

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ALONG BROMYARD ROAD, WORCESTER

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Archaeological work along Bromyard Road, Worcester

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Part 1 Project summary

The Historic Environment and Archaeology Service of Worcestershire County Council was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd to undertake archaeological work along a length of Bromyard Road on the west side of Worcester (centred on NGR SO 824 545; WCM 101815-7). The work was associated with a scheme to provide new bus lanes and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians (the West of Worcester Bus Rapid Transport Corridor).

One long trench was excavated in a field on the north side of the road, at Earl's Court Farm, between Tudor Way and Earl's Court Cottage (Area A, Trench 1). The trench was intended to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on deposits identified in a previous evaluation. Ten smaller trenches were excavated on the south side of the road to investigate other areas affected by the scheme. Eight trenches were excavated at Grove Farm, in a fir plantation directly opposite the first trench (Area B, Trenches 4-11) and two trenches were excavated on a grass verge opposite Grove Crescent (Area C, Trenches 2 and 3).

Two groups of features were exposed in Trench 1 on the north side of the road. One group, near the centre of the trench, comprised three pits, three gullies, a ditch, and a posthole. The ditch and one of the pits contained sherds of 11th-12th century pottery and abundant remains of wheat, rye, barley, and oats. Other features were found nearby in the previous evaluation, and the combined evidence suggests that the site was a farmstead, fronting onto the road. If so, it is very significant, as few sites of this type and period have been found in Worcestershire to date. The other features, toward the east end of the trench, were partially exposed and poorly defined. They contained no cultural material, so nothing certain can be said of their date or significance.

No significant deposits or features were found in the two areas to the south of Bromyard Road. Some of the trenches in the fir plantation (Area B) produced evidence of post-medieval and modern cultivation in the form of pottery sherds spread with manure, and scars left by subsoiling or mole-draining. Both of the trenches in the grass verge (Area C) revealed furrows that probably represent post-medieval ploughing.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

The project was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd in their capacity as consultants to Worcestershire Highways, who intend to create new bus lanes and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists along Bromyard Road (the West of Worcester Bus Rapid Transit Corridor; centred on NGR SO 824 545, Fig 1). The development involves groundworks on both sides of the road between Tudor Way and Earls Court Cottage (Earl's Court Farm and Grove Farm) and on the south side of the road opposite Grove Crescent.

The project was intended to mitigate the impact of groundworks on the north side of the road, where a medieval site has been identified in previous investigations (Foundations Archaeology 2006), and to evaluate the two areas to the south. The investigations were required to fulfil planning conditions set by Worcester City Council (ref. P06C0121 and P07K0562).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to a written scheme of investigation prepared by Halcrow Group Ltd (2010), and to a proposal prepared by HEAS (2010). It also conforms to standards set by Worcester City Council (WCC 1999) and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a and 2008b).

1.3 Aims

The project involved work in three areas, designated A, B, and C, as shown on Figure 1.

The aims of the mitigation in Area A, at Earl's Court Farm on the north side of the road, were Halcrow Group Ltd 2010, 2-3 and 6:

- to 'strip, map and sample' archaeological remains along a narrow land take from Tudor Way to Earl's Court Cottage, including an extension for a road junction; and,
- to fulfil planning condition 7.

The aims of the evaluation in Area B, at Grove Farm opposite, were:

- to evaluate a 20m land take and the area of a proposed contractor's compound opposite Tudor Way;
- to use the results of the evaluation to inform the need for, and extent of future mitigation; and,
- to fulfil planning conditions 11 and 12.

The aims of the mitigation in Area C, opposite Grove Crescent, were:

- to test for the presence of unknown archaeological deposits;
- to use the results of the evaluation to inform a programme of archaeological mitigation, if required; and,

- to determine the extent of any historic ground disturbance.

2. **Methods**

2.1 **Documentary search**

The archaeological background to the site has been summarised in the written scheme of investigation (Halcrow Group Ltd 2010).

2.2 **Fieldwork**

2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2010). The fieldwork was undertaken between 28 June and 8 July 2010. The reference number for the 'event' as a whole is WCM 101818. The fieldwork in each area was numbered separately, as shown in brackets below.

The mitigation in Area A (WCM 101817) involved the excavation a single trench from Tudor Way to a point near Earl's Court Cottage (Fig 2). The trench was excavated to the natural substrate, under close supervision, by a JCB fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation began at the west end, just inside a mature hedgerow, but the trench was moved to the north when a water pipe was exposed and its line ascertained from the owner. Most of the trench was 1.55m wide. The northern extension for the road junction was 21m long and 8m wide. A second extension was excavated to the south, at the request of the City Council's Archaeological Officer. This extension was 11m long and 3m wide. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.87m but was generally between 0.30m and 0.50m deep.

The evaluation in Area B (WCM 101815) involved excavating eight sample trenches (Fig 2). The trenches were 1.55m wide, between 9.20m and 25.50m long, and up to 0.66m deep.

The evaluation in Area C (WCM 101816) involved excavating two sample trenches (Fig 2). The trenches were 15m long, 1.55m wide, and up to 0.34m deep.

In all three areas, further cleaning and excavation was undertaken by hand. All archaeological features were sampled, as specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Halcrow Group Ltd 2010, 7-8), except for one feature in Trench 1 which was overlooked. Artefacts were recovered from four deposits in Trench 1 and soil samples were taken from two of these deposits. Drawn, written, and photographic records were made according to standard Service practice (CAS 1996). The trenches were surveyed by EDM (Trench 1) and GPS (Trenches 2-11). Levels were taken on features in Trench 1 and related to an Ordnance Survey benchmark on a building on Tudor Way (the former Drake's Drum pub: cut mark at 27.1303m AOD). After each trench was recorded, it was backfilled with the excavated material.

All stages of the fieldwork, and the movement of vehicles and plant, were supervised by an ecologist (Juliet Moxon, Halcrow Group Ltd). In particular, the removal and replacement of vegetation was supervised so that reptiles could be taken and relocated.

