

Archaeological investigations at land off Hampton Dene Road, Hereford



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With a contribution by Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological earthworks survey, watching brief and evaluation were undertaken at land off Hampton Dene Road, Hereford, Herefordshire (NGR SO 53458 40021; HER ref EHE 80239). The project was undertaken on behalf of The Environmental Dimension Partnership for their client Barrett West Midlands who intend to develop the land for housing, for which a planning application has been granted.

The 4.7ha site has been largely agricultural land since the medieval period until the present day, although during the 19th century the northern end of the site was occupied by the landscaped garden of Hampton Dene House, from which limited earthworks still remain. The evaluation revealed two post-medieval field boundary ditches, which may have been maintained for several hundred years, and a possible 19th century footpath or small trackway. The finds assemblage is indicative of domestic activity, derived from settlement away from the site, and is typical of medieval and post-medieval rural settlements, comprising mostly domestic earthenwares and, from the mid-18th century, stonewares. These results demonstrate that, beyond reasonable doubt, there is no very significant archaeological heritage asset within the site.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An earthworks survey, archaeological watching brief and evaluation were undertaken at land off Hampton Dene Road, Hereford (NGR SO 53458 40021). It was commissioned by Rob Johns of The Environmental Dimension Partnership, whose client (Barrett West Midlands) intends to build a new housing development for which a planning application has been granted by Herefordshire Council (reference P141526/O).

The proposed development site was considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (HER 31158).

The project conforms to two Written Schemes of Investigation prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016a; WA 2016b), which were approved by Julian Cotton, the Archaeological Advisor to Herefordshire Council.

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standards for archaeological projects in Herefordshire: issue 1* (Herefordshire Archaeology 2004).

The event reference for this project, given by the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), is EHE 80239.

2 Aims

The aims of the archaeological fieldwork are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Graham Arnold (BA (hons), MSc) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practicing archaeology since 2002, assisted by Nina O'Hare (BA Cantab). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss (BA (hons). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA) and Rob Hedge (MA Cantab) produced the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken on behalf of Gladman Developments Limited (CgMs 2014). The DBA identified that no designated heritage assets lie within the site, although a grade II listed building is situated just outside the western site boundary and a scheduled prehistoric cropmark lies approximately 600m to the east. Furthermore, within the site itself are two undesignated heritage assets of local significance – the former Hampton Dene House landscaped garden and the approximate findspot of Neolithic flint.

In addition to the DBA, a built heritage assessment was also conducted in order to assess the impact of the development on the historic built environment (CgMs 2013). The report concludes that the residential development will have no direct impact upon any listed building or the Hampton Park Conservation Area around Litley Court to the west of the site, although it may indirectly impact their settings.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology for the earthworks survey (WA 2016a), watching brief and evaluation (WA 2016b).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd and 17th June 2016. The site reference number and site code is EHE 80239.

An initial walkover survey of a 0.9ha area at the northern end of the study site recorded and mapped the remnant earthworks using GPS (Figure 2; Plates 1-2). An archaeological watching brief then monitored a topsoil strip across the north-eastern and southern ends of the site (Plates 3-4).

Thirteen trenches, amounting to 1300m² in area, were proposed for excavation over the site area of 4.7ha, representing a sample of 2.76%. However, due to a temporary spoil dump it was not possible to excavate Trench 13, and as Trench 1 was within a monitored topsoil strip area, this trench was only excavated to the subsoil level rather than to the natural geology. The trench locations, indicated in Figure 2, were chosen in order to evaluate all areas of the site and to test features of potential archaeological interest identified through the earthwork and geophysical surveys.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked 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.

Fieldwalking was considered for use but was not deemed appropriate for this project.

3.4 Structural analysis

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

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c; <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011; <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993; <http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm>).

3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.5.2 Method of analysis

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

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by

Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org), with concordances to published Herefordshire fabrics (Shoesmith 1985) noted where available.

3.5.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discards where appropriate.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified that were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

3.7 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 site is located on the eastern outskirts of Hereford, just south of the A438 with access from Hampton Dene Road to the north-west corner of the site. Along the site's western boundary runs Holywell Gutter Lane and a playing field. To the north and south are residential properties, and in between the site and River Lugg to the east are agricultural fields. Immediately outside the northern and western site boundaries are located Hampton Dene House (HER 31158) and the grade II listed 17th century Meadow Cottage (NHL 1179418; HER 9437) respectively.

The underlying geology in the area is Raglan Mudstone Formation of siltstone and mudstone, which is overlain on the western part of the site by sand and gravel river terrace deposits (BGS 2016).

Within the Lower Lugg Valley, there is settlement evidence from the Neolithic onwards, although there is little potential for prehistoric occupation within the study site itself, despite evidence for limited activity in the form of two Neolithic flints (HER 6500-01). Between 300m and 900m east of the site lies a scheduled complex of cropmarks, seemingly of Bronze Age ditched enclosures and ring ditches (NHL 1005348; HER 226). Later on, the site is likely to have been part of the agricultural landscape around the early medieval settlement of Tupsley and, on the whole, seems to have remained as farmland until the present day. However, during the 19th century the northern end of the site formed the landscaped garden of Hampton Dene House (HER 31158), of which there are no significant remains. No designated heritage assets lie within the site, but the undesignated Neolithic findspots and Hampton Dene House landscape garden are of local significance.

