

Archaeological watching brief at The Stews, Broughton Green, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire



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Contents

Summary

1

Report

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1 Background..... | 2 |
| 1.1 Reasons for the project | 2 |
| 2 Aims..... | 2 |
| 3 Methods..... | 2 |
| 3.1 Personnel..... | 2 |
| 3.2 Documentary research | 2 |
| 3.3 List of sources consulted | 2 |
| 3.4 Fieldwork strategy | 3 |
| 3.5 Structural analysis | 3 |
| 3.6 Artefact methodology, by C Jane Evans..... | 3 |
| 3.6.1 Recovery policy | 3 |
| 3.6.2 Method of analysis | 3 |
| 3.6.3 Discard policy | 3 |
| 3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology..... | 4 |
| 3.7.1 Sampling policy..... | 4 |
| 3.7.2 Discard policy | 4 |
| 3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results | 4 |
| 4 The application site | 4 |
| 4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context..... | 4 |
| 4.2 Current land-use | 5 |
| 5 Structural analysis..... | 5 |
| 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits | 5 |
| 5.1.2 Phase 2: medieval deposits | 5 |
| 5.1.3 Phase 3: post-medieval deposits | 5 |
| 5.1.4 Phase 4: modern deposits | 5 |
| 5.2 Artefactual analysis, by C Jane Evans..... | 5 |
| 5.2.1 Recommendations | 8 |
| 6 Synthesis | 8 |
| 7 Publication summary | 8 |
| 8 Acknowledgements | 8 |
| 9 Bibliography..... | 8 |

Archaeological watching brief at The Stews, Broughton Green, Worcestershire

Graham Arnold

With contributions by C Jane Evans

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at The Stews, Broughton Green, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (NGR SO 96048 60288). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Luke, who demolished an existing house and constructed a new house in its place, with associated landscaping, services and access groundworks, for which a planning application was approved by Wychavon District Council (reference number W/15/0276).

The Stews is named after a group of up to five fishponds, recorded on the 1838 Tithe map as 'Cottage, Garden, Orchard and Stews', with possible medieval origins. The ponds are fed by a leat from the Seeley Brook. Only one of the ponds is still water filled, with the rest surviving as earthworks on the site and recorded on the modern OS map and LiDAR imagery.

All intrusive groundworks were monitored and the natural ground was observed below various alluvial deposits. One former fish pond was recorded, backfilled with 19th century and later material, and truncated by groundworks of a later date, when the former house was built and the ground was levelled up to prevent flooding. Further modern backfilling and made ground were found to the north of the building plot. No significant archaeological features, layers, structures, horizons, or artefacts were revealed.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at The Stews, Broughton Green, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (NGR SO 96048 60288). It was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Luke who demolished an existing house and the constructed a new house, with associated landscaping, services and access groundworks, for which a planning application was approved by Wychavon District Council (reference number W/15/0276).

The proposed development site is considered to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application (HER ref WSM 02143).

The project conforms to a generic brief and accompanying letter dated 24 March 2015, prepared by Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2014) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2015).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM 67364.

2 Aims

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible, within the constraints of the client's groundworks.

The Curator indicated in the brief that significant deposits may be defined as those likely to be of medieval and post-medieval date, relating to group of stews or fish ponds that appear to have remained in use into the mid-19th century. It was indicated that the cottage may also have medieval origins.

The site contains a set of medieval stew or fish ponds that appear to have been in use into the nineteenth century, as the tithe map records the site as 'Cottage, Garden, Orchard and Stews'. The current house, proposed to be demolished and replaced is built partially over

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practicing archaeology since 2002. He was assisted by James Spry (BA (hons.); MA), and Andrew Mann (BA (hons.); MSc). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan, (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA), Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). C Jane Evans ((BA (hons); MA; MCIfA) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

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

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1732 Doharty Map of Vernon Estates in Hanbury
- 1838 Tithe Map of Hanbury
- 1904 Ordnance Survey Map

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 18 December 2015 and 23 November 2016. The site reference number and site code is WSM 67364.

Groundworks involved stripping the existing foundations of the former building, excavations for the foundations for the new building and service trenches. The works amounting to just over 550m² in area, were excavated over the site area of c 1 hectare. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Observation and recording of archaeological deposits was restricted to areas of ground disturbance associated with construction following the progress of the construction team. All groundworks were carried out by a 360° tracked excavator using a smooth bladed bucket, following removal of the existing concrete slab. The service trenches across the site were dug under archaeological supervision.

