

KSHH12



4 KYRLE STREET, HEREFORD

Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Robert Blackburn

September 2012

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4 Kyrle Street
Hereford

0 100km



viii



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Scale 1:450 @ A4



0 25m

Illus 1

Site location

4 KYRLE STREET, HEREFORD

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a pre-determination evaluation at 4 Kyrle Street, Hereford. The evaluation comprised two evaluation trenches, each measuring approximately 8.5 x 1.7m, excavated in the rear car park of Kyrle House.

Trench 1 revealed the presence of a modern machine cut feature possible associated with a redundant service. Trench 2 contained evidence for remains of three red brick structures and an associated brick surface. The structures identified within trench 2 were possibly associated with a previously demolished building located to the rear of Kyrle House, evidence for this structure still remains in the general makeup of the concrete and tarmac of the carpark.

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 4 Kyrle Street, Hereford (*Illus 1*) in order to provide information to be submitted with a planning application to develop the site. The site lies within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979). The work was carried out as Herefordshire County Archaeology Service had advised the planning authority that information was required on whether remains of archaeological significance survive within the proposed development area, and what the likely impact of the development upon any remains would be, in line with paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Herefordshire planning policy ARCH1. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Project Design agreed in advance with Herefordshire County Archaeology Service, and an Operations Notice and certificate was issued to the Investigating Authority for the Hereford AAI.

1.1 Site Description

The site is located to the north-east of the medieval city of Hereford, outside of the later medieval defences in an area previously owned by the priory of St Guthlac. The site is partially occupied by Kyrle House, a post-medieval building. Open areas are either gravel-surfaced car park or garden. The underlying geology is glacio-fluvial sheet deposits overlying the Raglan Mudstone formation (www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.2 Archaeological Background

Early map evidence suggests that the area was undeveloped in the post-medieval period, and lay to the rear of properties that fronted the road leading to Bysters Gate, now the modern day Commercial Road (Boucher and Thomas 2002).

No archaeological work has been carried out on the site of the proposed development. A trial trench was excavated nearby in 2006 at a site known as Berrow's House immediately opposite to Kyrle House (Rouse 2006). This evaluation trench located a buried soil horizon containing post-medieval artefacts and animal bone. A former property boundary probably dating to between 1757 and 1858 was also located.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this evaluation was to assess survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development, identify the date and nature of features being investigated, produce a report and deposit the archive with the local repository.

3. METHOD

Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with the use of a toothless bucket where possible. A toothed bucket was used when hard surfaces and compact deposits were encountered. The trenches were positioned in available areas of the site in order to obtain good general information upon its archaeological potential. All trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision and machine excavation ceased at the archaeological horizon, or at undisturbed geological deposits.

The original design of the evaluation required the excavation of two 10m trenches. Due to the vicinity of underground services and available access for the machine the trenches were reduced slightly in length.



◀ Illus 2

General view of Trench 1



All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts and small finds were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. Archaeological features were recorded in plan at a scale 1:20. Trench plans were produced at 1:50. Selected, representative trench sections were produced at 1:20. Photographs of archaeological features and deposits were taken using 35mm monochrome and colour slide film. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp digital camera were taken for illustrative purposes. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings. Trench positions were tied into the OS grid using a Trimble GPS unit with sub centimetre accuracy. Bulk finds were collected by context.

4. RESULTS

Trench 1 was located in the carpark to the south west of the property. It measured 1.7 x 8.5m and was excavated to a depth of 1.22m. The trench was originally intended to extend 10m but was shortened to avoid damage to the current drainage system. The excavation exposed a soil profile beneath the existing carpark surface (1002, 1005, 1006) overlaying an archaeological sterile layer of red gravels (1007). Within Trench 1, a modern machine cut trench (1003) aligned south west and north east cutting 1002 was identified. The base of feature 1003 was not reached as the excavated of the trench ceased when the archaeological sterile layer of natural red gravels was encountered (1007)

Trench 2 was located to the rear of the main property and measured 1.7 x 8.2m and was excavated to a depth of 1.00m, where natural red/yellow clay layer (2004) was encountered. The sequence above was composed of light greyish brown subsoil (2003) which contained some fragments of modern ceramic material, overlain by dark brown modern topsoil (2002).

