

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF  
OF  
THE CITY CENTRE GAS MAIN  
REPLACEMENT WORKS,  
WORCESTER

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Project 3675  
Report 1856  
WCM 101869



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## **Archaeological watching brief of the City Centre Gas Main Replacement Works, Worcester**

**Elizabeth A Curran**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of the City Centre Gas Main Replacement Works, Worcester (NGR SO 85030 54650 to SO 85170 54970).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Enterprise Managed Services Ltd, whose client, the National Grid Gas plc, intend to replace existing gas mains located in Worcester city centre, within High Street, Church Street, The Shambles (short stretch), Mealcheapen Street, and Cornmarket. National Grid Gas plc undertook the works under permitted development right.

This report on an archaeological watching brief describes and assesses the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest potentially affected by the application. The impact of the application on the significance is assessed.

A horizontal brick structure was observed within the western section of Trench 18 outside the Guildhall. It was comprised of one bonded course of brick and appeared to continue beyond the edge of the excavation. The size of the bricks dates their manufacture to the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the limited portion of the structure uncovered it is unclear whether it formed part of the Guildhall foundations, although a more likely conclusion is that the structure once formed part of an earlier street surface.

Analysis of the bricks from the rounded culvert exposed within the Cornmarket indicates that it was constructed post 1840. Culverts of similar construction have been observed elsewhere within the city.

The excavations were concentrated over the existing gas main, which was observed in the base of every trench. Various additional utility services also were present in most of the trenches. The deposits observed within the trenches were also considered to be of modern origin attributed to the backfill of the pre-existing gas main trench.



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## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Planning background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of the City Centre Gas Main Replacement Works, Worcester (NGR SO 85030 54650 to SO 85170 54970) (Fig 1), on behalf of Enterprise Managed Services Ltd and their client, the National Grid Gas plc. They intended to replace existing gas mains located in Worcester city centre, within High Street, Church Street, The Shambles (short stretch), Mealcheapen Street, and Cornmarket. National Grid Gas plc undertook the works under permitted development right.

The proposed development site is considered to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application (HER ref WCM 96269).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008)

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section (WCMAS 2011) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2011).

### 2. Aims

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

More specifically the following aims have been identified (WCMAS 2011), based on research priorities (RP) identified within *Worcester Urban Archaeology Strategy - an archaeological resource assessment and research framework for the city of Worcester* (WCMAS 2007):

- Roman origins of the High Street (RP3.5)
- Identification of survival of Roman landscape elements (RP4.5)
- The Anglo-Saxon High Street (RP4.15)

### 3. Methods

#### 3.1 Documentary search

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

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

##### 3.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2011).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 4 April 2011 and 17 July 2011. The site reference number and site code is WCM 101869.

Observation and recording of archaeological deposits were undertaken during and after hand excavation and was restricted to those areas of ground disturbance concentrated over the existing gas main. 26 trenches, amounting to approximately 92m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over existing gas mains within the following streets: High Street, Church Street, The Shambles, Mealcheapen Street, and Cornmarket. Much of the gas main was replaced by insertion into the existing main rather than open excavation. 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 well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

Close inspection and detailed recording of Trenches 1 to 7 was not possible due to health and safety considerations.

### 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 (CAS 1995; appendix 2). In the event, no artefacts were identified.

### 3.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### 3.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the event, no deposits or horizons were identified which were considered suitable for environmental analysis, so no samples were taken.

### 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 watching brief incorporated groundworks at various locations along the High Street, with additional trenches at Fish Street, Church Street, The Shambles and Corn Market. All trenches are located within the historic core of Worcester city and lie within the medieval city wall.

The geology of the site is characterised by sand and gravel of the Second (Worcester) Terrace of the River Severn, which overlies Mercian Mudstone (Keuper Marl; Barclay *et al* 1993). Underlying the whole historic city of Worcester, the terrace rises to a maximum height of *c* 26m AOD.

