

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
31-34 NEW ROAD, STUDLEY,
WARWICKSHIRE

Nick Daffern

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 3875
Report 1931

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Archaeological Evaluation at 31-34 New Road, Studley, Warwickshire

Nick Daffern

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 31-34 New Road, Studley, Warwickshire (NGR SP 073 634) on behalf of Mr K Owens. The client intends to erect six two-storey dwellings on the site and has submitted a planning application. The development was considered by the Curator to have the potential to affect an archaeological site (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9536) and archaeological evaluation of the site was advised prior to the application being determined.

Five trenches were excavated across the site. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the evaluation and only post-medieval and modern features associated with the former school and factory buildings were encountered.

Pre-Holocene sand and gravel deposits of the New Inn member were encountered during the evaluation although these were archaeologically sterile due to their deposition during the Ipswichian/ Eamian interglacial (c130,000 years ago) when Britain was uninhabited.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. **Planning background**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 31-34 New Road, Studley, Warwickshire (NGR SP 073 634) on behalf of Mr K Owens. The client intends to erect six two-storey dwellings on the site and has submitted a planning application (S11/01114/FUL) to Stratford District Council. The development was considered by the Curator to have the potential to affect an archaeological site (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9536) and archaeological evaluation of the site was advised by the planning authority.

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Caroline Rann of Warwickshire Museum Field Services (2012) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012a).

2. **Aims**

The aims of this archaeological evaluation are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

More specifically the following aims have been identified.

- To establish whether significant medieval remains of the historic core of Studley extend into this area

3. **Methods**

3.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted in the Warwickshire Record Office:

Cartographic sources

- A plan of Estates in the Parish of Studley in the County of Warwick belonging to the Miss Chambers's surveyed in the year 1819 by Will Fowler (*sic*) WRO CR 449/1/6
- 1844 Tithe Map WRO
- 1st edition, 1888, Ordnance Survey, Map of Warwickshire, scale 25":1 mile (1:2,500)

3.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

3.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012a).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 18 June 2012 and 20 June 2012.

Five trenches, amounting to just over 160m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 1565m² representing a sample of 10.2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their

nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.3 **Artefact methodology**

3.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b; appendix 2).

3.3.2 **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. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

Pottery fabrics are referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by Warwickshire County Council (Soden and Ratkai 1998).

3.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

3.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b; appendix 4).

3.5 **Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site lies upon solid geology of the Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group which is subsequently overlain by superficial deposits of the New Inn sand and gravel member. These gravels are in turn overlain by soils mapped as undifferentiated urban by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) although it is likely that the 711m Salop soil formation extended into this area. These soils are described as "Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish fine loamy over clayey, fine loamy and clayey soils associated with fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging" (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

No previous archaeological investigations have occurred within the site boundary and only two investigations (EWA 4156, EWA 6677) have occurred within the 500m radius HER search, the former being a negative watching brief to the north whilst the latter was a site visit.

Despite this, it is thought that the medieval settlement (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9536) may extend southwards from its core to the north into this area. The other notable archaeological feature within the vicinity is the north – south Roman road Icknield Street (MWA 451), the course of which is now followed by the A435 Alcester/Birmingham Road.

The earliest available map evidence, the Chambers map of 1819 shows the site as part of a pasture field known as Three Crofts lying between the settled part of Studley and the

Wheelers lane to the south. New Road is shown as a track running parallel to the main road. On the 1844 Tithe map this situation is unchanged and Three Crofts is again referred to on the schedule but by the time of the Ordnance survey of 1888, the east side of New Road is built upon and the subject site is a school on the corner of Church Street which joins the main road. In the Twentieth Century the school was closed and the site became a factory. It is not known to what extent the former school buildings were incorporated into the factory, which was demolished in 2012.

5. Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Two types of natural deposits were encountered during the evaluation; the lowest of these was the upper reworked/weathered surface (zone V/IV) of the Mercia Mudstone consisting of red clayey marl with frequent lithorelicts which was encountered in all of the evaluated trenches. This deposit was encountered between 1.00m and 1.20m below ground surface (BGS)

Overlying this were thin gravel deposits, most probably of the New Inn member as mapped by the British Geological Survey. These gravels were encountered in all trenches and represent the 3rd Terrace unit of the Avon Valley Formation and were archaeologically sterile due to their deposition c130,000 years ago during the Ipswichian/ Eamian interglacial when Britain was unoccupied

5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

The earliest dated deposits identified within the site were post-medieval in date and were foundations associated with the construction of the school building which would later be reused as a factory. All of the brickwork encountered during the evaluation was consistent with a nineteenth century date with no indication of earlier or reused materials. A well 4006 identified in Trench 4 (Plate 10, Figure 3) was the sole feature as such from which datable material could be retrieved (Section 5.2). This well was cut through context 4008 and was subsequently sealed by a siltstone flag and context 4001.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Undated

The undated deposits encountered during the evaluation were soil layers such as 1001, 1002, 1003, 2005 etc, these are likely to be the former soil horizons that existed prior to the development of the site which have subsequently been truncated and disturbed by the construction of the school/factory buildings in the late 19th century. The presence of these layers, often overlying the natural gravels supports the cartographic evidence that the site was undeveloped and probably agricultural in character until the expansion of Studley in the late post-medieval/modern period.

5.2 Artefact analysis (Laura Griffin pers comm)

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Table 1.

5.2.1 Results

All of the retrieved finds were recovered from Trench 4. The majority of the artefacts were retrieved from 4005, the fill of well 4006. These finds consisted of four sherds of china/porcelain (Fabric MGW), 1 sherd of Stoneware pottery (STE) and three fragments of glass, three from vessels and one fragment of window glass. All of these finds can be assigned a 19th – 20th century date.

Finally, a single sherd of 18th century Midlands Blackware bowl or pancheon (fabric MB02) was recovered from the disturbed soil layer 4001.

5.2.2 Discussion

All of the retrieved ceramics were standard domestic wares for the post-medieval and modern periods and therefore their presence in this context is of little significance.

Context	Period	Date	Material Class	Material subtype	Object specific type	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)
4001	post-medieval	18C	Ceramic	Midlands Blackware later tradition	Bowl or Pancheon	MB02	1	21
4005	post-medieval/modern	19C – 20C	Glass		Vessel		3	36
4005	post-medieval/modern	19C – 20C	Glass		Window		1	1
4005	post-medieval/modern	19C – 20C	Ceramic	China/porcelain	Vessel	MGW	4	79
4005	post-medieval/modern	19C – 20C	Ceramic	Stoneware	Vessel	STE	1	36
	Total						10	173

Table 1 Quantification of the assemblage

6. Significance

6.1 Significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest

The aim of an archaeological evaluation is to provide the client and the planning authority (and its advisors) with sufficient information to assess the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest, in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012, para 128). Detailed guidance on assessing the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest is set out in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, which advises that an on-site evaluation should establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest in order to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010: Section 5, Development Management).

6.2 Assessment of the impact of the proposal

The on-site evaluation, and the information provided by the Client, allows an assessment to be made of the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological interest in the site.

Due to the lack of archaeological remains identified during the evaluation, the impact of the development is low.

7. Recommendations

None of the deposits encountered are considered to be of any great significance and further archaeological works would not therefore be justified.

The recommendations above are those of the Service and may vary from those of any archaeological curator or advisor to the planning authority.

8. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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.

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9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Keith Owen (the Client) and Caroline Rann (Warwickshire Museum Field Services).

