

# Archaeological investigations at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire

August 2018



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# Archaeological investigations at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire

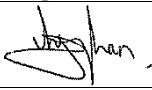


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## **Archaeological investigations at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire**

Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Jane Evans

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

### **Summary**

A programme of archaeological investigations was undertaken at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 75366 60014; HER WSM 69580). It was undertaken on behalf of Francis Petkovic, who is undertaking residential development, comprising a house and garage with associated landscaping and services, for which a planning application has been approved, subject to archaeological conditions.

The site lies on the corner of the B4204 road to Worcester on the southern boundary and the B4192 to Tenbury on the western boundary, in the centre of Martley village which is known to have medieval origins.

The majority of the initial groundworks were not archaeologically monitored, apart for a single service trench. To compensate for this an extra excavation area comparable in size to the footprint of the new dwelling was opened.

A full soil profile was recorded in both of the monitored areas. No significant archaeological deposits, structures, layers or horizons were recorded, not artefacts revealed. The brick and tile structure uncovered in the north-east corner corresponds with a small building first depicted on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map, so is of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The finds assemblage comprised modern white porcelain, slip wares, terracotta ceramics and clay pipe stems, which will not be retained.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 75366 60014; HER WSM 69580). It was commissioned by Francis Petkovic, who is undertaking residential development, comprising a house and garage with associated landscaping and services, for which a planning application has been approved by Malvern Hills District Council (reference 16/00219/FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

The proposed development site was considered to have the potential to affect heritage assets with archaeological interest, the significance of which may have been affected by the application (WSM 31955).

The watching brief and subsequent open area excavation mitigation conforms to the model brief prepared by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2014) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2017).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a), to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), and to the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

### 2 Aims

The aims of the investigations were to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible within the constraints of the developer's groundworks.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practicing archaeology since 2002. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons. Dunelm); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MClfA). Jane Evans (BA, MA, MClfA) contributed the finds report.

#### 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*

- 1843 Martley Tithe Map and Transcription
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885, Worcestershire XXVII.8, scale 25":1 mile
- 1903, Ordnance Survey map, Worcestershire XXVII.8, scale 25":1 mile (Figure 3)

##### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography (Section 9).

#### 3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017).

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Fieldwork for the watching brief stage (Trench 1) was undertaken on 18 June 2018. Fieldwork for the mitigation open area (Trench 2) occurred on 26 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 69580. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5182.

In the watching brief stage, only a single service trench for drainage was archaeologically monitored to the south-west of the house footprint, measuring 16m long x 0.70m wide. This followed the groundworks of the contractor. The foundations for the house and garage footings were not archaeologically monitored.

In the subsequent mitigation stage, an open excavation amounting to just over 120m<sup>2</sup> in area was recorded. This was similar to the size of the new dwelling footprint that had not been monitored. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket, down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural ground, whichever was encountered first. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples as appropriate, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

### **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 Jane Evans**

#### **3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2). No artefacts pre-dating the modern period were identified. White porcelain, slip wares, terracotta ceramics and clay pipe stems were observed in the topsoil and demolition backfill deposit of the building foundation, with a sample being retained for analysis.

#### **3.6.2 Method of analysis**

The sample of finds was examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on Microsoft Access database.

The pottery was examined by eye and fabrics referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology ([www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://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 (e.g. 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.

### **3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### **3.7.1 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.

### **3.8 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.

The project was constrained by the presence of an invasive plant species (Japanese Knotweed; pers comm Francis Petkovic) within areas of the garden, a number of large trees with Tree Preservation Orders, and an area of modern disturbance where the new dwelling and garage are located over a former modern fish pond. A misunderstanding due to changes in the foundation methodology and a breakdown in communication meant that the initial building foundations were not archaeologically monitored as required. This is compensated for by the excavation under archaeological supervision of comparable sized area as the footprint of the new dwelling to the west of the dwelling.

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context**

The garden was generally flat in the area of the excavation. The ground slopes from north to south from the existing property, the 'Old Tannery' to the road to the south. The area of the new house and garage footprint had been heavily truncated and landscaped due to the presence of a modern pond and the contamination of the ground by an invasive plant species, Japanese Knotweed, that was removed by environmental specialists prior to the present groundworks.

