

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF LAND OFF  
FROGLANDS LANE,  
CLEEVE PRIOR,  
WORCESTERSHIRE



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## **Archaeological evaluation of land off Froglands Lane, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire**

Richard Bradley

With contributions by Elizabeth Pearson and Dennis Williams

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in early November 2013 across approximately 0.84 hectares of land off Froglands Lane, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 408493, 249593. It was commissioned by Brodie Manning (the Agent) acting on behalf of Mr Tony Farmer (the Client), who has proposed a residential development with associated infrastructure upon the site.

Seven trenches, each of 30m length, were excavated across the site, which was considered to include known heritage assets and potential heritage assets. Extant ridge and furrow earthworks, surviving in good condition and of medieval or post-medieval origin, are visible across the field (WSM 31640) and the surrounding area is rich in prehistoric and Romano-British buried archaeological remains.

Across the excavated trenches, the archaeology observed suggested that this site occupies an area of Romano-British and earlier medieval activity in close proximity to, or perhaps including, small-scale rural settlement. This was later supplanted by the post-medieval agricultural landscape demonstrated by the ridge and furrow earthworks. The archaeological features revealed were generally heavily truncated, being very shallow and of insubstantial size, although larger boundary or enclosure ditches also exist. Artefacts recovered from the features were mainly of late Roman, medieval (particularly the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval date, being consistent with domestic waste material. Environmental evidence suggested that cereal crops of medieval origin were being stored and possibly processed in close proximity to this site.

There was a noticeable increase in the density of features towards the southern boundary of the site and, in particular, the south-east corner of the field. The depth of topsoil and subsoil sealing the earlier archaeology was extensive but would be unlikely to protect archaeological features from intrusive groundworks during any development on the site.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken across approximately 0.84 hectares of land off Froglands Lane, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 408493, 249593. It was commissioned by Brodie Manning (the Agent) acting on behalf of Mr Tony Farmer (the Client), in response to a brief (the Brief) prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (the Curator) in October 2013 (WCC 2013). The Brief results from the submission of a planning application to Wychavon District Council (ref. W/13/1794). This has proposed a residential development of 22 homes with associated infrastructure.

The proposed development site is considered by the Curator to include known heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application. Extant ridge and furrow earthworks, surviving in good condition and of medieval or post-medieval origin, are visible across the field (WSM 31640; Plate 2) and the surrounding area is rich in prehistoric and Romano-British buried archaeological remains. Development on the site is considered by the Curator to leave minimal scope for preservation *in situ* (WCC 2013).

The project conforms to the Brief prepared by the Curator (WCC 2013), for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2013).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, provided by the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record is WSM 50190.

### 2 Aims

The overall 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 project was undertaken by Richard Bradley, BA (hons.); MA; AlfA, who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2008 and has been practicing archaeology since 2005. Fieldwork assistance was provided by Peter Lovett, BSc (hons.), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practising archaeology since 2004. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan, BA (hons.); MA; AlfA. Illustrations were prepared by Steve Rigby and Carolyn Hunt, Dennis Williams contributed the finds information and Elizabeth Pearson provided the environmental evidence.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500m radius of the site. This included the historic mapping of the area from a 1772 estate map onwards.

Reports on previous archaeological work in the vicinity were also retrieved and Google Earth aerial photographs of the site consulted.

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### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between 4 November and 7 November following a detailed specification prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013).

Seven trenches, each of 30m length and covering a total area of just over 336m<sup>2</sup>, were excavated across the site area of 0.84ha, representing a sample of c 4% (Plate 1). These were not targeted on any specific cropmarks, features or anomalies, but were positioned in a random grid array to provide a sample of the site. The exact location of these was slightly restricted by the presence of an overhead electricity cable crossing the northern part of the site, from which a exclusion zone of 10m was maintained during the excavation of the trenches.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 5 tonne 360° tracked excavator, employing a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket and under constant 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 Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench locations were surveyed using a differential GPS (Leica NetRover) with an accuracy limit set at 0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

### 3.4 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.

### 3.5 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

#### 3.5.1 Recovery policy

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

#### 3.5.2 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. These date ranges were used for determining the broad phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

#### 3.5.3 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
- post-medieval pottery, and;
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

### **3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson**

#### **3.6.1 Sampling policy**

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). A total of two samples (each of 10 litres) were taken from the site (Table 5 below). Both were from undated features, but the environmental remains present suggest that these may be of medieval to post-medieval date.

#### **3.6.2 Processing and analysis**

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

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammscale. The flots were 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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Stace 2010).

#### **3.6.3 Discard policy**

Unsorted residues will be discarded 6 months after the submission of this report.

### **3.7 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. It is considered that the levels, nature and complexity of the archaeology on this site has been characterised as far as is reasonably possible.

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and current land-use**

The site is located just to the north of the main street of Cleeve Prior and is currently in use as pasture farmland, having previously been ploughed. It is defined by an historic boundary hedgeline to the east, the back gardens of properties to the south, Froglands Lane to the west and the field continues as open ground to the north. The northern part of the development site is transected by a power line. The field is broadly level, at around 51m AOD, and ridge and furrow is clearly visible as earthworks across the area (Plate 2).

Geologically, the site is situated on the bedrock geology of the Wilmcote Limestone Member comprising interbedded mudstone and limestone (BGS 2013). The soils across the area are identified as slowly permeable calcareous clays associated with limestone geology of the Evesham 1 Soil Association (Ragg *et al.* 1984).

### **4.2 Archaeological context**

Cleeve Prior is a village situated in the fertile Vale of Evesham, around 7km north-east of Evesham itself. The current settlement has early medieval origins and charters record that the Manor of Cleeve was given by *Æthelred* (AD 866-871) to the Prior of Worcester (Wychavon District Council 2008). Interestingly, a small Anglo-Saxon brooch probably originating from East Anglia and dated to around the 6<sup>th</sup> century was found to the north-west of Cleeve Prior, about 350m from the site, during metal detecting activity (WSM 22898). This was a trefoil headed brooch with a square central plate and triangular projections, a type often found on cemetery sites. In the Domesday Survey of 1086, the village was documented as *Clyve*, still belonging to Worcester and including a mill, with about 108 people and a priest in the village (Thorn and Thorn 1982; VCH III, 308-312; Wychavon District Council 2008).



The site itself is situated just to the north-west of the main area of the historic medieval settlement (WSM 23323), which is focused on St Andrew's church, located around 400m to the south-east (WSM 02807). The church has structural features that date to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century, although it was heavily restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Brooks and Pevsner 2007, 230-231), and a number of other medieval buildings also survive in the village. Perhaps the most significant is the Manor House, a late 16<sup>th</sup> century half-timbered building with 14<sup>th</sup> century elements (WSM 02805). This has a medieval dovecote to the rear surrounded by a late 17<sup>th</sup> century formal garden with topiary (WSM 02806; WSM 21264; Brooks and Pevsner 2007, 230-231). The King's Arms public house (WSM 12981) may also date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and there are a number of fields around the village that demonstrate evidence of medieval and later open field strip farming in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks (WSM 50136; WSM 50138; WSM 50137). These include those identified in the field off Froglands Lane (WSM 31640) where the evaluation trenching took place.

There are also indications of earlier occupation in the area, particularly of prehistoric and Roman date. There are cropmarks around 300m north-east of the site that are interpreted as enclosure boundaries of prehistoric origin (WSM 05482) and worked flints have been recovered during fieldwalking 450m to the south (Hurst 1999; WSM 23281). A conjectured Iron Age occupational site may also exist about 300m south-east of the site (WSM 20008).

Occupation may have continued from the prehistoric to the Roman period. Cleeve Prior is positioned around 2km to the west of Ryknild Street (WSM 30556), a major Roman road now under the B4085 that linked Alcester to the settlement at Bourton. A possible centre of Roman activity has been identified in fields to the north-west of the village alongside the River Avon (WSM 35880). This is focussed upon a Roman road or track (WSM 30621) which runs along the ridge that scarps down to the River Avon and may have once been a loop road joining Cleeve Prior to Ryknild Street via Bretforton (Cox 1959, 65–7; Wychavon District Council 2008).

Numerous archaeological interventions and discoveries have taken place here, around 450m north-west of the current site, and a concentration of activity was recorded during a survey of Romano-British occupation sites in the Vale of Evesham undertaken in the late 1960s (Cox 1967; Site 14). This area, known locally as 'Froglands', extends over a couple of fields and has produced coins, brooches, pottery and a range of small finds of lead and bronze from the Iron Age to Roman period (WSM 02836; WSM 04021; WSM 17803; WSM 20022; WSM 33915; WSM 33916). Two skeletons have also been found close by; one discovered in 1935 was accompanied by a Severn Valley Ware tankard and unusually, a tazza, thought to have been used in domestic rituals (Webster 1959, 67; WSM 02794). The second, observed in 2009, was found in a 1m square test pit and the skull was positioned at the feet of the inhumation (WSM 42421).

Other recent archaeological work in this area has included a geophysical survey of part of the 'Froglands' in 2003, which indicated possible linear and curvilinear features (WSM 32754). A watching brief was also carried out at Froglands Farm in 2006 which uncovered earthworks associated with post-medieval strip fields (Cook 2006; WSM 35771).

Further to the south-west, around 350m from the site, Roman pottery and coins have been recovered (WSM 26362). The most significant find in this vicinity was the Sheppey Hoard, discovered in 1811 by Thomas Sheppey whilst digging for stone. The hoard was comprised of about 3,000 coins, including c 100 gold and c 600 silver, contained within two red earthenware pots (WSM 02793). The coins ranged in date from Valerian (AD 253-260) to Theodosius (AD 379-395), indicating that this hoard was deposited towards the end of Roman rule of Britain.

Additional evidence of Roman activity is known outside of the 500m search area, around 2km to the south of Cleeve Prior, where two possible villa sites exist. At Middle Hill, cropmarks and surface finds including metalwork and coins suggest the presence of a fairly wealthy settlement (Watson 1985, WSM 03916). Near Middle Littleton, unpublished excavations revealed walls, floors and Roman artefacts (Cox 1967, WSM 02803).

