Desk-based and building assessment of the former Ice Works, 174, Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester







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Tim Cornah

Summary

A desk-based and building assessment for the historic environment record was undertaken at the former Ice Works, 174, Bromyard Road, Worcester. (NGR SO 82895 54297 HER ref. WCM 102093) It was undertaken on behalf JJS Developments, who intends to convert the main building into flats and demolish a number of the smaller ancillary 20th century buildings as part of the wider redevelopment.

This report describes and assesses the significance of the heritage assets (and potential heritage assets) that are potentially affected by the application. The setting of heritage assets is considered. The potential impact of the application, and the need for further on-site evaluation, is assessed.

The assessment highlights the potential for archaeological features on the site from the Early Mesolithic period onwards. Archaeological remains within the area are limited from the prehistoric period into the Romano-British era, so would potentially be significant if they exist within the present site.

From the medieval period onwards, activity within the area is increasingly recognised. This is likely to have been due to the foundation of the Bromyard Road in the Anglo-Saxon era. Activity of this period has been seen from excavations to the north of the site where the settlement appears to have been agricultural in nature which expanded until the later medieval period.

A number of medieval mill sites have been suggested along the Laughern Brook. New Mill, founded in 1086, is thought to be within the development site. Mapping evidence shows that a mill stood on the site in the post-medieval period and was called both Mudwall Mill and St Johns Mill in the 19th century. It is possible that medieval and post-medieval phases of this mill survive below the present buildings. These, along with archaeological remains of all periods, are considered likely to be well-preserved in subsurface alluvial deposits relating to the Laughern Brook.

The site was taken over between 1868 and 1873 for use as a corn mill, and this date represents the earliest phase of the standing buildings. These buildings were developed and changed further from around 1900 when the Worcester and Midland Ice Co Ltd took over the site. The extensive cladding put up for conversion of the buildings for cold storage presently obscures almost all potential internal evidence for the earlier use of the buildings.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment and building assessment was undertaken at the former Ice Works, 174, Bromyard Road, Worcester (NGR SO 82895 54297). It was undertaken on behalf of JJS Developments, who intends to convert the main building into flats and demolish a number of the smaller ancillary 20th century buildings as part of the wider redevelopment. A planning application will be submitted to Worcester City Council.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WCM 17320, 92272, 91145, 99756 and 99757).

No brief has been provided by the Archaeological Officer, Heritage and Design, Worcester City Council, but the project conforms to the generality of briefs previously issued. A project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2015).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2014), relevant EIA guidance and Legislation and *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester* (Worcester City Council 1999).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WCM 102093.

1.2 Planning background

Present government planning policy is contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This is supplemented by detailed guidance which had related to earlier government policy but which is at least partially still relevant to the present policy (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010).

Currently, there is no planning application associated with the proposed development of the former Ice Works site but this desk-based assessment is intended to assist in the preparation of an application.

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project are to:

- collect relevant information relating to the historic environment potential of the proposed development area;
- assess the potential significance of any heritage assets;
- assess the impact of the proposed development on these heritage assets;

English Heritage guidance identifies historic buildings as '...a living record of our social, economic and artistic history, as well as being powerful contributors to our sense of place and to feelings of local, regional and national identity.' (English Heritage 2006, 2).

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The assessment was undertaken by Tim Cornah BA; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan BA MA ACIfA. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc PG Cert MCIfA.

3.2 Documentary research

All relevant information on the history of the site and past land-use was collected and assessed. Records of known archaeological sites and monuments were obtained from Worcester City Historic

Environment Record (HER). Historic maps and published sources were consulted online and at Worcester Library and archives were consulted at Worcestershire County Archives.

Details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. Event records have been omitted where this would repeat information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment. HER references have been used throughout this assessment and the locations relevant to these records are mapped on Figures 9 and 10.

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1729 Doharty Map (Figure 2)
- 1741 Doharty Map
- 1841 Tithe map (only partially extant; Figure 3)
- 1853 site plan (BA2652 refr989.9:235)
- 1885 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 4)
- 1905 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 5)
- 1928 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 6)
- 1950 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 7)

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3.4 Other Methods

A site visit was also undertaken on 7 April 2015 in order to carry out the building assessment and a walk over of the site. This involved annotating existing plans in order to illustrate basic phasing as well as using photography for the same reason.

This assessment is limited to consideration of heritage assets and potential assets that are relevant to the application site.

3.5 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

Major Beneficial: Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset of the highest order (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. Designated assets will include scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value). It may also be in better revealing a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area's significance.

Beneficial: Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of improvement will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value).

Not Significant: Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.

Minor Adverse: Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.

Moderate Adverse: Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites.

Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.

Major Adverse: Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or harm to a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.

Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm or loss will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.

Severe Adverse: Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or the loss of a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.

Unknown: Where there is insufficient information to determine either significance or impact for any heritage asset, or where a heritage asset is likely to exist but this has not been established, or where there is insufficient evidence for the absence of a heritage asset. For instance where further information will enable the planning authority to make an informed decision.

Table 1: Impact assessment criteria for heritage assets

4 The application site

4.1 Location and size

The study area included the application site (Fig 1), though heritage assets were considered within 500m of the site in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context. In addition an extended area of search (2km) was made to encompass the settings of all monuments and buildings. The site is about 0.45 hectares in area.

4.2 Topography, geology and soils

The western side of the City of Worcester is located above the River Severn to the east and the River Teme to the south. The site sits at the western boundary of the city, alongside the Laughern Brook which is itself a tributary of the Teme. The site is situated in a valley created by the Laughern Brook at a height of around 18m AOD.

The solid geology of the site is Sidmouth Mudstone Formation. The superficial deposits are likely to relate to the Laughern Brook and be comprised of clay, silt, sands and gravels. It is possible that some Holt Heath Sand and Gravel that is found in much of the western side of Worcester also extends into the bounds of the site (British Geological Survey 2015). An archaeological evaluation to the south of the site (WSM33363) recorded alluvial deposits within close proximity to Bromyard Road, these are likely to relate to Laughern Brook but the specific composition of any subsurface deposits on site is currently unrecorded.

4.3 Current land-use

The site is on the north side of the Bromyard Road which leads into the city centre, as well as being north of the Worcester to Hereford train line. The area immediately surrounding the site is in use by commercial and trading premises and the site itself contains buildings of a commercial and industrial nature. These buildings are still used for cold storage and other commercial functions.

4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character

The historic land use prior to the medieval period in this area is largely unknown. It can only be characterised by a number of finds as there is limited settlement evidence. The study area is approximately 2km to the west of Worcester city centre, which is suspected to contain a number of prehistoric sites, but it is not until the late Iron Age that the city is suggested to have developed around an *oppidum* on the east bank of the Severn (Worcester City Council 2007). Recent work in St Johns has revealed occupation from the middle Iron Age onwards (Wainwright 2010). To what extent these activities extended out of the city is uncertain, and may depend on the origins of the Bromyard Road which has been suggested to be Anglo Saxon in origin (Hooke 1980). This lack of evidence for the area continues into the Romano-British era, despite the growth of the Roman town at this time.

It is likely to have been within the medieval period that the known historic landscape developed. This is primarily characterised as agriculture, and settlement evidence dating to the Anglo-Saxon period has been seen immediately to the north of the study area. Such settlement appears to have grown along the Bromyard Road. During the later medieval period, a number of isolated farms are known to have existed along with agricultural related industry in the form of mills along the Laughern Brook. This picture continues into the post-medieval period, where the surrounding field systems are recognised for the first time.

The area became increasingly industrialised, a process which started with the arrival of the railway in the area in the mid-19th century but increased in the early 20th century. The mid-20th century saw the suburbanisation of the area, a process which is continuing.

5 Heritage assets

5.1 Designated heritage assets

There are no designated heritage assets located within the development site. However, the buildings that make up the Ice Works are listed within The Buildings of Local Significance in Worcester (Worcester City Council 2012).

There is one designated heritage asset within the wider search area. This is Grade II listed farmhouse at Grove Farm (WSM51828). Partially 18th century in date, it is likely to be a replacement of an earlier building as there is evidence for medieval activity on the site, as discussed below. The bridge over the Laughern Brook to the west of the Ice Works is also listed within The Buildings of Local Significance in Worcester as are the railings in front of Oak House (Worcester City Council 2012).

