

**Barlow Building
Bromyard Terrace
St John's
Worcester**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
New Build Residential Ltd

CA Project: 6549
CA Report: 6549_1
Worcester City HER Ref: WCM102426

May 2020



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Bromyard Terrace
St John's
Worcester

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features (1:150)

Fig. 3 Section (1:50) and photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Barlow Building
Location:	Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester
NGR:	384033 254553
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	16 December 2019
Planning Reference:	Worcester City Council planning ref: P14K0516, condition 9
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcester City Museum
Site Code:	BBW 19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2019 at Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester. A total of two trenches were excavated.

A single sherd of medieval pottery, of 12th to 14th-century date, and a fragment of animal bone was recovered from a ditch identified in the southern part of the site. The function of this feature remains unclear; however it may represent part of a medieval housing plot or, more likely, relate to agricultural land management, drainage or division.

Two large pits, both containing late 19th-century artefactual material, were identified cutting make-up/levelling deposits in the northern part of the site and may relate to quarrying activity. One of the identified pits contained a large quantity of cattle skulls which may derive from a tannery depicted to the east of the current site on late 19th-century mapping.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for New Build Residential Ltd at Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester (centred at NGR: 384033 254553; Fig. 1). Planning permission for residential development, following the demolition of existing garages, was granted by Worcester City Council (WCC) conditional on a programme of archaeological work, initially comprising an archaeological trial-trench evaluation (WCC planning ref: P14K0516, condition 9).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by James Dinn, Archaeological Officer, WCC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Guidelines for archaeological work in Worcester* (WCC 2016). It was monitored by Mr Dinn, including a site visit on 16 December 2019.

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 300m² in extent and comprises an area of grass and tarmac and concrete hardstanding, formerly used as a car park. The site is bounded to the west by Bromyard Terrace, to the north by residential properties, to the south by the 1960s Barlow Building (currently used for residential and business purposes) and to the east by an area of scrubland. The site lies at approximately 26.5m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of the Triassic Period (BGS 2019). Superficial deposits of Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member – Sand and Gravel are noted across the site (ibid.). The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown silty sand with frequent patches of gravel, was identified in both of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been subject to Heritage Impact Assessment (CJCC 2014) and Archaeological Assessment (CA 2014) and is located in an area of known archaeological potential. The St John's area of Worcester has been subject to

Conservation Area Character Appraisal (WCC 2010) and a number of recent archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the current site. The following represents a brief summary taken from these assessments along with any publically available information pertinent to the site.

- 2.2 There is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development site, although prehistoric and Roman activity is known in the wider St John's area (WCC 2010, Wainwright 2014). The site is set back from the documented early medieval road network, which appears to be focussed along Bromyard Road, Bransford Road and the *folc hearpath* (CA 2014). The available evidence therefore suggests that the current site remained within the agricultural hinterland of settlement at St Johns during the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods (*ibid.*).
- 2.3 St John's was one of the four suburbs of medieval Worcester and it may have been established immediately following the Norman Conquest (WCC 2010). However, it differs from the remaining suburbs in that it was detached from the city itself. The suburb was provided with a chapel, later becoming the parish church of St John of Bedwardine, located c. 100m to the south of the current site, during the 12th century. During the 13th century, housing plots were laid out in the area on land belonging to Worcester Priory and a market place was established. Archaeological investigation has not, as yet, revealed the substantial industrial remains which are characteristic of the other suburbs of Worcester and well-preserved domestic rubbish pits are similarly rare (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 A number of 16th to 19th-century cartographic sources depict the current site as undeveloped and it is likely to have remained part of the agricultural hinterland of St John's during this period (CA 2014). The 1840 Tithe map of the parish of St John in Bedwardine shows the majority of the current site forming part of two small enclosed fields, with the site's current western boundary comprising a field boundary. This mapping also suggests that the southern part of the current site was occupied by plots of land associated with buildings fronting Bromyard Road. The First Edition 1886 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map indicates that the current site remained essentially undeveloped into the late 19th century, although three small structures are depicted within the current site on this map. The scale of these structures suggests that they represent outbuildings, rather than primary residences or workshops. It is unclear to which of the adjacent properties these structures belong. However, it is possible that

a structure depicted in the southern part of the site may relate to a smithy (ibid.). This is recorded as a blacksmiths workshop by the Worcester City Historic Environment Record (WCHER ref. WCM98102).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable WCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches, each measuring 8m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 2 was moved slightly from its original position, as set out in the WSI, due to the presence of an underground service. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 Both trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required

sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcester City Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 & 3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and biological evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.2 The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown silty sand with frequent patches of gravel, was encountered within the trench at a depth of 1.7m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by subsoil, measuring 0.6m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by make-up/levelling deposits 107 and 108, both of which contained modern artefactual material including metal, glass and red brick fragments. The latest of these deposits, 108, was cut by pits 103 and 115.
- 5.3 Pit 103 measured more than 7.9m in length, more than 1.6m in width and more than 1.5m in depth and contained a single homogenous fill, 102, which contained abundant ash, machine-made red brick, glass bottles and cattle skulls (none of which retained their lower jaws). Pit 105 was partially exposed in the north-eastern corner of the trench. It measured more than 0.7m in length, more than 0.4m in width and contained a single homogenous fill, 104, which contained quantities of ash and machine-made red brick. Due to the depth and instability of the trench edges, no artefactual material was recovered from either of these features. The fills of both pits were sealed by topsoil.



Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.4 The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown silty sand with frequent patches of gravel, was encountered within the trench at a depth of 1.65m bpgl. It was overlain by subsoil measuring 0.64m in thickness that was in turn sealed by a buried plough-soil measuring 0.48m in thickness. The buried plough-soil was overlain by buried topsoil measuring 0.18m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by existing concrete surface 200.
- 5.5 Shallow, north-west/south-east aligned ditch 206 was identified running along the centre of the trench. It cut the natural substrate and its single fill, 205, was sealed by subsoil. Following on-site discussions between CA and James Dinn it was agreed that, due to the depth and instability of the trench edges, a section would be excavated through this feature using a mechanical excavator. Following excavation, ditch 206 was found to have moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. A single sherd of medieval, 12th to 14th-century, pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from fill 205 of this feature.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material of medieval date was recovered from fill 205 within ditch 206. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and the fabric code is equated to the Worcestershire online type series (<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/categorized/dategenperiod>).

Pottery

- 6.2 Fill 205 of ditch 206 produced an unfeatured bodysherd of Malvernian unglazed ware (TF56), dateable to the 12th to 14th centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A single fragment of animal bone (9g) was recovered from fill 205 within ditch 206. The bone was fragmented into three parts (which re-fit) but well-preserved and identified as right mandible condyle and part of the process and body of a probable dog (*canis familiaris*). From the size of the piece of mandible it would be a larger dog breed, similar to Labrador size, and would be an expected species in this period.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the development area. No evidence of the structures depicted within the southern part of the site on the First Edition 1886 OS Map (see *archaeological background* above), was identified during the current evaluation.
- 8.2 A single sherd of pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from the fill of ditch 206, identified cutting the natural substrate in Trench 2, suggesting that it may be broadly contemporary with the establishment of housing plots in the area during the 13th-century (see *archaeological background* above). However, the limited quantity of artefactual and faunal material recovered from the fill of this feature suggests that it is perhaps most likely to be associated with agricultural activity.
- 8.3 The original function of pits 103 and 105, identified cutting modern make-up/levelling deposits in Trench 1, remains unclear due to their limited exposure within the excavated trench. However; their projected size, depth and irregular shape suggests that they may relate to quarrying activity. Both pits were backfilled with late 19th-century/modern artefactual material and it is possible that the large quantity of cattle skulls observed within the fill of pit 103 derives from a tannery depicted by the 1886 Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Worcester c. 50m to the east of the current site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Anthony Beechey. The report was written by Peter Busby. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

10. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 8 January 2019



CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Barlow Building, St John's, Worcester: Archaeological Assessment*

CA 2018 *Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CJCC (Carl Jukes Conservation Consultant Limited) 2014 *Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester: Heritage Impact Assessment*. Document Ref. **4095_HS611**

MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Wainwright, J. 2014 *Archaeological Investigations in St John's, Worcester*. Worcestershire Archaeology Research Report no. 4.

WCC (Worcester City Council) 2010 *St John's: Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals*

WCC 2016 *Guidelines for archaeological work in Worcester*

<https://www.worcestershireceramics.org/fabrics/categorized/dategenperiod> (accessed 2 January 2020)



