Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to the Grain Store, off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire

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WSM 69324

Oasis ref martinco1-296035

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Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to the Grain Store, off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire (SP 108 433; Fig 1) at the request of Mr Mark Young of Berry and Young on behalf of his client, Mr Guy Havemann-Mart of Honeybrook Animal Foods. This work was undertaken in compliance with a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCIfA in response to a brief provided by Adrian Scruby of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, dated October 2015 (planning ref 15/01465).

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to the Grain Store, off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire. The only feature recorded was a culvert crossing the site, dating to the mid 20th century.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

The documentary material

Geology and topography

The search area sits within a rolling lowland topography based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone, with a superficial geology made up of sand, silt, clay and gravel. The historic landscape is made up of regular, planned enclosure; however, in the vicinity of Bretforton remnants of enclosed strip fields are seen to remain. Historically, settlement within this area is nucleated, however, 20th century modern expansion in the villages, localised industry and a prison have eroded this historic character to some degree. Land use within this region is arable with intensive glasshouse agriculture seen on the fringes of settlement. Honeybourne airfield, which was operational during the Second World War, has been mostly reverted to farmland with an industrial estate seen to the south. The Conservation Area of Honeybourne is just included in the north east of the search area.

Historic mapping

The earliest available mapping is the Honeybourne inclosure map of 1778 (Fig 2.1) This shows that the plot that includes the site was to be given to a Mary Smith in *lieu* of her 'half yard land'. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1885, 1901 and 1923 (1:2500 scale; Figs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4) show that the site occupies the corner of a rectangular field with an adjacent stream. The partial revision of 1938 (1:2500 scale; Fig 2.5) shows nothing different. The Ordnance Survey map of 1950 (1:10000 scale; Fig 2.6) shows that the stream has been diverted a little to the north to accommodate the World War II airfield and that the site lies adjacent to the perimeter road of the airfield.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

There are a number of landscape components or monuments nearby or adjacent to the site. By proximity to the site these are:

The site itself

WSM 12533 - a World War II airfield surrounded the site. Associated monuments are: WSM 32493 - site of pillbox and WSM 36013 - site of runway 2, RAF Honeybourne.

Immediately adjacent to the site

WSM 30628 - the conjectural course of a Roman road between Hinton on the Green and Honeybourne. Associated monuments are: WSM 36238 - Roman settlement, Roman enclosure ditches partially revealed and excavated. The site also contained a series of pits. Pottery recovered from these features suggest the activity started in the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD and continued into the late 3rd century AD, WSM 68084 - Romano - British field system, west of Manor Farm, WSM 02826 - unstratified Romano-British pottery, south west of Cow Honeybourne and

WSM 07337 - unstratified Romano-British finds, 800m south west of Honeybourne.

WSM 36012 - ridge and furrow, West of Manor Farm (late 11th century AD to 19th century AD) and WSM 50876/58526 - site of New Barn possibly demolished in the 19th century.

Summary

Activity in the vicinity of the site dates to three periods: Roman, medieval and 19th to 20th century.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 12th and 13th September 2017. It comprised monitoring of the excavations. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

Description

Material (context 001) to a depth of c 0.35m was stripped across the entire site. This was a very clayer with only a thin skin of humus on its surface. The only feature encountered was a clay and stone filled linear feature running across the site from the north-west to south-east (context 003). Inspection of the headwall at its north-west end indicates that it is a modern culvert, probably constructed in the middle of the 20th century. In certain areas, where the excavations were a little deeper or the natural subsoil rose a little higher, the natural subsoil (context 002) was exposed.

The finds

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of two sherds from a black glazed vessel of post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) dated late 17th-18th century.

Modern

All remaining finds were of late 19th-20th century date. These included a plastic and metal knife handle, a small nail, a copper alloy disc of unknown function and two pieces of lead, one of which appeared to be a section of narrow pipe, possibly from an engine. There was also a large iron object which was thought to be an adze head.

Interpretation

The only feature encountered was a culvert crossing the site, probably dating to the mid 20th century.

Depositional and post-depositional processes

The excavations didn't exceed a depth of c 0.35m. Thus, they barely reached below the nominal depth of the topsoil. It is clear from the map of 1950 (Fig 2.6) that very extensive earth-moving operations attended the construction of the airfield. The almost complete absence of above-ground surviving features (apart from sections of the runways and perimeter road) show that equally extensive works followed its disuse in order to return it to agricultural land.

Bibliography

Cook, M, 2015 Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to the Grain Store, off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire

WAAS, 2015 Requirements for an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to the Grain Store, off Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service.

