

**Archaeological watching brief
at The Willows,
Evesham Road
White Ladies Aston,
WR7 4QQ**

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20th January 2020

WSM 70797

Oasis ref martinco1-381299

Sundowner
Circus Field Basin
Stocklake
Aylesbury
HP20 1AP

07850 918755

Archaeological watching brief at The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston, WR7 4QQ

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land at The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston, WR7 4QQ (SO 922 526; Fig 1) at the request of Mr Matthew Gullick of Matthew Gullick Architects, on behalf of his clients John and Nikki Hallam. This work was undertaken in compliance with a written scheme of investigation, based upon a condition on a Planning Approval Notice from Wychavon District Council, dated 31st July 2017. This Approval Notice relates to a certain application (planning ref: 17/01194/FUL). An email from Aidan Smyth to John Hallam, clarifying the possibility of burials, was also taken into consideration. It is understood that a new application will be made but it has been assumed that the archaeological condition will remain the same.

The archaeological project was to involve an archaeological watching brief at The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston, WR7 4QQ, subsequent analysis and a report.

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land at The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston, WR7 4QQ. Only one archaeological feature was identified: a ceramic pipe to a soak-away and there were a small number of finds dating to the 19th and 20th century, all from the topsoil.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

The documentary material

Geology and topography

The search area sits within a wooded landscape based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone and limestone and superficial geology made up of a large deposit of sand and gravel. Within the surrounding region the road network is potentially medieval or earlier and the village of White Ladies Aston also has medieval or earlier origins. The historic landscape was wooded, however, only a few small areas of surviving woodland and veteran trees seen within hedgerows remain. Within the search area interrupted row settlement and isolated farmsteads are interspersed with Parliamentary and piecemeal enclosure, field amalgamation and modern paddock.

Historic mapping

The tithe map of White Ladies Aston (1839; not reproduced) shows the area surrounding the site as arable. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1885 and 1904 (Fig 2) show the area of the site as orchard.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

There are a number of archaeological features near the site. These are:

Monuments and historic buildings

WSM 02953 and 02983

St John the Baptist's Church – 1066-1539AD

Landscape component

WSM 42160

Feckenham Forest – late 11th to 17th century AD

Events

WSM 69475

Archaeological test pit survey - ongoing

Historic landscape character

HWR 2246

Settlement type/interpretation – industrial/interrupted row – 1800 to 1913 AD

Commentary

The area of the project has medieval antecedents with modern components.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 26th November 2019. It comprised monitoring of the strip carried out over the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. An area immediately to the north, which had previously been occupied by a garage was not observed. The strip was carried out to a depth of approximately 0.5m. A broad area was therefore uncovered at a depth propitious for the exposure of archaeological deposits. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

Description

Strip over footprint of proposed dwelling (Figs 3.1, 3.2, 4 and 5)

This removed a dark grey brown sandy clay loam with occasional small rounded pebbles (context 001) was removed to reveal a light orange buff sandy clay (context 002). Cut into context 002 was a service trench for a ceramic pipe (context 003; Figs 3.1 and 6), running slightly south of east.

The finds

Results of analysis

The complete finds report has been presented as Appendix 2. The artefactual assemblage (Fig 7) recovered from the site totalled just five sherds of pottery weighing 187g. All came from the topsoil (context 001).

All finds were domestic pottery of 19th to 20th century date and included sherds from bowl/dish and jar forms. Identifiable fabric types included modern china (fabric 85) and porcelain (fabric 83). The modern china included two sherds with transfer decoration, whilst the glazed porcelain had decorative moulding around the rim. The group also included a large biscuit-fired dish rim likely to be Royal Worcester production waste.

Interpretation

The only deposits identified were topsoil (context 001), from which a small number of finds dating to the modern period were collected, and the underlying natural subsoil (context 002). A drainage pipe (context 003), believed to run to a nearby soak-a-way was cut into context 002.

