An archaeological evaluation of land off Parsonage Way / Trotshill Way, Worcester

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An archaeological evaluation of land off Parsonage Way / Trotshill Way, Worcester

Peter Lovett and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Liz Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Parsonage Way / Trotshill Way, Worcester (NGR 388794, 255976). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd, whose client Warndon Six Ltd intends to develop the land, for which a planning application will be submitted.

Fifteen trenches were excavated across the site, to test both areas of geophysical anomalies, and otherwise apparently blank areas.

Two sides of a possible eves drip gully for a roundhouse of Middle to Late Iron Age were revealed toward the north-west corner of the site. It had an internal diameter of approximately 7m and no apparent internal features, although preservation was good so it is considered likely that any other deeper features would have survived. A possible keyhole oven and a possible stone built oven of similar date lay to the south-east. No other features or ditches of Middle-Late Iron Age date were identified. The activity is conjectured to be dispersed and unenclosed.

A Roman ditch adjacent to the ovens aligned roughly north-east to south-west appears to have been recut at least once, indicating either a long period of use, or re-use. The low density of general Roman material associated indicates a possible function as an agricultural enclosure. There was no indication of the putative Roman road across the site.

Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was found to survive across the southern half of the site, on two differing alignments separated by a ploughed out roughly north to south aligned ditch. There was no trace of surviving ridge and furrow in the northern portion of the site.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Parsonage Way / Trotshill Way, Worcester (NGR 388794, 255976). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, whose client Warndon Six Ltd intends to develop the site with manufacturing and warehouse sheds, for which a planning application will be submitted to Worcester City Council.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application. The possible line of a Roman road is projected through the northern part of the site (WCM 99801). The north-western corner of the site is designated as an Archaeologically Sensitive Area by Worcester City Council, primarily because of a conjectured deserted medieval settlement (WCM 100139). Medieval ridge and furrow is extant in the southern half of the site (WCM 99299), and was probably also present in the northern half but has subsequently been ploughed out.

The project conforms to the *Guidelines for archaeological work in Worcester* (WCC 2016) and a project proposal including detailed specification (CgMs 2017b).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).

2 Aims

The aims of the evaluation brief were (CgMs 2017b, 6):

- To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any archaeological features associated with the possible Roman road which transects the site. Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 8 are located across or within the vicinity of the postulated route of the Roman road.
- To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any other archaeological features on the site and to preserve their archaeological interest by record.
- Consider the archaeological interest of any archaeological features recovered in the context of the regional archaeological framework.
- To examine any available evidence for economic activity and environmental conditions.
- To generate an archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken, if appropriate.
- To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Elspeth Iliff (BA (hons.); MSc) and Morgan Murphy (BA (hons.); MA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report. Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2017a).

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2017b).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 27 March and 3 April 2017. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WCM 102229.

Fifteen trenches, amounting to 1,350m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 6.9ha, representing a sample of 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Trenches 1-6, and 10-12 were located across geophysical anomalies (of undetermined nature, as opposed to agricultural features). The remaining trenches were arrayed in a grid to allow for a good coverage across the site.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360º 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, by Laura Griffin

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by CIfA (2014b), for archive creation by AAF (2011) and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

3.5.2 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 *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery 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).

3.5.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Liz Pearson

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). A total of eight samples (each of 10 litres) were taken from Iron Age and Roman deposits from the site (Env Table 1).

context	sample	Type	Short Description	Trench	Period	Volume	Residue sorted?	Flot sorted?
103	2	Fill	Fill of ditch 106	1	Iron Age	10	Yes	Yes
307	8	Fill	Primary fill of re-cut [306]	3	?Roman	10	Yes	Yes
310	7	Fill	Fill of re-cut [308]	3	?Roman	10	Yes	Yes
404	3	Fill	Fill of Ditch [406]	4	Roman	10	Yes	Yes
414	4	Fill	Fill of Pit [417]	4	Iron Age	10	No	No
415	5	Fill	Fill of pit [417]	4	Iron Age	10	Yes	Yes
603	1	Fill	Fill of ditch 605	6	Roman	10	No	No
1002	6	Layer	Gleying	10	undated	10	No	No

Env Table 1: List of bulk samples

3.6.2 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 hammerscale. 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).

Hand-collected animal bone was quantified by weight (g) and number of fragments.

Charcoal was examined under a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the presence of oak and non-oak charcoal.

3.6.3 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.

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

A desk-based assessment has been prepared (CgMs 2017a) and should be referred to for a detailed report, but a brief summary is outlined below.

The local geology consists primarily of Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, with a band of Siltstone, Dolomitic of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation running through the centre of the site.

The site sits at *c* 50m AOD and is relatively level. It is bounded to the north by Warndon Wood, on the east by the M5 motorway, to the south by a footbridge, and on the west by the A440.

Previous archaeological works in the area indicate that the prehistoric landscape would have consisted of woodland, with increasing levels of deforestation in advance of its adoption as farmland.

A Roman road is projected to run through the northern half of the site, aligned roughly north-east to south-west. An evaluation to the east of the site in 2010 revealed a possible roadside ditch dated to the Roman period.

Archaeological investigations to the west of the site in 1988 revealed evidence of a deserted medieval settlement, part of which may continue into the study site. Ridge and furrow earthworks are still visible in the south of the site, but have been truncated by more modern ploughing in the northern half.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently laid to pasture.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

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

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural geology consisted of a heavy red clay marl within all of the trenches. This was between 0.40m and 0.60m below the current ground surface.

A gleyed material was observed in Trenches 10 and 13 (Plates 2-4). This was between 0.52m and 0.58m thick, and appeared as a mid blueish grey clay. It sat between the subsoil and the natural geology, and its formation indicated particularly wet areas of the field. In Trench 10 its formation correlated with the profile of the old boundary ditch that bisected the site from north to south, though it wasn't present in Trench 15, which also crossed the path of the ditch. Trench 13 lay to the west of this ditch, and the gleyed material ran the length of the trench, as a uniformly level deposit.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Iron Age deposits

A probable roundhouse was identified in Trench 1, in the north-west corner of the site (Figs 3 and 5: Plate 5). It comprised two curvilinear ditches aligned roughly east to west across the trench. One of these was excavated (106). It was 1.38m wide and 0.44m deep, and was filled by three deposits (103-105); a thin basal fill of redeposited natural that contained some heavily degraded pottery; a deposit containing charcoal and daub fragments that had slid down the southern edge; the final fill was a closure deposit after the roundhouse had gone out of use. It contained approximately 10 litres of fire-cracked stone and frequent charcoal flecks, along with pottery, animal bone, and daub fragments. The distance between the two ditches was *c* 7m internally. The results of the geophysical survey suggested a continuation of the feature to the east and west of the evaluation trench, to form a roughly circular feature.

In Trench 4 a sub-circular feature was excavated (420) (Figs 4-5; Plates 7-11). This was filled with large quantities of fire-cracked stones, comprising up to 50% of the deposit (418). This feature was later truncated by a smaller pit cut into the top of it. This circular pit (417) contained a lower fill of mainly fire-cracked stone, followed by a thin band of charcoal (0.04m thick) that lay as if in a concave bowl. Above that was a stoney fill, probably capping the charcoal deposit (414-416). Neither of these features was fully excavated, because as the excavation of them progressed, the shape of the earlier feature began to form a keyhole, possibly an oven, and it was deemed to be too complicated a feature to dig under evaluation conditions.

