

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS
AT
YATES COURT,
CENTRAL MARKET,
EVESHAM,
WORCESTERSHIRE



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Archaeological Investigations at Yates Court, Central Market, Evesham, Worcestershire

Jon Webster and Graham Arnold (project leaders)

With contributions by Tim Cornah, Dennis Williams and Laura Griffin

Summary

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Yates Court Central Market, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0366 4408). It was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Ltd, on behalf of their client who has constructed an extension to Yates Court care home for which a planning application was submitted.

The site lies within the former Central Market to the west of the High Street in Evesham. It was considered that there was a potential for the survival of medieval deposits relating to the High Street frontages. An archaeological excavation undertaken in 2000 recorded Iron Age deposits in the plot immediately to the north and it was also considered that there was archaeological potential for the survival of similar deposits within the site.

Three trenches were excavated in April 2013 within the former Central Market. A fourth was excavated in October 2013 in an area of waste ground to the north of the Central Market after live services had been disconnected. Groundworks in the eastern area of the site were monitored during construction as this was impractical to evaluate earlier.

In the eastern part of the site, to the rear of Evesham High Street, the watching brief revealed a group of medieval and post medieval stone lined cess pits. Two wells of 19th and 20th century date were also recorded. These structures are typical of domestic 'backplot' activity associated with burgage plots fronting onto the High Street.

A post medieval stone wall was also recorded in the south-east corner of the site as part of the mitigation works.

In the central and western part of the site evaluation trenches uncovered garden soils to a depth of 0.90m+ below the present ground level. Beneath the soil a single ditch, probably associated with orchard planting and the base of an insubstantial stone wall were also recorded. It is thought that these features relate to the site's use for horticulture prior to the 20th Century when the covered market was constructed, and as depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

No evidence of Iron Age archaeological remains were present during the works and this suggests that the limit of Iron Age occupation lies to the north of this site.

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Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation and subsequent archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Yates Court, Central Market, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0366 4408). It was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Housing Ltd, who has constructed an extension to Yates Court Care home, for which a planning application was submitted to Wychavon District Council and approved (reference W/13/00504/PN).

The proposed development site was considered to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application (HER ref WSM 33709).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer (WCC 2012) and 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), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010),

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM 48233.

2 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were:

- 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.

The aims and scope of the archaeological monitoring were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The initial evaluation stage was undertaken by Jonathan Webster, BA (hons); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practising archaeology since 2001. The later evaluation trench and archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Graham Arnold BA (hons) MSc; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practicing archaeology since 2002. Tim Cornah BA (hons) also led fieldwork and was assisted by Pete Lovett, BSc (hons). Finds analysis was undertaken by Dennis Williams, (BSc MA PhD CPhys, MinstP) who has been in professional archaeology since 2006 when he joined WA. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers BA (hons) (MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt, MIFA BSc (hons).

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken on behalf of Hughes Bros. (Armagh) Ltd (Derrick and Napthan 2007). This identified the potential for substantial Prehistoric activity to be present across the area of investigation and particularly in the northern part of the site. It was also noted that there was potential for medieval or early post-medieval back plots associated with the high street frontage but that these would be unlikely to have been intensely used given its location on the edge of the former town. The site is known to have been used mainly for horticultural purposes until the end of the 19th century after which a covered market was constructed in 1902.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013).

Fieldwork was undertaken between the 22 April and 12 December 2014. The site reference number and site code is WSM 48233.

Four trenches, amounting to just over 80m² in area were opened during the evaluation stage. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figures 2 and 3. The trenches were placed across the area of investigation in an attempt to best get a representative sample whilst at the same time avoiding services and allow continued access in the current car park. To this end it was necessary for Trench 2 to be moved west of the location proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation and shortened by 2m in order to avoid a gas inspection chamber and live services. Trench 3 was moved north 3m to avoid live services and a fourth trench intended to be placed in open ground to the north of the covered market was abandoned due to the presence of a live foul drain and surrounding services. Trench 4 was excavated after live services that crossed the northern end of the site had been disconnected by the construction team.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material and capped with type 1 stone. Trenches 2 and 3 were further sealed with concrete to allow vehicle access to continue unabated. Trench 4 was reinstated by replacing and compacting the excavated material.

The watching brief stage, Phase 3 combined monitoring of the groundworks in the eastern side of the site, including footings, ground beams and underpinning pits with a basic record (photographic and scaled drawn plan of a 2m section) was taken of the stone wall on the southern edge of the eastern extension of the site towards the High Street.

A stone wall measuring 15.00m in length, which made up part of the southern extent of the site was archaeologically recorded. This involved photographing to scale (plates 13 – 16) and a drawn record at 1:50, with three sample areas recorded in more detail at 1:20 (fig 8).

3.4 Structural analysis

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

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams and Laura Griffin

3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service 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 date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

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 Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and 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.

3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site lies to the immediate west of Evesham high street and bounded to the south by Avon Street and west by Burlingham Court and a series of residential properties, the north of the site is limited buildings associated with Yates Court and Albert Road. The ground rises slightly from the southwest to northeast.

Evesham itself lies in a meander of the River Avon at a height of between 25m and 40m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). It is situated on an underlying topography that comprises gravels from the second and third terraces of the River Avon and overlain by clayey alluvium of the Drayton series and stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Bishampton series. At 71-73 High Street and again at 93-97 High Street the natural sands were encountered at an average depth of 34.50m AOD (Derrick and Napthan 2007).

The desk based assessment demonstrated that although little direct evidence of prehistoric settlement has been noted in the town of Evesham itself a small number of Mesolithic, and late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered to the rear of 95-97 High Street (WSM 26358, Edwards and Hurst 2000) and Mesolithic material recovered from the suburb of Bengeworth to the east of the town (WSM 29828, Napthan *et al* 1996). A middle Iron Age domestic site with evidence of ironworking was excavated to the immediate north of the current area of investigation at 93-97 High Street (WSM 26358, Edwards and Hurst 2000). Although some Romano-British material has been recovered to the south of the current site little known activity has been recorded and it was not expected that deposits or material of this date would be recorded.

The majority of archaeological evidence in Evesham is derived from the later medieval periods onwards and it was expected that the rear of burgage plots might be noted for buildings fronting

onto the High Street, although these were not expected to contain complex deposits or features as this site was located on the fringes of the known settlement.

