

Beoley's Big Dig

Community test pitting report

March 2022



Beoley's Big Dig Small Pits, Big Ideas Worcestershire

Community test pitting report



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Explore
the Past

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	2
About the project	2
Big Dig weekend	2
History of Beoley	5
Glossary	6
RESULTS	9
Test Pit 1: The Vicarage	9
Test Pit 2: Beoley School	9
Test Pit 3: Parish Field (west)	10
Test Pit 4: Parish Field (east)	11
Test Pit 5: Holt End Barns	12
Test pit 6: The Mariners	12
Test pit 7: Brookside (No.3)	14
Test pit 8: Vicarage garden	16
Test pit 9: The Gables	17
Test pit 10: Moss Lane Close (No. 16)	18
Test pit 11: Moss Lane Close (No. 8)	19
Test pit 12: Westside Cottage	20
Test pit 13: Longfield	21
CONCLUSIONS	23
WHAT NEXT?	25
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	25
BIBLIOGRAPHY	25

APPENDIX 1: DETAILED HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

APPENDIX 2: METHODOLOGY & SPIT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX 3: FINDS ANALYSIS

APPENDIX 4: COMMON POTTERY TYPES

Community Test Pitting in Beoley

By Nina O'Hare and Laura Griffin

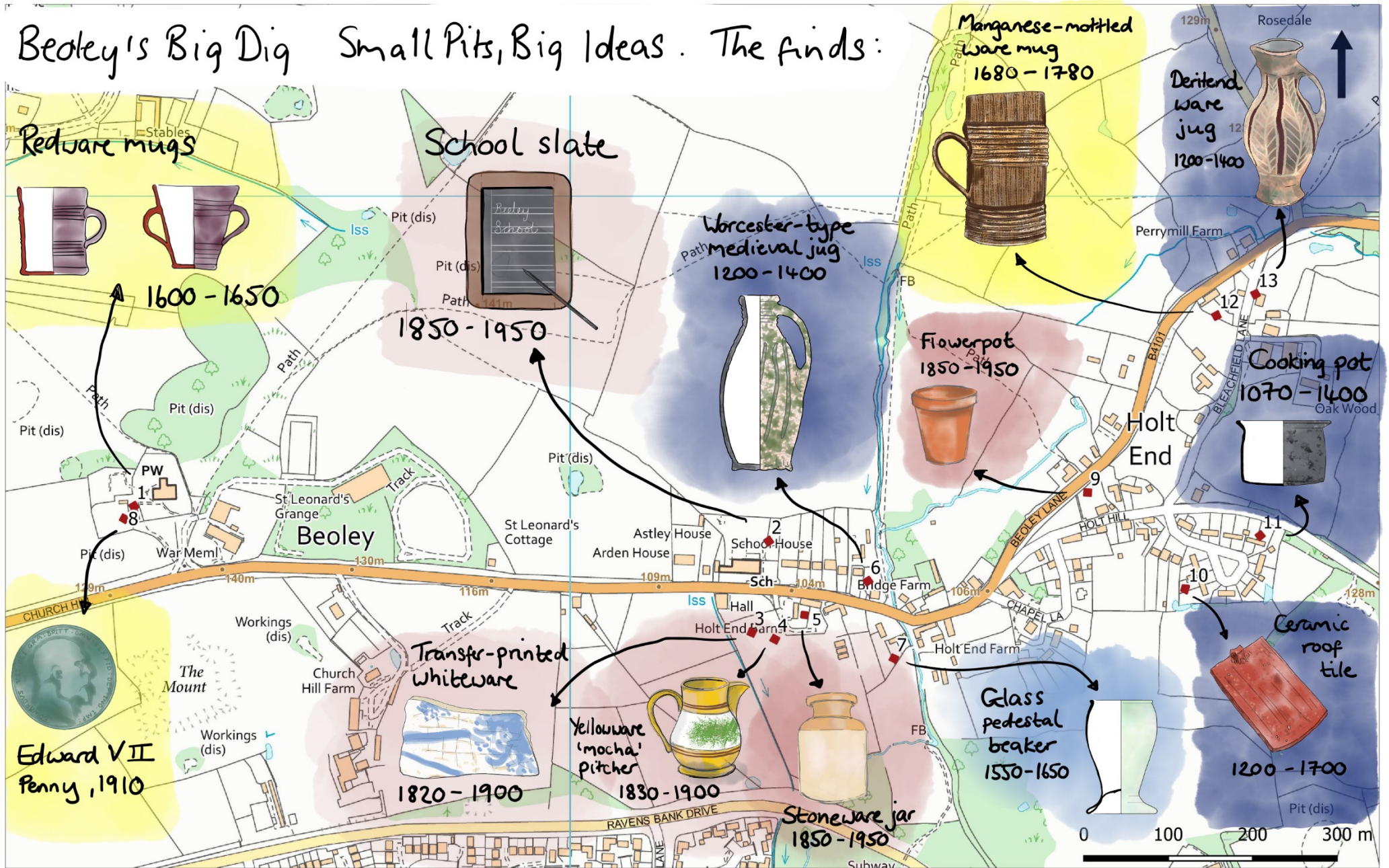
Summary

In autumn 2021, 13 test pits were excavated across Holt End village in Beoley, Worcestershire. This community excavation was part of a wider project – Small Pits, Big Ideas – researching rural medieval settlements across the county.

Medieval pottery was found in three locations across Holt End, implying that the medieval settlement was not a concentrated and neatly layout village, but a collection of small clusters. Two of the test pits that produced medieval pottery were in Moss Lane Close, which lies within earthworks of a moat. This is the first, tentative, confirmation that the moat is medieval in date and may have been the site of Beoley's manor for a time.

No evidence of medieval settlement was found immediately to the west of St Leonard's Church, or around the base of Church Hill's eastern slopes. Whilst the settlement of Holt End has medieval origins, it appears that the present village did not begin to take shape until the 17th century. Since then, the village has gradually grown into the that settlement it is today.

Beoley's Big Dig Small Pits, Big Ideas. The finds:



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Illustration: Rob Hedge 2022

Earliest activity:

- = 11th - 14th century
- = 17th / 18th century
- = 16th / 17th century
- = late-18th / 19th century

Introduction

About the project

Small Pits, Big Ideas helps communities reveal the origins of local villages and their story over time. Relatively little is known about the development of Worcestershire's rural medieval settlements as many are lived in, making large archaeological excavations impossible. By uncovering the archaeology hidden in back gardens, the project brings people directly in touch with their past and shines new light on the story of rural Worcestershire. Between autumn 2021 and summer 2022, six locations will be investigated: Beoley, White Ladies Aston, Wichenford, Badsey, Wolverley and Bewdley.

This project follows a [pilot phase in 2017-18¹](#) and [extensive research in East Anglia²](#), where this approach has revealed changes caused by the Black Death in 1348-9. Small Pits, Big Ideas is run by Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service on behalf of Worcestershire Archaeological Society, with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Big Dig weekend

Over the weekend of the 2nd – 3rd October 2021, 13 'test pits' were excavated across Beoley village (also known as Holt End). A total of 56 people took part in digging the test pits and processing the finds. For most, this was their first hands on go at archaeology. Support was provided by staff from Worcestershire Archaeology, volunteer archaeologists and students from the University of Worcester.

What is a test pit?

Test pits are mini excavation areas, just 1m by 1m. They are dug in 10cm layers (called 'spits') with the finds from each spit kept separately, so that it's known how deep down they were found. Test pits were excavated down to the 'natural', which is the point at which archaeology stops and undisturbed geology begins. In most cases, this was 50-80cm below ground level.

What were we looking for?

Today our household rubbish is taken away regularly, but in the past rubbish was often thrown out the back of houses. This wasn't just food waste, but broken pots, bits of building rubble and anything else that was old or broken. Back gardens are therefore an ideal place to look for clues. Pottery can be easily dated, as fashions for different styles changed over time. The amount of pottery found in a test pit can give us a rough idea of how nearby people lived at different times in the past.

Where were the test pits?

Take a look at the map on page 4 to see where the 13 test pits across Beoley were located.

¹ www.explorethepast.co.uk/2017/11/small-pits-big-ideas-investigating-a-worcestershire-village

² Lewis 2016, available online:

www.researchgate.net/publication/303316768_Disaster_recovery_New_archaeological_evidence_for_the_long-term_impact_of_the_calamitous_fourteenth_century



Photo 1: Test Pit 2 during excavation - test pits were dug in 10cm 'spits' (layers) until the underlying geology was reached.



Photo 2: Excavated soil was carefully checked for finds



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Location of test pits in Beoley

Figure 1

History of Beoley

Prehistoric activity has been found in the area and The Mount, south of St Leonard's Church, may have been an Iron Age hillfort. However, there is no confirmed prehistoric settlement in the area. Similarly, there is no evidence of a Roman settlement near Beoley, although Icknield (or Ryknield) Street does run through the parish.

In 972AD, during the Anglo-Saxon era, a small settlement is mentioned at Beoley³. These are likely to be the origins of Beoley, but it's unclear where they were within this large parish. After the Norman invasion, a record of all places in England was made in 1086. This [Domesday survey records Beoley](#)⁴ as a small settlement with lots of woodland under the ownership of Pershore Abbey. The core of St Leonard's Church was built in the early 12th century, around which time the Beauchamp family became lords of Beoley manor.

By the time the Beauchamp's manor is rumoured to have burnt down in 1303, they had built a deer park in Beoley. Several locations have been suggested for this medieval manor, including The Mount and the moated site now under Moss Lane Close. It is also possible that the manor moved location. Historic records also give us an insight into the settlement at Beoley – a watermill is mentioned in 1275 and tax records from the 13th – 16th centuries suggest that the population remained a fairly constant size.

Beoley manor was sold in 1549 to William Sheldon³. Around 100 years later the house is thought to have been destroyed during the English Civil War, either to stop it falling into Parliamentary hands or as recompense for the Sheldon's supporting the Royalist cause. The manor with its two deer parks and mills was sold in 1650 by the Treason Trustees. Beoley Hall was probably built in the early 1700s and remodelled in 1791. It is thought to be on top of or by the site of the Sheldon's manor. The earliest detailed map of Beoley dates from 1843 (see Figure 2 on next page).

Archaeological investigations

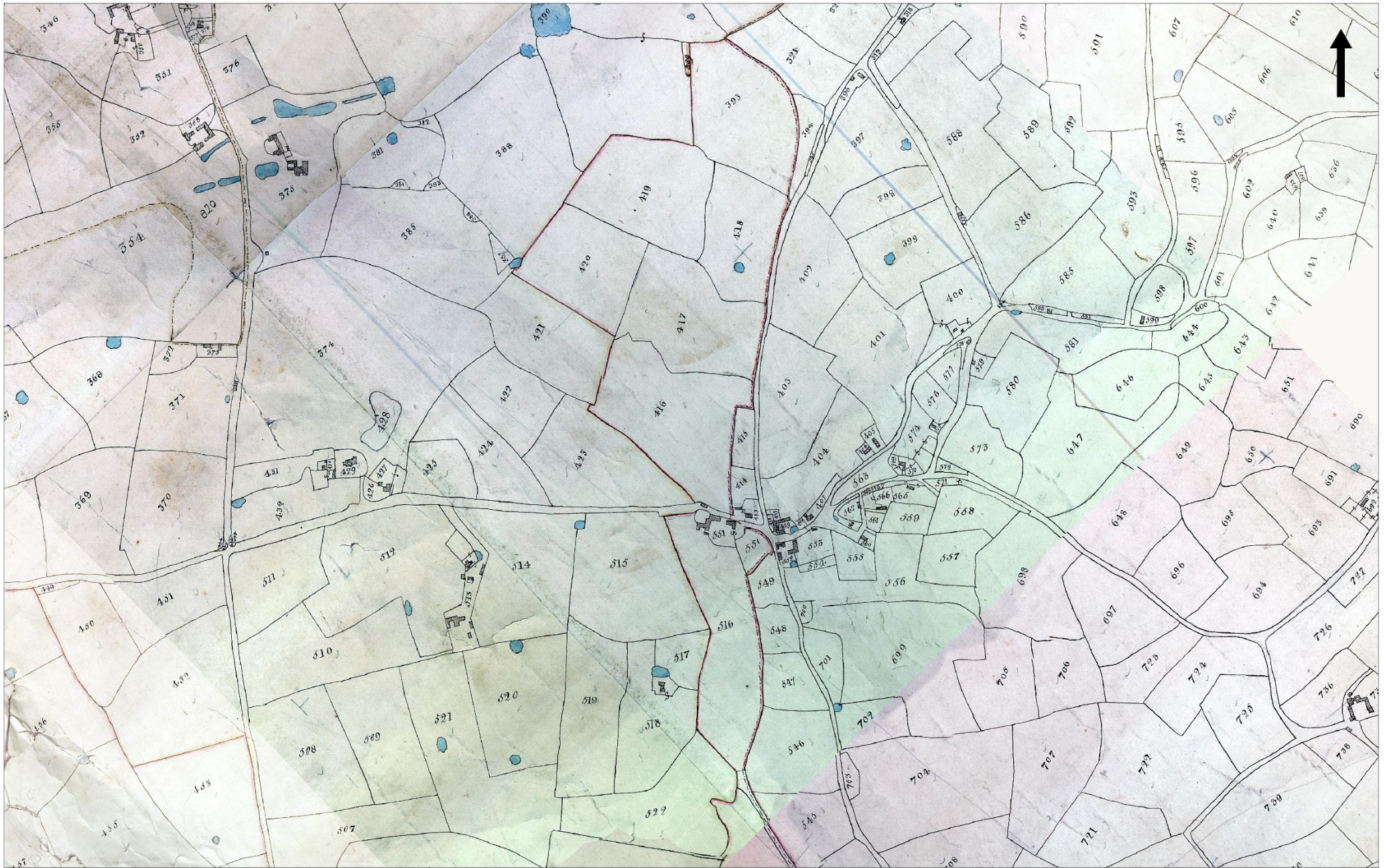
No research excavations have taken place around Beoley village. A pipeline in the 1990s and several building projects since 2000 have been monitored by archaeologists. In 2007, earthworks south of Church Hill/ Beoley Lane were recorded and thought to include medieval ponds, an old trackway and possibly part of the deer park boundary.

What to know more?

See [Appendix 1](#) for a longer history of Beoley, full details of previous archaeological work and references to further information.

³ *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4* – available online: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp12-19>

⁴ <https://opendomesday.org/place/SP0669/beoley/>



Scale - 1:10,500 at A4

1843 Tithe Map of Beoley showing Holt End village

Figure 2

Glossary

Abraded: how worn, or not, finds are is often a good indication of how much they have been moved around in the ground. Pot sherds that have sharp breaks are likely to have been thrown away close to where they were found. The opposite may be the case with abraded sherds.

Ceramic building material: This term covers brick, and roof/floor tiles that are made from clay and fired in a kiln.

Context: This term refers to the precise location on an archaeological site in which a sherd was found, usually marked by a number. Each different soil layer, pit fill, wall, or deposit will have a separate number. The finds within that deposit can then be used to determine a *Terminus Post Quem* date - the earliest possible date that the deposit could have formed.

Form: the shape of a pot. The same potters and kilns often produced lots of different forms for different purposes. Common types include 'cooking pots' or jars, storage jars, pitchers, bowls, and drinking vessels like cups and tankards.

Fabric: the composition of the clay used to make the pot. This varies according to the source of the clay. Each production centre used clay from a different (usually very local) source. Other material like small fragments of stone or shell often occurs within the raw clay. Sometimes, coarse material was deliberately added to the pot to make it easier to fire. This is known as 'temper'. Collectively, non-clay materials within a pot are called 'inclusions'. Inspecting the broken edges of a piece of pottery under a microscope allows us to identify the inclusions, differentiate the fabrics, and match them to pieces of known origin in our reference collection (available at <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/>)

Natural: the 'natural geology' is the point at which archaeological layers stop and undisturbed geology begins. Excavations generally aim to reach the natural, as this means that all archaeological layers have been uncovered in that spot.

Post-medieval: archaeological shorthand for the later 16th – 19th centuries. After the post-medieval period is the modern era (1901 onwards). Many pottery traditions span period boundaries, and are therefore recorded as, for example, "post-medieval/modern". Sometimes the same fabrics or wares are given slightly different dates. This is usually because the individual sherd has characteristics which enable the date to be refined.

Medieval: 1066AD – 1539AD

Post-medieval: 1540AD – 1900AD

Modern: 1901AD – 2050AD

Test pit: a small area excavated in order to sample a location's archaeology.

Slip: a thin layer added to a pot after it has air dried but before it's fired. Slips are usually added for decoration.

Spit: each test pit was divided into 10cm layers, called spits. Spit 1 was 0- 10cm below the ground, Spit 2 was 10 – 20cm and so on. Spits are used to divide up a deposit into fixed depths. They are not the same as a context, which is the name given to an archaeological layer or deposit – spits can be

used to divide up a large context or to record the depth in a test pit. Gardens tend to have been dug over and churned up a lot, so there are usually little difference between the archaeological contexts in a test pit.

