

Archaeological evaluation at Orchard Farm, Defford Rd, Pershore, Worcestershire



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With contributions by C Jane Evans and Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Orchard Farm, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9337 4523). It was undertaken on behalf of Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd, who propose a housing development, for which a planning application will be submitted.

A post-medieval watercourse, field boundary and undated ditch were identified, along with areas of modern made ground and rubble. Cartographic evidence suggests the undated ditch may be a medieval or early post-medieval woodland boundary with Tiddesley Wood. An absence of Iron Age and Roman features or finds confirms that the known settlement at Pershore Cemetery to the east does not extend as far west as the application site. A residual flint blade of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date hints at a potential small flint scatter in the north-west corner of the site.

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Orchard Farm, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR 9337 4523, Figure 1). It was commissioned by Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd who propose a housing development, for which a planning application will be submitted to Wychavon District Council.

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets in the form of archaeological deposits and features, the preservation of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation that was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017), the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

2 Aims

The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.
- Identify their location, nature, date and preservation - sufficient both to inform the following assessment and the design of any mitigation.
- Assess the significance of any archaeology deposits.
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development on archaeological heritage assets.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Peter Lovett (BSc) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Jamie Wilkins (BA), Elspeth Iff (BA, MSc) and Nina O'Hare (BA, PCIfA). The report was written by Nina O'Hare and the project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA, MA, ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc, PG Cert, MCIfA). Jane Evans (BA, MA, MCIfA) and Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology previously (O'Hare & Woodiwiss 2017), which included a Historic Environment Record search and cartographic research.

3.3 Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey of the evaluation site was undertaken by SUMO Survey Ltd (2017), which identified a number of anomalies of potential archaeological interest. The report is included as Appendix 2.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017). As a result of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (Davies 2017), trench locations were chosen to test geophysical anomalies, blank areas and historic field boundaries. A parcel of land to the north-east of Orchard Farm which was included in the DBA was not covered by this evaluation.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 25 September and 4 October 2017. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological 'events' and site code used in the archive is WSM 69437.

Twenty-one trenches and two test pits, amounting to 1,629m² in area, were excavated over a site of 77,390m², representing a sample of over 2% (less the area of made ground). Trench locations are given in Figure 2 and those targeting specific features were:

- Trench 1 two uncertain (positive) linear anomalies.
- Trench 5 one uncertain (positive) linear anomaly.
- Trench 11 former watercourse (or field boundary) showing on early maps.
- Trench 13 former field boundary showing on early maps.
- Trench 14 former field boundary showing on early maps and an area of strong magnetic debris associated with a former outbuilding showing on early maps.
- Trench 16 former field boundary showing on early maps.
- Trench 20 the continuation of two uncertain (positive) linear anomalies.
- Trench 21 former watercourse showing on early maps.
- Test pits 22 and 23 substantial areas of 'made ground' identified by geophysical survey.

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.

The following techniques were considered for use but were not deemed appropriate for this project: fieldwalking and topographic/earthwork survey.

3.5 Structural analysis

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

3.6 Artefact methodology, by C Jane Evans

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

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.6.2 Method of analysis

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

No artefacts from environmental samples were examined.

The ceramic building material was examined by eye and is not referenced by fabric.

3.6.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material in general, and;

- generally where material has been specifically assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified that were considered 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 and geology

Located on high ground north of the River Avon, the site is bounded by Defford Road to the south, Tiddesley Wood to the west, fields to the north and a recent housing development at Three Springs Road to the east (Figure 1). The land rises up to the east and west from a former stream through the middle of the site, and the whole area slopes down to the river plain in the south.

The solid geology is Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2017). The predominant soils belong to the Evesham 2 soil association (411b), comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty soils over clayey soils, over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4.2 Archaeological context

A desk-based assessment (O'Hare & Woodiwiss 2017) identified the potential for buried prehistoric archaeology, Roman settlement activity, and medieval archaeology associated with woodland management and clearance.

Prehistoric activity commonly occurs just beyond the first river terrace, where the evaluation site is located, and a known Late Iron Age to 3rd century AD settlement has been recorded at Pershore Cemetery, c 200m to the east (WSM 38434 and 57491). Tiddesley Wood (WSM 31613) is thought to be an ancient woodland that briefly served as a deer park during the 13th century and has gradually been cleared, with the main area of the application site probably cleared as a medieval assart. Two earthen banks against the site's western boundary were observed whilst undertaking the desk-based assessment, and a potential trapezoidal cropmark in the north-west corner was identified.

