



Land North of Vines Lane Droitwich Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for Pegasus Group

on behalf of Doncasters Precision Casting-Deritend Ltd

CA Project: 6007 CA Report: 16477

September 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land North of Vines Lane, Worcestershire

Location: Droitwich, Worcestershire

NGR: SO 8982 6389

Type: Evaluation

Date: 15 – 26 August 2016

Planning Reference: Wychavon District Council Case Number: 16/01566

Location of Archive: To be deposited Worcestershire County Museum

Accession Number: WSM 68011

Site Code: LNV 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016 on land north of Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

Evidence for a Roman rampart and ditch, as well as for contemporary cobbled surfaces and ditches was identified. The Roman activity is associated with the previously identified Roman settlement, Bays Meadow Scheduled Monument, immediately to the north. In addition, a possible late medieval/post-medieval ditch and evidence for modern truncation and landscaping was identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Group, on behalf of Doncasters Precision Casting-Deritend Ltd, on land north of Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8982 6389; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a forthcoming planning application for redevelopment at the site (Wychavon District Council Case Number 16/01566).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by CA (2016) that was approved by Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS), the archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council (WDC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Adrian Scruby, including a site visit on 25 August 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 5.25ha in extent and currently comprises concrete floors and areas of hard standing associated with the former, and now demolished, Enertech factory. It is bordered by extant factory buildings to the west, Bays Meadow Scheduled Monument to the north, residential properties and grassland to the east and Vine Lane to the south. The site lies at approximately 30m AOD on a south facing slope with evidence for modern terracing.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as sedimentary bedrock of the Triassic Period (BGS 2016). This is overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium, clay, silt, sand and gravel. The natural substrate comprising silty clays was revealed extensively throughout the site

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site, partially within Bays Meadow Scheduled Monument (National Monument 30093; *Roman settlement at Bays Meadow*), has previously been the focus of a Heritage Statement (Pegasus Group 2016). The following archaeological background is a summary of this document.

- 2.2 Residual Mesolithic and Neolithic flints have been recorded at the Bays Meadow Roman Villa site. A buried soil with associated prehistoric flint was recorded during an archaeological evaluation to the east of the current site in the 1980s (WSM03956). The deposit, as well as containing possible evidence of *in situ* Mesolithic flint working, was cut by a Roman ditch (ibid.).
- 2.3 A possible roundhouse located within the Scheduled Monument, potentially associated with Iron Age salt exploitation, may represent the earliest phase of focused activity at the Bays Meadow site. Evidence of possible Iron Age salt extraction has also been recorded within the Scheduled Monument (ibid.).
- 2.4 The first phase of Roman occupation at Bays Meadow is represented by two villas, along with a limekiln and mosaic workshop associated with the construction of the villas as well as a road and enclosure and drainage ditches. The villas were most probably established in the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD. The northern villa is the more opulent, and is of the winged corridor type. The villa buildings, which have associated mosaics and painted wall plaster, are considered to be rare for the West Midlands. They are thought to be associated with the control of salt production at Salinae (Droitwich), most probably being the residence of the government official or local nobleman who oversaw the salt trade (ibid.).
- 2.5 The Roman settlement was fortified in the late 3rd century when a defensive enclosure, including a rampart and ditches, was established. The defences enclosed an area of approximately 3.5ha, measuring *c*. 200m north to south by *c*. 175m east to west. The bank forming the north-eastern part of the enclosure remains partially extant within the Scheduled Monument and was recorded by topographic survey in 1998 (ibid.).
- 2.6 An aisled building within the defensive enclosure is believed to have been established at a similar time to the defences. Buildings within the Roman settlement appear to have been destroyed by fire prior to re-occupation in the 4th century. The re-occupation focused on the aisled building rather than the villas. The villa buildings appear to have been 'quarried' at this stage, with the stone being re-used elsewhere. The Roman settlement went out of use at the end of the 4th century or the early 5th century (ibid.).

- 2.7 There is no evidence of Early medieval activity at the Bays Meadow site. A cemetery of late Roman or Early medieval date is recorded to the south-east (WSM06000) and a further burial, albeit undated but potentially contemporary, was recorded to the south of the current site (WSM04156). The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) records a general area defined as 'Roman cemetery to the north of Vines Lane' (WSM22017) that extends into the south-western area of the application area. However, it would appear that the original source material defines a general area that is derived from recorded material to the south, rather than being from a known cemetery within the current site (ibid.).
- 2.8 Medieval settlement was focused to the south of the application area. Ridge and furrow earthworks visible on aerial photographs demonstrate that the site was under agricultural use from the medieval period through to the post-medieval period. Industrial buildings were established within the site in the 20th century (ibid.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable WDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any below ground archaeological remains, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All measured 10m in length and 3m in width with the exception of Trench 4, which measured 20m in length and 3m in width, and Trench 6, which totalled 10m in length and 5m in width. Several of the trenches had to be moved from their originally intended locations due to various constraints outlined below. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using

Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*. The trenches were located as follows:

- Trench 1 targeted the area between the two villas identified during previous archaeological work. This trench was moved from its originally intended location to avoid an area currently used for car parking.
- Trench 2 targeted an area of potential deep development impact. This trench
 was moved from its originally intended location due to parking and contamination
 issues. Further contamination issues prevented extension of the trench to the
 east to assess archaeological survival beneath the adjacent terrace.
- Trench 3 targeted an aisled Roman building and the line of a proposed access road. This trench was moved from its original location within, to an area outwith the Scheduled Monument.
- Trench 4 targeted the results of the 1947 archaeological investigations.
- Trench 5 targeted the line of the eastern defences.
- Trench 6 targeted peat deposits recorded in geotechnical works that may be associated with a defensive ditch.
- Trench 7 targeted an area of apparently minimal 20th-century disturbance. This
 trench was moved from its originally intended location due to ecological
 constraints.
- Trench 8 targeted the location of the southern wall of the proposed new build.
 This trench was moved from its originally intended location to avoid a buried service.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.

The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcester County Museum under accession number WSM 68011 along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, artefacts and biological evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix D.

Trench 1 (Figs 2)

The natural silty clay substrate, 102, was encountered 0.45m below present ground level (BPGL). It was directly sealed by sub-base 101 for the existing concrete slab, 100, and had been extensively truncated in three locations by deep modern intrusions. No artefactual material was recovered from Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figs 2)

5.3 Natural substrate 202 was encountered 0.29m BPGL and was directly sealed by modern levelling 201 for existing tarmacadam surface 200. No artefactual material was recovered from Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4 The natural substrate, 304, was encountered 0.52m BPGL sealed by the remnants of a cobbled surface, 307, which comprised irregularly sized, closely packed stones and pebbles set in a sandy clay matrix that survived to a height of 0.45m BPGL (Fig. 3; Section AA). No artefactual material was recovered from this deposit. The surfaces patchy survival, predominately evident solely in the eastern section, coupled with the modern levelling deposits that immediately sealed it suggest that it had suffered extensive modern truncation.