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mr Mark Young of Berry and Young, his client Mr Guy Havemann-Mart of Honeybrook Animal Foods, the contractor Ashley Coldicott and his team and Adrian Scruby of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service for their kind cooperation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

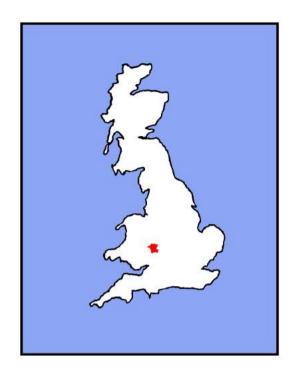
- 3 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing
- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the report illustrations
- 1 Hard copy of the brief
- 1 Hard copy of the WSI

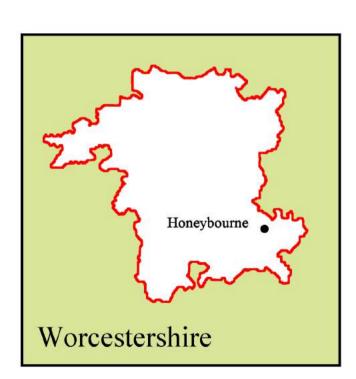
It will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury upon approval of the report. It is anticipated that the finds, having a *tpq* of the 19th-20th century, will not be of interest to the museum. However, the museum will be consulted in this respect before disposal.

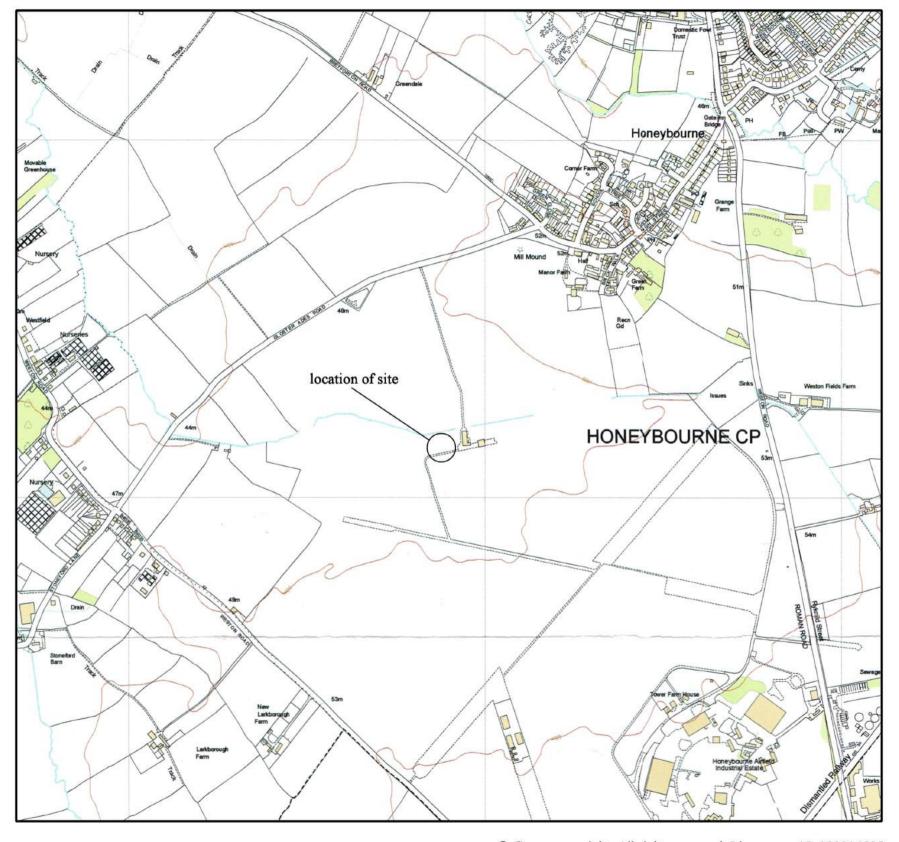
The digital archive consists of:

- 1 Digital copy of the report (.doc format)
- 10 Illustrations (.bmp format)

It will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service upon approval of the report.







