

Access visit at Royal Grammar School, Britannia House, Tything, Worcester during groundworks for flagpole and sign WCM 101947

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An archaeological access visit was undertaken during excavation of minor groundworks for the base of a flagpole and sign at the Grammar School, Tything, Worcester (NGR SO 8479 5534: Fig 1).

The watching brief was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Worcester City Council A11A0070/A11A0071 conditions 3 and 4) requiring access for archaeological recording. Whilst such "access condition" monitoring visits would normally be undertaken by the City Archaeological Officer the present project was undertaken by Mike Napthan Archaeology in his absence on leave. The work was undertaken at the request of Clive Woodward (Estates Manager) of RGS Worcester.

Four small holes were excavated in a turfed area – the largest being that for the concrete base to the intended flagpole – the dimensions being 1.2x1.5mx0.7m deep (Figs 2 and 3). The other excavations were three small postholes approx 0.4-0.5m wide and 0.5m deep. No archaeologically significant deposits were observed in any of the excavated areas. The sequence of deposits in the hole for the flagpole proved to be all of later post-medieval date, representing a layer of lime mortar overlaid by a sequence of compacted material incorporating brick and tile fragments interspersed with gravelled surfaces compatible with paths or driveways. The lime mortar layer is likely to be circa 18th C but no precise dating was possible.

One of the post holes dug for the sign revealed a short section of what appeared to be a garden boundary wall (only 4" thick) running perpendicularly back from the Tything frontage. The brick appeared to be of later 18th C date (Fig 3), but this brick may be re-used in the present context. The three postholes for the sign were excavated primarily through turf and topsoil (plus a concrete base for a fencing base), and no earlier stratigraphy was visible.

No artefacts of archaeological significance were observed in the excavated soil.

The photographic archive for the project is presented on the enclosed DVD.



Figure 1: Site location and plan

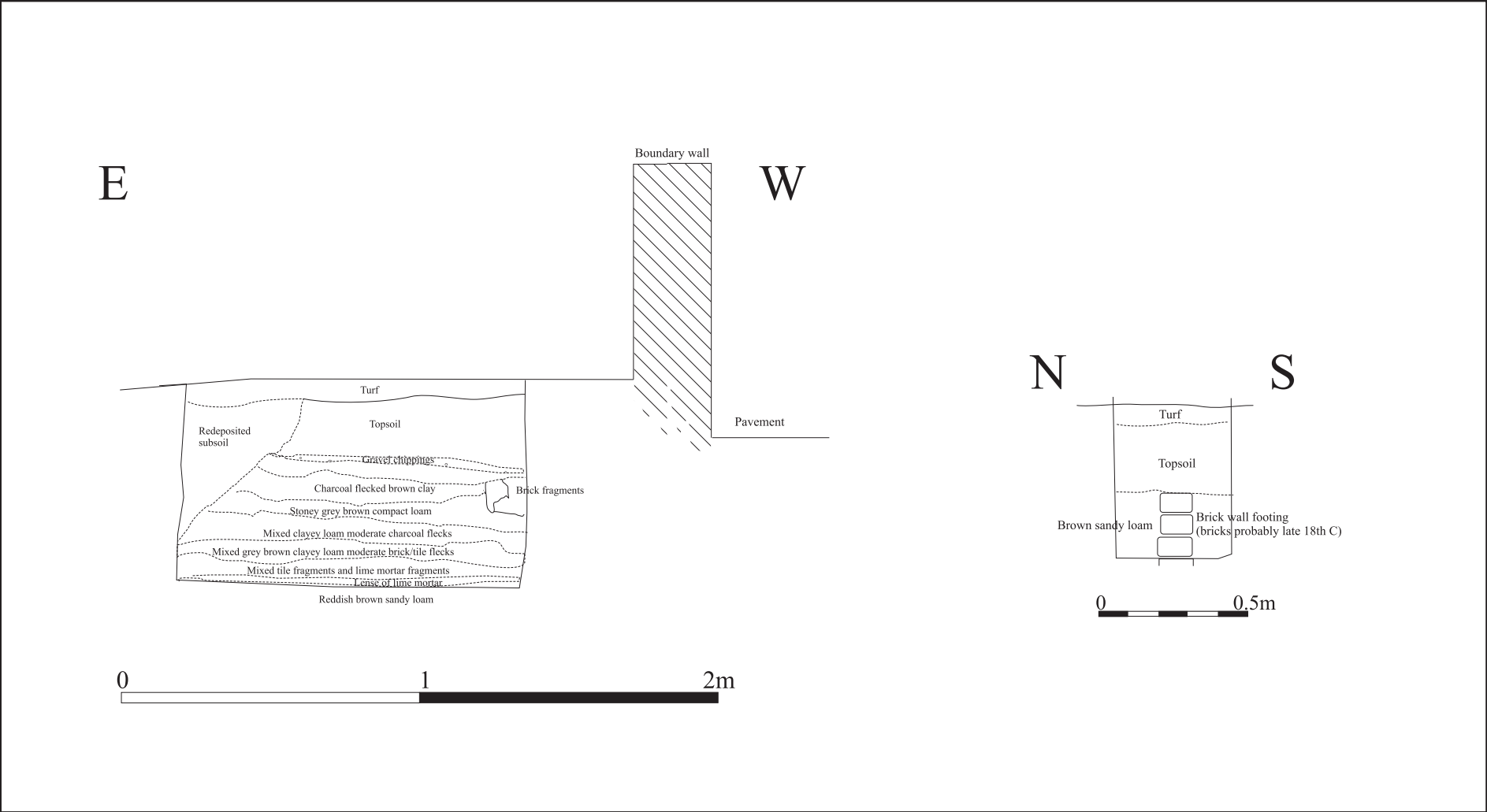


Figure 2: Drawn Sections



Section exposed in pit for flag-pole - view facing south



Brickwork exposed in posthole for signpost

View facing north towards flag pole base pit



Figure 3: Site Photographs