

birmingham archaeology

Land adjacent to the Crown and
Cushion Public House, Wellington
Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham

An Archaeological Desk-Based
Assessment
2006

Project No. 1398
January 2006

**Land adjacent to the Crown and Cushion Public House, Wellington Road, Perry Barr
Birmingham**

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment 2006

By Eleanor Ramsey

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**LAND ADJACENT TO THE CROWN AND CUSHION PUBLIC HOUSE,
WELLINGTON ROAD, PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT, 2006**

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**LAND ADJACENT TO THE CROWN AND CUSHION PUBLIC HOUSE,
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT, 2006**

SUMMARY

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in January 2006 on land at the Crown and Cushion public house, Wellington Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham (NGR SP 0671 9088) in advance of residential development. The site is located on the north side of Wellington Road, adjacent to the Crown and Cushion, and at the intersection of Walsall Road, Birchfield Road, Wellington Road and Aston Road. Previous archaeological work to the west along Wellington Road identified archaeological remains associated with a Roman kiln dating to the second century, and evidence of settlement from the first and second centuries. The site is also close to the predicted line of Ickniel Street, and spot finds of Romano-British coins, and the assessment has highlighted the potential for archaeological remains of this period to survive within the site boundaries. The assessment also highlighted the potential for archaeological remains of the post-medieval period to be present within the site boundaries.

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE CROWN AND CUSHION PUBLIC HOUSE,
WELLINGTON ROAD, PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT, 2006**

1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2006 Birmingham Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land adjacent to the Crown and Cushion public house, Wellington Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham (hereafter referred to as the site). The work was commissioned by Landstone Group Ltd in advance of a proposed residential development (Planning Application Number N/07712/05/FUL).

This report outlines the results of the assessment, which was carried out in January 2006, and which was prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (IFA 1994, revised 2001).

The assessment conforms to a brief produced by Birmingham City Council (Appendix), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2006), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation. This is in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). Birmingham City Council's Archaeology Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance (BCC 2004) and policy 8.36 of the Council's Unitary Development Plan were also consulted.

2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The site is located on the north side of Wellington Road, adjacent to the Crown and Cushion public house, and is centred on NGR SP 0671 9088 (Figs. 1 and 2), 0.4km south of the River Tame. The site covers an area of 0.311ha.

The western part of the site is grassed, and the rest is a tarmac-surfaced car park.

The drift geology in the area of the site is sand and gravel or Bunter pebble beds with some areas of boulder clay (British Geological Survey, Sheet 168).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the project was to assess the survival and potential significance of any archaeology within the study area by collating existing archaeological and historical information for the site and its immediate environs and placing it in its local, regional and national context.

More specific aims were to address:

- The survival of structures and deposits relating to Roman pottery manufacture.
- The survival of structures and deposits relating to Roman settlement.
- The survival of remains of past environmental conditions, particularly in alluvial deposits.
- The potential of the site to contribute to an understanding of the historic development of the part of Birmingham.

4 METHODOLOGY

A search of all relevant and readily available published and non-published documentary sources, including historic maps and photographs, was carried out in Birmingham Central Library and the Library of the University of Birmingham. The Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, the main source of archaeological information for the city was also consulted (Fig. 3).

In addition, a walkover of the study area was undertaken in order to assess the topography and any above-ground archaeology, including standing buildings (Plates 1 and 2).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

5.1 Prehistoric

No prehistoric sites, artefacts or archaeological deposits have been recorded within the vicinity of the site. However, the close proximity of the site to the River Tame may suggest there is potential for the presence of prehistoric archaeological remains, particularly where alluvial deposits may have sealed earlier horizons. Streams and wetland contexts in the midlands are frequently associated with burnt mounds (Hodder 1990 in Halsted 2006), which date largely to the Middle Bronze Age (Halsted, 2006). Examples of such sites have been recorded in Sutton Park to the north (Hodder 2004, 30-33), and burnt mounds close to the River Tame have also been suggested at Berwood near Erdington (*ibid.* 30). Fieldwalking in the rural area east of Sutton Coldfield (to the north of the site) has resulted in the discovery of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools and the debris from their manufacture. Excavations along the line of the M6 Toll motorway in Sutton Coldfield have revealed Bronze Age and Iron Age sites (*ibid.* 21).

5.2 Roman

In the middle of the first century AD a network of forts was established across the West Midlands. One of these was Metchley, in Birmingham, and it was linked by roads to Wall to the north, Alcester to the south and Droitwich to the south-west (Fig. 4). There may also have been roads to Greensforge to the west, Penkridge to the north-west and Mancetter to the north-east. The roads to Alcester and Wall and beyond to the north-east and south-west were given the name Icknield Street in the medieval period, misleadingly implying that it was a single road rather than individual stretches linking forts (Hodder 2004, 59). To the north of the site, a well-preserved stretch of Icknield Street survives as an upstanding monument in Sutton Park (*ibid.* 60).

There would probably have been many other trackways in use, often on more logical natural routes such as along the sandstone ridge running north from Birmingham to Sutton Coldfield and Lichfield. These may have been preferred by the local population to the better but less convenient roads (Hodder 2002).

The site lies to the west of the suggested line of the Roman road Icknield Street or Ryknild Street (SMR 20266; Margary 1967, Road 18b, 284-286). Along the line of Icknield Street in the West Midlands region, various sites dating from the Roman

period have been identified, including the fort at Metchley, and rural occupation and settlement at Longdales Road, Kings Norton. Fieldwalking in the Sutton Coldfield area has located concentrations of Roman pottery in small quantities, which would be interpreted elsewhere as evidence for manuring with domestic debris, but because they can be seen in the wider context through extensive field survey they can be recognised as significant local concentrations (Hodder 2002). Also within Sutton Park is a Roman marching camp (Mould 1993).

It has been highlighted in the West Midlands Regional Research Framework (Hodder 2002) that in the Birmingham conurbation the number of chance finds of coins are numerically significant and therefore demand consideration. In the Birmingham SMR, 92 out of 150 Roman records are coins, mainly single coins, and four hoards, not all verifiable. A Roman coin hoard is recorded to the west of the site (SMR 03323 Fig. 3, Mould 1993), and to the north coins have also been recorded in the vicinity of Icknield Street (SMR 03321, 02910 and 02911, Halsted 2006). A Romano-British stone carving of a head is also recorded within the vicinity of the site (SMR 03324).

The excavation of remains associated with a Roman kiln, identified roughly 350m to the west of the site at 224 Wellington Road, attests to incontrovertible evidence of Roman activity in the area (SMR 02912). This site was identified and excavated in 1959 by Mr FW Jolley, and the remains of the kiln included tapered clay fire-bars, pieces of the floor, possible fragments of kiln walling, flat stone 'rubbers' used in manufacture and several hundredweights of pottery sherds. Hollows in the natural clay underlying the kiln debris may be the result of clay extraction, and there were also roughly cobbled surfaces present.

