ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND EAST OF BROCKHILL LANE, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE



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Project 3686 Report 1850 WSM 45756

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1

Archaeological evaluation of Land East of Brockhill Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire

Darren Miller

With contributions by Angus Crawford and Alan Clapham

Summary

This report presents and interprets the evidence from an archaeological evaluation of land east of Brockhill Lane, Redditch (NGR SP 0328 6847; WSM 45756). The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, Persimmon Homes, who has submitted an outline planning application for a mixed use development covering 9.75 hectares.

The evaluation involved fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis (a desk-based assessment was undertaken by CgMs). The fieldwork involved systematic trenching across the development site and subsequent excavation and recording. The post-fieldwork analyses covered stratigraphy, artefacts, and charred plant remains.

The evaluation identified an Iron Age ditched enclosure in the south-west of the development site, near a parcel containing a balancing pond. This enclosure represents a heritage asset of regional significance.

The ditch forming the east side of the enclosure was exposed in Trenches 8 and 9. A slot through the ditch in Trench 9 was excavated and artefacts and samples were recovered. The ditch was wide and deep, and had been re-cut on a slightly different line. The upper fills contained Iron Age pottery, fire-cracked stones, and charcoal. The ditch forming the north side of the enclosure was exposed in the same trench and possibly in Trench 6 to the west, where a ditch on the projected line was exposed and excavated in another slot. This ditch was narrow and shallow, however, and contained no cultural material.

The evaluation also identified other features of uncertain date and significance, including east-west gullies in Trenches 1 and 8, a shallow concave feature in Trench 5, four postholes in Trench 9 (two cutting the fill of the enclosure ditch), and three postholes in Trench 10 (inside the enclosure, but not necessarily contemporary with it).

Other features and deposits found were found elsewhere but are not considered to be significant. The north side of the former channel of the Red Brook was exposed in Trench 12 but it proved to be shallow and the alluvial fills lacked organic material. Parallel furrows relating to medieval or post-medieval cultivation were identified in Trenches 3 and 8, but such features are ubiquitous and uninformative. A modern posthole was found in Trench 4, and modern rubbish pits were found in Trench 2 and Trench 25. Both pits were filled with ashy soil mixed with glass, ceramic, and other rubbish. The material dates to the late 1950s.

Finally, none of the artefacts recovered from spoil heaps are considered to be significant. The material comprised sherds of pottery and glass and fragments of brick and tile. It dates from the late 18th century to the 20th century and probably represents manuring in this period, using manure mixed with domestic rubbish.

Report

Planning background

The evaluation was associated with the first stage of a proposed development by Persimmon Homes. Their outline planning application, prepared by RPS Group and submitted to Redditch Borough Council (R/11/0054) envisaged 171 dwellings along with business floorspace and public open space.

The application was assessed by the Historic Environment Planning Officer of the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service who considered that the development could affect a site of archaeological interest, and that further information should be obtained to allow this issue to be addressed.

The need for an evaluation based on extensive sample trenching was determined in discussions between CgMs Consulting (on behalf of RPS Group and Persimmon Homes) and the Historic Environment Planning Officer. These discussions resulted in a brief (HEAS 2011a), and a proposal (HEAS 2011b), which was accepted and developed after further discussions into a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2011a).

This background reflects current policies and procedures regarding archaeology and development (RBC 2006; WCC 2001; DCLG 2010). The evaluation itself conformed to recognised standards and guidelines (HEAS 2010; IfA 2008).

2. Aims

The aims of the evaluation were:

- to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered
- to assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- to inform formulation of a strategy to safeguard the significance of identified heritage assets within the site, and to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Worcestershire HER

3. **Methods**

3.1 **Documentary research**

CgMs undertook the desk-based assessment required by the brief (CgMs 2011b). Documentary research by the Service was therefore limited to what would directly inform the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analyses (e.g. maps of geology and soils; excavation reports and syntheses). All the sources used are cited in the bibliography.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

The fieldwork was undertaken between the 3rd and the 18th of May 2011. The site code and reference number is WSM 45756.

The specification prepared by the Service envisaged the excavation of 39 trenches across the development site. Most of the trenches were to be 50m long and all were to be c 2m wide (the width of a standard ditching bucket). Their combined area was calculated to amount to 4% of the development site. The trenches were laid out in a standard 'grid array' to ensure comprehensive coverage and detect any large ditched enclosures or boundaries (HEAS 2011b). The layout was then modified slightly to ensure that no trenches were located beneath the three high-voltage overhead electricity cables that cross the development site.

Further modifications were made when the fieldwork began, in view of various constraints. Because of the balancing pond in the south-west of the development site (and the trees and shrubs surrounding it) it was not possible to excavate three and a half trenches, amounting to 300m². Other trenches were shifted slightly to avoid field boundaries and gates. One trench was also left unexcavated, as it would have blocked a safe passing point under one of the electricity cables.

After a large ditch was identified in Trench 9, additional work was undertaken to follow this feature and define the enclosure it seemed to represent. This work involved extending Trench 8, excavating Trenches 41-43, and deepening the north-west half of Trench 9. Trench 10 was also made deeper to ensure that no internal features had been missed.

In the end, forty trenches were excavated (Figure 2). Their combined area of $3487m^2$ represents a 3.57% sample of the development site.

In each trench, the topsoil and subsoil above were removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2.10m wide ditching bucket. Where necessary, the sides and bases of each trench were cleaned, and all possible features were investigated. Wherever possible, features were sampled using hand tools, although the compact boulder clay and marl found across the development site made it necessary to cut across larger features using the excavator, both for speed and to increase artefact recovery. In these circumstances, the excavator was fitted with a 2-foot ditching bucket, and deposits were spread separately and sorted for artefacts. In Trench 9, the fills of the excavated ditch were also scanned with a metal-detector. The trenches were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995), and surveyed using a GPS and dumpy level. Finally, the trenches were backfilled and compacted to restore a level surface.

