Archaeological assessment of Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester

Victoria Buteux

with contributions by Derek Hurst, Richard Morriss, Elizabeth Pearson and Paul Stamper

Summary

The historic town of Kidderminster was surveyed during the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, a desk-based study of 64 smaller historic town in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Archaeological and documentary evidence relating to the historic core of Kidderminster was carefully analysed, comprising topographic data, published and unpublished archaeological reports, museum collections, primary and secondary historical sources, historical maps, and field data recorded by the project team.

Detailed evidence is provided on the character and layout of the settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods. For each period the available information is analysed and mapped in detail, and a model of the development of the town is proposed. In addition, the evidence for pre-urban occupation is considered, together with evidence of 19th century occupation. All archaeologically-relevant information has been recorded as part of the county Sites and Monuments Record. Specialist assessments of artefacts, ecofacts, standing buildings and documentary souyrces are included. A detailed archaeological research framework has been developed for Kidderminster, which will inform future archaeological investigations as well as management decisions.

The historic core of Kidderminster contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is high potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. Extensive waterlogged deposits have been recorded, which is rare in the region. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence for the post-medieval period, and are judged to have moderate potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are limited in range for the medieval period, but are extensive for the later post-medieval period and consequently the potential for further study is high.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and landuse

The urban area of Kidderminster is located at NGR SO 831 767 in Wyre Forest District. Modern Kidderminster is a large town with extensive 19th and 20th century industrial and domestic development. The historic core of the town has been extensively redeveloped, particularly in the last 40 years, and is now separated from the suburbs by a ring road.

1.2 Topography, geology and soils

Kidderminster lies at a height of between 35m and 50m OD on the west and east banks of the River Stour. The church sits on top of the sandstone cliff overlooking the river. The soils are variable depending on the underlying drift and solid geology. Over river

alluvium, the soils are predominantly deep typical alluvial gley soils of the Conway Association and over glaciofluvial drift, deep, well drained typical brown sands of the Newport 4 Association. On higher ground to the north the soils are also well drained typical brown sands of the Bridgnorth Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Ragg *et al* 1984). The underlying geology consists of Triassic Bunter Sandstone overlain by alluvium and river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey 1:63,560, sheet 182).

1.3 Chronological outline

An Anglo-Saxon minster was founded somewhere in the area in the 8th century (see section 2) but the first documentary reference to Kidderminster is in 1086 when the manor was held by the king. A church, probably on the site of St Mary's Church, is first mentioned in 1175 (VCH 1913).

In the early 13th century the manor came into the hands of the Biset family. In 1241 the manor was divided amongst the three daughters of John Biset. Soon after this one third, including the church, was given to the Prior of Maiden Bradley in Wiltshire and became merged in the Priory's manor of Comberton. By 1385-6 the other two portions, Kidderminster Biset, which included the original manor house, and Kidderminster Burnell were both owned by Sir John Beauchamp. The subsequent ownership of the various parts of the manor is complex and is outlined in the Victoria County History (VCH 1913).

No market or borough charter survive for Kidderminster but the first reference to the grant of a burgage occurs in the early 13th century (VCH 1913). Two references to burgage tenure were recorded in 1254 (Beresford and Finberg 1973) and in 1307 the manor of Kidderminster Biset included sixty three burgesses (VCH 1913, 163). Two representatives of the borough were sent to the Parliament in 1295 but it was not represented again until 1833 (VCH 1913, 163).

The town was situated at an important bridging point of the Stour. This, combined with the industrial potential of the river, meant that the town was in an excellent position for the development of the cloth industry. In 1280 there is reference to a dyer, in 1292 the town contained a fulling mill (VCH 1913, 163) and in 1332 broad and narrow cloth was produced. The growing prosperity of Kidderminster meant that other trades also flourished and in 1414 a glover, a goldsmith and an ironmonger are recorded in the town. Trade disputes occurred between Kidderminster and Bewdley and in the 15th century intervention by the Court of the Marches was necessary (VCH 1913, 164). In 1533-4 an Act of Parliament was passed to protect the cloth industry limiting production to certain towns including Kidderminster.

From about 1600 the main product of Kidderminster was the linen and wool "Kidderminster stuff" largely used for wall-hangings and bed furniture. The town received a charter of incorporation in 1636 and at the beginning of the Civil War had a population of *c* 3500 (Gilbert 1988). Despite, or possibly because of, the presence of the puritan divine Richard Baxter, the population at the outset of the Civil War were largely Royalist. By the end of the Interregnum, however, the town council were solidly Parliamentarian (Gilbert 1988). Shortly after the Restoration the prosperity of the town increased through the completion of the scheme to make the Stour navigable from Stourbridge to Kidderminster. Coal was first brought by water in 1665. By the end of the 17th century, however, the demand for Kidderminster stuff had begun to decline and the output of the Kidderminster clothiers became more diversified (Gilbert 1990, 213-214).

In the 18th century two new industries emerged. The first of these was carpet manufacture. This started around 1735 and produced reversible carpets without a pile. From the 1740s, however manufacturers faced competition from the more durable piled "Brussels" carpets made at Wilton. In response to this in 1749 a factory was set up at Mount Skipet to produce piled carpets and by 1772 there were eleven master carpet weavers in the town and 250 looms. The second new industry developed in the 18th century was silk and

worsted manufacture. Despite the fame of Kidderminster carpets the production of silk and worsted cloth was the major industry in the second half of the 18th century and the great prosperity of the town at that period was due to cloth production.

In 1753 the population of the town had increased to about 4000 and Lord Foley laid out new streets and built 200 houses (Burton 1890; Doharty 1753). By 1773 the population had risen to 5749 although it was noted that the inhabitants of the borough were not very healthy and that "the weavers are generally of sallow, cachetick complexion: stomachic and pulmonary complaints are common among them" (Nash 1799).

The opening of this section of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal in 1772 brought increasing traffic and trade and the 19th century saw the rapid development of economic prosperity and a continued expansion of the carpet industry which become the major industry of the town. In 1801 the population was 6110, but by 1851 this had risen to 20,852 (Burton 1860, 85). The growth in population and the redevelopment of the Kidderminster was such that by the mid 19th century it was noted that "nearly the whole town seems to have been the work of the present century" (Noake 1851, 2). Growth continued after the opening of the railway in 1852 and the adoption of the power loom in the 1860s.

