

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
EVESHAM COUNTRY PARK,
EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE

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Revision 1

Worcestershire County Council



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Archaeological Evaluation at Evesham Country Park, Evesham, Worcestershire

Jonathan Webster

With contributions by Dennis Williams

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Evesham Country Park, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR: SP 045 463).

The evaluation was undertaken at the request of CgMs Ltd. on behalf of their client Eagle One Country Shopping Ltd who has outline planning consent to redevelop Evesham Country Park with the construction of a new adventure playground, orchards, chalets, designated paths and lakes. A condition on outline planning consent required a programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out ahead of development groundworks.

The site lies on a terrace to the west of the River Avon and to the north of the site of the Battle of Evesham of 1265. The evaluation revealed evidence of Medieval or Post-Medieval farming practice in the form of ridge and furrow and features associated with twentieth century fruit tree planting. Apart from a single piece of Romano-British pottery and a burnt flint recovered from the topsoil no evidence was found to show that any earlier activity had occurred across the site.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. **Planning background**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Evesham Country Park (centred on NGR SP 045 463), Evesham, Worcestershire (Figure 1), at the request of CgMs Ltd on behalf of their clients Eagle One Country Shopping Ltd. The client intends to redevelop Evesham Country Park with the construction of a new adventure playground, orchards, chalets, designated paths and lakes. A condition on outline planning consent by Wychavon District Council required a programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out ahead of development groundworks.

The evaluation phase follows an earlier desk-based assessment (Etheridge 2010), this research noted that whilst little activity is known to have occurred in the documentary evidence (See archaeological context below), the lack of work in the local environs makes our understanding of the earlier landscape almost non-existent and as such, no statement could be made regarding the presence or absence of earlier archaeological features.

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (HEAS 2010).

The project also conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the service (HEAS 2012a) and approved by Mike Glyde, Planning Archaeologist for Worcestershire County Council.

2. **Aims**

The aims of this archaeological 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 **Fieldwork methodology**

3.1.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

Fieldwork was undertaken between 6th January and 13th January 2012. The site reference number and site code is WSM 46075.

Eleven trenches, amounting to just over 1380m² in area were excavated across the site, the location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (HEAS 2012b). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.1.2 **Structural analysis**

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

3.2 **Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams**

3.2.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (HEAS 2012b; appendix 2).

3.2.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period.

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

3.3 **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. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site is located 2.5km to the north of Evesham town centre along a plateau c. 60m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) where it drops towards the south down to c. 25m AOD into the valley of the River Avon. It comprises former orchards that are overgrown in the east and southwest of the study area with car parking set around a complex of shops (See figure 2). The southeast of the site contains a man-made fishing lake that is bounded to the west and south by a large bund. The site is bounded to the north and south by farmland, to the east by the River Avon and to the west by the A46.

The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias and Charmouth mudstones of the Jurassic Era with a small patch of 2nd terrace gravels extending into the southeast of the study area. This is overlain by alluvial deposits associated with the flood plane of the River Avon (BGS 1974).

A desk-based assessment (Etheridge 2010) was undertaken to investigate the known archaeological and historic records of the study area and its immediate environs. It is not intended to repeat that information in full here, but rather to provide a general overview.

A late Iron Age coin found to the immediate south of the proposed development is the earliest evidence of activity known to have occurred in the area. Whilst a Romano-British settlement of 2nd to possibly 4th century date is known to the immediate south (WSM 42044 and WSM 42045), burials of an unknown date and an 18th century brick kiln are also recorded in the fields to the south of the development site (WSM 24954, WSM 24955 and WSM 24956).

