ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LONGDON HILL, BROADWAY ROAD, WICKHAMFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE

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With contributions by Dennis Williams and Lynden Cooper

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2673
Report 1653
WSM 39886

Contents

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Longdon Hill, Broadway Road, Wickhamford, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0528 4241). It was undertaken on behalf of Longdon Hill Partnership (formerly Proculture Holdings Ltd). The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological remains were present and if so to indicate their date, nature and location.

Twenty-one trenches were excavated across the site, revealing extensive traces of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and a small number of undated irregular pits and postholes.

Two possible pits contained frequent charcoal and fire cracked stones. It is unclear if they are of prehistoric date, or represent burnt out tree bowls from the orchard, which occupied much of the site in the later 19th century.

A single residual quartzite Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered from a furrow. This is of local significance due to its rarity, and may have been worked due to the low quality of flint available in the area.

No other significant features, layers, structures, deposits or horizons were identified, nor artefacts recovered.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Longdon Hill, Broadway Road, Wickhamford, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0528 4241, Fig 1). It was undertaken on behalf of Longdon Hill Partnership (formerly Proculture Holdings Ltd). They intend to construct horticultural greenhouses with associated offices and yards and have submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (original ref. W/04/1688). The development is considered by the Curator to have the potential to affect an archaeological site (HER ref. WSM 7852).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 2001).

The project also conforms to a Brief prepared by Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (HEAS 2004) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2008). The Brief expired on 12 April 2005, although the Worcestershire Historic Environment Planning Advisor confirmed its validity (Mike Glyde pers comm).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

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

Cartographic sources

- 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885-6, scale 25":1 mile, sheet 39 SP 0542

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2008). Fieldwork was undertaken between 15 September 2008 and 26 September 2008. The site reference number and site code is WSM 39886.

21 trenches (each measuring approximately 50m by 1.8m) amounting to just over 1,930m² in area, were excavated over the 4.8ha area, representing a sample of >4%. The total site area is *c* 7ha, however the route of an overhead electric cable toward the western boundary and a recent tree plantation along the eastern side limited the area available for evaluation. The trench array is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360º tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

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 4).

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. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material were examined under 20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994).

2.4 Environmental archaeology methodology

2.4.1 Sampling policy

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the event, no dateable deposits were identified which were considered suitable for environmental analysis.

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 site lies 2km southeast of the centre of Evesham and the River Avon. It is on the lower slope on the north side of Longdon Hill at a height of approximately to 32-38m AOD. It comprises a large arable field, bordered to the northeast by the A44 Broadway Road, between Evesham and Oxford, and to the south and west by agricultural land. Roper's Farm lies immediately to the south. Evesham ring road, A46, lies only 0.3km to the northwest, up to which modern housing estates have encroached.

The soils comprise slowly permeable calcareous soils and seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous and fine loamy or fine silt over clayey soils of the Evesham 2 Soil Association. The parent material is Jurassic and Cretaceous clay (411b; Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

The proposed development lies within an area rich in prehistoric and Romano-British remains. No fieldwork has been carried out recently in the area. However fieldwalking at Crab Farm, immediately to the southwest, revealed scatters of Roman and medieval pottery, along with a small quantity of prehistoric worked flints. These latter included cores, waste flakes, burnt flint and three tools. Two of the tools - a blade and a possible scraper - are of probable Mesolithic date. The third tool was a Palaeolithic Acheulian hand axe, thought to represent a residual chance find and not to be indicative of direct settlement activity (WSM 07852 and 08044; Edwards and Hughes 1988). A further scatter of Romano-British pottery and stone has been identified in fields to the southwest (WSM 6109).

Aerial photographs have identified a number of cropmark sites within the immediate vicinity, such as ring ditches, most of which have been assigned late prehistoric (Iron Age) to Roman dates, although none have been excavated as yet (WSM 2704, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 4023, 4024, 4030, 6107 and 6108; Price 1975, 7; Price 1983, 148). Finds of Romano-British and later date have also been found during monitoring of works along the A44 and Bengeworth Brook to the north of the present site (WSM 31959).

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885-6 indicates that the site was then subdivided, the southern portion of which extended further to the southeast to Roper's Farm. The northern two-thirds was an orchard, one of many which occupied the fields on this side of Evesham.

The oral testimony of local landowners reported to the site team during the project has it that pronounced ridge and furrow earthworks formerly lay across the site on a rough east to west orientation. It is understood that a they survived to in excess of one meter deep until they were covered over when the site was levelled with spoil from the excavation of the cutting for the A44 to the southeast. No documents were readily available to verify this information.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

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

4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural deposits encountered varied from greenish yellow silty clay to orangey yellow sandy clay with gravels at *c* 0.50m to *c* 0.80m below the present surface, with frequent up-wellings of bluish/grey Jurassic marine clay, with frequent *Gryphaea* fossils. Also known as Devil's toenails, these *Gryphaea* are frequent inclusions throughout the Jurassic to Cretaceous periods.

The soil horizon generally comprised silty clay topsoil, overlying silty clay subsoil, with variable pebbles and limestone fragments, which had clearly been disturbed by intensive and deep ploughing.

A possible palaeochannel was noted in Trench 14. However, it was determined on excavation to be a discrete band of Jurassic marine clay, 1403.

4.1.2 Phase 2 Prehistoric deposits

Two features, 504 and 508, within Trench 5 contained charcoal and heat shattered stone within their upper and lower fills. Heat shattered stones, are commonly interpreted to have been deliberately heated as 'pot boilers', which are a frequent indicator of prehistoric activity. The two features portrayed extremely irregular, meandering and diffuse edges, which is a characteristic of tree throws. It is therefore unclear if they are the remnants of prehistoric pits that have been disturbed by later tree root activity, particularly the orchard documented in the later 19th century, or are simply post-medieval burnt out tree bowls.

A single residual worked piece of quartzite was recovered from a furrow, 1405, in Trench 14 (Section 4.2.4 below).

No other features, layers, structures, deposits or horizons were identified, nor artefacts recovered of prehistoric date.

4.1.3 Phase 4 Medieval and post-medieval

Traces of ridge and furrow were identified within the bases of Trenches 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 20 and 21, in the form of undulations of subsoil and shallow linear cuts within the surface of the natural. They generally lay on a north northeast to south southwest alignment, although those toward the southwest side of the site appeared to be aligned northwest to southeast, indicating that the field was probably previously subdivided.

It is unclear if the furrows are of medieval or post-medieval origin, although they contained occasional modern debris, which may be the result of deep ploughing from the mid 20th century onwards.

No other features, layers, structures, deposits or horizons were identified of medieval or post-medieval date. A small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the soils (Section 4.2.2 below).

4.1.4 Phase 5 Modern deposits

Within many of the trenches the natural matrix was noted to be disturbed by modern land drains or drainage channels, a number of which were only identified through hand excavation (Trenches 4 and 5).

Many small shallow undated features were recorded across the site, which portrayed ill defined, meandering or irregular edges (including Trenches 5, 8 and 15). However, they are interpreted to be tree throws, and probably relate to the orchard, which occupied much of the site in the later 19th century (1st edition OS).

4.1.5 Phase 5 Undated deposits

In Trench 21, a large fragmented block of limestone, 2106, was uncovered, measuring 2.75m by 3.5m, although it would have been smaller prior to fragmentation. This stone was not worked and lay within the subsoil.

A small sub-circular cut, 2105, was noted to the immediate south of the stone. It may be a posthole, although contained no defined postpipe, while the base was somewhat diffuse and indeterminate.

Three small sub-circular pits or large postholes, 1407, 1409 and 1411, were identified in Trench 14. Unfortunately they did not contain traces of postpipes, nor any dating evidence, so their date and function is unclear.

