

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AND WATCHING
BRIEF
AT
REDHILL RESERVOIR, TELFORD,
SHROPSHIRE

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Revision 2
19th December 2011

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Worcestershire County Council



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Project 3765
Report 1886

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Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Redhill Reservoir, Telford, Shropshire

Andrew Mann

With contributions by Jane Evans and Liz Pearson

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Redhill Reservoir, Telford (NGR SJ 7261 1097) for MMB on behalf of Severn Trent Water. MMB (on behalf of Severn Trent Water) intend to construct nitrate improvement structures and associated pipework on the site and will be submitting a planning application to Telford and Wrekin Council.

This report on an archaeological evaluation describes and assesses the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest potentially affected by the application. The impact of the application on the significance is assessed.

The site lies immediately north of the A5, formally Roman Watling Street and to the south of a Roman military camp/signal station partially excavated in the 1970s during the construction of the reservoir.

The evaluation has identified significant Roman settlement remains dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. The remains mostly comprise boundary ditches, pits and postholes. Beam slots and frequent fired wattle/daub remains suggest that wooden buildings were present on the site although no floors or surfaces were identified as being associated with them. More substantial buildings may also be present as a large robbed-out sandstone wall foundation was excavated and a single Roman tegula (roof tile) was recovered. Two possible oven/furnace bases were also identified in association with metal-working debris indicating that industrial activities may also have been undertaken on site. Significant quantities of exotic and high status pottery and metal-working finds were also recovered from the site. There was no evidence that the nearby military enclosures extended into this part of the site or that Roman Watling Street ran through the evaluated area.

Issue and Revision record

Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Reviewed by
1	7/12/2011	Andrew Mann	Tom Rogers	MMB
2	19/12/2011	Andrew Mann	Tom Rogers	MMB

Part 2 Detailed report

1. **Planning background**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Redhill Reservoir, Telford (NGR SJ 7261 1097) for MMB on behalf of Severn Trent Water (Fig 1). MMB (on behalf of Severn Trent Water) intend to construct nitrate improvement structures and associated pipework on the site and will be submitting a planning application to Telford and Wrekin Council.

The proposed development site is considered to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest, including Roman military and road side settlement, the significance of which may be affected by the application (SHER 01113).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008). The project also conforms to the Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) prepared by Mott MacDonald (Mott MacDonald 2011) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2011).

2. **Aims**

The aims of this archaeological evaluation are to:

- Identify and define any remains associated with the Roman civilian settlement;
- Identify and define any remains associated with the Roman course of Watling Street; and
- Identify any earlier or later activity on the site which may suggest occupation prior to or following the Roman period.

3. **Methods**

3.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to field work commencing an archaeological impact Assessment (AIA) was produced by Mott MacDonald (Mott MacDonald 2011b). This included the results of a Shropshire Historic Environment Record (SHER) search and a cartographic investigation.

3.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

3.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2011). Fieldwork was undertaken between 31-10-2011 and 11-11-2011. In addition to the 14 evaluation trenches proposed in the WSI a further 3 trenches were monitored during a watching brief. These were monitored directly after the evaluation and intended to identify existing water pipes to the north of the site.

Fourteen evaluation trenches, amounting to just over 269.52m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 4300m², representing a sample of 6.2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.3 **Artefact methodology, by Jane Evans**

3.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). The majority of artefacts were excavated from stratified deposits. A metal detector was also used to retrieve metal finds, with most of Trenches 1–9 and 13 covered by Dean Crawford, and Trenches 10–12 by WHEAS.

3.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access database.

Only one artefact was recovered from the environmental samples. This is included in the discussion and tables below.

The pottery and ceramic building material was scanned. Where appropriate, fabrics and forms are cross-referenced to the Wroxeter fabric and form series (Evans 2000) and the national Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

3.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Liz Pearson**

3.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation. Samples of 10 to 20 litres were taken from four contexts, including two pits, a beam slot and a buried soil around a hearth/oven, which dated from the 1st century or later.

3.4.2 **Method of analysis**

3.4.3 **Animal bone**

The number of fragments and weight of hand-collected animal bone from each trench were recorded.

3.4.4 **Macrofossil analysis**

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 2nd edition (Stace 2010).

A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale.

4. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The following is a summary of the topographic and archaeological context to the site, a more comprehensive background can be found within the AIA (Mott MacDonald 2011b). The solid geology across the majority of the site is Enville Member Sandstone or Mudstone of Westphalian date.

The site is located in area of high archaeological potential of Roman date, specifically the Roman settlement of *Uxacona*. The earliest Roman occupation is thought to be a series of military enclosures constructed from the 1st century AD. This was later followed by a civilian settlement that straddled Watling Street that runs to the south of the site. The civilian settlement is thought to have become established from the 2nd century AD and was in continuous occupation until the 5th century AD.

5. **Results**

5.1 **Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3-5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. Only 4 trenches (1, 4, 12, and 14) were devoid of any archaeological remains.

5.1.1 **Phase 1: Natural deposits**

The natural deposits were fairly uniform across the site and consisted of very firm and cohesive, pale pinkish red sandy clays and degraded sandstone. Some trenches contained patches of yellow clayey sand. These were identified at varying depths below the ground surface between 0.37-1.10m (bgs). The trenches were generally deeper towards the south and south west corner of the site and in Trenches 11 and 12.

5.1.2 **Phase 2: Roman deposits 1st -2nd century**

Numerous Roman layers and features were identified across the site although no intact surfaces were identified (but see possible ovens below), suggesting a degree of truncation had occurred. Numerous ditches and pits were excavated that were identified uniformly across the site. Two probable beam slots, one wall foundation trench and two possible postholes also indicate that some structures were present. The majority of these features are of a 1st to 2nd century AD date.

In the south and south west parts of the site there was a humic buried soil horizon. This was visible in Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 14 and contained significant amounts of Roman pottery and metal finds (Plates 1 and 2). The finds from this layer are a mixture of 1st to 3rd century date suggesting there has been some reworking of this soil. Only one archaeological feature, pit [2007], cut through this layer (2002). The remainder of the archaeological remains within these trenches became visible at the base of the buried topsoil at the interface with the buried subsoil.

A buried soil was also identified within Trenches 10 and 11, layers (10003) and (11002) respectively. This soil was less humic than in the southerly trenches and contained less charcoal, pot or CBM, although, as with the other trenches, archaeology was only visible below this topsoil horizon (Plate 3). This soil in all these trenches had been buried by redeposited clays thought to have resulted from the landscaping of the site during the 1970s.

Where the archaeological remains have been more deeply buried they are notably better preserved. For example ditches [2008] and [2012] are 0.75m and 0.65m deep respectively. The terminus of ditch [3004], which is also of note as it contained a near-complete amphora, is also a minimum of 0.57m deep (Plate 4). Ditches [5006], [6004] and [13004] which are in areas without a buried soil are, however, only between 0.20-0.40m deep (Plates 5 and 6), while pits [8003] and [9005] are only 0.23m and 0.28m deep (Plate 7).

Only one possible stone-built wall was identified on site [10006] (Fig 5, Plate 8). Although robbed-out, the large quantities of sandstone rubble, the profile of the cut and the compaction

of its base suggest that it had once contained a substantial wall. The only other evidence for a sandstone wall was visible in the southern end of Trench 3, where there was a concentration of sandstone rubble in an NE-SW aligned feature (not excavated). None of the sandstone rubble removed from or visible within either feature had been worked.

The two beam slots [7005] and [9006] were identified in Trenches 7 and 9. The larger of the two, [9008], measured 0.50m wide and 0.28m deep. It also appeared to form a corner and possible entrance (Fig 5, Plate 9). Neither of the two pits [8003] and [9005] contained significant quantities of occupation debris to suggest they were rubbish pits and at present their function is unclear. Pit [9005] was, however, cut through solid sandstone so is likely to have been required in its current position.

Two possible oven/furnace bases were also identified within Trench 7, although they were not excavated. These consisted of compact sub-circular orange fired clay concentrations, indicative of high temperatures. Within the surrounding and overlying buried soil layer (7003) there were also numerous fired clay daub fragments thought to be the superstructure to these features. This again suggests that the buried soil has been reworked or ploughed.

The excavated ditches are aligned for the most part either on a NNW-SSE or a NE-SW alignment. Only two ditches however appear to be aligned with one another, suggesting they may be the same ditch, [2008] and [5004/5006]. This may imply that the ditches are forming small plots of land/enclosures. Both the beam slots [9006] and [7005] are also aligned in a NNW-SSE direction. Only ditch [2012] and the wall foundation, [10006], are aligned differently on an E-W or NW-SE alignment respectively.

