

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
THREE SPRINGS ROAD,
PERSHORE,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Jo Wainwright

With contributions by Alan Clapham, Justin Hughes and Dennis Williams

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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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 P3413
Report 1744
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Archaeological evaluation at Three Springs Road, Pershore, Worcestershire

Jo Wainwright

**With contributions by Alan Clapham, Justin Hughes and Dennis
Williams**

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Three Springs Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 937 454). It was undertaken on behalf of Bloor Homes, who requested the works in advance of submission of a planning application to Wychavon District Council for a residential development comprising of about 150 dwellings. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

Twenty five trenches were excavated across the site. Four trenches contained archaeologically significant features. The features consisted of ditches, gullies and pits. The main activity area was situated in the central southern part of the site with a smaller concentration of features in the northern part of the site. The ditches and pits excavated are part of a settlement occupied from probably the Late Iron Age in to the 3rd century. The settlement was comprised of enclosures, field boundaries and pits. One of the pits was probably a rubbish pit.

The focus of the settlement was probably situated outside of the site to the south-west where earlier archaeological investigations have revealed a dense number of features delineating an enclosed settlement. It is likely that features identified in this project are part of this settlement, perhaps on the edge of it. These remains are considered to be of local significance.

The earthworks and buried remains on the site indicating ridge and furrow, almost certainly date from the medieval period and continue into the post-medieval period. These are probably part of the open field system surrounding Pershore in the medieval period

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Three Springs Road (centred on NGR SO 937 454), Pershore, Worcestershire (Fig 1), on behalf of Bloor Homes. The client requested the works in advance of submission of a planning application to Wychavon District Council for a residential development comprising of about 150 dwellings. It is considered that this had the potential to affect archaeological remains registered on the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER; ref WSM 38433 and 38434).

Evaluation of a field about 100m to the south west of the site in 2009 (Hughes and Vaughan 2009) revealed the existence of a probable enclosed Roman settlement with evidence for buildings and rubbish disposal pits.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 2008) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (HEAS 2009). A project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced by the Service which the project conforms to (HEAS 2009a).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation 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 appropriate mitigation which may then be integrated within the proposed development programme.

Significant deposits may be defined as those likely to be of Late Iron Age and Roman date.

In particular the project had the following aims:

- To determine if remains of Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity identified within and adjacent to the cemetery to the south-west continue within the present site.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

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

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by the Service (HEAS 2009a).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 8 December 2009 and 18 December 2009. The site reference number and site code is WSM 41765.

Twenty five trenches, amounting to about 1600m² in area, were excavated over the site area of about 5ha, representing a sample of about 3.2%. Originally it was envisaged that twenty six trenches would be excavated but two of the trenches were situated in areas of the site that were difficult to access. Therefore it was decided between the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire Council (the Curator) and the Service that these two trenches were not to be excavated. A further trench (21) was excavated in an attempt to locate a ditch excavated in Trench 16. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

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.

2.2.2 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.

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

2.4 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

2.4.1 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period, and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context. These dates were used as a means of determining the broad chronology of the site.

The pottery and ceramic building materials were examined under × 20 magnification and recorded by fabric type according to the reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; WHEAS 2009).

2.5 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham

2.5.1 Sampling policy

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation. Samples of up to 40 litres were taken from 13 contexts (see table 1), from fills of pits, postholes and linear/ditch features which were of possible Late Iron Age/Roman date.

Context	Sample	Sample type	Sample volume (l)	Volume processed (l)
0403	1	general	40	10
0405	2	general & charcoal	40	8
0407	3	general	40	10
0408	4	general	40	10

Context	Sample	Sample type	Sample volume (l)	Volume processed (l)
0410	5	general + charcoal	20	8
1304	6	general	10	10
1306	7	pot + charcoal	30	10
1308	8	general	10	8
1603	12	general	40	10
1605 + 1606	13	general + charcoal	30	10
1610	11	general	5	5
2009	9	general	40	8
2012	10	general	40	10

Table 1 Contexts from which samples were taken

2.5.2 Method of 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 scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows (Stace 1997).

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

2.6 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 by Justin Hughes and Jo Wainwright

The Parish 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. The site drops down from about 32m AOD in the north to about 23m AOD in the south. The site lies within the Evesham 2 Soil Association (411b) comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils and some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty soils over clay. The underlying geology of the site comprises of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. In the south-eastern part of the site (on the lower ground) the drift geology comprises of the gravels of the 2nd gravel terrace of the River Avon.

The site consists of small paddocks under pasture with several permanent and temporary farm buildings scattered over the area. Several tracks cross the site.

Iron Age and Romano-British settlements are attested along the Avon Valley, at Defford to the south (NMR 1053752) 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 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).

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken at the site but finds, mainly of early Roman date, have been recovered from the adjacent cemetery (WSM 38433 and 38434; Fig. 1). 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 in Severn Valley wares (SVW). Archaeological investigations (WSM 39879 and 40600; Fig. 1), to the south of the cemetery, uncovered an enclosed settlement, bounded by large rectilinear ditches, with zones of activity defined by smaller internal ditches. Occupation of the settlement was probably from the Late Iron Age to the 3rd century (Hughes and Vaughan, 2009).

To the south-east of the site a cropmark of an enclosure, identified from an aerial photograph, probably dates from the Iron Age or Roman period (WSM 40861; Fig. 1).

Evidence of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow is visible at the site in several of the paddocks especially in the northern part of the site. Other areas of ridge and furrow have been identified in the vicinity of the site (WSM 02685; Fig. 1). The 1885 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map (not illustrated) shows the site as an orchard.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-7. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. The general stratigraphy across the site comprised natural deposits overlain by a subsoil/soil horizon then the topsoil. In trenches 14 and 15, in the south-east of the site, a deposit above natural and below the subsoil/soil horizon was interpreted as alluvium derived from flooding probably in the Roman period or earlier. Practically all of the trenches contained furrows and land drains and there was evidence of the former orchard with tree boles present in many of the trenches. Agricultural activity had truncated, to some extent, the earlier features.

Trenches 4, 13, 16 and 20 contained archaeologically significant features. Trench 1 is illustrated and reported on as an example of a trench that contained furrows. The trenches which contained no archaeological features except furrows were 2, 3, 5-12, 14, 15, 17--19 and 21-25.

4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural deposits varied across the site from bright orange gravels to a mixture of brown to red sands, gravels and clays. The archaeological features were all cut into the natural matrix.

4.1.2 Phase 2 Early prehistoric deposits

Several fragments of flint were recovered from the site including a possible piece of débitage from (103), the base of a furrow in Trench 1.

4.1.3 Phase 3 Late Iron Age/ Roman deposits

Trench 4

This trench was situated in the centre of the site. In the southern end of the trench were two parallel ditches (404 and 409) aligned roughly east-west. Only the northern most ditch (404) contained any dating evidence which comprised of two small sherds of Malvernian ware pottery (Plate 1). These sherds were excavated within the top part of the feature. Both ditches had a generally U shaped profile. Ditch (409) had a possible post-hole set into the base at the eastern end. A sub-circular pit with fairly steep sides (406) was situated between the two

ditches. The pit was 0.81m deep and contained three fills (405, 410 and 411) (Plate 2). The primary fill (411) was interpreted as slumpage or decayed natural. The second fill (410) contained quantities of charcoal. No dating material was recovered from this pit.

Trench 13

This trench was situated in the far north of the site and the features at the north-western end of the trench had been heavily truncated by cultivation. A small gully or base of a ditch (1305) aligned roughly east-west ran across the trench. The fill contained patches of charcoal and Malvernian pottery. A similar sized feature (1307) running almost parallel to (1305) was also interpreted as a small gully or base of a ditch.

In the south-eastern end of the trench a NE-SW aligned ditch was excavated. Although it was undated it probably dates from this period. This feature was partially masked by a furrow.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was situated to the east of the site (Plate 3). At the north-east end of the trench a small pit (1607) dated to the Roman period was cut by a ditch. The ditch (1604) ran across the trench in a roughly east to west alignment and had a broad flattish base (Plate 4). The single fill (1603) contained quantities of Roman pottery. Three post-holes running parallel to the ditch on the south side probably represent a fence line associated with this ditch.

Trench 20

This trench was situated to the south-east of Trench 4 (Plate 5). Five archaeological features were identified in this trench. There were two ditches and these probably equate to the two ditches in Trench 4. In the centre of the trench, a deep U shaped ditch (2014) must equate to ditch (404) in Trench 4. Ditch (2014) had three fills. The top fill contained two sherds of Roman pottery and one sherd of post-medieval pottery. The sherd of post-medieval pottery is probably intrusive. The other two fills were devoid of finds. This ditch must equate to (404) in Trench 4. The second ditch (2010) must equate to (409) in Trench 4 but it was a lot shallower than (409). One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill.

