

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

LAND ADJACENT TO
No.13 TELFORD DRIVE
BEWDLEY
WORCESTERSHIRE
DY12 2EP

NGR: SO 78336 75180
Planning Ref. WF/09/0530
Job No: BA1220TDB



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REPORT SPECIFICATION

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1. Non-Technical Summary

Stripping of the site revealed extensive modern building material within the topsoil and subsoil, extending to the depth of the bedrock.

A complete absence of material earlier than the 20th century within the soils and reported local knowledge confirms that the ground was stripped to bedrock during construction of the properties on Telford Drive.

A subsoil appears to have been built up from redeposited clays and building rubble and topped by a thin layer of quality topsoil.

While there is a possibility that this site may have been of archaeological significance prior to the construction activities, there is no longer anything remaining of archaeological merit.

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology has been instructed by Clive Fletcher Esq. to carry out a programme of archaeological work in respect of a proposed development site comprising land adjacent to 13 Telford Drive Bewdley Worcestershire (NGR SO 78336 75180) (*fig.1*). The instruction is in response to a planning condition (Condition no. 3) relating to of an application (Ref. WF/09/0530) previously submitted to Worcestershire County Council to build a four-bed dwelling with vehicular access and associated works prior in an area deemed to be of high archaeological potential..



Fig 1: Plan showing location of site adjacent to 13 Telford Drive, Bewdley (marked in red)



The staged programme of works comprised 1) HER Assessment and Archive Search, 2) Monument Survey and 3) Strip, Map and Sample excavation, followed by submission of a final report compliant with the IfA *Code of Conduct*, Principle 2.

Copies of this report will be submitted to Mr Fletcher, Mike Glyde Esq., Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council and to the HER

3. Site Description

3.1 Site description

Prior to work, the site had been cleared of trees, exposing a concrete path that entered the site from the north-west as a continuation of a garden path belonging to property on Telford Drive. The path cut across the site where the gradient plateaued and met the site access onto Rosenhurst Drive at the south-eastern part of the site. The ground surface fell steeply beyond the site boundaries to the north-east and south-east and spoil was kept clear on those sides. The visible topography was that of a steep drop from the relatively level surface of Rosenhurst Drive, a flatter central part of the site and a further steep incline towards the properties on Telford Drive. The topographical character of the site has been fully recorded using total station EDM survey equipment (EH 2007)

3.2 Soils and geology

Bewdley lies at a height of between 20m and 90m OD. Tickenhill and Wyre Hill lie on a spur of land extending between two streams flowing into the Severn. The soils largely comprise loamy brown earths and brown podzolic soils of the Rivington 2 association whilst typical brown alluvial soils of the ALUN (561c) series extend along the course of the river, these being composed of deep stoneless permeable coarse loamy soils and fine loamy soils affected by groundwater in places, overlying river alluvium (SSEW, 1983). The underlying geology consists of Mercian Mudstone (British Geological Survey 1:250,000; sheet 52°N-0.4°W).

4. Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010)
- *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008)
- *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008)
- *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA 2009)
- *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A guide to good recording practice* (EH 2007)

- *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010)

Border Archaeology adheres to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of conduct* (2010) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2008).

5.1 Stage 1: HER Assessment & Archive Search

This stage of the works was undertaken prior to the commencement of site investigation (WAAS, 2012) and will include consultation of historic mapping, photographic records and other archive material.

5.2 Stage 2: Monument Survey

The Monument Survey component of the project has been carried out according to the specification for earthwork survey detailed by English Heritage in *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A guide to good recording practice* (EH 2007) which incorporates and updates the earlier RCHME publication *Recording Archaeological Field Monuments: A descriptive specification* (RCHME (1999), the aim being to supply a representation, appropriate to scale, of all visible features of archaeological interest.

A total-station EDM was used to carry out the topographic survey.

5.3 Stage 3: Strip, Map & Sample

The development area was stripped by machine under archaeological supervision. A toothless bucket was used throughout and associated spoil scanned for artefacts

Stripping continued to the first exposure of significant archaeological deposits or to the natural soil horizon, whichever was encountered first, and the area planned at a suitable scale.