Sherd: the term for a fragment of pottery

Ware (for example 'Midlands Purple ware', 'black glazed red sandy ware' or 'earthenware'): The name given to a style of pottery. In the post-medieval and modern periods, pottery fabrics become a lot more homogenous, and the local variations are harder to spot (at least visually). The styles and traditions of potting become more useful than the fabric for identifying the pottery.

Results

The results from each test pit are described separately below, then drawn together in the conclusion. For details about the method of excavation and deposits found, see [Appendix 2](#). A full list of finds is given in [Appendix 3](#) and descriptions of different pottery types can be found in [Appendix 4](#).

Test Pit 1: The Vicarage

The Vicarage is adjacent to St Leonard's churchyard. Part of the house date from the 16th century, with additions in 18th and 19th centuries. Test Pit 1 was close to the back of the house, over a gravel path. The archaeological layers were shallower than anticipated and older deposits may have been partly lost during building work or garden landscaping. A small brick wall was uncovered in one corner (Photo 3). This was roughly built and most likely to have been part of the garden.

Finds

A total of 92 finds were retrieved from Test Pit 1. All were of post-medieval and modern date. The majority were highly abraded fragments of ceramic building material including brick and flat roof tile. Further building material in the form of mortar was also present.

The earliest datable material from this test pit consisted of two sherds of black-glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78). Although it was not possible to identify the specific vessel form from which these sherds came, general appearance and firing suggested a mid 16th-17th century date.

What does this tell us?

Hints survive from the 16th and 17th centuries, which are the building's earliest known days. No earlier evidence was found, which is surprising given the test pit's proximity to the medieval church. It is possible that this has been lost through later building work or landscaping. However, Test Pit 8 in the Vicarage's garden didn't contain any older artefacts either. It is more likely that the Vicarage is the first house built on this site and that any earlier vicarages were located elsewhere.

Test Pit 2: Beoley School

Test Pit 2 was on the east side of the school playing field. Beoley First School was built in 1876 and has been expanded over the years. A thick layer containing fragments of building rubble was found, which probably comes from the school itself. Underneath was a thinner layer of dark soil, which is likely to be a buried topsoil or subsoil, then the natural clay. Beoley's 1843 Tithe map records this area as fields before the school was built.



Photo 3: Test Pit 1 fully excavated, with brick walls in northwest corner

Finds

A substantial assemblage of 153 finds was retrieved from this test pit. Finds were largely domestic and could be dated to the later post-medieval and modern periods.

A total of 21 sherds of pottery were identified. Sherds mainly consisted of transfer-printed and undecorated wares, including china and creamware/pearlwares (fabrics 85, 84 and 100) of late 18th-20th century date. These were most likely from dining and/or tea sets. In addition, there was a sherd of black-glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78) and another of buff ware (fabric 91), both of 18th century date. Vessels of these fabric types were commonly used as domestic kitchen wares and included large bowls called pancheons, large jars or 'butterpots' and shallow dishes thought to have been used for baking. Other domestic material included 13 shards of vessel glass, including two white opalescent fragments likely from an ornament rather than a vessel.

As with the other test pits, fragments of ceramic building material including brick and roof tile were identified. In the case of this test pit, white glazed wall tile and fragments of stoneware drainpipe were also present.

Perhaps the most interesting find in the group considering the location of this test pit, was a fragment of writing slate with incised lines (Photo 4). Such slates were commonly used in classrooms between the mid 19th and early 20th centuries.



Photo 4: School writing slate (Test Pit 2 spit 3)

What does this tell us?

Unsurprisingly, a lot of the finds come from Beoley school itself. However, a small amount of pottery that pre-dates the school was also found, showing that people lived nearby from the 1700s onwards.

Test Pit 3: Parish Field (west)

The Parish Field is directly south of Beoley Village Hall. Historic maps suggest that this piece of land has been a field for centuries.

Finds

The assemblage from Test Pit 3 was very similar in composition to that from Test Pit 1. It amounted to 76 finds and was dominated by fragments of post-medieval and modern brick and roof tile. There were just two sherds of pottery. One was a fragment of late black glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78) of 18th-early 19th century date and the other was a small sherd of modern china (fabric 100) of late 19th-20th century date.

Other finds included a fragment of black bakerlite and a piece of charcoal.

What does this tell us?

The finds suggest that this area has always been farmland on the edge the village. Small sherds of pottery often ended up in the manure heaps that were spread over fields, as seen here. The fragments of building rubble may also have found their way on to this field through manuring or come from the construction of nearby buildings, such as Beoley Village Hall in 1905.

Test Pit 4: Parish Field (east)

Test Pit 4 was located further south and east than Test Pit 3. It was close to the site of historic farm buildings that are shown on Beoley's 1843 Tithe map and early edition Ordnance Surveys as part of Holt End Grange farm.

Finds

Test pit 4 produced a substantial assemblage of 278 finds, all of post-medieval and modern date. Once more, ceramic building material in the form of brick and roof tile formed the largest part of the group, amounting to 259 fragments.

Pottery was typical of 18th-20th century domestic assemblages, with sherds of modern glazed dinner wares (fabrics 84 and 85) and a small fragment of black glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78). In addition, three sherds of yellow glazed earthenware were identified (fabric 101). These wares were produced between the 1770's and the end of the 19th century. They are commonly classified according to decoration, with the most well-known type being mocha ware (Photo 5).



Photo 5: Base of a yellow mocha ware pot (Test Pit 4 spit 1)

Other identifiable finds included vessel glass and fragments of mortar.

What does this tell us?

Given the size of Test Pit 4's finds assemblage, it is clearly closer to occupation than Test Pit 3. Holt End Grange farm is recorded as 19th century and given its close proximity (see Figure 3), most of the finds are likely to come from here. However, some of the pottery may be slightly earlier in date. These could indicate that the farm is older than previously thought or come from the 16th – 17th century Holt End Farmhouse and Holt End Grange further to the east. Either way, there is no evidence of medieval settlement and little activity in this area of the village until the 18th century.

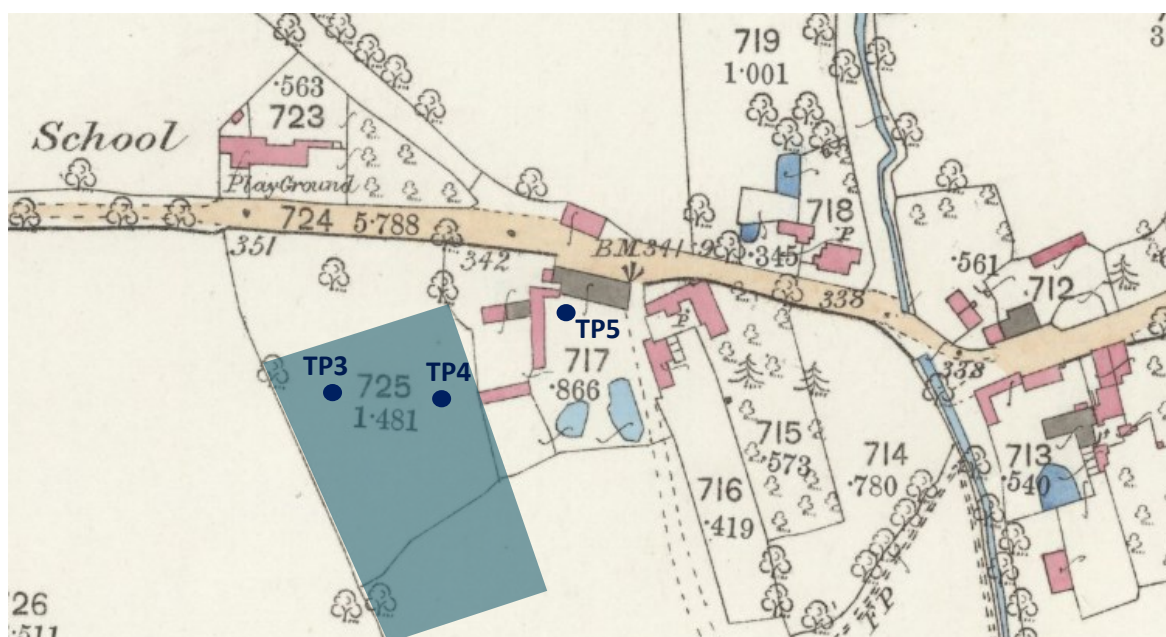


Figure 3: 1884 Ordnance Survey extract with Parish Field marked in blue and Test Pits 3-5 shown

Test Pit 5: Holt End Barns

The back garden of 2 Holt End Barns hosted Test Pit 5. As the name implies, the house is a converted barn that was originally part Holt End Grange farm. The test pit encountered a thick deposit of rubble from renovations in the 1990s. It is not known whether older layers exist beneath the rubble or if (more likely) building work has destroyed any earlier deposits. Given the rubble's depth and time limits of the excavation, it was not possible to excavate the test pit down the natural geology, which marks the end of archaeological deposits.

Finds

A total of 135 finds were retrieved from Test Pit 5. All were of post-medieval and modern date. Pottery consisted primarily of china (fabric 85) and other glazed tablewares of 19th-20th century date (fabrics 83 and 84), some with transfer decoration and some with coloured glaze. In addition, there was rim sherd from a large stoneware jar of similar date (fabric 81.4). Other domestic material included a large quantity of vessel and window glass amounting to 70 fragments, all of late post-medieval and modern date.

Other finds of note included two pieces of iron slag, 32 fragments of ceramic building material including roof tile and brick and a fragment of roofing slate.

What does this tell us?

Despite the layer of building rubble being created relatively recently, it did contain older pottery. This implies that the ground has been heavily churned up and older deposits mixed in with the rubble. Holt End Grange farm is thought to be 19th century in date, which fits in with the pottery found. If the farm was older then a few finds from this date would probably have become mixed in with the rubble. It is more likely that the lack of older finds is a true reflection of activity on the site, rather than these clues being lost or not found.

Test pit 6: The Mariners

Test Pit 6 was in the back garden of The Mariners, which is tentatively recorded as 19th century. The house and an outbuilding are recorded on Beoley's 1843 Tithe map, along with a trackway that ran between the house and brook. This historic trackway, known as a holloway, once ran north-south through Beoley and may have marked the boundary of Beoley manor's lands or simply have been a track. Underneath the test pit's turf and dark topsoil was a lighter layer (Spits 5 and 6) then compact clay.

Finds

A total of 214 finds were retrieved from this test pit. The assemblage was of particular interest due to the presence of a small amount of medieval pottery from the lower spits. This included two fragments of pottery made in Worcester – one from a cooking pot (fabric 55) and the other from a jug (fabric 64.1). Cooking pots were produced between the late 11th and mid 14th centuries. It is thought that the increase in availability and popularity of metal cooking pots at all levels of society led to the end of ceramic cooking pots. This change appears to



Photo 6: Medieval jug sherd decorated with an 'applied strip' - a style typical of Worcester pottery (Test Pit 6 spit 5)



Photo 7: Medieval pot sherd from a Brill Boarstall jug - front (left) and profile (right) of rim (Test Pit 6 spit 5)

coincide with an increase in the average wage and standard of living following the Black Death (Le Patourel 1968; Bryant 2004, 290).

The jug sherd could be dated to the 13th-14th century and had an 'applied strip' (a thin piece of raised clay running down the body of the jug) and thin green glaze typical of Worcester products (Photo 6). It is thought that these applied strips of clay were meant to represent the stitching that would have been seen on leather vessels. A small rim sherd from a Brill-Boarstall ware jug (fabric 63) of similar date was also retrieved (Photo 7). Wares of this fabric were produced in large quantity in

Buckinghamshire and enjoyed a wide distribution. Highly decorated jugs typical of the industry are the most common form identified in Worcestershire. In addition to the pottery, a small amount of flat roof tile was also thought to be of medieval date.

Remaining finds from this test pit were of the post-medieval and modern periods. The earliest of these comprised a small number of black glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78) sherds from cups typical of the 17th century, as well as two sherds of Midlands purple ware (fabric 108). Further sherds of mid 17th-18th century date included part of a slipware dish with feathered slip decoration in buff ware (fabric 91) and a large butterpot or pancheon sherd with internal black glaze (fabric 78). Remaining pottery was of modern date and comprised fragments of modern china (fabric 85) and stonewares, including two sherds of Nottingham production (fabric 81.3) and one white salt-glazed (fabric 81.5).

Other finds of interest included 110 fragments of ceramic building material, 10 shards of vessel glass and eight pieces of clay pipe. The clay pipe included a bowl fragment which was likely to be 17th century in date due to its small size.

What does this tell us?

Test Pit 6 is one of only four test pits that contained medieval finds. Only two small jug fragments and a little roof tile was found, so this is not necessarily the site of a medieval house – small amounts of rubbish often ended up on the manure heaps that were spread over fields. However, it is likely that a medieval dwelling was nearby. These finds also came from a relatively undisturbed archaeological context (layer) with no later artefacts, making this the only medieval deposit found within Beoley's test pits. It is interesting that this site is adjacent to an ancient holloway.

There appears to be a gap in activity from the 14th – 17th centuries. After this date, there is continuous evidence of household rubbish, which implies that people lived either on this site or close by. The Mariners may therefore be older than previously thought and is certainly built over or near to an earlier dwelling.

Test pit 7: Brookside (No.3)

Test Pit 7 was located in the back garden of 3 Brookside, a small group of houses that were built around 1950. An area of ridge and furrow – medieval ploughing – is recorded immediately to the south. To the west and east are the 16th century Holt End Grange and Holt End Farm. The test pit was relatively shallow, with 30-40cm of a dark garden soil lying directly on top of the natural clay.

Finds

A total of 296 finds were retrieved from Test Pit 7, the vast majority of late post-medieval and modern date. However, there was one stand-out find in the form of a fragment from the pedestal base of a goblet in potash glass (Photos 8 and 9), which could be dated 1550-1650 (Wilmott 2002, 68-69). Such finds are extremely rare in urban contexts, but even more so from rural sites such as this - partly due to status and partly due to the fragility of glass objects and the low survival rate. A small assemblage of glass of similar date, including a pedestal flask, was retrieved during the Cathedral Square excavation in Worcester (Griffin 2017, 54). In that case, the vessels were found alongside a number of other well-preserved and relatively high-status finds in a pit. In the case of the goblet sherd from this site, there are no other finds of similar date or status from this test pit, or indeed any of the other test pits. Therefore, it begs the question as to who the goblet might have belonged to and what led to it being broken and discarded.

Remaining finds were more run-of-the-mill and included 57 fragments of late post-medieval/modern ceramic building material in the form of roof tile and brick, 52 sherds of pottery, 47 fragments of vessel glass, four pieces of modern window glass and a fragment of clay pipe stem. The pottery assemblage dated late 18th-20th century and comprised sherds of modern china tablewares (fabric 85), some with transfer decoration, bone china and porcelain (fabric 83) and a small number of fragments from late stoneware jars or bottles (fabric 81.4). Two sherds of note were thought to have come from a cosmetic jar having a pink exterior and being impressed with the number '21' (Bob Ruffle pers comm). A small number of red earthenware sherds were also present and included the rim of a flowerpot (fabric 100).

What does this tell us?

Intriguingly, the only hint of pre-Victorian activity is the glass goblet fragment. Given the test pit's shallow depth, it is possible that earlier deposits were removed during the construction of Brookside. However, as with Test Pit 5, if this site was the location of an historic house then a few clues would likely have survived. The 16th – 17th century pedestal goblet is unlike anything else found in Beoley's test pits and is the only find of this date from Test Pit 7. Given the high status of these glass vessels, Beoley manor is the most obvious candidate for where it may have come from. The test pit is close to an area of ridge and furrow, so it is feasible that the goblet broke and ended up in the manure that was spread of this ploughed field. Another scenario is that the glass fragment comes from the destruction of Beoley manor during the Civil War or subsequent rebuilding as Beoley Hall, following its confiscation from the Sheldon family.

