

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF AT  
HARBORNE RESERVOIR,  
HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM

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Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE  
Project P2674  
Report 1619  
EBM 373



# Contents

## Part 1 Project summary

1

## Part 2 Detailed report

1.	<b>Background</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1	Reasons for the project.....	3
1.2	Project parameters.....	3
1.3	Aims.....	3
2.	<b>Methods</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1	Documentary search.....	3
2.2	Fieldwork methodology.....	3
2.2.1	Fieldwork strategy.....	3
2.2.2	Structural analysis.....	4
2.3	Artefact methodology.....	4
2.3.1	Artefact recovery policy and method of analysis.....	4
2.4	Environmental archaeology methodology.....	4
2.4.1	Sampling policy and method of analysis.....	4
2.5	The methods in retrospect.....	4
3.	<b>Topographical and archaeological context</b> .....	<b>5</b>
4.	<b>Results</b> .....	<b>6</b>
4.1	Structural analysis.....	6
4.1.1	Phase 1 Natural deposits and site truncation.....	6
4.1.2	Phase 2 Prehistoric deposits.....	6
4.1.3	Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits.....	6
4.1.4	Phase 3 Un-dated deposits.....	7
5.	<b>Synthesis</b> .....	<b>7</b>
5.1	Research frameworks.....	8
6.	<b>Publication summary</b> .....	<b>8</b>
7.	<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>8</b>
8.	<b>Personnel</b> .....	<b>8</b>
9.	<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>8</b>



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## **Archaeological watching brief at Harborne Reservoir, Harborne, Birmingham**

**Stephen Potten**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Harborne Reservoir, Harborne, Birmingham (NGR SP 0343 8316). It was undertaken on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarket Limited, who are constructing a flood storage area on the western side of Harborne Lane. This work was subject to an archaeological watching brief, resulting from a planning permission granted by Birmingham City Council (reference S/04932/00/OUT). It was thought that archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date might survive. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological remains were present and if so to indicate their location, date and nature.

The watching brief demonstrated that much of the eastern part of the site had been severely truncated by the construction of a reservoir in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A brick-built culvert of probable late 18<sup>th</sup> century date was identified, as were two other undated features. All these features are interpreted as relating to water management systems associated with the reservoir. Although a tree throw and a hollow or depression in the natural gravels were also observed (both undated), most deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period appear to have been destroyed during the construction of the original reservoir. Groundworks on the western part of the site were minimal and revealed no archaeological features.

During the course of the watching brief a previously un-recorded burnt mound was identified on the northern bank of the Bourn Brook. It lay beyond the limits of the groundworks associated with the development and has been eroded by the brook. This important discovery adds to the already extensive evidence for later prehistoric activity in and around Birmingham.



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## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Harborne Reservoir (NGR SP 0343 8316), Harborne, Birmingham (Fig 1), on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited (the client). The client is constructing a new supermarket on the eastern side of Harborne Lane which, in combination with a Birmingham City Council road scheme, has required the construction of a flood storage area on the western side of Harborne Lane. The work on the flood storage area was subject to an archaeological watching brief, resulting from a planning permission granted by Birmingham City Council (reference S/04932/00/OUT). It was thought that archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date might survive.

The client employed Arthur Amos Associates as their agent and Birse Civils to undertake the construction works.

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999). Although no formal brief was prepared by Birmingham City Council's planning archaeologist (the curator) the project conforms to the generality of briefs prepared by the council. It also conforms to a project proposal (including a detailed specification) prepared by the Service and approved by the curator (HEAS 2005). In addition, the project has been informed by the results of an archaeological assessment of the site, undertaken by HEAS, as outlined in an Environmental Statement (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 38-48).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to observe groundworks associated with the construction of the flood storage area in order to locate archaeological deposits and to determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to the fieldwork commencing a desk based assessment of the development site was undertaken by HEAS which included a search of the City of Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the analysis of maps (1718-present day) and a wide range of printed sources (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 38-48).

#### 2.2 Fieldwork methodology

##### 2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

An initial site visit was undertaken on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2003 as part of an archaeological assessment of the site (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 38-48) and a detailed specification was then prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005).

Fieldwork for the watching brief was undertaken intermittently as circumstances dictated between 27<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The site reference number and site code is EBM 373.

The extent of groundworks associated with the development is shown in Figure 2. The eastern side of the site was covered with trees and shrubs which were removed by the contractors prior to archaeological monitoring. The ground on this side of site was then reduced to form a reservoir, using a 360° tracked excavator employing a toothed bucket. This work was subject to archaeological supervision. The proposed groundworks on the western side of the site were limited to topsoil soil stripping for a haul road, a compound and two soil bunds to store the material excavated from the reservoir. In the event, the only ground disturbance was for a small compound (which was not built) and for one of the soil bunds. The former was excavated prior to archaeological monitoring; the latter was excavated using a tracked bull-dozer under archaeological supervision.

After machine excavation, and where practicable, clean surfaces and sections were inspected and selected deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their nature. Drawn, written and photographic records were then compiled according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). A selection of soil profiles across the site was recorded in order to assess deposition processes and levels of truncation.

#### 2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

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

### 2.3 **Artefact methodology**

#### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy and method of analysis**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). In the event, very few artefacts were encountered other than modern, often unstratified, pottery, glass and bricks. These did not warrant full analysis.

### 2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy and method of analysis**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the event, no deposits were encountered which were considered suitable for environmental analysis.