5.1.3 **Phase 3: Roman deposits 3rd-5th century**

Only two features of a later Roman date were identified: pit [2007] and ditch [13004]. The former cut through the buried soil layer (2002) suggesting that the buried soil was not reworked after the 3rd century AD or that it was not reworked in this area of the site. Ditch [13004] although of a 3rd century date is of a similar alignment to the earlier features.

5.1.4 **Phase 4: undated**

Only pit [9005] remains undated due to the lack of finds and indeterminate stratigraphic position, although given the amount of Roman archaeology on the site and the lack of other dateable remains it is likely to be Roman in date.

5.1.5 **Phase 5: Post-medieval and Modern**

The only post-Roman feature on site is a farm track aligned NW-SW, visible in Trenches 2 and 14. This was constructed of very compacted furnace slag and is likely to have been constructed post 1970s. Where there was buried Roman soil it had been buried by two different layers. Towards the south and south west it had been buried mainly by a yellowish brown sandy clay (Plate 2), and elsewhere it had been buried by redeposited natural pinkish red clays (Plate 3). Both are thought to have been deposited during the landscaping of the site during the 1970s.

5.2 **Artefact analysis, by Jane Evans**

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 to 5 (Appendix 2). The Roman pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 228 sherds of pottery weighing 4322g. In addition, metal small finds, fragments of ceramic building material and a range of other materials were also recovered. The group came from 32 stratified contexts and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). The majority of finds were fairly fragmentary and abraded.

The pottery was scanned and quantified by count and weight, but was not quantified by fabric. A number of diagnostic forms were present, providing useful dating evidence for the assemblage. The remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span. Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Wroxeter (Evans 2000, 195-246). The majority of the Roman pottery came from Trenches 2 and 3 (Table 2).

The majority of sherds were oxidised or reduced coarse wares, incorporating Severn Valley ware and the sandier fabrics noted at Wroxeter. Severn Valley ware forms included jars with gently overhanging rims, dating broadly from the 1st to 3rd centuries (cf Webster 1976, fig. 1.1, 3, 5; fig. 3.11). Other forms, in particular the necked jars, were more typical of Wroxeter products (cf Evans 2000, fig. 4.59 JM6.2, fig. 4.60 JM7), associated there with the 1st century military deposits. Occasional sherds of white ware and white colour-coated ware were also noted, indicative of a 1st to 2nd century date.

More widely traded wares included small quantities of Black burnished ware (henceforth BB1; Tomber and Dore 1998, 127, DOR BB 1), Mancetter/Hartshill mortaria (op. cit. 189, MAH WH), and handmade Malvernian ware (op. cit. 147, MAL RE A). The presence of BB1 provided a *tpq* of *c* AD 120 for the contexts in which it occurred. Some forms were more closely datable. A buried top soil in Trench 2 (context 2002) produced a BB1 jar decorated on the neck with wavy pattern burnish, a type that was produced up until *c* AD 160-80 (Gillam 1976, fig. 1.1-3). Another Trench 2 deposit (context 2006) produced a plain-rimmed dish of a type dating to the later 2nd to early 3rd centuries (Gillam 1976, fig. 5.77). The Mancetter/Hartshill mortaria included body sherds with trituration grits typical of products pre- and post- *c* AD 150/60. The former, with more quartz trituration, came from Trench 5 (context 5005) and the latter, with more black and brown grits, from Trench 7 (context 7003). Where forms were present these were all from hammerhead mortaria, produced from the 3rd century onwards (from Trench 3, context 3002, and Trench 8, context 8004). Only body sherds of the Malvernian ware were present, probably from a tubby cooking pot dating to the 1st or 2nd century (cf Evans 2000, fig. 4.54 JC1).

Twelve sherds of Samian were recovered, including two, very abraded decorated pieces but no stamps. Provisional identifications are provided here, though this will need to be reassessed by a samian specialist. Trench 7 produced some late 1st century samian, from La Graufesenque in southern Gaul. This included a Dr 29 decorated bowl (cf Webster 1996, fig. 26c) and a Dr 18/31 dish, both from context 7003. Trench 3 (context 3000) produced a Central Gaulish, Dr 27 cup, dating to the first half of the 2nd century (cf Webster 1996, fig. 25B). Later Central Gaulish samian came from Trench 8 (context 8004) and Trench 13 (context 13003); a Dr 31R and a Dr 31 bowl respectively. These were both types produced after *c* AD 160. The four latest sherds were possibly in East Gaulish samian from Trier, all found in Trench 2. These were from a Dr 45 mortarium, post-dating *c* AD 170, perhaps from a single vessel although not joining. Two larger sherds came from the buried top soil (context 2002) and two more fragmentary sherds from the subsoil (context 2001). Also present were sherds of amphorae. These included: a sherd from a Dressel 20 olive oil amphora (Trench 3, context 3005); a sherd of possible Rhodian (pink) wine amphorae, imported until 2nd century (Trench 2, context 2006) and six sherds from an unidentified type (Trench 11, context 11005). The presence of a range of samian and amphora forms suggests the site had good access to wider trade links.

Other artefacts

The use of a metal-detector during the evaluation meant that a number of metal finds were recovered (Table 3, plates 10-15). The number and range suggest an archaeologically rich site with good preservation. One of the best groups came from the buried topsoil in Trench 7 (context 7003). These included a trumpet brooch, dating from the mid-to-late 1st to mid 2nd century (Plate 15); a late 1st century coin (Plate 11); a possible, military phalera mount (Plate 10); an unidentified fitting from an environmental sample (<4>; not illustrated), a fragment of lead (SF 15) and a nail.

A Polden Hill brooch, dating from mid 1st to mid 2nd century (not illustrated) was found as a surface find in Trench 3 (SF 2), and the subsoil produced a coin of Septimus Severus dated to *c* AD 193-211 (Plates 13-14). Another Polden Hill brooch, dated to the 2nd century came from Trench 4 (Plate 14). Less datable finds comprised: from Trench 9, context 9001, a fragment of copper alloy sheet, possibly from a mirror (SF 9 and perhaps SF 12), a corroded coin (SF 11) and a fragment of lead (SF 13); a corroded coin from Trench 2 (context 2006, SF 1); a corroded coin from Trench 8 (context 8000, SF 7); and a fragment of lead from Trench 4 (context 4001, SF 10).

Ceramic building material was recovered from a number of contexts, particularly from Trench 2 (Table 2). Most of this was undiagnostic. It has been assumed to be Roman for the purpose of this report, as it is associated with diagnostically Roman material, but this will need to be reassessed when analysis is undertaken. The only diagnostic piece was a tegula flange from Trench 2, context 2002. Fragments of fired clay were also recovered, some with distinctive wattle marks suggesting that they are structural (only a sample of this was excavated). Fired clay and slag were common in Trench 7, and fired clay and coal or cinder in Trench 2 (Table 4). This may reflect the function of activity in these areas of the site, though the finds in themselves cannot be dated. Stone was most commonly found in Trench 2, three fragments being heat-cracked. No Roman glass was recovered.

Some post-medieval pottery and brick was recovered (Table 4), mainly from the top soil (contexts 2000, 3000). A couple of sherds of post-medieval pottery came from the buried topsoil in trench 7 (context 7003), suggesting that there had been some later disturbance.

Roman

The dating evidence from all finds was combined to provide a *terminus post quem* for each context (Table 5). The finds provide evidence for activity dating from the 1st century, but perhaps focussed in the 2nd to 3rd centuries. This is consistent with the date of the military enclosures and the current dating of the settlement. There is, however, no evidence amongst the finds for later 3rd to 4th century occupation, so there is nothing to support the suggestion that this area of the settlement was continuously occupied until the early 5th century. The dating of the military activity and settlement is something that could be explored further if more fieldwork is undertaken. Previous excavation (Browne and Boon 2004) has indicated; Neronian activity; a phase of activity with an end date in the last quarter of the 3rd century (op. cit. 5, ditch II and the coin hoard in ditch VII), and 4th to early 5th century activity (op. cit. ditch VII). At some military sites in the region, for example at Pentrehyling fort, Brompton, (unpublished material seen by this author), there is evidence for both Flavian and 4th century military activity. There is Flavian occupation in the *vicus* at Pentrehyling fort, but this does not appear to continue once the fort is abandoned. The development and continuation of the civilian settlement here presumably reflects the proximity of the site to Watling Street.

