

Archaeological evaluation at Glynannis, Main Road, Hallow, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for 11:11 PROPERTY

March 2020



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GLYNANNIS, MAIN ROAD HALLOW WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological evaluation report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: Glynnannis, Main Road, Hallow

Site code: WSM 72761

Local planning authority: Malvern Hills District Council

Planning reference: 19/00367/FUL

Central NGR: SO 82550 58812

Commissioning client: 11:11 Property

WA project number: P5704

WA report number: 2789

HER reference: WSM 72761

Oasis reference: fieldsec1-386372

DOCUMENT CONTROL PANEL

Version	Date	Author	Details	Approved by
1	05/03/2020	Hazel Whitefoot and Graham Arnold	Final	T Rogers

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Archaeological Evaluation at Glynannis, Main Road, Hallow, Worcestershire

By Hazel Whitefoot and Graham Arnold

With contributions by Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Graham Arnold

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in February 2020 at Glynannis, Main Road, Hallow, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8250 5882). The project was commissioned by 11:11 Property in advance of groundworks associated with the erection of three dwellings with garages and a replacement garage at the site. Planning permission was granted by Malvern Hills District Council subject to a programme of archaeological works.

The site comprised the rear garden of Glynannis, a bungalow situated on the western side of A433 Main road located in the northern part of the village of Hallow.

There had been evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval settlement activity in the wider landscape, with undated cropmarks to the West of Hallow of possible prehistoric date, a mill leat and ponds and ridge and furrow with medieval origins in the village and a selection of post-medieval buildings and later development in the area.

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in the footprint of the proposed groundworks. Features and artefacts recorded during the works related to agricultural activity on site in the 19th Century and later periods, with land drains, services and modern disturbance recorded.

No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were recorded during the works, or evidence of any earlier activity on the site.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in February 2020 at Glynannis, Main Road, Hallow, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8250 5882). This comprised the excavation of 4 evaluation trenches. The project was commissioned by 11:11 Property in advance of groundworks associated with the erection of three dwellings with garages and a replacement garage at the site. Planning permission was granted by Malvern Hills District Council (planning reference 19/00367/FUL) subject to a programme of archaeological works.

The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority considered that the proposed development had the potential to impact upon possible heritage assets.

No brief was provided but a WSI was prepared by Worcestershire and approved by Aidan Smyth, the archaeological advisor to Malvern Hills District Council.

The evaluation conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site comprises the rear garden of Glynannis, a bungalow which stands on the western side of the A443 Road in the northern part of the village of Hallow (NGR SO 8250 5882; Figure 1). The site is flat at approximately 45m AOD and the underlying geology comprises bedrock of Sidmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Kidderminster Station Member sand and gravels. At the time of the evaluation, the site comprised an overgrown garden with some fruit trees and abandoned sheds.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

Prior to fieldwork commencing, a search of the Worcestershire HER was completed, covering a search area of 500m around the site. A summary of the results of this research are presented below.

2.2 Prehistoric

To the west of the site there is evidence of a number of cropmark enclosures recorded that may have Prehistoric origins (WSM 07896; WSM 15148).

2.3 Medieval

There is evidence of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks within the landscape (WSM 34431, WSM 37397), together with a possible mill leat (WSM 42652), mill pond (WSM 45112) and fishponds (WSM 46388) associated with Hallow Mill (WSM 42651), which may have had medieval origins.

2.4 Post-medieval

There are a number of post-medieval listed buildings and farmsteads in the area, with the earliest, including a timber framed building and a cottage (Windsor Cottage WSM 33984) dating to the 17th Century and another cottage dating to the 18th Century (Period Cottage, WSM 47322). The majority of the buildings date to the 19th Century, with records of demolished farm buildings, including a 15th Century timber framed building (WSM 46089) and a 19th Century public house, The Royal Oak (WSM47321).

2.5 Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work on the site, with three archaeological evaluations in the surrounding area. In 2007 an evaluation by Birmingham Archaeology recorded agricultural activity including furrows of medieval date (WSM36117). An evaluation in 2013 by Worcestershire Archaeology at the Royal Oak recorded the footings of a recently demolished building (WSM47470), whilst an evaluation in 2015 by Thames Valley Archaeology Services recorded an undated gully that was likely to be related to agricultural activity in the 19th Century (WSM67022).

