

An Archaeological Evaluation of land to the east of Kidderminster Road, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Status: Version 2
Date: 17th July 2018
Author: Peter Lovett plovett@worcestershire.gov.uk
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt
Project reference: P5371
Report reference: 2577
HER reference: WSM 70416
Oasis id Fieldsec1-322480

Client name:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Pete Lovett	Tom Rogers	Tom Rogers	<i>Tom Rogers</i>
2	Pete Lovett	Tom Rogers	Tom Rogers	<i>Tom Rogers</i>

Project file location: U:\U160 ACS\U013 Archaeology Service\03 Field Section\Projects\Current\P5371 Hampton Lovett\09 Integrated Report\Report

This report is confidential to the client. Worcestershire Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

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 Fieldwork strategy	2
3.4 Structural analysis	3
3.5 Artefact methodology	3
3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy.....	3
3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology.....	3
3.6.1 Sampling policy.....	3
3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results	3
4 The application site	3
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use	4
5 Results	4
5.1 Structural analysis	4
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	4
5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits	4
5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits	4
6 Synthesis	4
7 The impact of the development	4
7.1 Impacts during construction.....	4
7.2 Impacts on sustainability	4
8 Publication summary	5
9 Acknowledgements	5
10 Bibliography	5

An Archaeological Evaluation of land to the east of Kidderminster Road, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire

Peter Lovett

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land to the east of Kidderminster Road, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire (NGR SO 89008 65374). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Heritage, whose client the Trustees of Wimbush Droitwich Trust intend to construct a residential development, for which a planning application has been submitted.

Five trenches were excavated to test anomalies identified following a geophysical survey. None of the trenches revealed any archaeological features relating to the survey, but one undated ditch was excavated that was not previously identified.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land to the east of Kidderminster Road, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire (NGR SO 89008 65374). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Heritage, whose client the Trustees of Wimbush Droitwich Trust intend to construct a residential development, for which a planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council (reference 17/01631/OUT).

A desk based archaeological assessment of the site has been prepared (CgMs 2018) and a geophysical survey carried out (Sumo 2018). Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Wychavon District Council has requested an evaluation of the site by trial trenching prior to determination to test whether anomalies identified on the geophysical survey were archaeological in origin. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared (WA 2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth.

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

2 Aims

The aims of the evaluation brief were;

- 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 Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Tom Rogers (MSc; MCIfA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.)).

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by CgMs Heritage (CgMs 2018).

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

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

Fieldwork was undertaken on 2nd and 3rd July 2018. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM 70416. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5371.

Five trenches, amounting to just over 230m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 12.4ha. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. All five trenches were located to test anomalies identified by Aidan Smyth from data derived from the geophysical survey (Sumo 2018).

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.

3.4 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.

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 sits upon Sidmouth Mudstone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018).

The site is bounded to the north by The Forest road and the Church of St Mary, to the east by a train line, the south by Elmsbridge Brook, and to the west by the A442 and Doverdale Park.

The northern part of the site is flat at around 41m AOD, but drops steeply downhill to the south and east, to 32m AOD.

The following archaeological background is summarised from the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2018):

No Prehistoric remains have been recorded within the site, though an Iron Age settlement approximately 1km to the west was identified. Activity at this location to the west continued into the Roman period, with the development site considered to comprise the agricultural hinterland of this settlement and the Roman fort at Droitwich. No remains of Roman date have been found within the development area.

Hampton Lovett is first recorded in a charter from AD 817, and in Domesday as being held prior to the Norman Conquest. The Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of Hampton Lovett is recorded 100m to the north of the development site, and may have a Saxon core, but no Early Medieval activity has yet been recorded in the area. It is likely that, as in the Roman period, this was the agricultural land surrounding more distant settlements.

The aforementioned DMV may extend in to the site, and an undated "L-shaped" feature recorded on the HER may be associated with the 12th century Church of St Mary that is immediately north of the development site. Ridge and furrow has been potentially identified from the geophysical survey, and further examples have been recorded within the surrounding landscape.