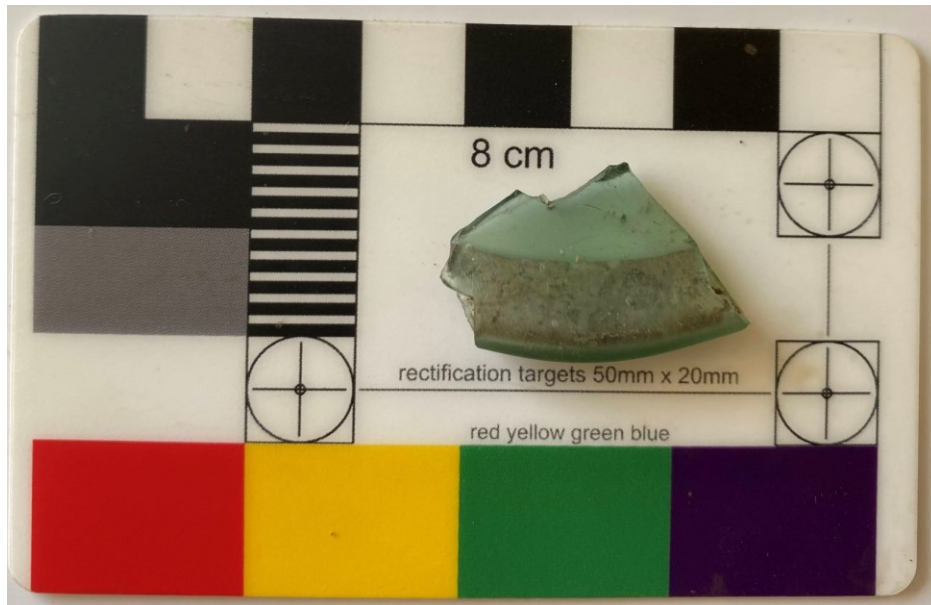
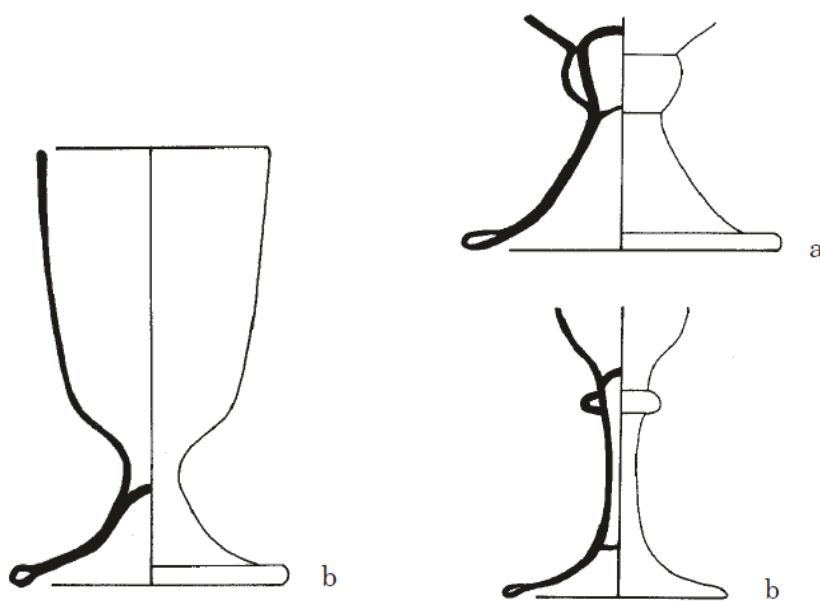


Photo 8: Base of a pedestal glass vessel (Test Pit 7 spit 1)



Photo 9: Loop of glass created when forming the vessel base



Plain pedestal goblets

Pedestal goblet with folded knops

Figure 4: Types of pedestal goblets that match fragment from Test Pit 7 - taken from Willmott 2002 (figs 75-76)

Test pit 8: Vicarage garden

The Vicarage's garden lies to the west and north. Test Pit 8 was close to the west side of the house on a steeply sloping lawn. Beneath the topsoil was a thick layer of building rubble then, around 70cm down, the natural clay. The rubble deposit contained lots of brick and tile fragments, of which a sample was collected for dating and the rest left.

Finds

A small assemblage of 45 finds were retrieved from this test pit. The earliest material consisted of a cup rim and a small cup handle sherd in black glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78) and a sherd of Midlands yellow ware (fabric 77), all of which could be dated mid 17th-earlier 18th century.

Remaining finds were later and included a range of commonly identified pottery types, the earliest of which included white salt-glazed stoneware (fabric 81.5), Nottingham stoneware (fabric 81.3) and creamware (fabric 84) of mid-late 18th century date and transfer decorated modern china (fabric 85) dated later 19th-20th century.

Other finds included fragments of ceramic building material, a penny dated 1910, ting doll's head, fragments of bottle and window glass and an interesting bottle top. This was a moulded screw top made of ebonite/vulcanite and marked with a large 'B' and the words 'BATH ROW BOTTLING CO LD BIRMINGHAM'. The Bath Row Bottling Company was owned by Davenport's Brewery and was based in Bath Row from 1852. Stoppers of this type were commonly used in beer bottles from the mid 19th century and continued in use well into the 20th century.

What does this tell us?

The pottery dates from Test Pit 8 tie in with those from Test Pit 1, which was also at The Vicarage. These suggest that the present house did not replace an earlier dwelling, but is the first on this plot. The house has been remodelled and renovated several times, so it's likely that the rubble is an accumulation of these events. Apart from the Bath Row bottle top, which appears to be an intrusive find, the lower spits contained primarily 18th century finds whilst 19th and 20th century pottery was found in the higher spits. This implies that the rubble is not just a recent dump of material, but from different phases of building work.



Photo 10: Selection of finds from Test Pit 8 - Nottingham stoneware (top), handle of a redware cup (bottom left), 1910 penny and dolls head

Test pit 9: The Gables

The Gables is first marked on the 1905 Ordnance Survey (Figure 5). It sits on the north side the road, Holt Hill, with a garden that slopes down steeply towards Beoley Lane. A footpath from Beoley Lane to Holt Hill runs alongside the western edge of the garden. Test Pit 9 was located near to this historic footpath. It was the shallowest of the test pits, with 20cm of dark topsoil lying directly on top of stony yellow clay – the steep slope is probably the reason behind the shallow depth.

Finds

Test Pit 9 produced a small assemblage of 57 finds, all of which are later 18th century date onwards. Pottery included sherds of late 19th century pearlware (fabric 101), modern china (fabric 85) and a fragment of unglazed earthenware flowerpot (fabric 100).

Other finds included ten fragments of ceramic building material, two fragments of mortar and 16 pieces of glass, mainly coming from bottles.

What does this tell us?

The finds primarily date to The Gables, demonstrating that this area was not close to earlier settlement. The lack of older artefacts is intriguing, as Test Pit 9 was relatively close to the possible medieval moat at Moss Lane Close. Both test pits in Moss Lane Close (10 and 11) produced medieval finds, so the absence of any at The Gables suggests that the moat was not surrounded by a cluster of houses and activity along Holt Hill.

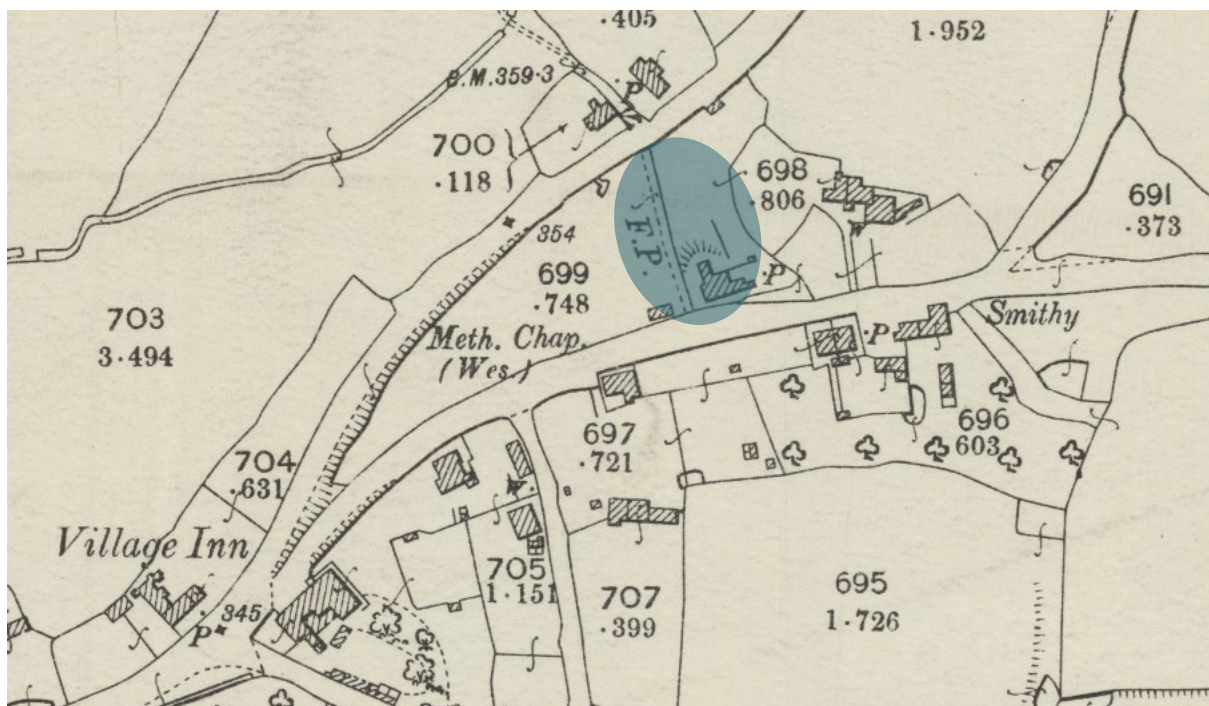


Figure 5: 1905 Ordnance Survey extract with The Gables and footpath between Holt Hill and Beoley Lane highlighted in blue

Test pit 10: Moss Lane Close (No. 16)

Moss Lane Close was built around 1950 and appears to be over a medieval moat. Most of gardens in the Close drop away steeply at the end, as all but the northern side of the moat remains visible as a wide ditch. Test Pit 10 was in the back garden of No. 16, the southwest corner of the moat. It was inside the moated area, but close to the ditch. Within the test pit, three distinct layers were found above the natural geology: a thick topsoil, then a red clay containing broken tiles and a layer of grey clay with no building rubble.

Finds

A fairly large assemblage of 160 finds was retrieved from Test Pit 10. The majority were of late post-medieval and modern date, but a small group of 30 roof tile fragments were of a distinctive sandy fabric more consistent with building material of the medieval and early post-medieval periods (Photo 11). Remaining brick and tile fragments were of late post-medieval and modern date.



Photo 11: Early roof tiles from Test Pit 10 spit 5 - medieval (left) and late medieval/ early post-medieval (right)

Just four sherds of pottery were found, all modern. They included a sherd of late stoneware (fabric 81.4), a piece of unglazed flowerpot (fabric 100) and two pieces of china (fabric 85), one moulded and with a green glaze.

Other finds of note included a large piece of iron slag, possibly part of a smithing hearth bottom, and a large piece of fired clay which appeared to have a smoothed surface on one side (Photo 12). This is most like a piece of daub from a timber-framed structure that has got burnt either as a result of a building fire or post-deposition (D Hurst pers comm).

What does this tell us?

No archaeological investigations have previously taken place in Moss Lane Close, but it has been suggested that this could be the Beauchamp's 'castell' or manor that burnt down in 1303. Most of the finds come from the modern house, but there are hints of a medieval building close by from the tile fragments and finds in Test Pit 11. A large quantity of medieval pottery would usually be

expected from a moated site. However, building work appears to have truncated earlier deposits, as the thick red clay seen in the test pit (Spits 4 and 5) is a construction layer. This has left just 20cm of older archaeological deposits.

The burnt clay and iron slag are particularly interesting finds. Neither can be dated, so could come from before, during or after the moat's use. However, the possibility of a timber framed building burning down does intriguingly fit with the historic mention of the Beauchamp's seat burning down in 1303. Equally, smithing waste doesn't usually move far from a blacksmith's workshop. Whilst the 19th century village smithy was fairly close by, near the top of Holt Hill, it's also feasible that there was once a blacksmith working within the moated area.



Photo 12: Fired clay, probably burnt daub from a timber framed building (left) and smithing waste (right) from Test Pit 10 spit 6

Test pit 11: Moss Lane Close (No. 8)

No. 8 Moss Lane Close is in the northeast corner of the moated area. The end of the garden is at a lower level, which appears to be a filled in section of the moat. Test Pit 11 was located between the house and filled in ditch, so was inside the area encircled by the moat. Whilst rubbish was often thrown into moats, making them great places to look for clues, they are typically deeper than a test pit can go so was deliberately avoided in this case.

Finds

Test Pit 11 produced an assemblage of 124 finds. This included the earliest find from Beoley's test pits – a small sherd of sandy oxidised ware (fabric 13) dating to the Roman period. Two sherds of medieval date were also retrieved – one a sherd of Worcester cooking pot (fabric 55) and the other another cooking pot sherd of unidentified fabric type (fabric 99) but possibly of Warwickshire production (Photo 13). A small group of seven roof tile fragments was also thought to be medieval in date based on fabric. Remaining pottery and ceramic building material was of late post-medieval and modern date.

Other finds included fragments of mortar, pieces of coal and clinker and glass.

What does this tell us?

The tiny fragment of Roman pot is very worn, indicating that it has been moved around a lot within the soil. As Icknield Street runs close by and Holt Hill/ Moss Lane itself is a possible Roman routeway, it is not a surprising find. Roman settlements typically have an abundance of pottery, as pots were fairly cheap to buy, so this small sherd is a sign of travellers passing through rather than settling.



Photo 13: Medieval pot sherds from Test Pit 11 spit 5

Test Pit 11 contained the same sequence of layers as Test Pit 10 – topsoil, red clay containing rubble, then a grey clay. Whilst building work in the 1950s has cut through earlier archaeology, there is still evidence that the moat is medieval and likely contained a high status building with a tiled roof.

Test pit 12: Westside Cottage

Test Pit 12 was in the back garden on Westside Cottage, next to a field of unrecorded ridge and furrow (historic ploughing). Westside Cottage is cut into the slope, so the garden is above the level of the house. It appears on the 1884 Ordnance Survey, but not the 1843 Tithe map. The test pit contained a dark topsoil then thick grey stony layer above the natural orange clay.

Finds

This test pit produced an assemblage totalling 225 finds. All appeared to have resulted from domestic activity in the post-medieval and modern period. The earliest datable find was a sherd of black-glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78) typical of later 17th century examples, being high-fired with metallic appearance to the glaze. Other post-medieval sherds of note included three sherds of manganese mottled ware (fabric 91) dated later 17th-18th century, an orange ware sherd of similar date and a tiny fragment of 18th century tin-glazed ware with hand painted blue decoration (fabric 82).

Modern pottery was mainly of later 18th and 19th century date and included sherds of creamware (fabric 84) and china tablewares (fabric 85), some with transfer decoration and fragments unglazed red earthenware, most likely from flowerpots (fabric 100). Perhaps the most striking sherd was from a dipped earthenware vessel with a khaki glazed interior and distinctive encrustation decoration on the exterior (Photo 14). This was formed by adding dried crumbs of clay to the slipped surface and was popular in the later 18th and early 19th centuries.



Photo 14: Distinctive pottery from Test Pit 12 spit 2 - khaki pot with rough outer surface (left) and sherds with fragments of writing (right)

A thin scatter of pottery is typically found across ploughed fields, so the absence of medieval pottery suggests that the ridge and furrow may also be later in date.

Other finds of note included a large assemblage of vessel and window glass amounting to 66 sherds, 37 fragments of ceramic building material and ten pieces of roofing slate.

What does this tell us?

Pottery found in Test Pit 12 pre-dates Westside Cottage and hints at houses nearby in the 17th or 18th centuries. The well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks in the adjacent field are likely to have run across this area before it became the cottage's garden. Therefore, it's probable that the earlier pottery comes from manure that was

Test pit 13: Longfield

Test Pit 13 was in the front garden of Longfield, a timber framed cottage. The house is thought to be 17th century and is recorded as the last historic remnant of Clifford's Farm. Within the test pit was a thick layer of dark soil that contained lots of charcoal and artefacts. At 60cm down (Spit 6), the soil was slightly lighter, but the natural geology had not been reached.

Finds

The largest assemblage, totalling 262 finds, came from this test pit. The group was largely domestic and mainly comprised of pottery and ceramic building material. The earliest find was a small rim sherd from a medieval Deritend-type ware (fabric 62) jug of 13th-14th century. Sherds of this type were produced in the Deritend area of Birmingham and are found in small quantities from sites across Worcestershire. Jugs are the most commonly found form and are almost always decorated with a sparse green lead glaze and distinctive white painted lines. Other earlier material of note included a piece of Cistercian ware (fabric 72) thought to be from a cup of 15th-late 16th century date. This sherd was of particular interest as it appeared to have been burnt at a high temperature, leaving the glaze blistered and crazed (Photo 15).

All remaining pottery was of post-medieval and modern date. It included a small quantity of 17th century material in the form of black-glazed red sandy ware cup sherds, as well as later black-glazed pancheon and jar fragments (fabric 78), a manganese mottled ware cup handle (fabric 91) and sherds from a number of Staffordshire slip-decorated dishes of later 17th-18th century date (fabric 91). There was also a small group of tin-glazed ware sherds (fabric 82) and stoneware mug/tankard forms of 18th century date (fabric 81). The modern pottery assemblage was made up of fragments

of china tablewares (fabric 85), some transfer printed and late stoneware sherds (fabric 81.4). There was also a sherd of what appeared to be burnt and vitrified porcelain (fabric 83) – possibly a waster, or possibly burnt in a fire at the same time as the Cistercian ware.

Other finds of note were all of post-medieval and modern date and included fragments of clay pipe stem, fragments of ceramic building material and mortar and shards of window and bottle glass. There was also an undated white metal disc, possibly zinc or aluminium (D Hurst pers comm). This was of unknown function but appeared to have been burnt.



Photo 15: Selection of finds from Test Pit 13 (clockwise from top left) - burnt Cistercian ware, medieval Deritend jug, stripey Staffordshire dish and degraded window glass fragment

What does this tell us?

The dark garden soil in Test Pit 13 contained an accumulation of historic household waste. The amount of pottery and spread of dates indicates that a dwelling has been in this location for centuries. Given that Longfield is partly timber framed, it is not surprising that several finds date back to the 17th century. However, what is more unusual is that one window glass fragment is

noticeably more degraded and almost certainly pre-1800 in date (R Hedge pers comm). Window glass was relatively expensive at this time and still heavily taxed, so this is an interesting discovery for a rural house.

