EVALUATION AND HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT AT NEWLANDS FARM, SALWARPE, WORCESTERSHIRE

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Evaluation and Historic Building Assessment at Newlands Farm, Salwarpe, Worcestershire

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation and building assessment was undertaken at Newlands Farm, Salwarpe, Worcestershire (NGR SO 902 602) on behalf of Mr J Simons, who intends to convert existing traditional farm buildings for residential use. An historic building assessment was carried out on all buildings subject to the proposed conversion. The proposed development will also affect land to the north of the farm buildings, which contains well-preserved earthworks that have been identified as the potential remains of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV). Previous work (Price et al 1977) has identified an area of 'disturbance' immediately north of the existing farm buildings, which was within the area to be evaluated. The project aimed to determine the state of preservation, date and type of any archaeological remains that have survived in situ, as well as the extent and nature of the 'disturbance'.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation and historic building assessment was undertaken at Newlands Farm, Salwarpe, Worcestershire (NGR SO 902 602; Fig 1), on behalf of Mr J Simons. Mr J Simons intends to convert existing historic farm buildings for residential use and change the use of ground directly to the north of the buildings, and requested a brief for an archaeological field evaluation in advance of submitting a planning application to Wychavon District Council. A brief was prepared in response to this request by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire Archaeological Service (AS 2003a).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999a) *as well as the Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA 1999b).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section (AS 2003a), for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (AS 2003b).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to investigate whether significant deposits survive to the north of the historic farm buildings where a change of land use is proposed. Aerial photographs (Fig 3) have identified earthworks, which have been interpreted as a possible DMV (Price *et al* 1977), with evidence of 'disturbance' immediately north of the farm buildings. The evaluation aims to determine the state of preservation, date and type of archaeological remains as well as investigating the extent and nature of the apparent disturbance. The evaluation trenches, with the exception of trench 5, are located within the area of 'disturbance' observed in the report and sketches of Price *et al* (Fig 5), and do not impinge on the area of earthworks.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted (at the office of the County Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated) :

Cartographic sources

- Inclosure award 1813. Map of the Parish of Salwarpe. (WRO BA 8650/12) Copied by D.Guyatt at the WCRO
- Ordnance Survey 1880-1890 1st edition.
- Geology of the country around Droitwich, Abberley and Kidderminster (Explanation of sheet 182)

Aerial photographs

- HWCM map no. 47. Salwarpe SO9015 6050

Documentary sources

- Place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1927).
- English Field Names (Field 1972)
- County histories (VCH III).

A complete list of all written sources consulted during the course of this project is provided in section 13.

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (AS 2003b). Fieldwork was undertaken between 7th April and 14th April 2003.

The evaluation comprised five trenches, amounting to approximately 124m^2 in area, excavated over the site area of 0.26ha, representing a sample of 5%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 4.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360º tracked/wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Turf was removed carefully and kept separate with topsoil for reinstatement where possible. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples if appropriate, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (AS 1995). On completion of the evaluation all excavated ground was reinstated and trenches were re-profiled as far as possible to the original contours.

A temporary bench mark (TBM) was established on site with an arbitrary value of 100.00m, and this was used for all levels taken during the course of the field evaluation. This procedure was adopted because a local bench mark was not available to provide a value in true level above ordnance datum, and as such all site levels are of an arbitrary value relative to the site's TBM.

2.2.2 Structural analysis

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

2.3 Artefacts

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). All spoil was scanned with a metal detector, and dateable and significant finds were recorded. A sample of unstratified material was collected from the spoil during initial machining of trenches, and all artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits.

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

Pottery fabrics are referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

2.4 Building recording

The project conformed to the specifications for an historic building assessment outlined in the brief (AS 2003a) which comprised:

- A basic description including approximate date, principal phases, construction material, function
- A definition of the character of the buildings as a group.
- Photographs to illustrate key features and building character

2.5 The methods in retrospect

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

3. Topographical and archaeological context

The site is located close to the eastern edge of the parish of Salwarpe, to the north-east of Worcester and immediately south of the parish of Droitwich. The parish of Salwarpe comprises an area of 1,914 acres, bordered by the Hadley Brook (a tributary of the River Salwarpe) to the west, the Ombersley to Droitwich road to the north and the Droitwich to Oddingley road to the east. The solid geology of the area is Triassic Mercian Mudstone with beds of rock salt (Mitchell *et al* 1962), overlain by reddish clay and loam soils of the Brockhurst, Whimple and Worceter series (Ragg *et al* 1984). The site is also situated just beyond the eastern edge of the 'wild' brine run which runs approximately north-east to south-west from Stoke Prior through the centre of Droitwich to land surrounding Oakley Farm (Poole *et al* 1981; Figure 6).

