

**PHASE 1B
LAWLEY VILLAGE
TELFORD
SHROPSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

WSP ENVIRONMENTAL UK

on behalf of

LAWLEY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

CA PROJECT: 2501
CA REPORT: 08015

MARCH 2008



PHASE 1B
LAWLEY VILLAGE
TELFORD
SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2501
CA REPORT: 08015

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date	4 March 2008
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date	11 March 2008
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signed	
date	17 March 2008
issue	01

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Fig. 2 Phase 1B development area, showing location of groundworks (1:5000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Phase 1B Lawley Village
Location: Lawley, Telford, Shropshire
NGR: SJ 670 082
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 7th – 14th January 2008
Planning Reference: w2004/0908
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Shropshire Museum Service
Site Code: LVT08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with Phase 1B of the Lawley Village Sustainable Urban Development Scheme at Lawley, Telford, Shropshire.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for WSP Environmental UK on behalf of Lawley Development Group at Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire (centred on NGR: SJ 675 090 Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for Lawley Village Sustainable Urban Development Scheme (Planning ref: w2004/0908). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by WSP (2006) and approved by Mr M. Watson, Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, archaeological advisor to the LPA. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The site lies directly to the south of Lawley Villlage on a slight south-facing slope. It is bounded by the A5223 to the south-east, Dawley Road to the north-east and open farm land to the west (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 180m AOD.
- 1.4 The Phase 1B site is roughly triangular in shape and encompasses an area of 5.6ha.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as productive measures of coal from the lower and upper middle carboniferous with sandstone and fire clay strata (WSP 2006). This was observed in the excavation of footing trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The development area of Lawley Village lies broadly within the Coalbrookdale Coalfield, which has been exploited since the medieval period. Lawley village dates back to at least AD 1086, as it was recorded in the Domesday Book. It is documented in AD 1180 as having a forge, although the location of this is unknown.

The 1840 Tithe map and apportionment for Lawley record a Near Smithy Pool, Far Smithy Pool and Smithy Pool in the vicinity of the site. The field labelled as Smithy Pool lies directly to the west of the site and may indicate that the medieval forge was located in this area. However, the 1889 first edition OS map records a smithy on the western side of the crossroads in the centre of Lawley and it is quite likely that the 'smithy' field names refer to this structure and not the medieval forge. Mine workings, bell pits and shafts dating to the 18th century have also been recorded in this area. The southern and eastern portions of Phase 1B have previously been subject to opencast activity. In the north of the development zone there is a low potential for medieval remains associated with the settlement of Lawley to be present. There is a moderate potential for remains of medieval agricultural activity to be present, but the significance of such remains is considered to be low (WSP 2006).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (WSP 2006). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with development of the Phase 1B area, in areas that had not been previously subject to modern opencast mineral extraction. The watching brief comprised the observation of ground reduction and the excavation of footing trenches. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision.
- 1.8 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with Shropshire Museum Service. 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 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. This artefactual material was not retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits associated with the medieval settlement at Lawley suggest that either they do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett, who also wrote the report. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliot. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Bennett, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

