

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF OF
LAND REAR OF STUBBS,
LAZY LANE,
FLADBURY,
WORCESTERSHIRE.

Adam Lee

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

15 June 2009

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3360
Report 1702
WSM 40825

Archaeological watching brief of land rear of Stubbs, Lazy Lane, Fladbury, Worcestershire

Adam Lee

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr Stephen Wood
<i>Site address</i>	Stubbs, Lazy Lane, Fladbury, Worcestershire.
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 99417 46525
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 40825
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/09/00552
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2009a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2009b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on the site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

The Service has undertaken a number of investigations within Fladbury and the vicinity (Deeks 1999; Miller 1999; Phear 2007). The results of these projects are summarised below, along with additional HER information.

Fladbury is located close to the River Avon and alluvial terraces, where there is abundant evidence of occupation from the prehistoric onwards. The site is located on flat ground to the west of the centre of the village (Fig 1). The geology of the area of Fladbury is mixed, in part due to its location close to the River Avon. The soil type across the site is the Wick 541 series, a deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soil, locally over gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

The area appears to have been a significant prehistoric ceremonial landscape due to the presence of six cursus monuments, enclosures, trackways, and other Neolithic activity. An evaluation at the Sports Ground in Fladbury (WSM 26910) uncovered prehistoric features including postholes, worked flint flakes and pottery, which date to the 2nd millennium BC. However, the majority of evidence for Neolithic, Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been detected largely as cropmarks through aerial photographs. Specific cropmarks surrounding Fladbury include three elongated enclosures and one partial enclosure, which have been interpreted as cursus monuments (WSM 33720, 33722, 33962 and 34643). These monuments are thought to be of Neolithic date. WSM 34643 is located close to the development site. Its alignment indicates that it may continue into the site. A bank barrow (WSM 33720) is also located within the cluster of cursus monuments.

There is also evidence of Saxon and medieval occupation. In fact, the first recorded name for Fladbury was *Fledanberg* (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 126). It is thought to derive from the Old English for 'burg' or fortified manor house of Fleda, the woman that is said to have initiated the first Anglo-Saxon settlement here. Finds from both periods have been recovered from SAM 201 (WSM 32354), and historical research indicates the Evesham Road is located along the route of a Saxon Road (WSM 30402). Further evidence of medieval activity is illustrated by two fields to the north of the Evesham Road which contain extant ridge and furrow earthworks (WSM 30359 and 05614), and the recovery of medieval pottery from the field close to the cluster of cursus monuments (WSM 05677).

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	HER Aerial photograph, Mike Glyde 2004
Date(s) of fieldwork	26 May 2009
Area of site	c 440m ²
Total area of excavated foundation trenches	c 29.30m ²
Dimensions of foundation trenches	length 49.20m width 0.45-0.65m depth 0.75-1m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy silt. Frequent small to medium rounded stones. Moderate medium to large fragments of modern building material. Occasional fragments of 20 th century pottery. High level of root disturbance.	0.00-0.55m
101	Natural	Loose mid yellowish orange sands and gravels.	0.55-1m

Discussion and Conclusion

Footings were excavated for a new dwelling on the development site (Fig 2, Plate 2). The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m and ranged in width from 0.45m to 0.65m. Topsoil, containing occasional 20th century debris, was recorded directly overlying the natural matrix of yellow orange sands and gravels at a depth of up to 0.55m (Plate 2). No significant archaeological features, horizons or deposits were observed, nor artefacts recovered.

Approximately 140m to the northwest of the development site a cursus monument (WSM 34643) has been identified from aerial photographs, the line of which runs directly towards the development site (Fig 3). No evidence of this monument was identified within the development area, which suggests that it does extend this far southeast.

