

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT ALLESBOROUGH FARM, PERSHORE, WORCESTERSHIRE

on behalf of Redrow Homes Midlands



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Status	Revision 1
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Project reference:	P4287
Report reference:	2103
HER reference:	WSM 57087

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Archaeological evaluation at Allesborough Farm, Pershore, Worcestershire

Richard Bradley

With contributions by Rob Hedge

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Allesborough Farm, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 93816 46214). It was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting acting on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd, who intends to construct 45 dwellings with associated infrastructure on the site and for which planning permission has been approved.

Twelve trenches of varying size, in total covering just over 811m², were excavated across the site area in order to assess the impact of the development programme on any potential heritage assets. Important and extensive prehistoric and Romano-British occupation is known to exist in the wider vicinity, but the evaluation established that any settlement and associated activity did not extend into this area. The archaeological remains identified were mainly of post-medieval and later origin, and suggested that the field has been in agricultural use for a substantial period.

It is concluded that the site is of no archaeological significance and no further archaeological mitigation work is required

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken across approximately 2ha of land at Allesborough Farm, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 93804 46214). It was commissioned by Mr A Richmond of Phoenix Consulting, acting on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd (the Client) in response to a brief (the Brief) prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (the Curator), dated 3rd March 2014. It is intended to construct 45 dwellings with associated infrastructure on the site, for which a planning application has been approved on appeal by Wychavon District Council (reference W/11/0572).

The development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application. This is due to the proximity of known heritage assets of a sensitive nature (WSM36155) and palaeoenvironmental deposits of Palaeolithic date that may extend into the site area (WSM 49724).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2014) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2014).

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 Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) is WSM 57087.

2 Aims

The overall aims of this evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of heritage assets 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.

More specifically, the project was required by the brief to assess the Palaeolithic potential of the site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Richard Bradley (BA (hons.); MA; AIfA); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2008 and has been practicing archaeology since 2005. Fieldwork assistance was provided by Michael Nicholson (BSc (hons.)) The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt and Rob Hedge contributed the finds analysis.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by CgMs Consulting in advance of the archaeological evaluation (CgMs 2012). This provides the detailed background research information for this project and therefore only a brief summary of the results is presented below.

The DBA consulted the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) to gather information on known finds and archaeological and historical sites within a 500m search radius from the site. A map regression analysis and site visit, to assess the local topography and current land use, were also undertaken. No designated heritage assets were identified on the site, but two listed buildings are located nearby; both are part of Allesborough Farm (WSM 48878; WSM 32476). One undesignated heritage asset was noted for the site; this relates to ridge and furrow associated with medieval or post-medieval ploughing in the eastern part, identified from aerial photographs (WSM 29121).

Evidence for extensive prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity in the surrounding landscape was identified, although none of this was in the immediate vicinity of the site. As a result of this analysis, the DBA concluded that there was a moderate potential for medieval agricultural remains and a low potential for undiscovered archaeological remains from all other periods (CgMs 2012, 13).

Prior to the fieldwork commencing a new search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) was also made by Worcestershire Archaeology, with a 500m search radius from the site. This included historic mapping for the area from the 1842 Tithe map onwards.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014) and the fieldwork was undertaken between 12th March 2014 and 17th March 2014.

Twelve trenches of varying size, amounting to just over 811m² in area, were excavated in a grid array across the site area of 2ha, representing a sample of a little over 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The trenches were not positioned to target any geophysical anomaly or specific cropmark features, but were arranged purely to provide an acceptable sample of the site area. All trenches were located in their planned position with the exception of Trench 1 and Trench 2. These had to be moved further west and re-aligned slightly in order to avoid an area of dumped material and temporary small-scale shelter structures at the eastern edge of the site. This did not affect the overall grid arrangement covering the site. Based on the requirements of the Brief and the Palaeolithic potential of the site, as part of the fieldwork strategy a number of 1m deep sondages were excavated into the natural substrate at the end of six trenches.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless 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, 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. 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 Rob Hedge

3.5.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology 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 was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for

determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *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).

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, including fieldwalked material;
- 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

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Due to the archaeology found on the site, no deposits were excavated that were considered to be suitable for sampling for environmental evidence.

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and current land-use

The site is located to the west of Pershore, positioned at the plateau of a ridge forming the highest of the River Avon terraces (5th Avon terrace). It is currently in use as an enclosed pasture field, with a number of temporary small-scale shelter structures at the eastern edge of the site. Water pipes and animal troughs are also present in the central area. To the north, it is bounded by Rebecca Road, to the east and south by residential property boundaries and to the west by the road junction of Rebecca Road and Holloway. The site area is broadly level but has slight rises where recent field boundaries previously existed, the remains of which are visible in places, and drops down from around 54m AOD to 53m AOD in the south-eastern corner.