The history of Worcester was initially described in *The Origins of Worcester* (Barker 1969). This was later to be extended to produce an updated archaeological study of the medieval settlement (Carver 1980). A great number of archaeological investigations have revealed a long and complex sequence of occupation dating from the later prehistoric period onwards. One of the most significant excavations was at Deansway, and the subsequent publication has provided a broad framework for the city centre (Dalwood and Edwards 2004).

The High Street broadly in its present form has been documented from the 10<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Conjectural evidence suggests that the line of the Roman Road would be near to the current High Street, passing along the top of an irregular gravel ridge to the Roman settlement (WCM 96400). Earlier metallised surfaces have been discovered at some depth beneath the High Street (WCM 100276, WCM 101283), which support the possibility of a Roman road alignment here.

The medieval Guildhall (WCM 96067), first documented in 1249, was the principal market area. The area including High Street, Shambles and Friar Street formed the medieval commercial centre, a function that was retained throughout the post-medieval and later periods.



The High Street was widened between 1884 and 1904. Observations during the 1970's revealed the presence of stone foundations of buildings pre-dating the widening. A more recent archaeological watching brief at the High Street (WCM 101271) revealed a sequence of medieval metalled surfaces, with the frequency, thickness and quality increasing in the area of the Guildhall (Napthan 2006).

During these archaeological investigations cellars and foundations relating to the former frontages were revealed that reflected the medieval plot divisions. Three medieval stone built cellars were identified and additional medieval walls were recorded incorporated within later cellars (Napthan 2006). Additional vaulted cellars have also been recorded along the High Street at various locations (WCM 101351, 96206, 96203, 96202, and \96201).

A further archaeological watching brief covered a variety of areas across the city centre including Park Street, Edgar Street, The Cross, The Shambles, Mealcheapen Street, Cornmarket, Charles Street and Pump Street (WCM 101144, 101091, and 101142). At The Cross and Angel Street material relating to Roman industrial waste was discovered. This suggested iron smelting was a major industry in the Roman period. Similar deposits were also revealed in The Shambles however the deposits were undatable. Elsewhere, all other areas of groundworks showed high levels of modern truncation from services and no significant archaeological deposits were revealed.

Monitoring of the gas main replacement works in 2009 revealed deposits of potential archaeological interest outside King Charles House and at the junction of New Street and Cornmarket (Napthan 2009). Limited observations of a trench outside Kind Charles House revealed medieval soil horizons within 0.80m of the current street level. The area observed within the Cornmarket was heavily disturbed by service trenches, however, beneath the existing gas main there appeared to be undisturbed soil horizons.

## 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

At no point during the excavation of the trenches was the natural undisturbed matrix observed.

#### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

No archaeological deposits or artefacts from this period were present. While all the trenches were located within the medieval walled town, the trenches were within the extent of the existing gas main trench cut and did not impact upon any surrounding archaeological deposits.

#### 5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

A horizontal brick structure (1802) was revealed 0.57m below the ground surface, in the west facing section of Trench 18 (Figure 3, Plate 7). The structure was constructed of bricks of similar size and fabric, with each brick measuring 3 inches deep and 4½ inches wide. It was not possible to measure the length of the bricks as they continued beyond the limit of excavation.

#### 5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits

Trench 7 within the Cornmarket was dug to a depth of 1.70m below the ground surface. The uppermost layer comprised of Tarmac (700). Below this was a mix of grey type 1 hardcore and concrete (701) and beneath this was a further aggregate layer comprising of fine brown-orange sands (Plate 3). Observed in the northern corner of the trench was a rounded brick

culvert, 1.60m below the ground surface (Plate 2). Due to health and safety reasons access to the trench was not possible and no detailed recording was possible.

Trenches 22, 23 and 25 were excavated within the southern and central area of Church Street (Plates 10 and 12). The maximum depth of excavation was between 0.45m and 1.70m below the present ground surface. The uppermost layer comprised street paviors and the associated bedding sand (22001, 22002, 23001, 23002, 25000 and 25001). Below this was a layer of tarmac 0.17m below the ground surface. This overlay and sealed a further made ground deposit (22005, 23004 and 25004). Similar sequences of deposits were revealed within Trench 24, however only in the western section (Plate 11).