The name Newlands implies that land which is 'newly' cultivated or enclosed (Field 1972), and is first associated with adjacent common land to the east and south of the site on the 1813 inclosure awards (Fig 6), at which time the site itself is recorded as Homestead and Homeground. The name was apparently transferred to the farm itself in the late 19th century and appears on the 1880-1890 edition Ordnance Survey as Newlands Farm (Fig 7).

To the north of the proposed development and evaluation trenches an area of earthworks of platforms and linear depressions arranged in a rectilinear layout, includes 6 depressions, and 3 ponds. The earthworks were the subject of a report in the 1970s (Fig 5; Price *et al* 1977), which concluded that they represented a DMV possibly deserted due to a lack of adequate drinking water; heavy brine crystallisation was observed in the soil of the holloways and platforms of the site as well as on the farm buildings. Though it is curious that after a prolonged spell of dry weather (albeit in March – mid April) no such signs were observed in 2003. A sample of water was taken from a well to the north west of the earthworks, beyond the evaluation area. The sample was tested and proved to be slightly saline (S. Southwick *pers comm.*)

4. Description

The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1, with Tables 1 and 2 summarising the artefacts recovered. The trenches and buildings assessed are shown in figure 4.

4.1 Phase 1 - Natural deposits

Natural deposits were observed in all trenches at an average depth of 0.50m below current ground level. The natural was a red/brown fairly compact sandy clay with occasional (3%) small gravel and ironstone inclusions (Mercian Mudstone).

4.2 Phase 2 - 18th to 20th Century

Trenches 1, 2, and 3 all contained a layer of consolidation material directly below the topsoil. The nature of this material varied from compact brown/orange clay with grey/blue silt stone containing inclusions of brick and tile (**102**), very compact black clinker and ash layer with tile brick, slag and charcoal inclusions (8-10%; **101, 105**) and brown sandy silt with frequent tile, brick fragments (20%) and occasional (5%) charcoal (**107**) in trench 1; loose tile and brick fragments at the base of the topsoil (**200**) in trench 2; **301**a very compact dark brown/black sandy clay layer with ash, charcoal and clinker inclusions (10 - 20%) and **302** a compact mottled orange/brown sandy clay with inclusions of charcoal tile and brick (2%) in trench 3. The upper extent of these layers was consistently at a height of between 99.73 and 99.90m (arbitrary value) demonstrating that a relatively even surface had been created in the area of these trenches. These layers were consistently directly over natural.

In addition to the consolidation layers there were a number of 19th and 20th century services (**202, 305, 307, 405,** and **504**) and a full description of the orientation and fill of these features is in Appendix 1. The majority of these services appear to serve as land drains. The existence of such an extensive system of land drains may well reflect the poor draining natural ground in the vicinity (Heather Cook *pers comm.)* This may be exemplified by the presence of 3 ponds within the area of extant earthworks to the north. All services were sealed by topsoil and cut through consolidation layers, subsoil and natural.

The land drain revealed at the base of a ditch running north-south in trench 5 was rather exceptional compared with the other examples revealed in trenches 1- 4. The drain was at the base of a substantial ditched feature which was visible as an earthwork running north-south to the west of the farm buildings, in the direction of a pond to the north. The land drain was sealed by a substantial deposit, containing 19th/20th century brick, tile and pottery. The feature was far too pronounced and of a greater depth and overall dimension than necessary for the land drain, and it would appear likely that the land drain had been inserted in the early-mid 19th century into a previously existing landscape feature.

4.3 Undated deposits

The evaluation revealed two undated features: an animal burial in trench 3, was directly below the topsoil (**300**) and was located between two 19th century land drains (**305** and **307**); and in trench 4 there was a linear feature (**411**) running approximately north-south with a profile indicative of a potential furrow, but no artifactual material was retrieved (see Appendix 1 for full description of the feature). The feature was directly below topsoil and cut through subsoil (**413**, **414**) and natural (**408**), and was located at the top of a ridge earthwork at the eastern extent of trench 4. The nature of the feature does suggest that it may represent medieval or early post-medieval activity, however there is no artifactual evidence to support this theory.

