

Archaeological trenching at Hanley Castle, Hanley Castle parish, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for The Hanleys' Village Society
December 2019



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HANLEY CASTLE, HANLEY CASTLE PARISH, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological trenching report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: Hanley Castle, Hanley Castle parish, Worcestershire

Central NGR: SO 83808 41425

Commissioning client: The Hanleys' Village Society

WA project number: P4133

WA report number: 2737

HER event number: WSM71715

HER monument number: WSM00285

Scheduled Monument number: SM WT 281

National Heritage List Entry number: 1005280

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Archaeological trenching at Hanley Castle, Hanley Castle parish, Worcestershire

By Tim Cornah

With contributions by Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

Archaeological trenching was undertaken at Hanley Castle, Hanley Castle parish, Worcestershire (NGR SO 83808 41425). It was commissioned by The Hanleys' Village Society in order to identify potential surviving remains of the castle. Tours of the fieldwork were undertaken for members of the local community.

Three trenches were excavated across the Scheduled Monument. The trenches revealed features and dating evidence from both the known start and end dates of the site's use as a castle, whilst hinting at its use as a house or hunting lodge within that time frame. The earliest known elements of the site are of high significance, despite their high degree of truncation. A further key result of the project was to confirm the accuracy of the results of the geophysical survey.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

Archaeological trenching was undertaken at Hanley Castle, Hanley Castle parish, Worcestershire (NGR SO 83808 41425). It was commissioned by The Hanleys' Village Society, and sponsored by the Upton Blues Festival, in order to evaluate the surviving remains of the castle. The Castle mound is Scheduled Monument (NHLE number 1005280) which is considered to have been built in the reign of King John between 1206 and 1212. Consent for the works was acquired from Historic England.

The project conforms to the brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2013) and Historic England Scheduled Monument Consent (HE reference S00220083; dated 9 July 2019), for which a proposal, including a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019) and approved by Historic England.

The project 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 the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located c 0.6km to the south of the village of Hanley Castle and c 1.7km to the north-west of the town of Upton-upon-Severn. The site is located on rolling ground on the western bank of the River Severn, c 0.8km to the east. The Pool Brook lies below the Castle, to the east, and the Mere Brook lies to the south. The broad flat plateau of the Castle mound is at a height of 19.30m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). It is currently grassed and used as rough grazing for livestock. The geology of the site is recorded as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, with no recorded superficial deposits within the site. To the immediate east, along the streams, alluvial superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2019).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

Prior to fieldwork commencing, information on the site was collected and was derived from that given by the Historic Environment Record (HER), 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, and the enclosure map of 1795.

The HE legacy record description of the site is as follows:

The monument includes the remains of a ringwork, a keep and a house situated at the confluence of Pool Brook and Mere Brook. The ringwork, known as Hanley Castle, survives as three sides of a large banked enclosure with a moated quarry ditch, a keep and the remains of a house. The bank and moat enclose a sub-rectangular area approximately 155m by 100m. The bank is up to 6m high on the western side and between 1.5m and 3m on the south and eastern sides. The bank has been used to infill the moat ditch on the northern side. Excavation during the early 1980s found the ditch to be clay lined, up to 18m wide and between 2.7m and 3.6m deep. The keep survives as a circular concave depression about 5m in diameter situated in the north-western corner of the enclosure. Foundation walls approximately 2.7m thick were excavated in its vicinity. The buried remains of Hanley Castle House are located at the north of the site.

Hanley Castle was built by King John between 1206 and 1212. Between 1322 and 1327 Edward II carried out extensive work on the castle. Tradition states that in 1324 Edward II put

over one thousand diggers to work constructing the bank and ditch. A chapel was recorded here in 1327 and in 1349 the castle was extended. During the 17th century a large square structure including four towers surrounded by a moat with a keep in the north western corner was recorded here. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005280>

Medieval remains relating to the castle are therefore expected, along with post-medieval activity, as the last surviving tower is recorded as having been removed in 1795, while a later house occupied the northern side of the mound until 1904 (HER Monument Report WSM 00285).

The historic maps of the site include the 1795 Hanley Castle enclosure map which shows the castle mound surrounded by a horse shoe shaped moat with a house at its northern side, with the gap in the moat at that point. To the south-east of the castle mound is an east to west aligned building which is consistent with the standing mill, known as Birley Mill (WSM07271) which was considered to date to the early 19th century, but a brief interior survey by the author suggested a later 18th century date.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows the same broad features but with the house extended westward, and garden paths to its south, as well as tracks including a likely turning circle to its north. A comparison of the moat between the two maps suggests it has been partially filled in from its ends closest to the house. The mill building was also extended by this time.

It is understood that the castle mound was under extensive cultivation during World War Two and until at least 1947 (www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW004012A).

2.2 Previous archaeological work on the site

Two programmes of geophysical survey were initially undertaken on the castle mound by Stratascan (2006 and 2007; now known as SUMO), with a third recently completed (SUMO 2019). The first two programmes comprised resistivity, gradiometer and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey with a combined result of interpretive plots of sub-surface remains, particularly linear anomalies which suggested a broadly east to west aligned structure or structures on the castle mound on its central and eastern side. The alignment of these features was at a variant to the castle mound, with the moat being aligned north-east to south-west at its southern extent.

The GPR survey was considered to be the most successful element of the survey and was repeated in 2019, using updated equipment. This provided further detail and confirmed the position of a rectangular broadly east to west aligned structure or structures. Estimated depths of the suggested foundations and deposits were given and ranged between 0.6m and 1.5m below the present ground surface. It is noticeable that some of the deepest deposits and features were indicated at the southern and eastern corner of the site. The survey also identified paths aligned with the post-medieval house on the site, as seen on the 1st edition Ordnance survey map.

