# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LITTLE SOUTHFIELD STREET, WORCESTER

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With contributions by Dennis Williams

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Project 3495
Report 1764
WCM 101710

## Contents

# Archaeological watching brief at Little Southfield Street, Worcester

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## Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Little Southfield Street, Worcester (NGR SO 8511 5534). It was undertaken on behalf of Firmingers LLP, whose client, Kozbay Ltd, intends to erect an apartment block, for which planning application has been granted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

Six trenches (Trenches 1-5 and 7) and the general reduced level strip (Trench 6) were monitored.

The north-east end of the site was found to have been disturbed down into the natural matrix, probably during construction of the railway embankment in 1859-61. Elsewhere a disturbed cultivation soil was recorded, up to 0.95m deep, across the rest of the site. The small quantity of medieval sherds recovered may be indicative of manuring of agricultural fields in the period, which would be expected given the proximity of the site outside the city walls.

A narrow irregular linear feature along the frontage, dated to the 18$^{th}$-19$^{th}$ centuries, may represent a field boundary ditch or a hedge line or be associated with the laying out of the road system in the 1870s. Two pits toward the south-west end of the site were dated to the late 19$^{th}$-20$^{th}$ centuries and represented rubbish pits or tree bowls associated with the later garden to the rear of Sansome House.

No archaeological features, structures or horizons were observed below the relict soils, nor finds predating the medieval period recovered. It is therefore considered that intensive Roman activity did not extend into this area.

# Part 2 Detailed report

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Little Southfield Street, (NGR SO 8511 5534), Worcester (Fig 1), undertaken on behalf of Firmingers LLP, and their client, Kozbay Ltd. They intend to erect an apartment block with basement parking and have submitted a planning application to Worcester City Council (reference P05A0657), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WCM 94556).

### 1.2 Project parameters

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 2008) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2010).

### 1.3 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 2008), based on research priorities (RP) identified within *Worcester Urban Archaeology Strategy* - a*n archaeological resource assessment and research framework for the city of Worcester* (WCMAS 2007):

- Documenting the extents of Roman Worcester (RP3.30)
- The nature of medieval activity outside the suburbs

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Documentary search

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

### 2.2 Fieldwork methodology

#### 2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2010).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 15 March 2010 and 26 March 2010. The site reference number and site code is WCM 101710.

Six trenches (Trenches 1-5 and 7), amounting to just over 105m², were excavated over the site. In addition a reduced level strip (Trench 6) amounting to *c.* 700m² was excavated approximately 1m deep. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Observation and recording of archaeological deposits was undertaken during and after machine excavation and restricted to those areas of ground disturbance associated with construction (ground breaking and preparation, foundations etc). Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

Access to deep trenches was not made for safety reasons and observations were restricted to those made from the top of the trench. The exposed sections were sufficiently clean to observe well differentiated deposits, although any less clear may not have been identified.

### 2.2.2 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.

## 2.3 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

### 2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, Appendix 4).

### 2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period, and a terminus post quem date produced for each stratified context. These dates were used as a means of determining the broad chronology of the site.

The pottery and ceramic building materials were examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type according to the reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992; HEAS 2009).

## 2.4 Environmental archaeology methodology

### 2.4.1 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.

## 2.5 The methods in retrospect

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

# 3. Topographical and archaeological context

The site is located on the south side of Little Southfield Street, on the corner with Middle Street, to the north of the railway embankment. The site was until recently occupied by lock-up garages, which have since been demolished.

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 site lies to the north-east of the medieval city wall and is adjacent to Foregate Street, a medieval suburb.

The site lies approximately 0.25km outside the area of the known extent of the Roman settlement of Worcester. However Roman activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity. Small quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from archaeological evaluations to the south of the site, at Sansome Place (WCM 100522) which was consistent with manuring scatters suggesting agricultural activity. Similar deposits were found on a site at the junction of Sansome Place and Lion Walk (WCM 100522). An evaluation at Pierpoint Street (WCM 101294), to the west of the site, revealed a small quantity of residual Roman material. An earlier evaluation on the north side of Sansome Street encountered no Roman deposits or artefacts (WCM 100075). Evidence is insufficient to allow a clear understanding of the nature of Roman land-use in the vicinity, although it is conjectured to have been agricultural in nature.

To the south and west lie the medieval suburbs of Foregate Street and Lowesmoor, outside the city walls. However, archaeological evidence for medieval activity has been identified at several sites in the vicinity, providing useful information on the position of the area within the medieval suburban landscape. Evidence of 12$^{th}$-13$^{th}$ activity in the form of a ditch, pit and overlying cultivation soil has been identified on the north side of Sansome Street (WCM 100075). Cultivation soil was also observed during an evaluation on Pierpont Street to the south-west (WCM 101294), where intercutting medieval pits and a gully were revealed, and at Sansome Walk (WCM 101664). Although the archaeological evidence is at present insufficient to characterise the area in detail, desk-based assessments carried out within the vicinity point to limited agricultural and domestic activity from the 12$^{th}$ and 13$^{th}$ centuries (WCM 101320 and 101331).