The geophysical survey of the site identified anomalies determined to relate to the site's previous use as woodland and orchard, through former field boundaries and land drains (Sumo Survey 2017).

4.3 Current land-use

The site is currently pasture fields with a compound containing farm buildings and a vacant bungalow in the centre of the site (Fig 1; Plate 1).

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

The natural substrate varied across the site and throughout trenches. In general, the underlying geology was a mix of blue and orange clay with a sandy component and gravel patches, typically encountered at 0.35-0.50m below ground level, except where truncated by made ground (Plates 1 and 2).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits

Ditch 1304 contained no finds but corresponds to an historic field boundary, recorded on the 1st to 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps (Plate 3), whilst ditch 1104 aligns with an historic water course. Upper fill 1103 within the later ditch contained post-medieval or modern ceramic building material and fragments of an iron vessel, confirming that the ditch was open but silting up at this time. The sandy basal fill, 1105, of ditch 1104 is unusual for this clay-rich site and indicative of water movement, which supports cartographic evidence that this feature was small watercourse (Plate 4). It is possibly that the ditch was dug for drainage rather than being a naturally cut stream.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

Two land drains were encountered in Trench 4 and made ground containing stone rubble and modern rubbish was recorded in Trenches 20-23, up to a thickness of 0.8m. The subsoil was lost to truncation by made ground in Trenches 20, 22 and 23 (Plate 5) and absent across most of Trench 8, possibly due to landscaping work associated with the present farm buildings.

Both the topsoil and subsoil were lacking in finds, except for a single residual flint blade found in Trench 1 (101), and rubble inclusions in Trench 14 from the demolition of an historic recorded outbuilding. The subsoil varied slightly across the site due to variation in the natural below, but on the whole it was a silty clay with occasional pebbles. Topsoil was recorded to a depth of c 0.2-0.3m.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Undated deposits

One of the linear geophysical anomalies crossed by Trench 1 was a ditch containing two fairly sterile fills. The U-shaped profile of ditch 105 is typical of field boundaries, although the positioning of the two fills implies that material has tumbled or been washed into the ditch from the south, possibly from an earthen bank (Figure 3, Plate 6).

Ditch 105 is in the approximate location and same orientation as a protrusion in the historic boundary of Tiddesley Wood. This woodland boundary pre-dates the 1840 Tithe Map and was still visible in 1964, despite woodland clearance (O'Hare & Woodiwiss 2017, 17). It is likely that ditch 105 was part of a ditch and bank boundary around Tiddesley Wood, as seen further south along the site's western boundary during the desk-based assessment. Although undated due to a lack of finds, this ditch appeared to lie below and therefore pre-date subsoil 101, which is likely to have taken several centuries to accumulate. Consequently, ditch 105 is most likely to be medieval or early post-medieval in origin.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by C Jane Evans and Rob Hedge

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

The only finds recovered were one piece of worked flint, a small quantity of post-medieval ceramic building material and a fragment of fired clay (Table 1).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	stone	flint	blade	1	1.1
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	2	94
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	172
post-medieval/modern	metal	iron	vessel	13	39
undated	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	1	2

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

Prehistoric, by Rob Hedge

A single flint blade was recovered from subsoil (101) within Trench 1. It is 23mm long, 10mm wide and 4mm thick, is in fair condition, and is only lightly abraded. One piece of post-depositional edge damage reveals a translucent light grey flint beneath a mottled blue-grey patina. Signs of platform preparation and parallel dorsal blade scars indicate a high degree of control and technical proficiency, consistent with a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.

This is likely to relate to an emerging pattern of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic activity on the high ground to the north of the River Avon. Fieldwalking on the site of the Pershore Hoard (WSM 29124: Hurst 2000, Hurst and Leins 2013) approximately 1km to the north of Orchard Farm yielded a small assemblage of Mesolithic flint.