A Second World War prisoner of war camp was constructed adjacent to the site, with further military facilities recorded in the immediate area.

4.2 Current land-use

The land is currently given over as pasture for sheep to graze (Plate 1).

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-3 and Plates 2-5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural geology was encountered in all five trenches, and consisted of a firm red marl with frequent rounded cobbles, and occasional lenses of sandy silt. It was between 0.47m and 0.5m below current ground level, except in Trenches 2 and 4, where it was 0.91m and 0.67m, due to colluvial activity.

This colluvium was a firm blueish brown silty clay, between 0.24m and 0.34m thick (Plate 4). No archaeological material was recovered from it, and no horizons indicating possible surfaces were identified within it.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

A single linear feature [104] was identified and excavated (Fig 3: Plate 2). It was 1.44m wide and 0.45m deep, with moderate to steep sides and a flattish base. It appeared to be sealed beneath the subsoil, suggesting that it pre-dates the modern era.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

The subsoil was present in all trenches and was between 0.2m and 0.3m thick. This was sealed by a topsoil of between 0.2m and 0.27m thickness.

6 Synthesis

A single undated ditch was identified during the evaluation. It did not correlate to any anomalies denoted in the geophysical survey. None of the potential archaeological features indicated by the geophysical survey were observed in the ground. Only three sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the top and subsoils during the excavation (which was not retained); it is indicative of the dearth of activity in the area.

The known archaeology, a single ditch, is buried beneath approximately 0.5m of soils, and although its extent and function and date is unknown, it is thought most likely to have been a field boundary.

7 The impact of the development

7.1 Impacts during construction

During the construction phase there will be particular impacts. Whilst the final plans are not available to the author at this time, below ground activity will result from construction of foundations, services and access roads. All of these have the potential to impact upon any archaeological remains present.

7.2 Impacts on sustainability

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research

dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

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.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land to the east of Kidderminster Road, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire (NGR SO 89008 65374). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Heritage, whose client the Trustees of Wimbush Droitwich Trust intend to construct a residential development, for which a planning application has been submitted.

Five trenches were excavated to test anomalies identified following a geophysical survey. None of the trenches revealed any archaeological features relating to the survey, but one undated ditch was excavated that was not previously identified.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Chris Clarke of CgMs Heritage, and Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Wychavon District Council.

10 Bibliography

BGS 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed 12 July 2018

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

CgMs 2018 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land to north west of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire*, CgMs Heritage, unpublished document dated November 2014, updated February 2018, Ref **SW/CC 24050**