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1000m

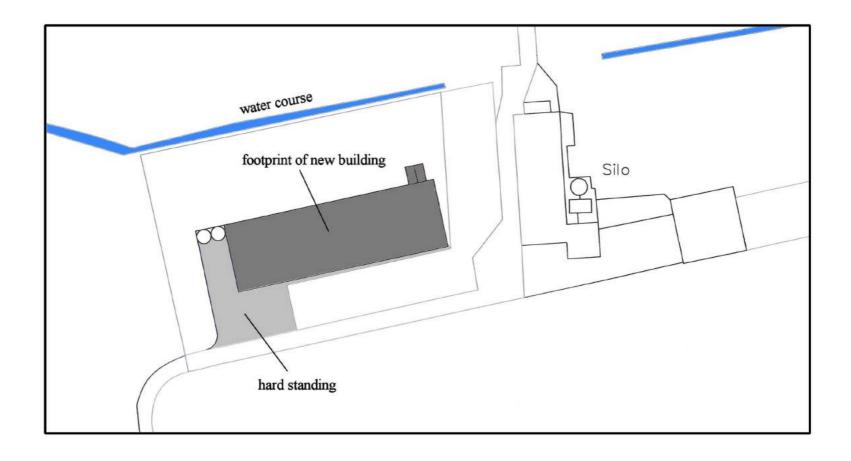
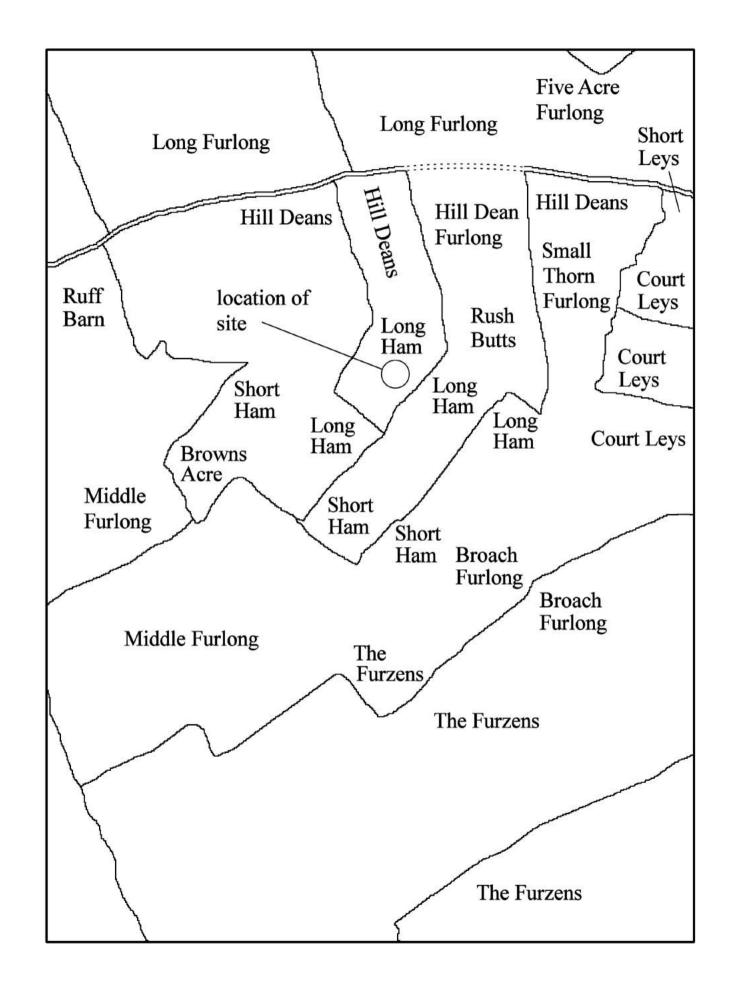