A pit or posthole, 1505, and a further pit, 1509, of similar character were recorded in Trench 15, although the latter may be a tree throw, as a number were noted adjacent within the same trench.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

4.2.1 The artefact assemblage

Table 1 summarises the assemblage recovered from the evaluation trenches.

In terms of the distribution and total area of the evaluation trenches, the overall yield of finds was very small. All the finds (except for some heat-cracked stones) were recovered from topsoil and subsoil layers, and were essentially unstratified.

Pottery accounted for less than 9% of the assemblage by weight, with the remainder consisting mainly of building materials (brick, slate and tile). However, this imbalance is largely a consequence of a few large brick samples that were taken.

A large number of small flints were present in the topsoil and subsoil. A total of 39 were recovered for specialist examination, of which 24 showed possible signs of working (the remaining 15 appeared to be undiagnostic in terms of form, but were also sent for examination). It turned out that all but one of these had been rolled, broken and deposited by natural processes (Section 4.2.4 below).

Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
Brick	Post-med/modern	31	2190
Brick/tile	Post-med/modern	19	225
Brick/tile	Undiagnostic	13	185
Clay pipe	Tobacco	3	6
Fired clay	Undiagnostic	10	138
Stone	Neolithic	1	12
Glass	Post-med/modern	4	18
Iron	Post-med/modern	1	305
Iron	Undiagnostic	2	19
Pottery	Medieval	9	86
Pottery	Modern	5	38
Pottery	Post-medieval	21	228
Pottery	Post-med/modern	17	41
Slate	Roof	3	48
Teeth	Sheep/goat	2	22
Tile	Floor	2	29
Tile	Roof	5	489
Tile	Undiagnostic	7	182
Wood	Undiagnostic	7	148
Totals:		162	4408

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.2 The pottery

The pottery finds are detailed in Table 2.

Most were small sherds, few of which could be identified by form. Pottery preservation varied from fair to good, with the medieval and post-medieval earthenwares having fared the worst, probably as a result of repeated abrasion within the ploughsoil, rather than through adverse soil conditions.

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
101	Miscellaneous modern wares	7	40
69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	6	64
78	Post-medieval red wares	8	131
81	Stonewares	1	16
81.11	Frechen stoneware	1	6
81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	16
83	Porcelain	1	1
84	Creamware	4	3
85	Modern stone china	17	58
90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	15
91	Post-medieval buff wares	2	21
99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	3	22
Totals:		52	393

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

Medieval pottery was confined to the local oxidised Malvernian ware (fabric 69), produced to the west of the River Severn from the 14th to 16th centuries. All this material bore traces of yellow or green glazes, but only one sherd, from the rim of a Type 9 flared bowl, was identifiable by its form. Two other sherds lacked any glaze, but these also had a fabric that was typical of this Malvernian ware.

The range of post-medieval pottery finds included glazed buff, orange and red wares (fabrics 91, 90 and 78, respectively). Among these were two sherds of thin-walled, red ware vessels, black glazed internally and externally, that probably dated from the 17th century; the remainder were representative of coarse earthenwares produced throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

Only three post-medieval stoneware sherds were found, but one of these was notable, since it had been imported from Germany. This Frechen stoneware (fabric 81.11) had a characteristic brown mottled glaze, and was produced in the Rhineland from the 15th to 19th centuries. However, the embossed decoration on this example was likely to be late 16th to 17th century in date.

Later post-medieval pottery included a single sherd of porcelain (fabric 83) that was too small to be dateable. A few creamware sherds (84) were late 18th-early 19th century, while various stone china finds (85) were from mass-produced material from a wide 19th-20th century date range.

4.2.3 Ceramic building materials

All the brick and tile found at this site was fragmentary and therefore largely undiagnostic, although the fabrics were as would be expected for post-medieval or modern products. However, some brick thicknesses were measurable; these were within the range 64-66mm, and therefore typical of bricks manufactured during the 20th century.

Both floor and roof tile fragments were identified. These were generally hard-fired and uniformly flat. Many were approximately 10mm in thickness, and probably post-medieval or modern. Small pieces of roofing slate also fell in the broad category of building materials; these would be late post-medieval, or early 20th century, in date.

4.2.4 Flint, by Lynden Cooper

A collection of 39 possible worked lithics was examined. Thirty-eight pieces of flint could be confidently identified as natural pieces. A small quartzite artefact (from context 1404) can be identified as a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (Fig 6). The flake support has been worked bifacially and there appears to be a degree of grinding at the butt and tip.

The use of non-flint lithics has been noted for the region e.g. the use of meta-siltstone and altered dolerite at the Beaker site of Meole Brace, Shropshire (Barfield 1997) and chalcedony among a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age scatter at Hanley Williams, Worcestershire (Barfield 2007, 106). Further afield quartzite use has been noted in the East Midlands e.g. within the Waite Palaeolithic collection from Warwickshire and Leicestershire (Graf 2002; Stephens *et al* 2006) and from pre-Anglian Bytham deposits at Waverley Wood (Keen *et al* 2006) and Brooksby (Cooper *et al* in prep.). Anne Graf (pers. comm.) has speculated on the use of quartzite in the Holocene, due to the occasional 'fresh' artefact in the Waite collection.

4.2.5 Other finds

These mainly comprised glass and iron, the only notable item being a horseshoe forged from a particularly broad piece of metal, presumably for a horse working the fields. Some partly calcified wood was retrieved from between large stone blocks in Trench 21, although it was unclear whether the wood had been put in place deliberately, or was the remains of roots that had grown between the stones. Similarly, broken, sub-rounded stones, with charcoal and dark grey clay, were present in layered contexts 502 and 503, but these stones may have been deliberately deposited, or possibly on the other hand, an accumulation as a result of burning stumps after uprooting trees in the orchard which formerly occupied much of this site.

4.2.6 Overview of artefactual evidence

All the finds described above were retrieved from unstratified contexts, except for the Neolithic, quartzite arrowhead. This find came from a medieval or post-medieval furrow in Trench 14, and was therefore residual.

The pottery was representative of types commonly found throughout rural Worcestershire, although the absence of any Roman material was notable.

5. Synthesis and significance

5.1 Prehistoric

The quartzite Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead is a rarity and is therefore significant. Nationally quartzite appears seldom to have been worked, although the low quality of flint available in this area may be the reason for its utilisation here (pers comm Lynden Cooper). Unfortunately it was residual, having been recovered from a medieval or post-medieval furrow, so nothing further can be said of it at this stage.

Two possible prehistoric pits, along with a small number of other undated pits and postholes recorded across the site may be indicative of low level prehistoric activity here. However this can only be conjectured, given the ill-defined nature of these features. They are therefore considered to be of low archaeological significance.

5.2 Medieval and post-medieval

Traces of ridge and furrow earthworks were observed within many of the trenches. Ridge and furrow is a clear indicator of the medieval form of agriculture known as open-field farming, where large fields were held in common, with narrow strips being worked individually by each household. Their varied alignment, where this was discernible, indicates that the field was previously subdivided, probably with a headland across the southwestern corner. The earthworks appear to have been truncated, probably during deep ploughing from the mid 20th century onwards. The insertion of land drains from the later 19th century onwards has also caused disturbance and truncation.

The low density of medieval and post-medieval material recovered from the soils across the site may be ascribed to accidental loss, probably during manuring of these agricultural fields.

Although of interest in expanding our knowledge of the local rural landscape in the medieval and post-medieval periods, the identification of this ridge and furrow is of low overall archaeological significance.

5.2.1 Modern

The large (but now fragmentary) limestone block in Trench 21 appears not to be a glacial erratic, given its stratigraphic position within and overlying soil ploughed in the medieval/post-medieval period. It appears to be local Cotswold limestone with frequent fossilised material preserved. It is conjectured to have been deliberately brought onto site, possibly during levelling works associated with excavation of the cutting for the A44, and cannot therefore be regarded as archaeologically significant.