All 26 trenches revealed a range of modern utility services together with modern made ground and various aggregates (contexts 102, 202, 302,401, 502, 601, 802, 903, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1302, 1402, 1502, 1702, 1901, 20001, 21003, 25005, 23004, 24002, and 25004).

## 6. **Synthesis**

### 6.1 **Post-medieval**

The horizontal brick structure was only observed within the western section of Trench 18. It comprised one bonded course of brick and possibly continued beyond the edge of the excavation. The size of the bricks dates their manufacture to the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the limited portion of the structure uncovered it is unclear whether it formed part of the Guildhall foundations. There is no evidence to confirm whether it was of load bearing capacity and it was not possible to determine the type of bonding used in its construction. A more likely conclusion is that the structure once formed part of an earlier floor or street surface.

### 6.2 **Modern**

The rounded culvert observed within Trench 7 was constructed of red bricks measuring 9 inches long and 3 inches deep which suggests the culvert was constructed post 1840 (WCC Brick Reference Collection). Culverts of similar construction have been observed elsewhere within the city.

The excavations were concentrated over the existing gas main, which was observed in the base of every trench. Various additional utility services also were present in most of the trenches. The deposits observed within the trench were also considered to be of modern origin attributed to the backfill of the pre-existing gas main trench.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century deposits revealed within Trenches 22, 23, 24 and 25 were considered to be the result of the successive re-surfacing of the pavement along Church Street.

### 6.3 **Research frameworks**

An archaeological resource assessment and research framework for the city of Worcester has identified the Roman origins of the High Street (RP3.5), Identification of survival of Roman landscape elements (RP4.5), The Anglo-Saxon High Street (RP4.15) as research priorities.

Due to the limited scope of the groundworks (which did not extend beyond the limits of the previous gas main trenches), the project did not provide any further information or substantial findings regarding these identified research aims.

## 7. **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.

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Enterprise Managed Services Ltd, whose client, the National Grid Gas plc, intend to replace existing gas mains located in*

*Worcester city centre, within High Street, Church Street, The Shambles (short stretch), Mealcheapen Street, and Cornmarket (NGR SO 85030 54650 to SO 85170 54970; WCM 101869).*

*The horizontal brick structure was observed outside the Guildhall. It comprised of one bonded course of brick and appeared to continue beyond the edge of the excavation. The size of the bricks dates their manufacture to the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the limited portion of the structure uncovered it is unclear whether it formed part of the Guildhall foundations, although a more likely conclusion is that the structure once formed part of an earlier street surface.*

*Analysis of the bricks from the rounded culvert observed within the Cornmarket suggests the culvert was constructed post 1840. Culverts of similar construction have been observed elsewhere within the city.*

*The excavations were concentrated over the existing gas main, which was observed in the base of every trench. Various additional utility services also were present in most of the trenches. The deposits observed within the trench were also considered to be of modern origin attributed to the backfill of the pre-existing gas main trench.*

## 8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Darrell Williams (National Grid Gas), Andrew Smith (Enterprise Managed Services Ltd), James Dinn (Archaeology Officer, Worcester City Council) and Sheena Payne-Lunn (HER Officer, Worcester City Council).

