



**Former DEFRA site, Whittington Road,  
Worcester, Worcestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

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## Archaeological Evaluation

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## Former DEFRA site, Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire

### Archaeological Evaluation

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by St Modwen Developments Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of land off Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site comprises former Second World War II government office buildings and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 387272, 253669.

The trenching was due to comprise the excavation of 14 trenches measuring up to 50 m in length. However, the presence of asbestos precluded the excavation of two trenches in the north of the Site.

The trenching demonstrated that the Site had been adversely affected by truncating groundworks associated with the government development of the Site both during and after the 1940s. The truncation was greatest in locations which had been subsequently tarmacked such as carparks and tennis courts.

Those areas not truncated had either been unaffected by the works and left at their existing levels, or they had been raised by the redeposition of excavated clays, presumably derived from those areas which had been truncated. Within these trenches there was no evidence of a former turf line beneath the redeposited soils, and it is feasible that the previous ground surface had been stripped of its turf prior to this landscaping; the relic topsoil did survive in part across the Site and was evident in section.

No archaeological features, other than post-medieval agricultural furrows were discovered during the works. This sparse record was supported by the absence of archaeological artefacts pre-dating the 17th century. A deep cut feature was located within the centre of the Site and coincides with a pond or quarry seen on the 1885 OS map. Based upon these results, the archaeological potential of the Site appears to be limited to post-medieval agriculture and 20th century government activity.

The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield office under Site code 111673, and will be deposited with Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum shortly under accession WCM 102192, and an OASIS form uploaded (OASIS ID: wessexar1-259891).



# Former DEFRA site, Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### **Acknowledgements:**

Wessex archaeology would like to thank Gerard Belfield of Wakemans for commissioning the work on behalf of St Modwen Developments Ltd. Thanks are also extended to James Dinn of Worcester County Council for providing curatorial support throughout the fieldwork.

A total of 12 trenches were excavated between the 2nd August 2016 and the 9th August 2016. Fieldwork was directed by Peter Noble, with the assistance of Callum Bruce, Jonathon Buttery and Hannah Dabill. This report was compiled by Peter Noble. Finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. Illustrations were provided by Alix Sperr. The Project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.



# Former DEFRA site, Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by St Modwen Developments Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of land off Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (Figure 1). The Site comprises former Second World War II government office buildings and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 387272, 253669.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation followed an initial desk based assessment (DBA; Wessex Archaeology 2016a), and a programme of building recording (Wessex Archaeology 2016b). Due to the archaeological potential of the Site James Dinn of Worcester City Council (WCC) requested that an archaeological trenched evaluation was carried out comprising five x 50 m trenches and nine x 30 m trenches within areas of hardstanding and open space; c. 3% of the area not covered by standing buildings.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2016c) and approved by James Dinn (WCC) prior to commencing work.

### 2 SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of land of c. 7.6 hectares (ha) located within the Red Hill area of the City of Worcester c. 2.5 km south-west of the city centre.
- 2.1.2 The Site is currently occupied by three single storey office buildings, a canteen building and three storage buildings, along with associated access roads, areas of hardstanding and grass.
- 2.1.3 Residential development borders the Site to the north, south and east with the south-western edge bounded by the A44. The Site's north-western corner is adjacent to offices and a petrol station.
- 2.1.4 The Site is situated on slightly sloping land with its western edge lying at approximately 64 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping down to approximately 58 m aOD at its eastern edge.
- 2.1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the Site is mapped as mainly comprising the Branscombe Mudstone Formation with a section of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation in

the north-western part of the Site with no superficial layers reported (British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## **2.2 Archaeological and historical background**

2.2.1 The following is a summary of the archaeological and historical background taken from the DBA (Wessex Archaeology 2016a).

### *Prehistoric*

2.2.2 There is very little recorded evidence from the prehistoric periods within the Study Area. A dispersed scatter of flints and fire-cracked stones was recovered approximately 400 m to the south of the Site. The two most diagnostic pieces; a tranchet axe and microlith are both Mesolithic in date. A small amount of Bronze Age pottery was also found to the north of Middle Battenhall Farm.

### *Romano-British*

2.2.3 There is very little evidence dating from the Romano-British period within the Study Area. A roman coin was found during construction in the 19th century at Lark Hill, and a limited amount of pottery was discovered during fieldwalking to the north of Middle-Battenhall Farm to the south-west of the Site. Several sherds of pottery were also discovered during archaeological watching briefs within Whittington.

