Land at Weston under Penyard Herefordshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Lagan Homes England Ltd, to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of two mitigation areas, measuring 2025 m² and 625 m² respectively, prior to development on land at Weston under Penyard, Herefordshire (Area 1 centred on NGR 363540 223285 and Area 2 centred on NGR 363640 223205).

The archaeological excavation was carried out as a condition of outline planning permission, granted by Herefordshire Council (Planning reference P143842/O). The requirement for, and scope of, archaeological works was determined following an archaeological evaluation in 2015 which had confirmed the presence of Romano-British remains indicative of a villa complex within the northern and eastern quarter of the development site. The two excavation areas were located adjacent to the main area of villa remains. Both areas had to be reduced in size due to the detection of buried services and saturated ground conditions.

The archaeological remains revealed in excavation Area 1 were limited and comprised a stone trough/repurposed coffin and two ditches that may relate to part of a former field system. The associated small assemblage of finds indicates a potential Romano-British date for the two ditches. Part of a north-east to south-west aligned stone drain of uncertain date was revealed within excavation Area 2.

Overall, the evidence from the archaeological investigations is limited, but the results provide a small contribution towards the known extent of Romano-British and later occupation within this landscape and could aid the contextualisation of future discoveries. It is therefore proposed that the results are presented as a short summary within a local journal. The project archive will also be prepared for long term storage.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Orion Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Lagan Homes England Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor, who monitored the project for Herefordshire Council, and to Smiths Plant Hire for their cooperation and help on site.

Land at Weston under Penyard, Herefordshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Lagan Homes England Ltd, to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of two mitigation areas, measuring 2025 m² and 625 m² respectively, on land at Weston under Penyard, Herefordshire (Area 1 centred on NGR 363540 223285 and Area 2 centred on NGR 363640 223205; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was carried out as a condition (Condition 12) of outline planning permission, granted by Herefordshire Council (Planning reference P143842/O), for the erection of 37 dwelling/houses with all matters except access reserved for future consideration. The overall development area comprised approximately 4 hectares.

1.1.3 The excavation was preceded by archaeological works, including a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015) and a trial trench evaluation (Worcestershire Archaeology 2015) which confirmed the presence of archaeological remains associated with a potential Romano-British villa within the northern and eastern parts of the site. The two excavation areas were located adjacent to the main area of villa remains, which will be preserved *in situ*.

1.1.4 It was necessary to review the size of the proposed mitigation areas due to the detection of buried services and saturated ground conditions. Area 1 was reduced from 2025 m² to approximately 1000 m² and Area 2 from 625 m² to approximately 375 m². It was agreed that a compensatory test trench along the south-east side of mitigation Area 2 would be sufficient to address the aims of the archaeological investigations.

1.1.5 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed for the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Orion Heritage Ltd 2022). The Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to the fieldwork.

1.1.6 The excavation was undertaken from 6–17 February 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 This report provides the provisional results of the excavation and assesses the potential to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development site is located within a field on the south-east edge of the settlement at Weston under Penyard, approximately 2.3 km to the south-east of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. It is bounded by the A40 road to the south-west, Bury Hill lane to the south-east, agricultural land to the north and north-east and by a residential development to the north-west. The development site is situated on a south-west facing slope between 71 m and 77 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.2 The bedrock geology is mapped as micaceous sandstone of the Brownstones Formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous works related to the development

2.1.1 The archaeological potential of the development site was considered within a prior desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015), which detailed the recorded historic environment resource within a 1.5 km study area. Overall, the desk-based assessment concluded that there was potential for below-ground archaeological deposits relating to Romano-British occupation and medieval agriculture to be present within the development site.

2.1.2 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the land within the development site in 2015 (Worcestershire Archaeology 2015) and confirmed the presence of Romano-British remains indicative of a villa complex within the northern and eastern quarter of the development site. The evidence included the presence of living quarters to the north and a possible bathhouse to the south and comprised building materials, the remains of stone walls, probable underfloor heating systems and mosaic floors. There was also evidence for contemporaneous iron working activities on the site, as well as water management within the wider landscape (*ibid.,* 17).

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

2.2.1 The archaeological and historical background was reviewed within the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015) and the results of this are summarised below, with relevant entry numbers from the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Historic England National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included where necessary. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2.2 The Herefordshire HER holds several records relating to findspots of Neolithic flint artefacts within the study area surrounding the development site (HER EHE80132; HER 7114 and HER 841) and the findspot of a Bronze Age palstave has also been recorded within the south-west part of the study area (HER 843).

2.2.3 The earliest known archaeological features within the study area comprise two Iron Age ditches (HER 12666), located approximately 380 m to the north-east of the development site.

2.2.4 The development site is located approximately 700 m to the south-west of the Scheduled Roman town of *Ariconium* (NHLE 1005364), a ‘small town’ that specialised in the production of iron. The Roman town is situated on a gentle west facing slope between the Rudhall Brook and the Wye Valley, and at the junction of two known Roman roads. One of these Roman roads is located adjacent to the south-eastern boundary of the development site (HER 840).

2.2.5 Further evidence for Romano-British settlement was revealed within the landscape immediately to the south-east of the development site during an archaeological evaluation undertaken as part of the proposed Ryeford Bypass (HER 22965; Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeological Service 1995) and part of a Romano-British farmstead was revealed within the landscape to the north during archaeological monitoring of a sewage pipeline (HER 15983; Worcestershire Archaeological Service 1999).

2.2.6 The medieval settlement of Weston under Penyard is likely to have been centred on the Grade II* listed Church of St Lawrence (NHLE 1348828), which is located approximately 300 m to the west of the development site. At this time, the land within the development site is likely to have formed agricultural land on the edge of the settlement. Earthworks relating to a possible holloway and lynchets of probable medieval origin were recorded within the north-eastern corner of the development site during archaeological investigations associated with a sewage pipeline (HER 53248; Worcestershire Archaeological Service 1999).