1.4 Placename studies

The earliest recorded form of the placename is *Chideminstre* in 1086. This *Cydda's* or *Cydela's* minster and is taken to refer to the 8th century minster founded by Cyniberht (Mawer and Stenton 1927; Ekwall 1987). Other versions of the name included *Kedeleministre* in 1154, *Kyderemunstre* in 1200, *Kydiminstre* in 1270 and *Kederminster* in 1675 (Mawer and Stenton 1927).

1.5 Syntheses of documentary and archaeological data

The documentary evidence relating to Kidderminster has been summarised by Burton (1890) and the Victoria County History (1913) and important work on documents relating to the Civil War and early carpet industry has been undertaken (Gilbert 1988; Gilbert 1990). An assessment of the documentary and topographical evidence was produced for development control purposes by Hereford and Worcester County Council (Roberts 1984) and more recently an index of archaeological sites was produced for Wyre Forest District Council (Brown 1992). No synthesis of archaeological data has been undertaken.

The present assessment was carried out by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in 1994. The text was revised in March 1995 to incorporate the results of fieldwork undertaken by the Survey (see section 1.7). No information published after December 1994 has been incorporated into this assessment.

1.6 Cartographic sources

The 1753 map of Kidderminster by Doharty, the 1859 Broadfield map and the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map (*Worcestershire sheet VIII.15* (1885)) were used to aid in the identification of remains and the definition of components.

1.7 Archaeological excavations and surveys

Despite the huge amount of redevelopment which has occurred in Kidderminster in the 20th century relatively little archaeological work has been carried out in the town. In the 19th century masonry vaults were uncovered during the construction of the Savings Bank in Hall Street. These were later interpreted as part of the medieval manor house but were filled in without any record being made (HWCM 20719; Burton 1890). A number of watching briefs and small excavations were undertaken by Kidderminster and District Archaeology and History Society during the large scale redevelopment of Kidderminster

town centre from *c* 1959. These provided further evidence of medieval deposits in the Hall Street area at a small excavation between the street and the churchyard (HWCM 19997; Walker 1959) and evidence of medieval deposits at the site of Harvey's Vaults, Swan Street (HWCM 20701; Walker 1968). Medieval and post-medieval deposits were observed along Swan Street and Blackwell Lane (HWCM 20700; Walker 1968) and evidence of post-medieval structures and an 18th century pottery kiln was recovered just to the southwest of the churchyard (HWCM 20781; Walker 1965; Hampton nd).

In 1990 an evaluation prior to development was carried out by HWCAS off Callow Lane and Mill Street. This uncovered deposits of medieval and post-medieval date with associated artefacts and environmental material (HWCM 9814; Hemingway 1990). During fieldwork undertaken for this assessment post-medieval deposits were noted on the north side of Mill Street (HWCM 21464) and on the south side man-made caves, presumably storage and work rooms, were observed cut into the sandstone cliff at the back of the tenement plots (HWCM 21463).

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in October 1994. This identified remains, investigated and revised the extent of components, and recorded 18th and 19th century cellarage and modern developments in the urban area.

1.8 Acknowledgments and personnel

Survey fieldwork was undertaken by Victoria Buteux and Nigel Topping. Analysis and report writing were carried out by Victoria Buteux, and the report was edited by Hal Dalwood.

2 Pre-urban evidence

Aerial photographic evidence suggests that the Stour valley was occupied from prehistory but only two prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from within the area of the modern town. These are a Bronze Age stone axe found during the construction of the Church Street carpet works in the 19th century (HWCM 2082), and the flint blade discovered in a later context during the recent evaluation at Callow Lane (HWCM 9930). A Bronze Age palstave now in the Ashmolean, Oxford, is thought to have come from the Kidderminster area (HWCM 21923). Undated cremation burials (HWCM 20715) were recorded in the 19th century on the site of Dowles Brickyard, possibly that brickyard to the south of the town shown on Broadfield's 1859 map.

Roman coins were discovered beneath the floor of St Mary's Church (HWCM 7485) and at the Three Tuns (High Street) a 4th century coin and quernstones were found (HWCM 20716).

In 736 a grant of land in the province of Usmere was made by Ethelblad, King of Mercia, to his companion Cyniberht to found a monastery (VCH 1913). This land lay on both sides of the River Stour and has been placed by local tradition at Broadwaters to the north of Kidderminster, although its precise location is not known (Roberts 1984). It was certainly included in the land given by Cynibert's son to the Bishop and cathedral church of St Peter, Worcester, later in the 8th century (VCH 1913, 158). Kidderminster was within an early medieval deanery of Worcester and it has been suggested that the very large size of the medieval parish of Kidderminster was a remnant of its former high status and that St Mary's was the site of the Anglo-Saxon minster (Bond 1988). A church, probably on the site of St Mary and All Saints, existed in 1175 and this, with the manorial enclosure to the south could have been the centre of the 11th and 12th century village. There is no documentary or other evidence for a town before the 13th century.

_____

3 Medieval archaeological evidence

3.1 Medieval remains and buildings

Archaeological excavations and watching briefs have demonstrated the survival of medieval buried deposits in Kidderminster. Sandstone foundations associated with medieval deposits and finds dating from the 12th to 16th centuries were recovered from the evaluation trenches at Callow Lane/Mill Street (HWCM 9814; Hemingway 1990). Substantial stone structures had been observed in the Hall Street area during 19th century construction work (HWCM 20719; Burton 1890) and the excavations between Hall Street and the churchyard undertaken in the late 1950s uncovered 12th to 13th century deposits and stone and brick walls up *c* 2.0m in height (HWCM 19997; Walker 1959). Late medieval pottery was observed during a watching brief along Blackwell Street and Swan Street (HWCM 20700; Walker and Hockin 1968) and late medieval to early post-medieval structural remains at Harvey's Vault in the same area (HWCM 2071; Walker 1968).

Only two medieval structures still stand within the area of the medieval town, the medieval cross base in the churchyard (HWCM 7484) and the church of St Mary and All Saints. The church has been described and the sequence of construction interpreted (HWCM 1303; Pevsner 1968; Burton 1890).

3.2 Medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of cartographic and documentary sources indicated the existence of twenty three urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

Churchyard (HWCM 20740). The churchyard lies on high ground to the east of the Stour and contains St Mary and All Saints church and the remains of a medieval cross base. The earliest surviving masonry within the church dates to the 13th century but there is documentary evidence of a church at Kidderminster by 1175 (VCH 1913) and it may date to the Anglo-Saxon period (see Section 2). The extent of the medieval churchyard is not known and this component has been defined using the 18th and 19th century maps of the town (Doharty 1753, Broadfield 1859, and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885) and fieldwork.

