

Marches Archaeology

Safeway Commercial Road Hereford Herefordshire

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

April 2004

SMR number: 36491

Marches Archaeology Series 335

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**Safeway
Commercial Road
Hereford
Herefordshire**

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

NGR: SO 513 403

SMR: 36491

**Report by
Jo Wainwright**

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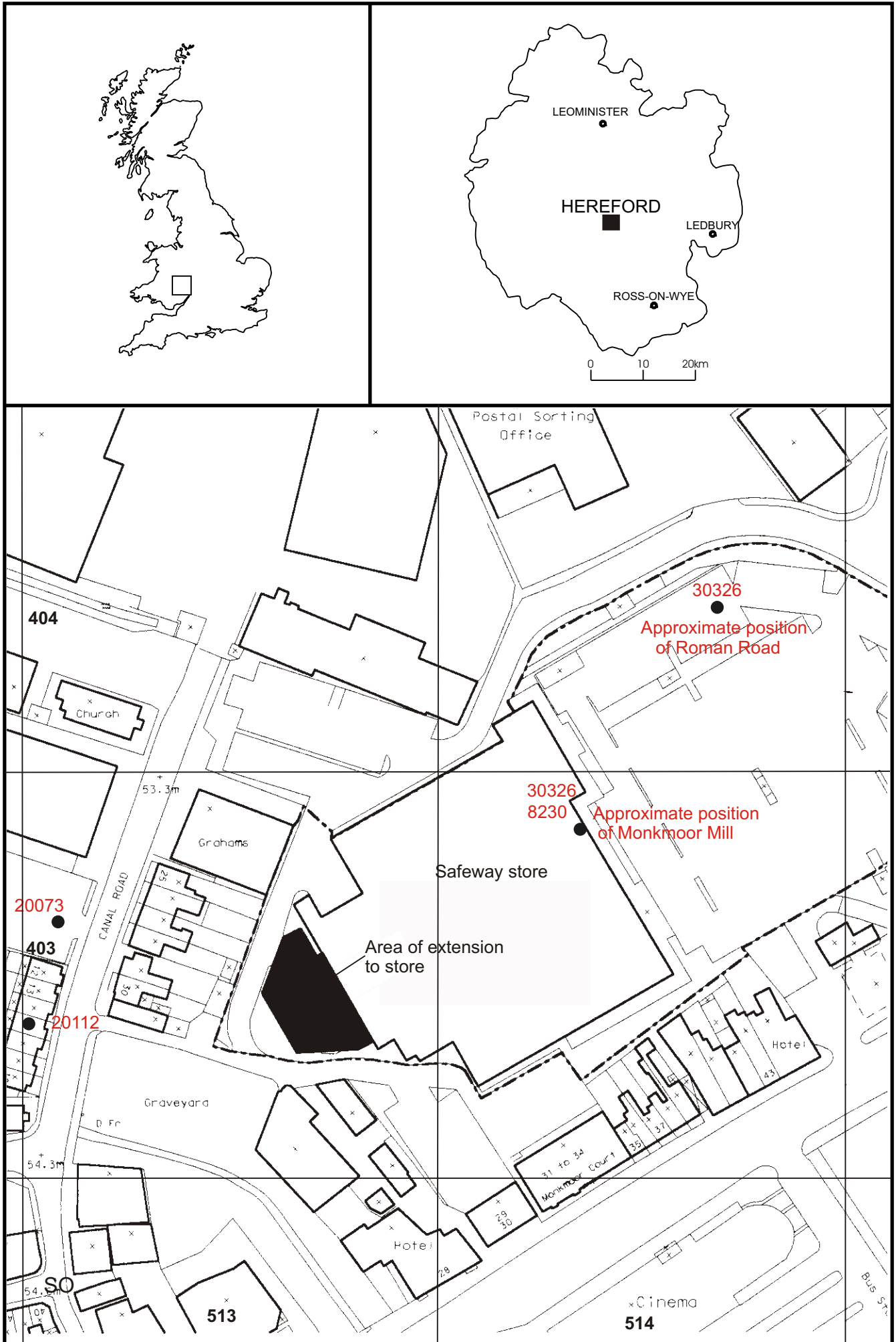


Fig. 1 Location of the site and surrounding SMR sites (taken from architects' plan)

**Safeway
Commercial Road
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NGR: SO 513 403

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

Summary

A programme of archaeological works at Safeway, Commercial Road, Hereford revealed features and deposits dating from the 13th to 15th centuries. The area is believed to have been part of a parcel of land belonging to the medieval Monkmoor Mill complex. The mill was uncovered during earlier excavations to the north-east of the site. It is thought that the area of the site has been either a meadow or orchard until the 19th century.

The excavated medieval features included a ditch interpreted as a drainage ditch or field boundary and two pits of unknown function. Medieval soil layers were also excavated. A medieval deposit situated at the south-western edge of the site could be part of a boundary bank to the mill complex or alternatively a medieval soil layer.

1 Introduction

A planning application has been approved by the local planning authority for permission to erect an extension to the Safeway store in Commercial Road, Hereford. The site is situated at NGR: SO 513 403 (Fig. 1).

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that in order that the archaeological resource was adequately protected an archaeological watching brief was to be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development.

In October 2002 the Hancock Ward Company produced a "Brief for an archaeological watching brief" which was approved by the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor. The Hancock Ward Company, on behalf of the client, requested Marches Archaeology to quote to provide the archaeological services detailed in the Brief. In January 2004 Safeway Stores plc commissioned Marches Archaeology to carry out the works detailed in the Brief.

2 Aims and objectives

The brief stated that the aims of the programme of archaeological works was to ensure the proper identification and recording of features or finds of archaeological interest during initial groundworks for the development.

The scope of the project was closely defined in the Brief and so was defined in Marches Archaeology's project proposal (Appendix II).