Post-medieval/modern, by C Jane Evans

Trench 11 produced a small quantity of material from fill 1103. Finds comprised the following: post-medieval or modern brick and tile, an undiagnostic fragment of fired clay, not in itself datable but possibly contemporary, and fragments from an iron vessel. The latter was very thin walled (3-4mm) with a bead rim (6-7mm), but was very fragmentary.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	Period
101	stone	flint	blade	1	1.1	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic
1103	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	172	Post-medieval/modern
1103	ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	2	94	Post-medieval/modern
1103	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	1	2	undated
1103	metal	iron	vessel	13	39	Post-medieval/modern

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6 Synthesis

The find of a residual Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint blade demonstrates that early prehistoric activity occurred in the area, although the quantity of finds and lack of features from this date implies that only a low level of transient activity occurred in the immediate vicinity of the application site.

Archaeological deposits and features encountered during the evaluation confirm that the Late Iron Age to Roman settlement recorded at Pershore Cemetery does not appear to extend as far west as the application site, supporting earlier claims that the settlement's western edge, partially enclosed by a boundary ditch, had been identified to the east of Orchard Farm (Hughes and Vaughan 2009, Bradley 2013).

Two ditches corresponding to an historically recorded field boundary and watercourse were identified and finds from the latter (ditch 1104) confirmed that it was in use until the post-medieval or modern era. The third ditch, 105, remains undated, but cartographic evidence and depositional analysis of its fills suggests that it may be a medieval or post-medieval woodland boundary. No evidence was found during this evaluation to confirm when the site underwent woodland clearance.

The lack of any features and only one residual find pre-dating the post-medieval era implies that very little activity occurred on the site prior to 1840, which is the earliest map of this area. This absence of archaeological evidence, although not conclusive, does support the narrative that the application site remained within ancient woodland until it was partially cleared during the medieval period as an assart, since which it has remained as agricultural land.

6.1 Research frameworks

Whilst the archaeological features identified during this evaluation do not meet any specific research framework aims, the evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of the flint blade has the potential to contribute to several of the West Midlands Regional Research Framework aims (Watt 2011):

- Systematic surface collection of Mesolithic artefact assemblages is needed throughout the west midlands, especially in areas which have attracted little previous work and/or where little is known about Mesolithic activity (e.g. river valleys). (*ibid* 30)
- The development of fieldwork strategies to investigate Early Neolithic sites in all kinds of landscape contexts is a high priority... In particular, the significance of lithic scatters should be recognised and far more care taken over their identification and study. (*ibid* 42)

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The application site appears to have been either woodland or unoccupied land since the early prehistoric period, when low level, probably transient, activity occurred in the general area. Despite the site's proximity to a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, activity dating from these eras does not appear to have spread as far west as the evaluation area. Throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods the site remained as woodland or agricultural land.

The single piece of worked flint is of interest, and is consistent with a background scatter reflecting Mesolithic to Neolithic activity on the high ground to the north of the River Avon. Further investigation may yield more such material within topsoil or subsoil deposits. No Iron Age to Roman finds were recovered, and the post-medieval/modern finds are probably derived from farming activities.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The post-medieval agricultural features encountered are of relatively low archaeological interest, as they add little to existing cartographic evidence, beyond confirming the relatively recent date of

these features. A probable woodland boundary ditch, 105, is a less commonly encountered feature and of greater local interest for its potential to aid our understanding of woodland clearance and management. At present though, the ditch offers little research value without dating evidence.

Residual Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flint is not uncommon along major rivers, but still regionally significant as evidence from these relatively ephemeral periods of prehistory is scarce within the West Midlands (Watt 2011, sections 2.4 and 2.5). A flint scatter may exist in the north-west corner of the site, although this is likely to be displaced from its original context through the subsoil and topsoil. Given the need for research into Mesolithic and Early Neolithic sites and artefacts, the site has a regionally significant research potential should further early prehistoric archaeology exist here.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological features observed during the evaluation occur within 0.4-0.5m of the present ground surface and extend to an approximate depth of 1m, making them vulnerable to the intrusive groundworks of a housing development. Whilst these archaeological deposits will not survive where they are truncated by building foundations, there is an extremely low density of archaeological features across the site.

A potential small flint scatter in the north-west site corner, hinted at by the residual flint blade, would be vulnerable to total loss during construction, as residual finds lie within the first 0.4m of ground within the topsoil and subsoil.