5.2 Undesignated heritage assets

Prehistoric

No features or finds relating to this period have been recognised within the development site.

Within the wider study area, a single flint object was recovered during an archaeological evaluation on the south side of Bromyard Road (WSM33363). This is likely to date between the Early Mesolithic and the Late Bronze Age. A further prehistoric flint tool has been recovered from the area; a flint scraper to the north-west of the site (WCM100693). These were isolated finds that were not associated with any features.

A single feature containing burnt stone and charcoal was seen during test pitting to the south of Grove Farm, west of the present site (WCM101872). Whilst such deposits are usually associated with prehistoric activity, no firm date can be suggested. A desk-based assessment was also undertaken to the south of the site (WCM101529) which identified a moderate potential for further prehistoric material culture, though 20th century levelling was considered likely to have removed this evidence.

Romano British

No features or finds relating to this period have been recognised within the development site.

Within the wider study area, the evidence for activity is a little less sparse than the previous period. Pottery and tile of Roman date have been recovered during field walking to the west of the Laughern Brook. No discernible spatial zoning was detected during this exercise although the presence of ceramic building material in particular may suggest settlement within the vicinity (WSM33362). A further seven pieces of pottery were recovered from the subsequent evaluation (WSM33363)

To the south of Bromyard Road, three nearly complete pots of Romano-British date were recovered in 1934 (WCM100697). These were isolated finds with no information as to their primary context being made, so little interpretation can be given as to what form of activity they relate to.

Medieval

Whilst there are no known heritage assets of this date **within the development site**, the presence of a mill has been suggested. The earliest reference to this is in relation to the New Mill which was part of the manor of Laughern D'Abitot in 1086 (WCM91145). Subsequent to this, it was granted to the cathedral monastery some time before 1294. The court rolls indicate that it stood on a high road near a bridge, close to the borders of Laughern D'Abitot and the Pitternsarys.

Little can be said of the layout of the mill and its surroundings during this early period, though later evidence may shed some light. The Doharty map dating to 1729 (Fig 2), shows a building on the site, in roughly the same position as the western end of the current Ice Works buildings. Though schematic, the building is shown as two storeys and aligned parallel to the Bromyard Road. To its

north and east are illustrated a mill pond (WCM99756), and it is likely that a mill race ran along its northern wall (WCM99757). These features appear to have been a diversion from the Laughern Brook, which is diverted at the point of a weir, to the north-east of the building (WCM99758). These latter two features are not illustrated as such on the 1729 Doharty map though are on the 1841 Tithe Map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 which also illustrates the continuity of layout (Figs 3 and 4). Whilst these features clearly existed by the post-medieval period, the possibility of earlier origins for all of them is strong. The exact character of potential subsurface remains relating to a mil is at this point speculative, but the presence of alluvial deposits and the mill pond is likely to allow for a high level of preservation, particularly of organic remains.

Within the wider study area, there is further evidence for the use of the landscape at this time. Bromyard Road is generally considered to have been on the line of an Anglo-Saxon *Straet* which ran west out from Worcester along with Bransford Road to the south (Hooke 1980). This suggests that the current bridging point of the Laughern Brook is likely to have historic origins, further adding weight to the described location of the mill as given above.

Further evidence for medieval activity has been recognised at the north-western boundary of the wider search area. An evaluation trench located to the north of Bromyard Road (WCM10118) found pits, gullies a ditch and a post hole. Pottery dating from the 11th to 12th centuries was recovered from one of these pits. It is likely that these related to a farmstead dating from the late Saxon period into the 13th century at Earls Court Farm, *c* 500m to the north-west of the present site, alongside the *Straet*. These investigations (WCM101841 and WCM101862) identified the remains of four separate structures as well as enclosures and paddocks. Whilst being of a low status, these remains are important due to their having yielded unusual pottery fabrics (Vaughan and Jones 2014). This farmstead is itself likely to have been related to the high status Earls Court Farm, a medieval moated site adjacent (WCM91064; SAM31957).

A further focus of settlement in this period is likely to have been centred on the aforementioned Grove Farm farmhouse. The exact origins of this site (WCM91068) remain unclear, but mention of a "grove" in an Anglo-Saxon charter may relate to this area as it is describing the bounds of the manor of Laughern. Some evidence remains that there was a separate Grove manor in the 15 h century, but it is not until the 16th century that a manor on the site is confirmed in documentary evidence. The footings of this 16th century building may have been seen within a watching brief on the site (WCM100078). The site was formerly moated (WSM56001). Such features are considered nationally to have gone out of use by around 1500 (Le Patourel and Roberts 1978).

To the south of Bromyard Road little evidence for medieval activity remains. A single piece of pottery was recovered from an evaluation from the western side of Laughern Brook (WSM33363), though not associated with any features.

Post-medieval

Within the development site, the mill continued in use (WCM98206). This is shown primarily by the Doharty map of 1729, as previously discussed. Throughout the first half of the 19th century, the site was known as Mudwall Mill, as it is labelled as such on a map of 1853 (BA2652 r989.9:235) and a reference exists in Berrows Journal coroner's report to Mudwall Mill in 1819 (WCC 2015).

To what extent the buildings shown on the 1841 (Fig 3) and 1853 maps remained as shown on the 1729 map (Fig 2) is unknown, but these all appear to have been replaced between 1868 and 1873. W Hadley is listed as being miller at Lower Wick in 1868 (Kellys Directory), then William Hadley and Son is listed as miller at St Johns Mil in 1873 (Littleburys Directory) so it is considered likely that the current building was started between these dates. This is confirmed by the mapping evidence as the buildings shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey (Fig 4) do not correspond closely with those shown on the 1853 map. The 1885 map also labels the site as St John's Mill (Corn). William Hadley is listed as miller at the site again in 1896 (Kellys Directory) and one John Hardber being journeyman miller at the site in 1897 (Littleburys Directory). By 1900, the site is listed as being in the ownership of the Worcester and Midland Ice Co Ltd (Kellys Directory). These developments shall be discussed further in the context of the building assessment below.

Within the wider study area, agriculture is increasingly in evidence. The farmhouse at Grove Farm was rebuilt, probably within the 18th century (WCM91144) and a further farm The Stalls, lies to the east (WSM53240). The date of the origin of this farm is unknown but it was certainly extant at the time of the 1885 Ordnance Survey map and was demolished in the early 20th century. Associated with The Stalls was also an out farm, to its south (WSM50930). The former medieval site at Earls Court, to the north of the search area, also continued in use although outside the former moated area. The farm on this site was demolished in 1977. These farms give a picture of dispersed agricultural settlement throughout this period. A further building to the east of the site at 172, Bransford Road (WCM98438) had sandstone footings and may well have had origins in this period. It does appear to be in the position of a building shown on the 1729 Doharty map (Fig 2).

The 1729 Doharty map also shows the agricultural landscape that existed at this time. The area was made up of irregular, piece meal enclosures alongside the Laughern Brook and the Bromyard and Bransford Roads. These fields had changed little by the time of the 1885 Ordnance Survey map, the major new addition to the landscape being the addition of the Worcester to Hereford Railway in the middle of the 19 h century (WSM31668). This crosses the Bromyard Road immediately south-east of the Ice Works. By the time of the 1885 map, the suburb of St Johns is beginning to encroach into the eastern edge of the wider search area.

Modern

The heritage assets relating to this period **within the site** shall be discussed in the building assessment below, apart from a proposed flame fougasse (WCM92272) which is thought to have been situated within the Ice Works. This was a defensive feature set up during World War II.

The early 20th century saw the encroachment of the western edge of the City of Worcester into the wider study area. The character of this encroachment was initially industrial with the construction of the buildings such as the Alley and McLellan Factory (WCM99096) on the southern side of Bromyard Road in around 1919. Part of this was later incorporated into the Kays Building (WCM92340). Frank Bryan, manufacturer of gloves and sportswear, also built a factory to the north of Bromyard Road in 1920 (WCM99237) along with the Meco Works on Bromyard Road (WCM92165) to the east, which manufactured military materials during World War II.

