AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT DYMOCK CRICKET CLUB DYMOCK GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire Archaeology
Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester
WR1 3PB

Status: Revision 1
Date: 18 February 2014
Author: Andrew Walsh, awalsh@worcestershire.gov.uk
and Tom Vaughan, tvaughan@worcestershire.gov.uk
Contributors: Laura Griffin and Elizabeth Pearson
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt
Project reference: P4260
Report reference: 2095

Contents

An archaeological evaluation at Dymock Cricket Club, Dymock, Gloucestershire

Andrew Walsh and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Elizabeth Pearson

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Dymock Cricket Club, Dymock, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 70495 31116). It was commissioned by Chris Knock, Architectural and Planning Consultant, on behalf of Dymock Cricket Club, who intend to construct a new pavilion for which a planning application has been submitted. The application has been approved but it is now intended to revise the application with the pavilion to be located further to the north than originally intended, thereby placing it on the line of a Roman road.

The evaluation established the presence of well preserved Roman remains on the site. The features include the Roman road and roadside ditch on the anticipated alignment, as well as a number of pits and other features, and deposits. A significant quantity of Roman pottery and two brooches were recovered. A small amount of slag and coal was also identified hinting at the presence of industrial activity in the area. An environmental sample yielded charred cereal crop waste, which may originate from a crop grown and processed locally. The small quantity of animal bone recovered was in a good state of preservation. This is indicative of rural occupation in the immediate vicinity.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Dymock Cricket Club, Dymock, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 70495 31116). It was commissioned by Chris Knock, Architectural and Planning Consultant, on behalf of Dymock Cricket Club, who intend to construct a new pavilion for which a planning application has been submitted to the Forest of Dean District Council (reference P1438/13/FUL). The application has been approved but it is now intended to revise the application with the pavilion to be located further to the north than originally intended.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the revised application (GSMR 9938).

The project conforms to the generic Gloucestershire County Council brief for evaluation (GCC 2013), and correspondence between the Client and Curator, dated 11 November 2013, for which a written scheme of investigation was produced (WA 2013). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). The WA event reference for this project is P4260.

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc FSA Scot AIfA who joined WA in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. He was assisted in the field by Pete Lovett BSc. The report preparation was led by Andrew Walsh and the project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan BA MA AIfA. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MIfA. Laura Griffin BA AIfA contributed the finds report and Elizabeth Pearson MSc AIfA contributed the environmental remains report.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and of relevant online sources including *A Vision of Britain Through Time*, *British History Online* and old-maps.co.uk.

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1st edition, 1883-4, Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile
- 1902-3, Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile
- 1923, Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile
- 1954-5, Ordnance Survey, scale 6":1 mile
- 1970, Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed written scheme of investigation was prepared by WA (2013) which proposed the excavation of one 30m trench located across the site of the proposed pavilion. Due to the presence of a foul water drain, public footpath and modern earthworks associated with a row of cricket nets, the northern end of the trench was not excavated.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 180º wheeled 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 WA practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material. The fieldwork was undertaken on 30 and 31 January 2014.

3.5 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.

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.6.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard WA practice (2012; appendix 2).

3.6.2 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 *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2000 database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and so they are not included below, nor included in the Table 1 quantification.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and where, possible referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form to the *Gloucester Roman Type Fabric Series* (Ireland 1983; 'TF' prefixed type-fabric numbers).

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.7.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard WA practice (2012a). A single sample of 10 litres was taken from a layer running under Roman road (106). No animal bone was recovered by hand-collection.

3.7.2 Processing and analysis

The sample was 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 residue was scanned 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 Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition (Stace 2010). Mollusc remains were identified with the aid of a guide to land snails (Kerney and Cameron 1979).

3.7.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified; and
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

The scanned residue will be discarded 6 months after submission of this report, unless a specific request is made to retain the material.

3.8 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 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The proposed site is located on a level playing field at approximately 36m AOD, although to the north the ground level drops away towards the River Leadon. To the east of the existing pavilion the field appears to have been raised to create a level area. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Raglan Mudstone Formation and Bridgenorth Sandstone Formation overlaid by sand and gravels of the Staunton member (BGS 2014).

