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**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

**LAND OFF ASTON
STREET, WEM,
SHROPSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATIONS
2007 & 2008**



Project No. 1679

Land Off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire

Archaeological Excavations 2007 & 2008

By

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SUMMARY

Archaeological excavations of land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire (centred on NGR SJ 515 285) were undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology between August and September 2007 and in April 2008. Two open area excavations took place in advance of a proposed residential development and aimed to locate and investigate evidence of possible 17th-century Civil War defences that a previous evaluation by Birmingham Archaeology in March 2007 had uncovered. Previous trial-trenching of the site, in 2001, investigating the area corresponding to the course of the defences, first depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, found no evidence of the defences.

The excavations confirmed the existence of a defensive ditch and provided evidence of its profile, alignment and Civil War origin. The investigation has suggested that the projected line of the defensive circuit shown on historic maps since 1881, that was probably originally based upon a description dating to the first half of the 18th century, was only partly correct. Excavation also provided evidence that a more complex defensive system may have incorporated pre-existing field boundary ditches. These were later reinstated by re-cutting the silted up ditch as a property boundary after the conflict ended. The invaluable evidence produced has shed some light on an area of conflict archaeology within a small town context that has rarely been investigated before.

LAND OFF ASTON STREET, WEM, SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 2007 & 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Morris Homes (West Midlands) Limited to undertake archaeological excavation ahead of a proposed residential development at land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire. The work was carried out as a condition of Planning Consent (Planning Application Number N/05/640/WU/33) and was in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

This report outlines the results of the archaeological excavation carried out between August and September 2007 and during April 2008. The excavation was carried out in accordance with guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IFA 2001).

The excavation conformed to a brief produced by Shropshire County Council (Appendix 1), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2007, Appendix 2) which was approved by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council prior to implementation.

2.0 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The development area is located on land to the south of Aston Street, Wem, southeast of the historic town centre and is centred on NGR SJ 515 285 (Fig. 1, hereinafter referred to as the site).

The underlying drift geology consists of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The present character of the site is a mixture of hard standing, where buildings belonging to a former timber yard have been demolished leaving concrete footings at ground level, and scrubland. One brick building associated with the former timber yard is still standing. To the north of the site are buildings fronting onto Aston Street. The site is enclosed to the east by fencing associated with a railway line that runs northeast to southwest. The south of the site is bounded by the railway and a car park. To the west lies a large retail store and associated car park.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Detailed historical background information can be found in an assessment carried out by Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service (Buteux 1996) and much of this section is a summary of information contained in this assessment report.

Wem was probably founded in the Anglo-Saxon period, and the town's name may refer to marshy areas adjacent to the River Roden which flows through the town. Wem was mentioned in the Domesday Survey and was held by William Pandulf for Earl Roger of Montgomery, at this time. Wem was the centre of a Barony which comprised of 29 manors. A motte and bailey castle was built by Hugh Pandulf in the 12th century. In 1205 a grant from King John permitted

a market to be held in Wem. The castle was rebuilt in stone in the early 13th century. The town suffered during the Wars of the Roses and both the castle and town was probably razed in 1459 by victorious Yorkist forces.

At the time of the Civil War, in the 1640s, Wem had become a relatively prosperous market town, a fact reflected by the foundation of institutions such as a Grammar School and almshouses. The town lay at a crossing of the River Roden on the strategically important route between Shrewsbury and Whitchurch.

At the outbreak of war in 1642 the town, undeclared and unfortified, was twice occupied by Royalist forces (Hannaford 2001). In 1643, after Bristol had been captured, the town was seized and became a Parliamentary garrison, the first in the Royalist stronghold of Shropshire. The defences are described as comprising four gates at strategic points on the roads entering Wem, a four yard wide ditch circuit complete with corner towers, rampart and palisade (Hannaford 2001). These were constructed effectively enough to resist three sieges or attacks in 1643, 1644 and 1645. The building of these defences also called for a 'scorched earth' policy with those buildings, trees and fences outside the garrison that might offer cover for the enemy being razed to the ground.

The description of the defences comes from the Samuel Garbet in a local history, published posthumously in 1818, who begins his description from the Drayton Gate, somewhere on Aston Street, which was described as being wooden without hinges and goes on to outline the route of the ditch and rampart across the site, which may have survived as a low earthwork at this time.

They began at Drayton gate and ran along the side of Sandland Yard and about 100 yards into Cordwall where it formed an angle defended by a wooden tower. Then it turned towards the mill crossing Whitfields Meadow (Forghams yards) and the road just below Olivers Well, and passed along the side of Parsonage Garden adjoining Biggen's Lane till it came to Shrewsbury gate. Then it crossed the middle of the larger alleys, the upper part of the little alley and hill's meadow, to the corner of the school gardens whence it turned through the tan pits on the east side of the brook to Ellesmere gate. Thence it extended along the Noble Street garden to two houses there in the fields, and from these houses to Whitchurch gate opposite to Pidgeons Barn, thence carried on in a straight line for 40-50 yards, crossed over Sherton's field to Tylers garden and ran along the side and upper end thereof and then through Morris' garden and upto Drayton's gate.

The ditch may still be traced in Cordwall, the fields called the Hill's meadow and Sheiton fields. The earth thrown out of the foss, or ditch made the wall or rampart, which was strengthened by palisades so thick, that a whole coppice in the township of Lacon was cut down for this purpose. All the houses and buildings without the wall were burnt, to prevent their giving shelter to the enemy.

(Garbet 1818, 216)

Garbet probably wrote his history between the 1720 and the 1740s while a master at Wem Grammar School. It is likely that he based his description of the still visible remains of the defences and on eye witness evidence gleaned from those few inhabitants still alive who could recall the alignment of ditch and rampart. Garbet joined the school in 1711; therefore those few people aged over 70 he came into contact with at this time may have been reliable witnesses. It is also probable that tumultuous events of the Civil War would have remained a strong memory within local folklore. An interpretation of Garbet's description of the course of

defences has presumably been used as a basis for the depiction of the course of the defences on Ordnance Survey maps since the first edition of 1881.

After the destruction inflicted by the Civil War and a 'Great Fire' in 1677 that destroyed most of the town, Wem went through a period of economic revival in the late-18th and early 19th centuries, before its decline as a market centre in the later 19th century.

The historic maps suggest that the site retained a rural aspect until after the railway was completed in the mid-19th century. John Wood's plan of 1834 illustrates that the site was set within enclosed fields. By the time of the 1881 Ordnance Survey map a timber mill had been constructed at the northern part of the site.

The projected line of the Civil War defences around the town had been examined archaeologically four times prior to an evaluation at the present site by Birmingham Archaeology (Charles 2007). In three of the four investigations no evidence of the defences was located (Watson 1989, Gifford and Partners 1992 and Hannaford 2001). The 2001 evaluation trenches (Fig. 2) at the present site were positioned in order to locate the defences on a projected line across the site that was depicted on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map.

The only excavation prior to 2007 to have located the defences was in 1998 (Marches Archaeology 1998). This revealed a ditch, 8.7m wide and 1.4m deep, on an east—west alignment south of the site. This ditch was shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map and was still a visible earthwork in the 1970s (Fig. 2). 'The ditch had a noticeable change in profile roughly half way down each side from a 15 degree to a much steeper 30 degree gradient. The base of the ditch appeared to be flat but most of it had been lost to a later trench being cut' (Marches Archaeology 1998, 3). The ditch contained numerous fills that produced post-medieval pottery, but none earlier in date than the late-17th century. No evidence for a rampart was located.

The archaeological evaluation of 2007 located two contemporary parallel northwest-southeast aligned ditches (Charles 2007) which were identified as probable traces of the Civil War defensive ditch. This evidence from the evaluation suggested that the course of the Civil War defences across the site, depicted on Ordnance Survey maps, was not accurate. An open area excavation of the probable defences followed on from this, in August and September 2007 and April 2008.

4.0 AIMS

The principle aim of the excavation was to preserve by record archaeological features associated with Wem's Civil War defences.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The proposed development area covers approximately 2.5 hectares. Excavation Area 1 was 29m by 8m, (covering 232m² in total area). Area 1 was located in close proximity, and on the same alignment, to an evaluation trench (Trench 2) excavated in March 2007 to investigate the line of Civil War defences (Charles 2007). Further excavation to the south was undertaken in lieu of carrying out a watching brief, which was originally required by the brief (Appendix 1). Area 2 was 21m by 7.5m (covering 133m²). This was agreed with Historic Environment Officer.

All topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. The continuous numbered context sequence started at 2000 for the 2007 evaluation Trench 2, 1000 for the Area 1 and 3000 for Area 2. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using monochrome, colour slide and digital photography.

Bulk soil samples were taken from datable archaeological features for the recovery of environmental residues to the standards outlined in the Birmingham Archaeology Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling and by English Heritage (2002). Recovered finds were cleaned; marked and remedial conservation work was undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within *a strategy for the care and investigation of finds* published by English Heritage and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998).

The full site archive, of three boxes of finds and one box of paper archive, includes all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive has been prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository subject to permission from the landowner.

6.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

The following section contains only a summary of the results. Detailed information of the stratigraphic units recorded is presented in Appendix 3 and full details are available in the project archive. The results from evaluation Trench 2 have been integrated with the results from Areas 1 and 2 in section 6.3 (below).

6.2 Subsoil (natural)

The natural orange sand subsoil (1002, 2008 and 3010) was reached at a height of 78.53m-79.42m AOD across both areas of excavation. Several probable tree boles (2013 and 3008; Fig. 4, Plate 6) were recorded disturbing the natural subsoil.

6.3 Summary of archaeological features and deposits.

Phase 1: late 17th – early 18th century

A northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch (D1: 1005, 1013, 1018, 2005 and 3009), 3.02-3.50m wide and 0.52-0.80m deep, cut the natural subsoil. The ditch had a steep southwest side, a stepped northeast side and a mainly flat base with a discontinuous narrow slot or gully cut into it (Figs. 3 and 4, Plates 1-4). The primary fill of ditch D1 was a brown sandy silt or silty sand (1003, 1011, 1019, 2004 and 3006) which contained sherds of late 17th century-early 18th century pottery and fragments of late 17th century- early 18th century clay tobacco pipe. Ditch D1 appears to have silted up during the late 17th century- early 18th century.

A large sub-circular pit (1010, Fig. 3, Plate 4), 2.10m by 2.80m and 0.81m deep, contained three fills (1007, 1008 and 1009). The primary fill 1007 contained sherds of late-17th- 18th century pottery.