To the immediate southeast of the development area is a site known as Dead Man's Ait (WSM 02844). A local myth states that this name came from eight soldiers of Simon de Montfort's army who held back the entire force of Prince Edward at the crossing of the River Avon allowing de Montfort's forces to escape after the Battle of Evesham on the 4th August

1265. The site is believed at present to be the location of Twyford Mill, known to have been present in the 13th century and thought to be one of two mills noted in Domesday. Intrusive works undertaken in the 18th century in relation to a brick kiln are said to have recovered human remains here that were assumed to relate to the battle (although no evidence for the basis of this interpretation can be found), whilst R. F. Tomes excavated the area in 1884 but found nothing but sand and gravels (Etheridge 2010). The site of Dead Man's Ait next to a former mill is likely to have provided a good crossing point during the time of the battle, and as such would have been of high strategic importance and a natural bottleneck that could have provided an inferior force a strong defending point. No evidence is known to exist that suggests that this legendary fighting withdrawal actually took place, and given the massacre of de Montfort's army which is known and documented, it is likely that if this event did occur it was not of note to Prince Edward's forces but, rather was a story used for propaganda purposes to make a very bad defeat easier to swallow for de Montfort's followers.

The battle of Evesham (WSM 04386) is thought to have occurred to the south of the study area upon the same slope of the valley upon which the current area of investigation is placed, and as such took place overlooking the settlement of Evesham (*Ibid.*).

The eastern side of the site was formerly truncated by the route of the Evesham to Barnt Green and Ashchurch Midland Railway branch line opened on the 4th May 1868 and closed 6th July 1964 (WSM 31670). The line lay on either embanked ground or on level ground as it crossed the study area and ran across three bridges that provided access between fields, two of these bridges still being present within the proposed development area and are the last vestiges of remains of the former route.

The site has been farm land as long as documentary and cartographic evidence is known to date from (Etheridge 2010; 10-15) and that the conversion from arable and dairy farming to fruit and market gardening took place after 1922 when Mr W. A. Fisher purchased the Farm.

During the Second World War (specifically 1941-1945) the former cow sheds were used as dormitories for Italian and German prisoners of war who were used as a form of labour. The same buildings were then used as an 'international holiday camp' (Middleton 2001).

The farm added a garden centre in the late 1970s to provide additional visitor attractions to the site and this was slowly added to, with the current Country Park layout being constructed from 1998 and opened between 1999 and 2003 (Etheridge 2010).

5. Results

Due to the similar nature of the deposits noted across the entire study area it is not intended to describe each individual trench here, but rather to provide a general overview with note to any unusual deposits and features revealed. For a full descriptive narrative of the deposits revealed see Appendix 1.

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The geology varied across site from thick alluvial clays in the southwest corner of the site (Trenches 1-5) to brash and clays (Trenches 6-10) and a single trench on top of the plateau that revealed clean terrace gravels (Trench 11).

5.1.2 **Phase 2: Undated deposits**

Trench 6 contained a large number of plough scars that were truncated by later ridge and furrow. These plough scars are most probably Post-Medieval in date, although this cannot be proven due to a lack of artefactual dating.

Overlying these earliest recorded features were furrows in Trenches 3-5 which were orientated east/west with an average frequency of 9.5m between corresponding peaks. Although no dateable evidence was recovered from these features, their morphological make-up suggests later Post-Medieval to Modern.

5.1.3 **Phase 3: Post-Medieval deposits**

The majority of features noted during the evaluation were of Post-Medieval or Modern origin and mainly dating to the late 19th or early 20th Century.

To the east and southeast of the study area the evaluation revealed a number of planting trenches which were excavated during the construction and maintenance of the current orchards. Documentary evidence shows that these date to the 20th century, whilst discussions with the grounds keeper who worked on the grounds when the orchard was active has helped describe their construction and use. These trenches averaged 0.75m in width with vertical sides and a flat base, they were excavated by a machine to plant a line of fruit trees and were re-excavated on a roughly 10 year cycle to keep fruit production at a maximum.

