

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
MORETON BUSINESS PARK,
MORETON-ON-LUGG,
HEREFORDSHIRE

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Archaeological Evaluation at Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire

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With contributions by Elizabeth Pearson and Dennis Williams

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire (NGR SO 35020 24650).

The evaluation was undertaken at the request of Great West (2003) Ltd, who intend to expand the existing Business Park. This development is considered by Herefordshire Council to have the potential to affect archaeological remains as it lies in a landscape of archaeological interest; the lower Lugg Valley.

This report on this 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.

Twenty one trenches were opened across the site both in green spaces within the current business park and in two areas of potential expansion; pasture fields to the south and west.

In the pasture field to the west, a concentration of Roman features was uncovered including a number of ditches, pits, beam slots, surfaces and a trackway. The features were interpreted as the remains of a Romano-British farmstead, with indications of occupation across the site ranging from the 1st to 4th centuries.

An undated palaeochannel was also found towards the south of the business park, orientated northwest-southeast. The channel was directly underlying modern made ground, but due to its location on an upper element of the river terrace sequence is likely to be of very early Holocene or possibly pre-Holocene date.

In the other areas within the Business Park, the alluvial sequence typically present in the Lugg Valley overlying the sand and gravel terrace deposits has been variously truncated by activity related to the Business Park and moreover, its former use as a military camp.

The Romano-British farmstead is significant on a regional level since only a relatively limited number of settlements of this date have been investigated in any detail in this part of the West Midlands and since its discovery contributes to the current development of understanding of Roman occupation in the area. In particular its relationship to the Roman settlement investigated at Wellington Quarry to the immediate north-east is of considerable interest.

The palaeochannel has the potential to yield valuable information about past environments in the lower Lugg Valley and to preserve waterlogged archaeological remains.

It is concluded that both the Roman settlement and palaeochannel are vulnerable to development under current proposals and that, should development proceed, a programme of archaeological works should be implemented to preserve these features by record.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Planning background

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Moreton Business Park (NGR SO 35020 24650), Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire (Fig 1), on behalf Great West 2003 Ltd who intend large scale re-development of the business park with the construction of new buildings, landscaping and infrastructure. This expansion is proposed both within the existing Business Park (a former military base) and further areas, currently pasture fields to the south and west.

The proposed development site lies in a broad zone of archaeological interest within the Lugg valley floodplain (Dorling 2007, Bapty 2007, 2008) and immediately to the south of Wellington Quarry, where significant archaeological remains have been recorded over an extensive area during the past 25 years (Jackson 2007, Sworn and Jackson 2008, Jackson and Miller 2011). The proposed development site has been subject to two previous archaeological evaluations. In one of these (Bain 2005, HSMR 48820) prehistoric and Roman remains were uncovered.

Consultation with Herefordshire Archaeology was undertaken in early 2012 and following this a brief (HA 2012) was prepared detailing the requirements for an evaluation to assess the archaeological potential of the site. This report describes the results of the evaluation and will be submitted as part of a planning application to Herefordshire Council.

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 2008) *Standards for archaeological projects in Herefordshire: issue 1* (Herefordshire Archaeology 2004).

The project also conforms to the brief prepared by Herefordshire Archaeology and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012).

2. Aims

The aims of this archaeological evaluation are

- to achieve better definition of the character and extent of any heritage assets existing or likely to exist in or on the site, and the extent to which development might harm them.
- to make a satisfactory evaluative record of discovered remains and other relevant materials.
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3. Methods

3.1 Documentary search

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site (Nichol and Watt 2002) and was consulted prior to fieldwork along with both published and unpublished material available to the Service from their long running fieldwork project at Wellington Quarry.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012a). Fieldwork was undertaken between 16th April 2012 and 1st May 2012.

Twenty one trenches, amounting to just over 1725m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 16ha. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Locations of trenches were modified from the original proposal (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012a) due to significant site constraints including buried services, concrete pads of former military buildings and an

ecologically sensitive area at the northern end of the site. Losses within the existing Business Park were to some degree compensated by extra trenches in the pasture field to the west to further characterise the nature and extent of the Roman settlement.

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 (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b).

Alluvial deposits were encountered in the majority of trenches. In open areas, where feasible, trenches were excavated through the upper alluvial unit (Unit 1; as defined in Jackson and Miller 2011) to the top of the lower alluvial deposit (Unit 2), as it is known from previous work in the vicinity that significant archaeological features have been commonly recorded at this interface. Sondages were also excavated by machine at either end of each trench to the base of both units in order to record the entire alluvial sequence.

3.3 **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.

3.4 **Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams**

3.4.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

3.4.2 **Method of analysis**

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

Eight fragments of bone from domestic animals were examined, but are not included in the quantifications presented below.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

A small quantity of Late Iron Age/Early Roman mudstone tempered pottery (8 sherds) was recovered from an environmental sample taken from context (701). These were rapidly scanned but are not included in the quantifications below.

3.5 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson**

3.5.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental project conforms to relevant sections of the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002) and *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations* (AEA 1995).

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the state of preservation, type, and quantity of environmental remains recovered, from the samples and information provided. This information will be used to assess the importance of the environmental remains.

3.5.2 **Method of analysis**

For each of the samples a sub-sample of 1 litre was processed by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic

remains from the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic fraction was decanted onto a 300µm sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. The remainder of the bulk sample was retained for further analysis.

Samples were taken by the excavator from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains (Table 1). A total of 3 samples were taken from the site from the following contexts:

- Context 701, sample 1 fill of Roman ditch (702)
- Context 1904, sample 2 fill of undated palaeochannel 1907
- Context 1905, sample 3 fill of undated palaeochannel 1907

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
701	1	Ditch	702		Roman	Yes	Yes
1904	2	Palaeochannel	1907	Secondary	Undated	No	No
1905	3	Palaeochannel	1907	Secondary	Undated	No	No

Table 1: Summary of environmental samples taken and further analysis

The Roman ditch fill (702) was selected for assessment as this appeared to have the greatest potential to provide useful information.

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

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. The flot was scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and a seed identification manual (Capper *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4. Topographical and archaeological context

The site lies on the floodplain of the river Lugg, 6.5km to the north of Hereford (Fig 1). The floodplain at this point is generally level at about 55m above Ordnance Datum, and consists of Holocene alluvium over Devensian sands and gravels. The underlying bedrock is Devonian mudstone. The site is currently a business park comprising widely spaced industrial units set in grassed open ground connected by roads, footpaths and disused railways. The site was previously a military camp established in 1942 as one of the first US army bases in Britain (SMR 27630; Nichol and Watt 2002). Two further undeveloped areas, currently pasture fields to the south and west of the Business Park are also subject to the current investigation.

The Business Park lies immediately to the south of Wellington Quarry where archaeological works have been carried out as mitigation to the extraction of aggregates that have produced a wealth of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence over the last 25 years. Detailed results of this work up to 1996 have been published in Jackson and Miller (2011) with summaries of results and interim reports available for subsequent works (Jackson 2007; Sworn and Jackson 2008). In summary, excavations have allowed detailed analysis and characterisation of the lower Lugg valley from the Mesolithic period onwards. Prehistoric features recorded have

included an early Neolithic pit group, a Bronze Age Beaker burial (HSMR 39316) and Iron Age burials (HSMR 51633).

Roman activity in the area is widespread, particularly from the second century AD, but has generally concentrated to the north and east of the quarried area, on the eastern side of a former watercourse (HSMR 51628). Evidence for settlement activity includes a rectilinear enclosure (HSMR 8539), cremations, and field boundaries from the mid first to second century, evidence for settlement and craft or industrial activity in the second and third centuries and the remains of stone buildings and a comdrier or malting kiln from the fourth century (HSMR 51635).

Post-Roman deposits include two early medieval watermills (HSMR51636) and two later medieval ovens.

Previous archaeological work within the Business Park itself has comprised a desk-based assessment (Nichol and Watt 2002) and two archaeological evaluations. In the first of these (Miller 2003) eleven trenches were excavated across the existing Business Park. No archaeological features were revealed but the investigations demonstrated that the construction of the military camp and Business Park had truncated the alluvial profile of the area to variable degrees. In the second evaluation (Bain 2005) seventeen trenches were excavated in an area of the site to the east of the existing Denco building (area shown on Figure 2). Here two ditches containing abraded Roman pottery were recorded and a further ditch contained a partially articulated horse burial. The size of the horse is consistent with horses from the Iron Age or Romano-British periods.

5. Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 3, 4 and 5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposits revealed in the evaluation comprised mid red/grey brown fine sandy silt with frequent small gravels and flecks of calcium carbonate (307, 406, 607). These are interpreted as the Devensian fluvioglacial sands and gravels, as recorded at Wellington Quarry where these deposits are up to 8.00m deep overlying the Devonian Calcareous Mudstone of the Raglan formation. (Jackson and Miller 2011) This deposit was revealed in Trenches 3 and 4 at 2.25m b.g.s and in Trench 6 at 1.75m b.g.s.

