

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF  
LAND OFF CHEQUERS LANE  
WYCHBOLD  
WORCESTERSHIRE



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014  
Author: Andrew Walsh, [awalsh@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:awalsh@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt  
Project reference: P4273  
Report reference: 2120  
HER reference: WSM57121



# Contents

## Summary

1

## Report

<b>1 Background.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Reasons for the project .....	2
<b>2 Aims.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Methods.....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Personnel.....	2
3.2 Documentary research .....	2
3.3 Fieldwork strategy .....	2
3.4 Structural analysis .....	3
3.5 Artefact methodology .....	3
3.5.1 Recovery policy .....	3
3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology .....	3
3.6.1 Sampling policy.....	3
3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results .....	3
<b>4 The application site .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use .....	3
<b>5 Structural analysis.....</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits .....	3
5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval and modern deposits .....	4
5.1.3 Phase 3: modern deposit .....	4
<b>6 Synthesis .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 Publication summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>9 Bibliography.....</b>	<b>4</b>



---

## **An archaeological evaluation of Land off Chequers Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire**

Andrew Walsh

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land off Chequers Land, Wychbold, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9257 6566). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client who intends to develop the site for which a planning application is in preparation. A number of archaeological sites have been recorded from the wider vicinity of the proposed development site, including evidence of an Iron Age and/or Roman settlement to the west of the proposed site.

Six trenches were excavated across the proposed development site. A small ditch was exposed orientated north-west to south-east within three trenches in the western part of the site. This feature is depicted on Ordnance Survey maps as the boundary of a small rectangular patch of woodland until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. No evidence of any other archaeological activity was identified during the evaluation.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land off Chequers Land, Wychbold, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9257 6566). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client who intends to develop the site for which a planning application will be submitted to Wychavon District Council. The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM33345).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Glyde, Archaeological Planning Advisor to Worcestershire County Council, in 2010 (WCC 2010a). This brief was confirmed to remain valid in email from Mike Glyde dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (WCC 2014a). A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010b). The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM57121.

### 2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc FSA Scot AlfA who joined WA in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. The report preparation was led by Andrew Walsh and the project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers BA MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MlfA.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (WCC 2014b).

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed written scheme of investigation has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014). Six trenches, amounting to just approximately 540m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 1.35ha, representing a sample of 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Fieldwork was undertaken between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014. The site reference number and site code is WSM57121.

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. 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.

---

### **3.4 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 Artefact methodology**

#### **3.5.1 Recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard WA practice (2012; appendix 2). In the event, no finds were recovered.

### **3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### **3.6.1 Sampling policy**

The sampling policy conformed to standard WA practice (2012). In the event no deposits were revealed which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

### **3.7 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, geology and archaeological context**

The proposed development site occupies a roughly rectangular-shaped field. The site is bounded by Chequers Lane to the north-east, residential properties to the east and north-west, Stoke Road to the south-east and a playing field and allotments to the south-west. The site slopes gently from a height of 65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-east to 59m aOD in the north-west. The underlying geology is mapped as Droitwich Halite Member (BGS 2014). Superficial deposits of are not mapped within the site.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) records evidence of human occupation activity within the vicinity of the proposed development site dating to the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods although no archaeological monuments or sites are recorded on the proposed development site. However to the west of the proposed site there is sub-surface evidence of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement (WSM17807) and to the north-west there is evidence of an early medieval settlement (WSM24821). To the south-west of the proposed site there is documentary and cartographic evidence of a manor house which is also believed to be medieval in origin (WSM02100).

### **4.2 Current land-use**

The site is located on former pasture, which has not been grazed for a number of years and is overgrown.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2- 3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

The underlying natural deposit in Trenches 1 to 4 was a brownish red weathered mudstone with occasional patches of pebbles and grey sand, at a depth of 0.48-0.56m (Plate 1). In Trenches 5 and 6 a grey sand frequently overlaid the mudstone.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval and modern deposits

In Trenches 3, 4 and 6 the natural substrate was cut by a ditch (304, 404 and 604) orientated north-west to south-east (Figure 2). It measured 0.3m in depth and 0.90m in width, although the relationship with the subsoil was unclear and it may have also cut this deposit (Figure 3, S.1; Plate 2). It was filled by a greyish brown sandy silt which yielded a small number of fragments of ceramic building material (Rob Hedge pers comm). This ditch is recorded as a field boundary on historic OS maps until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (OS 1885, 1903, 1927, 1938 and 1954).

