

A PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
AT
EUROFRESH EVESHAM LTD,
CRAB APPLE WAY, EVESHAM,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Graham Arnold and Tom Rogers

With contributions by Dennis Williams

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt
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Worcestershire Archaeology,
Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
The Hive,
Sawmill Walk,
The Butts,
Worcester, WR1 3PB

Project 3782
Report 1918
WSM 46457

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A programme of archaeological works at Eurofresh Evesham Ltd, Crab Apple Way, Evesham, Worcestershire

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Part 1 Project summary

Archaeological fieldwalking was undertaken at land off Crab Apple Way, Evesham, Worcestershire (SP 0499 4190).

This was carried out on behalf of Caroline Rankine of Breathe Architects for their client Eurofresh (Evesham) Ltd who intend the construction of a distribution warehouse with integrated offices, a service yard and associated staff and visitor parking. A planning application was submitted to Wychavon District Council (ref. W/11/1281) and approved subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken 1988 in advance of the industrial estate uncovered a scatter of lithic (flint) artefacts dating from the Mesolithic period (HER ref WSM45701) on the south side of the proposed development site. The development was considered by the Curator to have the potential to affect this archaeological site.

The scope of required works was outlined in a Brief prepared by requiring a programme of fieldwalking followed by watching brief on groundworks associated with construction.

The footprint of the proposed development, measuring 100m x 50m was cleared of scrub, ploughed, harrowed and left to weather before fieldwalking was undertaken. The area was divided into 5mx5m grid squares and systematically walked in lines and artefactual material was retrieved and placed in labelled bags.

The assemblage collected provided no evidence of activity earlier than the post-medieval period. Accordingly the curator decided that a second stage of watching brief of groundworks associated with construction would not be necessary.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. **Planning background**

An archaeological fieldwalking project was undertaken at land off Crab Apple Way, Evesham (NGR SP 0499 4190), (Fig 1), on behalf of Caroline Rankine of Breathe Architects for their client Eurofresh (Evesham) Ltd. The client intends to construct a distribution warehouse with integrated offices, a service yard and associated staff and visitor parking and has submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (reference W/11/1281) and obtained approval.

The proposed development site was considered to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM45701).

The project conforms to *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (HEAS 2010). .

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Planning Advisory Section, Historic Environment & Archaeology Service (HEAS 2011a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2011 b).

2. **Aims**

The aims of this archaeological fieldwalking exercise were to:

- to describe and assesses the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3. **Methods**

3.1 **Fieldwork methodology**

3.1.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012a or HEAS 2011b).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 21st and 22nd December 2011. The site reference number and site code is WSM 46457.

Prior to fieldwalking the area of the development measuring 100m x 50m was cleared of tree stumps, disced to cut up vegetation, ploughed and then harrowed. After several days weathering, the area was subsequently field-walked in a 5m grid pattern to identify and collect any diagnostic artefacts. The grid was laid out using a Leica Viva Net Rover and flags to accurately map the area. The grid was then systematically walked in lines, timed at three minutes per grid square and any material bagged. Each grid-square was given a unique tag according to the position in the field (Figure 2).

Following the fieldwalking exercise and rapid finds analysis, the curator was contacted and it was established that, in the absence of diagnostic prehistoric artefacts, there was no requirement for the second stage of watching brief on groundworks during the construction phase.

3.2 **Artefact methodology**

3.2.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

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

3.2.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand retrieved finds were examined. They were identified and dated to period.

3.3 **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. **Results**

4.1 **Artefact analysis**

The limited results of the fieldwalking on site suggest that the Mesolithic flint scatters found in the south area of the development were either not within the current development area or have been disturbed by the previous development on site and land use as scrub ground. Further works were not required due to the negative evidence presented in the fieldwalking. A small assemblage of post-medieval ceramics and ceramic building material was recovered, relating to later manuring and plough activity in the area. (*D. Williams pers. comm.*)

The artefacts are summarised in the following tables

Period	Material class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Count	Weight (g)
post-medieval	ceramic	-	clay pipe	1	1
post-medieval	ceramic	-	pot	5	53
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	brick	1	75
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	pot	16	61
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	roof tile(flat)	2	63
post-medieval/ modern	glass	-	vessel	1	10
prehistoric	stone	flint	-	1	16
Totals:				27	279

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
post-medieval/ modern	85	China	16	61
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	4	52
post-medieval	84	Creamware	1	1
Totals:			21	114

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery

5. Synthesis

No diagnostic flint work was found in the programme of field-walking and no further evidence of occupation or other features of archaeological significance.

