

**Archaeological investigations at
Earl's Court Farm,
Bromyard Road,
Dines Green,
Worcester**



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Archaeological investigations at Earl's Court Farm, Bromyard Road, Dines Green, Worcester

Tom Vaughan and Laurence Jones

With contributions by Alan Clapham, Laura Griffin, Derek Hurst and Elizabeth Pearson

Summary

Archaeological investigations were undertaken in two areas at Earl's Court Farm, Bromyard Road, Dine's Green, Worcester (NGR: SO 8234 5482). They were commissioned by Redrow Homes, who have undertaken residential development, for which planning permission has been approved by Worcester City Council.

There was a background scatter of prehistoric worked flint and Roman (and possibly mid Saxon) pottery, but the earliest dated structural remains were late Saxon at the latest. At the south end of the site there was a small farmstead, established alongside an Anglo-Saxon *Stræt*, which consisted of small enclosures, possibly paddocks, and four buildings (Structures 1-4). Started by the late Saxon period it was occupied through into the medieval period, with some seven phases of activity identified, of which only one (Phase 2e) could be more precisely dated, to the 12th–early 13th centuries (including Structure 3). Most of the site features seem to respect each other, and are often realignments or re-cuts of the earlier ditches, indicating that the earlier features remained visible in the landscape throughout the occupation period. The buildings have evidence of repair or rebuilding. Although of apparent low status (i.e. small building size and minimal material culture), its location adjacent to Earl's Court Farm moated site indicates that it may have been connected with a higher status function.

Generally no positive features were identified with the farmstead, such as floor surfaces, hearths or walls, the exception being Structure 2, where possible spreads of material were recorded. Elsewhere across the site there were just shallow post-medieval and modern linear ditches of low significance.

Though the artefactual assemblage was small, it contained pottery of particular significance due to the presence of a possible early–mid Saxon sherd, the narrow date range of the main period of activity (12th–early 13th century), and the presence of a medieval fabric type (Newbury wares) not previously identified within Worcestershire. As such, therefore, it constitutes an important group for the area in terms of wider pottery studies.

Environmental sampling demonstrated little potential for archaeological plant remains, apart from a few charred remains of cereal grains. Uncharred seeds in some samples suggested modern contamination was also likely. Cereals and fig may, however, give some indication of cultivation practice.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Earl's Court Farm, Bromyard Road, Dines Green, Worcester (NGR: SO 8234 5482). They were commissioned by Redrow Homes, who have undertaken residential development, for which planning permission has been approved by Worcester City Council (reference P/07/K0562). The development site was considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets (WCM 91064), the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to a written scheme of investigation prepared by Halcrow Group Ltd (Halcrow Group 2010). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008b), and *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester* (Worcester City Council 1999).

The event references for this project, given by the HER are WCM 101841 and 101862.

2 Aims

The aims of the archaeological programme of works were:

- i) to expose and record all archaeological remains previously identified (in Trenches 7 and 24 from the 2006 evaluation) through strip, map and sample;
- ii) to carry out a targeted watching brief in areas identified in the mitigation strategy, and;
- iii) thereby, to fulfil the requirements of Planning Conditions 7 and 8 of the planning consent.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The excavation fieldwork was led by Darren Miller MA AlfA. Tim Cornah BA led the watching brief fieldwork. The fieldwork was undertaken by Graham Arnold, Richard Bradley, Christine Elgy, Chris Gibbs, Adam Lee, Mike Nicholson, Jo Wainwright and Steve Woodhouse. Artefactual analysis was undertaken by Laura Griffin BA AlfA and Derek Hurst BA, Dip Post-exc, environmental analysis by Alan Clapham MSc PhD and Elizabeth Pearson MSc AlfA. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc PG Cert MlfA, and Laura Templeton BA PG Cert MlfA. The report preparation was undertaken by Laurence Jones Cert. HE (B. Archaeol.) MlfA, and Tom Vaughan MA AlfA. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan.

3.2 Documentary research

The documentary research is covered in the desk-based assessment report produced by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (2002) This identified the presence of Earl's Court Farm moated site, medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow at the north-west part of the development area, and a fishpond of probable medieval date. The report recommended a programme of geophysical survey followed by trial-trenching. Prior to the fieldwork commencing a search was also made of the Worcester City Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed written scheme of investigation was prepared by Halcrow Group (2010).

Excavation fieldwork was undertaken between 25 October and 24 November 2010. Watching brief fieldwork was carried out between 3 May and 14 May 2013. The site reference number and site code for the excavation is WCM 101841, and for the watching brief WCM 101862.

Two areas (Areas 1 and 2) were selected for excavation, and subsequently a watching brief was undertaken adjacent to Area 2. Area 1 covered an area of 1,341m², and Area 2 an area of 1,419m² and the watching brief area covered was 1,184m².

Features in Area 1 were assigned context numbers in sequence from '1000'; those in Area 2 from '2000'; and from the previous investigations from 'E1000' (Miller 2010; WCM 101817–8). Where re-excavated, features previously recorded during the evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 2006; WCM 101390) were assigned new context numbers; otherwise they were numbered from '700'.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. 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 Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

3.4 Structural analysis

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

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.5.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. This was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2003 database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and so they not included below, nor included in the Table 1 quantification. The finds recovered from during the Foundations Archaeology (2006) evaluation were not available for analysis.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

3.5.3 Discard policy

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

- where unstratified
- post-medieval pottery, and;
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard WA practice (2012). Samples were taken by the excavator from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains. In total 59 samples were taken, of which 44 were processed and analysed.

3.6.2 Processing and analysis

For each of the samples a sub-sample of 1 litre was processed by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic remains from the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic fraction was decanted onto a 300µm sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. The remainder of the bulk sample was retained for further analysis, if required. The samples were then processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

Animal bone was identified with the aid of in-house modern bone reference collections, and identification guides (Schmid 1972; Hillson 1992).

3.6.3 Discard policy

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

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. The clay substrate combined with wet weather conditions may have accounted for some features previously recorded in evaluation Trench 7 not being recorded during the excavation.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The fieldwork took place in two fields north of Bromyard Road (A44), just within the limits of Worcester city (Figs 1 and 2) to the north and south of Earl's Court Farm, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 35197) comprising a double moat enclosing circular and rectangular platforms of later medieval date.

The geology of the area has been mapped as Triassic Mercian Mudstone overlain by Quaternary terrace deposits of the River Severn (third terrace; British Geological Survey 1993). The soils of the area have been mapped as brown earths of the Arrow and Whimple Associations (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1986).

4.1.1 Early mapping

The earliest detailed cartographic source for the area dates from c 1732, by John Doharty the elder (Plate 32). It indicates Area 1 to have been part of a larger sub-rectangular plot, between Bromyard Road and Earl's Court Farm, under trees, though it is unclear whether a formal orchard. There is

no indication of the presence of the existing pond alongside the road. Area 2 lies within a large and irregularly shaped field.

4.1.2 Previous archaeology

As a general context Bromyard Road is considered to be one of two roughly parallel Anglo-Saxon *Stræts* which ran west out from Worcester, as identified by Hooke (1980, 46, fig 12).

The moated site (Scheduled Ancient Monument area) has been the subject of recent earthwork survey (Headland Archaeology 2011), which identified several channels enclosing small areas on the eastern side of the moat, and recorded an earthwork bank on the western side of the moat, enclosing a rectangular area outside the scheduled area. The site has also been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2002), geophysical survey (GSB Propection 2005), field evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 2006), and a summary report with a mitigation strategy (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2006). The desk-based assessment highlighted the presence of the medieval moated site (WCM 91064; SAM 31957) in the north-west of the southern field, and a limited potential for remains of prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon activity. Medieval ridge and furrow was identified at the north-west part of the development area, together with two probable medieval fishponds on the stream course to the north-east. The results of the geophysical survey were inconclusive, although, in contrast, field evaluation provided evidence of archaeological deposits in both fields (Foundations Archaeology 2006).

An area of significance identified during the evaluation was located to the north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, where a number of archaeological features were identified in Trench 24 (Foundations Archaeology 2006, fig 13), although they were undated due to lack of dateable artefacts. This area was later subject to excavation as Area 1. The second area of significance (Area 2) identified during the evaluation was located to the south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, where features were concentrated in the centre of evaluation Trench 7 (Foundations Archaeology 2006, fig 4): a north to south aligned ditch; a gully defining a roughly rectangular area, open to the south, inside which there were eighteen postholes, twelve stakeholes and three linear features with rounded ends; and two ditches to the north, one aligned east to west, the other north-west to south-east. The north to south ditch (714) and one of the postholes (716) contained a total of 12 sherds of 11th–12th century pottery; 10 of 'Herefordshire/Worcestershire-type unglazed sandy ware' from the former, and two of 'Cotswold-type limestone tempered ware' from the latter (Foundations Archaeology 2006, 9–11 and 21–22). These were not available for comparison with the assemblage recovered during the present investigations, so cannot be commented upon.

Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (now Worcestershire Archaeology) also carried out archaeological evaluation along Bromyard Road of in advance of the West of Worcester Bus Rapid Transport Corridor (Miller 2010; WCM 101817–8), exposing features (Trench 1; Miller 2010, fig 3) on the north side of the road immediately to the south of Area 2: three pits, three gullies, a ditch, and a posthole, the ditch and one of the pits containing sherds of 11th–12th century pottery and abundant remains of wheat, rye, barley, and oats. Other features were found nearby, and the combined evidence indicates a farmstead, fronting onto the road. Undated features, toward the east end of the trench, were partially exposed but were poorly defined. The results from evaluation Trench 1 have been assimilated with the current excavation Area 2 in the description below.

4.2 Current land-use

At the commencement of fieldwork the development area was arable farmland, on the edge of the built-up area of Dines Green.

5 Site analysis

5.1 Structural evidence

The archaeological features recorded in Areas 1 and 2 (including 2010 investigations; Miller 2010; WCM 101817–8), and the watching brief area east of the main Area 2 are shown in Figures 3–12. All of the sections excavated across features are indicated on Figures 4a, 4b, 5, 7 and 9. Only a representative sample of the sections is illustrated (Figs 3, 6, 8, 10–11). Features in Area 1 are further illustrated in Plates 1–27, and in Area 2 in Plates 28–31. Figure 12 is a phased plan of the main features in Area 2., where there was a relatively dense and so complex sequence of deposits.

5.1.1 Area 1

Post-medieval/modern deposits

An east-north-east to west-south-west orientated ditch (1006, 1012, 1016; Fig 3, and Plate 29), up to 1.14m wide and 0.20m deep, extended from the western trench edge and terminated to the east. The fill of the ditch (1015) contained a residual flint arrowhead. A curvilinear ditch (1014 and 1023; Fig 3 and Plate 30), up to 0.90m wide and up to 0.31m deep, was orientated partly parallel with ditch (1016) before terminating to the east. There was evidence of a second ditch or gully (1025; Fig 3 and Plate 31) aligned parallel with curvilinear ditch (1023). The ditch fills (1013) contained a sherd of 12th century pottery and modern roof tile (1022).

To the south was an east to west orientated linear ditch (1035), 3.70m wide and 0.82m deep, which contained worked flint, sherds of 19th century pottery, glass and a possible medieval roof tile. A parallel linear ditch, to the north (1033), was probably a modern drainage ditch. It contained a copper alloy fragment and fired clay.

5.1.2 Area 2

Phase 1: Possible prehistoric deposits

Several residual pieces of worked flint were recovered, suggesting early prehistoric activity on site (Section 5.2.2 below). No features of definite prehistoric date were recorded, though an undated circular pit (2004, Fig 4a, Plate 1), 0.86m in diameter and 0.17m deep, at the north-west part of the site may date to this period. The pit contained two fills and the lower fill contained charcoal and heat-cracked stones, indicative of a prehistoric date. South of (2004) was another circular pit (2056), at least 0.90m wide and 0.31m deep. The fill of pit (2056) contained no finds, and was truncated by Linear Ditch 1 (discussed below).

Phase 2a: post-Roman-mid/late Saxon deposits

Located at the north-west part of the site, a west-north-west to east-south-east aligned linear ditch (Linear Ditch 1; 2040 and 2182; Fig 4a, Plate 2), 0.54m wide and 0.10m deep, was filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (2039) and cut by Linear Ditch 2 (2016 and 2184). Although it contained only a single sherd of Roman pottery, this was abraded and is probably residual. The ditch was perpendicular to a number of other ditches (Linear Ditches 2, 3, 4 and 5), which are of Saxon and medieval date. Stratigraphically Linear Ditch 1 was the earliest Phase 2 feature identified.

Phase 2b: mid/late Saxon deposits

A north-east to south-west orientated linear ditch (Linear Ditch 2; 2016 and 2184; Fig 4a; Plate 17), 0.48m–1.0m wide and 0.15m–0.39m deep, which terminated to the north-east, was located at the north-west part of the site. It was filled with reddish brown clayey silty sand (2015 and 2183). Two short north-east to south-west aligned linear gullies (2254 and 2257; Fig 4b, Plate 3), a ditch (2263) and a pit (2245) were located within the eastern half of the site. The short gullies (2254 and 2257) terminated to the south-west. The south-west extent of (2263) was unclear, due to plough truncation. All of these features had been cut by Linear Ditch 3 and re-cut Linear Ditch 5 (see below).

Structure 2 (*Figs 4a, 7 and 8, Plates 4 and 5*)

A short stretch of linear (2197), 0.75m wide and 0.19m deep, located in the western half of the site was probably evidence for a construction trench for an 'L'-shaped beam slot (2060), 0.55m wide, 7.0m long and 0.12m deep, which was filled with red-brown silty sand (2059). The terminus of beam slot (2060) was cut by a second short beam slot (2126), 0.44m wide, 2.90m long and 0.20m deep, filled with red-brown silty sand (2125). A third probable beam slot (2211) appeared to cut beam slot (2060) to the north. Beam slots (2060, 2126 and 2211) appeared to form the foundations of a structure (Structure 2), approximately 7.50m long by 2.5m wide, with a probable 1.50m wide entrance on the south-east side. Beam slot (2060) was cut by a sub-circular posthole (2186) at the south-west corner, and beam slot (2126) was cut by four sub-circular postholes (2190, 2113, 2201 and 2193), all less than 0.26m deep. Posthole (2193), which was located at the terminus of beam slot (2126), contained evidence of a post-pipe (2192). Within the rectangular area defined by beam slots (2060 and 2126) was a brown silty clay deposit (2128) and brown clay-silt deposit (2129) within a shallow cut (2079), 2.7m long, 1.10m wide and 0.19m deep. Deposit (2128) was cut by a small circular posthole (2204). A wide irregular pit (2180), 1.68m wide and possibly up to 5.0m long and 0.36m deep, partly cut beam slot (2126). It was filled with a yellowish green clay with lenses of yellow sand (2132).

The phasing of this structure was determined by its continuing the alignment of Linear Ditch 2 to the north.

Phase 2c: mid/late Saxon deposits

A north-west to south-east aligned linear ditch (Linear Ditch 3; 2018, 2051, 2124, 2247 and 2061; Figs 4a, 4b and 11b; Plates 6 and 18) probably forming a field boundary, 0.88m–1.06m wide and 0.23m–0.39m deep, extended across the site. It was filled with a grey brown silty clay (2017, 2123, 2050, 2246 and 2260) containing a single piece of worked flint. A shallow linear ditch (Linear Ditch 4; 2042, Figs 4a and 11a), 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep, which was filled with reddish brown sandy silt (2041), was contemporary with, and at right-angles to Linear Ditch 3.

Phase 2d: mid/late Saxon deposits

A north-west to south-east aligned linear ditch (Linear Ditch 5; 2020, 2049, 2058, 2122 and 2259; Figs 4a and 4b, Plates 6 and 18), 0.60m–0.90m wide and 0.27m–0.90m deep, was filled with a grey brown silty clay (2019, 2048, 2057, 2121 and 2258) and terminated to the south-east. This ditch appears to have been a re-cut of Linear Ditch 3; the second phase of the field boundary ditch. A short linear gully (2062) was located to the south of and parallel with Linear Ditch 5.

Structure 1 (*Figs 4a, 5 and 6, Plates 7 and 8*)

South of Linear Ditch 5 was a curving gully (2175, equivalent to feature 708, evaluation Trench 7; Foundations Archaeology 2006), 0.20m–0.50m wide and 0.04m–0.14m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile. On the eastern side, the gully was narrower with the south-eastern terminal partially truncated by Linear Ditch 6 (described below), and the south-western terminal was completely truncated by ploughing. It was filled with a grey brown sandy clay (2174, equivalent to fill 709 evaluation Trench 7; Foundations Archaeology 2006). Gully (2175) enclosed an approximately rectangular area open on the south side, c 6m by 5m, within which was evidence of a structure (Structure 1) in the form of sub-circular postholes (2028, 2139, 2141, 2149, 2152, 2154, 2156, 2159, 2161, 2163, 2167, 2169 and 2171), 0.30m–0.75m wide and 0.08m–0.24m deep, filled with grey-brown sandy clays. Five further postholes (742, 744, 746, 748 and 750) were recorded during the evaluation, but were not visible during the excavation. This may be due to their being very shallow and disturbed by trample, weather conditions or backfilling of the evaluation trench. Also within the area enclosed by gully (2175) was a shallow sub-rectangular feature (2165), which was cut by posthole (2167), and a shallow elongated feature (2145) containing a single small fragment of flat roof tile dating to the 13th century at the earliest. Just outside gully (2175) were three further postholes (2030, 2137 and 2143). A small stake hole (2032) was located to the east of posthole

(2030). A large pit (2078; Fig 4a and Plate 9), 0.94m wide, 1.75m long and 0.21m deep, and was located to the north-east of gully (2175), and may have been associated with it.