The purpose of a watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

3 Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources were consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. The Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record was consulted and a visit to Hereford Record Office was made. The following sources were considered:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithes maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
Written non-archaeological sources; Geological maps

Fieldwork

Observations and appropriate recording was undertaken of groundbreaking activity in association with the proposed development. Four areas of excavation were recorded, the foundation trench, two drainage runs and the scarped bank area. The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record was by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. A running matrix was maintained. Plans and sections of significant data were made. Plans were multi-context. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced.

Assessment was based on the site archive. The pottery, which required specialist assessment was submitted for such work.

4 Site description

The site lies to the rear of the Safeway store which is situated off Commercial Road in Hereford (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by the store to the north-west and a brick wall to the north-east. To the south and south-east a brick wall and fence follows the boundary. Before development took place the site was used as a car park with an area of scrubland in the far south. The site is fairly level but the ground level in the south is higher and slopes up from about 500mm in the south-eastern corner of the site to about 1.6 metres in the area of the scrubland. The underlying drift geology is of fluvioglacial gravels.

5 Archaeological and historical background

There have been no finds or sites from the prehistoric period identified in the vicinity of the site. An evaluation excavation in 1988 in advance of the erection of the Safeway store uncovered a surface which was interpreted as a Roman road SMR: 30326 (Fig. 1). This was seen in the north-east part of that development area. It is thought that this road runs in a north-west to south-east direction (Shoesmith, 1989). If this is the case then it is possible that any Roman occupation situated close to the road could have been situated in the area of the site.

In the medieval period it is probable that the area of the site belonged to St Guthlac's Priory (Shoesmith and Morriss, 1988). The priory itself was originally situated in the area of the Castle Green in Hereford but by the 12th century a new site was needed because of the desecration of the site during the Wars of Succession and competition for space within the castle (Shoesmith, 1989). The new site was outside the city walls and south of Bye Street (Commercial Road), about 300 metres to the south of the study area. A mill was also built to the north alongside a stream. It is thought that this mill, Monkmoor Mill, was built sometime in the 12th century (SMR: 8230), (*op cit*). Excavations uncovered part of the mill complex in 1988, underneath what is now the north-eastern part of the Safeway store (SMR: 30326) (Fig. 1). The foundations of the store were redesigned to allow preservation of the mill *in situ*.

By the 15th century the priory owned seven mills and Monkmoor Mill was rented out for 30 shillings a year. In 1538, at the Dissolution, the holding was worth £1, 6s, 8d and was passed to John ap Rice. The mill buildings were apparently falling down by 1693 but by 1732 they had been rebuilt and the mill was operating as a leather mill. Leatherworking continued on the site until the early 20th century (*ibid*).

Situated to the north-west of the study area was the site of Blackfriars Friary which was built in the 14th century (SAM: 13610). An evaluation to the south and east of the friary uncovered remains of the friary buildings and what is thought to be the precinct boundary (SMR: 20073), (Taylor, 1991), (Fig. 1). An excavation to the south of this along Canal Road located no remains of the friary but medieval pits and soil deposits were uncovered (SMR: 20112) (Fig. 1).

It is probable that the study area was situated outside the Blackfriars Friary precinct boundary and was probably open land attached to Monkmoor Mill during the medieval period and the early post-medieval period.

However, it is highly likely that there were buildings fronting onto Bye Street in the medieval period and it cannot be discounted that the southern part of the study area was within the backlands of these properties.

Taylor's plan of 1757 shows the area of the site as an orchard or at least an open area with trees (Fig. 2). It is possible that the southern boundary of the site corresponds to the southern boundary of the orchard or open area. The Tithe Plan of 1843 shows the site as part of plot 19 (Fig. 3). The plot was described as a meadow and again it is likely that at least part of the southern boundary of the plot corresponds to the southern boundary of the site.

Curley's Plan of 1858 shows the study area as not being built up but situated within several open areas (Fig. 4). The Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inch Plan of 1888 also shows the site as an open area (Fig. 5). The rear boundaries of the houses fronting onto Canal Road forms the north-western boundary of the site today. The 1904 Ordnance Survey 25 inch Plan shows no change to the site (not illustrated). However, by the time of the 1929 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plan a building, probably a warehouse, had been erected on part of the site (not illustrated). The boundaries shown on the earlier Plans are not changed.

It seems likely that the study area was part of an open area of land, perhaps an orchard or a meadow until the early part of the 20th century when a building was erected on the site. It is not known where the boundary of the medieval Monkmoor mill complex was but from the cartographic evidence it can be suggested that the southern edge of the study area follows part of this boundary.

6 The programme of works

Trenches 1, 2 and 4

The natural deposits [104]/ [203]/ [402] were seen in all of the trenches excavated (Fig. 6). In some places the top of the natural had been truncated by disturbance [107]/ [206]/ [401] from the building of the car park in 1988 and from services associated with the building of the Safeway store [101].

Several medieval features cut the natural deposits. In Trench 1 a linear feature [109] running approximately north to south was excavated (Fig. 7). This had concave sides, was not bottomed and was a minimum 200mm deep. This was interpreted as a ditch and contained one fill [108]. This feature was not identified up in the excavations to the west. However, it is possible that the ditch may have been truncated by [107]/ [206]/ [401] here. In Trench 2 a pit [214] with concave sides and a flattish base was seen (Fig. 8). This was truncated in the east by footings of the Safeway store and in the west by a drain run excavated in 1988 [101]. Pit [214] was filled with two fills [212] and [213].

Also in Trench 2 and cutting natural in the south-east was a probable square pit [205] with steep sides. This was not bottomed but was at least 600mm deep and contained one fill [204]. One small sherd of pottery dating from the mid 13th-15th century was recovered from [204]. To the west of this feature and cut by it was a thin layer of dirty natural [211]. This was stratigraphically above the natural [203] and was truncated in the west by the car park construction works in 1988 [206]. A similar layer [210] was excavated to the north-west of [211] in Trench 2. Again this was truncated by [206].

Over much of the north and eastern part of the site but in places truncated by [107] was a layer of firm brown grey silty clay [106]. This layer varied in thickness from 100mm to 350mm and contained pottery from probably the 14th century. Three other layers [207], [209] and [215] excavated in Trench 2 equate to [106]. These deposits were interpreted as medieval build up of soil.

