

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF
LAND OFF TOWNSEND WAY
MALVERN LINK
WORCESTERSHIRE



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Worcestershire Archaeology
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An archaeological evaluation of land off Townsend Way, Malvern Link, Worcestershire

Andrew Walsh and Tom Vaughan

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Property Services, Worcestershire County Council, of land off Townsend Way, Malvern Link, Worcestershire (NGR SO 7934 4691).

Twelve trenches, each approximately 30m by 1.6m, were excavated. Natural deposits consisting of sand and gravels and weathered mudstone were revealed in all trenches at a depth of between 0.32-0.56m in all but two of the trenches. The soil profile was found to be largely undisturbed toward the south, whereas to the north and east, a number of pits and linears cut into the level of the natural and made ground overlay the subsoil. These are of later 20th century origin.

No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on Land off Townsend Way, Malvern Link Worcestershire (NGR SO 7934 4691; Figure 1). It was commissioned by Property Services, Worcestershire County Council, in advance of development, for which a planning application will be submitted to Malvern Hills District Council.

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2013) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2013). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010). The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM50209.

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Walsh, BSc MSc AlfA FSA Scot, and Pete Lovett, BSc. The report preparation was led by Andrew Walsh. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan, BA MA AlfA. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt, BSc MifA.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). The following cartographic sources were consulted:

- 1846 Great Malvern tithe plan, transcribed by by D. Guyatt, 1:10,000
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1887, 25":1 mile
- 1904, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile
- 1927, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile
- 1938, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile
- 1972, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile
- 1974-78, Ordnance Survey, 1:10,000
- 1974-91, Ordnance Survey, 1:10,000

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013). Thirteen trenches were originally planned, but Trench 1 was determined to lie outside the site boundary and

thus not required. Fieldwork was undertaken between 25 and 29 November 2013. The site reference number and site code is WSM50209.

Twelve trenches, amounting to just over 588.16m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 1.8ha, representing a sample of just over 3.27%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 180° wheeled 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). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacement of 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

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard WA practice (WA 2012; appendix 2). All finds were determined on site to be of 20th century or later origin, and were not retained.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012, appendix 4). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental investigation, so no samples were taken.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site is located on level ground at an elevation of approximately 44m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The site is bounded to the north by Townsend Way, to the east by Mayfield Road, to the south by Orchard View residential property and an area of overgrown woodland, and to the west by Mayfield Grove. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt and sand and gravel (BGS 2013).

No archaeological sites are recorded on the proposed development area on the Historic Environment Record (HER), although the parish records for Malvern and Madresfield indicate there is Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity in the area. Archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the proposed site has been limited. A series of archaeological interventions, including field walking, geophysical survey, evaluation and excavation, were undertaken in the early 1990s to the north of the site. This revealed evidence of Romano-British deposits and finds relating to settlement activity (WSM 29810). In 2004 an evaluation at Pickersleigh Court, approximately 450m west of the site, revealed evidence of post-medieval and modern activity. (WSM 34116).

The earliest detailed map of the area, the Great Malvern tithe plan of 1846, shows the site to be an undeveloped field with the same boundaries as presently exist. It is un-named, and lay within a wider landscape of agricultural fields and orchards. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 and subsequent maps show the site to remain undeveloped, with residential development of adjacent plots in the later 20th century.

4.2 Current land-use

The site was formerly used as a BMX track. This closed in the 1990s and the site has since become heavily overgrown with trees and brambles.

5 Structural analysis

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and they are illustrated in Plates 1-3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. Details of the site archive are presented in Appendix 2.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural consisting of brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay was encountered in Trenches 2-12 (Plate 1). A pinkish mudstone was exposed in Trench 13 and the southern parts of Trenches 11 and 12 (Plate 2). This lay at a depth of between 0.32-0.56m below the ground surface, except in Trenches 2 and 7, where it lay at 0.84m.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Directly above the natural strata in all trenches was a light reddish brown sandy clay subsoil. In Trenches 5, 8 and 13, modern features (504), (805), (807), (809) and (1304) were visible cutting the subsoil and natural. In Trenches 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 the subsoil was sealed by made ground (Plate 3), while in the remaining trenches topsoil overlaid the subsoil, indicating that the area to north and east of the site was heavily disturbed by works associated with the BMX track, while the area to the south was less developed.

