

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS
AT PERSHORE CEMETERY,
DEFFORD ROAD,
PERSHORE,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Justin Hughes and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Claire Christiansen and Alan Clapham

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt and Steve Rigby

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Worcestershire County Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3168
Report 1687
WSM 39879
& 40600

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Archaeological Investigations at Pershore Cemetery, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire

Justin Hughes and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Claire Christiansen and Alan Clapham

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological investigation was undertaken on land adjacent to Pershore Cemetery, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 93724529). It was undertaken on behalf of Pershore Town Council which is considering a proposal to develop the site as an extension to the existing cemetery. The project aimed to locate a suspected early Roman settlement indicated by recent finds from graves within the cemetery and by a well-defined set of geophysical survey plots which are interpreted as ditched enclosures.

The investigation comprised an initial phase of monitoring of geotechnical test pits which identified the depth of topsoils, subsoils and natural but no features apart from a modern drain and service trench.

The second phase involved evaluation trenching with a rapid assessment of features located across transects of the geophysical survey (reported on separately; Austrums 2009). Within the eleven trenches, excavated across the features, up to forty linear ditches and pits were identified, eighteen of which were partially excavated.

The identified activity appears to comprise enclosed settlement, bounded by large rectilinear ditches, with zones of activity defined by smaller internal ditches. A number of curvilinear ditches may define buildings, whilst a number of pits may have been used for the disposal of rubbish. The artefacts, mainly of 1st and 2nd century date, comprise a range of regional wares and vessel types indicative of domestic occupation.

The grave of a human juvenile was encountered and left *in-situ*. It contained a small number of sherds of Roman pottery and a residual struck flint tool of late prehistoric date.

The area is located along an upper terrace of the Avon Valley and appears to comprise a rural settlement site occupied from the early Roman period, possibly from the Late Iron Age, and through to the 3rd century AD. The good state of preservation of features their density and the wealth of diagnostic artefacts renders the site to be of local significance.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Pershore Cemetery, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 93724529; Figure 1) on behalf of Pershore Town Council. The client is considering using the land as an extension to the existing cemetery. The project comprised a watching brief of geotechnical test pits, a geophysical survey and evaluation with trial trenches. The geophysical survey has previously been reported on (Austrums 2009).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a), and watching brief standards (IfA 2008b). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by HEAS (2007) and for which project proposals (including detailed specification) were produced (HEAS 2008a and 2008b).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the investigations were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

More specifically the following aims have been identified.

- To assess the extent, date and nature of the suspected occupation area, identified in a geophysical survey (Austrums 2009).

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition the 1885 1st edition Ordnance Survey (scale 1:2500) was consulted.

Fieldwork methodology

2.1.1 Fieldwork strategy

Detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2008a and 2008b) Fieldwork was undertaken on 1 September 2008 and from 23 to 27 February 2009. The site reference number and site code for the watching brief was WSM 39879; for the evaluation it was WSM 40600

Five geotechnical Test Pits (Turf Trax 2008) and 11 evaluation trenches, amounting to just over 617m² in area, were excavated over the site area of c 15,427m² (representing a c 4% sample). The location of the interventions is indicated in Figure 2. They were located across the anomalies suspected to be ditched enclosures and settlement features identified during the geophysical survey (Austrums 2009).

For the watching brief a mini JCB with a toothless bucket was used. For the evaluation, deposits considered not to be significant were removed, using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.1.2 **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.

2.2 **Artefact methodology, by Claire Christiansen**

2.2.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4).

2.2.2 **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).

2.3 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham**

2.3.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). Samples of 10 litres were taken from four contexts (403, 605, 803 and 809), from two pits and two ditches which were of Roman date.

2.3.2 **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 the New Flora of the British Isles, 2nd edition (Stace 1997).

A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale.

2.4 **The methods in retrospect**

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

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The town of Pershore lies in a meander of the River Avon and the site itself lies on a terrace above the north bank of the river valley at a height of 20-28m AOD, with a general slope from northwest to southeast. The predominant soils of the area belong to the Evesham 2 Soil Association (411b) comprising slowly permeable calcareous clay soils and some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clay and fine loamy or fine silty soils over parent material of clay. As the ground dips to the south and southeast the soils are predominantly sandy clays with moderate pebble inclusions; a common characteristic of the Bishampton Series (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken at the site. However finds, mainly of early Roman date, have been recovered from the adjacent cemetery (WSM 38433) indicative of Roman occupation (WSM 38434). Over 60 sherds of pottery were retrieved during excavation for five new graves in the churchyard and the fragments represent a range of domestic vessels, chiefly Severn Valley wares (SVW).

Iron Age and Roman settlements are attested along the Avon Valley, at Defford to the south west (WSM 30225) and at Allesborough to the north (WSM 20060). The former is represented in the form of rectilinear enclosures and trackways seen as cropmarks, the latter has been partially excavated and identified as an area of Late Iron Age activity, specifically the Dobunnic period, but the site also produced clear evidence for continued occupation into the Roman era (Hurst *et al* 1993).

4. **Results**

4.1 **Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5, the results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. Test pits 1-5 and Trenches 1, 2 and 5 contained no significant archaeological deposits.

4.1.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

The natural deposits vary across the site but are generally of a clayey silt matrix on the higher ground to the north and of a sandy silt character, becoming gravelly, as the terrain dips to the south and southeast, towards the floodplain of the River Avon. All deposits were of a yellow to orange hue; compact on higher ground with a tendency to a looser matrix in the sandier ground down the slopes.

The natural matrix is cut chiefly by Roman features, but also by a small amount by post-medieval and modern drainage features.

4.1.2 **Phase 2 Prehistoric deposits**

No features, layers, structures, or horizons of prehistoric date were identified. However a residual worked flint was recovered from the fill of a later feature, 604.

4.1.3 Phase 3 Roman deposits

The features excavated were predominantly of Roman date and comprise rectilinear and curvilinear gullies and ditches although there were also a small number of oval and sub-oval pits. As a general rule all features contained one fill only, composed of orange-brown to mid-grey clayey silt or sandy silt.

Trench 3

This trench was located to the south of the site, on a moderate slope of sandy clay soils. The topsoils and subsoils are generally clayey silts but with some sandy silts, and the natural is composed of clayey and sandy silts. It contained four linears, two of which were excavated, producing a range of 1st-2nd century pottery. All of the features were aligned on a similar NE-SW alignment. Ditch 304 widened to the NE with a minimum width of 1.40m and a general depth of 0.60m (Figure 5, Plate 1). The ditch fill (303) contained a range of Malvernian pottery sherds. Linear 306 lay to the immediate NW on a parallel course, but was much shallower and contained no finds. The two unexcavated features (308 and 310) respectively are 1.80m and 0.90m wide.

Trench 4

Located to the west side of the assessment area, this trench contained one, possibly curvilinear ditch (404, Plate 2) with an average width of 2.50m and a depth of over 0.60m. The ditch fill (403) contained 22 sherds of Roman pottery, mainly Severn Valley ware, and a large rim from the flue of a fired clay oven.

Trench 6

To the north of Trench 4 three linear features (608, 610 and 612) traverse Trench 6 on a NE-SW course. Linear 608 was half-sectioned and a further shallow ditch (606) and a grave cut (604) were partially excavated, although the human remains were left *in-situ*. The larger ditch (608, Figure 5, Plate 3) was 0.50m deep and 2.20m wide but was flared so alignment cannot be determined. The shallower ditch (606, Plate 4), aligned NW-SE contained a large fragment of mortarium (see section 4.2 below) and the grave (604, Plate 5) contained a small sherd of SVW along with a small piece of worked flint. When the skull and right humerus bones (probably from a juvenile) were uncovered the grave was re-filled and left intact.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was machine-excavated from the SE corner of Trench 6, on a SW-NE line. It contained up to seven features of probable Roman date including a possible curvilinear enclosure ditch (704, Plate 6) and a narrow ditch (706). The former (704) enclosed a projected area between 5-6m in diameter with an interior of 2. The ditch (706) to the north of this feature was 1-1.5m wide and 0.30m deep and appeared to widen on its NW-SE course.

Five further linear features of varying dimensions (708, 710, 712, 714 and 716, Plate 7) were encountered at the same level cutting into natural deposits, but were not excavated.

Trench 8

Five linear features and one pit (context 810) were defined cutting natural deposits at a depth of roughly 0.60m below current ground surface. Two of these ditches (804, 806 and 808) were excavated and a pit (810) was half-sectioned. The remainder (812 and 814) were not investigated, but it is notable that they appeared to be traversing the site on a similar course from NW-SE.

