ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 82 MAIN STREET, SEDGEBERROW, WORCESTERSHIRE

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 82 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (NGR 402156, 238298). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr D Shurmer, who intends to extend the existing building, for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological remains were present and if so to indicate what their location, date and nature were.

Two Iron Age pits (4^{th} –1^{st} century BC) were identified on the site, although the original function of these features could not be established it confirms that the prehistoric settlement identified on the southern side of Main Street, extends over the road. As only two small prehistoric features were identified it was not possible to define the nature of the settlement in this area.

A partially truncated horse burial excavated on the site is thought to be Post-Roman in date and rather than representing a ritual event, it is thought it represents the everyday burial of a carcass. The burial was only partially articulated, which suggests that the horse may have been partly decomposed when deposited. The horse was a mare, aged 15 years, was 14.5 hands high and suffered from *ankylosing spondilitis*, a spinal disease caused through riding or traction. No other significant archaeological remains were identified on the site that was dominated by post-medieval and modern features including services.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 82 Main Street Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (NGR 402156, 238298) (Fig 1), on behalf of Mr Shurmer, who intends to extend the existing building and has submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (reference number W/07/02998). This is considered by the Curator to have the potential to affect a site of archaeological interest (WSM 28860).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning and Advisory Section of the Historic Environment and Archaeology service (HEAS 2008a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2008b).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The brief indicated that deposits of Iron Age and Romano British date might be identified.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- First Edition Ordnance Survey Map Sheet 03 NW 1883

Documentary sources

- Place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1927)
- County histories (VCH III)
- Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1983)

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2008b).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 31/3/08 and 1/4/08. The site reference number and site code is WSM 38563. One trench, amounting to just over 54m² in area, was excavated the location of which is indicated in Figure 1.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360º tracked/wheeled excavator, under archaeological supervision. 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 Service practice (CAS 1995). Larger pits identified as probable post medieval features were not excavated and only recorded in plan and in the section of the foundation trenches.

2.2.2 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.

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. 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 and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994).

A substantial number of bones, including part of a horse's skeleton, were retrieved from the site, but are not covered by this finds analysis.

2.4 Environmental archaeology methodology

2.4.1 Sampling policy

No archaeological deposits were identified that were thought to be of potential for environmental analysis, although a horse skeleton was recovered from a single feature and sent for osteological analysis. The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4).

2.5 The methods in retrospect

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

3. Topographical and archaeological context

The village of Sedgeberrow lies 5km to the south of Evesham, on the banks of the River Isbourne. The site lies approximately 0.65km to the west of the river. The soils of the area belong to the Lodgegrove and Evesham (411) soil series of slightly stoney calcareous clays over Lower Lias (limestone) and Jurassic/Cretaceous clay (Geological Survey 1975; Ragg *et al* 1984, Beard *et al* 1986).

The river Isborne has been the focus of activity in the Sedgeberrow area since prehistory. During river dredging in the early 19th century two fragments of Neolithic stone axes, some very large antlers, two bronze spearheads and fragments of armour were recovered (WSM 28760).

Archaeological remains indicate that the area has been occupied since the Late Iron Age and an extensive area of cropmarks (WSM 05504 and 22927) was partially investigated on the opposite side of Main Street to the present site. Archaeological remains comprised enclosures, trackways, a ring ditch and a possible rectangular building. The features were determined to represent a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement (WSM 23272; Buteux 2000).

Roman activity is well represented in the area and a Roman Road known as the 'White Way' has been conjectured to lie to the west of the village following Sandfield Lane and continuing to the south-east (WSM 28761). Roman pottery has also been collected during field walking around the village perimeters (WSM 05502 and 05655) and more recently Roman pottery has been recovered from within the village itself (WSM 33549).

Documentary sources record Sedgeberrow as early as AD 777, then known as *Segcgesbearuue* (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 164) and stray finds of Saxon *sceattas* (coins) and pottery sherds were recovered during building works to the old school during the 1930s (WSM 07518). The A435(T) is also thought to be an Anglo-Saxon road (WSM 28762). St Mary the Virgin Church was dedicated in 1328-31 but may also have an earlier Anglo-Saxon foundation (Buteux 2000).

The settlement is recorded as *Seggesbarue* in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD and is shown to be held by the monks of Worcester Priory (Thorn and Thorn 1982). The present village preserves traces of medieval village and the plot boundaries on either side of Main Street are thought to have been laid out during this period (Buteux 2000). Additionally traces of medieval buildings have been identified north-west of Main Street (WSM 28860) and traces of medieval agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified at West End Farm to the south-west of the present development (WSM 06034).

The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1883) illustrates that the site was set aside as orchard and no house was present upon the site, although a building is visible running in a E-W direction across the northern edge of the boundary plot.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trench and features recorded are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

Natural deposits (context 152) were seen across approximately 30% of the exposed area, where archaeological features were not present. These consisted of mid orange/brown sands and gravels that were moderately compact but friable. The natural was exposed at a depth of between 0.30-0.40m below the present ground surface.

4.1.2 **Phase 2 Iron Age**

One confirmed Iron Age pit (context 133) and a second prehistoric pit (context 137) also thought to be of this date were identified on the site (Plates 1-2 and Figures 3-2). The larger of the two, pit 133, was a shallow circular feature, with near vertical sides breaking to 40° slightly concave sides and a flattish base. It measured 1.30m in diameter and was 0.24m deep. The edge of the pit showed signs of in situ burning prior to its infilling with context 134. This feature was truncated by a posthole (127), a medieval pit (135) and a modern water pipe trench (139).

The second prehistoric pit was a small circular feature with 30-40° concave sides gradually breaking to a concave base. It measured 0.70m in diameter and was 0.18m deep. This feature was also truncate by the medieval pit (135) and the water pipe trench (139).

4.1.3 **Phase 3 Post-medieval and modern**

The majority of the remaining features are of post-medieval or modern date (Plate 3 and Figure 3). These features can be categorised in to four types; posts and postholes (contexts 115, 116, 117, 118 and 127), small pits (contexts 119,121, 124, 129 ,131 and 135), large pits (contexts 109, 111, 146 and 149) and modern services (contexts139 and 142).

Four posts 115, 116, 117 and 118 were rotten and not thought to be of any great antiquity. Only three of the six small pits were excavated as artefacts retrieved from the surface of the unexcavated features were thought, and later confirmed to be modern in date. The function of these features was not established and they appeared to be too small and lacked significant amounts of cultural material to be rubbish pits.

