

WATCHING BRIEF
AT
THE ANCHORAGE, CHURCH
ROAD, CLIFTON-UPON-TEME,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Tom Vaughan

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

8th September 2005

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Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,

University College Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2772
Report 1367
WSM 34492

Archaeological watching brief at The Anchorage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr and Mrs Edmonds
<i>Site address</i>	The Anchorage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 7148 6156
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 34492
<i>Planning authority</i>	Malvern Hills District Council
<i>reference</i>	MH/05/0540
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2005a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2005b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999
<i>Previous archaeological work on the site</i>	

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

Clifton-upon-Teme has been the subject of a recent survey undertaken as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, which contains a summary of previous archaeological work in the village (Dalwood 1996).

The line of the original monastic boundary associated with the nearby church has been tentatively proposed on the basis of existing property boundaries, which incorporates land to the north and south of Church Road, including the present site (*ibid*; WSM 17778). Documents record the dedication of a church to St Kenelm in AD 813, although the present building dates predominantly from the 13th century, with a south aisle added in the early 14th century; restoration work in the mid 19th century; a north vestry and south porch in the 20th century (WSM 08048).

Few archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the village. Observation of drainage works within St Kenelm's churchyard revealed only modern disturbance and grave cuts (Wichbold 1993; WSM 21955).

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 1845 Tithe Map 1 st edition Ordnance Survey, 1885, 1:2500, sheet XXVII.2
Date(s) of fieldwork	2 nd September 2005

Area of site c 37m²; Indicated on Fig 1
 Dimensions of excavated areas observed Foundations length 10.10m
width 0.48-0.66m
depth 1.20-2.10m

Access to or visibility of structure

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits.

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 no	Context type	Feature type	Colour	Texture	Consistency	Notes
1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	misc spoil finds
1001	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-Brown	Clay loam	Firm	turfed, frequent roots, occ plastic, brick & tile, gen defined boundary, 0.00-0.38m bgs.
1002	Layer	Modern Layers	Dark Brown	Silty clay	Compact	mixed soil & clay w/ occ small subangular gravel chips, limestone & granite frags, china, brick & tile, defined boundary w/ 1003 below, cut by services, 0.30-0.68m bgs.
1003	Layer	Natural	Reddy/Brown	Clay	Compact	natural matrix, defined boundary w/ 1002 above, red sandstone with depth >0.52m bgs.

Discussion

The stratigraphy comprised a shallow turfed topsoil [1001] overlying a deeper mixed soil and clay [1002] with frequent gravel and stone fragments, in turn over natural clay and sandstone [1003]. The boundary between the mixed soil and clay was generally well-defined, indicating that the soil was not a naturally developed subsoil derived from the underlying matrix. No developed or undisturbed soil profile was observed within the foundation trenches.

A number of modern services trenches were noted, which cut into the surface of the natural. No significant archaeological features, deposits or horizons were observed.

The only finds recovered consisted of a fragment of medieval/post-medieval roof tile from [1001], of a long-lived fabric type, which was in use from the 13th to the 18th centuries. In addition two sherds of porcelain dating from the late 18th to the 20th centuries and a fragment of modern brick of 19th-20th century date were recovered from [1002]. These artefacts are of no archaeological significance, merely indicating very residual or modern material (pers comm. Alan Jacobs).

Conclusions

No significant archaeological features, deposits or horizons were observed during the project. The small artefactual assemblage is similarly insignificant, and represents residual waste disposal in medieval, post-medieval and modern contexts.

The undeveloped and disturbed nature of soil layer [1002] indicates that it is probably the result of dumping and disturbance during activity on the site within the last two hundred years, probably related to the timber yard which occupied the site until the 1970s and the construction of the present dwelling in 1985 (pers comm. Phil Haywood).

There is thus no evidence of the medieval tenement plot or any earlier activity, which was anticipated given the location opposite St Kenelm's church, which is thought to have been the site of an ecclesiastical centre or minster in the Saxon period. This cannot, however, be taken as absence of evidence generally but may simply reflect the minor scale of the present investigation.