Geologically, the site is situated on bedrock geology of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, with superficial geology of sand and gravel across the 5th Avon terrace (BGS 2000). The soil type across the site is unmapped due to its proximity to urban development, but adjacent fields are recorded as the fine, slightly stony, loamy soils of the Bishampton 2 Soil Association over lias clays that are occasionally waterlogged in winter (Ragg *et al.* 1984).

4.2 Archaeological context

As demonstrated in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012; see also the summary above), the site is situated in an area of extensive archaeological and historical interest, despite little evidence for this on the site itself or in the direct vicinity. The main settlement of Pershore exists to the east and south-east, a town that has Roman foundations and later developed around a Benedictine abbey of Anglo-Saxon origin. The town is documented as a relatively prosperous medieval market

centre before the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century (VCH IV). Historic mapping indicates that the site is likely to have been used as arable or pasture farmland outside of the settlement in this period, before use as an orchard in the 19th century and into the early 20th century.

Archaeologically, important faunal evidence and artefacts of Palaeolithic origin have been found on the 'Allesborough Beds', situated on the 5th gravel terrace and dated to the Marine Isotope Stage 9 (interglacial period 339,000 – 303,00 years BP; see Jackson and Dalwood 2007, 51). A fine-grained dolerite handaxe was found in the area, around 700m north-west of the site, and is likely to be associated with these deposits (WSM 56942; Hurst and Leins 2013, 299-302).

Mesolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts have also been recovered during archaeological work in this location to the north-west, and from much later prehistory extensive investigation, including field walking, metal detecting and evaluation trenches, has revealed an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site (WSM 36155). This was located following discovery by metal detectorists of a large hoard (or hoards) of Iron Age coinage, comprising 1494 gold and silver coins as well as a possible fragment of twisted wire gold torc. At the time of discovery in 1993, this was one of the largest caches of Iron Age coins ever found in Britain (see Hurst and Leins 2013, 297). The objects are now in the British Museum.

Around 250m to the north of the site, the possible line of the Roman road to Alcester is recorded (WSM 02689), close to the Iron Age settlement site which continued in use into the Roman period. Aside from this evidence to the north and north-west, there is little indication of Roman activity in close proximity. Further away however, approximately 800m to the south-west, the evidence is more prevalent. A comprehensive programme of archaeological work, including geophysical survey (Austrums 2009; WSM 41495), three stages of evaluation (Hughes and Vaughan 2009; WSM 40600; Wainwright 2010; WSM 41765; Bradley 2013; WSM 48209) and an excavation (Sworn 2011; WSM 44967), have located a rural Roman settlement complex with a series of auxiliary animal enclosures.

Also in the wider surrounds of the site, extensive evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing has been recorded (e.g. WSM 29113; WSM 29116; WSM 29122; WSM 29121; WSM 29120; WSM 02680; WSM 08463), including that identified in the eastern area of the site itself (WSM 29121). Cropmarks have also hinted at the presence of a deserted medieval village around 100m to the north of the site (WSM 02672) and it is conjectured that the medieval Chapel of St Giles once existed in the vicinity of this (WSM 02674).

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-4. 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 twelve of the trenches excavated. This was variable across the site and consisted of light reddish brown sandy gravel in the eastern part and mid brownish orange sand with gravel pockets in the central area. This changed to a mix of mid grey gravels and greyish yellow clays in the western part. A 1m deep machine sondage was undertaken in six of the trenches, which revealed deeper underlying natural deposits comprised of compacted orangish yellow sands and gravels. The sequence in each sondage was comparable across the area, with the higher natural deposits seen to be around 0.20-0.24m deep and the underlying gravel deposits extending deeper than the limit of excavation, all being greater than 0.30-0.43m in depth.

Sealing the natural substrate in all twelve trenches was a disturbed mid orangey brown sandy subsoil, ranging from 0.08m to 0.27m in depth. It was noticeably less prevalent in the western area

of the site. Finds recovered from this deposit in Trench 2 was of 18th century origin and this sealed the features identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 5. The subsoil was in turn sealed by a thick organic topsoil layer of between 0.30-0.52m, the upper surface of which consisted of heavily waterlogged rough grass.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval/post-medieval deposits

In Trenches 1 and 2, located in the eastern part of the site, a series of parallel linear features were sample excavated and recorded [107], [205], [207], [209], [211]. These are likely to be plough furrows related to medieval and post-medieval agriculture and were broadly aligned north-west to south-east, positioned approximately 8m apart. Where excavated, these were very shallow and had gradually sloping sides with a flattened base, being between 0.12m and 0.14m in depth. The fills were similar to the subsoil and contained pottery and CBM of 13th to 18th century date. It is probable that these features represent the remains of the ridge and furrow identified from aerial photographs and recorded on the HER (WSM 29121). However, it could be the case that the parallel linear arrangement of the features is indicative of planting rows from the use of the field as an orchard, certainly dating to the later 19th century and the earlier 20th century if not earlier, as identified on historic mapping. A feature of this type, [1204], was revealed running along the length of Trench 12 at the western end of the site and when excavated, was found to contain post medieval pottery and CBM.