2.2.4 Residual pottery was found in features during excavations to the east of the Site (Cotswold Archaeology 2010). This may be indicative of some Romano-British settlement activity in the vicinity of the Site. Within the wider landscape there is evidence of a Roman road to the west of the Study Area, and considerable Romano-British activity was recorded to the south near Crookbarrow Hill during construction of the motorway.

### *Anglo-Saxon*

2.2.5 The first documentary reference to Whittington dates from AD 816 with the name originating from the Tun, meaning homestead or village, of Hwita's people (Ekwall 1960, 514). There have been no archaeological finds or features found within the Study Area, but there is a charter which describes the boundaries of the parish of Whittington. A possible Saxon routeway is located to the east of the Site. The records also tell us that there was a chapel within the parish, which was probably on the site of the current church.

2.2.6 A deer park for the manor of Battenhall is located c. 650 m to the south-west of the Site. The HER records that there is documentary evidence that it originated in the Saxon period. The park continued in use throughout the medieval period and is depicted on post-medieval maps.

### *Medieval*

2.2.7 It appears that the agricultural character of the Study Area continued into the medieval period. This is supported by the records of a large number of areas of ridge and furrow, the nearest of these being 250 m to the south of the Site. A survey of Nunnery Wood to the north-west has identified a number of features including marl pits dug for calcium carbonate to improve the surrounding farmland, boundary ditches and banks and several ponds.

2.2.8 The probable line of a medieval road runs 250 m to the east of the Site and three hollow-ways are also recorded. It is also possible that the current Whittington Road overlies a medieval trackway from the manor of Perry to the north-west and Whittington village. Within the former manor of Perry a hoard of 215 silver pennies from the 12th century was



discovered in the 19th century. The hamlet of Swinesherd is also recorded 900 m to the north.

- 2.2.9 The main feature within the Study Area from this period is the scheduled monastic grange site approximately 425 m to the south-west of the Site. The remains of the moated grange at Middle Battenhall Farm has good preservation and may be expected to overlie evidence of former structures, including both domestic and ancillary buildings, and their associated occupation levels. These remains provide evidence for dating the construction and subsequent use of the site. The moat is expected to preserve earlier deposits including evidence of its construction and any alterations during its active history. Water management earthworks associated with the monument are located to the south of the Site c. 670 m.
- 2.2.10 Near to the Site, an archaeological evaluation off Kilbury Drive has found limited medieval evidence, but several undated ditches may be of medieval date and this area has been interpreted as forming part of an agricultural landscape during the period (Cotswold 2010).

*Post-medieval*

- 2.2.11 In the post-medieval period the area surrounding the Site continued to be agricultural in character. Finds and features from the period were found to the east during an evaluation and excavation ahead of development, including a possible platform for agricultural buildings. This indicates that the site of the 19th century Uffnells Farm may have earlier origins.
- 2.2.12 The agricultural nature of the surrounding landscape is supported by Hedgerow boundaries identified to the north-east, and place name evidence to the south indicates the possible site of a windmill. Several houses and farm sites from this period have been identified including Nunnery Farm and Redhill Farm to the north-west.
- 2.2.13 Worcester played an important part in the English Civil War, it was besieged twice and the decisive battle of the Charles II's attempt to regain the throne in 1651 was fought around the city. The importance of this battle is reflected in the inclusion of a large area to the south-west of the Site on the Register of Historic Battlefields. Although the edge of the registered area is 770 m away, it is clear from historical sources that the battle extended beyond this boundary (Seymour 1997).
- 2.2.14 There are numerous references to Red Hill in the documentary sources, with artillery apparently positioned on the hill to target the fortifications to the south of the city during the 1646 siege and during the 1651 battle. Charles II led a counterattack to take Perry Hill and Red Hill, which almost succeeded. It is probable that this centred on the earthworks recorded 770 m to the west of the Site. Similar entrenchments are located to the south of Perry Wood 900 m to the north-west of the Site.
- 2.2.15 As the Site would have been on the reverse slope to the city it is unlikely that the artillery would have been positioned here and the action probably took place further to the west. However there is the possibility of communication trenches, forges and troop encampments further to the rear (Atkin 1995, 65).
- 2.2.16 Red Hill was also the location of an execution site and gallows approximately 200 m to the west of the Site. It was probably positioned there for its prominent position on top of the hill, near to the parish boundary and the road from Worcester. An evaluation around Perrypoint House found evidence of a former trackway, the parish boundary and possibly the execution site.