A single gully [1104] orientated northeast/southwest was noted in the current picnic area and was noted as being 0.75m in width and 0.17m in depth, sealed by subsoil 1102 this feature is of unknown usage at present. The recovery of a single Post-Medieval fragment of pottery from the single fill 1103 demonstrates that it is moderately recent in date, and while it is clear that it is part of the earlier phase of farming known to have occurred on the site it is not possible to say at this point which phase or function this small gully would have performed.

5.1.4 **Phase 4: Modern deposits**

A patch of burning 903 recorded within Trench 9 is thought to have been undertaken deliberately to clear the area of undergrowth, possibly during the redevelopment of the site after 1998 (See above). To the southwest of this burnt spread a drain [1006] was recorded which is thought to relate to the modern fishing pond located to the immediate north and constructed during the recent redevelopment of the site.

All of the above was sealed by a topsoil that covered the site and whilst varying in thickness was uniformly highly humeric in nature. It is clear that this topsoil has been developed in part due to the natural degradation of organic material dropped by the large number of trees in the area and that through active worm action a rich biomass has been produced.

Trenches 1 and 2 were sealed by a modern hardcore and gravel mix 0.4m in thickness that was placed onto a porous membrane fabric sheet to create a firm car parking surface. It is clear that during the construction of this car park the area was cleared of overburden down onto and slightly into the natural substrate. This was carried out using a mechanical excavator with a tooth bucket which left scars in the top of the underlying natural substrate. This development is known to have occurred after 1998.

5.2 **Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams**

The artefactual assemblage, from four stratified contexts, comprised a small quantity of pottery, ceramic building material and flint, as summarised in Table 1. The level of preservation was generally good, with the pottery sherds displaying few signs of abrasion.

Period	Material class	Material sub-type	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
Undated	ceramic	-	brick/tile	1	3
Prehistoric	stone	flint	-	1	7
Roman	ceramic	-	pottery	1	2
Post-Medieval/ Modern	ceramic	-	pottery	2	15
Medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile(flat)	1	59
Post-Medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile	9	592
Totals:				15	678

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Pottery

Pottery sherds were grouped and quantified according to fabric type, as shown in Table 2. There were no diagnostic form sherds that could provide precise dating, but the sherds were datable by their fabric types to general production spans.

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
Roman	12	Oxidised Severn Valley ware	1	2
Post-Medieval/ Modern	85	China	2	15
Totals:			3	17

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

Only three sherds of pottery were recovered, from contexts 800 and 1100. The former context produced one small sherd of Roman Severn Valley ware (fabric 12), and the latter context two sherds of 19th-20th century white china (fabric 85).

Ceramic building material

Several fragments of Post-Medieval curved roof tile were found in context 303. A thinner fragment of flat roof tile, also from this context, had a reduced core, and was possibly of an earlier Medieval date. A single undiagnostic fragment of brick/tile was recovered from context 1103.

Flint

A piece of Prehistoric worked flint was found in context 800. This item was unusual insofar as it appeared to have been struck as a flake, whose surfaces had become heavily patinated,

before being retouched at a later time, to produce a very rough and blunt double-edged blade (*pers comm.* R Jackson).

Overview of artefactual evidence

The limited assemblage indicated a low level of successive Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval activity in the area investigated. *Terminus post quem* date ranges for the contexts are shown in Table 3.

Context	Material class	Object specific type	Fabric code	Count	Weight (g)	Start date	End date	<i>tpq</i> range
303	ceramic	roof tile	-	7	540	1600	1850	1600-1850
	ceramic	roof tile	-	2	52	1600	1850	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	1	59	1300	1600	
800	stone	flint	-	1	7	-	-	1800-1950
	ceramic	pot	85	2	15	1800	1950	
1100	ceramic	pot	12	1	2	43	400	43-400
1103	ceramic	brick/tile	-	1	3	-	-	-

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6. Synthesis

The evaluation revealed evidence of Medieval or Post-Medieval strip field cultivation to the west of the site and evidence of ploughing to the east overlain by 20th Century features related to the planting of the orchards. Only two residual finds (one Prehistoric and the second Romano-British) provide evidence of occupation of the site prior to the Medieval period. From the sterile nature of the substrate, it is thought unlikely that extensive Prehistoric or Roman activity has been erased by these later processes. Whilst shallow discrete features may have been completely removed, any feature or deposit of more substantial nature such as ditches or structures would have survived the relatively insignificant disturbance seen. As such the paucity of earlier features within the study area appears to be the genuine result of absence as opposed to misleading evidence caused by later truncation and disturbance of the site. No evidence of activity related to the Medieval Battle of Evesham was uncovered.

