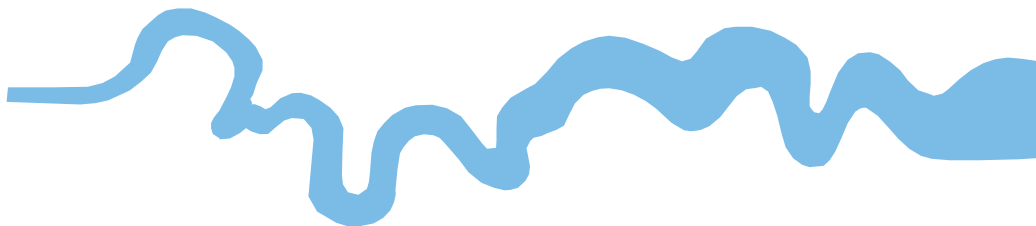


**T V A S**



**NORTH MIDLANDS**

**Almonry Close, Pershore,  
Worcestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Helen Daniel**

**Site Code: ACP18/145**

**(SO 9458 4587)**

# **Land at Almonry Close, Persnore, Worcestershire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

**For Ecus Ltd**

by Helen Daniel

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ACP 18/145

**October 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Almonry Close, Pershore, Worcestershire

**Grid reference:** SO 9458 4587

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 29th to 31st August 2018

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Helen Daniel

**Site code:** ACP 18/145

**Area of site:** c. 0.5ha

**Summary of results:** Due to constraints of access only 3 of the 4 trenches planned were successfully excavated but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

**Location of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent but will be deposited with the Worcestershire County Museum in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford	✓ 17.10.18
	Steve Preston	✓ 17.10.18

# Almonry Close, Pershore, Worcestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Helen Daniel

**Report 18/145**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at Almonry Close, Pershore Worcestershire (SO 94578 45869) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sarah Gallagher of Ecus Ltd, Unit 1, Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4JX on behalf of Willmott Dixon Construction Limited.

Planning permission has been sought (appln. no. 18/01095/FUL) from Wychavon District Council to redevelop the site for residential purposes. In view of the possibility of archaeological remains being present which might be damaged or destroyed by the development, an archaeological evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regards to potential archaeological implications. This is in accordance with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and Wychavon District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Gallagher 2018) approved by Mr Aidan Smyth, the Planning and Archaeological Advisor for Wychavon District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel and Nikki Snape, between 29th and 31st August 2018 and the site code is ACP 18/145.

The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent but will be deposited with the Worcestershire County Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located within the town of Pershore, Worcestershire approximately 13km south-east of the city of Worcester (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the east by Abbey Road, to the south by a school and to the north and west by existing development along Newlands and New Road respectively (Fig. 2). The site is currently occupied by late 20th century residential units with two derelict buildings to the west. The western portion of the site lies partially within the Pershore Conservation Area. The site is flat and lies at a height of approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped (BGS 2018) as Wasperton sand and gravel. The geology observed on site varies from orange-grey sandy gravel with frequent pebbles, to yellow-brown gravelly sand, and grey-brown clayey-silt with patches of gravel.

## **Archaeological background**

The site history and archaeological context have been detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation drawing on a historic environment desk-based assessment (Gallagher 2018). The archaeology of Pershore also benefits from a synthetic summary (Dalwood 1996). No archaeological finds or sites are recorded within the site, however within the town in general there is evidence for a long period of occupation from the Roman period onwards. Pershore is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (as Persore) (William and Martin 2002) as two manors, one held by St Peter's (Westminster Abbey) the other by St Mary's (Pershore). It was the location of an early medieval monastery, the core of which is located approximately 100m east of the site and is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE: 1005303). The Worcestershire HER records the main focus of the medieval town was located to the north and east of the abbey and suggests the extent of the precinct has the potential to extend into the eastern portion of the site.