3.2.2 Stratigraphic analysis

The fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Some minor stratigraphic problems were resolved, and the nature of the varied parent material across the development site was established with reference to the Service's neighbours at the Geological Record Centre (Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust).

3.3 Artefact methodology, by Angus Crawford

3.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined, identified and dated to period with a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context where possible. The dates were used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site.

The Iron Age pottery and briquetage 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 <u>www.worcestershireceramics.org</u>). The remaining material was scanned to assess its archaeological significance as discussed below.

3.4 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham

3.4.1 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 10 litres were taken from four contexts (see Table 3), from an Iron Age ditch.

3.4.2 **Method of analysis**

3.4.3 Animal bone

Only small fragments of animal bone, both burnt and unburnt were recovered from the environmental samples all of which was too small to identify.

3.4.4 Macrofossil analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using the standard Service procedure.

The residues were fully sorted 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 hammerscale.

3.5 **Statement of confidence in methods and results**

The methods were appropriate to the aims of the evaluation and can be said to have established the archaeological potential of the development site. In general terms, the project team are confident that the systematic trenching has identified the west of the development site as the only area of archaeological interest. More particularly, the project team are confident that the ditches found in Trenches 8 and 9 represent the corner of an Iron Age enclosure. The extent of the enclosure remains uncertain, however, as does the significance of eleven undated features.

4. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The topographical and archaeological context of the development site is considered in the desk-based assessment by CgMs (2011b). In summary, however, the development site lies to the east of the Brockhill estate, between Lowan's Hill Farm and the Red Ditch from which Redditch is named (NGR SP 0328 6847; Fig 1). The land slopes south-eastwards towards the Red Ditch, falling some 24m over 300m (Plates 1 and 2). The underlying geology has been

mapped as Triassic Mercia Mudstone (BGS 1989). The soils are mapped as reddish fine loamy over clayey soils of the Whimple 3 Association (SSEW 1983). At the time of the fieldwork the development site comprised three fields of permanent pasture and, in the southwest, a smaller parcel containing a balancing pond (Fig 2).

No designated heritage assets are recorded within the development site although the surrounding area contains eight undesignated heritage assets, including traces of medieval or post-medieval cultivation to the east and west, and the 18th/19th century buildings of Lowan's Hill Farm to the north. Along with historical and cartographic evidence, these features implied that the development site has been farmland for centuries. Remains of cultivation and other agricultural activity were expected. A few finds of prehistoric and Roman material from the wider area suggested a limited potential for remains of settlement or other activity in these periods.

5. **Results**

5.1 Stratigraphic narrative

The following section describes the main features and deposits found in the evaluation trenches. It also describes certain artefacts and plant remains, anticipating the analyses in Sections 5.2 and 5.3. Fuller details of deposits and features are contained in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Natural deposits

Across the development site, the Mercia Mudstone, or marl, was overlain by up to 0.50m of unmapped boulder clay derived from the marl and mid Pleistocene drift deposits of sand and gravel. This deposit varied in the proportion of marl to drift and in the way the two components were mixed. In some trenches, the drift occurred in bands resembling furrows although the furrows recorded in Trenches 3 and 8 could be distinguished by their common orientation and semi-regular spacing. In Trenches 7 and 27, where the boulder clay increased in depth downslope, it was excavated to mudstone in order to ensure that it *was* boulder clay and not colluvium.

Part of the former channel of the Red Brook was exposed in a sondage at the south-east end of Trench 12 (context 1205; Plate 3). It was filled with fluvioglacial sands and gravels (context 1204) and two alluvial units, presumably of Holocene date (contexts 1203 and 1202). Neither unit contained any cultural or organic material.

5.1.2 Iron Age features

Two ditches forming the corner of an Iron Age enclosure were found in the south-west of the development site (Figs 3 and 4; Plates 5-7). The east side of the enclosure, aligned roughly north-south, was found in the south-east half of Trench 9 and subsequently in an extension to Trench 8. The north side of the enclosure, aligned roughly east-west, was then found in the north-west half of Trench 9.

A slot through the north-south ditch in Trench 9 was excavated by machine (Figs 4 and 5; Plate 5). The section showed that the ditch had been allowed to silt up and then re-cut. The original ditch was represented by one side, which sloped gradually then steeply to a rounded base (context 918). It was at least 2m wide, and 1.42m deep. It was filled with marl weathered from the sides (context 917). The later ditch was 3.25m wide and 1.75m deep (context 913). It had a similar profile to the original ditch and the primary fills were similarly derived (contexts 916 and 915). The secondary fill comprised a mixture of weathered marl and humic soil with frequent gravels, including fire-cracked stones (context 914). The latter are common finds on prehistoric sites and are thought to represent cooking or brewing using hot stones in water. The same fill also contained fragments of briquetage, a fabric used to

make salt containers in Droitwich throughout the Iron Age. The tertiary fills were more humic and contained both fire-cracked stones and charcoal fragments (contexts 904 and 903). The upper fill also contained 13 sherds of Iron Age pottery in a different fabric.

The same ditch in Trench 8 (context 807) was 2.30m wide and had tertiary fills of redeposited marl and drift (context 805 and 806; Plate 6). The east-west ditch crossing the north-west half of Trench 9 was 2.50m wide (context 924) had a similar tertiary fill (context 923; Plate 7). Neither ditch was excavated although a shallow slot was cut through the ditch in Trench 8 to confirm its interpretation, as it became indistinct once exposed to the elements.

5.1.3 Undated pre-modern features

Undated but apparently pre-modern features were found in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 (Fig 3).