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).

3.5 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.

3.6 Artefact methodology, by C Jane Evans

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (2014a), for archive creation by AAF (2011) and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

3.6.1 Recovery policy

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

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period (Table 1), with all information recorded on a *pro forma* database table. The pottery was recorded by broad fabric type, with reference to the Worcestershire online fabric reference series (Hurst and Rees 1992; <http://pottery.rigorka.net/>).

3.6.3 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
- post-medieval material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology

3.7.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). A total of 3 samples (2 x 20L litres and 1 x 10L) were taken from the site from the following contexts:

- Sample 1 – Context 109 Alluvium 2 x 10L
- Sample 2 – Context 110 Alluvium 1 x 10L
- Sample 3 – Context 108 Pond backfill 2 x 10L (Victorian date?)

However, on further consideration of the samples, it was decided they were too heavily disturbed, with 19th century and later material to warrant processing (pers comm Liz Pearson). Therefore, they would not provide any further useful information to the project.

3.7.2 Discard policy

The samples will be discarded after the submission of this report, due to the contamination, unless there is a specific request to retain them.

3.8 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, despite some adverse weather conditions on site during the works.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The HER Search provided the following information and is summarised below:

The Stews sits within an area of rolling lowland topography based on poorly draining soils with the geology described as a mixed bedrock of mudstone (Cotham Member) sandstone (Westbury Formation) and limestone (Wilmcote Limestone Member) and superficial deposits of alluvium (BGS 2016).

The Stews themselves are a group of ponds present on the 1838 Tithe Map (WSM02143). They are listed together with a cottage, garden and orchard and the existing house may be built over the cottage, which may have medieval origins, The ponds are listed as a monument (WSM 02143).

The historic field pattern in this area is one of piecemeal and parliamentary enclosure of small to medium sized fields including enclosure of strip fields. Later field amalgamation is also present. The settlement pattern includes small clusters of wayside cottages and farmsteads

A Historic England funded project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire also recorded Ward's farm as a 19th century farmstead. Within the site only 1 historic building was recorded, the 19th century farmstead at Ward's Farm (WSM52786), as well as an 18th century boundary marker (WSM35274). Neither of these structures were listed buildings.

The remainder of monument records for the search area describe a medieval landscape filled with agricultural activity evidenced by ridge and furrow, parkland and a medieval deer leap (WSM 35272).

No portable antiquity scheme finds have been recorded in the area.

There has been very little archaeological investigation within the search area aside from a programme of field survey performed across the parish of Hanbury in 1979. This collected a large quantity of roman and medieval pottery as well as recording the ridge and furrow earthworks. This lack of investigation is also reflected in the wider landscape meaning that the survival of archaeology within this search area is relatively unknown. There is however potential for

archaeological features as indicated by the number of earthworks preserved under pasture. Finally the Bow and Seeley Brooks which run through the area have high potential for waterlogged deposits, with a palaeochannel of unknown date also recorded in the area of the Stews (WSM 56548).

4.2 Current land-use

The site was occupied by a former house, which had been demolished prior to works, with surrounding gardens and access tracks. Footings and areas of hardstanding were removed during the watching brief stage.

5 Structural analysis

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

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural strata of a gravelly sand boulder clay was observed in the deeper excavations such as the piling in Trench 1 (109 and 110) and the base of Trench 3 (305), at a depth of 1.50m overlaid with a number of alluvial deposits, consisting of a soft mid brown clay and blue grey clays.

5.1.2 Phase 2: medieval deposits

The cut for a backfilled pond was found in the south-eastern corner of the building footing Trench 1. The pond, which may have medieval origins, is recorded on the modern Ordnance Survey map (Figs 1 and 2) although it is now backfilled. This had been truncated and backfilled with 19th century and later deposits.

5.1.3 Phase 3: post-medieval deposits

The sandstone footings of the Victorian house were observed during groundworks in the area of Trench 1. A spread of Victorian material was also found in pond [111]. Post-medieval pottery was also found within some of the upper alluvial deposits.

5.1.4 Phase 4: modern deposits

The area had a series of modern truncations, with made ground lying above the alluvial clay in all trenches, thought to be to build up the ground due to flooding. There was also modern backfilling and dumping of material in Trench 4 (401) and (405). The concrete pad of the previous house covered Trench 1 prior to works, with modern garden topsoil in the surrounding areas and a road-stone driveway between the barn and the new house to the north of Trench 1 and hardstanding overlaid the areas.

