

# Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Crest Hill, Harvington



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<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Report</b>	
<b>1 Background</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Reasons for the project	3
1.2 Planning background	3
<b>2 Aims</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Methods</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Personnel	4
3.2 Documentary research	4
3.3 List of sources consulted	4
3.4 Other methods	5
3.5 Impact assessment criteria	5
<b>4 The application site</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Location and size	7
4.2 Topography, geology and soils	7
4.3 Current land-use	7
4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character	7
<b>5 Heritage assets</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 Designated heritage assets	7
5.2 Undesignated heritage assets	8
5.3 Potential heritage assets	10
<b>6 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1 Undesignated assets	10
6.1.1 Sites of archaeological interest	10
<b>7 The impact of the development</b>	<b>11</b>
7.1 Unknown impacts	11
<b>8 Recommendations</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9 Publication summary</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10 Acknowledgements</b>	<b>12</b>



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## **Desk-based assessment of land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire**

Author Elizabeth Connolly

### **Summary**

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire (504866, 238023) to form part of an application to Wychavon District Council for outline permission to construct up to 85 houses.

The site is located south-east of the Village of Harvington, east of the junction of Crest Hill Road and Anchor Lane, on a south-east facing slope. An area 500m in diameter was studied as part of this assessment. A heritage assessment, being prepared separately, will consider impacts on the setting of heritage assets.

Permission has been granted for the construction of 9 houses in the west of the site for which an archaeological evaluation has recently taken place, confirming that no archaeology survives in this area and also within an area of orchard in the south-west of the site.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM15423; a probable post-medieval marl quarry and WSM 56925; an area of Palaeolithic potential).

Bedrock across the site belongs to the Mercian mudstone group and superficial deposits belonging to Ailstone member (Warwickshire Avon) sand and gravel are known to extend into the north and north western parts of the site. Superficial deposits either side of the site are recorded as having the potential for the survival of Palaeolithic material. Finds in antiquity from an unknown location within the Parish of Harvington include two Acheulean hand axes, while, prior to 1968, a find of an upper molar of *M. Primigenius* (Woolly Mammoth) was made at a quarry immediately north of the site.

There is evidence on the HER from within the study area of Prehistoric cropmarks as well as the find in a parish boundary ditch of a Bronze Age axe head.

The Medieval village of Harvington is located within 50m of the proposed development site. References to the village date from the 8<sup>th</sup> century and it mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. Previous evaluation adjacent to the current development site, as well as the recent evaluation of the site close to the medieval village suggests that the village did not extend beyond Anchor Lane, which runs immediately west of the site. Cartographic evidence suggests that prior to enclosure the site formed part of the open field system.

During the post-medieval period quarrying took place in and near the site and in the early 1970s a large amount of marl was removed from the centre of the site to provide material for the construction of the Harvington by-pass. This meant, in effect, that a hill was reduced to a steep slope at this location.

Due to the possibility of the survival of deposits dating to the Palaeolithic and later prehistoric or Roman periods at the site, a programme of archaeological evaluation and watching brief is recommended.



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## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire (504866, 238023). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr S Taylor (the Client). An application to Wychavon District Council for outline permission to construct up to 85 houses on a site in Harvington is in preparation (14/01788) and correspondence with Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer at Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service has established that a desk based assessment of the site will be required to form part of this application. A heritage assessment is being prepared by Dr David Hickie which will consider impacts on the setting of heritage assets.

Permission has been granted by Wychavon District Council for the construction of 9 houses in the north-western portion of the site and an evaluation of this part of the site has recently been undertaken here and within an area of orchard in the south-west of the site. No archaeological remains were found during the evaluation.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM15423; a probably post-medieval marl quarry and WSM 56925; an area of Palaeolithic potential).

The project conforms to a project proposal (including detailed specification) produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (IfA 2012), relevant EIA guidance and Legislation, *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM66252.

#### 1.2 Planning background

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

In Paragraph ENV 10 of the Wychavon Local Plan, 2006

([http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/documents/10586/157693/wdc-planning-lp-plan-local\\_plan2-for-web.pdf](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/documents/10586/157693/wdc-planning-lp-plan-local_plan2-for-web.pdf)) it is stated:

*Proposals for development affecting national, regional or locally important archaeological sites and their settings whether scheduled or unscheduled, will only be permitted where proposals can demonstrate that the archaeological interest is capable of being preserved in situ and without damage to its setting.*

*If this is not merited, where the reasons for the proposal outweigh the intrinsic importance of the site/remains or the setting of the feature and there is no reasonable alternative site or solution to accommodate the development proposed, then the developer must agree to an appropriate level of investigation and recording prior to and during development and the subsequent analysis and publication of results and curation of remains.*

## 2 Aims

The general aims of this assessment are to:

- establish the nature and extent of the heritage assets;

- assesses the significance of the heritage assets within the application site and affected by the proposed development;
- assess the impact of the application on the heritage assets.

The specific aims of this desk-based assessment are to:

- recommend mitigation measures to the Client, to offset detrimental effects of the development.

A heritage assessment being carried out by Dr David Hickie will consider the setting of heritage assets within the study area.

### **3 Methods**

#### **3.1 Personnel**

The assessment was undertaken by Elizabeth Connolly MA; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 1999. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton.

#### **3.2 Documentary research**

All relevant information on the history of the site and past land-use was collected and assessed. Records of known archaeological sites and monuments were obtained from Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). Historic maps and published sources were consulted at Worcestershire Record Office. A land registry map showing the area of the large-scale removal of soil from the site in the 1960s was provided by the client.

The results are mapped on Figure 2 and the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. Event records have been omitted where this would repeat information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment. HER references have been used throughout this assessment.

