Wessex Archaeology

Lowesmoor Flood Alleviation Scheme, Worcester, Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Ref: 75980.03

November 2010

LOWESMOOR FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, WORCESTER, WORCESTERSHIRE

Borehole Monitoring Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	**75980**	**ACCESSION CODE**		**CLIENT CODE**	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		**NGR**	**385335, 255225**		

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1.0	I	SF	CM		01/12/10	75980_03_WB_V1

*** I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL**

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Borehole Monitoring Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a borehole survey as part of flood alleviation work towards the eastern side of Lowesmoor in Worcester. The borehole was located at NGR 385335, 255225 within the existing highway of Lowesmoor Terrace.

Archaeological investigations within and around the Study Area have recorded archaeological sites, deposits and find spots dating from the prehistoric to modern period. However, much of the known and potential archaeological resource with the Study Area reflects the expansion and contraction of the urban suburb of Lowesmoor through the Post-medieval to modern periods. Consequently there is an increased potential for the presence of archaeological remains dating to these periods. There is also a potential for recovering remains relating to a background level of Romano-British to Medieval activity within the Site.

The borehole lies within the outline of a structure shown on an 1850's map, which was demolished during the 1980's. Prior to the 18th century the area was under-developed, and is believed to have been arable fields.

The borehole was drilled through the existing pavement and beneath this approximately 1m of post-medieval made ground was observed. Underlying this was the underlying geology consisting of alluvial gravels, colluvial silty clay and natural mudstone bedrock. No archaeological finds or features of medieval or older date were encountered during the monitoring.

The project archive is currently stored at the Sheffield offices of Wessex Archaeology, and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museums in due course.

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Borehole Monitoring Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Severn Trent Water through their contractor, Morgan Sindall.

The report was researched and compiled by James Thomson and Sam Fairhead, with illustrations by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill and Chris Moore.

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LOWESMOOR FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, WORCESTER, WORCESTERSHIRE

Borehole Monitoring Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Severn Trent Water through their contractor, Morgan Sindall (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief of flood alleviation work towards the eastern side of Lowesmoor in Worcester (hereafter 'the Site'), specifically a borehole at NGR 385335, 255225 (**Figure 1**). The borehole lies within the existing highway of Lowesmoor Terrace. The watching brief took place on 19th October 2010.

1.2 Site location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is situated across the junction of Lowesmoor Road and Lowesmoor Terrace on the east side of Lowesmoor in the city of Worcester and the parish of St. Martins (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The geology of the site comprises deposits of sand, gravel and clay overlying bedrock comprising Sidmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS map sheet E199).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

2.1.1 The following section summarises a historical background of the Site detailed in a desk based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

2.1.2 Within and around the DBA Study Area archaeological sites have uncovered deposits and finds dating from the prehistoric to modern period. However, much of the known and potential archaeological resource with the DBA Study Area reflects the expansion and contraction of the urban suburb of Lowesmoor through the Post-medieval to modern periods.

2.1.3 From the Roman period until the post-medieval period the area was apparently under developed, consisting of arable fields.

2.1.4 The existing highway of Lowesmoor Road follows the line of a Roman road that originally ran to Droitwich.

2.1.5 The borehole lies within the outline of a structure shown on an 1850's OS map, demolished during the 1980's. Any archaeology predating the 1850's was most likely altered or damaged during the construction of this building.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The principal aim of the project was to monitor the geotechnical core samples to ascertain the presence/absence, character and date of archaeological remains within the surveyed area, in order to inform future archaeological investigation.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to identify any archaeological remains disturbed during works;
- to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works;
- to evaluate the potential for the destruction of archaeological remains during further groundworks; and
- to inform archaeological methodologies to be used during further works, if required.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Borehole

4.1.1 The borehole survey was carried out by CC Ground Investigations Ltd on behalf of Morgan Sindall using a Fraste Multidrill ML drilling rig. The rig was fitted with 1m long sampler tubes which collected undisturbed cores within a plastic liner. The sampler barrels were driven in with a hydraulic drop hammer.

4.1.2 A single borehole was excavated on Lowesmoor Terrace, close to the junction with Lowesmoor Road and Pheasant Street (**Figure 1**). The cores were extracted in 1m long and c. 116mm-66mm diameter staged samples to a depth of c. 12m. These were laid out in the field and the cores examined.

4.1.3 Excavations were carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably-qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff. Spoil generated by the excavations was visually scanned by a Wessex Archaeologist.

4.1.4 All works were conducted in compliance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2008).

4.2 Copyright

4.2.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 An outline of the results of archaeological monitoring during the geotechnical borehole survey is presented below. A table showing the sequence of deposits for the borehole is included in **Appendix 1.**

5.2 Borehole

5.2.1 The uppermost 1.2m of the deposits excavated consisted of made ground immediately below the existing pavement. The only find recovered, a base fragment of 19th century pot, came from this layer. It is likely that this made ground is related to the building visible on the 1850's OS map.

5.2.2 From 1.2m to 2.4m the deposits consisted of well rounded course gravels and grey-brown to orange brown sandy silt with sparse well rounded small cobbles.