The monastic precinct remained an open space within the townscape following the dissolution in the 16th century. By 1885 there was an orchard on the east of the site but this had disappeared by 1904. The west was occupied by a series of small outbuildings which were part of the rectangular plots behind the properties on the southern side of Newlands. Several changes occurred on the site during the 20th century; a small mortuary is recorded in the south-west and by 1967 houses had been constructed within the east of the site and Abbey Road established also to the east. These houses had been replaced by the current buildings by 1983 and only two of the western outbuildings now remain.

The Conservation Area encompasses land to the east of the site and land to the north on either side of Newlands, comprising the historic core of Pershore including the focus for the early medieval and medieval town. The land to the east of the site includes the monastic precinct of Pershore Abbey and directly east, adjacent to the site, is the Grade II listed 16th century abbey guesthouse known as The Almonry (NHLE: 1104236).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The principal aim of the evaluation was to gain information regarding the archaeological resource within the site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context.

Specific aims of the project as outlined in the WSI were:

to test the validity of the results of the previous geophysical survey (despite there not having been one);

- to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- to recover artefacts that will be disturbed by the site works;
- to recover samples from sealed waterlogged contexts, if present for environmental processing;
- to prepare a comprehensive record and report of archaeological observations during the site works; and
- to identify mitigation strategies to ensure the recording, preservation or management of any archaeological remains within the site.

It was proposed to excavate 4 trenches, each 10m long and 1.5m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels and all trenching was carried out by a small 360-type mini-excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features and deposits were exposed these were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in-situ*.

## **Results**

Of the four intended trenches, three were opened successfully but Trench 3 was positioned in a location that was inaccessible to the machinery (Fig 3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The deposits revealed, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was located in the west of the site and orientated WNW-ESE, and was 12m long and between 1.25m and 1.5m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of modern Tarmac above hardcore above a brownish orange sandy loam subsoil. The natural geology is orange-grey sandy gravel with frequent pebbles. Visible in section and starting 2.2m from the NW end were one and a half courses of stone foundations which continued for another 3m along the edge of the trench line. Above this there was a single course of Staffordshire blue bricks situated 3m from the NW end and continuing for another 3m along, and a single course of red bricks extending from 6.2m from NW to 10m along. This material probably relates to a post-medieval building of more than one phase, and is perhaps one of the outbuildings mentioned earlier in the background information.

### Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 2 and 3)

Trench 2 was located to the north of the site and orientated NW-SE, measuring 10.3m long and between 1m and 1.6m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of demolition rubble, mostly comprising brick with no other topsoil or subsoil and the natural geology is yellow-brown gravelly sand. Beginning at the NW end of the trench was a standing double skin wall of red brick, 9 courses high in stretcher bond. This was associated with a floor of York flag stones at a depth of 1m and which continued in length for another 4.8m. At the end of the flagstones was a single row of red brick signifying the end of the structure, the depth of the trench then immediately dropped to a depth of 1.6m. A further brick structure was mainly visible only in section and located 1m from the SE end. This was a small circular structure built with red bricks similar to those in the standing wall and curving both horizontally and vertically creating a domed top (Pl. 2). It is probably a covered well (water bottle) used in conjunction with a water pump.

### Trench 3

The location of this trench was found to be inaccessible to machinery as it was situated within the gardens of existing sheltered accommodation.

### Trench 4 (Fig. 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was located to the east of the site, orientated NW-SE and measuring 9m long and between 1.6m and 1.8m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of a loose brown-grey sandy silt topsoil with a layer of modern demolition rubble below and an orange-yellow to grey-brown sandy subsoil. The natural geology is grey-brown clayey-silt with patches of gravel. No features were evident in this trench.

## **Finds**

The only finds on the site were from unstratified deposits in Trench 2 and were all of relatively modern date. These comprised a small brown glass jar, most probably a pharmacy container for ointment; a ceramic doll's house toilet; a ceramic nozzle and a few sherds of post-medieval blue and white ware.