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Nick Daffern. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nick Daffern, finds analysis by Laura Griffin and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

11. **Bibliography**

DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010 *PPS5 Planning for the historic environment: historic environment planning practice guide*. Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Culture, Media and Sport/English Heritage

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute for Archaeologists

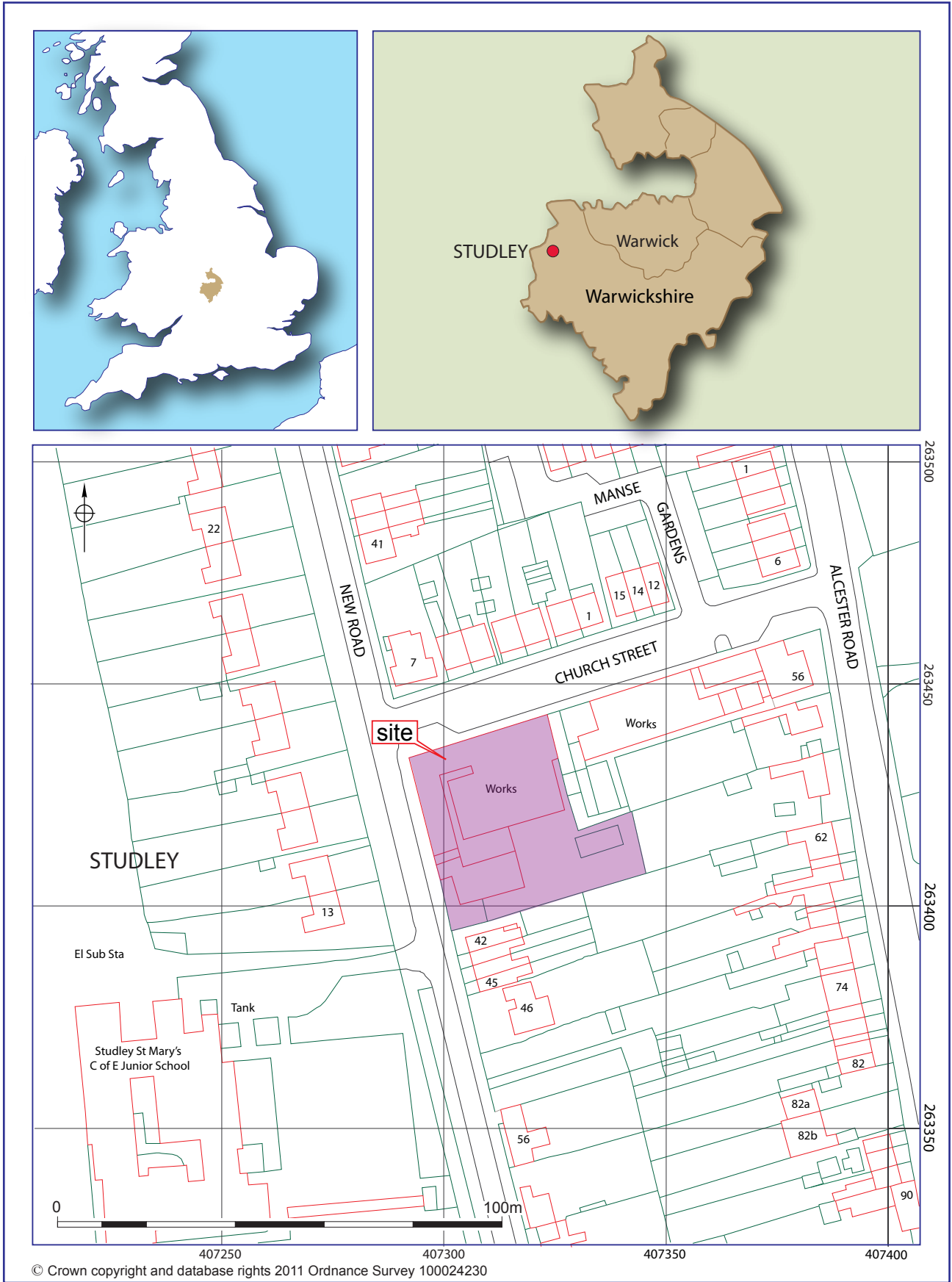
Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Midland and Western England, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*