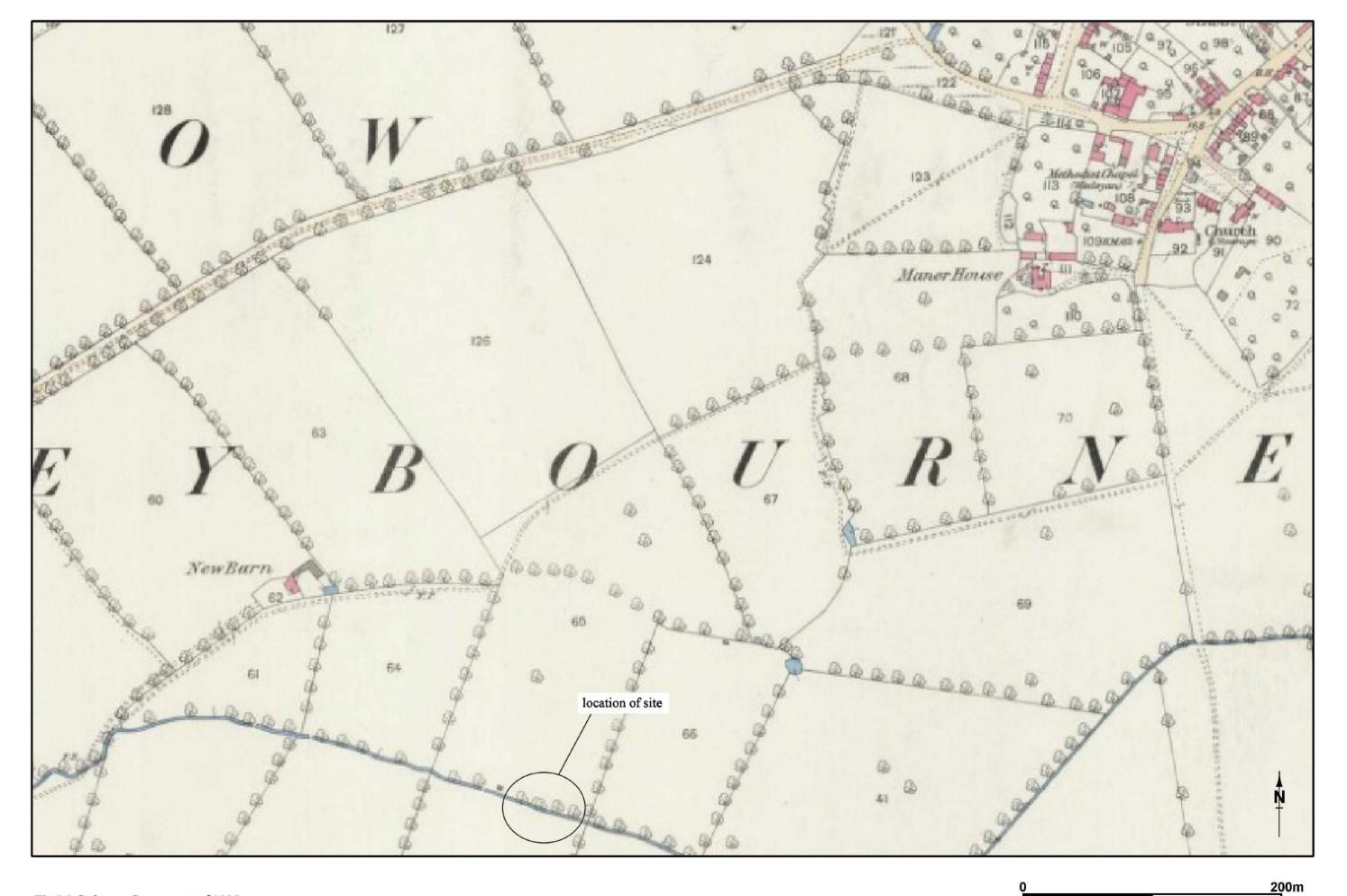


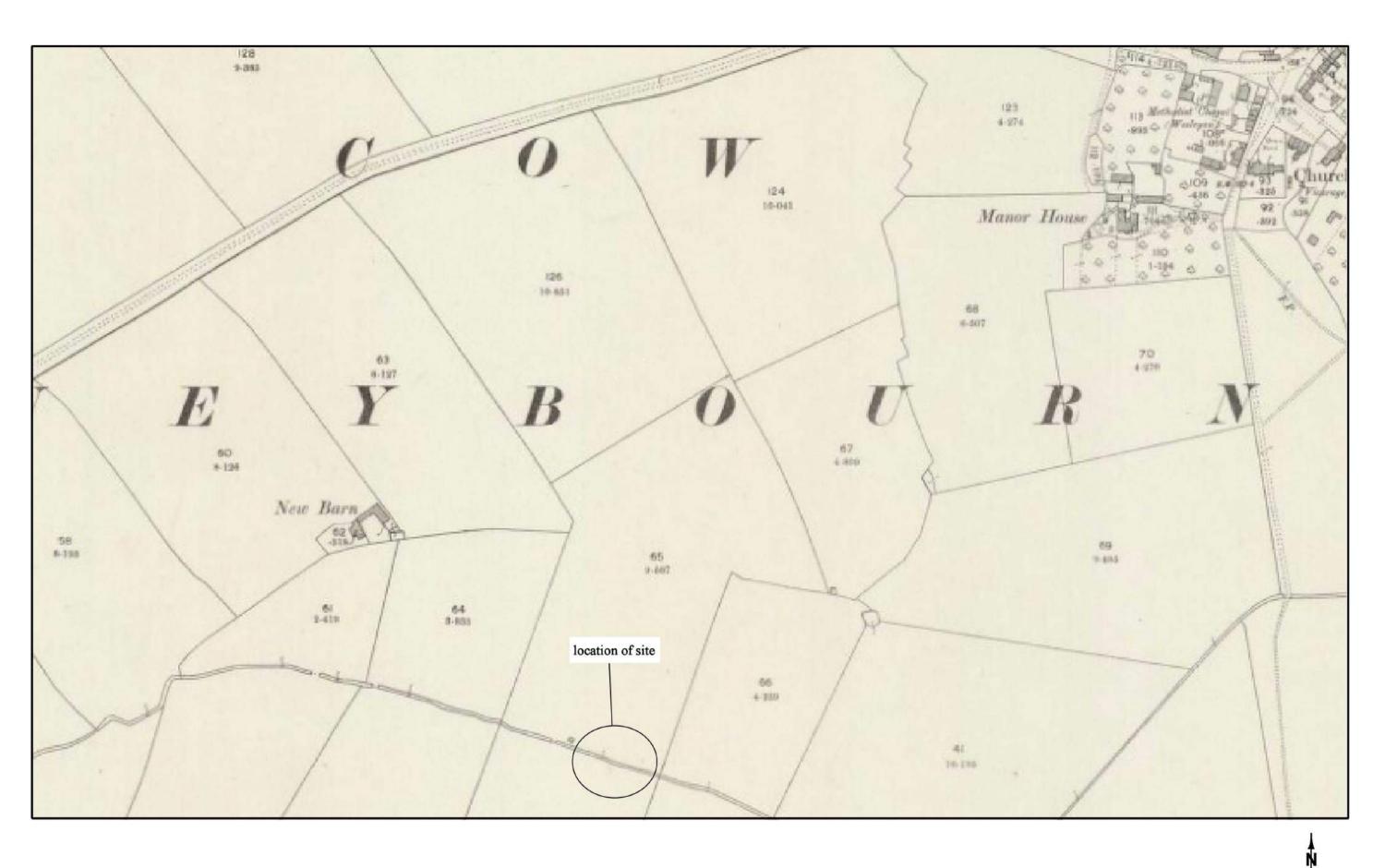


