

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE REPORT:
POULTRY FARM, LONG LANE, THROCKMORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE**

Planning Reference: W/12/0176
NGR: SO 9757 5025
AAL Site Code: THLL 12
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Report prepared for E.C. Drummond Ltd

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Allenarchaeology



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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by E.C. Drummond Limited to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record in advance of the erection of new poultry sheds on land off Long Lane, Throckmorton in Worcestershire.
- The works were located to the south of existing poultry sheds in the northern part of RAF Pershore airfield, and the areas of investigation consisted of a rectangular area approximately 1.14 hectares in size and a smaller balancing pond to the north, both of which were stripped to natural, with archaeological features mapped and sample excavated.
- The earliest features identified were a series of truncated roughly east – west and north – south aligned late Iron Age to Roman ditches, probably delineating part of a field system. A partial ring ditch was also present, adjacent to these ditches, and may represent a truncated roundhouse or a small enclosure within the field system.
- A single ditch, dating from the early 2nd to 4th century AD, was aligned northeast to southwest across the site and truncated the earlier field system, perhaps suggesting a period of abandonment and then re-establishment of field boundaries on a different pattern. No relating ditches were identified from this period; however, they may be located beyond the limit of excavation.
- The next phase of land use was represented by a single ditch containing a sherd of 11th to 14th century pottery, which again truncated a late Iron Age to Roman ditch on a slightly different alignment. The possibility remains that the single medieval sherd is intrusive in an earlier feature.
- It was noted that most of the features were shallow and that there are large areas of the site where the underlying natural has been disturbed by intrusive landscaping for the construction of the former airfield, which has almost certainly truncated all of the archaeology present. It is likely that evidence for less robust features, such as postholes and shallow ring ditches, will have been removed prior to the strip, map and sample and that only the very bases of deeper cut features, typically field boundary ditches have survived.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by E.C. Drummond Limited to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample on land off Long Lane, Throckmorton in Worcestershire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national and local guidelines, as set out in the Worcestershire County Council document '*Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire*' (WCC 2010), the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological excavations* (IfA 1995, revised 2001 and 2008) and English Heritage '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (2006) and '*Management of Archaeological Projects*' (English Heritage 1991) as well as a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed.
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to the County Museum at Hartlebury Castle within twelve months of the completion of the project and will be stored under the Museum Accession Code WSM 45485.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The village of Throckmorton is situated in the administrative district of Wychavon District Council, approximately 14km east-southeast of central Worcester. The proposed development area is located c.750m to the northwest of the village, to the north of Long Lane and south of the existing poultry sheds, in the northern part of the former RAF Pershore airfield. The site centres on NGR SO 9757 5025.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area comprises undifferentiated mudstones of the Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formations with no superficial geology recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted for '*the construction of four poultry units*' at The Poultry Farm, Long Lane, Throckmorton (Reference W/12/0176). Planning permission was granted in July 2012 subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, to fully characterise the nature and extent of the surviving archaeological resource during the development.
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), which superseded PPS 5 in March 2012.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (hereafter WHER) was undertaken prior to producing this report along with searches of the Heritage Gateway website and other published material.
- 4.2 In 2001, salvage excavations and geophysical survey were undertaken on the airfield in advance of the excavation of burial pits for cattle slaughtered as a result of the foot and mouth outbreak. The works were located in the southern part of the airfield, approximately 1km to the south of the current site. Fieldwork identified significant archaeological evidence ranging in date from possible early Iron Age activity, to middle Iron Age enclosures and roundhouses, and subsequently an eastwards shift of the settlement focus to an area that exposed several phases of late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement and agriculture. This site appears to have been abandoned in the mid 4th century AD (GSB 2001a, 2001b, 2001c, Griffin et.al. 2005).
- 4.3 The village of Throckmorton does not appear in the Domesday Book of 1086. However, the settlement is mentioned as having three 'mansae' in a charter dating from approximately 1020 and as belonging to Wulfstan, Archbishop of Worcester and York and therefore it is likely it would have existed at the time of the Conquest. Throckmorton is a name of Old English origin, meaning 'farm/settlement by a pond with a drain' (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/search>). The development area is peripheral to the medieval settlement of Throckmorton, which is centred on the 14th century parish church c.280m to the southeast (WHER Reference WSM01294). Directly northeast of the church lies the remains of a well-preserved medieval manorial moated enclosure, alongside associated settlement and cultivation remains (SAM 1016938). The settlement is believed to have shrunk through the medieval period before renewed growth in the village core in the post-medieval era. The oldest surviving building in the village is Throckmorton Court, a timber-framed manor house with surviving hall and solar, built around 1500, and a timber-framed barn of the same date, which incorporates re-used timbers (Monument 117960).
- 4.4 Feckenham Forest once extended near to the development site and its boundary in the 13th century has been identified by cartographic research (WHER Reference WSM42160). Feckenham was a royal forest established by at least the 11th century and considerably extended under King Henry II.
- 4.5 The agricultural nature of the landscape in the medieval period is attested by the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks in several locations to the north, south and southeast of the site (WHER References 02386, 08207, 30800, 42245), although earthworks and finds scatters extending to the south of the village indicate the former extent of the settlement in an area broadly located c.300m to 500m southeast of the current site (WHER References WSM03073, 04593, 04594).
- 4.6 A late 17th century thatched cottage 'College House' was suggested in the 1970s as being under threat and requiring monitoring (RCHME). This would have been c.500m east of the development site; however, recent mapping suggests it has now been destroyed. A further post-medieval building lying east of the church was demolished in 1940, leaving the remains of its platform next to at least two other remnant platforms likely to be of similar antiquity. Other platforms have been identified through the village along with a cottage and smithy just outside the village which were also demolished in 1940 (Heritage Gateway entry for SAM 1016938).

- 4.7 In the 18th century some of the wasteland around the shrunken village was settled by squatters. Former common land was also enclosed in this period and probably put to cultivation (J.W. Willis-Bund, W. Page (editors) 1913).
- 4.8 Historic mapping from the later 18th century through to the early 20th century shows the site as agricultural land on the outskirts of Throckmorton, although it was developed as an airfield prior to World War Two (WHER Reference WSM12352). The site was first used as a flying school from 1934, and was requisitioned by the RAF in 1940, becoming known as RAF Pershore. It is at this time that many of the post-medieval buildings in the village appear to have been demolished. During 1941 there were also three high explosive bombs dropped on the village. The site remained under RAF control after the war, serving as a radar testing base until its closure in 1978 (<http://www.controltowers.co.uk/P/Pershore.htm>).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Removal of overburden and topsoil was undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machine excavation continued until geological deposits (natural) were exposed or archaeological deposits or features were encountered. Fieldwork was undertaken between the 22nd October and 7th November 2012.
- 5.2 All archaeological deposits and features were investigated by hand, with excavation being undertaken by an experienced archaeological field team. Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2. Within this report context numbers shown in square brackets represent cut features (e.g. posthole [01]), contexts without bracket represent deposits.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets and archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scales 1:10 and 1:20). Planning was undertaken using a Leica GS08 GPS unit receiving RTK corrections, supplemented by hand drawn detailed plans where appropriate. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.4 Where extensive linear features such as ditches were encountered, several slots were excavated through the feature and the segment of the feature in each slot was given a unique context number. An additional group context number was also issued to denote the entire feature itself rather than the individual segments. For clarity group numbers have been commonly used in the text when discussing linear features, with individual segments only discussed where appropriate.

