

# Archaeological evaluation at Former Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster, Worcestershire



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# Contents Summary

1

## Report

<b>1</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Reasons for the project	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Aims</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1	Personnel	2
3.2	Documentary research	2
3.3	Fieldwork strategy	3
3.4	Structural analysis	3
3.5	Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge	3
3.5.1	Artefact recovery policy	4
3.5.2	Method of analysis	4
3.5.3	Discard policy	4
3.6	Environmental archaeology	4
3.7	Statement of confidence in the methods and results	4
<b>4</b>	<b>The application site</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	Topography, geology and archaeological context	4
4.2	Current land-use	5
<b>5</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	Structural analysis	5
5.1.1	Phase 1: Natural deposits	5
5.1.2	Phase 2: 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> Century deposits	5
5.1.3	Phase 3: Undated deposits	5
5.1.4	Phase 4: Modern deposits	5
5.2	Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge	6
<b>6</b>	<b>Synthesis</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>7</b>
7.1	Nature of the archaeological interest in the site	7
7.2	Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site	7
7.3	Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site	7
<b>8</b>	<b>The impact of the development</b>	<b>7</b>
8.1	Impacts during construction	7
8.2	Impacts on sustainability	7
<b>9</b>	<b>Publication summary</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>8</b>



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## **Archaeological evaluation at Former Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster, Worcestershire**

Pete Lovett

With a contribution by Robert Hedge

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) was undertaken at the former site of Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR 38529 27919; HER WSM 68014). It was undertaken at the request of Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure UK (the Consultant) acting on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency (the Client), who are intending to submit an outline planning application for the construction of up to 600 dwellings and employment land. The archaeological evaluation is intended to inform the local planning authority as to the potential impact of the proposed development on the historic environment.

Very limited archaeological deposits were identified as a result of the trenching exercise which comprised 44 trenches excavated across the 48.5ha site. A wall of probable mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date was identified in the central part of the site and can be related to a farm building shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, and present until at least 1960. Apart from this wall, only a couple of undated discrete archaeological features were recorded on the north-western edge of the site. Evidence was also recorded for some landscaping of the area prior to construction of the former hospital and this terracing and levelling activity was clearly responsible for truncation of some parts of the site especially where more steep ground had been present; however, the complete absence of medieval or earlier artefacts recovered within the topsoil and subsoil deposits strongly suggests that this area did not provide a focus for any concentration of human activity other than agricultural prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) was undertaken at the former Lea Castle Hospital site, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR 38529 27919; HER WSM 68014). It was commissioned by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure UK (the Consultant) acting on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency (the Client), who are intending to submit an outline planning application for the construction of up to 600 dwellings and employment land.

The archaeological evaluation is intended to inform the local planning authority as to the potential impact of the proposed development on the historic environment.

A Heritage Statement has been prepared assessing the archaeological potential of the site. This concluded that the site has potential to contain Bronze Age, post-medieval and modern heritage assets (Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited 2016, appendix B).

Following consultation with Adrian Scruby the Historic Environment Advisor for Worcestershire County Council (the Curator), and in the light of the conclusions of the Heritage Statement, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of evaluation (trial trenching) was prepared by the Consultant (Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited 2016).

The evaluation (trial trenching) reported here conforms to the WSI, to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and to the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project, given by the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) is WSM 68014.

### 2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of any heritage assets present;
- 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 Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004.

Assistance on site was provided by Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc), Elspeth Iliff (BA (hons.), MSc), and Aidan Woodger (BA (hons.), MSc).

The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Robin Jackson (BA (hons.), ACIfA).

Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA, PG Cert, MCIIfA).

Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

The site was subject to a desk-based assessment completed prior to the trial trenching (Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited 2016; appendix B).

This assessed the archaeological potential of the site based upon a search of the Worcestershire HER, Historic England Archive and historic mapping provided by the HER.

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No designated assets were identified within the proposed development boundary and only one Listed Building was identified within the 500m study area used in the assessment; however, 5 non-designated assets were identified within the site boundary along with a further 18 in the study area. The site was concluded to have a high potential to contain post-medieval and modern heritage assets including farm buildings and WWII structures. A possible barrow was noted and as a result the site was assessed to have a medium potential for Bronze Age assets to be present.

Given the absence of any previous archaeological investigations within the site boundary, it was considered that the potential for the site to contain features and finds of other periods was unknown and that the absence of known remains dating to other periods could not be taken as an indication that no archaeological remains were present. As a result a programme of trial trenching was undertaken across the site as described below.

### **3.3 Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification was prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited (July 2016) and, following commissioning and adjustment of trench locations as required by Health and Safety requirements, Worcestershire Archaeology undertook the programme of work as described in that document.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 19 September and 4 October 2016. The site reference number and site code is WSM 68014.

All proposed trench locations were scanned for services by a specialist company (Sterling Power Utilities Limited) commissioned by the Consultant and using a CAT and Genny and also Ground Penetrating Radar.

Subsequent to this, 44 trenches (Trenches 1-11, 13-37, 39-40 and 44; Figure 2), mostly measuring either 30m or 50m in length and 1.80m wide, were excavated in areas of the site between and around the former hospital buildings. These amounted to 3,312m<sup>2</sup> within the site area of 48.5ha. Following agreement with the Curator, five trenches from the original design (Trenches 12, 38 and 41-43) were not excavated due to health and safety concerns surrounding an area that was not available for scanning for services due to the presence of dense scrub.

Slight variations from original trench dimensions were required in some instances both due to the presence of services and in a number of cases depths of deposits present. In the latter instances, some trenches were widened and stepped to allow safe access, although in a number of cases, and following agreement of the curator trenches were not stepped and recording was undertaken from the trench sides.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and operating under close 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.

### **3.4 Structural analysis**

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

### **3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge**

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (2014b), for archive creation by AAF (2011) and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

### 3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). Only a representative sample of 20<sup>th</sup> century material was retained.

### 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](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### 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 in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

## 3.6 Environmental archaeology

No deposits were identified which 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 archaeological aims of the project have been achieved.

# 4 The application site

## 4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site occupies the relatively hilly landscape with steeply sloping valleys that surrounds Kidderminster and characterises this part of Worcestershire and the southern fringes of Birmingham. Within the site, the slope ran downhill from a plateau at the northern end, to another plateau in the south. In the very north-west corner of the site, the slope began to drop off in that direction.