2.2.7 Historic maps indicate that the land within the development site has remained predominantly in agricultural use since the mid-19th century.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The principal aim of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Orion Heritage Ltd 2022), was to determine the character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any identified archaeological deposits; therefore, ensuring their preservation by record.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 To address the main aim, the general objectives were to:

- undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation. The areas subject to excavation were agreed in advance with the Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor;
- ensure the recording of any archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
- ensure the recording of all archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available;
- undertake a programme of post-investigation assessment;
- produce a report and disseminate the results; and
- make provision for archive deposition.

3.2.2 The general objectives were to ensure:

- the protection and recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
- that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed were promptly identified; and

- the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

3.2.3 The focused aims of the archaeological mitigation work were to:

- determine the date and function of Roman activity identified by trial trenching, with particular regard to establishing chronology and transitional elements;
- determine the date and function of the Roman buildings and their possible relationship to the known settlement in the surrounding area;
- set the previously known and recently identified Roman structures within their wider context in Herefordshire; and
- integrate the results of the previous trial trenching with the results of the mitigation works.

3.3 Research objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Watt 2011), the archaeological mitigation work was considered to have potential to contribute to the objective relating to satellite villas of small towns from *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research* (Watt 2011, 137).

3.3.2 The archaeological mitigation work also had potential to contribute to the following research objectives relating to the town of *Ariconium* (Jackson 2012):

- What was the nature of the other Roman settlements (farmsteads etc.) known in the immediate hinterland of the site? Can these be related to *Ariconium*, and if so, what was this relationship?
- What is the potential for reconstructing the surrounding landscape before and during settlement of the site? What impact did settlement, industry and agriculture have on, for example, woodland cover and soil erosion?

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Orion Heritage Ltd 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The archaeological works comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of two areas (Areas 1 and 2; Fig. 1). The excavation areas were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI, but both areas had to be reduced in size due to the detection of buried services and saturated ground conditions. Area 1 was focused on evaluation trench 9 and centred on NGR 363540 223285, while Area 2 was focused on the south-western end of trench 3,

centred on NGR 363640 223205. Following consultation with the Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor, a compensatory test trench (20 m long by 2.4 m wide) was excavated along the south-east side of excavation Area 2.

4.2.2 The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.6 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photogrammetry was also used to record selected features.

Photogrammetry

4.2.8 The photographs were processed in Agisoft Metashape Professional 1.8 to produce a 3D model and georeferenced using a subset of the survey data collected. The remaining survey data was used as a check for model accuracy.

4.2.9 The resulting 3D model, which was made available for specialist assessment and interpretation via Sketchfab, is accurate to 1.69 cm. True model accuracy likely exceeds this, however, checks are limited by the accuracy of the survey instrument used.

4.2.10 An orthographic image was exported from the 3D model for illustrative purposes.

Use of Metal Detectors

4.2.11 Spoil heaps and trenches were scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user. Modern artefacts were noted but not retained.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of the finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Orion Heritage Ltd 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was guided by: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI were agreed in advance with the client and the Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 The two excavation areas were located approximately 90 m apart. Archaeological features were recorded in both areas and comprised two Romano-British ditches, a stone trough/repurposed coffin (all in Area 1; Fig. 2) and a stone drain/runnel (Area 2; Fig. 3); the latter two remain undated. A small assemblage of worked flint was also recovered and provides some, albeit limited, evidence for earlier activity within the vicinity. Activity post-dating the Romano-British period was represented by agricultural field drains and post-medieval pottery recovered from colluvial deposits.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.2 All hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The sequence of deposits varied between the excavation areas. A thick colluvial deposit was present in Area 1, while a buried topsoil and colluvial deposits were recorded in Area 2. The latter are probably associated with the findings interpreted as a palaeochannel in the evaluation (Worcestershire Archaeology 2015).

5.2.2 A dark reddish brown silty loam topsoil (1050 and 2050), approximately 0.30 m thick, was present across both excavation areas. No finds were recovered from the topsoil.

5.2.3 In Area 1 (Fig. 5), the topsoil overlay 1051, a mid reddish-brown loamy sand colluvium seen at between 0.25 m and 1.30 m below ground level (bgl). This deposit contained a small assemblage of slightly abraded Romano-British pottery (10 sherds, 79 g), a single slightly abraded sherd (7 g) of medieval pottery and two fresh sherds (29 g) of post-medieval pottery. Pieces of ceramic building material (2 pieces, 133 g), fired clay (1 piece, 16 g) and worked flint (2 pieces) were also recovered from this layer. The underlying natural substrate (1052) was encountered at between 1.00 m and 1.30 m bgl. This

comprised mid brownish red sand with sparse subangular coarse gravels and irregular, infrequent patches of light red clay throughout.

5.2.4 In Area 2 (Fig. 6), the topsoil overlay a mid reddish-brown silt loam subsoil (2051), identifiable at around 0.28 m bgl. This sealed a layer of light brown to light grey silty clay colluvium (2052), featuring moderate iron panning. The deposit was a minimum of 0.20 m thick and probably formed quite rapidly over a former topsoil, represented by 2053, a 0.13 m thick layer of dark grey silty clay loam. Romano-British pottery (1 sherd, 9 g), ceramic building material (1 piece, 107 g) and shell (1 piece, 12 g) were recovered from the colluvial layer, while nine sherds (30 g) of Romano-British pottery, an iron nail (16 g) and fragments of animal bone (4 fragments, 1 g) were recovered from the buried topsoil.

5.2.5 The natural substrate, which was lighter here and included abundant iron panning, was encountered at approximately 0.70 m bgl.