The pottery was of two types ranging from the late first century to the late second century. The late first and early second century pottery types were not kiln products but indicated earlier occupation of the site. The pottery produced was jars, bowls and handled tankards, whose form dates them to the second century, between AD 150 and 200 (Hodder 2004, 71). The kiln appears to be a western extension of the central midlands Roman industrial area, and hollows in the natural clay underlying the kiln debris may be the result of clay extraction. There were also roughly cobbled surfaces (SMR 02912).

Other evidence for Roman industry in Birmingham was found at Sherifoot Lane in Sutton Coldfield, to the north-east of the site. This site was another pottery production site, and here an actual kiln was found, discovered in the back garden of a house when the owner was digging a pit for a pond. Vessel forms at this site suggest that this kiln was also in production between 150 and 200 AD (Hodder 2004, 74).

Products of the Sutton Coldfield kiln have been identified at the Roman settlement at Coleshill. It, and the Perry Barr kiln, presumably served a local market, which included Wall and farmsteads like those at Langley Mill Farm, Over Green and Wiggins Hill. Neither kiln site is on a known road line. The Perry Barr site is just under 1km from Icknield Street and the Sutton site is over 2km from Icknield Street. The Sutton site is less than 100m from a medieval road line, which follows a natural ridge and could have been in use before the Roman period (*ibid.*).

5.3 Anglo-Saxon

There is no archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the vicinity of the site, indeed, the only archaeological evidence for the period in Birmingham currently consists of an iron spearhead from Edgbaston and possibly a pottery vessel found near St Nicolas's church in Kings Norton. However, most of the place names in Birmingham, including Birmingham itself, are of Anglo-Saxon origin. By analogy with other parts of the country, settlements were likely to have been individual dwellings and hamlets rather than villages until shortly before the Norman Conquest and were not necessarily on the same sites as medieval villages, but some may have been on, or adjacent to, sites occupied in the Roman period (Hodder 2004, 77). The word 'tun' in a place name is taken to mean enclosure, farmstead, estate or village (Gelling 1984), and places in the area around the site including Sutton Coldfield, Erdington and Witton have this suffix.

5.4 Medieval

Perry Barr was a hamlet of the parish of Handsworth, to the north of Birmingham and south of Sutton Coldfield, and like all the manors of Handsworth parish and the Warwickshire manors within the area of modern Birmingham (except for Berwood and Sheldon), was held in the early Middle Ages by a single line of overlords. In 1086 William FitzAnsculf was recorded as holding Birmingham, Edgbaston, Aston, Erdington, Witton, Handsworth, Perry (Perry Barr) and Little Barr. The estates were held by successive members of the Somery family until the death of John de Somery in 1322. His coheirs were his sisters, and the barony of Dudley, together with the manors of Birmingham, Perry (Perry Barr) and Little Barr, was allotted to Margaret, wife of John de Sutton. The overlordship of Perry (Perry Barr) and Little Barr is not subsequently recorded, but the Sutton (or Dudley) family continued as overlords of Birmingham (VCH VII, p58-72).

Archaeological excavations, which have investigated or located medieval remains, have taken place in the Bull Ring, Digbeth and Deritend areas of Birmingham city centre, in Sutton Coldfield town centre, in the village centre at Kings Norton, and in the hamlet of Minworth Greaves (Hodder 2004, 83).

The archaeological record for Birmingham begins in the twelfth century. This period marks the creation of the town of Birmingham and its establishment as a commercial and industrial centre within the region, together with increasing exploitation of the landscape around it (Hodder 2004, 82). The growth of the town of Birmingham as an industrial and market centre would have encouraged rural prosperity, in the production of food for the towns people and plant and animal raw materials for its industries (*ibid.* 98).

Four corn mills were mentioned in the Domesday Survey, one of which was at Perry (SMR 03208, VCH VII, 253-69). Perry Mill was close to the site of the old Perry Barr Hall, on the left bank of the Tame, on a leat cut across a curve of the stream. It was the manorial corn mill of Perry.

Holford Mill (SMR 03209, Fig. 3) is located to the north of the site, and documentary sources record that permission was granted to construct a fulling mill, with a leat and sluices, probably on this site in 1358 (Halsted 2006).

The map from Plott's Natural History of Stafford 1686 (Fig. 5), depicts Perry Barr and Perry Hall, but not in detail. The Yate's map of 1775, (Fig. 6) shows Perry Mill to the north of the site, and Perry Hall and Perry Barr itself further to the north-west. It does depict, however, several houses along the line of the road leading from Sutton Park to the north, to Birmingham to the south, which may indicate earlier settlement along this road. The site is also to the south of Perry Bridge, which has been suggested as the original fording point of the River by the Roman Icknield Street, and adjacent to a crossroads.

5.5 Post-medieval

There can be little doubt that the demand for arms caused by the Civil War benefited Birmingham. Holford Mill (SMR 03209) was certainly producing blades in 1654 (VCH VII, 81-139). A corn mill at Perry Barr was mentioned in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and it possibly became a blade or rolling mill in the late seventeenth century, but it was a corn mill again by 1818. Mill buildings were demolished in the 1980s and a model farm built on the site (SMR 03208).

During the post-medieval period, other mills were present within the vicinity of the site, such as SMR 20423 which was a brewery in the early twentieth century, and which was a flour mill by 1938. There was a flour mill adjacent to Mill House (SMR 20422), and a flour mill (SMR 20421) on the opposite side of the road to Mill House in 1904. A Mill Race is also recorded in 1904 on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 20414). Another mill is recorded as Bristnalls End Mill, which had disappeared by 1794 (SMR 20110).

The early railways from Birmingham were planned almost exclusively for long distance traffic. The number of intermediate suburban stations before the 1950s was negligible. Near the centre of Birmingham Vauxhall station and Camp Hill station, built as temporary termini, survived as intermediate stations after the extension of the lines. Apart from Vauxhall, Perry Barr station (SMR 20419) was the only intermediate station within the modern city, on the Grand Junction line, built at the same period as the railway itself (VCH VII, 25-47).

To the south of the site an early tramway depot was present in the early twentieth century, and by 1938 it was an Omnibus Depot (SMR 20420).

An early twentieth century brewery at Franchise Street is also recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 20416), as is Perry Barr Switchgear Works (SMR 20407). Canterbury Cross school, dated to 1906, is also listed (SMR 02313).

