

Land at Dog Lane Bewdley Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Matrix Medical

CA Project: 5132
CA Report: 15580
WSM Reference: WSM66226

August 2015



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A	20 August 2015	Charlotte Haines	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client Issue	Cliff Bateman

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Dog Lane, Bewdley
Location: Worcestershire
NGR: SO 7851 7550
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 30 June to 14 July 2015
Planning Reference: 13/0395/FULL
WSM Reference: WSM66226
Site Code: DOG 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a medical centre and associated infrastructure on land at Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered. Significant modern truncation was observed across the development area which is likely to have taken place either when the site was developed as a military camp during World War II, or when it subsequently became a municipal car park.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June and July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7851 7550; Fig. 1), on behalf of Matrix Medical. The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent issued by Wyre Forest District Council for the construction of a medical centre and associated infrastructure at the site (WFDC; planning ref: 13/0395/FULL, Condition 9).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to WFDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Requirements and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The development area is approximately 0.5ha in extent, and comprises a public car park and space for household waste recycling deposits. The site is bounded to the west by the B4194, the north by Sabrina Drive, and east by green space and the south by Dog Lane. The site lies at approximately 34m AOD, and is broadly level.

1.4 The site lies on the eastern edge of Mudstones of the Etruria Formation of the Carboniferous period, meeting the Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation also of the Carboniferous period moving eastwards. Towards the western extent of the site as it rises toward Dowles Road there is also a curving outcrop of Sandstone of the Etruria Formation (BGS 2015). Where natural substrate was encountered during the course of the watching brief it comprised clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been the subject of a heritage desk-based assessment (CA 2013). A brief summary of this assessment is outlined below.
- 2.2 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, and no major areas of Roman activity are recorded.
- 2.3 Bewdley is first recorded as *Beaulieu* in 1304, and is associated with a manor on the western side of the river, and Dog Lane is first mentioned in documents in 1472. It has been suggested that the curve of Dog Lane may mark the line of a town ditch, suggesting the site was in the agricultural hinterland of Bewdley.
- 2.6 Within the development site the most notable modern developments occurred during its use as a cattle market during the 19th and 20th centuries, and in 1944 when the area was taken over as a military camp for the United States 3rd Army over a period of seven weeks prior to the Normandy Landings. The camp buildings no longer survive. The proposed site became a municipal car park sometime later and has been in use as such since.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundations and service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum in due course. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded within the three areas of groundworks observed during the course of the watching brief (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). The natural clay substrate was observed at a depth of 0.9m below present ground level (bpgl) in Area 1, 2.4m bpgl in Area 2 and 1.2m bpgl in Area 3. In all three areas it was overlain by a series of modern make-up, levelling and bedding layers for the extant tarmac car park. A number of cut features were observed cutting the modern materials.
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within

the area of observed groundworks. Significant modern truncation was apparent across all the observed areas and is likely during post 19th century activities (during use as a cattle market, a military camp during World War II or when it subsequently became a municipal car park) (CA 2013), thus limiting the potential for archaeological deposit survival.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Charlotte Haines and Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2015 Geology of Britain Viewer, 1:50,000 geological mapping, solid and superficial (viewed online August 2015). Available online from: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Proposed Medical Centre, Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire*: Heritage Desk Based Assessment, CA Report No. **13395**

CA 2014 *Land at Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire*: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Extant car park	Tarmac			0.15	
1	101	Layer		Bedding	Type 1 construction bedding			0.1	
1	102	Layer		Make up	Dark grey brown silt clay with modern CBM, stone, rubble			0.2	
1	103	Layer		Make up	Dark grey brown silt clay			0.1	
1	104	Layer		Make up	Grey brown silt with Modern CBM and rubble			0.2	
1	105	Layer		Make up	Light grey brown silty clay with charcoal flecks			0.15	
1	106	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid yellow grey clay				
1	107	Cut		Service trench	Service trench				
1	108	Fill	107	Fill of service trench	Dark grey brown silt clay with modern CBM, stone, rubble				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown clay and silt			0.1	
2	201	Layer		Extant car park	Tarmac			0.1	
2	202	Layer		Bedding	Sand			0.15	
2	203	Layer		Bedding	Type 1 construction bedding			0.2	
2	204	Layer		Make up	Dark grey brown clay silt with modern CBM and debris, and lenses of sand			1.85	
2	205	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid brown grey yellow clay				
2	206	Cut		Modern construction cuts	Modern construction / service trench cuts				
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of modern construction cuts	Type 1 construction bedding and grey brown clay silt				
2	208	Struct	206	Modern services and foundations	Modern services and foundations				
3	300	Layer		Make up	Type 1 construction bedding			0.2	
3	301	Layer		Make up	Dark grey brown clay silt with modern CBM and debris, and lenses of sand			1.0	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid brown grey yellow clay				
3	303	Cut		Modern construction cuts	Modern construction / service trench cuts				
3	304	Fill		Fill of modern construction cuts	Type 1 construction bedding and grey brown clay silt				
3	305	Struct		Modern services and foundations	Modern services and foundations				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Dog Lane Bewdley, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a medical centre and associated infrastructure at Dog Lane Bewdley, Worcestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. Significant modern truncation was observed across the development area which is likely to have taken place either when the site was developed as a military camp during World War II or when it subsequently became a municipal car park.</p>	
Project dates	30th June to 14th July 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Heritage Desk Based Assessment (CA 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 7851 7550	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench sheets, photo register, plans
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Dog Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 15580		