Cutting natural in Trench 1 and 2 was a large pit [103]/ [202]. This was probably rectangular in size with steeply sloping sides. This feature was not bottomed but was a minimum 1 metre deep. This was filled with [102]/ [201] and pottery recovered from the fill dates from the late 19th century. Above [103]/ [202] and [106] was a layer of 19th century soil build up [105]. This layer had been badly truncated by [101] and [107]/ [206] and only existed in isolated patches.

Trench 3

Along the south-western boundary of the site, where the works had cut back into the area of scrub, a section was recorded as Trench 3 (Fig. 9). The earliest layer seen here was the natural [313] which was seen at the base of the section. Above this was a layer of red brown silty clay about 100mm thick which was interpreted as a soil horizon [312]. This layer is probably contemporary with [106]/ [207]/ [209]/ [215] which was seen over the rest of the site. Above this was a thicker deposit of mid brown sandy loam [311]. This contained pottery dating to probably the later 13th century. This could either be a soil which has built up during the medieval period or it could be a bank constructed in the 13th century as a boundary.

Above [311] was a similar deposit [310] which probably represents build up of soil from the post-medieval period to the 19th century. Cutting [310] were several 20th century pits and other cut features [307], [309], [315] and [314]. A layer [305] and a dump [302] are above these features and overlying these was the topsoil and leaf litter [301].

7 The pottery by Stephanie Ratkái

Catalogue and Spot Dating

Context	Date	Fabric	Sherd count	Weight
[106]	?14 th c	Fabric B1 cooking pot	2	8g
		Fabric B4 finger impressed base sherd	1	13g
		Fabric ?B3 jug sherd with? Decayed glaze	1	3g
[201]	later 19 th c	Cologne/Frenchen drinking jug base	1	50g
		Green shell-edge plate rim	1	5g
		Purple transfer printed sherd	1	8g
		Utilitarian whiteware sherds	2	16g
[204]	mid 13 th -15 th c	Fabric A7b jug, tan copper speckled glaze	1	3g
[207]	later 13 th -early 14 th c	Fabric B1 cooking pot	1	2g
[215]	mid 13 th -15 th c	Fabric A7b jug, pale olive glaze, copper speckles	1	10g
[308]	19 th c	Cistercian-type ware cup sherd, red fabric, tan	1	9g

		glaze		
		Modern glazed ware (19 th c)	2	19g
		Flowerpot rim	1	5g
[310]	19 th c	Fabric A7b rod handle	1	9g
		Coarseware (orange fabric, under-glaze red slip, brown glaze)	1	9g
		Bone china ?cup rim	1	3g
[311]	?later 13 th c	Fabric B1 cooking pot rim	1	14g
		Fabric B1 cooking pot	1	3g
		Fabric A3 jug	1	4g
		Fabric C2 jug	1	5g
		Fabric A7b jug sherds	2	11g
		Fabric A7b jug, dull olive glaze, applied rosette	1	4g
		?ridge tile fragment (very abraded)	1	13g
[312]	13 th c	Fabric B1 cooking pot rim	1	8g

Discussion

Only a small amount of pottery was recovered from the site which suggests that the area under excavation was at some remove from intense domestic occupation. Sherds were generally small but not excessively abraded, which would be expected in a plough soil, for example. The pottery is therefore in keeping with the excavated area being open land for much of its history.

A series of layers [106], [207], [215], [311] and [312] all contained pottery. None of the pottery in these layers pre-dated the 13th century, as far as could be judged. A post 1200 date for the beginning of the exploitation of this area is also given credence by the absence of any sherds in fabrics A2 and B2. Indeed their absence may suggest a later *terminus post quem* of c 1225.

Fill [104] of pit [105] in Trench 2 contained a single sherd, which was, unfortunately, only broadly datable to c 1250-1500.

The paucity of pottery is very striking, particularly when compared to recent excavations at the Kwik-Save site on the opposite side of Commercial Street where over 2,000 sherds, weighing just under 37 kilos, were recovered. This assemblage also suggested that there had been quite intense occupation from the early 12th to early 13th centuries, which also contrasts with the evidence from the Safeway site (Rátkai in prep).

8 Discussion

It is probable that the ditch [109] was a drainage ditch or a field division. Although no dating evidence for the excavation or filling in of the ditch was recovered pottery from the layer above probably dates from the 14th century. Therefore it is probable that this ditch relates to the Monkmoor Mill complex.

The two pits [105] and [214] to the south of the ditch could be contemporary with the ditch and they could represent occupation associated with the mill complex. It is possible but not very likely that they are associated with buildings fronting onto Bye Street (Commercial Road). Alternatively they may be contemporary with the medieval soil build up [106] which was seen over most of the northern and eastern part of the site. This layer presumably built up during the 13th and 14th centuries when the area must have been an orchard or a meadow. It seems likely that the soil horizon [312] seen in Trench 3 is contemporary with [106].

The deposit [311] seen above [312] could represent a boundary bank for the Monkmoor Mill complex or a soil which built up in the medieval period. Here the land naturally rises to the south-west and it is likely that this point would have been where the ground was relatively dry and not liable to flooding from the stream. The land to the south and west was therefore more conducive to settlement which doubtless explains why the cartographic evidence shows the area of the site as open land.

Much of the early post-medieval remains have been truncated by the building of the store and car park but it seems probable that the site continued to be utilised as either a meadow or orchard during this period. However, in probably the later half of the 19th century it may have still been an open space but not with an agricultural purpose. The large pit excavated in the south-eastern part of the site could have had an industrial function.

9 Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to Eren Mehmed of Safeway Stores plc for co-operation on the project and to Ewart Wilson of Jehu Project Services Ltd for providing on site facilities. The site work was carried out by Jo Wainwright and Jane Kenney.

