

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT EARLS COURT
FARM, RUSHWICK,
WORCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt and Laura Templeton

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Evaluation at Earls Court Farm, Rushwick, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan, Erica Darch and Simon Woodiwiss

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Earls Court Farm, Rushwick, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8200 5470). It was undertaken on behalf of Worcestershire County Council, who intends to construct a new high school for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The project was undertaken in three stages. Firstly a desk-based assessment of all available archaeological and historical information was undertaken to place the study area in its context, and feed into the research cycle. Secondly a walkover survey was made to identify surviving earthworks and the present ground conditions. Finally a series of 23 sample trenches were opened across the southern half of the site, defined as the area of most anticipated disturbance during the development.

The site lies within agricultural land, on the west side of Worcester, adjacent to the moated medieval site of Earls Court. Analysis of aerial photographs of ridge and furrow earthworks indicate that the area was utilised for strip farming through the medieval period. The walkover survey primarily identified the course of the holloway, which has been incorporated into the present field boundaries, and a slight linear depression on the west side of the site.

Two of the sample trenches were positioned over the holloway. Other trenches were positioned either side of the dogleg along the track, and randomly across the site. The holloway comprised the worn surface of natural gravel with two possible wheel ruts, and a low bank to the north, comprised of mixed subsoil and pebble gravel. No finds were recovered in association so the trackway is still undated.

All other disturbances to the natural clays and gravels were determined to be of post-medieval or modern origin. There were no other archaeological features, and all finds were residual, having been recovered from the topsoil, the subsoil or the spoil heap. Two heavily abraded sherds of indeterminate Roman pottery were recovered from the western side of the site. All remaining finds were of post-medieval and modern origin, probably brought onto site either deliberately for soil improvement or accidentally during manuring. The lack of medieval finds and features is surprising given the adjacent moated manorial site. The level of topsoil and subsoil generally was noted to be very shallow, probably the result of erosion during agricultural use. There was no indication of extant ridge and furrow within any of the trenches. Clearly there has been extensive and deep ploughing of the site, but the lack of early finds indicates that the area has probably never been intensively utilised for anything other than agricultural purposes.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Earls Court Farm, Rushwick, Worcestershire (SO 8200 5470), on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. The Council intends to construct a new high school with playing fields, access and car parking and has submitted a planning application to Worcestershire County Council (reference CC603059), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WSM 00471). The new school is planned to replace the existing Christopher Whitehead School in St Johns, Worcester.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 1999a) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999b).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of the Archaeological Service of Worcestershire County Council (AS 2002a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) has been produced (AS 2002b).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent and character. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), held by the County Council (SMR numbers prefixed with WSM) and Worcester City Council (SMR numbers prefixed with WCM; the site lies just outside of the city boundary). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- c 1732 extract of map by John Dougharty the elder of St John in Bedwardine, reproduced in Smith 1996, fig 2 (Hereford Records Office, R94 Hopton maps)
- 1741 map by John Doharty junior of St John in Bedwardine (Hereford Record Office, R94 Hopton maps)
- 1754 Manor of Lawherne, Dean and Chapter of Worcester (Worcester Records Office, BA 1691)
- 1777 St John's and St Clements, Dean and Chapter of Worcester (Worcester Record Office, BA 1961/435)
- 1840 Transcription of map by Kevin Poole, held by the SMR.

- 1890 Ordnance Survey 1:10000, held digitally by Worcestershire County Council SMR.
- 1905 Ordnance Survey 1:10000, held digitally by Worcestershire County Council SMR.
- 1930 Ordnance Survey 1:10000, held digitally by Worcestershire County Council SMR.

Aerial photographs

A search was requested from the National Library of Air Photo's 500m radius of grid ref SO 822 547. The area was covered by vertical photographs only. There were ten sorties and 35 prints. Laser copies of four sorties (10 prints) were obtained. These were selected on the basis of direct coverage of the area, quality, season and to provided coverage at a range of dates.