Many of the otherwise undated pits and postholes, which are often of irregular character, may be argued to be tree bowls and therefore relate to the later 19th century orchard.

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 evaluation was undertaken at Longdon Hill, Broadway Road, Wickhamford, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0528 4241). It was undertaken on behalf Longdon Hill Partnership (formerly Proculture Holdings Ltd).

Twenty-one trenches were excavated across the site, revealing extensive traces of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and a small number of undated irregular pits and postholes. Two possible pits contained frequent charcoal and fire cracked stones. It is unclear if they are of prehistoric date, or represent burnt out tree bowls from the orchard, which occupied much of the site in the later 19th century. A single residual quartzite Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered from a furrow. This is of local significance due to its rarity, and may have been worked due to the low quality of flint available in the area. No other significant features, layers, structures, deposits or horizons were identified, nor artefacts recovered.

7. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Messer's V B Insley and P R Insley (Longdon Hill Partnership) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

8. Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Nick Daffern and Stephen Potten. Report preparation was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nick Daffern, Stephen Potten, Tom Vaughan and Dennis Williams. General finds analysis by Dennis Williams, flint analysis by Lynden Cooper (University of Leicester), environmental advice by Alan Clapham and Nick Daffern and illustration by Carolyn Hunt and Laura Templeton.

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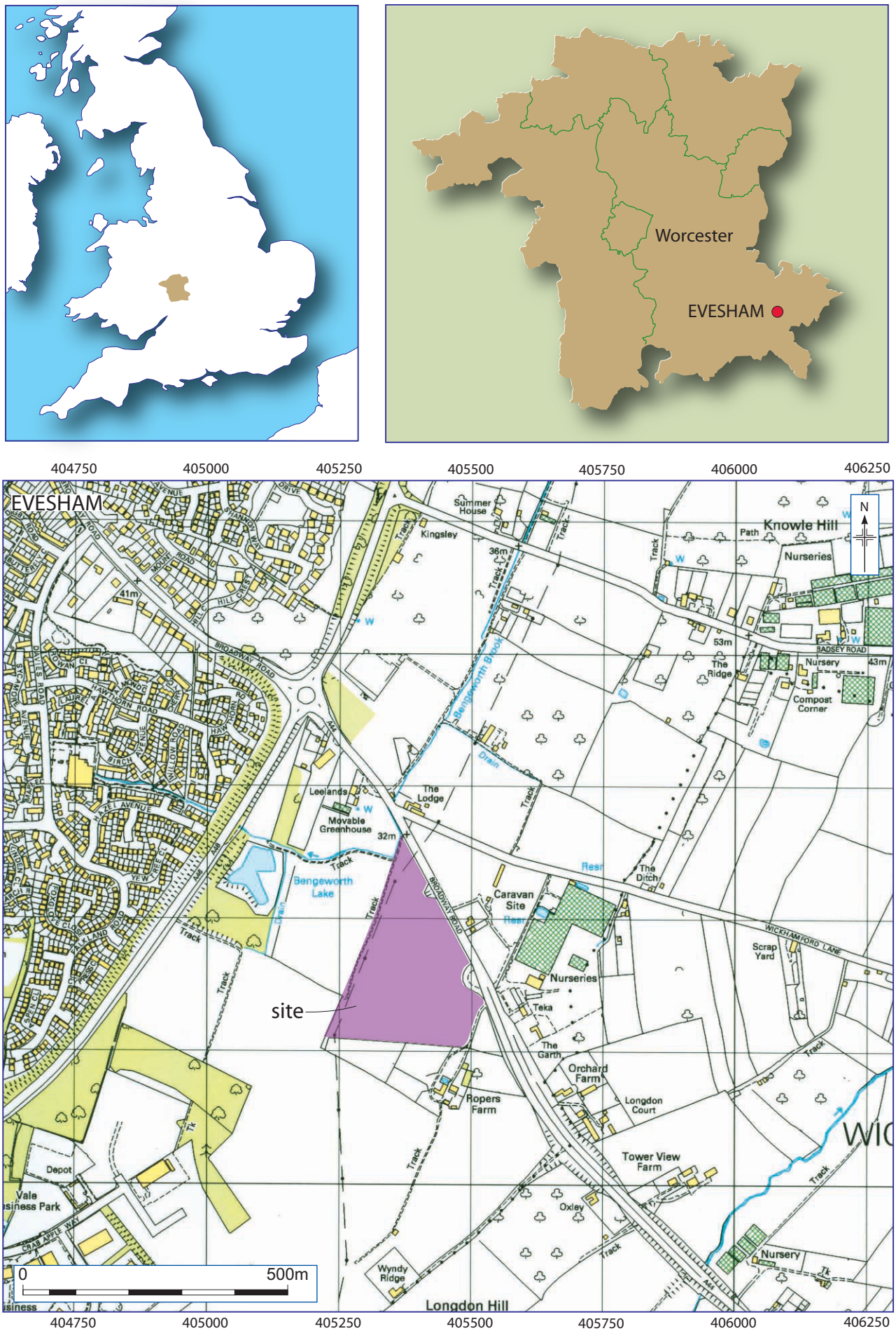
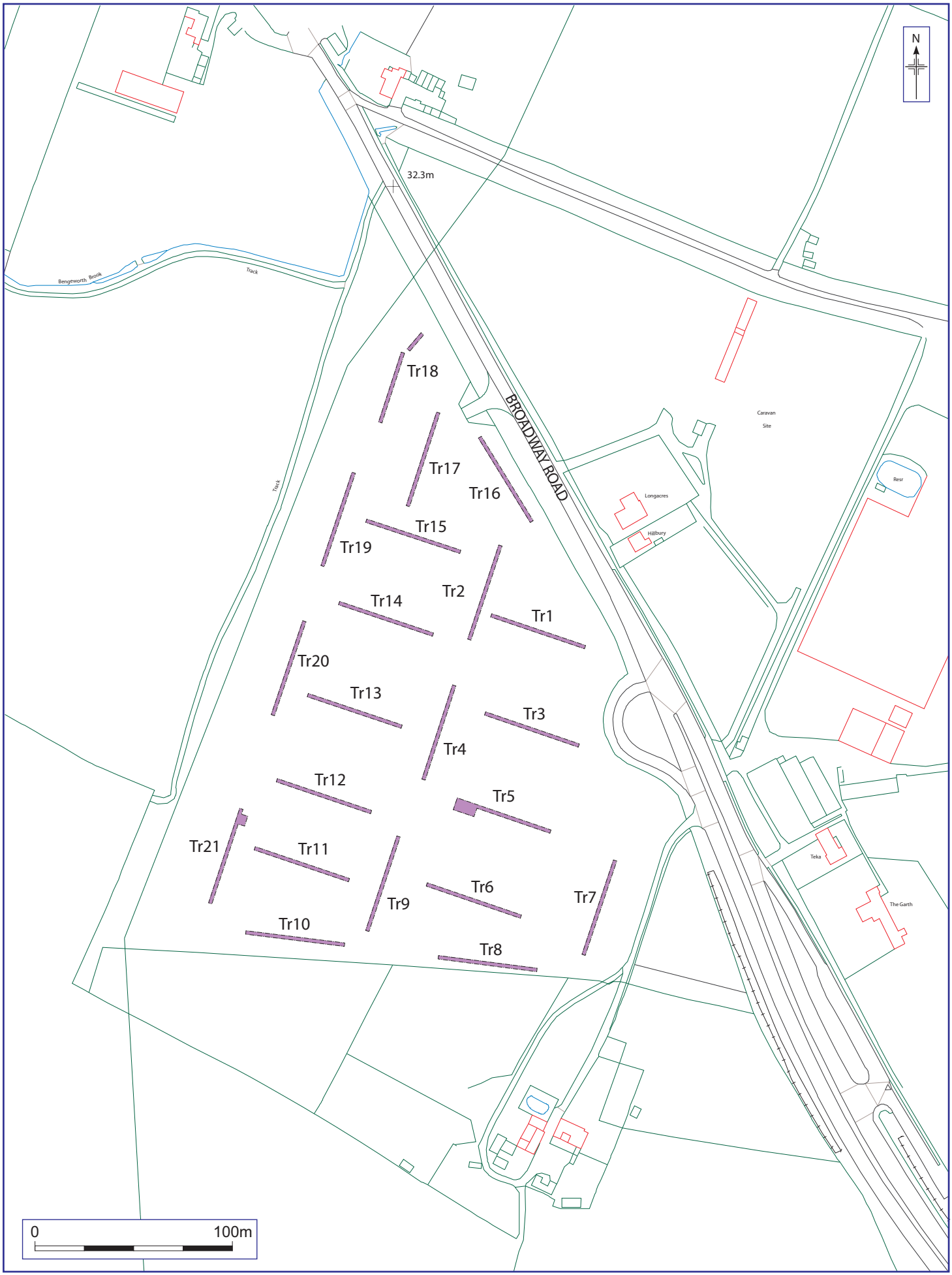
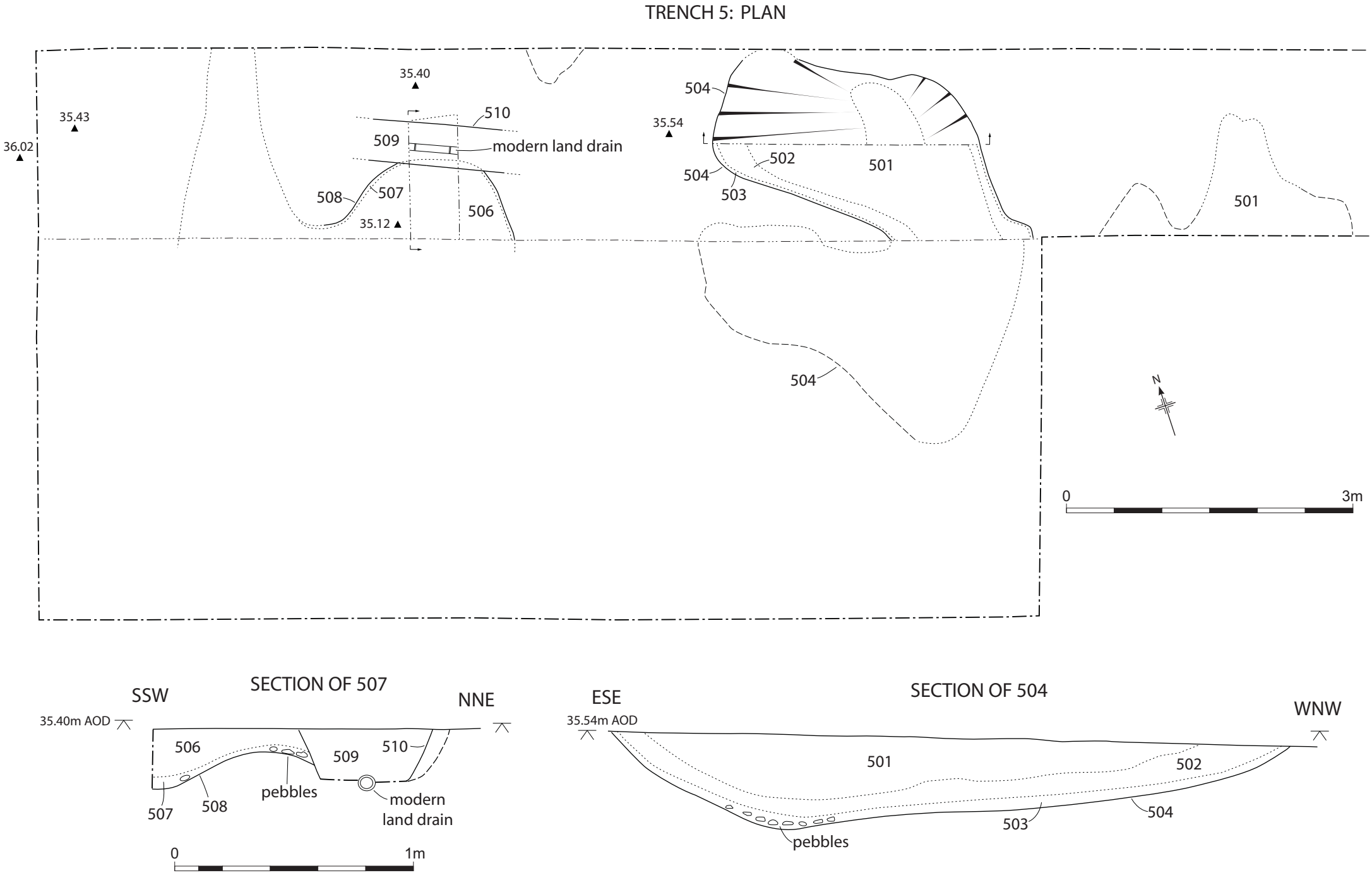
Figures