## 9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Elizabeth A Curran. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Elizabeth A Curran, Graham Arnold, Adam Lee and Jon Webster, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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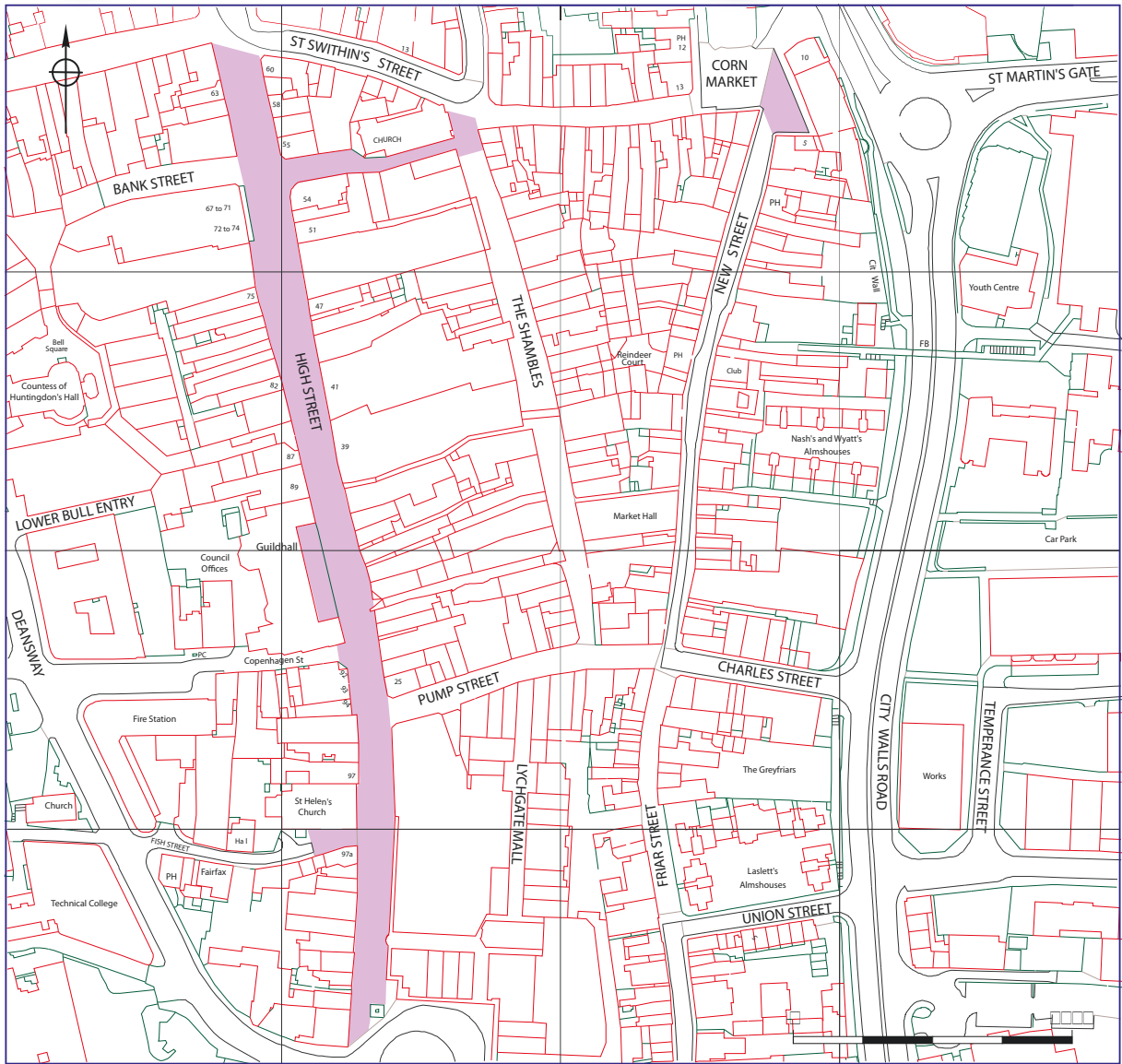
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## **Figures**

