ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF AT LAND OFF KING'S ROAD, BENGEWORTH, EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE

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Contents

Archaeological excavation and watching brief at land off King's Road, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcestershire

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Summary

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken at Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcester (NGR SP 0480 4414). It was undertaken on behalf of Property Services, Worcestershire County Council, in advance of the construction of a new two form entry First School on the site, replacing the former Bengeworth First School. The client submitted a planning application to Worcestershire County Council, who considered that a site of archaeological interest might be affected.

The excavation followed earlier project stages, comprising a desk-based assessment and a field evaluation. The desk-based assessment identified a medium to low potential for either prehistoric or Roman remains and the evaluation demonstrated that Bronze Age and Iron Age deposits survived and in particular identified a large Iron Age enclosure ditch. Subsequently a geophysical survey was undertaken which confirmed the presence of a large sub-rectangular enclosure with internal features including a line of pits and a curving ditch. A strategy for excavation of the enclosure and other discrete features was produced by the Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council. .

The excavation confirmed the presence of the sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure, measuring some 42m by 32m, on a northeast-southwest alignment. Hand dug sections across the ditch demonstrated three clear phases of activity on the site. The first phase of the ditch, likely to have been dug in the Early Iron Age, measured approximately 2.5m in width and 1.1m in depth. Although no entrance was identified, the southern corner of the enclosure was beyond the limits of the excavation, and this is a common location for entrances in this type of structure. The second phase of the enclosure kept the general size and shape of the first ditch, but moved the entrance to the east, adopting a funnel design to controlled access to the enclosure. The third and final phase saw the ditch greatly reduced in depth, and the profile shifting from a V-shape to a shallow concave or bowl shape. The entrance remained to the east, but funnelled entrance had been abandoned and it opened directly to the exterior.

The entrances to the second and third phases of the enclosure, and the conjectured southern entrance of the first phase, may have been associated with an undated droveway that ran parallel to the southeast side of the enclosure. There was a gap in the western gully near to the eastern entrance to the enclosure, possibly allowing access to it. Whilst the droveway remained undated, it was truncated by the third phase ditch, and it is not unreasonable to assume a connection between the earlier phases of the enclosure and the droveway.

Within the interior of the enclosure there were a number of groups of probable storage pits, and a curvilinear feature that may have enclosed a small crop processing area. Dating evidence indicated these features where broadly contemporary with the enclosure although it was not possible to assign them to any of the phases identified in the ditch sections. Although the absence of occupation structures maybe the result of heavy truncation analysis of the structural and environmental remains suggest that the enclosure primarily served an agricultural function.

It is thought that the enclosure formed part of a mixed economy farming landscape, which operated in the Iron Age along the valleys of the Avon Valley and included other excavated sites such as those at Wyre Piddle and Throckmorton. A similar droveway to the Bengeworth example was recorded at Three Springs Road Pershore, associated with Roman enclosures and it is thought that this may represent the continuation of a system of rearing cattle on well drained gravel river terraces and moving them to more populous areas.

Report

1 Background

Reasons for the project

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at land off King's Road, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0480 4414). It was commissioned by Property Services, Worcestershire County Council, prior to the construction of a new two form entry First School for which a planning application was approved by Worcestershire County Council (reference CC/10/00024).

Prior to the excavation the archaeological significance of the site had been assessed by a desk-based study (RPS 2008) and archaeological evaluation (Wainwright 2010). The desk-based assessment identified a medium-low potential for either prehistoric or Roman remains. The evaluation established the presence of a large Iron Age ditch to the south of the site and some Bronze Age features surviving to the north. Following assessment of the results of the evaluation a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2010) revealed the extent of the enclosure and probable associated features.

The development site was considered to likely to adversely affect these heritage assets and a programme of archaeological works was therefore specified as a condition of planning permission. The scope of the required works, which comprised of an archaeological excavation across the enclosure and a watching brief on the surrounding area, was outlined in a brief prepared by the Planning and Advisory Service, Worcestershire County Council (HEAS 2010a). A project proposal including detailed specification was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (HEAS 2010b).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM 42440.

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project were identified in the brief (HEAS 2010a) and resultant project proposal (HEAS 2010b).

Specifically the following aims and research objectives were defined:

1. To examine the archaeological resource within the defined area with a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of them and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results and disseminate them.

2. To further characterise and define the nature and dating of the enclosure and the related discrete features noted in the geophysical survey.

3. To consider all results within regional and national research frameworks as appropriate.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The excavation was supervised by Simon Sworn (BA) and Darren Miller (MA AIfA) assisted by Richard Bradley (BA MA AIfA), Angus Crawford (BA MSc PIfA), Tegan Cole (BA), Tim Cornah (BA), Christine Elgy (MA), Chris Gibbs (BSc), Michael Nicholson (BSc), Jo Wainwright (MA AIfA) and Steve Woodhouse (BA). The watching brief was undertaken by Fiona Keith-Lucas (BSc MSc), Darren Miller, Jo Wainwright and Graham Arnold (BA MSc). The report was written by Andrew Walsh (BSc MSc AIfA) Peter Lovett (BSc) and Simon Sworn, and the project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (MSc). Laura Griffin (BA AIfA) and Robin Jackson (BA) contributed the finds report and Alan Chapman (MSc PhD) and Emily Beales produced the

environmental report. Illustrations were prepared by Steve Rigby (BA) and Laura Templeton (BA MIfA).

3.2 Fieldwork strategy (Figure 1)

The excavation was undertaken between 9 August and 16 September 2010. The site reference number and site code is WSM 42440. Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360º mechanical excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. An area amounting to just over 3760m² was excavated. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (CAS 1995).

On completion of the excavation, the site was secured by fencing, although no reinstatement was undertaken on request of the client. Following this a watching brief was carried out on groundworks associated with the construction of the school. This was undertaken between September 2010 and February 2011.

3.3 Structural analysis

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

3.4 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.4.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard practice (CAS 1995, appendix 2). This in principal determines that all finds, of whatever date, must be collected.

3.4.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. 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 recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994; and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

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

3.4.3 Flint methodology, by Robin Jackson

All flint was examined and recorded on a Microsoft Access database following standard Service practice (CAS 1995 as amended). Terminology and classification used broadly follows that provided in Inizan *et al* (1992) and Butler (2005).

3.5 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham and Emily Beales

3.5.1 Sampling policy

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation. Samples of up to 40 litres were taken from 36 contexts.

3.5.2 Method of analysis

3.5.2.1 Macrofossil analysis

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

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997). A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale.

3.5.2.2 Large mammal bone analysis

All bone fragments were analysed and, where possible, identified to element and species with any butchery marks, pathological alterations and morphological abnormalities being recorded. Identifications were aided by reference to the reference collection maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology and standard keys (Schmid 1972; Hillson 1992). Sex was not factored into this analysis as most of the bone elements were too incomplete to gain adequate measurements needed for sex determination. Teeth were identified to species using Hillson (1992).

The collected data was analysed and interpreted to assessment level, although no statistical analysis was undertaken due to the small sample size of identifiable remains.

3.5.3 Discard policy

The following samples will be discarded after a period of six months after the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them:

Context	Sample no.
1046	4
1052	5
1054	6
1145	12
1149	14
1151	15
1154	16
1006	22
1131	24

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

A desk-based assessment was carried out in 2008 (RPS Planning and Development 2008) and only a brief synthesis of the data from this and the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record will be included here.

The site was located just to the northwest of Evesham (NGR SP 0480 4414), on gently sloping ground above the River Avon which is located to the west. The site consisted of part of a field which had been in arable use (Figure 1). It was bounded by a track to the east and a fence and hedge to the west. To the south the boundary was a road and a housing estate. There was no

boundary at the north end of the site. The site sloped down from about 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east to 35m aOD in the south-west.

The drift geology is mapped as alluvium and River Terrace Deposits (Wasperton sand and gravels). These deposits were thicker in the south of the site with a depth of about 1m. In places in the north and east of the site the sand and gravels were only about 0.25m thick. The solid geology was mapped as blue lias formation and Charmouth mudstones (BGS 1974). The soils are recorded as slowly permeable, non-calcareous loams or loams over clay of the Bishampton soil series (Beard *et al* 1986).

The site is located in an area where later prehistoric activity has been frequently identified. A Bronze Age slate archer's wrist guard was recovered from a gravel or sand pit about 30m from the south-western corner of the site (WSM 24817; Figure 1) and further south at Abbey Road a Bronze Age unenclosed settlement has recently been identified (WSM 37561). An evaluation at Durcott Lodge, about 800 metres to the south of the site, uncovered an archaeological site which was continuously occupied from the Bronze Age to the 12th century (WSM 30785). Across the river, along the High Street in Evesham, a concentration of activity has been interpreted as an Iron Age settlement with some activity from the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (WSM 26358 and WSM 27191). In addition a series of cropmarks, identified from aerial photographs, lie just to the east of the site (WSM 26950; Figure 1). Although the cropmarks are undated none relate to field boundaries illustrated on early maps and it is possible that they date from the prehistoric and/or Roman periods.

By the medieval period the site was under the jurisdiction of Evesham Abbey. It would seem probable that during this period the land would have been agricultural in nature. The 1886 Ordnance Survey First Edition map shows the site within two parcels of land though what was grown on the fields is not depicted. By the time of the 1904 Ordnance Survey map the northern part of the site had become an orchard.

4.2 Land-use

The site was in use as an arable field prior to excavation. It is now occupied by Bengeworth First School.

5 Structural analysis

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits across the site (1008) comprised firm mid-orangey brown sandy gravels consistent with Wasperton sands and gravels.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Bronze Age

A discrete feature [906] recorded during the evaluation phase yielded ten sherds of pottery which may date to the early Bronze Age. The feature, which was located in the northwest quadrant of the site, measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.14m depth and was filled by a mid to light brown sandy silt (905). It may represent the remains of a heavily truncated posthole or small pit. Five other small discrete features were located in a cluster with 906 and may also date to the Bronze Age. No Bronze Age features were identified during the excavation or watching brief phases of work.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Iron Age

5.1.3.1 Enclosure ditch

Most of the enclosure, which had been identified by the geophysical survey and evaluation, was located within the excavation area, except for the south-eastern corner which lay outside the development area (Figure 2 and Plate 1). The enclosure measured approximately 42m by 32m on a northeast to southwest axis, covering an area of *c*1350m². Within the enclosure were a number

of discrete features, including a line of seven pits to the northwest, and a short internal curvilinear gully to the southwest which appeared to enclose another small group of pits.

Fifteen sections measuring between 1.5m and 4m in length were excavated across the enclosure ditch and further sections were excavated to investigate the nature of the entrance. These revealed three phases of activity. The earliest ditch (1023) measured around 2.5m in width and 1.30m in depth, and had a V-shaped profile with slightly convex sides narrowing to a flat base (Figure 3 and Plates 2 and 3). It was typically filled by single deposit formed of a mixture of reddish brown sandy silt and light brown clay redeposited from the natural, suggesting a gradual filling rather than deliberate backfilling. Early and Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from two sections of the ditch (contexts 1101 and 1097 respectively). There was no evidence of an entrance within the excavated area, although it may have been located to the south, beyond the limits of the excavated area.

The original ditch was recut (1174) largely following the course of the earlier enclosure ditch except at the northeast corner where a new 'funnel' entrance arrangement was added. This was created by extending the eastern arm of the ditch beyond the northern ditch for a distance of approximately 10m, leaving a gap of 1.5m. The recut had a similar V-shaped profile to the original ditch and was typically filled by yellowish brown sandy silty clay. Pottery retrieved from this phase of the ditch was early to Middle Iron Age in date.

The final recut of the ditch (1175) was shallower, typically measuring around 0.2m in depth, with a concave profile. It contained a single fill that varied from a light yellowish brown sandy silt to a dark greyish brown clayey silt, which yielded early and Middle Iron Age pottery. This phase of the enclosure ditch also had an entrance in the northeast corner but it was simpler than its immediate predecessor without forming the 'funnel'.

5.1.3.2 Internal features

In the south-west corner of the enclosure were a curvilinear ditch (1163, Plate 6) and eight pits. Ditch 1163 measured 16m in length, 1.3m in width, 0.50m in depth, and it partially enclosed an area of *c*200m² (Figure 7 and Plate 6). Within this sub-enclosure were four pits (1018, 1020, 1022, and 1036) which measured between 0.8m and 1.2m in plan, and 0.06m to 0.18m in depth (Figure 6). To the south of 1163 were three more pits (1007, 1014, – Plate 4), aligned in a linear arrangement parallel to the main enclosure ditch. They were oval in plan measuring between 1.4m and 2.3m in length, and 0.14m and 0.45m in depth (Figure 6 and Plate 4). A final pit (1004) was located immediately east of ditch 1163.

Ditch 1163, and the surrounding pits, primarily yielded a mixture of Middle and early Late Iron Age date pottery. In addition to the pottery, a large triangular loom-weight, which was diagnostically consistent with a Middle to Late Iron Age date, was retrieved from pit 1022. The pits and ditch also yielded quantities of charred cereal remains.