There has been no previous archaeological work on the site itself, but a watching-brief was completed around 200m to the east in 2006 which found medieval pottery (Vaughan and Jacobs 2006; WSM 35088). Also, a series of evaluation trenches were excavated 300m to the south-east which revealed post-medieval features (Jackson and Darch 2002; WSM 31972).

Within the 500m search area there are 47 historic building records, 42 of which are listed buildings. Those closest to the site include Top Farm (WSM 50139), across Froglands Lane to the west, and the nearby Grade II listed cottages and house known as 'Dingley Dell', dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards (WSM 39050; WSM 39051; WSM 30952). The gardens of three Grade II listed cottages also back onto the site (WSM 39053; WSM 39054; WSM 30955). Historic map evidence indicates that the site has been an agricultural field in its current form for a considerable period; the only change has been the removal of some of the field boundaries. It is likely that the site had been used for medieval and post-medieval farming associated with the forerunners of the nearby farm or the cottage properties adjacent to the road that back onto the field.

The site lies within the Cleeve Prior Conservation Area, recognised for the architectural and historic interest of the settlement, as well as the strong historic and visual link between the village and its agricultural setting (Wychavon District Council 2008). This was first designated in 1969 and revised in 1983, before being reviewed and appraised in 2008.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-9. All original records are retained within the site archive. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

The natural substrate was encountered in all seven of the trenches excavated. This was slightly variable across the area but generally comprised a firm yellowish-orangey brown sandy clay with occasional patches of limestone brash. It was present between 0.40-0.72m below the current ground surface (see Plates 3, 5 and 7).

### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric deposits**

No features could be definitively ascribed to this period, but evidence of prehistoric activity was noted in some of the trenches. Fragments of worked flint were found in the subsoil of Trench 7 and in the fills of two features. One piece was in a linear ditch [305] that also included Roman pottery (Fig 5; see below) and another was found in a small pit [404] that truncated a gully [406] of Roman origin (Fig 6). This suggests that the flint was residual within these features and that rather than demonstrate clear evidence for prehistoric settlement activity, is more indicative of a general background scatter of material across the site. This correlates with the archaeological evidence from the wider area.

### **5.1.3 Phase 3: Roman deposits**

Towards the south-east end of Trench 3 a linear ditch feature 1.80m wide was excavated that may once have acted as a boundary or field drainage ditch [305] (Fig 5). It contained two fills, the lowest of which included pottery of Roman origin, as well as the prehistoric flint mentioned above. In the centre of Trench 5 what initially appeared to be a single large ditch was, upon excavation, revealed to be three ditches of varying size; [514], [516] and [518] (Fig 7, Plate 5). The latest of these, [518], was 1.60m wide and 0.38m deep and truncated the fills of the earlier ditches. It contained Roman pottery and animal bone within a single homogenous fill. The fills of the earlier ditches were comparable in nature and potentially of contemporary date, with ditch [514] including pottery of late 4<sup>th</sup> century origin. This ditch was substantial, being v-shaped in profile, 1.20m wide and 0.80m deep. It is possible that the sequence here indicates a three-phase re-establishment of a boundary or, if ditches [514] and [516] are contemporary, potentially represents a double-ditched enclosure redefined by a single ditch at a later date. The full extent or position of this possible enclosure was

not identified during the course of the evaluation, although unexcavated ditches [708] and [710] on roughly comparable alignments in Trench 7 may mark a continuation of the feature (Fig 9). There was a lack of Roman period discrete activity within the area defined by this ditch (although because of the very nature of trial trenching this area observed was limited), so it was difficult to determine if this ditch actually enclosed an occupational area rather than just a field, but that does remain a possibility. The size and shape of ditch [514] may suggest a more defensive purpose.

At the north-west end of Trench 4 a small gully was found that contained Roman Severn Valley Ware pottery [406]. This had been truncated by a sub-circular pit filled with a large amount of animal bone and a piece of residual flint [404] (Fig 6, Plate 7), which in turn was slightly truncated by a large unexcavated feature of uncertain form or purpose [411]. A lack of finds from this means it was unclear if these interrelated features were all of Roman origin and representative of a concentration of Roman activity on the site, or if the stratigraphically later features truncating the Roman gully represent post-Roman deposits.

#### **5.1.4 Phase 4: Medieval**

A number of features across the trenches contained pottery from the medieval period and this broadly correlates in date with the documented development of settlement at Cleeve Prior. In Trench 7, a small gully [715] 0.24m deep and 0.66m wide was dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century by the cooking pot found within its upper fill and a fragment of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century cooking pot was retrieved from the surface of unexcavated feature [704] (Fig 9). A further fragment of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found in the subsoil of Trench 6 and a shallow but 2.7m wide ditch [107] in Trench 1 was dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. This ditch truncated two earlier features – [109] and [111] – and could therefore suggest a sequence of medieval activity on the site (Fig 3).

None of these features that were demonstrably of a medieval phase of activity could be clearly ascribed to a particular purpose due to the limits of the trenching, but the nature of the pottery and the amount of animal bone found would appear to indicate that these features had been infilled with domestic waste.

In Trench 4, a 0.85m wide gully was excavated and found to contain two separate infilling episodes, 0.36m in depth [409] (Fig 6). Though it remained undated by finds, the environmental evidence suggests that it was likely to be of medieval origin. Free-threshing wheat was dominant in the fill, a crop encountered from around the middle Saxon period onwards. The uppermost of these fills also contained large pieces of animal bone and the lower a noticeable concentration of charcoal, suggesting that deliberate dumping occurred here and that it is likely to be in close proximity to occupational activity (Plate 6). Similarly, a small pit excavated in Trench 5 [506] can also be dated to the medieval period by the environmental evidence within it. Again, free-threshing wheat was recovered and the fill was rich in charcoal content (Plate 4, Fig 7).

#### **5.1.5 Phase 5: Post-medieval deposits**

With the exception of Trench 7, all of the trenches excavated contained features that were either clearly identifiable as plough furrows or morphologically suggestive of such. These are likely to relate to later medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity across the site and were all broadly aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, correlating well with the visible earthworks across the field and between the various trenches. Where excavated, in Trench 1 [105], these were seen to be very wide (up to 5m) with a narrower central channel, 1.8m wide and 0.45m in depth (Fig 3). No pottery was recovered from the furrows themselves. The ridges of the field system were noted as mounded areas of subsoil in the trenches and the furrows were observed to cut through this material. Pottery recovered from the subsoil in Trench 4 was dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and suggests that the ridge and furrow in this field may be of later medieval to post-medieval origin. The subsoil ranged in depth from 0.16-0.40m and most of the linear and discrete features were found beneath this deposit.

### **5.1.6 Phase 6: Undated deposits**

Due to the extensive amount of features revealed during the evaluation across all trenches, only a sample were hand excavated, leaving many unexcavated and thus undated. These mainly comprised numerous small linear gullies and discrete pit or posthole features and were particularly abundant in Trenches 2, 4, 5 and 7 (Figs 4, 6 and 7). Because of the close association of these with the observed Roman and medieval features, as well as morphological comparisons and that they were sealed by the subsoil, it is highly likely however that these are representative of similar phases of activity on the site.

A number of the features that were excavated did not produce any dating evidence and were generally found to be very shallow. Pit [608] in Trench 6 (Fig 8) was 0.10m deep and a small gully in Trench 3 [311] was 0.07m in depth (Fig 5). In Trench 2, a small, sub-circular pit 0.08m in depth [204] was found adjacent to a linear ditch terminus [206] that had only survived to a depth of 0.09m (Fig 4). A narrow gully 0.07m in depth and orientated east-west [208] was also excavated. This was seen in plan to truncate a large pit or linear feature at the edge of the trench [214], which was also cut by a small posthole [220] and in turn truncated a further pit or posthole feature [216] (Fig 4). This demonstrated the survival of stratigraphic relationships and suggested that more complex and extensive archaeological remains may exist in this part of the site.

A larger gully feature was encountered in Trench 7 [713] however. This contained two undated fills, was 0.60m wide and 0.38m deep and ran parallel to gully [715], which, as mentioned above, included medieval pottery (Fig 9).

### **5.1.7 Phase 7: Modern deposits**

A number of the unexcavated and undated small linear features described above could potentially be of modern date, but only one feature, [417] found at the south-east end of Trench 4 was clearly identified as a land drain. This had vertical sides and had been backfilled with a compacted redeposited natural material (Fig 6).

Towards the north-west end of Trench 6 a large area of disturbance [614] was noted, and left unexcavated (Fig 8). The feature was potentially of considerable depth as the natural limestone brash had been disturbed and then dumped in the fill (613). Finds from the surface included ceramic building material (CBM), ironwork, post-medieval pottery of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>h</sup> century date and animal bone and indicated it was of modern origin. A recent house extension was visible adjacent to this trench, suggesting that perhaps this was a dump of material from this work. It may also relate to landscaping work undertaken in this area following devastation through disease of a number of elm trees that once existed on the site until the 1970's (pers comm Mr Tony Farmer).

The humic topsoil covering the site had also been clearly disturbed by modern ploughing. This was a soft dark greyish brown clay loam, between 0.23-0.32m in depth, and in places it contained lenses of charcoal and plastic finds, as well as frequent bioturbation. Communication with the landowner suggested that the field had been ploughed for arable use in recent years and this is visible on a number of modern aerial photographs (pers comm Mr Tony Farmer). Other finds recovered from the topsoil across the trenches included Roman black-burnished ware as well as post-medieval pottery, bone and CBM. This is unsurprising given the location of the site and is indicative of general modern activity in close proximity to the site.