- 5.4 Ditch 305 was identified cutting the natural substrate close to the southern extent of the trench. It was aligned north-east/south-west, measured at least 1.6m in length, 0.92m in width and 0.37m in depth and contained three fills (306, 308 and 309: see Fig. 3; Section AA). Roman pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and slag dating to the 3rd to 4th century was recovered from fills 306 and 308.
- 5.5 Both the cobble surface 307 and ditch 305 were directly sealed by modern levelling deposits associated with the 19th-century railway and the later 20th-century factory buildings.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.6 Trench 4 was divided between the northern, upper terrace and a lower, southern, terrace.
- 5.7 Remnants of a cobbled surface, 409, were identified 0.15m BPGL at the northern extent of the southern terrace (Fig. 4; section BB). It comprised irregular and subrounded pebbles set in a brown silty clay matrix from which no artefactual material was recovered. The deposit was particularly patchy in places having suffered extensive modern truncation, and was sealed by modern levelling layer 403 for the existing tarmacadam surface 402.
- A probable demolition deposit, 405, was identified close to the southern extent of the trench at 0.56m BPGL (Fig. 4; section BB). It comprised mid brown silty clay with frequent cobbles (not *in situ*) and irregular sandstone and limestone inclusions from which Roman pottery and CBM dating to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries was recovered. It was sealed by deposit 404, revealed at 0.3m BPGL, which consisted of dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional cobble inclusions from which similarly dated Roman pottery and CBM was recovered. This later deposit is interpreted as a buried soil surviving beneath the modern truncation although it could not be readily established if this was an *in situ* deposit or whether it represented soils that were redeposited following the 1947 works observed by Hodgkinson (Hurst 2006, 80). This deposit was sealed by levelling deposit 401 for the existing concrete slab 400.
- 5.9 A further possible buried soil deposit, 414, that was very similar in colour and composition to deposit 404 described above, was identified on the higher, upper terrace at 0.45m BPGL. The presence of contaminated material (possible asbestos)

in this part of the trench prevented further examination of this deposit which was sealed by a levelling deposit 411 for the existing concrete slab.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.10 The presence of a possible ditch, 510, identified at the base of the trench was suggested by the downwards north-west to south-east slope of the natural substrate (Fig. 5; section CC). The earliest deposit identified in the trench was dark blue grey silty clay 509 whose composition was suggestive of a ditch fill, however its compact nature was perhaps more indicative of a deliberately dumped deposit. Predominantly Roman artefacts were recovered from this deposit alongside two sherds of medieval pottery. It remains undetermined whether the latter are intrusive.
- 5.11 Deposit 509 was sealed by a similar dark grey brown silty clay deposit, 507, noted slumping along the western side of the possible ditch 510. As with deposit 509, predominately Roman artefacts were recovered alongside a single sherd of later medieval pottery. Deposit 507 was sealed by three successive deposits, 508, 506 and 505, all of which comprised silty clay with frequent inclusions of re-deposited natural substrate, that appeared to have been deliberately dumped. It remains undetermined whether they represent *in situ* rampart deposits associated with the 3rd-century defensive enclosure, or evidence for the later slighting of the rampart and deliberate infilling of ditch 510. A small, but exclusively Roman finds assemblage was recovered from deposits 506 and 508. The uppermost of these deposits, 505, was directly sealed by a layer of modern crushed brick, 502, that was in turn sealed by modern levelling layer 501 and by concrete slab 500.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.12 Natural substrate 604 was identified at the north-eastern extent of the trench 0.49m BPGL. It sloped gently downwards towards the south-eastern extent of the trench where it was revealed at 0.82m BPGL.
- 5.13 Ditch 606 cut the natural silty clay close to the north-eastern extent of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. It contained dark grey-brown sandy clay fill 605 from which a single fragment of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile was recovered.
- 5.14 Towards the southern limit of the trench a series of undated pits and postholes were identified cutting the natural substrate (see Fig. 6 sections D, E and F). Pit 612 measured at least 0.65m in length, at least 0.4m in width, 0.22m in depth and

contained sandy clay fill 611. It was cut by shallow pit 610 which measured 0.12m in depth, 0.25m in width and at least 0.25m in length. Posthole 608 lay adjacent to pit 610. It measured at least 0.23m in diameter, 0.2m in depth and contained a sandy clay fill 607. Posthole 614 was identified approximately 3m to the north-west of these features. It measured 0.25m in diameter, 0.19m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 613.

5.15 The features described above were all sealed by buried subsoil 603 which in turn was sealed by buried topsoil 602, that was in turn overlain by levelling layer 601 for the existing concrete slab 600. A worked flint flake was recovered from buried topsoil 602.

Trench 7 (Figs 2)

5.16 Natural substrate 702 was identified 0.33m BPGL and was directly sealed by the levelling layer 701 for concrete slab 700.

Trench 8 (Figs 2)

5.17 The natural substrate was not identified within Trench 8. Modern made ground was identified to a depth of at least 1.1m BPGL but the discovery of contaminated material prevented further excavation.

6. THE FINDS

Artefactual material was hand-recovered from ten deposits (ditch fills, buried rampart material, a demolition layer and topsoil). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, Roman and medieval/post-medieval periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Where possible, fabric codes are equated to the Worcestershire online ceramics database (codes beginning "TF").

Pottery: Roman

6.2 The majority of the pottery assemblage (54 sherds, 557g) dated to the Roman period. It had been moderately well broken up, as indicated by the rather low average sherd weight of 10g. In terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation, condition varied amongst the deposits from poor to moderate in buried topsoil 404 to

moderate to good in fill 305 of ditch 306, demolition layer 405 and possible rampart deposits 506, 507 and 508.

- 6.3 Coarsewares of broad Roman date, and probably of relatively local manufacture, comprised five unfeatured bodysherds in fine greyware (TF14), sandy oxidised (TF13) and black-firing, sand-tempered fabrics (BS).
- Identifiable forms were mostly mortaria that were represented in a range of fabrics. Rimsherds from Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware (TF32) mortaria (fill 308 of ditch 305 and buried topsoil 404) are both of the hammerhead type, which was produced from c. 160AD onwards. The example from ditch fill 308 also features black painted decoration on the rim, which allows closer dating to the 3rd century. This ware type has been sourced to the Warwickshire/Leicestershire border area (Tyers 1996, 123). Mortaria base sherds in Oxfordshire Red colour-coated ware (TF29), dateable to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries (Young 1977, 123–4), were retrieved from fill 306 of ditch 305, topsoil 404 and demolition layer 405. Similar dating is applicable to a base sherd from an Oxfordshire White colour-coated ware mortarium (TF33.2) from fill 509 of ditch 510 and a rimsherd from a Young Type M22 mortarium in Oxfordshire White ware (TF33.1) from buried topsoil 404 (*ibid.*, 120–2; 76–7).
- The Oxfordshire potteries were also represented by a bodysherd of Parchment ware (TF40), of mid 3rd to 4th century date, from fill 306 of ditch 305 (*ibid.*, 84–91). Other regional imports included an unfeatured bodysherd of Black-burnished ware Type 1 (TF22) from possible rampart deposit 507; and single sherds of Lower Nene Valley Colour-coated ware (TF28) from possible rampart deposits 507 and 509. Black-burnished ware (TF22) was produced near Poole in Dorset and is found on most sites in Worcestershire, dating to the early 2nd to 4th centuries (http://www.worcestershireceramics.org). Lower Nene Valley Colour-coated ware was manufactured at sites in Cambridgeshire from the mid 2nd to 4th centuries (Tyers 1996, 173) and the sherd from deposit 509 was a base sherd, most likely from a beaker.
- 6.6 Severn Valley oxidised ware (TF12) totalled 34 sherds, including rimsherds from a wide-mouthed, necked jar (rampart deposit 508) and two bodysherds in an organic-tempered variant. Severn Valley ware is commonly found in Worcestershire dating across the Roman period; the organically-tempered variant, however, typically dates to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD (Bryant and Evans 2004, 246–7).

