

Archaeological evaluation  
and heritage statement  
at  
Harrow Croft, Grove Farm  
Dine's Green,  
Worcester



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## **Archaeological evaluation and heritage statement at Harrow Croft, Grove Farm, Dine's Green, Worcester**

Andrew Walsh

With contributions by Laura Griffin

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation and heritage statement was undertaken at Harrow Croft, Grove Farm, Dine's Green, Worcester (NGR SO 8244 5432). It was commissioned by Firlands Developments Ltd, who intends to develop the site for residential use for which a planning application has been submitted to Worcester City Council. This report describes and assesses the significance of the heritage assets (and potential heritage assets) that are potentially affected by the application. The setting of heritage assets is considered. The potential impact of the application is assessed.

There are no recorded prehistoric or Roman remains on or near to the site but the site is located within a moated settlement site, which probably dates to the medieval period. Archaeological evaluation identified a number of archaeological features and deposits, and recovered post-medieval tile and pottery indicative of a tile kiln nearby. It is therefore determined that there is low potential for prehistoric and Roman remains to survive on the site and a high potential for medieval and post-medieval remains to survive across the site.

Grove Farm is a listed Grade II probably dating to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and although the proposed development will not directly impact on the building, there is the potential that the development will impact on its visual setting.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation and heritage statement was undertaken at Harrow Croft, Grove Farm, Dine's Green, Worcester (NGR SO 8244 5432). It was commissioned by Firlands Developments Ltd, who intends to develop the site for residential use for which a planning application has been submitted to Worcester City Council (reference PC14C0588). The proposed development site is considered to have the potential to affect heritage assets with archaeological interest (WCM 91067 and 91068) and a Grade II Listed Building (WCM91144).

No brief was issued but the project conforms to the generality of briefs which have been previously issued. A written scheme of investigation was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015). The project also conformed to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (ClfA 2014b) and the *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester* (Worcester City Council 1999). The event reference for this project, given by the Worcester City HER is WCM102090.

#### 1.2 Planning background

Present government planning policy is contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This is supplemented by detailed guidance which had related to earlier government policy but which is at least partially still relevant to the present policy (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states at paragraph 128 that:

*'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.'*

### 2 Aims

The aims of this project are:

- To determine the presence or absence, date and nature of archaeological remains relating to the medieval moated site of Grove farm, with associated buildings, structures and other activity.
- To consider the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Grove Farm House listed building.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc FSA Scot ACIfA who joined WA in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. He was assisted in the field by Jamie Wilkins BA. The report preparation was led by Andrew Walsh, with the finds report written by Laura Griffin BA PG Cert ClfA. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan BA MA ACIfA. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MCIfA.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

All relevant information on the history of the site and past land-use was collected and assessed. Records of known archaeological sites and monuments were obtained from Worcester City Historic Environment Record (HER) and relevant online resources including *A Vision of Britain Through Time*, and *British History Online* were also searched although in the event yielded no additional information.



National Heritage List (NHL), Worcester City Historic Environment Record (WCM), or Worcestershire County Council (WSM) references have been used throughout this assessment.

### 3.3 List of sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1729 Doharty plan of St Johns (Figure 2)
- 1741 Doharty plan of St Johns (Figure 3)
- 1841 Tithe map of St Johns (from Smith 1992)
- First edition 1885 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:2500 (Figure 4)
- 1904 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:2500
- 1928 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:2500 (Figure 5)
- 1940 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:2500
- 1974-75 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:10000
- 1989 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:1250

#### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

### 3.4 Heritage Statement

#### 3.4.1 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

<p><b>Major Beneficial:</b> Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset of the highest order (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. Designated assets will include scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value). It may also be in better revealing a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area's significance.</p>
<p><b>Beneficial:</b> Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of improvement will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value).</p>
<p><b>Not Significant:</b> Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.</p>
<p><b>Minor Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Moderate Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>

<p><b>Major Adverse:</b> Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or harm to a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p> <p>Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm or loss will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Severe Adverse:</b> Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or the loss of a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p>
<p><b>Unknown:</b> Where there is insufficient information to determine either significance or impact for any heritage asset, or where a heritage asset is likely to exist but this has not been established, or where there is insufficient evidence for the absence of a heritage asset. For instance where further information will enable the planning authority to make an informed decision.</p>

Table 1: Impact assessment criteria for heritage asset

### 3.4.2 Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with James Dinn (Archaeologist, Worcester City Council) to establish the key issues of importance in decision-making in response to the planning application.

The heritage statement is limited to consideration of heritage assets and potential assets that are relevant to the application site.

## 3.5 Archaeological evaluation

### 3.5.1 Methodology

A detailed written scheme of investigation was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015). Three trenches, amounting to approximately 67.5m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated across the proposed site. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 6. Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand and machine. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material. Fieldwork was undertaken between 23 and 25 March 2015.

### 3.5.2 Structural analysis

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

### 3.5.3 Artefact methodology by Laura Griffin

#### Artefact recovery policy

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

#### Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. Where possible, a *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was

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used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a pro forma Microsoft Access 2000 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### **Discard policy**

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

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

### **3.5.4 Environmental archaeology methodology**

### **3.5.5 Sampling policy**

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

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

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

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography and size**

The proposed development site occupies a roughly square plot of land bounded to the north by a ditch and scrubland, to the east a large pond, to the south by Harrow Croft and to the west by a residential property (Figure 1). The site is approximately 1500m<sup>2</sup> in area.

### **4.2 Topography, geology and soils**

The site lies on level ground at a height of approximately 25m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2015). Superficial deposits are not mapped within the site.

### **4.3 Current land-use**

The proposed site is currently waste ground which had recently been cleared. A mound of spoil was located in the north-eastern corner of the site.