6 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY AREA

The earliest map consulted is from Plott's Natural History of Stafford, 1686 (Fig. 5), which shows 'Ikenild Street' running through 'Pury Barr' and crossing the Tame via a bridge and running southwards through Hockley and towards Edgbaston. The location of 'Pury Hall' is also recorded.

Yates map of the county of Staffordshire 1775 (Fig. 6), shows the Roman road to the north of the site, but does not show it continuing in the vicinity of the site. Perry Barr is depicted to the north-west of the site, as is Perry Hall and Tower Hill and Hamstead. Perry Mill is also depicted on this map, to the north-west of the site. The site itself is shown as undeveloped, or unoccupied (though the map is not

particularly detailed), but the map does illustrate the site's proximity to the road running north-south, and the roads aligned east and west from this road. The north-south road runs south to Birchfield End, and several buildings are depicted on its eastern frontage.

Misses Riley is listed as occupying the Crown and Cushion in the Staffordshire General and Commercial Directory of 1818. The large majority of people listed for Perry Barr in this directory are farmers, with a few gentlemen and merchants and other trades listed. A few gentlemen and gentlewomen are listed at Birch Field End.

White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire 1834 describes Perry Barr as a large township, containing the small village of Perry Bridge and a number of scattered houses, extending northward to Sutton Park and Great Barr. It also contains a number of entries for Birchfield.

The area is shown in more detail on the Handsworth Tithe Map of 1840 (Fig. 7). The Site itself is divided into plots of varying sizes, including an open field to the west, and a plot with a building on the corner at the road junction. This plot (1084) is described in the Apportionment of Rent Charges Handsworth 1843 as 'Crown and Cushion Inn/Homestead'. The Grand Junction Railway is depicted cutting to the north of the site, and the site's proximity to the river is also illustrated. The long narrow fields illustrated to the south-east of the site, may be indicative of earlier field systems, and the fields to the south of the study area are not developed at this time.

White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire 1851 describes the area like this:

'Handsworth Parish comprises about 7700 acres, divided into the two manors and joint townships of Handsworth-with-Soho and Perry Barr, which increased their population from 2719 in 1801, to 6138 souls in 1841, when the former had 5205 and the latter 933 inhabitants. In 1851, the whole parish contained 7880 souls. Many new houses have been built during the last 20 years at Handsworth and Soho, which form a large and handsome north-west suburb of Birmingham, bounded on the south and east by Warwickshire, and extending about three miles on the Walsall and Wednesbury roads; including many large assemblages of houses, several manufactories, and a considerable number of neat villas, mostly occupied by coal and iron master, and merchants, etc, engaged in the trade and commerce of Birmingham.'

By the time of the Ordnance Survey First Edition 1890 (Fig. 8), the land at the western part of the site had been developed, with houses fronting Wellington Road, and part of the land to the rear of them divided up. The land and houses at the eastern end of the site appears relatively unchanged, the inn building is still on the corner of the junction, and the land to the north of this building is still an open field, except for the few small houses fronting Birchfield Road/Walsall Road immediately to the south of the station and railway. The original Aston Villa football stadium is depicted to the southwest of the site, and Perry Barr tramway depot is also illustrated (SMR 20420). The site and its environs appears to be relatively undeveloped at this time, with many large gardens and open spaces still depicted. The large houses and gardens illustrated to the south of the site are indicative of an affluent suburb, as described by the 1851 trade directory entry for Handsworth parish as a whole.

By the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1904 (Fig. 9) the football stadium had been redeveloped as terraced housing, as had Aston Lane, the continuation east of Wellington Road. The houses at the north end of the site, fronting Birchfield Road/Walsall Road, were either extended or rebuilt. As had happened in areas closer to the centre of Birmingham, affluent suburbs were incorporated into the urban sprawl, and overtaken by the demand for smaller, working class housing. The mill race listed on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 20414) is shown on this map. There was little change to the site itself at the time of the Third Edition Ordnance Survey 1921 (Fig. 10), however, by the time of the Fourth Edition 1938 (Fig. 11) the present Crown and Cushion public house had been built to the immediate west of the smaller inn on the corner. The Ordnance Survey Edition of 1956 (not illustrated) does not show the smaller inn. All the buildings within the site had been demolished by the time of the 1970 Ordnance Survey Edition (not illustrated), possibly in advance of road widening and the creation of the underpass.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Birmingham contains an exceptional, but often under-appreciated range, of archaeological remains for an urban area. Archaeological work as part of new development has led to greater recognition of the extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains of the City's past, even in intensely developed areas (BCC 2004).

The proximity of the site to the River Tame, and the identification of prehistoric remains to the north at Sutton Coldfield, suggests there is the potential for remains of this date to exist within the site boundaries.

The potential for the survival of Roman sites in the city is indicated by the discoveries in the Sutton Coldfield area, and in Kings Norton (BCC 2004). The proximity of the site to one of the two pottery kiln sites known within the city, to the Roman Icknield Street, and the general spread of coins and spot finds, suggests that the potential for the presence of archaeological remains of this period is high. Archaeological deposits of this date can significantly contribute to our understanding not only of the archaeological and historical development of the site, but of the surrounding area, and the Birmingham area as a whole.

The cartographic evidence suggests that the area of the site immediately to the north of the present Crown and Cushion public house was not developed during the post-medieval period. Although it is possible that the construction of the railway resulted in landscaping or terracing in the area, there is still a high potential for archaeological remains that pre-date the post-medieval period to survive within the site boundaries. The proximity to the river also means that there is the potential for waterlogged environmental remains to survive, which can significantly contribute to our understanding of the local environment. It is likely that there is greater potential for the survival of pre Post-medieval remains in the northern part of the site, given the lack of development here. Further archaeological work, in the form of evaluation, should target this area.

The post-medieval period, particularly the later part of it, is often represented by a combination of a wide range of below and above ground archaeological remains and the documentary record. Archaeological remains of this period, above and below

ground, are vulnerable because of their under-appreciation of their significance despite their relatively recent date (BCC 2004). Archaeological remains dating to this period on site can contribute to an understanding to the early industry and character and development of this suburb of Birmingham. The inn on the corner of the crossroads and the buildings fronting Birchfield Road/Walsall Road, though outside the site boundaries, probably represent some of the earliest buildings in the area. The inn at least was present in 1818, before the construction of the railway.