Medieval

- 6.7 A total of three sherds (37g) of pottery was dateable to the medieval period. These were only slightly abraded, although the low average sherd weight (12g) indicates a moderate degree of fragmentation. It remains undermined whether these ceramics are intrusive in otherwise exclusively Roman deposits.
- A rimsherd from a jar with an everted, thickened rim, in Worcester sandy unglazed ware (TF55), was retrieved from fill 509 of ditch 510. This type of pottery was manufactured at kilns across Worcestershire from the late 11th to 14th centuries. Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (TF69), produced in the Hanley Castle area from the late 13th to early 17th centuries, totalled three bodysherds from rampart material 507 and ditch fill 509 (http://www. worcestershireceramics.org).

Lithics

6.9 A flint flake recovered from buried topsoil 602 is broadly dateable to the prehistoric period. Fill 509 of ditch 510 produced a piece of burnt, unworked flint of uncertain date.

Ceramic building material

- 6.10 A total of 62 fragments of ceramic building material, mostly in poor to moderate condition, was retrieved from eight deposits. Roman-dated fragments which were sufficiently complete for further classification were: box flue from fill 306 of ditch 305 and demolition layer 405; tegula from fills 306 and 308 of ditch 305; and imbrex from ditch fill 308. Fill 605 of ditch 606 produced a fragment of flat roof tile of late medieval/post-medieval date.
- 6.11 A probable tessera made from a fragment of tile, and in a moderately abraded condition, was recorded from buried topsoil 404.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

7.1 Animal bone amounting to 69 fragments (2211g) was recovered from seven deposits dating from the Roman and the Roman/medieval period. The bone was moderately well preserved but highly fragmented; having been subject to both historical and modern damage, as a consequence 61% of the assemblage was

unidentifiable to species. It was however possible to identify the remains of cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis aries/Capra hircus) pig (Sus scrofa sp.), horse (Equus callabus) and dog (Canis familiaris).

Roman

7.2 A total of 62 fragments (2144g) were recovered from deposits 306 and 308, fills of ditch 305 and layers 404 and 405. The remains of cattle were most common of the three major domestic species, represented by 12 fragments of meat-poor skeletal elements such as parts of the skull and lower limbs. Sheep/goat and pig were identified respectively from four and two fragments, similarly of meat-poor elements. No actual cut and/or chop marks were observed, but the bones did display fracture patterns commonly seen in the waste from primary butchery i.e. the dismemberment of a carcass immediately following slaughter. Horse and dog were also recovered from the fills of ditch 305.

Roman/medieval

7.3 Four fragments (8g) were recovered in association with artefacts dating to the Roman/medieval period all of which are either cattle or cattle sized mammal. No further information beyond species identification could be obtained.

Undated

7.4 Two further bones (14g) were recovered from deposit 611, the fill of pit 612 which remains undated. A molar tooth and a fragment of tibia (a bone of the lower hind limb), both of which were sheep/goat.

8. DISCUSSION

General

8.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that there is the potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits on both the upper, northern terrace and along the lower, southern-most terrace. In addition, it has identified areas within which modern truncation has undoubtedly removed any pre-existing archaeological deposits.

Roman

8.2 The location and alignment of ditch 305 identified in Trench 3 suggests that it represents a continuation of Ditch V71, the main drainage artery through the site

following construction of the late 3rd-century defences, that was previously recorded during the 1967-77 Bays Meadow excavations (Hurst 2006, 132-33 and Fig. 73). The late 3rd to 4th-century finds recovered from ditch 305 during the current works compliment that previously recovered from Ditch V71.

- 8.3 The location of cobble deposit 409 correlates closely with a "circular mass of pebbles.....with a square slab of limestone near the centre" that was recorded by Hodgkinson during the 1947 works (Hurst 2006, 80; also see Fig. 2 of this report). The intermittent survival of deposit 409 suggests that it has suffered a moderate degree of truncation since it was first exposed in 1947.
- Probable demolition deposit 405 corresponded with the location of pebble surfaces and limestone slabs that were observed by Hodgkinson in 1947 within foundation pit 3 (ibid.). The origin of overlying deposit 404 remains undetermined. It is possible that it may represent the present day survival of the "considerable depth of occupation debris and black soil reaching a depth of about 1.2m below the ground surface" observed by Hodgkinson in 1947 within foundation pits 4-7 (ibid.). Such a deep deposit may explain the discrepancy in OD heights between buried soil 404 in the southern lower part of the trench (34.35m AOD) and buried soil 414 in the upper, northern terrace (35.04m AOD). Alternatively, it may represent soils resulting from the groundworks that were again observed by Hodgkinson in 1947 who noted that the factory area was levelled with soil derived from the northern part of the site (ibid).
- 8.5 The archaeological deposits identified in Trench 5 correlate with the projected alignment of the defensive circuit associated with the Roman settlement (see Fig. 2 and Pegasus 2016, Fig. 24). Deposits 505, 506 and 508, from which a small assemblage of exclusively broadly-dated Roman ceramics were recovered, appeared to have been deliberately compacted and are interpreted as rampart deposits. However, it does remain undetermined whether they are representative of *in situ* or deliberately razed deposits. The presence of a possible ditch, 510, seemingly pre-dating the rampart is noteworthy, not least as it correlates with previous findings along the eastern defences during the 1967-77 excavations (Hurst 2006, 110). However, such evidence may also reinforce an interpretation of the overlying rampart deposits being slighted into the contemporary ditch. Fills 507 and 509 within postulated ditch 510 contained predominately Roman artefacts, however the recovery of one and two sherds of medieval pottery respectively is intriguing. Whilst the possibility of these sherds being intrusive cannot be wholly dismissed,

their recovery does raise the possibility that the ditch itself was infilled during, or after, the medieval period and therefore that the overlying rampart deposits are most probably re-deposited. Certainly evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation across the villa complex was previously identified recorded during the 1967-77 excavations indicating that by this later period the buildings, and presumably the earthworks, were sufficiently denuded to allow ploughing (ibid., 135-7).

Trench 6 did not, as intended, identify the eastern extent of the Roman defences. It therefore seems probable that the rampart and associated ditches lie in the area defined between Trenches 5 and 6. The presence of *in situ* buried soils 602 and 603 throughout Trench 6 coupled with the identification of, albeit, undated features suggests that this absence is real and unlikely to be a consequence of modern truncation. Further uncertainty arises regarding the previous identification of a deposit recorded as 'peat' in borehole WS02 approximately 40m to the east of Trench 6 (see Fig. 2 for location). Prior to these current works, it was anticipated that this deposit may represent an accumulation of organic deposits within part of the defensive circuit. However, the location of the probable rampart deposits (whether *in situ* or not) in Trench 5 coupled with the negative evidence for the associated ditch within Trench 6 seemingly prohibit such an interpretation.