Exposed features were subject to a sampling methodology based on criteria set out in the brief, namely, 50% of enclosure ditches; 10% of linear boundaries; 50-100% of pits (depending upon quantities of material culture present); 100% of burials and 100% also of any structural remains revealed.

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

5.4 Field Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual (Rev.7)* (2010).

The written component comprised a detailed stratigraphic record based on a sequential context numbering system.

Plans & sections were produced on gridded, archivally stable polyester film at scales of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate. Representative measured sections will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established on the site and plans and sections contained grid and level information relative



to OS data. All drawings have been numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A photographic record was made using a high-resolution 12MPX digital camera, comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures.

5.5 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

No artefactual assemblages were recovered

5. Stage 1: Results of HER Assessment & Archive Search

The site is situated adjacent to Tickenhill on its western flank and lies on the edge of Bewdley Conservation Area (Wyre Forest 2002), comprising one of several areas of 'open land' located to the east of the tenement plots on Wyre Hill (WSM19333) and west of Tickenhill medieval palace (WSM03913). Observations carried out by the noted local antiquarian Dr Peter Prattinton in the 19th century recorded 'uneven ground to all appearance carved by the remains of foundations'. These features (WSM 19339) have been interpreted as evidence that a castle existed at Bewdley; however, there is no documentary evidence to support this interpretation and the features are regarded as more likely to represent the remains of structures associated with the palace or royal park (WSM28984).

The location of Bewdley at a ford across the Severn has probably attracted human interest from an early period, as attested by the relative frequency of prehistoric and Roman finds in the area. A scatter of prehistoric flint implements has been noted at Tickenhill (SO7848 7510) (WSM12780) and a barrow feature, possibly attesting to evidence of prehistoric ritual or funerary activity, is also recorded (SO 7845 7507) (WSM 10855) (Parker 1932). Romano-British activity is attested in the vicinity by the discovery of a coin hoard in the grounds of the Manor in 1928 (WSM03723) (SO7850 7507) (Buteux 1995).

The medieval manor of Tickenhill was held by the Mortimer family and a manor-house is first mentioned in 1304, when it was described as being in a ruinous state. Repairs were subsequently carried out in 1336 and the house was later acquired by Henry VII who enlarged it c.1493 and raised it to the status of a palace - regarded as one of the seven great palaces of Tudor England - for his son Arthur, Prince of Wales, who resided there until his death in 1502. The house subsequently fell into a state of neglect until appointed for Princess Mary in 1525 at a cost of £355. Later, in 1582, the sum of £60 was expended on repairs and on a system designed to pipe water into the house.

The 15th century residence was largely of timber construction and additionally comprised a great court and gardens with a gatehouse, chapel, a number of outbuildings and substantial stabling (WSM03913) (SO 7847 7509). The palace possessed an extensive royal park (WSM28984) such that Leland in the 16th century was able to describe Tickenhill as 'a fine manor house...among trees in a good park'. The residence was used by the Council of the Marches which gathered there annually from the 15th century to the Restoration.

The palace evidently deteriorated in the years following Leland's observations and, although evidently in use as a residence of the Royalist governor during the Civil War period, was regarded as unfit for use as royal accommodation when, in 1645, Charles I travelled through Bewdley after the Battle of Naseby and had to seek alternative lodgings in the town. A

survey undertaken soon afterwards concluded the property was in a very poor state of repair and the park appears to have been broken up some time in the later 17th century (Buteux 1995). Stukeley in 1712 found part of the palace complex still standing, including the gatehouse flanked by a few remaining buildings and evidence of a hall or the chapel, but even these remnants were later demolished in 1738, when Tickenhill Manor (WSM03913) was built on the site.

The later property comprised a house of nine bays. Externally, it is c.1740; however, the interior contains roof timbers of a 15th century hall and the cellars are also believed to incorporate original fabric. The house and grounds were acquired from the Crown in 1873 by one Joseph Tangye and further alterations were carried out during the late 20th century. Although formerly considered to merit a Grade I listing, owing to its 'rich historical associations', the Manor has since been re-designated as Grade II*.