The larger features, pits 109, 111, 146 and 149 may have originally been quarry pits for the extraction of sand and gravel that had subsequently been used as rubbish pits. Both 146 and 149 towards the north and north east of the site were at least 2.40-3.0m long and 1.0-2.40m wide and between 0.70-0.85m deep. There was no evidence for the erosion of the sides so it is thought they were rapidly backfilled after the sands and gravels had been removed. Within the primary fill of pit 149 (context 150) there were frequent large and medium blue/grey mudstone angular blocks. Similar stones can be seen within the walls of some of the buildings within Sedgeberrow and it is therefore thought those within the base of pit 149 represent the unwanted remains of a demolished structure of unknown date.

4.1.4 **Phase 4 Undated**

Only two features are undated; a small truncated circular posthole 123 and a horse burial 144 within pit 143 (Plate 4 and Figure 3). The posthole measured 0.22m in diameter and was 0.08m deep, with 45° concave sides and a concave base. The horse skeleton was found within an elongated pit, context 143, that had 40° concave sides breaking to a near flat base. It measured 1.18m long and 0.45m wide and was truncated by water pipe trench 139. It is possible that the pipe trench had removed some of the skeletal remains, although the fragmentary nature of the skeleton as a whole suggests not all bones were deposited when buried. A full osteological report on this burial is present below (Section 4.3), which suggests the skeleton was not of Iron Age or Roman date and therefore is unlikely to be a ritual deposit and more likely the opportunistic deposition of a carcass.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

4.2.1 The artefact assemblage

The artefactual assemblage recovered from the site is summarised in Table 1. The pottery finds comprised 15 sherds with a total weight 194g. In addition, fragments of brick, drain-pipe, flint, metal and tile were recovered. The majority of contexts could not be identified as belonging to specific periods, particularly in instances where ceramic building materials were either post-medieval or modern in date. The level of preservation was generally good.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
103	Brick	Post-medieval/ modern	1	35
103	Metal	Modern	1	26
103	Pottery	Post-medieval/ modern	3	10
103	Slate	Roof	1	3
112	Brick/tile	Post-medieval	3	34
112	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	47
120	Flint	Undiagnostic	1	43
120	Tile/brick	Undiagnostic	1	2
122	Tile/brick	Undiagnostic	1	6
126	Pipe	Drain	1	59
126	Brick/tile	Undiagnostic	1	5
126	Pottery	Post-medieval/ modern	1	4
126	Tile	Floor	2	88
128	Brick/tile	Post-medieval/ modern	1	5
128	Brick/tile	Undiagnostic	1	47
128	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	28
128	Tile	Floor	1	106
130	Tile	Floor	2	155
132	Brick	Post-medieval/ modern	5	464
134	Flint	Undiagnostic	1	38
134	Pottery	Iron Age	2	14
136	Flint	Undiagnostic	2	54
136	Pottery	Medieval	1	24
136	Pottery	Post-medieval/ modern	1	5
138	Pottery	Prehistoric	1	7
148	Brick/tile	Undiagnostic	4	32
148	Pipe	Drain	1	17
148	Pottery	Pre-conquest/ medieval	1	27
148	Tile	Roof	1	55
151	Brick	Post-medieval/ modern	1	203
151	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	28

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
151	Tile	Roof	1	36
			48	1707

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage.

4.2.2 **The pottery**

All pottery sherds have been grouped and quantified by fabric type (Table 2). One diagnostic form sherd, a rim from a medieval cooking pot (Deansway 56.2-56.4), was present, but this was residual in a context (136) that contained post-medieval/modern pottery. The medieval rim had a Malvernian unglazed fabric (56), datable as 13th-14th century.

A single rim sherd of a Cotswolds unglazed ware (57.1) was found in context 148. This was worthy of note, since its fabric date range may be as early as 10th-12th century (Bryant, 2004), although the plain form of this particular sherd was not sufficiently distinct to be diagnostic.

Three prehistoric body sherds were found. Two were identified as Iron Age in date, and were the only pottery finds from context 134. Both of these exhibited external soot-blackening, and could be dated to the approximate date range 4th-1st century BC by their shell and sand tempered fabric (4.4). The remaining prehistoric sherd, from context 138, was thin-walled and also soot-blackened. Its fabric had irregular quartz and mica inclusions that could not be closely matched to any of the Bronze or Iron Age samples in the WHEAS Reference Series.

The other pottery sherds were unremarkable. They included a range of commonly-found red wares (fabric 78), with functional brown or black glazes, and more modern porcelain (83) creamware (84) and stone china (85). None of these sherds were distinct enough to be diagnostic, in terms of form.

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
83	Porcelain	1	2
84	Creamware	1	3
85	Modern stone china	1	5
78	Post-medieval red wares	4	103
85	Modern stone china	1	4
4.4	Shell and sand tempered ware	2	14
100/101	Miscellaneous post-medieval/ modern wares	1	5
56	Malvernian unglazed ware	1	24
97	Miscellaneous prehistoric wares	1	7
57.1	Cotswolds unglazed ware	2	54
		15	194

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

4.3 Animal bone analysis, by Ian Baxter

The partial skeleton of a horse was found in pit (143) located in the southern corner of the site. It measured 1.18m long and 0.45m wide and was truncated by pipe trench (139). During the watching brief the mechanical digger clipped the skeleton and displaced some of the long bones. These were removed from the rear end of the deposit (the opposite end of the head). It is not possible to be certain that these were originally in anatomical relation but the presence of the left patella suggests that at least that leg probably was. The site director is confident that no further large bones were lost at this time although further remains may have been destroyed or removed during the cutting of the pipe trench. As found the cranium was upside

down and lay to one side of the thorax, the bones of which were in anatomical relation and also upside down with the ventral surface uppermost (Plate 4). The pit containing the partial horse skeleton is adjacent to two Iron Age pits and several post-medieval/modern features. Approximately 100m to the south are located significant Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains.