Linear 804 was insubstantial in depth (0.14m) but had a width of 0.55-0.65m. Ditch 806 (Plate 8) was of larger dimensions (c. 2.50m in width and 0.90m in depth) Its very compact

grey clay fill (805) contained two body sherds of hand made quartz tempered Malverian cooking pots and several sherds of SVW including a large rim from a cooking pot. Ditch 808 (Fig 5, Plate 9) was more complex and larger still, measuring up to 4.50m across with a steep SW edge and a shallow concave NE edge, across which a modern land drain has been inserted (Fig 5). The linear had a gully cut in its base, at c 1.00m below the natural surface. Thirty SVW sherds and glazed Malvernian ware fragments were recovered from the fill (context 807).

A cut which appeared to be a pit (810, Plate 10) contained 18 sherds from vessels of a Late Iron Age to early Roman date.

Trench 10

Two substantial linear features (1004 and 1006) traversed trench 10 on a n-s alignment and two lesser, but not insubstantial cuts, were evident to the NW on a NE-SW course.

The SE ditch (1004, Fig 5, Plate 11) was quarter-sectioned. It was at least 4.50m wide and up to 0.60m deep. The fill (1003) containing 29 sherds of SVW, including a 2nd-3rd century tankard. A cut (1006) to the NW was not excavated but is at least 4.00m wide. The smaller adjacent features 1008 and 1010 are probably both ditches, although the latter flared out to the NE were not excavated but were respectively 2-2.05m and 1.60-2.70m wide (although the edges of the latter were not clearly definable).

Trench 11

Three of the four features (1108, 1100 and 1113, Plate 12) located in this eastern part of the assessment area were not excavated but were on roughly similarly aligned NE-SW, on gently sloping ground to the SE which becomes much sharper to the east. Cuts 1109 and 1111 are of similar widths (1.50m and 1.40m) and cut 1113 is roughly 3.20m wide.

4.1.4 **Phase 4 Medieval and post-medieval deposits**

Identified archaeological remains of this period were confined to one feature.

The west corner of Trench 4 and the south corner of Trench 5 contained a ditch (contexts 406 and 504) whose fill (405/503) yielded five sherds of a glazed medieval Malvernian ware and a further fragment of post-medieval red ware.

4.1.5 **Phase 5 Modern deposits**

Trenches 4, 5 and 8 contained modern land drains. Trench 5 also contained two modern sewer pipes which appear to be serving residential properties beyond the NW of the site area.

4.1.6 **Undated**

Trench 9

Forming a 'T' junction with Trench 8, this trench yielded at least five linear features, but for the purposes of the assessment only one (context 904) was excavated. The ditch is curvilinear, 0.16m deep and 0.70m wide but the fill (context 903) contained no artefacts. Apart from context 908 (a narrow ditch, 0.50m wide) the form of other possible features (contexts 909-912) was not as clear. Context 910 did appear to be curvilinear.

Trench 11

A shallow circular pit (1104) was half-sectioned to the immediate south of ditch 1109 but contained no finds.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Claire Christiansen

4.2.1 Results

4.2.2 The artefact assemblage

The artefactual assemblage, recovered from 14 stratified contexts, consisted of 291 finds with a total weight of 5.895kg (Table 1) and included animal bone, charcoal, clay pipe, fired clay, flint, glass, iron, mortar, pottery and tile. The animal bone included teeth, ribs and fragments of long bones from cattle and/or sheep. No further analysis of these remains was undertaken. As a group the finds could be dated to the Late Iron Age period onwards.

Material	Finds period	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone	Undated	68	330
Charcoal	Undated	4	2
Clay pipe	Post-medieval	1	2
Fired clay	Undated	2	74
Flint	Undated	4	25
Glass	Post-medieval/modern	4	61
Iron	Post-medieval/modern	2	608
Mortar	Undated	1	18
Pottery	Undated	2	11
Pottery	LIA/ER	13	308
Pottery	Roman	127	2889
Pottery	Post-medieval/modern	13	201
Tile	Undated	50	1286
Totals		291	5895

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The level of preservation was varied. The majority of pottery sherds displayed moderate to high levels of abrasion, which in some cases prevented identification of rim sherds to form type. However, some fragments of Roman pottery were more complete, specifically from a carinated Severn Valley ware (SVW) bowl (808, fill 807).

The topsoil, subsoil and natural contexts (401, 501, 503, 601, 800, 801, 802 and 1100) contained a mixture of finds ranging in date from Late Iron Age to modern, as might be expected on a site with a history of arable farming and in close proximity to domestic dwellings.

Roman features

Roman features with finds included a large ditch running NE-SW in Trench 4 (404, fill 403) which contained both Late Iron Age and Roman material. This included a Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) bowl with beaded rim (Webster 1976, form 35), broadly datable to the 2nd to

4th centuries (fig. 6.4); one Malvernian ware sherd (fabric 19) from a copy of a Black-burnished ware form, providing a 2nd century *tpq* (fig 6.6); and a large Malvernian ware rim sherd (fabric 3).

This context also yielded a large sherd of Oxfordshire White Ware (fabric 33), which could have come from the base of a flagon or jug. This was very abraded and could not easily be attributed to a specific form.

Another large ditch running NE-SW within Trench 8 (808, fill 807) contained predominantly Severn Valley ware (fabrics 12 & 12.3), including a carinated bowl (Webster 1976 form 59) typical of early Roman assemblages dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries (fig 6.5). A sherd of BB1 (fabric 22) was also recovered, from a 2nd century flat-rimmed dish or bowl (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA Type 22, fig 123). Three small body sherds of Malvernian ware (fabric 3) were also found. The two sherds of post-medieval, oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69) further recovered from this feature are assumed to be intrusive, as a modern land drain had truncated the ditch.

In Trench 10 a possible enclosure ditch (1004, fill 1003) also contained a range of Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) including part of a small tankard complete with handle (Webster 1976 form 39), datable to the late 1st to early 2nd centuries (fig. 6.3). An associated piece of tile, although undiagnostic in itself, could have been Roman. Only one face of the tile fragment remained, making identification difficult. A struck flint flake, hinting at earlier prehistoric activity, and a small amount of animal bone were also recovered.

Other notable features included a v-shaped ditch in Trench 3 (304, fill 303) and a sub-oval pit (810, fill 809) which both contained numerous Malvernian (fabric 3.2) ‘tubby’ cooking pot sherds (Peacock 1968, form 4). In both cases the sherds have been burnished, and decoration in the form of horizontal and vertical incised lines is clearly visible (figs 6.1 & 6.2). This form is characteristic of 1st and 2nd century assemblages in this region, but has been noted occasionally in Late Iron Age assemblages, as at Beckford (Jane Evans pers comm).

The v-shaped ditch did not contain any further datable material, while cut 810 (a possible pit) contained two sherds of Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware (fabric 4.1). Also of interest was a shallow elongated pit (606, fill 605) located in the top NW section of Trench 6 which contained a large piece of an Oxfordshire White ware mortarium (fabric 33.1) from a Young form M17 (Young 2000). This mortarium was dated to the period AD240-AD300, and provided the latest evidence for Roman activity on the site (fig. 6.7).

Other Roman features with fewer finds included a grave cut (604), a pit (608) and several ditches (706, 804, 806 and 1104) which contained sherds of Severn Valley ware (fabrics 12 & 12.3), one sherd of Black Burnished Ware BB1 (fabric 22), some fragments of tile and a sherd of modern glass. A shallow ditch running N-S within Trench 4 (408) contained no finds.

4.2.3 The pottery

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the evaluation trenches consisted of 155 sherds, weighing 3.409kg. All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). A total of four diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly. The remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Count	Weight (g)
3	Malvernian	13	497
3.2	Malvernian ‘tubby’ cooking pot	25	461

4.1	Malvernian Palaeozoic limestone	1	6
12	Severn Valley ware	74	1137
12.1	Reduced Severn valley ware	1	19
12.3	Organically tempered Severn Valley ware	17	511
19	Wheelthrown Malvernian	3	82
22	Black-burnished ware	2	10
33	Oxfordshire white ware	2	280
33.1	Oxfordshire white ware (mortarium)	3	213
69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware	7	22
78	Post-medieval red wares	4	154
85	Modern china	1	3
90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	22
97	Misc. Prehistoric wares	2	11
Totals		155	3409

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

Late Iron Age and Roman

The earliest material represented was Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware (fabric 4.1). The assemblage included ‘tubby’ cooking pots (303, 809), Malvernian storage jars (605, 805) and body sherds from 401, 605, 607, 802 and 809.

Severn Valley wares (fabrics 12 and 12.3) dominated the Roman assemblage having been recovered from contexts 401, 403, 603, 605, 705, 800, 803, 805, 807 and 1003. Only two other Roman fabrics were present: Black burnished ware from Dorset (fabric 22), recovered from contexts 805 & 807, and Oxfordshire White ware (fabric 33), from contexts 403 & 605. The majority of diagnostic sherds can be dated to the 1st–2nd centuries, but the presence of the Oxfordshire White ware mortarium in pit 605 suggests that activity continued into the 3rd century.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval pottery consisted of several small and abraded sherds of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69), along with red wares (fabric 78), one sherd of china (fabric 85) and one sherd of post-medieval orange ware (fabric 90). It was only possible to identify the form of one red ware sherd, which belonged to a flared bowl (Bryant 2004, forms 11-14).

