

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF AT  
32, OLD STREET,  
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

Tom Vaughan and Elizabeth Curran

With contributions by Dennis Williams

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

27 May 2010

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Project 3094  
Report 1750  
WSM 41745



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## Archaeological watching brief at 32, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

**Tom Vaughan and Elizabeth Curran**

**With contributions by Dennis Williams**

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### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mostyn Chadd
<i>Site address</i>	32, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 8512 4046
<i>Historic Environment Record ref.</i>	WSM 41745
<i>Planning authority</i>	Malvern Hills District Council
<i>Ref.</i>	MH/03/1570
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2009a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2009b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

### *Previous archaeological work on the site*

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site (Fig 1).

32, Old Street is grouped with Nos. 34 and 36 as a Grade II listed building (WSM 16843; LBS 424844). The listing description is as follows:

Late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century painted brick refacing of earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century cottage range. Two-storey and attic. Modern plain tile roof. Two dormers to 32. Brick dentil cornice to 32 and 34. Ten window range. Gauged brick segmental arched heads. Five windows blank, 19<sup>th</sup> century exposed box sashes to remainder. Modern shop front to 34, altered 19<sup>th</sup> century shop front to 32, earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century shop front to 36 with big 6-pane shop window.  
[www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/)

### *Previous archaeological work on associated sites*

Upton-upon-Severn 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 town (Dalwood 1996).

The buildings on Old Street are predominantly 17<sup>th</sup> to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, of two or three storeys, timber-framed and brick built. A large number of Listed Buildings are situated on Old Street within the immediate vicinity of the site (WSM 12341-46, 12370, 16824-28, 16838-49),

Archaeological investigations have been undertaken at a number of sites in the vicinity.

An archaeological watching brief at the Baptist Church on the opposite side of Old Street revealed post-medieval and earlier rubbish deposits suggesting the land was used for occasional waste disposal. No deposits of structures relating to the medieval period or earlier were revealed (WSM 31637).

An assemblage of unstratified finds has been recovered from Astley Cooper Close and School Lane 0.15km to the south-east. The material is indicative of urban domestic activity from the late medieval, particularly the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, continuing into the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (WSM 35774).

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A watching brief at the Old Parish Church, prior to the construction of the Tourist Information Centre on Church Street, 0.25km to the north, exposed two brick structures of the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was suggested that they may have been the footings for pews. A manhole chamber cut a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century tomb with a barrel vaulted roof which contained the remains of four adult skeletons and associated coffin fragments. All were left undisturbed *in situ* beneath the new floor (WSM 32376).

Salvage recording undertaken during the extension of Hanley Road car park, 0.3km to the north-west revealed late medieval and post-medieval unstratified finds and a scatter of unused musket balls (WSM 27400).

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## Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development within the rear of the plot, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

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## Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995	
Sources consulted	HER	
	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map 1886	
	Dalwood 1996	
Date(s) of fieldwork	28 September 2009 - 12 May 2010	
Area of site	c 85.00m <sup>2</sup>	
Area of trenches	c 13.70m <sup>2</sup>	
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Foundations	length 18.90m width 0.45-1.40m depth 0.60-1.30m

### *Access to or 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, although 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

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## Deposit description

The seven trenches monitored revealed a very similar sequence of deposits (Fig 2; Plates 1-8). Traces of a modern concrete foundation with a red tile floor and associated red brick walls were recorded at the surface to the west and north-east sides of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 3). Made ground of silty sand with variable charcoal, ash layers, clinker, glass and ceramic building material (CBM) lay across the site (Trenches 1-7). It lay to a maximum depth of 0.74m toward the north side of the site (Trench 7).

The made ground generally directly overlay the natural matrix of sand with variable pebble gravel, which lay at its shallowest at 0.33 below the surface toward the east side of the site (Trench 3).

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Topsoil survived in only one area, toward the south-west side of the site, where it comprised a silty sand with extensive roots (Trench 1). This overlay a brick wall aligned north to south which lay to 0.70m depth, bedded directly onto the natural (Plate 3).