5.3 Area 1

5.3.1 In Area 1, two ditches (1065 and 1066) were revealed and formed the northern corner of a large field (Figs 2, 4, 7 and 8). The westernmost ditch (1065) was 0.56 m wide and 0.19 m deep, whilst perpendicular ditch 1066 was slightly wider (0.74 m) and deeper (0.24 m). Both were concave in profile and contained a single mid reddish-brown sandy loam secondary fill with sparse subangular coarse gravel inclusions. A single sherd (39 g) of Romano-British pottery was recovered from ditch 1065, while Romano-British pottery (7 sherds, 82 g), ceramic building material (comprising fragments of flue tile and tegula; 315 g) and a piece of iron (7 g) were recovered from ditch 1066. Both ditches were cut into the natural geology. Their similarity in form, alignment and fill composition suggests that they were likely contemporaneous and formed part of a Romano-British field system, potentially associated with the villa to the north-east.

5.3.2 A rectangular sandstone trough/coffin (1057; Figs 2 and 9–11; see section 6.9.2 for details) was found in the same corner of the field, the base set directly onto the natural substrate; no associated cut was identified in the surrounding/overlying colluvium. Two fills were identified (Fig. 12): the lowest fill (1058) comprised a mid brown silty loam, while the upper fill (1059) comprised a firm mid brown clay. No finds were recovered from these fills, although traces of charred plant remains, including spelt wheat, were recovered from fill 1058 (see Section 7 below). Some disturbed fragments of sandstone (1060) were found within the immediate vicinity of the trough/coffin.

5.4 Area 2

5.4.1 A north-east to south-west aligned stone drain/runnel (2055 and 2056) was partially revealed in the northern corner of Area 2 (Fig. 3). The drain/runnel structure (2055) had vertical sides and a flat base, composed of subangular grey limestone fragments with no bonding material, and was capped with stones (2056). The drain measured 0.80 m wide and 0.48 m high, and a length of 1.89 m was exposed within the excavation area. The construction cut (2063) was visible in section and cut through colluvial layer 2052, buried soil layer 2053 and layer 2054 (Figs 4 and 13–15). Three sherds (4 g) of Romano-British pottery and a piece (3 g) of ceramic building material were recovered from the fill of the construction cut (2064).

5.4.2 Two deposits (2057 and 2062) infilled the drain and likely formed after the structure went out of use. A single sherd (1 g) of Romano-British pottery and four fragments (1 g) of animal bone were recovered from the lowest fill (2057), which comprised a mid greyish brown sand, while the upper fill (2062) comprised a dark brownish red silty clay with

inclusions of red clay. The stone drain was partially truncated by a modern ceramic field drain (2059) at its south-west end (Fig. 16), which had also disturbed some of the stones on the north-west side of the structure (2058; Fig. 3).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A finds assemblage totalling approximately 5 kg was recovered. This is dominated by material of Roman date, and the majority derives from ditches (1065 and 1066) and deposits in Area 1. The finds have been cleaned and scanned to assess their nature, condition, and potential date range. Totals by material type and context are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of finds by material type and context (number of pieces/weight in grammes)

Context	Feature/Deposit	Pottery	Ceramic Building Material	Flint	Animal bone	Stone	Fired clay	Iron	Shell
		No./Wt.	No./Wt.	No./Wt.	No./Wt.	No./Wt.	No./Wt.	No./Wt.	No./Wt.
1051	Colluvium	15/255	2/133	2/2	-	-	1/16	-	-
1054	Ditch 1065	1/39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1057	Masonry structure	-	-	-	-	1/2992	-	-	-
1060	Masonry	-	-	-	-	1/1054	-	-	-
1062	Ditch 1066	6/40	1/249	-	-	-	-	1/7	-
1064	Ditch 1066	2/45	1/66	-	-	-	-	-	-
2052	Colluvium	1/4	1/107	-	-	-	-	-	1/12
2053	Buried soil	9/29	-	-	4/1	-	-	1/16	-
2054	Layer	1/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2057	Drain 2055	1/1	-	-	4/1	-	-	-	-
2064	Construction cut 2063	3/4	1/3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		**39/428**	**6/558**	**2/2**	**8/2**	**2/4046**	**1/16**	**2/23**	**1/12**

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery (39 sherds, 428 g) is mainly Romano-British date with three post-Roman sherds from the colluvial layer 1051. The assemblage mainly consists of a few moderate sized fragments and smaller abraded sherds, with a mean sherd weight of 10.9 g. Two rim sherds are present with an EVE of 0.12 vessels.

6.2.2 For this assessment, the sherds were divided into broad ware groups or known fabric type (e.g., Severn Valley ware) and quantified by number and weight of the pieces present. Where appropriate, the fabrics have been cross-referenced with other local published assemblages (Willis 2012, 44–48). Spot dates have been assigned to each context based on the pottery present. The level of recording is consistent with the 'basic record' advocated for the rapid characterisation of pottery assemblages (Barclay *et al*. 2016, Section 2.4.5). A breakdown of the sherds by chronological period and ware type is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Pottery totals by chronological period and ware types

Context		**1051**	**1054**	**1062**	**1064**	**2052**	**2053**	**2054**	**2057**	**2064**	
Period	**Ware**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**No/wt.**	**Total**
Romano-British	BB1	1/4	-	3/17	-	-	3/15	-	-	-	**7/36**
	Greyware	3/33	-	-	-	1/9	6/15	1/12	1/1	3/4	**15/74**
	Malvernian ware	2/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2/8**
	Severn Valley	4/34	1/39	2/20	2/45	-	-	-	-	-	**9/138**
Sub-total		*10/79*	*1/39*	*5/37*	*2/45*	*1/9*	*9/30*	*1/12*	*1/1*	*3/4*	***33/256***
Medieval	Worcester-type glazed ware	1/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1/7**
Sub-total		*1/7*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	***1/7***
Post-medieval	Black-glazed ware	1/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1/8**
	Frechen stoneware	1/21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1/21**
Sub-total		*2/29*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	***2/29***
Total		**13/115**	**1/39**	**5/37**	**2/45**	**1/9**	**9/30**	**1/12**	**1/1**	**3/4**	**39/428**

Romano-British

6.2.3 The pottery (76% by count of total assemblage) mainly consists of indeterminate coarseware body sherds, and two rims from a jar and a cooking pot. The overall average mean sherd weight is 8.1 g. Previous work on the site by Worcestershire Archaeology (2015, section 5.2) also recovered a small assemblage of indeterminate body sherds, with a similar mean sherd weight.

