

Archaeological Evaluation of Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire



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Contents

Summary

1

Report

1 Background	2
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
2 Aims	2
3 Methods	2
3.1 Personnel	2
3.2 Documentary research	2
3.3 List of sources consulted	2
3.4 Fieldwork strategy	2
3.5 Structural analysis	3
3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin	3
3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy	3
3.6.2 Method of analysis	3
3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson	3
3.7.1 Sampling policy	3
3.7.2 Processing and analysis	3
3.7.3 Discard policy	3
3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results	3
4 The application site	4
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context	4
4.2 Current land-use	4
5 Results	4
5.1 Structural analysis	4
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	4
5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval	5
5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits	5
5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits	6
5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin	6
5.2.1 Results	6
5.2.2 Summary artefactual evidence by period	6
5.2.3 Assessment of potential	7
5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson	10
5.3.1 Significance	10
6 Synthesis	10
7 Significance	11
7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site	11
7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site	11
7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site	11
8 Publication summary	11
9 Acknowledgements	12
10 Bibliography	12

Archaeological evaluation at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire

Tim Cornah

With contributions by Elizabeth Pearson and Laura Griffin

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (NGR SO 415723 273245). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client intends to construct up to 20 dwellings with associated infrastructure, open space and landscaping.

The site comprises a former hotel and grounds situated to the north-east of the village of Hockley Heath in the Borough of Solihull. The hotel building, Aylesbury House, is largely of 18th century date but retains 16th to 17th century elements, with some elements likely to predate this.

Evaluation was undertaken by the excavation of eleven trenches each 20m long and 1.8m wide. To the rear of the hotel two cut features were recorded from which pottery of 17th to 18th Century date was retrieved. These are likely to relate to drainage and domestic waste from Aylesbury House. A brick wall also of a broadly contemporary date was also recorded. Residual medieval pottery was retrieved from the cut features. Further walls, surfaces and ditches recorded in the remainder of the grounds are interpreted as relating to farmyard and garden activities, as depicted on historic maps.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (NGR SO 415723 273245). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, whose client, Spitfire Properties intend to construct up to 20 dwellings with associated infrastructure, open space and landscaping.

A desk-based assessment of the site was prepared (CgMs Consulting 2016) which established that no designated archaeological heritage assets lie within, or in the immediate proximity of the study site although non-designated heritage assets are present within the study site itself represented by extant and potential buried remains of possible Medieval and/or Post Medieval fishponds/quarrying and garden features.

A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced and approved by Warwickshire County Council.

The project also conforms to *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2003, assisted by Nina O'Hare (BA (hons.)) and Aidan Woodger (BA (hons.); MSc). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MClfA). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report, Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

A desk based assessment covers the archaeological background of this site (CgMs 2016). The relevant findings of this will be summarised below.

3.3 List of sources consulted.

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016). Fieldwork was undertaken between 9 and 16 May 2016.

Eleven trenches, amounting to just over 222m² in area, were excavated over the site area of approximately 1.7ha, representing a sample of about 1.3%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 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 Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

The following techniques were considered for use but were not considered to be appropriate for this project; geophysical survey, fieldwalking and topographic/earthwork survey.

3.5 Structural analysis

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

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4).

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. Pottery sherds were identified, quantified and dated to period. A spot date was produced for each stratified context (see Table 2). All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

For the purposes of this report, sherds have not been quantified by specific fabric or form type but general composition of the group has been noted and is discussed below. Where specific fabrics have been referred to, they are referenced to the Warwickshire pottery type series (Soden and Ratkai 1998).

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.7.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2014). A single sample (of 20 litres) was taken from the fill of an early post-medieval ditch (Env Table 1).

3.7.2 Processing and analysis

The sample was processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residue was scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flot was scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

Animal bone was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) for each context (Env Table 2).

3.7.3 Discard policy

Scanned residues will be discarded after a period of 6 months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The following within this section is summarised from the archaeological desk based assessment of the site (CgMs 2016).

The site lies on the Arden plateau, which is comprised of gently undulating high land once part of the Forest of Arden. The site slopes gently from a height of c140m AOD on its western side to c133m AOD on its eastern side with the bedrock geology listed as being Mercian Mudstone Group overlain by superficial diamictom till deposits of the middle Pleistocene.

No archaeological remains of either the Prehistoric or Romano-British periods have been identified within 1km of the site, or the site itself. Features of these periods were therefore considered unlikely to be present. Similarly, no specific features within the site or wider area have been attributed to the Saxon-early medieval period despite the area having been mentioned in record from the 8th century onwards. It is likely that the site and its vicinity remained as unsettled woodland at this time.

Settlement at Hockley Heath was first documented in c1280, named as 'Huckeloweheheth' and formed along the highway from Dudley to Warwick. The site lies to the east of the probable settlement centre and contains Aylesbury House. Whilst this house is largely of 18th century date, it retains 16th to 17th century elements, with some elements likely to predate this. The Aylesbury family were listed as the lords of the manor of Lapworth from 1361, so earlier elements present on this site could not be discounted. These elements could have taken the form of a moated house, which were noted features of the Arden landscape from the second half of the 13th century onwards.

The first mapping of the site dates to 1819, but it was not until 1841 that the house and its plot were illustrated on the Packwood Tithe map. From another source of this date, it is suggested that the outbuilding to the south was a stable and coach house, with the three buildings to the north being predominantly agricultural. The house at this time was used as a lunatic asylum. The 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map provides greater detail, with a set of buildings around a yard to the north, likely be agricultural and a further building also to the north of the house aligned north-east to south-west along with the coach house and stable to the south. To the south east of the house was an area segmented by paths into quadrants, and described in the early 20th century as a kitchen garden complete with a glasshouse and cold frames. The building immediately to the north of the house was partially removed by the time of the 1918 OS map, with a further building added to the south-east of the likely farmyard. Further large buildings were added to the north-east of the house by the time of the 1967 OS map.

