

Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Winsmore, Powick Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for CgMs Consulting

October 2018



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LAND AT WINSMORE POWICK WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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SITE INFORMATION

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
REPORT	2
1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Background to the project	2
1.2 Site location, topography and geology.....	2
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Earlier Prehistoric (Palaeolithic – Neolithic)	3
2.3 Later Prehistoric (Bronze Age – Iron Age)	3
2.4 Roman	3
2.5 Medieval	3
2.6 Post-medieval and Modern	3
2.7 Geophysical Survey.....	4
2.8 Summary	4
3 PROJECT AIMS	4
4 PROJECT METHODOLOGY	4
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	5
5.1 Introduction	5
5.2 Phasing	5
5.2.1 Natural deposits	5
5.2.2 Phase 1: Prehistoric.....	5
5.2.3 Phase 2: Modern.....	5
5.2.4 Phase 3: Undated	5
6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE BY ROB HEDGE	6
6.1 Artefact methodology	6
6.1.1 Recovery policy.....	6
6.1.2 Method of analysis	6
6.1.3 Discard policy	6
6.2 Artefactual analysis	7
6.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period	7
6.3 Recommendations	7
6.3.1 Further analysis and reporting	7
6.3.2 Discard and retention	7
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE BY ELIZABETH PEARSON	7
7.1 Project Parameters	7
7.2 Aims.....	8
7.3 Methods.....	8
7.3.1 Sampling Policy.....	8
7.3.2 Processing and analysis	8
7.3.3 Discard Policy.....	8
7.4 Results	8
7.5 Significance	9

8	DISCUSSION	9
9	SIGNIFICANCE	10
10	CONCLUSIONS	11
11	PROJECT PERSONNEL	11
12	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
13	BIBLIOGRAPHY	12

FIGURES

PLATES

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF PROJECT ARCHIVE

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF DATA FOR HER

Archaeological Evaluation at land at Winsmore, Powick, Worcestershire

By Jamie Wilkins

With contributions by Rob Hedge and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land at Winsmore, Powick, Worcestershire (NGR SO 82997 51300). It was commissioned by Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, in advance of a proposed residential development. Planning permission has been granted by Malvern Hills District Council, subject to a programme of archaeological works.

The site comprised a single arable field, located to the south-west of the historic core of Powick and is situated in a landscape dominated by the River Teme, to the north, and River Severn, to the east. Prior to this programme of works, a desk-based assessment was undertaken, followed by a geophysical survey. Whilst the results of the geophysical survey were negative, the DBA identified a moderate potential for archaeological remains dating to the Palaeolithic and Iron Age.

Eight trenches were excavated across the 1.5ha site, representing a 3% sample, and primarily targeting the location of proposed house plots. The site was found to have a prehistoric element, evidenced by the presence of a small pit in a trench in the eastern part of the site. The pit contained a small lithic and pottery assemblage which provides an earlier prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, date for the feature. As much of the pit remained obscured by the trench baulk, interpretations are limited; however, it likely represents small-scale activity, possibly in the form of a temporary encampment. Whilst ostensibly isolated, it remains possible that further features of this date remained outside of the limit of the trench.

The only other archaeological features observed comprised two undated ditches, in both the east and west of site. The ditches were approximately 80m apart and there was no clear evidence of an association between the two. The recovery of fragments of heat-cracked stone from the westernmost ditch, within Trench 3, may indicate a prehistoric date. If proven to be the case, it is probable that the ditch represents a former field boundary as the lack of cultural material and other archaeological features makes a settlement or enclosure unlikely. The presence of possible prehistoric field boundaries would provide additional evidence to a wider landscape rich in known later prehistoric settlement and agricultural practice.

The presence of prehistoric activity on site is of local interest and has the potential to develop our understanding of activity of this date within the landscape. The possible Bronze Age pit may be of up to regional importance.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in October 2018 at land at Winsmore, Powick, Worcestershire (NGR SO 82997 51300). This comprised eight evaluation trenches across a single field. The project was commissioned by Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, in advance of a proposed residential development. Planning permission has been granted by Malvern Hills district council, subject to a programme of archaeological works (planning reference 16/00737).

The site is considered by Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Malvern Hills DC (The Curator) to have the potential for the survival of archaeological remains and heritage assets, which may be impacted upon by the proposed development. Previous geophysical survey on the site produced negative archaeological results, and subsequent correspondence between Richard Smalley and Aidan Smyth identified a programme of trial trenching as appropriate mitigation.

No specific brief was provided but this project conforms to the generality of briefs previously issued. A trench plan was designed by CgMs Consulting and a WSI was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2018) which was approved by the Curator. The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and also conforms to the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The study site comprises a single parcel of land, measuring some 1.5ha, at Winsmore, Powick. The site is bounded to the north by three residential buildings and the A449 Malvern Road. The western boundary comprises the drive to Broadfields Farm, and the eastern boundary comprises the Winsmore residential estate. To the south, the site is bounded by an agricultural field boundary comprising a hedgerow.

The site has previously been used for arable agriculture, though at the time of this project the field had not been cultivated for some time and subsequently thick scrub vegetation was well established. The site topography is generally flat though a gentle slope is present in the west of site, where the ground level is recorded at 26.87m AOD, dropping to 26.15m AOD in the east.

The wider landscape is dominated by watercourses. The biggest of these is the River Severn which is located 2km to the east. The River Teme sits 935m to the north and north-east; and the smaller Careys Brook is located 630m to the south. Both of these courses are tributaries of the Severn.

The underlying geology comprises bedrock of Sidmouth Mudstone formation overlain by superficial deposits of the Holt Heath sand and gravel member (BGS 2018).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by CgMs Consulting (2016), on behalf of their client. A radius of 1km, centred on the site, was assessed by the DBA and the findings presented are summarised below.