The proposed development site is located across the course of a Roman road (Fig 1) which ran between Stretton Grandison and a possible crossing on the River Severn, located to the south of Tewkesbury. The road, which runs roughly east to west at this location, had been identified during a geophysical survey on land to the west of the cricket pitch (Maxwell 2005, 163), and to the east as a series of field boundaries. The Roman road from Gloucester is also believed to meet this road under the cricket pitch (Figure 1; Catchpole 2007, 133-4), and it is possible a settlement grew up around this junction. Extensive evidence for Roman settlement has been found elsewhere in Dymock (eg Catchpole 2007, Simmonds 2010, Taverner 2007).

4.2 Current land-use

The site is located in the north-eastern part of grass playing field, next to the existing pavilion and a set of cricket practise nets.

5 Structural analysis

A plan of the trench is illustrated in Fig 2 and two sections are illustrated in Fig 3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. The excavated trench measured 21.7m by 1.55m.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit identified was an orangey red sandy silt (133), which was interpreted as natural (Plate 1).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Roman (possible late 1st to 2nd century AD)

The natural was overlaid by a buried reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (107/108). This subsoil was overlaid by the Roman Road surface (106), and also cut by a roadside ditch (105), which lay on the

north of the road (Plate 1). The road surface was formed of a pinkish red sandy gravel which measured 0.2m in depth (Plate 2). The road also overlaid a reddish brown sandy silt (111) which was probably the same deposit as (107/108). A possible wheel rut (110) and pit (127) (Figs 2 and 3) were identified cutting the road surface (106). On the north side of the road a V-shaped roadside ditch (105) was observed, filled by a firm light yellowish brown sandy silt (104). The Roman deposits here were sealed by buried soils (103), which yielded one small sherd of 2nd century AD pottery, and (102).

To the south of the road was a large spread of material (124). This deposit yielded a number of finds including a copper alloy brooch dating to AD 50-70, as well as 1st to early 3rd century AD pottery and iron slag. A sondage excavated through part of the spread identified a mid greyish brown sandy silt layer (120), and two intercutting pits (119 and 123; Fig 3, S.1; Plate 3). Pit 119 yielded 1st to 2nd century AD pottery, as well as slag and coal. Deposit (120) was probably the same as (128) which was identified further north in the trench and yielded 1st to 2nd century AD pottery. It was overlaid by a thin silty layer (131), which in turn was overlaid by thin gravel layer (121; Fig 3, S.4; Plate 4). This appeared very similar to the road surface (106) although due to truncation it was not possible to establish their relationship. It was cut by feature [121] which was only visible in section. The features and deposits at the southern end of the trench were sealed by a buried soil (117 and possibly 114), which yielded a copper alloy brooch dating to the 1st or 2nd century AD.

5.1.3 Phase 3: modern deposits

A linear feature [116] truncated the Roman deposits. This measured at least 0.3m in depth, with had vertical sides and was interpreted as a service or drainage trench. It was cut by a pit [113] which contained large lumps of concrete. The trench was sealed by topsoil 101, although towards the northern end layer (100) had been deposited to level the ground surface.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered totalled 127 finds weighing 1755g and is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. Pottery formed the largest proportion of the material, consisting of 103 sherds weighing 1442g. In addition two well preserved brooches, fragments of slag, fired clay, coal and iron were recovered.

The group came from seven stratified contexts, all of which were of Roman date (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, preservation was good with majority of sherds displaying low levels of abrasion.

material type	total	weight (g)
Roman pottery	103	1442
Fired clay	1	44
Iron	1	7
Copper alloy	2	19
Slag	13	198
Coal	3	1
Sandstone	4	44

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

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

Roman

All material from the site was of Roman date with pottery forms and fabrics indicating occupation from the mid 1st century and ending at some point in the late 2nd century.

Pottery

The pottery formed a standard domestic assemblage, dominated by locally produced coarsewares (TF11B, TF26, TF?31 and TF35) and supplemented by small amounts of Black-burnished ware 1 (BB1; TF4), samian ware (TF8; context 124) and Dressel 20 amphorae (TF10A; contexts 117 and 128).