During the nineteenth century period the site was an area of cultivation and remained so until the current buildings were constructed as part of a market area opened in April 1902

4.2 Current land-use

At the time of the archaeological investigations, the majority of the site comprised a concrete car park that lies under the early 20th century open air market building and eas bounded to the east and south by the premises of a number of small companies that use the car park area for staff and customers. The northernmost end of the site was an area of disused waste ground upon which a building had collapsed.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded in all phases of the project are shown in Fig 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural substrate was revealed at an average height of 34.60m (AOD) during the phase 1 evaluation and was at 35.16m in Evaluation trench 4 to the north of the site. The ground dipped to the southwest along with the current gradient of the surface level down to a depth of 34.30m (AOD), and comprised silt rich sands of moderate to firm compaction with poorly sorted gravel inclusions as mapped by the geological survey. This was identical in both form and depth to that seen at sites to both the north and south of the current area of investigation.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

The earliest archaeological features and deposits related to a series of medieval stone lined cess pits [1008] and [1010] and associated domestic burgage plot activity behind the High street frontage. Cess pits [1008] and [1010] were similar in structural form. They both consisted of Lias stone sub-rectangular pits with roughly hewn stones, each measuring on average 0.30m x 0.20m and 0.04m in depth. These were in irregular courses. There was no mortar bonding and the stone lined cess pit measured 1.60m square and up to 1.00m in depth (Plates 10 and 11).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

Two post-medieval wells (1005 and 1006) were constructed of brick. The bricks from well 1005 had a concrete mortar bond and measured 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.08m. This is thought to be of late 19th or 20th Century construction (Plate 8). Well 1006 had a mixture of red brick and lias stone within the construction and had no mortar bonding with a mixture of hand made and machine made bricks. This was thought to be have a slightly earlier 19th Century date. This well measured 1.05m in diameter (Plate 9). Later cess pits also cutting the medieval cess pit were found in the eastern part of the site during the watching brief in Trench 11.

During the evaluation of the western and northern areas of the site features included a ditch [107] and wall [205] both of which have been shown to date to the post-medieval period. Ditch [107] was 2.95m wide and orientated northwest/southeast and filled with a single fill (106), 0.29m thick. This deposit was very similar to the sealing deposit (105) (See below) and it is thought that this linear is probably associated with either a boundary division or orchard tree plantation line as recorded at Evesham Country Park (Webster 2012). To the east of this in Trench 2 a coarsely constructed limestone wall was built out of natural unhewn slabs of limestone placed in a dry stone fashion with no visible mortar. Only a single course of this survived across much of the trench although a second and occasional third course was noted towards the centre of the trench. Aligned roughly north/south and curving slightly to the northwest the wall was 0.15m in width and clearly not load

bearing and was butted along the western face by deposit 204, a garden soil very similar to deposit 106 described above.

A thick humeric 'garden' soil was noted in the evaluation trenches (105, 203, and 302, 403) and averaged 0.75m in thickness across trenches 1 and 3 becoming thinner (0.53m) to the east in Trench 2. This deposit was highly worked by root action and was consistent with a garden or an orchard soil. At the northern end of trench 1 deposit 105 was truncated by a large pit [104] that was filled with a series of deliberately dumped soils and redeposited natural to a depth of at least 1.23m (due to health and safety considerations the base of this feature was not excavated).

5.1.4 Phase 4: modern deposits

Trench 1 was sealed by a concrete surface that was 0.13m thick, which was associated with the construction of the covered Central Market whilst in Trenches 2 and 3 a more simplified 'crush' deposit up to 0.40m sealed the 'garden' soils. All of the above was then sealed by a modern tarmacadam surface that averaged 0.10m in thickness and is used as the current ground surface of the car park. Trench 4 was excavated in scrub. Modern footings of the extant buildings, together with modern intrusions such as drains were also recorded across the site cutting the natural ground and truncating some of the earlier archaeological deposits. A stone crush piling mat had been imported onto site when the monitoring stage took place. Fuel tanks were found and removed under the modern tiled and concreted floor of the building in the east of the site (Trench 8, Plate 7) and modern made ground was found underlying the floor in this area with the footings for ground beams only extending to a maximum of 1.00m below ground level in this area.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams and Laura Griffin

Evaluation Phase by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The artefactual assemblage came from four stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion, but with the mean sherd weight being below average.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	-	pot	2	8
post-medieval	ceramic	-	brick	1	48
post-medieval	ceramic	-	clay pipe	1	4
post-medieval	ceramic	-	pot	2	6
post-medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile	1	26
modern	glass	-	window	3	22
undated	shell	-	oyster	1	8
undated	slag	fuel ash slag	-	2	18

undated	bone	animal bone		12	73
totals:				25	213

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Pottery

The pottery assemblage consisted of a small range of medieval and post-medieval fabrics, with no diagnostic form sherds. 12th-14th century Worcester-type sandy glazed (fabric 64.1) and unglazed (fabric 55) wares were residual in fill 106 (ditch 107) and garden soil layer 204, respectively. 17th-18th century black-glazed red ware (fabric 78) was found in 106, and 19th-20th century china (fabric 85) in layer 204.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	1	4
medieval	64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	1	4
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	1	2
post-medieval	85	Modern china	1	4
totals:			4	14

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

Ceramic building material

Fragments of post-medieval brick and roof tile were found in garden soil layer 302 and fill 106.

Other finds

Modern window glass was recovered from deposit 103, and a fragment of 17th-19th century clay pipe stem from layer 302. Undated finds comprised fragments of animal bone (some bearing butchery marks) from contexts 103, 106, 204 and 302, an oyster shell from 204, and fuel ash slag, also from 204.

Watching Brief Phase by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 3 and 4.

The assemblage consisted of 22 artefacts (weighing 461g) which were associated with five contexts, and material could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with sherds displaying low levels of abrasion and an above average sherd size.

period	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	pot	12	195
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	6	91

post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	163
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	2	10
post-medieval	metal	copper alloy	1	2
total			22	461

Table 3: Quantification of the assemblage

Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Diagnostic sherds were dated by form type, whilst remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Medieval

Material of medieval date formed the bulk of the assemblage from this site. A total of 12 sherds of pottery, weighing 195g were medieval, ranging from 12th to 14th century in date. Three contexts (1009, 1013 and 1014) had a medieval *terminus post quem* (tpq) date based on the dating of this pottery (Table 3). The majority of sherds were of local or regional production and of form types commonly identified within domestic medieval assemblages from Evesham and the surrounding area (Table 2).

The earliest sherds came from cooking pots and a pitcher of unglazed Worcester sandy ware (fabric 55; contexts 1009 and 1013), dating from the 12th century. One of these cooking pots was notable for having a thumbled rim (context 1009). Such decoration on cooking pots is rare, with only one example having been identified amongst the large assemblage from Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004, 281). Other locally produced sherds of note included the frilled rim from a bridge spouted jug of glazed Worcester sandy ware (fabric 64.1; context 1009). Some of the sherds identified as being of Worcester production, may actually have been produced more locally to Evesham with many sherds from the town and the immediate vicinity typically more micaceous than those from assemblages in Worcester.

Non-local wares included sherds from a Brill-Boarstall ware jug (fabric 63; context 1003), a pitcher of Oxfordshire Y ware (fabric 141; context 1013) and a cooking pot of unidentified fabric type (fabric 99; context 1013). This latter sherd was of a distinctive fabric being brown in colour and having frequent small, regular voids, possibly resulting from plate shell, occasional grog and organic inclusions. The exterior surface was heavily but evenly sooted.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of this medieval assemblage is the lack of Malvernian ware. Other assemblages from the town have typically had high proportions of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware sherds (Lockett and Jones 2001, 9; Crooks 1990, 169). One possible explanation for this might be the largely 12th-13th century date of the assemblage, suggesting that Malvernian wares were only utilised in quantity in Evesham following the decline of the Worcester pottery industry in the first half of the 14th century.