5.2 Artefactual analysis, by C Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 - 3. Relatively few finds were recovered, coming from five stratified contexts. The assemblage included post-medieval and modern pottery, ceramic building material, glass, iron and animal bone.

| period | material class | material subtype | object specific type | count | weight(g) |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| post-medieval | ceramic | earthenware | pot | 8 | 164 |
| | glass | dark green | bottle | 1 | 380 |
| post med/modern | ceramic | earthenware | brick/tile | 10 | 713 |
| | | | tile | 5 | 576 |
| modern | ceramic | earthenware | pot | 7 | 143 |
| | | | tile | 1 | 78 |
| | glass | clear | magnifying glass | 1 | 82 |
| | metal | iron | handle? | 1 | 293 |
| | | | wrench | 1 | 568 |
| undated | bone | animal bone | fragment | 2 | 353 |
| | organic | shell | oyster | 1 | 13 |

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The post-medieval pottery comprised sherds of red ware with black glaze (Fabric 78), and buff wares (Fabric 91) with yellow glaze, slip decoration or brown, manganese streaked glaze. These dated broadly to 1700-1800. The other fabrics dated to the modern period, broadly 1800-2000, but most likely date to the 19th century when the cottage was occupied. This group included sherds of modern china (Fabric 85) some plain and others with transfer-printed, willow pattern or floral decoration, and hand painted blue decoration; and sherds of stoneware (Fabric 81.4). There were no diagnostic forms.

| Broad period | fabric code | Fabric common name | count | weight(g) |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Post-medieval | 78 | Post-medieval red ware | 2 | 18 |
| | 91 | Post-medieval buff wares | 6 | 146 |
| Modern | 81.4 | Miscellaneous late stoneware | 1 | 49 |
| | 85 | Modern china | 6 | 94 |
| total | | | 15 | 307 |

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

Other finds comprised undiagnostic building material; the base of a hand blown bottle in dark green glass, with a marked up-kick and pontil mark, and fairly straight sides; a magnifying lens; an iron wrench and a badly corroded handle, perhaps from a spade. The bottle base was probably produced between c 1720-1800.

| context | material class | material subtype | object specific type | count | weight(g) | start date | end date | tpq date range |
|---------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|------------|----------|----------------|
| 103 | ceramic | earthenware | brick/tile | 4 | 326 | 1700 | 2000 | 1700-2000 |
| 107 | ceramic | earthenware | brick/tile | 4 | 169 | 1700 | 2000 | 1800-1900 |
| | | | pot | 3 | 27 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| 108 | bone | animal bone | fragment | 1 | 327 | | | 1800-1900 |
| | ceramic | earthenware | brick/tile | 1 | 37 | 1700 | 2000 | |
| | | | pot | 2 | 18 | 1600 | 1800 | |
| | | | | 1 | 49 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | | | | 1 | 5 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | | | | 2 | 62 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| | | | | 4 | 26 | 1700 | 1800 | |
| | | | | 1 | 12 | 1750 | 1800 | |
| | | | tile | 1 | 78 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | glass | clear | magnifying glass | 1 | 82 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| | | dark green | bottle | 1 | 380 | 1720 | 1800 | |
| | organic | shell | oyster | 1 | 13 | | | |
| 112 | bone | animal bone | fragment | 1 | 26 | | | 1800-2000 |
| | ceramic | earthenware | brick/tile | 1 | 181 | 1700 | 2000 | |
| | | | pot | 1 | 108 | 1700 | 1800 | |
| | | | tile | 1 | 95 | 1700 | 2000 | |
| | metal | iron | handle? | 1 | 293 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| | | | wrench | 1 | 568 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| 113 | ceramic | earthenware | tile | 1 | 283 | 1700 | 2000 | |
| unstrat | ceramic | earthenware | tile | 3 | 198 | 1700 | 2000 | |

Table 3: Context Dating

5.2.1 Recommendations

In conclusion, no further analysis is required and none of the finds assemblage justify retention.

6 Synthesis

The archaeological watching brief demonstrated that although fish ponds were present on the site, 19th century and later development of the site had truncated and backfilled the previous earthworks. No significant finds, features or deposits were observed during the works. The alluvial deposits that were observed had been impacted by later activity and were considered to have no environmental potential. No evidence of palaeochannel deposits were observed during any of the groundworks.

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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Luke at The Stews, Broughton Green, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (NGR SO 96048 60288; WSM 67364).