### 5.1.3 Phase 3: modern deposit

In all trenches the natural substrate was sealed by light brownish grey silt sand measuring 0.28-0.35m in depth. This was overlaid by a mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil measuring 0.20-0.23m in depth.

## 6 Synthesis

The evaluation exposed a small ditch orientated north-west to south-east through Trenches 3, 4, and 6. This feature is depicted on Ordnance Survey maps as the boundary of a small rectangular patch of woodland until the mid-20th century (OS 1885, 1903, 1927, 1938 and 1954) and is not archaeologically significant. No evidence of any other archaeological activity was identified during the evaluation and no other finds were recovered during the works.

## 7 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 was undertaken at Land off Chequers Land, Wychbold, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9257 6566). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client who intends to develop the site for which a planning application is in preparation. A number of archaeological sites have been recorded from the wider vicinity of the proposed development site, including evidence of an Iron Age and/or Roman settlement to the west of the proposed site.*

*Six trenches were excavated across the proposed development site. A small ditch was exposed orientated north-west to south-east within three trenches in the western part of the site. This feature is depicted on Ordnance Survey maps as the boundary of a small rectangular patch of woodland until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. No evidence of any other archaeological activity was identified during the evaluation.*

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project; Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the project and Mike Glyde (WCC) for monitoring the works.

## 9 Bibliography

BGS 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed 16 May 2014

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

OS 1885 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition, scale 25":1 mile

OS 1903 Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile

OS 1927 Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile

OS 1938 Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile

---

OS 1954 Ordnance Survey, scale 6":1 mile

WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation of land off Chequers Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, document dated 12 May 2014, **P4273**

WCC 2010a *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, document dated 15 December 2010

WCC 2010b *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended July 2012

WCC 2014a *RE: Chequers Lane Wychbold*, email from Mike Glyde (WCC) to Cathy Patrick (CgMs Consulting), dated 9 January 2014

