

# Archaeological Evaluation at Worcester Southern Link Road (Phase 4)



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

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Date: 11 October 2017 (Version 1)  
Authors: Richard Bradley and Graham Arnold  
[rbradley1@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rbradley1@worcestershire.gov.uk) [garnold@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:garnold@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Contributor: Jane Evans  
Illustrator: Laura Templeton  
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## **Archaeological evaluation at Worcester Southern Link Road, Phase 4**

Richard Bradley and Graham Arnold

With a contribution by C Jane Evans

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the south of the A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road, Worcestershire, covering a length of 1.9km (between National Grid reference SO 85344 51697 and SO 85309 52219). This comprised the excavation of six trial trenches across two large fields, adjacent to the current road embankment.

The trenches were located to investigate the alluvial landscape of the River Severn and River Teme floodplain, especially as the designated area relating to the skirmish at Powick Bridge (1642) and the Battle of Worcester (1651) is located immediately to the north of the road. A metal-detector was used during the opening of trenches through alluvial deposits and samples were taken for optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating in order to try and date the sequence of alluvial deposition, particularly in order to establish the likely 17th century horizon. It is currently anticipated that the results of the scientific dating will be available within eight weeks, and so these will be incorporated into an updated version of this report.

The trenches were excavated to between 1.2m and 1.5m from the current ground surface, beyond the specified maximum impact level of any construction works on site, with additional sondages undertaken up to 2.5m in depth in order to explore deeper alluvial deposits. All exhibited a comparable deposit sequence, comprising topsoil and subsoil above two or three distinct alluvial layers. There were no significant archaeological features or horizons identified, and the only visible features related to agricultural activity in the later post-medieval and modern period – though potentially these might be relic features of an earlier, at least medieval, landscape associated with water meadows.

At present, and certainly until the scientific dating is completed, no deposits could be either suggested to be, or were, securely attributable to a horizon contemporary with the Civil War.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the south of the A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road, Worcestershire, covering a length of 1.9km (between National Grid reference SO 85344 51697 and SO 85309 52219; see Environmental Statement figures). This comprised the excavation of six trial trenches across two large fields, adjacent to the current road embankment. It was commissioned by Alun Griffiths, acting on behalf of Worcestershire County Council (the Client) which has proposed widening the existing road. This will involve groundworks for the road itself and associated works such as construction compounds, landscaping, haul roads, borrow pits and water attenuation.

A planning application is in the process of being submitted to Worcestershire County Council, and it is considered that the proposed development had the potential to affect the survival of below-ground archaeological remains. As a result, an archaeological evaluation was required to determine the potential significance of the archaeological resource.

The proposed development site covers a large area and as such includes numerous designated and non-designated heritage assets, as well as potential heritage assets. As such, there is an extensive archaeological and historical background to the site. This is detailed in the *Preliminary Environmental Statement* (Appendix H) prepared by CH2M (CH2M 2016) and also in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that this evaluation report is intended to support.

The major factors determining the extent and location of the trenching programme were the proximity to the designated area relating to the skirmish at Powick Bridge (1642) and the Battle of Worcester (1651), and the alluvial landscape associated with the River Severn and River Teme. Unlike other Civil War battlefields, where the material residue is generally found in the topsoil and consequently is accessible for both systematic archaeological survey and general metal-detecting, it is currently unknown how deep the alluvium is that may seal the archaeological horizon associated with the Civil War fighting in this area at Worcester. This, therefore, necessitated the use of a metal-detector during opening of trenches through alluvial deposits (to aid in the recovery of any metal artefacts, but specifically lead shot), and the application of optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating, in order to try and date the sequence of alluvial deposition.

No specific brief was provided, but a trench plan and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the methodology for the evaluation was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017) in consultation with representatives from Historic England (Neil Rimmington), Worcestershire County Council (Archive & Archaeology Service – Adrian Scruby, planning, and Adam Mindykowski, landscape), and Worcester City Council (James Dinn), all consultees on Cultural Heritage for the project (the Consultees).

The evaluation was carried out following the trench arrangement and in line with industry guidelines and standards set out in *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a). The project also conformed to the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

### 2 Aims

The archaeological evaluation aimed, in general terms, to investigate the archaeological potential of the site and prepare a report which, beyond reasonable doubt, will inform decision making.