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

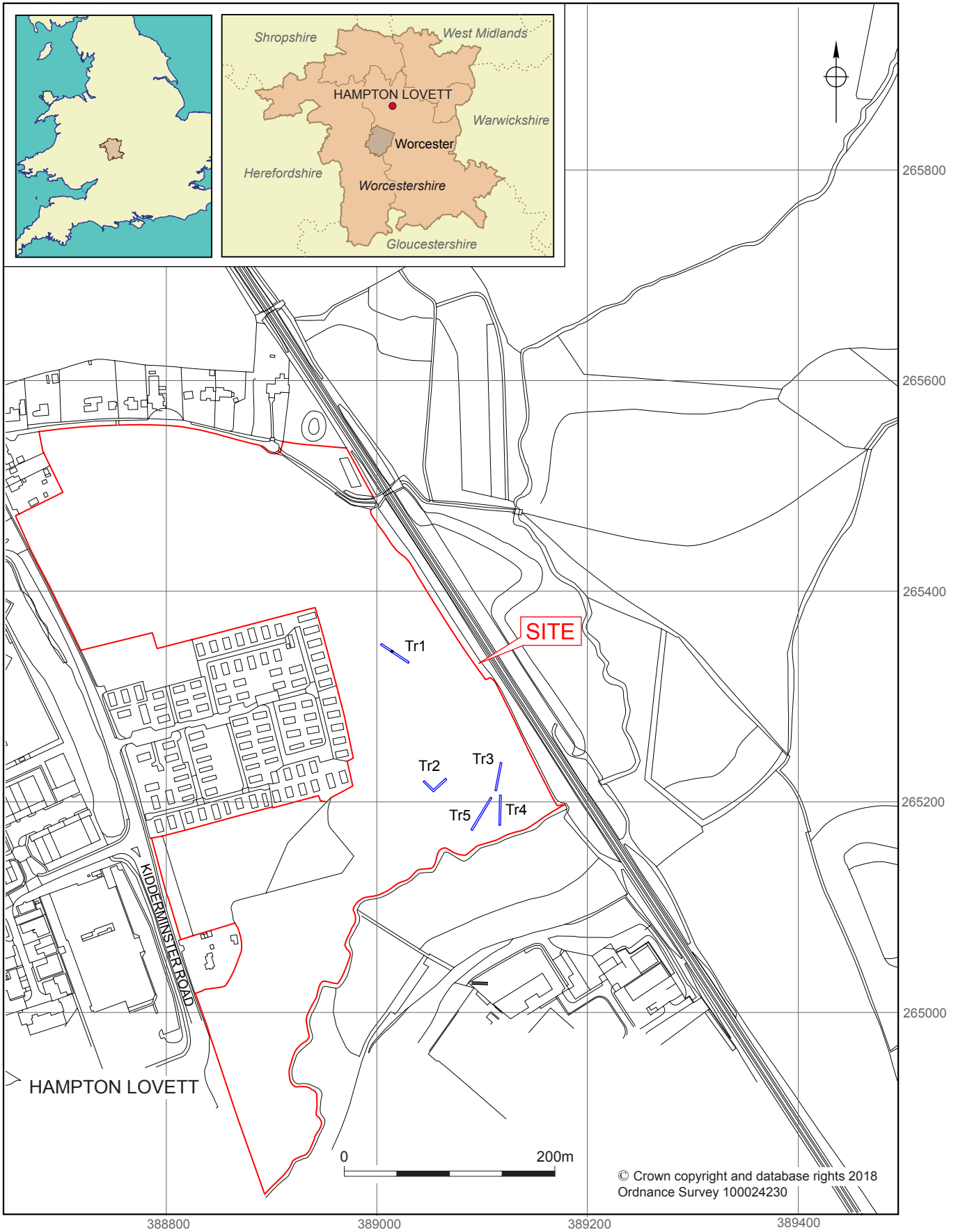
Sumo 2018 *Geophysical Survey Report; Hampton Lovett, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire*, unpublished document, dated January 2018, report **12190**

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

WA 2018 *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Kidderminster Road, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 20 June 2018, **P5371**