Fig 1.2: Location of works

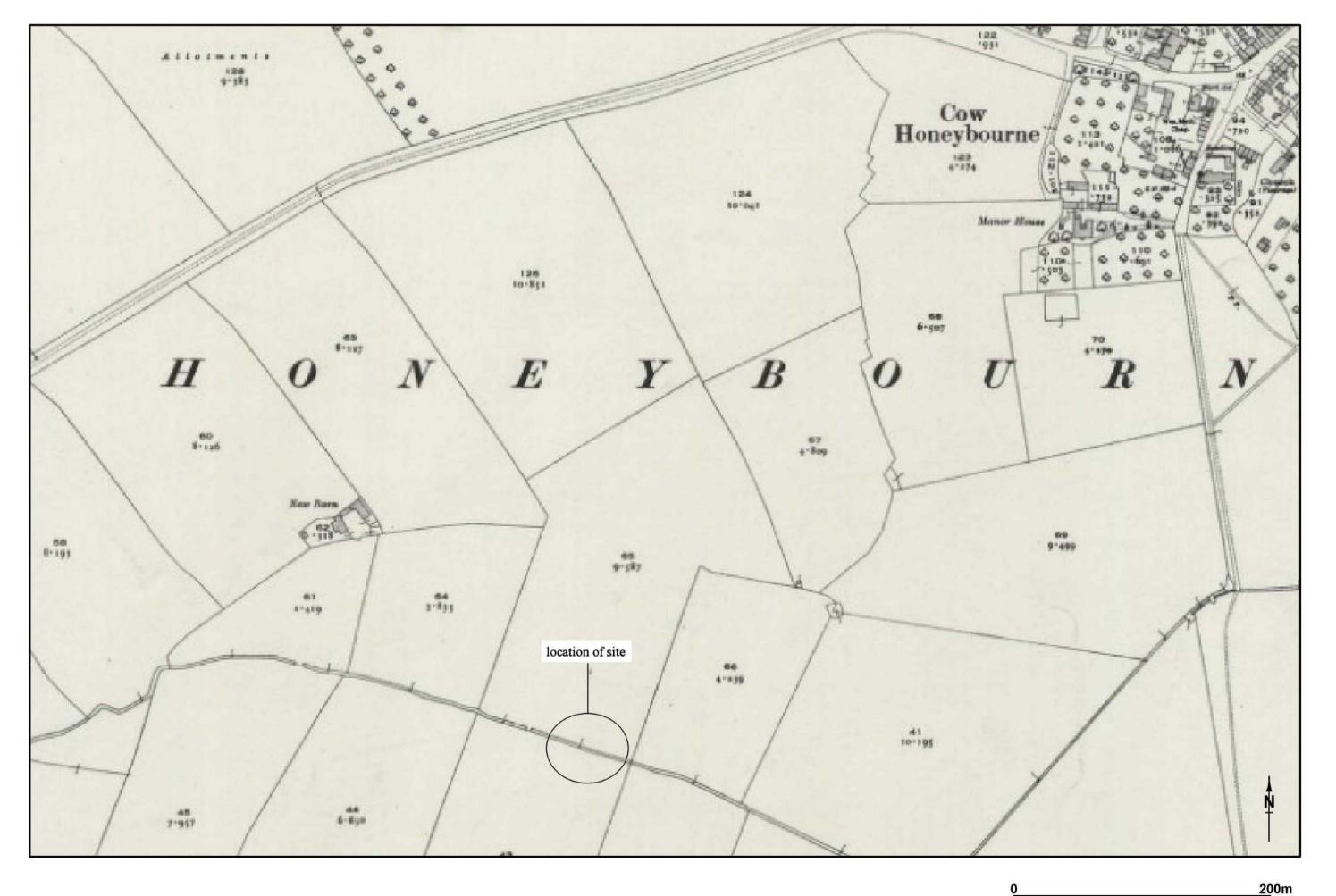