## **Conclusion**

Three trenches were successfully excavated as intended, Despite the site's location within an area of elevated potential archaeology, neither features nor finds of archaeological interest were present. Due to the lack of finds and features identified, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential as a result.

## References

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- Dalwood, H, c. 1996, Archaeological assessment of Pershore, Hereford and Worcester:  
[http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/marches\\_eus\\_2005/downloads.cfm](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/marches_eus_2005/downloads.cfm)
- Gallagher, S, 2018, *Almonry Close, Pershore, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Archaeological Evaluation*  
Unpublished client report ref 12038, Ecus Ltd., Sheffield
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London
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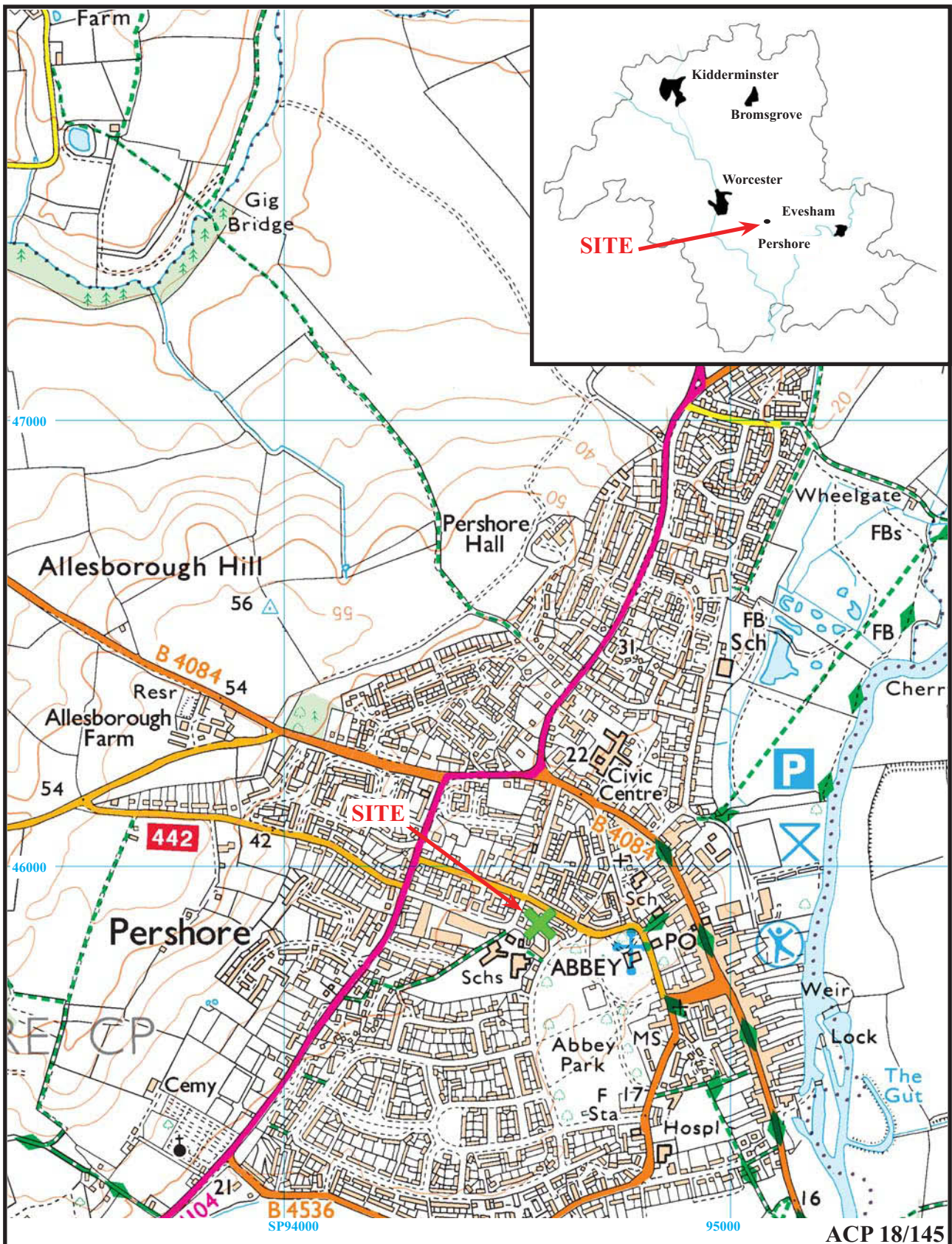


## APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	12	1.5	1.25-1.50	0-0.30m Tarmac/hardcore; 0.30m-1.0m brown sandy loam subsoil; 1.0m+ orange-grey sandy gravel natural geology.
2	10.3	1.5	1.0-1.6	0-1.50m demolition rubble; 1.50m+ orange-grey sandy gravel natural geology.
3	Inaccessible	~	~	~
4	9	1.5	1.6-1.8	0-0.20m brownish-grey sandy silt topsoil; 0.20m-1.4m orange-yellow to greyish brown sandy subsoil; 1.4m+ natural geology.

## APPENDIX 2: Feature Details

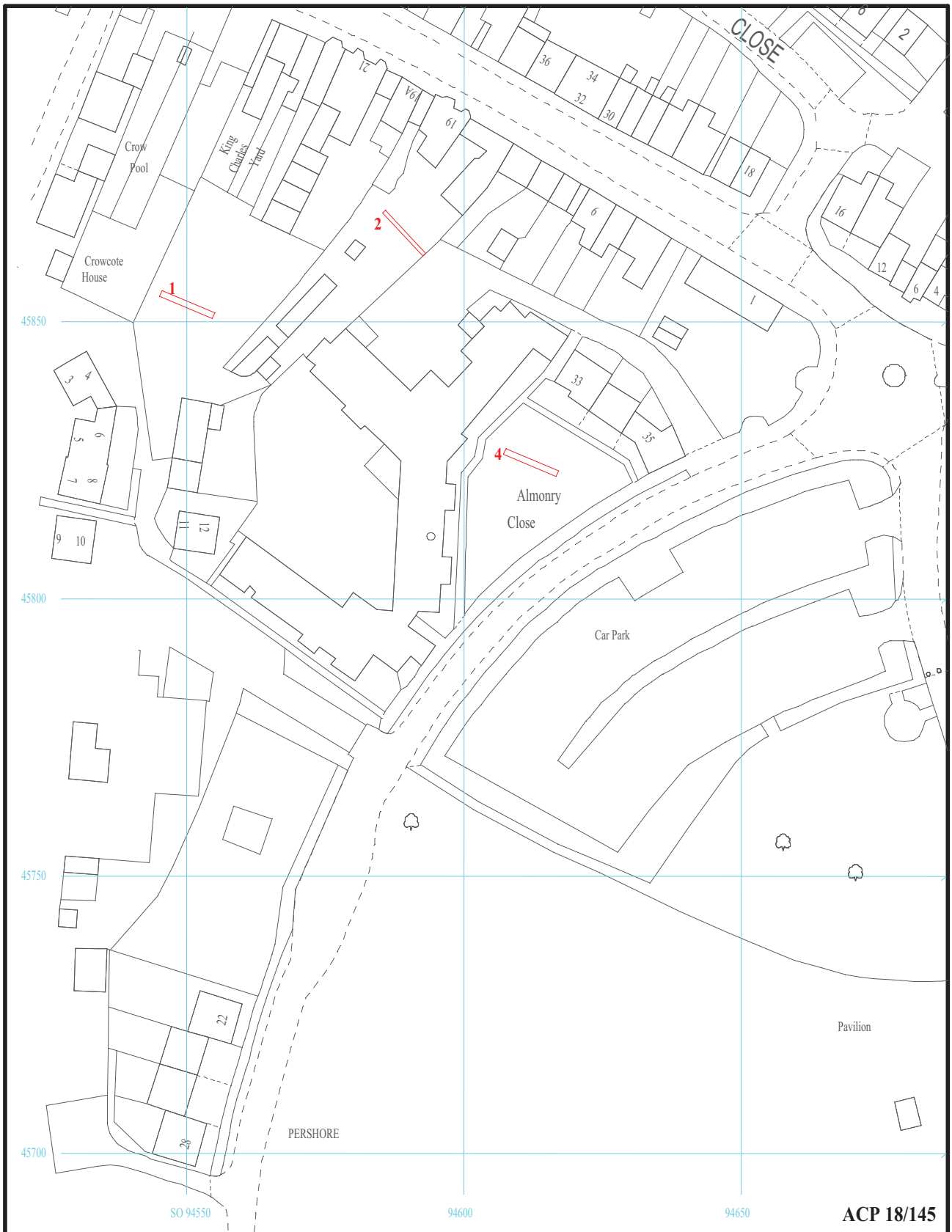
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill[s]</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Finds and dating evidence</i>
1		50	Topsoil	Modern	Stratigraphy, tarmac with underlying hardcore
1		51	Subsoil		
1		52	Structure	Post-Medieval	Building materials
1		53	Structure	Post-Medieval	Building materials
1		54	Structure	Post-Medieval	Building materials
2	1	58 & 64	Pit	Post-Medieval	Building materials
2		56	Topsoil	Modern	Demolition rubble
2		57	Subsoil		
2		58	Structure	Post-Medieval	Building materials
2		59	Structure	Post-Medieval	Building materials
2		60	Structure	Post-Medieval	Building materials
2		64	Deposit		
4		61	Topsoil		
4		62	Subsoil		



