

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION  
AT  
THE RAVEN HOTEL,  
DROITWICH,  
WORCESTERSHIRE



© Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire Archaeology  
Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive  
Sawmill Walk  
The Butts  
Worcester  
WR1 3PB

Status: revision 1  
Date: 7 March 2013  
Author: Jonathan Webster – [jwebster@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jwebster@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Contributors: Dennis Williams  
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt  
Project reference: P4056  
Report reference: 1985  
HER reference: WSM 47475



# Contents

## Summary

1

## Report

<b>1 Background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Reasons for the project .....	3
<b>2 Aims.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Methods.....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Personnel.....	3
3.2 Documentary research .....	3
3.3 Fieldwork strategy .....	3
3.4 Structural analysis .....	4
3.5 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams.....	4
3.5.1 Recovery policy .....	4
3.5.2 Method of analysis.....	4
3.5.3 Discard policy .....	4
3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results .....	4
<b>4 The application site .....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	4
4.2 Current land-use .....	5
<b>5 Structural analysis.....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits .....	5
5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits .....	6
5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits .....	6
5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits .....	6
5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams .....	7
<b>6 Synthesis .....</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1 Phase 2 Medieval deposits.....	8
6.2 Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits .....	9
6.3 Phase 4 Modern activity .....	9
6.4 Artefact synthesis.....	9
<b>7 Significance .....</b>	<b>11</b>
7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site .....	11
7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site .....	11
7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site .....	11
<b>8 The impact of the development .....</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1 Impacts during construction.....	12
8.2 Impacts on sustainability .....	12
<b>9 Publication summary .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10 Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>11 Bibliography .....</b>	<b>12</b>



---

## **Archaeological evaluation at the Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Worcestershire**

Jonathan Webster

With contributions by Dennis Williams

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8995 6325). It was commissioned by Origin<sub>3</sub> on behalf of their client (Comparo), who intends to demolish the later extensions and renovate the hotel as well as redevelop the open areas for which a planning application will be submitted to Wychavon District Council.

The investigations revealed the presence of medieval pits and a ditch in the central part of the site. This was sealed by Victorian 'garden soils' and later buildings, structures and yard surfaces before the whole was converted into car parking associated with the Raven Hotel itself. The evaluation enabled the identification of areas of greater and lesser archaeological significance and potential.



---

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8995 6325). It was commissioned by Origin<sub>3</sub> on behalf of their client (Comparo), who intends to demolish the later extensions and renovate the hotel as well as redevelop the open areas for which a planning application will be submitted to Wychavon District Council (pre-application ref: CWR9461).

The proposed development site is considered to include an undesignated heritage asset with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application (HER ref WSM 00647), along with a number of potential undesignated heritage assets.

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (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 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM 47475.

### 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 project was undertaken by Jonathan Webster, BA (Hons), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practising archaeology since 2001, and assisted by Ruth Humphreys BSc MA. The finds analysis was undertaken by Dennis Williams, MInstP CPhys BSc MA PhD, who has been in professional archaeology since 2006 when he joined WA. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss, MIFA BA (Hons). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt, MIFA BSc (Hons).

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by Archaeological Risk Management (Hopkins 2013) on behalf of their client Origin<sub>3</sub> Planning.

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 11 February and 15 February 2013. A field evaluation was also undertaken in 1994 (Napthan 1994) when one of the latest extensions to the hotel was being considered for planning permission. This evaluation trench has been incorporated into the present report (referred to here as Trench 1). The site reference number and site code is WSM 47475.

Five trenches, amounting to just over 128m<sup>2</sup> in area were excavated over the site area of 4900m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a JCB wheeled 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 Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). Mention any variation from standard practice. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material, and restoring the surface with roadstone.

### **3.4 Structural analysis**

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

### **3.5 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams**

#### **3.5.1 Recovery policy**

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

#### **3.5.2 Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date range was produced for each stratified context. These date ranges were used for determining the broad phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

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

#### **3.5.3 Discard policy**

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

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

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

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

## **4 The application site**

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

The area of investigation lies upon a plateau within the heart of the town of Droitwich overlooking St Andrew's Square with the land dropping away to both the north and east. The solid geology is Mercian Mudstone (formerly known as Keuper Marl). Keuper saliferous beds are known to occur near the surface in the area of Droitwich town centre (Poole and Williams 1981). Although local soils, being urban, are not classified, the nearest soil type, which is likely to have represented that for most of Droitwich is the Whimple 3 Association. This is one of the stagnogleyic argillic brown earths, which have fine loamy or silty drift horizons overlying slowly permeable Triassic mudstones (Ragg *et al* 1984, 137-9). St Andrews Street stands above the flood plain of the Salwarpe, the edge



---

of the first river terrace being represented by the line of nearby Friar Street. This combination of sands and gravels is formed by recent Pleistocene drift deposits of glacial origin associated with the terrace gravels of the River Salwarpe (BGS 2013).

The DBA identified the Raven Hotel (WSM 00647) as a Grade II listed building with an early 16<sup>th</sup> century core which has had extensive 19<sup>th</sup> century and later extensions and additions. The area of investigation itself lies within the historic core of Droitwich that is known to contain prehistoric, Romano British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval deposits, and work undertaken adjacent to the site revealed well preserved and extensive prehistoric to post-medieval remains (Goat and Woodiwiss 2005). Below is a brief summary of the known history of the area (please see the DBA for more detailed information, Hopkins 2013).

Droitwich has been a centre for the production of salt from the Iron Age until the early part of the last century. This industry was based on the brine springs of exceptional strength that naturally occurred in the area of the present town centre. The products of this industry are known to have been exported over a wide area of the midlands from the Iron Age onwards (Woodiwiss 1993).

In the Iron Age, Droitwich was the centre of a salt industry of which a by-product was briquetage - often the only tangible evidence of salt processing. The local evidence for this industry has been found during excavations in Friar Street (WSM 09553; WSM 00605) and Ricketts Lane (WSM 00600). The early Roman fort at Dodderhill (WSM 00603; Whitehouse 1962) and a villa at Bays Meadow (WSM 00678; Gelling 1957) have been interpreted as administrative centres for the salt industry.

Anglo-Saxon documentary evidence demonstrates that Droitwich remained a production centre for salt, and was the hub of a network of routeways for its distribution. Much of the evidence for occupation of this date in the vicinity comes from the Upwich excavations (WSM 04575) which revealed structures associated with Anglo-Saxon salt production. It has been postulated that St Andrews Church (WSM 00607) originated as a Saxon minster (Bond 1988, 123).

Domesday shows that Droitwich was an important industrial and commercial centre. Many nobles, towns and religious institutions owned property in and around Droitwich, in order to maintain their supplies of salt from the five brine pits and 250 salt-houses. As a borough the town could manage its own affairs, and the proceeds of the industry paid for the embellishment of St Andrews Church, paving of the streets and construction of an exchequer house.

