

**Archaeological watching brief
at Upper Brookend Court,
Upper Brookend,
Kempsey,
Worcestershire,
WR5 3QN**

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

6th July 2018

WSM 70263

Oasis ref martinco1-318055

Sundowner
Circus Field Basin
Stocklake
Aylesbury
HP20 1AP

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Archaeological watching brief at Upper Brookend Court, Upper Brookend, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3QN

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land at Upper Brookend Court, Upper Brookend, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3QN (SO 8643 4994; Fig 1) at the request of Adrian Robinson of arc Surveyors Limited, on behalf of his client Daniel Alderney. This work was undertaken in compliance with consultee comments from Aidan Smyth, Malvern Hills District Council Archaeology and Planning Advisor dated 18th October 2017 (planning ref 17/01574/FUL). The written scheme of investigation was approved by Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils on 22nd March 2018.

The archaeological watching brief was to comprise documentary research, a watching brief, three days for uninterrupted access (if necessary) and a report.

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land at Upper Brookend Court, Upper Brookend, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3QN. No archaeological features were identified and a small number of finds dating to the post-medieval and modern periods were collected from the topsoil.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

The documentary material

Geology and topography

The search location is situated in an area based on mixed geology of mudstone and sandstone with clay soils. The historic landscape character of the area is primarily that of field amalgamation with some Parliamentary enclosure to the east of the M5. The southern half of the search area is dominated by field reorganisation some of which was carried out as a result of the M5 construction. Upper Brookend Court is characterised as a clustered settlement with some modern expansion to the north-east at Manor House.

Historic mapping

The earliest available mapping is the Kempsey tithe map of 1840 (Fig 2.1). This shows the site located near the middle of an irregularly shaped field, called Long Meadow, approximately midway between Brook End House and Upper Brookend Court. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1904 and 1928 (Fig 2.2) show nothing different.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

There are a number of monuments near the site. These are:

to the east and north-east of the site

WSM 44882

There is a cropmark of an enclosure, north of Poacher's Cottage, Kempsey. A faint crop mark of an enclosure which is visible on the 1999 aerial photographs of the county. The cropmarks show a playing card shape together with two linears which may be trackways. These are dated to the Roman period - 43 AD to 410 AD.

WSM 51255 and 51256

The site of a field barn to the east of Upper Brookend Court, Kempsey is thought to be a 19th century outfarm.

WSM 68243

To the south-west of Maple Cottage, Kempsey are the remains of post-medieval ridge and furrow, aligned north-east to south-west, seen from aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery.

WSM 70351 and 70352

The site of farm buildings at Upper Brookend Court, Brookend Lane, Kempsey of the 18th and 19th century AD shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. They have since been lost and have been replaced by a large garage building

Commentary

The primary reason for the archaeological investigation was that the development might affect heritage assets of below-ground archaeological interest. The development area is situated near cropmarks, two nearby ones having been interpreted as Roman enclosures. A Roman road lies to the west of the site. Within the development site there is an unclear feature shown in LiDAR next to the central field boundary shown on a 2005 aerial photograph (Aidan Smyth pers com, email of 22nd March 2018).

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 14th and 30th May 2018. It comprised monitoring of the excavations. These were for ten stanchion footings approximately 0.75m x 0.75m square and about 0.6m deep. Within the area bordered by these footings the ground was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5m for a concrete floor slab. A broad area was therefore uncovered at a depth propitious for the exposure of archaeological deposits. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

Description

Stanchion footings

A dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones (context 001) approximately 150mm thick was removed to reveal a mid orange brown sandy clay (context 002) which extended to the limit of excavation (Fig 3, sections 1 to 6).

Strip for concrete slab

This removed a dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones (context 001). The site is on a slight slope and a variable depth of a mid orange brown sandy clay (context 002) was also removed.

The finds

Results of analysis

The complete finds report has been presented as Appendix 2. The artefactual assemblage recovered from the site totalled just three sherds of pottery weighing 9g. All came from the topsoil (context 001) and were highly abraded.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of a small sherd of post-medieval red ware (fabric 78). The sherd was highly abraded with no glaze surviving, but could be dated to the 18th century on the basis of the poorly mixed, streaky fabric.