5. Historic Building Assessment

The buildings assessed during the course of this project comprised a complex of barns arranged around a courtyard, and to the south of this the associated farmhouse. The barns are to be converted into three separate residential properties whilst the farmhouse is to be renovated, also for residential usage.

The barns

The farm buildings assessed were in a classic courtyard layout with the central courtyard to the south of the buildings, and of these a northern barn comprising three bays and an eastern stable block and barn comprising 4 bays were assessed.

The northern barn

The northern barn served as both livestock and arable store and included a hayloft in the central bay. The original building was red brick in an English garden wall bond with a pale yellow/brown lime mortar (Plate i), and contained ventilation openings every fifth course in all external elevations (some of which had been blocked). In the east gable end these ventilation holes included a diaper pattern directly below the apex (Plate ii). The main access to the northern barn was provided by large wooden gates which were constructed in adjacent pairs at the east and west ends in the north and south sides of the building. The floor between these gates was composed of slate flagstones suggesting it was originally used as a threshing floor, to the side of which was provision for storage.

The central bay contained a livestock pen with feeding troughs along the eastern wall by large square beams running north-south. The northern elevation of the central bay contained a large blocked opening through which one of the beams supporting the hayloft had been inserted. Support for this beam had been provided by a wooden lintel and relieving arch within the blocking (Plate iii).

Evidence of phasing was evident at the east extent where the original building had been extended to the east. The construction of the eastern bay demonstrated that it was the later of the two, and abutted the central bay. The relationship was most clearly observed at the northern external elevation, the internal elevations of the eastern bay and as a change in the formation of the eaves from four to three courses between the two bays (Plate iv). In conjunction with the extension, evidence of re-pointing in a concrete mortar was present on the southern yard-side elevation. In addition ventilation holes in the internal wall dividing the central and eastern bays suggests it would originally have been external (Plate v). The truss formation was also notably different between the western and eastern bays (the central roof was not accessible due to the presence and condition of the hayloft) again indicating that they represent different phases of construction. In both cases the timbers had been roughly adze cut and secured with wooden pegs implying that they are of 18th or possibly 17th century date (Plate vi and vii).

The eastern barn

The eastern barn principally served as stables with storage in the northern bay. The original building of the southern bay was of red brick in English cross bond with a gritty pale yellow lime mortar (Plate viii). The northern bay had been largely rebuilt of breezeblocks keyed into brick gable ends at the north and south. The northern gable end was keyed into the eastern end of the northern barn and is apparently contemporary. The truss formation was identical to that of the eastern bay of the north barn which further supports this phasing.

The Farmhouse

The farmhouse was positioned to the south of the courtyard in separate grounds. The building was originally a main block with two short rearward extending ranges. Today the space between the rearward extending ranges is enclosed as an additional room in the building.

The southern frontage

The frontage is symmetrically designed with two window openings flanking the gable porched doorway on the ground floor and three window openings on the first floor. The main build is English bond composed of bricks measuring 9.5 x 4 x 3.5 or 2.5″. The window openings are all composed with a flattened segmental arch, those on the ground floor are constructed using alternate over-fired and normal red bricks. The casements are modern rectangular three and two light modern replacements. Above the central window is an insurance plaque, with only the end of the companies name still extant, reading '…ION' . The eaves of the frontage are plain dental eaves typically found on buildings of the late 18th century (Plate ix).

The east and west elevations

Several phases of construction are evident in the east and west ranges on both external and internal elevations. In particular the west elevation of the west range contains several builds and includes a scar running diagonally upwards from the north-west corner and rebuild of the upper element to the eaves, possibly indicative of a former single storey roof line. The ground floor is composed of bricks measuring 9.5 x 4 x 3″ in English bond. The elevation contains a two casement window within a flattened segmental arch on the ground floor and a two casement dormer window on the first floor. The extant window casements are modern replacements whilst the original ground floor window opening with flattened segmental arch is typically early 19th century (Plate x). The upper build is identical to that of the southern range and was most likely built at the same time.

The east elevation of the east range also shows signs of alterations including a blocked window and has been roughly joined to the southern frontage (Plates xi and xii). The original construction is composed of bricks measuring 9.5 x 4.5 x 2.5 ″ in English bond. The bricks are a range of over-fired and well-worn bricks (all hand made). The extant openings comprise a four casement window with a flat brick lintel and a six casement window with no evident lintel, both of which are on the ground floor.