In terms of previous archaeological work, the DBA (CgMs 2014) notes that the study site formed part of the Lower Lugg Valley Archaeological and Aggregates Project Stage 1 and has also been the focus of an earlier desk-based assessment, aerial photography review and built heritage

assessment (CgMs 2013). A geophysical survey of the site was conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University in February 2016 on behalf of Barrett West Midlands (ASDU 2016). The survey identified former field boundaries corresponding to those shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps, an old ploughing system at the eastern end of the site and various modern features, including land drains and services. Prior to the fieldwork recorded in this report, no intrusive archaeological work had occurred on the site.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently a pastoral field with gentle south and east-facing slopes.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3-4 and Plates 5-15. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Across all trenches, the predominant underlying geology was brownish-red Mercian mudstone that contained occasional patches of manganese, gravel and blue-grey silt. The only significant variation encountered was in Trench 9, where natural grey gravels were recorded in the northern half of the trench (902).

Overlying the Mercian mudstone at the north-east end of Trench 6 was a naturally-accumulated colluvial layer (602) of charcoal flecked clay that gradually increased to a depth of 0.65m as the land sloped down to the east (Plate 16).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

A number of medieval pottery sherds were retrieved during the evaluation, primarily from the topsoil. Whilst none of the excavated features date from the medieval period, the low presence of medieval pottery implies that the site was part of the cultivated land attached to a rural settlement.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

In addition to the pond and earthwork ditch recorded as part of the remains of the 19th century Hampton Dene House landscape garden (Fig 2), several field boundary ditches and a possible relict footpath or trackway were excavated.

At the north end of the site, a wide ditch containing post-medieval pottery was seen in Trenches 2 and 3 (Plates 17-18). The ditch (204 and 309) sat underneath the subsoil and ran along the base of a visible earthwork depression, which corresponds to a field boundary depicted on maps between 1839 and 1928. Another ditch, approximately 1m wide, was recorded in Trenches 8 (as 804) and 11 (as 1104) at the base of an earthwork bank that separates the middle of the site from its lower southern end (Plates 19-20). As with the northern boundary, the latter field boundary also appears on maps between 1839 and 1928. However, a pottery sherd dating from 1600-1800 that was recovered from ditch fill (1103) highlights the possibility that the southern field boundary may have been established in the early to mid-post-medieval period.

In Trench 7, a relatively shallow but wide linear feature (703) was seen at the west end of the trench (Plate 21) overlain by a rubble consolidation layer (704), which in turn lay immediately below the topsoil (700). This area of activity corresponds to an oval anomaly on the geophysical survey and also appears to be on a similar alignment to an historically recorded footpath. It is therefore likely that 703 is the remnants of a poorly-drained section of footpath that was improved by a small dump of rubble hardstand during the 19th to early 20th century, on the basis of finds within 704.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits

In addition to the numerous ceramic land drains seen across the site, several other modern truncations were recorded in Trench 3. At the north-east end of the trench a modern drain (311) known from service plans was detected, and at the south-west end a soakaway drain (310) running from Meadow Cottage to a manhole on the eastern side of the site was recorded (Plate 22). The square end of a modern pit or trench (305), containing brick in its upper fill (303), and another possible drainage ditch (307) were also seen in the northern half of the trench (Plates 23-24). The latter ditch lies on the north-eastern side of the earthwork ditch, above field boundary ditch 309, and was backfilled with re-deposited Mercian mudstone and a small pottery assemblage that has a *terminus post quem* (date after which the backfilling must have occurred) of 1800-1950. It is possible that 307 is a post-medieval drainage ditch, similar to or perhaps associated with boundary ditch 309, but its deliberate backfilling, as opposed to gradual silting up, implies that it is more plausibly a modern feature.

Overlying the subsoil and cut features in all trenches across the site was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with a depth of 0.2-0.3m.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1–2. The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 34 sherds of pottery weighing 444g, in addition fragments of ceramic building material and iron were recovered. The group came from 12 stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1), although the majority of the assemblage was post-medieval or modern in date. Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size, at 13g, being about average.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic		pot	4	23
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		brick	2	149
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		brick/tile	1	11
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile	3	126
early post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	63
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	13	205
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	14
post-medieval/modern	Metal	iron	nail	1	2
modern	ceramic		flowerpot	1	17
modern	ceramic		pot	15	139
Totals				42	749

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly: the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

broad period	Herefs fabric code	Worcs fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Medieval	B1	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	1	6
Medieval		99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	13
Medieval/early Post-medieval	B4	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	2	4
Early Post-medieval	A7d	150	Post-medieval Herefordshire kilns	1	63
Post-medieval		78	Post-medieval red ware	4	114
Post-medieval		81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	5	34
Post-medieval		84	Creamware	1	9
Post-medieval		90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	12
Post-medieval		91	Post-medieval buff wares	2	36
Post-medieval		100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	1	14
Modern		81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	26
Modern		85	Modern china	11	80
Modern		101	Miscellaneous modern wares	3	33
Totals				34	444

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

Medieval

A small quantity of residual medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil deposits in Trenches 2 and 10. Diagnostic pieces comprised a body sherd of 13th/14th century Malvernian unglazed (fabric B1) cooking pot and conjoining rim sherds of a later medieval Malvernian (fabric B4) vessel, probably a cup. Another sherd could not be readily identified to type: although similar to early post-medieval Herefordshire wares (fabric A7b) it contained large (>2mm) iron ore inclusions, and may be a late medieval or transitional fabric.