Overlying these sands and gravels was a sequence of alluvial deposits. This sequence was best revealed in the pasture field to the west where it had escaped truncation and disturbance by the military camp and Business Park. The recorded sequence was variable but broadly conforms to the known series from Wellington Quarry and is referenced here to the series (Units) set out in Jackson and Miller (2011).

The lowest unit was a firm red-brown clay silt alluvium, recorded in Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 18 and possibly 8, 10, 17 and 28 (contexts 306, 405, 506, 606, 720, 809/810?, 1004/1005?, 1703/1704?, 18, 2808). This equates to Unit 3 as described in Jackson and Miller 2011, the earliest alluvial unit at Wellington Quarry.

Above this, in Trenches 3, 5 and 6, was a soft, mid-light greyish brown silt which is interpreted as a buried soil horizon (contexts 305, 505, 605). This probably equates to Unit 5 at Wellington Quarry where it has been recorded both at the base of and within Unit 2 (see below). It is thought to represent a period of stasis within alluvial deposition which allowed the development of a soil or turfline.

This was in turn overlain by one or two variable alluvial deposits which are equivalent to Unit 2 at Wellington Quarry, a yellow-brown grey/buff alluvium. This unit represents a long sequence of deposition thought to have commenced in the early Holocene and continued until the later Iron Age. Features from the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval periods cut into

this deposit provide an end date for its accumulation and evidence for a period of relative stasis (Jackson and Miller 2011).

The upper alluvial layer in the sequence was a reddish-brown alluvium recorded in Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 28. This was up to 0.30m in thickness. This is a late deposition of alluvium (Unit 1) which seals Roman and early medieval deposits and in one area of Wellington Quarry, medieval ridge and furrow.

5.1.2 **Phase 2: Roman deposits**

Roman features recorded during the evaluation were confined to the pasture field to the north of the site entrance to the Business Park (Fig 3). Here, five trenches (7, 8, 26, 27 and 28) revealed a series of ditches, circular pits (Plate 29), a trackway (Plate 32), and metallised surfaces lying over, or cut into the yellow-brown/grey alluvial unit described above (Unit 2). The features were recorded at a depth of between 0.41m and 0.60m b.g.s. These are described below, by trench.

Trench 7 (Plates 11 and 12)

This trench was 55m long running west-north-west to east-south-east down the slight slope in the centre of a pasture field. To the west end of the trench at a depth of 0.55m below ground surface, a ditch [702] formed a right-angled corner in plan (Figure 4). This ditch was 1.24m wide and 0.50m deep with moderate V-shaped sides and a flattened base. It was filled by a firm light grey brown silty clay (701) with moderate inclusions of sub-angular small and medium gravels, abundant charcoal throughout as well as Roman dated pottery, burnt animal bone and copper slag. This feature was in turn cut by a smaller linear feature [704] interpreted as a beam slot. Slightly to the east another curving linear feature [707] was also interpreted as a structural feature or slot. This and an adjacent circular pit [709] both contained Roman pottery.

Trench 8 (Plates 13 and 14)

Towards the western end of Trench 8 which lay parallel and to the south-east of Trench 7, a linear, parallel-sided, feature [801] was aligned roughly north to south and was 1.60m wide. It was filled by a firm mid greyish brown silt loam with few small gravels and charcoal fragments (800). Immediately to the east was a layer of firm mid greyish brown silt with few small gravels, charcoal fragments and flecks. Within this were several roughly hewn stones and a diffuse spread of light greenish brown clay (803). Immediately east of this lay an elongated oval feature [805] measuring 0.50m x 1.50m, filled by a firm mid greyish brown silt (804) with abundant charcoal fragments and flecks and small aggregates of fired clay.

Crossing the centre of the trench was a small curved linear feature, 0.40-0.50m wide [812]. This was filled by a firm mid greyish to slightly reddish silt with common charcoal fragments (811). Towards the eastern end of the trench a ditch [814], 2.10m wide crossed the trench from north to south. This was filled by a firm mid greyish brown clay silt (813). Immediately east of this was a gravel surface (815) formed by a moderate density of small to medium sub-angular stones which lay at the interface between two alluvial layers (808 and 809).

Trench 26 (Plates 28 and 29)

Trench 26 was orientated approximately north to south and lay to the east of the central part of the field. Two ditches were recorded at its northern end. The northernmost [2616] was c.1.00m wide and terminated within the trench. This was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (2615). Parallel and immediately to the south, was a larger ditch [2604]. This was 2.00m wide and was filled by a mid grey brown silt loam with occasional gravels (2603). At the southern end of the trench a small group of features were recorded comprising a small linear feature, possibly a beam slot [2608], and three circular pits [2606, 2611 and 2613]. Two of the pits [2611 and 2613] were cut through a mid grey-brown silt loam which is provisionally interpreted as an occupation layer (2614).

Trench 27 (Plates 30 and 31)

Trench 27 was placed at the southern edge of the field in order to establish the southern extent of the Roman settlement. One Roman feature was recorded at the eastern end where a small

ditch [2701] extended from the north facing section and terminated within the trench. This was 0.77m wide and filled by 2700, a firm mid greyish-brown silt loam with few charcoal fragments and flecks, common small to medium gravels and fire-cracked stones.

Trench 28 (Plate 32)

Trench 28 lay towards the western edge of the field and was orientated north to south. At the northern end of the trench, a ditch [2804] crossed the trench from east to west. It was 0.90m wide and filled by a firm, light greyish brown, silt with frequent small gravels (2803). Towards the southern end of the trench, a much wider slightly concave linear feature [2807] is interpreted as a section of trackway. This also crossed the trench from east to west, was 5.50m wide and filled by a firm mid greyish brown clay silt with abundant charcoal fragments and frequent gravel (2806).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

Modern made ground overlying truncated alluvial deposits was recorded in all the trenches within the existing Business Park. This material is likely to derive from both activity within the former military camp such as the laying of surfaces and its eventual demolition. Concrete slabs were recorded in Trench 10, 11 (1002, 1102), a brick wall in Trench 19 (1909) and various services relating either to the military camp or Business Park were discovered throughout (Plates 16, 18 and 20).

5.1.4 Undated deposits

A palaeochannel [1907] orientated north-west to south-east was identified in Trench 19 (Fig 5, Plate 23). The channel contained four similar fills (1903, 1904, 1905 and 1906) consisting of firm mid-grey brown clay silts. No dateable material was recovered and although environmental samples were taken, these were evidently not of a rich organic nature as observed elsewhere in the area. The channel measured 16.50m wide and was 0.74m in depth, from 0.64m –1.38m below ground level. The channel was directly underlying modern made ground, but due to its location on an upper river terrace is likely to be of very early Holocene or potentially pre-Holocene date.

At the southern end of Trench 4, a small concentration of platy, sub-angular sandstone fragments (409) was revealed in a matrix of reddish-brown clay silt. This lay beneath a considerable depth of greyish-yellowish-brownish alluvium which, at this end of the trench did not conform to the more general sequence of alluvial deposits described above; rather appearing as a single, perhaps reworked, unit. A sondage was excavated by hand adjacent to this stone feature but no dating evidence was retrieved. It is not clear whether this is a represents a collapsed structure or a natural feature although the latter interpretation is doubtful as sandstone does not occur naturally in this area.

Two undated ditches were also recorded in Trench 7 [711 and 714] and in the southern end of Trench 6 [609]. The general form and location of these ditches suggests that they form part of the Roman settlement site, probably representing field boundaries.

An undated linear feature was recorded crossing Trench 2 at the northern end of the Business park [208] from north-east to south-west. This was 0.50m wide and was filled by a firm light greyish brown silt with common magnesium flecks.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage is summarised in Table 2. The level of preservation was fair to good, with pottery sherds displaying variable amounts of abrasion.

5.2.1 Pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 3). Where possible, diagnostic form sherds were identified and dated accordingly. The remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general periods or production spans.