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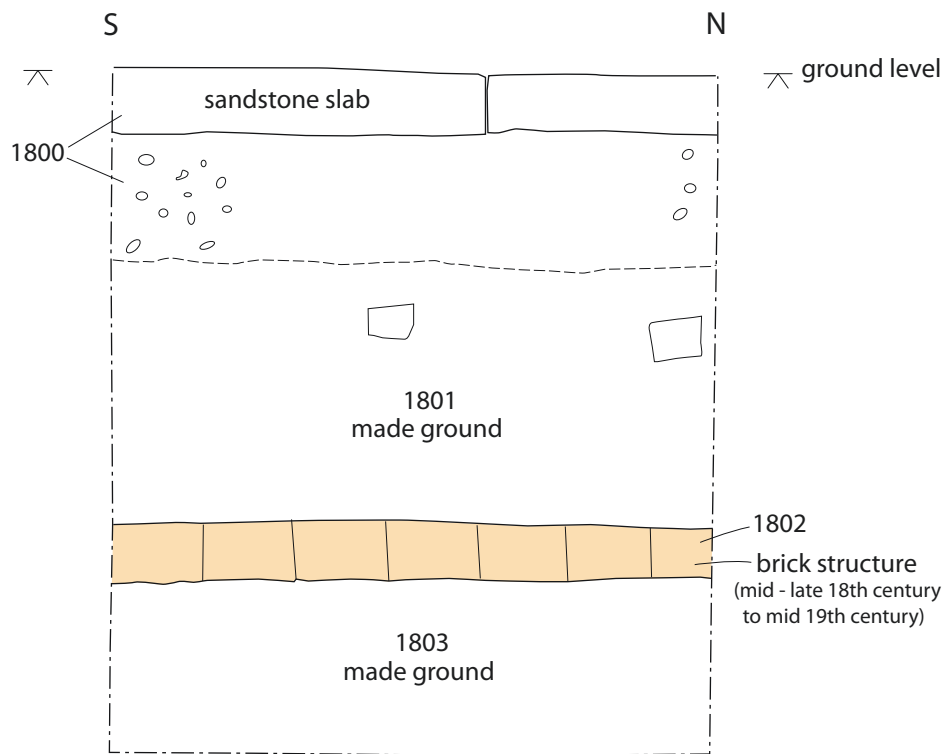
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# TRENCH 18: EAST-FACING SECTION



## Plates



*Plate 1: General view of Trench 3 from the south*



*Plate 2: Culvert 703 observed within Trench 7 from the east*



*Plate 3: East facing section of Trench 7*



*Plate4: North facing section of Trench 9*

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*Plate 5: General view of Trench 10 from the south*



*Plate 6: General view of Trench 15 from the south*



*Plate 7: Structure 1802 observed in the east facing section of Trench 18*



*Plate 8: Location of Trench 18 near the Guildhall from the east*

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*Plate 9: East facing of Trench 21*



*Plate 10: East facing section of Trench 22*



*Plate 11: North facing section of Trench 24*



*Plate 12: North facing section of Trench 25*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Site area: 101, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2m approx Width: 0.80m approx Depth: 08.0m approx

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Street Surface	Paviments on sand bed.	0.00-0.20m approx
101	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore.	0.15-0.25m approx
102	Made ground	Mid –dark black-brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed.	0.25m+

### Trench 2

Site area: 9, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1m approx Width: 1m approx Depth: 1m approx

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Street Surface	Paviments on sand bed.	0.00-0.20m approx
201	Tarmac	Previous street surface.	0.15-0.30m approx
202	Made ground	Mid –dark black-brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. 1 fragment of red brick observed. No discrete layers or horizons observed.	0.30m+

### Trench 3

Site area: 95, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.20m Width: 0.80m Depth: 1m

Orientation: E-W

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Street Surface	Paviments on sand bed.	0.00-0.10m
301	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore.	0.10m-0.40m
302	Made ground	Mid –dark black-brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed.	0.40m+



Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
303	Concrete	Layer of concrete within base of trench associated with live electric mains.	0.80m

#### Trench 4

Site area: 102, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3m approx Width: 1m approx Depth: 0.80m approx

Orientation: N-S

##### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Street Surface	Paviments on sand bed.	0.00-0.25m
401	Made ground	Mid –dark blackish-grey brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed..	0.25m+

#### Trench 5

Site area: 97, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1m approx Width: 0.60m approx Depth: 0.60m approx

Orientation: N-S

##### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Street Surface	Paviments on sand bed.	0.00-0.20m
501	Concrete	Grey white layer of concrete observed in southern elevation of trench..	0.20-0.34m
502	Made ground	Mid –light greyish-orange brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed.	0.30m

#### Trench 6

Site area: 96, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1m approx Width: 0.60m approx Depth: 0.60m approx

Orientation: N-S

##### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Street Surface	Paviments on sand bed.	0.00-0.30m
601	Made ground	Mid –dark black-brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed	0.30m+

