

Archaeological watching brief at Blackgreves Farm, Headley Heath, Wythall, Worcestershire



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Archaeological watching brief at Blackgreves Farm, Headley Heath, Wythall, Worcestershire

Graham Arnold

With contributions by Rob Hedge and Tom Vaughan

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Blackgreves Farmhouse, Headley Heath, Wythall, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0658 7547). It was undertaken on behalf of David Symonds Associates, whose client, Bourneville Village Trust, is having new septic tanks, a reed bed and associated inspection chambers and drainage channels constructed, for which a planning application was granted by Worcestershire County Council.

All groundworks relating to the installation of the septic tank and drainage were monitored, with two inspection pits hand excavated by Worcestershire Archaeology. The new drainage trenches followed close to existing service trenches.

A causeway or base of a bridge constructed of sandstone ashlar blocks and flagstones was revealed crossing the moat, underlying the modern surfacing of the driveway. No dated material was encountered over the sandstone causeway, with the overlying material relating to modern disturbance from service trenches.

The other drainage trenches cut through the disturbed soils and backfill of a number of modern services with material related to the current early 19th century farmhouse. Residual material dating from the medieval period was also found within the later deposits, confirming the occupation of the site since at least the medieval period.

Excavations in the field to the west of the site did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits. The natural was found at a shallow depth in this area, except where an undated dump of redeposited gravels and hardcore was observed opposite the moat causeway.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Blackgreaves Farm, Headley Heath, Wythall, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0658 7547). It was commissioned by David Symonds Associates, whose client, Bourneville Village Trust, is having new septic tanks, a reed bed and associated inspection chambers and drainage channels constructed for which a planning application was granted by Worcestershire County Council (reference 13/000049/CM), subject to archaeological conditions.

The proposed developments lie within Scheduled Monument (No 30013).

The project conforms to the Scheduled Monument Consent granted by English Heritage (ref. S00048180, dated 29 July 2013 and revised 7 January 2015) and the generic brief for archaeological watching brief in Worcestershire (WCC 2014) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification (WSI)) was produced (WA 2015).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM 66997.

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project are to recover evidence of the archaeological history of the site. Significant deposits may be defined as those likely to be of medieval or post medieval date.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Graham Arnold (BA (hons.); MSc), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practicing archaeology since 2002. Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA), Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), Andrew Walsh (BSc; MSc; ACIfA; FSA Scot); and Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)) also assisted in the fieldwork. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). The historical and archaeological background is provided in Section 4 and within the report for a previous phase of works on site undertaken by WA (Daffern 2012).

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 2 June and 14 July 2015. The site reference number and site code is WSM 66997.

The groundworks for the septic tank, reed bed and drainage pipes were archaeologically monitored. Two test pits were hand excavated by Worcestershire Archaeology for the placement of inspection chambers. The trench between the two inspection chambers was also hand excavated by the construction team, under archaeological supervision.

All other groundworks were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. These included the new drainage trenches running for the house into the field to the north, the area of the new septic tanks and the reed beds. The new drainage trenches followed close to the line of existing services as far as possible, to follow previously disturbed ground.

Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

The monitored groundworks amounted to just over 110m² in area. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

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 Project Parameters

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b; <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011; <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993; <http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm>).

3.5.2 Method of analysis

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

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 Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

3.5.3 Discard policy

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

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material, and;
- where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention

3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site, by Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan

4.1 Topography and geology on site

The topographical, geological and archaeological context to the works can be found in the previous phase of works carried out by WA, involving a borehole survey of the moat (Daffern 2012). It is summarised below.

The site sits upon soils of the 711c Brockhurst 2 soil association described as "slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged, reddish, fine loamy over clayey soils. Some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging" (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping shows that the site lies upon alluvium of the north – south flowing River Cole. These superficial deposits are underlain by drift geology consisting of alluvial fan deposits of Pleistocene age although there are also mid-late Pleistocene till deposits located within close proximity. These drift deposits are underlain by mudstone of the Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group.

The geomorphology of the present landscape around Blackgreaves Farm is therefore the result of glacial and sub-glacial modification of Triassic features during the second half of the Pleistocene (Daffern, 2012).

The ground level at is approximately 167.00m AOD.

4.2 Historical and archaeological context

The following background information is taken from Daffern (2011), citing English Heritage (EH 2011) and the monument reports held by the Worcestershire HER (WSM 01870 and 09672).