#### **3.3 List of sources consulted**

##### *Cartographic sources*

- Harvington inclosure map, 1787; Conjectural Plan by JD Schooling, September 1965, based on the enrolled copy award with conjectural terrier. Scale 6 inches to one mile. (Figure 4)
- Harvington parish map, 1838 (Figure 5)
- Ordnance Survey Worcestershire, first edition, 6 inch sheet XLII NE, 1884 (Figure 6)
- Ordnance Survey Warwickshire, 6 inch sheet XL VIII NE, 1903 (Figure 7)
- Ordnance Survey Warwickshire, 6 inch sheet XL VIII NE, 1926 (Figure 8)

##### *Documentary sources*

- British Geological Society, Geology of Britain viewer, accessed at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> on 11 December 2014
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- Dalwood, C H & Woodiwiss, S G. 1992 *Archaeological Assessment of A435 Norton Lenchwick Bypass: in Harvington and Norton and Lenchwick* Archaeological Service - Worcestershire County Council.
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010 *PPS5 Planning for the historic environment: historic environment planning practice guide*, Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Culture, Media and Sport/English Heritage
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- IfA 2012 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists, updated 16 November 2012
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- Walsh, A and Lovett, P, 2014 *Archaeological excavation and watching brief at land off King's Road, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcestershire* WA report 1977
- WA 2014 *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological desk-based assessment at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 19 November 2014, ref **P4474**
- 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

### 3.4 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 9 December 2014.

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

### 3.5 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

**Major Beneficial:** Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset of the highest order (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. Designated assets will include scheduled monuments, grade I/II\* listed buildings, grade I/II\* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value). It may also be in better revealing a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area's significance.

<p><b>Beneficial:</b> Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of improvement will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value).</p>
<p><b>Not Significant:</b> Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.</p>
<p><b>Minor Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Moderate Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Major Adverse:</b> Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or harm to a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p> <p>Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm or loss will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Severe Adverse:</b> Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or the loss of a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p>
<p><b>Unknown:</b> Where there is insufficient information to determine either significance or impact for any heritage asset, or where a heritage asset is likely to exist but this has not been established, or where there is insufficient evidence for the absence of a heritage asset. For instance where further information will enable the planning authority to make an informed decision.</p>

Table 1: Impact assessment criteria for heritage asset

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## 4 The application site

### 4.1 Location and size

The study area included the application site (Fig 1), though heritage assets were considered within 500m of the site in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context. The site is approximately 3.7ha in area. Harvington is located just inside Worcestershire, close to the County boundary with Warwickshire and c 5 kilometers north-west of Evesham.

The village of Harvington is on a gentle rise, overlooking the valley of the river Avon to the south. The A46 runs to the south of Harvington, between the river Avon, which flows c800m to the south-east, and the village. The site is located south-east of the junction of Crest Hill Road and Anchor Lane on a south-east facing slope. The land falls steeply to the south and sharply above the former railway and station. Bramley Close, a close of three houses built in the late 1990s, overlooks the site from the west, while further to the south of the site four Victorian houses stand on the northern side of Anchor Lane. A group of brick built houses of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century stand on the northern side of Crest Hill road to the west of these are more modern dwellings.

### 4.2 Topography, geology and soils

Bedrock across the site belongs to the Mercia mudstone group; formed 200-251 million years ago in the Triassic period. In the north-western portion of the site there are superficial deposits belonging to Ailstone member (Warwickshire Avon) sand and gravel, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period.

### 4.3 Current land-use

The development site is currently divided into four fields (see Figure 1). This field to the north west was at the time of the site visit (prior to archaeological evaluation) under a heavy growth of brambles and weeds (Plate 1). The small field to the south is currently an orchard (Plate 2). A larger field to the east (labelled as belonging to Mr Byrd) is under rough pasture (Plate 3) as is a further field to the north-east of this (belonging to Mr Middleton) (Plate 4). The field in the north-east of the plan (belonging to Mr Rogers) does not form part of the development site.

In the early 1970s work on the Harvington bypass involved the removal of significant quantities of soil/marl from a hill at the site of the proposed development (Figure 3, see Plate 3). The soil removal at this location has meant in effect that the hill was removed, and now the land falls steeply towards the south-east.

### 4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character

Historic Landscape Characterisation for the development site is HWR13385; 'Fields and enclosed land; modern sub-division'; with a previous characterisation being 'Orchard/horticulture'; 'allotment'.

## 5 Heritage assets

### 5.1 Designated heritage assets

There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site. Within the wider study area there is one Conservation Area, one Grade I Listed Building and there are twenty Grade II Listed Buildings. There are no other designated assets within the study area.

Details of all designated assets within the study area can be found in Appendix 1.

The Church of St James (WSM02783) is a Grade I Listed Building c 90m west of the proposed development site (Plate 5). Elements of the architecture of the church of St James suggest a pre-Conquest date for the building (VCH 1913), but the earliest detail, in the tower, dates to the first quarter of the 12th Century. The whole church was rebuilt early in the 14th Century, and restored in the 19th Century.

The eastern extent of the Harvington Conservation Area lies c 30m to the south-west of the site. The Conservation Area encompasses the medieval centre of Harvington and its boundary in the vicinity of the proposed development site is Anchor Lane. The boundaries of the Conservation Area are currently under review and it is being considered to extend these to include properties on the northern side of Anchor Lane as well as the area of orchard which occupies part of the development site (Burgin, JP, 2014).

Manor Farm (WSM05864) and the Dovecote (WSM02838) associated with Manor Farm are within 80m of the proposed development site. References to a manor at Harvington date from 799, when Balthun, Abbot of Kempsey gave King Coenwolf of Mercia 12 'manentes' (tenants) at 'Hereford' in return for privileges for his house (Hereford is taken to mean Harvington in this context). Deneberht, Bishop of Worcester (798-822) gave 2 cassates of land at Harvington to Eanswyth for her life on condition that if she survived him it should pass to the church of Worcester after her death.

## **5.2 Undesignated heritage assets**

Details of all undesignated assets within the study area can be found in Appendix 1.

### **Palaeolithic**

Within the search area two areas of Palaeolithic potential have been identified; based on superficial geology. Ailstone member sands and gravels (WSM56925) are recorded in the north-western part of the site from which an upper M3 molar tooth (WSM49815) of *Mammuthus.Primigenius* (Woolly Mammoth) was found prior to 1968 in a gravel pit (WSM15422), immediately north of the site. The tooth is dated to Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Stage 2.

The second area of Palaeolithic potential is WSM56930, the Bretford member which can be found c 300m to the east of the site. HER event WSM15460 records surface finds of two Acheulian hand axes from Harvington dated to Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Stage 2. The actual date and location of the finds are unknown.

