

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT THE
CORNER OF ATTWOOD LANE
AND ROMAN ROAD, HOLMER,
HEREFORD

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With a contribution by Angus Crawford

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Project 2915
Report 1459
HSM 43651

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Archaeological evaluation on land at the corner of Attwood Lane and Roman Road, Holmer, Hereford

Stephen Potten and Tom Vaughan

With a contribution by Angus Crawford

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at the corner of Attwood Lane and Roman Road, Holmer, Hereford (NGR: SO 5135 4225; Fig 1). It was undertaken at the request of Cotswold Archaeology and on behalf of Crest Nicholson, who intend to develop the site for residential use, for which a planning application will be submitted to Herefordshire Council. The project aimed to achieve a better definition of the character and extent of any archaeological site, and for this to be to the satisfaction of Herefordshire Council.

Twelve evaluation trenches, amounting to just over 490m² in area, were excavated over the available site area of 2.7ha, representing a sample of *c* 2%. The natural matrix was observed directly below the overburden of topsoil and subsoil. A number of tree bowls were noted in both fields. Otherwise no archaeological features, structures, layers or horizons were recorded, and residual finds were minimal. Thus there was neither evidence for Roman occupation activity adjacent to the Roman Road, nor any indication that the medieval village of Holmer extended this far south-east of the present settlement focus. The very compact nature of the subsoils and lack of residual material suggests minimal modern ploughing and there was no evidence of ridge and furrow as has been recorded to the north-east. The fields were probably kept largely as pasture, prior to the planting of orchards within two, in the post-medieval period.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at the corner of Attwood Lane and Roman Road, Holmer, Hereford (NGR: SO 5135 4225; Fig 1), on behalf of Crest Nicholson, at the request of their archaeological consultants, Cotswold Archaeology. The client intends to develop the site for residential use and will submit a planning application to Herefordshire Council, who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999), and to Herefordshire Council's *Standards for archaeological projects in Herefordshire (issue 1)*. The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Herefordshire Council (HC 2006; Appendix 3) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2006a).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would inform Herefordshire Council and make it possible for them to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

A desk-based assessment of the site has previously been undertaken (Cotswold Archaeology 2005). Herefordshire SMR was contacted and confirmed that no investigations have been undertaken or finds made in the vicinity in the intervening period, so no further research was deemed necessary.

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2006). As a result of the health and safety and ecological constraints identified during pre-evaluation site meetings (overhead electricity pylons, public footpaths, amphibian habitats, etc), adjustments were made to the fieldwork strategy. Originally 27 trenches were planned. However the above factors reduced the available area considerably, such that ultimately only 12 trenches could be excavated.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 31st July and 3rd August 2006. Site surveying was undertaken on 28th July and 8th August 2006. The site reference number and site code is HSM 43651.

Twelve trenches, amounting to just over 490m² in area, were excavated over the available site area of 2.7ha, representing a sample of *c* 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 180° wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

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

2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Angus Crawford**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts from the evaluation areas were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995, as amended).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context where possible.

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; Hurst 1994).

2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

No archaeological deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

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

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site encompasses six fields, forming a sub-rectangular area of 12.5 hectares, approximately 2.25km north of Hereford city centre and 0.6km east of Holmer village centre. It is bounded by fields to the north, Munstone Road to the east, the A4103 Roman Road to the south and Attwood Lane to the west (Fig 1).

The predominant soils of this area belong to the Bromyard Soil Association (571b). These comprise well-drained reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone; some similar soils with

slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging; and some well-drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone. The parent material is Devonian reddish silty shale, siltstone and sandstone (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

The site itself has been the subject of a desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2005) while the area to the west has been intensely investigated in association with the redevelopment of the A4103 to Stretton Sugwas (Vaughan forthcoming). (The desk-based assessment includes a full list of sites and finds recorded on Herefordshire SMR along with their exact locations in relation to the present site: Cotswold Archaeology 2005, fig 2).

At present there have been no recorded archaeological remains identified within the site itself. Prehistoric and Roman finds have been recovered during fieldwalking to the east (HSM 22164), although from the low density it is not considered likely that settlement exists within the proposed development area.