4.2 Current land-use

The site was a former hotel, which included the historic house and various modern outbuildings which are all now derelict. The majority of the rest of the site comprised of garden areas, as well as some areas of tracks, hard standing and a former tennis court.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-6. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural substrate in Trenches 1, 5 and 7 to 11 consisted largely of a light yellow grey sandy clay with occasional pockets of sand, gravel and red clay. Whilst trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 contained some elements of yellows clays, they predominantly contained pink-red clay marl deposits.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval

Although no deposits of this date were recorded, two pieces of pottery were assigned to this phase. Whilst that in (501) was not closely dateable, a single piece from (824) was dated to the 13th century. Further pieces of roof tile from (824) were also of this phase, though also not closely dateable. This material culture suggests occupation of the site at this time

5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

The earliest Post-medieval feature was a pit [828] located in the southern end of Trench 8 to the rear of the hotel building which contained material of a 17th to 18th century date. Close to this was an elongated pit or ditch terminus aligned in a north-east to south-west direction. It was at least 0.80m wide and 0.37m deep. Its fill (824) contained a relatively large amount of pottery, suggesting domestic activity within the vicinity.

To the north of this possible ditch and on broadly the same alignment a brick wall (834) was recorded constructed of bricks of dimensions 255mm by 125mm by 60mm and a minimum of ten courses deep (Plate 2, Figures 4 and 5). No other features clearly related to this wall or possible ditch [825] and they remained as the earliest stratigraphic elements in the area.

Wall (811) (Figure 4, Plate 3) was recorded at the southern end of the Trench 8 (Plate 3). This was constructed with bricks measuring 230mm by 110mm by 80mm and was parallel to wall (834). It had three single brick-width spurs running from it at 90 degrees on its north-west side, the function of which is unclear. Associated with this on its north side were a series of deposits (842, 843, 841, 808 and 823) which may have been levelling deposits from a former surface at least partially cut against wall (834). These deposits were in turn cut by three postholes [810, 822 and 839]. These deposits and features were sealed by blue grey clay deposits (806, 804 and 837) upon which structures (805) and (815) were built with bricks of 230mm by 100mm by 70mm in dimension (Plate 3). It appeared that these were part of an external structure, as they had a layer of cobbles to the north (813).

Probably also of the same broad date was a small area of brick (703) and gravel stone (704) surface in Trench 7. The bricks were laid flat and likely to have been an edging to the compact gravel surface and constructed with bricks of 220mm by 110mm by 55mm in dimension. This was not associated with any other features (Plate 4).

A further cobbled surface was recorded within Trench 10 (1004) that was sealed by a deposit (1003) containing material of this date. This had a rut running roughly north to south, with another possible one parallel to it at its east (Plate 5). The surface had no clear alignment, so it is likely to have been an area of hard standing, as opposed to a track.

Trench 11 contained two small pit features [1104, 1106], the function of which was unclear. A further small pit was recorded in Trench 6 [605] which was within the garden of the house and appears to have been for planting (Plate 6).

Within Trenches 1, 3 and 4 a number of shallow linear features were recorded which are interpreted as bedding trenches. Four of these survived within Trench 1 and were aligned north-east to south-west. Two of these [103, 108] were excavated (Plate 7). Trenches 3 and 4 contained nine of these features and were aligned north-west to south-east. Of these, 3 were excavated [304, 306, 402] (Plate 8).

A further wall associated with surfaces was recorded in Trench 1 (Plate 9). The wall (106) was aligned parallel with the bedding trenches and constructed of bricks with dimensions of 240mm by 120mm by 60mm. The surfaces were numbered (104, 105) and comprised of both cobbles and some brick rubble content.

Within Trench 5, a levelling deposit (501) was seen throughout and deepening from 0.21m at the west end to 0.37m at the east end (Plate 10). This formed part of an extant garden terrace and contained a single piece of pottery of medieval date, though this is likely to be residual.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits

No clear subsoil deposits were seen as those recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 (201 and 301) are likely to have been related to the cultivation activities seen in that area. Deposits (100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 602) were relatively undisturbed topsoil cultivation deposits within the garden areas whilst (700, 1000 and 1101) were more modern imported top soils.

A degree of truncation was also noticeable within Trenches 11 and 9 where modern deposits were seen directly overlaying the natural substrate. This was particularly the case with tarmac deposit (900) which formed part of a former tennis court surface. The tennis court was seen to have been cut into the natural slope (Plate 11). Further modern truncations were recorded in Trenches 6, 10 and 11 along with a row of postholes which still contained square wooden stakes in Trench 11 and 2.

Six services and pipes associated with the former hotel were present within Trenches 5, 7 and 10. These typically not characterised as they were avoided where possible. Trenches 2, 6 and 7 also contained ceramic land drains.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

5.2.1 Results

The site assemblage totalled 87 finds (weighing 7491g) from 21 contexts (Tables 1 and 2). Level of preservation, on the whole, was good with pottery sherds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and having an exceptionally high average weight of 44.8g.

The majority of the finds assemblage recovered comprised domestic refuse dating to the post-medieval and modern periods. Small amounts of residual medieval and late medieval/early post medieval transitional material were also identified, hinting at earlier activity in the vicinity.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	pot	2	99
medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	5	283
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	98
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	9	214
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	7	509
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	3000
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	2	5
modern	ceramic	brick	8	745
modern	ceramic	pot	33	1652
modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	145
modern	glass	vessel	11	718
modern	glass	window	6	23

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.2 Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, see Table 2.

Medieval

Material of medieval date consisted of two sherds of pottery and 5 pieces of flat roof tile.

The pottery consisted of the rim of a jug (context 824) provisionally identified as being of Chilvers Coton A (fabric WW01). The sherd was decorated with a patchy olive green glaze. The top of the strap handle was decorated with a series of distinctive vertical slashes. This sherd is dated to 1250-1300 AD. The remaining sherd in a reduced sandy fabric was undiagnostic and thought to come from a cooking pot (context 501).

All flat roof tile of this period was undiagnostic but in a distinctive sandy fabric type.

Post-medieval

Five contexts (824, 827, 834, 1003 and 1103) could be dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of the finds.

