

Archaeological evaluation at Ivy Barn, Callow End, Powick, Worcestershire



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Archaeological evaluation at Ivy Barn, Callow End, Powick, Worcestershire

Andrew Mann

With a contribution by Derek Hurst

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Ivy Barn, Callow End, Powick, Worcestershire, (NGR 383737, 250000). It was undertaken on behalf of B Hodgkiss Constructions, who intends to construct two houses on the site for which for which a planning application has been submitted.

Two 10m trenches were excavated across the proposed development site and two small ditches of possibly medieval date were identified within these. These are thought to be field/plot boundary features.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Ivy Barn, Callow End, Powick, Worcestershire, (NGR 383737, 250000) (Fig 1). It was commissioned by B Hodgkiss Constructions (the client) who intends to construction of two houses on the site for which a planning application has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council (reference 15/01524/OUT).

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets namely medieval and 16th and 17th century settlement remains, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM53450 and WSM20322).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (the Curator) (WAAS 2017) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2017).

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 aims of the evaluation brief were:

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

The specific aims of the project are given in the Brief.

The Brief indicates that likely deposits on current evidence may be defined as those of 16th and 17th century date.

The evaluation will only assess heritage assets which are of archaeological interest. This project will not include consideration of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, or historic hedgerows.

In particular the project will have the following objective, in respect of *The archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research* (Watt, S (ed) 2011):

Contributing to investigation of settlement patterns – pp174–5.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Andrew Mann (BA (hons.); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2004 and has been practicing archaeology since 2001. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst (BA (hons.); PG Dip). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Derek Hurst (BA (hons.); PG Dip) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

Powick Tithe Map, Worcestershire record office ref X760-524

Worcestershire sheet XL.NE, Six Inch, 1884

Worcestershire sheet XL.NE, Six Inch, 1905

Worcestershire sheet XL.NE, Six Inch, 1930

Aerial photographs

Google Earth 2017, 2013, 2007, 2005, 1999, 1945 (accessed 26 July 2017).

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 24 July 2017. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological 'events', and site code used in the archive is WSM 69320.

Two trenches amounting to just over 35m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 1800m², representing a sample of 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 1.

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.

3.5 Structural analysis

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

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Derek Hurst

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findswork by ClfA (2014b), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.6.2 Method of analysis

3.6.3 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 where necessary 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).

3.6.4 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 as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology

3.7.1 Sampling policy

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

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site (at c 16m AOD) is located on the north side of Beauchamp Lane in the historic core of the small hamlet of Pole Elm (see Brief), which has now merged with the former hamlet of Callow End to the south. The solid geology of the site comprises mudstone of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Worcester Member (BGS 2017, accessed 26 July 2017).

An HER search was carried out on a 250m radius of the site, which notes a farmstead, Ivy Farm, dating to the 17th and 19th century (farmhouse, converted threshing barn and open fronted cart shed), one of 3 such farmsteads recorded by *The Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire* project in this search area. Ivy Farm, Powick is here described as:

Extant 17th century unlisted farmstead with unconverted buildings. Loose courtyard with two sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings. The farmhouse is detached with side on to the yard. Located within or in association to a village. Large modern sheds are located on the site.

In addition the HER search also drew attention to:

a Grade II listed house known as The Mercers, Pole Elm, which is *circa* 1600 in date and located immediately opposite the site (WSM 20322)

... In addition to the built environment there are also monument records for the site of an undated enclosure 160m to the south east of the site (WSM 06033) and settlement and post medieval water meadow and pond to the west of the site (WSM 45709).

Cartographic evidence was consulted with the following results:

1841 Powick tithe map – where the field was called 'Pole Elm' and the field to north and east known as 'Rye Croft'

1904 OS map – where land use immediately around the building now referred to as Ivy Barn (2017) is indicated as orchard.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently under pasture but is known to have been an orchard between 1884–1930.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits were exposed in both trenches and consisted of very firm and cohesive pinkish red, clayey sands and gravels (102 and 202) (Plate 1). These were exposed at a depth of 0.68m b.g.s (below ground surface) in Trench 1 and 0.41m b.g.s in Trench 2. These were overlain by a light yellow silty sand subsoil between 0.24-0.36m thick (101 and 201), and a medium to dark brown, sandy silt topsoil between 0.17-0.32m thick (100 and 200) (Plate 2).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated (?medieval)

Three features were identified during the evaluation: two small ditches and a tree-throw. In Trench 1 a small ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, aligned in north to south direction, was excavated (Figs 2–3 and Plate 3). The ditch contained a sterile yellowish orange sandy silt fill (104), very similar to the subsoil (101). Along the southern baulk of the trench the ditch merged with a tree throw (105) but as the fills of both were so similar no relationship between the two could be established (Fig 3, Plate 4). Neither of the features contained any cultural remains although a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil directly above the ditch (Fig 3).

