

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF DURING  
ALTERATIONS TO ENTRANCE GATES AT  
SPRINGFIELD LODGE,  
BRITANNIA SQUARE,  
WORCESTER

WCM 101952



**Mike Napthan Archaeology**  
3 Hamilton Road, Worcester, WR5 1AG [mikenapthanarchaeology@o2.co.uk](mailto:mikenapthanarchaeology@o2.co.uk)

# Archaeological watching brief during alterations to entrance gates at Springfield Lodge, Britannia Square, Worcester WCM 101952

Mike Napthan MIFA  
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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Mike Napthan Archaeology at Springfield Lodge, Britannia Square, Worcester in July-November 2012 during minor groundworks associated with remodelling of the late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century southern entrance gates and construction of a pedestrian footway. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has previously produced evidence of a substantial Roman masonry building to the north-east of the current investigation. The Roman assemblage recovered by the present project consisted only of a single fragment of what may just possibly be a lydion or pilae (Roman brick) but has only one face, restricting identification. The observed works were all fairly shallow in nature, including stripping of topsoil for the new path, the excavation of cable trenches and small pits dug for fence posts and bollards. No significant features or deposits were identified.*

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Mike Napthan Archaeology during groundworks at the Royal Grammar School, Springfield, Britannia Square Worcester (SO 8460 5560 ; Fig 1). The ground works consisted of the mechanical and hand excavation of shallow cable trenches and the creation of a new hard surfaced pathway between the southern gate and the school building. The relevant planning application reference numbers were P12D0227, L12D0038 – SAM consent was granted by English Heritage and the archaeological mitigation statement approved by email 21 August 2012). The project was based upon a brief (12/7 issued 18th July 2012 ) supplied by the City Archaeological Officer. The work was undertaken on behalf of the RGAO School (the Client) and has been arranged through their architects Lett+Sweetland.
- 2.2 The site is occupied by the junior department of RGS AO School. The works were primarily related to the insertion of a new replica pedestrian gate on the western side of the driveway in imitation of the existing pedestrian gate to the east, which is to be sealed up for safety reasons. The existing vehicular gates are electronically controlled and the present project involved some alterations to the existing cabling so that all three gates may now be operated from within the building. To serve the new gate a new pathway was created to the west of the existing drive. For safety reasons a wooden fence was also constructed between the new pathway and the existing drive. Bollards have been placed in the outer part of the entrance way to prevent unauthorised parking. The project design was prepared in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines) issued by English Heritage.
- 2.3 The present investigation of the site is registered on the Worcester City Sites and Monuments record as WCM101952. The site has previously been the subject of numerous archaeological interventions relating to a probable Roman building, WCM 96391. The present project occurred within WCM 93837 (open space) and adjacent to the early 19<sup>th</sup> C Springfield Lodge (WCM 80309). The site lies in the Historic core of Worcester City (Archaeologically Sensitive Area No 18) and the Britannia Square Conservation Area. The grounds of Springfield Lodge are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Here and Worc 343e), and the building is Listed Grade II

### 3 Aims

- 3.1 The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site. These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
  - ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site; iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.
  - iv) to address the following research objectives;
    - the character and dating of any pre-Roman activity, including any evidence for pre-Roman origins of occupation in the area
    - the extent, nature and dating of Roman activity
    - the character and dating of any post-Roman activity associated with the identified occupation site