There were two sherds of pottery commonly classified as 'transitional' (ie late medieval–early post-medieval). The sherds (contexts 824 and 827) were both from flared bowl forms in a sandy, oxidised fabric (SLM41) with a thin green internal glaze and dated 15th-16th century.

Remaining sherds of this period were identified as Midlands blackwares (MB02) and were dated to the 17th-18th century. Identifiable forms included a pancheon/flared bowl (context 824) and a butter pot (context 829).

Other finds of post-medieval date included flat roof tile, clay pipe stems and a distinctive brick. The brick (context 834) was roughly formed and the dimensions (10 x 4¾ x 2") indicated a 16th-17th century date.

Modern

All remaining finds were of late 18th to 20th century date and consisted primarily of domestic pottery and bottle glass. The pottery included a variety of sherds of modern glazed wares (MGW), creamware (CRW), porcelain, pearlware (PLW01) and English stoneware (STE, STE02 and STE03). Where diagnostic, these sherds largely came from domestic tablewares, primarily plates and dishes. The majority of china was transfer-decorated, whilst the pearlware was hand-painted.

Vessel glass consisted primarily of shards from bottles of 19th-20th century. Two particularly nice free-blown bases in a dark greenish brown were retrieved from context 809. One of these was of particular note for having a pronounced kick and a pontil scar with a distinctive bluish colouration resulting from the type of pontil rod used. The other had a lower kick with a mamelon (Lindsey 2016, <http://www.sha.org/bottle/glossary.htm>). Both were of 19th century date.

Other glass included fragments from a white pearlescent vessel (context 606) and small pieces thought to be window glass.

Remaining material of modern date consisted of abraded ceramic building material.

5.2.3 Assessment of potential

The finds assemblage of 16th century date onwards is largely domestic waste, presumably directly associated with the house. Although largely residual, the small assemblage of medieval material possibly hints at the presence of earlier activity or settlement on the site.

context	material class	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	start date	end date	finds spot date
102	ceramic	brick	2	20			modern
105	ceramic	brick	1	453			L18-20C
	ceramic	pot	1	10	L18C	20C	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	80			
	glass	vessel	1	3			
	glass	window	2	2			
107	ceramic	brick	3	204			modern
402	ceramic	pipe	2	5			19-20C
	ceramic	pot	1	135	19C		
	ceramic	pot	3	33	19C	20C	
	ceramic	pot	3	24	19C	20C	
	glass	vessel	1	2			
	glass	window	2	8			
500	ceramic	pot	1	33	19C	20C	19-20C
	ceramic	pot	2	252	19C	20C	
501	ceramic	pot	1	14			medieval
600	ceramic	brick	1	3			19-20C
	ceramic	pot	1	7	19C	20C	
	glass	vessel	2	38			
604	ceramic	pot	1	3			19-20C
	glass	window	1	3			
606	ceramic	pot	1	8	L19C	20C	19C
	glass	vessel	2	4		19C	
	glass	window	1	10			

705	ceramic	pot	3	7	19C	20C	19-20C
	ceramic	pot	4	20	L18C	E19C	
804	glass	vessel	1	37	19C	20C	19-20C
	glass	vessel	1	85	19C	20C	
	glass	vessel	1	2			
808	ceramic	pot	1	18	1720	1780	L18C
	ceramic	pot	3	23	M18C	L18C	
809	ceramic	brick	1	65			E19C
	glass	vessel	1	166			
	glass	vessel	1	381		E19C	
823	ceramic	pot	2	14	1750	1820	E19C
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	145			
824	ceramic	pot	1	85	1250	1300	18C
	ceramic	pot	2	44		18C	
	ceramic	pot	1	40	15C	16C	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	4	207			
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	3	189			
827	ceramic	pot	4	124	L17C	18C	L17-18C
	ceramic	pot	1	58	15C	16C	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	76	13C	16C	
829	ceramic	pot	1	42	L17C	18C	M-L18C
	ceramic	pot	3	18	M18C	L18C	
	ceramic	pot	2	29	1750	1900	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	162			
834	ceramic	brick	1		16C	17C	16-17C

1000	ceramic	pot	1	1018	19C	20C	modern
1003	ceramic	pot	1	2			post-medieval
1003	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	78		18C	18C
1103	ceramic	pot	1	2	L17C	18C	L17-18C

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Env Tables 2 to 4.

Only a small number of animal bone fragments were hand-collected during fieldwork. A total of 3 fragments (21g) included a bird bone from (105), and butchered large mammal limb and rib fragments from (402).

Environmental remains from the fill of a post-medieval ditch (824) consisted predominantly of organic material such as herbaceous and woody roots fragments and possible fungal hyphae. Occasional identifiable remains included seeds of sedge (*Carex* sp, 3-sided nutlets) and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp), and cereal straw (*Cereal* sp culm node).

It seems likely that the organic material is contemporary with the post-medieval use of the ditch, rather than being modern and intrusive, as it is abundant and when excavated had an organic smell. Little interpretation can be made of these remains, other than that the ditch contained vegetation at the time it fell out of use. However, it demonstrates the potential for survival of organic remains in this part of the site which may provide information on the function of surrounding features.

5.3.1 Significance

Environmental remains from the evaluation trenching were of low significance but demonstrate the potential for recovery of organic remains should further fieldwork be undertaken on this site.

6 Synthesis

The features within the trenching appear to relate to the occupation periods recognised within the fabric of the house at the start of the post-medieval era. This early phase was present in the form of a pit, ditch and a wall within Trench 8, located close to the rear of the house. The presence of residual medieval pottery within the ditch and other deposits within the same area is suggestive of an earlier as yet unrecognised phase. Whilst a building can be seen in this area on the 1888 OS map, this is likely to relate to the later structures, as no building is visible here on the 1841 Tithe Map. These later structures appear to have formed part of an outbuilding, along with an exterior surface within this trench and Trench 7. Similarly, the cobbled surface within Trench 10, is likely to have related to the farm buildings to its east which are depicted on the 1841 Tithe Map and which were demolished after the 1964 OS map was produced. It is noticeable that the small pits within trench 11 were located within this courtyard, though their function was unclear.