### **4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character**

Historic mapping indicates the proposed development site was located within the moated area of Grove Farm which survives as relict field boundaries around the farm complex. The farm and moat was surrounded by fields which formed part of the wider agricultural landscape of St Johns until the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the expansion of Worcester encroached upon the area (Figs 2-5).

## 5 Heritage assets

### 5.1 Designated heritage assets

There are no designated heritages assets within the proposed development site. There are two listed buildings and one scheduled monument in the wider study area (Figure 2). No other designated heritage assets are located in the study area.

#### 5.1.1 Listed buildings

*The Grove* (NHL1389873) is a Grade II listed house (Plate 1) located immediately south of the proposed development site. It is three storeys in height and probably dates to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century with a mid-19<sup>th</sup> range to the rear.

*Laugherne House* (NHL1063907) is a late-18<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed house. It is located approximately 500m south of the proposed development site.

#### 5.1.2 Scheduled monument

The *Moated site at Earl's Court* (NHL1017229) lies approximately 500m north of the proposed development site. It is a relatively well preserved moated site which includes a complete rectangular moat with the adjoining remains of what is believed to be an earlier, round moat to the north and a system of leats defining a series of enclosures to the east.

### 5.2 Undesignated heritage assets

No prehistoric or Roman activity is recorded on Worcester City HER in the immediate vicinity of the site, although prehistoric flints have been identified during trial trenching at Bransford Road, Rushwick (WSM33363), c 500m south-east of the site, and more generally 'at St John's' (WCM100693). Roman pottery was also recovered at the Bransford Road site.

An undated earthwork holloway (WSM31078) is thought to be Anglo-Saxon in origin. It runs roughly east to west about 400m north of the site. During the Saxon period the site was part of the large Wick estate belonging to the Bishop of Worcester. The use of the place name *Grove* dates back to at least the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when the boundary of the manor of Laugherne was described as 'from the Lawern to the streamlet', 'along the streamlet to the grove', and 'thus by the grove outwards so that it comes to the heath' (Hughes 1992, 2).

During the medieval period the manor of Laugherne was divided up although it is unclear when this occurred or when the first house and moat at the Grove were built. Court rolls for the manor of Wick Episcopi indicate the Bund family were active in the area around the Grove in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Hughes 1992, 2-3) and the Grove was described as a manor and capital messuage when Thomas Chance leased the estate in 1579 (Hughes 1992, 8). The property went through various changes in ownership during the late medieval and early post-medieval periods until it came into the ownership of the Hope Copton family in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. They retained ownership until 1919.

The earliest available mapping for the site is Doharty's plan of St Johns (1729; Fig 2) which illustrates the house surrounded by trees (presumably an orchard). They are located within a large D-shaped enclosure which is probably the relict remains of a moat (WCM91067 and WCM91068). The north-eastern part of this enclosure is recorded as a large pond, and to the south-east as a long narrow pond. The house is illustrated as a two storey building with three gables crudely illustrated. Gardens are laid out to the front (east) of the property, and various other smaller buildings shown to the south. A track approaches the complex from the north and appears to cross the 'moat' in front of the house.

The 1741 Doharty plan (Fig 3) shows no significant changes to the field boundaries and other landscape features and may be based on the earlier plan. The schematic drawing of the house is clearer, showing the two storey house with three gables along its frontage. The smaller buildings to the south appear unchanged and trees are no longer illustrated on the area of the proposed site.

The 1841 tithe map (reproduced in Hughes 1992) shows the D-shaped enclosure, and associated ponds as relatively unchanged from the Doharty plans. However the main house, recorded in plan for the first time, is shown as a square building surrounded by a boundary. The small buildings to the south appear to have been extended or rebuilt as two long ranges of structures forming a courtyard. There is a new building to the north-west of the house and the most southerly building within the complex appear to have been demolished. Two additional ponds are also recorded to the south-east of the complex.

Few significant changes are illustrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (1885, Fig 4) although the two ponds to the south-east of the main complex are now illustrated as an area of marshland and the Worcester to Malvern railway line has been built to the south-east of the site. The 1905 OS shows an additional range of building to the south, and the building to the north-west of the main house has been demolished. Few changes are visible to site on the 1928 (Figure 5) and 1940 OS maps, although the gradual expansion of Worcester to the east is recorded. Residential development reached the eastern edge of the moat complex between 1974-5 and 1989, although it does not appear to have impacted on the main section of moat complex.

## **6 Archaeological evaluation**

### **6.1 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are illustrated in Figures 6-8. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### **6.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

Natural deposits were observed in all trenches. These consisted of a red weathered clay mudstone consistent with the Sidmouth mudstone recorded by the BGS in this area.

#### **6.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits**

In Trench 2 the earliest identified deposits were a mid-bluish grey silty clay (208; Plates 3-4) and a reddish brown silty clay (207). The relationship between the two deposits is uncertain. Deposit 208 was located in a machine excavated sondage at the east end of the trench sealed by deposit 204, c 1.5m below the ground level. It yielded a number of large pieces of animal bone and two pieces of post-medieval roof tile.

Deposit 207 (Plate 5) was located in a hand excavated sondage in the central part of the site. It yielded one sherd late 17<sup>h</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and was overlaid by a dark charcoal rich layer of ceramic rubble which yielded ?16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> roof tile and brick. A similar layer (104) was also recorded in section in the southern part of Trench 1, located between the subsoil and topsoil (Plate 6).

Deposit 206 was overlaid by two deposits of what appeared to be redeposited natural clay (205 and 206). Neither of these deposits yielded any finds.