Post-medieval

Post-medieval material consisted of six sherds of pottery of 17th– 18th century date, two clay pipe bowls and a copper alloy fitting. All came from a single feature (context 1015).

fabric code	fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	6	76
63	Brill/Boarstall ware	1	6
64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	3	77
99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	19
141	Oxfordshire Y type ware	1	17
78	Post-medieval red wares	3	65
82	Tin-glazed ware	1	3
91	Post-medieval buff wares	2	23

Table 4: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

6 Artefact Significance

The assemblage from this site from the evaluation stage is of limited archaeological significance, but does indicate both medieval and post-medieval occupation in the area. However, with finds from the watching brief stage, the medieval assemblage formed a tightly dated group of domestic material. The range of pottery fabrics identified was consistent with other assemblages of similar date from the town. *Terminus post quem* date ranges for the contexts are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
103	glass	window	-	3	22	1900	2000
103	bone	-	-	1	1	-	-
106	ceramic	pot	78	1	2	1600	1800
106	ceramic	roof tile	-	1	26	1600	1850
106	bone	-	-	4	4	-	-
106	ceramic	pot	64.1	1	4	1200	1400
204	bone	-	-	5	56	-	-
204	shell	oyster	-	1	8	-	-
204	ceramic	pot	85	1	4	1800	1900
204	slag	-	-	2	18	-	-
204	ceramic	pot	55	1	4	1075	1400
302	ceramic	brick	-	1	48	1600	1900
302	bone	-	-	2	12	-	-
302	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	4	1600	1900

Table 5: Summary of context dating based on artefacts from evaluation stage

context	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date
1003	ceramic	pot	1	6	13C	14C	?post-medieval
1003	ceramic	brick	1	163	16C	?18C	
1009	ceramic	pot	1	44	13C	14C	E12-13C
1009	ceramic	pot	1	35	12C	M14C	
1009	ceramic	pot	2	20	E12C	M12C	
1009	ceramic	pot	2	13	12C	E14C	
1013	ceramic	pot	1	17	E12C	M13C	E12-13C
1013	ceramic	pot	1	8	L11C	M14C	
1013	ceramic	pot	1	19			
1014	ceramic	pot	1	25	13C	14C	13-14C
1015	ceramic	clay pipe	2	10			18C
1015	ceramic	pot	2	23		18C	
1015	ceramic	pot	3	65	L17C	18C	
1015	ceramic	pot	1	3		18C	
1015	ceramic	pot	1	8	12C	14C	
1015	metal	object	1	2			

Table 6: Summary of context dating based on artefacts from watching brief stage

7 Synthesis

7.1 Prehistoric

No prehistoric features or finds were revealed during the investigations, indicating that the southern limit of the Iron Age settlement excavated in 2000 lies to the north of the site.

7.2 Medieval

The presence of stone lined cess pits in the eastern part of the site and the pottery assemblage recovered demonstrates that this area lies within the former burgrave plots fronting onto the High Street. The pottery assemblage formed a tightly dated group of domestic material and the range of pottery fabrics identified was consistent with other assemblages of similar date from the town.

7.3 Post-medieval

Two brick-lined post-medieval wells and cess pit activity cut the earlier medieval pits in the north-west of area, uncovered during the watching brief, demonstrating the continuation of domestic use of the burgrave plots into this period.

No medieval features were recorded in the western part of the site, lying mid-way between High Street and Briar Close to the west. The presence of garden soils and lack of earlier features suggests that the covered market, was constructed on an area which had always been used for

horticulture as it is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Ditch [107] appears to be consistent with the still used practice of creating a well manured trench within which a line of orchard trees are planted (Webster 2012), however due to the lack of similar parallel features being revealed this interpretation cannot be taken for granted and it is also possible that this feature may represent some form of boundary demarcation. It seems unlikely that this ditch would have been constructed for drainage purposes as the whole site lies on free draining sands and gravels that would have had little difficulty removing any amount of ground water.

To the east of this in Trench 2 wall 205 is notable for its insubstantial nature and poor build quality which demonstrates that it was not load bearing and was unlikely to have formed part of a building or other structure. It was placed into construction cut [206] butting the east face of the cut and laid directly onto the underlying geological substrate. It was butted to the west by deposit 204 which was almost identical in nature to the garden soils described below and it seems likely to have been a boundary division or retaining wall for the humeric soils to the immediate west and may have been associated with either a garden or more likely an agricultural landscape such as an orchard.

7.4 Research frameworks

The site was located within a medieval tenement plot that may have been laid out during a period of urban expansion in the 12th and 12th century. The presence of preserved medieval activity related to pits and burgage plot activity dating to this period was found. This demonstrates that there is potential elsewhere along the High Street that early medieval activity will be preserved, despite heavy truncation of deposits by later development activity. (Dalwood, 2002; Dalwood 2003)

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

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.

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Yates Court Central Market, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0366 4408). It was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Ltd, on behalf of their client who has constructed an extension to Yates Court care home for which a planning application was submitted.

The site lies within the former Central Market to the west of the High Street in Evesham. It was considered that there was a potential for the survival of medieval deposits relating to the High Street frontages. An archaeological excavation undertaken in 2000 recorded Iron Age deposits in the plot immediately to the north and it was also considered that there was archaeological potential for the survival of similar deposits within the site.

Three trenches were excavated in April 2013 within the former Central Market. A fourth was excavated in October 2103 in an area of waste ground to the north of the Central Market after live services had been disconnected. Groundworks in the eastern area of the site were monitored during construction as this was impractical to evaluate earlier.

In the eastern part of the site, to the rear of Evesham High Street, the watching brief revealed a group of medieval and post medieval stone lined cess pits. Two wells of 19th and 20th century date were also recorded. These structures are typical of domestic 'backplot' activity associated with burgage plots fronting onto the High Street.

A post medieval stone wall was also recorded in the south-east corner of the site as part of the mitigation works.