Also unexpected are hints of medieval activity. The burnt Cistercian ware pot may come from the first dwelling on this site, as it is a large sherd that doesn't appear to have been moved around much in the ground. It could also be comparatively close in date to the 17th century pottery, if made at the end of this style's production. The 13th – 14th century jug rim definitely pre-dates the current house though. It suggests that medieval occupation was nearby, but given the small size of this sherd it may have ended up in this spot by being scattered with manure over ploughed fields. Either way, the finds suggest that people have lived on or near to this site since the medieval era.

Conclusions

Together, the 13 test pits across Beoley tell a broader story of the village over time. The majority of test pits reached the natural geology, meaning that all archaeology was excavated and the oldest clues weren't missed. Finds were mostly typical of household waste and general building rubble, with the notable exceptions of an early (1550 – 1650) glass goblet fragment from Test Pit 7, possible piece of burnt daub from a timber framed building and smithing waste (both Test Pit 10). Whilst the glass is an unexpectedly high status and rare find, potentially from Beoley manor, the smithing waste is a reminder that rural settlements involved many more trades than farming.

Where was the medieval village?

Firstly, little medieval pottery was found. If Beoley village (also called Holt End) had been a medieval village centred around a green or spread along a road then more test pits would have been expected to produce medieval pottery. Instead, medieval activity was found in three spread out locations – alongside the brook and an old holloway (Test Pit 6), within the moated platform (Test Pits 10 and 11) and at the end of Bleachfield Lane (Test Pit 13). From this evidence, it appears that medieval Beoley was small clusters of houses and farms spread out over a wide area rather than a concentrated village. Dispersed medieval settlements are often, but not always, found in wooded areas – the early medieval Domesday survey records a large area of woodland within the parish, so it's interesting that this may have also been the case in Beoley.

Why is the medieval church separate from the village?

Medieval churches were typically alongside villages⁵, so where they stand alone today it is usually due to the settlement gradually shifting over time or being total abandoned. St Leonard's church is just such an example, as it sits at the top of the hill whilst the modern village is further east. However, no medieval pottery was found near to the church (Test Pits 1 and 8) and test pits at the base of Church Hill (Test Pits 2-5) don't contain evidence of a medieval settlement shifting down the slope over time either.

⁵ Lewis & Jones 2012 Chapter 12 The Midlands: Medieval Settlements and Landscapes. In Christie & Stamper (eds) *Medieval Rural Settlement: Britain and Ireland, AD 800 - 1600*

There may well have been medieval or earlier dwellings on top of Church Hill that were too far from the test pits to be detected. Yet regardless of whether or not there were houses on the hilltop, it seems likely that there wasn't an obvious settlement centre by which to build the church. This raises the intriguing possibility that St Leonard's church may be older than its 12th century masonry and have Saxon origins. Alternatively, in the absence of an early medieval village centre, other factors may have had a greater influence on the church's location, including the medieval belief that being higher up could bring you closer to the heavens.

Where was the medieval manor?

Test Pits 10 and 11 strongly suggest that the square earthwork under Moss Lane Close is medieval. Moats take considerable effort, and therefore money, to create so were generally only built around high status buildings, such as manor houses and hunting lodges. It is therefore likely that Beoley manor once stood on what is now Moss Lane Close, at least for some of its time.

The 16th century writer Habington describes Beoley manor as "a Lordshyp in former ages, fortified with a Castell", whilst the 18th century historian Nash claims that the Beauchamp's seat at Beoley burnt down in 1303⁶. Several

locations have been suggested for the site of Beoley's medieval manor: The Mount earthworks south of St Leonard's church, moat around Moss Lane Close and underneath Beoley Hall. The Mount has not been excavated and if a moat did exist at Beoley Hall it has been lost during construction of the 18th century hall.

It is tempting to fit the medieval roof tiles, pottery and burnt daub to the tale of Beoley manor burning down in 1303. A fire many also have given the Beauchamp family the impetus to rebuild the manor elsewhere, perhaps at Beoley Hall where the manor was latterly located. However, it's possible that the moat at Moss Lane Close was instead a hunting lodge or other high status building. There is also mention in 1316 of a court with a grange in Beoley⁴ and it is unclear if and how The Mount fits into the history of Beoley manor. Clearly there is more of this story to unravelled, but confirming the medieval origins of Moss Lane's moat is a significant step forwards.

When did the village first start to look as it does today?

There is unlikely to have been a sudden turning point when Beoley went from being dispersed clusters to a nucleated village. However, from around the 17th century there was a gradual shift towards one concentrated centre. Besides an increase in pottery, several existing cottages as well as farms were built around this time. Evidence from both archaeological finds and historic buildings



Figure 6: Moss Lane Close with projection of moat
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⁶ *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4* – available online: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp12-19>

shows that the gaps between dwellings were slowly filled in during the 18th and 19th centuries as the village became less spread out.

What next?

The results from all six test pit locations will be drawn together in a touring exhibition in early 2023. After this, the archaeological finds will either be returned to the landowner or deposited with Museums Worcestershire, depending on their preference. The reports and archaeological records will be stored by the [Archaeology Data Service](#) – a publicly accessible digital archive. A copy of each report will also be available on www.explorethepast.co.uk, which is run by Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, and the county's Historic Environment Record.

Archaeological investigations often unearth as many questions as they do answers. It is an ongoing process of gradually piecing together details about the past, so it is hoped that the stories revealed by Beoley's test pits will be expanded in future.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Detailed historical background

Location and geology

Beoley parish lies on the north-eastern edge of Worcestershire, against the border with Warwickshire. Its western boundary is marked by the Dagnell Brook and to the south it is bounded by Redditch town. The village of Holt End is located close to the border with Redditch and is spread out along the B4101 that runs east from Icknield Street.

Topographically, the land gently undulates across the parish. The underlying bedrock around Holt End is recorded as Mercian mudstone, which formed during the Triassic period. Apart from a narrow band of alluvium at the north of Holt End, no superficial geological deposits are recorded for the area (BGS 2022).

Historical background

Introduction

Prior to test pitting, a search of Worcestershire HER was completed for an area of 500m around the site. Documentary sources at Worcestershire Archives and historic mapping were also consulted. A summary of the results of this research are presented below.

Prehistory

Relatively little prehistoric activity has been found in the area around Holt End village, with just two potential sites recorded on HER. The first is a possible Bronze Age burnt mound c 450m east of Perrymill Farm, between Clifford's and Pinkgreen woods (WSM10650). The second site is The Mount – a scheduled monument (NHLE 1005309) that is listed as an Iron Age hillfort reused as a medieval castle. However, the site has not been investigated and the location is not typical of a hillfort.

In addition to these sites, a Bronze Age 'palstave' axehead was found in 1933 alongside Icknield Street, although the precise location of this find is unknown (WSM01268).

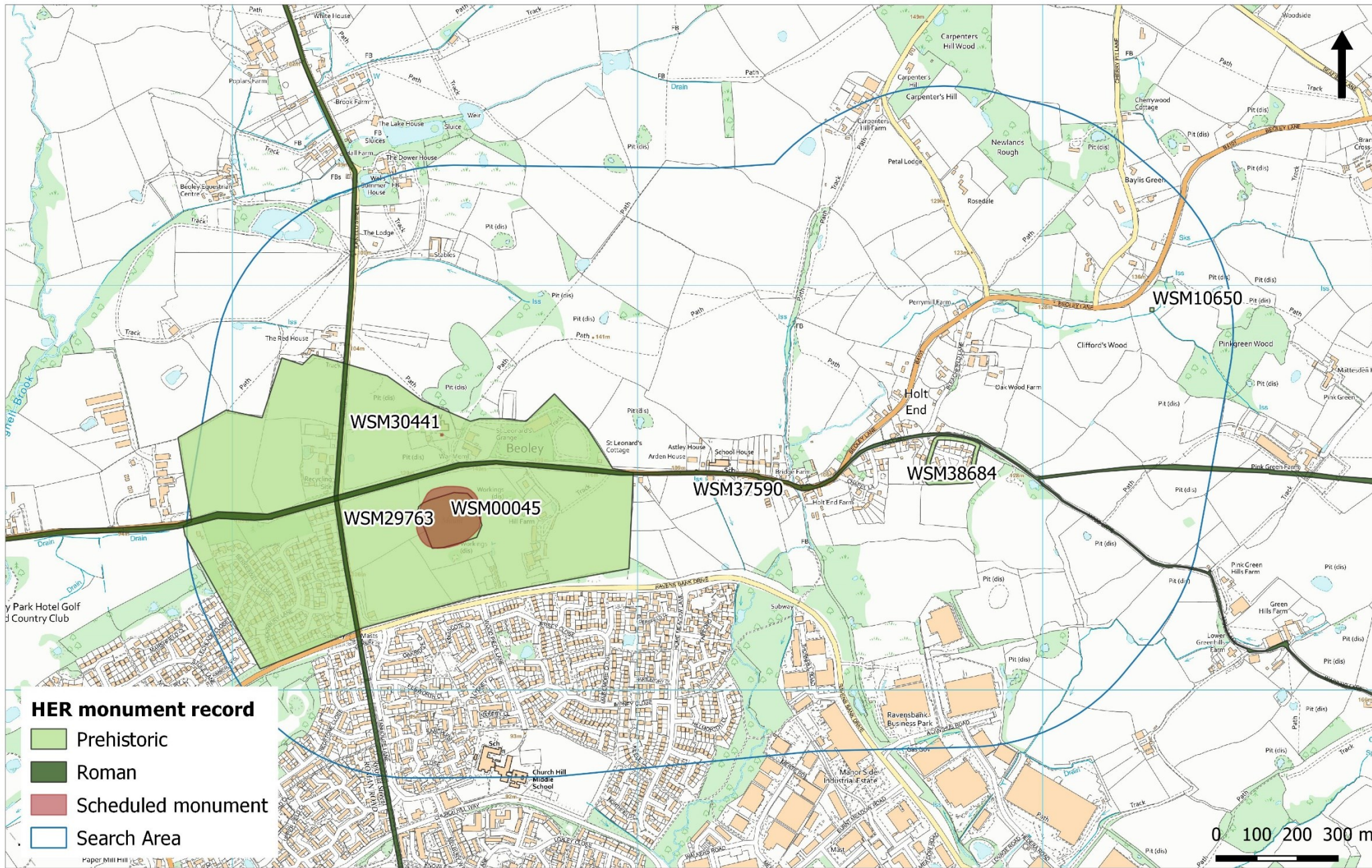
Roman

Two Roman routes cross through the southern portion of Beoley parish – Icknield (or Ryknield) Street and a saltway from Droitwich. Icknield Street (WSM30441) ran from the Fosse Way in the Cotswolds to Wall near Lichfield, where it joined Watling Street. Its line is followed by a modern road that runs along the west edge of Beoley. The route of the saltway from Droitwich to Warwickshire (WSM37590) is less clear, as is its date, but it is thought to have run along Church Hill and Holt Hill in Beoley, then down Moss Lane.

Saxon

A third routeway through the area may have been established during the Saxon era – a holloway that ran roughly parallel to Icknield Street (WSM37252). The holloway crossed what is now the centre of Holt End village and is still partially visible on modern maps. Holloways are difficult to date, but it is suggested to be Saxon in origin. Field name evidence implies that this holloway was, or later became, a boundary – potentially the edge of manorial lands.

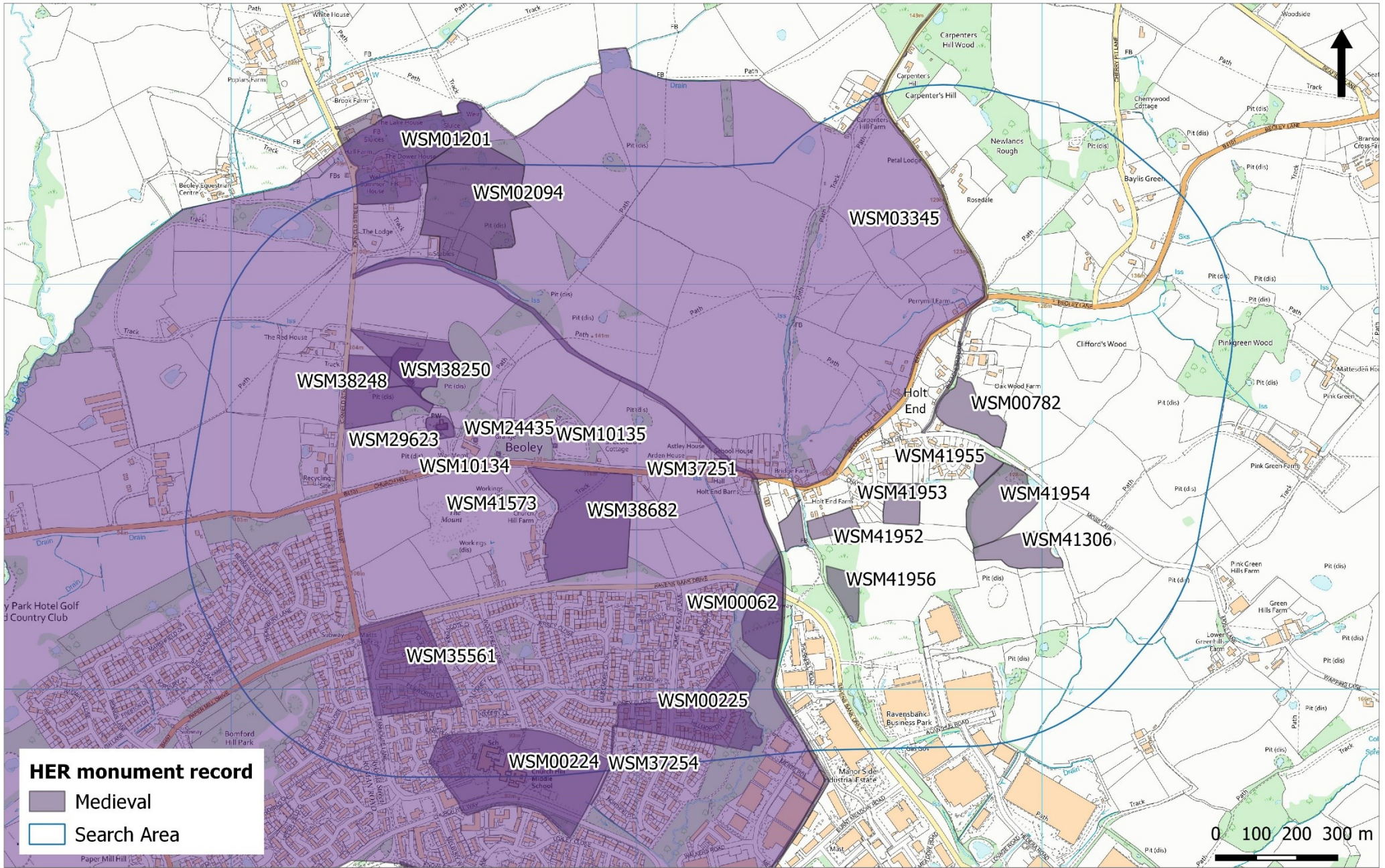
A 10th century boundary charter survives for Beoley. It may refer to only part of Beoley parish, but described *Beo leahe* (meaning bee wood or clearing) as "a 5-*mansus* unit" (Hooke 1990: 219-222).



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Prehistoric and Roman monuments recorded on the HER

Figure 7



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Medieval monuments recorded on the HER

Figure 8

This implies that a settlement was in existence by AD 972, when the charter was written, and that the area was predominately wooded. A ford and 'fort wood' or clearing are also mentioned.

Medieval

Beoley is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 with Yardley. Within this combined manor was a small number of households and a large area of woodland. Pershore Abbey held the manor, as they had done in 1066 (Open Domesday 2022). By the 12th century, the Beauchamps are recorded as tenant lords of the manor. They later became the Earls of Warwick and held Beoley manor until it was sold in 1549 to William Sheldon (VCH 1924).

St Leonard's Church (WSM00051) has surviving 12th century elements and various fields of medieval ridge and furrow – evidence of ploughing – are located south of Holt End and north of the church (WSM000782, WSM02094, WSM10135, WSM38248-50, WSM38682-3, WSM41306 and WSM41952-6). A possible holloway along Bleachfield Lane (WSM03345) may also have medieval origins and in 1275 there is mention of a water mill in Beoley (Röhrkasten 2008).