2.2.2 **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. This included the report on a field evaluation by Foundations Archaeology (2006), to establish the spatial and functional relationships between features in the southern extension of Trench 1 and in an evaluation trench 20m to the north-west (Fig 3).

2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified, and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on pro forma sheets. The pottery 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).

2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation. Samples of between 6 and 20 litres were taken from two contexts (1016 and 1025), from a pit (1017) and a ditch (1026) which were of 11th and 12th Century date (see Table 1)

2.4.2 **Macrofossil analysis**

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flot was 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 scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale.

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods described above were appropriate to the aims of the project and have produced clear positive and negative results.

Trench 1 was excavated up to 8m north of its originally envisaged line, but this still allowed the mitigation required in this area to be achieved. The other trenches were excavated as planned and provided an adequate means of evaluating the archaeological potential of each area.

With regard to post-fieldwork analysis, the stratigraphic evidence, artefacts, and soil samples from Trench 1 were analysed appropriately to professional standards, and the results were integrated with those of the 2006 evaluation. The other evidence and artefacts were also given adequate attention.

On this basis, a high degree of confidence can be placed in the results of the project.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The fieldwork took place in three areas along the western length of Bromyard Road, just within the limits of Worcester city (Figs 1 and 2). Along this length, the land rises steeply then more gently from east to west. The geology of the area has been mapped as Triassic Mercia 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).

Area A comprises a narrow strip of land on the north side of Bromyard Road, between Tudor Way and Earl's Court Cottage (Earl's Court Farm). The land forms part of a field that was formerly managed as permanent pasture. At the time of the fieldwork, it was overgrown with grasses, weeds, and re-seeded cereals.

This field and that immediately to the north have been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, field evaluation, and a summary report with a mitigation strategy (Foundations Archaeology 2006; John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2006). The desk-based assessment identified the presence of a medieval moated site in the north-west of the field (WCM 91064; SAM 31957), and the limited potential for remains of prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon activity. The results of the geophysical survey were inconclusive, but the field evaluation provided evidence of archaeological deposits in both fields.

The features were concentrated in the centre of Trench 7. They comprised a north-south ditch and a gully defining a roughly rectangular area, open to the south. Inside this area, eighteen postholes, twelve stakeholes and three linear features with rounded ends. There were also two ditches to the north, one aligned east-west, the other north-west to south-east. Between them, the north-south ditch and one of the postholes produced twelve sherds 11th-12th century pottery (Fig 4; Foundations Archaeology 2006, 9-11 and 21-22).

Area B takes in part of a fir plantation on the south side of Bromyard Road, directly opposite Area A (Grove Farm). At the time of the fieldwork, the land around the trees was overgrown with grasses and weeds. The area was covered in a desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2005). The south and central portion of the field was also subject to an evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006). No direct evidence of significant archaeological deposits was identified in either exercise. The area lay within part of a larger undeveloped field from at least the latter half of the 19th century through to the latter half of the 20th century, when it became the present plantation.

Area C denotes the grass verge on the south side of Bromyard Road, opposite Grove Crescent. It was also covered in the desk-based assessment but no direct evidence of archaeological deposits was identified (Wessex Archaeology 2005). This area was similarly part of a larger field, but was largely developed with housing in the latter half of the 20th century.

4. **Results**

4.1 **Structural analysis**

4.1.1 **Area A (Trench 1)**

A dozen archaeological features were exposed in Trench 1: four toward the east end of the trench; the rest near the centre and in an extension to the south (Fig 2).

The features near the centre of the trench comprised three pits, three gullies, a ditch, and a posthole (Fig 3; Plates 1-5).

The pits were very different, one from the other. One pit was of medium size, roughly oval in shape, with concave sides and a flat base (1017). The lower fill was similar to the natural substrate of silty sand and gravel, but included lenses and of charcoal (1020). The upper fill (1016) was more humic and contained charcoal throughout (1016). As described below (Sections 4.2 and 4.3), it contained three sherds of medieval pottery, a residual sherd of Roman pottery, and charred remains of various cereals. Another pit was larger and irregular (1024). It was filled with redeposited natural sand (1029). The third pit (1028) was small, oval, and filled with grey sandy silt (1027). This last feature was not excavated.

The three gullies were all narrow, shallow, and aligned roughly north-south (1013, 1015, and 1019). All of them terminated within the trench but continued beyond the northern baulk. They were filled with soils that were similar to the natural substrate but slightly darker. The fill of one gully (1019) included a small fragment of fired clay.

A more substantial linear feature (1026) cut the irregular pit (1024). Only one side of the feature was exposed and its western extent was obscured by reworked soil (1023), but it appears to represent a length of ditch aligned east-west, at right angles to the gullies (Fig 4; Plate 5). The feature was filled with humic soil containing charcoal fragments and six shreds of medieval pottery.

The last feature in this group was a posthole (1022). It was sub-rounded in plan and had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a mixture of topsoil and natural sand (1021).

The other features in Trench 1 lay toward the east end and were less diagnostic (Fig 2; Plates 6-8). Three of them represent a sequence of activity on the same spot. The earliest comprised a large pit with concave sides and a flat base (1006). The fill was similar to the natural substrate, making the edges of the pit difficult to define. It was, however, clearly cut by a linear feature on a northwest to southeast alignment (1010). Only one side of this feature was exposed but it probably represents a gully or ditch. The fill of this feature was also similar to the natural substrate but slightly darker (1011). The last feature in the sequence was another pit, represented by a single concave side (1008). It was only visible in section and so must have been barely clipped by the trench. The fill was similar to the others but included aggregates of Mercian mudstone (1009). Another ditch lay 3m to the northwest (1004), on a northwest to southeast alignment. Like the other features, it was filled with soil derived from the natural substrate (1005). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.