The largest of the features was an east-west ditch crossing Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 6; context 606; Plate 8). It was found on the projected line of the east-west ditch crossing Trench 9 but was only 1.70m wide and 0.40m deep - much narrower than both ditches in Trench 9 and much shallower than the excavated north-south ditch. It had a single fill derived from boulder clay, without any artefacts, fire-cracked stones or charcoal fragments (context 605). It is therefore unlikely to represent a continuation to the west of the east-west ditch crossing Trench 9 (i.e. the north side of the Iron Age enclosure).

Other linear features on east-west alignments were found in Trenches 1 and 8. The feature in Trench 1 was 0.56m wide and 0.18m deep with concave sides and a rounded base (context 104; Plate 9). It was filled with humic but slightly leached soil (context 103). The feature in Trench 8 was 1m wide and had a shallow rounded terminus (context 805; Plate 10). It was filled with soil derived from boulder clay (context 804). Neither feature can be interpreted on the basis of such limited evidence.

The other features were all discrete. A pit was exposed in the north-east facing section of Trench 5 (context 504). It was 1.30m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled soil derived from boulder clay (context 505).

Four postholes were found close together near the south-east end of Trench 9 (Fig 4; contexts 906, 908, 910, and 920; Plate 11). Two of them cut the fill of the north-south ditch forming the east side of the Iron Age enclosure (context 910 and 920). They were all filled with a mixture of marl and humic soil and were all truncated by modern landscaping.

Finally, three postholes were found in Trench 10. One was found near the centre of the trench (context 1005; Plate 12). It was sealed by colluvium (context 1009) and had a leached fill (context 1004). The other two postholes formed a closely set pair near the north-west end of the trench (contexts 1006 and 1008). They were not sealed by colluvium and had dark grey humic fills, perhaps suggesting a more recent date. They were not excavated.

5.1.4 Medieval or post-medieval furrows

Furrows defined by bands of reworked soil were identified in Trenches 3 and 8 (Fig 3).

Five furrows were found in Trench 3 (Plate 13). They were oriented downslope, on a northwest to south-east alignment, and were spaced at intervals of 2.50-5.00m. One furrow was excavated by machine in a narrow slot (context 305). It was 0.40m deep, with gently sloping sides and an undulating base.

Three furrows were found in Trench 8, c 45m to the south-west (Plate 14). They were also oriented downslope, on a north-west to south-east alignment. Two of the furrows were 2m

apart and the third was 17m away. The closely-spaced furrows may correlate with two of the furrows found in Trench 3.

5.1.5 Modern features and deposits

Modern features and deposits were identified in Trenches, 2, 6, 9, 25, 41, and 42.

Part of a large pit was found at the south-west end of Trench 2 (context 204; Plate 15). It was filled with redeposited topsoil and marl mixed with a variety of artefacts – mainly glass bottles but also pieces of metal, plastic, fabric, and paper (contexts 203 and 205). Some material was recovered from the upper fill but no excavation was attempted, as the pit (which cut through the boulder clay) was clearly deeper than any archaeological remains that might once have been present. This was later confirmed by the client's geotechnical engineer, whose had identified the pit and established its depth at c 3m.

Two similar pits were found in Trench 25, c 120m to the north-east (context 2503; Plate 16). They were filled with redeposited topsoil and marl, and with artefacts including building materials (context 2502). The pits had not been identified in the geotechnical survey, but they were pointed out to a visiting engineer and small sondages were excavated to establish their depth. Both proved to be c 1.50m deep.

Evidence for modern landscaping was found in Trenches 9 and 42. In Trench 9, the initial excavation and subsequent deepening of the north-west half showed that the area had been truncated and then made up with redeposited boulder clay and topsoil (contexts 919 and 900). These deposits sealed a shallow cut which was probably made by an excavator's bucket (context 912). In Trench 42, a larger cut filled with redeposited boulder clay was more obviously caused by machine-excavation (contexts 4202 and 4204).

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Angus Crawford

The artefactual assemblage consisted of three distinct categories of recovered artefacts. This consisted of the following:

- a) Iron Age material recovered from excavated features;
- b) unstratified finds sampled from trench topsoil and sub-soil deposits, and;
- c) a number of glass vessels from a rubbish pit.

The topsoil and subsoil assemblage consisted of a range of material weighing 12.5kg. All were identified as material consistent with general rubbish discard and agricultural practises from the late 18th to 20th century. This material had little significance and it is, therefore, not discussed any further. Likewise, the 53 glass bottles and jars recovered from Trench 2 (context 203), and dated to the second half of the 20th century, are of little archaeological significance.

The Iron Age assemblage retrieved from the excavated slot in Trench 9 consisted of 16 sherds of pottery weighing 144g (Table 1). The group came from three stratified contexts and could be dated to the late Iron Age. Level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of the material displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
late Iron Age	ceramic	earthenware	pottery	3	60
late Iron Age	ceramic	earthenware	pottery	13	84

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	metal	copper alloy	coin	1	8

 Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Pottery

All sherds were grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). All sherds were present and could be dated accordingly; the remaining sherds were dated by fabric type to a general period or production span.

period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Iron Age	2	organic Droitwich briquetage (BD 121)	3	60
late Iron Age	97	miscellaneous prehistoric ware	13	84

Table 2.	Quantification	of the	nottery by	, neriod	and fal	pric-type
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Three fragments of organic briquetage (from a salt container of Droitwich type; D Hurst, pers comm) were recovered from the secondary fills of ditch 913 (contexts 904 and 914). This material has a wide distribution area and is found on Iron Age sites throughout the West Midlands. Production of this vessel type appears to end in the early Roman period with changing methods of salt production.