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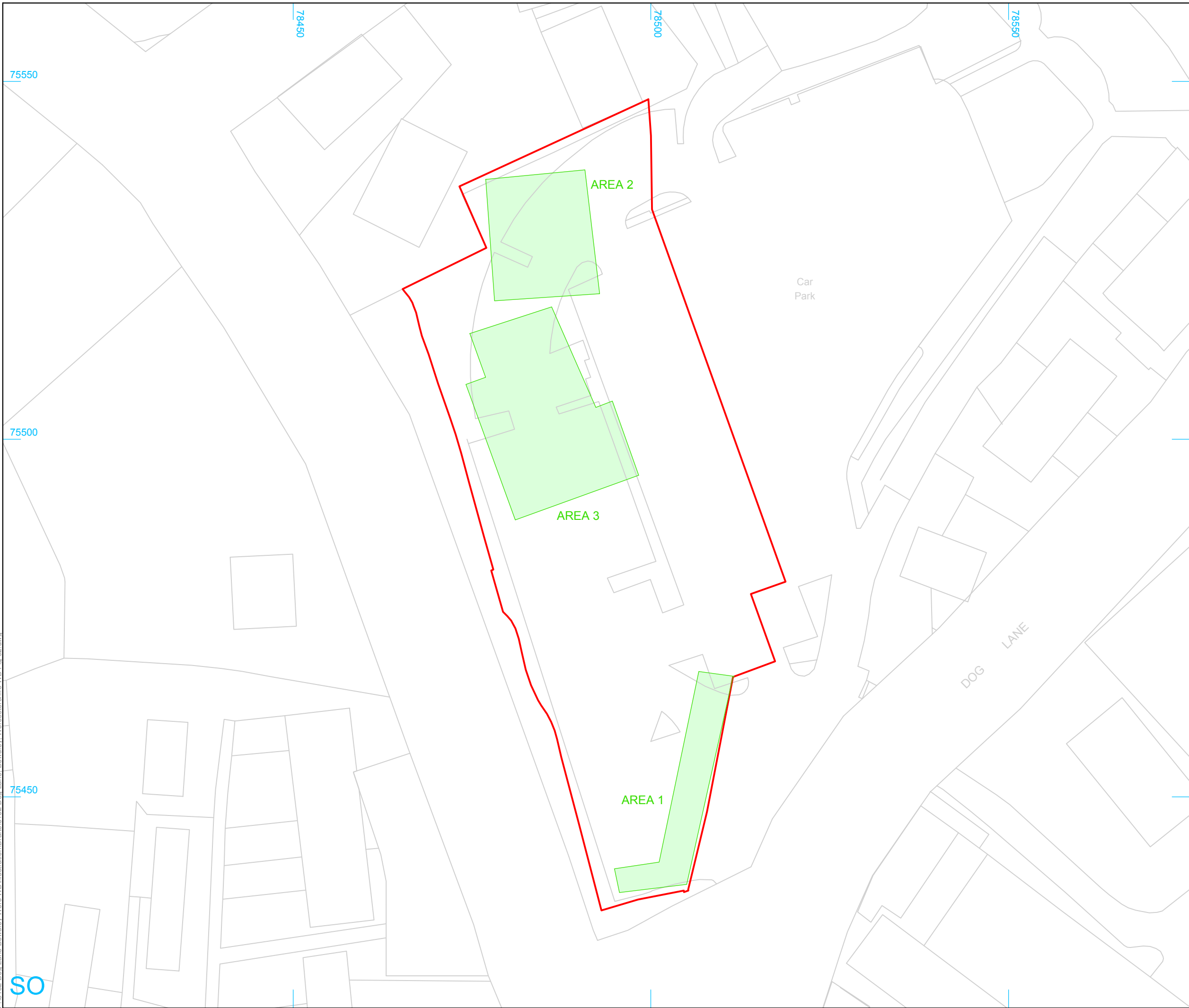
PROJECT TITLE
 Bewdley Medical Centre, Dog Lane,
 Bewdley, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY RP PROJECT NO. 5132
 CHECKED BY LM DATE 27.07.15
 APPROVED BY CB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1

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- site boundary
- area of watching brief



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PROJECT TITLE
Bewdley Medical Centre, Dog Lane,
Bewdley, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site showing location of
groundworks

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5132	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	27.07.15	2
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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