Medieval Droitwich was centred on St Andrews Church, Friar Street contained a number of substantial buildings, and St Andrews Street was partially built up with more modest dwellings. St Andrews House, now the Raven Hotel (WSM 00647), was formerly the manor house and doubtless of some pretension.

## **4.2 Current land-use**

The area of investigation mainly comprises car parking for the Raven Hotel and a number of shops that front onto St Andrew's Street. The hotel and shops lie along the western side of the site. The study area is split into several discrete zones by a combination of building extensions associated with the hotel and tall hedgerows.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

Seen in four of the five trenches excavated, the natural substrate comprised a combination of silts and sands with bands of gravels running through it on occasion. Dipping to the north the natural was noted at 37.80m AOD in trench 4 where it had been clearly truncated by modern disturbance. It was then next noted at 37m AOD in auger holes 3 and 4 continuing to drop to 33.40m AOD in

trench 5. This dip continued and the natural substrate was not seen in trench 3 despite excavations descending 1.72m (32.79m AOD) below the present ground surface.

### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits**

A small (0.34m wide) gully (context 212) aligned east/west was recorded as 0.07m in depth and with a U-shaped profile was seen within trench 2, and although undated, the single fill (context 211) was truncated by a larger north/south aligned ditch (context 214, Fig 4, Plate 1). This larger ditch was seen to be at least 1.70m in width and 0.36m in depth, filled with a single silt rich fill (context 213) that was the result of a natural siltation. Although largely devoid of finds, some datable material was recovered from this feature. At present it is thought that this feature was probably related to some form of boundary as the natural substrate itself is free draining and would have required minimal drainage.

To the north trench 1 revealed the fill of a substantial (1.8mx1.8m) vertical sided pit (context 104). This feature was only partially excavated, but proved to contain thirteen sherds of 13th-14th century pottery (contexts 105, 106) of local manufacture. The depth of the feature was ascertained by auguring to be 1.1m. Immediately to the north of pit 104, lay a similar feature (context 102), marginally smaller in plan but with similar sharply defined vertical sides. One small fragment of clay tobacco-pipe stem was recovered from the surface of the fill, but no other dating evidence was recovered. On the basis of the similarity with pit 104 a medieval date is considered probable. The depth of the feature was probed by auger, but was found to be in excess of the 4m limit of the equipment available. Water (or brine?) was encountered at 3.2m (in 1994).

Samples from the two pits produced similar assemblages of environmental material in small quantities, including abundant fragmented charcoal, small quantities of fragmented large mammal bone (some of which was cremated), small mammal and fish bone, insect, charred and uncharred plant remains.

### **5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits**

Sealing the above and, with the exception of trench 4, seen across the whole area of investigation, thick bands (averaging 0.90m) of Victorian 'garden soils' comprising humic rich dark silty rich sands that had a high content of ash and charcoal flecks throughout. The walls and floors of a small terrace for three houses (context 303, Plate 3) was located in trench 3 and is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 and demolished by 1964-5.

Trench 5 (Plate 4) was located just to the north of a terrace of houses shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, "Tower Hill". This terrace is shown on maps until 1938.

In trench 2 the wall (glazed 216) of a glazed roof structure, built between 1927 and 1938, was located. To the east of this a fine cobbled surface (context 210) was seen at the eastern limit of trench 2 (Plate 2).

Context 107, in trench 1, was as a rectangular feature, principally cut into the top of the earlier pit 105, but clipping the southernmost edge of a cobbled surface (context 102). The cut appeared to run east to west and was 1.1m x 0.7m, with a concave base at a depth of 0.6m from the surface. The fill appeared primarily to consist of pinky brown marl with occasional patches of loam and gravel. This feature was not fully excavated and may continue towards the west were it was obscured by a later context 103. There was no artefactual evidence to confirm or disprove a post-medieval date.

### **5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits**

A large modern foul sewer, orientated roughly east to west was noted running along the entire length of trench 5, and was then sealed by an external brick yard surface associated with what became the car park for the Raven Hotel. Trench 4 revealed an area of intense demolition activity that had truncated the underlying natural substrate, the reasons for this demolition and truncation

of the natural substrate is at present unknown (as is the extent of the disturbance) although it is clear (from the material directly overlying the surface) that it occurred within the last 20 years.

## 5.2 Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage is summarised in Table 1. This includes finds recovered during the evaluation carried out in 2013, and also pottery from an evaluation in 1994 (WSM29906). The assemblage came from twelve stratified contexts and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion. The sherd weight was about average (ie c10g).

Period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
Roman	ceramic	-	pot	1	4
medieval	ceramic	-	pot	33	291
medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile	1	22
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	-	brick	1	3830
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	-	floor tile	2	5032
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	-	pot	9	57
post-medieval/modern	metal	brass	gas fitting	1	97
post-medieval/modern	metal	iron	plate	1	1532
modern	glass	-	vessel	1	41
modern	glass	-	window	1	12
undated	bone	animal bone	-	1	7
undated	ceramic	-	brick/tile	1	16
undated	metal	copper alloy	-	1	7
totals:				54	10948

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

The pottery assemblage is summarised in Table 2. Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern sherds were recovered, with the 1994 evaluation accounting for 31 of the 33 medieval sherds from the site to date.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	1	4
medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	7	72
medieval	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	9	140
medieval	57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	1	4

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight(g)
medieval	64.2	Glazed sandy white ware	5	32
medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	2	8
medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	9	35
post-medieval/ modern	85	Modern china	8	46
post-medieval/ modern	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	1	11
totals:			43	352

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

### Summary artefactual evidence by period

See Table 3 for context finds summary.

#### *Roman*

A sherd of Severn Valley ware (fabric 12), with a broad 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date range, was residual in context 105 (fill of medieval pit 104).

#### *Medieval*

During the 1994 investigation sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from contexts 102 (fill of pit 101), and from 105 and 106 (fills of pit 104). It was noted that some of the Worcester-type material could be paralleled in Worcester (cf Bryant 2004, fig 177: 5).

There were only two medieval pottery finds during the 2013 evaluation trench 2. A sherd of Malvernian unglazed ware was residual in post-medieval layer 203, and a ditch-like feature (214), yielded a sandy, oxidised sherd, possibly a variant of the late 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century Worcester-type ware (fabric 55; context 213).

#### *Post-medieval and modern*

The remainder of the 2013 finds were 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century in date: 20<sup>th</sup> century glass and a brass nozzle from a gas burner (cellar backfill 302), and a ceramic floor tile from the same cellar with linoleum adhering (ie mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards), while a brick from a yard floor 502 was of a size indicative of a post-1840 date. Other contexts (layers 304 and 503, and service trench fill 506) also contained modern material.