The buildings fronting Wellington Road, similarly, are likely to represent some of the earliest development in the area post-1840. Archaeological remains associated with these buildings can contribute to our understanding of the later development of the area, especially in relation to the specific industries present within the site. Recent archaeological work conducted to the north of the site at Perry Bridge (Halsted pers. comm) identified deposits relating to nineteenth century pearl button making, an industry that Birmingham specialised in during this period, demonstrating the survival of deposits of this nature. Survival of these remains could contribute not only to the understanding of the site, but of the development of industrial Birmingham in general. As redevelopment has not occurred since the demolition of these buildings, below-ground archaeological deposits relating to activity of this period are likely to survive.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Landstone Group Lts. Thanks are due to Dr. Michael Hodder, the Planning Archaeologist, who monitored the project on behalf of Birmingham City Council, for his support and for supplying the Sites and Monuments data. The research and assessment was undertaken by Eleanor Ramsey, who produced the written report. The report was illustrated by Bryony Ryder, and edited by Laurence Jones who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

9 SOURCES

9.1 Primary Sources

1818 Staffordshire General and Commercial Directory

1834 White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire

1851 White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire

from <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/>

9.2 Cartographic Sources

1686 Joseph Browne, from Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire

1775 William Yates A Map of the County of Staffordshire

1840 Handsworth Tithe Map

1889 Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:2500

1904 Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1:2500

1921 Ordnance Survey Third Edition 1:2500

1938 Ordnance Survey Fourth Edition 1:2500

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 B15 2TT
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Fig.1