The other three features identified in Trench 20 are all probably pits and although no dating evidence was recovered from these features the colour of the fills suggest a Late Iron Age or Roman date for them. The two excavated pits (2004 and 2006) were probably sub-circular in plan and shallow suggesting they had been truncated by cultivation. The third pit (2008), situated at the south-west end of the trench, was only partially exposed as most of the feature was under the baulk. It is likely that this is a large sub-circular pit, perhaps a grain storage pit.

4.1.4 **Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits**

Trench 1

In Trench 1 features (104 and 106) are the bases of furrows probably dating from the medieval dating and post-medieval period.

4.2 **Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams**

4.2.1 **The artefact assemblage**

The small assemblage recovered from this evaluation is summarised in Table 2. Pottery was predominant, with ceramic building materials, fired clay, glass, coal, stone and metal accounting for the remainder.

The distribution of finds across the site was uneven, with 84% (by weight) coming from features excavated in Trench 16. The standard of preservation ranged from poor to average, with the surfaces of some of the Roman pottery being particularly soft and abraded.

Material class	Period	Count	Weight (g)
Ceramic	LIA/ERB	17	204
Glass	Modern	1	1
Ceramic	Post-medieval	7	90
Ceramic	Roman	55	763
Bone	Undated	27	55
Ceramic	Undated	12	42
Metal	Undated	1	34
Mineral	Undated	1	1
Stone	Undated	11	154
Totals:		134	1360

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.2 Pottery

Pottery sherds were grouped and quantified according to fabric type, as shown in Table 3. Partly because of the fragmentary and abraded condition of the pottery, there were no diagnostic form sherds that could provide precise dating evidence, but most sherds were datable by fabric type to general production spans.

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
LIA/ERB	3	Malvernian ware	16	176
LIA/ERB	3.2	Malvernian ware	1	18
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	49	671
Roman	22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	4	38
Roman	43.2	Central Gaulish samian ware	2	24
Roman	98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	1	34
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	1	6
Post-medieval	78.3	Fine red sandy ware	2	6
Post-medieval	81.2	Westerwald stoneware	1	2
Post-medieval	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	2
Totals:			78	987

Table 3: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

4.2.3 Roman

Sherds of hand-made, dark-grey pottery with coarse Malvernian inclusions (fabric 3) were recovered from two ditch fills (403 and 1306). This pottery was made in west Worcestershire, not only during the late Iron Age, but also into the early part of the Roman period. A small section of an everted jar rim, found in ditch fill (1603), had been produced using similar Malvernian material. However, this was designated as fabric 3.2, since the jar probably dated from the 2nd century, imitating a black-burnished form, as previously reported by Peacock (1968) and Evans et al. (2000).

A few base and body sherds of black-burnished ware (fabric 22) were found in context (1603), but these were small fragments that lacked any decoration, and therefore could only be assigned to a broad 2nd-4th century date range.

Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) accounted for the largest part of the Roman pottery, with this material being found in contexts (1603 ditch fill), (1605 upper fill of a pit), (2009 primary ditch fill) and (2011 upper ditch fill). These contexts all belonged to unrelated features. In context (1605), there were no finds other than Severn Valley Ware, which included parts of two strap handles, both double-reeded. One was particularly large, and probably from a flagon, rather than a tankard. Severn Valley ware rims from narrow and wide-mouthed jars were recovered from context (1603), along with body sherds that could have come from either jars or flagons. The jar rims were everted and thickened, and in one example slightly hooked. Most of these were not datable, other than to a broad 1st-4th century production range, although a wide-mouthed jar rim from context (1603) provided a reasonable match to the Webster 29 form, suggesting a 3rd-4th century date for this vessel (Webster 1976). However, the distinction between the Webster 29 and earlier jar rims is such a fine one that this sherd may not be valid as a means of providing a late *terminus post quem* date for context (1603). A tankard rim sherd, also from (1603), had the Webster 41 form, probably produced during a 2nd-3rd century date range. Contexts (2009 and 2011) yielded only three sherds of Roman pottery between them, while the latter context also had one sherd of post-medieval pottery, which is probably residual as it recovered from the top part of the fill.

Two samian sherds found in context (1603) were very abraded, but identified by their orange-brown fabric (43.2) as being 2nd century products from Lezoux. One was part of an angular footring, probably from a Dr.18/31R dish, a form consistent with this Central Gaulish fabric. The other was a flat base sherd, possibly from the same vessel.

4.2.4 Post-medieval

The remainder of the pottery finds comprised post-medieval fabrics, in the form of four very small body sherds: a fine red sandy ware (fabric 78.3), a blue-decorated, Westerwald stoneware (fabric 81.2) from topsoil (100), a red ware (fabric 78) from subsoil (context 1401), and a salt-glazed stoneware (fabric 81.5) from topsoil (1600).

4.2.5 Other artefacts

Coal

A single lump of unburnt coal was found in context (1402).

Clay pipe

A fragment of a clay pipe stem, found in context (1401), had a substantial outside diameter (up to 10mm), suggesting a late date of manufacture, but in the absence of either form evidence from a bowl or spur, or from a maker's stamp, this has been assigned to a broad 17th-19th century date range.

Fired clay

Small fragments of hard, fired clay were found in context (1603), in which pottery finds were all identified as late Iron Age or Roman. However, similar clay fragments were also found in context (1402), one of the subsoil contexts.

Glass

A single piece of very flat glass, clear and colourless, found in context (1603), was presumed to be intrusive.

Iron

A ferrous lump found in context (1603) was heavily-rusted, and too irregular in shape to be identified.

Roof tile

Two fragments of fragments of tile, 15-16mm thick, were recovered from the fill of a ditch, (1501). One was typical of the oxidised sandy fabrics used for post-medieval roof tiles, while the other had a hard-fired, less sandy fabric, which could have been from a wider date range.

Stone

A small fragment of flint, recovered from context (103), could have been prehistoric débitage (other flint fragments from the site were heavily patinated, and deemed to be natural). A piece of flat, grey sandstone found in context (1603) could possibly have been used as a roofing material.

4.3 Overview of artefactual evidence

The artefacts recovered during this evaluation provided evidence of Roman occupation of the site, albeit concentrated in the area containing Trench 16. The range of pottery types was consistent with domestic and agricultural usage, as would be expected in this part of Worcestershire. In terms of dating, the samian pottery pointed towards 2nd century activity. The Malvernian fabrics were consistent with this, but did also indicate the possibility of a late Iron Age or 1st century Roman presence as well. The indistinctive forms and lack of decoration of Severn Valley and black-burnished wares meant that these were of limited use for dating, although the wide-mouthed jar rim found in (1603) could have been 4th century in date, according to Webster's study of Severn Valley ware (1976). Context *terminus post quem* date ranges, based on the finds, are given in Table 4.

Context	Material class	Object specific type	Fabric code	Count	Weight(g)	Start date	End date	<i>tpq</i> range
100	ceramic	pot	78.3	1	4	1700	1800	1700-1800
	ceramic	pot	81.2	1	2	1600	1750	
103	stone	flint	-	1	1	-	-	-
105	bone	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
403	bone	-	-	3	2	-	-	500BC-AD200
	ceramic	pot	3	2	8	-100	200	
405	bone	-	-	13	48	-	-	-
1306	ceramic	pot	3	10	28	-100	200	500BC-AD200
1401	ceramic	pot	78	1	6	1600	1800	1600-1900
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	6	1600	1900	

Context	Material class	Object specific type	Fabric code	Count	Weight(g)	Start date	End date	tpq range
	stone	flint	-	1	1	-	-	
1402	ceramic	fired clay	-	2	2	-	-	-
	mineral	coal	-	1	1	-	-	
1501	ceramic	brick/tile	-	1	14	-	-	1600-1900
	ceramic	tile	-	1	12	43	1900	
	ceramic	tile	-	1	68	1600	1900	
1600	ceramic	pot	81.5	1	2	1720	1770	1720-1770
1603	bone	-	-	6	4	-	-	120-400 (120-200?)
	ceramic	pot	3	5	151	-100	200	
	ceramic	pot	3.2	1	18	-100	200	
	ceramic	pot	12	41	496	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	22	4	38	120	400	
	ceramic	pot	43.2	2	24	100	200	
	ceramic	pot	98	1	34	43	400	
	ceramic	fired clay	-	9	26	-	-	
	glass	window	-	1	1	1900	2000	
	metal	unident	-	1	34	-	-	
	stone	flint	-	1	2	-	-	
	stone	roof tile?	-	1	106	-	-	
1605	ceramic	pot	12	7	168	43	400	43-400
1610	stone	flint	-	6	34	-	-	-
2009	ceramic	pot	12	1	1	43	400	43-400
2011	ceramic	pot	12	2	6	43	400	1700-1800?
	ceramic	pot	78.3	1	2	1700	1800	

Table 4. Summary of context dating based on artefacts

4.3.1 Significance

The finds from this evaluation were archaeologically significant in providing evidence of occupation and use of the site during the Roman period. Although some of the pottery may have dated from the late Iron Age or 1st century AD, the main range of pottery types found during this investigation were broadly similar to those found previously during grave digging in the adjacent cemetery (WSM 38433), i.e. 2nd-3rd century, and with no firm identification of late Roman material.