Forms were varied, with fragments of jars, bowls/dishes and tankards being identified. The earliest identifiable forms consisted of a large sherd from a Severn Valley ware carinated beaker which could be dated 1st–2nd century (context 118, TF11B) and two examples of early wide-mouthed jars of similar date (contexts 117 and 128, TF11B oxidised and reduced). The latest were two BB1 flanged dishes which could be dated to the late 2nd–early 3rd century (context 128; TF4).

All diagnostic BB1 jars were of earlier production displaying acute angled lattice and gently everted rims and, therefore, also datable to the 2nd century. Unfortunately, the samian sherds were too small to be accurately classified beyond a general identification.

Copper alloy brooches

The two brooches were well preserved with very low levels of corrosion. The earlier and most complete of the two could be identified as being of 'Polden Hill' type (context 124) and accordingly dated between AD50–70 (Hattatt 1985, 82). The second was of a 'simplified Trumpet' form (context 117) and displayed some damage, with the pin and spring missing along with the foot-knob. Brooches of this type generally date between the mid 1st–late 2nd century (*ibid*., 109).

Other finds

Remaining finds of note consisted of thirteen pieces of smithing slag (contexts 118, 124 and 131) and a piece of fired clay which appeared to have slag embedded in it (context 128). This fired clay came from a layer which was also rich in charcoal and, combined with the slag, may suggest the smithing of iron in the near vicinity.

5.2.2 Discussion

The finds from this site formed a well-dated assemblage spanning the mid 1st–late 2nd centuries. The range of pottery fabrics and forms is typical of a rural assemblage of this date with locally produced coarsewares dominating. The preservation and amount of material retrieved from the evaluation would suggest low levels of disturbance to date and a high potential for further well-preserved remains on the site.

context	material class	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	*TPQ*
103	Roman pottery	1	2	1C	2C	2nd century
117	Roman pottery	3	174	2C		Late 2nd century
	copper alloy brooch	1	7	M1C	L2C	
118	Roman pottery	17	111	2C		2nd century
	slag	5	54			
	coal	3	1			
124	slag	4	134			Late 2nd century
	iron nail	1	7			
	Roman pottery	53	579	L1C	E3C	
	sandstone	1	22			
	copper alloy brooch	1	12	AD50	AD70	
128	Roman pottery	11	416	1C	2C	2nd century
	fired clay	1	44			
131	Roman pottery	10	47	2C		2nd century
	slag	4	10			
	sandstone	3	22			
132	Roman pottery	8	113	2C		2nd century

Table 2: Summary of the assemblage

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

A low level of environmental remains was recorded, consisting of occasional charred cereal grain (unidentified grain, and wheat or barley), and weed seeds (Table 4). The latter included sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and dock (*Rumex* sp).

Molluscs were moderately abundant, but the predominant species (*Cecilioides acicula*) was presumably intrusive, as the slightly transparent shells indicate that they are relatively fresh. The presence of *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata* and *V pulchella*, however, indicate open calcareous grassland, mostly dry but with some wetter areas.

A moderate quantity of animal bone was noted in the sample residue.

Context	Sample	large mammal	small mammal	mollusc	charcoal	charred plant	Comment
128	1	mod	occ	occ	mod	occ	mod pot, occ fired clay, Fe slag

Table 3, Summary of environmental remains (occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant)

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	128
Triticum/*Hordeum* sp grain	Poaceae	wheat/barley	F	+
Cereal sp indet grain	Poaceae	cereal	F	+
Corylus avellana shell fragment	Betulaceae	hazelnut	C	+
Rumex acetosella	Polygonaceae	sheep's sorrel	ABD	+
Rumex sp	Polygonaceae	dock	ABCD	+
Poaceae sp indet grain	Poaceae	grass	AF	+

Table 4: charred plant remains from context 128

Key:

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 -100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

6 Synthesis

The evaluation has confirmed the presence of the Roman road on the proposed pavilion site, orientated along its predicted course. The road appears to be constructed of a fairly thin (*c* 0.20m) gravel layer overlying a possible subsoil, although the road was not excavated as part of the evaluation. The southern side of the road has been truncated by modern activity, although this disturbance appears to be fairly localised to a pit and linear feature, within the evaluation trench. To the south of the road is an area of intensive Roman activity, including pits and deposits dating to the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD. To the north of the road is a roadside ditch.