4.3.1 Description of the skeleton

Skeletal elements recovered are listed in Table 3. The cranium was highly fragmented when examined. However, from the absence of canine teeth it can be identified as belonging to a mare (Sisson and Grossman 1953). All upper incisors and the upper right 2nd premolar were recovered. From the wear stage of the incisors (Barone 1980) and the crown height of the P^2 (Levine 1982) the animal was around fifteen years old at time of death. The P^2 has a dark line of calculus deposit running laterally below the crown on the buccal side (the gum line). This condition is fairly common on equid teeth of all periods and often leads to caries. In equids caries normally show as a line at the base of the crown. It is thought to be associated with deposition of food remains along the gum line (D. Bennett, K. Dobney and U. Albarella pers. comm., and personal observation). The broken off left mandibular condyle is present as an isolated fragment.

Vertebrae present, and originally found in anatomical relation, comprise thoracic vertebrae 5-18 and lumbar vertebrae 1-6. Several lumbar vertebrae have evidence of exostoses resulting in fusion at the articular processes (Plates 5-8). These are affected by *ankylosing spondilitis*, a progressive inflammatory disease of the spine (Roberts and Manchester 1995) in which ligaments, vertebral processes and (ultimately) vertebral bodies of the spinal column gradually fuse together. Arthropathies in equines are probably triggered by natural factors such as age and weight and exacerbated by being used for activities like riding and traction (Daugnora and Thomas 2006). It has been suggested that injuries to the caudal and thoracic vertebrae are primarily associated with riding and shoulder and hip injuries are more characteristic of traction (Levine *et al.* 1998). Two sacrum fragments were also recovered. A total of twenty-eight ribs were present: thirteen from the left side and fifteen from the right side. The latter were still anatomically related to the thoracic vertebrae (Plate 4).

The shaft and distal end of the left femur and most of the right femur were recovered. The latter was broken and damaged but was preserved in its entire length. Measurements were taken of both bones using the system of von den Driesch (1976). Based on the multiplication factors of May (1985) the horse to which it belonged stood 149cm or 14½ hands high at the shoulder (withers). The left patella and left tibia minus the distal end were also recovered.

Skeletal Elements	Comments
Fragmented cranium with upper left & right I1-3	Female (canines absent); Age: c.15 yrs (Barone 1980)
Upper right P2	Crown height = 20.2mm; Age: c.15 yrs (Levine 1982)
Left mandibular condyle	
Thoracic vertebrae 5-18	
Lumbar vertebra 1-6	There is evidence of exostoses fusing at least three vertebrae at the articular processes - Photographed
Two sacrum fragments	
28 ribs	13 left & 15 right
Left femur	proximal part missing. Measurements: SD) 46.4, Bd) 98.2mm
Right femur	broken & damaged. Measurements: GL) 425.4mm, GLC) 384.5mm, DC) 62.2mm, Bp) 125.0mm
Left patella	
Left tibia	distal part missing

Table 3: Skeletal elements recovered from pit 143

4.3.2 Discussion

The fifty-five bones preserved, or partially preserved, account for approximately 27% of a complete horse skeleton of 205 bones (Sisson and Grossman 1953). It is unlikely that a complete skeleton was ever present in the pit as the cranium was not found in anatomical relation to the vertebral column but placed to the side of the thorax, and all the cervical and first four thoracic vertebrae were missing along with all the bones of the thoracic appendicular skeleton and pelvis. Although entire horse burials are a frequent occurrence on Iron Age and Romano-British sites, the present author has recorded multiple examples from large open area excavations in Cambridgeshire, the deposition of selected skeletal parts is also known from Iron Age features thought to have ritual significance. For example, at the Trumpington Park & Ride site in Cambridgeshire one context contained the articulating cranium, vertebrae, ribs, sacrum and pelvis minus mandible and appendicular skeleton of a horse. This was only one of many examples of "special deposits" *sensu* Grant (1984a-c, 1989, 1991) or "structured deposition" *sensu* Hill (1995) present at this site (Baxter 2002 [revised 2004] and work in progress). Cut up horse remains are also known from the medieval and post-medieval periods, however, with the body portioned to fit a pit at, for example, Caldecote, Hertfordshire (Guy Beresford pers comm.) or articulating elements disposed of separately as at Market Harborough, Leicestershire (Baxter 1996). In these cases convenience rather than ritual is assumed. These days it requires a mechanical excavator to bury a complete horse carcass.

In Table 4 the withers height estimate obtained on the Sedgeberrow femur is compared with, the admittedly limited, data on the femur from Iron Age and Romano-British sites in Cambridgeshire and modern Arab reference material. A larger Cambridgeshire Iron Age and Romano-British sample of withers heights obtained from all long bones is given in Table 5 (Appendix 2). In both cases the mean withers height for Iron Age and Romano-British horses is 13 hands. Horses of 14½ do occur occasionally in the Romano-British period but not, to my knowledge, in the British Iron Age.

Cambridgeshire sites (Haddenham after C. Phillips)

Site		Period	GL (mm)	Withers height (cm)	Hands
Duxford		MIA-ERB	351	123	12
Haddon		LIA-ERB	351	123	12
St Neots		IA-RB	398	139	13½
Haddenham		RB	392	137	13½
Haddenham		RB	391	137	13½
Haddenham		RB	395	138	13½
Haddenham		RB	401	140	13½
Range: 123-140cm; Mean: 134cm; 13hh					

Arab (based on Johnstone 2004)

Spec. no.	GL (mm)	Withers height (cm)		Hands
1927.235	433	152		15
34.5.4.1	423	148		14½
37.1.26.10	441	154		15
E arb 3	406	142		14
H40	424	148		14½
Range: 142-154cm; Mean: 149cm; 14½hh				

Sedgeberrow

Context	GL (mm)	Withers height (cm)		Hands
144	425	149		14½

Table 4: Withers height of the Sedgeberrow femur compared with Iron Age, Romano- British and Modern Arab reference material

4.3.3 **Conclusion**

It seems probable that the horse remains found in pit [143] never consisted of a complete body. The position of the head relative to the thorax and the absence of the cervical and anterior thoracic vertebrae strongly suggest that the head was not attached to the body when it was originally deposited. The complete absence of any skeletal elements from the thoracic appendicular skeleton also supports this conclusion. The damage caused by the mechanical excavator appears primarily limited to the rear of the deposit. While odd and selective deposits of articulating horse bones are known from the Iron Age they do not seem to be typical of the Romano-British period. All that can be said with confidence regarding the horse remains found at 82 Main Street, Sedgeberrow is that they belong to a mare aged approximately fifteen years at death with calculus deposits on her grinding teeth indicative of a build up of food remains along the gum line who suffered from early signs of *ankylosing spondilitis*, possibly caused or at least exacerbated by being employed in traction. It is not thought that horses were used for traction in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, (the author hasan example of *ankylosing spondilitis* from the Love's Farm site, St Neots, Cambridgeshire that is of least Romano-British date, but this affects thoracic vertebrae), and only light traction (harrowing) in the medieval period. They were primarily utilized as mounts and pack animals. On balance, it is the opinion of the author that this horse does not date from the Iron Age and probably not from the Romano-British period. However, a radiocarbon date would need to be obtained to be certain.