6.0 Results (Figures 3 – 6)

6.1 Geological deposits

6.1.1 The earliest deposits present were natural clays with mixed mudstone and flint gravel, 03, 04 and 06. These deposits correspond with data from the British Geological Survey which indicated mudstones of Blue Lias and Charmouth formations were to be expected.

6.2 Phase 1: Late Iron Age to Roman (Figures 3 - 6, Plates 2 and 3)

6.2.1 This phase of activity is marked by the setting out of north – south aligned ditch [10] and east – west aligned ditches [12] and [14] marking the remnants of open field systems or enclosures. All three ditches were wide shallow features at between 0.15m and 0.31m deep, and between 1m and 1.5m wide, suggesting a high level of truncation has occurred, leaving only the bases of the ditches intact. Truncation appears to be more pronounced towards the west of the site, with ditches being removed entirely rather than having clearly defined termini.

6.2.2 The ditches were all filled with similar natural silting deposits of dark grey or grey brown clays and contained small quantities of locally made Severn Valley Ware pottery of a broad Late Iron Age to Roman date. Other finds included a single fragment of tegula, as well as fragments of animal bone indicating some limited domestic waste disposal.

6.2.3 Environmental evidence from this phase was restricted to low densities of charred and abraded cereal grains (including wheat), charcoal and wood. Low levels of small mammal and amphibian bones and both terrestrial and marsh molluscs were present, although these may be the result of modern contamination.

6.3 Phase 2: 2nd-4th century AD (Figures 3 – 6, Plate 5)

6.3.1 A single ditch [11] aligned northeast to southwest extended from the eastern site boundary, cutting ditch [12]. Ditch [11] measured 13m long by 1.9 – 2.9m wide and 0.41m deep with a concave profile. This is one of the deepest cut features on site and contained a single sherd of 2nd century AD or later Black Burnished Ware among a small group of Severn Valley coarseware sherds. Ditch [11] was truncated by a large area of modern disturbed ground 09 to the south, which obscures the terminus of the feature as it does not extend beyond this area.

6.3.2 Environmental evidence from this phase includes low densities of charred and abraded wheat grains, charcoal and wood fragments. As with Phase 1, low quantities of small mammal and amphibian bones and both terrestrial and marsh molluscs were present.

6.4 Phase 3: 11 – 14th century (Figures 3 – 5, Plate 6)

6.4.1 Ditch [13] was aligned approximately east – west and lies roughly parallel with Phase 1 ditch [12]. This ditch measures 0.7m – 1.4m wide and extends from the eastern side of the site for approximately 45m before being truncated to the west. The alignment of the feature would suggest it is contemporary with Phase 1; however, this ditch contained no Roman artefacts and is dated by a single sherd of 11 – 14th century pottery, which suggests it is likely to be part of a medieval field system, potentially re-using a historic field boundary.

6.4.2 Environmental evidence included single grains of barley whilst lacking the wheat seen in Phases 1 and 2. The small mammal or amphibian bones were also absent; however, both terrestrial and marsh molluscs were recovered.

6.5 Phase 4: Undated (Figures 3 – 5, Plate 4)

6.5.1 Due to the general low density of artefacts recovered from site, two features remain undated, although they almost certainly lie in one of the three preceding phases.

6.5.2 Curvilinear ditch [15] lies between ditches [12] and [14] and appears to represent a truncated ring ditch. This feature measures 0.34m to 0.65m wide by up to 0.18m deep and an extrapolated diameter would be between 7 and 8 metres, which would be suitable for a roundhouse or field pen. The majority of this feature had however been truncated by a large area of disturbed ground, leaving only a fragment of the original feature intact. The feature was undated but produced four fragments of animal bone.

6.5.3 An environmental sample from the truncated ring-ditch produced low levels of charcoal, burnt animal bone fragments, charred cereal grains and fired clay, all of which may represent typical hearth sweepings and could be related to domestic waste disposal.

6.5.4 Ditch [31] was aligned roughly east – west towards the north end of the site and measured 1.3m to 1.55m wide by 0.12m deep. This feature is probably a truncated remnant of a field system and as with many other areas of site has been truncated by an area of modern disturbance at its west end.

6.6 Phase 5: Modern (Figures 3 and 4)

6.6.1 Modern intrusion was noted throughout the site, with large areas of natural geology disturbed by landscaping and activities associated with the former air base, particularly along the southern margins of the site. These areas have undoubtedly truncated buried archaeological remains, as has the limited depth of topsoil and subsoil.

6.6.2 A modern land-drain was also noted truncating ditches [11] and [14].

6.7 Balancing Pond Monitoring

6.7.1 AAL were requested to monitor the excavation of an adjacent balancing pond required as part of the overall development (Figure 2). Monitoring was undertaken to natural geology, with a similar sequence of natural clays and gravels overlain by relatively thin topsoil. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The earliest evidence for activity at the site dates from the Late Iron Age to Roman period, probably representing the fragmentary remains of a field system, perhaps with an associated structure in the form of a ring-ditch for a roundhouse or pen. Whilst the ring-ditch is undated artefactually, it is quite possible this feature dates from this period. With a heavy clay underlying natural and little environmental evidence for cereal production, it is likely that this phase represents a pastoral system of open fields.
- 7.2 Salvage recording and evaluation was undertaken in the southern part of the airfield following the excavation of a number of mass graves for cattle slaughtered during the foot and mouth outbreak. This revealed a sequence of land occupation from the Iron Age through to the end of the Roman period. Environmental evidence from these works indicated that the environment in the later Iron Age was predominantly open, cleared pasture with ditches seasonally waterlogged (Head and Mann in Griffin et al 2005, 47). This pattern would fit the remains recorded in this report and suggests the current site is within a similar pastoral landscape.
- 7.3 A subsequent phase of early 2nd to 4th century AD date is represented by a single ditch cutting a Phase 1 boundary, and probably represents a change in field system alignment. There is no evidence for any further changes at this point and dating evidence of a definitively post 1st century AD date is restricted to a single sherd of Black Burnished Ware. With this in mind it is impossible to ascertain whether there was a period of abandonment between Phase 1 and 2 or if the amended field system was broadly contemporary. The locally produced pottery has a long lifespan and could have been used from the later Iron Age (c.30AD) through to the end of the Roman period.
- 7.4 Environmental evidence was again limited and although cereal grains and chaff were recovered, there is no firm evidence to say cereals were actually grown on site, although they may have been processed nearby. Charred cereals recovered included individual grains of charred wheat, which are probably the result of domestic cooking being included in hearth sweepings and incorporated into open features.
- 7.5 The foot and mouth site to the south revealed similarly limited evidence for cereal production, and a tendency to re-align fields throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods. It has been suggested that re-aligning field systems, enclosures and settlement may be as a direct result of poor drainage and the need for stock management (Griffin et al 2005). Rotation of land may be related to avoiding prolonged exposure of livestock in fields prone to waterlogging during above average rainfall. Seasonally wet land can have a catastrophic effect on livestock, with both footrot and liver flukes a known problem, even in modern farming.
- 7.6 Field boundary changes may also be related to less obvious reasons such as signifying changes in ownership from inheritance, re-enforcing property rights following disputes or marking events of social significance to the local community as has been suggested in previous work on this period (Chadwick 1999).
- 7.7 By the later Roman period the nearby landscape shows evidence for a mosaic of mixed dry, open grassland and small areas of cultivation on better draining soil (Griffin et al 2005). As such it is perhaps unusual that no further Roman remains were revealed; however these may have been lost to later truncation.

