

Archaeological evaluation at Land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Status: Version 2 (final)
Date: 1st June 2018
Author: Tim Cornah tcornah@worcestershire.gov.uk
Contributors: Laura Griffin and Elizabeth Pearson
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt chunt@worcestershire.gov.uk
Project reference: P5309
Report reference: 2562
Oasis id: fieldsec1-317158

Contents

Summary

1

Report

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt	1
1 Background.....	2
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
2 Aims.....	2
3 Methods.....	2
3.1 Personnel.....	2
3.2 Documentary research	2
3.3 List of sources consulted	2
3.4 Fieldwork strategy	3
3.5 Structural analysis	3
3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin	3
3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy.....	3
3.6.2 Method of analysis.....	3
3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson.....	4
3.7.1 Sampling policy.....	4
3.7.2 Processing and analysis	4
3.7.3 Discard policy	4
3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results	4
4 The application site	4
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	4
4.2 Current land-use	5
5 Results	5
5.1 Structural analysis	5
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	5
5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits	5
5.1.3 Phase 3: Medieval deposits	5
5.1.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits	6
5.1.5 Phase 5: Modern deposits	6
6 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin.....	6
6.1 Significance.....	7
6.2 Recommendations	7
7 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson	7
7.1 Discussion.....	8
7.2 Significance.....	9
8 Synthesis	9
8.1 Research frameworks	10
9 Significance and impact of the development	10
10 Publication summary	10
11 Acknowledgements	11
12 Bibliography	11

Archaeological evaluation at land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire

Tim Cornah

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire (NGR 407808 246395). It was undertaken for Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting (the Consultant), who is acting on behalf of Robert Hitchens Limited (the Client) who propose a residential development of the site for which a planning application will be submitted.

The site lies on the northern side of the settlement of South Littleton and to the west of the suggested position of a former medieval manor house. Three trenches were excavated on the 0.3 hectare site and were placed in order to investigate features identified from Lidar data.

A number of medieval features were identified including two pits, a ditch and a wall of that date. The latter may be part of a building and an anomalous feature was a large undated ditch with which had fills consistent with long term water logging that may relate to the moat to the east. A number of further undated features such as gullies remained, as well as post-medieval drainage features.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire (NGR 407808 246395). It was completed at the request of Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting (the Consultant), who is acting on behalf of Robert Hitchens Limited (the Client) who propose a residential development of the site for which a planning application will be submitted.

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

No brief was prepared for the project, though the works conformed to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Aiden Smyth, the Archaeological Advisor to the Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils (the Curator). A detailed specification was produced (WA 2018).

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

2 Aims

The aim of the Project is to:

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

The objectives of the Project are 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 Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2003, assisted by Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc; MCIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA), Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA), contributed the environmental report, Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

The background to the site has been previously collated within a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site (CgMs 2017). The results of this are summarised below (Section 4.1).

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

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1814 Tithe Map of the Littletons
- 1885 Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2500
- 1971 Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2500

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

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

Fieldwork was undertaken between the 8th and 9th of May 2018. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5309.

Three trenches, amounting to just over 110m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 0.3ha, representing a sample of approximately 3%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 1. Two trenches had been planned originally but the northernmost trench had to be split into two in order to avoid an active water course.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.5 Structural analysis

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

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

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

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.6.2 Method of analysis

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. This date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were scanned and appeared consistent with the rest of the assemblage. However, none were worth of further comment and so are not included below, nor included in the quantification tables (Tables 1 and 2).

For the purposes of this report, pottery has not been quantified according to specific fabric type. However, where mentioned, fabric types are classified according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

3.6.3 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.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.7.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of two samples (each of 20 litres) were taken from the site (Table 3).

3.7.2 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 quantified according to count and weight (g) by context. A total of 4 fragments (85g) was recovered, one fragment of which was recovered from a medieval ditch.

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

3.7.3 Discard policy

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

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The following background within this section is taken and summarised from the DBA prepared by the Consultant (CgMs 2017).

The study site is located on the northern side of South Littleton, c. 4.8km north-east of the centre of Evesham and 140m to the west of the Cleeve Brook which runs north to south from North Littleton and through South Littleton.

The topography of the site is relatively flat at a height of approximately 35m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The solid geology of the study site comprises mudstone and limestone (interbedded) of the Wilmcote Limestone Member. No superficial geology is identified.

The evidence recovered highlights the occupation and use of the landscape surrounding South Littleton from at least the Neolithic period onwards. Especially pertinent to the site is the suggested former moated medieval manor house to the east of Manor Farm (HER WSM02802). The moat is suggested to have been fed from Cleeve Brook. The site is suggested to be within the bounds of the wider medieval settlement of South Littleton and therefore was considered to have a moderate potential for previously undiscovered medieval and post-medieval/early modern evidence relating to former settlement and associated land division, with a low potential being identified for all other periods.