At the northern end of Trench 3 the natural strata was cut by a linear feature (306) which appeared to be orientated north-west to south-east (Plate 7). Its full width was not established although augering of the feature suggested it was at least 0.5m in depth. It was filled by at least three greyish clay deposits (304, 305 and 307; Plate 8) which yielded 16<sup>h</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century roof tile. These deposits were sealed by a similar clay (302) to the possible redeposited clay in Trench 2.

#### **6.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits**

The earlier deposits were sealed by a greyish brown silty sand topsoil, measuring 0.1-0.3m in depth, which was buried below a layer of modern rubble and overburden measuring 0.56-0.72m in depth.

## 6.2 Artefact analysis by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage consisted of 36 finds weighing 6221g, from five stratified contexts. The assemblage could be dated from the early post-medieval period onwards (Table 2). Artefact condition was generally good with material displaying low levels of surface abrasion.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
	ceramic	?CBM	3	20
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	2	445
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	30	5748
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	8

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage

### 6.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence

All material has been spot-dated and quantified (see Tables 2 and 3) and finds of particular interest are discussed below.

#### *Pottery*

Just one sherd of black-glazed post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) was retrieved from the site. It was identified as coming from a cup or small jar form of late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### *Ceramic building material*

The majority of the assemblage was made up of ceramic building material with 30 fragments of flat roof tile, two pieces of brick and three undiagnostic fragments retrieved.

#### Roof tile

Although small, the flat roof tile formed an interesting assemblage which included three different fabric types and one stamped example. Two of these fabrics have been previously identified from local sites; the other appears to be a new type. All are thought to be post-medieval in date.

Two fragments were identified as being of fabric 5, distinctive for having rounded slag inclusions (context 208). This tile was thicker than other examples in the assemblage, measuring 24mm. Tile of this fabric has been previously identified at Old Church Lane, Hallow, where it was retrieved from contexts spanning the post-medieval period but primarily those of 18<sup>th</sup> century date onwards (Griffin 2008).

A total of 14 fragments from contexts 305 and 306 were identified as being of fabric 2d, a fabric type characterised by streaks and pellets of buff clay. Tiles of this fabric are thought to have been produced in Worcester during the immediate post-medieval period, having been found in significant quantity within features dating between the late 16<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century at Farrier Street, Worcester (Dalwood *et al* 1994). The examples within the assemblage from Grove Farm, include two with an unusual narrow pointed nib profile, which appears to be characteristic of tiles of this fabric type and was noted on examples from Deansway, Worcester (Fagan 2004, 355).

The remaining flat roof tile was of a distinctive fabric containing frequent white clay pellets, measuring up to 10mm in diameter. The fabric was reminiscent of tiles of late medieval/early post-medieval Worcester production, containing fine sand. Where measurable, dimensions were consistent with those known for Worcester tiles, being 173mm in width and all being c 17mm thick. All examples were also sanded.

This link with Worcester could also be identified through the presence of a 'flared cross' tile maker's stamp on a fragment from context 305. This mark is commonly associated with tiles of

fabric 2c which was produced in Worcester from the later 15<sup>th</sup> century and well into the post-medieval period, at least until the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Brick

Two pieces of brick were retrieved from the demolition layer in Trench 2 (context 206). The fragments appear to be from the same brick, both being burnt to a dark grey colour throughout. However, the most notable feature of these fragments is that they are of the same fabric as the above tile, having distinctive white clay pellet inclusions.

Further, small and undiagnostic but heavily burnt fragments of ceramic building material were also retrieved from this layer.

#### 6.2.2 Assessment of significance

The roof tile assemblage from this site is of particular note due to the presence of a distinctive, new fabric type. Furthermore, the identification of the tile maker's stamp clearly indicates a link with Worcester tiling industry. The presence of tiles of fabrics 2d alongside those of this new fabric type would suggest that they are almost certainly post-medieval in date and more specifically 16<sup>h</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition, the presence of this material, alongside the burnt brick of the same fabric type, as well as the identification of a demolition layer containing burnt material on site, may well suggest that these tiles were actually being produced in the vicinity of this site.

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	finds TPQ
206	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	4	892	?16C	17C	
206	ceramic	?CBM	2	12			
206	ceramic	?CBM	1	8			
206	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	8	1524	?16C	17C	
206	ceramic	brick	2	445	?16C	17C	17C
207	ceramic	pot	1	8	L17C	18C	18C
208	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	350		18C	18C
305	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	13	731	L16C	17C	
305	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	630	?16C	17C	17C
306	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	699	?16C	17C	
306	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	922	L16C	17C	17C

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

## 7 Synthesis

The evaluation at Grove Farm identified extensive evidence of post-medieval activity on the proposed development site. The archaeological features include a linear feature (306) identified in Trench 3 which could be the remains of an earlier moat-like feature, as well as layers of material (206-208) in Trench 2 which yielded quantities of early post-medieval roof tile and other building material. Both groups of features appear to have been sealed by a layer of clay (204 and 302; Fig 7)

The listed farm building at Grove Farm is thought to date to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. This interpretation is supported by the illustrations on Doharty's historic mapping which appear to indicate that the farm house was a two storey building in 1729 and 1741 complete with three gables along its front range. It appears likely that the house was rebuilt soon after and it is possible that some of the roof tile recovered during the evaluation date belonged to this building. It is also possible that the rubble deposits 104 and 206 date to the rebuilding of the house.

Historic mapping appears to indicate that the farm complex, including the proposed development site, was surrounded by an enclosure which represents the relict remains of a moat. Hughes suggests the moat was 'practical rather than defensive; more fish pond than barrier' (1992, 7). The moat appears to have been infilled by 1729, when the earliest plan by Doharty plan shows most of the 'moat' enclosure as a field boundary rather than open water. However the moat appears to have survived on the eastern side of the farm complex. This may have been as an ornamental feature as the house faced in this direction. The northern part of the surviving moat appears to have been enlarged, probably for fish, and it is possible that the layers of reddish clay (204 and 302) sealing the archaeological features may relate to redesigning and/or landscaping of the moat. The features identified below the clay (feature 306 and deposit 208) could therefore represent earlier phases of the moat.

