Archaeological Evaluation at The Village, Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire

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

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Authors:	Jesse Wheeler and Andrew Mann
Contributors:	Laura Griffin, Rob Hedge and Elizabeth Pearson
Illustrator:	Carolyn Hunt
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Jesse Wheeler and Andrew Mann

With contributions by Laura Griffin, Rob Hedge and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Village, Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire (NGR 371139 261883). It was undertaken on behalf of Sundip Shihn of BP 2015 (HCT) LLP who have obtained planning permission from Malvern Hills District Council for the erection of 20 homes on a site at the northern edge of the village (14/01056/FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works and it was confirmed by the archaeological advisor for Malvern Hills District Council that archaeological evaluation of the site was an appropriate first stage of mitigation.

The site lies immediately to the north of the village at around 192m AOD, on the west facing slope of a hill side currently under arable cultivation. During the evaluation 13 trenches were excavated across an area of 2.3ha. Some re-deposited Roman pottery sherds were identified, which are indicative of some small scale local settlement or other activity but the majority of the features were of medieval date. Most are thought to be field boundaries and drainage ditches although the quantity of finds and the presence of moderate amounts of charred grain suggests there was medieval settlement/activity very close by. This is also supported by the presence of a probable medieval fire pit or oven towards the eastern edge of the evaluation area. A number post-medieval field boundaries located in the south east corner of the site are thought to define the kitchen garden of the former farm house, constructed in the 17th century.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire (NGR 371139 261883) (Fig 1). It was undertaken on behalf of Sundip Shihn of BP 2015 (HCT) LLP who have obtained planning permission from Malvern Hills District Council for the erection of 20 homes at land to the immediate north of the village (14/01056/FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions, including a programme of archaeological investigation. Correspondence with Aidan Smyth, Planning Archaeologist for Malvern Hills District Council established that an archaeological evaluation was an appropriate first stage of mitigation. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared for the evaluation described in this report (WA 2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth.

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a)

2 Aims

The aim of the Project was to:

- Gather information and prepare a report which, beyond reasonable doubt, will inform decision making.

The objectives of the Project were to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.
- Identify their location, nature, date and preservation.
- Assess their significance.
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Andrew Mann (BA (hons); MSc); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2004 and has been practicing archaeology since 2001, assisted by Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc; MCIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA), contributed the environmental report, Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA) and Robert Hedge (MA Cantab, PCIfA) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

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

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2018).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 12th March 2018 and 16th March 2018. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM 70245. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5258.

Thirteen trenches each 30m long and 2.20m wide were excavated over the site area of 2.33ha, representing a sample of 3.6%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360º tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by

hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.4 Structural analysis

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

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin and Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms to the following guidance: for finds work by CIfA (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 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 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 Microsoft Access database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and so they not included below, or included in the quantifications.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification 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).

3.5.3 Artefact discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (eg worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain such as local production. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

3.6.2 Processing and analysis

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

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. The flots were

scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers et al 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

Animal bone was identified with the aid of modern bone reference collections housed at the Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and identification guides (Schmid 1972 and Hillson 1992).

3.6.3 **Environmental discard policy**

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

4 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.

5 The application site

5.1 **Topography, geology and archaeological context**

The site sits on a region of high ground sat above the steeply sided valley of the River Teme, based on sandstone bedrock geology with frequent tree cover and a pastoral farming practice. Clifton Upon Teme is a Anglo Saxon settlement with a number of Medieval features, characterised by nucleated row settlement and modern expansion. In the wider landscape settlement pattern is principally dispersed isolated farmsteads.

There are 24 listed buildings and 9 unlisted buildings within a 500m radius of the site. These include a number of 17th and 18th century timber-framed buildings such as the Manor House (WSM17064) and Steps Farm (WSM17065) which lie approximately 15m east of the site. Of note is the Lion Hotel (WSM04658), located 300m southeast of the site which began as a manor house in the medieval period, and the St Kenelm medieval church (WSM08048) 50m to its east.

A Roman road (WSM04836) runs along the eastern boundary of the site. There is a late 11th-20th century holloway (WSM08041) located approximately 300m to the south west of the site. 300m southeast of the site are a series of medieval earthworks (WSM21474), west of Church House Farm and 350m southeast of the site is a possible Saxon ecclesiastical centre (WSM17778).

A geophysical survey and desk based assessment (WSM69140 and WSM49792), followed by an ongoing archaeological evaluation (WSM70245) was conducted at Steps Farm at the northern boundary of the site. A geophysical survey (WSM50216) was conducted of land south of Hope Lane, 300m from the site. A desk based assessment (WSM47479) and magnetometer survey (WSM57092) was conducted on land at Church House Farm approximately 400m southeast of the site. At land off Pound Meadow (WSM57129), 500m from the site, Cotswold Archaeology conducted a negative archaeological evaluation and Birmingham Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation and watching brief (WSM48058) in 2009 at Pound Lane, also 500m from the site, but found no archaeology except that associated with field cultivation.

An unstratified find (WSM34418), identified to probably be a 17th-18th century lead token, was located in 2005 in a field 400m northeast of the site in land northeast of Hawthorns, Clifton on Teme. There is a single Portable Antiquities Scheme record of a 14th century thimble found near the site, but with no specified location.

5.2 Current land-use

The site is currently a field under arable cultivation.

6 Results

6.1 Structural analysis

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

6.2 Natural deposits

The natural deposits observed comprised a compact mid greyish pink sandy clay with sandstone bedrock brash, which in areas was shown to overlay laminated sandstone bedrock. Natural was encountered between 0.48m to 0.78m below the ground surface. This was overlain by a subsoil ranging from a greyish-orangey brown, to a greyish pink sandy clay 0.12m to 0.48m deep, and sealed by a soft dark greyish brown clay silt topsoil between 0.22m and 0.4m deep (Plate 1).

6.3 Blank Trenches

No archaeological features were observed in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12.