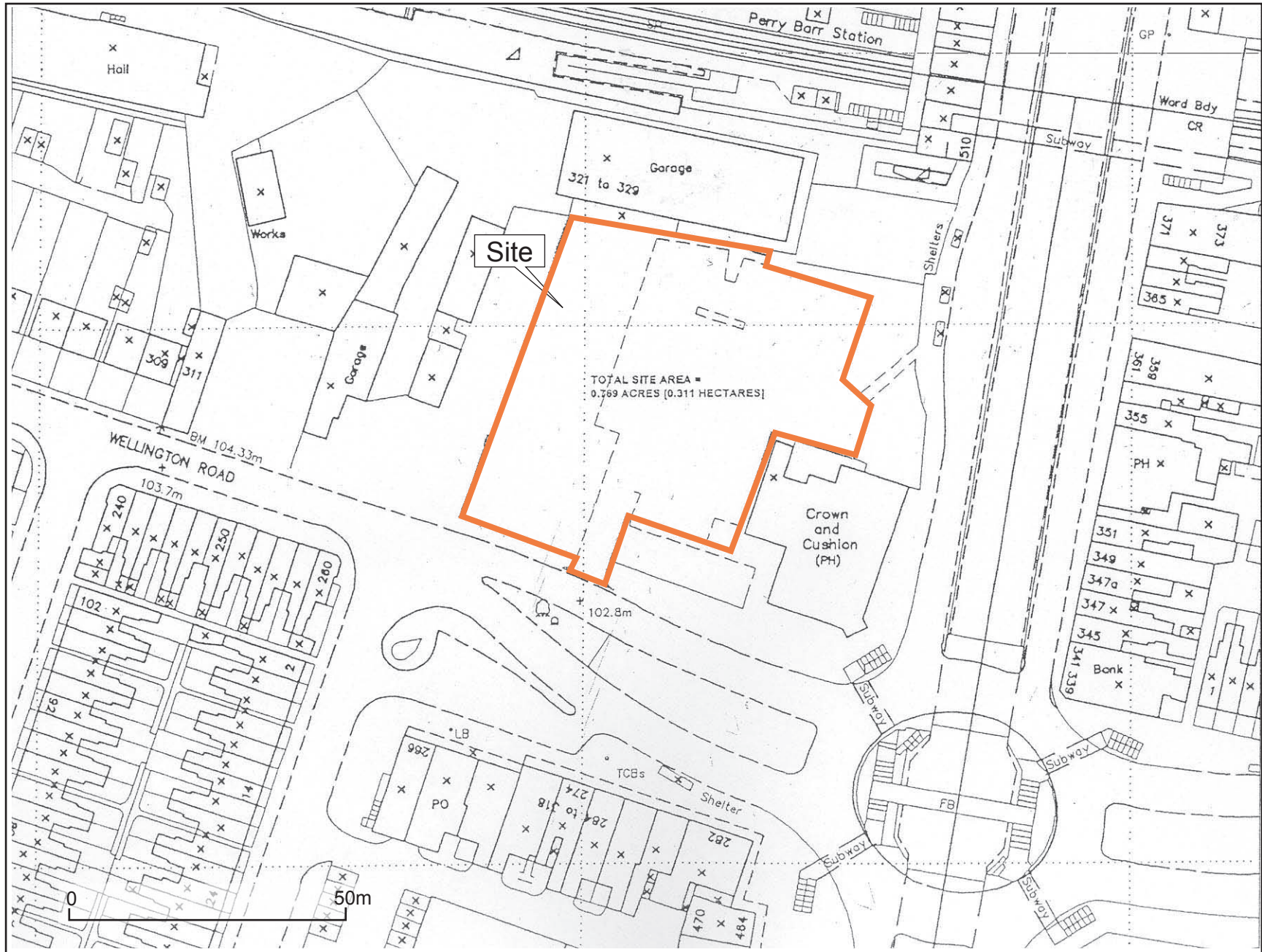


Fig.2

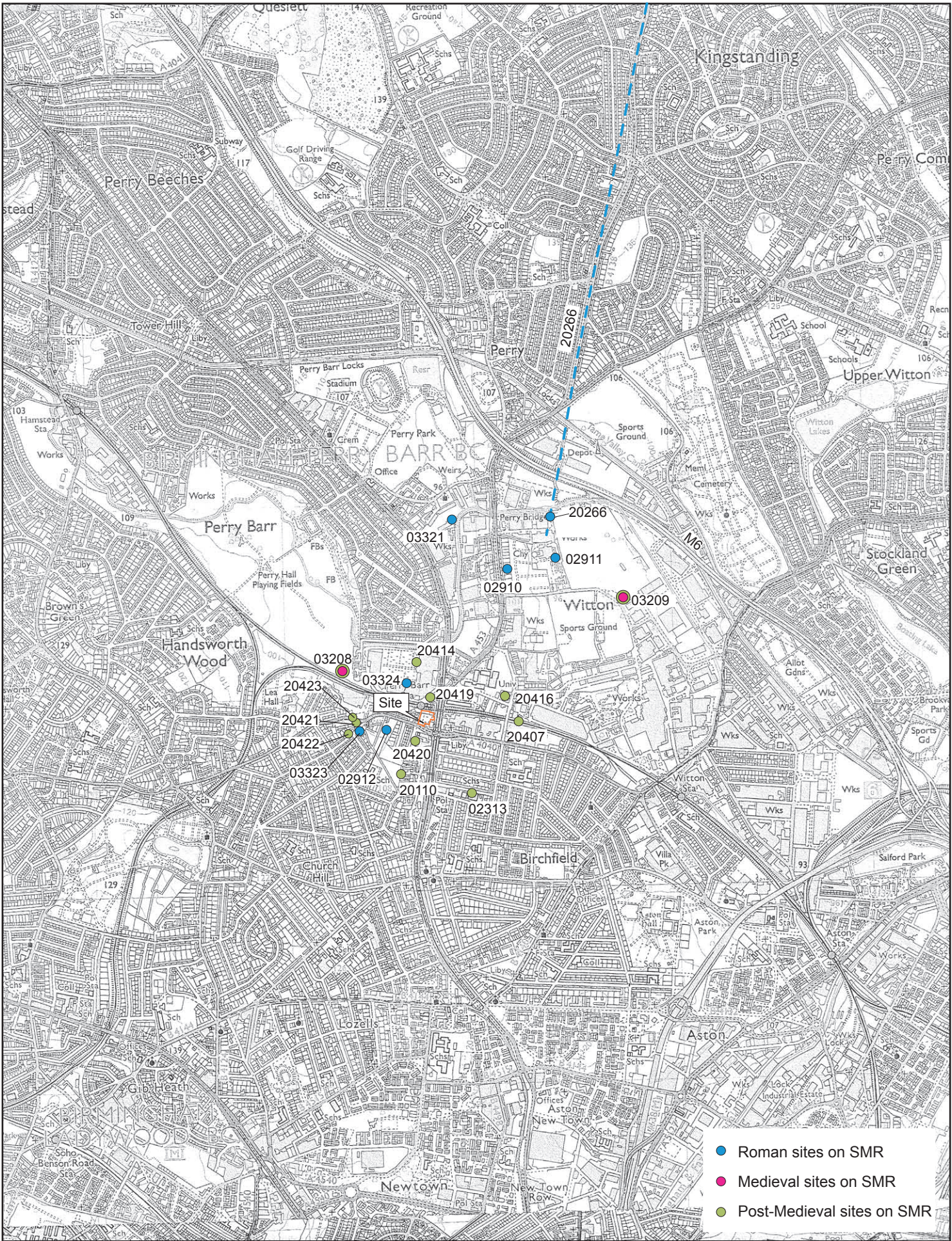
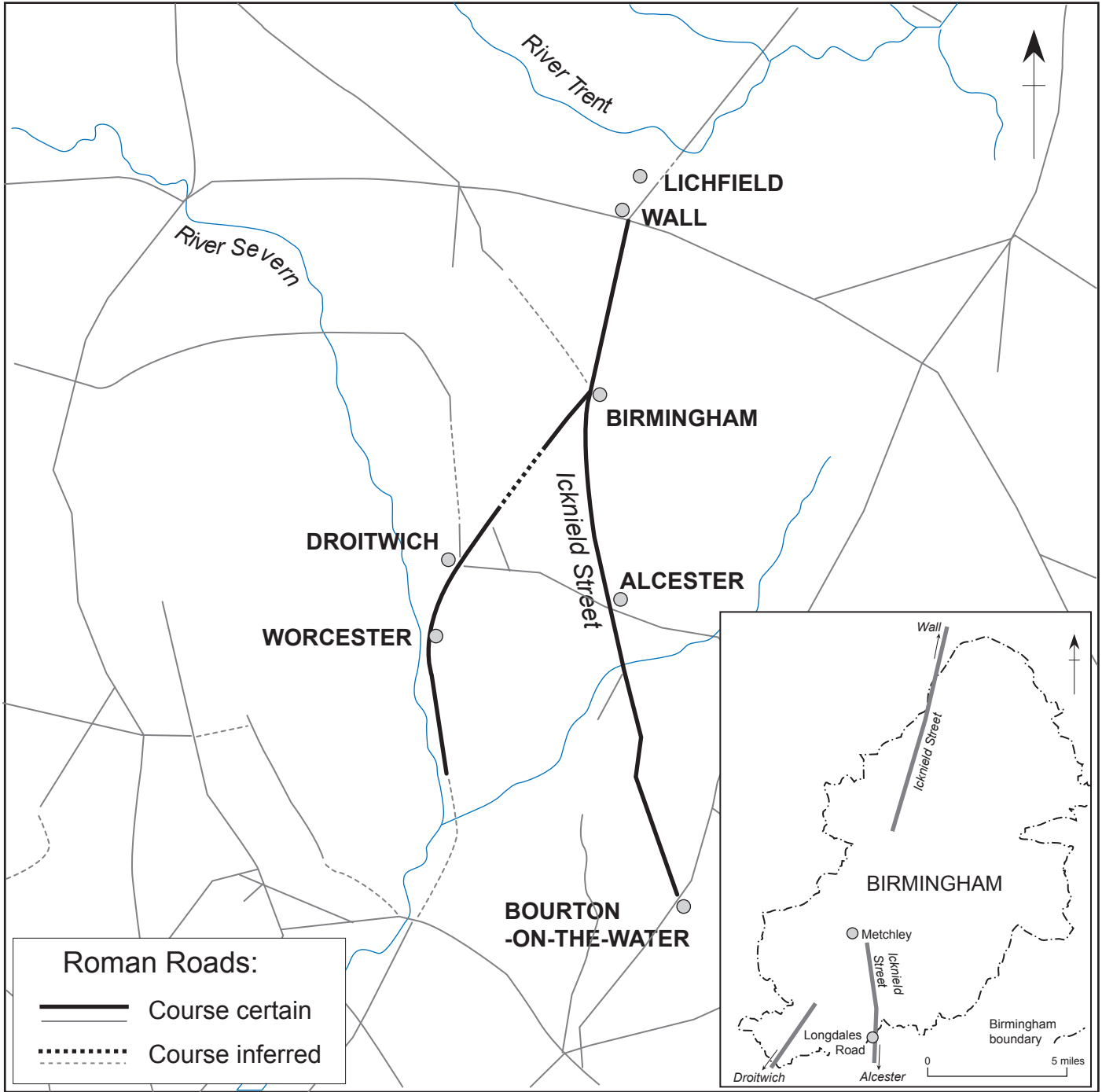


Fig.3



After: Hodder (2004); and Margary (1967)