Phase 2e: medieval deposits: 12th–early 13th century

A north-north-east to south-south-west aligned linear ditch (Linear Ditch 6; 714, 2010, 2120, 2053, 2112 and E1019; Fig 4a and Plates 10 and 11), 27.0m long, 0.36m–0.86m wide and 0.27m–0.90m deep, terminating to the north-east and south-east, probably functioned as a boundary ditch delimiting an area of small enclosures to the east. It was filled with reddish brown silty sand or grey brown clay silt (E1018, 2009, 2119, 2052 and 2121) containing sherds of 12th century pottery, slag and metal fragments. At the south part of the site a north-west to south-east aligned linear ditch (E1026; Figs 4a and 11a), terminating to the west and only partially exposed, contained sherds of 13th century pottery, and may be a contemporary with Linear Ditch 6, forming a southern boundary, with a possible entranceway separating the two ditches.

Linear Ditch 6 was contemporary with west-north-west to east-south-east orientated linear ditch (Linear Ditch 8; 2012, 2092 and 2096; Figs 4a, 4b and 11a, and Plate 10), 0.40m–0.60m wide and 0.10m–0.14m deep, and contained a similar fill to Linear Ditch 6 (2011, 2091 and 2095) including sherds of 13th century pottery. Several shallow linear or curvilinear ditches (9-13) were contemporary with Linear Ditches 6 and 8. Linear Ditches 9 (2104; Fig 4a) and 10 (2094; Fig 4b and Plate 12) were orientated north-east to south-west. Linear Ditches 11 (2084, Fig 4b and Plate 12) and 12 (2034; Figs 4b and 11a, and Plate 13) were aligned east to west. They may be the same ditch, with an entrance between them, although the western terminus of the latter was indeterminate. Linear Ditch 12 contained a sherd of Roman pottery and sherds of 12th century pottery. Curvilinear Ditch 13 (E1015 and 2038; Figs 4a and 11a, and Plate 14) was located south-east of Linear Ditch 9 and on a similar alignment. They may represent a single ditch with an entrance in between. These features appear to form at least four small ditched enclosures or animal pens.

Structure 3 (Figs 4b, 9 and 10; Plates 15 and 16)

At the south-east end of the site was a rectangular structure (Structure 3), 4.25m wide by at least 6.50m long externally, with its long axis, but extending beyond the limit of excavation, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and orientated with Linear Ditches 6, 8, 11 and 12. It consisted of four beam slots (2215/2219, 2225, 2217/2265 and 2213/2221/2269).

North-north-east to south-south-west aligned beam slots (2215/2219 and 2225) appeared to be cut by west-north-west to east-south-east aligned beam slots (2217/2265 and 2213/2221/2269). Narrow beam slot (2215/2219), 0.42 wide and up to 0.14m deep, formed the west end of the structure. Two wider beam slots (2213/2221/2269 and 2217/2265), up to 0.83m wide and 0.44m deep, formed the long sides of the structure. At the base of beam slot (2213/2221) there was evidence for three contemporary timber uprights in the form of three postholes approximately 2.50m and 3.50m apart, 0.50–0.60m in diameter and 0.35–0.82m deep. Beam slot (2217/2265) contained evidence of another sub-circular posthole, 0.50m by 0.50m and 0.82m deep. A narrow beam slot (2223/2225), 0.42m wide and 0.14m deep, containing sherds of medieval pottery, appeared to be related to an internal partition, enclosing an area of approximately 16m². To the north of Structure 3 was a small posthole (2229), 0.37m in diameter and 0.15m deep, which could be associated with Structure 3 (as it is aligned with the northern termini of the beam slots), or possibly Structure 4 to the north formed by Linear Gullies 16 and 17 (as it is aligned with Linear Gully 17). A later small pit or posthole (2267), 0.62m in diameter and 0.22m deep, cut the southern edge of beam slot (2217/2265), and may be evidence of a wall repair or reconstruction.

Phase 2f: medieval deposits

An east to west aligned linear ditch (Linear Ditch 7; 2014, 2195, 2044 and 2046; Fig 4a, and Plates 17 and 18), 0.70m–1.20 wide and 0.11m–0.33m deep, probably reflected the realignment of the previous field boundary. It was unclear if it terminated to the east or fed into Linear Ditch 3, and it was on a different east to west alignment to the earlier field boundary ditches (3 and 5), and was

interrupted by a 1.6m wide gap or entranceway. It was filled with a brown sandy silt (2013, 2194 and 2043).

South-east of Linear Ditch 7 were two shallow curvilinear ditches: Curvilinear Ditch 14 (2063 and 2066; Fig 4b and Plate 19), and Curvilinear Ditch 15 (2036, Figs 4a–b, and Plates 13 and 14), which appeared to form part of another small enclosure. To the north-east of Curvilinear Ditch 14 was a sub-circular pit (2188), 1.0m wide, 1.65m long and 0.30m deep, containing two fills (2187 and 2191). The terminus of an east to west aligned ditch or elongated pit (2096) was located to the south of pit (2188) (Plate 21). A short surviving stretch of a curvilinear ditch (2090; Fig 4b and Plate 20) had unclear relationships with ditches (2084 and 2104) at either end. It is probably a remnant of an enclosure ditch, and may be associated with Curvilinear Ditches 14 and 15. These three ditches may be re-cuts or reorganisations of Linear Ditches 10 and 11.

Phase 2g: medieval deposits

A north-east to south-west aligned linear gully (2098; Figs 4b and 11a, and Plate 21) perhaps associated with a later enclosure at the east part of the site, 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep, contained two sherds of 12th century pottery and terminated to the south. It cut across pit (2188) and ditch (2092), and pit or ditch (2096) to the east.

At the south part of the site was an oval pit (E1017; Fig 4a), 0.9m wide, at least 1.0m long and 0.16m deep, containing two fills. The primary fill (E1020) contained sherds of 11th–15th century pottery and the final fill (E1016) contained sherds of 12th century pottery.

Structure 4 (Figs 4b and 11a; Plates 22–3)

Two Linear Gullies (16; 2237) and (17; 2231/2233), at right-angles, which may be beam slots for a rectangular structure, 0.29–0.43m wide and 0.19m deep, filled with yellowish brown clay-silts, were located in the south-eastern portion of the site, north of Structure 3. Gully 17, 4m long, contained sherds of medieval pottery and Gully 16 extended beyond the limit of excavation. To the north and south of Gully 16 was a group of four postholes (2235, 2239, 2241 and 2243; Figs 4b and 11b, and Plates 24–5) perhaps forming part of the structure, or another structure. They were 0.37–0.55m in diameter and 0.12–0.19m deep, filled with greyish brown clay-silts. There was no evidence of post-pipes or deliberate packing. Posthole (2229), to the south of, and on the same alignment as Gully 17, may form part of the same structure, although it may also be associated with Structure 3 (see above).

Unphased deposits

A short linear ditch (E1013) was located to the north of ditch (E1026), at the south part of the site, and three large pits (2088, E1028 and 2022; Fig 4a and Plate 26) were unphased. There were two undated postholes (E1022 and 2076) at the southern end and in the middle of the site. Posthole (2076; Fig 4a and Plate 27) contained evidence for a post-pipe. A gully (2249/2251), 3.6m long, 0.49m wide and 0.19m deep, was located toward the north-east corner of the site, on an east to west alignment, parallel with Linear Ditch 3 adjacent.

5.2 Artefactual evidence (by Laura Griffin)

The artefactual assemblage recovered consisted of 166 finds weighing 2016g and is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. The group came from 33 stratified contexts across two separate areas of the site. The finds could be dated from the prehistoric period onwards, with the majority of material being of the medieval period (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying high levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size being below average.

A further 15 finds were retrieved from Trench 1 during the Bromyard Road evaluation (Miller 2010; WCM 101817–8) and these have also been incorporated into the discussion below.

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Brick	2	162
Roof tile	10	457
Pottery	114	927
Fired clay	19	112
Loomweight	1	50
Vessel glass	9	84
Window glass	1	1
Copper alloy	5	55
Iron nail	2	15
Slag	12	77
Worked flint	3	9

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage (including material Miller 2010; WCM 101817–8)

The artefacts are discussed below by period and area, except in the case of Phase 2e where structures and finds were sufficiently numerous to be worthy of a more detailed discussion.

5.2.1 Pottery

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area amounted to 114 sherds, weighing 927g. All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2) and diagnostic form sherds dated accordingly. Remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Area 2

Roman

Roman pottery from the site consisted of 4 sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabric 12; pit fill E1020, ditch fills 2033, 2039 and beam slot fill 2216), all being residual (i.e. high levels of surface abrasion). The presence of Roman material on the site was not unexpected due to known activity of this date in the general vicinity. However, there were no proven features contemporary with this pottery in the excavated area.

Late Saxon/early medieval

A single sherd of unstratified glazed Stamford ware was retrieved from Area 2 and could be dated to the 10th–11th century. In addition, a well-preserved everted rim sherd of a previously unidentified fine, organic tempered fabric was also identified as being of possible early–mid Saxon date (fill of ditch 2016), although with such a small sherd (2g), it is not possible to confirm this dating and is not considered suitable for illustration.

Medieval (12th–early 13th century)

The medieval pottery retrieved from the site formed a small but tightly dated group of 93 sherds, spanning the 12th–early 13th centuries. Assemblages of pottery of this early medieval date are rare

in Worcester and, therefore, this pottery forms a highly significant group of sherds, providing a rare opportunity to look at both the fabrics and forms used on rural settlements during this period.

The majority of sherds were of Worcester production (fabric 55) and all coming from unglazed cooking pot forms. In addition, seven sherds of glazed Worcester sandy ware were also identified (fabric 64.1; pit fill E1016 and ditch fill E1025). Other fabrics identified in smaller quantity were also of cooking pot form and consisted of unglazed Malvernian ware (fabric 56; subsoil 2006 and beam slot fill 2268), unglazed Cotswolds ware (fabric 57; ditch fills E1025, 1013, 2019 and 2052), sandy limestone tempered ware (fabric 58; land drain fill 2001) and Newbury Group A and B (fabric 99; ditch fills 1025, 2035, 2052 and 2091).

The range of medieval fabrics present was typical for this date, except for the 11 sherds of Newbury ware, as both Newbury A and B (fabrics 157.1 and 157.2) were of particular note, neither having been previously identified in Worcester (pers comm Derek Hurst). The source of these wares is thought to be centred on the northern borders of the Savernake Forest in the Upper Kennet Valley, Wiltshire. Newbury A (fabric 157.1) is commonly dated to the 11th–12^h century, whilst Newbury B (fabric 157.2) is firmly 12th century (Vince 1984). The presence of both of these wares, alongside those of Cotswold production indicates strong contact and trade with the southern Cotswolds region during the first half of the medieval period. This association is further reflected in the forms of Worcester-type cooking pots during this period, which have club-shaped rims imitating those of Cotswold production, as has been observed in previous reporting.

Although the sherds were mainly small and highly abraded, some forms could be identified, and, in the case of the sandy Worcester-type cooking pots, this has allowed the close dating of the group. In addition to the well dated early forms, one vessel was notable for having incised wavy lines running about the body, rare amongst cooking pot forms and again indicative of earlier production (cf Bryant 2004). The glazed Worcester sherds were identified as from pitcher forms, again typical of 12th century (–early 13th century) assemblages.

Phase 2e (by Derek Hurst)

This phase was associated with an assemblage of pottery found in the backfill to an interconnected series of ditches/enclosures, and this material was very consistent in its 12th century date, despite several fabrics being present. Given the amount of pottery from this one phase, compared with the rest of the site sequence, this seems to have been a definite period of domestic occupation, though this seems to have been short-lived and did not extend far into the 13th century, if at all. The form repertoire of pitcher and cooking pot is typical of the period, while the presence of ceramics from other regions (i.e. the Stamford and Newbury wares) is also indicative of the late Saxon/early medieval period, when goods were often traded over long distances. Even so, the Newbury ware is currently so unusual that a more specific reason for its presence cannot be ruled out.

Post-medieval and modern

The remaining pottery from the site was of 18th century date onwards: black-glazed post-medieval sandy red ware (fabric 78; soils 1000 and land drain fill 2001), porcelain (fabric 83; soils 1000 and ditch fill 1034), creamware (fabric 84; land drain fill 2001), and modern china (fabric 85; soils 2000). The majority were from topsoil and subsoil contexts, with the exception of a sherd of porcelain which came from a tertiary ditch fill (1034).

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	4	30
Late Saxon/early medieval	46.2	Glazed Stamford type ware	1	2
Medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	67	531
Medieval	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	3	11
Medieval	57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	4	19
Medieval	58	Sandy limestone tempered ware	1	10
Medieval	64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	7	18
Medieval	157.1	Newbury A ware	1	7
Medieval	157.2	Newbury B ware	10	31
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	10	240
Modern	83	Porcelain	3	8
Modern	84	Creamware	1	11
Modern	85	Modern china	1	1
Late Saxon/early medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	8

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

5.2.2 Other artefacts

A small group of non-pottery artefacts were also retrieved (Table 1), and any of particular note are discussed below.

Ceramic building material

Ceramic building material formed the largest group of non-pottery finds from the site, consisting of ten fragments of roof tile and two of brick. The majority of the roof tile was of a locally produced sandy fabric (fabric 2a), similar to that of the medieval Worcester-type pottery and could be dated between the 13th and 15^h centuries (ditch fills 1034, 2011 and 2144 and soils 2000). The exceptions all came from Area 1 of the site and consisted of three fragments of post-medieval date from a ditch fill (primary fill 1037) and one highly fired modern tile from a ditch (fill 1022). Both bricks were of 18th century date and once again came from Area 1.

Loomweight

A fragment of what is thought to be a clay loom weight was retrieved from a ditch terminus (fill 2216). The clay itself was of the local red, sandy type and the weight has been roughly formed. Although commonly associated with sites of Iron Age date, vertical looms were still used in the medieval period, and so there is no reason to suppose that this example is of earlier date than the rest of the assemblage.

Worked flint

Three worked flint artefacts were present within the assemblage. Of these, two were dated from the late Neolithic to the early Bronze Age, and included the lower half of a tanged arrowhead (ditch fill 1015; probably of Sutton 'B' type) and a small awl (ditch fill 2123). The remaining flint artefact was identified as a blade with extensive edge damage consistent with heavy rolling action associated with ploughing (tertiary ditch fill 1034). All three were residual finds.