Medieval/post-medieval

8.7 In addition to the medieval ceramics that were retrieved from ditch 510 (see section 8.5 above) a single fragment of later medieval/post-medieval ceramic roof tile was retrieved from ditch 606. Although no function can be accurately ascribed to this ditch, it is probable that it is associated with the medieval cultivation previously noted immediately to the north of the current site, and in particular may represent a further drainage ditch (ibid., 135-7).

Undated

8.8 A number of features were identified during the current works that remain undated, including the small group of pits and postholes in Trench 6.

Modern

8.9 In addition to the modern truncation noted in Trenches 2 and 7, areas of deep modern disturbance were identified in Trench 1. Elsewhere, it is probable that Trench 8 is located within an area in which the ground level has been considerably raised. Although the natural substrate was not identified within this trench, borehole

WS 09 approximately 40m to the east identified the natural clays at 3.1m BPGL (see Fig. 2 for the boreholes location).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard and Dan Sausins, assisted by Alison Roberts, Pete Searle and Jay Wood. The report was written by Tim Havard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	Existing concrete slab	Concrete	>10	>3	0.2	
1	101	Layer	Sub-base for 100	Scalpings	>10	>3	0.22	
1	102	Layer	Natural geology	Red brown clay Mercian mudstone	>10	>3	>0.9	
2	200	Layer	Existing tarmac	Tarmac	>7	>3	0.09	
2	201	Layer	Levelling for 200	Compacted grey gravel and crushed brick	>7	>3	0.2	
2	202	Layer	Natural geology	Mid pink red clay	>7	>3	>0.1	
3	300	Layer	Existing concrete slab	Concrete	>10	>3	0.18	
3	301	Layer	Levelling for 300	Mixed brick rubble	>10	>3	0.16	
3	302	Layer	Modern levelling	Dark grey black clay silt with rare irregular pebbles	>10	>3	0.3 ave.	
3	303	Layer	Modern levelling	Mid orange crushed brick	>5	>3	0.32	
3	304	Layer	Natural geology	Mid red brown clay	>10	>1	max >0.3	
3	305	Cut	Ditch cut	Linear, steep sides, flat base, aligned NE/SW	>1.6	0.92	0.37	
3	306	Fill	3rd fill of ditch 305	dark grey compacted clay silt with stone rubble and occasional CBM	>1.6	0.92	0.12	MC3-C4
3	307	Layer	Remnant cobble surface	Irregularly sized cobbles/pebbles set in a mid brown sandy clay matrix	>1.3	0.32 max	0.1 max	
3	308	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 305	dark brown grey silty clay with rare irregular pebbles	>1.6	0.63	0.21	C3
3	309	Fill	1st fill of ditch 305	mid brown grey silty clay	>1.6	0.38	0.07	
3	310	Layer	modern levelling	as 301	>10	>3	0.13	
3	311	cut	construction cut for 312	linear, unexcavated, aligned NW/SE	>1.9	0.35	unexc	
3	312	structure	wall footing	modern brick wall footing	>1.9	0.35	unexc	
4	400	layer	concrete slab	concrete	>20	>3	0.2	
4	401	layer	levelling for 400	crushed stone and clinker	>20	>3	0.14	
4	402	layer	tarmac road surface	tarmac	>3.15	3	0.1	
4	403	layer	levelling for 402	crushed stone	>3.15	3	0.16	
4	404	layer	possible buried topsoil	dark brown grey silty clay	>6.47	>2.68	0.38	MC3-C4
4	405	layer	possible demolition spread	mid brown grey silty clay with frequent cobbles, irregular limestone and sandstone	>2.65	>2.06	>0.05	MC3-C4
4	406	structure	concrete wall footing	concrete	>3.1	1.2	>0.4	
4	407	structure	brick drain	modern brick	1.1	1.1	unexc	
4	408	layer	modern levelling layer	mixed brown silty clay and brick	0.69	0.59	0.08	
4	409	surface	remnant cobbled surface	irregular rounded and sub- rounded cobbles set in a grey brown silty clay matrix, patchy survival	>2.67	>2.66	0.08	
4	410	structure	modern brick wall	brick	>2	0.37	>0.16	
4	411	layer	modern dumped deposit	mixed brick and stone rubble	>2.3	2.7	>0.38	
4	412	structure	modern brick wall	brick	>2.3	0.23	>0.17	
4	413	layer	sub-base for 400	mixed bricks and crushed bricks	2.3	>2.8	0.08	

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
4	414	layer	possible buried soil	dark brown grey silty clay	>2.34	>2.82	>0.36	
4	415	void	number not assigned					
4	416	layer	modern levelling under 413	mid brown grey silty clay	2.3	>2.8	0.1	
5	500	layer	existing concrete slab	concrete	>10	>3	0.12	
5	501	layer	modern levelling for 500	mixed stone, gravel and tarmac	>10	>3	0.16	
5	502	layer	modern levelling	crushed brick	>10	>3	0.32	
5	503	cut	modern service	liner, vertical sides, base not observed	>3	0.5	0.78	
5	504	fill	single fill of 503	mixed brown grey clay and crushed brick	>3	0.5	0.78	
5	505	layer	rampart material	dark blue grey silty clay with frequent re-deposited natural inclusions	>4.75	>3	0.11	
5	506	layer	rampart material	mid grey brown silty clay with frequent re-deposited natural inclusions	>6.04	>3	0.18	RB
5	507	layer	rampart material	dark grey brown silty clay with frequent re-deposited natural inclusions	>2.96	>2.8	0.44	C14-C16
5	508	layer	rampart material	mid blue grey clay with abundant irregular stone and CBM inclusions	>4.06	>3	0.34	RB
5	509	fill	possible fill of 510	dark blue grey clay with rare charcoal, mortar and degraded CBM inclusions	>1.88	>1.34	0.21	Medieval
5	510	cut	possible ditch cut	only identified in base of T5, gentle slope, base not observed	>3	>1	>0.2	
5	511	layer	natural geology	mid red pink clay Mercian mudstone	>3	>1	>0.05	
6	600	layer	existing concrete slab	concrete	>10	>5	0.14	
6	601	layer	sub-base for 600	mixed stone	>10	>5	0.25	
6	602	layer	buried topsoil	dark brown silty clay	>10	>5	0.19	
6	603	layer	buried subsoil	mid brown grey silt with rare irregular pebbles	>10	>5	0.18	
6	604	layer	natural geology	mid red brown clay Mercian mudstone	>10	>3	>0.2	
6	605	fill	single fill of 606	dark grey brown sandy clay	>3.3	1.02	0.22	Late medieval/ Post- medieval
6	606	cut	ditch	linear, moderate slightly concave sides, concave base, aligned E/W	>3.3	1.02	0.22	
6	607	fill	single fill of 608	dark grey brown sandy clay	>0.23	0.2	0.23	
6	608	cut	posthole	ovoid in plan, vertical sides and concave base	>0.23	0.2	0.23	
6	609	fill	single fill of 610	mid grey brown clay sand with rare charcoal flecks	>0.25	0.25	0.12	
6	610	cut	pit cut	sub-rectangular in plan, moderately sloped concave sides and concave base	>0.25	0.25	0.12	
6	611	fill	single fill of 612	mid grey brown sandy clay with rare charcoal and CBM fragments	>0.4	>0.65	0.22	
6	612	cut	pit cut	sub-rectangular in plan, moderately sloped regular sides and concave base	>0.4	>0.65	0.22	
6	613	fill	single fill of 614	mid to dark grey brown sandy clay	0.25	0.25	0.19	
6	614	cut	posthole cut	circular in plan, vertical sides and irregular base	0.25	0.25	0.19	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
7	700	layer	existing concrete slab	concrete	>10	>3	0.16	
7	701	layer	levelling for 700	mixed brick and crushed stone rubble	>10	>3	0.17	
7	702	layer	natural geology	mid pink red clay Mercian mudstone	>10	>3	>0.1	
7	703	cut	modern cut	rectangular, unexcavated	1.54	0.96	unexc	
7	704	fill	backfill of 703	mixed brick, stone and concrete rubble	1.54	0.96	unexc	
8	800	layer	existing tarmac	tarmac	10	3	0.1	
8	801	layer	modern made ground	mixed stone, brick, concrete, tarmac, sand and clay	10	3	>1.1	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