Phase 2: early 18th century- early 19th century

During this phase ditch D1 was re-cut on a similar alignment. The re-cut ditch, 1.50-2.0m wide and 0.52-0.80m deep, had a bowl- shaped profile (Plates 5-7). The re-cut ditch was filled with a mainly dark brown silty sand (1004, 1014, 1019, 1021, 2002, 2015 and 3005) contained sherds 17th-19th century pottery, clay tobacco pipe and brick fragments. The fill of the re-cut ditch (2015, evaluation Trench 2) also contained charred wooden planking (2016).

Phase 3: early 19th century- 20th century

A later northeast-southwest aligned linear ditch (D2: 1032), 3.50m wide and 0.95m deep, cut earlier ditch D1 (Fig. 3, Plate 1). The earliest fill was a light brown sandy silt clay (1033) containing a residual sherd of 17th/18th century pottery. This was overlain by mottled mid-grey silty sand (1031) containing a residual 17th/18th century clay pipe fragment. This was sealed by mid-orange brown silty sand (1030).

Further features assigned to this phase were recorded in evaluation Trench 2 to the east of ditch D1. A large irregular post-pit (2029) contained two fills (2014 and 2028). Fill 2014 contained a large amount of damp wood fragments, presumably the remains of the post. Fill 2028 contained sherds of post-medieval pottery. Two further pits (2019 and 2021), contained 19th and 20th century pottery (not retained).

Unphased

A sub-circular pit (3004, Fig. 4, Plate 6), 1.00m in diameter and 0.30m deep, cut the earlier Phase 2 re-cut ditch D1. It was filled with dark brown silty sand (3003). A north-south aligned vertical-sided trench (2010, evaluation Trench 2) filled with mid brown silty sand with inclusions of stone rubble (2009) cut ditch D1 re-cut and tree bole 2013. In evaluation Trench 2, to the east of ditch D1, and an undated possible posthole (2027) was recorded.

6.4 Overburden and topsoil

In Area 1 the natural subsoil (1002) was sealed by a layer of mid-dark grey brown sandy silt subsoil (1001), 0.40m deep, which was overlain by a grey silt and rubble layer (1000), 0.25m deep. In Area 2 the natural subsoil (3010) was sealed by a layer of coal (3002), 0.10m deep. This was overlain by a layer of stone rubble (3001), 0.30m deep, which was sealed by a 20th-century levelling layer consisting of mixed dark grey and black silty sand and rubble, 0.35m deep. The natural subsoil (2008) in evaluation Trench 2 was sealed by a layer of tarmac (2014), 0.10m deep, which was overlain by a layer of crushed grey stone (2001), 0.25m deep. Layer 2001 was sealed by a dark brown silty sandy clay topsoil (2000), 0.10m deep.

7.0 THE FINDS

7.1 Pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

An assemblage of 243 sherds was recovered from the excavations and evaluation (see Appendix 3). Only one sherd of pottery was earlier than the post-medieval period. The pottery was divided into ware types and quantified by sherd count and minimum rim count.

Two sherds from 1003, a putative Civil War ditch fill, were not, as first believed, yellow ware sherds but were sherds from a dark-on-light slip decorated cup – traces of dark brown slip were visible near the break on one sherd. This type of pottery dates from the later 17th century to the first half of the 18th century and post-dates the Civil War by about a generation.

From the entire assemblage, three unstratified yellow ware sherds and two coarseware sherds from 3006 could conceivably have dated to the Civil War period. Three hard-fired coarseware sherds (coded cwmp) from 1019 and unstratified could also have dated to this period but the other pottery from 1019 would tend to suggest that a late 17th- to 18th-century date is more likely. The fill (1033), of ditch D2 contained a pipkin handle. It appeared to be slip-coated ware although a very clean coarseware is a possibility. The form is essentially medieval and is unusual in the post-medieval period and suggests a certain amount of cultural conservatism. The sherd is not easy to date; slip-coated ware would suggest a date in the later 17th century but if the sherd is coarseware, a date any time in the 17th century is possible. However, the paucity of any pottery in the assemblage dating to the Civil War period makes it far more likely that this sherd is contemporary with the other later 17th or early 18th century ceramics. Other

pottery which dated to the late-17th to 18th centuries was represented by slipwares, slip-coated ware and mottled ware. The remainder of the assemblage was made up of 18th- and 19th-century pottery.

The largest group of pottery came from 1004. The greater part of this group seemed to date to the first half of the 19th century and was probably deposited in the 1840s or 1850s. The one exception to this was a light-on-dark trailed slipware bowl dating to the late-17th or 18th centuries. Despite the late date of the pottery within this group, it was not without interest, since it appears to be a fairly representative sample of ceramics in use, for the most part, in the first half of the 19th century (see Appendix 3). The greater part of the group was made up of transfer-printed wares. Five tea plates, two dinner plates, a large flange-rim bowl or tureen base and a bowl with the Spode Willow III pattern (a design widely copied by other potteries) were present. A saucer and a plate/ saucer were also found in this design. Chinoiserie designs were found on another tea plate and a bowl with a gadrooned rim, possibly the lower half of a tureen. These table wares appear to date to the 1830s or 1840s. Two sherds were from a teacup with an acanthus leaf border. Blue transfer-printed pearlware was represented by two vessels; a jug with a 'sporting' design and a charming nursery mug printed with the alphabet. The base of a pearlware milk jug was also present. A substantial section of a 'flow blue' plate was found probably dating to the 1840s or 1850s. A small handle from a cup or small jug was found in this ware also. A blue sponged ware charger was another dining ware.

Other blue transfer-printed ware sherds came from a chamber pot with an oriental landscape design, four sherds representing three bowls or chamber pots and a further undiagnostic hollow ware.

Beside the blue transfer-printed vessels, several other colours were present but only in small quantities. These consisted of a black transfer-printed oriental design plate, a brown transfer-printed teacup with a floral border, a green transfer-printed teacup and a plate/dish with a moulded rim, a purple transfer-printed jug with a possible 'chintz' design variant and a mauve transfer-printed plate with a floral design. The latter has part of a batch number in underglaze purple on the base and is probably rather later than most of the other transfer-printed wares. A black transfer-printed teacup, washed with chrome yellow and gilded may have an ironstone body.

A range of ordinary table/ kitchen wares were present. These consisted of two industrial slipware carinated bowls, decorated with blue bands and two jugs, a lustre ware mug and a utilitarian whiteware bowl. An elongated moulded lid, possibly from a terrine also occurred in the latter fabric.

The remaining pottery was made up of utilitarian wares. The most basic examples of this were two large black-glazed earthenware vessels or 'pans', which were used in the kitchen for food preparation or storage. These generally date from the late-18th and 19th centuries. Further storage vessels were represented by a stoneware flagon and a small campanulate buff stoneware bottle. Other kitchen wares consisted of two 19th-century yellow ware mixing bowls.

Discussion

The paucity of medieval pottery on agricultural land elsewhere in Shropshire was noted by the author in an archive report for the Wroxeter Hinterlands Survey (Gaffney et al 2007) where it was suggested that such a low incidence of pottery recovered during fieldwalking, might indicate that there was a greater tendency towards pastoral farming than cereal production.

Although a small number of sherds could have dated to the Civil War period, the balance of probabilities is that pottery was not disposed of in the area of excavation until the later 17th century at the earliest. This dating is confirmed by the clay pipe evidence (see Higgins, below). It would be unusual for a Civil War feature not to contain contemporary pottery but not impossible, so there is still some doubt as to the date and function of the ditches.

Sources for the 17th- and 18th-century ceramics seem to have been partly local, for example the slipwares, and partly from The Potteries. Wares such as agate ware, white salt-glazed stoneware and creamware were almost certainly from this latter source. Most if not all the 19th century pottery is most likely to have been made in Staffordshire. The coarse earthenware pans, bowls and storage jars may have been produced more locally.

The large group of pottery from 1004 dated mainly to the first half of the 19th century, although some later material was present. The very small number of basic utilitarian kitchen and storage wares is marked. This is quite unusual for a rural assemblage even in the 19th century and a similar picture is apparent in the whole Wem assemblage. Thus the bias in the group from 1004 is towards what could be termed dining wares and tea wares, ie towards the more formal consumption of food and drink. This and the presence of the alphabet nursery mug, which dates to a period well before even basic education was available to the masses, suggests that the pottery has not come from the households of agricultural labourers.

7.2 Clay Tobacco Pipes by Dr D A Higgins

Introduction

A total of twelve fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the excavations, comprising three bowl fragments and nine stem fragments (no mouthpiece fragments were recovered). These range from the 17th to the 19th centuries in date and were recovered from a total of six different contexts (plus one unstratified group). None of the contexts produced more than four fragments of pipe and most only produced one or two, which limits the conclusions that can be drawn from so small a sample. There were two heels stamped with makers' marks amongst the finds, which do at least provide good dating evidence for these particular pieces (discussion, quantification table and illustration, Appendices 5-7).

The pipes in their context within the site

Clay tobacco pipes provide one of the most accurate and sensitive means of dating post-medieval deposits, particularly if they are present in some numbers. All the pipe groups recovered from this site are very small and so the reliability of the dating evidence they offer is not as great as if larger assemblages had been present. Despite this, the pipe fragments still offer a useful guide as to the date and nature of the excavated deposits, particularly in relation to the possible Civil War defensive ditch, which was one of the key objectives of the excavation.

Unfortunately only one pipe fragment was recovered from an undisturbed fill (1003) within ditch D1. On the other hand, the fragment that was recovered is a complete bowl stamped with a maker's mark, which allows it to be closely dated. The bowl form is a distinctive Shropshire style with a tailed heel that was manufactured from about 1680—1730 and this particular example is stamped with the full name mark of Randle Morris (Fig 5). This maker appears to have operated in the Broseley/ Much Wenlock area. Morris has not yet been positively identified in documentary sources, although examples of his pipes from a well dated pit group in Stafford show that he was certainly active around 1690—1705 (Higgins 1986), and

he is generally considered to have been worked from c1680-1720, based on the style of his pipes and marks (see also notes on this mark below). The date of this pipe is certainly later than the Civil War and so, if this ditch dates from the 1640s, it must have remained open for some 40 or more years before being filled. This is not inconceivable, since the town must have been damaged during the Civil War sieges and it was certainly set back again by a disastrous fire of 1677. Given these circumstances, the levelling and redevelopment of the former defences may not have taken place until after 1677, when widespread rebuilding works must have been taking place.

Supporting evidence for the survival of the defences after the Civil War may be provided by another ditch, about 125m to the south of this one, which survived as an earthwork until the 1970s (Marches Archaeology 1998). If this was a section of the Civil War defences that had survived as a visible feature for well over 300 years, then it is clear that not all of the defences were levelled immediately after the War. A section of this southern ditch was examined archaeologically in 1998 and the earliest finds recovered were found to be of late-17th century date (Marches Archaeology 1998). The earliest finds recovered in 1998 are, therefore, contemporary with the Randle Morris pipe and so this may represent a period at which a general levelling and infilling of ditches in this area to the south of the town was taking place following the fire of 1677. This does not, however, explain why two large and apparently contemporary ditches were placed at different distances from the town. More extensive lengths of these ditches clearly need to be examined so as to recover larger finds assemblages, particularly from the primary silts of each ditch, which should reveal exactly when they were cut and in use.

