

Archaeological evaluation at land at Day of Salvation Ministries, Malvern Link, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for

Broadway Heritage Ltd

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Archaeological evaluation at land at Day of Salvation Ministries, Malvern Link, Worcestershire

Elsbeth Iliff

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land at Day of Salvation Ministries, Malvern Link, Worcestershire (NGR SO 79075 47998). It was commissioned by Broadway Heritage Ltd, whose client intends residential development of the site, for which planning application has been granted by Malvern Hills District Council.

The site lies at the north-east edge of Malvern Link to the south of Ranelagh Road. The northern part of the site is part of the garden of the former St Saviour's Guest House at the Convent of the Holy Name, a Grade II listed building and part of a complex buildings which served as a convent in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The southern part of the site was an area formerly used as a car park.

The site lies in an area in which Roman remains, including kilns, have been recorded and an archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the development.

Four trenches were excavated in the footprints of the proposed buildings. These revealed a number of land drains, a small pit, a stone footing and a possible footing trench. The drains likely relate to post-medieval agricultural activity and are truncated by the later features, which may relate to a 19th century carriage works depicted on Ordnance Survey maps. A deposit of made ground in the north-west part of the site is likely to have been imported to create a level garden.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land at Day of Salvation Ministries Ltd, Malvern Link, Worcestershire (NGR SO 79075 47998). It was commissioned by Broadway Heritage Ltd, whose client intends residential development of the site, for which a planning application has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council (reference 16/00144 FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

The site lies in an area in which Roman remains, including kilns, have been recorded and an archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of the development. Correspondence with Aidan Smyth Archaeology and Planning Advisor to Malvern District Council established that an archaeological evaluation of the site was an appropriate initial stage of works.

The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth.

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

2 Aims

The aims of the evaluation brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.) ACIfA), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Elspeth Iloff (BA (hons.); MSc; PCIfA). The report was prepared by Elspeth Iloff. 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). The results of this search are summarised below (Section 4.1).

The search of the Historic Environment Record comprised a 1km radius from the boundary of the site. This provided access to records of archaeological sites, monuments and findspots within the search area, as well as readily available archaeological and historical information from related documentary and cartographic sources. Ordnance Survey historic and modern mapping and aerial photographs were also consulted.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

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

Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th and 9th October 2018. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM70605. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5439.

Four trenches, amounting to just over 133m² in area, were excavated over the site area of c. 3170m, representing a sample of just over 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 1. The trenches were located within the footprints of the intended buildings forming the development.

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.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site is located at the base of the Malvern Hills, on the north-east edge of Malvern Link. The site is relatively flat, but with a step up across the middle of the site from c. 51.38m AOD in the southern half of the site, to c. 52.76m AOD in the northern part of the site. The underlying geology is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2018).

A number of Historic England Listed Historic and unlisted buildings are situated in the vicinity, including buildings on the development site itself that have previously functioned as church buildings (WSM20363, WSM41857). Beyond this, no other heritage assets have been recorded within the site.

In addition to the built heritage in the area, there are also monument records for the site of an 18th to 19th century brick kiln c. 190m south-west of the site (WSM30764), and the site of two Romano-British kilns, located c. 230m to the north-west (WSM09317). A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out c. 150m east of the site, including geophysical survey (WSM30130), an evaluation (WSM29810) and excavations (WSM30131 WSM30132). These investigations recorded Roman deposits and were considered likely to be related to a Roman pottery kiln site. It is considered that there is potential for Roman remains, or for 18th to 19th century remains, possibly relating to brick kilns.

The Ordnance Survey mapping from 1842 to 1952 indicates a Carriage Works located directly to the south of the site, which possibly extended into the southern part of the site.

4.2 Current land-use

The northern part of the site is part of the garden of St Saviour's Guest House at the Convent of the Holy Name, a Grade II listed building (List Entry Number: 1224099) and part of a complex buildings which served as a convent in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The southern part of the site was an area formerly used as a car park.