5.2.3 From 2.4m to 6.6m was a mid reddish-brown sandy clay with no inclusions, apparently colluvial in nature.

5.2.4 At 6.6m the natural mudstone bedrock was reached. The borehole was continued to a depth of 12m.

5.3 Finds

5.3.1 The only find to be unearthed during excavations was dated to the 19th century and thus discarded on site.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 Deposits of definite archaeological origin were preserved to a depth of 1.2m, in the form of made ground and containing one fragment of 19th century ceramic. Below this were alluvial and colluvial deposits to a depth of 6.6m, where natural bedrock was reached. No signs of human activity were present in these lower deposits, although this is typical of land used for agricultural purposes.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Location and Deposition

7.1.1 The project archive is currently stored at the Sheffield offices of Wessex Archaeology, and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museums in due course. A copy of the report will be sent to the client and Worcester City Council. The site archive will be prepared in line with United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990), Museums and Galleries Commission (1992), English Heritage (1991 and 2006) guidelines and the requirements of the repository Museum.

8 REFERENCES

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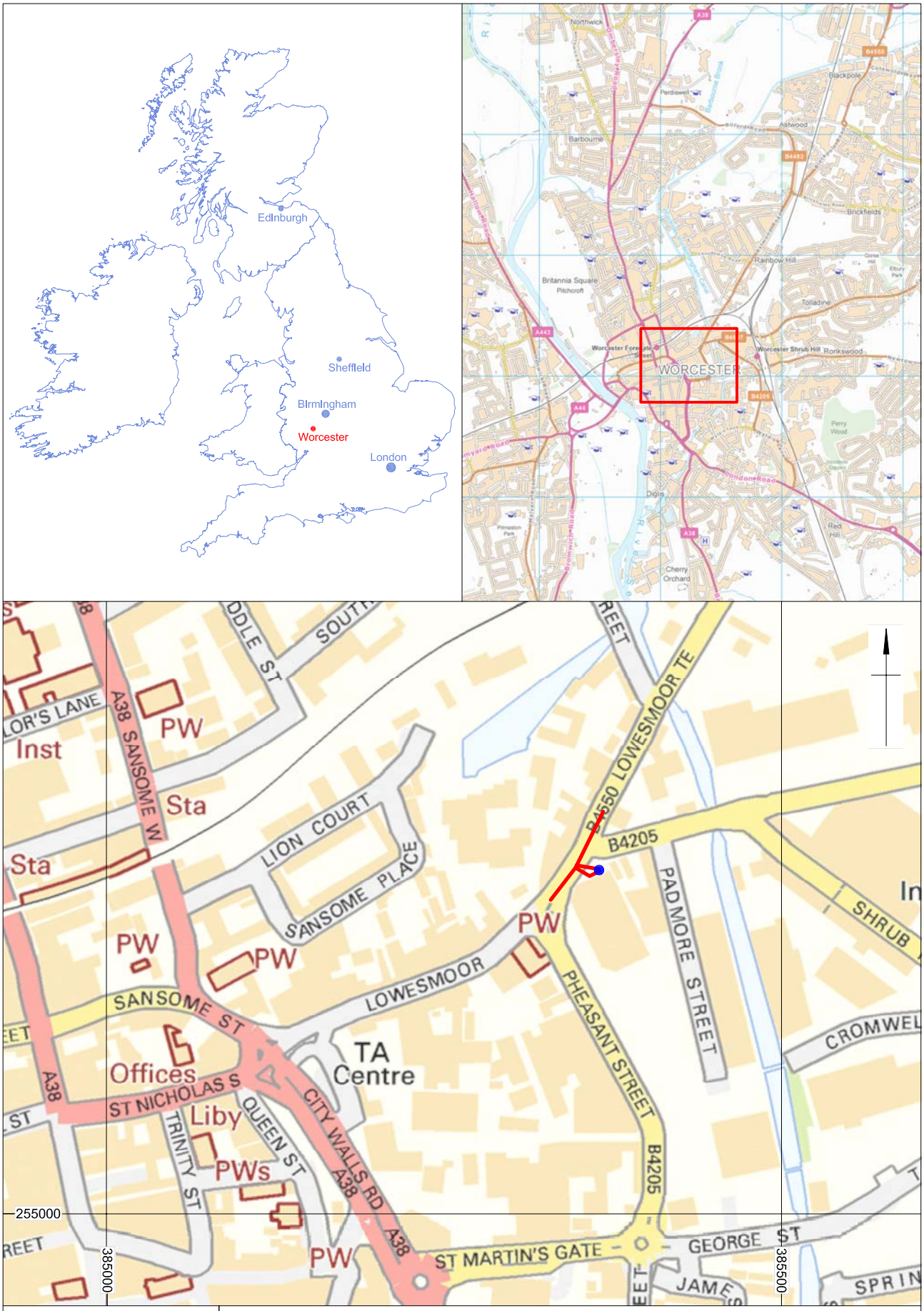
APPENDIX 1

Table 1: Sediment descriptions:

Borehole 1			
Depth bgl	**Context**	**Sediment description**	**Interpretation**
0-1.2m	BH101	Mixed deposit, dark reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant angular course gravel and small to medium cobbles.	Made ground
1.2-2.4m	BH102	Well rounded course gravels and grey brown to orange brown sandy silt with sparse well rounded small cobbles	Alluvial gravels
2.4-6.6m	BH103	Mid reddish-brown sandy clay	Colluvium
6.6m+	BH104	Mudstone bedrock	Natural



Sewer route

Borehole location

Date:	November 2010	Revision Number:	1.0
Scale:	Main graphic - 1:4,000 @ A4	Illustrator:	CB
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Wessex Archaeology

Site location plan

Figure 1

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