### **Prehistoric/Bronze Age**

Several probable Prehistoric sites have been identified through cropmarks within the study area; ring ditch (WSM02785) c 500m south of the proposed development site; and complex (WSM33756) which lies c 500m to the south east of the site. This comprises a large rectangular enclosure (100m x 50m) double ditched on north and west sides. The eastern side is interrupted by a ringditch. There is a possible trackway leading to northwest along with other smaller enclosures.

Cropmarks (WSM33756) of enclosures of potentially Bronze Age date have been recorded on the HER in the parish of Harvington, c 500m east of the site. A stray find of a Bronze Age axe (MSN15460) is recorded on the HER. No location has been given for this find, but it may be the same as Event WSM02781 a Bronze Age socketed axehead found in the parish boundary ditch, between Hartington and Salford, c 500m north-east of the site.

### **Roman/Pre-Conquest**

The only Roman reference in the HER is to a field name; 'Small Moor Close' (WSM31919), c 400m south of the proposed development site, is suggestive of a Roman or pre-Conquest association.

### **Medieval**

The proposed development site is located 60m to the east of the medieval village of Harvington (WSM15419) (Plate 6). References to the village date from 799 and it is also mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. A charter purporting to have been given by King Edgar in 964 caused manors to the extent of 300 hides belonging to the church of Worcester to be rearranged to form a triple hundred to be known as Oswaldslow. By the Domesday survey in 1086, by the testimony of

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the whole county, the church of Worcester held a hundred called Oswaldslow, containing 300 hides which the bishop held by ancient custom.

Several 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century houses survive in the core of the village. Evaluation (Robson and Wychbold, 1998) immediately adjacent to the site suggested that Anchor Lane defined the eastern edge of Harvington village.

### **Undated**

A potential palaeochannel (WSM56467) is recorded on the HER c 500m to the east of the proposed development site.

### **Post Medieval**

A marl pit (WSM15423) probably post-medieval in date is described as shown on the conjectural inclosure map of 1787 in a former archaeological report (Woodiwiss and Dalwood, 1992). This could not be identified on the map in the course of this project. The marl pit as identified would be located within the proposed development site, to the west, within the area for which permission has been granted to construct 9 houses, and in which evaluation has already taken place (Steve Taylor, 2014 pers comm).

The site is depicted as fields south of a public road and north-east of another road on the conjectural inclosure map of 1787 (Figure 4). A rectangular field which fronts onto the public road towards Abbots Salford in the north-eastern part of the site is subdivided in two, with both subdivisions being recorded in the terrier as 'Croftland Fg'(presumably Furlong) , and awarded to Elizabeth Marshall. Another field fronting onto the public road and along the road to the south-west (known now as Anchor Lane) is indicated as 'Inward Piece, Croftland Fg', awarded to Elizabeth Marshall and Thos. The church and manor are both indicated on this map to the south-west of the site. The field pattern displayed in the inclosure map suggests that the site lay within an area of medieval open field agriculture prior to the insertion of the road (Robson and Wychbold, 1998).

On the 1838 map of the Parish of Harvington (Figure 5), the site is shown as a squared-off piece of ground between the two roads, divided into two fields. To the north of the site a triangular plot is depicted on the opposite side of the road, with several small plots to the east of this. The village of Harvington is depicted as having its main concentration to the west and north-west of the site on the other side of Anchor Lane; the buildings of the Coach and Horses Public House are evident at the crossroads, although they are not labelled as such.

On the Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition map (Figure 6), the rectangular field has been bisected by a railway, with the station being depicted at the foot of a steep slope to the south-east of the site. Houses are depicted immediately to the south of the site, north of Anchor Lane, among trees, or orchards. In the north east of the site some of the distinctive square edged field boundary remains, partially a footpath, but with some mature trees depicted. Some of this boundary continues south of the railway. Much of the area of Harvington is depicted as orchard or horticulture. WSM15422 is marked to the north of the site as 'old gravel pit', within a roughly triangular plot fronting south onto the road.

On the 1903 OS map (Figure 7), the proposed development site is shown as under allotments. The site is shown as two fields, with the larger triangular field fronting onto Anchor Lane and Crest Hill Road, and a longer rectangular field to the east of this. The buildings to the south of the site are no longer shown with mature trees. Three new buildings are depicted to the south west of the site.

On the 1926 OS map (Figure 8), some houses have been built north east of the old gravel pit. Development in the village has advanced somewhat along the road to the north towards Harrington Cross.

On the modern map (not depicted), the A46 runs c150m to the south-east of the site. A minor road comes from the south west and skirts round the south and east of the site, and is joined to the north east of the site by Crest Hill road to continue onto Abbots Salford. Modern fishing ponds have been created to the north east of the site.

Ponds of probable post-medieval date have been recorded within the study area..

### 5.3 Potential heritage assets

The site's location on a south-east facing slope overlooking the valley of the river Avon suggests that there is a moderate potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological deposits particularly from the prehistoric period. Evidence of archaeological deposits from the prehistoric and Roman periods is known on the gravel terraces of the Avon through cropmarks and archaeological investigations (e.g Walsh and Lovett 2014). It is considered that there is a moderate potential for the survival of heritage assets from these periods at this location.

Cartographic evidence from the post-medieval period seems to suggest that the nucleated aspect of the village of Harvington was unchanged from the medieval period. The potential for heritage assets to survive at the site of the proposed development from this period is considered to be low.

## 6 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets

### 6.1 Undesignated assets

#### 6.1.1 Sites of archaeological interest

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

The site occupies an advantageous location on a gentle slope to the south-east overlooking the valley of the River Avon. Evidence from the wider study area including the existence of a possible palaeochannel suggests that it was conducive to prehistoric settlement.

The presence of Aislton member sand and gravel within the site itself, as well as Palaeolithic finds close to the site and within the wider study area suggest that the potential for the survival of Palaeolithic deposits at this location is **low to moderate**.