Period	Material class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
Iron Age	ceramic	-	pot	7	32
post-medieval	ceramic	-	pot	5	43
prehistoric	ceramic	-	pot	1	1
Roman	ceramic	-	pot	95	2469
Roman	metal	copper alloy	coin	1	1
Roman	ceramic	fired clay	-	1	13
Roman	metal	iron	rod	2	46
Roman	metal	iron	nail	8	126
Roman	slag	slag(Fe)	smithing slag	5	45
Totals:				133	2860

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
Iron Age	9	Mudstone tempered ware (Group D)	7	32
post-medieval	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	5	43
prehistoric	97	Miscellaneous prehistoric wares	1	1
Roman	3	Malvernian ware	2	78
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	72	1799
Roman	12.1	Reduced Severn Valley ware	2	28
Roman	22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	8	304
Roman	43	Samian ware	1	7
Roman	98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	10	253
Totals:			108	2545

Table 3: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

Iron Age

Seven sherds of Mudstone tempered ware (fabric 9), including an everted rim sherd from a jar, were recovered from a ditch fill (context 701). This material was produced from the 5th century BC through to the mid-1st century AD, with a core distribution area in Worcestershire

and east Herefordshire (Morris 1982). A very small sherd of prehistoric pottery (fabric 97) found in a pit (context 2605), was black with no distinct inclusions, and could not be positively identified, but could also have been Mudstone tempered ware.

Roman

Roman pottery accounted for the bulk of the assemblage. Rim and body sherds of a 1st-2nd century, hand-made Malvernian tubby cooking pot were found in context 2806. The rim was similar to the Fig.1:5 form illustrated by Peacock (1967), though no sign of burnished decoration was observed.

Variants of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabric 12), presumed to be locally-sourced, were found across a range of contexts, and where possible were identified according to the *Ariconium* fabric series established by Willis (2000). The main fabric in the present group was O10, usually characterised by few quartz inclusions, but which often contains red and black iron oxides. In some cases there are significant numbers of sandstone or siltstone inclusions, and poor mixing of the clay, leading to 'lumpy' surfaces, is often apparent. Small quantities of the O12 (with larger ferruginous inclusions) and O19 (frequent quartz inclusions) fabrics were also observed. Only two sherds of the reduced fabric (12.1/R20) were found.

Wide-mouthed jars were well represented, with rims similar to the Type 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 forms described by Webster (1976). Collectively, these covered a broad potential date range from the 2nd to 4th centuries. Other rim sherds included examples from Type 1, 2 and 3 jars, covering a similar broad date range, though a rim from a Type 11 jar found in context 2806 could be assigned to a 3rd to early 4th century date range. It was noted that although the Severn Valley type fabrics found at this site, and others in Herefordshire (Willis 2000, Griffin 2011, Williams 2011), are distinctly coarser than those known to have been produced in Worcestershire, a common range of forms is apparent.

A rim sherd from a Dr.18/31 Samian dish found in context 2802 was very abraded, but included part of a hole, presumably made as part of a rivetted repair. Its Lezoux fabric (43.2) indicated early to mid 2nd century production.

Later dates were indicated by Black Burnished ware (fabric 22) found in contexts 2804 and 2806. The former context yielded rims of WA2 and WA3 jars, dating to the early 3rd century, and late 3rd to early 4th centuries, respectively (Seager Smith and Davies 1993). The rim of a WA25 bowl, found from a possible trackway (context 2806), was late 3rd, or 4th century, with a similar rim being found in 700.

Other Roman pottery comprised mortaria sherds, none clearly identifiable, and listed as fabric 98 in Table 2). One of three everted rim sherds found in a ditch (context 813) bore a very abraded stamp. The fabric of these sherds was oxidised, with iron-rich inclusions, and bore the remains of a red colour-coat. The tituration grits were coarse, angular quartz. These features suggest this mortarium may have been a product from Caerleon (Tomber and Dore 1998). A single, small rim fragment, found in the same ditch fill (context 813), had a buff fabric, possibly that of a Severn Valley/South West mortarium (fabric 37.2). A hammer-head rim, with a smooth grey, reduced fabric, was found in a further ditch fill (context 2603); this may also have been from a mortarium, although there was sign of surface grit to confirm this.

Post-medieval

Brown-glazed, oxidised body sherds (fabric 100), found in context 1202, possibly may have been products of the local Deerfold-Lingen potteries that were in production during the late 16th to early 17th centuries.

5.2.2 Metal

A bronze Roman coin, with its rim corroded, was found in a possible Roman trackway (2806) and is tentatively identified as one issued during the reign of Constantine I (307-337).

Heavily corroded iron objects were recovered from contexts 701, 800, 2802 and 2806, all of which were characterised by Roman pottery. The iron objects were rod-like, with several displaying flat heads that suggested they were nails.

5.2.3 **Slag**

Discrete lumps of slag, almost certainly waste products from iron smithing, were recovered from a Roman ditch fill (context 701). A single fragment of fired clay also came from this context.

5.2.4 **Overview of artefactual evidence**

The pottery finds from this site are typical of those expected from a Romano-British farmstead in this area, with indications of occupation ranging from the 1st to 4th centuries. While much of the pottery appeared to have come from local sources, there is significant evidence of traded pottery from further afield. *Terminus post quem* (TPQ) date ranges have been determined for the various contexts, and are shown in Table 4.

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
400	ceramic	pot	12	1	9	43	400	43-400
	ceramic	pot	12	1	7	43	400	
700	ceramic	pot	12	1	64	43	400	250-400
	ceramic	pot	12	1	45	43	400	
701	ceramic	pot	22	1	54	250	400	500BC-100AD
	ceramic	pot	9	1	14	-500	100	
	ceramic	pot	9	6	18	-500	100	
	slag	smithing slag	0	5	45	43	400	
	ceramic	fired clay	0	1	13	43	400	
	metal	rod	0	1	9	43	400	
	bone	-	0	8	84	-	-	
706	ceramic	pot	12	1	16	100	300	100-300
708	ceramic	pot	12	1	30	150	200	150-200
800	ceramic	pot	12	7	286	43	400	175-300
	ceramic	pot	12	2	298	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	10	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12.1	1	26	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	3	68	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	20	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	22	175	300	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	12	43	250	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	10	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	14	43	400	
	metal	nail	-	3	22	43	400	
811	ceramic	pot	12	14	122	43	400	175-300
	ceramic	pot	12	5	44	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	90	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	22	175	300	
813	ceramic	pot	98	3	134	43	400	100-300
	ceramic	pot	98	2	58	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	11	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	2	19	100	300	
1202	ceramic	pot	100	1	12	1550	1650	1550-1650
	ceramic	pot	100	1	7	1550	1650	
1600	ceramic	pot	100	3	24	1550	1650	1600
	ceramic	pot	100	3	24	1550	1650	
2602	ceramic	pot	12	4	35	43	400	43-400
	ceramic	pot	12	1	17	43	400	
2603	ceramic	pot	12	4	104	43	400	43-400
	ceramic	pot	98	2	31	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	98	2	4	43	400	
2605	ceramic	pot	12	1	7	43	400	43-400
	ceramic	pot	97	1	1	-500	100	
2607	ceramic	pot	12	1	58	43	400	43-400
2612	ceramic	pot	12	1	2	43	400	43-400
2614	ceramic	pot	12	1	7	43	400	43-400
2700	ceramic	pot	12	1	51	43	400	43-400
2703	ceramic	pot	12	1	7	43	400	43-400
2802	ceramic	pot	12	1	11	100	300	100-300
	ceramic	pot	43	1	7	43	400	
	metal	nail	-	1	18	43	400	

2804	ceramic	pot	22	1	79	250	350	250-400
	ceramic	pot	22	1	17	200	250	
	ceramic	pot	22	1	8	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	3	75	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	11	150	400	
	ceramic	pot	98	1	26	43	400	
2806	ceramic	pot	12.1	1	2	43	400	300-400
	ceramic	pot	12	1	97	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	14	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	69	150	400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	15	200	350	
	ceramic	pot	3	1	69	43	200	
	ceramic	pot	3	1	9	43	200	
	ceramic	pot	22	1	91	250	400	
	ceramic	pot	22	1	43	100	150	
	ceramic	pot	22	1	9	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	22	1	3	43	400	
	metal	nail	-	3	25	-	-	
	metal	nail	-	1	61	-	-	
	metal	rod	-	1	37	-	-	
metal	coin	-	1	1	307	337		

Table 4 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

Context	Sample	large mammal	charcoal	charred plant	hammerscale	Comment
701	1	occ	occ	occ	Occ	occ flake hammerscale, Fe slag, tufa, mod pot

Table 5: Summary of environmental remains from context 701

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	701
<i>?Waterlogged plant remains</i>				
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	Ranunculaceae	buttercup	CD	+
<i>Charred plant remains</i>				
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> grain	Poaceae	emmer/spelt wheat	F	1
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> glume base	Poaceae	emmer/spelt wheat	F	+
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> rachis	Poaceae	emmer/spelt wheat	F	+
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled, twisted)	Poaceae	barley	F	1
<i>Vicia</i> sp	Fabaceae	vetch	ABD	+
cf <i>Bromus</i> sp grain	Poaceae	brome grass	AF	1
Poaceae sp indet grain	Poaceae	grass	AF	+

Table 6: Plant remains from Context 701

A small assemblage of charred cereal crop remains were recovered from context 701 (fill of ditch 702) which included occasional grains and chaff (glume bases and rachis fragments) of emmer or spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). Hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was also present alongside seeds of vetch (*Vicia* sp), possible brome grass (*Bromus* sp) and unidentified grass grains (Poaceae sp indet). The composition of this low level of crop waste is typical of many Romano-British sites in the locality.