## 6 Synthesis

### 6.1 Phase 2 Medieval deposits

The degree of truncation noted within trench 1 effectively removed all but the deepest medieval cut features in the area of that trench. However this was not the case in trench 2 where later Victorian 'garden soils' protected the underlying remains (the same being said for trenches 3 and 5) and to a lesser extent in the northern part of trench 1, as the surviving features are exceptionally deep they contain well preserved material, with the probability of anaerobic deposits below the water table in context 102. The potential for well preserved organic material will, however, be limited to individual archaeological features that are deep enough for these conditions to exist.

The evidence from this archaeological investigation would suggest that some significant medieval deposits and remains are present, and while in the north of the area they have been truncated to an unknown degree and in the south of the proposed development they are at a depth that is

unlikely to be disturbed, except via piling, the central section of the site has the potential for significant features and deposits to be encountered within the range of the proposed development.

Although the quantities of environmental material recovered from trench 1 was small, there is evidence of occupational debris in the form of fragmented charcoal and both animal and plant domesticates. The animal bone included a sheep/goat horncore, sheep/goat and possible pig teeth and fish bone. Cultivated crop remains included charred cereal grains (wheat and barley) and mineralized apple/pear pips. It is not possible to interpret the origin of the material from the small quantities present, except that it probably represents mixed domestic refuse. The apple/pear pips are mineralized and may originate from cess or faecal material. Some material present appears to be the remains of animals and plants living in the vicinity, including small mammal bones, insect and uncharred plant remains. The plant remains consist of seeds of cultivated or disturbed ground and may therefore have either been growing wild in the vicinity of the feature or have been originally weeds of cereal crops introduced with straw or crop-processing waste.

## **6.2 Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits**

The presence of post-medieval features, representing both structural remains and back plot deposits were seen, and the presence of thick 'garden soils' appear to have protected the underlying earlier features (in the areas of trenches 1 and 2), from later truncation and damage.

## **6.3 Phase 4 Modern activity**

There is evidence of truncation across the site. The site slopes gradually from the north up to the south but there are a series of terraces (one in the vicinity of trenches 3 and 5, in the northern car parking area, one in the vicinity of trenches 1 and 2, in the middle car parking area, and one forming the garden to the rear of the hotel). The southern car parking area rises gradually to the south, presumably reflecting more, the natural topography.

Comparison of trenches 3 and 5 (see Plates 3 and 4), the former with its trench sides of brick rubble to a depth of around a metre, the latter with its trench sides of the thick garden soils seen across the site, to a depth of around 500mm, suggests that the southern half consists of fill (from demolition of the terrace of three houses) and the northern half has been reduced in depth. It seems likely that this terrace was formed sometime after 1938 and before 1964-5, based on map evidence (see Hopkins 2013, figs 7 and 8).

The dilapidated modern building in the centre of the site was not available for survey, though the closest "t1" (?threshold) level to trench 1 (35.26m OD) suggests that medieval deposits (indicated to have been around 34.88m OD in trench 1) may have survived the construction of this building.

The garden area to the rear of the hotel was not readily accessible for sample trenches, but is around 1m higher than the adjacent car park. It seems likely that the preservation of medieval deposits, demonstrated in trench 2, is likely to extend to the south. Trench 4 demonstrates that truncation has occurred in its vicinity. Whereas the existence of cellars along the frontage means that significant deposits are unlikely to have survived in these areas, the presence of significant deposits under the present buildings remains uncertain. The cellars appear to be around 1.5m lower than the adjacent street levels (except the middle block of cellars which appear to be much shallower).

## **6.4 Artefact synthesis**

The pottery assemblage from the work in 1994 (contexts 102, 105 and 106) was a relatively small one, characterised almost entirely by a narrow range of Worcestershire fabrics, but was significant as it provided clear medieval *tpq* dating evidence for the vertically-sided pits excavated in 1994.

The mixed assemblage from the 2013 evaluation (contexts 203, 213, 302, 303, 304, 502, 503, 506 and 508) was indicative of intensive late post-medieval and modern occupation/use of the site, therefore suggesting less archaeological significance.

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
Unstratified	ceramic	pot	55	1	16	1075	1400	-
	ceramic	pot	56	1	20	1200	1400	
102	ceramic	roof tile	-	1	22	1200	1400	1200 - 1400
	ceramic	pot	69	1	6	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	69	1	2	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	55	1	1	1075	1400	
	ceramic	pot	56	1	2	1200	1400	
105	ceramic	pot	64.2	5	32	1200	1400	1200 - 1400
	ceramic	pot	56	2	66	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	56	3	42	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	56	1	4	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	99	4	12	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	99	3	12	1200	1400	
	ceramic	pot	55	1	4	1075	1400	
	ceramic	pot	55	1	1	1075	1400	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	4	43	400	
106	ceramic	pot	55	1	18	1075	1400	1075 - 1400
	ceramic	pot	55	1	28	1075	1400	
	ceramic	pot	55	1	4	1075	1400	
	ceramic	pot	57	1	4	1066	1200	
203	ceramic	pot	56	1	6	1200	1400	1200 - 1400
			-					
213	ceramic	brick/tile		1	16	-	-	1200 - 1400
302	ceramic	pot	99	1	7	1200	1400	1200 - 1400
	bone	-		1	7	-	-	
303	metal	-	-	1	97	1850	1950	1900 - 1950
	glass	vessel	-	1	41	1900	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	7	-	-	
303	ceramic	floor tile	-	1	4928	1860	1950	1900 - 1950
304	ceramic	floor tile	-	1	104	1800	1950	1900 - 1950
	ceramic	pot	100	1	11	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	2	29	1800	1950	
	glass	window	-	1	12	1900	1950	
502	ceramic	brick	-	1	3830	1840	1950	1840

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
								- 1950
503	ceramic	pot	85	2	12	1800	1950	1800 - 1950
	ceramic	pot	85	2	2	1800	1950	
506								1800 - 1950
	ceramic	pot	85	2	3	1800	1950	
508	metal	-	-	1	1532	-	-	-

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

## 7 Significance

### 7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

This phase of archaeological investigations has demonstrated that significant medieval deposits and features survive across some of the site with a main focus in the central area, where, they are closer to the current ground surface and as such are much more susceptible to future development. These consist of pits and ditches, typical of medieval back plot activity. There is no evidence of any complex stratigraphy, with the medieval features being cut into natural deposits.

### 7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

Whilst medieval deposits are well known in the Droitwich area as a whole, relatively little work has focussed on St Andrews Street, and the opportunity to better understand the evolution and spatial variations could enhance understanding of the development of this important industrial town. Much previous work in Droitwich has also focussed on the salt industry itself; and comparison between production occupation sites is likely to reveal a more complete picture.

The heritage asset that is of greatest significance in relation to the proposed development may be defined as, medieval deposits relating to occupation along St Andrews Street. They are not, however, considered to be of the greatest importance, such that their preservation may be a reasonable expectation. Such deposits are common in historic towns and they exhibit no exceptional qualities (such as complex stratigraphy or abundance of artefacts relating to particular activities), though instances of good preservation may exist in some features.