5. Synthesis

5.1 Prehistoric

The two pits of Iron Age date are unremarkable on their own as it is difficult to establish their original function, although pit 133 appeared to have been exposed to some heat. These features do however confirm that prehistoric activity that had been previously identified and investigated on the opposite side of Main Street appears to continue on this side of the road.

5.2 Post medieval and modern

The site was dominated by archaeological remains of Post-medieval and modern date. Although the foundations of the current house were shallow and appear to not have truncated the buried archaeology, the large quarry and rubbish pits covered large areas of the site and are likely to have truncated earlier archaeological remains.

These features are likely to be associated with the land clearance for and the construction of the current terraced houses. Some, specifically the small pits, posts and post-holes, are likely to be garden features rubbish pits to the rear of the house.

5.3 Undated

The horse burial although unlikely to be Iron Age or Roman in date and is thought to post date these periods. The burial is thought to be the opportunistic deposition of a carcass and is therefore likely to have happened prior to the development of this area of Sedgeberrow c 1883, when the site was still farmland.

5.4 Archaeological

In considering significance, the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments (DoE 1990, annex 4), have been used as a guide.

These nationally accepted criteria are used to assess the importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. Though scheduling is not being

considered in this case they form an appropriate and consistent framework for the assessment of any archaeological site. The criteria should not, however, be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

The results indicate that the site is of little importance with regards to its rarity. The Iron Age pits are relatively common within the surrounding area and only confirm the existence of prehistoric remains on this side of Main Street and provide little further information regarding the nature of this settlement. .

The degree of survival is variable; although the houses on this side of Main Street appear not to have truncated the buried archaeology greatly due to the shallow foundations. The extensive post-medieval and modern archaeological features have undoubtedly truncated earlier archaeological remains.

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.

An archaeological watching Brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr D Shurmer at 82 Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (NGR 402156, 238298;WSM 38563). Two Iron Age pits (4th –1st century BC) were identified on the site. Although the original function of these features could not be established it confirms that the prehistoric settlement identified on the opposite side of Main Street, extends over the road. Although the limited quantity of prehistoric remains makes it impossible to define the nature of the settlement in this area.

A partially truncated horse burial excavated on the site is thought to be Post-Roman in date and rather than representing a ritual event, it is thought it represents the everyday burial of a carcass. No other significant archaeological remains were identified on the site that was dominated by post-medieval and modern features and services.

7. Acknowledgements

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8. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Andrew Mann. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Mann, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, Osteological analysis by Ian Baxter and illustration by Sarah Phear.