The solid geology is described by the British Geological Survey as the Helsby Sandstone Formation with sand and Mercian mudstone, with no superficial deposits recorded. The sandstone deposits are fluvial in nature and often form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (BGS 2018).

The site is located within the historic core of the village settlement, which is of medieval origin. The site is also within Martley Conservation Area. The Tannery may be of medieval origin. Buildings are indicated on the north-west side of the 'Tannery' on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, and also reportedly on a detailed version of the Tithe Map of 1843 (pers comm Aidan Smyth). The HER records ponds and earthworks of a possible tanning pit (WSM 31955), although the client has stated that the ponds were created in the 1980s for trout fishing (pers comm Francis Petkovic), which were backfilled as part of the current development.

### **4.2 Current land-use**

The site is currently a private garden with ponds, turfed areas, trees and hedgerows. The site of the new house build was placed over a pond that had been excavated in the recent past.

## **5 Results**

### **5.1 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2 and 3. Photographs of the archaeological works are provided as Plates 1 – 12. The results of the structural analysis are presented below.



**Main deposit descriptions****Trench 1**

Site area: Service trench for drainage

Maximum dimensions: Length: 16m Width: 0.70m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: NE – SW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent roots from trees and hedgerow vegetation. Humic garden topsoil and turf	0.00 – 0.30m
101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and cbm fragments, disturbance from rooting activity.	0.30 – 0.40m
102	Natural	Compact orangey reddish brown sand, with occasional sandstone pieces, getting more red and brighter with depth.	0.40 – 1.20m

**Trench 2**

Site area: Strip Map and Sample excavation area west of new dwelling footings

Maximum dimensions: Length: 13m Width: 10m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent roots from trees and hedgerow vegetation. Humic garden topsoil and turf	0.00 – 0.30m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and cbm fragments, disturbance from rooting activity.	0.30 – 0.40m
202	Natural	Compact orangey reddish brown sand, with occasional geological bands or seams of solid red sandstone ( see fig 2 and plate ) running north south across area.	0.40m +
203	Fill	Mixed topsoil and redeposited natural containing modern refuse. Modern backfill of modern test pit 204. Not fully excavated due to modern date.	0.40m +
204	Cut of modern test pit	Modern 1m square modern test pit excavated recently as part of site investigation works associated to current development proposal.	0.40m +
205	Fill of modern test pit	Mixed topsoil and redeposited natural sand containing modern refuse. Modern backfill of modern test pit 206. Not fully excavated due to modern date.	0.40 – 0.60m +
206	Cut of modern test pit	Rectangular machine dug modern test pit, 1.80m x 0.70m in north of sample area. Excavated recently as part of site investigation works associated to current development proposal.	0.40 – 0.60m +

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
207	Structure	Sandstone and brick wall footings of building. Red Sandstone 0.30 – 0.50m wide.  Brick dimensions 9" x 4" x 3 ½ " with cement mortar and iron work.	0.30m – 0.70m+
208	Fill	Backfill of demolition material including topsoil, brick and stone rubble	0.30 – 0.70m
209	Structure	Tiled floor of building measuring 1.1m x 1.3m. butting northwest side of walls [207].  9" Square red /terracotta ceramic tiles, 1' x 9" yellow ceramic tiles and edged by 9" x 4" x 3" bricks. Bonded with cement mortar.	0.30 – 0.50m+
210	Tree Throw	Natural tree throw with frequent roots from a tree that was recently removed	0.40m
211	Tree Throw	Natural tree root bole from rotten Cherry tree stump removed during current works.	0.40m - 0.70m

## 5.2 Discussion

The natural consisted of a compact reddish brown sand with frequent bands and lenses of solid sandstone, at a depth of 0.40m below ground level, between 66.10m – 65.88m AOD.

In Trench 1 the stratigraphy comprised garden topsoil and subsoil over the natural deposits (Plates 3-4). No finds, features or structures were observed in this trench.

In Trench 2 the foundations and tile surface of a building were exposed within the north-west corner. The brick and sandstone building foundations (207) measured 3.2m x 2m, with a platform with a tiled floor area (209) to the north-west. The tiles were 9" square red tiles with 1' x 9" rectangular yellow tiles within cement mortar.