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mr Matthew Gullick of Matthew Gullick Architects, the clients John and Nikki Hallam, the groundworks team led by Freddie, and Aidan Smyth, Wychavon District Council Archaeology and Planning Advisor, for their kind cooperation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

- 3 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing
- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the report illustrations
- 1 Hard copy of the WSI

It will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury upon approval of the report. It is anticipated that the small number of finds, being of post-medieval and modern date, will not be of interest to the museum. However, the museum will be consulted in this respect before disposal.

The digital archive consists of:

- 1 Digital copy of the report (.doc format)
- 6 Illustrations (.bmp format)

It will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service upon approval of the report.

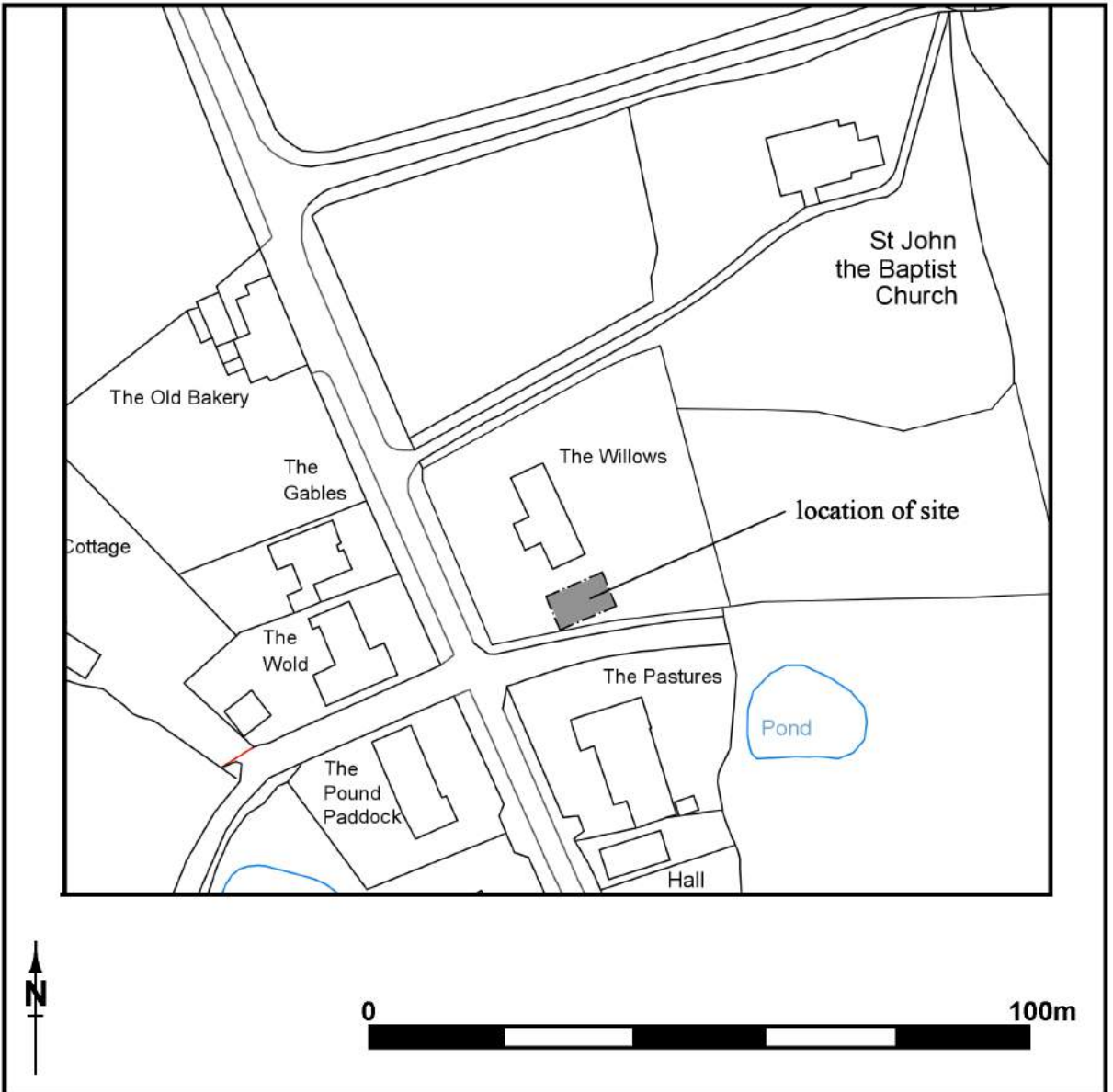
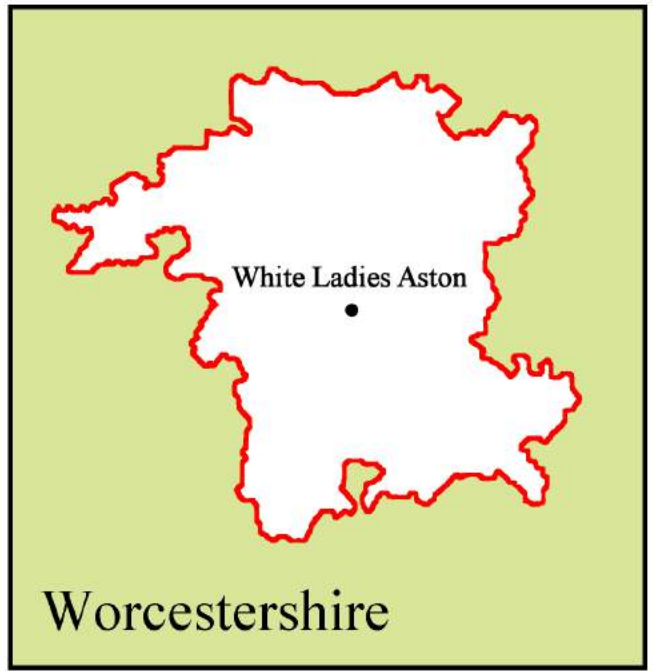
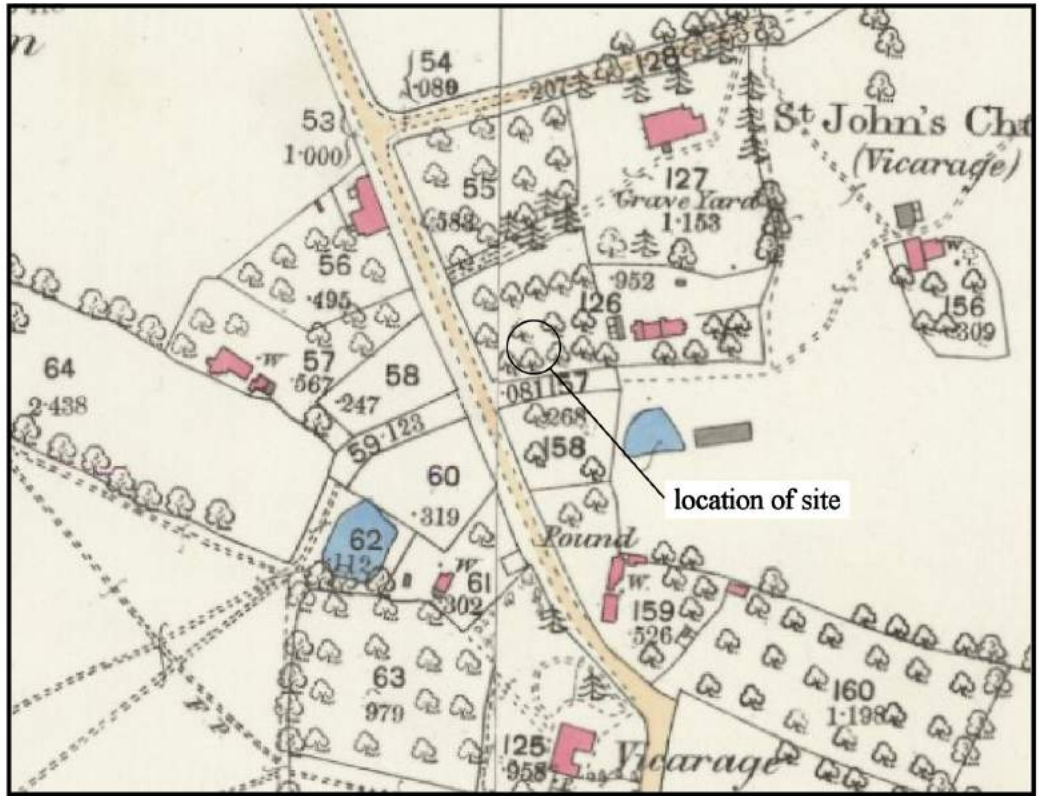
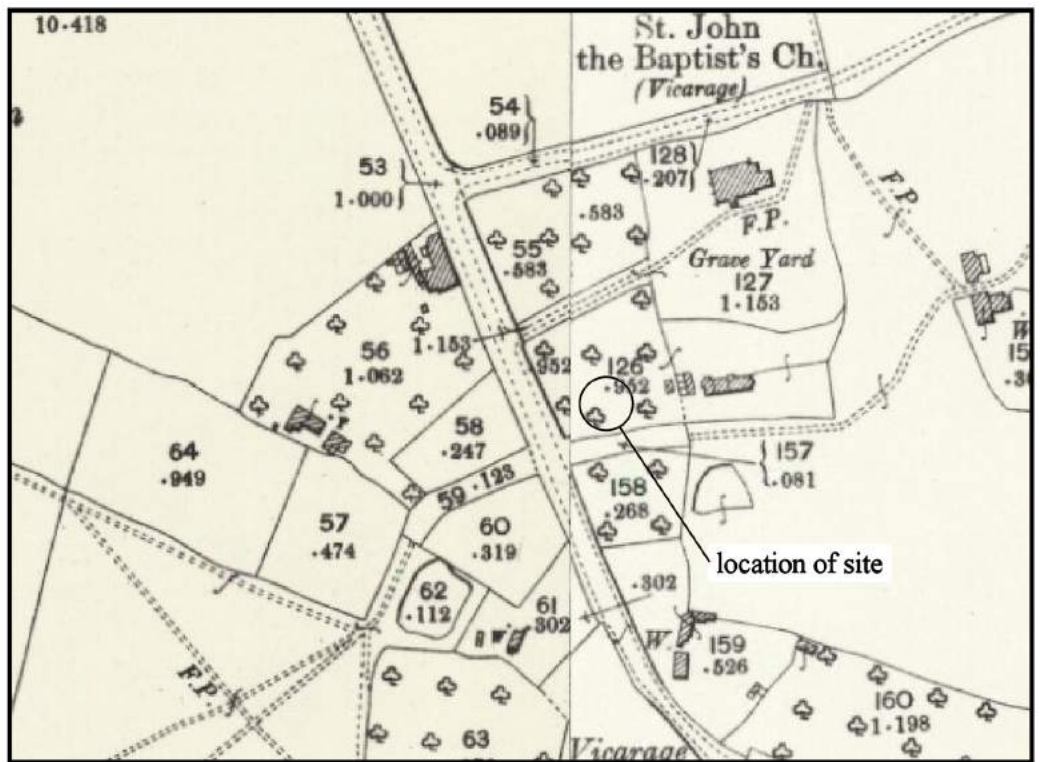