The wider study area has a number of monuments that relate to World War II including air raid shelters which were associated with a new conurbation to the north of the site (WCM92290, WCM92309, WCM92313) as well as four further to the south and east of the site (WCM92498, WCM92172, WCM92485, WCM92486). The latter two of these were associated with the Meco Works. Further civil defences dating to World War II also existed, these being road blocks (WCM92266, WCM92265, WCM92469), an air raid spotters post (WCM92122) and air craft landing obstacles (WCM92367).

5.3 Potential heritage assets

A **high potential** remains on this site for palaeoenvironmental data as it is located within the valley of the Laughern Brook.

Recorded prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the area remains at a low level. It is therefore likely that the potential within this site is also relatively low, especially as these may have been truncated by later groundworks relating to the mill. There is the potential for remains relating to the crossing of the Laughern Brook within the bounds of the site. Consequently, a **low to medium level of potential** for remains of these periods is given.

The site of a medieval mill has been suggested to be in the vicinity of this site. The remains of such a monument are likely to consist of stone and timber remains of the mill itself along with associated machinery and mechanics. The preservation of these structures is likely to be good as a result of sub-surface anaerobic conditions caused by waterlogging. Such anaerobic conditions are also likely to preserve associated material culture. The position of the medieval mill building is likely to be under the footings of the standing mill and the possibility remains that it has been truncated to a

degree, but other features such as sluices and races may be preserved elsewhere on the site. A **medium to high potential** for medieval remains is therefore given.

A **high potential** also remains for post-medieval features. These are likely to be the phases of the mill shown on the maps from 1729 to 1853. The same factors relating to both preservation and truncation as the medieval mill are likely to exist.

6 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets

6.1 Designated assets

6.1.1 Listed building

There is a single Grade II listed building within the wider search area. This is Grove Farm, to the west of the site. This building will not be directly affected by the development of the Ice Works, as it is not within the direct line of site. However, the retention of the Ice Works broadly within its current state would be beneficial to the Historic Environment character of the area.

6.2 Undesignated assets

6.2.1 Historic buildings assessment

The buildings' phases are shown on Figure 8.

Phase 1 1853-85

The first phase of this building appears to date from between 1853 to 1885 (Fig 8, red key), based on map evidence. This can be refined to between 1868 and 1873 based on previously discussed documentary evidence, as it was between these dates that W Hadley and Son took over the site. The wider date for the phase is given due a lack of absolute certainty as to the date of each element.

The maps of 1841 (Fig 3) and 1853 show the buildings on the site in the same form. These appear to have changed drastically by the time of the 1885 OS map (Fig 4), with only the house appearing to remain in broadly the same position. However, it is unlikely that the house, as discussed below, predates the rest of the mill.

At the westernmost end of the extant range of buildings is a single storey rectangular brick building, aligned north to south, that was spanned by four king post trusses (Plates 1 and 2). This appears to have been open internally throughout with no internal divisions. It is likely to have been accessed through two doors in its southern gable which were later blocked. A photograph (Plate 3) that dates to the 1880s during the ownership of W Hadley and Son, shows an external chimney on the north-west corner of this building. This chimney is indicated on the OS map of 1928 (Fig 6), and within an additional building to the west on the 1950s OS map (Fig 7). It is possible that this building was used for drying grain before processing.

Immediately to the east of this is the rectangular brick structure of the mill (Plate 5). This building has six storeys, each of which, apart from the sixth floor, was lit by five windows at the front, south facing elevation. An off-centre door on each floor gives access out to the street for loading and offloading directly from each floor. The fifth and sixth floor doors are covered by a clad, projecting timber structure known as a Lucam, which has a trap door in its floor (Plate 4). The overall layout of the windows and doors of the front elevation is regular, a pattern which is repeated on the rear, north facing elevation (Plate 5). The west facing elevation has two windows on the third, fourth and fifth floors, along with a single round window toward the apex of the gable end on the sixth floor (Plate 4). The east facing elevation has two windows on the fifth floor, along with a round window toward the apex of the gable end on the sixth floor (Plates 21 and 34). Others may have existed but are likely to have been blocked at a later date.

The tile roof of the mill is supported by four king post trusses (Plate 6), the tie beam of which is truncated in order to create space on the sixth floor. These trusses are constructed using iron fixings at all of the appropriate joints, many of which were marked with numbers similar to carpenters marks that correspond to those on the timbers adjacent (Plate 7). A internal brick wall

runs the entire height of the building, creating two rooms on each floor. The larger of these rooms on the second to fifth floors were later further divided for use as cold storage (Plates 8-10). All of the floors are accessed by a staircase in the south-west corner of the larger room (Plate 11), though this is not original as the floor rafters have been cut to accommodate it. An internal winch system also seems to have been in place to the north of the staircase that extended as far as the fifth floor (Plates 12 and 13). The ground floor could not be accessed apart from at its west end. Much of the detail of the original building was obscured internally on all floors due to later ice storage insulation (Plates 8-10).

To the east of the mill, there appears to have been a gap, then two further buildings. This gap may have been filled by another building on the 1885 map, though this no longer exists. To east of this is a building which is interpreted as a house (Plate 14). It is split up internally into two rooms on each floor which are separated by a passage that contained the staircase. This passage is accessed by the front door, though a secondary door was placed to access the western room (Plate 15). This western room on the ground floor was heated by a fireplace, for which a chimney can be seen above the western gable. This layout is suggestive of domestic space, an interpretation supported by the front windows being lit by sashes (Plate 16).

Attached to the eastern end of the house is a two storey rectangular brick building that has five windows facing onto the street on each floor, a pattern mirrored at its rear (Plates 17 and 18). A single window and a door are visible on its western gable and its eastern gable also had two windows on each floor as well as central doorways for the loading of carts (Plate 19). Ventilation can be seen above the apex of the gables at both ends, suggesting a storage space is likely. This configuration suggests that a first floor existed but this was removed at a later date. The building is clad internally for cold storage.

To the north-east and separated, is a further building of this date. This is also brick built and was covered by a later tin roof (Plate 20). This appears to have been a single storey building but with a useable loft above, as seen by a small door in it north-western gable. Above this, there are ventilation holes in the brick work. This pattern is reminiscent of an agricultural building such as a stable which often had hay lofts above. This interpretation cannot be confirmed because the south-eastern elevation had been entirely rebuilt so the door and window pattern is missing. Its rear elevation that formerly overlooked the mill pond had three windows. The internal space could largely not be accessed, that which was seen was heavily altered by later use. A further door existed on the north-eastern gable, as seen in a historic photograph (Plate 21). This photograph also shows a further building to its south-east that no longer exists but was visible on the 1885 map.

All of these buildings that date to this phase are suggested as being contemporary. Only the house may possibly be of an earlier date based on mapping evidence but this is unlikely to be the case as the bricks used to construct these buildings are similarly handmade and of the same dimensions throughout. This set of buildings is deemed to be of relatively **high significance** in that they represent a largely complete picture of their initial use as a corn mill. This is reduced by the large degree of internal alteration, particularly the cladding for cold storage which has removed, or simply covered, many of the original features.

Phase 2 1899

A planning application dated 1899 (Plate 22), shows a north to south aligned rectangular building between the mill and the house. This is likely to have been for use in association with the ice works which had taken over the site by 1900. A date on the southern gable confirms it as such (Plate 23; Fig 8, green key). The plan shows it as a two storey building with the second storey being of significantly greater height with the roof being supported by three king post trusses. The floor partially remains but the whole building is clad internally on the first floor with insulation so no further internal features are visible. The ground floor room could not be accessed but has two windows facing onto the street and a doorway, now blocked.

As with the previous phase, the level of internal alteration is likely to lower the level of **significance** for this structure to **moderate to high**.

Phase 3 1905-28

This phase comprises one single building that was added onto the northern side of that built in 1899 (Plate 24; Fig 8, blue key). This is a single storey brick building with a hipped roof which has been replaced in the late 20 h century. It has a door and a window facing west and two further windows facing north. The 1928 OS map (Fig 6) shows this building having been built over the mill race which itself was diverted from that shown on earlier maps. The mill race is partly visible underneath this building and it is likely that coolant bars visible to its west to the rear of the mill building (Plate 25), relate to this phase. An overall cooling function for this building seems likely as there is venting in its roof and door. The internal space of this building was not accessed.

