

PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
AT
BATTLE WELL POND, BATTLE
WELL FIELD, GREENHILL,
EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE

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With a contribution by Laura Griffin and Dennis Williams

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological auger survey and watching brief was undertaken at Battle Well Pond, Battle Well Field, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0379 4552).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of The Simon de Montfort Society, who intends to improve the condition of and conserve the Battle Well Pond for which a planning application has been submitted. The works are in response to a pond management plan produced by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust as part of the Higher Level Stewardship land management agreement which recommended that removal of vegetation and silt should occur with the aim of improving water quality in the pond to enhance its biodiversity potential.

The auger survey and watching brief revealed shallow deposits of post-medieval and modern origin indicating that the current plan and profile of the pond have been subject to post-medieval or modern alteration, probably for agricultural purposes, and then has been backfilled by extensive quantities of waste material.

The archaeological works have not been able to identify any deposits or artefacts which are associated with the putative medieval pond or the chapel which, according to documentary sources, was located in close proximity to the Battle Well.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Planning background

An archaeological auger survey and watching brief was undertaken at Battle Well Pond, Battle Well Field, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0379 4552) (Fig 1), on behalf of The Simon de Montfort Society. The Simon de Montfort Society intends to improve the condition of and conserve the Battle Well. The works are in response to a pond management plan produced by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust as part of the Higher Level Stewardship land management agreement which recommended that removal of vegetation and some silt should be carried out with the aim of improving water quality in the pond to improve its condition as a water feature and enhance its biodiversity potential.

The proposed development site is considered to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM 26892).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (HEAS 2008). In addition, the sampling, geoarchaeology and environmental analysis conform to relevant sections of *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002), *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (English Heritage 2007) and *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations* (AEA 1995).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by HEAS (2010a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2010b).

The aims of the auger survey, environmental assessment and watching brief were to establish the presence and significance of archaeological deposits, and of artefactual and ecofactual assemblages.

2. Methods

2.1 Fieldwork methodology

2.1.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2010b). Fieldwork was undertaken on 14 July 2011 and 6 September 2011. The site reference number and site code is WSM 45787.

Auger Survey

Two auger transects were sunk across the feature following the guide as presented in the Brief (HEAS 2010a) which amounted to sixteen auger holes. These were sunk primarily using a Gouge auger although a Dutch auger was utilised to confirm the depths and validity of the deposits encountered in Augerhole 6 and 9.

Watching Brief

Deposits considered not to be significant (as indicated through the auger survey) were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and

environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

2.1.2 **Structural analysis**

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

2.2 **Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin and Dennis Williams**

2.2.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

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

2.2.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period.. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

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

2.3 **Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

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

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The underlying solid geology is that of the G¹ Lower Lias Jurassic clays (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1:50,000 solid and drift edition, sheet 200) which are overlain by soils of the Evesham 2 (411b) soil formation consisting of "Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils" (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 3 Midland and Western England). It is noteworthy that river gravels of the 5th Avon terrace have been identified within close proximity of the site (Geological Survey of Great Britain); these gravels are thought to date to Oxygen Isotope Stage 8, approximately 250,000 years before present.

The following archaeological background is taken from the Brief (HEAS 2010a):

Battle Well Pond is located on the site of a spring reputed to have been discovered by the Monks of Evesham following the Battle of Evesham in 1265. The site subsequently became known as the Battle Well and also became a place of pilgrimage. The Battle Well also has associations with a 13th or 14th century chapel that historical sources suggest was located close to the Battle Well. The site is now represented by a small sub-oval pond with sloping sides and evidence of a runoff channel leading from the south-western end of the pond.

A full search of the Historic Environment Record was undertaken (Russell 2011); this will be provided to the Client as a separate document.

4. Results

4.1 Auger Survey

The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. All depths are recorded as below ground surface (BGS).

4.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The sole natural deposit encountered during the auger survey was the Lower Lias Jurassic clays which were encountered in Augerholes 6 and 7.

4.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

The most frequently encountered and possibly most significant deposit was that of the stone that formed the 'lining' in the base of the pond. The exact date of deposition, nature and scale of this 'lining' is unclear but it would appear to be present across the majority of the feature, being encountered in all augerholes with the exception of AH6, AH7 and possibly AH12. The latter is unclear as, although the refusal was caused by stone (a pale grey/white degraded sandstone), it is uncertain whether this is the same material that caused the refusal in the other augerholes.

What is clear is that the stone could not be penetrated by the Gouge or Dutch augers and the base profile of the feature is reliable.