The remaining sherds of Iron Age pottery were from the tertiary fill of the same ditch (context 903). They appeared to be from a single carinated vessel, though no direct parallel in either form or fabric could be readily identified (including comparison to known Warwickshire and West Midlands material). The pottery fabric was dark grey, sandy and with pale grey to buff inclusions (probably sandstone or grog) and is similar to other Iron Age fabrics. The joining rim sherds represent a hand-made and wheel-finished jar or bowl with a burnished black exterior. The rim was gently everted and of 140mm diameter with nearly 20% of the rim present. It had a short neck and globular and black, burnished body with a carinated shoulder (Figure 8). The vessel is probably of Iron Age date based on its association with the Iron Age briquetage and there are stylistic similarities to other late Iron Age pottery (see Booth 1996). While it may be argued that there are also stylistic similarities with early Roman Severn Valley ware forms (Webster 1976, fig 4), the complete lack of any identifiable Roman pottery within the site assemblage supports the Iron Age date for this material.

Other artefacts

A single coin from context 900 was identified as a copper half-penny issued during the reign of King George III in 1807.

Overview of artefactual evidence

The most important artefacts are the sherds of Iron Age pottery from the secondary and tertiary fills of ditch 913 in Trench 9. These artefacts can be assumed to date the end of the period during which the ditch was maintained. The recovery of 16 sherds from a single narrow slot implies that there is a strong potential for further artefacts. The lack of Roman material from Trench 9, indeed the entire site assemblage, suggests that the ditch had fallen out of use prior to the Roman period.

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 3-5.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Description	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Sample type	Sample vol (1)	Vol processed (l)	Res assessed	Flot assessed
903	1	Ditch	Fill	913	4th	Iron Age	bulk	10	10	Yes	Yes
904	2	Ditch	Fill	913	3rd	Iron Age	bulk	10	10	Yes	Yes
914	3	Ditch	Fill	913	2nd	Iron Age	bulk	10	10	Yes	Yes
915	4	Ditch	Fill	913	1st	Iron Age	bulk	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 3: Environmental samples processed and assessed from Brockhill Lane, Redditch

5.3.1 Wet-sieved samples

Preservation of material

The plant remains recovered from the four samples analysed were preserved by charring and plant remains were only found in contexts 903 and 904. Small fragments of charcoal, too small for identification were present in all contexts studied. Modern contaminants were present in contexts 914 and 915.

The small fragments of bone present in all of the contexts were burnt and unburnt and are unidentifiable.

Quantity of material

Plant remains were present in low numbers as were the bone fragments. The commonest material in all samples was that of small fragments of charcoal.

Types of material

A cereal grain and a weed seed (see Table 5) were found in contexts 903 and 904 respectively. Hazel nutshell fragments were also found in these two contexts. Charcoal and bone fragments were present in all contexts studied.

Context	Sample	large mammal	charcoal	charred plant	Comment
903	1	occ	occ	occ	burnt bone, occasional pot, moderate heat- cracked stone
904	2	occ	occ	occ	burnt bone
914	3	occ	occ		burnt bone, occasional pot, abundant heat- cracked stone
915	4	occ	occ		Burnt bone, abundant heat-cracked stone

Table 4: Summary of material recorded in the environmental sample residues

Latin name	Common name	Habitat	903	904	914	915
Waterlogged						
<i>Rubus</i> sect Glandulosus (fragment)	bramble	CD			+	
Cirsium sp	thistle	ABDE				+
Charred						
Triticum sp grain	wheat	F		+		
Corylus avellana shell fragment	hazelnut	С	++	+		
Silene sp	campion	AB	+			

Table 5: The charred and other plant remains recovered from the environmental samples

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++=51 - 100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

Table 6: Key to Table 5

5.3.2 **Overview of environmental evidence**

The lack of environmental remains suggests that there is very limited evidence for human activity in the area and the assemblages may represent a general background flora and fauna.

6. **Synthesis**

6.1 **Iron Age occupation**

According to the evidence presented above, the south-west part of the development site was occupied in the Iron Age, probably in the last centuries of this period. The settlement took the form of a rectilinear ditched enclosure. The north-east corner of the enclosure and its main north-south and east-west axes are defined by the ditches found in Trenches 8 and 9. The east-west ditch found in Trench 6 may represent a continuation of the north side of the enclosure. If so, it probably continued beyond the west boundary of the development site. It is more likely, however, that the ditch in Trench 6 is an unrelated, though perhaps contemporary feature, and that the north side turned south between Trenches 9 and 6, and continued on that line between Trenches 10 and 43. If so, the enclosure would have measured at least 44m from east to west and 38m from north to south, although judging by similar enclosures found elsewhere, it probably extended further to the south into the parcel containing the balancing pond.

By analogy, the enclosure would have contained one or more roundhouses and other structures made from earthfast timbers. The posthole sealed by colluvium in Trench 10 may represent a part of one such building.

Nothing definite can be said about Iron Age land-use beyond the enclosure. The ditch in Trench 6 could be earlier or later, as could the gullies in Trenches 1 and 8, and the pit in

Trench 5. However, an Iron Age date is perhaps more likely, given the lack of evidence for later activity.

6.2 **Roman and medieval land-use**

No confirmed evidence of Roman or medieval land-use was found in the evaluation. It therefore appears that the development site was or not intensively managed in either period. It is possible that the furrows found in Trenches 3 and 8 originated in the medieval period, but the lack of a medieval ploughsoil assemblage argues against this suggestion.

6.3 **Post-medieval and modern land-use**

The evidence presented above suggests that the development site has been farmland since the late 18th century. The rubbish pits found in Trench 2 and Trench 25 suggest a period of rubbish disposal in the late 1950s or early 1960s, while the made ground and truncation horizons found in Trenches 9 and 42 indicate earthmoving for some other purpose.

7. **Research frameworks**

The Iron Age remains can be placed in a context established by previous research. Recent research has been summarised in papers by Wigley (2002) Hurst (2010), and (for Warwickshire) Hingley (1996). Besides these papers, there is a small literature of published and unpublished reports on excavated sites across the West Midlands (e.g. Cracknell and Hingley 1994, Stevens 2005, Jones and Evans 2006, and Powell *et al* 2008).