It is likely that many of the internal changes seen through the earlier mill buildings relate to this time when it was converted for use as cold storage and ice works. This is particularly true of most of the floors of the mill which had their windows blocked up and cladding inserted. The doors into these rooms illustrate the degree to which they were insulated (Plate 26). An earler 20th century photo shows ice storage within one these buildings (Plate 27).

These phases represent the early use of the buildings as an ice works and are deemed to be of **moderate significance** as they relate to the industrial history of the city.

A small rectangular structure aligned north-west to south-east along the southern boundary of the site, opposite the possible stable block, which predates the 1905 OS map (Fig 5) was extended to the north-east before 1928 (Fig 6). Neither structure remains extant now.

Phase 4 1934-42

At the start of this period, a two storey building was added onto the south-western end of the possible former stables (Plate 28; Fig 8, purple key). A 1934 planning application exists for this (Plate 29), and describes it as an extension to the ice cream department, for which the possible stables appear to have been converted by this date. This application also shows the other building that exists on the 1885 map to its west and is described as the "oil house". The application shows the building as it remains as being two storey rectangular building on the same alignment as the possible stables. The first floor was accessed externally from stairs at the front (Plate 28) and the internal divisions remain.

At the end of this period a freestanding Nissen hut was built at the eastern limit of the site. This is shown on a 1942 planning application (Plate 30) and this building still remains (Plate 31). This building was an ex-army structure designed as temporary storage for "Lily of the Valley Creamery Ices".

These two planning applications also show that the corrugated lean-to extension with two open sides on the eastern end of the former mill storage building (Plate 19) was built between 1934 and 1942, as well as some small single storey buildings by the entrance which were started in 1942 but never completed (Plate 32). The 1942 application also shows that the mill pond had been partially filled in to the west of the Nissen hut at this time.

These phases of building add little architecturally but do further document the industrial sequence of the site. This is particularly true of the 1934 structure which may be seen of **moderate significance**. The Nissen hut, corrugated structure and small buildings at the yard entrance are of **low significance**.

A large building is shown on the 1950s map (Fig 7) adjoining the south elevation of the possible stables, and extending to the southern boundary of the site. This has since been demolished.

Phase 5 Post 1950

Two further brick and steel single storey warehouse structures were added at the eastern end of the site after 1950, on the east end of the possible stables, and south of the Nissen hut (Plate 33; Fig 8, light brown key). These have been fitted with internal cladding and are also used as cold

storage. A further structure, with concrete slab walls and corrugated roof, was added to the north of the former house (Plate 34). This building is used for meat cold storage. None of these buildings are clearly visible on the 1950 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 7), but this does show other buildings in its place which no longer exist. These buildings are considered to be of **low significance**.

6.2.2 Sites of archaeological interest

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

There is considered to be limited potential for remains of the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, as little relating to these periods has been recorded in the surrounding area. Such scarcity however does mean that any such remains would be significant should they exist. Any early alluvial deposit sequences on site may add significant environmental data for these periods.

The first recorded activity on the site dates to the medieval period when a mill is thought to have been on this site in 1086. It is possible that the site has earlier origins as Anglo-Saxon remains have been found within the vicinity. Any remains of mills of these dates would be of significance, though to what extent they remain it is not currently possible to tell. It is suggested that they are located below the 19th century mill so it is probable that they have been extensively truncated. However, any surviving remains are likely to be well-preserved in anaerobic subsurface conditions. Such conditions would also preserve post-medieval mill phases. It is likely that many of the features such as the mill pond and race also have origins within these periods.

The site was redeveloped between the years 1868 to 1873 as a corn mill. Almost all of the buildings that were built at this time remain on site and as such closely document this phase. The buildings were then altered and extended from around 1900 when the site was taken over as an Ice Works. Further buildings were added as the 20th century progressed, with an increased emphasis on cold storage.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

Prehistoric remains within this area are **rare** so any addition to the knowledge of the area is likely to be of **high importance**. This is particularly true of areas of flint finds, some of which have been recovered within the wider study area. These have been identified as a priority within the city (Worcester City Council 2007).

Romano-British remains are also **rare** in this area, so any remains of this period are likely to be of **high importance**. Understanding the settlement and land use patterns of the hinterland of Romano-British Worcester has been identified as a research priority (Worcester City Council 2007).

Medieval mill sites are a resource that are common in the documentary record, but remain **rare** and underrepresented archaeologically within the West Midlands. It is generally accepted that there is a need for broadly based fieldwork across the region which can turn mill locations from the documentary record into sites that may be suitable for excavation (Watt 2011, 189). The remains of a medieval mill may also shed light on one of the research priorities outlined within Worcester (Worcester City Council 2007) which is the research of medieval construction in terms of materials and techniques. The remains of a medieval mill on the site would be of **high importance** for future research, especially if they were early medieval.

It is increasingly recognised that buildings are a key part of the post-medieval historic environment record and that they should be studied in the context of their wider historical, archaeological and landscape setting. This is particularly true of industrial sites where in recent years there has been a move not only of recording, but also an increased understanding of the social aspects embodied within these features and structures (Watt 2011, 221 and 225). It is suggested that **moderate importance** may be ascribed to the standing buildings in terms of future research along with any post-medieval subsurface mill remains.

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

No certainty can be given about the extent and depth of any archaeological remains, as no previous investigations are recorded on the site.

It is possible that alluvial deposits relating to Laughern Brook spread across the full extent of this site. These deposits area likely to yield palaeoenvironmental data, as well as preserving organic remains such as timbers.

Whilst prehistoric features and finds may have been located anywhere on site, the possibility of them remaining is reduced within the vicinity of the mill pond, mill race and the mill itself, which are likely to have truncated them.

The densest archaeological remains are likely to have been at and underneath the western end of the surviving Ice Works building, where the earlier mill may have stood. To what extent these remains were truncated by this building is unknown, but may include the earlier building along with sluices and other remains. It possible that any revetments and structures relating to the mill pond and race have medieval origins.

The standing buildings on site are also of interest in relation to their industrial heritage, particularly those that make up the earliest phases of the corn mill. Most of these are located along the Bromyard Road frontage.

7 The impact of the development

7.1 Impacts during construction

The impacts have been categorised as described in Table 1.

To what extent the development will impact on the heritage assets of the site is unknown as its scope is yet to be specified in detail. When the scope of the works is known, their impact should be assessed. However, some changes are likely as part of this development, these being the removal of much of the cladding and features relating to cold storage, the removal of some or all of the 20th century storage buildings and subsurface excavation for new services, and foundation trenches if any new buildings are proposed.

The removal of cladding and other features relating to cold storage are likely to have two affects. The first is the destruction of features relating to the use of the buildings as an Ice Works. This will initially reduce the heritage value of these phases of the buildings use so the impact is likely to be **minor to moderate adverse**. The secondary affect will be to expose features relevant to the earliest phase of the building, an impact which is considered to be **beneficial**, provided that they are made available for appropriate archaeological recording. These works will all be internal so will be **not significant** in terms of setting.

The 20th century storage buildings on the site are considered to be of little architectural merit and add little knowledge in terms of the use of the buildings. As such the removal of these is likely to be **beneficial**. This is particularly likely in terms of setting, where their removal will make the earlier phases of the mill more visible.

The impact of the excavation of trenches cannot be accurately identified as their location and extent is not currently known. If these were to be of sufficient depth to impact upon earlier phases of the mill or any other archaeological features, this would be seen as a broadly **adverse** effect, though to what extent would depend on the nature of the trenches. The same would be true of any further ground works.

7.2 Impacts on sustainability

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131).

The broad aim of this development is to reuse the existing buildings for the creation flats. A sensitive approach to the conservation of these buildings is likely to sustain and enhance their

significance. This process is likely to be to adverse to the later use of the building as an ice works but beneficial to the former mill buildings if their features are exposed and retained.

The removal of the 20th century storage buildings will also have a positive visual benefit on the area. This will also make the original element s of the building more visible and understandable. As such, this will make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. The conversion of these buildings into flats is also likely to have a positive benefit to the area in that it will bring investment.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

7.3 Residual impacts

The proposed development will have the little impact on the setting of any heritage assets outside of the development area. Only one listed building exists with the area searched for this project, that at Grove Farm. A scheduled ancient monument also exists at Earls Court outside of the 500m search area. The Ice Works are not visible from either of these so no impact is likely.

8 Recommendations

In order to mitigate the impacts identified above, the following actions are recommended.