The majority of the deposits identified as fills in Appendix 1 are undated simply as no artefactual remains were uncovered during the auger survey. These fills all appear to be naturally accumulated sediments formed either through alluvial (water) or colluvial (gravity) means although the former must only happen sporadically i.e. during high flow, seasonal events given that there are no truly active surface inputs. Decaying vegetation will also have formed a proportion of this material as witnessed by the large quantity of root and/or plant matter encountered during the auger survey.

4.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval/modern deposits

The top and subsoils, which are given the suffix 01 and 02 in Appendix 1, are identified as modern due to the presence of a modern piece of string in Augerhole 13 (0.10m and 0.20m BGS), their stratigraphic position and the quantity of extant root and/or plant matter that was present.

4.2 Watching brief

De-silting of the pond was undertaken under archaeological supervision with data from the auger survey being used as guidance for the extent of de-silting.

The de-silting confirmed the observation of the auger survey that the fills of the pond (contexts 2001, 2002 and 2003) were modern in origin through the presence of extensive spreads of post-medieval and modern brickwork, agricultural debris and artefacts.

The stone lining that was encountered during the auger survey was revealed not to be a single stone lining but a heterogeneous, compacted/firm deposit measuring 0.15- 0.20m in thickness consisting of redeposited sand and gravels, stone and brick rubble (context 2005).

Where brickwork had flicked out of this deposit during machining, it was possible to investigate the deposit which underlay this compacted layer which consisted of 'dirty', disturbed sand and gravel that appeared to be of the 5th Avon Terrace and disturbed Lias clay

(context 2006). This was somewhat confirmed in the south-western margins of the pond where 'cleaner', undisturbed natural gravels were identified (context 2007).

On the northern edge of the feature, an area of bonded brickwork (context 2004, Plate 4) was revealed which measured 2.30m in length, 0.25m in depth and was ≥ 0.95 m in width. It should be noted that the latter measurement is not the complete width as the brickwork went into the section of the pond with its full dimensions not being revealed during the de-silting works. It was thought during the watching brief that this brickwork represented either a collapsed wall or a culvert running into the pond although subsequent correspondence with Clive Bostle of the Simon de Montfort Society has revealed the former to be the most likely as he stated that:

The large chunk of [dateable?] brickwork now revealed is presumably that which was mentioned to me recently by the previous tenant as having apparently 'collapsed' into the pond when the concrete land drain from the upper field was put in. That brickwork may also be part of the wall that was noted as being in situ at the time (mid-1920s) of the fieldwork for the government publication about the wells & springs of Worcestershire (Richardson 1930, 110)

4.3 **Artefacts and brickwork, by Laura Griffin and Dennis Williams**

4.3.1 **Artefacts from the auger survey**

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Table 1.

Due to the nature/methodology of the investigation, recovery of finds was unlikely although despite this, two artefacts were retrieved during the auger survey.

Period	Material	Augerhole	Depth (BGS)	Count	Weight (g)
18 th century	Brick	AH7	0.29m	1	24.2g
Pre 20 th century/undated	Nail	AH8	0.26m	1	1.3g

Table 1 Quantification of the assemblage from the auger survey by period

The brick, recovered from 0.29m below ground surface in Augerhole 7, was in fragmentary condition yet two faces were present suggesting this was from the corner of the brick. Without the complete dimensions, providing a precise date is difficult but its composition and level of firing suggests that the fragment dates to the 18th century.

The nail recovered was unfortunately undiagnostic as it is handmade and therefore could potentially only be assigned a pre-20th century date.

4.3.2 **Artefacts from the watching brief**

The artefactual assemblage is summarised in Table 2. Building material accounted for most of the assemblage by weight. A small amount of glass and pottery was also recovered, as well as undiagnostic iron objects.

Period	Material class	Count	Weight (g)
modern	ceramic	1	88
modern	glass	6	883

Period	Material class	Count	Weight (g)
post-medieval	ceramic	5	10378
post-medieval	stone	1	21000
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	12	6328
post-medieval/modern	metal	2	1790
undated	glass	1	16
undated	stone	1	1480
totals		29	41963

Table 2 Quantification of the assemblage

Pottery

The pottery assemblage from this site was very limited (Table 3). It comprised only sherds from white china plates and a small jar (context 2006), and the rim of a flowerpot (context 2003), all 19th or 20th century in date.

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
post-medieval/modern	85	Modern china	6	214
post-medieval/modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	1	14
totals			7	228

Table 3 Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

Building materials

A number of sample red bricks were recovered, from contexts 2003, 2004 and 2006. These were all unfrosted, and largely undiagnostic, except that two main thicknesses, of approximately 2½ and 3 inches, were noted. These measurements point to possible late 18th century and 19th century dates, respectively. A curved, blue coping brick, probably 19th century, was also found in context 2006.

