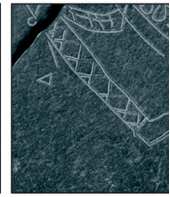
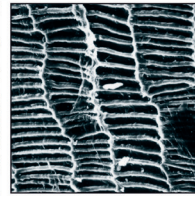
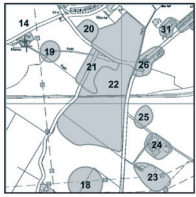


FRPW11



FORT ROYAL PARK, WORCESTER

Topographical Survey

for Worcester City Council

October 2011



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd



FORT ROYAL PARK, WORCESTER

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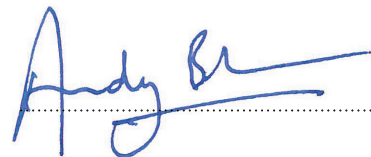
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Graphics

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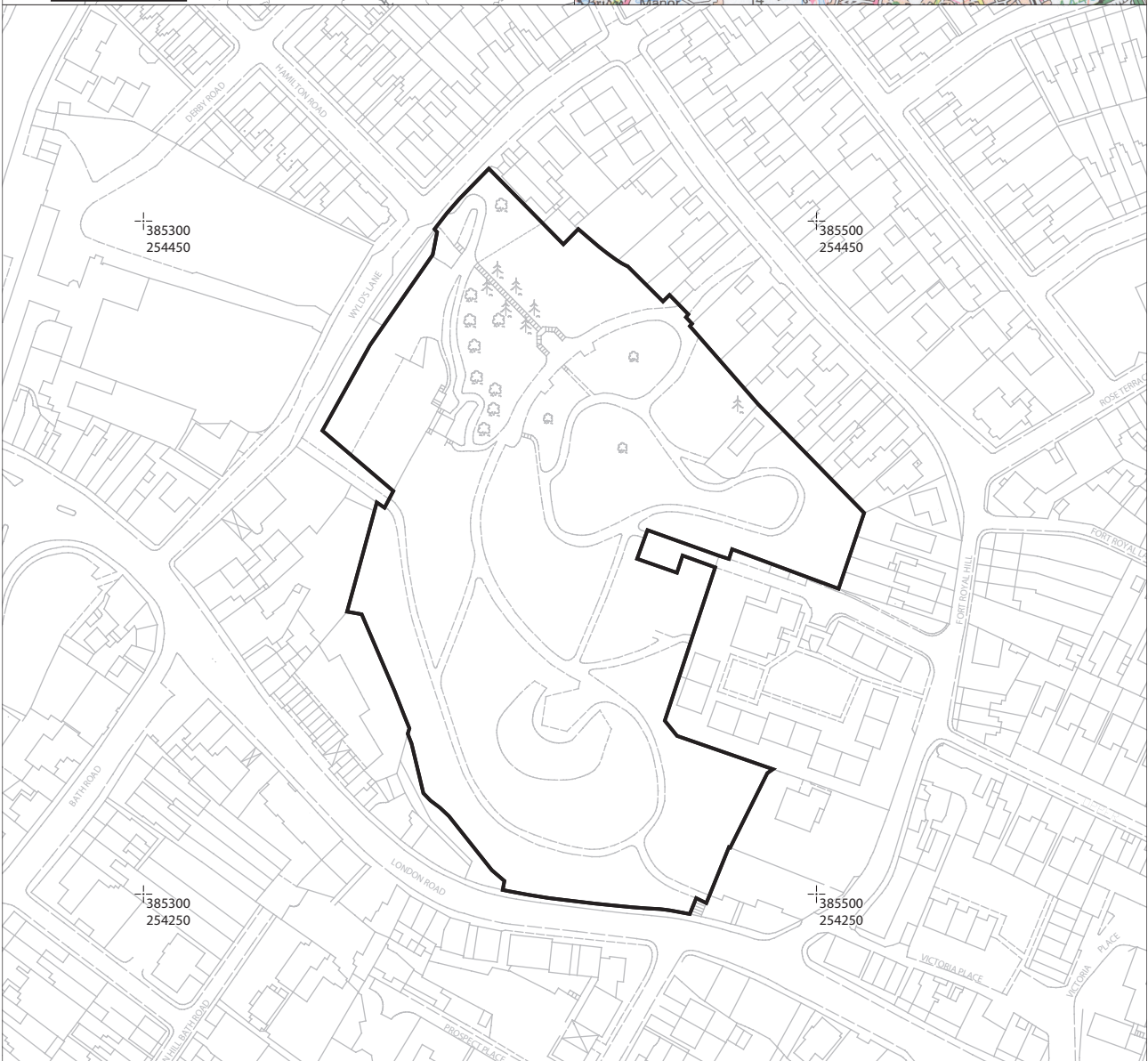
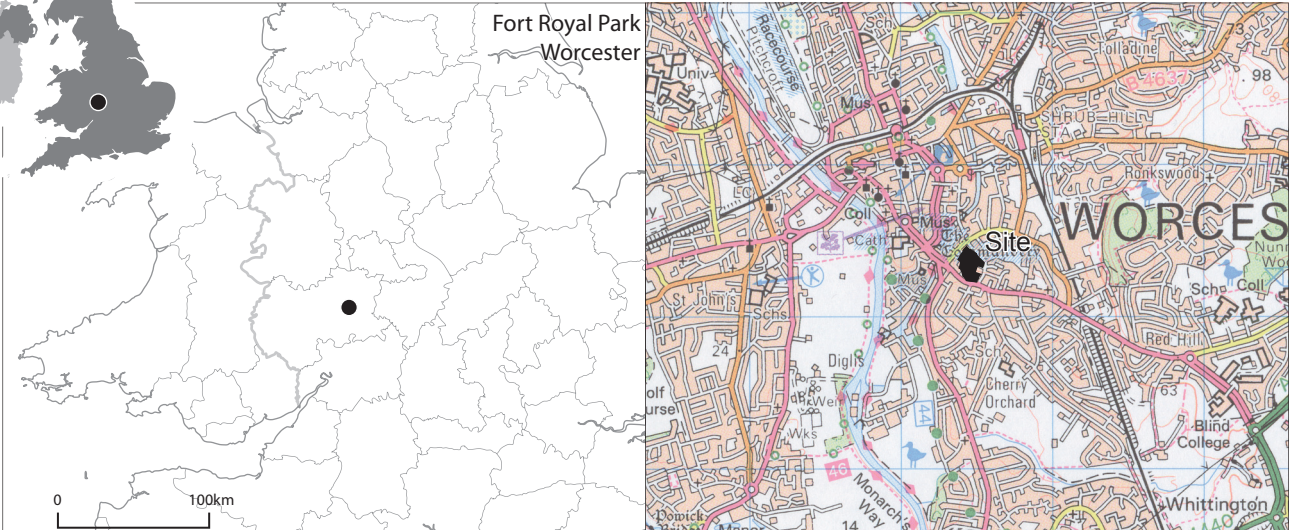
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Scale 1:2,000 @ A4