The moated site at Blackgreaves Farm is a well-preserved example of a simple moat typical of many found in the area. The site is well-documented, providing an insight into the occupational history of the site. The water-filled moat shows little evidence of recent disturbance, and archaeological and environmental deposits relating to the construction of the monument may survive here. The locations of five other moated sites are known within a 6km radius of the monument and this association will provide the opportunity to consider the relationships between high status settlement in the region during the medieval period (EH 2011, 1).

In 1189-99, records refer to Richard I granting the tenement to Reginald De Barres, who sold it to Fulk Wythworth when he went on crusade and subsequently Fulk gave half the tenement to Emma de Alvechurch. In 1237-8 the king recovered land from Emma and in 1252 Henry III is said to have recovered land from Hugh de Belne and granted land to William de Belne (son of Hugh), whose family retained the property until modern times despite its recorded ruin following the Black Death (WCM 01870, citing VCH III).

The sub rectangular moat makes a complete circuit of the moat island except for a solid, stone lined causeway across the middle of its southern arm. The moated site is orientated north to south and is approximately 80m square. The island, which measures approximately 40m by 50m, is partly occupied by an 18th and 19th century farmhouse which is excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath it is included. The surface of the island is generally raised 0.5m above the surrounding ground level (EH 2011, 1).

The moat is water-filled and quite uniform measuring 12m to 17m across the top of the banks. There is an inlet providing surface drainage water in the north western corner of the moat and an outlet in the south western corner. An external bank rises 1m above the ground level on all sides. A large L shaped pond is recorded on the 1840s tithe map, located to the south west of the south western angle of the moat. The faint traces of this feature were surveyed in 1986, and the remnants can still be distinguished, although they are considerably degraded and are not included in the scheduling. This feature has been interpreted as the corner of either an earlier moated site or as a second moated island

contemporary with the extant moated site. The offset location of this pond does not support the view that the moated site once took the form of a double island (EH 2011, 1).

The farmhouse (WSM11071) is a Grade II listed building (ref. 1100133). The listing description is as follows:

Farmhouse. Dated 1827 with some mid-C20 alterations. Roughcast brick with tile roof. Front range has gable-end stacks, with wings to rear. Two storeys, dentilled cornice; central projecting porch, gabled with band, 2-light case- ment under segmental head; ground floor: 3-light casement to ground floor; flanked by two 3-light casements; entrance to left wall of porch. Datestone on porch has the arms of the Greves family. The house is located within a double moat, the inner one still wet (HE 2015).

4.3 Current land-use

The site is currently a domestic house and gardens surrounded by a moat with stables and other outbuildings to the west. The moat is currently silted up with trees and other vegetation.

5 Structural analysis, by Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan

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

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural orangey brown sandy clay with pockets of abundant large river gravels were observed throughout the trenches within the moated site and the areas stripped in field to the west. The natural substrate was found between 0.40-0.60m below the ground level across the trenches within the moat.

In the field to the west the natural lay at 0.78m depth in Trench 1, below made ground, at 0.13-0.15m depth in Trenches 2 and 6 to the south-west and at c 0.40m depth in Trench 5 to the south, adjacent to the existing reed bed.

A typical, albeit frequently disturbed, soil profile of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural was found in Trenches 3 - 7, 9 and 10. There was no defined subsoil in Trench 2.

5.1.2 Phase 2: modern deposits

The majority of the trenches contained modern service trenches, as the construction team tried to follow existing services as far as possible to avoid unnecessary disturbance of earlier deposits within the Scheduled Monument. Trench 8 for example lay entirely over existing modern services.

5.1.3 Phase 2: undated deposits

Trench 1, opposite the causeway through the moat, lay over redeposited hardcore and gravels of unknown date.

A layer of sandstone blocks and flagstones [708] was observed at 0.90-1.15m depth in Trench 7 across the moat. This related to a stone wall [707] at 0.40-0.90m depth on the south side of the causeway, which was of the same construction. The blocks measured a maximum of 1.00m x 0.20m x 0.30m, some of which were removed to install the drainage. A soft gleyed blue grey clay (709), was revealed beneath this, which was heavily waterlogged. These were undated.