The only other notable building material was a large worked block of oolitic limestone, 170mm thick, found in context 2005. This had been carved to produce a cavetto-type moulding, but exhibited narrow, parallel cutting grooves typical of machining, suggesting this work had been done at a date probably no earlier than the 19th century.

Single fragments of a flat roof tile, late 19th or 20th century in date, and a modern glazed wall tile were recovered from context 2006.

Glass

Glass finds were all modern, and included the neck of a flagon, the rim of a preserving jar, and two bottles, from context 2003. A brown bottle bore the 20th century mark of Universal Glass Bottle Manufacturers, while the other in clear glass, still had its Pepsi-Cola screw-cap fitted.

Metal

The only metal finds were two pieces of scrap iron from context 2003, one in the form of a ring with the remains of four spokes attached, function unknown.

Overview of artefactual evidence

The finds from this site were all consistent with the discarding of domestic and building materials, none of which were earlier than late post-medieval in date. The data for the assemblage is summarised in the HER Table.

5. **Synthesis**

Despite the documentary evidence suggesting that the Battle Well is medieval in origin, no evidence for this was identified during the archaeological works with only evidence of post-medieval and modern disturbance and dumping.

During the watching brief, it became apparent that the true extent of the pond is greater than that which has been de-silted with brickwork and artefacts of post-medieval and modern date appearing in the northern, southern and eastern sections. It is suggested by the author that the northern edge continues lies towards and possibly under the current fence line whilst the southern edge is possibly marked by the edge of the rough, 'scrubby' vegetation.

It is presently unclear how much of the pond and the surrounding area has been subjected to landscaping and the dumping of material either through agricultural practices or through the demolition or construction of buildings in close proximity.

6. **Publication summary**

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

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7. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Clive Bostle and the Simon de Montfort Society for the opportunity to undertake the programme of archaeological works, the Simon de Montfort Society and Natural England for funding the work, the Rudge Estate for access to the site and Adam Mindykowski (HEAS) for curatorial guidance.

8. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Nick Daffern. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nick Daffern, finds analysis by Laura Griffin and Dennis Williams and illustration by Carolyn Hunt. The report was edited by Hal Dalwood.