A substantial amount of evidence relating to post-medieval activities has been identified in the vicinity, including buildings and related occupation deposits, and evidence of industries including sand, gravel and clay extraction at Sansome Place (WCM 100522). The development of deeply cultivated soils within Pierpoint Street has also been recorded from the 17$^{th}$ to the 19$^{th}$ centuries (WCM 100904, 101294 and 101375).

In 2006 the site was the subject of a desk-based assessment and watching brief of boreholes (WCM 101423). The following summary is based on this investigation:

The site lay immediately to the east of and within the grounds of Sansome House, a substantial residence built in the mid 18$^{th}$ century (4-6 Sansome Walk; WCM 96654). The area of Little Southfield Street is depicted on Valentine Green's Map of Worcester 1790 within the bounds of the city. While Little Southfield Street was not in existence at this time, a building on the frontage of *Sanfon Fields Walk* (also recorded on George Young's Map of 1779), is presumed to be Sansome House. The area known as the Arboretum was a resort of the upper echelons of Worcester society in the 18$^{th}$ century. Sansome Walk and the grounds of Sansome House in particular were popular promenades.

After the death of the owner in 1804 the estate was auctioned off in nine separate lots and Sansome House spilt into two (Covins 1989, 11). The northern portion was distinguished as Sansome Lodge. The land in the immediate vicinity of Sansome House was bought as one lot by Robert Felton and others in 1811, but a secondary distribution of the land occurred soon

after the original sale (Covins 1989, 12). In the 1840s the former grounds beyond the immediate curtilage of the house were occupied by various agricultural tenants. The present site however was retained as gardens for Sansome House. Interestingly the site has retained its boundary as depicted in this period (Covins 1989, 16). In the 1850s much of the southern part of the estate, including the land north of Little Southfield Street, was acquired by the Worcester Public Pleasure Grounds Company.

The land immediately to the south of the site was acquired for the railway, which was constructed between 1859 and 1861 (WCM 98522). The railway embankment was built along the south side of Sansome House. It is conjectured that the railway company took a lease on the present site along with Sansome House, part of which was later occupied by the Station Master. In 1865, the Pleasure Grounds to the north of the railway went into liquidation. At about the same time the recently constructed rackets court (WCM 98563) on the north side of Little Southfield Street, was sold for conversion into a hop warehouse (WCM 98521). A hop warehouse had occupied the current 6 Southfield Street from 1759 (WCM 98451).

Immediately to the north-east of the site, 2-4 Southfield Street was the site of Jones and Co. Arboretum Mineral Works in 1890 (WCM 98450). Terraced housing gradually extended through the Arboretum in the latter half of the 19th century. However, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 indicates that the site remained as undeveloped gardens, partially enclosed by a wall, with tree lined paths along the west and south boundaries leading out from the south corner and two small structures at the south-west end. The only changes visible by the time of the 1904 OS map are the removal of the wooded area on the site, while no further development occured on the site until the erection of the garage blocks, that are depicted on the 1965 OS map.

The 2006 investigations on the site involved monitoring of eight boreholes (WCM 101423). There was some minor variation in the man made deposits across the site, but the sequence generally consisted of cultivation soils to varying depth, overlaid by comparatively recent hardcore and dumped material. The results of the boreholes reflected the known topography and history of the site. Post 1850s deposits lay deepest closer to the railway embankment while there was little evidence that material has derived from the embankment. The post 1850s deposits lay from 0.60-1m deep, generally sealing an earlier cultivation soil which was deeper to the south-west side of the site. It was considered that shallow cut features might remain, probably of agricultural or horticultural origin, such as a field boundary ditch for example.

# 4. Results

## 4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 1-2 and Plates 1-13. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### 4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural matrix was observed in all but one of the trenches (Trench 7 along the street frontage which was not dug as deeply as the other trenches). The natural comprised a mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional pebbles. It was noted at a depth of approximately 1m below the current ground surface within the southern two-thirds of the site, but lay at up to 1.54m depth toward the north-east end.

A full soil sequence was observed in Trench 5 and the soil strip Trench 6 which covered the majority of the site. A relict topsoil (5003 and 6002), was sealed by made ground (5002 and 6001), and overlay subsoil (5004 and 6003) to a depth of approximately 1m, over the natural

matrix. However the topsoil was heavily disturbed, containing fragments of brick, pottery and charcoal flecks.

Elsewhere the natural was observed directly below layers of made ground.

4.1.2 **Phase 2 Post-medieval and modern deposits**

In the north-east part of the site mixed deposits of modern topsoil and made ground deposits were recorded at the surface (Trenches 1-4) and along the frontage (Trench 7). A sequence of post-medieval and modern made ground deposits were noted overlying the natural to a depth of 1.20-1.54m below the present ground surface Elsewhere modern sand, rubble and hardstanding lay over the rest of the area (Trenches 5 and 6). This modern material sealed a thick relict topsoil (5003 and 6002; described above) to a depth of 0.95m, over a thin subsoil (5004 and 6003) to approximately1m, over the natural.

