

**Staged programme of archaeological work  
at land adjacent  
Ye Olde School,  
Station Road,  
Hinton on the Green,  
Worcestershire**

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

14th July 2015  
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WSM 66986

Oasis ref martinco1-222609

The School House  
Church Lane  
Tardebigge  
Worcestershire  
B60 3AH

07850 918755

# **Staged programme of archaeological work at land adjacent Ye Olde School, Station Road, Hinton on the Green, Worcestershire**

## **Introduction**

A staged programme of archaeological work was carried out at land adjacent Ye Olde School, Station Road, Hinton on the Green, Worcestershire (SP 0233 4008; Fig 1) at the request of Adrian Robinson of arc Surveyors Ltd on behalf of the Trustees of Lasletts Hinton Charity. This work was undertaken in compliance with a brief from Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (dated 17th June 2014, planning ref W/12/2214) and according to a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCIFA and approved by Mike Glyde of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (site code OSH/15, WSM event no WSM 66986).

The programme of archaeological work was to comprise trial trenching followed by further work as appropriate and as agreed with the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. The CIfA provides no definition of trial trenching but defines an evaluation as:

The definition of archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

The purpose of the trial trenching was to identify the presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any sub-surface archaeological deposits, in order to make an assessment of their merit leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

## **Summary**

A staged programme of archaeological work was carried out at land adjacent Ye Olde School, Station Road, Hinton on the Green, Worcestershire. The project identified that there were no significant archaeological deposits present in the area of the proposed development. It did, however, identify that there were a series of terraces in the field to the south that continued into the project area. These were thought likely to be associated with the establishment of an orchard in the early 20th century.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

## **The documentary material**

### **Historic mapping**

No features are shown within the site on the tithe map of Hinton-on-the-Green of 1842 save for a boundary running east-north-east to west-south-west, a few metres back from the street frontage (Fig 2.1). No significant changes seem to have occurred by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, which cannot be reproduced for reasons of copyright. By the time of the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (Fig 2.2) the site had been planted as an orchard.

## **The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record**

There are a number of historic buildings, monuments, landscape components and archaeological events nearby or adjacent to the site. By period these are:

### **Historic buildings**

#### *14th century*

WSM 02712 Church of Saint Peter founded early 14th century

#### *17th century*

WSM 06992 Manor House, Manor Farm 17th century

WSM 51695 Manor Farm farmstead 17th century

WSM 08567 Pair of Dovecotes, Manor Farm 17th century

#### *18th century*

WSM 02713 Corn Mill, River Isbourne 18th century

WSM 42398 Threshing Barn and Stable at Manor Farm 18th century

WSM 45725 Garden wall, north of Manor House 18th century

#### *19th century*

WSM 45652 Farm building east of Manor House 19th century

WSM 45656 The Old Rectory 19th century

WSM 45657 School House 19th century

WSM 45731 Building to the north of the Manor House 19th century

### **Monuments**

#### *Roman*

WSM 40856 Possible Romano-British Occupation

#### *Medieval*

WSM 45020 Medieval settlement

WSM 47274 Ridge and Furrow, south of Station Road late 11th century

#### *18th century*

WSM 45658 Site of buildings associated with Mill 18th century

WSM 45659 Site of farm buildings 18th century

WSM 45726 Site of building adjacent to Manor House 18th century

WSM 45727 Site of cottages, east of Manor House 18th century

WSM 45728 Site of cottages, east of church 18th century

WSM 45729 Site of cottages, north of Manor House 18th century

#### *19th century*

WSM 45653 Site of Cottage, East of Rectory 19th century

WSM 45654 Site of cottage 19th century

WSM 45655 Site of old rectory and outbuildings 19th century

WSM 50997 Site of Field Barn east of Manor Farm, outfarm 19th century

WSM 50998 Site of Outfarm north east of Manor Farm, outfarm 19th century

### **Landscape components**

#### *17th century*

WSM 59345 Manor Farm, farmstead 17th century

#### *19th century*

WSM 58647 Site of Field Barn east of Manor Farm 19th century

WSM 58648 Site of Outfarm north east of Manor Farm 19th century

### **Archaeological events**

WSM 25811 Metal Detecting

WSM 45804 Ongoing work: Evaluation of Land between St Peter's Church and Ye Old School

WSM 45805 Ongoing work: Evaluation at Land adjacent to Ye Old School,

WSM 47392 Ongoing work: Desk Based Assessment at The Manor House

With reference to the Olde School site, the most important of these are:

#### *Medieval*

WSM 47274 Ridge and Furrow, south of Station Road late 11th century

Partial area of ridge and furrow visible on 2005 aerial photographs, running east to west; widely spaced; possibly ploughed by the time of the 2005 aerial photographs, or may be mowing patterns; shown with sheep grazing in 1999; dates are conjectural.

WSM 02712 Church of Saint Peter founded early 14th century

Church, c 1500 with late 11th and 14th century remains; restored 1860s; Chancel added 1895

WSM 45020 Medieval settlement

Area conjectural based upon the tithe map and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and the location of the church and Manor House.