In Trench 9 the topsoil and subsoil were cut by a large feature (904) filled with redeposited soil and natural, mixed with stone rubble (903). This feature was probably associated with clearing and landscaping of the BMX track.

6 Synthesis

The soil profile was found to be largely undisturbed toward the south, whereas to the north and east, a number of pits and linears cut into the level of the natural and made ground overlay the subsoil. These are of later 20th century origin. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

7 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 evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Property Services, Worcestershire County Council, of land off Townsend Way, Malvern Link, Worcestershire (NGR SO 7934 4691; HER ref. WSM50209). Twelve evaluation trenches, each approximately 30m by 1.6m were excavated. Natural deposits consisting of sand and gravels and weathered mudstone were revealed in all trenches at a depth of between 0.32-0.56m in all but two of the trenches. The soil profile was found to be largely undisturbed toward the south, whereas to the north and east, a number of pits and linears cut into the level of the natural and made ground overlay the subsoil. These are of later 20th century origin. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Mike Williams (Principal Valuer, Property Services,

Worcestershire County Council) and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

9 Bibliography

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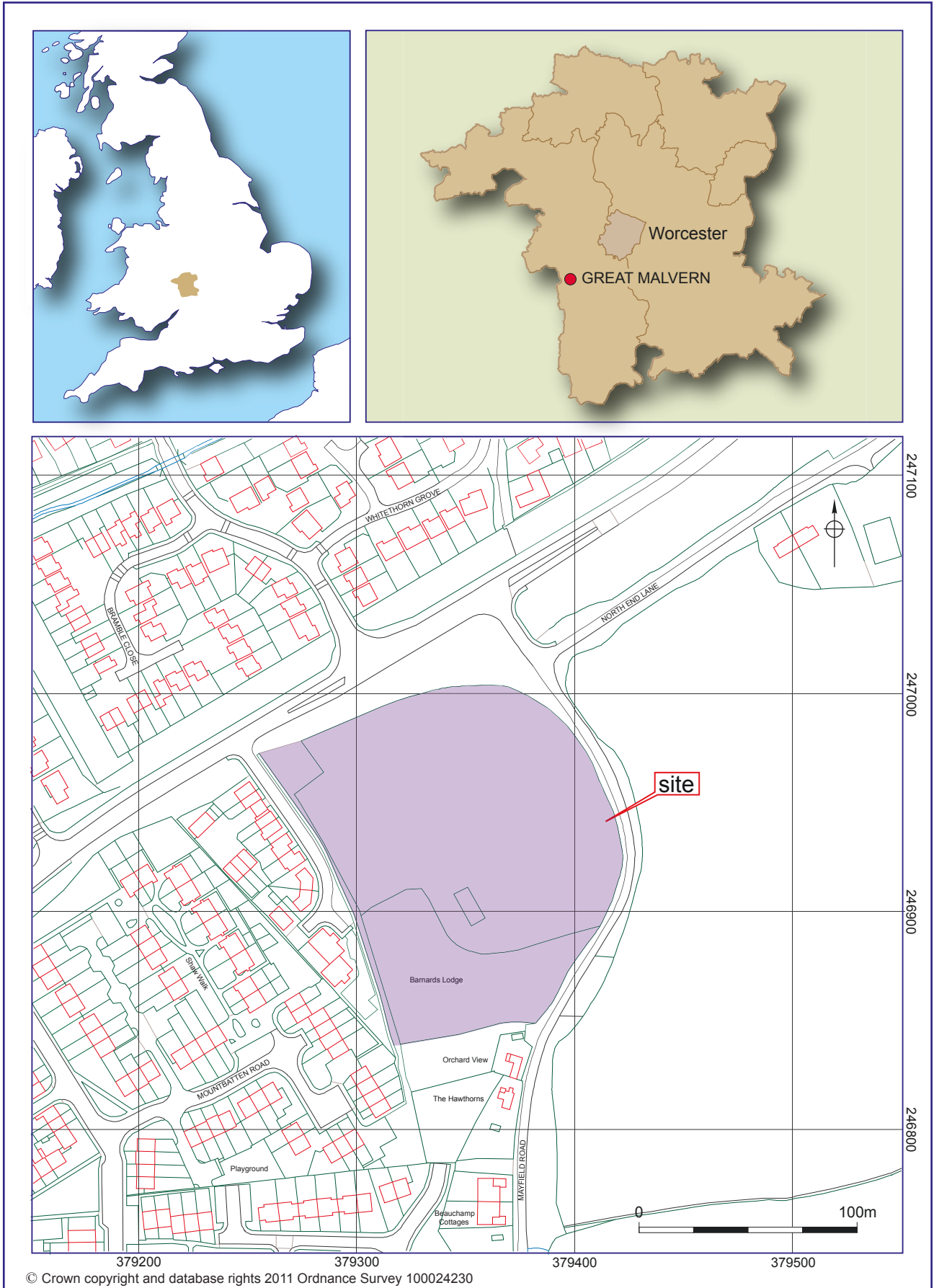
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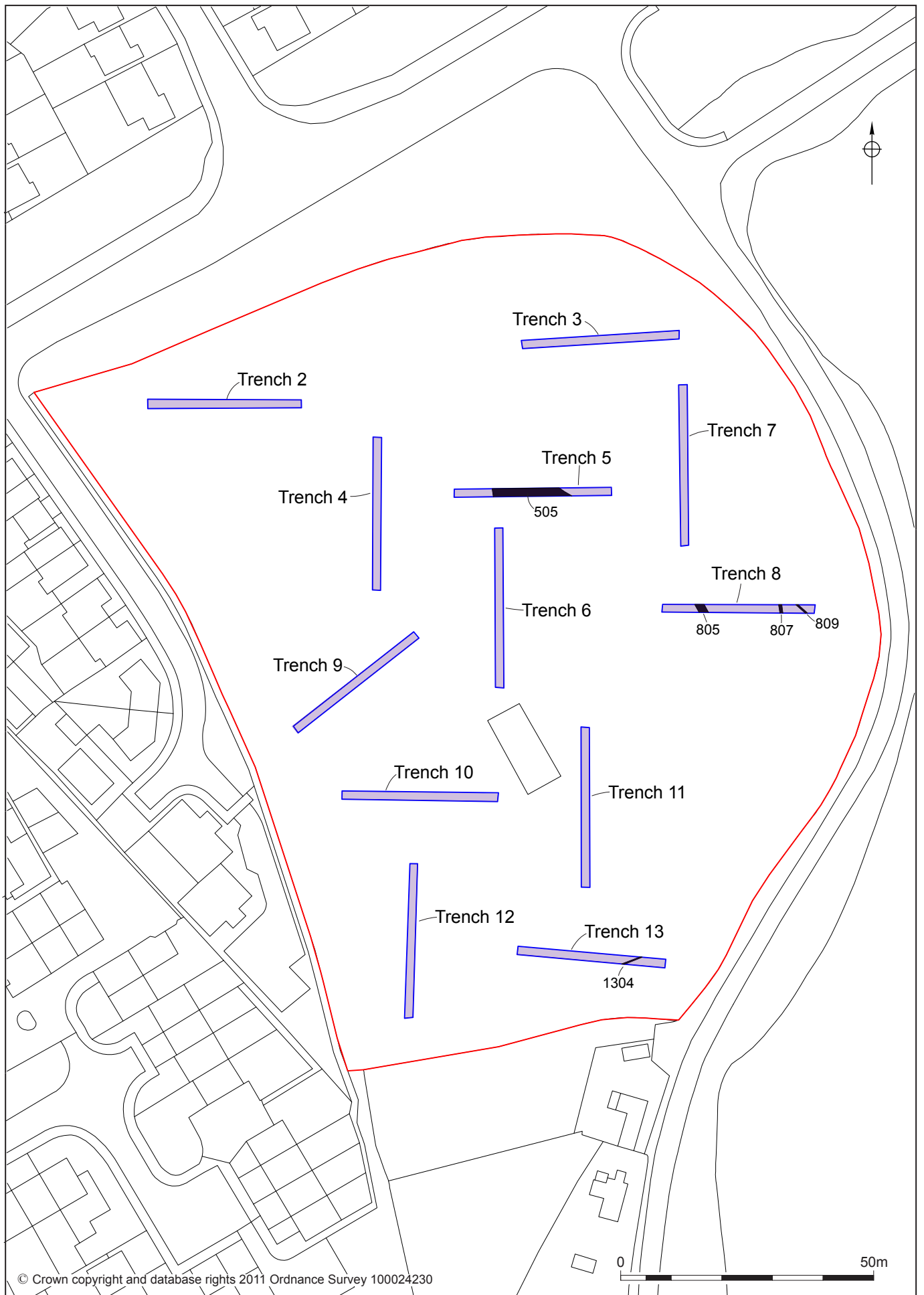
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1. Trench 2 facing west