4.1.2 **Area B (Trenches 2 and 3)**

Trenches 2 and 3 showed clear evidence of modern truncation (Fig 2; Plates 9 and 10). Instead of a normal soil profile of topsoil, subsoil, and natural material, both trenches showed only redeposited topsoil over Mercian mudstone. Moreover, the topsoil contained frequent fragments of brick, glass, and plastic. However, both trenches contained some evidence of pre-modern land-use in the form of truncated furrows, one in Trench 2 (2002) and three in Trench 3 (3002, 3004, and 3006). The furrow in Trench 2 followed the natural fall in this area from northwest to southeast. The furrows in Trench 3 ran from east to west, across the slope.

4.1.3 **Area C (Trenches 4-11)**

Trenches 4-11 revealed almost identical profiles of topsoil and subsoil over natural sands and gravels (Plates 11-18). No features were exposed, except for narrow east to west scars in Trenches 4, 5, 7, and 10, and a tree bole or root disturbance in Trench 10. The scars probably represent 20th century subsoiling or mole-draining, and show that the field was once cultivated. Earlier cultivation is implied by the pottery recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10. As discussed below (Section 4.2), the pottery spans the period from the late 18th century to the 20th century and almost certainly represents manuring.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 3. The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 32 sherds of pottery weighing 156g. In addition fragments of tile, slag and window glass were recovered. The group came from five stratified contexts and the topsoil and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). The level of preservation was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying significant surface abrasion.

Period	Material class	Type	Count	Weight(g)
Roman	Ceramic	Pot	1	6
Medieval	Ceramic	Pot	12	69
Medieval	Slag	?Furnace	1	4
Post-medieval	Ceramic	Pot	6	93
Post-medieval	Ceramic	Tile	2	42
Modern	Ceramic	Pot	13	57
Undated	Ceramic	Fragment	1	1
Undated	Glass	Window	1	1

Table 1: *Quantification of the assemblage*

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). A total of two diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly. The remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

4.2.1 The pottery

Roman

A single sherd of highly abraded, residual Severn Valley ware was retrieved from pit fill 1020. This was the earliest material found on the site but was undiagnostic, so datable only to the general production span of mid 1st and 4th century.

Medieval

All pottery of medieval date within the assemblage came from Trench 1 and consisted of eleven sherds which could be dated between the late 11th- early 13th century. All were of Worcester production with the exception of a single sherd of Cotswolds unglazed ware (fabric 57; ditch fill 1025).

Diagnostic sherds came from two pitcher forms – one in Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware (fabric 55; ploughsoil 1001) and one of the glazed version of the same fabric (fabric 64.1; pit fill 1016). Both could be dated to the 12th century. Remaining sherds of medieval date were small and fragmentary, but thought to come from cooking pot forms.

Post-medieval

All pottery of post-medieval date came from topsoil contexts (Trenches 4, 6 and 9) and could be dated from the late 17th century onwards. A total of five sherds were retrieved, four of which were of black-glazed red sandy ware (fabric 78) and identified as coming from pantheon and bowl forms.

The remaining sherd in this group was the base of a small creamware bowl or cup dating between 1760 and 1790 (fabric 84, ploughsoil 6000).

Modern

Modern pottery consisted of various fragments of china dinner service and two sherds of flowerpot dating from the 19th century onwards (fabrics 85 and 101). As with the post-medieval sherds, all came from topsoil contexts (5000, 6000, 9000 and 10000).

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Sum of count	Sum of weight (g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	1	6
Medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	4	40
Medieval	57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	1	11
Medieval	64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	7	18
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	4	74
Post-medieval	84	Creamware	1	11
Modern	85	Modern china	12	47
Modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	2	18

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

Context	Material class	Object type	Count	Weight(g)	Start date	End date	TPQ
1001	Ceramic	Pot	1	11	1150	1200	12 th century
1016	Ceramic	Pot	3	11	1100	1200	12 th century
1018	Ceramic	Pot	1	1	0	0	Undated
1020	Ceramic	Pot	1	6	43	400	Medieval
1020	Ceramic	Pot	3	29	1075	1400	
1025	Ceramic	Pot	1	11	1066	1200	12 th century
1025	Ceramic	Pot	4	7	1200	1400	
1025	Ceramic	Vitrified	1	4	0	0	
4000	Ceramic	Pot	1	10	1600	1800	18 th century
5000	Ceramic	Pot	1	3	1700	2000	21 st century
6000	Ceramic	Pot	1	8	1700	1800	18 th century
6000	Ceramic	Pot	1	11	1760	1790	
9000	Ceramic	Pot	3	64	1600	1700	21 st century
9000	Ceramic	Pot	2	5	1800	1900	
9000	Ceramic	Pot	9	34	1800	2000	
9000	Ceramic	Tile	2	42	1500	1799	
9000	Glass	Window	1	1	0	0	
10000	Ceramic	Pot	1	15	1800	2000	21 st century

Table 3: Summary of context dating from artefacts

4.2.2 Other artefacts

Remaining material consisted of two abraded pieces of roof tile of post-medieval date (ploughsoil 9000), a small shard of undated green glass (9000) and a small piece of what looks to be vitrified ceramic, possibly hearth lining (ditch fill 1025).

4.2.3 Synthesis

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and of their associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Roman

Roman material from the site consisted of a single, residual sherd of Severn Valley ware.

Medieval

The medieval material retrieved consisted entirely of pottery dating between the late 11th and early 13th centuries. All came from contexts within Trench 1 and were stratified. The fabrics present consisted of Worcester-type sandy wares and Cotswolds unglazed ware, which is consistent with the assemblage from the previous evaluation (Foundations Archaeology 2006).

Post-medieval and modern

All remaining finds from the site were of late 17th century date onwards and consisted primarily of a range domestic pottery types and forms commonly identified from sites across Worcestershire.

4.2.4 Significance

The finds from Bromyard Road form a standard assemblage in terms of range of material. However, the pottery of medieval date is of particular note due to its association with what is thought to be a single dwelling dating from between the late 11th and early 13th centuries. Very few rural sites of this period have been excavated or even located on the outskirts of Worcester, with that at Church Lane, Hallow being the most notable (Miller *et al* 2008). Therefore the discovery of these remains alongside a well-dated finds assemblage has the potential to greatly enhance our knowledge and understanding of life in rural Worcestershire during the medieval period.