- 7.8 There is no evidence for land-use after the Romano-British period on site until the medieval period, when a single ditch was excavated parallel to the Phase 1 ditched boundaries. Given the known medieval presence in Throckmorton, and at the nearby airbase site, land-use from this period is not unexpected and represents a return to farming. The extensive ridge and furrow remains surrounding Throckmorton attest to the medieval agricultural landscape and suggest arable production was possible at least closer to the village itself. On outlying, poorly drained clays away further away from the settlement, there may still have been a bias towards pastoral land-use. The feature is dated by only a single medieval sherd however, and the possibility must be entertained that this is an intrusive sherd and the feature may potentially belong to an earlier period of activity.
- 7.9 This site represents the truncated remains of Late Iron Age and Roman pastoral field systems with limited evidence for settlement in the form of occasional domestic pot sherds in boundary ditches and a truncated ring-ditch, which may indicate a round-house. However it is entirely possible this structure is actually an animal pen or equivalent of a shepherds hut positioned within an open field away from the main settlement. Evidence for subsequent land-use is limited, which may confirm this site was on the periphery of managed land or that later features were cut less deep and simply haven't survived.
- 7.10 All of the surviving remains appear heavily truncated by landscaping of the area for use as an airfield in the 20th century, and the lack of any depth suggests only the bases and earliest fills of cut features have survived, which limits our understanding of the site. Recovery of both artefacts and ecofacts was also minimal, which prevents a wider discussion on possible trade and site economics. What can be said is that these remains do correspond to similar features and material recovered from the nearby foot and mouth site, albeit in much lower densities, and this represents another fragment of the later Iron Age and Roman landscape with a minimal presence in the medieval period.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological strip, map and record methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It revealed archaeological features tentatively dated to the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods in the area of the excavations. Truncation was relatively high as a result of the previous use of the site as an airfield.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank E.C. Drummond Ltd for this commission and Connops for supplying plant. Adrian Hadley undertook supervision of the fieldwork supported by Robert Evershed and Grace Monnery.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot of site strip, looking north



Plate 2: West facing section of Phase 1 ditch [14] and Phase 3 ditch [13]. Scales are 1m, 0.2m and 0.1m



Plate 3: South facing section through Phase 1 ditch [10]. The scale is 1m



Plate 4: Northwest facing section through Phase 2 ditch [11]. The scales are 2m and 0.5m



Plate 5: West facing section through Phase 3 ditch [13]. The scale is 2m



Plate 6: Southwest facing section of undated ring-ditch [15]. The scale is 0.5m

Appendix 2: Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery Report

By I.M. Rowlandson

A small group of Roman pottery was presented for study from the site (20 sherds, weighing 0.183kg, Rim equivalents RE0.04). The pottery has been discussed and recorded according to the requirements of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2044) using the Worcestershire Ceramics Online Database (<http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/>).

The close dating of the pottery from this group is hindered by the small abraded condition of this assemblage and the broad date range of the local fabrics (Timby 1990, Webster 1976). The dating by context is tabulated below. The full archive is presented at the end of this report.

Roman pottery dating summary					
Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
17	LIA-ROM	A small group of abraded Severn Valley ware sherds.	3	3	0
19	AD120-400	A small group of abraded Severn Valley ware sherds and a single sherd from a BB1 jar with burnished decoration.	4	8	0
20	LIA-ROM	A small group of abraded Severn Valley ware sherds.	3	11	0
26	LIA-ROM	A single abraded sherd of Severn Valley ware.	1	2	0
28	LIA-ROM	A small group of abraded Severn Valley ware sherds including the base from a large jar or bowl.	8	142	0
Topsoil	LIA-ROM	A rim sherd from a Severn Valley beaker	1	17	4

There are a limited range of fabrics present in this assemblage. The pottery present is either from the local Severn Valley industries or the Black Burnished Ware 1 production centre in the Dorset region. Little more can be said about this assemblage beyond that it suggests Roman activity in the vicinity.

References

Darling, M.J., 2004, Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 11, 67-74

Timby, J. R., 1990, Severn Valley wares: a reassessment, *Britannia* 21, 243–51

Webster, P. V., 1976, Severn Valley Ware: a preliminary study, *TBGAS*, 94, 18-46

THLL12- Roman fabric summary									
Fabric code	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	Total RE %	Earliest date	Latest date
WO012	Oxidised	Oxidised Severn Valley ware	19	95.00%	179	97.81%	4	30	400
WO022	Reduced	Black Burnished ware 1	1	5.00%	4	2.19%	0	120	410

THLL12- Roman pottery archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
Topsoil	WO012	TANK		1	ABR		RIM; TANKARD		1	17	12	4
17	WO012	-		1	ABR		BS		3	3	0	0
20	WO012	-		3	VAB		BS		3	11	0	0
26	WO012	-		1	VAB		BS		1	2	0	0
19	WO012	-		3	ABR		BS		3	4	0	0
19	WO022	CLSD	BL	1			BS; FRAGMENT OF JAR WITH BURNISHED LINE DECORATION		1	4	0	0
28	WO012	JBL		1	ABR		BASE; LARGE JAR OR BOWL		2	124	0	0
28	WO012	CLSD		1			BS; REDUCED INTERNAL SURFACE		5	8	0	0
28	WO012	-		1	ABR		BS		1	10	0	0

Appendix 3: Post-Roman Pottery Report

Dr Anne Irving

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski et al. (2001). The Cnames (codename) are in accordance with the type series for Worcestershire (<http://www.worcestershireceramics.org>)

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery dates to the medieval period.