6. Stage 2: Results of Survey

6.1 Background

In September 2012 an analytical archaeological survey was undertaken of land at 13-15 Telford Drive, Bewdley, Worcestershire. The aim of the survey was to better understand the nature of surviving earthwork remains believed to be associated with medieval Tickenhill Manor. The survey is part of a programme of archaeological investigation and the results of the survey will form an important part of the interpretation of the site following a phase of fieldwork. The survey provided an accurate measured plan of the principal earthworks within the boundary of the development.

6.2 Topographic survey methodology

The survey was undertaken using subjective survey techniques using an Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) Total Station.

EDM Total Station combines a Theodolite to record vertical and horizontal angles, and an Electronic distance measurement device, to enable the acquisition of 3-Dimensional coordinate data. Total stations work by reflecting infrared laser against a prism. The Total Station requires two operators, one to operate the device and the other to position the prism pole in the required location for surveying. EDM total stations also provide sub-centimeter relative accuracy for recordings (<http://totalstation.org/total-stationfunctionality.php>). The Total Station used in this survey was a Topcon GTS-226.

6.3 Subjective survey

Subjective survey was used as a means to record features in more detail. It relies on the expertise of the surveyor to analyze the earthworks and to record them. For this procedure, the EDM Total Stations was used to record the tops and bottoms of slopes. These recordings were highlighted in the survey data using the feature code facility available in total stations. This subjective survey method was employed in order to allow a hachure plan and contour survey of the site to be created as recommended by English Heritage (Bowden 2006). This was then used for interpretation.