Building recording is recommended in order to document not only the use of these buildings as an Ice Works, but also their previous use as a corn mill. Preferably this should be in two stages; firstly before any 20th century buildings have been removed and internal features such as cladding relating to the Ice Works has been discarded; secondly after the cladding has been removed in order to record the any remaining original features of the corn mill.

All intrusive ground works should be at least monitored. This may be preceded by archaeological evaluation of a sample of those areas of the site which are accessible and determined to be least disturbed by modern activity. Mitigation by way of archaeological excavation may also be required. This depends entirely on the scope and impact depth of the ground works proposed.

The scope and specification of mitigation works will be agreed with the Archaeological Officer of Worcester City Council.

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with Worcester City Council and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

9 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.

A desk-based and building assessment for the historic environment record was undertaken at the former Ice Works, 174, Bromyard Road, Worcester (NGR SO 82895 54297; HER ref. WCM 102093) It was undertaken on behalf JJS Developments, who intends to convert the main building into flats and demolish a number of the smaller ancillary 20th century buildings as part of the wider redevelopment.

This report describes and assesses the significance of the heritage assets (and potential heritage assets) that are potentially affected by the application. The setting of heritage assets is considered. The potential impact of the application, and the need for further on-site evaluation, is assessed.

The assessment highlights the potential for archaeological features on the site from the Early Mesolithic period onwards. Archaeological remains within the area are limited from the prehistoric period into the Romano-British era, so would potentially be significant if they exist within the present site.

From the medieval period onwards, activity within the area is increasingly recognised. This is likely to have been due to the foundation of the Bromyard Road in the Anglo-Saxon era. Activity of this period has been seen from excavations to the north of the site where the settlement appears to have been agricultural in nature which expanded until the later medieval period.

A number of medieval mill sites have been suggested along the Laughern Brook. New Mill, founded in 1086, is thought to be within the development site. Mapping evidence shows that a mill stood on the site in the post-medieval period and was called both Mudwall Mill and St Johns Mill in the 19th century. It is possible that medieval and post-medieval phases of this mill survive below the present buildings. These, along with archaeological remains of all periods, are considered likely to be well-preserved in subsurface alluvial deposits relating to the Laughern Brook.

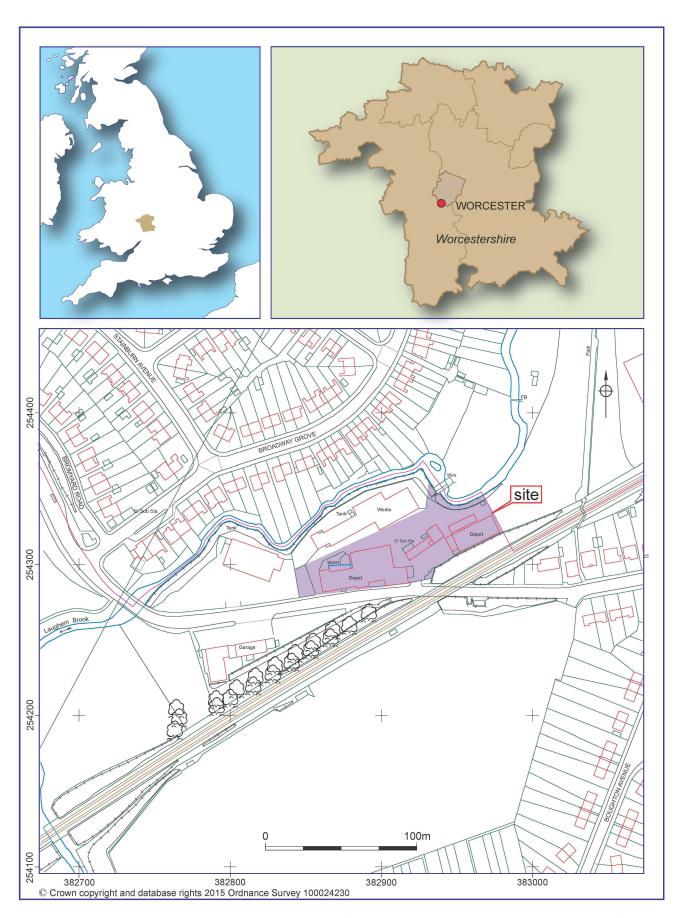
The site was taken over between 1868 and 1873 for use as a corn mill, and this date represents the earliest phase of the standing buildings. These buildings were developed and changed further from around 1900 when the Worcester and Midland Ice Co Ltd took over the site. The extensive cladding put up for conversion of the buildings for cold storage presently obscures almost all potential internal evidence for the earlier use of the buildings.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Kelvin Sparrey (JJS Developments), Worcester and Midland Coldstores Ltd, James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Heritage and Design, Worcester City Council), and Sheena Payne-Lunn (Historic Environment Record Officer, Heritage and Design, Worcester City Council).

