

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF  
AT  
1 VICTORIA ROAD, MALVERN,  
WORCESTERSHIRE.

Adam Lee

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

8<sup>th</sup> March 2007

© Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,  
Worcestershire County Council

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



Project 3032  
Report 1516  
WSM 36093



---

## Archaeological watching brief at 1 Victoria Road, Malvern, Worcestershire.

**Adam Lee**

---

### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Wyvern Homes
<i>Site address</i>	1 Victoria Road, Malvern, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 77844 46054
<i>Historic and Environmental Record reference</i>	WSM 36093
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Malvern Hills District Council W/06/1279
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2006
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2007
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999
<i>Previous archaeological work on the site</i>	

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

### *Archaeological background.*

The site is situated within the historic core of Great Malvern (See Figure 1). The early town of Malvern began as a settlement outside the priory, of which the Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael (WSM 00491) and the Priory Gatehouse (WSM 00493) remain. The town saw large growth as a spa town during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it was during this time that the area around the development site was first built upon.

There has been little archaeological fieldwork carried out in the town of Great Malvern, the nearest notable find, consisting of a number of Roman pottery fragments, was found in a garden less than 100m to the south of the development area (WSM 12100), which shows evidence of earlier occupation of the town. Archaeological work was also carried out at Warwick House, Wells Road, Malvern, where medieval deposits were observed (WSM 31175).

---

### 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	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	HER Sources cited by the HER
Date(s) of fieldwork	19 <sup>th</sup> January – 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
Area of site strip	c 259.65m <sup>2</sup> (approximately)
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Trench 1      length 13.50m width 0.30m depth 4.00m
	Trench 2      length 21.40m max width 15.70m max depth 2.50m max

### *Access to or visibility of deposits*

Examples. 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. Access to deep trenches was not made for safety reasons.

### *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

### Trench 1

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt with moderate small-medium rounded and angular stones and occasional small-large lumps of modern ceramic building material (CBM). Depth 0.25m.	0-0.25m
101	Natural	Firm dark brown red silt clay with lumps of angular mudstone and patches of green sandstone. Depth 4m+	0.25m+

### Trench 2

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
200	Tarmac	Dark black concreted tarmac road surface. Depth 0.06m	0-0.06m
201	Hardcore	Firm mid brown grey stone hardcore. Depth 0.40m	0.06-0.46
202	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt with frequent small-medium rounded and angular stones, frequent small-large angular lumps of mudstone and green sandstone and moderate small-large lumps of CBM. Depth 0.20m max.	0.46-0.66m
203	Subsoil / makeup layer	Firm mid brown clay silt mixed deposit with frequent small-medium rounded stones, frequent small-large angular lumps of mudstone and green sandstone and occasional lumps of CBM. Depth 2.34m+	0.66m+
204	Natural	Firm dark brown red silt clay with lumps of angular mudstone and patches of green sandstone. Depth 4m+	1.06m+

---

## Discussion

Two trenches were excavated to create a level area into which footings could be excavated. Trench 1 was a narrow trench 13.50m long and around 4m in depth. It was dug to enable shoring to be installed to support the bank located to the south of the development area. Trench 2 was a larger trench excavated into the sloping site to create a level area for the construction of the building. See Figure 2 for the location of trenches 1 and 2.

Trench 1 was excavated through the bank to the south of the development area. Topsoil 100 was observed sealing natural deposit 101. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered. The ground surface in the plot to the south is considerably higher than in the development area, and it is thought that the bank within the development area has been landscaped/cut back to provide a less steep garden/car park. This landscaping may have taken place when the existing building on the site was constructed and it is possible that any archaeological deposits within this area of the site were removed at this time.

Trench 2 was excavated through the bank to the south and 15.70m north from trench 1 to provide a level building platform. During stripping of this level area subsoil/makeup deposit 203 was observed sealed by topsoil 202. Topsoil 202 was sealed by hardcore 201 and then in turn by tarmac 200. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered. Deposit 202 was at first thought to be subsoil, however during the excavation of a

footing trench into this deposit it was found to be a deep mixed deposit that would appear to be a makeup deposit used to raise the ground level to the south of the existing building in order to provide a more level garden. It is unknown when deposit 203 was used to alter the ground level although it is likely to have been when the existing building was constructed.