4.2 Current land-use

The site was in pastoral use at the time of the evaluation.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 1-4. The results of the structural analysis are described below and in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits (102, 203 and 303) consisted of compact mid orangey yellow silty clays (Plates 1 and 2).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

Within Trenches 2 and 3, a lower subsoil deposit was observed (202 and 302) which consisted of moderately compact light greyish brown clayey silt. No dating was recovered from this, though it pre-dated Phase 3 features.

Within Trench 1, a large cut feature aligned broadly east-west was present [103] (Plate 3). This measured 7.60m in width and was half excavated to a depth of 1.4, with the base not being reached for reasons of safety. No dating was recovered from within it and it was not possible to record the feature in detail. Its fills (104 and 105) were gleyed clay deposits consistent with the prolonged presence of water within the feature.

A small gully aligned north-east to south-west was also present in Trench 1 [106]. This was 0.46m in width and 0.11m deep. It was not clear in section from which level this feature was cut from. The same was true of a further small gully in Trench 2 [204] which was aligned north-south and was 0.32m wide and 0.06m deep (Plates 4 and 5).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Medieval deposits

Within Trench 1, two intercutting pits were present [113 and 111] from which material of 12th to 14th century date was recovered (Plate 6). These are likely to have been refuse pits and measured up to 1.3m in length and up to 0.70m in depth.

Within Trench 2 a stone built structure was present (Plate 7). This was constructed in two phases (210 and 209), with the later probably being a rebuild of the collapsed earlier structure. Overlying these was a substantial demolition rubble deposit (208) which contained pottery of 13th to 16th century date.

The rebuild (209) consisted of up to five courses of laid limestone to a depth of 0.28m in total. The earlier structure (210) was on a subtly different alignment though this may not be a significant change and little of this survived within the trench with only up to two courses remaining. The two phases together made up a wall 0.78m wide and greater than 1.60m long.

This wall clearly ended at the point that it slumped into the fills of an earlier ditch [212] (Plate 7). This ditch was aligned north-west to south-east and filled by deposits (207 and 211) with demolition rubble (208) between the two.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits

Three stone-filled drainage features were present in Trench 1. Of these, two [115 and 121] consisted of stone packed within the base of a linear cut feature with the third [108] having been more carefully constructed and consisting of a drainage channel capped by flat stones. A similar feature to the latter was present in Trench 2 [213] though without the gully under the stones at its base. As the cut of this feature was vague, a relationship to walls (209 or 210) cannot currently be discounted. Other than the latter, for which as noted the relationship was not clear, the drainage features cut the subsoil deposits (101, 201 and 301) which consisted of moderately compact light greyish brown clayey silts and extended for a depth of up to 0.18m.

5.1.5 Phase 5: Modern deposits

Topsoil deposits (100, 200 and 300) consisted of moderately compact mid-greyish brown clayey silts and extended for a depth of up to 0.32m. A modern cut feature was also present in Trench 1 [121].

6 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 26 finds weighing 421g (see Tables 1 and 2). Level of preservation was good with pottery sherds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and having an above average weight of 11.4g. All datable material was medieval.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic		pot	19	217
medieval	ceramic		ridge tile	3	136
undated	ceramic	fired clay		2	32
undated	metal	iron	object	2	36

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Summary of artefactual evidence by period

Medieval

Material of this period consisted of 19 sherds of pottery and three fragments of a decorative ridge tile.

The majority of pottery retrieved was unglazed and identified as locally produced Evesham unglazed micaceous ware (fabric 148.1) jar forms. Diagnostic sherds consisted of two club rims, one of which had thumbled decoration (context 112). A number of these sherds were sooted and/or smoke-blackened, indicating them to have been used as cooking pots. Vessels of this fabric type are commonly of 12th – early 14th century date.

A further unglazed sherd of unknown fabric type (fabric 99) was retrieved from context 117. The sherd was oxidised and had distinctive inclusions, including large flakes of mica and common white/off-white sub-angular quartz. The external surface appeared to have been wiped.

Remaining sherds were glazed. These included six adjoining fragments of a highly-fired, almost overfired, reduced fabric with a dark olive green glaze (context 208). The sherds were thought to be from a pitcher of 12th – early 13th century date and were further decorated with incised grooves running in a band around the body. The highly sandy fabric of these sherds was reminiscent of Worcester-type sandy glazed wares (fabric 64.1), although occasional black, slag-like inclusions not observed in Worcester products were also visible. It is therefore

possible that these inclusions indicate different production source or that the aforementioned high-firing has changed the appearance of some inclusions.

The remaining sherd was an undiagnostic body fragment of Southern white ware dated 15th – 16th century (fabric 70.2; context 117).

The ridge tile was of Malvernian production and decorated with a short knob and speckled green glaze. Tiles of this fabric and decorative style are typically long-lived, with production spanning the early 13th – 16th centuries.