6.2.4 The majority of the abraded sherds derive from colluvial layer (1051), where four of the fabric types occur (Table 2). Ditches 1065 and 1066 contained two Severn Valley ware sherds from a tankard and the rim of a jar, with a Wareham/Poole Harbour Black Burnished ware cooking pot rim also from ditch 1066.

6.2.5 The 15 greyware body sherds consist of five different fabrics which occur in assemblages both in Gloucester and Weston under Penyard (Timby 1986, 63; Willis 2012, 46–7).

Medieval

6.2.6 A single, abraded green-glazed body sherd from a Worcester-type (Bryant 2004, 290–97) jug was present within colluvial layer (1051).

Post-medieval

6.2.7 The two un-abraded fragments of post-medieval pottery came from colluvial layer 1051. One is from a black glazed earthen ware vessel of 16th-early 17th century date, that could potentially derive from the Dixton kilns north-east of Monmouth (Clarke *et al.* 1984, 9–24). The second fragment is from an imported Frechen stoneware jug/bottle of similar date (Gaimster 1997, 208–23).

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 The six fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material consist of fragments from a tegula flange from ditch 1066, an imbrex from colluvial layer 1051, brick/floor tile from colluvium 2052, and the corner of a box flue tile in ditch 1066.

6.3.2 Apart from the *imbrex* from colluvial layer 1051, which was made in a hard sandy fabric, with frequent rounded quartz grains, angular calcite and rounded sandstone inclusions, which has been identified in Worcester (Cleverley 2004, 338 Fabric 2a), the remainder of the assemblage utilised a soft oxidised clay with angular argillaceous clay pellets with occasional quartz grains, that is not dissimilar to fabric 3 at Bredon Norton, Gloucestershire, that originated from Buckinghamshire (Allen 2016, 124).

6.3.3 During the previous evaluation work by Worcestershire Archaeology (2015, section 5.2) a significant assemblage of Romano-British ceramic building material was recovered which related to a number of *in situ* structures including a hypocaust.

6.4 Flint

6.4.1 Two pieces of worked flint were recovered from colluvial deposit 1051 in Area 1. The raw material is a high-quality translucent flint, with a very thin cortex that indicates derivation from a secondary, riverine source. This may have been found in gravels associated with the Wye 4 km to the west, or perhaps the Severn 15 km to the east, but may well have been collected from deposits nearer the primary chalk 60 km to the south-east.

6.4.2 One piece is a small, broken secondary blade which has been detached with a soft hammer after minimal platform preparation. It is difficult to be certain, but it seems reasonable to suggest this is the product of a purposeful blade technology and is most likely to be of Late Mesolithic or Neolithic date. The other piece is a very small, narrow, chronologically undiagnostic flake which has been produced by pressure-flaking. This is the result of retouching a tool of some kind, and might, given its acute distal curvature, be likely to result from working the edge of a scraper.

6.5 Animal bone

6.5.1 A small amount of animal bone (8 fragments, 2 g) was recovered from the sieved residue of two bulk samples. They are all small/tiny fragments, some of which are burnt, either calcined or lightly scorched, several of which are identifiable species.

6.5.2 The identified elements comprise fragments of sheep/goat tooth enamel and distal metapodial shaft from buried soil 2053, and a carpal bone from the stone-built drain (2055). A small mammal rib was also recovered from the fill of this feature.

6.6 Fired clay

6.6.1 A single fragment of undiagnostic fired clay (16 g) from the colluvial layer (1051), was made from a hard quartz-tempered fabric with occasional argillaceous clay pellets.

6.7 Marine shell

6.7.1 The left valve from an oyster with Polydora ciliate infestation was recovered from colluvium 2052. The size and the infestation would indicate this oyster was recovered from hard sandy or clay grounds, particular to warm shallow waters.

6.8 Ironwork

6.8.1 Two corroded square-headed nails from ditch 1066 and the buried soil (2053), are of a style and size that corresponds to Roman nails (Manning 1985, 134–7 type 1b).

6.9 Stone

6.9.1 Two pieces of stone were recovered, consisting of a sample from the upper edge of a rectangular trough or coffin (1057) and a tabular fragment of Old Red Sandstone (1060) from close proximity to this. The trough/coffin was left onsite, although the broken sample was retained to facilitate geological identification.

6.9.2 The tooled corner fragment (1057) is made of local sandstone from the Forest of Dean. The trough measured 1.30 m in length, 0.60 m wide and 0.35 m in height, with a rectangular recess of 0.90 m in length, 0.30 m wide and 0.22 m deep. Its function is uncertain as it was found sitting on the natural (1052) and surrounded/sealed by the colluvium (1051). It is possible that it could be a child's coffin, but no other evidence for burial was found. Another suggestion could be its re-use to hold water for quenching in smithing, as earlier work on the site had produced iron working debris (Worcestershire Archaeology 2015, section 5.2) and the nearby 'small town' of *Ariconium* is centred on the processing of iron from the Forest of Dean (Jackson 2012, 184).

6.9.3 The fragment of Old Red Sandstone exhibits no evidence for re-working. Both stone types recovered are in keeping with both structural and worked stone found in the vicinity (Shaffery and Roe 2012, 157–160; Jackson 2012, 161).

