

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
AT  
LAND ADJACENT TO KILBURY DRIVE  
SPETCHLEY ROAD, SPETCHLEY  
WORCESTERSHIRE



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**Worcestershire Archaeology**  
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Project reference: P4187  
Report reference: 2070  
HER reference: 50191



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## **An Archaeological Excavation at Land adjacent to Kilbury Drive, Spetchley Road, Spetchley, Worcestershire**

Author: Andrew Walsh

With a contribution by Dennis Williams and illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Summary**

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Kilbury Drive, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 87627 53659). It was undertaken on behalf of Bloor Homes in advance of a proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted.

The aim of the archaeological excavation was to fully investigate the archaeological significance of a possible medieval or early post-medieval farmstead identified during an archaeological evaluation of the site.

The excavation revealed four ditches, a row of postholes and a colluvial deposit. The majority of the artefacts recovered from the features dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. No settlement activity was identified on the site and all the features were probably associated with post-medieval enclosure and remodelling of the agricultural landscape during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Land adjacent to Kilbury Drive, Spetchley Road, Spetchley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 87627 53659; Figure 1). It was undertaken on behalf of Bloor Homes, in advance of a proposed residential development, for which a planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council (reference W/12/2045).

The survival of archaeological remains in the northern part of the site was established by an archaeological evaluation of the site (Hart 2010, Cotswold Archaeology Report 10190) which identified an area of archaeological significance thought to relate to a medieval or early post-medieval farmstead (WSM42457).

A strategy for excavation of the site was set out in a brief prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council (Glyde 2013) and for which a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced (WA 2013) to which the project conforms. The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008), and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by Worcestershire HER is 50191.

### 2 Aims

The aim of the archaeological excavation was to fully investigate the archaeological significance of the possible farmstead identified during an archaeological evaluation of the site. Given the sample nature of the evaluation the full significance and function of the remains were not fully understood. Therefore it was anticipated that an excavation would provide a detailed record of the site.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc AIfA FSA Scot; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. He was assisted in the field by Robert Hedge MA (Cantab), Pete Lovett BSc, Mike Nicholson BSc and Jon Webster BA. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers BA MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MIfA. Dennis Williams BSc MA PhD CPhys, MinstP contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment was by undertaken by CgMs Consulting in advance of the archaeological evaluation (CgMs 2009).

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013). The excavation area was focused on the north western part of the development site, where potential archaeological remains had been identified. Due to the presence of a public footpath crossing the site, the proposed excavation area was divided in two (Figure 2). Fieldwork was undertaken between 13<sup>th</sup> October and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The site reference number and site code is WSM 50191.

The two excavation areas covered a combined area of 6144m<sup>2</sup>. Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Following consultation with the curator, the mechanical excavator was also used to reopen part of an evaluation trench, to excavate four sondages (Sondages 1-4; Figures 2 and 3) to investigate the raised earthwork, and partially

excavate two sections through a ditch. All 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). On completion of excavation, archaeological features were made safe by replacing the excavated material.

### **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 Dennis Williams**

#### **3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service 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 range was produced for each stratified context. These date ranges were used for determining the broad phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

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

#### **3.5.3 Discard policy**

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

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

### **3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

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

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context**

The excavation area was situated to the east of Kilbury Drive, on ground which sloped from 55.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south west to 52.1m aOD along the north eastern edge of the site. The excavation area was bounded to the north and west by residential properties forming part of the Uffnell's Farm housing estate, to the north east by a stream and to the south east by an open field. The underlying geology is mapped as Branscombe Mudstone Formation, dating to the Triassic period, with superficial alluvial deposits formed in the Quaternary period present along the course of the stream (BGS 2013).

The archaeological and historical background of the site was examined in detail during 2009 by a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2009). It established that the site lay within an area of low to

moderate potential for remains dating from the prehistoric periods and low potential for Roman, medieval, post-medieval, and modern periods.

In October 2010 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site by Cotswold Archaeology (Figure 2) which identified previously unrecorded earthworks (Hart 2010). The earthworks included a platform surrounded by a ditch and associated with a 'trackway', the former course of a diverted stream and a substantial ditch. Small quantities of Roman, medieval, early post-medieval and modern finds were recovered from the features, but their date remained uncertain. The Roman and medieval pottery was recorded as residual but none of the earthworks identified by the evaluation are depicted on historic mapping and they were interpreted as pre-dating 1840. The platform was tentatively identified as the location of a house or farm.

## 4.2 Land-use

Prior to the excavation the site was in use as agricultural land and set to pasture.

## 5 Structural analysis

The excavation area and features recorded are shown in Figure 3. Details of the site archive are presented in Appendix 1. The archaeological features are broadly described from west to east.

### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

A natural deposit of brownish red clay, consistent with the description of Branscombe Mudstone, was encountered across the central and southern areas of the site. Across the central part of the site a band of river worn pebbles and cobbles was present within the mudstone. These stones had been interpreted as a possible track way during the evaluation (Hart 2010), but the excavation demonstrated that this was a natural deposit.

To the north of the excavation area was an alluvial deposit, consistent with the mapped superficial deposits recorded by the BGS (BGS 2013). The archaeological features cut this deposit.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval

The majority of features encountered were post-medieval in date. Ditch 3 was exposed flanking the eastern edge of the earthwork feature orientated broadly south-west to north-east for approximately 67m, before turning towards the north-west and running under the northern edge of the earthwork feature (see below). It was recorded as ditch 1227 and 1404 during the evaluation (Hart 2010, figures 3-5). Along exposed north-east to south-west axis the ditch measured approximately 2.75m in width and 0.33m in depth. It was filled by a reddish brown silty clay (1018), measuring 0.20m in depth, and overlaid by a buried topsoil (1017), measuring 0.13m in depth (Figure 4, section 7; Plate 1), which yielded medieval and post-medieval pottery with a *terminus post quem* of 1800 to 1950.

A sondage and a reopened section of evaluation Trench 12 through the earthwork feature revealed the continuation of Ditch 3 heading towards the north-west. The ditch measured 0.6m in width and 0.15m in depth and contained two or three fills, the upper of which yielded pottery dating to 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 4, sections 11 and 12; Plate 3).

The earthwork feature (Figure 4, sections 11 and 12; Plates 4 and 5) measured up to 0.55m in height above the natural and was formed of layers of a layer of silty clay. It was recorded as a possible platform during the evaluation (Hart 2010, figure 3). However, the topography of the site indicates the feature was probably an accumulation of colluvium in the lowest corner of a field, surrounded by a boundary represented by Ditch 3. After the removal of this boundary, presumably in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the deposit appears to have slumped, or possibly ploughed, over the top of Ditch 3. No features were visible cutting the earthwork in plan, although a series of 'narrow rig' furrows, probably dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hart 2010, 11), were visible in section orientated north-west to south-east. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch 2 was exposed for 52m close to the northern edge of the excavation. It was recorded as an earthwork during the evaluation (Hart 2010, figure 3). It was set on a north-west to south-east alignment across most of the site before turning east towards a kink in the stream (Figure 3). It cut Ditch 1 and measured 0.75m in width and 0.3m in depth (Figure 4; sections 1 and 2). Although the ditch had a U-shaped profile, a ceramic land drain, which appeared to follow the course of the ditch, was present in its base. It was filled by a light grey brown clayey silt (Plate 6), which yielded finds of pottery and glass dating to 1800 to 1950.

Ditch 1 was exposed for 14m, appended to the north-eastern side of Ditch 2 at the site of an unusual kink in the alignment of Ditch 2. It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured approximately 1.0m in width and 0.31m in depth. It had a broad U-shaped profile and was filled by a reddish brown sandy clay (Figure 4, section 3; Plate 7). No finds were recovered from Ditch 1.

Ditch 4, the most substantial ditch on the site, was exposed for 95m. It was orientated south-west to north-east and appended Ditch 2 where it turned eastwards towards the stream. It measured up to 7.5m in width and 2.7m in depth, and had a V-shaped profile with a flat base (Figure 4, section 9; Plate 8), although it steadily decreased in sized as it headed north-east towards Ditch 2 (Figure 3; Plate 9). It was filled by up to 10 contexts (Figure 4, section 9). At least four of these contexts (1036-1039) appeared to be related to slumping. The reddish brown silty clay primary fill (1040) did not yield any datable finds, but the secondary fill (1024), which was formed of a very similar silty clay, produced a green, translucent glass vessel dating to 1800 to 1900. Upper fills 1022 and 1023 also yielded pottery dating to 1800 to 1950.

Running parallel to Ditch 4 was a row of nine postholes. The postholes typically measured 0.3m in diameter and contained the remains of a wooden post *in situ* (Plate 10).

### 5.1.3 Phase 3: modern deposits

Ditches 3 and 4 were both deliberately filled with a bright brownish red redeposited natural silty clay (Figure 3; Plate 10), which contained modern construction debris (tarmac and brick). This deposit may be contemporary with the construction of the residential development along Kilbury Drive. In both ditches this overlaid buried topsoil (1017 and 1021) which formed after the ditches were abandoned in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the northern part of the site a light reddish brown slightly clayey silty subsoil overlaid Ditches 1 and 2 and the natural alluvial deposits. The whole site was sealed by a mid-brown silty topsoil.