6.4 Trench 4

At the southern end of Trench 4 were three shallow ditches, aligned on a roughly east to west alignment. As the ditches were running downslope they were assumed to be for drainage. All of the ditches had been heavily truncated, leaving only the bases (Plate 2).

The largest of these [403] had a shallow, concave profile and measured 0.80m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained a single fill mixed fill (404) suggesting it was rapidly and purposeful backfilled. Approximately 1.5m to the north was ditch [405], which ran parallel to [403], suggesting some contemporaneity, or perhaps a re-establishing of this drainage/boundary feature. Ditch [405] also had a shallow, concave profile and was 0.65m wide and 0.14m deep. It had been filled with a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay (406), very similar to the subsoil (401) and contained a single sherd of pottery of 12th to 14th century date.

Cutting both of these ditches was gully [407] which was aligned north east to south west. Very little of this gully survived, other than a shallow concave base, measuring 0.45m wide and 0.08m deep. The friable sandy clay fill (408) contained frequent charcoal flecks but was otherwise sterile.

6.5 Trench 6

Trench 6 contained a single east to west aligned ditch [603], measuring 1.34m wide and 0.44m deep (Plate 3). The ditch had moderate, approximate 45^{o}, concave sides, gradually breaking to a concave base. It contained a single fill (604) which was indistinguishable from the subsoil (601). It was aligned to run downslope, likely acting as drainage.

6.6 Trench 7

In Trench 7 was a mid yellowish-brown sandy clay layer (702), very similar to the subsoil (701) in a large shallow depression. The depression ran downslope on a north west to south east alignment and measured at least 6.50m wide and up to 0.20m deep. It remains unclear if this was of anthropogenic or natural origin, but given the size it is likely to have formed through natural hill wash and erosion, as water ran downslope towards a brook located towards the north west. The layer is however of particular interest as it contained 3 sherds of Roman pottery and a fired clay fragment (possible oven superstructure or fired daub).

Beneath this depression/layer was a north west to south east aligned ditch [704] containing two fills (Fig 3, Plate 4). The ditch measured 2m wide and 0.42m deep and had a steep eastern edge, breaking sharply to an undulating base and a shallow western edge, with an imperceptible break to the base. The basal fill of the ditch (705) was the same as (702), being very similar to the subsoil

(701), the upper fill (706) however, contained frequent small charcoal flecks and frequent angular sandstone blocks. It is possible the latter was in another small cut and that other re-cuts may have been present, however these were not distinguished due to very wet conditions on site during its excavation.

6.7 **Trench 8**

Trench 8 contained a single shallow north east to south west aligned gully [803], which contained a single gleyed yellowish-brown clay fill (804) (Plate 5). The gully had a U-shaped profile and measured 0.51m wide and 0.14m deep. It was the only ditch on site which was not running downslope, but unfortunately remains undated.

6.8 **Trench 9**

Trench 9 contained three ditches and one pit containing an animal burial. Ditches [903] and [905] ran parallel to each other on an east to west alignment approximately 1m apart (Plate 6). Ditch [905] to the north had a V-shaped profile and measured 1.55m wide 0.71m deep and contained two fills (Figure 3). The lower fill (907) comprised re-deposited natural clay formed from the erosion of the ditch edges and the upper fill (906) comprised a dark brown, humic garden loam.

Ditch [903], 1m to the south of [905], was heavily truncated and only the 0.05m base of the 0.70m wide feature remained. It is likely to have been much shallower than [905] as sandstone bedrock outcropped at this location and it is possible rather than continuing to dig through the stone the ditch was kept shallow or even perhaps moved 1m to the north where softer clays were encountered. The ditch contained a similar dark brown garden loam (904) with occasional charcoal flecking.

Approximately 10m to the south was another small ditch [908] on a north east to south alignment. The ditch was heavily truncated and only a shallow concave base survived, which measured 1.40m wide and 0.22m deep. It was filled by (909) a yellowish brown sandy clay indistinguishable from the subsoil (901). All three of the ditches contained pottery of 17th to 18th century date.

At the southern end of the trench a small, pit [910], 0.38m wide and 0.15m in depth and with squared edges and sides, suggesting it has been dug with a spade. The pit contained a dark brown humic garden loam and the partial remains of a juvenile pig burial. Much of the burial had been lost suggesting it had been partially truncated.

6.9 **Trench 11**

Trench 11 contained five ditches and one gully which all appeared to be running downslope on a roughly east to west alignment. The largest of these [1109] and [1113] were directly next to each other (Fig 3, Plate 7). The earliest ditch [1109] was 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep with a rounded V-shaped profile and contained three fills. The basal fill (1110) was 0.34m deep and consisted of re-deposited natural clays that had been deposited from the weathering of the ditch edges. The secondary fill (1111) a yellowish orange sandy clay, similar to some of the subsoils, was 0.24m deep and contained 5 sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery. The upper fill (1112) was a charcoal rich clay, 0.4m in depth. When ditch [1113] was cut to the immediate south, the upper fills of [1109] (1111 and 1112) slumped into the cut of [1113] against its northern edge. Ditch [1113] was then filled by a single fill (1114) similar to (1111) and the subsoils. This ditch had a similar rounded V-shaped profile and measured 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep and is likely to be a re-establishment of the early drainage boundary ditch [1109].

Approximately 5m to the south, but on a similar alignment was ditch [1107] (Plate 8). The ditch had been heavily truncated and only the undulating base of the feature survived, to a depth of 0.13m. It contained a single fill of mixed naturals and subsoils suggesting edge weathering. A similar sized ditch, containing a similar fill was also identified at the northern end of the trench, but this remained unexcavated.

At the southern end of the trench was a gully [1103] and another ditch [1105] which were both aligned east to west (Plate 9). Gully [1103] had a bowl-shaped profile, measured 0.1m deep and contained a single charcoal rich fill containing 9 sherds of pottery dating to the 11th to 14th

centuries. Ditch [1105] was similar to ditch [1107] in size, fill and as it had been heavily truncated to a depth of 0.06m.