During the excavation of features with Trench 4, such a depth was reached that it was deemed necessary to remove the top and sub soils from the southern edge of the south-eastern end of the trench. In doing so a possible oven structure was revealed (421) (Fig 4; Plates 6 and 9). As it lay outside of the original evaluation trench, it was not investigated in great detail, nor was any further machining undertaken beyond that which was required to make access to features safe. As such, only part of the feature was revealed. It consisted of a sub-circular cut, with sandstone blocks at its southern end, with a black deposit filling the northern half. Whilst it remains undated, its proximity to the possible keyhole oven, and similar function, suggest a probable contemporary date.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Roman deposits

A roughly north-east to south-west aligned ditch was identified in Trenches 3 (306), 4 (406), and 6 (605). In Trench 6, (605), it was 0.2m deep and 1.72m wide, and contained two fills (603 and 604), one of which included a moderate amount of charcoal (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 14). In Trenches 3 and 4, it was seen to be a later ditch cutting an earlier, wider and deeper linear feature (303 and 413). Indeed, in Trench 3, three ditches were identified in the section (303, 306 and 308) (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 13), and a case could be made for a third cut in the section excavated in Trench 4 (Figs 4-5 ; Plates 10-12). These earlier features are filled by heavy red clays, probably upcast material that has formed a bank and then been redeposited slowly into the ditch via natural forces. Roman pottery was recovered from both the upper and lower ditches. The later ditch as seen in Trench 4 (406) was 0.42m deep and 2.2m wide, and in Trench 3 (308) to the north was 0.42m deep and 1.62m wide. The earlier ditches were up to 1.1m deep and 2.8m wide. It is very probable that the earlier ditches continued through Trench 6, but were not identified during the excavation of ditch (605), consisting as they did predominantly of redeposited natural.

In Trench 4, ditch (413) truncated the eastern edge of pits (417) and (420), with some of the material that filled the pits slipping down the western edge of ditch (413) to form a fill within it (412).

5.1.4 Phase 4: Medieval/post-medieval deposits

The remnants of a ridge and furrow system across the site could be seen in the geophysical survey. In the southern half of the site, these features were still extant. However, not all of these geophysical anomalies translated themselves into features on the ground following excavation of the trenches. None of the anomalies of furrows in the northern half of the field were identified in Trenches 1-8. In the southern half of the site, just Trenches 9, 11, and 12 contained identifiable furrows, and these did not always tally with the locations of the geophysical survey. Trench 13 contained the gleyed material described above, and no furrows were observed cutting that deposit.

The field boundary that runs roughly north to south through the middle of the site was still visible in the landscape in the southern half, but had been apparently ploughed out in the northern part. It was observed obliquely in Trench 10, and was defined by the formation of the gleyed material. In Trench 15 it was identified as a narrow ditch with a brown sandy clay, having no evidence for any gleyed material.

5.1.5 Phase 5: Modern deposits

The site was covered by a subsoil of mid yellow brown silty clay, between 0.18m and 0.36m thick. This in turn was overlain by a topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m thick.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Finds Table 1. The assemblage totalled 86 finds weighing 1508g (see Finds Table 1).

The assemblage came from 14 stratified contexts and could be dated from the Middle Iron Age period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying low-moderate levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size being above average at 16.8g, although this appeared very much dependent on fabric type.

A small amount of animal bone, including burnt fragments was also retrieved from the site and is also summarised in Finds Tables 1–3 below.

material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
ceramic	pot	83	1397
glass	vessel	2	82
stone	sandstone	1	29
bone	animal	11	29
bone	animal (burnt)	39	11

Finds Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Iron Age	2	Organic briquetage (BD 121)	16	297
Iron Age	3	Malvernian ware	11	67
Iron Age	5.1	Sand	23	178
Romano-British	12	Severn Valley ware	11	94
Medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	8
Medieval/Post-medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	2	11
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	8	428
Post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	5	195
Post-medieval	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	2	31
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	58
Modern	83	Porcelain	1	12
Modern	84	Creamware	2	18

Finds Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric

5.2.1 Summary of artefactual evidence by period

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and of their associated location or contexts by period. Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Finds Table 2). Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Iron Age

A total of 33 sherds could be identified as being of Middle–Late Iron Age date. Two fabric types were identified, both thought to be locally produced, consisting of handmade Malvernian ware (fabric 3) and sand-tempered ware (fabric 5.1). All diagnostic sherds were from jar forms. Decoration, where present, consisted primarily of burnishing but one sherd also had a band of roughly incised lattice below the rim (context 414), a decorative type typical of the Middle Iron Age.

In addition, 16 briquetage sherds of the organic fabric (fabric 2) were also identified. In general, these sherds were large in comparison to the coarseware pottery assemblage but despite this, the actual surfaces appeared relatively highly abraded, possibly in this case, therefore, due to burial conditions rather than redeposition (Derek Hurst, pers comm).

The majority of sherds of this date came from contexts associated with the roundhouse in Trench 1 (contexts 103 and 104). In addition, further sherds were identified as coming from fills of the keyhole-shaped possible oven (contexts 414 and 416). Remaining sherds were residual within ditches which appeared to be of Roman date (contexts 307, 404 and 407). However, the absence of Roman pottery in the recut fill of the ditch in Trench 4 (context 404) and the presence of just one

small sherd of early Roman date in what is thought to be natural infilling (context 407), would indicate that this ditch is actually contemporary with the roundhouse.

Roman

Material of Roman date consisted of 11 sherds of locally produced oxidised Severn Valley ware. No sherds were diagnostic, and with the exception of a fairly substantial base sherd (context 311), sherds of this period were small and abraded.

All material of Roman date came from ditch contexts (307, 310, 311 and 407).

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	finds tpq
101	ceramic	pot	69	1	4	L15C	E17C	
103	ceramic	pot	2	8	125			
103	ceramic	pot	5.1	21	127			
103	ceramic	pot	3	5	34			Middle-Late Iron Age
103	bone	animal		11	8			
104	ceramic	pot	2	6	143			Late Iron Age
104	ceramic	pot	5.1	1	1			
301	ceramic	pot	78	2	86	L17C	19C	
301	ceramic	pot	83	1	12	19C	20C	20C
307	ceramic	pot	12	3	4	M1C	4C	
307	ceramic	pot	2	1	22			
307	bone	animal (burnt)		39	11			
307	bone	animal		11	21			Roman
310	ceramic	pot	12	6	6	M1C	4C	
310	stone	sandstone		1	29			Roman
311	ceramic	pot	12	1	81	M1C	4C	Roman
404	ceramic	pot	3	1	5			Iron Age
407	ceramic	pot	3	4	23			
407	ceramic	pot	12	1	3	M1C	2C	2C
414	ceramic	pot	3	1	5			Middle-Late Iron Age
414	ceramic	pot	2	1	7			
416	ceramic	pot	5.1	1	50			Middle-Late Iron Age
602	ceramic	pot	99	1	8			Medieval
800	ceramic	pot	69	1	7	13C	E17C	Medieval
1000	ceramic	pot	91	5	195	M17C	18C	
1000	ceramic	pot	78	6	342	M17C	18C	
1000	ceramic	pot	84	2	18		L18C	
1000	ceramic	pot	81.4	1	58	19C	20C	
1000	ceramic	pot	100	2	31	17C	18C	
1000	glass	vessel		2	82	19C	20C	20C

Finds Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Medieval and post-medieval

Material of medieval and post-medieval date came from topsoil and subsoil contexts and consisted of a range of commonly identified pottery fabrics including oxidised glaze Malvernian ware (fabric

69), black glazed post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) and post-medieval buff wares (fabric 91). Identifiable forms included a press-moulded dish with inlaid slip decoration (fabric 91; context 1000) and a range of large, mixing bowls/pancheons (fabric 78; contexts 301 and 1000) of later 17th-18th century date.