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;
- record any archaeology and assess its significance.

4 Project methodology

A project proposal and WSI was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019). Fieldwork was undertaken between 10 and 12 July 2019. The following is taken from the proposal (WA 2019, 3-4):

Up to ten trenches were originally proposed, to be excavated by hand in the approximate positions on the plan included in the proposal [WA 2019, fig 1]. These were positioned to investigate the geophysical results and with the intention to characterise these according to building method and

potentially by phase, with reference to any dating evidence. The trenches were chosen as per the following broad strategy:

- 1) To investigate the range of different positive geophysical survey results (i.e. results presumed to represent a range of different types of archaeological remains);
- 2) through the characterisation of archaeological remains, to follow up (a) with establishing feature morphology (walls, etc.) and structures (where walls, etc., of the same type may indicate buildings), and;
- 3) where stratigraphic relationships can be established, to identify site phases.

The trenches listed below cover the range of different results established during geophysical survey. Where possible trenches have been placed where they include more than one type of geophysical survey result positively indicating possible archaeology, and wide enough apart to gather information over a wide part of the available excavation area. More specifically, with reference to the criteria as classified in the geophysical survey results and their specific investigation, this involves the following reasons for the location of trenches:

Trench 1 – to investigate a buried surface of uncertain origin

Trench 2 – to investigate a buried surface (?path) and intersection with probable archaeology (?spread)

Trench 3 – to investigate a linear anomaly (?wall) in association with probable archaeology (?spread)

Trench 4 – to investigate a narrow linear anomaly associated with a buried surface related to a path

Trench 5 – to investigate a linear anomaly (?wall) in association with probable archaeology (?spread)

Trench 6 – to investigate a linear anomaly (?wall) in association with probable archaeology (?spread)

Trench 7 – to investigate a linear anomaly (?wall) in association with disturbed ground/archaeology

Trench 8 – to investigate a linear anomaly (?wall) in association with probable archaeology (?spread)

Trench 9 – to investigate a linear anomaly (?wall) in association with probable archaeology (?spread)

Trench 10 – to investigate a buried surface of uncertain origin

It is presently considered on the basis of alignment that several trenches may relate to the same specific (and possibly main) structure: i.e. Trenches 5–9, and so testing this was to be a principal objective.

The order of digging trenches was suggested as follows, on the basis of getting the widest range of geophysical responses/type of archaeology characterised in the first instance. This number and order of trenches was subject to change in the field, as the results were assimilated:

Batch 1 (in no particular order): Trenches: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10;

Batch 2 (in no particular order): Trenches: 2, 5, 9.

During fieldwork, Trenches 3 and 7 were excavated initially, followed by Trench 2. These were targeted for the reasons outlined above, and factoring in the geophysical estimated response depth, where activity was relatively close to the surface and therefore meaningful results were more achievable with hand digging. These trenches were subsequently renumbered as Trenches 1, 2 and 3

during fieldwork, and indicated on Figure 2. Trench 3 was not excavated to its full depth or length due to time constraints.

All excavation was undertaken by hand. Deposits considered not to be significant (i.e. soils) were removed rapidly. Clean surfaces were inspected, and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples as well as to determine their nature, following discussion of the sampling strategy with Historic England. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). 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 and turf.

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

The fieldwork was monitored by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England.

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 Trench descriptions

5.2.1 Trench 1

(Figures 2 and 3; Plates 1 and 2)

The uppermost deposits were overlain by a thin layer, 0.10m, of clay silt topsoil (100), with 0.4m of a compact light brownish grey silt clay below this (101). The latter contained abraded brick and tile fragments, animal bone and pottery. The dating of these was medieval to 20th century, suggesting the layer was a levelling deposit dating towards the end of this period. This deposit sealed all of those below.

At a depth of 0.37m below the ground surface, partial remains of a broadly east to west aligned, 1.05m wide, sandstone wall was present. The structure consisted of dressed sand stone blocks (106) up to 0.47 by 0.31 by 0.12m in size. The dressed blocks were present on the north and south sides, demonstrating that it was faced on both sides. Only a single partial course remained, indicating deliberate robbing out of stone. Between the faces was a deposit of smaller rough sub-angular stones, (107), representing a rubble infill, which was also partially disturbed, but was representative of the original construction method.

The wall lay within a construction cut (105) which was 1.8m wide, with the wall was within its centre. This was backfilled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (108), which butted wall (106). No dating evidence was present within this deposit.

To the north of the wall was a linear feature (103) also aligned broadly east to west and filled by a dark blackish grey silty clay (104). This feature was not excavated.

Underlying all of these deposits and features was a compact mid bluey red clay (102) which is consistent with the mudstone natural geology recorded in the area.

5.2.2 Trench 2

(Figures 2 and 4; Plates 3-5)

Two deposits directly comparable to (100 and 101) in Trench 1 were present in the form of a 0.12m deep dark grey brown sand clay topsoil (200), which overlay a fairly compact light brown silt clay deposit (201), which was up to 0.38m in depth. As with (101), this contained abraded material culture spanning from the 13th to the 20th centuries and appears to have been the same levelling deposit.

Below (201) was a mixed light orange brown clay silt deposit (202) with a high mortar content, up to 0.20m in depth and sealing the majority of the trench below. This contained fragments of building material such as ceramic tile of 13th to 17th century date, suggesting the deposit was a demolition horizon towards the end of that date range.