Post-medieval

Several large sherds of early post-medieval (17th century) wares were present within topsoil and subsoil deposits in Trenches 9 and 10: a large base sherd of a blackware cup resembling a later 17th century form from Burslem, Staffordshire (cf Barker 1986, fig 1:4) from context 1000 and a large base sherd in a local ware (fabric A7d), possibly Deerfold/Lingen. The latter exhibits a fresh break, likely occurring during machining, and these sherds, though slightly abraded, are considerably larger than would normally be expected from residual material incorporated into agricultural landscape, and probably reflect the close proximity of 17th century settlement to the site.

Other post-medieval wares present comprise abraded sherds of typical 17th and 18th century domestic fabrics, including redwares (fabric 78), slipwares (fabric 91), creamwares (fabric 84) and a number of sherds of refined mid-18th century fine salt-glazed stonewares (fabric 81.5), including a base sherd from a saucer.

Modern

A typical range of domestic 19th and early 20th century whitewares (fabric 85) and stonewares (fabric 81.4) were present across the site.

5.2.2 Other artefacts

Ceramic building material

Fragments of mid-16th to mid-18th century roof tile (fabric A10) were residual within layer 704 and present in subsoil 901. Other highly abraded pieces of brick or tile were recovered but were not diagnostic or closely dateable.

Iron

A single iron nail, corroded but likely to be post-medieval or modern in date, was present within topsoil (1000).

5.2.3 Site dating

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
200	ceramic		pot	1	5	1630	1800	1630 - 1800
	ceramic		pot	1	6	1200	1400	
203	ceramic		pot	1	9	1800	1900	1800 - 1900
306	ceramic		pot	3	24	1720	1770	1800 - 1950
	ceramic		pot	1	10	1800	1950	
	ceramic		pot	1	2	1800	1900	
308	ceramic		brick/tile	1	11	1200	1800	1200 - 1800
400	ceramic		pot	1	41	1600	1800	1720 - 1800
	ceramic		pot	1	1	1720	1770	
601	ceramic		pot	1	9	1600	1800	1600 - 1800
701	ceramic		pot	1	22	1870	1930	1870 - 1930
704	ceramic		roof tile	2	94	1530	1730	1800 - 1950
	ceramic		brick	1	109	1500	1800	
	ceramic		pot	1	13	1800	1950	
	ceramic		flowerpot	1	17	1800	1950	
	ceramic		pot	1	31	1630	1800	
901	ceramic		roof tile	1	32	1530	1730	1600 - 1730
	ceramic		pot	1	63	1600	1700	
1000	ceramic		pot	1	13	1200	1630	1800 - 1950
	ceramic		pot	1	42	1600	1800	
	metal	iron	nail	1	2	1600	1900	
	ceramic		pot	9	57	1800	1950	
	ceramic		pot	1	9	1760	1790	
	ceramic		pot	1	9	1720	1770	
	ceramic		pot	1	12	1700	1800	
	ceramic		pot	1	14	1700	1950	
	ceramic		pot	2	4	1500	1630	
	ceramic		pot	1	22	1600	1800	
1103	ceramic		pot	1	22	1600	1800	1600 - 1800
1200	ceramic		brick	1	40	1500	1800	1800 - 1950
	ceramic		pot	1	26	1800	1950	

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6 Synthesis

6.1 Medieval

Whilst no medieval features were encountered during the evaluation, several small abraded sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil that are consistent with those commonly found on medieval fields as a result of manuring. No ridge and furrow was identified during the investigations, despite the suggestion that aerial photographs hint at remnant ridge and furrow across the northern end of the site (CgMs 2014). However, given that the site has been in use as agricultural land until the present day, it is highly plausible that any medieval ridge and furrow has been lost to more recent ploughing.

The site is located between the medieval settlements of Tupsley to the north and Litley, of which the mid-12th century Litley Court (HTT 2016) lies c 0.5 miles to the south. Despite both Tupsley and Litley being recorded as small settlements in Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1983), the desk-based assessment suggests that the site formed part of the agricultural land around Tupsley (CgMs 2014) – an understanding supported by these investigations.

6.2 Post-medieval

The results of the evaluation support the prior assumption that throughout the post-medieval period the site has predominately been agricultural land near to small pockets of settlement. The two field boundaries that survive as earthworks and cut features can be seen on historical maps as falling out of use at some point after 1928. However, pottery within the fill of the southern boundary ditch implies that at least this field boundary, and potentially both, may have been established in the early to mid-post-medieval period and were thus maintained for several hundred years. Conversely, the footpath with its discrete layer of hard standing, seen in Trench 7, is likely to have been shorter lived – pottery within the hard standing supports cartographic evidence that the footpath was in use during the latter half of the 19th century.