5.2.3 Site dating

context	feature	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	finds TPQ
1001	1002 linear	ceramic	pot	1	11	1150	1200	1200
1009	1010 tree bowl	ceramic	brick	1	32			post-medieval
1013	1014 linear	ceramic	pot	1	3	M11C	12C	12C
1022	1023 linear	ceramic	tile	1	37	19C	20C	20C
1024	1025 linear	ceramic	pot	5	13	12C		12C
1034	1035 linear Tertiary fill	stone		1	4			20C
		glass	window	1	1			
		ceramic	pot	1	1	19C	E20C	
		ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	71	13C	15C	
1037	1035 Primary fill	ceramic	tile	3	289			medieval
E1016	E1017 pit Tertiary fill	ceramic	pot	3	11	1100	1200	12C
E1020	E1017 Primary/Secondary fill	ceramic	pot	3	29	1075	1400	medieval
		ceramic	pot	1	6	43	400	
E1025	E1026 linear	ceramic	pot	4	7	1200	1400	13C
		slag	?furnace	1	4	0	0	
		ceramic	pot	1	11	1066	1200	
2001	2002 modern land drain	ceramic	pot	2	146			20C
		ceramic	pot	5	133	L17C	18C	
		ceramic	pot	1	11	1760	1790	
		ceramic	pot	1	10			
		glass	vessel	5	32	18C	20C	
		glass	vessel	4	52	18C	20C	
2006	subsoil	ceramic	pot	1	7			11-12C
2009	2010 Linear Ditch 6	ceramic	pot	8	28	L11C	12C	12C
2011	2012 Linear Ditch 8	ceramic		1	9			13C
		ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	1	13C	15C	
2019	2020 Linear Ditch 5	ceramic	pot	1	4			11-12C
2033	2034 Linear Ditch 12	ceramic	pot	1	7			12C
		ceramic	pot	1	5	M1C	4C	
2035	2036 Linear Ditch 15	ceramic	pot	2	9			Med
2039	2040 Linear Ditch 1	ceramic	pot	1	4	M1C	4C	Roman
2043	2044 Linear Ditch 7	slag		2	16			Modern
2052	2053 Linear Ditch 6	ceramic	pot	2	8			12C
		slag		9	57			
		metal	stud	1	1			
		ceramic	pot	3	15	L11C	M14C	
		ceramic	pot	1	1	12C		
		ceramic	pot	2	2	L11C	M14C	
2091	2092 Linear Ditch 8	ceramic	pot	1	2	L11C	M14C	12C
		ceramic	pot	1	1	12C		
2097	2098 linear	ceramic	pot	2	5	L11C	M14C	12C
2111	2112 Linear Ditch 6	ceramic	pot	1	1	L11C	M14C	12C
		ceramic		1	4			
2144	2145 Structure 1	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	1	13C	15C	13C
2212	2213 Structure 3	ceramic	pot		2			Medieval
2220	2221 Structure 3	ceramic	pot	1	7	12C		12C
		ceramic		1	17			
2224	2225 Structure 3	ceramic	pot	7	11	12C		12C
2232	2233 Structure 4	ceramic	pot	31	370	12C	13C	13C
2268	2269 Structure 3	ceramic	pot	5	40	L11C	L12C	13C
		ceramic	pot	2	4	13C		

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.3 Environmental evidence (by Alan Clapham and Elizabeth Pearson)

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 4–5.

context	sample	residue assessed	flot assessed
2003	1	Yes	Yes
2008	2	Yes	Yes
2077	13	Yes	Yes
2077	14	Yes	Yes
2111	15	Yes	Yes
2111	16	Yes	Yes
2075	17	Yes	Yes
2127	18	Yes	Yes
2128	19	Yes	Yes
2129	20	Yes	Yes
2130	21	Yes	Yes
2125	22	Yes	Yes
2131	23	Yes	Yes
2131	24	Yes	Yes
2059	25	Yes	Yes
2115	26	Yes	Yes
2065	27	Yes	Yes
2065	28	Yes	Yes
2091	29	Yes	Yes
2136	30	Yes	Yes
2138	31	Yes	Yes
2140	32	Yes	Yes
2142	33	Yes	Yes
2148	34	Yes	Yes
2151	35	Yes	Yes
2146	36	Yes	Yes
2157	37	Yes	Yes
2160	38	Yes	Yes
2144	40	Yes	Yes
2029	41	Yes	Yes
2050	42	Yes	Yes
2164	43	Yes	Yes
2172	44	Yes	Yes
2174	45	Yes	Yes
2033	46	Yes	Yes
2158	47	Yes	Yes
2176	48	Yes	Yes
2194	49	Yes	Yes
2194	50	Yes	Yes
2192	51	Yes	Yes
2198	52	Yes	Yes
2125	53	Yes	Yes
2189	54	Yes	Yes
2200	55	Yes	Yes

Table 4 Samples processed and assessed

The forty-four samples analysed contained very few charred, waterlogged or mineralised plant remains and were in the main, dominated by modern rootlets. Seeds and cone bracts of silver

birch (*Betula pendula*) were also found in the majority of the contexts. The results are shown in Table 5.

Latin name	common name	habitat	2033	2075	2077	2111	2138	2140	2144	2148	2164	2176	2189	2194
Charred														
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	free-threshing wheat	F			+									
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	barley	F		+										
Cereal sp indet grain (fragment)	cereal	F	+		+							+	+	
<i>Avena</i> sp grain	oat	AF				+								
Waterlogged														
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	F									+			
Modern/waterlogged														
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> rachis	bread wheat	F					++		+	++		+		
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> palea/lemma	bread wheat	F								+				
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> glume	bread wheat	F					+			+				
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> palea/lemma	barley	F					+							
Cereal sp indet culm node	cereal	F							+	+++				
Cereal sp indet culm base	cereal	F								+				
<i>Rubus</i> sect Glandulosus	bramble	CD									+		+	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle	ABCD						+					+	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	C					+							
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	redshank	AB								+				
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	pale persicaria	AB								+				
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass	AB								+				
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	black bindweed	AB								+				
<i>Rumex</i> sp	dock	ABCD								+				
<i>Stellaria media</i>	common chickweed	AB								+				
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	corn spurrey	AD					+							
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat hen	AB					+			++				
<i>Cirsium</i> sp	thistle	ABDE								+				
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elderberry	BC						+	+					+
<i>Carex</i> sp (3-sided) nutlets	sedge	CDE								+				
unidentified straw fragments										++++				

Table 5 Plant remains

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 5

In some samples, small charcoal samples, too small to identify accurately were present but in small numbers. In those samples where larger fragments of charcoal were recorded, it was all of oak heartwood (*Quercus* sp).

A small number of samples did contain cereal grain remains (Table 5). All grains were present as single grains or fragments and included bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp).

Two contexts, fills (2138 and 2148) of postholes (respectively 2139 and 2149) within Structure 1, were different from the other contexts and were dominated by uncharred cereal chaff remains and weed seeds. It is likely that these contexts were contaminated with modern cereal crop debris from the field being excavated, as the features were at shallow depth below sub-soil. Other possible waterlogged remains, in this case of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), were also recorded from other contexts, and it is most likely that these were also modern contaminants.

5.3.1 Posthole fill (2138)

This context was dominated by bread wheat rachis fragments, other remains including barley paleas/lemmas, wheat glume fragments, fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*), and a fruit of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The presence of this last taxon suggests that there may well be modern contamination, or that the whole assemblage is modern in origin.

5.3.2 Posthole fill (2148)

This assemblage was similar to that of (2138) but in larger quantities, cereal culm nodes and internodes (straw) being very common, as were bread wheat rachis remains, including one articulated section. Cereal culm bases and wheat glumes and paleas and lemmas were also recorded. Weed seeds identified included chickweed (*Stellaria media*), fat hen, docks (*Rumex* sp), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) and redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), thistle (*Cirsium* sp), knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), and sedge (*Carex* sp).

6 Discussion and conclusions

6.1 Phasing

Dating of the features and thus the phases of activity was difficult (Fig 12), especially as there were very few finds recovered, either stratified within features, or even unstratified from the soils. The majority of the features, therefore, have no fixed date, leading to phasing being determined largely through stratigraphic relationships, association, and orientation. The only phase which is dated with any certainty is Phase 2e, to the 12th to early 13th centuries, comprising Linear Ditches 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and Structure 3, within the south-east portion of the site. The earlier phases (2a–d) and later phases (2f–g) cannot be assigned specific dates, although the time span of occupation of Phase 2 may have been relatively short, due to the similarity of feature orientations and fills, and the relatively short time span of the few finds. The site is, therefore, considered to have been a short-lived farmstead, consisting of small buildings within a series of paddocks or enclosures, with a possible peak of activity in the 12th to early 13th centuries.

6.2 Phase 2 (mid/late Saxon–medieval features)

A small farmstead (Area 2) was established alongside an Anglo-Saxon *Stræt*, comprising small enclosures, possibly paddocks, and four buildings (Structures 1–4). It was occupied from an undetermined late Saxon date through into the medieval period, with some seven phases of activity identified, of which only one (Phase 2e) could be more precisely dated, to the 12th to early 13th centuries (includes Structure 3). Many of the ditches appear to respect the other features, and are often realignments or re-cuts of the earlier ditches, indicating that the earlier features remained visible in the landscape throughout this occupation. The buildings have evidence of repair or rebuilding, and although of apparent low status (i.e. small building size and minimal material culture), its location adjacent to Earl's Court Farm moated site indicates that it may have been connected to a higher status function.

Generally no positive features were identified within Area 2, such as floor surfaces, hearths or walls, the exception being Structure 2, where possible spreads of material were recorded (see below). Excavations at Deansway, Worcester, revealed evidence of late Saxon to late 13th/14th century post-built structures, although their exact plans were generally difficult to determine due to

later truncation (Dalwood and Edwards 2004, 83–4; Worcester City Council 2007, 52). It is conjectured that the walls between the posts of Structures 1–4 would have been a wathy framework with clay-based (cob) coatings, but no definite evidence for this was found.

6.2.1 Building types

Structure 1

Structure 1 was represented by a cluster of postholes surrounded on three sides by a shallow linear gully (2175; Figs 5–6). The evaluation revealed this cluster of features (Foundations Archaeology 2006). In the subsequent open-area excavation, some of the features from the evaluation were no longer visible, possibly due to weather conditions and trample during evaluation. Features from both investigations were included when assessing the plan of the area.

Drainage gully (2175) enclosed a broadly rectangular area with rounded corners, looping around the north of the posthole cluster. It did not extend to the south.

Structure 1 appears to have been constructed with earth-fast posts, surrounded by the aforementioned drainage gully. The right-angle between the western and northern stretches of gully (2175) would suggest that it enclosed a rectangular structure. Most structures of this type in the Saxon period were rectangular (Wilson 1981, 84), often with weak corners (Marshall and Marshall 1991) without corner posts, and with doorways in the centre of the long side. Postholes (2028, 2139, 2141, 2149, 2152, 2154, 2156, 2159, 2161, 2163, 2167, 2169, 2171, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750 and 752), although not all necessarily exactly contemporary, are considered to form a rectilinear structure.

There was no clear position for a doorway, which would have been located to the south-west end or in the southern half of the south-east side, away from the drainage gully. Although it is not in the centre of the side, the 2m gap between posthole (2149) in the centre of the south-eastern side and (2165) form a possible entrance. If that is the case, then posthole (2156) must be later as a post in this location would have blocked such a doorway.

Postholes (2171 and 750) may be evidence of the repositioning of corner posts, elongated feature (2165) possibly being evidence of the deliberate removal of a post, which was superseded by posthole (2167). Postholes (2152, 2159) and elongated feature (2145) were probably associated with an internal structure, perhaps a partition.

Postholes (2141, 2149, 2167) and (746, 2154, 2028) form the long sides of the building, parallel to the western length of gully (2175) and fit neatly within the corners of the gully. Postholes (742) and (2161) form the furthest ends. This gives a structure 5.50m long and 3.10m wide (measured between the posthole centres), a ratio of 1:1.77 for length to width, which is the most common ratio identified (Marshall and Marshall 1991, fig 3). If the shorter rod unit of measurement (4.65m) is used, this gives a building of one and one-sixth rods by one-third of a rod, this fits with other recorded buildings of the mid/late Saxon period. However, if the longer rod (5.03m) is used, then the standard third and sixth division does not fit for Structure 1 (Huggins 1991).

In addition to the main structural posts listed, there are several postholes which have centres 0.25–0.40m from the wall line (744, 748, 752, 2139, 2156, 2163, 2169). These could represent later posts for supporting wall panels as the structure aged. As an alternative approach, Charles (1982) has suggested if the roof framework was constructed first, the irregularities in the pole lashed around the base of the roof would determine the (irregular) spacing and position of posts.

Structure 1 is the only one identified on the site which is of post-construction, set within a drainage gully. It is very similar in size to the two 12th century structures at Bickley, Cleeve, Somerset (Ponsford 2002), particularly Building 1 at Cleeve, with irregularly spaced posts, and some elongated or linked holes.

The gully (2175) was not simply an eaves drip gully, as it curves away from the structure to the south-east. There is also no evidence of the gully to the south. Measurements have shown that the ground is level across this area, and the base of the gully dropped 0.06m steadily from the east,

round the north of the gully to the south-west end, suggesting a drainage gully with a soak-away to the south-west. The subsoil at this end of the gully was noticeably sandy. There was also a drop in level from the east to the south-east extents of (2175) as the gully turned eastwards to channel the water further away from the structure where the underlying subsoil is richer in silt and poorly drained.

Structure 2

The evidence for Structure 2 consisted of shallow U-shaped trenches or beam slots, which also contained postholes (Figs 7–8). There were spreads of material within the trenches in this area. To the north, there were further spreads with distinct corners, which may define the northern limit of the structure, although the overall edges of this area were unclear, and there were no visible trenches or postholes. The structure was c 7.50 x 2.50m, with a doorway in the centre of the south-east side, between posthole (2193) and clay spread (2211) (Marshall and Marshall 1991).

This was a post and trench structure (Marshall and Marshall 1991) but there was no evidence of stake holes within the trenches, suggesting that plates or sill beams between the posts were used to support hurdles for the wall panels. The regular shaped spreads (2205) and (2209) within the structure are too localised to be a floor surface and may be the residue of daub layers from fallen wall panels, as the building fell into disuse.

Posts (2201) and (2190) are later than trench (2126) and posthole (2193), and with posthole (2207) may be a repair to the wall. The gap of 1m between (2193) and (2207) or (2211) and (2207) may be the reconstructed doorway.

The trench widths and general appearance of postholes within the trenches for Structure 2 are very similar to the 11th–early 12th century structure excavated at Hallow (Miller *et al* 2004, fig. 5). The overall length of the structure was similar in both cases, (assuming the length based on a central doorway in Structure 2), but, at 2.5m, Structure 2 is narrow, and was only about half that at Hallow. Such a ratio is also well above that for Saxon structures recorded in Marshall and Marshall (1991, fig 3).

The size of Structure 2 makes it unlikely that this was used as a dwelling, and it is more likely to have been a store. It is similar in width to a 9th century post-built structure excavated at Fladbury, Worcestershire, associated with a large adjacent oven (Peacock 1967; WSM 07819).

Structure 3

This was a beam and post-built structure, at least 6.5m long x 4.25m wide, with an internal partition, and defining an area of approximately 16m². The full extent of the structure and the length to width ratio could not be determined, as it extended beyond the eastern limit of the excavated area. Not only is it the only structure which could be accurately dated (i.e. 12th–early 13th century), but it was also the largest, as well as being associated with the group of small enclosures or paddocks (Curvi/Linear Ditches 8-13) defined by Linear Ditch 6 to the west.

Structure 4

This structure comprised beam slots with additional posts, both external and internal. The southern and eastern extents were not identified, the southern possibly being within part of Structure 3 (although it lay on a slightly different orientation). The area defined by the beam slots is 4.40m by at least 5.20m. If the external postholes to the north are included, this is 5.80m by at least 5.20m. Neither of these dimensions corresponds with the third and sixth rule for Saxon buildings for the shorter rod (4.65m), although the latter does for the longer rod (5.03m), at one and one-sixth (Huggins 1991, 6).

This structure is considered to be the last construction phase at the site (Phase 2g), although still orientated with the ditches to the north (Phases 2c-d) and west (Phase 2e), which indicates that they may have remained open to some degree throughout later activity.

6.3 Environmental remains (by Alan Clapham and Tom Vaughan)

Forty-four environmental samples were analysed for plant remains. In general, the flots were very poor in plant remains and were dominated by modern roots. Posthole fills (2138 and 2148) contained uncharred remains of what appears to be threshing debris, due to the presence of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) rachis fragments, including 1 articulated rachis section (2148), and bead wheat glumes. It is doubtful whether these assemblages are of an archaeological nature however and may represent modern contamination. Some of the samples contained small amount of charred cereals and cereal fragments, and there was also fig (*Ficus carica*) (2164), together perhaps representing some evidence for medieval cultivation practice.

6.4 Artefacts (by Derek Hurst)

Though the artefactual assemblage was small, it contained pottery of particular significance due to the presence of a possible early–mid Saxon sherd, the narrow date range of the main period of activity (12th–early 13th century), and the presence of a medieval fabric type (Newbury wares) not previously identified within Worcestershire. As such, therefore, it constitutes an important group for the area in terms of wider pottery studies in the region, and to be able to claim so much for such a small assemblage is certainly unusual. Less fortunately this material was in a generally poor physical state. Otherwise, however, the assemblage was too poor to provide any basis for any wider speculation about the status and more detailed function of the site.

There have been surprisingly few signs of 12th century activity on rural sites in Worcestershire (eg Cotswold ware from Fortey Green in Hanley Castle; Hurst 1994, 125), though this could still be more a function of the relatively small amount of fieldwork that happens within village settlements, rather than a sign of a real absence. However where this material has been found so far it is usually in the vicinity of a moated site, as is the case at Earl's Court, and as is suspected at Fortey Green (Griffin and Hurst 2011, 11).

7 Research frameworks (by Derek Hurst and Tom Vaughan)

Previous studies, generally of place-names and topography, have suggested that hamlets and farmsteads within a landscape of woodland and pasture formed the basis of Worcestershire's settlement pattern throughout the late Saxon and medieval periods, although nucleated villages existed in the south-east of the county before the Norman Conquest, and continued to develop there and in the lower Severn Valley. It was also established that most settlements declined to some extent between the 14th–16th centuries, while some were wholly abandoned (Hooke 2002, 3; Bryant 2003, 1-3; Miller *et al* 2004, 3). The present site fits well within the landscape of small farmsteads and hamlets, but fell out of use sometime before the wider decline.

There are only two other recorded findings of rural buildings of late Saxon and earlier medieval date within the county: at Hallow and Fladbury. Earl's Court Farm, therefore, adds substantially to the information about rural settlement in this part of the Midlands.

By far the largest quantity of medieval finds have so far come from urban contexts, and there is recognition that much rural settlement has not been explored in terms of archaeological material, and where pottery has been examined for moated sites this has often only been to date the moat itself (Mellor 1994, 7). The Earl's Court site, therefore, makes a disproportionately (given its small size) important contribution. It is notable how thinly this material was spread, and how indistinctive much of the material was, especially if in degraded condition, so suggesting that great care and extensive sampling is needed in the excavation of such sites in future.