4.2.4 **Other artefacts**

One residual struck flint of late prehistoric date was recovered from the fill of the Roman grave (604). Two corroded pieces of ironwork, a nail (800) and plate (601), along with two sherds of modern glass (803 & unstratified) were recovered from contexts near the surface. A small fragment of mortar (601) was also recovered from the subsoil.

Context	Material	Object type/fabric ref	Count	Wt (g)	Finds date range	context <i>terminus post quem</i> date
303	Pottery	Fabric 3.2	9	113	100BC to AD200	100BC to AD200
401	Pottery	Fabric 3	2	19	500BC to BC100	AD1600 to AD1800
	Pottery	Fabric 4.1	1	6	500BC to AD200	
	Pottery	Fabric 12	1	16	AD43 to AD400	
	Pottery	Fabric 78	2	16	AD1600 to AD1800	
	Pottery	Fabric 90	1	22	AD1600 to AD1800	
403	Pottery	Fabric 3	1	195	500BC to 100BC	AD100 to AD400
	Pottery	Fabric 12	11	62	AD43 to AD400	
	Pottery	Fabric 12.3	5	121	AD43 to AD200	
	Pottery	Fabric 19	3	82	AD120 to AD400	
	Pottery	Fabric 33.1	2	280	AD100 to AD400	
501	Pottery	Fabric 97	1	7	4000BC to AD43	Prehistoric
503	Pottery	Fabric 69	5	18	AD1200 to AD1620	AD1600 to AD1800
	Pottery	Fabric 78	1	22	AD1600 to AD1800	
601	Pottery	Fabric 97	1	4	4000BC to AD43	Prehistoric
603	Pottery	Fabric 12	1	5	AD43 to AD400	AD43 to AD400
605	Pottery	Fabric 3	1	38	500BC to 100BC	AD100 to AD400
	Pottery	Fabric 12	2	21	AD43 to AD400	
	Pottery	Fabric 33	3	213	AD100 to AD400	
705	Pottery	Fabric 12	1	37	AD43 to AD400	AD43 to AD400
800	Pottery	Fabric 12	1	1	AD43 to AD400	AD43 to AD400
801	Pottery	Fabric 12	3	310	AD43 to AD400	AD43 to AD400
802	Pottery	Fabric 3	2	107	500BC to 100BC	500BC to 100BC
803	Pottery	Fabric 12	2	27	AD43 to AD400	AD43 to AD200
805	Pottery	Fabric 3	2	108	500BC to 100BC	AD43 – AD200
	Pottery	Fabric 12	7	75	AD43 to AD400	
805	Pottery	Fabric 12.3	1	168	AD43 to AD200	AD43 – AD200
	Pottery	Fabric 22	1	1	AD120 to AD200	
	Pottery	Fabric 12	7	75	AD43 to AD400	

	Pottery	Fabric 12.3	1	168	AD43 to AD200	
	Pottery	Fabric 22	1	1	AD120 to AD200	
807	Pottery	Fabric 3	3	26	500BC to 100BC	Roman
	Pottery	Fabric 12	16	154	AD43 to AD400	
	Pottery	Fabric 12.3	11	222	AD43 to AD200	
	Pottery	Fabric 22	1	9	AD120 to AD200	
	Pottery	Fabric 69	2	4	AD1200 to AD1620	
809	Pottery	Fabric 3.2	18	352	100BC to AD200	100BC to AD200
	Pottery	Fabric 3	2	4	500BC to 100BC	
1003	Pottery	Fabric 12	29	429	AD43 to AD400	AD43 to AD400
1100	Pottery	Fabric 78	1	116	AD1600 to AD1800	AD1800+
	Pottery	Fabric 85	1	3	AD1800+	

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

4.3 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised below

Context	Sample	Sample type	Context type	Description	Sample vol (l)	Vol processed (l)	Res assessed (l)	Flot assessed (ml)
803	1	general	fill	shallow NW-SE aligned ditch 804	10	10	1.3	2
605	2	general	fill	elongated pit 606	10	10	1	10
403	3	general	fill	NW-SE aligned ditch	10	10	1.1	10
809	4	general	fill	sub-oval pit 810	10	10	1.4	10

Table 4 Description of the environmental samples analysed

Context	Sample	large mammal	fish	mollusc	charcoal	hammerscale	Comment
803	1	occ	occ	occ		occ	small fragments of brick, pottery, flint & heat cracked stone
605	2	occ					fragments of brick, pottery, flint & heat cracked stone
403	3	occ		occ	occ		fragments of brick and flint
809	4	occ					fragments of pottery, flint & heat cracked stone

Table 5 Environmental summary of the material found in the sample residues

Latin name	Common name	Habitat	403	605	803	809
Charred						
<i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base	spelt wheat	F		1		
<i>Triticum</i> sp grain	wheat	F	1			
<i>Triticum</i> sp tail grain	wheat	F				1
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	barley	F		1		1
Cereal sp indet grain (fragment)	cereal	F			2	4
<i>Avena</i> sp grain	oat	AF				1

Table 6 Charred plant remains

Habitat
A= cultivated ground
B= disturbed ground
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland

E = aquatic/wet habitats
F = cultivar

Key to Table 6

Four samples were selected for assessment for environmental remains, contexts 403, 605, 803 and 809. Two were from NW-SE aligned ditches (403 and 803) and two from pits, one elongated (605 from pit 606) and one sub-oval (809 from pit 810). As the brief for evaluation was confined to a summary assessment only ten litres from each context were processed, to assess the level and quality of environmental remains.

Small quantities of charred plant remains were found in all of the contexts assessed and were reasonably well preserved permitting identification to species where possible. All the charred remains were of cereals and included grains and chaff. These consisted of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp.). The morphology of wild and cultivated oat grains overlaps and therefore it cannot be assumed that the grain found here was of the domesticated variety. The wheat grains were parallel sided suggesting that they were of a glumed wheat type. One of the grains (from 809) was small and this suggests that it was a tail grain. A single spelt wheat glume base (*Triticum spelta*) was found in pit fill 605, suggesting that the wheat grains may also have been of this type. Two barley grains were found overall, one in pit fill 605 and one in pit fill 809, but it was not possible to determine whether they were of the two- or six-row variety as no barley chaff was recovered. The largest quantity of charred plant remains consisted of unidentifiable fragments of charred cereal grain within contexts Ditch fill 803 and pit fill 809. No weed seeds were identified from any of the contexts.

Other environment remains recovered from the residues included bone fragments that were found in all assessed contexts, some of which were burnt. In ditch fill 803, some tooth fragments were also identified but were too small to identify the species. Fill 803 also contained a single fish vertebra and mollusc shell fragments. Mollusc shell fragments were also found in context 403 along with small fragments of charcoal.

5. Synthesis

5.1 Overview of environmental evidence, by Alan Clapham

Due to the lack of charred plant remains, very little can be said about the economic activity of the area, although the presence of some charred material and animal bone does indicate some activity. Spelt wheat and hulled barley are considered to be the standard staple crops for the Roman period in Britain. The low level of hammerscale suggests that there was not extensive industrial activity on the site.

5.2 Overview of artefactual evidence, by Claire Christiansen

The earliest material represented was Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware. This ware is found in Iron Age assemblages in this area, for example at Beckford, where it is most common in the late Iron Age (Jane Evans pers. comm.). However, it continues in use into the conquest period, to c AD 60-70, so need not necessarily be pre-Roman. The Malvernian 'tubby' cooking pots (context 303, 809) are 1st to 2nd century in date. The large Malvernian storage jar or 'oven' (605, 805) has parallels in Late Iron Age and early Roman assemblages at Beckford. There is no reason to assume that the other body sherds of Malvernian ware (contexts 401, 605, 607, 802, 809) are evidence for Iron Age rather than early Roman occupation.

The Roman pottery includes a number of diagnostic pieces which allow the date and character of the assemblage to be assessed. This evidence is supported by chance finds from the neighbouring cemetery, which show that Roman activity extended beyond the area currently under investigation. Should the opportunity arise to excavate further, this would provide a larger and more statistically reliable assemblage which could add to the growing body of data from rural sites in this area of the county.

The Roman pottery assemblage (Table 3) included a number of diagnostic fabrics and forms. It indicates that activity on the site had begun by the conquest period, possibly earlier. The main period of activity seems to date to the 1st-2nd centuries, with some level of activity continuing into at least the latter half of the 3rd century. There is nothing to indicate that Roman occupation continued after this date.