Undated

A number of finds weren't diagnostic enough to be assigned to a specific period. These included two fragments of fired clay (context 107) and two highly corroded iron objects (contexts 114 and 211). The latter of these was thought to be a nail or two nails adhered together by corrosion. The other was unidentifiable but long, narrow and flat and possibly hooked over at the end. Radiography of this object would aid identification.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	finds TPQ
107	ceramic	fired clay		2	32			
112	ceramic		pot	8	42	12C	E14C	12-E14C
114	ceramic		pot	2	18	12C	E14C	12-E14C
114	metal	Iron	object	1	29			
117	ceramic		pot	1	5	15C	16C	15-16C
117	ceramic		pot	1	18	12C	E14C	
117	ceramic		pot	1	48			
208	ceramic		ridge tile	3	136	13C	16C	13-16C
208	ceramic		pot	6	86	12C	E13C	
211	metal	Iron	object	1	7			

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6.1 Significance

The artefactual assemblage retrieved is consistent with what is known about the site and indicates domestic activity in the vicinity throughout the medieval period.

6.2 Recommendations

Should there be a further stage of archaeological investigation, full analysis of the assemblage should be undertaken.

7 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

Results are summarised in Tables 3-5.

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.

Medieval

Charred cereal grains were moderately abundant in fill (114) of pit [113], consisting of mainly free-threshing wheat, which included some club wheat (*Triticum aestivo-compactum*), occasional hulled

barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp) grains. These represent cleaned and processed crop material likely to have been accidentally charred during parching prior to storage or cooking. This type of composition, dominated by free-threshing wheat is characteristic of cereal crop residue in medieval deposits.

A small amount of charred hazelnut shell fragments were also noted, alongside small fragments of alder/hornbeam/hazel and other non-oak charcoal and mollusc remains.

Environmental remains were poorly preserved in fill (211) of ditch [212], consisting of only a single identifiable free-threshing wheat grain and occasional molluscs.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
114	1	Pit	113	Medieval	20	20	Yes	Yes
211	2	Ditch	212	Medieval	20	20	Yes	Yes

Table 3: List of bulk samples

context	material class	material subtype	count	weight(g)	Feature type	Period
112	bone	animal bone	1	2		
117	bone	animal bone	1	5		
208	bone	animal bone	1	75		
211	bone	animal bone	1	3	Ditch	Medieval

Table 4: Hand-collected animal bone

context	sample	large mammal	small mammal	fish	mollusc	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
114	1	occ	occ	occ?	occ	mod	mod/abt	occ*	occ pot, Fe objects, burnt stone, mod fired clay, Fe slag
211	2	occ			occ	occ	occ	occ*	occ wood

Table 5: Summary of environmental samples

occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive

7.1 Discussion

The presence of relatively abundant charred cereal grain in a medieval pit would be consistent with a location where the soils are fertile and arable in character today. Should further excavation be carried out on this site, these results show the potential for recovering charred cereal crop remains which may provide information on the arable economy of the site. Mollusc remains may also aid interpretation of the local environment in the vicinity, although large samples of at least 40 litres would need to be recovered.

7.2 Significance

The environmental assessment has demonstrated the potential for assemblages of charred plant remains of significance for interpreting medieval agriculture, potentially supported by molluscan evidence.

context	sample	Preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
114	1	ch	<i>Triticum aestivo-compactum</i> grain, <i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> grain (hulled), <i>Avena</i> sp grain	grain	++/+++/ low	Mostly free-threshing wheat
114	1			molluscs	+/low	Mostly <i>Cochlicopa</i> ?
114	1	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
114	1	ch	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragment, <i>Alnus/Carpinus/Corylus</i> sp wood, unidentified wood fragments, non-oak wood	misc	+/low	
211	2	ch	<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	grain	+/low	
211	2			molluscs		
211	2	?wa*	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	

Env Table 5: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

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

8 Synthesis

The primary interest in the site lies with the deposits and features of medieval date. These comprised a wall structure, a ditch into which this wall had slumped and two pits. It is likely that the substantial ditch within Trench 1 also relates to this period but this remains subject to further investigation as it is as yet undated.

The two ditches are likely to have formed boundaries, though the character of the larger east-west aligned ditch is distinctly more substantial and well beyond the requirements for simple drainage or marking out a plot. The possibility that this feature is related to the former moat to the east must be considered, though its extent is unclear. To the west of the trench, the site topography suggests it turned to run in a northerly direction under the extant fence line and no sign of it returning to run east-west was present within Trenches 2 or 3.

If it did bound this part of the site, the wall within Trench 2 would be within the enclosed area. The character of this wall remains unclear, though it clearly ended at the northern of the two ditches and had two phases of construction. The topography of the site is raised at the point of this wall and this raised area visibly continues to both the west and south of the trench, suggesting the possibility of a building platform, though this platform is partially created by the ditch along its

northern limit. It is possible that this wall was a plot boundary, however, the character of the wall and the amount of rubble present would suggest it was fairly substantial while the presence of roof (ridge) tile also indicates the presence of a building.

The two pits within Trench 1 would have been outside of this suggested bounded area but provide further indicators of medieval activity in the area in the form of refuse disposal.

