

BSLS10



SITE OF FORMER CAR PARK AT THE
JUNCTION OF BROMSGROVE STREET
& LION STREET, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

for Bullock Construction Ltd

WF/10/0477

January 2013

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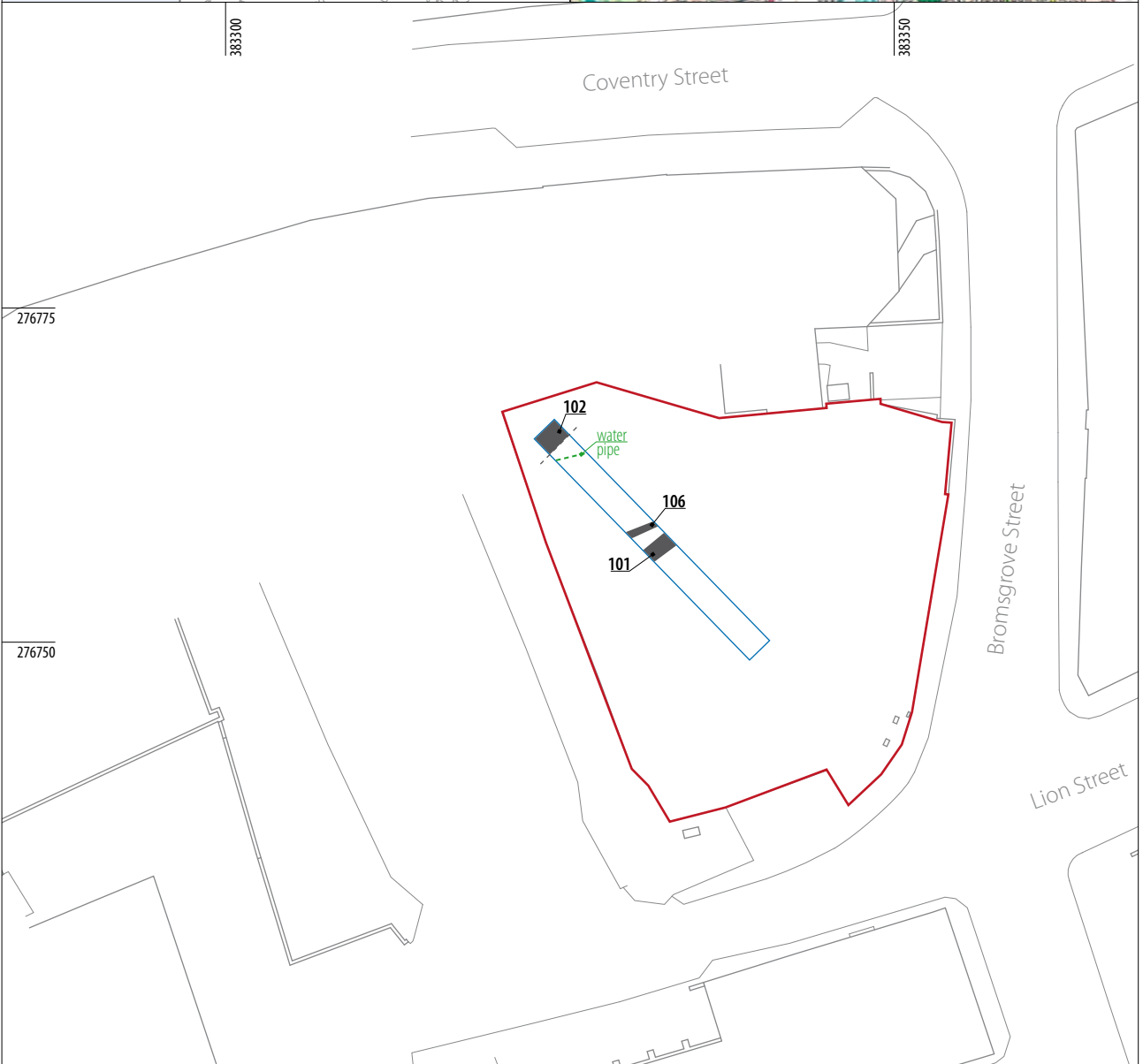
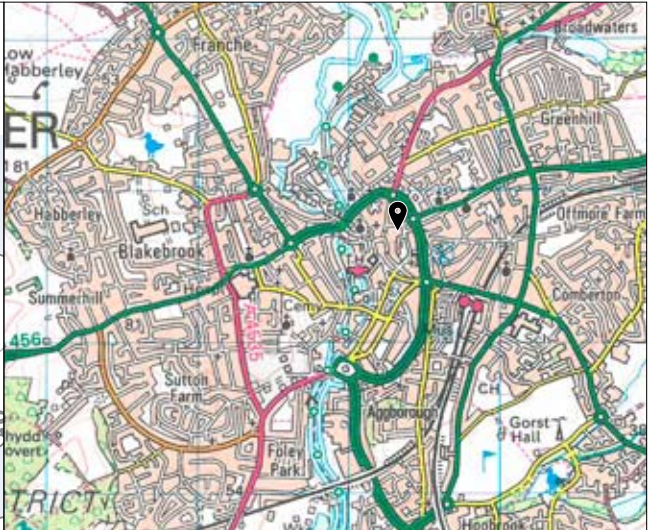
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Bromsgrove St. /
Lion St. junction
Kidderminster
Worcestershire