No features, structure, layers or horizons predating the later post-medieval/modern period were identified.

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### **Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. The finds 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 overall chronology of the site.

The pottery and ceramic building materials were examined under  $\times 20$  magnification and recorded by fabric type according to the reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992; HEAS 2009).

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### **Artefactual results, by Dennis Williams**

#### *The artefact assemblage*

The small assemblage recovered from this site is summarised in Table 1. The finds comprised pottery, glass, tile and a clay pipe stem. The standard of preservation was generally good.

Material class	Period	Count	Weight (g)
Ceramic	Medieval	2	110
Ceramic	Post-medieval	4	1257
Glass	Post-medieval	17	166
Slag	Post-medieval	1	8
Totals:		24	1545

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage.*

#### *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 all sherds were datable by fabric type to general production spans.

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
Medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	2	114
Post-medieval	75	North Devon gravel tempered ware	1	26
Totals:			3	140

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

*Medieval*

Two sherds of green-glazed, oxidised Malvernian pottery (fabric 69) were recovered from topsoil 7002, one of them from the base of a large jar or jug. These were typical of material manufactured in the Hanley Castle area during the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Post-medieval*

A collared rim sherd, of North Devon gravel-tempered ware (fabric 75) was found in made ground layer 1002. This sherd had a dark, brownish-green glaze on its internal surface, and was probably from a large jug produced during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

*Other artefacts**Clay pipes*

A fragment of a clay pipe stem was found in made ground layer 1002, but could not be assigned to a date range other than a wide 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century production span.

*Glass*

Parts of bottle bases (from at least four vessels) were found in made ground layer 1002. These were thick, being hand-blown from a very dark green glass, and probably late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. A number of thinner, green glass body sherds were also found; these were likely to have been from bottles produced during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Tile*

Two adjoining fragments from an unglazed, orange earthenware floor tile were recovered from concrete foundation layer 1001. One of these fragments bore traces of Portland cement, suggesting a mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Slag*

A small piece of slag, from iron processing, was found in made ground layer 1002. Its low density suggested it was post-medieval, rather than Roman or medieval in origin.

**Overview of artefactual evidence, by Dennis Williams**

Apart from the single piece of slag, the artefactual assemblage was indicative of domestic occupation and use of the area during the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. 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	<i>tpq</i> range
7002	ceramic	pot	69	1	110	1200	1620	1200-1620
1001	ceramic	floor tile	-	2	1230	1825	1925	1825-1925
1002	ceramic	pot	75	1	26	1600	1700	1850-1950
	glass	vessel	-	17	166	1850	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	4	914	1775	1850	
	slag	-	-	1	8	1700	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	1	1600	1900	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts.

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## Conclusions

No extant soil sequence was recorded. No *in situ* evidence for medieval or post-medieval back plot activity was identified, although the finds assemblage was indicative of domestic activity during the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The natural matrix generally lay directly below mixed later post-medieval/modern deposits of made ground, indicating that earlier deposits have been truncated and removed during previous development of the site, most probably the construction of the garage building in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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## 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 Mostyn Chadd at 32, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8512 4046; HER ref. WSM 41745). Foundation trenches associated with the development were monitored. No extant soil sequence was recorded. No in situ evidence for medieval or post-medieval back plot activity was identified, although the finds assemblage was indicative of domestic activity during the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The natural matrix of sand (with variable gravel) generally lay directly below mixed later post-medieval/modern deposits of made ground, indicating that earlier deposits have been truncated and removed during development of the site, most probably the construction of the garage building in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

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## Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mostyn Chadd, and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