While evaluation in the vicinity of the site and within the site to date has demonstrated no evidence for the survival of archaeological deposits within the western part of the site (Robson and Wychbold, 1998 and Steve Taylor, 2014, pers comm), the nature of such remains can be sporadic, and so there remains a possibility for sub-surface archaeological remains of this period in the north-western area of the site.

Cropmarks recognised from aerial photographs and archaeological investigations have demonstrated that the gravel terraces of the Avon Valley were extensively settled in the later prehistoric and Roman periods and it is therefore considered that there is a **moderate** potential for the survival of prehistoric sub-surface remains at the site, including along the northern boundary and in the east of the site (in Mr Middleton's field) (Plates 7 and 8).

Despite the site's proximity to the medieval village of Harvington, it appears that the site's use was agricultural during this period. Cartographic evidence suggests that Crest Hill Road is of post medieval construction and there is no evidence on the ground of medieval settlement at the site. It is therefore considered that there is **low** potential for medieval and post-medieval settlement activity to exist on the site, and **moderate** potential for agricultural remains to exist on the site.

##### *Relative importance and physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site*

The removal of marl from the hill (in Mr Byrd's field) for the Harvington by-pass, would have destroyed archaeological deposits at this location. However the ground level in the northern part of the field was not affected by this spoil removal, and a potential for the survival of archaeological

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deposits along the northern limit of the site and in the field to the north (Mr Middleton's field) remains.

Evaluation adjacent to the proposed development site as well as in the western part of the site (Robson and Wychbold, 1998, Steve Taylor, 2014, pers comm) has demonstrated that archaeological deposits do not survive in this area. However, the Palaeolithic deposits by their nature survive sporadically and a moderate potential remains in the north and north-west of the site for the survival of archaeological deposits of this date. Palaeolithic remains are rare and the survival of assets from this period would be significant.

## 7 The impact of the development

The proposed development will affect the following heritage assets and the impact has been categorised as described in Table 1.

There are two heritage assets within the development area listed on the HER.

A marl pit (WSM15423) is dated in the HER to the post medieval period. It is described as being marked on the 1787 inclosure map (Woodiwiss and Dalwood, 1992), however this was not verified during this project. This feature was not visible during the site visit, as the ground is under heavy bramble growth. It is not known at the time of writing whether the recent evaluation in this area uncovered the remains of this feature. Marl pits are not significant archaeological features and the potential impact to this asset is considered to be **Minor Adverse**.

Ailstone member sands and gravels (WSM56925) are recorded in the north-western part of the site. The member itself does not have an inherent archaeological significance, rather a potential to contain deposits from the Palaeolithic period and therefore groundworks related to development at this location are considered likely to have a **Not Significant** effect on the superficial deposits. Potential deposits are considered in section 7.1 below.

### 7.1 Unknown impacts

It is considered that there is a potential for the survival of buried heritage assets in the northern part of the site. These may survive as individual artefacts or ecofacts, as cut features (pits and ditches) or structures. Groundworks associated with residential development including ground reduction, excavation of foundations and service runs, could potentially have a **moderate adverse** effect on such assets without archaeological mitigation.

## 8 Recommendations

The assessment has identified the potential for the survival of Palaeolithic deposits in the northern part of the site. It is therefore recommended that all works associated with the development in these locations be subject to an archaeological watching brief.

The assessment has also identified a potential for the survival of later prehistoric or Roman assets in the north and east of the site (Mr Middleton's field). It is recommended that archaeological evaluation be carried out at this location prior to construction.

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the Worcestershire Record Office and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

## 9 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.

*A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire (504866, 238023) to form part of an application to Wychavon District Council for outline permission to construct up to 85 houses.*

*The site is located south-east of the Village of Harvington, east of the junction of Crest Hill Road and Anchor Lane, on a south-east facing slope. An area 500m in diameter was studied as part of this assessment. A heritage assessment, being prepared separately, will consider impacts on the setting of heritage assets.*

*Permission has been granted for the construction of 9 houses in the west of the site for which an archaeological evaluation has recently taken place, confirming that no archaeology survives in this area and also within an area of orchard in the south-west of the site.*

*The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM15423; a probable post-medieval marl quarry and WSM 56925; an area of Palaeolithic potential).*

*Bedrock across the site belongs to the Mercian mudstone group and superficial deposits belonging to Ailstone member (Warwickshire Avon) sand and gravel are known to extend into the north and north western parts of the site. Superficial deposits either side of the site are recorded as having the potential for the survival of Palaeolithic material. Finds in antiquity from an unknown location within the Parish of Harvington include two Acheulean hand axes, while, prior to 1968, a find of an upper molar of *M. Primigenius* (Woolly Mammoth) was made at a quarry immediately north of the site.*

*There is evidence on the HER from within the study area of Prehistoric cropmarks as well as the find in a parish boundary ditch of a Bronze Age axe head.*

*The Medieval village of Harvington is located within 50m of the proposed development site. References to the village date from the 8<sup>th</sup> century and it mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. Previous evaluation adjacent to the current development site, as well as the recent evaluation of the site close to the medieval village suggests that the village did not extend beyond Anchor Lane, which runs immediately west of the site. Cartographic evidence suggests that prior to enclosure the site formed part of the open field system.*

*During the post-medieval period quarrying took place in and near the site and in the early 1970s a large amount of marl was removed from the centre of the site to provide material for the construction of the Harvington by-pass. This meant, in effect, that a hill was reduced to a steep slope at this location.*

*Due to the possibility of the survival of deposits dating to the Palaeolithic and later prehistoric or Roman periods at the site, a programme of archaeological evaluation and watching brief is recommended.*



## **10 Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Steve Taylor (the client) and Mike Glyde, Planning Archaeologist with Worcestershire Council.