It is likely that in the intervening years between the 1988 evaluation (WSM 45701) and the current programme of works, the site has either been weathered and degraded or that changes within the business park have resulted in imperfect location of the original evaluation trench.

6. Publication summary

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

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7. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Caroline Rankine, Breathe Architecture and Mike Glyde Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council.

8. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Graham Arnold and Tom Rogers. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Graham Arnold and Chris Gibbs, finds analysis by Dennis Williams and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

9. **Bibliography**

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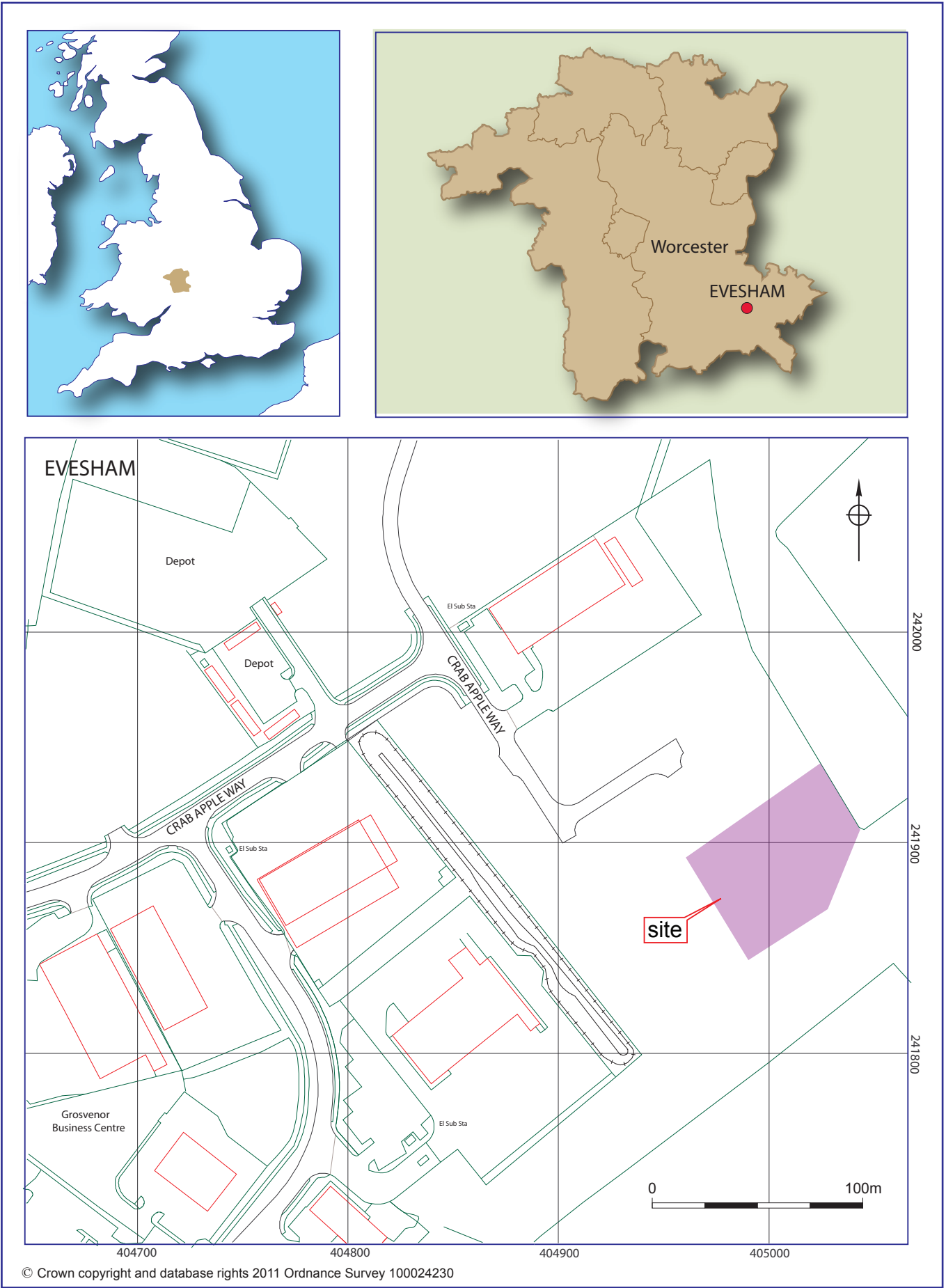
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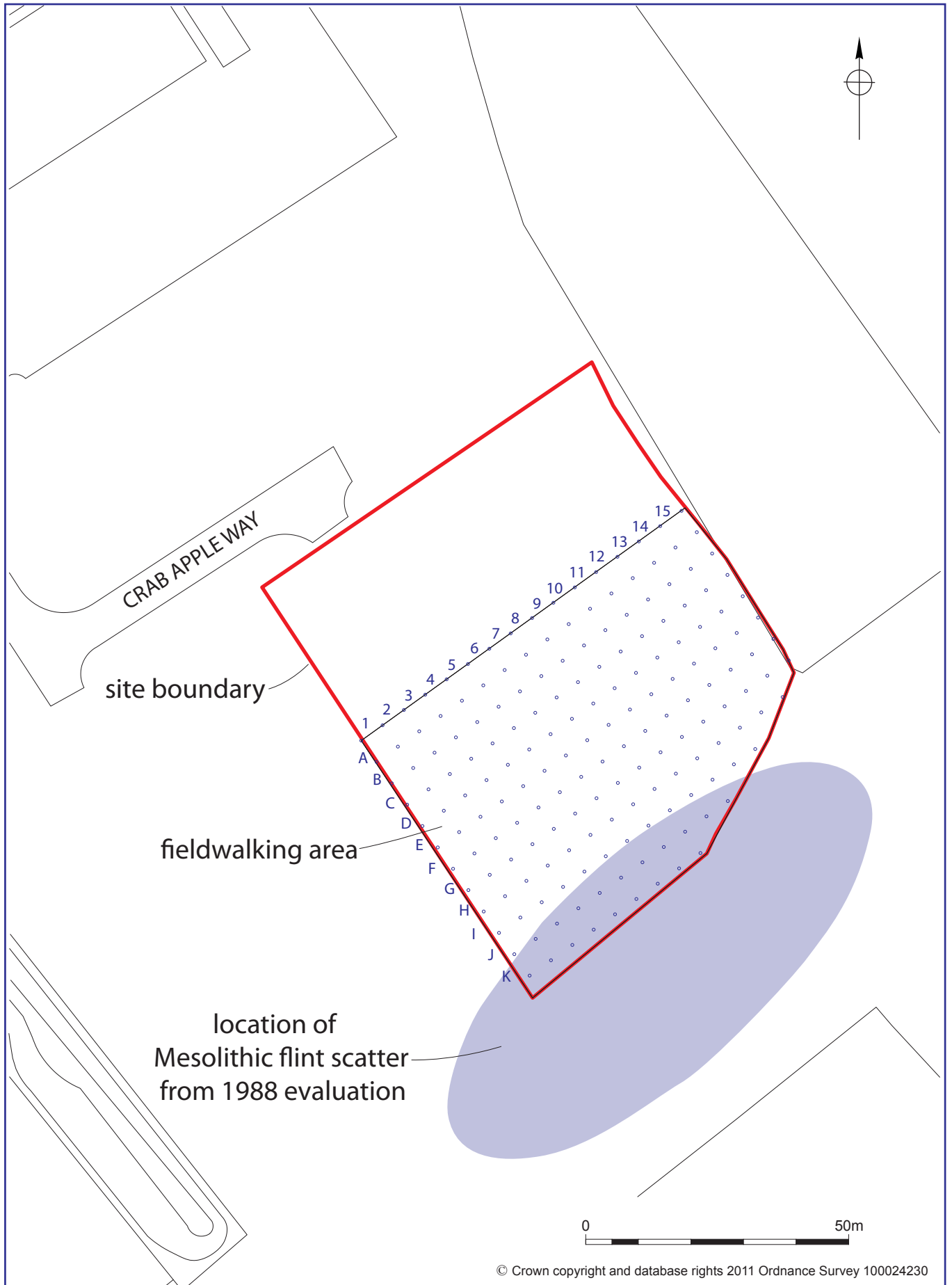
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



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Location of fieldwalking area

Figure 2

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 46457)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress report AS2
- 1 Photographic record AS3
- 1 Fieldwalking record AS23
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Museums Worcestershire
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416