5.2.1 **Other finds from the vicinity**

It should be noted that the assemblage discussed here is very similar to material recovered from five modern graves in the existing cemetery, by the Pershore Cemetery Supervisor, and presented for identification to Dennis Williams (WSM 38433). Similar proportions of Severn Valley ware, dated 2nd to 3rd century, were represented, along with one sherd of bright orange pottery assumed to be Oxfordshire ware and dated 3rd to 4th century. Even though the grave assemblage was much smaller, similar forms were present including Severn Valley ware storage jars and tankards (Williams 2008 & 2009). Based on this evidence we can argue that Roman occupation was not limited to the evaluation field, but spreads out northwards under the existing cemetery.

5.3 **Prehistoric**

None of the excavated features could be ascribed a prehistoric date. The single worked flint indicates that indeterminate prehistoric activity took place in the vicinity, as is expected considering the prime location overlooking the floodplain of the River Avon.

5.4 **Late Iron Age and Roman**

Although less than 50% of the features identified were investigated for this rapid assessment it is clear that the archaeological activity indicated by the geophysical survey is of Late Iron Age to Roman date with activity continuing into the 3rd century AD.

The main focus of the settlement appears to be the northern two-thirds of the development site, as the density of features tails off toward the south and west. The form of activity appears to be enclosed settlement, comprising a number of rectilinear enclosures bounded by substantial ditches, with smaller internal ditches defining possible discrete zones of activity. A number of curvilinear features may define the location of buildings, whilst the pits identified may have been used for disposal of rubbish. There was minimal evidence for industrial activity, indicating that this rural settlement was primarily based on agriculture.

6. **Significance**

In considering significance, the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments (DoE 1990, annex 4), have been used as a guide.

These nationally accepted criteria are used to assess the importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. Though scheduling is not being considered in this case they form an appropriate and consistent framework for the assessment of any archaeological site. The criteria should not, however, be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

The site is interpreted to be an early Roman settlement, possibly established in the Late Iron Age, which continued through into the 3rd century. It appears to be one of a number of settlements which occupied the terrace overlooking the River Avon.

The results indicate that the site is *well preserved* and likely to contain many further, as yet unexcavated, features which would merit investigation. The projected alignments of the ditches encountered indicate an enclosed early Roman settlement with *good survival* of evidence for domestic occupation and agricultural activity. A good proportion of the artefacts are diagnostic and in good condition.

The remains lie directly below the topsoil and subsoil at a shallow depth. They are therefore considered to be *vulnerable* to any form of development of the site which would involve intrusive groundworks.

The site is therefore considered to be of *local importance*.

7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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 investigation was undertaken on behalf of Pershore Town Council at Pershore Cemetery, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 93724529; SMR ref WSM 39879).

Geophysical survey identified a dense area of apparent linear features. Eleven trenches were opened, revealing approximately forty linear ditches and pits identified, eighteen of which were partially excavated.

The identified activity appears to comprise enclosed settlement, bounded by large rectilinear ditches, with zones of activity defined by smaller internal ditches. A number of curvilinear ditches may define buildings, whilst a number of pits may have been used for the disposal of rubbish.

The artefacts, mainly of 1st and 2nd century date, comprise a range of regional wares and vessel types indicative of domestic occupation.

The grave of a human juvenile was encountered and left in-situ. It contained a small number of sherds of Roman pottery and a residual worked flint.

The area is located along an upper terrace of the Avon Valley and appears to comprise a settlement site occupied from the early Roman period, possibly from the Late Iron Age, and through to the 3rd century AD. The good state of preservation of features their density and the wealth of diagnostic artefacts renders the site to be of local significance.

8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Ann Dobbins (Town Clerk Pershore Town Council), Malcolm Atkin (County Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council) and Mike Glyde (Historic Environmental Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Justin Hughes. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Dennis Williams, Andy Mann, Sean Rice, Mike Nicholson and Justin Hughes, finds analysis by Claire Christiansen, environmental analysis by Alan Clapham and illustrations by Carolyn Hunt and Steve Rigby.

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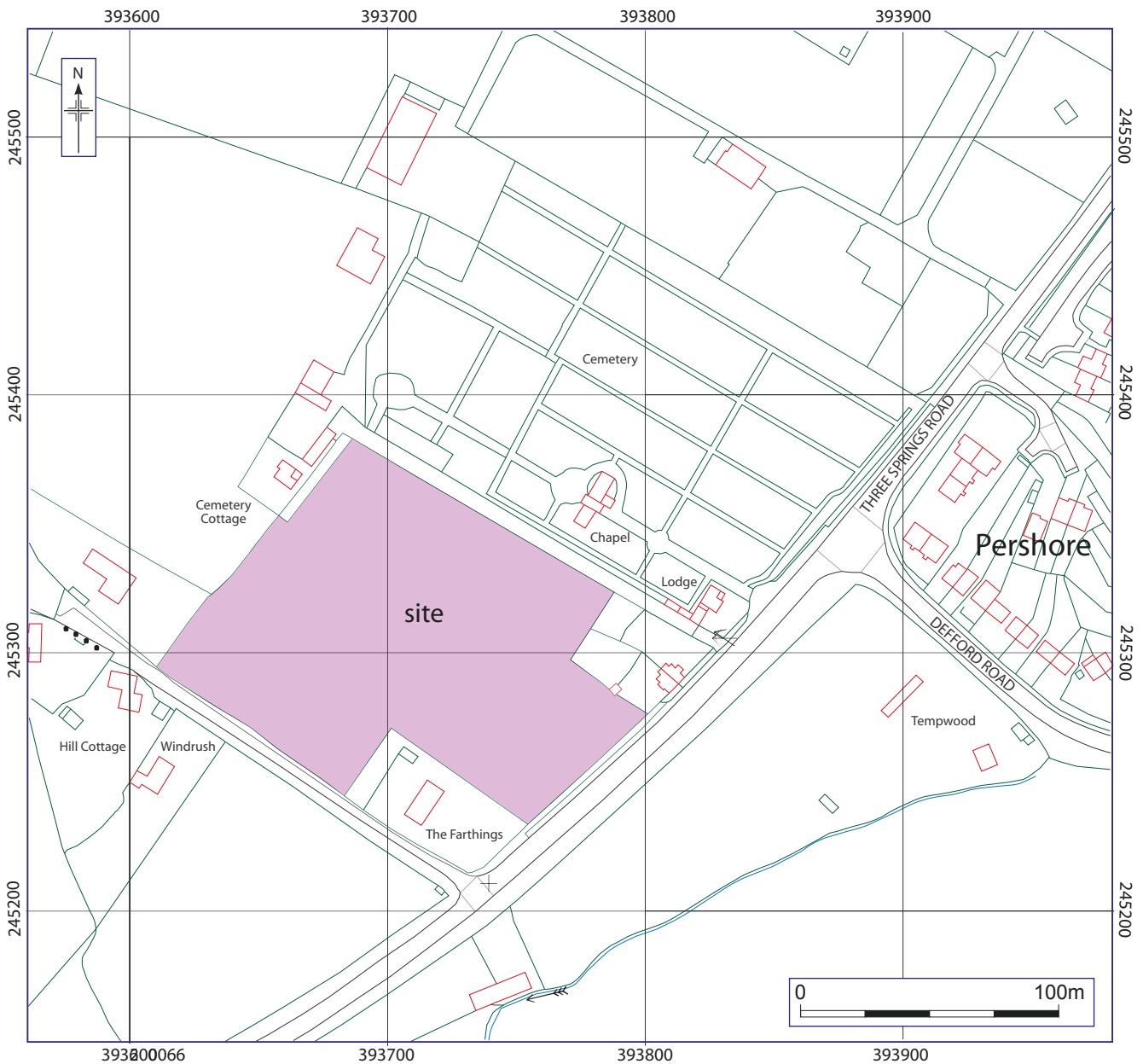
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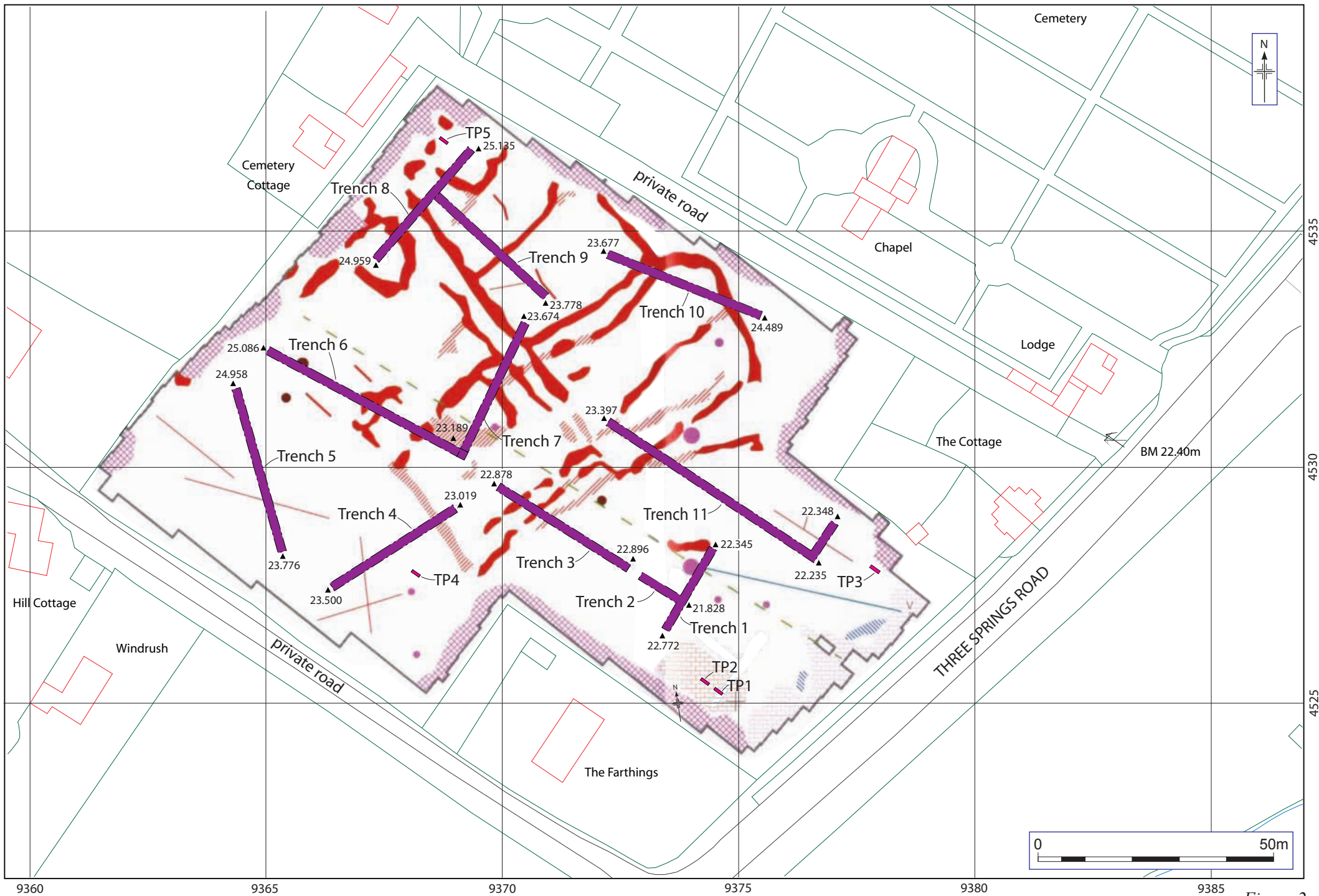
Figures