The pond located immediately to the east of the proposed development site is the surviving remains of enlarged section of moat illustrated on the historic mapping (Plate 9). Immediately north of the development site the course of the moat appears to survive as a field boundary ditch (Plate 10).

## **8 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets**

### **8.1 Designated assets**

#### **8.1.1 Listed buildings**

The primary significance of the listed buildings in the study area is derived from their fabrics which will not be affected by the development. However the setting of these buildings also makes a contribution to their character and significance.

The setting of the Grade II listed Grove Farm (NHL1389873) will be affected by the development. The listed farm building is located immediately south of the site, facing east (Plates 1-2) and there is clear intervisibility between it and the proposed development site. The development will not affect the view of the front aspect of the house and it should also be noted that the historic setting of the farm complex in a wider agricultural landscape has been lost by extensive modern development around the site (Plates 11-12).

The Grade II Laugherne House (NHL1063907) is located 500m south of the proposed site and the setting of this will not be affected by the proposed development.

#### **8.1.2 Scheduled monument**

The scheduled moated site at Earl's Court (NHL1017229) lies approximately 500m north of the site area and will not be impacted by the proposed development. There is also no intervisibility between it and the proposed site, and therefore its setting will also not be impacted upon.

### **8.2 Archaeological assets**

#### **8.2.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site**

The evaluation has established the potential for well-preserved 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>h</sup> century remains to survive on the proposed development site, buried under topsoil and a thick layer of modern material. The artefactual assemblage includes extensive tile and burnt brick, of 16-17<sup>th</sup> century date, indicative of kiln activity in the vicinity.



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

The evaluation has established that medieval remains of local, and potentially regional, significance survive across the proposed development area. Further archaeological work has the potential to help contribute to our understanding of medieval settlement, and moated sites and manorial complexes outlined in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011, 178-9 and 196-8).

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

The evaluation has established that earthwork features associated with the moat survive on the northern and eastern boundary of the site, and that buried archaeological features survive in the central and eastern part of the site. However it is possible that buried archaeological features survive across the entire development area. The features appear to be undisturbed by modern activity which appears to be limited to recent dumping of material on top of topsoil.

## 9 The impact of the development

### 9.1 Impacts during construction

The archaeological evaluation has shown archaeological features survive on the development site. These features consist of layers and ditches which survive at a depth of c 0.8m below the current ground level. Construction operations in advance of development within an undeveloped greenfield site such as this typically require piecemeal but extensive below ground disturbance. Often this will involve topsoil stripping or landscaping, the excavation of trenches for building foundations, service runs and soakaways. These operations can damage or remove any surviving buried archaeological remains and therefore have the potential to have a **minor to moderate adverse** effect on these heritage assets.

### 9.2 Residual impacts

The setting of the Grade II listed Grange Farm will be affected by the proposed development. The nature of this impact will depend on the final design of the proposed development. A development in character with it and the other historic buildings located around Grove Farm has the potential to enhance the complex and screen the listed house from the 1980s residential houses located to the east of the moat. However an unsympathetic design could cause further adverse impact on the setting of the house. Therefore the development has the potential to have a **beneficial to moderate adverse** effect on the setting of Grove Farm.

## 10 Discussion and Recommendations

In order to establish the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource investigation in the form of an archaeological evaluation has been undertaken. This established that remains including a possible linear feature and potentially thick layers of deposits survive on the site at a depth of c 0.8m below ground level. Due to the deep nature of the surviving archaeological remains and the presence of a pond to the east of the site it is possible that water logged features may survive below the excavated levels. Earthwork features associated with the moat also survive on the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. Further discussion with James Dinn, Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council, should take place regarding the results of the evaluation, the nature of the proposed grounds works and the potential for archaeological mitigation work.

Any development of the site should seek to enhance the character of the complex of historic buildings at Grove Farm, in order to help mitigate the development. Screening the Grade II listed Farm from the unsympathetic residential development to the east of the complex may also be beneficial. The design should not only consider the proposed buildings but also the location and materials used in any new buildings, boundaries, roads and landscaping, etc. Discussion with Conservation Officers at Worcester City Council should take place regarding the final design of the proposed development.

## 11 Publication summary

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

*An archaeological evaluation and heritage statement was undertaken on behalf of Firlands Developments Ltd, at Harrow Croft, Grove Farm, Dine's Green, Worcester (NGR SO 8244 5432).*

*There are no recorded prehistoric or Roman remains on or near to the site but the site is located within a moated settlement site, which probably dates to the medieval period. Archaeological evaluation identified a number of archaeological features and deposits, and recovered post-medieval tile and pottery indicative of a tile kiln nearby. It is therefore determined that there is low potential for prehistoric and Roman remains to survive on the site and a high potential for medieval and post-medieval remains to survive across the site.*

*Grove Farm is a listed Grade II probably dating the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and although the proposed development will not directly impact on the building, there is the potential that the development will impact on its visual setting.*

*Grove Farm is a listed Grade II and although the proposed development will not directly impact on the build, there is the potential that the development will impact on the visual setting of the farm house.*

## 12 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Ben Eiser (E J Planning Ltd) Sheena Payne-Lunn (Historic Environment Record Officer, Worcester City Council) and James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council).