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sand silt with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>9.2	>1.6	0.3	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded pebble inclusions throughout	>9.2	>1.6	0.6	
1	102	Fill	103	Fill	Single fill of pit 103. Dark grey brown sand silt with abundant ash, machine-made red bricks, glass bottles and cattle skulls	>7.9	>1.6	>1.5	
1	103	Cut		Pit	Large, partially exposed irregular pit	>7.9	>1.6	>1.5	
1	104	Fill	105	Fill	Single fill of pit 105. Dark grey brown sand silt with abundant ash, machine-made red bricks and glass bottles	>0.7	>0.4	>1.1	
1	105	Cut		Pit	Large, partially exposed irregular pit	>0.7	>0.4	>1.5	
1	106	Layer		Natural Substrate	Compact orange-brown silt sand with frequent patches of gravel	>1.6	0.4	N/A	
1	107	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling deposit	Mixed light grey brown clay silt with modern glass, CBM and charcoal flecks	>9.2	>1.6	0.4	
1	108	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling deposit	Dark light grey brown clay silt with modern glass, CBM and charcoal flecks	>9.2	>1.6	0.4	
2	200	Layer		Concrete	Modern concrete surface	>7.6	>1.6	0.35	
2	201	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark brown sand silt with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>7.6	>1.6	0.18	
2	202	Layer		Buried plough soil	Light brown grey sand silt with occasional rounded pebble and CBM flecks throughout	>7.6	>1.6	0.48	
2	203	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded pebble inclusions throughout	>7.6	>1.6	0.64	
2	204	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown silt sand with frequent patches of gravel	>7.6	>1.6	>0.5	
2	205	Fill	206	Fill	Single fill of ditch 206. Light grey brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebble inclusions.	>7.6	>1.6	0.3	C12-C14
2	206	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, moderately sloping sides and an irregular base.	>7.6	>1.6	0.3	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
205	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	TF56	1	8	C12-C14

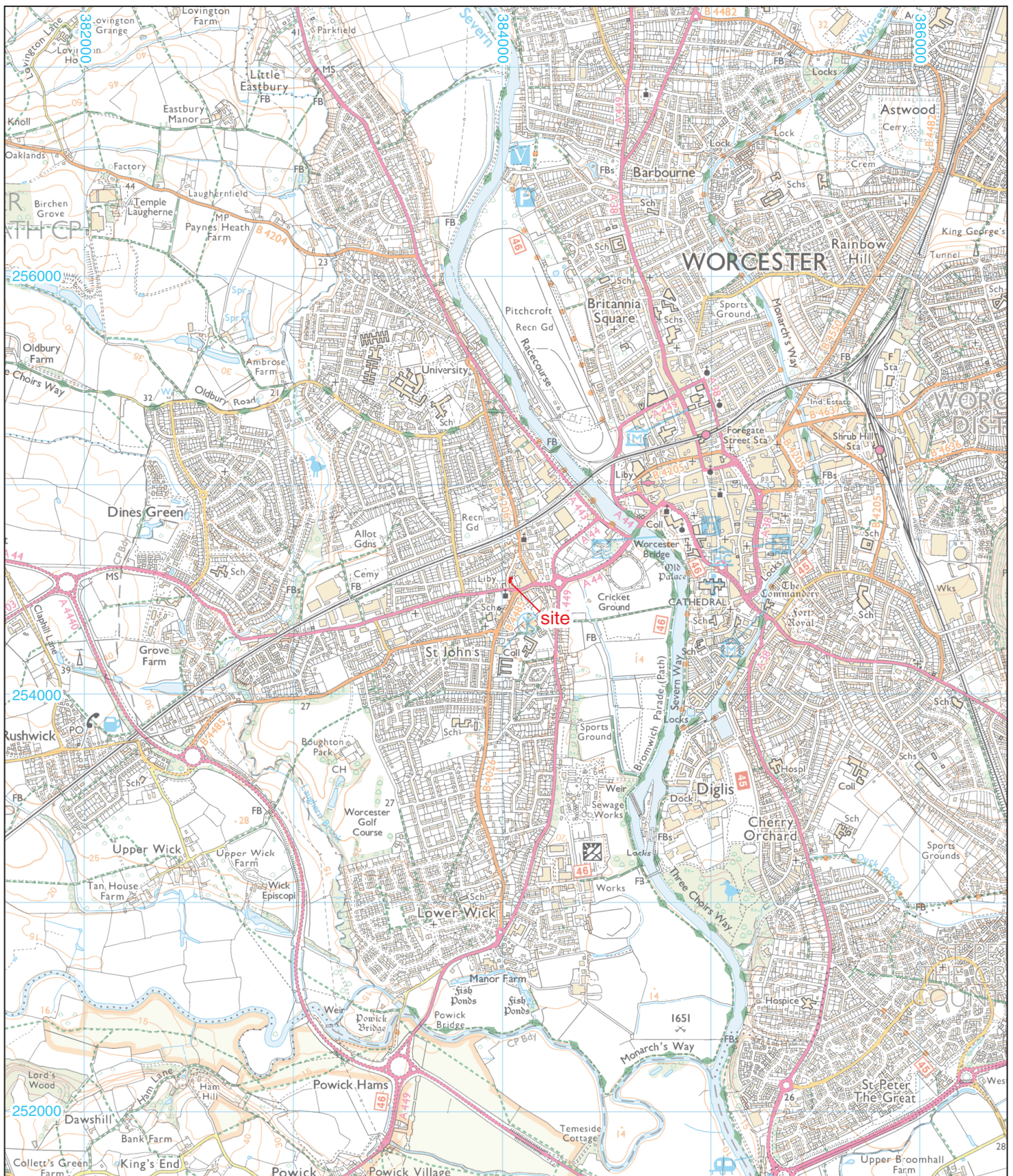
APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	Canid	Total	Weight (g)
206	205	3	3	9
Total		3	3	
Weight		9	3	