The site appears to have been farmland for a substantial period of time and at least since the formation of ridge and furrow. The development of the site from pasture farmland to orchard and shopping centre is documented in the cartographic record.

7. Significance

7.1 Significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest

The aim of an archaeological evaluation is to provide the client and the planning authority (and its advisors) with sufficient information to assess the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest, in line with *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the*

Historic Environment (DCLG 2010: Policy HE6). More detailed guidance on assessing the significance of site with archaeological interest is set out in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, which advises that an on-site evaluation should establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest in order to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010: Section 5, Development Management).

7.2 **Assessment of significance**

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

Although two individual items predating the Medieval period were noted as being redeposited within the topsoil, no evidence was noted of any substantial activity from this period having taken place. The earliest activity noted on the site were plough scars revealed in the northeast corner of the investigation area and ridge and furrow noted in the southwest corner. These are both believed to be Post-Medieval in date and relate to the known documented farming (See Etheridge 2010). These were then partially truncated by the construction of trenches used during the planting of the orchard that is still present on site.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

Whilst the site reveals the changing patterns and farming techniques used over the past few hundred years little additional information can be gleaned from the archaeology which could not also be found in documentary and cartographic evidence for the site. The relatively sterile nature of the natural substrate also revealed that while the area of investigation has been subjected to reworking in the Post-Medieval and recent periods this is unlikely to have erased all trace of earlier features, unless isolated and discrete.

8. **Publication summary**

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

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9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathy Patrick, CgMs Ltd, Jon Morris Site Manager Evesham Country Park and Mike Glyde, Worcestershire County Council.

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Jonathan Webster. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Webster and Richard Bradley, finds analysis by Dennis Williams and illustration by Laura Templeton.

