

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ROWLEY ROAD, BAGINTON, COVENTRY



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Worcestershire Archaeology
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Project reference: P4279
Report reference: 2098

Watching brief at Rowley Road, Baginton, Coventry

Tim Cornah and Tom Vaughan

Background information

<i>Client</i>	NMS Nomenca on behalf of Severn Trent Water
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 3504 7514
<i>Planning authority</i>	Coventry City Council
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2014
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2012

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work within the area

The archaeological character of the area has been summarised in other documents such as that by Oxford Archaeology (2012). The features discussed dated from the prehistoric, such as the formally designated cropmarks thought to comprise late Bronze Age or Iron Age pit alignments to the north-east of the site (SAM WA154). Prehistoric activity is known in other areas from other similar features and material culture recovered. About 650m to the west of the site is the Roman Fort at Lunt (SAM 21540) and some further activity of this period was identified during an evaluation there which was mostly of an agricultural character (Oxford Archaeology 2012). Agriculture was clearly the main activity in the area around the site into the medieval and later periods, as this area made up the hinterland of the village of Baginton.

Aims

The aims and scope of the project were to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible within the extents of the ground works undertaken by the Client.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012

Sources consulted

HER Sources

Sources cited by the HER

1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25":1 mile

Date(s) of fieldwork

24 February 2014

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Pipe Head Trench	length 6.20m
	width 4.0m
	depth 1.50m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. Access to the trench was not made due to safety reasons, so recording was undertaken from ground level. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, although any less clear may have not been identified.

Statement of confidence

The visibility of deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth (below ground level)
100	Layer	Moderate to dark grey brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.25m
101	Fill of 102	Mixed orange/ brown/ black sand with silt lenses	Modern fill of construction cut 102	0.25-1.50m
102	Cut	Near vertical edged cut, roughly round in shape	Construction cut for adjacent 20 th century sewer structure	0.25-1.50m
103	Natural	Bright orange/ red sand	Natural	0.50-1.50m

Discussion

The trench lay in the grassed verge, on the south side of Rowley Road (Figs 1 and 2; Plates 1 and 2). It was within close proximity to a sewer constructed in the second half of the 20th century. It was clear from the deposits observed that the area was heavily truncated by the construction cut for this sewer which is understood to have been dug to a depth of approximately 25m (pers comm Mark Clarke, NMCNomenca). Modern debris such as tarmac, rubber and concrete was seen within fill (101), which lay directly over the natural. No archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were present.

Conclusions

No significant archaeological features were recognised within the trench. It is clear that it was truncated in the latter half of the 20th century, leaving little possibility of there being surviving significant archaeological features. Significant features and deposits may have existed prior to the construction of the sewer, potentially dating to any period between the Bronze Age and the post-medieval.

Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on behalf of NMC Nomenca for Severn Trent Water of sewer works on Rowley Road, Baginton, Coventry (NGR 43645 27570).

One trench was observed within the grassed verge on the south side of the road. The archaeological character of the area comprises activity from the Bronze Age into the post-medieval period. The most significant site in the vicinity is the Roman fort at Lunt, although most of the activity in the area of this and subsequent eras appears to have been largely agricultural. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench. Modern deposits were noted directly over the natural. This is due to truncation during excavation for a deep sewer in the second half of the 20th century.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Yasar Nawaz and Mark Clarke (NMC Nomenca), Chris Patrick and Anna Wilson (Coventry City Council).