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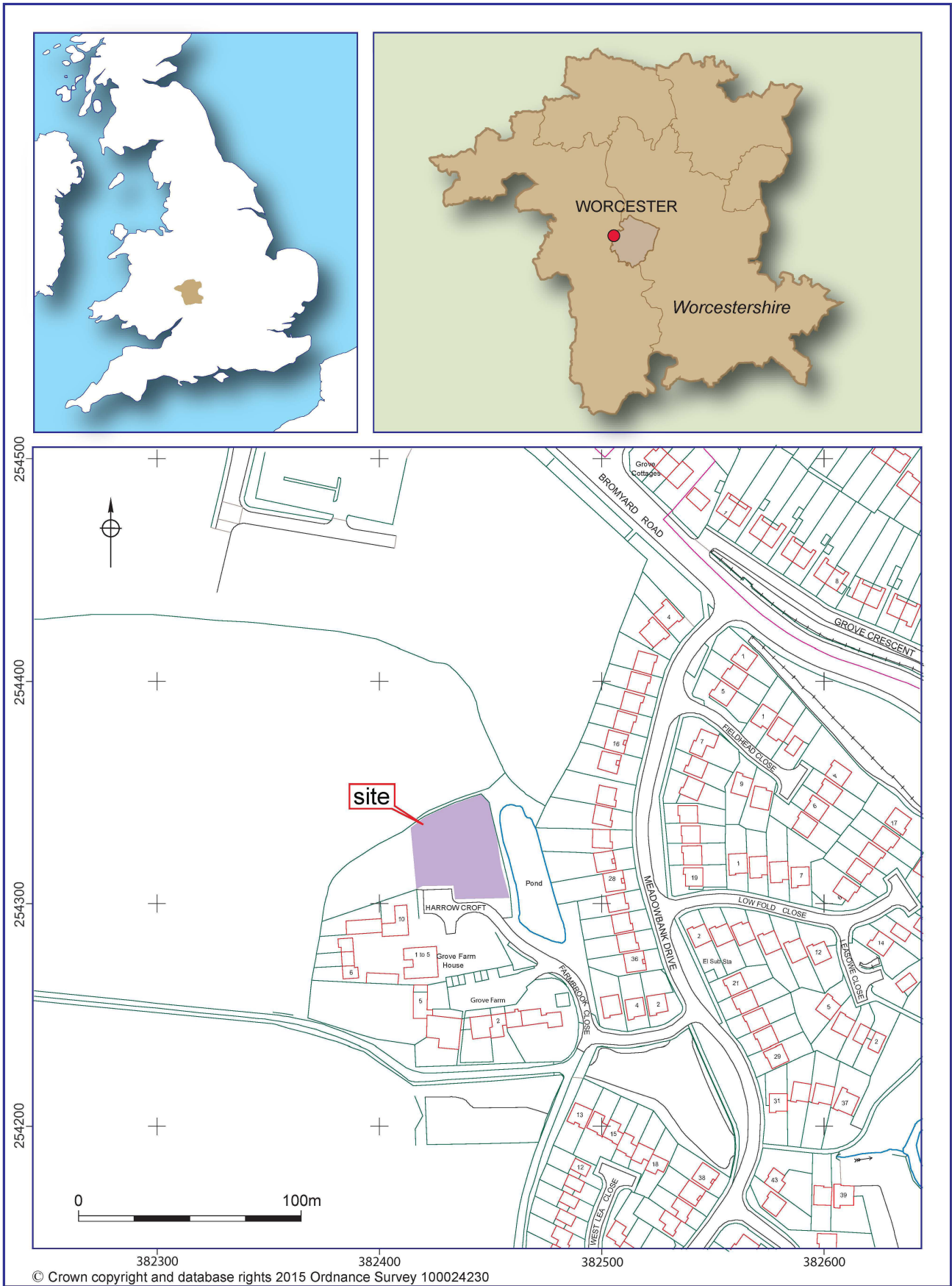
Worcester City Council 1999 *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester*, Appendix 3 in Supplementary Planning Guidance Number 8: Archaeology and Development, Worcester City Council, document revised June 1999



**Figures**

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Location of the site

Figure 1



Figure 2: Doharty plan of the site (1729). The location of the proposed development site is highlighted in red. Note north is orientated to the right



Figure 3: Doharty plan of the site (1741). The location of the proposed development site is highlighted in red. Note north is orientated to the right

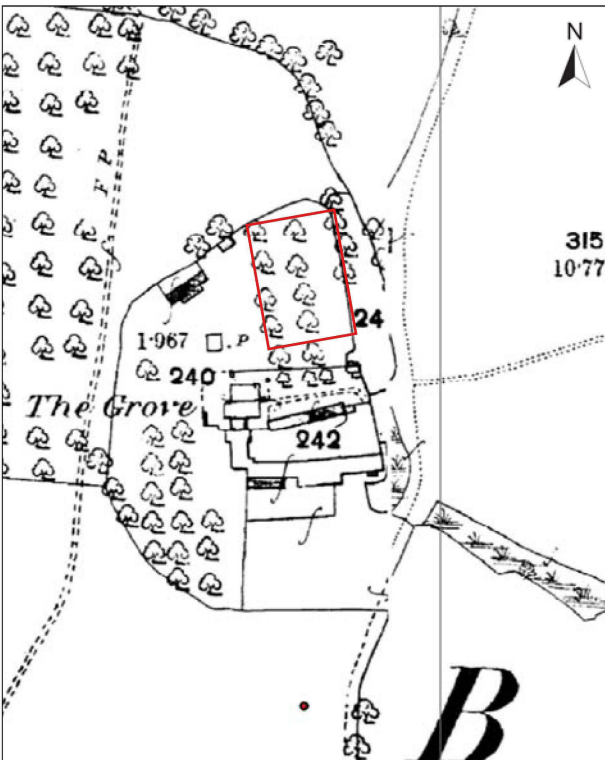


Figure 4: First edition OS map 1885. The proposed development site is highlighted in red