### 4 Archaeological background

- 4.1 Britannia Square (Fig 1) lies on the northern edge of the known Roman settlement area at Worcester. The present site lies within one of the very few Worcester properties which has historically produced any significant indications of Roman masonry buildings. The nature and extent of the Roman remains in this part of the City has always been unclear, despite several recorded observations. The earliest observation of archaeological deposits in the area was made during construction of Springfield Lodge in 1829. The finds were reported thus - *'In the year 1829, upon excavations being made to lay the basement of the house in the centre of Britannia Square, in Worcester, the foundation of a circular tower or fort of sandstone was found, about thirty feet in diameter; while in the rubbish, upwards of fifty Roman copper coins were discovered, some of Constantius, others of Constantine the Great, Decentius, Claudius Gothicus, and Magnentius; but the greater part too decayed to be deciphered... Harvey Berrow Tymbs. Esq. presented these coins to the Museum of the Worcestershire Natural History Society'* (WCM 100327; Allies 1852, p1-2).
- 4.2 Further artefactual evidence for Roman occupation and masonry buildings was found immediately to the south of Britannia Square during the construction of the Moor Street flats in 1960 including various coloured tesserae, flue and roof tiles associated with worked red sandstone blocks. The trench in which the finds were located was 5ft deep and cut natural sand at 4ft (WCM 00082; Russell 1960). Subsequent work during drainage works at Moor Street (Napthan 1999; WCM100560) produced a significant assemblage of building materials derived from one or more substantial Roman masonry buildings in the immediate vicinity. The range of pottery and presence of re-used materials bearing Roman mortar on broken faces suggested that more than one phase of construction was undertaken, as did the variety in type, profile and fabric of tile recovered. Cut stone slabs (both locally and regionally imported) together with evidence of tessellated floors and hypocaust systems suggested buildings of moderate sophistication and apparent status. Nothing was found which would point towards public buildings or a villa, however the remains would be in keeping with a better quality town-house. The paucity of pottery was notable, and suggested that the Roman waste disposal areas lay beyond the immediate vicinity of the building or buildings in the Moor Street/Back Lane South area. Roman stratigraphy was demonstrated to survive within 0.5m of current ground levels despite lying in what appears to have been the most heavily disturbed area of the site. The nature of the finds recovered suggested that the Roman buildings were only partially robbed for materials. Indications that the buildings were not completely robbed for building material may be gleaned by the relatively balanced proportion of *tegula* to *imbrex* recovered (the flat *tegula* may be readily re-used for walling or flooring, whereas *imbrex*, being curved, have limited secondary uses). The comparatively low levels of *tesserae* recovered may indicate that floors could have been left in situ when the walls were demolished or robbed of stone. Having little secondary use in the post-Roman period *tesserae* were habitually discarded in vast numbers where mediaeval or later stone-robbers broke up hypocaust systems to recover the more useful *pilae* and *lydion*.
- 4.3 Modern archaeological interventions within the present property have produced some indications of the presence of Roman masonry structures, albeit the observations have been very restricted in scale. The earliest of these interventions (WCM100328; Napthan 1992) produced a short length of masonry, possibly aligned north-south, and a number of building material fragments including *tegulae* (flat roof tiles) box tiles (either from heating flues or vaults) and *opus signinum* (Roman waterproof mortar). A

further intervention during building works on the site in 1993 produced further Roman building material and another possible section of *insitu* sandstone foundation (WCM100329; Napthan 2003). Within the Springfield site boundary a small excavation of pits for a play trail found little of note other than low densities of residual Roman pottery (WCM101192; Napthan 2003b). Similar results were produced by a watching brief undertaken during tree-planting (WCM101281; Crawford and Miller 2005). Groundworks associated with an electricity cable trench and other works in the southern and eastern part of the site produced minor assemblages of Roman pottery and building materials in 2009 (WCM 101763; Napthan 2009). Roman walling was seen at No. 15 Britannia Square in 2010 during construction work (WCM 101854). A watching brief at 17 Britannia Square in 1999 had produced more clear evidence of *in situ* structural remains and fragments of a fine polychrome mosaic (WCM 100586 — James Dinn pers com). There is believed to be a surviving *in situ* fragment of this or another mosaic observed and re-buried by builders working in the immediate vicinity of this site in the 1960s (WCM 101178). An observation of deep excavations at No. 18 produced only evidence of deep truncation (WCM101821). A nearby intervention at No 20 Britannia Square (WCM100559) in 1999 produced no evidence of Roman remains. Negative results were also reported from small interventions at 31-33 Britannia Square (WCM 100665), 2 Britannia Square (WCM101248) 4 Britannia Square (WCM101322) and at 14 Britannia Square (WCM 100666).