3 Project aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the WSI, were to:

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

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2020) and approved by Aiden Smyth. Three 20m by 1.6m trenches were proposed to achieve a 4% sample of the site. However, due to the presence of various mature trees and a concrete shed in the garden area, four trenches (two 18m by 1.8m and two 9m by 1.8m), amounting to 97.2m² in area, were excavated. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator employing a toothless 1.8m wide bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a GNSS device with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material. The fieldwork was undertaken on 6th February 2020.

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 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 Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The trenches are shown in Figure 2 and Plates 2 - 10. The context descriptions and trench stratigraphy are listed in Appendix 1. The location of some of the trenches were altered to avoid creating site access issues and an existing outbuilding (Plate 1).

5.2 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit identified was the natural substrate which consisted of a mixed greyish-orange clay with patches of sands and gravels at a depth of 0.50m below the ground level (45.00m AOD). This was present in all of the trenches (103, 203, 303, 403).

5.3 Modern deposits

The natural deposits were overlain by a subsoil layer of clay silt measuring 0.20m to 0.24m in depth. The trenches were sealed by a dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil 0.27m to 0.40m in depth. No other deposits were identified. No features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Plates 2-3) and 3 (Plates 6-7) where only the natural soil stratigraphy of topsoil, subsoil and natural substrate was present. The natural substrate was truncated by a number of ceramic land drains and modern disturbance thought to be from modern agricultural activity in the southern trenches, Trench 2 (Plates 4-5) and Trench 4 (Plates 8-10). In the centre of Trench 2 a modern service had disturbed the natural clay to a depth of at least 0.75m below the ground surface and was not fully excavated (see Figure 2 – service).

6 Artefactual evidence

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no finds were identified which were considered suitable for full artefactual analysis. The finds recovered from the works included glass and ceramics of 19th Century and later date (R Hedge pers comm). (Plate 11)

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 and conclusions

No evidence of prehistoric, medieval or post-medieval settlement activity, seen elsewhere in the site vicinity was recorded on the site during the evaluation. There were no significant archaeological finds, features or deposits recorded during the works with all of the features on site related to 19th Century and later agricultural activity on the site.

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

9 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Andrew Walsh ACIfA, assisted by Hazel Whitefoot PCIfA. The project was managed by Tom Rogers MCIfA. The report was produced and collated by Hazel Whitefoot and Graham Arnold. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for the successful conclusion of the project: Gavin Warr (Director, 11:11 Property), and Aidan Smyth (Archaeological planning advisor to Malvern Hills District Council).