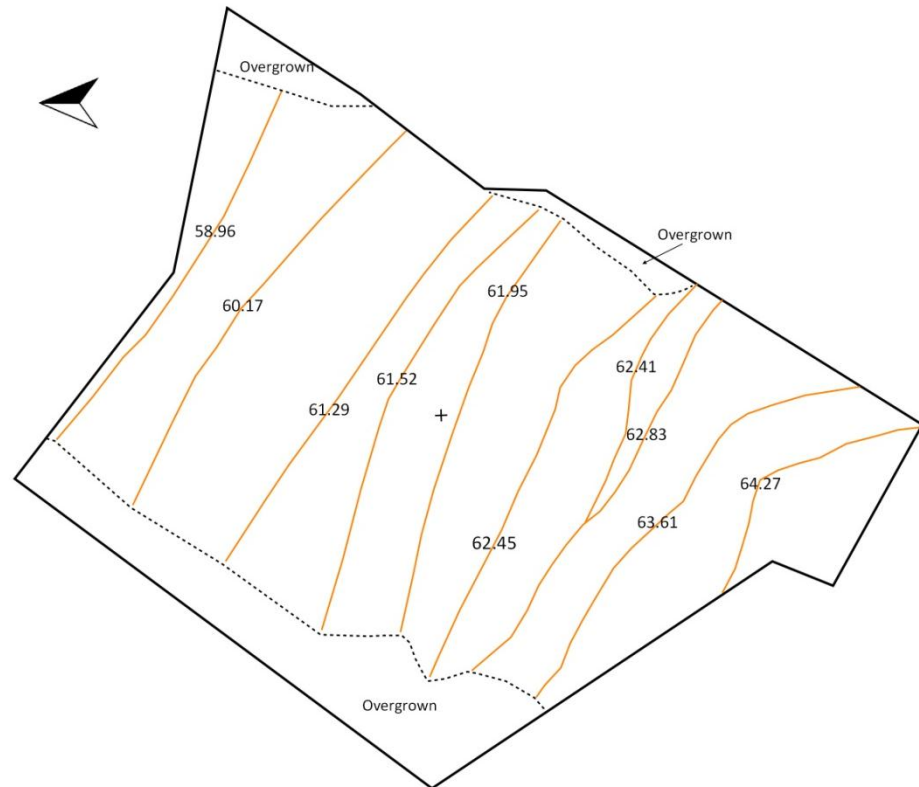


Fig. 2: Contour Survey – Relative Heights shown in metres – Scale 1:200

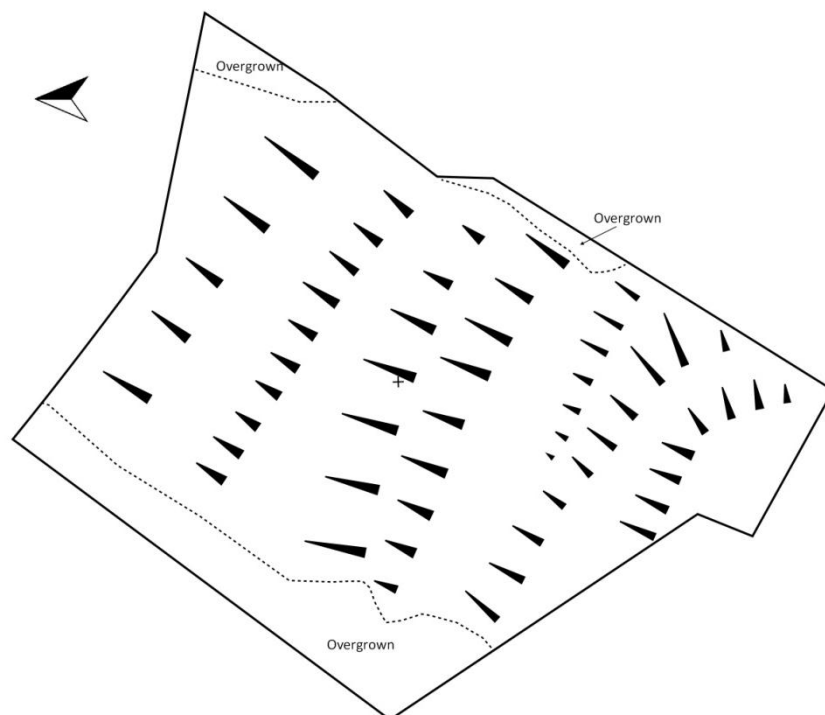


Fig. 3: Hachure plan of survey results. Scale 1:200

7. Stage 3: Results of Strip, Map & Sample

The topsoil (1000) (*Plate 1*) was between 0.2m and 0.5m thick and comprised loosely compacted greyish-brown sandy silt. Inclusions of brick fragments were present together with other modern materials; occasional stones were mostly rounded pebbles that matched those used in the drainage features.



Plate 1: View north showing area stripped of turf to expose topsoil deposit (1000)

A subsoil (1001) immediately below (1000) was present down to the bedrock (1002) (*Plates 2, 3 & 7*). (1001) was a patchy sandy clay that was mostly light brown in colour but could also present as yellow, pink, blue or grey. It was fairly compact with inclusions of brick and tile fragments, mortar, glass and iron pieces and occasional rounded stones and more frequent angular stones broken off from the bedrock. It appeared to be re-deposited material and did not represent a natural soil horizon, although the drainage features were cut into it.

Three trenches through the subsoil (1001) were cut. To the northern end of the site they confirmed bedrock at a depth of 0.3m while towards the higher southern end of the site the subsoil was just skimming the top of the bedrock at 1.3m depth, a depth at which building debris was still encountered.

Bedrock (1002) was exposed to the north of the site, especially at the base of the drainage features.

A deposit within (1001) differed enough to be numbered (1003) and was a patch that included very frequent brick and tile with glass and iron ties (*Plates 4 & 5*). It was a loose and sandy rubble concentration surrounded by burnt mortar-like material and some of the brick fragments were also burnt. While not occupying a distinct cut, this deposit was well defined and formed an irregular sub-circular deposit of 5m diameter and 0.2m depth. (1003) may represent a dump of damaged building materials during the general dumping of (1001).



