

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT
BADSEY BROOK,
BROADWAY,
WORCESTERSHIRE



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

Status:
Date: 3 December 2013
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Project reference: P4194
Report reference: 2062
HER reference: WSM 49791

Archaeological watching brief at Badsey Brook, Broadway, Worcestershire

Peter Lovett

With a contribution by Dennis Williams

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Environment Agency
<i>National Grid reference</i>	NGR SP 09043 37267
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 49791
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2012

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Archaeological background

An HER search was undertaken on a 500m radius of the site. The search area included a number of listed buildings, as well as the site of a grange and a 14th century cruck building (WSM01292), the site of a mill pond (WSM06041) and Second World War evidence (WSM33058, WSM37190). More pertinent are records for ridge and furrow (WSM12109), and cropmarks suggesting earlier settlement sites (WSM01862), both within the limits of the site. Further to the north of the site is an enclosure settlement with cemetery (WSM01861), with a broad date range from late Bronze Age to late Roman. On the very northern edge of the site is a cropmark settlement (WSM01863) that has been partially built upon, but may extend onto the development area.

The HER report states that finds made in the search area include small amounts of Roman pottery, prehistoric lithic implements and medieval and post medieval pottery. Environmental remains include plant and animal remains dating from the Upper Palaeolithic, Roman and medieval periods.

Broadway was established in the 12th century as a medieval planned settlement associated with the monastery at Pershore. The land use in the search area is described on the HER as arable with blocks of ancient woodland with scattered stone built farmsteads, dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries, outside the main nucleated settlement of Broadway. The potential for buried archaeological remains in the area is high.

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

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012a

Sources consulted

HER

Sources cited by the HER

Date(s) of fieldwork

19 and 20 September 2013

Area of site

c 12,470m²

Sampling area sampled c 35m². Indicated on Fig 2
sample size c 0.28%

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

8 Test Pits length 2.5m
Width 1.75m
depth 4.50m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. Access to deep trenches was not made for safety reasons.

Statement of confidence

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

Deposit description

The excavations revealed a simple sequence of plough soil, subsoil and a limestone/subsoil mix derived from hillwash. Beneath the limestone was a Charmouth mudstone, but this was not assigned a context number, being as it was undisturbed geology, free from any apparent human interference. The plough soil ranged in thickness from 0.25m to 0.45m, whilst the underlying subsoil was between 0.35m and 0.5m thick. Beneath the subsoil was a material consisting of Oolitic limestone and subsoil, being an ancient movement of material from the surrounding hillsides. This was upwards of 1m thick in places.

The full details of the deposits identified are presented within Appendix 1.

Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage, from eight test pit locations, consisted of pottery, brick, tile, flint and slag, as shown in Table 1. The pottery was generally in poor condition, with significant levels of abrasion and a mean sherd weight that was below average (ie < 10g).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic		pot	4	36
medieval	ceramic		roof tile	1	42
post-medieval	ceramic		brick/tile	2	42
prehistoric	stone	flint		1	1
Roman	ceramic		pot	3	8
Roman/medieval	slag	slag(Fe)	smithing slag	1	16
medieval	ceramic		pot	4	36

medieval	ceramic		roof tile	1	42
post-medieval	ceramic		brick/tile	2	42
undated	ceramic		brick/tile/pot	4	12
undated	ceramic		brick/tile	2	2
undated	ceramic		pot	1	4
totals:				19	163

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The pottery included Roman and medieval sherds as summarised in Table 2.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	2	2
Roman	12.2	Oxidised organically tempered Severn Valley ware	1	6
medieval	65	Glazed oolitic limestone tempered ware	1	8
medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	1	22
medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	3	10
totals:			8	48

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

Summary of artefactual evidence by period

The context finds summary, with *terminus post quem* date ranges, is shown in Table 3.

Pottery

The pottery finds were undiagnostic in terms of form. Roman pottery comprised three sherds of Severn Valley ware (fabrics 12 and 12.2). Single sherds of medieval Glazed oolitic limestone tempered ware (fabric 65) and Malvernian (fabric 69) were recovered, as well as small fragments of miscellaneous sandy wares (fabric 99) presumed to be medieval.