6.10 **Trench 13**

Trench 13 contained a small area of fired clay subsoil (1303/1304), which either represents the location of an open fire or the base to an oven like structure. This fired area sat on the surface of the subsoil (1301), was roughly circular in area, and was approximately 0.80m in diameter. Around the north and western sides the subsoil appears to only have been lightly fired to a depth of 2-3cm, which had turned the clay a reddish-orange colour while maintaining its pliability. The south eastern quadrant of the fired area appeared much more heat effected, being much firmer and of a darker brown colour, perhaps representing the focus of the fire.

To the east and west of the fired area were two small lines of sandstone fragments, which appear to have been pushed into the soft subsoil clay. It is thought these may have acted as a wind break, suggesting the feature represents an open fire, rather than an enclosed oven-type structure. Significant quantities of angular sandstone fragments were also located in the subsoil around this feature, to the eastern end of Trench 13. Although sandstone bedrock had cropped out in a number of other trenches this was the only location where it had become mixed with the subsoil to any great degree. This may suggest other stone structure like the wind breaks had existed in this area or that the stone had been collected after ploughing and placed along the edges of the field.

There were no associated environmental deposits which may have indicated the function of the feature and no directly associated artefacts were recovered to date it. Although two fragments of a medieval pot handle were recovered from the subsoil close to this feature and these may imply the feature is of a comparable date.

7 Artefactual analysis, by Laura Griffin and Rob Hedge

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 68 finds weighing 1480g (see Tables 1-3). Level of preservation was fair with pottery sherds displaying moderate levels of surface abrasion but having a below average weight of 7.5g.

The majority of the assemblage was of medieval date but small quantities of Roman, post-medieval and modern material were also present.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	total	weight (g)
Roman	ceramic		pot	3	19
medieval	ceramic		pot	20	132
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	8	88
modern	ceramic		pot	2	8
post-medieval	ceramic		pipe	2	3
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	5	342
modern	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	3	326
post-medieval	ceramic		cbm	1	9
modern	ceramic		cbm	4	117
undated	bone	animal bone		11	41
undated	ceramic	fired clay		1	52
undated	slag	slag(Fe)		2	52
undated	metal	iron	object	1	15

undated	stone	sandstone		5	276

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

7.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been dated and quantified. For the finds from individual features, see Table 3.

Roman
Material of Roman date consisted of three sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) retrieved from context 702, which appeared to be a layer of subsoil which had collected in a wide, natural?, depression. Although undiagnostic, one of the sherds had a nicely tooled cordon, suggesting it to have come from a jar form of mid 1st-2nd century AD production.

Medieval
Material of this period consisted of 20 sherds of pottery. All but two of these sherds were unglazed and sooted, indicating them to be from cooking pot forms. Identifiable fabrics were of local production with 14 sherds being of Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware (fabric 55) and one of unglazed Malvernian ware (fabric 56). None of these sherds were diagnostic and they could, therefore, only be dated to general production span but need not date later than 14th century (Table 3).

In addition, three sherds from a cooking pot of unknown fabric type (fabric 99) were retrieved from a ditch fill (1108), cut [1107]. These included a rim sherd of a folded form typical of a 13th-14th century date.

The only glazed sherds in the assemblage came from a jug or pitcher of oxidised glazed Malvernian ware retrieved from the subsoil of Trench 13 (fabric 69; context 1301).

Post-medieval
All material of post-medieval came from Trench 9 and comprised eight sherds of pottery (contexts 904, 907 and 909), five fragments of flat roof tile and an abraded fragment of undiagnostic ceramic building material (context 904). The pottery included a range of slip-decorated and black-glazed wares of mid 17th-18th century date (fabrics 78 and 91).

Modern
Material of modern date included a fragment of mocha ware (fabric 85; context 907), a base sherd from a creamware plate (fabric 84; context 906), three pieces of roof tile and four fragments of undiagnostic ceramic building material (context 907). None of these finds were considered to date later than the late 18th century.

Undated
A number of finds weren't diagnostic enough to be assigned to a specific period. These included a piece of fired clay (context 702), five fragments of red sandstone building material (context 909), two pieces of iron slag (context 909) and a broken iron nail (context 907). It could be argued that those from Trench 9 are highly likely to be of post-medieval date on the basis of associated finds.

period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	3	19
medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	14	65

medieval	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	1	11
medieval	69	oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	2	40
medieval	99	miscellaneous medieval wares	3	16
post-medieval	78	post-medieval red ware	6	57
post-medieval	91	post-medieval buff wares	2	31
modern	84	creamware	1	7
modern	85	modern china	1	1

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	start date	end date	Finds TPQ
406	ceramic		pot	1	11	12C	14C	12-14C
702	ceramic		pot	3	19	M1C	4C	Roman
702	ceramic	fired clay		1	52			
904	ceramic		pot	3	20	L17C	18C	M-L18C
904	ceramic		pot	1	8	M17C	18C	
904	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	5	342		18C	
904	ceramic		cbm	1	9			
904	ceramic		pot	1	7	M17C	18C	
906	ceramic		pot	1	24		17C	18C
906	ceramic		pot	1	5	M17C	18C	
906	ceramic		pot	1	1		18C	
906	ceramic		pipe	2	3			
906	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	3	326	18C	20C	
906	ceramic		cbm	4	117			
906	metal	iron	object	1	15			
907	ceramic		pot	1	7	M18C	L18C	M-L18C
909	ceramic		pot	1	24	M17C	18C	M17-18C
909	slag	slag(Fe)	slag	2	52			
909	stone	sandstone		5	276			
1104	ceramic		pot	9	22	L11C	M14C	M14C
1108	ceramic		pot	3	16	13C	14C	13-14C
1111	ceramic		pot	5	43	L11C	M14C	M14C
1301	ceramic		pot	2	40	13C	15C	medieval

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

7.1.1 **Significance**

The finds assemblage is consistent with those previously excavated from Clifton-upon-Teme and the surrounding area, both in terms of dating and range of finds retrieved.