2.2 Earlier Prehistoric (Palaeolithic – Neolithic)

The site sits within an area of Palaeolithic potential (WSM56937). This is attributed to the presence of Holt Heath sand and gravel member which has the potential to contain preserved palaeoenvironmental remains. Elsewhere in the county this superficial deposit has produced Hippopotamus remains (WSM56937).

No archaeological deposits of Mesolithic or Neolithic date are recorded within the study area.

2.3 Later Prehistoric (Bronze Age – Iron Age)

Evidence of Bronze Age activity within the study area is limited and comprises cropmarks of a potential ring ditch located c 725m to the southeast of the site (WSM30643).

Recorded Iron Age activity is more extensive and is evidenced by excavations west of Hospital Lane c 895m southwest of site (WSM57107). Investigations recorded the presence of a Middle Iron Age palisaded farmstead with associated evidence for sheep farming.

Further Iron Age activity is recorded c 90m to the south of site. Features including a ring ditch, field system, pit alignments (WSM05742) and an undated enclosure (WSM05741) were identified via aerial photographs.

2.4 Roman

A Romano-British settlement is recorded c 190m east of the site (WSM06066). Subsequent evaluation trenching (WSM34499) identified a substantial settlement dating from between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. The settlement comprised numerous enclosures relating to animal husbandry and domestic occupation. Cropmarks in an adjoining field indicate that the settlement may continue east. There is no evidence that the settlement or associated field systems extend west towards the study site.

Additional Roman activity is recorded c 180m to the west of the study site in the presence of two unstratified Romano-British urns (WSM00991). The DBA posits that these burials may be associated with the settlement discussed above.

2.5 Medieval

The site is located south-west of the medieval historic core of Powick and thus is likely to have been part of the agricultural hinterland surrounding the village at this time. There is no archaeological evidence for the presence of medieval remains within the study site.

Within the wider landscape archaeological evidence further indicates that the study site is likely to have sat within an undeveloped agricultural landscape. Extant ridge and furrow is recorded to the north-west (WSM11910, 41189, 41191, 41192, 41193, 41194) along with possible fishponds (WSM01032, 03936).

2.6 Post-medieval and Modern

There are no heritage assets dating to this period within the study site. Within the wider landscape, Post-medieval assets are typified by a series of farmsteads, outbuildings and ponds. Aircraft landing obstacles, erected in 1940, are recorded in the field immediately south of the study site (WSM31417). There is no evidence that remains associated with these features extend into the study site.

Cartographic evidence indicates that by 1904 part of the study site had been turned over to 'Allotment Gardens' and an L-shaped track was present, extending south from the Malvern Road. The site continued to be used as allotments until at least 1994, before it was then returned to agriculture at some point after this date. By the time of the site visit for the DBA, the site was wholly arable with no visible remnants of the trackway or former use as allotment gardens.

2.7 Geophysical Survey

In preparation for the development, a geophysical survey, comprising gradiometry, was undertaken across the study site (Stratascan 2015). The results of the survey were negative and failed to identify any possible archaeological remains.

Anomalies included closely spaced parallel linear responses in the centre of site which were interpreted as agricultural evidence (ploughing or drainage). Additionally, a further positive linear response is likely to relate a former trackway, and numerous ferrous spikes are interpreted as modern rubbish within the soils, likely relating to former use of the site as allotment gardens.

2.8 Summary

Aside from the Palaeolithic and Iron Age, the results of the DBA identified low potential for the presence of archaeological remains from all other periods. If present, any medieval or later archaeological remains are likely to be characterised as agricultural and of low significance.

A moderate potential for Palaeolithic and Iron Age remains has been identified based on evidence from the surrounding landscape, outlined above. However, there is currently no direct evidence for activity from these periods within the development site.

The geophysical survey has identified no probable or possible archaeological remains within the development site.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project were to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- Identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- Assess their significance;
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2018). Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th and 10th October 2018.

Eight trenches, amounting to 430m² in area, were excavated over the 1.5ha site, representing a sample of 3%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The trenches were non-gridded and positioned to interrogate the areas potentially affected by the development, in this instance, below proposed housing plots. This is with the exception of Trench 4, which was located in the centre of site, below a proposed green space.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a JCB 3CX type 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) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS with an accuracy limit set at 0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was undertaken through a combination of structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded in the trenches are shown in Figures 3-5. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were observed within all trenches between 0.52m and 0.80m below the ground surface. The natural geology observed on site comprised compacted reddish-orange sand and gravels with frequent patches of reddish sandy-clay.

5.2.2 Phase 1: Prehistoric

A single pit [505], located in the southern half of Trench 5, was identified as potentially prehistoric in date (Plates 3-4; Figs 3-4). Pit [505] was only partially exposed within the trench, with much of it obscured by the eastern baulk. The pit had a visible length of 0.85m, visible width of 0.42m, and an overall depth of 0.31m.

The pit contained a single fill, comprising a firm, light reddish-brown, sandy-clay (506). This fill (506) contained moderate charcoal flecking, extremely small fragments of pottery, and two small flint flakes. During on-site excavation very small fragments of prehistoric pottery were identified but in too poor of a condition to retain. A single flint flake was also recovered on site. Post-excavation processing of the environmental samples recovered a further flint flake, and four minute fragments of prehistoric pottery.

5.2.3 Phase 2: Modern

An isolated, modern posthole was observed within Trench 1. The feature could be observed to truncate the subsoil and contained modern waste including plastics.

A dark greyish-brown topsoil was present across the entirety of the site, and was observed to contain frequent modern waste including china pottery and plastics. These were not retained. At its deepest, the topsoil measured 0.48m in the south of the site before thinning out rapidly towards the north where it measured just 0.12m deep in Trench 1.

A thin band of subsoil was observed in all trenches. This layer comprised a compacted light yellowish-brown sandy-silt, measuring between 0.17m and 0.40m deep. In the western extent of site and observed within Trenches 3 and 7, a second, lower subsoil was present (303 / 703). This deposit comprised a compacted mid reddish-brown sandy-silt and appeared limited to the western boundary. The deposit is interpreted as an undisturbed subsoil layer likely deposited via agricultural practices causing a build-up of material.