## 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage, from eight stratified contexts, consisted of bone, ceramic building material, clay pipe, glass, metal and plastic, as shown in Table 1. The pottery was in variable condition, with some sherds exhibiting high levels of abrasion, and had a mean sherd weight that was below average (ie <10g).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic		pot	2	2
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	1	698
post-medieval	ceramic		clay pipe	2	3
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	24	160
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile	7	426
post-medieval	glass		vessel	3	71
modern	plastic		toy	1	14



period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
undated	bone	animal bone		1	1
undated	ceramic		drain	1	31
undated	metal	iron	unidentified	1	2
totals:				43	1408

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The pottery comprised medieval and post-medieval sherds, as summarised in Table 2.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	2	24
medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	1
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	1	8
post-medieval	81	Stonewares	1	5
post-medieval	83	Porcelain	6	46
post-medieval	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	1	9
post-medieval/modern	85	Modern china	14	69
totals:			26	162

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

### Summary of finds evidence

The context finds summary, with *terminus post quem* date ranges, is shown in Table 3.

### Pottery

#### Medieval

Two small and abraded fragments of Malvernian ware (fabric 69) were residual in fills 1021 and 1023 (Ditch 4). Neither was diagnostic in terms of form, so could only be assigned to a broad 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century date range. A further very abraded fragment, residual in fill 1017 (Ditch 3), had a sandy fabric and a light brown glaze and was also tentatively identified as medieval (fabric 99),

#### Post-medieval/modern

Post-medieval/modern wares were widely present (including in Ditches 2, 3 and 4). Ditch 4 had some 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century porcelain (fabric 83) comprising both glazed and biscuit-fired waster sherds, the latter including a figure of a cat recumbent in a shoe.

### Other finds

#### Bone

A small fragment of animal bone was recovered from fill 1023 (Ditch 4).

#### Ceramic building material

Brick (2¾ inches thick, ?18<sup>th</sup> century date; Ditch 4), and roof tile (?17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date, Ditches 3 and 4, and ?19<sup>th</sup> century date, from Ditch 2, fill 1003) were present.

#### *Clay pipe*

A clay pipe bowl was dated 1660-1680 (sub-soil 1002; Oswald 1975).

#### *Glass*

A sherd from a green, translucent glass vessel (fill 1024 of Ditch 4), was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and bore an unusual externally-moulded design which depicted one clothed monkey attacking another. Other glass was given a similar date.

#### *Metal*

A small unidentifiable fragment of rusted iron (1017).

#### *Plastic*

A toy figure of a round-headed man (topsoil 1001).

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
1001	plastic	toy	0	1	14	1960	2000	1960-2000
	ceramic	pot	85	1	27	1870	1950	
1003	ceramic	roof tile	0	1	75	1800	1900	1800-1950
	ceramic	pot	85	1	7	1800	1950	
	glass	vessel	0	1	11	1800	1900	
1017	ceramic	roof tile	0	2	179	1600	1850	1800-1950
	ceramic	pot	83	1	33	1750	1900	
	ceramic	pot	83	2	4	1750	1900	
	ceramic	pot	83	1	6	1750	1900	
	ceramic	pot	78	1	8	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	81	1	5	1700	1900	
	metal	iron	0	1	2	0	0	
	ceramic	drain	0	1	31	1800	1900	
	ceramic	pot	85	9	18	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	83	2	3	1750	1900	
	ceramic	pot	99	1	1	1300	1600	
1021	ceramic	roof tile	0	4	172	1600	1850	1780-1830
	ceramic	pot	100	1	9	1780	1830	
	ceramic	pot	69	1	23	1200	1600	
1022	ceramic	brick	0	1	698	1700	1784	1800-1950
	ceramic	pot	85	1	5	1800	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	0	1	2	1600	1900	
1023	bone		0	1	1	0	0	1800-1950
	ceramic	clay pipe	0	1	1	1600	1900	
	ceramic	pot	85	1	5	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	69	1	1	1200	1600	
1024	glass	pot	0	2	60	1800	1900	1800-1900

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1044	ceramic	pot	85	1	7	1800	1950	1800-1950
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*Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts*

## 6 Significance

The finds recovered during this excavation were typical of domestic occupation and use during the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. The presence of porcelain wasters, whilst worthy of note, is not unusual in the area surrounding Worcester, as it is documented that this material was sold off as hardcore.

## 7 Synthesis

The excavation at Kilbury Drive has revealed elements of an extensive sub-divided landscape dating to the post-medieval period. No evidence of occupation and settlement features were identified and the exposed features probably all relate to the enclosure and remodelling of the post-medieval agricultural landscape. A small number of finds dating to the medieval and early post-medieval periods, were identified in later features although this is probably indicative of manuring practices rather than settlement activity.

Ditch 2 represents a previous course of the stream running immediately north of the site. The diversion appears to predate the 1842 Tithe Map, although finds dating to 1800 to 1950 were recovered from ditch suggesting the ditch may not have been infilled by this time. Ditch 1 predated Ditch 2, although analysis of their spatial arrangement indicates the two features were related.