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scale 1:500 @ A4



Illus 1

Site location

SITE OF FORMER CAR PARK AT THE JUNCTION OF BROMSGROVE STREET & LION STREET, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. was commissioned by Bullock Construction Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction, at the site of a former car park at the junction of Bromsgrove Street and Lion Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8334 7675).

The only deposits encountered within the trench were of modern origin.

1

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Bullock Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction at the site of a former car park at the junction of Bromsgrove Street and Lion Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8334 7675).

A planning application (Ref: WF/10/0477) for the development of the site was submitted to the Wyre Forest District Council and in line with government policy given in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The application was approved on condition that;

No development shall take place until a programme of Archaeological Work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and include:

- a) the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
- b) the programme for post investigation assessment;*

c) provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;

d) provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;

e) provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation; and

f) nomination of a competent person or persons/ organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

A brief of works was issued by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Glyde 2010) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2011) was prepared in accordance with the brief.

The underlying geology is mainly comprised of Wildmoor sandstone formation comprised of sandstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 242-282 millions years ago in the Triassic period (www.BGS.ac.uk accessed 09/01/2013).

The site is currently covered in tarmac and was used as a car park. A temporary library was erected on site previous to this, in the form of prefabricated cabins.



Illus 2
Trench



2

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located immediately outside the historic core of the medieval town of Kidderminster (Historic Marches Survey 1996) within a possible tenement plot which may date from the thirteenth century. Map progression undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd as part of the HER search revealed a series of tenement plots which ran to the north of the site. Tenement or Burgage plots were narrow strips of land running at right angles to the main streets in medieval towns. A house would normally be located at the front with workshops and yards located to the rear of the plot. The plots do not seem to extend into the evaluation area on these maps however, and are located within the confines of the medieval town as indicated on the Historic Marches Survey. Therefore they may never have extended on to the site.

There was substantial post-medieval activity present in the vicinity of the site such as carpet factories (WSM19993), a tannery (WSM36842), a malt house (WSM37070), an inn (WSM36075, 37080) a hotel (WSM36864) and the site lies close to the medieval and post-medieval street system (WSM27052, 27055). The Lion Hotel (WSM36864) which stands across the road, to the east of the site, dates to 1750 and was a popular location for travellers through Kidderminster during this period. The hotel had its own brewery, stables, cow house and piggeries and coach house, indicating that this was a busy location during this period. The map progression also showed that a tannery, brewery and eleven carpet factories were located within the vicinity of the site in 1883.

A ground investigation undertaken in 2009 (Collins 2009) revealed that cellars were present along the eastern edge of the site.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine whether any archaeological remains were present within the proposed development area, characterise them by date, extent, preservation and significance, produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.