**Trench 7**

Site area: Cornmarket

Maximum dimensions: Length: XXXXm Width: 0.80-3m approx Depth: 1.70m approx

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Street Surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.14m
701	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore.	0.14-0.40m
702	Sands	Orange brown fine sand, with rare to moderate small rounded pebbles.	0.40m
703	Culvert	Post 1840 rounded culvert. Brick measure 9"x3". Aligned East-West.	1.60m+

**Trench 8**

Site area: 1, Fish Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 1m Depth: 1m

Orientation: E-W

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Street Surface	Paviours on sand bed.	0.00-0.06m
801	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore	0.06-0.20m
802	Made ground	Mid –dark black-brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed	0.20m+

**Trench 9**

Site area: 92, High Street leading to Copenhagen Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4-5m Width: 0.80m Depth: 0.90-1m

Orientation: N-S, E-W

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Street Surface	Paviours on sand bed.	0.00-0.06m
901	Sand	Bedding sand for paviours	0.06-0.20m
902	Street Surface	Observed in north section, layer of tarmac and concrete.	0.20m-0.60m
903	Made ground	Mid –dark black-brown sandy loam. Occasional sub rounded and sub angular pebbles. Rare fragments of sub angular stone. No discrete layers or horizons observed	0.60m-0.75

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
904	Sand	Orange brown fine sand, with rare to moderate small rounded pebbles, covers gas pipe from 1970's.	0.60m+

### Trench 10

Site area: 25, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.80m Width: 0.08m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Street Surface	Tarmac.	0.00-0.15m
1001	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore	0.15-0.50m
1002	Made ground	Mid black brown coarse sandy silt with moderate subrounded small pebbles and occasional medium sized stone.	0.50+

### Trench 11

Site area: 25, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2m Width: 1m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Street Surface	Tarmac.	0.00-0.15m
1101	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore	0.15-0.50m
1102	Made ground	Dark blackish silty sand with occasion subrounded pebbles.	0.50m+

### Trench 12

Site area: junction of High Street and Pump Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.80m Width: 0.70m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Street Surface	Tarmac.	0.00-0.15m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1201	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore	0.15-0.50m
1202	Made ground	Mixed red sands and bark brown silts. Redeposited made ground with concrete encased services and gas pipes. Previously disturbed.	0.50m+

**Trench 13**

Site area: 39, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4m Width: 1.2m Depth: 0.8m

Orientation: NNW-SSE

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Street surface	Sandstone slabs and granite kerb.	0-0.20m
1301	Concrete	Concrete bedding for slabs and kerb.	0.20-0.40m
1302	Backfill over gas main	Hoggin material compact mid orange silty sands and gravel.	0.40m+

**Trench 14**

Site area: 50-51, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.5m Width: 1.5m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Street surface	Sandstone slabs with concrete below	0-0.12m
1401	Street Surface	Tarmac	0.12-0.32
1402	Made ground	Compact mid orange sandy gravel backfill of service trench and grey type 1 hardcore material.	0.32m+

### Trench 15

Site area: 55, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.9m Width: 2.7m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Street Surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.25m
1501	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore	0.25-0.65m
1502	Made ground	Dark grey brown silty sand and red sand modern breeze block service manholes and brickwork associated with services.	0.65m+

### Trench 16

Site area: 60, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.5m Width: 1m Depth: 1m

Orientation: NNW-SSE

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1600	Street surface	Tarmac.	0.00-0.25m
1601	Hardcore	Modern concrete and hardcore.	0.25-0.50m
1602	Backfill of service	Modern backfill deposit over existing gas main mainly orange sand.	0.50m+

### Trench 17

Site area: High Street at Guildhall

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.40m Width: 1.40m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1700	Street Surface	Sandstone slabs underlying mortar and tarmac bedding.	0.00-0.25m
1701	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore with layers of concrete	0.25-0.65m
1702	Backfill over modern services.	Dark orange brown compact sands and small gravels.	0.65m+