#### *19th century*

WSM 45657 School House 19th century

Former school to west-north-west of church dated 1882.

#### *Archaeological event*

WSM 45805 Evaluation at land adjacent to Ye Old School,

Single trench to the north of the site (between the street frontage and the boundary noted in **Historic mapping** above) did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. The area may have been previously truncated which could account for the absence of archaeological deposits. This could have occurred during the creation of a hard standing area for vehicles, as the evaluation revealed a compacted reworked layer of hardcore rubble and silt, which has in places been pushed through the underlying natural soils (Joyce 2011). Further evidence for truncation was noted in trench 2 below.

#### **Commentary**

Solid evidence for medieval or earlier deposits lie at some distance from the site. Evidence for the post-medieval period (WSM 45657) lies immediately to the east and an evaluation conducted on the road frontage of the site in 2011 (WSM 45805) found no significant archaeological deposits although it noted the possibility of truncation.

## **The fieldwork**

### **General**

Fieldwork took place between the 8th and 12th June 2015. It comprised the excavation of two trenches, one 18m long and 3.2m wide (trench 1) and the other 14m long and 3.2m wide (trench 2) in the positions shown on Fig 3, with records (drawing, written description and photographs) made as appropriate. The trenches were not positioned according to the previously agreed written scheme of investigation as various obstacles on the site (Fig 3) precluded this. Instead they were positioned according to a revised plan agreed with the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

### **Description: excavation**

#### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 (Figs 5.1, 7 and 9) comprised three contexts. These were a shallow topsoil, a very dark brown, almost black sandy loam with small fragments of sandstone and common ash/charcoal; a subsoil, a mid brown mixture of sandy loam and clay with occasional small angular stones and the natural subsoil, a tenacious mid-brown clay with fragmented limestone appearing intermittently in the bottom of the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were unremarkable. The natural subsoil included outcrops of bedrock with fossils of univalve type.

#### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 (Figs 5.2, 8 and 10) was remarkable in having a completely different context profiles on its east and west sides. On its east side the contexts and stratigraphic succession were identical to that of trench 1 (Fig 5.2; East section). However, on its west side some dramatic changes had occurred

(Figs 5.2 West section and 10). There was a topsoil (context 004) similar to that on the east side (and that of trench 1) but with additional components of tenacious clay, ash, charcoal and small angular stones. Beneath it were discontinuous and jumbled lenses of orange sand (context 005), charcoal and ash (context 006) and dark brown tenacious clay (context 007). Beneath these was the natural subsoil (context 003). It is believed that the reason for the difference between the west section of trench 2 and the rest of the site is that this area has been substantially truncated and levelled in order to provide a suitable surface for the movement and parking of vehicles and other activities associated with the use of the site by scouts in recent times. This would accord with the truncation noted by the previous project (Joyce 2011) which was undertaken in a similarly flat and level area.

No features cut into the natural subsoil, or at any higher level, were discovered in either trench.

## **The Finds**

### **Results of analysis**

The complete finds report has been presented as Appendix 2. The artefactual assemblage came from the topsoil of two trenches and totalled 43 finds weighing 695g (see tables 1 and 3). The standard of preservation was generally fair, with finds displaying moderate levels of abrasion.

### **Discussion**

All contexts had a *terminus post quem* of the 20th century but artefacts could be dated from the 18th century onwards.

### **Description: walk-over survey**

Since the field to the south was in the same ownership and it was evident that there were earthworks present that might relate to the deposits in the excavated trenches, a walk-over survey was sketched on the modern Ordnance Survey map (Fig 4). This revealed four broad terraces stepping down to the River Isbourne. These were intersected at intervals by narrow, linear hollows, approximately 5m wide, running approximately west to east or west-north-west to east-south-east and which appeared to terminate at the top of the third terrace from the river. One of the terraces, the second from the river, clearly continued into the evaluation site.

### **Commentary**

It is believed that these terraces relate to the orchard shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (Fig 2.2). The linear hollows may be small holloways produced by carts or sleds employed during the harvest or at other times for the maintenance of the orchard.

## **Interpretation**

The site produced no archaeological deposits in either trench. In the case of trench 1 this is probably due to the use of the land as pasture and subsequently as an orchard. Trench 2 showed severe signs of truncation which was probably occasioned during the use of the land as a scout camp and activity site in recent times.

A small quantity of finds dating from the 18th century onwards was recovered from the topsoil.

## **Significance**

No archaeological features of any description were located during the evaluation. The finds have a *terminus post quem* of the 20th century. The significance is therefore zero.

## **Depositional and post-depositional processes**

The site is located on the upper slopes of the valley of the River Isbourne. Given the width (around 200m) and depth of the 'V' shaped valley (approximately 8m deep) the Isbourne was clearly a much larger river in, say, immediately post-glacial times. Since then the area of the site, and that further south, has probably been under an agricultural or pasture regime, culminating in the early 20th

century with the creation of terraces for an orchard. Most recently, the use of the site as a scout camp has resulted in the western and northern parts of the site being levelled and severely truncated, presumably for vehicular access and parking.