Ceramic building material

Other than a medieval tile fragment, the finds brick/tile finds were small and too fragmentary to provide dating evidence.

Flint

A single piece of worked flint was probably prehistoric débitage.

Slag

A piece of slag was typical of waste material from the smithing of iron produced using a bloomery process, and therefore probably dated from the Roman or medieval periods.

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
01	ceramic	brick/tile/pot		1	4	-	-	-
01	ceramic	pot	12.2	1	6	43	200	43-200
04	ceramic	pot	65	1	8	1066	1200	1066-1200
100	ceramic	brick/tile/pot		1	4	-	-	-
102	ceramic	brick/tile		1	28	1600	1900	1600-1900
	ceramic	pot	69	1	22	1200	1600	
	ceramic	pot	12	1	1	43	400	
	ceramic	pot	99	1	2	1066	1600	
	stone	flint		1	1	-	-	
103	ceramic	brick/tile		1	14	-	-	1200-1600
	ceramic	roof tile		1	42	1200	1600	
107	ceramic	pot	99	1	4	1066	1600	1066-1600
	ceramic	brick/tile/pot		2	4	-	-	
	ceramic	brick/tile		1	1	-	-	
	slag	smithing slag		1	16	43	1600	
108	ceramic	pot	99	1	4	1066	1600	1066-1600
	ceramic	pot	12	1	1	42	400	
	ceramic	brick/tile		1	1	-	-	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Discussion

Any archaeological features that exist on this site would do so underneath a relatively thick layer of plough soil. Whilst no features were discovered during the excavation of the trial holes, the presence of prehistoric flint, Roman and medieval pottery in the plough soil indicates either ploughed out low level activity on this site or may be the result of accidental deposition from occupation in the vicinity through manuring activity.

Conclusions

The HER report provides strong evidence for potential archaeological remains, but the total sample size of the test pits was so small that the lack of any archaeology is indicative of nothing. Indeed, the nature of the archaeology drawn from the cropmarks and aerial photography listed in the HER lends itself to low density remains, being a series of late prehistoric or Roman field boundaries. To discover such a feature in a sample size of less than half a percent would be fortuitous. The potential for archaeological deposits to exist across the site therefore remains high.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Ed Wilson (Senior Archaeologist, The Environment Agency), Paul Jaspers (Geotechnical Engineer, The Atkins Group), and Aisling Nash (Historic Environment Record Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

Personnel

The fieldwork was undertaken by Liz Pearson (MSc AlfA). The manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA hons, MA, AlfA).