Considered in this context, the Iron Age remains represent a type of site which, while not unusual in the West Midlands as a whole, is uncommon in the 'Arden' region of north Worcestershire and Warwickshire. It is the first Iron Age site of any kind to have been found in Redditch and its environs. To some extent, the scarcity of Iron Age sites in the Arden region reflects a lack of fieldwork and especially development-led fieldwork. However, it still seems the case that Iron Age sites are less common in this region than elsewhere which makes the Brockhill site an important discovery.

The Iron Age enclosure appears to be of similar size and shape to the others across the West Midlands, for example at Meriden (Stevens 2005), Stoke Lane, Wychbold (Jones and Evans 2006) and on the route of the M6 toll road (Powell *et al* 2008). The inhabitants may have shared the material culture that is represented on these and other West Midland sites, but at present the only common trait is the use of Droitwich salt in briquetage containers. The pottery from the upper fill of the ditch has no direct parallel in published assemblages.

8. Significance

The aim of an archaeological evaluation is to provide the client and the planning authority (and its advisors) with sufficient information to assess the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest, in line with *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010: Policy HE6). More detailed guidance on assessing the significance of site with archaeological interest is set out in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, which advises that an on-site evaluation should establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest in order to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal (DCLG 2010: Section 5, Development Management).

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

Starting from a low knowledge base, the evaluation has identified the archaeological interest in the development site. This centres on the remains of the Iron Age enclosure identified in the south-west. This enclosure – its ditches and any associated remains – can be regarded as a heritage asset and a material consideration in the context of the proposed development. The enclosure ditches are large features, typical of their date and type. Their fills represent the later history of the enclosure, and contain cultural material including pottery and fire-cracked stones. They also contain plant and animal remains, although these appear to be sparse and poorly preserved. These remains are capable of producing unique, detailed information on the lives of the Iron Age inhabitants.

The archaeological interest may extend to the undated features found near the enclosure. At present, these features are poorly understood, but they may still have the potential to provide information on past land-use.

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The corner of the enclosure was identified in Trenches 8 and 9, and it is believed to extend to the west and south. This is the area of greatest archaeological interest, where most remains are likely to exist although the distribution of the undated features covers a larger area, as shown on Figure 7. The features are sealed by topsoil and subsoil with an average combined depth of 0.30m. They range in depth from a few centimetres to 1.75m.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

As discussed above, the Iron Age enclosure is the first site of this period to have been found in the area, the nearest comparable sites being the enclosures at Stoke Lane, Wychbold, 11km to the south-west (Jones and Evans 2006), Meriden, 23km to the north-east (Stevens 2005), and Barford, 25km to the south-east (Cracknell and Hingley 1994). It is therefore an important discovery, not only because of its rarity, but because it could provide new information on the material culture of the wider region.

9. **Potential impact of the proposed development**

The evaluation, and the information provided by the Client, allows an assessment to be made of the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological interest in the site.

As described above, the archaeological interest in the site is limited to the remains in the south-west, as shown on Figure 7. The remains in this area are relatively shallow and most of them would be vulnerable to the groundworks usually associated with large mixed-use developments. The remains of small discrete features such as pits and postholes would be especially vulnerable to ground reduction. The truncation or removal of archaeological features would constitute a loss of significant information.

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 the most appropriate journal or journals.

In April 2011, the Field Section of the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to evaluate land east of Brockhill Lane, Redditch (NGR SP 0328 6847; WSM 45756). The evaluation was associated with the first phase of a proposed mixed use development.

The evaluation involved fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. The fieldwork involved systematic trenching across the development site and subsequent excavation and recording. The post-fieldwork analyses covered stratigraphy, artefacts, and charred plant remains.

The evaluation identified the ditches of an Iron Age enclosure in the south-west of the development site, above the Red Brook from which Redditch takes its name. The enclosure is the first Iron Age site to have been found in the area and the only site of its type in the district. Finds from the enclosure ditch included pottery from salt containers and a carinated vessel, and stones that were used in cooking or brewing.

Some undated features were also identified, including a ditch, two gullies, a pit, and seven postholes. Some of these features were probably contemporary with the enclosure but two postholes, which cut the ditch, were certainly later. No evidence was found relating to Roman or medieval land-use with the possible exception of parallel furrows which could be medieval.

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12. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Darren Miller. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Christine Elgy and Chris Gibbs, finds analysis by Angus Crawford, environmental analysis by Alan Clapham and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan



South-west corner of development site showing all features and corner of Iron Age enlosure Figure 3



North-east corner of Iron Age enclosure

Figure 4







Area of archaeological significance and outlying undated features

Figure 7



Iron Age pot from context 903 Figure 8

Plates



Plate 1: General view of development site from Trench 16, facing south



Plate 2: General view of development site from Trench 16, facing south-east



Plate 3: Former channel of Red Brook in Trench 12, facing south



Plate 4: Area of Iron Age enclosure facing west (rods and line in foreground indicate east side of enclosure; rods and line in background indicate north side of enclosure)



Plate 5: Slot though re-cut Iron Age enclosure ditch crossing south-east end of Trench 9 (contexts 913 and 918)



Plate 6: Top of Iron Age enclosure ditch crossing south-west end of Trench 8 (context 807)



Plate 7: Top of Iron Age enclosure ditch crossing north-west half of Trench 9 (context 923)



Plate 8: Ditch 606 in Trench 6, facing east along projected line of ditch 923 in Trench 9 (indicated by canes in background)