Fig.4

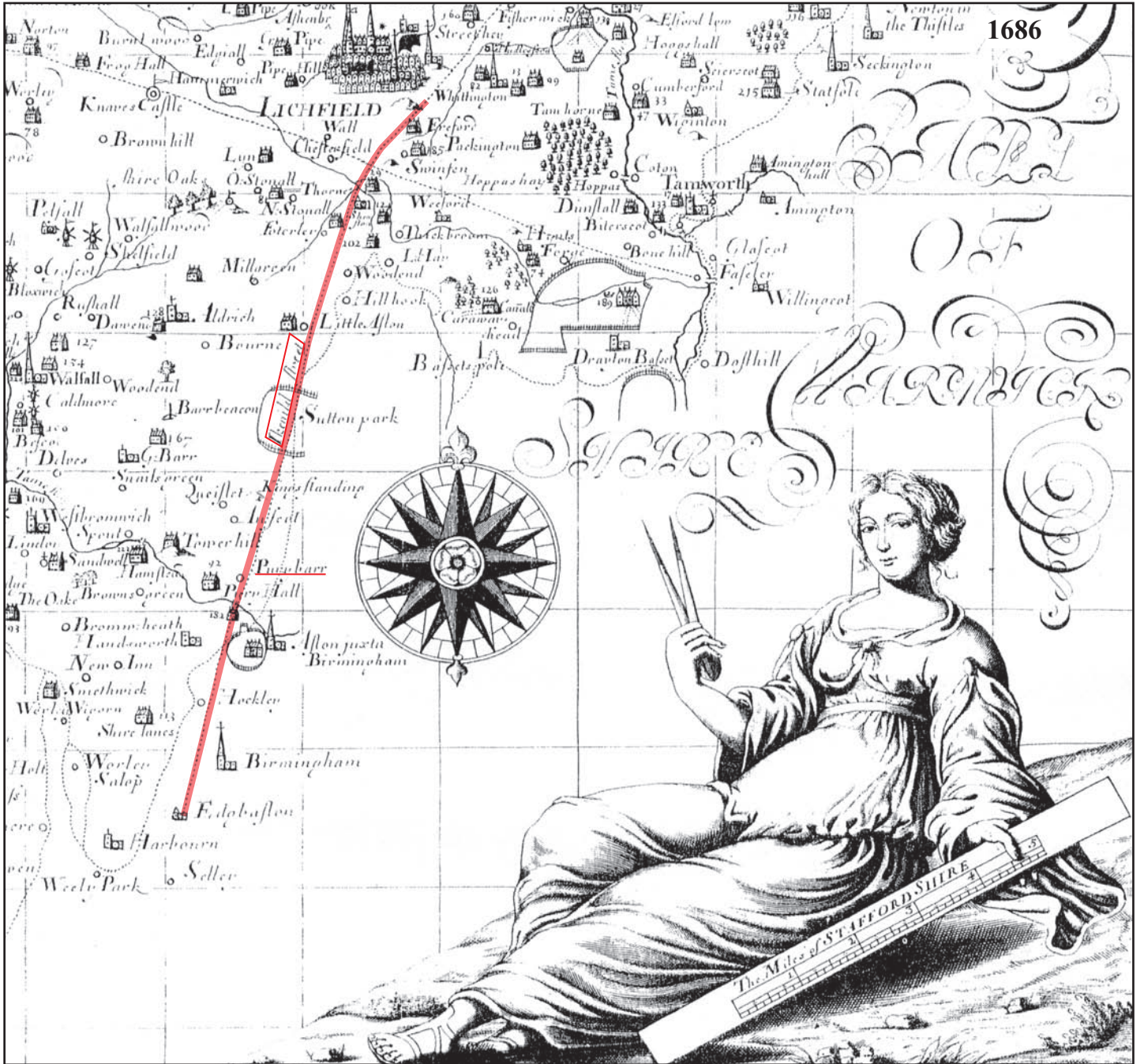


Fig.5

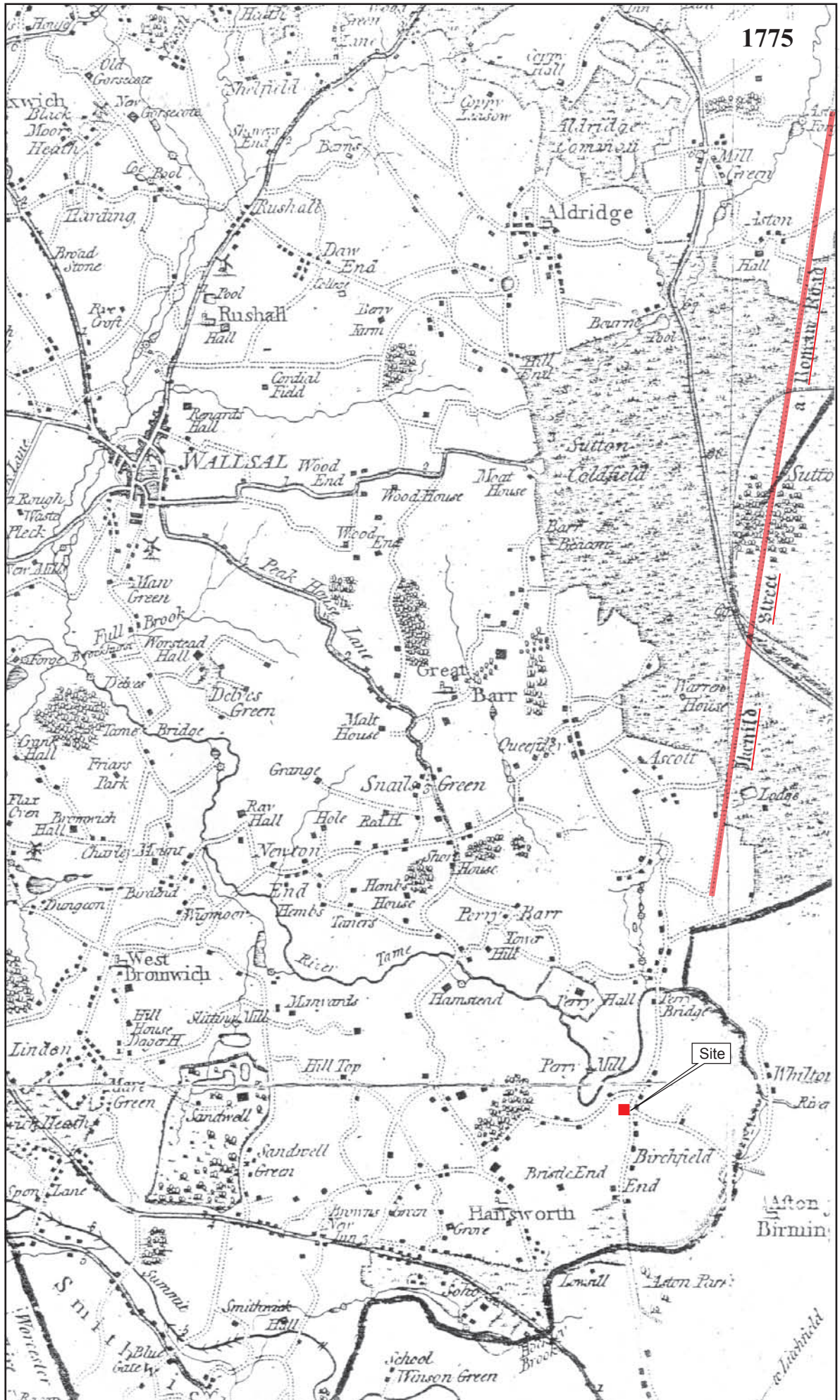


Fig.6



Fig.7

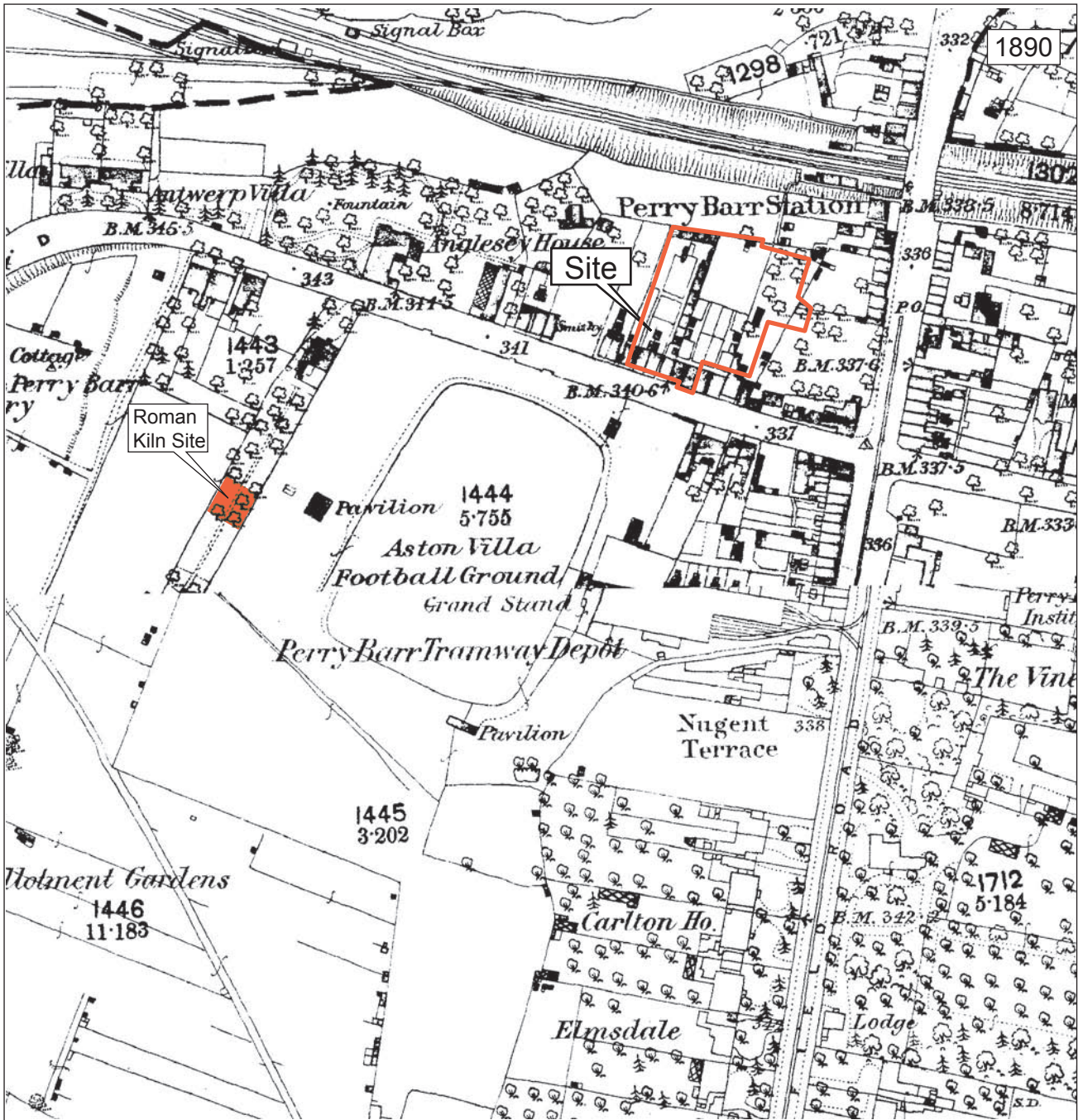


Fig.8

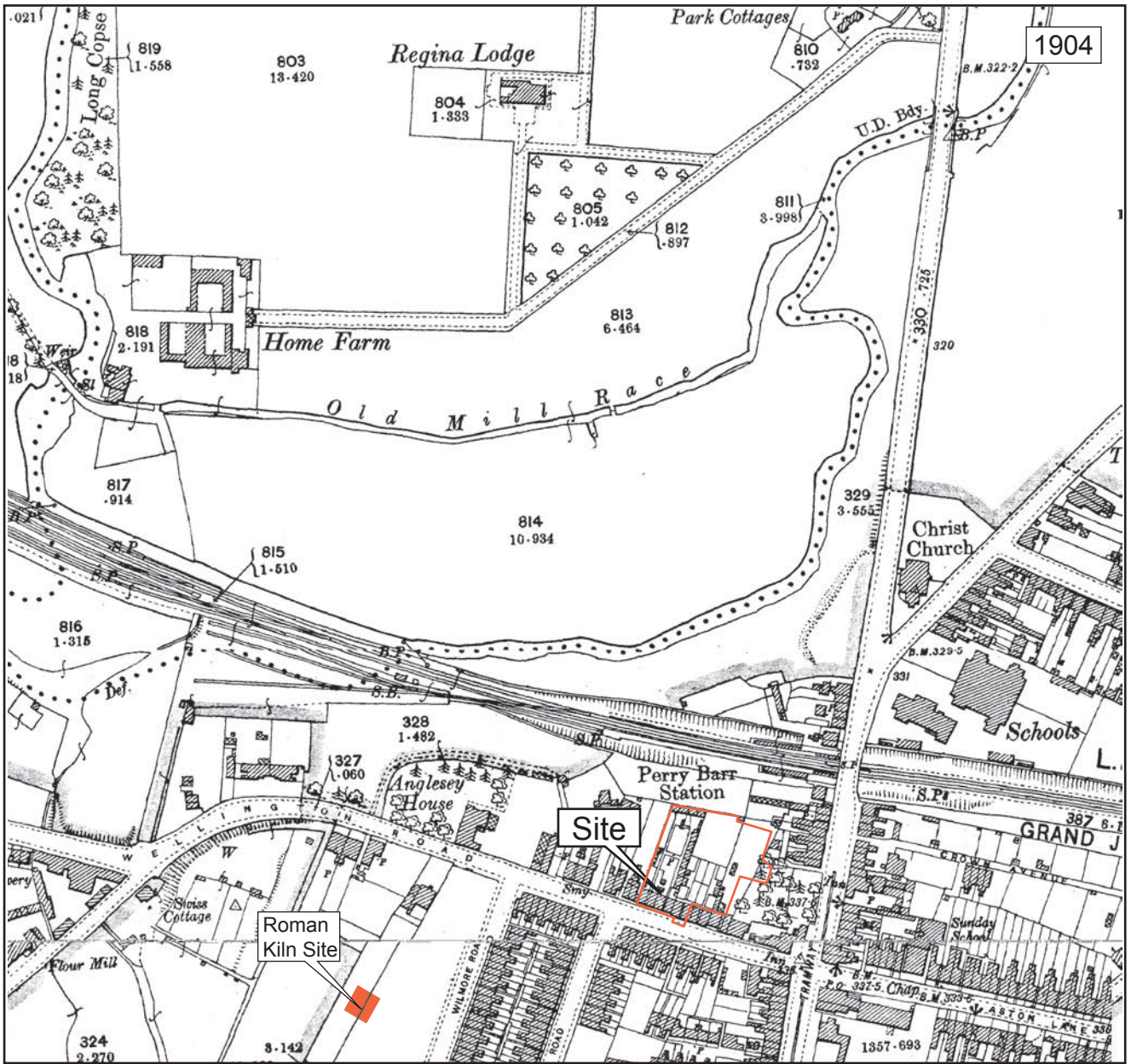


Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.11



Plate 1



Plate 2

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

Application number N/07712/05/FUL

Wellington Road, Crown and Cushion, Birmingham (SP 0671 9088)

Proposed student residence development

Brief for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Field Evaluation in advance of determination of planning application

1. Summary

*Proposed development at Wellington Road is close to a Roman pottery kiln site and close to the line of a Roman road, and may contain remains of Roman industry and settlement. This brief is for assessment of the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains, consisting of an **archaeological desk-based assessment followed by an archaeological field evaluation consisting of excavated trenches**. This will determine the need for preservation of archaeological remains in-situ and/or for further archaeological excavation in advance of commencement of development.*

2. Site location and description

The application site is located on the north side of Wellington Road. The western part of the site is grassed, and the rest is a tarmac-surfaced car park.

3. Planning background

N/07712/05/FUL is for student residences on the whole site. Because the site may include archaeological remains which would be affected by the proposed redevelopment, an assessment of its archaeological implications is required in advance of consideration of the proposals and before the application can be determined. This is in accordance with Policy 8.36 of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan, the City Council's Archaeology Strategy which has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, and government advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, "Archaeology and Planning". The archaeological assessment will enable appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies to be devised. The mitigation strategies may involve modification of site layout or foundation design to ensure in situ preservation of archaeological remains, or, if this is not feasible, **full recording of archaeological remains by archaeological excavation in advance of development, followed by analysis and publication of the results.**

4. Existing archaeological information

A Roman pottery kiln site was excavated to the west of the application site and on the south side of Wellington Road, in 1959. Remains of the kiln included tapered clay fire-bars, pieces of the floor, possible fragments of kiln walling, flat stone 'rubbers' used in manufacture and several hundredweights of sherds. The kiln products were of late 2nd century date, and late 1st and early 2nd century pottery indicates earlier occupation of the site. Other Roman finds are recorded