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All intrusive groundworks were monitored and the natural ground was observed below various alluvial deposits. One former fish pond was recorded, backfilled with 19th century and later material, and truncated by groundworks of a later date, when the former house was built and the ground was levelled up to prevent flooding. Further modern backfilling and made ground were found to the north of the building plot. No significant archaeological features, layers, structures, horizons, or artefacts were revealed.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr and Mrs Luke, and Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

9 Bibliography

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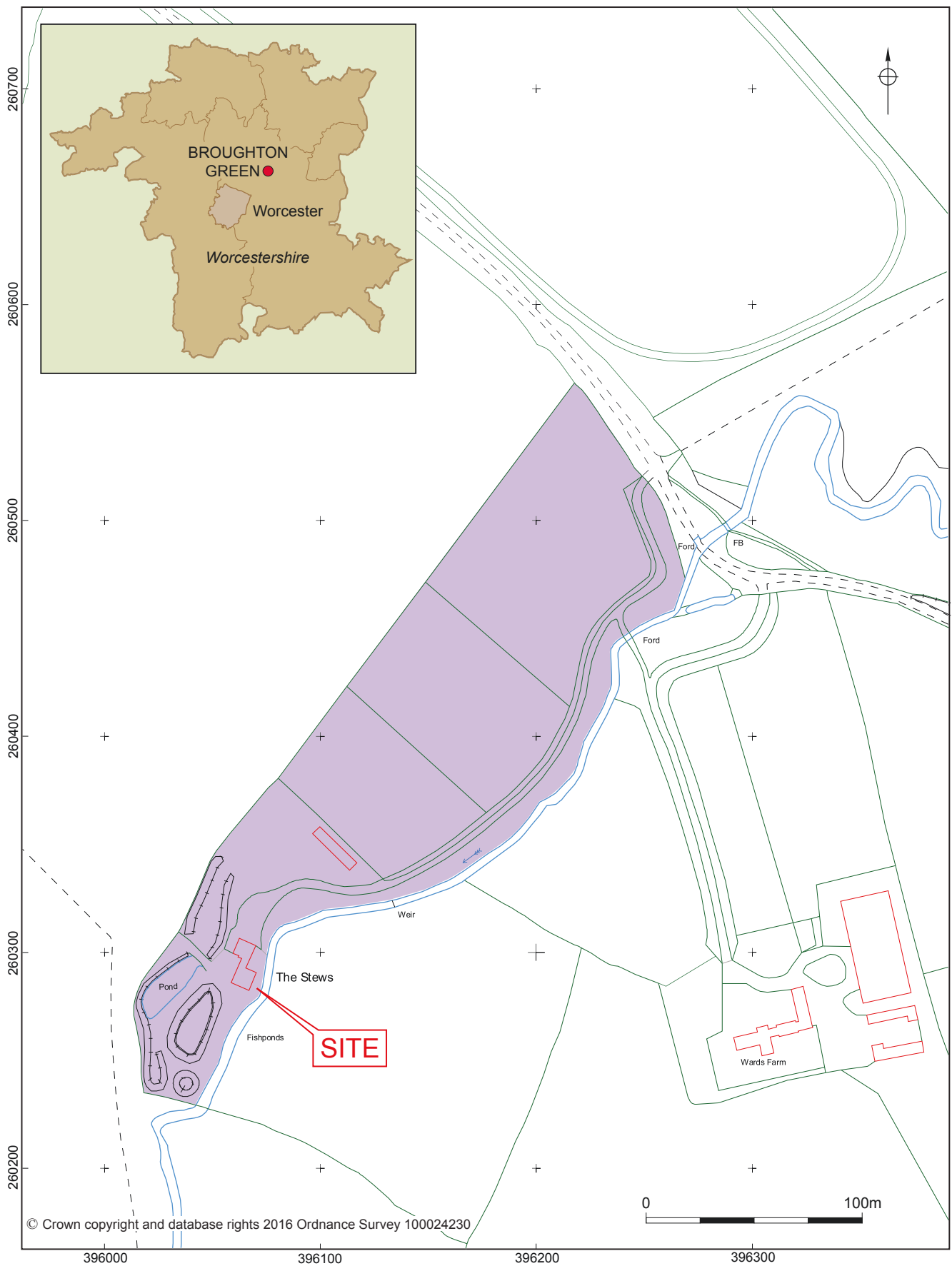
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WA 2015 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at the Stews, Broughton Green, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 25 September 2015, **P4686**