6.10 Conservation

6.10.1 None of the finds (pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, flint, stone, marine shell and animal bone) have any conservation requirements. The two iron nails have been x-radiographed to permit detailed identification and provide a basic record. At present the objects are stable and stored in an airtight plastic container with desiccant (silica gel), to ensure a dry environment below 35% humidity.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Four bulk sediment samples were taken from a buried soil, a drain and a possible trough or re-used coffin which is of potential Romano-British date. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site, and any potential for further analysis. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

Bulk sediment samples

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 6 and 16 litres, with an average volume of approximately 10 litres. Two subsamples of approximately 100 ml were taken from the possible coffin. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank, with the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and the residues

retained on 4 mm and 1 mm meshes. The coarse fractions of the residues (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains.

7.2.3 The fine residue fractions and the flots were examined using a stereomicroscope at up to 40x magnification for wood charcoal, charred/uncharred plant remains, and other environmental material. Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). The volume of wood charcoal (>2 mm) in the flots was recorded and selected fragments were identified. Wood charcoal fragments were identified through examination of the transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal sections at up to 400x magnification with comparison to Wessex Archaeology's reference collection and keys (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). The presence of recent material within the flots was noted as appropriate, including modern roots, modern seeds, earthworm eggs, soil fungus sclerotia, and shells of the burrowing blind snail (*Cecilioides acicula*) which was introduced in the medieval period. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.2.4 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5-10 ('Rare'), A = 10-30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30-100 ('Common'), A** = 100-500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1. All of the samples produced very small flots which are primarily composed of modern roots together with fragmented (<10 mm) coal and clinker/cinder.

7.3.2 Wood charcoal is present in very low concentrations, and most of the fragments are very small. A few scraps of oak (*Quercus* sp.) stemwood are noted in the sample from buried soil 2053, whilst fragments of oak, birch (*Betula* sp.) and other unidentified taxa are present in the sample from drain fill (2057).

7.3.3 There are trace quantities of charred plant remains in trough/coffin 1057 (fill 1058), including a spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume base, an indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.) glume base and a dock (*Rumex* sp.) nutlet. None of the other samples contained charred plant remains.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The assemblage of charred plant remains and wood charcoal recovered from the site is of very low significance.

7.4.2 The samples from the fills of trough/coffin 1057 contained a few remains of cereals and wild/taxa alongside wood charcoal which could reflect background settlement 'noise' associated with a Romano-British settlement (e.g., hearth waste, crop-processing debris). Spelt wheat has been identified, which was the main crop cultivated in this period, although there are too few remains to interpret this evidence further (Lodwick 2017).

7.4.3 Low concentrations of wood charcoal in buried soil 2053 and drain fill 2057 could also reflect fuel waste associated with a nearby settlement, although this material is of unknown date. The presence of small quantities of fragmented coal and clinker/cinder in all of the samples is likely to reflect intrusive fuel waste of medieval or later date. This material is likely to have become incorporated into the features through bioturbation.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

8.1.1 The stratigraphic results across the two excavation areas (Areas 1 and 2) have a low complexity.

8.1.2 The probable Romano-British field boundary ditches produced a small number of pottery sherds dating to this period but do not categorically date them. The trough/repurposed coffin and stone drain remain undated. The former is clearly not *in situ* owing to its location and partial remnants (lid and contents absent). However, their relation/ provenance to *Ariconium* is more than likely. The drain might be associated with either the settlement, the pond or later drainage systems. It was well-made and cut through a colluvial layer and a buried soil layer beneath the topsoil and subsoil. The general area in and around excavation Area 2 was waterlogged, and later efforts to drain the land, in the same location, was also evident by the modern clay field drain.

8.1.3 The results have been subjected to a full stratigraphic analysis and there is little potential for further work on the stratigraphy of the mitigation project. The results presented here may be included in any dissemination of the results.

8.2 Finds potential

8.2.1 The small assemblage of finds recovered from the site offers little potential for further research in itself but provides good evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity.

8.2.2 The prehistoric worked flints are of negligible quantity and derive from the colluvial deposit (1051) and are residual. These flints are significant for representing the only evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, although a single flake was retained from the subsoil during a previous evaluation (Worcestershire Archaeology 2015). Both Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have been recorded within the wider area (CgMs 2015, 4.3). The small number of flints and broad dating also mean any comparison to other sites in the region would be of little value, unless further flints are recovered in future investigations on this site.

8.2.3 The presence of several ditches containing Romano-British occupational material and further material within a colluvial layer and a buried soil, a drain and the fill of a construction cut, potentially relate to the adjacent Romano-British villa to the north-east and/or the suburbs of the Romano-British small town of *Ariconium* which is situated approximately 700 m to the north-east (CgMs 2015). The presence of a single medieval and two sherds of post-medieval pottery indicate the site was potentially manured with occupational waste from the adjacent village core (CgMs 2015, 4.6).

8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 There is no potential for further analysis of the charred plant remains or wood charcoal in any of the samples.

8.3.2 No further work is recommended on the subsamples taken for intestinal parasites from trough/coffin 1057 since this feature did not contain any human remains.

8.3.3 A summary of the results could be adapted for inclusion in subsequent reports.

8.4 Summary of potential

8.4.1 Overall, due to the quantity and condition of the data, there is negligible potential for further analysis of the stratigraphy, finds or environmental data.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 The original aims of the project have been achieved as far as possible. The revised aims of the project are:

- to deposit the archive resulting from the project with a suitable repository, and,
- to disseminate the results in a manner appropriate to their significance.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.2.1 No further analysis of the stratigraphy in excavation Areas 1 and 2 is recommended.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.3.1 The pottery has already been recorded to sufficient levels in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's guidelines (Morris 1992) and the 'basic level' of analysis according to the nationally recognised guidelines (Barclay *et al*. 2016, 16–17). No further work is recommended on any of the artefactual material.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.4.1 There are no recommendations for further analysis.

9.5 Summary of recommendations

9.5.1 The stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data have been analysed to a sufficient level and no further work is proposed.

9.5.2 The results of the excavation provide a small contribution towards the known extent of Romano-British and later occupation within this landscape and could aid the contextualisation of future discoveries. A short summary will therefore be prepared and submitted for inclusion in the annual round-up of an appropriate local journal.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Hereford Museum Resources and Learning Centre has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **2023–24**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Hereford Museum Resources and Learning Centre, and in

general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 2 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Data Management Plan (available on request).