Internally within the enclosed area now between the two ranges, a blocked window opening is evident on what would have been the east facing external wall of the west range. There is also a well as a worn stone doorstep at the threshold to this range, which is also indicative of that this was formerly an external entrance.

The north elevation

The two ranges, which would originally have been separated, have been re-roofed and a wall constructed at the northern elevation to enclose the area between them (Plate xiii). Evidence of abrasion on the corners of the former returns of the two ranges indicates that they have been exposed as external walls for a considerable time. In addition a small brick-built gabled outside toilet had been constructed onto the northern elevation of the east range.

General internal features

Internally beams were exposed on the ground and first floor and also indicated that several different phases of construction were extant in the structure. A cellar is present at the southern extent of the building but could not be accessed during the course of this project.

6. Artefact Analysis

The assemblage came from 16 contexts in 5 trial trenches and ranged in date from possible medieval to modern. The material was mostly quite abraded. The largest group of material by weight was brick (9.287kg). There was only one complete brick, and all the brick seemed to date to the post-medieval or modern period. There was also quite a large proportion of flat roof tile.

Only a small number of sherds of pottery were recovered, with no more than 3 in any one context. More pottery was recovered from trench 3 (8 sherds), but given the small number recovered in total (i.e. 14) this can not be said to be significant. The material recovered can be seen in Table 01 and the pottery fabrics are summarised in Table 02, below. All the artefacts are discussed by period below.

6.1 Medieval

Most of the tile dated to the modern period, but there were a few pieces that dated from the 13th to 18th century and may therefore have been of medieval date. However, no other medieval material was recovered and no contexts had a *TPQ* date in the medieval period. One tile from context 103 had a nib and a stamped cross with a circle around it, which has been identified as a type 6 stamp at Deansway, Worcester (Fagen, 1992, 49 – 50) and is likely to be of medieval date (D Hurst *pers comm*.).

6.2 Post-medieval

Most of the pottery was post-medieval in date (see Table 02). As the sherds were quite small, and abraded, it was difficult to date them more closely than by period. Contexts with a *TPQ* date of post-medieval were 102; 301 and 401, all these dates being based on late 18th century brick and tile. Three contexts (103; 107 and 413) were dated to the post-medieval or modern period, this uncertainty being the result of the fragmentary and abraded nature of the material (glass, land drain and brick). Context 309 only contained bone, but stratigraphically could be either of post-medieval or modern date.

6.3 Modern

A large proportion of the tile recovered was modern in date (1.365kg), but only 3 sherds of modern pottery were recovered, all from context 300. The only other clearly identified modern material were two pieces of asbestos from contexts 200 and 400. Contexts with a clearly modern *TPQ* date were: 101, 106, 200, 201, 300, 308, 400, 500, and 501.

Table 1. Quantification of artefacts

Material	Period	Total	Weight
Asbestos	Modern	2	25
Bone			1273
Brick	Modern	1	144
Brick	Post-medieval	6	4871
Brick	Post-medieval / Modern	7	2999
Clinker		5	89
Drain	Post-medieval / Modern	1	64
Iron		1	56
Glass	Post-medieval / Modern	1	38
Pot	Modern	3	14
Pot	Post-medieval	11	144
Tile	Medieval / Post-medieval	4	944

Tile	Modern	17	1419
Tile	Post-medieval	4	274

Table 2. Quantification of pottery fabrics

Number	Fabric Name	Total	Weight
78	Post-medieval red ware	9	129
81	Stoneware	2	15
85	Modern Stone China	3	14

6.4 Significance

The artefacts consist of building debris from the post-medieval and modern period, and a very small amount of domestic waste (pottery, clinker and bone). This suggests that either buildings have been dismantled or modified in the area during these periods, or that material resulting from building work elsewhere was bought in to produce a hard/dry working surface. Since the trenches were adjacent to the farm buildings, it seems likely that brick and tile were deposited to produce a hard/dry working surface. In this case additional material might have been imported from elsewhere. The relative absence of domestic material, such as pottery, is also consistent with being adjacent to agricultural buildings.

7. Discussion

7.1 Post-medieval phase. 18th – 20th century

The majority of features revealed were modern land drains (202, 305, 307, 405, 409, 504), and of these the majority were typical 20th century features, with the exception of 504 which was located in the lower eastern corner of a substantial linear feature (503). The feature was clearly far too substantial to have been cut for the land drain, rather it appears to have been a previously existing feature, which was reused in the 19th century and subsequently back filled with clay and building debris (501) and topsoil (500). This linear feature continues north from trench 5 as a visible earthwork, apparently associated with a pond to the north.