Discussion

The charred crop waste identified is likely to derive from small-scale crop processing (parching of grain prior to release the grains from the chaff), or mixed waste from chaff used as fuel for fires and grains charred during cooking.

There is some potential for recovering information on the types of crops in cultivation and distribution of crop processing activities across the site if comprehensive sampling and processing are carried out on this site as a result of any further work.

Discard policy

Samples will be discarded after a period of 6 months after the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them.

6. Synthesis

6.1 Roman

The evaluation has identified the remains of a small Romano-British settlement, probably a farmstead which lies on a light rise to the west of the existing Business Park. Evidence for structures in the form of beam slots, occupation layers and surfaces in Trenches 7, 8 and the southern end of Trench 26 indicate that this was the occupied area. The presence of sandstone slabs may further indicate that stone buildings or surfaces were present within the site. Analysis of artefacts records an assemblage typical of this type of rural site, demonstrating a mix of local pottery forms and imported wares dating between the 1st and 4th centuries AD.

The extent of the site is reasonably well-defined. No features were recorded in three trenches to the north of the field apart from an undated stone feature at the southern end of Trench 3 and only a single small linear feature was in the eastern end of Trench 27, implying that this trench lay beyond the southern edge of the settlement. These trenches also produced little (Trench 27) or no (Trench 3) Roman finds indicating that they lay away from any domestic or industrial focus. To the west, Trench 28 revealed only two features one of which was a probable trackway. This may represent part of a network of roads which joined settlement to the west of the Lugg to settlements to further to the west such as that identified at St Donats (Wainwright and Rogers 2007) and as far as Watling Street West.

The settlement lies on a small rise above the floodplain on a slight east-facing slope. This elevation above the floodplain is likely to have provided an ideal location for settlement above the seasonal flood line but in the proximity of a source of water and fertile land.

No archaeological features of certain Roman date were recorded during this evaluation in the remainder of the Business Park where the alluvial sequence had been largely truncated by modern activity. However, it has been demonstrated by a previous evaluation to the east of the Denco building (Bain 2005) that Roman features have survived in this area and it is also possible that the small undated linear feature in Trench 2 of the current evaluation is also Roman in origin. These are most likely to represent elements of the field systems associated with the Roman settlement.

6.2 Medieval and post medieval

Medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered during the evaluation was probably deposited through manuring of arable fields with domestic waste during the long period prior to the construction of the military camp.

6.3 Modern

All of the trenches within the area of the Business Park revealed modern made ground overlying truncated alluvium. This is probably a combination of waste, imported material and demolition material associated with the military camp and later the Business Park. In general truncation has removed all of the upper alluvial unit and (Wellington Unit 1) and some of

Unit 2 beneath. This might imply that a considerable amount of ground reduction took place during the construction of the military base, but if so, it is not clear where this material went.

6.4 **Undated**

The evaluation identified the presence of a palaeochannel in the south of the current Business Park running from north-west to south east. No dateable or highly organic deposits were recovered from the investigated segment of the channel, but elsewhere along its length there is the possibility that areas of rich organic palaeochannel fills may survive with the potential to reveal important and dateable palaeoenvironmental information about this part of the Lugg Valley.

A small patch of small to medium gravels and sub-angular stones at the southern end of Trench 7 may possibly represent a surface or structure. It was not possible in the scope of the evaluation to date or characterise this feature but it may relate to the Roman settlement.

6.5 **Research frameworks**

In the West Midlands Regional Research Framework, Seminar Three, Ray (2002) refers to a 'settled landscape of the Lugg Valley' during this period. The settlement discovered through this evaluation has the potential to contribute substantially to current knowledge of this landscape and in particular its relationship with the known Roman settlement and wider landscape features (tracks, field systems, drainage features, etc) investigated at Wellington Quarry. Furthermore it is possible that the trackway observed in Trench 28 may represent one branch of a network which connects the Wellington area with settlement to the west and further to Watling Street west, which runs some 5km west of the site.

7. **Significance**

7.1 **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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012, para 128). Detailed guidance on assessing the significance of a heritage asset 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).

7.2 **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 archaeological evaluation has identified two heritage assets within the proposed development site; a Romano-British settlement focussed within the pasture field to the west of the site with possibly fragmentary survival of associated field systems beyond this focal area, and a palaeochannel crossing the southern part of the existing Business Park from north-west to south-east.

The settlement features appear typical of Roman rural settlement in this area and are well preserved. Evidence of structures (beam slots) and occupation layers as well as charcoal rich fills suggests that the focus of occupation of the site was centred on the central southern part of the pasture field to the west of the business park in the area of Trenches 7, 8, 28 and the southern end of Trench 26. Beyond this, in less truncated areas of the proposed development site, fragmentary evidence of associated field systems is likely to be present especially around the previously evaluated area to the east of the Denco building.

The artefact assemblage from the settlement consisted of Iron Age and Roman pottery, nails, slag from smithing, and a coin dating to Constantine I (307-337AD), representing an apparently typical assemblage for a site of this period and type in the region. Charred crop waste was recovered from sampling of a Roman ditch within the farmstead area but indications are that there is only low level potential for obtaining information on Romano-British arable economy.

The associated well-preserved alluvial sequence which mirrors that found at Wellington Quarry demonstrates that the field in which the Roman settlement survives is relatively undisturbed, particularly when compared to the Business Park and former military base immediately to the east. Of particular interest is the preservation of a buried soil horizon which probably equates to Unit 5 at Wellington.

The palaeochannel is undated but its location suggests that it forms part of a complex sequence of former watercourses draining the floodplain toward the River Lugg to the east. If organic deposits were to be identified surviving anywhere along the length of this former channel they would have a high potential for obtaining dateable information on surrounding former environments. Given the possible very early Holocene or possibly pre-Holocene date of the palaeochannel as indicated by its incision into an upper terrace of the Lugg, any surviving organic deposits within the channel would potentially be of great significance in further developing understanding of the palaeoenvironmental sequence for this part of the Lugg Valley. Subsequent work should therefore focus on establishing the route of the palaeochannel across the site and identifying and sampling any rich organic deposits revealed.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The site represents a rare example of a lowland Romano-British settlement to have been investigated in Herefordshire where previous archaeological investigation has focussed upon hillforts and urban areas. The evidence will therefore provide a chance to develop understanding of the character and economy of such settlements in Herefordshire. This potential research importance is enhanced by the presence of other investigated rural settlements (at Wellington Quarry, St Donats and Sutton Walls) in this part of the Lugg Valley which provide the potential for comparison and development of an understanding of patterns of settlement at this time (Bapty 2007, 188-91). The Roman farmstead is considered to be of **regional importance** as it contributes not only to current knowledge of the settlement pattern of the Lower Lugg valley but of the county as a whole, emphasising the importance of this river valley as a settlement focus during this period.

Were organic materials to be preserved within the palaeochannel, this would have the potential to be of **regional** or even of **national** importance (were, for instance, these dated to the early Holocene or late Pleistocene periods which are currently poorly represented or absent in the palaeoenvironmental record for the Lugg Valley; Johnstone 2007)).

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The results of the evaluation suggest that the Roman settlement remains to the west of the development site are limited to an area measuring approximately 150m x 150m. Features recorded in Trenches 7 and 8 suggest that the density of archaeology within this area could be medium to high. However, Trenches 3 and 5 to the north and all but the southern ends of Trenches 4 and 6 were archaeologically blank and it seems that the northern limit of the settlement is defined. Similarly, to the south, apart from a small linear feature at the eastern end, Trench 27 to the south was free of archaeological features and it seems likely that the trench lies beyond the southern edge of the main settlement focus.

The deposits are buried between 0.41m and 0.60m below ground level rising up a small prominence above the floodplain and are likely to be vulnerable to development in this area particularly as construction in this area may require considerable landscaping.

Beyond this, less heavily truncated areas of the site, especially to the east of the Denco building retain evidence (boundary ditches) of the field systems surrounding the settlement.

The palaeochannel to the south of the site crossed Trench 17 from north-west to south-east and is therefore likely to continue in this approximate orientation from the western boundary of the Business Park, some 50m to the west, perhaps as far as the large square factory

building which stands to the east. The uppermost fills of the palaeochannel lay directly beneath made ground (1902) at a depth of 0.6m and associated deposits are therefore vulnerable to any development in this area which exceeds this depth.

7.3 Assessment of the impact of the proposal

The on-site evaluation, and the information provided by the Client, allows an assessment to be made of the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological interest in the site.