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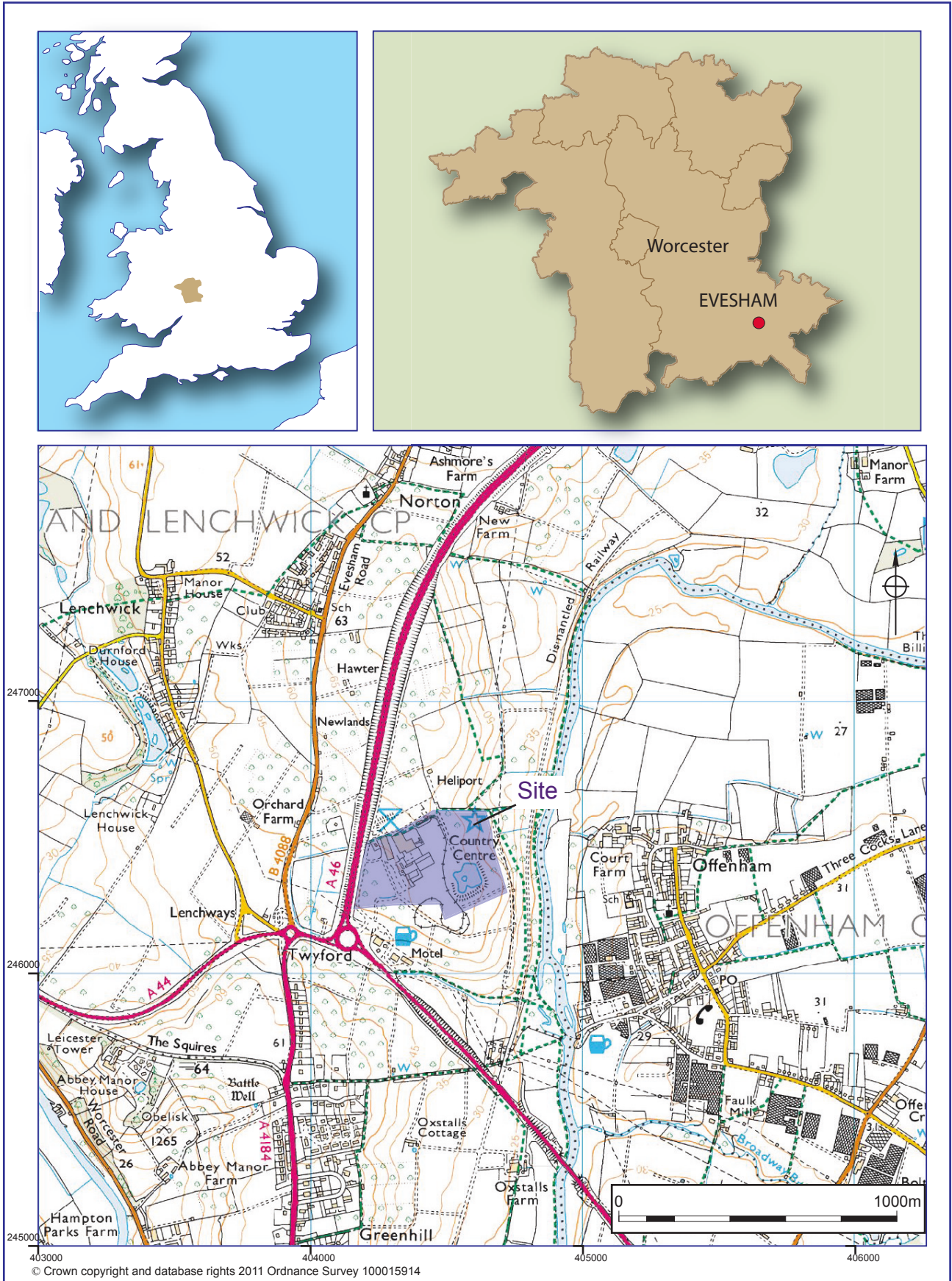
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