5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. The pottery assemblage consisted of 45 sherds weighing 632g; fragments of tile, brick and clay pipe stems were recovered. The group came from four stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good, with the majority of sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion. The average sherd size was, at 14g, above average, reflecting the generally robust nature of the post-medieval wares present.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Medieval	ceramic		pot	3	34
Medieval	ceramic		roof tile	3	274
medieval/early post-med	ceramic		roof tile	2	244
late med/early post-med	ceramic		pot	2	41
late med/early post-med	ceramic		roof tile	1	86
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		brick/tile	5	40
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile	4	338
medieval/post-medieval			mortar	3	38
post-medieval	ceramic		clay pipe	10	16
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	9	215
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	6	122
post-medieval/modern	stone	limestone	marble	1	8
Modern	ceramic		drain	1	66
Modern	ceramic		pot	25	220
Modern	ceramic		roof tile	1	40
Modern	ceramic		tile	1	2
Modern	glass		vessel	1	156
Undated	glass		unident	1	10
Undated	metal	iron	nail	2	89
Undated	organic	animal bone	tooth	1	22
Undated	organic	oyster shell	shell	1	6
Undated	slag		slag	1	1
Totals				84	2068

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004).

Medieval

The assemblage contained three miscellaneous medieval sherds, a base sherd from an overfired Midlands purple vessel of late 15th to 16th century date, and a handle fragment from a 16th century Cistercian ware (fabric 78.5) tyg or small-handled cup. These are typical indications of domestic activity, but are residual in much later contexts.

Post-medieval and modern

Sherds of 17th and 18th century redwares (fabrics 78 and 78.1), the ubiquitous coarse domestic earthenware of the period, are present, along with 19th and early 20th century utilitarian stonewares (fabric 81.4). There are also late 18th century creamwares (fabric 84.2) and early 19th century hand-painted 'shell edge' and transfer-printed whitewares (fabric 85).

Of particular interest are four sherds of dipped earthenware: two from a cream-coloured dish with horizontal blue and white banding, of late 18th to early 20th century date, and two small sherds from two 'engine-turned' dipped earthenware mugs, with vertically-aligned incised patterning produced

by turning on a lathe. The bright glaze colours indicate a late 18th to early 19th century date (Carpentier and Rickard 2001, 7).

Although relatively inexpensive and probably produced nearby, in Staffordshire, these vessels are worthy of note as they are not commonly found in British archaeological contexts of this period: much of the production was for the North American export market, where such wares are ubiquitous in late 18^h and early 19th century domestic contexts (Carpentier and Rickard 2001).

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	3	34
Late medieval/early post-medieval	108	Midlands purple	1	38
Late medieval/early post-medieval	78.5	Cistercian ware	1	3
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	2	30
Post-medieval	78.1	Red sandy ware	4	170
Post-medieval/modern	83	Porcelain	1	3
Post-medieval	84.2	Late creamware	3	15
Modern	85	Modern china	9	34
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	7	110
Modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	14	195
		Totals	45	632

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

5.2.2 Ceramic Building Material

Roof tile fragments from (303), (403) and (1001) spanned the medieval and post-medieval periods. In the absence of a well-defined local type series, and given the highly localised nature of ceramic tile production, it is difficult to ascribe dates with certainty; however, several pieces of quartz-tempered tile with reduced core and oxidised margins/surfaces and a sanded base, one of which has a tapering squared peg-hole, are similar to the 13th to 15th century fabric 2b tile known to have been produced in Worcester (Fagan 2004).

Several other undiagnostic flat tile pieces in a similar but oxidised fabric are also thought to be medieval in date, and a nibbed, quartz-tempered fragment with sparse red clay pellet inclusions is broadly comparable to Worcester fabric 2c, produced from the late 15th century onwards.

Remaining undiagnostic fragments have been ascribed a broad medieval to post-medieval date.

5.2.3 Other Artefacts

The assemblage contained a typical assortment of other domestic artefacts, including post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem fragments, iron nails, oyster shell and mammal tooth, and a small limestone marble, probably post-medieval in date.