The other key pipe find from the 2007 excavations was a locally produced heel fragment stamped IH that was recovered from 1031, the second fill of a later ditch (D2) that cut ditch D1, discussed above. This fragment also dates from around 1680-1730 on stylistic grounds, and it was also the only pipe fragment from the context. The fact that it was just a single fragment makes it impossible to assess the consistency of the deposit or to see any evidence for a range of material being present. All that can be said is that the fill of this stratigraphically later ditch must date from c1680-1730 or later. If the complete Randle Morris pipe bowl from 1003 is securely stratified in the earlier ditch then either this second ditch was dug and backfilled within a very short time of the first, or the marked pipe in the second ditch is residual within a later filling of it.

There was part of another Broseley style heel bowl of c1680-1730 from context 1023 but all of the other pipe finds from this site were plain stems. Most of these stems date from the 17th or early 18th century and several of them were burnished. This not only suggests that some level of general activity was taking place on the site during this period but also that reasonably good quality pipes were in general circulation.

The pipes

The recovery of pipes from Wem is particularly important since this region of Shropshire appears to have had a thriving pipemaking industry during the late-17th and early 18th centuries. Preliminary research by the author has identified at least a dozen and probably as many as 16 pipemakers who were working in or near Wem during this period. These pipemakers appear to have been working in Wem itself as well as the surrounding settlements of Aston, Burlton, Loppington, Marton, and Tilley. Pipes produced in this area have been found in some numbers at Willaston, near Nantwich in Cheshire, where there were also pipemakers. This shows that the Wem area makers were able to market their products over a considerable area, despite more local competition. The number of pipe makers documented around Wem represents a very significant concentration over such a short period of time and more artefactual evidence is needed to establish the range and nature of pipes that were being

produced here. The initial indications provided by finds from the area are that locally produced pipes were generally similar in form and finish to those produced in the Broseley/ Much Wenlock area, but with some distinctive differences, such as the frequent use of a large round flared heel without a tail.

Only two substantial bowl fragments were recovered from the excavations but both of these were stamped with makers' marks. One of these represents an imported piece, probably from Much Wenlock, while the other is a locally produced piece. These two marked pieces are discussed below: -

IH A particularly interesting marked heel fragment was recovered from 1031. This consists of a round heel from a pipe of local style dating from c1680-1730 (Fig 5). On the heel is a relief stamped mark comprising the initials IH with a fleur-de-lys above and a small axe or hatchet below. The pipe is made of coarse local clay, it has a very poorly burnished surface and a stem bore of just over 6/64". Although a pipemaker named Joseph Hopwood is recorded at Wem (baptised a child in 1688), this pipe may have been made by member of the Hatchett family, with the device below the initials being a play on his name. Hatchett is a common surname in the Wem area and there is known to have been at least one pipemaker with this surname, since a pipe stamped IERE/ HATC/ HETT has been found at Buckley in North Wales (Higgins 1983, fig 3.29). The Christian name must be a contraction of Jeremy or Jeremiah and a search of the International Genealogical Index has shown that there was an individual called Jeremy Hatchett (no occupation given) who baptised children at Loppington, near Wem, in 1687 and 1690.

Supporting evidence for there being a family of pipemakers named Hatchett in or near Wem is provided by other marks from that area dating from c1680-1730 which also have the surname initial H in association with a small axe or hatchet motif. There are examples of this unusual motif combined with the initials AH from Burlton, near Wem, GH from Willaston (Cheshire) and IH from Burlton, Wem and Willaston. The Christian name initial A is relatively rare but there was an individual named Arthur Hatchett living at Loppington, where he baptised four children between 1654 and 1661. Furthermore, the last of these children, baptised 13 February 1661/2, was called Jarome (Jeremy) and one Jeremy's own children (baptised at Loppington 16 March 1687/8) was called Arthur. This not only shows that there were two individuals with the right names to fit the pipe marks in Loppington during this period, but also that the families shared a relatively unusual Christian name (Arthur). This evidence would all fit with Arthur and Jeremy being father and son, and with both of them having worked as pipemakers at Loppington during the second half of the 17th century.

There are, however, two flaws with this suggestion. First, there are some slightly earlier looking marks from the area (dating from c1670-90) that also have a hatchet motif with them but, in this case, the associated initials are RG. The RG maker appears to have worked in or near Nantwich, since this mark is the most common amongst an exceptionally large sample of stamped pipes collected from Willaston, just outside of Nantwich and now in the National Clay Tobacco Pipe Archive at the University of Liverpool. If the axe motif was used by an earlier maker without the name Hatchett, then it may be that this was just a locally used decorative motif rather than a special symbol referring to the surname itself. Second, the Willaston group includes about 100 examples of IH marks combined with a hatchet motif, as well as many more without, and yet no examples marked IERE/ HATC/ HETT were recovered. If the IH mark was produced by Jeremy Hatchett, then it might have been expected that at least some examples of his full name mark would also have turned up at Willaston amongst so large a sample.

Whether it was Joseph Hopwood or Jeremiah Hatchett who produced this mark, what is clear is that the IH initial marks with a fleur-de-lys and hatchet occur in substantial numbers around the Wem area, where they must have been made. As well as this example from Wem itself,

other examples have been recorded from Soulton Hall, just outside Wem, from nearby Burlton and large numbers were clearly supplied to the Nantwich area, some 18 miles to the NE of Wem. One example has been found as far north as Chester (Rutter & Davey 1980, 113) and another example has even been found at Cutler Street in the City of London (Museum of London, CUT 78 (829) <834>). The widespread distribution and numbers of these marks not only suggest that the IH maker operated a substantial workshop but also demonstrates an interesting link between Wem and the capital.

RANDLE/ MORRIS A complete bowl in a distinctive Broseley area style with a tailed heel was recovered from 1003 (Fig. 5). This pipe has a relief stamped two line mark on the heel reading RANDLE/ MORRIS. This maker has not yet been positively identified from documentary sources (Higgins 1987) but he probably worked in the Broseley/ Much Wenlock area. One possible documentary reference to this maker is the Rondle (*sic*) Morris and his wife Sarah, who baptised a son (also 'Rondle') at Much Wenlock on 15 February 1673 (IGI – no occupation given). Somewhat intriguingly, a 'Rondle Morris', son of Thomas and Anne, was baptised at Wem on 15 November 1638 (IGI). There do not seem to be any later references to this individual at Wem and so it is just possible that, as an adult, this individual moved to Much Wenlock to work as a pipemaker (although there may have been other individuals with this name in Shropshire at this period, so it could just be a coincidence). Either way, Randle Morris pipes are fairly well known from the Much Wenlock area and so the individual recorded there in 1673 may well have been the pipemaker responsible. Four examples of the particular Randle Morris die type found in these excavations at Wem (National Catalogue Die Number 401) have been found in a Stafford pit group of c1690-1705 (Higgins 1986, Fig 5.18), alongside a three line mark bearing the same name. There is also one full name RANDLE/ MORRIS mark from amongst the large group of pipes from Willaston. These finds show that Morris was exporting his products over quite a wide area. If he were from Wem originally, this might have provided him with contacts which would help explain the presence of this particular Wenlock maker's products in the Wem area.

Summary and Conclusions

Although this is only a very small assemblage of material, it provides important evidence in two respects. First, the marked pipe bowls provide a *terminus post quem* of c1680-1730 for the fills of both of the intercutting ditches. If the earlier of these is the Civil War ditch, then it must have remained open until after the fire of 1677. Similar dating evidence has been recovered from another ditch some 125m to the south, suggesting that this whole area of the town was being remodelled during the late 17th or early 18th century. Second, these marked pipes add a little to our understanding of the production and consumption of pipes in a part of the country that has been little studied, but where there appears to have been a regionally significant pipemaking industry during the later 17th and early 18th centuries.

Catalogue

- 1 Complete pipe bowl in a distinctive Broseley area style with a tailed heel (Type 5), which is stamped with a two line mark reading RANDLE MORRIS. This maker probably worked in the Much Wenlock, where an individual of this name baptised a child in 1673 and where pipes with this mark dating from c1680-1720 are found. Examples of this mark have also been found at Willaston, near Nantwich, and in a Stafford pit group of c1690-1705 (National Catalogue Die No 401). This example is on a fully milled bowl with a bottered rim and a good burnish. The fabric is full of small gritty inclusions and the stem bore is 6/64". 1003, ditch D1.

- 2 A local style of round heel (bowl missing) dating from c1680-1730, with a stamped mark comprising the initials IH with a fleur-de-lys above and a small axe or hatchet below. The pipe is made of a coarse local clay, it has a very poorly burnished surface and a stem bore of just over 6/64". Although a pipemaker named Joseph Hopwood is known at Wem (baptised a child in 1688), this pipe may have been made by Jeremiah Hatchett, with the device below the initials being a play on his name. Hatchett is a common surname in the Wem area and a pipe stamped IERE / HATC / HETT is known from Buckley in North Wales. A Jeremy Hatchett (no occupation given) is recorded baptising children at Loppington, near Wem, in 1687 and 1690. 1031, ditch D2.

7.3 Other Finds by Erica Macey-Bracken

Other finds from the site included glass, tile, brick, slag, animal bone, iron and lead. The assemblage was quantified by count and weight, and examined macroscopically for the purposes of this report. The assemblage was fragmentary, but individual fragments were largely unabraded.

Glass

Most of the glass recovered from the site was bottle glass of 19th- to 20th-century date, although a nonagonal wine glass stem was also recovered (1004, ditch D1), as was a fragment of clear green window glass (1023, ditch D1) and a small fragment of clear window glass (2006).

The bottle glass was divided into different colours, with brown, dark green, clear green and clear blue bottle fragments being noted. Dark green bottle fragments formed one of the largest parts of the assemblage, with eleven fragments being recovered. These fragments included a complete small round bottle (1015, ditch D1), three neck and three base fragments (1004, ditch D1), another three base fragments (1019, 1023; ditch D1 and 2009, trench 2010) and one body fragment (1023, ditch D1). Nine brown bottle fragments were also recovered, including four base fragments, four body fragments and a neck fragment (1004, ditch D1). All these fragments, and the complete bottle, were plain; no manufacturer's names or seals were noted.