8 The impact of the development

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 DCLG 2012, section 141).

Construction of the proposed development, including intrusive groundworks, re-landscaping and the movement of heavy machinery will result in the total or partial loss of archaeological features. Given the low density and low significance of post-medieval ditches recorded during the evaluation, the proposed development is only considered to have minor adverse impacts on the post-medieval and undated, probably medieval, archaeology. However, the proposed development is deemed to have a potentially moderate adverse impact on the site's early prehistoric archaeology, due to its potential research value and currently unestablished nature.

9 Recommendations

In order to mitigate the impacts identified above, it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during construction in the area around Trench 1, to enable any further worked flints and dating evidence from ditch 105 to be collected. No further archaeological work is recommended for the remainder of the evaluation area.

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

9.1 Further analysis and reporting

No further analysis of the artefacts recovered is required.

9.2 Discard and retention

The finds could be considered for discard, with the agreement of the receiving museum, with the exception of the worked flint.

10 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 Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd at Orchard Farm, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 9337 4523; HER ref WSM 69437).

A post-medieval watercourse, field boundary and undated ditch were identified, along with areas of modern made ground and rubble. Cartographic evidence suggests the undated ditch may be a medieval or early post-medieval woodland boundary with Tiddesley Wood. An absence of Iron Age and Roman features or finds confirms that the known settlement at Pershore Cemetery to the east does not extend as far west as the application site. A residual flint blade of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date hints at a potential small flint scatter in the north-west corner of the site.