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Location of the site

Figure 1



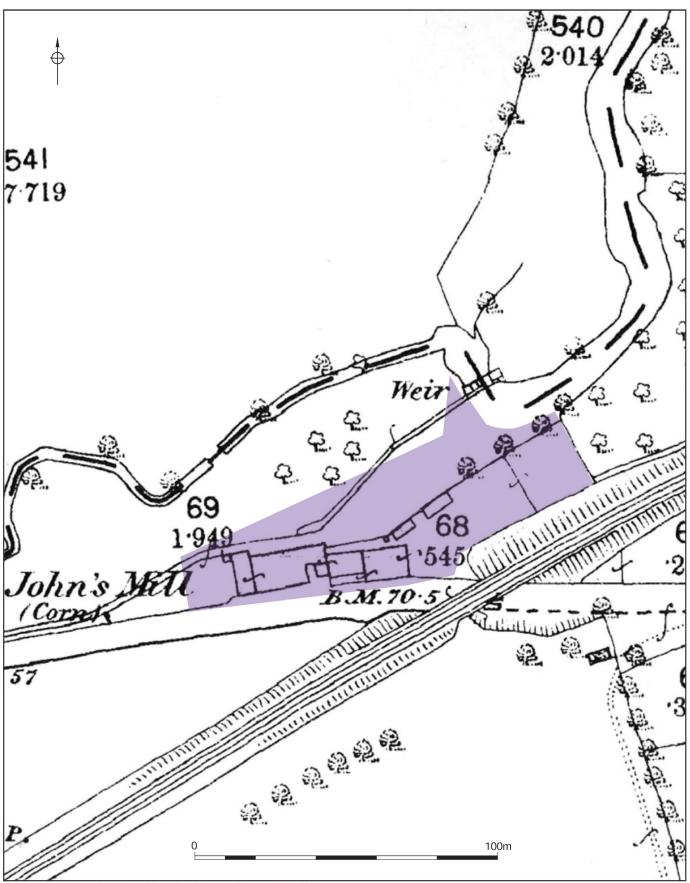
Extract from Doharty map, 1729

Figure 2

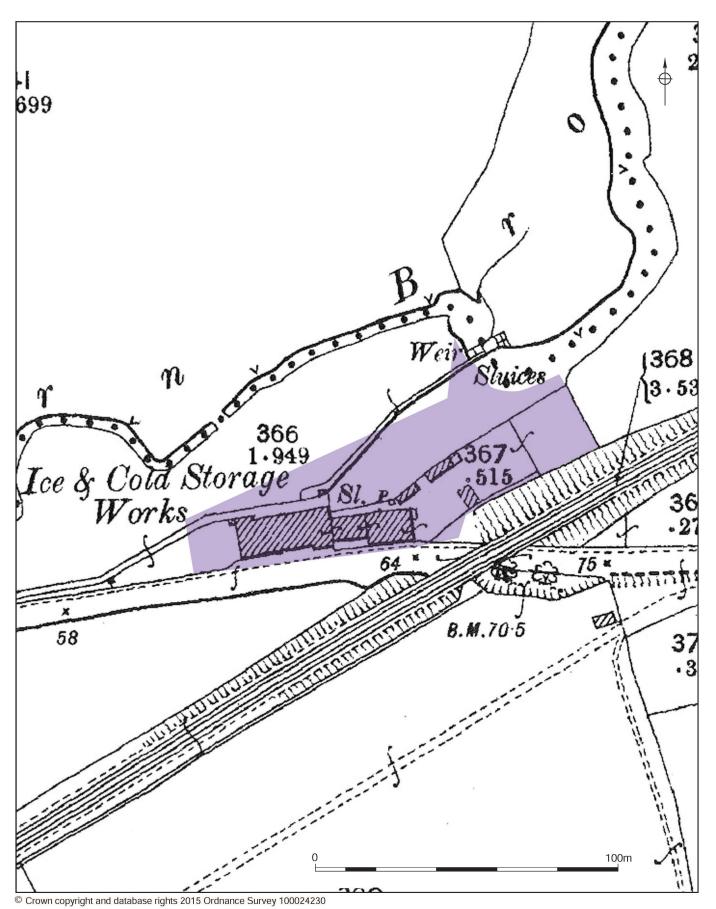


Extract from 1841 Tithe Map

Figure 3

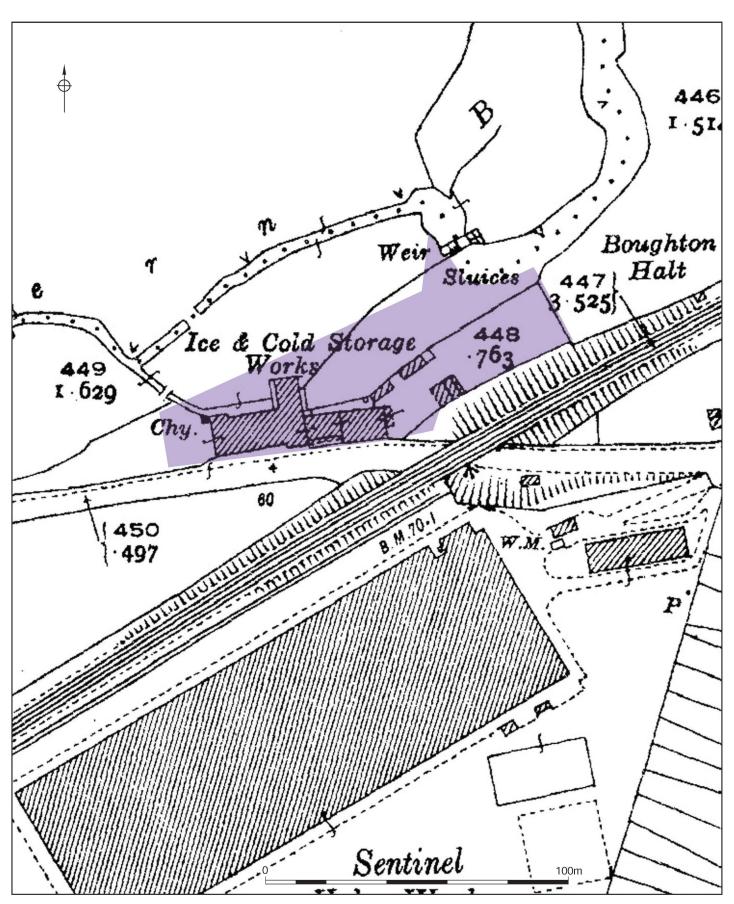


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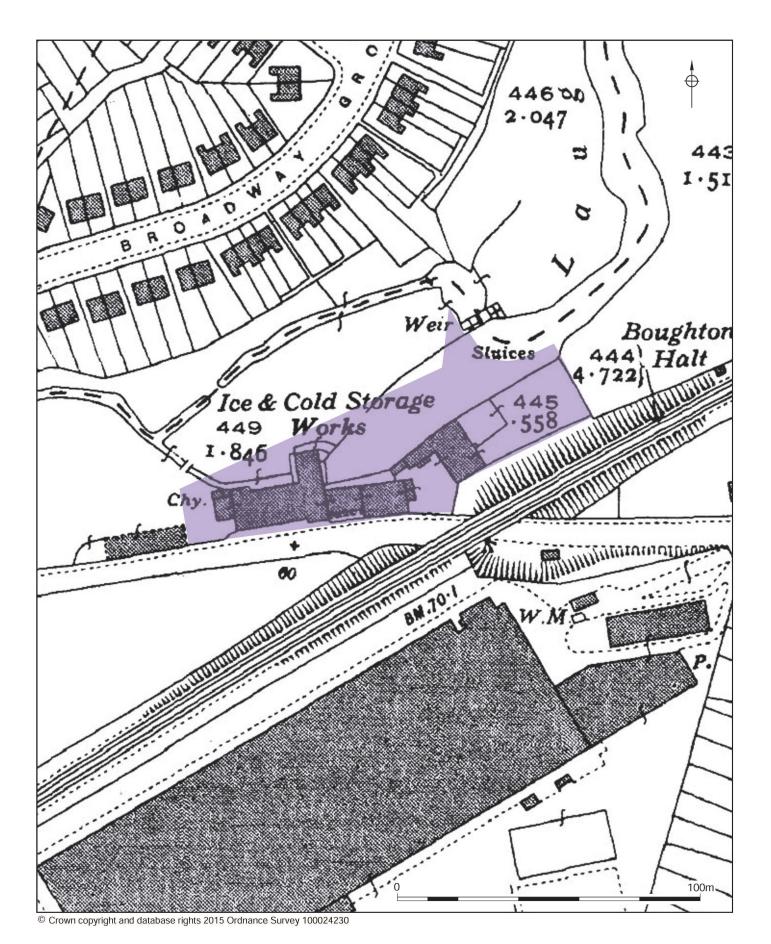