The current proposal has a potentially negative impact on the heritage assets identified by the evaluation. The masterplan which will be submitted with the application for planning permission shows the pasture field to the west occupied by a large unit immediately to the south of the Denco building. This would have a direct impact on the Roman settlement features within and surrounding Trench 7. A proposed nursery lies directly in the line of Trench 8. The remainder of the identified area of Roman settlement would lie within the car park surrounding this building. It is likely that these would be vulnerable to landscaping to create a flat surface on which to park cars.

The exposed area of palaeochannel within the area of Trench 19 would not be directly vulnerable to the development, but if it were to continue on much the same line to the north-west, groundworks associated a proposed square building of 1820sqm would have a potentially negative impact upon it. Furthermore, large-scale development of the business park has the potential to affect the local water table and in turn, waterlogged deposits and ecofacts which may survive within the channel.

Beyond these two areas, despite truncation, there is a potential for the survival of further archaeological deposits within the Business Park (including elements of the field system surrounding the Roman settlement) and therefore a potential for disturbance from groundworks in this general area.

The truncation or removal of archaeological features would constitute a loss of significant information.

8. Recommendations

Under the current development proposal, there is no scope for an amendment to the building layout which would allow the focal area of the Roman settlement to be preserved *in situ*. It is therefore recommended that should permission for the development be granted, this heritage asset which is assessed as of regional importance be subject to archaeological excavation as a condition of the permission, to allow preservation by record. This approach is in line with the guidance set out in National Planning Policy Framework 2012, paragraph 141 which states '*They [local planning authorities] should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.*'

It also recommended that all other groundworks within the existing Business Park be subject to an archaeological watching brief to preserve by record any other features present in this area. Furthermore, if additional sections of palaeochannel 1907 are identified during the watching brief, provision should be made for sampling of the palaeochannel fills by monolith and spit samples and appropriate post-excavation analysis, to characterise and date this feature.

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 was undertaken at Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire (NGR SO 35020 24650).

The evaluation was undertaken at the request of Great West (2003) Ltd, who intend to expand the existing business park. This development is considered by Herefordshire Council, to have the potential to affect archaeological remains, as it lies in a landscape of archaeological interest; the lower Lugg Valley.

This report on this 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.

Twenty one trenches were opened across the site both in green spaces within the current Business Park and in two areas of potential expansion; pasture fields to the south and west.

In the pasture field to the west, a concentration of Roman features was uncovered including a number of ditches, pits, beam slots surfaces and a trackway. The features were typical of a Romano-British farmstead, with indications of occupation across the site ranging from the 1st to 4th centuries.

An undated palaeochannel was also found towards the south of the business park, orientated north-west to south-east. The channel was directly underlying modern made ground, but due to its location on an upper river terrace is likely to be of early Holocene or possibly pre-Holocene date.

In the other areas within the Business Park, the alluvial sequence has been variously truncated by activity related to the Business Park and moreover, its former use as a military camp.

The Romano-British farmstead is significant on a regional level and its discovery contributes to the current understanding of Roman occupation in the area. The palaeochannel has the potential to yield valuable information about past environments in the lower Lugg valley and to preserve waterlogged archaeological remains.

It is concluded that both the Roman settlement and palaeochannel are vulnerable to development under current proposals and that, should development proceed, a programme of archaeological works should be implemented to preserve these features by record.

10. **Acknowledgements**

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11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork was led by Darren Miller and the report was written by Tom Rogers and Graham Arnold. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Robin Jackson. Fieldwork was undertaken by Darren Miller and Richard Bradley, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, environmental analysis by Elizabeth Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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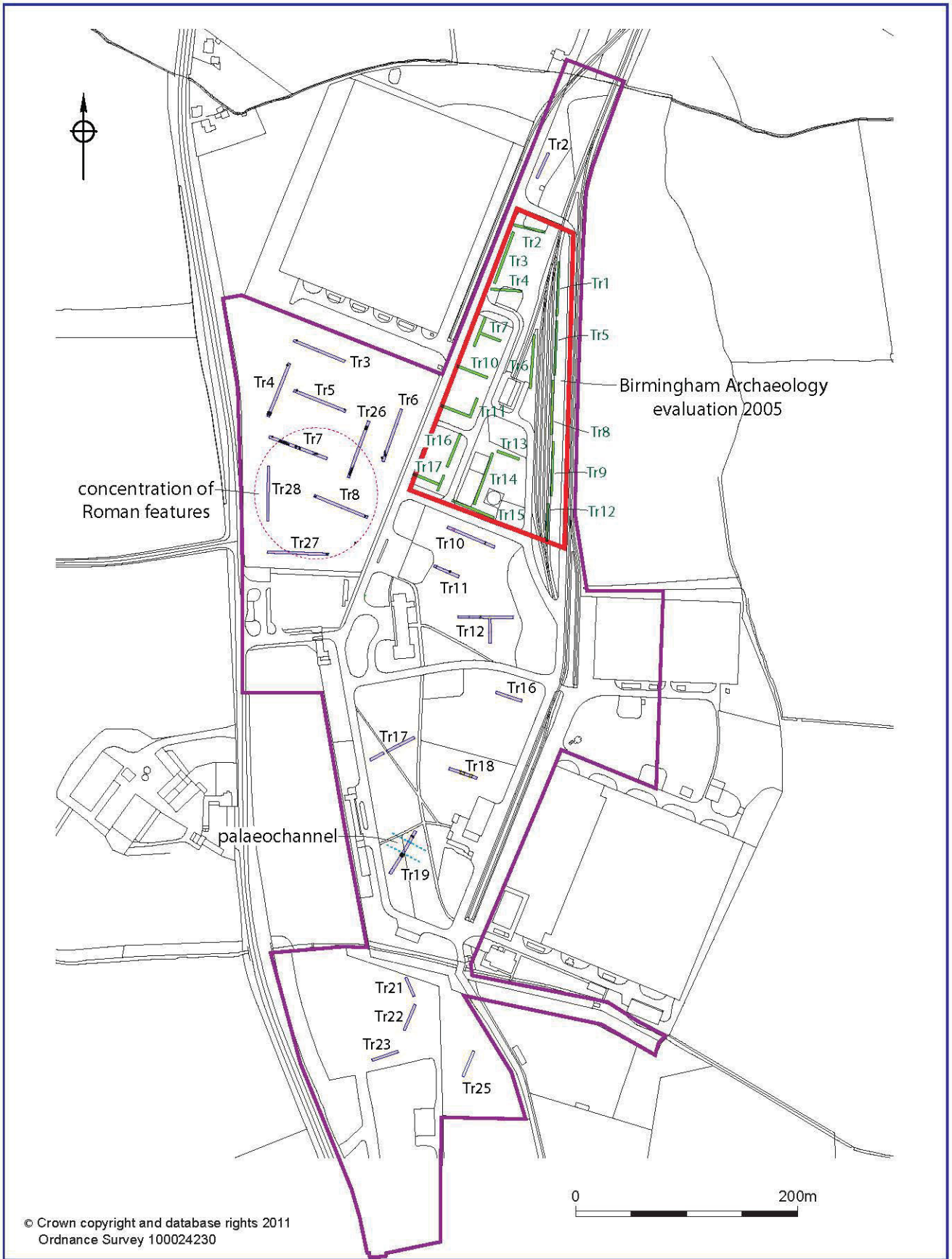
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Figures