Plate 9: Gully 104 in Trench 1, facing north-east



Plate 10: Gully 808 in Trench 8



Plate 11: Posthole 906 in Trench 9



Plate 12: Posthole 1005 in Trench 10



Plate 13: Trench 3 facing south-west



Plate 14: Trench 8 facing north-east



Plate 15: Trench 2 facing north-east



Plate 16: Trench 25 facing north-west

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic data

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
			Trench	1	
100	Topsoil		Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.13m	Moderate gravels.
101	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.11m	Occasional gravels.
102	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with c 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate gravels.
103		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Occasional gravels.
104	Linear	Cut		0.18m	Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned approximately east-west. Poorly defined to west. Concave sides breaking gently to rounded base. Width 0.56m. Depth 0.18m
	-		Trench	2	
200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.12m	Moderate gravels. Moderate to frequent glass and ceramic inclusions.
201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.14m	Moderate gravels. Occasional glass, ceramic, and bone inclusions.
202	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with c 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional gravels.
203		Fill	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	c 3m	Tertiary fill of pit 204. Soil component mixed with c 15% ash. Frequent glass, ceramic, metal, and plastic inclusions. Unexcavated, but depth of c 3m established by previous geotechnical survey.
204	Pit	Cut			Partially-exposed pit represented by fill and one side aligned approximately east- west. Extent and depth established by previous geotechnical survey.
205		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt loam		Mixed with <i>c</i> 25% redeposited marl. Contained an iron bar and occasional brick or tile fragments.
206	Pit	Cut			Small pit or scrape (1.50m long by 0.85m wide) to north-east of much larger pit 204.
207		Fill	Loose mid reddish brown clay silt	c 0.10m	Redeposited marl with occasional glass, ceramic, and other inclusions.
			Trench	3	
300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.17m	Frequent gravels. Occasional glass, ceramic, and slate inclusions.
301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.13m	Moderate gravels. Occasional brick or tile fragments.
302	Natural	Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.40m	
303		Fill	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt loam	0.40m	Frequent gravels. Excavated by machine in 2-foot slot against section.

			0	•	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
304	Furrow	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned north-west to south-east. Concave sides breaking imperceptibly to undulating base. One of five such features exposed in Trench 3, all on the same alignment and with similar fills.
			Trench	4	
400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.15m	Moderate gravels. Occasional ceramic and glass inclusions.
401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.15m	Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.
402	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with <i>c</i> 25% light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.
1			Trench	5	•
500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Occasional gravels. Occasional glass and ceramic inclusions.
501	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.19m	Moderate gravels.
502	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels.
503		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt	0.12m	
504	Unknown	Cut		0.12m	Possible feature exposed in south-west facing section. Concave sides breaking gently to rounded base. Width 0.14m. Depth 0.12.
505			Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.14m	4m-wide spread of redeposited marl exposed in north-east facing section near north-west end of trench.
			Trench	6	
600	Topsoil	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.20m	Moderate gravels. Occasional ceramic and other inclusions.
601	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.12m	Moderate gravels.
602	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.20m	Marl mixed with <i>c</i> 25% light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. Overlay (virtually) stoneless marl.
603		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	1.05	Fill of trench for land drain 604 exposed in section. Marl, mixed in upper part of deposit with c 15% light brown and yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. Apparently sealed by subsoil 601 but probably sealed by topsoil 600.
604	Field drain	Cut		1.05m	Vertical-sided, flat-bottomed trench for land drain, aligned north-east to south- west.
605		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.40m	Redeposited marl with moderate gravels. Slightly darker and browner than marl under 602. Excavated by machine in 2-

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
					foot slot against north-west facing section.
606	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned approximately east-west. Exposed in plan and section. Approximately 1.75m wide (edges poorly-defined), with concave sides and gently rounded base.
607	Layer		Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.11	Clay-enriched horizon within marl
			Trench	7	
700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.12	Moderate gravels.
701	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.13	Light yellowish and reddish brown fine sandy silt with moderate gravels.
702	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown silt	0.72	Not exposed at north-west end of trench. Became visible near centre, and deepened towards south-east.
703	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with c 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate gravels.
			Trench	8	
800	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.25m	Occasional gravels.
801	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.12m	Moderate gravels.
802	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl.
803		Fill	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.09m	Moderate gravels. Frequent fine roots.
804	Linear	Cut		0.09m	Partially exposed linear, parallel-sided feature aligned approximately east-west. One concave side and one gently sloping side. Flat base. Rounded terminus at west end.
805		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	>0.30m	Redeposited marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% light brown and yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. Unexcavated, except in 2-foot wide and 1-foot deep slot excavated by machine to confirm first impressions of feature.
806		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Redeposited marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% mid greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate gravels.
807	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned approximately north-south. Width 2.30m. Represents continuation to north of ditch 913 in southeast half of Trench 9.
			Trench	9	
900	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Moderate gravels.

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
901	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	>0.20m	Moderate gravels. Truncated by modern landscaping and only preserved in north-west half of trench.
902	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels.
903		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silty clay	0.35m	Humic soil mixed with <i>c</i> 15% redeposited marl. Moderate gravels, including fire-cracked stones. Frequent charcoal fragments and flecks.
904		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.30m	Redeposited marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% mid greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate to frequent fire-cracked stones. Moderate charcoal fragments and flecks.
905		Fill	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.10m	Redeposited marl mixed with c 15% mid greyish brown and light yellowish brown sandy silt. Moderate gravels.
906	Post Hole	Cut		0.10m	Possible post-hole. Oval in plan, measuring 0.85m by 0.40m but half- section suggests sub-circular declivity. Concave sides breaking gently to undulating base.
907		Fill	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.03m	Redeposited marl mixed with c 15% mid greyish brown and light yellowish brown sandy silt. Moderate gravels.
908	Post Hole	Cut		0.03m	Possible posthole. Diameter 0.40m. Apparently cut by modern land drain but relationship not clear in plan or in section.
909		Fill	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.03m	Redeposited marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% mid greyish brown and light yellowish brown sandy silt. Moderate gravels.
910	Post Hole	Cut		0.03m	Possible posthole. Diameter 0.70m.
911			Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.10m	Occasional gravels.
912	Unknown	Cut		0.10m	Partially exposed feature represented by two gently sloping sides forming a right angle. Visible dimensions 0.85m by 0.45m. Probably the result of modern landscaping.
913	Ditch	Cut		1.75m	Later of two intercutting ditches, aligned approximately north-south. Width <i>c</i> 3.25m.Concave to steeply sloping sides breaking gently to rounded base.
914		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.50m	Redeposited marl mixed with c 15% mid greyish brown sandy silt. Frequent gravels, including fire-cracked stones, concentrated along north side of feature.
915		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.24m	Redeposited marl with lenses of light yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional gravels. Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks.
916		Fill	Compact mid reddish	0.24m	Redeposited marl with few lenses of light