Modern

Material of modern date came from subsoil and topsoil layers and consisted of four sherds of pottery (contexts 301 and 1000) and two fragments of bottle glass (context 1000).

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Liz Pearson

5.3.1 Macrofossil remains

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Env Tables 2 and 3.

Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments 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.

context	sample	large mammal	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
103	2	occ	mod	occ	mod*	occ fired clay, pot, fe slag, heat-affected stones.
307	8	occ	occ		occ*	occ heat-affected stones.
310	7	occ	occ		occ*	occ pot, heat-affected stones
404	3	occ	occ		occ*	mod heat-affected stones
415	5	occ	abt	occ		occ fired clay, occ pot, abt heat-affected stones

*Env Table 2: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probable modern and intrusive*

Iron Age

Environmental remains were poorly preserved in these samples except for pit fill (415) from pit [417]. Charcoal was abundant in (415) but mostly very fragmented and unidentifiable. Of interest was a small number of emmer wheat glume bases (*Triticum dicoccum* chaff or husk fragments) and a single poorly preserved cereal grain. Emmer wheat is rarely identified locally and their presence may help to investigate the change from emmer, as the main wheat in cultivation, to spelt wheat. This change normally occurs during the Iron Age. The keyhole shaped structure in which they were located may, on further excavation, be identified as a corn dryer.

Should further excavation and post-excavation take place, a more precise date for the keyhole structure may be possible through a combination of pottery analysis and Bayesian statistics applied to radiocarbon dates from this and stratigraphically associated deposits. Further sampling may also result in recovery of more cereal remains of significance.

Roman

Only low levels of fragmented and unidentifiable charcoal were identified.

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
103	2	ch	non-oak wood	misc	+/low	
103	2	ch	unidentified	grain	+/low	
103	2	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	
307	8	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
307	8	?wa	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
310	7	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
310	7	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
404	3	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
404	3	wa	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
415	5	ch	*Quercus robur*/*petraea* wood, unidentified wood fragments	misc	+++/low	mostly small unidentifiable fragments
415	5	ch	*Triticum dicoccum* glume base	chaff	+/low	
415	5	ch	Cereal sp indet grain	grain	+/low	poor preservation

Env Tables 3: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+
	* = fragments

6 Synthesis

6.1 Iron Age

Two sides of a possible eves drip gully for a roundhouse of Middle to Late Iron Age were revealed toward the north-west corner of the site in Trench 1. This accords reasonably well with geophysical survey anomalies, although further anomalies to the north were not revealed during the evaluation. The roundhouse had an internal diameter of approximately 7m. No internal features were identified, although preservation was good so it is considered likely that other deeper features will have survived.

A sub-circular feature was revealed approximately 110m to the south-east, truncated by a pit of similar date to the roundhouse, in Trench 4. The pit contained extensive fire cracked stones and charcoal, and formed a keyhole-shape, so is interpreted to be a possible oven. A further possible oven structure containing sandstone blocks was partially revealed adjacent, which may be dated by association also to the Middle-Late Iron Age.

No other features or ditches of Middle-Late Iron Age date were identified, so the activity is conjectured to be dispersed and unenclosed. A partial circular geophysical anomaly to the south-west edge of the site, which was of similar size to the anomaly found to be an eve's drip gully in Trench 1, was not revealed in Trench 13.

The low levels of charred plant remains recovered from Iron Age features are considered to be of significance as they have the potential for investigating the change from the predominance of emmer to spelt wheat, which occurred during the Iron Age.

The small assemblage of animal bone recovered was of a poor state of preservation and indicates that the site is unlikely to yield significant quantities should further archaeological mitigation be undertaken.

6.2 Roman

A deep ditch, roughly north-east to south-west was identified in the northern middle part of the site, in Trenches 3, 4 and 6. In some of the sections investigated it appeared to have been recut, which may indicate a long period of use or re-use. Little artefactual material was recovered in association with it however, which was of general Roman date, so the specific date of the feature is unclear. It seems unlikely to relate to settlement activity, and is more likely to be an agricultural enclosure. It accords well with the geophysical survey results.

There was no evidence for a metalled surface, or parallel ditches, relating to the putative Roman road across the site, which is not surprising given that the geophysical survey similarly did not pick up any evidence for this feature.

6.3 Medieval/post-medieval

Furrows survive better in south field than north, where they have been ploughed out. A field boundary ditch was dug north to south to split the fields. It is unclear if this was in the medieval or post-medieval periods. A large oak growing along the edge of the ditch, was estimated to be *c* 300 years old on the basis of the 1m diameter trunk, suggests that the ditch is long-abandoned and it does not appear on 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

The geophysical survey results were not consistent. Several of the anomalies mapped didn't appear during the evaluation. None of the anomalies interpreted to be furrows within the northern half of the field for example were identified in the evaluation trenches.

6.4 Research frameworks

The archaeological remains on this site have the potential to feed into the following research priorities, as identified in *An outline resource assessment and research framework for the archaeology of Worcester* (*WCC 2007).*

- RP2.9 Environmental material from later prehistoric contexts – cereal grains etc from oven deposits could be valuable in understanding crop management regimes and use of wider landscape, as well as domestic activity.
- RP3.31 The hinterland of Roman Worcester – possible field systems around Worcester are poorly understood.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The most significant archaeological features identified on the site were the Middle-Late Iron Age roundhouse, and possible ovens, and the Roman recut ditches. The Iron Age settlement may be unenclosed and dispersed. The Roman ditches may be part of a later field system rather than domestic enclosure. The medieval ridge and furrow survived only sporadically.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The Middle-Late Iron Age oven activity shows likely crop processing going on, on the edge of a settlement site, potentially during a period of change from production predominantly of emmer to spelt wheat.

- RP2.9 Environmental material from later prehistoric contexts – cereal grains, etc., from oven deposits could be valuable in understanding crop management regimes and use of wider landscape, as well as domestic activity.
- RP3.31 The hinterland of Roman Worcester – agricultural settlement, activity and field systems around Worcester are poorly understood.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

Archaeological features were identified within the northern third of the site. The settlement activity appears to have been unenclosed, which adds uncertainty to the extent of Middle-Late Iron Age remains. The depth of the roundhouse ditch indicates that later farming practices have had little impact on the survival of this feature. The presence of a stone lined oven of probable Iron Age date also confirms this. The same is true of the Roman ditch; at up to 1m in depth, its survival is likely beyond the trenches in which it was revealed.

8 The impact of the development

The extent of the groundworks associated with the proposed development is currently unavailable. The impact of the development on the archaeology is therefore unknown. Archaeological deposits were identified at *c* 0.40m below the ground surface in trenches across the northern third of the site. Therefore any groundworks at or greater than this depth will cause disturbance.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

9 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Warndon Six Ltd of land off at Parsonage Way / Trotshill Way, Worcester (NGR 388794, 255976; HER ref. WCM 102229).

Fifteen trenches were excavated across the site, to test both areas of geophysical anomalies, and otherwise apparently blank areas.

Two sides of a possible eves drip gully for a roundhouse of Middle to Late Iron Age were revealed toward the north-west corner of the site. It had an internal diameter of approximately 7m and no apparent internal features, although preservation was good so it is considered likely that any other deeper features would have survived. A possible keyhole oven and a possible stone built oven of similar date lay to the south-east. No other features or ditches of Middle-Late Iron Age date were identified. The activity is conjectured to be dispersed and unenclosed.

A Roman ditch adjacent to the ovens aligned roughly north-east to south-west appears to have been recut at least once, indicating either a long period of use, or re-use. The low density of general Roman material associated indicates a possible function as an agricultural enclosure. There was no indication of the putative Roman road across the site.

Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was found to survive across the southern half of the site, on two differing alignments separated by a ploughed out roughly north to south aligned ditch. There was no trace of surviving ridge and furrow in the northern portion of the site.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Sarah Jago and Richard Smalley (CgMs Consulting Ltd), Tony Rastall (land owner), James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council).

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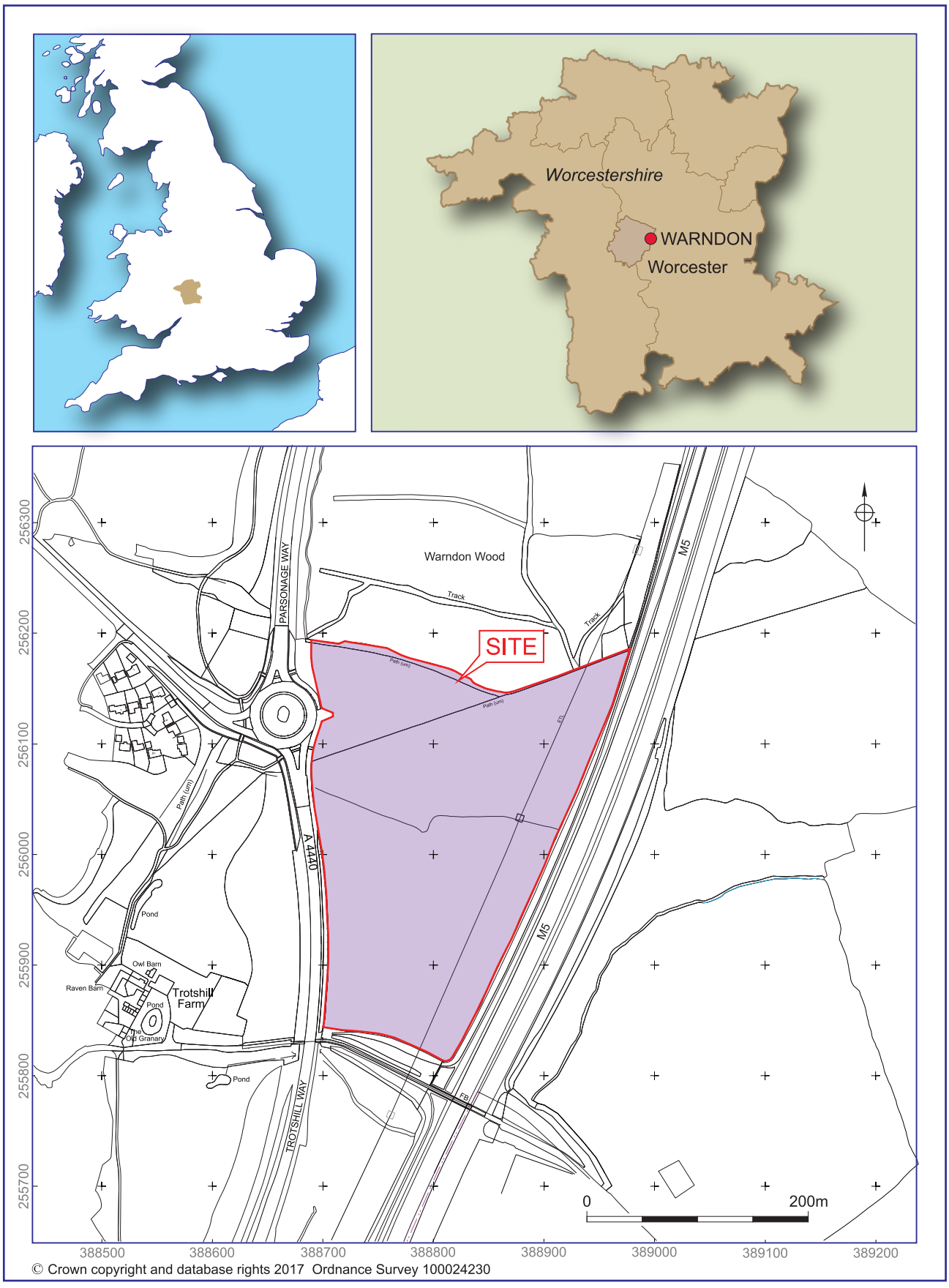
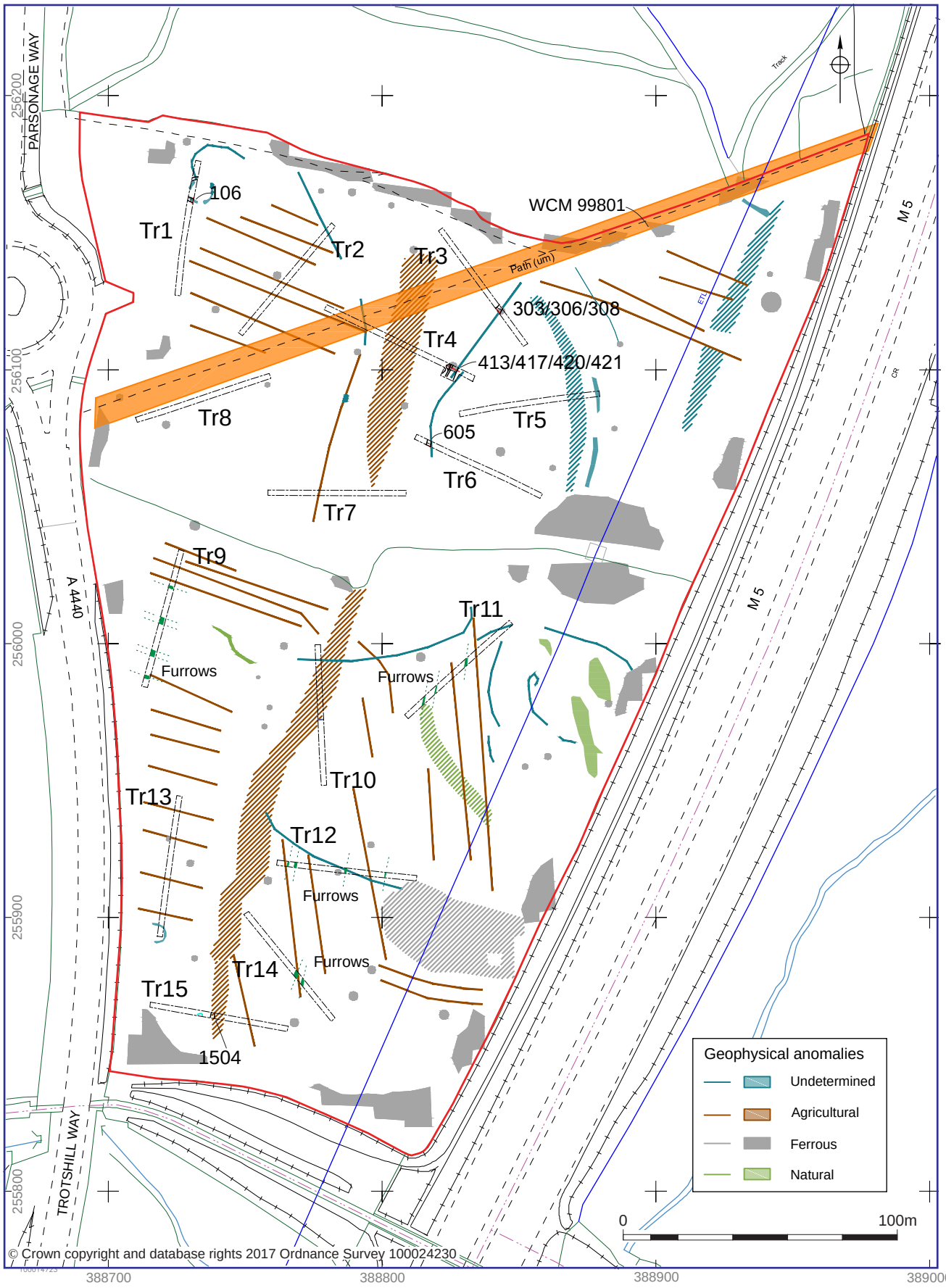
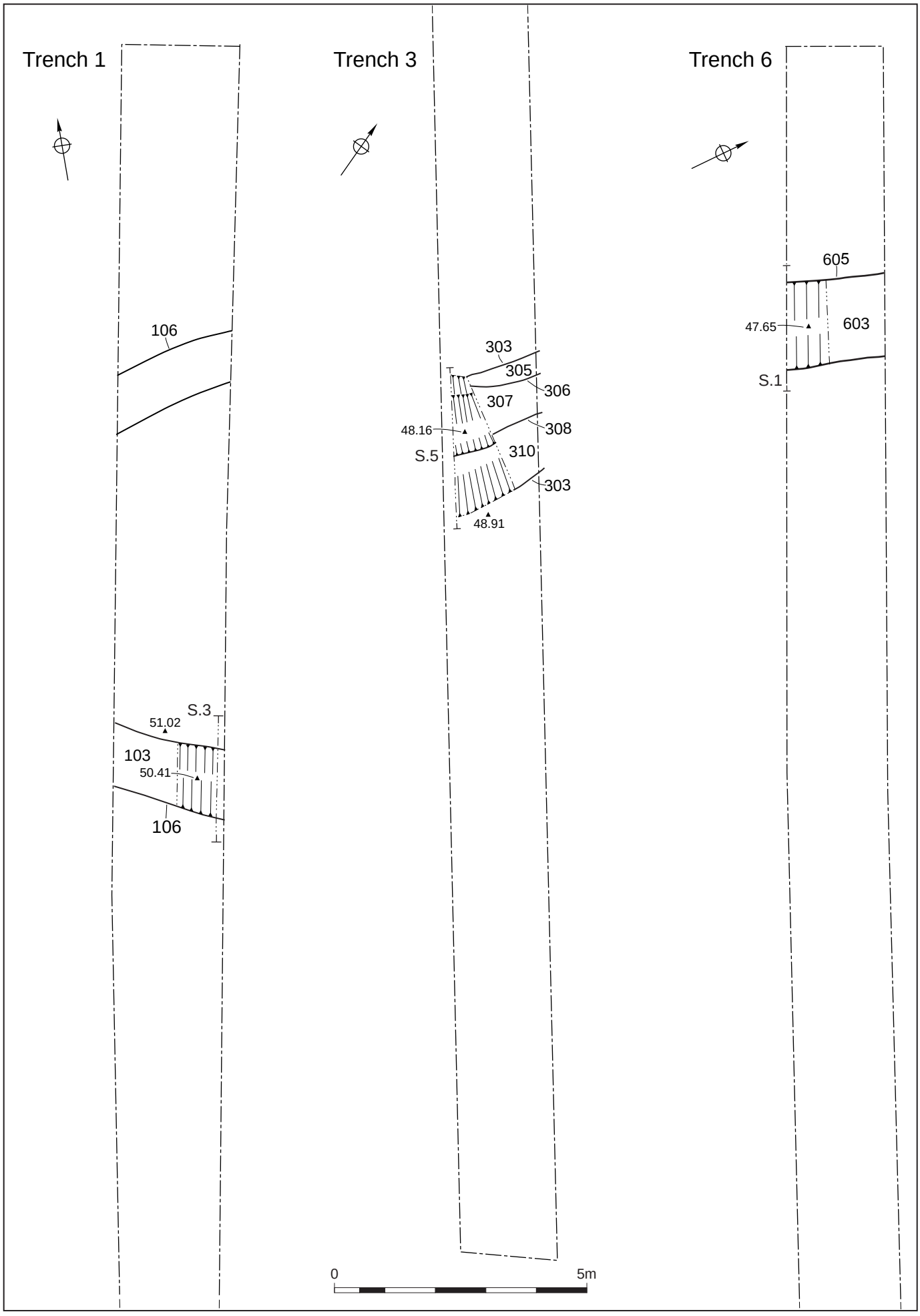
Figures