5.2.4 Phase 3: Undated

A single, undated ditch [304] was present within the centre of Trench 3, in the west of site (Plate 7; Figs 3-4). The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east, though it may have been curving westwards immediately past the northernmost baulk of the trench. It was of moderate size, measuring 1.13m wide, 0.44m deep and had a visible length of 2.35m within the trench. The profile was regular with concave sides and a narrow, concave base.

Ditch [304] was filled with three clay deposits, indicative of a period of siltation before a final backfill of up-cast material. The most archaeologically interesting of these deposits comprised basal fill (305).

This fill contained moderate charcoal flecking and the occasional heat-cracked pebble. There was no sign of this ditch continuing into nearby Trenches 4 and 6.

Approximately 80m to the south-east, a second undated ditch [503] was present within the northern end of Trench 5 (Plate 2; Figs 3-4). This followed a north-east to south-west alignment and appeared to continue through both trench baulks. It was of a similar size to ditch [304], measuring 0.72m deep and 1.40m wide. The profile was slightly irregular with a convex sides leading into a rounded, wide concave base. In addition, the south-eastern edge was much steeper than that recorded on the north-west.

The ditch contained a single fill comprising a compacted orangey-brown, silty-sand (504). The fill was homogenous and sterile, with just the occasional charcoal fleck present. No material culture was recovered from this ditch, and so an association with prehistoric pit [505], c 11m south-east, was not established.

6 Artefactual evidence by Rob Hedge

A very small assemblage of prehistoric pottery and flint was recovered from pit [505] (Plate 10).

6.1 Artefact methodology

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findswork by ClfA (2014b), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

6.1.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

6.1.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on Microsoft Access database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined and included in the assessment.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Classification of worked flint follows conventions outlined in Ballin (2000), Inizan et al (1999), and Butler (2005); the material was catalogued according to type and dated where possible. Visible retouch, edge-damage, cortex, raw material characteristics and quality, burning, and breakage were noted.

6.1.3 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.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

6.2 Artefactual analysis

The assemblage came from two stratified contexts.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
prehistoric	stone	flint	flake	1	0.2
prehistoric	stone	flint	burnt chip	1	0.1
prehistoric	ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	0.4
undated	stone	?dolerite	burnt stone	3	77
Totals				9	77.7

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

6.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

Prehistoric

Fill (506) of pit [505] yielded two small pieces of worked flint:

- a small flake of translucent light grey flint, 14mm x 11mm x 2mm, and
- a very small heat-affected chip, 10mm x 6mm x 1mm.

Four minute pieces of prehistoric pot, weighing 0.1g each, were retrieved from environmental samples (Plate 10). Their size and condition precluded identification to a specific fabric. Dark grey throughout, under x 20 magnification they were found to contain moderate quantities of sub-rounded quartz grains up to 0.5mm in size and occasional angular quartz inclusions up to 1mm in size. These attributes are common to a number of prehistoric fabrics from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Iron Age, but the presence of small pieces of angular quartz — along with the presence of worked flint — may suggest a Bronze Age date is possible.

Undated

A small quantity of heat-cracked stone was recovered from basal fill (305) of ditch [304]. Although not intrinsically dateable, the presence of fire-cracked stone together with an absence of other artefactual material is often indicative of a prehistoric date.

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 Further analysis and reporting

No further work on the assemblage is required.

6.3.2 Discard and retention

It is recommended that the assemblage be retained, though the final decision rests with Museums Worcestershire.

7 Environmental evidence by Elizabeth Pearson

7.1 Project Parameters

The environmental project conforms to guidance by ClfA (2014) on archaeological evaluation, guidance by English Heritage (2011) and Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

7.2 Aims

The aims of the assessment determine the state of preservation, type, and quantity of environmental remains recovered, from the samples and information provided. This information will be used to assess the importance of the environmental remains.

7.3 Methods

7.3.1 Sampling Policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of two samples (each of up to 40 litres) from a pit and ditch of prehistoric date were taken from the site (Table 2).

7.3.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300mm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers et al 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

7.3.3 Discard Policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residues will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

7.4 Results

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments and seed remains are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Only unidentified charcoal fragments were recovered from these samples, in association with a fragment of small mammal bone, heat-cracked stones, coal fragments, pot and flint. Little interpretation could be made of these samples.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
305	2	Ditch	304	prehistoric	10	10	Yes	Yes
506	1	Pit	505	prehistoric	40	40	Yes	Yes

Table 2: List of bulk samples

context	sample	small mammal	charcoal	uncharred plant	artefacts
305	2		occ	occ*	occ heat-cracked stone.
506	1	occ	occ	occ*	occ coal, pot (?), flint.

Table 3: Summary of environmental samples; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
305	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
305	2	?wa	<i>Chenopodium glaucum/rubrum</i> , <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	seed	+/low	Probably modern and intrusive
305	2	?wa	Cereal sp indet culm node	misc	+/low	Intrusive from crop stubble
506	1	?wa	<i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Atriplex</i> sp, <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	seed	+/low	Probably modern and intrusive
506	1	?wa	Cereal sp indet culm node	misc	+/low	Intrusive from crop stubble
506	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	

Table 4: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	

7.5 Significance

Environmental remains recovered from two samples of prehistoric date were of low significance.

8 Discussion

The solitary prehistoric pit [505] identified within Trench 5 may be Bronze Age in origin (Plates 3-4). Pottery fragments recovered from the environmental sample were identified as containing sub-angular

quartz tempering (Plate 10). Though these fragments were too minute to provide a more specific date than Neolithic – Iron Age, when combined with the flint flakes recovered from the same context, a broadly Bronze Age date seems likely.