8.1 Research frameworks

The evidence from the site indicates that medieval occupation is probably represented and this may be associated with the moated manor, known to the east of the site. Moated manors are a well-recognised site type in the West Midlands though few have been extensively excavated. Whether this site is indeed part of such a complex or is simply associated with the wider pattern of medieval settlement at South Littleton can only be answered by further investigation, though it has been noted that the wider setting of these monuments remains under studied, with the focus being on the moated areas (Watt 2011). This site therefore has potential to elucidate this area of study.

9 Significance and impact of the development

The primary interest in the site is within the deposits and features of medieval date, this being the wall structure, the ditch into which this slumps and two pits as well as the further but undated large ditch. It is possible that this activity is an extension of the moated manor site to the east and the possibility of a stone built structure on the site cannot currently be discounted. As such, the potential for research into features of this date on the site remains relatively high, with the potential to illuminate the wider manor site.

The environmental assessment has demonstrated the potential for assemblages of charred plant remains of interest for interpreting medieval agriculture, potentially supported by molluscan evidence.

The artefactual assemblage retrieved is consistent with what is known about the site and indicates domestic activity in the vicinity throughout the medieval period.

The activity within the site is confined to the southern and central areas of the site with the northern element clearly agricultural in the medieval era, as shown by extant east-west aligned ridge and furrow. The medieval features varied in height below the surface with the wall in Trench 2 being only 0.20m below the surface and the pits in Trench 1 at 0.32m below the surface.

Nothing can clearly be said in terms of the specific potential impact of the development as there are no detailed plans at this time; however, it is evident that medieval features lie within only 0.20m of the current ground surface in places and therefore that they are vulnerable to disturbance.

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 at land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire (NGR 407808 246395). It was undertaken for Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting (the Consultant), who is acting on behalf of Robert Hitchens Limited (the Client) who propose a residential development of the site for which a planning application will be submitted.

The site lies on the northern side of the settlement of South Littleton and to the west of the suggested position of a former medieval manor house. Three trenches were excavated on the 0.3 hectare site and were placed in order to investigate features identified from Lidar data.

A number of medieval features were identified including two pits, a ditch and a wall. The latter may be part of a building and an anomalous feature was a large undated ditch with which had fills consistent with long term water logging that may relate to the moat to the east. Post-medieval drainage features were also recorded along with a number of undated gullies which probably were associated either with post-drainage of the area or the earlier, medieval activity.

11 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting.

12 Bibliography

AAF 2011 *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum, <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>

Association for Environmental Archaeology 1995 *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*, Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, **2**

Cappers, T R J, Bekker, R M, and Jans, J E A, 2012 *Digitale Zadenatlas van Nederland: Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*, *Groningen Archaeological Studies*, **4**, Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library: Groningen

CIfA 2014 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

CgMs 2017 *Land off Farm Lane South Littleton*, CgMs consulting unpublished report, reference SW/23451 dated July 2017

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

English Heritage 2011 *Environmental archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

Hather, J G, 2000 *The identification of the northern European hardwoods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators*, Archetype Publications Ltd

Herefordshire Archaeology 2004 *Standards for archaeological projects in Herefordshire: issue 1*,

Historic England, 2015a *Good Practice Advice Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans*, dated 25 March 2015, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/>

Historic England, 2015b *Good Practice Advice Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*, dated 25 March 2015, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/>

Historic England, 2017 *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (2nd edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets*, dated 22 December 2017, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in S G Woodiwiss (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, 81, 200-9

Mawer, A, and Stenton, F M, 1927 *The place-names of Worcestershire*, Cambridge University Press, London

PCRG/SGRP/MPRG, 2016 *A standard for pottery studies in archaeology*

Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**

RCHME 1931 *An inventory of the historical monuments in Herefordshire: I, south-west*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections*, Society for Museum Archaeology, <http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm>

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Midland and Western England*, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)

Stace, C, 2010 *New flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press, (3rd edition)

Thorn, F, and Thorn, C, 1982 *Domesday Book - Worcestershire*, Chichester

VCH I, Page, W (ed), 1913 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire*, I