306		Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
	Roman pottery	Oxfordshire Red colour-coated ware	TF29/ OXF RS	1	1	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxfordshire Parchment ware	TF40/ OXF PA	1	8	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12/SVW OX2	2	96	
	Roman ceramic building material	Box flue, tegulae, fragments		10	1239	
308	Roman pottery	Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware	TF32/MAH WH	1	22	C3
	Roman ceramic building material	Tegula, imbrex		2	89	
	Slag	Ironworking		1	325	
404	Roman pottery	Oxfordshire Red colour-coated ware	TF29/ OXF RS	3	7	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware	TF32/MAH WH	1	11	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12/SVW OX2	8	36	
	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	TF13	2	14	
	Roman pottery	Fine greyware	TF14	1	2	
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	TF16	1	13	
	Roman pottery	Oxford White ware	TF33.1/ OXF WH	1	18	
	Roman ceramic	Fragment		15	214	
	building material					
	Ceramic object	Tessera		1	7	
405	Roman pottery	Oxfordshire Red colour-coated ware	TF29/ OXF RS	1	3	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12/ SVW OX2	4	87	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware (organically tempered)	TF12.2	1	48	
	Roman pottery	Brown Colour-coated ware	TF31	1	11	
	Roman ceramic	Box flue, fragment		6	161	
	building material					
	Burnt stone			2	221	
506	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12/SVW OX2	1	39	RB
507	Roman pottery	Black-burnished ware Type 1	TF22/DOR BB1	1	1	C14-C16
	Roman pottery	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	TF28/LNV CC	1	28	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12/SVW OX2	4	24	
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12.2	1	1	
	Roman pottery	(organically tempered) Black-firing, sand-tempered	BS	1	6	
		fabric				
	Medieval pottery	Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware	TF69	1	3	
	Ceramic building	Fragment		8	27	
	material				47	
508	Fired clay Roman pottery	Covern Valley evidiced were	TF12	6	17 33	RB
500	Ceramic building material	Severn Valley oxidised ware Fragment	11-12	9	138	KB
	Fired clay			1	10	
509	Roman pottery	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated	TF28/LNV CC	1	10	Med
		ware				
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley oxidised ware	TF12/SVW OX2	7	29	
	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Fine greyware Oxfordshire White colour-coated	TF14 TF33.2/ OXF WS	1 1	6 3	
	Medieval pottery	ware Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware	TF69	1	4	
	Medieval pottery	Worcester sandy unglazed ware	TF55	1	30	
	Roman ceramic	Fragment	11 33	12	167	
	building material	Taginent		14	101	
	Fired clay			4	12	
	Burnt flint			1	4	
			ĺ			
				1 1	l h	
602	Burnt stone	Flake		1	6	_
602	Burnt stone Worked flint	Flake		1	3	- Late
602 605	Burnt stone Worked flint Late medieval/	Flake Flat roof tile			3 312	Late
	Burnt stone Worked flint			1	3	

^{*} National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	Canid	LM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
					Roman					
305	306	4		1	2	2	5	17	31	1416
305	308	3	1		1		5		10	424
	404	4	1	1			10		16	259
	405	2					1	2	5	45
Subtota	al	15	2	2	3	2	21	19	62	2144
				Ro	oman/medi	eval				
	507	1							1	1
	508	2						1	3	45
510	509						1		1	7
Subtota	al	3					1		5	56
					Undated					
612	611		2						2	14
Total	•	16	4	2	3	2	22	20	69	
Weight		1024	38	20	742	19	343	25	2211	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; LM= cattle sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate

APPENDIX D: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

Upper, northern terrace

Trench 3		Upper, northern part of Trench 4		Trench 5		
Current ground	0.00m	Current ground level/	0.00m	Current ground	0.00m	
level/top of existing	(35.83m)	top of existing concrete	(35.49m)	level/ top of	(35.38m)	
concrete slab		slab		existing concrete		
				slab		
Top of Roman cobbled	0.45m	Top of possible buried	0.45m	Top of ?Roman	0.60m	
surface 307	(35.38m)	soil 414	(35.04m)	rampart deposits	(34.78m)	
Top of Roman ditch 305	0.86m					
	(34.97m)					
Top of natural geology	0.52m	Top of natural geology	n/a	Top of natural	1.00m	
	(35.31m)			geology	(34.38m)	
Limit of excavation/	0.00m	Limit of excavation	0.81m	Limit of	1.52m	
base of ditch 305	(34.54m)		(34.68m)	excavation	(33.86m)	

Lower, southern terrace

Lower, southern part	of Trench 4	Trench 6		
Current ground level/ top of existing concrete slab	0.00m (34.65m)	Current ground level/ top of existing concrete slab	0.00m (34.05m)	
Top of possible buried soil 404	0.3m (34.35m)	Top of buried soil 602	0.35m (33.70m)	
Top of Roman demolition spread 405	0.56m (34.09m)	Top of probable medieval/post-medieval ditch 606	0.54m (33.51m)	
Top of remnant Roman cobbles 409 (depth below modern ground level given as depth below existing tarmac, not concrete slab)	0.15m (34.00m)	Top of pits and postholes 608, 610, 612 and 614	0.78m (33.27m)	
Top of natural geology	n/a	Top of natural geology	0.49m (33.56m)	
Limit of excavation	0.76m (33.89m)	Limit of excavation	1.03m (33.02m)	