The following in are the laser copies obtained, with information given in the following order: sortie number/library number/start frame/end frame/NGR start/NGR end/date/scale

- RAF 106G UK 1333/274/7455/7457/SO816541/SO829543/29-03-46/1:9900
- RAF 106G UK 1652/427/3440/3441/SO826547/SO817547/11-07-46/1:10000
- RAF 543 401/1878/68/70/SO820541/SO819552/26-09-58/1:10000
- OS/68158/9427/161/162/SO814544/SO824552/10-06-68/1:7500

Documentary sources

- Hook 1990
- Mawer and Stenton 1927
- VCH III, 507 and 509 and IV, 430
- Worcestershire County Council 2002 *Christopher Whitehead High School, Worcester; Environmental Statement*

2.2 **Fieldwork**

2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (AS 2002b). The brief (AS 2002a) and specification (AS 2002a) had originally intended fieldwalking to be undertaken, if appropriate. At the time of the evaluation ground conditions were not suitable for fieldwalking. In consultation with the archaeological curator, bearing in mind the comprehensive coverage of the sample trenches and negative results, the fieldwalking was not considered to have been able to add materially to the assessment of the site.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 7th and 14th October 2002.

Twenty-three trenches, amounting to just over 2108m² in area, were excavated over the site. The full site comprises c. 9.6ha, however the area required to be evaluated with sample trenches amounted to 4.8ha. Thus the trenches represent a sample of 4.4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Trenches 4a and 5 were specifically located to test the holloway. In addition Trenches 6 and 21 were positioned either side of the dogleg along the route of the holloway.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material (subsoil being placed in the trench before topsoil).

The following techniques were considered for use but were determined not to be appropriate for this project; geophysical survey and fieldwalking, due to the geology and existing ground cover respectively.

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

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

2.3 **Artefacts**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). This in principal determines that all finds, of whatever date, must be collected. However, in this case only a sample of later material was collected from the spoil during machining. These comprised the entirety of the finds recovered from the site. No artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits nor from environmental samples.

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. Artefacts were identified, quantified, dated and recorded on a Microsoft Access 1997 database. A *terminus post quem* (TPQ) date was assigned to each stratified context. The pottery was examined and recorded by fabric type according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

2.4 **Environment**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the event no organic rich or waterlogged deposits were identified which would have provided productive samples. Therefore no samples were taken during the fieldwork.

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 geological context**

The development site is located to the west of Worcester, in the parish of Rushwick, close to the modern Dines Green housing estate. It comprises arable fields and a disused cherry orchard, covering an area of *c* 9.6ha. It lies on land that slopes from west to east below 40m AOD, overlooking the River Severn 2km to the east. The study area is approached via a track

off the A44 Worcester to Leominster road to the south. Worcester City centre is 2.5km to the west.

The site lies in an area of three adjacent soil types. In the eastern two-thirds the Salwick soil series predominates. This is a loamy stagnogleyic argillic brown earth derived from glaciofluvial deposits and Mercian Mudstone (Keuper Marl). It is subject to slight seasonal waterlogging. In the western third the Broadheath series predominates. This is a loamy palaeo-argillic stagnogley over reddish river gravel drift. Immediately to the east of the study area is the Arrow series, a coarse loamy gleyic brown earth over glaciofluvial drift (Ragg *et al* 1984; Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1982; Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

4. Archaeological and historical context

Archaeological sites registered with the SMR and within 1km of the study area are summarised in Table 1. Only two sites registered with the SMRs lie within the development area (WSM 31078 and WCM 100689).

Table 1 Sites registered with the SMRs

SMR reference/status	OS grid reference	Site name/description	Date
WSM 31078	SO 8177 5478	Holloway-road, well preserved in places, clearly discernible from field boundaries elsewhere. Described in Anglo Saxon charters (Hook 1990)	Early medieval to medieval
WCM 100689	SO 822 548	Flint scraper	
WSM 471 WCM 91064 WCM 100611 Scheduled Ancient Monument (31957)	SO 8235 5479	Moat - with possible earlier circular moat Sketch survey 1977	Medieval
WSM 989	SO 8128 5469	Church of St Thomas	Church post-medieval Font medieval
WSM 1351	SO 8129 5479	The Forge	Post-medieval
WSM 6073	SO 8107 5560	Enclosure, ring ditch and field system	
WSM 7296 WCM 91065 WCM 91066	SO 8233 5512	Fishponds and related features	Medieval
WSM 7297 Scheduled Ancient Monument (31957)	SO 8240 5491	Earthworks of former settlement	
WSM 7755	SO 8190 5420	Fishpond	
WSM 7756	SO 8130 5440	Fishpond and watermill	
WSM 9914 WSM 91067 WSM 91068 WSM 91144 WSM 100078 WSM 100642 Listed Building II	SO 8240 5430	Moat and dwelling Watching brief 1992 Watching brief 1990	Moat medieval Dwelling post-medieval (18 th and 19 th century)