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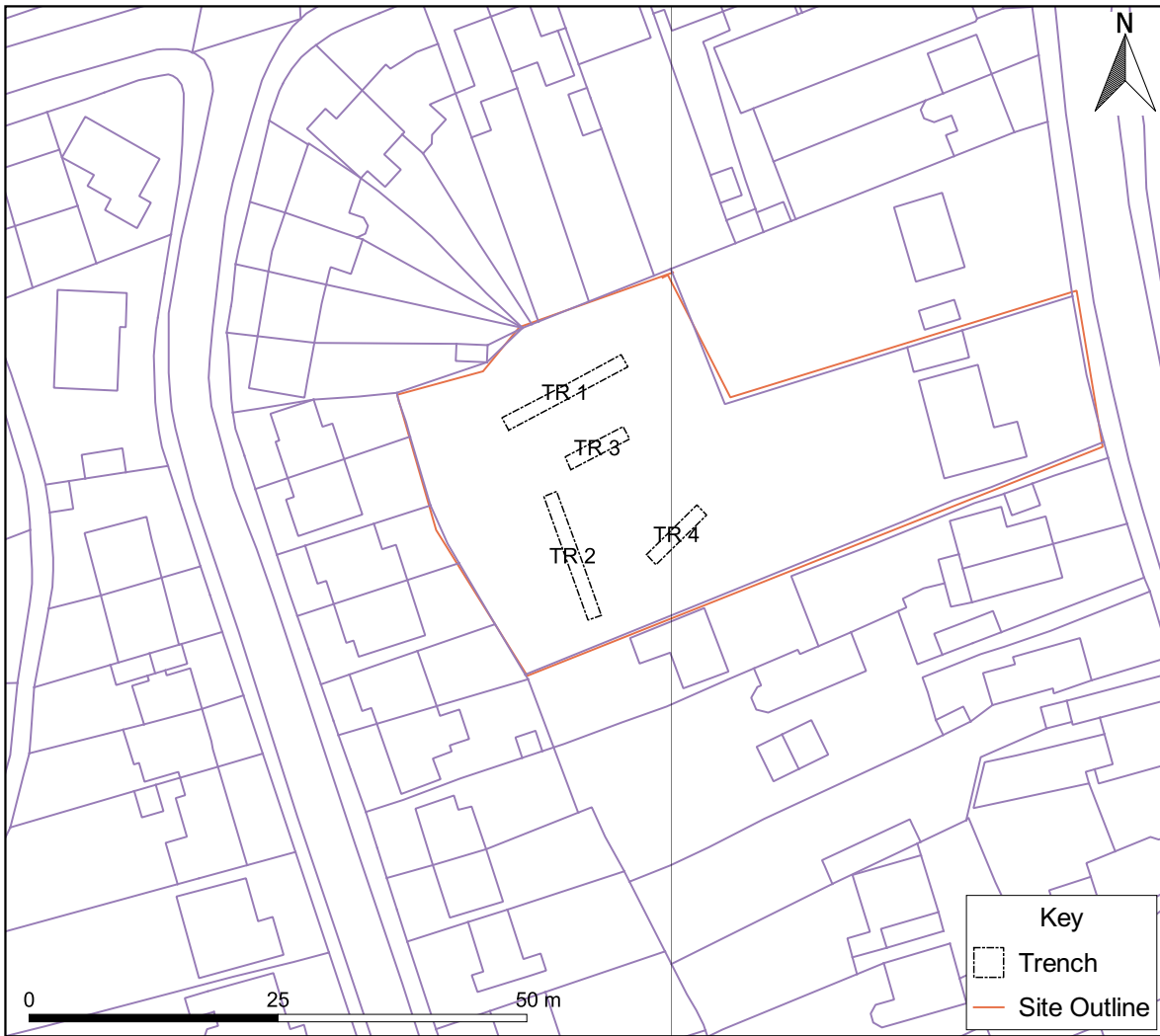
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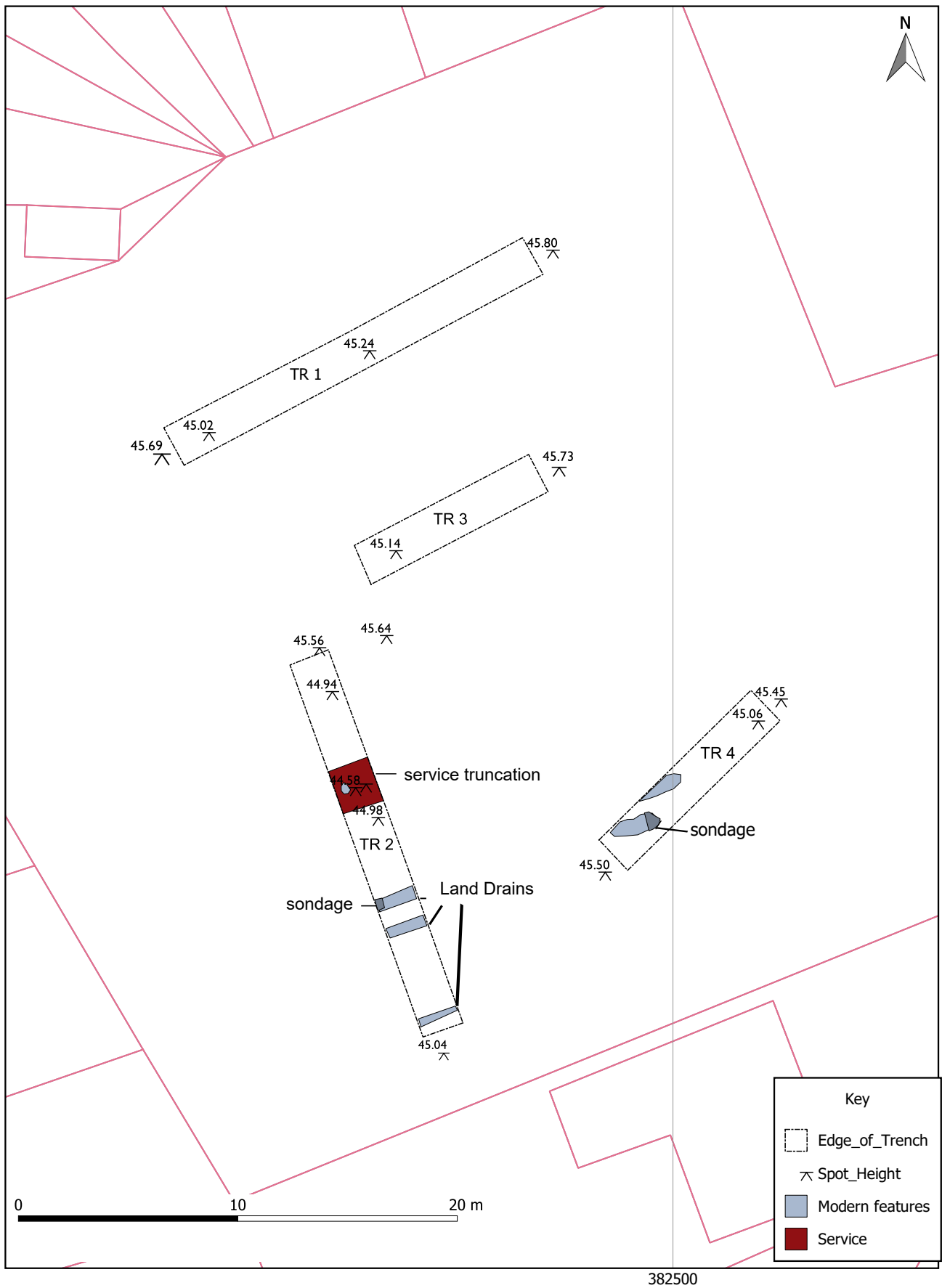
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