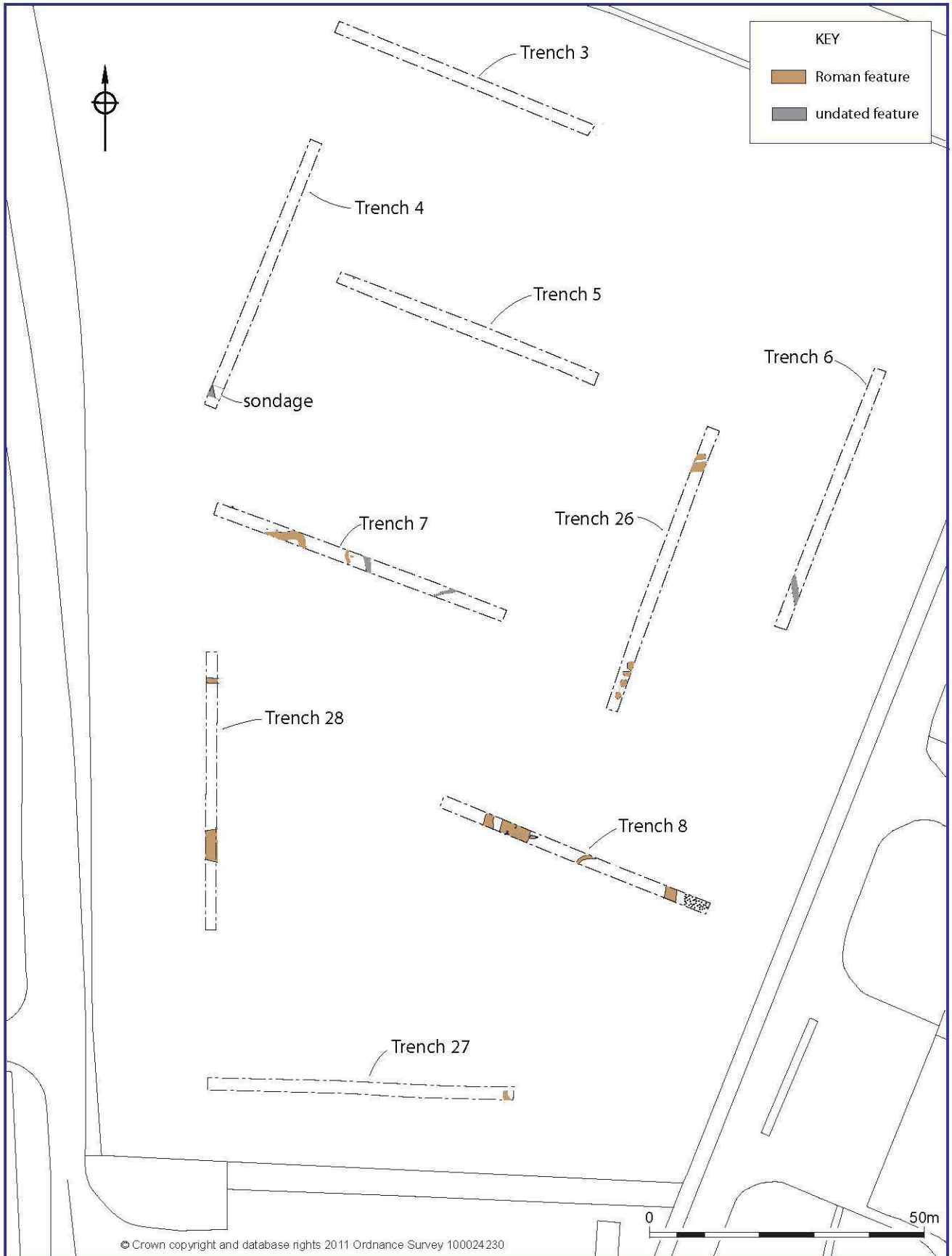
Location of the site (based upon Building Design Practice Drg No 1674 1002)

Figure 1



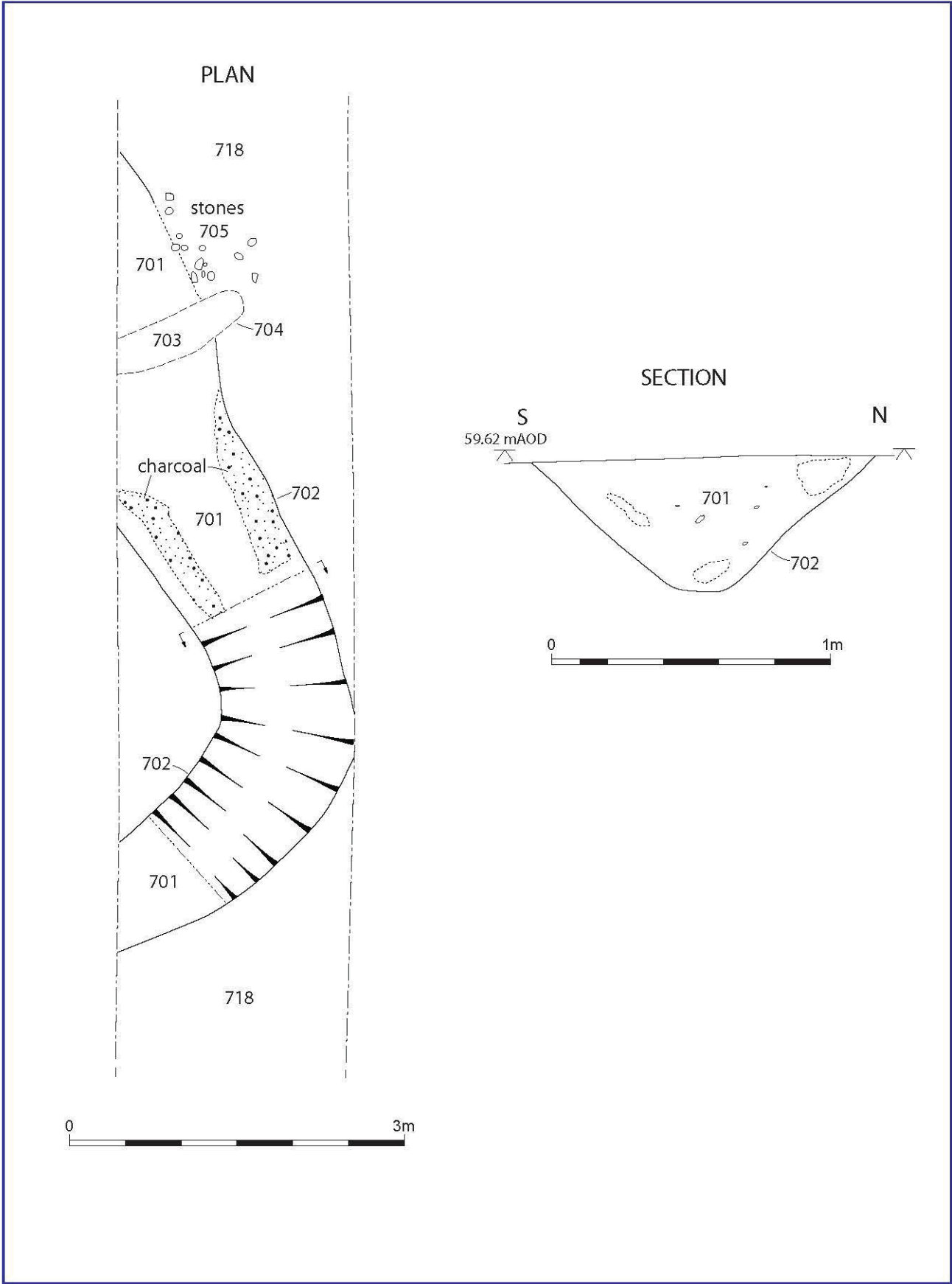
Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of Roman and undated features

Figure 3



Trench 7: plan and section of 702

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 2 after excavation, looking south-west



Plate 2 Trench 2 sondage, looking south-east



Plate 3 Trench 3 after excavation, looking south-west



Plate 4 Trench 4 overall looking north-east



Plate 5 Trench 4 showing stones 409 exposed, looking north-west



Plate 6 Trench 4 NE sondage showing alluvial profile in south east facing section



Plate 7 Trench 5 overall, looking south-east



Plate 8 Trench 5 sondage showing the alluvial profile, in the North-west facing section



Plate 9 Trench 6 overall looking southwest



Plate 10 Section through linear feature [609], looking south-east



Plate 11 Trench 7 showing a right angled ditch [702] and cut by an area of burning [704] looking south



Plate 12 North facing section through ditch [702]



Plate 13 Trench 8 feature [805] prior to excavation, looking south-west



Plate 14 Curvilinear feature [812] showing in situ Roman pottery on the surface, looking north-west





Plate 15 Trench 10 following excavation, looking east



Plate 16 Trench 10 sondage showing modern debris from former carpark in this area, looking north



Plate 17 Trench 11 after excavation, looking west



Plate 18 Trench 12 after excavation showing modern concrete slab and made ground, looking east



Plate 19 Trench 12 25m long spur, after excavation, looking south



Plate 20 Trench 16 after excavation showing made ground and modern services, looking south-west



Plate 21 Trench 17 excavated, looking southwest



Plate 22 Trench 18 excavated, looking east



Plate 23 Trench 19 showing the extent of a palaeochannel [1907], looking north



Plate 24 Trench 21, looking northwest



Plate 25 Trench 22, looking southwest



Plate 26 Trench 23, looking east



Plate 27 Trench 25 after excavation, looking southwest



Plate 28 Trench 26 showing linear [2604] and [2616], looking north-north-west



Plate 29 Roman pits visible in the southwest end of trench 26, looking southwest



Plate 30 Trench 27 overall after excavation, looking west



Plate 31 Ditch [27] cleaned, with pottery in situ in trench 27, looking south



Plate 32 Holloway [2807] seen in section within trench 28, looking southwest

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 23.85m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.83m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
200		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt loam	0.13m	
201		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt loam	0.12m	As 200 but firmer and slightly paler; diffuse lower boundary
202		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.25m	Common reddish brown mottles and Manganese concretions
203		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.15m	As 202 but slightly finer, and with fewer Manganese concretions
204		Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay silt	0.18m	Few Manganese concretions
205		Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay silt	Unexcavated	
206		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.35m	Varying proportions of clinker/farmac shavings and fragments of brick and concrete
207		Fill	Firm light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	
208	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned E-W; 0.70-0.90m wide.