5.2.4 Site dating

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
303	ceramic		pot	2	102	1780	1930	1800 - 2000
	ceramic		clay pipe	8	12	1600	1910	
	organic	oyster shell	shell	1	6			
	ceramic		pot	2	88	1700	1800	
	ceramic		pot	2	30	1600	1700	
	ceramic		pot	1	3	1500	1600	
	ceramic		pot	2	38	1800	1950	
	ceramic		pot	1	3	1750	2000	
	metal	iron	nail	2	89			
	ceramic		pot	3	15	1775	1790	
	ceramic		pot	8	30	1800	2000	
	ceramic		pot	4	24	1800	2000	
	ceramic		pot	2	3	1770	1840	
	stone	limestone	marble	1	8	1600	1914	
	ceramic		pot	2	6	1200	1600	
	ceramic		drain	1	66	1800	1950	
	ceramic		brick/tile	5	40	1200	1800	
	ceramic		tile	1	2	1800	1950	
	ceramic		roof tile	2	90	1200	1800	
	ceramic		roof tile	1	12	1200	1500	
ceramic		roof tile	1	86	1475	1700		
glass		unident	1	10				
slag		slag	1	1				
403	ceramic		pot	4	46	1800	2000	1800 - 2000
	ceramic		pot	1	14	1780	1830	
	ceramic		pot	1	4	1800	2000	
	ceramic		pot	1	6	1800	2000	
	ceramic		pot	5	72	1800	1950	
	ceramic		pot	1	28	1200	1550	
	ceramic		pot	2	82	1700	1800	
	ceramic		roof tile	1	40	1800	2000	
	ceramic		roof tile	2	262	1200	1500	
	ceramic		roof tile	2	244	1200	1700	
	ceramic		roof tile	2	162	1200	1800	
	organic	animal bone	tooth	1	22			
705	glass		vessel	1	156	1905	1960	1905 - 1960
1001	ceramic		pot	1	38	1475	1600	1600 - 1910
	ceramic		roof tile	1	86	1200	1800	
			mortar	3	38	1200	1900	
	ceramic		clay pipe	2	4	1600	1910	

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.3 Discussion

The presence of medieval ceramic roof tiles indicates the existence of a substantial medieval building on the site, consistent with interpretation as a high-status medieval occupation site.

The site is recorded as falling into ruin following the Black Death (mid-14th century), and the construction of the existing farmhouse (WSM11071) has been dated to 1827. Some of the ceramic building material and much of the domestic pottery falls between these dates, confirming later medieval and post-medieval domestic occupation of the site before the construction of the existing farmhouse.

The finds, therefore, reflect domestic occupation on the site spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods; all of the pre-19th century finds are residual within later contexts, indicating that the excavated deposits incorporated some disturbed earlier material.

6 Synthesis

6.1 Later medieval/post-medieval structures

A possible sandstone causeway or bridge base across the west entrance of the moat was found, in line with an existing stone wall, consisting of large squared sandstone ashlar blocks or slabs. Although undated it is conjectured to be of later medieval or post-medieval date. The area above this had been previously disturbed by the modern water pipe and other service trenches that had been backfilled with modern materials, including brick and concrete rubble.

The finds are consistent with domestic occupation spanning medieval and post-medieval periods, and confirm domestic occupation of the site in the later medieval and post-medieval period, prior to the construction of the existing farmhouse.

6.2 Modern deposits

All other deposits related to the natural typical soil profile and modern disturbances from services such as the existing drains and manholes. Modern backfilled material was observed in all of the connecting trenches between the test pits and the new septic tank location.

6.3 Research frameworks

No significant dated archaeological deposits were encountered during the works. The stone structure crossing the west side of the moat did not have any dating material *in situ*. All other trenches surrounding the house revealed 19th -20th century deposits relating to the services for the current house, although residual material that dated to the medieval period onwards, including roof tile. This confirms that the site has been occupied from at least the medieval period onwards.

7 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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of David Symonds Associates acting for their client The Bourneville Village Trust, at Blackgreves Farm, Wythall, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0658 7547; WSM 66997).

All groundworks relating to the installation of the septic tank and drainage were monitored, with two inspection pits hand excavated by Worcestershire Archaeology. The new drainage trenches followed close to existing service trenches.

A causeway or base of a bridge constructed of sandstone ashlar blocks and flagstones was revealed crossing the moat, underlying the modern surfacing of the driveway. No dated material

was encountered over the sandstone causeway, with the overlying material relating to modern disturbance from service trenches.

The other drainage trenches cut through the disturbed soils and backfill of a number of modern services with material related to the current early 19th century farmhouse. Residual material dating from the medieval period was also found within the later deposits, confirming the occupation of the site since at least the medieval period.

Excavations in the field to the west of the site did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits. The natural was found at a shallow depth in this area, except where an undated dump of redeposited gravels and hardcore was observed opposite the moat causeway.