Sealed below (201) was a broadly north to south aligned cut feature with a near vertical 0.20m deep edge on its east side to a flat base and no defined edge to its west [204], over 1.50m wide. This was filled by a fairly soft and loose light yellow brown silt (203), containing ceramic building material, again of 13th to 17th century date. The interpretation of this feature is that the cut is the construction or robber cut of a former wall, with the fill being related demolition rubble.

A small layer of compact light lime mortar (205) up to 0.03m deep and up to 0.90m in length was present, again sealed below (201). The limits of this were diffuse and irregular and it is likely that this was part of a demolition event, although the possibility that it was part of a wider, truncated mortar floor cannot be ruled out.

Below (205) was another north to south aligned feature, over 0.10m in depth [208]. Neither its eastern edge nor base were present within the limit of the trench. The fill of the feature (207) was a soft sandy reddish brown clay silt and contained pottery of dating to between 1200 and 1300. The interpretation of this feature is difficult given its lack of visibility.

All of the deposits within the trench overlay or were cut into a compact reddish blue clay (206), which was consistent with the natural mudstone deposits of the area.

5.2.3 Trench 3

(Figures 2 and 5; Plates 6 and 7).

The topsoil deposit within this trench was 0.11m deep (300) and consisted of a moderately compact brown clay silt, with frequent pea gravel towards its base at the north-east end of the trench. This overly (301), a compact dark brown clay silt up to 0.14m in depth that contained dating of 13th to 20th centuries. This was consistent with the levelling deposits seen in Trenches 1 and 2. A further such levelling deposit was present below (301), consisting of a dark reddish brown clay silt, with material of 1200 to 1900 date.

A cut feature up to 0.48m in width was present [304], although it extended beyond the edge of trench. This was filled by a soft dark brown clay silt, which was not excavated (303). The size and likely shape of this feature suggests a posthole, which was cut into a mid-red clay deposit with some sands, which is likely to be the natural undisturbed geology (305).

6 Artefactual evidence

6.1 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findwork by ClfA (2014b), for pottery analysis by PCR/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 (earliest possible 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 a Microsoft Access database.

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).

6.1.3 Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil, 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, by Rob Hedge (with quantification by Emily Blackmore)

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)
medieval	ceramic	pot	14	117
		roof tile	12	455
medieval/early post-med	ceramic	daub	2	15
		pot	19	195
		ridge tile	1	28
		roof tile	40	4469
late med/early post-med	plaster	lime plaster	6	15
		brick	7	536
	ceramic	pot	3	8
		roof tile	2	63
	glass	window	1	2
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	25	108
	iron	nail	7	36
		pot	4	88
	lead	lead fitting	1	184
	mortar	mortar	4	12
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe stem	8	14
		pot	25	125
		roof tile	4	111
	glass	vessel	3	35
		window	10	27
	copper alloy	shoe buckle	1	5
	slate	roof slate	7	52

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	pot	29	153
		roof tile	5	102
	rubber	tennis ball	1	35
	slate	roof slate	1	32
undated	Animal bone	mammal bone	19	141
	charcoal	charcoal	4	11
	shell	oyster shell	6	47
	fuel ash slag	clinker	5	29
	stone	building stone	4	7
	limestone		1	14
	Malvern rock		1	29
	mudstone		1	213
	Oolitic limestone		10	186
Totals			293	7699

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage, by Emily Blackmore

The artefactual assemblage from the site is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. A total of 293 artefacts, weighing 7.7kg, were recovered.

The assemblage came from eight stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Artefact condition varied: much of the medieval pottery was relatively unabraded, and the mean sherd weight, at 9g, was only slightly below average. However, the post-medieval pottery was in markedly poorer condition, with a mean sherd weight of just 5.1g.

Limited resources were available for the analysis, necessitating a focus on those parts of the assemblage most instructive for the characterisation and dating of the early phases of the castle. The focus was, therefore, on the medieval pottery, and less so on the building material and post-medieval artefacts.

6.2.1 Pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Form sherds, where present, could be dated accordingly; the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span. Where mentioned, specific forms of Malvernian ceramics are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004).

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Medieval	53	Early Malvernian glazed ware	1	5
	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	2	19
	99	uncertain**	1	15
Medieval/early Post-medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	27	261
late medieval	70	Southern white ware	3	8
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	35	211
	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	3	8
	82	Tin-glazed ware	1	1
	90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	10
	91	Post-medieval buff wares	4	16
Post-medieval/modern	83	Porcelain	3	7
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	6
	85	Modern china	6	19
Totals			88	586

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type (**non-local decorated jug, possibly Brill)