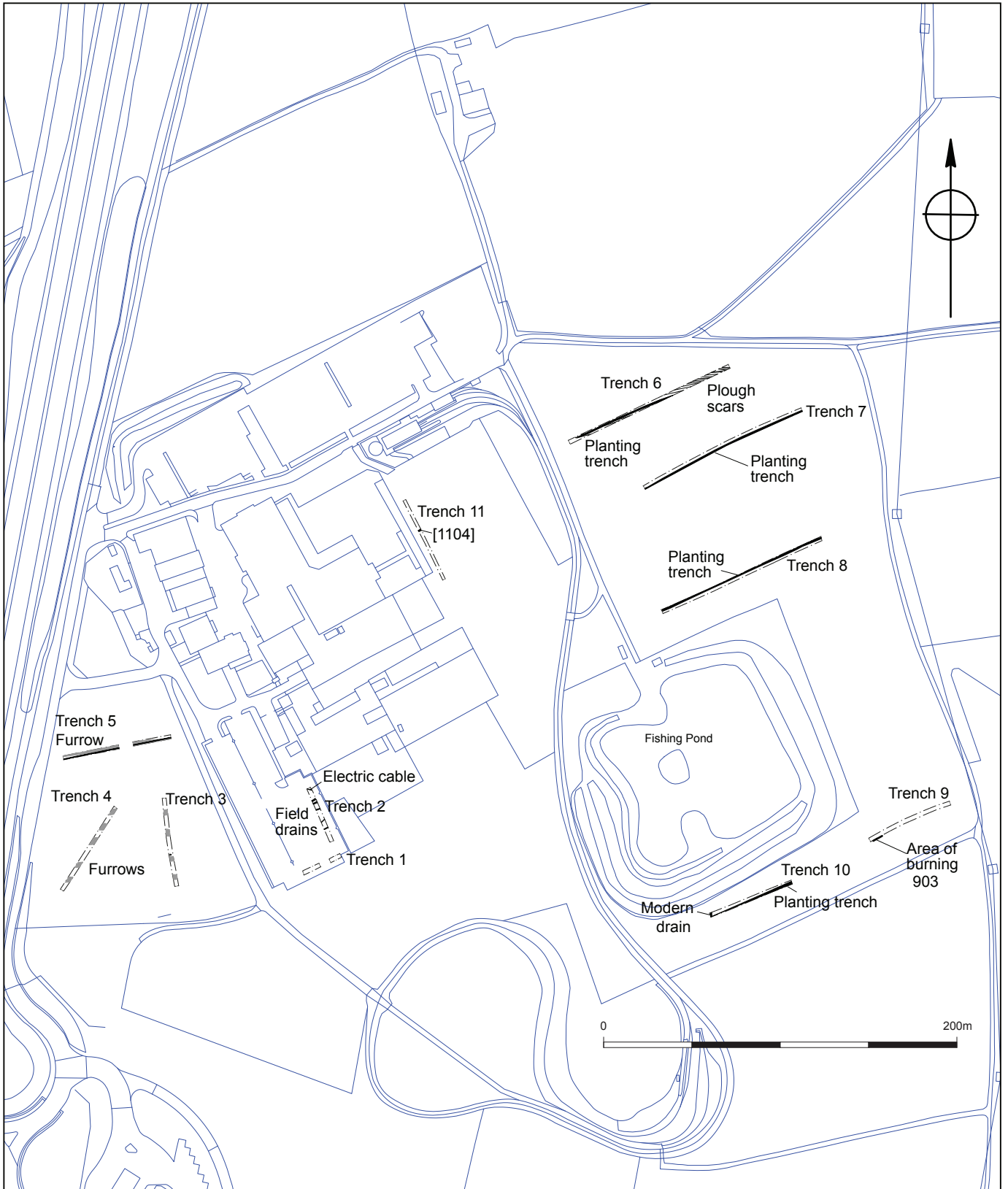
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Archaeological trenches

