

# Archaeological watching brief at Unit G, The Glide, Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire



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## Archaeological watching brief at Unit G, The Glide, Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire

Graham Arnold

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Andrew Horner, Greatwest 2003 Ltd
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 50192, 46455
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	EHE80298
<i>Planning authority</i>	Herefordshire Council
<i>Reference</i>	S123075/O
<i>Brief</i>	HA 2016
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2016
<i>Project parameters</i>	ClfA 2014; HA 2014

#### *Previous archaeological work on the site*

There has been various previous archaeological work undertaken on site, which are illustrated in Figure 2. In 2006 Birmingham Archaeology evaluated the current development area (Bain 2006), with a subsequent watching brief following this (Gittens, 2006). This demonstrated that undated ditches survived and crossed to the southwest of the current development reported here. The wider area was evaluated in 2012 (Rogers and Arnold 2012) with features relating to a Roman farmstead recorded in the field on the west side of the Business Park and a palaeochannel in the southwest part of the site, both on previously undeveloped areas of the site.

In summary the evaluation report (Rogers and Arnold 2012) concluded:

*In the pasture field to the west, a concentration of Roman features was uncovered including a number of ditches, pits, beam slots, surfaces and a trackway. The features were interpreted as the remains of a Romano-British farmstead, with indications of occupation across the site ranging from the 1st to 4th centuries.*

*An undated palaeochannel was also found towards the south of the business park, orientated northwest-southeast. The channel was directly underlying modern made ground, but due to its location on an upper element of the river terrace sequence is likely to be of very early Holocene or possibly pre-Holocene date.*

*In the other areas within the Business Park, the alluvial sequence typically present in the Lugg Valley overlying the sand and gravel terrace deposits has been variously truncated by activity related to the Business Park and moreover, its former use as a military camp.*

### Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

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## Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012

Sources consulted

HER

Sources cited by the HER

Previous reports – Bain (2006), Gittens (2006) Rogers and Arnold (2012)

Date of fieldwork

24 January – 23 February 2017

Area of site

c 1500m<sup>2</sup>

Sampling            area sampled is indicated on Figure 3

Dimensions of excavated areas observed

Soakaway test pit (Tr1)	length 3.00m, width 0.60m, depth 1.50m+
Foundation pads (Tr 2)	26 x length 3.00m, width 2.00m, depth 1.20m
Drainage (Tr 3)	length 40.00m, width 0.60m, depth 1.40m
Soakaway and attenuation tank	length 10.00m, width 8.50m, depth 2.40m

### *Access to and visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. Access to deep trenches was not undertaken for safety reasons.

### *Statement of confidence*

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

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## Deposit description

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded over the total site and within all of the trenches monitored and as previously recorded within the evaluation stage of the project (Arnold 2012). The stratigraphy consisted of:

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Modern surfacing	Type 1 road stone brought in to level the site following removal of tarmac carpark surfacing.	0.00 – 0.20m
101	Made ground	Firm black ash, tarmac, occasional brick rubble hardcore, red gravels, backfilling services	0.05- 0.60m
102	Natural alluvium	Firm reddish brown clayey silt, with a darker greyish brown in the south east corner of the site.	0.50 – 1.20m
103	Natural geology	Compact dark reddish orange clay with occasional gravels	1.20 – 1.50m +

## Discussion

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks demonstrated that the site had been subject to ground levelling in the development area. This was due to the area being part of the army camp in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All deposits observed were dated to 20<sup>th</sup> century as made ground and modern services, directly above the natural alluvial (102) and geological deposits (103) (Plates 2-9). In the southeast corner of the site there was some variation in the alluvial deposit, with a darker greyish brown clayey silt being present (Plate 6), but this is either due to natural variation or the impacts of previous developments. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed or recorded within the development area.