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Worcestershire Archaeology 2012a *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation at 31-34 New Road, Studley, Warwickshire*, Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 11 June 2012, **P3875**

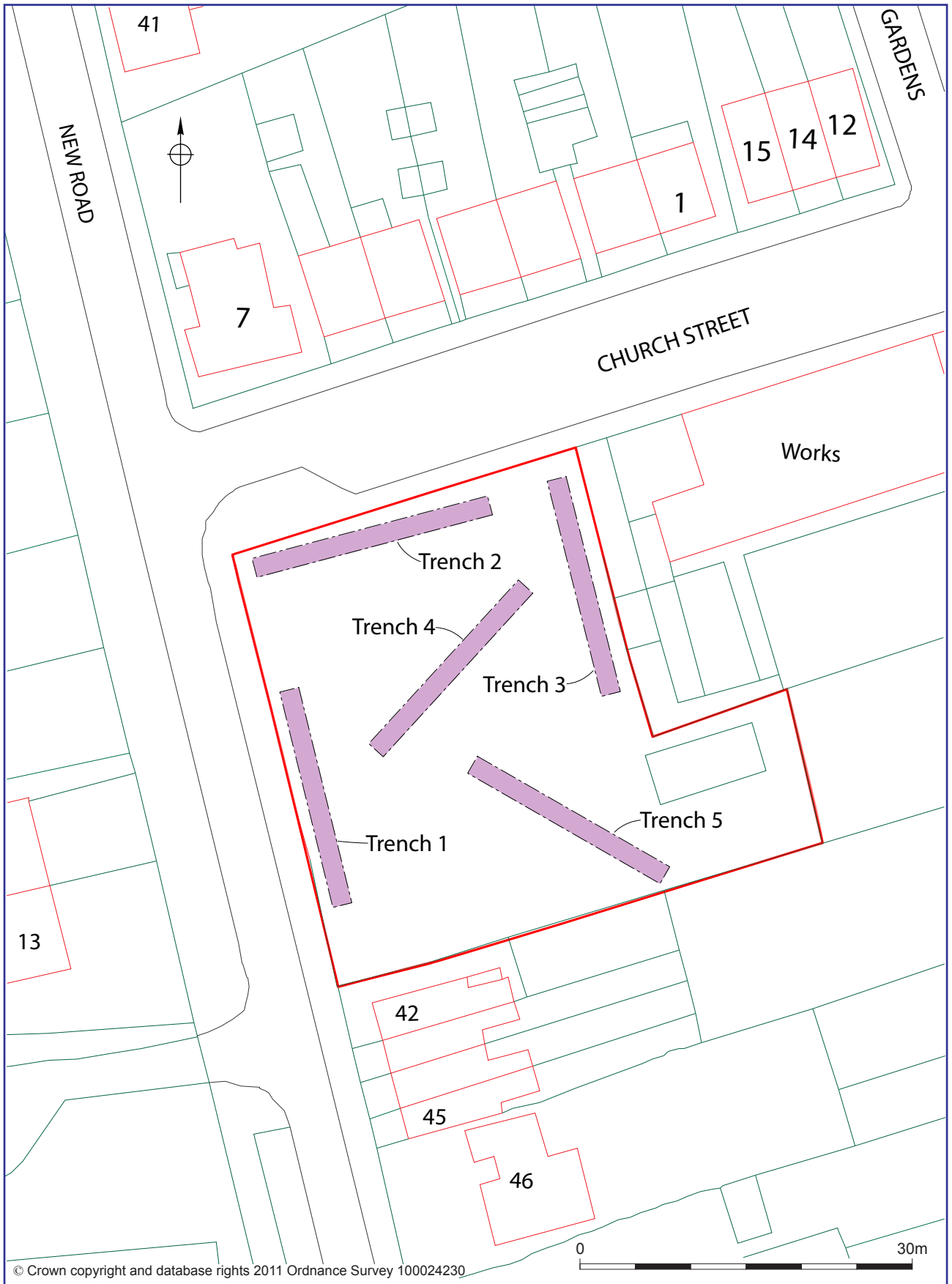
Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b *Manual of Service Practice: recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report, **1842**