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1. Trench 6 Showing plough scars in foreground. Looking southwest



Plate 2. Trench 3 Showing furrows. Looking north

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Field number 1
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 23.5m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.68-0.84m
 Orientation: Northeast/southwest

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
101	Carpark surface	Gravel and tarmac mixed hardcore lying on a limestone crush mix placed onto a porous membrane fabric sheet.	0.00-0.04m
102	Mixed natural interface	Mixed blue-grey and orange clays with firm compaction. Mixed with occasional root action and gravels throughout.	0.41-0.67m
103	Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow clays with occasional bands of light blue-grey clays.	0.68m+

Trench 2

Site area: Field number 1
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 34m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.6m
 Orientation: Northwest/southeast

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
201	Carpark surface	Gravel and tarmac mixed hardcore lying on a limestone crush mix placed onto a porous membrane fabric sheet.	0.00-0.38m
202	Mixed natural interface	Mixed blue-grey and orange clays with firm compaction. Mixed with occasional root action and gravels throughout.	0.39-0.59m
203	Natural substrate	Light greyish yellow clays with occasional bands of light blue-grey clays.	0.60m+

Trench 3

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.76m

Orientation: North/south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown moderately compact sandy silts and clay mix with occasional sub-rounded gravels throughout. Also occasional charcoal flecks and frequent plant rooting disturbance.	0.00-0.33m
301	Subsoil	Mid greyish yellow sandy clays with occasional subrounded gravels throughout.	0.34-0.60m
302	Natural substrate	Mixed yellowish grey and blue-grey sandy clays with frequent subrounded gravels throughout.	0.61m+
303	Fill of [304]	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional subrounded gravels throughout.	0.61-0.76m
[304]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.61-0.76m
305	Fill of [306]	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional subrounded gravels throughout.	0.61-0.76m
[306]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.61-0.76m
307	Fill of [308]	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional subrounded gravels throughout.	0.61-0.76m
[308]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.61-0.76m
309	Fill of [310]	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional subrounded gravels throughout.	0.61-0.76m
[310]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.61-0.76m
311	Fill of [312]	Light greyish yellow clays and silt mix with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.61m+
[312]	Tree throw	Irregular D-shaped feature with classic tree throw characteristics. Due to tree being removed during current works no excavation needed to determine nature of feature.	0.61m+

Trench 4

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.57m

Orientation: Northeast/southwest

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silts and loam with moderate subrounded gravels throughout and frequent bioturbation.	0.00-0.30m
401	Subsoil	Light greyish yellow clays with occasional rounded to subrounded gravels throughout.	0.31-0.42m
402	Natural	Mixed yellowish grey and blue-grey sandy clays with frequent subrounded gravels	0.43m+

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
	substrate	throughout.	
403	Fill of [404]	Light greyish yellow clays and silt mix with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.43-0.57m
[404]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.43-0.57m
405	Fill of [406]	Light greyish yellow clays and silt mix with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.43-0.57m
[406]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.43-0.57m
407	Fill of [408]	Light greyish yellow clays and silt mix with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.43-0.57m
[408]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.43-0.57m
409	Fill of [410]	Light greyish yellow clays and silt mix with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.43-0.57m
[410]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.43-0.57m
411	Fill of [412]	Light greyish yellow clays and silt mix with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.43-0.57m
[412]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped linear orientated east/west.	0.43-0.57m

Trench 5

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m (Split into two halves 30m and 20m respectively due to overhead power lines)
Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.54m

Orientation: East/west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silts and loam with moderate subrounded gravels throughout and frequent bioturbation.	0.00-0.40m
501	Natural substrate	Mixed yellowish grey and blue-grey sandy clays with frequent subrounded gravels throughout.	0.40m+
502	Fill of [503]	Mid greyish brown sandy silts with moderate subrounded gravels throughout and occasional charcoal flecks. CBM fragments noted on surface.	0.40-0.54m
[503]	Cut of furrow	Shallow U-shaped cut feature orientated east/west.	0.40-0.54m

Trench 6

Site area: Field number 3
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.58m
 Orientation: Northeast/southwest

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate subrounded gravels and frequent bioturbation throughout. Occasional charcoal noted throughout.	0.00-0.25m
601	Subsoil	Light greyish yellow silty clays with occasional subrounded gravels.	0.26-0.48m
602	Natural substrate	Yellowish grey with bands of blue-grey sandy clays with occasional patches of gravels throughout and becoming blue lias to the northeast. Some evidence of bioturbation noted.	0.49m+
603	Fill of [604]	Light greyish brown clays with occasional angular gravels. Large percentage of bioturbation.	0.25-0.58m
[604]	Cut of planting trench	Northeast/southwest orientated machine cut trench with vertical sides and flat base 0.75m wide. Excavated for planting of orchard.	0.25-0.58m
[605]	Plough scars	East/west orientated plough scars noted at east end of the trench. Averaged 0.1m wide and truncated by [604].	0.49m+

Trench 7

Site area: Field number 3
 Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.34m
 Orientation: Southwest/northeast

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate subrounded gravels and frequent bioturbation throughout. Occasional charcoal noted throughout.	0.00-0.20m
701	Subsoil	Light greyish yellow silty clays with occasional subrounded gravels.	0.21-0.32m
702	Natural substrate	Yellowish grey with bands of blue-grey sandy clays with occasional patches of gravels throughout and becoming blue lias to the northeast. Some evidence of bioturbation noted.	0.33m+
703	Fill of [704]	Light greyish brown clays with occasional angular gravels. Large percentage of bioturbation.	0.21-0.33m+
[704]	Cut of planting trench	Northeast/southwest orientated machine cut trench with vertical sides and flat base 0.75m wide. Excavated for planting of orchard.	0.21-0.33m+