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
			brown sandy silty clay	_	yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional gravels. Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks.
917		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown sandy silty clay	1.34m	Redeposited marl with lenses of light yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional gravels. Occasional charcoal fragments and flecks.
918	Ditch	Cut		1.34	Earlier of two intercutting ditches aligned approximately north-south. Represented by one gradually then steeply sloping side breaking gently to a flat base. At least 2m wide.
919	Modern Layer	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.16	Redeposited marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% redeposited topsoil. Occasional gravels.
920	Post Hole	Cut		0.14m	Possible post-hole exposed in section of machine-excavated slot through ditch 913. Concave sides breaking gently to flat base. Width/diameter 0.46m.
921		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.14m	Redeposited marl mixed with c 15% mid greyish brown and light yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional gravels.
922		Fill	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. Unexcavated.
923		Fill	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Redeposited marl mixed with <10% light yellowish brown sandy silt. Occasional gravels. Unexcavated,
924	Ditch	Cut			Linear, parallel-sided feature aligned approximately east-west. Up to 2.75m wide.
			Trench	10	
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.21m	Occasional gravels.
1001	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.14m	Marl mixed with <i>c</i> 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt. Moderate to frequent gravels.
1002	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with <10% light yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional gravels.
1003		Fill	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.30m	Mixed with <10% redeposited marl. Occasional gravels.
1004	Post Hole	Cut		0.30m	Diameter 0.15m. One near-vertical side and one steeply sloping side breaking gradually to flat base.
1005		Fill	Compact mid greyish brown sandy silt loam		Mixed with <i>c</i> 15% redeposited marl. Moderate gravels. Unexcavated.
1006	Post Hole	Cut			Diameter c 0.17m.
1007		Fill			Mixed with <i>c</i> 15% redeposited marl. Moderate gravels. Unexcavated.
1008	Post Hole	Cut			Diameter c 0.17m.
1009		Layer	Firm light greyish	<0.10m	Colluvium identified across south-west

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
			brown sandy silt loam		half of trench. Excavated in 2-foot wide slot, them completely, by machine.
		•	Trench	12	
1200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.27m	Moderate gravels.
1201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.23m	Mid brown and reddish brown in roughly equal proportions. Occasional gravels.
1202		Layer	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay	0.30m	Alluvium. Mid reddish brown and light blueish grey with common olive mottles.
1203		Layer	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.20m	Alluvium.
1204		Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay		Fluvio-glacial deposit. Frequent gravels. Unexcavated.
1205	Palaeochan nel	Cut		>0.50m	North side of palaeochannel aligned approximately north-east to south-west, with present Red Brook. Concave side with gradual breaks of slope at top and base.
1206	Natural	Layer	Compact light reddish brown sandy silt	>0.50m	Light reddish and yellowish brown sandy silt mixed with c 15% mid reddish brown silty clay.
			Trench	13	
1300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.19m	Occasional stones.
1301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.11m	Frequent gravels.
1302	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown sandy silt		Mixed with c 15% mid reddish brown clay silt.
			Trench	14	
1400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.13m	Occasional gravels. Fewer ceramic and metal inclusions.
1401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.21m	Frequent gravels.
1402	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Frequent gravels.
			Trench	15	
1500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Occasional gravels. Fewer ceramic inclusions.
1501	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.10m	Frequent gravels.
1502	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Moderate to frequent gravels.
			Trench	16	
1600	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Occasional gravels. Fewer ceramic and other inclusions.
1601	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.10m	Frequent gravels.
1602	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Mixed with c 15% light yellowish brown silt and bands of frequent gravels.

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation			
			Trench	17				
1700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.20m	Occasional gravels. Fewer ceramic and bone inclusions.			
1701	Subsoil	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.15m	Moderate gravels.			
1702	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Moderate gravels.			
	Trench 18							
1800	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Occasional gravels.			
1801	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish brown sandy silt	0.08m	Greyish, slightly reddish brown. Frequent gravels.			
1802	Natural	Layer	Compact light reddish brown clay silt		Mixed with c 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt. Frequent gravels.			
			Trench	19				
1900	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.08m	Occasional gravels.			
1901	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.11m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.			
1902	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate to frequent gravels.			
	Trench 20							
2000	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.14m	Occasional gravels.			
2001	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.06m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.			
2002	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Light yellowish and reddish brown. Moderate to frequent gravels. Moderate Manganese concretions.			
			Trench	21				
2100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.15m	Occasional gravels.			
2101	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.15m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.			
2102	Natural	Layer	Compact light reddish brown sandy silt		Mixed with c 15% mid reddish brown clay silt. Occasional gravels.			
			Trench	22				
2200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.10m	Occasional gravels.			
2201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.15m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.			
2202	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Occasional streaks and patches of light yellowish brown sandy silt.			
			Trench	23	7			
2300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.17m	Moderate gravels.			