A linear alignment of seven sub-circular pits lay on the north-eastern side of the enclosed area (1107, 1119, 1130, 1155, 1162, 1150 and 1152 (Plate 5); Figure 4 and Plate 5). The pits were roughly aligned over a distance of approximately 15m, on a northwest to southeast axis similar to the main enclosure ditch. They measured between 0.92m and 2.08m in width, and 0.10m and 0.28m in depth. They typically had steep sides with flat bases and three of the pits (1150, 1152, and 1155) yielded pottery which could only be broadly dated to the Iron Age. Six of these pits yielded quantities of charred plant remains, although this was in smaller quantities than the features in the southwest of the enclosure.

5.1.3.3 The droveway

Running parallel to the enclosures eastern side were a series of shallow ditches (1189, 1193, 1212, 1218, 1221 and 1222; Figure 5 and Plates 7 and 8) which appear to represent the remains of a droveway. The ditches were visible over a distance of about 35m, and typically measured

about 0.4m to 0.7m in width and ?? in depth. Levels of truncation meant that any track surface had be destroyed, leaving only the base of the associated ditches visible. There were at least three phases of the droveway, successive ditches on the western side tending to run parallel to each other whilst on the eastern side an earlier gully is clearly succeeded by a later.

None of the excavated ditches provided any datable material and although one of the gullies was truncated by the last phase of the main enclosure ditch the two features appeared to largely respect each other. There was an opening to the west adjacent to the northeast entrance of the enclosure, which may suggest that the droveway was associated with the second phase of the enclosure. The truncated nature of the droveway meant that it was not identified during the evaluation or geophysical survey, although re-analysis of the results suggests that it may have continued to the north, in Trench 9, and possibly Trench 7.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Roman

A small quantity of Roman material was recovered during the course of the excavation, though none of this came from secure contexts.

5.1.5 Phase 5: Medieval and post-medieval

Later activity was limited to a series of parallel furrows set approximately 9m apart which cut into the Iron Age features, and a number tree holes.

5.1.6 Modern deposits

Above the post-medieval deposits were a subsoil and topsoil. These broadly consisted of an orangey brown sandy silt subsoil and a greyish brown sandy silt topsoil.

5.1.7 Undated deposits

Pit 1080 pre-dated the enclosure ditch, but it contained no finds to allow an accurate date to be defined so little can be other than to say it was early to Middle Iron Age or earlier. It measured approximately 1.0m in diameter and 0.51m in depth. An undated posthole (1055) was recorded lying 8.8m north-west of the enclosure.

Ditch terminus 2010 was identified during the watching brief on a northwest to southeast alignment. It exposed over a distance of 3.3m, measured 0.52m in depth and contained three fills. Pit 2004, which was also identified during the watching brief, yielded pottery which could only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period. Other features identified during the watching brief were shallow and undated, or modern in origin.

6 The artefact assemblage by Laura Griffin

The total assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 1006 finds weighing 7939g, with pottery forming the largest group amounting to 799 sherds. The material could be dated from the earlier prehistoric period onwards but the bulk of material was of Iron Age date (see Table 1).

6.1 Methodology

All hand retrieved finds were examined and identified, quantified and dated to period. Where possible, a *terminus post quem* was produced for each stratified context, which was used for determining the broad date of structural phases. Records from both stages of fieldwork were entered into a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and they are not included in the overall quantification.

6.2 The pottery

A total of 799 sherds weighing 4585g were retrieved from the site. The assemblage was dominated by Iron Age pottery but smaller quantities of earlier prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later pottery were also present.

Sherds were examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form. All fabrics were referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992; www.worcestershireceramics.org). Sherds that could not be identified, or were too small to be identified accurately by fabric, were grouped within miscellaneous prehistoric or Roman fabric categories 97 or 98. The pottery was classified into form types on the basis of shape, size, rim type and decoration. Where possible, forms were categorised and dated using the appropriate published typology for the specific fabric type. Level of preservation was variable with some pottery being extremely friable but other finds displaying only light abrasion. Where possible, the results from analysis of this assemblage have been compared to assemblages from other local and regional sites in an attempt to identify any common themes. A selection of forms is illustrated in Figure 8.

6.2.1 Bronze Age

The earliest pottery from the site consisted of ten small fragments of a soft, variably fired fabric which contained grog and well-rounded sand (context 905). The exterior of some of these fragments appeared to have faint traces of impressed decoration in the form of small squares. Although the sherds are undiagnostic and too small to firmly identify as being of a specific fabric type, the presence of grog and quartz inclusions would strongly indicate them to be of Early Bronze Age date (Robin Jackson, pers comm).

6.2.2 Iron Age

A total of 742 sherds could be firmly identified as being of Iron Age date, with examples of fabrics and forms spanning the period. A significant proportion of the group was diagnostic with none dating later than the Late Middle/early Late Iron Age. Despite the chronological differences in style and fabric amongst the group, the vast majority of sherds were retrieved from contexts belonging to phase 2 of the enclosure ditch, and more specifically from the large enclosure ditch which dominated the site. Unfortunately, the subsequent re-cutting of this ditch could not be detected within the ceramic assemblage due to a high level of residuality and mixing of deposits. As a result, much of material identified as being Early Iron Age can only be identified as residual within features with a Middle Iron Age *terminus post quem*.

6.2.3 Early Iron Age

The most interesting group of sherds within the assemblage is thought to date to the Early Iron Age, based primarily on comparison with examples of forms from other sites in the county such as Clifton Quarry (Mann *et al* 2011) and Carrant Brook Farm, Ashton-under-Hill (E Morris, pers comm), as well as further afield such as White Horse Stone, Kent (Hayden and Stafford *et al* 2006) and Fairfield Park, Bedfordshire (Webley *et al* 2007). This group amounted to 162 sherds weighing 906g.

6.2.3.1 Fabrics

A narrow range of fabrics was represented within the group, the vast majority being highly vesicular with a distinctive 'corky' texture. All are thought to have been locally produced. Unfortunately the paucity of surviving inclusions within these sherds has made macroscopic identification difficult.

Of the fabrics that could be identified, the most common type contained fossilised shell and grog which bore a strong resemblance to those identified as fabric 4.7 amongst the Early Iron Age assemblage from Clifton Quarry and the Late Bronze Age pottery from Kemerton (Jackson

forthcoming). At Beckford (J Wills in prep), the only examples of shell and grog tempered fabric (BD fabric 4) occurred as Beaker vessels, while radiocarbon dating of burnt residues on sherds of the fossilised shell fabric (BD fabric 16), showed a very definite cut-off point for the use of this fabric type in the early Middle Iron Age (E Morris pers comm). Likewise, sherds dating to the Middle Iron Age from nearby 93–97 High Street, Evesham were also dominated by a fossil shell tempered fabric (Hurst 2000).

The other common fabric type of Early Iron Age date within the assemblage was a sand-tempered ware likely to be of local production (fabric 5.1). Although this ware was present in greater quantity by sherd count than the shell and grog-tempered vessels, in reality the sherds represent fewer individual vessels. As with the shell and grog-tempered ware, sherds of similar fabric have been previously identified in assemblages of Middle Iron Age date at Beckford (*op cit*.) and Blackstone (Hurst *et al* 2010), and appear to continue through to the end of the Iron Age period.

In addition to the above wares, a small number of other fabric types were also identified within the group. These included a sand and grog-tempered ware (fabric 5.3), an organic and sand-tempered fabric, an organically tempered reduced ware, a distinctive fabric with numerous voids that may have originally have been mudstone-tempered, and a coarse sandy fabric containing a variety of large, mixed inclusions. These latter types have all been grouped as miscellaneous wares (fabric 97).

6.2.3.2 Forms

The presence of well-preserved and sizeable rim sherds within the assemblage from Bengeworth makes this assemblage one of high importance in the identification and dating of the above fabric types. Currently little is known about pottery of the Early Iron Age in Worcestershire with only small amounts of material so far identified, and those sherds which have been recognised, have tended to be fragmentary and mainly undiagnostic. Therefore the assemblage from Bengeworth has provided a rare opportunity to look at both fabric and forms from this period. All identifiable forms are illustrated in Figure 8 and are described in the accompanying catalogue.

6.2.4 Middle Iron Age

The Middle Iron Age pottery assemblage amounted to 220 sherds and was dominated by vessels of handmade Malvernian ware (fabric 3) in a range of form and decorative types characteristic of pottery of this period.

6.2.4.1 Fabrics

Just two fabric types were identified amongst the vessels of definite Middle Iron Age date – handmade Malvernian ware (fabric 3) and sand-tempered ware (fabric 5.1). It is possible that sherds of other fabric types also belong to this period but due to the lack of defined stratigraphy across the site it is not possible to accurately date the bulk of undiagnostic sherds any more closely than to the general Iron Age period.

6.2.4.2 Forms

All diagnostic sherds came from jar forms which could be cross-referenced with types published from other local assemblages of similar date, such as Beckford (*op cit*) and Blackstone (*op cit*). A large proportion of these diagnostic sherds were also decorated in a style characteristic of the Middle Iron Age period with either a stamped or tooled decorative band just below the rim. Illustrated vessels can be seen in Figure 8 and are described in the accompanying catalogue.

6.2.5 Late Iron Age

A small group of seven sherds could be identified as being of early Late Iron Age date on the basis of form. All came from contexts associated with the curvilinear ditch and pits in the SW corner of the enclosure (contexts 1019 and 1147).

6.2.5.1 Fabrics

All sherds were of handmade Malvernian ware (fabric 3).

6.2.5.2 Forms

Sherds came from two jar forms: a fine, barrel-shaped jar with lipped rim (cf. Beckford form 3.9; context 1019), and a round-profile jar with a short, thick, upright, flat-topped rim (cf. Blackstone form TV11; context 1147).

6.2.5.3 Briquetage

A fairly sizable and significant assemblage of briquetage amounting to 87 sherds was retrieved from the site. The group fell into three fabric types: sandy (fabric 1), organic tempered (fabric 2) and marl tempered (fabric 156). As is often the case with briquetage vessels, very few diagnostic sherds were present within the group. This is partly due to the nature of this type of pottery which means that it frequently breaks along the coil junctions, but it is also thought that vessels were deliberately smashed in order to access the salt contained within them. This breakage results in the majority of briquetage found being fragmentary, and, besides, the distinguishing of rim sherds from broken coil joins is particularly problematic. However, the assemblage from Bengeworth included a base sherd (1015) and a rim (context 1013), both of the less common marl-tempered fabric.

6.2.5.4 Dating

On occasion the marl-tempered briquetage fabric has been considered earlier in date than the more commonly identified organic and sand tempered versions (D Hurst, pers comm). Unfortunately, due to the mixing of contexts and levels of residuality seen across this site, the contexts from which sherds of this fabric were retrieved cannot be dated closely enough to test this. However, it can be commented that sherds of this fabric were found alongside sherds assigned to the Early Iron Age period, including within the pit alignment in the NW corner of the enclosure [CG 1108].

6.2.6 Undated Iron Age pottery

The remainder of the Iron Age assemblage consisted of non-diagnostic or non-specific form sherds which could only be attributed to the period as a whole. The range of fabric types represented was narrow and all of local production, consisting of handmade Malvernian ware (fabric 3), sand-tempered ware (fabric 5.1), sandstone-tempered ware (fabric 5.2) and mudstone tempered ware (fabric 9). Where recognisable from body sherds, forms consisted entirely of jars.

6.2.7 Discussion of the Iron Age pottery

6.2.7.1 Range of vessel types and sizes within the assemblage

Diagnostic sherds highlighted a strong bias towards jars throughout the Iron Age period, with vessels of this form-type far outnumbering bowls or open forms. This would appear to be a local characteristic with similar patterns of consumption also being noted in the assemblages from Clifton Quarry, Blackstone, and Beckford. This is in contrast with other Iron Age assemblages from outside of the region, particularly those Early Iron Age date such as that from White Horse Stone, where the occurrence of jars and bowls is roughly equal (Hayden and Stafford *et al* 2006, 152).

Size of vessels was variable and based on the small sample available, appeared to decrease noticeably in diameter between the Early and Middle Iron Age and with an average measurement of 240mm amongst the earliest vessels as opposed to 170mm by the later Middle Iron Age. Despite the lack of comparable assemblages locally, the large diameter of some Early Iron Age vessels is also noted amongst the pottery from Clifton Quarry, as well as with groups from the south-east region, such as Fairfield Park in the Thames valley (Webley *et al* 2007).

6.2.7.2 Evidence for use

Very few sherds displayed evidence of use, particularly carbonised deposits, with the exception of a small number of sherds which displayed external sooting and/or blackening presumably from being used for cooking over a fire.

6.2.7.3 Distribution

There does not appear to be any significant pattern of distribution indicated by the pottery, across the site as a whole and the mixing between contexts within the enclosure ditch itself precludes any meaningful discussion by phase. Though it may be suggested that the pit group in the north-east corner predates the enclosure itself based on alignment, the small amount of pottery retrieved from these pits is undiagnostic and fragmentary.