Clear green glass was recovered from several contexts, including five joining fragments from a bottle base (1004, ditch D1), three neck and shoulder fragments which may be from the same bottle as the base fragments (1004, ditch D1) and a base fragment from a second bottle (2003, ditch D1). Clear blue glass was also present on the site; five fragments from one medicine bottle with embossed lines on one side to indicate dosage were recovered from context 1004, as were two complete necks of similar bottles. A body fragment from a similar bottle was also recovered from context 1023. Another context (1015, ditch D1) produced three fragments from a small clear blue octagonal bottle of ___LLIMAN'S EMBROCATION as well as a bottle stopper of the same colour. A second octagonal bottle base (2003, ditch D1) was embossed on the underside of the base with a trefoil shape and what appeared to be the initials CII.

Other glass recovered from the site included a near-complete clear dark blue-green Hamilton bottle, embossed with the words WALKER & MONCRIEFF MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS SHREWSBURY (1004, ditch D1). The body of this bottle was complete, but the neck was missing. Two joining fragments from a small clear glass ink bottle were recovered from the same context. Two complete small clear glass bottles were also recovered (1015, ditch D1); one bottle was embossed with the name A. J. WHITE LTD on two of its sides, and the

other was embossed on the base with the letters L & T. One body fragment of dark blue clear glass of the type used for poison bottles was also recovered from the site (1023, ditch D1).

Tile

Six fragments of ceramic tile were recovered from the site. One tile was complete; this was a narrow tile, only 44mm in width, with two nail holes at one end, in a smooth grey-blue fabric (1015, ditch D1). The remainder of the tiles recovered were fragmentary. Two of the fragments were from very dense blue roof tiles (1019, 1023, ditch D1), made from engineering brick fabric, whilst the other two fragments (1023, ditch D1) were also very hard, but made from an orange-brown fabric. Both the blue tiles and one of the orange-brown tiles had nibs along one edge to facilitate fitting them onto a roof.

Brick – comments by Will Mitchell

Fifteen fragments of very coarse handmade brick were recovered from the site (1007; pit 1010 x 1, 1023; ditch D1 x 13, 2004; ditch D1 x 1). Most of the pieces were too fragmentary to measure, but one fragment (1023 ditch D1) retained its full original thickness of 1½ inches; this narrow size suggests that this brick is likely to be earlier rather than later, but as it is incomplete it is not possible to prove this conclusively.

Slag

Five fragments of slag were recovered from the site (1004, ditch D1 x 4). All of the slag appeared to be tap slag, and two of the fragments (1004, 2028 pit 2029) were magnetic.

Animal Bone – comments by David Brown

The bone was poorly preserved and fragmentary, but a fragment of atlas vertebra from a cow was identified, as was a cow pelvis fragment that had been gnawed by an animal (1023, ditch D1). A further piece of cow vertebra and two fragments of distal femur articulation that had been gnawed by an animal as well as several unidentifiable small fragments (1007 pit 1010) were also recovered.

Iron

Iron finds from the site included five nails (1004, ditch D1 x 2, 2028, pit 2029 x 2, U/S x 1), three iron strips (1007 pit 1010 x 1, 1019 x 2) and seven small pieces of scrap (1015, ditch D1). Part of the base of a cylindrical iron container such as a paint can was also recovered (1015, ditch D1).

Lead

One strip of lead was recovered from the site (2003, ditch D1). This piece appears to be a piece of window leading.

Other Finds

Other finds recovered from the site included three fragments of coal (1004, ditch D1) and a fragment of charcoal (1023, ditch D1)

8.0 DISCUSSION

Several pieces of archaeological work have now been conducted in an attempt to establish the line of the Civil War defences to the southeast of Wem. The most convincing evidence to date is the 1998 evaluation (Marches Archaeology 1998) that uncovered a substantial undated east-west ditch running in the direction suggested by the cartographic and documentary sources. However, the return of the defences to the northeast as illustrated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1881) was not located in any of the evaluation trenches undertaken subsequently (Trenches A and B, Hannaford 2001, Trenches 1 and 3, Charles 2007). This may suggest that the return of the defences had a very different characteristic to the one suggested on the Ordnance Survey map. Field boundaries visible on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map, and on the earlier historic maps, suggest the line of the ditch as excavated in 1998 may continue to the east before turning to the northeast (Fig. 6)

The northwest—southeast aligned ditch D1 exposed during excavation in evaluation Trench 2 (Charles 2007) and subsequently revealed in the two area excavations (Area 1 and 2) may have been part of the Civil War defensive line. The profile of ditch with a steep southern edge, discontinuous gully and stepped northern side, suggests a defensive function although no clear evidence of rampart or bank was recorded. The pottery and clay pipe dating evidence suggests that the primary ditch fill was formed by the late-17th or early 18th centuries. This suggests that the ditch was probably open concurrent with the Civil War. The presence of pottery dating to the end of the 17th century would suggest that gradual slumping and silting took place after the end of the Civil War.

The archaeological evidence indicates that the ditch remained open after the cessation of hostilities. Archaeological evidence of deliberate re-cutting of the ditch, probably in the 18th /19th century, ties in with the depiction of a field boundary at the same location and on the same alignment on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6). It may be that the ditch used a pre-existing field boundary or the defensive line was adopted as a field boundary after the cessation of the conflict. A field boundary corresponding to the location of ditch D1 appears on historic maps as early as the Plan of the Lordship of Wem of 1631 and is illustrated on John Wood's map of Wem from 1834, the Tithe map of 1842 and Ordnance Survey Maps up to the 1930s. The use of field boundary ditches in rural areas would have been a convenient time and labour saving measure especially when attempting to construct defences encircling even a small market town and where there may have been a shortage of labour. The reinstatement of property boundaries after the Civil War is likely to have been a high priority and a probable explanation for not immediately backfilling the ditch. Alternatively the removal of defences or slighting usually occurred immediately after the cessation of the siege as part of the surrender agreement (Harrington 2003, 56). However, this does not seem to be the case in Wem as the town never fell to a siege. Therefore defensive structures may have been adopted as field boundaries after the cessation of conflict.

A later ditch (D2), of early 19th century- 20th century date was also recorded during the excavations, at the same location and on the same alignment as a north-south aligned boundary or watercourse depicted on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6). This is also shown as a boundary on John Wood's map of Wem from 1834, the Tithe map of 1842 and Ordnance Survey Maps up to the 1930s.

Samuel Garbet's description of the defences, with their four yard width (3.65m), thick rampart strengthening palisade and their continued survival in a number of fields around Wem, is compatible with the evidence produced by the excavations. However, the alignment of the

defensive circuit within this area of Wem contradicts the projected line depicted on Ordnance Survey maps that was probably based upon the observations of Samuel Garbet in the first half of the 18th century. It is now apparent that the ditch located in the current excavation followed an alignment that was positioned closer to the town rather than the wider circuit shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6). Garbet's description may have been misinterpreted rather than misinformed, his use of now obsolete place names and untraceable property owners to aid his literary tour of the Civil War defences, is likely to have caused confusion to late-19th century cartographers. He was teaching in Wem within living memory of this earth shattering event and it is unlikely that his description could have been so inaccurate.

The ditch located in the current excavation may have been part of a more complex defensive line than previously expected. The defensive line incorporating pre-existing field boundaries may have been subsequently reinforced to add multiple layers of defence beyond the initial ditch uncovered in the 1998 evaluation. The variation in Civil War defences resulted from the nature of those constructing them and detailed knowledge of the latest military practices was rare. Complex artillery fortifications were the exception rather than the rule during the Civil War (Harrington 2003, 20). Wem was originally fortified in 1643 with relatively simplistic defences of a four foot ditch and rampart with corner towers and gatehouses (Hannaford 2001). The town subsequently survived three sieges suggesting that further fortification may have occurred.

The excavations at Wem have produced invaluable archaeological evidence of the Civil War defences of a small rural market town, an area that has had little attention before. It has demonstrated that, in rural areas at least, not all defences were backfilled immediately and that pre-war property rights may have been reintroduced after the conflict ceased. The use of pre-existing field boundary ditches at Wem has also highlighted a possible area for further study and investigation. Is it a possibility that they may have dictated the line of defences rather than just being incorporated into a set plan.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ordnance Survey 1881 first edition Map 1:2500