Finds included a well dated pottery assemblage typical of a rural site, and two well preserved copper alloy brooches. The presence of iron slag and coal indicates that industrial activity may be located on or close to the site.

The molluscs from the layer beneath the road (128) indicate a dry calcareous grassland environment, possibly with some damper areas. The presence of these is not consistent with the local alluvial soils derived from Bridgenorth Sandstone Formation (BGS 2014). The charred weed

seeds, however, which were presumably associated with the cereal grain recorded, were dominated by sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) which is characteristic of the local acidic, sandy soils.

It is likely that the charred cereal crop waste originates from a crop grown locally, but the mollusc remains, which are not consistent with the local soils and geology, may have been washed in from limestone outcrops on the edge of the River Leadon catchment, or alternatively associated from imported calcareous stone, such as limestone.

The animal bone noted in the residue is indicative of some human activity in the locality.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The evaluation has established the presence of well preserved Roman remains on the site. The features include a Roman road, a roadside ditch, as well as a number of pits and other features, and deposits. A significant quantity of Roman pottery and two brooches were identified. A small amount of slag was also recovered hinting at the presence of industrial activity in the area.

The environmental remains are generally of low significance, although, given the moderate quantity of animal bone noted in the residue and indications of limestone deposits (imported or washed in from the river), there is the potential for some good preservation of animal bone, should further work be carried out on the site.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The evaluation has confirmed that further archaeological work on this site has the potential to contribute to a number of research questions, including the following:

- Documenting the extents of Roman Dymock
- Understanding industry and land-use patterns in Roman Dymock
- Understanding the date and construction of the Roman road network in the area

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The evaluation has established that archaeological and potential archaeological remains survive below 35.75m AOD on the proposed site of the pavilion. These remains appear to extend to the south of the excavated area. To the north the site has been landscaped in the recent past and it is unclear what effect this may have had on any buried archaeological remains, although the depth of the buried soils indicates that buried remains may still survive.

8 The impact of the development

The construction of the pavilion on the site, including any associated groundworks such as foundations, service trenches and landscaping, etc., has the potential to affect or destroy buried heritage assets. These assets include a Roman road, a road side ditch, pits, layers and buried soils, which survive below a depth of 35.75m AOD.

9 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology 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 Dymock Cricket Club, Dymock, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 70495 31116) in advance of the construction of a new pavilion. The proposed pavilion site is located across the course of a Roman road which ran between Stretton Grandison and a possible crossing of the River Severn to the south of Tewkesbury.

The evaluation established the presence of well preserved Roman remains on the site. The features include a Roman road and roadside ditch on the anticipated alignment, as well as a number of pits and other features, and deposits. A significant quantity of Roman pottery and two brooches were recovered. A small amount of slag and coal was also identified hinting at the presence of industrial activity in the area. An environmental sample yielded charred cereal crop waste, which may originate from a crop grown and processed locally. The small quantity of animal bone recovered was in a good state of preservation. This is indicative of rural occupation in the immediate vicinity.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Chris Knock (Architectural and Planning Consultant) and Charles Parry (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council).

11 Bibliography

BGS 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html , British Geological Survey, accessed 6 February 2014

Cappers, T R J, Bekker, R M, and Jans, J E A, 2012 *Digitale Zadenatlas van Nederland: Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*, Groningen Archaeological Studies, **4**, Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library: Groningen

Catchpole, T, 2007 Roman Dymock: Archaeological Investigations 1995-2002, *TBGAS* **125**, 131-245

English Heritage 2010 *Environmental archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

GCC 2013 *Brief for an archaeological evaluation*, Gloucestershire County Council, Archaeology Service