Location of the site *Figure 1*

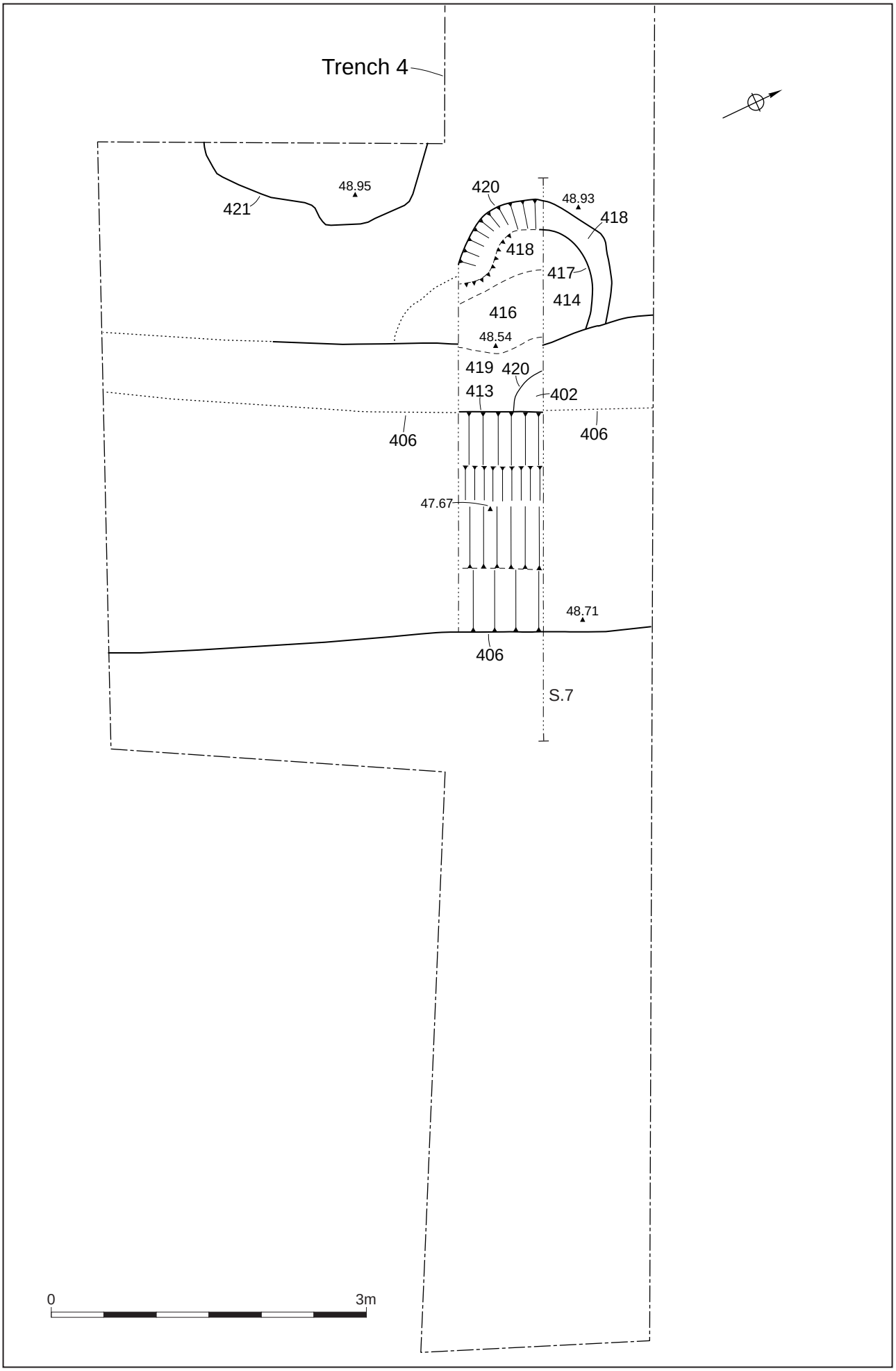


Trench location plan with geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys, 2017) *Figure 2*