7.1.2 **Recommendations**

No further work required.

7.2 **Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson**

A total of seven samples (each of up to 40 litres) were taken from the site (Table 4). The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
406	5	Ditch		medieval	10	10	Yes	Yes
408	6	Gully	407	medieval	10	10	Yes	Yes
604	4	Ditch	603	undated	10	10	Yes	Yes
706	7	Ditch	704	Roman	20	10	Yes	Yes
1104	1	Gully	1103	medieval	40	10	Yes	Yes
1112	2	Ditch	1109	medieval	20	10	Yes	Yes
1114	3	Ditch	1113	Medieval	20	10	Yes	Yes

Table 4: List of bulk samples

7.2.1 **Hand-collected animal bone**

A total of 11 fragments (41g) of juvenile pig were recovered from the fill (911) of an undated pit [910].

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

7.2.2 **Charred plant remains**

Roman?
Only occasional charred grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing) and seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) were recorded from the fill (706) of ditch [704]. As free-threshing wheat is more common in deposits of mid-Saxon date or later, and was found in several samples of medieval date, it is thought that although the ditch is sealed by a Roman layer (702) the ditch itself is probably medieval in date and the sealing material may have sealed the ditch via hill wash. A small quantity of large mammal bone was also recovered from the sample residue of (706).

Medieval
Abundant charred cereal crop waste, consisting of mostly free-threshing wheat grain in association with small quantities of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), wild or cultivated oat (*Avena* sp) and unidentified grass grains (Poaceae sp indet) were recorded from fill (1112) of ditch [1119].

Similar remains were moderately abundant in fill (1114) of ditch [1113], whilst only occasional charred cereal grains were identified from fills (406 and 408) of a ditch and gully [407] respectively. In the former case, club wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*), a type of free-threshing wheat, was recorded.

This waste is likely to derive from the parching of cereal crops, prior to processing or milling, in hearths or kilns that functioned as corn dryers, the waste having been discarded into ditches and gullies. However, it could also represent waste spilled onto domestic hearths from the use of cereal grains in pottage. The presence of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) suggests the cultivation of crops on the heavy clay soils of the area.

A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered from the sample residue of fill (1114) of ditch [1113] and a single small mollusc from fill (408) of gully [407].

Undated
Occasional grains of charred free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing), unidentified grass (Poaceae sp indet) and seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) were recorded from fill (604) of ditch [603]. As these remains are consistent with a mid-Saxon or later date, it is thought that this deposit is likely to be contemporary with those dated to the medieval period by pottery (above).

context	sample	large mammal	mollusc	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
406	5			occ	occ	occ*	occ pot,
408	6		occ	occ	occ	mod*	
604	4			mod	mod	mod*	occ shell ?
706	7	occ		occ	occ	occ*	
1104	1	occ		occ	occ	mod*	occ pot,
1112	2			occ	abt	occ*	occ glass,
1114	3			occ	mod	abt*	

*Table 2: Summary of environmental samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive*

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
406	5	?wa*	*Chenopodium*/*Atriplex* sp	seed	+/low	
406	5	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
406	5	ch	*Triticum aestivo-compactum* grain, *Triticum* sp tail grain	grain	+/low	moderate preservation
408	6	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	
408	6	ch	Poaceae sp indet grain	grain	+/low	poorly preserved
604	4	?wa*	*Atriplex* sp	seed	+/low	
604	4	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	

604	4	ch	*Anthemis cotula*	seed	+/low	
604	4	ch	*Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain	grain	+/low	
706	7	?wa*	*Rubus* sp	seed	+/low	
706	7	ch	*Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain	grain	+/low	
706	7	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
1104	1	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	probably modern and intrusive
1104	1	?wa*	*Chenopodium album*	seed	+/low	probably modern and intrusive
1104	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
1112	2	?wa*	*Chenopodium album*	seed	+/low	
1112	2	ch	*Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain, *Hordeum vulgare* grain (hulled), *Avena* sp grain, Poaceae sp indet grain	grain	+++/low	Mostly free-threshing wheat
1112	2	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	
1114	3	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	
1114	3	ch	*Triticum* sp (free-threshing) grain, *Avena* sp grain, Poaceae sp indet grain	grain	++/low	Mostly free-threshing wheat

Table 3: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++ = 11- 50
	+++ = 51 - 100
	* = probably modern and intrusive

7.2.3 **Discussion**

The presence of moderate to abundant charred cereal crop waste is of significance as following a search of the Archaeological Data Service Grey Literature Library (ADS 2018), no contemporary deposits of similar composition could be found for the Teme valley locality. However, little development, and hence excavation, has been undertaken in the area. It is not certain whether the cereal crop remains were cultivated on site or brought in from elsewhere as there was little chaff waste present (a component more likely to be present on a producer site). The relative importance of arable agriculture compared to pastoral or woodland landscape is unclear, but is of interest for this area.

The site lies within a large area in western Worcestershire which has been historically dominated by dispersed settlement and enclosed fields within a landscape of ancient woodland character. The information recovered from these samples demonstrates the potential to gain more insight into the relative importance of arable, pastoral and woodland components of the landscape, as described above.

7.2.4 **Significance**

The environmental remains recovered during evaluation are of local significance as they highlight the potential to recover charred cereal crop remains of value for interpreting the arable economy, should further fieldwork, be carried out on this site. However, animal bone survival is likely to be poor as the only bone hand-collected during fieldwork was an undated juvenile pig burial in a pit and limited quantities from sample residues.