4.4 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

Context	Sample	large mammal	charcoal	hammerscale	Comment
0403	1	v occ	occ		mod Fe concretions
0405	2	v occ	occ	v occ slag	v occ pot
0407	3		occ		
0408	4	v occ	v occ	v occ slag	
0410	5	occ	occ		burnt bone, v occ pot
1304	6		occ		
1306	7	v occ burnt bone	occ		
1308	8	v occ	v occ		
1603	12	v occ	occ		v occ burnt bone
1605+1606	13		occ		v occ pot
1610	11		v occ		
2009	9	occ	occ		
2012	10	v occ			

Table 5. Environmental summary of biological and other artefacts recovered from the environmental sample residues

4.4.1 Wet-sieved samples

Of the 13 contexts processed for plant remains only four (405, 1306, 1603, and 2009) contained any charred plant remains. These were present in very small quantities (table 6). Most of the contexts did contain small fragments of charcoal which, in general, were too small to identify. Large mammal bone was recorded occasionally in the samples (table 5) but was too fragmented to be identified. Burnt bone was recorded in (410 and 1603) but again they were very fragmented. Very occasional fragments of iron slag were recorded from (405 and 408). Iron concretions were found in (403).

The charred plant remains consisted of a single wheat grain (*Triticum* sp) in (1603), a fragment of an indeterminate cereal grain in (1306 and 2009), a brome grass (*Bromus* sp) grain, sedge (*Carex* sp) nutlet and a small-sized grass grain in (405).

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	0405	1306	1603	2009
Charred							
<i>Triticum</i> sp grain	Poaceae	wheat	F			+	
Cereal sp indet grain (fragment)	Poaceae	cereal	F		+		+
<i>Bromus</i> sp grain	Poaceae	brome grass	AF	+			
<i>Carex</i> spp (3-sided)	Cyperaceae	sedge	CDE	+			
Poaceae sp indet (small)	Poaceae	grasses	E	+			

Table 6 Charred plant remains from Three Springs Road, Pershore, WSM 41765

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 -100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

Key to table 6

4.4.2 **Overview of environmental evidence**

Due to the paucity of charred plant remains found in the contexts it is most likely that they represent a 'background flora'. As charred plant remains are very resilient to decay, it is most likely that they have been deposited in these contexts via natural means (such as windblown) and do not reflect any specific activity, such as crop processing on the site. It is recommended that no further work is required for these samples.

5. **Synthesis**

5.1 **Prehistoric**

One residual flint flake could be débitage from knapping is therefore of prehistoric date.

5.2 **Late Iron Age/early Roman**

The site is interpreted to be part of 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 main activity area was situated in the central southern part of the site with a smaller concentration of features in the northern part of the site. However, it is possible that the features excavated here are the outlying part of a settlement identified in excavations to the south-west (Hughes and Vaughan, 2009). The density of features excavated to the south-west would suggest that the focus of activity was situated there.

The features excavated in trenches 4 and 20 are dated on evidence of the pottery from the Late Iron Age continuing into the early part of the Roman period. The quantity of pottery from these features was relatively sparse especially in comparison with ditch (1604) from Trench 16. This may reflect differing uses of areas of the settlement, (ditch (1604) may have been used for disposal of rubbish) or could suggest that ditch (1604) dates from a later period in the Roman occupation when ceramic material was more plentiful. Ditch (1604) was backfilled sometime during the 1st-3rd century. A row of post-holes situated to one side of the ditch suggest that the ditch formed a boundary with a fence alongside, perhaps a field boundary.

In the north of the site, in Trench 13, the two gullies and ditch probably date from the Late Iron Age or early Roman period. Although only one of the gullies produced pottery it is likely that all three features are associated and date from this period.

5.3 **Post-medieval**

Furrows which would have originated in the medieval period and continued into the post-medieval period were located in most of the trenches and ridge and furrow is visible as earthworks in several of the paddocks especially in the northern part of the site. These are probably part of the open field system surrounding Pershore in the medieval period.

6. **Significance**

6.1 **Archaeological**

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 part of 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 focus of the settlement was probably situated outside of the site to the south-west where earlier archaeological investigations have revealed a dense number of features delineating an enclosed settlement comprising a number of rectilinear enclosures bounded by substantial ditches, with smaller internal ditches. It is likely that features identified in this project are part of this settlement, perhaps on the edge of it. These remains are considered to be of *local importance*.

The earthworks and buried remains on the site indicating ridge and furrow, almost certainly date from the medieval period and continue into the post-medieval period. These are probably part of the open field system surrounding Pershore in the medieval period. These are of value to our understanding the way the land was utilized on the edge of Pershore during this period and the location and extents of these features should be mapped.

The results indicate that the site is *well preserved*. However, there is some truncation due to agricultural activity. The site is likely to contain further, as yet unexcavated, features which would merit investigation.

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.

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 evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Bloor Homes at Three Springs Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (centred on NGR SO 937 454; HER ref WSM 41765).

Twenty five trenches were excavated across the site. Four trenches contained archaeological significant features. The features consisted of ditches, gullies and pits. The main activity area was situated in the central southern part of the site with a smaller concentration of features in the northern part of the site. The ditches and pits excavated are part of a settlement occupied from probably the Late Iron Age to the 3rd century. The settlement was comprised of enclosures, field boundaries and pits. One of the pits was probably a rubbish pit.

The focus of the settlement was probably situated outside of the site to the south-west where earlier archaeological investigations have revealed a dense number of features delineating an enclosed settlement. It is likely that features identified in this project are part of this settlement, perhaps on the edge of it. These remains are considered to be of local significance.

The earthworks and buried remains on the site indicating ridge and furrow, almost certainly date from the medieval period and continue into the post-medieval period. These are probably part of the open field system surrounding Pershore in the medieval period

8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Steve Macpherson (Bloor Homes), Mike Glyde (Worcestershire Historic Environment Planning Officer) and Oliver Russell (Historic Environment Record). The author would like to extend special thanks to Bob who moved the llamas around the paddocks when the trenches were being excavated.