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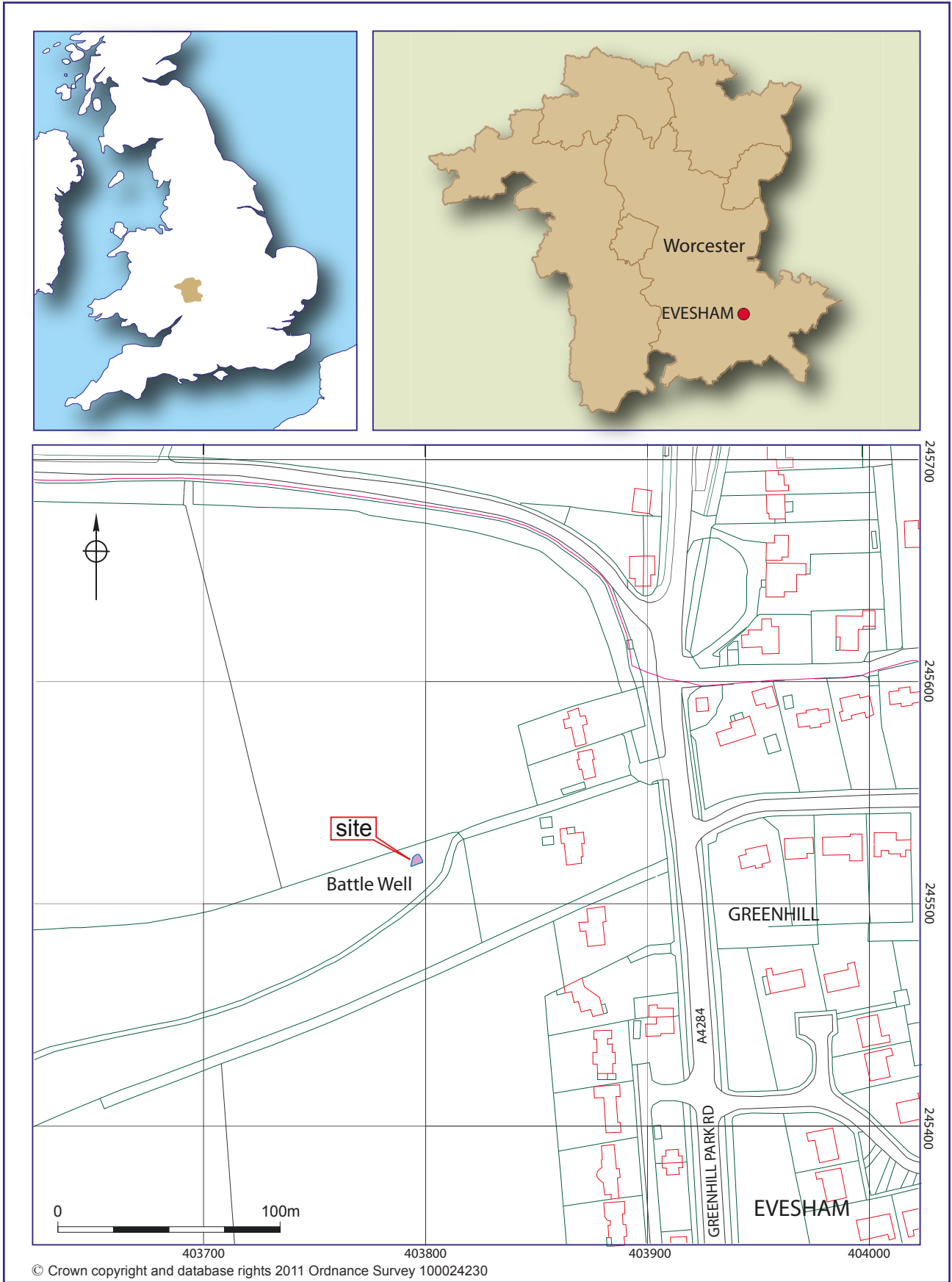
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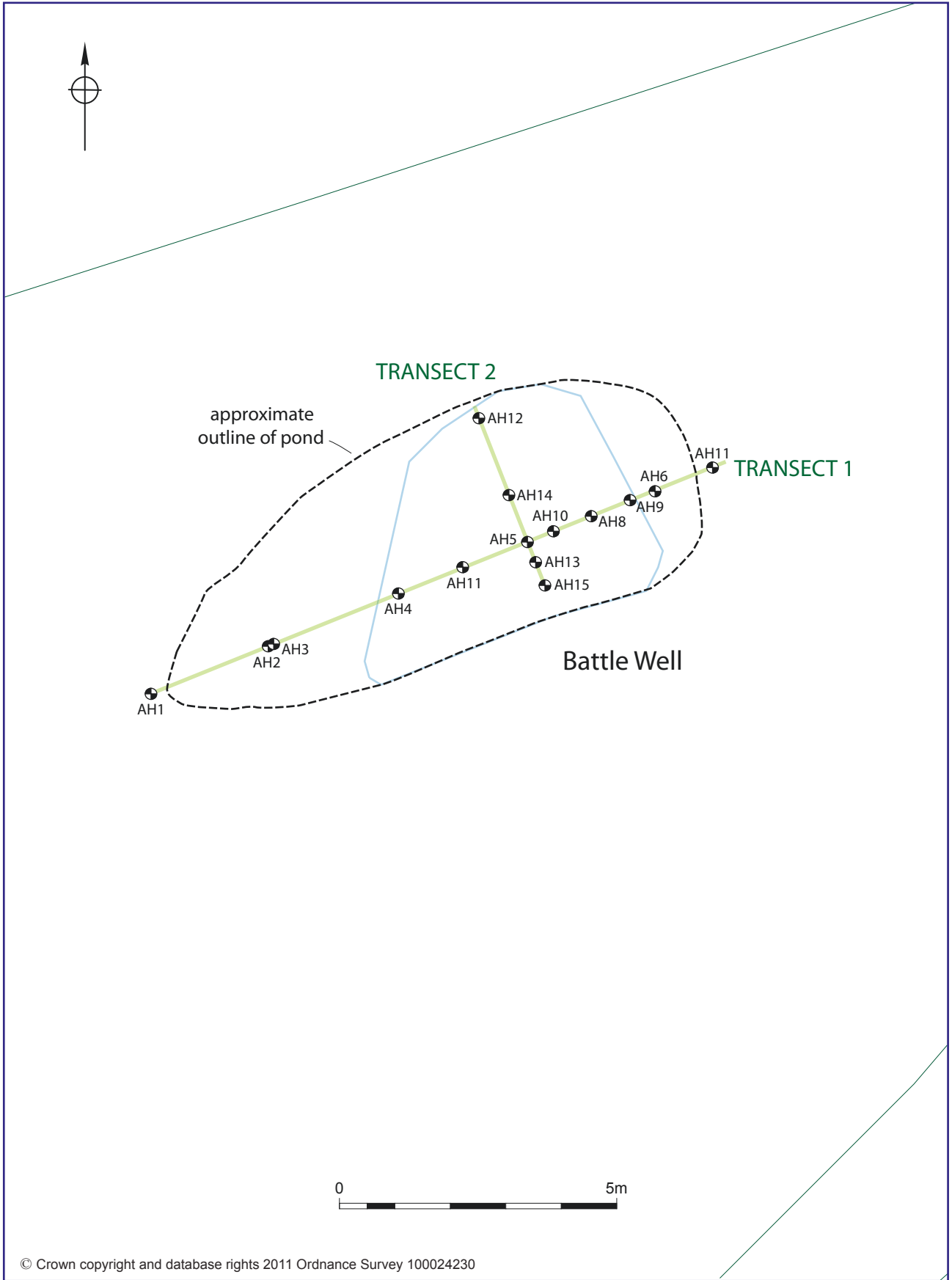
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Auger Hole locations