---

## Conclusions

None of the observed trenches contained significant archaeological features or deposits. However the excavated trenches were relatively small compared to the development area, and therefore a definitive statement regarding the presence or absence of archaeological features elsewhere within the development area cannot be made.

---

## 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 Wyvern Homes at 1 Victoria Road, Malvern, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 77844 46054; SMR ref WSM 36093). 2 trenches were excavated in order to provide a level building plot for the construction of a new dwelling within the development area. The trenches have demonstrated that the ground surface within the site has been altered considerably. None of the trenches contained significant archaeological features or deposits and no artefacts were recovered.

---

## Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Martin Wilesmith and Mark Wilesmith (Wyvern homes) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Planning Advisor).

---

## Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

HEAS 2006 *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at 1 Victoria Road, Malvern, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 18 February 2007

HEAS 2007 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at 1 Victoria Road, Malvern, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 12 January 2007, **P3032**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

---

Mawer, A, and Stenton, F M, 1927 *The place-names of Worcestershire*, Cambridge University Press, London

Pevsner, N, 1968 *The Buildings of England: Worcestershire*

VCH IV, Page 123-134, W (ed), 1913 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire, IV*

---

## Plates



**Plate 1:** Installing the shoring in trench 1 to retain bank.



**Plate 2:** General shot showing the stripping of trench 2





**Plate 3:** Showing the edge of trench 2, the stratigraphy is clearly visible.



**Plate 4:** The northern part of the excavated area. Deposit 203 can be seen in the foreground.

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive**

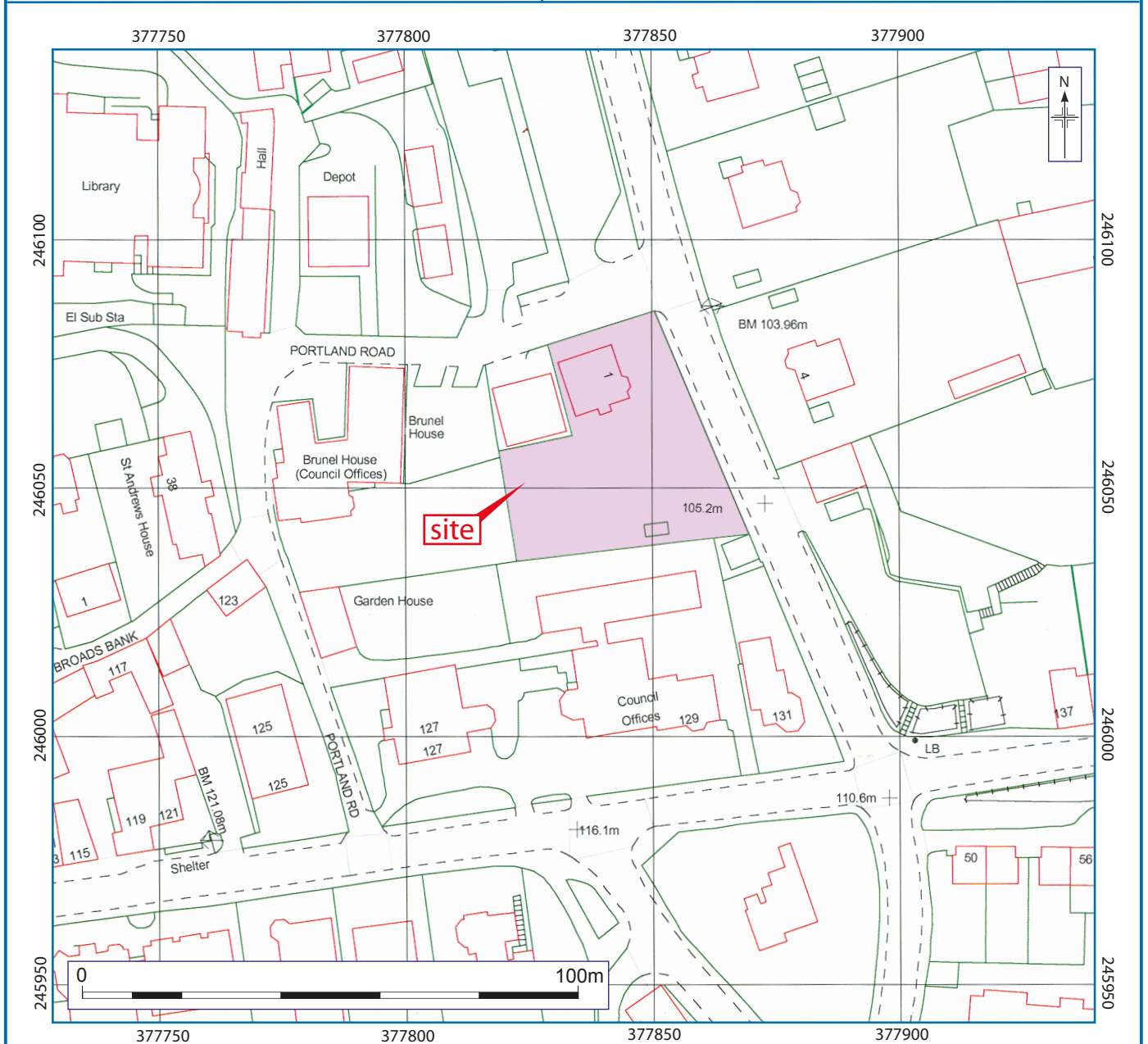
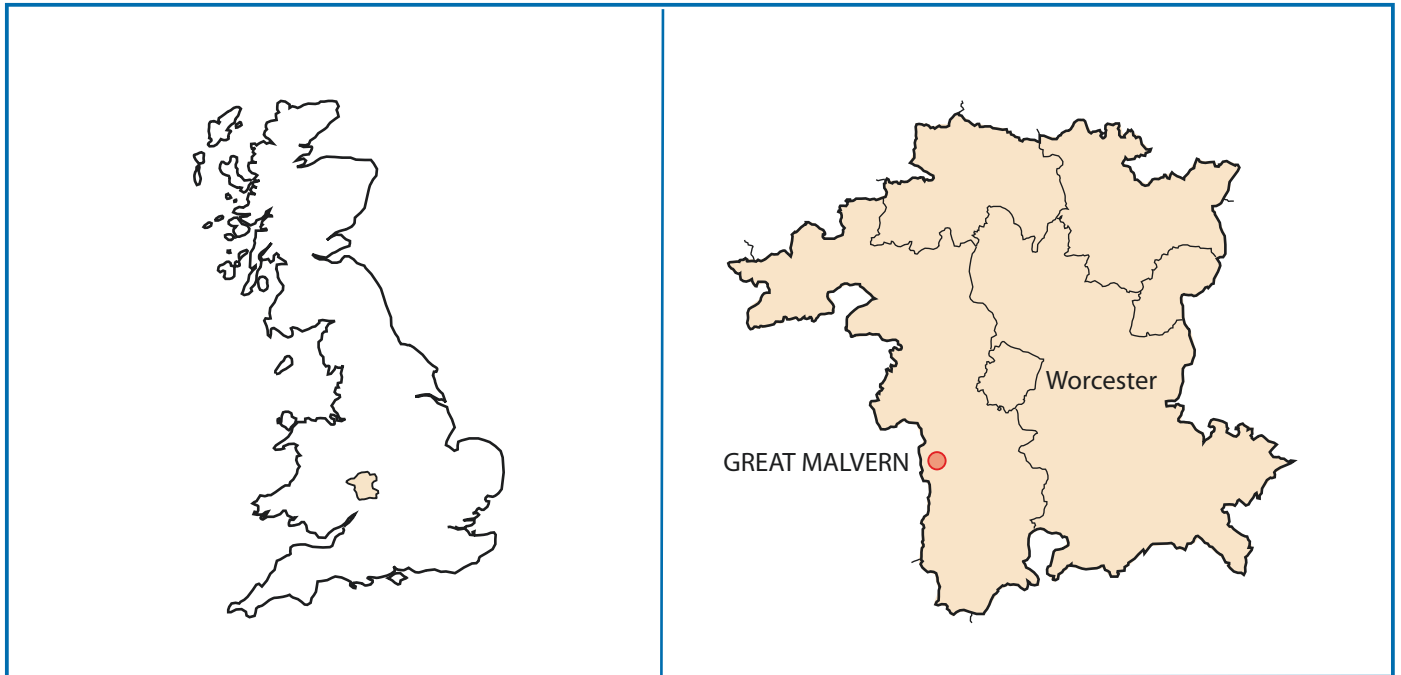
The archive consists of:

4	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
25	Digital Photographs
2	Trench Records AS41
2	Abbreviated context records AS40
1	Scale drawings

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

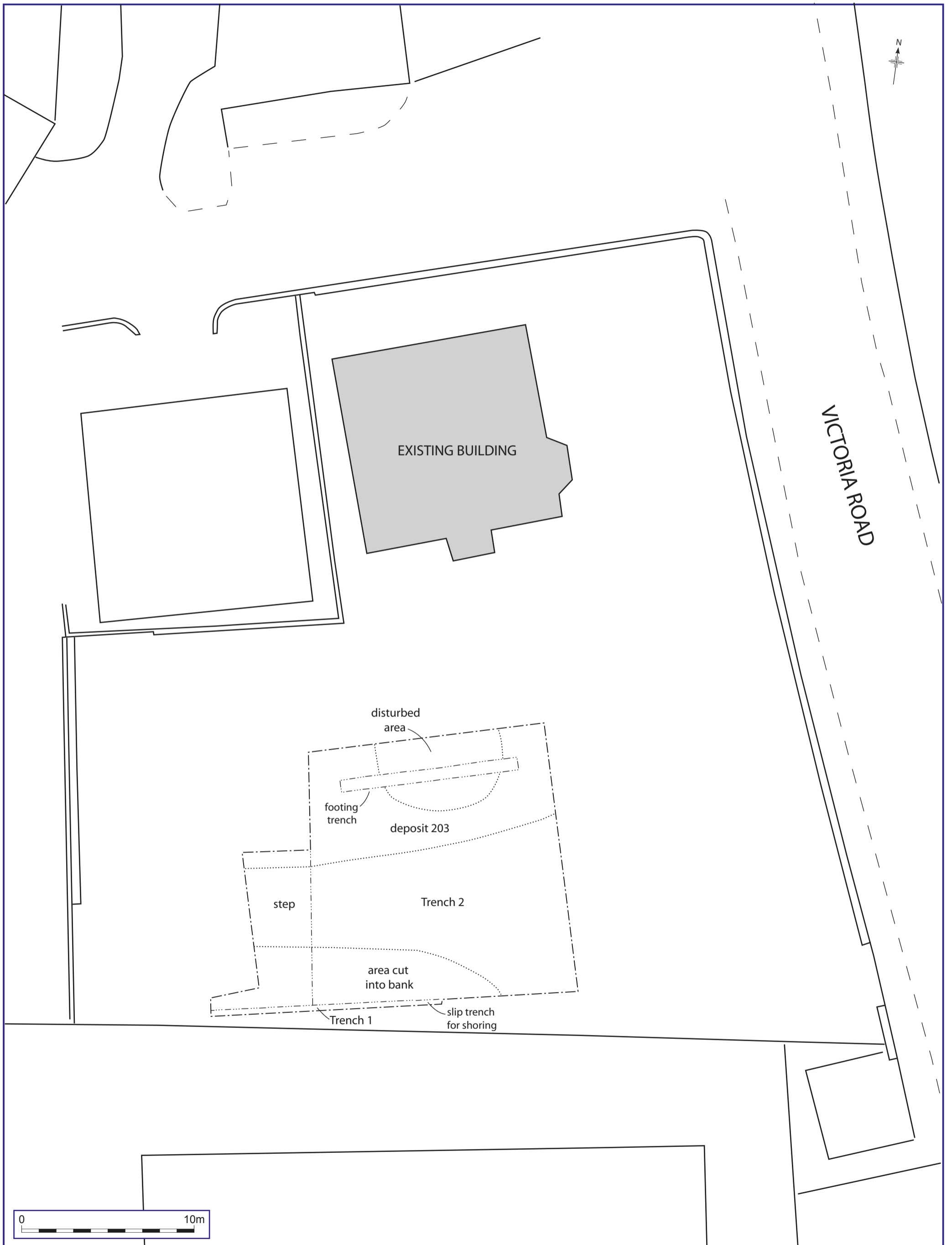




© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Worcestershire County Council 100015914. For reference purposes only. No further copies may be made.

Location of the site.

Figure 1



Detail of excavated area

Figure 2