3.1 Medieval

- To assess the cycles of urban growth and decline, and the accompanying trends in urban populations.
- To prioritise the study of industry and production sites.
- To improve our knowledge of medieval housing prior to the 14th century.

3.2 Post-medieval

- Greater emphasis should be placed on exploring the earlier and smaller scale industries for which traces above ground or in the documentary record are relatively slight.

4. METHOD

A search was conducted at the Records Office in reference to the site and the area immediately surrounding the site. A HER assessment was also undertaken and relevant sources were consulted.

A single evaluation trench measuring 23m long and 2m wide was excavated within the development area (*Illus 2*) The trench location was determined, prior to arrival, in the archaeological brief (Glyde 2010).

Excavation was undertaken by a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat bladed bucket. All mechanical excavation took place under direct archaeological supervision with the upper made ground deposits being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

A record sheet was completed for the trench and potential archaeological features were subject to sample hand excavation carried out to a sufficient degree to meet the objectives of the evaluation.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards conforming to accepted archaeological norms. All plans of the trench were drawn at 1:100 and were tied into developer site plans. Photographs of the excavated areas 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. All trenches were tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping.

Headland Archaeology

Illus 3

NE facing section

Illus 4

NE facing section [102] at northern end of trench

Illus 5

Linear feature [106]

5. RESULTS

Excavation revealed substantial modern disturbance on site. The maximum depth reached during excavation was 1.85m below ground level, in an area at the north-western end of the trench, where natural geological deposits [105] were reached. The level of this horizon gradually rose across the site to a depth of 0.28m. The geological substrate varied across the site with patches of clean red sand [105] and an orange sand and gravel [104] present within the trench. The greatest depth of 1.85 to the north-west of the trench was caused by the creation of a large modern rubbish pit [102] filled with rubble, orange brick and modern gravel deposits (See *Illus 4*).

All of the superficial deposits encountered within the trench were of modern origin and contained orange brick and waste associated with demolition, and from previous usage of the site. (See *Illus 3*) A large concrete footing [101] was encountered at the centre of the trench (See *Illus 2*) probably relating to the temporary library buildings that previously occupied the site. A linear feature [106] (See *Illus 5*), which cut the substrate [104], and was filled with modern material, ran east-west across the trench. A modern plastic water pipe ran east-west across the north-western end of the trench, also cutting into the substrate [104].

Pockets of mid dark brown sand [103] were encountered within the substrate [104]. They contained no archaeological material. A small amount of 19th/20th century material was found within deposits encountered in the form of glazed pottery and clay smoking pipes. These were not retained.





6. DISCUSSION

The proximity of the site to the medieval town centre and to various post-medieval industries would suggest a high archaeological potential, however no archaeological features were uncovered within the evaluation trench. The intense modern activity, eg levelling associated with the demolition of previous structures and the site's use as a temporary library and car park truncated any archaeological evidence that may have been present on the site. The deposits encountered within the trench were modern in origin. The mid dark brown sand deposits [103] found overlying the geological horizon, may represent a variation in the substrate or remnants of a topsoil horizon which has since previously been removed due to modern disturbance. The evaluation has succeeded in demonstrating that there are no archaeologically significant remains within the site.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
1	23	2	0.28–1.5

Appendix 1.2 Context register

Context	Description
100	Made ground and tarmac surface
101	Concrete footings
102	Cut and fill of modern rubbish pit
103	Mid dark brown sand (original topsoil deposits)
104	Orange sand and gravel (natural)
105	Clean red sand (variation in natural)
106	Cut filled with modern brick rubble

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Dig.	Direction	Description
1	1	1	–	–	I.D. shot
2	2	2	01	NW	Trench 1 looking NW
3	3	3	02	SW	NE facing section
4	4	4	03	SW	NE facing section at NW end of trench.
5	5	5	04	NW	[106] linear feature-modern
6	6	6	05	SE	Trench 1 looking SE

Appendix 1.4 Drawing register

Drawing	Scale	Plan/Section	Description
1	1:100	Plan	Plan of trench
2	1:20	Section	NE facing section



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