Fig 1: Location of site

1885



1904



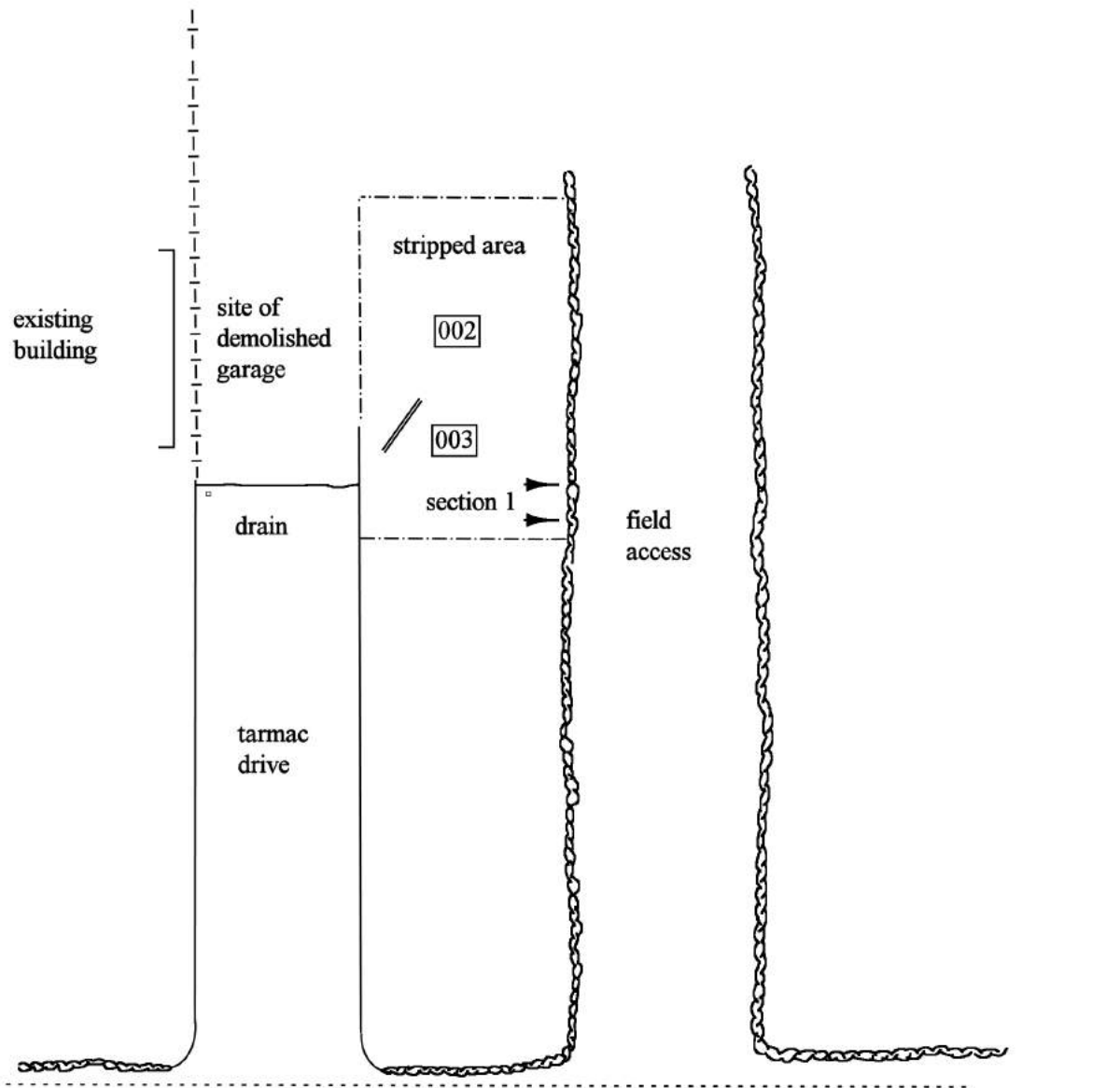
0



200m



Fig 2: Historic mapping



Section 1

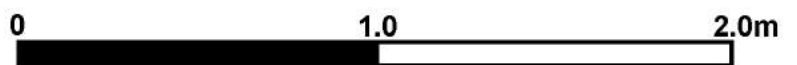
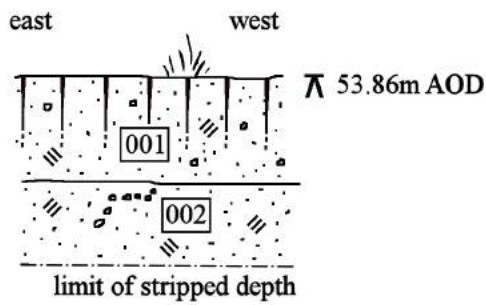


Fig 3.1: Plan and section of stripping









	loam and/or topsoil
	stones
	sand/gravel
	clay
	bricks
	ash and charcoal
	limit of excavation
	height above Ordnance Datum

Fig 3.2: Key to section



Fig 4: General view of the site looking east



Fig 5: General view of the site looking south-east



Fig 6: Ceramic soak-a-way pipe; context 003



Fig 7: The finds from context 001

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark grey brown sandy clay loam with occasional small rounded pebbles	Topsoil
002	Light orange buff sandy clay with lenses of small rounded pebbles	Natural subsoil
003	Ceramic pipe	Feed from catch-pit adjacent to demolished garage to soak-a-way

Appendix 2: The finds

Artefactual analysis by Laura Griffin

The finds work reported here conforms to the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (2014), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

Aims

- To identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts;
- To describe the range of artefacts present;
- To preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts.

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on a pro forma Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Results

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 5 sherds of pottery weighing 187g (see Table 1). All material came from the topsoil (context 001) and was modern in date. Level of preservation was good, with finds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and a notably higher than average pottery sherd weight of 37.4g, all suggesting relatively little disturbance since deposition.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
modern	ceramic	pot	4	112
modern	ceramic	biscuit –fired pot	1	75

Table 1: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage

Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been dated and quantified (see Table 1). Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to general fabric class (Table 2). Sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Modern

All finds were domestic pottery of 19th-20th century date and included sherds from bowl/dish and jar forms. Identifiable fabric types included modern china (fabric 85) and porcelain (fabric 83). The modern china included two sherds with transfer decoration, whilst the glazed porcelain had decorative moulding around the rim. The group also included a large biscuit-fired dish rim likely to be Royal Worcester production waste.