## Conclusions

Whereas significant deposits (Roman occupation of the site and earlier palaeochannels) had previously been found to the west of the site and in the southwest corner of Moreton Business Park, away from 20<sup>th</sup> century (army camp) development, the current archaeological watching brief also demonstrated truncation, and so potentially, this would have removed any features of archaeological interest. Therefore, no conclusion could be reached as to whether they had originally been present or not.

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## 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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Andrew Horner Great West 2003 at Unit G, Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire (NGR SO 50192, 46455; HER ref EHE80298). Evidence of Roman occupation and an earlier palaeochannel had previously been recorded in the vicinity, to the west and the south of the current development area. All groundworks were archaeologically monitored, including foundation pads and drainage. Only modern made ground and natural alluvium and geology were observed within the development area, demonstrating that this area had been previously subject to levelling when it was in use as a military camp in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, no archaeological deposits/finds of any significance were found on to the Unit G site, though it could not be proven that the Roman and earlier deposits recorded in the vicinity during previous development, had not once extended this far and now been removed by the modern truncation.*

## Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project, the staff at G P Thomas, Andrew Horner ( Great West 2003 Ltd) and Julian Cotton (Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Council).

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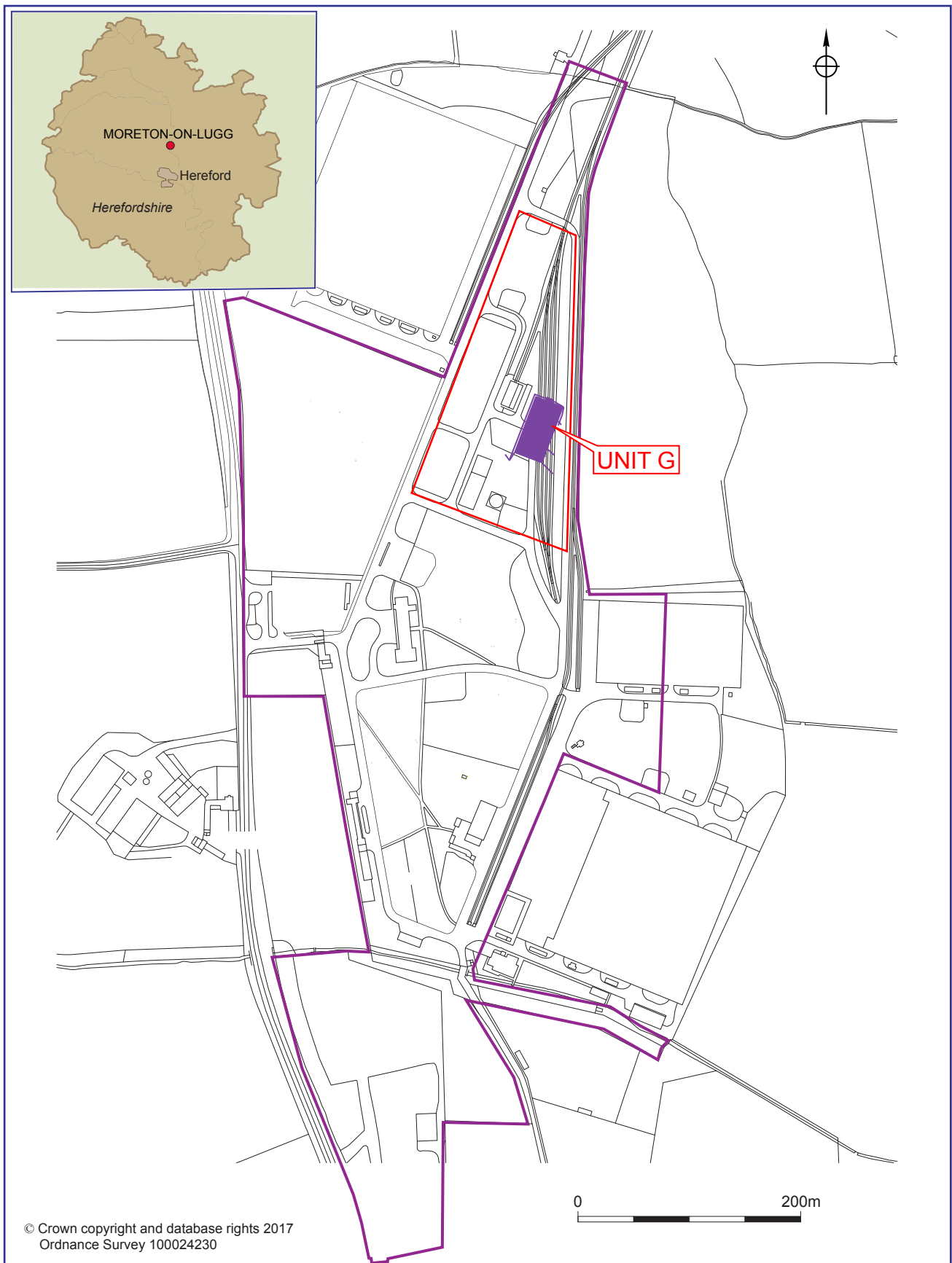
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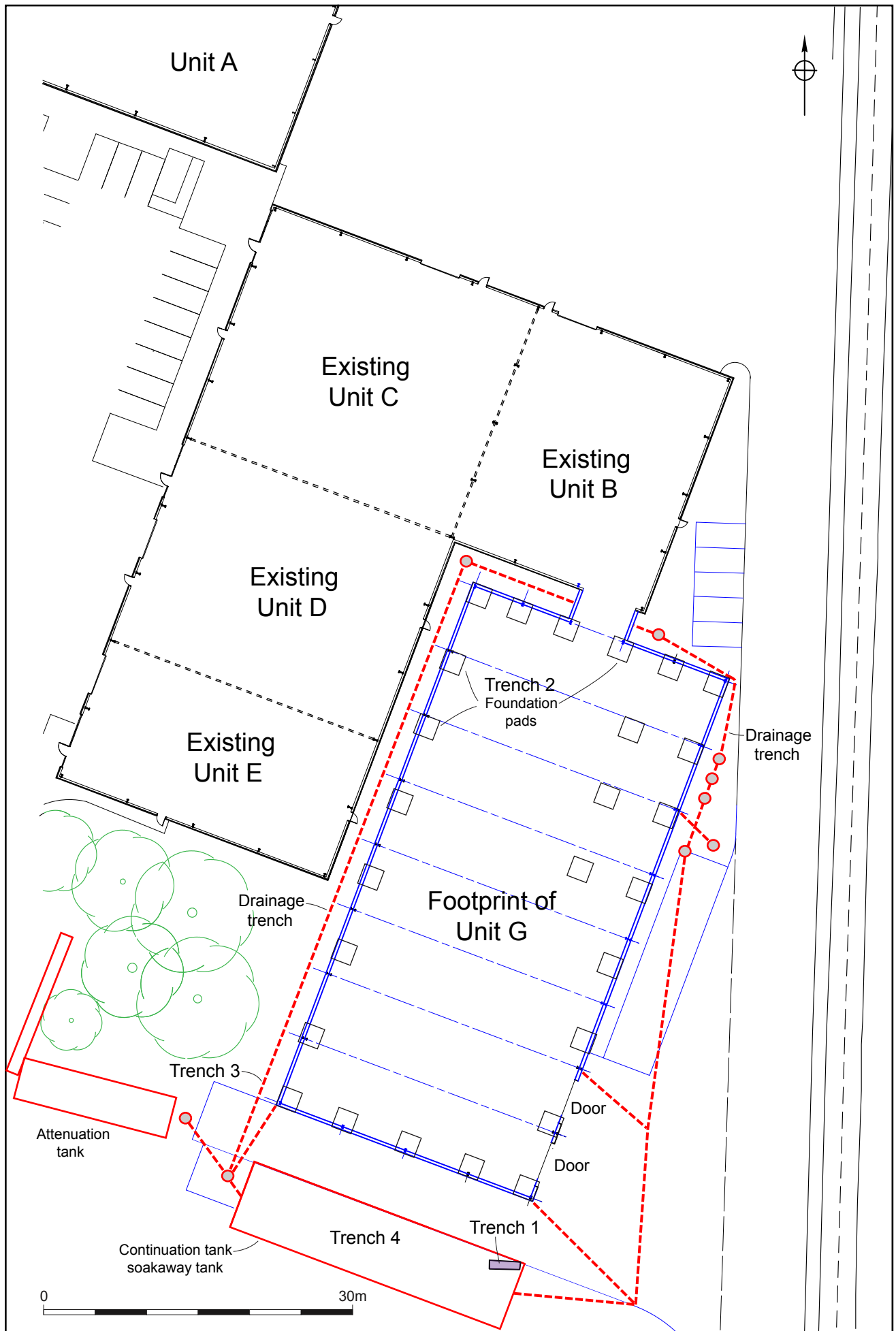
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**Figures**