Vicarage (HWCM 20714). In 1403 Richard Clifford, Bishop of Worcester, ruled that the vicar of Kidderminster should have a decent residence with a "barn, stable dovecote and another small house with a yard lying along another part of the street opposite the manse and a meadow called Smalemead" (Morris 1989, 227). The location of this residence is not known for certain but the description is similar to that of the late 16th century vicarage. This was situated at the end of Vicar's Lane and included "one little meadow between the Vicaridge Howse and the Stowere and enclosed with the Vicaridge Brook" (Burton 1890, 116). The extent of the medieval vicarage is not known and this component has been defined using Doharty's 1753 map of the area.

Manorial enclosure (HWCM 20718). The manorial enclosure of the manor of Kidderminster was situated to the south of the church. At the division of the manor in 1241 this manor house seems to have been assigned to the manor of Kidderminster Biset. A portion of the hall including the kitchens survived into the post-medieval period and was converted into a carpet factory (VCH 1913, 161). On the 1859 map of Kidderminster the area to the north of Hall Road is called "Old Hall" and in the 19th century the stone cellars of an old building were observed but not investigated on the site of the later Savings Bank (Burton 1980, 48). Deposits interpreted as being associated with the medieval manor were excavated prior to the development of this area in the late 1950s (HWCM 19997; Walker 1959). Hall Street may have originated as an road into the manorial enclosure but the layout of this area of the town was

_____

changed a great deal from the middle 18th century and the exact extent of this component cannot now be determined.

Market place (HWCM 20753). The medieval market place was a rectangular open space at the junction of the main roads to the east of Town Bridge. The Bull Ring may have formed an extension of this area in the later medieval or earlier post-medieval period. A market cross was situated at the west end of the market (HWCM 12876). The main streets of the town also seem to have been used on market and fair days when the burgesses were allowed to set up stalls and tables in front of their houses (Burton 1890, 59).

Street system (HWCM 20752). Kidderminster is situated on the junction of several important routeways crossing the Stour. The roads from Bridgnorth and Bewdley to the west, Stourbridge to the north, Bromsgrove and Redditch to the east and Droitwich and Worcester to the south converge on the market place and must be a major reason for the towns existence. Church Street links the church and manor house with the later town and must be medieval in date. It is possible that Trinity Street represents the route to an early bridge or crossing point of the Stour and that the Bull Ring is a later addition to the street system. Mill Street, Worcester Street and Barn Street are mentioned in the mid-16th century (Burton 1890).

Bridging points (HWCM 20722, HWCM 20767). As suggested above it is possible that the earlier medieval crossing point of the Stour was at the end of Trinity Street (HWCM 20767) and that Town Bridge (HWCM 20722) was built later. There is at present only topographical evidence to support this hypothesis, but at Bewdley there is archaeological evidence of a similar phenomenon. The moving of the bridging point after the street pattern had been laid out was necessary to ensure that traffic through the town was not impeded by the constructon of the new bridge. Remains of the post-medieval town bridge can be observed under the modern road bridge.

Tenement plots (HWCM 17831, HWCM 20712, HWCM 20713, HWCM 20741, HWCM 20742, HWCM 20743, HWCM 20744, HWCM 20745, HWCM 20746, HWCM 20747, HWCM 20748, HWCM 20749, HWCM 20750, HWCM 20754). The great expansion and rebuilding which has taken place in Kidderminster from the middle of the 18th century has meant that reconstructing its medieval form is difficult. The pre-urban centre of occupation was probably on the higher ground next to the church and manorial enclosure. The tenement plots centred on the market place and along Church Street probably represent later development connected with the growth of Kidderminster as an industrial and market centre from the 13th century. Components HWCM 20712, HWCM 20741, HWCM 20742, HWCM 20743, HWCM 20744, and possibly HWCM 20745 form what may have been the core of the 13th century town. They often have rounded boundaries which may be a result of streams such as the Daddle Brook (HWCM 19998) culverted since at least the 18th century (Doharty 1753). The medieval town also includes later planned suburbs along the Worcester Road (HWCM 17831, HWCM 20713) and Mill Street (HWCM 20748, HWCM 20749, HWCM 20750, HWCM 20754). The small area of tenement plots between the Bull Ring and Trinity lane (HWCM 20746) has been interpreted as infill of a second market area (Roberts 1984). It is possible, however, that if Trinity Lane is the original route west over the river (see above) then HWCM 20746 was originally part of HWCM 20742 and HWCM 20747, on the other side of the river, part of HWCM 20748.

Evidence of sandstone buildings has been found in the centre of the town and at the east end of Mill Street (HWCM 9814, HWCM 19997, HWCM 20719, HWCM 20700). It is not certain if these are medieval but stone undercrofts, necessary for the safe storage of cloth and other valuables may have existed on the frontages of at least some tenement plots. At the backs the processes involved in the preparation and production of cloth as well as the other industries of medieval Kidderminster would

have occurred. The excavation at Callow Lane/Mill Street uncovered remains which may have been associated with dyeing (Hemingway 1990).

Open space (HWCM 20761) The medieval function of this area between the churchyard and the tenement plots to the west of Church Street is not clear. It may have been occupied by tenement plots or it may have been part of the churchyard.

Mill (HWCM 20703). Two corn mills in Kidderminster manor are mentioned in Domesday and it is known that the demesne mill, or Great Mill, was burnt down in the 14th century (VCH 1913, 161). Burton (1890, 12) suggested that the 18th and 19th century "Town mill" stood on the site of a medieval mill and that the second was the mill at Mitton. It has also been suggested that a mill or mills stood on the site of the 19th century town hall but it is not clear what evidence there is for this (Berkeley 1934, 29).

3.3 Medieval urban form

Definition and classification. The medieval urban form (HWCM 15000) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the limits of the tenement plots and roads. The available evidence indicates that the medieval urban form of Kidderminster can be classified as a medium sized medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

Survival. Excavations, watching briefs and chance observations have demonstrated that, despite the construction of the carpet factories and associated features in the 19th century, substantial medieval deposits, in some cases as deep as *c* 2 metres survived in Kidderminster until the late 1950's. The amount of archaeological deposits surviving in the areas developed after that period is difficult to assess but the evaluation at Callow Street/Mill Street demonstrated that islands of stratified medieval deposits containing important artefactual and environmental evidence can be preserved (Hemingway 1990). In the few areas where modern development has not removed all visible trace of the historic town, such as the east side of Church Street and in component HWCM 20754 to the north of Mill Street, medieval deposits are likely to have been better preserved and may be very substantial. Waterlogged remains were encountered at Callow Lane/Mill Street and during the watching brief on Blackwell Street and Swan Street (Walker 20700). The low lying situation of the greater part of the historic town suggests that waterlogged remains may have survived in some quantity.