- 4.4 Immediately to the east of the Moor Street flats a Roman ditch was located at Reas Timber Yard (WCM 100813; Wichbold 1990). Near total truncation of pre-19<sup>th</sup> C deposits has been recently observed at 30-32 Loves Grove (WCM 101042; Napthan 2003), and other observations (eg WCM 100225; Lockett, Napthan and Jones 2001) suggest that the depth of significant deposits surviving fades away to the south west of the present site. Roman remains have also been noted to be noticeably absent east of the Tything and along Barbourne (Napthan 1993a). Recent work on the back-plots between the Tything and Britannia Road has identified medieval and post medieval occupation, but only low levels of residual Roman material (Napthan 2003, WCM101056).
- 4.5 The site lies in an area believed to have remained undeveloped in the post-Roman or mediaeval periods, though the presence of a late Saxon (Stamford Ware) sherd was recorded during a watching brief at Springfield in 1993 (WCM100326; Napthan 1993b), suggesting that the site was not completely abandoned. A Roman road was once postulated as leading north from Blackfriars along the approximate line of the Tything and Barbourne, largely on the basis of slag surfaces seen at Blackfriars and Loves Grove (WCM100184; Edwards 1990) though subsequent observations along the road line have all been negative (eg Napthan, 1993a, in the Butts (WCM101173; Napthan 2003 and WCM 101109; Napthan 2004). Similar negative sightings are reported from Farrier Street (WCM 100182: Crawford- in preparation and WCM 101709: Napthan 2009). No sign of a road was seen during recent evaluation and watching briefs at 52 and 53 Tything WCM101514; Napthan 2007, and Napthan 2008), and the relative absence of residual slag on these sites is significant negative evidence.
- 4.6 During the later medieval period this land was part of Pound Farm in the Tithing of the White Ladies Convent and stood in the Bishop's Manor of Claines. It was presumably its location in the nearest green-field site on the approaches to Worcester market, which lead to the land becoming stock pounds. There must have been a convenient water supply for the impounded stock and it is possible that this was the origin of the appellation "Springfield", though no springs are now apparent.
- 4.7 By the eighteenth century, the land (comprising of the Second and Middle Pound fields) was owned by the Bishop of Worcester, but held by a leaseholder. In the early eighteenth century, Pound Farm was leased to Richard Meadowcourt, Prebendary of Worcester Cathedral. Evidently he was in favour with the Bishop as he was permitted to bequeath the lease, (which was normally held only for a lifetime before reverting to the freeholder). Meadowcourt wrote his will in 1756 and he left Pound Farm to Anne Ingram of Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London. She purchased the remainder of the land (First Pound Field), in February 1780. Anne Ingram ran the farm as an absentee landlady, though she had family connections in Worcester. Anne bequeathed the land to Richard Ingram, who inherited it in August 1792.
- 4.8 Pound Farm proved a highly suitable area for a typical late Georgian speculative land development scheme. Well drained level ground it was ideally located on the principle route into the city, "*a few minutes walk from the houses of business*", yet located on a rise upwind of the industrial areas and enjoying open views of the Severn valley. Ingrams evidently decided to realize this asset and put the land up for sale. An auction was held at the Hop-Pole Inn on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1807. The land was divided into six lots. The purchasers were Robert Goulding (lot 1, £1260), Richard Barneby (lot 2, £1360), Thomas

Woodyatt (lot 3, Middle Pound Field £1700), lots 4, 5 and 6 failed to reach “reserve” prices and were “bought in” by Ingram. William Handy was both the auctioneer and Ingram’s agent, and he purchased, for his own benefit, lots 3 and 4 after the sale. Lots 5 and 6 were later sold to Mr. Barneby and Archibald Duncan respectively.