## **5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams**

The artefactual assemblage, from 12 stratified contexts, included pottery, bone, brick, clay pipe, flint, metal, shell and tile, as shown in Table 1. The pottery was generally in good condition, with moderate levels of abrasion. The mean sherd weight for the post-medieval pottery was above average (ie >10g), but Roman and medieval sherds were below average (i.e. <10g).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	-	pot	4	12
post-medieval	ceramic	-	brick	4	604
post-medieval	ceramic	-	clay pipe	1	2
post-medieval	ceramic	-	drain	1	36
post-medieval	ceramic	-	pot	16	270
post-medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile	2	176
prehistoric	stone	flint	-	1	1
Roman	ceramic	-	pot	5	36
undated	bone	-	-	2	1
undated	bone	animal bone	-	98	2742
undated	ceramic	fired clay	-	3	9
undated	metal	-	-	2	18
undated	shell	oyster	-	1	24
undated	stone	flint	-	2	5
totals:				142	3936

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

The pottery comprised Roman, medieval and post-medieval sherds as summarised in Table 2.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	2	16
Roman	22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	1	10
Roman	23	Shell gritted ware	1	4
Roman	29	Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated ware	1	6
medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	2	8
medieval	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	1	2

medieval	58	Sandy limestone tempered ware	1	2
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	10	240
post-medieval	85	Modern china	6	30
totals:			25	318

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

### Summary of finds evidence

The context finds summary, with *terminus post quem* date ranges, is shown in Table 3. For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

### Artefacts

#### *Prehistoric*

A flint fragment, probably from a prehistoric microlith, was found in subsoil (701). Further flint fragments, from fills 304 (ditch 305) and 403 (pit 404) had possibly also been worked, and would be residual except possibly in the last case.

#### *Roman*

The Roman pottery was typical domestic material and mainly of a general Roman date range, except for some of the later 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century (Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware; fabric 29) and mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> century (shell-gritted ware; fabric 23), all from fill 513 (ditch 514).

#### *Medieval*

The earlier part of the medieval period was represented by typical cooking pot wares of this period: 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century Worcester cooking pots (fabric 55; fill 106 of ditch 107 and fill 714 of gully 715), and 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century Malvernian cooking pots (fabric 56; fill 703 of possible pit 704). Sandy limestone tempered ware (fabric 58; c 12<sup>th</sup> century) was associated with the subsoil (601), tending to indicate that the medieval activity may have been entirely of about the 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. None of this pottery was particularly diagnostic in terms of form.

#### *Post-medieval*

Black glazed red ware pottery (fabric 78; 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century), including jar and dish rims, were recovered from topsoil/subsoil contexts (400, 401, 500, 600 and 700), and 19<sup>th</sup> century china was also recovered from the topsoil (500). Post-medieval brick, roof tile, clay pipe and drain fragments were confined to topsoil (500, 600 and 700) and fill/layer 613. These are all typical artefacts of the period, and, given the absence of features, are likely to be deposited through the process of manuring the fields or as casual losses.

### Undated finds

Animal bone was recovered from all excavated contexts except topsoil 400 and fill 405 (gully 406). This consisted mainly of cattle and sheep bone, and was not examined in detail (see section 5.3.1 below).

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
106	bone	animal bone		0	2	32	0	0	1075-1400
106	ceramic		pot	55	1	2	1075	1400	
200	bone	animal bone		0	2	32	0	0	120-400
200	ceramic		pot	22	1	10	120	400	
203	bone	animal bone		0	1	16	0	0	–
304	bone	animal bone		0	8	174	0	0	43-400
304	stone	flint		0	1	4	0	0	
304	ceramic		pot	12	1	6	43	400	
400	metal			0	1	14	0	0	1600-1800
400	metal			0	1	4	0	0	
400	ceramic		pot	78	2	24	1600	1800	
401	shell	oyster		0	1	24	0	0	1700-1800
401	bone	animal bone		0	4	14	0	0	
401	ceramic		pot	78	2	34	1700	1800	
403	bone	animal bone		0	1	430	0	0	earlier prehistoric
403	bone	animal bone		0	18	218	0	0	
403	stone	flint		0	1	1	0	0	
405	ceramic		pot	12	1	10	43	400	43-400
407	bone	animal bone		0	22	918	0	0	–
500	bone	animal bone		0	3	176	0	0	1800-1900
500	ceramic		roof tile	0	1	94	1600	1800	
500	ceramic		pot	78	1	4	1700	1800	
500	ceramic		pot	85	2	10	1800	1900	
505	bone	animal bone		0	1	1	0	0	–
513	bone	animal bone		0	9	98	0	0	350-400
513	ceramic		pot	29	1	6	275	400	
513	ceramic	fired clay		0	2	8	0	0	
513	ceramic		pot	23	1	4	350	400	
515	bone	animal bone		0	3	36	0	0	–
517	bone	animal bone		0	7	282	0	0	–
600	ceramic		pot	78	1	38	1600	1800	1800-1900
600	ceramic		pot	85	4	20	1800	1900	
600	ceramic		roof tile	0	1	82	1600	1900	
600	ceramic		clay pipe	0	1	2	1600	1900	
600	bone	animal bone		0	1	8	0	0	
601	bone	animal bone		0	4	12	0	0	1100-1200
601	ceramic		pot	58	1	2	1100	1200	
603	bone			0	2	1	0	0	–
603	bone	animal bone		0	1	1	0	0	
603	ceramic	fired clay		0	1	1	0	0	
613	bone	animal bone		0	3	170	0	0	1600-1800
613	ceramic		pot	78	1	48	1600	1800	
613	ceramic		brick	0	3	508	1600	1900	
613	ceramic		pot	78	1	16	1600	1800	

613	bone	animal bone		0	3	78	0	0	
700	bone	animal bone		0	3	42	0	0	
700	ceramic		pot	78	2	76	1600	1800	1600-
700	ceramic		brick	0	1	96	1600	1900	1900
700	ceramic		drain	0	1	36	1600	1900	
701	stone	flint		0	1	1	0	0	–
703	bone	animal bone		0	2	4	0	0	
703	ceramic		pot	56	1	2	1200	1400	–
714	ceramic		pot	55	2	8	1075	1400	–

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

The artefacts from this site were significant insofar as they provided evidence for Roman and medieval occupation/activity. The post-medieval finds were of less archaeological interest, since they were confined to near-surface deposits, and therefore had probably been incorporated mainly through agricultural activity, especially manuring.

### 5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

#### 5.3.1 Animal bone

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered totalling 100 fragments (2.75 kg) from 21 contexts, widely distributed across the site of Roman, medieval and later date (Table 4). The assemblage was too small to merit detailed analysis at this stage, but is an indication that animal bone from full excavation may yield sufficient material for full analysis. The evaluation material, nevertheless, may have potential to provide information on animal husbandry techniques and food or craft/industrial waste if combined with other datasets.

context	Typ date range	count	weight(g)
106	1075 - 1400	2	32
200	120 - 400	2	32
203		1	16
304	43 - 400	8	174
401	1700 - 1800	4	14
403	early prehistoric	1	430
403	early prehistoric	18	218
407		22	918
500	1800 - 1900	3	176
505		1	1
513	350 - 400	9	98
515		3	36
517		7	282
600	1800 - 1900	1	8
601	1100 - 1200	4	12
603		2	1
603		1	1
613	1600 - 1800	3	78
613	1600 - 1800	3	170
700	1600 - 1800	3	42
703		2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>2743</b>

Table 4: List of hand-collected animal bone



### 5.3.2 Macrofossil remains

Rich assemblages of charred cereal grain were recovered from gully fill (408) and pit fill (505) (Table 5). They were dominated by free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing grain), of which a moderate proportion consisted of club wheat (*Triticum aestivum-compactum*), a variety of wheat which produces very short, compact grains. Oat grains were also moderately abundant in gully fill (408), and occasional grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were recorded in both contexts. As only occasional weed seeds were found charred with the cereal remains, these assemblages appear to represent relatively clean grain products.

Occasional fragments of large mammal bone and molluscs were also recorded, the latter including *Vallonia* sp, *Ceciloides* sp and *Vertigo* sp (Table 6).

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
408	1	Linear	409	medieval to post-med	10	10	Yes	Yes
505	2	Pit	506	medieval to post-med	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 5: List of environmental samples

Context	Sample	large mammal	small mammal	mollusc	charred plant	waterlogged plant	Comment
408	1	occ	occ	occ	abt	abt*	
505	2			occ	abt	mod*	occ pot, flint flake

Table 6: Summary of environmental remains from bulk samples

**Key:** occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, \* = probably modern contamination

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	408	505
<b>Uncharred plant remains</b>					
unidentified root fragments	unidentified			+++	++
<b>Charred plant remains</b>					
<i>Triticum aestivo-compactum</i> grain	Poaceae	club wheat	F	++	++
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	++	+++
<i>Triticum</i> sp grain	Poaceae	wheat	F		+
<i>Triticum</i> sp spikelet fork	Poaceae	wheat	F	+	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	+	+
<i>Avena</i> sp grain	Poaceae	oat	AF	++	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp	Fabaceae	vetch/pea	ABCD	+	+
<i>Melilotus/Medicago</i> sp	Fabaceae	melilot/medick	ABD	+	
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Brassicaceae	black mustard	ABF		+
<i>Atriplex</i> sp	Amaranthaceae	orache	AB		+
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Asteraceae	stinking chamomile	AB	++	
<i>Persicaria/Carex</i> sp	Polygonaceae/Cyperaceae	knotweed/water-	ABCDE	+	

		pepper/sedge etc			
<i>Poa annua</i> grain	Poaceae	annual meadow-grass	AB	+	
Poaceae sp indet grain	Poaceae	grass	AF	++	
Poaceae sp indet culm node	Poaceae	grasses	AF	+	

Table 7: Plant remains from bulk samples

**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	

**5.3.3 Discussion**

Although the charred cereal crop remains were recovered from undated deposits the composition of the both the assemblages suggests a medieval to post-medieval date. The features were cut into natural and sealed by ridge and furrow. As free-threshing wheat (including club wheat) dominates both assemblages, and only became the dominant wheat crop from around the middle Saxon period onwards in the British Isles, this material is unlikely to be earlier than middle Saxon date and no later than the ridge and furrow earthworks sealing these contexts.

Rich assemblages of charred cereal grain, representing a stored grain product, are rare from medieval to post-medieval rural sites in Worcestershire and the West Midlands, and therefore are of local to regional significance. There is little archaeological evidence to indicate the settlement context, and hence it is difficult to interpret the activity from which this material derives, and whether the settlement was largely arable. However, should cereal crop waste be recovered from future fieldwork in the vicinity, it may be possible to make more detailed interpretation of the evidence from this site.