6.2.2 Site dating

context	material	object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	Context <i>terminus post quem</i> date
101	Animal bone	mammal bone	18	128			AD 1800 - 1950
	ceramic	brick	2	288	1400	1750	
		brick/tile	2	4	1200	1800	
		clay pipe stem	5	8	1600	1910	
		daub	2	15	1200	1700	
		pot	1	5	1100	1250	
			2	12	1200	1300	
			1	8	1200	1400	
			11	101	1200	1630	
			3	8	1450	1600	
			3	6	1600	1800	
			1	8	1700	1900	
			1	3	1685	1785	
			2	5	1740	1785	
			2	14	1800	1950	
			1	10	1600	1800	
			2	5	1670	1795	
			1	6	1680	1780	
		ridge tile	1	28	1200	1630	
		roof tile	21	437	1200	1630	
			5	102	1600	1900	
			4	222	1200	1500	
	glass	vessel	2	18	1800	1900	
		window	1	2	1400	1700	
	copper alloy	shoe buckle	1	5	1690	1720	
	iron	nail	7	36	1200	1800	
	charcoal	charcoal	2	9			
	shell	oyster shell	5	35			
	plaster	lime plaster	6	15	1200	1700	
	limestone	building stone	1	14			
	Malvern rock		1	29			
	Oolitic limestone		10	186			
	slate	roof slate	6	69	1700	1900	
108	ceramic	brick	1	27	1400	1700	AD 1400 - 1700
		pot	1	2	1200	1630	
		roof tile	2	63	1400	1700	
201	ceramic	clay pipe stem	3	6	1600	1910	AD 1800 - 1950
		pot	1	11	1200	1400	
			5	84	1200	1630	
			1	1	1600	1800	
			2	34	1700	1900	
			1	6	1800	1950	
			1	1	1590	1730	
			1	6	1750	1900	
			1	3	1800	1950	
			1	5	1650	1750	

context	material	object specific type	Count	Weight (g)	start date	end date	Context terminus post quem date
		roof tile	3	59	1200	1700	
		roof tile	3	103	1800	1900	
	glass	vessel	1	17	1800	1900	
		window	2	3	1800	1900	
	iron	pot	4	88	1200	1800	
	shell	oyster shell	1	12			
	fuel ash slag	clinker	2	9			
	mudstone	building stone	1	213			
	slate	roof slate	1	4	1700	1900	
202	ceramic	roof tile	9	2293	1200	1630	AD 1200 - 1630
203	ceramic	roof tile	5	1622	1200	1630	AD 1200 - 1630
207	ceramic	pot	6	50	1200	1300	AD 1200 - 1300
			2	16	1200	1400	
			2	8	1200	1630	
			1	15	1100	1250	
301	animal bone	mammal bone	1	13			AD 1800 - 1950
	ceramic	brick	4	221	1400	1750	
		brick/tile	21	97	1200	1800	
		pot	1	2	1600	1800	
			23	147	1700	1950	
			2	1	1800	1950	
			3	2	1800	1950	
		roof tile	1	8	1700	1900	
			5	52	1200	1500	
			3	181	1200	1500	
	glass	window	8	24	1800	1900	
	lead	lead fitting	1	184	1200	1900	
	charcoal	charcoal	2	2			
	mortar	mortar	4	12	1200	1800	
	rubber	tennis ball	1	35	1800	1950	
	fuel ash slag	clinker	3	20			
	stone	building stone	4	7			
	slate	roof slate	1	11	1700	1900	
302	ceramic	brick/tile	2	7	1200	1800	AD 1600 - 1900
		pot	1	3	1600	1800	
			3	10	1600	1900	
		roof tile	2	58	1200	1700	

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts grouped in phase order

6.3 Period discussion

6.3.1 Medieval

The earliest phase of activity indicated by the finds is the fill (207) of gully [208]. This contained medieval pottery, with no later material. The majority is oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69), a long-lived ware in production locally from the 13th to the early 17th century. However, on many of the sherds from this feature the glaze has a whitish, powdery appearance: an indication that it has been poorly-fired and the lead glaze has failed to mature. This is characteristic of early products, and is likely to indicate a 13th or early 14th century date.

One sherd from this feature is not Malvernian in origin: an iron-rich oxidised sandy fabric with red slip, clear glaze, and distinctive vertical strips of dark-red iron-rich slip. It is not a clear match for any known fabrics in the Worcestershire type-series. It superficially resembles 12th and early 13th century London-type wares of the North Rouen style (Pearce *et al* 1985). Although London-type wares have not hitherto been recognised in Worcestershire, they have been identified at Hereford and Gloucester (*ibid*, 7); so their presence here, on a high-status 13th century site, is plausible. However, few of the London-type wares are fully oxidised; Blinkhorn (pers comm) suggests that, although it differs markedly from the products of the Brill industry typically found in Worcestershire, it may be an early Brill vessel. It would not be surprising to find products from Brill, a settlement associated with a Royal hunting lodge (Farley and Hurman 2015), in the early phases of this royal site.



Pottery from context (207)



Residual pottery from context (101)

Residual medieval pottery within post-medieval levelling deposits include other indications of activity in the 13th and early 14th centuries, including early Malvernian unglazed (fabric 56) and glazed (fabrics 53, 53.1) wares. Notably, there are only two sherds from unglazed cooking pots, potentially indicating that the site was sufficiently high status for metal cooking pots to be the norm.

There is a substantial assemblage of medieval flat roof tile. Although few fragments are diagnostic, there is at least one pegged tile, more common in the 13th to 15th centuries in this area (Fagan 2004). The majority appear to have been residual within later deposits. Most are of Malvernian production (fabric 3). However, there is a small quantity of sandy tile with a reduced core and sanded base that strongly resembles Worcester fabric 2b (Fagan 2004). Several of the tiles with a coarse fabric containing Malvernian inclusions also have the sanded base more typical of Worcester products (Griffin, pers comm). One possible explanation is that they may have been manufactured on-site by a tiler working in the Worcester fashion.



Nibbed roof tile from context (203)

6.3.2 Post-medieval/modern

Post-medieval material comprised a typical range of domestic pottery, clay tobacco pipe, vessel glass and building material. There is no clear evidence of any break in occupation, although it is perhaps worth noting that (notwithstanding the small sample of the site encountered in this assemblage) there are relatively few domestic finds that can be confidently ascribed to the later 16th or 17th centuries, with a notably increase from the mid-18th century onwards.