Results

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
21	WORCS	Worcester-type Sandy Glazed ware	Jug	1	1	22	Base	Fe red slip externally; ?ID as fabric low fired but chert and sandstone present	Late 11th to 14th

Potential

All the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

Abbreviations

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

References

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2.

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material Report

Dr Anne Irving

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001).

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

Results

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
17	TEG	Tegula	1	86	Abraded	Roman
22	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	2	54	Abraded; burnt; possibly lumps of fired clay	?

Table 1, Archive of the Ceramic Building Material

Potential

All the material is stable and poses no problem for long-term storage.

Appendix 5: Animal Bone Report

Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 15 (204g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd at on land at The Poultry Farm, Long Lane, Throckmorton, Worcestershire. The animal bone assemblage was recovered from a series of ditch deposits tentatively dated to the Romano-British period.

Results

The remains were of a good to moderate overall condition, averaging between grades 3 and 4 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

A single fragment of cattle scapula recovered from (16) displayed evidence of carnivore gnawing.

No evidence of pathology, butchery or burning was noted on any of the remains.

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
16	Cattle	Scapula	R	1	116	Proximal articulation and fragment, carnivore gnawing on the glenoid
17	Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	2	Shaft fragment
22	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	10	Fragmentary blade
	Large Mammal Size	Innominate	L	1	12	Ischium
	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	L	1	2	Lower M1=f
23	Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	X	1	14	Neural arch fragment
26	Cattle	Astragalus	R	1	20	Fragmentary
	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	3	12	Shaft Fragment
28	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	5	16	Shaft Fragments

As can be seen from Table 1, cattle and sheep/goat two fragments of bone only identifiable to taxa present within the assemblage, the remaining bone was identifiable to size category only.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation, save the presence of the animals/remains on site.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 Vertebrate Taphonomy, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 6: Palaeoenvironmental Report

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Strip, map and sample explorations at Long Lane, Throckmorton, undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd, recorded a limited number of features of possible Roman date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch and linear fills, and five were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. All five assemblages were largely composed of modern fibrous roots, and occasional intrusive seeds were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Charred plant remains other than charcoal/charred wood fragments were extremely scarce, although all but sample 1 did include cereal grains and/or chaff. However, preservation was extremely poor; most grains were very fragmented, and the chaff within sample 5 was severely abraded. Most macrofossils also appeared to have suffered some degree of thermal damage, as many of the fragments were fringed with black, tarry globules. Such damage almost certainly occurred when the plant remains were exposed to very high temperatures during combustion.

Of the cereals, only three grains were identifiable. Sample 2 included a very abraded and fragmentary specimen of barley (*Hordeum* sp.), whilst samples 4 and 5 both included individual wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. Sample 5 also contained a wheat spikelet base and glume base. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present, but at a very low density. All were abraded.

Other remains were scarce, but did include black porous and tarry residues (all possibly derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains), small pieces of bone and pellets of burnt or fired clay. The small pieces of coal (coal 'dust') were all probably intrusive, as were the small mammal or amphibian bones. Shells of terrestrial and marsh molluscs were present throughout, but as all retained delicate surface structures and excellent coloration, these too were probably later contaminants within the features fills.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the few remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from scattered refuse, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. That many of the recorded plant macrofossils are abraded would appear to suggest the material was exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to burial.

Although the current assemblages are sparse, with none containing a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), they do illustrate that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon in this area of Throckmorton. Therefore, although no further analysis is recommended on the current assemblages, if further interventions are planned within the immediate area,

it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed features recorded during excavation.

Reference

Stace, C., 1997

New Flora of the British Isles. 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens cf = compare b = burnt pmc = possible modern contaminant

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5
Context No.	28	21	22	20	19
Feature No.					
Feature type					
Plant macrofossils					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		xcf			
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)				x	x
(glume base)					x
(spikelet base)					x
Cereal indet (grain frags.)		x	x	xcf	
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	xx	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	x	x
Other remains					
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x	
Black tarry material		x	x		
Bone	x	x	x xb	x	x
Burnt/fired clay			x	x	x
Small coal frags.			x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bone			xpmc	xpmc	xpmc
Sample volume (litres)	28	26	28	27	25
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Appendix 7: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Phase
01	Layer	Soft dark orangey brown humic silty clay with occasional gravel	Topsoil	Modern
02	Layer	Firm mid to dark grey clay with occasional unsorted mudstone gravel, boulders and concrete rubble	Made ground	Modern
03	Layer	Soft dark orange brown clay with occasional sub-rounded flint gravel	Natural geology	Natural
04	Layer	Firm mottled light grey to mid orange clay with limestone and flint gravel	Natural geology	Natural
05	Layer	Firm mottled light grey and mid orange clay with flint gravel with patches of dark grey orange clay	Disturbed natural geology	undated
06	Layer	Firm mid to dark grey clay with mudstone and flint gravel	Undisturbed natural geology	Natural
07	Void			
08	Void			
09	Layer	Soft to firm dark orangey brown clay with flint gravel	Severely disturbed ground	Modern
10	Group	N-S aligned linear. 25m long by 0.6-1m wide	ditch	1 Late IA-RB
11	Group	NNE-SSW aligned linear. 13m long by 1.9-2.9m wide	ditch	2 2 nd -4 th century AD
12	Group	E-W linear. 52m long by 0.8-1.5m wide	ditch	1 Late IA-RB
13	Group	E-W linear. 45m long by 0.7-1.4m wide	ditch	3 medieval
14	Group	NE-SW linear. 30m long by 2m	ditch	1 Late IA-RB
15	Group	Partial ring ditch. 4m in plan by 0.34-0.65m wide	Ring ditch	4 undated
16	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional mudstone and cobbles	Fill of ditch 46	1 Late IA-RB
17	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional sub-rounded flint and charcoal	Fill of ditch 47	1 Late IA-RB
18	Void			
19	Fill	Firm dark orange-grey brown clay with occasional flint	Fill of ditch 41	2 2 nd -4 th century AD
20	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 40	1 Late IA-RB
21	Fill	Firm dark brown clay with occasional flint gravel	Fill of ditch 37	3 medieval
22	Fill	Stiff dark brown clay with occasional pebbles and gravel	Fill of ditch 36	4 undated
23	Fill	Stiff dark brown clay with occasional pebbles and gravel	Fill of ditch 35	4 undated
24	Void			
25	Cut	N-S aligned ditch with shallow sloping sides and base. Measures 0.750.86m wide by 0.2m deep.	Part of ditch 10	1 Late IA-RB
26	Fill	Compact grey brown clay with occasional small pebbles and gravel.	Fill of ditch 49	1 Late IA-RB
27	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with a stepped north side. Measures 1.2m wide by 0.38m deep	Part of ditch 14	1 Late IA-RB
28	Fill	Compacted grey brown clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 27	LIA-RB pot
29	Cut	SE-NW aligned ditch with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Measures 1.2m wide by 0.16m deep	Part of ditch 13	3 medieval
30	Fill	Compact grey brown with occasional small stones, 0.16m thick	Fill of ditch 29	3 medieval
31	Group	E-W aligned ditch, 9m long by 1-1.6m wide	ditch	4 undated
32	Fill	Firm dark brown clay with occasional gravel and flint	Fill of ditch 48	4 undated
33	Fill	Firm mid to dark brown clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 50	1 Late IA-RB
34	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional mudstone and cobbles	Fill of ditch 25	1 Late IA-RB