### 7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

At present the known medieval features and deposits are focused across the central part of the site (see Fig 6). In addition, it is thought that further significant deposits probably exist to the north but they have been buried to a greater depth. There remains, however, a significant area occupied by the existing buildings, which could not be tested by field evaluation. Should medieval deposits exist in this area they are likely to be of significance, especially should they relate to the historic core of the hotel buildings.

## 8 The impact of the development

It is likely that the redevelopment will disturb some significant archaeological deposits and features dating from the medieval period and later, especially within the southern and central parts of the site. Deposits at the northern end of the site are likely to be protected by the Victorian 'garden soils'

and as such only piling is likely to have an impact. Figure 6 indicates areas where truncation is likely to have removed or compromised significant deposits.

### **8.1 Impacts during construction**

Figure 6 indicates the location of significant deposits. It is likely that any substantial intrusive works more than c1m in depth (though this may vary across the site) will affect underlying archaeologically significant deposits or features, although this depth increases in the north of the site, where it is likely that only something as substantial as piling is likely to have an effect on the underlying archaeology.

The intrusive works will comprise demolition of some existing buildings and construction of new properties around the original medieval central core of the Raven Hotel.

### **8.2 Impacts on sustainability**

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131).

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

## **9 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 at the Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8995 6325). It was commissioned by Origin<sub>3</sub> on behalf of their client (Comparo), who intends to demolish the later extensions and renovate the hotel as well as redevelop the open areas for which a planning application will be submitted to Wychavon District Council.*

*The investigations revealed the presence of medieval pits and a ditch in the central part of the site. This was sealed by Victorian 'garden soils' and later buildings, structures and yard surfaces before the whole was converted into car parking associated with the Raven Hotel itself. The evaluation enabled the identification of areas of greater and lesser archaeological significance and potential.*

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Jill Parkinson (Comparo), Matt Seaman (Origin<sub>3</sub> Planning), Adrian Tindall (Archaeological Risk Management) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service).

## **11 Bibliography**

BGS (British Geological Survey), 2013 *British Geological Survey; Geology of Britain viewer*, solid and drift, 1:50,000, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (site accessed 27 February 2013)

Bond, C, J, 1988 *Church and parish in Norman Worcestershire*, in Blair, J (ed), 1988 *Minsters and parish churches: the local church in transition 950-1200*, 119-58

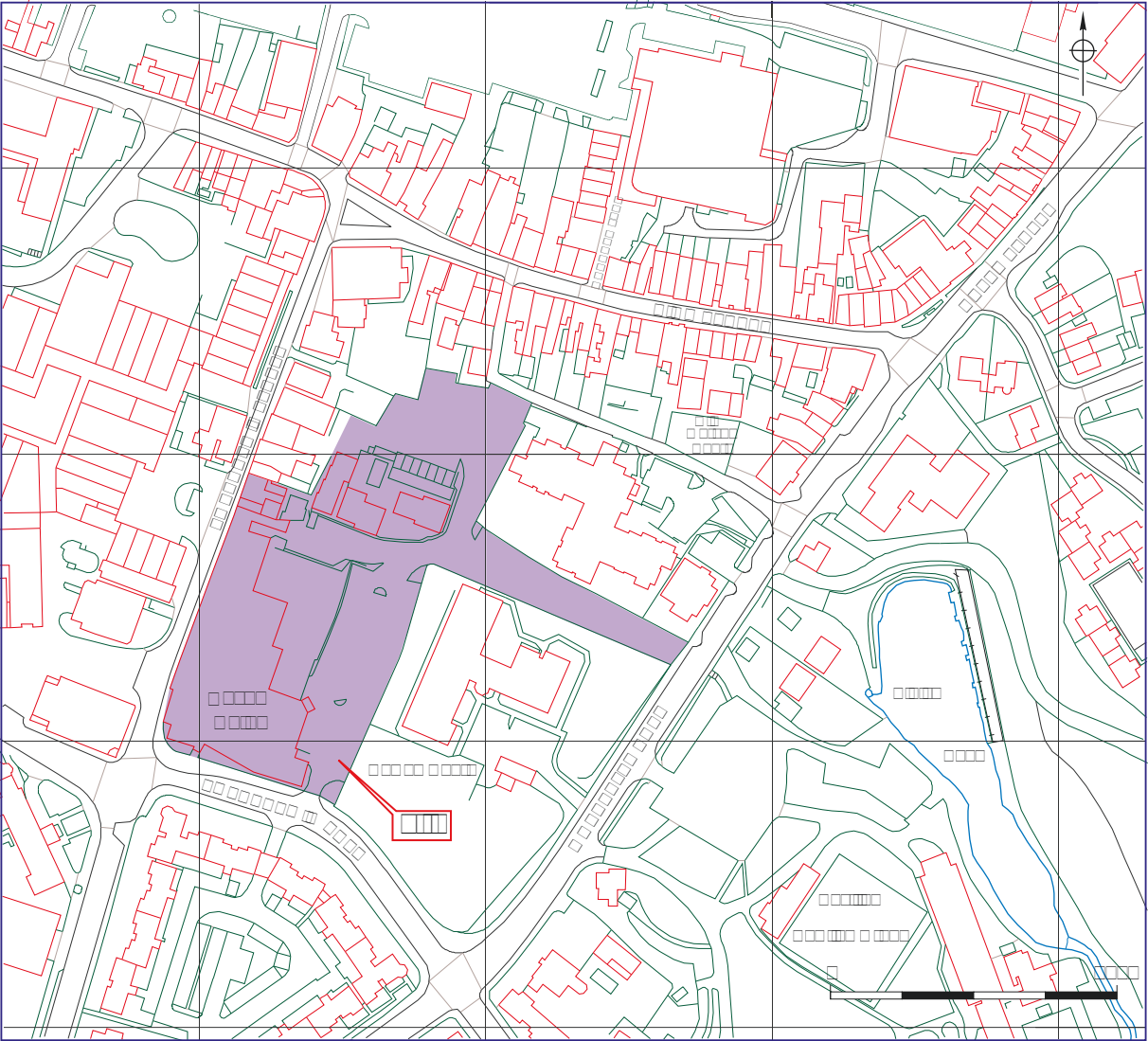
Bryant, V, 2004 *Medieval and early post-medieval pottery*, in H Dalwood and R Edwards, *Excavations at Deansway, Worcester, 1988-89: Romano-British small town to late medieval city*. CBA Res Rep, **139**, 281-339