0 100m

Illus 1
Site location

FORT ROYAL PARK, WORCESTER

Topographical Survey

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a topographical survey within Fort Royal Park, Worcester (ref. WCM 96141). The topographical survey was conducted to examine and define the extent of the Civil War Fort within the parkland. The survey revealed that the earthworks that make up the remains of the fort have been diminished through years of parkland management and previous landscaping yet are still visible within the present landscape. A number of features identified on earlier surveys, such as the ditches or banks now only survive as traces on the surface.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Worcester City Council to undertake a program of topographical survey including the Scheduled Monument (SM) known as Fort Royal Park (WCM 96141). The results of this survey are intended to inform options for capital works, and the development of an HLF-funded scheme to application stage and beyond.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Fort Royal Park is located on the south-east side of Worcester city centre, bounded by Wylds Lane to the North West, Fort Royal Hill to the north-east and east, and London Road to the south (SO 8547 5433). It is currently used as a public park. The identification of the Bastions by cardinal points is based upon the survey conducted in 1879 by AM Fraser.

3. BACKGROUND

The archaeology and earlier history of the park area have been considered in an archaeological desk-based assessment (Miller and Dalwood 2006). This included only limited coverage of the park landscape itself. There has been a considerable amount of archaeological fieldwork activity within the park area, all related to the Civil War Fort. This has included earthwork survey, geophysical survey, excavation and watching briefs. However, most of the results of work undertaken in the 1960s, when much of that part of the fort, which lies outside the park, was developed, have been lost. The origins of the park date to 1913, when a gift of land by Canon Wilson was

augmented by a further land purchase. Other areas are known to have been added through purchase in 1934 and 1938. A detailed historical study of the more recent landscape development is underway.

4. OBJECTIVES

1

In accordance with the Fort Royal Park written scheme of investigation (WSI) this archaeological report aims primarily to develop a fuller picture of the surface topography of the park, including the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), and to use that picture to understand the extent and quality of survival of the Civil War Fort and related earthworks.

The archaeological topographical survey is intended to inform the following:

- Options for works within the park
- Framing a bid to HLF for funding
- Application(s) for Scheduled Monument consent

5. METHOD

The earthworks that make up the Scheduled Monument were subject to a fully interpretive large-scale topographic survey. The survey was conducted using a Leica TCR1105R and a Trimble R6 RTK Gps. The data collected was then used to produce an accurate three-dimensional contour survey of the monument. Due to the density and inaccessible nature of the vegetation at the south-west extremities of the survey area, some of the modeled contours have been extrapolated



in order to fit the OS base map.

Temporary control stations were established across the site from which the surveying was undertaken and the site was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum.

The survey conformed to Level 3 (English Heritage 2007) and comprised a two-dimensional phased plan of the site,

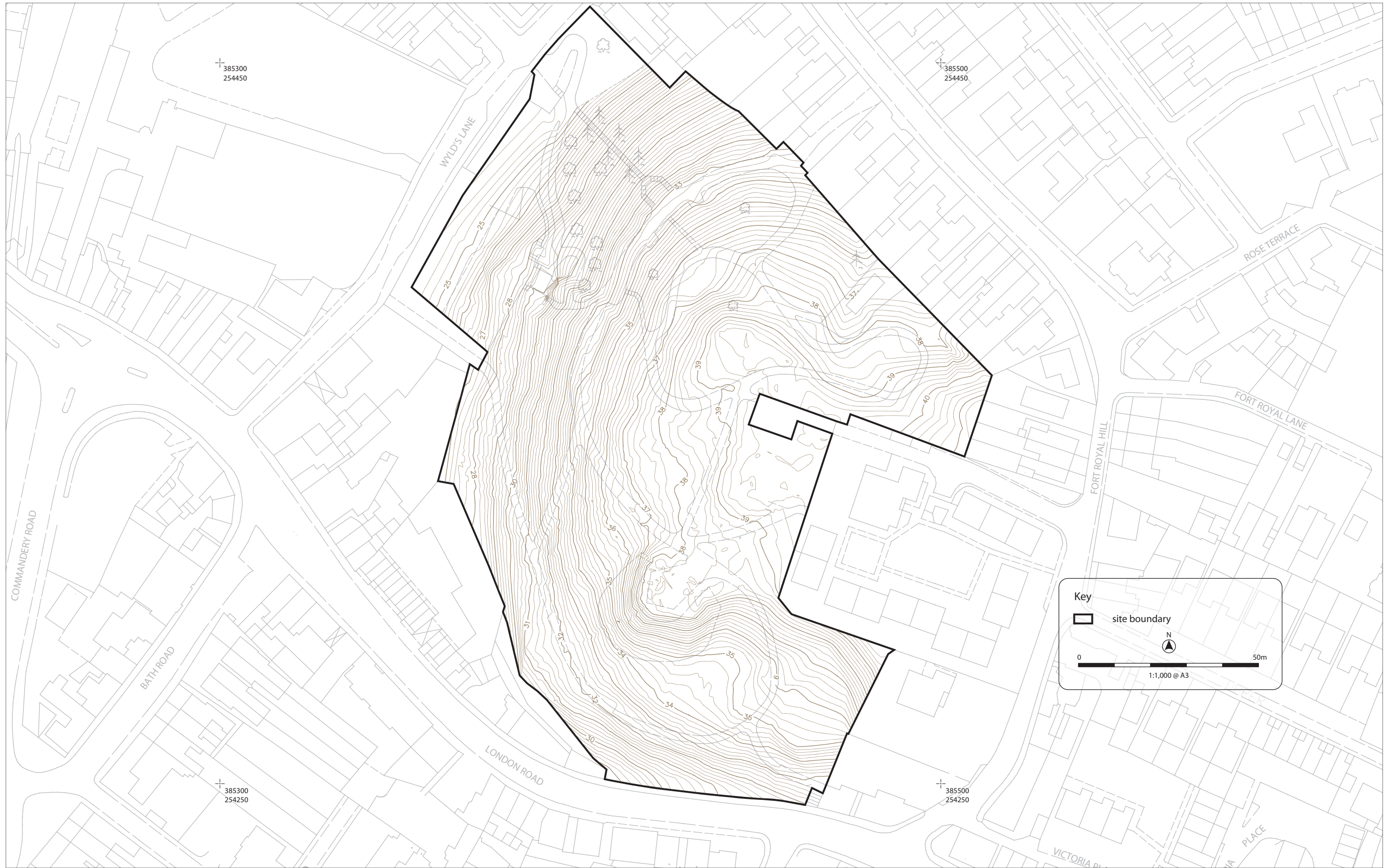
a three dimensional topographic model in AutoCAD and a photographic record of the surviving earthworks.

