



making sense of heritage

Frankley GI Works Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 108540.01
July 2015



**Frankley GI Works
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey PLC to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits (centred on NGR 397200 278800) near Frankley and Bewdley, as part of the Birmingham Resilience Scheme.

Excavation of the seven test pits revealed only made ground of modern origin and natural deposits. No artefacts were collected, with the only finds observed being modern in date.

First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that four of the test pits were located within or close to a former quarry. In these cases, the made ground may have been deposited to level out the site of the quarry.

The narrow width and hazardous depth of the test pits hindered the close examination that probably would have been required to identify any archaeological features of diffuse or subtle appearance. However, in the absence of any artefacts or conspicuous deposits, one can be largely confident that the monitored development has not led to any impact on the archaeological resource.

Worcestershire County Museum will be consulted over the deposition of the archive. A copy of this report will be supplied to the Worcestershire HER and uploaded to OASIS. An OASIS form, (ID number **wessexar1-208924**) has been provisionally prepared and will be completed at the time of deposition.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Amey plc. The assistance of Andrew Johnson and Ahmed Elayan is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

The watching brief was carried out by Martyn Cooper, Martina Tenzer and Ashley Tuck. The report was written by Patrick Daniel, with illustrations by Alix Sperr. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Amey PLC (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the excavation of geotechnical test pits near Frankley and Bewdley (centred NGR 397200 278800; hereafter 'the Site'; **Figure 1**) as part of the Birmingham Resilience Scheme.

1.1.2 No background information on the scheme was available to include in this report. A rationale for the test pits is included below. The archaeological watching brief was carried out intermittently between 13th March 2015 and 13th April 2015.

1.2 Rationale

1.2.1 Information on the rationale for each test pit is included below:

Exploratory Hole Reference	Easting	Northing	Rationale
TP331	379712.2	273310.9	Located just outside landfill area and within an area for Palaeolithic Potential (WSM56937).
TP3032	397167.1	278848.1	Located within a recorded asset (a site of possible limekiln WSM57027 and where finds been found (WSM30021 and WSM20937)).
TP3033	397183.1	278869.7	Located within a recorded asset (a site of possible limekiln WSM57027 and where finds been found (WSM30021 and WSM20937)).
TP3034	397172.2	278828.7	Located within a recorded asset (a site of possible limekiln WSM57027 and where finds been found (WSM30021 and WSM20937)).
TP3035	397206.3	278853.4	Located within a recorded asset (a site of possible limekiln WSM57027 and where finds been found (WSM30021 and WSM20937)).
TP3036	397220.7	278840.8	Located within a recorded asset (a site of possible limekiln WSM57027 and where finds been found (WSM30021 and WSM20937)).
TP4029	399193.2	280203.1	Located within area included in a former Deer Park (WSM06761).



1.3 Methodology

- 1.3.1 The fieldwork and recording was carried out in accordance with national industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014-c).
- 1.3.2 Test pits were excavated using a mechanical excavator and monitored by an archaeologist. Topsoil and overburden was removed down to made ground or the level of the natural geology. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets. Use was made of digital photography to record the test pits and general Site views.
- 1.3.3 Soil horizons exposed in plan and section were monitored for possible archaeological value/origin, and spoilheaps were scanned for artefacts. However, safety concerns regarding the narrow width and great depth of the majority of the test pits prevented the hand-cleaning that would ordinarily be carried out. The hazardous nature of the test pits may therefore have precluded the detection of archaeological remains of subtle appearance.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Results from the monitored test pits (TPs) are detailed below, with the test pits presented in numerical order according to the test pit numbering scheme, which was of the Client's devising.