11 Acknowledgements

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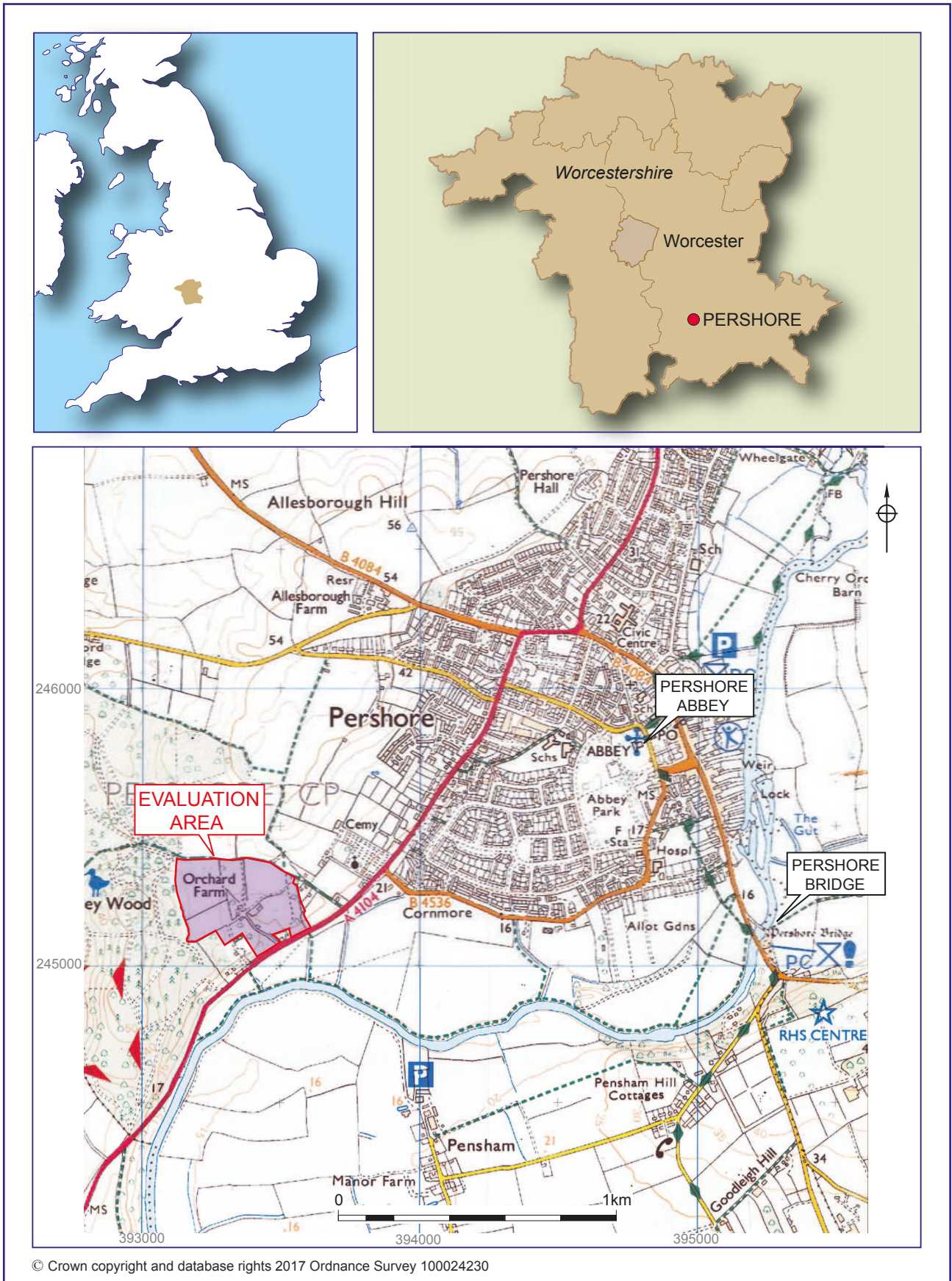