8 Synthesis

8.1 **Roman**

The earliest deposit on site was layer (702) which lay in a depression running downslope on a north east to south west alignment. This contained a small number of Roman pottery sherds and a fragment of fired clay (possibly oven structure or daub). The layer was indistinguishable from the subsoil and as the ditch below [704] appeared to contain a later (Saxon or medieval) charred grain assemblage it suggests that this layer is re-deposited. It is possible that the depression was cut by water running downslope and naturally infilling with colluvium containing re-deposited Roman pottery. It does however suggest that there is some limited roman activity in the vicinity, although no other features were dated to this period.

8.2 **Medieval**

The majority of the dated ditches and gullies on site are of the medieval period, between the 11th to 14th centuries. The majority of these appear to be running downslope and may just be field boundary ditches also acting as drainage ditches for this heavy clay site. No larger ditches were identified running against the slope of the field to suggest the ditches identified turned direction to form enclosures or smaller fields. It is also possible that ditches [1109/1113], [704] and [603] are in fact the same boundary ditch running the width of the field, taking rain water downslope to reduce plough soil runoff. Other comparable boundary/drainage ditches were also located towards the southern end of Trench 4.

However there was enough pottery and charred grain in features in Trenches 7 and 11 specifically to suggest there may have been some small scale settlement/activity in that area, although this is difficult to confirm given the lack of structural features. However the small charcoal rich gully [1103], which also contained medieval pottery is too small to have acted as a boundary/drainage feature and is more akin to a beam slot of a possible structure.

The fire pit located at the top of the field, in the eastern end of Trench 13 is also tentatively dated to the medieval period and suggests there is more direct settlement/activity evidence located in that area. The stone used as a wind break around the fire was common in this area and may indicate other small structures may be present in that area.

The similarly aligned, heavily truncated ditches in Trench 11 (1105, 1107 and an unexcavated ditch) were so truncated it is thought that they may be the remains of ridge and furrow.

8.3 **Post medieval and modern**

It is likely both ditches [903] and [905] form the field boundary to a small parcel of land located in this corner of the site, which is visible on the 1st edition (1884) OS mapping and remains visible on aerial photography until 1963. It had been suggested on site (the landowner *pers comm)* that this area formed the kitchen garden to the original Steps Farm house, located directly over the road. This farmhouse is of 17th century origin, a date which compares well to the artefacts recovered from the features in that area.

9 Significance

9.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The significance of the site is difficult to quantify. The ditches and features located in Trench 9 are of comparable date to the Steps Farm house and it is likely they reflect the boundary to and activity within the associated garden and are of less importance or interest.

The remaining site is however less straightforward, on face value it appears that the majority of the features simply reflect boundary/drainage ditches running downslope. However the presence of Roman pottery in Trench 7 and the number of ditches and gullies in Trench 11 with associated medieval artefacts suggests that there may be some low level settlement or activity in that area. The presence of a medieval fire pit to the east of Trench 13 also suggests there may be some low level settlement/activity in that area too. The lack of associated structural remains other than a possible beam slot [1103] may suggest this was small scale or brief.

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 Sundip Shihn of BP 2015 (HCT) LLP at Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire (NGR SO 71139 61883); HER ref WSM 70245). Although evaluation identified some re-deposited Roman pottery sherds indicative of some small scale local settlement/activity the majority of the features identified were of medieval date. The majority of these are thought to be field boundaries and drainage ditches although the quantity of finds and the presence of moderate amounts of charred grain suggests that there was probably some medieval settlement/activity very close by. This is also supported by the presence of a probable medieval fire pit or oven towards the edge of the evaluation area. A number post-medieval field boundaries are thought to define the kitchen garden of the former farm house, constructed in the 17th century.

11 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Aidan Smyth, Malvern District Council and Dan Drage of MSquare Architects.