Other features recorded in Trench 2 were modern machine dug test pits associated with the current development, and a series of tree throws from the former garden.

## 5.3 Artefact analysis, by Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. A sample of finds was retained from the topsoil (200) and demolition backfill (208) and these are summarised below.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	clay pipe	2	6
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	30
modern	ceramic	earthenware	flower pot	3	215
modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	47

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

The small sample of material retained is summarised in Table 1 above. The assemblage included one sherd of post-medieval buff ware decorated internally with trailed slip (Fabric 91) The remainder of the pottery comprised modern china, including willow pattern and other moulded or stencilled decoration (Table 2). The clay pipe stems could not be closely dated, and the terracotta flower pot is likely to be modern.

### Summary artefactual evidence

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
200	ceramic	earthenware	clay pipe	0	1	2			1800-2000
	ceramic	earthenware	pot	85	2	35	1800	2000	
208	ceramic	earthenware	clay pipe	0	1	4			1900-2018
	ceramic	earthenware	flower pot	78	3	215	1900	2050	
	ceramic	earthenware	pot	85	2	12	1800	2000	
	ceramic	earthenware	pot	91	1	30	1700	1800	

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

#### 5.3.1 Significance

There are no significant finds.

#### 5.3.2 Further analysis and reporting

No further analysis is required

#### 5.3.3 Discard and retention

The sample of finds can be discarded.

## 6 Synthesis

A full soil profile was recorded in both of the monitored areas. No significant archaeological deposits, structures, layers or horizons were recorded, not artefacts revealed. The brick and tile structure uncovered in the north-east corner corresponds with a small building first depicted on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3), so is of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The finds assemblage comprised modern white porcelain, slip wares, terracotta ceramics and clay pipe stems, which will not be retained.

## 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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Francis Petkovic at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 75366 60014; HER WSM 69580). The site lies on the*

corner of the B4204 to Worcester on the southern boundary and the B4192 to Tenbury on the Western boundary in the centre of Martley village.

The majority of the initial groundworks were not archaeologically monitored, apart for a single service trench. To compensate for this an extra excavation area comparable in size to the footprint of the new dwelling was opened.

A full soil profile was recorded in both of the monitored areas. No significant archaeological deposits, structures, layers or horizons were recorded, not artefacts revealed. The brick and tile structure uncovered in the north-east corner of Trench 2 corresponds with a small building first depicted on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map, so is of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The finds assemblage comprised modern white porcelain, slip wares, terracotta ceramics and clay pipe stems, which will not be retained.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Francis Petkovic, Wendy Hopkins (Brodie Planning Associates Ltd), Colin Griffiths Groundworks Contractor, and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology And Planning Advisor, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils).