10 References

Maps

British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series. Hereford, sheet 198. Solid and drift geology

1757 Plan of Hereford by Taylor

1843 St Peter Tithing Plan and apportionment (copy from the Herefordshire Field Names project)

1858 Plan of Hereford by Curley

1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 inch, sheet XXXIII.12

1904 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 inch, sheet XXXIII.12

1929 Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:2,500, sheet XXXIII.16

Published references

Shoesmith, R and Morriss, R. 1988, Monkmoor Mill, Hereford: a report on the excavations on the site of the proposed Safeway development. City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

Shoesmith, R. 1989, *Monkmoor Mill an interim report*. City of Hereford Archaeology Unit

Taylor, G. 1991, Evaluation at Canal Road, Hereford. Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Series 77

Vince, a. G. 1985, The Ceramic Finds in R, Shoesmith, *Hereford City Excavations Vol. 3: The Finds*. CBA Res Rep 56

11 Archive

The site code is SCH04A. The Sites and Monuments Record number is 36491. The archive consists of:

- 16 context sheets
- 4 trench recording sheets
- 1 drawing index sheets
- 4 field drawings on 2 sheets
- 6 sheets of site diary and notes
- 8 finds recording sheets
- 3 photographic record sheets
- 1 film of black and white photographic negatives
- 1 film of colour photographic transparencies
- 1 box of finds:

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Herefordshire Heritage Services.

Appendix I: List of contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
101	Ceramic pipe and a mixed backfill of scalpings, concrete and re-deposited natural gravels in a 1.25 metre deep cut	Manhole and drainage trench cut and fill. Excavated in 1988 as part of the store
102	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent coal, charcoal, bricks and mortar	Fill of 103
103	Rectangular steep sided cut with a sharp break of slope base and a flat base. 1.20 metres deep	19 th century pit cut
104	Pink and yellow gravels and sands. In places colour becomes whiter	Underlying natural fluvioglacial deposits. Equates to [203], [313] and [402]
105	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate coal, charcoal, mortar and brick. Some root disturbance. Depth varies between 10mm and 300mm	Post-medieval soil build up equates to [208]
106	Firm brown grey silty clay with frequent pebbles, mortar and charcoal. Depth varies between 100mm and 350mm	Medieval soil build up equates to [207], [209], [215] and [403]
107	Scalpings and concrete	Make-up and disturbance from 1988 car park. Equates to [206] and [401]
108	Friable mid grey brown silty clay with 20% sub-rounded pebbles and grit. Occasional charcoal. Lenses of re-deposited natural and less pebbly silty clay	Fill of [109]
109	Probably linear cut running approximately north to south with a gradual break of slope top and concave sides. Base not seen. Depth as seen 200mm	Medieval ditch cut
201	As [102]	Fill of [202]. Equates to [102]
202	As [103]	Cut equates to [103]
203	As [104]	Underlying natural fluvioglacial deposits. Equates to [104], [313] and

		[402]
204	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, mortar and charcoal	Fill of [205]
205	Probable square cut with with steep sides. Not bottomed minimum 600mm deep	Medieval pit cut
206	As [107]	Equates to [107], and [401]. Make up and disturbance from 1988 car park
207	As [106]	Medieval soil build up equates to [106], [209], [215] and [403]
208	As [105]	Post-medieval soil build up equates to [105]
209	As [106]	Medieval soil build up equates to [106], [207], [215] and [403]
210	Mid grey brown sandy silt with 50% pea grit and small pebbles. Occasional mortar and charcoal. About 90mm thick	Probable interface between natural and medieval layer [209]
211	Dirty natural about 250mm thick	Layer cut by [205]
212	Firm mid grey brown silty clay with moderate pebbles, mortar and charcoal. About 450mm thick	Fill of [214]
213	Dirty natural about 200mm thick	Earliest fill of [214]
214	Only one edge of feature seen. Concave side with a flattish base. Depth 650mm	Probable pit cut
215	As [106]	Medieval soil build up equates to [106], [207], [209] and [403]
301	Leaf litter, dumped gravel and clay. Generally pinkish grey up to 560mm thick	Topsoil and leaf litter
302	Grey sandy loam with gravel, bricks, stone and concrete. Contains lenses of pink gravel and blue road stone. Up to 900mm thick	Modern dump of material
303	Loose pink gravel and blueish road stone	Fill of [314]
304	Grey brown sandy loam	Fill of [315]

305	Pinkish grey clay with small stones and bricks. About 200mm thick	Modern layer under topsoil
306	Dark brown loam and pink gravel with plastic and polystyrene	Fill of [307]
307	Steep sided cut 300mm deep	Modern cut for brick wall forming southern boundary to site
308	Dark grey brown loam with coal, small stones and lenses of pink gravel	Fill of [309]
309	Irregular cut about 800mm deep	Modern cut
310	Dark brown sandy loam with 10% small pebbles and gravel. Occasional coal and cinders. Up to 600mm thick	Layer which is probably 19 th century
311	Mid brown sandy loam with 10% small pebbles and gravel. Up to 450mm thick	Medieval deposit which probably formed a bank
312	Red brown silty clay with sand and 50% small rounded pebbles. About 100mm thick	Buried soil horizon below [311] and above natural
313	As [104]	Underlying natural fluvioglacial deposits. Equates to [104], [203] and [402]
314	Concave sided cut about 900mm deep	Modern cut
315	Concave sided cut about 900mm deep	Modern cut
401	As [107]	Equates to [107] and [206]. Make up and disturbance from 1988 car park
402	As [104]	Underlying natural fluvioglacial deposits. Equates to [104], [203] and [313]
403	As [106]	Medieval soil build up equates to [106], [207], [209] and [215]

Appendix II: Project proposal

Marches Archaeology

Safeway, Commercial Road
Hereford

Project Proposal for a programme of archaeological works

Introduction

A planning application has been approved by the local planning authority for permission to erect an extension to the Safeway supermarket in Commercial Road subject to the developer securing a programme of archaeological work. The site is situated at NGR: SO 515 404.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor has advised that in order that the archaeological resource is adequately protected an archaeological watching brief be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development.

The Hancock Ward Company has produced a "Brief for an archaeological watching brief". This has been approved by the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor. The Hancock Ward Company, on behalf of the client, has requested Marches Archaeology to quote for providing the archaeological services detailed in the Brief.