In the central and western part of the site evaluation trenches uncovered garden soils to a depth of 0.90m+ below the present ground level. Beneath the soil a single ditch, probably associated with orchard planting and the base of an insubstantial stone wall were also recorded. It is thought that these features relate to the site's use for horticulture prior to the 20th Century when the covered market was constructed, and as depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

No evidence of Iron Age archaeological remains were present during the works and this suggests that the limit of Iron Age occupation lies to the north of this site.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Paul Rice (Willmott Dixon), Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

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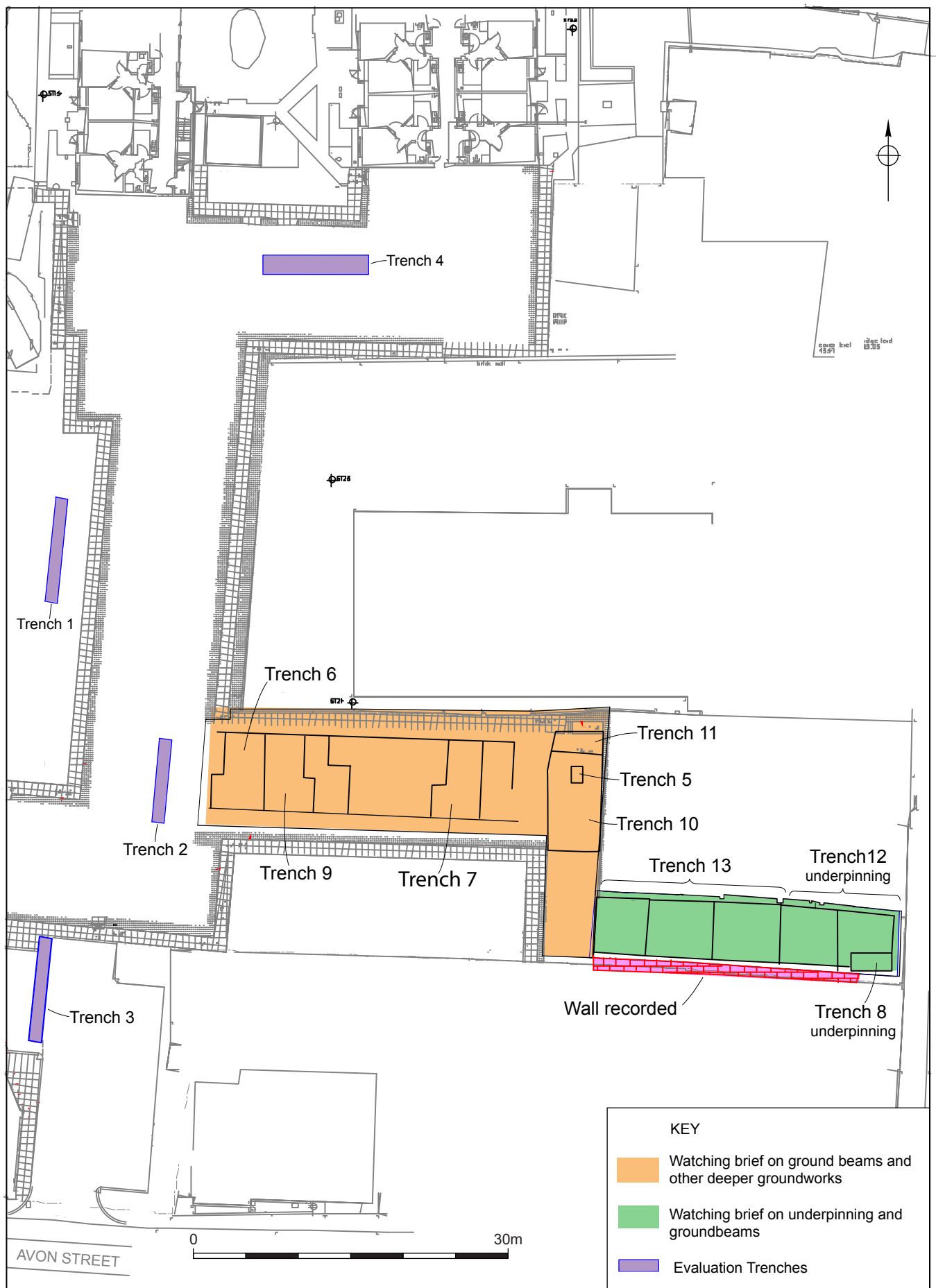
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Figures