Because of the large scale redevelopment of Kidderminster in the 19th and, particularly, the 20th century the components of the medieval urban form comprising churchyard, tenement plots, market, street system and mill cannot be easily identified and the medieval form is very poorly preserved in the modern townscape.

4 Post-medieval archaeological evidence

4.1 Post-medieval remains and buildings

Archaeological excavations and watching briefs have produced evidence of buried deposits of post-medieval date. The evaluation trenches at Callow Lane/Mill Street uncovered cobbled paths and evidence of timber structures (HWCM 9814; Hemingway 1990). During the watching brief on Blackwell Street and Swan Street the remains of 18th century and earlier cellars were observed with 16th century pottery and tobacco pipes (HWCM 20700; Walker and Hockin 1968) and at Harvey's Vaults in the same area late medieval and early post medieval stone structures were uncovered (HWCM 20701; Walker 1968). Wasters from an 18th century pottery were recovered during a watching brief close to the canal wharf (HWCM 20781; Walker 1965). During fieldwork undertaken

for this assessment post-medieval deposits and artefacts were observed to the north of Mill Street (HWCM 21464)

There is one 16th century listed building (HWCM 16987), one early 17th century listed building (HWCM 16976) and 16 listed 18th century buildings in Kidderminster. The majority of these have not been studied in detail.

4.2 Post-medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of other documentary sources indicated the existence of forty three urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

Churchyard (HWCM 20740). The post-medieval churchyard has been defined using the 18th and 19th century maps of Kidderminster (Doharty 1973, Broadfield 1859, and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885).

Chapels (HWCM 21462, HWCM 20710). The history of non-conformity in Kidderminster dates from the time of Richard Baxter the Puritan divine. In 1641 he was appointed lecturer at Kidderminster in consequence of an agreement between the congregation of St Mary and All Saints and their Vicar, George Dance whom they blamed for "weakness in preaching, drunkenness and turning the table altar-wise" (VCH 1913, 176). The first non-conformist meeting house was founded on Mill Street *c* 1672 but in 1694 a site on the Bull Ring was purchased and a meeting house, referred to as the Old Meeting, was erected (HWCM 20710). In 1782 a breakaway group set up at the New Meeting House on Church Street (HWCM 21462).

Vicarage (HWCM 20714). The site of the medieval vicarage continued in use throughout the medieval period until the 19th century when the town expanded down Vicar Street and the Town Hall was built on the site of the house (Burton 1890, 115). Doharty's map of 1753 shows the vicarage with its meadow and tithe barn just to the north of what was then referred to as Vicars Brook.

Market place (HWCM 12874, HWCM 20762). The rectangular medieval market place with its extension along the Bull Ring (HWCM 12874) continued in use throughout the post-medieval period although it was encroached upon by a Shop Row (HWCM 20761) and the Guild/Market Hall (HWCM 20761). Around 1753 Lord Foley improved and expanded the town and built a market area, The Horsefair (HWCM 12874), at the northeast edge of the town. In the post-medieval period and probably earlier the cattle market was held in the streets (VCH 1913, 167).

Guildhall (HWCM 20706). This building, which also acted as a market hall, was built at the west end of Shop Row in the market place. Its date of construction is not known but it was demolished and rebuilt *c* 1760. The Guildhall also contained the town gaol which was presumably partly underground as it was entered down a flight of six steps (Burton 1890, 80).

Street system (HWCM 20755). Although the medieval street system remained in use new streets were laid out by Lord Foley and the old streets widened and improved. The plans were sufficiently well advanced for them to be mapped by Doharty in 1753. Hall Street and Barn/Dudley Street may have been improvements of existing streets as a Barn Street is mentioned in a will of 1546 (Burton 1890, 68).

Bridging points (HWCM 20722, HWCM 20763). The antiquarian Leland visited Kidderminster *c* 1540 and noted a bridge of two or three arches over the Stour (Burton 1890, 70). This was probably the bridge known as Town Bridge (HWCM 20722) adjoining the Bull Ring and now demolished. Traces of this bridge can still be seen under the modern road bridge. Doharty's map of 1753 also shows a small bridge at the

northern end of Callow Lane which provided a short cut to the Canal Wharf and Churchyard.

Tenement plots (HWCM 17831, HWCM 20712, HWCM 20713, HWCM 20721, HWCM 20725, HWCM 20741, HWCM 20742, HWCM 20743, HWCM 20744, HWCM 20745, HWCM 20746, HWCM 20747, HWCM 20748, HWCM 20749, HWCM 20750, HWCM 20754, HWCM 20756, HWCM 20757, HWCM 20758, HWCM 20759, HWCM 20760, HWCM 20761). The medieval tenement plots continued to be occupied during the post-medieval period but the continued prosperity of the town led to expansion particularly in the mid-18th century when Lord Foley built 200 new houses mainly in the north of the town (HWCM 20725, HWCM 20756, HWCM 20757, HWCM 20758, HWCM 20759). By the reign of Elizabeth, Shop Row had been created within the area of the medieval market (HWCM 20761). The area next to the church to the west of Church Street was occupied by a series of buildings including the mansion of Daniel Dobbins (HWCM 20721), a London merchant who lived in Kidderminster from 1635 and was later High Sheriff of Worcestershire (Gilbert 1988; Burton 1890, 48).

Almshouses (HWCM 12891, HWCM 20709). Edmund Blount's Almshouses (HWCM 20709) were just to the southwest of the churchyard and were founded in 1630. They are shown on Doharty's 1753 map but were probably demolished when the canal wharf was built *c* 1772. Witnell's Almshouses on Church Street (HWCM 12891) were founded by the will of Sir Ralph Clare in 1670 and demolished in the 1960s.

Mill (HWCM 20703). The Town Mill is shown on Doharty's 1753 map with its associated millpond and leats.

Schools (HWCM 20705, HWCM 20720, HWCM 20765). A grammar school existed at Kidderminster by 1578 and was endowed by Edward Blount in 1609. In 1636 Charles I granted it a charter (Burton 1890, 141; VCH 1913, 15). This school may have been held in the chantry of St Mary's Church which was marked "school" on Doharty's 1753 map (HWCM 20705). A further school just outside the churchyard gates (HWCM 20765) was also marked on this map. This may have been part of the Grammar school or some other institution.