### 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

Having undertaken the project the following comments may be made with regard to the methods adopted. During the course of the fieldwork, periods of heavy rain caused the site to become waterlogged. This led to the plant, in particular the dumper truck employed to transport spoil, cutting deep wheel ruts across large areas of the site, disturbing the soil profile and, potentially, obscuring or destroying archaeological features. Similarly, the method of excavation, which often involved the removal of several soil layers simultaneously, only allowed some features to be viewed in section. These caveats having been taken into account, however, and considering the evidence for 18-19<sup>th</sup> century truncation of deposits across much of the site (discussed below), the methods adopted allowed a moderate-to-high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.



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### 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site comprises an area of ground to the west of Harborne Lane, bounded to the south by the Bourn Brook and the property boundaries of Reservoir Road, and to the north by the property boundaries of Poole Crescent and Cadnam Close (Fig 1). It lies in a shallow valley defined by the Bourn Brook, the course of which has been altered on several occasions in the past. The eastern part of the site is noticeably lower than the western, probably due to ground reduction during the construction of a reservoir on the eastern half of the site in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The underlying geology is predominantly sands and gravels, Triassic sandstone and boulder clays with a narrow band of alluvium associated with the Bourn Brook (British Geological Survey 1924). The site lies within an urban area unsurveyed by the *Soil Survey of England and Wales* (1983).

The historical and archaeological context of the site has been described in detail in a desk based assessment undertaken by the Service (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 38-48). What follows is a brief summary for the purposes of this report.

Prehistoric activity is known along the course of the Bourn Brook, most notably in the form of Bronze Age 'burnt mounds' (mounds of heat-shattered stones and charcoal rich soils). These may represent the waste products from cooking or from steam production for bathing or washing. Burnt mounds are known to the east and west of the development site (BSMR 01682 and 02886). Prehistoric flint tools have also been found in the vicinity of the site (BSMR 20156; 20135; 20569).

A complex of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman forts survives to the north-west of the site (known as the Metchley forts; BSMR 02005). The forts have been partially excavated and a significant ancillary civilian settlement identified. A Roman road running from Gloucester through Worcester and Droitwich towards Birmingham is thought to have run across land to the east of Harborne Lane to connect with the south gate of the fort (BSMR 05676). No trace of this road was located, however, during an evaluation to the east of Harborne Lane (Patrick *et al* 2001; Fig 1). Roman coins are, however, known from the locality (BSMR 03316; 02990; 03314).

Medieval documentary evidence indicates the existence of at least three water mills, one fishery and two fishponds in the vicinity of the development site by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, though their locations have not been identified (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 43-44). Harborne Mill (BSMR 03205), located immediately to the east of the site, is known to have existed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century but may have medieval origins. It was fed by a mill stream that was diverted off the Bourn Brook and which ran along the northern edge of the development site. A brick wall at the eastern edge of the site was identified in the desk based assessment as possibly being related to Harborne Mill (Fig 2; Plate 1).

Following an Act of Parliament dated 1790-1791, a reservoir was constructed on the eastern half of the site as part of water management works associated with the construction of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal (BSMR 20823). A map of 1790 suggests that prior to this the site had largely been open fields (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 43-44). These works required the course of the brook to be diverted southwards. The reservoir functioned until at least 1958 and on its abandonment the southern half of the reservoir was filled in and the land used for housing and Water Mill Primary School. The Bourn Brook was then re-diverted northwards once again.

An archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the present site but on the eastern side of Harborne Lane was undertaken in 2001 (Patrick *et al* 2001; Fig 1). It produced no evidence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity but recorded relic channels associated with the brook and relatively recent alluvial deposits (Patrick *et al* 2001, 7,10).

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Structural analysis

The areas monitored during the watching brief are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### 4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits and site truncation

Natural deposits were observed across the eastern half of the site. These comprised yellow and orangey brown sands with small-to-large gravels and cobbles and occasional areas of light brown sandy clay (Plates 2 and 3). Patches of similar material were observed during topsoil removal in the western half of the site. However, as these patches were only observed in plan after a shallow soil strip it is not clear whether they represent the natural geology or dumps of redeposited natural material.

The watching brief revealed widespread truncation of deposits across the site. The excavation of the earlier reservoir had removed material down to the natural gravels for much of the eastern part of the site. In many areas a thin, relatively recently-formed topsoil lay directly above natural gravels (context 100=108; Plate 4). In places a thin subsoil was also present (context 101=107=109=110). No alluvial deposits relating to the Bourn Brook were observed. Occasionally, however, isolated lenses of gleyed or organic material were noted, probably resulting from the periodic pooling of water (contexts 111 and 112; Plate 6). These were located only in the western portion of the reservoir, where 19<sup>th</sup> century maps show marshy ground developing (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 44-45, Figs 3.06 and 3.07). An existing soil bund running east-west along the southern edge of the reservoir was cut into during the groundworks (John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 45-46; Plate 7). This revealed an earlier topsoil, subsoil and natural soil profile preserved beneath the bund material (contexts 104=127=135=142=147 and 105=118=134=143; Plate 5). In the western part of the reservoir this profile also survived to the north of the bund, though it had suffered from modern truncation in many places.

#### 4.1.2 Phase 2 Prehistoric deposits

A previously un-recorded burnt mound was observed on the southern edge of the development site, lying just beyond the limits of the ground disturbance (BSMR 20822; Fig. 2; Plates 8 and 9). The mound was observed in the south-facing section of the river bank of the Bourn Brook. It has been partially eroded by the flowing water, demonstrating how the course of the brook has altered over time. A photographic record was made of the mound, its location recorded and Birmingham City Council's planning archaeologist was informed. No further record was made as the mound would not be affected by the current development.