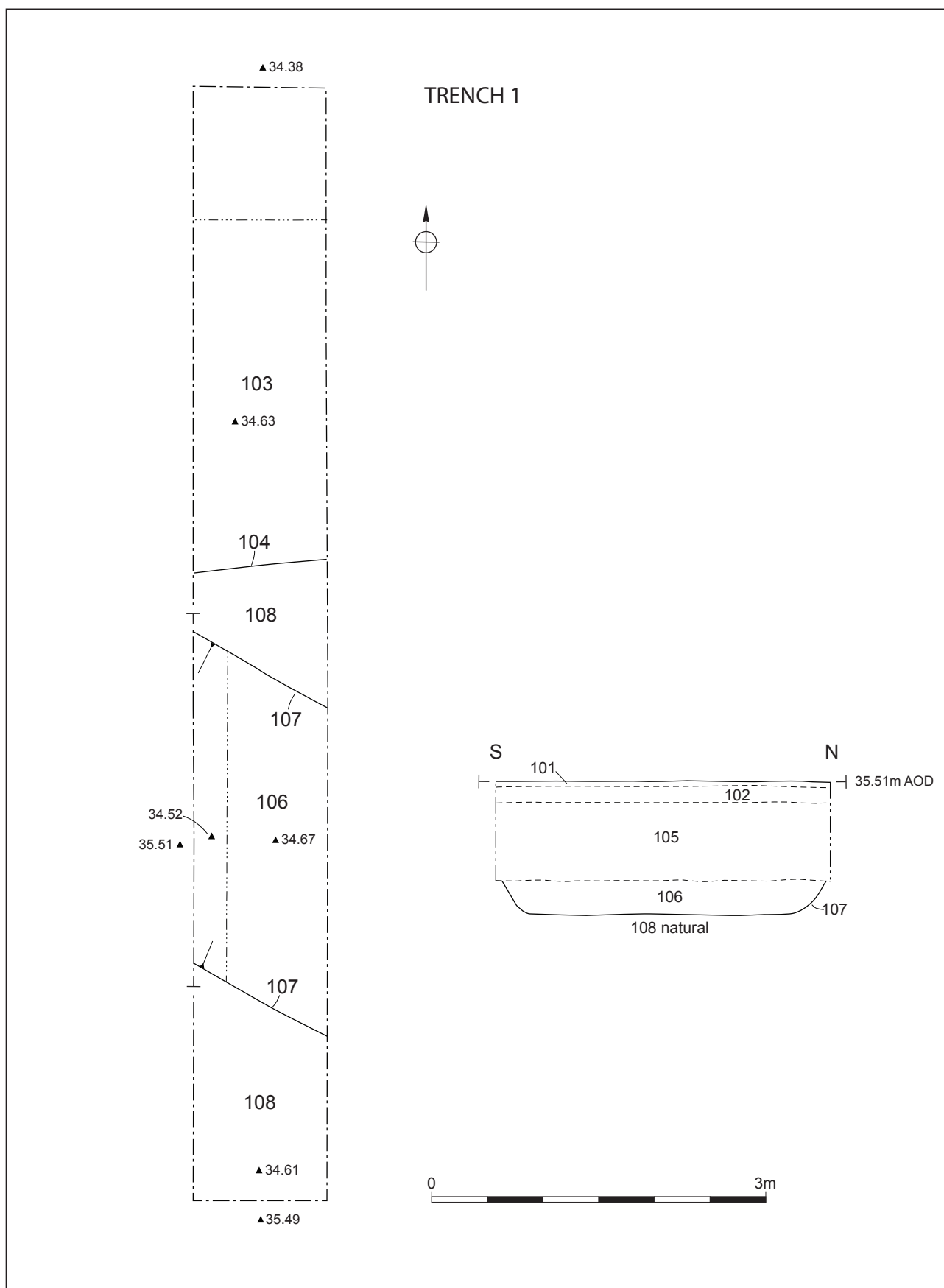
Location of the site

Figure 1



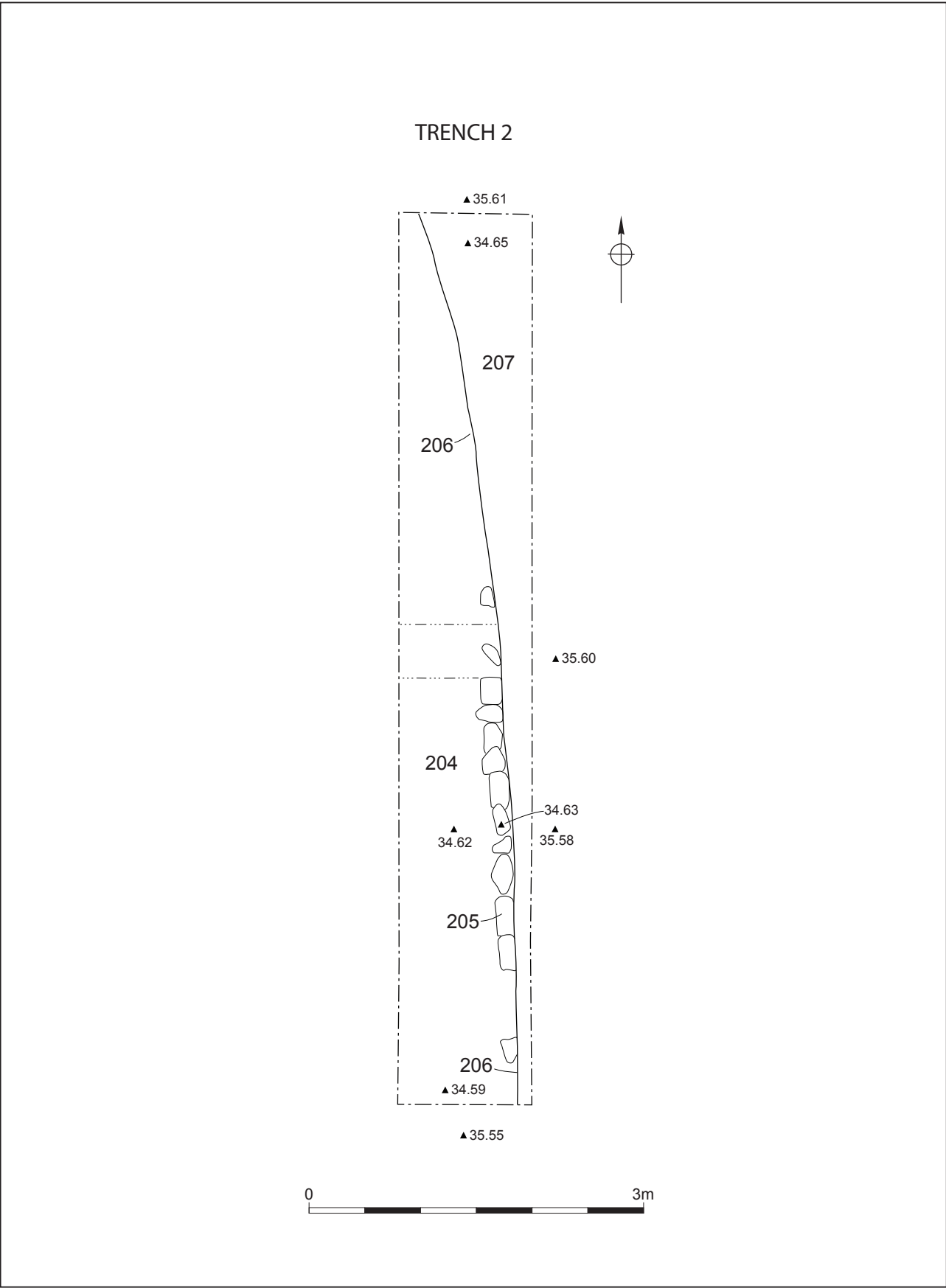
Yates Court watching brief areas: plan of trenches observed