The A4103 to the south follows the course of the Roman Road (HSM 31110), which linked the towns of Kenchester (*Magna / Magnis*) 7km to the west with Stretton Grandison 12km to the east. The road is considered to have been constructed in the Conquest period, *c* AD 48 when Ostorius Scapula was pushing into the Welsh Marches and Wales and is thought to have seen a decrease in traffic by the 3rd century AD due to a decline in east-west trade (which changed to north-south instead). The road however never fell entirely out of use as is clear from its integration within the present road system. No defined settlement activity has been identified alongside the road, although evidence of occupation and industrial activity set back from the road has been observed at Stretton Grandison to the west.

The focus of the medieval village of Holmer (HSM 7016) lay to the north-west, and although it shrank in the medieval period, it is not considered likely to have extended within the development area. The present field boundaries date from the medieval period, defining the system of open fields, which would have surrounded Holmer until enclosure in the early/mid 19th century. These boundaries are thus considered important under the Hedgerows Regulations (1997). Cartographic sources indicate that the fields have remained as undeveloped arable and orchards down to the present day.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2 and Plates 1-14. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural deposits showed variation across the evaluated area, but consisted predominantly of compact, stratified mudstone and compact mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent blue-grey mottling and occasional manganese flecks. There were also minor formations of reddish brown silty clay with a blocky, crumbly structure. These variations were observed in particular within the field adjacent to the A4103 (Roman Road) where the natural deposits appear to form distinct bands.

4.1.2 Archaeological deposits

The soils comprised silty clay and sandy silt. These were generally very compact, with only slight mixing of the subsoil with the topsoil. This mixing is probably the result of relatively shallow modern ploughing.

A number of sub-linear features were observed within the natural matrix. These were investigated but proved to be irregular in form and filled with sterile silty clay. They are interpreted as tree root activity and animal burrows (Plate 10). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows that some of the fields within the development area were under orchards, so significant tree root activity is unsurprising (Cotswold Archaeology 2005).

No archaeological features, structures, layers or horizons were identified in any of the excavated trenches.

4.2 **Artefact analysis, by Angus Crawford**

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the evaluated area consisted of 6 sherds of pottery weighing 72g. In addition, fragments of floor and roof tile, brick, glass, animal bone and clay pipe stem were recovered. The group came from five stratified and two unstratified contexts and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). The level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
0	Brick	Industrial	2	336
0	Pottery	Roman	1	2
400	Iron	Unidentified	2	119
401	Pottery	Post-medieval	3	57
401	Tile	Roof	1	63
700	Brick	Post-medieval	3	13
700	Clay-pipe	Stem	1	2
700	Tile	Modern	1	3
1000	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	9
1100	Bone	Animal	1	9
1200	Glass	Modern	1	1
1200	Pottery	Modern	1	4

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.1 **Discussion of the pottery**

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). All sherds were dated by fabric type to their general period or production span. The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period.

4.2.2 **Roman**

Only one sherd of Roman pottery was identified within the assemblage. This consisted of a single sherd of unstratified Severn Valley Ware (fabric 12) which was in abraded condition and only datable to its general production span of mid 1st to 4th century.

4.2.3 **Post-medieval**

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of four sherds of pottery weighing 66g. Of these, three were of post-medieval orange ware (context 401) dating to the 18th century and of an appearance that would suggest that they originated from a single vessel. The remaining sherd was of post-medieval buff ware (context 1000) also dated to the 18th century.

4.2.4 Modern

Only a single sherd of modern porcelain represented the modern period (context 1200) and was broadly dated to the 20th century.

Context	Fabric name	Fabric number	Total	Weight (g)	Period
0	Severn Valley ware	12	1	2	Roman
401	Post-medieval orange ware	90	3	57	Post-medieval
1000	Post-medieval buff ware	91	1	9	Post-medieval
1200	Porcelain	83	1	4	Modern

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

4.2.5 Other finds

The remaining finds included a single sherd of modern vessel glass (context 1200), an unidentified fragment of corroded flat iron (context 400), an animal bone fragment (context 1100) and post-medieval brick and clay-pipe stem fragments (both context 700). The remaining ceramic building material included a rectangular section of firebrick with what appeared to be a yellow lead glaze on one surface. This probably originated from a kiln. It is most likely of later post-medieval industrial production and usage. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 records the location of a brick and tile works to the immediate west of the site, indicating a potential source for this material.