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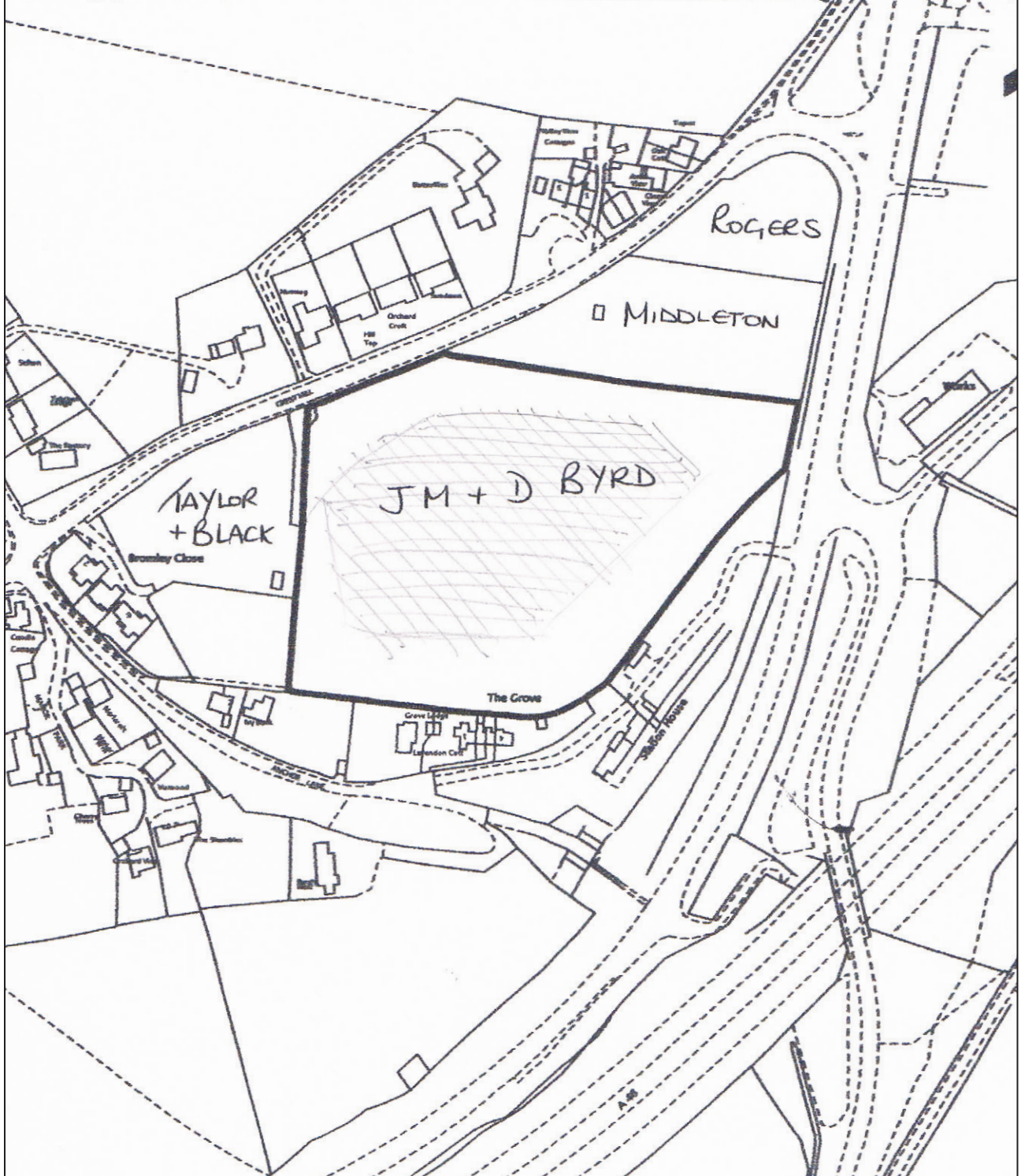

**HARVINGTON CP**

Land Registry  
Official copy of  
title plan

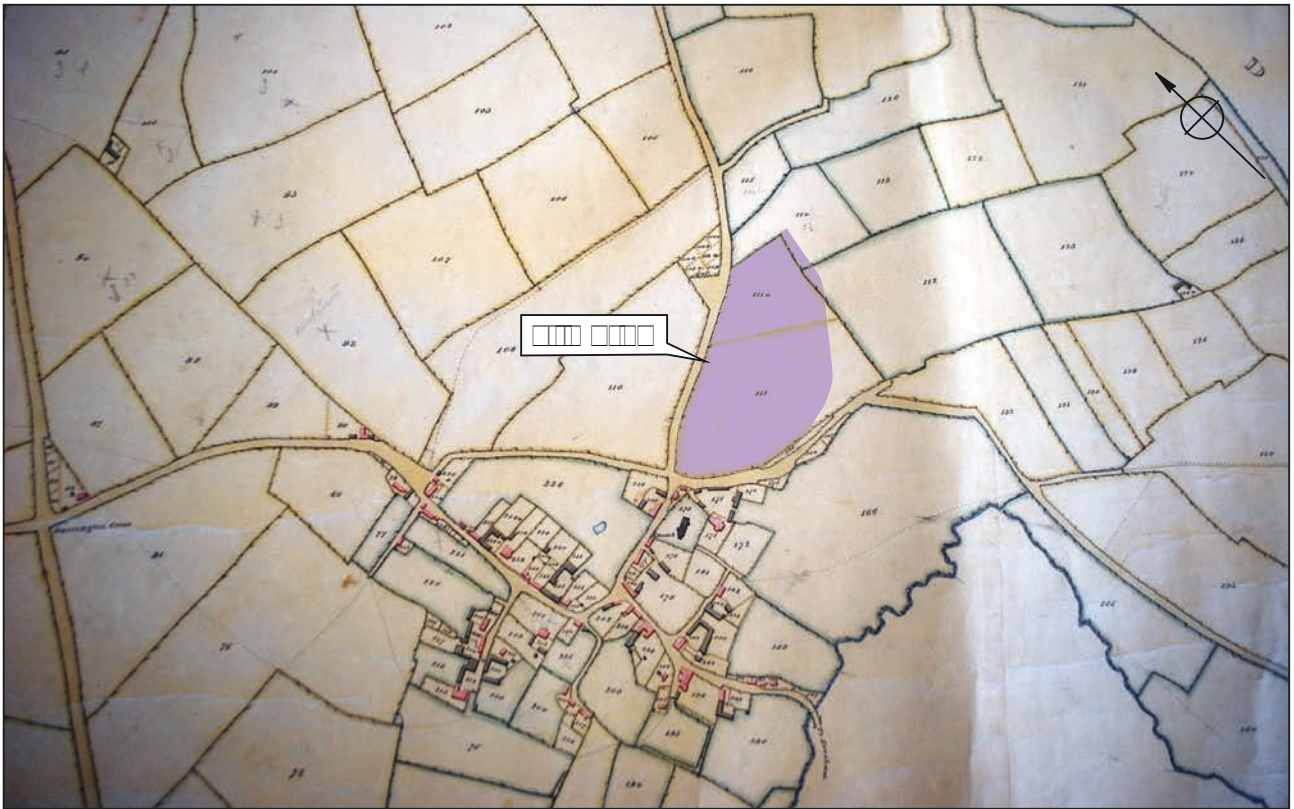
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Administrative area **Worcestershire : Wychavon**