A modern dump deposit (1003, 2003 and 4005) was observed within the north-west facing section of Trenches 1, 2 and 4 along the south-east side of the site. This deposit formed part of the railway embankment. Within Trench 4 it overlay a further made ground deposit of compact pinkish red clay with large stone inclusions (4006).

A linear ditch (6010), was revealed within the site strip (Trench 6), slightly off-parallel with the street frontage. The linear appeared to be below subsoil (6003) although the uniform fill of moderately dark grey brown silty loam, contained mortar, brick and pottery fragments indicative of a late post-medieval/modern date. The irregular base suggested it could have been formed by a series of intercutting pits with similar fills, although this could not be established for certain.

Beyond the east end of the ditch a further possible post hole and rectilinear feature were revealed, although the later appeared to relate to a modern concrete sewer or waste pipe which across the site.

To the south of the ditch, two pits were revealed. Pit (6006) contained a dark sandy loam with brick, slate and stone inclusions (6005). Pit (6008) lay 1m to the south. The dark grey silty loam fill (6007) contained a glass bottle, iron debris and tarmac fragments. Both were of modern date.

Within the site strip (Trench 6) to the west of Trench 4 an additional linear feature was revealed, on the same alignment as (6010) to the south-west. Measuring 0.25m wide, it was filled with a loamy soil with extensive roots. No dateable material was recovered.

## 4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

### 4.2.1 The artefact assemblage

The assemblage recovered during the excavation is summarised in Table 1. Included in the quantification are two bricks with a combined weight of 6,478g. The remainder of the assemblage comprised pottery, tile, glass and a clay pipe stem. Preservation conditions at the site were generally good. A small fragment of bone, a cow tooth and an oyster shell were also recorded, but not analysed in detail.

| Material class | Period | Count | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ceramic | Undated | 1 | 26 |
| Organic | Undated | 3 | 29 |
| Ceramic | Medieval | 2 | 44 |
| Ceramic | Post-medieval | 26 | 8,390 |
| Ceramic | Post-med./modern | 8 | 126 |
| Glass | Post-medieval | 2 | 74 |
| Glass | Post-med./modern | 1 | 300 |
| Totals: | | 43 | 8,989 |

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

### 4.2.2 Pottery

Pottery sherds were grouped and quantified according to fabric type, as shown in Table 2. There were no diagnostic form sherds that could provide precise dating evidence, but most sherds were datable by fabric type to general production spans.

| Period | Fabric code | Fabric common name | Count | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medieval | 55 | Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware | 1 | 10 |
| Medieval | 69 | Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware | 1 | 34 |
| Post-medieval | 78 | Post-medieval red wares | 2 | 218 |
| Post-medieval | 81 | Stonewares | 4 | 292 |
| Post-medieval | 81.5 | White salt-glazed stoneware | 1 | 48 |
| Post-medieval/ modern | 85 | China | 1 | 8 |
| Post-medieval/ modern | 100 | Miscellaneous wares | 6 | 108 |
| Totals: | | | 16 | 718 |

*Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type*

**Medieval**

Two medieval pottery sherds were recovered. Part of a handle was found in relict topsoil (5003). This had an oxidised Malvernian fabric (69), with traces of glaze adhering, and was from a jar or jug. In the absence of further diagnostic features, this sherd may be assigned to a broad 14$^{th}$-16$^{th}$ century date range.

A small section of rim sherd from ditch fill (6009) was typical of a Worcester-type, sandy, unglazed ware (fabric 55). This rim is similar to that of a Deansway type 4 cooking pot (Bryant 2004). Vessels with this fabric were manufactured from the late 11th to mid 14th centuries, but with peak production during the 12th and 13th centuries.

**Post-medieval**

The post-medieval pottery was unremarkable, insofar as a small range of common fabrics was recovered. Sherds from stoneware flagons (fabric 81) came from made ground (1001), and were probably 19th century, while a small sherd of salt-glazed stoneware (fabric 81.5) from the same context was likely to be early to mid 18th century in date.

Part of a base (probably from a plant pot), with a black-glazed, red ware fabric (78), was also found in layer (1001), but could have been from an earlier 17th-18th century date range. A small sherd of a brown-glazed earthenware (fabric 100) handle from (1001) was undiagnostic in terms of precise dating, and may have been produced later, during the 19th or 20th centuries.

Small sherds of earthenwares, with blue or white glazes (fabric 100), found in made ground (5006), relict topsoil (6002) and pit fill (6007), were from items mass-produced during the 19th or 20th centuries, as was a bone china (fabric 85) saucer base found in relict topsoil (6002).

### 4.2.3 Other artefacts

**Clay pipes**

A single clay pipe stem was retrieved from made ground (1001). Its substantial diameter suggested it probably dated from the 19th century.

