

Archaeological watching brief at 52, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire Archaeology
Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester
WR1 3PD

Status:
Date: 7 March 2016
Author: Pete Lovett plovett@worcestershire.gov.uk
Contributors: Rob Hedge
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt and Pete Lovett
Project reference: P4724
Report reference: 2311
HER reference: WSM 67397
Oasis id fieldsec1-231605

Contents
Summary

1

Report

1 Background.....	2
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
2 Aims.....	2
3 Methods.....	2
3.1 Personnel.....	2
3.2 Documentary research	2
3.3 List of sources consulted	2
3.4 Fieldwork strategy	2
3.5 Structural analysis	3
4 The application site	3
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use	3
5 Structural analysis.....	3
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	3
5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits	4
5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits	4
5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge	4
6 Synthesis	4
7 Publication summary	5
8 Acknowledgements	5
9 Bibliography.....	5

Archaeological watching brief at 52, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

Pete Lovett

With contributions by Rob Hedge

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 52, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8512 4041). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr Edward Tottman and Mrs Sylvia Tottman, who have demolished existing outbuildings and intend to construct a new garden room, with associated alterations. Planning permission was approved by Malvern District Council (ref. MH/15/00346/HOU), subject to archaeological conditions.

The project revealed a vaulted brick cellar, which was associated with a now demolished late 18th century cottage in the backyard area of 52, Old Street. This cottage would have been accessed via a footpath that has now been incorporated into no. 52. Deposits probably associated with the 18th century development of the site were revealed in three of the four small trenches excavated during the project; the fourth contained pottery typical of a domestic 19th century assemblage.

No significant archaeological deposits, structures, layers or horizons were identified, nor artefacts recovered.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 52, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8512 4041). It was commissioned by Mr Edward Tottman and Mrs Sylvia Tottman, who have demolished existing outbuildings and intend to construct a new garden room, with associated alterations. Planning permission was approved by Malvern District Council (ref. MH/15/00346/HOU), subject to archaeological conditions.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM 16848).

The project conforms to a generic brief prepared by Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2014) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2015).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010),

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WSM 67397.

2 Aims

The aims of the watching brief 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 constraints of the Client's groundworks.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Pete Lovett (BSc (hons.)) and Graham Arnold (BA (hons.), MSc), assisted by Aiden Woodger (BA, MSc, PCIfA) and Jamie Wilkins (BA (hons.) PCIfA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA) and Pete Lovett; Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1841 Upton-upon-Severn tithe plan, 1:10,000 transcribed by David Gyatt
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey map
- 1904 Ordnance Survey Map

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 23 November 2015 and 16 February 2016. The site reference number and site code is WSM 67397.

An area of 16m² was initially reduced (Trench 1). Concrete flooring and drainage hardcore was removed to a maximum depth of 0.40m. This revealed a brick built, vaulted cellar in the western

side of the site. Four small footings (Trenches F1-4) were then excavated toward the corners of Trench 1, to a maximum depth of 1m below the former ground surface. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples (as appropriate), as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

3.5 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.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The bedrock geology is made up of Branscombe Mudstone Formation with superficial deposits of Worcester Member sands, gravels, clay and silt (BGS 2015).

Upton-upon-Severn is mentioned in the Domesday Book, due to the presence of a church around which settlement would have developed, although such occupation is not well documented until the 15th century (Dalwood 1996). The planned medieval street system (WSM 19761) continued into the post-medieval period with little change. New Street is recorded in documents dating to the late 15th century (*ibid* p4), although the oldest extant building is the 14th century tower of St Peter and St Paul (WSM 4581). Within the 100m search area of the site the HER records 26 Listed Buildings, dating to between the 16th and 19th centuries.

No 52, Old Street is a Grade II Listed Building (WSM 16848; 1227198). It is listed along with no 48 and is described in the HER record as a

Low later 18th century cottage pair. One storey and attic. Painted brick. Plain tile roofs. Two dormers. Modern casement window to No.48. Shallow small bow window of about 1800 and door with traceried narrow fanlight to No.50. Taller gabled rear to No.48. One range with No.54 adjoining.

Originally narrower than the present construction, the front door was accessed from a footpath that led from the street frontage along the northern side of the house, to a second cottage situated along the east side of Backfields Lane. This second cottage was demolished during the 20th century, after which point No 52 was extended to the north to absorb the now redundant passageway. The land upon which the other cottage had stood was subsequently occupied by a series of outbuildings.

4.2 Current land-use

The site was formerly an area of outbuildings to the rear of 52, Old Street (Figure 1). These had been demolished and most of the hardstanding had been broken up.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2 and Plates 1-10. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits were encountered only in Trench F3 to the north-east. They consisted of firm reddish brown sands and gravels.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits

A brick vaulted cellar, 103, was uncovered in the western side of the Trench 1 ground reduction and continued beyond the western extent of the trench. It had been backfilled with rubble and was overlain by the concrete floor of the yard (Plates 1, 3, 9 and 10). The eastern cellar wall had an opening in its centre (Plate 8). This opening suggests that the entrance to the cellar was accessed on this side, though the groundworks did not extend to a sufficient depth to determine this. The cellar was approximately 4m wide, with bricks measuring 8.5" x 4.25" x 3", bonded with a firm pinkish cream mortar with occasional charcoal flecks.