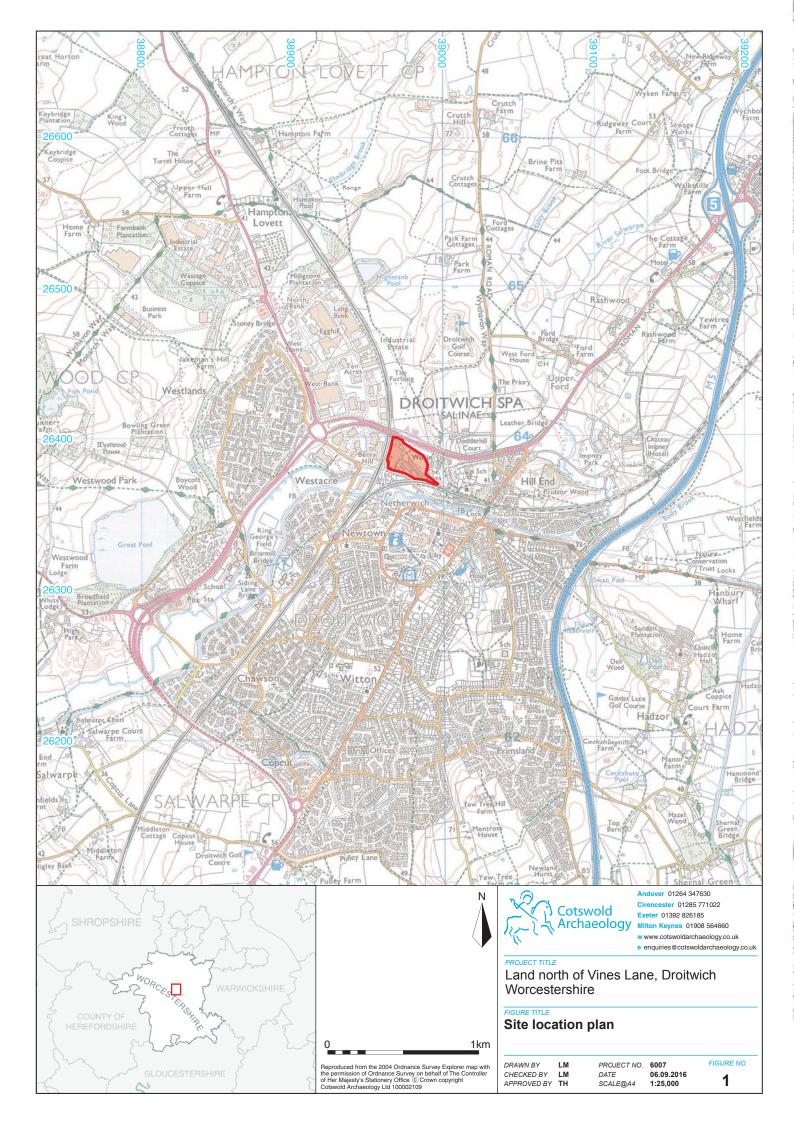
Blank trenches

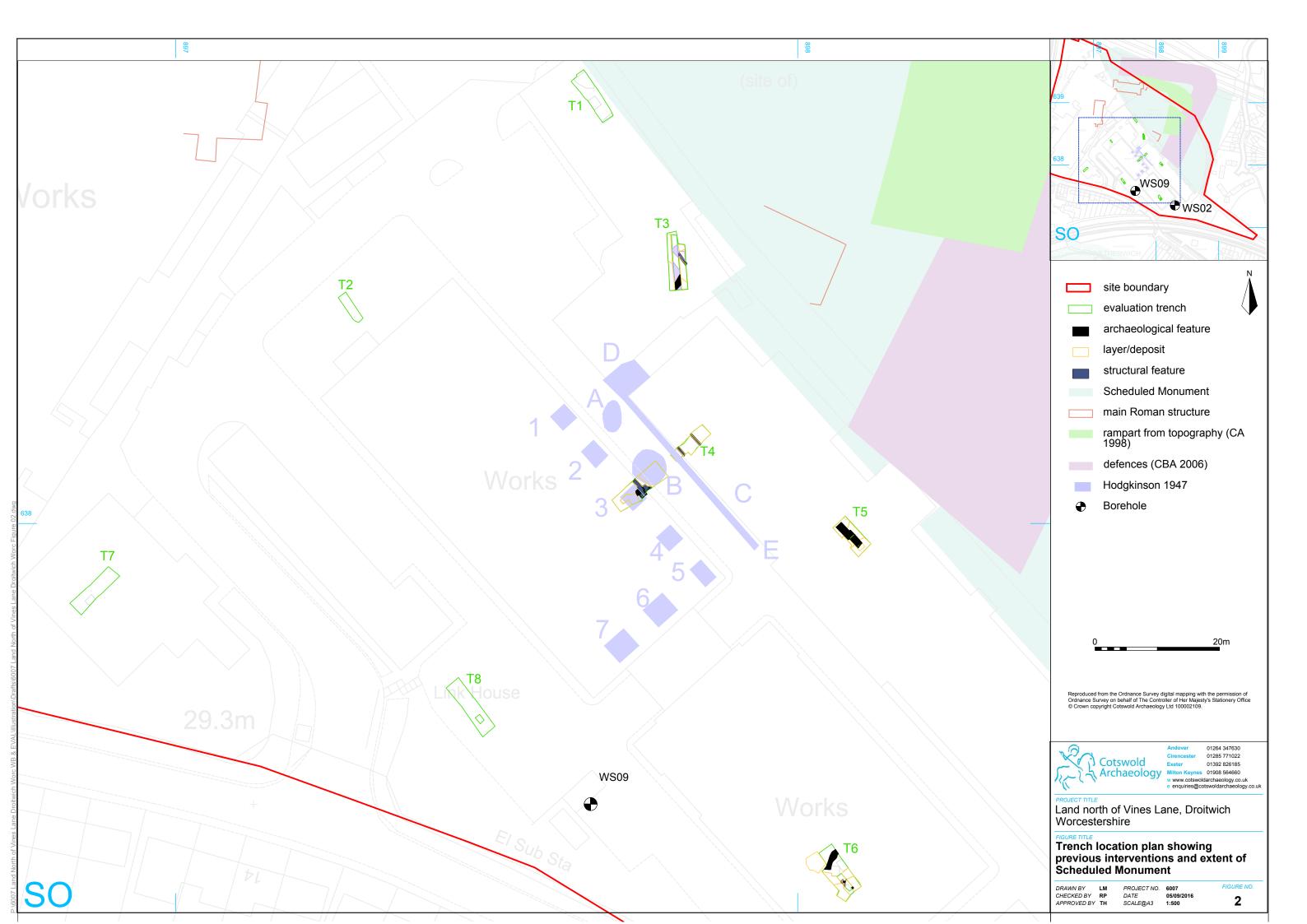
	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 7	Trench 8
Current ground level/	0.00m	0.00m	0.00m	0.00m
top of existing concrete	(35.85m)	(33.76m)	(35.32m)	(33.72m)
slab				
Top of Roman	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Top of natural geology	0.45m	0.29m	0.33m	not
	(35.40m)	(33.47m)	(34.99m)	identified
Limit of excavation	1.2m	0.29m	1.3m	1.2m
	(34.65m)	(33.47m)	(34.02m)	(32.52m)