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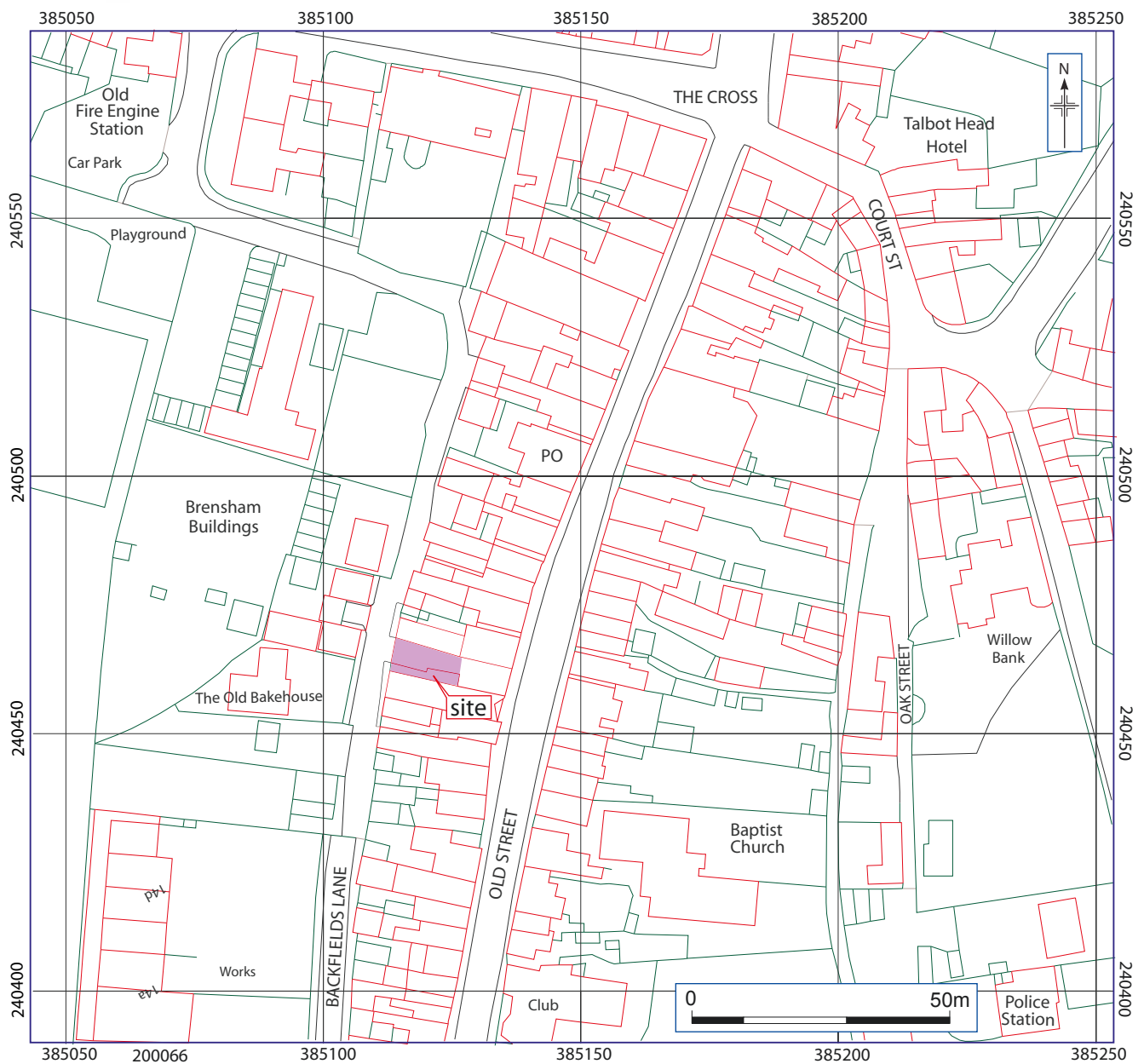
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## Figures