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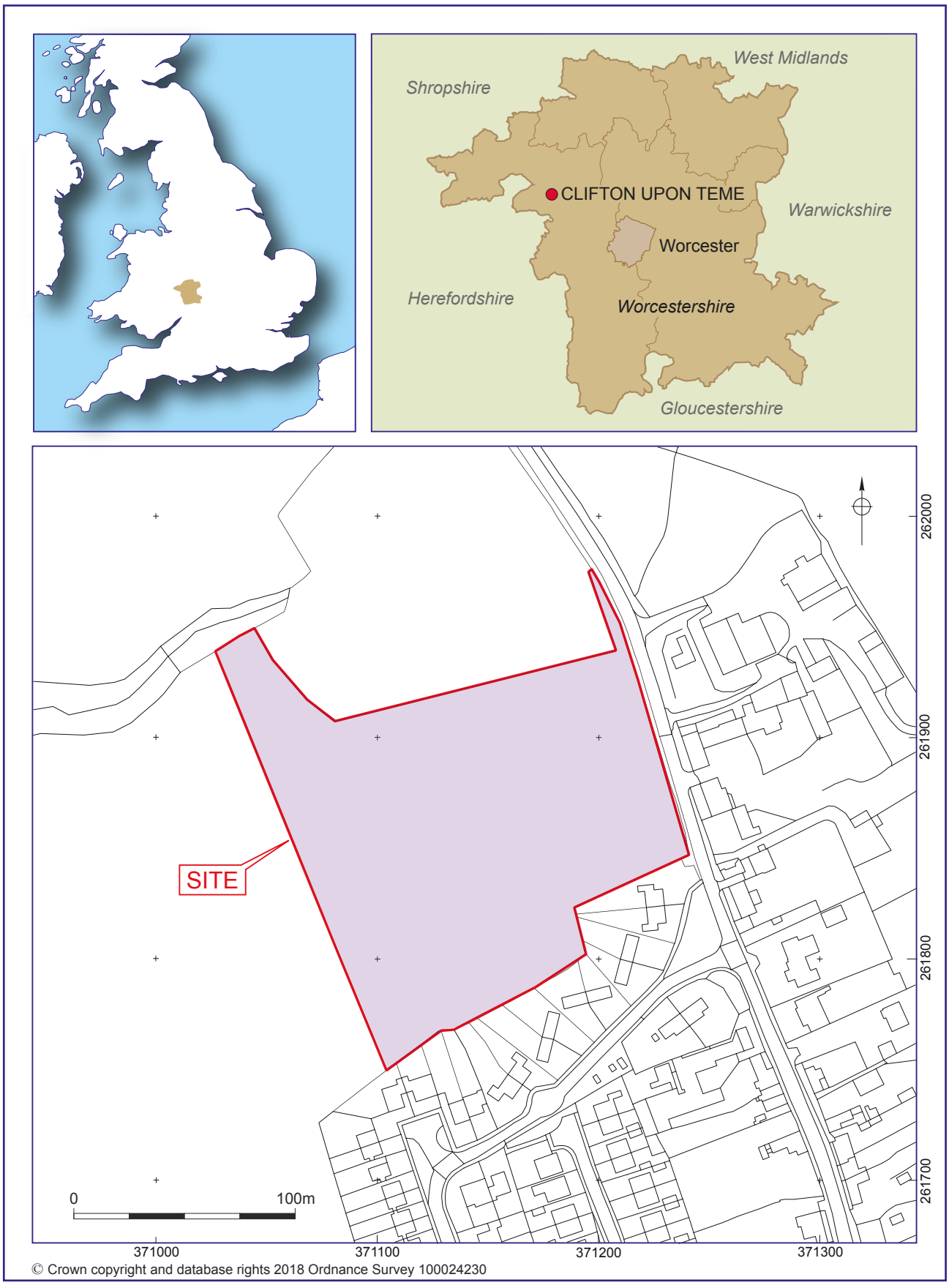
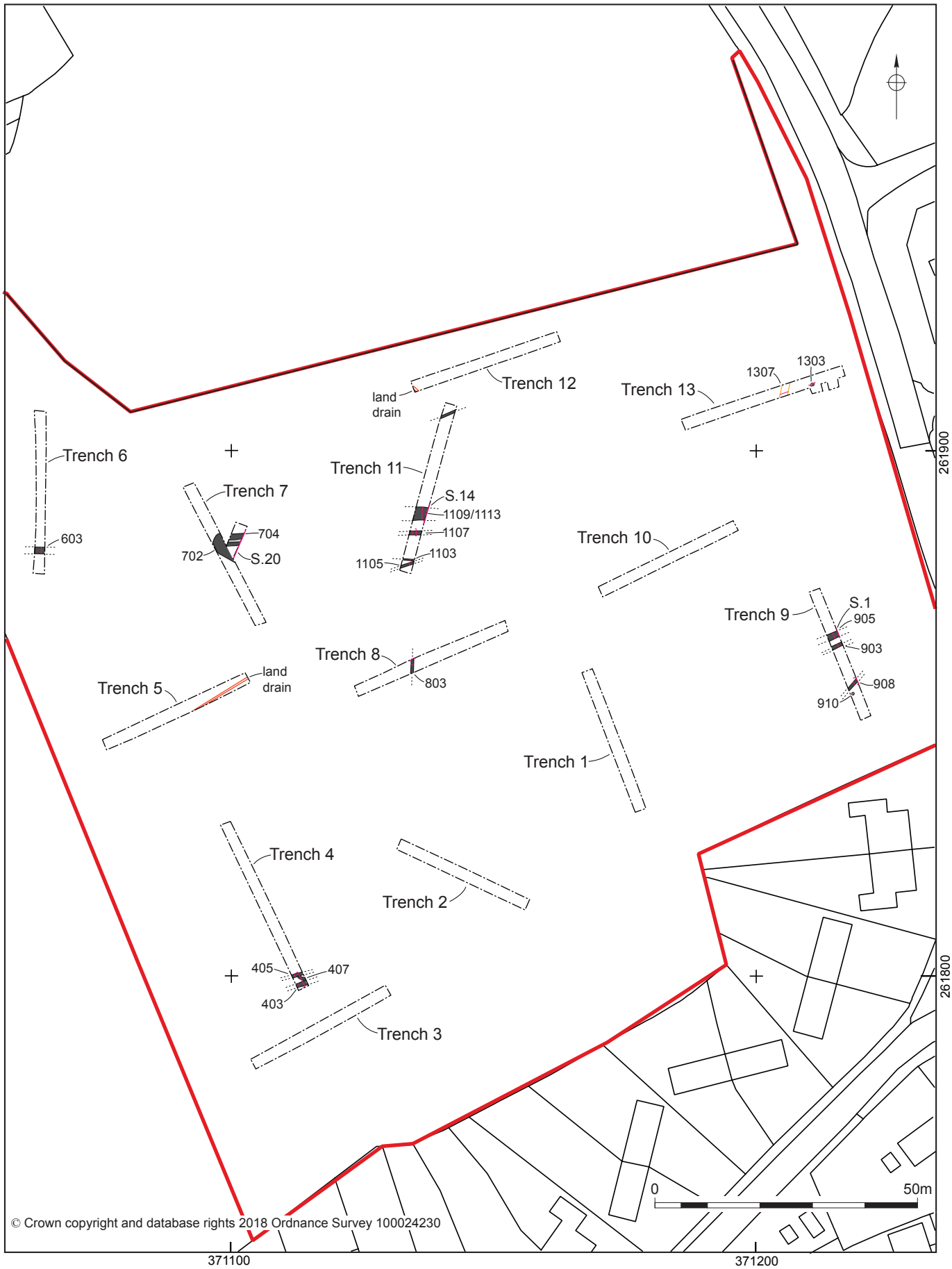
Figures