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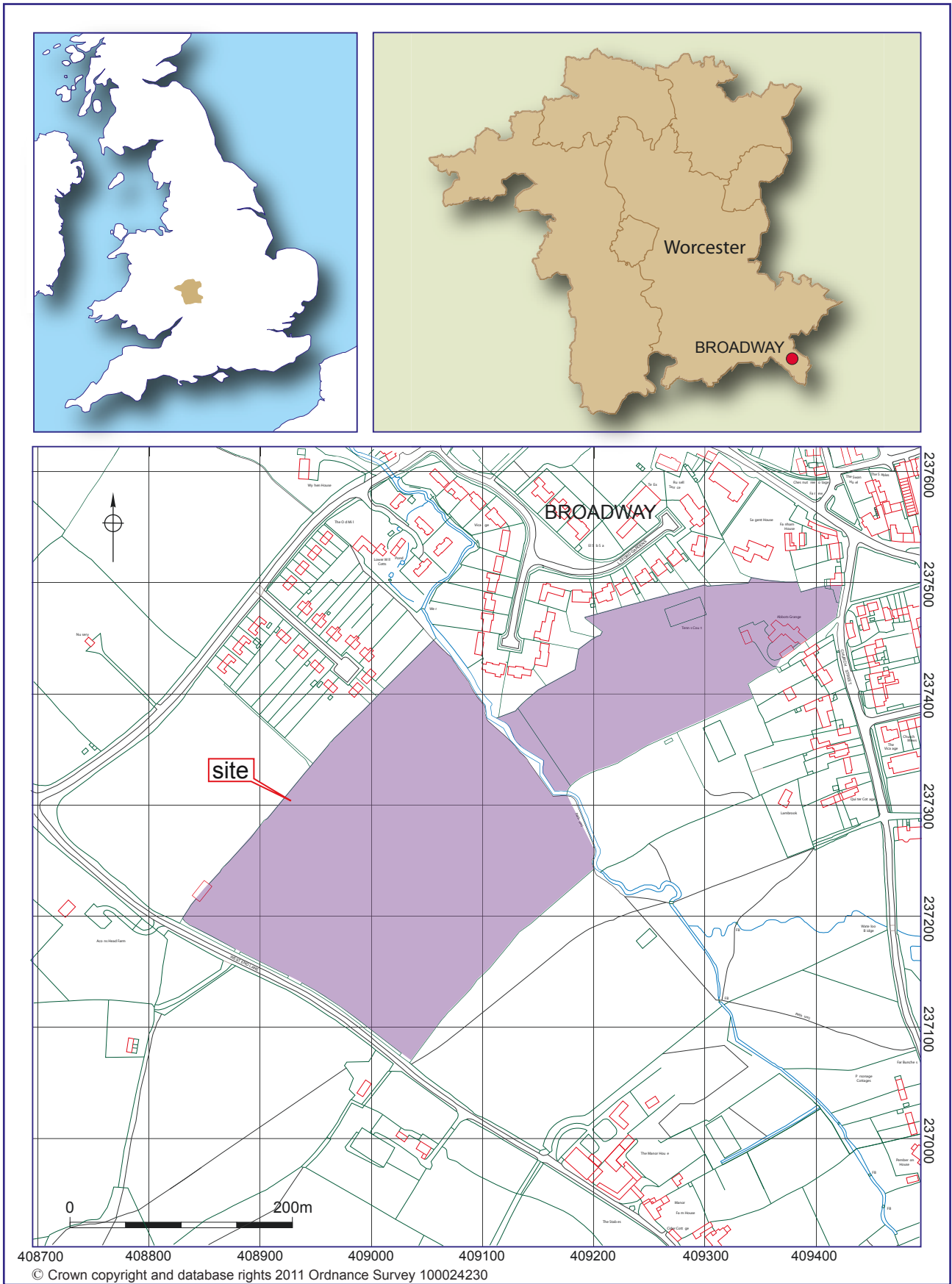
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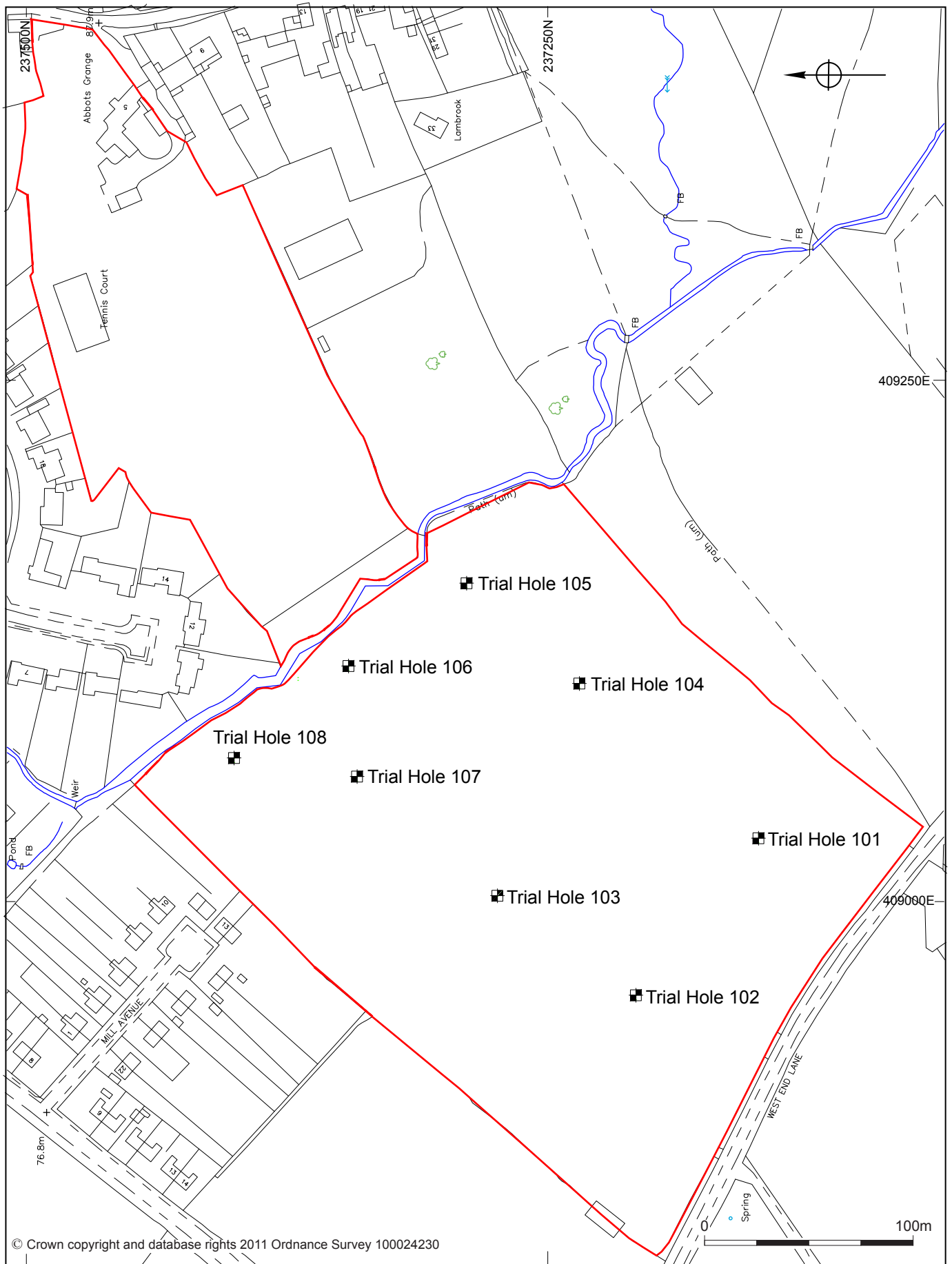
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of Trial Holes (based upon Atkins Ltd Dwg 5115699-002)