#### 4.1.3 Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

A truncated brick-built culvert was recorded on the southern edge of the reservoir towards its western end, aligned north-south (context 128; Fig 3; Plate 10). The brick dimensions suggest that they were manufactured before the introduction of the Brick Tax in 1784 (pers. comm. Angus Crawford, HEAS). An 18<sup>th</sup> century date for the construction of the culvert seems likely and it is possible that it formed part of the water management system associated with the original reservoir built sometime after 1790-1791 (the bricks remaining useable and in circulation into the 1790s). A ditch observed in section on the same alignment is taken to be a continuation of this drainage channel (context 123; Figs 3 and 4; Plate 11). Since the brick structure was sealed by the buried topsoil horizon preserved beneath the soil bund on the southern edge of the site (and in other places), the topsoil must post-date the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It seems that this soil horizon, and its associated subsoil, represent soil development over the western portion of the 18<sup>th</sup> century reservoir as it silted up and fell out of use during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (as noted above, the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows that this area

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was marshy ground rather than open reservoir by the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; John Allen Consulting/Arthur Amos Associates 2004, 44-45, Figs 3.06 and 3.07).

A few modern intrusions were also noted in the western part of the reservoir site. These comprised a series of rectangular pits backfilled with tree branches, vegetation and soils.

The shallow groundworks in the eastern part of the development area revealed much redeposited, modern material below the topsoil (contexts 200, 201 and 202; Plate 12). This is interpreted as dumping, ground levelling and debris associated with recent modern developments (the erection of an electricity pylon, the excavation of a gas main and the construction of nearby houses).

#### 4.1.4 Phase 3 Un-dated deposits

Towards the western end of the reservoir site two features were observed cutting through the natural gravels. Context 137 was a tree throw (Fig 3; Plate 13); context 139, was an irregularly shaped hollow or depression containing a dark grey sandy silt, slightly organic in nature and with much root material (Fig 3; Plate 14). The latter is most likely a natural depression. The survival of both features, however, suggests that the truncation at the western end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century reservoir was less severe than elsewhere.

Two other features observed in section in the western portion of the reservoir site were sealed by the buried topsoil and subsoil horizons noted above and must, therefore, pre-date the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since no artefactual material was retrieved from them, however, their precise date remains uncertain. Two sections of a linear feature were observed, aligned approximately east-west and running for c.10.00m (context 115=120; Figs 3 and 4; Plates 15 and 16). They most likely represent a post-medieval drainage channel and are best interpreted as part of water management systems associated with the earlier reservoir. A second undated feature may be a small pit or gully which was filled by redeposited natural gravels (context 130; Figs 3 and 4; Plate 17).

## 5. Synthesis

The watching brief has demonstrated that there has been widespread truncation of deposits across the eastern portion of the site as a result of the construction of a reservoir in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the deposits encountered appear to be post-medieval and it is likely that any archaeological, alluvial and organic material relating to earlier periods has been lost in this area. Most features observed seem to relate to late 18<sup>th</sup> century water management (contexts 115=120, 123, 128 and possibly 130). Although 19<sup>th</sup> century topsoil and subsoil horizons were shown to have survived in the western part of the reservoir site, their archaeological significance is minimal. The existing soil bund on the site (Plate 6), which seals these soils, probably derives from the in-filling of the southern part of the reservoir in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The wall at the eastern edge of the site, thought to relate to Harborne Mill, was not disturbed by the contractors.

The discovery of a previously un-recorded burnt mound on the periphery of the development site is significant. It adds to previous evidence for similar activity along the course of the Bourn Brook and further indicates the importance of the brook for Bronze Age communities. It also suggests that, even in a heavily developed and truncated urban landscape, pockets of archaeological deposits survive. Furthermore, burnt mounds rarely occur in isolation and there may be associated features nearby. Groundworks in the vicinity therefore hold the potential to reveal significant archaeological deposits, although it should be noted that the works on the higher ground on the western part of the site revealed only recent redeposited material and nothing of archaeological significance.

## 5.1 **Research frameworks**

The discovery of a new burnt mound adds to the already extensive evidence for later prehistoric activity in and around Birmingham. Notably, it adds to a well-established programme of research into these features which aims *inter alia* to address questions of function and to investigate the use of burnt mounds as indicators of settlement sites (Barfield and Hodder 1989; Hodder 2002). Clearly, there is the potential to identify further such features in archaeological surveys of open spaces within urban areas of Birmingham.

## 6. **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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited at Harborne Reservoir, Harborne, Birmingham (NGR SP 0343 8316; EBM 373). The works revealed that much of the eastern part of the site had been severely truncated by the construction of a reservoir in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A brick-built culvert of probable late 18<sup>th</sup> century date was identified, as were two other undated features. All these features are interpreted as relating to water management systems associated with the reservoir. Although a tree throw and a hollow or depression in the natural gravels were also observed (both undated), most deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period appear to have been destroyed during the construction of the original reservoir. Groundworks on the western part of the site were minimal and revealed no archaeological features. However, during the course of the watching brief a previously un-recorded burnt mound was identified on the northern bank of the Bourn Brook. It lay beyond the limits of the groundworks associated with the development but has been eroded by the stream. This important discovery adds to already extensive evidence for later prehistoric activity in and around Birmingham.*

## 7. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited, Dave Pugh of Arthur Amos Associates, Morgan Courtney and Gerry McMahon of Birse Civils Limited and Dr Mike Hodder, Planning Archaeologist for Birmingham City Council.