The consolidation material observed in trenches 1, 2,and 3 is largely building debris and ashy material which can be tentatively linked to the demolition of earlier (post-medieval) buildings on the site, or refurbishment of the existing farm buildings.

7.2 The Farm Buildings

The barns

The northern barn is composed of two main phases, the first comprising two bays housing a threshing floor and storage areas, with ventilation provision in the main build. The original opening at the western end of this building has been blocked on the north elevation, presumably at the time when the barn was extended to the east. The extension included two new doors matching those at the western end of the barn, which are set in adjacent pairs flanking a flagstone threshing floor. The eastern barn/stable block appears to contemporary to the eastern extension of the northern barn, as indicated by the continuity in roof formation and the keying in of the northern wall of the eastern barn into the northern barn.

There are barn buildings indicated on the inclosure map of 1813 represented as two separate buildings one aligned east-west the other north-south (Fig. 7). The east-west barn certainly depicts the western two bays of the northern barn, which can be dated by structural evidence, such as truss construction and brickwork, to the late18th – early 19th century. However the

eastern barn/stable block is somewhat later, c. late 19th century, and appears contemporary with the extension of the northern barn. This suggests that the current eastern barn/stable block superseded the building illustrated on the 1813 map, which would have been demolished and replaced in the mid to late 19th century. This demolition phase may link to the building debris encounted in trenches 1, 2 and 3. The L-shape footprint on the 1880-1890 map reflects that of the present structures (Fig. 8), suggesting that the current north and east barns were in place by this period.

The Farmhouse

The farmhouse is present on both the 1813 inclosure map and 1880-1890 edition Ordnance Survey maps, on the latter of which it is shown as a main block with two short rearward extending ranges, with the east and west ranges still divided by an open area or yard. The building is clearly composed of several phases. The east and west ranges in particular contain evidence of numerous alterations, indicative that the west range was originally a single storey building which was later raised and incorporated into the larger build of the southern frontage. The flattened segmental arch of the ground floor window reflects those of the southern elevation and is of a typical of early 19th century style, it is possible that this window was added or altered to match the frontage at this time.

The east range is of far humbler dimensions and construction than the southern frontage and has been fairly roughly incorporated into the frontage at its southern end. The window openings do not match those observed on the western or southern elevations of the building. The east range appears to predate the southern frontage and is probably contemporary to the initial single storey construction of the west range, the two buildings being separated by a small open yard area. The dating of the east range is less definite that that of the southern frontage but the brick sizes and overall construction suggest a date of early to early-mid 18th century.

The southern frontage is typical of the late 18th/early 19th century and may reflect an expansion in the farm at this period. The frontage appears to have been constructed incorporating and partially rebuilding the structures already extant to its north as the east and west ranges.

7.3 Undated features

The undated features comprise an animal burial and a possible furrow. The furrow was located on the top of a ridge, which formed part of the eastern extent of the earthworks. As such it post-dates this feature, and probably also post-dates the remaining earthworks.

8. Conclusions

The results of the evaluation provided only a single tile fragment dating to the medieval period. There was no evidence of any substantial level of medieval activity within twenty metres of the farm buildings. The deposits revealed suggest that the ground to the north of the barns had been intentionally consolidated and relatively levelled in the post-medieval period (17th to 20th century), and this activity is likely to have coincided with the construction of the farm buildings in the mid 18th - early 19thcentury. In addition some building debris may represent the partial rebuilding of a farm building, an event which is clearly evident in the structures. This consolidation and rebuilding activity may account for the apparent ‘disturbance’ noted by earlier work on the site (Price *et al* 1977). Although the disturbance appears to post-date the earth works the evaluation did not establish any stratigraphic relationship between the area of disturbance and the earthworks, as the current archaeological investigation was confined to a set area close to the standing buildings.