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Phase
35	Cut	Curving ditch with concave sides and base, 0.34-0.38m wide by 0.11m deep	Part of ring ditch 15	4 undated
36	Cut	Curving ditch with concave sides and base, 0.54-0.63m wide by 0.18m deep	Part of ring ditch 15	4 undated
37	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base, 0.75-1.1m wide by 0.18m deep.	Part of ditch 13	3 medieval
38	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base, 0.75-0.83m wide by 0.24m deep.	Part of ditch 13	3 medieval
39	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base, 1.18-1.26m wide by 0.13m deep.	Part of ditch 13	3 medieval
40	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base, 1.3m wide by 0.15m deep.	Part of ditch 12	1 Late IA-RB
41	Cut	NE-SW aligned ditch with concave sides and base, 2.5m wide by 0.41m deep.	Part of ditch 11	2 2 nd -4 th century AD
42	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base	Part of ditch 12	1 Late IA-RB
43	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base	Part of ditch 12	1 Late IA-RB
44	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base	Part of ditch 12	1 Late IA-RB
45	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and base	Part of ditch 12	1 Late IA-RB
46	Cut	N-S aligned ditch with concave sides and a flat base, 0.75-0.83m wide by 0.19m deep.	Part of ditch 10	1 Late IA-RB
47	Cut	N-S aligned ditch with concave sides and a flat base, 0.70-0.85m wide by 0.17m deep.	Part of ditch 10	1 Late IA-RB
48	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and a flat base, 1.3-1.55m wide by 0.12m deep.	Part of ditch 31	4 undated
49	Cut	E-W aligned ditch with concave sides and a stepped base, 1.9m wide by 0.31m deep.	Part of ditch 14	1 Late IA-RB
50	Cut	SW-NE aligned ditch with concave sides and a flat base, 1m wide by 0.31m deep.	Part of ditch 14	1 Late IA-RB
51	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 42	1 Late IA-RB
52	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 43	1 Late IA-RB
53	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 44	1 Late IA-RB
54	Fill	Firm dark grey clay with occasional gravel	Fill of ditch 45	1 Late IA-RB
55	Fill	Firm dark brown clay with occasional flint gravel	Fill of ditch 38	3 medieval
56	Fill	Firm dark brown clay with occasional flint gravel	Fill of ditch 39	3 medieval
57	Cut	SW-NE aligned ditch with concave sides and a flat base, measures 0.85m wide by 0.2m deep	Part of ditch 14	1 Late IA-RB
58	Fill	Firm mid dark orange brown clay with occasional flint gravel	Fill of ditch 57	1 Late IA-RB
59	Fill	Firm mid dark orange brown clay with occasional flint gravel	Fill of ditch 57	1 Late IA-RB

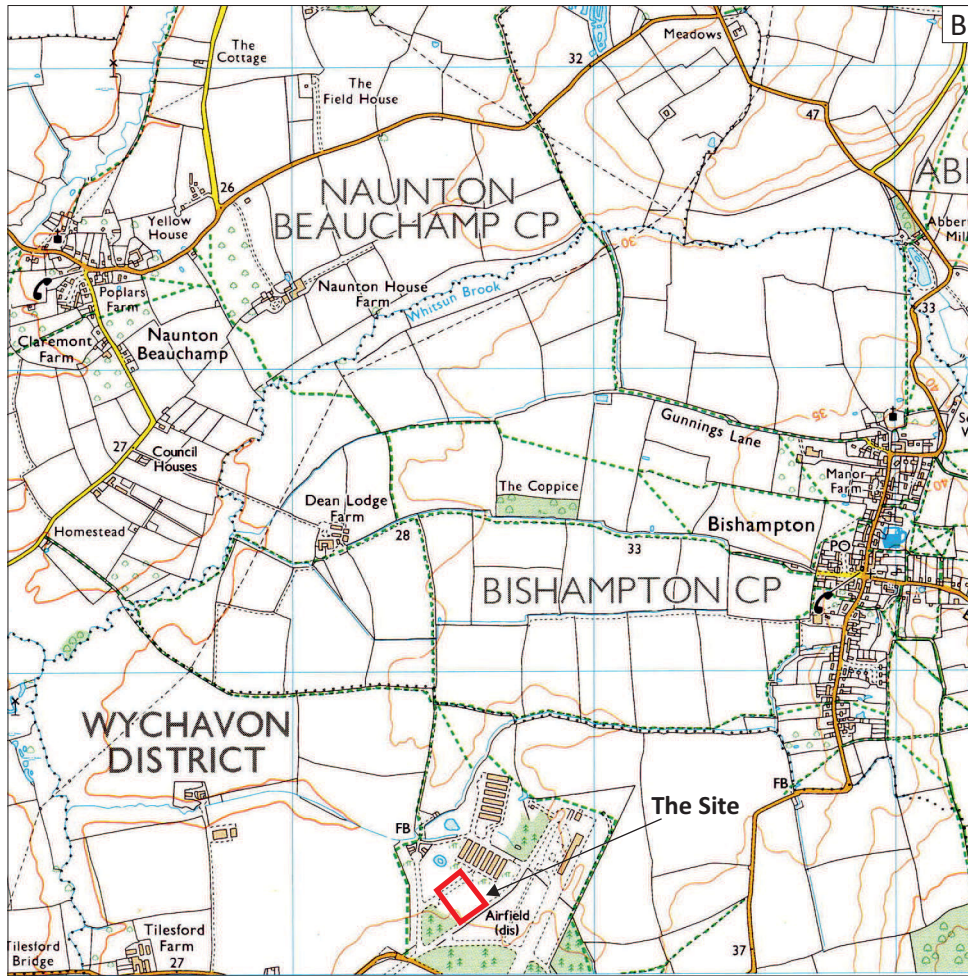
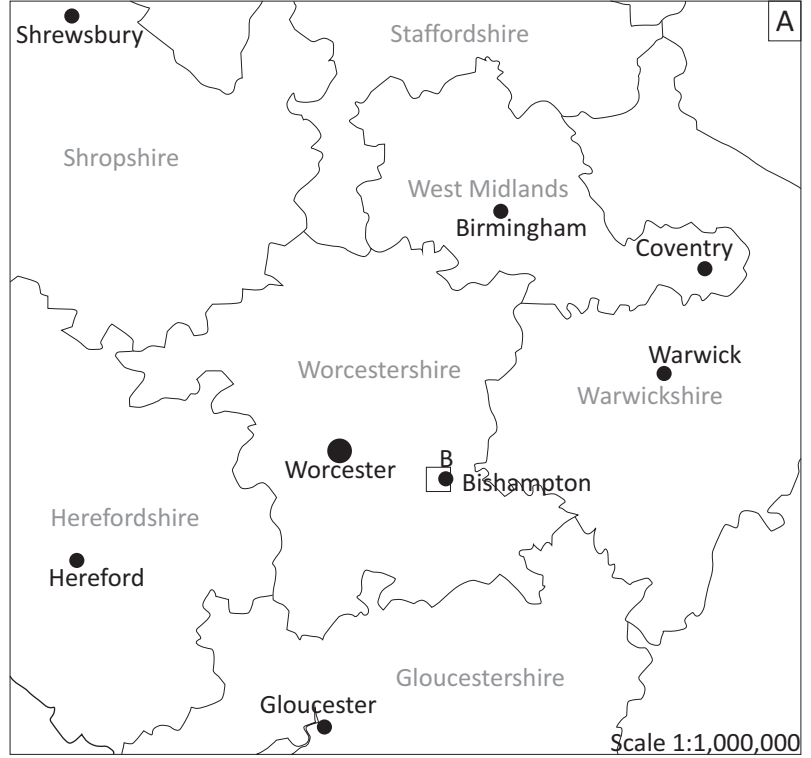
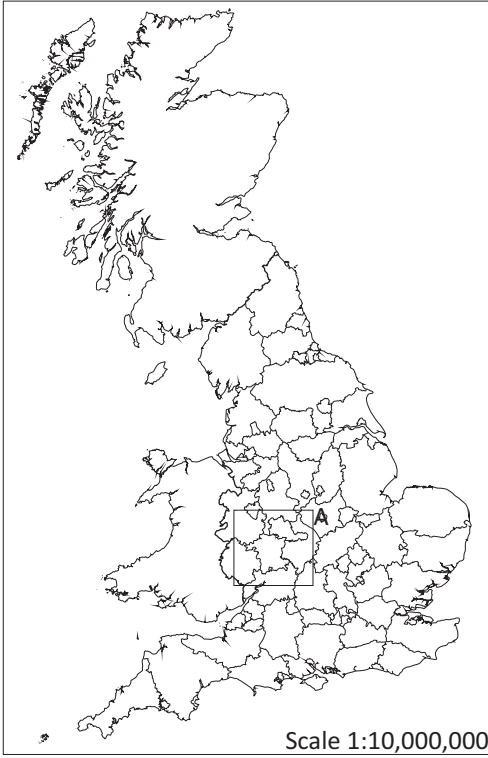