- 4.9 William Handy seems to have been the prime mover behind the subsequent development of the land. On February 10th, 1810, the purchasers collectively applied to the Bishop to have the “lives” of additional leasees added to the original agreement. The three new lives added in 1810 were Edmund Lechmere, George Skinner and Samuel Redding. It is probable that the new leasees brought in new capital. Certainly by September 1810, Bishop Folliot was applying to the High Court of Chancery and instituted a petition to the commissioners for his Majesties Letters Patent to redeem the land tax due on the property. Freed of the land tax, Handy and his partner William Higgs bought the freehold of the property. Handy immediately began to build on his portion of the property, and this house was completed by October, 1815 (*it has not been possible to identify this house. with certainty but it must have been one of the five houses on the eastern side of the square present in 1822*). As was usual at this period, Handy had borrowed money to finance this development, and to repay the loan he sold off the majority of the land at an auction on September 8th, 1817.
- 4.10 Handy established the tone of the development by instituting a covenant in the contracts of sale, requiring that “the houses be plastered with Roman cement (stucco), and roofed with slate”. In return for this commitment by the purchasers, who naturally wanted to retain the green outlook across the square, Handy agreed “*that he would not cause to be built upon the piece or parcel of land retained by him, in the centre of the land so sold and disposed of by him more than two messuages or dwelling houses, which should be in the centre of the land so retained*”. The development of Britannia Square itself proceeded rather slowly. Samuel Mainley’s map of 1822 shows just five houses. An additional fourteen buildings were added by 1828, as indicated on a revised map by C H Chrisp in 1828. Springfield was not one of these early buildings, and does not appear on a map before 1829. By 1840 the square was almost fully developed though some infill occurred later in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- 4.11 Mr. Harvey Berrow Tymbs (the first recorded occupant of the house) was apparently the person who commissioned its design and construction, its size befitting his status as a gentleman and landed proprietor of the local newspaper. That Springfield Lodge was built to impress is apparent both externally and internally. The house is built in the Late Georgian tradition, with a simple and well proportioned facade with discrete classical references. The four pilasters on the principal facade, are in a broadly classical tradition and support the bulk of the roof, whilst themselves being supported on the ground floor facade of segmental arches. There was originally an ornate covered ironwork veranda along the full length of the front elevation. The interior of the house is equally a product of the classical revival. Classical references are, as with the exterior, muted and debased., the styling a provincial reinterpretation of classical themes.
- 4.12 The earliest known detailed description of the house and grounds is an advertisement of March 1865: ***GENTLEMANLY RESIDENCE and 4 acres of LAND, SPRINGFIELD LODGE, centre of BRITANNIA SQUARE, WORCESTER, TO BE SOLD, The Property of DR MAXWELL, who is going to reside abroad.***
- THE HOUSE is most substantially built standing in its own grounds, which are tastefully laid out as lawns, shrubberies, Walled-in kitchen garden, well stocked with fruit trees, &c.; flower garden, conservatory, &c ; and contains, on the ground floor, Large entrance hail, Dining Room, 20 ft, by 17 ft. ; Drawing room, 20 ft, by 17 ft; Library, 20 ft 3in by 16 ft 3in; Breakfast Room 14ft by 12 ft; Butlers Pantry, Kitchen, Laundry, Back Hall, Water Closet. First Floor - Landing, 10ft by 11ft ; three best bedrooms, all 20ft by 17ft; dressing ditto and small bedroom, capital water closet, handsome principal staircase of oak and spacious back ditto. Second floor - Three large Bed Rooms, one small Ditto, China Closet, and small Spare Room. All the Bed Rooms have Fireplaces and large closets, fitted up ; abundant supply of both Well, River and Rain Water; splendid Drainage; large and very dry Cellars under the whole of the house; Backyard, Tool-house, and Servants’ Water Closet; large Washhouse, &c.*
- The Property is bounded by the Main Road, with the gardens of the houses surrounding, which road is well lighted with Gas; Hedges, Oak palings, and a belt of ornamental timber of 40 years’ growth, encompasses the whole. It is in thorough*

*repair, every part inside having been fresh painted, papered and Ceilings Coloured. It is Freehold, with land tax redeemed, and combines all the advantages of both Town and Country, being only ten minutes' walk from the centre of the Town or the Railway Station: a small Property possessing so many advantages and so compact is rarely met with.*

*The lowest Price is £4,000, including all Fixtures, except Blinds. The FURNITURE, some of which is handsome, is offered for £300. There are two paddocks of about an Acre each. The subsoil is gravel.*

*Applications to be made to the Owner on the Premises, which can be seen any day, except Sunday, from 10 to 12. The Property is rated at £113, and the Taxes amount to about £35 yearly.*

(Berrows Worcester Journal, Saturday March 18th 1865)

- 4.13 Dr Maxwell did not, in the event, sell at this time, and the house was sold at auction three years later to Edmund Lechmere-Pugh a solicitor, and it remained in his family until the 1880s, subsequently the house ceased to be a private residence and was a boarding house by 1890. Alterations were made to the house and domestic range shortly after this date, and it became associated with Worcester High School for Girls (subsequently The Alice Ottley School and now the Royal Grammar School), as a boarding house. Other than a brief use as a maternity home during the 2nd World War the property has been occupied by the school for various purposes ever since. It presently houses the junior school.

## 5 Methodology

- 5.1 The cable trenches and post-pits for fencing and bollards were excavated both by hand and mechanically by the ground work contractors and all excavations were monitored by the archaeologist. A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during all machine excavation and all hand excavated areas were monitored during or immediately after completion of excavation. Very little of the excavation was of sufficient depth to encounter deposits below cultivated/topsoil horizons. The depth of excavation is indicated on Fig xxx. The main area of deep excavation was a cable trench across the line of the existing driveway. This was the only area in which deposits potentially of archaeological interest were seen. The remaining interventions were generally insufficiently deep to have any impact on any archaeologically significant horizons that may be present in this area.
- 5.2 All site recording was undertaken in accordance with the Excavation Manual (Technical Manual 3). Plans were drawn at 1:100/1:50 and local "sample" sections were drawn of the trenches and 1:20. In the absence of significant observed deposits the excavated trenches and post pits were recorded photographically.
- 5.3 All hand retrieved artefacts were examined, pottery was identified, quantified and dated to period. The comparatively small assemblage of late 19<sup>th</sup>-modern pottery and flower pot was spotdated and discarded on site. 19<sup>th</sup> C to modern building materials were also present in relatively low densities and were not retained. The only retained find was a single fragment (95g) of possible Roman brick/tile. The fragment has a single face and is from a tile/brick at least 25mm thick. Only the density and colour of the ceramic is suggestive of Roman building material. The object was recovered from topsoil.
- 5.4 The background research for this project was largely based on an unpublished illustrated typescript building survey and research commissioned by the former headmistress of Springfield (then part of the Alice Ottley School) in 1992 (Napthan and Smith 1992; WCM 100601). An HER search was undertaken to update the description of recorded archaeological interventions previously compiled in 2009 (Napthan 2009).