### **Assessment of the need for further work**

No archaeological features were located during this project which is consistent with the results of the previous project on the site (Joyce 2011). It is therefore considered that no further archaeological investigation is required as a condition of this development.

### **Bibliography**

Joyce, S, 2011 *Report of land adjacent to Ye Olde School, Hinton on Green*

### **Acknowledgements**

The author would particularly like to thank Adrian Robinson of arc Surveyors Ltd, the Trustees of Lasletts Hinton Charity, Nigel, the machine driver, Suzanne MacLeod for her assistance on site and Mike Glyde, Aisling Nash and Adrian Scruby of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service for their kind cooperation.

### **Archive**

The physical archive consists of:

- 7 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing
- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the brief
- 1 Hard copy of the WSI

It will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury upon approval of the report.

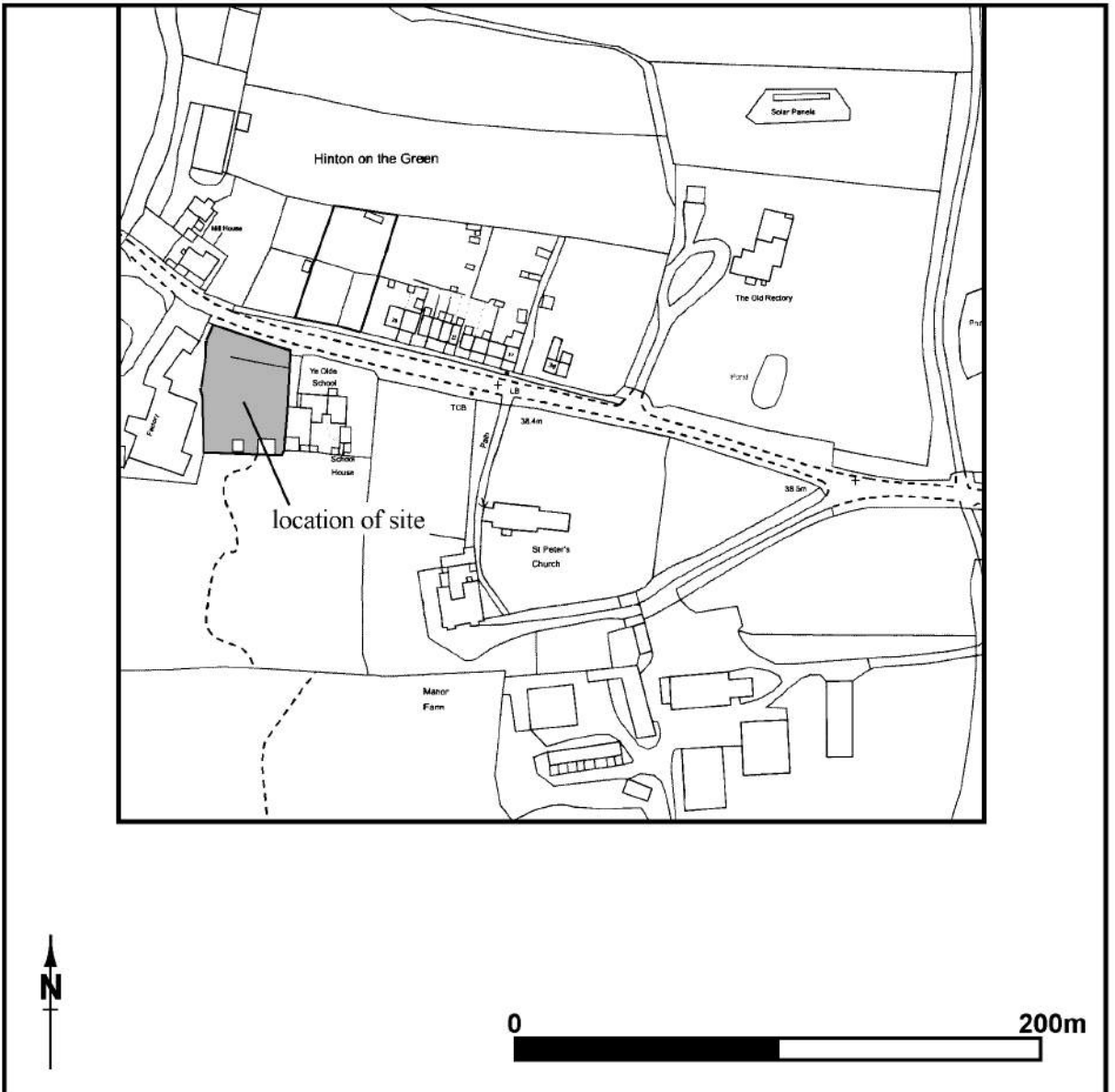
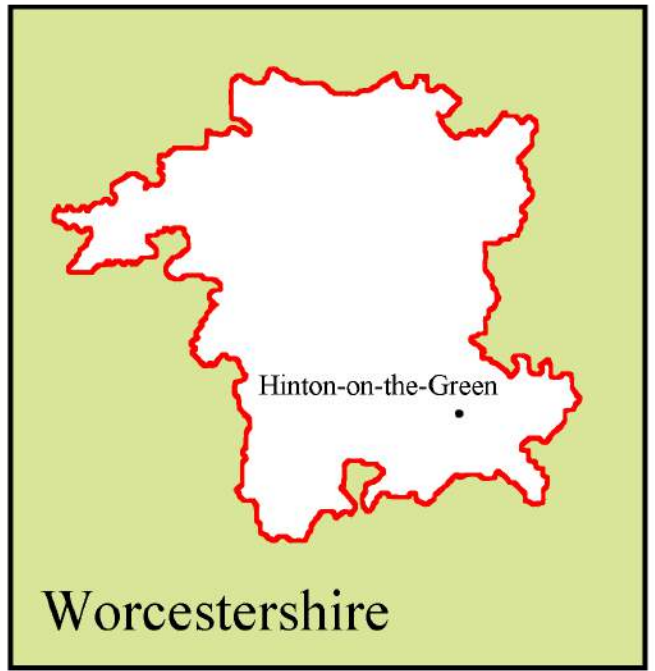
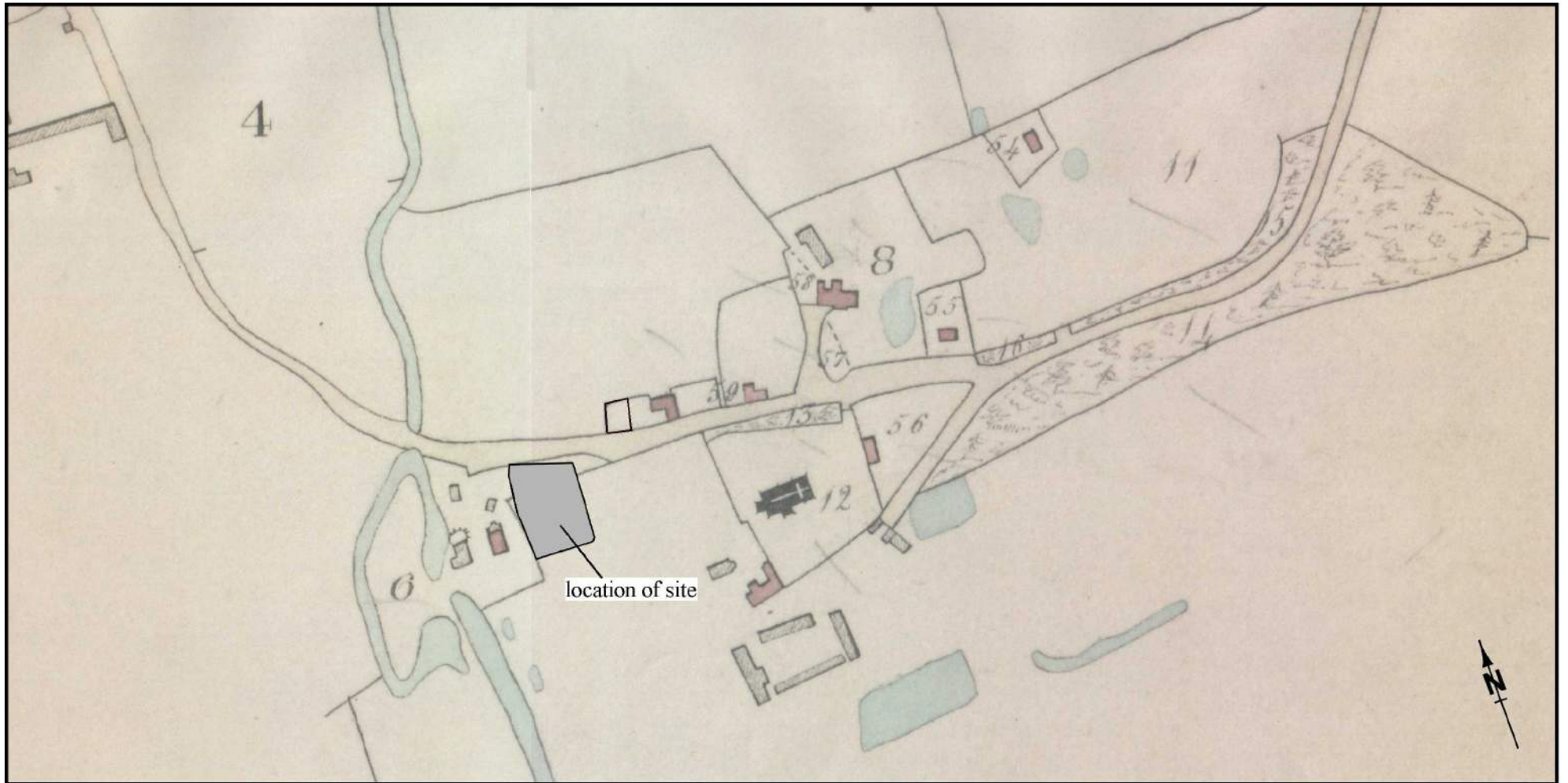