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 Mr and Mrs Edmonds at The Anchorage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire (NGR SO 7148 6156; HER ref WSM 34492). No significant archaeological features, deposits or horizons were observed. The disturbed soil profile is conjectured to be the result of activities relating to the timber yard, which previously occupied the site until the late 20th century. The small artefactual assemblage is similarly insignificant, being largely material of post-medieval date from a modern deposit.

Archive

Fieldwork progress records AS2	1
Photographic record sheets	1
Digital photographs	7
Context number catalogues AS5	1
Trench record sheets AS41	1
Scale drawings	1
Computer disks	1

The project archive is intended to be placed at:	Worcestershire County Museum Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury Near Kidderminster Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
telephone	01299 250416

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project, Mr and Mrs Edmonds (the client), Colin Griffiths (the builder), Phil Haywood (the former timber yard owner) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Planning Advisor).

Bibliography

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HEAS 2005a *Requirements for an archaeological watching brief at The Anchorage, Church Lane, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document valid until 21st January 2006

HEAS 2005b *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at The Anchorage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 30th June 2005, **P2772**

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

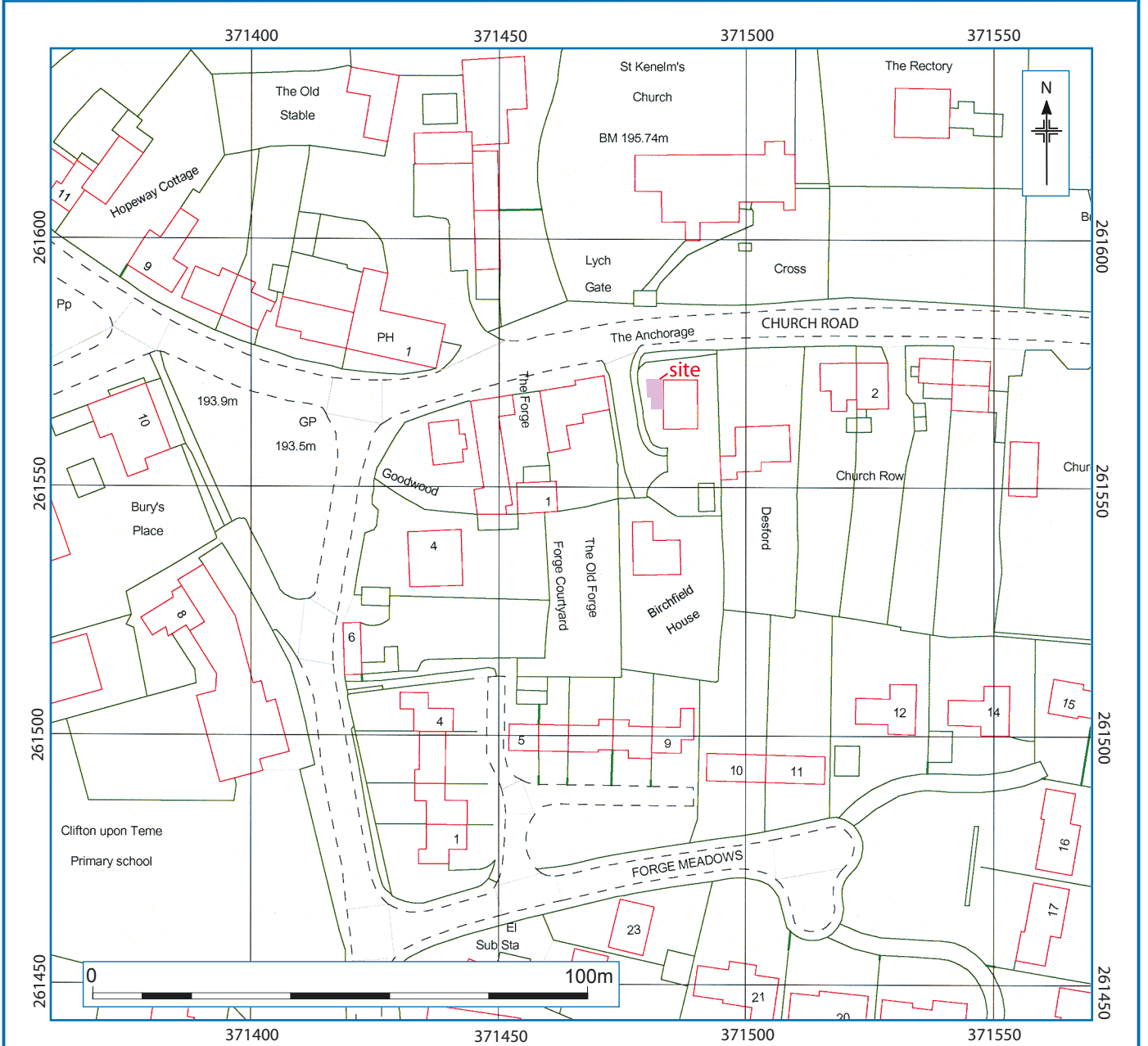
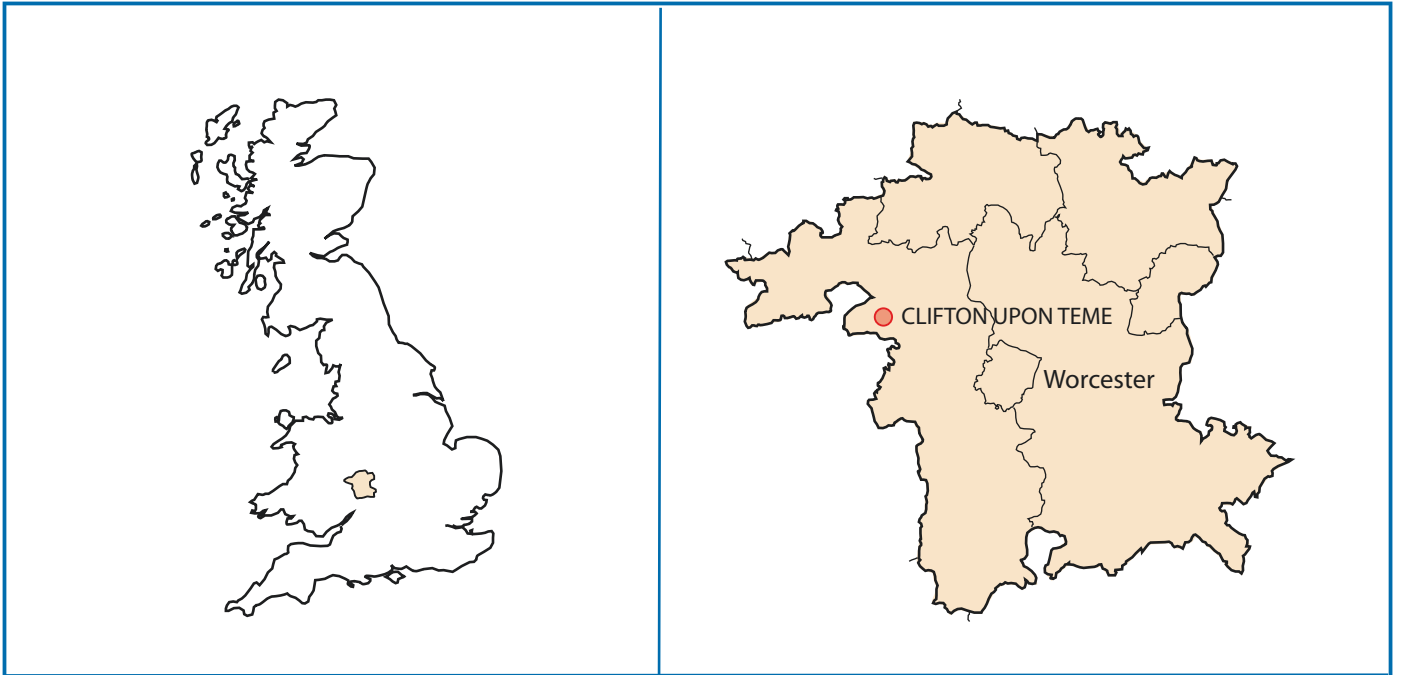
Wichbold, D, 1993 *Watching Brief at the church of St Kenelm, Clifton-upon-Teme*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **192**



