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Archaeological Observation

Concerning

Land to the Rear of No. 5

Wye Terrace

Hereford

HR4 9DW

February 2019



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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mrs P. Wick to undertake Archaeological Observation (watching brief) of ground-reduction works for the provision of carparking space and additional garden to the rear of No. 5 Wye Terrace Hereford HR4 9DW.

The site lies immediately north of the River Wye and within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance. It is adjacent to Hereford city wall, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, although the site lies outside the Scheduled Area.

The limited scope of the excavations (extending to a maximum of 0.40m beneath the existing ground surface) meant that no archaeological features or deposits were encountered and only topsoil and subsoil, together with a construction cut and backfill for the existing garden wall, were seen.

With the exception of fragments of 19th Century refined earthenwares and transfer-printed wares, which were not retained, the only find, also from the topsoil, was a broken Codd-neck lemonade or soda bottle from Davies Brooks Hereford of late 19th or early 20th Century date.

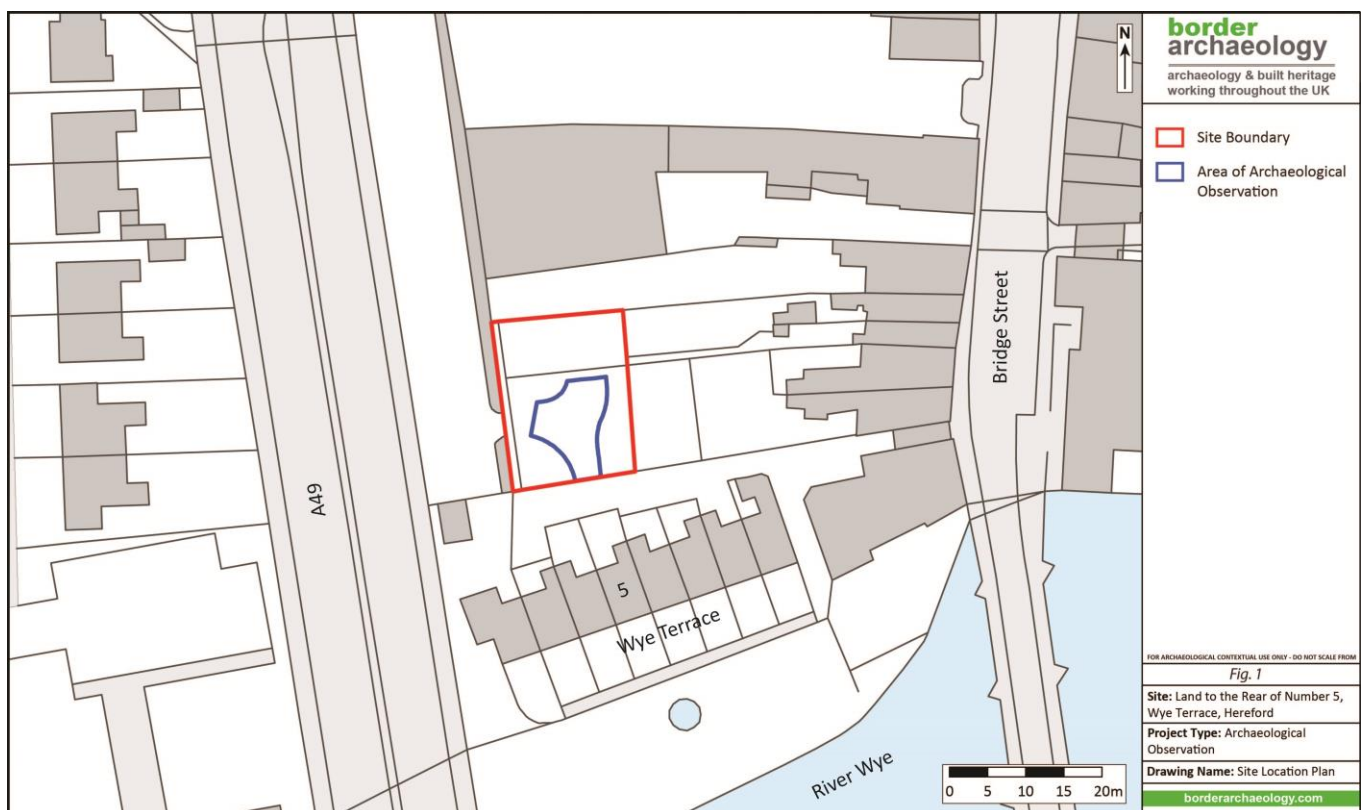
2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Mrs P. Wick to undertake Archaeological Observation ('watching brief') during ground lowering operations for work to create car parking space and additional garden on land to the rear of No. 5 Wye Terrace Hereford HR4 9DW (Planning Refs. P173027/FH & P173028/L).

