

**Crowle Church of England First School
Church Road
Crowle
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Place Partnership Ltd

On behalf of
Worcestershire County Council

CA Project: 6191
HER Reference: WSM68505
CA Report: 17227

May 2017



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 Church Road
 Crowle
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A	18 May 2017	Alison Roberts	Charlotte Haines	Final		Cliff Bateman

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:200 and 1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Crowle Church of England First School
Location: Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 9232 5614
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18-19 April 2017
Planning Reference: 16/000029/REG3
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
HER Reference: WSM68505
Site Code: CRWS 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new classroom at Crowle Church of England First School, Crowle, Worcestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Place Partnership Ltd, on behalf of Worcestershire County Council on land at Crowle Church of England First School, Crowle, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9232 5614; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a new classroom to replace an existing temporary building at the site (Worcestershire County Council (WCC); Planning ref: 16/000029/REG3, condition 4).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *brief* issued by Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (WAAS), the archaeological advisor to WCC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Mr Scruby. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WAAS 2016).

The site

1.3 The development area is located towards the centre of the wider school site and comprises a temporary classroom building and an area of hardstanding, currently used as a school playground, which lies at 64m AOD and measures approximately 0.04ha in extent (Fig. 2). The site is bounded to the east and west by the buildings and grounds of the existing school, to the north by neighbouring residential properties and to the south by School Lane.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Wilmcote Limestone Member - Mudstone and Limestone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2017). The natural substrate, comprising compact limestone brash and clay, was identified throughout the area of observed groundworks.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following archaeological background is a summary of information obtained from an Historic Environment Record (HER) search of an area of a c. 500m radius around the site (hereafter the study area), alongside any pertinent publically available information.
- 2.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the study area is limited to a single pit of Iron Age date, identified during an archaeological evaluation (WSM 47371) and subsequent excavation (WSM 67350) at Church Road, c. 400m to the south-west of the current site (CA 2012; 2013).
- 2.3 Church Road itself, which runs immediately to the west of the wider school site, has been identified as being of possible Roman date and a watching brief (WSM 26474) undertaken during water main installations in 1997 identified a series of undated cobbled and flagstone surfaces directly beneath the modern road surface (WSM 47336). Additionally, a small number of surface finds of Roman date have been recovered from fields c. 200m to the west of the site (WSM 12191; 12192).
- 2.4 The site is located approximately 300m to the north-east of Scheduled Monument *Crowle Court* (National Monument 1018894), a medieval moated site and monastic retreat. Additionally, earthworks believed to represent house platforms and settlement earthworks of the shrunken medieval village of Crowle, have been identified c. 400m to the south-west of the current site (WSM 07880). Archaeological investigations undertaken in this area (WSM 67350: CA 2012; 2013) recorded a ditch and possible clay extraction pits of 12th to 14th-century date. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation (WSM 07876), believed to post-date the 12th to 14th-century activity, was also recorded during these investigations. Further ridge and furrow earthworks are recorded c. 240m to the north-east (WSM 38129), c. 320m to the south-east and c. 350m to the north of the current site (WSM 07875) respectively.
- 2.5 A boundary bank (WSM 29682) of unknown date is recorded c. 500m south-west of the site.

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 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundation trenches for the new classroom building (Fig. 2). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contactors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.

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. 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 Natural substrate 103, comprising compact limestone brash and clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.44m below present ground level (bpgl) within the excavated foundation trenches. It was overlain by between 0.25m and 0.31m of clay silt subsoil that was in turn overlain by modern sand bedding 101 for modern concrete surface 100.

5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material 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. The presence of *in-situ* subsoil within the excavated foundation trenches suggests that the site has not previously been subject to significant modern truncation that would have removed any archaeological remains, should they have been present. Therefore, the absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that either they do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by, the development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 20 April 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land at Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **12220**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land at Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire: Archaeological Excavation*, CA Report No. **13192**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Crowle Church of England First School, Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



WAAS (Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service) 2017 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Crowle Church of England First School, Church Road, Crowle, WR7 4AT*