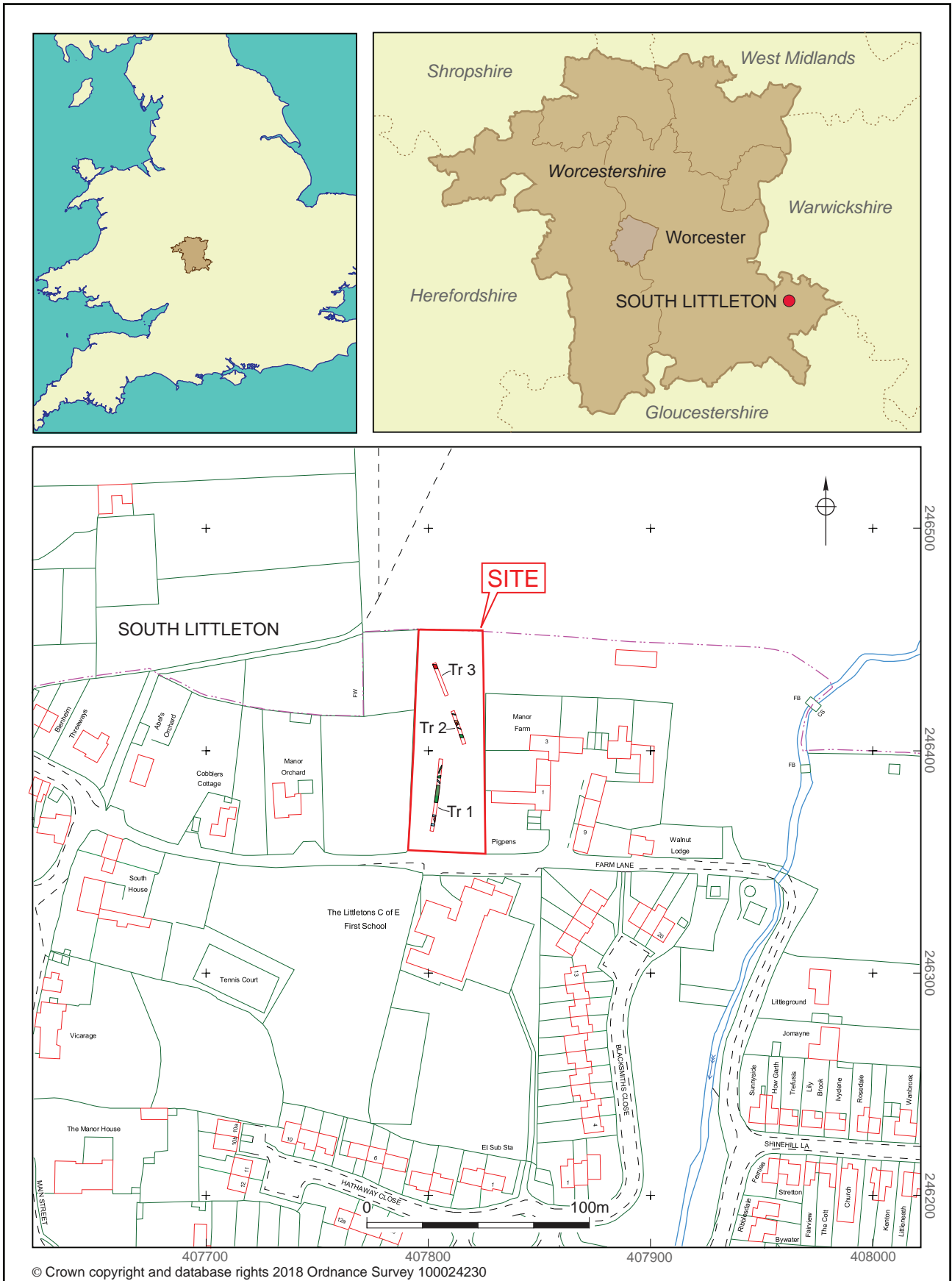
WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2018 *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation at land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 20th April 2018, **P5309**

Watt, S, (ed) 2011 *The archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research*, Oxbow Books, Oxford

WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended July 2012

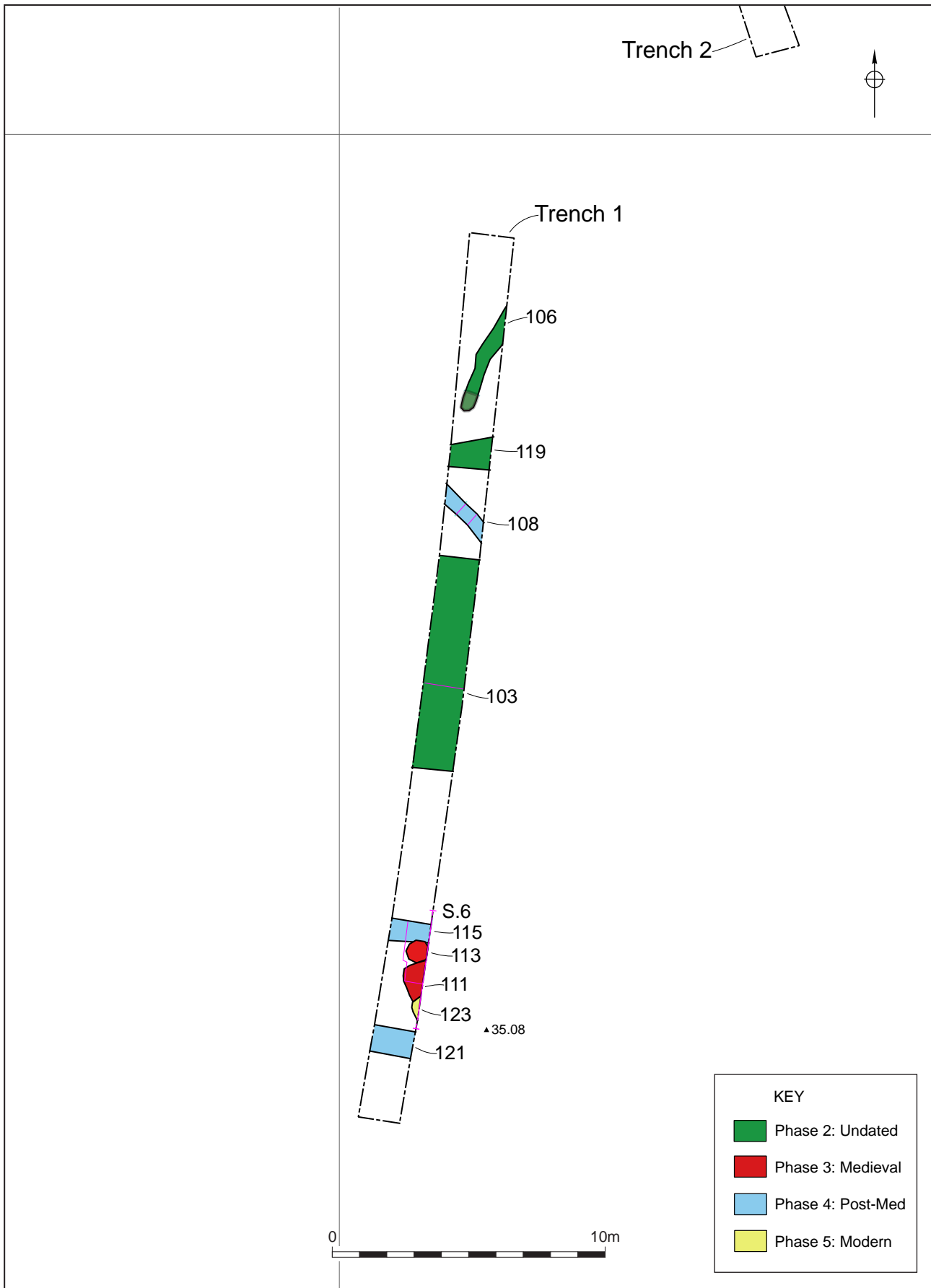
Figures



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100024230

Location of the site

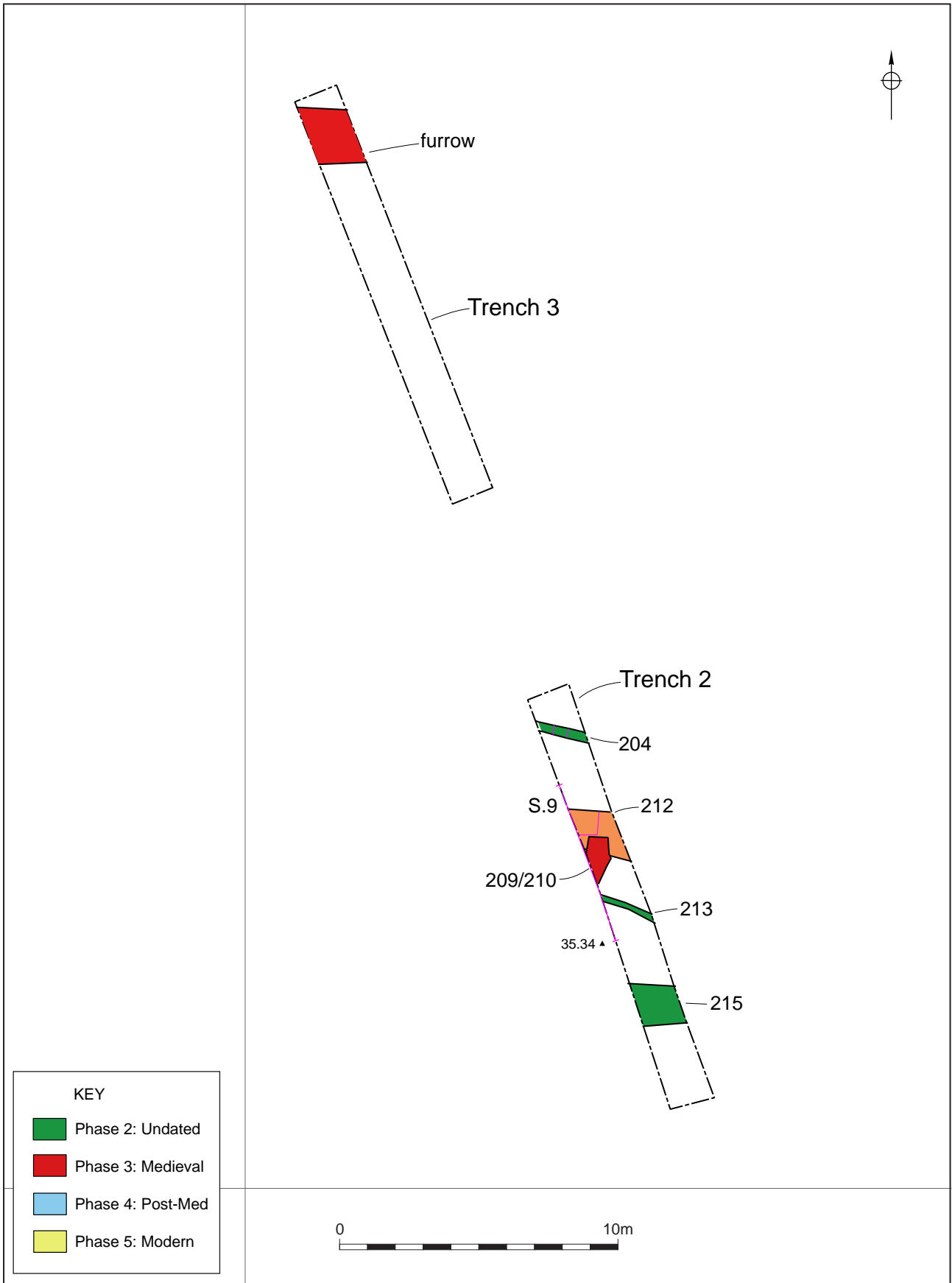
Figure 1



407800