Figures



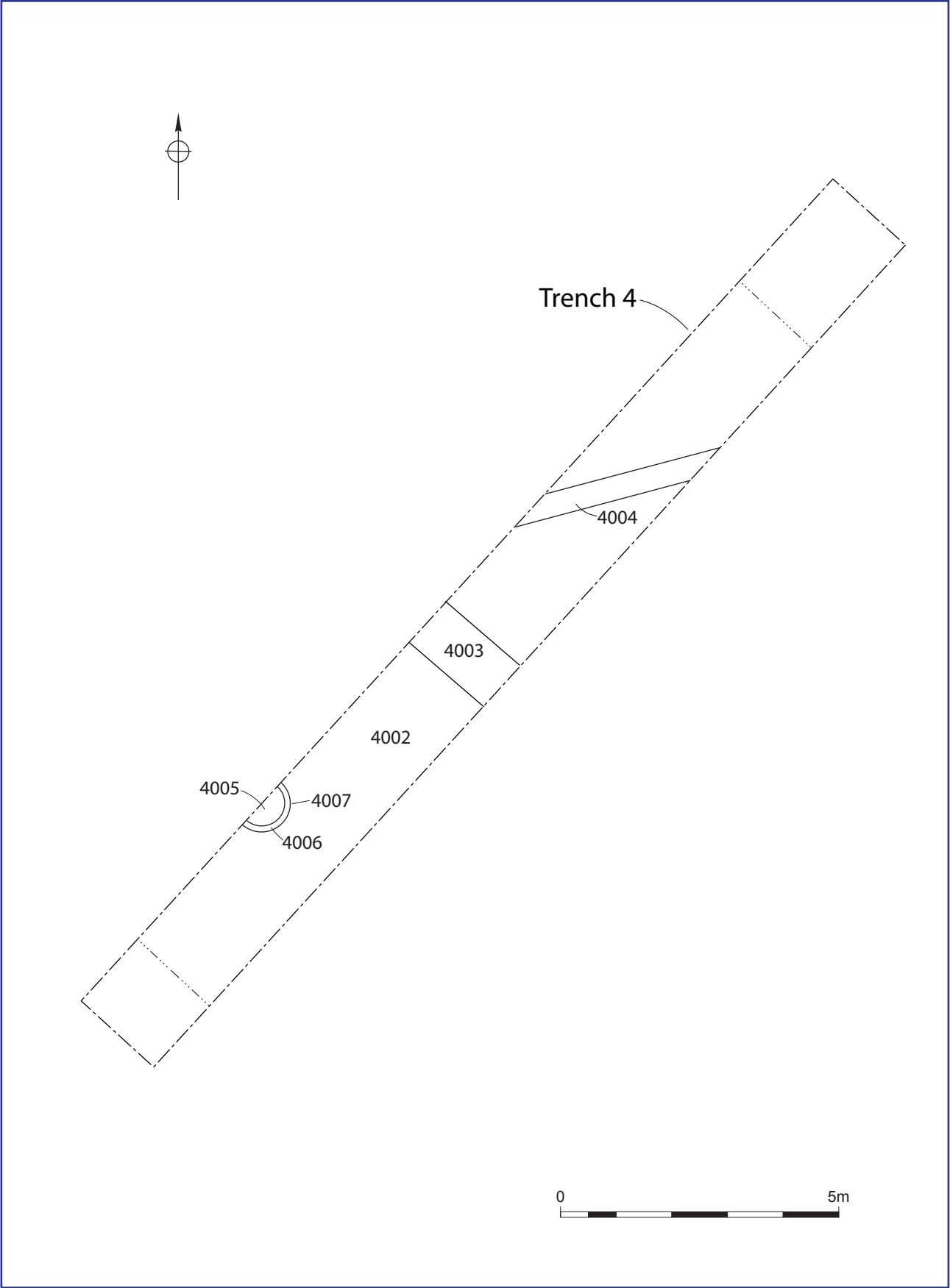
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 4