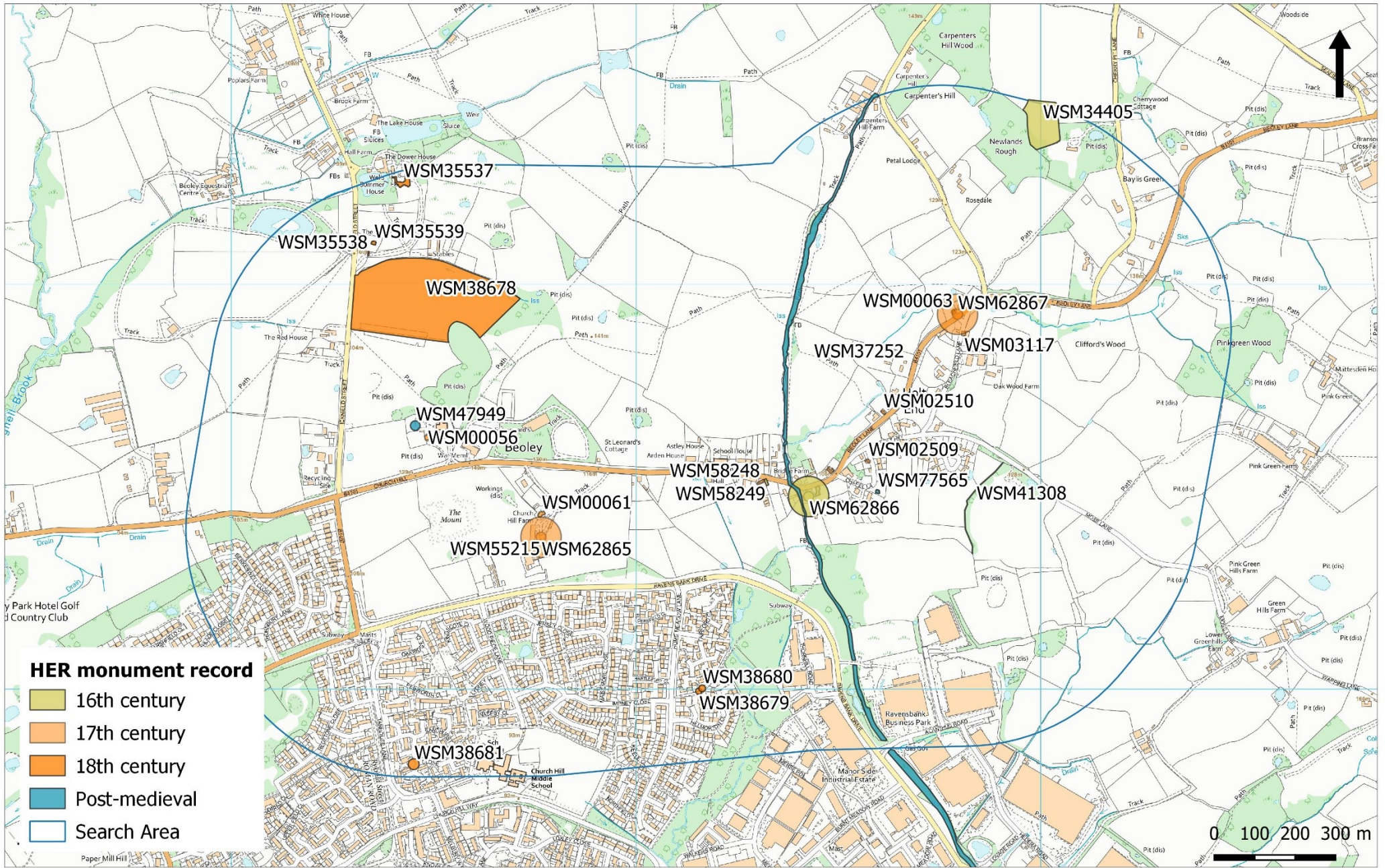
The location of Beoley manor itself is not known and a number of sites have been suggested, including the earthworks of possible moats at The Mount (NHLE 1005309) and Moss Lane Close (WSM38684). In addition to these, it has been suggested that Beoley Hall may have been built over the medieval manor, and a third potential moat is recorded east of the church (WSM10134). Beoley manor may well have been fortified, as the 16th century writer Habington described it as "*a Lordshyp in former ages fortified with a Castell*" (Amphlett 1895). It has historically been assumed that this description refers to The Mount. There is also mention of the Beauchamp's house burning down in 1303, although Nash, an 18th century historian, gives no reference to verify this claim (Whitehead 1970).

Whilst the location and nature of Beoley manor has been open to much speculation, historic documents record that by 1316 there was an old deer park at Beoley and new park with a fishery and cony warren. Part of the medieval park 'pale' (boundary) appears to survive as an earthwork to the southwest of Holt End (WSM37251), along with remnants of three large medieval ponds (WSM00062, WSM00224-5). It also appears that the medieval population of Beoley was broadly stable in size, as lay subsidies from 1280, 1327, 1332-3 and 1524 list 30, 33, 20 and 26 taxpayers respectively (Bund 1893; Eld 1895; Amphlett 1899; Faraday 2003).

Post-medieval

Holt End contains a number of surviving historic buildings, of which several are listed. The earliest are thought to date from the 16th century and include the Vicarage (WSM00056), Holt End Farmhouse (WSM02508) and Holt End Grange (WSM58249). During the 17th century, further houses and farms were built in Holt End – Cliffords Farm (WSM03117), Perrymill Farmhouse (WSM00063), Chuch Hill Farmhouse (WSM00061), Old Holt Cottage (WSM02510), Hawthorn Cottage (WSM02509), and Quinton and Brailles Cottages (WSM09947).

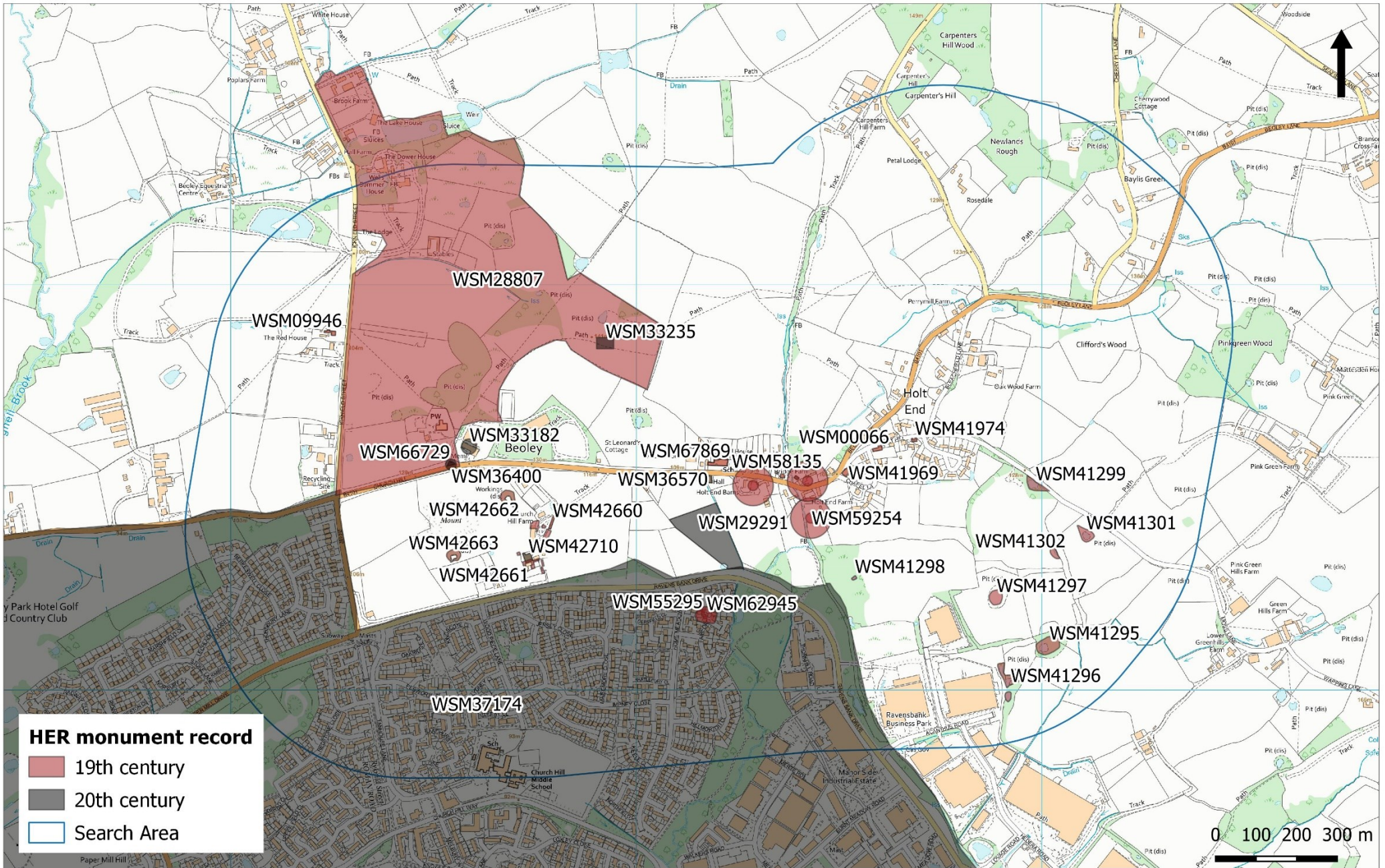
During this time, Beoley manor was owned by the Sheldon family. They held the manor until the Civil War, when the house was reportedly burnt down and the manor later seized by the Treason Trustees. In 1650 the manor was sold, along with its parks, three corn mills and two paper mills (VCH 1924). Beoley Hall (WSM35537) is thought to have been built over or near to the Sheldon's house around 1700. It was remodelled in 1791.



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Post-medieval monuments recorded on the HER

Figure 9



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19th - 20th century monuments recorded on the HER

Figure 10

The village of Holt End grew slightly during the 19th century, with the addition of a village inn (WSM41969), Wesleyan chapel (WSM00066), smithy and later tea rooms (WSM41974), Beoley First School in 1876 (WSM67869), several farms and houses. The latter include Bridge Farm (WSM55357), another Holt End Grange (WSM55291), Mariners (WSM58116) and Glebe Cottage (WSM77565). Two clay pits or quarries are also recorded around The Mount (WSM42662-3), which are likely to be result of local building work.

Modern

In the early 20th century Beoley gained a post office (WSM45091), which has since been converted to a house, and village hall (WSM36570). During the Second World War the hall was used as a first aid post and by the home guard. To the southwest was a searchlight, sound locator and small camp of Nissen huts (WSM29291), of which nothing survives.

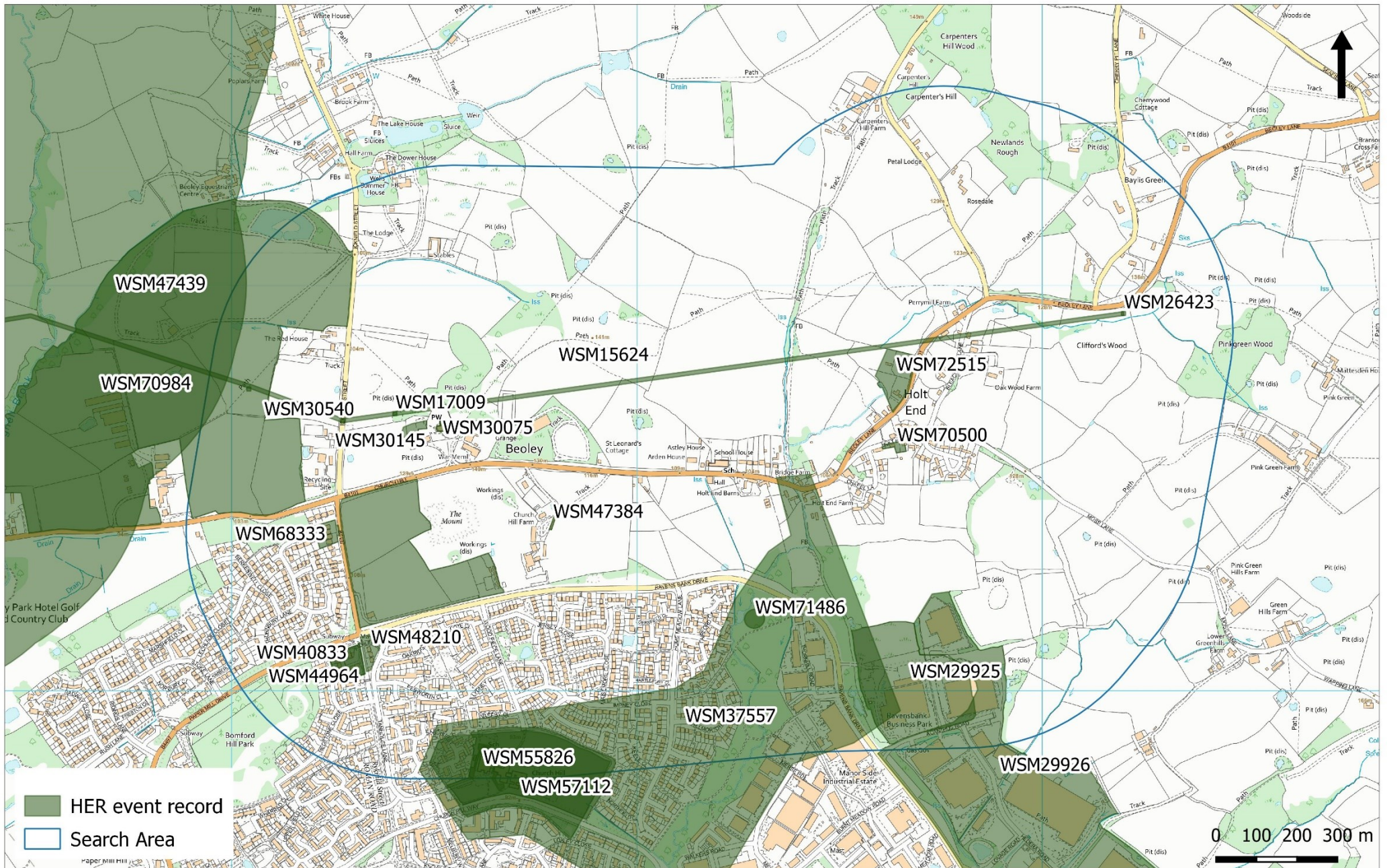
Archaeological background

A number of archaeological investigations have taken place around Holt End in advance of development works – see full list below (Table 1). Most pertinent to this project, monitoring of a pipeline in 1991 recovered a small quantity of 13th – 14th and 16th – 18th century pottery from north of Clifford’s Wood (WSM26423). An earthworks survey in 2007 to the south of Church Hill farm also confirmed that two out of three medieval ponds still survive as earthworks, as well as recording a holloway and possible park pale (WSM37557). Conversely, an evaluation west of St Leonard’s church in 2000 found no evidence of medieval activity (WSM47949).

HER no.	Name	Date	Grid reference
WSM15624	Archaeological fieldwork in 1991, Birmingham Airport Link Pipeline Recording	1991	SP 0097 6808
WSM17009	Unstratified medieval floor tile, west of Church	1991	SP 0640 6968
WSM26423	Watching brief in 1991, Esso Airport Link	1991	SP 0820 6993
WSM29925	Evaluation in 1992 east of Thornhill Road, Beoley	1992	-
WSM29926	Evaluation in 1992, Ravensbank, Beoley	1992	SP 0795 6868
WSM30075	Survey of St Leonard’s Church	1997	SP 0651 6965
WSM30145	Evaluation in 200, St Leonard’s, Beoley	2000	SP 0645 6964
WSM30443	Archaeological fieldwork in 1990, Esso Birmingham Airport Link, Beoley	1990	SP 0604 6974
WSM30540	Boring in 1990 beside B4497, North of Beoley	1990	SP 0627 6966
WSM37557	A rapid survey of earthworks south of Beoley	2007	SP 0711 6890
WSM40833	Evaluation in 2009, Tanhouse Lane, Beoley	2009	SP 0628 6906
WSM44964	Watching brief in 2011 at The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch	2011	SP 0628 6906

WSM47384	Building recording in 2012, Church Hill Farm, Beoley	2012	SP 0679 6941
WSM47439	Desk Based Assessment in 2012, Bordesley, Redditch	2012	SP 0437 7004
WSM48210	Watching brief in 2013 on land west of Tanhouse Lane, Redditch	2013	SP 0634 6910
WSM55826	Watching brief at Abbeywood First School, Wood Piece Lane, Redditch	2014	SP 0663 6881
WSM57112	Auger survey in 2014 at Church Hill Middle School, Redditch	2014	SP 0671 6879
WSM68333	Desk Based Assessment at Vauns Oak, 13 Ickneild Street, Redditch	2014	SP 0623 6938
WSM70500	Watching brief in 2018 on land at Otters Holt, Beoley	2018	SP 0763 6960
WSM70984	Desk Based Assessment, Beoley, Redditch	-	SP 0603 6968
WSM71486	Archaeological watching brief in 2019 along the Church Hill Brook, south of Ravensbank Drive, Redditch	2019	SP 0729 6917
WSM72515	Watching brief at Hillside, Beoley Lane, Beoley	2019	SP 0763 6976
WSM73837	Watching brief at Redditch Middle School, Redditch	-	SP 0673 6879

Table 1: List of events recorded by the Historic Environment Record within the search area



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Archaeological events recorded on the HER within 500m of Holt End

Figure 11

Appendix 2: Methodology & spit records

Project methodology

Location

Thirteen test pits were excavated across Holt End in Beoley, north of Redditch (SP 07528 69564) over the 2nd – 3rd October 2021. Test pits were randomly spread across the village in private gardens and green spaces, including the Parish Field and school playing field. Test pits were located by preference close to the back of houses where rubbish was historically often thrown.