## 9 Bibliography

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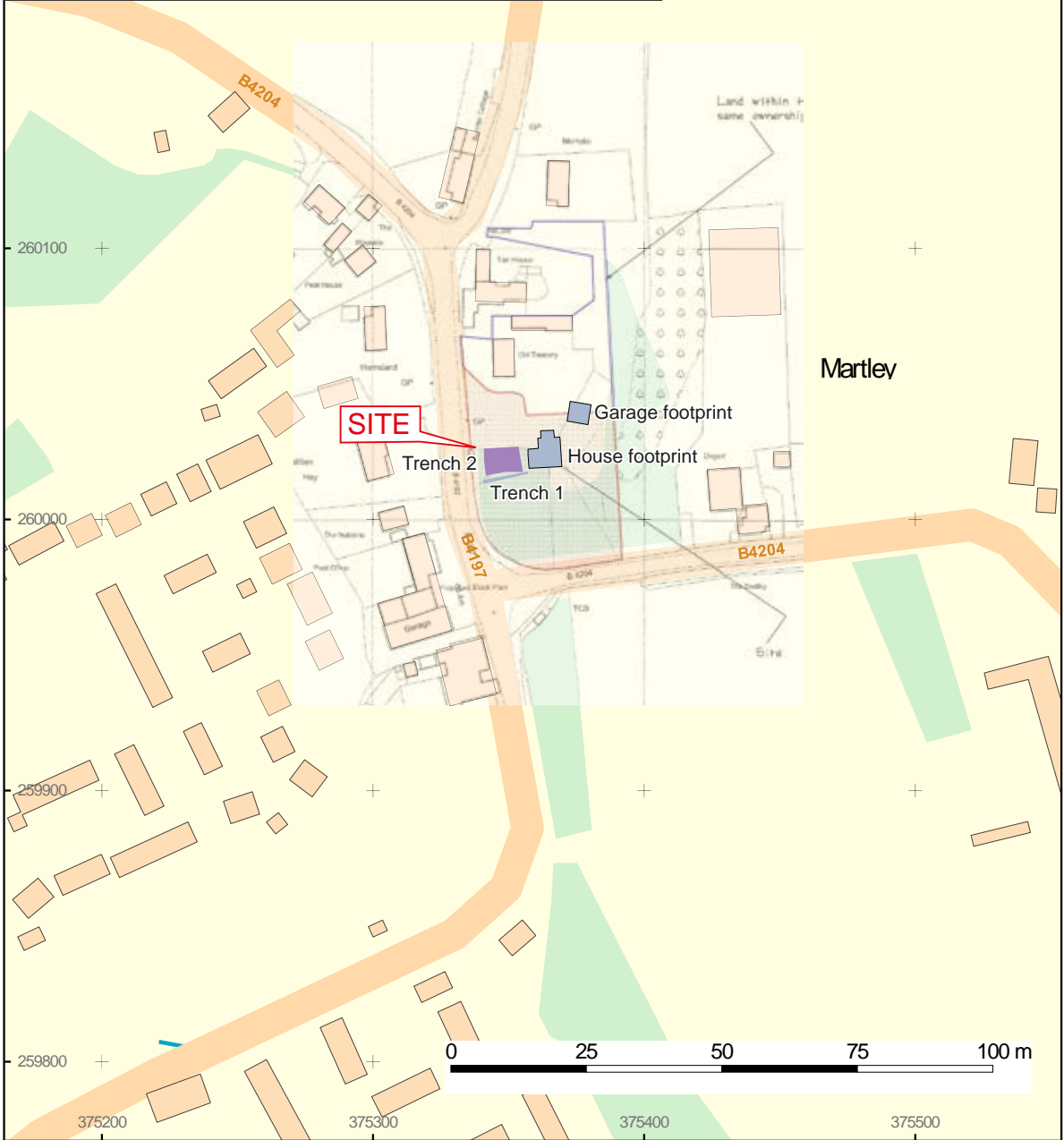
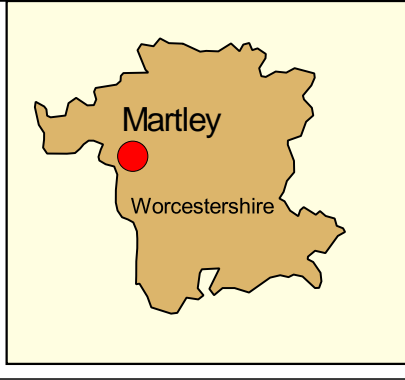
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WA 2017 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at The Old Tannery, Martley, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 13 October 2017, **P5182**

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

WCC 2014 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Planning Consent*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, Version 1, dated September 2014

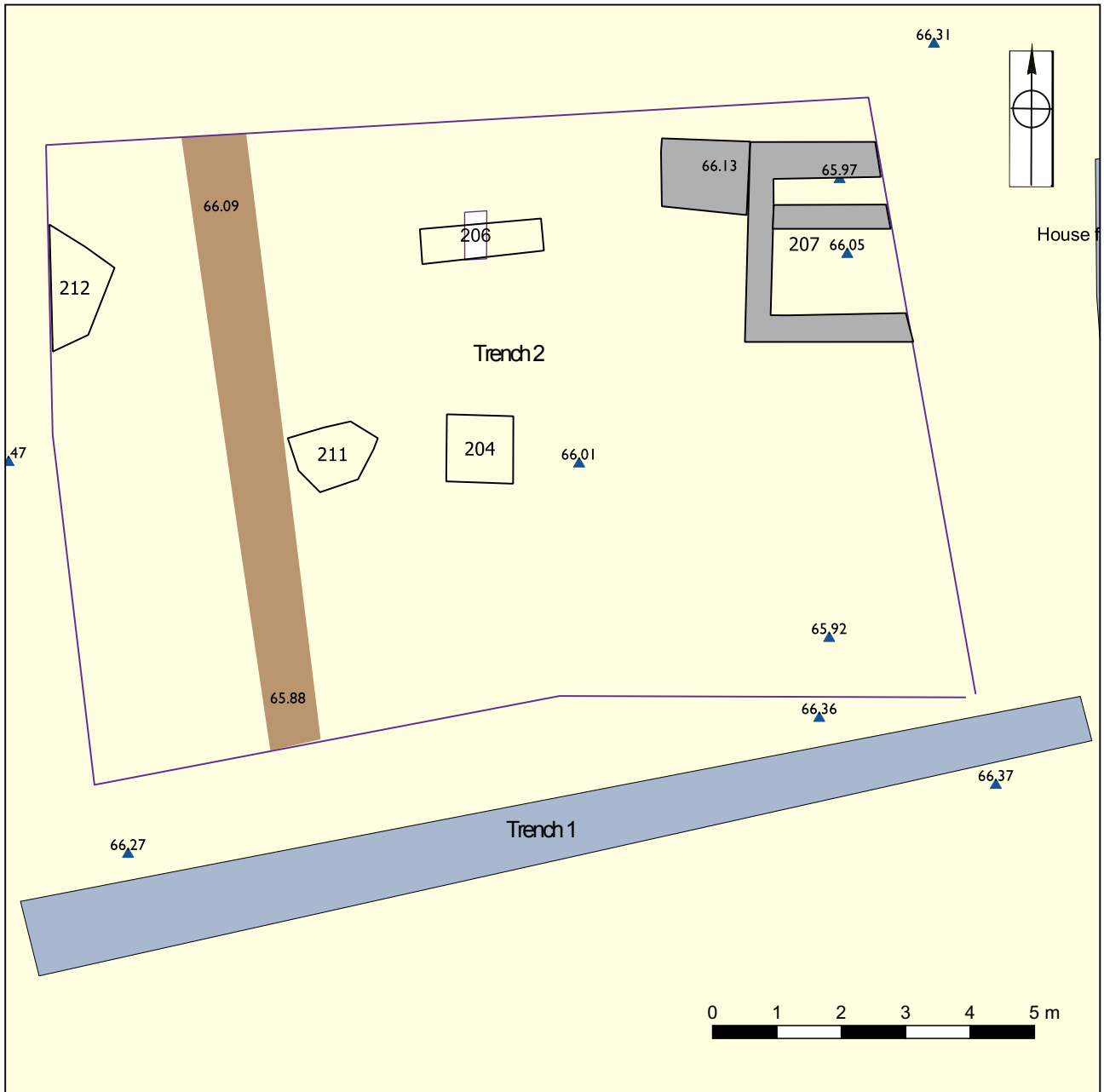
**Figures**



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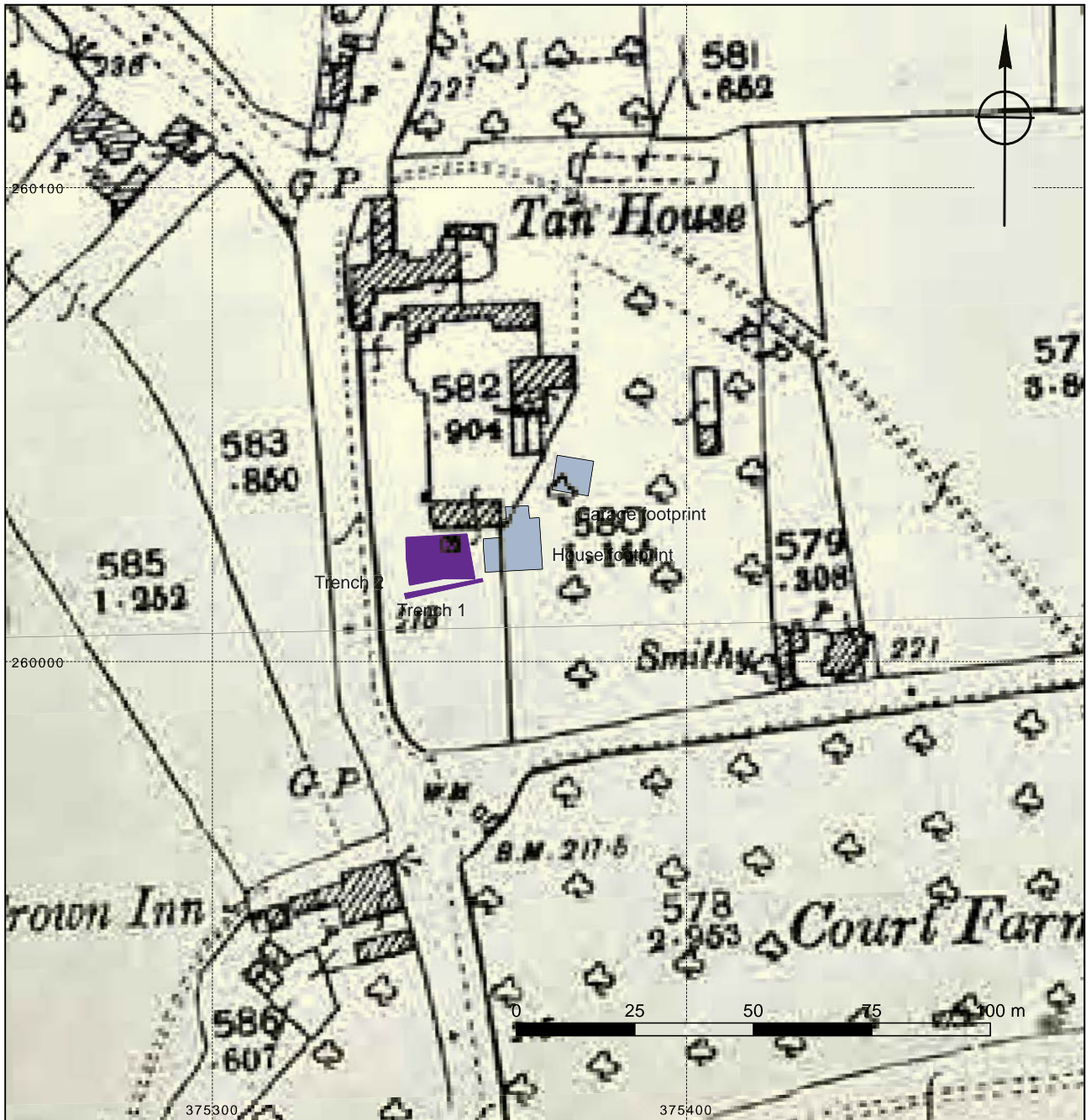
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trenches plan

Figure 2



Ordnance Survey map 1903 with archaeological areas superimposed (in purple)

Figure 3



## Plates



*Plate 1 Modern house footings, looking south-west towards areas archaeologically monitored*



*Plate 2 Existing garage foundations in east of site, looking north-west towards the Old Tannery*

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*Plate 3 Drainage Trench (Trench 1) looking north-east, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 4 South-facing section of Trench 1, showing natural deposits and spoil, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 5 Area of Trench 2 prior to excavation, after Trench 1 was backfilled, view south-west*



*Plate 6 Trench 2 after stripping to natural, view east, 2x 1m scales*

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*Plate 7 Location of modern test pits 204 and 206 in Trench 2, view west, 2 x1 and 0.5m scales*



*Plate 8 Natural geological seam of red sandstone within sand matrix 202 and tree throws, view north, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 9 Building footings 207-209, looking north towards modern brick built shed and the Old Tannery building, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 10 Building foundation structure [207] and [209] after excavation, view north, 2x 1m scales*

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*Plate 11 Tiled floor brick and mortar surface [209], view north, 1m and 0.5m scales*



*Plate 12 View south-west of Trench 2 after excavation, no scales*

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 69580)**

The archive consists of:

- 3 Context records AS1
- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 62 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 2 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

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## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM69580 (event HER number)

P5182

### Artefacts

period	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	count	weight(g)	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
modern	ceramic	flower pot	1900	2050	3	215	no	no
modern	ceramic	pot	1800	2000	4	47	no	no
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1600	1899	2	6	no	no
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1700	1800	1	30	no	no

### 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 Palaeolithic	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.

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