Towards the northern end of Trench 5 a shallow, irregular depression of uncertain extent was recorded [504]. The fill was 0.16m in depth and quite clay rich and gleyed, indicating that it had contained standing water at some point. Within this material was a fragment of brick and some unabraded animal bone, suggesting that the feature was of post-medieval if not modern origin and likely to be associated with the former orchard here.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A feature, running broadly east-west across the site and aligned between Trench 3 and 5, but also potentially with Trench 8, was excavated in two locations and found to contain a modern plastic water pipe. In Trench 1, a large an amorphous shallow feature with an irregular base containing root holes was excavated and considered to be a modern tree bole, [105]. Similar features were visible along the length of Trench 1 and a further two smaller examples were excavated in the centre of Trench 3, [305], [307]. One of these contained some modern plastic and piece of rubber (not retained).

5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1–3.

The assemblage came from eight 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 poor with the majority of sherds displaying high levels of abrasion, though the average sherd size was slightly above average reflecting the general robustness of post-medieval pottery.

Period	Material class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Count	Weight(g)
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	1	34

late med–post-med	ceramic		brick/tile	2	18
late med/early post-med	ceramic		pot	1	24
medieval	ceramic		pot	1	6
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	4	44
late med–post-med	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	9	432
modern	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	150
late med–post-med	ceramic		tile	3	42
TOTALS:				22	750

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight(g)
Medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	1	6
Medieval/post-medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	1	24
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	2	26
Post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	1	4
Early post-medieval	150	Deerfold/Lingen ware	1	14
TOTALS:			6	74

Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric

Summary of artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, see Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

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

Medieval

A single small, abraded sherd of a cooking pot of 13th/14th century Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware (fabric 55) comprises the only definitively medieval artefact, recovered from the fill of a furrow (210).

Post-medieval

All of the ceramic building material recovered is considered likely to fall within the later, post-medieval part of the stated *tpq* date range, and comprises a typical post-medieval domestic assemblage of flat roof tile and brick. The condition is generally poor, with high levels of abrasion displayed by material from fills (106), (208), (210), (401) and (1203), consistent with these contexts being the infill of medieval ridge-and-furrow/later cultivation (see below).

The pottery includes a typical small assemblage of local red ware (fabric 78), likely to be 17th century in date. A relatively unabraded sherd of mid-18th century 'Motley' tableware (fabric 91) was recovered from a subsoil (201) sealing the infilled furrows within Trench 2. A highly-abraded rim-herd from an infilled planting trench (1203) was probably an early post-medieval example of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69). A single sherd of 17th century Lingen ware (fabric 150) was also recovered from the fill of a furrow (208). As this fabric is rarely found beyond its

north Herefordshire production area, its presence here is of interest, though occasional sherds have been noted before in Worcestershire (D Hurst, pers comm).

Context	Material class	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	Start date	End date	TPQ date range
106	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	42	1200	1800	1200-1800
201	ceramic	pot	1	4	1700	1800	1700-1800
208	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	134	1200	1800	1200-1800
	ceramic	brick/tile	1	12		1800	
	ceramic	pot	1	6	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	1	14	1600	1700	
210	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	3	36	1200	1800	1200-1800
	ceramic	pot	1	6	1200	1400	
300	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	150	1800	2000	1800-2000
401	ceramic	tile	3	42	1200	1800	1200-1800
	ceramic	pot	1	20	1600	1800	
503	ceramic	brick	1	34	late med	1800	late med-1800
1203	ceramic	pot	1	24	1200	1620	1200-1800
	ceramic	brick/tile	1	6	1200	1800	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	3	220	1200	1800	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6 Synthesis

The archaeological remains identified during this evaluation are of a very limited importance and were mainly of post-medieval and later origin. The findings support the conclusions of the original site desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012). Despite the presence of important and extensive prehistoric and Romano-British occupation in the wider vicinity, it is clear that settlement and associated activity did not extend into this area. The generally sterile nature of the deposits, and as an extension soils in the field as a whole, suggest that it has been in agricultural use for a substantial period.

It is probable that the linear furrow features in Trenches 1 and 2 were part of the open field system that surrounded Pershore in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The artefactual material recovered within them is consistent with 17th/18th century cultivation activity and manuring on the site of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Notably, the subsoil (201) sealing the infilled furrows within Trench 2 contained pottery of mid-18th century date, giving a *terminus post quem* date for the transition from arable cultivation to horticultural orchard plantation. Other features revealed across the site, such as the tree boles and a planting trench, can be associated with the later post-medieval and modern use of the field as an orchard.

The trial sondages undertaken across the site did not produce any Palaeolithic artefacts or ecofacts, and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental analysis. The gravel deposit sequence was of note however, as a record of the depths and extent of the upper gravels will inform knowledge regarding the sequence of the 'Allesborough Beds' on the 5th Avon gravel terrace.