6.2.8 Regional significance

6.2.8.1 Earlier prehistoric

Earlier prehistoric pottery from Bengeworth consisted of ten sherds of Early Bronze Age which came from the fill of a shallow scoop or posthole (context 905). Although these were the only sherds of earlier prehistoric date within the assemblage, their presence within this feature indicates activity and possibly settlement on the site during this period. This in turn adds to the growing corpus of knowledge about activity in the region during the earlier prehistoric period.

6.2.8.2 Early Iron Age

Pottery of Early Iron Age date formed the focus of analysis. This material is of considerable significance to the study of Iron Age pottery and settlement in Worcestershire, primarily because it is one of only two such groups to have been excavated and analysed to date, the other being from Clifton Quarry, as noted above. These two groups serve to bridge the existing gap between known assemblages and sites of Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age date and provide a good range of fabric and form types, with which any future assemblages of the same period should be compared. The variety and number of diagnostic sherds present within in the assemblage is significant, particularly when viewed alongside those from Clifton Quarry, as together, they constitute the basis for the creation of a typology for pottery of this date.

6.2.8.3 Middle Iron Age

The Middle Iron Age pottery formed a standard assemblage, consistent in both fabric and form with assemblages previously excavated in this region. The presence of this pottery clearly demonstrates a continuation of settlement well into the Iron Age period.

6.2.9 Roman

Just 23 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 169g were retrieved from the site. All were of locally produced oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) and could be dated to between the middle 1st and 4th centuries.

Diagnostic sherds consisted of one from the rim of a wide-mouthed jar dating between the late 3rd and 4th centuries (Webster 1976, form 28; context 903), and three sherds from a carinated beaker of late 1st to 2nd century date (*ibid*, form 56; context 1024).

Other sherds of note included bases which appeared to have been deliberately chipped from their respective vessels, presumably to fulfil a different function (context 901). Both seem too large to have been gaming counters, but it is possible that they may have been used as lids for other vessels.

Where stratified, it would appear that material of Roman date comes from the top of features and is almost certainly intrusive from topsoil, or in the remains of ancient soils collected and surviving in

the sinkage hollows above the fills of larger Iron Age features (e.g. 1024 and 1106). A similar occurrence was noted at Blackstone (D Hurst, pers comm). Probably agricultural Roman activity is, therefore, indicated.

6.2.10 Medieval

A total of seven sherds of pottery were identified as dating from the medieval period. All were small, abraded fragments of locally produced glazed Worcester and Malvernian fabrics. Just one sherd was diagnostic and came from an oxidised glazed Malvernian ware jug, which could be dated to the 13th to 14th century (fabric 69; context 803). This sherd was highly abraded with no glaze surviving.

6.2.11 Post-medieval and later

Remaining sherds were of post-medieval and modern date. All were of domestic pottery types commonly found on sites in Worcestershire dating from the 18th century onwards.

6.3 Other ceramic material

6.3.1 Loom weights

Perhaps the most interesting object within the assemblage was a large, triangular loom weight from one of the possible storage pits associated with the short curvilinear ditch in the southwest corner of the enclosure (context 1021). Although incomplete, enough of the object survived for the form and original dimensions to be ascertained. The object was fairly crudely formed from what is thought to be local clay with each of the corners pierced by a hole from side to side. Parallels of this form exist at Danebury (Hants), where they were classified as 'Type 1' and dated from the middle through to Late Iron Age (Cunliffe 1984, 401). In addition, a large piece of fired clay (context 306) is also thought to be a highly abraded loom weight.

6.3.2 Fired clay

An assemblage of 120 fragments of fired clay was retrieved from the site. The vast majority of this material was highly abraded and undiagnostic, so it is not possible to assign a function to these fragments. It is possible that some pieces come from buildings but this cannot be proven.

6.3.3 Ceramic building material

A small amount of building material, totalling just ten pieces, was identified within the assemblage. All was of Roman or later date and consisted of highly abraded roofing tile fragments (contexts 100, 306, 500 and 900).

6.4 Metalwork

6.4.1 Iron

Two fragments of iron were retrieved from context 901 and one each from 1097 and 2015. Three of these could be identified as nails and the remaining piece was undiagnostic.

6.4.2 Slag

Fifteen pieces of iron slag were retrieved from the site, including fragments of fuel ash slag. No pieces were diagnostic, all being very fragmentary and there is no evidence of any metalworking activity on the site itself.

6.4.3 Stone

Stone artefacts from the site consisted primarily of worked flint (see below) and fire-cracked stone in the form of pot-boilers.

6.4.4 Hammerstone

A large pebble hammerstone was retrieved from one of the pits thought to be of Early Iron Age date to the NE of the enclosure (context 1149); complete and nicely shaped, it had been burnt at some point, presumably after discard. It had not been used for flint tool production (R Jackson, pers comm).

6.4.5 Potboilers

A sample of eight large fire-cracked pebbles was retrieved from the site (contexts 310, 1030 and 1046). All were identified as being pot-boiler stones. Such stones are common on sites of prehistoric date, and are thought to be associated with the heating of water and foodstuffs.

6.5 Other finds

All remaining datable finds were of the post-medieval period onwards and consisted of modern ceramic tile, bottle glass, and a clay pipe stem (see Table 2).

6.6 Discussion of the artefactual assemblage by feature

6.6.1 Pottery from the enclosure ditch

Despite the high levels of residuality and mixing between contexts within the enclosure ditch, some general patterns can be observed through dating of the pottery recovered from each phase of activity.

6.6.1.1 Phase 1

A total of 56 sherds of pottery weighing 364g were retrieved from contexts in this phase of the enclosure ditch. Diagnostic sherds indicated a mixture of Early and Middle Iron Age material and it would seem plausible from the relative amounts, to suggest that this original enclosure ditch was initially excavated in the later Early Iron Age but was still in use in this form into the Middle Iron Age.

6.6.1.2 Phase 2

Pottery from this first re cut of the enclosure totalled 141 sherds weighing 1149g. Although Early Iron Age pottery was still present within contexts attributed to this phase, it was clearly residual with material of Middle Iron Age date dominating the group. However, in addition a small amount of early Late Iron Age material was also retrieved from this phase of activity (context 1095) and it would appear that these sherds provided a *terminus post quem* for this re-cut.

6.6.1.3 Phase 3

The final re-cut of the enclosure ditch was heavily truncated and characterised by a high proportion of undiagnostic pottery, primarily of Malvernian fabric. Once more, a high level of residuality was in evidence with sherds of both Early and Middle Iron Age date present within the group. However, stratigraphically this re-cut must be early in the Late Iron Age (or later) despite a lack of form sherds to confirm this.

6.6.2 Finds from the internal curvilinear ditch and associated features

Artefactual material retrieved from this area of the site consisted primarily of undiagnostic sherds of pottery. However, those which could be dated were a mixture of Middle and early Late Iron Age date, the latter providing a *terminus post quem* for both the ditch and the group of pits. In addition to the pottery, the large triangular loom-weight was also retrieved from this area of the site (context 1021), and, as noted above, was diagnostically consistent with a mid to Late Iron Age date.

6.6.3 Finds from the pit alignment in the NE of the enclosure

Due to this pit group being on a different alignment to the enclosure ditch itself, it has been suggested that it predates the enclosure. Unfortunately, the pits were heavily truncated and only small fragments of pottery were retrieved from two of them (contexts 1149 and 1154), none of which were diagnostic. Therefore, there is not enough artefactual evidence to confirm this assumption, but likewise there is no dating evidence to the contrary with all four sherds of pottery retrieved being of fabric types used throughout the Iron Age period (fabrics 5.1 and BD123).

6.6.4 Catalogue

Early Iron Age

1. Rim sherds from an open bowl form, fabric 4.7, contexts 1093 and 1095
2. Jar with inturned, flat rim in a mudstone tempered fabric, context 1095
3. Globular jar with plain rim in an organically tempered fabric, context 1145
4. Small jar with upright rim, fabric 5.1, context 1149

Middle Iron Age

5. Jar with inturned rim and decorated with well-formed 'duck stamps', fabric 3, context 1009
6. Jar with simple rim and decorated with 'duck stamps', fabric 3, context 1097 (Plate 9)
7. Jar with groove-topped rim and stamped decoration, fabric 3, context 1093
8. Jar with upright rim and decorated with a band of incised lattice, fabric 3, context 1145
9. Jar with simple rim and decorated with a band of incised pattern, fabric 3, context 1097
10. Jar with short, upright, flat-topped rim, fabric 3, context 1009
11. Necked jar with short, upright rim, fabric 3, context 1083
12. Necked jar with upright, flat-topped rim, fabric 3, context 1147
13. Jar with upright rim, fabric 5.1, context 1095

Late Iron Age

14. Jar with a everted rim, heavily burnished, fabric 5.2, context 1095
15. Necked jar with upright rim, fabric 3, context 1019

Other finds

16. Loomweight, context 1021
17. Hammerstone, context 1149

6.7 Flint assemblage, by Robin Jackson

6.7.1 Provenance

Eighteen worked lithics were recovered from eleven archaeological contexts distributed across the excavation area. Six further struck items had been recovered during the evaluation and two more were recovered during the watching brief.

Two of these, both waste flakes, were recovered from a ditch (fill 905, cut 906) identified within Evaluation Trench 9 and this was associated with pottery identified as of probable Early Bronze Age date. A further flake from a ditch recorded in the same evaluation trench (fill 903, ditch 904) may be broadly contemporary. Otherwise all the lithic material was residual. The majority of this derived from the ploughsoil and from cleaning of the exposed site surface following the machine removal of the ploughsoil (contexts 200, 1000 and 1001). Much of the remaining material was recovered from fills within all three phases of the main Iron Age enclosure ditch (Phase 1, contexts 1044 and 1170, Context Group 1023; Phase 2, contexts 1030 and 1052, Context group 1174; Phase 3, contexts 1041 and 1166, Context Group 1175). Flint was also recovered from the internal curvilinear ditch (context 1145; Context Group 1163, Plate 6), from the eastern droveway ditch (context 1200; Context Group 1212), from a tree throw (context 2013) and a post-medieval feature of indeterminate character (context 2015). Two unworked gravel fragments were also recovered (contexts 1049 and 2030) and have been discarded. A summary of the flint assemblage is presented in Table 1.

CATEGORY TYPE	Evaluation	Excavation	Watching brief	Total
Waste/production				
Flake	5	11	1	17
Miscellaneous debitage		2		
Tested nodule/flaked lump		3	1	4
Flake tools				
Piercer (with notch)		1		1
Notched flake		1		1
Retouched flake	1			1
Total	6	18	2	26

Table 1: The flint assemblage

6.7.2 Raw material and condition

The raw material exploited for the struck lithics was flint, with the exception of one piece of very pale grey/white chert (context 1166).

The flint was typically slightly translucent mid brown to mid brown-grey coloured. Some darker or mottled pieces were also present as well as a distinct reddish brown-grey fragment. Surviving areas of cortex were typically pale buff to yellowish buff coloured and highly abraded indicating that the raw material was probably collected from a local river pebble or gravel terrace source. Utilisation of locally derived pebble flint as a raw material has been commonly observed at sites in Worcestershire and the surrounding counties - Lightmarsh Farm (Jackson *et al* 1996); Kinver (Bevan 1993) and Kemerton (Bellamy forthcoming; Saville 1990). A single very dark grey, almost black coloured flake represents the only apparent imported material on the site, possibly having been sourced from a chalk region.

The flint assemblage was in reasonably fresh condition, although occasional pieces exhibited slight edge-damage.

6.7.3 Storage and curation

The majority of the struck flints are bagged individually and the assemblage is adequately boxed and bagged for long-term storage and curation.

6.7.4 The assemblage

The flint assemblage includes three crudely retouched items. The first (from context 1000) was a piercer, retouched at the distal end and notched on its upper right edge. The second (from context 1001) was a notched flake, the notch being on its upper right edge towards the distal end. Lastly a retouched piece was recovered as unstratified material at evaluation.

Otherwise the assemblage comprised debitage and, although considerable caution must be exercised with such a small sample, the following observations can be made. The flaked lumps and several of the flakes themselves can be attributed to the testing of local gravel flint nodules or perhaps the opportunistic use of any flint nodules which were readily to hand. There is no evidence in this material indicative of the deliberate preparation of cores for the controlled production of flakes such as may be evidenced where a blade-based technology is being employed. As a result the flakes present are of varying size and most have elements of cortical material surviving on them.

The poor quality and nature of both retouched pieces (a piercer and a notched flake) and the traits of the debitage recovered are tentatively suggested to reflect the expedient raw material selection strategies and rather crude, utilitarian approaches to flake and tool production which characterise Middle to Late Bronze Age, and possibly Iron Age, flintworking (Butler 2005, 179-89).

6.8 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham and Emily Beales

6.8.1 Animal bone analysis, by Emily Beales

The faunal assemblage consists of five identifiable species, *Bos, Ovis aries, Equus, Sus* and *Cervus.* This does not rule out the possibility that other species may also be represented in the assemblage however the fragmentary nature of the remains leads to difficulty in identification.