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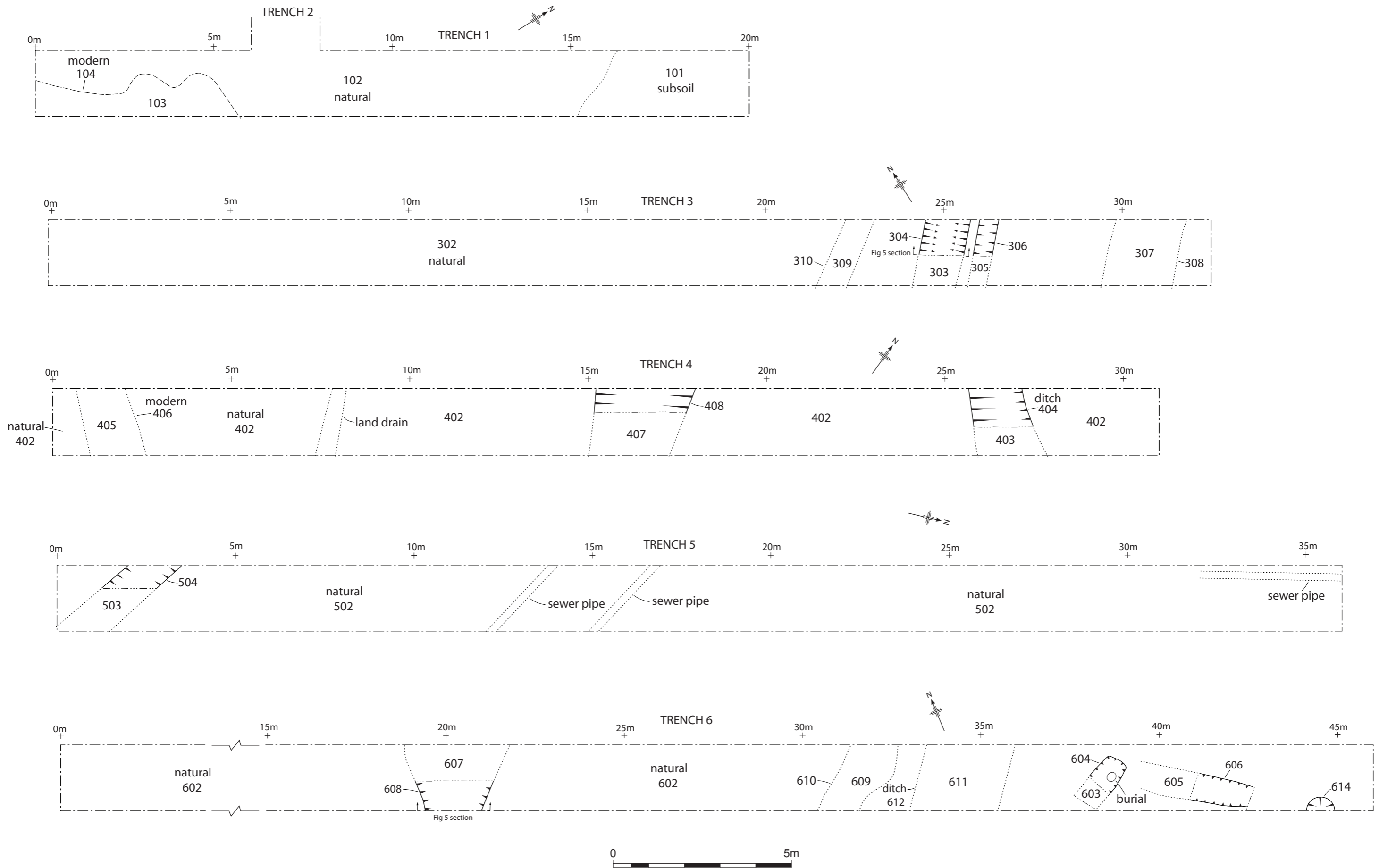
Location of the site

Figure 1



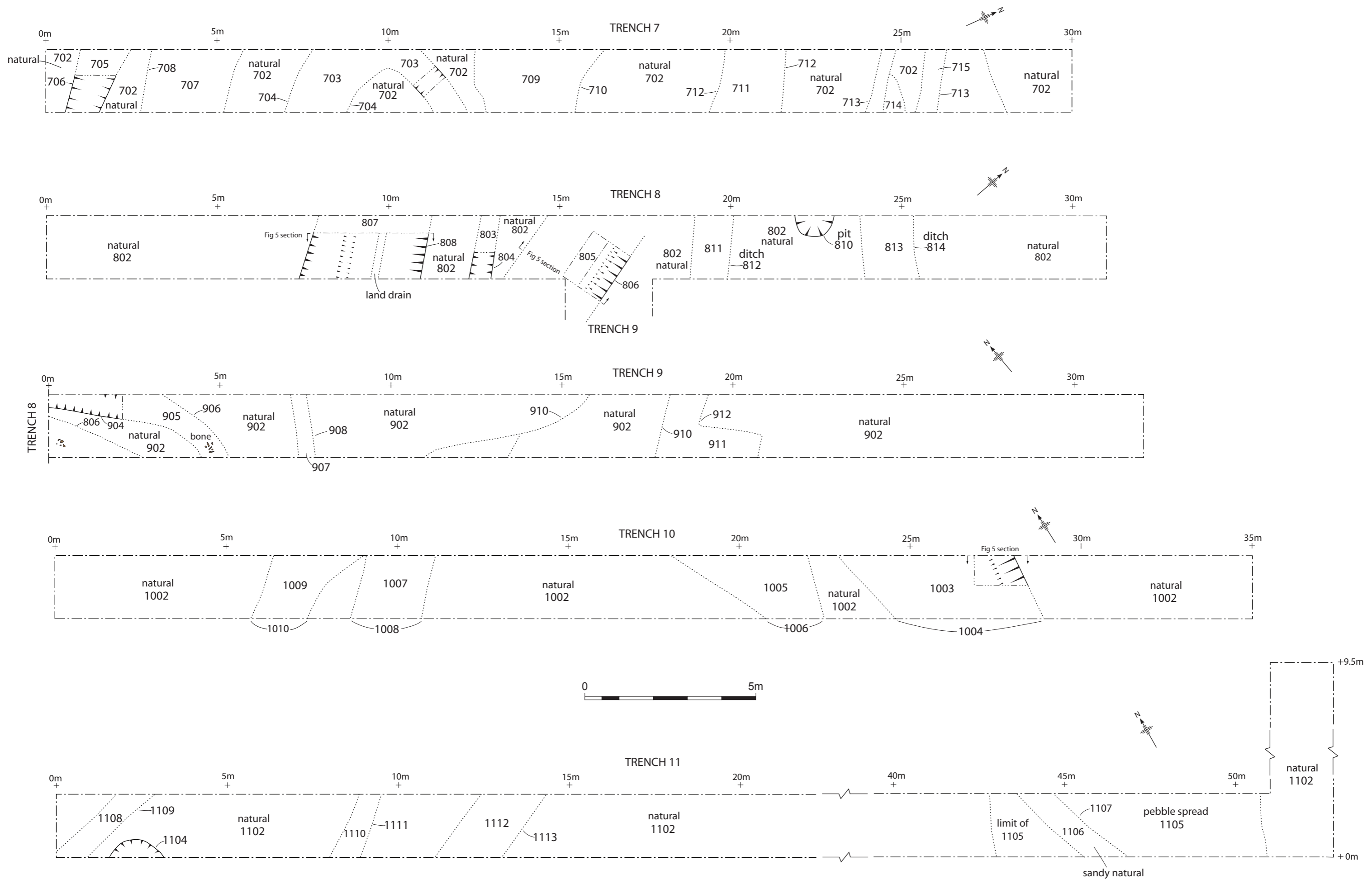
Trench location plan superimposed onto geophysical survey results

