

# Archaeological evaluation at BTR Land Brockhill East, Redditch



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,  
The Butts, Worcester  
WR1 3PD

Status:  
Date: 19 May 2017  
Author: Peter Lovett and Jess Wheeler [plovett@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:plovett@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Contributors: C Jane Evans and Elizabeth Pearson  
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt  
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## **Archaeological evaluation at BTR Land, Brockhill East, Redditch, Worcestershire**

Peter Lovett and Jess Wheeler

With contributions by C Jane Evans and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at BTR land, Brockhill East, Redditch, Worcestershire (NGR SP 403660 268840; WSM 67930). It was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (South Midlands) Ltd, who intends to undertake residential development with 296 dwellings, for which outline planning permission has been granted (2014/256/OUT).

Thirty-six trenches were excavated across the site. One pit was identified, containing 23 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, possibly representing a single vessel. Alongside these sherds were fire-cracked stone and charcoal fragments, suggesting the use of hot-stone technology. Organic material, probably cooked food, was also noted as residues on the sherds. The charcoal has the potential to provide information on the wood fuel resources used, while the residues have the potential to yield information on prehistoric food stuffs. No heat alteration was evident within the feature, so it is considered likely that the pit was used for domestic refuse and that the heating of the stones occurred elsewhere. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery recovered during previous investigations of an Iron Age enclosure c 750m south-west of the present pit hinted at a low level of activity in the wider landscape during this period, and the pit excavated here adds to that evidence.

No other archaeological remains of significance were identified. All other archaeological deposits revealed related to later low level agricultural practices, including ridge and furrow and a post-medieval field boundary.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) at BTR Land, Brockhill East, Redditch, Worcestershire (NGR SP 403660 268840). It was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA), whose client Persimmon Homes (South Midlands) Ltd intends to undertake residential development of 296 dwellings, for which outline planning permission has been granted (2014/256/OUT).

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to the generality of briefs prepared by Worcestershire County Council, following discussions with Adrian Scruby and Aisling Nash, Historic Environment Advisors for the Council. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

### 2 Aims

The general aims of the evaluation as outlined in the WSI (WAA 2016) were as follows;

- To determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site;
- To determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- To determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from plough damage or from any other agricultural/industrial practices or later building activities;
- To investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development;
- To determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development;
- To disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting;
- To provide the LPA with appropriate information so that an informed decision can be made on the requirement for further mitigation should it be required.

### 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, assisted by Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)), and Jane Brewer (BA (hons.)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report, C Jane Evans (BA, MA, MCIfA) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by CgMs (2011).

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### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA 2016).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 3 and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM 67930.

Thirty six trenches, amounting to just over 3,960m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 16.5ha, representing a sample of 2.4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

A former sand pit is recorded to the north-west of the proposed development area. A small part of the proposed development area lies within the extent of the former sand pit, and was therefore excluded from the geophysical survey, and from any archaeological trenching. Trenches were laid in a grid array designed to catch any linear features regardless of orientation as well as identify any specific areas of activity (WAA 2016). A number of trenches were relocated once site works had commenced; Trench 24 was moved c 10m west in order to keep the requisite distance from the nearby Red Ditch watercourse; Trenches 26, 29 and 30 were repositioned around visible and known quarrying activity in the south-west; and Trenches 32 and 33 were moved due to safety considerations concerning the extreme gradient of the south-west of the site.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. 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, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

### 3.5 Artefact methodology, by C. Jane Evans

The finds work reported here conforms to 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).

#### 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 a *pro forma* Microsoft Access database.

No artefacts from environmental samples were examined.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined by eye and, where necessary, under x20 magnification. It was referenced by fabric type to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### **3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson**

The environmental project conforms to relevant sections of the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a); *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations* (AEA 1995).

#### **3.6.1 Sampling policy**

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). A total of two samples (each of 10 litres) were taken from the site (Table 4). However, only pit fill (405) was assessed.

#### **3.6.2 Processing and analysis**

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

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

Charcoal was examined under a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the presence of oak and non-oak charcoal.

#### **3.6.3 Discard policy**

Remaining sample material and scanned residues will be discarded after a period of 3 months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

### **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 lies within agricultural land to the north of Redditch, west of Birmingham Road (A441), on an east facing slope with elevations ranging from c 130mAOD in the west to c 100mAOD in the east. The Red Ditch watercourse bounds the southern side of the site and continues in valleys to the south and west. The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone and siltstone of the Mercia Mudstone group (BGS 2017). Some glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel are recorded on the west of the site. The overlying soils are slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish fine loamy over clayey soils, fine loamy and clayey soils, known as Salop soils (Ragg *et al* 1984).

The earliest recorded activity within the area of the site was in the form of an enclosure dating to the Iron Age to the south-west (WSM46351), excavated by Worcestershire Archaeology (Mann 2012). Although no interior features relating to settlement were identified, a very rare Iron Age cremation, the first to be found in Worcestershire, was found in the upper fill of the recut enclosure ditch. The finds assemblage suggested both habitation and iron working of Middle to Late Iron Age date. No Roman pottery was recovered from the site, suggesting it was abandoned before this time (Mann 2012). To the south and east of the site was the location of a saltway from Beoley to Droitwich (WSM37590) which was established in the Roman era and is thought to have followed the course of the Red Ditch on its southern side (Cornah 2016).



To the north of the site is a deserted medieval settlement at Weights Lane (WSM00017), and to the north-west of the site two areas of ridge and furrow were present (WSM09858 and WSM57466), likely to be of the same date. The agricultural use of the area continued into the post-medieval period with the establishment of Lowans Hill Farm in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (WSM54852, WSM41577 and WSM33278) and then Ireland Farm in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (WSM55271). Evidence of quarrying can be observed within the development area on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map, and a number of pits related to the quarrying of marl are also recorded around the area (WSM57467).

## **4.2 Current land-use**

Currently the site is laid to pasture

# **5 Results**

## **5.1 Structural analysis**

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

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

The natural geology across the site comprised Mercian Mudstone, or marl, with areas of overlying mid Pleistocene drift deposits of sand and gravel (Plates 1 and 3). The natural strata were observed between 0.3 and 1.28m below the ground surface, though most commonly between 0.4 and 0.7m. The natural strata were observed to be closest to the surface at the top and on the sides of the hill along the western side of site, becoming deeper at the base of the slope in the eastern half.

Colluvial layers, in either one or two visibly distinct bands, were observed in 19 of the 36 trenches and broadly correlate with those trenches aligned with the downward gradient of the hillside, and at its immediate base, as expected. In individual bands the colluvium was between 0.05m and 0.62m thick (Plates 2 and 4). Due to the lack of archaeological features on the site, it is not possible to determine the sequence of colluviation in the broader timescale of the area.

### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric deposits**

The sole evidence for prehistoric activity was represented by an oval pit in Trench 4 on the brow of a slope in the north-west of the site, 404 (Fig 5; Plates 6 and 7). This pit measured 0.75m wide and 1.5m long, with a depth of 0.18m, with shallow sides and a flat base. It contained one fill, of a compact mid orangey brown silty clay, with abundant fragments of charcoal and approximately 8 litres of fire cracked stone. The fill also yielded 23 fragments of Bronze Age pottery, possibly representing a single vessel. Whilst the inclusions within the fill suggest an association with fire, no evidence of scorching was observed around the edges of the pit itself.