As part of this, the project had the following specific objectives:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits as far as reasonably practicable;
- Identify their location, nature, date and preservation;

- 
- Assess their significance;
  - Assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

### **3 Methods**

#### **3.1 Personnel**

The fieldwork project was led by Richard Bradley (BA (hons.), MA; ACIfA), who has been practicing archaeology since 2005, assisted by Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc). The project managers responsible for the quality of the project were Simon Woodiwiss (BA (hons.); MCIfA) and Derek Hurst (BA (hons.); PG Dip).

Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA). Jane Evans (BA, MA, MCIfA) contributed the finds report.

#### **3.2 Documentary research**

Archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was completed as part of the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Section 7 Cultural Heritage). This consulted the Worcester City and Worcestershire County Historic Environment Records, providing access to records of archaeological sites, monuments and findspots within the area, as well as readily available archaeological and historical information from related documentary and cartographic sources. Information on designated heritage assets was complemented by information from Historic England. Ordnance Survey early and modern mapping were examined, as well as historic aerial photographs and LiDAR, and a site walkover was conducted.

The EIA provides the detailed archaeological and historical research background information for the project and this aspect, therefore, is not repeated in this report.

#### **3.3 Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed methodology was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017) and the fieldwork was undertaken between 7 and 11 August 2017. The project reference number used by Worcestershire Archaeology is P4994, and the site reference number used by the HER to record this archaeological event is WSM 69360.

Six evaluation trenches were opened, three 50m in length, two 40m in length and one 33m in length (shortened due to access issues), all in close proximity to the south side of the existing Southern Link Road (Fig 1). It was originally intended for eight trenches to be completed, but due to concerns relating to both safety (proximity of a high pressure fuel pipeline) and practicality (depth of made ground due to new road construction) the most easterly trenches (Trench 7 and 8) were not undertaken.

The position of trenches was restricted by the routes of underground and overhead services, and all had to be fenced due to the fields being part of common land, making them open access for both people and animals. They were laid out in a non-gridded array, targeted for the following specific, but varied, reasons:

- Trenches 1 and 2 were located alongside the road between the village and bridge at Powick. According to primary and secondary historical sources the original road was the location of early action in the Battle of Worcester. The aim of these trenches was to attempt to locate evidence of this activity (most likely in the form of metal artefacts, especially lead shot), within alluvial deposits. Therefore, excavation was undertaken in 150mm spits, with metal detecting completed before every reduction in depth.
- Trenches 3 and 4 were targeted on features visible as field boundaries on historic mapping. Due to the proximity of these trenches to the battlefield, metal detecting was also undertaken during the machine excavation through alluvial deposits.

- Trenches 5 and 6 were located so as to test uncertain cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. Again, because of the proximity to the battlefield, metal detecting was also undertaken when excavating through alluvial deposits.

The WSI for the evaluation recognised that the scope of the Southern Link Road project will be limited in area and depth, with the majority of construction-related groundworks occurring within a depth of up to 1m from the present ground surface. Therefore, the trenches were excavated to between 1.2m and 1.5m in depth, beyond the maximum impact level of any construction works on site (as currently understood), with additional sondages undertaken up to 2.5m in depth to explore deeper alluvial deposits (where considered safe to do so).

Deposits were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Clean surfaces were inspected, and selected deposits were sample 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 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).

#### **3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy**

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

#### **3.5.2 Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were identified, quantified and dated to period. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access database.

No artefacts from environmental samples were examined.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined by eye, and referenced by fabric type with the series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992; [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### **3.6 Scientific dating**

Samples for OSL dating were obtained by a specialist sub-contractor (Luminescence dating laboratory, University of Gloucestershire). These were taken with the aim of obtaining dates that could identify the depth at which alluvium was laid down during the mid-17th century, and so with the intention of defining a likely horizon contemporary with the Battle of Worcester period.

It is currently anticipated that the results will be available within eight weeks and these will be assimilated into an updated version of this report.

### **3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

Although not all of the planned trenches were completed, the methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.



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## 4 The application site

### 4.1 Topography, geology and current land use

The site is located on the southern fringe of Worcester, alongside the A4440 Southern Link Road, comprising an area of 41ha in total. The most easterly point is at the Ketch Roundabout and it continues for 1.9km to the western approaches to Powick Roundabout. It is primarily located to the south of the existing road and is west of the River Severn and south of the River Teme, consisting of flat pasture and meadow land that forms a major floodplain for the rivers at around 13 to 14m AOD. This is common land and openly accessible, currently in use for stock grazing (Plate 1).

The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, overlain by alluvial clays, silts, sand and gravel superficial deposits (BGS 2017).