WSM 10867	SO 8140 5560	Oldbury, shrunken village	Medieval
WSM 12136	SO 8200 5418	Ridge and furrow	Medieval
WSM 15105	SO 8190 5540	Ridge and furrow	Medieval
WSM 15106	SO 8150 5540	Cropmarks of a field system	
WSM 15107	SO 8150 5525	Cropmark of large pit	
WSM 15219	SO 8250 5570	Findspot – scraper	Neolithic
WSM 17317	SO 8150 5430	Claphill, deserted settlement and road	Post-medieval
WSM 17318	SO 8120 5440	Aymestrey School, country/manor house and chapel	Medieval and post-medieval
WSM 17320	SO 8290 5430	Watermill	Post-medieval
WSM 17800	SO 8240 5370	Findspot – flint scraper and pottery	Flint early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age Pottery post-medieval
WSM 27305 WCM 92266	SO 8273 5427	Road block	WWII
WSM 27378 WCM 92310	SO 8275 5420	Ammunition store	WWII
WSM 27379 WCM 92311	SO 8276 5420	Spigot mortar emplacement	WWII
WSM 27381 WCM 92313	SO 8275 5438	Air raid shelter	WWII
WSM 27751	SO 8113 5458	Barn at Prime Cut Farm	Post-medieval
WSM 28870	SO 8150 5423	Park at Crown East	Post-medieval
WSM 30818 Listed building	SO 8266 5566	Lower Temple Laugherne – house	
WSM 31633	SO 8232 5509	Lithic scatter -	Lower Palaeolithic to Late Bronze Age
WCM 91145	SO 8287 5431	New Mill Laughern D’Abitot	Medieval
WCM 100584 WCM 100585	SO 543 517	Evaluation and watching brief (1993) of Worcester Western Bypass (1996)	No significant results earlier than post-medieval
WCM 100683	SO 825 553	Flint scraper	Neolithic
WCM 100693	SO 8255 5455	Flint scraper	

Within, or adjacent to the study area, and in addition to the above sites, this project indicates additional information not recorded by the SMR and further archaeological sites not registered.

Table 2 Additional sites and information

SMR reference	OS grid	Site name/description	Date
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	reference		
WSM 31078	SO 8207 2475	<p>Attention drawn to “dogleg” in route of holloway, suggesting something significant that it had to go around (AS 2002a).</p> <p>Shown as a road or track on maps from 1732 and 1741 and 1840. No track indicated in 1890, but is shown with partial double row of trees. No track or trees from 1905.</p> <p>Gate shown at SO 8189 5476 on 1741 map which also indicates that westwards from this point the feature is a track whereas it is shown as a road to the east. The present earthwork from this point westwards is very narrow (field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).</p> <p>Where the holloway runs through the development area the eastern part is c 4-10m wide and 0.5-1.2m deep. In the western part the feature splits into two and its southern side may have had a later ditch cut into its base (SO 8194 5475; field visit 1 October 2002).</p>	
WSM 471		Farm buildings demolished in 1977 (DCMS 2000). Sketch survey undertaken in 1977 (held with SMR) but nothing within the development area shown.	
Site A (adjacent to site)	SO 8185 5492	Pond shown as extant on maps from at least 1741 and is still extant in 2002. Drain runs to the north-east (field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).	Modern
Site B	SO 8185 5470	<p>Long narrow pond with trees on banks, shown as extant on maps from 1732 to 1754. Not shown on map of 1777.</p> <p>Site marked by a very slight and poorly defined depression in field (field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).</p>	<1732 to 1754>
Site C (adjacent to site)	SO 8225 5485	<p>Two buildings within enclosure showing on map of 1732, one further building shown on map of 1741. These are replaced by three ranges of buildings presumably around a yard on maps from 1840 until at least 1930. These buildings are no longer extant, but their remains were seen during a field visit (1 October 2002, SGW).</p>	<p>Earlier buildings <1732 to 1741></p> <p>Later buildings <1840 1930></p>
Site D	SO 8225 5480	Plot shown as orchard on 1732 and 1741 maps but shown as containing a building on map of 1890. This building is shown on later maps and appears to be the open-sided steel-framed barn showing on a photograph held by the SMR (WSM 471). The	<p>Orchard <1732 to between 1741 and 1890</p> <p>Building from</p>