Bibliography

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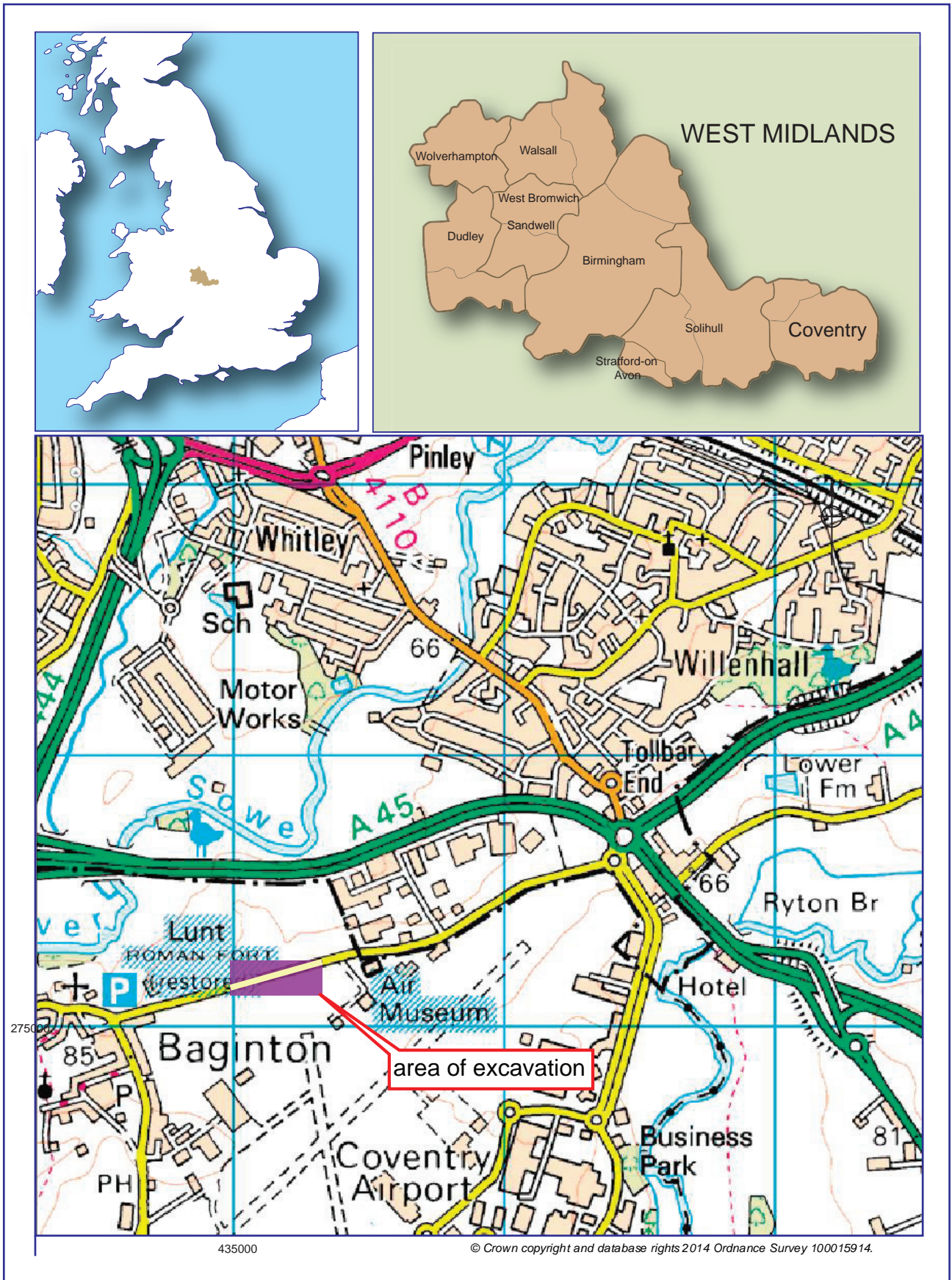
Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**

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WA 2014 *Proposal for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Tollbar Island, Rowley Road, Baginton, Coventry*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 27 January 2014, **P4279**

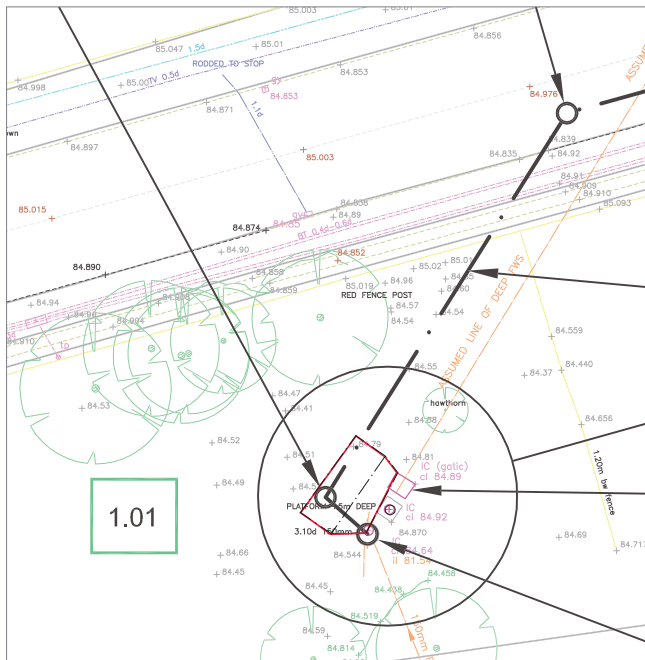
Figures

Figure 2 is based on NMCNomenca Drawing No. S80195-CC01110 Rev B, dated 15 July 2013



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location and excavation results

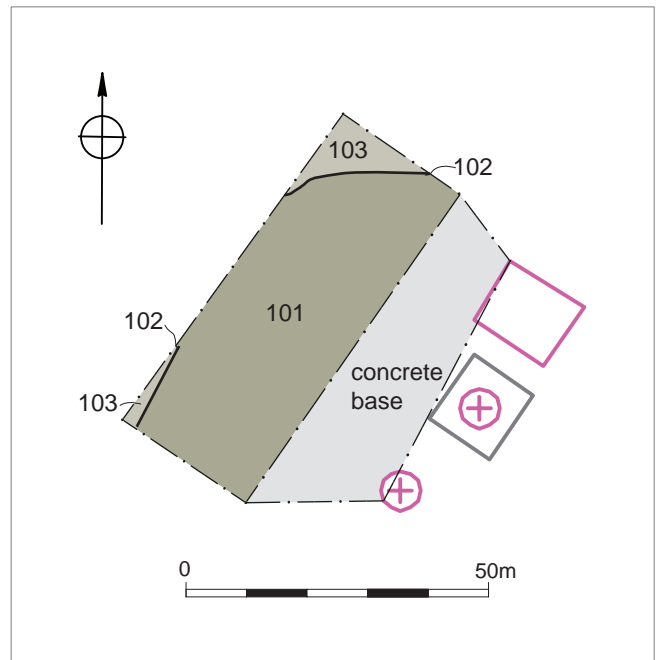


Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Trench during excavation, view north-east



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Plate 2 Trench after completion, view south-west

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 9 Digital photographs
- 1 Photograph register sheet
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Herbert Art Gallery and Museum

Jordan Well

Coventry

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