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Trench locations and features

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: The outbuilding in the garden, meaning that one of the trenches was moved. Looking north



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking west



Plate 3: 45 - Tr1 sample stratigraphy section looking west



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking northwest, with unexcavated service at centre of trench



Plate 5: Trench 2 sample section looking west



Plate 6: Trench 3 . Looking east



Plate 7: Tr 3 sample section looking north



Plate 8: Trench 4 during excavation. Looking northeast



Plate 9: Trench 4 sample section looking west



Plate 10: Modern agricultural disturbance (410) in Trench 4 filled with black peaty clay. 0.5m scale looking east



Plate 11: Collection of finds from the evaluation trenches, including bricks, porcelain and glass jars. 0.5m scale

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trenches 1-4

Context	Brief description	Max depth (m)	Depth from ground surface (m)	Comments
100 / 200 / 300 / 400	Topsoil	0.27 - 0.40	0.00	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate sub-rounded stones and occasional cbm fragments and charcoal flecks
101 / 201 / 301 / 401	Subsoil	0.20-0.24	0.27 - 0.40	Moderately compact mid orangey brown clay silt with moderate sub-rounded stones and occasional charcoal fragments
102 / 202 / 302 / 402	Natural substrate	0.30+	0.49 – 0.64	Firm light grey and orange sand and clay with occasional large sub-rounded cobbles and patches of gravel. Sand and gravel member with alluvial clays

Table 1: Summary context descriptions of evaluation trenches 1-4

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive (WSM72761)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	None retained
Paper	Diary (Field progress form), Report,
Digital	Database, GIS, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

*OASIS terminology

Appendix 3: Summary of data for HER

No significant finds or relevant data.