The remainder of the features of Post-medieval date were garden features. Whilst the terrace material within Trench 5 contained a piece of medieval pottery, it is likely to have been part of a post-medieval formal garden layout. One planting feature was seen below this within Trench 6. All of the bedding trenches recognised within trenches 3 and 4 were within the area known to have been a kitchen garden in the early 20th century and shown laid out in a cruciform pattern in 1888.

The bedding trenches within Trench 1 run parallel with the brick wall seen there and are likely to be broadly contemporary. Whilst the wall may relate to the coach stable block which existed in 1841

and demolished sometime after 1888, they may only be garden features. The surfaces seen either side of this contained some brick rubble which may have derived from the demolition of the stable and coach house in this area.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The primary archaeological interest in this site relates to the early post-medieval features that were located close to the rear of the house. The possible ditch and wall may relate to some of the earlier phases of the development to the house, whilst the later walls and features in that area related to a building seen on maps of the late 19th century. Residual pottery of the medieval era would suggest an earlier phase than recognised here. This would be of a higher level of interest.

The remainder of the features seen dated to later in the Post-medieval period and consisted of agricultural and garden features

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The early post-medieval and subsequent remains located close to the rear house are likely to be of moderate local importance in understanding the development and use of Aylesbury House itself. The presence of residual medieval pottery suggests an earlier phase, which would be of greater importance as it would represent the earliest known elements of the site.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

All the trenches excavated contained a number of post-medieval and modern archaeological features excepting Trench 9, where the area had been previously lowered and truncated for a tennis court.

The densest area of archaeology, and the most significant, was located in the southern end of Trench 8. The features were recorded between the depths of 0.18m and 1.32m below the current ground surface. These features are likely to be vulnerable during the construction phase.

8 Publication summary

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

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Aylesbury House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (NGR SO 415723 273245). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client intends to construct up to 20 dwellings with associated infrastructure, open space and landscaping.

The site comprises a former hotel and grounds situated to the north-east of the village of Hockley Heath in the Borough of Solihull. The hotel building, Aylesbury House, is largely of 18th century date but retains 16th to 17th century elements, with some elements likely to predate this.

Evaluation was undertaken by the excavation of eleven trenches each 20m long and 1.8m wide. To the rear of the hotel two cut features were recorded from which pottery of 17th to 18th Century date was retrieved. These are likely to relate to drainage and domestic waste from Aylesbury House, A brick wall also of a broadly contemporary date was also recorded. Residual medieval pottery was retrieved from the cut features. Further walls, surfaces and ditches recorded in the remainder of the grounds are interpreted as relating to farmyard and garden activities, as depicted on historic maps.

9 Acknowledgements

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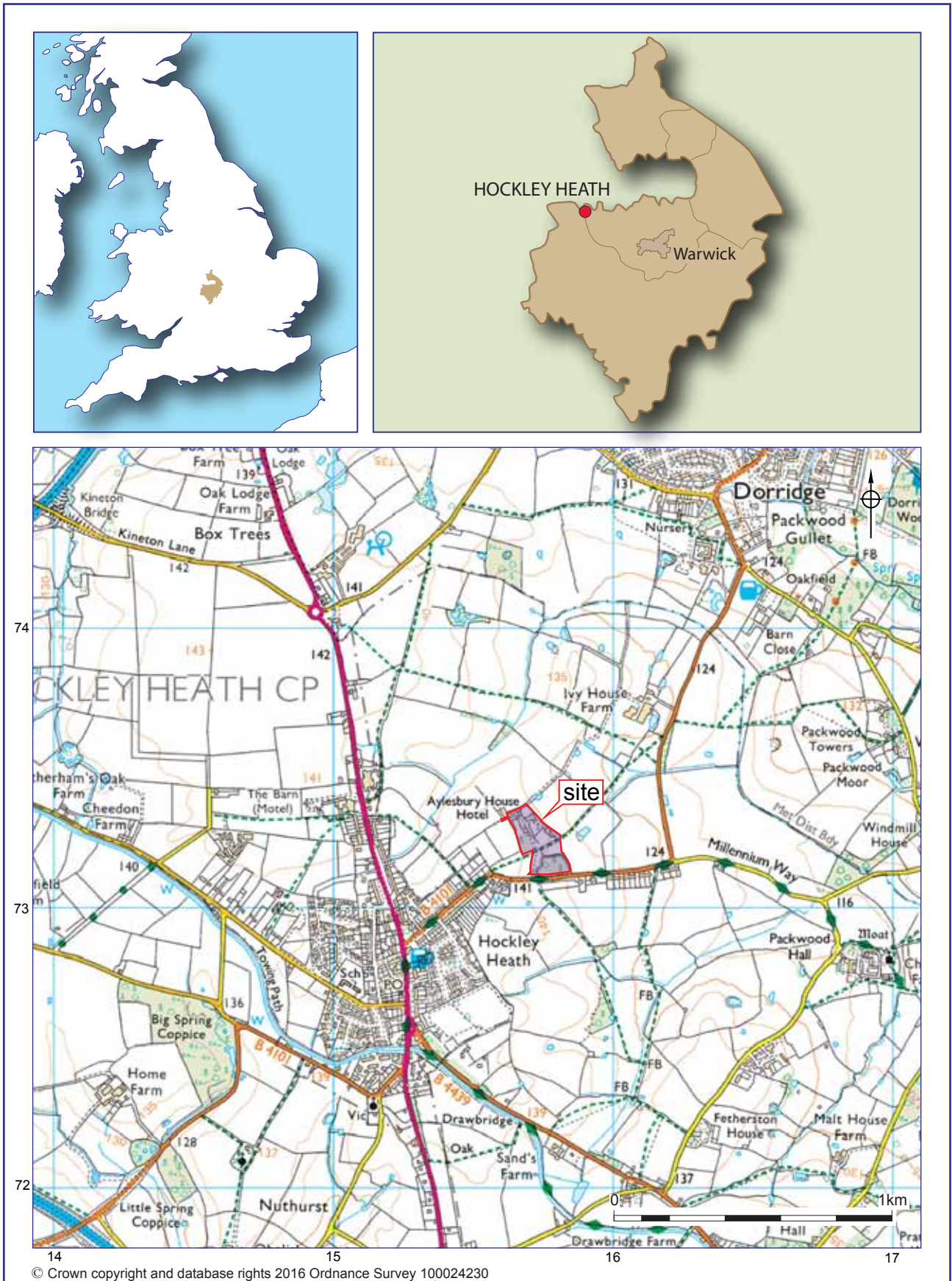
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Figures



