

WATCHING BRIEF
AT
1 CHURCH COTTAGES,
ALFRICK, WORCESTERSHIRE



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

Status:
Date: 23rd May 2013
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Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt
Project reference: P3878
Report reference: 2016
HER reference: WSM 48250

Watching brief at 1 Church Cottages, Alfrick, Worcestershire

Author Michael Nicholson

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr N Douch
<i>National Grid reference</i>	ref SO 74871 53014
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 48250
<i>Planning authority</i>	Malvern Hills District Council
<i>reference</i>	MH/12/0365
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2012
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2012a
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008
<i>Background</i>	

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of Mr N Douch as part of a two storey side extension to 1 Church Cottages, Alfrick, Worcestershire. Given the close proximity to St Mary's Church (reference WSM41992) and associated Church yard (WSM46368), the potential for outlying burials was sufficient to warrant a watching brief to take place during planned ground works.

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

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.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012a

Sources consulted

HER WSM 48250

Date(s) of fieldwork

22-03-2013

Area of site

See figure 1

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Foundations	length 7.25m
	width 3.90m
	depth 0.70m

Access to or visibility of deposits

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

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	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Gravel driveway	Current ground surface. Gravel driveway comprising of grey angular stones which are small to medium in size.	0 – 0.07m
101	Natural	Very compact and sterile red marl with pockets of bedrock. Homogenous throughout.	0.07m – 0.70m

Discussion

The works observed produced only natural clay and red marl laminations (plates 2&3). No archaeological deposits or finds were present. No's 1-2 Church Cottages, which were constructed in the mid 20th Century occupy land that is significantly lower than that of the adjacent Churchyard and is it is likely that the plots were truncated considerably during construction.

Conclusions

Natural ground was uncovered immediately below the driveway in the location of the extension. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief.

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 N Douch at 1 Church Cottages, Alfrick, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 74871 53014); HER ref WSM 48250. The works involved the excavation of foundation trenches for a two storey side extension to the current property. Natural ground was uncovered immediately below the driveway in the location of the extension. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr N Douch, and Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council.

Bibliography

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*, Institute for Archaeologists

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

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

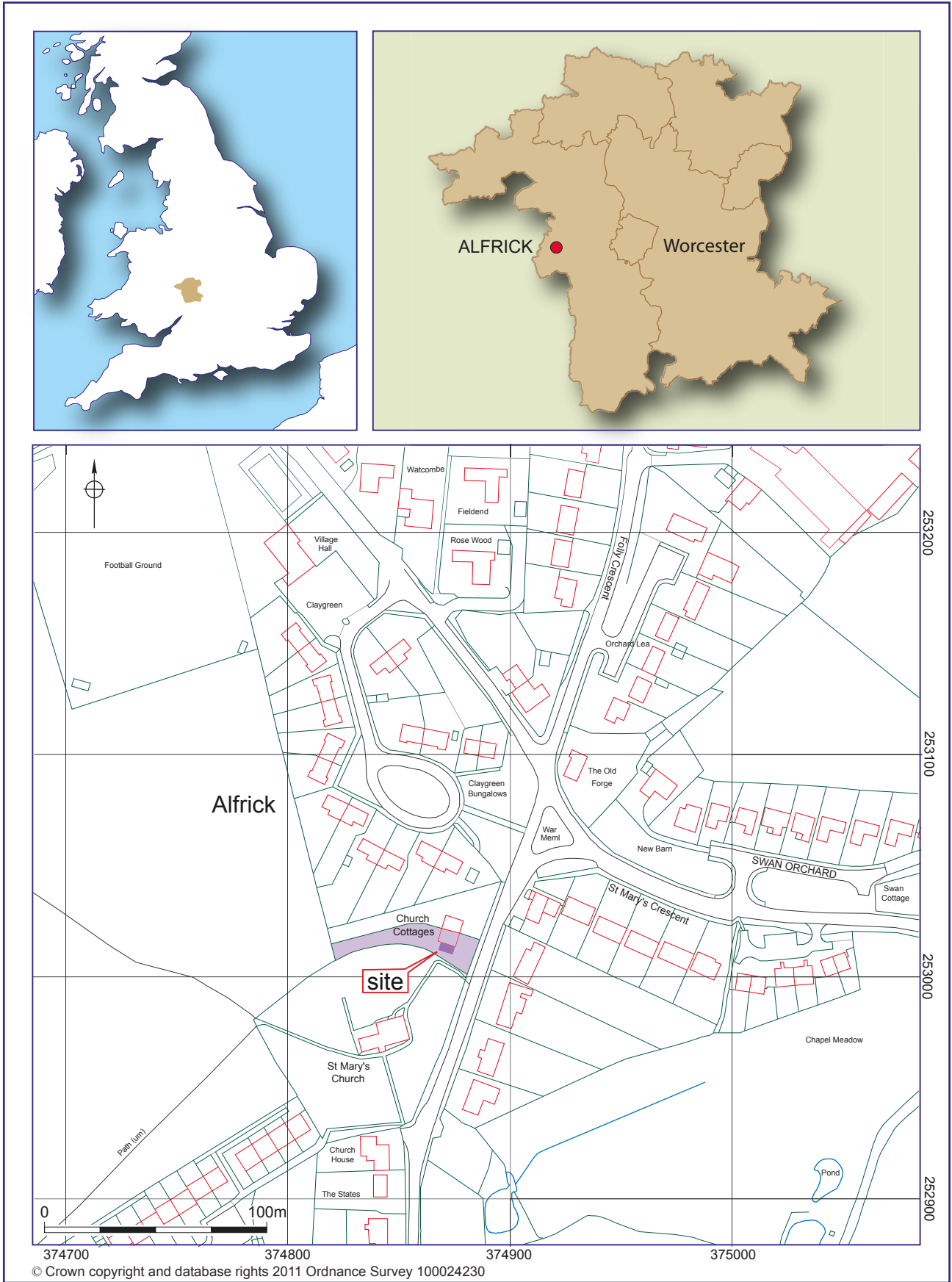
WA 2012b *Proposal for an archaeological type of project at site name, parish, county*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 8th June 2012, **P3878**

