

# Archaeological evaluation of land off Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
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## **Archaeological evaluation of land off Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire**

Peter Lovett

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton (NGR SO 9240 4860). It was undertaken on behalf of Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting whose client intends residential development of the site.

Five trenches, each 30m long and 1.8m wide were excavated across the site. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded. It is concluded that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland of Drakes Broughton.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton Worcestershire (NGR SO 9240 4860). It was commissioned by Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting whose client Sanctuary Homes intend residential development of the site.

A desk based assessment (CgMs 2015) of the site was prepared in support of an outline application for residential development (W/14/01611/OU). The evidence recovered by the DBA assessed the site to have a low potential for the survival of archaeological assets of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval or more recent activity within the study site.

The application was granted on appeal (APP/H1840/W/15/3008340) by Wychavon District Council and a Condition for a programme of archaeological work was attached to planning permission. The Condition states:

11. No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

As a result, in February-March 2018 a geophysical survey was commissioned of the site (SUMO Survey 2018) to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site. No definite archaeological anomalies were identified although linear and discrete responses of uncertain origin were detected which had the potential to be of archaeological, natural or agricultural origin.

The project conforms to *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

### 2 Aims

The aims of the evaluation brief were;

- to describe any heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to assess the nature, importance and extent of any heritage asset;
- to assess the impact of the application on any heritage asset.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Graham Arnold ((BA (hons.), MSc.) The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (MSc; MCIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA).

#### 3.2 Documentary research

The archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was consulted prior to fieldwork (CgMs 2015).

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between 19 and 20 June 2018. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM70303. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5310.

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Five trenches, amounting to 450m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Trenches 1 and 2 were located to test anomalies identified from the geophysical survey.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

### **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**

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

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were identified.

### **3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### **3.6.1 Sampling policy**

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis or Insert sampling policy..

### **3.7 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 site comprises two fields, bordered by the B4084 to the south, with a school and residential properties along the eastern side, agricultural land to the north, and a mixture of industrial; and agricultural land to the west (Figure 1). The land rises from 37m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) on the northern boundary, to 45m AOD along the south side of the site.

The site lies upon Mudstone of the Charmouth Formation, with a small amount of Ailstone Member superficial sand and gravel recorded in the southern area (BGS 2018).

The following archaeological context is summarised from the desk-based assessment by CgMs (2015):

There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the study site. Only a very low level of prehistoric or Roman activity has been recorded in the surrounding landscape. The early medieval settlement in the area is likely to have been to the east of the site, and within the village limits as defined on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map. A conjectured Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) is recorded some 40m east of the site, and ridge and furrow is also recorded in the wider area. The aforementioned OS map is the earliest surviving cartographic source, and aside from some boundary changes, is unaltered from today.

## 4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently fallow grassland.

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Structural analysis

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

The natural geology was encountered in all five trenches (Plates 1-4). It consisted of compact yellow orange sands and gravels with clay, between 0.3 and 0.4m below the current ground surface, except in Trench 1, where it was 0.7 to 0.8m below ground level (Plate 1). This was due to a layer of made ground beneath the topsoil, associated with the creation in the 1970s of a pond to the north of the trench.

Above the natural strata was a subsoil 0.2m thick, underneath a topsoil 0.15m-0.2m thick. A large number of modern land drains criss-crossed the site. Two plastic pipes were identified in Trench 1 and these were filled with burnt stone (Plate 2). It is likely that these features represent the anomalies that Trench 1 was located to identify.

## 6 Synthesis

No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. The geophysical anomalies in the north-east corner of the site are most likely modern pipes. The distance from a water source has probably precluded the site from any settlement prior to the medieval period, and the density of modern land drains suggests an historically wet landscape.

## 7 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 of land off Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton (NGR SO 9240 4860). It was undertaken on behalf of Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting whose client intends residential development of the site.*

*Five trenches, each 30m long and 1.8m wide were excavated across the site. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded. It is concluded that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland of Drakes Broughton.*

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Richard Smalley (CgMs Consulting) and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Council).