5. Synthesis, conclusions and significance

A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of the field adjacent to the A4103 Roman Road. The lack of Roman remains mirrors the negative findings from previous investigations along Roman Road towards Stretton Sugwas, indicating that there was probably no Roman occupation activity immediately adjacent to the road (Vaughan forthcoming).

The very compact and undisturbed nature of the subsoils suggests only minimal, shallow ploughing in the past and no traces of ridge-and-furrow were identified. This is at variance with fields to the north-east where ridge-and-furrow earthworks have been recorded (Cotswold Archaeology 2005). Coupled with the lack of residual medieval material, the site is considered to have been utilised generally solely as pasture, and was certainly not occupied as part of the larger village of Holmer, which is considered to have shrunk at some stage in the medieval period.

The evaluation also produced no evidence for additional, unrecorded medieval field subdivisions, strengthening the assumption that the existing hedgerows generally reflect the medieval field system. The only exceptions are three field boundaries in the field abutting Attwood Lane which cartographic evidence shows have now been lost (Cotswold Archaeology 2005, 9, fig 3).

The tree bowls recorded can be correlated with the cartographic sources, which denote orchards within two fields in the later 19th century.

No archaeological features, structures, layers or horizons were encountered during the evaluation. The quantity of stray finds retrieved from the soils was also very low. Thus it is considered that there are no significant archaeological remains within those areas of the site which were available for evaluation at this stage.

All conclusions drawn from this evaluation should, however, be treated cautiously due to its limited nature within the overall development area (health and safety and ecological constraints reduced significantly the area available for investigation).

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.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at the corner of Attwood Lane and Roman Road, Holmer, Hereford (NGR: SO 5135 4225), on behalf of Crest Nicholson. Twelve evaluation trenches were excavated across two fields within the proposed development site. The natural matrix was observed directly below the overburden of topsoil and subsoil. A number of tree bowls were noted in both fields. Otherwise no archaeological features, structures, layers or horizons were recorded, and residual finds were minimal. Thus there was neither evidence for Roman occupation activity adjacent to the Roman Road, nor any indication that the medieval village of Holmer extended this far south-east of the present settlement focus. The very compact nature of the subsoils and lack of residual material suggests minimal modern ploughing and there was no evidence of ridge and furrow as has been recorded to the north-east. The fields were probably kept largely as pasture, prior to the planting of orchards within two, in the post-medieval period.

7. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 6 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 36 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number records AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 12 Trench sheets AS41
- 1 Levels record AS19
- 1 Box of finds

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery
Broad Street
Hereford
HR4 9RU
Tel Hereford (01432) 268121 ext 207/334

8. **Acknowledgements**

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Redwood (Waterman Civils Ltd), John Ilett (Crest Nicholson), Andy Cooper (Nicholas Pearson Associates) and Julian Cotton (Archaeology Advisor, Herefordshire Council).