Of the 717 fragments recovered from the excavation 16.59% were identified as *Bos*, with *Ovis aries* representing 5.02%, *Equus* representing 4.46% and *Sus and Cervus* representing 0.41% and 0.13% respectively.

The *Bos* elements present include thirteen teeth, fragments of radii, ulnae, tibiae, metapodials as well as rib and scapula fragments. Of the *Ovis* fragments, 25 were teeth, the rest of the fragments comprised of mandible and metapodial elements. The *Equus* elements present include six teeth (pre molars and molars only), fragments of humerii, tibiae metapodials and mandible. The *Sus* elements present included a mandible fragment and two teeth. Finally *Cervus* was represented by one fragment of antler (tine) only.

6.8.2 Butchery marks & pathological alterations

The presence of butchery is fairly low with only 3.49% of fragments exhibiting butchery marks. A high percentage of fragments (31.24%) are markedly weathered suggesting that the bones were left to the elements. In addition only 2.23% show evidence of root damage and 0.14% exhibiting signs of pathology. The only pathological alteration consists of a small plaque of periostitis on one unidentifiable fragment.

Despite the severity of degradation, butchery appears to consist of mid shaft splitting for the extraction of bone marrow. In addition there is a small amount of linear knife marks generally caused by the process of skinning; again these were only present on unidentifiable fragments.

The percentage of unidentifiable fragments is extremely high for this site (73.36%); this is most likely due to the high degree of weathering the bones were exposed to before deposition. No other pre-depositional activities were identified as contributing to the degradation of the bone. A mortality profile was not constructed due to the limited quantity of diagnostic elements.

6.8.3 Wet-sieved samples

Of the 34 contexts assessed eighteen produced charred plant remains, twelve pits, five ditches and one posthole. The majority of the remains were from the pit deposits. The majority of the remains were of cereal chaff especially spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume bases. Some wheat grains were present and are most likely to be of spelt wheat as well. Hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was found in five of the contexts, two pits, two ditches and a posthole (1006, 1009, 1015, 1151 and 1164). Barley grains were not present in the same quantities as those of wheat. A rachis fragment of barley was also found in 1015). Apart from indeterminate cereal grain fragments no other crop species were identified from the samples. The presence of oats (Avena sp) in pit fill 1015 may be of either a weed or a crop. The lack of oat floral remains makes it impossible to be sure in either case.

Weed seeds were not common apart from an abundance of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) found in pit fill 1129. The majority of weeds identified from this site are usually associated with arable crops. Although a damp habitat may be represented by the remains of sedges (*Carex* spp) and blinks (*Montia fontana* ssp *chondrosperma*). The latter species is usually found on damp, bare muddy ground and therefore could be found growing with arable crops. The presence of selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and clover (*Trifolium* sp) may indicate the presence of grassland.

Apart from the charred plant remains other biological and non-biological artefacts were identified from the residues (Table 5). Apart from the bone, which is discussed above, other biological remains included small fragments of charcoal and occasional mollusc shells. Occasional oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell fragments were found in ditch fill 1046.

Non-biological artefacts included occasional remains of slag and hammerscale. Heat cracked stones were also evident as were burnt flints and pot sherds.

The southern pits (1006, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1035)

Six fills from the pits located in the south-western of the enclosure contained plant remains (1006, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021 and 1035). The dominant charred plant remains from these pit fills consisted of chaff (glume bases) of spelt wheat. Wheat grains, most likely of spelt were also found in 1015, 1021 and 1035. Small amounts of barley grains were found in 1006 and 1015 and a single barley rachis fragment was also found in 1015. Indeterminate cereal grain fragments were present in all of the pit fills apart from 1006).

Weed seeds present within the pit fills were not as common as the cereal remains and the diversity was also low. The majority of the weed seeds can usually be found associated with crops and are therefore most likely to have been deposited along with the cereal remains.

The internal ditch (1163)

A single fill (1009) from the internal ditch (1163, Plate 6) terminus also contained a charred plant assemblage that is very similar to those present in nearby pits. This may suggest that material from the pits was dumped into the ditch terminus after the pits were cleaned out.

The northern pit alignment (1106, 1118, 1129, 1149, 1151, 1161)

Six of the fills from the northern pit alignment produced charred plant remains, again the assemblages were very similar to those found in the southern pits but not as rich. Fill 1106 produced very little charred plant remains. Fills 1118 and 1129 contained a moderate quantity of spelt wheat glume bases but very little grain. The dominant large seeded grass was brome (*Bromus* sp) which has similar dimensions to wheat grains. Other weed seeds were more common in 1129 than in any of the other pit fills, the most noticeable being pale persicaria and black

bindweed. These again have a similar size to cereal grains. Again, these weed seeds are often associated with crops.

Enclosure ditch fills (1113, 1131, 1145, 1147)

The charred plant remains from the enclosure ditch fills were very variable in composition but in general contained sparse numbers of remains. The exceptions to these were fills 1113 which contained a moderate amount of wheat grains but very little else and 1147 which contained moderate amounts of spelt wheat glume bases. The fills of the recut ditch (1131 and 1145) contained very little in the way of plant remains and these may reflect a background flora. The plant assemblages from 1113 and 1147 may represent the dumping of material after cleaning out of the pits.

Posthole fill 1164

The charred plant assemblage from the fill (1164) of posthole [1165] is reasonably rich and has a similar composition to that already discussed from the pit samples. Moderate amounts of spelt wheat glume bases, wheat grains and cereal grain fragments are the dominant. Small amounts of barley grains are also present.

The weed flora is very much reduced which may suggest that the plant remains represent a cleaned crop that was stored. The posthole was found under a pit which may suggest that the remains represent what was stored in the pit.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Phase	Res assessed	Flot assessed
1006	22	Pit	1007	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1009	2	Linear	1010	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1015	3	Pit	1016	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1015	17	Pit	1016	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1017	11	Pit	1018	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1019	23	Pit	1020	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1021	1	Pit	1022	Primary	2	Yes	Yes
1021	21	Pit	*1022*	*Primary*	*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1035	10	Pit	*1036*		*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1046	4	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1052	5	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1054	6	Posthole			*5*	*Yes*	Yes
1057	28	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1059	29	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1061	30	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1067	33	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1069	34	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1071	35	Ditch			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1106	7	Pit			*2*	*Yes*	Yes
1113	19	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1118	8	Pit			2	Yes	Yes
1129	9	Pit			2	Yes	Yes
1131	24	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1145	12	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1147	13	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1149	14	Pit			2	Yes	Yes
1151	15	Pit			2	Yes	Yes
1154	16	Pit			2	Yes	Yes
1161	18	Pit			2	Yes	Yes

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Phase	Res assessed	Flot assessed
1164	20	Posthole			2	Yes	Yes
1178	31	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1192	32	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1196	36	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1198	27	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1200	25	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes
1202	26	Ditch			2	Yes	Yes

Table 4: Samples assessed for charred plant macrofossils from Bengeworth School, Evesham, Worcestershire

6.8.4 Overview of environmental evidence

The charred plant remains recovered from the pit and ditch samples suggests that the crops were grown locally. These were also processed in the vicinity of the site and most likely stored in the various pit groups and the remains found in the ditches either represents a background flora or the dumping of material from the pits after cleaning or the dumping of material accidentally burnt during processing. The lack of weeds and the overall size of the main species suggest that the crop was stored in a semi-clean state with just the weed seeds of a similar size to the cereals being retained. The stored crop would have then been further processed as and when required with the chaff and remaining weed seeds either being used as fuel or as animal fodder.

Although the large mammal bone assemblage from this site is quite small it can be seen that there may have been animal husbandry practised at the site. The domesticated animals consisted of cattle, sheep, horse and pig. There is some evidence of butchery on the bones suggesting local consumption of meat and marrow. A wild element to the diet is evident with the presence of deer bones.

Context	Sample	large mammal	mollusc	charcoal	charred	hammerscale	Comment
1006	22	occ burnt				occ slag	occ pot, worked flint
1009	2	occ					occ fired clay, h-c stone, flint
1015	3+17	occ burnt		occ	occ	v occ slag	occ pot, h-c stone, flint
1017	11			occ			
1019	23						occ burnt flint
1021	1+21	occ		occ		occ flake + slag	occ pot, heat-cracked stone
1035	10			occ	occ seed +nut		occ burnt flint
1046	4		occ oyster				occ burnt flint
1052	5						occ coal fragments
1054	6						occ burnt flint
1057	28			v occ		v occ Fe slag	
1059	29	v occ		v occ			animal bone is very small frags
1061	30			v occ		v occ Fe slag	
1067	33			v occ			
1069	34	v occ burnt		v occ		v v occ Fe slag	v occ h-c stone
1071	35	v occ burnt		v occ			
1106	7	occ					occ pot, h-c stone, burnt flint
1113	19	occ + burnt		occ			occ pot, h-c stone
1118	8	occ + burnt		occ			occ burnt flint
1129	9						occ burnt flint
1131	24	occ burnt		occ			occ h-c stone
1145	12	occ burnt		occ			occ pot, h-c stone, burnt flint
1147	13	occ, some burnt		v occ			occ fired clay, h-c stone, burnt flint

Context	Sample	large mammal	mollusc	charcoal	charred	hammerscale	Comment
1149	14	occ					occ burnt flint
1151	15	occ		occ			occ burnt flint
1154	16	occ					occ h-c stone, burnt flint
1161	18			occ			
1164	20	occ		occ		occ slag	occ h-c stone, burnt flint
1178	31			v occ		v occ Fe slag	v occ flint flake
1192	32			v occ		v v occ Fe slag	
1196	36		v occ	v occ		v occ Fe slag	
1198	27			v occ			
1200	25			v occ			
1202	26			v occ		v occ Fe slag	

Table 5: Environmental summary of plant remains and other artefacts recovered from the sample residues from Bengeworth School, Evesham, Worcestershire

Prunella vulgaris	selfheal	D				+					
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort plantain	D					+			+	
Galium aparine	cleavers/goosefoot	ABC									+
Tripleurospermum inodorum	scentless mayweed	AB		+						+	
Carex spp (3-sided)	sedge	CDE									+
Festuca sp	fescue	ABCD		+	+						
Poaceae sp indet (small)	grasses	E	++			+		++	+		

Table 6: Charred plant remains from Bengeworth School, Evesham, Worcestershire

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	

Key to Table 6

7 Synthesis

7.1 Form and chronology

There is a limited amount of evidence for Bronze Age activity on the site. A posthole, within a small cluster of such features, yielded ten small fragments of pottery which may date to the early Bronze Age. Although none of the other excavated postholes in the cluster contained any finds, it is possible that they are contemporary. The fill of the posthole also included two worked flints, and the poor quality and nature of the flint assemblage as a whole may reflect the crude, utilitarian approaches to flake and tool production which characterise Middle Bronze Age and later flintworking. It is possible that the Bronze Age finds represent activity or occupation in the vicinity of the site, which has been disturbed and redeposited.

At some point during the Early to Middle Iron Age the enclosure was built. It was not fully defined within the excavation area, although it would have measured approximately 42m by 32m, aligned

on a northeast to southwest axis. The enclosure can fit into the morphological framework set out by Moore (2006), as a sub-rectangular enclosure. Whilst not being a settled site, it none the less conforms to a common regional style, both in its entrance orientation and in its shape. As to its place in the immediate landscape, further survey is required but the presence of a linear cropmark with abutting curvilinear enclosures (WSM26950) approximately 200m east of the site may suggest that the site forms part of a much larger Iron Age landscape.

Despite two later reinstatements the original, V-shaped ditch remained the largest, measuring approximately 2.5m in width and up to 1.3m in depth. No entrance was observed, suggesting that during this phase it would have been positioned in the southeast, beyond the limits of the excavation. This is a common theme amongst enclosures of this type in the region, and may be linked to the movement of the sun (Moore 2006).

The gradual infilling of the ditch through low energy deposition over time suggests that the enclosure was not a defensive structure and probably served an agricultural use. If there was a single entrance to the south it would have allowed controlled access to the enclosure, and may have led directly onto the droveway. There is no clear evidence for a bank, mainly due to the truncation by the later ditch, but the fills that remain are indicative of upcast material and it is likely that there was an internal bank. The shadow of this bank may have survived in the gap between the enclosure ditch and pits 1014 and 1016 (Plate 4) to the south west of the enclosure.

The second phase saw a new layout for the enclosure. While the overall size and shape remained the same, a new entrance arrangement was constructed on the eastern corner, incorporating a 'funnel' entry which faced to the northwest. This would have provided a narrow entrance, which was clearly designed to facilitate and control the movement of livestock into the enclosure. Evidence here for a bank is somewhat contradictory; the fills appeared to have been slowly deposited via low energy processes, and are again indicative of upcast material, but show no preference of having come from either side.