## 8. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Stephen Potten. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Stephen Potten, Andrew Mann, Elizabeth Plane and Adam Lee. Illustration was undertaken by Carolyn Hunt.

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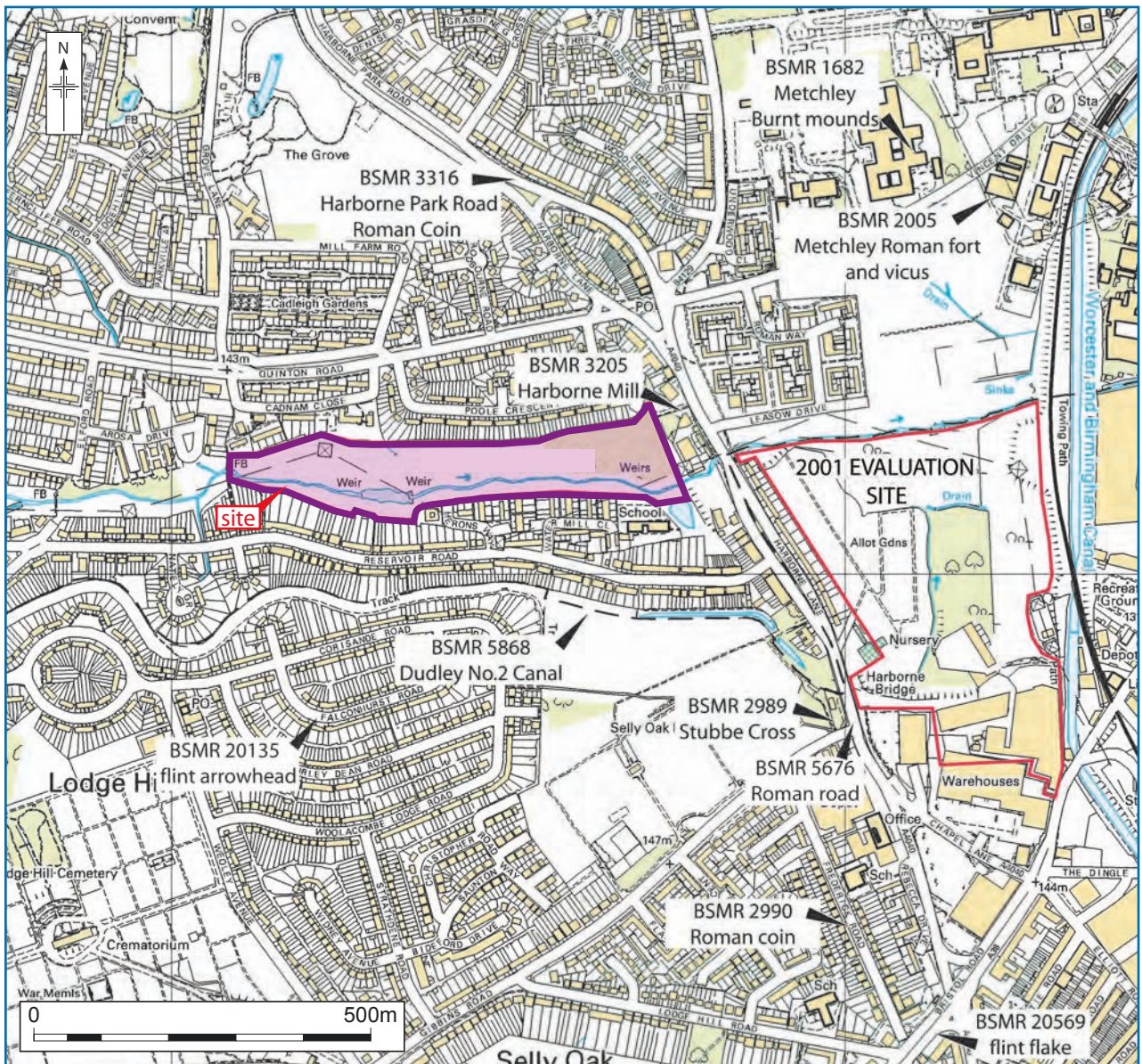
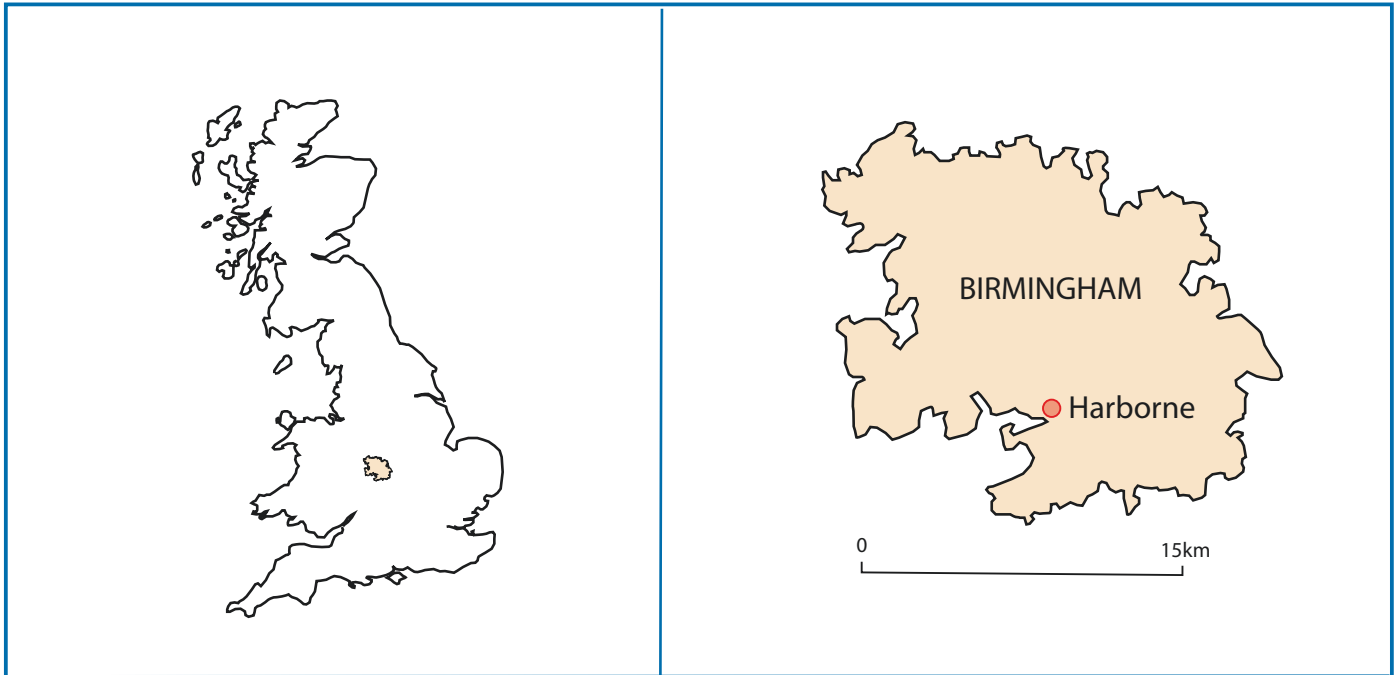
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# Figures