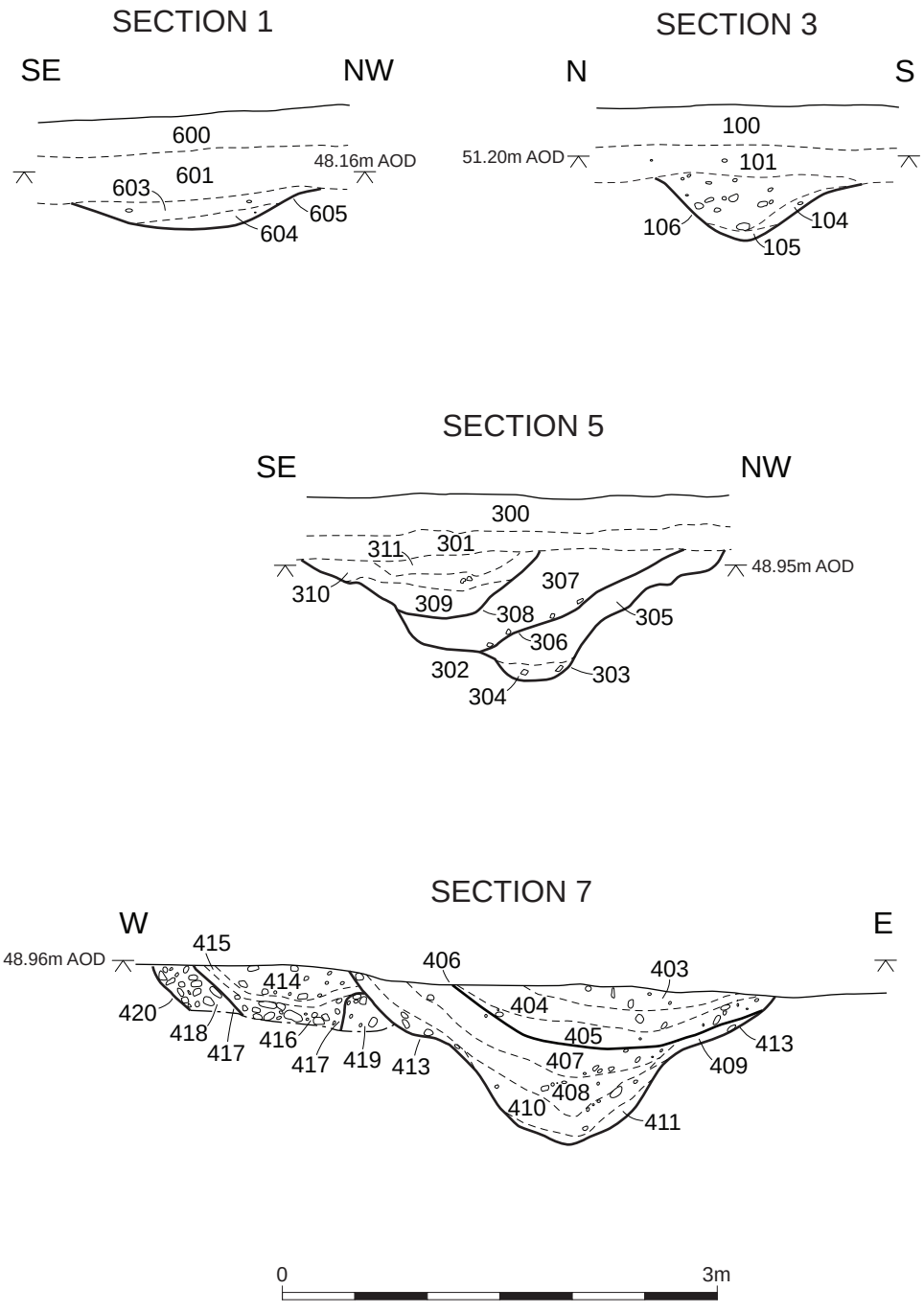
Trenches 1, 3 and 6: plans

Figure 3



Trench 4: plan

Figure 4



Sections 1, 3, 5 and 7

Figure 5

Plates

Plate 1 Trench 8, looking south-west (1m scales)

Plate 2 Trench 13, looking north (1m scales)

Plate 3 Trench 10 section with gleyed deposit, looking east (1m scale)

Plate 4 Trench 13 oblique section with gleyed deposit, looking north-west (1m scales)

Plate 5 Ditch 106, looking east (1m scale)

Plate 6 Possible Oven 421, looking west (1m scale)

Plate 7 Pit 420 charcoal fill (pre-excavation), looking north (1m scale)

Plate 8 Pit 420, looking north, (1m scale)

Plate 9 Pit 420 and Oven 421, looking north (1m scales)

Plate 10 Pit 420 and Ditch 413 oblique, looking north-east (1m scales)

Plate 11 Pit 420 and Ditch 413 oblique, looking south-west (1m scales)

Plate 12 Ditch 413, looking north (1m scales)

Plate 13 Ditch 303, looking south-west (1m scale)

Plate 14 Ditch 605, looking south-west (1m scale)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

trench	context	type	description	interpretation	dimensions (depth/height; width; length)	covered by	covers	compaction	colour	composition / particle size (over 10%)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	topsoil	0.3m depth		101	friable	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	subsoil	0.24m depth	100	102 103	mod compact	mid brownish red	sandy clay
1	102	Layer	Natural	natural		106 101		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
1	103	Fill	Fill of ditch 106	Main fill of curvilinear ditch 106. Ditch thought to be unenclosed roundhouse. This fill contains lots of stone, including c.10L of burnt stone, along with charcoal, pot, daub and some animal bone. Closing deposit of burnt waste material including some building material (daub showed imprints of wattle), which may be from the roundhouse itself. Pot is likely iron age.	0.38m depth, 1.38m width, 1.8m+ length	101	104	mod compact	light orangey grey	sandy clay

1	104	Fill	Fill of ditch 106	Fill of curvilinear ditch 106, thought to be part of an unenclosed roundhouse. Appears to be slumping down the south (outer) edge of the ditch. The presence of charcoal and finds similar to those from fill (103) suggest that this slumping may have occurred not long before the main deposition of the closing fill (103).	0.1m depth, 0.14m width, 1.8m+ length	103	105	compact	mid reddish orange	sandy clay
1	105	Fill	Fill of ditch 106	Basal fill of curvilinear ditch 106. Redeposited natural, likely weathered in, containing a fragment of very degraded pot, likely iron age. Pot visible in section but highly degraded so may not be possible to recover.	0.6m depth, 0.46m width, 1.8m+ length	104	106	compact	mid orangey red	sandy clay
1	106	Cut	Cut of ditch	Slot in possible iron age unenclosed roundhouse. V-shaped ditch containing three fills, including a main closing fill of burnt material, including iron age pottery and daub likely to be from the roundhouse itself. Structure looks to be approximately 7m across, but no internal features are visible in this trench. | Later excavation in nearby eval trenches show a deep enclosure ditch of Roman date. Might be associated if the roundhouse turns out to be later in date.	0.44m depth, 1.38m width, 1.8m+ length	105	102			
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.27m		201	Friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.25m depth	200	202	mod compact	mid brownish orange	sandy clay