in the vicinity of the site in the Sites and Monuments Record, and the probable line of the Roman Ryknild Street runs to the east.

5. Requirements for work

The archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation are required to define the likely extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains in the area of the proposed development, so that appropriate mitigation strategies can be devised. The mitigation strategies may involve modification of site layout or foundation design to ensure in situ preservation of archaeological remains, or, if this is not feasible, full recording of archaeological remains in advance of development, followed by analysis and publication of the results.

In particular, the archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation must address the following:

- (i) The survival of structures and deposits relating to Roman pottery manufacture;
- (ii) The survival of structures and deposits relating to Roman settlement;
- (ii) The survival of remains of past environmental conditions, particularly in alluvial deposits;
- (iii) The potential of the site to contribute to an understanding of the historic development of this part of Birmingham.

6. Stages of work

The extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains on the application site, as described in part 5 above, are to be assessed by site inspection and a search of published and unpublished written records, illustrations and maps, archaeological and geotechnic records, and a comparison with archaeological evidence from nearby Roman sites. The attached guidance note provides information on sources. In addition, relevant papers in the West Midlands Archaeological Research Framework should be consulted.

The archaeological field evaluation is to consist of excavated trenches across the whole site. The number of trenches and the location and size of each trench are to be agreed on site with the Planning Archaeologist prior to commencement. Surface deposits in each trench are to be mechanically removed, under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation is to be entirely manual. Excavation in each trench is to be sufficient to define record and sample all archaeological features encountered. The potential of deposits to contain evidence of the past environment and industrial residues must be assessed. Finds are to be cleaned, marked and bagged and any remedial conservation work undertaken.

7. Staffing

The archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation are to be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and all staff are to be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles in the project. It is

recommended that the project be under the direct supervision of a Member or Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

8. Written Scheme of Investigation

Potential contractors should present a Written Scheme of Investigation that which details methods and staffing. It is recommended that the Written Scheme of Investigation be submitted to the City Council's Planning Archaeologist before a contractor is commissioned, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the brief.

9. Monitoring

The archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation must be carried out to the satisfaction of Birmingham City Council, and will be monitored by the Planning Archaeologist. At least five working days notice of commencement of the assessment must be given to the Planning Archaeologist, so that monitoring meetings can be arranged.

The monitoring will include a review meeting on completion of the research for the archaeological desk-based assessment to determine requirements for the field evaluation, and at least one site meeting during the evaluation.

10. Reporting

The results of the archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation are to be presented as a written report, containing the following:

- (i) Copies of historic maps and other appropriate illustrations
- (ii) An analytical summary of features and deposits found in the evaluation;
- (iii) Appropriate plans and sections;
- (iv) A summary of finds;
- (v) An assessment of the site's significance in terms of national, regional and local importance. The non-statutory criteria for scheduling should be employed;
- (vi) A copy of this brief.

A copy of the report must be sent to the Planning Archaeologist.

11. Archive deposition

The written, drawn and photographic records of the archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation, together with any finds, must be deposited with an appropriate repository within a reasonable time of completion, following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist.

12. Publication

The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, within six months of completion. The contractor must submit a short summary report for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology* and summary reports to appropriate national period journals. On completion of the project the contractor must also complete the obligatory fields of the OASIS

form and submit an electronic version of the report to OASIS
(<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis>).

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Date prepared: 30 December 2005

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