fabric number	fabric name	total	weight (g)
83	porcelain	2	81
85	modern china	3	106

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage by fabric type

Significance

The assemblage is typical of 19th-20th century domestic waste. Porcelain waste from Royal Worcester is commonplace in agricultural areas surrounding the city, as the works provided a ready supply of sherds for use as soil improver or hard-core.

Recommendations

No further work required.

Bibliography

AAF 2011 *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Available at <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>

CIfA 2014 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Available at <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, S G (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**, 200-9

PCRG/SGRP/MPRG, 2016 *A standard for pottery studies in archaeology*

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections*. Available at <http://www.swfed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/selectionretentiondispersalofcollections1-SMA.pdf>

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 70797 (event HER number)

WLA/19

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specific type	count	weight	start date	end date	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
modern	ceramic	pot	4	112	19C	20C	N	N
modern	ceramic	biscuit-fired pot	1	74	19C	20C	N	N

Notes

- 1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800

19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.
3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.

Appendix 3: The OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-381299

Project details

Project name	The Willows White Ladies Aston
Short description of the project	Watching brief at The Willows, White Ladies Aston
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2019 End: 19-01-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/01194/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 70797 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON WHITE LADIES ASTON The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston
Postcode	WR7 4QQ
Study area	60 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 922 526 52.171201469047 -2.114065496354 52 10 16 N 002 06 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project director/manager	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project supervisor	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological watching brief at The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston, WR7 4QQ
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