**Glass**

The only notable glass find was a 'Codd' bottle, made in pale greenish-blue 'Aqua' glass, recovered from pit fill (6007). This bore the moulded markings of Spreckley Brothers, Worcester, a brewery firm that also produced mineral water and cordials from 1850 to 1968. The neck of the bottle was missing, but would have been stoppered by a marble (presumably, the bottle had been broken in order to extract this). Manufacture of this type of bottle had ceased by about 1930.

The thick base of a small bottle, formed by mouth-blowing into a two-piece mould, was found in made ground 1001. It surface was iridescent and flaking, typical of a degrading potash glass, probably produced during the 19th century

**Tile**

Small pieces of flat roof tile, with sandy, oxidised fabrics, were found in made ground (3004), relict topsoil (5003) and made ground (5006). These were all typical of post-medieval tiles, although in the absence of any diagnostic form features, the possibility that they were earlier in date could not be ruled out.

A small fragment of brown-glazed floor tile, 8mm thick, was recovered from made ground (5006). This was machine-moulded and late 19th or 20th century in date.

**Brick**

A complete brick and a part brick were retrieved from made ground deposits (1001) and (3004) (the former had a shallow frog on one surface). These were just under 3½" thick (measuring 83 and 84mm, respectively), but were close to the 4½" width (measuring 112 and

110mm, respectively) that was used for the Imperial brick from 1840. It is unlikely that bricks of this thickness were produced into the late 19th century, so they have been tentatively dated to 1840-60. A fragment of hard, rough-faced brick from ditch fill (6009) was 63mm thick, which is very close to the size used for stock bricks during the mid 18th century.

### 4.2.4 Overview of artefactual evidence

The artefactual assemblage indicated post-medieval occupation and use of the site, with limited evidence also for medieval activity. The difficulty of dating roof tile has been noted, and it was unclear, in particular, whether relict soil (5003) was post-medieval, with residual medieval pottery, or the tile was in fact contemporary with the pottery. However, in the case of ditch fill (6009), the medieval pottery does appear to be residual, since brick in the same context was almost certainly post-medieval. Modern floor tile was found in made ground deposit (5006), while the remainder of the contexts (made ground deposits 1001 and 3004, relict soil 6002 and pit fill 6007) contained late post-medieval or modern material.

The *terminus post quem* dates deduced for the contexts are shown in Table 3.

| Context | Material class | Object specific type | Fabric code | Count | Weight (g) | Start date | End date | *tpq* range |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1001 | ceramic | pot | 78 | 2 | 218 | 1700 | 1900 | *c* 1840-2000 |
| | ceramic | pot | 100 | 1 | 70 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 81 | 2 | 252 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 81.5 | 1 | 48 | 1700 | 1770 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 85 | 1 | 12 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| | ceramic | clay pipe | - | 1 | 6 | 1700 | 1900 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 81 | 1 | 10 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | glass | bottle | - | 1 | 18 | 1800 | 1950 | |
| | glass | bottle | - | 1 | 56 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | ceramic | brick/tile | - | 1 | 234 | 1800 | 1900 | |
| | ceramic | brick | - | 1 | 4256 | *c.*1840 | *c.*1860 | |
| 3004 | ceramic | brick | - | 1 | 2222 | *c.*1840 | *c.*1860 | *c* 1840-1900 |
| | ceramic | roof tile(flat) | - | 1 | 256 | 1700 | 1900 | |
| 5003 | ceramic | pot | 69 | 1 | 34 | 1200 | 1620 | 1700-1900 |
| | ceramic | roof tile(flat) | - | 5 | 340 | 1700 | 1900 | |
| | ceramic | brick/tile | - | 3 | 66 | 1700 | 1900 | |
| 5006 | ceramic | roof tile | - | 3 | 326 | 1700 | 1900 | *c* 1870-2000 |
| | ceramic | floor tile | - | 1 | 10 | *c.*1870 | 1950 | |
| | ceramic | brick/tile | - | 2 | 26 | 1700 | 1800 | |
| | ceramic | pot | 85 | 1 | 6 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| 6002 | ceramic | pot | 85 | 3 | 22 | 1800 | 2000 | 1800-2000 |
| 6007 | ceramic | pot | 81 | 1 | 30 | 1800 | 1900 | *c* 1875-2000 |
| | ceramic | pot | 85 | 1 | 6 | 1800 | 2000 | |
| | ceramic | brick/tile | - | 1 | 26 | 1700 | 1900 | |
| | glass | bottle | - | 1 | 300 | *c.*1875 | *c.*1930 | |
| 6009 | ceramic | brick | - | 1 | 100 | 1700 | 1900 | 1700-1900 |
| | ceramic | pot | 55 | 1 | 100 | 1075 | 1400 | |

*Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts*

# 5. Synthesis

The deposits of made ground (1001, 2001, 3003-4 and 4003-4) observed within the north eastern end of the site contained variable late 19th-20th century, indicating that recent activity had truncated deposits down into the natural, probably during the construction of the railway embankment in 1859-61. It is considered that any earlier deposits within this area have been destroyed. The made ground is considered to be deliberate make-up and dumping probably to consolidate the ground probably during the construction. Due to the limited observations made from the top of the trench it was not possible to observe any discreet horizons within the deposit.