Modern

The remaining two fragments were identified as modern china (fabric 85) of 19th-20th century date. Both had fragmentary blue glaze surviving and were possibly from the same vessel.

Interpretation

The only deposits identified were a thin topsoil, from which a small number of finds dating to the post-medieval and modern periods were collected, and the underlying natural subsoil.

Depositional and post-depositional processes

The topsoil was very thin, amounting to little more than 150mm deep, and there was no identifiable subsoil. The natural subsoil lay directly beneath the topsoil. The site appears to have been ploughed only infrequently and to only a superficial depth. The current land use is improved pasture and it is likely that this has been its use for a long time.

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Adrian Robinson of arc Surveyors Limited, the client Daniel Alderney, the groundworks team, and Aidan Smyth, Malvern Hills District Council Archaeology and Planning Advisor, for their kind cooperation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

- 2 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing
- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the report illustrations
- 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 small number of finds, being of post-medieval and modern date, 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)
- 5 Illustrations (.bmp format)

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

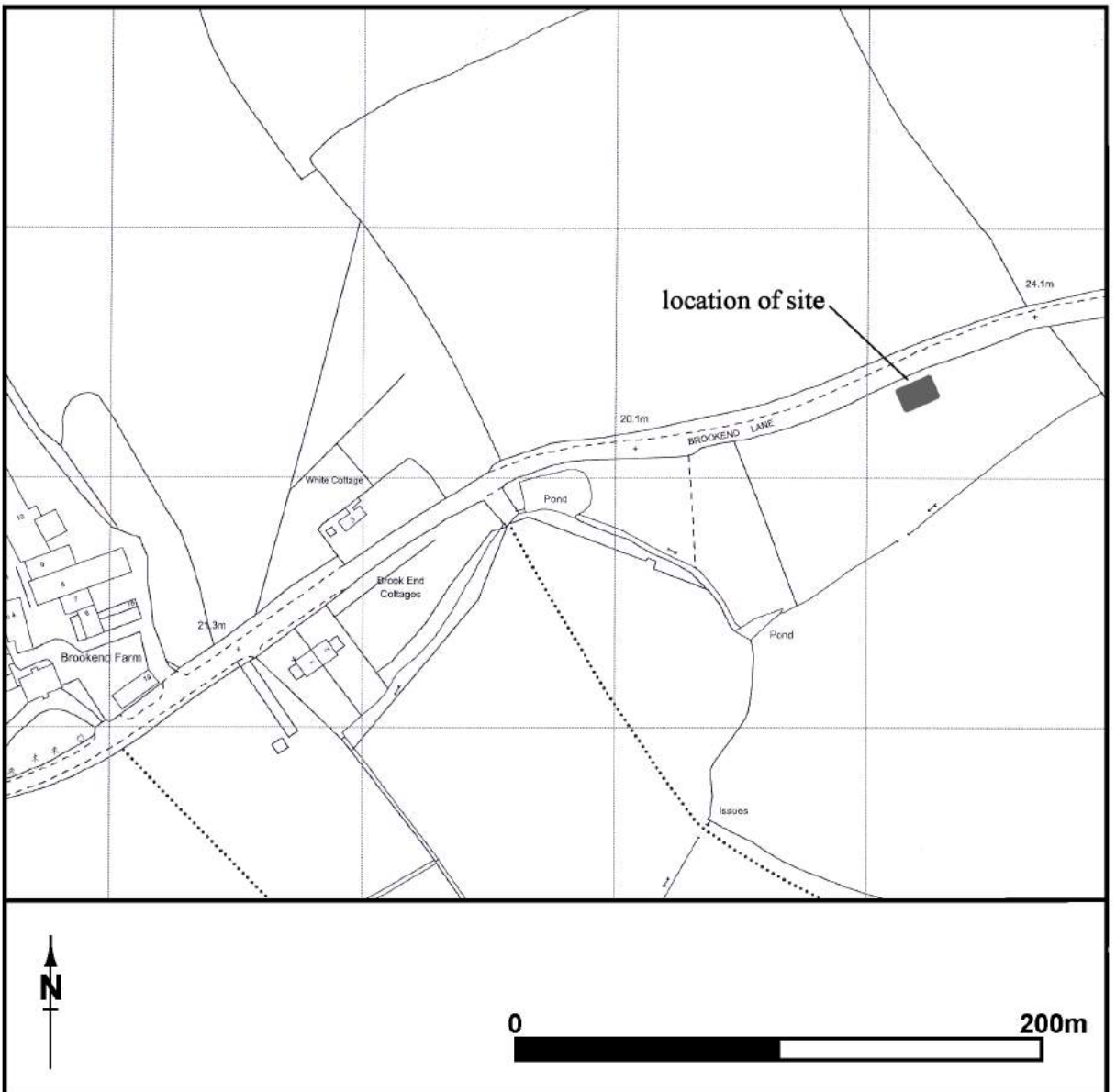
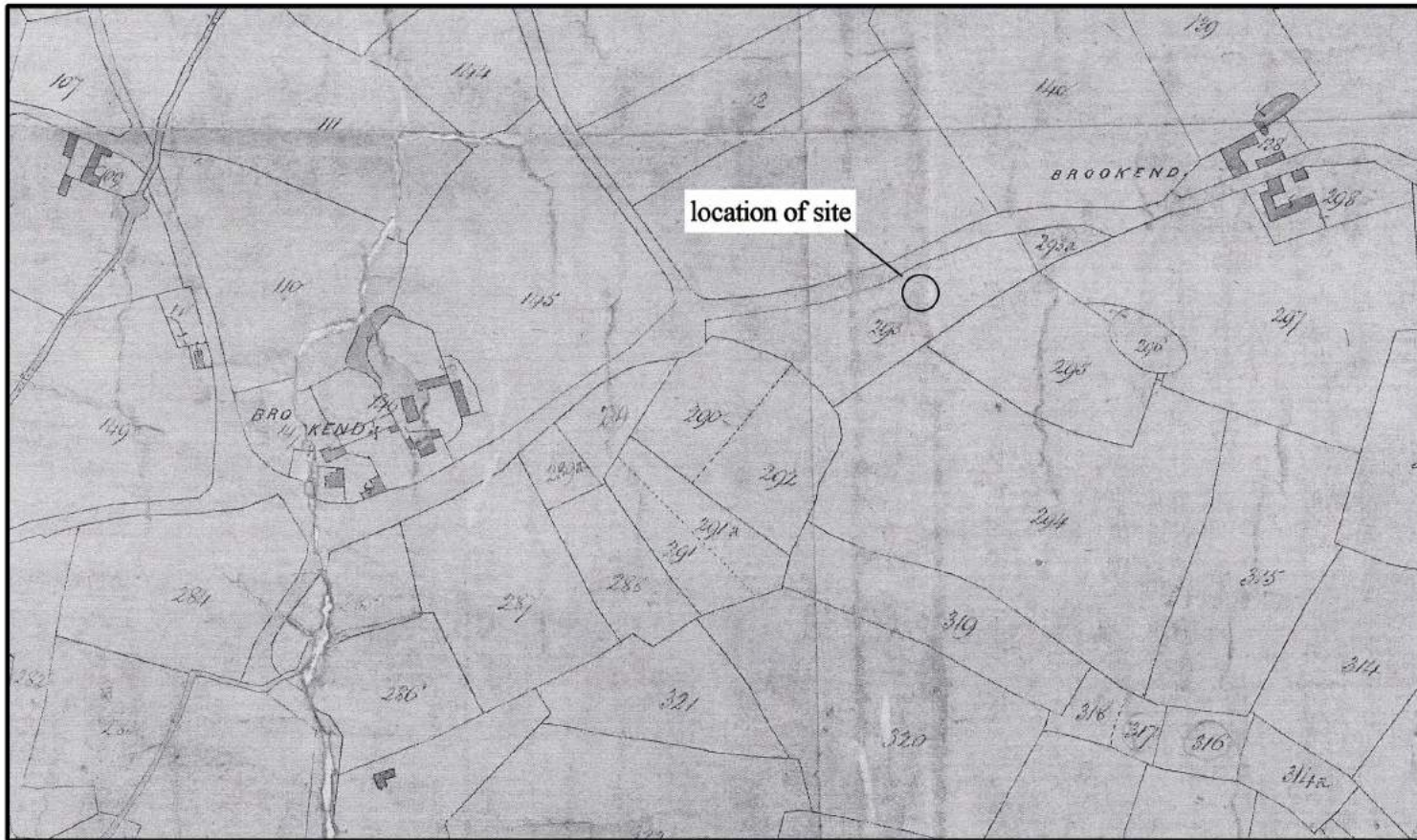