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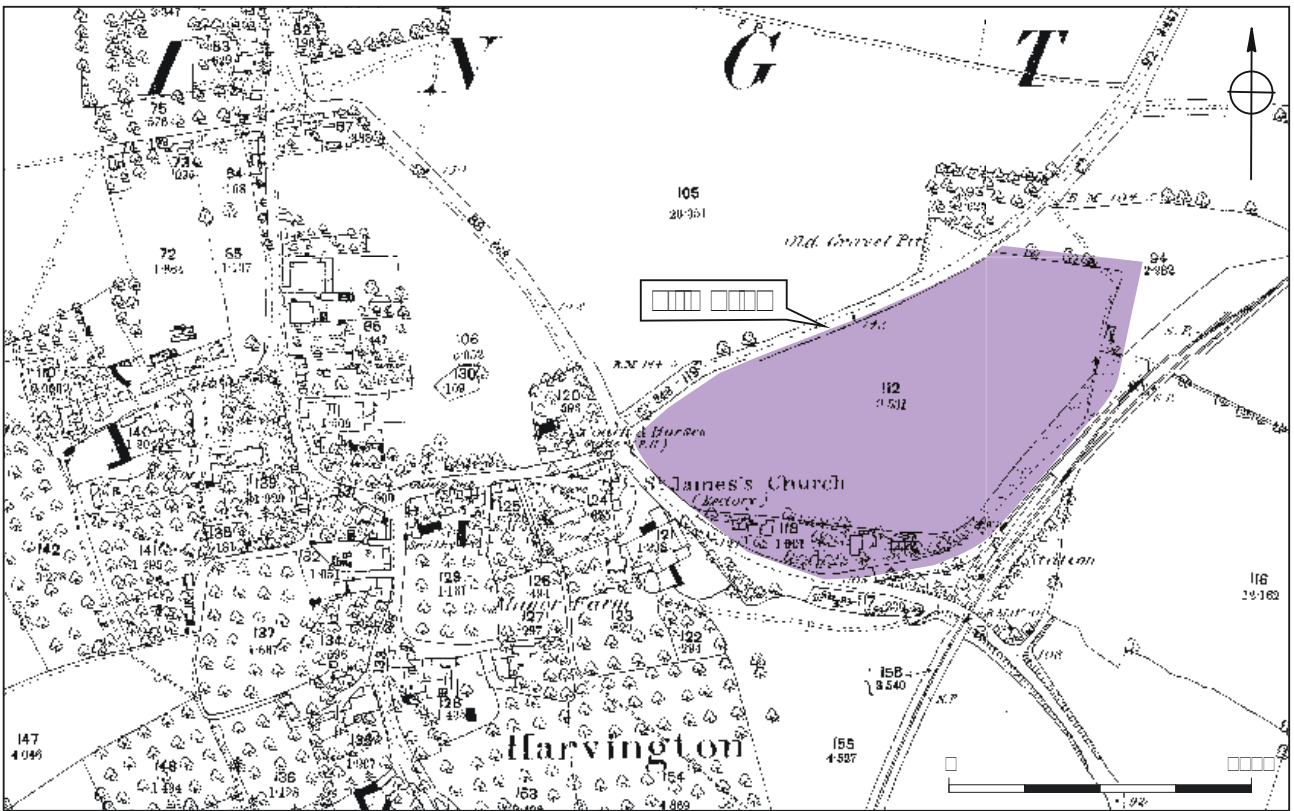






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**Plates**



*Plate 1 View east across the site from Bramley Close*



*Plate 2 View east across the Orchard*





*Plate 3 View south-east downhill, showing area of marl removal*



*Plate 4 View east over Mr Middleton's field*



*Plate 5 View west towards the village of Harvington, across the orchard*



*Plate 6 View west from eastern extent of site towards village*



*Plate 7 View west along hedgerow in Mr Byrd's field*



*Plate 8 View north across Mr Middleton's field*









**Appendix 1 Heritage assets registered with the Historic Environment Record (those within the application site are indicated in bold)**

HER number (and legal status)	Site name	Grid reference	Record type	Date	Description
WSM02783 Listed Building (I) - 1350000	St James' Church, Harvington	SP 0571 4882	Building	Medieval	Parish church. 12th century, enlarged early 14th century and restored 1855 by F Preedy.
WSM02785	Circular enclosure, North of Harvington Mill, Harvington	SP 0638 4831	Monument	Early Neolithic to late Iron Age; Medieval	Ring ditch; cropmark evidence. Ridge and furrow; cropmark evidence.
WSM02838 Listed Building (II) - 1081582	Dovecote, Manor Farm, Harvington	SP 0575 4883	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century AD	18th century dovecote. Rectangular. Cotswold Stone. Probably contemporary with house, 17th century, extremely fine example. Lined internally with stone cells. Ridge roof.
WSM05782 Listed Building (II) - 1157816	Padmore Cottage, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0568 4884	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> Century	Cruck house. Next to church. Thatched. Exposed beams internally. Original bread oven. Classified as a "True Cruck" in CBA Research Report "Cruck Construction" which notes that it was originally for domestic use. House. Probably 16th century, with late 18th century and late 19th century alterations. Timber-frame, roughcast, with thatched roof.