The relict soils (5003) and (6002) observed within the general site strip and adjacent Trench 5 have been dated to the 18th-19th century and 19th-20th centuries respectively. They are considered to represent a disturbed cultivation or garden soil. The small quantity of medieval sherds recovered may derive from manuring and indicate that the area was put to agricultural use in the medieval period, as would be expected given the proximity of the site outside the city walls.

Linear (6010) was observed extending north-east out from the western corner of the site strip roughly along the street frontage. Its irregular profile indicated that it may have been excavated as a series of intercutting pits, or simply to have been heavily disturbed by roots. It may represent a field boundary ditch or a hedge line and is dated to the 18th-19th centuries. It is conjectured to form part of the same linear as that noted in the northern end of the site strip and Trench 4 adjacent, which is considered to be a former hedge line, and may relate to the laying out of the road system in the 1870s.

Sub-rounded pit (6008) was observed to have cut through the relict topsoil and was dated to the late 19th-20th centuries. Sub-rectangular pit (6006) adjacent is dated by association and the similarity of the fills. They may represent rubbish pits or tree bowls associated with the later garden to the rear of Sansome House.

No archaeological features, structures or horizons were observed below the relict soils, nor finds predating the medieval period recovered. It is therefore considered that intensive Roman activity did not extend into this area.

## 5.1 Research frameworks

Given the complete lack of Roman material and the single medieval sherd on the site, it is argued that intensive activity did not occur on this site in these periods, although agricultural use is likely, given the position of the site within the vicinity of known occupation. The project did not however provide any further information or substantial findings regarding the identified research aims concerning the extents of Roman Worcester (RP3.30) and the nature of medieval activity outside the suburbs.

## 6. 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 Firmingers LLP and their client, Kozbay Ltd at Little Southfield Street, Worcester (NGR SO 8511 5534; HER ref WCM 101710). Six trenches and the general reduced level strip were monitored.*

*The north-east end of the site was found to have been disturbed down into the natural matrix, probably during construction of the railway embankment in 1859-61. Elsewhere a disturbed cultivation soil was recorded, up to 0.95m deep, across the rest of the site. The small quantity of medieval sherds recovered may be indicative of manuring of agricultural fields in the period, which would be expected given the proximity of the site outside the city walls.*

*A narrow irregular linear feature along the frontage, dated to the 18$^{th}$-19$^{th}$ centuries, may represent a field boundary ditch or a hedge line or be associated with the laying out of the road system in the 1870s. Two pits toward the south-west end of the site were dated to the late 19$^{th}$-20$^{th}$ centuries and represented rubbish pits or tree bowls associated with the later garden to the rear of Sansome House.*

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## 7. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Graham Jones (Firmingers LLP), James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council) and Sheena Payne-Lunn, (Historic Environment Record Officer, Worcester City Council).