8 Acknowledgements

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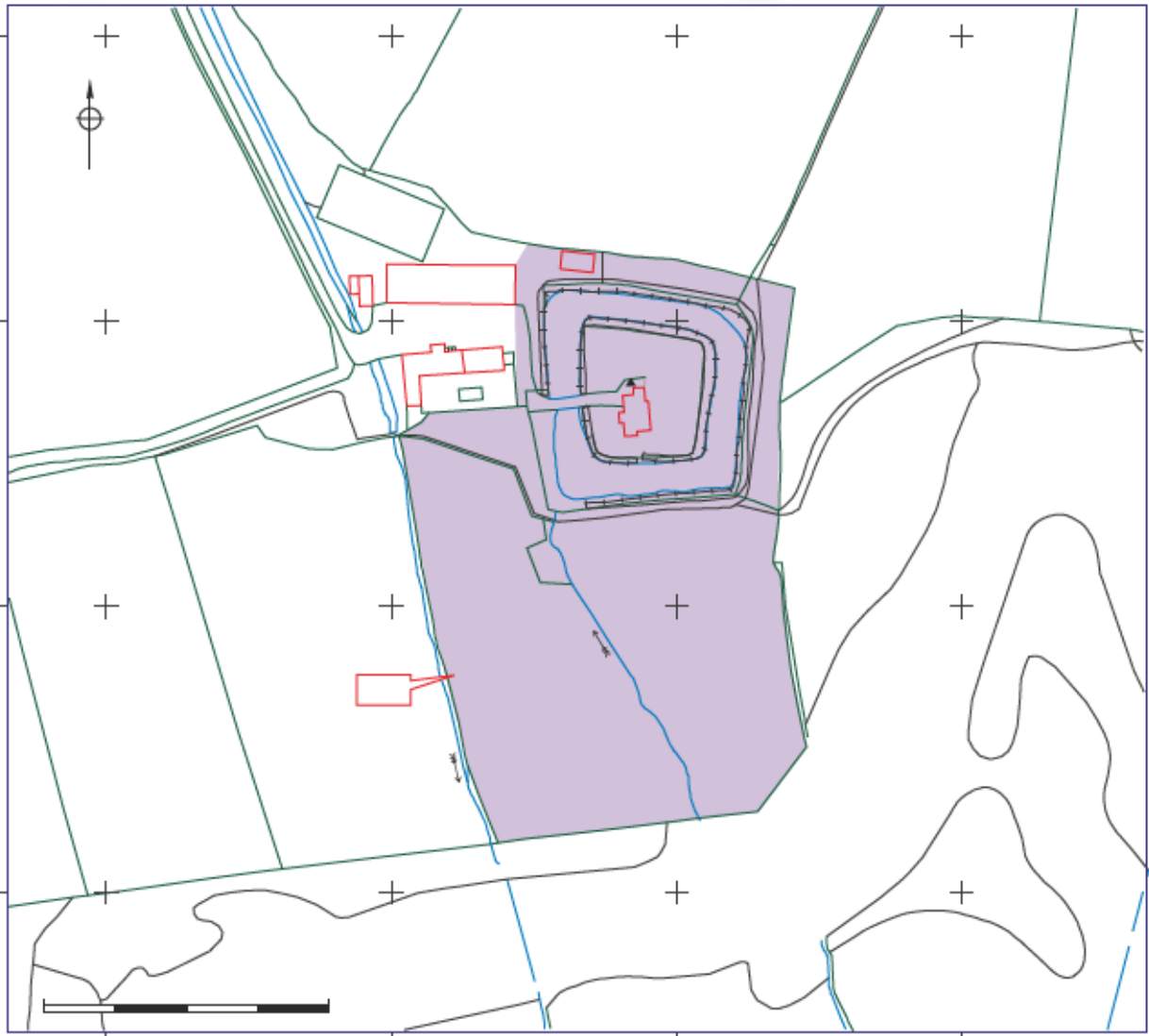