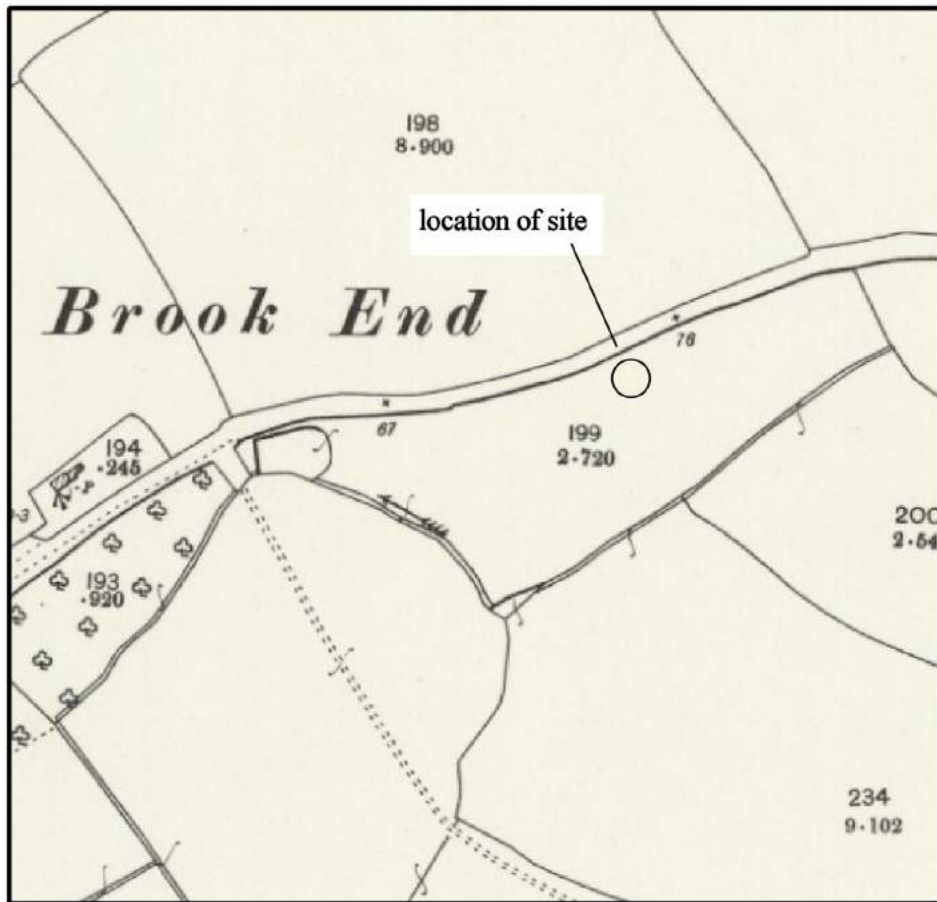
Fig 1: Location of site



not to scale

Fig 2.1: Kempsey tithe map of 1840

1904



1928

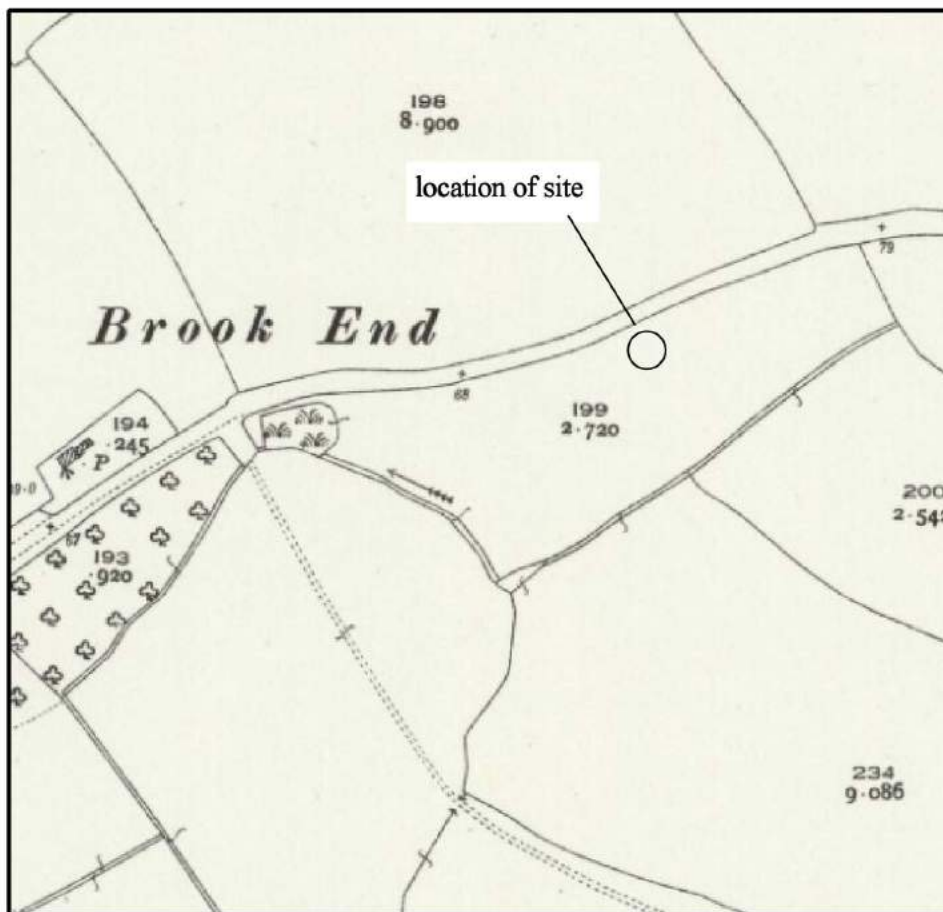


Fig 2.2: Ordnance Survey mapping