10.3 Selection strategy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 2).

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological

Advisor on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Assessment of the environmental evidence: charred plant remains and wood charcoal

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Charred plant remains					Wood charcoal >2mm (ml)	Wood charcoal notes	Other
								Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Other	Other notes			
1	Trough/ coffin	1057	1058	274020_1	16	5	25% roots	-	C	*Triticum* sp. and *Triticum spelta* glume bases	C	*Rumex* sp., indet seed frag.	<1	-	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder A
1	Trough/ coffin	1057	1059	274020_2	9	1	99% roots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder B
2	Buried soil	-	2053	274020_3	9	15	50% roots	-	-	-	-	-	5	*Quercus* sp. stemwood scraps	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder A*
2	Drain	2055	2057	274020_4	6	5	25% roots	-	-	-	-	-	2	*Quercus* sp. stemwood scraps, *Betula* sp., other taxa	Highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder A

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500

Appendix 2: Selection Strategy

274020/274021

Weston under Penyard, Herefordshire

Version 1, October 2023

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management		
Project Manager	Bruce Eaton	
Archaeological Archive Manager(s)	Jessica Irwin	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institution(s)	Hereford Museum Resource & Learning Centre Archaeology Data Service	03/02/2023
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Luke Jarvis Assurance: Bruce Eaton	N/A
Landowner / Developer	Lagan Homes England Ltd	
Other (external)	Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breedon) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team	
Context		

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the CIfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- *Archaeological Deposition Policy. Standards for the deposition of archaeological archives: conditions and guidelines* (Herefordshire Museum Service, 2016-19)

Relevant research agendas

- *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011)

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Watt 2011), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

- Determine the date and function of Roman activity identified by trial trenching, with particular regard to establishing chronology and transitional elements;
- Determine the date and function of the Roman buildings and their possible relationship to the known settlement in the surrounding area;
- Set the previously known and recently identified Roman structures within their wider context in Herefordshire; and
- Integrate the results of the previous trial trenching with the results of the mitigation works.

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of two project review points:

1. End of data gathering (assessment stage)
2. Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; The Hereford Museums Resources and Learning Centre; Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, CIfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	1, 2
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	1, 2
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	1, 2
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	2
Photographic media (photogrammetry)	All terrestrial photogrammetry recording will generate orthographic photos. For those features or finds which are particularly archaeological significant, 3D models will be generated and deposited but raw photos will only be selected where models have been selected and OBJs are to be deposited, where re-processing may have some archaeological value (eg	2

	very significant features, or where the model is less accurate than the surveyed georeference targets or of lower quality and the quality of the original photos is good enough to represent a reasonable chance of better future outcomes). Aerial photogrammetry topographic surveys will generate 3D models and orthographic photos, and the final outputs in the form of the report. These will all be selected, but not the raw photos from aerial surveys.	
Photographic media (community engagement and other activities)	General shots, promotional videos, etc. None will be selected, unless images are generated that are not duplicated in the main site record, but which have specific archaeological value.	2
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	1, 2
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	1, 2
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; The Hereford Museums Resources and Learning Centre; Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of CIfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	1, 2
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	1, 2
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	2
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	2
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	2
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments			
Date	**Amendment**	**Rationale**	**Stakeholders**

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	**Section 3.**	3.1

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; The Hereford Museums Resources and Learning Centre; Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor; landowner

Selection

Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Animal bone	(8 fragments): tiny quantity from residues of environmental samples. No potential for further research beyond the information already recorded. Do not retain.	1
Ceramic building material	(6 fragments): small assemblage with limited further research potential, but this will increase if considered alongside the larger, more informative assemblage from the adjacent villa. Retain.	1, 2
Fired clay	(1 piece): undiagnostic fragment of uncertain origin. No further research potential. Discard.	1
Marine shell	(1 valve): oyster; common food resource in all periods. No further research potential. Discard.	1
Metalwork	Ironwork (2 items): likely to be Romano-British but common types. No potential for further research. Do not retain.	1
Romano-British pottery	(33 sherds): small assemblage with limited further research potential, but this will increase if considered alongside the larger, more informative assemblage from the adjacent villa. Retain.	1, 2
Medieval and post-medieval pottery	(3 sherds): tiny assemblage; common types within area. No further research potential. Discard.	1

Stone	(2 fragments): one sample from the trough/coffin retained for geological identification; one unworked fragment of local stone. No potential for further research. Do not retain.	1
Worked flint	(2 pieces): Negligible quantity but provides evidence for prehistoric activity. Some limited potential for further analysis. Retain.	1, 2

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Manager; WA internal specialists; The Hereford Museums Resources and Learning Centre; Herefordshire Archaeological Advisor

Selection

All environmental sampling has been undertaken following a site-specific sampling strategy or Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in the relevant WSIs (Orion Heritage Ltd 2022). All environmental samples collected and suitable to address project aims and research objectives, as deemed by Wessex Archaeology's Environmental team, have been processed and assessed.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	All of the bulk sediment samples taken at the site have been processed. Parasite subsamples are recommended for discard.	1, 2
Unsorted residues	The residues were discarded after sorting.	1

Assessed flots with extracted materials	Discard all, no further research potential.	1

Uncollected Material

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material

De-selected material and finds from samples will be responsibly disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording.