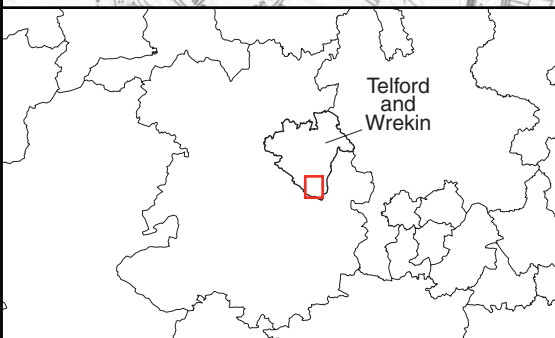
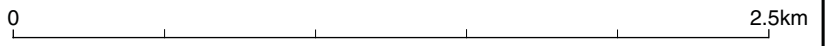
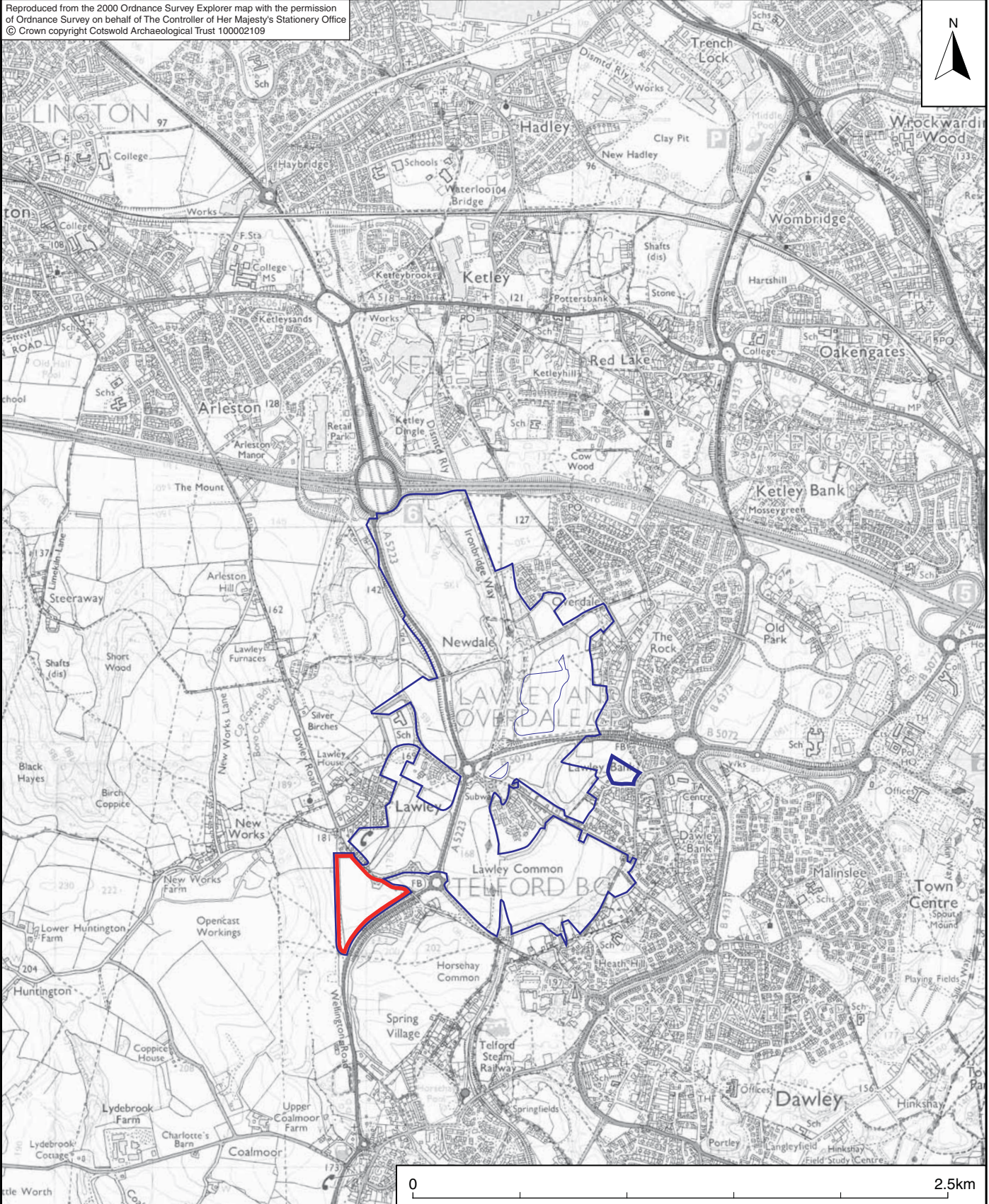
- WSP (WSP Environmental UK) 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Phase 1 Development Zones at Lawley Village, Telford*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
001	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay			0.40m	
002	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy clay			0.20m	
003	Natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay			0.60m+	
004	Dep	Fill of modern water pipe cut 005		2m	0.50m	
005	Cut	Cut for modern water pipe		2m	0.50m	