0 200m

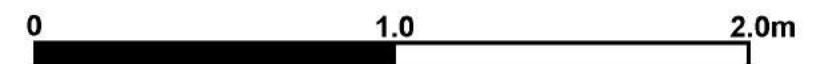
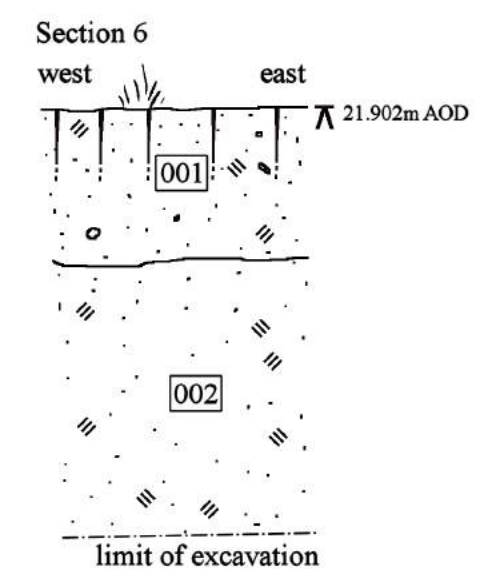
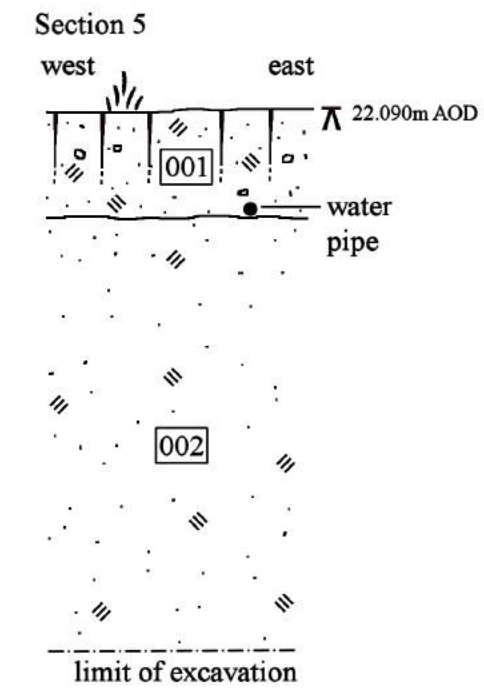
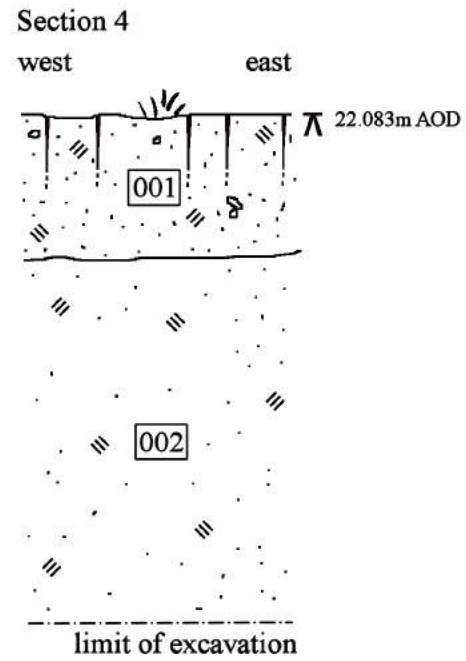
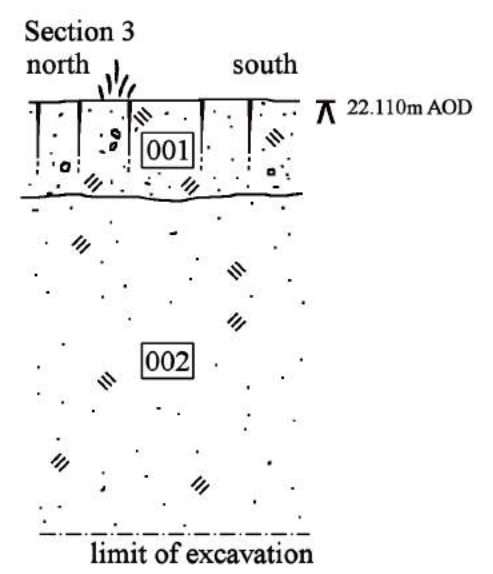