The pit is not, presently, understood well, as much of it remained outside of the trench limits and obscured by the baulk. The pit was ostensibly isolated with no other features of similar date identified, though it remains possible associated features lie outside of the trench limits. Subsequently, interpretations are limited. The single pit fill (504) is likely redeposited up-cast material and containing mixed refuse (flint and pottery) is indicative of single-use or short term activity. This may suggest that the pit was backfilled rapidly after being opened, providing no time for low-energy backfilling events such as siltation and erosion.

An isolated pit is possibly indicative of small-scale or periodic activity, likely typified by a temporary encampment. This is strengthened when considering the wider landscape the pit sits within. Powick occupies an island of higher ground within a landscape dominated by river terraces, with the River Teme to the north, River Severn to the east, and the Carey Brook to the south. This would have made it a prime position to overlook the low-lying, fertile river valleys rich in fauna.

The only other archaeological features identified on site comprise two undated ditches [304] and [503] (Plates 2 and 7). Both of these ditches are poorly understood, particularly given the dearth of cultural material, including environmental remains, though the basal fill of ditch [304] contained some fragments of heat-cracked stone. The lack of cultural material, combined with the lack of archaeological features identified in other trenches, suggests that they are more likely to represent field boundaries, rather than settlement enclosures. Additionally, the alignments of both ditches indicate that they are unlikely to be components of the same particular boundary; however it may be that they form components of a wider field system within the landscape. There is no immediate association between ditch [503] and pit [505] despite their close proximity.

Despite a general lack of cultural material, the presence of heat-cracked stones within ditch [304] may indicate a prehistoric date. This position is strengthened when one considers the presence of possible Bronze Age activity within the immediate vicinity, as evidenced by pit [505]. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 2 of this report, extensive later prehistoric activity is recorded in the wider landscape, with the closest comprising possible Iron Age cropmarks (WSM05742) c 90m south of site. It is also of note that neither ditch is represented on any of the historic mapping, and so likely predate the post-medieval period.

9 Significance

The site contained a limited number of archaeological features, and those present appear likely to reflect small-scale prehistoric use. Post-medieval and modern use of the site was contained to the overlying soils. Much of the archaeology remains undated; however, the prehistoric activity does have the potential to contribute to the prehistoric research agendas laid out in the West Midlands Regional Research Frameworks (Watt 2011) and further developed in Westward on the High-Hilled Plains (Hurst 2017).

The probable earlier prehistoric element, evidenced by a single pit, is of at least local interest. The pit has proved to contain a small pottery and lithic assemblage and so has the potential to contribute to the wider regional research agendas, specifically those aiming to better define chronologies and expand the understanding of material culture (Watt 2011, 80). Evidence of Bronze Age and earlier settlement activity is limited on a regional and national scale (*ibid*, 67), and so the potential presence of deposits of this date, however limited, has the ability to contribute to our understanding.

The two undated ditches are more difficult to quantify. The presence of heat-cracked stone within ditch [304] may indicate a likely prehistoric date. If this is the case, then the ditches are unlikely to represent anything more than field boundaries. The lack of material culture and lack of archaeology in most other trenches is not indicative of a settlement or enclosure within the site boundary. It is more

likely that these ditches represent a continuation of prehistoric field systems observed to the south and south-west. It is noted that with no alignment to boundaries on cartographic sources, these ditches are unlikely to represent medieval or post-medieval field boundaries.

If found to be components of a prehistoric field system, the ditches would be of at least local interest, and have the potential to contribute to the regional research agendas (Hurst 2017, 117).

10 Conclusions

The programme of evaluation trenching has established two areas of archaeological interest in the study site. These areas are located around Trench 3, in the west of site, and Trench 5, in the east of site. Archaeological interest in the site appears limited to these two areas, as the remaining six trenches were devoid of any archaeological features or deposits. This is perhaps reflective of the low archaeological potential assigned for the site.

The site was found to have a probable earlier prehistoric element, evidenced by the presence of a small pit in Trench 5. The pit contained a small lithic and pottery assemblage which provides a possible Bronze Age date. As much of the pit remained obscured by the trench baulk, interpretations are limited; however, it likely represents small-scale activity, possibly in the form of a temporary encampment. Whilst ostensibly isolated, it remains possible that further features of this date remained outside of the limit of the trench.

The only other archaeological features observed on site comprised two undated ditches, in both the east and west of site. The ditches were approximately 80m apart and there was no clear evidence of an association between the two. The recovery of fragments of heat-cracked stone from the westernmost ditch, within Trench 3, may indicate a prehistoric date. If proven to be the case, it is probable that the ditch represents a former field boundary as the lack of cultural material and other archaeological features makes a settlement or enclosure unlikely. The presence of possible prehistoric field boundaries would provide additional evidence to a wider landscape rich in known later prehistoric settlement and agricultural practice.

The presence of prehistoric activity on site is of some interest and has the potential to develop our understanding of activity of this date within the local landscape.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provide an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Jamie Wilkins, assisted by Tom Rogers, Peter Lovett, Graham Arnold, Beth Williams, Jem Brewer, and Jesse Wheeler.