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation		
2301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.13m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.		
2302	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Mixed with c 30% light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent gravels.		
			Trench	24			
2400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.22m	Moderate gravels.		
2401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.11m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.		
2402	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Mixed with c 15% light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent gravels. Bioturbation near centre of trench.		
			Trench	25	•		
2500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.08m	Moderate gravels.		
2501	Modern Layer	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	<0.30m	Redeposited marl (made ground).		
2502		Fill	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt	c 1.50m	Fills of two or more rubbish pits. Composition varies from redeposited topsoil mixed with ash and frequent glass, ceramic, and other inclusions to redeposited marl.		
2503	Pit	Cut		c 1.50m	Two or more modern rubbish pits of uncertain extent.		
2504	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl.		
			Trench	26			
2600	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.06m	Moderate gravels.		
2601	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.15m	Mid, slightly reddish brown. Moderate gravels.		
2602	Natural	Layer	Compact light reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with <i>c</i> 5% light yellowish brown sandy silt.		
			Trench	27	1		
2700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.24m	Occasional gravels.		
2701	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.14m	Light, slightly yellowish brown. Occasional gravels.		
2702	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Occasional gravels. More compact, paler, and finer than 2701.		
2703	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Mixed with varying proportions of marl.		
			Trench	28			
2800	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.25m	Occasional gravels.		

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
2801	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.15m	Light, slightly yellowish brown. Occasional gravels.
2802	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.17m	Occasional gravels. More compact, paler, and finer than 2801.
2803	Natural	Layer			Mixed with varying proportions of marl.
			Trench 2	29	
2900	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Occasional gravels.
2901	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.08m	Light, slightly yellowish brown. Occasional gravels.
2902	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.14m	Occasional gravels. More compact, paler, and finer than 2901.
2903	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Mixed with varying proportions of marl. Geotechnical test pit near south-west end of trench.
			Trench	30	•
3000	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.13m	Moderate gravels.
3001	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.27m	Mid brown and light yellowish brown. Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.
3002	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Occasional patches of redder, finer material and very light greyish brown sandy silt. Frequent gravels.
			Trench	31	
3100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.12m	Occasional gravels.
3101	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.25m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.
3102	Natural	Layer	Compact light reddish brown clay silt		Light to mid reddish brown clay silt with darker mottles and Manganese concretions. Occasional patches of light yellowish brown sandy silt with varying proportions of gravels.
ļ			Trench	32	
3200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.14m	Occasional gravels.
3201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.23m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.
3202	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with varying proportions of clay and sand. Moderate gravels.
			Trench	33	
3300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid reddish brown sandy silt loam	0.10m	Occasional gravels.
3301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish	0.16m	Light, slightly yellowish brown.

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation			
			brown sandy silt		Moderate gravels.			
3302	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl mixed with occasional patches of light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels and one patch of near- stoneless off-white silt.			
			Trench	34				
3400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.12m	Occasional gravels.			
3401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.12m	Light, slightly yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.			
3402	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Incorporating band of light grey siltstone skerries and patches of light yellowish- reddish brown silt with gravels.			
			Trench	35				
3500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.10m	Occasional gravels.			
3501	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.17m	Light brown and yellowish brown. Moderate gravels.			
3502	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Yellowish, slightly reddish brown. Frequent gravels.			
			Trench	37				
3700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Moderate gravels. Occasional charcoal fragments.			
3701	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.10m	Light brown and yellowish-reddish brown. Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.			
3702	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silt		Mixed with varying proportions of clay and sand. Moderate to frequent gravels. Occasional patches of light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate gravels.			
			Trench	38				
3800	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.18m	Moderate gravels. Occasional charcoal fragments.			
3801	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.18m	Light brown and yellowish-reddish brown. Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.			
3802	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silt		Mixed with varying proportions of clay and sand. Small, dense patches of gravels towards south-east end.			
			Trench	39				
3900	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.16m				
3901	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.17m	Light brown and yellowish-reddish brown. Moderate gravels. Occasional Manganese concretions.			
3902	Natural		Compact mid reddish brown silt		Mixed with varying proportions of light yellowish brown sandy silt and gravels.			
	Trench 40							

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ Depth	Interpretation
4000	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	c 0.25m	Occasional gravels.
4001	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	c 0.12m	Moderate gravels.
4002	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl.
			Trench	41	
4100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.20m	
4101	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.40m	Moderate gravels.
4102	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Marl.
4103		Fill	Firm dark greyish brown loamy silt	c 0.60m	Modern date indicated by finds of redware, porcelain, and clay pipe.
4104	Post Hole	Cut			Diameter 0.35m. Depth c 0.60m. Near-vertical sides breaking gently to flat base.
			Trench	42	
4200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.12m	Moderate gravels. Fewer ceramic inclusions.
4201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy silt	0.14m	Light reddish-yellowish brown. Frequent gravels. Occasional charcoal fragments.
4202		Fill	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.20m	Redeposited topsoil and subsoil. Moderate charcoal fragments.
4203	Natural	Layer	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt		Reddish-yellowish brown. Frequent gravels. Occasional patches of reddish brown clay silt.
4204		Cut		0.20m	Edge of modern rubbish pit or ground reduction defined by fill 4202 and one side, aligned approximately north-east to south-west.
			Trench	43	
4300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.28m	Moderate gravels.
4301	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.10m	Occasional gravels.
4302	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Mixed with c 50% light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. Scarred by plough scars aligned approximately north-south.
4303	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay silt		Either undisturbed 4302 with translocated charcoal on the surface or redeposited 4302 representing the tertiary fill of a north-south ditch, c 2m wide (Probably the former.)

Appendix 2: The archive

The archive consists of:

7	Context records AS1
13	Fieldwork progress reports AS2
2	Photographic records AS3
1	Drawing number catalogue AS4
239	Digital photographs
4	Sample records AS17
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
2	Levels records AS19
4	Flot records AS21
19	Site drawing sheets AS34
45	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom
1	Bound hard copy of report

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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