Amendments

Amendments to the selection strategy for environmental material will be agreed with Stakeholders prior to implementation and recorded in the project archive.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

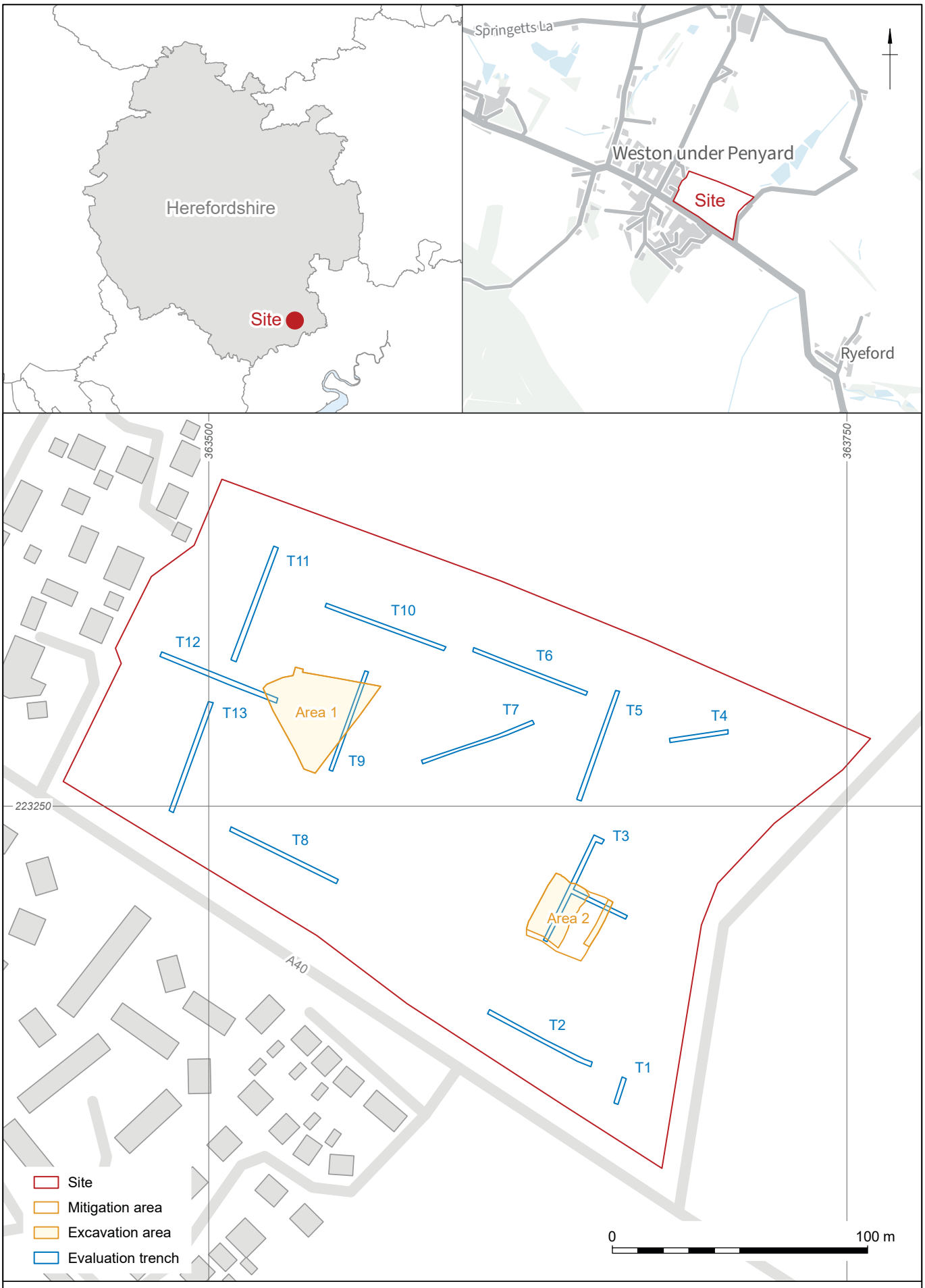
Appendix 3: OASIS summary

OASIS Summary for wessexar1-519500

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-519500
Project Name	Strip Map And Sample at Land at Weston under Penyard - Area 1, Land at Weston under Penyard - Area 2
Sitename	Land at Weston under Penyard - Area 1, Land at Weston under Penyard - Area 2
Sitecode	274020
Project Identifier(s)	274020
Activity type	Strip Map And Sample
Planning Id	P143842/O
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	06-Feb-2023 - 17-Feb-2023
Location	Land at Weston under Penyard - Area 1 NGR : SO 63540 23285 LL : 51.90690040680279, -2.531389985191804 12 Fig : 363540,223285 Land at Weston under Penyard - Area 2 NGR : SO 63640 23205 LL : 51.90618772730664, -2.5299279825836 12 Fig : 363640,223205
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Herefordshire, County of Local Authority District : Herefordshire, County of Parish : Weston under Penyard
Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Lagan Homes England Ltd, to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of two mitigation areas, measuring 2025 m² and 625 m² respectively, on land at Weston under Penyard, Herefordshire (Area 1 centred on NGR 363540 223285 and Area 2 centred on NGR 363640 223205). The archaeological excavation was carried out as a condition of outline planning permission, granted by Herefordshire Council (Planning reference P143842/O). The requirement for, and scope of, archaeological works was determined following an archaeological evaluation in 2015 which had confirmed the presence of Romano-British remains indicative of a villa complex within the northern and eastern quarter of the development site. The two excavation areas were located adjacent to the main area of villa remains. Both areas had to be reduced in size due to the detection of buried services and saturated ground conditions.
Project Results	The archaeological remains revealed in excavation Area 1 were limited and comprised a stone trough/repurposed coffin and two ditches that may relate to part of a former field system. The associated small assemblage of finds indicates a potential Romano-British date for the two ditches. Part of a north-east to south-west aligned stone drain of uncertain date was revealed within excavation Area 2. Overall, the evidence from the archaeological investigations is limited, but the results provide a small contribution towards the known extent of Romano-British and later occupation within this landscape and could aid the contextualisation of future discoveries.