Extract from 1905 OS map

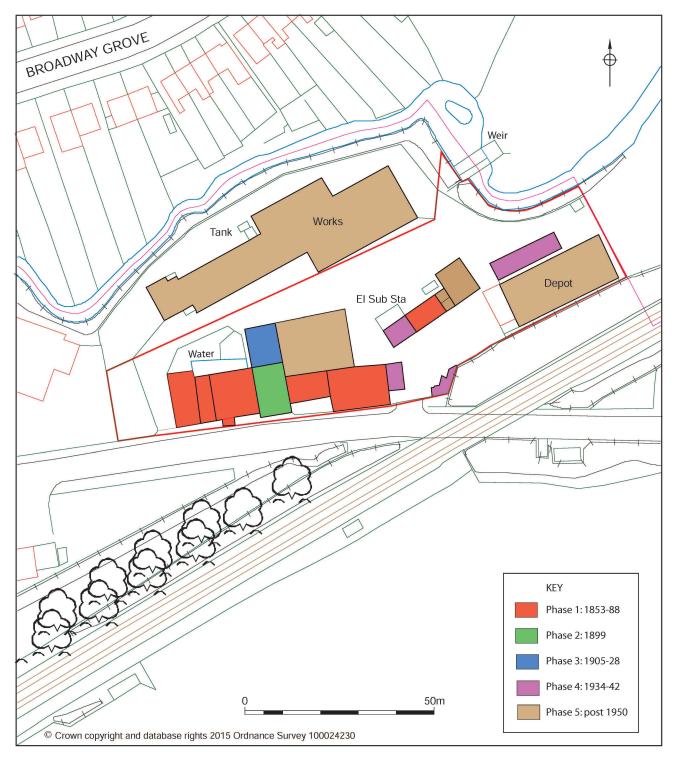
Figure 5



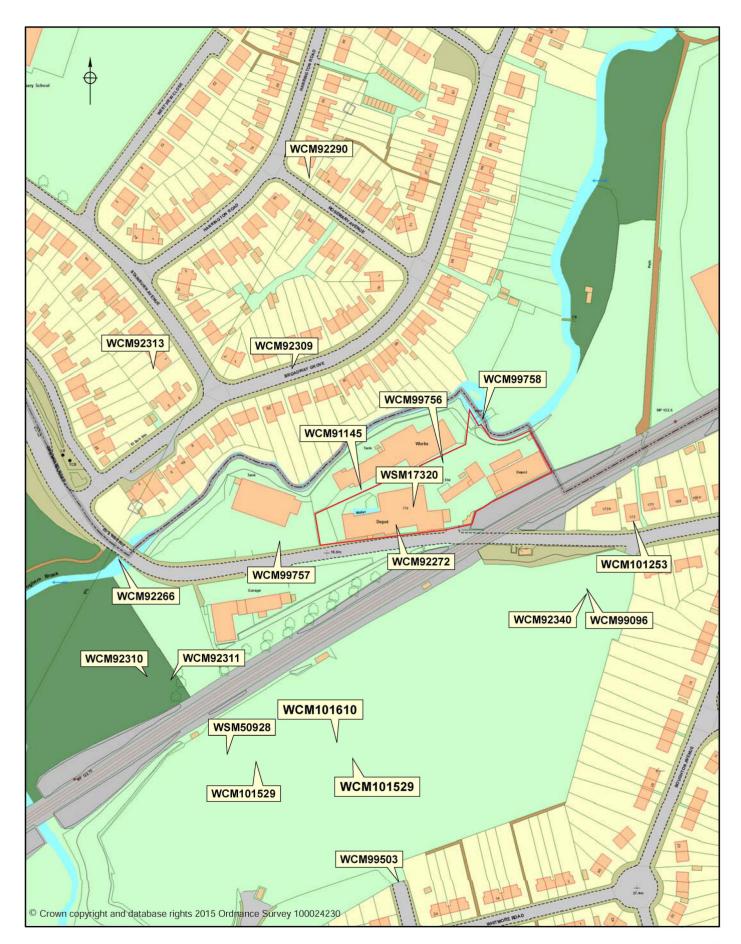
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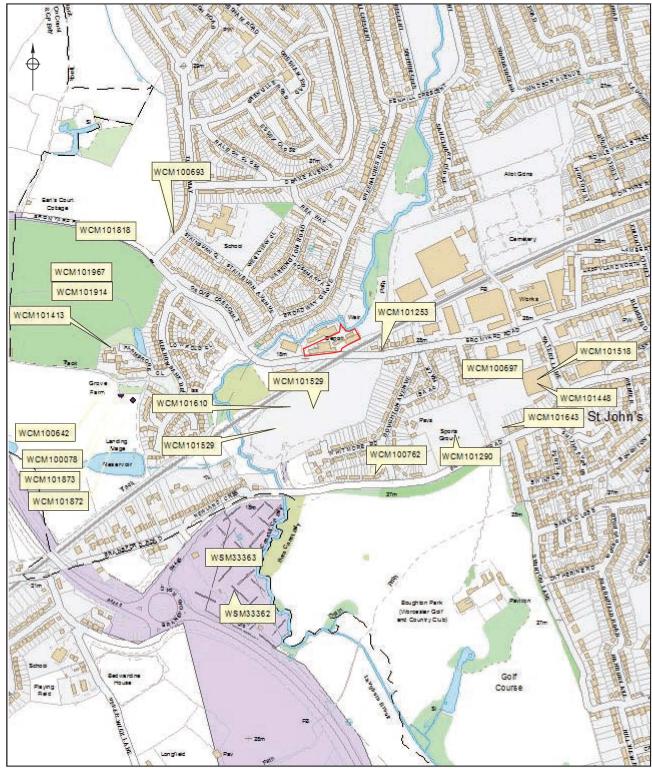
Extract from 1950s OS map



Phase plan Figure 8



HER buildings and monuments



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HER events

Figure 10

Plates



Plate 1 Possible grain drying building looking north-east



Plate 2 Roof truss of possible grain drying building looking north-east



Plate 3 The corn mill in the 1880s looking north-east

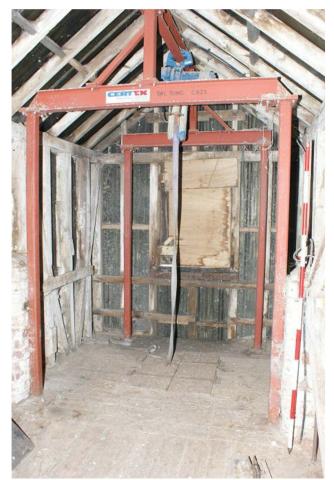


Plate 4 Interior of the Lucam on the sixth floor looking south-east



Plate 5 The mill and associated buildings looking north-east



Plate 6 Roof truss visible on the sixth floor looking north-east



Plate 7 Construction marks on roof trusses

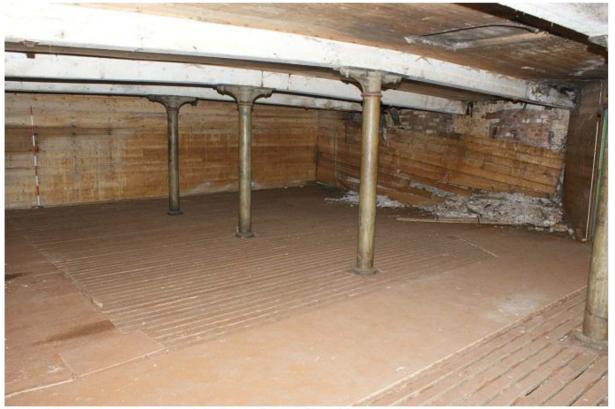


Plate 8 Larger room on the sixth floor of the mill looking south-east



Plate 9 Larger room on the fifth floor of the mill looking south-east



Plate 10 Larger room on the third floor of the mill looking south-east



Plate 11 Inserted staircase, on the third floor looking north-west



Plate 12 Wear on an internal wall showing the position of a former winch, looking north-west



Plate 13 Gap in the floor joists for an internal winch hatch on the third floor



Plate 14 Former house, looking north



Plate 15 The house c 1890-1910, looking north-east



Plate 16 Sash windows on the first floor of the house looking south-west



Plate 17 Former storage building, looking north-east



Plate 18 Rear of former storage building, looking south



Plate 19 Gable of former storage building, looking west



Plate 20 Possible former stables (middle) and later two storey extension (left), looking north-west



Plate 21 Early 20th century view across the mill pond, looking south-west

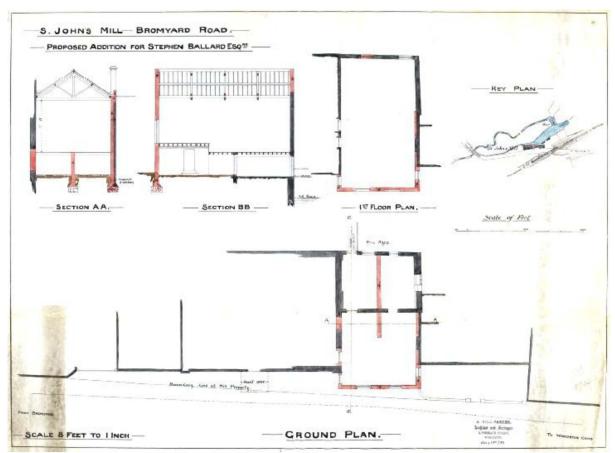


Plate 22 Application for an extension in 1899 (Application number 2756)



Plate 23 Gable of 1899 storage building, looking north



Plate 24 1905-28 cooling building, looking south-east



Plate 25 Cooling bars within the former mill race, looking south-east



Plate 26 Insulating doors within the former mill building

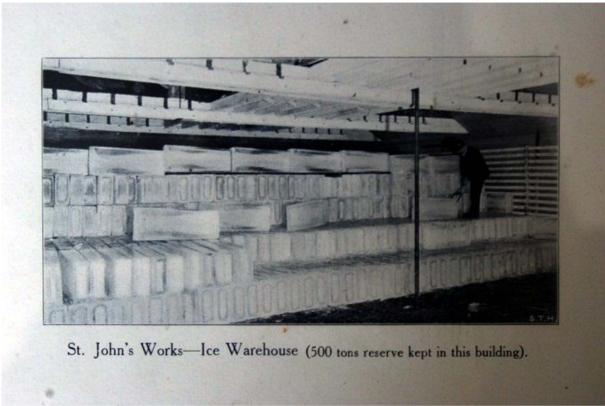


Plate 27 Early 20th century photograph showing ice storage within the site



Plate 28 1934 extension (left) to the possible former stables, looking north

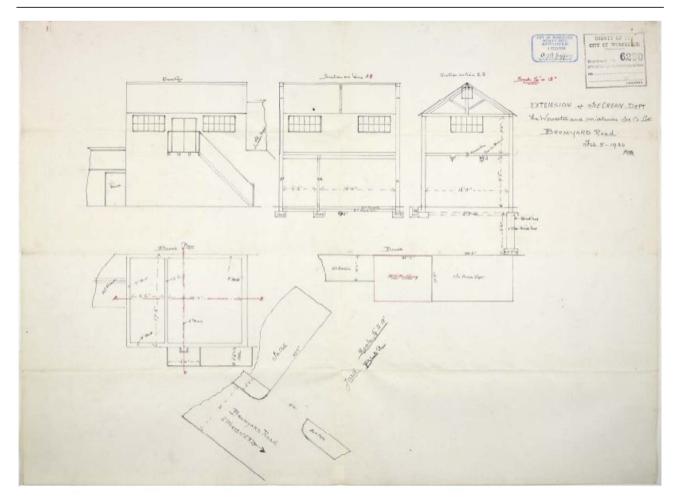


Plate29 1934 planning application (Application number 6230)