**6 Synthesis**

It was apparent from the evaluation trenching undertaken that a number of phases of buried archaeological remains are present across this site, although they appeared to have been heavily truncated by later agricultural activity. Only a few of the features had survived to a substantial depth and it was noted that discrete features were more prevalent towards the southern boundary of the site, particularly in the south-east area where Trenches 2, 4 and 5 were positioned (Fig 2). The archaeological potential of the site identified by the Brief was supported by the features observed and these correlate well with the known activity in the surrounding landscape.

Prehistoric remains were restricted to worked flint residual in later context. Although these artefacts improve our understanding of the archaeological character for this area more generally, they did not date any features directly and were not indicative of a particular type of activity taking place on the site. Perhaps of particular note, during the course of the project a number of prehistoric artefacts found in a garden to the south of the site were presented to the excavators by a local resident. It is possible that these were indicative of more focused prehistoric activity just outside the site area and that the flint objects found in the trenching are outlying finds from this.

Romano-British period archaeology was demonstrated by linear gully and ditch features in Trenches 3, 4 and 5. Potential associated discrete activity with a number of nearby undated features and the possible continuation of the large linear ditches found in Trench 5 into Trench 7 was also observed but could not be clearly defined as being from the Roman period. Although the pottery evidence for this period was not extensive, with only a few sherds recovered, it appeared to be of domestic origin and possibly of later Roman date (4<sup>th</sup> century). A large number of animal

bones were recovered from these features as well and they were well-preserved and often of substantial size. There were no clear structural remains observed but these finds would appear to indicate that the site contains features associated with Roman settlement activity and that the site is in close proximity to this. It may even be the case that the substantial linear ditch in Trench 5 marks the edge of a small enclosure. Due to the moderate abrasion and the small sherd size however, there does remain the possibility that this material is residual within features that are actually of post-Roman and later date.

Medieval archaeology was indicated by a ditch, a gully and a possible pit in Trenches 1 and 7 and a number of morphologically similar features across the trenches in the southern part of the site could also date from this period. The pottery was suggestive of an earlier medieval date for these features, probably from the 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century, and it was mainly cooking pot wares that were recovered. Again, no clear structural remains were in evidence, but the finds may demonstrate that the archaeological features are associated with medieval settlement activity in the vicinity. The environmental remains also support this interpretation, suggesting that cereal grain was being stored and possibly processed nearby during the medieval period. This is unsurprising given the documented origins of Cleeve Prior itself and it is likely that this archaeology relates to the development of the current village. It is also possible that the archaeology here is representative of separate small-scale occupation positioned alongside the former trackway that is now Froglands Lane, running off the main street a little way outside of the main area of the settlement. As mentioned above (Section 4.2), the historic medieval core of Cleeve Prior is located around 400m to the south-east. Interestingly, comparable pottery of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered during watching-brief work 200m to the east of the site (Vaughan and Jacobs 2006, 4-5).

The features identified as furrows across the trenches were all broadly aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and were considered to date to the post-medieval period, possibly the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and they sealed the archaeology found to be of medieval date. These were generally spaced around 6-8m apart and correlated with the position of the extant ridge and furrow earthworks in the field, being the remains of the agricultural landscape surrounding the village.

## **7 Significance**

### **7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site**

The archaeological remains observed during the trenching appear to indicate an area of Romano-British and earlier medieval activity in close proximity to, or perhaps including, small-scale rural settlement. This was later supplanted by a post-medieval agricultural landscape. The features revealed were generally heavily truncated, being very shallow and of insubstantial size, although larger boundary or enclosure ditches were observed and sampled.

Evidence of activity in the area was demonstrated by finds from the prehistoric period onwards, but artefacts dated the features to mainly the late Roman, medieval (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval periods, being consistent with domestic waste material.

The environmental evidence was represented by charred cereal crop remains and the composition of the assemblage suggests a medieval to post-medieval date.

### **7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site**

The archaeological remains were of variable importance, with some being quite limited and others of a higher level of interest. The Roman archaeology was significant purely on a local level as evidence of small-scale rural activity, as were the post-medieval agricultural remains which were demonstrative of land use around the edge of Cleeve Prior during this period. The medieval features are also significant on a local level, but may also be of more regional interest if found to survive across the wider area of the site as part of the earlier medieval settlement at Cleeve Prior. In environmental terms, rich assemblages of charred free-threshing wheat grain representing a cleaned grain product are of local to regional significance. On a wider scale, this type of

archaeology in the form of small-scale rural medieval activity may allow an improved understanding to be gained of the origins, development, expansion and/or contraction of Cleeve Prior, something recognised as a research priority for rural villages in the West Midlands area more generally (Hunt 2011, 178-9).

### **7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site**

The post-medieval ridge and furrow field system was observed to extend across the majority of the site, excepting the south-west area where Trench 7 and the west end of Trench 6 were located. This part had been landscaped and disturbed by more recent activity but otherwise, the furrows were seen to correlate between trenches. Features dated as either Roman or medieval in date were found in all but Trenches 2 and 6, although undated but morphologically comparable features were seen in these as well. There was a noticeable increase in the density of features towards the southern boundary of the site and in particular, the south-east corner.

As previously highlighted, the survival of many features was limited in depth but it was clear that many of the features extended outside of the trench areas, potentially for a considerable distance. The topsoil and subsoil sealing the earlier archaeology was extensive but would be unlikely to protect archaeological features from intrusive groundworks of more than 0.40m in depth.

## **8 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 in early November 2013 across approximately 0.84 hectares of land off Froglands Lane, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 408493, 249593 (HER reference: WSM 50190).*

*Seven 30m trenches were excavated across the site area, which was considered to include known heritage assets and potential heritage assets. Across the excavated trenches, the archaeology observed suggested that this site contains Romano-British and earlier medieval activity in close proximity to, or perhaps including, small-scale rural settlement. This was later supplanted by the post-medieval agricultural landscape demonstrated by ridge and furrow earthworks. The archaeological features revealed were generally heavily truncated, being very shallow and of insubstantial size, although larger boundary or enclosure ditches were observed and sampled.*

*There was a noticeable increase in the density of features towards the southern boundary of the site and in particular, towards the south-east corner of the field. Artefacts recovered from the features were mainly of late Roman, medieval (particularly the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval date. Environmental evidence suggested that cereal crops of medieval origin were being stored and possibly processed in close proximity to this site.*