Figure 2



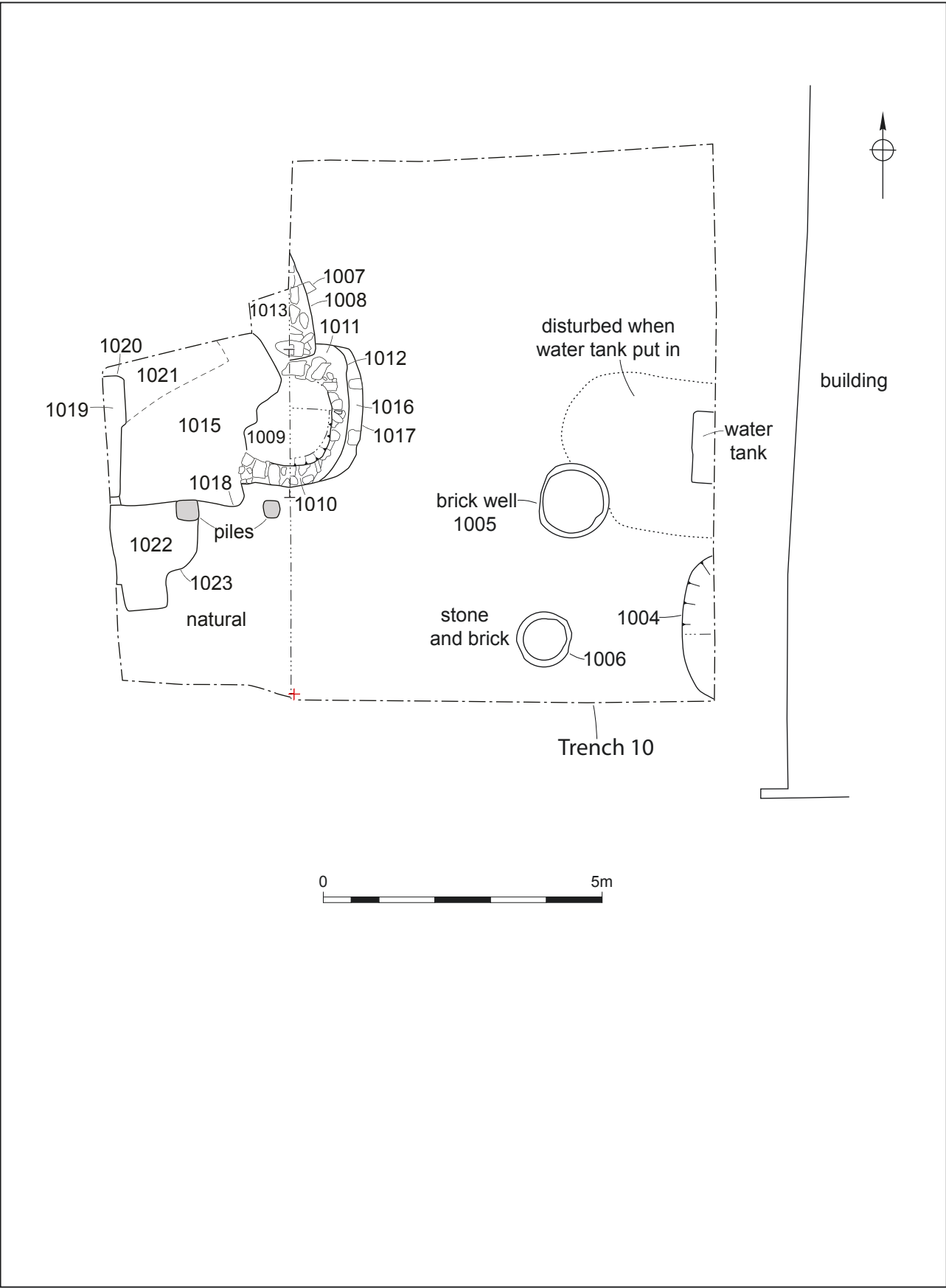
Trench 1 plan and section of linear 107

Figure 3



Trench 2 plan

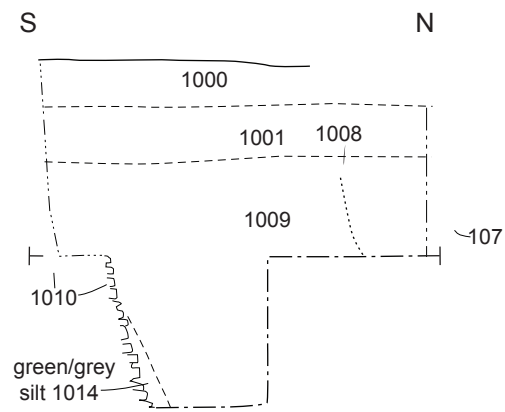
Figure 4



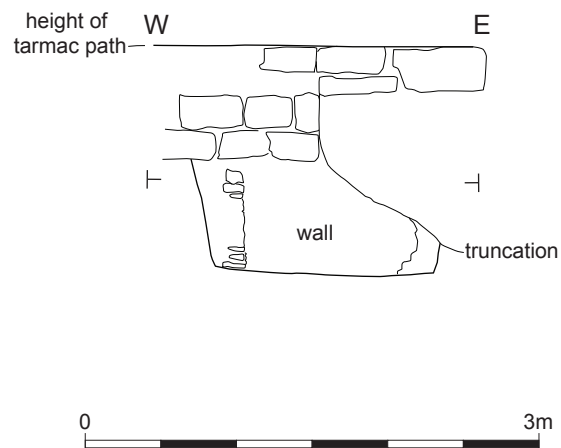
Trench 10 plan

Figure 5

TRENCH 10: SECTION 5

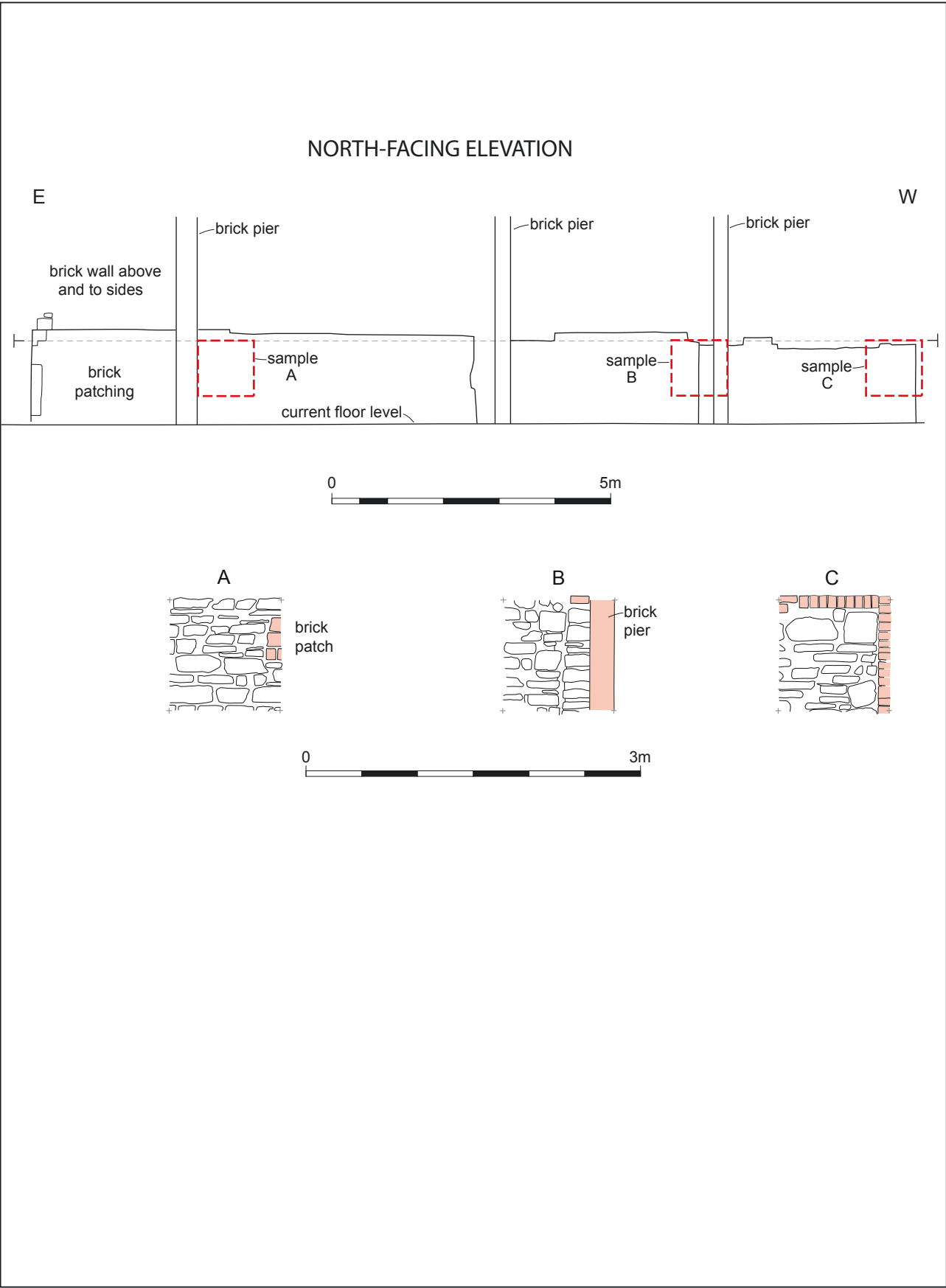


TRENCH 10: SECTION 7



Trench 10: Cess Pit sections

Figure 6



Recorded wall elevation

Figure 7

Plates



Plate 1; Linear [107], looking west



Plate 2; Large cut feature [104] showing tip lines of deliberate backfill, looking west



Plate 3; Wall 205, looking south



Plate 4; Detail of wall 205, looking east



Plate 5 Trench 4 complete looking west



Plate 6 Example of ground beam excavations that encompassed Trench 6, 7 and 9, view east



Plate 7 Trench 8 Fuel tanks under floor of shop, view west



Plate 8 Brick lined well 1005, view north



Plate 9 Brick and stone-lined well 1006, view north



Plate 10 Stone-lined cess pit 1010. Maximum depth of excavation from above.