The funnel entrance faced away from the droveway running to the east, but the gullies that defined the route terminated on the western side, potentially allowing access to the area around this new entrance. Although the droveway remains undated through material finds, it was partially truncated by the third phase of the enclosure ditch, demonstrating that the droveway was probably contemporary with the earlier phases of the enclosure.

During the final phase of the enclosure the ditch was significantly reduced in size when compared to its predecessors. It was narrower and shallower, with a concave base, and although it maintained an eastern entrance it was simplified by removing the funnel configuration.

Although the site yielded a range of Iron Age pottery, none dated beyond the middle of this period, and together with the limited presence of Roman material, the finds indicate that the site was abandoned during the Late Iron Age period. Unfortunately there was a high level of residuality on the site and much of material identified as being Early Iron Age can only be identified as residual within features with a Middle Iron Age *terminus post quem*. Despite this, the Early Iron Age pottery is a rare and distinctive assemblage which helps to bridge the gap between the Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age. The range of diagnostic sherds present in the assemblage is significant, particularly when viewed alongside those from Clifton Quarry, as together they constitute the basis for the creation of an Early Iron Age pottery typology.

7.2 Function

There was no evidence of the survival of structures within the excavation area, although it is unclear to what extent later agricultural truncation may have had on the survival of features. Certainly the surviving features associated with the enclosure, including the droveway, 'funnel' entrance, interior ditch and pits appear indicative of an enclosure used primarily for agricultural activities such as stock control and management, and crop processing and storage. The interior features appear to be grouped in defined areas which may have represented separate zones or phases of activity.

Two groups of pits were located towards the southwest of the enclosure. The three aligned storage pits may, perhaps, be a mirror to the seven located to the north. The second group was likely associated with a small curvilinear ditch. One of these pits yielded a Late Iron Age date, which would represent the final period of use. Although the function of the internal ditch is not clear it would have acted as an internal sub-division within the enclosure and cereal remains were found in all these pits and the ditch itself, indicating it may represent a division between the livestock and crop processing areas.

The alignment of seven storage pits along the northeast side of the enclosure were all quite heavily truncated, and contained Iron Age pottery. They also contained moderate amounts of cereal plant remains, which had been processed to remove the easily identifiable weed seeds, and were probably used for storage. There is much debate about the lifespan of such storage pits, with some arguing for single use (Cunliffe 1992) whilst others assume reuse (Moore 2006). A recently excavated site at Didcot, Oxfordshire revealed over 800 mid-Iron Age storage pits associated with one settlement, most of which were later reused for refuse dumping (Kate Woodley pers comm).

Although most of the pottery recovered from the internal features was primarily undiagnostic, those sherds which could be identified dated to the Early to early Late Iron Age, indicating they were broadly contemporary with the enclosure. Due to the poor resolution of the dating it is unclear how these different functional areas within the enclosure relate to the three phases of the ditch. In addition the presence of two loom weights on the site indicates that textiles were being produced in the area, and although there was no structural evidence to suggest they were being produced within the enclosure, the level of truncation on the site means this cannot be discounted.

7.3 The wider landscape

The enclosure at Bengeworth appears to have been part of a mixed economy farming landscape, which probably existed throughout the Avon Valley during the Iron Age. Elsewhere along the valley excavations such as those at Wyre Piddle (pers. comm. Robin Jackson), Throckmorton (Griffin et al 2005), and Aston Mill, Kemerton (Dinn and Evans 1990) have all identified Iron Age settlement sites. The assemblage of Briquetage indicates salt, which would have been used to preserve food including meat, was being transported into the area from Droitwich, and the site was probably part of a well connected trade network during the Iron Age. It is possible that a series of cattle rearing stations linked by droveways grew up along the valley to facilitate stock movement to more populous areas. This theory is similarly proposed for activity during the Roman period, evidence for which can be seen at Three Springs Road, Pershore (Mann et al, 2013), though, as discussed below, it would be preceded by large social upheaval.

The lack of continuity into the Late Iron Age (and Roman) period is similar to that seen at High Street, Evesham (Edwards and Hurst 2000) and Grange Farm, Bredon (Upex et al 2010), and across the region major shifts in the settlement pattern have also been recorded at Beckford, Brockhill, Redditch (Mann 2012) and Aston Mill, Kemerton (Dinn and Evans 1990) from the onset of the Late Iron Age. These changes are reflected in a range of sites in the region and it is clear that significant social and economic upheaval occurred during the centuries leading up to the Roman invasion.

The small assemblage of Roman pottery and ceramic building material recovered from the site probably reflect manuring practice from a nearby Roman settlement. Ridge and furrow cultivation indicate that during the medieval period the site was part of an open field system which was enclosed in the late 18th century.

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 excavation and watching brief was undertaken at Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcester (NGR SP 0480 4414). It was undertaken on behalf of Property Services, Worcestershire County Council, in advance of the construction of a new two form entry First School on the site, replacing the former Bengeworth First School. The client submitted a planning application to Worcestershire County Council, who considered that a site of archaeological interest might be affected.

The excavation followed earlier project stages, comprising a desk-based assessment and a field evaluation. The desk-based assessment identified a medium to low potential for either prehistoric or Roman remains and the evaluation demonstrated that Bronze Age and Iron Age deposits survived and in particular identified a large Iron Age enclosure ditch. Subsequently a geophysical survey was undertaken which confirmed the presence of a large sub-rectangular enclosure with internal features including a line of pits and a curving ditch. A strategy for excavation of the enclosure and other discrete features was produced by the Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council. .

The excavation confirmed the presence of the sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure, measuring some 42m by 32m, on a northeast-southwest alignment. Hand dug sections across the ditch demonstrated three clear phases of activity on the site. The first phase of the ditch, likely to have been dug in the Early Iron Age, measured approximately 2.5m in width and 1.1m in depth. Although no entrance was identified, the southern corner of the enclosure was beyond the limits of the excavation, and this is a common location for entrances in this type of structure. The second phase of the enclosure kept the general size and shape of the first ditch, but moved the entrance to the east, adopting a funnel design to controlled access to the enclosure. The third and final phase saw the ditch greatly reduced in depth, and the profile shifting from a V-shape to a shallow concave or bowl shape. The entrance remained to the east, but funnelled entrance had been abandoned and it opened directly to the exterior.

The entrances to the second and third phases of the enclosure, and the conjectured southern entrance of the first phase, may have been associated with an undated droveway that ran parallel to the southeast side of the enclosure. There was a gap in the western gully near to the eastern entrance to the enclosure, possibly allowing access to it. Whilst the droveway remained undated, it was truncated by the third phase ditch, and it is not unreasonable to assume a connection between the earlier phases of the enclosure and the droveway.

Within the interior of the enclosure there were a number of groups of probable storage pits, and a curvilinear feature that may have enclosed a small crop processing area. Dating evidence indicated these features where broadly contemporary with the enclosure although it was not possible to assign them to any of the phases identified in the ditch sections. Although the absence of occupation structures maybe the result of heavy truncation analysis of the structural and environmental remains suggest that the enclosure primarily served an agricultural function.

It is thought that the enclosure formed part of a mixed economy farming landscape, which operated in the Iron Age along the valleys of the Avon Valley and included other excavated sites such as those at Wyre Piddle and Throckmorton. A similar droveway to the Bengeworth example was recorded at Three Springs Road Pershore, associated with Roman enclosures and it is thought that this may represent the continuation of a system of rearing cattle on well drained gravel river terraces and moving them to more populous areas.