The sample of finds recovered during the evaluation suggests an artefactually rich site, with good potential to contribute to further studies of Romanisation in the Wroxeter hinterland. It will be possible to compare the pottery with other sites in the hinterland (e.g. Evans 1994, 89; Evans 2007, 150). The quantity and quality of metal finds, in particular, stands out in comparison to some of the sites studied as part of the Wroxeter Hinterland Survey (Bevan 2007). It is perhaps most similar to another roadside settlement at Meole Brace (Ellis *et al* 1994, 93-9). Very little detailed information is included in the report on the 1970s excavations. Any future work might include a reassessment and detailed recording of the finds from this intervention.

5.3 **Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson**

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 6-8.

5.3.1 **Hand-retrieved material**

A total of three fragments of large mammal bone were hand-collected (Table 7). The poor preservation of animal bone is most likely to be a result of the sandy soils which results in acidic conditions.

5.3.2 **Wet-sieved samples**

Small quantities of charred cereal crop residue were found in all four contexts, although this material was slightly more abundant in pit fill 2006. Generally the charred material was in poor condition. Otherwise, only finely fragmented charcoal (but some larger fragments, possibly vitrified) and fragmented burnt bone was recorded. This material shows some potential for recovering evidence of the type of cereal crops in use and patterns of disposal of

crop waste on the site. The assemblages were too small to make detailed interpretations of crop husbandry methods in use.

Low levels of flake hammerscale were noted in sample residues from all four contexts, but were slightly more frequent in layer 7003 that surrounded the hearths. The hearths were, therefore, probably associated with fine metal working.

6. **Significance**

The environmental remains recovered are typical of many Roman sites in the region, and because of the low levels recovered are of local significance.

7. **Synthesis**

The archaeological evaluation has identified significant remains associated with the civilian settlement known to have existed at the site (Buteux 1996). No archaeological remains were identified that would suggest there was any significant activity prior to or post the Roman occupation, although residual prehistoric flint and pottery have been previously identified at the reservoir (Buteux 1996). The presence of medieval and post-medieval finds are also very rare in the area (Buteux 1996). There was no evidence to suggest that the Roman course of Watling Street ran through the site, although it was identified approximately 100m to the west and measured 9m wide and was constructed of sandstone rubble.

There was also no evidence for the large enclosure ditch DVII, which was constructed in the 4th century (Browne and Boon 2004). This ditch measured 3.3m wide and was 1.72m deep, was aligned approximately E-W and, if straight and continuous, should have ran directly through the evaluated area.

Where the 1970s landscaping has buried the Roman soils there appears to have been less truncation and the finds assemblage is better preserved and of greater quantity. It is likely that some areas were completely stripped during the construction of the reservoir to the detriment of the archaeology. This was obvious with Trench 12 where redeposited natural clays and sandstone rubble sat directly upon the bedrock.

7.1 **Roman**

The majority of the archaeological remains are dated to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, although the finds suggest that activity was densest between the 2nd to 3rd centuries. The remains are indicative of settlement and consist of boundary ditches, pits and structural postholes and beam slots.

Other than the copper alloy phalera mount there was no direct evidence for the military occupation of the site that began in the first century AD (Buteux 1996). The majority of artefacts from the 1972-73 excavations that can also be directly associated with the military occupation are copper alloy military remains (Browne and Boon 2004). However the presence of a range of samian and amphora forms within the evaluated area suggests the site had good access to wider trade links which may have been aided by the local military presence.

Evidence of metal working had been found in the 1970s excavations and further evidence of metal working may be found in Trench 7. This included hammerscale, slag and fragments of fired clay/daub thought to be the super structure of an oven or possible furnace (not excavated). Fired clay, coal and cinder were also found within Trench 2.

The dates of the finds assemblage suggest that evaluated area reflects the first civilian occupation of the site which is thought to have developed from the later 2nd century AD (Buteux 1996). The lack of material dating to the later 3rd to 5th centuries would suggest that the focus of occupation had moved toward the end of the 3rd century. This is also supported by the 1970s excavations that suggested the civilian settlement had expanded and moved over the earlier military enclosures by the end of the 3rd century AD (Browne and Boon 2004).

The earlier military enclosures are aligned approximately NNW-SSE and the boundary ditches identified within the evaluation appear to reflect this arrangement (Browne and Boon

2004, fig 1). Neither appears to respect the current alignment of the A5 suggesting that the original course of Watling Street may not be directly below the A5.

During the 1970s excavations timber and clay buildings dating to the 3rd century were identified (Browne 1973) and the sandstone-built structures identified during Pagetts excavations in the 1960s appear to have been solely associated with the military enclosures on the site (Buteux 1996). There is evidence for both wooden and stone-built structures within the evaluated area. Higher status buildings are implied by the robbed-out wall and a piece tegula flange from Trench 2.

8. Significance

8.1 Significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest

The aim of an archaeological evaluation is to provide the client and the planning authority (and its advisors) with sufficient information to assess the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest, in line with *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010: Policy HE6). More detailed guidance on assessing the significance of site with archaeological interest is set out in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, which advises that an on-site evaluation should establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest in order to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010: Section 5, Development Management).

8.2 Assessment of significance

The on-site evaluation has provided new evidence on a site with archaeological interest. As a result, an assessment of the significance of this site can be made in terms of the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest.

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The evaluation has confirmed that the earliest civilian settlement (*Uxacona*) surrounding the military enclosures at Redhill survives in the evaluation area. The remains appear to date to the 1st-3rd centuries AD and contain both structures and boundary features. The finds assemblage is rich and contains both significant quantities of pottery but also metal work. Although not extensive the environmental remains also show some potential for the recovery of crop remains from the site. Modern landscaping over these remains appears to have resulted in their being better preserved and of greater quantity.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The site is immediately adjacent to sites of national importance and the surrounding military and civilian settlements have previously been scheduled, SM 1006269 and SM 1003811 respectively. The evaluated area and previous works at the reservoir have shown that there is a high potential for the preservation and recovery of archaeological remains of a suitable quality for detailed archaeological research to be undertaken. These have the potential to provide detailed information regarding the formation and development of the civilian settlement around and over a Roman fort.

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological remains appear to cover the majority of the site although they appear to have been completely truncated towards the north around Trench 12. The deposits survive better towards the south and west of the site and in Trenches 10 and 11 where they can be covered by between 0.50-0.80m of overburden and buried soils (Figure 6). In the remainder of the trenches they are much more vulnerable to development as they are only approximately 0.40m below the current ground surface.

9. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken at Redhill Reservoir, Telford (NGR SJ 7261 1097) for MMB on behalf of Severn Trent Water. The site has produced evidence of a 2nd-3rd century civilian settlement surrounding a Military Camp. The remains include boundary ditches, pits postholes and beam slots. Only one robbed out sandstone wall was identified and it is thought this was associated with the military camp. Two possible furnace bases were identified that were associated with metal working debris, suggesting this also took place within the evaluated area. Significant quantities of exotic and high status pottery and metal working remains were also recovered from the site.

10. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Maurice Hopper (Mott MacDonald), Hugh Hannaford (Shropshire County Council) and the site team and machine driver from Bentleys Civils.

11. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Andrew Mann. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Mann and Chris Gibbs, finds analysis by Jane Evans, environmental analysis by Liz Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