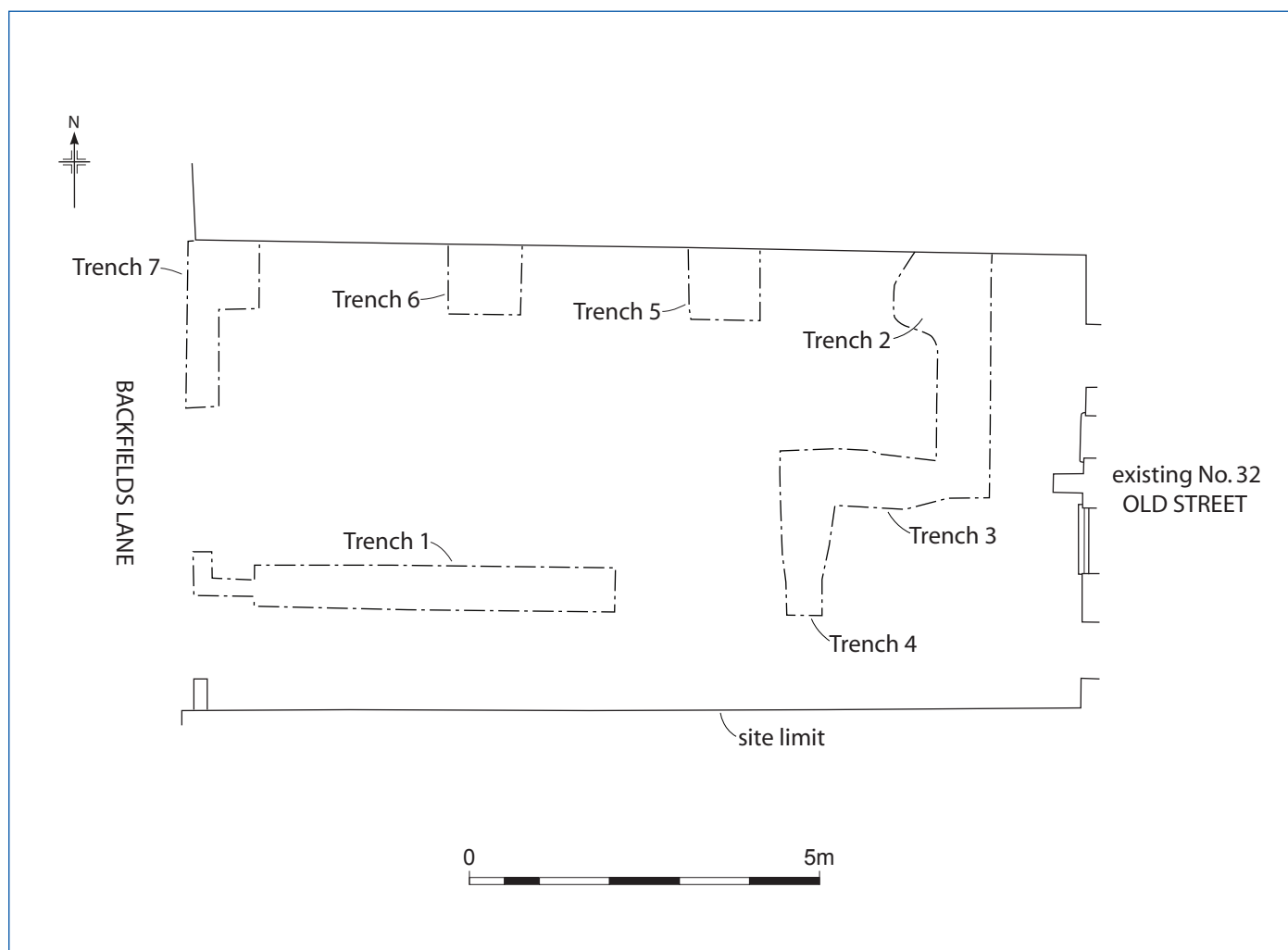




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Location of the site

Figure 1



*Plan of Trenches*

*Figure 2*

## Plates



*Plate 1 General view east of the site with Trench 1 in the foreground*



*Plate 2 Trench 1, wall 1000, view north-east*





*Plate 3 Trench 1, wall 1004, view south*



*Plate 4 Trenches 3 and 4, view north-east*





*Plate 5 Trench 5, view north*



*Plate 6 Trench 6, view west*





*Plate 7 Trench 7, view east*



*Plate 8 Trench 7, wall 7004, view north*



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## Appendix 1 Technical information