9 Acknowledgements

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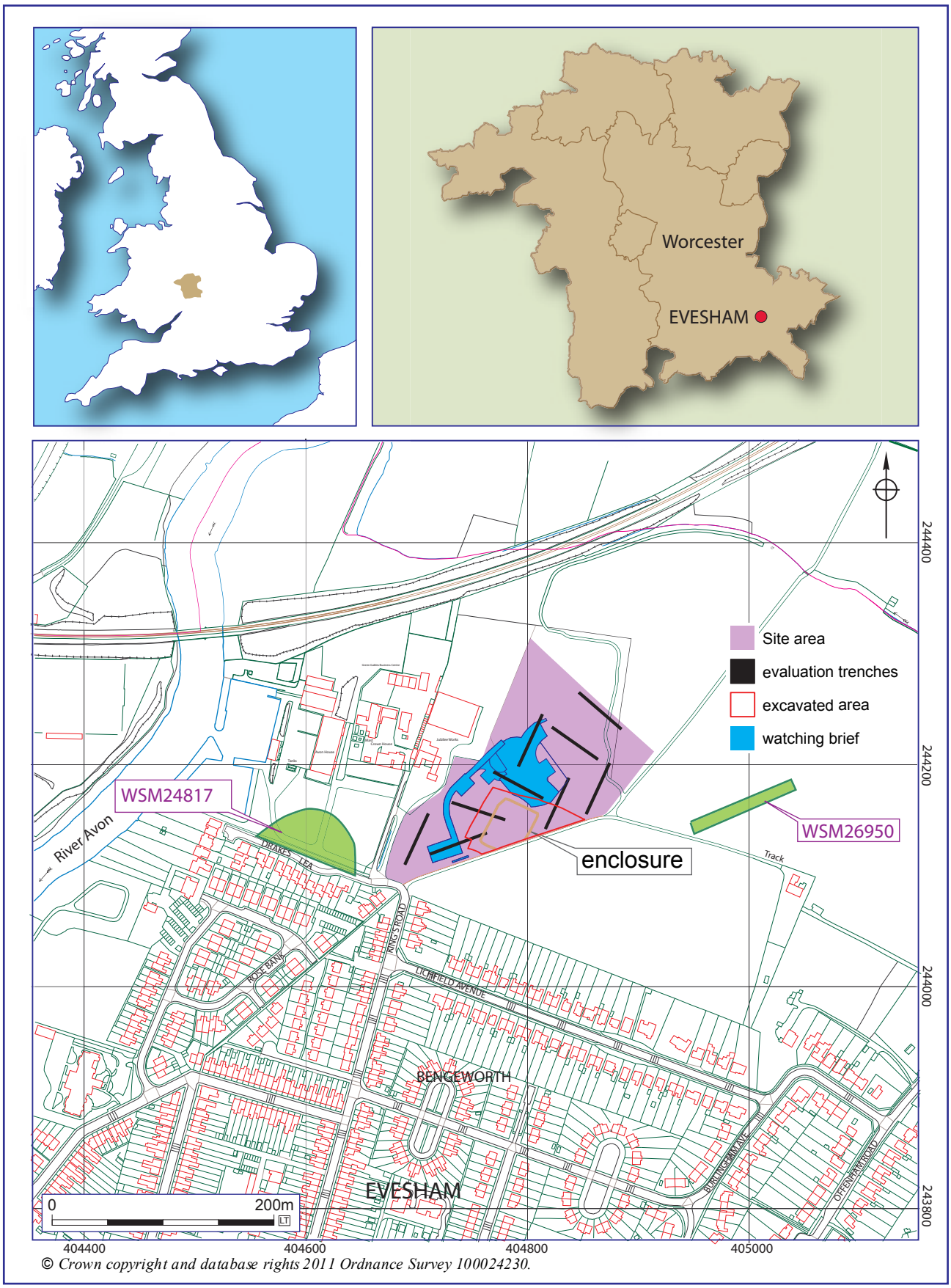
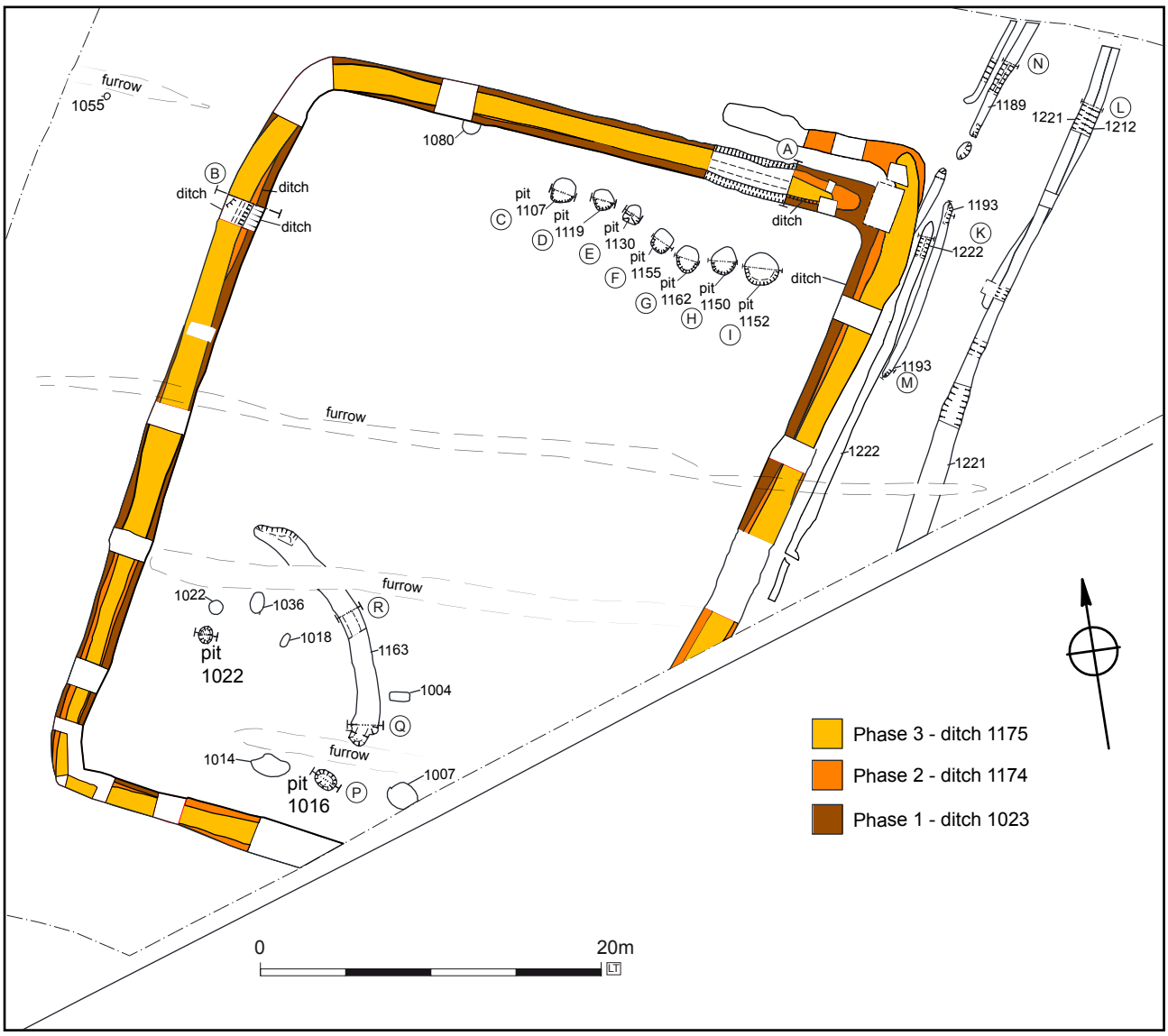
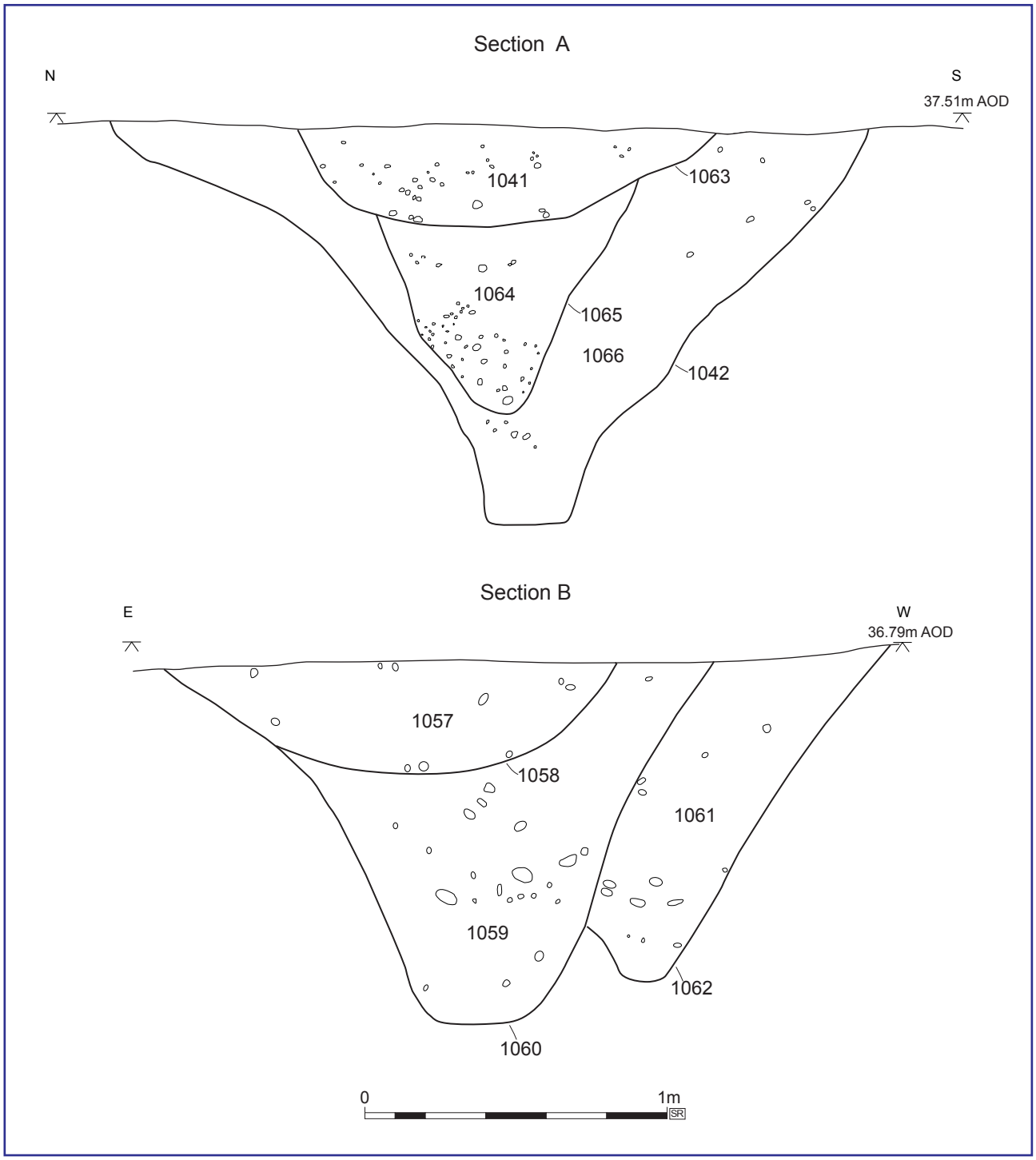
Figures