4.3 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham

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

Sample	Context	Fill of	Fill type	Feature type	Period	Sample volume	Flot volume
1	1016	1017	Tertiary	Pit	Late 11 th -early 13 th C	20	110
2	1025	1026	Primary/secondary	Ditch	Late 11 th -early 13 th C	6	5

Table 4: Samples from Trench 1

Context	Sample	Frog/td	Charcoal	Charred plant	Hammerscale	Comment
1016	1	v occ	occ	occ	occ Fe slag	v occ hazel nutshell, occ pot
1025	2		v occ	v occ		

Table 5: Summary of biological and other remains found in sample residues from Trench 1 (v occ = very occasional; occ = occasional)

4.3.1 Hand-retrieved material

No hand-retrieved material such as bone was recovered from this site, probably due to the acidic nature of the soils.

4.3.2 Wet-sieved samples

Categories represented and abundance

Two samples from two contexts were analysed for this evaluation. Both were from features recorded in Area A, Trench 1. Sample 1 was the upper fill (1016) of a pit (1017) and sample 2 (1025) was the fill of a ditch (1026). The results are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

Latin name	Common name	Habitat	1016	1025
Charred				
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> rachis fragment	bread wheat	F	+	
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	free-threshing wheat	F	+++	
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) tail grain	free-threshing wheat	F	+	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled)	barley	F	++++	+
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> tail grain (hulled)	barley	F	++	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> rachis	barley	F	+	
<i>Secale cereale</i> grain	rye	F	+++	+
<i>Secale cereale</i> tail grain	rye	F	+	
<i>Secale cereale</i> rachis (fragment)	rye	F	+	
Cereal sp indet culm node	cereal	F	++	
Cereal culm base		F	+	
<i>Bromus</i> sp grain	brome grass	AF	++	
<i>Avena</i> sp grain	oat	AF	+++	+
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	buttercup	CD	+	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat hen	AB	++	
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	corn spurrey	AD	+	
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	corn cockle	AB	++	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass	AB	+	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep's sorrel	ABD	++	
<i>Rumex</i> sp	dock	ABCD	++	
<i>Brassica</i> sp	cabbages	ABDF	++	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp	vetch/pea	ABCD	+++	+
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	garden pea	AF	+	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> fragments	shepherd's needle	AB	+	
<i>Galeopsis</i> sp	hemp-nettle	ABCD	+	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elderberry	BC	+	
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	cornflower	D	+++	
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort	BCD	++	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	stinking chamomile	AB	+++	
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	corn marigold	AB	+++	+
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	scentless mayweed	AB	++	+
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	bristle club-rush	E	+	
<i>Festuca</i> sp	fescue	ABCD	++	

Table 6: Charred plant remains recovered from the samples from Trench 1

The plant remains were preserved by charring in both samples although some of the grain was poorly preserved. Context 1016 was shown to contain a large amount of plant remains both of cereals and of weeds. Cereal chaff was present but only in small quantities. Fewer plant remains were identified from (1025) and was less diverse than (1016).

The cereals

The cereals were present in the form of fully grown grain and tail grain (the small grains usually found at the top of the cereal ear) and the types recovered included a free-threshing

wheat (*Triticum* sp) which from the chaff present is most likely to be bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat (*Avena* sp). The cereals appeared to be present in equal proportions, which suggests that they may have been grown as mixed crops known as 'maslins'.

The lack of chaff of these cereals is not unusual as these crops can be classified as free-threshing indicating that the grain easily falls from the ear when ripe. This means that the chaff remains are rarely exposed to fire during the processing stages and therefore most unlikely to become preserved in the archaeological record. The chaff is usually collected and stored separately either to be used as a fuel, animal fodder or as temper for ceramic production. If used as a fuel it can be preserved by charring and may therefore be dumped into rubbish pits after use. The presence of tail grains of wheat, barley and rye suggests that the crops were not fully processed.

Other crops

There is very little evidence for other crops at Bromyard Road apart from a single pea (*Pisum sativum*).

The weeds

The weed species present in pit fill (1016) were present in high numbers and in general representing an arable environment with vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) were the commonest species. The presence of both winged and non-winged seeds of corn marigold suggests that whole flower heads may have been present in the original assemblage. Other common weeds included fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), dock (*Rumex* sp), cabbages/mustard (*Brassica* sp), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). The presence of corn marigold and sheep's sorrel indicate that the local soils were acidic. Heavy conditions are indicated by stinking chamomile.

Apart from arable weeds other environments indicated by the plant assemblage included wetland as shown by the presence of bristle club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*).

4.3.3 **Overview of environmental evidence**

The richest assemblage was from the upper fill (1016) of pit (1017) which was dominated by cereal grains and weed seeds. The majority of the weed seeds can be classified as arable weeds and therefore are most likely to be associated with the cereals. Four cereal types are present (bread wheat, barley, rye and oats). These are the typical crops of the medieval period and it is possible that these crops were grown as a mixture or 'maslin' which was common practice at this time. The lack of cereal chaff suggests that the crops were fully processed but as all the crops present can be classified as free-threshing there is the possibility that the chaff did not become exposed to fire and therefore was not preserved.

The cereals and weed seeds preserved suggests that the grain was spoiled and therefore burnt to prevent contamination of the rest of the harvest. Although the lack of any sprouted grain suggests that this was not the case and therefore the crop may have been burnt as an accident and then dumped into the pit.

The presence of the weed seeds suggests that the crops were locally grown and that the soil conditions were acidic and in some areas heavy.

Charcoal was also evident in the (1016), mainly of oak, some of which appeared to be worked.

4.3.4 **Synthesis**

Rural sites within Worcestershire which produce quantities of charred plant remains are very rare. The only other example within the county can be found at Church Lane, Hallow (Miller *et al* 2008). Here, the charred plant remains were present in lower numbers but a similar range of crops was found including bread wheat, barley and rye. Oats were not recorded here, which for a medieval site can be considered unusual.