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 2.25m

Orientation: NW – SE

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
300		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt	0.20-0.36m	
301		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.14-0.35m	Reddish brown stains on ped faces
302		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt loam	0.15-0.21m	Few small gravels
303		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	0.10-0.21m	Few small gravels
304		Layer	Firm light greyish brown	0.33-0.50m	Mixed with
305		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.10-0.20m	Darker than 304; possible buried soil
306		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	0.85m	Mid brown silt with reddish brown stains on ped faces, giving reddish brown hue; few small to medium weathered gravels, becoming more frequent with depth; lenses of greyish to greenish brown silt towards east end of trench
307		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	Unexcavated	Mid reddish and greyish brown fine sandy silt with abundant small gravels and calcium carbonate flecks

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 2.25m

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
400		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt	0.27m	Few small gravels
401		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt	0.19m	Greyish brown with yellowish and reddish brown mottles; few small gravels
402		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.25m	Very few Manganese concretions
403		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.36m	As 402 but slightly paler
404		Layer	Firm light greyish blue	0.32m	Mixed with light yellowish brown silt; few small gravels and Manganese concretions
405		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay	0.83m	Few small weathered gravels
406		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	>0.05m	Fine sandy silt; abundant small to medium weathered gravels
407		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt	<1.38m	Light greyish brown with common reddish brown mottles and stains on ped faces; few small gravels
408		Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay silt	0.06-0.16m	
409		Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay silt	<0.20m	Grey platy and sub-angular stones in matrix of mid brownish red clay silt; inclined from south to north, falling 0.40m in 2.00m
410		Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay silt	<0.20m	Below 409 at c 1.80m below surface

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 2.20m

Orientation: NW – SE

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
500		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt loam	0.20-0.23	
501		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	0.13-0.30m	Few small gravels and Manganese concretions
502		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt loam	0.30-0.39m	
503		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	0.19-0.30m	Mid greyish and yellowish brown
504			Firm light greyish brown silt	0.26-0.33m	Light greyish and yellowish brown; very few small gravels
505		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt	0.13-0.30m	Possible buried soil
506		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	>0.62m	Few small to medium weathered gravels

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 1.70m max

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
600		Layer	Soft light greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.19m	Few small gravels
601		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.13m	Few small gravels and Manganese concretions
602		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	0.28m	
603		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt		Mid greyish and yellowish brown; few small gravels and Manganese fragments
605		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt	0.15m	Possible buried soil
606		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		Few small to medium weathered gravels
607		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	Unexcavated	Abundant small to medium weathered gravels
608		Fill	Firm light greyish brown clay silt	0.32m	Few small gravels, charcoal flecks and smears
609	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-side feature aligned NNW-SSE;

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 1.80m max

Orientation: NW – SE

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
700		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.55m	
701	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greyish brown clay silt	0.50m	Common charcoal fragments and lenses of charcoal; few fragments of fired clay and slag; one sherd of pottery. Bulk sample of 20 litres taken (Sample 1)
702	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature running E-W for c 5m then turning sharply S, though 170 degrees; sharp break of slope at top, steeply-sloping sides breaking gently to flat base; 1.00-1.20m wide and 0.50m deep
703		Fill	Firm light greyish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Common charcoal fragments and flecks
704	Beam slot	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned N-S ending at N end in rounded terminus; >1.20m wide and 0.20-0.25m wide
705	Surface	Structure		Unexcavated	Small patch of small to medium gravels and sub-angular stones on N side of linear 701/702; stones extend c 1.00m E-W and 0.60m N-S
706		Fill	Firm light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Common charcoal fragments and flecks
707	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned N-S;
708		Fill	Firm light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Common charcoal fragments and flecks
709	Post Hole	Cut			Sub-circular cut with diameter of c 0.30m

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
710		Fill	Firm light reddish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	
711	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned N-S; c 1.20m wide
712		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Small patch of charcoal-flecked soil, no more than 0.50m across, cut by linear 714
713		Fill	Firm light reddish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	
714	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned E-W; c 0.30-0.60m wide
715		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt	0.29m	
716			Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.21m	As 700 but slightly firmer and paler, with reddish brown stains on ped faces
717		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	0.11m	Few small gravels and Manganese concretions
718		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.18m	Few small gravels and Manganese concretions
719			Firm light greyish brown silt		Light greyish and yellowish brown
720		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	>0.78m	Common small to medium weathered gravels

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.55m max

Orientation: WNW – ESE

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
800		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	>0.15m	Few small gravels and charcoal fragments; over-machined but otherwise unexcavated
801	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned roughly N-S; c 1.60m wide
802		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Few small gravels; common charcoal fragments and flecks; includes diffuse spread of greenish-yellow clay (803) and several medium to large (< 320mm) roughly-hewn stones
803			Firm mid greenish yellow silty clay	Unexcavated	Aggregates of clay within layer 802 extending c 1.75m E-W by 1.00m N-S
804		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Abundant charcoal fragments and flecks, and common small aggregates of fired clay
805	Unknown	Cut			Small elongated sub-oval feature measuring 1.50m N-S by 0.50m E-W
806		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.12m	Mixed with
807		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.16m	Mid greyish and reddish brown; few small gravels
808		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.15m	Fine sandy silt; reddish and yellowish brown stains on ped faces
809		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.15m	Diffuse lower boundary
810		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	>0.48m	As 809 but more compact and with stronger reddish hue
811		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt	<0.10m	Mid greyish, slightly reddish brown; common charcoal fragments and

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
					flecks; over-machined but otherwise unexcavated
812	Curvilinear Cut	Cut		<0.10m	Curvilinear feature curving N and E from S edge of excavation; 0.40-0.50m wide
813		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	<0.15m	Greyish and reddish brown; few small gravels; over-machined but otherwise unexcavated
814	Ditch	Cut		<0.15m	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned roughly N-S; 2.10m wide
815	Surface	Structure			Gravels spread exposed (and mostly removed by machine) at E end of trench; occurs at interface between 808 and 809; extent gauged by cleaning sections; extends c 4m from E end of trench; moderate density of small to medium sub-angular stones

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 1.20m max

Orientation: E – W

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1000		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.18m	Few small gravels
1001		Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.34m	Mixture of mid and dark greyish brown sandy silt with abundant gravel, clinker, and brick inclusions
1002		Layer	Compact	0.05m	Tarmac shavings and clinker (overlying unexcavated concrete slab at W end of trench)
1003		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.52m	Common yellowish and reddish brown mottles; few small gravels; stained grey in patches
1004		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.11m	Common small weathered gravels
1005			Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Abundant small weathered gravels

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 1.47m max

Orientation: E – W

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1100		Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silt loam	0.15m	Common small gravels
1101		Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silt loam	0.73m	Mixture of reddish and greyish brown silt loam with common small gravel and clinker inclusions
1102		Layer		0.17m	Concrete slab
1103		Layer	Compact light reddish brown clayey sand	0.09m	Abundant small gravels
1104		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	>0.10m	Light greyish, slightly yellowish brown; few Manganese concretions; stained grey in patches

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m + 25.00m (T-shaped) Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.82m max

Orientation: E – W + N - S

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1200		Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silt loam	0.14m	Common small gravels
1201		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.35m	Mixed with c 10% reddish brown sand; common gravel, brick, and concrete inclusions
1202			Firm light greyish brown silt	0.18m	Few small gravels and charcoal fragments; becomes more compact with depth
1203			Compact light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	As 1202 but much more compact

Trench 16

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24.70m Width: 2.20m Depth: 1.21m max

Orientation: E – W

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1600		Unstratified			Excavated spoil
1601		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.13m	
1602		Layer		0.20m	Tarmac
1603		Layer	Compact light yellowish brown clayey sand	0.23m	Light yellowish and reddish brown; abundant small gravels
1604		Layer		0.14m	Tarmac and clinker
1605		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.14m	
1606		Natural	Firm mid reddish brown clayey sand	<0.51m	Common small to medium gravels

Trench 17

Maximum dimensions: Length: 44.60m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.78m max

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1700		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.17m	
1701		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	0.15m	Predominantly mid reddish brown sandy silt with abundant small to medium gravels; overlain by clinker towards E end of trench; limited to NE length of trench
1702		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt	0.28m	Common slightly darker (reddish brown) and lighter (yellowish brown) mottles; few small gravels
1703		Layer	Firm light reddish brown clay silt	0.13m	Common gravels
1704		Layer	Firm light reddish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Abundant small gravels

Trench 18

Maximum dimensions: Length: 26.50m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.65m max