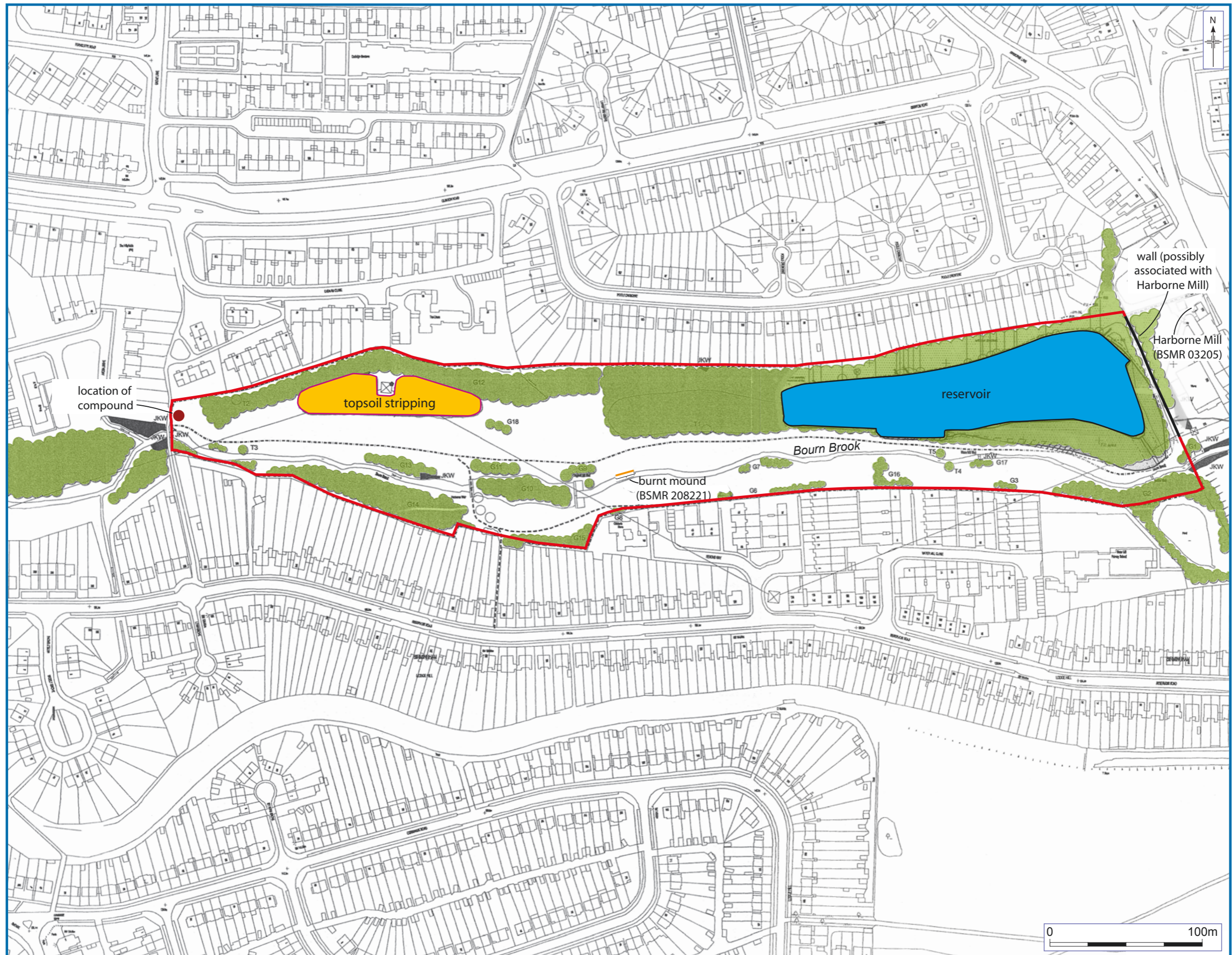
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Location of the site