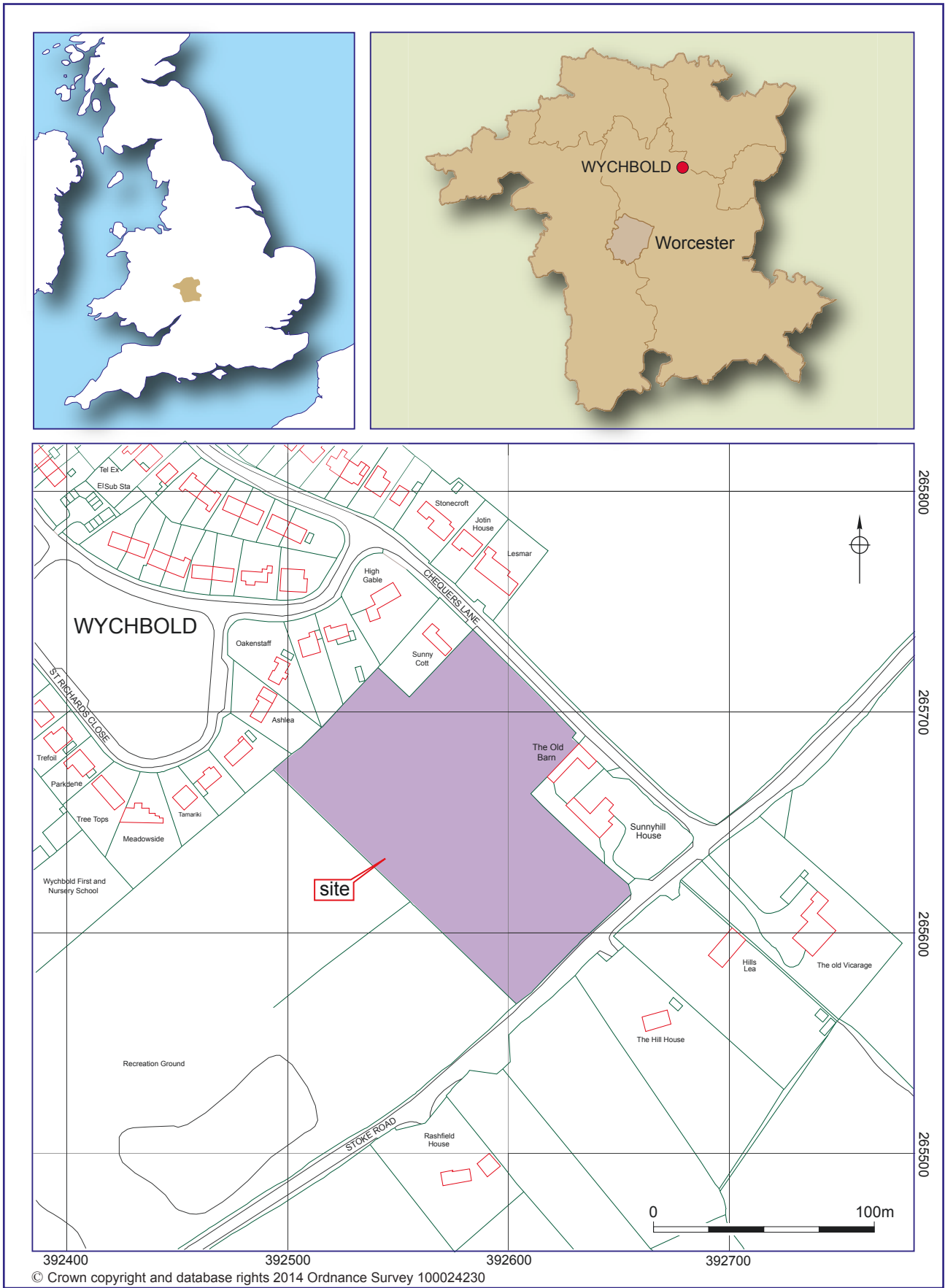
WCC 2014b *An Historic Environment Record Search for Chequers Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, document dated 21 May 2014