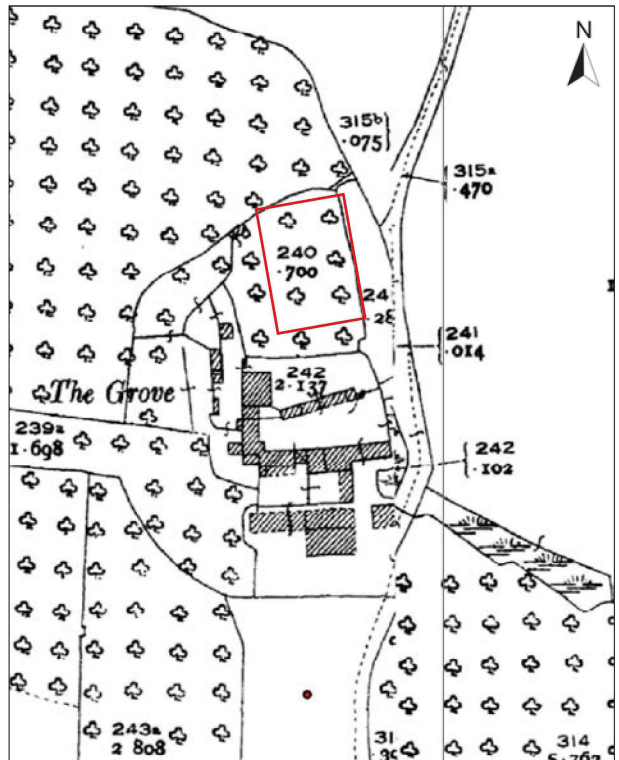
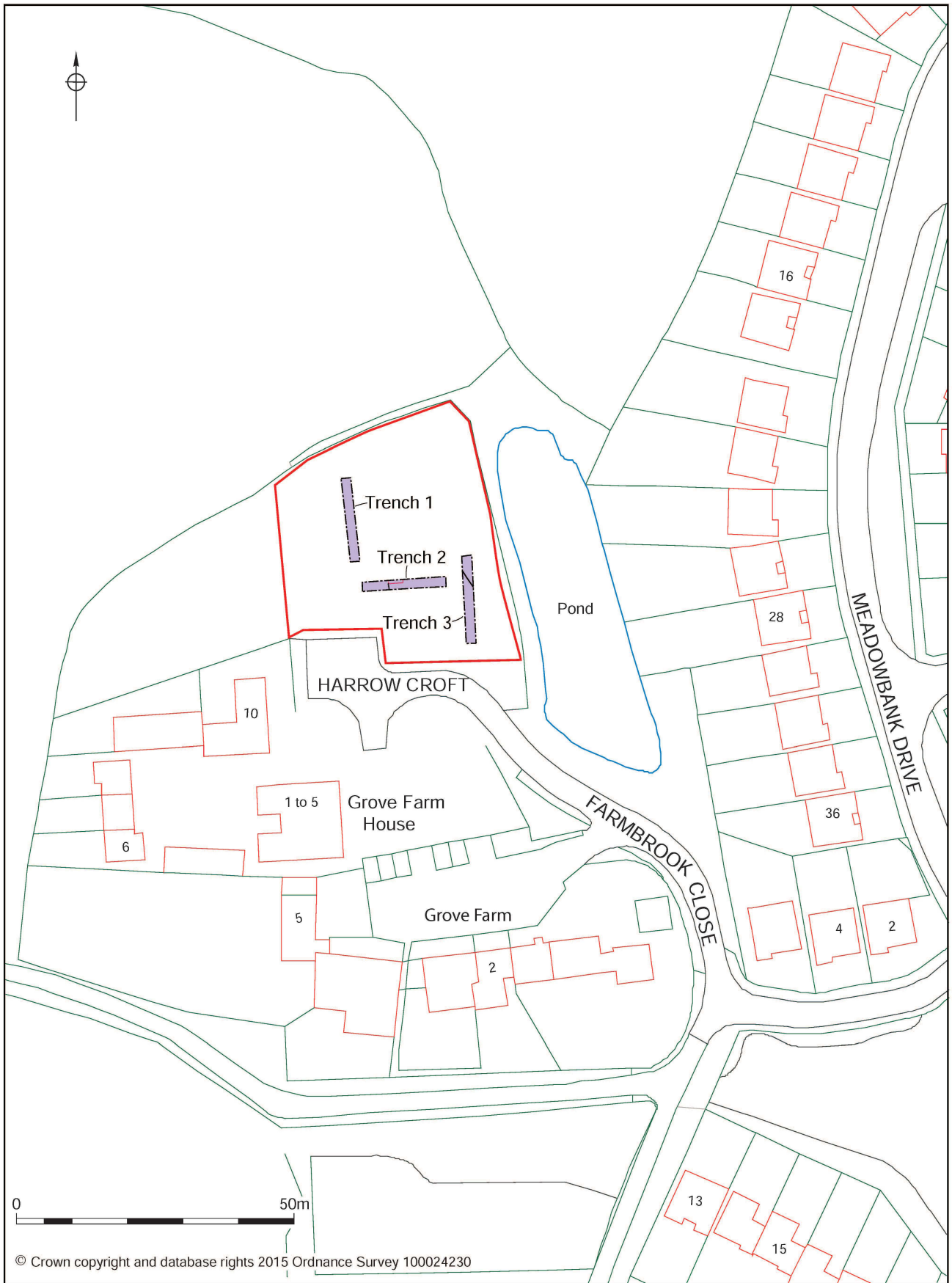