9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork was led by Tom Rogers and Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Robin Jackson. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Rogers, Stephen Potten and Andy Mann; the finds analysis was undertaken by Angus Crawford and the illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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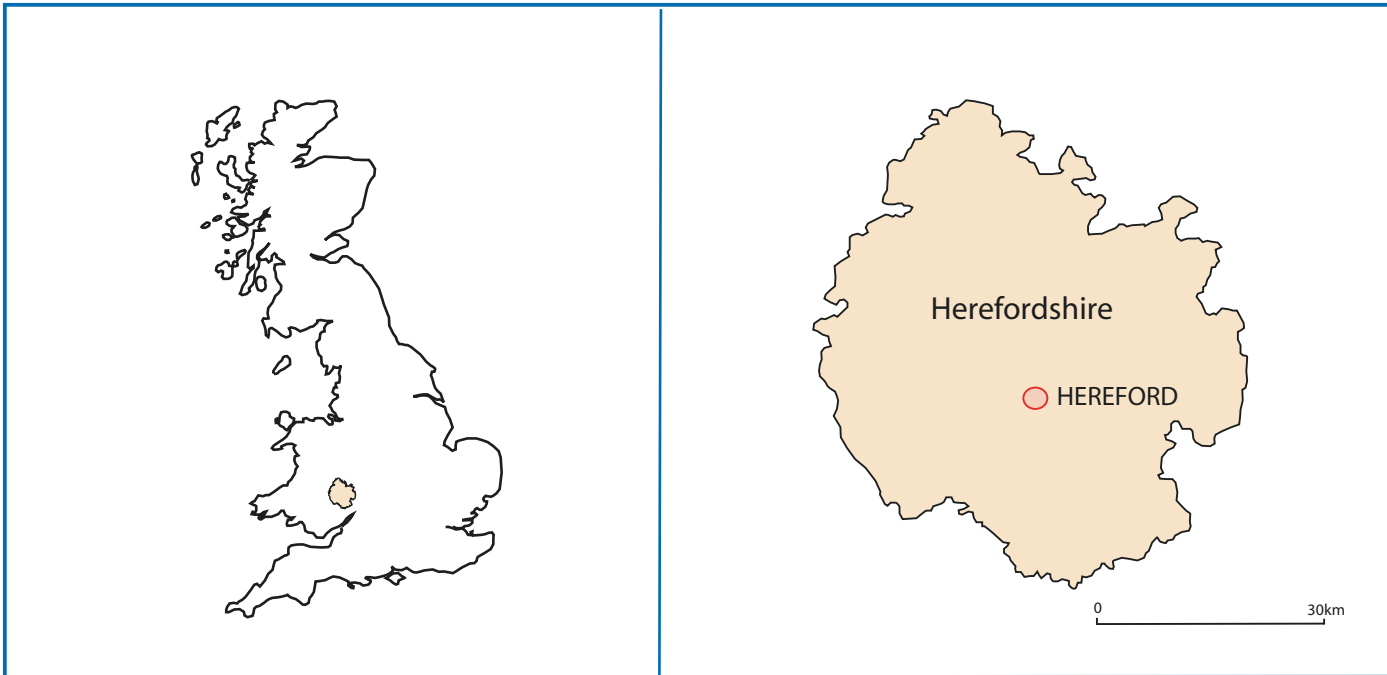
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Figures



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Location of the site.

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 from the ENE



Plate 2 Trench 2 from the ENE



Plate 3 Trench 3 from the ENE



Plate 4 Trench 4 from the SSE



Plate 5 Trench 5 from the NNW



Plate 6 Trench 6 from the NNW



Plate 7 Trench 7 from the WSW



Plate 8 Trench 8 from the WSW



Plate 9 Trench 9 from the NNW



Plate 10 Tree root in Trench 9 from the NNW



Plate 11 Trench 10 from the SSE



Plate 12 Trench 11 from the NNW



Plate 13 Trench 12 from the NNW



Plate 14 Work in progress, Trench 1, from the SE

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Key:

Field number 1 = Field adjacent to Attwood Lane

Field number 2 = Field adjacent to Roman Road (A4103)

LOE = Limit of excavation

Trench 1

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.50m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.55-0.70m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Loose light brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sub-angular stones. Much root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.29-0.35m
101	Subsoil	Light yellowish / orange brown sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure. This deposit reduces in depth from WSW to ENE and was not observable at the ENE end of the trench.	0.29-0.35m - 0.29-0.50m
102	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant blue-grey mottles and occasional lenses of blue-grey mudstone. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Much root activity observed at LOE.	0.29-0.50m +

Trench 2

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.20m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.60-0.80m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Loose light brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sub-angular stones. Much root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.25-0.27m
201	Subsoil	Light yellowish / orange brown sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure.	0.25-0.27m - 0.50m
202	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant blue-grey mottles and occasional lenses of blue-grey mudstone. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Root activity observed at LOE.	0.50m +

Trench 3

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.20m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.66-0.82m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Loose light brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sub-angular stones and rare small to medium CBM. Much root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.30-0.35m
301	Subsoil	Light yellowish / orange brown sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure. Depth diminishes towards ENE end of trench.	0.30-0.35m - 0.40-0.57m
302	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant blue-grey mottles and occasional lenses of blue-grey mudstone. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Root activity observed at LOE.	0.40-0.57m +

Trench 4

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.50m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50-1.05m