Figure 1

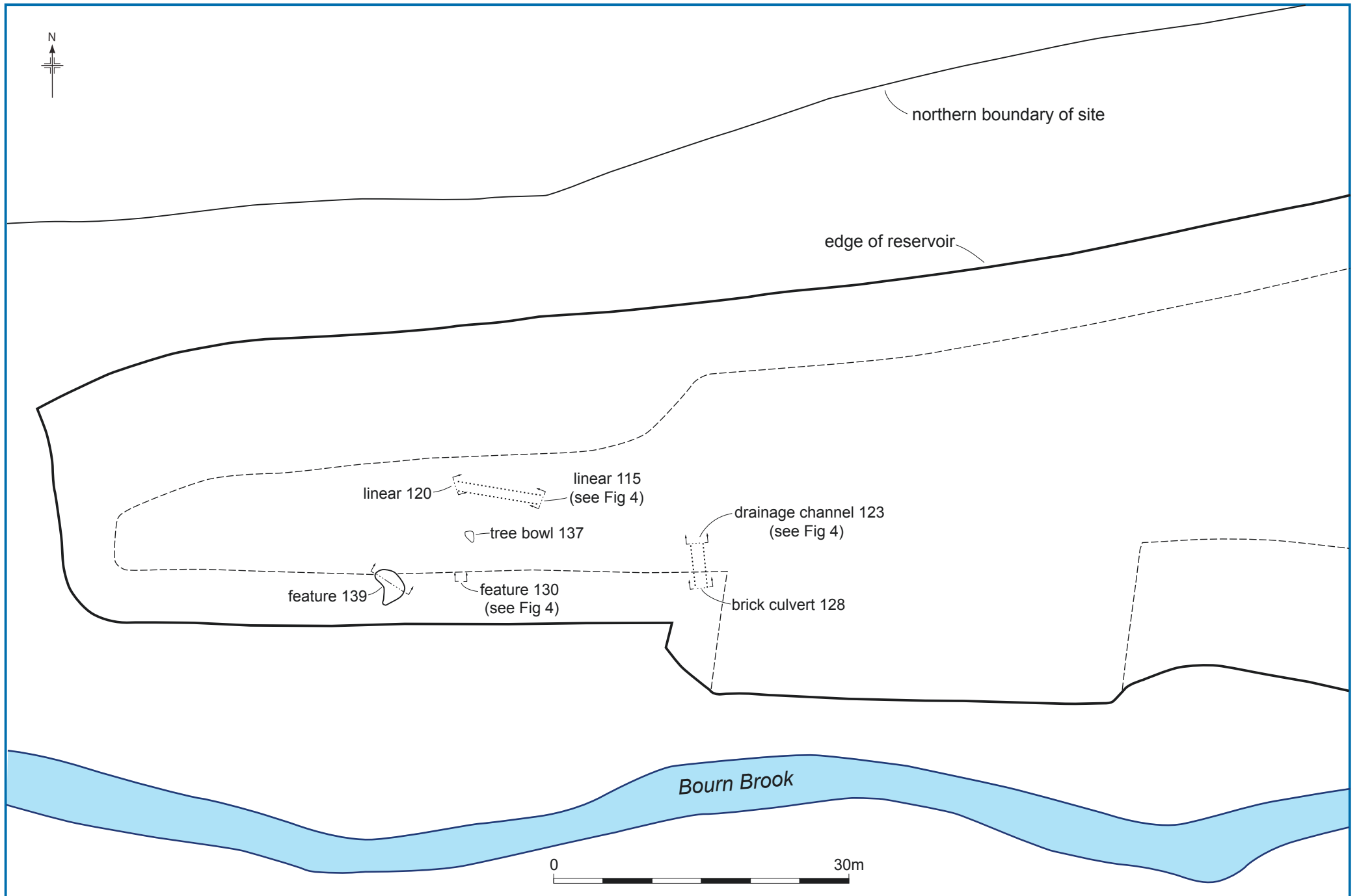


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Extent of ground works

Figure 2

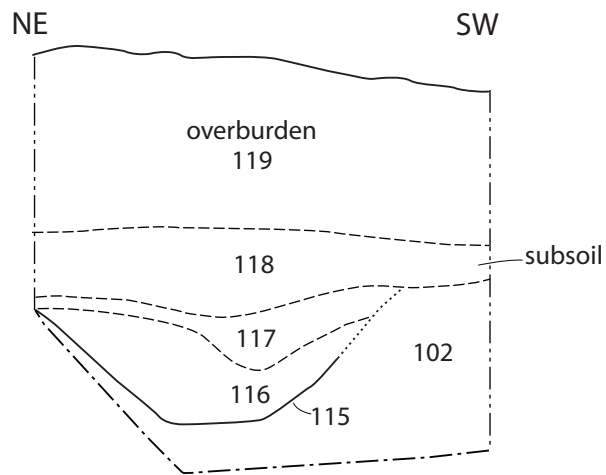




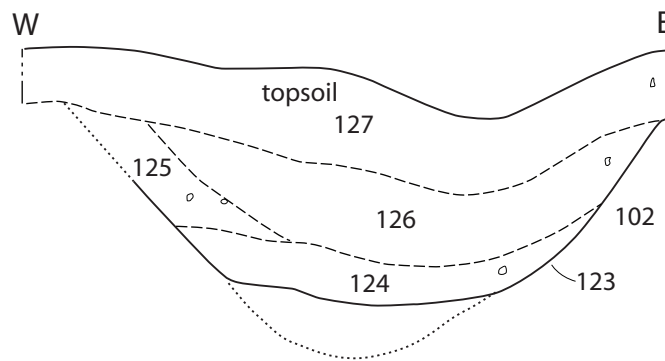
Location of features encountered on western half of reservoir site

Figure 3

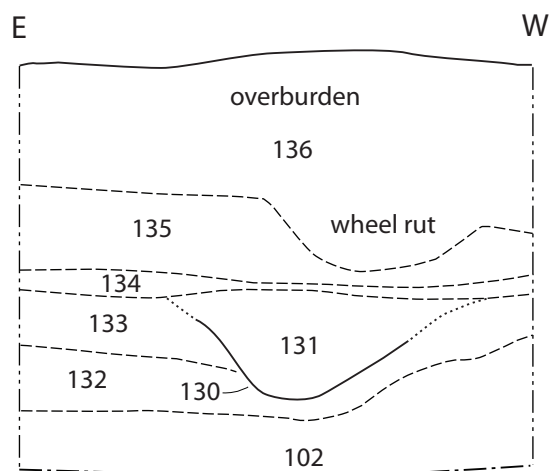
SECTION OF FEATURE 115



SECTION OF FEATURE 123



SECTION OF FEATURE 130



Sections

Figure 4

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## Plates



*Plate 1 Part of the brick wall forming the eastern boundary of the development site, thought to relate to Harborne Mill*



*Plate 2 General view of the site during development, facing North-west*

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*Plate 3 Natural sands and gravels exposed during groundworks, facing North-west*

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*Plate 4 South facing section through deposits showing thin topsoil above natural material*



*Plate 5 South facing section through deposits showing buried topsoil and subsoil horizons below bund material*

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*Plate 6 Organic and gleyed deposits, facing North*



*Plate 7 Existing soil bund running along the southern edge of the reservoir, facing East*

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*Plate 8 Burnt mound BSMR 20822, facing North*



*Plate 9 Burnt mound BSMR 20822, facing North*



*Plate 10 Brick-built culvert (128), facing South*



*Plate 11 North facing section, ditch (123)*

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*Plate 12 Western part of site, topsoil strip, facing East*



*Plate 13 Tree throw (137), facing West*



*Plate 14 Spread of material (139), facing South*



*Plate 15 North-west facing section, linear (115=120)*

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*Plate 16 East facing section, linear (115=120)*



*Plate 17 North facing section, feature (130)*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Eastern part of site