### 4.2 Archaeological context

The extensive archaeological and historical background to the site is provided in the Preliminary Environmental Statement (Appendix H) prepared by CH2M (CH2M 2016) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA, Section 7 Cultural Heritage), and so this information is not repeated here, except that historical cartographic and photographic sources and a LiDAR plot are included here as primary sources towards a context for the fieldwork (Figs 2–6).

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Structural analysis

The trench locations are shown in Figure 1. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

All trenches exhibited a similar depositional sequence, comprising topsoil and subsoil above two or three alluvial layers, with minimal recovery of artefacts and an absence of metalwork outside of general modern detritus in the topsoil (drinks cans, cables, pieces of fencing; none retained).

#### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

In Trench 1, there were three layers of alluvial deposits visible (Plate 4). The uppermost of these comprised homogenous reddish-orange brown clay silt (0.57–0.75m below ground surface (bgs); context 103) above reddish-grey brown clay silt with frequent manganese (0.75–1.25m bgs; context 104). Below this was dark grey brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks (1.25–2.05m+ bgs; context 105) that continued beyond the limit of excavation at 11.69m AOD. The lowest 1.2m of this sequence of alluvium was used as the location for sampling for the OSL dating (Plate 5).

The upper reddish-orange and reddish-grey clay silt alluvial layers seen in Trench 1 were also identified in Trench 2, Trench 3 and Trench 4, all in the same field. The uppermost alluvial layer was at 0.40–0.65m bgs, 0.47–0.77m bgs and 0.50–0.72m bgs respectively and the second alluvial layer at 0.65–1.32m+ bgs, 0.77–1.50m+ bgs and 0.72–1.10m bgs. The lowest alluvial layer identified in Trench 1 was also seen in Trench 4 (from 1.10m+ bgs), where a deeper sondage was excavated (Plates 2 and 3).

No finds were recovered from any alluvial deposit, and, until the processing for the OSL dating is completed, these remain of uncertain date. In Trench 4, however, the uppermost reddish-orange alluvium appeared to seal a grubbed-out hedgerow boundary (see below), which may indicate that the most recent alluvial deposit is of 20th century origin.

In Trench 5 and 6 (further to the east), there were two alluvial deposits identified; a compact reddish brown clay silt (0.44–1.30m bgs and 0.53–1.20m bgs; contexts 502/602) and a soft dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (1.30–1.50m+ bgs and 1.20–1.60m+ beyond limit of excavation; contexts 503/603). It is likely that this was the same deposit as that seen at the lowest depth in Trench 1 and Trench 4.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Trench 1 contained a 0.22m thick layer of made ground (102) below topsoil (0–0.24m bgs) and subsoil (0.24–0.35m bgs) that was not seen in other trenches; this was probably related to recent construction and maintenance of the adjacent Powick road and is, therefore, later 20th century in date. Topsoil (between 0.25–0.38m thick) and subsoil (between 0.12–0.22m thick) sealed the alluvial deposits directly in all other trenches.

The remains of former field boundaries were identified in both Trench 3 and 4. These correlate with hedgerows visible on 18th-20th century mapping and mid-20th century aerial photographs, prior to construction of the Southern Link Road (see EIA figures). With Trench 3, part of the hedged boundary was still extant adjacent to the trench (Plate 1). Although these were most likely to be post-medieval in origin, probably relating to enclosure, it was evident that the features observed in the trenches were the residue of the modern removal of those hedgerows. Artefactual material in the backfill of each was clearly later 20th century in date; in Trench 3 the fill (304) contained glass jars and a tin lid and in Trench 4 (407) included part of a wooden pole with metal attachments.

Modern plastic land drains were also observed in Trench 3 and 4.

## 5.2 Artefactual analysis, by C Jane Evans

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

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	19
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	16
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	fired clay	brick	1	800
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	fired clay	brick/tile	1	11
modern	glass	clear	vessel	2	92
modern	metal	tin	lid	1	7

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage by period and material class

### 5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

Fieldwork produced only a small assemblage of finds from three trenches/four contexts (Tables 1 and 2).

Trench 1 (context 102) produced a single sherd of vitrified porcelain, most likely a waste product of the Royal Worcester porcelain works (Fabric 83.1). Fragments of porcelain waste and kiln material are known from a number of sites around Worcester, reflecting patterns of industrial discard.

Trench 3 (context 304) produced a fragment of post-medieval or modern brick, a small modern jar of the type used for meat pastes, a fragment of modern vessel glass, and a modern tin lid.