Plate 11 General shot of cess pit 1010 after excavation. View south-east



Plate 12 Stone-lined cess pit 1105 observed in south-facing section



Plate 13 Stone wall recorded on the southeast side of site. Eastern extent. View south



Plate 14 Stone wall recorded on the southeast side of site. View south.



Plate 15 Stone wall recorded on the southeast side of site. View south.



Plate 16 Stone wall recorded on the southeast side of site. Western extent. View south

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.20m Depth: 1.41m

Orientation: North/South

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
101	Tarmacadam surface	Tarmacadam surface associated with modern car park	0.00-0.05m
102	Concrete surface	Former market surface	0.06-0.18m
103	Fill of [104]	Banded silt rich sand of moderate compaction with frequent charcoal, wood and glass inclusions. Laminated with bands of ash rich material and redeposited natural sands. Appears to be the result of deliberate backfilling with the individual lenses appearing to be roughly the contents of a hand barrow. Base not found due to excessive depth.	0.19-1.41m+
[104]	Cut of large feature	East/west aligned feature with steep near vertical sides and a moderately steep rounded upper break of slope and measuring at last 4m in length by at least 1.20m in width.	0.19-1.41m+
105	'Garden soils'	Dark blueish grey silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action.	0.19-0.90m
106	Fill of [107]	Dark blueish grey silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action.	0.91-1.19m
[107]	Cut of linear	Northwest/southeast aligned linear that	0.91-1.19m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		measures 2.95m in width with moderately steep sides and a rounded concaved break of slope onto a flat base.	
108	Natural substrate	Mid greyish yellow silt rich sands of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	0.90m+

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8m Width: 1.20m Depth: 1.11m

Orientation: North/South

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
201	Tarmacadam surface	Tarmacadam surface associated with modern car park	0.00-0.10m
202	Tarmacadam crush	Tarmacadam crush of firm compaction that also contains brick, CBM and moderate gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted	0.11-0.51m
203	'Garden soils'	Dark blueish grey silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action.	0.52-1.04m
204	Deposit	Mid greyish red silt rich sands of moderate compaction with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Butts against wall 205	1.05-1.11m
205	Limestone wall	Roughly north/south aligned limestone wall (orientated 0.05° off north).	0.98m-1.11m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		Constructed from naturally unhewn slabs placed on top and next to each other with no visible bonding in a dry-stone wall fashion. Placed tight against construction cut [206] and appears to be a retaining wall for deposit 204. Only single course wide (0.15m) and a maximum of 3 courses in height.	
[206]	Construction cut associated with wall 205	Roughly north/south aligned cut with vertical sides and a flat base at least 8m in length by at least 1.20m wide.	0.98-1.11m
207	Natural substrate	Mid greyish yellow silt rich sands of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	1.04m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.20m Depth: 0.98m

Orientation: North/south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
301	Tarmacadam surface	Tarmacadam surface associated with modern car park	0.00-0.09m
302	'Garden soils'	Dark blueish grey silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action.	0.10-0.97m
303	Natural substrate	Mid greyish yellow silt rich sands of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	0.98m+

Trench 4

Site area: North end of site

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.00m

Orientation: East - West

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
401	Modern brick floor surface	Modern brick floor surface made of blue engineering bricks from former collapsed building with 0.05m mortar bed beneath.	0.00 – 0.15m
402	Bedding layer	Black clinker and gravel bedding layer for brick floor surface	0.15 - 0.20m
403	'Garden Soils'	Dark blueish grey silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action.	0.20 – 0.85m
404	Natural	Mid greyish yellow silt rich sands of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	0.85m +
405	Modern wall footing	Footing of modern wall from former building constructed of concrete and brick. Orientated north-south and 0.50m wide across whole of trench.	0.00 – 0.60m
[406]	Construction cut of wall	Linear vertical cut for wall footing 405	0.00 – 0.60m

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.60m Width: 1.20m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: North/south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Piling Mat	Modern piling mat crush including modern brick stone and concrete	0.00-0.50m
501	Levelling / backfill	Levelling / backfill of modern tank consisting of brick and concrete rubble	0.50 – 0.60m

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.10m Depth: 1.15m

Orientation: East-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Piling Mat	Modern piling mat crush including modern brick stone and concrete	0.00-0.45m
601	'Garden soils'	Mid greyish brown silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action. Areas disturbed with modern slate and limestone brash inclusions	0.45 – 1.05m
602	Natural substrate	Mid yellow orange sand of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	1.05m +

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.20m Depth: 0.98m

Orientation: North/south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Piling Mat	Modern piling mat crush including modern brick stone and concrete	0.00-0.45m
701	'Garden soils'	Mid greyish brown silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action. Areas disturbed with modern slate and limestone brash inclusions	0.45 – 1.05m
702	Natural substrate	Mid yellow orange sand of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	1.05m +

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 7.00m Width: 1.50m Depth: 1.00m

Orientation: East-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Modern floor	Concrete skim over engineering bricks 9" x 4" x 3" and white cement mortar	0.00-0.15m
801	Modern	Concrete conglomerate. Seals void	0.15 – 0.30m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
	concrete floor	containing cast iron fuel tanks	
802	Modern intrusion	Void containing cast iron fuel tanks and brick manholes	0.30 – 1.00m
803	Modern backfill	Coarse orange sand and gravels imported to backfill tank voids	0.30 – 1.00m

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: See fig 3 Width: 1.30m Depth: 1.50m

Orientation: North/south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Piling Mat	Modern piling mat crush including modern brick stone and concrete	0.00-0.50m
901	'Garden soils'	Mid greyish brown silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action. Areas disturbed with modern slate and limestone brash inclusions	0.50 – 0.90m
902	Natural substrate	Mid yellow orange sand of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	0.90m +