**Trench 18**

Site area: Guildhall Square

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.10m Width: 1m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1800	Street Surface	Sandstone slab floor surface with pink gravel and sand underlying..	0.00-0.22m
1801	Made ground	Moderately compact dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent brick and cbm backfilled over existing services.	0.22-0.35m
1802	Horizontal brick structure	Line of brick in west section of trench, measuring 3"x4 ½ "x9". Suggesting mid-late 18 <sup>th</sup> to mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century date. Possible mortar matrix. Possible floor or footing however only limited area exposed.	0.57-0.63m
1803	Made ground	Moderately compact dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent brick and cbm backfilled over existing services.	
1804	Sands	Large rounded river gravels and brick concrete very compact.	

**Trench 19**

Site area: 74, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.4m Width: 2.8m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1900	Street Surface		0.00-0.30m
1901	Backfill over modern services.	Dark orange brown compact sands and small gravels	0.30+

**Trench 20**

Site area: 81, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3m Width: 0.80m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
20000	Street Surface		0.00-0.30m
20001	Backfill over modern services.	Dark orange brown compact sands and small gravels	0.30+

### Trench 21

Site area: 65, High Street and Corner of High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.45-4.80m Width: 0.80m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: N-S, E-W

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
21001	Street Surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.15m
21002	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore with layers of concrete	0.15-0.35m
21003	Made ground	Compact mid orange silty sands and gravel	0.35m+

### Trench 22

Site area: 54, High Street and rear of Church Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.50m Width: 0.45-1.7m Depth: 0.50-0.90m

Orientation: N-S

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
22001	Street Surface	Cobbles.	0.00-0.06m
22002	Sand	Bedding sands.	0.06-0.10m
22003	Street Surface	Tarmac.	0.16-0.36m
22004	Concrete	Visible only in north and west facing sections	0.36-0.54m
22005	Backfill over gas main	Mid brownish orange sands and small gravels.	0.36m+

### Trench 23

Site area: 3, Church Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 0.60m Width: 1m Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: W-E

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
23001	Street Surface	Cobbles.	0.00-0.06m
23002	Sand	Light grey yellow silty sand moderate to soft compaction and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	0.06-0.10m
23003	Street Surface	Tarmac layer	0.16-0.36m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
23004	Backfill over gas main	Mid brownish orange sands and small gravels.	0.36m+

### Trench 24 (Also recorded as Trench 26)

Site area: Corner of St Swithun's Church

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.2m Width: 0.75m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: E-W

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
24000	Street Surface	Paving	0.00-0.06m
24001	Hardcore mix	Coarse mid brown-red orange sands mixed with type 1 hardcore.	0.06-0.36m
24002	Sands	Mid brownish orange sands and small gravels.	0.20m+
24003	Street Surface	Concrete visible in south facing section of trench, former street surface	0.40-0.58m
24004	Street Surface	Tarmac visible in south facing section of trench, former street surface	0.16-0.26m

### Trench 25

Site area: Church Street and corner of 55, High Street

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.1m Width: 0.95m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: E-W

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
25000	Street Surface	Paviours on sand bed.	0.00-0.06m
25001	Sands	Bedding sands.	0.06-0.14m
25002	Street Surface	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.	0.14-0.29m
25003	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore with layers of concrete	0.29-0.50m
25004	Sands	Mid brownish orange sands and small gravels	0.50m+

### Trench 26

See Trench 24 above



**Trench 27**

Site area: The Shambles

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8.50m Width: 0.90m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
27000	Street Surface	Modern block paving.	0.00-0.06m
27001	Hardcore	Grey type 1 hardcore.	0.06-0.26m
27002	Demolition Layer	Dark greyish black silty sand with frequent ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	0.26m+
27003	Backfill over gas main	Similar to 27002. Unable to record depth due to health and safety reasons. Dark grey black silty sand.	

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WCM 101869)**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context records AS1
- 19 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 115 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 8 Scale drawings
- 27 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:

Museums Worcestershire  
Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery  
Foregate Street  
Worcester  
Worcestershire WR1 2PW  
Tel (01299) 25371

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