Ditch 3 and the associated earthwork feature are not recorded on the historic mapping although two trees are illustrated the same alignment on the first edition OS map (Figure 5). During the evaluation, 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the upper fill of Ditch 3, and it now appears likely that the earthwork was an accumulation of colluvium which built up in the lowest corner of the field enclosed by Ditch 3. After the removal of the boundary, presumably in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the deposit appears to have begun to slump over Ditch 3. The possible trackway previously recorded north of the ditch was identified as a natural deposit of pebbles and cobbles.

The first edition OS map also records two trees on the same alignment as Ditch 4 (Figure 5). This ditch and the adjacent row of postholes, probably represented the northern continuation of the field boundary located to the east of Uffnell Farm. Like Ditches 2 and 3 it yielded finds dating to the period 1800-1950.

Historic mapping illustrates that the site was located in landscape which was being subjected to continual remodelling during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Across the surrounding area the first edition OS map (1888) records a number of alignments of trees which represent abandoned boundaries. In some cases these boundaries are not marked on the 1842 Tithe Map indicating they had already been abandoned by the 1840s. Comparison of the historic mapping shows further changes to the landscape during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as more field boundaries were removed and others added.

Ditches 2, 3 and 4 all survived as earthworks up to the start of the excavation although both Ditches 3 and 4 had been deliberately infilled with same bright brownish red redeposited natural silty clay (Plate 10) during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This deposit contained construction debris and may be contemporary with the creation of the Uffnell's Farm housing estate during the 1960s. The infilling was presumably undertaken to reduce the depth of the ditches adjacent to the public footpath.

## 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.

*An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Kilbury Drive, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 87627 53659). It was undertaken on behalf of Bloor Homes in advance of a proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted.*

*The aim of the archaeological excavation was to fully investigate the archaeological significance of a possible medieval or early post-medieval farmstead identified during an archaeological evaluation of the site.*

*The excavation revealed four ditches, a row of postholes and a colluvial deposit. The majority of the artefacts recovered from the features dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. No settlement activity was identified on the site and all the features were probably associated with post-medieval enclosure and remodelling of the agricultural landscape during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Chris Shaw of Bloor Homes Ltd for commissioning the excavation and Mike Glyde for his help and advice.

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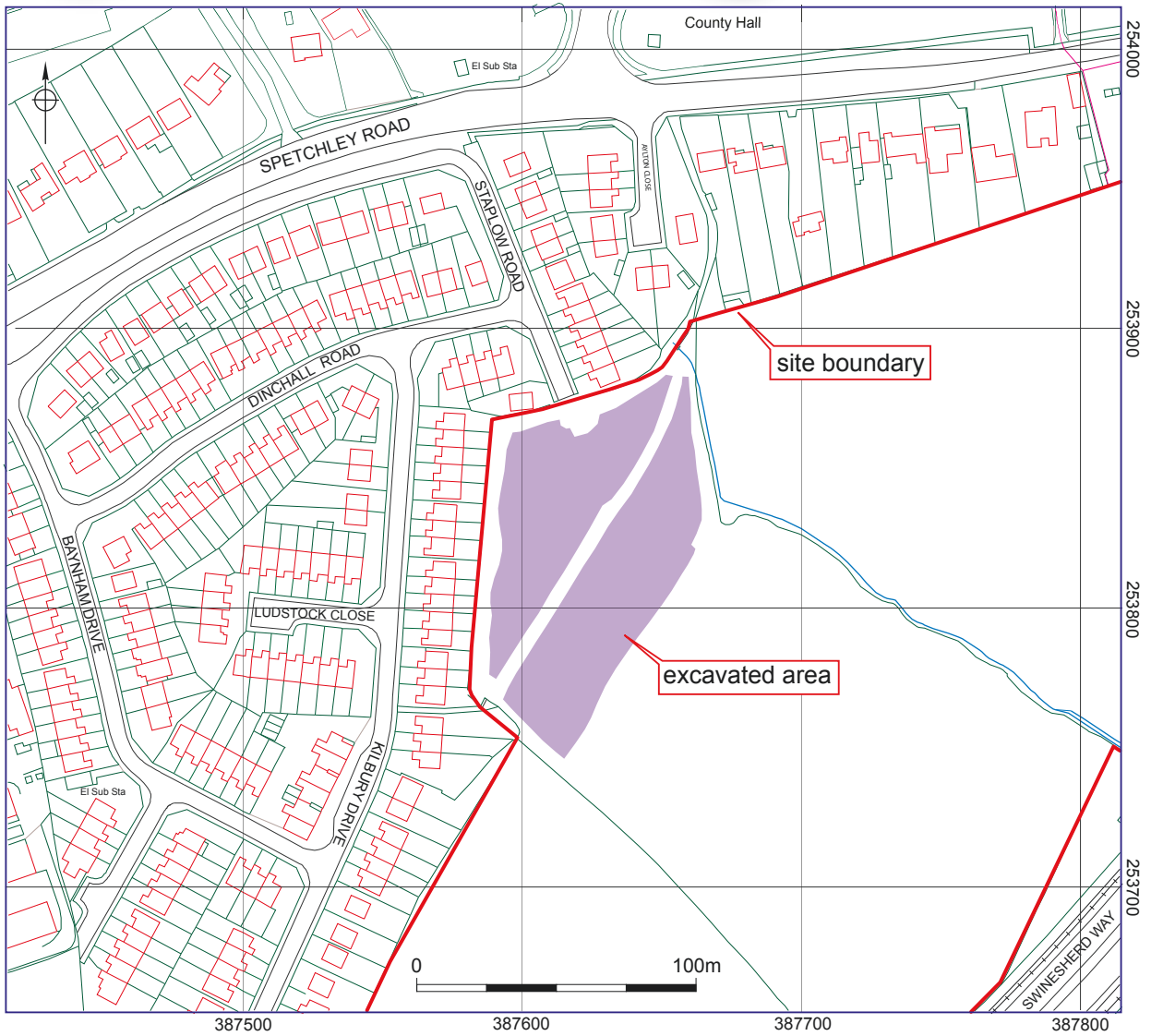