Figure 2



Trenches 1 - 6: Plans

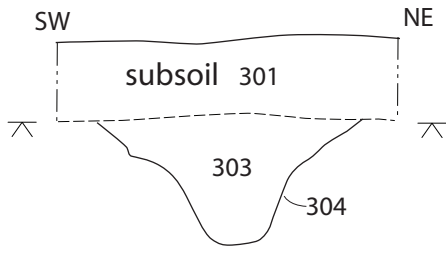
Figure 3



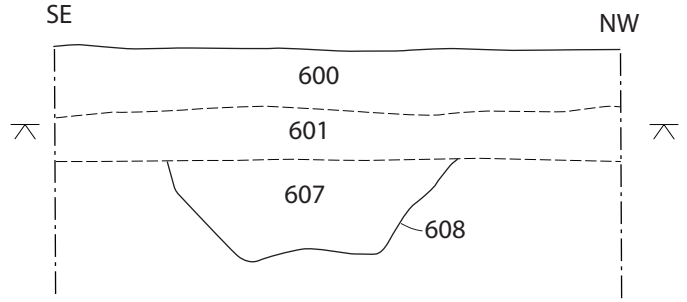
Trenches 7 - 11: Plans

Figure 4

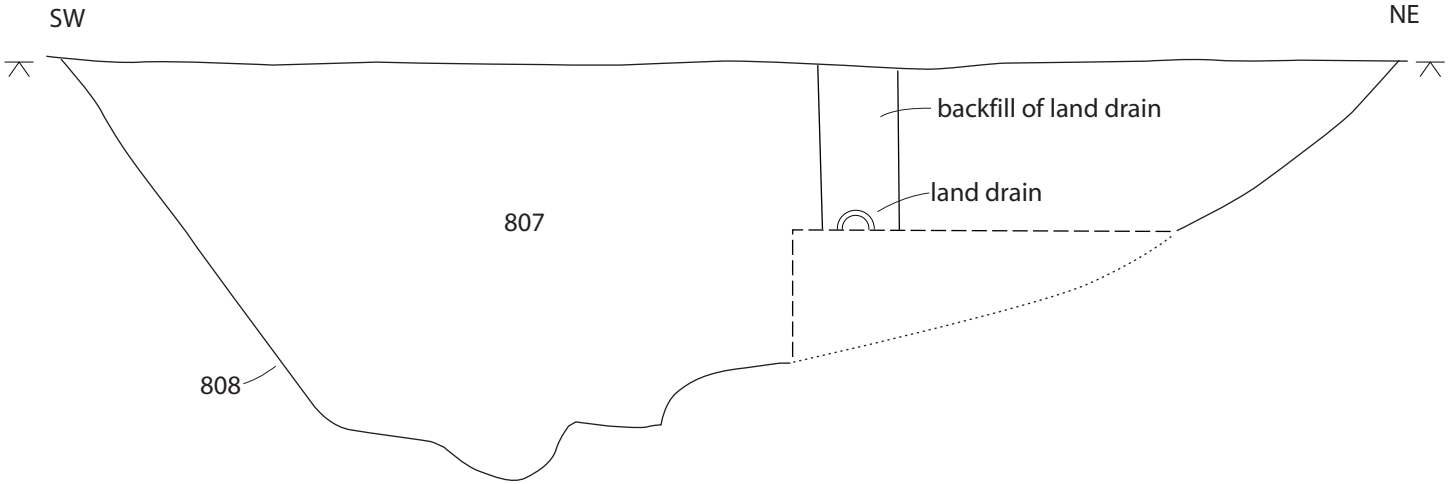
TRENCH 3: SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF 304



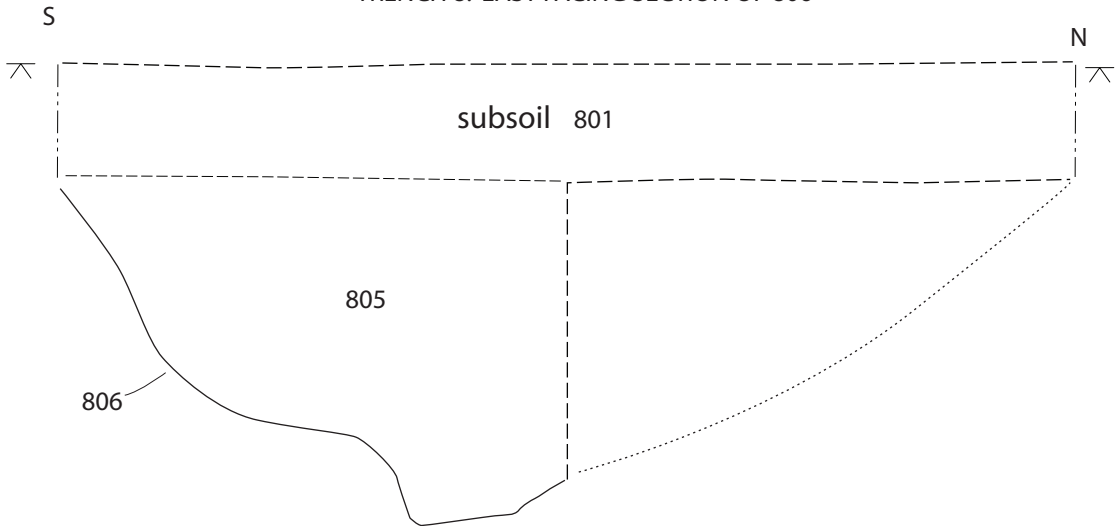
TRENCH 6: SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION OF 608



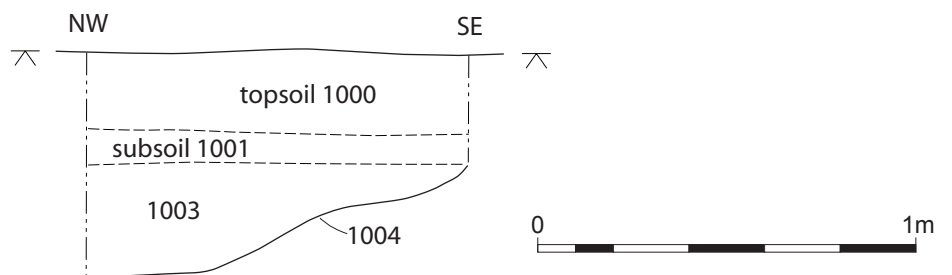
TRENCH 8: SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF DITCH 808