		<p>base of this structure was seen on the field visit (1 October 2002; SGW) as were the remains of other buildings to the north.</p> <p>The western boundary consists of the earthwork remains of a ditch (to the west of the present fence, c 4m wide and 0.3m deep) and a low bank (c 6m wide and 0.5m high), with a further very slight bank just to the east (c 4m wide and 0.2m high; field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).</p>	1890>
Site E	SO 8220 5487 centre	Field shown on 1732 map but altered by 1840. Several boundaries survive but others have been removed.	<1732 altered by 1840
Site F	SO 8200 5485	Field. Shown as orchard on 1840 map but not shown as such on earlier maps, though orchards are clearly indicated elsewhere on the earlier maps. Shown as containing trees on 1890 map but not on map of 1905 (though again orchards are indicated conventionally elsewhere on the map). Eastern part shown as orchard on 1930 map. Trees shown on 1946 (March and July) and all later aerial photographs	Orchard established between 1741 and 1840, appears to be removed sometime between 1840 and 1930, and is re-established after 1930 and before 1946
Site G	SO 8216 5491	Pond. Not shown on earlier maps but is shown on map of 1840, but not shown again on maps from 1890.	Constructed between 1741 and 1840, disappears before 1890
Site H	SO 8219 5461 to SO 8225 5475	Holloway. Access track to former farm exists as a holloway, c 1.5m deep at its southern end (field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).	
Site I	SO 8198 5463 to SO 8198 5474	Field boundary shown on all maps from 1732. Extant field boundary with hedge, with signs of having been laid, on earthwork remains of bank (c 2m wide and 0.4m high) with ditch to west (c 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep; field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).	Post-medieval to modern
Site J	SO 8189 5478 to SO 8187 5499	Field boundary shown on all maps from 1732. Extant field boundary with hedge, earthwork remains of ditch to east (c 3m wide and 0.4m deep; field visit 1	Post-medieval to modern

		October 2002, SGW).	
Site K	SO 8187 5499 to SO 8221 5486	Field boundary shown on all maps from 1732. Extant field boundary with hedge with earthwork remains of bank and ditch to south (of variable width and depth; field visit 1 October 2002, SGW).	Post-medieval to modern

The buildings of Earls Court lies adjacent to the site and is listed as a moated site by the VCH (IV, 430), though only fragments of the moat survived. The site is thought to derive its name from the family name *Le Erl*, first recorded in the area in 1275 (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 92)

The VCH (III, 507) traces the ownership of the reputed manor of Earls Court between 1542 and 1899 and mentions a mill attached to the manor in 1647 (III, 509).

5. Description

Table 3 summarises the artefacts recovered. The location of the trenches is shown in Figure 2.

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural matrix is very varied over the site. It comprises primarily glaciofluvial drift of light coloured clays, with occasional patches of sand plus river gravel and bands of Mercian Mudstone (Keuper Marl) clay. It is a very heavy parent material, and frequently impermeable causing seasonal waterlogging. It does not permit a good arable soil and as such this area could not have been extensively utilised until the development of the heavy plough.

5.2 Phase 2 Prehistoric to medieval deposits

No features dating to these periods were identified, although two sherds of heavily abraded pottery of indeterminate Roman date and provenance were recovered from the plough soil of Trench 22 on the brow of the slope on the west side of the site.

5.3 Phase 3 Post-medieval/modern deposits

All features noted on site were of post-medieval or modern origin. They comprised predominately ceramic land drains cut into the surface of the natural matrix, plough marks, service trenches or postholes. Only a small number of such features were identified, and in general the surface of the natural matrix was undisturbed.

A single shallow subcircular posthole was recorded within Trench 4a to the south of the holloway. It was found to contain a single fill of a similar character to the topsoil above, but was without artefacts. It is therefore undated, but probably relates to the (modern) field boundary immediately adjacent to the south.

5.4 Phase 4 Undated deposits

The holloway was examined in two trenches. Trench 4a was excavated perpendicularly across the existing earthwork in Field 1. Here the base of the holloway comprised a worn pebble gravel surface with subsoil banked up to the north (Fig 3). The gravel was considered to be of natural origin, having simply been worn down and compacted by continuous use of the route.

Overlying the surface was a mixed subsoil and gravel layer, probably upcast during use of the track. Two irregular but parallel linear features cut through it, on alignments identical with the track itself. They have been interpreted as wheel ruts. Unfortunately no artefacts were recovered from these features. Therefore the holloway remains unassigned to any phase.

Trench 5 also cut across the surviving earthwork of the holloway within Field 1, however it did not add any more information to that from Trench 4a.