7 Significance

The archaeological features recorded across the site were all of an agricultural and related to the use of the field in the post-medieval and modern period. The artefacts recovered reflect this activity. It is concluded that the site is of no archaeological significance and no further archaeological mitigation work is required

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 at Allesborough Farm, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 93816 46214). Twelve trenches of varying size, in total covering just over 811m², were excavated across the site area in order to assess the impact of the development programme on any potential heritage assets. Important and extensive prehistoric and Romano-British occupation is known to exist in the wider vicinity, but the evaluation established that any settlement and associated activity did not extend into this area. The archaeological remains identified were mainly of post-medieval and later origin, and suggested that the field has been in agricultural use for a substantial period.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Redrow Homes Ltd; Andy Richmond and Gary Coates (Phoenix Consulting); Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

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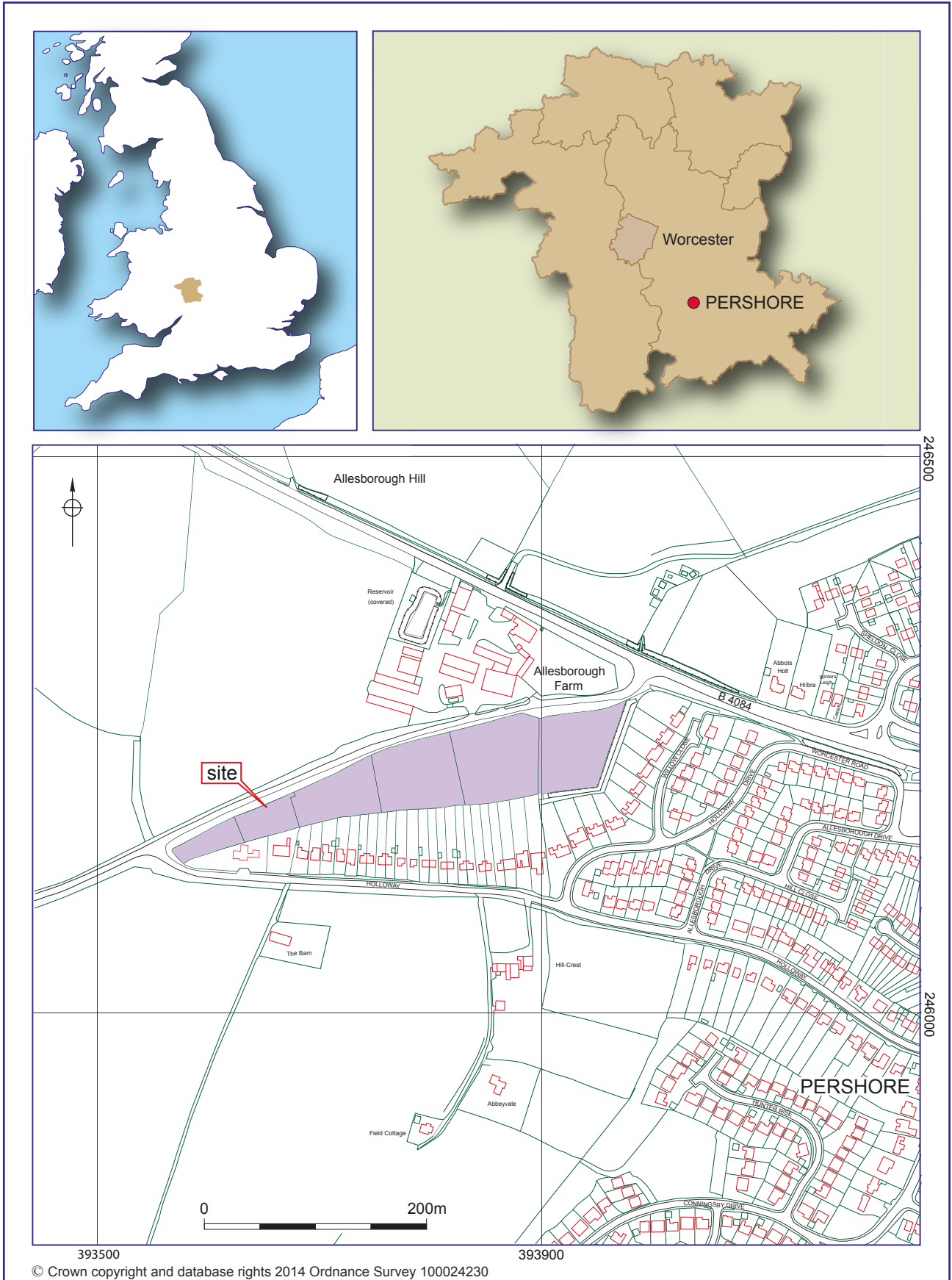
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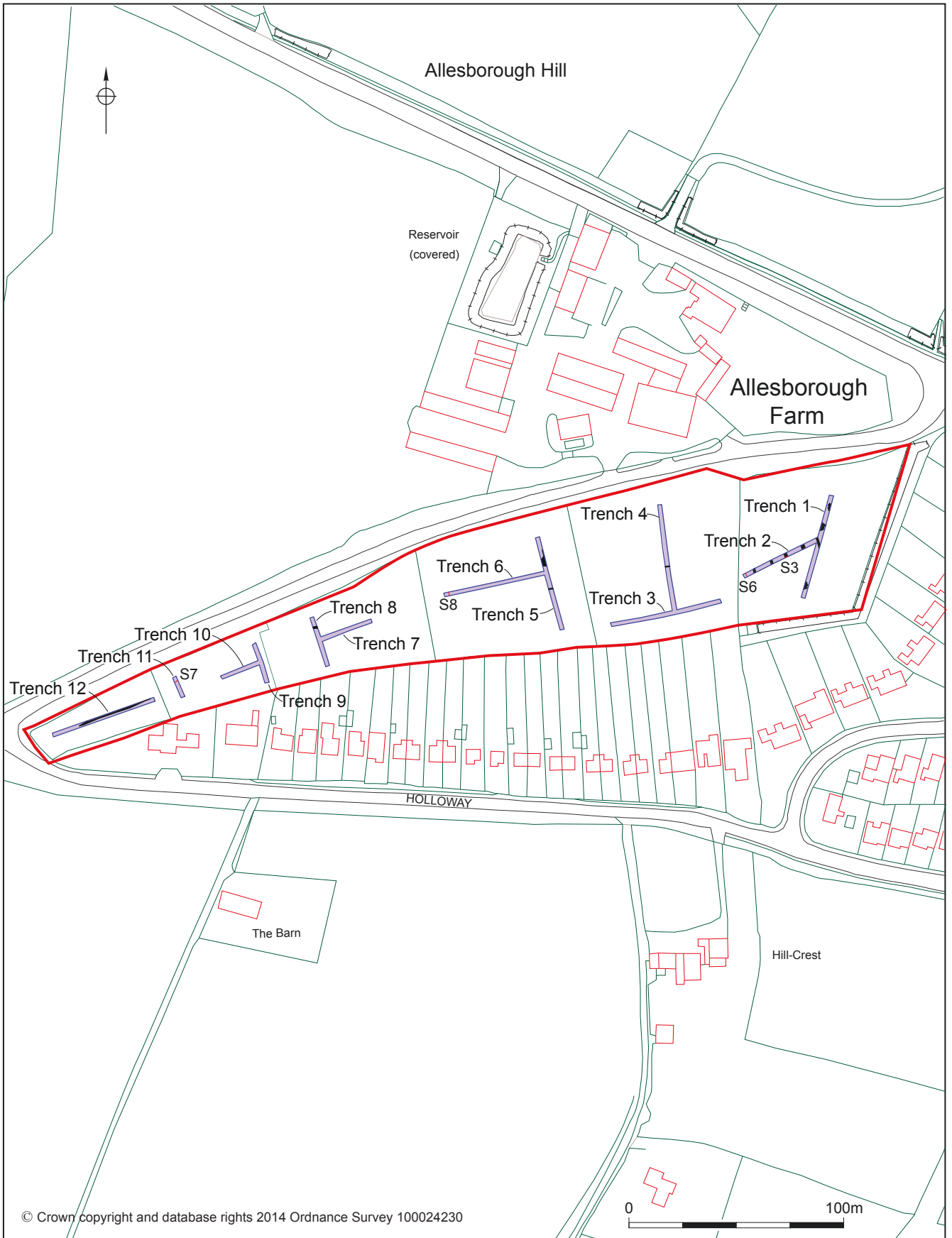
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Figures