Plate 1: north trench, sample section with a modern service duct, view south



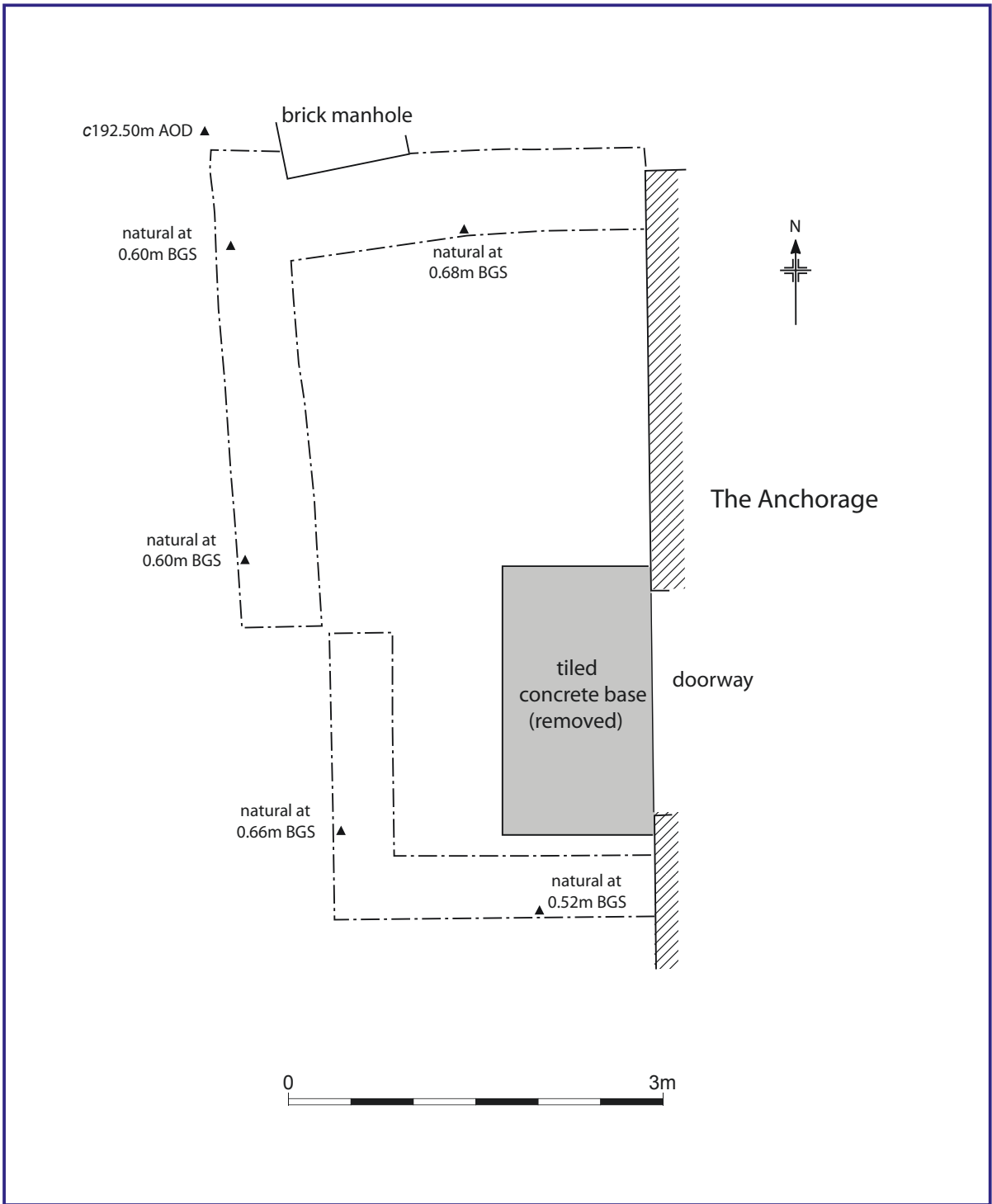
Plate 2: south trench, sample section with modern service ducts and pipes, view south



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Location of the site.

Figure 1



Trench plan

Figure 2