6. RESULTS

The results of the topographic survey were generally limited through previous development and landscaping associated with the history of the Post-medieval Park.

2

Feature no.	Photo no.	Description	Dimensions
1	FRPW11-10	Semi circular depressed feature, beneath tree cover, may be cause through root shrinkage or tree cover.	Approx. 10mx3m
2	Not photographed	Sunken rectangular feature on western bastion, possibly a removed concrete base for previous park bench.	Approx. 3mx1m
3	unavailable	Interesting collection of what appeared to be worked stone, possibly <i>in situ</i> . At the time of the survey, permission to photograph the stones within private grounds outside of the study area was refused.	unavailable
4	Not photographed	Circular depression, possible tree bowl, from previous phase of landscaping.	Approx. 2-3m ø
5	Not photographed	Circular depression, possible tree bowl, from previous phase of landscaping.	Approx. 2-3m ø
6	Not photographed	Circular depression, possible tree bowl, from previous phase of landscaping.	Approx. 2-3m ø
7	Not photographed	Circular depression, possible tree bowl, from previous phase of landscaping.	Approx. 2-3m ø
8	FRPW11-24	Large circular anomaly, within general slope of hill, consisting of slightly depressed area. (Slightly to the north of this area the remains of the covered way as indicated on the first edition OS map are possibly indicated within the contour plot as a shallow linear feature, running east west.)	Approx. 10m across
9	FRPW11-03, 21	A series of small ridges within the natural slope of the site, running approximately north-south, maybe caused through soil creep or remains of cut out features.	Approx. 9m in length
10	FRPW11-03, 21	A series of small ridges within the natural slope of the site, running approximately north-south, maybe caused through soil creep or remains of cut out features.	Approx. 5m in length
11	FRPW11-07	Identified as a tree bowl within a linear feature, it is still possible that some of the hollow way leading to the fortification as identified on the 1879 survey still remains within this location.	Approx. 13mx9m
12	Not photographed	Circular depression, possible tree bowl, from previous phase of landscaping.	Approx. 1-2m ø
13	FRPW11-25	Area of sandstone walling, using reused stone, interesting tooling marks consisting of heavy strokes around the edges, one of the cap stones appears to have been dressed on three of its exposed faces.	Approx. 11m in length
14	FRPW11-27	Stepped ridge within slope of the site forming a linear anomaly running approximately north-south.	Approx. 15m
15	Not photographed	Suggestion of a ditch feature-depression that maybe from drainage.	Approx. 5-6m
16	FRPW11-28	Possible continuation of ditch feature seen at point 15, maybe associated with modern drainage system, as the feature runs with the path.	Approx. 2-3m
17	FRPW11-28, 29, 31	Raised bank seen within the north corner of study area, approximately 0.7m in height, this anomaly is located on the approximate position of the northern ditch identified on the 1879 survey.	Approx. 20m in length
18	Not photographed	Circular depression, possible tree bowl, from previous phase of landscaping.	-
19	Not photographed	Large concrete circular bowl, modern drainage system.	Approx. 5m ø
20	FRPW11-34	Flattened and raised, uneven area within the remains of the northern bastion. This area could contain indications of the remains of an archaeological excavation.	Approx. 10mx10m
21	FRPW11-09	Linear bank, running approximately east west forming slightly raised area within in the fortifications.	Approx. 20mx3m
22	FRP11-01, 02, 04, 08, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35	Remains of the civil war fortifications, only the north and western bastion survive as easily recognisable earth works, with the western being the best defined by the modern path layout. Both the eastern and southern slopes survive within the park perimeter while the eastern side of the fortifications lay outside the protection offered by the park perimeter (identification of the bastions based on cardinal points, is taken from the 1879 survey, AM Fraser).	Approx. 90m north-south, 25-75m east-west, remaining within the park