### **5.1.3 Phase 3: medieval/Post medieval deposits**

The shallow remnants of furrows were identified in Trenches 1, 3, 9 and 24, with a heavily truncated potential furrow in Trench 17. All the furrows were aligned roughly north-west to south-east, and were filled by a mid greyish or orange brown clay silt.

In Trench 18, a north-west to south-east aligned ditch was excavated (1805) (Fig 6; Plate 5). It was 1.62m wide and 0.52m deep, and contained four fills, being a mixture of in-washed bank material and edge collapse. This ditch matched the location of a field boundary identified on the tithe plan of 1839 (CgMs 2011). No further stretches of this ditch or associated ones were identified, though only three further trenches were excavated within the vicinity.

#### 5.1.4 Phase 4: undated deposits

A small sub-circular feature (2403) was revealed in Trench 24. It was 0.08m deep, 0.9m wide, and 1.45m long, and interpreted as a probable tree bowl. Similarly, in Trench 36, a shallow pit (3606), 0.09m deep, 0.7m wide, and 0.9m long, and was also interpreted as a tree bowl.

#### 5.1.5 Phase 5: modern deposits

The site was covered with a subsoil of mid reddish brown clayey silt, between 0.11 and 0.38m thick. This in turn was overlain by topsoil between 0.14 and 0.35m thick.

The various quarry pits that are indicated on historic mapping could be seen in the landscape, and Trench 29 was excavated across one of them. The quarry pit had clearly been left open rather than being backfilled, and so the natural ground was discovered directly beneath a thin turf layer.

A number of land drains criss-crossed the site, cut into the natural.

#### 5.1.6 Blank trenches

The following trenches were devoid of archaeological features: 2, 3, 5-8, 10-17, 19-23, 25-35

### 5.2 Artefact analysis, by C Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1-3.

Fifteen of the trenches (1-5, 13, 17-24, 31) produced finds, from eighteen stratified contexts. While finds dated predominantly to the post-medieval and modern periods, small quantities of Bronze Age and Roman pottery were also present (Table 1).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
late Bronze Age	ceramic	earthenware	pot	23	116
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	5	114
?Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	4
medieval/post medieval	ceramic	fired clay	brick	1	96
medieval/post medieval	ceramic	fired clay	brick/tile	3	20.5
medieval/post medieval	ceramic	fired clay	roof tile	16	752
post med/modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2
post-med/modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	16
post-med/modern	glass	green	bottle	2	17
post-med/modern	glass	pale blue	vessel	1	9
post-med/modern	glass	pale green	vessel	1	4
post-med/modern	stone	slate	fragment	1	6
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	clay pipe	1	3
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	5	208

modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	53	467
modern	ceramic	fired clay	roof tile	1	114
modern	glass	clear	bottle	1	15
undated	bone	animal bone	fragment	1	1
undated	metal	slag(fe)	fragment	2	25
undated	organic	coal	fragment	2	43
undated	organic	shell	oyster	1	11

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Bronze Age	5.3	Quartz and grog (earlier prehistoric)	23	116
Romano-British	12	Severn Valley ware	5	114
	13	Sandy oxidized ware	1	4
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	3	160
	91	Post-medieval buff wares	1	11
	108	Midlands purple ware	1	37
Post-medieval/modern	83	Porcelain	3	21
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	2	70
	85	Modern china	50	394

*Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric*

### 5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

#### *Bronze Age*

Of particular significance was the presence of 23 fragmentary sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery from the fill of a pit in Trench 4 (404, fill 405), including a small, flat-topped rim sherd. These were all in the same coarse fabric, tempered with angular grog and sub-angular quartz, and were possibly from the same vessel. Most sherds were oxidised externally with a black core and internal surface. An early Bronze Age sherd in a similar fabric was noted from a previous excavation at Brockhill (Griffin 2012), where there was also evidence for Iron Age activity.

#### *Roman*

Six sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered: one from the topsoil in Trench 23 (2300) and five from Trench 24 (from the topsoil (2400), subsoil (2401) and the fill of a tree hollow (2403, fill 2404)). That from Trench 23 was an undiagnostic body sherd in Severn Valley ware, only broadly datable to the Roman period. The subsoil and tree hollow in Trench 24 produced three rim sherds

from wide-mouthed jars in Severn Valley ware, all broadly dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century (Webster 1976, fig 4.22, fig 5.24).

#### *Post-medieval and modern finds*

The remaining finds dated from the post-medieval to modern periods. Post-medieval wares included red wares and buff wares with black glaze, and a sherd of midlands purple ware. The modern pottery included a range of modern china, either plain or transfer-printed, along with occasional fragments of porcelain and stoneware. Other finds included clay pipe stems (not closely datable), and fragments of bottle and vessel glass. A number of fragments of flat roof tile were recovered, but these were not readily datable. Other finds were a fragment of slate roof tile, fragments of animal bone, slag, coal, and an oyster shell.

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	Context tpq
100	ceramic	clay pipe	1	3	post-medieval			1800-2000
100	ceramic	pot	1	40	post-medieval	1600	1800	
100	ceramic	pot	12	146	modern	1800	2000	
200	ceramic	pot	1	10	post-medieval	1600	1800	1800-2000
200	ceramic	pot	1	61	modern	1800	1950	
200	ceramic	pot	4	26	modern	1800	2000	
300	ceramic	pot	1	16	post-med/modern	1750	2000	1800-2000
300	ceramic	pot	3	34	modern	1800	2000	
405	ceramic	pot	23	116	late Bronze Age	-1000	-800	LBA
500	ceramic	pot	1	9	modern	1800	2000	1800-2000
500	ceramic	pot	1	32	modern	1800	1950	
500	organic	shell	1	11	undated			
1300	ceramic	roof tile	1	43	medieval/post medieval			1800-2000
1300	glass	bottle, clear	1	15	modern			
1300	glass	bottle, green	1	5	post-med/modern			
1700	ceramic	pot	1	3	modern	1750	2000	1750-2000
1700	ceramic	roof tile	2	18	medieval/post medieval			
1701	ceramic	pot	1	4	modern	1800	2000	1800-2000
1809	ceramic	roof tile	1	67	medieval/post medieval			1300-1800

1900	ceramic	brick/tile	2	20	medieval/post medieval			1300-1800
1900	ceramic	roof tile	1	31	medieval/post medieval			
1901	ceramic	roof tile	1	33	medieval/post medieval			1300-1800
1906	ceramic	brick	1	96	medieval/post medieval			1300-1800
1908	ceramic	pot	11	51	modern	1800	2000	1800-2000
1908	glass	vessel, pale green	1	4	post-med/modern			
1908	metal	slag(fe)	2	25	undated			
1908	organic	coal	1	26	undated			
2000	bone	fragment	1	1	undated			1800-2000
2000	ceramic	pot	1	110	post-medieval	1600	1800	
2000	ceramic	pot	4	25	modern	1800	2000	
2100	ceramic	pot	8	59	modern	1800	2000	1800-2000
2100	ceramic	pot	1	11	post-medieval	1700	1800	
2100	ceramic	pot	1	37	post-medieval	1600	1700	
2100	ceramic	roof tile	4	407	medieval/post medieval			
2100	glass	vessel, pale blue	1	9	post-med/modern			
2200	ceramic	brick/tile	1	0.5	medieval/post medieval			1300-1800
2300	ceramic	pot	1	36	Roman	43	400	1800-2000
2300	ceramic	pot	1	2	post med/modern	1750	2000	
2300	ceramic	pot	6	17	modern	1800	2000	
2300	ceramic	roof tile	5	100	medieval/post medieval			
2300	glass	bottle, green	1	12	post-med/modern			
2300	stone	fragment	1	6	post-med/modern			
2400	ceramic	pot	1	4	Roman?	43	400	1800-2000
2400	ceramic	roof tile	1	114	modern	1800	2000	

2401	ceramic	pot	3	35	Roman	100	299	100-299
2401	organic	coal	1	17	undated			
2404	ceramic	pot	1	43	Roman	100	299	100-299
3100	ceramic	roof tile	1	53	medieval/post medieval			1300-1800

*Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts*

### 5.2.2 Discussion

The presence of Late Bronze Age pottery is significant, and provides the only dating for the pit in which they were found. The small quantity of Roman pottery hints at Roman activity in the area, but sherds came from the topsoil, subsoil and a tree hollow, rather than defined features and so may relate only to agricultural activity, most likely the manuring of arable fields. There were no significant finds amongst the post-medieval and modern assemblage, and this also probably represents a general background scatter compatible with agricultural activity.