At the north end of the site, earthworks related to Hampton Dene House landscape garden are seen. Little of significance can be added to our understanding of this 19th century landscaped park, as few earthworks remain. Aside from the pond on the northern site boundary, previously known from cartographic sources, there is a relatively flat area of land partially bounded by a steep drop to the north and east and a wide ditch to the south and west, which partly uses the line of an older field boundary. Consequently, the flat area is entirely enclosed except for a gap in the boundary to the north-west. Whilst it is possible that earthworks within this area have not survived or been filled in, it is notable that the house is to the north-west of the area. Thus, it is possible that the partial enclosure accurately reflects how the area was originally landscaped in order to improve views from the house.

The artefact assemblage is all indicative of domestic activity, and is typical of post-medieval rural settlements, comprising mostly of coarse domestic earthenwares. The occurrence of mid-18th century refined wares in the form of white salt-glazed stoneware reflects the increased affordability of refined tablewares along with the booming demand for fine vessels for tea drinking – these vessels were among the earliest affordable refined teawares available.

6.3 Modern

No significant archaeological evidence of modern date was revealed during these investigations, as was expected from cartographic and documentary evidence (CgMs 2014). A limited amount of modern activity was seen in Trench 3 in the form of a square ended pit and a possible backfilled drainage ditch. Whilst the nature of these features is unclear, they do not represent substantial or long-lived activity.

6.4 Research frameworks

As the site lies outside the historic boundary of the city of Hereford, the only research framework that the area falls under is the West Midlands Regional Research Framework (Watt 2011). As a consequence of the low level of predominately post-medieval and modern archaeology revealed, the investigations on this site have little to contribute to the research aims proposed in the regional research framework.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Further analysis and reporting

The following recommendations are made with regard to further work on the artefacts considered as part of this report.

- No further work is recommended

7.2 Discard and retention

The medieval pottery and two early post-medieval diagnostic form sherds may be considered worthy of retention. It is recommended that the remainder of the assemblage, including all later post-medieval and modern material, be considered for disposal, although it should be noted that the decision rests with the receiving museum.

8 Significance

8.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The land off Hampton Dene Road contains a limited quantity of 19th century landscape garden earthworks at its northern end and a series of buried post-medieval and modern features, predominately relating to field boundaries or drainage. The small artefact assemblage retrieved during the evaluation primarily consists of pottery, with a few fragments of ceramic building material, and is typical of medieval and post-medieval rural settlements. Given that the archaeological investigations are consistent with the understanding of the site presented in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014), it is considered unlikely that the site contains anything other than the archaeology of agricultural land on the fringes of medieval and post-medieval settlement.

8.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The majority of the archaeology on the site is ubiquitous of medieval and post-medieval agricultural land and is thus of relatively little importance with a limited research potential. The earthworks remaining from the landscape garden of Hampton Dene House are of local importance. However, given that the few earthworks which remain have now been recorded and that this area of former landscape garden is likely to have been used as pasture since the mid-19th century (CgMs 2014: 14), the archaeology at the northern end of the site also has minimal research potential.

8.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

All of the buried archaeological features were present within a meter of the ground surface and typically appeared at a depth of 0.2-0.4m. Archaeological deposits on the site are therefore vulnerable to destruction by groundworks for the planned residential development and are unlikely to survive except in areas unaffected by intrusive construction, such as gardens. However, the results of the evaluation show that there is a very low density of archaeology across the site, meaning that there is only a limited quantity of archaeological deposits that could be affected by the development.

9 The impact of the development

Given the low significance and limited extent of the archaeological remains encountered, the impact of the development on the site is likely to be minimal.

10 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 earthwork survey, archaeological watching brief and evaluation were undertaken on behalf of The Environmental Dimension Partnership for their client Barrett West Midlands at land east of Hampton Dene Road, Hereford, Herefordshire (NGR SO 53458 40021; HER ref EHE 80239). The 4.7ha site has been largely agricultural land since the medieval period until the present day, although during the 19th century the northern end of the site was occupied by the landscaped garden of Hampton Dene House, from which limited earthworks still remain. The evaluation

revealed two post-medieval field boundary ditches, which may have been maintained for several hundred years, and a possible 19th century footpath or small trackway.