### *19th Century*

- 2.2.17 The character of the Study Area started to change during this period as the city of Worcester expanded with the industrial revolution. Suburban developments on the edge of the city were constructed, primarily for the more well off. For example the villas within the Lark Hill development, which is now a conservation area, contains seven Grade II listed buildings as well as the site of the now demolished Elmbank House. Similarly Battenhall conservation area to the west contains the Listed Gardener's Cottage and the site of the Villa known as the Trenches. Other residential buildings including those along Spetchley Road.
- 2.2.18 Despite this expansion to the north-west the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map from 1885 shows that the Site was still rural in nature, divided between several fields. The dog-legged boundaries may represent remnants of earlier medieval strip enclosure systems. Within the Site a pond is recorded, which is of unknown date, although it is depicted on the map and may be a post-medieval waterhole, or a quarry pit.
- 2.2.19 Uffnells Farm was sited just to the east of the Site. Several other farm buildings and plots of former farms have been identified from this period within the Study Area.

### *Modern*

- 2.2.20 The Site changed administrative boundaries in 1931 to be included within the city of Worcester. This led to further suburban and light industrial development on the outskirts of the city near the Site, including housing to the north of the Site along Spetchley Road. Worcester was significantly affected by World War II, which had a direct impact on the Site and surrounding area. With the fall of France and the threat of an invasion of Britain in 1940 a number of measures taken to prepare for this eventuality.
- 2.2.21 One of the plans involved the dispersal of important government functions and industry throughout the country away from London, which was recognised as a prime target for both bombing and any potential invasion. To this end, new accommodation was required for the various departments and ministries which were quick and easy to construct. A standard design was created by Sir James West for the Ministry of Works, and constructed in groups, generally on the outskirts of towns. These buildings were a steel-framed single-storey brick and concrete constructions, having a central spine with a central reception area, and twelve wings (Wilks 2007, 23). These standard designed offices were named Temporary Office Buildings (TOB) and continued to be built into the 1950s. The Site was requisitioned for the Air Ministry and a Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) training school, for which three of these TOBs were constructed within the Site.
- 2.2.22 A canteen for these facilities was built on the southern part of the Site. Also, although not depicted on the original 1940 plan of the Redhill site (HER ref. Appno7665), 18 prefabricated Romney type huts were constructed on the north of the Site along with a brick air raid shelter to the south of the canteen. Most of the huts have subsequently been removed to make way for car parking, however three still remain. The 1962 OS map shows several other small buildings within the Site which are likely to be ancillary to the offices although their precise date and function is unknown. Archaeological remains of these structures may be present within the Site.
- 2.2.23 In addition to this dispersal plan, measures were taken to improve the planning and defences of Britain through a programme of constructing thousands of defensive structures. Worcester was designated as an "anti-tank island" in the event of an invasion and the Site formed the outer edge of the Worcester defences. Two brick and concrete Type FW3/24 pillboxes were constructed on the eastern edge of the Site to defend it. The entrances to the pillboxes indicate that their designed field of fire was to the east. The structures are in



a generally good condition although the entrances and embrasures are bricked up. Pillboxes were sometimes complemented with nearby trench systems and barbed wire obstacles. There is therefore a moderate potential that such remains could be encountered in the vicinity of the two assets within the Site.

- 2.2.24 There are records of numerous road blocks, including one near the entrance to the Site, intended to impede, slow down or channel attacking forces. These have all been removed and their exact form is uncertain, although it is recorded that they were probably vertical metal rails inserted into the road with concrete anti-tank cylinders supplemented with barbed wire.
- 2.2.25 Post-war there was continued suburban expansion, with houses surrounding the Site to the south along Whitewood Way and east along Baynham and Kilbury Drives. To the west Whittington Road was upgraded to a dual carriageway and modern development now lies on the opposite side of the road.