Pearson (in Miller *et al* 2008) suggests that the finds of rye are an unusual find locally, although the local acidic soils do suggest that rye cultivation would be favourable in this area. The presence of rye at Hallow is tiny compared to that found at Bromyard Road. In fact, all of the cereals are present in greater numbers than at Hallow. The weed seeds are similar to those found at Hallow but again a greater range including the classic cornfield weeds of cornflower and corn cockle are found at Bromyard Road. The fields in this area would have been a riot of colour with the blue of the cornflower, purple of corn cockle and yellow of corn marigold.

It appears that in this region there is only a sparse distribution of grain, chaff and weed seeds for the medieval period (Pearson in Miller *et al* 2008). Although rich grain deposits have been found in oven features such as those found at Wellington Quarry (Pearson 2004) and a chaff rich oven deposit from Corve Street, Ludlow (Shropshire) (Pearson 2000).

As mentioned above, rye appears to be rarely found on sites across Worcestershire even though the soils are favourable but rye-rich deposits can be found within the region as shown by the remains from Buttercross, Leominster (Herefordshire) (Hurst, Pearson and Ratkai 1998).

4.3.5 **Significance**

The charred plant remains from context 1016 can be considered significant as rich charred plant assemblages from rural sites are very rare. The presence of large quantities of rye in the sample is very unusual for this area and therefore the remains from this site can be seen to be adding some very important data to agricultural practice carried out during the medieval period.

5. **Synthesis**

5.1 **Roman**

As described above, a single sherd of Roman pottery was found in the fill of a pit in Trench 1 (fill 1016 in pit 1017), along with three sherds of 12th century pottery. It was clearly residual in this context and probably came from nearby ploughsoil where it had lain for the best part of a millennium. Isolated finds and scatters of Roman pottery are very common in rural contexts and are thought to represent manuring with mixtures of muck and domestic refuse. It is therefore likely that Area 1 was cultivated during the Roman period, as suggested in the 2001 desk-based assessment. However, it was probably not cultivated throughout the period, or intensively cropped, as no other sherds were found in Trench 1 or in any of the 2006 evaluation trenches (Foundations Archaeology 2006, 22).

5.2 **Medieval**

Two of the features near the centre of Trench 1 contained pottery made between the late 11th and early 13th centuries (pit 1017 and ditch 1026). The pottery can be taken to date these features, and the other features are likely to be the same age in view of their close proximity and the proximity of another group found in Trench 7 of the 2006 evaluation (Fig 4). The report on the previous evaluation made little of this evidence (Foundations Archaeology 2006, 9-11 and 21-22)., but to the present writer, it clearly indicates a timber building or buildings

surrounded on three sides by a soakaway and set within a ditched enclosure. On this basis, it is likely that the features found in Trench 1 relate to activity within the same enclosure. It is also likely that the site represents a farmstead, rather than a cottage, as the combined evidence suggest both domestic and agricultural activity.

5.3 **Post-medieval and modern**

Post-medieval agriculture was represented by pottery found in Trenches 4, 6, and 9. As noted above, this material probably represents manuring. Later pottery from Trenches 5, 9, and 10, and the scars exposed in Trenches 4, 5, 7, and 10 indicate that Area B continued to be cultivated well into the 20th century. It is also likely that Area C was cultivated as well, for most of this period. The furrows found in Trenches 2 and 3 could conceivably be medieval, but their narrow width and narrow spacing are more consistent with a post-medieval date. By contrast, no post-medieval or modern pottery was found in Trench 1, suggesting that the area has been managed as pasture for centuries.

5.4 **Undated**

The features found near the east end of Trench 1 indicate some kind of pre-modern activity that included small-scale extraction (pits 1006 and 1009) and enclosure (ditches 1004 and 1010). Nothing more can be said however, as the features were partially exposed and filled with redeposited sand and gravel.

5.5 **Research frameworks**

The medieval farmstead suggested by the features found in Trench 1, and in Trench 7 of the 2006 evaluation, represents a significant heritage asset, in local and regional terms, as it is one of the few sites of its kind to have been identified and excavated to any extent. In Worcestershire, the only comparable sites are those identified in 1999 in Hallow (Miller *et al* 2008) and in 2000 at Birtsmorton (Miller and Jones 2000), although ephemeral traces of settlement have been found elsewhere, for example at Astwood (Farwell and Barnes 1994) and Whittington (Hurst 2004). Apart from these sites, archaeological knowledge of medieval rural settlement currently rests on evidence from earthworks and surviving buildings which is heavily biased towards the later part of the period. No synthesis has yet been attempted, but the main themes are covered in a paper given in 2003, at the medieval seminar of the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology (Bryant 2003). The present site is therefore very significant, especially in view of its early date. It also represents an architectural tradition that died out in the 13th century, according to historical evidence, when buildings built around earthfast timbers were replaced by timber framed buildings with sole plates, often on stone footings (Dyer 1986).

6. **Significance**

6.1 **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 associated *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).

6.2 Assessment of significance

The on-site evaluation has provided new evidence on a site with archaeological interest. As a result, an assessment of the significance of this site can be made in terms of the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest.

6.2.1 Area A

The significance of the area around Trench 7 of the 2006 evaluation was acknowledged before the project began and the recent fieldwork was required by way of mitigation rather than further evaluation. As discussed above, the results of the fieldwork have strongly confirmed the original assessment.

On present evidence, the site appears to extend across an area measuring at least 40m from north to south and 25m from east to west. The area near the east end of the trench can also be argued to be of archaeological interest, although the features are as yet undated and their function indeterminate.

6.2.2 Area B

No significant archaeological deposits or features were identified in Trenches 4-11.

6.2.3 Area C

The truncated furrows found in Trenches 2 and 3 are not considered to be archaeologically significant.

7. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, and unless directed otherwise, the Service intends to publish the following summary in an appropriate journal or journals.

The Historic Environment and Archaeology Service of Worcestershire County Council was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd to undertake archaeological work along a length of Bromyard Road on the west side of Worcester (centred on NGR SO 824 545; WCM 101815-7). The work was associated with a scheme to provide new bus lanes and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians (the West of Worcester Bus Rapid Transport Corridor).