In 1657 land was given for a school for the children of godly poor parents and in 1701 Elizabeth Bowyer left property for the same purpose. These two bequests were used to found the Old Meetings School on Orchard Street (HWCM 20720; Burton 1890, 143).

Carpet factories (HWCM 19995, HWCM 20711). Tradition relates that when Kidderminster carpets began to suffer from the competition of the piled "Brussels" carpets made at Wilton, John Broom went to Brussels and Tournai and brought back a skilled weaver to set up production at Mount Skipet in Kidderminster. Recent research, however, suggests that the technique came straight from Wilton and that no Belgian craftsmen were involved (Gilbert 1990). Kidderminster quickly became famous for the manufacture of carpets although until the 19th century they were not the major product of the town (Gilbert 1990). On the 1753 map of Kidderminster (Doharty 1753) there are only two carpet factories marked, on the sandstone cliff at Mount Skipet (HWCM 19995) and in the lowlying area of Pitts Lane and the Sling (HWCM 20711). The former was the first factory in the town and was probably operating from *c* 1749. In the 18th century production of carpets also took place in the houses of weavers or the sheds at the back of their houses (Gilbert 1990).

Pottery factory (HWCM 15271). An 18th century engraving of Kidderminster shows a bottle-oven smoking below St Mary's Church (Nash 1799). There is documentary evidence of a pottery factory operating in this area between about 1778 and 1798 (Hampson nd) and a watching brief during the construction of the ring road in the

1960s observed a dump of wasters and kiln furniture on the site (HWCM 20781; Walker 1965; Hampson nd).

Canal wharf (HWCM 12906). The "Old Wharf" is shown on the 1885 Ordance Survey map of Kidderminster. This wharf was presumably built *c* 1772 and was on the site of Blount's Almshouses (HWCM 20709) and Daniel Dobbins mansion (HWCM 20721).

Open space (HWCM 20764). Doharty's map of 1753 shows this area as a relatively open space between Blount's Almshouses and the pottery, containing the town pound. A watching brief in this area during the construction of the ring road uncovered pre-1753 paving and sandstone cellars (HWCM 20781; Walker 1965).

4.3 Post-medieval urban form

Definition and classification. The post-medieval urban form (HWCM 20766) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the limits of the tenement plots and roads.The available evidence indicates that the post-medieval urban form of Kidderminster can be classified as a medium-sized post-medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

Survival. Excavations, watching briefs and chance observations have demonstrated that, despite the construction of the carpet factories and associated features in the 19th century, substantial post-medieval deposits survived in Kidderminster until the late 1950s. The survival of post-medieval deposits in the areas which were developed after that period is difficult to assess but the evaluation at Callow Street/Mill Street demonstrated that islands of stratified post-medieval deposits containing artefactual and environmental evidence can be preserved (Hemingway 1990). In the few areas where modern development has not removed all visible trace of the historic town, such as the east side of Church Street, post-medieval deposits are likely to have been better preserved and may be very substantial, particularly near to or within the surviving 16th to 18th buildings. On the north side of Mill Street post-medieval deposits of at least 1m depth have been observed. Waterlogged remains were encountered at Callow Lane/Mill Street (HWCM 9814; Hemingway 1990) and during the watching brief on Blackwell Street and Swan Street (HWCM 20700; Walker and Hockin 1968). The low lying situation of the greater part of the historic town suggests that waterlogged remains may have survived in some quantity.

Because of the large-scale redevelopment of Kidderminster in the 19th and 20th centuries the components of the urban form comprising churchyard, tenement plots, market, street system, industrial areas etc cannot be easily identified and the post-medieval form is very poorly preserved in the modern townscape.

5 Post-1800 archaeological evidence

The remit of the present study has not allowed for a detailed survey and assessment of the archaeological evidence relating to Kidderminster in the period from 1800 although this is the period of its greatest prosperity and growth. Further work is required before such an assessment can be carried out. Major archaeological remains have been identified, however, in particular the large number of carpet factories and associated industrial sites operating by the end of the 19th century. There are 24 listed buildings dated to the 19th and 20th centuries within the study area.

6 Specialist assessments

6.1 Assessment of artefactual evidence J D Hurst

The earliest artefacts from the study area are of prehistoric date. These comprise a flint blade (HWCM 9930), a Bronze Age axe-hammer (HWCM 2082), and looped palstave axe (HWCM 21923; Smith 1957, 18). Burial urns (HWCM 20715) of uncertain date were recovered from Dowles Brickyard in the 19th century. A Roman coin and other artefacts were found in the High Street (HWCM 20716) and more Roman coins (HWCM 7485) were found under the floor of St Mary's Church.

An Anglo-Saxon shield boss and medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered from excavations at Caldwell Hall just outside the study area (HWCM 278; Walker 1992, 160, no 16). A wide range of medieval artefacts been have noted from several sites within the town (HWCM 9814, HWCM 19997, HWCM 20700). Post-medieval artefacts have also been recovered, and include the discovery of wasters and kiln furniture (HWCM 20787) from a late 18th century pottery works in the town.

6.2 Assessment of environmental evidence E A Pearson

No samples have been taken for wet-sieving/flotation of environmental archaeological remains during archaeological field work to date in Kidderminster. However, a small amount of environmental material has been observed or hand-collected during fieldwork in the town.

Human burials. Cremations were recovered from Dowles Brick-yard in the 19th century (HWCM 20715; Burton 1890).

Animal bones. A small number of animal bone fragments, including sheep, were recovered from both medieval and post-medieval deposits at Callow End/Mill Street (HWCM 9814). The bone material was generally in poor condition, probably as a result of the acidic soils conditions.

Plant remains. Well preserved plant remains including branches and twigs were present in deep natural deposits and some burnt hazel in medieval deposits at Mill Street/Callow Lane (HWCM 9814).

6.3 Assessment of documentary sources P A Stamper

For Kidderminster there is a very large amount of documentary material, albeit principally of 18th-and 19th-century date. Principal groups of primary sources are listed in section 9. The main secondary sources consulted during this assessment include Burton (1890), Gilbert (1988), Gilbert (1990), Nash (1799), and VCH (1913). Secondary sources identified but not consulted during the assessment includes Gibbons (1799) and Tomkinson and Hall (1975).