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 - Looking NNE



Plate 2 ENE facing section of Trench 1



Plate 3 Trench 2 looking WSW



Plate 4 SSE facing section of Trench 2



Plate 5 NNW facing section of Trench 2



Plate 6 Trench 3 looking NNE



Plate 7 WSW facing section of Trench 3



Plate 8 Trench 4 looking NE



Plate 9 SE facing section of Trench 4



Plate 10 Well 4006 in Trench 4 looking NW



Plate 11 Trench 5 looking NW



Plate 12 SW facing section of Trench 5

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 19.00m Width: 1.90m Depth: 1.20m – 1.70m

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Demolition spread	Loose/degraded, pale cream sandy mortar with very frequent angular post-medieval brick and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments	0.00m – 0.08m
1001	Disturbed soil layer	Dark grey, occasionally sandy silt with rare rounded – sub rounded gravel and pebbles, occasional angular post-medieval brick and CBM fragments and occasional charcoal and coal fragments	0.008m – 0.24m
1002	Disturbed soil layer	Light greyish brown silt with occasional rounded – sub rounded gravel and pebbles with rare post-medieval angular brick and CBM fragments	0.24m – 0.58m
1003	Disturbed soil layer	Mid greyish brown silt with frequent rounded – sub rounded gravel and pebbles with rare – occasional angular and sub rounded fragments of post-medieval brick and CBM	0.58m – 0.67m
1004	Disturbed soil layer	Diffuse mixed boundary of 1003 and 1004	0.67m – 0.77m
1005	Sand and gravel (natural)	Firm, dark – mid greyish orange clayey coarse sand and rounded – sub rounded gravels	0.77m – 1.30m
1006	Upper weathered geology	Firm, mid red occasionally sandy clay/marl with occasional – frequent lithorelicts Upper reworked/weathered surface (zone V/IV) of the Mercia Mudstone	1.30m +
1007	Structure	Foundations of former school/ factory consisting of post-medieval brickwork	0.00m – 0.65m
1008	Redeposited natural	Redeposited 1006	0.52m – 0.61m
1009	Sand and gravel (natural)	Firm, light - mid orangish yellow clayey coarse sand and rounded – sub angular gravels and cobbles (2 – 15cm)	1.03m – 1.18m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 22.00m Width: 1.90m Depth: 1.20m – 1.30mm

Orientation: ENE - WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Demolition layer	Loose, dark orangish brown/ grey silty sand with black charcoal lenses. Abundant degraded, angular post-medieval brick and CBM, mortar and concrete	0.00m – 0.26m
2001	Disturbed upper boundary of gravels	Friable, pale yellowish cream with frequent orange lenses, coarse silty sand	0.26m – 0.39m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2002	Structure	Foundations of former school/ factory consisting of post-medieval brickwork	0.00m – 0.32m
2003	Sand and gravel (natural)	Firm, mid orangish yellow clayey coarse sand and rounded – sub angular gravels and cobbles (2 – 15cm)	0.39m – 1.10m
2004	Upper weathered geology	Firm, mid red occasionally sandy clay/marl with occasional – frequent lithorelicts Upper reworked/weathered surface (zone V/IV) of the Mercia Mudstone	1.10m +
2005	Disturbed soil layer	Light greyish brown silt with occasional rounded – sub rounded gravel and pebbles with rare post-medieval angular brick and CBM fragments	0.00m – 0.60m
2006	Layer	Mixed boundary between 2002 and 2003 – Pale, cream, yellowish white mortar rich gravels	0.32m – 0.42m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width: 1.90m Depth: 1.00m – 1.20m