*Undated*

- 2.2.26 An earth bank is recorded 900 m to the south-west, and is of uncertain date and function. The Worcester City Historic Environment Record (WCHER) also records two undated houses on London Road; however these are probably 19th or 20th century in date.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Project aim**

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the *CIfA Standard and guidance: archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), the principle aim of the works was to determine the presence/absence, extent nature and date of any archaeological remains in order to inform the nature of further mitigation (if any). All works were in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

#### **3.2 Project objectives**

- 3.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives are defined:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits,*
- *to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the work.*

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Health and Safety**

- 4.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.



- 4.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force.
- 4.1.3 WA supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commenced.
- 4.1.4 WA staff comply with the standard PPE requirements for working on construction sites (hard hat, steel toe capped boots, high visibility clothing).

## **4.2 Evaluation**

- 4.2.1 The following methodology was followed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the evaluation at the Site. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance: archaeological evaluation (ClfA 2014a)*, and national guidelines (i.e. HE 2015), except where superseded by statements made below.
- 4.2.2 The fieldwork was originally designed to consist of the excavation of five x 50 m trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9) and nine x 30 m trenches (Trenches 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10-14). This methodology was altered during the on-Site works due to health and safety concerns, with the presence of asbestos leading to the omission of Trenches 6 and 7.
- 4.2.3 A large number of underground electrical services were discovered within the Site, both during the pre-excavation service plan checking period and on Site during CAT scanning prior to the excavation of trenches. Both the density and orientations of these services entailed changes to the proposed methodology. Some trenches were moved to allow them to be fully excavated. Where this was not possible, trenches were either shortened or split (Trench 10) to avoid cable routes.
- 4.2.4 All changes to the agreed WSI were agreed with James Dinn (WCC).

## **4.3 Machine excavation**

- 4.3.1 Topsoil or overburden was removed using a tracked mechanical excavator (360°) fitted with toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeological supervisor. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first. The trench was checked for services using a CAT prior to, and after, each machine spit.

## **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 A monitoring visit to the Site was carried out by James Dinn archaeological advisor for Worcester City Council (WCC) during the course of the fieldwork.

## **4.5 Recording**

- 4.5.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using an appropriate pro forma to ensure relevant data was collected in a standardised recording system. This written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully described the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and was cross-referenced to all other assigned records.



4.5.2 Trench tops and bases as well as all archaeological features and planning points were located using a GNSS Survey system accurate to a three dimensional accuracy of 0.05 m or better.

4.5.3 A full photographic record was maintained using digital images of at least 10 megapixels. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features.

## **4.6 Specialist strategies**

### *4.6.1 Artefacts*

4.6.2 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (EH 2005; ClfA 2014c; MGC 1992). All retained artefacts were washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were to be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

### *Environmental*

4.6.3 No suitable environmental deposits were discovered during the works and no samples were taken.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 A total of 12 evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench 10 was split into two smaller trenches (10a and 10b) due to the presence of two power cables which lay in the rough centre of the original trench layout (Figure 1).

5.1.2 Archaeological features were only discovered within Trench 9 (Figure 2) and 10a. These features comprised three similarly aligned agricultural furrows, one of which contained a fragment of clay pipe stem, and an infilled pond or quarry.

### **5.2 Summary**

5.2.1 Natural clays were revealed between 0.5 m and 1.5 m below current ground level, with evidence for substantial groundworks associated with the levelling and truncation of the previous ground surface recorded across the Site. These groundworks were related to the initial development and subsequent re-developments of the Site from the 1940s onwards.

5.2.2 In Trench 3 this truncation affected the eastern half of the trench only and related to the installation of tennis courts (Plate 1). Within Trench 8 this truncation had removed sections of the previous topsoil, subsoil and natural clay to the east of the trench presumably where the pre-existing land surface had originally risen. In Trench 12 all previous soil layers had been removed and the area levelled for a car park (Plate 2).

5.2.3 Conversely, re-deposited soils and natural clays had been imported into areas where the ground level lay below that required and the ground level had been raised in these areas. Trenches 1, 2, 8, 9, 13 and 14 had all been raised and a mixed layer of redeposited natural clay and mid grey silt clay lay directly under the topsoil.

5.2.4 This redeposited layer lay over two buried soils, c. 0.3 m thick, which had originally formed the topsoil and subsoil (a relic ploughsoil) prior to the ground level being raised. These buried soils were recorded within Trenches 1, 2, 8, 9, 13 and 14 and were consistent in their forms across the Site (Plates 3 and 4). No buried turf line was visible in any of the recorded

sections and it is feasible that turf was stripped off prior to the raising of the ground level and then re-instated on top of the imported soils. In Trench 9 buried soils 903 and 909 contained pottery dating from the 17th century.