One long trench was excavated in a field on the north side of the road, at Earl's Court Farm, between Tudor Way and Earl's Court Cottage (Area A, Trench 1). The trench was intended to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on deposits identified in a previous evaluation. Ten smaller trenches were excavated on the south side of the road to investigate other areas affected by the scheme. Eight trenches were excavated at Grove Farm, in a fir plantation directly opposite the first trench (Area B, Trenches 4-11) and two trenches were excavated on a grass verge opposite Grove Crescent (Area C, Trenches 2 and 3).

Two groups of features were exposed in Trench 1 on the north side of the road. One group, near the centre of the trench, comprised three pits, three gullies, a ditch, and a posthole. The ditch and one of the pits contained sherds of 11th-12th century pottery and abundant remains of wheat, rye, barley, and oats. Other features were found nearby in the previous evaluation, and the combined evidence suggests that the site was a farmstead, fronting onto the road. If so, it is very significant, as few sites of this type and period have been found in Worcestershire to date. The other features, toward the east end of the trench, were partially exposed and poorly defined. They contained no cultural material, so nothing certain can be said of their date or significance.

No significant deposits or features were found in the two areas to the south of Bromyard Road. Some of the trenches in the fir plantation (Area B) produced evidence of post-medieval and modern cultivation in the form of pottery sherds spread with manure, and scars left by subsoiling or mole-draining. Both of the trenches in the grass verge (Area C) revealed furrows that probably represent post-medieval ploughing.

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9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Darren Miller. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Mike Nichols, Elizabeth Curran, and Andy Mann, finds analysis by Laura Griffin, environmental analysis by Alan Clapham and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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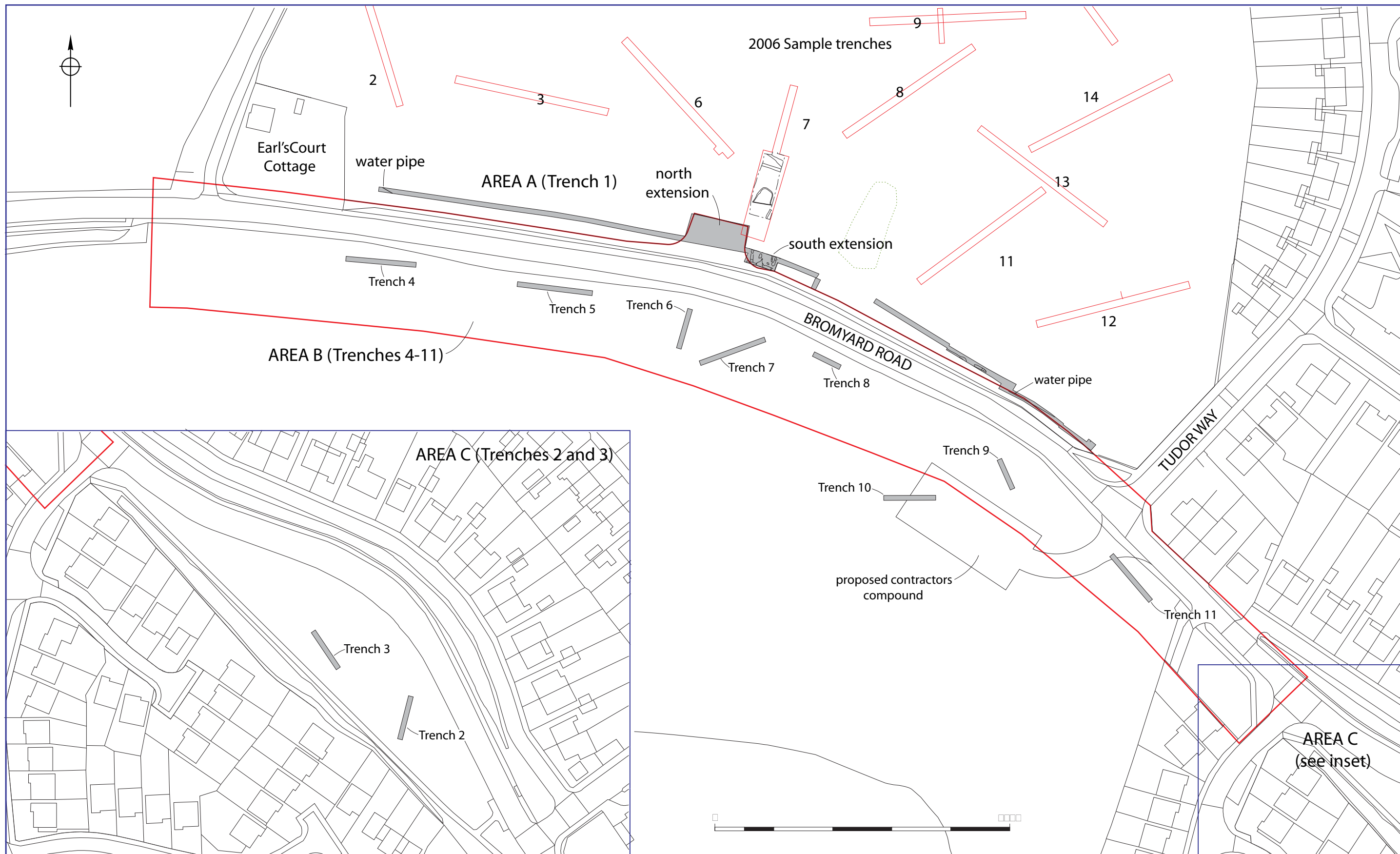
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Figures