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government



- 
- Gelling, P, S, 1957 *Report on excavations in Bays Meadow, Droitwich, Worcestershire, 1954-5*, Birmingham Archaeological Society transactions and Proceedings, **75**, 1-23
- Hopkins, B, 2013 *The Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Worcestershire: Assessment of archaeological significance*, Archaeological Risk Management, unpublished document, dated January 2013
- Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, S G (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**, 200-9
- IfA 2009 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists  
Napthan
- Palmer, R, C, 1982 *Soils in Hereford and Worcester*, Soil Survey Record No 76
- Poole, E, W, and Williams, B, S, 1981 *The Keuper saliferous beds of the Droitwich area*, Report of Geological Sciences, No 81/2
- Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**
- WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**
- WA 2013 *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation at the Raven Hotel, Droitwich, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 28 January 2013, P4056
- WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended July 2012
- Whitehouse, D, B, 1962 *A note on excavation of the Roman fort at Dodderhill, Droitwich, 1961-2*, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc, new series*, **39**, 55-8
- Woodiwiss, S, G (ed), 1993 *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**
- Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, 2012 *Worcestershire online ceramic database* [online]. Available from: <http://www.worcestershireceramics.org> [Accessed 22 February 2013]
- WCC 2013 *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at Raven Hotel, St Andrews Street, Droitwich, Worcestershire*, Information and Advisory Section, Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 7 January 2013

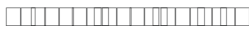
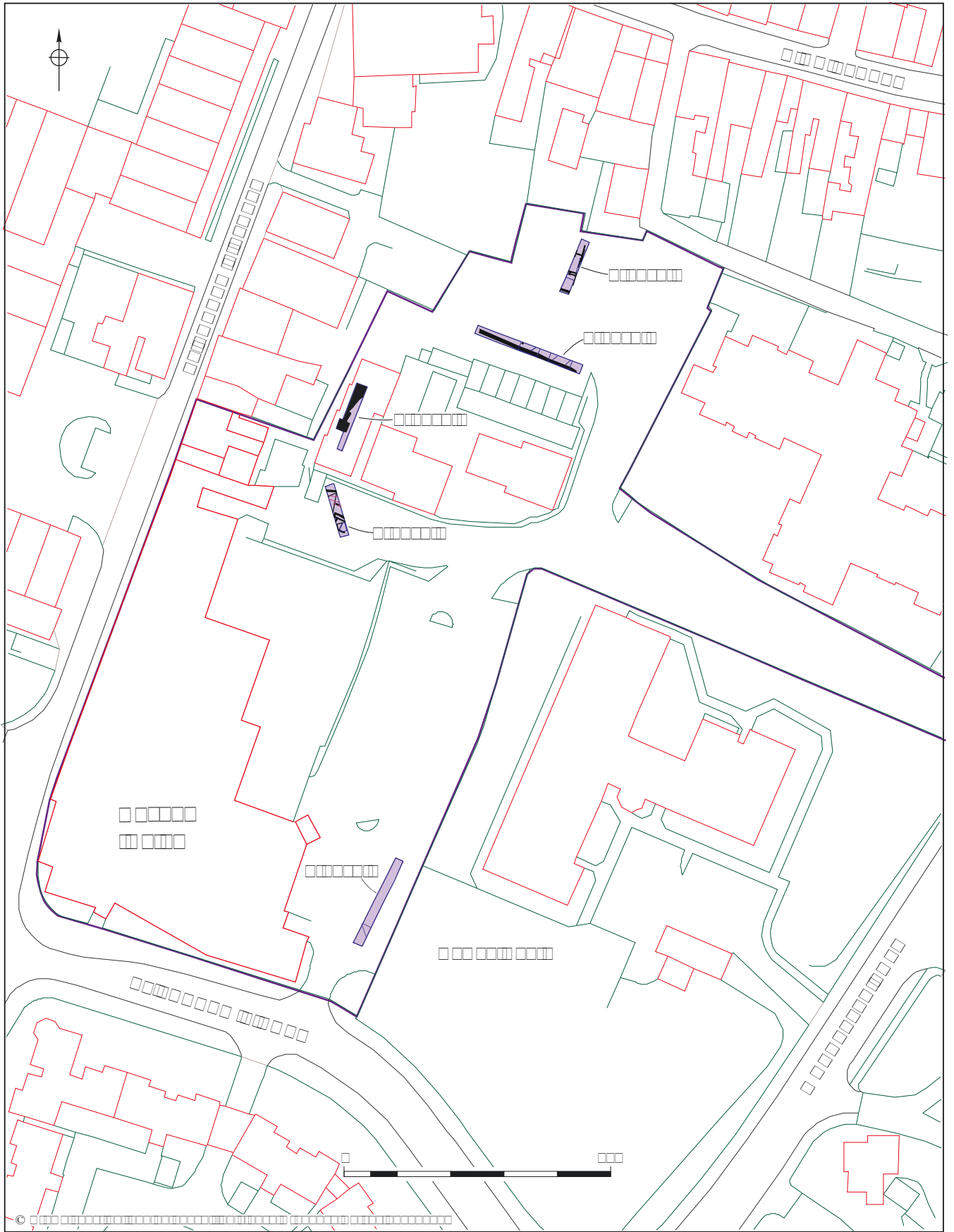
**Figures**

