

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT
ST MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL,
ST EGWIN'S ROAD, EVESHAM,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Simon Sworn and Tom Vaughan

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

10 August 2012

© Worcestershire County Council



Worcestershire Archaeology,
Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project 3870
Report 1939
WSM 47365

Archaeological watching brief at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, St Egwin's Road, Evesham, Worcestershire

Simon Sworn and Tom Vaughan

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Diocesan Education Service
<i>Agent</i>	Spicer Surveys
<i>Site address</i>	St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, St Egwin's Road, Evesham, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 03860 44234
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 47365
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/12/0515
<i>Brief</i>	Planning Advisory Section 2012
<i>Project design</i>	Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

Background and previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

An extensive occupation site of early Iron Age date has been identified to the west of the site, on the opposite side of the High Street (WSM 33709). The projected alignment of the Civil War defences that surrounded the town of Evesham crosses the current site from north-west to south-east (WSM 02230).

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

The watching brief concentrated on the footings for a new school extension which was located within the projected line of Evesham's Civil War defences.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b
Sources consulted	HER
Dates of fieldwork	6 – 7 August 2012
Area of site	c 255m ²
Sampling	area sampled
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	c 30.81m ² . Indicated on Fig 2
Foundations	length 23.7m width 0.60m – 0.70m depth 1.30m maximum

Access to and visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. Selected sections were cleaned by hand.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Date	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Tarmac	Tarmac	Modern	0.00-0.19m
101	Hardcore	Loose yellowish brown gravel hardcore and clay	Modern	0.19-0.41m
102	Mixed/made ground	Firm dark yellowish brown silty clay and gravel hardcore	Modern	0.40-0.54m
103	Subsoil	Friable mid-dark brown sandy clay	-	0.42-0.71m
104	Natural	Friable bluish grey silty marl	-	0.70m+
105	Topsoil	Loose dark brown turfed loam	Modern	0.00-0.42m

Discussion

During the observation of the groundworks, no archaeological deposits were noted, nor finds recovered. The footings for the new school buildings were sunk to a depth of 1.30m, into the undisturbed geology. This natural matrix, which lay at a depth of 0.70m below the present surface, was overlain by a sterile subsoil layer (103). The subsoil was c 0.30m thick and overlain by modern deposits for the tarmac play area (100-102) and the present topsoil (105).

Conclusions

No archaeological features, layers, structures or finds were noted within the foundation trenches. There was no evidence of the Civil War ditch which has been extrapolated from documentary evidence and adjacent sites to run through this area. However, the scale of these groundworks was small in nature so the defences may indeed lie within the vicinity, as the full stratigraphic soil profile indicates that there has been no large scale landscaping in this immediate area.

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 Diocesan Education Service at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, St Egwin's Road, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 03860 44234; HER ref WSM 47365).

The observations of the footings for a proposed new school building revealed no archaeological deposits, structures, layers nor were any artefacts recovered. The site lies within the extrapolated alignment of Evesham's Civil War defences. Although these were not identified here, they may lie within the vicinity, as the full stratigraphic soil profile observed indicates that there has been no large scale landscaping in this immediate area.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Matthew Leetch and Mike Leetch (Spicer Surveys), Sharon Leahy (Diocesan Education Service), Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council), Emma Hancox (Historic Environment Advisory & Policy Manager, Worcestershire County Council).