The findings from this site feed significantly into a number of identified research areas; 'The agricultural hinterland in the Anglo-Saxon period' (Worcester City Council 2007, 55, Research Priority 4.21); 'Continued search for evidence of all forms of early medieval rural settlements...' (Hooke 2011, 167, number six); the question of rural settlement origins, fluidity, desertion and/or shrinkage (Hunt 2011, 178-9); and the study of medieval material culture (*ibid* 2011, 188). In

contrast, however, the environmental remains from the site were determined to be poor and potentially contaminated, and so do not share this significance (Hooke 2011, 167, number nine).

8 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on behalf of Redrow Homes in two areas at Earl's Court Farm, Bromyard Road, Dines Green, Worcester (centred on NGR ref SO 8234 5482; HER references WCM 101841 and 101862).

There was a background scatter of prehistoric worked flint and Roman (and possibly mid Saxon) pottery, but the earliest dated structural remains were late Saxon at the latest. At the south end of the site there was a small farmstead, established alongside an Anglo-Saxon Stræt, which consisted of small enclosures, possibly paddocks, and four buildings (Structures 1-4). Started by the late Saxon period it was occupied through into the medieval period, with some seven phases of activity identified, of which only one (Phase 2e) could be more precisely dated, to the 12th–early 13th centuries (including Structure 3). Most of the site features seem to respect each other, and are often realignments or re-cuts of the earlier ditches, indicating that the earlier features remained visible in the landscape throughout the occupation period. The buildings have evidence of repair or rebuilding. Although of apparent low status (i.e. small building size and minimal material culture), its location adjacent to Earl's Court Farm moated site indicates that it may have been connected with a higher status function.

Generally no positive features were identified with the farmstead, such as floor surfaces, hearths or walls, the exception being Structure 2, where possible spreads of material were recorded. Elsewhere across the site there were just shallow post-medieval and modern linear ditches of low significance.

Though the artefactual assemblage was small, it contained pottery of particular significance due to the presence of a possible early–mid Saxon sherd, the narrow date range of the main period of activity (12th–early 13th century), and the presence of a medieval fabric type (Newbury wares) not previously identified within Worcestershire. As such, therefore, it constitutes an important group for the area in terms of wider pottery studies.

Environmental sampling demonstrated little potential for archaeological plant remains, apart from a few charred remains of cereal grains. Uncharred seeds in some samples suggested modern contamination was also likely. Cereals and fig may, however, give some indication of cultivation practice.

9 Acknowledgements

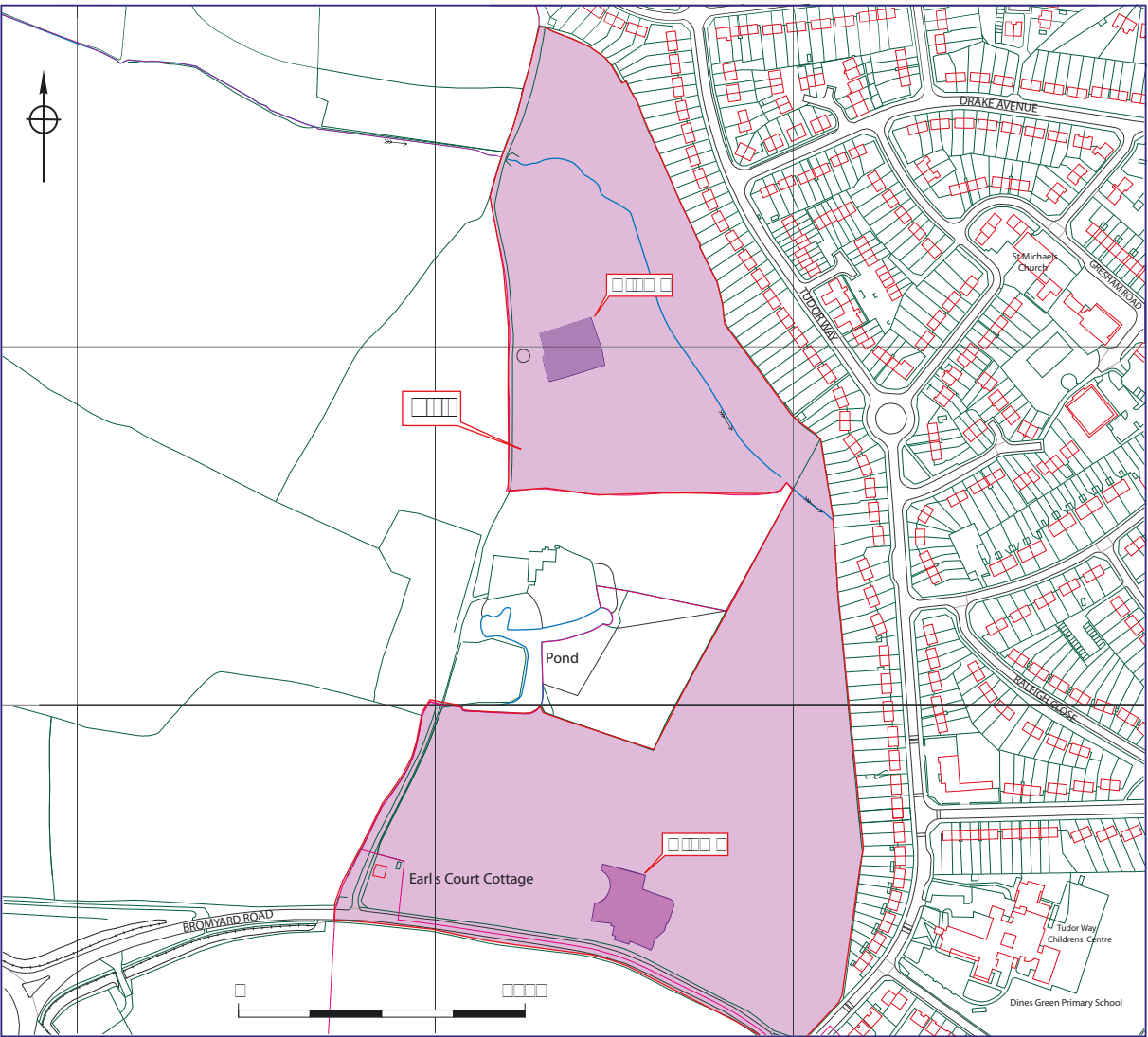
Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: David Bent (Design Manager, Redrow Homes Ltd), James Goad (Halcrow Group Ltd) and James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council). Derek Hurst is grateful to Lorraine Mephram for confirming the identification of the Newbury wares, and also commented on the final report draft.

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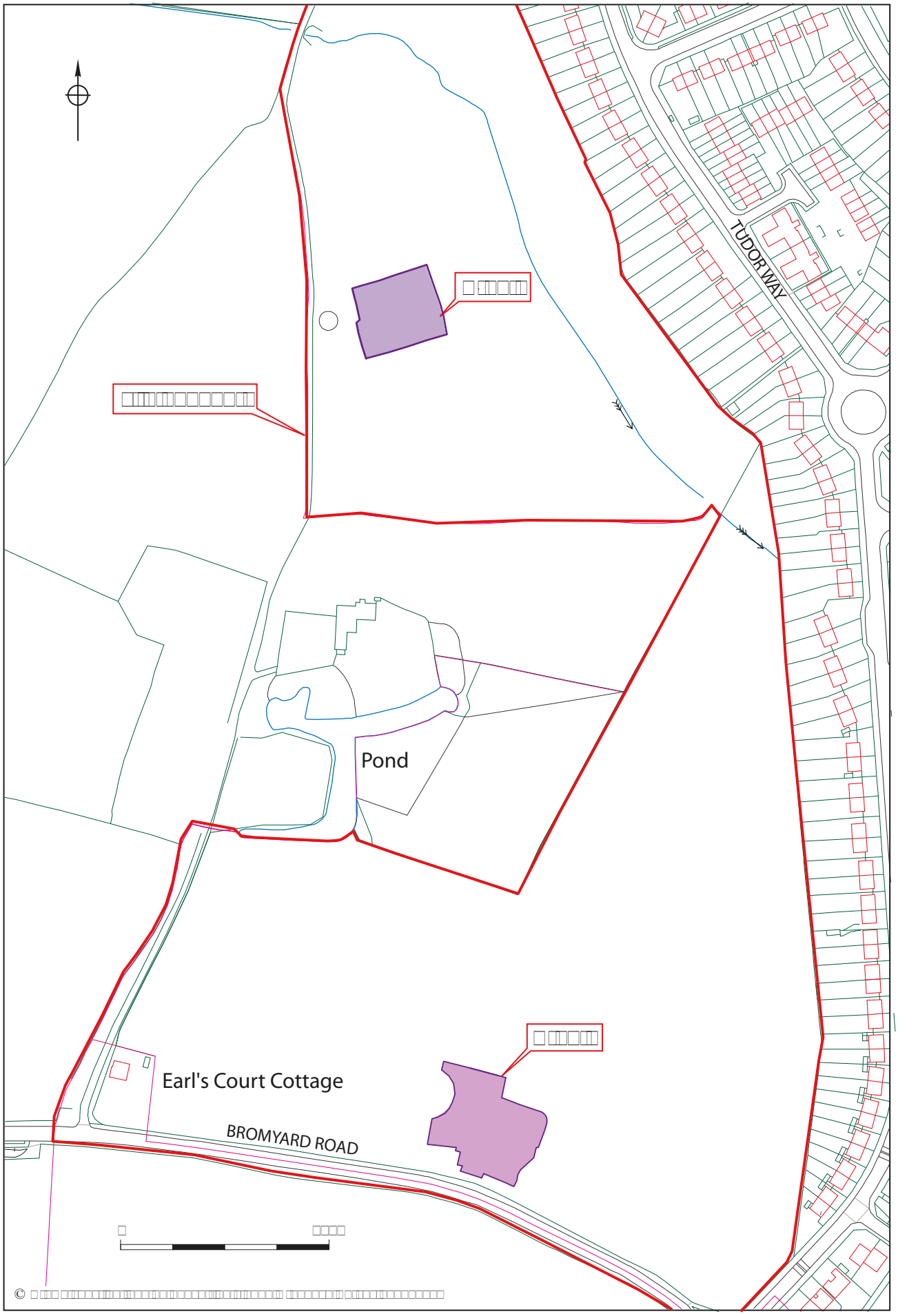
Figures