## Figures

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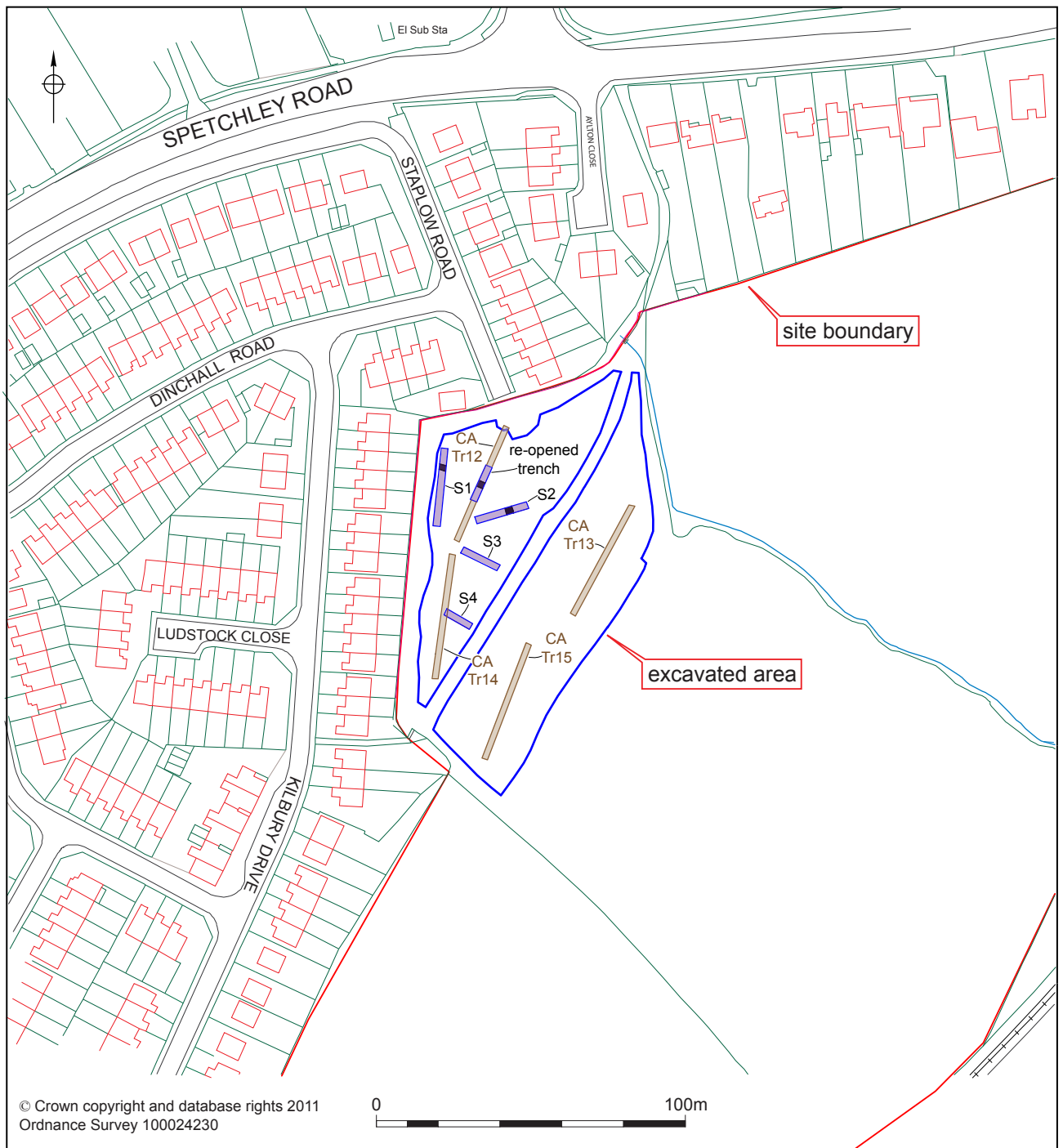