Location of the site and HER numbers referred to in text *Figure 1*

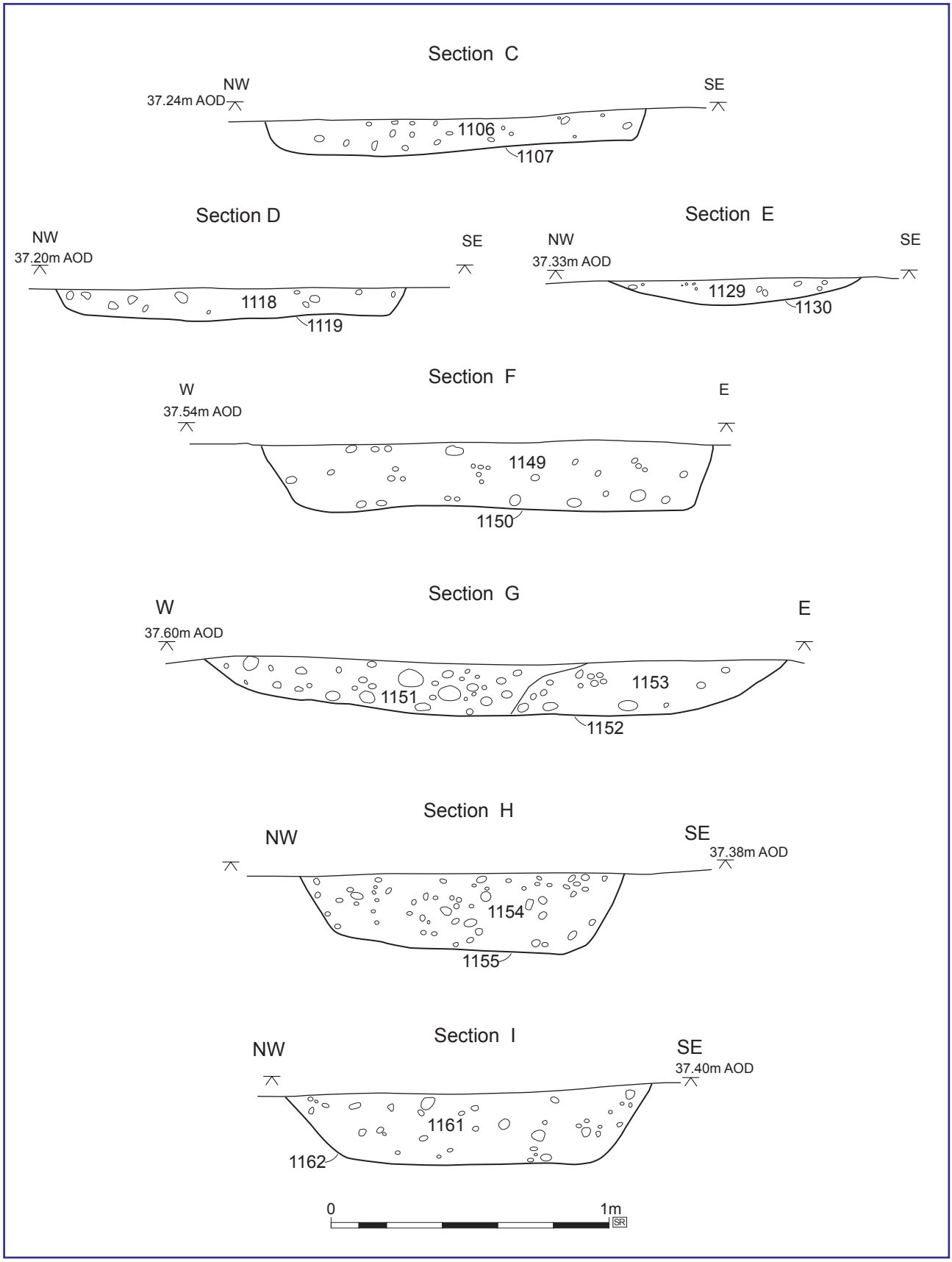


Plan of archaeological features *Figure 2*

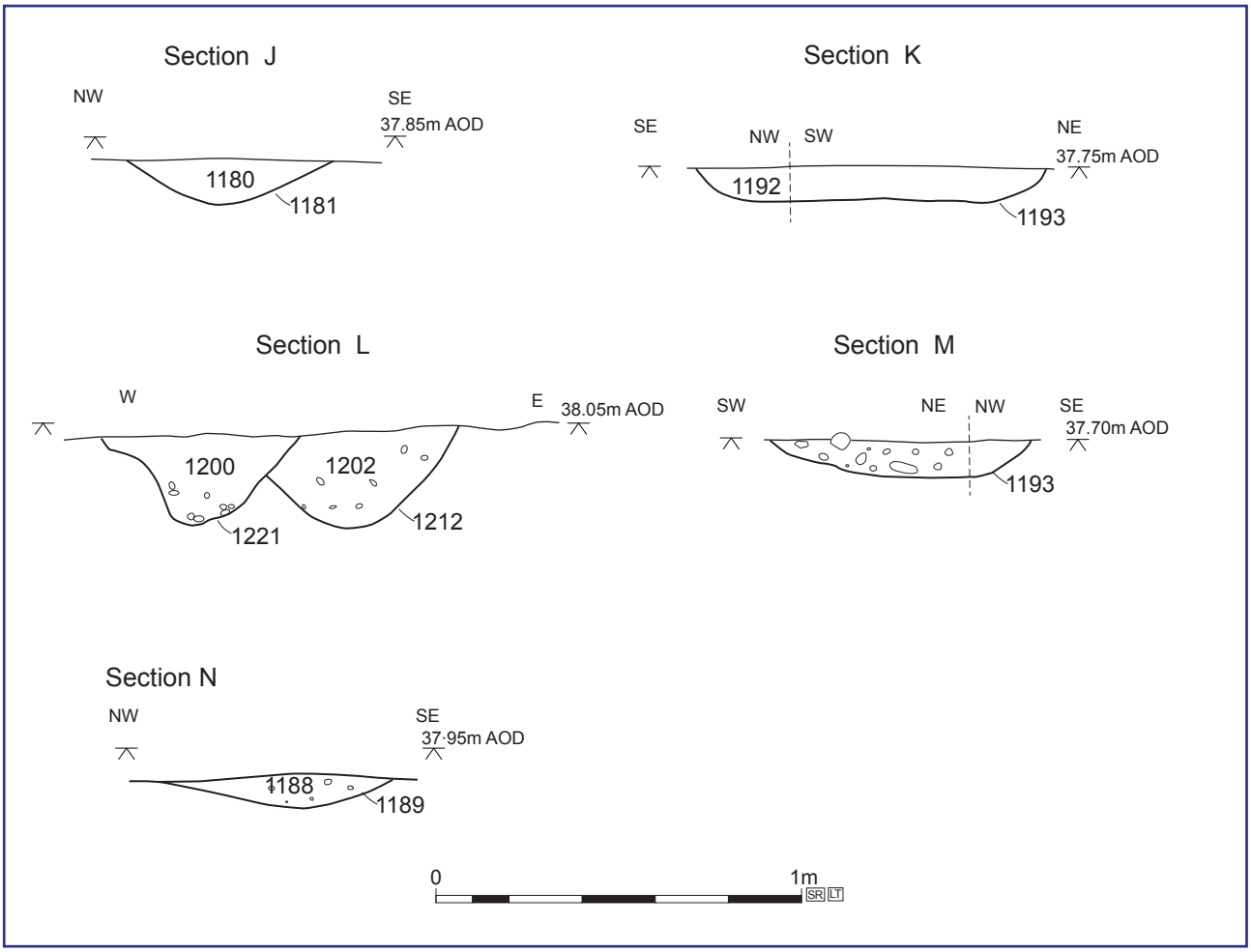


Sections through Iron Age Enclosue ditch

Figure 3

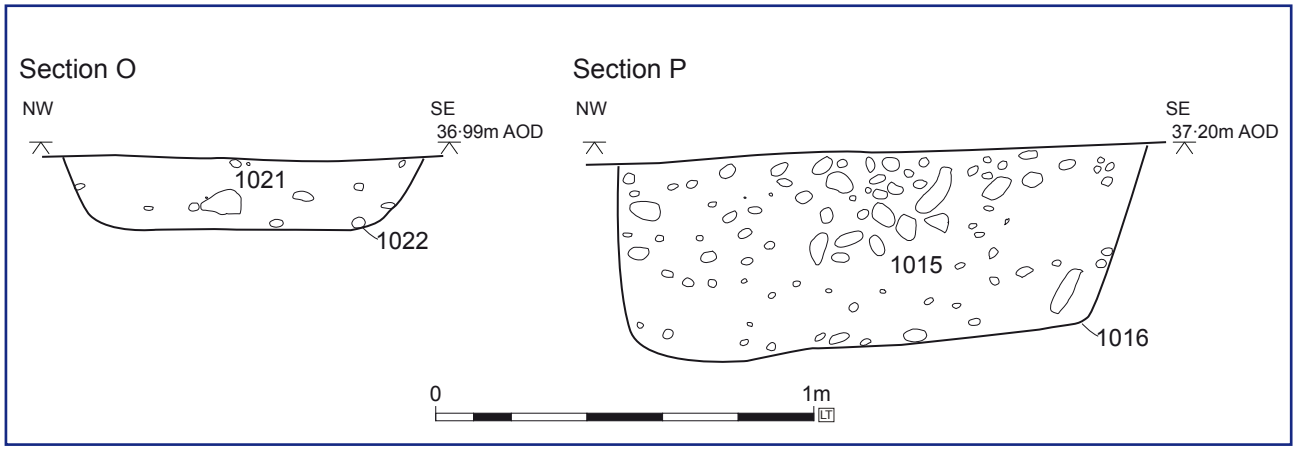


Sections through storage pit group *Figure 4*



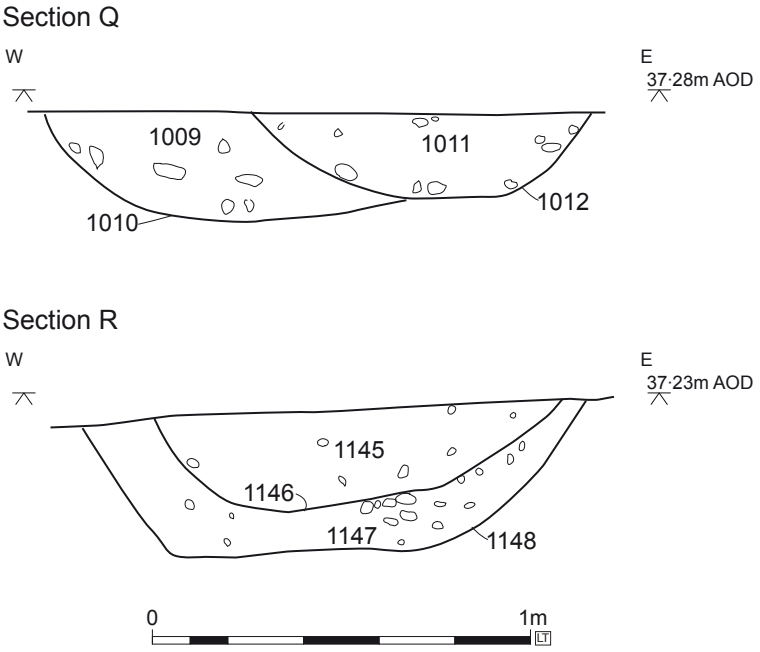
Sections through trackway gullies

Figure 5



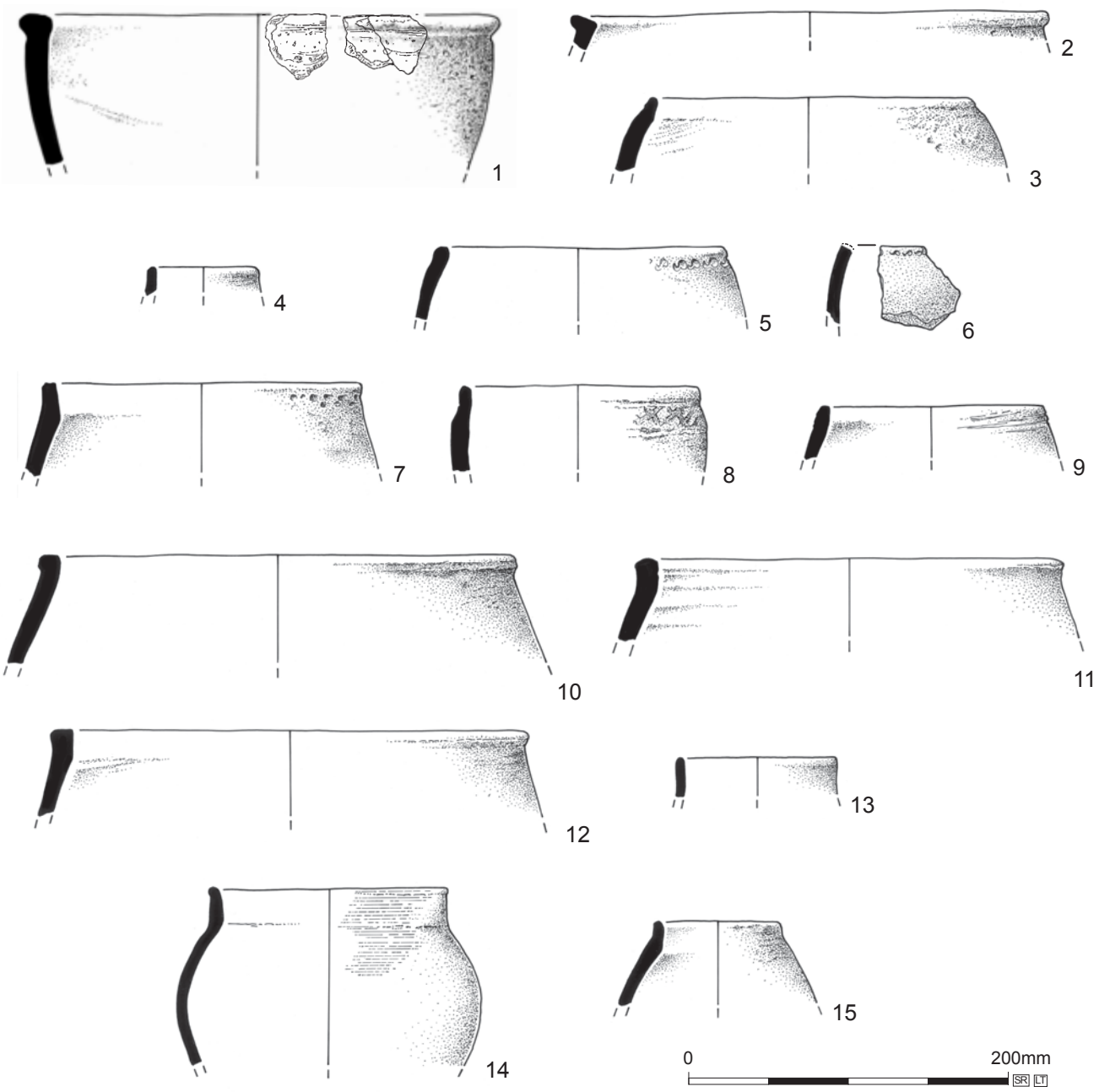
Sections through pits 1022 and 1016

Figure 6

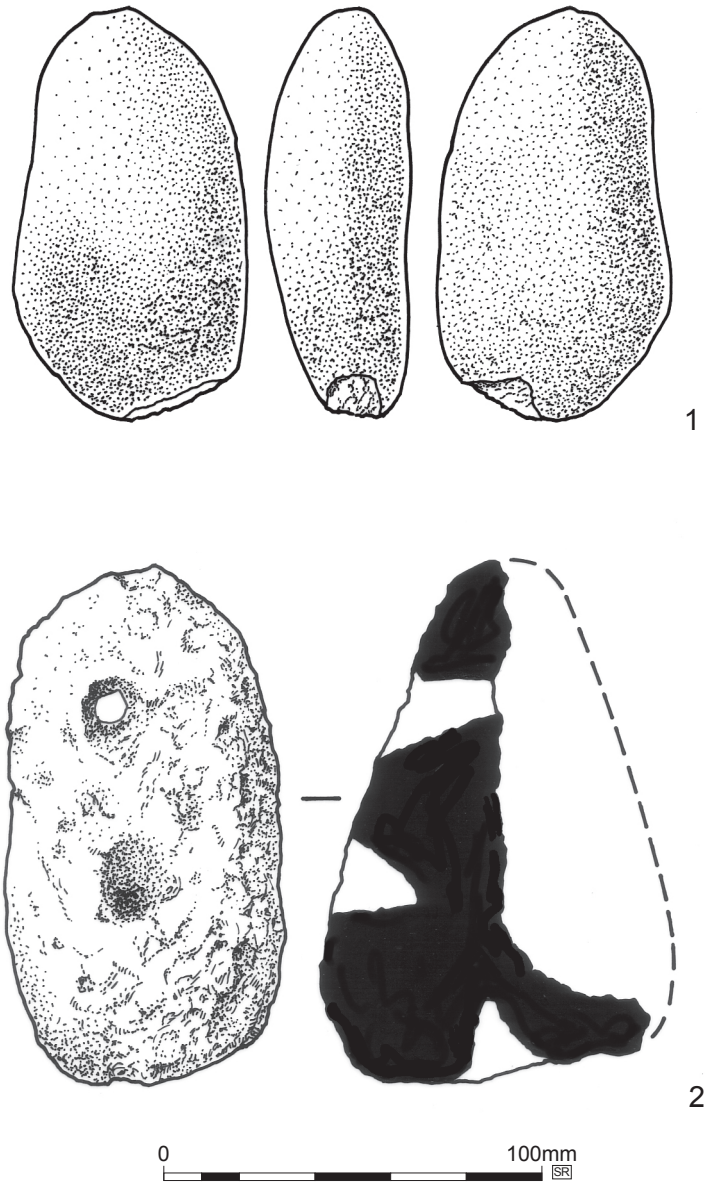


Sections through ditch 1163

Figure 7



Iron Age Pottery *Figure 8*



Hammerstone and loomweight *Figure 9*

Plates

Plate 1: The enclosure, showing the entrances (nearest camera), the internal features and the droveway to the left. Facing southwest, scales at 2m

Plate 2: Section A through the enclosure ditch

Plate 3: Section B through the enclosure ditch

Plate 4: Pit 1016

Plate 5: Pits 1150 and 1152

Plate 6: The southwest corner of the enclosure, including internal ditch (1163) and the storage pits. Facing northeast, scale at 2m

Plate 7: The droveway, facing southwest, scales at 2m

Plate 8: The droveway, facing northeast. Scales at 2m

Plate 9: 'Duck stamped' Middle Iron Age pottery

Appendix 1

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

CATEGORY TYPE	Total
Waste/production	
Flake	11
Miscellaneous debitage	2
Tested nodule/flaked lump	3
Flake tools	
Piercer (with notch)	1
Notched flake	1
Total	18

Table1: The flint assemblage

period	material class	SumOfcount	SumOfweight(g)
Bronze Age	pottery	10	13
Early Iron Age	pottery	152	882
Middle Iron Age	pottery	260	1916
early Late Iron Age	pottery	6	143
Late Iron Age	pottery	7	22
Iron Age	pottery	308	1254
medieval	pottery	6	78
Roman	pottery	26	169
post-medieval	pottery	8	57
modern	pottery	2	43
Iron Age	fired clay	119	385
Iron Age	loom weight	1	441
prehistoric	flint	24	114
prehistoric	hammerstone	1	371
undated	burnt stone	1	646
Iron Age	pot-boilers	8	890
undated	sandstone	1	6
undated	slag	9	199
undated	fuel ash slag	6	251
?Roman	iron nail	2	6
undated	iron nail	1	4
Roman	tile	3	20
modern	tile	1	12
medieval	tile	3	47

period	material class	SumOfcount	SumOfweight(g)
post-medieval	brick/tile	2	4
post-medieval	clay pipe	1	1
modern	vessel glass	4	51
undated	coal	1	2