This project proposal is based on the Brief and will follow its stipulations, unless specified below. This proposal forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works and should be read in conjunction with the Brief and its attached plan(s). Any subsequent alterations to the brief will be agreed in writing between Marches Archaeology, the client and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor.

Archaeological and historical background

The site lies within the historic core of Hereford close to the site of the priory of St Guthlac.

Further study will be undertaken as part of a documentary study as required by the Brief.

Scope and aims of the project

The scope of similar projects in Herefordshire require:

a short documentary study

- ◆ archaeological observation and recording of all ground-disturbing operations forming part of the development, excepting where it can be **proven** in advance that such operations will only affect manifestly modern deposits
- ◆ Archaeological monitoring of all ground and below ground works forming part of the

- development.
- ◆ Contingency for up to 2 days of full archaeological excavation if, and only if, significant archaeological entities are present.
 - ◆ Provision should be made for the archaeological contractor to have unobstructed and uninterrupted access to the site for a period of up to 2 days if significant archaeological entities that will be destroyed or severely damaged by ground-disturbing operations forming part of the development are present
 - ◆ If the chosen archaeological contractor has good reason for believing that such entities are present, he shall without delay consult with Herefordshire Archaeology and the developer and/or the developer's agents to decide whether the contingency should be activated. If a consensus is not achieved by such consultation Herefordshire Archaeology will itself decide if the archaeological deposits and features that are present are "significant".
 - ◆ Full processing of archaeological materials and the production of an appropriate report

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources will be consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. Initially a site visit will be made and the appropriate local Sites and Monuments Record consulted. The following sources will also be considered, as appropriate and subject to availability:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithe maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
 Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
 Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological maps;
 Borehole and other engineering data.

Fieldwork

Before the project commences two full sets of any existing relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) including the development site and any building(s) as existing and as proposed will be provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Two copies of any amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any

additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information that is held by the client.

Observations and appropriate recording will be undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with this proposed development will be made, unless otherwise prior agreement is made between Marches Archaeology, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and the client.

The archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work on the excavation of material for short periods of time, normally less than fifteen minutes, for the purpose of investigating areas of potential archaeological interest. If an area is deemed to require more detailed recording the archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work in that area for the purpose of small scale excavation and recording of archaeological data in order to fulfil the requirements of the Brief.

The recording system will include written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record will be by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers will be allocated and context record sheets completed as appropriate. A running matrix will be maintained as appropriate. Plans (normally 1:20), sections (normally 1:10) and other appropriate drawings of significant data will be made. Plans will normally be multi-context, but certain features may require single context planning. The photographic record will be made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. Samples will be taken of deposits considered to have environmental, technological or scientific dating potential.

If deposits or features are encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard the client, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and any other relevant parties will be informed in order to discuss, agree and implement an appropriate response, either within a previously agreed contingency arrangement or supplemental thereto.

This project proposal does not cover the eventuality that there are human remains within the area to be investigated as additional legal requirements then come into force.

Office work

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Liz Pearson (Worcestershire Archaeological Service)	environmental remains
Ian Baxter (Freelance)	animal bone
Megan Brickley (Birmingham Univ Field Archaeology Unit)	human bone

19th November 2003

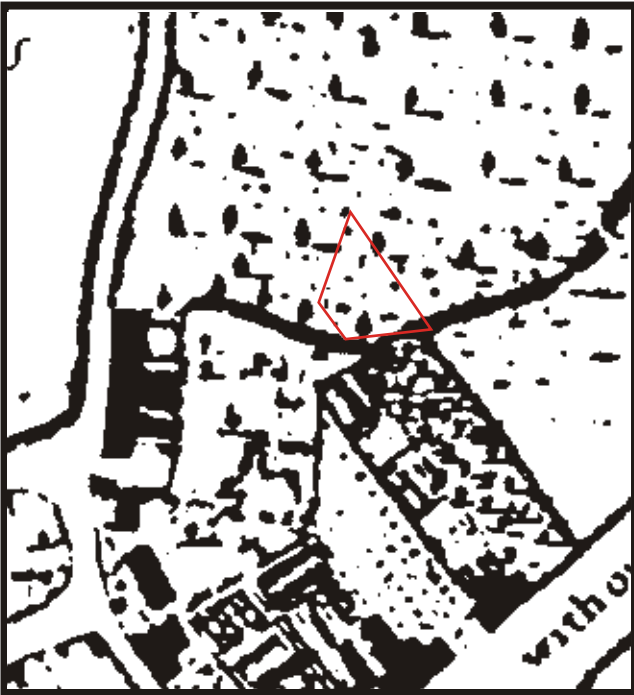


Fig. 2 1757 Plan of Hereford by Taylor

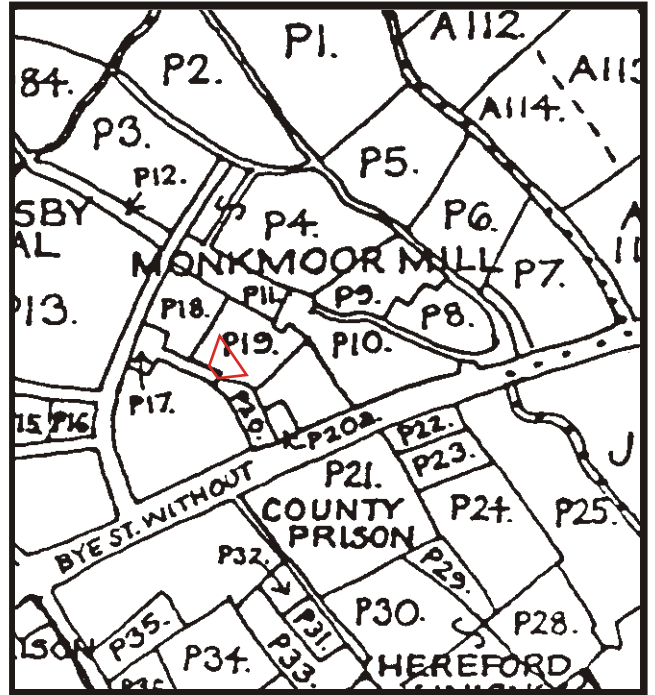


Fig. 3 1843 Tithe Plan (copy from the Herefordshire Field Names project)