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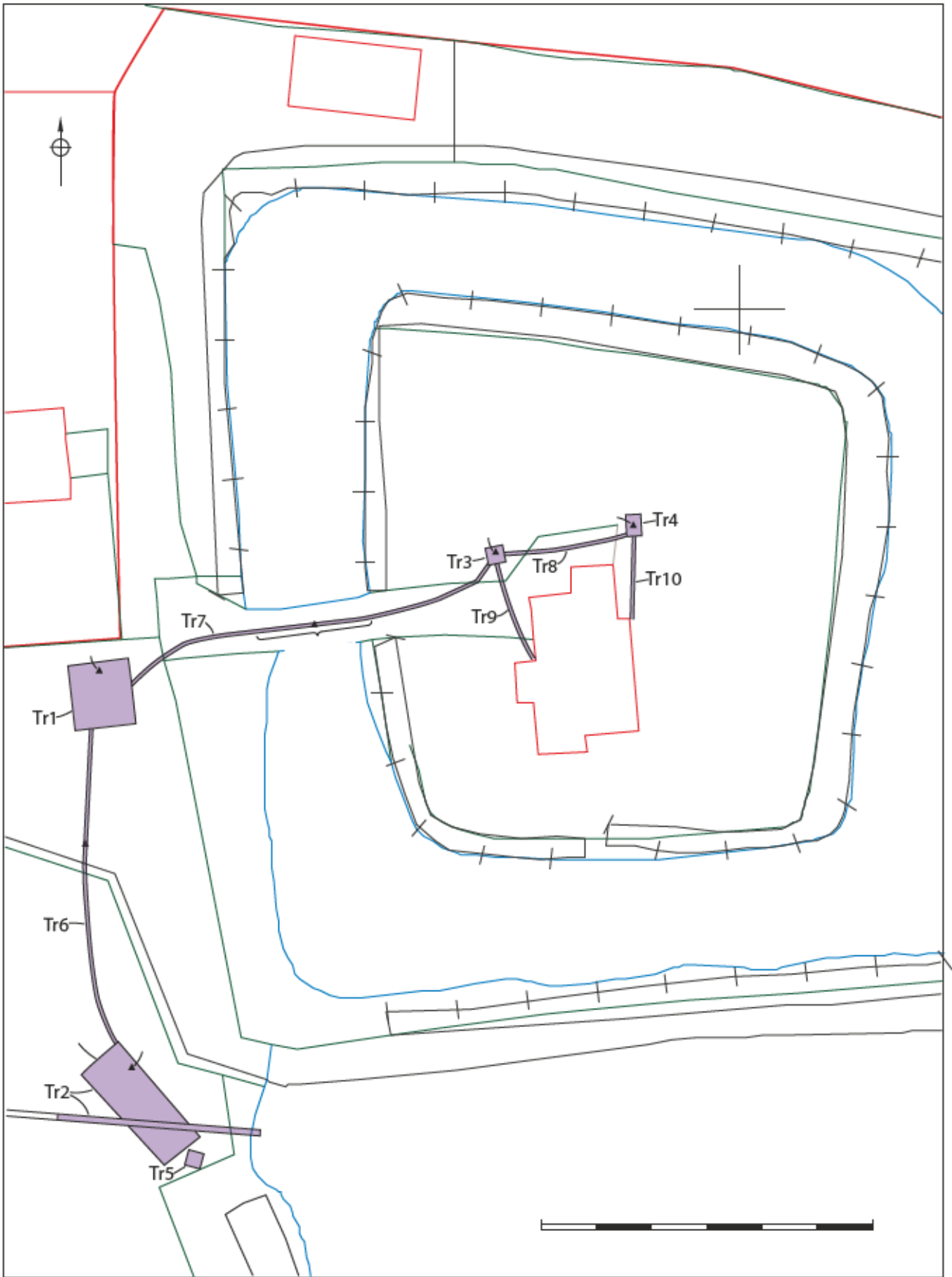
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Figures