## 9 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/>

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

CgMs 2015 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire*, CgMs Consulting Ltd, dated February 2015



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SUMO 2018 *Geophysical Survey Report Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire*, Sumo Survey, report number **12366**, dated March 2018

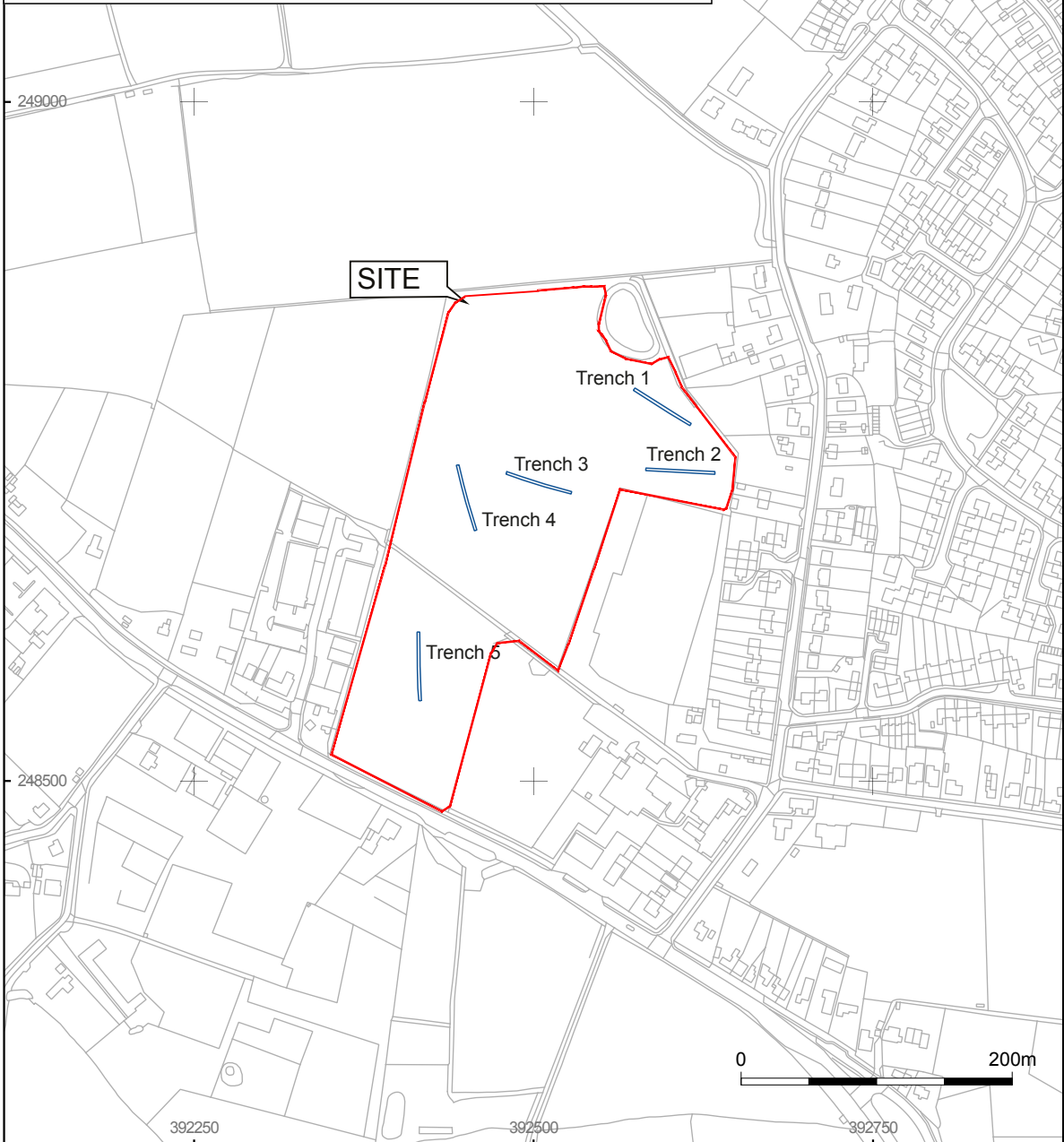
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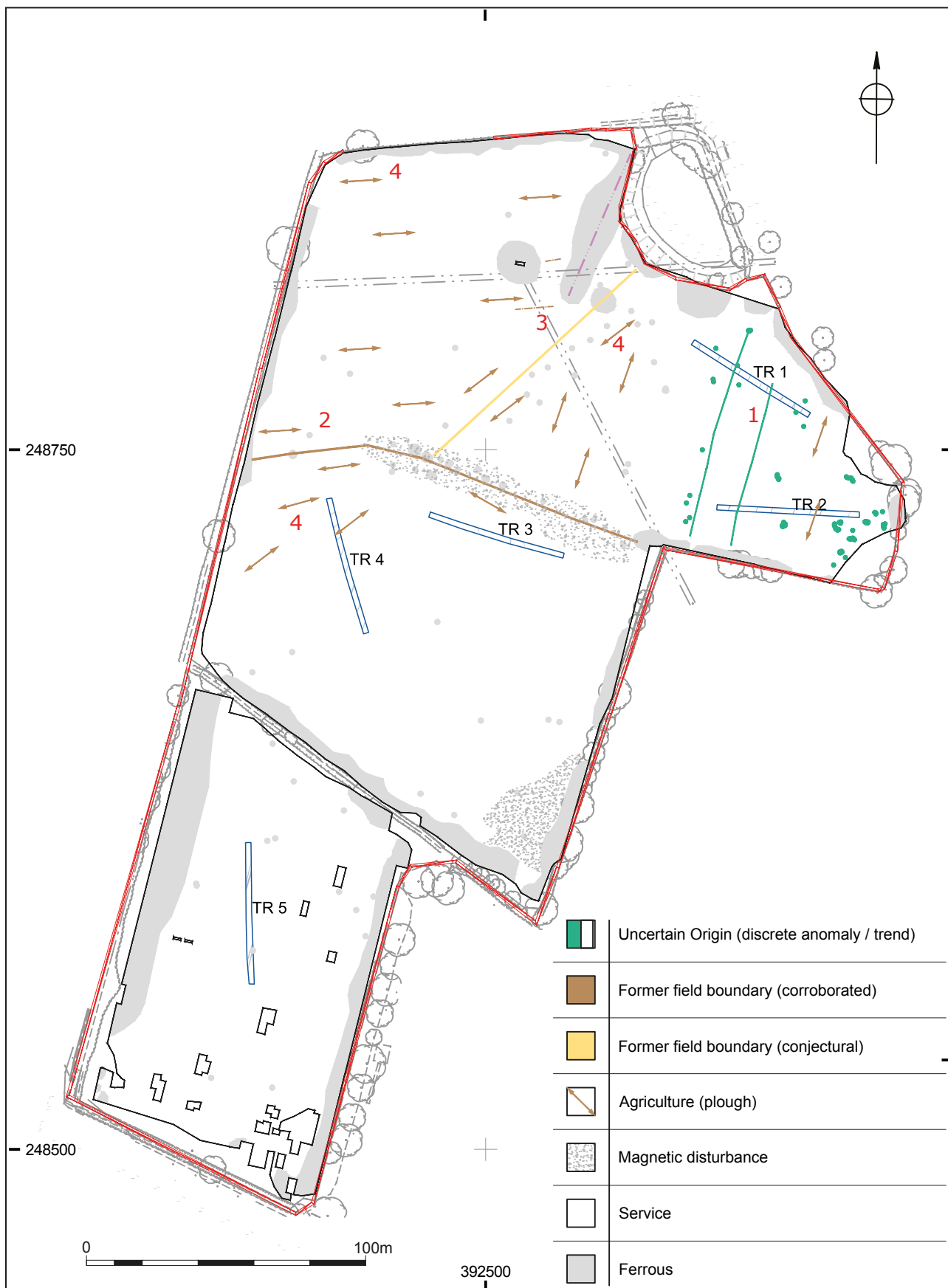
WA 2018 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 30 April 2018, **P5310**