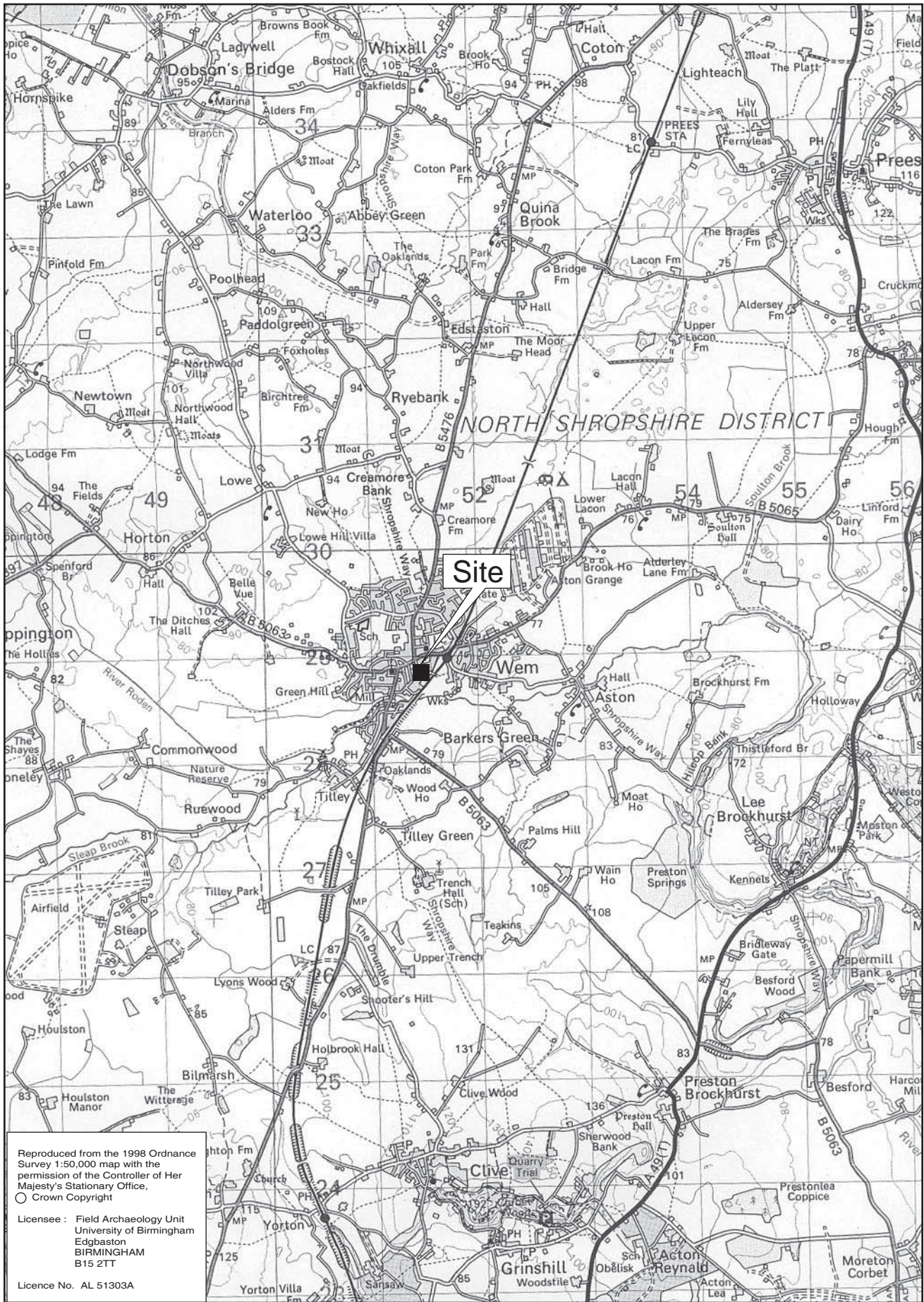


Fig.1

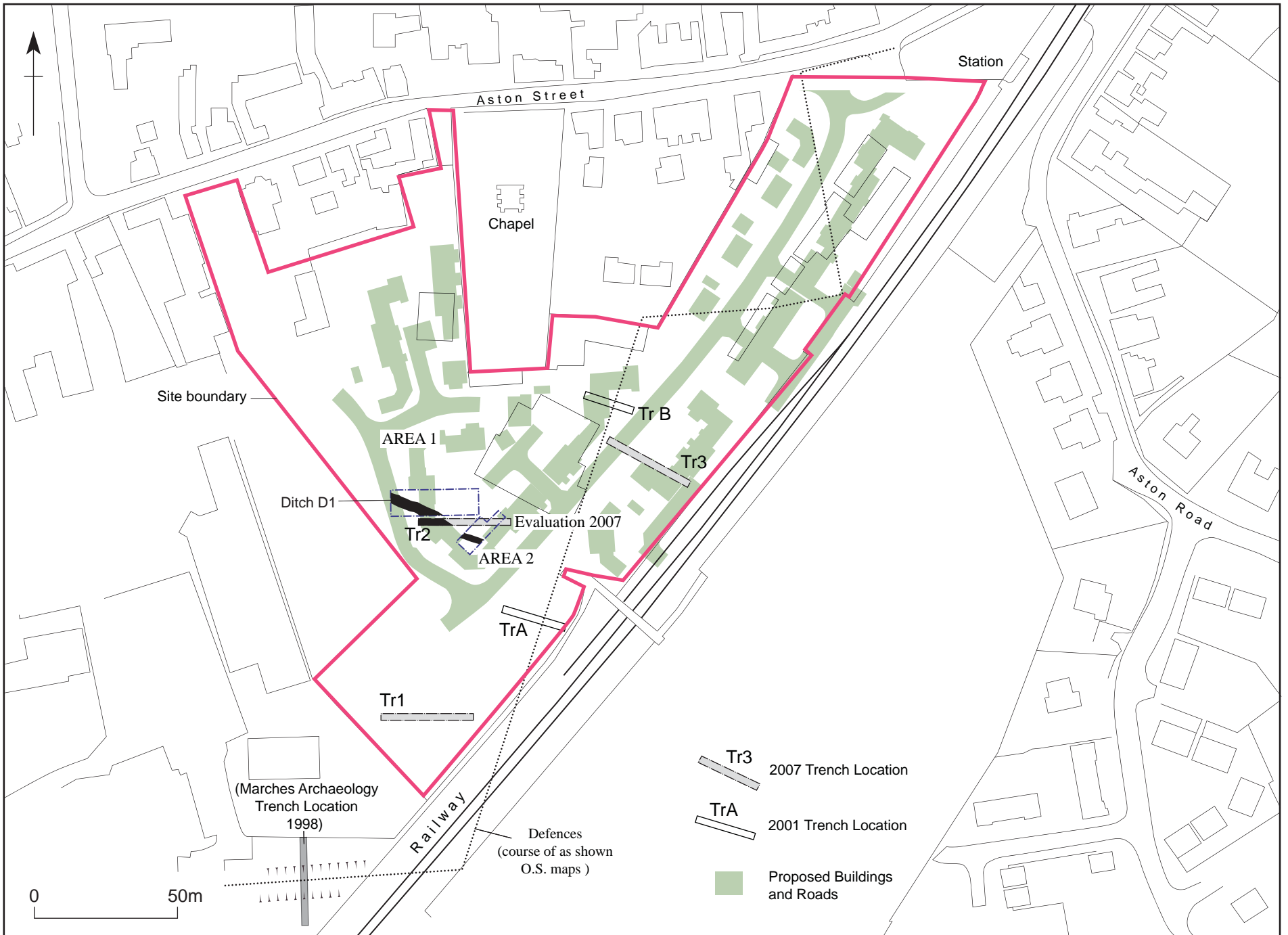
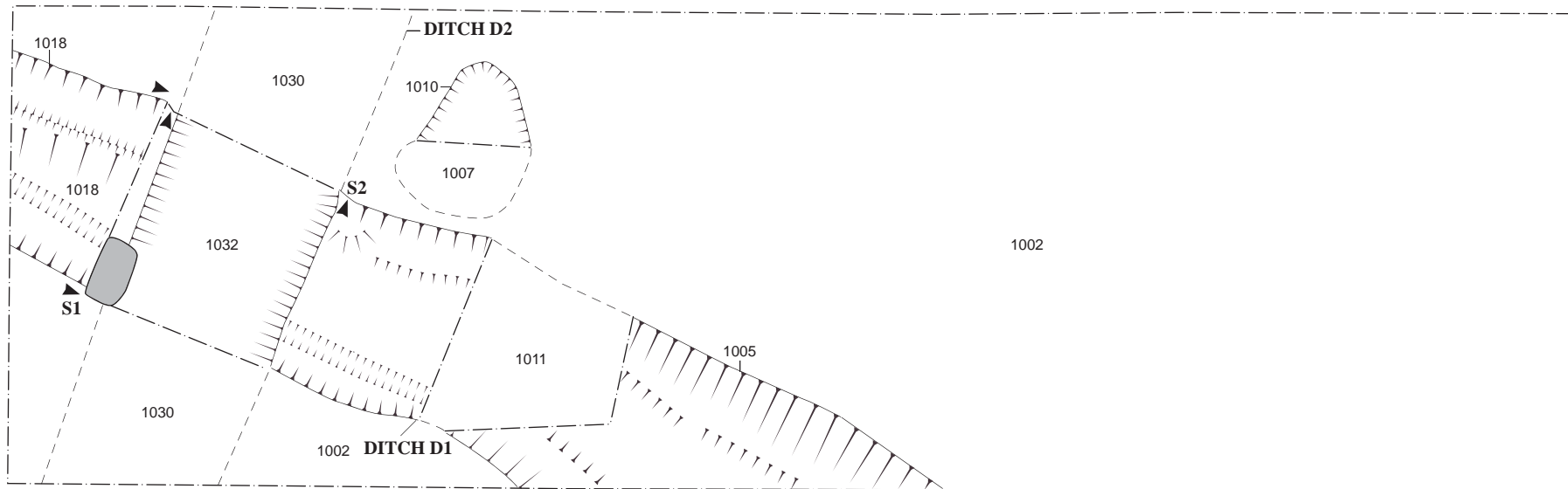