- 5.2.5 A 0.1-0.15 m deep interface layer was commonly found directly over the natural clay. This interface layer, although natural, had been adversely affected by a mixture of waterlogging and bioturbation and was removed during the machining phase.

### **5.3 Post-medieval**

- 5.3.1 Three east-west aligned agricultural furrows were recorded within Trench 9. A hand-excavated section was placed through 905, which was the most southerly of these furrows. All of these features extended beyond the trench and all lay under the buried soil layer 909.
- 5.3.2 Furrow 905 was east-west aligned, measuring 1.52 m wide x 0.14 m deep with a flat base. Furrow 905 was filled with a light brown grey sand clay (906) with occasional sub-rounded pebbles (Figure 2 and Plate 5). A clay pipe stem was recovered from 906.
- 5.3.3 Within Trench 10a a dumped deposit (1002) exceeding 2 m in depth was revealed beneath the topsoil (1001; Plate 6). Deposit 1002 consisted of mixed redeposited clays with regular mid-brown grey silt clay with regular red brick, and represented the infilling of a pond or quarry seen on late 19th century OS maps.

### **5.4 Modern**

- 5.4.1 Ceramic field drains were recorded within Trenches 1, 2, 4, 9, 11 and 12.

### **5.5 Bioturbation**

- 5.5.1 Trenches 1, 9, 11, 13 and 14 had all been adversely affected by bioturbation. Trenches 1, 9 and 13 contained several irregular features which upon excavation proved to be tree throws or root bowls.

## **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 Finds were recovered only from Trench 9 (from buried soils 903 and 909, and the fills of furrow 905 and field drain 907). These comprise a very small assemblage. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1. With the exception of the ceramic building material (CBM), which comprises fragments of medieval/post-medieval roof tile, all the datable finds are post-medieval/modern.
- 6.1.2 Details of all finds are given in Table 1. A small lead disc from context 908 (the fill of field drain 907) had a crudely stamped cross-and-pellet design on the obverse, the reverse being blank. Lead tokens featuring cross-and-pellet designs are thought to be imitative of medieval long cross pennies; they occur in various forms from the 14th century and were particularly common in the 15th century, but crude examples such as this were still being used in the 17th and 18th centuries (Bailey 1999, 56–7, no. 35; Fletcher 2003, 28–38; Egan 2005, fig. 165, no. 936).

**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	Material	Count	Wt (g)	Description
903	Glass	1	13	post-medieval green wine bottle (late C17+)
903	Pottery	1	3	post-medieval/modern (C17+): black-glazed redware (fabric 78)
903	Pottery	1	3	Modern (C19/C20): refined whiteware (fabric 85)
903	CBM	1	21	medieval/post-medieval roof tile
903	Clay Pipe	1	3	plain stem fragment
903	Slag	1	13	ironworking slag
906	Clay Pipe	1	2	plain stem fragment
906	CBM	3	103	med/post-med roof tile
908	Pottery	1	1	modern (C19/C20): refined whiteware, transfer printed (fabric 85)
908	Metal	1	3	lead token; cross with pellet in each corner; probably C17/C18
908	CBM	3	45	medieval/post-medieval roof tile
909	Pottery	2	40	post-medieval (late C17/C18): Staffs-type feathered slipware (fabric 91), platter(s), including 'scalloped' rim

CBM = ceramic building material; pottery wares have been cross-referenced to the Worcestershire type-series

## 7 DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were discovered within the works other than agricultural furrows within Trench 9 and an infilled pond or quarry in Trench 10a.
- 7.1.2 No artefacts earlier than the 17th century were recovered during the works. The finds that were recovered are most likely a product of manuring and from imported soils.