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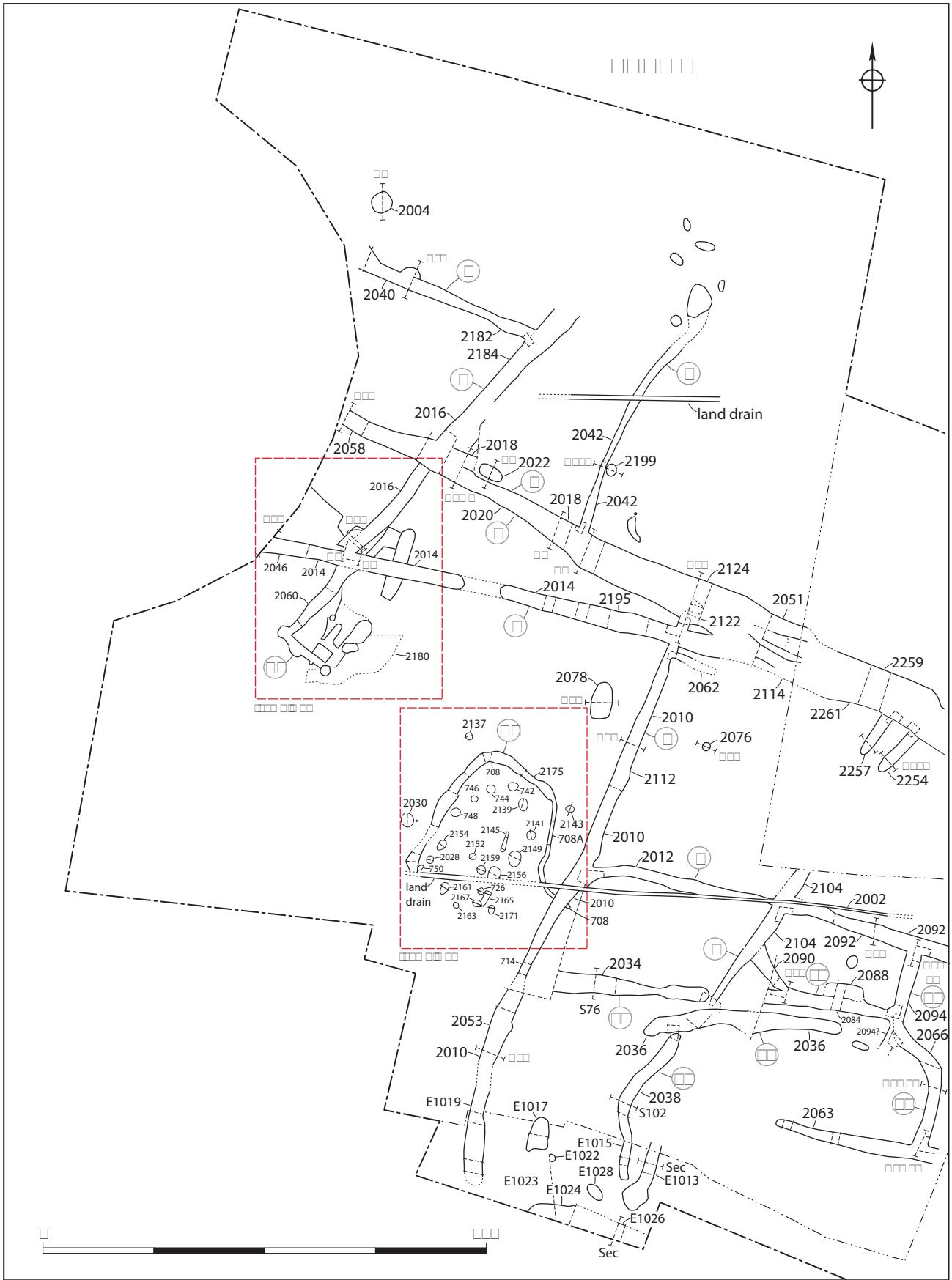
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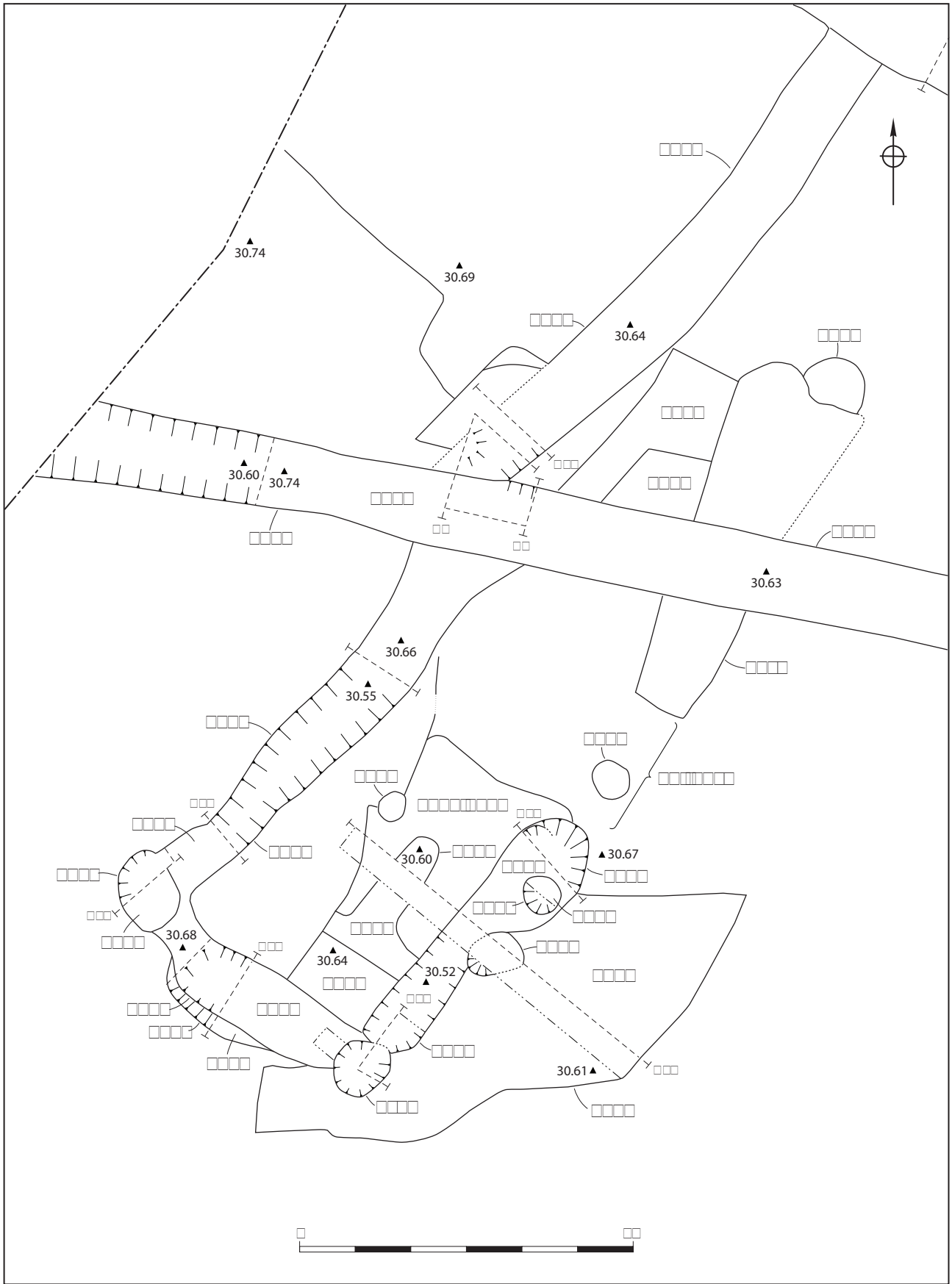
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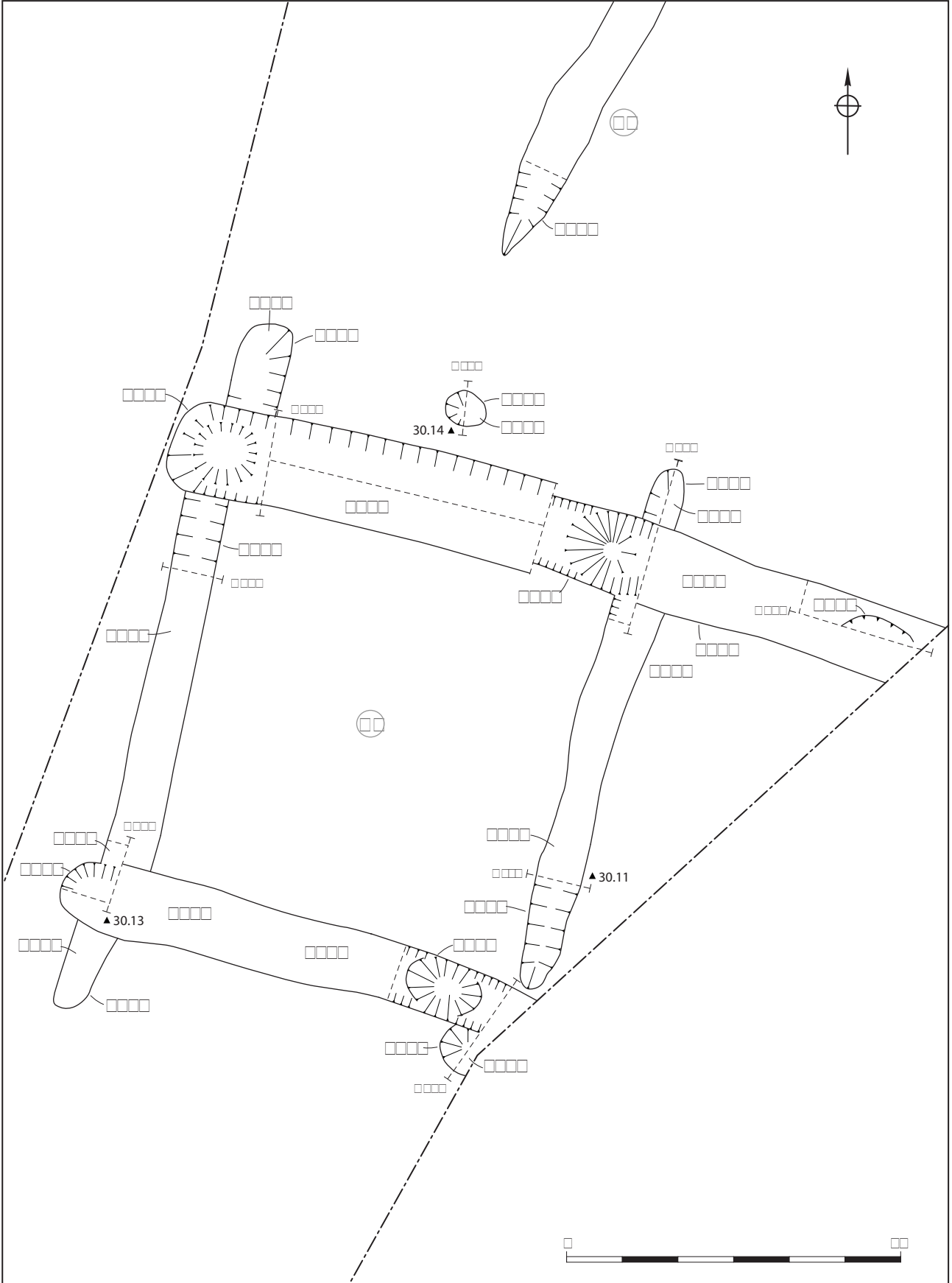
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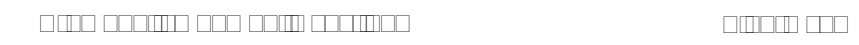
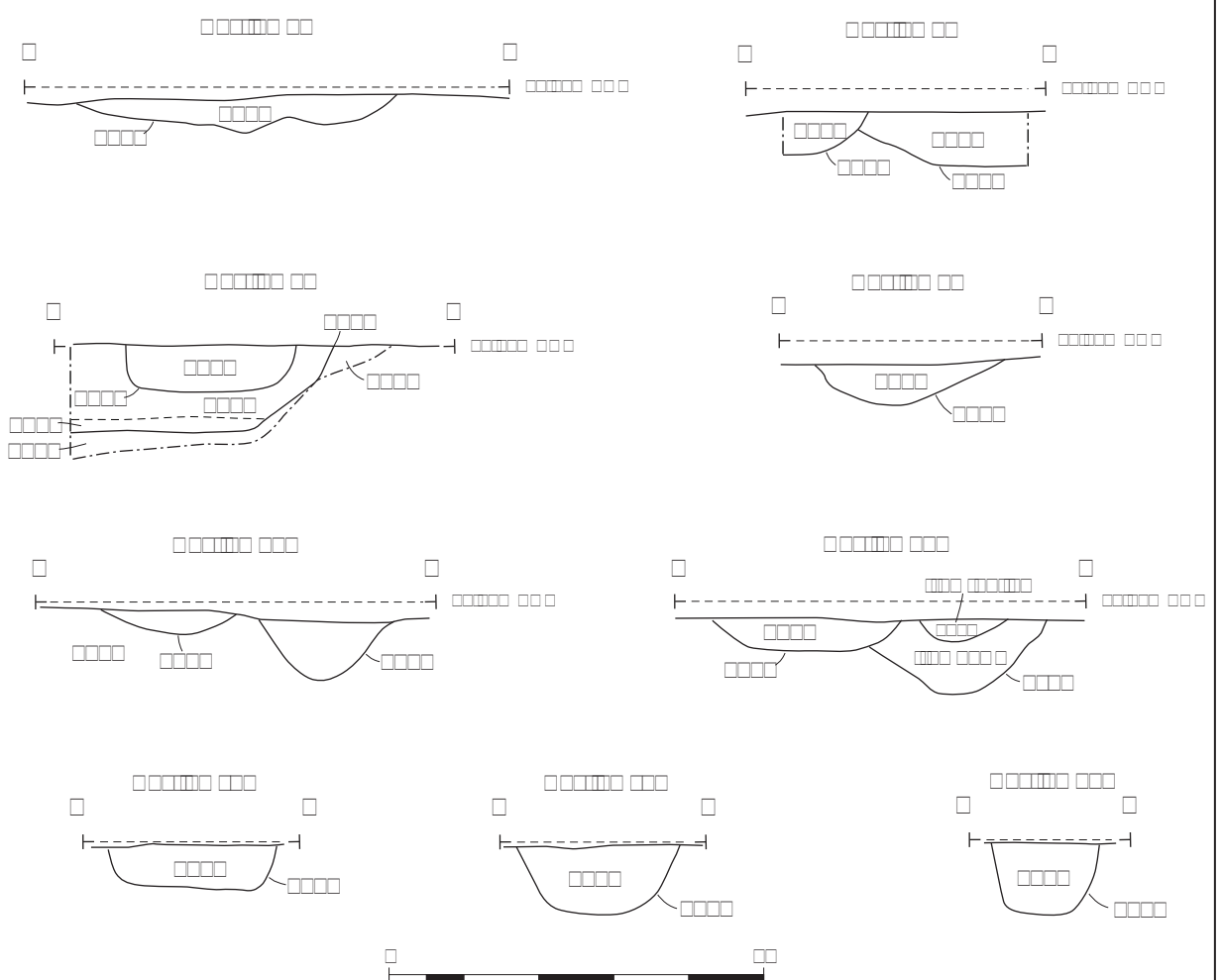
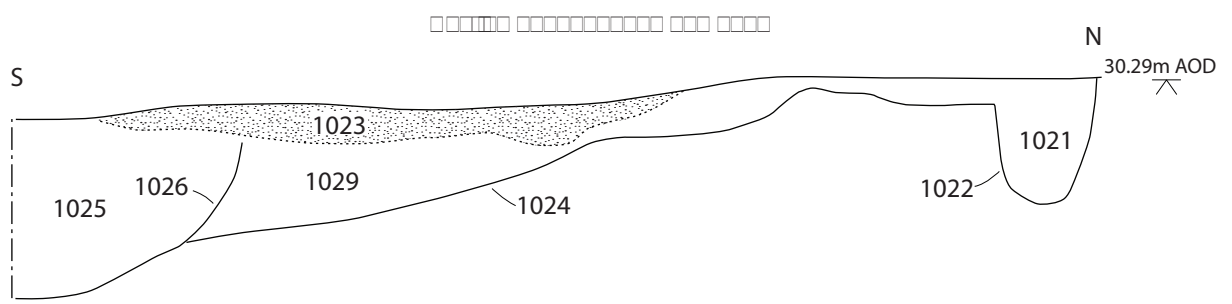
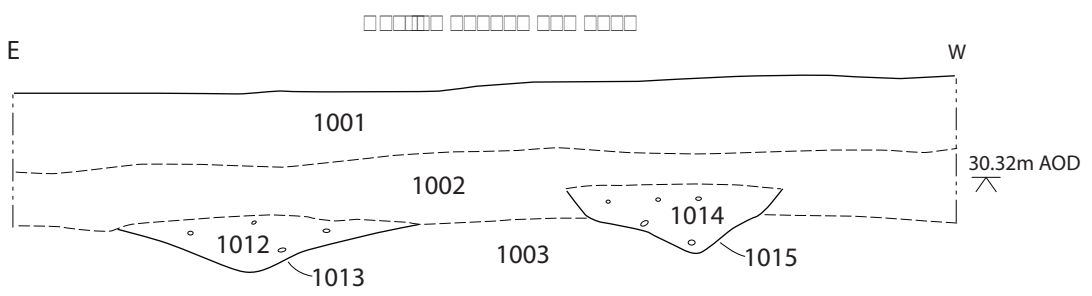
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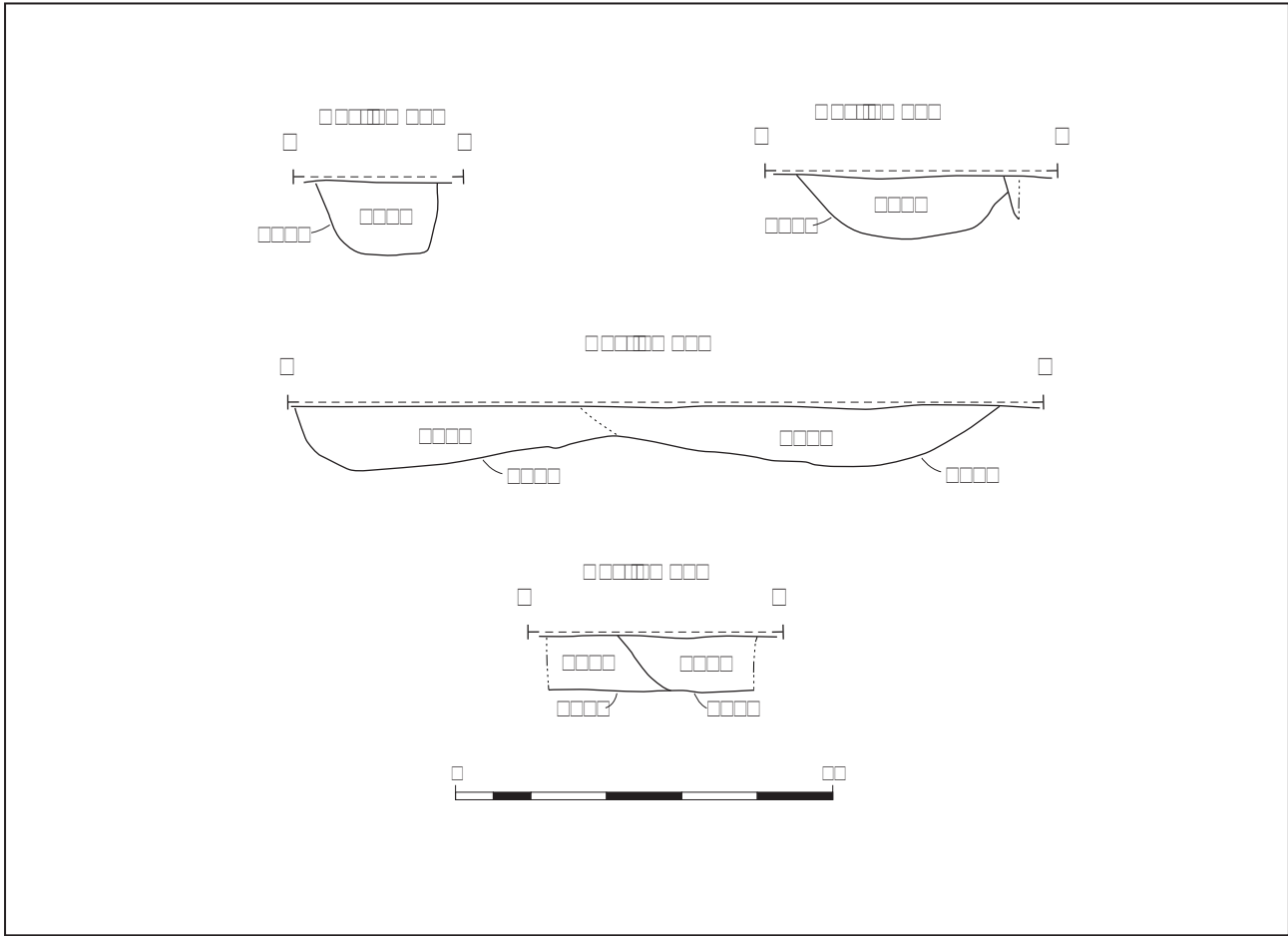
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Plates



Plate 1 Pit (2004), view east



Plate 2 Intersection of Linear Ditch 2 (2016, right), Structure 2 (2060, left) and Linear Ditch 7 (2014, background), view west



Plate 3 Parallel linear ditches (2254 and 2257), truncated by Linear Ditch 3 (2261) in background, view north-east



Plate 4 Structure 2, gullies (2060, left, excavated) and (2197, right, unexcavated), view east



Plate 5 Structure 2, posthole 2193 in terminus of beam slot 2126, view south



Plate 6 Linear Ditch 3 (2018, right), Linear Ditch 5 (2020, left) and posthole (2022, foreground) view west



Plate 7 Structure 1 during site strip, general view north



Plate 8 Structure 1 general view south



Plate 9 Pit 2078, view north



Plate 10 Linear Ditches 6 (2010 diagonal) and 8 (2012, foreground), with modern field drain to left, view west



Plate 11 Linear Ditch 6 (2053), view north



Plate 12 Linear Ditches 10 (2094) and 11 (2084, left), view north



Plate 13 Linear Ditch 12 (2034 foreground), Curvilinear Ditch 15 (2036, right) and Linear Ditch 9 (2014, background, left), view east



Plate 14 Curvilinear Ditches 13 (2038, background) and 15 (2036 foreground) view south



Plate 15 Structure 3 intersection of beam slots (2213/2221; east to west) and (2215; north to south aligned), view east



Plate 16 Structure 3 intersection of beam slots (2215; north to south) and (2217; east to west), view east



Plate 17 Half-section through Linear Ditches 2 (2016; right) and 7 (2014; left), view west



Plate 18 Section through Linear Ditches 3 (2051; right), 5 (2049; middle) and 7 (2044; left), view west



Plate 19 Half-section through Curvilinear Ditch 14 (2066; left) with (2063) unexcavated to left, view north-west



Plate 20 Section through ditch (2090; left) and half-section through ditch (2084; right), view east



Plate 21 Section through gully (2098; north to south), truncating shallow ditch (2092); east to west) and circular pit (2188), view north