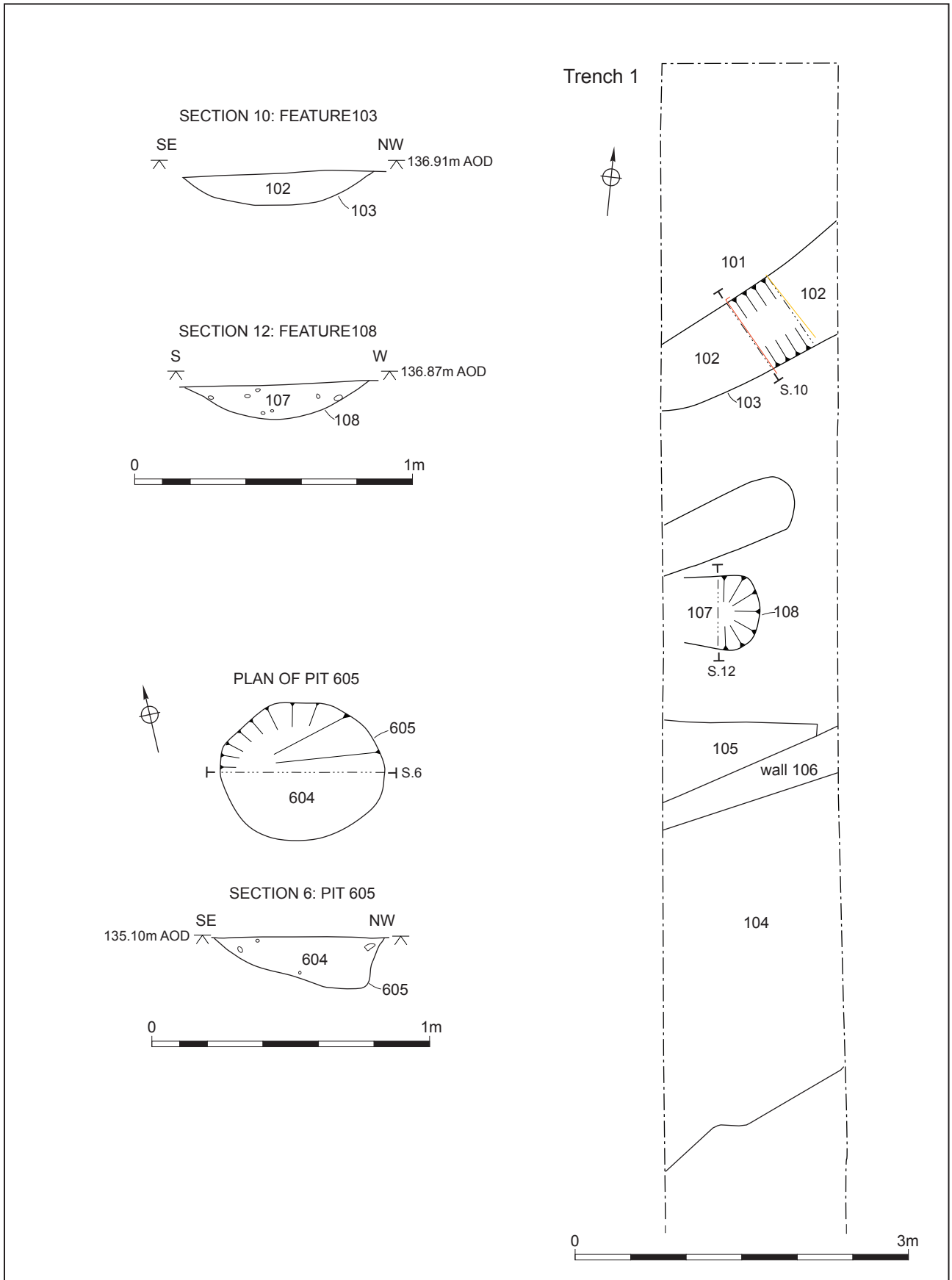
Location of the site

Figure 1



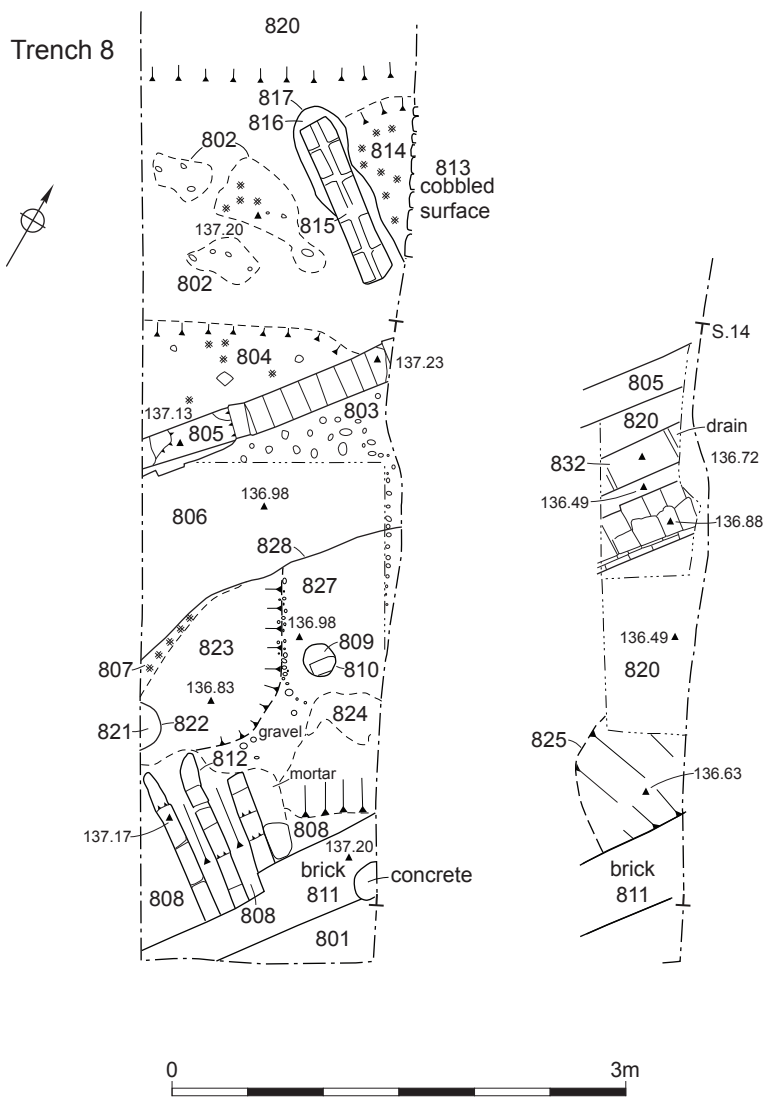