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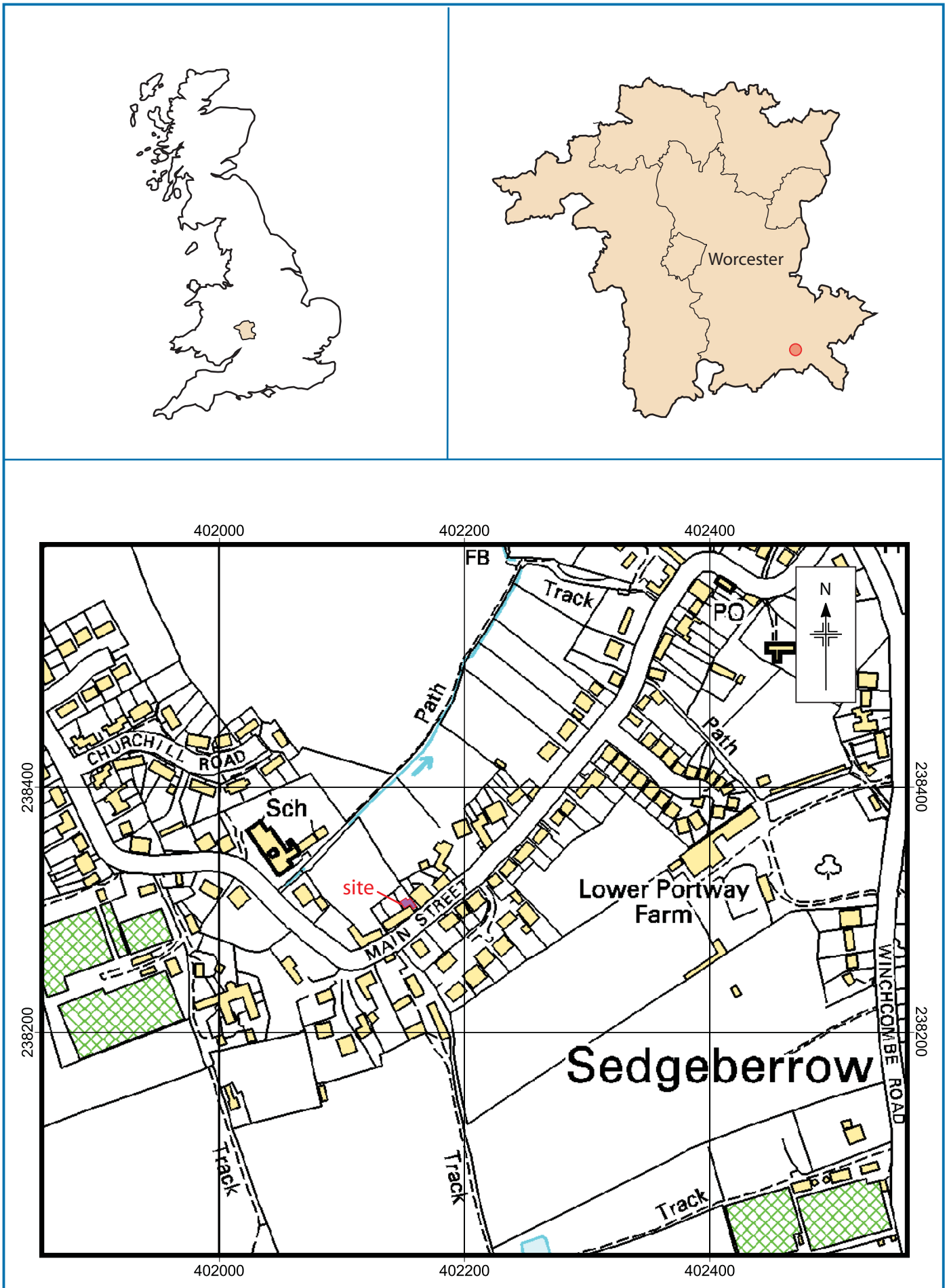
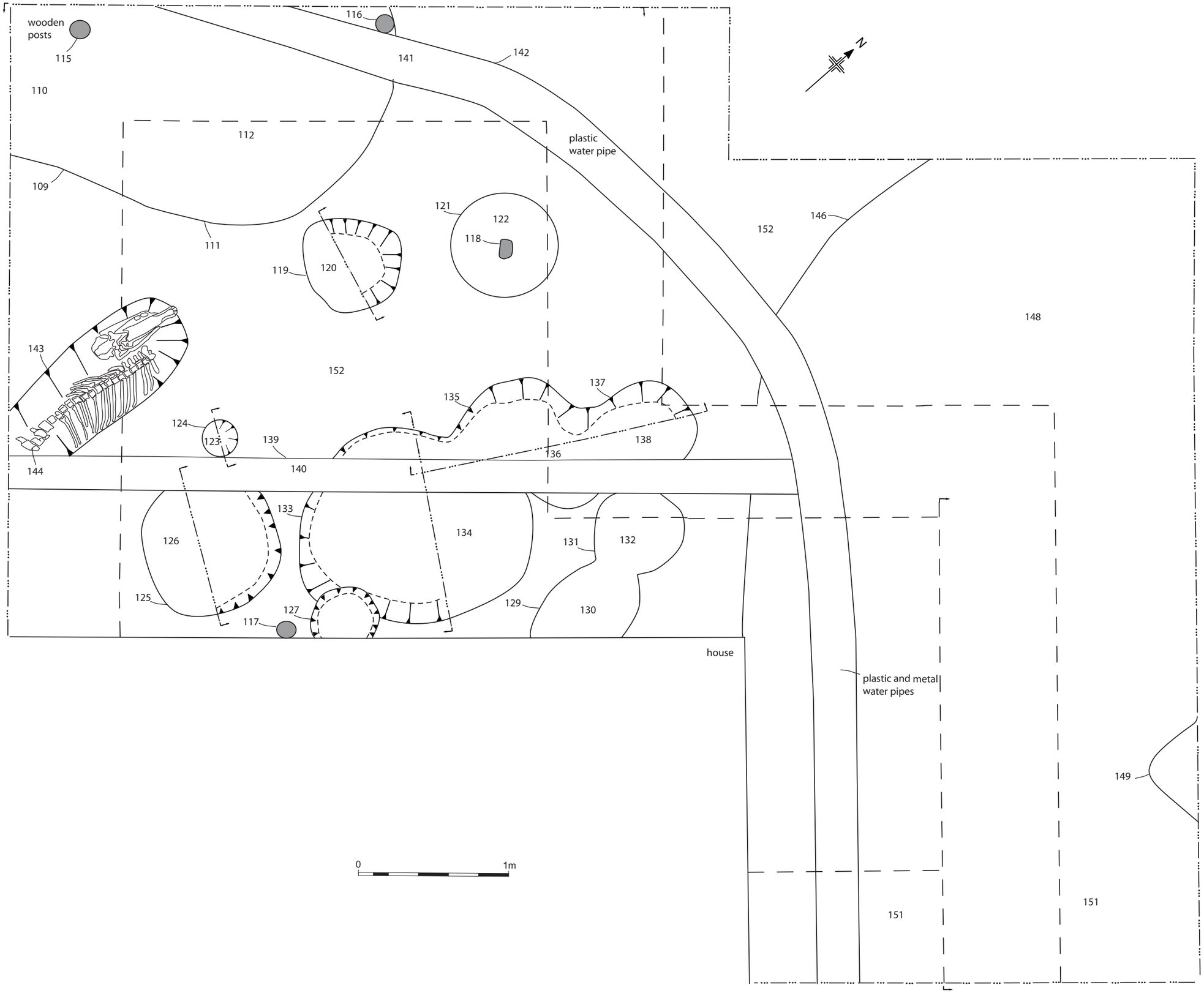
Figures

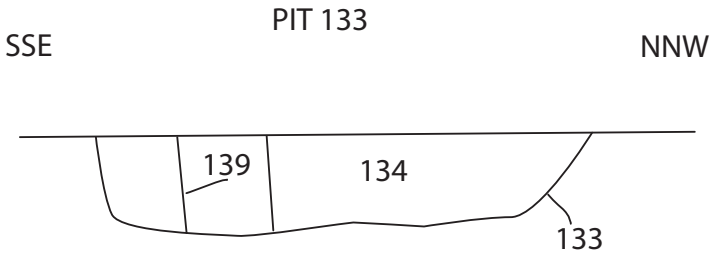


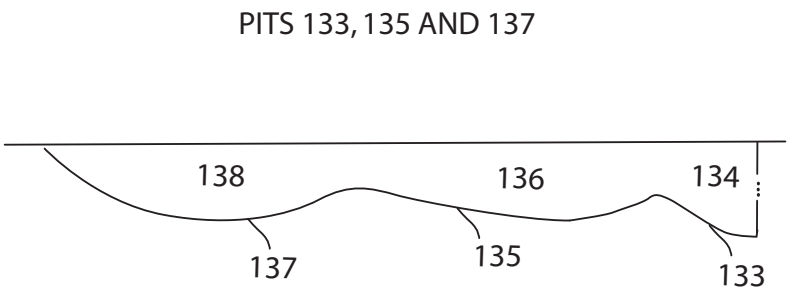
Location of the site *Figure 1*



Plan of the site

Figure 2





Pit sections

Figure 3

Plates

Plate 1: Pits 133, 135 and 137 facing SE (1m scales).

Plate 2: Pits 133, 135 and 137 facing NE (1m scales)

Plate 3: Western edge of site showing pits, 125, 119, 109 and 111. (Left to Right)(1m scale)

Plate 4: Pit 143 and horse skeleton in situ facing south. Bones displaced by the mechanical digger have been placed to the right (1m scale).