6.4 Assessment of buildings R Morriss

Kidderminster's building stock is mainly a mixture of later 19th century industrial buildings and houses, with comprehensive and characterless recent redevelopment in the central area that has taken no account of the town's organic growth. Most of the buildings are of machine-made red brick with large scale use of polychrome brick or stone decoration reserved for the main commercial and industrial buildings. The modern buildings are of concrete and glass, with, more recently, an influx of `heritage' facadism in the form of the pseudo-vernacular.

Despite this, there are architectural traces of an earlier Kidderminster. The best survivals are in Church Street, even though the eponymous church, St Mary and All Saints, has been

brutally divorced from it by the recent Ringway. The street is lined mainly by mid- to late Georgian brick houses typical of those occupied by the more prosperous inhabitants of the town and the uniform quality would suggest that this was a fairly fashionable place to live. Several of the houses, whilst built separately, seem to have been built by the same builders, to the same general design and at the same time, for example 28 and 29 Church Street (HWCM 16981-2). This indicates a fairly comprehensive redevelopment of this street in the second half of the 18th century, probably as part of Lord Foley's expansion and redevelopment of this area of the town (see section 4.2), and early into the 19th century.

One important survival within this essentially Georgian townscape is 12 Church Street (HWCM 16976), an early 17th century timber-framed house with one frontage block aligned parallel to the street and a surviving rear wing that, because of the drop of the land, appears to be very tall, effectively three-and-a-half storeys. The quality of the restored framing on the frontage, whilst not as ornate as contemporary buildings in places such as Bridgnorth or Ludlow, nevertheless indicates a house of some quality and suggests that Church Street was a fashionable street in this period. There is no visible evidence to indicate whether or not the later, Georgian, buildings encase older timber-frames.

There are only fragments of other pre-Victorian streetscapes within the town, for example the 16th century framing of 2-4 Marlborough Street (HWCM 16987) and possible traces of timber framing (in the form of general outline and projecting purlin ends) in an unlisted range, 7 Lower Mill Street (HWCM 22010).

Survey work and analysis. There does not seem to have been any serious academic study made of the buildings of Kidderminster, and no corpus of survey work.

Assessment of the listing details. The list was produced in 1987 and by and large the listing details are good, with only slight problems about whether some buildings are early, mid or late 18th century. Several described as late 18th century may more accurately be described as early 19th, although the generic "late-Georgian" would cover each eventuality and, in architectural terms, be more valid. In general, the later amendments to the list are more comprehensive and more instructive than the original entries. There are a few buildings that should perhaps be listed that are not, but without being able to assess the degree of preservation of original fabric it would be impossible to offer an objective judgement.

7 Archaeological research framework

7.1 Model of urban development

A model of the medieval and post-medieval town of Kidderminster has been produced which is predictive and capable of testing through archaeological investigation. This model has both chronological and spatial (landuse) dimensions (see sections 2 to 5) and is based on an analysis of documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources. The model is derived from the current academic understanding of urban development in Britain, and forms one element of a developing regional research framework. The model is provisional and will be subject to confirmation or revision in the future as new information becomes available, or new studies lead to changing understandings of towns in the region.

7.2 Chronological framework

The documentary evidence indicates that urban occupation commenced by the early 13th century but developed from the nucleus of a medieval rural settlement possibly close to the site of an Anglo-Saxon minster. Kidderminster has been continuously occupied until the present but its period of greatest prosperity and expansion was in the later 18th and 19th centuries. The redevelopment and expansion of the town in the later post-medieval period

has meant that the chronology of its expansion during the medieval and earlier post-medieval period is not well understood. The broad outlines of this chronological framework, therefore, are provisional and require testing through archaeological investigation.

7.3 Urban landuse

The medieval and post-medieval components identified here (sections 3.2 and 4.2) have been mapped and constitute a model of urban landuse for each period. These landuse models are partial and provisional and capable of testing through archaeological investigation.

The medieval and post-medieval urban components of Kidderminster have been archaeologically investigated in the case of the manorial enclosure (HWCM 20718), tenement plots off Blackwell Street and Swan Street (HWCM 20741), Mill Street (HWCM 20748) and the area of the 18th century pottery (HWCM 20781). These have shown that, particularly in the centre of the town, substantial sandstone structures of medieval and post-medieval date survived. Some of these may be the remains of stone undercrofts belonging to wealthy merchants but not enough information is available at present to confirm or deny this supposition. Little is known about the nature and extent of occupation and industry in the various parts of the town and the understanding is hindered by the extensive development of the 18th to 20th centuries. Of particular interest would be the location and structure of industries relating to cloth production which were essential to the prosperity of Kidderminster throughout its history, and those areas of tenement plots that terminate on rivers and streams are likely areas for such water-based industries.

7.4 Potential for survival of buried remains

The buried deposits observed within the area of the manorial enclosure and excavated in tenement plots off Mill Street were between 2.0m and 3.0m deep, and in other areas of the town substantial masonry structures have been observed beneath the Victorian shops and houses. Whilst the extent of destruction of deposits since 1959 is hard to assess at present it is clear that deeply stratified deposits dating to the medieval and post-medieval town are likely to survive in some areas, particularly were they have been protected by standing historic buildings. Any survival of medieval stone structures would be particularly important. The potential of surviving deposits is great particularly in the lowlying areas close to the River Stour where they are likely to be waterlogged. Dated artefactual and environmental assemblages from stratified deposits would provide information on town life, industry and trade and add substantially to the understanding of Kidderminster's importance as a town both in the region and the country.

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in October 1994. The extent of 18th and 19th century cellarage was mapped, together with the extent of 20th century development (new buildings and major landscaping work). This showed that there is moderate observable cellarage along the main streets but very extensive modern redevelopment within the historic core. The extent of, particularly 19th century, cellarage cannot now be estimated because of the massive late 20th century redevelopment of the town but it is likely to have had a considerable destructive effect on earlier deposits.

7.5 Potential of artefactual studies J D Hurst

Some archaeological investigation has been undertaken in Kidderminster, and the extent of surviving artefactual evidence in buried deposits may be assessed. Substantial medieval and post-medieval deposits have survived into the late 20th century despite expansion and redevelopment of Kidderminster in the 19th and 20th centuries. In lowlying areas these are associated with waterlogging, and so artefactual evidence may be exceptionally well preserved.