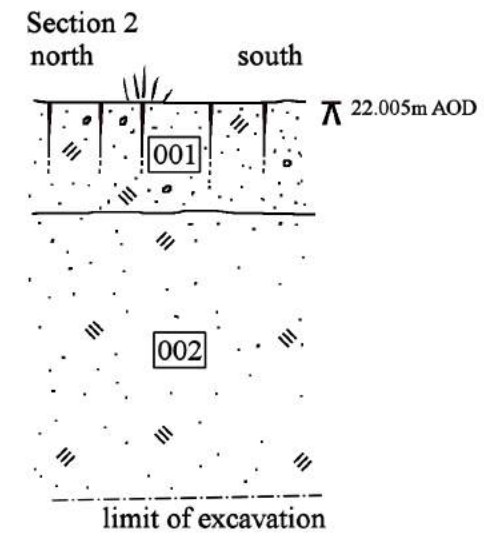
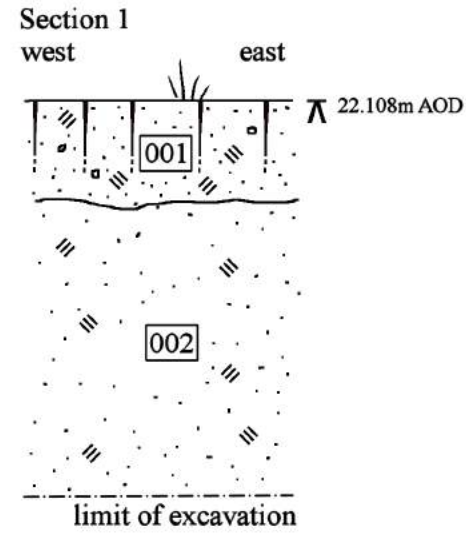
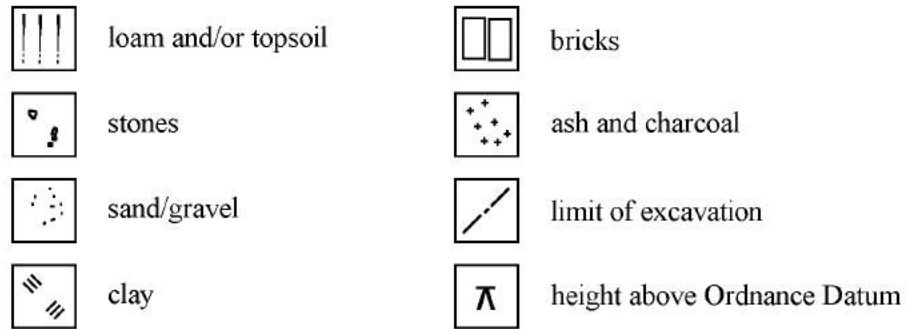
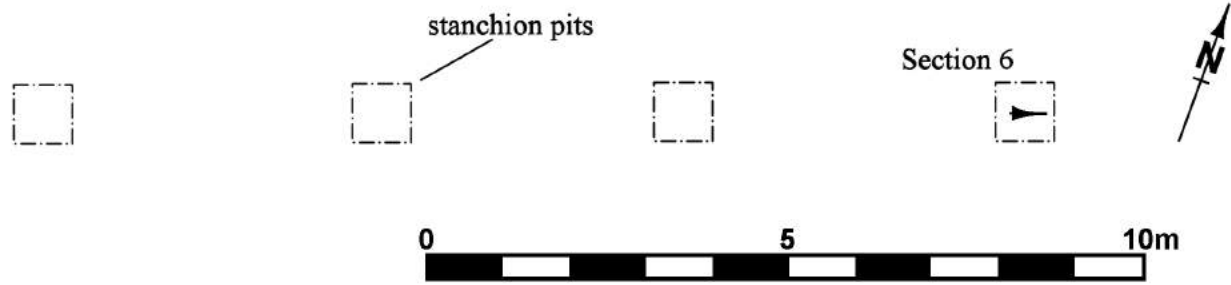
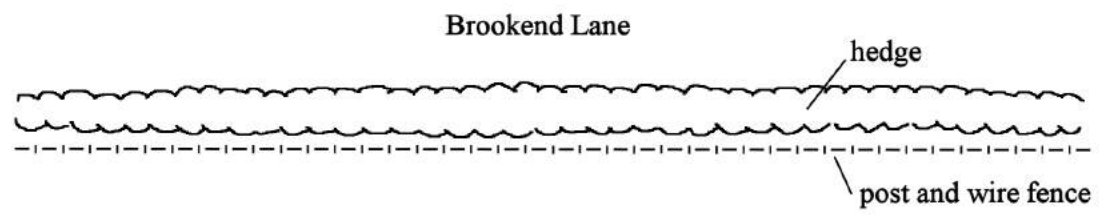