## 8. Personnel

The fieldwork 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 and Robin Jackson, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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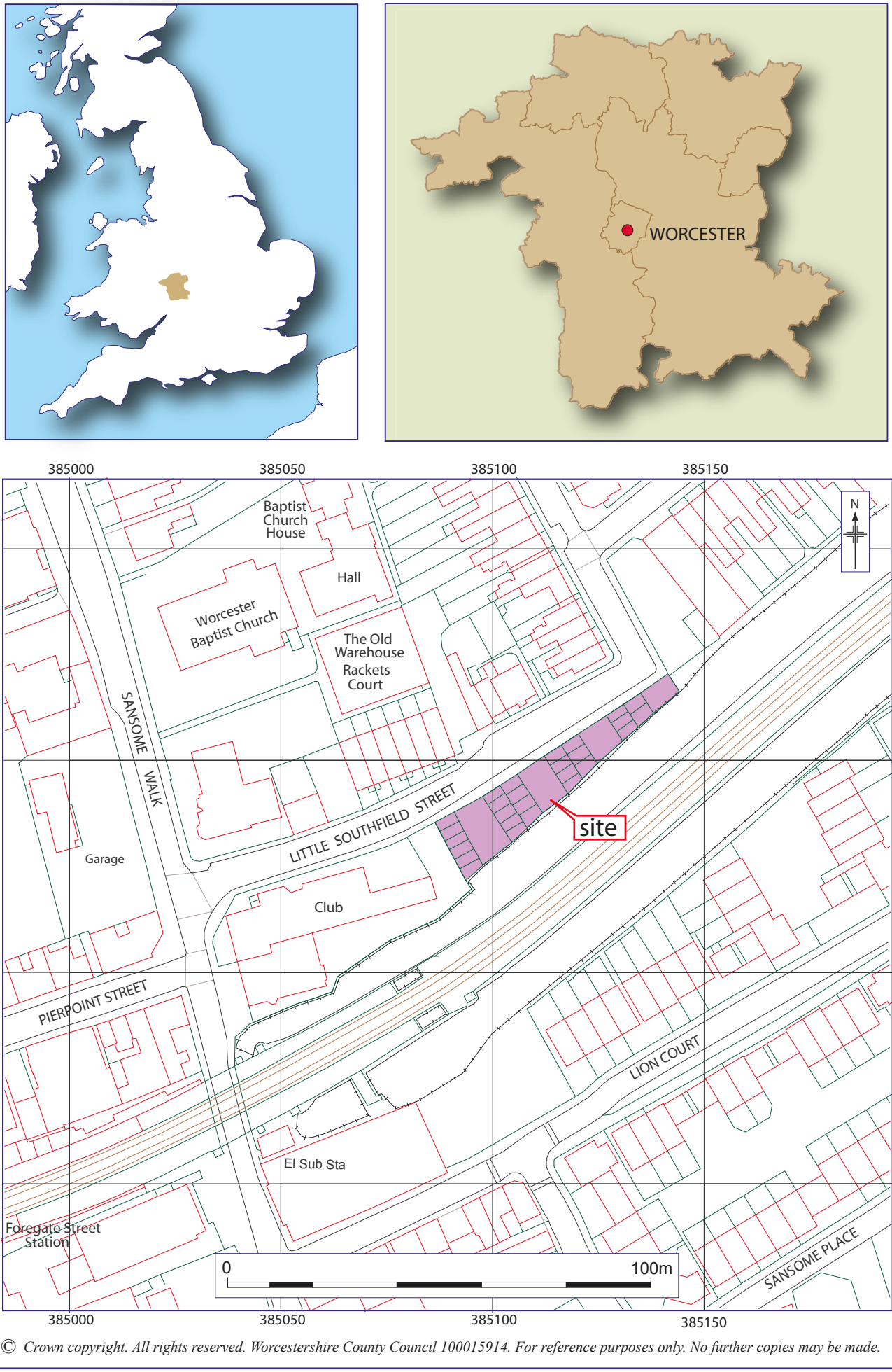
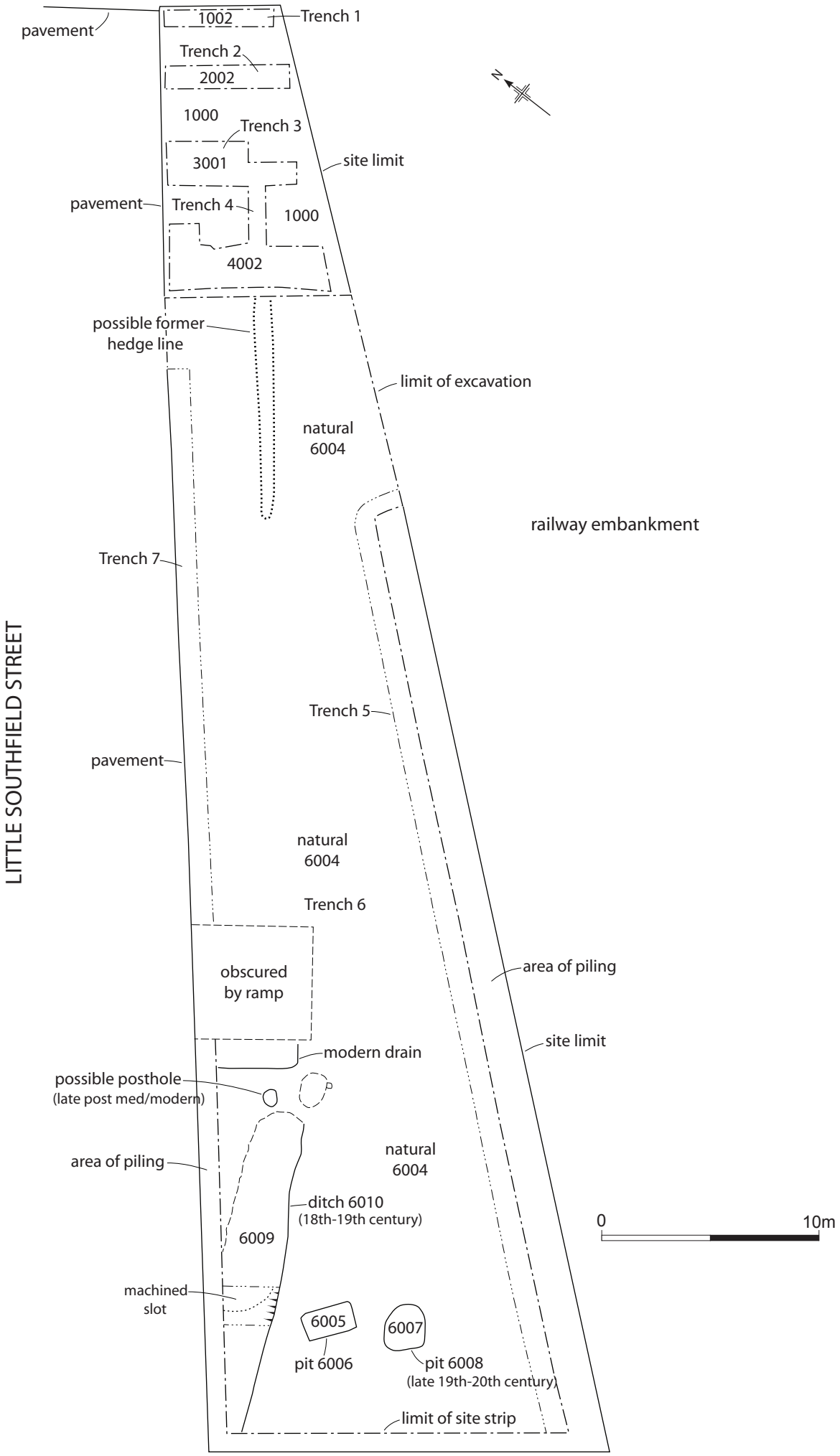
# Figures