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones. Moderate roots and organic remains. Same as 108.	0.0-0.30m
101	Layer	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with patches of pale brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate small-medium sub-rounded stones. Some rooting. Same as 107, 109 and 110.	0.30-0.36m
102	Natural	Yellow and orangey brown sands with abundant small to medium gravels and cobbles.	0.66m+
103	Made ground	Mixed deposit consisting of redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural. Forms a bund along the southern edge of the eastern part of the site. Same as 146.	0.0-0.55m
104	Buried topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate organic remains and occasional small rounded stones. Same as 127, 135, 142 and 147.	0.55-0.75m
105	Buried subsoil	Red sandy clay, compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium rounded stones. Same as 118, 134 and 143.	0.75m-1.25m
106	Subsoil	Light brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones.	0.26-0.46m
107	Layer	Light brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with abundant orange mottles and rare small-medium sub-rounded stones. Same as 101, 109 and 110.	0.46-0.79m
108	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown sandy clay, compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium rounded stones. Moderate roots and organic remains. Same as 100.	0.0-0.26m
109	Layer	Light greyish brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate orange mottles and occasional small sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity. Same as 101, 107 and 110.	0.93-1.18m
110	Layer	Light yellowish brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with abundant orange mottles and occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity. Same as 101, 107 and 109.	0.25-0.40m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
111	Layer	Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium white shells. Organic in nature (slightly peaty).	0.0-0.25m
112	Layer	Light bluish grey silty clay with some fine sand, compact and cohesive, with moderate flecks of degraded yellow sandstone and occasional small sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity.	0.25-0.55m
113	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Branches, roots and modern debris strewn across the surface of this layer. Minor root activity.	0.0-0.12m
114	Made ground	Mixed deposit. Predominantly reddish brown clay, compact and cohesive, with many lenses and dumps of material within it. Contains abundant modern debris (glass, CBM, pottery, metal, concrete), occasional charcoal flecks-small lumps and occasional small-large sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. Some root activity.	0.12-0.82m+
115	Linear cut	Viewed in section only. Gently sloping sides with a flat base. Filled by 116 and 117. Probably same as 120.	0.64m
116	Fill	Dark blackish brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate small-medium rounded and sub-rounded stones and occasional flecks of yellow degraded sandstone. Minor root activity. Primary fill of 115. Probably same as 121.	0.64-0.83m
117	Fill	Light brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with rare charcoal flecks, orange and black mottles and small sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity. Secondary fill of 115. Probably same as 122.	0.68-0.97m
118	Buried subsoil	Reddish brown silty clay, compact and cohesive. Much root disturbance. Same as 105, 134 and 143.	0.47-0.64m
119	Layer/'topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate small-large sub-rounded stones. Much root disturbance.	0.0-0.47m
120	Linear cut	Viewed in section only. Gently sloping sides with a flat base. Filled by 121 and 122. Probably same as 115.	0.40m
121	Fill	Dark blackish brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate small-medium sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity. Primary fill of 120. Probably same as 116.	0.44-0.65m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
122	Fill	Light brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with rare small-medium sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity. Secondary fill of 120. Probably same as 117.	0.40-0.44m
123	Linear cut	Linear aligned NNE-SSW, steeply sloping sides with a flat base. Filled by 124, 125 and 126.	0.14m
124	Fill	Light greyish brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional orange/yellow mottles, small-medium sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks and organic material. Minor root activity. Primary fill of 123.	0.45-0.56m
125	Fill	Light yellowy brown silty clay with a small amount of sand, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional charcoal flecks and orange/yellow mottles. Minor root activity. Secondary fill of 123.	0.14-0.45m
126	Fill	Light reddish brown clay, compact and cohesive, with occasional orange/yellow mottles. Some root activity. Final fill of 123.	0.14-0.45m
127	Buried topsoil	Dark blackish brown silty clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Same as 104, 135, 142 and 147.	0.0-0.28m
128	Brick culvert	Brick built culvert aligned N-S. Bricks: 240mm x 110mm x 0.65mm. Bonded with friable pinkish white lime mortar. No construction cut visible. Filled by 129.	c.0.30-0.60m
129	Fill	Dark blackish brown sandy silt and mid brown sandy silt, compact and cohesive, with occasional medium rounded stones and rare CBM fragments. Minor root activity. Fill of 128.	c.0.30-0.54m
130	Cut	Viewed in section only. Steeply sloping sides with a flat base. Filled by 131.	0.60m
131	Fill	Redeposited small-medium clean sand and gravels. Fill of 130.	0.60-0.90m
132	Layer	Mixed dark bluish/blackish brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate med-large sub-rounded stones and orange/yellow mottles. Some root activity.	0.77-0.92m
133	Layer	Light bluish grey sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with abundant yellow mottles and rare small-medium sub-rounded stones. Some root activity.	0.62-0.77m
134	Buried subsoil	Reddish/orangey brown clay, compact and cohesive. Same as 105, 118 and 143.	0.54-0.62m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
135	Buried topsoil	Dark blackish brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Some root activity. Same as 104, 127, 142 and 147.	0.34-0.54m
136	Layer/'made ground'	Dark brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with moderate small-large sub-rounded stones. Much root disturbance. Probable bund material (see 103 and 146) but much disturbed by excavating machinery. Same as 141 and 145.	0.0-0.34m
137	Tree throw cut	Irregular in plan. Gently sloping eastern side with undercutting on western side and an irregular base. Filled by 138.	c.0.70m
138	Fill	Light greyish blue sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with abundant small-medium sub-rounded stones and moderate organic material. Some root activity. Fill of 137.	c.0.70-0.93m
139	Cut	Irregular in plan. Gently sloping sides with an uneven base. Filled by 140.	c.0.70m
140	Fill	Mid-dark grey sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional yellow mottles and small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Some root activity. Fill of 139.	c.0.70-0.91m
141	Layer/'made ground'	Mid brown silty clay, compact and cohesive, with moderate small-medium sub-rounded stones, modern debris and tree remains. Probable bund material (see 103 and 146) but much disturbed by excavating machinery. Same as 136 and 145.	0.0-0.35m
142	Buried topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Some root activity. Same as 104, 127, 135 and 147.	0.35-0.55m
143	Buried subsoil	Reddish brown silty clay, compact and cohesive. Same as 105, 118 and 134.	0.55-0.65m
144	Layer	Bluish grey sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with abundant yellow mottles.	0.65-0.77m
145	Layer/'made ground'	Mid brown silty clay, compact and cohesive, with moderate small-medium sub-rounded stones and modern debris. Some root activity. Probable bund material (see 103 and 146) but much disturbed by excavating machinery. Same as 136 and 141.	0.0-0.38m



Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
146	Made ground	Orangey brown sandy clay, compact and cohesive, with occasional small-large sub-rounded stones. Root activity. Forms a bund along the southern edge of the eastern part of the site. Same as 103.	0.38-0.88m
147	Buried topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with rare charcoal flecks and small-medium sub-rounded stones. Minor root activity. Same as 104, 127, 135 and 142.	0.88m+

### Western part of site

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt, moderately compact and cohesive, with occasional small-medium rounded and sub-angular stones and many lenses of dumped modern debris.	0.0-0.25m
201	Subsoil (?)	Mid brown sandy clay, moderately compact and cohesive, with abundant modern debris, moderate small-large sub-rounded stones and lenses of redeposited natural.	0.25m+
202	Natural (?)	Light yellowish and orangey brown sands with abundant small to medium gravels.	0.25m+

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive**

The archive consists of:

15	Fieldwork progress records AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
230	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
12	Abbreviated context records AS40
14	Trench record sheets AS41
12	Scale drawings

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery  
Chamberlain Square  
Birmingham  
B3 3DH

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