5.5 Artefact analysis

The assemblage ranged in date from Roman to modern, and was mostly quite abraded. The only material that might have been medieval was 492g of a type of roof tile that was produced between the 13th and 18th centuries. It was not concentrated in any particular area. The Roman material consisted of two very small and extremely abraded sherds of unidentified Roman pottery from Trench 22.

The largest group of material was post-medieval and modern pottery, by both sherd count and weight. The fabrics can be seen in Table 3, below. There were also eight pieces of sagger and thirteen sherds of pottery wasters.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Sum Of Total	Sum Of Weight
	Wasters	13	70
101	Miscellaneous modern	2	6
78	Post-medieval red ware	39	751
81	Stoneware	18	296
84	Creamware	1	9
85	Modern stone china	169	828
91	Post-medieval buff ware	4	23
98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	2	2

Table 3

Other materials from the assemblage included vessel and window glass, clay pipe, iron, oyster shell, flowerpot, stone, undated and modern tile and fired clay, all in small quantities.

6. Discussion

6.1 Prehistoric and Roman

No features were identified of either prehistoric or Roman origin, although two heavily abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered on the west side of the site. It is likely that these sherds have been incorporated in the soil from manuring and are not indicative of Roman settlement within the area of the sample trenches. Though there are various findspots of single prehistoric flint artefacts (one WCM 100689 within the development area, and others outside eg WSM 31633, WCM 100683, 100693), the sample trenches found no evidence for any other prehistoric activity.

6.2 Anglo-Saxon

Hooke (1990, fig on page 255) places the boundary of the Laughern described in an undated charter (Hooke 1990, ref. 36B, page 13) on this line. She also, however, stresses that the reconstructed lines are “interim attempts” (Hooke 1999, 2), and should not be taken as definitive.

There was no indication of occupation or other activities undertaken within the area of the sample trenches in this period (from either features or artefacts). However it must be stressed that absence of evidence cannot be taken automatically as evidence of absence, especially as evidence of settlements of this date is often ephemeral. The sample trenching was, however, comprehensive and trenches were excavated either side of the “dog leg” in the field/charter boundary. The absence of Anglo-Saxon settlement within the area of the sample trenches has been established beyond reasonable doubt.

6.3 **Medieval**

There is no evidence for ridge and furrow in the study area, and the character of the pre-enclosure landscape is undefined. The lack of medieval material recovered from the sample trenches is indicative of the absence of settlement during this period.

6.4 **Post-medieval and modern**

The origin of the holloway is unknown, however the lack of substantial deposits overlying the worn gravel surface, its representation on the 1840 map, and its integration into the existing field system indicate that it was utilised into the post-medieval and modern periods.

Post-medieval and modern features comprised simply a small number of service trenches, land drains and postholes. The minimal depth of the subsoil and occasional plough marks in the surface of the natural indicate that the site has undergone extensive deep ploughing, and has probably also suffered from topsoil erosion.

Although a large amount of the tile recovered was of a type that could have been medieval, the lack of any other medieval finds would suggest that it is more likely to be post-medieval in date. The assemblage was unstratified and too small to draw many conclusions, but the material would be largely consistent with domestic activity. The sherds of pottery wasters and sagger represent industrial activity, but as they were unstratified and there were only a small number of pieces, they are likely to be waste from the Worcester ceramic industry.

6.5 **The field boundaries**

All major field boundaries are marked by a hedge, usually on top of a low bank and with the earthwork remains of a ditch. All the major boundaries are extant from at least the earliest map evidence (c 1732) and remain to the present day (with one exception Site E).

7. **Significance**

With one potential exception, there is no indication that there is any site of any considerable importance within the study area. The single exception is the holloway, which has an unproven association with an Anglo-Saxon charter boundary. Notwithstanding this, the holloway forms a distinct feature of the landscape, relates to the adjacent, and nationally important, Earls Court Farm, and the buried remains include metal surfaces with wheel ruts.

8. **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 was undertaken on behalf of Worcestershire County Council client on land at Earls Court Farm, Rushwick (NGR: SO 8200 5470; SMR ref. WSM 31973), as part of a planning condition required in advance of the construction of a new high school. The project

aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The project was undertaken in three stages: a desk-based assessment, a walkover survey, and finally a sample trench evaluation. Twenty-three sample trenches were opened across the southern half of the site, defined as the area of most anticipated disturbance during the development.

The site lies within agricultural land, on the west side of Worcester, adjacent to the moated medieval site of Earls Court. The walkover survey primarily identified the course of the holloway, now incorporated into the present field boundaries, and a slight linear depression on the west side of the site, showing on earlier maps as a pond.