Trench 8

Site area: Field number 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.43m

Orientation: Southwest/northeast

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate subrounded gravels and frequent bioturbation throughout. Occasional charcoal noted throughout Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile and rare clay pipe. Cut by one modern water pipe trench.	0.00-0.22m
801	Subsoil	Mid greyish yellow silty clay with occasional rounded gravels throughout.	0.23-0.38m
802	Natural substrate	Mixed mid grey and yellowish brown clay and gravel mix with evidence of bioturbation.	0.39m+
803	Fill of [804]	Light greyish brown clays with occasional angular gravels. Large percentage of bioturbation.	0.23-0.43m+
[804]	Cut of planting trench	Northeast/southwest orientated machine cut trench with vertical sides and flat base 0.75m wide. Excavated for planting of orchard.	0.23-0.43m+

Trench 9

Site area: Field number 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.59m

Orientation: East/west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clays with occasional subrounded gravels throughout and frequent bioturbation throughout.	0.00-0.20m
901	Subsoil	Mid blue-grey and light grey-brown silty clay, similar to 902 but with more disturbance.	0.21-0.29m
902	Natural substrate	Mixed light blue-grey and light grey-brown clays with pockets of gravels.	0.30m+
903	Layer	Thin band of burning noted at west end of the trench. Very friable with charcoal rich silty clays it was noted as being modern in nature and appeared to reflect a deliberate clearance of undergrowth.	0.14-0.20m

Trench 10

Site area: Field number 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2.1m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: West/east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay and silt mix with subrounded gravels and bioturbation frequently throughout.	0.00-0.24m
1001	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clays similar to 1002 but more disturbed.	0.25-0.35m
1002	Natural substrate	Mid orange brown sandy clays with frequent subrounded to subangular gravels throughout.	0.36m+
1003	Fill of [1004]	Mid greyish brown sandy clays with frequent gravels and bioturbation throughout.	0.25-0.50m
[1004]	Cut of planting trench	Northeast/southwest orientated machine cut trench with vertical sides and flat base 0.75m wide. Excavated for planting of orchard.	0.25-0.50m
1005	Fill of [1006]	Mid greyish brown sandy clays with frequent gravels throughout.	0.25-0.55m
[1006]	Cut of modern drain	Northwest/southeast orientated linear machine cut with vertical sides that contained a drain which at present is thought to relate to the construction and usage of the large artificial fishing lake to the immediate north.	0.25-0.55m

Trench 11

Site area: Field number 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.32-0.71m

Orientation: Northwest/southeast

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silts with occasional subrounded gravels throughout and frequent bioturbation.	0.00-0.16m
1101	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silts with moderately frequent gravels throughout.	0.17-0.31m
1102	Natural substrate	Silty sands and gravels with occasional root action that suggests that this area may have once been overgrown with trees and possibly an earlier orchard.	0.32m+
1103	Fill of [1104]	Mid grey sandy silts with occasional gravels throughout.	0.32-0.48m
[1104]	Cut of linear	Northeast/southwest orientated gully 0.75m in width with gradual U-shaped sides coming down onto a flat base.	0.32-0.48m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 46075)

The archive consists of:

- 7 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 81 Digital photographs
- 11 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 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

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM46075

P3811

Artefacts

HER summary data						
Period	Material class	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	Start date	End date
Medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	59	1300	1600
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	2	43	400
Post-Medieval/ Modern	ceramic	pot	2	15	1900	1950
Post-Medieval	ceramic	roof tile	9	592	1600	1850
Prehistoric	stone	flint	1	7	-	-
Undated	ceramic	brick/tile	1	3	-	-