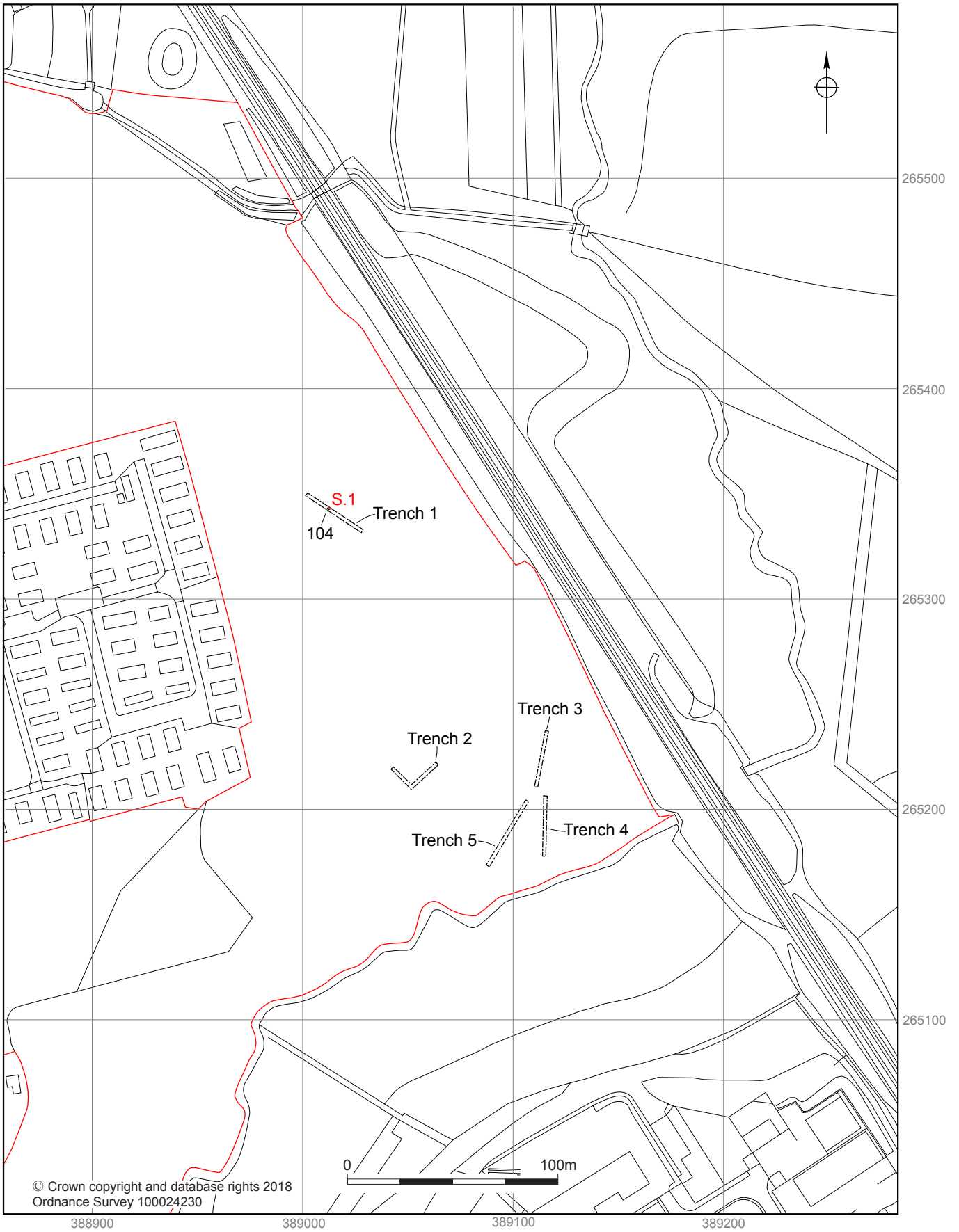
WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended March 2016