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 The pond prior to de-silting, looking east



Plate 2 The pond prior to de-silting, looking northwest



Plate 3 The pond and its wider landscape prior to de-silting, looking southwest



Plate 4 Collapsed wall (2004), looking north



Plate 5 The pond after de-silting, looking east



Plate 6 The pond after de-silting, looking southeast. Note the frequent post-medieval/ modern brick fragments in the base and north facing section.



Plate 7 The pond after de-silting, looking southeast. Note the frequent post-medieval/ modern brick fragments in the base and north facing section



Plate 8 Overview of the pond after de-silting, looking east



Plate 9 Overview of the pond after de-silting, looking west

Appendix 1 Augerhole descriptions

Augerhole 1

Position – 0.00m, start of southwest – northeast Transect 1

Maximum depth: 0.17m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
101	Topsoil	Pliable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets, occasional to frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles and stones (1cm)	0.00m – 0.06m
102	Subsoil	Pliable, mid brown silt. Occasional to frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles and stones (1cm) and occasional roots and rootlets.	0.06m – 0.17m
STONE REFUSAL			0.17m

Augerhole 2

Position – 2.50m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.18m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
201	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.04m
202	Subsoil	Moist, pliable, mid brown silt, rarely clayey. Occasional to frequent roots and rootlets.	0.04m – 0.08m
203	Fill	Moist, sticky-pliable, light brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional rootlets. Occasional orange mottling associated with rootlet channels	0.08m – 0.11m
204	Fill	Moist, sticky-pliable, mid brownish grey clayey silt	0.11m – 0.18m
STONE REFUSAL			0.18m

Augerhole 3

Position – 2.60m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.18m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
301	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.04m
302	Subsoil	Moist, pliable, mid brown silt, rarely clayey. Occasional to frequent roots and rootlets.	0.04m – 0.08m
303	Fill	Moist, sticky-pliable, light brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional rootlets. Occasional	0.08m – 0.11m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		orange mottling associated with rootlet channels	
304	Fill	Moist, sticky-pliable, mid brownish grey clayey silt	0.11m – 0.18m
STONE REFUSAL			0.18m

Augerhole 4

Position – 5.00m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.22m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
401	Topsoil	Moist, pliable, mid brown silt. Very frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.05m
402	Subsoil	Moist, pliable, mid greyish brown silt. Frequent roots and rootlets.	0.05m – 0.11m
403	Fill	Moist, pliable, mid-dark brown silt. Occasional to frequent roots and rootlets. Rarely sandy/gritty	0.11m – 0.13m
404	Fill	Moist, pliable, dark blackish grey sandy silt	0.13m – 0.22m
STONE REFUSAL			0.22m

Augerhole 5

Position – 7.50m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.33m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
501	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.08m
502	Subsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid- dark greyish brown clayey silt. Frequent to occasional roots and rootlets	0.08m – 0.11m
503	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable, light-mid grey clayey silt. Rare rootlets	0.11m – 0.13m
504	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable, dark-mid grey. Rare to occasional rootlets and rare molluscan remains.	0.13m – 0.19m
505	Fill	Moist-wet, pliable-mouldable, dark blackish grey sandy clayey silt	0.19m – 0.33m
STONE REFUSAL			0.33m

Augerhole 6**Position – 10.00m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)**

Maximum depth: 0.47m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
601	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid greyish brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.06m
602	Subsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, light greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional roots and rootlets	0.06m – 0.11m
603	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable, light grey clayey silt. Occasional-rare rootlets	0.11m – 0.35m
604	Natural	Mouldable, light yellow clay with frequent grey clay lenses. Lower Lias Jurassic clays	0.35m – 0.47m+