Plate 5: Dorsal view of lumbar vertebrae (cm scale).

Plate 6: Lateral view of lumbar vertebrae (cm scale).

Plate 7: Anterior views of lumbar vertebrae (cm scale).

Plate 8: Anterior views of lumbar vertebrae (cm scale).

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8.0m Width: 6.75m Depth: 0.30-1.20m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Paving slabs	Present ground surface, patio paving slabs. Concrete slabs 0.60m x 0.60 x 0.04 m.	0.0-0.04m
101	Layer	Small angular Cotswold stone gravel levelling layer for concrete slabs, 4cm thick.	0.04-0.08m
102	Floor	Brick pavement running across the northern edge of the present building. Constructed from blue industrial bricks 0.22m long, 0.10m wide and 0.07m thick. The pavement is 1.40m wide	0.04-0.11m
103	Topsoil	Dark grey-black silty-sandy clay. Moderately compact and cohesive. Contains frequent roots, moderate small rounded stones and frequent 18th-20th century CBM. At the back of the house this has been buried by 100-102, however around the east of the house this still remains as the ground surface.	0.0-0.11m
104	Pipe cut	Modern drainage pipe cut running diagonally across the site, 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep. With vertical sides and flat base cuts 103 and filled by 103, 105 and 106.	0.0-0.20m
105	Ceramic pipe	Modern brown ceramic drainage pipe 0.12m in diameter, within cut 104.	
106	Fill	Upper concrete fill of pipe cut 104, 0.05-0.10m thick	
107	Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silty sandy clay. Moderately compact and cohesive, contains frequent small round stone and occasional charcoal fragments.	0.30-0.40m
108	Fill	Fill of pipe cut 104. Re-deposited topsoil.	
109	Pit	Large circular pit cut in northeast corner of site. Sharpe break from surface with 45° concave sides and a flattish base. Relationship with pit 111 is unclear. Only half of pit observed in section of excavation area 0.50m wide and 0.30m.	0.30-0.60m
110	Fill	Fill of pit 109. Dark brown-black silty-sandy clay. Occasional small charcoal flecks, very similar to the topsoil.	
111	Pit	Large sub-oval pit cut in northeast corner of site, next to pit 109. Re-cut of pit 113. With 60° and vertical concave sides and a flat base. 1.80m wide and 0.50m deep.	0.30-0.80m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
112	Fill	Fill of pit 111, dark brown-black silty-sandy clay. Occasional small charcoal flecks, and frequent small rounded stone gravel, very similar to the topsoil.	
113	Pit	Large vertical sided pit on the northern edge of site, only seen in foundation trench. Pit has a flat base and is 4.0m wide and 0.50m deep.	0.30-0.80m
114	Fill	Fill of pit 113. Dark brown-black silty-sandy clay. Occasional small charcoal flecks, very similar to the topsoil.	
115	Post	Rotten wooden post, modern.	
116	Post	Rotten wooden post, modern.	
117	Post	Rotten wooden post, modern.	
118	Post	Rotten wooden post, modern.	
119	Pit	Sub-circular pit in centre of site, possible truncated posthole. Sharpe break from surface with 40° and vertical slightly concave sides and base. 0.60m in diameter and 0.22m deep.	0.30-0.55m
120	Fill	Fill of pit 119. Dark brown black silty sand, loose and friable. Frequent small charcoal flecks, small rounded stone and CBM.	
121	Pit	Circular pit in the centre of the site containing CBM, not excavated, 0.65m in diameter.	0.30m
122	Fill	Fill of pit 121. Dark brown black silty sand, loose and friable. Frequent small charcoal flecks, small rounded stone and CBM.	
123	Posthole	Small truncated circular posthole towards the southern corner of the site. 0.22m in diameter and 0.08m deep.	0.30m-0.38m
124	Fill	Fill of post hole 123. Dark brown black silty sand, loose and friable. Frequent small charcoal flecks, small rounded stone.	
125	Pit	Deep circular pit with vertical sides and a flat base in the southern corner of the site. 0.85m in diameter and 0.50m deep, truncated on the northern edge by water pipe cut 139.	0.30-0.80m
126	Fill	Fill of pit 125, mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small charcoal flecks and CBM.	
127	Posthole	Small posthole overlain by the house and truncating pit 133. Circular in plan with near vertical sides and a flat	0.30-0.54m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		base. 0.24m in diameter and 0.15m deep.	
128	Fill	Fill of posthole 127, mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small charcoal flecks and CBM.	
129	Pit	Sub-oval pit overlain by the house on southern edge of site. Not fully exposed, 0.60m long and 0.50m wide. Not excavated. Relationship with pit 131 unclear.	0.30m
130	Fill	Fill of pit 129, mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small charcoal flecks and CBM.	
131	Pit	Small circular pit to the north of pit 129. 0.60m in diameter truncated by water pipe cut 139. Not excavated.	0.30m
132	Fill	Fill of pit 131, mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small charcoal flecks and CBM.	
133	Pit	Large shallow circular pit on the southern edge of the site. Near vertical sides breaking to 40° slightly concave sides and a flattish base. 1.30m in diameter and 0.24m deep. Relationship with pit 135 unclear, truncated by water pipe cut 139. Edge had showed signs of in-situ burning.	0.30-54m
134	Fill	Fill of pit 133. Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small gravel.	
135	Pit	Small sub-circular pit on southern edge of site. 45°concave sides breaking to a concave base Relationship with pits 133 and 137 is unclear. 1.0m in diameter and 0.18m deep.	0.30-48m
136	Fill	Fill of pit 135. Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small gravel.	
137	Pit	Small circular pit towards the southern edge of the site. 30-40° concave sides gradually breaking to a concave base. The relationship with pit 135 is unclear. 0.70m in diameter and 0.18m deep. Truncated by water pipe cut 139.	0.30-0.48m
138	Fill	Fill of pit 137. Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact and cohesive. Contain frequent small gravel.	
139	Pipe Trench	Cut for modern metal water pipe, with vertical sides and flat base. 0.22m wide and 0.80m deep.	0.0-0.80m
140	Fill	Fill of pipe cut trench, including a metal water pipe and a mix of natural gravels and topsoil.	

