

Archaeological evaluation at land off Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire



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

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Author: Tim Cornah tcornah@worcestershire.gov.uk
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt chunt@worcestershire.gov.uk
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Tim Cornah

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land off Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire (NGR SP 08683 38119). It was undertaken on behalf of David Niblett of Wychavon District Council who intends the construction of a car park on land off Station Road in Broadway for which a planning application will be submitted.

The site lies approximately 1.3km to the north-west of the centre of Broadway and on the immediate northern side Honeybourne to Broadway railway branch line. Three trenches were positioned across the site in order to best test the potential for archaeological remains, most notably prehistoric and Roman settlement which has been recorded to the south of the site.

The evaluation trenches were excavated no deeper than a 400mm impact depth of the subsequent development. No significant features were present, with only modern made ground deposits observed.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land off Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire (NGR SP 08683 38119). It was undertaken on behalf of David Niblett of Wychavon District Council who intend the construction of a car park on land off Station Road in Broadway for which a planning application will be submitted to Wychavon District Council.

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

No brief was prepared but the project conforms to the generality of briefs produced within the County. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced (WA 2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Wychavon District Council.

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

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project are to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

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

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by), Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc, ACifA), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004 assisted by Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.) . The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers; MSc; MCifA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCifA).

3.2 Documentary research

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

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1884 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560
- 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560
- 1924 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

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 on the 29th of May 2018. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM70312. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5312.

Three trenches, amounting to just over 96m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 5,500 m², representing a sample of 1.7%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 1. The trenches were located across the extent of the site in order to achieve a representative sample.

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). The trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.40m only, as this is the impact level of the subsequent development. 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

No finds suitable for analysis were present on the site

3.7 Environmental archaeology

No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were present on the site

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 search area is situated in a rolling lowland vale of lias clay with superficial deposits of sands and gravels. The wider area is dominated by large, regular arable fields with intensive farming including orchards and occasional small tree plantations. This can be seen in the search area itself in areas of field amalgamation and modern sub division. Elsewhere in the search area, the modern expansion of Broadway and surrounding settlements can be seen, together with an area of small irregular fields to the south.

Two historic buildings are situated within the search area both of which are unlisted. One of these is the former Broadway Railway Station and the other is a former mill building associated with Mill Stream/Tuck Mill Farm to the west of the search area both of which date to the 19th century.

An Historic England project to identify historic farmsteads within Worcestershire recorded one historic farmstead within the search area. This is the aforementioned Mill Stream/Tuck Mill Farm which is partially extant and dates to the 19th century.

There are a number of records relating to prehistoric activity in the south of the search area and extending beyond the search boundary. These comprise settlement sites identified by cropmarks and date from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period. These have been partly verified by archaeological investigations. Medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow is also recorded within the search area and varies in terms of condition and survival. The site of a medieval fulling mill is recorded which is located on the site of Tuck Mill Farm. The 19th century Honeybourne to Broadway railway branch line runs through the search area and is adjacent to the site boundary

itself. Finally, an English Heritage project to identify the potential for Palaeolithic Archaeology in Worcestershire recorded a number of deposits within the search area with potential for archaeology dating back to 476050BC.

No finds have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the search area although a number of unstratified finds have been discovered in the wider parish including Neolithic and Romano-British pottery.

There have been a small number of archaeological investigations carried out within the search area. The current evidence shows that there is potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the search area, particularly those dating to the prehistoric periods.

4.2 Current land-use

The site remained as an area of scrub land below the railway siding, though with areas of hardstanding for vehicle access.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches recorded are shown in Fig 1. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: modern deposits

The deposits within trench 1 consisted of a limestone rubble backfilled cut feature [101] which in turn cut a mixed yellow and dark grey clay deposit (102). This contained modern material such as tarmac and concrete. The same deposit was also the only layer present within Trench 2 (200), suggesting wide spread modern earth moving across the site to a depth greater than 0.45m. Within Trench 3, a brick rubble deposit (301) was present and extended beyond the limit of excavation. This contained material such as wood and concrete, and is of modern origin.

6 Synthesis

Despite the potential features of archaeological interest being present on the, modern made ground across the site prevented these from being visible within the scope of the current project.

7 Significance and impact of the development

No pre-modern deposits or feature were present within the evaluation trenches which were excavated to impact depth. The development is therefore unlikely to have any significant impact on heritage assets.

8 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

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The site lies approximately 1.3km to the north-west of the centre of Broadway and on the immediate northern side Honeybourne to Broadway railway branch line. Three trenches were positioned across the site in order to best test the potential for archaeological remains, most notably prehistoric and roman settlement as present to the south of the site.

The evaluation trenches were excavated no deeper than a 40cm impact depth of the subsequent development. No significant features were present, with only modern made ground deposits observed.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, David Niblett and Aidan Smyth of Wychavon District Council.