9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Jo Wainwright. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Wainwright, Justin Hughes, Graham Arnold, Christine Elgy, Chris Gibbs and Elizabeth Curran, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, environmental analysis by Alan Clapham and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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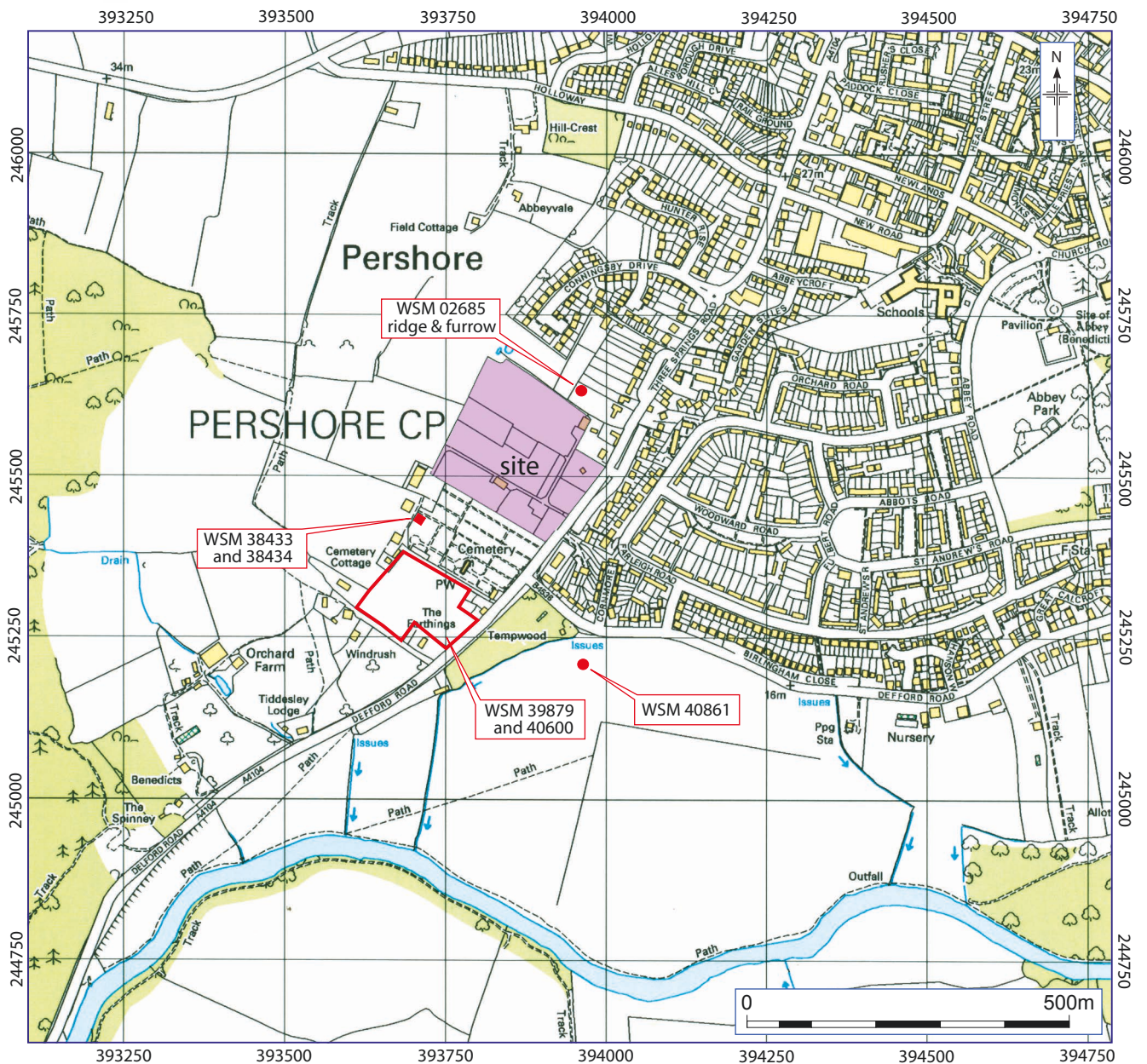
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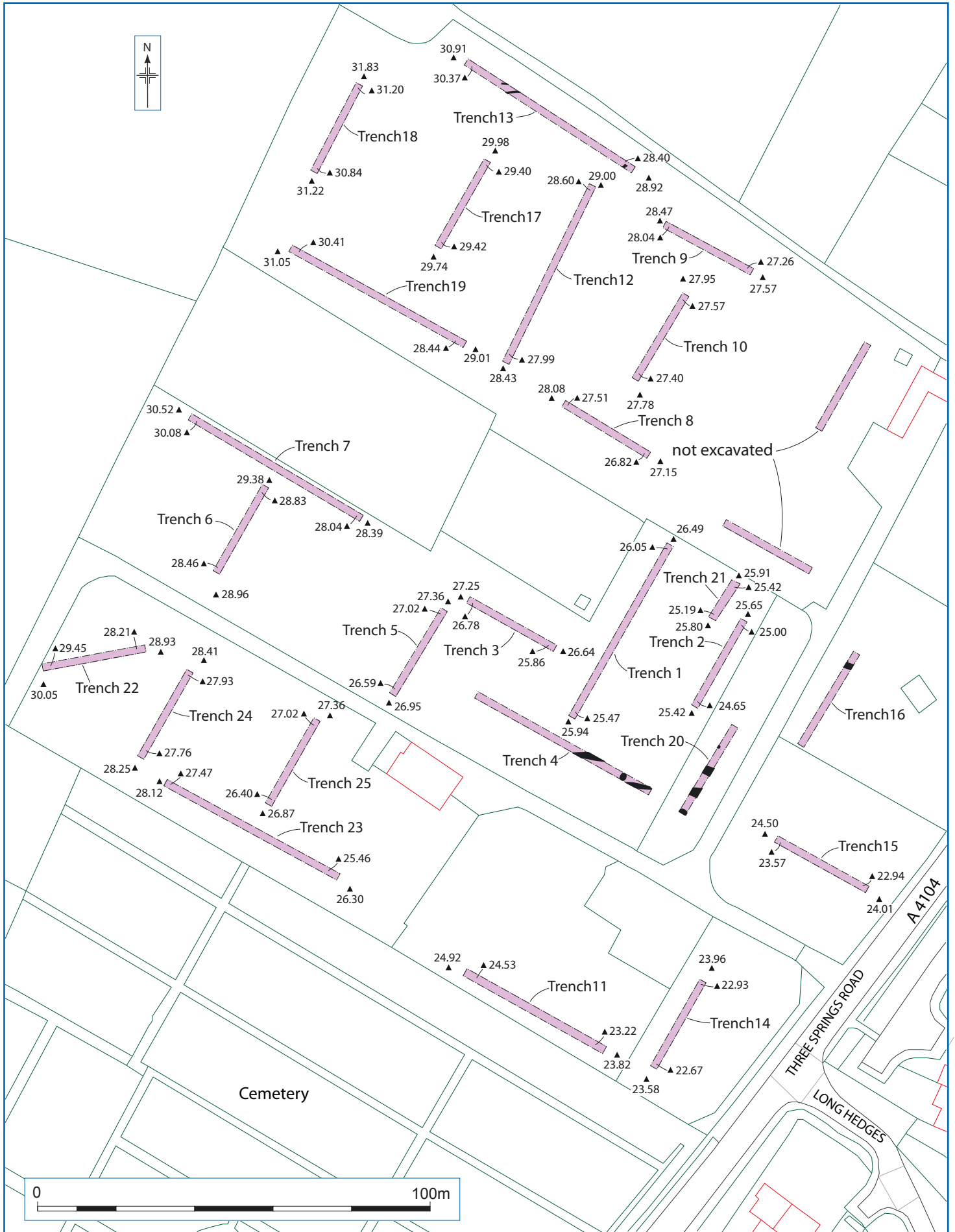
Figures



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Location of the site and sites in the vicinity