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 March 2016



**Figures**





Trenches with geophysical survey:

Figure 2



## Plates



*Plate 1 Trench 1 looking south-east (1m scales)*



*Plate 2 burnt stone fill of modern water pipe in Trench 1 (1m and 0.5m scales)*

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*Plate 3 Trench 3 looking north-west (1m scales)*



*Plate 4 Trench 5 looking north (1m scales)*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Main deposit descriptions

#### Trench 1

Length: 50m      Width: 50m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

##### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.2m	Friable greyish brown sandy silt loam
101	Modern Layer	Layer	Made ground associated with pond creation. Redeposited natural	0.3m	Compact yellow clay
102	Topsoil	Layer	Buried topsoil before pond upcast	0.3m	Firm greyish brown sandy silt
103	Natural	Layer	Natural		Firm pinky yellow clayey sand

#### Trench 2

Length: 50m      Width: 50m      Orientation: East to west

##### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.15m	Friable greyish brown sandy silt loam
201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	Firm brownish grey silty
202	Natural	Layer	Natural		Firm pinky yellow clayey sand

#### Trench 3

Length: 50m      Width: 50m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

##### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.15m	Friable greyish brown sandy silt loam
301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	Firm brownish grey silty
302	Natural	Layer	Natural		Firm pinky yellow clayey sand

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**Trench 4**

Length: 50m      Width: 50m      Orientation: North-west to south-east

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
400	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.15m	Friable greyish brown sandy silt loam
401	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	Firm brownish grey silty
402	Natural	Layer	Natural		Firm pinky yellow clayey sand

**Trench 5**

Length: 50m      Width: 50m      Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
500	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.15m	Friable greyish brown sandy silt loam
501	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	Firm brownish grey silty
502	Natural	Layer	Natural		Firm pinky yellow clayey sand

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 70303)**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 53 Digital photographs
- 5 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

A copy of the report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) as appropriate.

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