Location of the site

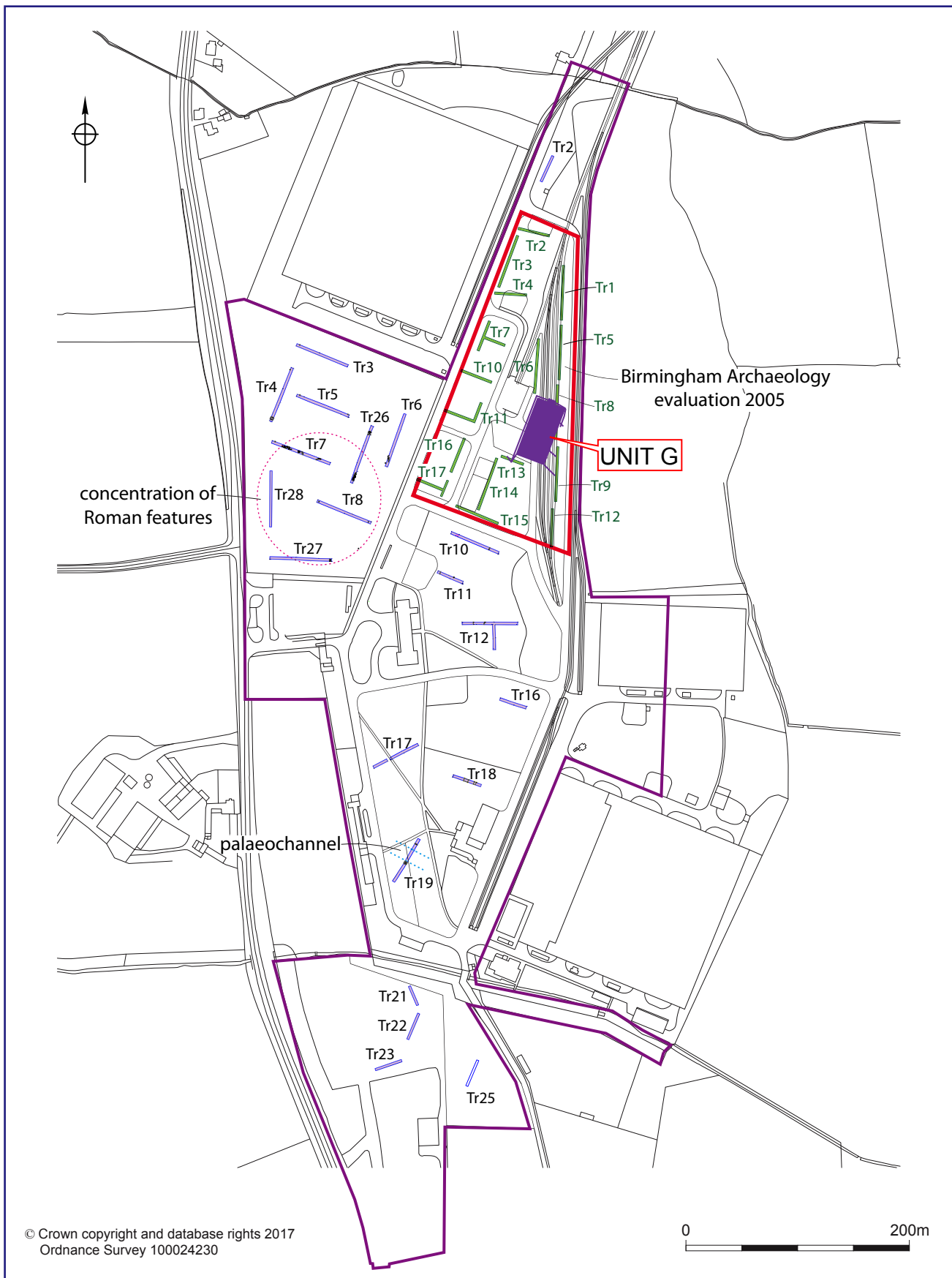
Figure 1



Locations monitored (based upon Development Project Services Drg No 1674C-16)

Figure 2





Previous archaeological interventions

Figure 3

## Plates



*Plate 1 The site prior to works, view north*



*Plate 2 Soakaway test pit (Tr1). View north.*





*Plate 3 Foundation pad in northwest of site (Tr 2). View south.*



*Plate 4 Foundation pad on east of site showing modern levelling Tr3). View north*





*Plate 5 Water tank in southwest corner of site.*



*Plate 6 Dark brown clay deposit in south east corner of site. View north*





*Plate 7 Drainage trench 3. View north. Made ground and natural deposits.*





*Plate 8 Trenches on the west side of the attenuation tank. Made ground and natural. View west*



*Plate 9 Modern wall foundation in southern trench of attenuation tank. View south.*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Site area: Test pit in attenuation tank area

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 1.50m+

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Surfacing	Modern type 1 stone chippings. Modern surfacing to level ground for construction works.	0.00 – 0.30m
101	Modern made ground	Brocken black ashy tarmac, and modern hardcore.	0-.30 – 0.60m
102	Natural	Firm reddish orange sandy clay with occasional stones and gravels Alluvial deposit	0.60 – 1.40m
103	Natural geology	Firm brownish red marl, Mercian mudstone, sands and gravels	1.40m +

### Trench 2

Site area: Foundation pads for Unit G

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 1.00m – 1.20m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Surfacing	Modern type 1 stone chippings. Modern surfacing to level ground for construction works.	0.00 – 0.20m