Orientation: NNW/SSE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Loose light brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sub-rounded stones. Much root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.30-0.34m
401	Subsoil	Light yellowish / orange brown sandy silt with moderate manganese flecks and rare small to medium sub-angular stones. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure.	0.30-0.34m - 0.47-0.56m
402	Natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay with moderate manganese flecks and occasional lenses of blue-grey mudstone. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure. Occasional animal burrows observed at LOE.	0.47-0.56m +

Trench 5

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.60-0.85m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Loose light brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones. Much root activity evident.	0.00 - 0.33-0.40m
501	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional iron pan staining. Moderately compact.	0.33-0.40m - 0.45-0.70m
502	Natural	Compact light pinkish purple silty clay with moderate blue-grey mottles and moderate lenses of compact blue-grey mudstone.	0.45-0.70m +

Trench 6

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.43-0.80m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Loose light brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones. Root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.30-0.33m
601	Subsoil	Compact but friable dark reddish brown sandy silt. Occasional root activity evident. This deposit was not observable at the WSW end of the trench	0.30-0.33m - 0.30-0.63m
602	Natural	Compact light pinkish purple silty clay with moderate blue-grey mottles and moderate lenses of compact blue-grey mudstone.	0.30-0.63m +

Trench 7

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.50m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.58-0.80m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small sub-rounded stones and rare small to medium CBM fragments. Much root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.30-0.35m
701	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Probably eroded natural. There is also mixing with topsoil in the upper parts of this deposit.	0.30-0.35m - 0.50-0.65m
702	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant blue-grey mottles and occasional manganese flecks. Compact but crumbles under pressure. The natural shows variation across the trench with patches of more crumbly/blocky material and, at the WSW end of the trench, at patch of browner, stiffer material with more manganese flecks. The natural also rise notably from the ENE to the WSW. The natural is cut by field drains and tree roots.	0.50-0.65m +

Trench 8

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 26.60m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50-0.55m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Moderately compact light brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones. Root activity evident.	0.00 - 0.35m
801	Subsoil	Pink clay with occasional light beige reduced patches. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Similar to 802 but less cohesive.	0.35 - 0.66m
802	Natural	Compact orange/pink clay mudstone with frequent mottling and light beige reduced patches. Occasional manganese flecks, becoming more frequent at WSW end of trench. Includes a patch of more stratified mudstone which breaks readily into blocks.	0.66m +

Trench 9

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.40m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.43-0.49m

Orientation: NNW/SSE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small rounded stones and rare manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure.	0.00-0.35-0.40m
901	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay (including a small proportion of sand) with abundant blue-grey mottles and occasional manganese flecks. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Tree root activity observable at LOE.	0.35-0.40m +
902	Cut	Cut for tree root. Linear in plan aligned EEN-WWS with irregular, gently sloping sides and an irregular base.	0.35m
903	Fill	Fill of 902. Compact mid pinkish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks. Some small root activity evident. Very sterile.	0.35m
904	Cut	Cut for tree bole and roots. Irregular in plan with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base.	0.40m
905	Fill	Fill of 904. Compact light pinkish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks. Much root activity evident. Very sterile.	0.40m

Trench 10

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.45-0.80m

Orientation: NNW/SSE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small rounded stones and occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure.	0.00-0.25-0.35m
1001	Subsoil	Light orangey brown sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure. Only visible in section for part of the length of the trench.	0.25-0.35m - 0.33-0.48m
1002	Subsoil	Mid pinkish/reddish brown silty sand with abundant blue-grey mottles. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Appears to be a mixture of topsoil and eroded natural.	0.25-0.48m - 0.40-0.75m
1003	Natural	Compact mudstone of varying hues. Generally a mid reddish brown mudstone with moderate lenses of yellow-blue and blue-grey mudstones and occasional lenses of reddish brown and yellowish blue silty clay. Root activity observable at LOE.	0.40-0.75m +

Trench 11

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.80-0.84m

Orientation: NNW/SSE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small rounded stones and occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure.	0.00-0.30m
1101	Subsoil	Light orangey brown sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Moderately compact but crumbles under pressure. Deposit not observable at SSE end of trench.	0.30m – 0.40-0.44m
1102	Subsoil	Light orangey brown silty clay (including a small proportion of sand) with rare manganese flecks. Compact and blocky in structure. Possibly a layer of eroded natural.	0.40-0.44m - 0.58-0.80m
1103	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay (including a small proportion of sand) with abundant blue-grey mottles.	0.58-0.80m +