Augerhole 7**Position – 11.10m northeast of Augerhole 1 (End of Transect 1)**

Maximum depth: 0.31m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
701	Topsoil	Pliable, mid-dark brown clayey sandy silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.03m
702	Subsoil	Pliable, mid brown clayey sandy silt. Occasional roots and rootlets	0.03m – 0.11m
703	Subsoil/fill?	Pliable, mid greyish brown clayey silt. Rare-occasional rootlets	0.11m – 0.29m
704	Brick	Mid reddish orange fragmented brick/CBM. Appears to be sat directly upon the Lower Lias Jurassic clays	0.29m – 0.31m
BRICK REFUSAL			0.31m

Augerhole 8**Position – 8.75m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)**

Maximum depth: 0.43m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
801	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent-occasional roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.08m
802	Subsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid grey clayey silt. Occasional roots and rootlets	0.08m – 0.11m
803	Fill	Moist, pliable, mid-dark grey clayey silt. Rare-occasional rootlets, one nail	0.11m – 0.13m
804	Fill	Moist, pliable, mid greyish brown clayey silty. Occasional red mottling from degraded	0.13m – 0.19m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		CBM/mudstone fragments	
805	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable light-mid grey clayey silt.	0.37m – 0.43m
STONE REFUSAL			0.43m

Augerhole 9

Position – 9.50m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.47m

Failed recovery, although measurement of maximum depth was possible using hand tape.

Augerhole 10

Position – 11.10m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.38m

Failed recovery, although measurement of maximum depth was possible using hand tape.

Augerhole 11

Position – 6.25m northeast of Augerhole 1 (Transect 1)

Maximum depth: 0.29m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1101	Topsoil	Moist, pliable, mid brown silt. Very frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.08m
1102	Subsoil	Moist, pliable, mid greyish brown silt. Frequent roots and rootlets.	0.08m – 0.12m
1103	Fill	Moist, pliable, mid-dark brown silt. Occasional to frequent roots and rootlets. Rarely sandy/gritty	0.12m – 0.15m
1104	Fill	Moist, pliable, dark blackish grey sandy silt	0.15m – 0.29m
STONE REFUSAL			0.29m

Augerhole 12

Position – 0.00m, start of northwest – southeast Transect 2

Maximum depth: 0.34m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
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Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1201	Topsoil	Pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey sandy silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.013m
1202	Subsoil	Pliable-mouldable, mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt. Rare-occasional roots and rootlets	0.13m – 0.26m
1203	Fill	Friable, light grey coarse sand	0.26m – 0.30m
1204	Fill	Pliable-mouldable, mid-dark grey clayey silt with rare to occasional coarse sand	0.30m – 0.34m
1205	Stone	Degraded pale grey/white/cream sandstone	0.34m – 0.36m
STONE REFUSAL			0.36m

Augerhole 13**Position – 2.80m southeast of Augerhole 12 (Transect 2)**

Maximum depth: 0.39m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1301	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.14m
1302	Subsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid- dark greyish brown clayey silt. Frequent to occasional roots and rootlets	0.14m – 0.19m
1303	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable, dark-mid grey. Rare to occasional rootlets and rare molluscan remains.	0.19m – 0.24m
1304	Fill	Moist-wet, pliable-mouldable, dark blackish grey sandy clayey silt	0.24m – 0.39m
STONE REFUSAL			0.39m

Augerhole 14**Position – 1.50m southeast of Augerhole 12 (Transect 2)**

Maximum depth: 0.31m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1401	Topsoil	Pliable-mouldable, mid-dark brown clayey silt. Very frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.05m
1402	Subsoil	Pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Occasional-frequent roots and rootlets	0.05m – 0.11m
1403	Fill	Sticky-pliable, light brownish grey clayey silt.	0.11m – 0.13m
1404	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable, dark grey clayey silt. Rare-occasional rootlets	0.13m – 0.20m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1405	Fill	Pliable-mouldable, dark grey clayey silt	0.20m – 0.24m
1406	Fill	Moist, pliable-friable dark grey sandy silt	0.24m – 0.31m
STONE REFUSAL			0.31m

Augerhole 15

Position – 3.25m southeast of Augerhole 12 (Transect 2)

Maximum depth: 0.46m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1501	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets	0.00m – 0.15m
1502	Subsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid- dark greyish brown clayey silt. Frequent to occasional roots and rootlets	0.15m – 0.28m
1503	Fill	Moist, pliable-mouldable, dark-mid grey. Rare to occasional rootlets	0.28m – 0.30m
1504	Fill	Moist-wet, pliable-mouldable, dark blackish grey sandy clayey silt	0.30m – 0.46m
STONE REFUSAL			0.46m