Two of the sample trenches were positioned over the holloway. Other trenches were positioned either side of the dogleg along the track, and randomly across the site. The holloway comprised the worn surface of natural gravel with two possible wheel ruts, and a low bank to the north, comprised of mixed subsoil and pebble gravel. No finds were recovered in association so the trackway is still undated.

All other disturbances to the natural clays and gravels were determined to be of natural, post-medieval or modern origin. There were no other archaeological features, and all finds were residual. Two heavily abraded sherds of indeterminate Roman pottery were recovered from the western side of the site. All remaining finds were of post-medieval and modern origin, probably brought onto site either deliberately for soil improvement or accidentally during manuring.

The lack of medieval finds and features is surprising given the adjacent moated manorial site. The level of topsoil and subsoil generally was noted to be very shallow, probably the result of erosion during agricultural use. There was no indication of ridge and furrow within any of the trenches.

9. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 8 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Colour transparency film
- 1 Black and white photographic films
- 1 Drawing number catalogue AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Context number catalogue AS5
- 7 Abbreviated context records AS40
- 26 Trench record sheets AS41
- 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

10. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Lawson Quartermain and Iain Paul (WCC Property Services), Brian and Kevin Wickens (Ham Bridge Farm), Mr Turney (Turney UK), Mr Lee-Wright (GL Hearn Planning) and Mike Glyde (WCC Planning Archaeologist).

11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork was led by Tom Vaughan. The report was prepared by Tom Vaughan and Simon Woodiwiss. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Vaughan, Chris Patrick and Richard Lee, finds analysis by Erica Darch and illustration by Carolyn Hunt and Laura Templeton.

12. **Bibliography**

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13. **Abbreviations**

NMR	National Monuments Record.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.
VCH	Victoria County History
WCC	Worcestershire County Council.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record.
WCM	Numbers prefixed with 'WCM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcester City Sites and Monuments Record.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Field 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54.75m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40-0.50m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse boundary with [1001] below.	0.00-0.16m
1001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Slightly diffuse boundary with [1001] above and [1002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.16-0.36m
1002	Natural	Light orange fawn silty clay. Frequent pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent small-medium rounded pebbles. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.36m +

Deposit description.

Occasional unstratified post medieval debris. No features identified.

Trench 2

Site area: Field 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.36-0.50m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
2000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse boundary with [2001] below.	0.00-0.20m
2001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Slightly diffuse boundary with [2001] above and [2002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile, slag, iron and china fragments.	0.20-0.34m
2002	Natural	Light orange fawn silty clay. Frequent pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent small-medium rounded pebbles. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive. Occasional land drains noted on NE/SW and E/W alignments.	0.34m +

Deposit description.

Occasional unstratified post medieval debris. No features identified.

Trench 3

Site area: Field 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.15m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.38-0.50m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
3000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse boundary with [3001] below.	0.00-0.23m
3001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Slightly diffuse boundary with [3001] above and [3002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.23-0.36m
3002	Natural	Light orange fawn silty clay. Frequent pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent small-medium rounded pebbles. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive. Occasional land drains noted on NE/SW alignment.	0.36m +

Deposit description.

Occasional unstratified post medieval debris. No features identified.

Trench 4a

Site area: Field 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 19m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.28-0.73m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
4000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse boundary with [4001] below.	0.00-0.18m
4001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Slightly diffuse boundary with [4001] above and [4002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.18-0.72m
4002	Natural	Light orange fawn silty clay and fawn yellow sand. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel areas. Very compact and cohesive.	0.28m +
4003	Gravel lens	Light fawn orange silty clay with extensive small rounded pebbles. Compact but friable. No finds. Same as subsoil [4001]?	0.06-0.40m
4004	Posthole cut	Sub-circular cut. Near vertical sides straight to a flattish base that slopes slightly to the south. Filled by [4005]. Unclear if cut from topsoil [4000] or lower in stratigraphy.	0.14-0.38m
4005	Fill	Light-medium brownish-grey sandy silt. Not compact or cohesive. Occasional small rounded pebbles. No visible post-pipe. No finds. Fill of [4004]. Similar to topsoil [4000].	0.14-0.38m
4006	Linear cut	Irregular but straight parallel concave sides at <45° to horizontal curving to an irregular flattish base. Aligned WNW/ESE. Filled by [4007]. Parallel with [4008].	0.24-0.35m
4007	Fill	Greyish yellow sandy silt. Compact but friable. Occasional small-medium	0.24-0.35m

4008	Linear cut	rounded pebbles. No finds. Similar to subsoil [4001]. Fill of [4006]. Irregular but straight parallel concave sides at <45° to horizontal curving to an irregular concave base. Aligned WNW/ESE. Filled by [4009]. Parallel with [4006].	0.18-0.35m
4009	Fill	Greyish yellow sandy silt. Compact but friable. Occasional small-medium rounded pebbles. No finds. Similar to subsoil [4001]. Fill of [4008].	0.18-0.35m

Deposit description.