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.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The underlying natural geology across the site consisted of an orangey red silty clay, consistent with the mapped geology.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval to modern deposits

Across the southern part of the site, in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, the natural substrate was sealed by a thin orangey red silty clay subsoil at a maximum of 0.2m deep, which was itself directly below a layer of hardcore that formed the ground surface. In Trench 1, in the north-west area of the site, the natural was sealed by a yellowy brown clayey silt relict subsoil, at 0.18m in depth, which was beneath a relatively deep layer of redeposited natural made ground, up to 0.58m in depth. This lay below a thin layer of greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil, measuring only 0.07m deep.

A number of post-medieval to modern features were observed in Trenches 2 and 3, including four land drains, a pit, a stone footing, and a possible foundation trench. The stone footing and foundation trench both truncate land drains. The pit was encountered in Trench 3, just under 0.5m south-west of the stone footing. This feature measured 0.68m by 0.45m, and was 0.07m deep, and contained a modern nail that was not retained.

6 Synthesis

This evaluation has established the presence of archaeological remains limited to the post-medieval to modern period. These features are situated in the southern part of the site, and may relate to 19th century carriage works indicated on the historic Ordnance Survey mapping. Two of these features appear to be structural in nature. The land drains that are truncated by these features suggest agricultural use of the land up to the 18th century.

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.

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relate to post-medieval agricultural activity and are truncated by the later features, which may relate to a 19th century carriage works depicted on Ordnance Survey maps. A deposit of made ground in the north-west part of the site is likely to have been imported to create a level garden.