From Trench 4 there were three sherds of post-medieval pottery (context 400). One was the base of a small vessel in a highly fired, black glazed ware (Fabric 78), most likely dating to the 17th century (Derek Hurst pers comm). This is the only find that may be contemporary with civil war activity, though not certainly so. The other two sherds comprised a less diagnostic post-medieval red ware (Fabric 78) and a post-medieval buff ware with light on dark trailed slip (Fabric 91). The

latter most likely dates to the 18th century (Derek Hurst pers comm). The only other find was a fragment of post-medieval or modern tile (context 407).

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date
102	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	16	post-medieval/modern	1750	2000
304	ceramic	fired clay	brick	1	800	post-medieval/modern	1700	2000
304	glass	clear	vessel	2	92	modern	1900	2000
304	metal	tin	lid	1	7	modern	1900	2000
400	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	8	post-medieval	1600	1700
400	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	2	post-medieval	1600	1800
400	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	9	post-medieval	1700	1800
407	ceramic	fired clay	brick/tile	1	11	post-medieval/modern	1540	2000

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

### 5.2.2 Recommendations for further analysis and reporting

No further analysis is required. None of the finds justify retention and could be discarded, with the agreement of the receiving museum.

## 6 Synthesis

All of trenches exhibited a comparable deposit sequence, containing at least two or three alluvial layers down to a maximum investigated depth of 2.5m below the ground surface. There were no significant remains, palaeoenvironmental deposits or peat horizons encountered and the majority of the alluvium was clean and sterile. Trench 3 and Trench 4 contained plastic land drains and the only features of any note were the remnants of former field boundaries (also visible on historic mapping) which had been heavily disturbed during their removal in the recent past, as demonstrated by the modern detritus within. The uncertain cropmarks targeted by Trench 5 and Trench 6 were not encountered, and so no further information on these was established.

As mentioned above, a major focus of the trenching programme was an attempt to identify a horizon at which evidence of Civil War activity may occur, given the proximity of the site to areas of fighting during the skirmish at Powick Bridge (1642) and the Battle of Worcester (1651). Unfortunately there were no artefacts recovered from any of the alluvial layers, although 17th to 18th century pottery was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 4. This was relatively unabraded, yet it is difficult to be certain of its origin in this floodplain environment. Metal detecting undertaken prior to excavation and during the opening of every trench did not produce any finds beyond modern objects in the topsoil. No earlier horizon of activity was, therefore, identified by this fieldwork. However, further work on this front may still be productive as, although relatively limited in number and of uncertain depth of recovery, lead items (cannon balls) have previously been found in and around the general battlefield area (see Atkin 1998, 85; Electrical Engineer 1894, 427; PAS ref. no. WAW-4E4F31).

In terms of the OSL dating of the alluvium, which is critical for understanding the development of the alluvial sequence and identifying the horizon contemporary with the Civil War, results are still awaited. This could produce more refined dating and will hopefully inform interpretation of the alluvial formation and so contribute to a better understanding of the deep alluvial sequence. At present there is no secure dating for the this floodplain alluvium around the southern side of Worcester, although work elsewhere further south along the Severn valley at Clifton Quarry has suggested that alluviation largely began during the middle of the first millennium BC but that this accelerated from the early medieval period onwards (see Jackson *et al* 2011; Mann and Jackson forthcoming). Previous investigation closer to the current site, when flood relief channels were cut through the floodplain and a section through the old Powick road became visible, revealed alluvial deposits separating the former road surfaces and a sherd of 16th-17th century pottery giving a possible *terminus post quem* date for one surface at c 1.1m below the current level of the modern tarmac (Naphan and Ratkai 1996, 6, 10).

It is apparent from recent geotechnical ground investigations involving borehole observation (see CC Ground Investigations Ltd 2016) that total alluvial build-up on the floodplain in the area of Trenches 1-4 is between 3.50–3.80m in depth (Boreholes 420, 421, 422) and in the vicinity of Trench 5 and 6 it is between 3.40–5.80m in depth (Boreholes 410, 411, 412). This would suggest that the evaluation trenching, which excavated down to mainly between 1.2m and 1.5m from the current ground surface, but sometimes up to 2.5m, has observed at least the upper third, or perhaps the upper half of the alluvial deposition. It is, therefore, quite feasible that the Civil War horizon could be encountered within the depth of alluvium investigated during this fieldwork, given the extended period of alluviation identified at Clifton Quarry and the known thickness determined by the recent boreholes. It is hoped that the OSL dating will provide information leading towards more secure dating of the alluvial deposition.