The underlying geology of the area comprises Kidderminster Formation and Wildmoor Sandstone bedrock overlain by superficial sand/gravel deposits and in places alluvium (BGS 2016).

Of the superficial deposits recorded within the study area covered by the Heritage Statement, three have been identified as having Palaeolithic potential (Daffern and Russel 2014) but of these only one crosses the site. Surface finds from the nearby parishes of Wolverley and Cookley suggest the potential for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the area whilst a 9<sup>th</sup> century AD charter suggests that a Bronze Age barrow may be present within the site boundary near Axborough Farm. Beyond this possible barrow, no known Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman dated sites or finds have been identified within the site area and very few finds dated to these periods have been located within the wider study area covered by the Heritage Statement.



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## 4.2 Current land-use

The proposed development site covers 48.5 ha and is situated primarily on the former site of Lea Castle Hospital, to the north-east of Kidderminster. The hospital site comprises a series of one and two storey buildings set within gardens and grassed areas, bordered by woodland belts. To the south of the hospital site but within the proposed development area is a sports field (which was not subject to trial trenching) whilst furthest south also within the site bounds was an arable field.

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-4. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural geology consisted predominantly of a soft mid-reddish orange sand, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and cobbles. Occasional gravel patches were observed in some trenches. The depth of the natural was usually between 0.5m and 0.8m below current ground level, though there were a number of trenches where landscaping had resulted in a depth of up to 2.4m being observed. No superficial deposits were identified.

#### 5.1.2 Phase 2: 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century deposits

In Trench 18 a red brick wall was observed (Fig 3; Plates 7 and 8). This wall, 1809, was aligned north-west to south-east, and consisted of a string course with two further courses surviving above it. The wall was 0.3m wide and 2.3m long, to a height of 0.32m. It sat in a construction cut that truncated the subsoil. The construction cut was backfilled on the western, interior side with a dark grey, charcoal rich sand (1808). This material spilled out of the cut and over the subsoil, presumably acting as a makeup deposit within the building. Overlying this was a series a thin sand layers, continuing this makeup. On the eastern side of the wall, a compact dark grey loam (1813) had built up over the subsoil. It was unclear whether the wall also cut this material as the robber cut that truncates the wall removes this relationship. It also truncated the internal layers described above. Sealing 1813 was a red sand bedding layer (1812) for cobbled surface 1811. This was sealed by later subsoil 1801, and was likely to have run up to the wall, forming an external surface. Further to the west of wall 1809, and at right angles to it, was a robber trench, 1818. This was a ditch, backfilled with loose rubble and modern rubbish, including paint tins. It was possibly a return of wall 1809.

In Trench 19 there was a small posthole (1908), cutting through the natural (Fig 5; Plate 2). This was 0.4m in diameter, and contained frequent lumps of coal.

#### 5.1.3 Phase 3: Undated deposits

In Trench 3, in the north-west corner of the site, a feature 1.2m wide and 0.48m deep was excavated (Fig 4; Plate 9). Originally thought to be a ditch terminus, feature 305 was filled with a sterile soft mid yellowish brown silty sand. An extra trench was excavated c. 10m to the west in order to track the course of this ditch, but nothing could be identified. As a result, it was determined that this feature was an elongated pit. A similarly undated and sterile feature was excavated in Trench 2 (205). This pit or possible tree throw was 0.25m deep, and emerged from the baulk, so its form could not be fully determined.

#### 5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits

The majority of trenches contained a simple subsoil and topsoil sequence of overburden. The exceptions were the result of landscaping during the construction of the former hospital, with redeposited natural sand or rubble dumped on top of the existing topsoil, in order to create a more

uniform slope. This was mainly evident in the central part of the site (Trenches 19-22), with some outlier examples (Trenches 2, 11 (Plate 6), 26). The central part of the site was also criss-crossed with services relating to the hospital. The remnant of a late 20<sup>th</sup> century wall and associated yard surface was identified in Trench 31, directly beneath the topsoil.

## 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

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

The assemblage came from three stratified contexts and could be dated from the post-medieval period onwards (see Table 1).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	ceramic		clay pipe	1	2
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	213
post-medieval/modern	other waste	fuel ash	fuel ash	10	83
modern	glass		vessel	4	1739
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2037</b>

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

### Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, consult Table 2.

#### Post-medieval

A single small abraded fragment of clay pipe stem was the sole artefact potentially of pre late-19<sup>th</sup> century date, although it was not typologically diagnostic and could lie anywhere within a 17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date range.

#### Modern

An assortment of ceramic and glass vessels, largely of early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date, were recovered from construction cut backfill (1808). They include:

- a fragment of a *Frank Cooper's Oxford marmalade jar*,
- a *Banks & Co Wolverhampton* pint beer bottle, complete with unusual wooden internal screw cap,
- a small bottle of *Haza Tomato Sauce*,
- and a *Spring Farm Dairy, Upper Gornal Nr Dudley* milk bottle.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
1808	Ceramic		pot	1	213	1874	1950	1920 - 1960
	Glass		vessel	1	697	1905	1955	
	Glass		vessel	1	264	1905	1960	
	Glass		vessel	1	523	1920	1950	
	Glass		vessel	1	255	1905	1960	
1902	Ceramic		clay pipe	1	2	1600	1910	1600 - 1910
1907	other waste	fuel ash	fuel ash	10	83	1600	2000	1600 - 2000

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

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All of the glass vessels were machine made and lie within the date range 1905 – 1960. Certain features of the milk bottle, including use of arsenic/selenium decolouriser, crown cap and general form, indicate a post-1920 date (Lindsay 2010), possibly 1940s.

#### *Undated*

A small scatter of fuel ash, likely to be from a domestic hearth, was recovered from (1907). Although not intrinsically dateable, it is considered likely to be modern in origin.

## **6 Synthesis**

Very few archaeological remains were identified across the Lea Castle site. The undated pit on the northern slope offers little clarity as to function, but would suggest that there may be some activity on this side of the hill.

The brick wall located in Trench 18 is likely associated with Axborough Farm, a range of farm buildings shown on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map, and present until at least 1960 (NLS 2016). This farm was still occupied during the early days of the hospital, and the dating of the bottles recovered from the construction phase of the farm building would indicate a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date. The small posthole in Trench 19 to the east of this building was probably an associated feature.