### 7.2 Conclusions

- 7.2.1 The Site has been adversely affected by truncating groundworks associated with the governmental development of the Site both during and after the 1940s. The revealed truncation was focussed on areas that were subsequently tarmacked such as carparks and tennis courts, but evidence was also found that pre-existing raised areas were levelled across the Site. In the south-east of the Site between the eastern half of Trench 8 and Trenches 13 and 14, the buried ground surface seen in section appeared to rise and may have originally formed a small hillock.
- 7.2.2 Those areas not truncated had either been unaffected by the works and left at their existing levels (Trenches 10b and 11), or they had been raised by the re-deposition of excavated clays presumably from those areas which had been truncated (Trenches 1, 2, 8, 9, 13 and 14). Within these trenches the previous ground surface survived and appeared to have been deturfed prior to this re-deposition, but alternatively the turf may not have survived within the archaeological sequence.
- 7.2.3 No archaeological features, other than agricultural furrows within Trench 9 and an infilled pond/quarry in Trench 10a were discovered during the works. This sparse record was supported by the absence of archaeological artefacts dating earlier than the 17th century.

- 7.2.4 The pond or quarry revealed in Trench 10a is shown most clearly on the 1888-1913 6" OS Plan, where it is depicted as a rectangular water-filled feature abutting a field boundary. The possibility of this feature being a grubbed out bunker/or fill above such a structure was discussed, based on the presence of an anomalous small 1940s hut in the centre of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2016b). The hut was feasibly the entrance to a bunker but no evidence for such a feature was revealed.
- 7.2.5 Based upon these results, the archaeological potential of the Site appears to be limited to post-medieval agriculture and 20th century governmental activity.
- 7.2.6 Post-medieval agriculture does not feature within the Worcester Research Framework, however, it is intended that future research will focus on the militarised landscape of World War II (WCC 2007). The recent work at Whittington Road will form a valuable resource in developing a framework for archaeology of the modern period.

## **8 THE ARCHIVE**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 The designated receiving museum will be Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum under HER number WCM 102192. Written Transfer of Title will be obtained from the landowner for any artefacts deposited. An OASIS form (see Appendix 2) will be uploaded at the time of deposition (OASIS ID: wessexar1-259891).

### **8.2 Preparation of archive**

- 8.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the appropriate Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014b; UKIC 2001).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code and a full index will be prepared.
- 8.2.3 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Northern Region in Sheffield.

### **8.3 Selection policy**

- 8.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.
- 8.3.2 In this instance, given the small size of the finds assemblage, its nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of relatively recent origin), retention for long-term curation is not considered to be warranted, with the possible exception of the lead token. Subject to the agreement of the recipient Museum, the finds will be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

### **8.4 Security copy**

- 8.4.1 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.

## **8.5 Copyright**

- 8.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

## **8.1 Quality and code of practice**

- 8.1.1 WA is *Registered Organisation* with the CIfA. WA endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of the CIfA.
- 8.1.2 All core staff would be of a standard approved by WA, be employed in line with the CIfA *Codes of Practice*, and be members of the CIfA or a similar appropriate institute.
- 8.1.3 WA is ISO 9001 certified and operates a Project Management System. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to a Section Head, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Chief Executive has ultimate responsibility for all of WA's work.

## **9 REFERENCES**

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## 10 APPENDICES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Trench context descriptions

<b>Trench 1</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> <b>30 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.95 m</b>
101	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.15 m
102	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate.	0.15 - 0.45 m
103	Buried soil – Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.45 - 0.70 m
104	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.8 - 0.95 m +
105	Buried soil – light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.7 - 0.8 m

<b>Trench 2</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> <b>50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.88 m</b>
201	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.28 m
202	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate.	0.28 - 0.52 m
203	Buried soil – Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.52 - 0.65 m
204	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.75 - 0.88 m +
205	Buried soil – light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.65 - 0.75 m

<b>Trench 3</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> <b>50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.63 m</b>
301	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.1 m
302	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate.	0.1 - 0.40 m
303	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.63 m +
304	Buried soil – Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.4 - 0.52 m
305	Buried soil – light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.52 - 0.63 m



<b>Trench 4</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> 30 x 1.8 m
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.48 m</b>
401	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.44 m
402	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay with very frequent small-medium sub-angular stone.	0.24 m +

<b>Trench 5</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> 30 x 1.8 m
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.55 m</b>
501	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.31 m
502	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stone.	0.31 m +

<b>Trench 8</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> 30 x 1.8 m
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.97 m</b>
801	Tarmac surface.	0 - 0.08 m
802	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate and frequent crushed red brick and stone.	0.08 - 0.29 m
803	Buried soil – Compact mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.29 - 0.50 m
804	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.68 m +
805	Buried soil – light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.50 – 0.68 m