Location of the site *Figure 1*

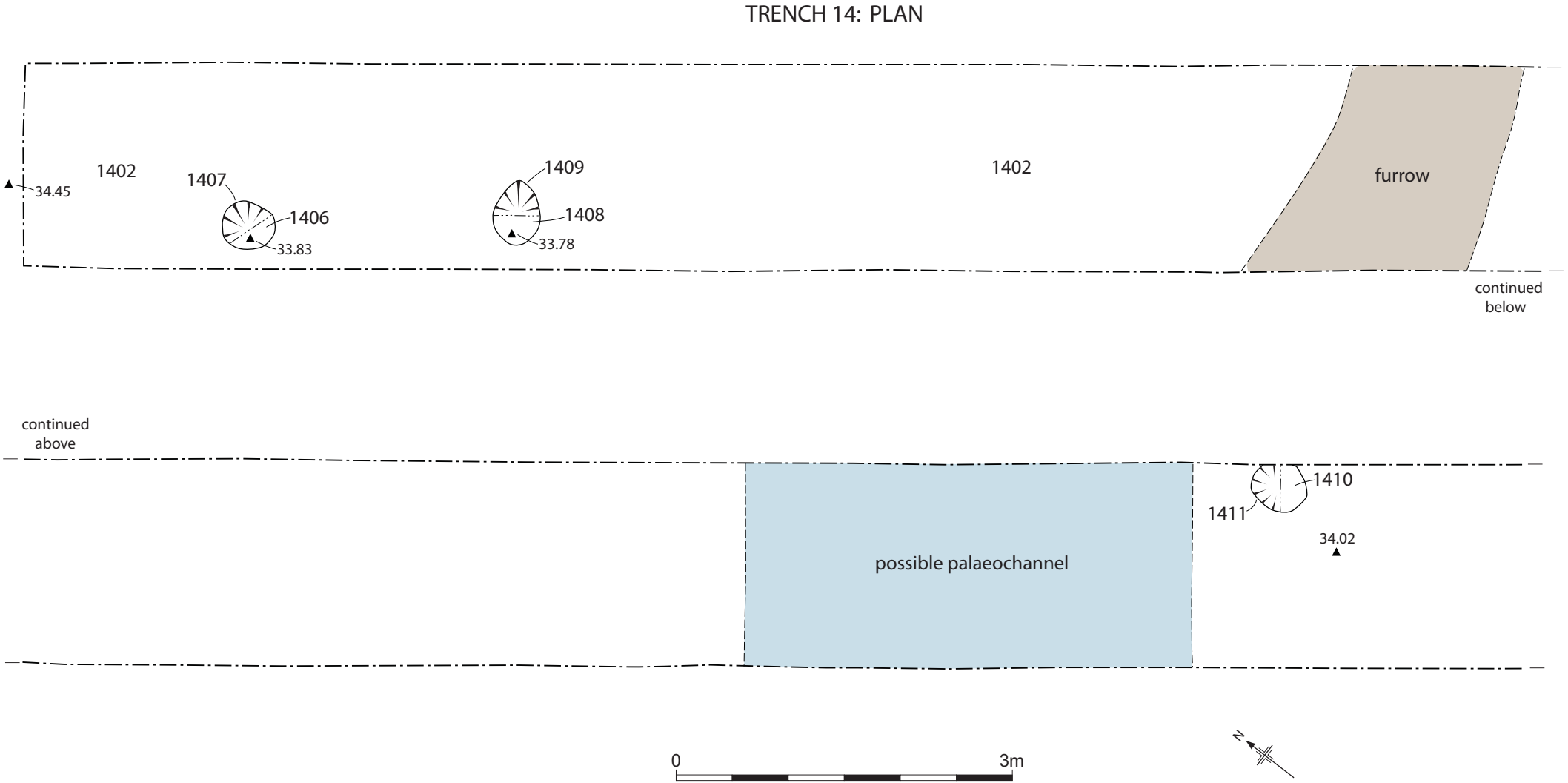


Trench location plan *Figure 2*



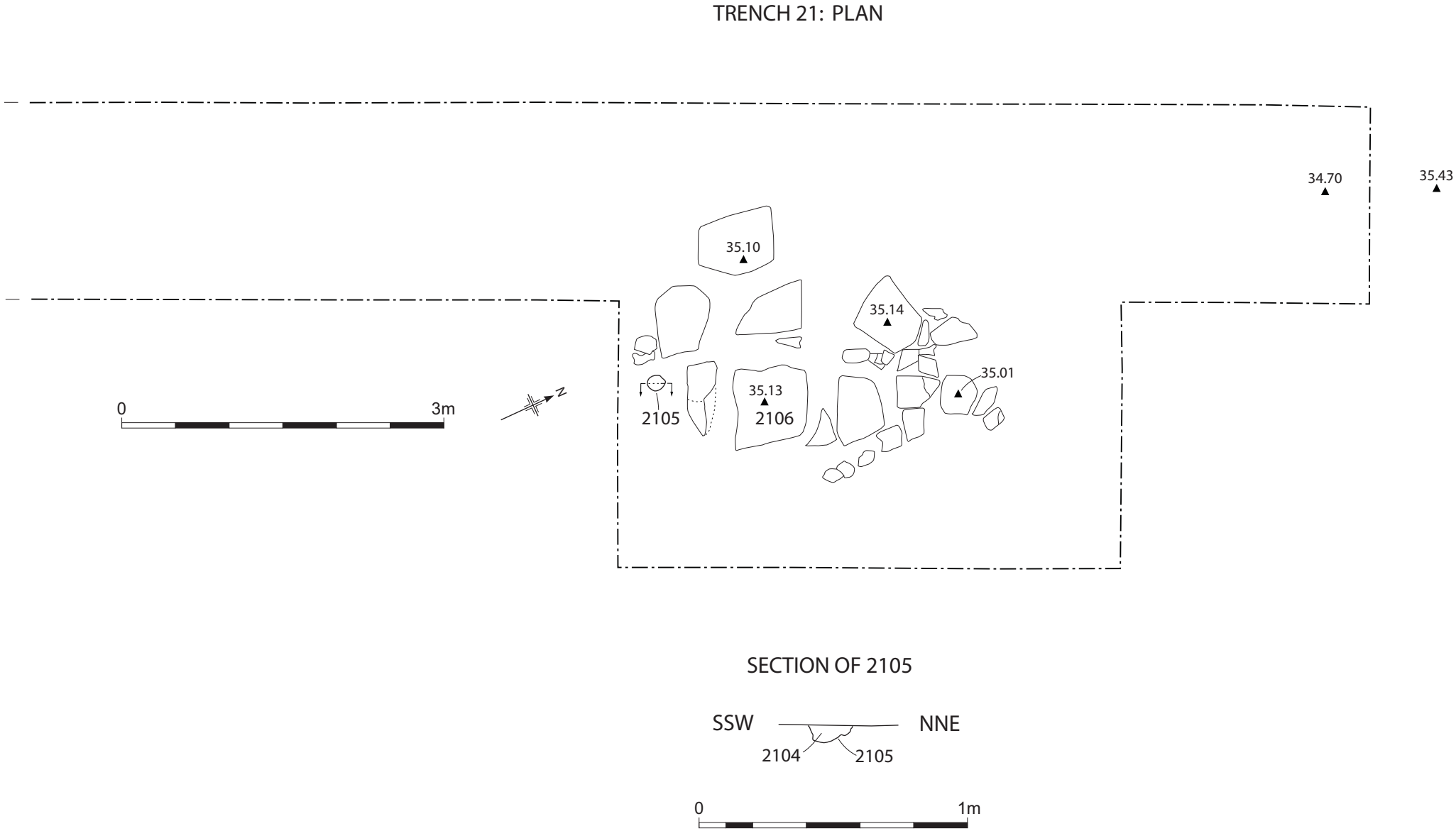
Plan of north-west end of Trench 5 and sections of 507 and 504