The central area of modern Kidderminster has been occupied from at least the early 13th century and possibly from the 8th century (see section 1.3). The possibility of continuous occupation over 1200 years, coupled with waterlogged deposits in part of the town, may have produced a situation where artefactual survival is exceptional in the islands of deposits which have survived the ravages of 19th century and 20th century development. What evidence there is suggests that archaeological deposits are thick (see section 7.4) and so the earliest levels may survive even under buildings with substantial foundations

Period discussion. The quantity of prehistoric and Roman artefacts recovered from the town is small. This may be due to lack of fieldwork or represent a real low level of activity in the area during these periods. The Anglo-Saxon shield boss from Caldwell Hall has been interpreted by Walker (HWCM 278; Walker 1992, 159) as an heirloom discarded in the 18th century. Many more artefacts of medieval date have been recorded from the town but many of these come from excavations/observations carried out in the 19th century or in the 1950s and 1960s and they have not been fully reported on.

In general medieval period pottery groups have been of small to medium size (ie under 1000 sherds). Few profiles of vessels have been illustrated and limited quantification and identification of fabrics has taken place. The largest assemblage excavated to date has been from Caldwell Hall just outside the area of the historic town. Vince (1984) has listed the fabrics represented here, but the published report (Walker 1992) does not present a detailed account of the pottery. The presence of Spanish lustre ware and Chinese porcelain is notable, as imported wares of the late medieval and early post-medieval periods have not often been identified in the Severn valley. There was also a wide range of other finds including wooden bowls, metalwork, and ceramic building materials. The wooden bowls preserved by waterlogging are notable as finds of this type have not often been discovered in Worcestershire.

The discovery of the site of a pottery kiln operating in the later 18th century suggests that wares, more often associated with Staffordshire, were also manufactured in other parts of the Midlands (HWCM 20787; Hampson nd). Materials used in the making of pottery in this period were transported up the River Severn, and used, for instance at Worcester, for porcelain making, as well as being sent further north to Staffordshire on the canal system via Bewdley. The manufacture of Staffordshire-type pottery in Kidderminster may, therefore, have benefited from a wider trade in pottery making materials along the Severn valley. Recognition of this Kidderminster site is important for the study of the role of the River Severn, and its associated canals, in the industrialisation of the pottery industry in the West Midlands.

Comparison with documentary evidence. There is considerable documentary evidence for industries and crafts practised in Kidderminster from the 13th century onwards. The manufacture and processing of textiles were prominent throughout, dyeing and fulling being mentioned in the 13th century, and in the later Middle Ages cloth called `Kidderminster stuff' was a major product. In the 18th century silk and worsted were principal products and carpets began to be manufactured. Other medieval industries were gloving and goldsmithing, while in the post-medieval period coopering, cobbling, glove making, and pewter making were recorded.

Several of these industries, and in particular textile manufacture, are not notable for leaving a great deal of readily diagnostic artefactual evidence in the archaeological record. However, the identification of areas associated with these activities would undoubtedly lead to the recognition of specialised artefacts used in some of these industries.

7.6 Potential for environmental remains E A Pearson

As there has been only a small amount of fieldwork carried out in the town, opportunities for recovering biological remains have been limited. The full potential for recovery of environmental remains and research is therefore largely unknown. Good conditions for the preservation of organic material are most likely to be found in alluvial deposits along the

river and in deposits associated with the mill pond and leats. Organic remains may provide information relating to the surrounding environment and to dumped occupational rubbish, particularly where tenement plots are close to the river. Elsewhere in the town where the soils are relatively well drained there is little potential for survival of organic remains. The acidic sandy soils overlying glaciofluvial drift and Sandstone are unlikely to provide good conditions for the preservation of faunal remains such as animal bone and molluscs. Indeed, results of the evaluation at Callow End/Mill Street have shown the animal bone to be poorly preserved.

Environmental remains providing information on the occupation of the town may be recovered from tenement plots, and may contribute significantly to the identification and understanding of industrial activities. For example, there is the potential for the remains of dye plants used in the textile industry to be found in waterlogged deposits in this environment. The medieval Demesne or Great Mill burnt down in the 14th century and the remains of this mill, if found, may have preserved large quantities of charred grain used in the milling process.

Alluvial deposits are of particular interest as they frequently seal rich archaeological landscapes with a high potential for environmental studies (Robinson 1992). Much information can be gained on the changing landscape, not only from the wide range of biological remains frequently preserved, but also from the sediments themselves. Such studies can highlight periods of alluviation which, in many cases, appear to reflect changes in landscape use (particularly clearance and agricultural activity).

As few environmental remains have been recovered from Kidderminster, any environmental material would be of interest. This could provide information on past environment, diet, living conditions and agricultural or industrial economy. Future excavation should include a policy of sampling and wet-sieving deposits in order to recover plant, insect, molluscs and small animal remains in conjunction with hand-collection of larger items. Where appropriate, specialist sampling for soil and pollen analysis may be required.

7.7 Potential for the study of standing buildings R Morriss

There are one or two individual buildings that are worthy of further research as they may be of greater antiquity than is presently thought. The possible timber-framed buildings in Lower Mill Street (HWCM 22010) are one example, and there is also a building in Coventry Road that has a large Flemish gable that could be of 17th century date. An in-depth architectural study of the town would have research potential in its own right, but would be unlikely to shed a great deal of light on Kidderminster's pre 19th century urban development due to the small number of surviving historic buildings.

7.8 Summary of research potential

The historic core of Kidderminster contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is high potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. Extensive waterlogged deposits have been recorded, which is rare in the region. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence for the post-medieval period, and are judged to have moderate potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are limited in range for the medieval period, but are extensive for the later post-medieval period and consequently the potential for further study is high.

8 Management framework

8.1 Urban archaeological area

The mapped extent of the medieval and post-medieval urban forms defined above indicated the extent of the urban area (Kidderminster Urban Archaeological Area).

8.2 Existing protection measures

The archaeological urban area of Kidderminster has been defined above. The different parts of the urban area are afforded different measures of protection through legislation and the planning process. Directly relevant measures are outlined below.

Scheduled ancient monument. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Kidderminster. It is possible, however, that following the current Monument Protection Programme English Heritage may add monuments in Kidderminster to the schedule.

Listed buildings. There are a total of thirty nine buildings listed as of historical or architectural importance within the urban area. Buildings of special architectural or historic interest should receive very special attention. Such buildings are limited in their number and there is a need to protect and preserve them. The presumption when considering applications to demolish or alter is in favour of preservation. This presumption is also likely to preserve archaeological remains beneath and immediately around such buildings from development. It is important that the architectural and archaeological interests are considered together.