Keywords	Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Drain - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Trough - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Coffin - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Lagan Homes England Ltd
HER	Herefordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Bruce Eaton, K Dinwiddy
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - EHE80496
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive - to be deposited with Museum Resource & Learning Centre, Hereford. Part of Herefordshire Heritage Services, Hereford Museum & Art Gallery;

Report generated on: 30 Oct 2023, 12:19



Date: 04/10/2023	Created by: CM	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:2,000 at A4

Figure 1: Location of site, previous evaluation trenches and excavation Areas 1 and 2

363550

223300

223250

1057

1053

Section 1

Ditch 1065

1055

T12

Section 2

1061

Ditch 1066

1063

Area 1

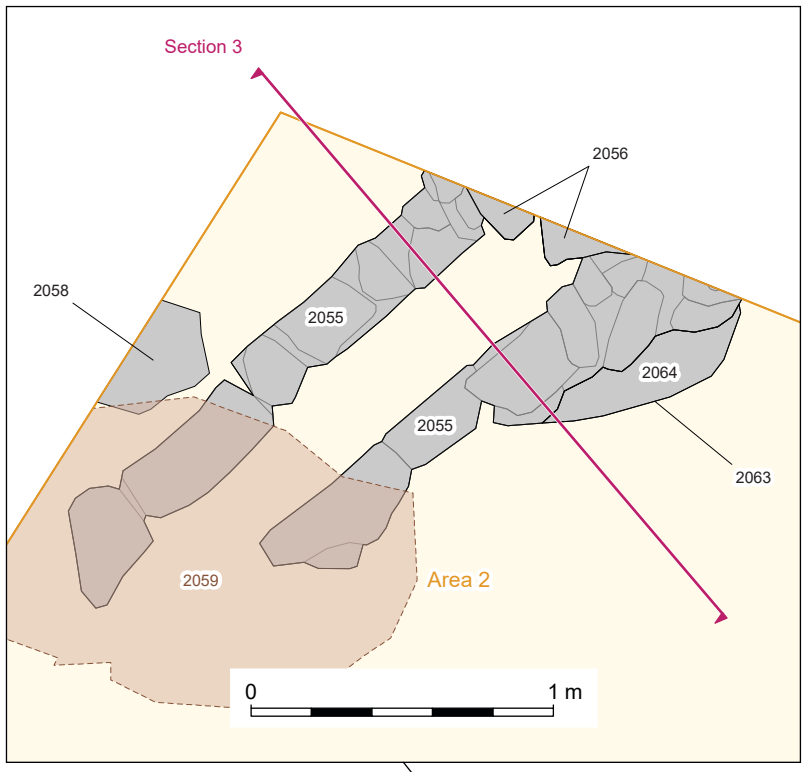
T9

Excavation area
Evaluation trench
Intervention
Archaeology
Romano-British
Uncertain date

0 10 m

Date: 04/10/2023	Created by: CM	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:200 at A3

Figure 2: Detailed plan of excavation Area 1, with archaeological features shown



Date: 27/10/2023	Created by: CM	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:200 at A3

Figure 3: Detailed plan of excavation Area 2, with archaeological features shown

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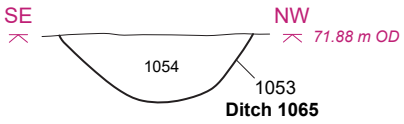
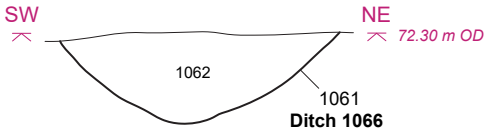
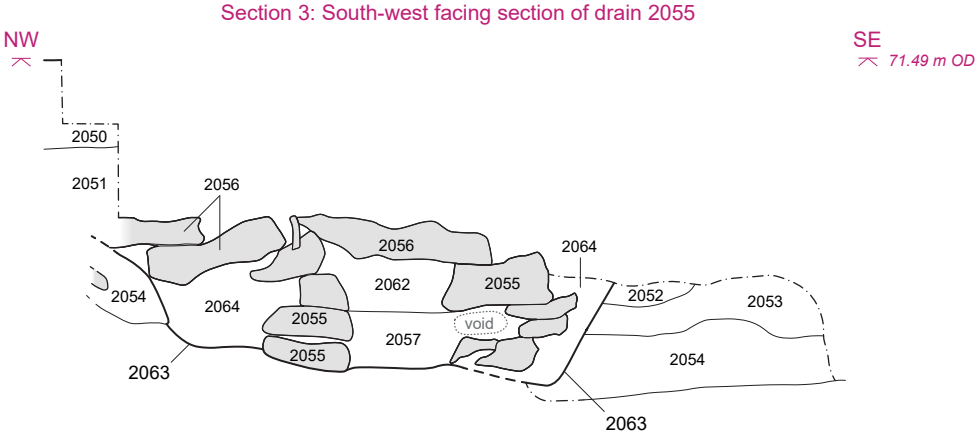
Section 1: North-east facing section of ditch 1065



Section 2: South-east facing section of ditch 1066



Section 3: South-west facing section of drain 2055



Date: 04/10/2023	Created by: CM	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:20 at A4

Figure 4: Sections

Figure 5: South-west facing representative section of Area 1, scale: 1 m

Figure 6: South facing representative section of Area 2, scale: 1 m

Figure 7: North-east facing section of ditch 1065, scale: 0.5 m

Figure 8: South-east facing section of ditch 1066, scale: 0.5 m

Figure 9: Stone trough/coffin 1057 from the south, scale: 1 m

Figure 10: Stone trough/coffin 1057 from the north, scale: 1 m

Figure 11: Stone trough/coffin 1057 from the north-west, scale: 0.5 m

Figure 12: West facing section within 1057, scale: 0.5 m

Figure 13: Close-up of drain 2055 from the south-west, scale: 1 m

Figure 14: Section showing cut of drain 2055 through buried soil 2053, viewed from the south-west, scale 0.5 m

Figure 15: Drain 2055 from the south-west, scale: 2 m

Figure 16: Drain 2055 truncated by modern field drain 2059, view from the south, scale: 1 m

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