Plan of Trench 1

Figure 2

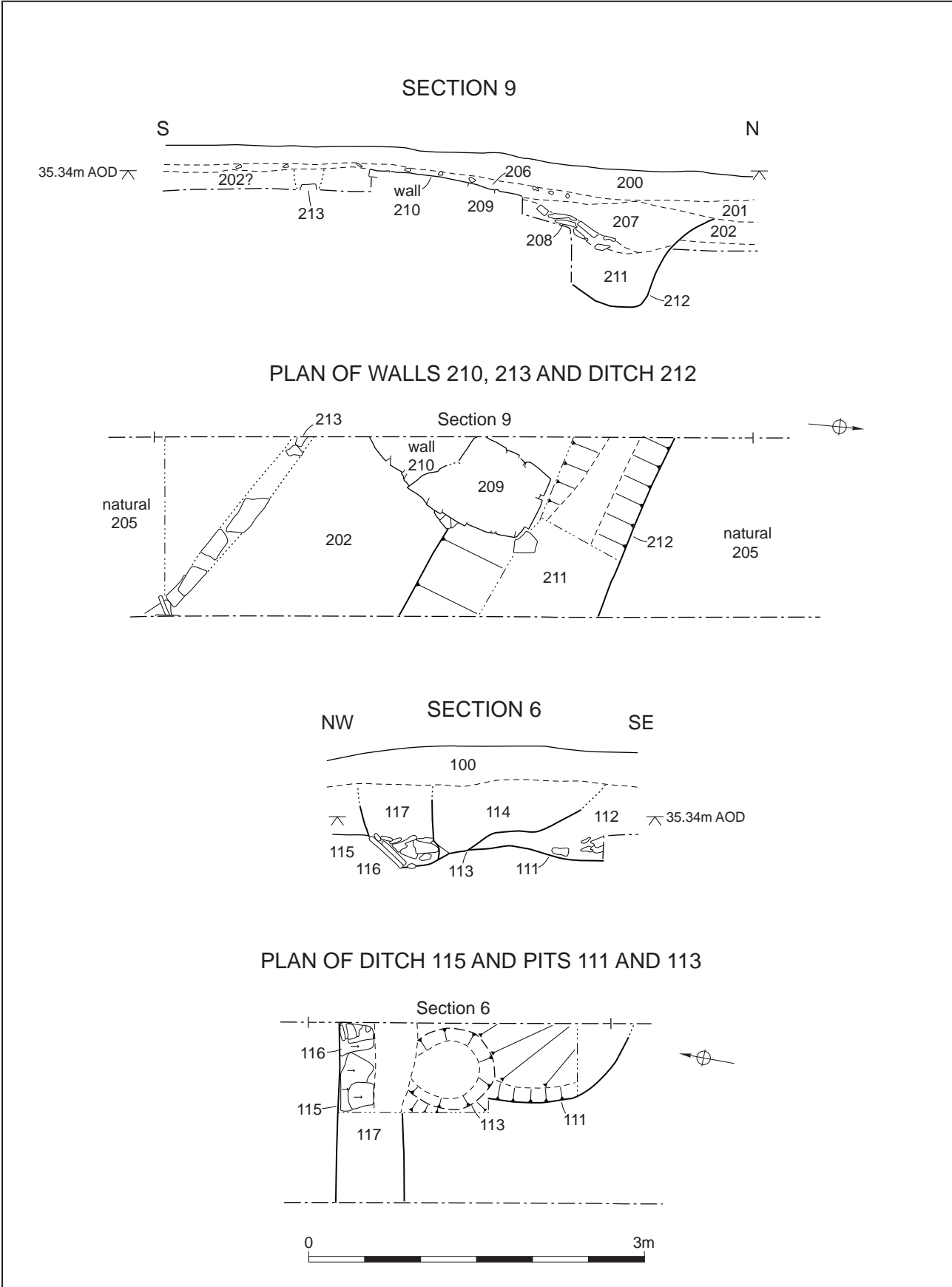


407800

246400

Plan of Trenches 2 and 3

Figure 3



Detail plans and sections

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 3, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north, 2x1m scales