Figure 1: Site location in red

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Site Code	THLL 12
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	26/06/13

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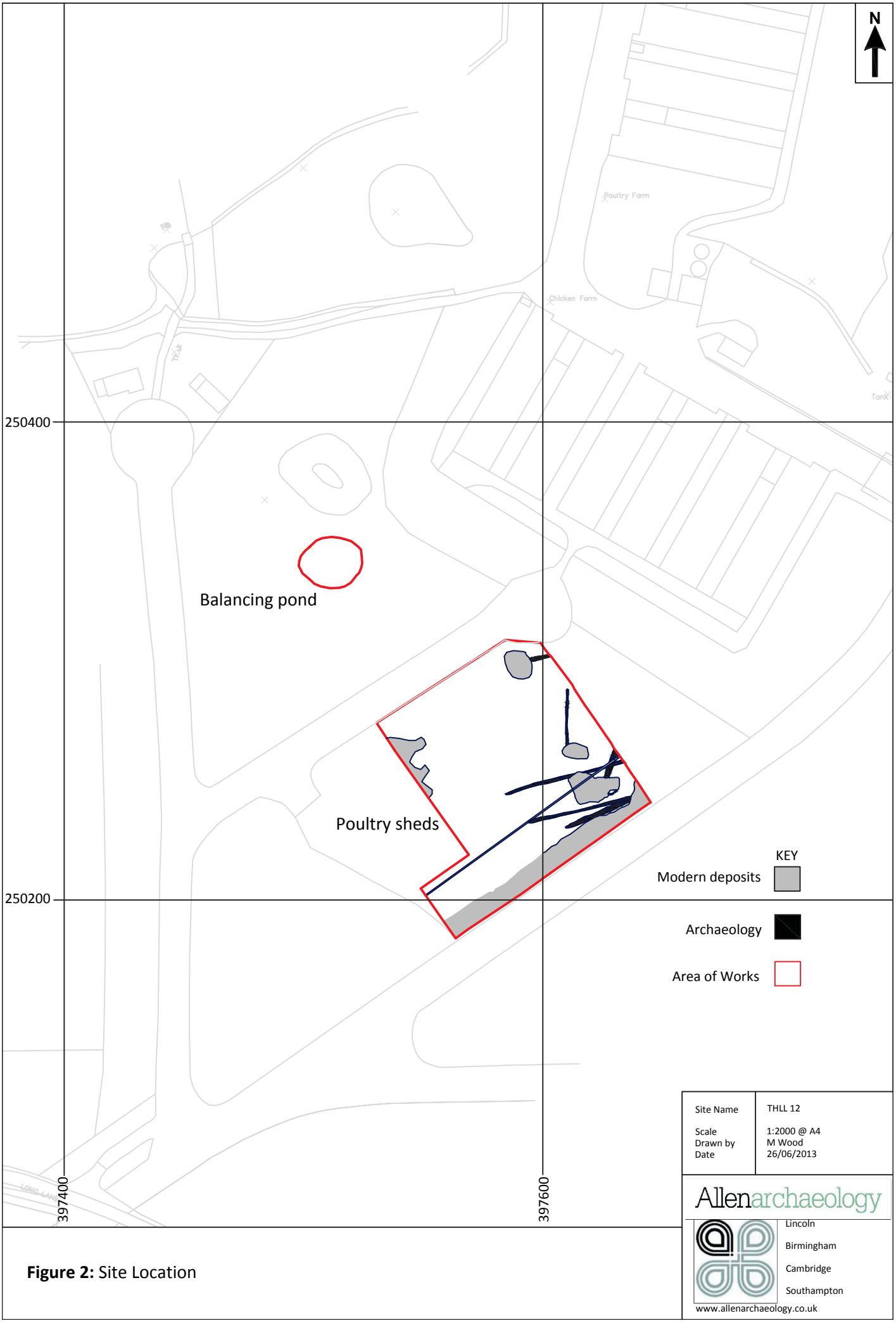
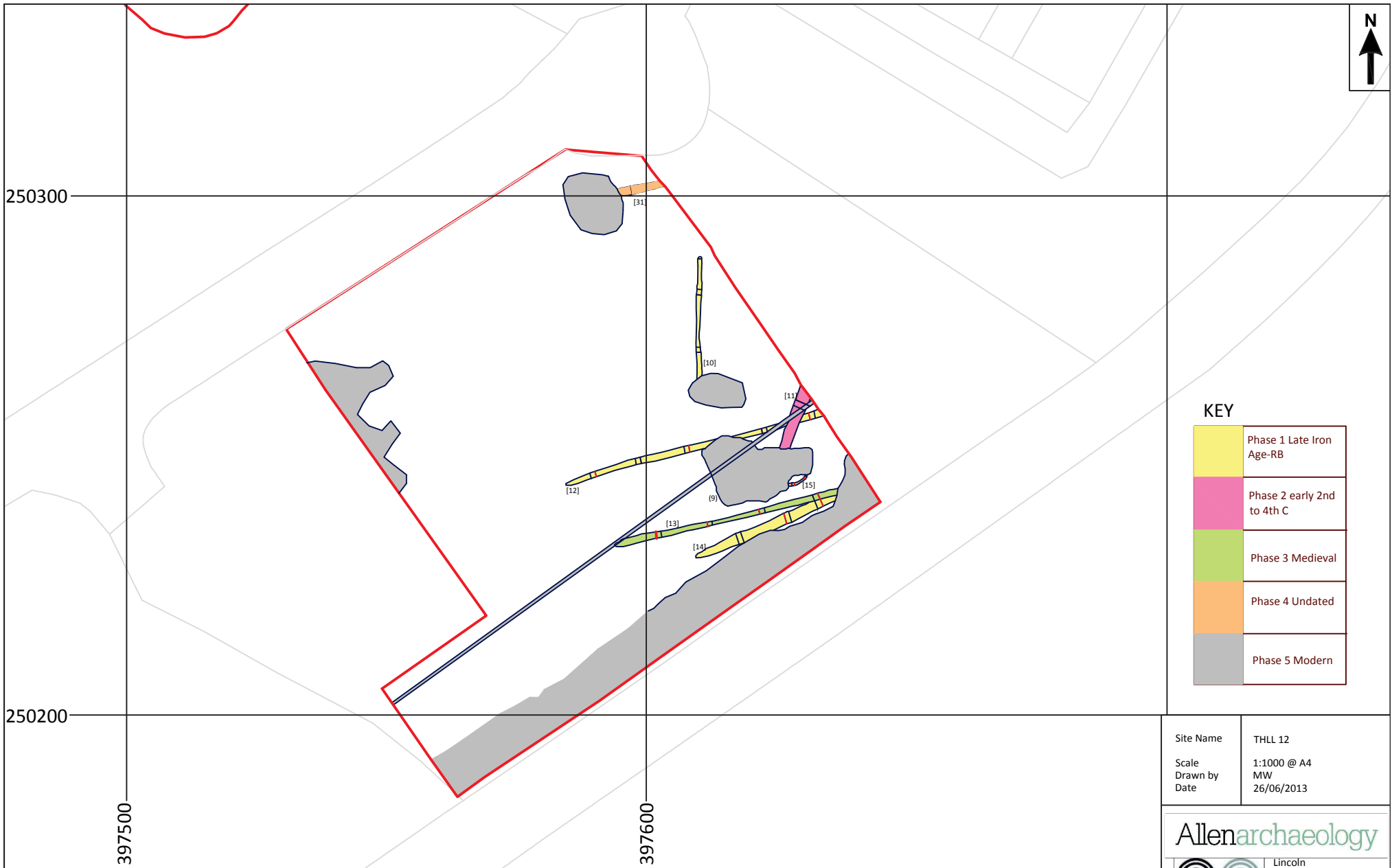