### The archive

The archive consists of:

3	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
28	Digital photographs
8	Trench Record Sheets AS41
1	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

## Appendix 2 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 6.80m Width: 0.45-0.65m Depth: 1.15-1.30m

Orientation: east-west

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Wall	Red brick, 4¼"x4"x2½". Remains of modern garage wall. Aligned east to west along north section.	0.00-0.27m
1001	Foundation	Concrete with red tiles adhering.	0.20-0.33m
1002	Made ground	Mid-dark coarse silty sand. Charcoal, grey ash, frags of glass and brick.	0.30-0.66m
1003	Natural	Light orangey brown sand. Rare sub-rounded and rounded small-medium pebbles.	0.66m+
1004	Wall	Orange brick. Bedded in coarse lime mortar. In south section. Four bricks wide (0.32m). Aligned north to south.	0.10-0.72m
1005	Topsoil	Mid-light coarse silty sand. Roots. Overlies 1004.	0.00-0.33m

### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.90m Width: 0.75-1.40m Depth: 1.09m

Orientation: north-south

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Wall	Red brick, 4¼"x4"x2½". Remains of external garage wall.	0.00-0.13m
2001	Made ground	Mid-dark coarse silty sand. Charcoal, grey ash, frags of glass and brick.	0.13-0.40m
2002	Natural	Light orangey brown sand. Rare sub-rounded and rounded small-medium pebbles.	0.40m+

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**Trench 3**

Maximum dimensions:    Length: 1.70m    Width: 0.55-0.80m    Depth: 0.95m

Orientation:                    east-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Foundation	Concrete with red tiles adhering.	0.00-0.08m
3001	Made ground	Mid-dark coarse silty sand. Charcoal, grey ash, frags of glass and brick.	0.08-0.41m
3002	Natural	Light orangey brown sand. Rare sub-rounded and rounded small-medium pebbles.	0.33m+

**Trench 4**

Maximum dimensions:    Length: 2.40m    Width: 0.50-0.75m    Depth: 1.10m

Orientation:                    north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Made ground	Mid-dark coarse silty sand. Charcoal, grey ash, frags of glass and brick.	0.00-0.55m
4001	Natural	Light orangey brown sand. Rare sub-rounded and rounded small-medium pebbles.	0.55m+

**Trench 5**

Maximum dimensions:    Length: 1.00m    Width: 1.00m    Depth: 0.60m

Orientation:                    square

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5000	Made ground	Mid-dark coarse silty sand. Charcoal, grey ash, frags of glass and brick.	0.00-0.60m+

## Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.00m Width: 1.00m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: square

### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
6000	Made ground	Mid-dark coarse silty sand. Charcoal, grey ash, frags of glass and brick.	0.00-0.74m
6001	Natural	Light orangey brown sand and gravel.	0.74m+

## Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.30m Width: 0.45-1.00m Depth: c 1.00m

Orientation: north-south

### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
7000	Made ground	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Frequent modern CBM and glass, occasional ash, more frequent to base. Same as 1002.	0.00-0.35m
7001	Made ground	Mid blackish grey ash, occasional clinker, frags of CBM and glass.	0.35-0.45m
7002	Topsoil	Mid-light coarse silty sand. Roots. Overlies 7004.	0.45-0.95m
7003	Natural	Light orangey brown sand and gravel.	0.95m+
7004	Wall	Brick wall. Bedded in coarse lime mortar. Along north section. Aligned east-west along property boundary.	0.10-0.70m+

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## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

### WSM 41745

#### P3094

Period	Material class	Object specific type	Count	Weight(g)	Start date	End date
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	48	1200	1620
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	66	1200	1620
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	1	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	floor tile	2	1230	1825	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	26	1600	1700
post-medieval	glass	vessel	4	914	1775	1850
post-medieval	glass	vessel	17	166	1800	1900
post-medieval	slag	process waste	1	8	1700	1900