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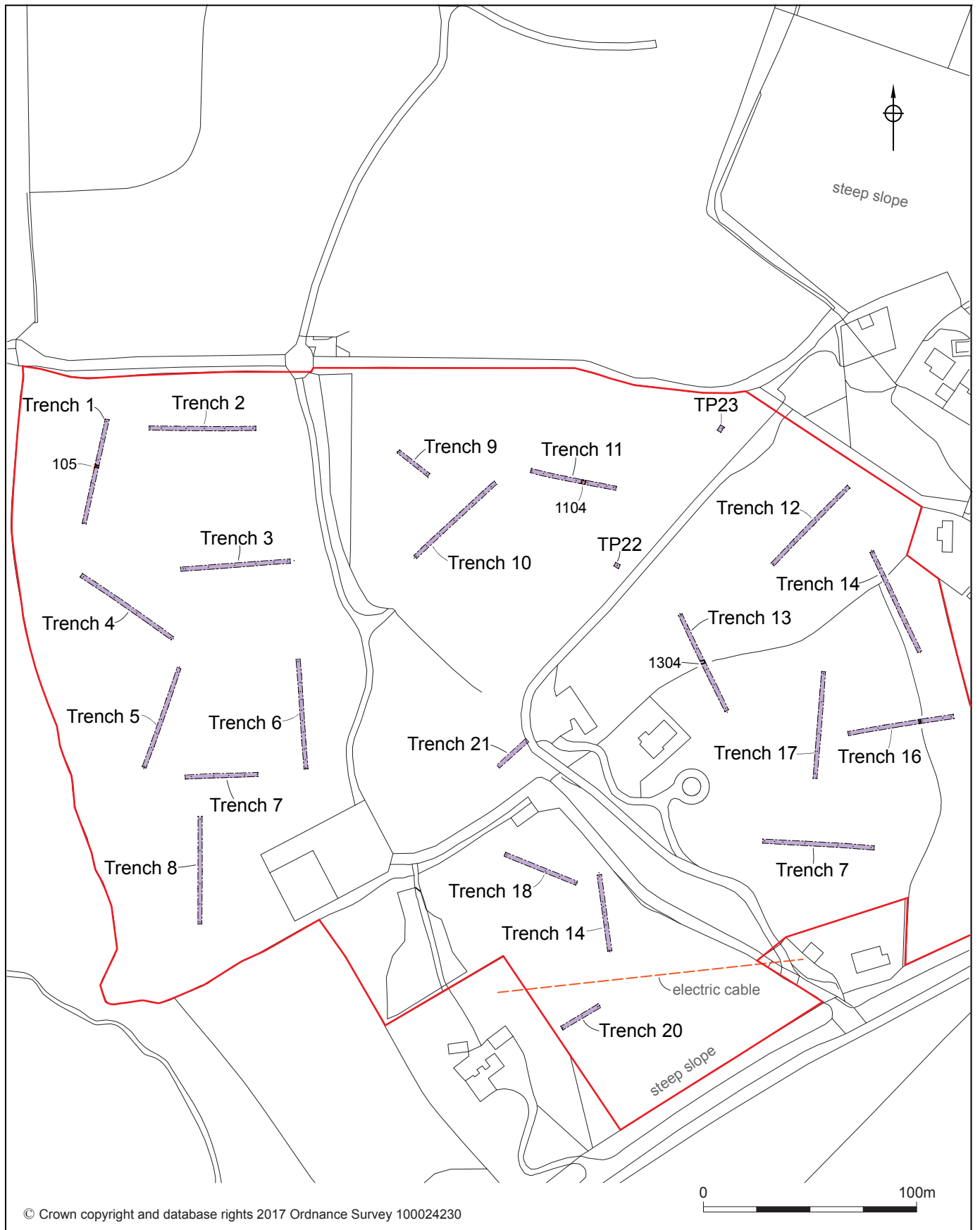
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Figures