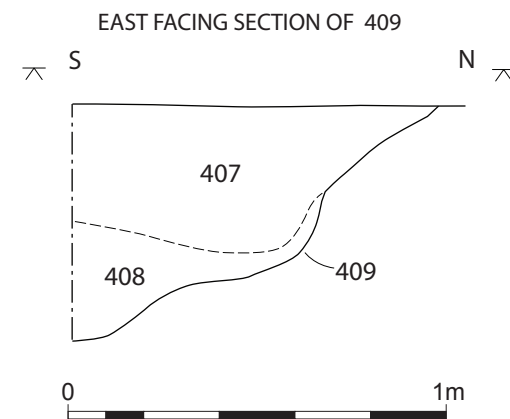
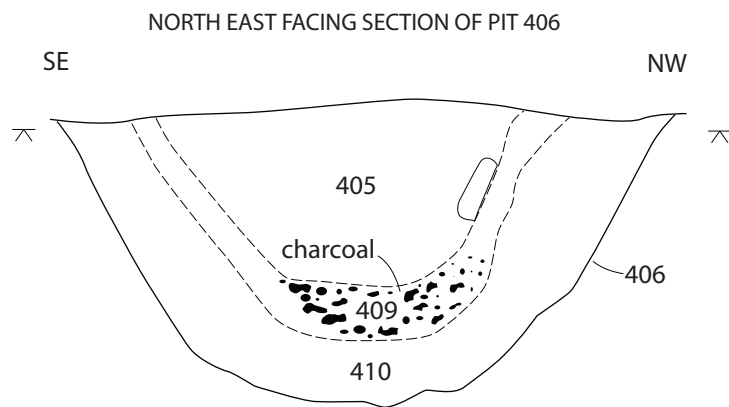
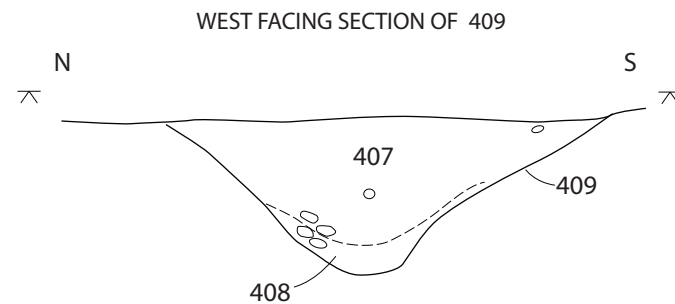
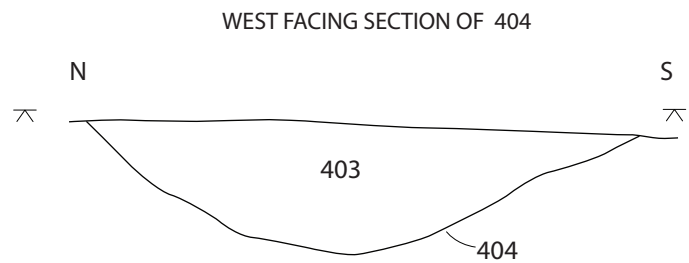
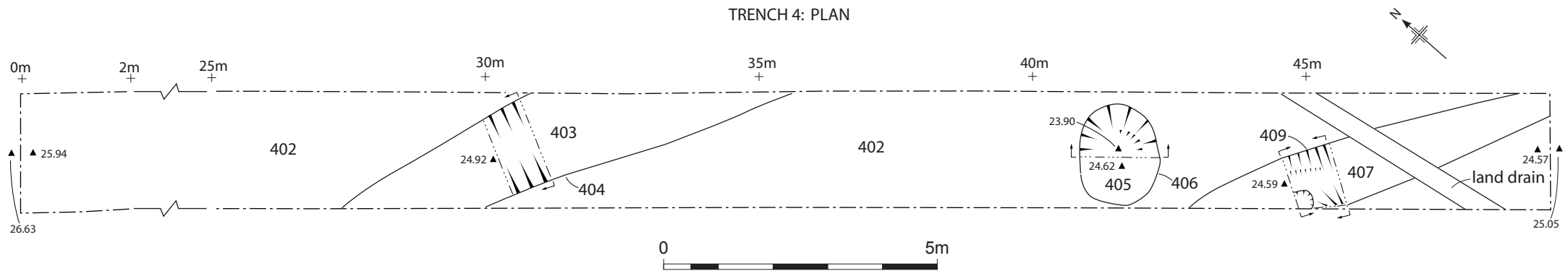
Figure 1



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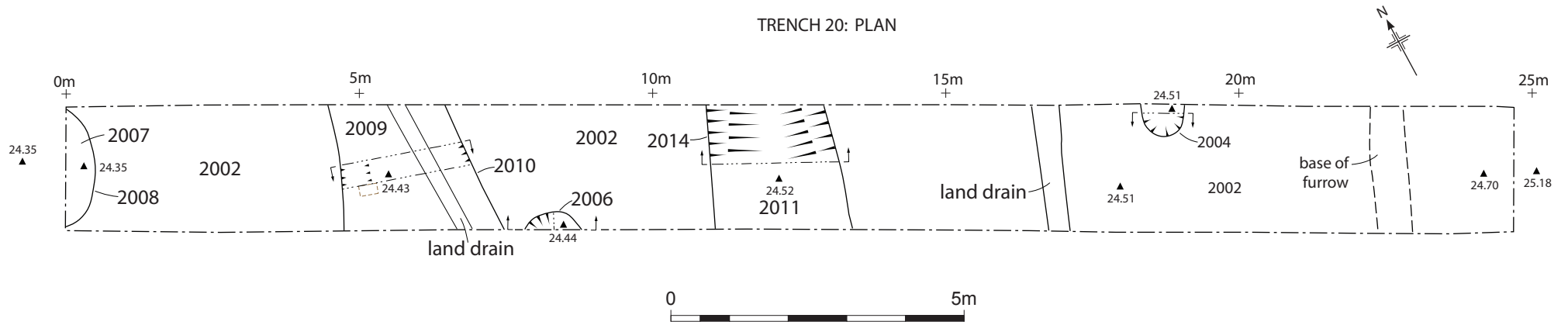
Trench location plan showing archaeologically significant features

Figure 2

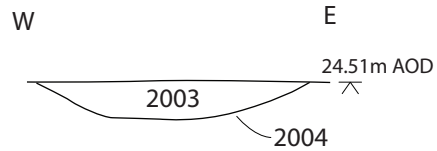


Trench 4: plan and sections

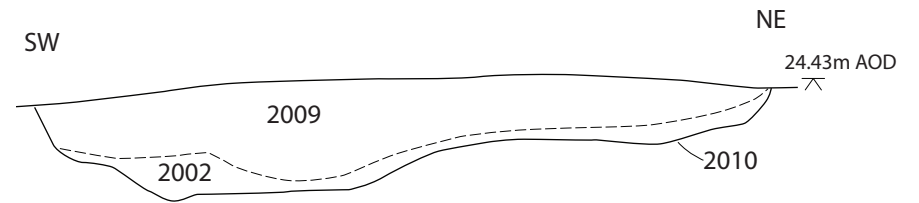
Figure 3



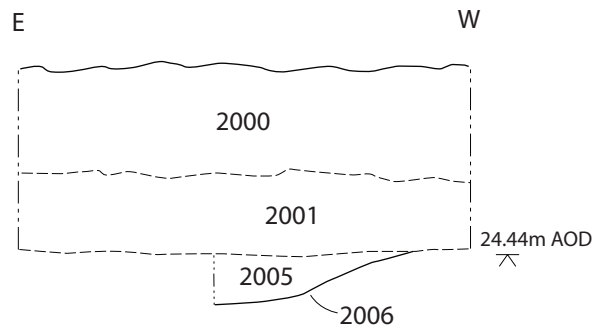
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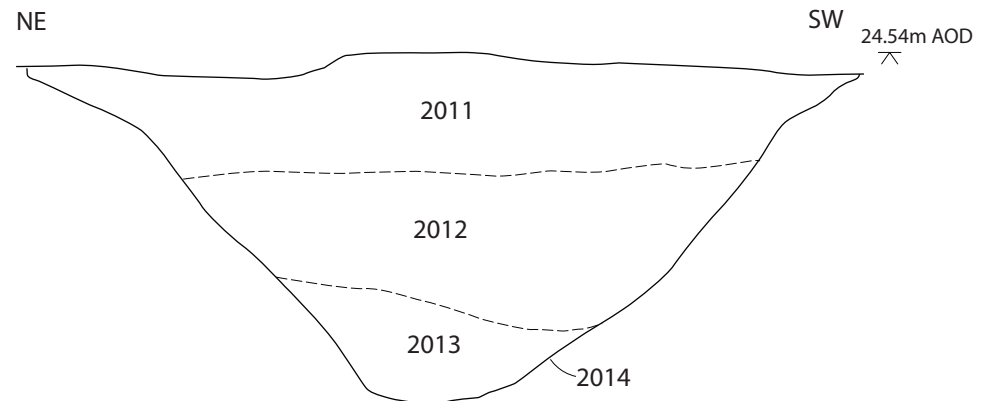
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NORTH FACING SECTION OF PIT 2006