WCC 2010 *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

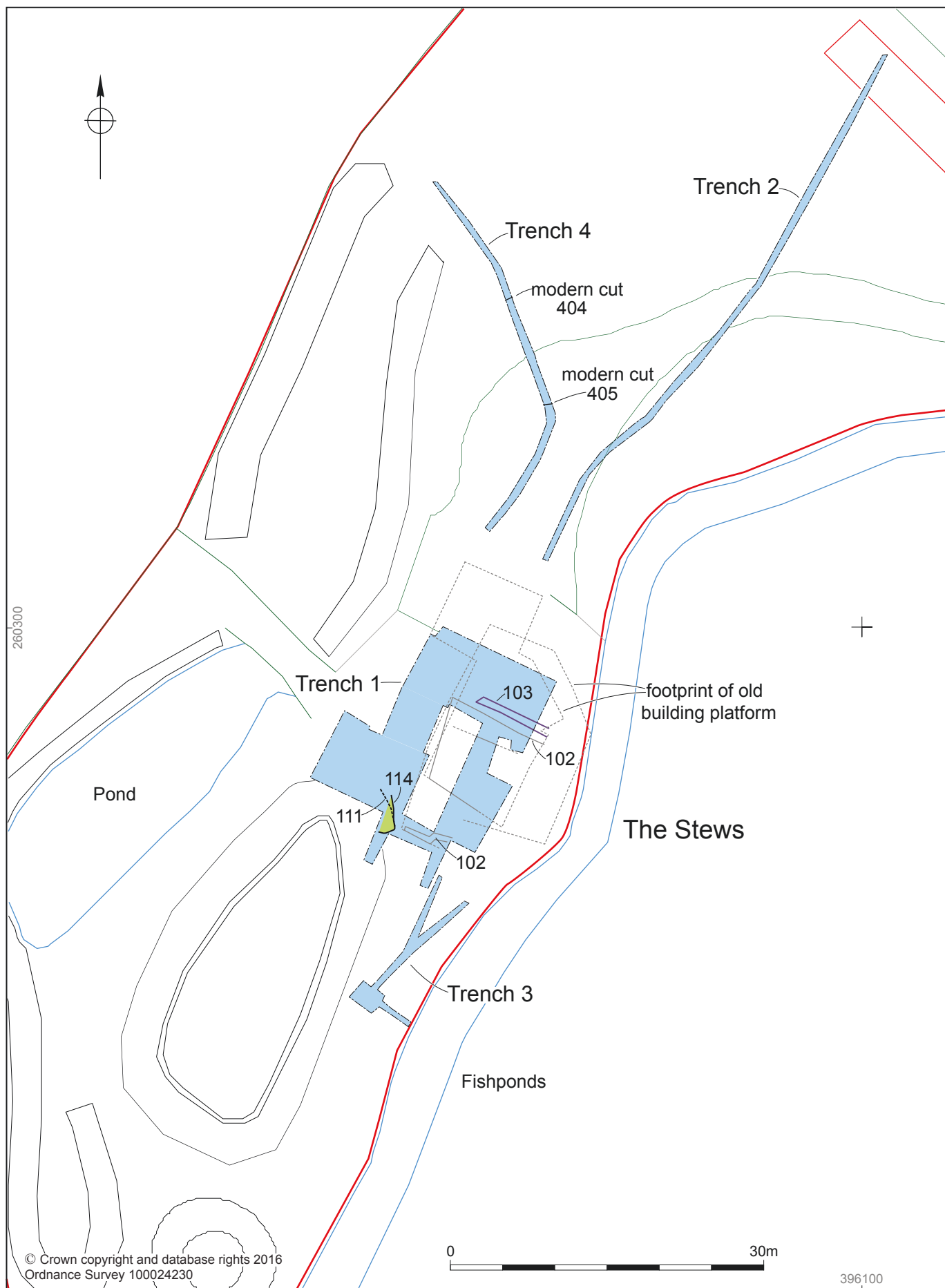
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 during hardstanding and foundation clearance, view north



Plate 2 Trench 1 following hardstanding clearance, showing made ground and alluvium