Fig 1: Location of site





not to scale

Fig 2.1: Hinton-on-the-Green tithe map of 1842



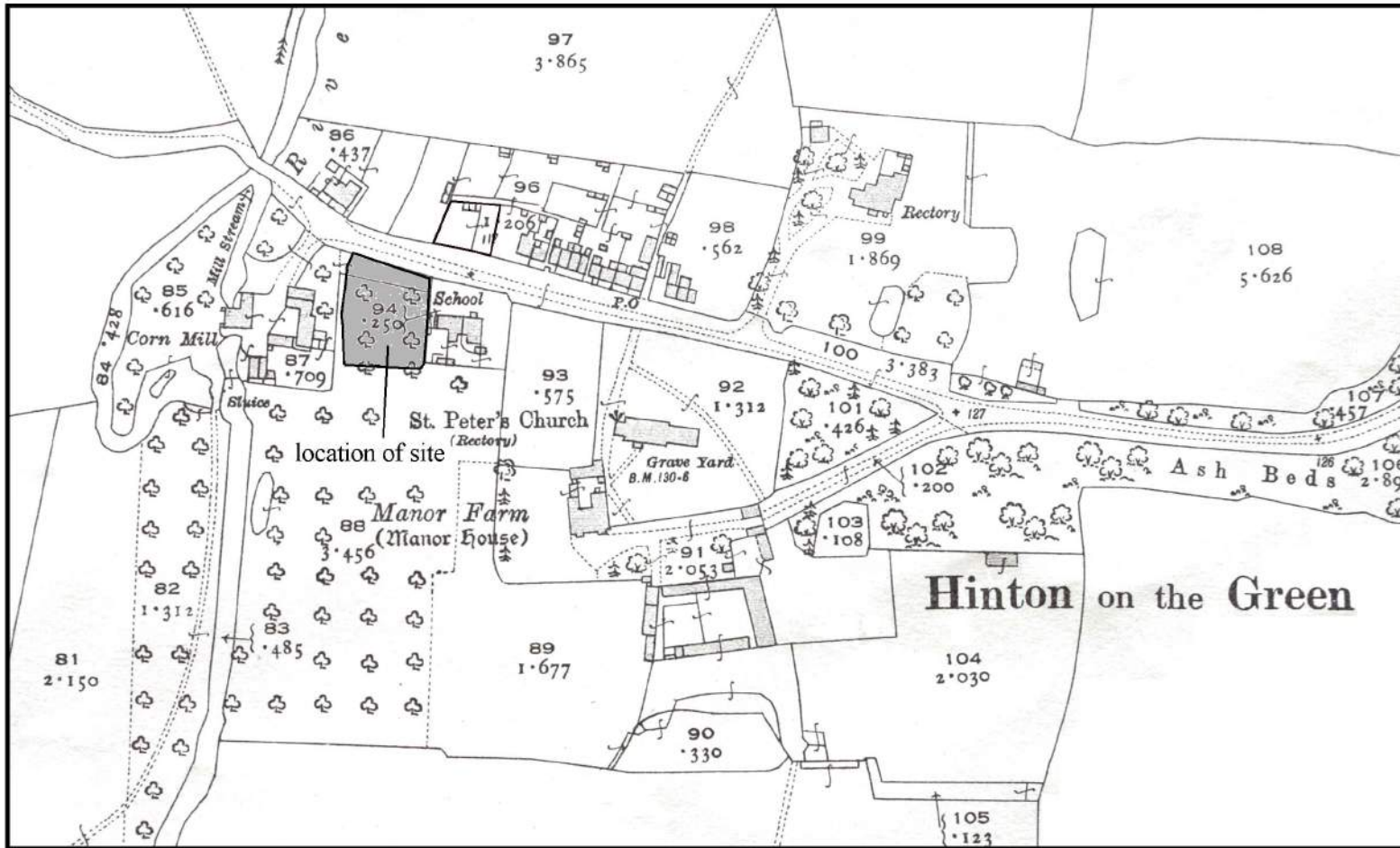
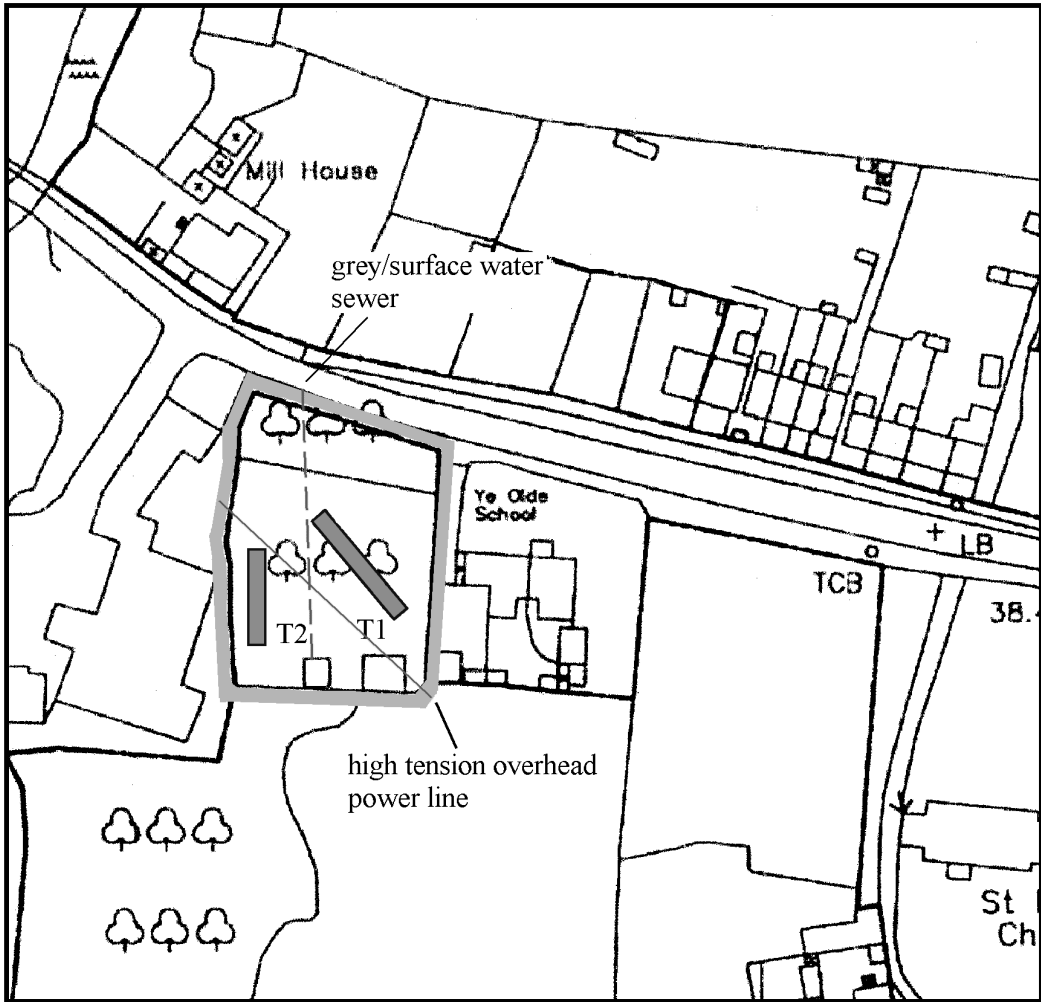