Trench location plan

Figure 2



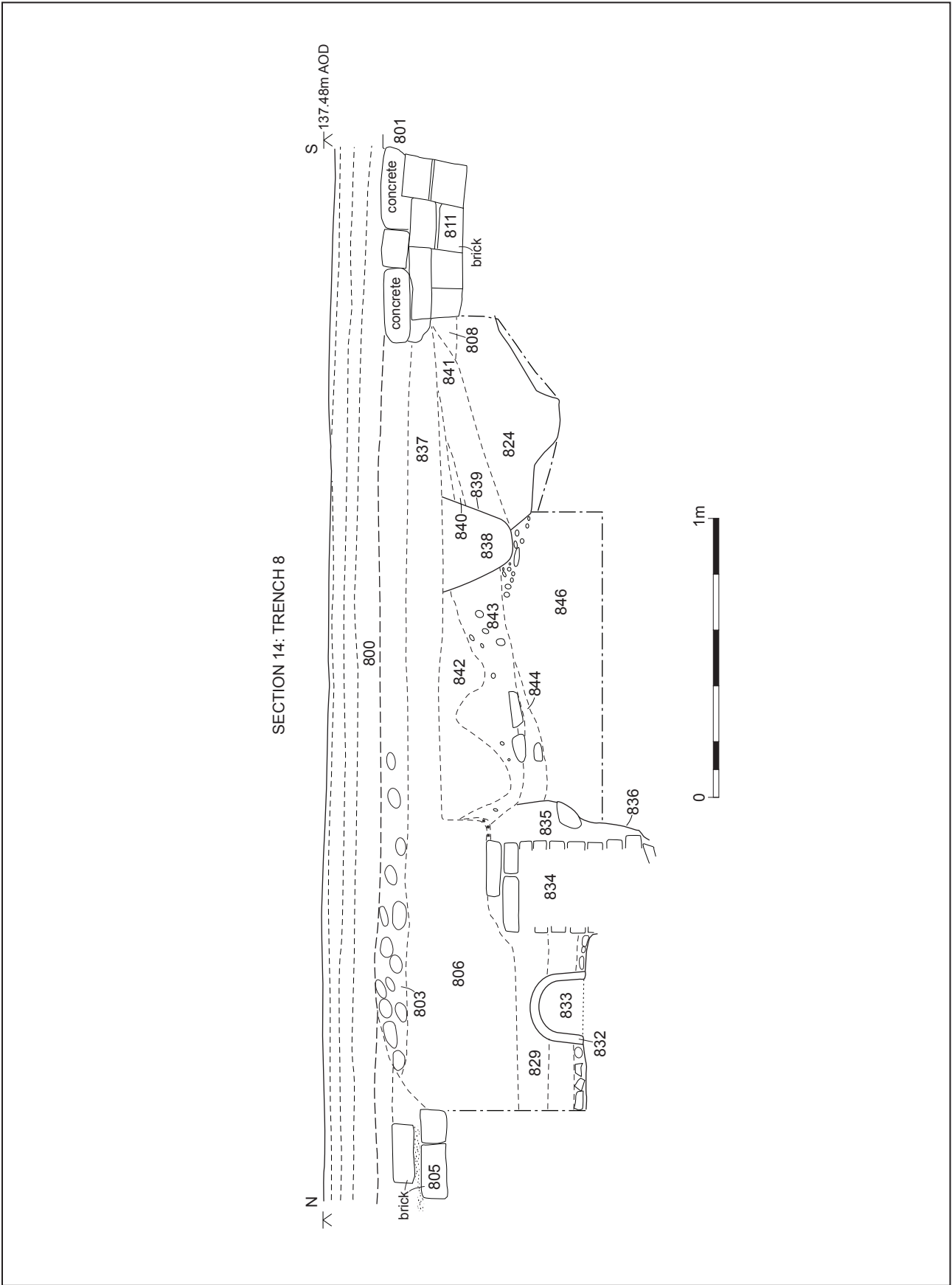
Trench 1 plan and sections; plan and section of pit 605