Plate 3 Made ground and the brown alluvial clay in Trench 1, view north-west

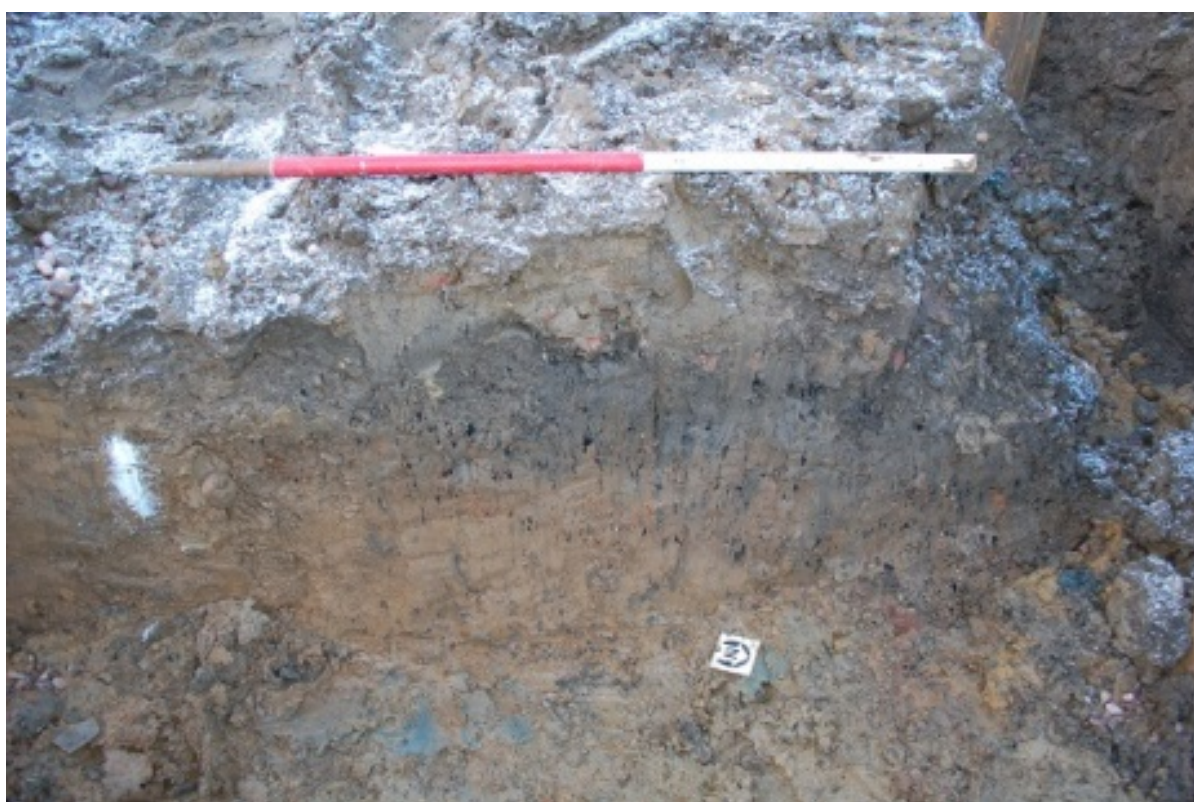


Plate 4 Modern backfill of pond [111] in east facing section of foundation trench



Plate 5 The tip line of a backfilled pond in a west facing section of a foundation trench, view north-east



Plate 6 The north end of foundation trenches in trench 1, showing alluvial clays, view north-west



Plate 7 Trench 2 across driveway, view south-east



Plate 8 Trench 3 location, being excavated, view north-west



Plate 9 Trench 3 north facing section, of alluvial deposits and natural gravels (2 x1m scales)