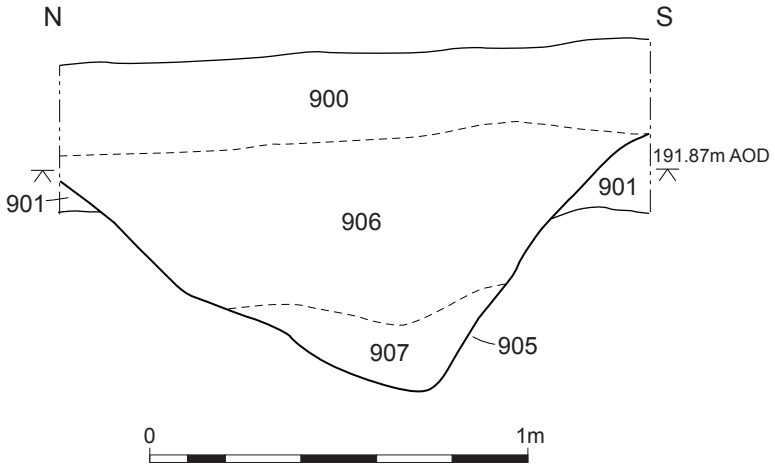
Location of the site *Figure 1*



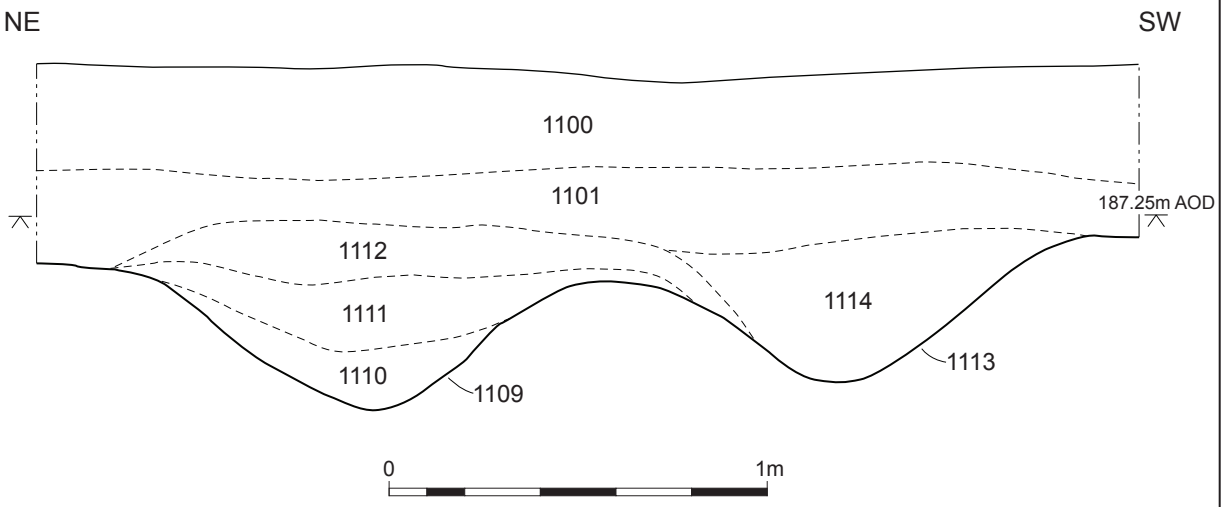
Trench location plan

Figure 2

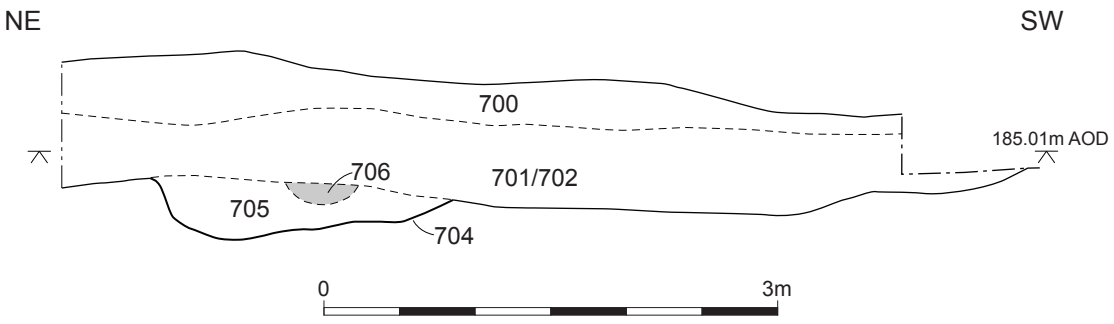
SECTION 1: DITCH 905



SECTION 14: DITCHES 1109 AND 1113



SECTION 20: DITCH 704 AND LAYER 702



Sections *Figure 3*

Plates

Plate 1: Typical soil profile across the site. 0.50m scale.

Plate 2: Ditches 405 (left), 407 (middle) and 403 (right), facing east, 0.5m and 0.3m scales.

Plate 3: Ditch [603], facing east, 1m scale.

Plate 4: Ditch [704], facing south east, 1m scale.

Plate 5: Gully [803], facing north, 0.5m scale.

Plate 6: Ditches [605] left and [603] right, facing east, 1m scales.

Plate 7: Ditches [1109] left and [1113] right, facing east, 1m scales.

Plate 8: Ditch [1107] facing east, 1m scale.

Plate 9: Gully [1103] left and ditch [1105] facing east, 0.3m and 0.5m scales.