Appendix 2 Watching brief deposit descriptions

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description
2001	Topsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid brown clayey silt. Frequent roots and rootlets
2002	Subsoil	Moist, pliable-mouldable, mid- dark greyish brown clayey silt. Frequent to occasional roots and rootlets
2003	Fill	
2004	Structure	
2005	Layer/fill	Heterogeneous layer
2006	Disturbed natural	Unsorted, firm to friable, mid brownish grey clayey sand with frequent rounded to sub angular gravel. Occasional larger rounded to sub-rounded cobbles.
2007	Natural	Unsorted, firm to friable, mid brownish yellow silty sand with frequent rounded to sub angular gravel. Occasional larger rounded to sub-rounded cobbles.

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 45787

P3611

Artefacts

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date
modern	ceramic	tile	1	88	1900	2000
modern	glass	-	1	194	1950	2000
modern	glass	-	1	334	1913	1970
modern	glass	-	1	18	1900	2000
modern	glass	-	1	60	1900	2000
modern	glass	-	1	276	1900	2000
modern	glass	vessel	1	1	1900	2000
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	1450	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	2400	1750	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	1984	1750	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	3560	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	984	1750	1800
post-medieval	stone	-	1	21000	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	brick	1	1764	1750	1800
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	brick	1	3996	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	drain pipe	1	302	1850	2000
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	14	1850	2000
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	14	1850	2000
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	6	214	1850	2000

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	24	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal	-	1	1510	0	0
post-medieval/modern	metal	-	1	280	0	0
undated	glass	vessel	1	16	0	0
undated	stone	-	1	1480	0	0

Addendum to HEAS Report 1868: Programme of archaeological works at Battle Well Pond, Battle Well Field, Evesham, Worcestershire

Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan, 6 March 2013

Background

This project of de-silting and pond remodelling was part of a pond management scheme drawn up by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to improve the water quality of the pond and enhance its biodiversity.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

The work was undertaken on 11 February 2013 during (Plates 10 – 15). The pond was drained by clearing out a ditch and then silt and rubble taken out of the base. A deeper trench, 1m wide, was excavated north-west to south-east across the centre of the pond to improve water levels for wildlife (Figure 3).

Statement of confidence and access to deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. The spoil from the material removed was checked for finds. The pond still had water in it due to high water levels and a difficulty to drain the area.

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description
2004	Structure	Modern wall surrounding pond and seen on the north and south sides. Machine made red bricks with cement mortar.
2005	Layer/fill	Heterogeneous layer of modern refuse including broken brick, cbm, mortar and metalwork in a dark brown silt
2006	Disturbed natural	Unsorted, firm to friable, mid brownish grey clayey sand with frequent rounded to sub angular gravel. Occasional larger rounded to sub-rounded cobbles.
2007	Natural	Unsorted, firm to friable, mid brownish yellow silty sand with frequent rounded to sub angular gravel. Occasional larger rounded to sub-rounded cobbles.

Discussion

All finds were of modern origin and related to farm machinery and general 20th century debris. The short sections of brick wall, 2004, lining the north and south limits of the pond were determined to be of modern date.

Natural material, 2007, was encountered at 0.25m below the stone bedding, 2006, of the pond. No features, structures, layers or deposits of archaeological significance were exposed, nor artefacts recovered.

Conclusions

The project has determined that the present pond is not of archaeological significance. There is no indication of a medieval origin. It is unclear if the pond is of post-medieval or modern date, or if earlier deposits have been removed during previous works. The shallow depth of the pond suggests the former conclusion however.

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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of The Simon De Montfort Society, at Battle Well Pond, Battle Well Field, Greenhill, Evesham (NGR SP 0379 4552; HER ref WSM 45787), during de-silting and remodelling works. This was part of a pond management scheme drawn up by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to improve the water quality of the pond and enhance its biodiversity.

The watching brief observed the excavating of a channel to drain the pond and de-silting the base of the pond and a deeper, 1m wide, north-west to south-east aligned channel across the pond. The de-silting included the removal of brick walls that had been recorded previously and landscaping the sides of the pond. Only modern farm debris and bricks were observed. The natural gravels were identified 0.25m below the base of the pond. The present pond is considered not to be of archaeological significance. There is no indication of a medieval origin. It is unclear if the pond is of post-medieval or modern date, or if earlier deposits have been removed during previous works. The shallow depth of the pond suggests the former conclusion however.