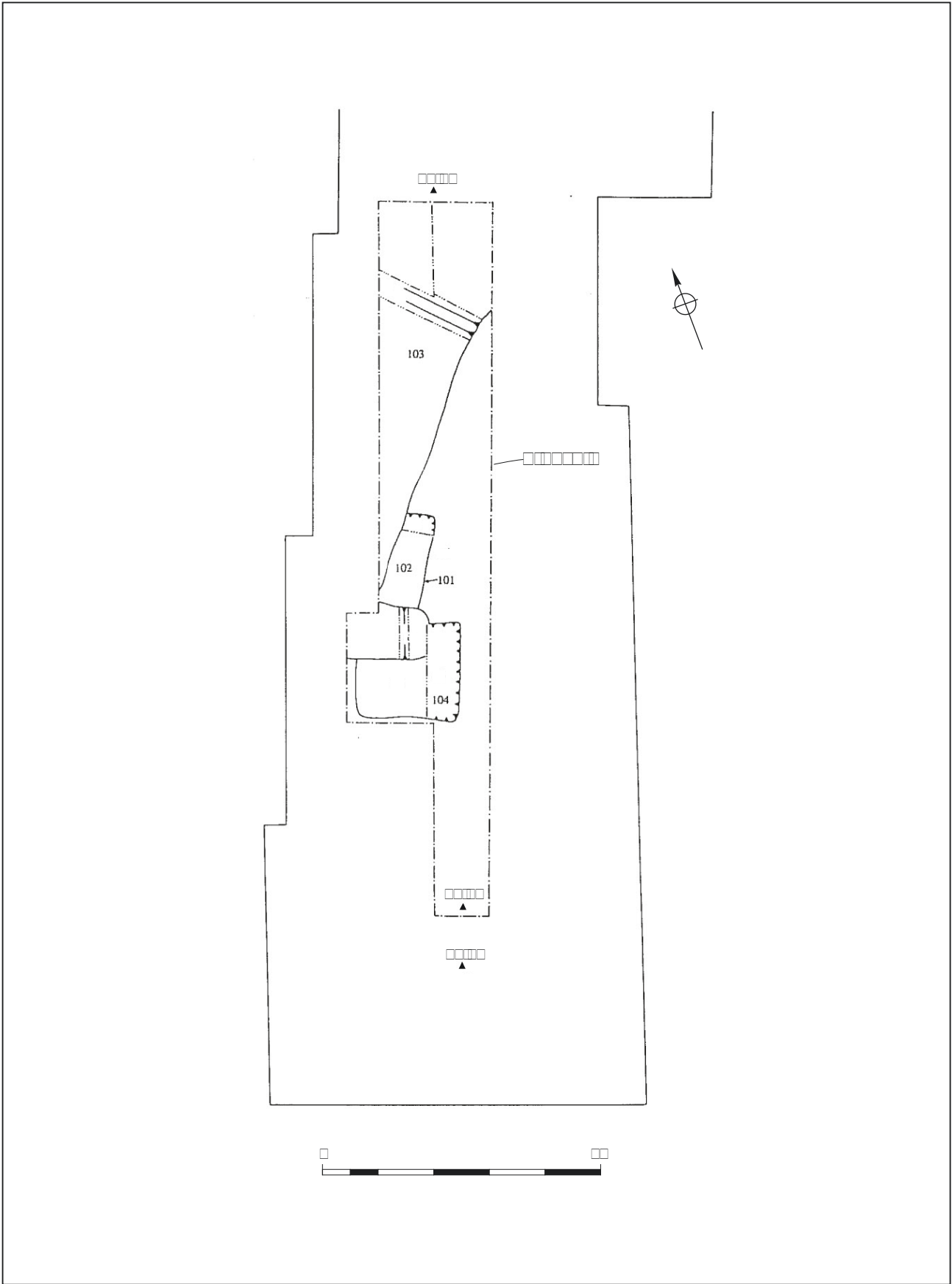


© [unintelligible]

[unintelligible]

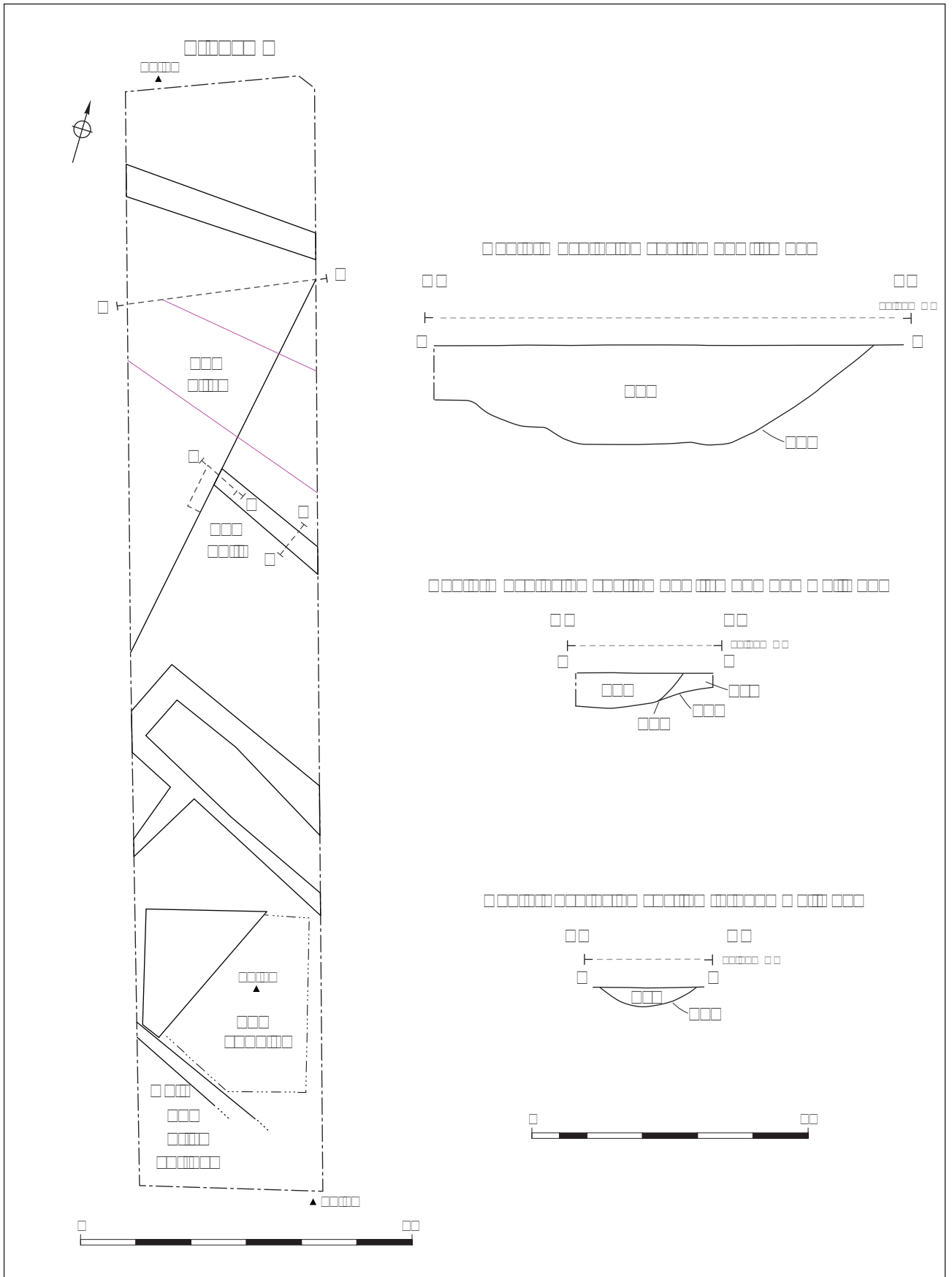
[unintelligible]