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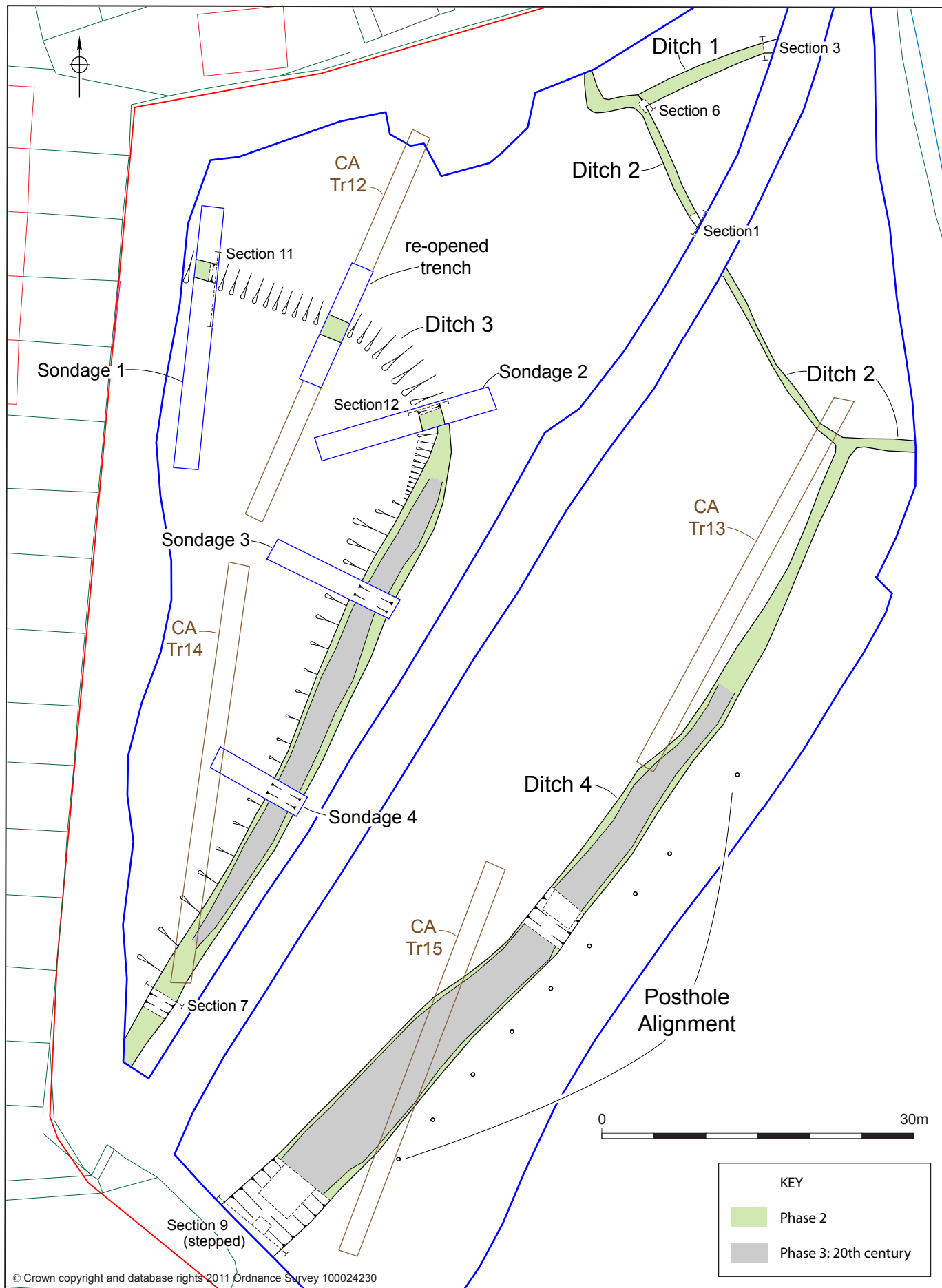
*Location of the site*