Hattatt, R, 1985 *Iron Age and Roman Brooches*. Oxford, Oxbow Books

IfA 2009 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

Ireland, C, 1983 The pottery, in C M Heighway, *The east and north gates of Gloucester*, Western Archaeological Trust monograph **4**, 96–124

Kerney, M P, and Cameron, R A D, 1979 *Land snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins Field Guide, Harper Collins

Maxwell, A, 2005, *in TBGAS Archaeological Review **29***, 163

Simmonds, A, 2010 *Excavations at Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire: Publication Report*, Oxford Archaeology, dated May 2010 http://library.thehumanjourney.net/1151/1/SOYDH%202007.27.pdfA.pdf, accessed 6 February 2014

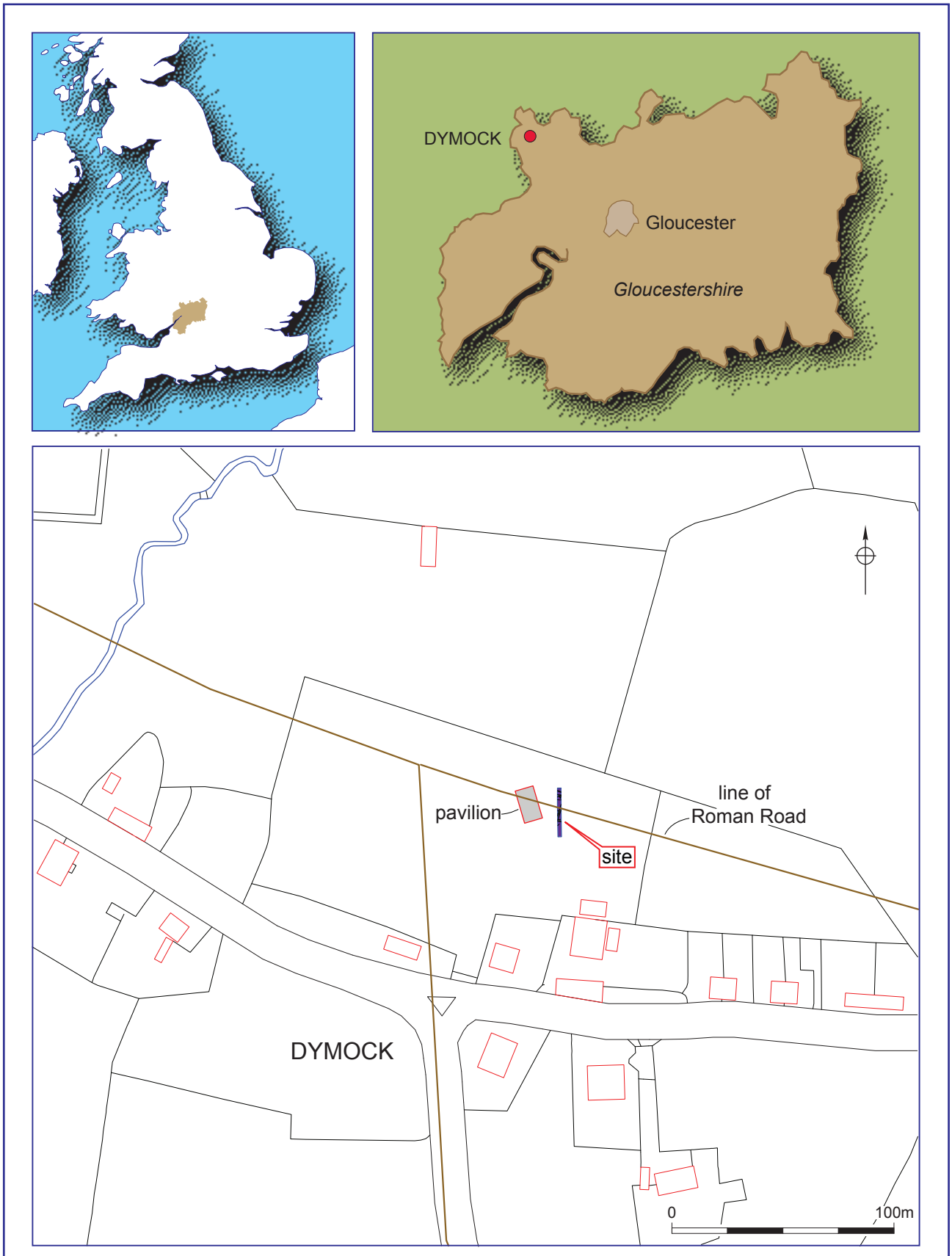
Stace, C, 2010 *New flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press, (3rd edition)