The dearth of finds dating to before the late 19<sup>th</sup> century suggests little activity occurred in the area before this date, and subsequently it was confined to low level agricultural practices.

## **7 Significance**

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

The nature of the archaeological remains is limited to an undated pit on the northern limit of the site, and a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century farm building in the central part of the development. The undated pit hints at a possible focus of activity on the north facing slope, though no further compelling evidence of activity was identified in this part of the site.

The extent of the farm building is unknown but it would not be unreasonable to assume that more of the structure survives.

### **7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site**

The importance of the archaeology is negligible. It is difficult to assign a level of importance to the undated pit, having as it does only limited potential. The importance of the farm building is likely to be of only local value.

### **7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site**

The farm building is sealed beneath 0.4m of topsoil and subsoil, though the full extent of the buildings is unknown. The undated pit was 1.1m below the current ground level. The extent of the feature is reasonably defined, though the possibility of further remains in the area should not be precluded, despite the surrounding blank trenches.

## **8 The impact of the development**

### **8.1 Impacts during construction**

The construction design is not currently known, but any trenching for foundations or services is likely to impact upon the farm building identified in Trench 18. The depth of material overlying the undated pit, coupled with its location on the edge of the development, may offer greater protection from such intrusions.

### **8.2 Impacts on sustainability**

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131). The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that

can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

## 9 Publication summary

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

*An archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) was undertaken at the former Lea Castle Hospital site, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR 38529 27919). It was undertaken at the request of Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure UK (the Consultant) acting on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency (the Client), who are intending to submit an outline planning application for the construction of up to 600 dwellings and employment land. The archaeological evaluation is intended to inform the local planning authority as to the potential impact of the proposed development on the historic environment.*

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## 10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mike Glyde, Helena Deaville and Charlotte Malone (AMEC), Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire County Council), Mike and Steve, the security team, and Don and Alan of Redman's Plant Hire.

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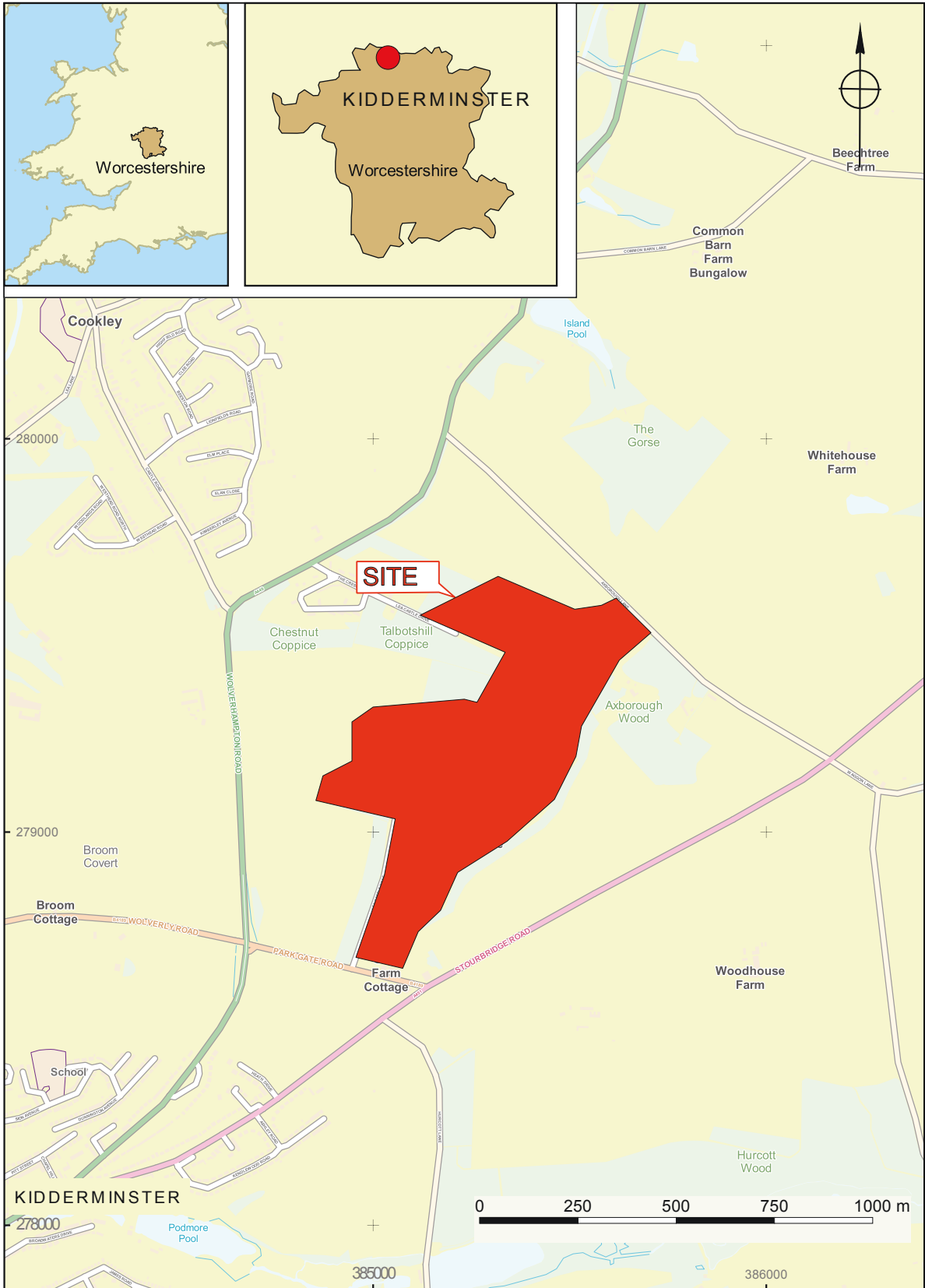
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## Figures