11 Acknowledgements

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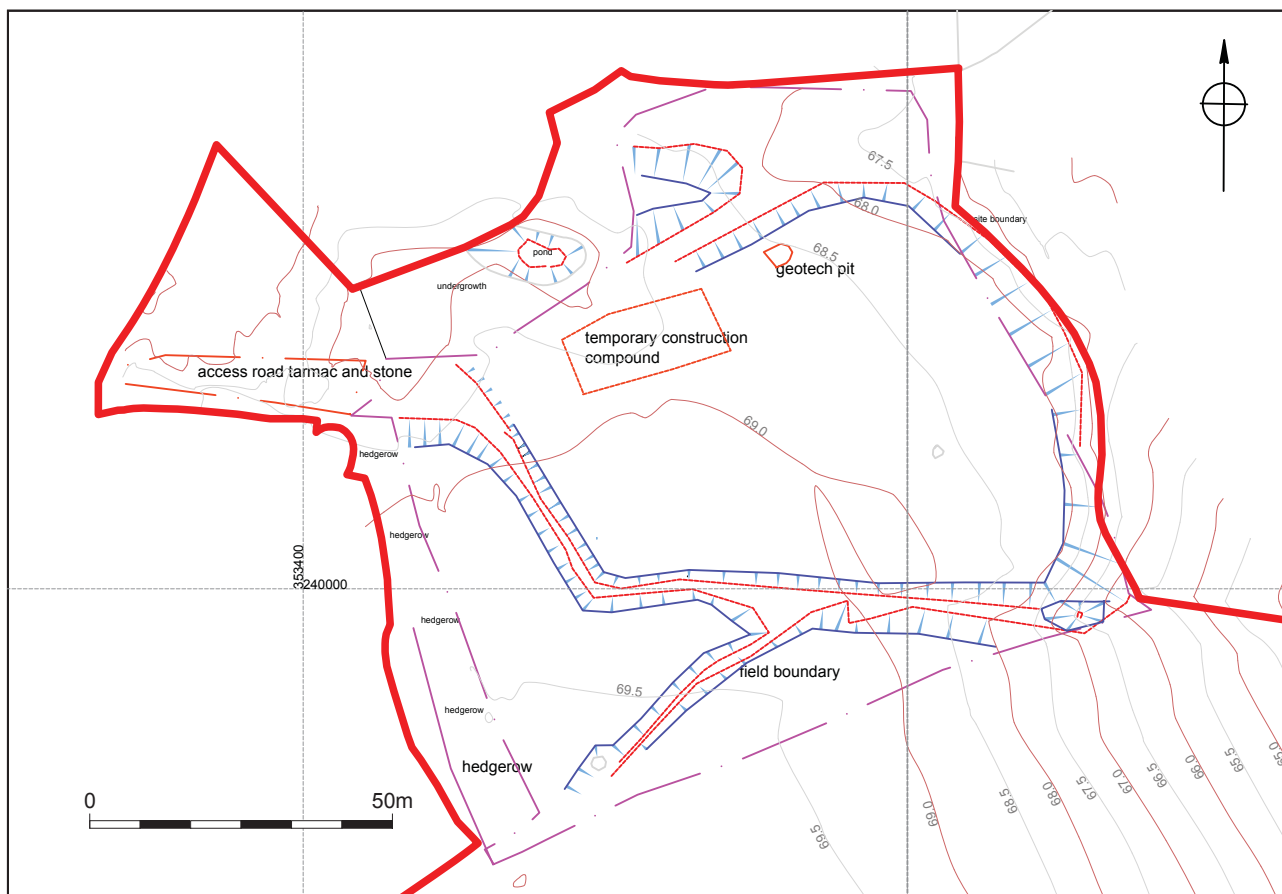
Figures



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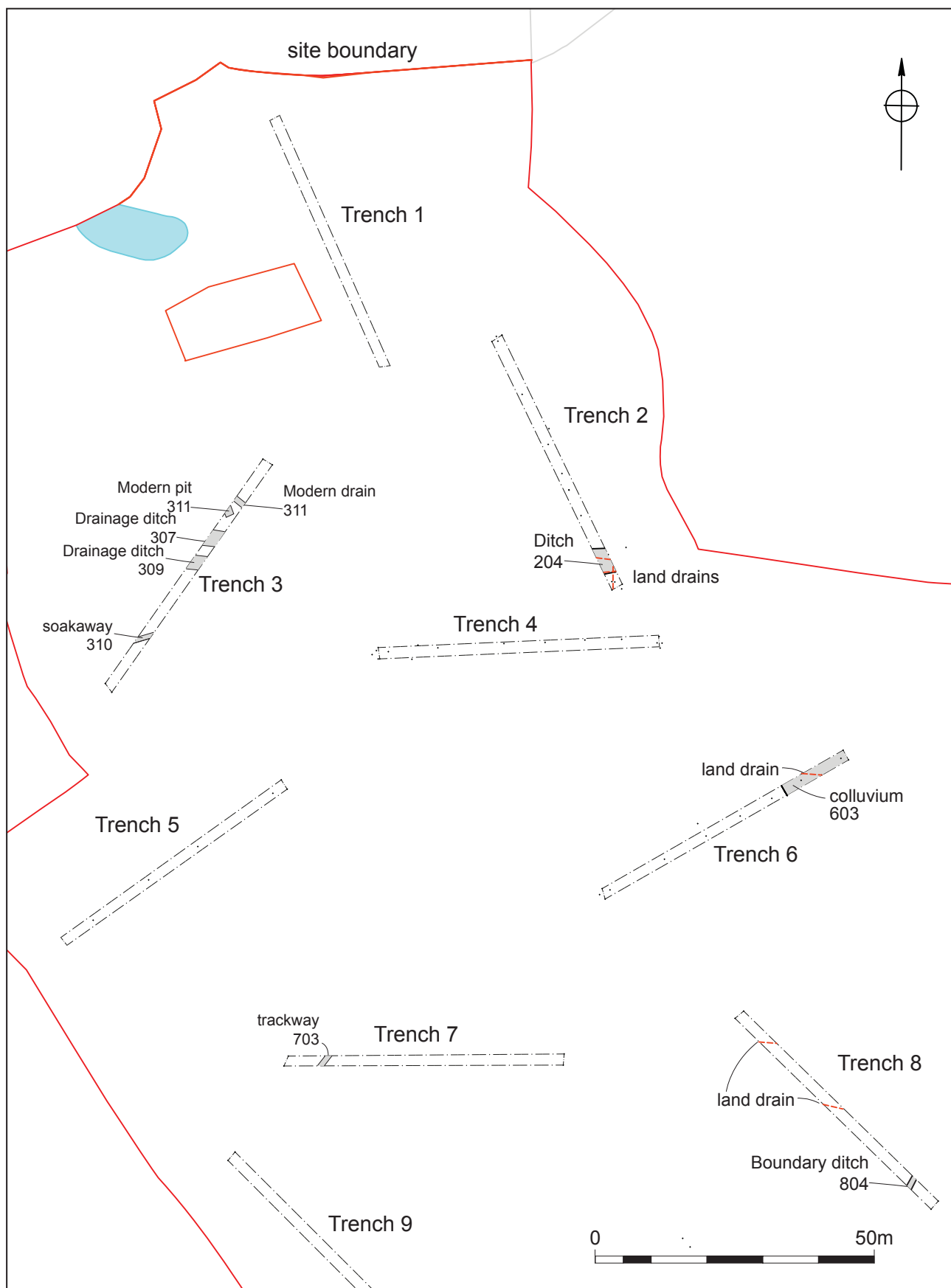
Location of the site and trenches