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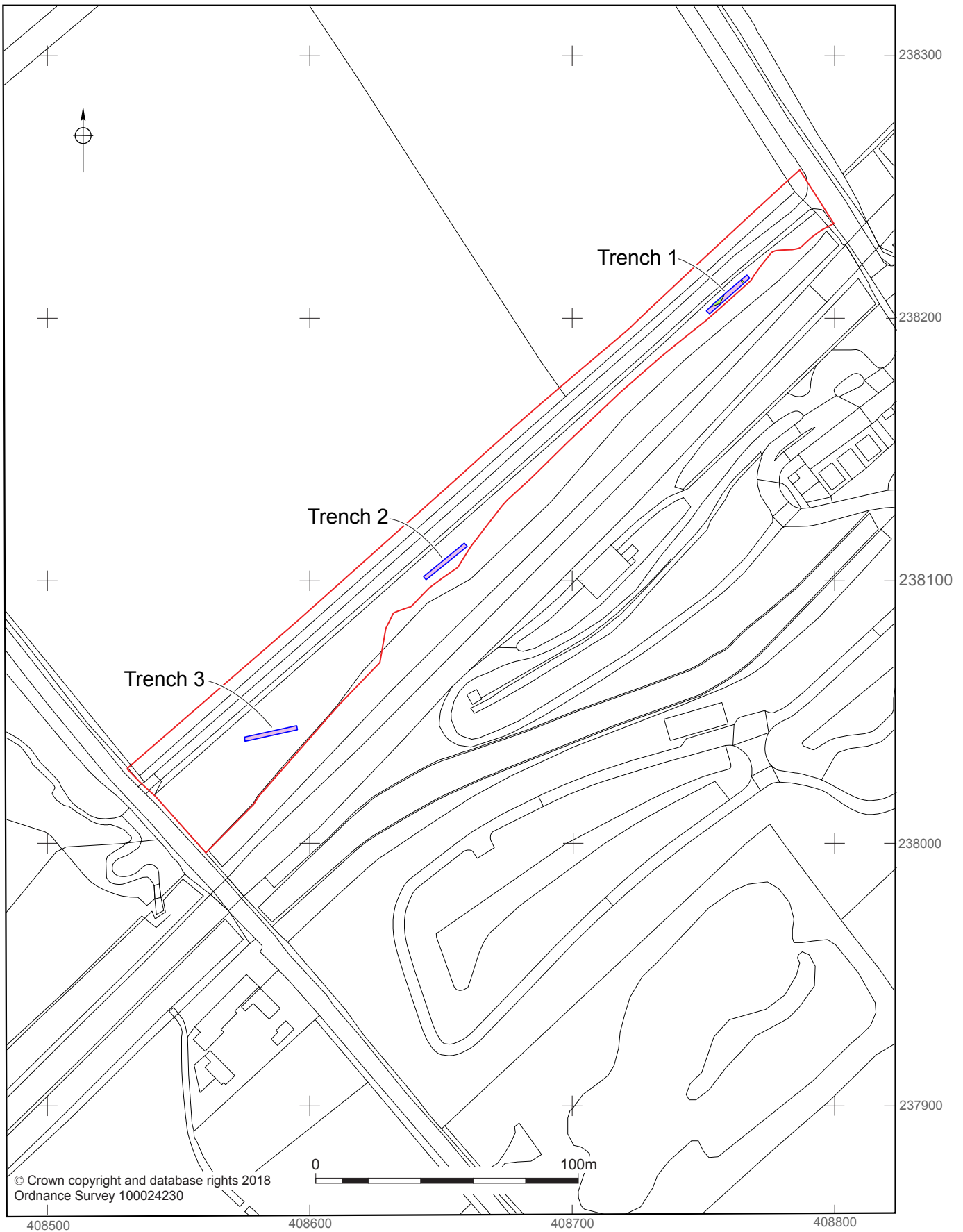
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 looking north-east, 1m scale



Plate 2 Trench 2 looking north-east, 1m scale



Plate 3 Trench 3 looking east, 1m scale

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length:20 Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Fill of 101	Limestone and limestone rubble backfill of 101	0-0.45m
101	Cut	Modern cut feature filled by 100	0-0.45m
102	Made ground	Mixed yellow and dark grey clay deposit with containing modern material such as tarmac	0-0.45m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: NE-SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Made ground	Mixed yellow and dark grey clay deposit with containing modern material such as tarmac	0-0.40m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Modern surface	Grey gravel modern hardstanding	0-0.12m
301	Made ground	Mixed reddish brown brick dust and silt with frequent brick, concrete and wood.	0.12-0.40m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70312)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 9 Digital photographs
- 3 Trench record sheets AS41
- 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