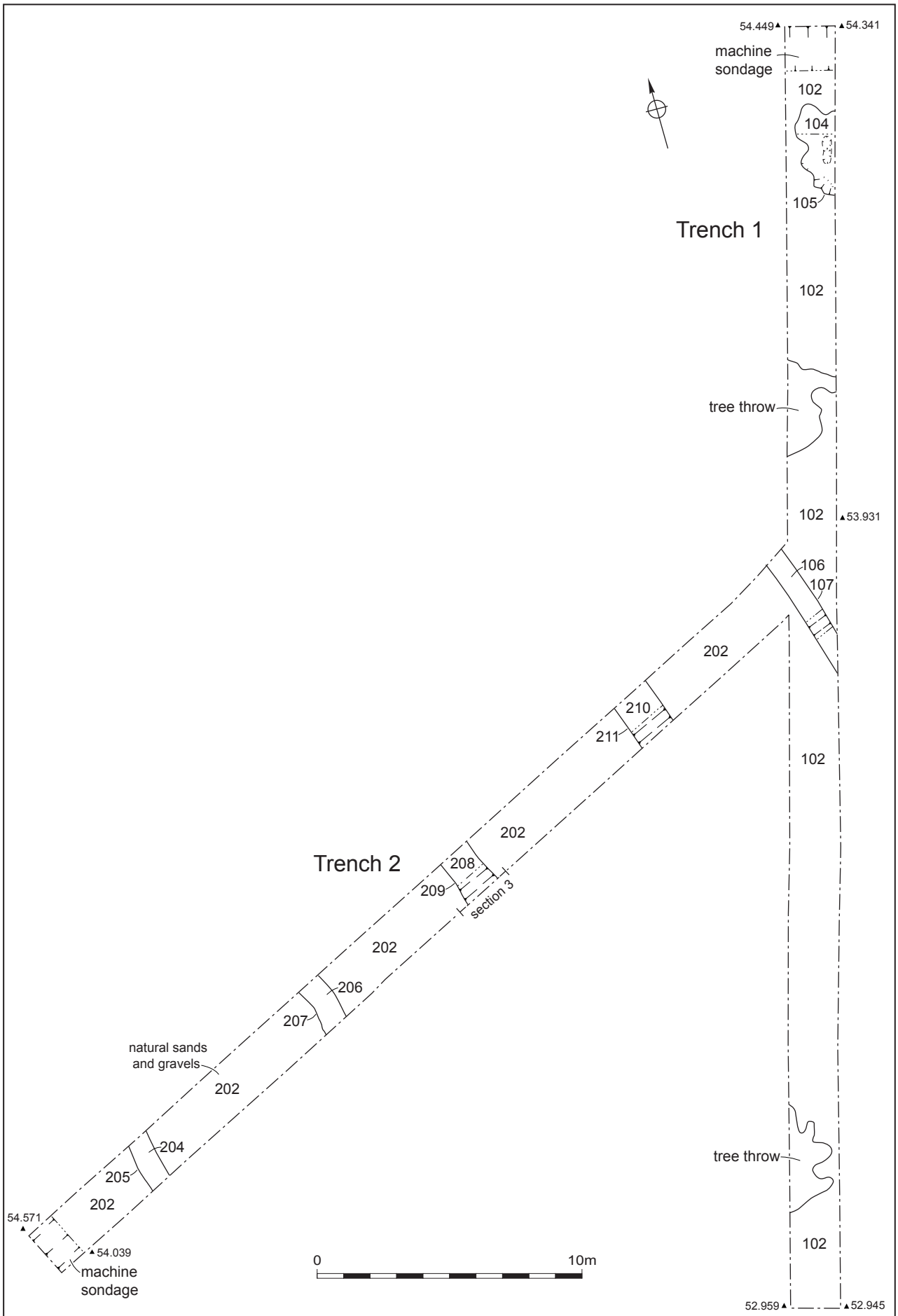
Location of the site

Figure 1



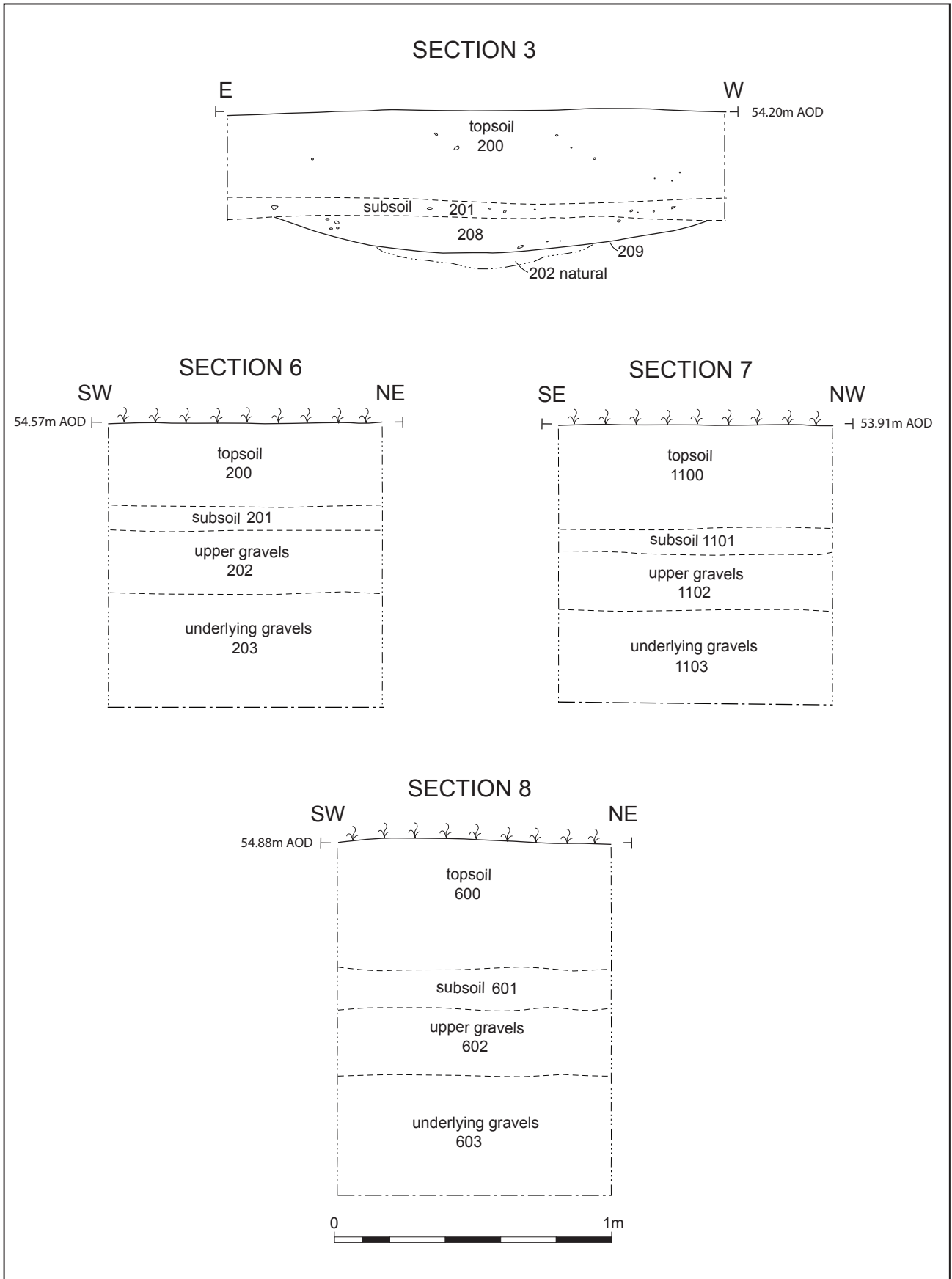
Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of Trenches 1 and 2