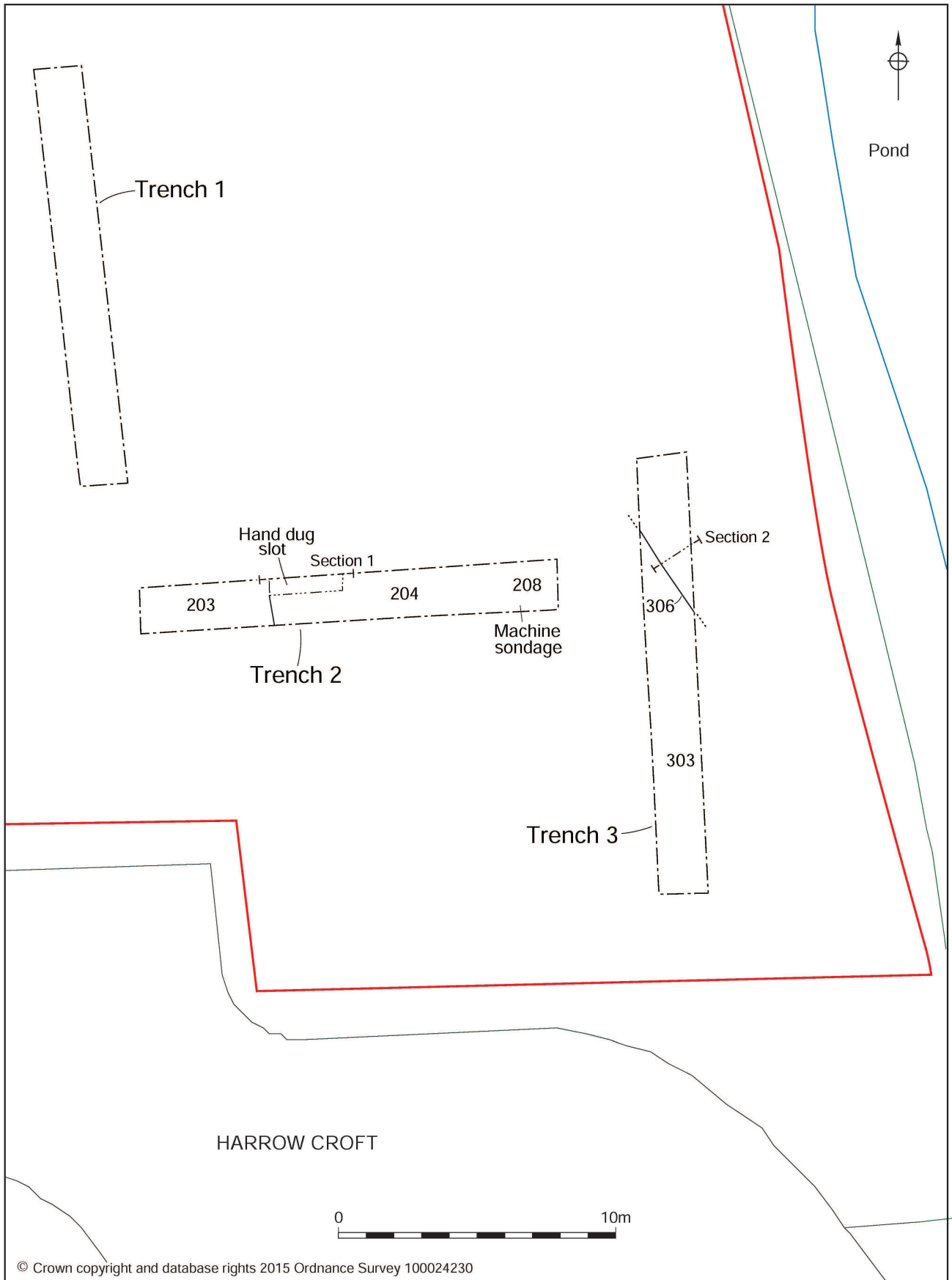
Figure 5: 1928 OS map. The proposed development site is highlighted in red