## 6 Results

### 6.1 Natural deposits

No natural deposits were encountered during the present project, though patches of redeposited light yellowish brown sand were visible close to surface levels at the northern end of the new pathway, and these may reflect some deeper disturbance into the underlying natural at or near this point. A previous archaeological intervention (Miller and Crawford 2005) identified some potential exploitation of the natural gravel resources on the edge of the property, and it is possible that the presence of sand at high level (at a depth of between 0.2 and 0.4m) derives from localised gravel extraction.

## 6.2 *Sub-soil deposits*

A fairly homogenous light greyish brown gravelly sandy loam was present at the base of the cultivated soils/topsoils along most of area stripped for the path (stripped generally to a depth of 150mm) and gate control cable trenches, the exceptions being areas where the topsoil was deeper than the trenching. The subsoil was not widely exposed, but appeared to be largely free of manmade material and ecofacts.

## 6.3 *Possible Cut features*

Only two areas showed indications of the possibility of underlying cut features. The first was as described in para 6.1 above an area of sand intermixed with the topsoil approximately 8-10m from the building at the northern end of the new pathway. The second possible feature was an area of deeper topsoil intermixed with sandstone rubble and occasional brick fragments underlying the western edge of the driveway immediately within the gates (Fig 2). The darker loamy soils appeared to extend to a depth of at least 0.7m (Fig 4), and were overlaid by a spread of crushed and broken sandstone rubble (no evidence of shaped or ashlar stone was seen). As the cable trench was insufficiently deep to expose the full profile of the feature it was not possible to interpret its form or plan. The upper part of the fill contained occasional 19<sup>th</sup> C brick fragments, and it would appear likely that the sandstone rubble represents the make-up layer for the 19<sup>th</sup> C carriage entrance at this point. The deeper cut feature may possibly relate to the removed piers of the earlier gateway, but this appears unlikely as there was no evidence of a former pier base.

## 6.4 *Gateway structure*

6.4.1 Detailed analysis and recording of the existing gateway and railings lay outside the scope of the present project, but it is clear from casual observation that the existing entrance gates and pallsiding represent an amalgamation of fabric of more than one period, the gate arrangement had also clearly been altered more than once in the past, the last remodelling in relatively recent times. The earliest components of the gateway are possibly the narrow cast iron flanking panels. These could just possibly be contemporary with the construction of the house (circa 1829-30). These panels show signs of cut off fixings and rebates for removed restraining braces which do not relate to the existing arrangements. The bars of the pallsiding are also of cast iron, but the horizontal members appear to be mild steel, and therefore secondary. The pallsiding has, at least in part, been reset into the stone slabs of the dwarf wall, and the present assembly incorporates modern hex-head nuts and bolts. It may be suspected that the pallsiding has been either replaced or extensively renovated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, though the design of the terminals is compatible with a mid 19<sup>th</sup> C date. The three existing cast gateposts initially appear to be of a common design and period, but on close inspection they are not a precisely matched set. The present author recalls that in the early 1990s one of the two eastern posts had been substituted with a painted wooden dummy (possibly a wooden casting pattern), and so it would appear that at least one post is a well-made replica or replacement. The gates carry the makers plate of Bayliss, Jones and Bayliss Ltd. This Wolverhampton manufacturer traded under this name from 1859-1968 at the Victoria Works, Monmore Green, Wolverhampton. The Bayliss Company had traded from Cable Street, Wolverhampton since 1826, but Jones did not join the firm until 1859 (source:<http://www.localhistory.scit.wlv.ac.uk/Museum/metalware/general/baylissjb.htm> accessed 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2012), so that the present gates clearly cannot be contemporary with the house. The main gate design, of cruciform section wrought iron, with wrought swags appears to be of early 20<sup>th</sup> style, though such gate designs remained in manufacturer's catalogues well into the 1930s. It may be possible to track down the order as the manufacturer's order books survive in Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies amongst the GKN Archive ref DB-25/3 1880-1967 (GKN took over the company in 1920) – such detailed research lies beyond the scope of the present project.