Figure 3



Sections of linear 209 and machine sondages in Trenches 2, 6 and 11

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site facing north towards Allesborough Farm



Plate 2: North facing section of furrow [209] in Trench 2



Plate 3: General view of Trench 2, facing south-west



Plate 4: General view of Trench 5, facing north-west



Plate 5: General view of Trench 12, facing south-west



Plate 6: Section of sondage, south-west end Trench 6



Plate 7: Section of sondage, north-east end of Trench 1

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Soft light grey sandy loam with frequent small to medium rounded stones and root action.	0.00-0.34m
101	Subsoil	Soft light brown silty sand with moderate small to large rounded stones.	0.34-0.52m
102	Natural	Soft light brown sand with yellow and orange mottling and frequent pockets of small rounded/sub-rounded gravels.	0.52-0.74m
103	Natural	Friable light yellow sand with pockets of reddish compacted sand and occasional gravels. Found below (102)	0.74-1.15m+
104	Fill	Fill of [105] Soft light brown sandy loam with pockets of yellow/orange sand, occasional small to medium rounded stones and fragments of chert.	0.52-0.90m
105	Cut	Amorphous tree bole feature.	0.52-0.90m
106	Fill	Fill of [107] Soft light brown silty sand with moderate small to medium rounded stones and rare flecks of charcoal.	0.52-0.64m
107	Cut	Small parallel sided linear, probably a furrow.	0.52-0.64m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 38m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.39m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Soft light brown sandy silt with frequent bioturbation and occasional sub-rounded gravels.	0.00-0.30m
201	Subsoil	Soft mid orange/brown silty sand with moderate sub-rounded gravels.	0.30-0.39m
202	Natural	Moderately compact mid reddish orange sands and gravels with flint and chert inclusions.	0.39-0.61m
203	Natural	Light greyish brown sandy gravels with mudstone and ironstone inclusions. Found below (202).	0.61-1.01m+
204	Fill	Fill of [205] Soft loose mid orange brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded gravels.	0.39m+
205	Cut	Linear feature. Furrow/planting trench.	0.39m+
206	Fill	Fill of [207] Soft loose mid orange brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded gravels.	0.39m+
207	Cut	Linear feature. Furrow/planting trench.	0.39m+
208	Fill	Fill of [209] Soft loose mid orange brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded gravels.	0.39-0.53m
209	Cut	Linear feature, concave with a flattened base. Furrow/planting trench.	0.39-0.53m
210	Fill	Fill of [211] Soft loose mid orange brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded gravels.	0.39-51m
211	Cut	Linear feature, concave with a flattened base. Furrow/planting trench.	0.39-51m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.63m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Soft mid brown silty loam with occasional small to medium rounded/sub-rounded stones.	0.00-0.38m
301	Subsoil	Soft light brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	0.38-0.63m
302	Natural	Soft light brown sand with occasional small to large rounded stones and patches of light brown clays throughout the trench.	0.63-0.83m
303	Natural	Moderately compact orange brown mix of small to large gravels.	0.83-1.06m
304	Fill	Soft dark brown silty loam with small to medium rounded stones, charcoal flecks and frequent root disturbance.	0.63-0.77m
305	Cut	Small irregular feature. Probable tree throw.	0.63-0.77m
306	Fill	Soft dark brown silty loam with frequent small to medium rounded/sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	0.63-0.81m
307	Cut	Large amorphous feature. Probable tree throw.	0.63-0.81m
308	Natural	Soft orange sand found below (303)	1.06m+