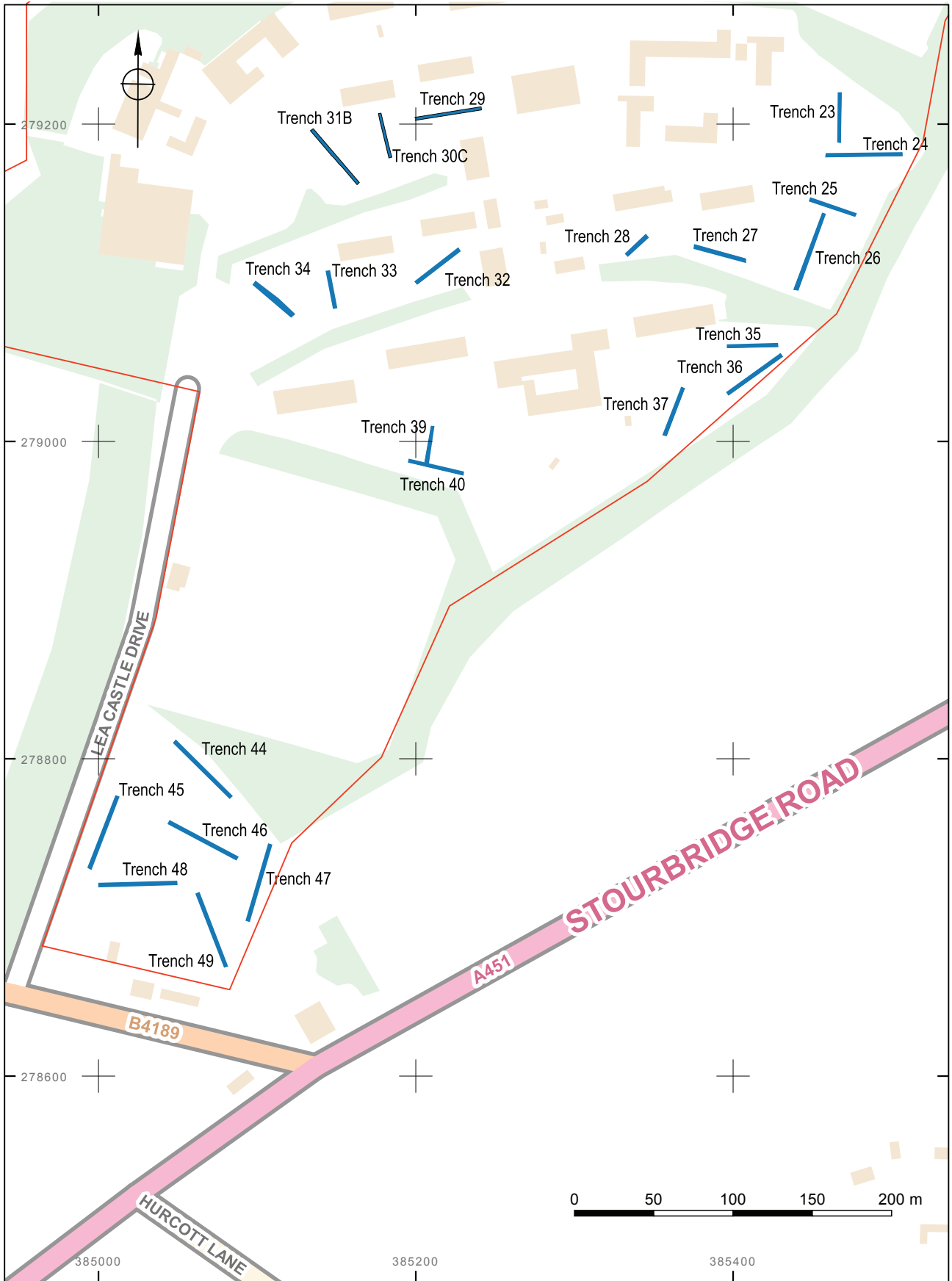




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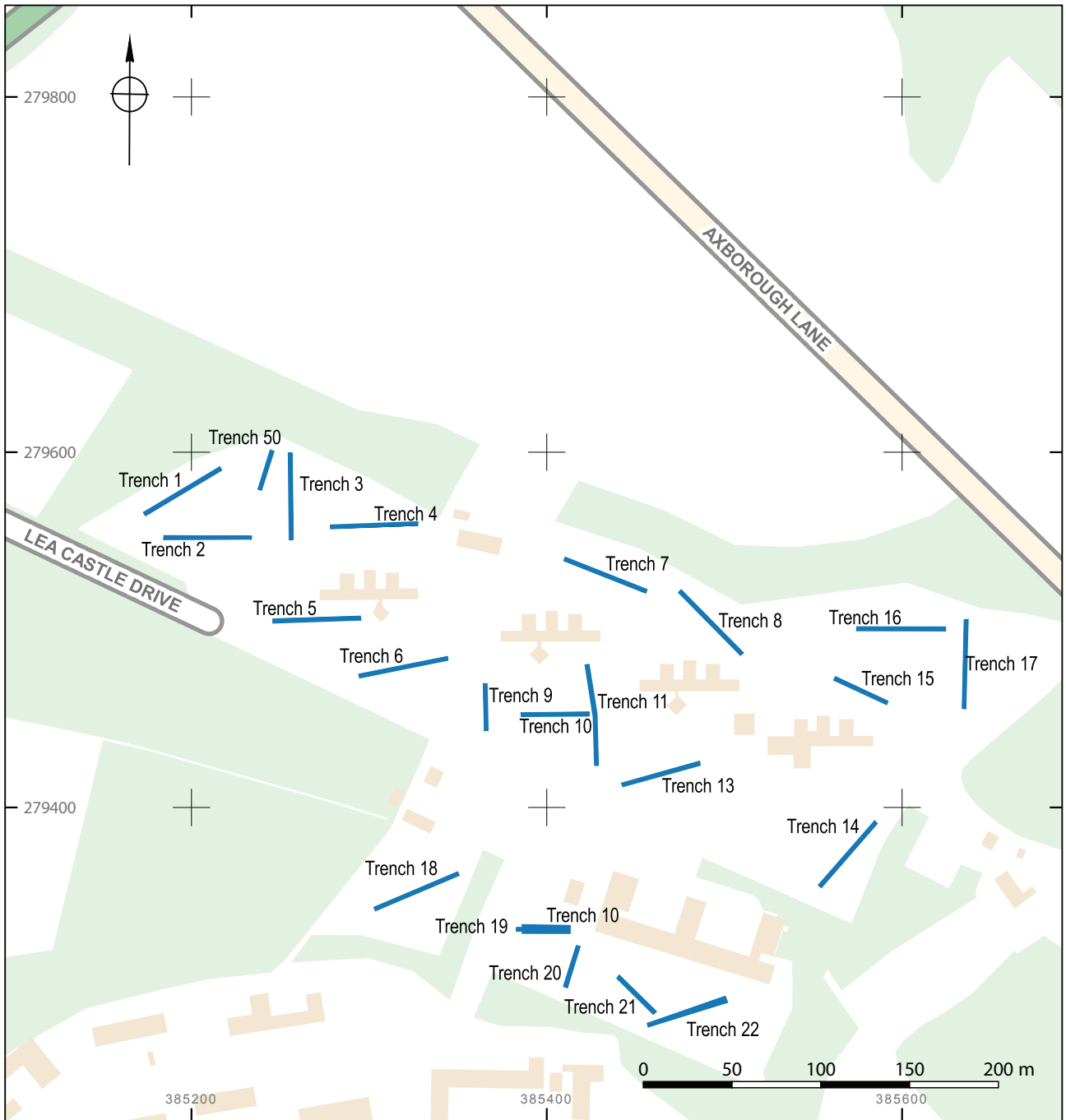
Location of the site