Figure 1



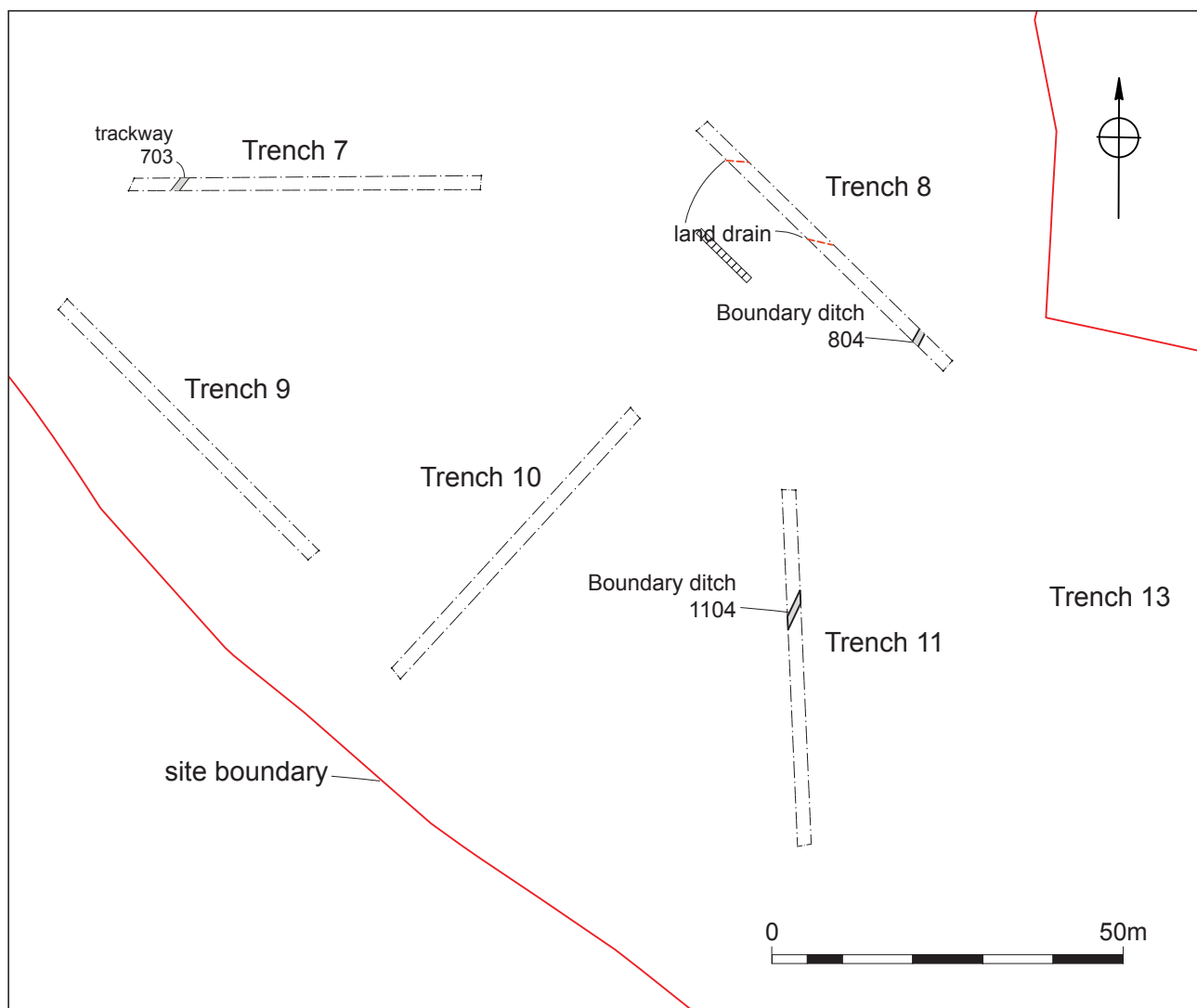
Earthworks and contour survey

Figure 2



Archaeological features - northern part of site

Figure 3



Archaeological features - southern part of site

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1: The north end of the site looking east, showing the earthwork ditch of the northern field boundary