Aims

The archaeological aims were to:

- Further our understanding of the form, character and development of rural medieval settlements in Worcestershire, as it is an area lacking research (Hunt 2011: 176).
- Establish whether the present village of Holt End has medieval origins.
- Date the moated platform at Moss Lane Close (WSM38684).

Fieldwork methodology

The fieldwork model used here follows that developed by Professor Carenza Lewis for researching Currently Occupied Medieval Rural Settlements (CORS) and used extensively in East Anglia with considerable success (for methodology in full, see Lewis 2007). Instead of recording conventional archaeological contexts, excavation focused on the recovery of artefacts and the depths at which they are discovered, as Lewis' methodology uses the presence, quantity and condition of pottery as a proxy indicator for occupation. This method of excavating in spits also makes it easy for those without archaeological training to participate.

Each test pit covered a 1m² area and was de-turf then excavated by hand in 10cm spits. Spoil was checked for finds, using a 1cm mesh sieve where possible, and artefacts separated by spit. A pro forma record booklet was used to record soil descriptions and inclusions within each spit, and photographs were taken regularly. The majority of test pits reached natural, but several were not completed due to time constraints. Test pits were photographed and drawn in both section and plan before being backfilled and any turf reinstated. The precise location of each test pit was recorded by GPS.

Personnel

Fieldwork was undertaken by local volunteers with the support of Worcestershire Archaeology, experienced volunteer archaeologists and undergraduate archaeology students from the University of Worcester.

Archive

The HER event number for this investigation is WSM77705 and the WAAS project number is CE004. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowners it is anticipated that it will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire and the digital archive sent to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

Spit records

Test Pit 1 (SP 06483 69632)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Compact mid greyish brown sand	Abundant medium pebbles and rare small roots	Yes
2	Compact mid greyish brown clay	Abundant large pebbles and charcoal	Yes
3	Compact mid orangey brown sand	Abundant large pebbles and charcoal	Yes
4	Compact light orangey brown clayey sand	Abundant medium and large pebbles and charcoal	Yes
5	Compact light orangey brown sandy clay	Abundant medium and large pebbles and charcoal	Yes
6	Compact light orangey brown clay	Abundant small, medium and large pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	No

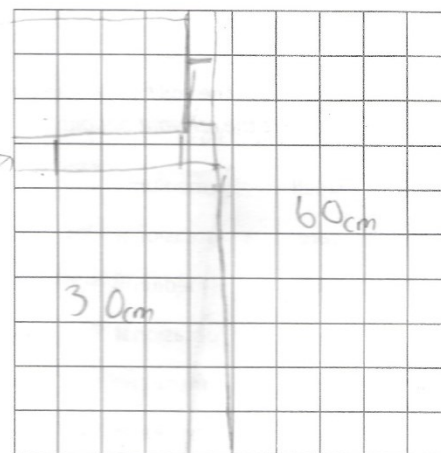
Test pit section (side)

Pick one side and draw any changes in colour, large stones or other things that you can see. Draw a thick line to show the depth the test pit stops at and shade in the area below. Each square is 10cm.

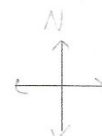


Test pit plan (bottom)

This is a bird's eye view of the test pit. Mark in any changes in the soil, such as colour, texture or more stones. Sketch in any big stones, patches of charcoal, roots etc. Each square is 10cm.



Mark which way is north on your drawing



Drawing 1: Section (left) and plan (right) of TP1 – each square equals 10cm

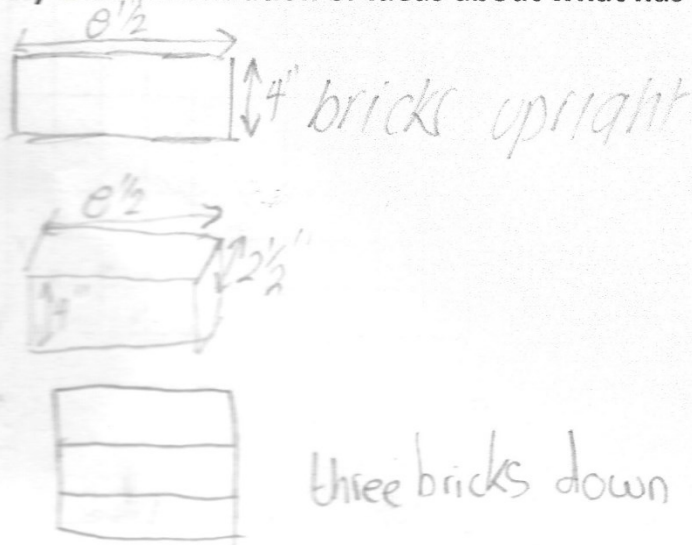


Photo 17: West facing section of TP1



Photo 16: TP1 spit 6 with brick walls in northwest corner

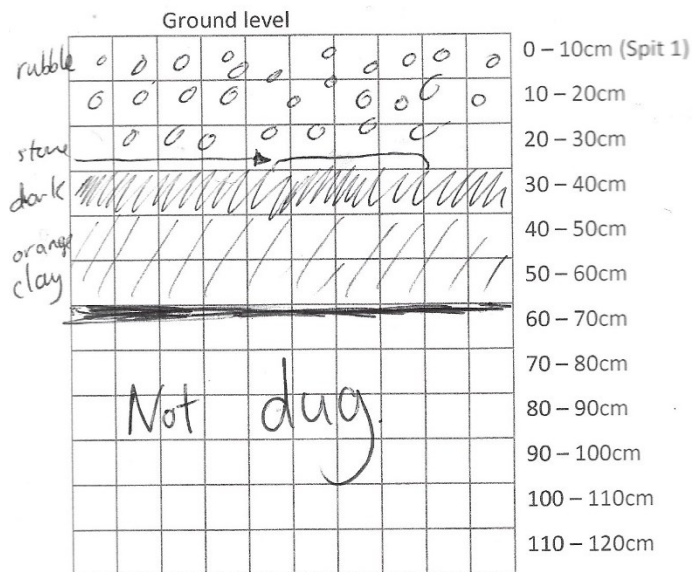
Any extra information or ideas about what has been found in the test pit?



Drawing 2: Dimensions of bricks in TP1 – 8 1/2 x 4 x 2 1/2 inches

Test Pit 2 (SP 07236 69591)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	Rare small pebbles and abundant small roots	Yes
2	Compact mid yellowy greyish brown sandy clay	Abundant small, medium and large pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and small roots	Yes
3	Compact mid orangey greyish brown sandy clay	Abundant medium and large pebbles, and charcoal flecks	Yes
4	Compact mid orangey greyish brown sandy clay	Abundant large pebbles and charcoal flecks	Yes
5	Compact mid orangey brown sandy clay	Occasional large pebbles and charcoal flecks	Yes
6	Compact mid/dark greyish brown clay	Occasional large pebbles	Yes



Drawing 3: Section of TP2 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 18: TP2 spit 6

Test Pit 3 (SP 07216 69483)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm light/mid yellowish brown clayey sand	Occasional small and large pebbles, and abundant small roots	Yes
2	Firm mid greyish brown sand	Abundant small and medium pebbles	Yes
3	(Not recorded)		Yes



Photo 19: Sondage in northwest corner of TP2 showing spit3

Test Pit 4 (SP 07243 69475)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm mid greyish brown clay	Abundant small and medium pebbles	Yes
2	Firm mid greyish brown clay	Abundant small and medium pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and roots	?
3	(Not recorded)		Yes
4	(Not recorded)		Yes
5	(Not recorded)		No

0 – 10cm (Spit 1)

10 – 20cm

20 – 30cm

30 – 40cm

40 – 50cm

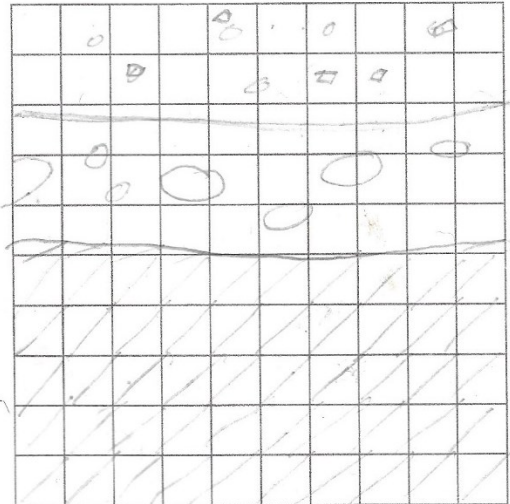
50 – 60cm

60 – 70cm

70 – 80cm

80 – 90cm

90 – 100cm



Drawing 4: Section of TP4 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 20: TP4 spit 5

Test Pit 5 (SP 07276 69509)

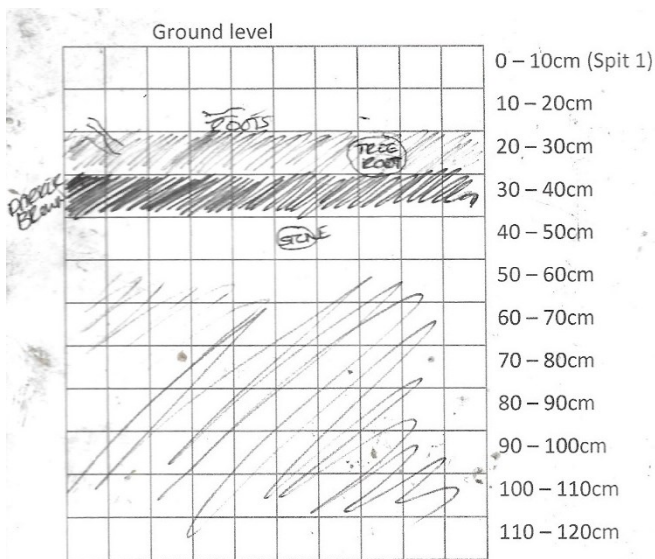
Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm mid brown sandy soil	Abundant pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	Yes
2	Firm mid orangey brown clay	Abundant pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	Yes
3	Compact mid orangey greyish brown clay	Abundant large pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional roots	Yes
4	Compact mid orangey greyish brown clay	Abundant large pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional roots	Yes
5	Compact mid orangey greyish brown clay	Abundant medium and large pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
6	Compact mid orangey greyish brown sandy clay	Abundant small and large pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and roots	Yes



Photo 21: TP5 spit 6 during excavation

Test Pit 6 (SP 07353 69543)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Loose light blackish brown	Rare small pebbles and occasional roots	Yes
2	Firm mid blackish brown	Medium pebbles, charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
3	Firm mid blackish brown	Medium pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
4	Compact dark blackish brown	Large pebbles and rare roots	Yes
5	Compact dark orangey brown clay	Rare pebbles	Yes
6	Compact greyish brown clay	Medium pebbles, charcoal flecks and rare roots	Yes
7	Compact light blackish brown	Abundant large pebbles	No



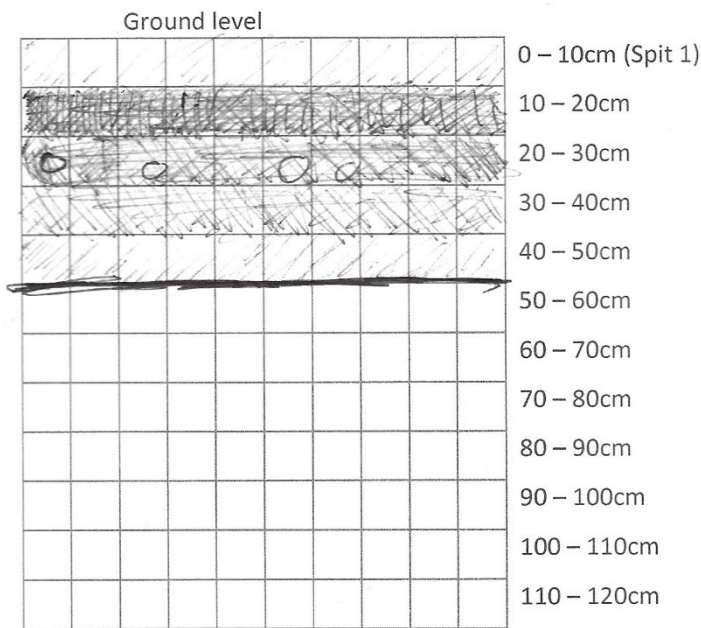
Drawing 5: Section of TP6 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 22: TP6 with spit 7 visible in lower left sondage

Test Pit 7 (SP 07384 69452)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Compact dark orangey brown sandy clay	Abundant small pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional medium sized roots	Yes
2	Compact dark orangey brown sandy clay	Abundant small and medium pebbles, abundant charcoal and occasional roots	Yes
3	Firm dark brown clay	Abundant small, medium and large pebbles, abundant charcoal and roots	Yes
4	Compact light yellowish brown clay	Occasional small and medium pebbles, abundant charcoal flecks and large roots	Yes
5	Firm light yellowish brown clay	Occasional small pebbles, charcoal flecks and medium roots	Yes



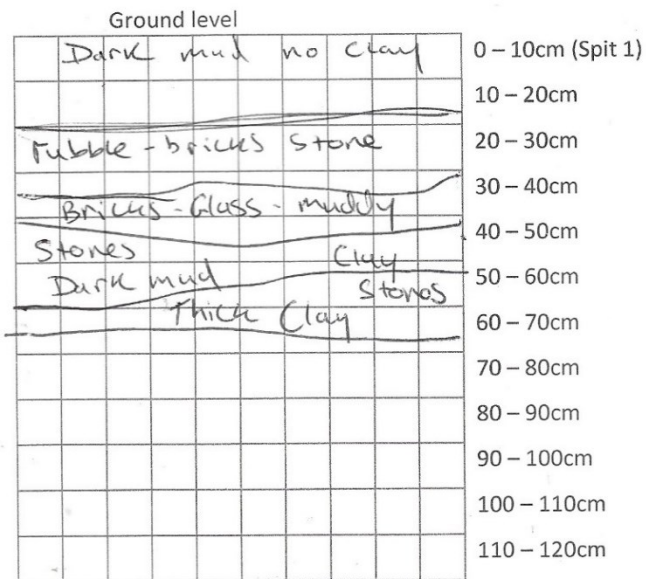
Drawing 6: Section of TP7 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 23: TP7 spit 5

Test Pit 8 (SP 06472 69618)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm to compact light orangey brown clay	Medium pebbles, charcoal and small roots	Yes
2	Firm mid to dark orangey brown/ blackish brown silty clay	Medium and large pebbles, charcoal and small roots	Yes
3	Firm mid blackish brown silty clay	Medium pebbles, charcoal flecks and small roots	Yes
4	Firm mid blackish brown silty clay	Medium pebbles, charcoal flecks and small roots	Yes
5	Firm dark blackish brown silty clay	Large pebbles, charcoal flecks and small roots	Yes
6	Compact light orangey brown sandy clay	Large pebbles, charcoal flecks and small roots	Yes
7	Compact light orangey brown clay	Large pebbles, charcoal flecks and small roots	No



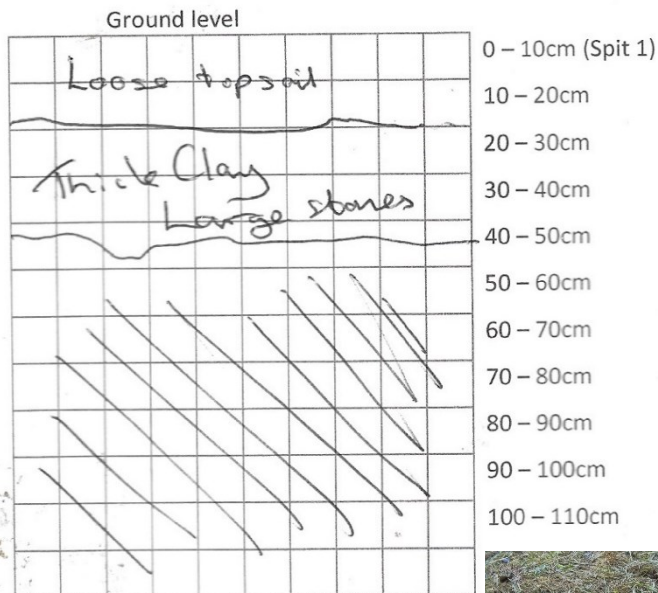
Drawing 7: Section of TP8 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 24: TP8 spit 7

Test Pit 9 (SP 07614 69649)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Compact light greyish brown clay	Abundant medium pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and abundant roots	Yes
2	Compact greyish brown clay	Abundant medium pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and abundant roots	Yes
3	Compact light greyish brown clay	Abundant medium pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and small roots	Yes
4	Compact light greyish brown clay	Abundant medium pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and small roots	No