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
141	Fill	Fill of plastic water pipe cut including a modern pipe and a mix of natural gravels and topsoil.	
142	Pipe Trench	Cut of modern plastic water pipe, with vertical sides and base, curves around the corner of the house from the SE to the NW.	0.0m-0.70m
143	Pit	Elongated pit cut in the southern corner of the site. 40° concave sides breaking to a near flat base. 1.18m long and 0.45m wide. Contains horse 144 and truncated by pipe trench 139.	0.30-0.50m
144	Horse skeleton	Near complete horse skeleton in pit 143. Appears to be laying on its back with the skull lying upside down on the western edge. Rear appears to have been truncated by pipe trench 139.	
145	Fill	Fill of pit 143. Light brown grey sands and gravels. Very loose and friable.	
146	Pit	Very large pit towards the northern coroner of the site, the extents of which lay outside of the site. Appears to be sub-oval in shape at least 3.0m long and 2.40m wide and 0.70m deep. Has shallow 20° slightly concave sides gradually breaking to a almost flat base.	0.30-1.0m
147	Fill	Primary fill of pit 146. Light brown grey sands and gravels. Contains frequent ashy lenses. Loose and friable.	
148	Fill	Upper fill of pit 146. Mid grey brown sandy-silty clay. Contains frequent small rounded stone and charcoal flecks, very similar to topsoil. Pit possibly cut through topsoil.	
149	Pit	Very large pit towards eastern coroner of the site, the extents of which lay outside of the site. Appears to be sub-oval in shape at least 2.40m long and 1.0m wide and 0.85m deep. Has steep 60° slightly concave sides gradually breaking to a almost flat base.	0.30m-1.15m
150	Fill	Primary fill of pit 149. Frequent large and medium blue/grey mudstone angular blocks, within a matrix of dark brown/black sandy silty clay. Loose and friable.	
151	Fill	Upper fill of pit 150. Mid grey brown sandy-silty clay. Contains frequent small rounded stone and charcoal flecks, very similar to topsoil. Pit possibly cut through topsoil.	
152	Natural	Mid orange/brown shads and gravels compact but friable.	0.30m

Appendix 2 Animal Bone Tables

Element	Site/Code	GL (mm)	Withers height (cm)			
HU	DUXHR02	265	131			
HU	A605/H	263	130			
HU	A605/H	251	124			
HU	STRLOF05	300	148			
MC1	FORLR96	216	132			
MC1	CAMPBI01 600	195.2	119			
MC1	CAMPBI01 892	204.4	125			
MC1	CAMPBI01 1196	212	129			
MC1	CAMPBI01 1808	207.7	127			
MC1	CAMPBI01 1641	199.2	122			
MC1	CAMPBI01 2427	206.2	126			
MC1	FDGF96	196	120			
MC1	FDGF96	214	131			
MC1	BURNER05 MIA	195.2	119			
MC1	LINVIC04	194.3	119			
MC1	DUXHR02	204	124			
MC1	LINVIC04	220	134			
MC1	A605/H	215	131			
MC1	A605/H	198	121			
MC1	MSA99	205	125			
MC1	A605/H	205	125			
MC1	A605/H	245	149			
MC1	A605/H	202	123			
MC1	STRLOF05 5890	223	136			
MC1	STRLOF05 5889	220	134			
MC1	STRLOF05 5891	230	140			
MC1	STRLOF05 4720	231	141			
MC1	STRLOF05 4882	227	139			
MC1	STRLOF05 5002	220	134			
MC1	STRLOF05 11610	224	137			
MC1	STRLOF05 8063	213	130			
MC1	STRLOF05 9045	222	135			
MC1	STRLOF05 9219	220	134			
MC1	STRLOF05 120129	230	140			
MC1	Earith	194	118			
MC1	Littleport	220	134			
MC1	Littleport	205	125			
MC1	Littleport	220	134			
MC1	A428	205	125			
MC1	A428	226	138			
MC1	STUHIN97	195	119			
MC1	STUHIN03	216	132			
MC1	STUHIN03	211.7	129			
MC1	STUHIN03	197.2	120			
MC1	STUHIN03	216	132			
MT1	FORLR96	265	139			
MT1	FORLR96	244	128			

MT1	FORLR96		244	128			
MT1	FORLR96		237	124			
MT1	FORLR96		240	126			
MT1	CAMPBI01	728	235	123			
MT1	CAMPBI01	728	235	123			
MT1	CAMPBI01	1117	242	127			
MT1	CAMPBI01	1552	209.1	110			
MT1	CAMPBI01	2011	269	141			
MT1	CAMPBI01	2445	260	136			
MT1	CAMPBI01	2447	251	131			
MT1	CAMPBI01	2809	248	130			
MT1	CAMPBI01	3005	256	134			
MT1	FDGF96		249	130			
MT1	DUXHR02		245	128			
MT1	DUXHR02		260	136			
MT1	DUXHR02		235	123			
MT1	LINVIC04		247	129			
MT1	MSA99		246	129			
MT1	MSA99		261	137			
MT1	A605/H		216	113			
MT1	A605/H		239	125			
MT1	A605/H		250	131			
MT1	A605/H		254	133			
MT1	A605/H		253	133			
MT1	STRLOF05	4317	278	146			
MT1	STRLOF05	4882	280	147			
MT1	STRLOF05	4882	267	140			
MT1	STRLOF05	5328	245	128			
MT1	STRLOF05	10610	266	139			
MT1	STRLOF05	5591	254	133			
MT1	STRLOF05	5787	254	133			
MT1	STRLOF05	6246	226	118			
MT1	STRLOF05	6351	230	120			
MT1	STRLOF05	7286	242	127			
MT1	STRLOF05	7479	230	120			
MT1	STRLOF05	9187	281	147			
MT1	STRLOF05	9485	276	146			
MT1	STRLOF05	10920	248	130			
MT1	HAT 432		279	146			
MT1	Earith		214	112			
MT1	Littleport		258	135			
MT1	Littleport		261	137			
MT1	Littleport		239	125			
MT1	A428		264	138			
MT1	STUHIN97		235	123			
MT1	STUHIN03		247	129			
MT1	STUHIN03		247	129			
RA	FORLR96		314	129			
RA	CAMPBI01	950	314	129			
RA	CAMPBI01	1808	301	124			