Plate 10 Trench 4 location, being excavated, view south-east

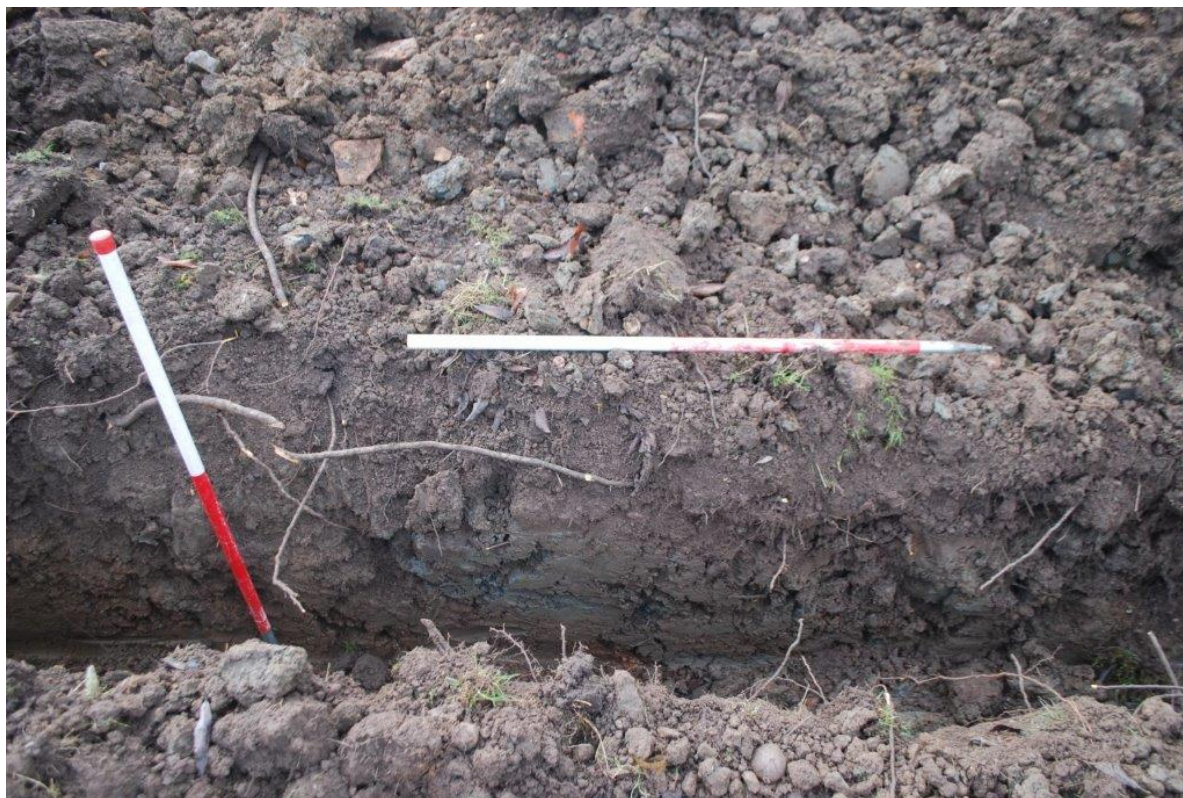


Plate 11 Trench 4 modern cut 404, mixed blue clay and modern debris, north-facing section (2 x 1m scales)



Plate 12 Trench 2 and 4, being excavated, view south

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 30m

Width: 22m

Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

| Context | Feature | Context | Description | Height/ depth | Interpretation |
|---------|--------------|-----------|--|------------------|--|
| 100 | Surface | Layer | Concrete | 0.10 | Concrete slab floor of old building hardstanding |
| 101 | Layer | Layer | Hardcore | 0.30 | Modern made ground of compacted brick rubble hardcore underlay for concrete slab |
| 102 | | Structure | | 0.60 | Modern 20th C building footings of brick and concrete. |
| 103 | | Structure | | 0.60 | Sandstone footing of Victorian house |
| 104 | Layer | Layer | Soft mid greyish brown silty clay | 0.60 + | Alluvial clay |
| 105 | | Cut | | 0.60 | Foundation cut for sandstone footing 103 |
| 106 | | Cut | | 0.60 | Foundation cut for modern footings 102 |
| 107 | Layer | Layer | Moderately compact mid brownish grey clay silt | 0.70 | Made ground |
| 108 | Layer | Layer | Moderately compact dark blackish grey sandy clay | 3.10 | Made ground - Victorian backfill of pond |
| 109 | Natural | Layer | Loose light yellowish brown clay | 1.00 | Sandy gravelly clay natural ground |
| 110 | Natural | Layer | Compact mid orange sandy clay | 1.00 | Sandy gravelly clay natural ground |
| 111 | Modern Layer | Cut | | 0.70 | Modern truncation cut through deposits - 1980s backfill |
| 112 | Modern Layer | Fill | Moderately compact mid brownish grey silty clay | 0.40-0.70 | Modern backfill of modern truncation containing metalwork cbm fragments and animal bone. |
| 113 | | Fill | Loose mid orangey red silty clay | 0.30 | Rubble spread at base of cut 111, distinct dumping event |
| 114 | | Cut | | 1.20 | Cut of medieval? Pond with Victorian and later backfilling. Truncated by modern cut 111 |
| 115 | Layer | Layer | Soft mid brown silty clay | 0.80 | Redeposited alluvium containing cbm and charcoal |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------|---------------------------------|------|--|
| 116 | Modern Layer | Layer | Friable dark brownish grey clay | 1.00 | Modern disturbance seen in section of disturbed natural with cbm and stone fragments. Dated to 1980's development. |
|-----|--------------|-------|---------------------------------|------|--|