## **9 Acknowledgements**

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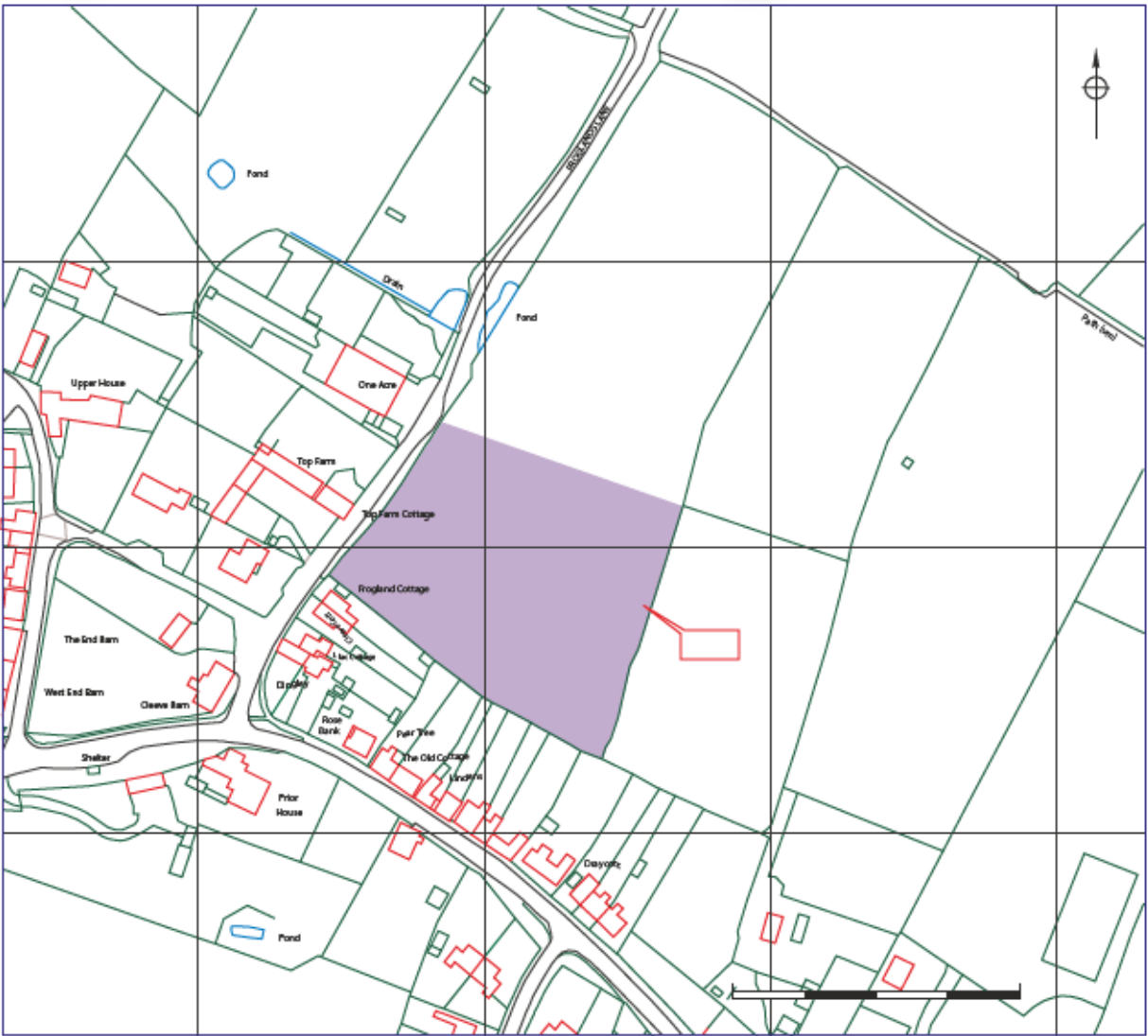
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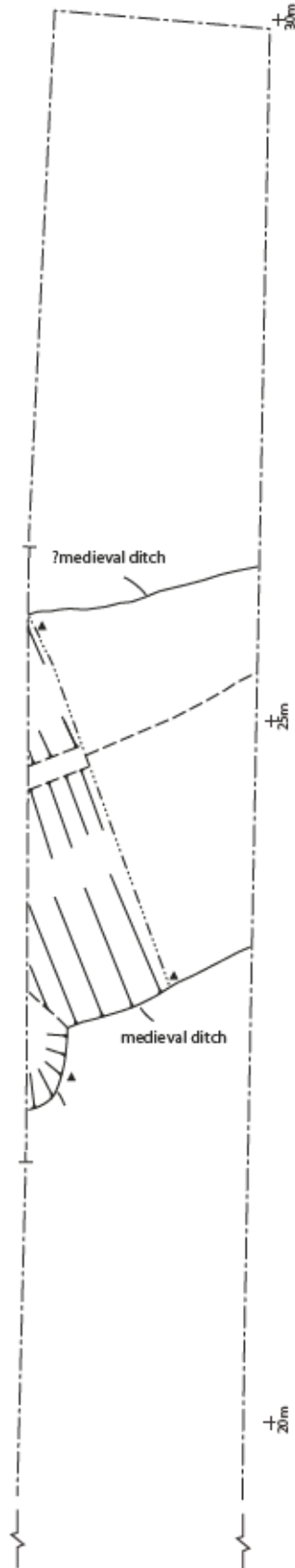
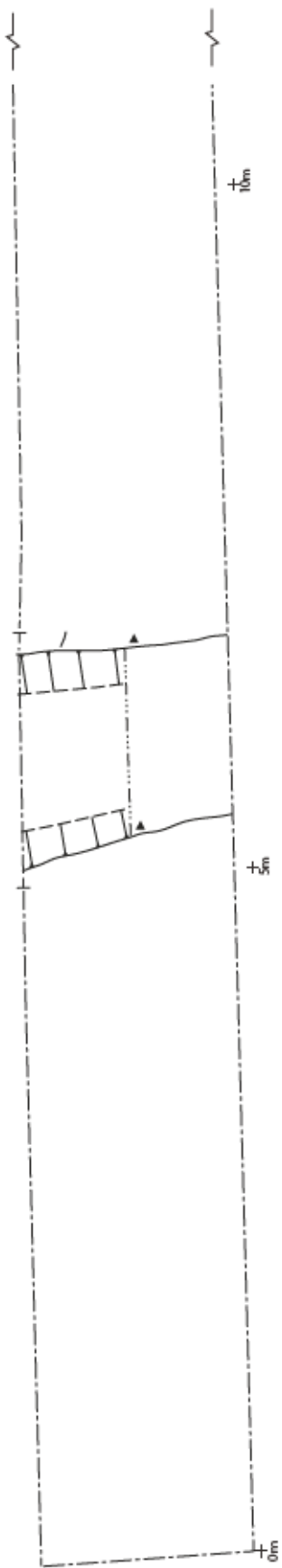
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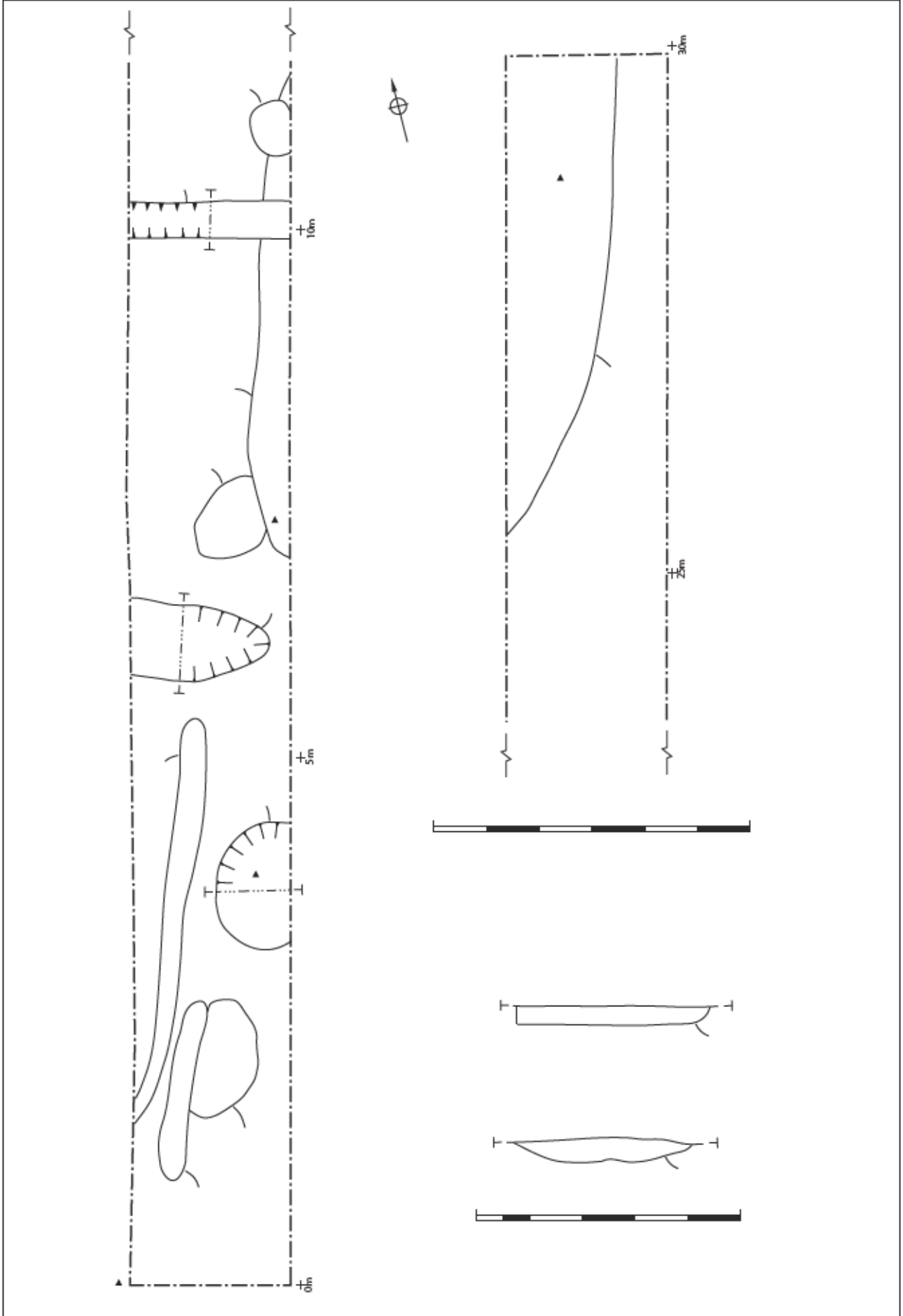


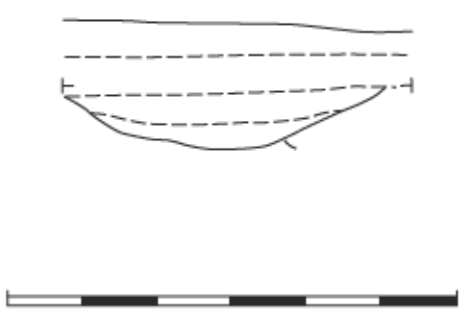
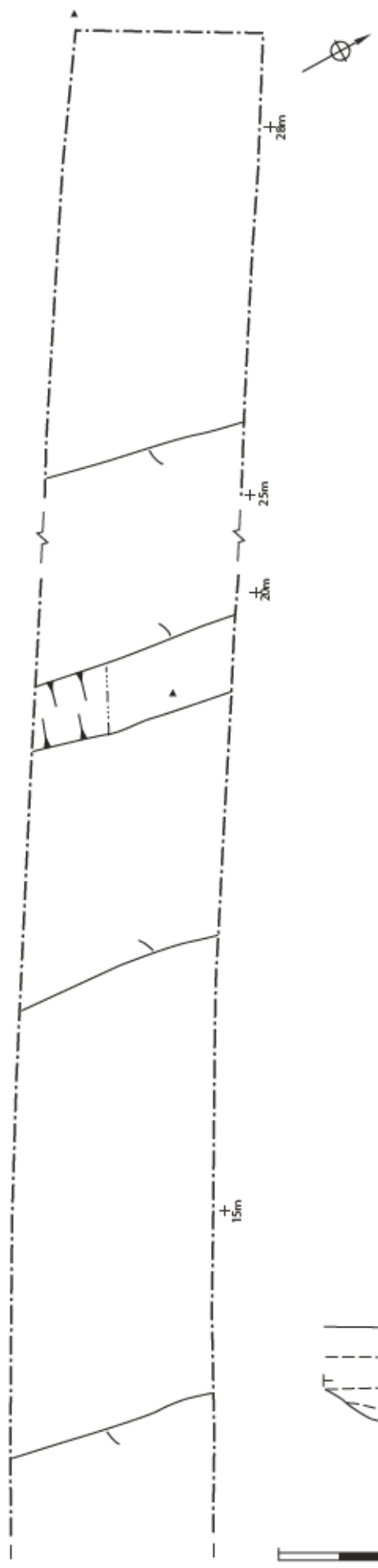
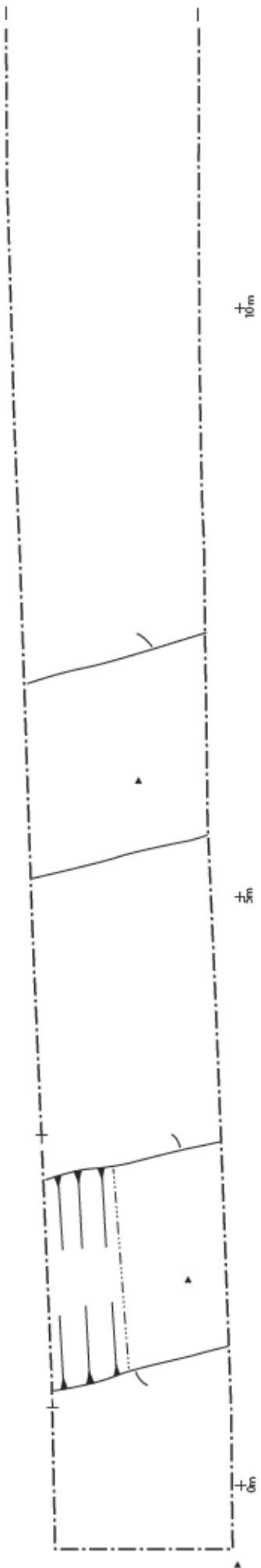