Another ditch (203) aligned in a north-west to south-east direction was identified in Trench 2 (Figs 2-3, Plate 5). The ditch was of comparable size to ditch (103) being 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep and also contained a sterile yellowish orange sandy silt fill (204) very similar to the subsoil. No artefacts were recovered from this ditch.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Derek Hurst

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

The assemblage came from three stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally excellent with the majority of sherds displaying nil levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size being above average.

period	material class	material class sub-type	object specific type	count	weight (g)
Medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	41
Medieval/post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	flat roof tile	5	150
Totals				8	191

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Medieval	55	Worcester-type ware	3	41

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

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.

The three sherds of Worcester-type ware cooking pot (cf Bryant 2004) from subsoil 101 included sooting on the outside as evidence of use, and their pristine condition could be taken to indicate they were derived from 13th–14th century domestic activity. However, both ditch features on the site remained undated due to absence of finds. It was noticeable that even the finds from the topsoil could also have been the same date as the pottery in the subsoil, and so there was an impression of little activity overall in this vicinity.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
100	ceramic	earthenware	flat roof tile	0	5	150	1200	1800	1200–1800
101	ceramic	earthenware	pot	55	3	41	1200	1400	1200–1400

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6 Significance

6.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

No finds were recorded from the two linear features but in one case (101) medieval pottery was recovered from the overlying subsoil. The condition of this material suggested that it was not particularly residual/redeposited and so it should provide a reasonable *taq* date for the linear itself.

While only a low level of finds, which were not inherently significant in themselves, occurred, the medieval domestic pottery provides some evidence for the existence of medieval settlement in the vicinity – which is consonant with the place-name suffix 'end' which is often found in the Malvern Chase area for indicating a small settlement.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Discard and retention

It is unlikely that this material is worthy of retention but consultation with the museum should be undertaken before any discard.

8 Synthesis

8.1 Undated

The two linears are not securely dated but it is likely they are of pre-13th/14th century date. The lack of material culture, domestic rubbish and even charcoal flecks within the sterile fills does however suggest they may be located some distance from any settlement remains. This in turn may suggest these are field/plot boundaries. Ditch (103) appears to be on the same alignment at the field boundary, only 4m to the east and may be an earlier phase of that boundary. Ditch (203)

does, however, appear to be on a different alignment to the farm complex (Ivy Barn, WSM 34921) and the adjacent field boundaries.

8.2 Research frameworks

The results of the evaluation suggest that the archaeological features and the site as a whole have limited and low potential to address the research frameworks identified in the aims, namely the investigation of settlement patterns (Watt (ed) 2011, pp174–5).

9 Significance

9.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The site appears to only contain linear boundary features that are possibly of 13th to 14th century date. There is no indication that settlement features are present at the site.

9.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The identified remains are of little importance and/or rarity.

9.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The ditches are expected to extend across the length of the site in a roughly north to south direction.

10 The impact of the development

10.1 Impacts during construction

During the construction phase, given the depth of the identified features at between 0.41-0.68m b.g.s (in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively), it is likely that the groundworks for the access road and for the footings of the new houses will truncate the identified ditches.

11 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 on behalf of B Hodgkiss Constructions at Ivy Barn, Callow End, Powick, Worcestershire (NGR ref (SO8373 5000); HER ref WSM 69323).

Two 10m trenches were excavated across the proposed development site and two small ditches of possibly medieval date were identified within these, which are thought to be field/plot boundary features.