Figure 1



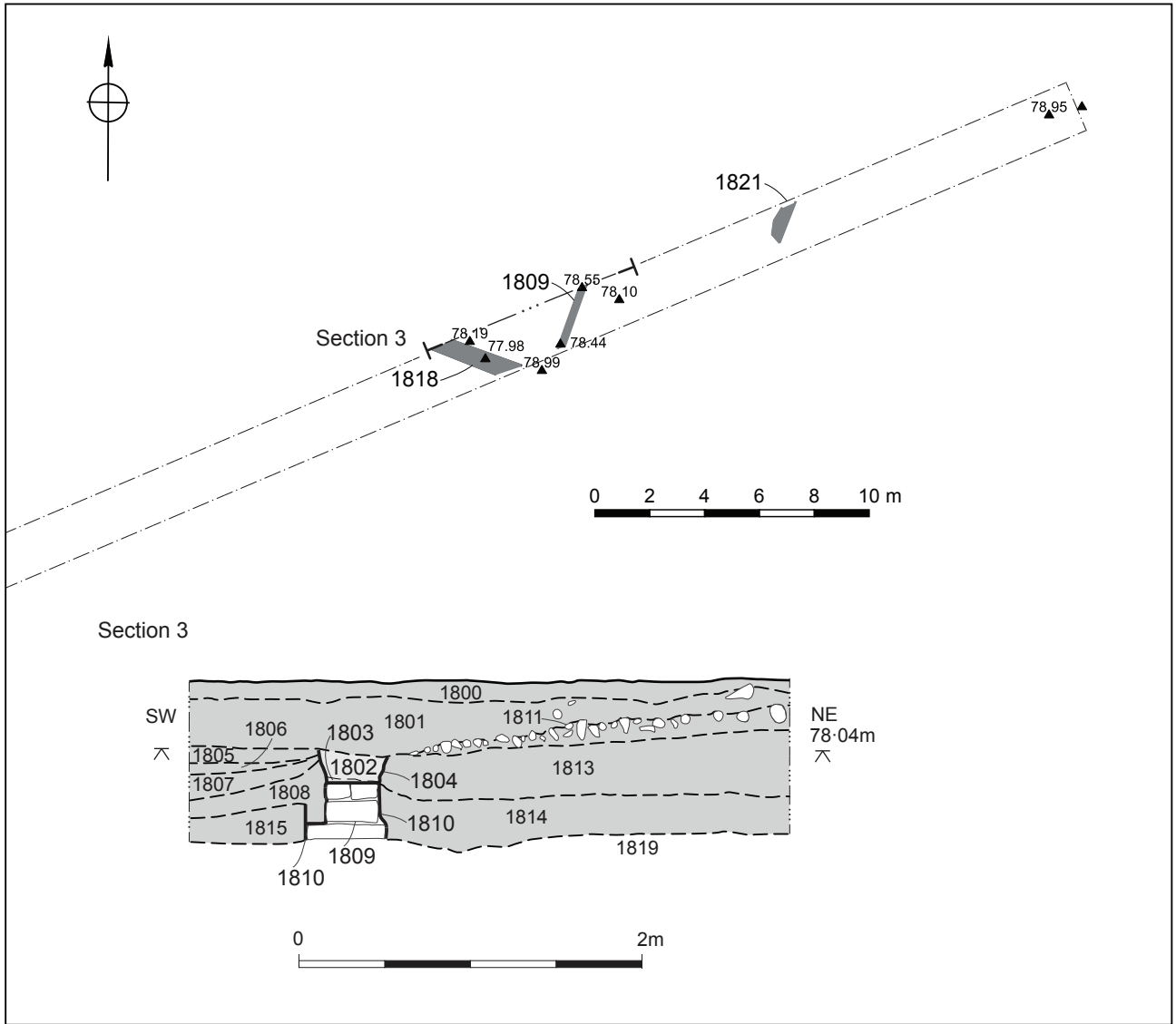
Trench Plan (south)