The topsoil was cut by three red brick walls aligned at 90 degrees to the trench (2005, 2007, 2008). The three walls were all constructed from machine made red bricks and shared similar dimensions. Associated with the wall structure (2005) and located at the southern end of the trench was the remains of a single course of red bricks, perhaps laid to form a surface. These modern structures probably related to a previously demolished building to the rear of the existing Kyrle House.

The existing gravel surface of the car park (2001) sealed

◀ Illus 3

General view of Trench 2



the remains of the modern structures and there was no further archaeological activity within the area investigated. The evaluation trenches were inspected by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, and it was agreed that the evaluation had met its objectives.

5. DISCUSSION

The excavated trenches within the area of Kyrle House have revealed the presence of modern features associated with a previous structure, further evidence to location and nature of this structure can be identified within the surface of the existing car park to the rear of the main property. Apart from this structure, the largely undisturbed soil profile across the investigated area suggests that the evaluation trenches were located in an area that may have originally been a garden plot. The fragments of modern ceramics within the soil suggest that no significant human activity took place in this area until comparatively recently. The evaluation trenches have indicated that the potential for survival of archaeological remains of significance are limited within the area of the investigation.

6. REFERENCES

Boucher, A & Thomas, A 2002 *Hereford City Excavations: Further sites & evolving interpretations*, Herefordshire: Logaston Press; p143–144, p195–196.

Rouse, D 2006 *Berrows House, Bath Street, Hereford*, Archaeological Investigations Ltd; HAS 705.



7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench	Dimensions (m)	Description	Description	Contexts (depths below ground surface)
1	1.7 x 10 x 1.22	(54.85m– 54.87m OD ground level), Excavated to a geological deposit, straight cut pipe trench identified within trench. -avg depth 1.22m	Ground surface: Subsoil: Geological deposit:	1001 – 0.10m 1002 – 0.30m 1005 – 0.30m 1006 – 0.30m 1007 – u/ex
2	1.7 x 8.2 x 1.00	(54.82m– 54.89 OD ground level), Excavated to a geological deposit, a series of modern red brick walls relating to previous structure visible on the surface were identified-avg depth 1.00m	Ground surface: Subsoil: Geological deposit:	2001 – 0.15m 2002 – 0.30m 2003 – 0.30m 2004 – 0.25m

Appendix 1.2 Context register

Context	Trench	Description
1001	1	Present day gravel surface of carpark
1002	1	Compacted topsoil beneath carpark
1003	1	U shaped Cut, straight sided, machine cut pipe line
1004	1	Fill of 1003, mixed gravels and red brick
1005	1	Light brown subsoil beneath 1002
1006	1	Red/yellow clay deposit over natural gravels
1007	1	Red gravels, archaeological sterile layer
2001	2	Present day gravel surface of carpark
2002	2	Compacted topsoil beneath carpark
2003	2	Light brown subsoil beneath 2002
2004	2	Red/yellow clay deposit over natural gravels
2005	2	Red brick wall (.10 x .07 x .23m) cuts 2002
2006	2	Red brick surface (.10 x .07 x .23m) cuts 2002
2007	2	Red brick wall (.10 x .08 x .24m) cuts 2002
2008	2	Red brick wall (.10 x .08 x .24m) cuts 2002

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Appendix 1.3 Drawing register

Site surveyed with RTK GPS, file KSHH12-001-base data

Appendix 1.4 Photographic register

Photo	B/W	C/S	Digital	Direction	Description
1	–	–	y	NE	Building sign
2	y	y	y	SE	General view of the site
3	y	y	y	SE	General view of the site

Photo	B/W	C/S	Digital	Direction	Description
4	-	-	y	SE	General view of the site
5	-	-	y	SE	General view of the site
6	-	-	y	SE	General view of the site
7	-	-	y	SE	General view of the site
8	-	-	y	SE	General view of the site
9	y	y	y	SW	General view of section T1
10	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T1
11	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T1
12	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T1
13	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T1
14	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T1
15	y	y	y	SE	General view of T1
16	y	y	y	SE	General view of T2
17	y	y	y	SW	General view of section T2
18	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T2
19	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T2
20	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T2
21	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T2
22	-	-	y	SW	General view of section T2



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