Fig 2.2: Ordnance Survey mapping of 1923



Location of site

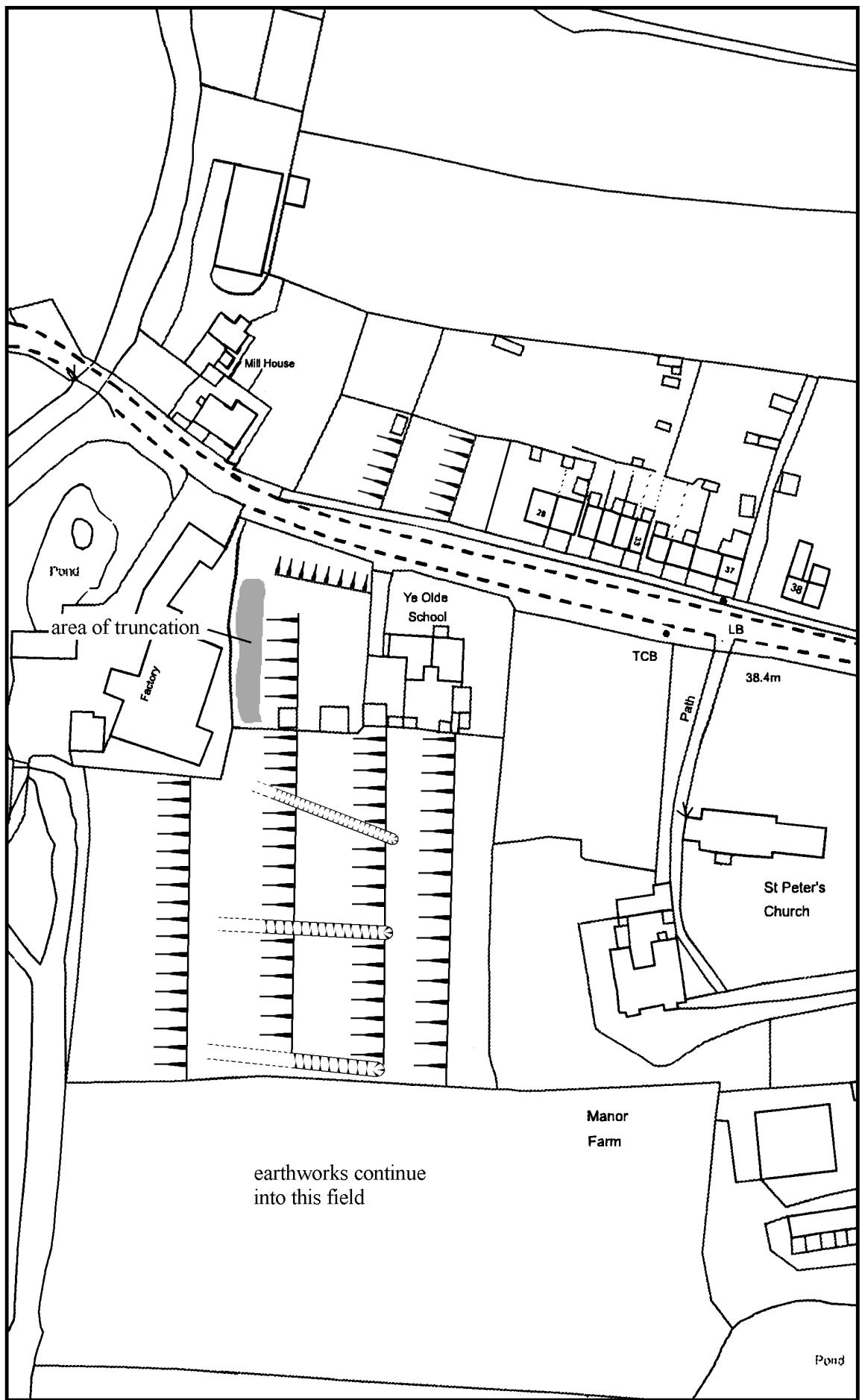


15m trench, 3.2m wide



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Fig 3: Trench location