Plates



Plate 1 Trench 2, the area for the reed bed stripped of topsoil; view south-east



Plate 2 Trench 3 excavated to base; view west (NB: north arrow is incorrect)



Plate 3 Trench 4 at full depth showing the electric cable and brick manhole; view west



Plate 4 Trench 5 east facing section showing topsoil, subsoil and gravels



Plate 5 Trench 6 during works; view north-west



Plate 6 The sandstone slab causeway (708) in situ with water pipe trench to north; view west



Plate 7 The sandstone ashlar masonry (708) removed from under the moat bridge in Trench 7



Plate 8 The location of Trench 7 during works; view east



Plate 9 Sample section of Trench 8 showing modern manhole uncovered in Trench 4



Plate 10 Trench 8 sample section beneath the modern flagstone surfacing, view south-east



Plate 11 Trench 9 sample section showing services running into the house



Plate 12 Trench 10 showing general stratigraphy; view west

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Septic Tank pit

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.80m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.98m

Orientation: E - W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	0.00 – 0.25m
101	Hardcore	Loose dump of modern cbm fragments and frequent rounded pebbles, gravel and cobbles, in mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.25m – 0.43m
102	Made ground	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent sub-angular gravel	0.43 – 0.46m
103	Made ground	Mixed soft yellow and greyish brown sandy clay with frequent rounded pebbles and cobbles and moderate charcoal flecks. Dumped material.	0.46 – 0.78m
104	Natural	Soft light mottled yellow and grey brown sandy clay with frequent rounded pebbles and cobbles.	0.78m+

Trench 2

Site area: Reed bed south-west of farmhouse and moat

Maximum dimensions: Length: 11.40m Width: 4.60m Depth: 0.20 – 0.41m

Orientation: NW -SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Turfed, friable light brown, slightly silty clay, with frequent pebbles and gravels and occasional post medieval cbm fragments.	0.00 – 0.41m
201	Natural	Compact mid orangey brown clay with moderate iron pan and frequent small/medium pebbles and gravels	0.13m+

Trench 3

Site area: Archaeologically hand dug inspection pit

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.00m Width: 1.00m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: square

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Turf	Turf with loose mid brown silty clay. Overlying modern path.	0.00 – 0.06m
301	Hardstanding	Modern concrete and gravel hardcore rubble layer	0.06 – 0.14m
302	Made ground	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent rounded stone, cbm and charcoal fragments. Levelling layer for surface.	0.14 – 0.25m
303	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and cbm flecking. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Overlaid by modern surfacing.	0.25- 0.37m
304	Subsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown sandy silt with abundant sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks and cbm fragments.	0.37 – 0.55m
305	Natural	Firm mid brownish orange sandy clay with abundant gravels and sub-rounded pebbles.	0.55m+

Trench 4

Site area: Archaeologically hand dug inspection pit

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.60m Width: 1.20m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels, tree roots and rare cbm fragments.	0.00 – 0.15m
401	Subsoil / natural alluvium	Compact mid orangey brown sandy clay, disturbed by modern service trench with occasional charcoal flecks and cbm fragments	0.35 – 0.55m
402	Natural	Compact brownish orange sandy clay with abundant gravels and occasional cobbles.	0.55m+
403	Fill	Modern backfill of service trench consisting of loose mixed mid brown sandy silt with frequent tile, brick and cbm fragments, occasional clay pipe, porcelain and ceramics.	0.15 – 0.60m
404	Structure	Modern brick built drainage manhole with concrete mortar. Constructed in 2000. 1.00m square	0.15 – 0.55m
405	Cut	Modern cut for manhole and services with vertical sides and a flat base.	0.35 – 0.60m

Trench 5

Site area: South-east of new reed bed.

Maximum dimensions: Length 2.00m Width: 1.50m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	turf layer overlying a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels and rooting	0.00 – 0.20m
501	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with occasional gravels	0.20 – 0.40m
502	Natural	Compact sandy river gravels with occasional grey gravelly silts	0.40 – 1.00m
503	Natural	Firm red sandy clay with frequent gravels	1.00m+

Trench 6

Site area: Slip trench connecting trench 1 and 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Modern turf layer overlying a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels and rooting	0.00 – 0.15m
601	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with occasional gravels. Only evident in some areas.	0.15 – 0.40m
602	Natural	Compact mid orangey brown clay with moderate iron pan and frequent small/medium pebbles and gravels	0.15m+

Trench 7

Site area: Slip trench between trench 3 and trench 1.