Figure 2.1



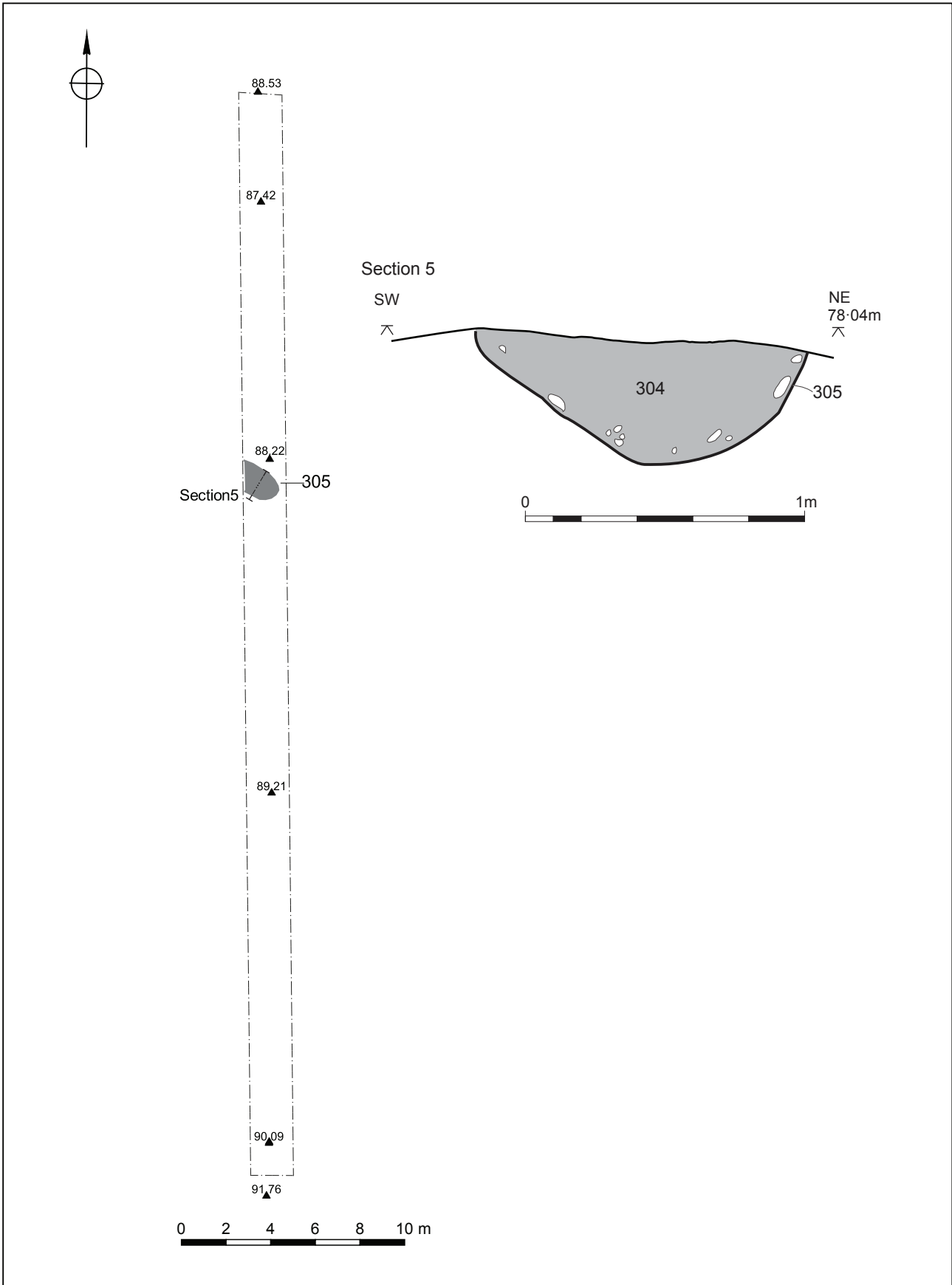
Trench Plan (north)