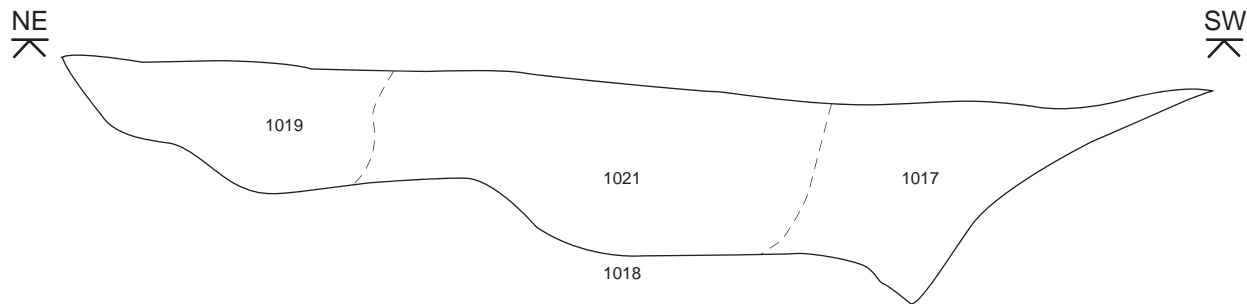
Fig.2

AREA 1



0 5m Concrete

Section 1 Ditch D1



Section 2 Ditch D2

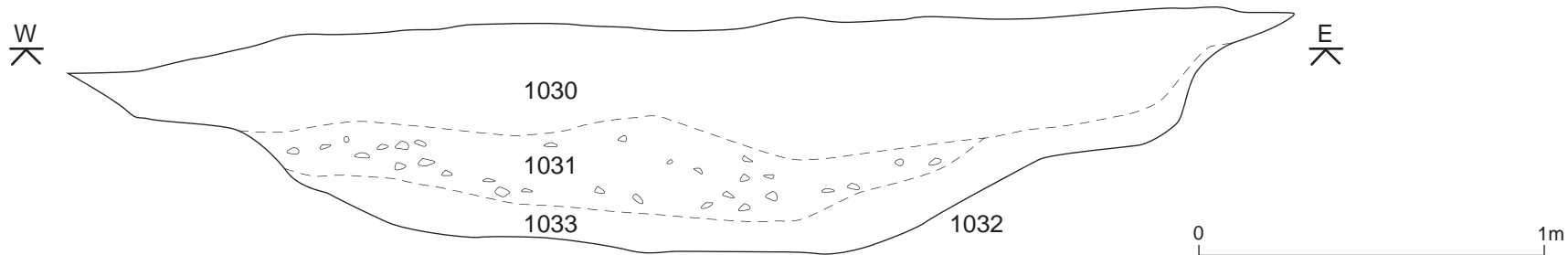


Fig.3

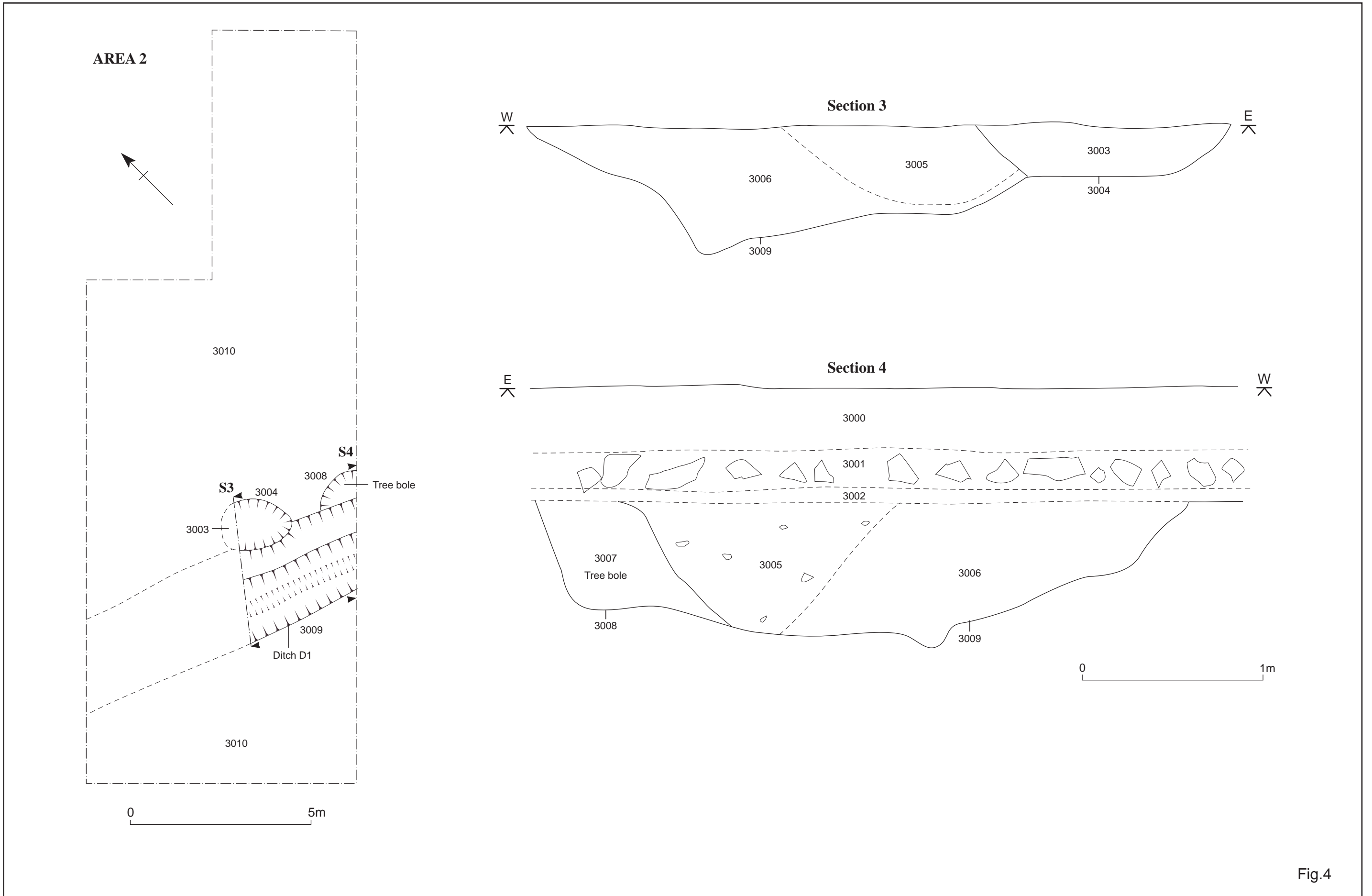


Fig.4

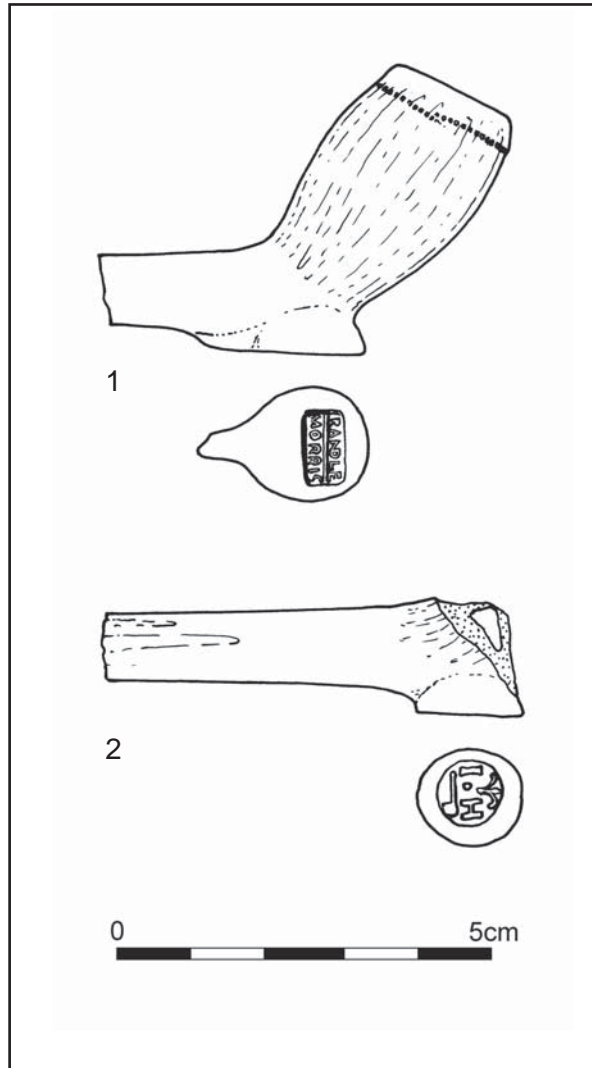


Fig.5



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7

BRIEF FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT ASTON STREET, WEM, SHROPSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There is a proposal to erect a housing development on land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire (NGR SJ515885). The proposed development site occupies a former timber yard which currently comprises large areas of open space and yards.
- 1.2 The proposed development site is crossed by the postulated line of the 17th century Civil War defences of Wem.
- 1.3 In view of the potential archaeological significance of the proposed development site it has been deemed necessary to carry out a programme of archaeological work in mitigation of the archaeological impact of the proposed development.
- 1.4 This brief is intended to form the basis for a written scheme of investigation for the required programme of archaeological work. The study area is shown on the accompanying site plan.

2. AIM

- 2.1 The aim of the programme of archaeological work is to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that are encountered during the development.

3. REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 An archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site was carried out in 2001 (An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire, H R Hannaford, Shropshire County Council, Report o 194, 2001). The trial trench failed to locate any traces of the Civil War defences along their traditionally presumed course. It was concluded however, that they probably do run elsewhere through the site.
- 3.2 A further archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site was undertaken in 2007 (Land off Aston Street, Wem: An Archaeological Evaluation, M Charles, Birmingham Archaeology, 2007). This revealed evidence of two wide adjacent parallel ditches that may have formed part of the Civil War defences. It also enabled a zone of archaeological potential to be defined within the proposed development site.

4. PROJECT AIM

- 4.1 The aim of the programme of archaeological work is to ensure the preservation by record of archaeological remains to be impacted on by the proposed development.

5. REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The programme of archaeological work shall comprise excavation in advance of development and a watching brief during development.

5.2 Excavation

5.2.1 A sample area of the postulated course of the Civil War defences shall be subject to full archaeological excavation. The excavated sample shall comprise an area 25m long x 8m wide. The provisional location of the excavation area is shown on the accompanying site plan.

5.3 Watching Brief

5.3.1 All open cut ground disturbance associated with the proposed development within the study area shall be carried out under archaeological supervision.

5.3.2 In the event of significant archaeological features or deposits being encountered, provision shall be made for their investigation and full recording prior to removal or disturbance.

5.3.3 A full graphic, photographic and written record of the findings, even if negative, will be made. Individual contexts will be recorded on separate contexts sheets within a context register. Plans shall be drawn to a 1:50 or 1:20 scale and section drawings to a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. Elevation drawings of all structures remains shall be at a scale of 1:20. Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate. Photographic records will be at a minimum 35mm format and include both black and white and colour.

5.3.4 All archaeological objects, artefacts, industrial waste and faunal remains will be recovered and related to the contexts from which they derive wherever possible. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No 2.

5.3.5 Provision shall also be made for the sampling of deposits for environmental and technological evidence where appropriate. Any environmental samples taken shall be bulk samples of a minimum of 10 litres. They shall be taken only from contexts considered to be of a high potential and used as a basis for assessing potential further analysis.

5.3.6 In the event of human remains being encountered, all relevant statutory and Home Office requirements shall be fully complied with.

5.3.7 Documentary research shall be undertaken where appropriate to assist with the assessment and interpretation of the on-site investigation.

6. ARCHIVE AND REPORT

- 6.1 This site archive will be prepared to at least the minimum acceptable standard defined in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological projects (Map 2). This will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent before transfer to the recipient body. It will also contain where relevant a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental date (where appropriate).
- 6.2 To ensure compatibility with other archaeological archives produce in the County all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets and recorded with a context register.
- 6.3 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, will be ordered, catalogued, labelled and conserved and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.
- 6.4 The project archive will be presented to an appropriate Museum or recipient body within 12 months of completion of the field work, subject to the agreement of the site owner with regards to any finds.
- 6.5 Prior to the commencement of the project the Contractor shall contact the Curator of Archaeology, Community and Environment Services, Shropshire County Council, who will advise on an appropriate repository for the project archive and the provision for any finds. Responsibility for obtaining the owner(s) permission for deposition of finds shall lie with the contractor.
- 6.6 Contractors are responsible for arranging the deposition of finds, including obtaining the owner(s) permission, and ascertaining the costs of storage and deposition with an approved body before the project commences and informing the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, of the arrangement which has been made.
- 6.7 If the finds are to be donated to the appropriate recipient body, arrangements shall be made for a comprehensive record of all materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds), which can instead constitute the archaeological archive.
- 6.8 A written report detailing the results of the archaeological investigations will be prepared within 12 months of completion of fieldwork. The report will include:
 - (a) A full written description and interpretation of the results of all elements of the fieldwork.
 - (b) A full written description and interpretation account of any excavated or recorded stratigraphic and structural evidence.
 - (c) It will be fully illustrated with drawings to an appropriate scale showing location, trench layout, recorded structures, features and deposits, section drawings and selected photographs.

- (d) Any documentary research/historical analysis shall be supported by copies of relevant historic maps, documents and aerial photographs. All sources consulted shall be cited.
 - (e) The report shall also include a succinct summary of the results suitable for printed publication.
- 6.9 In addition to copies submitted to the client, a copy of the report shall be provided to the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, and one copy to the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.10 Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record is currently participating in the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) scheme. As part of the scheme the Contractor is required to fill in an OASIS data capture form on completion of each report stage of an archaeological project, and on deposition of the final archive. Details of the process, copies of the form and guidelines for its completion can be found on the internet at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. Failing this, contact either the Shropshire SMR or the Archaeology Data Service directly for further advice.