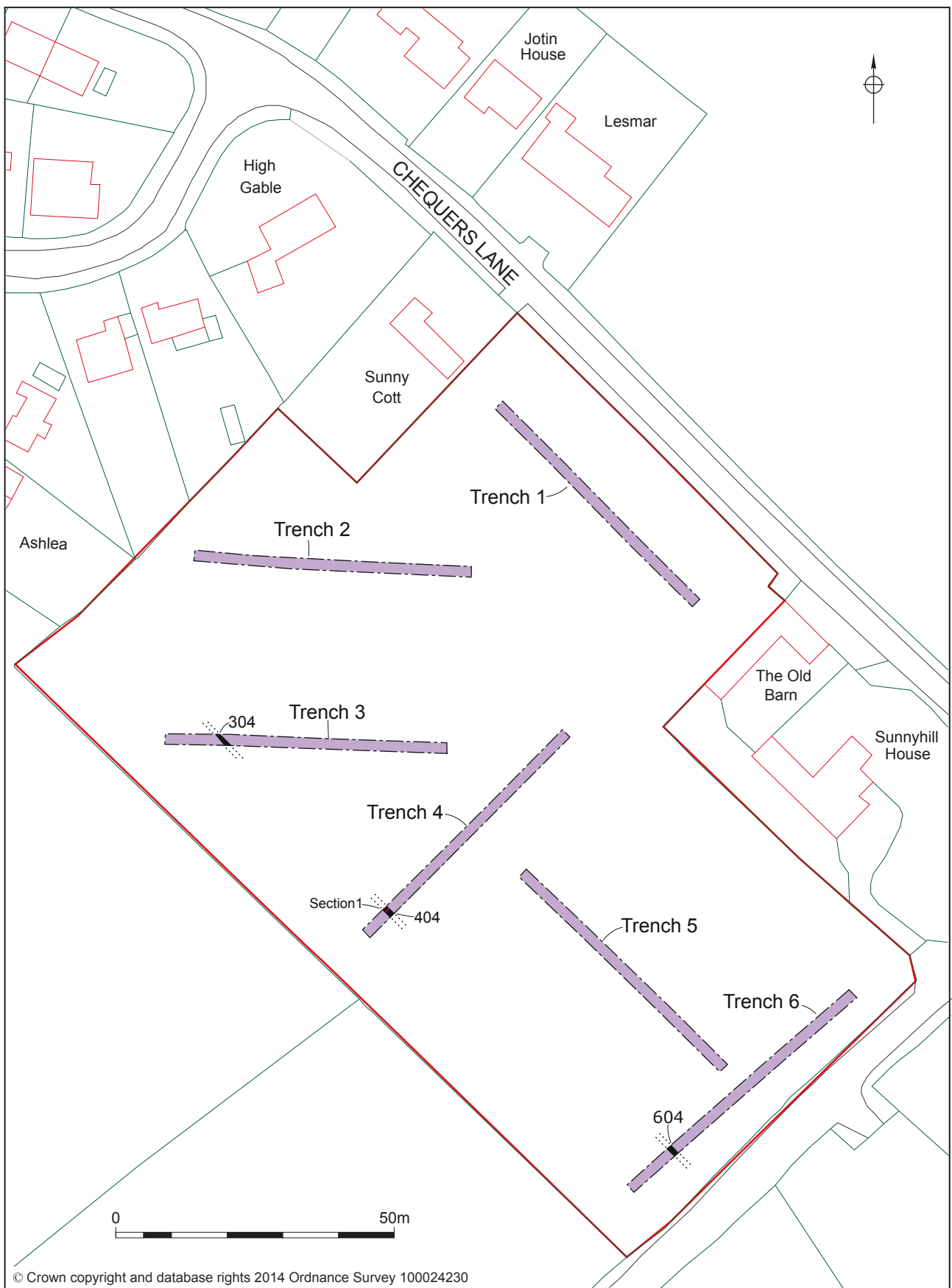
**Figures**

---



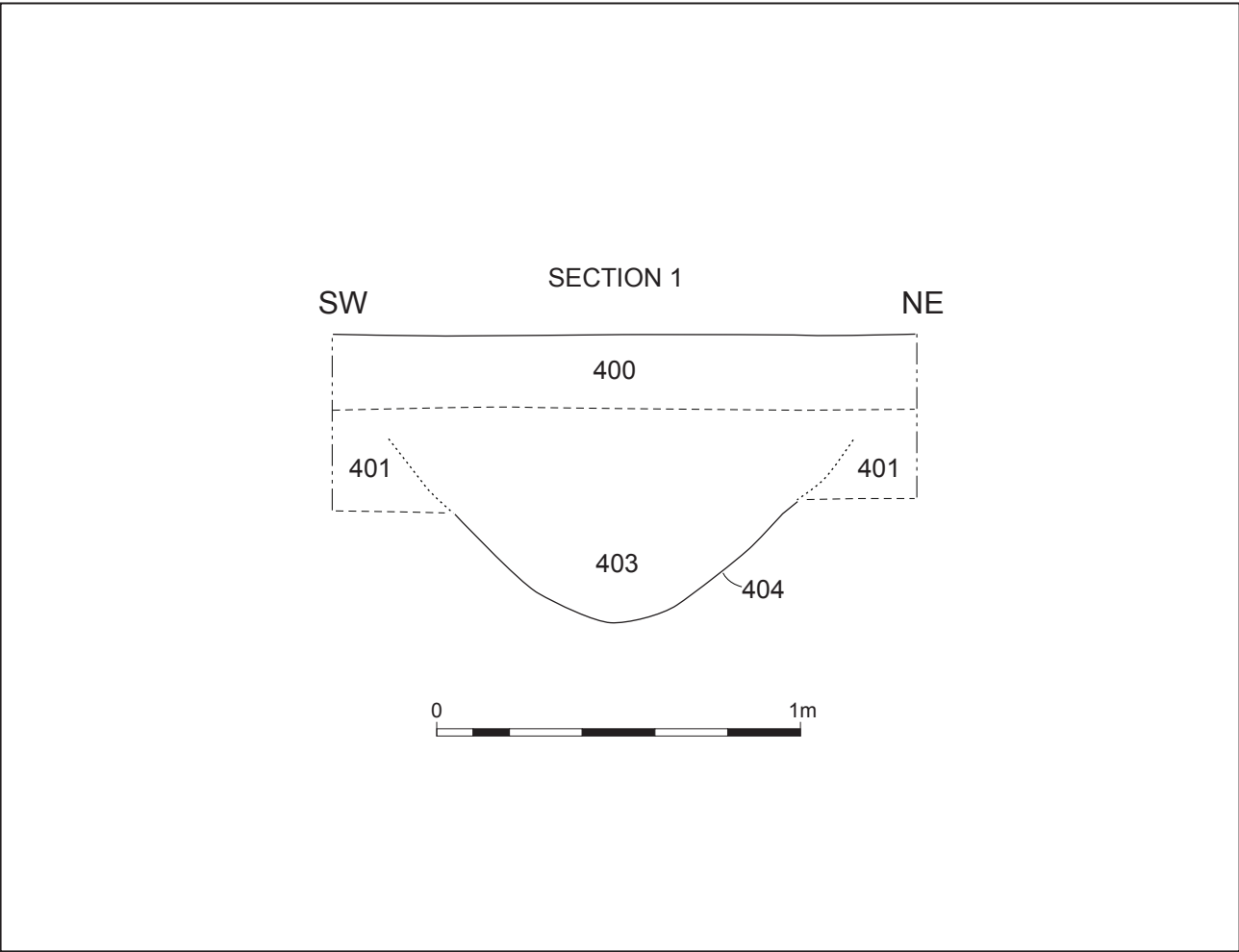
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2