Bibliography

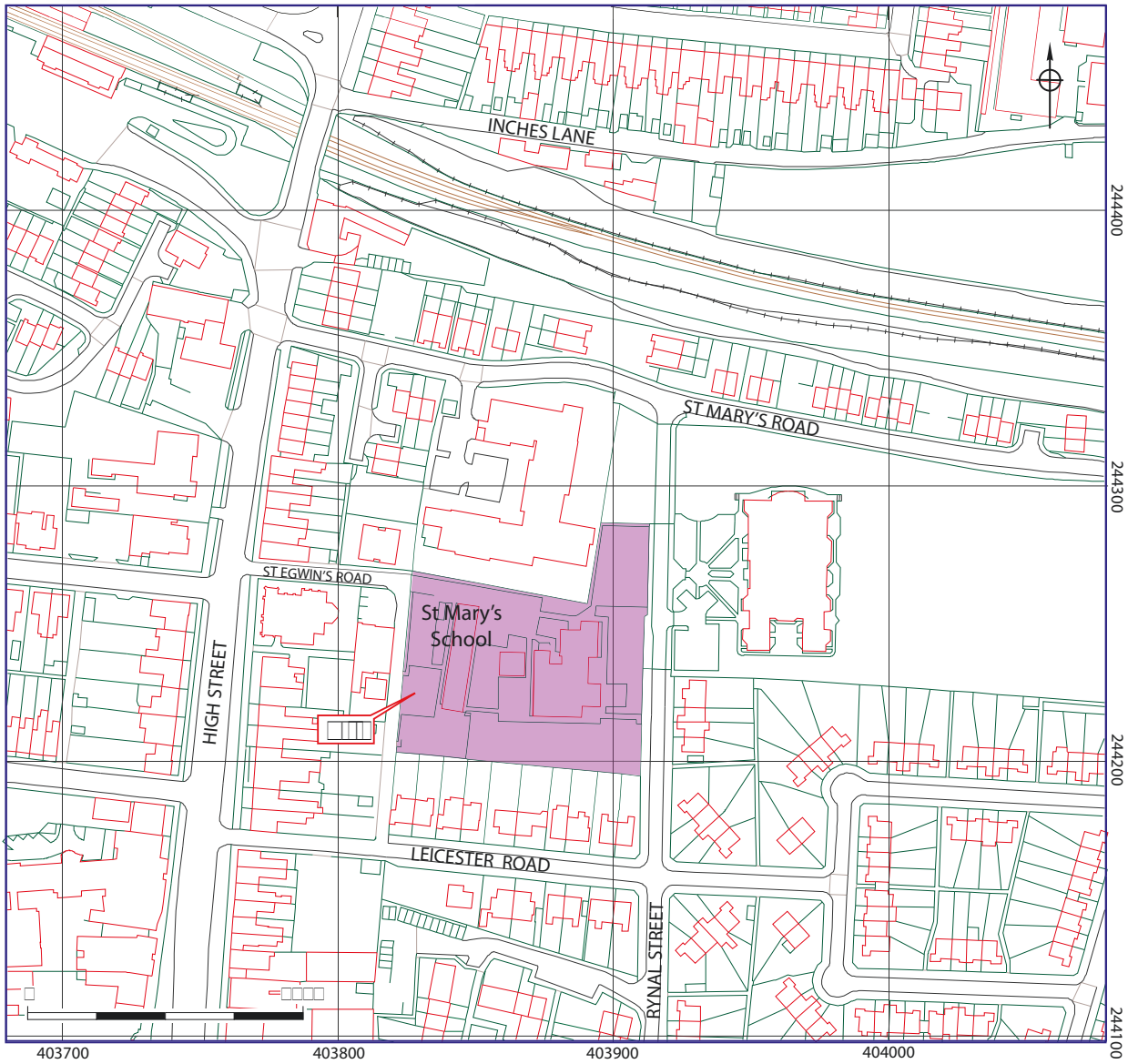
IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

Planning Advisory Section 2012 *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Evesham, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 30 May 2012

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

Worcestershire Archaeology 2012b *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Evesham, Worcestershire*, , Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 8 June 2012, **P3870**