### 5.2.3 Further analysis and reporting

The Bronze Age and Roman pottery justifies more detailed analysis should further work be undertaken on the site.

### 5.2.4 Discard and retention

The post-medieval and modern finds could be considered for discard, with the agreement of the receiving museum, but the Bronze Age and Roman pottery should be retained.

## 5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 4 to 6.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Res assessed	Flot assessed
405	2	Pit	404		Bronze Age	10	10	Yes	Yes
2802	1	Layer (colluvium)			Undated	10	0	No	No

*Table 4: List of bulk samples*

### 5.3.1 Animal bone

A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from the topsoil (2000).

### 5.3.2 Plant macrofossil remains

The results are summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

context	sample	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts	comments
405	2	abt	occ	mod*	heat-cracked stones. Mod pot,	occ nut shell

Table 5: Summary of remains from bulk samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, \* = probably modern and intrusive

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
405	2	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	probably intrusive
405	2	ch	unidentified	misc	+/low	unidentified charred organic material
405	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	++/l+++/low	
405	2	ch	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragment	misc	+/low	

Table 6: Plant remains from pit fill (405)

**Key:**

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Fragments of charcoal were moderately abundant and appeared to be mostly non-oak species, and have potential to provide information on wood fuel in use for general domestic cooking. This is likely to have derived from heating/cooking with hot stone technology as it was associated with fire-cracked stone. Occasional fragments of hazelnut shell and unidentified burnt, matted organic material (presumably cooked food) was also recovered. These are likely to be food remains burnt on a fire as a result of spillage. Although currently unidentified, information on burnt food remains can sometimes be gained from Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) technology.

## 6 Synthesis

The isolated Late Bronze Age pit on the high point in the north-west of the site was the only archaeological feature of significance. The quantity of fire-cracked stone and charcoal recovered from the feature indicate the use of hot-stone technology, though the pit itself showed no evidence of heat alteration, and was therefore likely to have been a refuse pit rather than a hearth or primary heating site. The environmental evidence from the fill reinforced the suggestion that this was a rubbish pit for domestic activity in the vicinity, and that the assemblage may represent a single event of cooking.

The Iron Age enclosure site excavated c 750m south-west of the Late Bronze Age pit yielded a single piece of Bronze Age pottery, in a fabric similar to that recovered on the current site. It was

concluded that whilst there was no Bronze Age origin to the enclosure, the pottery was evidence of some level of human presence in the wider area (Mann 2012).

The Bronze Age in Worcestershire has remained only sporadically investigated and thus poorly understood, with just a handful of sites of any size excavated (Hurst 2017). Whilst this pit remains in isolation, it does hint at some form of occupation within the wider landscape.

The presence of Roman pottery in the topsoil and subsoil suggests some level of Roman activity in the area, though it seems to have been confined to low impact agricultural practices within the site. Medieval and post-medieval activity appears to have been similarly limited to low impact agricultural practices.

## **7 Significance**

For the majority of the site, there was little if any evidence of human activity, being limited to medieval or later agricultural practices. The Late Bronze Age pit and its assemblage of pottery are of significance, mainly due to the aforementioned paucity of such finds within the region. That it appears in isolation currently does not preclude it from being part of a wider landscape of dispersed activity in the Late Bronze Age.

The pit was sealed by c 0.5m of soil, on the edge of a depression filled with colluvium. No relationship between the pit and the colluvium was established, as they appeared physically separate from each other.

Environmental remains of local significance were identified as charcoal was relatively well preserved from the Late Bronze Age pit. This has the potential to provide information on the wood fuel resources used for general domestic fires and cooking. Unidentified burnt food remains, presumably cooked, were also recovered, which have the potential to yield further information on prehistoric food stuffs.

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

### **8.1 Impacts during construction**

The specific details of groundworks associated with the development have not been provided to WA. The single significant archaeological feature, identified towards the north-west side of the site, was at c 0.5m c. Therefore any groundworks within this area are likely to have a negative impact on this and other potentially associated deposits.

### **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 was undertaken at BTR land, Brockhill East, Redditch (NGR SP 403660 268840; WSM 67930). It was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (South Midlands) Ltd.*

*Thirty-six trenches were excavated across the site. One pit was identified, containing 23 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, possibly representing a single vessel. Alongside these sherds were fire-*



*cracked stone and charcoal fragments, suggesting the use of hot-stone technology. Organic material, probably cooked food, was also noted as residues on the sherds. The charcoal has the potential to provide information on the wood fuel resources used, while the residues have the potential to yield information on prehistoric food stuffs. No heat alteration was evident within the feature, so it is considered likely that the pit was used for domestic refuse and that the heating of the stones occurred elsewhere. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery recovered during previous investigations of an Iron Age enclosure c 750m south-west of the present pit hinted at a low level of activity in the wider landscape during this period, and the pit excavated here adds to that evidence.*

*No other archaeological remains of significance were identified. All other archaeological deposits revealed related to later low level agricultural practices, including ridge and furrow and a post-medieval field boundary.*

## 10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Jon Webster (Wardell Armstrong Archaeology), and Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