12. Bibliography

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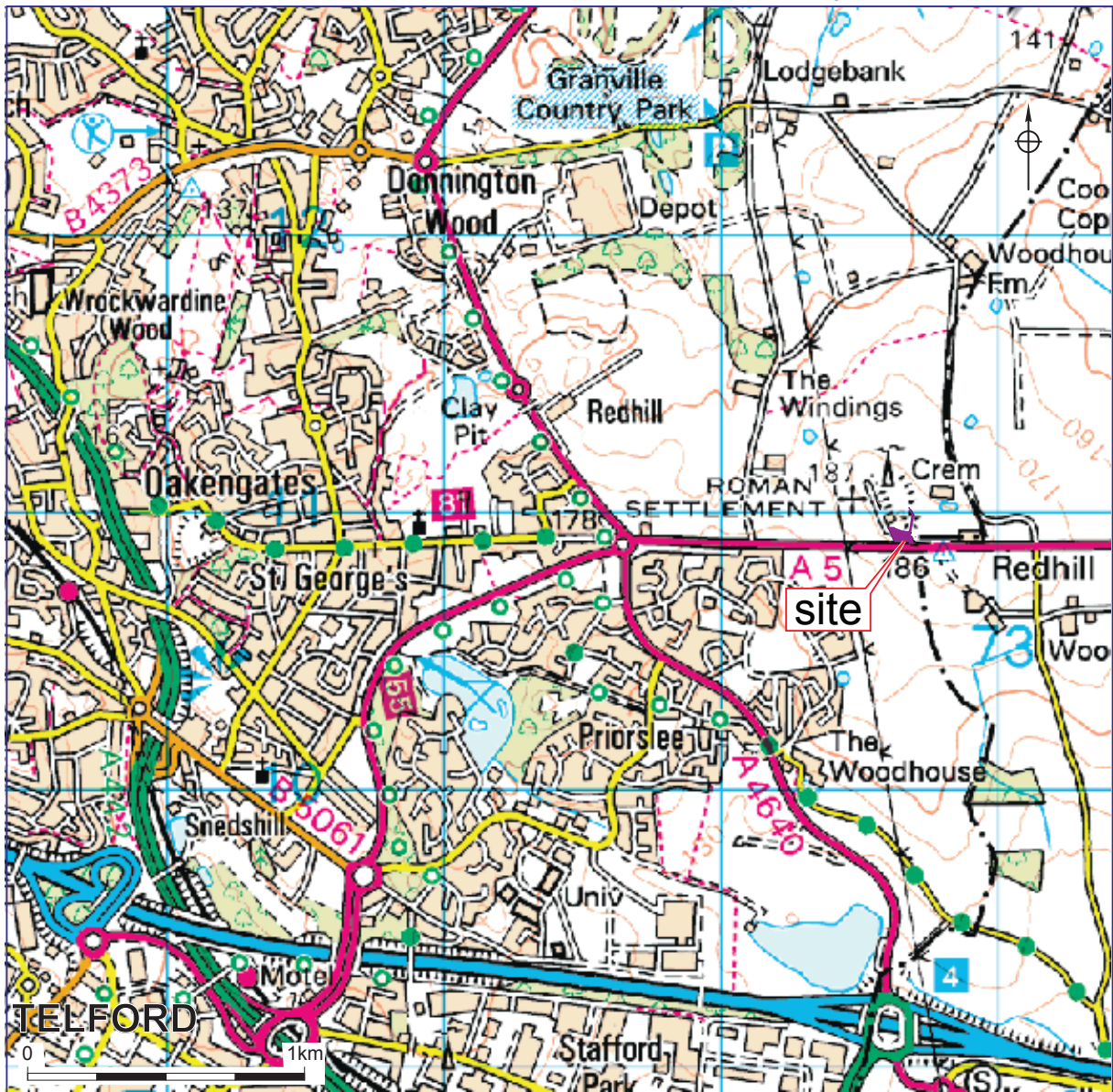
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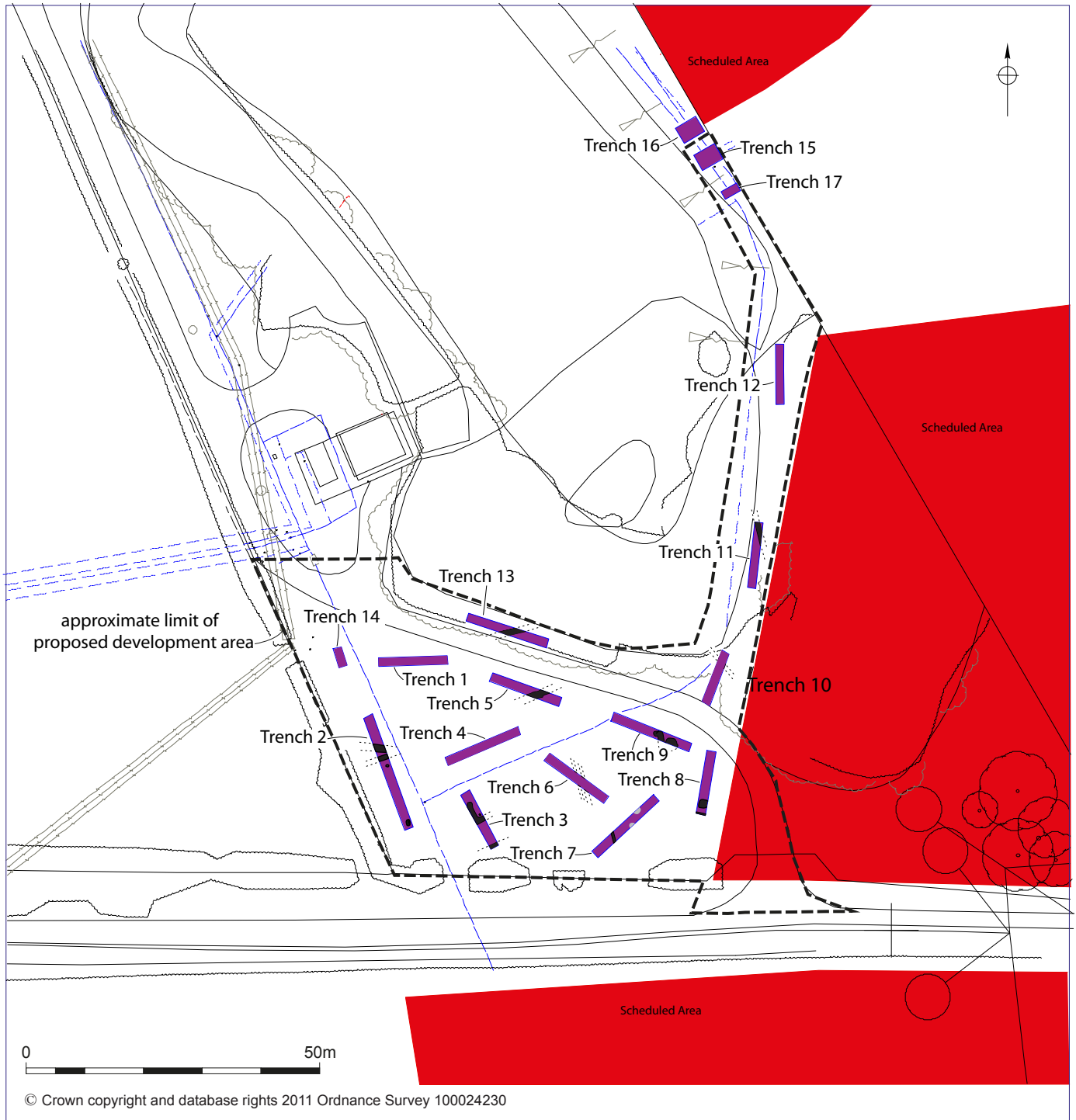
Figures