WSM05864 Listed Building (II) - 1157806	Farmhouse, Manor Farm, Anchor Lane, Harvington	SP 0575 4879	Building	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Century	Timber framed, stone slate roof. Cruck truss revealed to East, bottom cut off. 16th century. Classified as a "True Cruck" in CBA Research Report "Cruck Construction" which notes that there was one cruck truss surviving when the building was recorded. Farmhouse. Early 15th century, extended late 15th century with some 17th century alterations.
WSM05865 Listed Building (II) - 1350001	Thatchways, Harvington	SP 0564 4862	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	Timber frame, thatched roof.
WSM15419	Harvington Village, Harvington	SP 0564 4880	Monument	Early medieval, to Medieval to Post-Medieval	The settlement of Harvington is mentioned in Saxon charters and Domesday Book. The settlement contains many buildings of 17th Century and 18th Century. The outline of the settlement has been recorded to the main focus of building seen on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
WSM15422	Old gravel pit 100m South East of Oak Tree Farm, Harvington	SP 0597 4901	Monument	Post-Medieval	"Old gravel pit" located on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1887).
<b>WSM15423</b>	Marl pit, junction Crest Hill and Anchor Lane, Harvington	SP 0584 4890	Monument	Post-Medieval	"The old marl pit" shown on Inclosure Map 1787. Conjectural Inclosure Map of 1787.
WSM15424	Pool Close west of Harvington village	SP 0532 4875	Monument	Post-Medieval	"Pool Close" shown on Inclosure Map 1787. Conjectural Inclosure Map of 1787.
WSM15425 Listed Building (II)	James Cottage, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0567 4884	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> Century	House. Probably 16th century, with late 18th century and late 19th century alterations. Timber-frame, roughcast, with thatched roof.

Land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire

- 1157816					
WSM15426 Listed Building (II*) - 1081604	Crooked Walls, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0565 4884	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> Century	Detached half timber cottage, built on local stone plinth, brick gable end and thatch roof. Half timbering contains fine example of early cruck form.
WSM15427 Listed Building (II) - 1157823	Thatcholm, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0563 4863	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	17th century house with some late 20th century alterations.
WSM15429	Site of The Hops/Nathan Cottage, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0562 4881	Monument	16 <sup>th</sup> Century	Not accurately located.
WSM15430 Listed Building (II) - 1081584	Bank Cottage, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0559 4877	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	House. 17th century, extended mid-19th century with some late 20th century alterations.
WSM15431 Listed Building (II) - 1157840	The Laurels, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0558 4870	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	House, 17 <sup>th</sup> Century. Extended early 19th century with some late 20th century alterations.
WSM15432 Listed Building (II) - 1350002	Firbank, Church Street, Harvington	SP 0559 4865	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	House. 17th century with some late 20th century alterations.

WSM15433 Listed Building (II) - 1301397	The Grange, Grange Lane, Harvington	SP 0538 4889	Building	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Farmhouse. Early 19th century with some late 19th century alterations.
WSM15434 Listed Building (II) - 1081585	Yew Tree Cottage, Grange Lane, Harvington	SP 0545 4888	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	Timber-frame house. 17th century with some late 20th century alterations.
WSM15435 Listed Building (II) - 1157847	The Limes, Shakespeare Lane, Harvington	SP 0560 4872	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	17th century detached black and white timber frame house. Part dated to 15th century and part mid-18th century.
WSM15436 Listed Building (II) - 1081586	Old Cottage, Village Street, Harvington	SP 0552 4903	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Timber-frame house. Probably 16th century, extended 18th century with some late 20th century alterations. Timber-frame.
WSM15437 Listed Building (II) - 1301400	Dream Cottage, Village Street, Harvington	SP 0553 4901	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> Century	Timber-frame house. Probably 16th century with some late 19th century alterations. Timber-frame with rendered infill and thatched roof hipped to left-hand end.
WSM15438 Listed Building (II) - 1081587	Langton House, Village Street, Harvington	SP 0554 4896	Building	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	House. Early 18th century with some mid-19th century alterations.
WSM15439 Listed	Dalkeith, Village Street, Harvington	SP 0554 4887	Building	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 18th century unlisted farmstead with converted buildings. Regular courtyard. The farmhouse is attached to the agricultural range. There has been a

Land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire

Building (II) – 1081588					partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Located within or in association to a village.
WSM15442	Doreed, Anchor Lane, Harvington		Monument	Post-Medieval	Not accurately located from available maps.
WSM15460	Unstratified Finds in the Parish of Harvington			Palaeolithic-Bronze Age	Bronze Age axe Surface finds of two Acheulian hand axes from Harvington dated to Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Stage 2. The actual date and location of where the artefact was found is unknown.
WSM28855	Possible Precinct, Harvington.	SP 0569 4879	Monument	Medieval	Conjectural; the arrangement of this land parcel may suggest the precinct boundary of the Medieval church.
WSM30499	Hopkilns, Harvington.	SP 0566 4880	Building	Post-Medieval	
WSM31557 Listed Building (II) - 1081581	Candle Cottage (formerly Bess Cottage), Harvington	SP 0575 4885	Building	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Detached example of a traditional black and white dwelling under a recently re-thatched roof.
WSM31670	Railway (disused) - Salford Priors to Evesham - Section BEA/3	SP 0564 4764	Monument	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	
WSM31919	Field-name; Small Moor Close, Harvington	SP 0603 4831	Place Name	Roman to pre-Conquest	Boundary-documentary evidence. The location of "Small Moor" has been obtained from the conjectural Inclosure Plan for Harvington 1787.
WSM33756	Cropmarks of enclosures east of	SP 0663 4866	Monument	EBA to LBA; EBA-	Large rectangular enclosure (100m x 50m) double ditched on north and west sides. Eastern side