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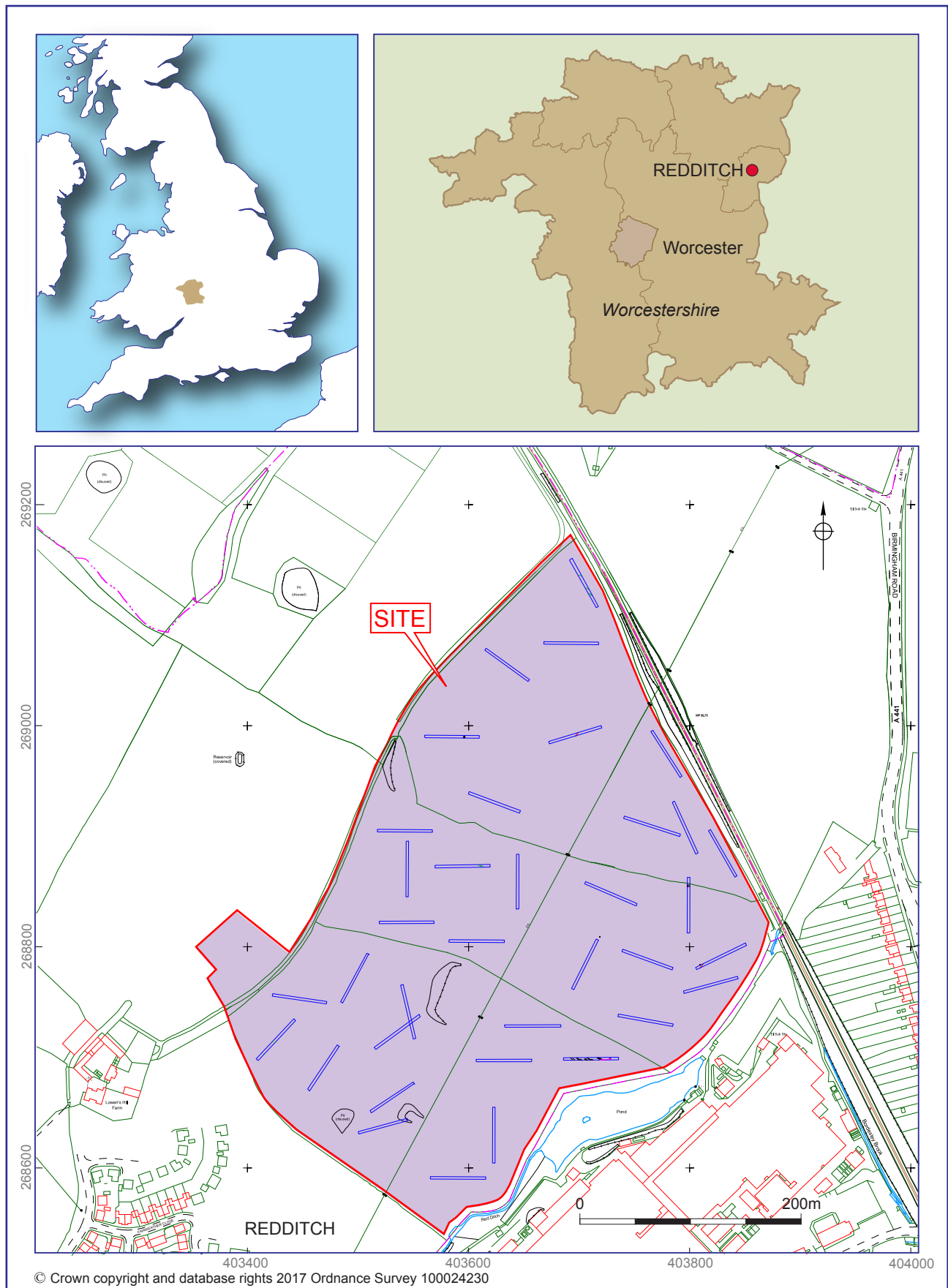
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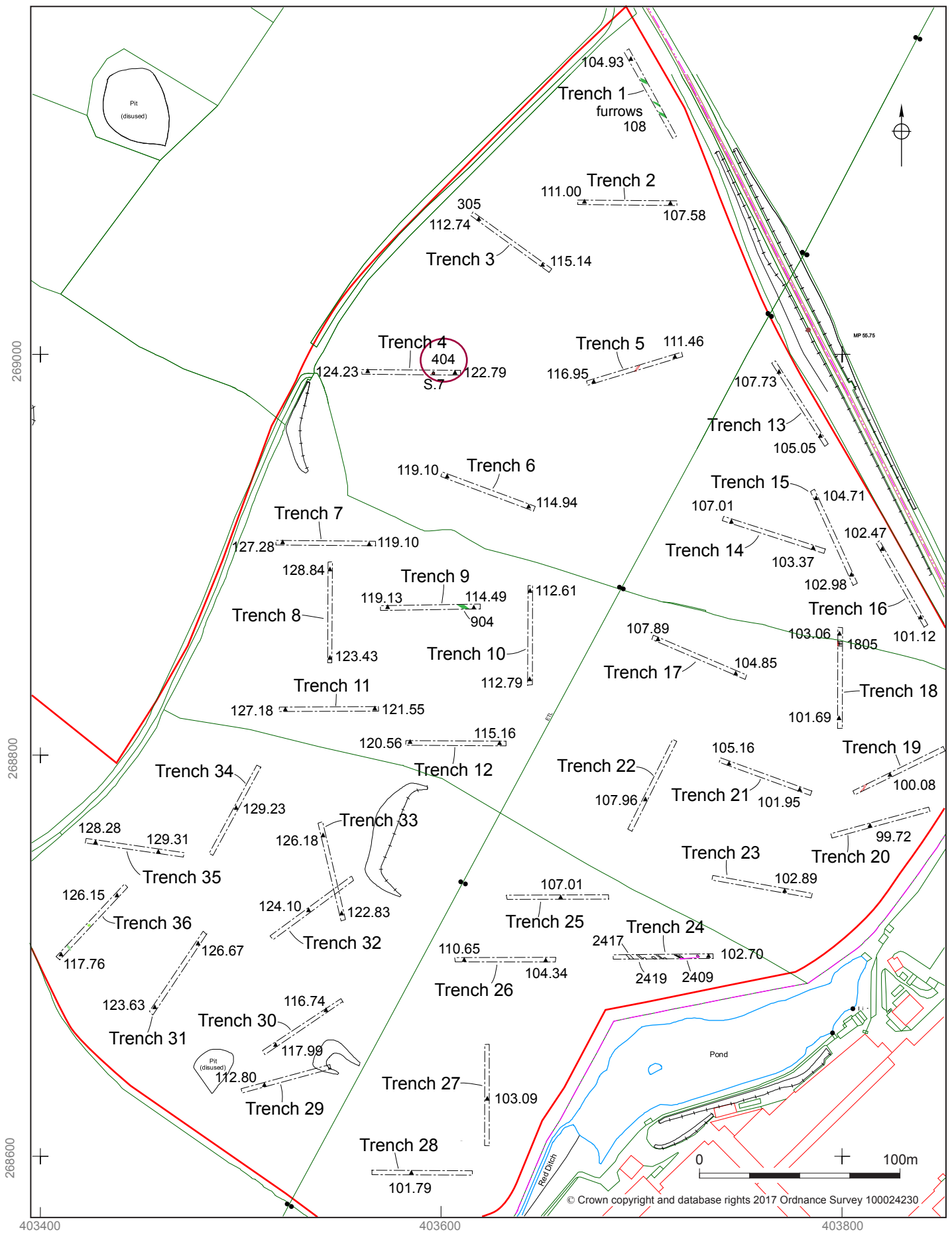
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**Figures**