## 7 Significance

There were no significant archaeological features or horizons identified within the evaluation trenches, and the only visible features related to agricultural use of the fields in the later post-medieval and modern periods; cf cartographic evidence in Figures 2–4, and as visible on the 1946 aerial photograph (Fig 5) and the more recent LiDAR plot (Fig 6).

The alluvial sequence showed clear stratigraphic divisions relating either to changes in the natural environment or to human agency (eg water management), but, at present, without much assistance from associated artefacts (and the results from the scientific dating still awaited), no horizon/deposits could be either suggested to be or were securely attributable to the time of the Civil War. Metal detecting revealed no metallic finds within the alluvium, and the artefacts from the overlying soil profile provide no definite evidence for activity specifically associated with the Civil War even in a redeposited context.

The trenching has certainly enabled the upper part of the alluvial formation to be studied in more detail, thereby complementing the borehole results, as well as demonstrating the absence of significant features, artefacts or deposits that could be affected by intrusive groundworks during the construction programme. Though this is currently based on the absence of evidence, and further results (ie the OSL dating now in progress) may well enable a better understanding to emerge by providing some pointers to the relative dating of levels within this deposit.

## 8 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 land to the south of the A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road, Worcestershire, covering a length of 1.9km (between National Grid reference*

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SO 85344 51697 and SO 85309 52219). This comprised the excavation of six trial trenches across two large fields, adjacent to the current road embankment.

The trenches were located to investigate the alluvial landscape of the River Severn and River Teme floodplain, with regard to the proximity of the site to the designated area relating to the skirmish at Powick Bridge (1642) and the Battle of Worcester (1651). As such, this involved use of a metal-detector during opening of trenches through alluvial deposits and sampling for optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating was also undertaken in order to date the sequence of alluvial deposition (results still awaited).

The trenches were excavated to between 1.2m and 1.5m from the ground surface, and beyond the specified maximum impact level of any construction works on site. Additional sondages were undertaken up to 2.5m in depth to explore deeper alluvial deposits. All exhibited a comparable deposit sequence, comprising topsoil and subsoil above two or three alluvial layers. There were no significant archaeological features or horizons identified, with the only visible features relating to agricultural use of the fields in the later post-medieval and modern period. No deposits were determined to be attributable to a horizon contemporary with the Civil War.

## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project: Julian and Lee (Alun Griffiths Engineering and Construction), Neil Rimmington (Historic England), Adrian Scruby and Adam Mindykowski (Worcestershire County Council Archive and Archaeology Service), and James Dinn (Worcester City Council).

The fieldwork project was managed by Simon Woodiwiss, and Derek Hurst edited this report.

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# Figures

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## Plates



*Plate 1: General view of the site, showing extant hedgerow close to the location of Trench 3*



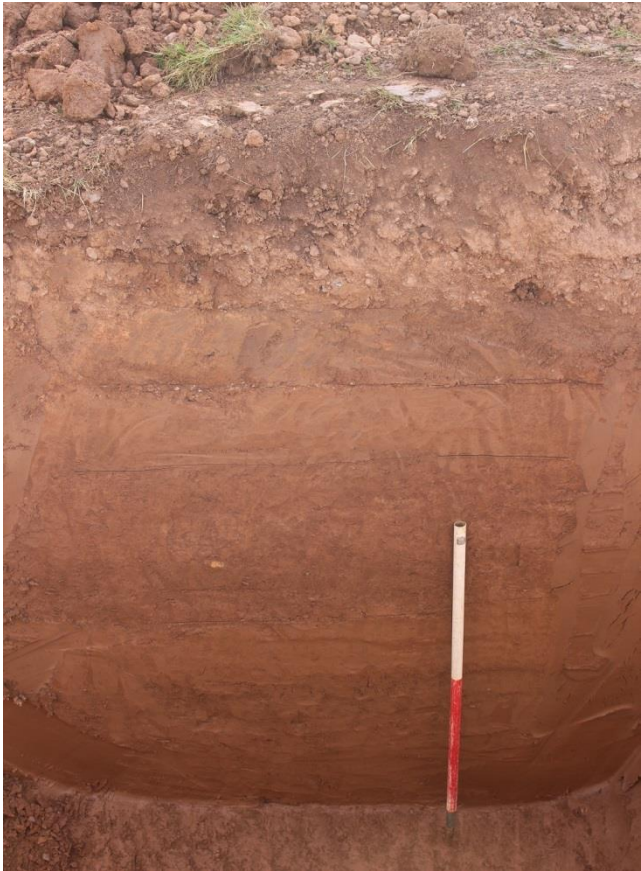
*Plate 2: Trench 4, showing steps through alluvial sequence into deep sondage in foreground*