Plate 2: View south showing subsoil (1001) & drain [1006]



Plate 3: View SSW of subsoil (1001) surface



Plate 4: View north showing (1003), mid-ex



Plate 5: Tiles manufactured at the West Midlands 'Dreadnought' works, recovered from (1003)

A probable storm drain running N/S across the north-eastern end of the site is recorded as [1004] (Plate 6). The sides were vertical and of 0.5m width. A glazed ceramic pipe occupied the cut and fill (1005) was of brick fragments around the pipe and 0.35m of pebbly gravel above it. This drain was cut into the subsoil (1001).



Plate 6: View east of [1004] & [1006]

A further drain running NE/SW probably terminated at [1004] and was lost amongst (1010). This drain [1006] was of 0.25m width and 0.3m depth with vertical sides and a flat base (*Plate 6*). The fill (1007) was 0.1m of rounded pebbles up to 0.06m in size covered by silty topsoil material. While not carrying a pipe, drain [1006] was clearly intended for drainage of the site.



Plate 7: West-facing section of sondage through (1001)



An identical drain to [1006] ran W/E across the central part of the site. This drain [1008] was of 0.25m to 0.3m width and 0.25m depth. Like (1007), (1009) was formed of 0.1m of rounded pebbles in the base. [1008] appeared to terminate within (1010).

(1010) was an area of siltier subsoil to the south-eastern side of the site. It was associated with the water pipe and may represent a mixing of topsoil (1000) and subsoil (1001). However, it is also possible that topsoil has accumulated in this area due to garden activities in the neighbouring property.