Plate 3: Ditch [103], looking south-east, 1m scale



Plate 4: Gully [106], looking north, 0.5m scale



Plate 5: Gully [204], looking north-west, 0.2m scale



Plate 6: Pits [111 and 113] and drainage feature [115], looking north-east, 1m scale



Plate 7: Wall (209 and 210) slumping into ditch [212], 1m scale looking south-east

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Depth: 1.5m maximum

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)- top of deposit
100	Topsoil	Soft loose dark brownish black loam	
101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.32m
102	Natural	Moderately compact light brownish orange clays	0.60m
103	Ditch	East-west aligned ditch cut up to wide, filled by (104 and 105)	0.60m
104	Fill	Compact light blue grey gleyed clay with occasional limestone slabs, lower fill of [103]	c1.00m
105	Fill	Moderately compact mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones, upper fill of [103]	0.60m
106	Gully	Cut of small gully aligned broadly NE-SW	0.70m
107	Fill	Moderately compact dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 106	0.70m
108	Drainage channel cut	Drainage channel, filled by (109 and 110)	0.82m
109	Fill	Large limestone labs in the base of [108]	1.06m
110	Fill	Moderately compact mixed yellow and grey silty clay backfill of [108]	0.82m
111	Cut	Oval pit cut	0.29m
112	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silty clay with frequent fragments of charcoal and rare pottery	0.29m
113	Cut	Roughly round pit cut	0.29m
114	Fill	Compact mid brown grey with occasional stone, charcoal and pottery fragments	0.29m
115	Cut	Drainage cut feature, filled by (116 and 117)	0.29m
116	Fill	Limestone fragments packed within the base of drainage feature (115)	0.80m
117	Fill	Mixed yellow clay with mid brownish grey silty clay	0.29m
118	Fill	Moderately compact mixed yellow and grey silty clay lower backfill of [108]	1.10m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)- top of deposit
119	Cut	Unexcavated linear	0.60m
120	Fill	Moderately compact mid brownish silty clay	0.60m
121	Cut	Drainage cut feature, filled by (122)	0.16m
122	Fill	Limestone fragments packed within the base of drainage feature (121)	0.16m
123	Cut	Modern pit cut	0.29m
124	Fill	Fill of [123]	0.29m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) - top of deposit
200	Topsoil	Soft loose dark brownish black loam	
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay.	0.32m
202	Subsoil	Moderately compact light orangey brown silty clay	0.50m
203	Natural	Moderately compact light yellow orange clays	0.85
204	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned gully cut	0.85m
205	Fill	Moderately compact mid-orangey brown silty clay	0.85m
206	Layer	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clay silt with very frequent limestone fragments. Plough damaged elements from (209 and 210)	0.16m
207	Fill	Compact light brownish grey silty clay with tin the top of ditch [212], postdating the wall collapse (208)	0.27m
208	Layer	Wall collapse rubble layer, tipping into ditch [213]	0.38m
209	Structure	Up to five courses of limestone slabs built onto the slope of ditch 213. Forms the roughly square end of a wall running broadly N-S	0.20m
210	Structure	Very rough stone built structure, only a single course below (209)	0.20m
211	Fill	Compact light yellowish grey silty clay with rare slag and animal bone	0.65m
212	Cut	Ditch cut aligned E-W, filled by (207, 208 and 211)	0.42m

Land off Farm Lane, South Littleton, Worcestershire

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) - top of deposit
213	Cut	Roughly E-W aligned gully cut, filled by 216. Probably a post-med drainage feature	0.24m
214	Fill	Light yellow grey silty clay fill of [215]	0.76m
215	Cut	Possible ditch aligned broadly E-W with very feint edges, not excavated	0.76m
216	Fill	Blue lias stone laid singly in the base of feature [213]	0.34m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.93m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) - top of deposit
200	Topsoil	Soft loose dark brownish black loam	0.21m
201	Subsoil	Light brownish grey clay silt.	0.21m
202	Subsoil	Fairly soft light yellowish brown clay silt with occasional manganese	0.48m
203	Natural	Moderately compact light yellow orange clays	0.63m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 66 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 3 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Bag of flots and sorted remains from residues
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

P5309

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 – fish	Not decayed	Medieval	No	No
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	Medieval	No	No
Bone – small mammal	Not decayed	Medieval	No	No
Plant remains – macrofossils	Charred	Medieval	Yes	No
Plant remains – wood	Charred	Medieval	Yes	No

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)
undated	ceramic	fired clay				2	32	N	N
undated	metal	iron	object			2	36	N	N
medieval	ceramic		pot			1	48	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	12C	E13C	6	86	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	12C	E14C	11	78	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	15C		1	5	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		ridge tile	13C	15C	3	136	Y	N

Notes

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

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

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

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

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