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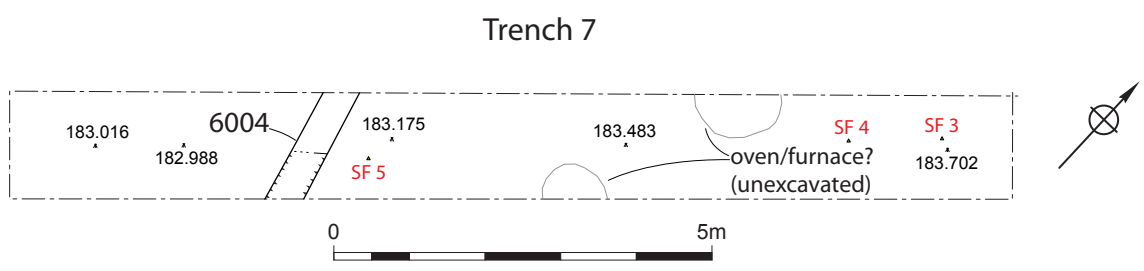
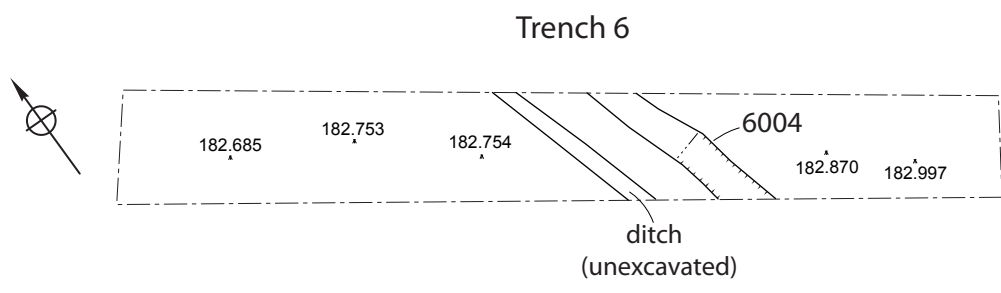
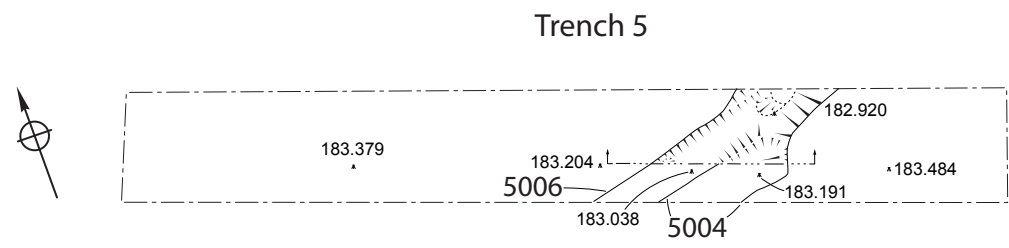
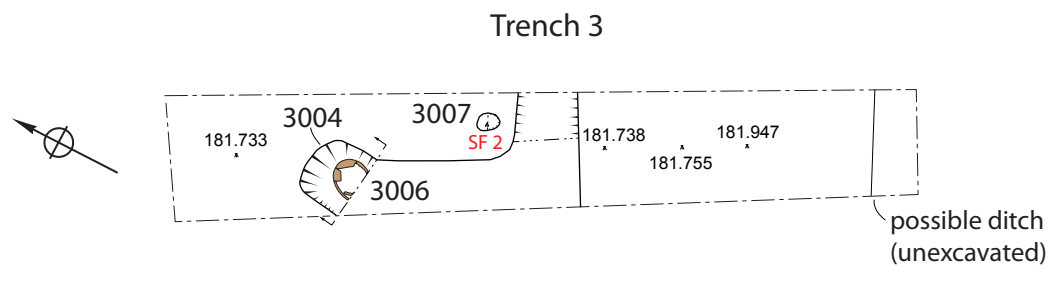
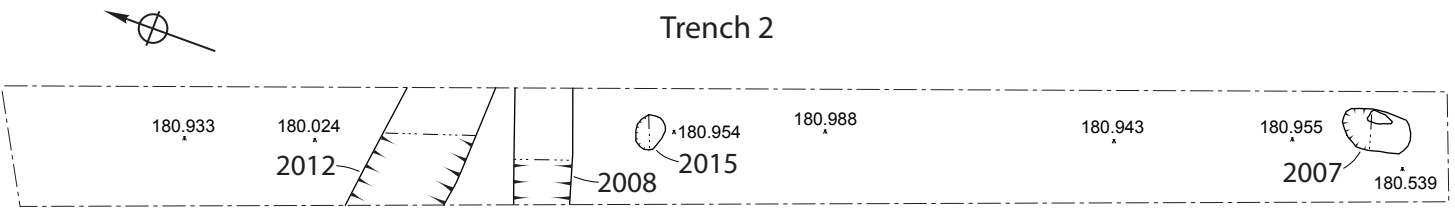
Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of trenches (based upon Mott McDonald Drg 245212 BA01)

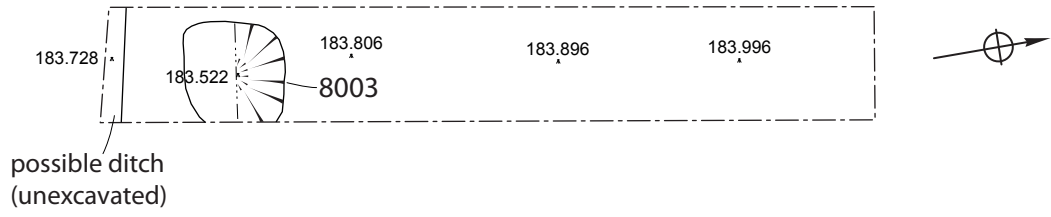
Figure 2



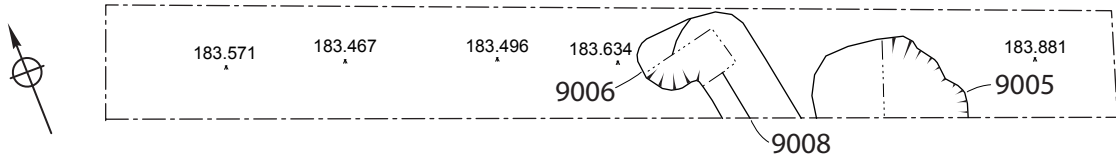
Plans of Trenches 2, 3, 5 6 and 7

Figure 3

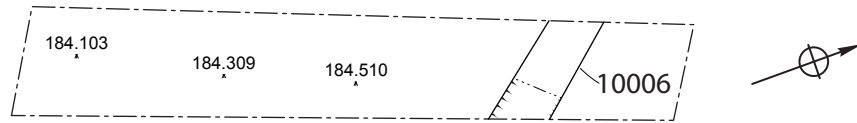
Trench 8



Trench 9



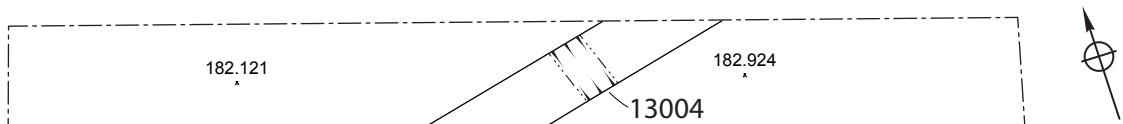
Trench 10



Trench 11



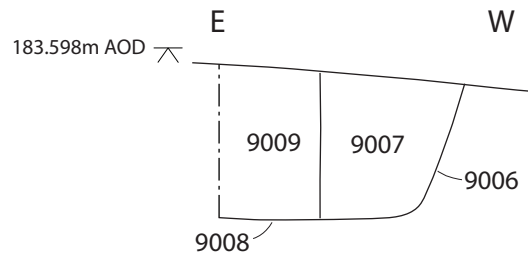
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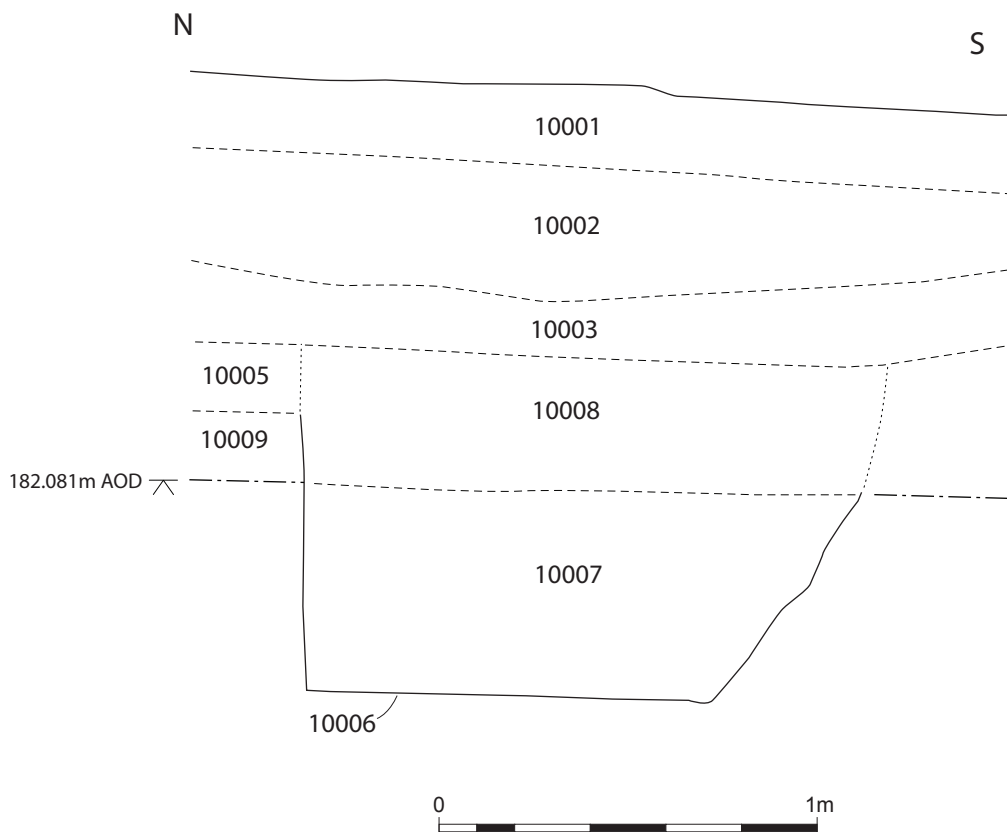
Plans of Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13