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 Stephen Wood of S.J. Wood Building Contractors of land rear of Stubbs, Lazy Lane, Fladbury, Worcestershire (NGR SO 99417 46525; HER ref WSM 40825). Footings were excavated for a new dwelling on the development site. Topsoil with occasional 20th century debris was recorded directly overlying the natural matrix of yellow orange sands and gravels at a depth of up to 0.55m below the ground surface. No significant archaeological features, horizons or deposits were observed, nor artefacts recovered.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Stephen Wood (S J Wood Building Contractors) and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

Deeks, A, 1999 *Watching brief at 'Ferndale', Chequres Lane, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 28 June 1999, **P1754**

HEAS 2009a *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at land at rear of Stubbs, Lazy Lane, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 13 May 2009

HEAS 2009b *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief of land rear of Stubbs, Lazy Lane, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 15 May 2009, **P3360**

IfA, 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

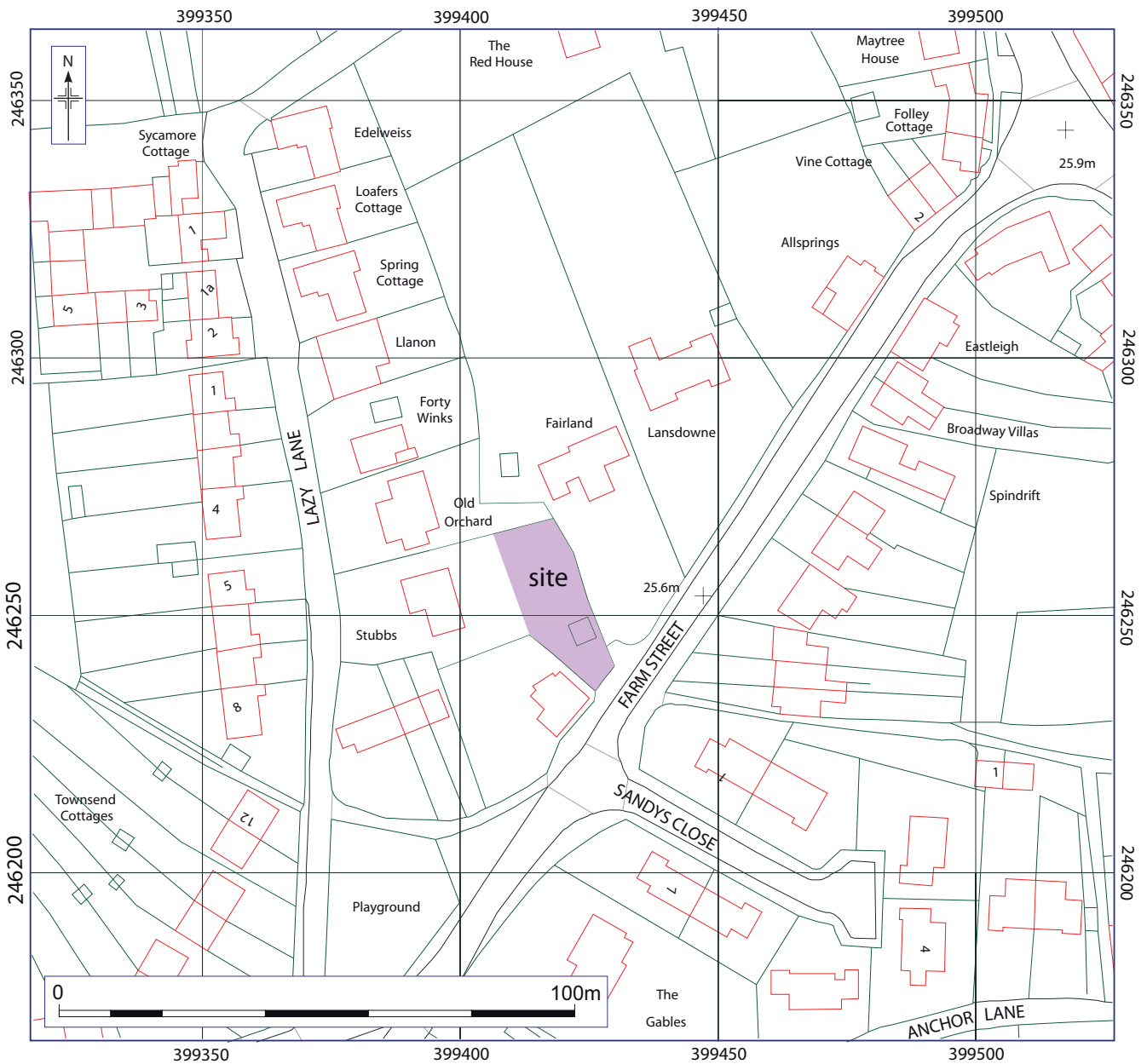
Mawer, A, and Stenton, F M, 1927 *The place-names of Worcestershire*, Cambridge University Press, London