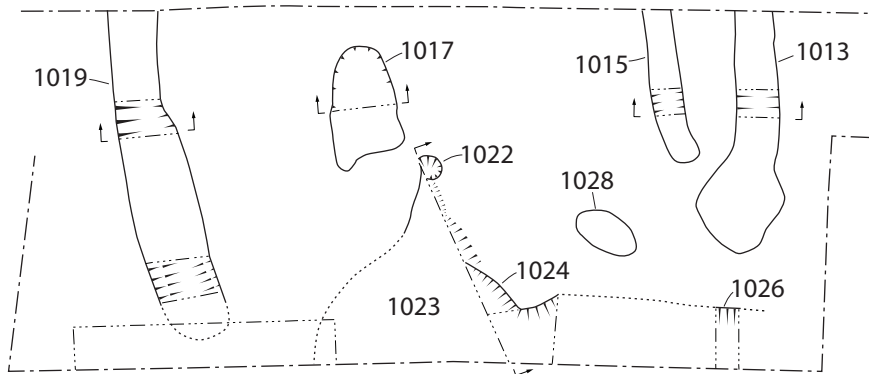
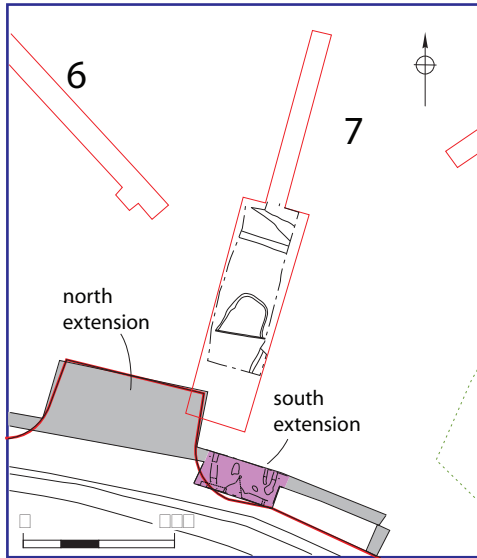




Legend for symbols and line types used on the map.

Scale bar indicating distances in meters.

Legend for symbols and line types used on the map.





Plates



Plate 1: General view of features in centre and southern extension of Trench 1, view east



Plate 2: Features in centre and southern extension of Trench 1, view west



Plate 2: North half of pit 1017, view south



Plate 4: North facing section of pit 1017



Plate 5: Ditch 1026 (left) cutting pit 1024 (right), view southwest



Plate 6: Pit 1006, view south-east



Plate 7: North facing section of pit 1006, cut by ditch 1010 and pit 1008



Plate 8: Ditch 1004, view west



Plate 9: Trench 2, showing furrow mid-way between ranging rods, view north



Plate 10: Trench 3, showing three parallel furrows, view southeast



Plate 11: Trench 4, view west



Plate 12: Trench 5, view west



Plate 13: Trench 6, view north



Plate 14: Trench 7, view southwest



Plate 15: Trench 8, view northwest



Plate 16: Trench 9, view southeast



Plate 17: Trench 10, with root disturbance in foreground, view west,



Plate 18: Trench 11, view southeast

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Area A – WCM 101817

Maximum dimensions: Length: 241m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.87m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Turf and topsoil	Friable light to mid grey sandy silt. Few small gravels. Common fine roots. Clear, smooth boundary.	0-0.21m
1001	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid grey sandy silt with few small gravels. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy boundary with 10002.	0-0.21m
1002	Subsoil	Firm light greyish and reddish brown silty sand. Few small gravels. Weak blocky peds. Diffuse boundary with 1003.	0.21-0.34m
1003	Natural	Firm light greyish brown silt mixed in varying proportions with yellow and reddish brown sand. Few to common small gravels. Not cohesive.	0.34-0.87m+
1004	Gully or truncated ditch	Poorly defined linear, parallel-sided feature aligned NW-SE. At least 4.11m long and c0.65m wide except near the south-east end, where it narrows to a blunted point. Section of excavated slot showed concave sides and a gently rounded base. Maximum depth of 0.17m	0.34-0.51m
1005	Fill of 1004	Firm mid to dark brown silty sand. Few small gravels.	0.34-0.51m
1006	Pit	Partially-exposed sub-circular feature, 2.42m long, >0.76m wide and 0.38m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Quarter-sectioned.	0.34-0.51m
1007	Fill of 1006	Friable light reddish and yellowish brown silty sand. Few small gravels. Cut by 1008 and 1010.	0.34-0.51m
1008	Recut of pit 1006?	Feature partially exposed in section during excavation of 1006. One visible side cuts 1011 and 1007, sloping near-vertically then at c45° to limit of excavation. At least 0.49 wide and 0.37m deep.	0.34-0.71m+
1009	Fill of 1008	Firm light reddish brown silty clay with few small gravels and manganese concretions. Redeposited Mercian mudstone.	0.34-0.71m+
1010	Gully or truncated ditch	North side of probable linear parallel-sided feature aligned NW-SE. At least 6.86m long and 0.40m wide. Maximum depth of 0.15m.	0.34-0.49m
1011	Fill of 1010	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand with abundant small gravels.	0.34-0.49m
1012	Fill of 1013	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand. Few small gravels and manganese concretions.	0.32-0.0.47m
1013	Gully or truncated ditch	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned N-S, ending in sub-rounded terminus at S end. At least 3.20m long, up to 0.78m wide (1.15m wide across terminus) and 0.15m deep. Gently sloping sides and gently rounded base.	0.32-0.0.47m
1014	Fill of 1015	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and manganese concretions.	0.28-0.46m
1015	Gully or truncated ditch	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned N-S, ending in rounded terminus at S end. At least 2.05m long, up to 0.56m wide, and 0.18m deep. Concave sides and rounded base.	0.28-0.46m
1016	Tertiary fill of 1017	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt. Abundant charcoal fragments and flecks. Few small gravels	0.39-0.44m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
1017	Pit	Sub-oval pit 1.50m long, 0.80m wide and 0.18m deep. Concave/steeply sloping sides and flat base.	0.39-0.57m
1018	Fill of 1019	Friable mid/dark brown silty sand. Few small gravels.	0.37-0.54m
1019	Gully or truncated ditch	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned N-S, perhaps ending at S end, although terminus could not be identified. At least 3.80m long, 0.90m wide, and 0.17m deep.	0.37-0.54m
1020	Primary/second fill of 1017	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and lenses of charcoal.	0.44-0.57m
1021	Fill of 1022	Firm light yellow and reddish brown sand mixed with c15% mid brown silty sand. Few small gravels.	0.34-0.51m
1022	Posthole	Sub-rounded feature with steeply sloping sides breaking gently to rounded base. Approximately 0.35m in diameter and 0.17m deep.	0.34-0.51m
1023	Deposit filling declivity left by 1024 and 1026.	Firm light brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Overlies 1025 and 1027.	0.34-0.40m
1024	Pit	Irregular feature measuring approximately 2.00m from N to S and 2.25m from E to W. Visible E side slopes gently then more steeply to W. At least 0.18m deep.	0.34-0.52m
1025	Fill of 1026	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand. Few small gravels. Common charcoal fragments and flecks.	0.34-0.58m
1026	Ditch	N side of probably linear, parallel-sided feature aligned approximately E-W. W extent uncertain because of 1027 overlying 1025. At least 4.40m deep, 0.90m wide, and 0.24m deep. Section of excavated slot showed a concave side breaking gently to a flat base.	0.34-0.58m
1027	Fill of 1028	Firm light greyish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and manganese concretions. Unexcavated.	0.34m+
1028	Pit	Oval feature with long axis aligned approximately N-S.	0.34m+
1029	Primary/second fill of 1024	Friable light yellowish and reddish brown silty sand. Few small gravels.	0.40-0.52m