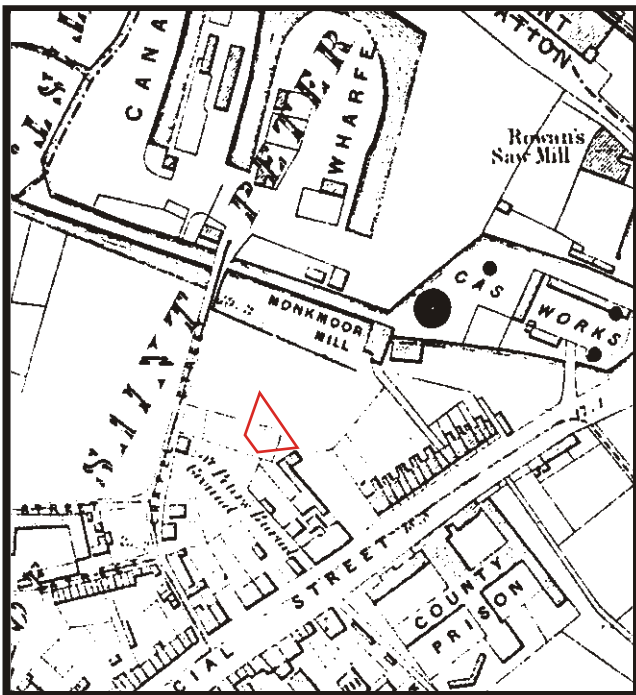


Fig. 4 1858 plan of Hereford by Curley

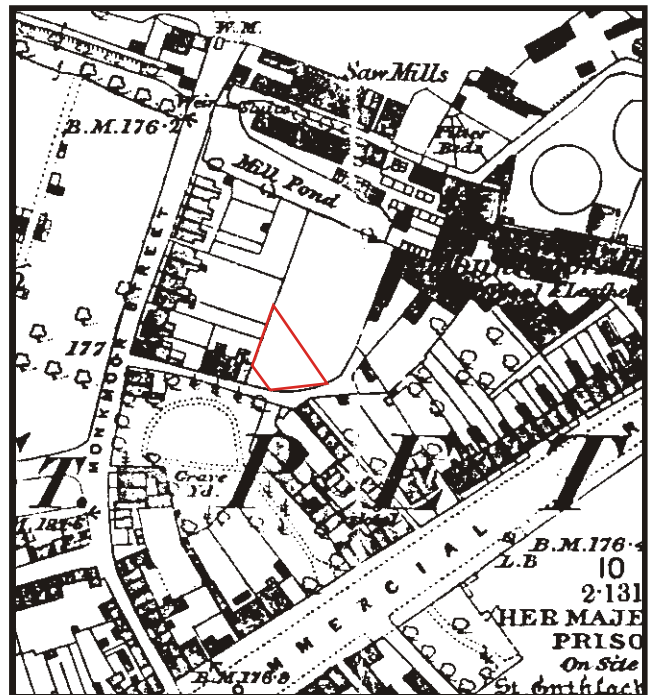


Fig. 5 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 inch

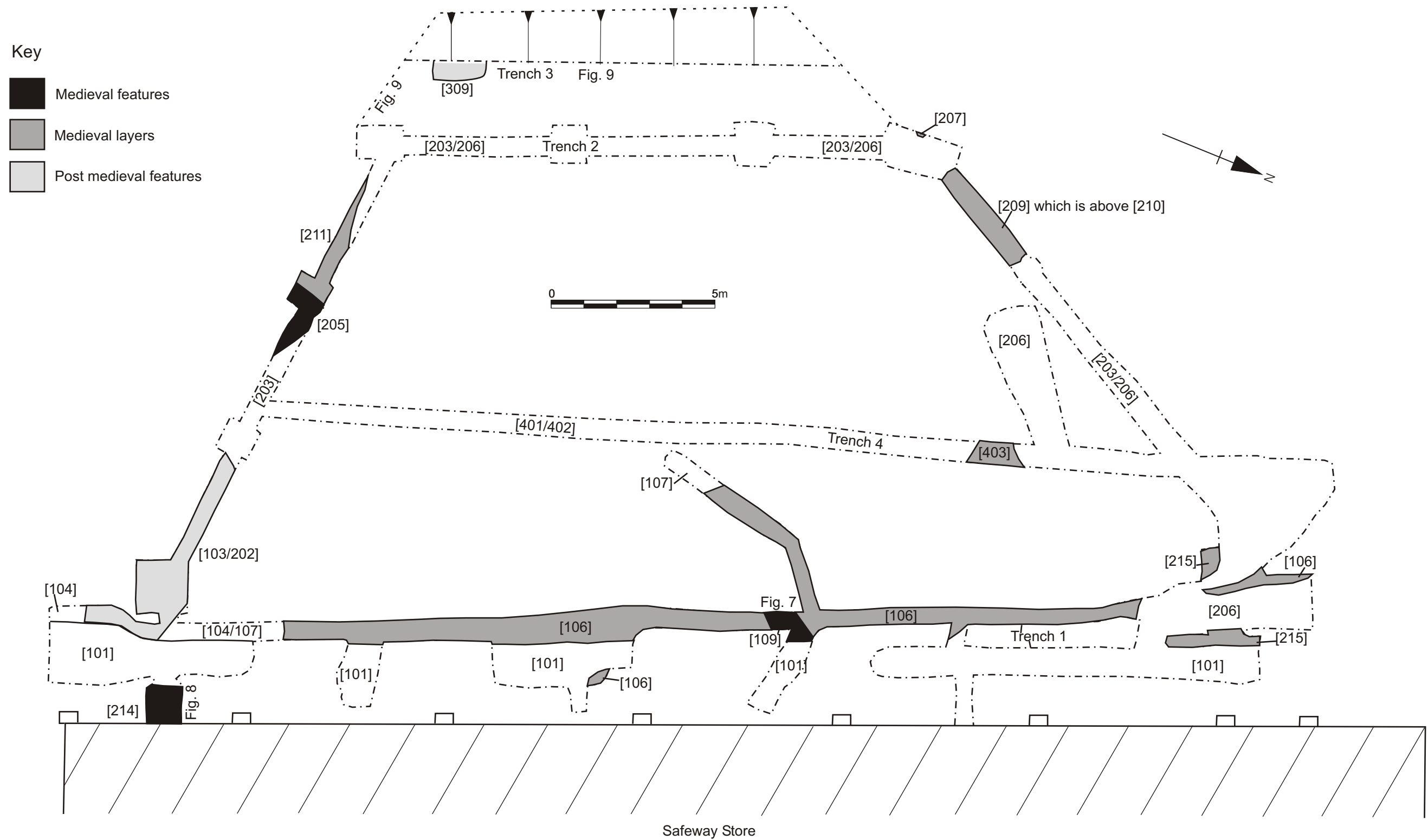


Fig. 6 Location of the areas excavated showing features and deposits

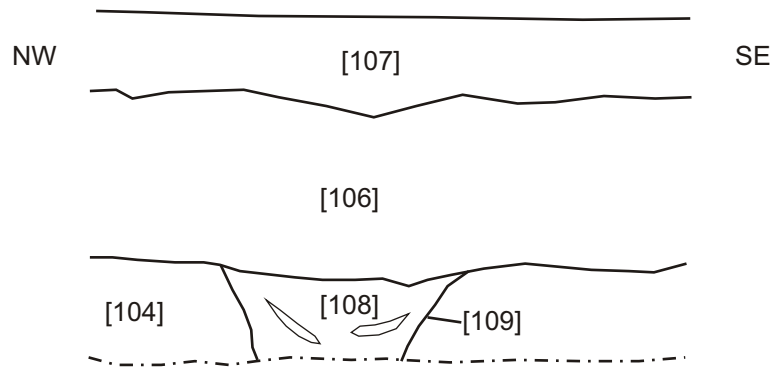


Fig. 7 Measured sketch section of part of Trench 1 showing ditch [109]

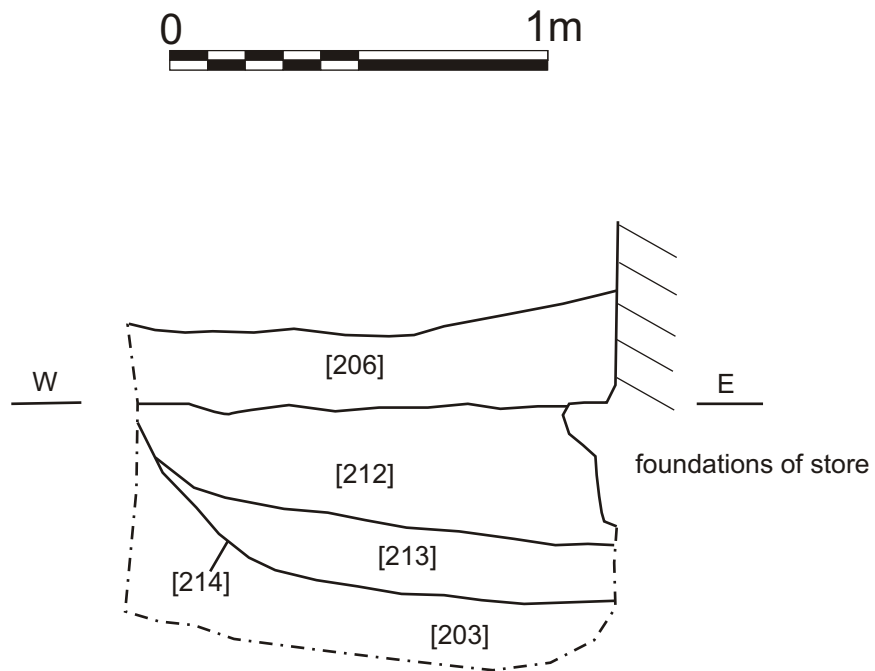


Fig. 8 Section of part of Trench 2 showing pit [214]

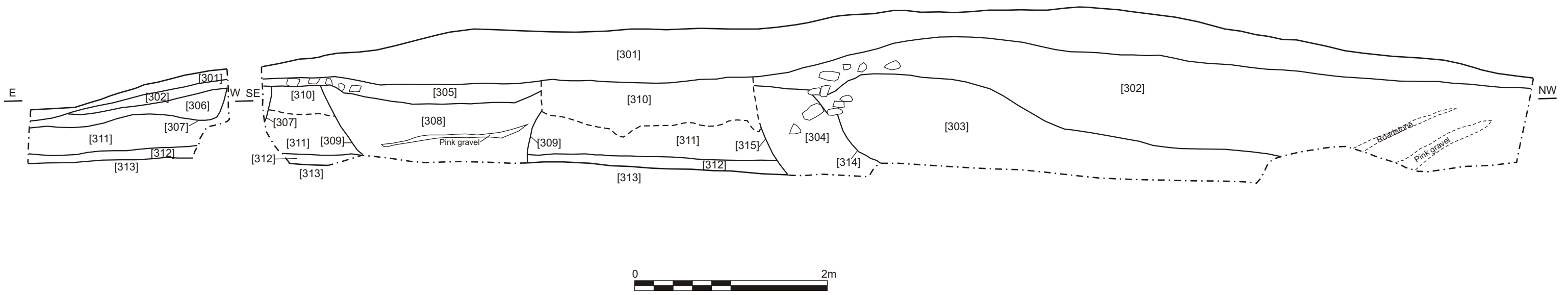


Fig. 9 Section along south-western boundary of the site

Marches Archaeology

Safeway, Commercial Road
Hereford

Project Proposal for a programme of archaeological works

Introduction

A planning application has been approved by the local planning authority for permission to erect an extension to the Safeway supermarket in Commercial Road subject to the developer securing a programme of archaeological work. The site is situated at NGR: SO 515 404.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor has advised that in order that the archaeological resource is adequately protected an archaeological watching brief be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development.