6.4.2 It is noteworthy that the westernmost post was fitted with a catch plate for a pedestrian gate, despite there being no below-ground evidence for a gate ever having been previously placed on this side. It is therefore possible that the posts and gates were re-used from elsewhere. The stone slab of the dwarf-wall immediately to the west of the carriage gates had clearly been re-set, but there was no corresponding break in the pallsiding, and no sign of a hole for the putative former gate post-setting in the underlying brick foundation. It would appear possible that the driveway was widened in the 20<sup>th</sup> C to accommodate motor traffic and that the present gates were installed at that time. During the present project a new pedestrian gateway has been created west of the carriage drive, and the replica pedestrian gate and fabricated mild steel post add to the complex development history of the present entrance.

## 6.5 *Deposits in area outside gates*

Six small holes were excavated for the insertion of removable bollards in the tarmaced area outside the main gates. The deposits here consisted of 0.1-0.15m of brick rubble/concrete rubble and roadstone base for the tarmac, overlying a compacted layer of mid brown sandy loam with occasional brick rubble and gravel. The holes for the bollards were all approximately 0.5m deep and circa 0.45m in diameter. A small number of artefacts (all later 19<sup>th</sup> C-modern pottery except one undiagnostic piece of common roof tile) were recovered by the groundworkers. These artefacts were assessed, but not retained.

#### 6.5 *Topsoil/turf*

The majority of the excavated material was a mid grey brown sandy loam with moderate gravel. The material had been cultivated and disturbed in recent times (it is known that much of the site was cultivated for food production during the Second World War) and contained a very low density of artefacts of primarily 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C dates. The low density of artefacts is very broadly comparable with previous archaeological interventions in this part of the site, but in the present intervention the paucity of artefacts in the topsoil was even more marked than in the 2009 interventions.

### 7 **Discussion and conclusions**

7.1 There was very little revealed in the present project that would be indicative of the presence of Roman habitation in the immediate vicinity. Whilst some sandstone rubble was noted in the area of the carriage drive close to the gates this stone did not appear to have any historical significance, being apparently part of the make-up of the drive. It is possible that the sandstone derived from the building foundations removed in 1829, but the absence of any worked fragments makes this hypothesis unprovable.

7.2 None of the excavations undertaken during the present project were deep enough to demonstrate an absence of archaeologically significant deposits (no in situ natural horizons were observed). The relative paucity of artefacts recovered may therefore indicate either an absence of historical activity in this area or that the artefacts lie in deeper deposits relatively undisturbed by 20<sup>th</sup> C and earlier driveway construction and/or cultivation. Should substantial masonry building remains be present in the immediate area it might be expected that fragments of lime-mortar, sandstone and tile would be widespread in the later cultivation soils, but this does not appear to be the case in the areas observed. The spatial arrangement of the Roman structures in the Britannia Square/Moor Street/Back Lane South area is very poorly understood, but in the light of several observations within the Springfield property it would seem that the Scheduled Monument boundaries do not correspond well with the focus of buried structural remains. The main focus of structural remains in this area lies apparently between the southern side of the square and Moor Street. The circular building (probably largely destroyed during the construction of Springfield Lodge), would appear on the current evidence to have been a northern outlier of a building complex centred immediately to the south of the present school property. There is a further possibility that the sandstone "circular tower or fort" foundations were not directly contemporaneous with the buildings in the Back Lane South area, which appear from the limited excavated evidence to have been of relatively high status with tessellated floors and probable hypocaust flooring and mosaics. The 1820s observations suggest a very solidly built foundation 30 feet in diameter – a size not incompatible with the presence of a water tower or raised reservoir. The nature of this structure is unlikely to be resolved without extensive excavation to a significant depth, and even then it is quite probable that the basement and former sunken yard for the present building removed almost all traces of the foundation. Greater understanding of the wider Roman activity in this area will require more fieldwork, particularly in the area of the Moor Street/Back Lane South social housing complex as the opportunities for development led fieldwork in Britannia Square itself are likely to be very limited.