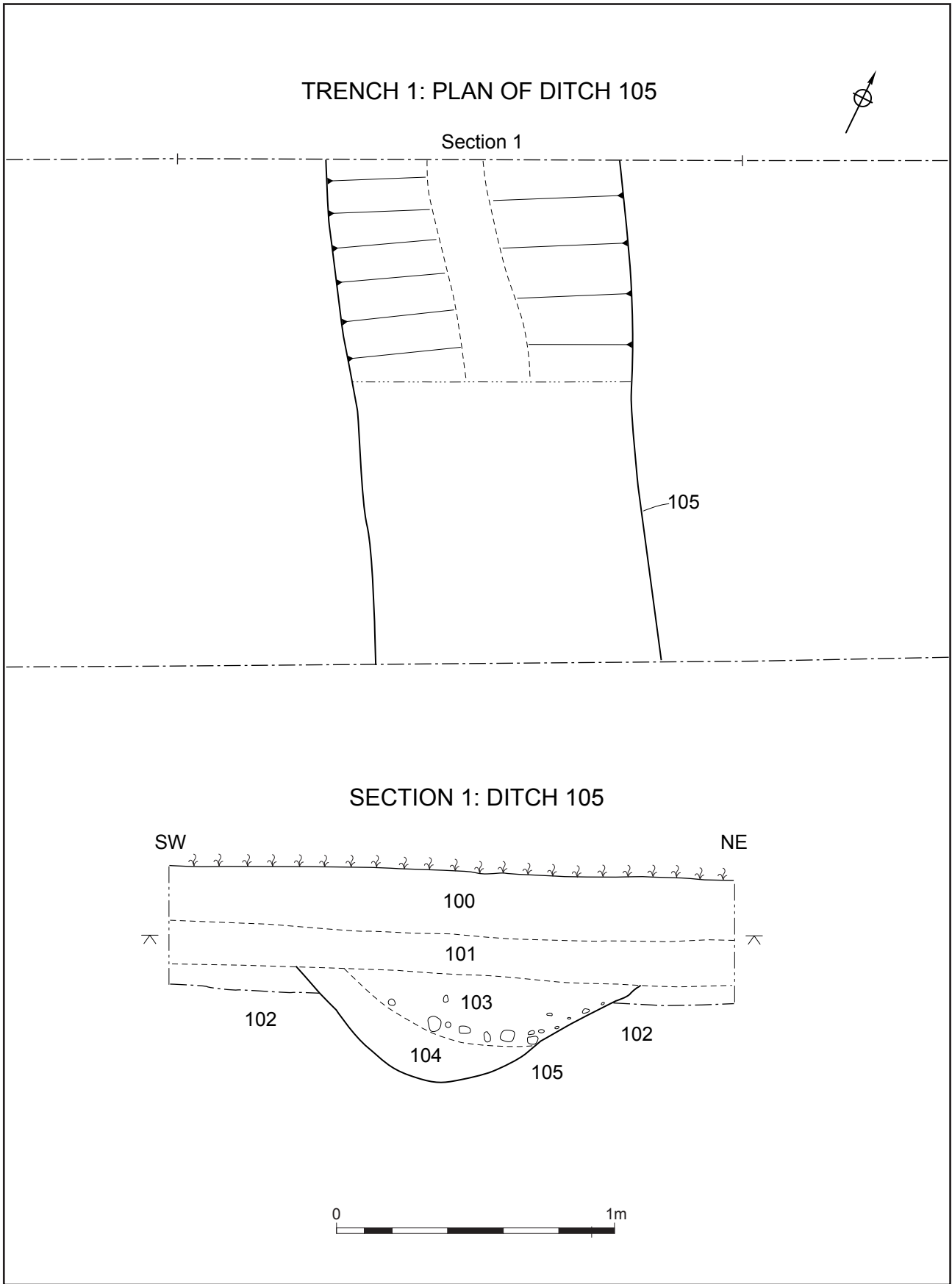
Location of the evaluation area

Figure 1



Trench locations

Figure 2



Plan and section of ditch 105

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 7 looking east across the site, 2x 1m scales



Plate 2: Trench 13 looking north-west; note variation in natural geology, 2x 1m scales



Plate 3: Trench 13, south-east facing section of ditch [1304], 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 11, south-west facing section of ditch [1104], 1m scale



Plate 5: South-east facing of Test Pit 23 showing made ground, 2x 1m scales



Plate 6: South-east facing section of ditch [105] in Trench 1, 1m scale

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

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
100	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.23m
101	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.23 – 0.39m
102	Natural	Compact mid blueish orange sandy clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and manganese.	0.39m – 0.46m+
103	Upper fill of ditch [105]	Compact dark orangey grey silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal. No finds.	0.35 – 0.62m
104	Basal fill of ditch [105]	Compact dark blueish orange silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal. No finds.	0.35 – 0.78m
105	Cut of ditch	U shaped profile with concave sides, aligned NW-SE. Contained two sterile fills (103) and (104).	0.35 – 0.78m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.38m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Moderately loose light grey brown sandy silt with rare small sub-rounded pebbles.	0 – 0.22m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles.	0.22 – 0.32m
202	Natural	Compact mid orangey brown clay with sub-rounded pebbles, cobbles and grey patches. Gravelly orange silt at east end of trench.	0.32 – 0.37m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.49m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Loose mid orangey brown sandy silt	0 – 0.20m
301	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks and tiny sub-rounded pebbles.	0.20 – 0.35m
302	Natural	Compact mid brownish orange silty clay with grey flecks and frequent manganese.	0.35 – 0.49m+

Trench 4

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
400	Topsoil	Moderately loose light grey brown sandy silt with rare small sub-rounded pebbles.	0 – 0.20m
401	Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks – only seen in middle of trench.	0.20 – 0.38m
402	Natural	Moderately compact mid brownish orange sandy silt with frequent manganese flecks, patches of sub-rounded pebbles and mid blueish grey clay.	0.38 – 0.46m+

Trench 5

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

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles.	0 – 0.31m
501	Subsoil	Compact mid orangey brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded pebbles, becoming more orange and less distinct towards the NE.	0.31 – 0.44m
502	Natural	Compact mid greyish brown clay with occasional manganese flecks and small sub-rounded pebbles throughout. Changes towards NE to a mid brownish orange silty clay with manganese flecks and patches of limestone.	0.44 – 0.48m+

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles.	0 – 0.24m
601	Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and rare sub-rounded pebbles.	0.24 – 0.40m
602	Natural	Compact mid blueish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks and rare sub-rounded pebbles at south end, changing to a sandier mid brownish orange clay with frequent pebbles at the north end. Occasional patches of limestone flecking throughout.	0.40 – 0.60m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions - Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.50 - 0.63m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles.	0 – 0.26m
701	Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and sub-rounded pebbles.	0.26 – 0.56m
702	Natural	Compact mid blueish grey silty clay with frequent limestone flecks and patches of orangey brown containing frequent sub-rounded pebbles.	0.56 – 0.63m+

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.46 – 0.74m (N-S)

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles.	0 – 0.23m (N) 0 – 0.15m (S)
801	Subsoil	Compact mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles. Only seen at south end of trench – gradually thins to north.	0.15 – 0.34m
802	Natural	Compact light greyish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles at north end, becoming reddish orange and siltier to south with manganese flecks.	0.23 – 0.46m+ (N) 0.34m – 0.74m+ (S)