0 <u>20</u>0m



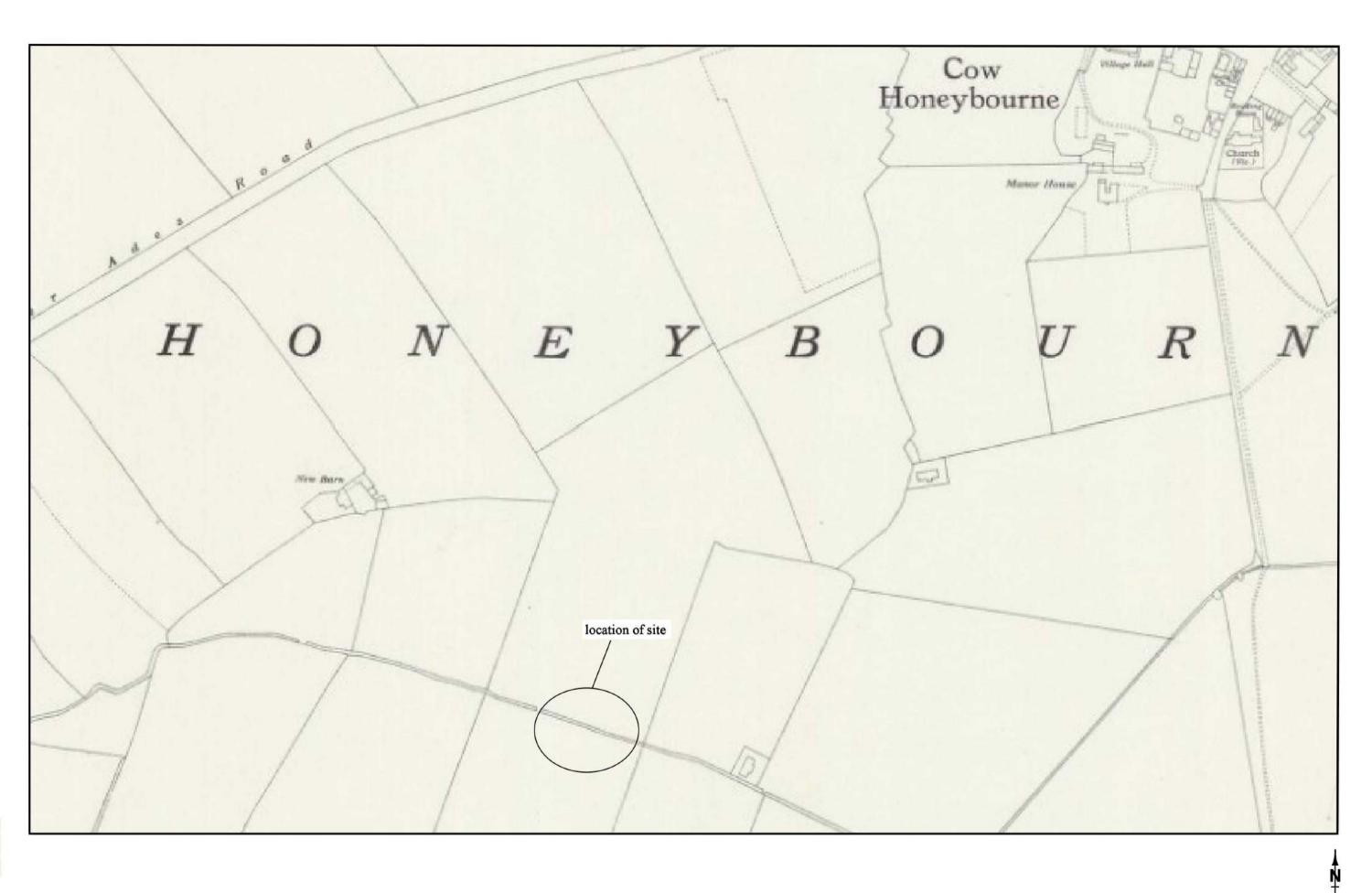