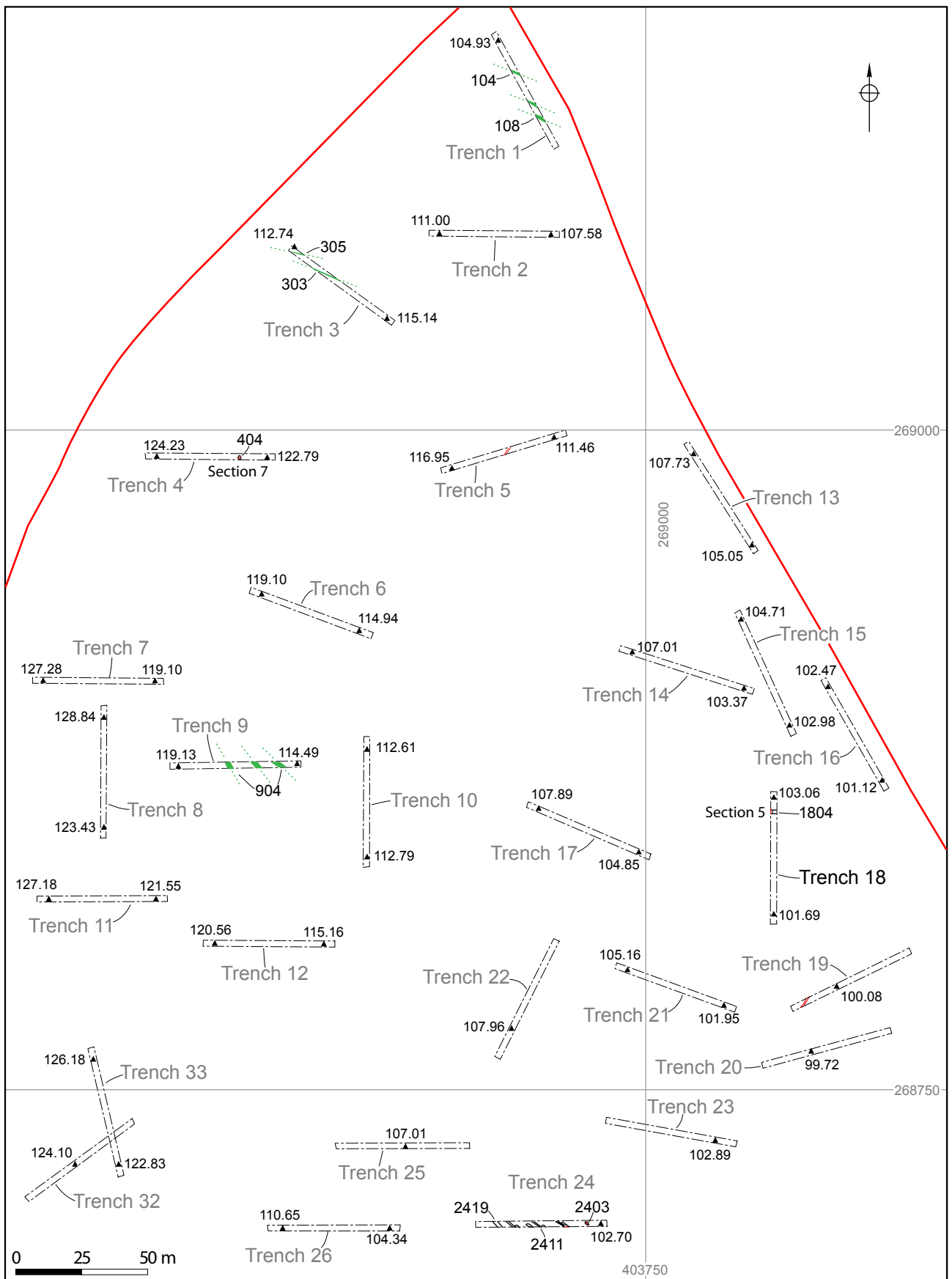
Location of the site

Figure 1



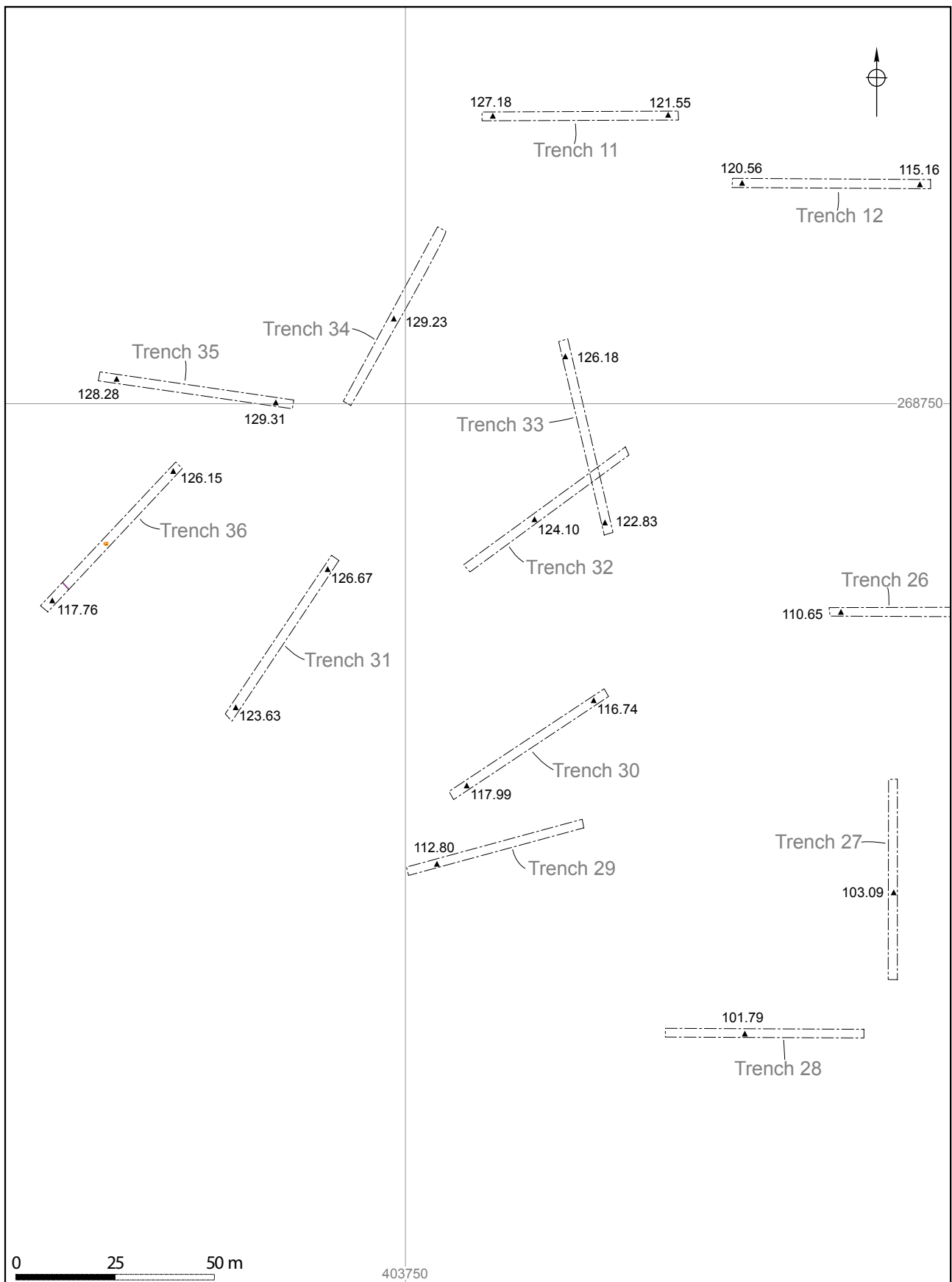
Trench location plan

Figure 2



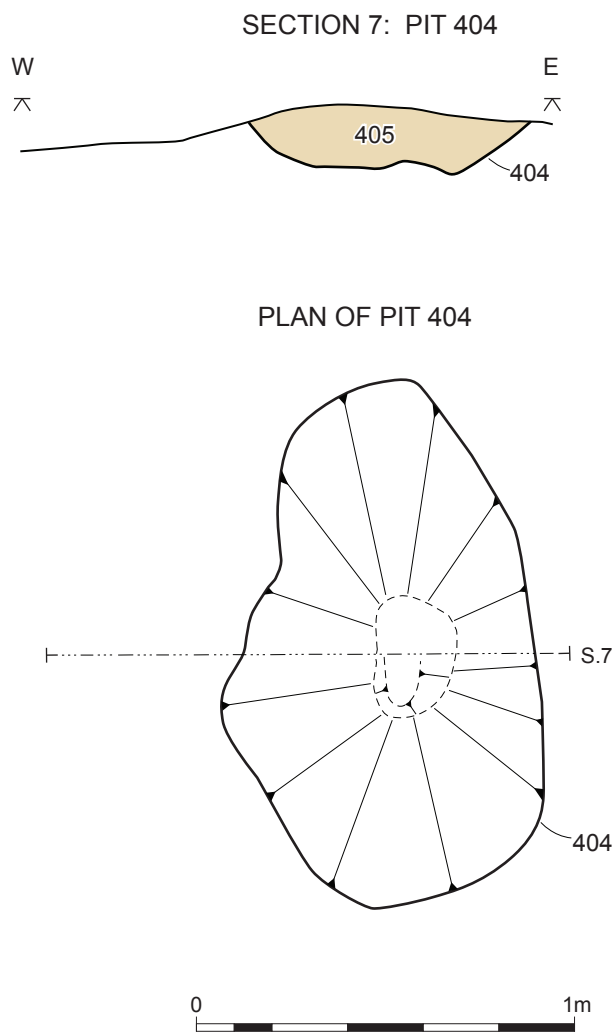
Trench detail: Eastern area

Figure 3



Trench detail: south western area

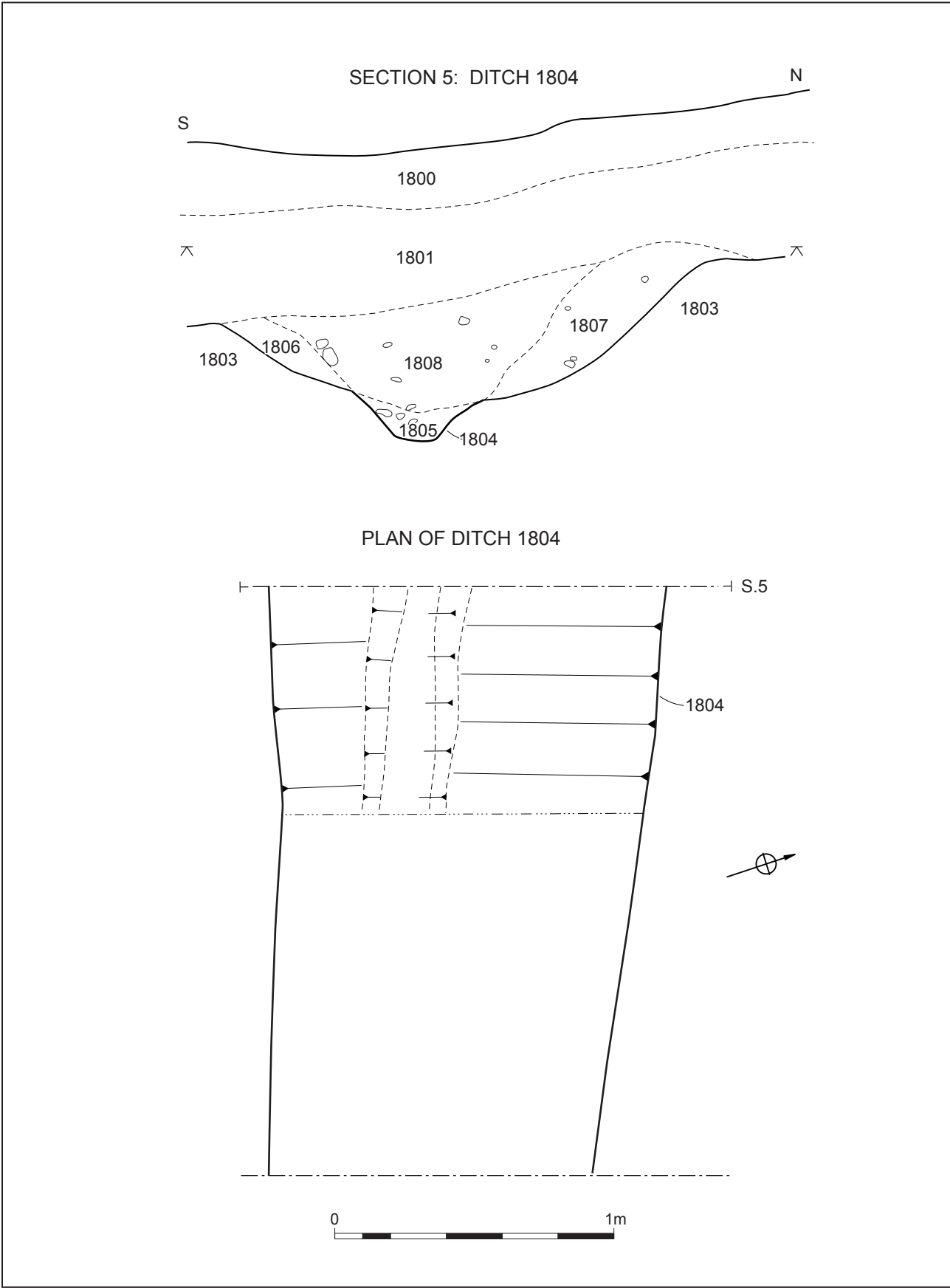
Figure 4



Pit 404: plan and section

Figure 5





Ditch 1804: plan and section

Figure 6

## Plates



*Plate 1 Trench 36 looking south-west (1m scales)*

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*Plate 2 Colluvium in southern end of Trench 36, looking south-east (1m scale)*



*Plate 3 Trench 30, looking north-east (1m scales)*





*Plate 4 Colluvium in Trench 28, looking south-east (1m scale)*



*Plate 5 Boundary ditch 1804, looking west (1m scale)*

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*Plate 6 Bronze Age pit 404, looking north-west (0.5m scale)*



*Plate 7 Bronze Age pit 404, fully excavated, looking south-west (1m scale)*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Main deposit descriptions

#### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.61m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)- top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clay loam	0.0-0.3m
101	Subsoil	Firm light yellow brown silty clay	0.3-0.61m
102	Natural	Firm mid brownish red silty clay marl	0.61m+
103	Fill of furrow 104	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clay loam	0.61m+
104	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.61m+
105	Fill of furrow 106	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clay loam	0.61m+
106	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.61m+
107	Fill of furrow 108	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clay loam	0.61m+
108	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.61m+

#### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.35m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)- top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clay loam	0.0-0.22m
201	Subsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay	0.22-0.35m
202	Natural	Firm mid brownish red silty clay marl	0.35m+

#### Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.39m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with rare charcoal flecking and rare sub-rounded pebbles	0.0-0.22m
301	Subsoil	Firm mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.22-0.39m
302	Natural	Firm mid brownish red clay marl with orangey yellow silty clay patches	0.39m+
303	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.39m+
304	Fill of furrow 303	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.39m+
305	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.39m+
306	Fill of furrow 305	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.39m+

#### Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.94m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown silty loam	0.0-0.2m
401	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.20-0.58m
402	Colluvium	Moderately compact light yellowish brown clayey silt	0.58-0.94m
403	Natural	Moderately compact mid brownish red silty clay	0.94m +
404	Pit	Shallow oval pit, 0.18m x 0.75m x 1.5m	0.5m
405	Fill of pit 404	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.5m

**Trench 5**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.47m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles	0.0-0.26m
501	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish red silty clay with rare sub-rounded pebbles	0.26-0.47m
502	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red with blue flecks clay marl	0.47m +