Illus 2
Contour plan



Illus 3
Contour plan overlaid onto an 1886 Ordnance Survey plan



Illus 4
Photo reference plan

7

The results are divided up into features identified during the topographic survey.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Condition of Scheduled Monument

Currently the area comprising the remains of the Civil War Fort is covered with mown grass, tarmac paths, and mature trees. The western bastion is defined by a path and ornate flower border and is consequently the

best preserved element of the Fort, whereas the profile of the northern bastion has been softened through various phases of landscaping.

The eastern and to a lesser extent the southern bastions are both clearly visible within the park and on the survey and it is interesting to note that within the property located outside the parkland containing the site of the former southern bastion, a large proportion of worked stone can be seen.

Changes in landscaping are reflected though a series of slight depressions spread over the site, which are probably evidence of tree bowls and bench locations. The ditches and covered



way identified on the survey conducted by A M Fraser (1879) have now been incorporated into the present landscape and are no longer clearly visible upon the surface.

7.2 Potential for further information

The archaeological research framework for the West Midlands (Watt 2011) is unfortunately limited in offering advice relating to sites of the English Civil War. Yet it suggests that the maturing of battlefield archaeology in recent years has significantly moved the subject away from 'its close association with an event' and placed an emphasis on position. In this respect the site can help to correct the limited understanding of the role that these military structures played in the social and economic development of the city of Worcester.

Most Civil War sites are thus perhaps an under valued resource when it comes to public presentation. Those that are classified as battlefields may be marked by a brown sign directing the inquisitive visitor to the location of an historic event.

The site within Fort Royal Park falls into a different bracket and has the potential to illuminate the visitor, because it survives as an upstanding earthwork, despite the spread of urban development and recent landscaping. The protection that the parkland has offered the Fort has at least ensured that the remaining parts of this significant structure still survive today. The earthwork also retains strong visual links with the nearby Sidbury suburb (which was protected by the earthwork defences), the medieval / 17th century walled city, and the wider battlefield as a whole.

Sites of this date within Worcester City are fortunate as the local research framework (Worcester City Council 2007) does address the civil war period and the following research priorities reflect this:

RP6.14 Analysis of the city defences in the post-medieval period Better analysis of the standing and buried remains of the city defences to enhance understanding of their refurbishment (especially in the Civil War), decline and colonisation by other structures.

RP6.15 The landscape of the 1651 battle Analysis of the landscape of the battlefield is central to an understanding of the battle itself. Work should include the identification of surviving landscape features.

