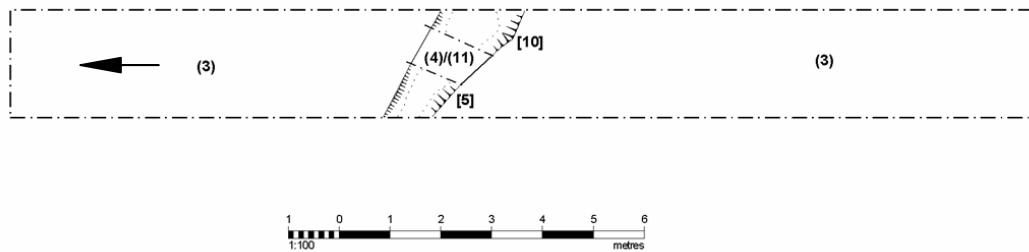


Figure 16: Plan of trench 10

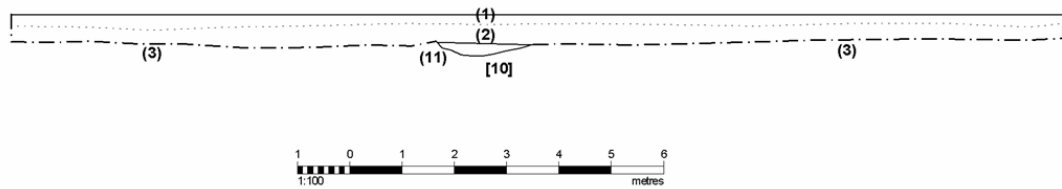


Figure 17: The east section of trench 10

A possible ditch, orientated south-east/north-west, crossed the centre of the trench. Two sections were cut through the ditch [5] and [11]. The ditch was approximately 0.30m (80.52m OD) deep and filled by a compact, mid red-brown fine clay silt with occasional small, rounded pebble inclusions (4)/ (11).



Plate 7: The east section through the ditch (10)

5.2 The finds

The finds from the evaluation included a small prehistoric flint borer (SF 1) with possible retouch on the point. The borer was found during the removal of soil from trench 3 and was unrelated to any archaeological feature. One other possible worked flint was recovered (SF 3).

During the trial pit excavations (5th August 2003) a possible worked flint was recovered from the north-east of the site. Although flint is not formed in the geology of Herefordshire, it can be found as small stones/pebbles within the glacial deposits.

The pottery from the site totalled 14 sherds weighing a combined total of 62gms, and consisted of mainly unstratified 17th-19th wares recovered from the topsoil. A clay pipe stem, broken at the point of contact with the bowl, was also recovered.

A Cu Alloy clip, possibly from some kind of broach/clip was recovered from the topsoil.

Degraded pottery (5 sherds) possibly of a medieval fabric, were recorded from the interface of layer 2 and the top fill (11) of a shallow linear ditch (10) within trench 10.

The finds from the site will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology.

6.0 Conclusions

Documentary research (Sherlock, 2003) has shown that the landscape around the site of Madley Industrial Estate is fairly rich in possible Prehistoric and Romano British sites, and the Roman road of Stoney Street runs just east of the modern entrance to the site.

Recent and ongoing excavations along the line of the Roman road that runs north of Hereford, from Aricenium to Magnis have revealed scattered industrial sites along its route, and it is probable that such sites are undiscovered along the line of Stoney Street.

The area investigated by this evaluation however, found no archaeological features relating to the road, or any other visible monuments in the landscape. Shallow irregular ditches were recorded but are unconvincing as archaeological features. They are possible the remains of features largely destroyed by the grading of the site prior to the construction of the airbase, or shallow depressions within the natural gravel that have filled with subsoil. The lack of finds and any other evidence of contamination within the fills, suggest that this is more likely.

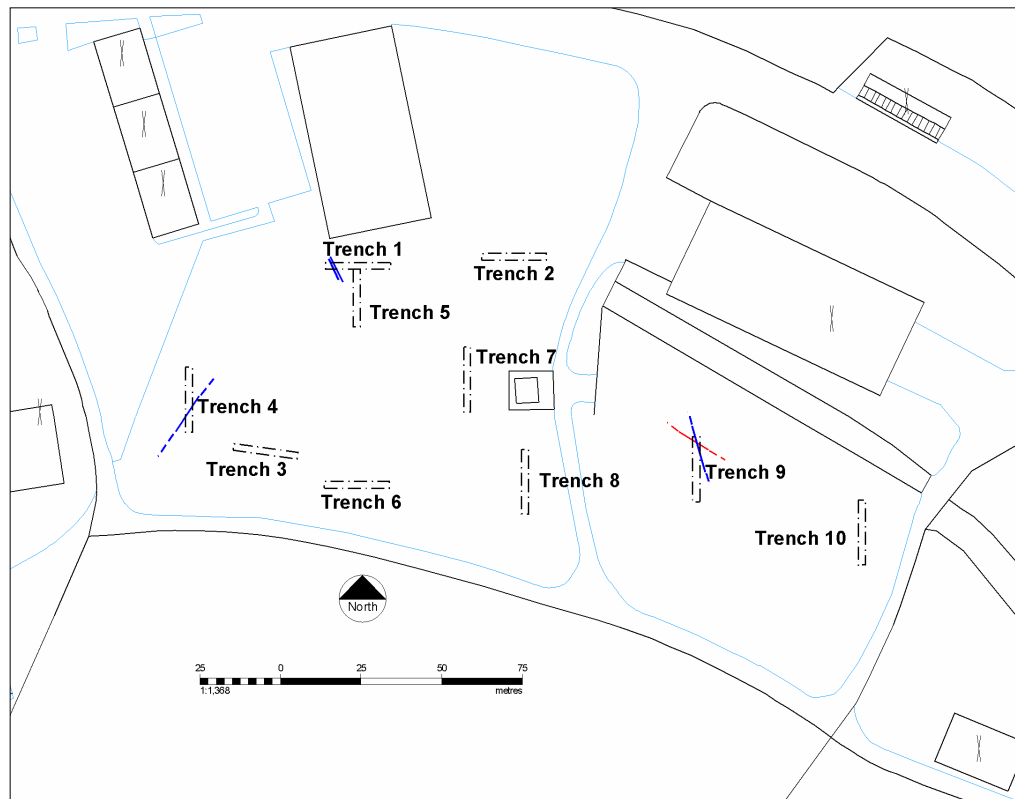


Figure 18: The projection of services in trenches 1, 4, and 9

Service trenches were located in trenches 1, 4, and 5, which possibly relate to the working days of the airbase. Some of these services may still be live.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with the Hereford City Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD will accompany the primary archive.

8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Woolhope Field Naturalists Club.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

The complete photographic record, including the negatives, will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology.

General bibliography

Sherlock, H, 2003

Stony Street Industrial Estate, Madley. A Desk Based Assessment, An Unpublished report by Archenfield Archaeology

Cartographic material

British Geological Survey, 1979

Geological survey 10 mile map, south sheet, 3rd edition (solid) 1979 1:625000

Ordnance Survey, 1887

1st edition 1:2500 plan. County series, Herefordshire sheet

Ordnance Survey, 2000

Superplan data Ref No's 27120218/27120226

Tithe Commissioners, 1838

Madley Parish Tithe Map

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