Figures



Site location plan

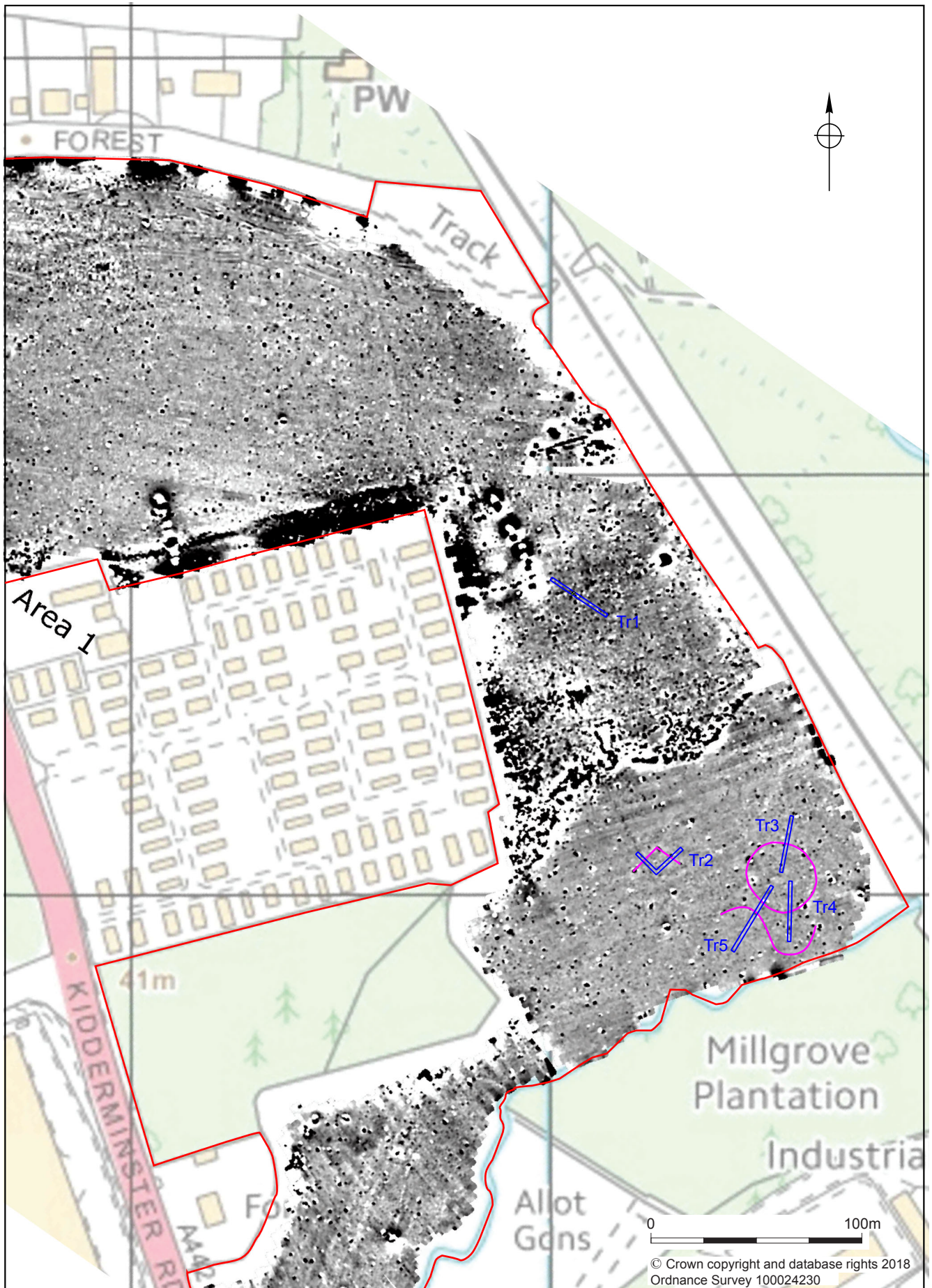
Figure 1



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
Ordnance Survey 100024230

Trench location plan

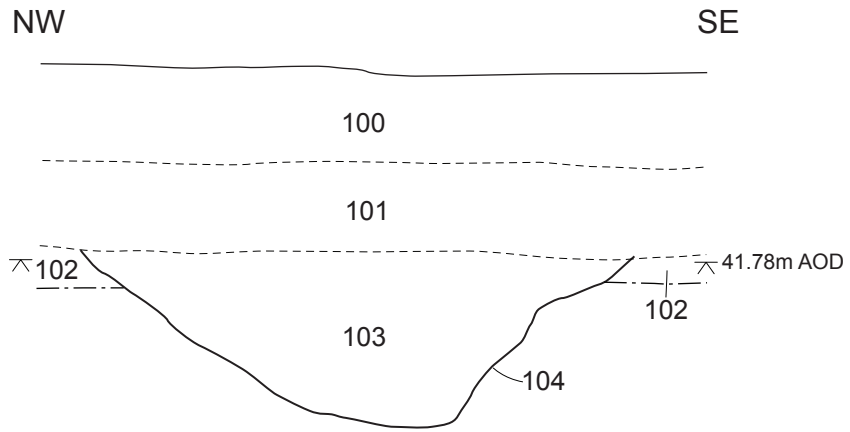
Figure 2



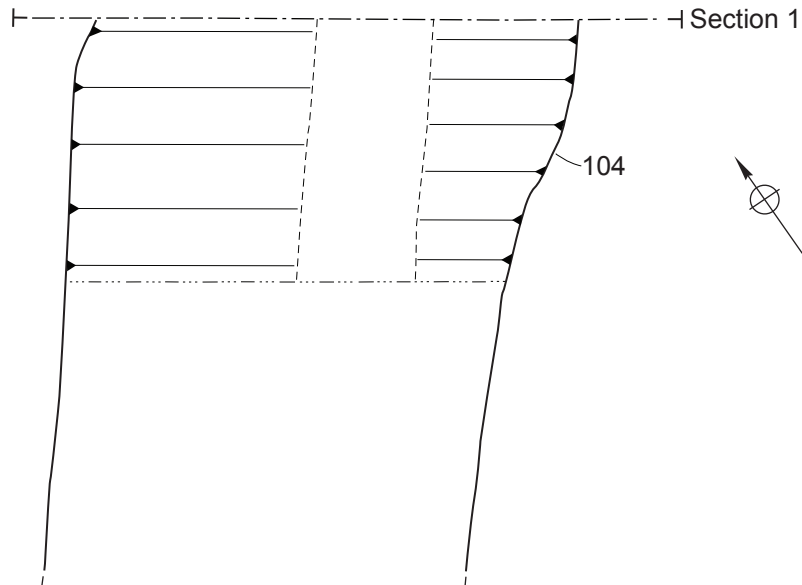
Location of trenches over geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) and anomalies (in magenta) identified by Aidan Smyth

Figure 3

SECTION 1: DITCH 104



PLAN OF DITCH 104



Ditch 104: Plan and section

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1 A view across site, towards the south-east



Plate 2 Undated ditch 104, looking north-east (1m scales)



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



Plate 4 Colluvium in Trench 2 (1m scales)



Plate 5 Trench 3, looking north-east (1m scales)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.24m	Friable brownish grey sandy silt loam
101	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	Firm yellowish brown silty sand
102	Natural	Layer	Natural marl with cobbles and lenses of sandy silt		Firm brownish red clay
103	Ditch	Fill	Homogenous fill of undated ditch 104	0.45m	Firm orangey brown silty clay
104	Ditch	Cut	Undated ditch, running NE-SW. Sealed by subsoil	0.45m	

Trench 2

Length: 15m x

Width: 15m x 15m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.27m	Friable brownish grey sandy silt loam
201	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.3m	Firm yellowish brown silty sand
202	Colluvium	Layer	Colluvial material	0.34m	Firm blueish brown silty clay
203	Natural	Layer	Natural marl with cobbles and lenses of sandy silt		Firm brownish red clay

Trench 3

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.2m	Friable brownish grey sandy silt loam
301	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.3m	Firm brownish red silty sand
302	Natural	Layer	Natural marl with cobbles and lenses of sandy silt		Firm brownish red clay

Trench 4

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

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
400	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.22m	Friable brownish grey sandy silt loam
401	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.21m	Firm yellowish brown silty sand
402	Colluvium	Layer	Colluvial material	0.24m	Firm blueish brown silty clay
403	Natural	Layer	Natural marl with cobbles and lenses of sandy silt		Firm brownish red clay

Trench 5

Length: 36m Width: 36m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
500	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.27m	Friable brownish grey sandy silt loam
501	Subsoil	Layer	Subsoil	0.2m	Firm yellowish brown silty sand
502	Natural	Layer	Natural marl with cobbles and lenses of sandy silt		

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70416)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 26 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 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).