The alteration of listed buildings requires the greatest skill and care to avoid damage to historic structures. Specialist architectural advice is given by the County Conservation Architect or through the District's own conservation officer where that District Council has their own specialist staff.

Conservation area A Conservation Area has been defined which includes a small part of the archaeological area (Wyre Forest District Local Plan. Written statement and proposals map: deposit plan (1993)).

8.3 Management approach

The archaeological urban area of Kidderminster contains earthworks and buried remains relating to medieval and post-medieval occupation, associated with contemporary buildings. The buried remains vary in complexity and depth, and demonstrably contain significant archaeological information. It is desirable that any proposed development within the urban area that has a potential impact on earthworks or buried remains should be assessed by the appropriate archaeological body.

The course of action recommended will depend upon the nature of the development and current planning legislation and frameworks. The archaeological response will be based on both the archaeological information summarised in this document and any subsequent archaeological information recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record.

9 Principal groups of primary sources compiled by P A Stamper

(WRO: St Helen's Record Office, Worcester)

WRO BA 10470 The main collection for Kidderminster, comprising *c* 20,000 deeds, diaries, letters, accounts, estate papers, valuations, rate and minute books, business papers etc., concerning the town and the surrounding area. This collection was formerly at Kidderminster Public Library. Most of it is of the 17th and especially 18th and 19th centuries.

WRO BA 4766 From the parish records of St Mary and All Saints'. About 2,200 deeds, accounts, minute books etc for the borough and foreign of Kidderminster. Mainly 18th century and later. Includes *c* 500 examinations etc 1700-1839; *c* 300 apprenticeship indentures 1674-1839; miscellaneous poor papers.

WRO BA 8426 Parish records of St Mary and All Saints'. Registers from 1539 onwards.

WRO BA 1572 Tithe map and apportionment for Kidderminster borough

10 References

Anon 1973 *Report on research: Kidderminster and District Archaeology and History Society, Industrial History Research Group,* unpublished typescript, (copy in HWCC SMR parish file)

Berkeley, M, 1925 Some old Worcestershire inns, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc*, 2 ser, **2**, 102

Berkeley, M, 1934 Old Worcestershire water mills, *Trans Worcestershire Arch Soc*, 2 ser, **11**, 14-32

Beresford, M, and Finberg, H, 1973 *English medieval boroughs: a handlist*

Bond, C J, 1988 Church and parish in Norman Worcestershire, in *Minsters and parish churches: the local church in transition 950-1200,* (ed J Blair), Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph **17**, 119-158

Broadfield, J, 1859 *Plan of the town of Kidderminster*

Brown, D L, 1992 *Archaeology and planning in Wyre Forest District,* HWCC County Archaeological Service internal report, **117**

Burton, J R, 1890 *A history of Kidderminster*

Doharty, J, 1753 *An exact plan of Kidderminster* (reproduced in Burton 1890)

English Heritage 1992 *Monument evaluation manual, part 4: urban areas,* **2**

Gibbons, B, 1859 *A history of Kidderminster*

Gilbert, C D, 1988 Kidderminster at the outbreak of the English Civil War, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc*, 3 ser, **11**, 35-50

Gilbert, C D, 1990 Kidderminster's early carpet industry, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc*, 3 ser, **12**, 213-223

Gwilliam, H W, 1980 *Forges, furnaces and mills on the river Stour*, unpublished typescript (copy in HWCC SMR)

Edwards, R, 1990 *Evaluation at the Fire Station, Kidderminster, HWCM 278,* HWCC County Archaeology Service internal report, **42**

Ekwall, E, 1987 *The concise Oxford dictionary of English place-names*, Oxford, 4 edn

Hampson nd *Kidderminster pottery*, unpublished typescript (copy in HWCC SMR)

Hemingway, J, 1990 *Evaluation at Callow Lane, Mill Street, Kidderminster,* HWCC County Archaeology Service internal report, **50**

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

Morris, R, 1989 *Churches in the landscape*

Nash, T, 1799 *Collections for the history of Worcestershire*, **2**, 34-62

Noake, J, 1851 *The rambler: or stray notes on churches and congregations*, **2**, 1-21

Perrett, A J, 1942 The Blounts of Kidderminster, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc,* 2 ser **19**, 10-18

Pevsner, N, 1968 *The buildings of England: Worcestershire*

Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England,* Soils Survey of England and Wales, **12**

Roberts, J, 1984 *Archaeology in Kidderminster*, HWCC County Archaeological Service internal report

Robinson, M, 1992 Environment, archaeology and alluvium on the river gravels of the South Midlands, in *Alluvial archaeology in Britain*, (ed S Needham and M G Macklin), Oxbow Monographs **27**

Smith, C N S, 1957 A catalogue of the prehistoric finds from Worcestershire, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc,* 2 ser, **34**, 1-27

Thorn, F, and Thorn, C (eds), 1982 *Domesday Book: Worcestershire,* Chichester

Tomkinson, K, and Hall, G, 1975 *Kidderminster since 1800*

VCH 1913 *The Victoria County History of the County of Worcestershire*, **3**

Vince, A G, 1984 The use of petrology in the study of medieval ceramics: case studies from southern England, *Medieval Ceramics*, **8**, 31-45

Walker, C I, 1959 Kidderminster, *West Midlands Archaeol*, **2**, 5

Walker, C I, 1965 Kidderminster Ring Road, *West Midlands Archaeol*, **8**, 10

Walker, C I, 1974-75 Kidderminster, Radford Avenue, *Worcestershire Archaeol Newsletter* , **15**, 14

Walker, C I, 1968 Harvey's Vault, Kidderminster, *Worcestershire Archaeol Newsletter* , **2**, 11

Walker, C I, 1990 Excavations at Caldwell Hall, Kidderminster, *Trans Worcestershire Archaeol Soc*, 3 ser, **13**, 135-165

Walker, C I, and Hockin, J C, 1968 Harvey's Vault, Kidderminster, *West Midlands Archaeol*, **11**, 25

11 Mapping

The illustrations for this report comprise CAD plots of the urban components for each period and a location plot of archaeological remains combined with OS digital map data (1995) at 1:5000. These plots are current at the date of the completion of this report (March 1995). After this date new information will be held by the Hereford and Worcester County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

* Historic buildings (listed and other recorded buildings) and urban area
* Archaeological remains and urban area
* Medieval urban form and components
* Post-medieval urban form and components
* Observed cellarage and 20th century development
* Urban area and scheduled ancient monuments