**Trench 6**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.4-1.1m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid grey brown clay loam	0.0-0.15m
601	Subsoil	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay	0.15-0.39m
602	Colluvium	Firm light yellow brown silty clay, 8m spread	0.39-0.62m
603	Natural	Firm mid brownish red silty clay marl	0.4m – 1.1m+

**Trench 7**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.96m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.33m
701	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish orange clayey silt with occasional pebbles and sub rounded stones c 3-7cm	0.33-0.49m
702	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid greyish orange clayey silt with abundant iron panning/manganese	0.49-0.72m
703	Colluvium	Firm light greyish green silty clay with occasional manganese flecking	0.72-0.96m
704	Natural	Firm mid reddish brown clay marl with occasional gravel patches	0.96m +

**Trench 8**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.46m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.26m
801	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish orange clayey silt with abundant sub rounded pebbles and stones c 3-6cm	0.26-0.46m
802	Natural	Firm mid orangey red clay marl with frequent sand and gravel patches	0.46m +

**Trench 9**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.72m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles	0.0-0.23m
901	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish orange clayey silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles and stones c3-5cm	0.23-0.39m deep
902	Colluvium	Firm mid greyish yellow clayey silt with moderate sub rounded stones c 3-8cm	0.39-0.72m deep
903	Natural	Firm mid brownish red clay marl with frequent gravel patches	0.72m +
904	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.72m +
905	Fill of furrow 904	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded pebbles and stones c2-5cm	0.72m +
906	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.72m +
907	Fill of furrow 906	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded pebbles and stones c2-5cm	0.72m +
908	Cut of furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.72m +
909	Fill of furrow 908	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded pebbles and stones c2-5cm	0.72m +

**Trench 10**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles and stones c 2-4cm	0.0-0.22m
1001	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded stones c2-5cm and frequent sub rounded pebbles	0.22-0.45m
1002	Natural	Firm mid reddish brown clay marl with frequent gravel patches	0.45m +

**Trench 11**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.18m
1101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles	0.18-0.34m
1102	Colluvium	Firm mid orangey red silty clay with occasional sub rounded stones c 2-4cm	0.34-0.46m
1103	Colluvium	Firm mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded stones c2-4cm	0.46-0.65m
1104	Natural	Firm mid brownish red clay marl with frequent sand and gravel patches and bands	0.65m +



**Trench 12**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.66m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.35m
1201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with frequent gravels and rare sub rounded stones c3-5cm	0.35-0.48m
1202	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded stones c3-5cm	0.48-0.66m
1203	Natural	Firm mid reddish brown clay marl with frequent yellowy grey gravel patches	0.66m +

**Trench 13**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.33m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.15m
1301	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent sub rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecking	0.15-0.33m
1302	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red clay marl with occasional sub rounded pebbles	0.33m +

**Trench 14**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.54m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.32m
1401	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles and rare sub rounded stones c 5-8cm	0.32-0.54m
1402	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red clay marl containing abundant gravels and sub rounded stones c5-8cm	0.54m +

**Trench 15**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.46m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.26m
1501	Subsoil	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded pebbles and stones c 3-5cm	0.26-0.46m
1502	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red clay marl with occasional gravel patches	0.46m +

**Trench 16**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.31m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown silty loam	0.0-0.15m
1601	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.15-0.31m
1602	Natural	Compact mid red silty clay with occasional bands of looser yellowish brash.	0.31m +
1603	Furrow	Unexcavated furrow	0.31m +
1604	Fill of 1603	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown brash	0.31m +
1605	Irregular cut feature	Unexcavated	0.31m +
1606	Fill of 1605	Moderately compact light yellowish brown silty clay	0.31m +

**Trench 17**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.69m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1700	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown silty loam	0.0-0.24m
1701	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.24-0.57m
1702	Colluvium	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.57-0.69m
1703	Natural	Moderately compact red silty clay with banding of looser yellowish brash.	0.69m +
1704	Sub rounded cut		0.69m +
1705	Fill of 1704	Loose yellowish brash	0.69m +
1706	Linear cut with branching		0.69m +
1707	Fill of 1706	Moderately compact red and yellowish brown red clay mixed with yellowish brash	0.69m +

**Trench 18**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.57m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1800	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.26m
1801	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish brown clayey silt	0.26-0.37m
1802	Displaced superficial gravels	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown silty clay with abundant sub rounded and sub angular pebbles and stones c 5-8cm	0.37-0.57m
1803	Natural	Firm pinkish red clay marl	0.57m +
1804	Cut of boundary ditch		0.57- 1.09m
1805	Fill of 1804	Soft dark greyish brown coarse sandy silt with occasional sub rounded stones c3-5cm and moderate charcoal flecks and fragments	0.57-0.72m
1806	Fill of 1804	Firm mid brownish red clay, no inclusions	0.57-0.88m
1807	Fill of 1804	Firm mid orangey red clay naturals with some darker silty additions and rare sub rounded pebbles	0.57-1.02m
1808	Fill of 1804	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with occasional sub rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, one fragment of tile retrieved	0.57- 1.09m

**Trench 19**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.46m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1900	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.3m
1901	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish red silty clay with frequent sub rounded pebbles and stones c3-5cm	0.3-0.46m
1902	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red clay marl with frequent gravel patches and rare sandy patches	0.46m +
1903	Cut of land-drain		0.46-0.91m
1904	Fill of land drain 1903	Land drain	0.91m
1905	Fill of land drain 1903	Moderately compact mid brownish red clay naturals, redeposited, with abundant slag\ bitumin fragments	0.91-0.81m
1906	Fill of land drain 1903	Moderately compact mid brownish red silty clay	0.81-0.41m
1907	Fill of land drain 1903	Moderately compact mid greenish grey silty clay	0.67-0.79m
1908	Fill of land drain 1903	Soft and loose dark greyish brown humic clayey silt topsoil	0.46-0.67m

**Trench 20**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.69m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.26m
2001	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish red clayey silt	0.26-0.47m
2002	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.47-0.53m
2003	Colluvial spread	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.53-0.69m
2004	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red clay marl with frequent gravels and sub rounded stones c3-8cm	0.69m +

**Trench 21**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.69m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2100	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown silty loam	0.0-0.27m
2101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.27-0.43m
2102	Colluvium	Loose light yellowish brown loamy very fine sand	0.43-0.69m
2103	Natural	Moderately compact red silty clay with bands of yellowish looser brash	0.69m +

**Trench 22**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.62m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2200	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown silty loam	0.0-0.21m
2201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.21-0.42m
2202	Colluvium	Loose light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.42-0.62m
2203	Natural	Moderately compact mid red silty clay, with bands of yellowish brash	0.62m +

**Trench 23**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.61m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2300	Topsoil	Loose mid reddish brown silty loam	0.0-0.24m
2301	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.24-0.42m
2302	Colluvium	Compact mid yellowish brown clayey silt	0.42-0.61m
2303	Natural	Moderately compact red silty clay with bands of yellowish brash	0.61m +