Trench 12

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.90m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.47m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small to medium rounded stones. Compact but crumbles under pressure. Much root activity evident.	0.00m - 0.14-0.20m
1201	Subsoil	Light orangey brown sandy silt with occasional manganese flecks. Compact but crumbles under pressure.	0.14-0.20m - 0.32-0.38m
1202	Natural	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant blue-grey mottles. The natural shows variation along the length of the trench, notably a stretch of compact mid reddish brown mudstone with lenses of silty clay at the ENE end. Tree root activity observed at LOE.	0.32-0.38m +

Appendix 2 Summary of data for Herefordshire HER

Report name and title	ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT THE CORNER OF ATTWOOD LANE AND ROMAN ROAD, HOLMER, HEREFORD	
Contractor's name and address	WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE	
Site name	LAND AT THE CORNER OF ATTWOOD LANE AND ROMAN ROAD, HOLMER, HEREFORD	
Grid Reference (8 fig)	SO 5135 4225	Planning Application Number N/A
SMR number/s of site	HSM 43651	
Date of fieldwork	31/07/06-03/08/06	
Date of report	10/08/06	
	Number and type of finds	
Pottery	Period	Number of sherds
	Roman	1
	Post-medieval	4
	Modern	1
Other finds	Period	Quantity
Brick	Post-medieval	5 fragments
Clay pipe stem	Post-medieval	1 fragment
Tile	Modern	2 fragments
Glass	Modern	1 fragment
Bone	Animal	1 fragment
Iron	Unidentified	2 fragments
	Number and type of samples collected None	
Sieving for charred plant remains	Number of features sampled: n/a Number of buckets: n/a	
C14/scientific dates	Number and type: n/a Result: n/a	
Pollen	No of columns/spot samples: n/a Name of pollen specialist: n/a	
Bone	Number of buckets sieved for bone: n/a <i>Quantity recovered</i> n/a <i>Period</i> n/a	
Insect	No of columns/spot samples: n/a Name of pollen specialist: n/a	
Other	Type and specialist: n/a	
Summary of the report	<p>Twelve evaluation trenches were excavated across two fields within the proposed development site. The natural matrix was observed directly below the overburden of topsoil and subsoil. A number of tree bowls were noted in both fields. Otherwise no archaeological features, structures, layers or horizons were recorded, and residual finds were minimal. Thus there was neither evidence for Roman occupation activity adjacent to the Roman Road, nor any indication that the medieval village of Holmer extended this far south-east of the present settlement focus. The very compact nature of the subsoils and lack of residual material suggests minimal modern ploughing and there was no evidence of ridge and furrow as has been recorded to the north-east. The fields were probably kept largely as pasture, prior to the planting of orchards within two, in the post-medieval period.</p>	

Appendix 3 BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE AT HOLMER, HEREFORD.

Ref: SO51354225

Date of issue: 31/02/2006

The County of Herefordshire District Council, on the basis of central government planning guidance, and in accordance with local government policy, has advised that an archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) be carried out on the above proposal site.

The County Archaeological Service, Herefordshire Archaeology, considers that this site may contain important archaeological remains, the detailed nature of which are currently unclear, and need to be defined.

The prospective developer should commission the archaeological evaluation (hereinafter referred to as 'the project'), and provide the results from it, prior to the submission of any planning application. The results of the project may affect how any such application is determined.

The project will in this case consist of a scheme of archaeological trial trenching, and the production of an interim report. There will ultimately be a requirement to effect the deposition of the archive deriving from the project and the appropriate publication of the results.

The project should follow accepted archaeological best practice, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), be in accordance with current Herefordshire Archaeological Standards, and follow the general framework provided by this brief.

The project should also conform to a quantifiable scheme of investigation (project design) prepared by a professional archaeological contractor and submitted by the prospective developer/on his behalf.

The formal submission of a project design implies that the prospective developer accepts and will implement that design. The design must be approved by Herefordshire Archaeology before being put into effect. Project work must be undertaken by a professional archaeological contractor.

It is the prospective developer's responsibility to provide the results from the project to a satisfactory standard and in good time. Herefordshire Archaeology reserve the right to give advice as they see fit. Further archaeological measures may be needed.