Taverner, N, 2001 *Land Adjacent to Rose Cottage and "Winserdine", Dymock, Gloucestershire*, Marches Archaeology, report **216**

WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

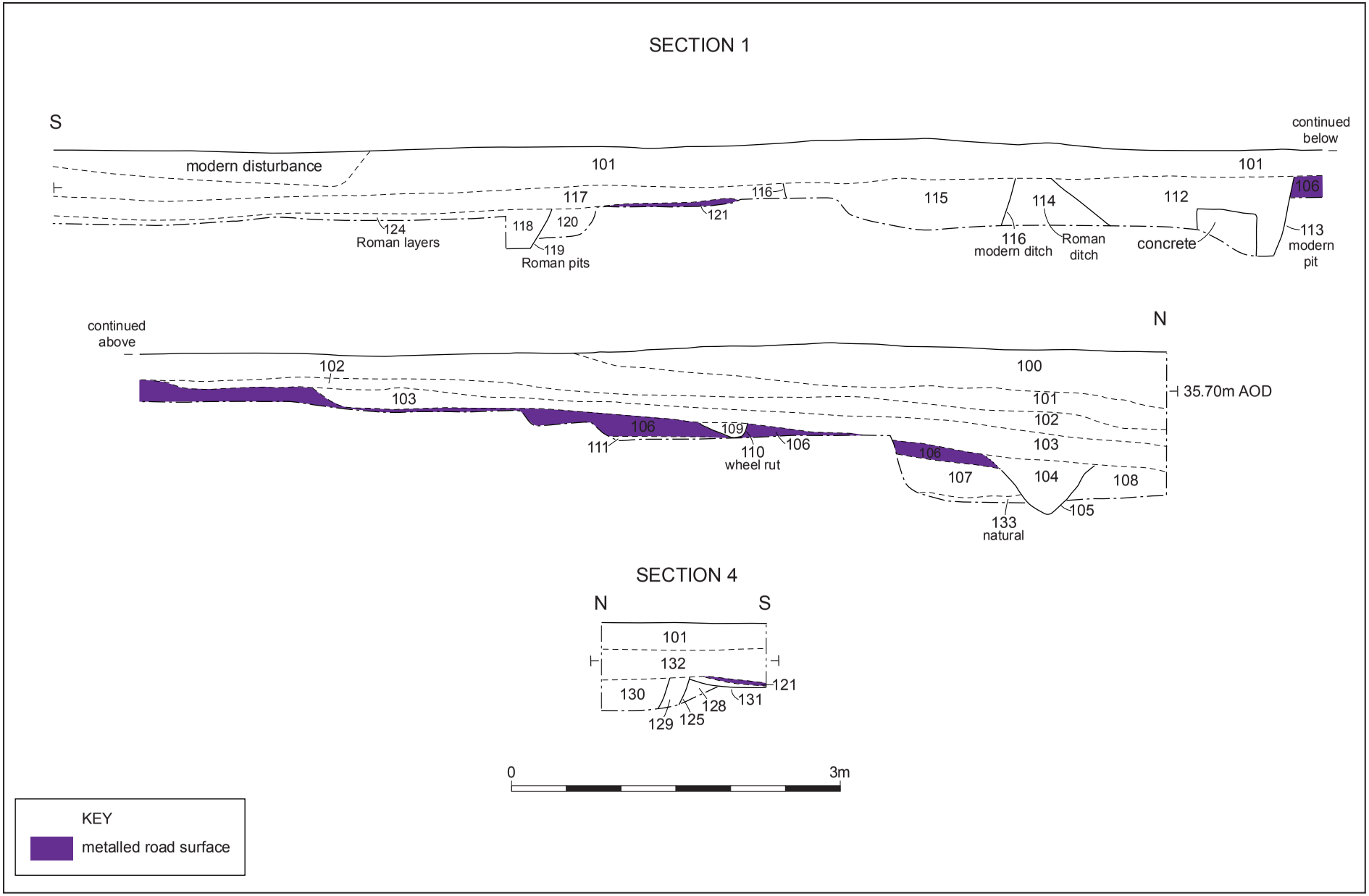
WA 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Dymock Cricket Club, The Pound, Dymock, Gloucestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, dated 6 December, P2013