Figure 3



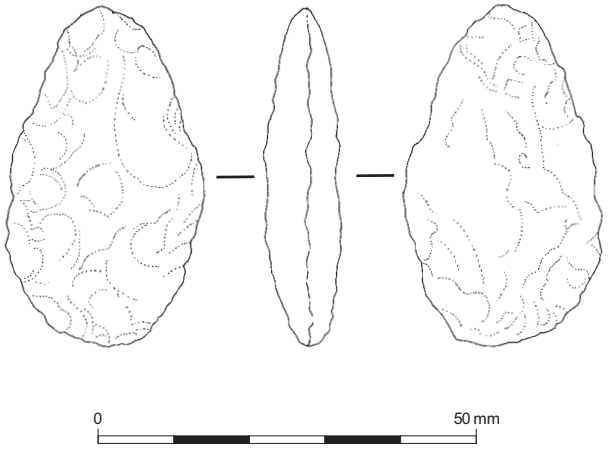
Plan of Trench 14

Figure 4



Plan of Trench 21 and section of 2105

Figure 5



Quartzite arrowhead *Figure 6*

Plates

Plate 1, Trench 1, view WNW

Plate 2, Trench 2, view SSW

Plate 3, Trench 3, view ESE

Plate 4, Trench 5 tree throw-pit 504 southern portion, unexcavated, view NNE

Plate 5, Trench 5 tree throw-pit 504, view SSW

Plate 6, Trench 5 tree throw-pit 508, view WNW

Plate 7, Trench 6, view ESE

Plate 8, Trench 7, view SSW

Plate 9, Trench 8, view E

Plate 10, Trench 9, view SSW

Plate 11, Trench 11, view WNW

Plate 12, Trench 14, pit 1407, view SSE

Plate 13, Trench 14, pit 1409, view SSW

Plate 14, Trench 14, pit 1411,view ESE

Plate 15, Trench 14, view WNW

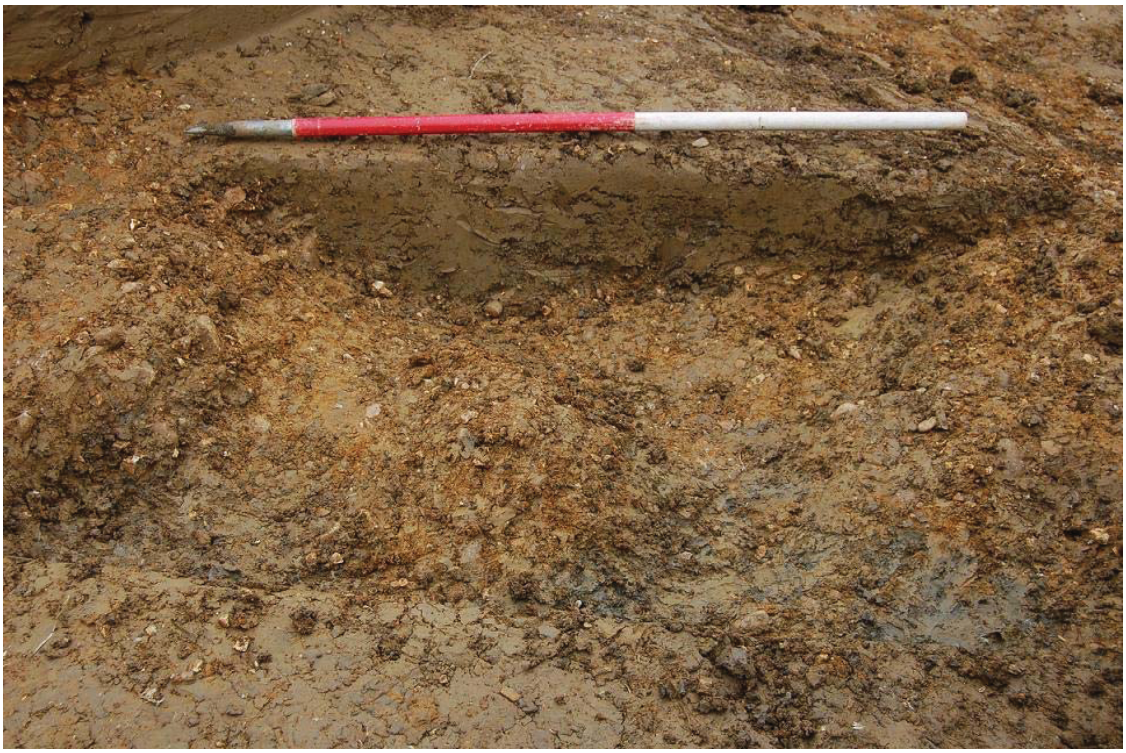


Plate 16, Trench 15, furrow 1507, view NNE

Plate 17, Trench 15, pit 1505, view SSW

Plate 18, Trench 15, pit 1509, view SSW

Plate 19, Trench 15, tree throw 1513, view WNW

Plate 20, Trench 16, view NNW

Plate 21, Trench 20, pit-tree throw 2003, view WNW

Plate 22, Trench 21, fragmented limestone block 2106, view WNW

Plate 23, Trench 21, view NNE

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48.60m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.95m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Firm, mid brown silty clay with occasional coarse sand and yellow streaks; occasional modern CBM.	0.00-0.30m
101	Subsoil	Firm, light greenish/yellowish brown silty clay with rare coarse sand.	0.28-0.0.73m
102	Natural	Firm, dark bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with occasional fine sand; frequent fossils & degraded limestone; occasional rounded pebbles.	0.65m+

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.92m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Compact cohesive light greyish/greenish brown silty clay; occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and flint, charcoal flecks and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.26m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact light yellowish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks and spreads; rare small-medium sub-angular stones and flint and post –med. Debris.	0.26-0.81m
202	Natural	Moderately compact, cohesive light yellow silty clay with frequent brown and greyish blue mottling; moderate limestone flecks and lenses of bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) to south end.	0.76m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Moderately compact, cohesive mid greenish/greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks and post-med. debris; rare small sub-angular stones.	0.00-0.24m
301	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive light greenish/yellowish brown silty clay; rare charcoal, limestone and manganese flecks and sub-angular stones.	0.20-0.56m
302	Natural	Compact, cohesive blue/grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with occasional mid brown mottling; moderate limestone flecks and small frags.	0.56m+

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive mid greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks, small sub-angular stones and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.28m
401	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay; rare charcoal flecks and small sub-angular stones.	0.27-0.63m
402	Natural	Compact, cohesive greenish yellow silty clay with frequent bluish grey mottling; occasional limestone flecks; occasional orange sandy clay lenses; orange sandy clay with gravel predominates to south end.	0.57m+
403	Furrow	Aligned *c* E-W; parallel edges, 1m wide. Filled by 404. Unexcavated.	0.54m+
404	Fill	Moderately compact light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and CBM flecks. Fill of 403. Unexcavated	0.54m+

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.9m Depth: 0.65m
+ extension 10.50m 4m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive dark greyish brown silty clay; occasional sub-rounded gravel and pebbles and sub-angular flint.	0.00-0.25m
501	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive mid greyish brown and yellowish brown silty clay; occasional sub-rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint; rare charcoal flecks.	0.25-0.65m
502	Secondary fill	Compact, slightly friable dark brownish grey to dark grey silty clay; moderate gravel and small sub-rounded pebbles and fire-cracked stones, charcoal flecks and fragments; occasional flint. Secondary fill of 504.	0.48-0.63m
503	Primary fill	Compact, cohesive yellowish brown silty clay; moderate sub-rounded medium pebbles, frequently fire-cracked, occasional sub-angular flint. Primary fill of 504.	0.48-90m
504	Pit/tree throw?	Very irregular and elongated in plan; *c* 4.5m by 3.45m; shallow break of slope, concave sides curving to a flattish base. Filled by 502 and 503 (and slumped subsoil).	0.48-90m
505	Natural	Yellowish orange to brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint.	0.50m+
506	Secondary fill	Compact, slightly friable dark brownish grey to dark grey silty clay; moderate gravel and small sub-rounded pebbles and fire-cracked stones, charcoal flecks and fragments; occasional flint. Secondary fill of 508.	0.62-0.82m
507	Primary fill	Compact, cohesive yellowish brown silty clay; moderate sub-rounded medium pebbles, frequently fire-cracked, occasional sub-angular flint. Primary fill of 504.	0.68-0.86m
508	Pit/tree throw?	Very irregular and elongated in plan and indeterminate to south; north side: steep break of slope, curving to irregular undulating base; truncated by land drain 510; filled by 506 and 507.	0.62-0.86m
509	Fill	Moderately compact mixed yellowish brown and brownish grey silty clay; fill of 510.	0.62m+
510	Land Drain	Land drain, aligned c E-W, filled by 509.	0.62m+

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width:1.80m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive mid greenish and greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks, small sub-angular stones, flint and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.25m
601	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay, occasional limestone, manganese and charcoal flecks; rare small sub-angular stones.	0.25-0.63m
602	Natural	Compact, cohesive, mid bluish grey and yellowish brown silty clay; to west: Compact, cohesive light brown mottled sandy clay; moderate limestone flecks; rare medium sub-angular stones.	0.57m+

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.6m

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive, dark brown silty clay.	0.00-0.20m
701	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive, mid brown silty clay.	0.20-0.60m
702	Natural	Variable: dark greyish brown silty clay; yellowish brown to mid brown sandy clay and silty clay; occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles. Disturbed by one modern land drain and a darker brown undulation.	0.60m+

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.86m

Orientation: E - W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive mid greenish and greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks, small sub-angular stones, flint and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.30m
801	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay, occasional limestone, manganese and charcoal flecks; rare small sub-angular stones.	0.30-0.68m
802	Natural	Compact, cohesive mid bluish grey and yellow silty clay; merges with orange sandy clay with frequent small sub-angular stones to west end.	0.55m+
803	Furrow?	N-S aligned linear, parallel diffuse edges, sharp break of slope with steep sides, straight to a shallow concave base. 0.84m wide. Filled by 804 and associated with a low natural ridge to west; possible furrow?	0.61-0.98m
804	Fill	Moderately compact, light yellowish/greyish brown silty clay; occasional manganese flecks; rare charcoal flecks. Single fill of 803. Similar to subsoil 801.	0.61-0.98m
805	Furrow?	N-S aligned linear, parallel diffuse edges; unexcavated. Filled by 806 and associated with a low natural ridge.	0.37m+
806	Fill	Moderately compact, light yellowish/greyish brown silty clay; occasional manganese flecks; rare charcoal flecks; unexcavated. Fill of 805. Similar to subsoil 801.	0.37m+