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Test Pit 106 general shot



Plate 2 Test Pit 104



Plate 3 Test Pit 107



Plate 4 Test Pit 102

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Test Pit 101

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.3m
101	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.3m-0.7m
102	Natural	Context	0.7m+

Test Pit 102

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.3m
101	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.3m-0.7m
102	Natural	Context	0.7m+

Test Pit 103

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.3m
101	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.3m-0.7m
102	Natural	Context	0.7m+

Test Pit 104

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1041	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.3m
1042	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.3-0.6m

Test Pit 105

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.3m
101	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.3m-0.7m
102	Natural	Context	0.7m+

Test Pit 106

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1061	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.45m
1062	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.45-0.7m

Test Pit 107

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.3m
101	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.3m-0.7m
102	Natural	Context	0.7m+

Test Pit 108

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1.75m Depth: 0-4.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay	0-0.28m
101	Subsoil	Yellowish mid brown silty clay	0.28m-0.7m
102	Natural	Context	0.7m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 49791)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 26 Digital photographs
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 49791 (event HER number)

P4194

Artefacts

HER summary data						
period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	2	1066	1600
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	22	1200	1600
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1066	1600
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	8	1066	1200
medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1	42	1200	1600
post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	1	28	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	1	14	0	0
prehistoric	stone	flint	1	1	0	0
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	6	43	200
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	1	42	400
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	1	43	400
Roman/medieval	slag	smithing slag	1	16	43	1600
undated	ceramic	brick/tile/pot	1	4	0	0
undated	ceramic	brick/tile/pot	2	4	0	0
undated	ceramic	brick/tile/pot	1	4	0	0
undated	ceramic	brick/tile	1	1	0	0
undated	ceramic	brick/tile	1	1	0	0
undated	ceramic	pot	1	4	1066	1600

In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15^h to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	