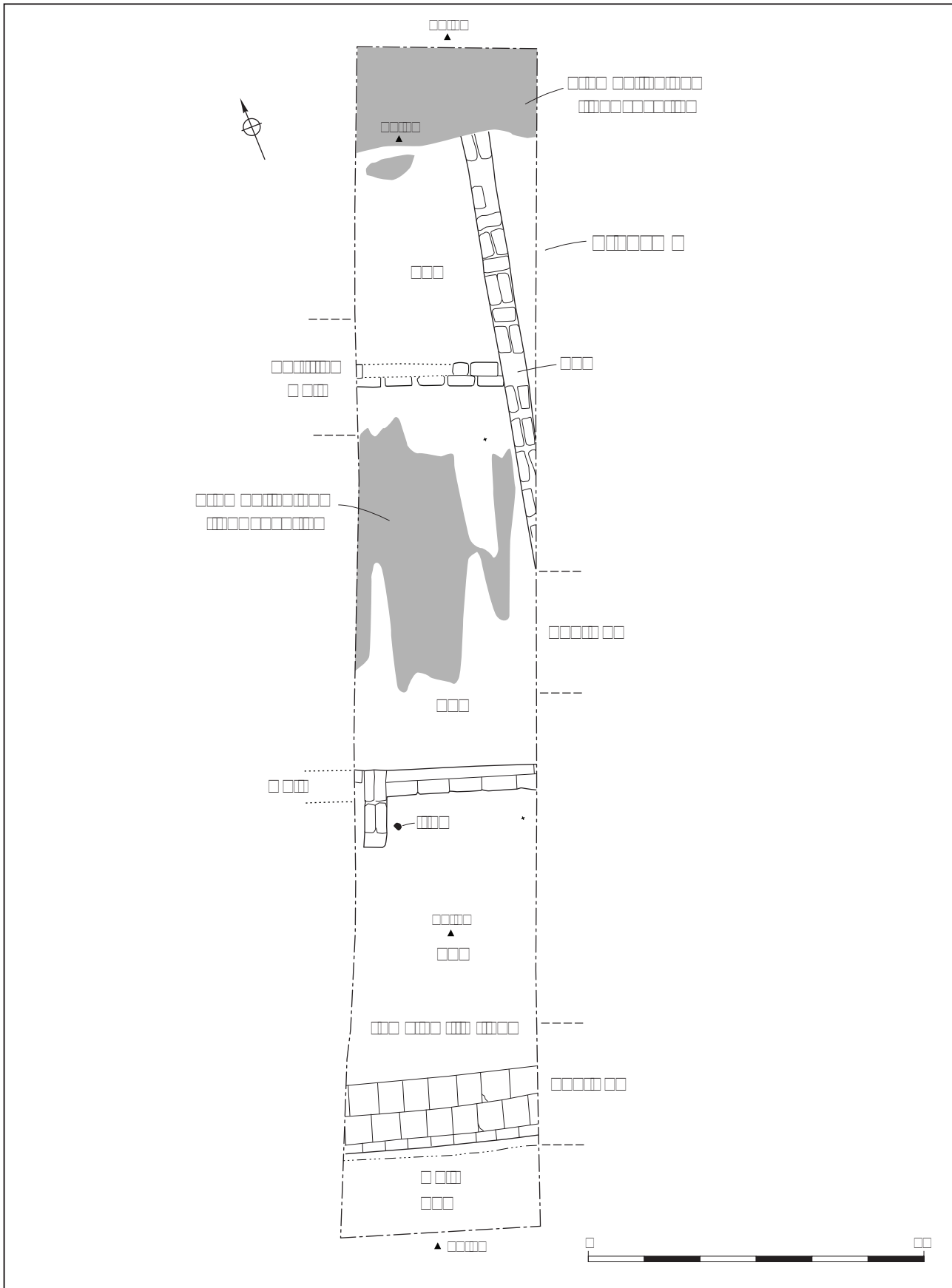
□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □

□□□□□□ □



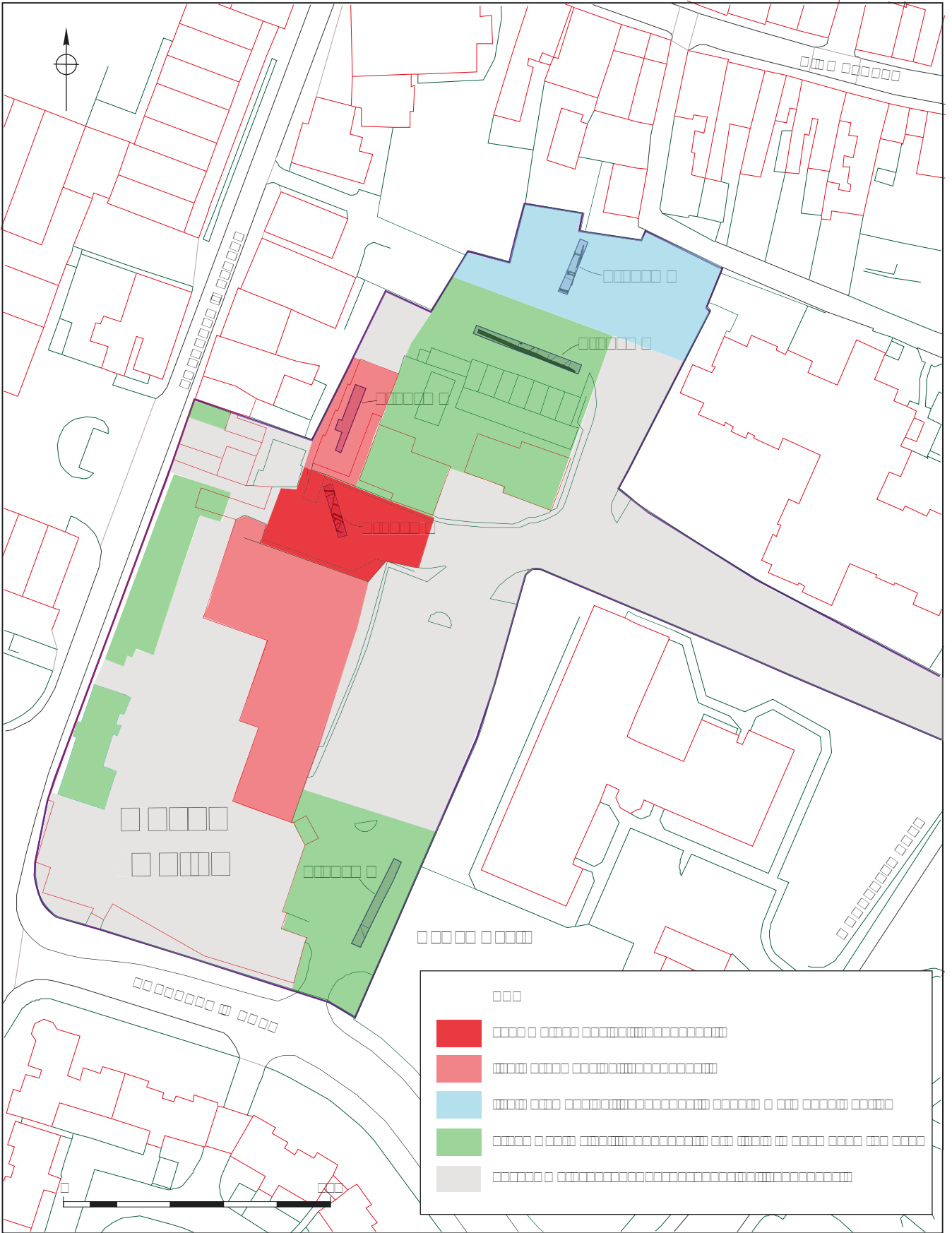
□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□

□□□□□□ □



□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



[Symbolic representation]

[Symbolic representation]



## Plates



*Plate 1; Trench 2 ditch 214 and gully 212, looking west. Scale 1x1m*



*Plate 2; Trench 2 cobble surface 210 and brick floor surface 216, looking west. Scale 1x1m*

---



*Plate 3; Trench 3 terrace shown on first edition Ordnance Survey (303), looking south. Scale 2x1m*