Miller, D, 1999 *Watching brief at Central Garage, Fladbury Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 9 August 1999, **P1798**

Phear, S, 2007 *An archaeological evaluation on land off Evesham Road, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 5 February 2007, **P2985**

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Midland and Western England, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*

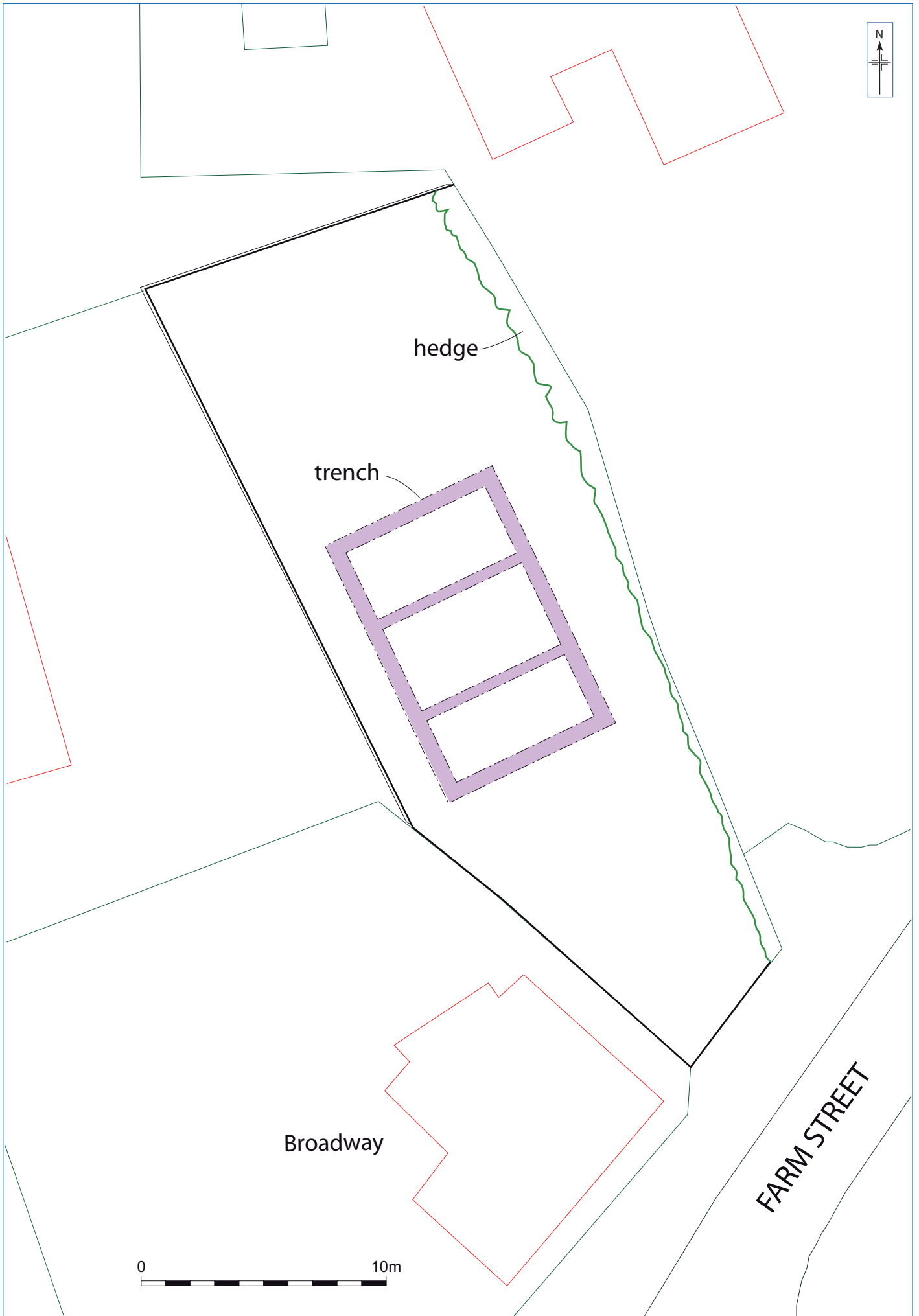
Figures



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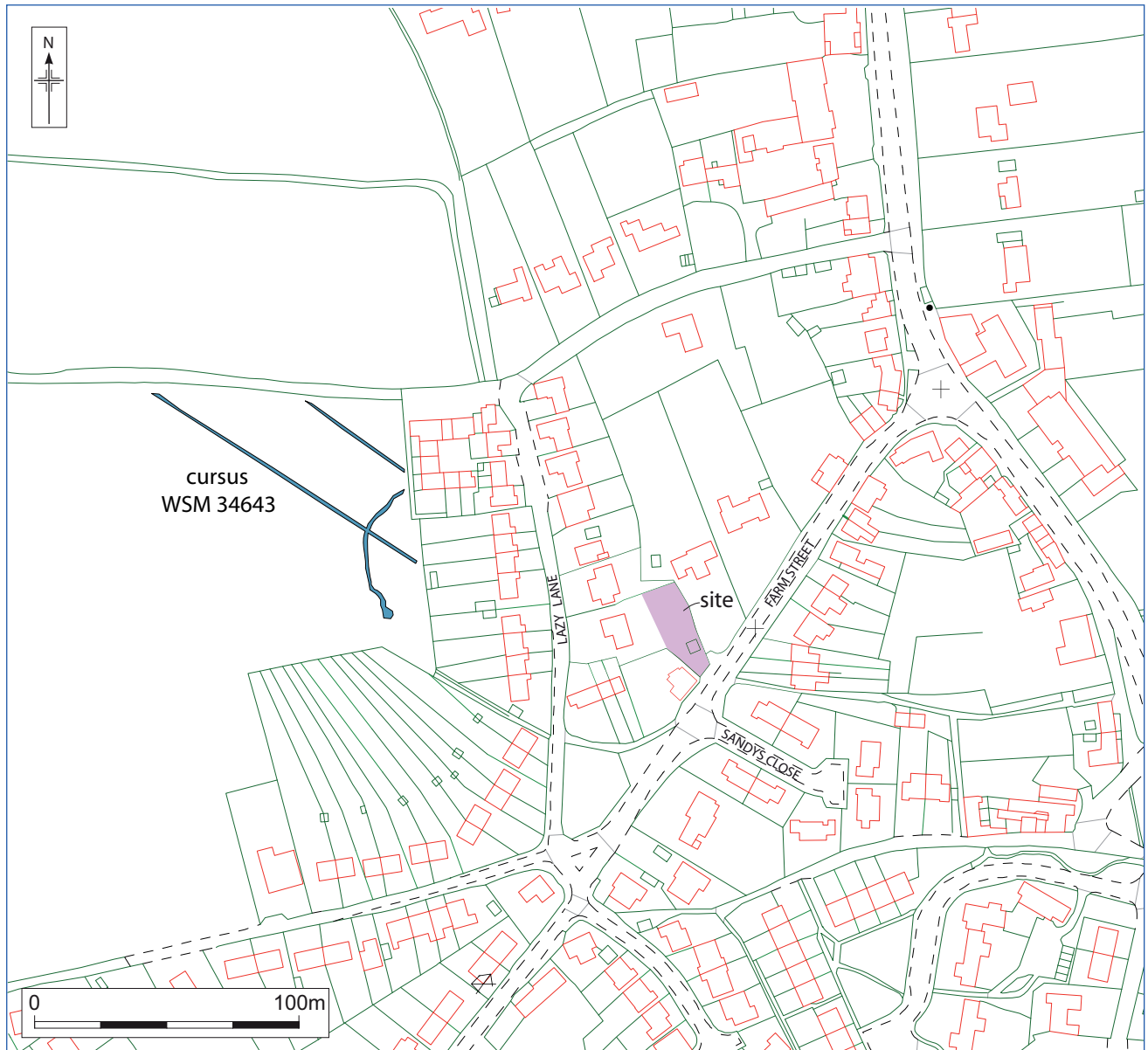
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2



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Cropmark interpretation of cursus monument in relation to development site

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 1: General shot of the development site; looking southeast



Plate 2: Showing topsoil overlying natural sands and gravels within the footing trenches

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Fieldwork progress records AS2 |
| 1 | Trench records AS41 |
| 1 | Photographic records AS3 |
| 7 | Digital photographs |
| 1 | Scale drawings |

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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