**Trench 24**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2400	Topsoil	Loose dark orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.23m
2401	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent sub rounded pebbles and gravels	0.23-0.48m
2402	Natural	Firm red clay marl with occasional fragmented orange brash	0.48m +
2403	Tree hollow		0.48-0.56m
2404	Fill of tree hollow 2403		0.48-0.56m
2405	Possible gully terminus		0.48-0.58m
2406	Fill of possible gully terminus 2405	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded pebbles and gravels	0.48-0.58m
2407	Gully		0.48-0.52m
2408	Fill of gully 2407	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional orangey brash fragments	0.48-0.52m
2409	Cut of unexcavated linear/ possible furrow	Unexcavated	0.48m +
2410	Fill of 2409	Firm mid brownish red clay with frequent sub angular pebbles and gravels	0.48m +
2411	Cut of unexcavated linear/ possible furrow	Unexcavated	0.48m +
2412	Fill of 2411	Firm mid brownish red silty clay with occasional sub angular stones and gravels	0.48m +
2413	Cut of unexcavated linear terminus	Unexcavated	0.48m +
2414	Fill of 2413	Firm mid brownish red silty clay with frequent sub angular pebbles and gravels	0.48m +
2415	Cut of unexcavated linear terminus	Unexcavated	0.48m +
2416	Fill of 2415	Firm mid brownish red silty clay with occasional sub angular pebbles and gravels	0.48m +
2417	Cut of unexcavated linear/ possible furrow	Unexcavated	0.48m +
2418	Fill of 2417	Firm mid brownish red silty clay with occasional sub angular pebbles and gravels	0.48m +

2419	Cut of unexcavated linear/ possible furrow	Unexcavated	0.48m +
2420	Fill of 2419	Firm mid brownish red silty clay	0.48m +

**Trench 25**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 1.03m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2500	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.26m
2501	Subsoil	Compact mid brownish red silty clay with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.26-0.4m
2502	Displaced superficial gravels	Moderately compact light reddish grey clayey silt with frequent sub rounded pebbles	0.4-0.52m
2503	Displaced superficial gravels	Compact mid brownish red silty clay with frequent sub rounded pebbles	0.52-0.67m
2504	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid reddish grey silty clay with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.67-1.03m
2505	Natural	Firm mid brownish red clay marl	1.03m +

**Trench 26**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2600	Topsoil	Loose dark orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.25m
2601	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.25-0.43m
2602	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clayey silt	0.43-0.52m
2603	Natural	Moderately compact mid yellowy orange silty clay	0.52m +

**Trench 27**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.42m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2700	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clayey silt	0.0-0.24m
2701	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.24-0.42m
2702	Natural	Compact mid brownish red silty clay with occasional bands of looser orangey, more pebbly brash	0.42m +

**Trench 28**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.71m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2800	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.0-0.18m
2801	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish red silty clay with rare sub rounded pebbles	0.18-0.48m
2802	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid blueish grey silty clay with frequent manganese and charcoal flecking	0.48-0.71m
2803	Natural	Firm mid brownish red silty clay marl with occasional gravel and sun rounded stone patches	0.71m +

**Trench 29**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.3m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2900	Topsoil	Loose dark orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.16m
2901	Subsoil/ interface	Moderately compact dark reddish brown silty clay	0.16-0.3m
2902	Natural	Compact red clay marl	0.3m +

**Trench 30**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.35m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Topsoil	Loose dark orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.35m
3001	Natural	Compact red clay marl	0.35m +

**Trench 31**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.4m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3100	Topsoil	Loose and friable mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.17m deep
3101	Subsoil	Moderately compact and friable mid reddish brown sandy clay silt with frequent gravels and sub rounded pebbles	0.17-0.4m
3102	Natural	Firm pink and red sand and gravels to north and marl to southern end	0.4m +

**Trench 32**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.87m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3200	Topsoil	Loose friable dark orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.2m
3201	Subsoil	Moderately compact and friable mid reddish brown sandy clay silt with frequent gravel and sub rounded pebbles	0.2-0.49m
3202	Colluvium	Loose mid yellowish brown fine sandy silt	0.49-0.87m
3203	Natural	Friable pink and orange sands, red clay sand and gravel with clay marl patches	0.87m +

**Trench 33**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3300	Topsoil	Loose friable dark orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.14m
3301	Subsoil	moderately compact and friable mid reddish brown sandy clay silt with frequent gravel and sub rounded pebbles	0.14-0.34m
3302	Colluvium	Loose mid yellowish brown fine sandy silt	0.34-0.75m
3303	Natural	Firm pink and red sand and gravel with clay marl patches	0.75m +

**Trench 34**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.59m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3400	Topsoil	Loose and soft mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.2m
3401	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish brown clayey silt	0.2-0.48m
3402	Natural	Firm pink and red sand and gravels with red clay marl patches	0.59m +
3403	Colluvium	Loose mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.48-0.59m deep

**Trench 35**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3500	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown sand silt clay	0.0-0.24m
3501	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish brown clayey silt	0.24-0.5m
3502	Natural	Firm pink and red sand and gravels with red clay marl patches	0.55m +
3503	Colluvium	Loose mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.5-0.55m

**Trench 36**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.4 to 1.28m at sondage

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3600	Topsoil	Loose and soft mid orangey brown clayey silt	0.0-0.14m deep
3601	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish brown clayey silt	0.14-0.4m deep
3602	Colluvium	Loose mid brownish red sandy clay silt	0.4-0.76m at sondage
3603	Colluvium	Moderately compact mid brownish red sandy clay silt	0.76-1.04m at sondage
3604	Colluvium	Moderately compact light whitish brown silty clay	1.04-1.28m at sondage
3605	Natural	Firm pink and red sand and gravels with red clay marl patches	1.28m + at sondage
3606	Treebole		0.4-0.49m
3607	Treebole	Loose mid orangey brown sandy silt with abundant sub rounded pebbles and cobbles, and frequent large charcoal fragments.	0.4-0.49m

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 67930)**

The archive consists of:

3	Field progress reports AS2
155	Digital photographs
4	Scale drawings
5	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:

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



## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

### Artefacts

period (note 1)	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	count	weight(g)	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
late Bronze Age	ceramic	pot	-1000	-801	23	116	yes	yes
Roman	ceramic	pot	100	299	5	114	yes	no
Roman?	ceramic	pot	43	400	1	4	yes	no
medieval/post medieval	ceramic	brick	1300	1800	1	96	yes	no
medieval/post medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	1300	1800	3	20.5	yes	no
medieval/post medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1300	1800	16	752	yes	no
modern	ceramic	pot	1800	2000	53	467	yes	no
modern	ceramic	roof tile	1800	2000	1	114	yes	no
modern	glass	bottle	1800	2000	1	15	yes	no
post med/modern	ceramic	pot	1750	2000	2	18	yes	no
post-med/modern	glass	bottle	1750	2000	2	17	yes	no
post-med/modern	glass	vessel	1750	2000	2	13	yes	no
post-med/modern	stone	fragment	1750	2000	1	6	yes	no
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1600	1899	1	3	yes	no
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1750	2000	5	208	yes	no
undated	bone	fragment			1	1	no	no
undated	metal	slag(fe)			2	25	no	no
undated	organic	coal			2	43	no	no
undated	organic	oyster			1	11	no	no

### Notes

- 1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to

date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.

3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Res assessed	Flot assessed
405	2	Pit	404		Bronze Age	10	10	Yes	Yes
2802	1	Layer (colluvium)			Undated	10	0	No	No

Env Table 1: List of bulk samples

context	sample	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts	comments
405	2	abt	occ	mod*	heat-cracked stones. Mod pot,	occ nut shell

Env Table 2: Summary of remains from bulk samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, \* = probably modern and intrusive

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
405	2	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	probably intrusive
405	2	ch	unidentified	misc	+/low	unidentified charred organic material
405	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	++/ +++/-low	
405	2	ch	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragment	misc	+/-low	

Env Table 3: Plant remains from pit fill (405)

**Key:**

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+