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 7.2 In response to the project brief contractors are expected to submit for prior written approval a written scheme of investigation to the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, detailing their intended scheme of work, proposed working methods, report format and content, time scales and staffing levels (including any specialist sub-contractors). Levels of professional competence in appropriate areas shall be demonstrated. No archaeological work should commence until the written scheme of investigation has been approved in writing by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 7.3 Information provided in this brief cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be fully met they should only be excluded or altered after attainment of the written approval of the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 7.4 The project will be monitored throughout by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council. To facilitate this, the archaeological contractor shall advise the Historic Environment Officer in writing at least one week in advance of commencement of the on-site work.
- 7.5 A programme of curatorial monitoring site visits to be undertaken by Historic Environment Officer will be agreed in advance with the archaeological contractor.

8. CONDITIONS

- 8.1 All archaeological work is to be carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist. Preferably they shall be a Member or Associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 8.2 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to.
- 8.3 The Archaeological Contractor is to ensure requirements relating to all relevant health and safety legislations and codes of practice will be adhered to.

**M D WATSON
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

**SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
AUGUST 2007**

Land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire

**THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND
WATCHING BRIEF:
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**



**Planning application reference no.
N/05/640/WU/33**

**Birmingham
Archaeology**

**Developer: Morris Homes (West Midlands)
Limited**

**Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham
Archaeology**

1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the programme of work required to undertake an archaeological excavation and watching brief at the above site. It forms the written scheme of investigation for the work, which is a requirement of the brief prepared by Shropshire County Council (SCC 2007). Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council before implementation

A planning application (Planning application reference no. N/05/640/WU/33) has been submitted to Shropshire County Council for outline permission for the proposed residential development of land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire. As the proposed development site is of archaeological significance an archaeological excavation and watching brief was recommended by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council as a condition of planning consent. This is in accordance with government advice contained with PPG 16 (DoE 1990).

2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The site is located off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire, and is centred on NGR SJ 515 285 (hereafter referred to as the site). The underlying drift geology consists of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The present character of the site is a disused timber yard, disused coal yard, associated buildings and hard standing.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Detailed historical background information can be found in an assessment carried out by Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service (Buteux 1996) and much of this section is a summary of information contained in this assessment report and a previous evaluation report (Hannaford 2001).

Wem was probably founded in the Anglo- Saxon period, and the town's name may refer to the marsh adjacent to the River Roden which flows through the town. Wem was mentioned in the Domesday Survey and was held by William Pandulf for Earl Roger of Montgomery, at this time. Wem was the centre of a Barony which comprised of 29 manors. A motte and bailey castle was built by Hugh Pandulf in the 12th century. In 1205 a grant from King John permitted a market to be held in Wem. The town suffered during the Wars of the Roses and the castle, which may have been rebuilt in stone in the early 13th century, and town may have been razed in 1459 by victorious Yorkist forces.

During the Civil War, in 1643, the town was occupied by parliamentary forces who fortified the town with a rampart and ditch. The town was successfully defended against the Royalist forces. The course of the Civil War fortifications was outlined in the 19th century in Garbet's History of Wem and is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and later editions. A stretch of the defences is still visible to the southwest of the site. In 1677, a great fire swept through Wem, burning down many of the timber buildings in the centre of the town. This would have required a substantial programme of rebuilding. During the early 19th century the site appears to have been of agricultural land. The Shrewsbury to Crewe railway and Wem railway station were constructed in the 1850s and a sawmill, goods yard, lumberyard, railway sidings, and a smithy occupied the site by the 1880s.

The postulated line of the Civil War defences, as depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881, crosses the site. Previously an initial evaluation carried out on the site by Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service (Hannaford 2001) did not reveal any evidence of the defences, or any significant archaeological features, but did suggest the line of the defences shown on the 1881 map may be incorrect. Previous evaluation (Gifford and Partners 1992) on the line of the defences, at the northern part of town, also failed locate the defences and it appeared that the course of the defences depicted on OS maps was also not accurate at this location.

Further evaluation (Charles 2007) of the site was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in March 2007. The evaluation aimed to locate the 17th century Civil War defences that, records suggested, passed through the site. Three trial-trenches were excavated to locate and identify any archaeological remains associated with the defences that could be affected by the proposed development. One trial-trench revealed evidence of two wide adjacent parallel ditches that may have formed part of the Civil War defences. The secondary fill of one of the ditches contained sherds of late 17th/18th century pottery. The other ditch contained no finds and had a single fill that was consistent with rapid backfilling that may have occurred at the end of the Civil War. This was later recut by a ditch that contained a large amount of pottery dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Another trial-trench located a ditch, possibly a field boundary, of 18th century or earlier date. An area of archaeological potential was defined within the proposed development site where the Civil War defences were likely to survive.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the excavation is to preserve by record archaeological features associated with Wem's Civil War defences. The objective of the watching brief is to preserve by record archaeological remains that are revealed by groundworks on the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

Excavation

The proposed development area covers approximately 2.5 hectares. A total area of 200m² (25m x 8m) will be excavated. The area of the excavation will be located in order to reveal the entire width of the probable Civil War ditch, adjacent to evaluation Trench 2, in the position indicated by the brief. This is within the area affected by the development on the postulated line of the Civil War defences where archaeological evidence of the ditch and rampart will be present. The area of excavation will be surveyed-in using an EDM total station or other appropriate survey instruments.

All topsoil and modern overburden will be removed using a 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation will be by hand. The section of Civil War ditch within the excavation area will be

completely excavated. For other archaeological non-modern archaeological features generally, 50% of pits or postholes and a 1m section of linear/curvi-linear features will be excavated.

All stratigraphic sequences will be recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections will be drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record will be maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context cards. Written records and scale plans will be supplemented by photographs using monochrome and colour print and colour slide photography.

Twenty litre soil samples will be taken from suitable datable archaeological features for the recovery of charred plant remains. The environmental sampling policy followed the guidelines contained in the Birmingham Archaeology Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling and the *Report of the Association for Environmental Archaeology Working Party on Sampling and Recovery*, September 1995. Recovered finds will be cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work will be undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds will conform to guidance contained within 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' published by English Heritage.

The full site archive will include all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository within 12 months of the completion of the fieldwork, subject to permission from the landowner. Before the excavation begins the Curator of Archaeology, Museum Services, Shropshire County Council will be contacted for advice on archive deposition.

Watching brief

An experienced archaeologist will attend site to monitor construction groundworks within the study area, as required in the Brief. Groundworks to be observed will include the stripping of topsoil/recent overburden, B-horizon subsoils, and trenches cut into the natural subsoil. Following the stripping of topsoil/recent overburden the machined surface will be inspected, and sufficient hand-cleaning will be undertaken to facilitate the definition of archaeological, or possible archaeological features and deposits.

Where it is safe to do so, the archaeologist will enter construction trenches for the purpose of undertaking hand-cleaning of the trench sides and base for the better definition of any archaeological features or deposits present. No excavation of archaeological features, other than hand-cleaning, would be undertaken. A suitable time allowance for recording of archaeological features and deposits should be made by the developer and their construction groundworkers. The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will maintain regular liaison with the site manager/foreman to keep disruption of the construction programme to a minimum. Where it is unsafe to enter deep trenches archaeological recording will be confined to photography and the completion of pre-printed pro-formas. Should significant, or potentially significant groups of archaeological features be uncovered the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council will be informed immediately.

All stratigraphic sequences will be recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections will be drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record will be maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context cards. Written records and scale plans will be supplemented by photographs using monochrome and colour print and colour slide photography.

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6.0 STAFFING

The project will be managed and directed for Birmingham Archaeology by Laurence Jones Cert He (B. Archaeol) MIFA. The excavation will be supervised in the field by Mark Charles BA Hons, MA, an experienced archaeologist, assisted by a team of four experienced site assistants. The watching brief will be undertaken by an experienced archaeologist.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

Dr Lawrence Barfield- Flint artefacts, freelance consultant lithics specialist.

Ian Baxter- Animal bone, freelance consultant archaeozoologist.

Dr Megan Brickley- Human Bone, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham

Jane Cowgill- slag and industrial residues, freelance consultant.

Dr Jeremy Evans- Roman pottery, Honorary Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

C. Jane Evans- Roman pottery, freelance consultant pottery specialist

Rowena Gale- Charcoal and wood, freelance consultant.

Dr. Ben Gearey- Palynology, Geoarchaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Pam Grinter- Charred plant remains, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Andrew Howard- Archaeo-geomorphology, Lecturer in Archaeo-geomorphology and Remote Sensing, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Erica Macey-Bracken- Small finds, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Stephanie Rátkai- Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Honorary Research Associate and Finds Researcher, University of Birmingham.

Dr David Smith- Micro-fauna, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Emma Tetlow- Palaeoentomology, Geoarchaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Roger White- Coins and brooches, Project Manager, Lecturer and Assistant Director (Development), Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Ann Woodward- Prehistoric pottery, Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

7.0 REPORT

On completion of the fieldwork post-excavation work, including finds processing/ conservation, analysis and primary research, will be undertaken. A site archive will be compiled and an illustrated bound report will be prepared. This report will include:

- (a) Summary.
- (b) Description of the archaeological background.
- (c) Method.
- (d) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in the local, regional and national research context, supported by appropriate plans, sections, photographs and relevant historic maps.
- (e) Summary of the finds and environmental evidence.
- (f) Specialist assessments of the finds and environmental evidence.

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. One copy of the report will be lodged with the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council and one copy will be deposited with the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record. A digital copy on CD-ROM will be provided, as required. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology*. Birmingham Archaeology participates in the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) and will complete a data capture form and upload archive reports.

8.0 TIMETABLE

It is anticipated that the fieldwork will commence on 20th August 2007 and will be carried out over eleven days. Review/ monitoring meetings will be arranged during the fieldwork.

9.0 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001).

A detailed Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. The excavation will conform to the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual* (SCAUM 1991).

Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and covered. In the event that human remains need to be removed this will be carried out under the terms of a Home Office Licence and adhere to relevant environmental health regulations. All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. If removal is not possible on the same working day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be provided to keep the finds safe from theft.