Trench 2

Site area: Area C – WCM 101816

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.34m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Made ground	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt. Common small gravels. Few fragments of brick and plastic sheeting. Redeposited topsoil.	0-0.29m
2001	Natural	Stiff mid reddish brown silty clay. Mercian mudstone.	0.29m+
2003	Furrow?	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned NNW-SSE. Between 0.55 and 0.61m wide and 0.03m deep.	0.21-0.34m
2003	Fill of 2002	Firm light greyish brown sandy silt. Common small gravels. Few fragments of brick and plastic sheeting.	0.21-0.34m

Trench 3

Site area: Area C – WCM 101816

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.31m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Made ground	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt. Common small gravels. Few brick fragments. Redeposited topsoil.	0-0.21m
3001	Natural	Stiff mid reddish brown silty clay. Mercian mudstone.	0.21m+
3002	Furrow?	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned NE-SW; 0.40m wide and 0.07m deep.	0.21-0.28m
3003	Fill of 32002	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt. Common small gravels. Few brick fragments.	0.21-0.28m
3004	Furrow?	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned E-W. Between 0.25 and 0.65m wide and 0.10m deep.	0.21-0.31m
3005	Fill of 3004	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt. Common small gravels. Few brick fragments.	0.21-0.31m
3006	Furrow?	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned E-W; 1.00m wide and 0.05m deep.	0.21-0.26m
3007	Fill of 3006	Friable light greyish brown sandy silt. Common small gravels. Few brick fragments.	0.21-0.26m

Trench 4

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.35m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Reworked former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Few scraps of black plastic sheeting. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy lower boundary.	0-0.30m
4001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown silty sand. Few small gravels. Strong platy peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.30-0.35m
4002	Natural	As 4001 but with more frequent gravels. Cut by narrow scar aligned E-W.	0.35m+

Trench 5

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.50m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.35m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
5000	Reworked former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Few scraps of black plastic sheeting. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, smooth lower boundary.	0-0.20m
5001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Strong blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.20-0.35m
5002	Natural	As 5001 but with few patches of mid brownish red silty clay (Mercia mudstone). Cut by three narrow scars aligned E-W.	0.35m+

Trench 6

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 12.50m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.37m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
6000	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, smooth lower boundary.	0-0.31m
6001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Strong blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.31-0.37m
6002	Natural	As 6001 but with more frequent small gravels.	0.37m+

Trench 7

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 22.50m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
7000	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy lower boundary.	0-0.25m
7001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Weak blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.25-0.39m
7002	Natural	As 7001 but with more frequent small gravels, occasionally forming small patches. Cut by narrow scar aligned E-W.	0.39m-0.50m+

Trench 8

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.20m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.44m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
8000	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy lower boundary.	0-0.30m
8001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Weak blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.30-0.44m
8002	Natural	As 8001 but with common small gravels. Reworked by roots from trees or shrubs.	0.44m+

Trench 9

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.60m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.32m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
9000	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy lower boundary.	0-0.21m
9001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Weak blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.21-0.32m
9002	Natural	As 9001 but with more frequent small and medium gravels.	0.32m+

Trench 10

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 17.10m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.66m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
10000	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy lower boundary.	0-0.28m
10001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Weak blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.28-0.38m
10002	Natural	As 10001 but with common small gravels. Cut by three narrow scars aligned E-W. Reworked by roots of trees or shrubs.	0.38m+
10003	Fill of 10004	Friable mid brown silty sand mixed with c 15% soil as 1000.	0.21-0.66m
10004	Root disturbance	Irregular feature with poorly-defined edges. Slot excavated against S facing section showed both concave and undercutting sides. Up to 1.50m wide and 0.45m deep.	0.21-0.66m

Trench 11

Site area: Area B – WCM 101815

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.42m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (B.G.S) – top and bottom of deposits
11000	Former ploughsoil	Firm light to mid brown sandy silt. Few small gravels. Common fine roots in upper 10cm. Strong blocky peds. Clear, wavy lower boundary.	0-0.26m
11001	Subsoil	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Few small gravels and charcoal fragments. Weak blocky peds. Diffuse lower boundary.	0.26-0.39m
11002	Natural	As 11001 but with more frequent small and medium gravels.	0.39-0.42m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

15	Context records AS1
9	Fieldwork progress records AS2
2	Photographic records AS3
1	Drawing number catalogue AS4
2	Sample record sheets AS17
1	Sample record AS18
1	Levels record AS19
2	Flot record sheets AS21
13	Trench record sheets AS41
12	Scale drawings
1	Box of artefacts
2	Box of flots and residues
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371