Plate 22 Gully 16 (2237), view east-south-east



Plate 23 Gully 17 (2231/2233), view south-south-west



Plate 24 Posthole (2239), view east



Plate 25 Posthole (2243), view east



Plate 26 Undated pit (2022), view east



Plate 27 Undated posthole (2076), view south



Plate 28 Area 1 general view north-east



Plate 29 Area 1 ditches (1010 and 1012), view west



Plate 30 Area 1 ditch (1014), view west



Plate 31 Area 1 gully ditches (1023 and 1025), view west



Plate 32 Detail of St John in Bedwardine map by John Doharty the elder, c 1732

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Area 1

Context no	Context type	Feature type	Description	Height / depth
1000	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil and subsoil removed by machine prior to excavation	
1001	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of linear orientated E-W. Re-excavated from evaluation in 2006 with hand tools in damp conditions. Reinterpreted as tree rooting. Rare CBM finds redeposited within the backfill of the evaluation trench. Not retained.	0.2m
1002	Cut	Tree bowl	Cut of E-W linear from 2006 Evaluation reinterpreted as tree rooting.	0.20m
1003	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of the remains of a burnt tree stump. No finds. Undated	0.70m
1004	Cut	Tree bowl	Irregular shaped remains of a burnt tree stump.	0.70m
1005	Fill	Ditch	Sterile fill of ditch cut [1006]	0.12m
1006	Cut	Ditch	Ditch terminus. No dating evidence. Filled by (1005). Possibly continues West similar to ditch [1025].	0.12m
1007	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of tree bole or truncated pit [1008]	0.08m
1008	Cut	Tree bowl	Almost circular shape in plan, with gradual TBOS, concave sides, gradual BBOS, and a gently undulating base. Probably an ancient tree bole with a leached, almost mineral fill (1007). Much less convincing as a truncated pit, despite its regular shape.	0.08m
1009	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of tree bole [1010]. Not fully excavated. Undated	0.32m +
1010	Cut	Tree bowl	Cut of irregular tree bole.	0.32m +
1011	Fill	Linear	Sterile, homogenous fill of linear, naturally silted up. North end of feature is heavily disturbed by bioturbation. Hand excavated with a low chance of contamination.	0.31m
1012	Cut	Linear	Cut of shallow, narrow straight-sided linear with a moderate TBOS, concave sides, a sharp BBOS and a rounded base. Truncated by bioturbation. At the northern edge there is a possible parallel linear to the north between 1010 and 1012 but this remains unclear	0.31m
1013	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with frequent root disturbance throughout and rare possible medieval pottery. Filled by natural silting up of ditch rather than deliberate backfilling.	0.25m
1014	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a truncated TBOS, steep sides, rounded BBOS with a concave base, orientated NE - SW. Sondage in linear believed to be medieval in origin. Continuation of linear exposed during evaluation by foundation archaeology [2408].	0.25m
1015	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch with 1 broken flint arrowhead within the fill and a stony base. Some rare cracked stone but not through to be as a result of burning. Some natural rooting and redeposited natural sand, possibly due to slumping. Filled by natural siltation	0.20m
1016	Cut	Ditch	Sondage through linear ditch with possible medieval origin with a truncated TBOS, irregular sides, a rounded BBOS and an irregular base possibly due to root damage or slumping of the natural sands.	< 0.20m
1017	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil overlying all other contexts on site. Removed by machine prior to excavation. See also 1000. Frequent rooting, rare pebbles in all shapes and sizes with very rare small rounded and sub-rounded stones, rare modern cbm and rare post medieval tile an	0.20 - 0.30m
1018	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil over site with rare rooting, pea grit, pebbles and charcoal flecks. Excavated by machine prior to excavation and cleaned by hand with trowels. No finds	0.20m max

Earl's Court Farm, Bromyard Road, Dines Green, Worcester

1019	Layer	Natural	Natural silty clay with rare pea grit. Deposited by fluvio-glacial low energy movement. The natural changes composition moving up the ridge and becomes more sandy.	0.30m +
1020	Layer	Natural	Natural slightly stony clay with rare pebbles in all shapes and sizes. Colour becomes bluer and composition more compact and stonier with greater depth. Appears to be mainly confined to hollow of sondage in NE corner of Area 1, gradually thinning and end	0.28m +
1021	Layer	Natural	Re-deposited Natural from a modern machine cut for a service trench or drainage - see [1033]. Poor clarity with frequent pea grit and rare pebbles. Excavated by machine and cleaned by hand using trowels. No finds.	up to 0.22m
1022	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear 1023 with occasional small to large sub-rounded and rounded pebbles with occasional charcoal. Excavated by hand with a trowel in dry sunny and cold conditions. Pottery and cbm recovered from the fill.	0.28m max
1023	Cut	Linear	A U-shaped linear gully or ditch running east-west, parallel with [1025]. Linear with rounded ends and corners, a sharp TBOS in the north and south, a gradual TBOS in the East, concave sides, a sharp to gradual BBOS and a rounded base. Truncated by later	0.28m max
1024	Fill	Linear	Fill of shallow linear with occasional rounded and sub-rounded small to large pebbles. Hand excavated with a trowel in dry sunny and cold weather conditions.	0.04m
1025	Cut	Linear	Shallow ditch or gully linear running parallel to gully 1023 orientated East-West with a gradual TBOS, concave sides, gradual BBOS and a flat to slightly concave base. Possibly truncated by later cultivation activity on site.	0.04m
1026	Fill	Tree bowl	Natural fill of tree bole with a few small gravels. Unexcavated as it had already been half-sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in the 2006 evaluation.	Unexcavated
1027	Cut	Tree bowl	Irregular but broadly sub-circular natural tree bole. Recorded by Foundations Archaeology during 2006 evaluation.	Unexcavated
1028	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of tree bole 1029. Unexcavated as it was already recorded and sampled by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation.	Unexcavated
1029	Cut	Tree bowl	Irregularly shaped, partially exposed tree bole that was previously sampled by Foundations Archaeology. Our present excavation shows that feature continues for more than 1.90m North and is more irregular in plan than it appeared in the evaluation	
1030	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of tree bole with common small gravels, sampled by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. The original slot was re-excavated and the continuation of the feature to the west identified in plan.	0.27m
1031	Cut	Tree bowl	Tree bole, partially exposed in extension to Foundations Archaeology Trench 24 of 2006 evaluation and now extended further to the west to expose in plan. The tree bole has an irregular shape in plan with a gradual TBOS, generally concave sides, a gradual	0.27m
1032	Fill	Linear	Deliberate backfill of linear [1033] with occasional small to large sub-oval stones, charcoal flecks and tree roots. Also has inclusions of occasional copper flecking either from feature disturbed by the trench or redeposited from the subsoil. The fill is	0.81m +
1033	Cut	Drain	Machine cut modern drain linear with a sharp TBOS vertical, well defined, parallel sides, aligned East - West across site. Not fully excavated to base. Deliberately filled with red sand and redeposited natural across the site.	0.81m +
1034	Fill	Ditch	Tertiary fill of 1035. Extends well beyond original cut on both sides.	0.14m
1035	Cut	Ditch		
1036	Fill	Ditch	A roughly even mixture of light greyish brown clay silt and mid reddish brown silty sand, with a few small gravels. Secondary fill of fill ditch.	0.12m
1037	Fill	Ditch	Primary fill of field ditch 1035 with blue colour indicating seasonal waterlogging. CBM within the fill.	0.46m

Area 2

Main deposit description

Excavation Area

Context no	Context type	Feature type	Description	Height / depth
2000	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil and sub-soil removed by machine.	
2001	Fill	Field drain	Fill of E-W land drain [2002] with common small to medium fragments of brick & tile, fewer sherds of pottery and fragments of clinker and probably sealed by (2004)	
2002	Cut	Field drain	A linear land drain with sharp TBOS, near vertical sides, aligned E-W, crossing Southern third of site, truncating Medieval features including "Soakaway" [708]. Notably truncated by TR7 evaluation trench.	>0.20m
2003	Fill	Pit	Upper fill of Pit [2004], a clay fill over fill (2008) with a plastic consistency (smears to touch), occasional quartz on interface with (2008), rare rounded stones (< 2cm) and frequent rooting. A diameter of 0.66m and truncated during machining	0.10m
2004	Cut	Pit	Cut of a small circular pit (0.66m diameter) truncated TBOS with vertical/steep sides, rounded BBOS and flat base. No dating evidence but clear clarity due to frequent charcoal and burnt stone & wood see (2003) and (2008). Initial thoughts are a possible	0.17m
2005	Layer	Modern Layer	Former plough soil consisting of strong blocky peds and a clear lower boundary. Removed by 360/JCB.	0.27m
2006	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil with common small gravels and weak blocky peds with a clear lower boundary. Apparently sealed along W-E Ex by 92004), a paler redder and less stony grit probably formed by alluviation. Elsewhere (2006). Is sealed by (2005) former ploughsoil.	0.2-0.24m
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	Fill	Pit	Primary fill of pit [2004] containing frequent charcoal, roots and burnt stones (5cm), occasional towards edges, including quartz. Frequent (<15%) sub-rounded and rounded fire cracked stones (<2cm). Possible fire pit but no dating evidence. Sample <2>, 30	
2009	Fill	Linear	Secondary fill of [2010], a shallow NNE-SSW linear, 0.70m width, >25.0m length. Containing occasional pea grit, rare rooting, rare charcoal, rare small-medium rounded pebbles and very rare large rounded pebble. Excavated by hand tools in cold damp conditions	0.11m
2010	Cut	Linear	Cut for a NNE-SSW linear with a sharp TBOS, steep slightly concave sides, concave BBOS, flat base (where visible), truncated by machining/cleaning and currently only excavated at this point to determine relationship with [2012] - contemporary. See (2009)	0.12m
2011	Fill	Linear	Secondary fill of linear [2012] a washed in fill as per (2009).	0.10
2012	Cut	Linear	Cut for E-W linear with sharp TBOS, steep sides, concave BBOS, slightly concave base and truncated by machining/cleaning. Good clarity on surface but poor with depth due to slumped re-deposited natural. As yet to be fully excavated, see (2009) for comment	0.12m
2013	Fill	Ditch	Fill of linear [2014] with occasional small-medium sub-oval and flattened stones and occasional charcoal fragments. Excavated by mattock/trowel in dry conditions. 0.70m wide with the stones along the edge of fill suggesting ditch sedimentation occurred gradually.	0.11m

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2014	Cut	Linear	E-W aligned linear with roughly parallel sides (slightly wider to East) and Width 0.70m. Sharp TBOS, moderately steep sides (about 60 degrees from horizontal), gradual BBOS to concave base. Cuts 2015 at Eastern side and located to North of structure, maybe	0.11m
2015	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [2016] with orange mottling, moderate inclusions of small-large sub-oval and flattened pebbles close to linear [2014]. Excavated by mattock/trowel in dry conditions. Stones throughout suggests high energy filling of ditch as no strong evidence	0.15m at sec line
2016	Cut	Linear	Cut for NNE-SSW linear with somewhat variable width (0.48-1.00m) widening at junction with [2014] and to N of [2020]. Gradual curve to E at N of site with a sharp TBOS, moderately steep sides, gradual BBOS to a concave slightly irregular base (more regular)	0.15 at sec 4
2017	Fill	Linear	Fill of [2018] containing charcoal smearing towards surface with V. occ small rounded pebbles, poor clarity with (2019) & (2015). Hand ex, dry, mild. Homogenous throughout, no finds, no backfilling or direction of in-filling evidence. Naturally silted low en	0.19m
2018	Cut	Linear	Cut for shallow boundary ditch aligned E-W and width 0.85m, with moderate TBOS to N side, truncated by [2020] S side irregular sides, imperceptible BBOS and base (cut by [2020]). Truncated by 2006 Eval Trench. Possible primary phase re-cut by [2020] and r	0.19
2019	Fill	Linear	Fill of [2020] (0.60m wide) containing occ charcoal patches, against Northern edge and very occ small pebbles. Hand ex in dry lukewarm conditions. Clarity with (2017) is unclear and hard to define. No backfilling or dump lines. Natural silting and lack o	0.27m
2020	Cut	Linear	Cut of E-W linear (0.60m wide) with sharp 60 degrees TBOS, concave sides, sharp BBOS, concave rounded base and partially truncated by 2006 eval trench 7. The shallow narrow characteristics of the linear suggest a boundary ditch and 11th/12th century pottery	0.27m
2021	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit [2022] containing v. occ small rounded pebbles. Good clarity with natural (2007) and hand ex in mild dry conditions. A homogenous fill with no finds and naturally silted.	0.19m
2022	Cut	Pit	Cut of oval pit (1.20x0.56m) with sharp TBOS (75 degrees), concave sides, imperceptible BBOS, rounded base, aligned E-W and situated parallel to [2022] at end of linear [2018]. Its location to linears [2020] & [2018] suggest it may have a contemporary r	
2023	Fill	Posthole	Fill of possible posthole, later re-interpreted following further investigation as a natural pocket of fine grey sand.	
2024	Cut	Posthole	Cut for posthole later re-interpreted as a natural pocket of grey sand.	
2025	Fill	Linear	Partially excavated Primary fill of linear [2010] with a variable width (up to .20m on surface after machine truncation) containing frequent small pebbles of all shapes, rare small sub-rounded stones, rare charcoal flecks and rooting. Poor clarity on surf	unclear
2026	Fill	Linear	Primary fill of Linear 2012 with frequent small pebbles, rare small sub-rounded stone and rare rooting and charcoal flecks. Slumped, re-deposited natural not dated - no finds, but thought to be part of a medieval farmstead enclosure. Refer to 2009	0.03m
2027	Fill	Posthole	Fill of posthole 2028, identified within footprint of Foundations Archaeology TR7 2006 evaluation but not shown on their plan. Poor clarity between fill and natural, inclusions of a few small gravels. Half-sectioned with a trowel in dry and bright conditions	0.16m
2028	Cut	Posthole	Sub-circular posthole with a gradual TBOS, steep side on the west, more gradual on the east, with a gradual BBOS and a gently undulating base.	0.16m max
2029	Fill	Pit	Sterile fill of small pit 2029 with rare rounded and sub-rounded small stones and manganese and iron staining at the base of the cut from leaching. Poor clarity. Fill probably the result of natural silting process over a period of time.	0.26m
2030	Cut	Pit	Small pit that has been heavily truncated by previous cultivation and machining. Oval in shape with rounded corners, truncated TBOS, steep, sloping sides with a rounded BBOS and a concave base. Orientated NW-SE. Poor clarity and visibility of cut in surrounding matrix	0.26m

2031	Fill	Stake hole	Fill of stake hole with no inclusions and no dating evidence. Filled by natural silting process. No evidence of the original stake or physical removal of stake.	0.12m
2032	Cut	Stake hole	Cut of stake hole, circular in plan with rounded corners a truncated TBOS, steep tapering sides, an angled BBOS and a flat base. The tapered sides probably indicate the cut from the stake being hammered into the ground.	0.12m
2033	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with a plastic consistency, which is sticky to touch, occasional pottery and roots and rare charcoal. Very good clarity between natural and fill. Fill appears to be as a result of natural silting process over time. Dating evidence throughout	0.09m max
2034	Cut	Linear	Sondage through linear which has been heavily truncated on the surface by cultivation. The linear has a truncated TBOS with a steep angled side to the north and irregular sides to south, a rounded BBOS and an uneven base. Orientated East - West.	0.09m
2035	Fill	Linear	Primary fill of possible soakaway by analogy with 2151 ([708] in Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation). The fill has a few small gravels and charcoal fragments and flecks. There is no apparent relationship with the linear [2088] to the south.	0.16m
2036	Cut	Linear	Linear that is perhaps a soakaway by analogy with 2151 ([708] in Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation) with parallel sides and a rounded terminus, a gradual TBOS, concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a gently undulating base. Orientated ENE-WSW. Linear se	0.16m
2037	Fill	Ditch	Fill of linear ditch with occasional charcoal and small to large sub-rounded pebbles. Excavated by hand with a trowel in overcast, cold conditions. No finds present or samples taken. Undated.	0.09m +
2038	Cut	Linear	Linear ditch which terminates in a rounded end. The feature has a gradual TBOS, concave sides and was not fully excavated. Orientated NNE-SSW. Truncated by later cultivation. No physical relationship with 2036 but must be associated.	0.09m +
2039	Fill	Linear	Fill of E-W linear with a few small gravels. Paler than fills of medieval features and presumably earlier, an inference supported by one find, a sherd of abraded Roman Severn Valley ware. Sample number 8 (Point) and 9 (Representative).	0.10m
2040	Cut	Linear	Ditch which is linear in plan with parallel sides, a gradual TBOS, concave sides, gradual BBOS and a gently rounded base. Orientated East - West. The feature is shallow and probably represents a minor boundary in antiquity. Abraded Roman Severn Valley w	0.10m
2041	Fill	Linear	Shallow drainage ditch running N-S at right angles into a wider, deeper drainage ditch 2014 orientated E-W. Contemporary. No distinct difference between fills.	0.10m +
2042	Cut	Linear	Shallow drainage ditch running N-S into and E-W ditch [2014]. Linear ditch with a gradual TBOS, curved, concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a concave base.	0.10m +
2043	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear ditch with frequent pea grit, rare small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, rare charcoal fleck and rooting. Good clarity between fill and natural in section baulk. Undated. Sample 4 30 litres. Thought to be medieval due to ass	0.33m
2044	Cut	Linear	Linear with steep and sharp TBOS, moderate, slightly concave sides, a concave BBOS and a concave base. Orientated East-West. Truncated by machining with a notable bank of redeposited natural on the south side of the cut.	
2045	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch 2046 with occasional small to medium sub-oval stones, charcoal fragments and slag. A depression in the centre of the ditch fill is visible in the section bau k and indicates that the area was cultivated before the ditch was fully consolidate	0.23m
2046	Cut	Ditch	Cut of linear with moderately straight sides, a sharp TBOS moderately steep sides a gradual BBOS and a concave base. Aligned East to West. The linear is the southernmost of two almost parallel ditches which seem to form the northern edge of activity within	0.23m
2047	Layer	Layer	A bank associated with linear 2044 consisting of re-deposited natural when linear ditch was first created. Only visible in section. Truncated by machine out during removal of topsoil and subsoil on site. No finds dating layer but thought to be medieval du	0.15m