Figure 2.2



Trench 18 and section 3

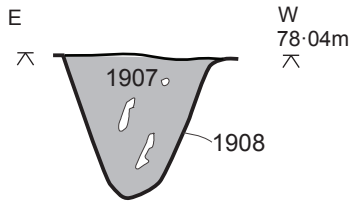
Figure 3



Trench 3

Figure 4

Section 1



*Trench 19, Posthole [1908], Section*

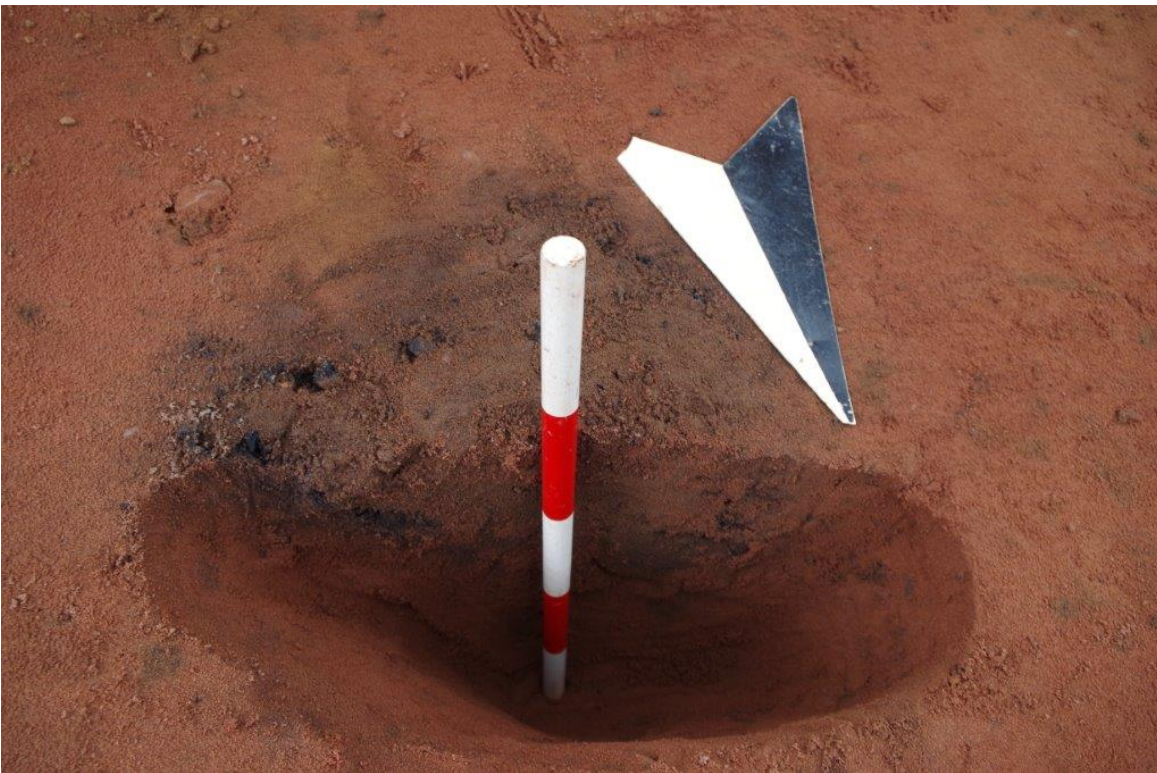
*Figure 5*



## Plates



*Plate 1: Trench 49, looking south (1m scales)*



*Plate 2: Trench 19, Posthole 1908, looking south (0.5m scale)*

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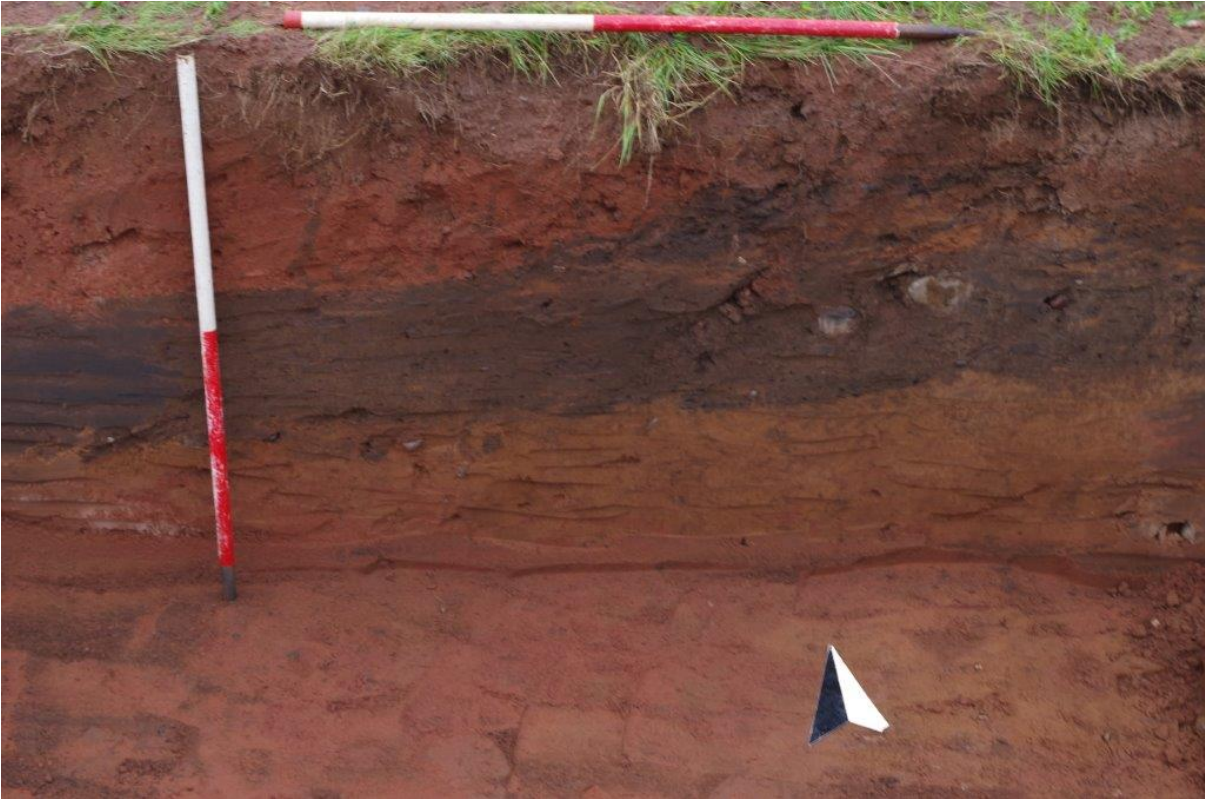


Plate 3: Trench 33 section, looking west (1m scales)



Plate 4: Trench 32, looking north-east (1m scales)





*Plate 5: Trench 29 section, looking north (1m scales)*



*Plate 6: Trench 11, looking east (1m scales)*

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*Plate 7: Trench 18, Wall 1809, looking north (1m scales)*



*Plate 8: Trench 18, Wall 1809 and Robber Cut 1818, looking south (1m scales)*





*Plate 9: Trench 3, Pit 305, looking north-west (0.5m and 1m scales)*

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## Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.30	
101	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.40	
102	Natural	Layer	Soft mid reddish orange		
103	Rooting	Fill		0.05	
104	Rooting	Cut		0.05m	Irregular rooting 0.25m wide, 0.90m long and with an irregular base
105	Gully	Fill		0.18	
106	Gully	Cut		0.18	Drainage gully or land drain 0.40m wide, 0.18m deep and orientated North-south

### Trench 2

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand	0.40	
201	Modern Layer	Layer	greyish brown rubble	2.00	
202	Subsoil	Layer	Soft yellowish brown sand	0.70	
203	Natural	Layer	Soft mid yellowish red sand		
204		Fill	mid brown sand	0.25m	Mid brown sandy fill of tree rooting
205	Tree bole	Cut		0.25	Irregular sub oval tree bole, c. 2m x 1m

### Trench 3

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand	0.50	
301	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft red sand	0.40	
302	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.20	
303	Natural	Layer	Soft red sand		
304	Pit	Fill	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.48	Fill of short ditch terminus or elongated pit. No finds and did not extend into trench 4b to west
305	Pit	Cut		0.48	Natural channel or elongated pit 1.2m wide and 0.48m deep

### Trench 4

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
401	Subsoil	Layer	Soft yellowish brown silty	0.40	
402	Natural	Layer	Firm mid reddish orange		

### Trench 5

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish grey silty sand	0.60	
501	Subsoil	Layer	Soft reddish brown sand	0.60	
502	Natural	Layer	Soft mid red sand		

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**Trench 6**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.20	
601	Subsoil	Layer	Compact mid brown silty sand	0.20	
602	Natural	Layer	Soft reddish brown sand	0.20	
603	Natural	Layer	Soft red sand		

**Trench 7**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
700	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.28	
701	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.33	
702	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 8**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
800	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.24	
801	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.30	
802	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 9**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
900	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
901	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.20	
902	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

### Trench 10

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.40	
1001	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid reddish brown silty sand	0.20	
1002	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

### Trench 11

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1100	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.20	
1101	Modern Layer	Layer	Compact mid yellowish brown rubble	1.60	
1102	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.20	
1103	Natural	Layer	Soft dark red sand		

### Trench 13

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1300	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.25	
1301	Subsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish red sand	0.30	
1302	Natural	Layer	Soft dark orangey red sand		

### Trench 14

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1400	Topsoil	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.40	
1401	Layer	Layer	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.20	Colluvium
1402	Layer	Layer	Soft mid reddish yellow sand	0.20	Colluvium

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1403 Natural Layer Soft yellowish red sand

**Trench 15**

Length: 50.0m Width: 1.80m Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1500	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.35	
1501	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.33	
1502	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 16**

Length: 50.0m Width: 1.80m Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1600	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.34	
1601	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.35	
1602	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 17**

Length: 50.0m Width: 1.80m Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1700	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.25	
1701	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.26	
1702	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 18**