Figures



Location of the site *Figure 1*

Trench 1 plan *Figure 2*



Sections 1 and 4

Figure 3

Plates

Plate 1. The pale deposit in the base of the trench is the fill of roadside ditch [105]. To the left of the ditch in plan is natural (133) and to right is buried subsoil (108)

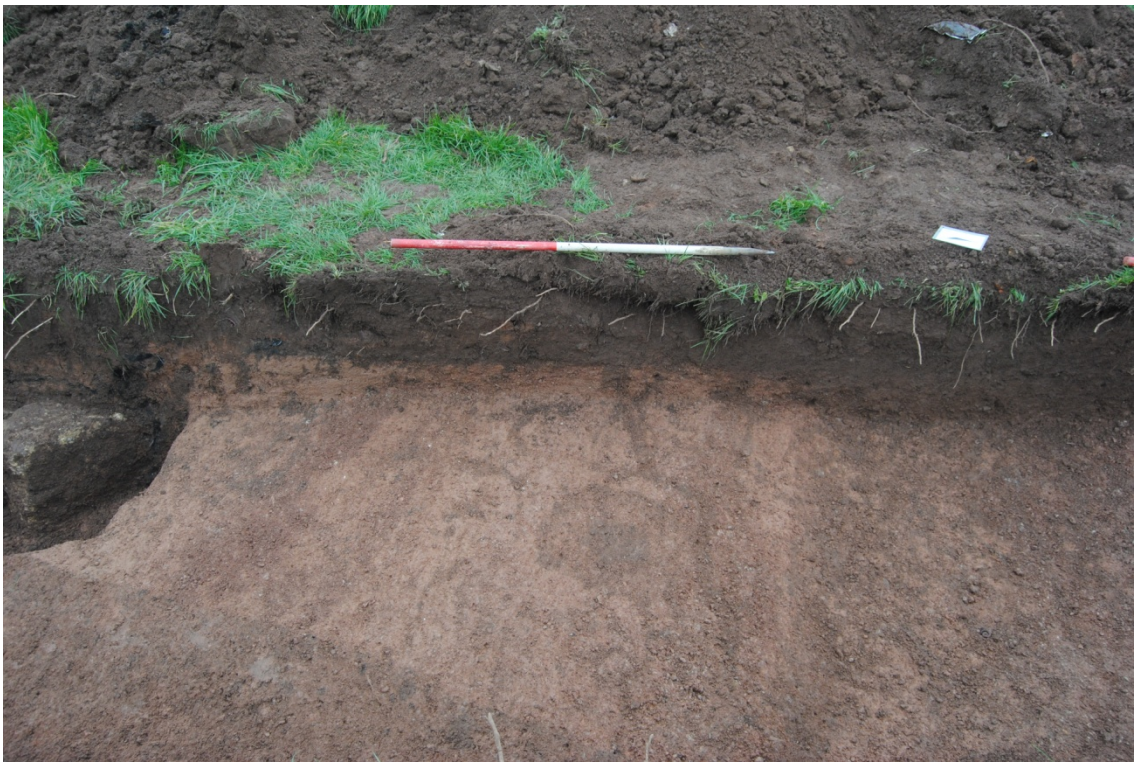


Plate 2. The Roman road surface (106) was formed of a pinkish gravel. The modern truncation caused by pit [113] and linear [116] is visible to the left of the shot.

Plate 3. The sondage excavated towards the southern end of the trench. Layer 120 and least two intercutting pits (119 and 123) were visible within the excavated area.