This quantity and range of finds suggests some sort of occupation continued on the site long after the role as a stronghold had been given up. The majority of post-medieval material presumably pertains to occupation of the 4-towered structure in the 17th and 18th centuries, with some 19th century pottery, glass and tile likely to derive from the house on the northern side of the mound, that appears to have been present up to 1904.

6.4 Synthesis

The medieval pottery assemblage supports the historical record, indicating that activity on the site began in the early 13th century. Occupation of the site is evident throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, up to the end of the 19th century. There was little sign of 20th century disturbance based on the artefacts, although this was a period when the mound top was being intensively cultivated until at least 1947 (www.britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW004012A).

6.5 Recommendations

6.5.1 Discard and retention

The assemblage is of interest and significance by virtue of its association with an important scheduled medieval monument. It reflects use and activity on the site throughout its occupation and abandonment, and as such should be retained. The final decision, however, rests with Museums Worcestershire.

7 Environmental evidence

Environmental sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

8 Discussion

The three excavated trenches targeted anomalies identified through geophysical survey of the site which suggested a number of archaeological features within a broadly east to west aligned rectangular area slightly offset from the castle mound and surrounding moat. Within all the trenches, features corresponding closely to both the orientation and depth of those identified within the geophysical survey were present.

Within Trench 1 there was a dressed sandstone wall with a rubble core, that may have been a curtain wall given its position towards the edge of the mound, although its thin width would be insufficient for such a function for a castle. It is possible that it did perform this function, but during a phase when the site was being used as a house or hunting lodge. No dating was recovered to closely date this structure.

The robbed-out wall within Trench 2 also corresponded closely with the geophysical anomaly, and the material culture within its fill was of 1200-1630 date, and suggests that its demolition does not significantly post-date this period. An adjacent feature was of unclear function but respected the alignment of the wall. The dating of the feature was 1200 to 1300, potentially not long after the initial construction of the castle between 1206 and 1212.

A large degree of robbing is clearly evident in Trenches 1 and 2, with the dating evidence suggesting a levelling deposit over these within the period between 1600 and 1950. This partially correlates with the documentary evidence which suggests that the castle was derelict by the 17th century and the last elements demolished in the 1790s.

The likely early date of the feature in Trench 2 suggests that alignment of the feature and wall next to it is broadly original to the castle's 13th century inception, presumably as well as the anomalies at 90° to these. This could leave the possibility that the castle mound became misaligned to the structures at a later date. The post-medieval house on the northern side of the site followed the extant alignment of the castle mound. It is therefore possible that a significant reworking of the mound took place in the post-medieval era as part of an engineered landscape. It is certainly the case that a large deposit of levelling material was present within each trench. The possibility that the castle mound predates that built in the 13th century cannot currently be discounted either.

Trench 3 contained pea gravel within the base of the topsoil, which is considered to represent the ploughed-out remnant of a path associated with the later house, as identified within the geophysical survey, and also illustrated on the historic mapping.

9 Conclusions

Despite the limited scope of the excavated areas, the trenches revealed features and dating evidence from both the known start and end dates of the site's use as a castle, whilst hinting at its use as a house or hunting lodge within that time frame. The earliest known elements of the site are of high significance, despite their high degree of truncation. A further key result of the project was to confirm the accuracy of the results of the geophysical survey.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved within the excavated trenches. Conditions were suitable to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation site within the areas tested.

10 Recommendations

Preservation of archaeological deposits and structures, relating to both the medieval and post-medieval use of the Castle Mound, was found to be good in each of the areas investigated. It is therefore recommended that further exploratory fieldwork be undertaken, targeting those other areas of the site which have also been identified as potentially significant (Section 4 above).

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Tim Cornah, ACIfA, assisted by Jesse Wheeler, ACIfA, and Jem Brewer, PCIfA.

The project was managed by Tom Vaughan, MCIfA, and Derek Hurst, ACIfA. The report was produced and collated by Tim Cornah. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