*Plate 4; Trench 5 located to north of Tower Hill terrace, looking east. Scale 2x1m*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m      Width: 1.50m      Depth: 1.36m

Orientation:                      N/S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
201	Tarmac	Tarmacadam Surface	0m-0.10m
202	Former Floor surface	Machine made red brick, unfrogged and bonded with a light greyish yellow mortar with no visible inclusions. Laid in stretcher fashion.	0.10m-0.38m
203	Made ground	Loose, dark blue grey, soft, humic silty sand with high content of ash, industrial ash and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.39m-1.45m
204	Natural interface	Light blue grey, moderate to firm silty clay. Includes occasional rounded and sub-rounded gravels and charcoal flecks throughout.	1.35m-1.36m
205	Fill of 206	Light orange grey, silty clay, mottled with light blue/grey streaks. Firm compaction with frequent CBM and occasional charcoal flecks and ash throughout.	0.23m-1.15m
206	Pit	Sub-circular pit feature that extends beyond the limit of excavation. Truncates 203 but is sealed by 202.	0.23m-1.15m
207	Brick Wall	Machine made brick wall, unfrogged and bonded with a light greyish yellow mortar. Constructed in a combination of header and English pattern. The wall is 1 course thick and 5 courses high above footings 2 courses thick and 3 courses deep. Average brick measures (240x80x80)mm.	0.65m-1.23m
208	Brick Wall	Machine made brick wall, unfrogged and bonded with a light greyish yellow mortar. Constructed in an English pattern. The wall in plan forms a 3 sided U shape and comprises of a 1 course thick, 4 course high wall upon a 2 course thick, 1 course deep footing. Average brick measures	0.49m-0.86m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		(240x120x80)mm	
209	Brick Wall	Machine made brick wall, unfrogged and bonded with a light greyish yellow mortar. Constructed in a stretcher pattern. The wall is 1 course thick, 2 courses high upon footings 2 courses thick and 1 course deep. Average brick measures (240x120x80)mm	0.68m-0.84m
210	Cobbled Surface	Firmly compacted cobbled surface constructed with a combination of small rounded / sub-rounded cobbles and large cobbles bonded together with dark blue grey cemented bonding. The surface dips to the Northwest and is truncated by 206, 208 and 209. Surface measures (1.58x1.34)m	0.86m-1.03m
211	Fill	Fill of gully 212. Silty rich infill, sterile in nature and deposited through a low energy fluvial source. No artifactual material recovered. Remains undated.	1.36m-1.43m
212	Cut	Small gully orientated E-W and cut by linear 214. Thought to be either a boundary marker or part of a drainage system, given that it is cut through natural gravels 215, which are free draining.	1.36m-1.43m
213	Fill	Fill of Linear 214. Silty rich infill, deposited through a low energy fluvial source. No evidence for any re-cuts or cleaning out of material was seen. Contained pot and bone fragments.	1.36m-1.72m
214	Cut	North-South linear and appears to be aligned with the natural orientation of the slope. Unlikely to be used for drainage given the free draining gravels 215 it is cut through and as such appears to be associated with boundary division.	1.36m-1.72m
215	Natural Substrate	Light orange grey silty clays with patches of rounded and sub-rounded gravels throughout.	1.36m+
216	Brick Floor	Machine made brick floor, unfrogged with no visible bonding noted. Sat in a stretcher	0.84m-0.92m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		pattern and appears to be an internal surface, Average brick measures (240x120x80)mm	

**Trench 3**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m      Width: 1.8m      Depth: 0.8m-0.95m

Orientation:                      N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
301	Tarmac	Tarmacadam Surface	0m-0.16m
302	Modern Backfill	Back fill of cellar 303. Demolition rubble of former standing structure.	0.85m-0.92m
303	Brick Cellar	Modern machine made brick, (120x250)mm, structure forming part of three visible rooms. The floors are tiled with square clay tiles, (240x240)mm, and covered with three separate layers of linoleum.	0.15m-1m
304	Sub Soil	Brownish black, soft, sandy silt with high organic and ash inclusions.	1m-1.75m

**Trench 4**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 1.13m

Orientation:                      N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
401	Tarmac	Tarmacadam Surface.	0m-0.12m
402	Made Ground	Friable, mid brown, grey silty sand with frequent charcoal and mortar and	0.13m-0.28m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		occasional slag, clinker, ash, CBM, plastic and fabric inclusions.	
403	Modern Reclamation	Mottled reddish brown and mid greyish blue silty sand and rubble mix. Contained plastic bags, CBM, charcoal and other modern detritus.	0.27m-1.15m
404	Natural Substrate	Same as seen elsewhere but surface doesn't appear weathered. Appears to have been scalped (within the last 20 years).	1.12m-1.14m+

### Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 1.22m

Orientation:                      E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
501	Tarmac	Tarmacadam Surface.	0m-0.12m
502	Brick Floor Surface	Hand made, unfrogged, brick floor surface, (20x1.5)m, arranged in a stretcher pattern and bonded with friable light yellowish grey mortar. The floor is 1 course thick. Average brick measures (230x110x70)mm	0.17m-0.28m
503	Made Ground	Dark blue grey soft humic 'dark earth'. Loose compaction with high content of ash, industrial ash and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.28m-1.09m
504	Natural Interface	Light blue grey moderate to firm silty clay with occasional round and sub-rounded gravels and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.57m-1.30m
505	Natural substrate	Light orange grey silty clays with pebbles and gravels throughout.	0.78m-1.27m
506	Fill of 507	Light blue grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded/sub-rounded	0.28m-1.21m

---

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		gravels throughout.	
507	Cut of Linear	Cut of E-W linear 0.69m wide by at least 20m in length and 0.93m in depth. Given its vertical sides and late date, appears to be a cut for a modern service. Not fully excavated.	0.28m-1.21m

---

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 47475)**

The archive consists of:

- 8 Context records AS1
- 10 Field progress reports AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Colour transparency film
- 1 Black and white photographic films
- 71 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 6 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample records AS17
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 1 Flot records AS21
- 1 Pollen score sheet AS35
- 1 Levels records AS19
- 5 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

---



## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 47475

P4056

Artefacts

HER summary data						
period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
medieval	ceramic	pot	5	32	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	7	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	6	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	1	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	2	66	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	3	42	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	4	12	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	3	12	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	1	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1066	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	6	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	2	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	18	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	2	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	16	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	28	1075	1400
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1066	1200
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	20	1200	1400
medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1	22	1200	1400
modern	glass	vessel	1	41	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	1	12	1900	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	brick	1	3830	1840	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	floor tile	1	104	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	floor tile	1	4928	1860	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	3	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	11	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	2	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	12	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	29	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	1532	0	0
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	97	1850	1950
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	4	43	400
undated	bone		1	7	0	0
undated	ceramic	brick/tile	1	16	0	0
undated	metal		1	7	0	0