RP6.21 Civil War destruction The destruction of buildings and other features in the suburbs during the Civil War is well known from documentary sources, but has not been conclusively demonstrated from archaeological evidence. Evidence of continuity or otherwise of plot boundaries at this period would be of particular interest.

The potential of the monument may be better revealed through sub-surface examination, such as geophysical survey or excavation, yet despite this visitors to this park should be made aware of what is just beneath their feet. This could be through the simple and careful placement of interpretive graphics boards, showing the Civil War landscape around the City of Worcester in relation to the historic events associated with the battle of 1651. Alternatively, it could allow for further archaeological research works to be conducted on the site, illustrating the construction and development of fortified sites in relation to the development of weaponry and munitions within the medieval and post medieval periods.

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- Worcester City Council, 2007, *An outline resource assessment and research framework for the archaeology of Worcester*.



Illus 5
Hachure plan

APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

<i>Photo no.</i>	<i>Colour Slide</i>	<i>B&W</i>	<i>Digital</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	602/1	583/1	FRPW11-01	E	Area near entrance, view towards E Bastion
2	602/2	583/2	FRPW11-02	NW	View from Bastion to NW
3	602/3	583/3	FRPW11-03	NW	View from Bastion toward Bastion at N
4	602/4	583/4	FRPW11-04	SE	View back from toilets, towards east Bastion
5	602/5	583/5	FRPW11-05	E	View towards toilet block as ground slopes
6	602/6	583/6	FRPW11-06	NE	View showing grounds sloping west
7	602/7	583/7	FRPW11-07	W	Grounds sloping west, possibly covered way/hollow way
8	602/8	583/8	FRPW11-08	SW	View from car park area showing flattened area
9	602/9	583/9	FRPW11-09	NE	View towards hollow near field in front of Fort Royal House
10	602/10	583/10	FRPW11-10	NE	View from west Bastion
11	602/11	583/11	FRPW11-11	SW	View showing slope of west Bastion
12	602/12	583/12	FRPW11-12	W	View looking at south Bastion slope
13	602/13	583/13	FRPW11-13	NE	View showing south Bastion slope
14	602/14	583/14	FRPW11-14	NE	View showing south Bastion slope
15	602/15	583/15	FRPW11-15	NW	View looking towards west Bastion
16	602/16	583/16	FRPW11-16	NE	View towards remnants of south Bastion
17	602/17	583/17	FRPW11-17	NW	View across sloping ground in front of west Bastion
18	602/18	583/18	FRPW11-18	E	View towards west Bastion
19	602/19	583/19	FRPW11-19	SE	View towards west Bastion slope
20	602/20	583/20	FRPW11-20	N	View showing sloping ground, possible remains of hollow way
21	602/21	583/21	FRPW11-21	E	View identifying features, possible remains of hollow way
22	602/22	583/22	FRPW11-22	NE	View towards north Bastion
23	602/23	583/23	FRPW11-23	NE	Flattened area within confines of northern Bastion
24	602/24	583/24	FRPW11-24	SE	Hollow area to south of north Bastion (tree bowl)
25	602/25	583/25	FRPW11-25	SE	Landscaped wall, possible reused stone.
26	602/26	583/26	FRPW11-26	SE	Landscaped wall
27	602/27	583/27	FRPW11-27	SW	Area towards east of playground
28	602/28	583/28	FRPW11-28	NE	View looking at slopes to NE of north Bastion
29	602/29	583/29	FRPW11-29	N	Sloping land, running NW away from north Bastion
30	602/30	583/30	FRPW11-30	SE	View looking towards north Bastion
31	602/31	583/31	FRPW11-31	NW	Sloping land nw of north Bastion
32	602/32	583/32	FRPW11-32	SW	Area towards NE of north Bastion
33	602/33	583/33	FRPW11-33	NW	View showing north Bastion
34	602/34	583/34	FRPW11-34	NW	View showing north Bastion
35	602/35	583/35	FRPW11-35	S	View towards west Bastion
36	602/36	583/36	FRPW11-36	W	General view showing land sloping west away from west Bastion



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