12 Acknowledgements

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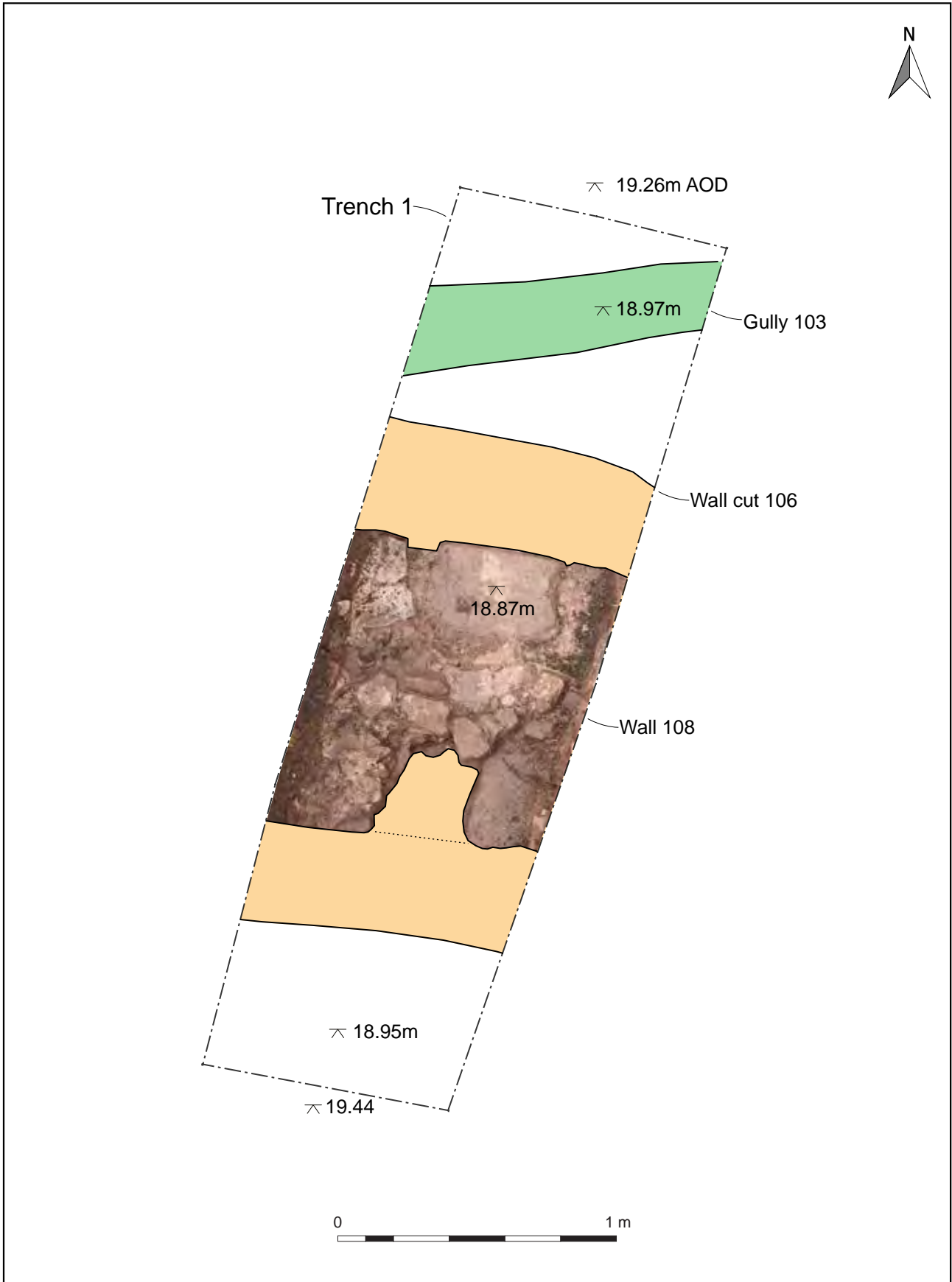
Figures