Figure 2: Site Location



KEY

	Phase 1 Late Iron Age-RB
	Phase 2 early 2nd to 4th C
	Phase 3 Medieval
	Phase 4 Undated
	Phase 5 Modern

Site Name	THLL 12
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Figure 3 Phased Site Plan

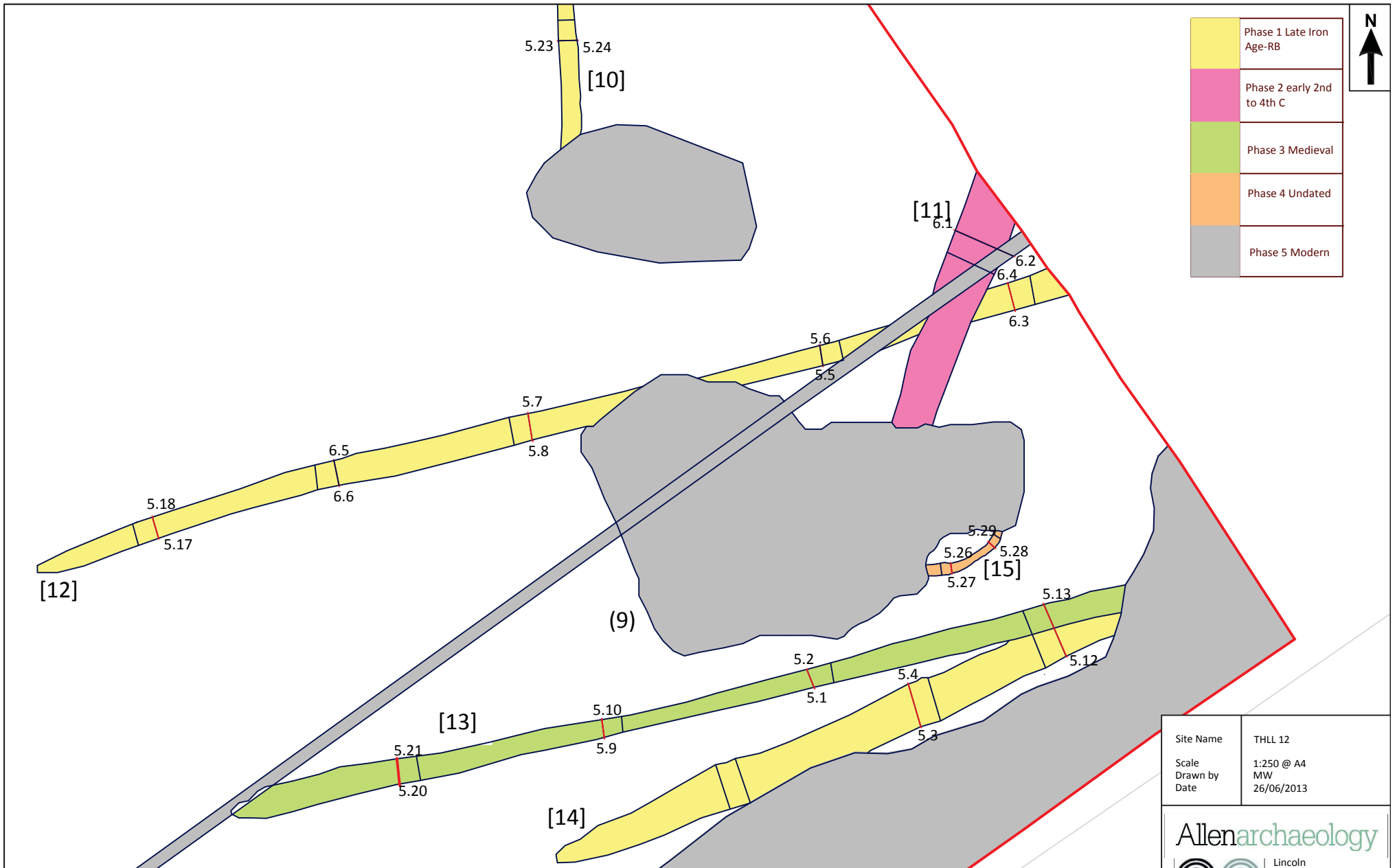


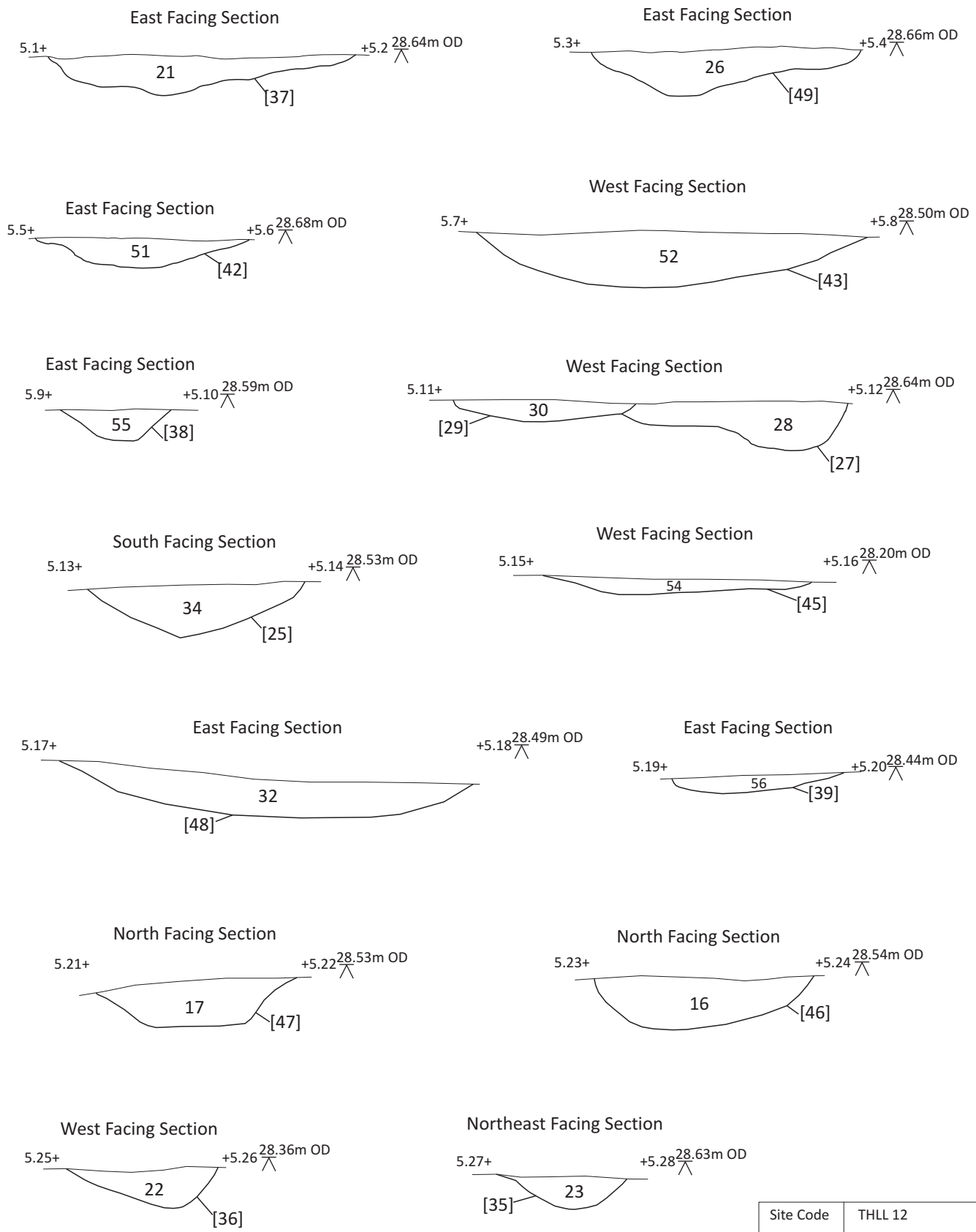
Figure 4: Concentration of Phase 1 to 3 features

Site Name	THLL 12
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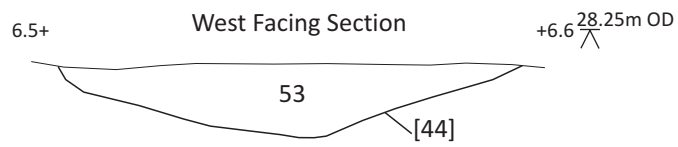