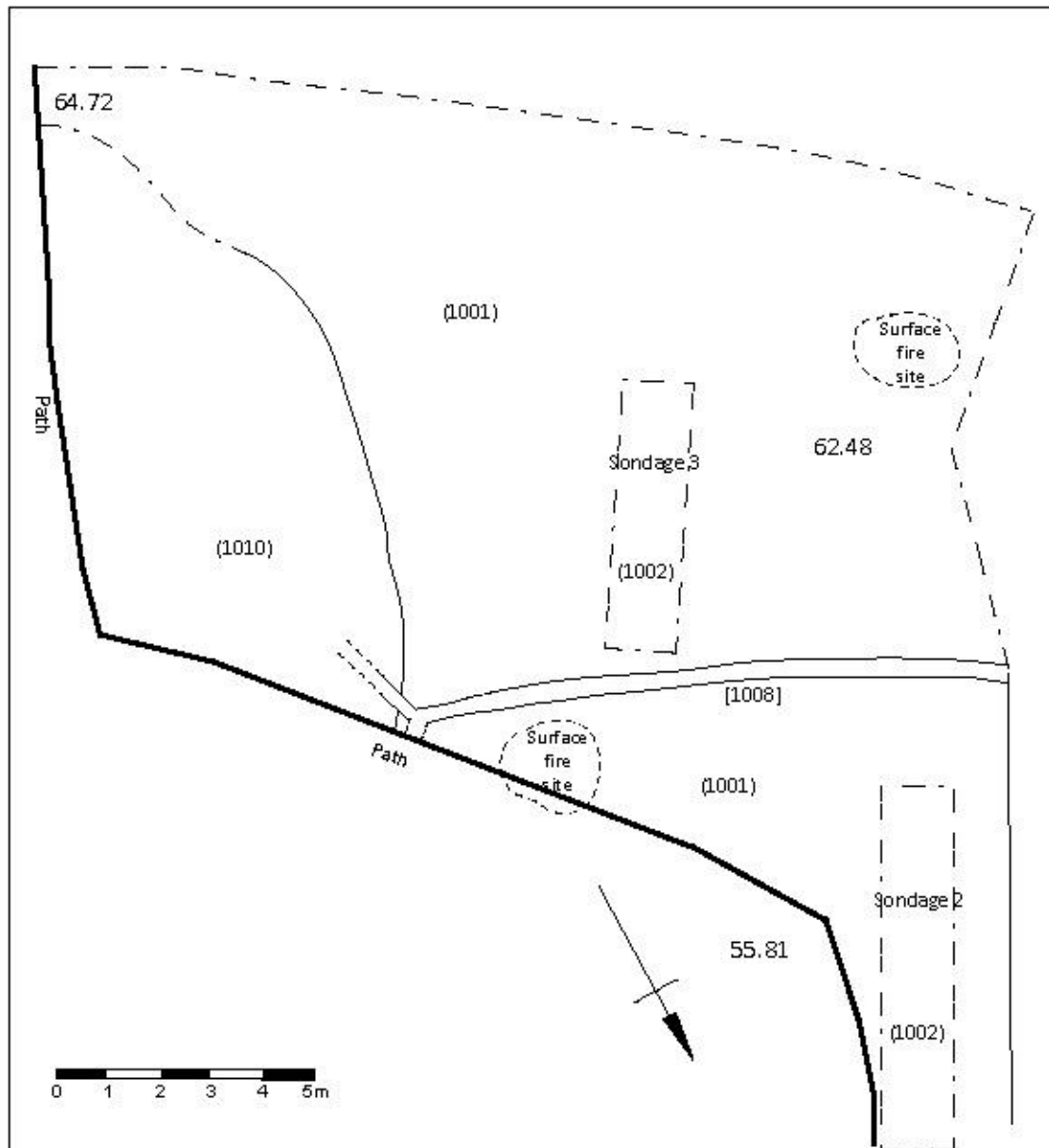


Fig. 4: Plan showing southern part of site (Rosenhurst Drive in top left of drawing)

Reports from neighbours claim that the site had been left as waste land in the 1970s after building works on Telford Drive and that during construction the soils had been stripped away downhill to the bedrock. It is likely the site was used for the dumping of materials during and after construction and the ownership connections to Telford Drive appear to confirm this, since the site access is from Rosenhurst Drive. The nature of the building rubble



is also indicative; brick, tile, mortar, glass and iron fragments are common but there were none of the modern building plastics in current use and this type of debris matches the age of most of the surrounding properties

Since no trace survives of the original ground surface, it is impossible to say whether the site originally had earthworks. However, the material that was placed back on the site was devoid of material earlier than the 20th century and this may suggest that the clays and topsoil were not replaced but imported from elsewhere or that earlier material was not present within them to begin with.