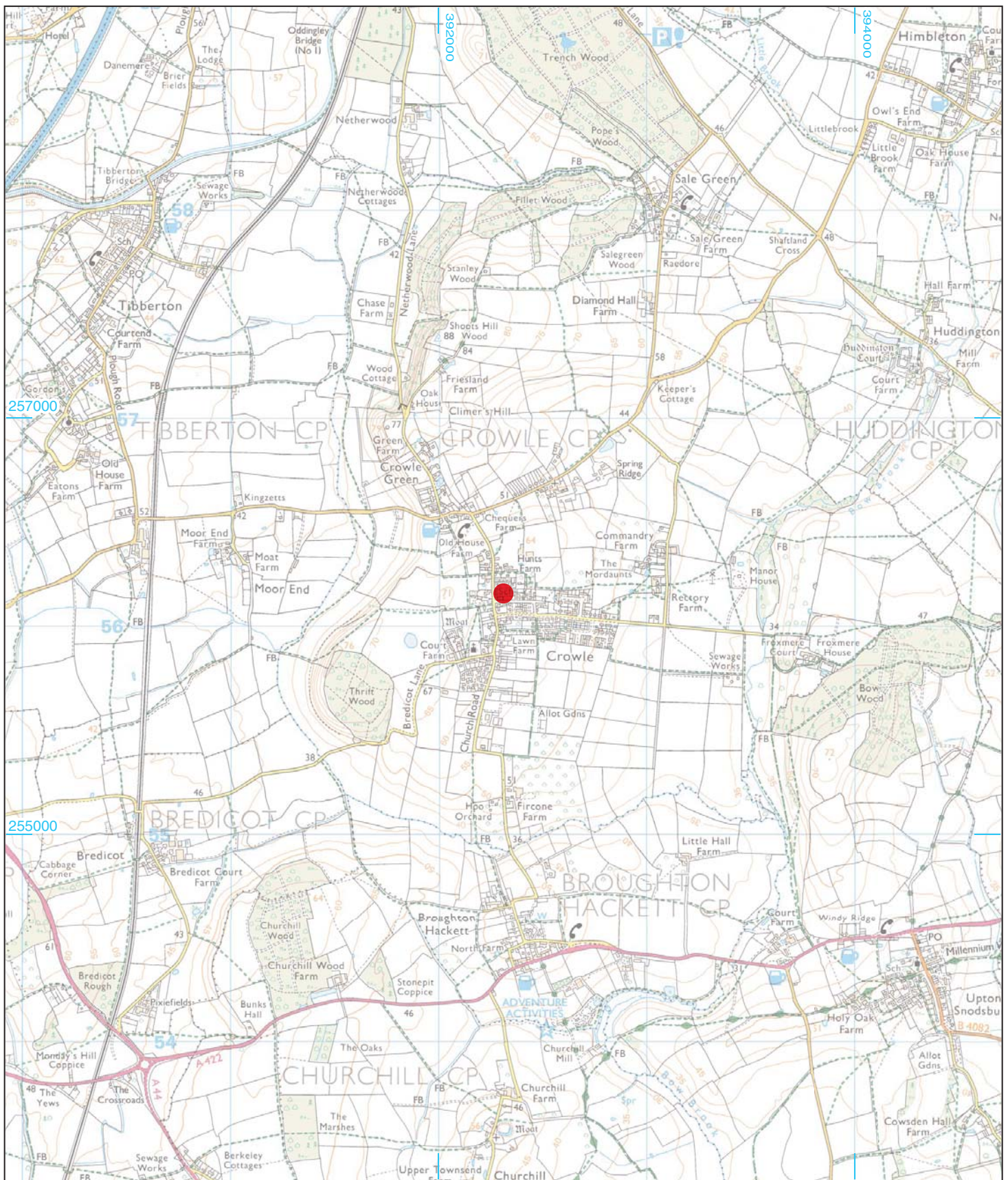


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Concrete surface	Concrete	>50	>0.6	0.05
1	101	Layer		Modern bedding	Sterile light yellow grey sand, bedding layer for overlying concrete 100.	>50	>0.6	0.08
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt with occasional limestone inclusions	>50	>0.6	0.31
1	103	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid yellow grey limestone brash and clay	>50	>0.6	>0.44

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Crowle Church of England First School	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new classroom at Crowle Church of England First School, Crowle, Worcestershire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	18-19 April 2017	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Crowle Church of England First School, Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.04 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9232 5614	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	N/A
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench recording sheets, photographic register
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Crowle Church of England First School, Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 17227		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Crowle Church of England First School,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6191	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/04/2017	
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- excavated foundation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
 Crowle Church of England First School,
 Church Road, Crowle, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed
 groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> CP	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 6191	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 09/05/2017	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SS	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200 & 1:1000	

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