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 2012 *Brief for an archaeological type of project at P3878*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 13th June 2012

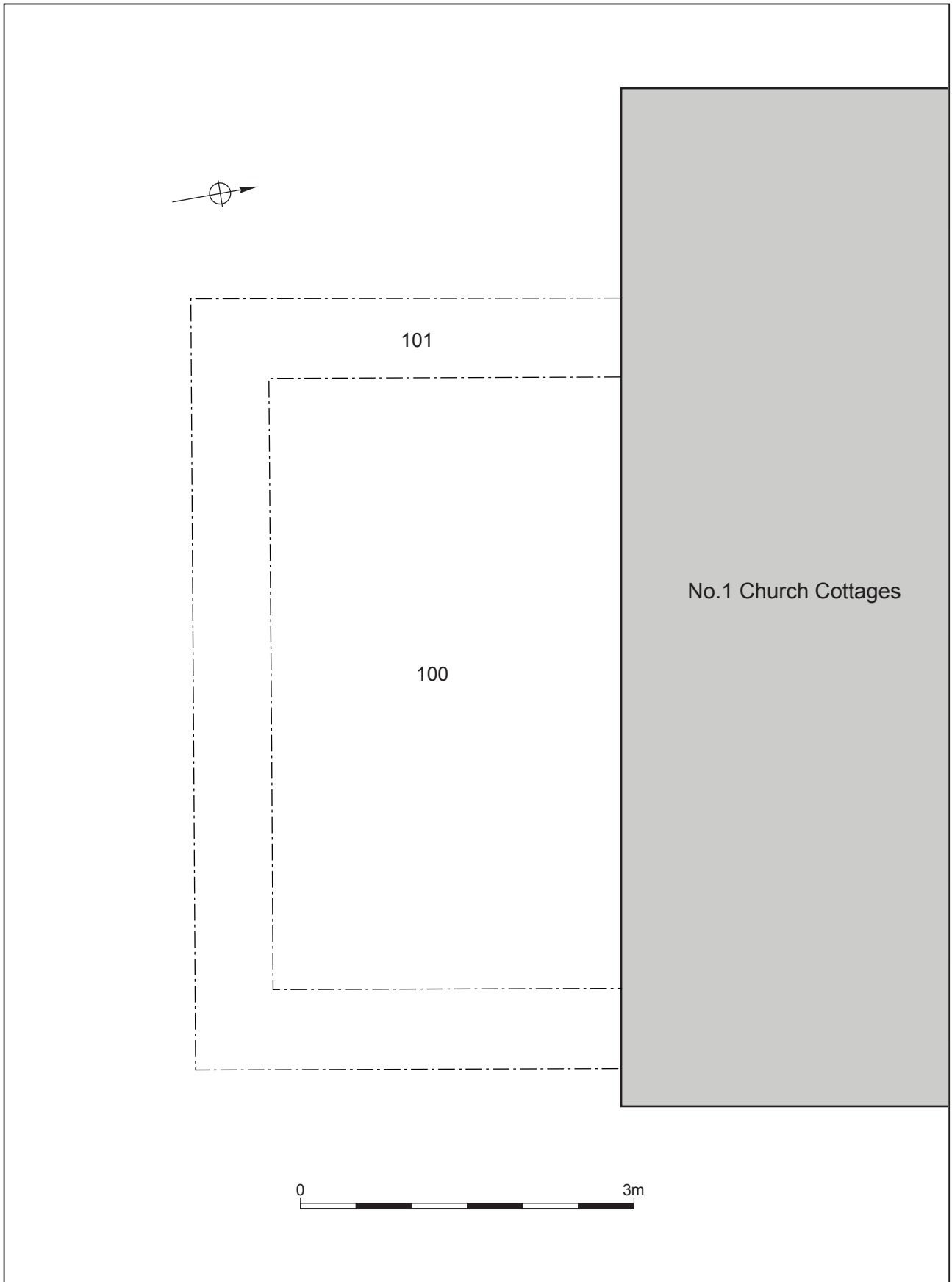
WCC 2013 *Historic Environment Record Search WSM 48250*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 20th May 2013

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Plan of trench

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Foundation trench looking north east



Plate 2 North facing section of foundation trench



Plate 3 East facing section of foundation trench including modern water pipe cut



Plate 4 Location of Foundation trenches

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 48250)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress report AS2
- 1 Photographic record AS3
- 38 Digital photographs
- 1 Scale drawing
- 1 Trench record sheet AS41
- 1 Computer disk
- 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