Location of the site

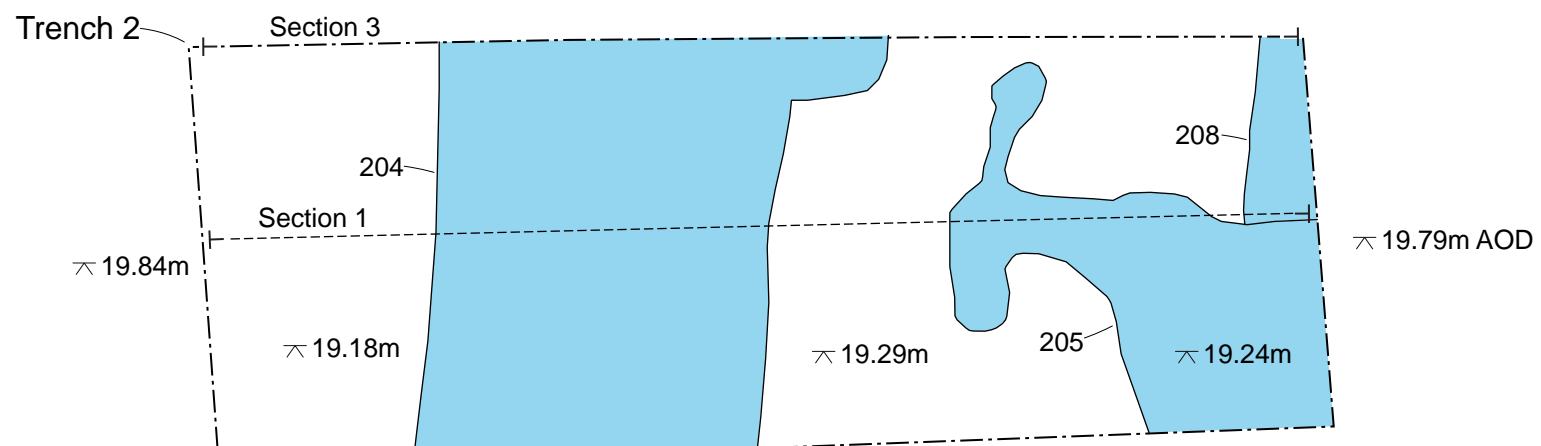
Figure 1





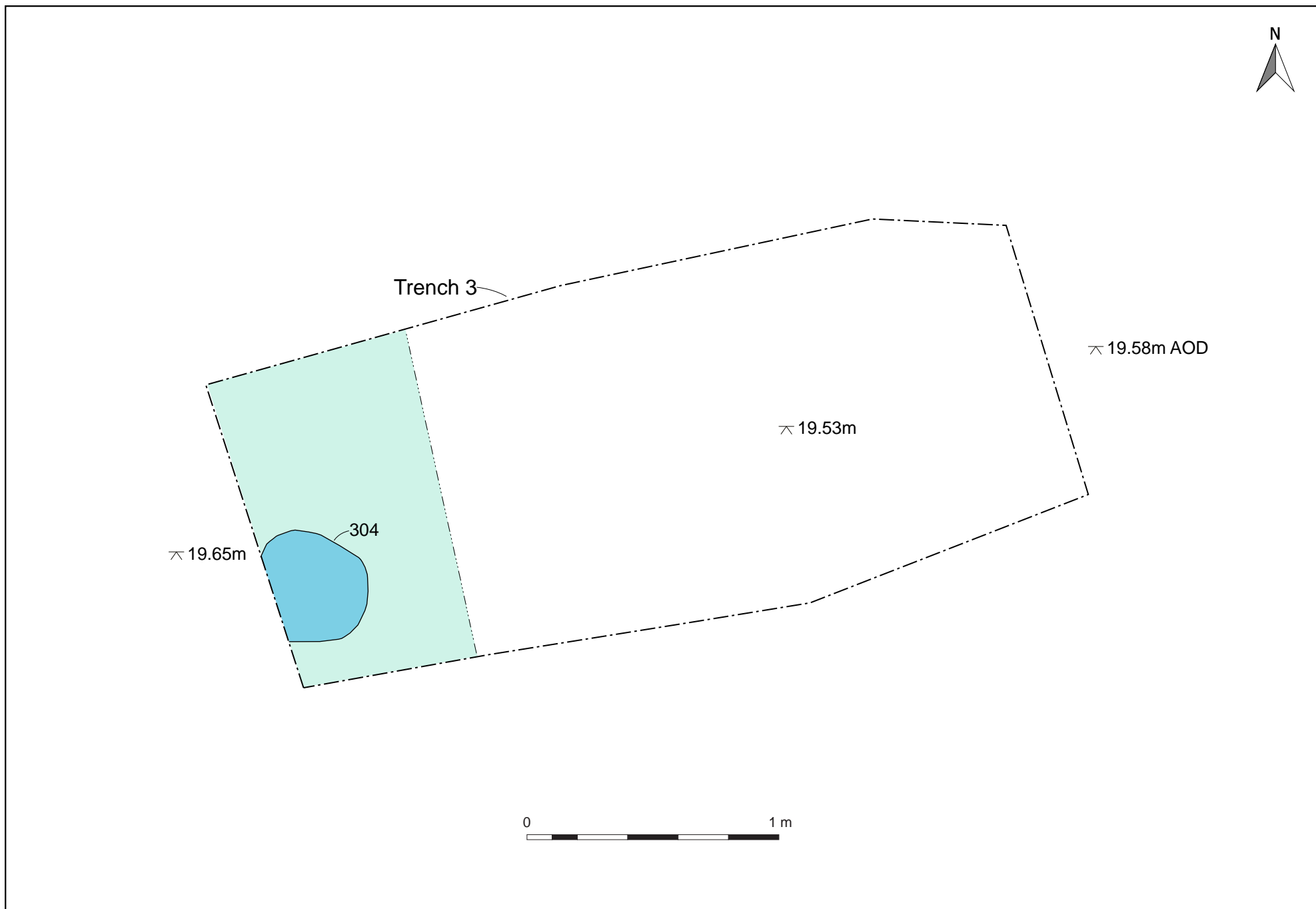
Plan of Trench 1

Figure 3



Plan of Trench 2

Figure 4



Plan of Trench 3

Figure 5

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1, wall 106, looking east, 2x 1m scales



Plate 2 Trench 1, wall 106, looking west, 0.40m scale



Plate 3 Trench 2, deposit 202, looking north, 0.40 and 1m scales



Plate 4 Trench 2, features 204, 205 and 208 before excavation, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 5 Trench 2, features 204, 205 and 208 after excavation, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 6 Trench 3, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 7 Trench 3 looking west, feature 304, 1m scale

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Context summaries

Trench 1

Length: 3m

Width: 1m

Depth 0.70m

Orientation:

N-S

Context	Feature Type	Context type	Interpretation	Depth	Deposit description
100	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.10m	Moderately compact greyish brown clay silt
101	Made ground	Layer	Postmediaeval levelling deposit, consistent across the trenches	0.40m	Compact light brownish grey silty clay with moderate medium to large sub angular stones and pottery
102	Natural	Layer	Weather marl mudstone	Not excavated	Compact mid red clay mudstone
103	Gully	Fill	Fill of gully 104	Not excavated	Moderately compact dark blackish grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub angular stone and some charcoal. Sealed by 101.
104	Gully	Cut	Small gully	Not excavated	NE-SW aligned small gully cut. Filled by 103.
105	Construction cut	Cut	Construction cut for wall 106	0.20m	W-E aligned cut within which wall 106 was constructed, also filled by 108
106	Wall	Structure	The position of the wall and corresponding geophysical anomaly suggested a "curtain" wall, but it is too small to be defensive, so possibly part of a manor or hunting lodge as opposed to a castle.	Not excavated	E-W aligned wall, with dressed stone outer face, filled with a rubble core 107. Sealed by 101.
107	Wall	Structure	Rubble infill within 106	Not excavated	Rough irregular sandstone blocks between facing stones 106. Sealed by 101.
108	Wall	Fill	Backfill with construction cut 105, butting wall 106	Not excavated	Moderately compact dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub angular stones, and some charcoal flecks. Sealed by 101.