8 Acknowledgements

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

9 Bibliography

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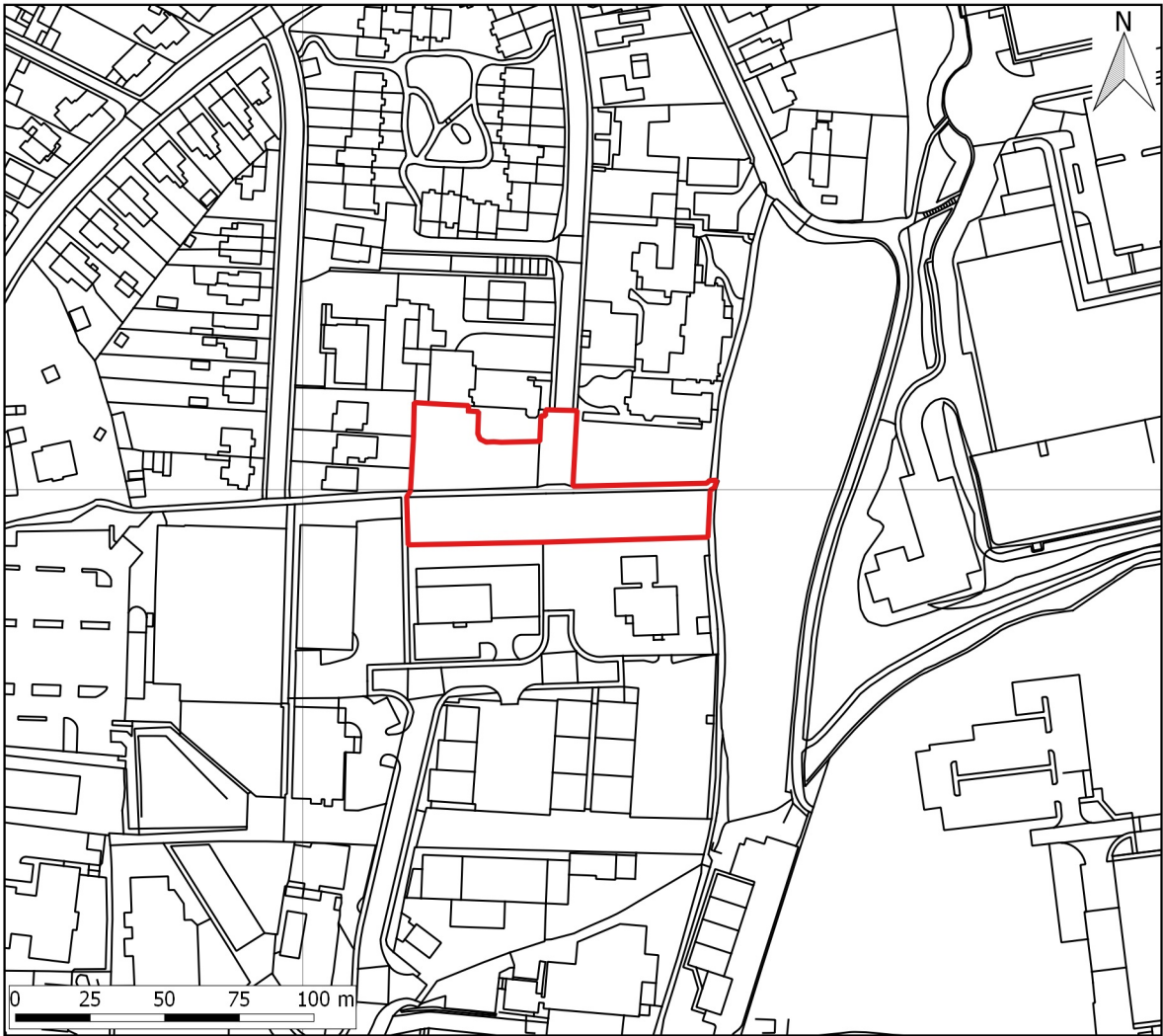
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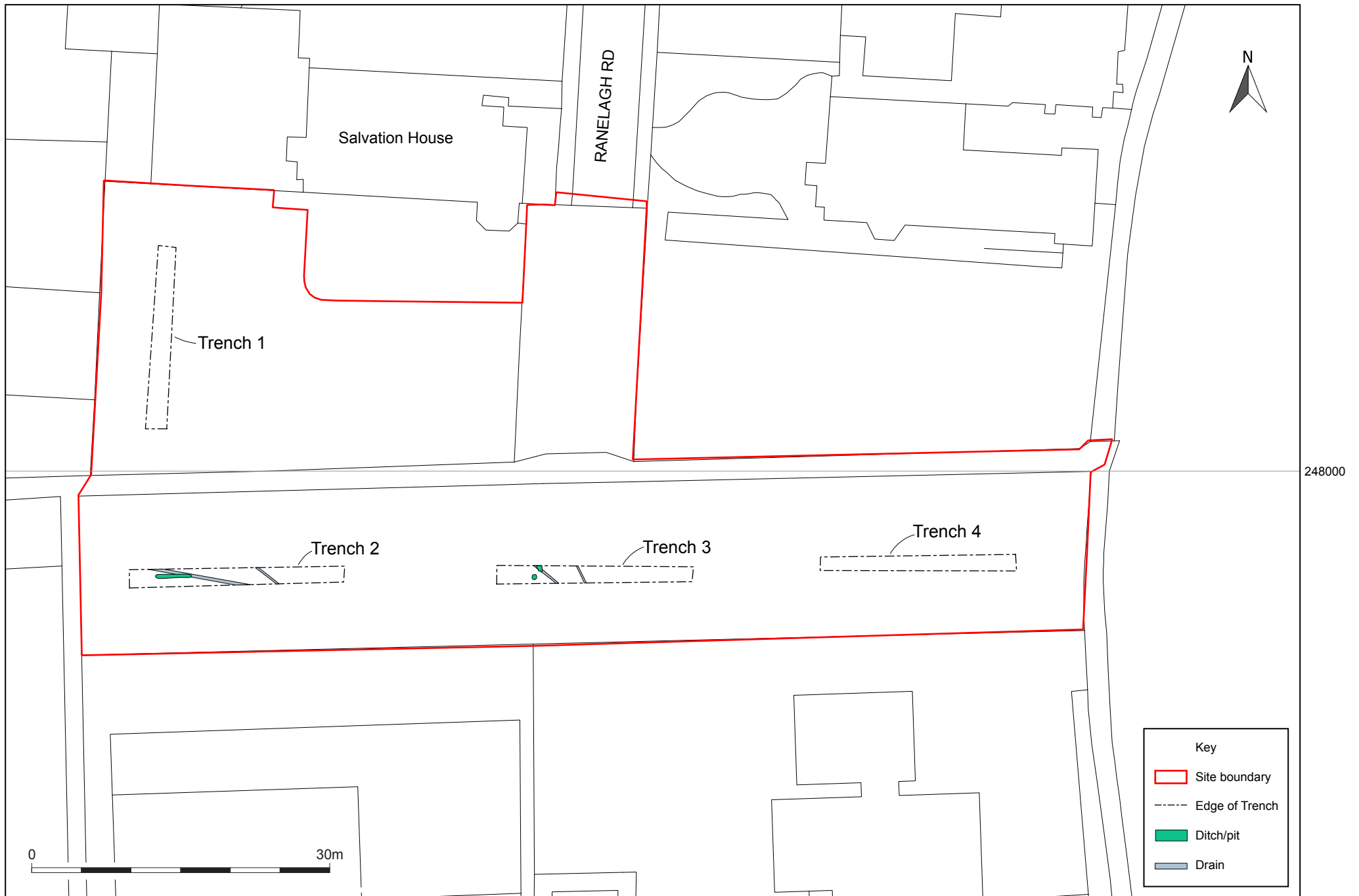
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: The site, facing west