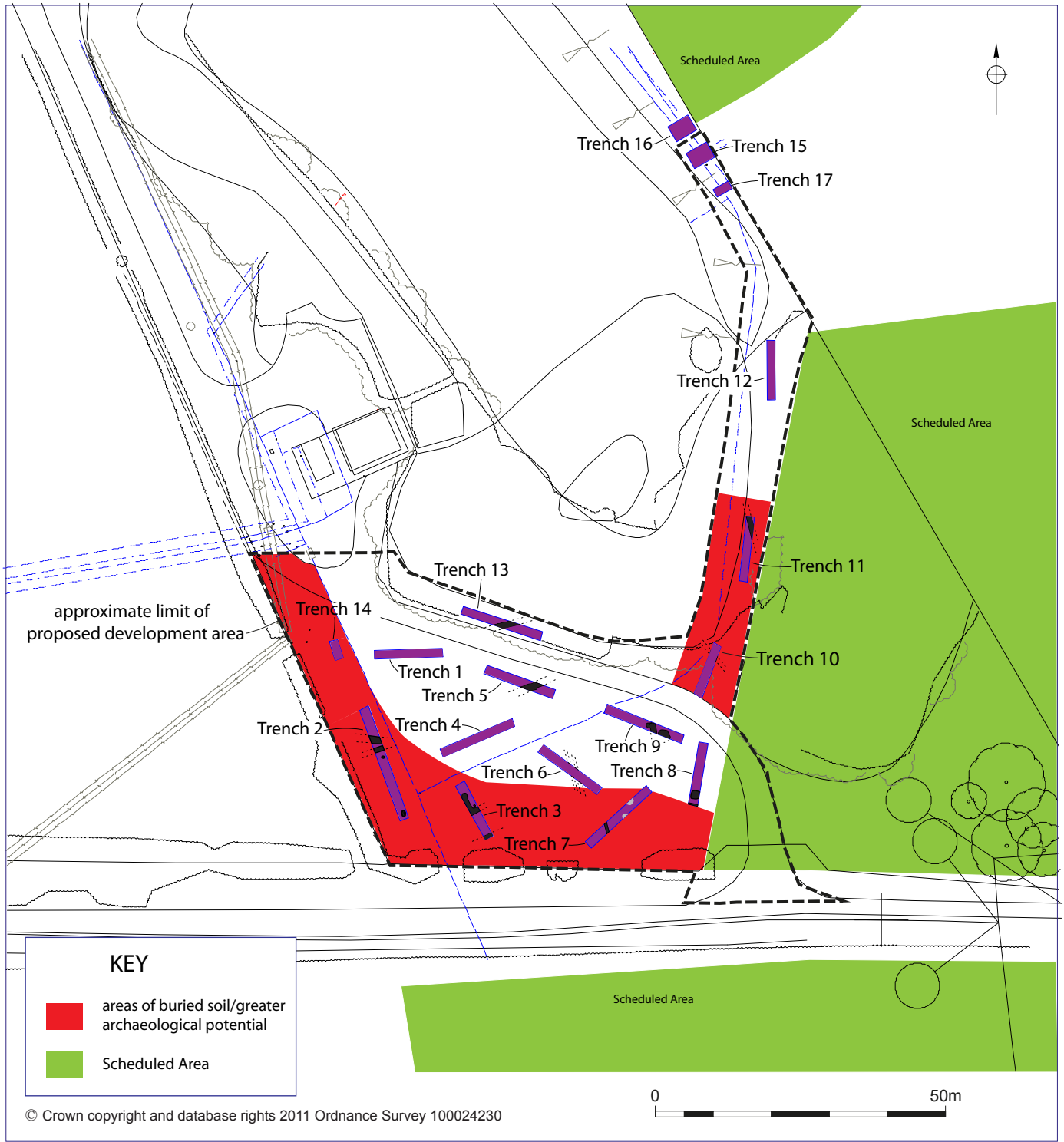
Figure 4

TRENCH 9: NORTH FACING SECTION OF BEAM SLOT



WEST FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 10 AND DITCH 10006





Areas of buried soil/greater archaeological potential (based upon Mott McDonald Drg 245212 BA01) Figure 6

Plates



Plate 1; Buried soil (2002) in Trench 2 facing west



Plate 2; Buried soil (7003) and redeposited clays (7001) and (7002) in Trench 7 facing east



Plate 3; ditch [11006] in base of Trench 11 facing east



Plate 4; ditch terminus [3004] and possibly deliberately positioned pot in Trench 3 facing south west



Plate 5; ditch [5006] in Trench 5 facing north east



Plate 6; Ditch [6004] in Trench 6 facing north east



Plate 7; Pit [9005] in Trench 9 facing south



Plate 8; foundation trench [10006] in Trench 10 facing east



Plate 9; beam slot [9006]/[9008] facing south



Plate 10; copper alloy phalera mount SF 3, 20mm scale



Plate 11; copper alloy medical tool? SF 5, 20mm scale



Plate 12; Obverse of silver coin of *Septimus Severus* SF 6, 20mm scale



Plate 13; Reverse of silver coin of *Septimus Severus* SF 6, 20mm scale



Plate 14; copper alloy Polden Hill brooch SF 8, 20mm scale



Plate 15; copper alloy trumpet brooch SF 14, 20mm scale

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Evaluation Trenches

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 12.43m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Medium brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.34m
1001	Subsoil	Medium orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.34-0.74m
1002	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.74m +

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 21.79m Width: 1.50m Depth: 1.09m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.20m
2001	Subsoil	Medium yellowish brown silty sandy-clay. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small sub-rounded stone and occasional CBM flecks. This may be a mixture of redeposited topsoil and subsoil extracted during the construction of the reservoir.	0.20-0.50m
2002	Buried topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silty-clay loam. Moderately compact and cohesive. Occasional to moderate charcoal and CBM flecks, Occasional small angular stone, occasional pea grit.	0.50-0.74m
2003	Buried subsoil	Medium pinkish brown silty sand. Compact and moderately cohesive. Occasional charcoal flecks, Occasional pea grit and occasional CBM flecks.	0.74-0.89m
2004	Natural	Pale pinky red with patches of grey compact bedded sand and soft sandstone. Contains occasional silt channels and patches of grey silty material.	0.89m+
2005	Pit fill	Secondary fill of pit [2007]. Firm pinkish red sandy clay. Occasional pea grit and occasional rooting. Purposefully backfilled deposit to seal pit [2007]. 0.07m thick.	
2006	Pit fill	Primary fill of pit [2007]. Moderately compact mid reddish brown sandy silt. Frequent pea grit and occasional rooting, small charcoal flecks and pottery. Appears to contain heat affected clay and charcoal. 0.06m thick	
2007	Pit cut	Small sub-oval pit with steep flat sides and a slightly concave base. Filled by (2005) and (2006). Cuts buried topsoil (2003). Pit is 0.95m long, 0.58m wide and 0.13m deep.	
2008	Ditch cut	E-W aligned ditch cut. Appears to cut through the buried subsoil (2003). Has moderate 45° flat sides and a slightly concave base, with a V-shaped profile. Is filled by (2009)	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		and (2010). 1.40m wide and 0.75m deep.	
2009	Ditch fill	Primary fill of ditch [2008]. Light buff brown, firm and cohesive sandy clay. Contains occasional small angular sandstone fragments, occasional roots and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.35m thick.	
2010	Ditch fill	Upper fill of ditch [2008]. Mid-light brown, firm but friable silty sand. Contains occasional pea grit and occasional charcoal flecks. 0.40m thick.	
2011	Road surface	Modern farm track constructed and clinker and ash furnace waste. Compact and cohesive. Lays directly below the current turf matt.	
2012	Ditch cut	E-W aligned ditch cut. Appears to cut through the buried subsoil (2003). Has steep 70° flat sides and a flat base. Is filled by (2013) and (2014). 1.40m wide and 0.65m deep.	
2013	Ditch fill	Primary fill of ditch [2012]. Light pinkish brown, firm but friable sandy clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small angular sandstone fragments. 0.45m thick.	
2014	Ditch fill	Upper fill of ditch [2012]. Mid brown, firm and cohesive silty sand. Contains occasional small rounded stone. 0.20m thick.	
2015	Posthole	Small, heavily truncated sub-circular posthole. Has vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by (2016). 0.53m wide, 0.12m deep.	
2016	Posthole fill	Fill of posthole [2015]. Mid pinkish brown, silty sand, soft and friable. Contains occasional charcoal flecks and occasional pot. 0.12m thick.	