The absence of any residual medieval material, with the exception of the tile, during the course of the evaluation does call into question the previous interpretation of the earthworks

to the north of the evaluated area as a DMV, and suggests that they represent the remains post-medieval activity. The evidence of the aerial photographs of the site supports this chronology, as it indicates that the earthworks actually overlie the ridge and furrow to the west of the site. The ridge and furrow are not of the classic medieval S shape and may be late medieval or even post-medieval date. The geology of the site (Poole and Williams,1981) and the personal accounts of previous tenants on the farm (J.Newall and H.Cook pers. comm.) indicates that an alternative interpretation may focus around some form of industrial brine working. The land is on the eastern edge of the underground brine run, which may account for the occurrence of ground settling and subsidence noted by previous tenants (J.Newall and H.Cook pers. *comm*), which would be typical of land overlying the brine run. To the north of Droitwich and in a similarly rural location, there is documented salt production at Brinepits Farm (D Hurst pers comm.), which does indicate that salt production was taking place in a similar context as that seen at Newlands Farm. Although the ponds and interconnecting channels at Newlands Farm may have been part of an elaborate management system for groundwater, it remains possible that some sort of salt production was being carried out in addition to the normal agricultural activity represented by the existing farm buildings. However as the main area of the earthworks were not part of the evaluated area no conclusive evidence is yet available to explain the very prominent earthworks located in the vicinity.

9. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An evaluation and historic building assessment was undertaken on behalf of Mr. J Simons at Newlands Farm, Salwarpe, Worcestershire (NGR SO 902 602*; SMR ref 1007). The farmhouse and farm buildings were assessed and found to contain several construction phases, the earliest of which dates to the late 17th/ early18th century. To the north of the existing farm buildings previous work had identified an extensive area of earthworks as a DMV interrupted by' disturbance' immediately north of the barns. The evaluation principally confined to the area of disturbance and with the exception of trench 5, did not impinge on the earthworks. The evaluation identified this 'disturbance' as noted in 1977 as post-medieval consolidation material intentionally laid as a dry/hard working area to the north of the barns at the time of their construction.*

The evaluation did not identify any features or artifactual assemblage predating the post-medieval period. Furthermore there was no evidence of the stratigraphic relationship between the post-medieval deposits recorded during the evaluation and the earthworks. The virtual absence of any medieval finds does call into question the accepted interpretation of the earthworks as a DMV. The underlying geology of the site and the comments of previous tenants at the farm has suggested that the earthworks may represent the remains of post-medieval industrial activity in the form of brine extraction and salt production. However as the main area of the earthworks were not part of the evaluated area no conclusive evidence is yet available to explain the very prominent earthworks which survive in this vicinity.

10. The archive

The archive consists of:

4	Fieldwork progress records AS2
2	Photographic records AS3
3	Colour transparency film
3	Black and white photographic films

9	Abbreviated context records AS40
5	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

11. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project, Mr J Simons and Mr M Glyde.

12. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Anna Deeks. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss and Derek Hurst. Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Deeks, Andy Brown and Marc Steinmetzer, finds analysis by Erica Darch, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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14. Abbreviations and Glossary

LOE	Limit of Excavation
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
NMR	National Monuments Record.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.
Historic	Defined by the Planning Advisory Service as buildings appearing on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1880-1890)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 18.70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.60-0.85m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Medium brown friable soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile (3%).	0.17m
101	Consolidation layer	Very compact clinker, charcoal and ashy layer with 8% inclusions of tile, brick, slag and rare burnt bone. Only present in southern 2/3 of trench	0.17-0.27m
102	Consolidation layer	Very compact mottled brown/orange sandy clay and green/grey silt stone with 2% inclusions of brick and tile and an area of pebbles/cobbles at the southern extent.	0.27-0.46m
103	Subsoil	Compact orange/brown sandy clay with rare charcoal gravel and brick inclusions (1%).	0.46-0.60m
104	Natural	Compact orange brown sandy clay.	0.60m
105	Deposit	Friable black sandy ash deposit with 10% charcoal inclusions and occasional slag and clinker (3%). Within depression in 102	0.27m (b.g.s)
106	Deposit	Discrete area of brick and tile fragments in silty clay matrix within depression in 102	0.27m (b.g.s)
107	Layer	Stone, brick and tile rubble with rare (1%) pottery and glass fragments directly below topsoil in northern extension of trench 1	0.20 - 0.30m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Medium brown friable soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains frequent tile (60%) at base and occasional medium flecks of charcoal (3%).	0.24m
203	Subsoil	Compact orange/brown sandy clay with rare charcoal gravel and brick inclusions (1%).	0.24- 0.48m
204	Natural	Compact orange brown sandy clay.	0.48m – L.O.E

Features/Other deposits.