<b>Trench 9</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b> 30 x 1.8 m
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.86 m</b>
901	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 – 0.3 m
902	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate and frequent crushed red brick and stone.	0.3 – 0.45 m
903	Buried soil – Compact mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.45 - 0.60 m
904	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.78 m +
905	Cut for probable furrow	
906	Fill of 905-light brown grey sandy clay	
907	Cut for land drain	



908	Fill of 907	
909	Buried soil _ light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.60 - 0.78 m

<b>Trench 10a</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 10.5 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 2.10 m</b>
1001	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 – 0.2 m
1002	Made ground with mixed redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate with mid brown grey silt clay and regular pockets of light grey-blue redeposited natural clay with frequent red brick and stone.	0.2 – 2.10 m +

<b>Trench 10b</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 11.5 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 1.04 m</b>
1003	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.3 m
1004	Subsoil – Compact mid-dark reddish-brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.3 - 0.50 m
1005	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.50 m +

<b>Trench 11</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 30 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.66 m</b>
1101	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.25 m
1102	Subsoil – Compact mid-dark reddish-brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.25 - 0.34 m
1103	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.34 m +

<b>Trench 12</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 30 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.74 m</b>
1201	Tarmac surface.	0 - 0.07 m
1202	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate and frequent crushed red brick and stone.	0.07 - 0.16 m
1203	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.16 m +



<b>Trench 13</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 30 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 1.17 m</b>
1301	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.24 m
1302	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate and frequent crushed red brick and stone.	0.24 - 0.49 m
1303	Buried soil – Compact mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.49 - 0.75 m
1304	Buried soil _ light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.75 - 1 m
1305	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	1 m - 1.17 m

<b>Trench 14</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 30 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 1.03 m</b>
1401	Topsoil – Dark brownish-grey silt clay with regular small sub-angular stones.	0 - 0.19 m
1404	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate and frequent crushed red brick and stone.	0.19 - 0.45m
1402	Buried soil – Compact mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stones.	0.45 - 0.68 m
1403	Natural substrate – Compact light-mid red clay with regular patches of light blue-grey clay.	0.80 m +
1404	Made ground with redeposited light-mid reddish brown clay natural substrate and frequent crushed red brick and stone.	0.19 - 0.45m
1405	Buried soil _ light-mid grey brown sandy clay.	0.68 - 0.80 m



## 10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-259891

### Project details

Project name	Former DEFRA site, Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by St Modwen Developments Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of land off Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site comprises former Second World War II government office buildings and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 387272, 253669. The trenching was due to comprise the excavation of 14 trenches measuring up to 50 m in length. However, the presence of asbestos precluded the excavation of two trenches in the north of the Site. The trenching demonstrated that the Site had been adversely affected by truncating groundworks associated with the government development of the Site both during and after the 1940s. The truncation was greatest in locations which had been subsequently tarmacked such as carparks and tennis courts. Those areas not truncated had either been unaffected by the works and left at their existing levels, or they had been raised by the redeposition of excavated clays, presumably derived from those areas which had been truncated. Within these trenches there was no evidence of a former turf line beneath the redeposited soils, and it is feasible that the previous ground surface had been stripped of its turf prior to this landscaping; the relic topsoil did survive in part across the Site and was evident in section. No archaeological features, other than post-medieval agricultural furrows were discovered during the works. This sparse record was supported by the absence of archaeological artefacts pre-dating the 17th century. A deep cut feature was located within the centre of the Site and coincides with a pond or quarry seen on the on the 1885 OS map. Based upon these results, the archaeological potential of the Site appears to be limited to post-medieval agriculture and 20th century government activity.</p>
Project dates	Start: 28-07-2016 End: 05-08-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	T21888 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	111673 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over



Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WORCESTER WORCESTER Land Off Whittington Road, Worcester.
Postcode	WR5 2LN
Study area	7.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	SO 87272 53669 52.180721615295 -2.186171283424 52 10 50 N 002 11 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 58m Max: 64m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	St Modwen Developments Ltd.
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Andrew Norton
Project supervisor	Peter Noble





Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body St Modwen Developments Ltd.

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Worcester City Museum

Physical Contents "Metal"

Physical Archive notes Possible deposition of lead token

Digital Archive recipient Worcester City Museum

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Worcester City Museum

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Former DEFRA site, Whittington Road, Worcester, Worcestershire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Noble, P.

Other bibliographic details 111673.01



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