*Location of the site* *Figure 1*




*Location of Trenches and archaeological features* *Figure 2*

# Plates

*Plate 1: General view north-east of the northern half of the site*

*Plate 2: General view south-west of the site*

*Plate 3: West facing section of Trench 1*

*Plate 4: North facing section of Trench 3, with the railway embankment stratigraphy*

*Plate 5: General view of Trench 3, with deposit 3001 at the base*

*Plate 6: North facing section of Trench 4*

*Plate 7: North-east facing section of Trench 4*

*Plate 8: View south-west of Trench 5*

*Plate 9: View north-east of Trench 5*

*Plate 10: South facing section of Trench 5, revealing a full soil sequence*

*Plate 11: Made ground as viewed in the south facing section of Trench 5*

*Plate 12: Pit 6005, view west*

*Plate 13: Pit 6007 with 6005 in the background, view north*

# Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

**Trench 1**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 0.75m Depth: 1.70m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1000 | Topsoil and made ground | Soft mid light brown grey silty loam, occasional sub-rounded pebbles and stones. Frequent root action and worm sorting. Rubbish, paper, cans, bottles, overgrowth and vegetation. Moderately compact. Sealing 1001. | 0.00-0.34m |
| 1001 | Made ground | Mid brown orange silty sand. Soft, moderately compact. Tree rooting and worm sorting. Possible levelling and dumping layers, although no discreet horizons observed. | 0.34-1.54m |
| 1002 | Natural | Mid orange brown silty sand. Occasional sub-round and sub-angular small-large pebbles and stone. | 1.54+ |
| 1003 | Embankment | Pink red silty clay. Overgrown, tree rooting and modern rubbish. Compact | 0.00-0.50m |

**Trench 2**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 6m Width: 1.00-1.40m Depth: 1.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | Topsoil and made ground | Soft mid light brown grey silty loam, occasional sub rounded pebbles and stones. Frequent root action and worm sorting. Rubbish, paper, cans, bottles, overgrowth and vegetation. Moderately compact. As 1000. | 0.00-0.30m |
| 2001 | Made ground | Mid brown orange silty sand. Soft, moderately compact. Tree rooting and worm sorting. Possible levelling and dumping layers, although no discreet horizons observed. As 1001. | 0.30-1.50m |
| 2002 | Natural | Mid orange brown silty sand. Occasional sub round and sub angular small-large pebbles and stone. As 1002. | 1.48m+ |
| 2003 | Embankment | Pink red silty clay. Overgrown, tree rooting modern rubbish. Compact. As 1003. | 0.00-0.70m |

**Trench 3**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.20-6.00m Width: 1.00-2.00m Depth: 1.60m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3000 | Topsoil and made ground | Soft mid light brown grey silty loam, occasional sub-rounded pebbles and stones. Frequent root action and worm sorting. Moderately compact. Rubbish, paper, cans, bottles, overgrowth and vegetation. Sealing 3001. As 1000. | 0.00-0.28m |
| 3001 | Made ground | Moderately compact bluish black compact but friable coarse gravels and silty sand. Imported material. Sterile. Continues to base of trench. | 0.28-1.60m+ |
| 3002 | Natural | Only observed in N facing section. Mid orange brown silty sand. Occasional sub-round and sub angular small-large pebbles and stone. | 1.42m+ |
| 3003 | Made ground | Seen only in S facing section. Orangey brown sandy clay, above 3004. Below 3000. Contains frequent stone and pebble. | 0.25-0.70m |
| 3004 | Made ground | Seen only in S facing section. Soft sandy silt, mid brown, moderately compact. Contains brick fragments, sealed by 3003. | 0.70-1.30m |