Fig 3: Plan and sections



Fig 4: General view of site



Fig 5: Stripping of footprint of building for floor slab

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil
002	Mid orange brown sandy clay	Natural subsoil

Appendix 2: The finds report

Artefactual analysis by Laura Griffin

The finds work reported here conforms to the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (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. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on pro forma sheets.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (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 just three sherds of pottery weighing 9g (see Table 1). All came from the topsoil (context 001) and were highly abraded.

period	material type	class	total	weight (g)
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	5
modern	ceramic	pot	2	4

Table 1: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage

Summary artefactual evidence by period

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

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of a small sherd of post-medieval red ware (fabric 78). The sherd was highly abraded with no glaze surviving, but could be dated to the 18th century on the basis of the poorly mixed, streaky fabric.

Modern

The remaining two fragments were identified as modern china (fabric 85) of 19th-20th century date. Both had fragmentary blue glaze surviving and were possibly from the same vessel.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	1	5
Modern	85	Modern china	2	4

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

Significance

The assemblage was typical of topsoil finds.

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/>

CIfA 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

WSM ***** (event HER number)

BEF/18

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class		object specific type	count	weight	start date	end date	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	5	E18C	L18C	N	N	
modern	ceramic	pot	2	4	19C	20C	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	

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

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Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-318055

Project details

Project name	Upper Brookend Court
Short description of the project	Watching brief at Upper Brookend Court
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2018 End: 30-05-2018
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 70263 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE MALVERN HILLS KEMPSEY Upper Brookend Court, Upper Brookend, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3QN
Postcode	WR5 3QN
Study area	150 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 8643 4994 52.147172475249 -2.198337945422 52 08 49 N 002 11 54 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.88m Max: 20.88m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project brief originator Contractor (design and execute)

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 recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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