The fill of posthole cut [4004] was of similar character to the topsoil [4000] above. There were no finds. It is interpreted to be of recent (post-medieval or modern) origin.

The parallel linear features [4006] and [4008] lay within and sympathetically aligned with the extant earthwork of the holloway. There were no finds, but the features are interpreted to be wheel ruts. The surface of the natural matrix [4002] within the base of the earthwork was a very compacted pebble gravel at this point. This is considered to be entirely natural in origin and not a deliberate hardcore - it is simply the level that was worn down to during constant use of the track. Pebble gravel lens [4003] was a mixed layer comprising subsoil [4002] and disturbed pebbles from [4002].

Occasional unstratified post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No other features were identified.

Trench 4b

Site area: Field 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 35m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.45-0.50m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
4010	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Not compact or cohesive. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [4011] below.	0.00-0.29m
4011	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Not compact or cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [4010] above. Diffuse boundary with [4012] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments. Very shallow to north end of trench.	0.29-0.45m
4012	Natural	Light orange fawn silty clay. Fawn yellow sandy clay to north end of trench. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel areas. Very compact and cohesive.	0.45m +

Deposit description.

Occasional tree roots were noted within the surface of the natural matrix [4012] towards the north end of the trench. Also at this point the subsoil [4011] was observed to be very shallow to the point of almost not existing.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 5

Site area: Field 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.24-0.50m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
5000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse boundary with [5001] below.	0.00-0.22m
5001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Slightly diffuse boundary with [5001] above and [5002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments. Non-existent at west end of trench.	0.22-0.50m
5002	Natural	Light orange fawn silty clay. Frequent pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble patches. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.22m +m

Deposit description.

There was no defined subsoil [5001] toward the western end of the trench. At this point the trench cut through the holloway earthwork. The surface of the natural matrix [5000] here was a very compacted pebble gravel. This is interpreted to be of natural origin, rather than a deliberately dumped hardcore, the use of the track simply wearing down to this layer.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 6a

Site area: Field 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.46-0.53m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
6000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse boundary with [6001] below.	0.00-0.18m
6001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Slightly diffuse boundary with [6001] above and [6002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.18-0.46m
6002	Natural	Light orange fawn small-medium rounded pebble gravel and silty clay. Frequent pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.46m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 6b

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
6003	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [6004] below.	0.00-0.24m
6004	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [6003] above. Diffuse boundary with [6005] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments (not kept).	0.24-0.33m
6005	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.33m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 7a

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 32.70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
7000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [7001] below.	0.00-0.28m
7001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [7000] above. Diffuse boundary with [7002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile, glass and china fragments.	0.15-0.50m
7002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.28m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 7b

Site area: Field 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 23m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.33-0.40m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
7003	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [7004] below.	0.00-0.25m
7004	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [7003] above. Diffuse boundary with [7005] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.25-0.33m
7005	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.33m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

The subsoil [7004] was substantially shallower toward the west end of the trench, away from the field boundary.

Trench 8

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
8000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [8001] below.	0.00-0.32m
8001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [8000] above. Diffuse boundary with [8002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and iron slag.	0.32-0.40m
8002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Very occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.40m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 9

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
9000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [9001] below.	0.00-0.29m
9001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [9000] above. Diffuse boundary with [9002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.22-0.40m
9002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.32m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 10

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51.20m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.20-0.36m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
10000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [10001] below.	0.00-0.29m
10001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [10000] above. Diffuse boundary with [10002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.18-0.22m
10002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.20m +m

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

The subsoil [10001] was non-existent toward the south end of the trench and was generally very shallow throughout.

Trench 11

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.40m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.25-0.30m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
11000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [11001] below.	0.00-0.18m
11001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [11000] above. Diffuse boundary with [11002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.18-0.21m
11002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl bands with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.21m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Plough marks were well defined within the surface of the natural matrix [11002], aligned roughly east-west. The subsoil [11001] was noted to be almost non-existent along the length of the trench.