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Fig 4: Sketch earthworks survey of surrounding fields

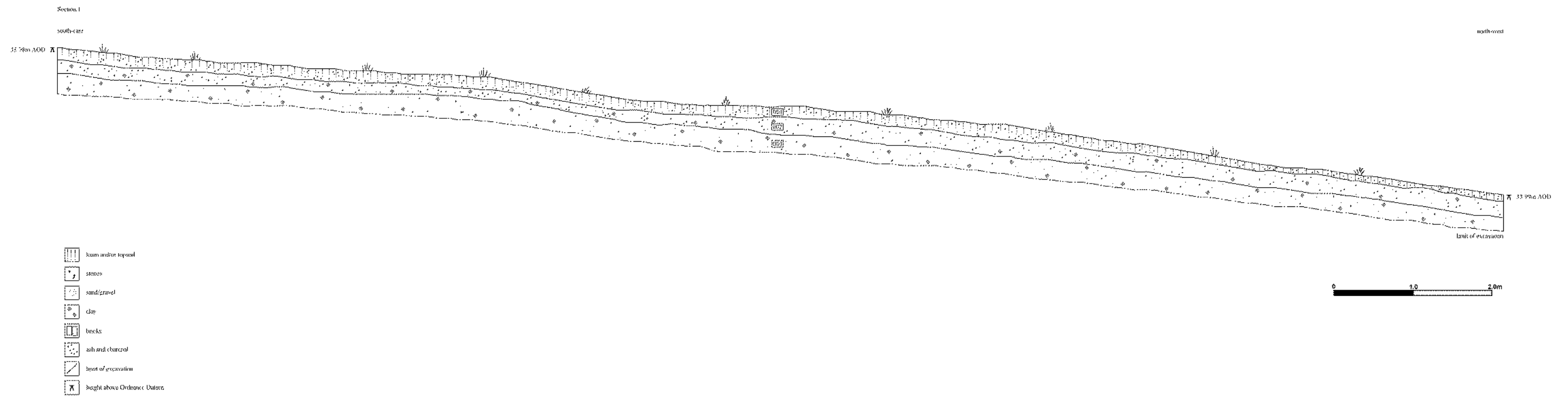
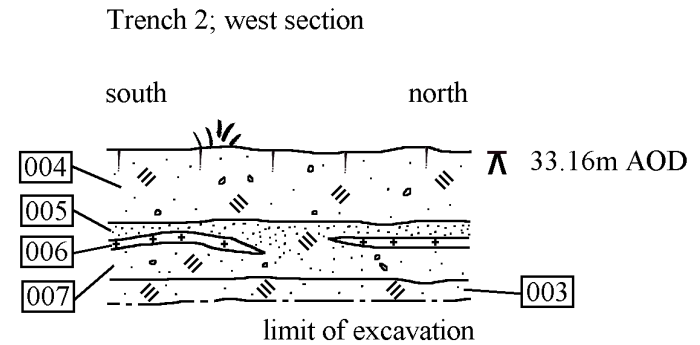
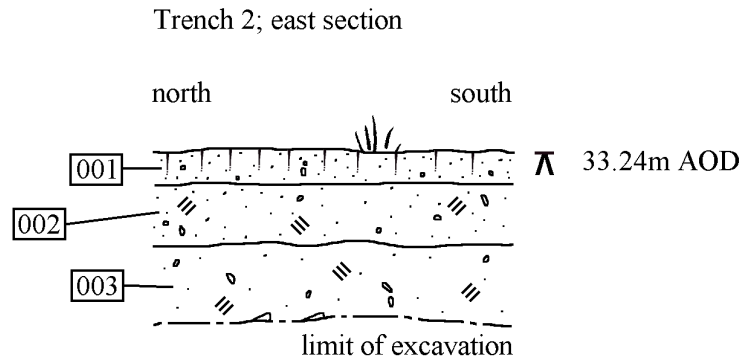