12 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project: Steve Hodgkiss (Hodgkiss Constructions) and Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

13 Bibliography

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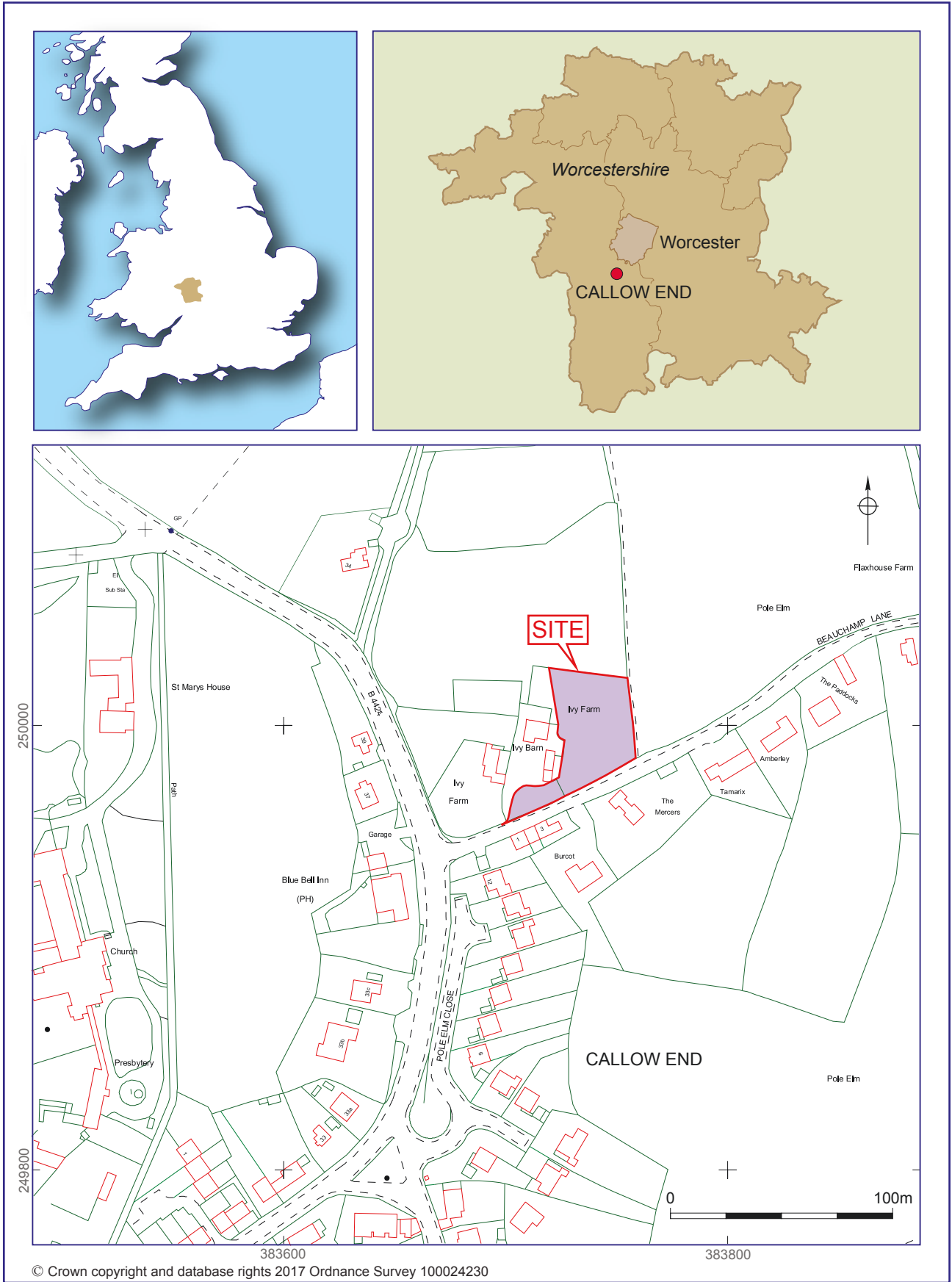
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Figures