A vertical cut, 105, was noted in Trench F3 (Plate 5). This cut the natural gravel, and was backfilled with a soft brownish grey silty sand. This fill, 104, was observed in Trench F1 also (Plate 4). The material that was observed in Trench F2 was a reddish brown clay, but may well have been within the same feature or phase of activity as defined by cut 105 (Plate 7). Trench F4 was unique in containing artefacts; an assemblage of transfer print ceramics and other domestic pottery was retrieved, along with ceramic building material (CBM) rubble from a reddish brown silty sand (108) (Plate 8).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A series of modern concrete wall footings and intrusions such as drainage trenches were observed over the east side of the development area. These were overlaid by modern type 1 hardcore and a concrete floor yard surface (Plate 2).

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

Dump deposit (108) contained four sherds of 19th century pottery: two sherds (40g) from transfer-printed stone china plates (fabric 85), a single 13g rim sherd from a spongeware (fabric 101) jug and a large (217g) rim sherd from a substantial orangeware (fabric 90) vessel, probably a pancheon, with a distinctive external 'lug' handle beneath and perpendicular to the rim.

The artefactual assemblage comprises typical 19th century domestic tablewares and kitchenware.

6 Synthesis

The cellar was originally associated with a cottage that is visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, which was accessed via a path that ran down the northern side of No 52. This path has since been incorporated into No 52, following the demolition of the western cottage. It is likely that these two cottages were contemporary, which would date the cellar to the late 18th century. The opening in the east wall of the cellar indicates that it was accessed externally from the shared yard on this side.

The presence of a previously unknown vaulted brick cellar in the back yard of No 52 Old Street had a detrimental effect on the survival of earlier deposits. It also required a change to the project design of the current development, reducing the size of the footings required. Therefore a smaller window into the underlying deposits was available. The material revealed in Trenches F1 and F2 was likely to have been associated with the construction of the cellar in the 18th century, possibly sitting within cut 105, as seen in F3 (Plate 5).

It was suggested by the client that No 52 had a similar cellar beneath it but that it had been backfilled by a previous owner. The cottage had also been extended to the north and west during the 20th century, encroaching upon the shared yard surface between the original two buildings. The ceramics recovered from Trench F4 were within a dump deposit, though it was impossible to determine whether that deposit was a layer of made ground or contained within a cut feature. The dating of the ceramics to the 19th century would suggest that the deposit was not associated with the construction of the cellar.

Work in the 1990s mapped the extent of 18th and 19th century cellarage within Upton-upon-Severn (Dalwood 1996, 9), and this watching brief adds to the understanding of the density of post-medieval development and its effect on buried archaeological deposits.

7 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 Mr Tottman and Mrs Tottman at 52 Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8512 4041; HER ref WSM 67397).

The ground reduction revealed a vaulted brick cellar, which was associated with a now demolished late 18th century cottage in the backyard area of 52 Old Street. This cottage would have been accessed via a footpath that has now been incorporated into No 52. Deposits probably associated with the 18th century development of the site were revealed in three of four small foundation trenches excavated; the fourth contained pottery typical of a domestic 19th century assemblage. No significant archaeological deposits, structures, layers or horizons were identified, nor artefacts recovered.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr Edward Tottman and Mrs Sylvia Tottman (52, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn), and Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

9 Bibliography

BGS 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed 24 November 2015

CIfA 2014 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Dalwood, H, 1996 *Archaeological assessment of Upton upon Severn, Hereford and Worcester*, Worcestershire Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council