### 8 **Acknowledgements**

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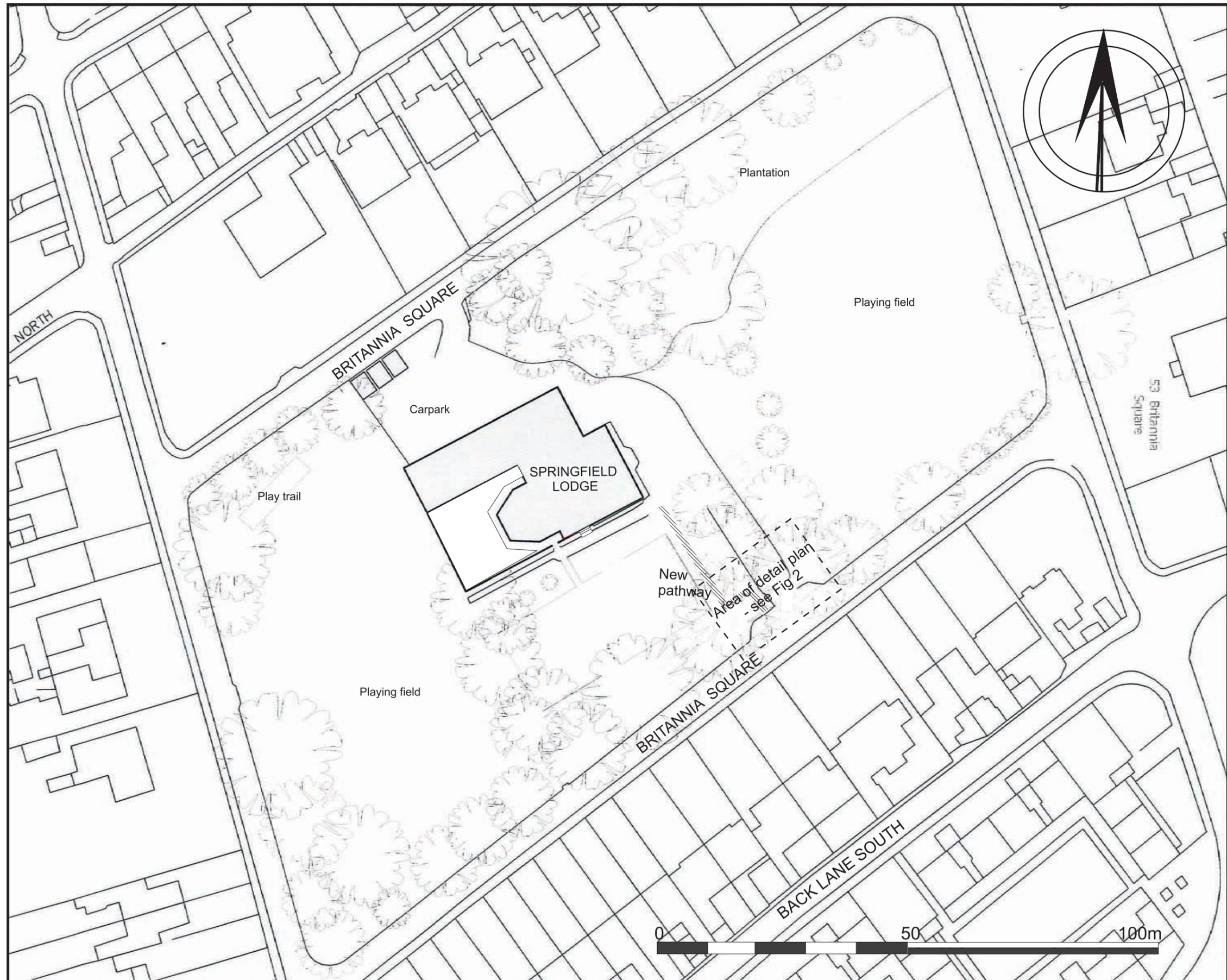


Figure 1: Location of main groundworks, Springfield Lodge, Britannia Square, Worcester 2012