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2048	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with frequent pea grit and rare small to medium pebbles, charcoal flecks and rooting. Very rare small rounded stones. Truncated by machining of topsoil and subsoil on site. Recorded from the section. Function unknown but possibly related to	0.20m
2049	Cut	Linear	Cut for linear with a moderate TBOS, slightly concave sides, a concave BBOS and a flat base. Orientated East - West. Truncated by machine during removal of topsoil and subsoil on site. Poor clarity.	
2050	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with very occasional small rounded pebbles. Hand excavated in wet, mild conditions. Sterile, homogenous fill. Filled by natural silting process.	0.39m
2051	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a sharp TBOS, concave sides, imperceptible BBOS, and a concave base. Aligned East - West and truncated by machining of subsoil and topsoil on site. Thought to be a boundary ditch associated with linears 2044 and 2049 although relationship	
2052	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear feature 2010 at sondage 2053 with occasional pottery, slag and small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. One small metal pin or stud found. Fill looks to be the result of natural siltation process, with no signs of deliberate dumping of mat	0.14m
2053	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a truncated TBOS, gently rounded, sloping sides, a rounded BBOS and a concave to flat base. Orientated NE - SW. This feature is probably a field boundary of medieval origin.	0.14m
2054	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil below present modern topsoil. Very clean layer above a darker subsoil containing charcoal flecks. Unknown formation. No finds or samples	0.01m-0.05m
2055	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit 2056 with occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles, cut by ditch 2040. No finds. Not sampled.	0.31m
2056	Cut	Pit	Cut of pit which is sub-circular in plan, with rounded corners, a sharp TBOS, convex sides, with a sharp to gradual BBOS and a flat base. Truncated by ditch 2040.	
2057	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear in sondage 2058 with occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones and charcoal pieces. One piece of possible daub. Charcoal is evident throughout fill. Filled by natural siltation process. Good clarity of interface.	0.27m
2058	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a truncated TBOS, steep sloping sides, a rounded BBOS and a concave base. (U-Shaped ditch). Orientated NW - SE. Possible field drain or boundary.	0.27m
2059	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. Burnt sandstone within the fill. Filled by silts washed into the linear. The East - West alignment of 2060 shows a separation in fills and possibly denotes a partition wall was still present when 2059 was	0.12m
2060	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with parallel sides, a sharp TBOS, gently sloping sides, a gradual BBOS and a slightly concave base. Linear with right angle corner and postholes at south terminus and corner. Could have been beam slots for a rectangular structure.	0.12m
2061	Fill	Ditch	Fill of short, shallow linear with moderate inclusions of small rounded gravels. No finds or sampling.	0.22m
2062	Cut	Linear	Shallow V - shaped drainage ditch with steep angled TBOS, straight sides, a sharp BBOS and a pointed base. V-Shaped profile. Linear is cut by boundary ditch 2010. Edge of cut clear in plan and marked with a dotted line. No finds or samples.	0.22m
2063	Fill	Linear	Fill of E-W linear seen in plan when machining but has very indistinct edges and is hardly perceptible. Contained a few small gravels but no finds or sampling. Tested by box section. Probably very heavily truncated by later cultivation.	0.02m ?
2064	Cut	Linear	Cut of an East - West linear seen in plan during machining but profile is hardly perceptible and is only represented by a linear spread of soil which is slightly darker than the surrounding natural material.	0.02m ?
2065	Fill	Linear	Secondary fill of N-S linear 2066 with rare small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, rare rooting and charcoal flecking. Much more silty and less gravelly than the primary fill. Fill has been washed in on top of 2135. No finds dating the fill	0.18m

2066	Cut	Linear	Cut for a linear enclosure or soakaway around a building in angle formed by 2066 and 2064. Linear in plan with a sharp to moderate TBOS, steep, slightly concave sides, a concave BBOS and a concave base. Orientated North - South at the point of the sondage	0.18m
2067	Arbitrary number	VOID	Unexcavated tree throw	
2068	Arbitrary number	VOID	Unexcavated tree throw	
2069	Fill	Natural	The fill of a naturally occurring periglacial feature which is cut by 2072 which is an ice wedge	0.37m +
2070	Cut	Natural	A naturally occurring periglacial feature which is cut by an ice wedge 2072. Linear in plan and orientated East - West. Only partially excavated so profile is uncertain. Continues beyond limit of excavation.	
2071	Fill	Natural	Cut and fill of a periglacial feature with a sterile fill. Ice wedge.	0.24m
2072	Cut	Natural	Cut and fill of periglacial feature with diagnostic irregular edges and a undulating base.	0.24m
2073	Arbitrary number	VOID	Tree throw and rooting. Unexcavated natural feature.	
2074	Arbitrary number	VOID	Tree throw and rooting. Unexcavated natural feature.	
2075	Fill	Posthole	Fill of a post pipe after it has been removed or partially burnt with occasional charcoal and small pebbles. Within post hole 2076	0.20m
2076	Cut	Posthole	Cut of sub-circular posthole with a sharp TBOS, concave sides and a tapering to a rounded point. The posthole has a post-pipe 2075 and post backfill 2116 within it.	0.22m
2077	Fill	Pit	Fill of medieval pit with occasional small to large sub-rounded and rounded pebbles. Possible medieval pot within fill. Sample 13 and 14.	0.21m
2078	Cut	Pit	Cut of probable ovoid medieval pit with rounded corners, sharp TBOS in the north and gradual TBOS in the south. The sides are concave with a gradual BBOS and a dish shaped base. Orientated North - South. Truncated by later cultivation above.	0.21m
2081	Fill	Linear	See 2035	
2082	Cut	Linear	See context 2036 for details	
2083	Fill	Ditch	Fill of linear with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Excavated in very wet conditions, so water borne contamination possible. Truncated by later cultivation and machining. Formed by gradual natural siltation process. No evidence of obvious back-filling	0.08m
2084	Cut	Linear	Cut of parallel sided linear with a sharp TBOS, gently sloping sides and an imperceptible BBOS. It has a flat base and has been truncated by machining in the west and by later cultivation. Orientated East - West. Very poor weather conditions during excavation	0.08m
2085	n/a	VOID		n/a
2086	n/a	VOID		n/a
2087	Fill	Unknown	Fill of truncated feature comprised of humic soil and redeposited natural, with a few small to medium gravels. The two components are well mixed, perhaps indicating a deliberate deposition, rather than silting and weathering of the sides. Unknown function	0.15m
2088	Cut	Unknown	Truncated feature with a gradual TBOS gently sloping sides and a gradual BBOS with a flat base. The longest axis is orientated East - West. Unknown function of feature due to heavy truncation.	0.15m

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2089	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with moderate inclusions of small sub rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal. Excavated in very wet conditions so poor clarity and definition and possible water borne contamination. Appears to have been deposited by natural sedimentation	0.13m
2090	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear which curves Northwest to East and narrows to the East, with a sharp TBOS, steep sides a gradual BBOS and a concave base, sloping to the East.	0.13m
2091	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with moderate inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded and rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal. No finds. Sample 29 (40 ltr). Cut by pit 2188.	0.10m
2092	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a gradual TBOS concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a dish-shaped base. Orientated East - West. Truncated by later cultivation above. Several other ditches are contemporary, running North - South at right angles to this boundary or more li	0.10m
2093	Fill	Linear	Fill of either a truncated boundary or more likely a shallow drainage ditch or soakaway with a few small gravels. No finds. No samples.	0.11m
2094	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with parallel sides and a rounded terminus at the north end. The south end has been truncated. The linear has a gradual TBOS with concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a flat base. Orientated North to South. A truncated boundary or more likely a	0.11m
2095	Fill	Linear	Fill of drainage or boundary ditch with occasional small rounded pebbles. Excavated in	0.14m
2096	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a gradual TBOS smooth, curved sides, a concave BBOS and a concave base. Orientated East - West and running East into the limit of excavation. The western terminus is cut by [2098], visible in intersection 91 but not visible in plan.	0.14m
2097	Fill	Linear	Sterile fill of shallow North - South orientated linear with occasional small rounded pebbles. No finds. No samples taken.	0.11m
2098	Cut	Linear	NE-SW aligned drainage or boundary ditch with a right angled, sharp TBOS, straight sides, a sharp, angular BBOS and a slightly concave but nearly flat base (U-Shaped). Truncates ditch 2096 and cut through pit 2188.	0.11m
2099	Fill	Pit	See sheets for 2187, 2188 and 2191. Numbers duplicated.	n/a
2100	Cut	Pit	See sheets for 2187 2188 and 2191. Large pit. Numbers duplicated.	n/a
2101	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2102	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2103	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with occasional charcoal and sub-rounded and rounded small to medium pebbles. Heavily truncated by later cultivation from above. No section as only shallow profile remains. No finds or samples.	0.07m
2104	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear ditch running north - south, contemporary with 2092. Continues south but possibly not as far as 2034. Heavily truncated by cultivation from above. No profile available as only part of base survives. No section drawn. No finds. No samples.	n/a
2105	Natural	n/a	Variations in the natural	n/a
2106	Natural	n/a	Variations in the natural	n/a
2107	Natural	n/a	Natural periglacial feature	n/a
2108	Natural	n/a	Natural periglacial feature	n/a
2109	natural	n/a	Natural bioturbation	n/a
2110	natural	n/a	Natural bioturbation	n/a

2111	Fill	Linear	Sterile fill of linear with a few small gravels and good clarity with the natural ground. Two sherds of probable medieval pot found within fill. Samples 15 and 16. Possible truncation by later cultivation on site.	0.15m
2112	Cut	Linear	Minor linear boundary ditch with a gradual TBOS concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a slightly undulating base. Cut by land drain and possibly truncated by later cultivation on site. Orientated NNE-SSW.	0.15m
2113	Cut	Posthole	Cut of posthole in the southeast corner of a medieval building (context group 2114). The posthole cuts both 2060 and 2126. This may represent a later repair or rebuilding of the East side of building 2114. The posthole is circular in shape with a diameter	0.26m
2114	Structure	Building (group)	Medieval domestic building with three surviving foundation trenches and two associated post holes 2113 and 2126 are later in sequence and relate to a repair or rebuilding phase. 2126 is possibly truncated by 2180 and may either be connected to this later	n/a
2115	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole 2113 with occasional small rounded stones. No finds. Sample 26. Filled by natural siltation process. Part of medieval building (context group 2114).	0.26m
2116	Fill	Posthole	Backfill around postpipe. Primary fill of 2076 with occasional small rounded pebbles. No finds. No samples.	0.22m
2117	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear running east - west across the site with frequent Fe staining and small sub-angular stones. Rare medieval pottery within the fill. No sample taken.	0.17m
2118	Cut	Linear	Cut of East-West linear with a truncated TBOS, steep uniform sides, a rounded BBOS and a flat base. Possibly truncated by 2120 but not visible in plan or section. Cut only visible in section.	0.17m
2119	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with one small fragment of very abraded pottery found within the fill. Filled as a result of the natural siltation process.	0.15m +
2120	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a truncated TBOS, steep uniform sides, a rounded BBOS and a narrow concave base. (V-Shaped). Orientated North-South. Might be contemporary with 2118. Seems to cut 2121.	0.15m +
2121	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear ditch with heavy Fe staining towards the base. There is no dateable finds evidence within the fill at this sondage. Filled as a result of the natural siltation process. No samples.	0.31m
2122	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear feature with a truncated TBOS, gently sloping sides, an irregular BBOS and a concave base. Orientated East-West. Truncated by 2120. Does not appear to have a relationship with 2124 in this sondage.	0.31m
2123	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear ditch with occasional medieval pottery and rare flint. Filled as a result of the natural siltation process and not deliberately backfilled. No samples taken.	0.23m
2124	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a truncated TBOS gently sloping sides, a rounded BBOS and a flat base. Orientated East-West across site. This sondage is surrounded by interlinking linears but there is no evidence in the section that any truncation occurs at this point	0.23m
2125	Fill	Beam slot	Sterile fill of beam slot 2126 with rare small rounded stones. Poor clarity between fill and natural. No finds. Sample 22	0.20m
2126	Cut	Beam slot	Possible beam slot within medieval building structure (context group 2114). Cuts earlier slot 2060 and appears to be a rebuild or repair on the east side of 2114. 21267 is in turn cut by post hole 2113 and is also part of a later rebuild. To the east of 2	0.20m
2127	Layer	Natural	Natural sand with frequent gravels, cut by medieval building structure 2114.	N/A
2128	Layer	Floor	Possible internal floor surface of building 2114 with occasional gravels and small rounded stones. Poor clarity. Shallow in depth. Sterile, homogenous. Possible floor repair. No finds. Sample 19.	0.19m
2129	Layer	Floor	Possible internal floor surface of medieval building structure 2114 with rare small rounded stones. Very shallow and irregular in plan.	0.12m
2130	Layer	Floor	Same as 2128	0.19m
2131	Fill	Posthole	Backfill of posthole 2193 with occasional small rounded stones. No finds. Sample 23.	0.26m

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2132	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit 2180 with occasional small rounded stones and charcoal. No finds. Deliberately backfilled with bands and pockets of sand within the fill. Sample 24.	0.36m
2133	Fill	Linear	Fill of a linear with frequent pea grit and gravels. Orientated East - West. Fill washed in naturally over a period of time. No finds. No sampling. Initially thought to be a continuation 2064 but on excavation there was no relationship.	0.08m
2134	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a sharp to moderate TBOS, concave sides and a concave BBOS where vis ble. Not fully excavated so base unknown. Orientated East-West. Slightly truncated by machining of site. Poor clarity.	0.08m
2135	Fill	Linear	Primary fill of linear with frequent pea grit, and rare small sub-rounded small to medium pebbles. A slumped redeposited natural which is quite gravelly, noticeably at the south-east corner of a square shaped enclosure. No finds. No samples. See also comm	0.24m
2136	Fill	Posthole	Firm mid grey brown silt loam. Few gravels. Fill of 2137	0.28m
2137	Cut	Posthole	Sub-circular cut, gradual break of slope to north and west; sharper to south and east. North and west sides steep then near vertical. South and east sides near vertical. Filled by 2136.	0.28m
2138	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole 2139. No finds. Sample 31.	0.14m
2139	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole oval in plan with a gradual TBOS, concave sides, a very gradual BBOS and a flat base. Previously excavated by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation [732] section produced.	0.14m
2140	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole excavated by Foundations Archaeology during 2006 excavation.	0.11m
2141	Cut	Posthole	Posthole which is oval in plan with a gradual TBOS, concave sides a gradual BBOS and an undulating base. Excavated by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. Posthole 740.	0.11m
2142	Fill	Posthole	Sterile fill of post hole 2143 with small occasional gravels and rounded stones. Homogenous throughout. Good clarity with the natural. High likelihood of water borne contamination as the area was submerged under standing water for several days. Sample 33	0.22m
2143	Cut	Posthole	Cut of oval post hole with a sharp, almost right angled TBOS, flat, vertical sides, a right angled BBOS and a rounded base. This is possibly related with a building found within the Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation trench. Situated to the east of t	0.22m
2144	Fill	Linear	Fill of a short curved linear at the centre of the main occupation activity. Floor surface, hearth or pit linear in plan with moderate inclusions of small rounded pebbles. Sample 40 (10ltr).	0.04m
2145	Cut	Linear	Cut of a short rounded linear of unknown function with a gradual TBOS, curved or concave sides a gradual BBOS and a flat base. Orientated N-S. Possibly truncated by evaluation trench with a layer of backfilled topsoil (2178) overlying the west side of the	0.04m
2146	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole with a few small gravels. No finds. Sample 36	0.13m
2147	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole which is sub-circular in plan with a gradual TBOS, concave sides, a gradual BBOS and rounded base.	0.13m
2148	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole 2149 with a few small gravels. Previously half-sectioned by Foundations Archaeology during 2006 evaluation. Sample 34	0.10m
2149	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole which is sub-circular in plan with a gradual TBOS, concave sides and a gradual BBOS with a flat base.	0.10m
2150	Fill	Linear	Fill of curvilinear soakaway around post-built building with a few small gravels. Sample 42. Partially excavated by Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation. Fully excavated with mattocks and trowels during full excavation 2010. Recorded as gully 708 in evaluation	0.10m
2151	Cut	Linear	Cut of curvilinear soakaway around post-built medieval building with a gradual TBOS, concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a gently rounded to flat base. Encircles the post-built medieval building and occupation at the centre.	0.10m
2152	Cut	Posthole	Cut for post hole with a moderate TBOS, gradual, slightly concave sides, a concave BBOS and a concave base. Truncated by cultivation and machining of site.	0.08m