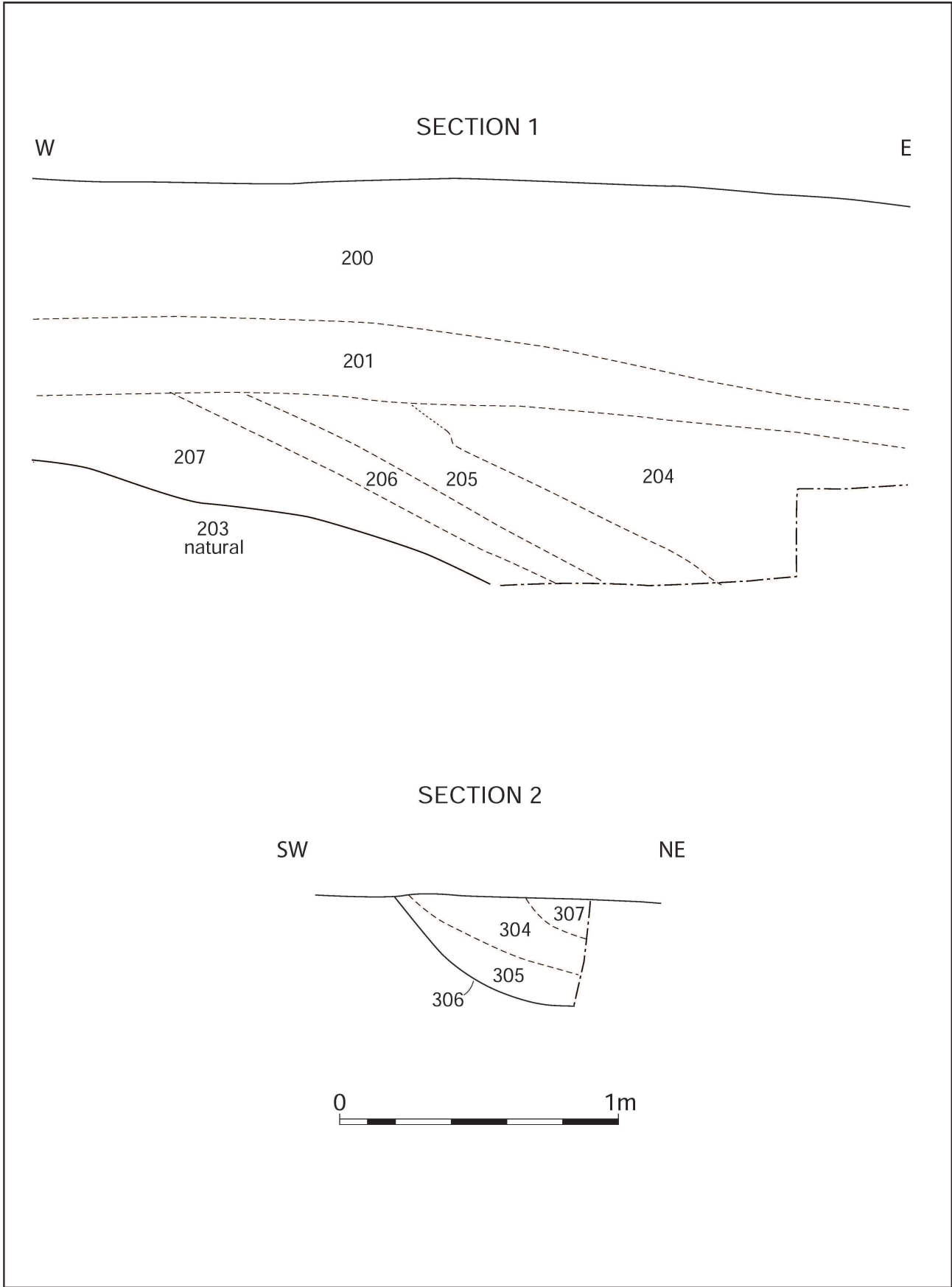
Trench location plan

Figure 6



Plan of trenches

Figure 7



Sections

Figure 8

## Plates



*Plate 1: Grove Farm (left of shot) is a Grade II listed building, which faces east. The proposed development site is located on the right, beyond the bend in the lane.*



*Plate 2: Natural deposits of weathered clayey mudstone were identified in Trench 1. Note the northern side elevation of the listed Grove Farm is clearly visible beyond the truck.*

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*Plate 3: Dark grey clay deposit 208 is visible at the east end of Trench 2 sealed by a later reddish brown clay (204), a thin topsoil (201) and a thick layer of modern overburden (200).*



*Plate 4: Deposit 208 contained a number of large pieces of horse bone. The natural water table was encountered at this level suggesting well preserved organic material could survive below.*



*Plate 5: In the eastern half of Trench 2 the natural deposits were not visible and various layers, including rubble and charcoal rich layer 206, were visible above the natural. It was unclear if this was a cut feature or levelling of the natural geology. If it is a cut feature it is over 10m in width.*



*Plate 6: A thin layer of rubble and charcoal (104) was visible at the southern end of Trench 1 between the light brown subsoil (102) and grey brown topsoil (101). This may be related to deposit 206 in Trench 2*

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*Plate 7: Ditch 306 was visible at the northern end of Trench 3, orientated north-west to south-east.*



*Plate 8: Ditch 306 was filled by at least three deposits and measured at least 2m in width although its full extent was not revealed within the trench.*



*Plate 9: Immediately east of the site the moat appears to survive as a pond*



*Plate 10: To the north of the site the course of the moat appears survive as a field boundary and ditch.*

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*Plate 11: Sympatric development of the site may help screen the listed Grove Farm building from modern development to the north*



*Plate 12: The site is over looked by modern residential development to the east. Sympathetic redevelopment of the site may help screen Grove Farm in improve its setting.*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 15m      Width: 1.5m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose dark brown rubble	0.56m	Modern overburden
101	Topsoil	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay	0.10m	Topsoil
102	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20m	Subsoil
103	Natural	Layer	Compact red clay		Natural
104	Layer	Layer	Firm red and black rubble	0.21m	Layer of ?demolition material, same as 206.

### Trench 2

Length: 15m      Width: 1.5m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose dark brown rubble	0.72m	Modern overburden
201	Topsoil	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay	0.30m	Topsoil
202	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.20m	Subsoil
203	Natural	Layer	Compact red clay		Natural
204	Layer	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown clay	0.56m	Redeposited natural
205	Layer	Layer	Compact mid blueish brown with black mottling clay	0.20m	Interface layer between 204 and 206
206	Layer	Layer	Firm red and black rubble	0.14m	Layer of demolition material, same as 104
207	Layer	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay	0.34m	Redeposited natural
208	Layer?	Layer	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay	0.05m (exc)	Deposit

### Trench 3

Length: 15m      Width: 1.5m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose dark brown rubble	0.70m	Modern overburden
301	Topsoil	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay	0.20m	Topsoil
302	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.45m	Subsoil
303	Natural	Layer	Compact red clay		Natural
304	Feature	Fill	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay	0.24m	Fill of 306
305	Feature	Fill	Compact mid reddish grey silty clay	0.14m	Fill of 306
306	Feature	Cut		0.38m (exc)	Cut of linear feature. Could be large ditch or moat?
307	Feature	Fill	Soft mid brownish grey silty clay	0.14m	Upper fill of 306

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WCM102090)**

The archive consists of:

- 8 Context records AS1
- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 58 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 2 Permatrace scale drawings AS34
- 3 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

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