RA	CAMPBI01 2259	305	125			
RA	CAMPBI01 2793	291	120			
RA	CAMPBI01 5479	305	125			
RA	FDGF96	312	128			
RA	DUXHR02	300	123			
RA	DUXHR02	317	130			
RA	A605/H	301	124			
RA	MSA99	334	137			
RA	STRLOF05 5890	335	138			
RA	STRLOF05 4548	315	129			
RA	STRLOF05 4844	323	133			
RA	STRLOF05 4882	345	142			
RA	STRLOF05 5002	334	137			
RA	STRLOF05 10610	338	139			
RA	STRLOF05 6671	307	126			
RA	STRLOF05 6246	285	117			
RA	STRLOF05 8063	315	129			
RA	STRLOF06 12002	276	113			
RA	HAT 432	338	139			
RA	A428	337	139			
RA	STUHIN03	304	125			
RA	STUHIN03	306	126			
RA	STUHIN03	324	133			
RA	STUHIN03	306	126			
FE	DUXHR02	351	123			
FE	A605/H	351	123			
FE	STRLOF05 4844	398	139			
FE	HAT 453	392	137			
FE	HAT 453	391	137			
FE	HAT 453	395	138			
FE	HAT 453	401	140			
TI	FORLR96	299	118			
TI	DUXHR02	320	126			
TI	MSA99	322	127			
TI	A605/H	318	126			
TI	A605/H	360	142			
TI	STRLOF05	366	144			
TI	STRLOF05	356	141			
TI	STRLOF05	357	141			
TI	STRLOF05	357	141			
TI	STRLOF05	360	142			
TI	STRLOF05	335	132			
TI	HAT 453	358	141			
N = 140	Range = 110-149cm		10½-14½ hands		Mean = 131cm	13 hands

Table 5: Cambridgeshire Iron Age & Romano-British withers heights calculated from all skeletal elements

Sources for Table 5

Landwade Road, Fordham (FORLR96) (Baxter 1998): ?Ritual Site: Early Iron Age

Trumpington Park & Ride, Trumpington (CAMPBI01) (Baxter work in progress): ?Ritual Site: Early-Middle Iron Age

Greenhouse Farm, Fen Ditton (FDGF96) (Baxter 1999): Farmstead: Middle Iron Age

Newmarket Road, Burwell (BURNER05) (Baxter 2005a): ?Ritual Site: Middle Iron Age

Linton Village College, Linton (LINVIC04) (Baxter 2005b): Farmstead

Period 2: Middle Iron Age

Period 3: Late Iron Age to Romano-British

Period 4: Late C1st-C4th AD

Hinxton Road, Duxford (DUXHR02) (Baxter 2004): Farmstead

Period 3: Middle to Late Iron Age-transitional into Romano-British

Haddon (MSA99 and A605/H) (Baxter 2003): Farmstead

Site:	MSA99	A605/H	(after French 1994)
Periods:		Periods:	
	1 late Iron Age 50 BC-50 AD		1 early-mid 1st century AD
	2 mid-late 1st century AD		2 mid-late 1st century AD
	3 late 1st-mid 2nd century AD		3 late 1st-early 2nd century AD
	4 mid 2nd-mid 3rd century AD		4 2nd century AD
	5 mid 3rd-mid 4th century AD		5 3rd century AD
	6 mid to late 4th century AD		6 4th century AD

High Street, Chatteris (CHAHS01) (Baxter 2006): Settlement

Period 5: Romano-British (2nd to 4th century AD)

Love's Farm, St Neots (STRLOF05/6) (Baxter work in progress): Farmstead: Iron Age/Romano-British

Tunbridge Lane Bottisham (HAT 432) [Bottisham I](Baxter 2001): High Status Romano-British Farmstead/Villa (primarily 3rd to 4th century AD)

Colne Fen, Earith (CAU: Lorrain Higbee): Middle/Late Iron Age

Littleport (Jen Kitch): IA/RB

A428 Caxton-Hardwick Inprovement Scheme (Albion Archaeology: Kevin Rielly)

Periods:

9.2 Late pre-Belgic Iron Age (350-100 BC)

9.3 Late pre-Roman Iron Age (early Belgic: 100-50 BC)

10 Roman

10.2 C2nd AD

10.3 C2nd/3rd AD

10.4 C3rd/4th AD

10.5 C4th AD

11 Late Roman/Early Saxon (transitional)

Bob's Wood, Hinchingbrooke (STU HIN 97/00/03) (Baxter work in progress): Farmstead: Iron Age/Romano-British

West End, Haddenham (HAT 453: Carina Philips): Romano-British

Appendix 3 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

1	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
56	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
1	Context number catalogues AS5
52	Abbreviated context records AS40
2	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 38563, P3812

Artefacts

Type	Count	Weight (g)	Date	Specialist report?	Key assemblage?
Brick	7	702	Post-medieval/modern 19th-20th century	N	N
Brick/tile	3	34	Modern 18th-19th century	N	N
Brick/tile	6	40	Post-medieval/modern 18th-20th century	N	N
Brick/tile	2	10	Post-medieval/modern 19th-20th century	N	N
Clay tile - floor	1	106	Post-medieval/modern 18th-20th century	N	N
Clay tile - floor	2	88	Post-medieval/modern 19th-20th century	N	N
Clay tile - roof	1	47	Roman? 1st-4th century?	N	N
Clay tile - roof	2	91	Post-medieval/modern 18th-20th century	N	N
Clay tile - roof	2	155	Post-medieval/modern 19th-20th century	N	N
Metal	1	26	Modern 20th century	N	N
Pipe (drain)	2	76	Modern 20th century	N	N
Pottery	1	7	Bronze/Iron Age	Y	N
Pottery	2	14	Iron Age 4th -1st century BC	Y	N
Pottery	1	27	Pre-conquest/Medieval 10th-12th century	Y	N
Pottery	1	24	Medieval Late 11th-14th century	Y	N
Pottery	2	62	Post-medieval 18th century	Y	N
Pottery	2	41	Post-medieval 18th-19th century	Y	N
Pottery	1	5	Post-medieval/modern 18th-20th century	Y	N
Pottery	4	14	Post-medieval/modern 19th-20th century	Y	N
Slate tile - roof	1	3	Post-medieval/modern 19th-20th century	N	N

Environmental

Methods of retrieval	Yes/No
Hand retrieval	Y
Bulk sample	N
Spot sample	N
Auger	N
Monolith	N
Observed	N

Type	Preservation	Date	Specialist report? Y/N	Key assemblage? Y/N
Bone – large mammal	Not decayed	Post-Roman	Y	N