10 REFERENCES

Buteux, V. 1996 Archaeological Assessment of Wem, Shropshire. Hereford and Worcester County Council, County Archaeological Service Report No. 351

Charles, M. 2007 *Land off Aston Street, Wem: an archaeological evaluation 2007*. Birmingham Archaeology Report 1578

Department of the Environment (DoE), 1990 Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Gifford and Partners, 1992 *Archaeological Evaluation at Wem Business Park, Wem, Shropshire*

Hannaford, H. 2001 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire*. Shropshire County Council, Archaeology Service Report

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1994 Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations. Revised 2001

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992 Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections. London: Museums and Galleries Commission

SCC (Shropshire County Council) 2006 *Brief for a programme of archaeological work at Aston Street, Wem, Shropshire*

Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM), 1991 Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual. Revised 1997

Walker, K. 1990 Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.
UKIC, London

Birmingham Archaeology 14th August 2007

Strat Unit Number	Type	Associated Context	Earlier than	Description
1000	Layer	0		Rubble topsoil layer
1001	Layer	0	1000	Subsoil. Mid-dark grey brown sandy silt layer
1002	Natural	0	1001	Natural. Pale orange gravelly sand
1003	Fill	1005	1006	Light mid-grey -brown sandy silt fill of 1005. 17 th -18 th century pottery and clay pipe.
1004	Fill	1005	1001	Dark grey brown sandy silt fill of 1005
1005	Ditch cut	0	1003	Cut of ditch D1, aligned NW-SE
1007	Fill	1010	1001	Dark grey organic fill of 1010. Inclusions of small/ medium stones, rare bone and charcoal flecks
1008	Fill	1010	1007	Pale brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Possible redeposited natural
1009	Fill	1010	1008	Black silty sand. Dark organic deposit
1010	Pit	0	1009	Cut of large pit 1010
1011	Fill	1013	1012	Light/mid grey-brown slightly sandy silt fill of 1013
1012	Fill	1013	1016	Dark grey-brown sandy silt fill of 1013
1013	Ditch cut	0	1002	Cut of ditch D1 aligned NW-SE
1015	Fill	1013	1001	Dark grey brown sandy silt fill of 1013
1017	Fill	1018	1022	Light brown silty sand fill of 1018.
1018	Ditch cut	0	1017	Cut of ditch D1 aligned NW-SE
1019	Fill	1018	1001	Dark brown silty sand fill of 1018. 17 th -18 th century pottery
1021	Fill	1018	1020	Mid-brown silty sand fill of 1018
1023	Fill	1018	1001	Dark grey sandy silt fill of 1018
1025	Fill	1027	1024	Mid-grey brown silty sand
1030	Fill	1032	1027	Mid-orange brown silty sand fill of 1032
1031	Fill	1032	1030	Mid-orange brown silty sand fill of 1032
1032	Ditch cut	0	1033	Cut of ditch D2
1033	Fill	1032	1031	Light grey sandy clay silt primary fill of ditch 1032. 17 th -18 th century pottery
1034 2000 2001	Natural layer layer	0	1032	Patch of pale yellow slightly clay sand. Inclusions of pebbles and large stones. Probably natural. topsoil crushed stone, leveling layer
2002	Fill	2003		Dark brown silty sand and 19th C pottery. Same as ?2015
2003	Ditch cut	2002		Re-cut of ditch D1, aligned NW-SE Cuts ditches 2005 and tree bole/pit? 2013. Cut by Trench 2010.
2004	Fill	2005		Mid brown silty sand fill of 2005
2005	Ditch			Cut of ditch D1, aligned NW-SE
2006	Fill			Fill of 2007. Mid brown silty sand
2007 2008	gully/Pit natural			Cut of gully terminal or small pit. natural
2009	Fill	2010		Fill of 2010 mid brown silty sand with inclusions of stone rubble.

Strat Unit Number	Type	Associated Context	Earlier than	Description
2010	Trench			Cut of trench. Vertical sided. Cuts through 2013 and 2003.
2012	Fill		2016	White sand and gravel fill of 2013
2013	?Tree bole/Pit	2012		Cut of ?tree bole/Pit
2014	Fill			Fill of 2029. wood fragments
2015	Fill	2003		Dark brown silty sand ?fill of ditch 2003. Same as ?2002
2016	Fill	2013	2012	Charred wood. Fill of 2013 lying directly over 2012.
2017	Fill	2005		yellow grey sandy clay fill of 2005
2018	Fill	2019		Dark brown silty sand. Finds of post-medieval brick and metal
2019	Pit	2018		Cut of Pit
2020	Fill	2021		Fill of 2021. Dark brown silty sandy gravel
2021	Pit	2020		Cut of Pit
2022	Fill	2023		Light brown sandy gravel
2023	Tree bole	2022		Tree bole
2024	Fill	2025		Fill of 2025. Mid brown gravel and sand
2025	Tree bole	2024		Tree bole
2026	Fill	2027		Fill of 2026 Mid brown sandy gravel
2027	Pit	2026		Circular pit/post hole
2028	Fill	2029	2030	Fill of 2029 Mid to dark brown gravelly silty sand
2029	Post-pit	2014, 2028		Post-pit vertical sided flat base
2030	Fill	2029		Fill of 2029. Dark brown silty sand with wood inclusions. Finds of post-medieval pottery
3000	Layer	0		Mixed dark grey/black silty sand rubble
3001	Layer	0	3000	Mixed grey silty sand with large stones, levelling layer
3002	Layer	0	3002	Black Coal
3003	Fill	3004	3002	Dark black brown silty sand. Fill of 3004.
3004	Cut of pit	0	3003	Cut of pit. Cuts fill 3005
3005	Fill	3006	3005	Mixed dark brown silty sand with gravel and brick frags. Fill of 3008.
3006	Fill	3009	3005	Light brown silty sand with inclusions of small stones and gravel. Primary fill of 3008.
3007	Fill	3008	3009	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Fill of 3008
3008	Tree bole	0	3007	Cut of possible tree bole.
3009	Ditch	0	3006	Cut of ditch D1.
3010	Natural	0	3007	Natural subsoil. Orange sandy gravel.

Table 1: Summary of Stratigraphic Data

Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by sherd count

Ware	1003	1004	1007	1015	1019	1023	1033	2002	2015	2028	3005	3006	u/s	Total
17th-early 18th century earthenwares														
yellow ware													3	3
cwmp (hard-fired coarseware)					2						4	3	1	3
Late 17th and 18th century earthenwares														
slipware trailed (light-on-dark)		3			6	2							5	16
slipware (dark-on-light)	2													3
slipware (feathered)					1									1
slipware (indeterminate type)			1		1									2
slip-coated ware			1			3	1?		2			1		6
mottled ware					4								1	5
agate ware					1			1						2
shining black					2									2
creamware					3	10				2	1		2	17
18th century stoneware														
white salt-glazed stoneware						1								1
18th-19th century earthenwares														
blackware/coarseware													2	2
coarseware		5		1	4	13		1						24
pearlware (underglaze blue painted)						1								1
19th century earthenwares														
industrial slipware/mocha ware		13						2					1	16
yellow ware/cane ware		3						2						5
pearlware		1				2								3
pearlware blue transfer-printed		7												7
blue shell edge					1									1
transfer-printed (blue)		38				2		10			1			50
transfer-printed (black)		1												1
transfer-printed (brown)		4												4
transfer-printed (green)		7						2						9
transfer-printed (mauve)		2												2
transfer-printed (purple)		13												13
flow blue		13												13
sponged ware		2												2
lustre ware		4												4
bone china						1					1			1
utilitarian whiteware		2											1	3
ironstone?		1												1
19th century stonewares														
brown salt-glazed stoneware						1								1
buff stoneware		1												1
grey stoneware				1										1
stoneware		3												3
stoneware bottle								1					1	2
waste??				7										7
Total	2	121	2	9	25	36	1	19	2	2			17	236

Table 3: Functional analysis of pottery from 1004, ditch D1 (Quantification by minimum number of vessels represented)

Dining wares	
dinner plate	2
tea plate	6
plate	3
charger	1
large flange rim bowl/tureen	2
plate/dish	1
plate/saucer	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>
Tea wares	
teacup	3
teacup?	1
saucer	1
milk jug?	1
cup/small jug	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>7</i>
Food/liquid consumption	
jug	4
mug	1
nursery mug	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>
Sanitary ware	
chamber pot	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>
Liquid storage	
flagon	1
bell shaped bottle	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>
Kitchen wares	
mixing bowl	2
terrine lid	1
pan	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>5</i>
Indeterminate function	
bowl	3
carinated bowl	2
handle	1
hollow ware	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>
Vessel total	46

Context	B	S	M	Tot	Range	Deposit	Marks	Comments
2028		1		1	1750-1900	1750-1900		Single plain stem fragment with a stem bore of 5/64". This piece is hard to date by itself but would have been produced at some point during the second half of the C18th or during the C19th.
1003	1			1	1680-1720	1680-1720	RANDLE / MORRIS	Complete pipe bowl in a distinctive Broseley area style with a tailed heel (Type 5), which is stamped with a two line mark reading RANDLE MORRIS. This maker probably worked in the Broseley / Much Wenlock area and examples of this mark have been found in a Stafford pit group of c1690-1705 (Die 401). This example is on a fully milled bowl with a bottered rim and a good burnish. The fabric is full of small gritty inclusions and the stem bore is 6/64".
1007		4		4	1610-1720	1650-1720		Four plain stems, all of which are made of relatively coarse, gritty local fabrics. There is one thin unburnished piece from near a mouthpiece (7/64" bore at one end and 8/64" at the other) and then three thicker stems, two of which join (bore just under 8/64", the other is 8/64") and all of which have an average to poor burnish on them. The thickness of some of these pieces and their large bores suggest that a mid to late C17th date is most likely for this group, although some pieces of this type were produced into the early C18th.
1019		1		1	1620-1730	1620-1730		Single plain stem made of a gritty local fabric and with an average burnish. Stem bore 7/64".
1023	1	1		2	1680-1800	1700-1800		One of these two fragments just has the end of a Broseley Type 5 tailed heel surviving. This style was produced from c1680-1730 and this example has been made of a gritty local fabric (not burnished) with a stem bore of 6/64". The other piece is too abraded to determine its surface finish but is has a smaller bore of 5/64" and a finer fabric with relatively few inclusions in it (although there are still some and it could have been obtained locally). This piece is probably of C18th date.
1031	1			1	1680-1730	1680-1730	IH	A local style of round heel (bowl missing) dating from c1680-1730, with a stamped mark comprising the initials IH with a fleur-de-lys above and a small axe below. The pipe is made of a coarse local clay, it has a very poorly burnished surface and a stem bore of just over 6/64". Although a pipemaker named Joseph Hopwood is known at Wem (baptised a child in 1688), this pipe may have been made by Jeremiah Hatchett, with the device below the initials being a play on his name. Hatchett is a common surname in the Wem area and a pipe stamped IERE / HATC / HETT is known from Buckley.
U/S		2		2	1610-1910	1800-1910		One piece of C17th or early C18th stem of local fabric with a poorly burnished surface (stem bore 6/64") and one piece from a long stemmed pipe that probably dates from c1800-1910 (stem bore 4/64"). The latter piece is made of a fine imported fabric and is not burnished.
Total	3	9	0	12				

Table 4: Clay Tobacco Pipe