2	202	Layer	Natural	Natural		201		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	Depth: 0.22M		301	friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	Depth: 0.21M	300	311	Compact	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
3	302	Layer	Natural			303		Firm	Mid orangey red	Sandy clay
3	303	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch is possibly part of an enclosure. Ditch also found in trench 4. Detected with geophysics. Ditch is re-cut by [306].	Depth: 1.10M Width: 2.82M Length: Unknown	304	302			
3	304	Fill	Basel Fill of [303]	Natural fill containing several small and large cobbles | Basal fill derived from natural processes	Depth: 0.12M Width: 0.50M Length unknown	305	303	Moderately Compact	Light-reddish-brown	Clay
3	305	Fill	Fill of ditch [303]	Due to the sloping nature of the fill it is likely that fill is natural slumping of possible bank material. Burnt bone found within. Pottery found in (307) + (310) suggests this fill is roman or earlier	Depth: 0.18M W= 2.12M L= Unknown	306	304	Moderately Compact	Light-reddish-brown	Clay
3	306	Cut	Re-cut of ditch [303]	Running North-South it cuts (305) but it is truncated by [308]. This ditch likely had the same function as [303] and this fill represents a tidying up phase of the ditch.	Depth: 0.46M Width: 2.04M Length: Unknown	307	305			

3	307	Fill	Primary fill of re-cut [306]	This fill is likely simlar too (305) and represents the same events during a slightly later period of time. Contained Roman pot, Burnt Bone, bone all in a state of decomposion. This suggests this fill is roman or later.	Depth: 0.46M Width: 2.04M Length: Unknown	308	306	Moderately compact	Mid-Reddish-Brown	Clay
3	308	Cut	Re-cut of Ditch [306]	Re-cut of ditch [303]/[306]. Very similar to [306] only smaller. a linear re-cut of ditch[303] + [306] running North-South. It cuts (307) and does not appear to have been truncated. Pot found in (310) + (307) just this fill is Roman in date.	Depth: 0.83M Width: 1.62M Length: Unknown	309	307			
3	309	Fill	Fill of Re-cut [308]	Lower fill of ditch, derived from natural processes.	Depth: 0.18M W=1.62 L=Unknown	310	308			
3	310	Fill	Fill of re-cut [308]	Roman or ealier in date fill likely plough in material. note: strange smell of manure from this fill. A level fill so either plough or natural inwash	D=0.12M W=1 L=Unknown	311	309	Compact	Light-Greyish-Brown	Clay
3	311	Fill	Fill of Re-cut [308]	Roman or later in date finds from (307) + (310). Fill likely same processes as (310)	D= 0.18M W=1M L=Unknown	301	310	Soft	Dark-Greyish-Brown	Clay
4	400	Fill	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.24M		401	Friable	Mid-organey-brown	Sandy-clay
4	401	Fill	Subsoil		Dep: 0.21M	400	402 403 421	firm	mid yellow brown	silty clay
4	402	Fill	Natural	Natural		401 420 421		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay

4	403	Layer	Fill of Ditch [406]	Level nature of the fill may suggest this layer is the result of ploughing or natural filling of the slight hallow left behind.	Dep: 0.16M, Length: Unknown, Width: 1.36M	401	404	Friable	Mid-yellowish-grey	sillty-clay
4	404	Fill	Fill of Ditch [406]	A fill of ditch re-cut [406].	Depth: 0.14M Length: Unknown, Width: 1.28M	403	405	Friable	Mid-Brownish-Grey	Silty-clay
4	405	Fill	Fill of ditch [406]	Primary fill of ditch recut [406]. Fill looks to be a natural deposit.	Depth: 0.20M Width: 2.22M, Length: Unknown	404	406	Friable	Mid-greyish-brown	silty-clay
4	406	Cut	Re-cut of ditch [413]	A re-cut of Ditch [413]. Recut can loosely be traced into trench 3.	Depth: 0.32M, Length: Unknown, Width:2.22M	405	407			
4	407	Fill	Fill of ditch [413].	Slumping nature of the fill would suggest this was a natural backfill likely from bank material which is likely to have been on the West side of the ditch. See section drawing.	Depth: 0.22M, Width: 1.82M, Length: Unknown	406	408	Friable	Mid-reddish-Brown	silty-Clay
4	408	Fill	Fill of ditch [413]	Similar to (407) this fill is likely the result of tumble of the bank material.	Depth: 0.31M,Width: 2.23M, Length: Unknown	407	409 410	Friable	Dark-Reddish-Brown	Silty Clay

4	409	Fill	Fill of Ditch [413]	A slump of redeposited natural down the side of the ditch cut.	Depth: 0.11M Width: 0.74M Length: Unknown.	408	410	Friable	Mid-Brownish-Red	Silty-Clay
4	410	Fill	Fill of ditch [413]	Fill of ditch [413]. Poss natural.	Depth: 0.24M Width: 1.36M Length:unknown	409 408	411 412	Friable	Mid-Reddish-Brown	Silty-Clay
4	411	Fill	Fill of Ditch [413]	Basel fill of ditch [413]. Fill deposition by natural processes.	Depth: 0.12M Width: 1.01M Length: Unknown	410	413	Friable	Mid-Reddish-Brown	Silty-Clay
4	412	Fill	Fill of Ditch [413]	Fill of pit truncated by ditch slumping down side.	Depth: 0.34M Width: 0.87M Length: Unknown	410	413	Friable	Mid-Greyish-Brown	Silty-clay
4	413	Fill	Cut of Ditch.	Cut of a large linear ditch running North-South. Containing Roman Pottery in several fills. Possibly a boundary or a enclosure ditch.		411 412	414			
4	414	Fill	Fill of Pit [417]		Depth: 0.24M Width: 0.94M Length: Unknown	413	415	Friable	Mid-Yellowish-Grey	Silty-Clay Fire cracked stone over 30%

4	415	Fill	Fill of pit [417]	Burnt fill of pit [417].	Depth: 0.04M Width: 1.11M Length: Unknown	414	416	Soft	Dark-Grey-Black	Silt Charcoal (80%)
4	416	Fill	Fill of pit [417]	Burnt fill of pit [417]	Depth: Unknown, Width: 1.06, Length:Unknown	415	417	Friable	Dark-Greyish-Black	Silty-Clay with 50% Fire Cracked stone
4	417	Cut	Cut of pit	Cut of a pit into a possible oven	Depth: unknown, width: 0.91M		418 419			
4	418	Fill	Fill of Pit [420]		Depth:Unknown, Width: 0.19M Length: Unknown.	417	420	Friable	Mid-Yellowish-Grey	Silty-Clay with 50% fire cracked stone
4	419	Fill	Fill of Pit		Depth: Unknown Width: Unknown Length: Unknow	417		Friable	Mid-Yellowish-Grey	Silty-Clay with 50% fire cracked stone
4	420	Cut	Cut of Pit	Possible Key hole oven	Depth: Length: Width:	418	402			
4	421	Structu re	Possible stone-lined oven	Possible stone-lined oven, likely related to the two pits 1m north (417 and 420). Unexcavated as found outside bounds of eval trench. Stones at southern end with black fill to north.	1.4m n-s x 0.7m e-w exposed	401	402			