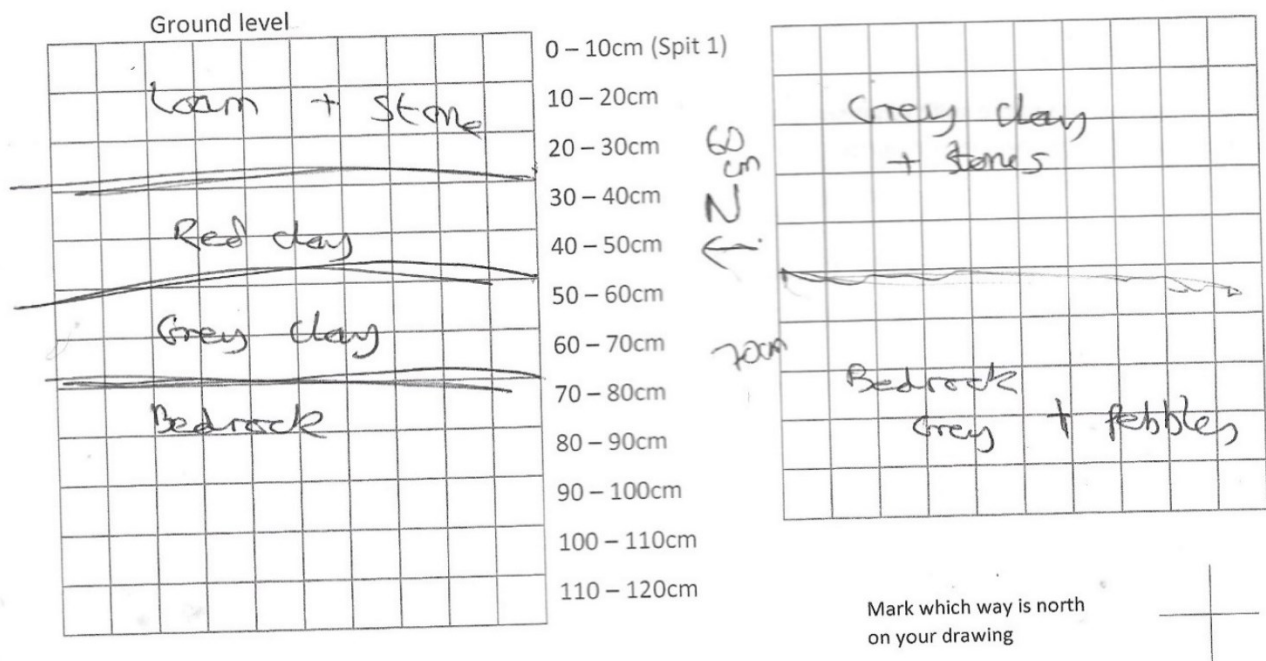
Drawing 8: Section of TP9 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 25: TP9 spit 4

Test Pit 10 (SP 07730 69534)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm dark orangey brown sandy clay	Occasional medium pebbles, charcoal and abundant small roots	Yes
2	Compact dark orangey blackish brown silt	Abundant small, medium and large pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
3	Compact greyish brown clay	Abundant small, medium and large pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
4	Loose dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay	Occasional small and large pebbles, charcoal flecks and large roots	Yes
5	Firm to compact mid orangey yellowish brown clay	Occasional medium pebbles, charcoal and rare roots	Yes
6	Compact orangey greyish brown clay	Abundant medium and large pebbles, charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
7	Compact mid greyish brown clay	Abundant medium and large pebbles, and occasional charcoal flecks	No



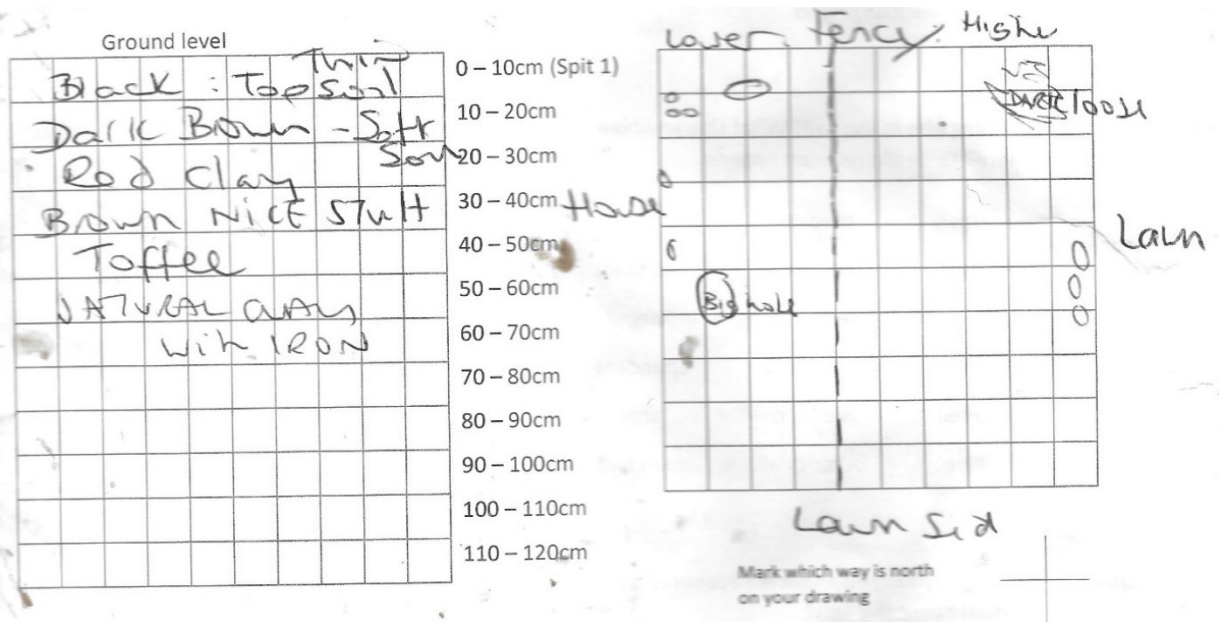
Drawing 9: Section (left) and plan (right) of TP10 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 26: TP10 spit 7

Test Pit 11 (SP 07818 69597)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Loose dark soil	Occasional small pebbles, rare charcoal	Yes
2	Compact dark clay	Small, medium and large pebbles, charcoal and roots	Yes
3	(Not recorded)	Occasional medium pebbles	No
4	Clay	Abundant pebbles, rare charcoal and roots	No
5	Loose brown soil	Occasional pebbles, rare charcoal and roots	Yes
6	Compact mid to dark reddish brown clay	Abundant large pebbles, rare charcoal and roots	Yes



Final thoughts

Any extra information or ideas about what has been found in the test pit?

Bottom - confirmed by expert.

Drawing 10: Section (left) and plan (right) of TP11 – each square equals 10cm



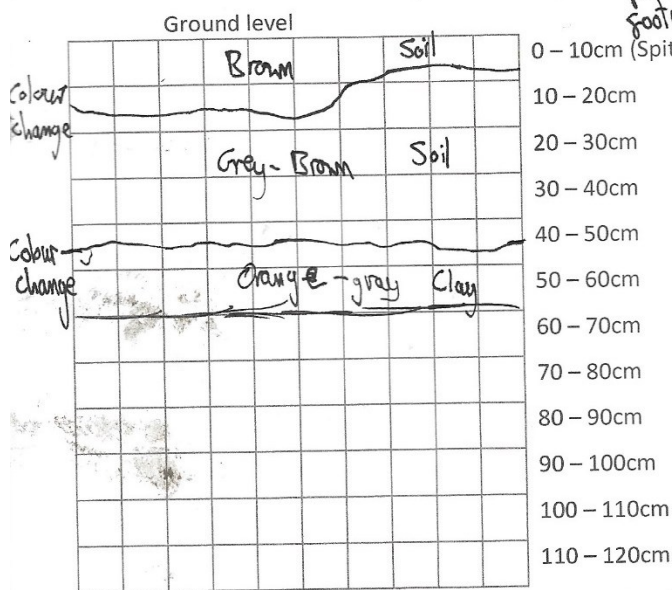
Photo 27: TP11 spit 6

Test Pit 12 (SP 07766 69858)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Loose dark blackish brown silt	Occasional small pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional roots	Yes
2	Loose dark blackish brown clay	Occasional medium pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and abundant roots	Yes
3	Loose mid greyish brown silt	Occasional medium pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional roots	Yes
4	Loose mid blackish brown clay	Abundant medium pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional roots	Yes
5	Compact mid orangey brown clay	Abundant large pebbles	No

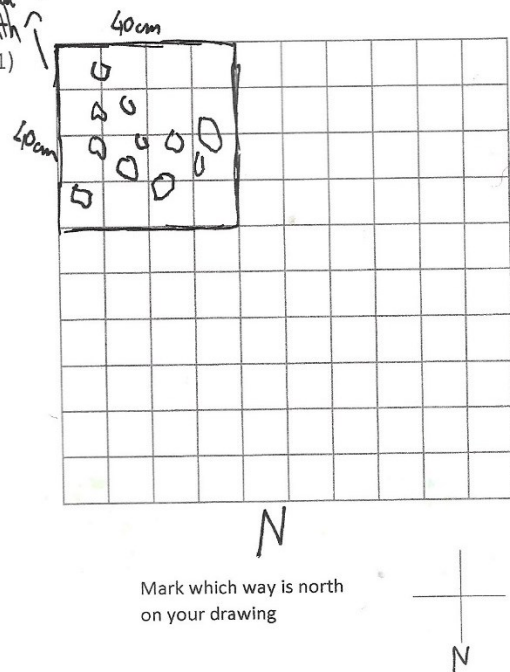
Test pit section (side)

Pick one side and draw any changes in colour, large stones or other things that you can see. Draw a thick line to show the depth the test pit stops at and shade in the area below. Each square is 10cm.



Test pit plan (bottom)

This is a bird's eye view of the test pit. Mark in any changes in the soil, such as colour, texture or more stones. Sketch in any big stones, patches of charcoal, roots etc. Each square is 10cm.



Drawing 11: Section (left) and plan (right) of TP12 – each square equals 10cm



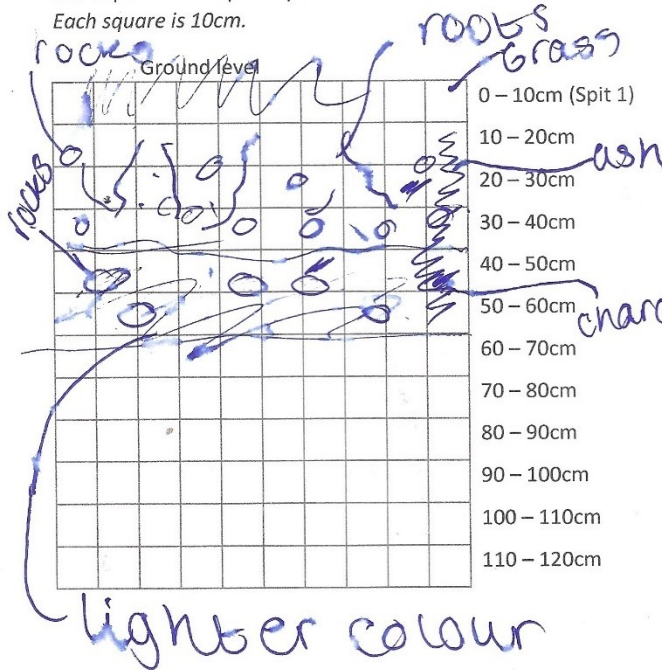
Photo 28: TP12 sondage showing spit 4

Test Pit 13 (SP 07813 69884)

Spit no.	Soil description	Inclusions	Artefacts
1	Firm dark blackish brown sand	Abundant medium pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and abundant roots	Yes
2	Compact dark blackish brown clay	Abundant medium pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and roots	Yes
3	Firm dark blackish brown sand	Abundant medium pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and rare roots	Yes
4	Firm dark blackish brown sand	Abundant medium pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks	Yes
5	Firm mid to dark blackish brown sand	Abundant medium and large pebbles, and rare charcoal flecks	Yes
6	Firm mid to dark blackish brown sand	Abundant large pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	Yes

Test pit section (side)

Pick one side and draw any changes in colour, large stones or other things that you can see. Draw a thick line to show the depth the test pit stops at and shade in the area below. Each square is 10cm.



Test pit plan (bottom)

This is a bird's eye view of the test pit. Mark in any changes in the soil, such as colour, texture or more stones. Sketch in any big stones, patches of charcoal, roots etc. Each square is 10cm.



Mark which way is north on your drawing

Drawing 12: Section (left) and plan (right) of TP13 – each square equals 10cm



Photo 29: TP13 spit 4

Appendix 3: Finds analysis

By Laura Griffin

Recovery policy

Artefacts were recovered according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). All artefacts collected in the field were recovered by hand. Where a significant quantity of post-medieval or modern building material was encountered, a sample was retained and the remainder left on site.

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified by broad material type and quantified by project participants, under the guidance of an experienced WAAS volunteer. All pottery was assessed by Bob Ruffle, who identified and recorded those of post-medieval and modern fabrics. Earlier pottery and significant non-pot finds were assessed and recorded by Laura Griffin. Due to the project's research aims, the analysis of medieval and early post-medieval ceramics was prioritised, so later post-medieval and modern finds were dated by period and fabric only. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2016 database, with tables generated using Microsoft Excel.

Where fabric types are mentioned, they are referenced according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992; WAAS 2017; www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Discard policy

A specific selection strategy will be agreed with Museums Worcestershire. It is anticipated that all pre-1600 finds will be retained, along with a sample of later material and any unusual or significant finds.

Results

The assemblage totalled 2117 finds weighing 27.5kg, as summarised in Table 2 below. The assemblage was of mixed date, with finds ranging from Roman to modern periods. Level of preservation was mixed, but the majority of finds displayed some degree of surface abrasion, as reflected in relatively low average pottery sherd weight of 5.5g.

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP1 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	40	866	post-med/modern
TP1 spit 1	glass			1	1	post-med/modern
TP1 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	1	post-medieval
TP1 spit 1		mortar		1	1	undated
TP1 spit 1	metal	iron		1	31	undated
TP1 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	40	2264	post-med/modern

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP1 spit 2		mortar		1	24	undated
TP1 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	6	331	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 2	ceramic		pot	1	1	modern
TP2 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	9	modern
TP2 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	tile	1	1	modern
TP2 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	1	modern
TP2 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	10	449	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 2	stone	slate		3	14	undated
TP2 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	1	modern
TP2 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	11	modern
TP2 spit 3	ceramic	stoneware	drain	2	7	modern
TP2 spit 3	organic	leather		2	5	modern
TP2 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	11	672	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 3	glass			10	63	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	5	12	post-medieval
TP2 spit 3		mortar		1	2	undated
TP2 spit 3	metal	iron		1	2	undated
TP2 spit 3	organic	charcoal		10	27	undated
TP2 spit 3	stone	slate		4	33	undated
TP2 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	6	15	modern
TP2 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	8	modern
TP2 spit 4	glass			1	1	modern
TP2 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	5	365	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 4	glass			1	10	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	13	post-medieval
TP2 spit 4		clinker		31	85	undated
TP2 spit 4		coal		10	70	undated
TP2 spit 4	stone			1	1	undated

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP2 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	2	17	post-med/modern
TP2 spit 5		clinker		12	48	undated
TP2 spit 5		mortar		3	60	undated
TP2 spit 5	organic	charcoal		4	1	undated
TP2 spit 6	glass			1	1	modern
TP2 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	13	post-medieval
TP2 spit 6		mortar		1	13	undated
TP2 spit 6	metal	copper alloy		1	5	undated
TP3 spit 1	plastic			1	1	modern
TP3 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	36	283	post-med/modern
TP3 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	23	133	post-med/modern
TP3 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	3	post-medieval
TP3 spit 2	organic	charcoal		1	2	undated
TP3 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	13	40	post-med/modern
TP4 spit 1	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	18	modern
TP4 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	57	471	post-med/modern
TP4 spit 1		mortar		1	1	undated
TP4 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	3	modern
TP4 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	143	984	post-med/modern
TP4 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	1	post-medieval
TP4 spit 2		mortar		2	5	undated
TP4 spit 2	glass			1	1	undated
TP4 spit 2	metal	iron		1	12	undated
TP4 spit 2	organic	charcoal		1	3	undated
TP4 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	8	modern
TP4 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	53	2230	post-med/modern
TP4 spit 3	glass			1	2	post-med/modern
TP4 Spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	2	post-medieval

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP4 spit 3	metal	iron		1	50	undated
TP4 spit 3	organic	charcoal		4	1	undated
TP4 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	6	5	post-med/modern
TP4 spit 4		coal		1	1	undated
TP5 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	23	589	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 1	glass			5	7	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 1	metal	iron		1	3	undated
TP5 spit 1	stone	slate		1	5	undated
TP5 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	4	858	late post-med/modern
TP5 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	4	858	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 4	glass			4	28	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	8	46	modern
TP5 spit 5	glass			3	4	modern
TP5 spit 5	plastic			1	1	modern
TP5 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	110	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 5	glass			30	224	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	20	post-medieval
TP5 spit 5	metal	iron		1	1	undated
TP5 spit 5	slag			2	90	undated
TP5 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	7	41	modern
TP5 spit 6	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	70	modern
TP5 spit 6	glass			28	180	post-med/modern
TP5 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	13	post-medieval
TP5 spit 6	metal	iron		6	229	undated
TP6 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2	modern
TP6 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	18	87	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	3	post-medieval
TP6 spit 2	ceramic		pot	2	8	modern