Section

Figure 3

## Plates



*Plate 1: Trench 2 from the east*



*Plate 2: Field boundary ditch 404, looking north-west*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Length 50.1 Width 1.8m

#### Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.22	Topsoil
101	Subsoil	Layer	light brownish grey silty sand	0.35	Subsoil
102	Natural	Layer	brownish red clay		Natural

### Trench 2

Length 49.8 Width 1.8m

#### Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.20	Topsoil
201	Subsoil	Layer	light brownish grey silty sand	0.30	Subsoil
202	Natural	Layer	brownish red clay		Natural

### Trench 3

Length 49.6 Width 1.8m

#### Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.22	Topsoil
301	Subsoil	Layer	light brownish grey silty sand	0.30	Subsoil
302	Natural	Layer	brownish red clay		Natural
303	Ditch	Fill	mid greyish brown sandy silt		Fill of ditch 304
304	Ditch	Cut			Cut of modern field boundary ditch

**Trench 4****Length 50.8      Width 1.8m****Context summary**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Height/ depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
400	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.20	Topsoil
401	Subsoil	Layer	light brownish grey silty sand	0.28	Subsoil
402	Natural	Layer	brownish red clay		Natural
403	Ditch	Fill	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.30	Fill of ditch 404
404	Ditch	Cut		0.30	Cut of modern field boundary ditch

**Trench 5****Length 50.1      Width 1.8m****Context summary**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Height/ depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
500	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.23	Topsoil
501	Subsoil	Layer	light brownish grey silty sand	0.33	Subsoil
502	Natural	Layer	brownish red clay		Natural

**Trench 6****Length 53.0      Width 1.8m****Context summary**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Height/ depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
600	Topsoil	Layer	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.20	Topsoil
601	Subsoil	Layer	light brownish grey silty sand	0.32	Subsoil
602	Natural	Layer	brownish red clay		Natural
603	Ditch	Fill	mid greyish brown sandy silt		Fill of ditch 604
604	Ditch	Cut			Cut of modern field boundary ditch

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM57121)**

The archive consists of:

- |    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2  | Context records AS1                   |
| 1  | Field progress reports AS2            |
| 1  | Photographic records AS3              |
| 43 | Digital photographs                   |
| 1  | Permatrace scale drawings AS34        |
| 6  | Trench record sheets AS41             |
| 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