Plate 10: Fired clay area (1303/1304), facing south, 1m scales.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
101	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.20m	Soft greyish brown silty
102	Natural	Layer	Natural	0.1m	Moderately compact greyish pink sandy clay

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.20m	Soft greyish brown clay
202	Natural	Layer	Natural	0.01m	Moderately compact greyish brown sandy clay

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.40m	Soft greyish brown clay
301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.26m	Moderately compact pinky red silty clay
302	Natural	Layer	Natural		Hard pinky red sandy silt

Trench 4

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
400	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.34m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
401	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.38m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
402	Natural	Layer	Natural	0.01m	Moderately Compact greyish Pink silty clay
403	Ditch	Cut	Field boundary or drainage ditch	0.24m	
404	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 403	0.24m	Firm greyish brown sandy clay.
405	Ditch	Cut	Field boundary or drainage ditch.	0.14m	
406	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 405	0.14m	Firm yellowish brown sandy clay
407	Gully	Cut	Cut of gully.	0.08m	
408	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully 407.	0.08m	Firm greyish brown sandy clay

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
500	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.40m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
501	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.38m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
502	Natural	Layer	Natural.		Compact red sandy clay

Trench 6

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
600	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.42m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
601	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.24m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
602	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact red sandy clay
603	Ditch	Cut	Cut of field boundary ditch	0.44m	
604	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 603	0.44m	orangey yellow sandy

Trench 7

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
700	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
701	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.48m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
702	Subsoil	Layer	Layer in depression		Firm yellowish brown sandy clay
703	Natural	Layer	Natural		Moderately compact greyish Pink sandy clay
704	Ditch	Cut	Cut of probable drainage ditch	0.42m	
705	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 704.	0.42m	Firm yellowish brown sandy clay
706	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 704. May represent another cut	0.16m	Firm greyish brown sandy clay

.

Trench 8

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
800	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
801	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.30m	Compact yellowish Pink sandy clay
802	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact red sandy clay
803	Ditch	Cut	Cut of gully	0.14m	
804	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully 803	0.14m	Moderately compact brownish yellow sandy clay

Trench 9

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
900	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.24m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
901	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.28m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
902	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact red clay
903	Ditch	Cut	Garden boundary ditch Visible on 1st edition OS mapping	0.05m	
904	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 903	0.05m	Friable greyish brown silt loam
905	Ditch	Cut	Ditch defining garden plot to old farm house across the road and visible on 1st edition OS	0.71m	
906	Ditch	Fill	Humic garden soil; upper fill of ditch 905	0.54m	Soft greyish brown silt
907	Ditch	Fill	Lower fill of ditch 905	0.28m	Brownish orange sandy clay
908	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.22m	
909	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 909	0.22m	Soft yellowish brown sandy clay
910	Pit	Cut	Post-med burial pit.	0.15m	
911	Pit	Fill	Juvenile animal/ pet burial	0.15m	Soft greyish brown loam

Trench 10

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.32m	Loose greyish brown clay silt
1001	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.36m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
1002	Natural	Layer	Natural		Compact reddish grey clay

Trench 11

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m	Loose greyish brown silty clay
1101	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.12m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
1102	Natural	Layer	Natural	0.1m	Compact reddish grey clay
1103	Gully	Cut	Cut of shallow gully.	0.1m	
1104	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully 1103	0.1m	Compact blackish brown Silty clay
1105	Gully	Cut	Cut of drainage gully	0.6m	
1106	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully 1105	0.6m	Compact orangey brown silty clay
1107	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.13m	
1108	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 1107	0.13m	Compact yellowish grey silty clay
1109	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.60m	
1110	Ditch	Fill	Slumping into ditch 1109	0.34m	Firm pinky orange sandy clay
1111	Ditch	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 1109.	0.24m	Firm yellowish orange sandy clay
1112	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 1113	0.30m	Firm yellowish grey sandy clay.
1113	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.40m	

1114	Ditch	Fill	Fill of ditch 113	0.40m	Firm pinky orange sandy clay

Trench 12

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.22m	Loose greyish brown silty clay
1201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.27m	Soft greyish brown silty
1202	Natural	Layer	Natural		Moderately compact reddish grey clay

Trench 13

Length: 30m Width: 2.2m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
1300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.26m	Loose greyish brown silty clay
1301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.24m	Soft greyish brown sandy clay
1302	Natural	Layer	Natural		Moderately compact reddish grey clay
1303	Oven	Layer	Lightly fired oven base	0.05m	Orange subsoil
1304	Oven	Layer	Moderately fired oven base.		Moderately compact greyish black subsoil
1305	Unknown	Structure	Possible wind break on eastern side of oven base 1303 and 1304 Formed from laminated green sandstone fragments.	0.04m	
1306	Unknown	Structure	Possible wind break on western side of oven base 1303 and 1304. Formed from laminated green sandstone	0.35m	
1307		Layer	Clay spread	0.05m	Compact pinky grey silty clay

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70245)

The archive consists of:

39	Context records AS1
2	Photographic records
89	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
20	Scale drawings
1	Sample records AS17
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
7	Flot records AS21
13	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)
1	Bag of sorted remains from residues and flots

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 70245 (event HER number)

P5258

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	material sub-type	object specific type	start date	end date	Count	weight (g)	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
Roman	ceramic		pot	43	400	3	19	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	1100	1399	1	11	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	1200	1399	3	16	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	1200	1499	2	40	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	1075	1350	14	65	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic		pipe			2	3	N	N
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1600	1699	1	24	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1675	1799	3	20	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1650	1799	4	44	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile(flat)	1475	1799	5	342	N	N
post-medieval	ceramic		cbm			1	9	N	N
modern	ceramic		pot	1750	1799	2	8	Y	N
modern	ceramic		roof tile(flat)			3	326	N	N
modern	ceramic		cbm			4	117	N	N
undated	ceramic	fired clay		0	0	1	52	N	N
undated	metal	iron	object	0	0	1	15	N	N
undated	slag	slag(Fe)	slag	0	0	2	52	N	N
undated	stone	sandstone	tile	0	0	5	276	N	N

Environmental

Methods of retrieval	Yes/No
Hand retrieval	Yes
Bulk sample	Yes
Spot sample	
Auger	
Monolith	
Observed	

Type	Preservation	Date (note 1)	Specialist report? Y/N (note 2)	Key assemblage? Y/N (note 3)
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	Roman	No	No
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	medieval	No	No
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	undated	No	No
Plant remains – macrofossils	Charred	Roman	Yes	Yes

Plant remains – macrofossils	Charred	Medieval	Yes	Yes
Plant remains – wood	Charred	Roman	No	No
Plant remains – wood	Charred	Medieval	No	No