Archaeological work on site took place on 15th and 17th January 2019.

2.1 Site Description

The site (*fig. 1*) lies immediately N of the River Wye within Hereford Townscape Character Area 6 – King Street-Bridge Street and the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI), and is very close to the city wall Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), although the garden does not lie within the Scheduled Area. The site is located immediately W of the Wye Bridge SAM, a 15th Century structure with late 11th Century origins.



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2.1.1 Soils and Geology

This riverside area of the city is characterized by typical brown alluvial soils of the TEME series (561b) consisting of deep stoneless permeable silty soils, with gravelly subsoil in places, overlying river alluvium (SSEW 1983).

3 Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

The possibility of pre-Conquest defensive works along the river frontage has been suggested (Thomas & Boucher 2002, 184-5; Baker 2011, 24), with a possible return running along the riverbank, possibly along the terraces either side of Bridge Street. No evidence for such a feature has been recovered and this remains a gap in current knowledge (Baker 2013).

The known defences along this section of the City Wall extend N for about 95m, from a garden wall at the rear of Wye Terrace at its S end as far as the Greyfriars Surgery building. At its southern extent, the wall appears to retain its full thickness and is constructed from large well-coursed squared rubble sandstone blocks, with levelling-up courses, to a height of 2.2m and eight courses. Further N, the wall has been reduced to a single stone thickness, the core and inner face along this northern section having been robbed out.

Wye Terrace occupies an earlier area of back-plot activity to the rear of Nos. 25 & 26 Bridge Street, which, although now sub-divided, attests to the historic pattern of urban development in this area.

Wye Terrace itself comprises a Grade II listed early 19th Century row of houses with gardens (List Entry Number: 1196790) situated above the River Wye on its northern bank. These properties are constructed of brick on a stone plinth, with stucco architraves, lintels and quoins beneath a hipped slate roof.

4 Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out according to *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c). BA adhered to the Code of conduct (ClfA 2014a) and to project management advice set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015) and *Requirements for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire* (Herefordshire Council 2017). BA is also cognisant of *Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning* (Herefordshire Council 2010).

The definition of an archaeological watching brief (Archaeological Observation) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (ClfA 2014b).

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

4.1 Aims and objectives

An aim of the project was to attempt to address period specific research priorities set out in *An Archaeological Research Framework for the City of Hereford* (Baker 2013) and *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011), although it was acknowledged that opportunities were extremely limited in view of the small-scale and relatively shallow nature of the groundworks.

4.2 Scheme of works

All ground-breaking works were carried out by machine and flat-bladed bucket under Archaeological Observation, with topsoil and subsoil routinely checked for significant finds.

4.3 Recording

Written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2017).

No archaeological features or deposits were present on the site. A single drawing on gridded, archive-stable polyester drafting film was made to record the location of photographs.

A high-resolution digital photographic record was made comprising photographs of deposits recorded. An appropriate scale was present in all photographs.

4.4 Recovery, processing and curation of archaeological data

No archaeological features or deposits were present on the site. No finds were recovered during the course of the archaeological observation.

4.5 Palaeoenvironmental and Palaeoeconomic sampling

No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic purposes were encountered during the course of the groundworks.

5 Results

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1001		Deposit	Topsoil.	Soft black silt clay; rooting, occasional small stones; 0.3m thick (across site). Overlying (1002).	–	✓	–	–	–	Finds not retained.
2	1002		Deposit	Subsoil.	Moderately compact orange-brown silt/gravel; charcoal, coal, fragmentary CBM & later post-medieval pottery; >0.1m thick. Underlying (1001), cut by [1003].	–	✓	–	–	–	Seen on S side of site only; finds not retained.
3	1003		Cut	Cut for existing garden wall.	Linear in plan; aligned E-W; >0.32m (length) × >0.4m (width). Filled by existing garden wall, (1004), cut (1002).	–	–	–	–	–	Not excavated.
4	1004		Fill	Backfill of construction cut [1004].	Loose very dark brown/black silty clay; similar to (1001) but containing moderate-frequent CBM, glass, pottery. Fill of [1003], underlying (1001).	–	✓	–	–	–	Finds not retained.

6 Discussion

With the exception of the cut for the existing 19th Century garden wall, no features were encountered during the course of the work. The shallow depth of the excavation (*Plate 1*) meant that potential archaeological deposits were not reached and it was therefore not possible to address any of the specified aims (Watts 2011; Baker 2013).

Finds from the site included a broken Codd-neck lemonade or soda bottle from the Hereford Davies Brooks works; such bottles were usually broken by children in order to extract the glass marble from the neck. All pottery was of 19th Century date and included transfer-printed wares. The presence of this material was noted but it was not retained.



Plate 1: View S of work completed on W side of site, showing contexts (1001) and (1002).

7 Copyright

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