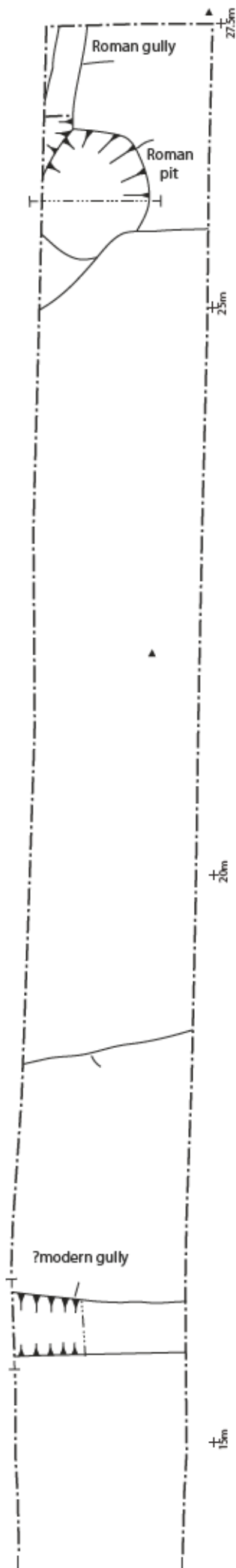
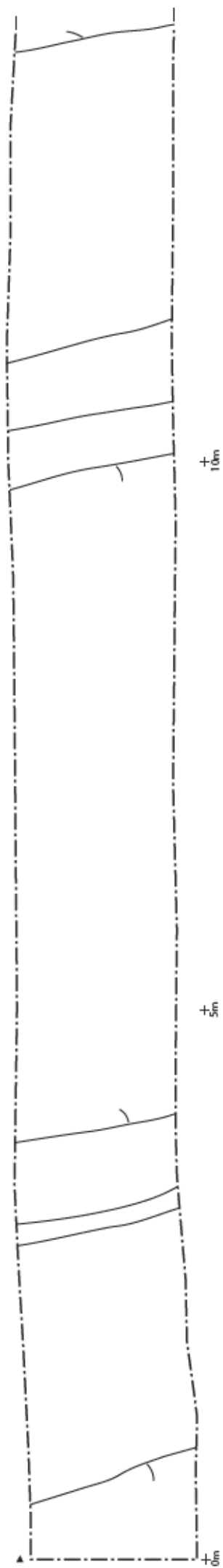


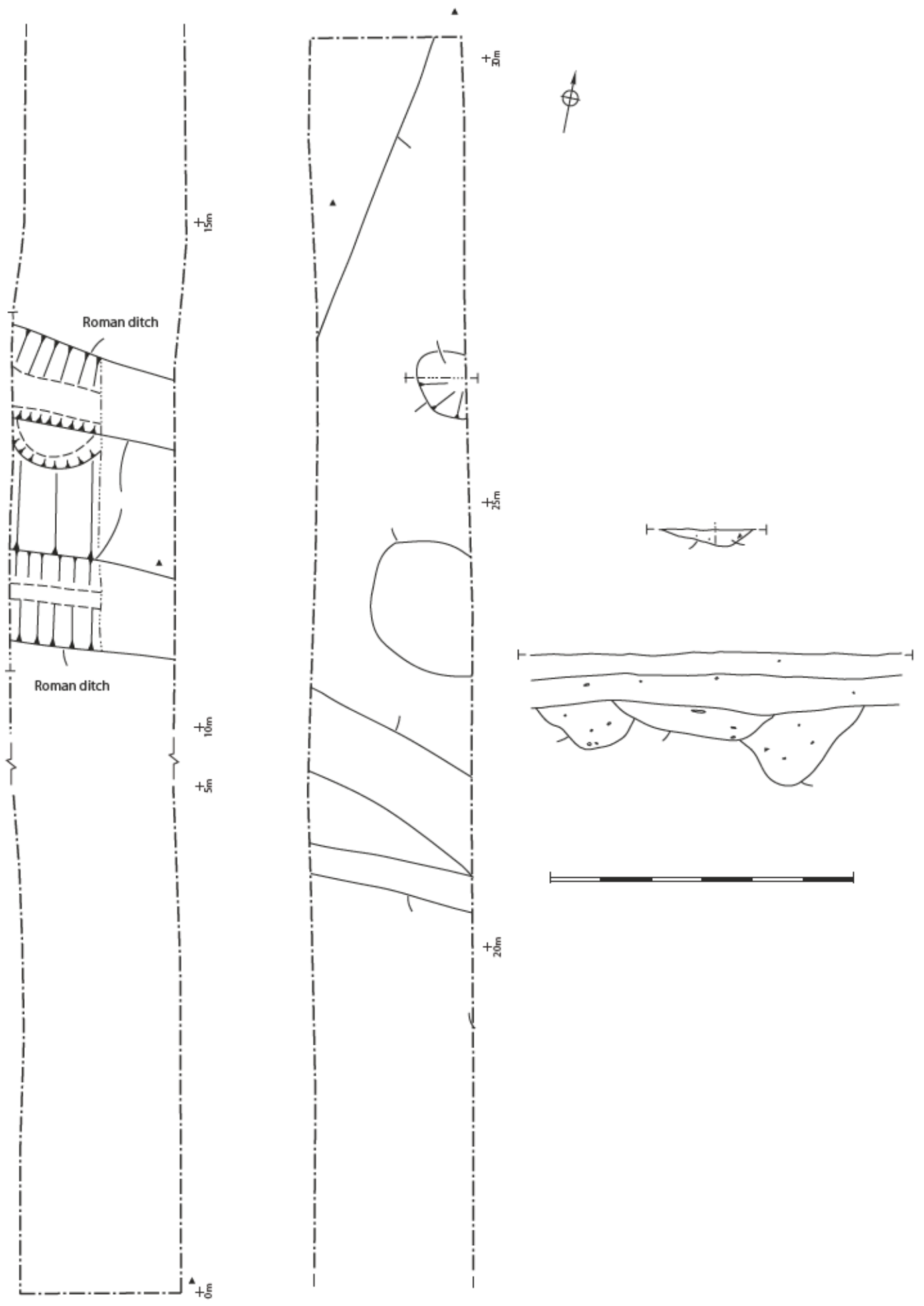


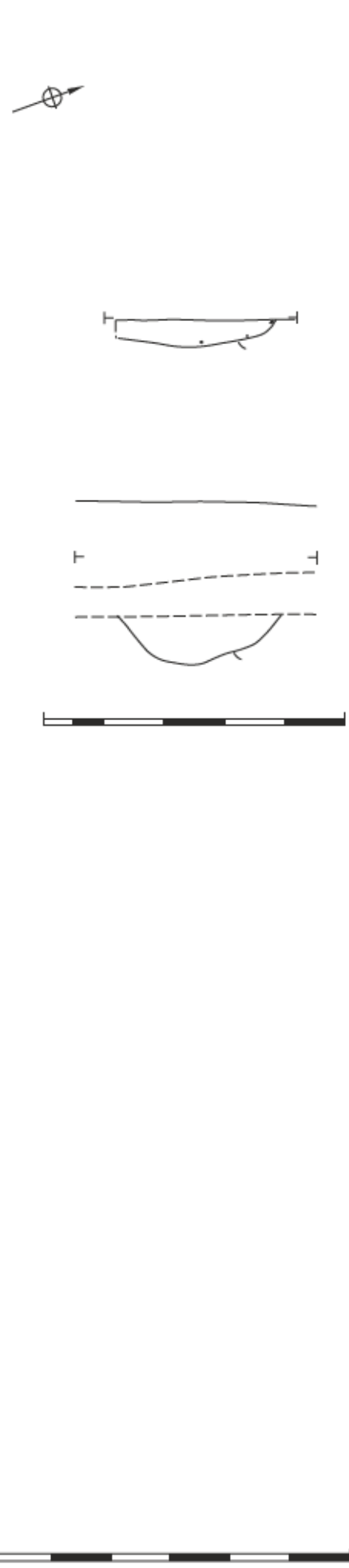
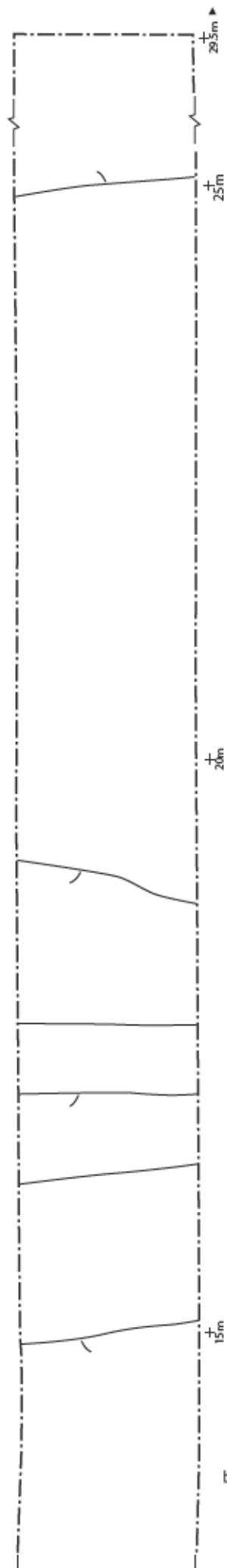