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Demolition layer	Friable, light – mid grey coarse silty sand with occasional rounded – sub rounded pebbles with occasional angular post-medieval brick, concrete and CBM fragments	0.00m – 0.33m
3001	Disturbed soil layer	Friable, dark blackish grey coarse silty sand with occasional rounded – sub rounded pebbles and angular post-medieval brick and concrete fragments	0.33m – 0.45m
3002	Sand and gravel (natural)	Firm, mid orangish yellow clayey coarse sand and rounded – sub angular gravels and cobbles (2 – 15cm)	0.45m – 1.00m
3003	Upper weathered geology	Firm, mid red occasionally sandy clay/marl with occasional – frequent lithorelicts Upper reworked/weathered surface (zone V/IV) of the Mercia Mudstone	1.00m +

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 16.00m Width: 1.90m Depth: 1.10m – 1.20m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Demolition layer	Friable, light – mid grey coarse silty sand with occasional rounded – sub rounded pebbles with occasional angular post-medieval brick, concrete and CBM fragments	0.00m – 0.15m
4001	Disturbed soil layer	Friable, dark blackish grey coarse silty sand and tarmac surface with occasional rounded – sub rounded pebbles and angular post-medieval brick and concrete fragments	0.15m – 0.25m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4002	Sand and gravel (natural)	Firm, mid orangish yellow clayey coarse sand and rounded – sub angular gravels and cobbles (2 – 15cm)	0.70m – 1.15m
4003	Upper weathered geology	Firm, mid red occasionally sandy clay/marl with occasional – frequent lithorelicts Upper reworked/weathered surface (zone V/IV) of the Mercia Mudstone	1.15m +
4004	Structure	Foundations of former school/ factory consisting of post-medieval brickwork	0.00m – 0.52m
4005	Fill	Loose/friable, dark greyish black coarse silty sand with frequent ashy and charcoal lenses, occasional – frequent angular post-medieval brick and CBM. Sealed by 4001	0.25m – 1.20m
4006	Well structure	Constructed from orange post-medieval bricks(24cm x 10.5cm x 8.5cm) bonded with sandy whitish grey mortar	0.25m – 1.20m
4007	Cut	Circular cut with vertical sides for well 4006 Cuts 4008 and 4002	0.25m – 1.20m
4008	Disturbed soil layer	Light greyish brown silt with occasional rounded – sub rounded gravel and pebbles with rare post-medieval angular brick and CBM fragments	0.25m - 0.60m

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 18.70m Width: 1.90m Depth: 1.10m – 1.20m

Orientation: NW - SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5000	Concrete	Firm, whitish grey concrete	0.00m – 0.10m
5001	Broken concrete	Firm – degraded, v. pale bluish white angular concrete	0.10m – 0.30m
5002	Disturbed soil layer	Friable, dark blackish grey coarse silty sand with occasional rounded – sub rounded pebbles and angular post-medieval brick and concrete fragments	0.30m – 0.45m
5003	Disturbed soil layer	Light greyish brown silt with occasional rounded – sub rounded gravel and pebbles with rare post-medieval angular brick and CBM fragments	0.45m – 0.65m
5004	Sand and gravel (natural)	Firm, mid orangish yellow clayey coarse sand and rounded – sub angular gravels and cobbles (2 – 15cm)	0.65m – 1.20m
5005	Upper weathered geology	Firm, mid red occasionally sandy clay/marl with occasional – frequent lithorelicts Upper reworked/weathered surface (zone V/IV) of the Mercia Mudstone	1.20m +
5006	Structure	Foundations of former school/ factory consisting of post-medieval brickwork	0.00m – 0.75m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

2	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
35	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
6	Scale drawings
5	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Box of finds
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at: Warwickshire Museum