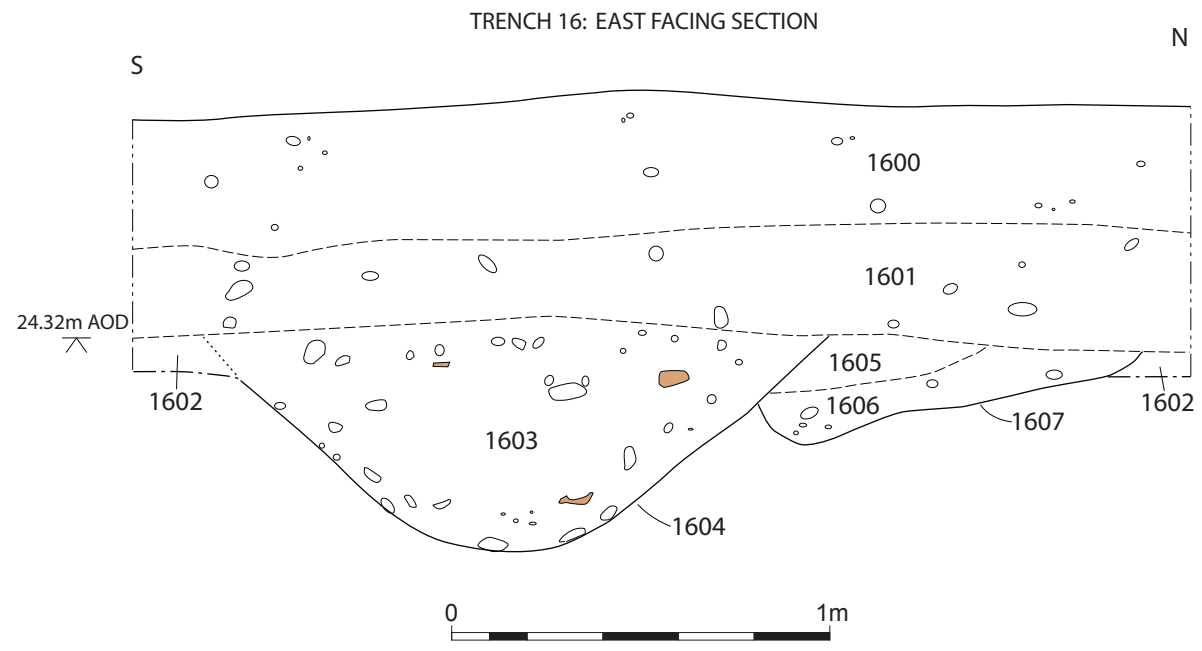
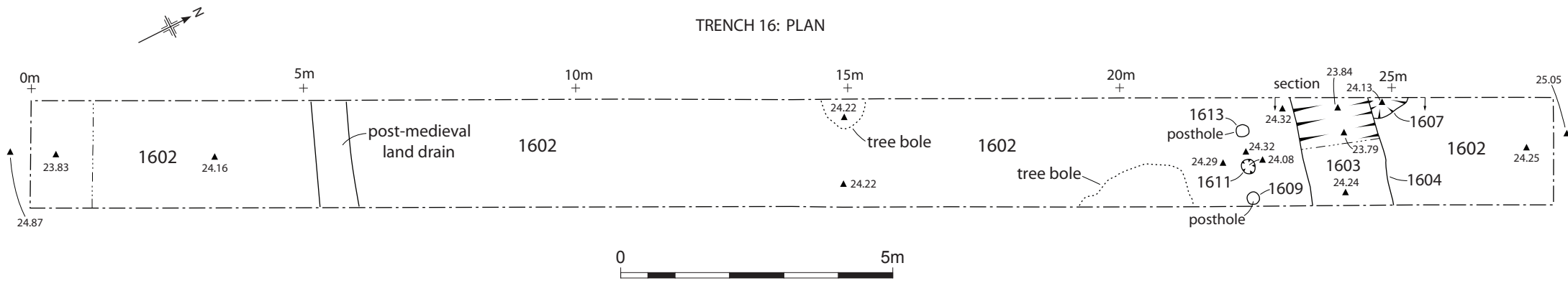


WEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH 2014



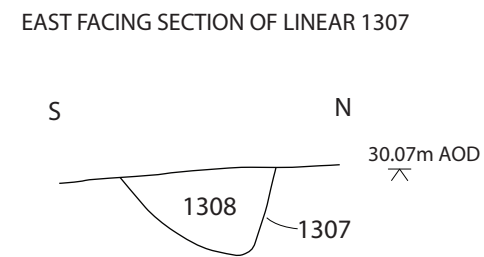
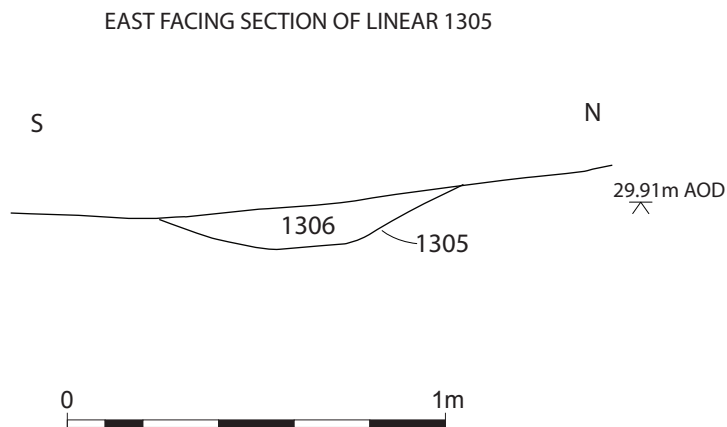
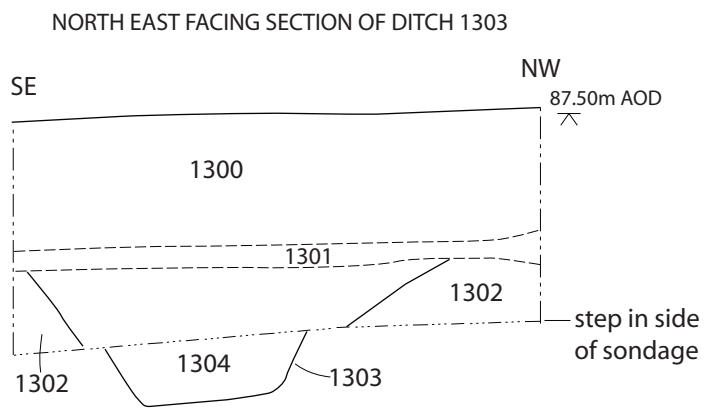
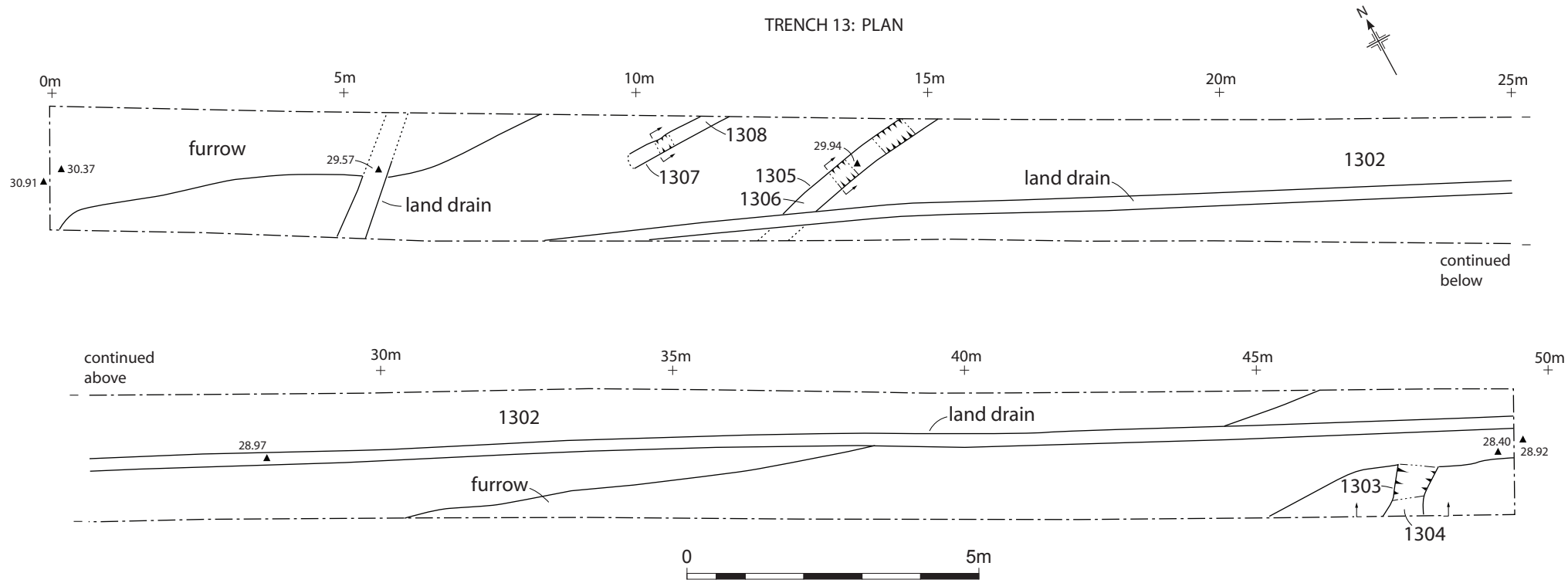
Trench 20: plan and sections