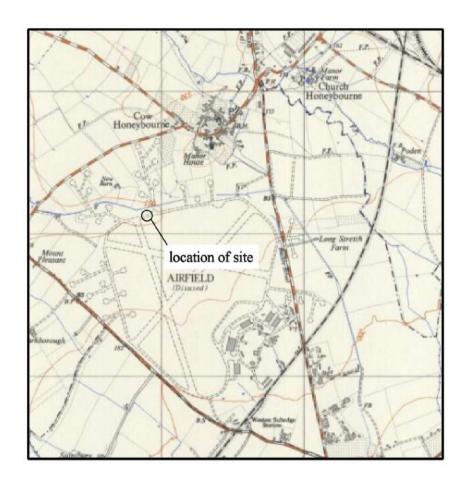
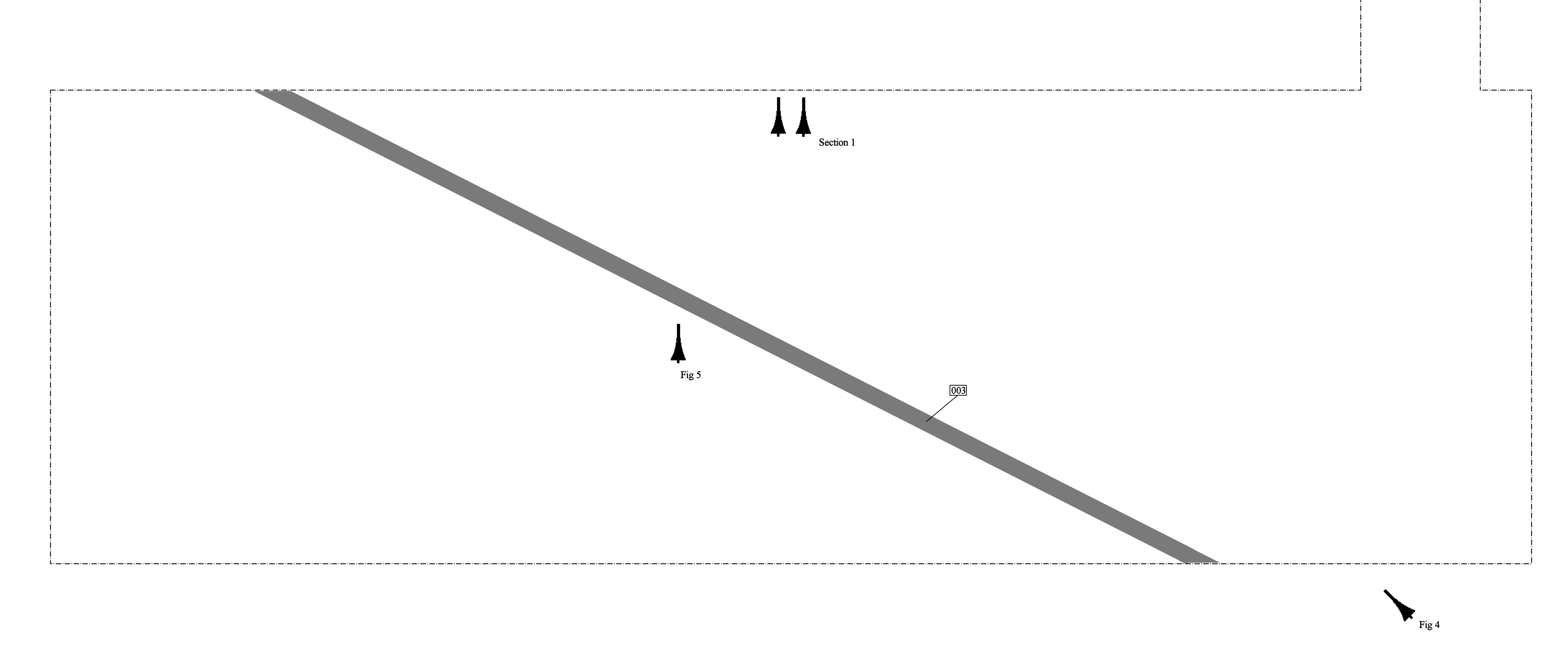