201	Modern made ground	Brocken black ashy tarmac, red gravels and modern hardcore including concrete, cut by services including modern storm drains.	0-.20 – 0.70m
202	Natural	Firm reddish orange sandy clay with occasional stones and gravels Alluvial deposit	0.50 – 1.20m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
203	Natural	Dark greyish brown clay in SE corner foundation pads – natural variation in alluvium or staining from overlying made ground, modern disturbance.	0.50 – 1.20m
204	Natural geology	Firm brownish red marl, Mercian mudstone, sands and gravels	1.20m

### Trench 3

Site area: Drainage trenches and attenuation tank

Maximum dimensions - Drainage: Length: 40.00m Width: 0.60m Depth: 1.40m – see fig 2

Attenuation tank: Length: 20.00m Width: 8.50m Depth: 2.40m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Surfacing	Modern type 1 stone chippings. Modern surfacing to level ground for construction works.	0.00 – 0.10m
301	Modern made ground	Broken black ashy tarmac, red gravels and modern hardcore including concrete, cut by services including modern storm drains and wall foundations.	0.05 – 0.60m
302	Natural	Firm reddish brown sandy clay with occasional stones and gravels Alluvial deposit	0.60 – 1.20m
303	Natural geology	Firm brownish red marl, sands and gravels	1.20m+



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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: EHE 80298)**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 40 Digital photographs
- 2 Scale drawings
- 4 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery  
Broad Street  
Hereford  
HR4 9RU

Tel. Hereford (01432) 268121 extension 207/334