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 46m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.57m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Firm, dark greyish brown fine sandy silt with rare sand; occasional rounded / sub-rounded pebbles, sub-angular yellowish brown flint; frequent roots.	0.00-0.25m
901	Subsoil	Firm, greenish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal, manganese or organic flecks; rare rounded pebbles and sub-angular flints; frequent roots.	0.24-0.55m
902	Natural	Friable, mid brownish yellow and orange sand and silty clay; frequent sub-rounded cobbles, gravel and pea gravel; very frequent sub-angular flints.	0.49m+
903	Natural	Firm mid bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with lenses of orange sandy silt and stones; occasional limestone flecks and brown mottling. Below 902.	0.49m+

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48.65m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.72m

Orientation: E - W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Firm, dark greyish brown fine sandy silt with rare sand; occasional rounded / sub-rounded pebbles, sub-angular yellowish brown flint; frequent roots.	0.00-0.32m
1001	Subsoil	Firm, greenish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal, manganese or organic flecks; rare rounded pebbles and sub-angular flints; frequent roots.	0.26-0.64m
1002	Natural	Firm mid bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with lenses of orange sandy silt and stones; occasional limestone flecks and brown mottling. Cut by possible furrow aligned NW-SE in mid trench.	0.52m+

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 48.28m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.63m

Orientation: WNW - ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Firm, mid brown silty clay with occasional coarse sand and CBM; frequent rounded/sub-rounded pebbles.	0.00-0.32m
1101	Subsoil	Firm, light yellowish/greenish brown silty clay with occasional sand and limestone frags.	0.19-0.63m
1102	Natural	Firm, mid-dark bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay).	0.60m+

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.20m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: WNW - ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive mid greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks, small sub-angular stones and post-med. debris. Diffuse boundary below.	0.00-0.34m
1201	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay; rare charcoal flecks and small sub-angular stones. Very diffuse boundaries above and below.	0.25-0.51m
1202	Natural	Compact, cohesive greenish yellow silty clay with frequent bluish grey mottling; occasional limestone flecks; occasional orange sandy clay lenses. Possible NW/SE aligned furrow to west end.	0.42m+

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.90m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.67m

Orientation: WNW - ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive mid greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks, small sub-angular stones and post-med. debris. Diffuse boundary below.	0.00-0.36m
1301	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay; rare charcoal flecks and small sub-angular stones.	0.25-0.43m
1302	Natural	Compact, cohesive greenish yellow silty clay with frequent bluish grey mottling; occasional limestone flecks; occasional orange sandy clay lenses. Undulating boundary with subsoil above.	0.41m+

Trench 14

Maximum dimensions: Length: 51.55m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.63m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil	Firm, mid yellowish brown silty sand; frequent rounded/sub-angular pebbles.	0.00-0.28m
1401	Subsoil	Firm, light yellowish/greenish brown silty and sandy clay; occasional rounded/sub-angular pebbles.	0.28-0.72m
1402	Natural	Firm, mid brown yellowy clayey sand and gravel.	0.56m+
1403	Natural	Firm, bluish grey clay (Jurassic marine clay) within discrete band across middle of trench.	0.56m+
1404	Fill	Firm, light greenish yellow silty clay with occasional fine sand and brownish orange streaks; frequent rounded/sub-angular pebbles. Cut by land drain. Similar to 1401 above. Naturally silted single fill of 1405.	0.64-0.78m
1405	Furrow?	Aligned NNE-SSW, roughly parallel sides, shallow break of slope, shallow concave sides curving to undulating shallow concave base. Filled by 1404.	0.64-0.78m
1406	Fill	Firm, mid greenish brown silty clay with coarse sand; similar to 1401 above. Naturally silted single fill of 1407. Similar to 1401.	0.62-0.72m
1407	Pit	Sub-circular cut, 0.60-0.65m diameter, moderate break of slope, shallow sides curving to slightly concave base. Filled by 1406.	0.62-0.72m
1408	Fill	Firm, mid greenish grey silty clay with occasional coarse sand, flint and sub-angular/sub-rounded pebbles. Naturally silted single fill of 1409. Similar to 1401.	0.67-79m
1409	Pit	Sub-circular cut, 0.45-0.60 diameter. Filled by 1408.	0.67-0.79m
1410	Fill	Firm, mid greenish brown silty clay with occasional coarse sand and rounded pebbles. Naturally silted single fill of 1411. Similar to 1401.	0.45-0.62m
1411	Pit	Sub-circular cut, 0.45-0.55m diameter. Sharp break of slope, steep sides curving to concave base. Filled by 1410.	0.45-0.62m
1412	Natural	Moderately compact, cohesive light yellowish silty clay with greyish blue mottling, toward ESE end of trench.	0.72m+

Trench 15

Maximum dimensions: Length: 47m Width: 1.82m Depth: *c* 1m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Topsoil	Firm, dark greyish brown fine sandy silt with rare sand; occasional rounded / sub-rounded pebbles, sub-angular yellowish brown flint; frequent roots.	0.00-0.28m
1501	Subsoil	Firm, greenish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal, manganese or organic flecks; rare rounded pebbles and sub-angular flints; frequent roots.	0.28-0.72m
1502	Natural	Friable, mid brownish yellow and orange sand and silty clay; frequent sub-rounded cobbles, gravel and pea gravel; very frequent sub-angular flints; disturbed by land drains to north end.	0.49m+
1503	Natural	Firm mid bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with lenses of orange sandy silt and stones; occasional limestone flecks and brown mottling; below 1502.	0.49m+
1504	Fill	Firm, mid brown sandy and silty clay with rare light yellow and red streaks; frequent flint, occasional pea gravel to base. Single fill of 1505.	*c* 0.50-0.76m
1505	Pit/posthole?	Sub-circular cut; 0.39-0.44m diameter; variable sides: E: sharp break of slope and steep side straight to base; W: moderate break of slope and stepped side; diffuse shallow concave base. Filled by 1504.	*c* 0.50-0.76m
1506	Fill	Mid greenish/bluish brown fine silty clay with rare fine sand and roots; occasional rounded pebbles; frequent angular/sub-angular flint. Single fill of 1507.	*c* 0.50-0.71m
1507	Furrow?	Linear cut aligned NE-SW; weaving ill-defined sides, *c* 1.40m wide; shallow break of slope to shallow concave sides curving to flattish concave base. Filled by 1506.	*c* 0.50-0.71m
1508	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Single fill of 1509.	*c* 0.50-0.57m
1509	Pit/tree throw?	Oval cut, 0.50-0.60m diameter; sharp break of slope straight to stepped/flat base. Filled by 1508.	*c* 0.50-0.57m
1510	Fill	Compact dark greyish brown silty clay; occasional sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Single fill of 1511. Same as 1512 and 1514.	*c* 0.50-0.79m
1511	Tree throw	Irregular, sub-rounded cut; shallow break of slope, steep sides curving to a flattish stepped base. Filled by 1510. Same as 1513 and 1515.	*c* 0.50-0.79m
1512	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay; occasional sub-rounded gravel, sub-angular flint. Single fill of 1513. Same as 1510 and 1514.	*c* 0.50-0.67m
1513	Tree throw	Irregular, meandering cut; generally sharp break of slope, steep concave sides curving to irregular undulating base. Filled by 1512. Same as 1511 and 1515.	*c* 0.50-0.67m
1514	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Single fill of 1515. Same as 1510 and 1512.	*c* 0.34-0.70m
1515	Tree throw	Curving irregular cut; steep break of slope, stepped and convex sides to irregular flattish base. Filled by 1514. Same as 1511 and 1513.	*c* 0.34-0.70m
1516	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay; occasional sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Fill of 1517. Unexcavated.	*c* 0.50m+