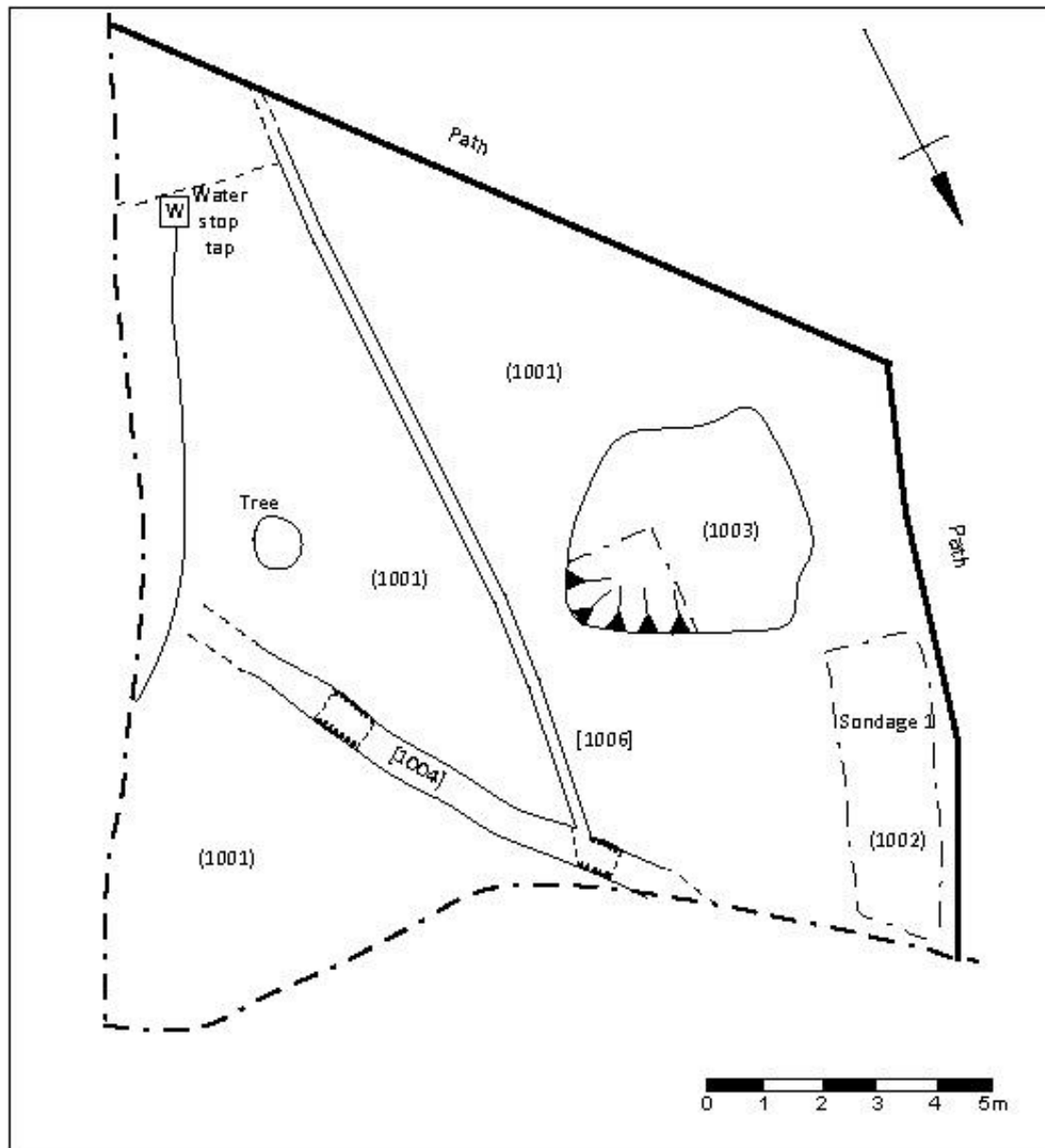


Fig. 5: Plan showing northern part of site

The reason for stripping the site during the construction of Telford Drive may have been more than convenience for the building works. Local comment suggests that a Victorian house to the south of the site subsided and had to be demolished. Removing the soils, replacing with consolidated clays and building in a plateau may have been measures to

prevent slippage. In the gardens of Telford Drive, one resident claimed he had 0.2m of topsoil before hitting bedrock so the clays were only deposited on this site.