**Almonry Close, Pershore,  
Worcestershire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**  
Figure 1. Location of site within Pershore and Worcestershire.

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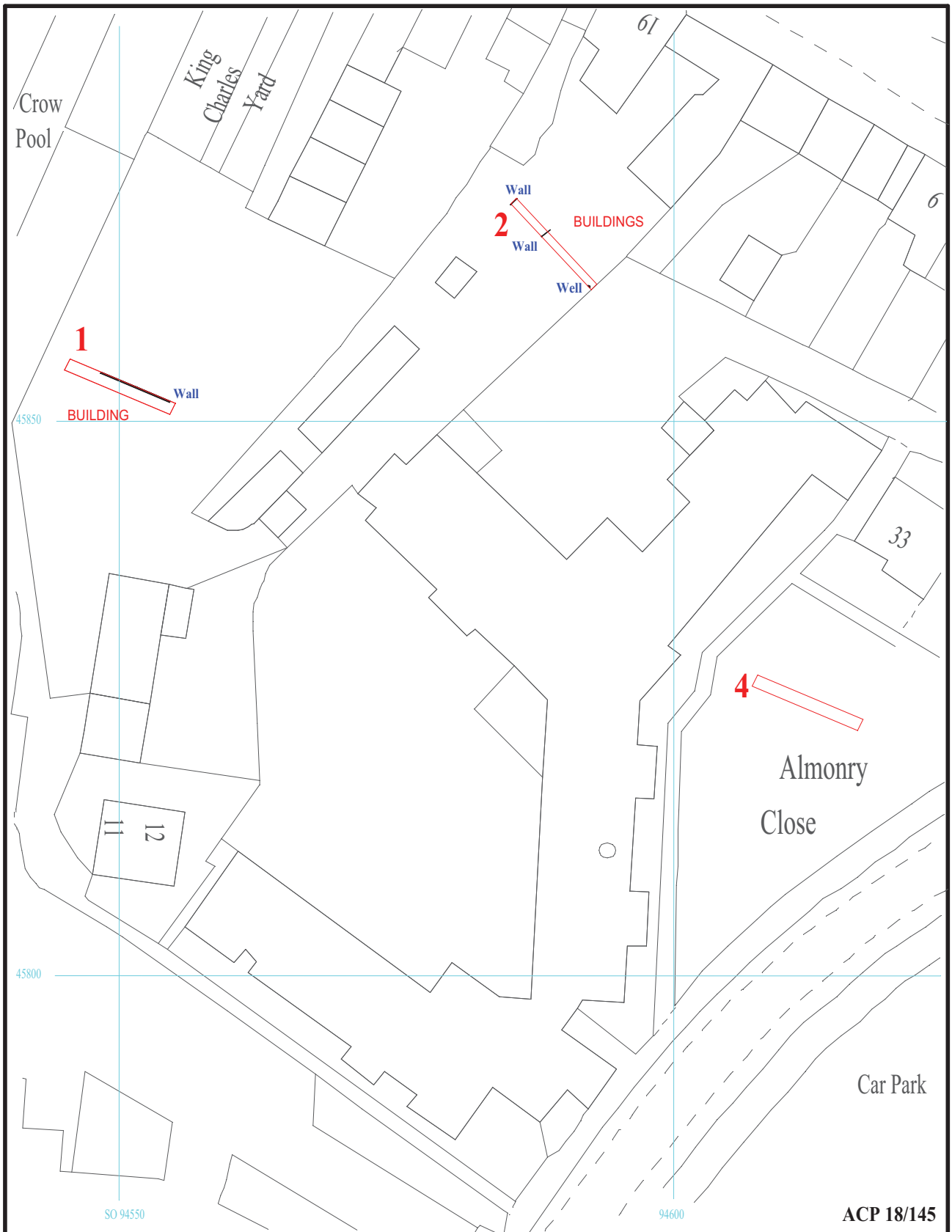


**Almony Close, Pershore  
Worcestershire 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed site plan showing location of trenches





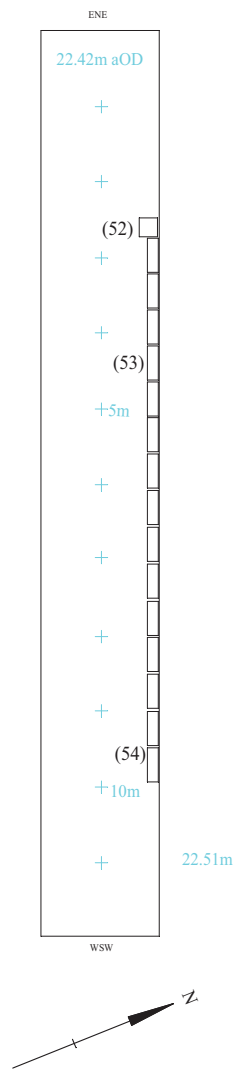


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Worcestershire 2018  
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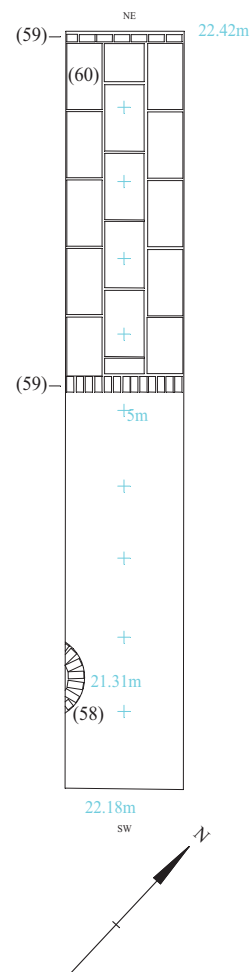
Figure 3. Detailed site plan showing location of features