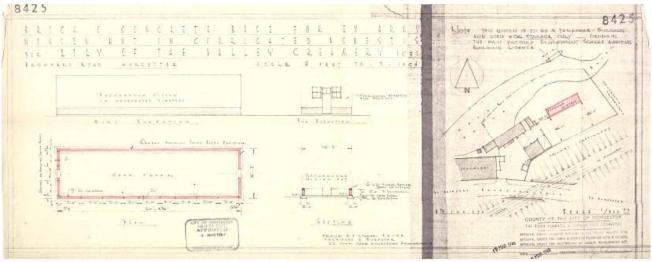


Plate 30 1942 Planning application (Application number 8425)



Plate 31 1942 Nissen hut, looking south-east



Plate 32 c 1942 single storey buildings, looking south



Plate 33 Post 1950s storage units, looking north-east



Plate 34 Post 1950s storage unit, looking south-west

Appendix 1 Heritage assets registered with the Historic Environment Record (those within the application site are indicated in bold)

HER number (and legal status)	Site name	Grid reference	Record type	Date	Description
WSM09914	Moat, Grove Farm, Worcester	SO 8240 5430	Monument	Medieval to post medieval	Moated site will 18 th century farm house
WSM17320	Mills, Laughern Brook	SO 8285 5415	Monument	Medieval to post medieval	Locations of possible mills on Laughern Brook
WSM31078	Holloway south of Earls Court Farm, Rushwick	SO 8189 5480	Monument	Post Roman to medieval	Possible holloway
WSM31668	Railway Line from Worcester to Hereford	SO 8057 5048	Monument	Post medieval to modern	Railway
WCM91067	Grove Farm moat	SO 8242 5429	Monument	Medieval	Moat on the east side of Grove Farm
WCM91068	Grove Farm	SO 8242 5429	Monument	Medieval to post medieval	Grove Farm group record
WCM91144	Grove Farm	SO 8242 5427	Building	Post medieval	Grove Farm House, 18 th century in date
WCM91145	New Mill, Laughern D'Abitot	SO 8287 5431	Monument	Medieval	Probable site of medieval New Mill
WCM92245	Defence manufacture, F Bryan Ltd, 158 Bromyard Road	SO 8315 5433	Monument	Modern	Aircraft factory during the Second World War
WCM92265	Road block, Bridge, Bransford Road	SO 8281 5396	Monument	Modern	Second World War road block
WCM92266	Road block, Bromyard Road	SO 8273 5427	Monument	Modern	Second World War road block
WCM92272	Proposed flame fougasse, The Iceworks, Bromyard Road	SO 8289 5429	Monument	Modern	Proposed position of a flame fougasse during the Second World War
WCM92290	Air raid shelter, Harrington Road, St John's	SO 8284 5449	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelter
WCM92309	Air raid shelter, Broadway Grove, St John's	SO 8283 5438	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelter
WCM92310	Ammunition store, Bromyard Road	SO 8275 5420	Monument	Modern	Ammunition store during the Second World War
WCM92311	Spigot mortar site, Bransford Road	SO 8276 5420	Monument	Modern	Site of a spigot mortar during the Second World War
WCM92313	Air raid shelters, Stainburn Ave, St John's	SO 8275 5438	Monument	Modern	Second World War Trench shelters
WCM92314	Road block (anti- tank cylinders), Bransford Road	SO 8321 5403	Monument	Modern	Second World War anti-tank road block
WCM92122	Air raid spotter's post, J F Willis,	SO 8335 5422	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid

	Watery Lane				spotters post
WCM92165	Meco Works, Bromyard Road (WW2 manufacture)	SO 8332 5432	Monument	Modern	Second World War production site for barrage balloons
WCM92167	J F Willis, Watery Lane, Bromyard Road (WW2 manufacture)	SO 8338 5422	Monument	Modern	Aircraft factory during the Second World War
WCM92172	Air raid shelter, Isaac Walk, Bromyard Road	SO 8316 5418	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelter
WCM92340	Home Guard, Alley & Maclellan, Bromyard Road	SO 8300 5425	Monument	Modern	Second World War home guard office
WCM92367	Aircraft landing obstacles, Golf Club, Bransford Road	SO 8328 5406	Monument	Modern	Second World War anti air craft landing obstacles
WCM92459	Blocked bridge, Laughern Brook, St John's	SO 8305 5458	Monument	Modern	Blocked pedestrian bridge during the Second World War
WCM92485	Air raid shelter, Meco, Bromyard Road	SO 8337 5442	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelter
WCM92486	Air raid shelter, Meco, Bromyard Road	SO 8319 5434	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelter
WCM92487	Anti-aircraft position, Meco, Bromyard Road	SO 8327 5438	Monument	Modern	Second World War anti air craft defence site
WCM92497	Air raid shelter, Boughton Avenue	SO 8309 5423	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelter
WCM92498	Air raid shelters, Whitmore Road	SO 8290 5404	Monument	Modern	Second World War air raid shelters
WCM99138	Bridge over Laughern Brook, Bromyard Road	SO 82736 54272	Monument	Modern	Bridge over the Laughern Brook, early 20 th century
WCM99139	Bridge over Laughern Brook, Bransford Road	SO 82798 53964	Monument	Modern	Bridge over the Laughern Brook
WCM99237	Frank Bryan's manufactory, Bromyard Road	SO 83141 54324	Monument	Modern	Clothes and sports items manufacturing factory
WCM98206	St John's Mill (Ice works)	SO 8289 5430	Building	Post medieval to Modern	St Johns Mill and Ice Works buildings
WCM98438	172 Bromyard Road	SO 8302 5429	Building	Post medieval	19 th century cottage standing of the foundations of an earlier building
WCM98588	Cricket pavilion, Sports ground, Bransford Road	SO 83102 54119	Building	Post Medieval	19 th century cricket pavilion
WCM99054	Railings, Oak House, Bromyard Road	SO 83309 54333	Monument	Modern	Railings
WCM99096	Alley & McLellan Factory,	SO 83000 54253	Monument	Modern	Factory that produced steam

	Bromyard Road: aka Sentinel Valve Works				engine valves and pistons
WCM99495	Gate Piers to Boughton House, Bransford Road	SO 8327 5405	Monument	Post medieval	Gate piers
WCM99503	Gates & railing to Kays, Whitmore Road	SO 8289 5408	Monument	Modern	Gates and railings
WCM99694	Shops, Broadway Grove	SO 8274 5431	Building	Modern	20 th century shops
WSM56001	Moat, Grove Farm, Non Civil Parish	Not recorded	Monument	Undated	Possible moat
WSM50928	Farm Buildings, Site of Outfarm south east of The Grove, Worcester	SO 8279 5414	Monument	Post medieval to modern	Former out farm buildings
WSM50930	Site of Outfarm south of The Stalls, Worcester	SO 8321 5422	Monument	Post medieval	Former out farm buildings
WSM51828	Farmhouse, Grove Farm (The Grove), Worcester	SO 8241 5427	Monument	Post medieval to modern	Farmhouse, 18 th century in date
WSM53240	Site of The Stalls, Worcester	SO 8323 5435	Monument	Post medieval	Site of Stalls Farm
WSM53345	Linear Farmstead, east of Ice and Cold Storage Works, Worcester	SO 8303 5424	Monument	Post medieval	Former farmstead
WCM99756	Mill pond, St John's Mill	SO 8291 5432	Monument	Medieval to modern	Mill pond
WCM99758	Weir, St John's Mill	SO 8294 5435	Monument	Medieval to modern	Weir in Laughern brook, part of St Johns mill