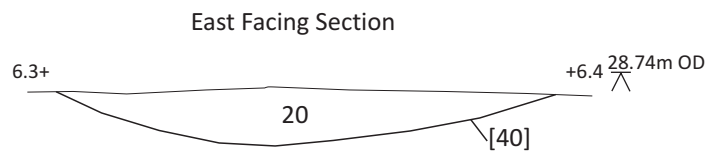
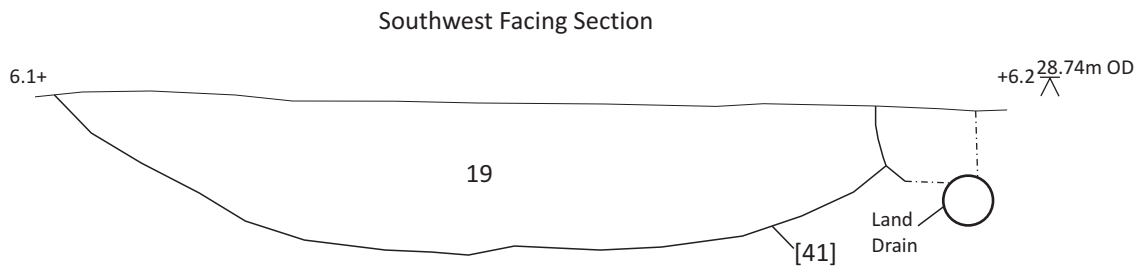
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Scale	1:20 @ A4
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Figure 5: Sections, located on Figure 4



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Figure 6: Sections, located on Figure 4



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