Plate 2. Trench 13 facing west



Plate 3. Trench 7, east facing section

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Not excavated

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.3m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.9m

Orientation: east-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.06m
201	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay. Visible below made ground (203)	0.65-0.84m
202	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.84m+
203	Made ground	Layers of dumped material with slabs of concrete, rubble, and redeposited natural. Visible below topsoil (200)	0.06-0.65m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.0m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.8m

Orientation: east-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.10m
301	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay. Visible below made ground (303)	0.20-0.75m
302	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.32-0.75m+
303	Made ground	Mixed, redeposited gravel and clay natural, deepest towards the east end of the trench. Visible below topsoil (300)	0.10-0.60m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.1m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: north-south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.26m
401	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.26-0.51m
402	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.51m+

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.0m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: east-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.06m
501	Made ground	Mixed, redeposited natural and subsoil with moderate to frequent brick and stone fragments (same as 503?). Visible below topsoil (500)	0.06-0.24m
502	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown gravelly clay. Visible below made ground (501)	0.24-0.48m
503	Fill of 504	Mixed, redeposited natural and subsoil with moderate to frequent brick and stone fragments (same as 501?)	0.24-0.52m exc
504	Pit?	Cut of large feature measuring 14m across the centre of the trench. Cuts subsoil (502)	0.24-0.52m exc
505	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.48m+

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.5m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: north-south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.25m
601	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.25-0.50m
602	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.50m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.7m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.94m

Orientation: north-south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.10m
701	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay. Visible below made ground (703)	0.62-0.84m
702	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.84m+
703	Made ground	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural with occasional tyres. Visible below topsoil (700)	0.10-0.62m

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.0m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: east-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.10m
801	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay. Visible below made ground (803)	0.30-0.54m
802	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.50m+
803	Made ground	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural with occasional tyres and brick fragments. Visible below topsoil (800)	0.10-0.30m
804	Fill of 805	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural clay	0.5m+
805	Cut	Cut of modern linear feature (service trench/land drain?)	0.5m+
806	Fill of 807	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural clay	0.5m+
807	Cut	Cut of modern linear feature (service trench/land drain?)	0.5m+
808	Fill of 807	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural clay. In situ plastic land drain visible	0.5m+
809	Cut	Cut for modern land drain	0.5m+

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.2m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.9m

Orientation: north-south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.30m
901	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.30-0.56m
902	Natural	Mid brown clayey sands and gravels with occasional patches of mid brownish red clay	0.56m+
903	Fill of 904	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil with rubble and dumped topsoil natural with occasional tyres	0.10-0.62m
904	Cut	Large scarping or landscaping feature visible in central and SW section of trench. Cuts topsoil (900) and subsoil (901)	0.10-0.62m

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.7m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: east-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.09m
1001	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.09-0.45m
1002	Natural	Mid greyish brown clayey sands and gravels in central and eastern part of trench. Pinkish clayey sands and gravels to the west	0.45m+

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31.5m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: north-south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.12m
1101	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.12-0.44m
1102	Natural	Mid greyish brown clayey sands and gravels in central and north part of trench. Pinkish mudstone at southern end	0.44m+

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.4m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.5m

Orientation: north-south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.10m
1201	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.10-0.40m
1202	Natural	Mid greyish brown clayey sands and gravels in central and north part of trench. Pinkish mudstone at southern end	0.40m+

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.2m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: east-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy clay	0.0-0.10m
1301	Subsoil	Light reddish brown sandy clay	0.10-0.34m
1302	Natural	Pinkish mudstone	0.34m+
1303	Fill of 1304	Mixed, redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural clay	0.34m+
1304	Cut	Cut of modern linear feature (service trench/land drain)	0.34m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM50209)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 114 Digital photographs
- 12 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom
- 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