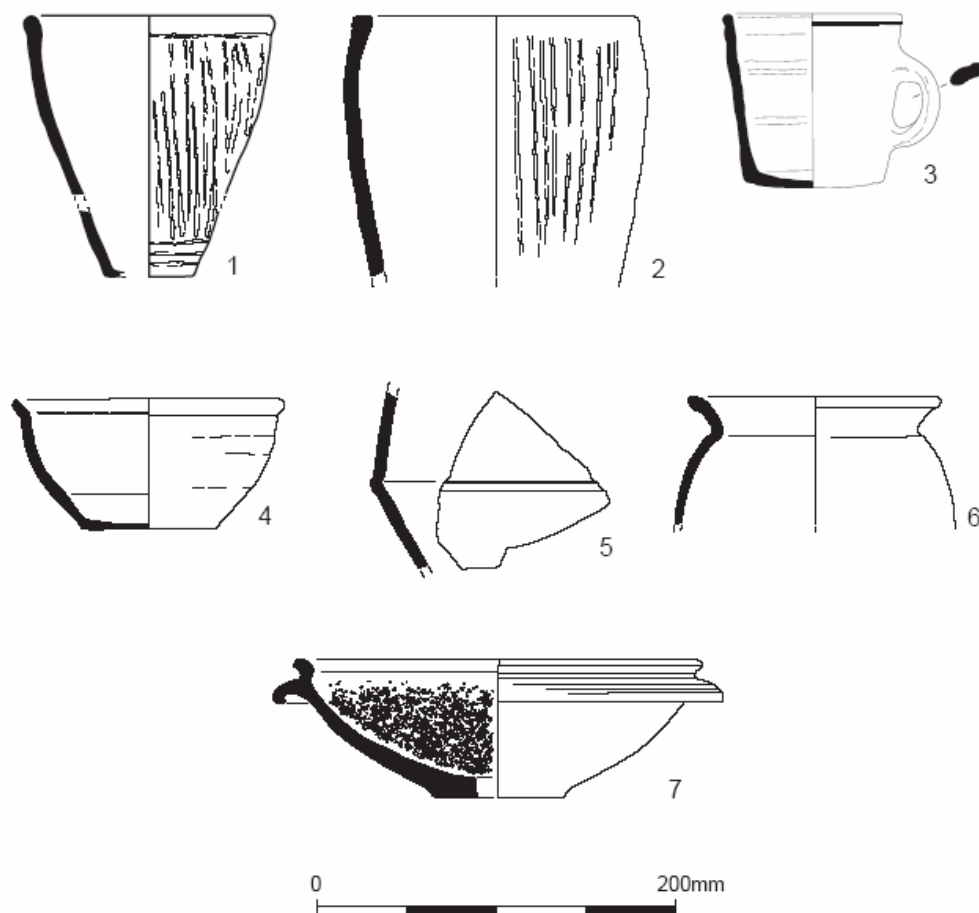


TRENCH 8: EAST FACING SECTION OF 806



TRENCH 10: SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION OF 1004





Pottery

Figure 6

Fabric 3 Handmade Malvernian ware: 6.1: Rim from a tubby cooking pot (Peacock 1968, fig.1) with vertical and horizontal burnished decoration. 1st – 2nd century, diameter 140mm, rim extant 25%. Ditch 810, fill 809

6.2: Rim from a tubby cooking pot (Peacock 1968, fig.1) with vertical and horizontal burnished decoration. 1st – 2nd century, diameter 80mm, rim extant 24%. Pit 304, fill 303.

Fabric 12 Severn Valley ware

6.3: Handle and body from tankard with beaded rim and strapped single grooved handle (Webster 1976 form 39). Late 1st to early 2nd century, diameter 80mm, rim extant 10%. Ditch 1004, fill 1003.

6.4: Bowl with beaded rim (Webster 1976 form 35). 2nd to 4th century, diameter 140mm, rim extant 40%. Ditch 404, fill 403.

Fabric 12.3 Organically Tempered Severn Valley ware

6.5: Body sherd from carinated bowl (Webster 1976 form 59) 1st – 2nd century. Ditch 808, fill 807.

Fabric 19 Wheelthrown Malvernian ware

6.6: Jar with everted rim - copy of Black Burnished form WA Type 1 or 2 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, fig. 122). This form is a 2nd century type, which is consistent with the evidence from Worcester Deansway which suggests that this fabric is most common in the 2nd to mid-3rd century (Bryant & Evans 2004, 260-61). Diameter 140mm, rim extant 26%. Ditch 404, fill 403.

Fabric 33.1 Oxfordshire white ware mortaria

6.7: Mortarium rim, Young type M17 (2000, fig.21) with upstanding rim, wide, flat, grooved flange hooked under at tip. 240AD to 300AD, diameter 220mm, rim extant 21%. Ditch 606, fill 605.

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 3, ditches 304 and 306, facing NE



Plate 2 Trench 4, ditch 404, facing SE



Plate 3 Trench 6, ditch 608, facing NW



Plate 4 Trench 6, ditch 606, facing W



Plate 5 Trench 6, grave 604 facing NW



Plate 6 Trench 7, curvilinear enclosure 704, facing SW



Plate 7 Trench 7, unexcavated ditches of probable Roman date, facing N



Plate 8 Trench 8, ditches 806 and 904, facing SE



Plate 9 Trench 8, ditch 808, facing SE



Plate 10 Trench 8, pit 810, facing W



Plate 11 Trench 10, enclosure ditch 1004, facing NW



Plate 12 Unexcavated ditches and view of increasing gradient of slope on the Avon terrace, facing SE

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Geotechnical test pits – WSM 39879

Test Pit 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
101	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with occasional to moderate pebbles	0.00-0.40m
102	Subsoil	Loose mid brown to dark grey silty clay, made ground?	0.30-0.50m
103	Fill	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with occasional to moderate pebbles	0.45m+
104	Service Trench	Trench cut for 105. FILLED BY XXX	0.45m+
105	Pipe	Ceramic pipe	03.40m

Test Pit 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 3.10m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
201	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with occasional to moderate pebbles	0.00-0.80m (approx)
202	Layer	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and CBM, made ground	0.80-2.60m.
203	Natural	Moderately compact mid brown silty sand with occasional to moderate pebbles	2.60m+

Test Pit 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 3.40m OR 3.40M? SEE BELOW

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
301	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	0.00-0.40m (approx)
302	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid to dark brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and CBM	0.40-1.20m
303	Natural	Moderately compact mid brown silty sand	1.20-2.00m +
304	Natural	Gravel with mid brown sand	2.00-3.00m
305	Natural	Dark grey mudstone, machine excavated to 3.40m	3.00m +

Test Pit 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 3.30m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
401	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	0.00-0.35m
402	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional gravel and pebbles	0.40-1.20m.
403	Natural	Mid reddish brown clayey sand	1.20-1.90m +
404	Natural	Mid reddish brown sand, machine excavated to 3.30m	1.90m +

Test Pit 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 0.85m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
501	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and pebbles	0.00-0.45m
502	Natural	Moderately compact mid reddish brown sandy clay	0.45-0.85m
503	Natural	Reddish brown sand	0.85m +

Evaluation trenches – WSM 40600

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.54-0.96m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft clayey silt with frequent small circular pebbles	0.00-0.40m
101	Subsoil	Light orangey yellow soft clayey and sandy silts with frequent pebbles –	0.40-0.54m
102	Natural	Hard yellow orange clayey silt with moderate pebbles	0.54m+
103	Fill	Mid/dark grey soft sandy silt with dark grey loamy variations containing glass and charcoal flecks Machine excavated	0.40-0.90m
104	Pit	Cut with irregular sides. Truncated by machine excavation. Filled with modern material – Dimensions: 5.80 by 1.40m	0.40-0.90m +

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40-0.45m

Orientation: SE-NW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Mid-greyish soft clayey silt	0.00-0.25m
201	Subsoil	Orange-brown soft clayey and sandy silts	0.25-0.40m
202	Natural	Hard yellow orange clayey silt with moderate pebbles	0.40m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 32.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50-0.60m

Orientation: SE-NW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Soft mid-greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded and	0.00-0.40m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		angular pebbles	
301	Subsoil	Soft orange clayey and sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded and angular pebbles –	0.40-0.60m
302	Natural	Compact yellow/orange clayey silt with moderate to abundant angular and sub-rounded pebbles	0.60m+
303	Fill	Compact mid-grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles	0.50-1.10m
304	Ditch	SW-NE aligned ditch widening to NE and filled by 303. Dimensions 1.40 x 0.60m	
305	Fill	Loose grey/orange pebbly clayey silt	0.40-0.60m
306	Ditch –	SW-NE aligned ditch filled by 305. Dimensions 0.52 x 0.20m	
307	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.40m +
308	Ditch	Not excavated. Filled by 307	1.80 x 1.70m
309	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.40m +
310	Ditch	Not excavated. Filled by 309. 0.90m wide	

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.55-0.60m

Orientation: SW-NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown soft clayey silt with frequent pebbles	0.00-0.42m
401	Subsoil	Light grey mottled orange, soft clayey and sandy silt with frequent pebbles	0.42-0.57m
402	Natural	Light orange/brown gravely clay	0.57m+
403	Fill	Mod-compact mid brown clayey silt with pebbles/stones	0.57-1.20m
404	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, widening to SE. Filled by 403. Dimensions 2.70mx 0.63m	
405	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.55m +
406	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch (equivalent to context 504) not excavated, modern. Filled by 405. 1.60m wide	
407	Fill	Mod compact light brown clayey silt with pebbles and manganese	0.55-0.80m
408	Ditch	W-E aligned ditch, modern. Dimensions 2.30m x 0.25m	