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*Plate 3: Trench 4, showing alluvial sequence below topsoil and subsoil*



*Plate 4: Trench 1, showing alluvial sequence below topsoil, subsoil and made ground*



*Plate 5: Trench 1 working shot during sampling of alluvium for OSL dating*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 50m      Width: 1.8m      Orientation: north to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	0.24m	Topsoil and turf
101	Subsoil	Layer	Mod compact light orange grey brown clay silt	0.11m	Subsoil
102	Modern layer	Layer	Firm, gritty dark grey brown silty clay with CBM, clinker, metal, small stones	0.22m	Made ground – dumped layer from road construction (not seen in Trench 2)
103	Layer	Layer	Mid reddish orange brown clay silt, clean and sterile	0.18m	Upper alluvium
104	Layer	Layer	Mid reddish grey brown clay silt with frequent manganese. Sampled in OSL dating	0.50m	Alluvium
105	Layer	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty clay with manganese and charcoal. Sampled in OSL dating	0.80m+	Alluvium

### Trench 2

Length: 50m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: east to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	0.25m	Topsoil and turf
201	Subsoil	Layer	Mod compact light orange grey brown clay silt	0.15m	Subsoil
202	Layer	Layer	Mid reddish orange brown clay silt, clean and sterile	0.25m	Upper alluvium
203	Layer	Layer	Mid reddish grey brown clay silt with frequent manganese	0.67m+	Alluvium

### Trench 3

Length: 40m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: north to south

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	0.25m	Topsoil and turf
301	Subsoil	Layer	Mod compact light orange grey brown clay silt	0.22m	Subsoil
302	Layer	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt	0.30m	Upper alluvium
303	Layer	Layer	Firm dark reddish brown clay silt with frequent manganese	0.73m+	Alluvium
304	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey clay silt with glass and CBM	0.20m+	Modern infill of removed hedge/tree-lined boundary
305	Ditch	Cut	Linear cut, former hedgerow	0.20m+	Grubbed out remnants of former hedgerow/tree-line, dated as modern but boundary mapped in late post-med period
306	Modern	Fill	Homogenous silt with yellow plastic pipe	Unexc.	Modern land drain
307	Modern	Cut	Linear cut of pipe trench	Unexc.	Modern land drain

## Worcester Southern Link Road (Phase 4)

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### Trench 4

Length: 40m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: north to south

#### Context summary:

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	0.38m	Topsoil and turf
401	Subsoil	Layer	Mod compact light yellow orange brown clay silt	0.12m	Subsoil
402	Layer	Layer	Firm mid reddish orange brown clay silt	0.22m	Upper alluvium
403	Layer	Layer	Mid reddish brown clay silt with frequent manganese	0.38m	Alluvium
404	Layer	Layer	Firm dark reddish brown clay silt with frequent manganese and charcoal. Bulk sample taken.	0.40m+	Alluvium
405	Modern	Fill	Homogenous silt with yellow plastic pipe	Unexc.	Modern land drain
406	Modern	Cut	Linear cut of pipe trench	Unexc.	Modern land drain
407	Ditch	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt with wooden pole, metal fittings and CBM	0.60m+	Modern infill of removed hedge/tree-lined boundary
408	Ditch	Cut	Linear cut, former hedgerow	0.60m+	Grubbed out remnants of former hedgerow/tree-line, dated as modern but boundary mapped in late post-med period
409	Modern	Fill	Homogenous silt with yellow plastic pipe	Unexc.	Modern land drain
410	Modern	Cut	Linear cut of pipe trench	Unexc.	Modern land drain

### Trench 5

Length: 40m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: east to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay silt	0.32m	Topsoil and turf
501	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish orange brown clay silt	0.12m	Subsoil
502	Layer	Layer	Firm mid reddish brown clay silt, sterile	0.86m	Alluvium
503	Layer	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal pieces. Bulk sample taken.	0.25m+	Alluvium

### Trench 6

Length: 33m      Width: 1.80m      Orientation: north-east to south-west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay silt	0.31m	Topsoil and turf
601	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light yellowish orange brown clay silt	0.22m	Subsoil
602	Layer	Layer	Firm light orange-red brown clay silt, rare manganese	0.67m	Alluvium
603	Layer	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional manganese	0.40m+	Alluvium

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 69360)**

The archive consists of:

- 3 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 86 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 6 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

A copy of the report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER)

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