5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.28m depth		501	friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
5	501	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.18m depth	500	502	mod compact	mid brownish red	sandy clay
5	502	Layer	Natural	Natural		501		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
6	600	Layer	topsoil	topsoil	0.29m depth		601	loose	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
6	601	Layer	subsoil	subsoil	0.33 depth	600	602 603	moderately compact	light greyish red	sandy clay
6	602	Layer	natural	natural		601 605		firm	mid reddish orange	sandy clay
6	603	Fill	Fill of ditch 605	Upper fill of ditch 605. Charcoal rich fill, possibly suggesting dump of burnt material, but no finds or dating.	0.14m depth x 1.72m width x 1.8m+ length	601	604	compact	mid/dark orangey grey	sandy clay
6	604	Fill	Fill of ditch 605	Basal fill of ditch 605. Lighter and less charcoal rich than 603. More likely a result of weathering. No finds or dating.	0.11m depth x 1.14m width x 1.8m+ length	603	605	compact	mid greyish orange	sandy clay
6	605	Cut	Cut of NE-SW ditch	Cut of fairly wide, shallow ditch. No finds or dating but possibly post med. Field boundary?	0.2m depth x 1.72m width x 1.8m+ length	604	602			

7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.29m depth		701	friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
7	701	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.18m	700	702	mod compact	mid brownish orange	Sandy clay
7	702	Skeleton	Natural	Natural - not a skeleton!		701				
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.27m depth		801	friable	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
8	801	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.23m depth	800	802	mod compact	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
8	802	Layer	Natural	Natural		801		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
9	1508	Fill	Needs Deleting							
9	900	Cut	Topsoil		Depth: 0.20M		901			
9	901	Layer	Subsoil		Depth: 0.21M	900	903 905 907 909	moderately compact	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
9	902	Cut	Natural		Unknown	904 906 908 910				
9	903	Cut	Fill of Furrow (904)			901				
9	904	Cut	Cut of Furrow				902			

9	905	Fill	Fill of Furrow (906)			901				
9	906	Cut	Cut of Furrow				902			
9	907	Fill	Fill of Furrow [908]			901				
9	908	Cut	Cut of Furrow				902			
9	909	Fill	Fill of Furrow [910]			901				
9	910	Cut	Cut of Furrow				902			
10	1000	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.2m depth		1001	friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
10	1001	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.18m	1000	1002	mod compact	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
10	1002	Layer	Glayeding	Layer of blue clay glayeding.	0.58m depth	1001	1003	firm	mid greyish blue	clay
10	1003	Layer	Natural	Natural		1002		Firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
11	1100	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.29m depth		1101	Friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay

11	1101	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.27m depth	1100	1102 1103	compact	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
11	1102	Layer	Natural	Natural		1101		Firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
11	1103	Fill	Fill of furrow	Redep natural fill of furrow 1104. No finds.	0.07m depth, 0.94m width, 1.8m+ length	1101		mod compact	mid brownish red	sandy clay
11	1104	Cut	N-S furrow	Cut of furrow. No finds, but likely postmed.	0.07m depth, 0.94 m width, 1.8m+ length					
12	1200	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.28m depth		1201	friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
12	1201	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.2m depth	1200 1201		compact	mid brownish red	sandy clay
12	1202	Layer	Natural	Natural				firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
13	1300	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.24m depth		1301	friable	mid brownish grey	sandy clay
13	1301	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.24m depth	1300	1302	compact	mid brownish orange	sandy clay
13	1302	Layer	Glayeding	Glayeding layer	0.52m depth	1301	1303	compact	mid greyish blue	clay

13	1303	Layer	Natural	Natural		1302		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
14	1400	Layer	Topsoil		Depth: 0.21M		1401	Friable	mid orangey brown	sandy clay
14	1401	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	Depth: 0.24M	1400	1403	compact	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
14	1402	Layer	Natural		Unknown	1404		firm	mid orangey red	sandy clay
14	1403	Fill	Fill of Furrow [1404]			1401	1404			
14	1404	Cut	Cut of Furrow	Cut of Furrow		1403	1402			
15	1500	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.3m depth		1501	Friable	mid reddish brown	sandy clay
15	1501	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	0.36m depth	1500	1502 1503 1505	mod compact	mid greyish orange	sandy clay
15	1502	Layer	Natural	Natural		1501		Firm	Mid orangey red	sandy clay
15	1503	Fill	Fill of ditch	Redeposited natural fill of ditch 1504 containing a land drain at the base. No finds or dating, but visible in landscape and containing land drain so likely postmed.	0.35m depth, 1.23m width, 1.8m+ length	1501		compact	mid brownish orangey red	sandy clay

15	1504	Cut	n-s ditch	Cut of ditch containing redep natural and land drain. visible in landscape. likely postmed.	0.25m depth, 1.23m width, 1.8m+ length					
15	1505	Fill	Fill of treebowl	Dark fill at top of tree bowl 1507. Very dark but doesn't look charcoally. Likely organic material that collapsed into treebowl when it was waterlogged and rotted in situ. No finds or dating.	0.15m depth, 0.68m width, 0.48m+ length	1501	1506	mod compact	dark bluey black	clay
15	1506	Fill	Fill of treebowl	Main fill of tree bowl 1507. Blue clay glayeding material. No finds or dating.	0.21m depth, 1.7m width, 0.76m+ length	1505		compact	light orangey blue	clay
15	1507	Cut	Cut of treebowl	Somewhat irregular cut of treebowl that has become waterlogged and filled with glayeding material and rotted organic material. No finds or dating.	0.36m depth, 1.7m width, 0.76m+ length					

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WCM 102229)

The archive consists of digital files created in ARK, plus:

5	Field progress reports AS2
113	Digital photographs
8	Scale drawings on permatrace
5	Flot records AS21
6	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery
Museums Worcestershire
Foregate Street
Worcester
WR1 2PW

Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 102229 (event HER number)

P5071

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
	bone	?animal	11	21				
	bone	animal	11	8				
	bone	burnt	39	11				
	ceramic	pot	1	1			Y	
	stone	sandstone	1	29				
early post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	L15C	E17C	Y	
IA	ceramic	pot	1	5			Y	
LIA	ceramic	pot	4	23			Y	
LIA/ERB	ceramic	pot	16	297			Y	
LMIA	ceramic	pot	21	127			Y	
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	8			Y	
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	7	13C	E17C	Y	
MIA	ceramic	pot	1	5			Y	
M-LIA	ceramic	pot	6	84			Y	
modern	ceramic	pot	2	18		L18C	Y	
modern	ceramic	pot	2	70	19C	20C	Y	
modern	glass	vessel	2	82	19C	20C		
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	31	17C	18C	Y	
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	86	L17C	19C	Y	
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	11	537	M17C	18C	Y	
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	3	M1C	2C	Y	
Roman	ceramic	pot	10	91	M1C	4C	Y	

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.

Environmental

context	sample	large mammal	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
103	2	occ	mod	occ	mod*	occ fired clay, pot, fe slag, heat-affected stones.
307	8	occ	occ		occ*	occ heat-affected stones.
310	7	occ	occ		occ*	occ pot, heat-affected stones
404	3	occ	occ		occ*	mod heat-affected stones
415	5	occ	abt	occ		occ fired clay, occ pot, abt heat-affected stones

*Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probable modern and intrusive*

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
103	2	ch	non-oak wood	misc	+/low	
103	2	ch	unidentified	grain	+/low	
103	2	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	++/low	
307	8	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
307	8	?wa	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
310	7	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
310	7	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
404	3	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
404	3	wa	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+/low	
415	5	ch	*Quercus robur*/*petraea* wood, unidentified wood fragments	misc	+++/low	mostly small unidentifiable fragments
415	5	ch	*Triticum dicoccum* glume base	chaff	+/low	
415	5	ch	Cereal sp indet grain	grain	+/low	poor preservation

Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+
	* = fragments