Location of the site

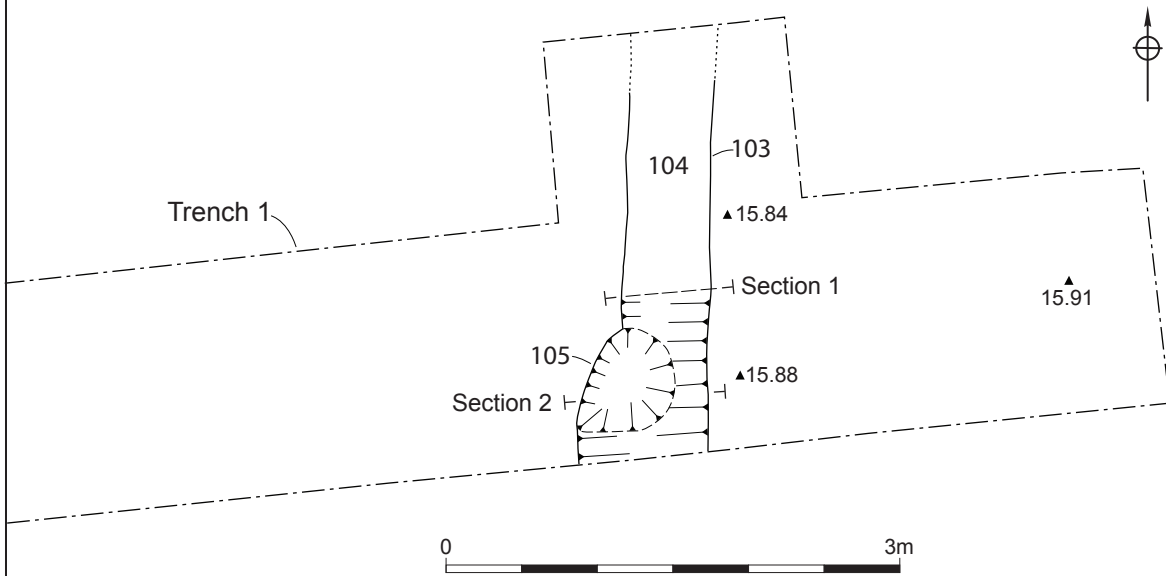
Figure 1



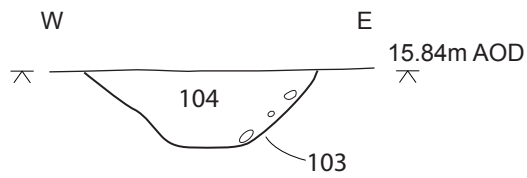
Trench location plan

Figure 2

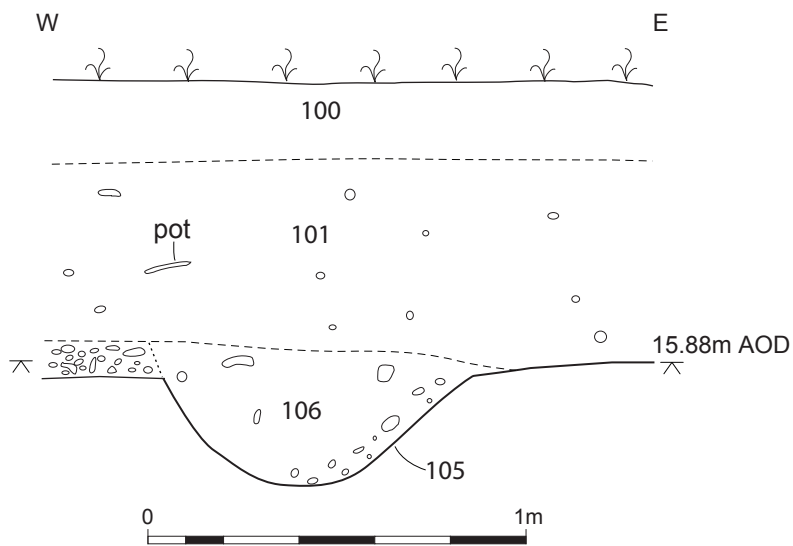
PLAN 4: EAST END OF TRENCH 1



SECTION 1: DITCH 103



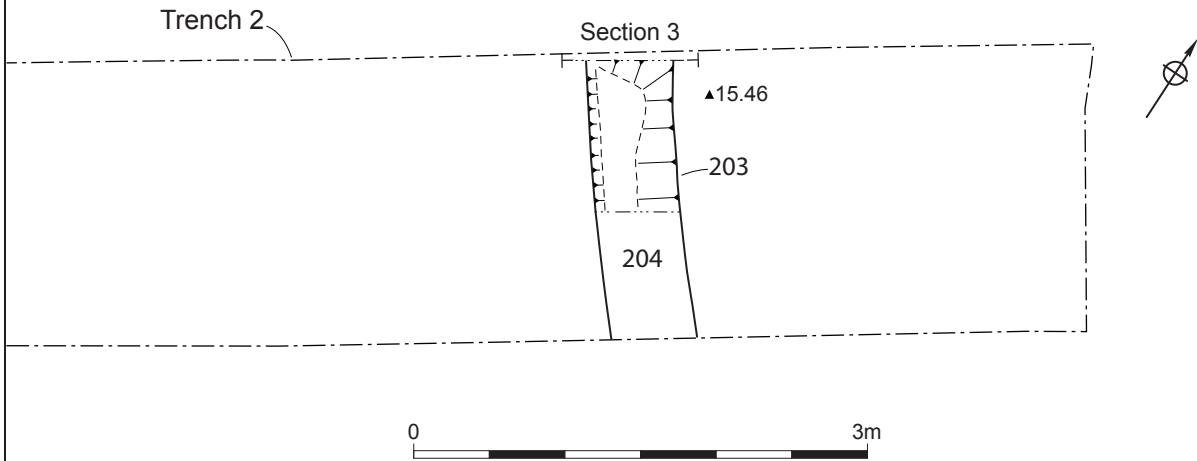
SECTION 2: TREE THROW 105



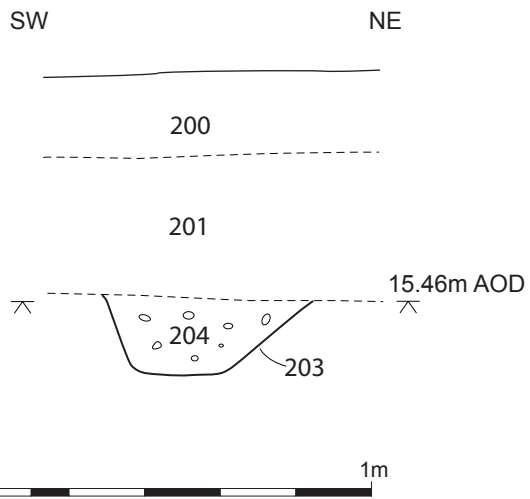
Trench 1: plan and sections

Figure 3

PLAN 5: DITCH 203



SECTION 3: DITCH 203



Trench 2: plan and section

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west; 2x1m scales



Plate 2: Typical soil profile, Trench 1, facing north; 0.5m scale



Plate 3: Ditch (103) facing north; 0.5m scale. Showing ditch fully excavated (just below centre and foreground ie to south of ranging rod) but disturbed by tree-throw towards side of trench (lower part of view). Trench has also been widened (upper part) to reveal continuation of the ditch in plan (unexcavated)



Plate 4: Tree-throw (105) facing south; 1.0m and 0.5m scales.



Plate 5: ditch (203) facing north-west, 1.0m and 0.5m scales.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.0m Width: 1.70m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Medium to dark brown, sandy silt. Moderately compact but friable. Contains occasional small rounded stones and frequent roots.	0.00-0.32m
101	Subsoil	Light yellow silty sand, firm and cohesive. Contains moderate small to medium rounded stones and occasional roots.	0.32-0.68m
102	Natural	Pinkish red, very firm and cohesive clayey sand and gravel.	0.68m+
103	Ditch Cut	Ditch cut aligned N-S with moderate (45°-55°), slightly concave sides, breaking moderately to a flat base. Filled by (104), 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep.	0.68-0.88m
104	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch [103]. Mid yellowish-orange, moderately compact and cohesive sandy silt. Contains occasional small-medium rounded stones. Very sterile.	0.68-0.88m