Figure 4



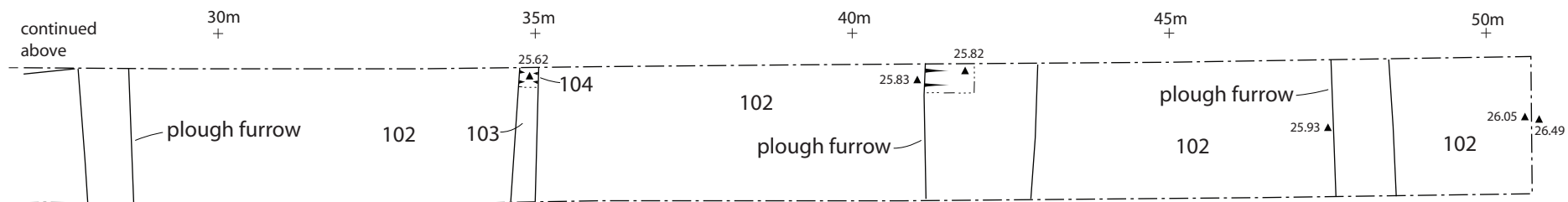
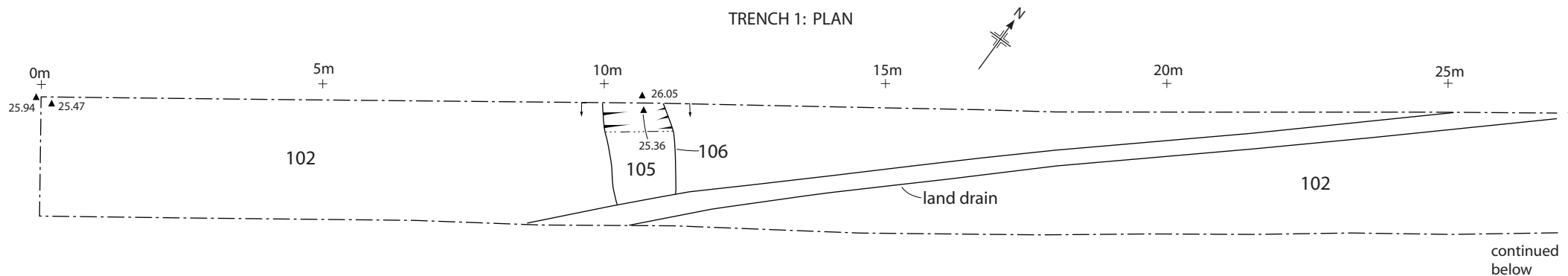
Trench 16: plan and section

Figure 5



Trench 13: plan and sections

Figure 6



Trench 1: plan

Figure 7

Plates



Plate 1 Ditch (404), view north-west



Plate 2 Pit (406), view south-west



Plate 3 Trench 16 showing ditch (1604), view south-west



Plate 4 Ditch (1604) section., view north-west



Plate 5 Trench 20 showing pit (2008) in foreground, and ditches (2010) and (2014) in centre of trench. View north-east

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.80m Width: 2.15m Depth: 0.47-0.56m

Orientation: SE-NW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey loose and friable very slightly sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-oval stones and rare pottery	0-0.35m
101	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Pale pinkish brown soft but well consolidated sandy clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles	0.35-0.53m
102	Natural	Pinkish brown fine sandy clay with frequent small to medium pebbles and natural flint	0.53m+
103	Fill	Moderately compact pale brown silty sand with moderate small sub-oval stones and occasional charcoal. Fill of (104)	0.53-0.86m
104	Furrow	Linear broad shallow feature with gently sloping sides to a concave base. Only base recorded in plan. Cuts natural	0.53-0.86m
105	Fill	Pale pinkish brown moderately compacted silty sand with moderate small to medium sub-oval and flat stones. Fill of (106)	0.53-0.81m
106	Cut	Linear broad shallow feature with gently sloping sides to a concave base. Only base recorded in plan. Cuts natural	0.53-0.81m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.00m Depth: c 0.75m

Orientation: SE-NW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.30m
201	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.30-0.60m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
202	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.53m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: c 0.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.30m
301	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.40-0.60m
302	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.60m+

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.50m Width: 2.15m Depth: c 0.65m

Orientation: SE-NW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey loose and friable very slightly sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-oval stones and rare pottery	0-0.32m
401	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Pale pinkish brown soft but well consolidated sandy clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles	0.32-0.64m
402	Natural	Pinkish brown fine sandy clay with frequent small to medium pebbles and natural flint	0.64m+
403	Fill	Moderately compact grey brown silty sand with moderate small to medium sub-oval pebbles. Fill of (404)	0.64-1.00m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
404	Ditch cut	Linear with elongated U profile. Aligned approximately east to west. Cuts natural	0.64-1.00m
405	Fill	Friable greyish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional small rounded pebbles. Top fill of (406)	
406	Pit cut	Ovoid cut with a concave near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. Possible grain storage pit	0.64-1.38m
407	Fill	Compact pale yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-oval stones and flint. Upper fill of ditch (409)	
408	Fill	Compact mid pinkish brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded pebbles. Primary fill of ditch (409)	
409	Ditch cut	Linear aligned approximately east to west with convex sides, a gradual break of slope base and concave base. In the base of the cut, in the west, a sub-circular cut could be the remains of a post-hole	0.64-1.28m
410	Fill	Friable black to very dark grey charcoal rich silt. Fill of pit (406)	
411	Fill	Compact light brown orange silty sand with occasional small pebbles. Primary fill of (406). Could be slumpage from edge	

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 2.15m Depth: c 0.50m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay with moderate rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0-0.30m
501	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Light greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal	0.30-0.50m
502	Natural	Compact reddish brown clay with frequent rounded small to large pebbles	0.50m+

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
503	Furrow	Linear broad shallow feature	0.50m+

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: c 0.65m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.40m
601	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.40-0.58m
602	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.58m+
603	Fill	As (601). Fill of (604)	
604	Furrow	Linear cut. Plough furrow	0.58m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: c 0.40m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.30m
701	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.30-0.40m
702	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.40m+
703	Furrow	Linear cut. Broad shallow plough furrow	0.40m +

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: 0.47m – 0.55m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.35m
801	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.30-0.43m
802	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.43m +
803	Furrow	Linear cut orientated east to west in centre of trench.	0.43m +

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: 0.39m – 0.47m

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 humic silty clay	0-0.30m
901	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.25- 0.36m
902	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.36m +
903	Furrow	Linear cut, wide shallow plough furrow orientated north to south.	0.47m +

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: 0.43m – 0.54m

Orientation: SW-NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.47m
1001	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.34- 0.43m
1002	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles	0.43m +
1003	Furrow	Linear cut, wide shallow plough furrow orientated northwest to southeast.	0.43m +

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 46.0m Width: 2.0 m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: NW - SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Dark brownish black humic sandy silt with moderate small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal	0-0.30m
1101	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.30- 0.60m
1102	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles scarred in places by plough marks and land drains	0.60m +

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.49m – 0.56m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay	0-0.40m
1201	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Dark brown compact silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and gravels	0.33- 0.45m
1202	Natural	Light brown orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles scarred in places by plough marks and land drains	0.43m +

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.38m – 0.54m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate small to medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.36m
1301	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact orangey brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.36– 0.42m
1302	Natural	Light reddish orange compact sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl, occasional lenses of greenish grey clay and small to large pebbles	0.42m +
1303	Ditch Cut	Cut of curving linear, truncated by furrow, possible ditch	0.42 – 0.82m
1304	Fill	Compact dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded pebbles and natural flints. Fill of ditch (1303)	
1305	Ditch Cut	Cut of linear aligned north to south. Truncated by plough furrow	0.42 – 0.48m
1306	Fill	Moderately compacted light orangey grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and small to medium sub-rounded	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		pebbles and natural flints	
1307	Linear Cut	Cut of shallow linear aligned east to west. May terminate in the centre of the trench or have been truncated by plough activity	0.48 – 0.58m
1308	Fill	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded and angular pebbles	

Trench 14

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.00m Depth: Variable 0.35m – 0.95m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown humic sandy silt with rare rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Clear smooth slightly undulating boundary	0-0.28m
1401	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Moderately compact mid orangey brown sandy silty with rare rounded and sub-rounded pebbles, rare rooting and humic staining. Clear smooth slightly undulating boundary	0.28 - 0.58m
1402	Subsoil/alluvium	Compact light greyish brown gritty sandy silt with abundant rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and small to medium stones and rare rooting. Clear smooth slightly undulating boundary	0.58 – 0.86m
1403	Natural	Compact mid orangey brown compact sandy gravel with frequent pea grit	0.86m +

Trench 15

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.00m Depth: Variable 0.35m – 0.95m