Herefordshire Archaeology

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1 THE DEVELOPMENT SITE

The proposed development site encompasses a number of large fields to the east of the settled area of Holmer, in the northern outskirts of Hereford. The site is centred at NGR SO 51354225 approximately, and encompasses an area of some 12 hectares. The current land use is largely agricultural. The above definitions are for broad identification for the purposes of this brief only. Further details of the proposed development may be obtainable from the developer.

2 THE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND

On being consulted, Herefordshire Archaeology advised that the proposed development site was likely to contain important archaeological remains (see below), likely to be damagingly affected by the proposed development. Herefordshire Archaeology further advised that insufficient information existed about the archaeological impact of the proposal. Accordingly, it was recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be commissioned by the prospective developer, in order to provide additional archaeological information. Such an evaluation would be in line with the guidance given in *Planning Policy Guidance Archaeology and Planning 1990* (PPG 16), and in accordance with adopted [Herefordshire] Local Plans.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site has been the subject of some limited prior research. An archaeological desk based assessment (*Land at Holmer Herefordshire, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*, Cotswolds Archaeology Report 05142) has already been submitted on behalf of the potential developer. The proximity of Holmer medieval settlement and associated features has been noted, and the southern edge of the proposed development area is formed by the course of a former Roman road.

This section (3) is intended as a concise summary of what currently appear to be the main archaeological themes, and does not constitute a documentary study of any kind, or an anticipation of what may or may not be present on the site.

4 THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The broad aims of the archaeological project are to achieve better definition of the character and extent of any archaeological remains that exist in the area of the proposed development. The primary intention is to make a satisfactory evaluative record of those archaeological materials and other relevant materials already known from documentary sources or directly revealed by archaeological trial trenching (see below). Reasonable inferences should be made from this record, such that a fuller understanding of the archaeological potential of the whole development site is achieved. The project will also aim to result - eventually - in the deposition of a satisfactory archaeological archive and production of a satisfactory publication. The archaeological project will not be regarded as complete until satisfactory deposition and publication has been achieved.

5 THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The project work will consist of the following items:

- The appropriate mechanical/manual excavation of archaeological trial trenches, to achieve a satisfactory sample of the proposed development site. In this particular case, Herefordshire Archaeology consider that approximately 2 % of the site should be trenched (i.e. approximately 2400m²).
 - The precise configuration and layout of trenching is a matter for the archaeological contractor to propose. However, the following factors should especially be taken into account in any design. Firstly, the part plot of land immediately adjacent to the Roman road will need to be investigated in some detail, to ensure there are no significant archaeological features *directly* associated with this road. Secondly the remaining area should be subject to reasonably systematic coverage, in order to avoid large 'gaps' in the sampling.
-

- Archaeological recording of any other relevant information. Such recording should not be excessive, as it is only needed for the purpose of contextual completeness.
- **The prompt production of a satisfactory interim archaeological report.**
- The eventual analysis, processing, and deposition of all retained archaeological materials and archives of any kind deriving from the works, and appropriate summary publication of the results. If necessary, *more detailed* publication may be required.

6 THE PROJECT METHODS

The project must be undertaken in accordance with the document *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)* and to the relevant standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Submitted project designs must indicate in detail the methods to be followed.

7 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

There are no special requirements in relation to this particular development proposal.

8 DISCLAIMER

This brief has been prepared to the best of the information currently available to Herefordshire Archaeology, but despite our best efforts should not be assumed to be complete, consistent or completely accurate. If the applicant, the applicant's agent, or anybody else acting on behalf of the applicant or otherwise involved in the project, has supplementary or contrary information which may be relevant to the site or the archaeological project, they should contact the archaeological advisor (see below) as soon as possible. Herefordshire Archaeology has advised that the project described by this brief should take place, and will monitor archaeological standards during the full course of the work, but is not *responsible* for the work, particularly as regards site hazards, health and safety matters, and issues of reinstatement.

9 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained from **Herefordshire Archaeology, Planning Services, Herefordshire Council, PO Box 144, Hereford HR1 2YH Fax 01432 383354**

Correspondence would normally be through **Mr Julian Cotton, the Archaeological Advisor** (at the above address, on telephone number **01432 383350**)

Email **jcotton2@herefordshire.gov.uk**

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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