**Trench 4**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 6.60m Width: 0.75-4.60m Depth: 1.54m

Orientation: NW-SE and NE-SW

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4000 | Topsoil and made ground | Soft mid light brown grey silty loam, occasional sub rounded pebbles and stones. Frequent root action and worm sorting. Moderately compact. Rubbish, paper, cans, bottles, overgrowth and vegetation. Sealing 4001. As 1000. | 0.00-0.25m |
| 4001 | Made ground | Moderately compact bluish black compact but friable coarse gravels and silty sand. Imported material. Sterile. Continues to base of trench. | 0.25-1.20m |
| 4002 | Natural | Mid orange brown silty sand. Occasional sub-round and sub-angular small-large pebbles and stone. | 1.20m+ |
| 4003 | Made ground | Seen only in S facing section. Orangey brown sandy clay, above 4004. Below 4000. Contains frequent stone and pebble. | 0.25-0.70m |

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4004 | Made ground | Seen only in S facing section. Soft sandy silt, mid brown, moderately compact. Contains brick fragments, sealed by 4003. | 0.70-1.40m |
| 4005 | Embankment | Pink red silty clay. Compact Overgrown, tree rooting modern rubbish. | 0.00-0.70m |
| 4006 | Embankment | Very compact, rock and stone within pink red clays. Park of bank stabilisation for embankment. | 0.30-1.00m |

**Trench 5**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 44m Width: 1.00m Depth: 1.00-1.08m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5000 | Made ground and garage footings | Mid dark brown silty sand. Compact. Brick fragments and garage footings. | 0.00-0.50m |
| 5001 | Terram | Possible terram laid before deposits made ground dumped on site. Seen throughout NE facing section. With possible blue black pebbles laid over (As 3001?). | 0.46-0.51m |
| 5002 | Made ground | Sealed by 5001. Unclear interface between 5002 and 5003. Mid brown silty sand. Contains CBM, brick, pottery fragments. | 0.50-0.80m |
| 5003 | Relict Topsoil | Mid dark black brown silty loam. Occasional fragments of pot bone and brick. Frequent root action, sub-rounded pebbles | 0.75-0.95m |
| 5004 | Subsoil | Mid grey brown silty sand. Occasional gravels. Moderately compact | 0.89-0.99m |
| 5005 | Natural | Mid orange brown silty sand. Occasional sub-round and sub-angular small-large pebbles and stone. | 1.00m+ |
| 5006 | Made ground | As seen in Trenches 1-4. In final 11.5m of NE section of trench. Mid brown orange silty sand. Soft, moderately compact. Tree rooting and worm sorting. | 0.55-1.00m+ |

**Trench 6 – general site strip**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 52.3m Width: 8.60-15.80m Depth: 1.00-1.08m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6000 | Made ground | Rubble and old hardstanding. As 5000. | 0.00-0.50m |
| 6001 | Made ground | Mixed soils and rubble. As 5001 and 5002. | 0.50-0.80m |
| 6002 | Relict Topsoil | As 5003. Very dark grey brown black moderately friable sandy loam with occasional to moderate gravel (sub-rounded small to medium sized).Occasional charcoal, brick and pottery fragments. | 0.75-0.95m |
| 6003 | Subsoil | As 5004. Mid orange grey brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. | 0.89-0.99m |
| 6004 | Natural | As 5005. Mid orange brown silty sand. | 1.00m+ |
| 6005 | Fill of 6006 | Very dark grey sand loam. Loose to moderate compact with occasional to rare gravels. Brick, stone and slate inclusions. | *c* 1.00m+ |
| 6006 | Pit | Only seen in plan. Not excavated. Sub-rectangular pit, 1.20m wide and 2.17m long. | *c* 1.00m+ |
| 6007 | Fill of 6008 | Very dark grey sand loam. Loose to moderate compact with occasional to rare gravels. | *c* 1.00m+ |
| 6008 | Pit | Only seen in plan. Not excavated. Irregular sub rounded.1.95m wide ad 2.10m deep. Cut through 6002. | *c* 0.75m+ |
| 6009 | Fill of 6010 | Very dark brown grey silty loam. Upper fill contains moderate brick fragments but cleaner as continues down. Contains pottery fragments. Uniform and undifferentiated. | *c* 0.75m+ |
| 6010 | Ditch | Linear aligned NE-SW. Irregular profile and base. Machine cut slot excavated through. | *c* 1.00m+ |

**Trench 7**

Maximum dimensions: Length: *c* 25m Width: 1.00m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7000 | Topsoil and made ground | Moderately compact. Soft mid light brown grey silty loam, occasional sub rounded pebbles and stones. Frequent root action and worm sorting. Modern rubbish, paper, cans, bottles, overgrowth and vegetation. | 0.00-0.60m |

# Appendix 2 Technical information

## The archive

The archive consists of:

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Context records AS1 |
| 7 | Fieldwork progress records AS2 |
| 1 | Photographic records AS3 |
| 2 | Drawing number catalogue sheets AS4 |
| 6 | Trench Record sheets AS41 |
| 2 | Scale drawings |
| 1 | Box of finds |
| 1 | Computer disk |

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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