Plate 2: The south end of the site looking east, showing the earthwork bank of the southern field boundary



Plate 4: Monitored topsoil strip in the north-eastern corner of the site



Plate 3: Monitored topsoil strip in the south-western corner of the site



Plate 6: Trench 2 looking south



Plate 5: Trench 3 looking south-west



Plate 7: Trench 4 looking east



Plate 8: Trench 5 looking south-west



Plate 9: Trench 6 looking south-west with colluvial deposit increasing in depth towards foreground



Plate 10: Trench 7 looking east



Plate 10: Trench 8 looking north-west with earthwork bank and field boundary 804 in the foreground



Plate 9: Trench 9 looking north-west



Plate 12: Trench 10 looking south-west



Plate 11: Trench 11 looking north



Plate 14: Trench 12 looking north-west



Plate 13: Colluvial layer 602 at the north-eastern end of Trench 6



Plate 15: Boundary ditch 204 at the eastern end of earthwork to 309 - photograph looking north



Plate 16: South-east facing section of boundary ditch 309, seen at the base of earthwork depression



Plate 17: Boundary ditch [804] located at the base of the southern earthwork bank, also seen in Trench 11 - photograph looking north-west



Plate 18: Boundary ditch [1104] with earthwork bank (1105) to the north, also seen in Trench 8 to the east - photograph looking north-east



Plate 20: Possible footpath 703 seen at the western end of Trench 7 - photograph looking west



Plate 19: Modern soakaway drain 310 at the south-west end of Trench 3 - photograph looking north-east



Plate 23: Modern square-ended pit 305 with upper and lower fills (303 and 304) visible in south-east facing trench section - photograph looking north

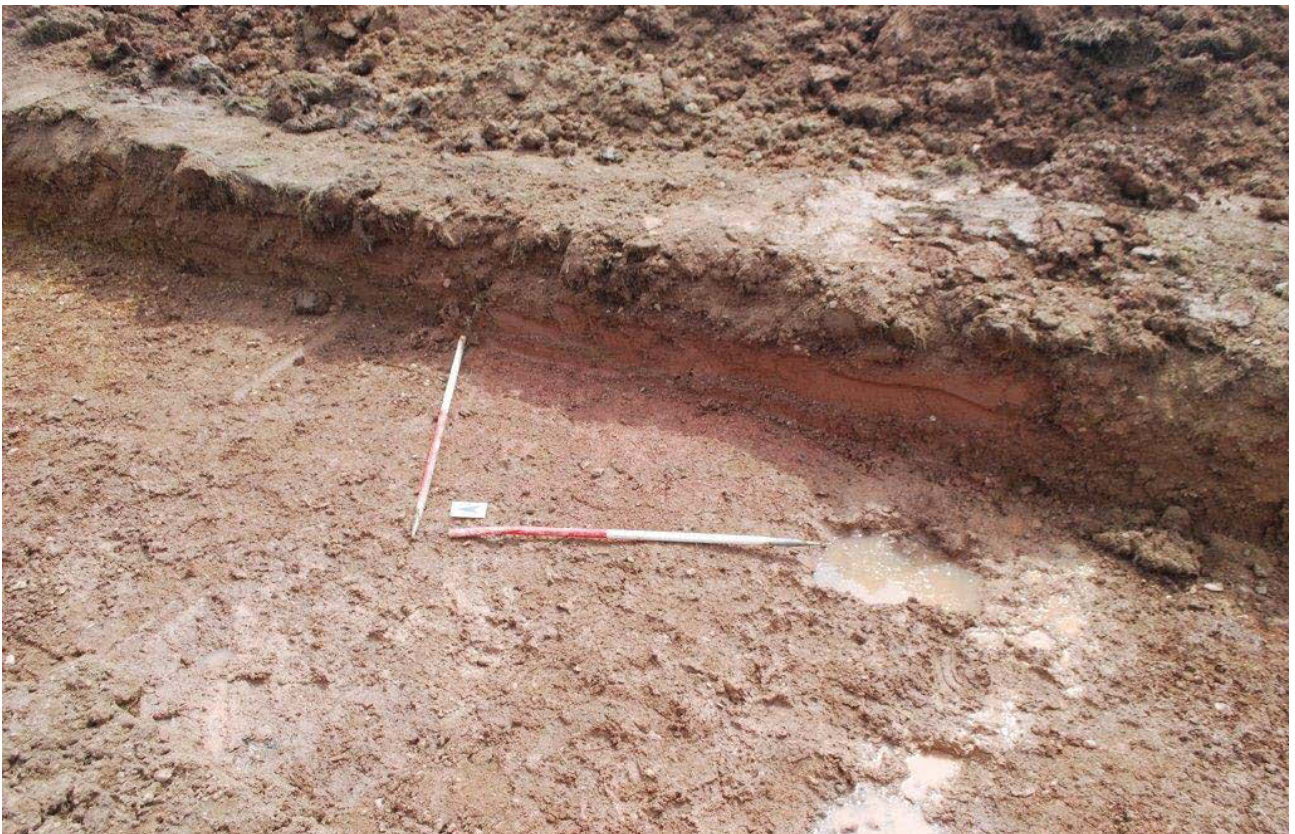


Plate 24: Re-deposited Mercian mudstone fill 306 within possible drainage ditch 307 - photograph looking east