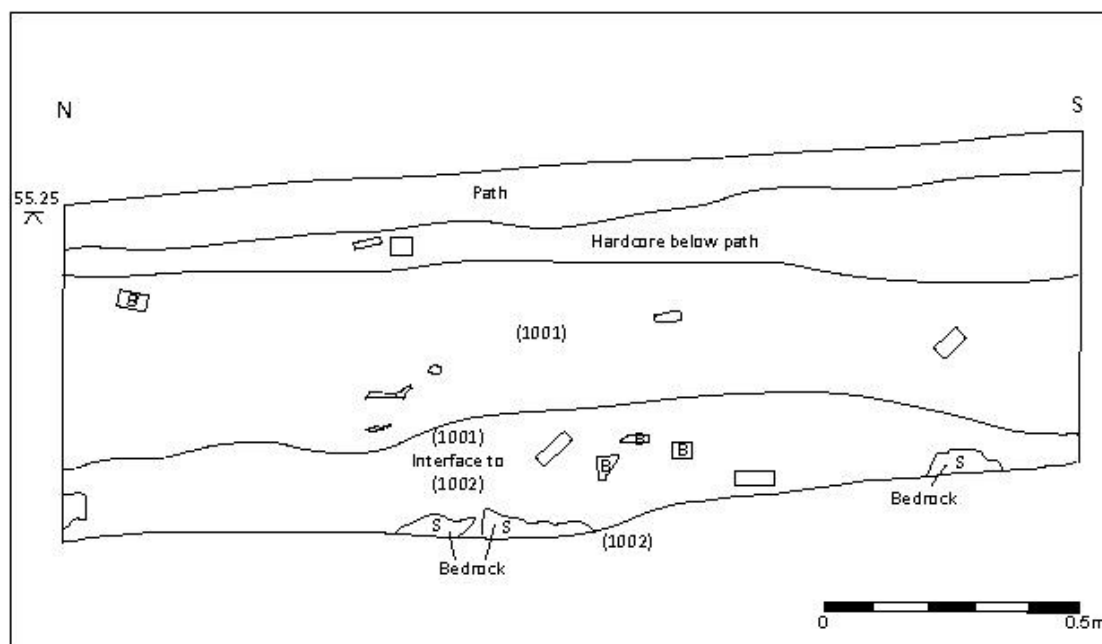


Fig. 6: West-facing section through Sondage 2

8. Conclusion

Nothing of archaeological significance was found on the site. It seems highly likely that all material was removed during building work on Telford Drive and this would have removed anything of potential archaeological interest. A clay subsoil was deposited that likely included much of the building debris. The topsoil was probably also replaced, as it is of depth and quality and unlikely to have formed in such a timeframe; however, it derives from an area with no remnant archaeological material. If the topsoil was originally removed from the site, as seems most plausible, it suggests there was little on site to begin with and that the late 20th century destruction was of little consequence.

9. Copyright

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10. References

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11. Appendices

Context No.	Description
(1000)	Loose greyish-brown sandy silt (15% clay, 35% sand, 50% silt); brick fragments, occasional stones (rounded <8cm); 30-50cm in thickness; extending over entirety of site
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Topsoil</i>
(1001)	Fairly compact generally light brown sandy clay (30% sand, 70% clay) with occasional patches coloured yellow, pink blue, grey; brick fragments, occasional stones (mostly rounded & <8cm or angular >10cm from bedrock) occasional mortar, glass, Fe; 30cm-1.3m in thickness; extending over entirety of site. Underlies (1000)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil, re-deposited</i>
(1002)	Hard rock, fractures into angular pieces
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Bedrock</i>
(1003)	Loose sandy deposit comprising very frequent brick & tile with glass and iron ties; surrounded by burnt mortar material, some brick fragments were also burnt; irregular sub-circular in form measuring 5m diameter, 0.2m depth.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Rubble deposit within (1001) although not occupying a distinct cut; however, it was well defined & may represent a dump of damaged building materials during the general dumping of (1001).</i>
[1004]	Linear cut running N/S across NE extent of site; sides vertical; 0.5m width. Cuts subsoil (1001). Filled by (1005)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Probable storm drain</i>
(1005)	Glazed ceramic pipe & brick fragments; 0.35m of pebbly gravel above it. Fills [1004]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of drainage trench [1004]</i>
[1006]	Linear cut running NE/SW; measures 0.25m width & 0.3m depth; sides vertical, base flat. Cuts (1001). Filled by (1007)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Drain, probably terminated at [1004] and was lost amongst (1010). While not carrying a pipe, drain [1006] was clearly intended for drainage of the site.</i>
(1007)	Loose rounded pebbles up to 0.06m in size; measures 0.1m in thickness & covered by silty topsoil material. Fills [1006]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of drainage trench</i>
[1008]	Linear cut extending W/E across central part of site; measures 0.25m to 0.3m width & 0.25m depth. Cuts (1001). Filled by (1009)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Identical drain to [1006]. Appeared to terminate within (1010)</i>
(1009)	Loose rounded pebbles up to 0.1m in size, overlaid by silty topsoil material. Fills [1008]
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of drainage trench, very similar in composition to (1007)</i>
(1010)	Soft silty deposit located on SE side of site; situated within (1001)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Subsoil deposit associated with water pipe and may represent a mixing of topsoil (1000) and subsoil (1001). However, it is also possible that topsoil had accumulated in this area due to garden activities in the neighbouring property.</i>



Document Control

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Report edited by	George Children MA MfA		
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1	Final	Aug. 2012	Neil Shurety Dip M.GM Inst. M