Orientation: E – W

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1800		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.14m	
1801		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt loam	0.34m	Various deposits of clinker and reddish brown sandy silt with abundant small gravels and few large concrete fragments; also spread of light grey reworked alluvium with common gravels
1802		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt	0.17m	Common slightly darker (reddish brown) and lighter (yellowish brown) mottles; few small gravels; heavily stained by overlying clinker
1803		Layer	Firm light reddish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Common small gravels

Trench 19

Maximum dimensions: Length: 45.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 1.38m max

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
1900		Layer	Soft mid greenish brown silt loam	0.19m	
1901		Layer	Firm	0.31m	Clinker with common fragments of brick and concrete
1902		Layer	Firm mid brownish red silty sand	0.14m	Abundant small gravels
1903		Fill	Firm dark greyish brown clay silt	0.06m	
1904		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	0.40m	Less clay than 1903; reddish brown stains on ped faces; lenses of clay towards N side of 1907; bulk sample of 10 litres taken from section (Sample 2)
1905		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	0.10m	As 1904 but slightly paler and redder; bulk sample of 10 litres taken from section (Sample 2)
1906		Fill	Firm light reddish brown clay silt	0.18m	
1907	Palaeochannel	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned NW-SE; sharply defined, quite steeply sloping S side; less well defined, gradually sloping N side; 16.50m wide and 0.74m deep
1908		Layer	Firm light brownish red clay silt	Unexcavated	Common small gravels
1909	Wall	Structure		Unexcavated	Brick wall foundation, aligned WNW-ESE
1910		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	

Trench 21

Maximum dimensions: Length: 18.50m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.80m max

Orientation: NW – SE

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2100		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.24m	
2101		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.21m	Cut by modern intrusions at NW end of trench
2102		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.15m	Common reddish and yellowish brown mottles
2103		Layer	Compact light greyish brown silt	0.20m	Common calcium carbonate concretions
2104		Layer	Compact light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Abundant calcium carbonate concretions

Trench 22

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24.70m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.86m max

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2200		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.25m	Few small gravels
2201		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.16m	Few small gravels; thins markedly towards SW: not visible at SW end of trench
2202		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.17m	Common reddish and yellowish brown mottles; few small gravels
2203		Layer	Compact light greyish brown silt	0.17m	Few small gravels
2204		Layer		Unexcavated	Abundant small weathered gravels; surface rises from 0.75m below surface at SW end to 0.40m at NE end

Trench 23

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24.80m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.40m max

Orientation: E – W

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2300		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.30m	Few small gravels; lenses of clinker towards W end of trench
2301		Layer	Firm light greyish brown clay silt	0.10m	Few small gravels
2302		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	Unexcavated	Few to common small gravels

Trench 25

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24.80m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.50m max

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2500		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.24m	Few small gravels; few patches of clinker and fragments of 19th/20th century CBM
2501		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20m	Few small gravels
2502		Layer	Firm light greyish brown clay silt	0.06m	Common reddish and yellowish brown mottles; few small gravels
2503		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	Unexcavated	Common small gravels

Trench 26

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.53m max

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2600		Layer	Soft light greyish brown silt loam	0.20m	Few small gravels
2601		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.13m	Few small gravels and Manganese concretions
2602		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20m	Few small gravels
2603		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	0.40m	Few small gravels
2604	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned E-W; c 1.50m wide
2605		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	
2606	Pit	Cut			Sub-circular pit with diameter of 1.54m
2607		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	Few small gravels and charcoal fragments
2608	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned roughly E-W and ending at W end in rounded terminus; >1.38m long and 0.70m wide
2609		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	Spread of reworked soil or fill of feature
2610		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	Few small gravels and charcoal fragments
2611	Pit	Cut			Sub-oval feature 1.20m long by 1.10m wide
2612		Fill	Firm dark greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	Common charcoal fragments
2613	Pit	Cut			Sub-oval feature 1.20m long by 1.00m wide
2614		Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	Spread of reworked soil >3.00m long by 1.20m wide
2615		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	>0.30m	Few fragments of charcoal and animal bone
2616	Ditch	Cut		>0.30m	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned roughly E-W, ending in rounded terminus at E end; c 1m wide
2617		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	Unexcavated	Mid greyish and yellowing brown

Trench 27

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.44m max

Orientation: E –W

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2700		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	Unexcavated	Reddish brown stains on ped faces; few charcoal fragments and flecks; common small to medium gravels including heat-cracked stones
2701	Pit	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature extending N from S edge of excavation and ending in rounded terminus; 1.50m long by 0.77m wide
2702		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.21m	
2703		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.15m	Few small gravels; few small charcoal fragments and flecks
2704		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		Few small gravels

Trench 28

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.00m Width: 2.10m Depth: 0.90m max

Orientation: N - S

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
2800		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.16m	Few small gravels
2801		Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silt loam	0.21m	As 2800 but finer and slightly paler
2802		Layer	Firm light greyish brown silt	0.13m	Reddish brown stains on ped faces; few small gravels
2803		Fill	Firm light greyish brown silt	>0.19m	As 2802 but slightly paler; common small gravels; over-machined but otherwise unexcavated
2804	Ditch	Cut		>0.19m	Linear, parallel-side feature aligned roughly E-W; 0.95m wide
2805		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silt	Unexcavated	Few small gravels
2806		Fill	Firm mid greenish brown clay loam	>0.25m	Clay silt loam with abundant charcoal fragments and common small gravels
2807	Trackway	Cut		>0.25m	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned roughly E-W; c 5.5m wide and >0.25m deep

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

12	Field progress reports AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
228	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
9	Scale drawings
1	Sample records AS17
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
1	Flot records AS21
26	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery
Broad Street
Hereford
HR4 9RU

Tel. Hereford (01432) 268121 extension 207/334

Summary of data for Herefordshire HER

Report name and title	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT MORETON BUSINESS PARK, MORETON-ON-LUGG, HEREFORDSHIRE	
Contractor's name and address	Worcestershire Archaeology, The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PB	
Site name	Moreton Business park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire	
Grid Reference (8 fig)	SO 3502 2465	Planning Application Number n/a
SMR number/s of site		
Date of fieldwork	16/04/2012 – 01/05/2012	
Date of report	1 st June 2012	
	Number and type of finds	
Pottery	Period	Number of sherds
	Iron Age	7
	Roman	95
Other finds	Period	Quantity
	Roman metal coin	1
	Roman ceramic fired clay	1
	Roman metal iron rod	2
	Roman metal iron nail	8
	Roman slag slag(Fe) smithing slag	5
	Number and type of samples collected	
Sieving for charred plant remains	Number of features sampled: 3 Number of buckets: 3	
C14/scientific dates	Number and type: 0 Result:	
Pollen	No of columns/spot samples: Name of pollen specialist	
Bone	Number of buckets sieved for bone <i>Quantity recovered</i> <i>Period</i>	
Insect	No of columns/spot samples Name of pollen specialist	
Other	Type and specialist	
Summary of the report	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire (NGR SO 35020 24650).</p> <p>The evaluation was undertaken at the request of Great West (2003) Ltd, who intend to expand the existing Business Park. This development is considered by Herefordshire Council to have the potential to affect archaeological remains as it lies in a landscape of archaeological interest;</p>	

	<p>the lower Lugg Valley.</p> <p>This report on this 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.</p> <p>Twenty one trenches were opened across the site both in green spaces within the current business park and in two areas of potential expansion; pasture fields to the south and west.</p> <p>In the pasture field to the west, a concentration of Roman features was uncovered including a number of ditches, pits, beam slots, surfaces and a trackway. The features were interpreted as the remains of a Romano-British farmstead, with indications of occupation across the site ranging from the 1st to 4th centuries.</p> <p>An undated palaeochannel was also found towards the south of the business park, orientated northwest-southeast. The channel was directly underlying modern made ground, but due to its location on the river terrace is likely to be ancient.</p> <p>In the other areas within the Business Park, the alluvial sequence typically present in the Lugg Valley overlying the sand and gravel terrace deposits has been variously truncated by activity related to the Business park and moreover, its former use as a military camp.</p> <p>The Romano-British farmstead is significant on a regional level since only a relatively limited number of settlements of this date have been investigated in any detail in this part of the West Midlands and since its discovery contributes to the current development of understanding of Roman occupation in the area. In particular its relationship to the nearby Roman settlement investigated at Wellington Quarry to the immediate north-east is of considerable interest.</p> <p>The palaeochannel has the potential to yield valuable information about past environments in the lower Lugg valley and to preserve waterlogged archaeological remains.</p> <p>It is concluded that both the Roman settlement and palaeochannel are vulnerable to development under current proposals and that, should development proceed, a programme of archaeological works should be implemented to preserve these features by record.</p>
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