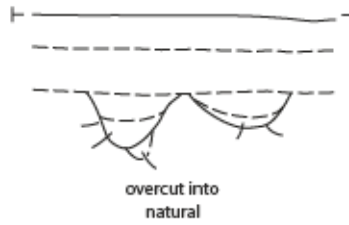
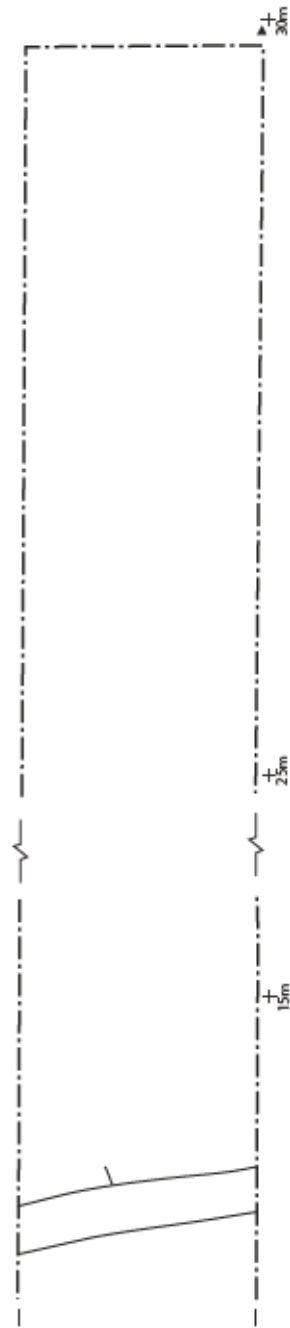
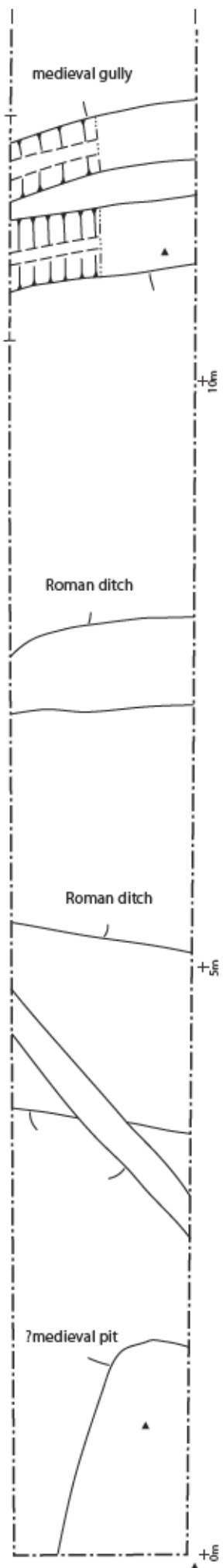












## Plates



*Plate 1: General view of the site with trenches under excavation, facing north-east*



*Plate 2: Ridge and furrow earthworks in the field to the north of the trenching*

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*Plate 3: General view of Trench 6 facing north-west, with gully 604 visible in the foreground*



*Plate 4: Charcoal-rich pit 506, facing north*

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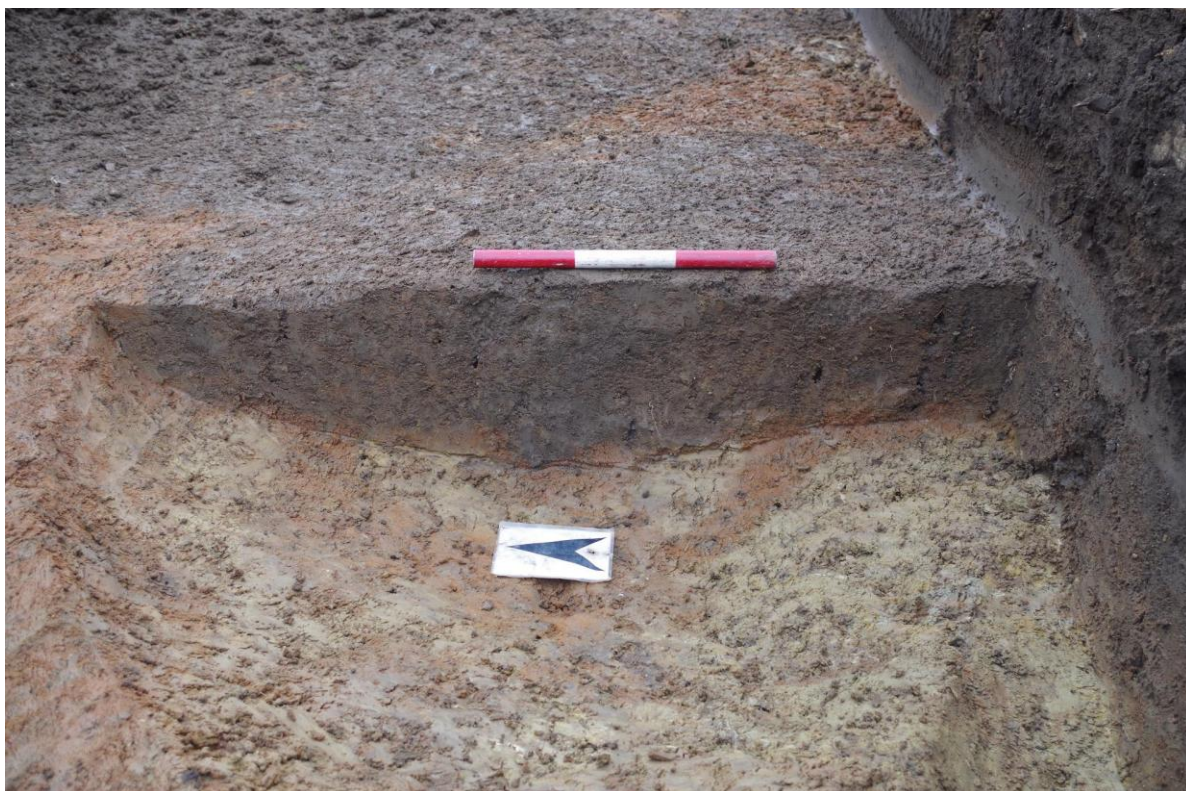


*Plate 5: Inter-cutting ditches containing Roman finds in Trench 5 – 514, 516, 518*



*Plate 6: Animal bone in-situ, well-preserved in the fill of gully 409, Trench 4*

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*Plate 7: West facing section of pit 404, Trench 4*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Main deposit descriptions

#### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m      Width: 1.6m      Depth: 0.72m

Orientation:                      SE-NW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
100	Topsoil	Soft dark reddish brown sandy clay. Thin lens of charcoal and plastic at interface with subsoil in places.	0.00-0.32m
101	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.32-0.72m
102	Natural	Compacted brownish yellow sandy clays.	0.72m
103	Fill	Upper fill of furrow [104]. Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones.	0.32-0.51m
104	Fill	Lower fill of furrow [104]. Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones.	0.51-0.71m
105	Cut	Furrow feature – very wide with a central channel.	0.32-0.71m
106	Fill	Low energy fill of shallow ditch [107]. Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones.	0.32-0.77m
107	Cut	Shallow but wide ditch cut. Truncates [109] and [111].	0.32-77m
108	Fill	Fill of [109]. Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.72-0.97m
109	Cut	Linear feature, possibly a ditch, truncated by feature [107].	0.72-0.97m
110	Fill	Fill of small pit [111]. Soft, light yellowish brown clayey sand.	0.72-0.86m
111	Cut	Sub-circular pit feature, very shallow, observed in section.	0.72-0.86m
112	Fill	Fill of furrow feature [113]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
113	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated.
114	Fill	Fill of furrow feature [113]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
115	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated.

## Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m      Width: 1.6m      Depth: 0.52m

Orientation:                      N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
200	Topsoil	Soft dark grey/brown sandy clay silt. Frequent bioturbation, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.20m
201	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow/brown sandy clay. Occasional angular limestone pieces.	0.20-0.32m
202	Natural	Firm yellow-orange brown sandy clay. Occasional patches of limestone brash.	0.52m
203	Fill	Fill of pit [204]. Soft mid grey/brown sandy clay. Occasional animal bone fragments.	0.52-0.60m
204	Cut	Sub-circular pit. Shallow in depth.	0.52-0.60m
205	Fill	Fill of ditch [206]. Soft mid grey/brown sandy clay.	0.52-0.61m
206	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus. Orientated E-W.	0.52-0.61m
207	Fill	Fill of [208]. Soft mid grey/brown sandy clay.	0.52-0.59m
208	Cut	Shallow and narrow gully feature. Orientated E-W and truncates [214]	0.52-0.59m
209	Fill	Fill of pit [210]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
210	Cut	Cut of pit.	Unexcavated
211	Fill	Fill of gully [212]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
212	Cut	Cut of small gully.	Unexcavated
213	Fill	Fill of possible pit [214]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
214	Cut	Possible large pit feature.	Unexcavated
215	Fill	Fill of small pit [216]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
216	Cut	Cut of small pit.	Unexcavated
217	Fill	Fill of furrow [218]. Unexcavated	0.20m+
218	Cut	Cut of furrow.	Unexcavated
219	Fill	Fill of post hole [220]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
220	Cut	Cut of post hole.	Unexcavated
221	Fill	Fill of gully [222]. Unexcavated.	0.32m+
222	Cut	Cut of small gully.	Unexcavated

**Trench 3**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m      Width: 1.6m      Depth: 0.56m

Orientation:              NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
300	Topsoil	Soft dark grey/brown sandy clay silt. Frequent bioturbation, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.25m
301	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow/brown sandy clay. Occasional angular limestone pieces.	0.25-0.53m
302	Natural	Firm yellow-orange brown sandy clay. Occasional patches of limestone brash.	0.53m
303	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [305]. Firm light brown sandy clay. Occasional limestone pieces and rare charcoal smearing.	0.53-0.76m
304	Fill	Lower fill of ditch [305]. Firm/compact light grey brown clay. Occasional limestone pieces and animal bone, flint and pottery fragments.	0.76-0.93m
305	Cut	Linear feature, possible boundary ditch, orientated N-S	0.53-0.93m
306	Fill	Fill of furrow [307]. Unexcavated.	0.25m+
307	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
308	Fill	Fill of furrow [309]. Unexcavated.	0.25m+
309	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
310	Fill	Fill of gully [311]. Firm mid grey/brown silty clay. Occasional angular limestone pieces, rare charcoal flecks.	0.53-0.60m
311	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated gully. Heavily truncated by ploughing.	0.53-0.60m
312	Fill	Fill of furrow [313]. Unexcavated.	0.25m+
313	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated



#### Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m      Width: 1.6m      Depth: 0.48m

Orientation:                      NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
400	Topsoil	Soft dark grey/brown sandy clay silt. Frequent bioturbation, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.23m
401	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow/brown sandy clay. Occasional angular limestone pieces.	0.23-0.48m
402	Natural	Firm yellow-orange brown sandy clay. Occasional patches of limestone brash.	0.48m
403	Fill	Fill of circular pit [404]. Friable light grey/brown silty clay. Contained rare flecks of charcoal, small limestone pieces and moderate amounts of animal bone fragments.	0.48-0.72m
404	Cut	Sub-circular pit feature. Truncates small gully [406] and is in turn truncated by large linear feature [411].	0.48-0.72m
405	Fill	Fill of gully [406]. Friable light grey/orange-brown sandy clay. Rare pottery and animal bone fragment inclusions.	0.48-0.69m
406	Cut	Cut of small gully. Orientated E-W. Truncated by pit [404]	0.48-0.69m
407	Fill	Upper fill of gully [409]. Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone fragments.	0.48-0.70m
408	Fill	Lower fill of gully [409]. Friable yellow/brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and rare small limestone fragments.	0.70-0.84m
409	Cut	NE-SW orientated gully feature.	0.48-0.84m
410	Fill	Fill of large feature [411]. Unexcavated.	0.48m+
411	Cut	Cut off large feature truncating pit [404]. Possible series of linear features only visible as one in plan.	Unexcavated
412	Fill	Fill of furrow [413]. Unexcavated.	0.23m+
413	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
414	Fill	Fill of gully [415]. Unexcavated.	0.23m+
415	Cut	Cut of linear gully.	Unexcavated.
416	Fill	Mixed backfill of cut [417] for modern land drain. Unexcavated.	0.23m+
417	Cut	Cut for land drain.	Unexcavated
418	Fill	Fill of furrow [419]. Unexcavated.	0.23m+
419	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated

**Trench 5**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.6m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.59m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
500	Topsoil	Soft dark grey/brown sandy clay silt. Frequent bioturbation, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.25m
501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow/brown sandy clay. Occasional angular limestone pieces.	0.25-0.53m
502	Natural	Firm yellow-orange brown sandy clay. Occasional patches of limestone brash.	0.53m
503	Fill	Fill of furrow [504]. Unexcavated.	0.25m+
504	Cut	Cut of furrow.	Unexcavated.
505	Fill	Fill of pit [506]. Soft dark blackish grey silty clay. Frequent charcoal and occasional bone fragment inclusions.	0.53-0.70m
506	Cut	Cut of small, shallow pit feature of unknown function. Filled with charcoal rich material.	0.53-0.70m
507	Fill	Fill of pit [508]. Unexcavated.	0.53m+
508	Cut	Irregular pit feature.	Unexcavated
509	Fill	Fill of linear [510]. Unexcavated.	0.53m+
510	Cut	Cut of linear feature.	Unexcavated
511	Fill	Fill of gully [512]. Unexcavated.	0.53m+
512	Cut	Cut of gully feature.	Unexcavated
513	Fill	Fill of ditch [514]. Firm light greyish brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal flecks, rare pottery and animal bone fragments.	0.53-1.33m
514	Cut	Large linear feature. Orientated E-W. Partially truncated but shallow linear [518]. Possible enclosure or large boundary ditch.	0.53-1.33m
515	Fill	Fill of ditch [516]. Compact mid greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-rounded stones.	0.53-1.05m
516	Cut	Large linear feature. Orientated E-W and partially truncated but shallow ditch [528]. Possible enclosure or boundary ditch.	0.53-1.05m
517	Fill	Fill of shallow linear [518]. Friable mid grey/brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal flecks, sub-angular stones, rare pottery and animal bone fragment inclusions.	0.53-0.91m
518	Cut	Shallow linear feature. Truncates both ditches [514] and [526]. Possible re-establishing of an earlier enclosure/boundary ditch.	0.53-0.91m

## Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.8m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: NW-SE

### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
600	Topsoil	Soft dark grey/brown sandy clay silt. Frequent bioturbation, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.26m
601	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow/brown sandy clay. Occasional angular limestone pieces.	0.26-0.44m
602	Natural	Firm yellow-orange brown sandy clay. Occasional patches of limestone brash.	0.44m
603	Fill	Fill of shallow linear [604]. Friable mid grey/brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks, rare animal bone and pottery fragment inclusions.	0.44-0.60m
604	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated shallow gully. Possibly part of a field drainage system.	0.44-0.60m
605	Fill	Fill of Furrow [606]. Unexcavated.	0.26m+
606	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow.	Unexcavated
607	Fill	Fill of small, shallow pit [608]. Friable light grey/brown silty clay with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.44-0.54m
608	Cut	Small, shallow pit feature. Function unknown.	0.44-0.54m
609	Fill	Fill of furrow [610]. Unexcavated.	0.26+
610	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated furrow	Unexcavated
611	Fill	Fill of linear [612]. Unexcavated.	0.44+
612	Cut	Cut of N-S orientated linear feature.	Unexcavated
613	Fill	Fill of [614]. Unexcavated.	0.44+
614	Cut	Large area of disturbed ground. Modern in date.	Unexcavated

**Trench 7**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m      Width: 1.6m      Depth: 0.46m

Orientation:                      NE-SW

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
700	Topsoil	Soft, loose dark grey/brown sandy silty loamy plough soil.	0.00-0.24m
701	Subsoil	Firm, mid yellow/brown sandy clay.	0.24-0.40m
702	Natural	Firm, mid yellow-orange/brown sandy clay.	0.40m
703	Fill	Fill of pit [704]. Unexcavated	0.40m+
704	Cut	Cut of possible pit feature.	Unexcavated
705	Fill	Mixed backfill of cut [706] for modern land drain. Unexcavated.	0.24m+
706	Cut	Cut for land drain.	Unexcavated
707	Fill	Fill of large linear [708]. Unexcavated.	0.40m+
708	Cut	Cut for large linear feature.	Unexcavated
709	Fill	Fill of gully [710]. Unexcavated.	0.40m+
710	Cut	Cur of small gully feature.	Unexcavated
711	Fill	Upper fill of linear feature [713]. Friable mid orange/brown silty clay.	0.40-0.58m
712	Fill	Lower fill of linear feature [713]. Compact mid grey/brown sandy clay. Rare charcoal flacks and sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.58-0.80m
713	Cut	Linear gully feature of unknown date. Possible part of a field drainage system.	0.40-0.80m
714	Fill	Upper fill of linear [715] Friable mid grey/brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks and rare pottery fragments inclusions.	0.40-0.58m
715	Cut	Small gully feature. Possible drainage gully, part of a field system or settlement complex.	0.40-64m
716	Fill	Lower fill of linear [715]. Friable mid orange/grey sandy clay.	0.50-0.64m
717	Fill	Fill of small gully feature [718]. Unexcavated.	0.40m+
718	Cut	Cut of small gully feature.	Unexcavated

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 50190)**

The archive consists of:

47	Context records AS1
2	Field progress reports AS2
2	Photographic records AS3
91	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
20	Scale drawings
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
2	Flot records AS21
7	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:

Worcestershire County Museum  
Museums Worcestershire  
Hartlebury Castle  
Hartlebury  
Near Kidderminster  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ  
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

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## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 50190 (event HER number)

P4229

### Artefacts

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	Specialist reporting?
prehistoric	stone	flint		1	1	0	0	N
Roman	ceramic		pot	1	6	43	400	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	1	10	43	400	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	1	10	120	400	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	1	4	350	400	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	1	6	275	400	Y
medieval	ceramic		pot	1	2	1100	1200	Y
medieval	ceramic		pot	1	2	1200	1400	Y
medieval	ceramic		pot	2	8	1075	1400	Y
medieval	ceramic		pot	1	2	1075	1400	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	3	508	1600	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	1	96	1600	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		clay pipe	1	2	1600	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		drain	1	36	1600	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	16	1600	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	4	1700	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	2	34	1700	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	38	1600	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	2	10	1800	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	2	76	1600	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	48	1600	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	4	20	1800	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	2	24	1600	1800	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile	1	82	1600	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile	1	94	1600	1800	Y
undated	bone	animal bone		2	4	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		3	36	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		4	12	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		1	8	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		1	1	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal		3	42	0	0	N

Land off Frogland's Lane, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire

		bone						
undated	bone	animal bone		3	170	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		7	282	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		9	98	0	0	N
undated	bone			2	1	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		4	14	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		3	78	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		1	1	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		2	32	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		2	32	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		8	174	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		3	176	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		18	218	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		1	430	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		22	918	0	0	N
undated	bone	animal bone		1	16	0	0	N
undated	ceramic	fired clay		2	8	0	0	Y
undated	ceramic	fired clay		1	1	0	0	Y
undated	metal			1	4	0	0	N
undated	metal			1	14	0	0	N
undated	shell	oyster		1	24	0	0	N
undated	stone	flint		1	1	0	0	N
undated	stone	flint		1	4	0	0	N

**Environmental**

Methods of retrieval	Yes/No
Hand retrieval	Yes
Bulk sample	Yes
Spot sample	
Auger	
Monolith	
Observed	

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<b>Type</b>	<b>Preservation</b>	<b>Date (note 1)</b>	<b>Specialist report? Y/N (note 2)</b>	<b>Key assemblage? Y/N (note 3)</b>
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	Medieval	No	No
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	Post- medieval	No	No
Bone – small mammal	Not decayed	Medieval to post- medieval	No	No
Plant remains – macrofossils	Charred	Medieval	Yes	Yes
Shell – mollusc	Not decayed	Medieval to post- medieval	No	No

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