Trench 12

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.35m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
12000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [12001] below.	0.00-0.22m
12001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [12000] above. Diffuse boundary with [12002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.22-0.30m
12002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.30m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

The subsoil [12001] was noted to be almost non-existent along the length of the trench.

Trench 13

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51.70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
13000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [13001] below.	0.00-0.26m
13001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [13000] above. Diffuse boundary with [13002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.26-0.38m
130002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.38m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 14

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 55m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.35-0.40m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
14000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [14001] below.	0.00-0.26m
14001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [14000] above. Diffuse boundary with [14002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.20-0.32m
14002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl bands with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.32m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

The subsoil [14001] was noted to be very shallow and was almost non-existent toward the south end of the trench, where the topsoil [14000] lay to a greater depth directly over the natural matrix [14002].

Trench 15

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.38m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
15000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [15001] below.	0.00-0.20m
15001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [15000] above. Diffuse boundary with [15002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.18-0.31m
15002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.31m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

The subsoil [15001] was noted to be very shallow along the entire length of the trench.

Trench 16

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
16000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [16001] below.	0.00-0.22m
16001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [16000] above. Diffuse boundary with [16002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.22-0.38m
16002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.38m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Two modern features were noted directly below the topsoil within the northern half of the trench. One was a linear service trench backfilled with keuper marl. The other was a small sub-circular posthole containing fragments of ceramic land drain and modern china sherds. They were not recorded archaeologically.

Trench 17

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 23.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
17000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [17001] below.	0.00-0.29m
17001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [17000] above. Diffuse boundary with [17002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.29-0.48m
17002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.48m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

A single modern linear service trench filled with keuper marl was noted on a NNE/SSW alignment in the western half of the trench. It was not archaeologically recorded.

Trench 18

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.80m Width: 1.80m Depth: 42-0.60m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
18000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [18001] below.	0.00-0.28m
18001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [18000] above. Diffuse boundary with [18002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.28-0.42m
18002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.42m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

A modern soil filled linear feature was identified directly below the topsoil [18000] on a NE/SW alignment. It was not recorded archaeologically.

The subsoil [18001] was generally very shallow, and was almost non-existent toward the northern end of the trench. A large number of animal burrows were also noted in the surface of the natural matrix [18002] toward the northern end. Land drains were also observed on NW/SE alignments.

Trench 19

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.38-0.50m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
19000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [19001] below.	0.00-0.27m
19001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [19000] above. Diffuse boundary with [19002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.27-0.38m
19002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.50m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

The service trench noted in Trench 16 was observed to continue through this trench.

Decayed tree roots were observed in the top of the natural matrix [19002] toward the south end of the trench. Land drains were also identified aligned NW/SE.

Trench 20

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.40m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.36-0.50m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
20000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [20001] below.	0.00-0.21m
20001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [20000] above. Diffuse boundary with [20002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.21-0.36m
20002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.36m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 21

Site area: Field 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51.20m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.41-0.45m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
21000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [21001] below.	0.00-0.28m
21001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [21000] above. Diffuse boundary with [21002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.28-0.41m
21002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Very occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.41m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 22

Site area: Field 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 54.90m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.42-0.50m

Orientation: east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
22000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [22001] below.	0.00-0.28m
22001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [22000] above. Diffuse boundary with [22002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.28-0.42m
22002	Natural	Light orange silty clay. Extensive small-medium rounded pebble gravel to west. Orange red sandy patches to east. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.20m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Plough marks were identified in the surface of the natural matrix [22002] toward the western end of the trench., where there was noted to be no subsoil [22001]. A few land drains aligned NE/SW were also observed in the surface of the natural matrix.

Trench 23

Site area: Field 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.75m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.36-0.45m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
23000	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt. Turfed and organic rich. Compact but friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Well-defined boundary with [23001] below.	0.00-0.23m
23001	Subsoil	Light fawn orange silty clay. Compact but friable. Well-defined boundary with [23000] above. Diffuse boundary with [23002] below. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Frequent charcoal flecks. Occasional manganese flecks. Occasional brick, tile and china fragments.	0.23-0.36m
23002	Natural	Light orange sandy silty clay. Frequent small-medium rounded pebble gravel. Very occasional pinkish red keuper marl patches with grey streaks. Frequent manganese flecks and iron pan within the gravels. Compact and cohesive.	0.36m +

Deposit description.

Occasional post-medieval debris was recovered during machining. No archaeological features were identified.

Land drains were noted on a WNW/ESE alignment within the surface of the natural matrix [23002].