Context 201: Mixed deposit of grey/brown ashy sandy clay with 5% inclusions of tile, pottery slag and clinker. Fill of cut 202

Context 202: Linear cut running SE –NW across southern end of trench 2, both sides vertical with a flat base, 20th century machine cut as a service trench running to eastern barns. Filled by 201.

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Medium brown friable soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile (3%).	0.13m
301	Consolidation layer	Very compact dark brown/black sandy clay layer with ash, charcoal and clinker inclusions (10 - 20%)	0.13-0.20m
302	Consolidation layer	Compact mottled orange/brown sandy clay with inclusions of charcoal tile and brick (2%).	0.20 – 0.32m
303	Subsoil	Compact orange/brown sandy clay with rare charcoal gravel and brick inclusions (1%).	0.32- 0.39m
304	Natural	Compact orange brown sandy clay.	0.39m – L.O.E

Features/Other deposits.

Context 305: Cut of modern field drain running E-W, filled by 306. 0.45m wide, depth unknown as not excavated. Cut through natural and sealed by 300

Context 306: Red brown clay with 50% inclusions of stone, mortar, brick and tile rubble.

Context 307: Cut of modern field drain running ENE-WSW, straight sided with a flat base at depth of 0.54m, 0.82m wide. Cut through natural and sealed by 300.

Context 308: Friable brown/orange clay with 2% inclusions of tile, porcelain, charcoal and mortar.

Context 309: Compact grey/brown clay matrix surrounding disarticulated animal burial.

Context 310: Shallow sub-oval cut with gently sloping sides filled by animal burial 309. Cut through natural and sealed by 300.

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.46 – 0.90m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Medium brown friable soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile (3%).	0.20- 0.28m (thickness)
401	Deposit	Friable mid brown sandy clay with 10% inclusions of brick and tile and 25 inclusions of charcoal. Within cut 415	0.20-0.82m
402	Layer	Friable mid brown sandy clay with 15% large rounded cobbles (10-20mm) and 5% inclusions of brick, tile and charcoal. Consolidation material directly below 400. Cut by 401	0.20 – 0.50m
406	Layer/deposit	Compact mid brown sandy clay with 2% inclusions of stone and 1% charcoal.	0.46- 0.88m
408	Natural	Compact orange brown sandy clay.	0.20m – 0.90m (b.g.s)
413	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow/orange sandy clay with 5% pebbles and 5% gravel	0.17-0.46m
414	Subsoil/?old ploughsoil	Friable mid brown sandy caly with 1% pebbles and 5% gravel	0.46 – 0.86m

Features/Other deposits.

Context 403: Light grey/brown sandy clay with frequent (10%) mortar, charcoal, brick and tile fragments. Upper fill of land drain 405

Context 404: Compact red/brown redeposited natural with 2% charcoal inclusions. Lower fill of 405.

Context 405: Cut of modern field drain running N-S, straight sided with a flat base at depth of 0.62m, 0.60m wide. Cut through natural and sealed by 400. Truncated by 401 to east

Context 407: Cut of 'hollow way' running N-S across trench and continuing as visible earthwork to north. Exact dimensions uncertain as truncated by various later land drains and re-cuts (405 415). Filled by 406 (see above).

Context 409: Cut of land drain running N-S. Straight sided with flat base at 0.40m, 0.15m wide

Context 410: Mid orange/brown sandy clay with 2-3% gravel. Fill of 409

Context 411: Cut of probable furrow, profile steep sided to NE and shallow to SW with curved base 0.24m deep. Sealed by 400 and filled by 412.

Context 412: Compact mid orange/brown sandy clay with 10-15% pebbles concentrated at SW extent and 5% gravel throughout.

Context 415: Cut filled by 401 running N-S , truncates eastern extent of land drain 405. Modern re-cut of hollow way, used for land drainage.

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.18- 1.10m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Medium brown friable soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile (3%).	0.10- 0.78m (thickness)
501	Deposit	Compact re/brown sandy clay with 6% tile and brick fragments and 3% charcoal.	0.82-1.10m
502	Natural	Compact orange brown sandy clay.	0.10- 1.10m

Features/Other deposits.

Context 503: Cut running N-S filled by 501 and land drain 504 at base. Re-cut of existing landscape feature which is visible as earthwork to north.

Context 504: 19th/20th century circular ceramic land drain. Sealed by 501 at base of 503.