Fig 2.5: Ordnance Survey map of 1938

0 200m







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loam and/or topsoil
stones

sand/gravel

clay

Section 1
west
east

7 46.894m AOD



Fig 4: General view of site from the south-east



Fig 5: line of culvert; context 003

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark grey brown semi-tenacious clay with a very thin (2-5cm) layer of humic material on the surface.	Topsoil
	Occasional to moderate small to medium rounded stones.	
002	Orange buff sandy clay, occasionally visible	Natural subsoil
003	Mixture of dark brown clay and angular large stone	Fill of culvert

Appendix 2: Finds report

Artefactual analysis by Laura Griffin

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by CIfA (2014), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

Aims

- To identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts;
- To describe the range of artefacts present;
- 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. All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Results

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

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled eight objects weighing 2112g (see Table 1). All material came from the topsoil (context 100) and was predominantly of modern date, with the exception of two sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Level of preservation was fair, with finds displaying moderate levels of surface abrasion and an average sherd weight of 7.5g.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	15
modern	iron	nail	1	8
modern	plastic/ metal composite	handle	1	30
modern	lead	object	2	50
modern	iron	tool	1	2000
modern	copper alloy	object	1	9

Table 1: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage

All material has been dated and quantified (see Table 1). Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of two sherds from a black glazed vessel of post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) dated late 17th-18th century.

Modern

All remaining finds were of late 19th-20th century date. These included a plastic and metal knife handle, a small nail, a copper alloy disc of unknown function and two pieces of lead, one of which appeared to be a section of narrow pipe, possibly from an engine. There was also a large iron object which was thought to be an adze head.

Period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	2	31

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

Recommendations

No further work required.

Bibliography

AAF 2011 Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation. Available at http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/

ClfA 2014 Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Available at http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa

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

PCRG/SGRP/MPRG, 2016 A standard for pottery studies in archaeology

SMA 1993 Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections. Available at http://www.swfed.org.uk/wp-

content/uploads/2015/05/selectionretentiondispersalofcollections1-SMA.pdf

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

Site code: GAR/17 HER No. WSM 69324

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specifi c type	start date	end date	Co unt	weig ht (g)	spec ialist repo rt? (note 2)	key asse mblag e? (note 3)
post- medieval	ceramic	pot	1650	1799	2	15	Υ	N
modern	iron	nail			1	8	N	N
modern	iron	handle			1	30	N	N
modern	plastic/ metal composite	object			2	50	N	N
modern	lead	tool			1	2000	N	N
modern	iron	object			1	9	N	N
modern	copper alloy	nail			1	8	N	N

Notes

1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001

Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	
		1

- 2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.
- 3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.

Appendix 3: The OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-296035

Project details

Project name Gloster Ades Road Honeybourne

Short description of Watching brief at land at Gloster Ades Road,

the project Honeybourne, Worcestershire

Start: 12-09-2017 End: 15-09-2017 Project dates

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project WSM 69324 - HER event no. reference codes

Any associated project

reference codes

15/01465 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than Current Land use

0.25m

CULVERT Modern Monument type

NONE None Significant Finds Investigation type "Watching Brief" **Prompt** Planning condition

Project location

Country England

WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON HONEYBOURNE Site location

Gloster Ades Road, Honeybourne

1200 Square metres Study area

SP 10870 43153 52.086206734534 -1.841341639632 52 Site coordinates

05 10 N 001 50 28 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 43m Max: 43m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Martin Cook BA MCIfA

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning

Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

Project

director/manager

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

Project supervisor

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

Type of

sponsor/funding body

Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive

No

Exists?

Digital Archive

ADS

recipient

recipient

"none"

Digital Contents

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

Worcestershire County Museum

Paper Contents

"none"

Paper Media available "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

Project bibliography

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) Publication type

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Cook. M.

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