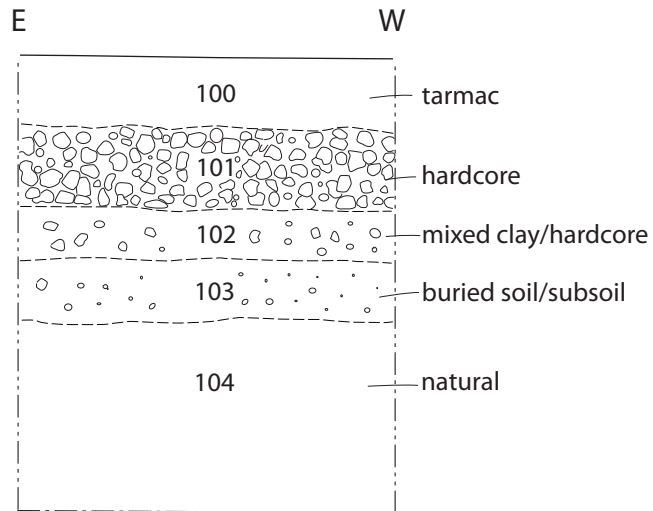
Figures



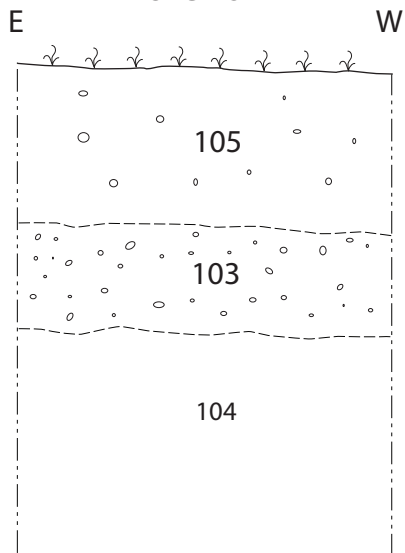
© [Legend symbols]



SECTION 1



SECTION 2



Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, view east

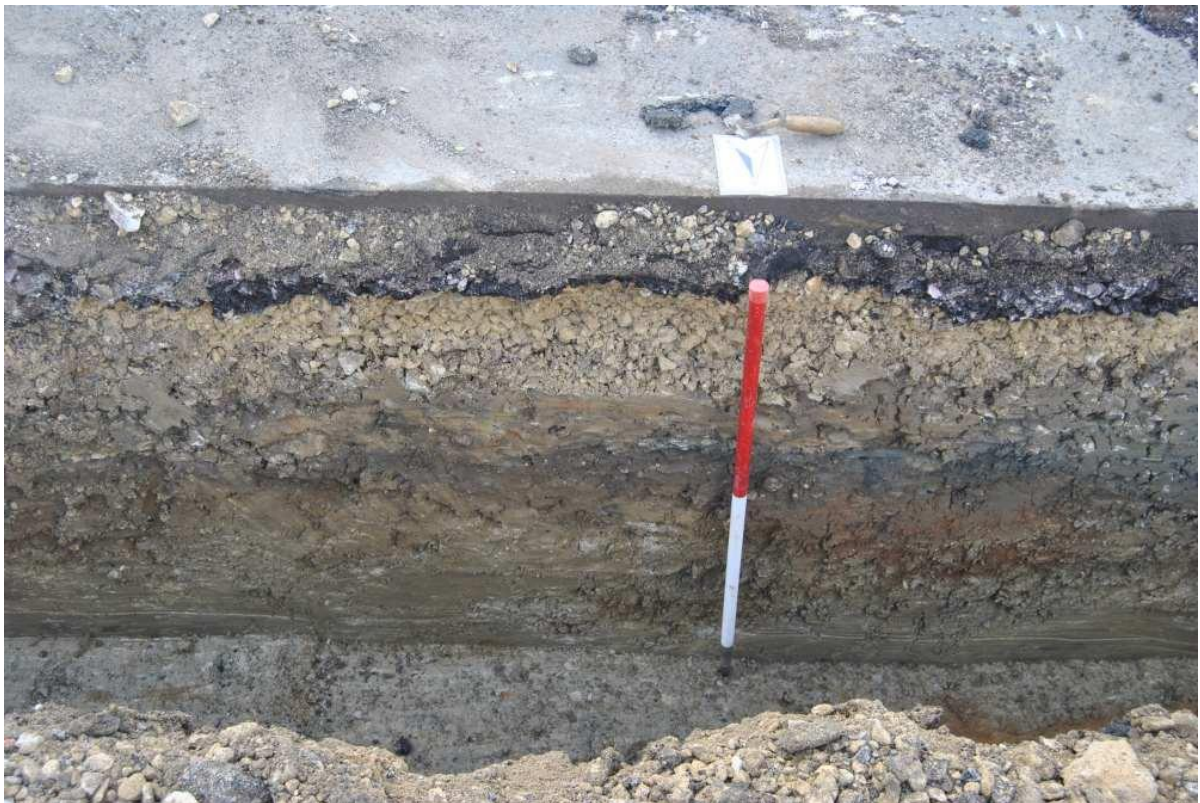


Plate 2: Section 1, view south, scale at 1m



Plate 3: Section 2, view south, scale at 1m

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 47365)

The archive consists of:

1	Context records AS1
1	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
45	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
4	Scale drawings
1	Context number catalogues AS5
0	Box of finds
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