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.20m Depth: 0.98m

Orientation: North/south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Piling Mat	Modern piling mat crush including modern brick stone and concrete	0.00-0.50m
1001	'Garden soils'	Mid greyish brown silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action. Areas disturbed with modern slate and limestone brash inclusions	0.50 – 0.90m
1002	Natural substrate	Mid yellow orange sand of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	0.90m +
1003	Fill of pit	Soft mid grey silty sand with occasional small rounded stones containing ceramic and brick fragments	0.65 – 1.55m
1004	Pit cut	U-shaped pit cut	0.65 – 1.55m
1005	20 th C Well	Brick well constructed of machine made, unfrogged bricks measuring bonded with concrete 1.40m in diameter	0.90m
1006	19 th C brick and stone Well	Mix of handmade and machine made bricks with some small blue lias stone slabs. 1.05m diameter.	0.90m
1007	Stone-lined cess pit	roughly hewn Lias stone wall lining cess pit.	0.90m
1008	Construction cut	Construction cut of cess pit wall 1007. Unexcavated	0.50m – 0.90m
1009	Fill of cess pit	Soft to moderate mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones.	0.50 – 1.85m
1010	Stone lined cess pit	Rectangular with rounded corners. Truncated by pit 1018 and cess pit 1007	1.40 – 2.40m +
1011	Backfill of construction	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate angular stone rubble.	1.40m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
	cut 1012	Unexcavated.	
1012	Cess Pit 1010 construction cut	Sub-rectangular cut for wall of 1010, 1.8m wide x 2.5m in length. Cuts 1017.	1.40 – 2.40m +
1013	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand overlies cess pit fill 1014. Same as 1009. 0.20m in depth.	1.85 – 2.05m
1014	Primary fill of 1010	Soft mid greyish green sandy silt. Green hue suggests cess origin of this deposit.	1.85 – 2.40m
1015	Fill of Pit 1018	Soft, mixed grey sandy silt with frequent clay pipe roof tile and brick rubble.	0.90m
1016	Fill of cess pit 1017	Soft mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional Lias cobbles. Truncated by 1010.	1.40m
1017	Cess Pit	Possible cess pit construction cut that was heavily truncated by 1012.	1.40m +
1018	Cut of pit	Irregular sub-rectangular pit measuring 3m x 3m filled with demolition rubble 1015. Cuts 1010.	1.40m
1019	Fill of pit 1020	Soft mid orange brown sandy silt. Unexcavated.	1.40m
1020	Pit cut	Sub rectangular feature seen in plan only, continuing west beyond the limit of excavation.	1.40m
1021	Deposit / Layer	Soft dark grey brown sandy silt	1.40m
1022	Fill of pit 1023	Soft dark grey silty sand with occasional lime plaster.	1.40m
1023	Pit cut	Backyard pit 2m x 2m. Unexcavated.	1.40m

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8m Width: 1.20m Depth: 1.11m

Orientation: East - west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Piling Mat	Modern piling mat crush including modern brick stone and concrete	0.00-0.50m
1101	'Garden soils'	Mid greyish brown silt rich sands of moderate compaction with moderate charcoal flecks and gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted. Deposit is very humeric in nature and has been heavily worked by root and worm action. Areas disturbed with modern slate and limestone brash inclusions	0.50 – 0.90m
1102	Natural substrate	Mid yellow orange sand of moderate to firm compaction with occasional gravels throughout, sub-rounded to angular and poorly sorted.	0.90m +
1103	Wall	Stone wall aligned East – West post-medieval in date	0.00 – 1.10m
1104	Fill of pit 1105	Soft mid grey brown silty sand with green cess layer at base	0.00 – 1.10m
1105	Pit	Stone-lining of cess pit, probably square in plan originally but very truncated by modern disturbance	0.00 – 1.10m
1106	Construction cut backfill	Seen in section	0.00 – 1.10m
1107	Construction cut for 1105	Seen in section	0.00 – 1.10m

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 0.75m Width: 0.50m Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: Zone 4 - underpinning pits

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
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Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Modern floor	Engineering brick floor – same as 801	0 – 0.08m
1201	Modern backfill	Mixed backfill of fuel tank voids – same as 803	0.08 – 0.50m
1202	Natural	Sands and Gravels	0.50m +

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.00m Width: 6.00m Depth: 0.50 – 1.00m

Orientation: Zone 4 – Ground beams

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Modern floor	Engineering brick floor and concrete – same as 801	0 – 0.08m
1301	Modern backfill	Mixed backfill of fuel tank voids – same as 803	0.08 – 0.50m
1302	Made ground	Dark blackish grey silty sandy clay with frequent modern metal, plastics, concrete	0.15m – 0.80m
1303	Natural	Sands and Gravels	0.50m +

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 48233)

The archive consists of:

- 21 Context records AS1
- 8 Field progress reports AS2
- 5 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 274 Digital photographs
- 7 Scale drawings
- 1 Levels records AS19
- 11 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

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	-	pot	2	8
post-medieval	ceramic	-	brick	1	48
post-medieval	ceramic	-	clay pipe	1	4
post-medieval	ceramic	-	pot	2	6
post-medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile	1	26
modern	glass	-	window	3	22
undated	shell	-	oyster	1	8
undated	slag	fuel ash slag	-	2	18
undated	bone	animal bone		12	73
totals:				25	213

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage – evaluation stage

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	1	4
medieval	64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	1	4
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	1	2
post-medieval	85	Modern china	1	4
totals:			4	14

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery – evaluation stages

period	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	pot	12	195
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	6	91
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	163
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	2	10
post-medieval	metal	copper alloy	1	2
total			22	461

Table 3: Quantification of the assemblage

fabric code	fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	6	76
63	Brill/Boarstall ware	1	6
64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	3	77
99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	19
141	Oxfordshire Y type ware	1	17
78	Post-medieval red wares	3	65
82	Tin-glazed ware	1	3
91	Post-medieval buff wares	2	23

Table 4: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
103	glass	window	-	3	22	1900	2000
103	bone	-	-	1	1	-	-
106	ceramic	pot	78	1	2	1600	1800
106	ceramic	roof tile	-	1	26	1600	1850
106	bone	-	-	4	4	-	-
106	ceramic	pot	64.1	1	4	1200	1400
204	bone	-	-	5	56	-	-
204	shell	oyster	-	1	8	-	-
204	ceramic	pot	85	1	4	1800	1900
204	slag	-	-	2	18	-	-
204	ceramic	pot	55	1	4	1075	1400
302	ceramic	brick	-	1	48	1600	1900
302	bone	-	-	2	12	-	-
302	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	4	1600	1900

Table 5: Summary of context dating based on artefacts – evaluation stage

context	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date
1003	ceramic	pot	1	6	13C	14C	?post-medieval
1003	ceramic	brick	1	163	16C	?18C	
1009	ceramic	pot	1	44	13C	14C	E12-13C
1009	ceramic	pot	1	35	12C	M14C	
1009	ceramic	pot	2	20	E12C	M12C	
1009	ceramic	pot	2	13	12C	E14C	
1013	ceramic	pot	1	17	E12C	M13C	E12-13C
1013	ceramic	pot	1	8	L11C	M14C	
1013	ceramic	pot	1	19			
1014	ceramic	pot	1	25	13C	14C	13-14C
1015	ceramic	clay pipe	2	10			18C
1015	ceramic	pot	2	23		18C	
1015	ceramic	pot	3	65	L17C	18C	
1015	ceramic	pot	1	3		18C	
1015	ceramic	pot	1	8	12C	14C	
1015	metal	object	1	2			

Table 6: Summary of context dating based on artefacts