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 11.21m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.60-0.80m

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.16m
3001	Subsoil	Medium yellowish brown silty sandy-clay. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small sub-rounded stone and occasional CBM flecks. This may be a mixture of redeposited topsoil and subsoil extracted during the construction of the reservoir.	0.16-0.37m
3002	Buried topsoil	Mid-dark brown sandy loam. Soft and friable. Contains Frequent roots and pottery fragments, moderate charcoal flecks, occasional CBM, and occasional small-medium angular sandstone fragments.	0.37m-0.64m
3003	Buried subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Contains frequents roots, Moderate charcoal flecks and occasional pottery fragments.	0.64-0.79m
3004	Ditch cut	Ditch possible forming a right angled corner, changing alignment from approximately N-S from E-W. Terminates to the northern end of the trench. The terminus is rounded in plan with sharp near vertical, slightly concave sides and a flat base. 0.93m wide and 0.57m deep. The terminus also contained a near complete amphora.	
3005	Ditch fill	Primary fill of ditch [3004]. Light pinkish brown, sandy silt. Moderately compact and cohesive. Occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular sandstone. 0.40m thick.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3006	Ditch fill	Upper fill of ditch [3004]. Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam. Occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small sub-rounded stones and occasional rooting. Very similar to overlying buried topsoil (3002). 0.17m thick.	
3007	Posthole	Small sub-oval posthole/scoop. Has vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by (3008). 0.25m wide and 0.11m deep.	
3008	Posthole fill	Fill of posthole [3007]. Loose dark pinkish brown sandy silt. 0.11m thick.	
3009	Natural	Pale yellow firm sand with patches of compact pinky red sandy clay sand and soft sandstone. Contains occasional silt channels and patches of grey silty material.	0.79m +

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 14.24m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.40m
4001	Subsoil	Medium orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.40-0.75m
4002	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.75m+

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 13.27m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.43m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.30m
5001	Subsoil	Medium orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.30-0.46m
5002	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand. To the East there is increasing amounts of laminated yellow sandstone.	0.46m+
5003	Pit/Ditch fill	Fill of Pit/Ditch [5004]. Firm and cohesive. Mid orangey brown silty sand. Contains occasional rooting, charcoal flecks and small sun-rounded stone. 0.22m thick.	
5004	Pit/Ditch cut	Possibly a elongated pit or a ditch terminus aligned NE-SW. Has a rounded concave end, with near vertical sides breaking sharply to a concave base. Cuts ditch [5006].	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		0.95m wide and 0.22m deep.	
5005	Ditch fill	Fill of Ditch [5006]. Firm and cohesive light orangey brown silty sand. Contains occasional rooting, occasional small angular sandstone fragments and occasional small rounded stone. 0.26m thick.	
5006	Ditch cut	Ditch cut aligned approximately NE-SW. Has steeps, slightly concave sides that break sharply to a flat base. Filled by (5005). 1.40m wide and 0.26m deep.	

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 13.30m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.74m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
6000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.24m
6001	Redeposited natural	Medium red sandy clay. Firm and cohesive. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone. Contains modern rubbish (tyres, plastic bags etc).	0.24-0.64m
6002	Buried subsoil	Light yellowish brown compact fine silty sand. Contains frequent pea grit, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stone. This layer appears disturbed and is patchy and not visible across the entire trench.	0.64-0.74m
6003	Ditch fill	Fill of Ditch [6004]. Dark yellowish brown silty sand, compact and cohesive. Very sterile and heavily truncated by levelling works during the construction of the reservoir.	
6004	Ditch cut	Shallow ditch aligned N-S, heavily truncated only the concave base of the ditch really seen. Filled by (6003). 1.70m wide and 0.40m deep.	
6005	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand. To the East there is increasing amounts of laminated yellow sandstone.	0.74m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15.12m Width: 1.5m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
7000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.07m
7001	Redeposited natural	Medium red sandy clay. Firm and cohesive. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone. Contains modern rubbish (tyres, plastic bags etc).	0.07-0.16m
7002	Redeposited	Medium yellowish brown silty sandy-clay. Firm but friable. Occasional roots,	0.16-0.44m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
	topsoil and subsoil mix	occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small sub-rounded stone and occasional CBM flecks. This may be a mixture of redeposited topsoil and subsoil extracted during the construction of the reservoir.	
7003	Buried topsoil	Mid-dark brown sandy loam. Soft and friable. Contains Frequent roots and pottery fragments, moderate charcoal flecks, occasional CBM, and occasional small-medium angular sandstone fragments.	0.44-0.66m
7004	Buried subsoil	Light yellowish brown compact fine silty sand. Contains frequent pea grit, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stone.	0.66-0.77m
7005	Beam slot	N-S aligned beam slot. Has vertical flat sides and a flat base. Filled by (7006). 0.36m wide and 0.24m deep.	
7006	Beam slot fill	Mid-dark reddish brown silty sand. Soft and uncohesive. Contains occasional roots, charcoal flecks and small rounded stone. Also contains moderate medium angular sandstone blocks, possible packing material.	
7007	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.77m+

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 11.68m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
8000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.15m
8001	Subsoil	Medium orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.15-0.45m
8002	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.45-0.50m
8003	Pit	Sub-circular in plan, eastern edge runs in to baulk slightly. Has shallow slightly concave sides breaking to an uneven and undulating base. Filled by (8004). 1.58m long, 1.30m wide and 0.23m deep.	
8004	Pit fill	Firm and cohesive, mid-dark brown clayey sand. Contains frequent small-medium angular sandstone fragments, Moderate charcoal flecks and occasional pot. 0.23m thick.	

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15.16m Width: 1.5m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
9000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional	0.00-0.12m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		charcoal flecks.	
9001	Subsoil	Medium orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.12-0.37m
9002	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.37m+
9003	Pit fill	Upper fill of pit [9005]. Dark orangey brown, firm and cohesive, silty sand. Contains occasional rooting, charcoal flecks, and small sub rounded stone. 0.14m thick.	
9004	Pit fill	Primary fill of pit [9005]. Medium to light orangey brown, firm and cohesive, silty sand. Contains occasional rooting, charcoal flecks, and small sub rounded stone. 0.14m thick.	
9005	Pit cut	Sub circular pit cut extending under southern baulk of trench. Has steep, slightly concave sides, breaking sharply to a flat base. 2.76m wide and 0.28m deep.	
9006	Ditch cut	Ditch cut forming a right angled corner and terminus, thought to contain a wooden beam and packing material. Has straight sides in plan and steep slightly concave sides breaking sharply to a flat base. 1.40m long, 0.55m wide and 0.50m deep.	
9007	Packing fill	Backfill and packing material around timber. Firm and cohesive, light orangey brown silty sand. Contains moderate charcoal smears, occasional rooting and occasional small rounded stones.	
9008	Beam slot	Beam slot representing the location of a decayed or removed timber beam within cut [9006]. Has vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by (9009).	
9009	Beam slot fill	Fill of beam slot [9008]. Dark greyish brown, firm, sandy silt. Contains frequent charcoal flecks, occasional CBM, fired clay fragments and pot. The larger inclusions of pot and CBM may indicate the post was removed prior to backfilling. 0.28m wide and 0.50m deep.	

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.00m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.97m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
10001	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.20m
10002	Redeposited natural	Medium red sandy clay. Firm and cohesive. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone. Contains modern rubbish (tyres, plastic bags etc).	0.20-0.41m
10003	Buried topsoil	Mid-dark brown silty sand. Firm and cohesive. Contains frequent roots and occasional pottery fragments, charcoal flecks, CBM, and small-medium angular sandstone fragments.	0.41-0.59m
10005	Buried subsoil	Mid yellowish brown compact fine sandy silt. Contains frequent pea grit, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stone.	0.59-0.97
10006	Foundation cut	Probable wall foundation cut aligned NW-SE. Has vertical sides, breaking at 90° to a very compact flat base. Filled by (10007) and (10008). 1.13m wide and 0.93m deep.	0.97m+

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
10007	Foundation cut fill	Primary fill of foundation cut [10006]. Loose and friable mixture of redeposited natural red/pinky clays and small to medium angular sandstone blocks. This is thought to be the backfill after a sandstone wall had been robbed.	
10008	Foundation cut fill	Dark-mid brown, soft and friable silty sand. Contains frequent roots and occasional charcoal flecks, CBM, and small-medium angular sandstone fragments.	
10009	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.41m+

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 11.85m Width: 1.50m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
11000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.20m
11001	Redeposited natural	Medium red sandy clay. Firm and cohesive. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone. Contains modern rubbish (tyres, plastic bags etc).	0.20-0.80m
11002	Buried topsoil	Mid-dark brown silty sand. Firm and cohesive. Contains occasional charcoal flecks, CBM flecks and small-medium angular sandstone fragments.	0.80-0.95m
11003	Buried subsoil	Mid yellowish brown compact fine sandy silt. Contains frequent pea grit, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stone.	0.95m-1.10m
11004	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	1.10m+
11005	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch [11006]. Light pinkish brown, moderately compact and cohesive, sandy silt. Contains occasional charcoal flecks and pea grit. 0.24m thick.	
11006	Ditch cut	Cut of shallow ditch aligned NNW-SSE. Has gently sloping, concave sides, gradually breaking to a concave base. Filled by (11005). 0.94m wide and 0.24m deep.	