The project was managed by Tom Rogers. The report was produced and collated by Jamie Wilkins. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

12 Acknowledgements

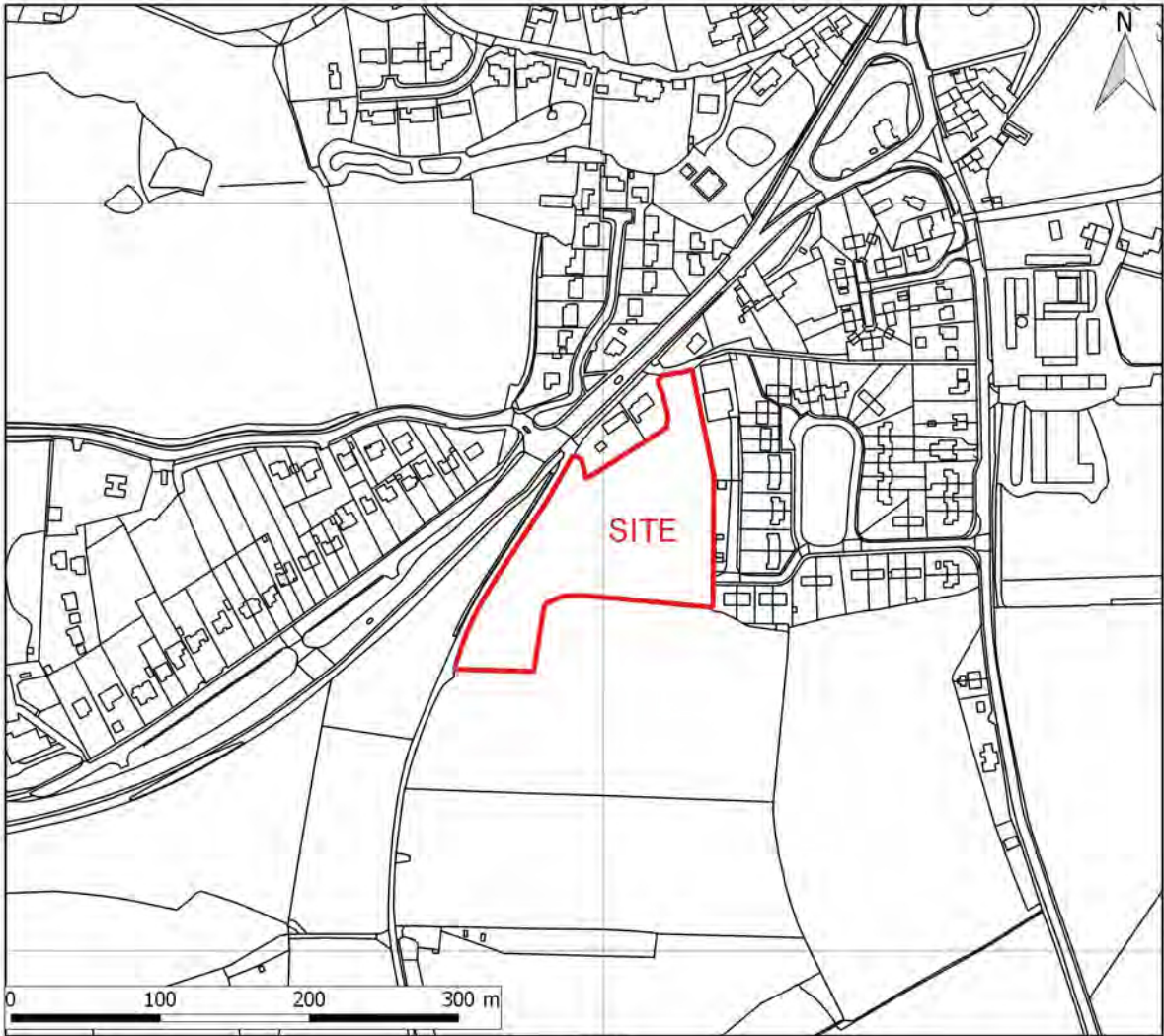
Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following: Richard Smalley of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the project, the landowner for providing access, and A.G. Redman & Son Ltd for providing the plant their help during the fieldwork. The project was monitored by Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Malvern Hills DC (The Curator) and Worcestershire Archaeology would also like to thank him for his advice.

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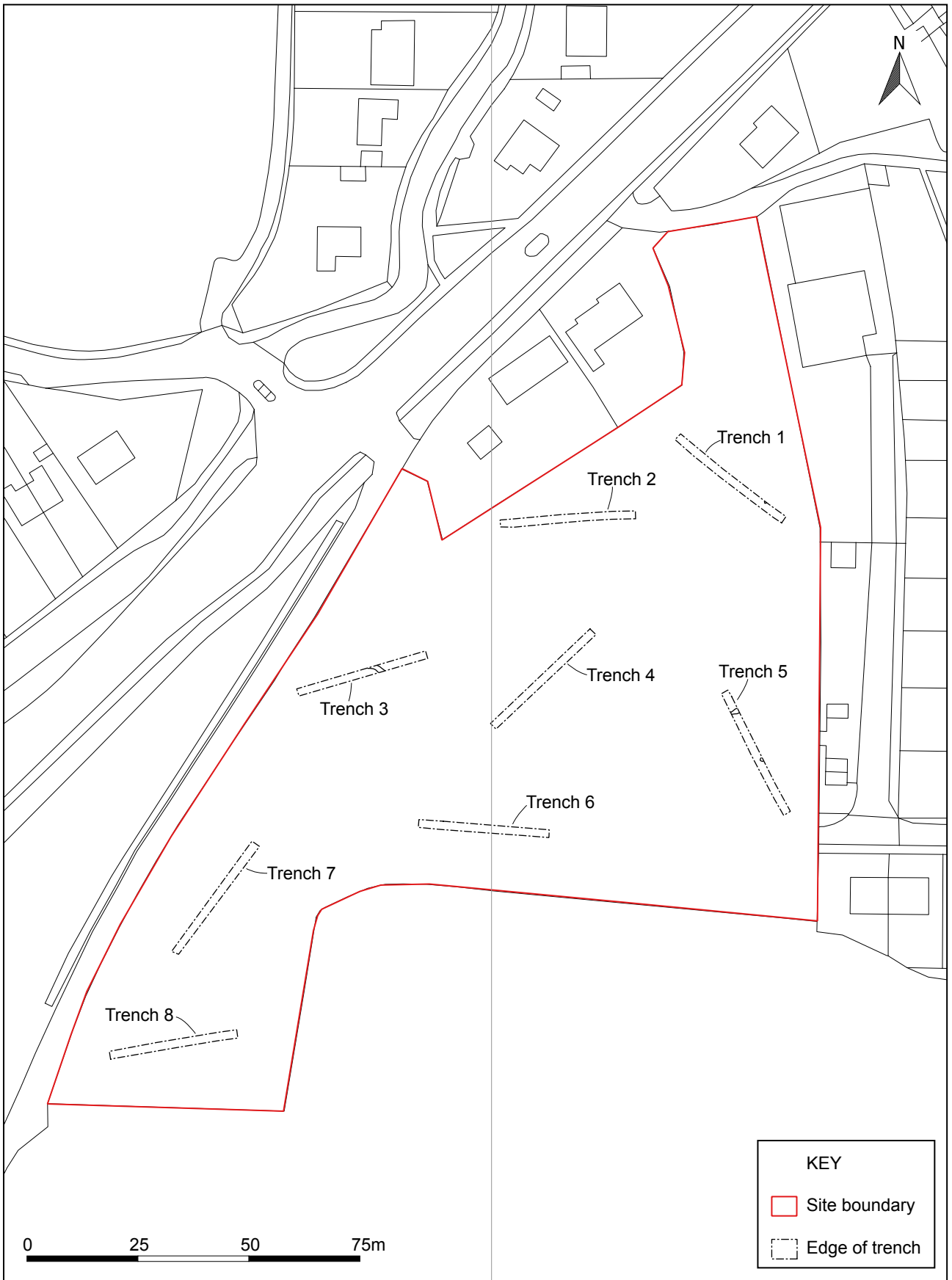
Figures