Figure 3



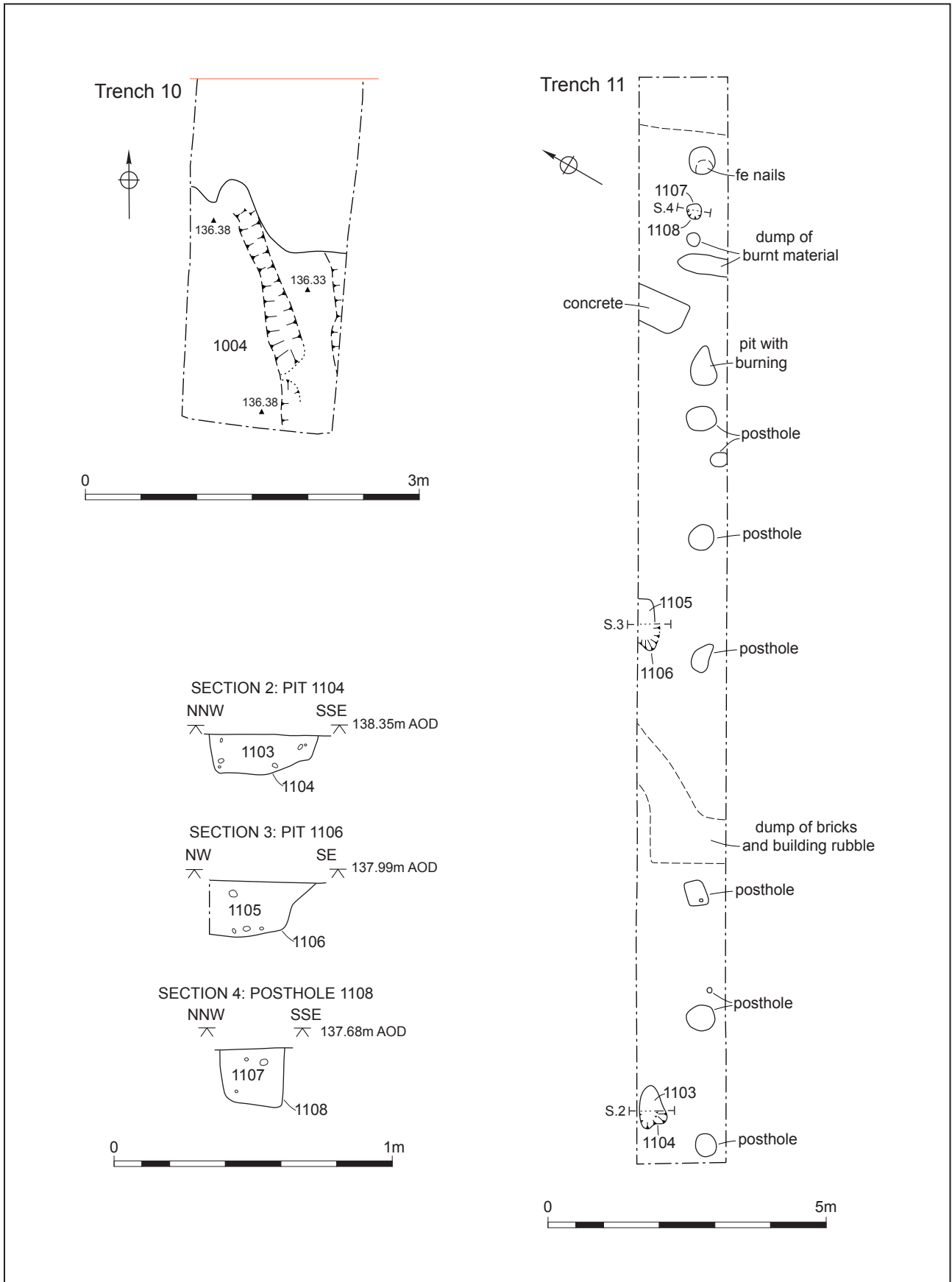
Trench 8 plan

Figure 4



Trench 8: section 14

Figure 5



Trench 10, plan of 1004; Trench 11, plan and sections

Figure 6

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 8, looking south



Plate 2 Ditch [825] and wall (834) within sondage, looking east



Plate 3 Walls (811, 805, 815) within Trench 8, looking north



Plate 4 Surface (703), looking south-west



Plate 5 Cobbled surface (1003), looking south



Plate 6 Pit feature [605], looking south-west



Plate 7 Bedding trench (103), looking north-east



Plate 8 Bedding trench (402), looking north



Plate 9 Wall (106) and surfaces (104 and 105), looking south-west



Plate 10 Terrace deposit (501), looking north



Plate 11 Trench 9 looking south-west

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.40mm

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth
100	Topsoil	Friable dark blackish brown clayey silt with occasional rooting sub-rounded pebbles and CBM fragments	0.28m
101	Natural	Natural, mottled with patches of mid brownish red clay, with frequent sub-rounded pebbles	0.12m+
102	Furrow	Moderately compact mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal	0.12
103	Furrow	NE-SW aligned shallow bedding trench feature	0.12
104	Surface	Small to medium rounded and sub rounded stones with brick and tile fragments	Not excavated
105	Surface	Small to medium rounded and sub rounded stones with brick and tile fragments	Not excavated
106	Wall	NE-SW aligned brick wall	Not excavated
107	Furrow	Moderately compact mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	0.11m
108	Furrow	NE-SW aligned shallow bedding trench feature	0.11m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.84m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Friable dark blackish brown clayey silt with occasional rooting sub-rounded pebbles and CBM fragments	0.25m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal fragments, occasional sub-rounded pebbles and CBM	0.19m
202	Natural	Moderately compact mid-pinkish brown sandy clay with light grey patches and	0.24m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		frequent sub-rounded pebbles	

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 22m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Soft dark grey clay silt with frequent sub rounded stones and rooting	0.41m
301	Subsoil	Mid to light yellow brown silt clay with frequent sub-rounded stones	0.11m
302	Natural	Moderately compact mid-pinkish brown sandy clay with light grey patches and frequent sub-rounded pebbles, becoming sandier at the east end of the trench	
303	Furrow	Mid to light brown clay silt	0.26m
304	Furrow	Shallow NW-SE aligned bedding trench	0.26m
305	Furrow	Mid to light brown clay silt	0.08m
306	Furrow	Shallow NW-SE aligned bedding trench	0.08m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.52-0.78m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt loam with occasional rooting sub-rounded pebbles	0.50m
401	Natural	Moderately compact mid-pinkish brown sandy clay with light grey patches and frequent sub-rounded pebbles	>0.10m
402	Furrow	moderately compact mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal fragments, occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal	0.18m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
403	Furrow	Shallow NW-SE aligned bedding trench	0.18m