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.92m Width: 1.50m Depth: 1.05m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.06m
1201	Subsoil	Medium orangey brown silty sand. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.06-0.21m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1202	Redeposited natural	Medium red sandy clay. Firm and cohesive. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone. Contains modern rubbish (tyres, plastic bags etc).	0.21-1.05m
1203	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	1.05m+

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15.21m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
13000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00m-0.20m
13001	Subsoil	Medium pinkish brown sandy silt. Firm but friable. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone.	0.20-0.50m
13002	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.50m+
13003	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch [13004]. Mid pinkish brown sandy silt. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional pot flecks, charcoal flecks and rooting.0.20m thick.	
13004	Ditch cut	Ditch/gully aligned E-W. Has gently sloping concave sides, that gradually break to a concave base. Filled by (13003). 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep.	

Trench 14

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.50m Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
14001	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.15m
14002	Road surface	Modern farm track constructed and clinker and ash furnace waste. Compact and cohesive. Lays directly below the current turf matt.	0.15-0.25m
14003	Buried topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silty-clay loam. Moderately compact and cohesive. Occasional to moderate charcoal and CBM flecks, Occasional small angular stone, occasional pea grit.	0.25-0.55m
14004	Buried subsoil	Medium yellowish brown silty sand. Compact and moderately cohesive. Occasional charcoal flecks, Occasional pea grit and occasional CBM flecks.	0.55-0.80m
14005	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.80m+

Watching Brief Trenches**Trench 15**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.00m Width: 3.00m Depth: 2.30m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
15000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.20m
15001	Pipe trench backfill	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Loose and friable. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand. Very sterile. Redeposited natural.	0.20-2.30m

Trench 16

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.50m Width: 5.50m Depth: 2.30m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
16000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.21m
16001	Redeposited natural	Medium red sandy clay. Firm and cohesive. Occasional roots, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stone. Contains modern rubbish (tyres, plastic bags etc).	0.21-0.45m
16002	Buried topsoil	Mid-dark brown silty sand. Firm and cohesive. Contains frequent charcoal flecks, occasional CBM flecks and small-medium angular sandstone fragments.	0.45-0.60m
16003	Buried subsoil	Mid yellowish brown compact fine sandy silt. Contains frequent pea grit, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stone.	0.60-0.85m
16004	Pipe trench backfill	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Loose and friable. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand. Very sterile. Redeposited natural.	0.21-2.30m
16005	Natural	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Very firm and cohesive. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand.	0.85m+

Trench 17

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.00m Width: 2.80m Depth: 2.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
17000	Topsoil	Medium greyish brown fine soft silty, sandy-clay loam. Firm but friable. Contains frequent roots, occasional small sub angular and rounded stone and occasional	0.00-0.30m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		charcoal flecks.	
17001	Pipe trench backfill	Pale pinky red sandy clay, degraded sandstone. Loose and friable. Contains occasional patches of yellow sand. Very sterile. Redeposited natural.	0.30-2.30m+

Appendix 2 Specialist Tables

Period	Material class	Material class sub-type	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
Roman	ceramic		pot	228	4322
Roman?	ceramic		cbm	43	615
Roman	metal	copper alloy	various	12	
Roman	metal	silver	coin	1	
Roman	metal	iron	nail frags	4	
Roman	metal	lead	frags	2	
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	10	52
post-medieval	ceramic		cbm	3	4656
undated	stone		unidentified	15	332
undated	ceramic		fired clay	21	236
undated	slag	slag (iron)		5	452
undated	?mineral		coal/cinder	5	116

Table 1; quantification of the assemblage

Pottery

Trench	Roman pottery				Roman/undated CBM	
	count	wt	% wt	average wt	count	wt
1	2	8	0%	4		
2	45	1990	46%	44	18	424
3	93	1361	31%	15	3	28
4	6	52	1%	9		
5	6	50	1%	8	2	8
6	4	52	1%	13	4	32
7	40	433	10%	11	2	16
8	5	116	3%	23		
9	8	133	3%	17	2	22
10	0	0	0%	0	7	39
11	13	74	2%	6		
13	2	30	1%	15		
14	2	8	0%	4	5	46
16	1	14	0%	14		
unstrat.	1	1	0%	1		
Total	228	4322		19	43	615

Table 2; summary of Roman pottery and ceramic building material by trench

Trench	Context	Material	Object specific type	SF no	Count
2	2006	copper alloy	coin	1	1
3	0	copper alloy	brooch	2	1
	0	silver	coin	6	1
4	4001	copper alloy	brooch	8	1
		copper alloy	cu waste?	10	1
7	7003	copper alloy	phalera mount	3	1
		copper alloy	coin	4	1
		copper alloy	brooch	14	1
		copper alloy	medical tool?	5	1
		Copper alloy	fitting	0	1
		iron	nail	0	2
		iron	nail	16	1
		iron	unidentified	0	1
		lead	fragment	15	1
8	8000	copper alloy	coin	7	1
9	9001	copper alloy	sheet	9	1
		copper alloy	coin	11	1
		copper alloy	fragment	12	1
		lead	fragment	13	1
Total					19

Table 3; summary of other metal finds by trench

Trench	Stone		Fired clay		Slag	Coal /cinder	Post med/ modern pot		Post med/ modern CBM	
	count	wt(g)	count	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)	count	wt(g)	count	wt(g)
1										
2	11	224	8	104		115	1	10	2	4606
3							1	14	1	50
4										
5										
6										
7	2	40	13	132	452	1	8	28		
8	1	10								
9	1	58								
10										
11										
13										
14										
16										
Total	15	332	21	236	452	116	10	52	3	4656

Table 4; summary of other Roman and post medieval bulk finds by trench

Overview of artefactual evidence

Context	Terminus post quem
1000	1st to 4th century
2000	post medieval
2001	AD 170+
2002	AD 170+
2003	1st to 4th century
2006	later 2nd to early 3rd century
2009	c AD 120+
2013	1st to 4th century
2014	1st to 4th century
2016	1st to 4th century
3000	c AD 100 to c 150/160
3001	c AD 193-211
3002	c AD 200+
3005	1st to 4th century
3006	1st century
4001	2nd century
5005	c AD 100 to c 150/160
6003	1st to 2nd century?
7003	2nd to 3rd century (with good late 1st to 2nd century finds)
7004	1st to 2nd century?
7006	1st to 4th century
8000	1st to 4th century
8004	c AD 200+
9001	1st to 4th century
9003	1st to 4th century
9009	1st century
10005	1st to 4th century
10007	1st to 4th century
11005	1st to 4th century

Context	Terminus post quem
13001	1st to 4th century
13003	c AD 160+
14003	1st to 4th century
16003	1st to 4th century

Table 5; summary of context dating (tpqs) based on artefacts

Environmental Tables

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Phase	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
2006	1	Pit	2007	Primary	Roman	2 nd – 3 rd century	20	10	Yes	Yes
7003	4	Buried soil around hearths/ovens			Roman	2 nd – 3 rd century	10	10	Yes	Yes
8004	2	Pit	8003	Primary	Roman	Ad 2 nd century+	20	10	Yes	Yes
9009	3	Beam slot	9008	Primary	Roman	1 st century	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 6; list of environmental samples

Trench	No of fragments	Weight (g)
1		
2	1	4
3		
4		
5		
6		
7	1	1
8	1	6
9		
10		
11		
13		
14		
Total	3	11

Table 7; hand-collected animal bone

Context	Sample	large mammal	charcoal	charred plant	waterlog plant	hammerscale	Comment
2006	1	occ	mod	occ-mod	abt*	occ	* = modern, occ pot, flake hammerscale, Fe slag, Fe nail, mod CBM
7003	4	occ	mod	occ	abt*	occ	* = modern, occ Fe nail, flake hammerscale, Cu object, mod-abt CBM
8004	2		mod-abt	occ	abt*	occ	* = modern, occ pot, flake hammerscale, occ-mod CBM
9009	3	occ	mod	occ	abt*	occ	* = modern, occ pot, Fe slag, flake hammerscale, occ -mod CBM

Table 8; summary of environmental remains

The archive

The archive consists of:

48	Context records AS1
2	Field progress reports AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
2	Black and white photographic films
144	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
22	Scale drawings
1	Recorded finds records AS13
4	Sample records AS17
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
4	Flot records AS21
14	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The environmental samples will be discarded after a period of 6 months after the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain these:

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery,
Barker Street,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire
SY1 1QH