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 1.20 – 1.80m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Modern surfacing	Gravel path of stone chipping and bedding material for driveway	0.00 – 0.10m
701	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and cbm flecking. Occasional sub-rounded stone. Overlaid by modern surfacing.	0.10 – 0.40m
702	Subsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown sandy silt with abundant sub-rounded stones and pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks and cbm fragments.	0.40 – 0.60m
703	Natural	Firm mid brownish orange sandy clay with abundant gravels and sub-rounded pebbles, getting more sandy and gravelly with depth	0.60 – 1.80m
704	Brick surfacing	Brick path with engineering bricks measuring 9" x 4" x 3", underlying gravels on south side of house. No mortar.	0.10 – 0.20m
705	Fill of service trench	Loose brick and stone rubble fill of modern water pipe trench. Contains one glass jar, retained.	0.30 – 0.90m
706	Cut	Cut of modern water main pipe	0.30 – 0.90m
707	Sandstone wall	Sandstone wall at each end of the moat, parallel to wall on south side of moat.	0.40 – 0.90m
708	Structure / Surface	Sandstone bridge or surface consisting of flagstones and ashlar masonry blocks crossing moat and level with current wall on the south side of the moat. Blocks measured maximum of 1.00m x 0.30m x 0.25m. Overlaid by modern mixed rubble service trench. No in situ finds associated.	0.90m – 1.15m
709	Natural	Soft blue grey clay of silted up moat. Under water through moat area underlying surface 708.	1.15m+

Trench 8

Site area: Hand dug slip trench connecting trench 3 and 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 12.00m Width: 0.50m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: E - W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels, roots and rare cbm fragments. Overlaid with modern blue engineering brick path and flagstone paving and bedding material.	0.00 – 0.15m
801	Backfill	Compacted dark brown silt and clay with frequent large cobbles, cbm and mortar backfilling electric cable, ceramic drain and plastic pump servicing existing septic tank.	0.00 – 0.60m
802	Natural	Compact mid brownish orange sandy clay with abundant gravels and occasional cobbles.	0.60m+

Trench 9

Site area: Hand dug slip trench connecting trench 3 to west drainage of house

Maximum dimensions: Length: 6.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and small rounded gravels	0.00 – 0.25m
901	Hardcore	Firm dark brown gravelly silt with occasional cbm fragments and overlaid with modern concrete flagstones 0.08m in depth.	0.00 – 0.28m
902	Subsoil	Firm dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent gravels. Cut by service trenches.	0.25 – 0.45m
903	Natural	Compact mid brownish orange sandy clay with abundant gravels and occasional cobbles.	0.45m+
904	Modern service backfill	Mixed loose dark blackish brown silty clay backfill of service trenches	0.00 – 0.45m
905	Cut of service trenches	Drainage and water services into the house	0.0 0.45m

Trench 10

Site area: Hand dug slip trench from trench 4 to east side of house

Maximum dimensions: Length: 7.50m Width: 0.60m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Medium orange/brown fine soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile and rare clay pipe. Cut by one modern water pipe trench.	0.00 – 0.25m
1001	Subsoil	Medium orange friable silty sand with worm sorting and root action present in upper 0.10m. Also cut by water pipe trench.	0.15 – 0.45m
1002	Natural	Pale orange to pink/orange with patches of grey compact bedded sand and soft sandstone. Contains occasional silt channels and patches of grey silty material. Cut by water pipe trench and modern posthole.	0.45m+
1003	Fill	Pea gravel filling existing foul pipe trench	0.25 – 0.50m
1004	Cut	Modern linear cut for services, filled by 1003	0.25 – 0.50m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 66997)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context records AS1
- 5 Field progress reports AS2
- 4 Photographic records AS3
- 123 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 5 Scale drawings
- 10 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 66997 (event HER number)

P3931

Artefacts

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	Specialist report?
medieval	ceramic	pot	3	34	1200	1600	Y
medieval	ceramic	roof tile	3	274	1200	1500	Y
medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	2	244	1200	1700	Y
late med/early post-med	ceramic	pot	2	41	1475	1600	Y
late med/early post-med	ceramic	roof tile	1	86	1475	1700	Y
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	5	40	1200	1800	Y
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	4	338	1200	1800	Y
medieval/post-medieval		mortar	3	38	1200	1900	Y
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	10	16	1600	1910	Y
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	9	215	1600	1800	Y
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	6	122	1750	2000	Y
post-medieval/modern	stone	marble	1	8	1600	1914	Y
modern	ceramic	drain	1	66	1800	1950	Y
modern	ceramic	pot	25	220	1800	2000	Y
modern	ceramic	tile	2	42	1800	1950	Y
modern	glass	vessel	1	156	1905	1960	Y
undated	glass	unident	1	10			Y
undated	metal	nail	2	89			Y
undated	organic	shell	1	6			Y
undated	organic	tooth	1	22			Y
undated	slag	slag	1	1			Y

Notes

- 1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050
period specific	from	to
Lower Palaeolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.

3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.