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.15m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
100	Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.15m
101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil.	-

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
200	Topsoil	Loose mid brownish-grey silty clay topsoil.	0.20m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish-brown silty clay subsoil.	0.20m
202	Natural	Mercian mudstone natural - reddish clay marl with occasional blue silt, pockets of manganese and gravels.	0.10m+
203	Ditch fill	Fill of field boundary ditch [204] consisting of a firm mid reddish-brown silty clay containing pottery sherds and charcoal flecks.	0.75m
204	Ditch cut	Cut of an east-west ditch aligned with the visible earthwork of a modern boundary ditch. Contains or is cut by two ceramic land drains (one with a gravel base) and the ditch itself may have a stone-lined drain running along the base. Cut into natural and underneath the subsoil, approximately 5m wide by 0.75m deep.	0.75m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.50-0.90m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
300	Topsoil	Friable mid brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
301	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy clay and gravels.	0.30m
302	Natural	Natural of grey gravels with frequent manganese and orange and red mottling.	-

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
303	Upper fill of pit	Upper fill of pit [305], consisting of red clay containing modern brick.	0.40m
304	Basal fill of pit	Soft grey clay basal fill of square pit [305].	0.30m
305	Pit cut	Cut of a modern square pit 1.5m wide.	0.70m
306	Ditch fill	Re-deposited Mercian mudstone fill of drainage ditch [307].	-
307	Ditch cut	Cut of an east-west aligned drainage ditch	-
308	Ditch fill	Soft light greyish-brown silty clay fill of drainage ditch [309].	0.50m
309	Ditch cut	Cut of a drainage ditch, aligned NW-SE, at the base of a visible earthwork.	0.50m
310	Drain	Modern soakaway drain containing a grey stoney clay fill. At the SW end of the trench, 1m wide.	0.30m
311	Drain	Modern service drain, 1m wide, aligned NW-SE.	0.30m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
400	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
401	Subsoil	Moderately compact silty clay subsoil with frequent gravel patches.	0.20m
402	Natural	Mercian mudstone natural with pockets of manganese and gravel.	0.10m+

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
500	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
501	Subsoil	Silty clay subsoil.	0.20m
502	Natural	Sandy gravel natural with frequent manganese and silt staining.	0.10m+

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.40-1.35m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
600	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt topsoil.	0.20m
601	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid pinky-grey silty clay subsoil overlying colluvial layer (603).	0.2-0.7m (SW-NE)
602	Colluvium	Compact mid brownish-grey, charcoal flecked clay colluvial layer at NE end of trench, accumulating in depth as the ground slopes down towards the east.	0.65m at NE
603	Natural	Natural clay, gravels and Mercian mudstone.	-

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
700	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
701	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey-brown silty clay subsoil.	0.20m
702	Natural	Compact gravels and red clay natural, with frequent manganese patches.	0.10m+
703	Trackway	NE-SW aligned feature 1.2m wide, possibly a trackway. Overlain by rubble deposit (704).	0.20m
704	Rubble layer	Loose dark blackish-grey ash layer, containing brick, tile and mortar. Lies directly over feature (703) and underneath the topsoil (700) – may be a consolidation layer to improve a wet area. Potentially corresponds to a geophysical anomaly.	0.10m

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
800	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
801	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey-brown silty clay subsoil.	0.20m
802	Natural	Natural red clay with occasional blue-grey	0.10m+

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
		silt mottling, patches of gravel and manganese.	
803	Ditch fill	Soft dark purplish-brown clay silt fill of field boundary [804].	0.10m
804	Ditch cut	NE-SW aligned field boundary ditch, 0.5m wide, in line with base of earthwork bank. Seen in Trench 11 as well [1104].	0.10m

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
900	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
901	Subsoil	Moderately compact silty clay subsoil overlying grey gravel natural in north of trench and Mercian mudstone to south.	0.20m
902	Natural	Grey gravel natural at northern end of trench.	0.10m+
903	Natural	Mercian mudstone natural at southern end of trench.	0.10m+

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.50-0.60m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
1000	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.30m
1001	Subsoil	Silty clay subsoil.	0.20m
1002	Natural	Natural sandy gravels and Mercian mudstone red clay.	0.10m+

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60-0.90m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
1100	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil.	0.25m
1101	Subsoil	Silty clay subsoil.	0.15m
1102	Natural	Mercian mudstone natural.	0.10m+

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
1103	Ditch fill	Soft dark purplish-brown clayey silt fill of field boundary [1104]. Continuation of ditch seen in Trench 8 at the base of earthwork bank (1105).	0.20m
1104	Ditch cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned field boundary ditch at the base of earthwork bank, also seen in Trench 8.	0.20m
1105	Bank	Material forming earthwork bank above boundary ditch [804] and [1104].	-

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
1200	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil containing pottery and CBM.	0.15m
1201	Subsoil	Yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil.	0.20m
1202	Natural	Reddish-brown clay and natural gravels.	0.10m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: EHE 80239)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 137 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogue AS4
- 1 Scale drawing
- 13 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:

Hereford Museum and Art Gallery
Broad Street
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 9AU
Tel. 01432 260692