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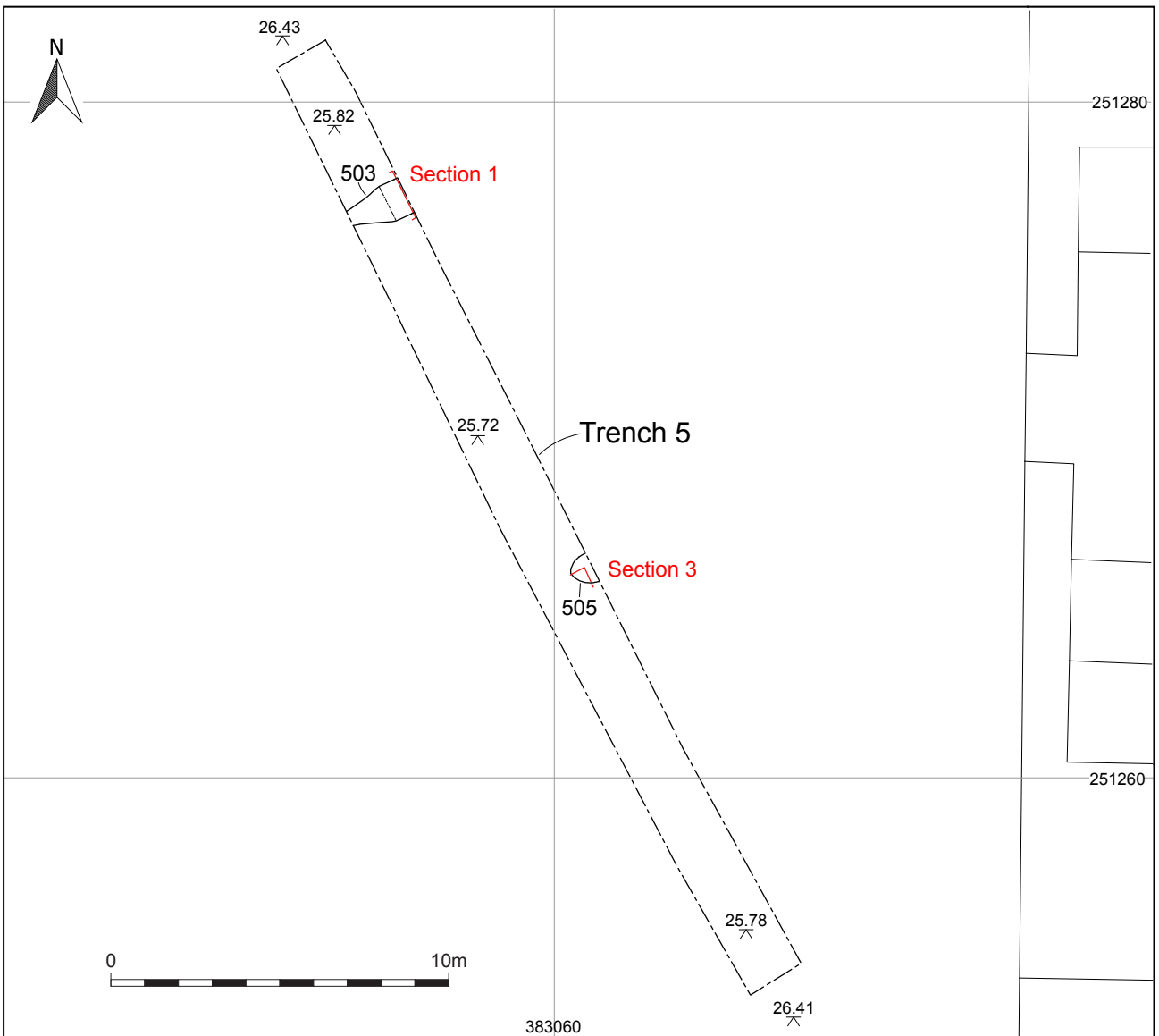
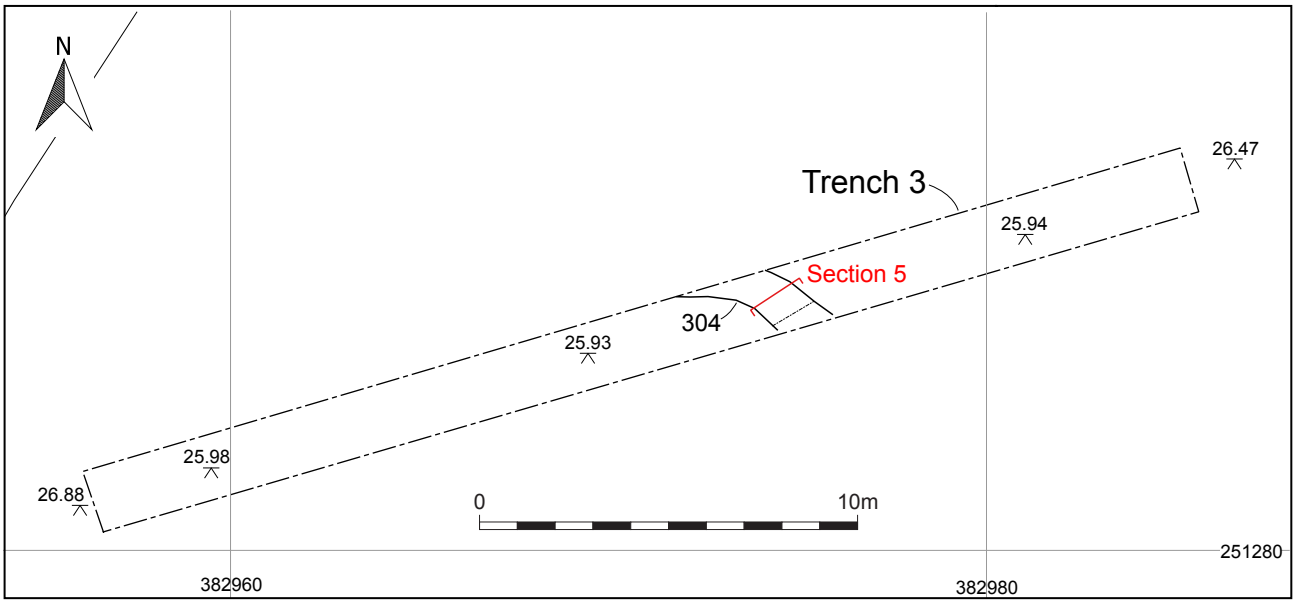
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