TRENCH 1



TRENCH 2



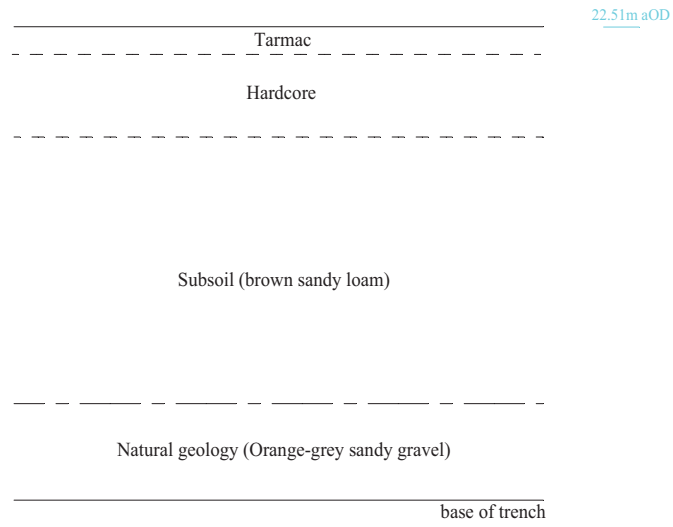
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Worcestershire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

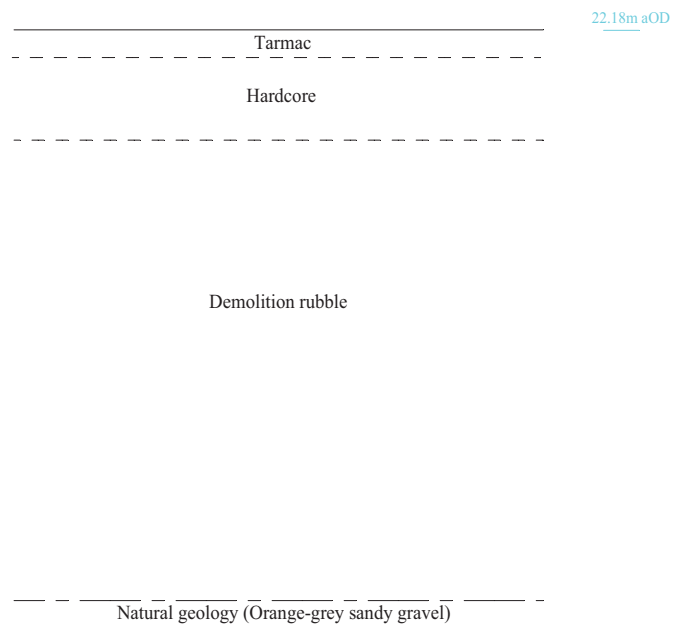
Figure 4. Trench plans.



**Trench 1**



**Trench 2**



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**Almonry Close, Pershore,  
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Representative sections





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking NW, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, circular brick structure (well), looking SE, Scale: 1m.

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**Almonry Close, Pershore,  
Worcestershire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**







Plate 3. Trench 2, looking NW, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking N, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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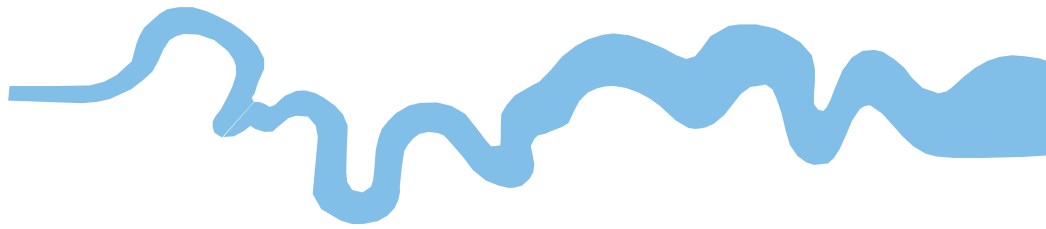
**Almonry Close, Pershore,  
Worcestershire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 3 and 4.**



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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