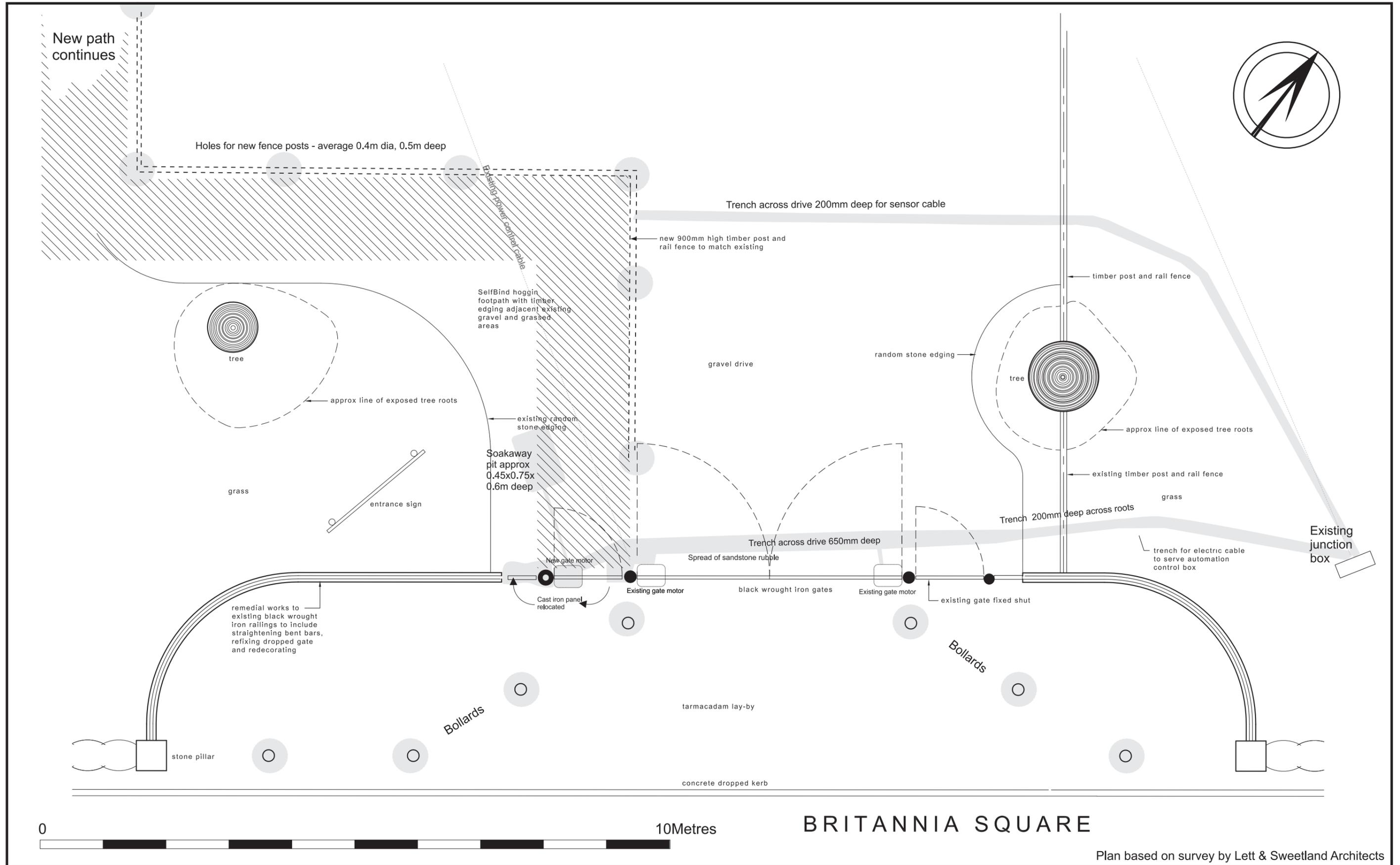


Figure 2: Detail plan of entrance area, showing areas of deeper excavation in grey tone



Typical example of post-hole for wooden fencing 0.45m deep, approx 0.3m dia. Deposits consist of surfacing over topsoil, overlying mid brown sandy loam with moderate gravel



Northern end of path showing topsoil stripped to 150mm, with deeper slot dug to accommodate pegs of retaining boards. Note also existing shallow cable run for gate controls



View of soakaway excavated to receive drainage from the gate motor housings: note sandy light brown subsoil at base of excavation. Scale 0.5m long.

General view along partially completed path facing North



Detail of slot along east side of pathway showing patch of redeposited sand

Figure 3: Photographs of pathway area.



Existing pallisade arrangement prior to insertion of new pedestrian gate



The hole excavated for the new gate-post - cut through brick foundation of existing stone dwarf-wall base of pallisading



Relocated cast panel and new gatepost placed in readiness for concreting in- note hole excavated in readiness for gate motor (foreground)



Manufacturer's plates on existing pedestrian and main gates - note variation in both plates and the steel profile, suggesting that the gates are not all contemporary



Cable trench excavated alongside main gates, showing layer of crushed sandstone rubble in section. Scale 0.5m long

Figure 4: Photographs of works in gateway area.



Shallow trenching for sensor cable across drive and return to junction box, views facing NW

Shallow cable trenching (circa 300mm deep across area of tree roots) view facing west from junction box



Typical deposits in holes excavated for new removable bollards, note presence of concrete and brick rubble make-up over brown sandy loam

Figure 5: Photographs of cable trenches and excavations for bollards.