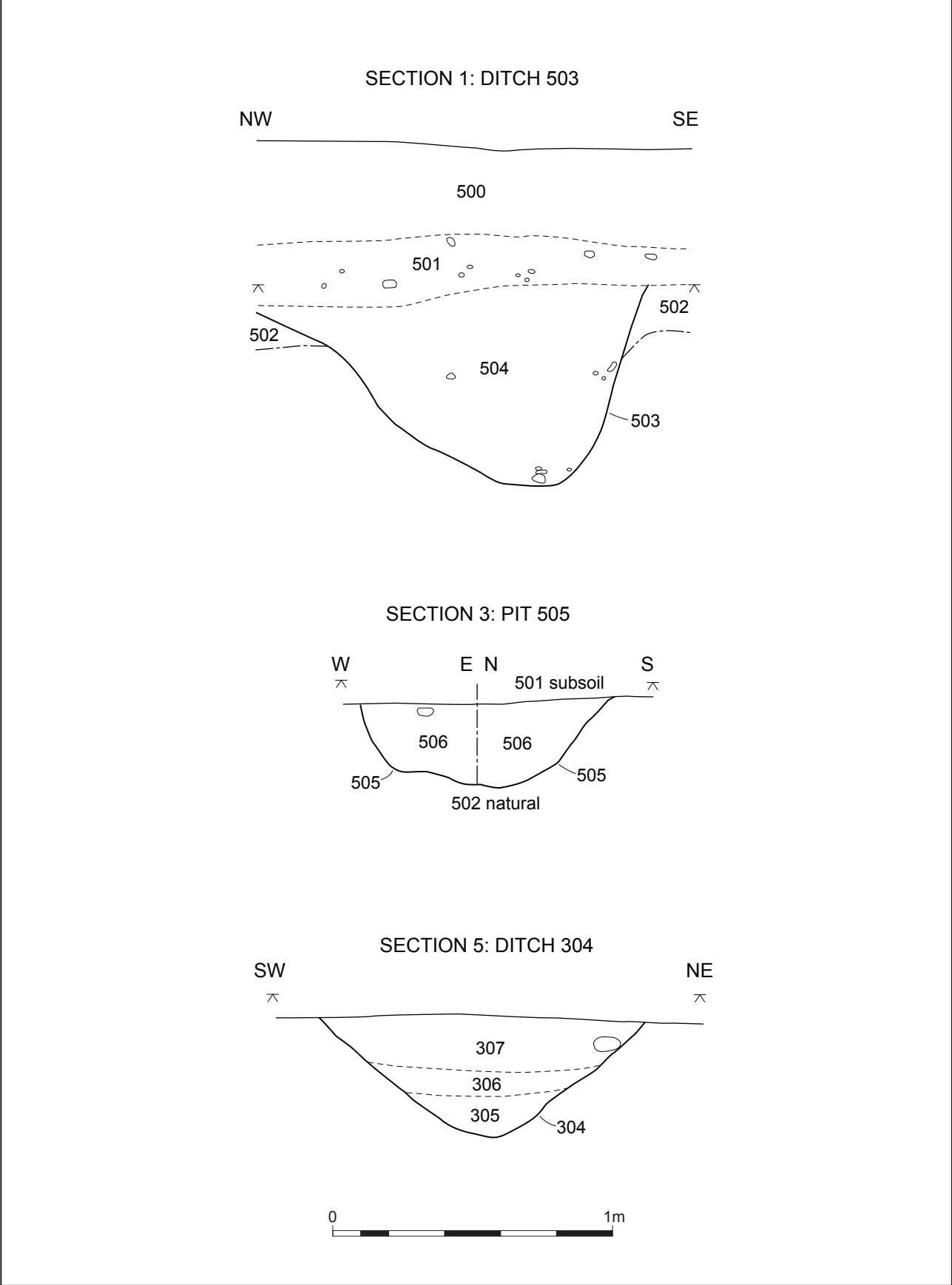
Figure 2



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Trenches 3 and 5: plans

Figure 3



Sections 1, 3 and 5

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1. Looking north-east across excavated Trench 5. Scales 1m.