Trench 2

Length: 100m Width: 0.40m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

| Context | Feature | Context | Description | Height/depth | Interpretation |
|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 200 | Surface | Layer | Friable Tarmac roadstone | 0.30-0.60 | Modern layers of grey orange and black road stone with occasional brick hardcore. Modern |
| 201 | Layer | Layer | Firm mid brownish yellow clay | 0.80 | Alluvial clay to north of road |
| 202 | Layer | Layer | Soft mid blueish grey clay | 0.25 | Blue grey Alluvial clay with modern disturbance |
| 203 | Natural | Layer | Soft mid brown clay | 0.40 + | Alluvial clay - same as 104 |

Trench 3

Length: 25m Width: 0.40m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

| Context | Feature | Context | Description | Height/depth | Interpretation |
|---------|--------------|---------|--|--------------|---|
| 300 | Topsoil | Layer | Friable dark brownish black silty clay | 0.15 | Modern garden topsoil in grassed area of trench 3 |
| 301 | Modern Layer | Layer | Hardcore | 0.15 | Modern Hardcore around house |
| 302 | Layer | Layer | Soft mid brown silty clay | 0.15 | Alluvial clay - same as 104 |
| 303 | Layer | Layer | Soft mid blueish grey clay | 0.30 | Blue grey alluvial clay showing waterlogging |
| 304 | Layer | Layer | Firm dark purpleish brown sandy clay | 0.70 | Alluvial clay |
| 305 | Layer | Layer | Compact mid orange sandy clay | 0.30 + | Orange compact clay sand and gravels - natural strata - same as 109 |

Trench 4

Length: 40m

Width: 0.40m

Orientation: North-west to south-

Context summary:

| Context | Feature | Context | Description | Height/ depth | Interpretation |
|---------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 400 | Layer | Layer | Friable mid orangey brown silty clay | 0.30 | Topsoil with frequent tree roots north west of development |
| 401 | Modern Layer | Fill | Firm mid blueish grey silty clay | 0.50 | Redeposited alluvial clay with brick, stone and polystyrene |
| 402 | Layer | Layer | Compact mid orangey brown clay | 0.50 | Alluvial deposit |
| 403 | Modern Layer | Layer | Hardcore | 0.40 | Road stone and hardcore-same as 200 |
| 404 | Construction Cut | Cut | | 0.50 | Modern cut of backfilled material north west of building backfilling a depression - 1980s |
| 405 | Modern Layer | Layer | Firm mid blueish grey clay | 0.30 | Disturbed blue grey alluvium with occasional brick, tar and stone, between 403 and 402 |

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 67364)

The archive consists of:

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 11 | Context records AS1 |
| 3 | Field progress reports AS2 |
| 2 | Photographic records AS3 |
| 133 | Digital photographs |
| 1 | Drawing number catalogues AS4 |
| 1 | Scale drawings |
| 1 | Context number catalogues AS5 |
| 1 | Sample number catalogues AS18 |
| 5 | Trench record sheets AS41 |
| 1 | CD-rom/DVD |
| 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 67364 (event HER number)

P4686

Artefacts

| period | material class | object specific type | start date | end date | count | weight(g) | specialist report? (note 2) | key assemblage? (note 3) |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| post-medieval | ceramic | pot | 1600 | 1800 | 2 | 18 | yes | no |
| | | | 1700 | 1800 | 5 | 134 | yes | no |
| | | | 1750 | 1800 | 1 | 12 | yes | no |
| | dark green glass | bottle | 1720 | 1800 | 1 | 380 | no | no |
| post med/modern | ceramic | brick/ tile | 1700 | 2000 | 10 | 713 | no | no |
| | | tile | 1700 | 2000 | 5 | 576 | no | no |
| modern | ceramic | pot | 1800 | 1900 | 5 | 81 | yes | no |
| | | | 1800 | 2000 | 2 | 62 | yes | no |
| | | tile | 1800 | 1900 | 1 | 78 | no | no |
| | clear glass | magnifying glass | 1800 | 2000 | 1 | 82 | no | no |
| | iron | handle? | 1800 | 2000 | 1 | 293 | no | no |
| | iron | wrench | 1800 | 2000 | 1 | 568 | no | no |
| undated | animal bone | fragment | | | 2 | 353 | no | no |
| undated | shell | oyster | | | 1 | 13 | no | no |

Notes

- 1) 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 15th 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 | |

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.
3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.
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