Acknowledgements

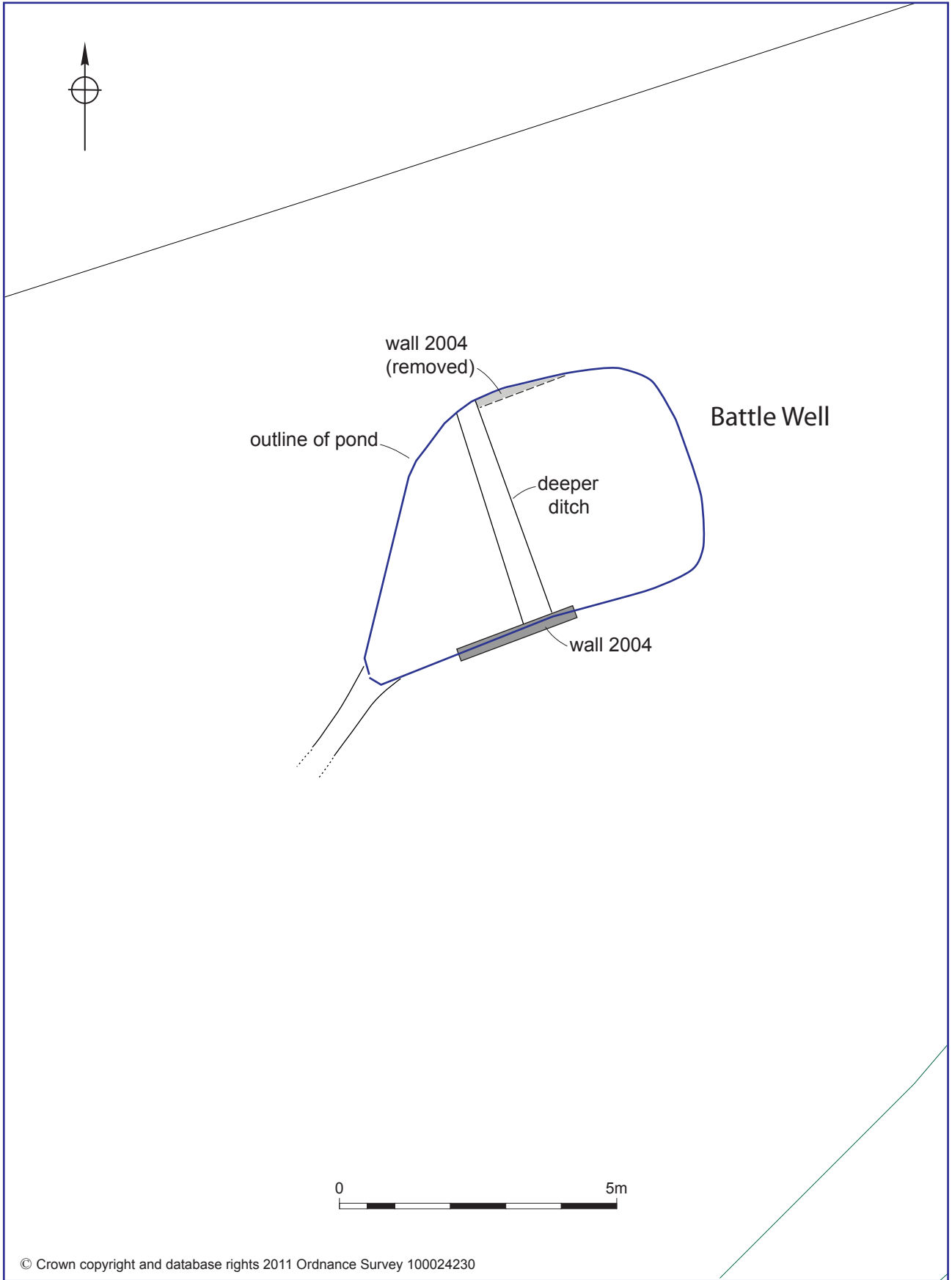
Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Clive Bostle (The Simon de Montfort Society) and Adam Mindykowski (Countryside Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council).

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Figures



Desilting and remodelling works on Battlewell Pond

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 10 The pond before excavation, view north-east



Plate 11 Removing the silt and dumped material from the base of the pond, view north-east



Plate 12 Removing the collapsed wall from the pond seen during the previous works, view north



Plate 13 Excavation of a deeper trench between the posts at the centre of the pond, view north



Plate 14 Some of the brick rubble and clay used to block the drainage ditch from the pond, view north



Plate 15 The pond after de-silting works have completed, another wall is visible on the south side, view southwest