Plate 2. South-west facing section of probable ditch [503]. Scale 1m.



Plate 3. South-east facing section of possible Bronze Age pit [505]. Scale 0.40m



Plate 4. Excavated quadrant of possible Bronze Age pit [505]. Scales 0.40m horizontal and 0.30m vertical.



Plate 5. Looking north-east across excavated Trench 3. Scales 1m.



Plate 6. Stratigraphic sequence in south-east facing baulk of Trench 3. Topsoil (300) can be seen overlying subsoil (301), which in turn overlies lower subsoil (302). Scale 1m.



Plate 7. South-east facing section of possible prehistoric boundary ditch [304]. Scale 1m.



Plate 8. Looking north-west across blank Trench 1. Scales 1m.



Plate 9. Looking north-east across blank Trench 8. Scales 1m.



Plate 10. Close up of small assemblage recovered from possible Bronze Age pit [505]. Minute pottery fragments are to the left, and flint flakes to the right. Scale 8cm.

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

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

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
101	Subsoil	Layer	Occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones and gravels.	0.4M	Soft brownish orange silty sand
102	Natural	Layer		-	Moderately compact reddish orange sands and gravels
103	Modern Post	Cut	Modern Post. Circular, 50cm diameter, vertically sided. Likely related to allotment activity.	0.34M	
104	Modern Post	Fill	Mixed naturals and topsoils.	0.34M	Moderately compact

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 30m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer		0.25M	Soft greyish brown sandy silt
201	Subsoil	Layer	Occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones and gravels.	0.28M	Soft brownish orange silty sand
203	Natural	Layer		-	Moderately compact reddish orange sands and gravels

Trench 3

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
300	Topsoil	Layer		0.36M	
301	Subsoil	Layer		0.17M	
302	Natural	Layer		-	
303	Layer	Layer	Colluvial or lower subsoil layer to West of trench due to former ploughing.		
304	Ditch	Cut	Cut of ditch, possibly of prehistoric date. While it appears linear within the trench it is possibly slightly curving.	0.44M	
305	Ditch	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [304]. Contained 1 or 2 examples of Fire-cracked stone/pot boiler - suggesting prehistoric date.	0.15M	Moderately compact reddish brown silty clay
306	Ditch	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [304]. A light sandy layer that may be of colluvial/Alluvial deposits.	0.1M	Friable yellowish brown sandy clay
307	Ditch	Fill	Tertiary and final fill of ditch [304].	0.22M	Moderately compact reddish brown silty clay

Trench 4

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
400	Topsoil	Layer		0.35M	Soft greyish brown sandy silt
401	Subsoil	Layer	Occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones and gravels.	0.4M	Soft brownish orange sandy silt
402	Natural	Layer		-	Soft brownish orange silty sand

Trench 5

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
500	Topsoil	Layer		0.30M	Soft greyish brown sandy silt
501	Subsoil	Layer	Occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones and gravels.	0.29M	Soft brownish orange silty sand
502	Natural	Layer		>0.06M	Moderately compact reddish orange sands and gravels
503	Ditch	Cut	Cut of possible ditch. Rare charcoal flecking and rare small to medium subangular stones. Homogenous throughout. Very sterile.	0.71M	
504	Ditch	Fill	Fill of possible ditch [503].	0.71M	Compact greyish brown silty sand
505	Pit	Cut	Cut of pit. Finds of flint and potential pot from top of fill (506) suggests this is a prehistoric pit.	0.3M	
506	Pit	Fill	Fill of pit [505]. Finds of flint and potential pot from top of fill suggests this is a prehistoric pit. Sample taken from fill due to some charcoal inclusions and possibility of small artefacts.	0.3M	Firm reddish brown sandy clay

Trench 6

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
600	Topsoil	Layer		0.35M	Soft greyish brown sandy silt
601	Subsoil	Layer	Old ploughsoil. Occasional charcoal flecking.	0.44M	Compact yellowish brown sandy silt
602	Natural	Layer		-	Compact red sands and gravels

Trench 7

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
700	Topsoil	Layer		0.48M	Soft greyish brown sandy silt
701	Subsoil	Layer	Old ploughsoil. Occasional charcoal flecking.	0.32M	Compact yellowish brown sandy silt
702	Subsoil	Layer	Undisturbed subsoil. Occasional medium to large subrounded stones and gravels.	0.28M	Compact reddish brown sandy silt
703	Natural	Layer	1.08M bgs.	-	Compact red sands and gravels

Trench 8

Length: 30m

Width: 30m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context type	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
800	Topsoil	Layer		0.39M	Soft greyish brown sandy silt
801	Subsoil	Layer	Old ploughsoil. Occasional charcoal flecking.	0.17M	Compact yellowish brown sandy silt
802	Natural	Layer	Compacted/Firm sandy clay and sand and gravels. Brown red with some yellow brown sand.	>0.16M	Compact brownish red sandy clay

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Ceramics, Worked stone/lithics
Paper	Context sheet, Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Plan, Report, Section
Digital	Database, GIS, Images raster/digital photography , Survey, Text

*OASIS terminology

Appendix 3: Summary of data for HER

WSM 70756(event HER number)

P5349

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	Count	weight (g)	specialist report?	key assemblage? (note 3)
prehistoric	flint	flake	-10000	43	1	0.2	Y	N
prehistoric	flint	Burnt chip	-10000	43	1	0.1	Y	N
prehistoric	ceramic	Pot	-4000	43	4	0.4	y	N
undated	stone	Burnt stone			3	77	Y	N

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 Paleolithic	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.