*Figure 1*



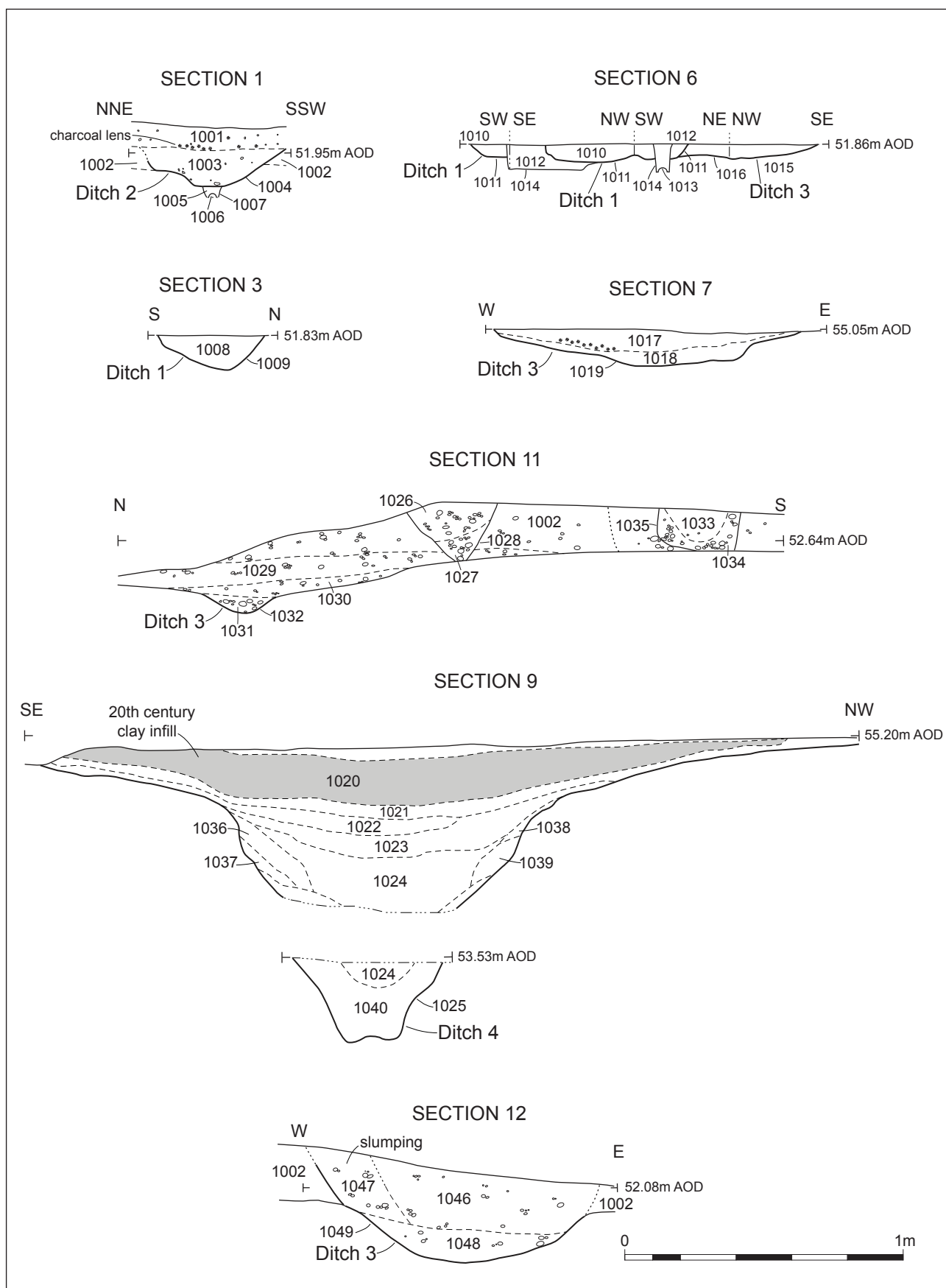
*Trench location plan*

*Figure 2*



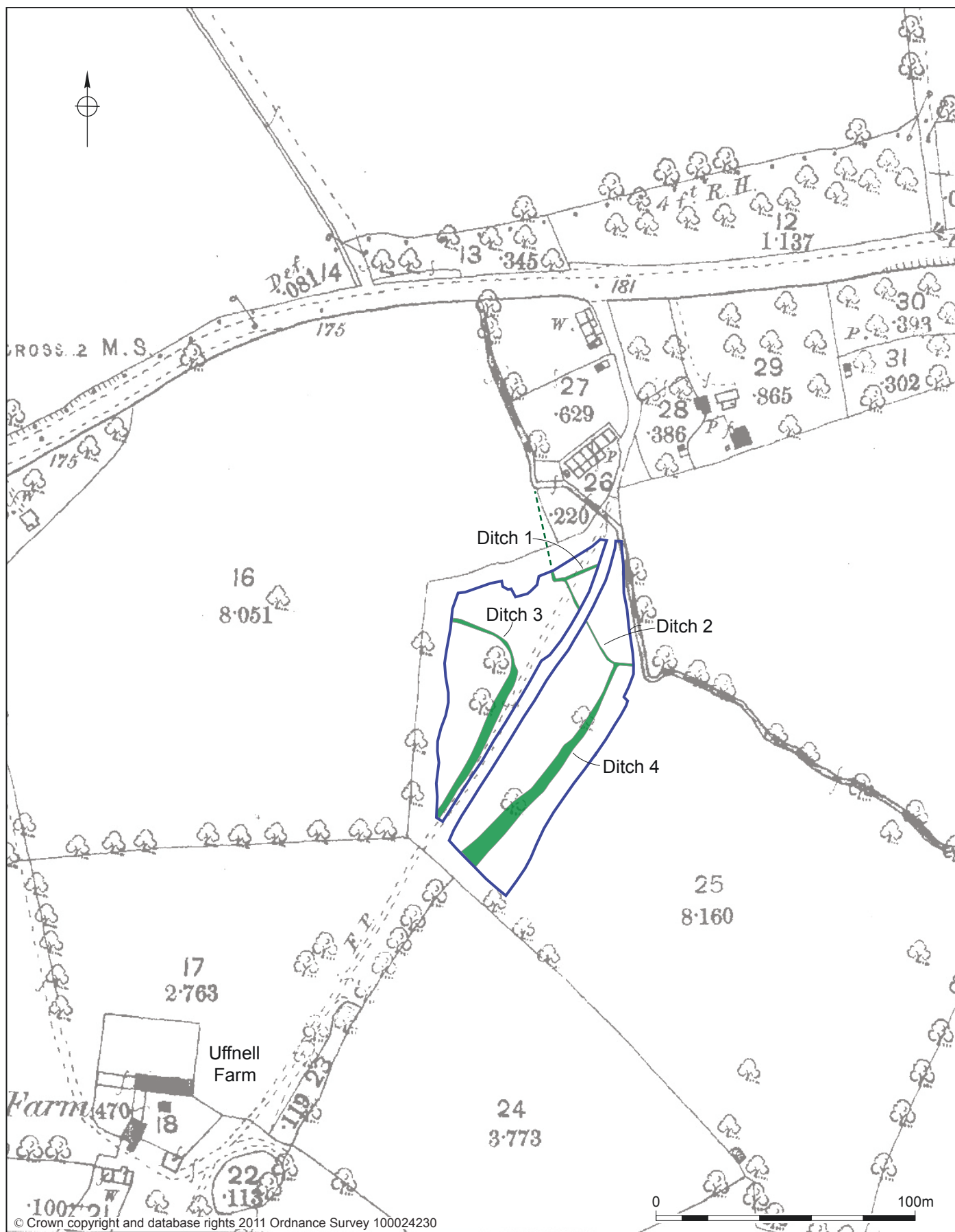
Features

Figure 3



Sections

Figure 4



Extract from 1st Edition OS with location of site and ditches

Figure 5



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## Plates



*Plate 1. Ditch 3, facing north-east*



*Plate 2. Modern, redeposited clay natural in the top of Ditch 3. Facing north-east*

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*Plate 3. Ditch 3 running under the earthwork feature, facing south-east*



*Plate 4. The earthwork feature, facing north-west*

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*Plate 5. The earthwork feature, facing south-east*



*Plate 6. Ditch 2, facing south-east*





*Plate 7. Ditch 1, facing north-east*



*Plate 8. Ditch 4, facing south-west*

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*Plate 9. Ditch 4, facing south-west. Note the change in the depth of the ditch compared to Plate 8*



*Plate 10. A wooden post which formed part of a row of postholes*

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 50191)**

The archive consists of:

- 50 Context records AS1
- 10 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 8 Scale drawings
- 1 Context number catalogues AS5
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

## Appendix 2 Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

**WSM 50191 (event HER number)**

**P4187**

None of the material from this site was identified as key to future research.

### Artefacts

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	1	1300	1600
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	1	1200	1600
modern	plastic	toy	1	14	1960	2000
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	698	1700	1784
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	2	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	1	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	5	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	33	1750	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	4	1750	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	6	1750	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	8	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	5	1700	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	9	18	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	3	1750	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	9	1780	1830
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	23	1200	1600
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	7	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	7	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	5	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	27	1870	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1	75	1800	1900

post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	2	179	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	4	172	1600	1850
post-medieval	glass	pot	2	60	1800	1900
post-medieval	glass	vessel	1	11	1800	1900
undated	bone		1	1	0	0
undated	ceramic	drain	1	31	1800	1900
undated	metal		1	2	0	0

### Notes

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

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	800000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100

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2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

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