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions - Length: 15m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.34m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.23m
901	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.23 – 0.32m
902	Natural	Compact orange clay sands with blue clays.	0.32 – 0.34m+

Trench 10

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

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.36m
1001	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.36 – 0.42m
1002	Natural	Blue and yellow clays with gravels.	0.42m+

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions - Length: 40m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.30m
1101	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.30 – 0.48m
1102	Natural	Compact orange clay sands with blue clays.	0.48m+
1103	Upper fill of ditch [1104]	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt.	0.28m thick
1104	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned field boundary ditch, c. 3m wide x 0.52m deep.	-
1105	Basal fill of ditch [1104]	Firm mid blue grey silty sand.	0.30m thick

Trench 12

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

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.24m
1201	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay.	0.24 – 0.42m
1202	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown clay with stone flecks.	0.42m+

Trench 13

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
1300	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.20m
1301	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.20 – 0.39m
1302	Natural	Compact mid bluey orange sandy clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and manganese.	0.39m+
1303	Upper fill of ditch [1304]	Friable light grey yellow silty clay.	-
1304	Cut of ditch	Field boundary ditch c. 2m wide	-
1305	Basal fill of ditch [1304]	Friable humic fill.	-

Trench 14

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.51m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles, charcoal and building rubble (red bricks) towards NW end only.	0 – 0.30m
1401	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.30 – 0.51m
1402	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown clay with stone flecks.	0.51m+

Trench 15

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
1500	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.17m
1501	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.17 – 0.39m
1502	Natural	Blue orange mottled clay.	0.39m+

Trench 16

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.44m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.27m
1601	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.27 – 0.43m
1602	Natural	Blue clay at east end, becoming orange sandy clay to west.	0.43m+

Trench 17

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1700	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.38m
1701	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay with stone flecks.	0.38 – 0.40m+

Trench 18

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

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1800	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.17m
1801	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0.17 – 0.35m
1802	Natural	Undifferentiated blue and orange clays.	0.35m+

Trench 19

Maximum dimensions - Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.48 – 0.95m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1900	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.25m
1901	Subsoil	Compact dark orangey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal – thickens in middle of trench where dip in natural has filled in over time.	0.25 – 0.48m (0.95m max. in middle)
1902	Natural	Undifferentiated blue and orange clays.	0.48m+

Trench 20

Maximum dimensions - Length: 20m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.32m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark reddish brown clay loam with frequent rounded pebbles and cobbles. Some modern debris suggests made ground, hence the lack of subsoil.	0 – 0.31m
2001	Natural	Undifferentiated blue and orange clays.	0.31 – 0.32m+

Trench 21

Maximum dimensions - Length: 20m Width: 1.8m Depth: 1.07m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2100	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.22m
2101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid yellow brown clay sand.	0.22 – 0.46m
2102	Made ground	Soft dark grey brown silty sand with rubble and plastic.	0.46 – 1.05m
2103	Natural	Soft mid yellow brown clay sand.	1.05m+

Test Pit 22

Maximum dimensions - Length: 1.8m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.64m

Orientation: n/a

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2200	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.34m
2201	Made ground	Firm light blue grey clay and stone rubble.	0.34 – 0.64m
2202	Natural	Firm blue grey clay.	0.64m+

Test Pit 23

Maximum dimensions - Length: 1.8m Width: 1.8m Depth: 1.00m

Orientation: n/a

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2300	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal.	0 – 0.20m
2301	Made ground	Firm dark yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stone rubble.	0.20 – 1.00m
2302	Natural	Firm yellow clay.	1.00m+

Appendix 2 Geophysical Survey Report

Appendix 3 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 69437)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 88 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 2 Scale drawings
- 23 Trench record sheets AS41
- 2 Bags of finds (only flint may be retained)
- 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) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) as appropriate.

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 69437

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	stone	flint	blade	1	1.1
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	2	94
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	172
post-medieval/modern	metal	iron	vessel	13	39
undated	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	1	2

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	Period
101	stone	flint	blade	1	1.1	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic
1103	ceramic	earthenware	tile	2	172	Post-medieval/modern
1103	ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	2	94	Post-medieval/modern
1103	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	1	2	undated
1103	metal	iron	vessel	13	39	Post-medieval/modern

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts