

Archaeological watching brief at Daniel's Farm, Claines, Worcestershire

for
R H Philips & Co

October 2018



Worcestershire Archaeology

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

Local planning authority:	Wychavon District Council
Planning reference:	18/00075/FUL
Central NGR:	SO 8549 5940
Commissioning client:	R H Philips & Co
Client project reference:	N/A
WA project reference:	P5420
WA report reference:	2607
HER reference:	WSM 70549
Oasis reference:	fieldsec1-328622
Museum accession number	

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	22/10/2018	Curator report	Jamie Wilkins	Tom Vaughan

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Jamie Wilkins

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Background information

<i>Client</i>	R H Philips & Co
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 8549 5940
<i>Historic Environment Record event reference</i>	WSM 70549
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>Reference</i>	18/00075/FUL
<i>Brief</i>	Wychavon District Council 2018
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2018
<i>Project parameters</i>	ClfA 2014

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Archaeological Background

The archaeological background is in the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey report (Allen Archaeology 2018). This identified that the site lies within a landscape of Late Iron Age, Roman and later rural settlement activity.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012

Sources consulted

Allen Archaeology 2018

Date(s) of fieldwork

28 August – 10 September 2018

Area of site

c 2,214m²

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits observed within the watching brief allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

The description of the deposits is given in Appendix 1.

Discussion

Trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

Trench 1

Trench 1 comprised a single drainage channel orientated broadly east to west. The trench measured c 201m in length, originating within the location of the proposed development, and terminating at the easternmost boundary of the field.

Trench 1 was not subject to an archaeological watching brief as it was not included in the planning condition applied to this development. However, the westernmost terminus of this trench extended into Trench 2, and so the depositional sequence was recorded here. The western end of the trench measured 0.81m wide and 1.02m deep. A friable, brownish-grey plough-soil (100) was observed to seal a lower plough-soil or subsoil (101) comprising a more compacted yellowish-brown silty-sand (Plates 1 and 2). Natural deposits (102), comprising orange sand and gravels, were observed below (101), at 0.49m below ground surface.

No significant archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was a large area located immediately north of the existing farm buildings, and comprised the footprint of a new stock shed and area of hardstanding. The trench measured approximately 32m wide, 79m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.38m below ground surface. Topsoil (200) measured 0.32m deep and comprised a friable, greyish-brown sandy-loam. This was observed to overlay a compacted subsoil (201), comprising a yellowish-brown silty-sand (Plates 3 and 4). The base of the subsoil (201) was not reached and the undisturbed natural geology was not revealed.

Deposit (201) appeared relatively disturbed and along with topsoil (200) was observed to contain frequent modern rubble and ceramic building material inclusions. On-site discussions with the land-owner revealed this to be the result of frequent attempts to firm up wet ground for the livestock (pers comm Henry Philips).

No natural deposits were exposed within this trench and no significant archaeological deposits were observed. A modern soak-away drain was recorded in the south of the trench, associated with the barn immediately south of the area.

Trenches 3 and 4

Trenches 3 and 4 comprised drainage runs originating within, and extending out of the eastern extent of Trench 2, connecting into Trench 1. The trenches measured just over 30m in length and were 0.64m wide. The western end of each trench had a maximum depth of 0.70m and in order to create a drainage fall, the eastern extent had a maximum depth of 1.10m.

The stratigraphic sequence observed was consistent with that recorded in Trench 1, with topsoil (300/400) overlying a thin compacted subsoil (301/401), which in turn sealed natural deposits (302/402) (Plate 5). There was some variation in the depths at which the natural geology was encountered however, with (302) and (402) identified at 0.37-0.40m below ground surface respectively.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Conclusions

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the confines of the groundworks, nor artefacts pre-dating the later post-medieval and modern period recovered. The undisturbed natural geology was not exposed within the largest area (Trench 2). The deeper drainages, Trenches 1, 3 and 4, on the eastern side of the site did expose the natural substrate, but were of very limited scope. Therefore the limited nature of much of the works means that the presence of archaeology within the development area cannot be entirely ruled out.

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 R H Philips & Co at Daniel's Farm, Claines, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8549 5940; HER ref WSM 70549), in preparation for the erection of a new stock shed with associated hardstanding and drainage. A desk-based assessment, produced in preparation for the development, indicates that the site sits within a comprehensive Iron Age, Roman and later rural landscape.

One open area and three drainage trenches were observed. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed, nor artefacts pre-dating the later post-medieval and modern period recovered within the confines of the groundworks. The undisturbed natural geology was not exposed within the largest area. The deeper trenches all lay on the eastern side of the site and did expose the natural substrate, but were of very limited scope. Therefore the limited nature of much of the works means that the presence of archaeology within the development area cannot be entirely ruled out.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project, Mr Henry Philips (client), and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils).

Bibliography

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BGS 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> , British Geological Survey, accessed 17 September 2018

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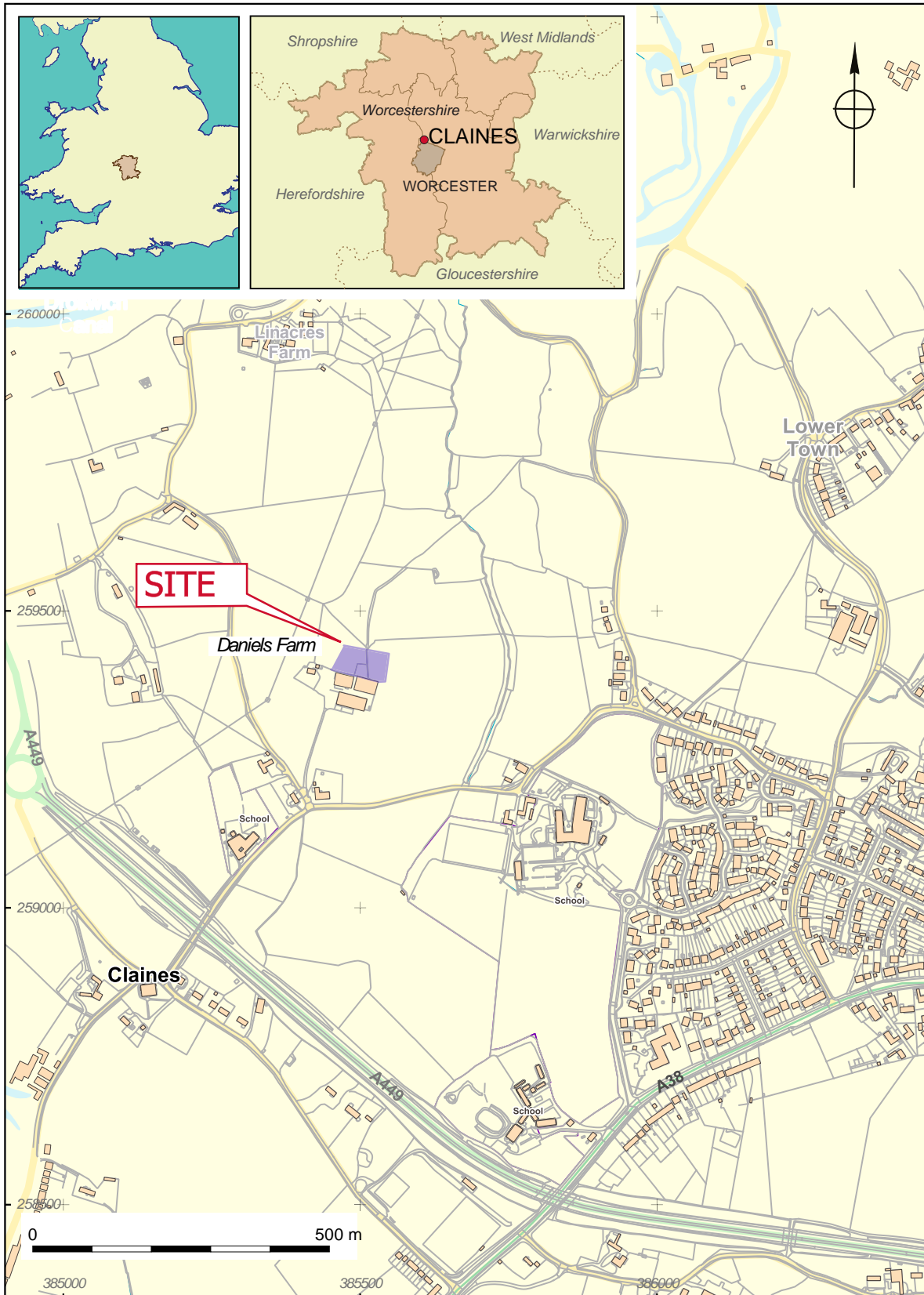
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WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended March 2016

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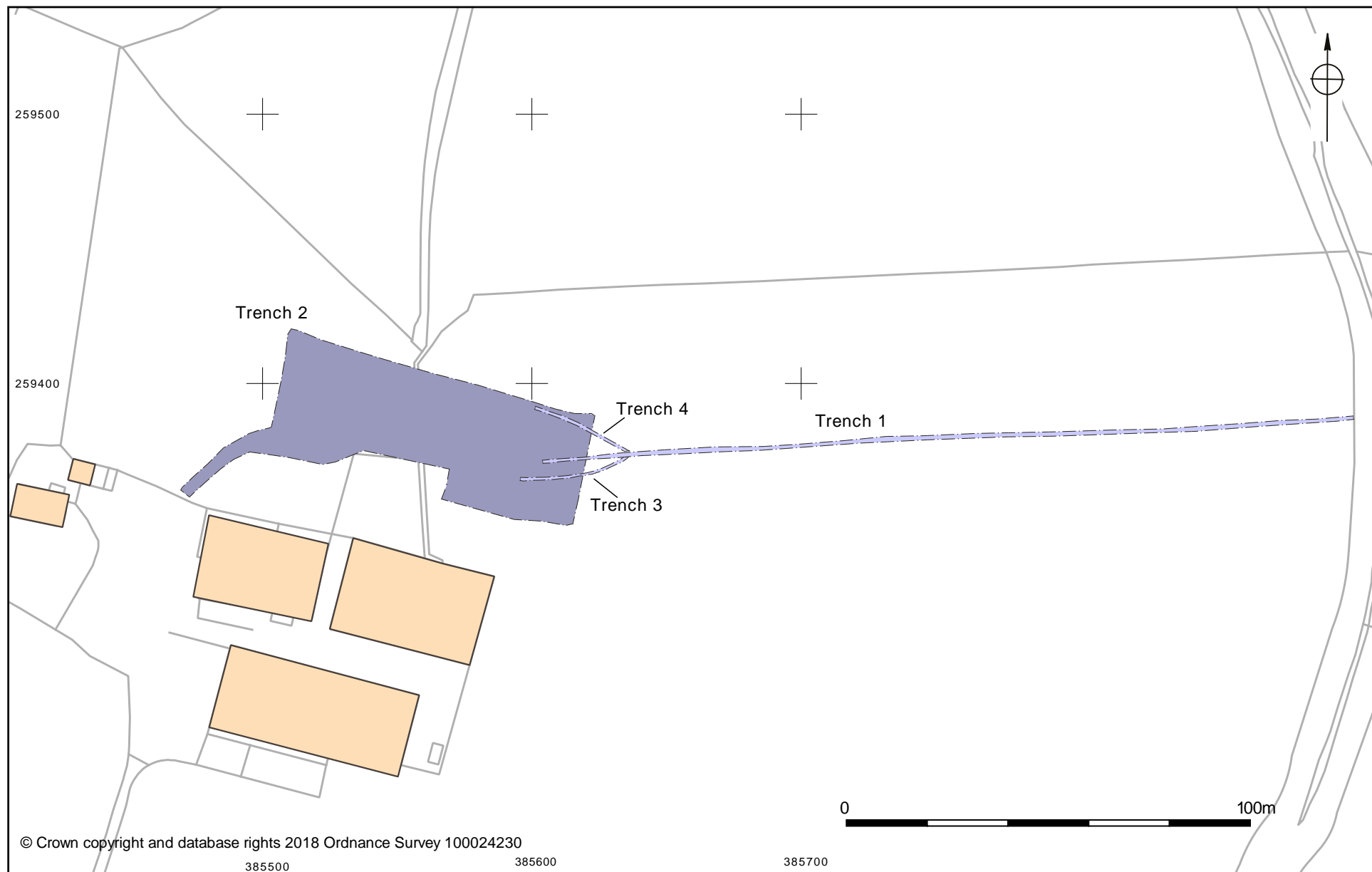
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench locations

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1, deposits 100, 101, and 102 within the eastern end, view south-east., 2x 1m scales



Plate 2. Trench 1, backfilled, view east, 1m scale



Plate 3. Trench 2 during strip exposing subsoil 201, view north-east, 2x 1m scales



Plate 4. Trench 2, subsoil 201 is exposed, view south-west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 5. Trench 3, view north-east, 1m scale

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: c 201m Width: 0.81m Depth: 1.02m

Orientation: east to west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil / Plough-soil	Friable, mid brownish-grey, silty-sand with frequent sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.00m-0.33m
101	Subsoil	Moderately compact, light yellowish-brown, silty-sand with moderate sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.33m-0.49m
102	Natural	Loose, light reddish-orange, sand and gravel natural geology.	0.49m+

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: c 79m Width: 32m Depth: 0.38m

Orientation: N/A

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy-loam, with frequent inclusions comprising sub-rounded pebbles and farm waste including hard-core, rubble and CBM.	0.00m-0.32m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact, light yellowish-brown, silty-sand, with frequent inclusions including sub-rounded pebbles and farm waste – same as (200). Fairly disturbed and clearly has farm waste pressed into it.	0.32m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.10m Width: 0.64m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: north-east to south-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil / Plough-soil	Friable, mid brownish-grey, silty-sand with frequent sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.00m-0.33m
301	Subsoil	Moderately compact, light yellowish-brown, silty-sand with moderate sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.33m -0.46m
302	Natural	Loose, light reddish-orange, sand and gravel natural geology.	0.46m+
303	Hard-core	Compacted, light grey, gravel and stone hard-core with occasional building debris. Instated following the excavation of Trench 2.	0.00m-0.20m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: c 30m Width: 0.64m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: north-west to south-east

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil / Plough-soil	Friable, mid brownish-grey, silty-sand with frequent sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.00m-0.42m
401	Subsoil	Moderately compact, light yellowish-brown, silty-sand with moderate sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.42m-0.47m
402	Natural	Loose, light reddish-orange, sand and gravel natural geology.	0.47m+
403	Hard-core	Compacted, light grey, gravel and stone hard-core with occasional building debris. Instated following the excavation of Trench 2.	0.00m-0.20m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70549)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 27 Digital photographs
- 4 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Computer disk
- 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 appropriate Historic Environment Record (HER).