Fig. 5.1 South-west section of trench 1



-  loam and/or topsoil
-  stones
-  sand/gravel
-  clay
-  bricks
-  ash and charcoal
-  limit of excavation
-  height above Ordnance Datum

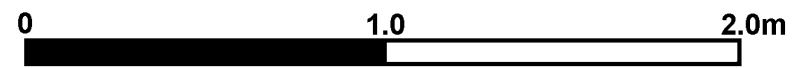


Fig 5.2: Trench 2; east and west sections

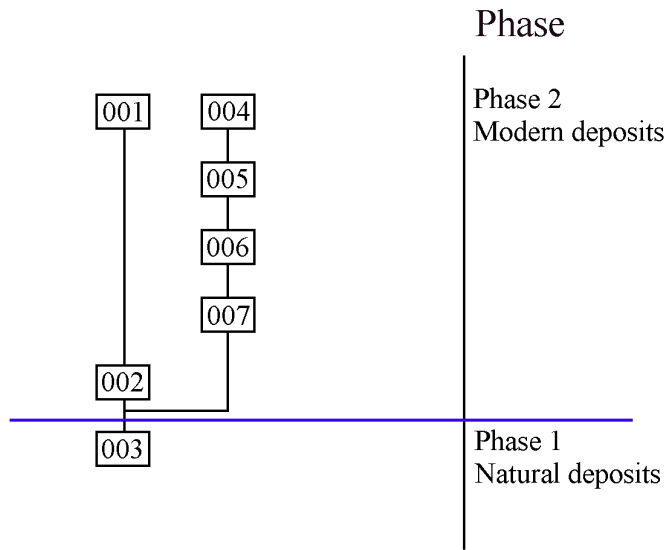


Fig 6: Matrix of trench





Fig 7: Trench 1; illustrative section



Fig 8: Trench 2 west; illustrative section





Fig 9: Trench 1



Fig 10: Trench 2

## Appendix 1: List of the contexts

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Very dark brown, almost black sandy loam with small fragments of sandstone and common ash/charcoal	Topsoil
002	Mid brown mixture of sandy loam and clay with occasional small angular stones	Subsoil
003	Tenacious mid-brown clay with fragmented limestone appearing intermittently in bottom of trench	Natural subsoil with bedrock outcrops including fossils of univalve type
004	Darkish brown mixture of tenacious clay, ash, charcoal, small angular stones and loam	Topsoil but substantially a mixture of different layers which have arrived in their current positions by an erosional activity of truncation
005	Orange sand lens	See 004
006	Black charcoal and ash lens	See 004
007	Dark brown tenacious clay	See 004

## **Appendix 2: The finds report**

## **The Artefacts by Laura Griffin**

### **Aims**

The brief required an assessment of the quantity, range and potential of artefacts from the excavation.

The aims of the finds assessment were:

- a) to identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts
- b) to describe the range of artefacts present
- c) to preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts

### **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date range was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### **Results of analysis**

The artefactual assemblage came from the topsoil of two trenches and totalled 43 finds weighing 695g (see tables 1 and 3). The standard of preservation was generally fair, with finds displaying moderate levels of abrasion.

All contexts had a *terminus post quem* of 20th century but artefacts could be dated from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

### **Discussion**

The discussion below is a summary of the artefacts and associated context by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

#### *Post-medieval*

A single sherd of post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91) with a dark brown glaze could be dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century (trench 1, context 001).

#### *Modern*

All remaining finds were of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date and included fragments of modern tile, brick, domestic stoneware vessels (fabric 81.4), window and vessel glass including the base of a pearlescent glass jar (trench 1, context 001). There were also a large number of miscellaneous metal objects, primarily iron nails.

## References

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in S G Woodiwiss (ed), Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich, CBA Res Rep, 81, 200-9

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Modern pottery	6	227
Post-medieval pottery	1	2
Roof tile	1	75
Modern glazed tile	1	8
Brick	1	26
Window glass	1	5
Vessel glass	2	52
Misc. iron objects	27	158
Iron key	1	21
Copper alloy caster	1	99
Steel fork	1	22

**Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage**

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
78	Post-medieval red ware	1	2
81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	6	227

**Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type**

Trench	Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)	Date range	Period
1	001	pot	modern	6	227	19-20C	modern
1	001	pot	post-medieval	1	2	18C	post-medieval
1	001	tile	flat roof	1	75	19-20C	modern
1	001	brick		1	26	19-20C	modern
1	001	glass	window	1	5		modern
1	001	glass	vessel	1	51	19-E20C	modern
1	001	iron	key	1	21		modern
1	001	copper alloy	caster	1	99		modern
1	001	steel	fork	1	22		modern
2	001	tile	wall	1	8	20C	modern
2	001	glass	vessel	1	1	19-20C	modern
2	001	iron	misc.	27	158		modern

**Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts**

## **Appendix 3: The OASIS form**



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## Ye Olde School, Hinton-on-the-Green - Martin Cook BA MCIfA

OASIS ID - martinco1-222609

### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Martin Cook	office@martinjcook.com	4 September 2015
<a href="#">View 2</a>	2	Martin Cook	office@martinjcook.com	10 October 2015

### Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

### Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

### File submission and form progress

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