Plate 4. A gravelly surface (121), cut by later features, was identified to the south of the main road surface. It was unclear if this formed part of the road.

Appendix 1 Trench description

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 21.7m Width: 1.55m Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
100	Modern Layer	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.5	Modern levelling/topsoil
101	Modern Layer	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.4	Modern topsoil
102	Layer	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.21	Buried ?Roman topsoil
103	Layer	Layer	Soft light reddish brown sandy silt	0.26	Possible buried ?Roman subsoil
104	Ditch	Fill	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.49	Slightly mixed fill of roadside ditch 105. Very bottom (0.1m) of fill quite compact.
105	Ditch	Cut		0.49	V-shaped roadside ditch. Looks to cut gravel road 106 in section, but this is probably a false impression; rather it is just the slope of the road into the ditch.
106	Surface	Layer	Compact light pinkish red sandy gravel	0.21	Roman road. Suffers from modern truncation along its width but is still substantial. Is quite thin in places, suggesting it may not have been intended to last a long time or receive much traffic.
107	Layer	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.3	Possible early subsoil. Exists below the road 106. Same as 108, possibly same as 111
108	Layer	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.31	Same as 107
109	Linear	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.14	Fill of possible cart rut.
110	Linear	Cut		0.14	Possible cart wheel rut in road 106
111	Layer	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.02	Layer seen below road 106. May be same as 107 and 108, being an old ?subsoil.
112	Pit	Fill		0.72	Modern backfill
113	Pit	Cut		0.72	Modern pit.
114	Unknown	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.42	Possible Roman pit fill. Truncated on three sides by modern features so unable to determine extent or function. Very tenuously the same as 130.
115	Ditch	Fill		0.4	Mixed backfill of modern linear 116.
116	Ditch	Cut			Cut of modern ditch. Vertical sides.
117	Layer	Layer	Soft dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.2	Buried topsoil. Probably same as 102 and 132.
118	Pit	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.34	Pit fill. Revealed within sondage.
119	Pit	Cut		0.34	Pit cut. Discovered from digging sondage, so extent is unknown. One of probably several intercutting pits. Cannot be defined in plan.
120	Pit	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.25	Probably a pit fill but not defined, hence no cut number. Excavated in sondage.
121	Surface	Layer	Compact light pinkish red sand gravel	0.04	Small spread of compacted gravel that may be part of road 106, isolated by later truncations.
122	Pit	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.06	Pit fill. Cut by pit 119. Not fully excavated. Cuts natural 133?
123	Pit	Cut		0.06	Pit cut. Only small amount seen as was discovered whilst digging a sondage through swathe of intercutting pit fills.
124		Fill/layer?	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt		Cleaning layer. A large swathe of material that is probably intercutting pits, but it cannot be defined any further.
125	Linear	Cut		0.26	Possible cut for linear feature, truncating various deposits, including possibly bisecting the road. Difficult to define in plan or section, but seemed real.
126	Pit	Fill	Loose mid reddish brown silty sand	0.2	Loose fill of rectangular feature.
127	Pit	Cut		0.2	Rectangular feature, cutting road 106. Thought to be a grave but no remains found, despite good bone preservation on site.
128	Layer	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.12	Early layer seen running under road 121 and layer 131. Charcoal and pottery rich. Sampled.

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
129	Linear	Fill	Soft light pinky brown sandy silt	0.26	Possible linear fill. Poorly defined cut makes understanding difficult.
130	Linear	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.28	Fill of linear 125.
131	Layer	Layer	Firm mid pinky brown sandy silt	0.04	Layer seen under possible road surface 121.
132	Layer	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.32	Probable buried topsoil, like 102 and 117.
133	Natural	Layer	Compact mid orangey red sandy silt		Natural

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: P4260)

The archive consists of:

31	Context records AS1
2	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
51	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
2	Permatrace drawing sheets AS34
1	Recorded finds records AS13
1	Sample records AS17
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
1	Flot records AS21
1	Pollen score sheet AS35
1	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:

Dean Heritage Centre
Camp Mill,
Soudley
Forest of Dean
Gloucestershire
GL14 2UB
Tel: 01594 822170