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.71m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Soft mid brown silty loam with occasional small to medium rounded/sub-rounded stones.	0.00-0.44m
401	Subsoil	Soft light brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	0.44-0.71m
402	Natural	Soft light brown sand with occasional small to large rounded stones and patches of light brown clays throughout the trench.	0.71m+

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 44m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Soft mid greyish brown silty loam with occasional medium to large sub-angular stones	0.00-0.52m
501	Subsoil	Soft mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones.	0.52-0.70m
502	Natural	Soft mid brown/orange sand with occasional medium to large rounded stones and patches of small to large gravels.	0.70m+
503	Fill	Firm green silty clay with occasional large rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	0.70-0.94m
504	Cut	Large amorphous shaped feature. Probable tree throw or water filled depression.	0.70-0.94m

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.59m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Soft mid greyish brown silty loam with occasional medium to large sub-angular stones	0.00-0.44m
601	Subsoil	Soft mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones.	0.44-0.59m
602	Natural	Soft mid brown/orange sand with occasional medium to large rounded stones and patches of small to large gravels.	0.59-0.83m
603	Natural	Firm orange gravel substrate found below (602)	0.83m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.61m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Soft mid brown silty loam with occasional medium rounded stones.	0.00-0.46m
601	Subsoil	Soft light orange brown silty sand with frequent small to medium rounded stones and occasional small sub angular stones.	0.46-0.61m
602	Natural	Soft light orange/brown sandy gravels	0.61m+

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.64m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Soft mid brown silty loam with occasional medium rounded stones.	0.00-0.44m
801	Subsoil	Soft light orange brown silty sand with frequent small to medium rounded stones and occasional small sub angular stones.	0.44-0.64m
802	Natural	Soft light orange/brown sandy gravels	0.64m+
803	Fill	Fill of [804] A mix of topsoil (800) and subsoil (801) deliberately backfilled into water pipe trench cut [804]	0.08-0.59m
804	Cut	Modern vertical sided trench cut for water pipe.	0.08-0.59m
805	Fill	Soft to moderate mix of topsoil (800) and subsoil (801).	0.08-0.44m
806	Fill	Moderately compact mix of re-deposited natural (802) and topsoil (801).	0.44-0.86m
807	Cut	Linear feature. Possible planting trench.	0.80-0.86m

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.49m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Soft mid brown silty loam with occasional small to medium rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.31m
901	Subsoil	Soft light brown/orange silty sand with occasional rounded stones.	0.31-0.49m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
902	Natural	Soft mid brown/grey sandy gravels with iron pan inclusions.	0.49-.61m
903	Natural	Firm orange/yellow sandy gravels found below (902).	0.61m+

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: SW-NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Soft mid brown silty loam with occasional small to medium rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks.	0.00-0.40m
1001	Subsoil	Soft light brown/orange silty sand with occasional rounded stones.	0.40-0.48m
1002	Natural	Soft mid brown/grey sandy gravels with iron pan inclusions.	0.48m+

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.5m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.46m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Soft mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded gravels.	0.00-0.38m
1101	Subsoil	Soft mid brown silty clay with frequent gravels.	0.38-0.46m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1102	Natural	Compact greyish brown sandy gravels with iron pan and occasional manganese.	0.46-0.66m
1103	Natural	Firm orange/yellow sands and gravels found below (1102)	0.66-0.98m+

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.43m

Orientation: SW-NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Soft mid grey brown silty loam with moderate medium rounded stones.	0.00-0.35m
1201	Subsoil	Soft mid yellow brown silty sand with pockets of clay and occasional small to medium rounded stones.	0.35-0.43m
1202	Natural	Soft light to mid yellow/orange brown sandy gravels and pockets of grey/green clay.	0.43m+
1203	Fill	Fill of [1204] Soft to moderate light brown with orange mottling silty loam and frequent medium rounded stones, rare charcoal flecks.	0.43-0.67m
1204	Cut	Linear feature. Planting trench from hedgerow or orchard.	0.43-0.67m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 57087)

The archive consists of:

- 3 Context records AS1
- 3 Field progress reports AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 117 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 8 Scale drawings
- 12 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

WSM 57087 (event HER number)

P4287 Allesborough Farm Evaluation

Artefacts

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
	ceramic		brick/tile	1	12	1200	1800
	ceramic		brick/tile	1	6	1200	1800
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	3	36	1200	1800
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	42	1200	1800
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	2	134	1200	1800
	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	3	220	1200	1800
	ceramic		tile	3	42	1200	1800
late med/early post-med	ceramic		pot	1	24	1200	1620
medieval	ceramic		pot	1	6	1200	1400
modern	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1	150	1800	2000
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	1	34		1800
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	6	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	14	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	20	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	4	1700	1800
undated	bone	animal bone		7	50		