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 36.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.60-0.70m

Orientation: S-N

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Mid-grey soft to firm clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.00-0.40m
501	Subsoil	Firm orange brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.40-0.60m
502	Natural	Firm orange clayey silt with moderate pebbles	0.60m+
503	Fill	Mid-grey sandy silt	0.60-0.75m
504	Ditch	N-S aligned ditch, modern. Filled by 503. Dimensions 1.20 x 0.15m	

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 46.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.52-0.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Mid-grey soft to friable clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.00-0.40m
601	Subsoil	Soft orange/light brown clayey and sandy silt	0.40-0.60m
602	Natural	Compact yellow orange clayey silt with moderate sub-rounded and angular pebbles	0.60m+
603	Fill	Not excavated, mid-grey sandy silt, Containing juvenile inhumation	0.60m +
604	Grave	SW-NE aligned sub-oval Grave pit containing human remains of a juvenile (not excavated). Dimensions 1.20 x 0.60m	
605	Fill	Soft mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.60-0.70m depth
606	Pit	Elongated pit, aligned SE-NW. Filled by 605. Dimensions 3.00 x 0.60 x 0.10m	
607	Fill	Mid grey firm clayey silt containing patches of orange sandy silt	0.60-1.10m
608	Ditch	S-N aligned ditch. Filled by 607. Dimensions: 2.20 x 0.50m	
609	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.60m +
610	Ditch	S-N aligned ditch, not excavated. 1.80m wide	
611	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.60m +

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
612	Ditch	S-N aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 611. 3.00m wide	
613	Fill	Mid grey soft sandy silt	0.60-0.70m
614	Pit	Shallow pit, truncated by machine excavation, modern. Filled by 613. Dimensions: 0.75 x 0.20 x 0.10m	

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.63-0.67m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown soft clayey silt with frequent small pebbles/stones	0.00-0.34m
701	Subsoil	Mid-light grey brown soft clayey and sandy silt with occasional pebbles	0.34-0.67m
702	Natural	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay with pebbles	0.67m+
703	Fill	Fill of 704, soft mid-grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.45– 0.85m (min)
704	Ditch structure	Curvilinear ditch with a possible central area with a projected diameter of c. 5.50m	
705	Fill	Soft mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.50m+
706	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch widening and deepening to SE. Dimensions 1.20 x 0.30m	
707	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.50m+
708	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, possibly curvilinear, not excavated. Filled by 707. 2.60m wide	
709	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.50m+
710	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, possibly curvilinear, not excavated Filled by 709. 3.80m wide	
711	Fill	Not excavated.	0.50m+
712	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 711. 1.80 x 2.40m	
713	Layer/fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey to orange clayey silt	0.50m+
714	Ditch	Ditch of uncertain form, not excavated. Filled by 713 - 1.20m wide	
715	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	
716	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 715. 0.60m wide	

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.60-0.66m

Orientation: SW-NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Soft grey brown clayey silt with moderate angular and sub-rounded pebbles	0.00-0.30m
801	Subsoil	Soft to friable sand and clayey silts with moderate angular and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30-0.60m
802	Natural	Grey-orange soft to firm clayey silt with moderate pebbles	0.60m+
803	Fill	Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles	0.60-0.74m
804	Ditch	Shallow NW-SE aligned ditch. Filled by 803. Dimensions: 0.60 x 0.14m	
805	Fill	Compact blue grey clayey silt	0.60- 1.40m+
806	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch. Filled by 805. Dimensions: 2.70 x 0.90m	
807	Fill	Mid to light brown grey silty clay, firm but friable, containing occasional pebbles	0.60-1.67m
808	Ditch	Large NW-SE aligned ditch with steep sides and a gully slot. Filled by 807. Dimensions: 3.60 x 1.07m	
809	Fill	Soft mid to dark grey sandy silt with moderate pebbles	0.60-0.80m
810	Pit	Sub-oval pit. Filled by 809. Dimensions: 1.00 x 0.90 (min) x 0.20m	
811	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey clayey silt	0.60m +
812	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 811. 1.30m wide	
813	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey sandy silt	
814	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 813. 1.90m wide	

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 35.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, soft clayey silt with frequent pebbles	0.00-0.36m
901	Subsoil	Mid to grey brown soft clayey and sandy silt with occasional pebbles	0.36-0.50m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
902	Natural	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay	0.50m+
903	Fill	Loose grey orange clayey silt	0.50-0.66m
904	Ditch	Shallow NW-SE aligned ditch (equivalent to 906). Filled by 903. Dimensions: 2.00 x 0.70 x 0.16m	
905	Fill	Not excavated, mid grey orange clayey silt	0.50m +
906	Ditch	Possible curvilinear ditch (equivalent to 904). Filled by 905. Dimensions: 3.00 x 0.80m	
907	Fill	Not excavated, grey orange clayey silt .	0.50m +
908	Gully	Narrow NE-SW aligned gully, not excavated. Filled by 907. 0.50m wide	
909	Fill	Not excavated, mid to dark grey orange clayey silt	0.50m +
910	Ditch	Possible curvilinear ditch. Filled by 909. A minimum of 3.00m in width	
911	Fill	Not excavated, grey orange clayey silt	0.50m +
912	Ditch	S-N aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 911. 1.90m wide	

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 35.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional to moderate pebbles and variable depth	0.00-0.30m
1001	Subsoil	Firm light grey brown clayey silt with moderate pebbles and variable depth	0.30-0.70m
1002	Natural	Loose orange brown clayey silts with subsoil patches	0.50m-0.70m
1003	Fill	Soft to firm mid grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.60-1.20m
1004	Ditch	Wide NW-SE aligned ditch. Filled by 1003. Dimensions: 4.50 x 0.60m	
1005	Fill	Not excavated, mid grey clayey silt.	0.50m +
1006	Ditch	Possible ditch aligned NW-SE, not excavated. Filled by 1005. A maximum of 4.00m in width	
1007	Fill	Not excavated, mid grey clayey silt.	0.50m +
1008	Ditch	S-N aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 1007. 2.00m wide	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1009	Fill	Not excavated, grey orange clayey silt.	0.50m+
1010	Ditch	Possible ditch, aligned S-N, not excavated. A maximum of 2.60m in width	

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 60-50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.90m (max)

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Soft mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	0.00-0.30m
1101	Subsoil	Soft orange brown sandy and clayey silts with occasional pebbles	0.40-0.70m
1102	Natural	Firm yellow/orange clayey silt with patches of sandy silt and containing a dense patch of gravel and pebbles towards SE end of the trench	0.70m+
1103	Fill	Loose orange/grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, truncated by machine excavation, modern?	0.40-0.60m
1104	Pit	Shallow pit. Filled by 1103. Dimensions: 0.70 x 0.20m	
1105	Natural	Dense spread of gravel/pebbles within 1102. Dimensions: 8.00 x 1.80 x 0.20m	
1106	Natural	Same as 1102	0.70m+
1107	Void context	Originally identified as a possible linear feature filled with context 1106. further investigation established that this context is a sandy deposit within the natural matrix	
1108	Fill	Not excavated, orange grey sandy silt	0.70m+
1109	Ditch	SW-NE aligned ditch, not excavated; Filled by 1108. 1.50m wide	
1110	Fill	Not excavated, orange grey sandy silt	0.70m+
1111	Ditch	SW-NE aligned ditch, not excavated. Filled by 1110. 1.50m wide	1.80 x 1.40m
1112	Fill	Not excavated, mid orange grey sandy silt	0.70m+
1113	Ditch	SW-NE aligned ditch, possibly curvilinear, not excavated. Filled by 1112. 3.20m wide	

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

108	Context records AS1
5	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
72	Digital photographs
1	Sample records AS17
1	Levels record sheets AS19
11	Trench record sheets AS41
30	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

Appendix 3 Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 40600

P3168

Artefacts

Type	Count	Weight (g)	Date	Specialist report?	Key assemblage?
Pottery	2	11	Prehistoric	No	No
Pottery	39	743	LIA/ER	Yes	No
Pottery	98	2345	Roman	Yes	No
Pottery	13	201	Post-medieval	Yes	No
Clay tile – other	50	1286	Undated	No	No
Clay pipe	1	2	Post-medieval	No	No
Clay – unidentified	2	74	Undated	No	No
Glass – vessel	2	29	Post-medieval	No	No
Glass – window	2	32	Modern	No	No
Iron – object	2	608	Post-medieval	No	No
Flaked stone – flake	5	43	Undated	No	No

Environmental

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

Type	Preservation	Date	Specialist report? Y/N	Key assemblage? Y/N
Bone – fish	Not waterlogged	Roman	N	N
Bone – large mammal	Some burnt	Roman	N	N
Plant remains – macrofossils	Charred	Roman	N	N
Shell – mollusc	Fragments	Modern?	N	N
Teeth – large mammal	Fragments	Roman	N	N