2.2 TP331

- 2.2.1 TP331 was located at 379712.2E 273310.9N; it measured 4m long by 0.5m wide and was excavated to more than 0.6m below the current ground level (**Plate 1**). An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location within an area with a heightened potential for the recovery of Palaeolithic remains.
- 2.2.2 The soil profile within TP331 comprised a 0.25m-thick deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay topsoil overlying a 0.35m-thick deposit of pale brownish yellow silty sand subsoil. This overlay, at a depth of 0.6m below the current ground surface, the natural geological substrate which consisted of mid-reddish brown gravelly sand.
- 2.2.3 No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

2.3 TP3032

- 2.3.1 TP3032 was located at 397167.1E 278848.1N; it measured 3m long by 0.6m wide and was excavated to 2m below the current ground level (**Plate 2**). An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location upon the site of a possible lime kiln (WSM57027) and a findspot (WSM30021 and WSM20937).
- 2.3.2 The soil profile within TP3032 comprised a 0.4m-thick deposit of pale orange brown sandy clay ploughsoil. This overlay a 0.2m-thick deposit of pink clay made ground, which overlay a 0.3m thick grey silt clay interpreted as a buried soil. The natural substrate was encountered at 0.9m below the current ground surface, and here presented as a 0.5m-thick deposit of orange clay with sand, covering the sandstone bedrock, which was at least 0.6m thick.



2.3.3 No archaeological features were recorded, with the only finds being of modern origin (brick/tile and pottery) and recovered from the topsoil.

2.4 TP3033

2.4.1 TP30333 was located at 397183.1E 278869.7N; it measured 4m long by 0.5m wide and was excavated to more than 0.25m below the current ground level. An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location upon the site of a possible lime kiln (WSM57027) and a findspot (WSM30021 and WSM20937).

2.4.2 The soil profile within TP3033 comprised a 0.25m-thick deposit of mid-reddish brown loamy clay topsoil. This overlay the natural geological substrate, here present as reddish pink sandy clay.

2.4.3 No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

2.5 TP3034

2.5.1 TP3034 was located at 397172.2E 278828.7N; it measured 2m long by 1.5m wide and was excavated to more than 1m below the current ground level (**Plate 3**). An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location upon the site of a possible lime kiln (WSM57027) and a findspot (WSM30021 and WSM20937).

2.5.2 The soil profile within TP3034 comprised a 0.2m-thick deposit of greyish brown silty sand ploughsoil overlying a 0.85m-thick deposit of yellowish red silty sand made ground containing modern material.. This overlay, at a depth of 1.05m below the current ground surface, the natural geological substrate which consisted of yellowish brown silty clay. This material was 0.15m thick, below which, at a depth of 1m below the current ground surface, a greyish brown sand containing sandstone boulders was observed.

2.5.3 No archaeological features were recorded, with the only finds being of modern origin (brick and glass).

2.6 TP3035

2.6.1 TP3035 was located at 397206.3E 278853.4N; it measured 3m long by 0.6m wide and was excavated to more than 3m below the current ground level (**Plate 4**). An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location upon the site of a possible lime kiln (WSM57027) and a findspot (WSM30021 and WSM20937).

2.6.2 The soil profile within TP3035 comprised a 0.4m-thick deposit of mid-brown loam clay topsoil overlying a 0.5m-thick deposit of orange brown sandy clay. This in turn overlay a dark orange brown sandy clay which continued to more than 3m below the current ground surface. This latter material was interpreted as made ground on the basis of its loose consistency.

2.6.3 No archaeological finds or features were recorded, other than modern brick and concrete within the topsoil.

2.7 TP3036

2.7.1 TP3036 was located at 397220.7E 278840.8; it measured 2.5m long by 0.8m wide and was excavated to more than 1.4m below the current ground level (**Plate 5**). An



archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location upon the site of a possible lime kiln (WSM57027) and a findspot (WSM30021 and WSM20937).

2.7.2 The soil profile within TP3036 comprised a 0.45m-thick deposit of mid-brown silty sand topsoil overlying a 0.95m-thick deposit of red silty sand made ground containing brick fragments. This overlay, at a depth of 1.4m below the current ground surface, a further deposit of made ground which consisted of yellowish grey clay sand.

2.7.3 No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

2.8 TP4029

2.8.1 TP4029 was located at 399193.2E 280203.1N; it measured 4m long by 0.5m wide and was excavated to more than 3m below the current ground level (**Plate 6**). An archaeological watching brief on the excavation of this test pit was required on the basis of its location within a former deer park (WSM06761).