Orientation: WNW - ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown humic sandy silt with rare rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Clear straight and smooth boundary	0-0.36m
1501	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Moderately compact mid orangey brown sandy silt with rare rounded and sub-rounded pebbles, and occasional rooting. Clear smooth straight boundary	0.36 – 0.70m
1502	Subsoil/occupation layer	Compact light greyish brown gritty sandy silt with abundant rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and small to medium stones and rare rooting. Clear smooth straight boundary. Only found as a lens in the last 10m of the south-east corner of the trench	0.70 – 0.84m
1503	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Moderately compact mid orangey brown sandy silt.	0.84 – 1.09m
1504	Natural	Compact mid orangey brown compact sandy gravel with frequent pea grit	1.09m +

Trench 16

Maximum dimensions: Length: 28.0m Width: 2.00m Depth: Variable 0.64m – 0.75m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Topsoil	Loose dark brownish grey sandy silt with abundant rooting, rare humic lenses, charcoal flecks, rare rounded and sub-rounded pebbles of all sizes. Rare angular and sub-angular small flint pieces. Sharp smooth boundary.	0-0.30m
1601	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Moderately compact mid orangey brown sandy silty with rare rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and small to medium stones, rare rooting and humic staining. Sharp smooth straight boundary	0.30 - 0.60m
1602	Natural	Compact light brownish yellow gritty clay with abundant pea grit, gravel pebbles and stones of all shapes and sizes. Glacial deposit	0.60m +
1603	Fill	Moderately compacted dark orangey brown silty clay with common small to large sub-rounded and angular stones and cobbles, occasional charcoal. Fill of ditch [1604]	0.60m – 1.18m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1604	Ditch cut	Cut of probable Roman boundary ditch orientated east to west	
1605	Fill	Compact greenish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Roman pit [1607]	0.60-0.71m
1606	Fill	Moderately compact pinkish brown clayey silt with common charcoal inclusions. Primary fill of Roman pit [1607]	0.71-0.85m
1607	Pit cut	Oval Roman pit with gradual breaks of slope and a concave base. Filled by (1605) and (1606)	0.60-0.86m
1608	Fill	Friable greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and natural flint. Unexcavated.	-
1609	Posthole	Posthole for a fence line possibly associated with ditch [1604]	-
1610	Fill	Friable greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and natural flint. Fill of a modern posthole for a fence line.	0.60 – 0.84m
1611	Posthole	Circular posthole with vertical sides and a flat base. Posthole for a fence line associated with ditch [1604].	0.60 – 0.84m
1612	Fill	Friable greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and natural flint. Unexcavated	-
1613	Posthole	Posthole for a fence line possibly associated with ditch [1604]	-

Trench 17

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.35m – 0.65m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1700	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey humic silty clay with moderate inclusions of small to medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.35m
1701	Subsoil/earlier	Compact orangey brown sandy clay with frequent	0.30- 0.50m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
	soil horizon	medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	
1702	Natural	Compact reddish orange sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles and occasional lenses of greenish grey clay scarred in places by equally spaced plough furrows filled by subsoil (1701)	0.50m +

Trench 18

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1800	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey humic silty clay with moderate inclusions of small to medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.40m
1801	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact orangey brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30- 0.60m
1802	Natural	Compact reddish orange sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles and occasional lenses of greenish grey clay scarred in places by plough furrows filled by subsoil (1801)	0.60m +

Trench 19

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1900	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey humic silty clay with moderate inclusions of small to medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.30m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1901	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact orangey brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30- 0.50m
1902	Natural	Compact reddish orange sandy clay gravel with frequent pockets of marl and small to large pebbles and occasional lenses of greenish grey clay scarred by a plough furrow filled by the subsoil (1901)	0.60m +

Trench 20

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15m Depth: Variable 0.50m

Orientation: W - E

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown humic sandy silt with occasional pebbles and charcoal	0 – 0.30m
2001	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Soft orange sandy silt with occasional pebbles	0.30 – 0.50m
2002	Natural	Compact reddish orange sandy clay gravel	0.50m +
2003	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal. Fill of pit [2004]	0.50 – 0.60m
2004	Pit cut	Base of sub-circular pit filled by (2003). Truncated by cultivation	0.50 – 0.60m
2005	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and sub-rounded small to medium pebbles and charcoal. Fill of pit [2006]	0.50 – 0.61m
2006	Pit cut	Base of sub-circular pit filled by (2005). Truncated by cultivation	0.50 – 0.61m
2007	Fill	Friable mid reddish grey sandy clay with occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Fill of [2008]. Not excavated	-
2008	Pit cut	Base of sub-circular pit filled by (2007). Truncated by cultivation	-
2009	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate small	0.50 – 0.77m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal. Primary fill of ditch [2010]	
2010	Ditch cut	Sharp sided Roman boundary or enclosure ditch with a concave base orientated north-west to south-west. Truncated by a modern land drain	0.50 – 0.77m
2011	Fill	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey sand with frequent small, medium and large sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles and stones. Tertiary fill of ditch [2014]	0.50 – 0.84m
2012	Fill	Compact mid greyish green silty clay with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles and stones. Secondary fill of ditch [2014]	0.84 – 1.24m
2013	Fill	Moderately compact mid brownish red coarse silty sand with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stone and pebbles. Primary fill of ditch [2014]	1.24 – 1.44m
2014	Ditch cut	Linear ditch with an elongated U shaped profile aligned east to west. Filled by (2011), (2012) and (2013)	0.50 – 1.44m

Trench 21

Maximum dimensions: Length: 11.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2100	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey humic silty clay with moderate inclusions of small to medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.40m
2101	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact orangey brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30- 0.61m
2102	Natural	Compact orangey brown sandy clay gravel with pockets of large rounded river gravels	0.50m +

Trench 22

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: E - W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2200	Topsoil	Friable dark blackish grey humic silt with occasional small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.30m
2201	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact light brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30- 0.60m
2202	Natural	Compact orangey brown sandy clay gravel with bands of large rounded river gravels	0.60m +

Trench 23

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.50 – 1.28m

Orientation: NW - SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2300	Topsoil	Friable dark blackish grey humic silt with occasional small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.35m
2301	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact orangey brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.35- 0.60m
2302	Natural alluvium	Compact orangey brown sandy clay and gravels. Natural alluvium	0.60 -1.20m
2303	Natural	Compact red river gravels. Natural strata	1.20m +

Trench 24

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: SW - NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2400	Topsoil	Friable dark blackish grey humic silt with occasional small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.30m
2401	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact light brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30- 0.56m
2402	Natural	Compact orangey brown sandy clay gravel with bands of large rounded river gravels, scarred by two plough furrows aligned east to west and a natural tree bole	0.56m +

Trench 25

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: SW – NE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2500	Topsoil	Friable dark blackish grey humic silt with occasional small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and abundant roots and worm action	0-0.30m
2501	Subsoil/earlier soil horizon	Compact light brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles	0.30- 0.45m
2502	Natural	Compact orangey brown sandy clay gravel with bands of large rounded river gravels scarred by two plough furrows and a land drain aligned northeast to southwest	0.45m +

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 33 Context records AS1
- 9 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 241 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Sample number catalogue AS18
- 13 Sample records AS17
- 13 Flot record sheets AS21
- 13 Scanned flots
- 4 Levels record sheets AS19
- 25 Trench record sheets AS41
- 22 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The following environmental samples will be discarded after a period of 6 months after the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain these:

- From contexts (403, 405, 407, 408, 410, 1304, 1306, 1308, 2009, 2012, 1610, 1603, 1605 and 1606)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 41765 Artefacts

Type	Count	Weight (g)	Date	Specialist report?	Key assemblage?
Bone	27	55	Undated	N	N
Brick/tile	1	14	Undated	Y	N
Clay pipe	1	6	Post-medieval	Y	N
Clay tile - roof	1	68	Post-medieval	Y	N
Clay tile - roof	1	12	Undated	Y	N
Coal	1	1	Undated	Y	N
Fired clay	11	28	Undated	Y	N
Glass - window	1	1	Modern	Y	N
Iron - object	1	34	Undated	Y	N
Pottery	17	204	1 st BC-AD 2 nd	Y	Y
Pottery	2	24	2 nd century	Y	Y
Pottery	4	38	2 nd -4 th century	Y	Y
Pottery	50	705	1 st -4 th century	Y	Y
Pottery	5	16	Post-medieval	Y	Y
Stone - flint	10	48	Undated	Y	N
Stone tile - roof	1	106	Undated	Y	N

Environmental

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

Type	Preservation	Date (note 1)	Specialist report? Y/N (note 2)	Key assemblage? Y/N (note 3)
Bone – large mammal	Waterlogged and burnt	?Roman	N	N
Plant remains – macrofossils	Charred	?Roman	Y	N
Teeth – large mammal	Waterlogged	?Roman	N	N

Notes

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