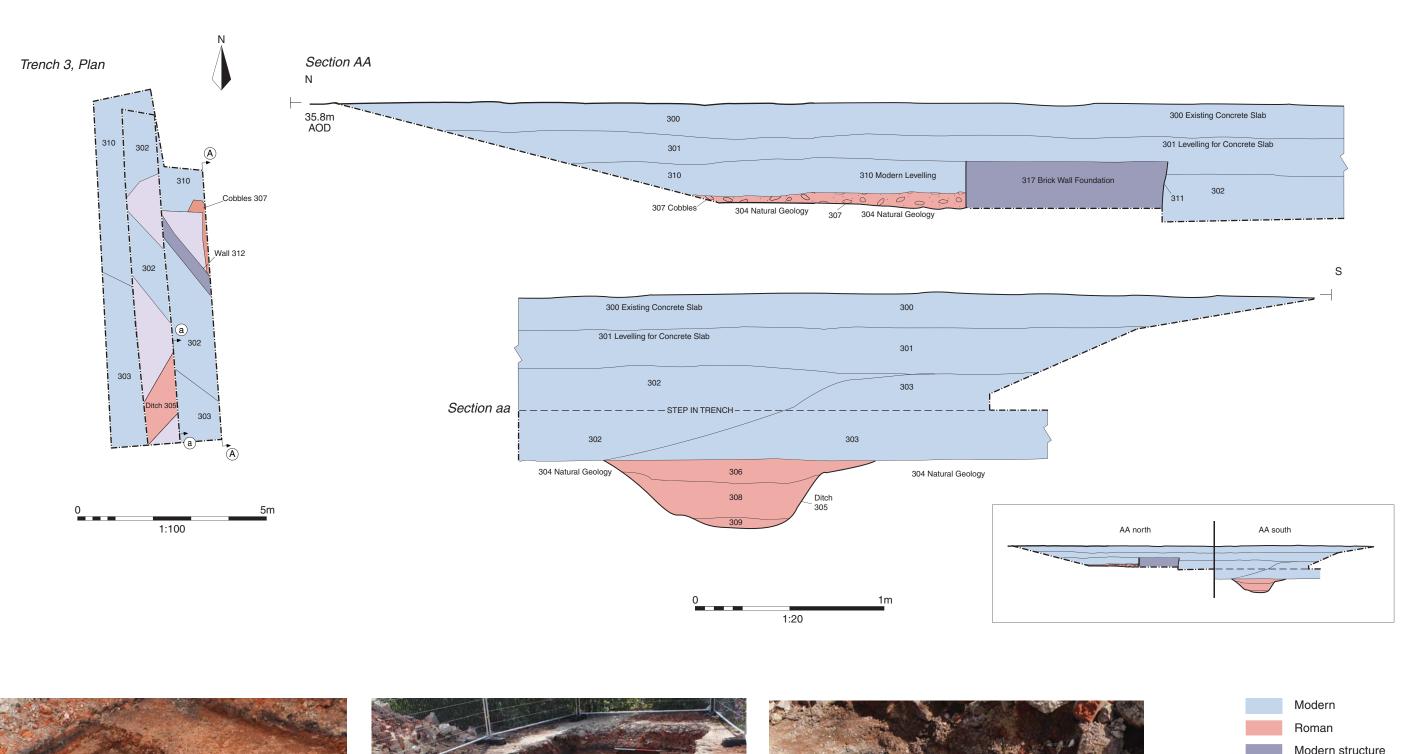
APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name	Land north of Vines Lane, Droitwich,	Worcestershire				
Oasis ID No.	cotswold2-262206	cotswold2-262206				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was Archaeology in August 2016 on Droitwich, Worcestershire. Eight trend Evidence for a Roman rampart contemporary cobbled surfaces and Roman activity is associated with the settlement, Bays Meadow Schedule the north. In addition, a possible late and evidence for modern truncations.	land north of Vines Lane, ches were excavated. and ditch, as well as for ditches was identified. The previously identified Roman and Monument, immediately to medieval/post-medieval ditch				
	identified.	and landodping was				
Project dates	15-26 August 2016					
Project type	Evaluation					
Previous work	Heritage Statement (Pegasus Group	Heritage Statement (Pegasus Group 2016)				
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershir	e				
Study area (M²/ha)	5.25ha					
Site co-ordinates	SO 8982 6389					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Archive and Archaeol	logy Service				
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman					
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content				
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Ceramics, animal bone, flint				
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, matrices etc				
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Database, digital photos etc				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						

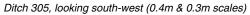
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Land North of Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report 16477