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1517	Furrow?	Linear cut aligned ENE-WSW; weaving sides. Filled by 1516. Unexcavated.	*c* 0.50m+
1518	Primary fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay; rare/occasional sub-angular gravel. Primary fill of 1519. Same as 1522. Observed in section only.	0.63-0.0.83m
1519	Furrow?	Undulating cut; alignment unknown; sharp break of slope, steep concave sides curving to undulating base. Filled by 1518 and 1520. Observed in section only.	0.60-0.0.94m
1520	Upper fill	Mid brownish yellow sand and silty clay; occasional gravel and pebbles; patches of mid/dark greyish brown silty clay. Same as 1501 above? Upper fill of 1519.	0.60-0.89m
1521	Upper fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay; occasional sub-angular/sub-rounded gravel. Same as 1501 above. Upper fill of 1519.	0.59-0.91m
1522	Primary fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay; rare/occasional sub-angular gravel. Primary fill of 1519. Same as 1518.	0.60-0.94m
1523	Natural	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Same as 1502.	0.80m+
1524	Natural	Moderately compact, cohesive light yellow silty clay with brown and greyish blue mottling; toward ESE end of trench.	0.49m+

Trench 16

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49.65m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.85m

Orientation: NW - SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Topsoil	Firm, mid brown silty clay with occasional coarse sand and yellow streaks; occasional modern CBM.	0.00-0.31m
1601	Subsoil	Firm, light greenish/yellowish brown silty clay with rare coarse sand.	0.25-0.76m
1602	Natural	Light brownish yellow silty clay with frequent sand, angular/sub-rounded pebbles and gravel.	0.65m+
1603	Natural	Firm mid bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with lenses of orange sandy silt and stones; occasional limestone flecks and brown mottling; below 1601 toward SE end of trench.	0.76m+

Trench 17

Maximum dimensions: Length: 47.30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1700	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive, light greyish/greenish brown silty clay; occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and flint, charcoal flecks and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.28m
1701	Subsoil	Moderately compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks and spreads; rare small-medium sub-angular stones, flint and post-med. debris.	0.22-0.74m
1702	Natural	Compact, cohesive mid bluish grey silty clay with light brown mottling; occasional limestone flecks; patches of dark greyish brown silty clay and orange gravels.	0.66m+

Trench 18

Maximum dimensions: Length: 36.70m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.85m
+ extension 10m 1.82m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1800	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive, light greyish/greenish brown silty clay; occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and flint, charcoal flecks and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.26m
1801	Subsoil	Moderately compact, cohesive light yellowish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks and spreads; rare small-medium sub-angular stones, flint and post-med. debris.	0.23-0.65m
1802	Natural	Compact, cohesive, mid bluish grey silty clay with occasional light brown mottling and limestone flecks; frequent patches and lenses of mid orange sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. Very irregular and undulating boundary with 1801 above.	0.62m+

Trench 19

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.75m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1900	Topsoil	Compact, cohesive, light greyish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks and post-med. debris.	0.00-0.25m
1901	Subsoil	Compact, cohesive, light yellowish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal flecks, lenses and post-med. debris; rare small-medium sub-angular stones.	0.25-0.65m
1902	Natural	Moderately compact, cohesive mid orangey brown silty clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular and angular stones; Frequent streaks of bluish grey clay (Jurassic marine clay). Undulating and irregular boundary with 1901 above.	0.55m+

Trench 20

Maximum dimensions: Length: 47.80m Width: 1.82m Depth: 0.63m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil	Very compact, cohesive, yellowish brown silty clay; very occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks; very diffuse boundary with 2001 below.	0.00-0.31m
2001	Subsoil	Very compact, cohesive, light yellowish brown slightly silty clay; very occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks; very diffuse boundaries above and below.	0.26-0.55m
2002	Natural	Compact, cohesive, mixed mid orangey yellow clay with frequent small sub-angular chert/flint and fine orangey brown clay with greyish blue patches and streaks (Jurassic marine clay). Disturbed by occasional land drains.	0.51m+
2003	Pit or furrow?	Sub oval cut, aligned NW/SE; very diffuse edges; NE side: shallow break of slope, concave side curving to ill-defined flattish base; SW side indeterminate and merges with 2002. Filled by 2004.	0.61-0.77m
2004	Fill	Compact, cohesive, light yellowish brown slightly silty clay; very occasional small sub-angular chert/flint; very very occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of 2003.	0.61-0.77m

Trench 21

Maximum dimensions: Length: 49m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.73
+ extension 4.7m 2.50m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2100	Topsoil	Firm, dark greyish brown fine sandy silt with rare sand; occasional rounded / sub-rounded pebbles, sub-angular yellowish brown flint; frequent roots.	0.00-0.23m
2101	Subsoil	Firm, greenish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal, manganese or organic flecks; rare rounded pebbles and sub-angular flints; frequent roots.	0.23-0.59m
2102	Natural	Firm mid bluish grey silty clay (Jurassic marine clay) with lenses of orange sandy silt and stones; occasional limestone flecks and brown mottling; below 2101.	0.59m+
2103	UNUSED	N/a	N/a
2104	Fill	Unrecorded fill of 2105.	*c* 0.50-0.57m
2105	Posthole?	Sub-circular cut; sharp break of slope, steep sides, irregular concave base with step to north. Filled by 2104	*c* 0.50-0.57m
2106	Stone	Large fragmented block of limestone, 2.75m by 3.5m, with frequent imbedded fossils. Within 2101 and overlying 2107.	0.28- *c* 0.50m
2107	Subsoil	Firm, greenish brown silty clay; occasional charcoal, manganese or organic flecks; rare rounded pebbles and sub-angular flints. Below 2106. Same as 2101.	*c* 0.50-0.73m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

44	Context records AS1
10	Fieldwork progress records AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
203	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogue AS4
1	Sample record AS17
2	Levels record sheets AS19
1	Abbreviated context record AS40
21	Trench record sheets AS41
10	Scale drawing sheets
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

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 39886

P2673

Artefacts

Type	Count	Weight (g)	Date	Specialist report	Key assemblage
Brick	31	2190	18th-20th century	Y	N
Brick/tile	19	225	18th-20th century	Y	N
Clay pipe – tobacco	3	6	17th-19th century	Y	N
Clay tile – floor	2	29	18th-20th century	Y	N
Clay tile – floor/roof	7	182	18th-20th century	Y	N
Clay tile – roof	5	489	18th-20th century	Y	N
Clay – unidentified	10	138	Undiagnostic	Y	N
Stone – arrowhead	1	12	Neolithic	Y	Y
Glass – vessel	4	18	19th-20th century	Ý	N
Iron – horseshoe	1	305	17th-20th century	Y	N
Iron – nail	1	5	17th-19th century	Y	N
Iron – object	1	14	Undiagnostic	Y	N
Pottery – medieval	9	86	14th-16th century	Y	N
Pottery – post-medieval	21	228	17th-19th century	Y	N
Pottery – post-med/modern	17	41	18th-20th century	Y	N
Pottery – modern	5	38	20th century	Y	N
Slate – roof	3	48	19th-20th century	Y	N
Teeth – sheep/goat	2	22	Undiagnostic	N	N
Wood – calcified (sample)	7	148	Undiagnostic	N	N