Plate 2: Trench 3, facing west (scales 1m)



Plate 3: Section of Trench 1 showing made ground deposit, facing west (scales 1m)



Plate 4: Pit [304], facing east (scale 0.5m)



Plate 5: Stone footing (305), facing north (scale 0.4m)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.98m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Context Type	Feature Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth
100	Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil	0.07m
101	Layer	Made ground	Firm mid brownish orange silty clay	Made ground comprised of redeposited natural. Associated with development of the present buildings to level the ground and remove the natural slope. Thickest at southern end and tapers out c. 3 metres from north end of trench.	0.58m
102	Layer	Relict subsoil	Firm mid yellowy brown clay silt	Relict subsoil covered by made ground in the Victorian period.	0.18m
103	Layer	Natural	Firm mid orangey red silty clay	Natural	

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.5m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Context Type	Feature Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth
200	Layer	Hard standing	Loose grey rubble/stones	Hard standing ground surface	0.3m
201	Layer	Subsoil	Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	Subsoil	0.2m
202	Layer	Natural	Compact mid orangey red sandy clay	Natural	
203	Fill	Fill of land drain [204]			
204	Cut	Cut of land drain			
205	Fill	Fill of land drain [206]			
206	Cut	Cut of land drain			
207	Fill	Fill of foundation cut [208]			
208	Cut	Cut for possible foundation			

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.24m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Context Type	Feature Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth
300	Layer	Hard standing	Loose grey rubble/stones	Hard standing	0.18m
301	Layer	Subsoil	Compact mid orangey red sandy clay	Subsoil, not seen at west end of trench.	0.06m
302	Layer	Natural	Compact mid orangey red sandy clay	Natural	
303	Fill	Fill of pit	Firm mid yellowy brown sandy clay	Remnant fill of post med pit.	0.07m
304	Cut	Pit		Truncated pit probably associated with 19th century activity on site	0.07m
305	Structure	Stone footing	Roughly hewn green sandstone and red brick 160 x 180 x 50mm	Rubble foundation of possible wall, potentially associated with carriage works that previously existed on site. Located on north edge of trench and goes into balk.	
306	Cut	Construction cut for 305			
307	Fill	Fill of land drain 308			
308	Cut	Land drain			
309	Fill	Fill of land drain 310			
310	Cut	Land drain			

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.24m

Orientation: E-W

Context	Context Type	Feature Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth
400	Layer	Hard standing	Loose grey rubble/stone	Hard standing	0.24m
401	Layer	Subsoil	Compact mid orangey red silty clay	Subsoil	0.12m
402	Layer	Natural	Compact mid brownish red silty clay	Natural	

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70605)

The archive consists of electronic records created on ARK and:

- 17 Digital photographs
- 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.