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

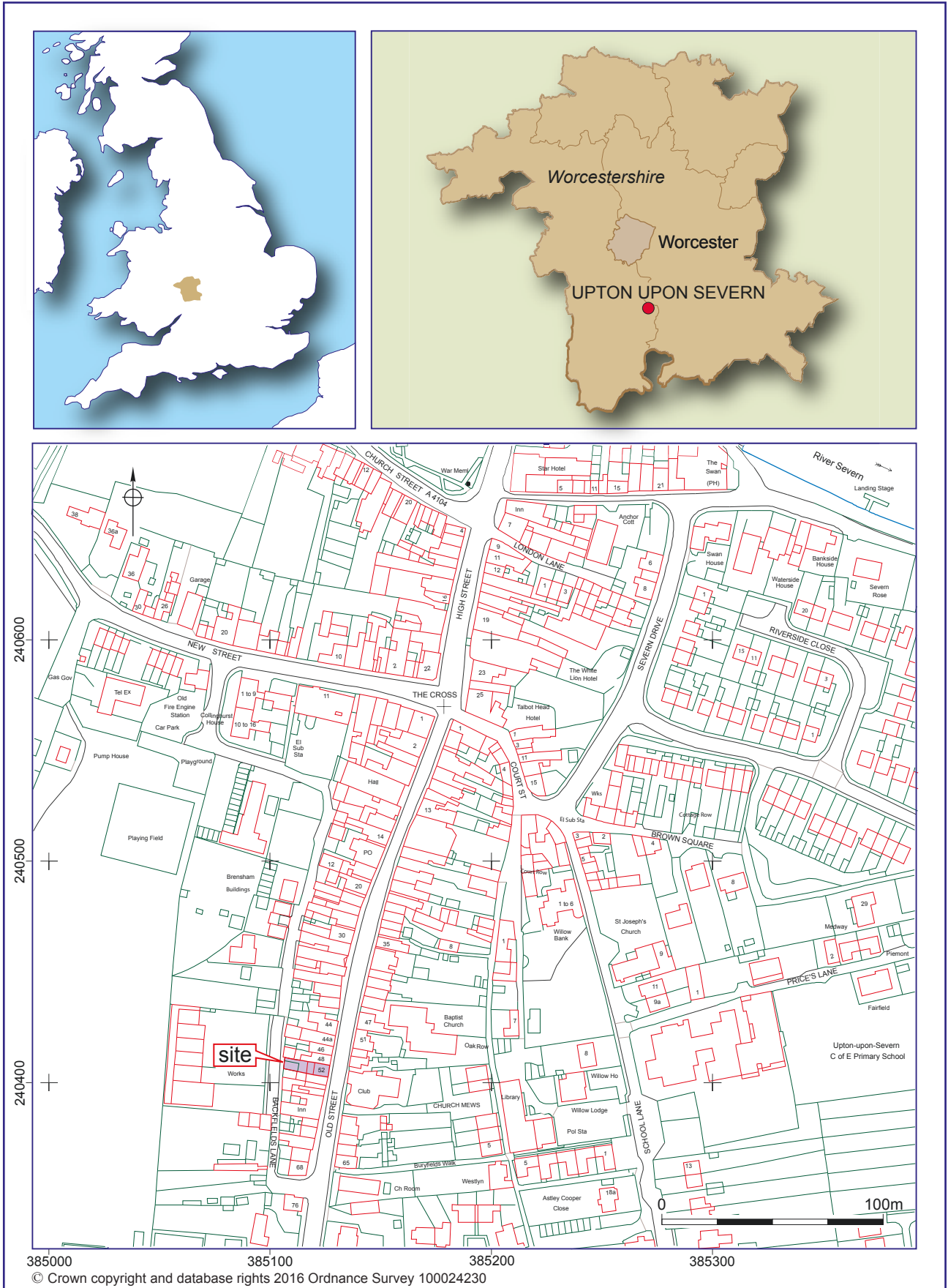
WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2015 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at 52 Old Street, Upton Upon Severn, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 5 November 2015, **P4724**

WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended July 2012

WCC 2014 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Planning Consent*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, Version 1, dated September 2014

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of trenches and features

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 The brick vaulted cellar looking west (1m scale)



Plate 2 The concrete floor overlying the cellar and modern drainage, looking east (1m scales)



Plate 3 Close up of the vaulted brick cellar, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 4 Trench F1, looking east (0.5m scale)



Plate 5 Trench F3, looking west (0.5m scale)



Plate 6 Trench F4, looking south (0.5m scale)



Plate 7 Trench F2, looking west (0.5m scale)



Plate 8 Trenches F1-4, looking east (1m scales)



Plate 9 Vaulted cellar 103, looking west (1m scales)



Plate 10 Eastern side of cellar 103, looking south (0.5m scale)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1 and Footings 1-4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.00m Width: 4.00m Depth: 1.00m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Concrete floor	Medium orange/brown fine soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal, rare tile and rare clay pipe. Cut by one modern water pipe trench.	0.00 – 0.20m
101	Hardcore	Medium orange friable silty sand with worm sorting and root action present in upper 0.10m. Also cut by water pipe trench.	0.20 – 0.40m
102	Modern concrete footings	Pale orange to pink/orange with patches of grey compact bedded sand and soft sandstone. Contains occasional silt channels and patches of grey silty material. Cut by water pipe trench and modern posthole.	0.30 – 0.40m
103	Cellar	Brick vaulted cellar, 1.80m x 1.00m exposed, up to 4m wide, bricks measuring 4" x 4 1/2" x 8", firm pinkish cream mortar with occasional charcoal flecks	0.20 – 0.60m
104	Construction cut fill	Mixed brick rubble and dark reddish brown silty clay Soft mid brownish grey silty sand	0.65 m +
105	Construction cut	Probably associated with cellar 103	
106	Natural	Firm mid reddish brown sand. Only identified in F3.	
107	Construction cut	Firm mid brownish red sandy clay	0.65m
108	Layer	Probable dump deposit, Reddish brown silty sand with rubble and pottery sherds	0.65m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 67397)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 31 Digital photographs
- 2 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Museums Worcestershire
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416