105	Tree Throw	Probably tree throw, sub-rounded in plan with steep (60°) concave sides and an irregular base. 0.85m long, 0.80m wide and 0.36m deep. Filled by (106).	0.68-1.04m
106	Tree Throw Fill	Fill of tree throw [105]. Mid yellowish-orange, moderately compact and cohesive sandy silt. Contains occasional small-medium rounded stones. Very sterile.	0.68-1.04m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.0m Width: 1.70m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Medium to dark brown, sandy silt. Very firm and compact. Contains occasional small rounded stones and frequent roots.	0.00-0.17m
201	Subsoil	Light yellow silty sand, very firm and cohesive. Contains moderate small to medium rounded stones and occasional roots.	0.17-0.41m
202	Natural	Pinkish red, very firm and cohesive clayey sand and gravel.	0.41m+
203	Ditch Cut	Ditch cut aligned NW-SE with a very steep, near vertical south side and a moderate (45°-55°), slightly concave northern side, breaking sharply to a flat base. Filled by (204), 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep.	0.41-0.61m
204	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch [203]. Mid yellowish-orange, very compact and cohesive sandy silt. Contains occasional small-medium rounded stones. Very sterile.	0.41-0.61m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 69323)

The archive consists of:

- 6 Context records AS1
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 13 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 5 Scale drawings
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 small bags 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

WSM 69323 (event HER number)

P5159

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	Count	weight (g)	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
medieval	ceramic	pot	1200	1400	3	41	Yes	No
Med/post- medieval	ceramic	tile	1200	1800	5	150	Yes	No
