

Asda prehistoric

A major development on the south side of the Wye has made some dramatic discoveries about the origins and development of Hereford. This site has produced the earliest evidence for occupation in the city. Work here also discovered the remains of well preserved medieval and Post medieval archaeology. Fieldwork was directed by Dale Rouse. The most significant find was an early Neolithic pit located (0.60m below the surface) at the west end of the site in an area where the gravel level is elevated. A pit near the one that contained the pottery and flint this pit is of a later prehistoric date and contained a lump of burnt clay and a large piece of charcoal. The pit contained a quantity of pottery, flint and a good amount of carbonised material including emmer, hazelnut and apple. The flints from near this find are discussed in Find of the month. The carbon date from the charcoal is between 3800BC-3510BC at the outside. The find could be considered to be rare even in a national context, particularly given the presence of pottery and cereal. Further investigation of the area around this find spot identified a scatter of finds – the distribution of flint is shown here. A small hollow containing a burnt clay slab with a piece of charcoal on top of it was identified. This is also prehistoric in date and appears to relate to the original Neolithic ground surface buried beneath the river silts. The charcoal on top of the buried ground surface could have been the remains of a Neolithic bonfire.