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

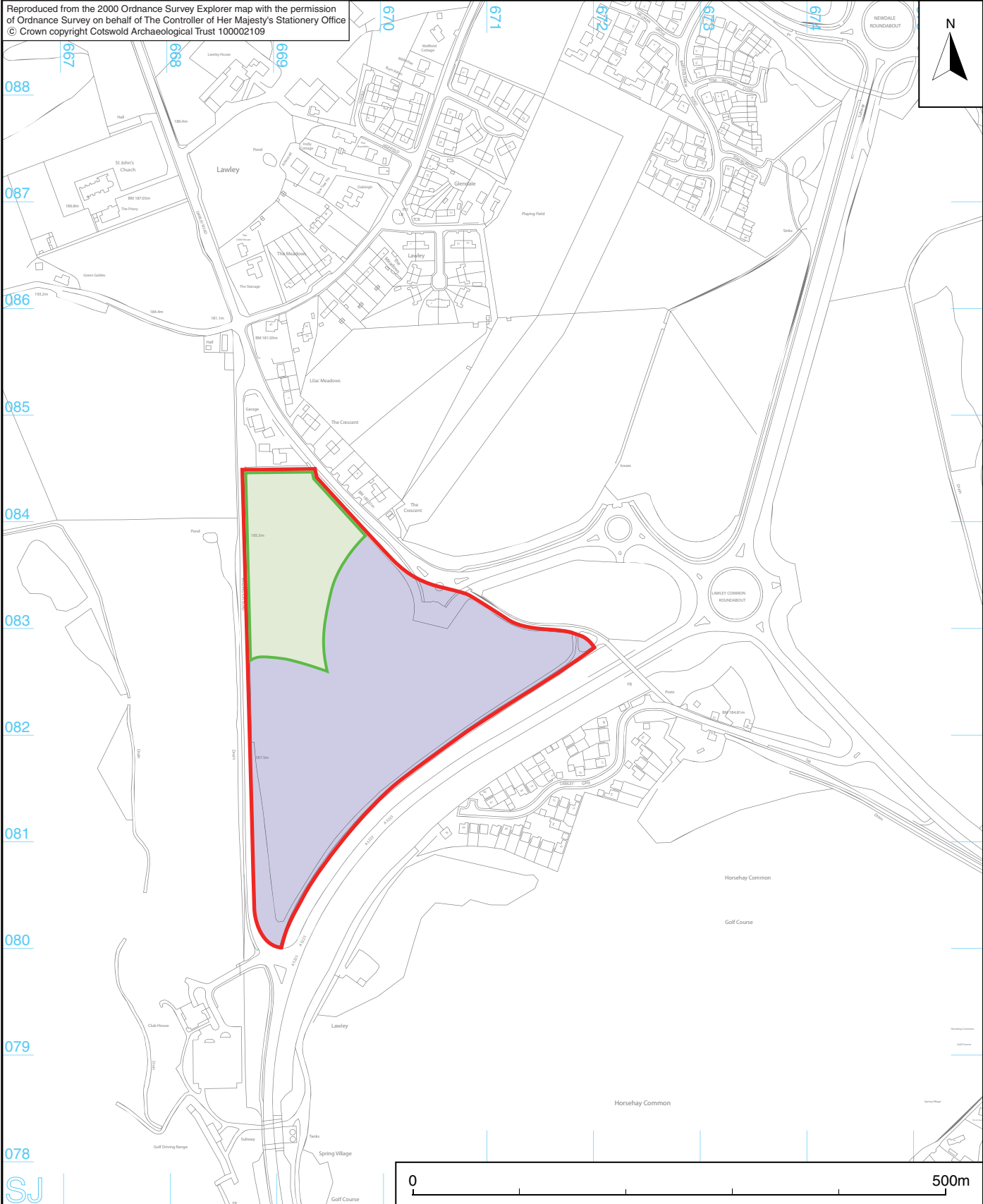
PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Phase 1B, Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with Phase 1B of the Lawley Village Sustainable Urban Development Scheme at Lawley, Telford, Shropshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	7th – 14th January 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Environment Impact Assessment - Atkins Consultants (2004)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	5.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SJ 675 090	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	WSP Environmental UK	
Project Design (WSI) originator	WSP Environmental UK	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Shropshire Museum Service	Trench Sheet, Site Plan
Digital	Shropshire Museum Service	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Phase 1B, Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief for WSP Environmental UK on behalf of Lawley Development Group</i> , CA typescript report 08015		



- ▭ development area
- ▭ phase 1B, location of watching brief

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Phase 1B, Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JE	1:25,000@A4	2501	1

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- area of development for phase 1B
- location of groundworks
- location of open cast mining



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
 Phase 1B, Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Phase 1B development area, showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY JE	SCALE 1:5000@A4	PROJECT NO. 2501	FIGURE NO. 2
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