Trench 2

Length: 3m

Width: 1m

Depth 0.70m

Orientation:

E-W

Context	Feature Type	Context type	Interpretation	Depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil	0.12m	Moderately compact grey brown clay silt
201	Made ground	Layer	Postmediaeval levelling deposit, consistent across the trenches	0.38m	Compact light brownish grey silty clay sand with moderate medium to large sub angular stones and pottery and CBM
202	Demolition horizon	Layer	Demolition which appears to represent the last use of the site as a "castle"	0-0.20m	Mixed mid to light orange brown sandy clay silt with frequent mortar flecking. Below 201 and seals all the features below
203	Robbed wall	Fill	Backfill of 204, its high mortar and CBM content suggests this fill was deposited after the wall was robbed.	0.20m	Fairly soft and loose light yellowish brown silt with a very high content of lime dust, mortar fragments and ceramic roof tile. Sealed by 202, though the deposits were very similar so could be broadly the same.
204	Robbed wall	Cut	Cut for a wall which was subsequently robbed.	0.20m	N-S aligned cut vertical on its eastern side, flat base. The full width of this cut was not present within the trench, it is suggested to be over 1.50m wide
205	Structure/Layer	Structure/Layer	Small area of lime mortar likely to be a remnant of demolition but the interpretation that it was part of a floor cannot be ruled out	0.03m	Fairly compact layer of lime mortar laid horizontally, with some coal and stone fragments. Very diffuse and ill defined edges. Sealed by 202
206	Natural	Layer	Weather marl mudstone	Not Excavated	Compact mid red clay mudstone
207	Gully?	Fill	Fill of a possible gully? Aligned parallel to robbed wall cut 204, so presumed to be broadly contemporary	0.09m	Reddish brown fairly soft sandy silt. Sealed by 205
208	Gully?	Cut	Possible gully? Aligned parallel to robbed wall cut 204, so presumed to be broadly contemporary	0.09m	N-S aligned cut feature with only its western side and no base visible within the trench.

Trench 3

Length: 3m

Width: 1m

Depth 0.51m

Orientation:

W-E

Context	Feature Type	Context type	Interpretation	Depth	Deposit description
300	Topsoil	Layer	Topsoil, with possible remnant of a ploughed out path at its east end	0.11m	Moderately compact greyish brown clay silt. Contains pea gravel at its base at the eastern end of the trench
301	Made ground	Layer	Postmediaeval levelling deposit, consistent across the trenches	0.14m	Compact light brownish grey silty clay with moderate medium to large sub angular stones and pottery
302	Made ground	Layer	Postmediaeval levelling deposit, probably broadly contemporary with 301	0.26m	Moderately compact mid reddish brown clay silt with occasional pottery fragments and some charcoal flecking
303	Posthole?	Fill	Possible small posthole	Not excavated	Soft dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub rounded stone, sealed by 302
304	Posthole?	Cut	Possible small posthole	Not excavated	Broadly round cut feature c0.40m across, filled by 303
305	Natural	Cut	Weather marl mudstone	Not excavated	Compact mid red clay mudstone

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive (WSM 71715)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Animal bones, Ceramics
Paper	Context sheet, Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Photograph, Plan, Report, Section, Survey
Digital	Database, GIS, Images , Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

Appendix 3: Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 71715 (event HER number)

P4133

Artefacts

period	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	Count	weight(g)	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
medieval	ceramic	pot	1100	1250	2	20	Y	Y
			1200	1300	8	62	Y	Y
			1200	1400	4	35	Y	Y
		roof tile	1200	1500	12	455	Y	N
medieval/early post-med	ceramic	daub	1200	1700	2	15	N	N
		pot	1200	1630	19	195	Y	Y
		ridge tile	1200	1630	1	28	Y	N
		roof tile	1200	1630	35	4352	Y	N
			1200	1700	5	117	Y	N
	plaster	lime plaster	1200	1700	6	15	Y	N
late med/early post-med	ceramic	brick	1400	1750	7	536	N	N
		pot	1450	1600	3	8	Y	N
		roof tile	1400	1700	2	63	Y	N
	glass	window	1400	1700	1	2	N	N
medieval/post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	1200	1800	25	108	N	N
	lead	lead fitting	1200	1900	1	184	N	N
	iron	nail	1200	1800	7	36	N	N
		pot	1200	1800	4	88	Y	N
	mortar	mortar	1200	1800	4	12	N	N
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1600	1910	8	14	N	N
			1590	1730	1	1	Y	N
		pot	1600	1800	7	22	Y	N
			1600	1900	3	10	Y	N
			1650	1750	1	5	Y	N
			1670	1795	2	5	Y	N
			1680	1780	1	6	Y	N
			1700	1900	3	42	Y	N
			1740	1785	2	5	Y	N
			1750	1900	1	6	Y	N
			1800	1950	3	20	Y	N
			1800	2000	1	3	Y	N
		roof tile	1700	1900	1	8	N	N
			1800	1900	3	103	N	N
	glass	vessel	1800	1900	3	35	N	N
		window	1800	1900	10	27	N	N
	copper alloy	shoe buckle	1690	1720	1	5	Y	N
	slate	roof slate	1700	1900	7	52	N	N

post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1685	1785	1	3	Y	N
			1700	1950	23	147	Y	N
			1800	1950	5	3	Y	N
		roof tile	1600	1900	5	102	N	N
	rubber	tennis ball	1800	1950	1	35	N	N
	slate	roof slate	1700	1900	1	32	N	N
undated	Animal bone	mammal bone			19	141	N	N
	charcoal	charcoal			4	11	N	N
	shell	oyster shell			6	47	N	N
	fuel ash slag	clinker			5	29	N	N
	stone	building stone			4	7	N	N
	limestone				1	14	N	N
	Malvern rock				1	29	N	N
	mudstone				1	213	N	N
	Oolitic limestone				10	186	N	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 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.