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP6 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	6	8	modern
TP6 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	pot	2	2	modern
TP6 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	34	354	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 2	glass			5	10	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	8	72	post-medieval
TP6 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	3	5	post-medieval
TP6 spit 2		mortar		7	6	undated
TP6 spit 2	bone	animal bone		5	13	undated
TP6 spit 2	metal	iron		1	16	undated
TP6 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	27	405	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 3	glass			1	2	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	17	115	post-medieval
TP6 spit 3	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	3	7	post-medieval
TP6 spit 3	ceramic	stoneware	pot	2	2	post-medieval
TP6 spit 3		mortar		2	4	undated
TP6 spit 3	bone	animal bone		4	12	undated
TP6 spit 3	metal	iron		2	37	undated
TP6 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	2	modern
TP6 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	19	219	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 4	glass			2	4	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	10	21	post-medieval
TP6 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	2	post-medieval
TP6 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	1	post-medieval
TP6 spit 4	bone	animal bone		3	9	undated
TP6 spit 4	organic	charcoal		1	8	undated
TP6 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	7	medieval
TP6 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	9	169	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 5	glass		bottle	1	35	post-med/modern

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP6 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	1	post-medieval
TP6 spit 5	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	4	post-medieval
TP6 spit 5	bone	animal bone		3	15	undated
TP6 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	2	4	?late med/post med
TP6 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	27	medieval
TP6 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2	medieval
TP6 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	3	34	post-med/modern
TP6 spit 6	glass			1	1	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 1	ceramic		pot	2	2	modern
TP7 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	15	modern
TP7 spit 1	metal	aluminium		1	4	modern
TP7 spit 1	plastic			1	1	modern
TP7 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	4	14	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 1	glass		window	4	5	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	15	post-medieval
TP7 spit 1	glass		vessel	1	3	post-medieval
TP7 spit 1	bone	animal bone		1	4	undated
TP7 spit 1	metal	iron		3	6	undated
TP7 spit 1	organic	charcoal		1	2	undated
TP7 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	26	96	late post-med/modern
TP7 spit 2	ceramic		pot	4	3	modern
TP7 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	13	53	modern
TP7 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	pot	2	3	modern
TP7 spit 2	glass			17	57	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	19	post-medieval
TP7 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	1	post-medieval
TP7 spit 2	bone	animal bone		2	5	undated
TP7 spit 2	metal	iron		8	51	undated

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP7 spit 2	organic	charcoal		9	20	undated
TP7 spit 3	ceramic		pot	4	28	modern
TP7 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	5	36	modern
TP7 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	6	14	modern
TP7 spit 3	ceramic	stoneware	pot	4	118	modern
TP7 spit 3	glass			18	126	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 3		mortar		5	72	undated
TP7 spit 3	bone	animal bone		6	48	undated
TP7 spit 3	metal	copper alloy		1	1	undated
TP7 spit 3	metal	iron		15	243	undated
TP7 spit 3	organic	charcoal		28	67	undated
TP7 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	7	7	modern
TP7 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	pot	2	40	modern
TP7 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	14	271	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 4	glass			9	18	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 4	bone	animal bone		1	17	undated
TP7 spit 4	metal	copper alloy		1	1	undated
TP7 spit 4	metal	iron		3	42	undated
TP7 spit 4	organic	charcoal		37	78	undated
TP7 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	3	23	late med/early post-med
TP7 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	4	82	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 5	glass			3	1	post-med/modern
TP7 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	tile	1	61	post-medieval
TP7 spit 5		clinker		4	18	undated
TP7 spit 5		coal		5	11	undated
TP7 spit 5	metal	copper alloy		2	5	undated
TP8 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	1	modern
TP8 spit 1	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	1	modern

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP8 spit 1	metal	copper alloy	coin	1	8	modern
TP8 spit 1	plastic		toy	1	3	modern
TP8 spit 1	ceramic	stoneware	pot	3	6	post-medieval
TP8 spit 1	bone	animal bone		1	2	undated
TP8 spit 1	organic	charcoal		2	5	undated
TP8 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	79	post-med/modern
TP8 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	68	post-medieval
TP8 spit 5		mortar		1	44	undated
TP8 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	51	post-med/modern
TP8 spit 6	glass		window	6	23	post-med/modern
TP8 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	4	post-medieval
TP8 spit 6	bone	animal bone		1	2	undated
TP8 spit 8	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	12	modern
TP8 spit 8	ceramic	stoneware	pot	4	48	modern
TP8 spit 8	ebonite		bottle top	1	20	modern
TP8 spit 8	glass		bottle	7	73	post-med/modern
TP8 spit 8	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	14	post-medieval
TP8 spit 8	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	1	post-medieval
TP8 spit 8	metal	iron	nail	1	5	undated
TP8 spit1	glass			1	2	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	4	modern
TP9 spit 1	plastic			10	4	modern
TP9 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	3	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 1	glass			11	29	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 1	bone	animal bone		1	3	undated
TP9 spit 1	metal	tin		6	105	undated
TP9 spit 1	organic	charcoal		2	10	undated
TP9 spit 2	metal	copper alloy		1	4	modern

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP9 spit 2	organic	leather		1	1	modern
TP9 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	5	4	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 2	glass			3	16	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	4	post-medieval
TP9 spit 2		mortar		2	2	undated
TP9 spit 2	metal	tin		3	19	undated
TP9 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	1	modern
TP9 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	4	82	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 3	glass			2	4	post-med/modern
TP9 spit 3	organic	charcoal		1	15	undated
TP10 spit 1	plastic			1	1	modern
TP10 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	13	94	post-med/modern
TP10 spit 1	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	1	post-medieval
TP10 spit 1		mortar		1	17	undated
TP10 spit 1	metal	iron		11	25	undated
TP10 spit 1	organic	charcoal		8	12	undated
TP10 spit 2	plastic			1	1	modern
TP10 spit 2	rubber			1	2	modern
TP10 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	10	74	post-med/modern
TP10 spit 2	metal	alluminium		1	13	undated
TP10 spit 2	organic	charcoal		5	3	undated
TP10 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	3	modern
TP10 spit 3	plastic		toy	2	1	modern
TP10 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	3	59	post-med/modern
TP10 spit 3	glass			5	93	post-med/modern
TP10 spit 3	metal	iron		2	1	undated
TP10 spit 3	organic	charcoal		9	12	undated
TP10 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	25	1401	late med/early post-med

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP10 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	13	modern
TP10 spit 4	organic	charcoal		1	1	undated
TP10 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	2	30	?medieval
TP10 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	tile	1	290	late med/early post-med
TP10 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	17	185	post-med/modern
TP10 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	?brick	1	43	post-medieval
TP10 spit 5	organic	charcoal		3	1	undated
TP10 spit 6	ceramic	fired clay		2	87	
TP10 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	2	15	?medieval
TP10 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	27	711	post-med/modern
TP10 spit 6	slag			1	558	undated
TP11 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	4	modern
TP11 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	23	192	post-med/modern
TP11 spit 1	glass			2	1	post-med/modern
TP11 spit 1		clinker		26	143	undated
TP11 spit 1		mortar		14	78	undated
TP11 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	31	medieval
TP11 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	14	89	post-medieval/modern
TP11 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	1	Roman
TP11 spit 2		clinker		2	9	undated
TP11 spit 2		coal		23	39	undated
TP11 spit 2		mortar		2	47	undated
TP11 spit 2	metal	iron		3	41	undated
TP11 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	tile	1	58	?medieval
TP11 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	5	16	medieval
TP11 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	35	medieval
TP11 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2	post-medieval
TP11 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2	medieval

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP12 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	5	modern
TP12 spit 1	plastic			2	4	modern
TP12 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	9	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 1	glass			5	13	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 1	metal	iron		2	34	undated
TP12 spit 1	organic	charcoal		1	2	undated
TP12 spit 2	ceramic		pot	7	35	modern
TP12 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	36	137	modern
TP12 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	55	modern
TP12 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	32	381	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 2	glass			52	164	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	15	49	post-medieval
TP12 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	2	4	post-medieval
TP12 spit 2	bone	animal bone		2	10	undated
TP12 spit 2	metal	iron		4	39	undated
TP12 spit 2	organic	charcoal		28	42	undated
TP12 spit 2	stone	slate		7	51	undated
TP12 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	15	modern
TP12 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	35	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 3	glass			5	33	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 3	stone	slate		3	46	undated
TP12 spit 4	plastic			1	5	modern
TP12 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	3	40	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 4	glass			4	154	post-med/modern
TP12 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	5	16	post-medieval
TP13 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	35	1061	post-med/modern
TP13 spit 1	ceramic		?pot	1	6	?modern
TP13 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	5	modern

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP13 spit 1	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	20	post-medieval
TP13 spit 1	glass		window	1	5	post-med/modern
TP13 spit 1		mortar		1	8	undated
TP13 spit 1	metal	iron	nail	10	56	undated
TP13 spit 1	metal	lead	?seal	1	1	undated
TP13 spit 2	ceramic		pot	2	3	modern
TP13 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	12	40	modern
TP13 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	46	1375	post-med/modern
TP13 spit 2	glass		window	1	3	post-med/modern
TP13 spit 2	ceramic	earthenware	pot	8	91	post-medieval
TP13 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	2	2	post-medieval
TP13 spit 2	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	3	post-medieval
TP13 spit 2		mortar		13	89	undated
TP13 spit 2	bone	animal bone		1	2	undated
TP13 spit 2	metal	iron	nail	4	130	undated
TP13 spit 2	organic	charcoal		5	6	undated
TP13 spit 2	slag			1	30	undated
TP13 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	6	medieval
TP13 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	7	modern
TP13 spit 3	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	4	modern
TP13 spit 3	ceramic	earthenware	pot	5	19	post-medieval
TP13 spit 3	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	5	7	post-medieval
TP13 spit 3		mortar		8	28	undated
TP13 spit 3	bone	animal bone		3	17	undated
TP13 spit 3	organic	charcoal		2	5	undated
TP13 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	4	modern
TP13 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	16	478	post-med/modern
TP13 spit 4	ceramic	earthenware	pot	7	88	post-medieval

Test pit	Material class	Material subtype	Object type	Total number	Weight (g)	Period
TP13 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	2	post-medieval
TP13 spit 4	ceramic	stoneware	pot	6	11	post-medieval
TP13 spit 4		mortar		3	12	undated
TP13 spit 4	bone	animal bone		3	45	undated
TP13 spit 4	glass		window	8	21	undated
TP13 spit 4	metal	iron	nail	1	2	undated
TP13 spit 4	organic	charcoal		1	1	undated
TP13 spit 4	stone	slate		1	15	undated
TP13 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	1	19	post-med/modern
TP13 spit 5	ceramic	earthenware	pot	6	37	post-medieval
TP13 spit 5	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	1	post-medieval
TP13 spit 5	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	2	post-medieval
TP13 spit 5	glass		window	1	5	post-medieval
TP13 spit 5	bone	animal bone		1	15	undated
TP13 spit 5	metal	iron		1	34	undated
TP13 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	35	late med/early post-med
TP13 spit 6	ceramic	stoneware	pot	2	10	modern
TP13 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	pot	9	58	post-medieval
TP13 spit 6	ceramic	stoneware	clay pipe	1	2	post-medieval
TP13 spit 6	ceramic	stoneware	pot	1	17	post-medieval
TP13 spit 6		mortar		1	2	undated
TP13 spit 6	ceramic	earthenware	cbm	4	143	undated
TP13 spit 6	glass			4	6	undated
TP13 spit 6	metal	iron		1	10	undated

Table 2: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage by test pit and spit

Appendix 4: Common pottery types

Fabric 13: Sandy oxidised ware, 1st to 2nd century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/66>

These Roman pots came in a variety of forms, such as jars, bowls, tankards and flagons. They were possibly made in Gloucester, but appear very similar to the more local 'Severn Valley ware'.

Fabric 55: Medieval cooking pot, 12th to 14th century

Coarse, earthenware cooking pots were made in most major towns and cities across medieval England. We often find them covered in soot from cooking fires.

They're often dull grey or brown, with a gritty texture and visible inclusions, and can be hard to distinguish from Iron Age and Roman fabrics at first sight.

In the later medieval period, technological advances and increasing wages (due to labour shortages caused by the Black Death) made metal pots more affordable, and ceramic cooking pots disappear from the archaeological record.

Most found in this area were made in or around:

Worcester (Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware, fabric 55):

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/2>

Malvern (Malvernian unglazed ware, fabric 56):

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/3>

Fabric 62: Deritend ware, 13th to 14th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/47>

Decorated jugs from the Deritend area of Birmingham. The fabric is generally orange all the way through and the surface may be decorated with painted white lines and a sparse green glaze.

Fabric 63: Brill-Boarstall ware, 13th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/26>

Made in Buckinghamshire, these highly decorated jugs are found across Oxfordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Jugs tend to have a green glaze and be decorated with roller stamps, extra clay strips or faces, or painted with red and white slip. The fabric varies from pale orange to buff and pale grey.

Fabric 64.1: Worcester-type 'sandy' ware, 13th to 14th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/5>

Highly decorated jugs and pitchers covered in splashes of green lead-based glaze were made in most

major cities in the medieval period.

They tend to have inclusions, visible by eye, of quartz, stone or shell, and will vary in colour: often with a grey core and buff/orange/brown surfaces

Fabric 72: Brown glazed speckled ware, 15th to 17th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/48>

Also known as Cistercian ware, these cups were glazed inside and out. Their speckled appearance comes from small pieces of sand in the glaze that haven't fused. The fabric is usually orange when fired at lower temperatures and dark red/ purple at higher temperatures.

Fabric 77: Midlands yellow ware, late 16th to 19th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/191>

Pale yellow was the most sought-after colour, but the lead glaze (which can be shiny or dull) is more often bright yellow. Large vessels tend to be made from red clay and have a white slip between the body of the pot and yellow glaze.

Fabric 78: Post-medieval 'redware', late 16th to early 19th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/196>

Cheap and robust, this earthenware pottery has a red body with few visible inclusions, and glossy dark glaze. It was the staple of a country household, made in a wide variety of forms including 'pancheons' (mixing bowls), mugs, and chamberpots.

It emerged from earlier 'Cistercian'-type wares, the most common form being fine walled drinking vessels with multiple handles, known as 'tygs' <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/forms/441> .

Black or dark brown glazes are common in the upper Severn valley, but further south products from the Ashton Keynes-type industry appear, which tend to have orange glazes.

Earlier examples often have a bubbly or streaky glaze. By the 18th century they tend to have a smooth and even glaze. Although tablewares are largely replaced by other refined earthenwares (such as creamware) by the late 18th century, larger forms like pancheons continue well into the 19th century.

Fabric 81.3: Nottingham stoneware, late 17th to 19th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/195>

This early English stoneware is usually thin-walled with a dark brown surface. It can be identified by the presence of a thin white line visible between the fabric and the glaze.

Other types of stoneware are also found in Worcestershire, including those imported from abroad e.g. Siegburg stoneware <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/40> and Westerwald stoneware <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/194>

Fabric 81.4: 'Late stoneware', 19th to early 20th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/200>

This hard-fired stoneware has a very fine fabric and smooth orange, brown or buff-coloured surfaces. Sometimes a brown or white glaze was added. Marks from throwing are sometimes visible on the inner surfaces. Vessels were used for fluid storage—inkpots, beer bottles, condiment jars etc. — right up until the mid-20th century.

Fabric 82: Tin-glazed earthenware, 17th to 19th century

Sometimes referred to as 'Delft' after its most famous production centre, this attractive white-glazed pottery was made in England from the early 17th century, copying the Dutch potters. The fabric is soft and cream-coloured, and the pots often have a pinkish or bluish tint. In the later medieval period, tin-glazed earthenwares were imported in small quantities from Italy, Spain and Holland, although they are difficult to tell apart.

Italian mailica (fabric 82.2): <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/42>

South Netherlands tin glazed (fabric 82.3): <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/39>

Seville ware (fabric 82.4): <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/37>

Italian tin glazed (82.7): <https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/201>

Fabric 85: Transfer-printed whiteware, 19th to 20th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/199>

Commonly referred to as 'Victorian china' or 'blue-and-white', this mass-produced tableware is common from 1800 onwards. It has a very fine white core, white glaze and printed patterns in blue, red, black or green.

Watch out for similar-looking earlier pottery such as:

Fabric 83.1: Porcelain, mid-18th century onwards

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/192>

Translucent appearance and hand-painted decoration.

Fabric 84: Creamware, late 18th to early 19th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/193>

Cream-coloured glaze, sometimes moulded. Rarely decorated.

Fabric 91: Post-medieval 'slipware' pottery, 17th to 18th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/189>

Brightly decorated plates and dishes with yellow and brown/red patterns were popular in ordinary 17th/18th century households. They usually have a buff-coloured fabric. The elaborate patterns were made by trailing red and white 'slip' (liquid clay) over the plate before glazing and firing.

Fabric 108: Midlands Purple, late 14th to 18th century

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/53>

Common across the midlands, these highly fired pots tend to have a purple tinge and a dark patchy glaze on the outside. They were made in a variety of forms, particularly cups and jars.

Engine-turned dipped earthenwares, late 18th to early 20th century

These brightly-coloured bowls, jugs and mugs are often mistaken for modern pots, but were first made by Wedgwood in the 1760s. Look out for tree-like 'mocha' decoration, multi-coloured 'cats-eyes' and cables, and geometric patterns and bands in different colours, produced by turning on a lathe. The fabric is smooth, white/light-grey, and the vessels are thin-walled.