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 22m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.45-0.73m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt loam with occasional rooting sub-rounded pebbles	0.36m
501	Layer	mid to light grey clay silt with frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones	0.21-0.37m
502	Natural	Compact yellow orange clay with interbanded sands	
503	Surface	Modern brick and concrete surface	Not excavated

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.20m 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
600	Surface	Modern concrete surface	0.20m
601	Modern Layer	Modern levelling deposit	0.32m
602	Topsoil	Dark grey clay silt with frequent sub-rounded small stones	0.42m
603	Natural	Compact pinkish red clay marl with occasional sub-rounded stones becoming yellow sand at the north end	
604	Pit	Mid grey clay silt with occasional rounded stones	0.20m
605	Pit	Round pit cut, probably a planting feature	0.20m
606	Modern truncation	Dark grey black deposit including modern material	Not excavated
607	Modern	Straight sided modern truncation.	Not excavated

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
	truncation		

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.5 and 9.7m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.50-0.60m

Orientation: WSW-ENE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded small stones and CBM	0.28m
701	Modern Layer	Brick rubble deposits within a mid-brownish grey matric	0.43m
702	Modern Layer	Friable dark brownish black sandy silt loam with frequent rooting and some brick rubble	0.34m
703	Surface	Brick surface	0.05m
704	Surface	compact small rounded stone surface	0.15m
705	Surface	Black clinker levelling layer	0.07m
706	Natural	Light greyish brown sandy clay with sub-rounded pebble inclusions	>0.12m

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Surface	Tarmac and hard-core	0.20m
801	Layer	Hard-core layer	
802	Layer	Loose mid grey silt sand	0.01m
803	Surface	Loose small to medium rounded pebbles in a matrix of yellow orange sand	0.15m
804	Surface	Moderately compact blue grey clay and brown grey silt	0.10m
805	Surface	Brick surface	0.17m
806	Construction Cut	Firm blue grey silty clay	
807	Layer	Loose dark grey silty charcoal	0.01m
808	Layer	Moderately compact mid grey to mid brown	0.30m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		silt sand	
809	post hole	loose dark grey charcoal fine sandy silt	0.23m
810	Post hole	Sub circular cut	0.23
811	Wall	brick courtyard boundary wall	Not excavated
812	Construction Cut	Cut for wall 811	Not excavated
813	Surface	Small rounded pebbles within a mid-grey sandy silt bedding	0.10m
814	Layer	loose dark grey silt with frequent charcoal	0.03m
815	Wall	Brick boundary wall	0.05m
816	Construction Cut	moderately compact dark grey brown silty sand	>0.15m
817	Construction Cut	Cut for wall 815	Not excavated
818	Topsoil	Loose dark grey humic silt sand with frequent rooting	0.40m
819	Subsoil	compact light grey sand with frequent pebbles	0.40m
820	Natural	compact orange pebbly silt clay	Not excavated
821	Posthole	loose mid grey silt sand	Not excavated
822	Posthole	sub circular post hole cut	Not excavated
823	Layer	moderately compact mid grey silt sand	0.02m
824	Ditch	moderately compact mid grey brown silt sand	0.42
825	Ditch	curvilinear possible ditch feature, aligned NE-SW	0.42m
826	Pit	sub rectangular cut feature	Not excavated
827	Pit	Mottled orange clay	Not excavated
828	Pit	sub rectangular cut feature	Not excavated
829	Construction Cut	dark grey black silty sand with frequent charcoal	0.22m
830	Construction Cut	soft mid grey brown silty sand	0.19
831	Construction Cut	Light grey brown silty sand with frequent tile fragments	0.07m
832	Drain	Tile drain	0.37m
833	Layer	loose grey brown sand	Not excavated
834	Wall	Brick wall aligned NE-SW	>0.61m
835	Construction Cut	loose mid grey brown sand	>0.60m
836	Construction Cut	construction cut for wall 834	>0.60m
837	Surface	compact mid grey blue clay with frequent rounded pebbles	0.13m
838	Pit	compact mid grey brown silt sand	0.26m
839	Pit	sub circular pit cut	0.26m
840	Layer	compact dark brown silty clay with frequent	0.10m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		brick and tile fragments	
841	Layer	compact orange brown fine silt sand	0.15m
842	Layer	moderately compact orange brown clay sand with coal and mortar fragments	0.54m
843	Layer	reddish brown orange clay with coal and mortar fragments	0.25m
844	Layer	moderately compact mid brown clay sand with coal, tile and mortar fragments	0.10m
845	Unknown	Possible line of truncation cut	0.40m
846	Natural	Stiff red brown clay	Not excavated

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Layer	clinker and tarmac levelling deposit	0.27m
901	Natural	Light yellow grey compact sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles	Not excavated

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.50 and 9.50m Width: 1.80mm Depth: 0.50mm

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	mid grey brown clay silt with some modern CBM	0.22m
1001	Subsoil	Mid-light orangey yellow clay sand	0.23m
1002	Natural	Compact light yellow clay sand	Not excavated
1003	Layer	Yellow clay sand layer, above 1004	0.03m
1004	Surface	Cobbled stone layer	0.10m
1005	Layer	dark grey brown sand silt	0.18m
1006	Layer	Dark grey black silty sand, above 1003	0.12m

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.38m

Orientation: WSW-ENE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Surface	concrete surface	0.12m
1102	Modern Layer	Compact mid yellow orange clay sand with grey yellow mottling and sub-rounded pebbles	Not excavated
1103	Pit	friable mid greyish brown silty sand with sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	0.16m
1104	Pit	Small oval pit feature	0.16m
1105	Pit	mid greyish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal and frequent sub-rounded pebbles	0.19m
1106	Pit	Small oval pit cut	0.19m
1107	Posthole	friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with sub-rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	0.20m
1108	Posthole	Small circular posthole cut	0.19m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 62 Context records AS1
- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 149 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 15 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 11 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Market Hall Museum

Market Place

Warwick

CV34 4SA

Tel: 01926 412 132 or 01926 412 500