2153	Fill	Natural	Clean, sterile fill of feature originally interpreted as a post hole in Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation but re-interpreted as natural bioturbation by DM due to the nature of the fill and irregular shape of the feature. No finds or samples.	0.12m
2154	Cut	Natural	Cut of feature originally interpreted as a post hole in Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation but potentially bioturbation due to the nature of the fill and irregular shape in plan. The cut is an irregular, sub oval in plan, orientated SW-NE	0.12m
2155	Fill	Posthole	Sterile fill of post hole within a medieval building structure half-sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. No finds. Not sampled.	0.16m
2156	Cut	Posthole	Cut of sub-oval post hole with a sharp TBOS, straight sides, a sharp BBOS and a flat base. Truncated by a land drain in the SE corner. Half sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation.	0.16m
2157	Fill	Natural	Natural gravels - Same as 2007. Over cut of post hole during Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation. Natural sandy gravels	NA
2158	Fill	Posthole	Fill of feature originally interpreted as a post hole in Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation, but potentially bioturbation by DM due to the nature of the clean sterile fill. Sample 47 (10ltr).	0.16m
2159	Cut	Posthole	Cut of feature originally interpreted as a post hole by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation but potentially bioturbation due to fill and irregular form. Ovoid in plan with a steep TBOS, curved sides, an unclear BBOS and a concave base	0.16m
2160	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole within a medieval building structure. No finds. Sample 38. Half - sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation.	0.24m
2161	Cut	Posthole	Cut of oval post hole with steep sides and a narrow rounded base. No finds. Sample 38.	
2162	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole containing no finds. Sample 39 (10ltr). Half-sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation.	0.14m
2163	Cut	Posthole	Cut of sub oval post hole with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. Half sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. Sample 39 (10ltr)	0.14m
2164	Fill	Linear	Fill of short curvilinear gully close to the centre of medieval activities in the area. No finds. Sample 43 (10ltr). Orientated NE-SW. Truncated by posthole 2167 at the SW side. Half-sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. S	0.16m
2165	Cut	Linear	Short curvilinear gully with steep sloping sides and a gently rounded base, close to the centre of medieval activities. Orientated NE-SW. Truncated by post hole 2167 at the SW side. Half-sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation	0.16m
2166	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole with yellow mottling. Interpreted as part of linear 724 in Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation but reinterpreted as a separate post hole in full excavation. No finds or samples.	0.16m
2167	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole with a sharp TBOS, vertical apart from angled SSE side and a sharp BBOS with a flat base. The post hole truncates gully 2165. Not seen by Foundations Archaeology 2006 evaluation.	0.16m
2168	Fill	Posthole	Sterile fill of post hole. No finds. Not sampled.	0.10m
2169	Cut	Posthole	Rounded post hole with sloping sides and a rounded base.	0.10m
2170	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole. No finds. No samples.	0.08m
2171	Cut	Posthole	Sub oval post hole with gently sloping sides and a flat base that slopes slightly to the east. Orientated N_S. Previously half-sectioned and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. Interpreted as a gully by during evaluation	0.08m
2172	Fill	n/a	Duplicate of fill of pit / post hole 6168 (evaluation trench)	
2173	Cut	n/a	Duplicate of cut for pit/posthole 6169 (evaluation trench)	

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2174	Fill	Linear	Fill of curvilinear soakaway gully. Excavated and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. No finds recovered. Sample 45 (20 ltr).	0.13m
2175	Cut	Linear	Cut of curvilinear soakaway gully with a sharp TBOS steeply sloping sides a rounded BBOS and a rounded base. Previously excavated by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. See also 2151	0.13m
2176	Fill	Linear	Fill of curving linear feature with occasional small rounded pebbles. Adjacent to 2145 with a thin band of natural between the two cuts. Overlain by compressed backfill (2178) from original evaluation trench. No finds. Sample 48 (10ltrs).	0.06m
2177	Cut	Linear	Cut of a narrow short curving linear with a gradual TBOS, curved sides a sharp BBOS and a concave base. Orientated N-S. Possibly truncated by previous evaluation trench. Half-sectioned by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. Function unknown.	0.06m
2178	Layer	Modern Layer	Modern backfill of previous evaluation trench compressed into the top of two small linear features.	0.02m
2179	Cut	Floor	Irregular shaped cut of possible floor surface repair within medieval building 2114. The cut has a moderate TBOS, concave sides with imperceptible BBOS and an irregular base. Only seen in section. Not fully excavated.	0.19m
2180	Cut	Pit	Cut of a pit associated with building 2114 which is irregular in plan with a moderate TBOS, flat sides a gentle BBOS and a concave base. Excavated through soft sands and backfilled with clay possibly to stabilise structure 2114 which is constructed on sand	0.36m
2181	Fill	Ditch	Fill of shallow ditch 2182 with occasional charcoal and small to large sub-rounded pebbles. No finds. No samples.	0.04m
2182	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch with a truncated TBOS, concave sides, a gradual BBOS and a dish shaped base. Orientated E-W. Truncated by later cultivation on site. Same as ditch 2040 to the West.	0.04m
2183	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear with moderate sub-rounded and rounded small to large pebbles and occasional charcoal. No finds or samples.	0.10m +
2184	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with a truncated TBOS and concave sides that was not fully excavated. Orientated NE-SW, equates to 2016 to the south.	0.10m +
2185	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole with frequent medium sub-rounded and angular pebbles and gravels. No sign of sedimentation. May have been backfilled after post was removed.	0.17m
2186	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole which is oval in plan with rounded corners, a sharp TBOS, steep sides, a gradual BBOS to a flat base that slopes to the south. The post hole is cut through fill of linear 2060. This suggests that the post holes could represent a second phase of structure.	0.17m
2187	Fill	Pit	Secondary fill of large ovoid pit 2188 containing moderate redeposited sandy gravels and dark grey brown silts. Poor clarity with natural due to amount of redeposited material within the fill. Not sampled. No finds. Possibly contaminated as cut by linear	0.28m
2188	Cut	Pit	Ovoid pit with a sharp TBOS, straight sides, a right angled BBOS to a flat base. Cut into the natural gravels and at the water table.	0.30m
2189	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole 2190 with occasional small rounded stones. Fill appears to have washed in after post was removed or had decayed. Probably formed a structural post in the centre of wall within structure 2114. Sample 54. No finds.	0.20m
2190	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole which is elliptical in plan with rounded corners a sharp TBOS, steep sides and a gradual BBOS to a concave base. Post hole in the centre of eastern wall within structure 2114.	0.20m
2191	Fill	Pit	Primary charcoal rich fill of pit 2188. No finds or samples. Only limited amount survives.	0.02
2192	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post pipe with rare small rounded stones and a good clarity with 2125 and 2131. Deposited through natural silting after the removal of the post. No finds, homogenous throughout. Sample 51.	0.31m
2193	Cut	Posthole	Cut of post hole which is circular in plan with a sharp, right angled TBOS, almost vertical sides, a sharp BBOS and a rounded base. Post hole partially cuts terminus of beam slot 2126 at its northern end. Cut contains two fills including primary backfill	0.31m

2194	Fill	Linear	Fill of linear ditch with occasional small to medium sub rounded stones and charcoal fragments. Same as linear fill 2013. Pottery finds provisionally dated to the medieval period. Sample 49 (10ltr), 50 (30ltr).	0.10m
2195	Cut	Linear	Cut of linear with parallel sides, a sharp TBOS, moderately steep sides, a gradual BBOS and a concave base. The same as 2014. Aligned E-W across site.	0.11m
2196	Fill	Beam slot	Fill of linear 2197 consisting of redeposited sands and clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. It is not obvious whether it was deliberately backfilled or naturally silted. Might be a backfilled beam slot of the initial phase of the structure.	0.18m
2197	Cut	Beam slot	Cut of a linear with forms the south wall of structure 2114. Possibly a beam slot from the first phase of the building which has been backfilled with redeposited natural and clay. Recut by 2060 in a later phase. The cut has parallel sides, a sharp TBOS,	0.18m
2198	Fill	Tree bowl	Fill of pit or more likely a charred tree root throw with moderate inclusions of charcoal and occasional small pebbles. Contains some redeposited natural sandy gravels. Sample 52 (10ltr). No finds.	0.05m
2199	Cut	Tree bowl	Cut of small post hole or more likely a charred tree root throw which is irregular / sub-circular in plan with rounded corners, a gradual TBOS, concave sides, imperceptible BBOS and an undulating base. Truncated by cultivation from above. Unknown relation	0.05m
2200	Fill	Post Hole	Fill of post hole 2201 with frequent small to large sub-rounded stones. No finds. No samples taken. May have been the fill of a replacement post hole in a later phase of the eastern side of building 2114. Poss bly part of a doorway into the building.	0.14m
2201	Cut	Post Hole	Cut of post hole which is oval in plan with rounded corners, a sharp TBOS, steep sides, a sharp BBOS and a narrow flat base. Adjacent to post hole 2193. Might have been a replacement post hole close to the end of the eastern wall of structure 2114. It may	0.14m
2202	Fill	Posthole	Fill of post hole with small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles. Originally fully excavated and recorded by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 evaluation. Part of medieval structure. No finds. Not sampled.	0.08m

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2212	fill	linear	fill of linear 2213. Moderately soft mid grey sandy silt, very frequent small rounded gravels, rare charcoal flecks. Below by 2000	0.44m
2213	cut	linear	sub-square cut with sharp corners. Sheer near vertical sides; sharp break of slope to slightly concave base with deeper rounded section at the end - possible posthole - as 2237? Aligned east to west. Filled by 2212. Below 2000.	0.44m
2214	fill	beam slot	fill of 2215. Moderately compact light yellow grey sandy silt. Frequent small rounded pebbles.	0.10m
2215	cut	beam slot	linear cut with rounded corners, sharp break of slope, moderately concave sides curving to a concave base. Aligned north to south. Truncated by 2213. Filled by 2214.	0.10m
2216	fill	linear/beam slot	fill of 2217. moderately compact mid grey yellow sandy silt. Occasional charcoal fleck, frequent small rounded stones.	0.40m
2217	cut	linear/beam slot	linear cut with rounded corners, sharp break of slope, steep sides curving to a concave base. Aligned east to west. filled by 2216.	0.40m
2218	fill	beam slot	same as 2214; fill of 2219; below 2217	0.05m
2219	cut	beam slot	same as 2215; filled by 2218; below 2217	0.05m
2220	fill	linear	same as 2212; fill of 2221; below 2000.	0.82m
2221	cut	linear	same as 2213; filled by 2220; below 2000.	0.82m
2222	fill	beam slot	same as 2224; fill of 2223; below 2221?; below 2000.	0.19m

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2223	cut	beam slot	same as 2225; filled by 2222; below 2000.	0.19m
2224	fill	beam slot	same as 2222; fill of 2225; below 2000.	0.14m
2225	cut	beam slot	same as 2223; filled by 2224; below 2000.	0.14m
2226	fill	posthole	fill of 2227. moderately compact mid yellow grey sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones. Below 2000.	0.45m
2227	cut	posthole	round cut with sharp breaks of slope and steep, near vertical sides curving to a concave base. Filled by 2226. below 2000. Within ditch 2221.	0.45m
2228	fill	posthole	fill of 2229. moderately compact mid yellowish grey clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. below 2000.	0.15m
2229	cut	posthole	round cut with sharp break of slope and steep sides and moderate break to a flat base. filled by 2228. below 2000.	0.15m
2230	fill	gully/beam slot	fill of 2231. moderately compact mid yellow grey clayey silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones. same as 2232. below 2000.	0.19m
2231	cut	gully/beam slot	linear cut with pointed corners and sharp break of slope and steep slides curving to a concave base. Aligned north to south. Filled by 2230. same as 2233. below 2000.	0.19m
2232	fill	gully/beam slot	fill of 2233. same as 2231. below 2000.	0.29m
2233	cut	gully/beam slot	linear cut with rounded corners and sharp break of slope and steep slides curving to a concave base. Aligned north to south. filled by 2232. same as 2232. below 2000.	0.29m
2234	fill	posthole	fill of 2235. moderately compact mid grey brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Below 2000.	0.12m
2235	cut	posthole	round cut with sharp breaks of slope and steep sides curving to a flat base. filled by 2234. below subsoil. Part of a group with 2239, 2241 and 2243.	0.12m
2236	fill	beam slot	fill of 2237. moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt, occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Below 2000.	0.19m
2237	cut	beam slot	linear cut with rounded corners and sharp break of slope and steep sides curving to a flat base. Deeper to one end - possible posthole - as 2213? Aligned east to west. Filled by 2236. below 2000.	0.19m
2238	fill	posthole	fill of 2239. moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. below 2000.	0.19m
2239	cut	posthole	round cut with sharp break of slope and steep sides curving to a concave base. filled by 2238. below subsoil. Part of group with 2235, 2241 and 2243.	0.19m
2240	fill	pit/posthole	fill of 2241. Moderately compact mid grey brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Cut by land drain.	0.17m
2241	cut	pit/posthole	oval cut with rounded corners and a sharp break of slope with moderately concave sides curving to a concave base. Aligned east to west. Filled by 2240. part of group with 2235, 2239 and 2243.	0.17m
2242	fill	pit/posthole	fill of 2243. Moderately compact mid yellow grey brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Below subsoil.	0.16m
2243	cut	pit/posthole	Oval cut with rounded corners, sharp break of slope, moderate/gradual slope to concave base. Filled by 2242. below subsoil. Part of group with 2235, 2239 and 2241.	0.16m
2244	fill	pit	fill of 2245. Moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Truncated by 2247.	0.18m
2245	cut	pit	Oval cut with sharp break of slope and steep concave sides curving to a concave base. filled by 2244. Truncated by 2247.	0.18m
2246	fill	ditch	fill of 2247. Moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. Same as 2260. below 2000.	0.16m
2247	cut	ditch	linear cut with sharp break of slope and gradual concave sides curving to a concave base. Aligned east to west. Same as 2261. Filled by 2246. Below 2000.	0.16m

2248	fill	ditch?	fill of 4429. moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. below subsoil. Same as 2250.	0.12m
2249	cut	ditch?	linear cut with rounded corners and sharp break of slope, moderately concave sides curving to a concave base. Aligned east to west. Same as 2251.	0.12m
2250	fill	ditch?	Same as 2248. Fill of 2251. Below 2000.	0.19m
2251	cut	ditch?	Same as 2249. Filled by 2250. Below 2000.	0.19m
2252	not used		n/a	0.12m
2253	fill	gully	Fill of 2254. Moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. Truncated by 2261.	0.12m
2254	cut	gully	linear cut with rounded corners, moderate break of slope, shallow sides curving to a concave base. Aligned north to south. . Filled by 2253. Truncated by 2261.	0.12m
2255	not used		n/a	n/a
2256	fill	gully	fill of 2257. Moderately compact mid yellow brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. Truncated by 2261.	0.11m
2257	cut	gully	linear cut with rounded corners, sharp break of slope, moderate concave sides curving to a concave base. Aligned north to south. Filled by 2256. Truncated by 2261.	0.11m
2258	fill	ditch	fill of 2259. Moderately compact mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. Below 2000.	0.22m
2259	cut	ditch	linear cut with sharp break of slope and moderate sides curving to a flat base. Aligned east to west. Recut of ditch 2261. Filled by 2258. Below 2000.	0.22m
2260	fill	ditch	Fill of 2261. Moderately compact mid yellow grey clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. Same as 2246. Truncated by 2259.	0.30m
2261	cut	ditch	Linear cut with sharp break of slope and gradual curving sides curving to a concave base. Aligned east to west. Filled by 2260. Truncated by 2259.	0.30m
2262	fill	ditch	fill of 2263. Moderately compact mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Truncated by 2247.	0.14m
2263	cut	ditch	Linear cut with sharp break of slope to moderate concave sides curving to concave base. Aligned north-east to south-west. Truncated by 2247. Filled by 2262	0.14m
2264	fill	beam slot	Fill of 2265. Moderately compact mid grey silty clay. Frequent small rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Truncated by 2267. Same as 2216.	0.63m
2265	cut	beam slot	Linear cut with sharp break of slope to near vertical sides and a flat base with deeper section to middle - a posthole? Filled by 2264. Truncated by 2265. Same as 2217.	0.63m
2266	fill	pit/posthole	Fill of 2267. Moderately compact mid grey brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded stones. Below 2000.	0.22m
2267	cut	pit/posthole	Round cut with sharp break of slope and moderate concave sides curving to a concave base. Filled by 2266. Below 2000.	0.22m
2268	fill	ditch	Fill of 2269. Moderately compact mid grey silty clay. Occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Below 2000.	0.29m
2269	cut	ditch/posthole	Linear cut with sharp break of slope and steep/near vertical sides and flat base with a shallow sided posthole in centre with concave base. Aligned east to west.	0.50m
2270	fill	posthole	Fill of posthole in base of 2269. Moderately compact mid grey clayey silt. Frequent small rounded stones, manganese pieces and charcoal flecks. Below 2268.	0.33m
2271	structure	group	number for group 2213, 2217, 2221, 2265, and 2269.	0.82m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WCM 101841 and 101862)

The archive consists of:

299	Context records AS1
25	Field progress reports AS2
12	Photographic records AS3
545	Digital photographs
4	Drawing number catalogues AS4
62	Scale drawing permatrace sheets
8	Context number catalogues AS5
44	Sample records AS17
2	Sample number catalogues AS18
44	Flot records AS21
9	Levels records AS19
1	Trench record sheets AS41
2	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum
Museums Worcestershire
Foregate Street
Worcester
WR1 2PW

Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371