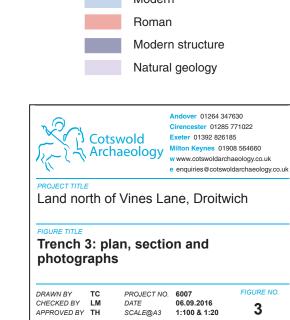


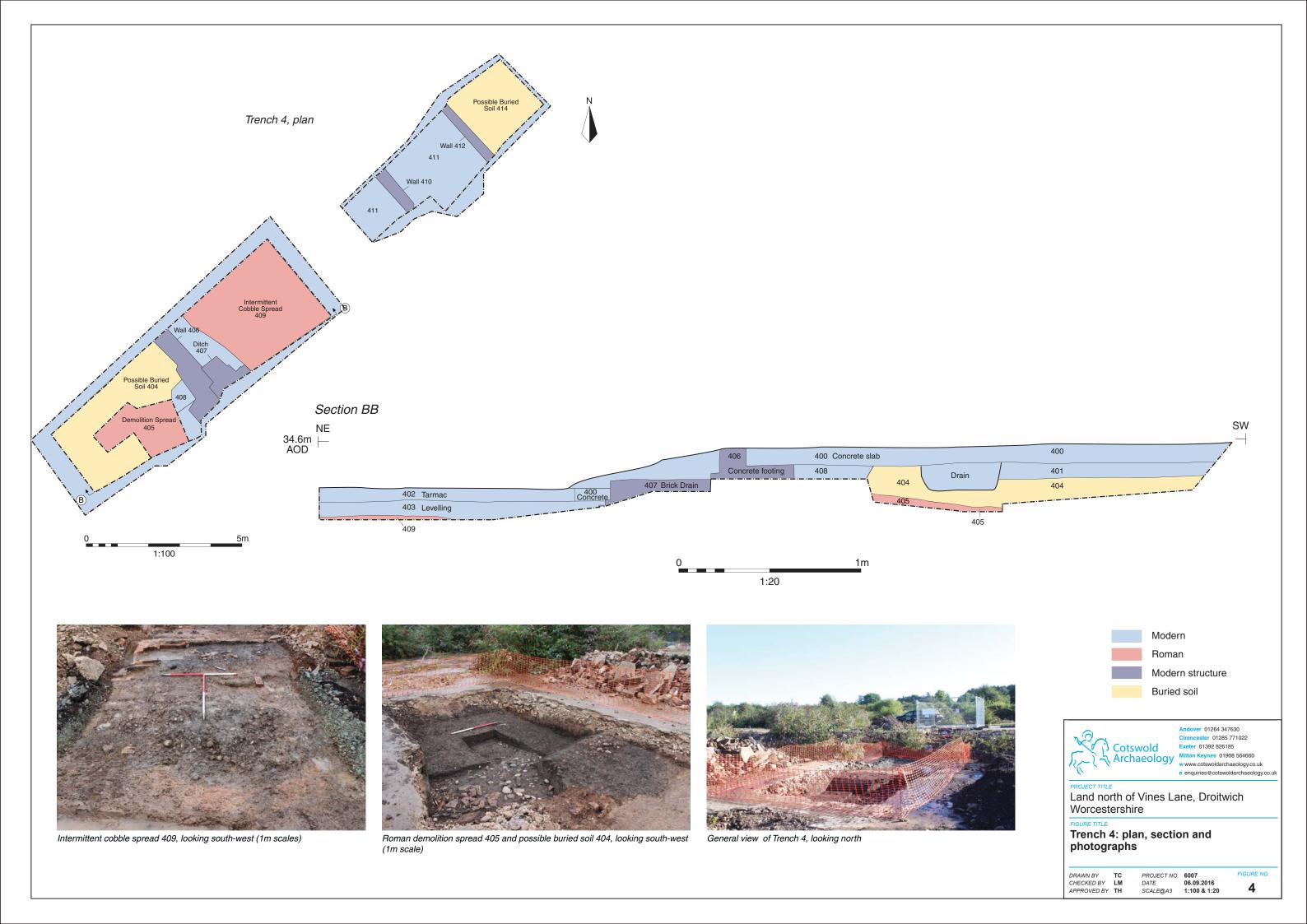


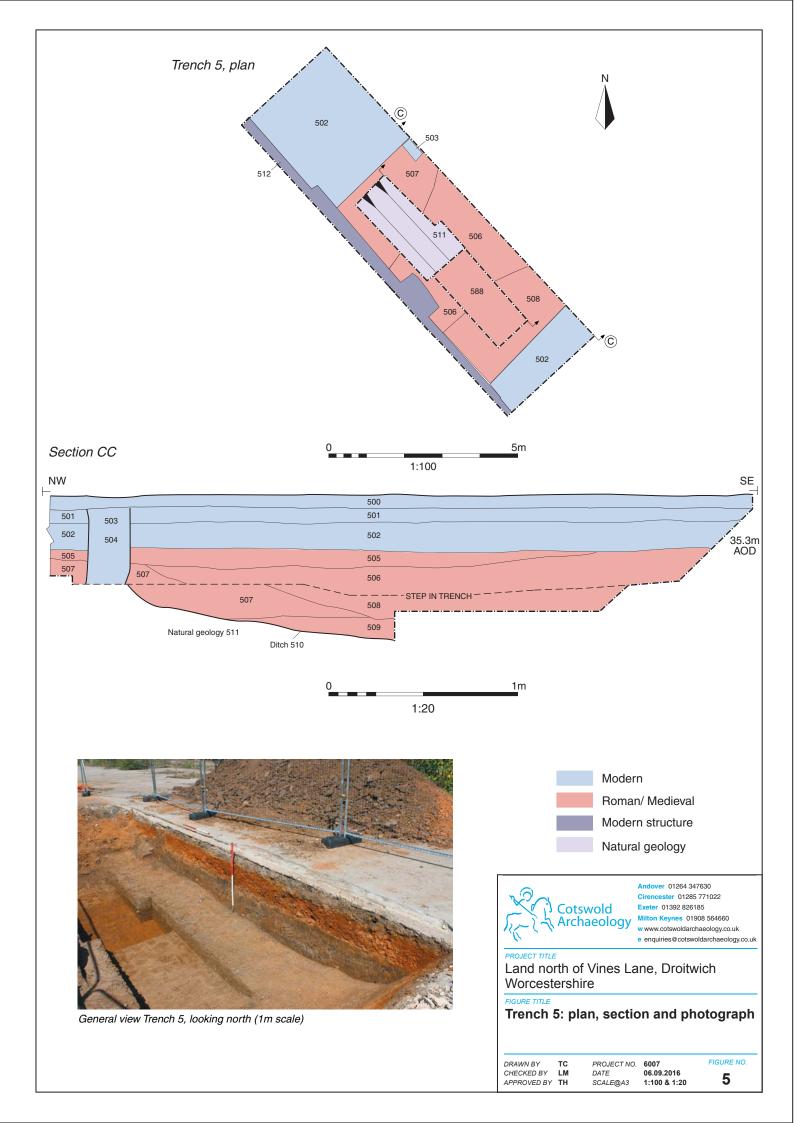
Trench 3 general view looking south-east (1m scales)

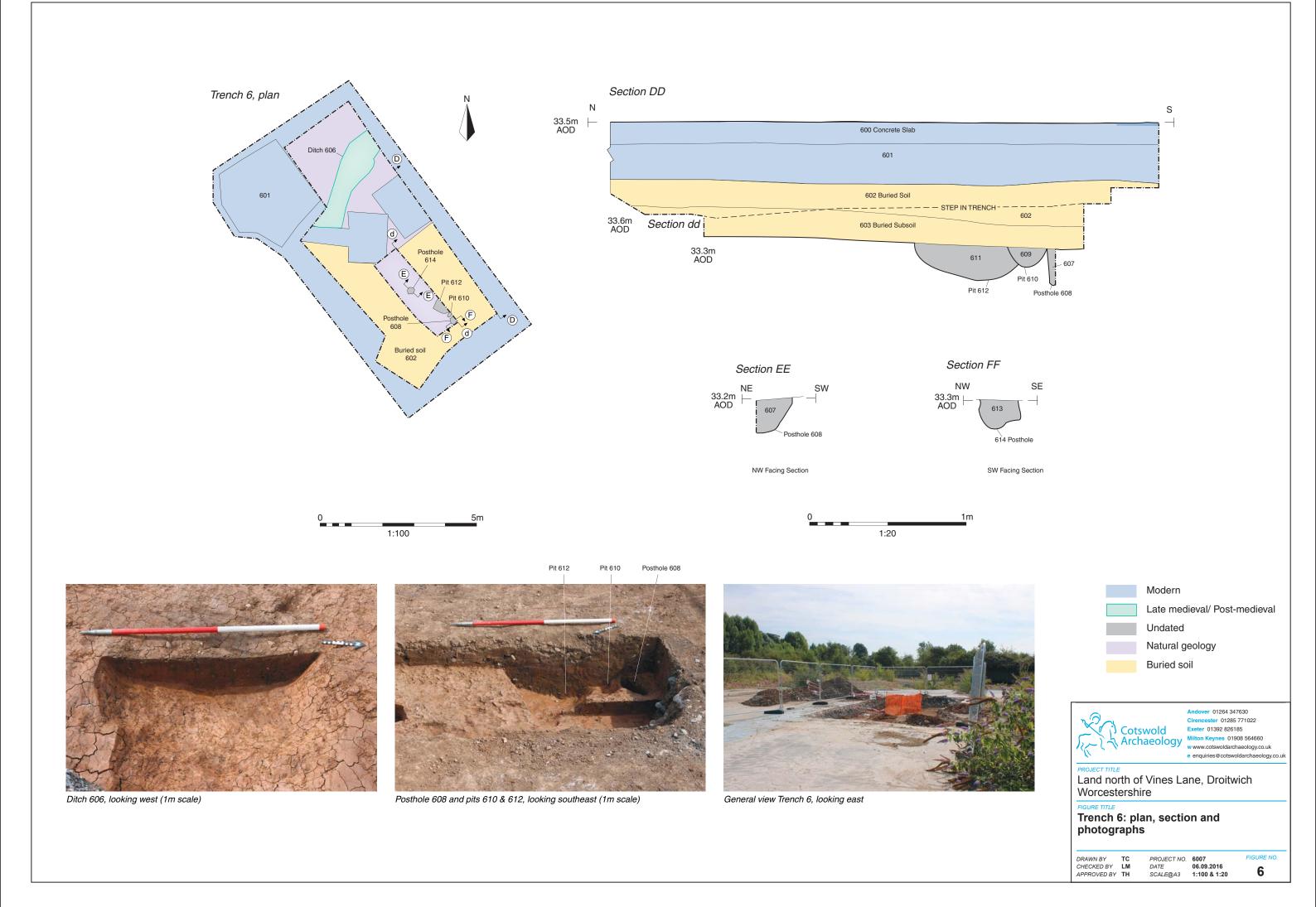


Cobbles 307, looking north-east (0.3 & 0.4m scales)











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