	Harvington			Roman; EIA-Roman	interrupted by ringditch. Possible trackway leading to northwest along with other smaller enclosures.
WSM37186	World War 2 Bombing Incidents in Worcestershire; Parish of Norton and Lench	SP 0373 4748	General Parish Info	Second World War	Monday 14th October 1940. Two high explosive and oil bombs dropped near Chadbury. One man injured who subsequently died.
WSM37199	World War 2 Bombing Incidents in Worcestershire; Parish of Harvington	SP 0533 4923	General Parish Info	Second World War	Thursday 12th December 1940. Twelve high explosives dropped at Harvington and also one high explosive and 10 incendiaries dropped at Harvington
WSM42160	Feckenham Forest	SO 9652 6211	Landscape Component	Late 11 <sup>th</sup> Century to 17 <sup>th</sup> Century	13th Century boundary of Feckenham Forest, taken from a shapefile based from historical maps and documentary evidence.
WSM45261	Baptist Chapel, Village Street, Harvington	SP 0556 4913	Building	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Built in 1886 in brick and tile as a mission station in association with the chapel at Atch Lench.
WSM45416 Listed Building (II) - 1157830	1, 2 and 3 The Steps, Stratford Road, Harvington	SP 0559 4880	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> Century	House, now three. Late 16th century, extended late 17th century with some mid-20th century alterations.
WSM49436 Listed Building (II) - 1400191	War Memorial, St. James the Great Church, Harvington	SP 0569 4876	Building	Modern	Located in the Graveyard of the Church of St James the Great, Harvington.
WSM53147	The Barns, Langton House, Harvington	SP 0555 4899	Building	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 18th century unlisted farmstead with converted buildings.

Land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire

WSM53148	Farm Buildings, Harvington Grange, Harvington	SP 0541 4887	Building	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 19th century (?) listed farmstead with converted buildings
WSM53149	Site of Farm Buildings, Manor Farm, Harvington	SP 0578 4880	Monument	15 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 15th century listed farmstead with unconverted buildings
WSM53150	Site of Farm Buildings, Firbank Cottage, Harvington	SP 0558 4863	Monument	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	17th century unlisted farmstead. The farmhouse is the only surviving historic structure.
WSM53430	Farm Buildings, The Limes, Harvington	SP 0563 4872	Building	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 17th century listed farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM53431	Dalkeith and Harvest Court, Harvington	SP 0555 4889	Building	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 18th century unlisted farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM53569	Longlands, Harvington	Not recorded	Building	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Partially extant 19th century (?) unlisted farmstead with unconverted buildings.
WSM56453	Pond, East of Oak Tree Farm, Harvington	Not recorded	Monument	Undated	Pond seen on cartographic sources and aerial images. The feature is under scrub and it is not on the modern OS map. The 1999 aerial photograph shows a dried up outline that could be this feature. There could be some potential for remaining environmental deposits within this vicinity, however this is unknown.
WSM56467	Palaeochannel, East of Oak Tree Farm, Harvington	Not recorded	Monument	Undated	Palaeochannel seen on cartographic sources, aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery.
WSM56468	Pond, East of Oak Tree Farm,	Not recorded	Monument	Undated	Pond seen on cartographic sources only. The area is within a field under cultivation, but it is not seen on the

	Harvington				modern OS map.
WSM56925	Area of Palaeolithic Potential, Ailstone Member	SO 9911 4798	Geology	Marine Isotope Stage 06 - 189050 BC to 128050 BC	The Ailstone Member correlates with the Crophorne Sand and Gravel Member. Locally it overlies channel filling lag-gravels and fossiliferous sands of the Ailstone Bed (dated to Marine Isotope Stage 7) that yield environmental remains, particular molluscan remains including the bivalve <i>Corbicula</i> . The member has a organic bed at its base, as with the Crophorne member, and is dated to Marine Isotope Stage 6.
WSM56930	Area of Palaeolithic Potential, Bretford Sand and Gravel	SP 0543 4888	Geology	Marine Isotope Stage 02	These gravels represent the latest phase of the Devensian. Evidence has been recovered from gravels at Bredon's Hardwick and in the Carrant Brook environs. The Member is dated to Marine Isotope Stage 2 to Stage 1.
WSM57344	Site of Farm Buildings, Harvington Grange, Harvington	SP 0543 4888	Monument	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Harvington Grange, Harvington. Partially extant 19th century (?) listed farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM57345	Site of Farm Buildings, The Limes, Harvington	SP 0561 4870	Monument	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	The Limes, Harvington. Partially extant 17th century listed farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM57348	Site of Farm Buildings, Dalkeith and Harvest Court, Harvington	SP 0558 4889	Monument	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Dalkeith and Harvest Court, Harvington. Partially extant 18th century unlisted farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM60797	Langton House, Harvington	SP 0556 4898	Landscape Component	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Langton House, Harvington. Partially extant 18th century unlisted farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM60798	Harvington Grange, Harvington	SP 0543 4887	Landscape Component	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Harvington Grange, Harvington. Partially extant 19th century (?) listed farmstead with converted buildings.

Land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire

WSM60799	Manor Farm, Harvington	SP 0577 4880	Landscape Component	15 <sup>th</sup> Century	Manor Farm, Harvington. Partially extant 15th century listed farmstead with unconverted buildings.
WSM60800	Firbank Cottage, Harvington	SP 0559 4863	Landscape Component	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	Firbank Cottage, Harvington. 17th century unlisted farmstead.
WSM61080	The Limes, Harvington	SP 0563 4870	Landscape Component	17 <sup>th</sup> Century	The Limes, Harvington. Partially extant 17th century listed farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM61081	Dalkeith and Harvest Court, Harvington	SP 0557 4888	Landscape Component	18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Dalkeith and Harvest Court, Harvington. Partially extant 18th century unlisted farmstead with converted buildings.
WSM61219	Longlands, Harvington	Not recorded	Landscape Component	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Longlands, Harvington. Partially extant 19th century (?) unlisted farmstead with unconverted buildings.
WSM49815 (Event)	Unstratified Palaeoenvironmental artefact found prior to 1968 on land South of Oak Tree Farm, Harvington	SP 0601 4903			FWR12607 ANIMAL REMAINS (1) (Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Marine Isotope Stage 02 - 864050 BC to 12050 BC)
WSM02781 (Event)	Unstratified find				In 2013 research was performed by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project "Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER". This research included a literature search which highlighted Palaeolithic evidence thus far unrecorded within the HER. It identified that Shotton had recorded surface finds of two Acheulian hand axes from Harvington dated to Marine Isotope Stage 21 to Stage 2. The actual date and location the artefact was found is unknown.





Land at Crest Hill, Harvington, Worcestershire

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