2.8.2 The soil profile within TP4029 comprised a 0.3m-thick deposit of brownish grey loamy clay topsoil overlying the natural geological substrate, here present as a reddish brown sandy clay containing fragments of natural sandstone.

2.8.3 No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 General

3.1.1 The recorded sequence indicates that at the locations of test pits 3034-6 the ground surface has been raised by the deposition of levelling deposits ("made ground"). Artefactual material observed within these deposits was relatively modern, indicating that it was laid down in recent years.

3.1.2 Historic mapping (1883 Ordnance Survey Worcestershire X.SW) indicates that test pits 3032-3036 were located within or close to a former quarry. In these cases, the made ground may have been deposited to level out the site of the former quarry prior to its return to agriculture. It is possible that spoil generated by the construction of the nearby M5 was appropriated for this purpose, but this is speculation.

3.1.3 Safety considerations with the regard to the narrow and often very deep test pits prevented hand cleaning and close examination of their sides. However, with no artefacts or conspicuous deposits of archaeological origin recorded, and in light of the modern disturbance that was evident, one can be reasonably confident that the monitored development has not led to any significant impact on the archaeological resource.

4 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

4.1 Museum

4.1.1 Worcestershire County Museum will be consulted over the deposition of the archive. A copy of this report will be supplied to the Worcestershire HER and uploaded to OASIS. An



OASIS form, (ID number **wessexar1-208924**: see Appendix 2) has been provisionally prepared and will be completed at the time of deposition.

4.2 Preparation of archive

4.2.1 All elements of the fieldwork archive will be marked with the site code **108540**, and a full index will be prepared. The fieldwork archive (comprising paper records, drawings, photographic records and digital data), will be prepared for long term storage following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013) and those of the recipient museum .

4.2.2 The physical archive comprises the following:

- *1 A4 file of paper records*

4.2.3 No artefactual material was collected during the watching brief.

4.3 Security copy

4.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



5 REFERENCES

5.1 Bibliography

- ADS, 2013. *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D.H., 2011. *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014c. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Institute for Archaeologists
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA), 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists



6 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1: Context summary

TP331	Description	Dimensions: 4 x 0.5m Max Depth: >0.6m
Context:		Depth: (m)
3301	Topsoil: Mid-brownish grey silty clay	0-0.25
3302	Subsoil: Pale brownish yellow silty sand	0.25-0.6
3303	Natural: Mixed mid-reddish brown gravelly sand	>0.6

TP3032	Description	Dimensions: 3 x 0.6m Max Depth: 2m
Context:		Depth: (m)
3201	Ploughsoil: Pale orange brown sandy clay	0-0.4
3202	Made ground: Orange pink clay	0.4-0.6
3203	Buried soil: Grey silt clay	0.6-0.9
3204	Natural: Orange sand with clay	0.9-1.4
3205	Natural (bedrock): Yellow grey sandstone	1.4->2

TP3033	Description	Dimensions: 4 x 0.6m Max Depth: 3.5m
Context:		Depth: (m)
3301	Topsoil: Mid-reddish brown loamy clay	0-0.25
3302	Natural: Reddish pink sandy clay	0.25->3.5

TP3034	Description	Dimensions: 2 x 1.5m Max Depth: 2.5m
Context:		Depth: (m)
3401	Ploughsoil: Greyish brown silty sand	0-0.2
3402	Made ground: Yellowish red silty sand with modern finds	0.2-0.85
3403	Natural: Yellowish brown sandy clay with pockets of red clay and irregular fragments of sandstone	0.85-1
3404	Natural: greyish brown sand with large sandstone boulders	1->2.5

TP3035	Description	Dimensions: 3 x 0.6m Max Depth: 3m
Context:		Depth: (m)
3501	Topsoil:	0-0.4
3502	Made ground: Orange brown sand clay	0.4-0.9
3503	Made ground: Dark, loose orange brown sand clay	0.9->3

TP3036	Description	Dimensions: 2.5 x 0.8m Max Depth:
Context:		Depth: (m)
3601	Topsoil: Mid brown silty sand	0-0.45
3602	Red silty sand with tarmac fragments	0.45-1.4
3603	Yellowish grey clay sand	>1.4

TP4029	Description	Dimensions: 4 x 0.5m Max Depth: 3.4m
Context:		Depth: (m)
2901	Topsoil: Brown grey loamy clay	0-0.3
2902	Natural: Reddish brown sandy clay with patches of yellowish red clay and irregular fragments of sandstone	>0.3



6.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

Project details

Project name	Frankley GI Works
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey PLC to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits (centred on NGR 397200 278800) associated with the Birmingham Resilience Scheme. Excavation of the seven test pits revealed only made ground of modern origin and natural deposits. No artefacts were collected, with the only finds observed being modern in date. First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that four of the test pits were located within or close to a former quarry. In these cases, the made ground may have been deposited to level out the site of the quarry. The narrow width and hazardous depth of the test pits hindered the close examination that probably would have been required to identify any archaeological features of diffuse or subtle appearance. However, in the absence of any artefacts or conspicuous deposits, one can be largely confident that the monitored development has not led to any impact on the archaeological resource.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2015 End: 13-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	108540 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Environmental (unspecified schedule)
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE BROMSGROVE FRANKLEY Frankley GI Works



Postcode	B62 0EJ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 97120 78800 52.4068210578 -2.04234052043 52 24 24 N 002 02 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.25m Max: 3.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	Amey plc
Project director/manager	Richard O'Neill
Project supervisor	Martyn Cooper
Project supervisor	Martina Tenzer
Project supervisor	Ashley Tuck
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Worcester Country Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcester County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text", "Unspecified Archive"



**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Development site Test pit location

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Revision Number: 0

Scale: Main graphic - 1: 100,000 @ A3
Inset - 1: 10,000 @ A3

Illustrator: APS

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Location of Site and monitored test pits

Figure 1



Plate 1: **TP331**, from the north

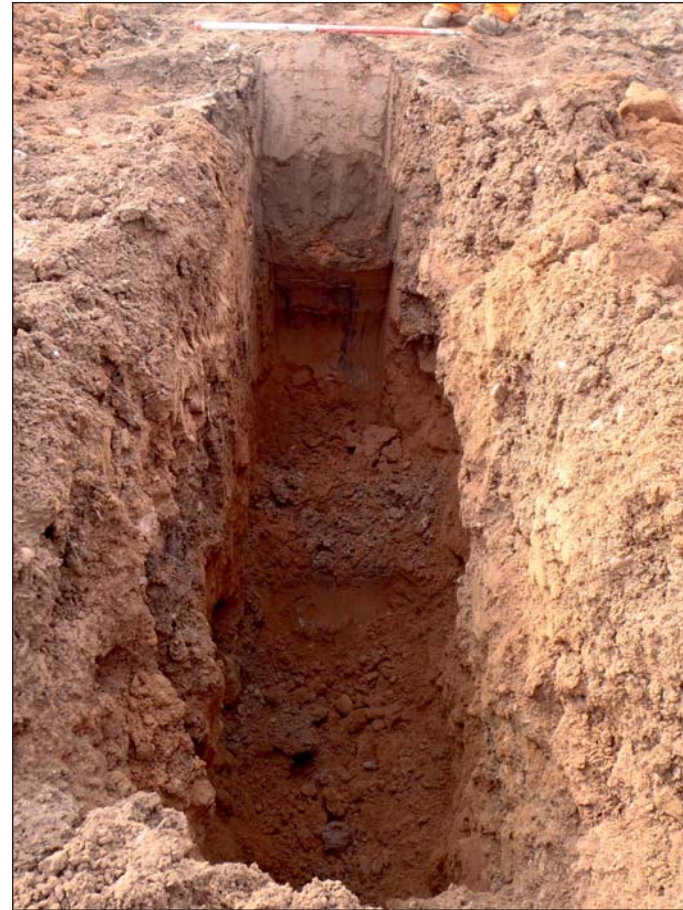


Plate 2: **TP3032**, from the south


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Plate 3: **TP3034**, from the south-east



Plate 4: **TP3035**, from the west

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Plate 5: **TP3036**, from the north



Plate 6: **TP4029**, from the north

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