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2019 at Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester. A total of two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single sherd of medieval pottery, of 12th to 14th-century date, and a fragment of animal bone was recovered from a ditch identified in the southern part of the site. The function of this feature remains unclear; however it may represent part of a medieval housing plot or, more likely, relate to agricultural land management, drainage or division.</p> <p>Two large pits, both containing late 19th-century artefactual material, were identified cutting make-up/levelling deposits in the northern part of the site and may relate to quarrying activity. One of the identified pits contained a large quantity of cattle skulls which may derive from a tannery depicted to the east of the current site on late 19th-century mapping.</p>	
Project dates	16 December 2019	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological Assessment: CA 2014 Heritage Impact Assessment: CJCC 2014	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 300m ²	
Site co-ordinates	384033 254553	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Worcester City Museum	Pottery, animal bone
Paper	Worcester City Museum	Trench recording forms, context sheets, photographic and context registers
Digital	Worcester City Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 6549_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

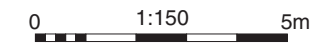


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DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	6549	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/12/2019	
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Cut feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- A A Section line



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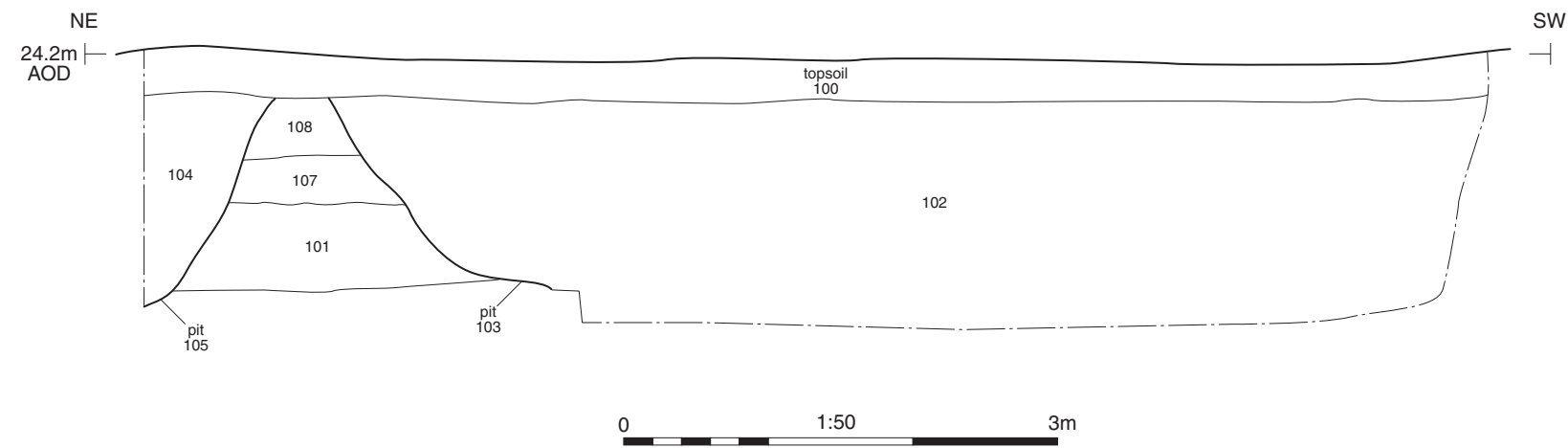
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PROJECT TITLE
 Barlow Building, Bromyard Terrace, St John's, Worcester

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features

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Section AA



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



Trench 2, showing ditch 206, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 2, showing ditch 206 post-excitation looking north-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Section and photographs

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APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A3	1:50	3

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