The Hancock Ward Company has produced a "Brief for an archaeological watching brief". This has been approved by the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor. The Hancock Ward Company, on behalf of the client, has requested Marches Archaeology to quote for providing the archaeological services detailed in the Brief.

This project proposal is based on the Brief and will follow its stipulations, unless specified below. This proposal forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works and should be read in conjunction with the Brief and its attached plan(s). Any subsequent alterations to the brief will be agreed in writing between Marches Archaeology, the client and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor.

Archaeological and historical background

The site lies within the historic core of Hereford close to the site of the priory of St Guthlac.

Further study will be undertaken as part of a documentary study as required by the Brief.

Scope and aims of the project

The scope of similar projects in Herefordshire require:

a short documentary study

- ◆ archaeological observation and recording of all ground-disturbing operations forming part of the development, excepting where it can be **proven** in advance that such operations will only affect manifestly modern deposits
- ◆ Archaeological monitoring of all ground and below ground works forming part of the development.

- ◆ Contingency for up to 2 days of full archaeological excavation if, and only if, significant archaeological entities are present.
- ◆ Provision should be made for the archaeological contractor to have unobstructed and uninterrupted access to the site for a period of up to 2 days if significant archaeological entities that will be destroyed or severely damaged by ground-disturbing operations forming part of the development are present
- ◆ If the chosen archaeological contractor has good reason for believing that such entities are present, he shall without delay consult with Herefordshire Archaeology and the developer and/or the developer's agents to decide whether the contingency should be activated. If a consensus is not achieved by such consultation Herefordshire Archaeology will itself decide if the archaeological deposits and features that are present are "significant".
- ◆ Full processing of archaeological materials and the production of an appropriate report

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources will be consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. Initially a site visit will be made and the appropriate local Sites and Monuments Record consulted. The following sources will also be considered, as appropriate and subject to availability:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithes maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
 Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
 Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological maps;
 Borehole and other engineering data.

Fieldwork

Before the project commences two full sets of any existing relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) including the development site and any building(s) as existing and as proposed will be provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Two copies of any amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any

additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information that is held by the client.

Observations and appropriate recording will be undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with this proposed development will be made, unless otherwise prior agreement is made between Marches Archaeology, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and the client.

The archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work on the excavation of material for short periods of time, normally less than fifteen minutes, for the purpose of investigating areas of potential archaeological interest. If an area is deemed to require more detailed recording the archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work in that area for the purpose of small scale excavation and recording of archaeological data in order to fulfil the requirements of the Brief.

The recording system will include written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record will be by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers will be allocated and context record sheets completed as appropriate. A running matrix will be maintained as appropriate. Plans (normally 1:20), sections (normally 1:10) and other appropriate drawings of significant data will be made. Plans will normally be multi-context, but certain features may require single context planning. The photographic record will be made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. Samples will be taken of deposits considered to have environmental, technological or scientific dating potential.

If deposits or features are encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard the client, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and any other relevant parties will be informed in order to discuss, agree and implement an appropriate response, either within a previously agreed contingency arrangement or supplemental thereto.

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19th November 2003

Safeway, Commercial Road, Hereford. (SCH 04a)

Catalogue and Spot Dating

Context 106 ?14th c

fabric B1 cooking pot	2	8g
fabric B4 finger impressed base sherd	1	13g
fabric ?B3 jug sherd with ?decayed glaze	1	3g

Context 201 later 19th c

Cologne/Frechen drinking jug base	1	50g
green shell-edge plate rim	1	5g
purple transfer printed sherd	1	8g
utilitarian whiteware sherds	2	16g

Context 204 mid 13th-15th c

fabric A7b jug, tan copper speckled glaze	1	3g
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Context 207 later 13th-early 14th c

fabric B1 cooking pot	1	2g
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Context 215 mid 13th-15th c

fabric A7b jug, pale olive glaze, copper speckles	1	10g
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Context 308 19th c

Cistercian-type ware cup sherd, red fabric, tan glaze	1	9g
modern glazed ware (19 th c)	2	19g
flowerpot rim	1	5g

Context 310 19th c

fabric A7b rod handle	1	9g
coarseware (orange fabric, under-glaze red slip, brown glaze)	1	9g
bone china ?cup rim	1	3g

Context 311 ?later 13th c

fabric B1 cooking pot rim	1	14g
fabric B1 cooking pot	1	3g
fabric A3 jug	1	4g
fabric C2 jug	1	5g
fabric A7b jug sherds	2	11g
fabric A7b jug, dull olive glaze, applied rosette	1	4g
?ridge tile fragment (very abraded)	1	13g

Context 312 13th c

fabric B1 cooking pot rim	1	8g
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Fabric codes are taken from Vince (1985)

Discussion

Only a small amount of pottery was recovered from the site which suggests that the area under excavation was at some remove from intense domestic occupation. Sherds were generally small but not excessively abraded, as would be expected in a plough soil, for example. The pottery is therefore in keeping with the excavated area being open land for much of its history.

A series of layers (106), (207), (215), (311) and (312) all contained pottery. None of the pottery in these layers pre-dated the 13th century, as far as could be judged. A post 1200 date for the beginning of the exploitation of this area is also given credence by the absence of any sherds in fabrics A2 and B2. Indeed their absence may suggest a later *terminus post quem* of c 1225.

Fill (104) of pit (105) in Trench 2 contained a single sherd, which was, unfortunately, only broadly datable to c 1250-1500.

The paucity of pottery is very striking, particularly when compared to recent excavations at the Kwik-Save site on the opposite side of Commercial Street where over 2,000 sherds, weighing just under 37 kilos, were recovered. This assemblage also suggested that there had been quite intense occupation from the early 12th to early 13th centuries, which also contrasts with the evidence from the Safeway site (Rátkai in prep).