Table 2: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage

context	material class	object specific type	Total	Weight(g)	date of finds (period)	Context *tpq* (period)
0	ceramic	pot	1	7	post-medieval	
0	stone	flake	1	16	prehistoric	
100	ceramic	pot	1	1	modern	
100	ceramic	tile	2	14	medieval	
100	stone		1	6		
200	ceramic	pot	1	1	modern	
200	stone	flake	1	3	prehistoric	
306	ceramic	?oven or daub	5	9	Iron Age/Roman	Roman
306	ceramic	?tile	3	20	Roman	
306	ceramic	pot	79	244	Middle Iron Age	
306	stone	potboiler	1	45	Iron Age	
400	slag		4	21	?Roman	
500	ceramic		1	2	?Roman	
500	ceramic	brick/tile	2	4	post-medieval	
500	ceramic	clay pipe	1	1	post-medieval	
500	ceramic	pot	1	1	modern	
500	ceramic	pot	2	15	post-medieval	
500	glass	vessel	2	5	modern	
803	ceramic	pot	1	58	medieval	medieval
900	ceramic	tile	1	33	medieval	
901	ceramic	pot	2	22	Roman	Roman
901	metal	nail	2	6	?Roman	
903	ceramic	pot	1	31	Roman	Roman
905	ceramic	pot	10	13	Bronze Age	Bronze Age
905	stone	flake	2	4	prehistoric	
1000	ceramic	pot	2	12	Early Iron Age	modern
1000	ceramic	pot	1	4	medieval	

context	material class	object specific type	Total	Weight(g)	date of finds (period)	Context *tpq* (period)
1000	ceramic	pot	5	35	post-medieval	
1000	ceramic	pot	4	18	Roman	
1000	ceramic	tile	1	12	modern	
1000	glass	vessel	2	46	modern	
1000	slag		3	14		
1000	stone		4	24		
1001	ceramic	pot	2	6	medieval	modern
1001	ceramic	pot	2	13	modern	
1001	ceramic	pot	6	11	Roman	
1001	organic		1	2		
1001	stone		5	18		
1006	ceramic		2	1		Iron Age
1006	ceramic		5	1		
1006	ceramic	pot	11	30		
1006	ceramic	pot	5	43	Iron Age	
1009	ceramic		1	2		Middle Iron Age
1009	ceramic	pot	1	5	Early Iron Age	
1009	ceramic	pot	17	41	Iron Age	
1009	ceramic	pot	23	216	Middle Iron Age	
1011	ceramic	pot	2	15	Iron Age	Iron Age
1013	ceramic		7	40		Iron Age
1013	ceramic	pot	3	72		
1013	ceramic	pot	64	189	Iron Age	
1015	bone	tooth	1	2		Middle Iron Age
1015	ceramic	pot	17	68		
1015	ceramic	pot	73	374	Early Iron Age	
1015	ceramic	pot	10	90	Iron Age	
1015	ceramic	pot	18	31	Middle Iron Age	
1019	ceramic		1	6	Iron Age	Late Iron Age
1019	ceramic	pot	7	22	Late Iron Age	
1021	ceramic	loomweight	1	441	Iron Age	Iron Age
1021	ceramic	pot	1	6	Iron Age	
1024	ceramic	pot	10	67	Roman	Roman
1025	ceramic	pot	1	6	Early Iron Age	Early Iron Age

context	material class	object specific type	Total	Weight(g)	date of finds (period)	Context *tpq* (period)
1025	ceramic	pot	2	29	Iron Age	
1030	ceramic		1	1		Early Iron Age
1030	ceramic		10	24	?Iron Age	
1030	ceramic	pot	9	8	Iron Age	
1030	stone	core	1	26	prehistoric	
1030	stone	potboiler	1	98	Iron Age	
1035	ceramic		2	1		Iron Age
1041	ceramic	pot	12	25	Iron Age	Iron Age
1041	stone	flake	1	3	prehistoric	
1044	stone	flake	1	2		
1046	stone	potboiler	6	747	prehistoric	prehistoric
1049	stone	flake	1	2		
1052	stone	flake	1	2		
1057	ceramic		3	19		
1059	ceramic	pot	17	28	Iron Age	Iron Age
1067	ceramic	pot	5	8	Early Iron Age	Iron Age
1067	ceramic	pot	4	6	Iron Age	
1075	ceramic		2	1		
1075	stone	flake	1	2		
1083	ceramic		7	29		Middle Iron Age
1083	ceramic	pot	2	7	Iron Age	
1083	ceramic	pot	5	112	Middle Iron Age	
1087	ceramic		1	1		Middle Iron Age
1087	ceramic	pot	6	40	Middle Iron Age	
1089	ceramic	pot	8	28	Early Iron Age	Early Iron Age
1089	ceramic	pot	1	20	Iron Age	
1089	stone	burnt	1	646		
1093	bone		2	1		Middle Iron Age
1093	ceramic		6	27		
1093	ceramic	pot	5	125	Early Iron Age	
1093	ceramic	pot	81	302	Iron Age	
1093	ceramic	pot	38	406	Middle Iron Age	
1093	slag	?Fuel ash	2	4		
1095	ceramic		1	15		Middle Iron Age
1095	ceramic	pot	30	189	Early Iron	

context	material class	object specific type	Total	Weight(g)	date of finds (period)	Context *tpq* (period)
					Age	
1095	ceramic	pot	6	143	early Late Iron Age	
1095	ceramic	pot	10	61	Iron Age	
1095	ceramic	pot	23	308	Middle Iron Age	
1097	?metal	?nail	1	4		Middle Iron Age
1097	bone		1	1		
1097	ceramic		4	27		
1097	ceramic		5	8	Iron Age	
1097	ceramic	pot	25	102	Early Iron Age	
1097	ceramic	pot	9	40	Iron Age	
1097	ceramic	pot	17	205	Middle Iron Age	
1099	ceramic	pot	3	43	Iron Age	Early Iron Age
1100	ceramic	pot	1	57	Iron Age	Early Iron Age
1101	ceramic	pot	9	41	Iron Age	Early Iron Age
1105	ceramic	pot	2	1	Iron Age	Iron Age
1105	stone		1	5		
1106	ceramic		7	12		Roman
1106	ceramic	pot	7	18	Iron Age	
1106	ceramic	pot	1	2	Roman	
1106	slag		5	16		
1118	ceramic		1	1		
1121	ceramic		3	9		Middle Iron Age
1121	ceramic	pot	4	15	Middle Iron Age	
1125	ceramic	pot	2	24	???	modern
1125	ceramic	pot	1	2	modern	
1125	ceramic	pot	2	18	Roman	
1125	slag	smithing slag	1	169		
1126	ceramic	pot	2	10	??Medieval	medieval
1131	ceramic	pot	4	6	Iron Age	modern
1133	ceramic	pot	1	4	Iron Age	modern
1133	ceramic	pot	17	169	Middle Iron Age	
1133	ceramic	pot	1	1	modern	
1145	ceramic		3	5		Middle Iron

context	material class	object specific type	Total	Weight(g)	date of finds (period)	Context *tpq* (period)
1145	ceramic	pot	2	33	Early Iron Age	Age
1145	ceramic	pot	1	1	Iron Age	
1145	ceramic	pot	7	49	Middle Iron Age	
1145	stone	?flake	1	2		
1147	ceramic		4	13		Middle Iron Age
1147	ceramic	pot	5	48	Middle Iron Age	
1149	ceramic		1	3		Early Iron Age
1149	ceramic	pot	1	3	Iron Age	
1149	stone	?hammerstone	1	371		
1151	ceramic		2	22	Iron Age	Early Iron Age
1154	ceramic		1	1		Early Iron Age
1154	ceramic	pot	3	18	Iron Age	
1156	ceramic	pot	5	7	Iron Age	Iron Age
1161	ceramic		28	52		Iron Age
1161	ceramic	pot	2	4	Iron Age	
1164	ceramic	pot	1	1	Iron Age	Iron Age
1166	ceramic		6	53	Iron Age	Middle Iron Age
1166	ceramic	pot	1	13	Iron Age	
1166	ceramic	pot	1	5	Middle Iron Age	
1166	stone		1	1		
1168	ceramic	pot	3	21	Iron Age	Iron Age
1170	stone	flake	1	2		
1198	ceramic	pot	4	4	Iron Age	Iron Age
1200	stone		1	2		

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Phase	Context group	Res assessed	Flot assessed
1006	22	Pit	1007	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1009	2	Linear	1010	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1015	3	Pit	1016	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1015	17	Pit	1016	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1017	11	Pit	1018	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1019	23	Pit	1020	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1021	1	Pit	1022	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes
1021	21	Pit	1022	Primary	2	0	Yes	Yes

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Phase	Context group	Res assessed	Flot assessed
1035	10	Pit	1036		2	0	Yes	Yes
1046	4	Ditch			2	1023	Yes	Yes
1052	5	Ditch			2	1174	Yes	Yes
1054	6	Posthole			5	0	Yes	Yes
1057	28	Ditch			2	1175	Yes	Yes
1059	29	Ditch			2	1174	Yes	Yes
1061	30	Ditch			2	1023	Yes	Yes
1067	33	Ditch			2	1175	Yes	Yes
1069	34	Ditch			2	1174	Yes	Yes
1071	35	Ditch			2	1023	Yes	Yes
1106	7	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1113	19	Ditch			2	1023	Yes	Yes
1118	8	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1129	9	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1131	24	Ditch			2	1175	Yes	Yes
1145	12	Ditch			2	0	Yes	Yes
1147	13	Ditch			2	0	Yes	Yes
1149	14	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1151	15	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1154	16	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1161	18	Pit			2	1108	Yes	Yes
1164	20	Posthole			2	0	Yes	Yes
1178	31	Ditch			2	1222	Yes	Yes
1192	32	Ditch			2	0	Yes	Yes
1196	36	Ditch			2	0	Yes	Yes
1198	27	Ditch			2	1212	Yes	Yes
1200	25	Ditch			2	1212	Yes	Yes
1202	26	Ditch			2	1221	Yes	Yes

Table 4: Samples assessed for charred plant macrofossils from Bengeworth School, Evesham, Worcestershire

Context	Sample	large mammal	mollusc	charcoal	charred	hammerscale	Comment
1006	22	occ burnt				occ slag	occ pot, worked flint
1009	2	occ					occ fired clay, h-c stone, flint
1015	3+17	occ burnt		occ	occ	v occ slag	occ pot, h-c stone, flint
1017	11			occ			
1019	23						occ burnt flint
1021	1+21	occ		occ		occ flake + slag	occ pot, heat-cracked stone
1035	10			occ	occ seed +nut		occ burnt flint
1046	4		occ oyster				occ burnt flint
1052	5						occ coal fragments
1054	6						occ burnt flint
1057	28			v occ		v occ Fe slag	
1059	29	v occ		v occ			animal bone is very small frags
1061	30			v occ		v occ Fe slag	
1067	33			v occ			
1069	34	v occ burnt		v occ		v v occ Fe slag	v occ h-c stone
1071	35	v occ burnt		v occ			

Context	Sample	large mammal	mollusc	charcoal	charred	hammerscale	Comment
1106	7	occ					occ pot, h-c stone, burnt flint
1113	19	occ + burnt		occ			occ pot, h-c stone
1118	8	occ + burnt		occ			occ burnt flint
1129	9						occ burnt flint
1131	24	occ burnt		occ			occ h-c stone
1145	12	occ burnt		occ			occ pot, h-c stone, burnt flint
1147	13	occ, some burnt		v occ			occ fired clay, h-c stone, burnt flint
1149	14	occ					occ burnt flint
1151	15	occ		occ			occ burnt flint
1154	16	occ					occ h-c stone, burnt flint
1161	18			occ			
1164	20	occ		occ		occ slag	occ h-c stone, burnt flint
1178	31			v occ		v occ Fe slag	v occ flint flake
1192	32			v occ		v v occ Fe slag	
1196	36		v occ	v occ		v occ Fe slag	
1198	27			v occ			
1200	25			v occ			
1202	26			v occ		v occ Fe slag	

Table 5: Environmental summary of plant remains and other artefacts recovered from the sample residues from Bengeworth School, Evesham, Worcestershire

Prunella vulgaris	selfheal	D				+					
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort plantain	D					+			+	
Galium aparine	cleavers/goosefoot	ABC									+
Tripleurospermum inodorum	scentless mayweed	AB		+						+	
Carex spp (3-sided)	sedge	CDE									+
Festuca sp	fescue	ABCD		+	+						
Poaceae sp indet (small)	grasses	E	++			+		++	+		

Table 6: Charred plant remains from Bengeworth School, Evesham, Worcestershire

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	

Key to Table 6

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 42440)

The archive consists of:

244 Context records AS1

35 Field progress reports AS2

7 Photographic records AS3

711 Digital photographs

3 Drawing number catalogues AS4

88 Scale drawings

4 Context number catalogues AS5

1 Matrix sheets AS7

1 Recorded finds records AS13

1 Sample number catalogues AS18

5 Levels records AS19

4 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 together with the archive from the evaluation (site code: WSM 42427) at:

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