Length: 50.0m Width: 1.80m Orientation: North-east to south-west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1800	Topsoil	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.10	
1801	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid brown sand	0.30	
1802	Natural	Layer	Soft yellowish brown sand		

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1803	Modern Layer	Layer	Made ground of robber trench
1804	Modern Layer	Layer	Modern service disturbance
1805	Modern Layer	Layer	Modern service disturbance

### Trench 19

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
1900	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.20	
1901	Modern Layer	Layer	Friable mid yellowish brown sand	0.20	
1902	Modern Layer	Layer	Compact mid brown sand	0.70	Made ground containing clay pie stems
1903	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sand		
1904	Natural	Layer	Soft mid brown sand		
1905	Natural	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown sand		
1906	Natural	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sand		
1907	Stakehole	Fill	Loose mid greyish brown sand	0.40	Coarse sand with frequent coal
1908	Stakehole	Cut		0.40	Modern post hole 0.40m diameter and 0.40m deep

### Trench 20

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
2000	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.10	
2001	Modern Layer	Layer	Compact brown rubble	0.70	
2002	Natural	Layer	Soft brownish red sand		

### Trench 21

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
2100	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.10	

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2101	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose mid orangey brown rubble	0.60
2102	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid pinky red silty	0.30
2103	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand	

**Trench 22**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
2200	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
2201	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft mid brownish red sand	0.20	
2202	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft mid greyish yellow sand	0.15	
2203	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft red sand	0.80	
2204	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft greyish yellow sand	0.40	
2205	Natural	Layer	Soft red sand		

**Trench 23**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
2300	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.24	
2301	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.36	
2302	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 24**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
2400	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.23	
2401	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.34	
2402	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

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### Trench 25

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2500	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
2501	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.24	
2502	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

### Trench 26

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2600	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
2601	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.44	
2602	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

### Trench 27

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2700	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.60	
2701	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.40	
2702	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

### Trench 28

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2800	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
2801	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose mid brownish grey silty sand	0.30	
2802	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid pinky orange silty sand	0.40	
2803	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

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**Trench 29**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
2900	Topsoil	Layer	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand	0.20	
2901	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft mid yellowish red sand	0.20	Redeposited natural 20th C made ground
2902	Layer	Layer	Compact dark greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
2903	Subsoil	Layer	Compact light brownish yellow sand	0.30	
2904	Natural	Layer	Compact dark yellowish red sand		
2905	Natural	Fill	light yellowish brown sand		Natural geological drainage
2906	Natural	Cut			Natural geological drainage

**Trench 30**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3000	Topsoil	Layer	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand	0.30	
3001	Layer	Layer	Compact mid brown silty sand	0.25	
3002	Subsoil	Layer	Compact light brownish yellow silty sand	0.20	
3003	Natural	Layer	Compact dark yellowish red sand		
3004	Tarmac	Layer	Tarmac		

**Trench 31**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3100	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.20	
3101	Made ground	Layer	Hardcore	0.20	
3102	Made ground	Layer	rubble		
3103	Subsoil	Layer	Compact brown sand		
3104	Natural	Layer	Soft red sand		

### Trench 32

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3200	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.40	
3201	Subsoil	Layer	Soft light reddish yellow silty sand	0.40	
3202	Natural	Layer	Soft mid reddish orange		

### Trench 33

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3300	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.30	
3301	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.25	
3302	Natural	Layer	Soft mid yellowish red sand		

### Trench 34

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3400	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.20	
3401	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.30	
3402	Natural	Layer	Soft mid reddish orange		

### Trench 35

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3500	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.26	
3501	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.28	
3502	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

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**Trench 36**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3600	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.33	
3601	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.22	
3602	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 37**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3700	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.28	
3701	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.30	
3702	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 39**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
3900	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.40	
3901	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid brownish orange silty sand	0.44	
3902	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

**Trench 40**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
4000	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty sand	0.55	
4001	Subsoil	Layer	Loose mid orangey brown silty sand	0.56	
4002	Natural	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand		

### Trench 44

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
4400	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4401	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4402	Ditch	Fill	Firm dark reddish grey sand	0.50	Firm dark grey sand
4403	Ditch	Cut		0.50	Linear running 30m wide natural formation.
4404	Ditch	Fill		0.55	Sandy fill of linear
4405	Ditch	Cut		0.55	Linear running NE - SW 1m wide
4406	Natural	Layer			

### Trench 45

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
4500	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.35	
4501	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.35	
4502	Natural	Layer	Soft dark reddish yellow silty sand		

### Trench 46

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
4600	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4601	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4602	Natural	Layer	Soft dark reddish yellow silty sand		

### Trench 47

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
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				<b>depth</b>
4700	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.30
4701	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.30
4702	Natural	Layer	Soft dark reddish yellow	

**Trench 48**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: East to west

**Context summary:**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Height/ depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
4800	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.35	
4801	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4802	Natural	Layer	Soft dark reddish brown silty sand		

**Trench 49**

Length: 50.0m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Height/ depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
4900	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4901	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.30	
4902	Natural	Layer	Soft dark reddish yellow silty sand		

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## **Appendix 2: Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 68014)**

The archive consists of:

- |     |                                       |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 2   | Context records AS1                   |
| 7   | Field progress reports AS2            |
| 4   | Photographic records AS3              |
| 246 | Digital photographs                   |
| 1   | Drawing number catalogues AS4         |
| 3   | Scale drawings                        |
| 44  | Trench record sheets AS41             |
| 1   | Box of finds                          |
| 1   | CD-Rom/DVDs                           |
| 1   | Copy of this report (bound hard copy) |

The project written and drawn archive along with the finds will be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum  
Museums Worcestershire  
Hartlebury Castle  
Hartlebury  
Near Kidderminster  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ  
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service:

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

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## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	ceramic		clay pipe	1	2
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	213
post-medieval/modern	other waste	fuel ash	fuel ash	10	83
modern	glass		vessel	4	1739
Totals				16	2037

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
1808	ceramic		pot	1	213	1874	1950	1920 - 1960
	glass		vessel	1	697	1905	1955	
	glass		vessel	1	264	1905	1960	
	glass		vessel	1	523	1920	1950	
	glass		vessel	1	255	1905	1960	
1902	ceramic		clay pipe	1	2	1600	1910	1600 - 1910
1907	other waste	fuel ash	fuel ash	10	83	1600	2000	1600 - 2000

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts