AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE FORMER MAGISTRATES COURT, OMBERSLEY STREET EAST, DROITWICH, WORCESTERSHIRE

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With a contribution by Angus Crawford

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE Project 2884 Report 1491 WSM 35959

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An Archaeological Evaluation at the former Magistrates Court, Ombersley Street East, Droitwich, Worcestershire

Sarah Phear

With contributions by Angus Crawford

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former Magistrates Court, Ombersley Street East, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8961 6320). It was undertaken for West Hart Partnership on behalf of their client Alfred McAlpine who intends to demolish the existing building and construct a three storey medical centre with associated parking for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present, and in particular to identify remains relating to the southern boundary of the Roman and Saxon settlement in Droitwich.

Two trenches were excavated over the site area; one in Zone 1, which was located in the car park area off Nine Foot Way; and one in Zone 2 in the small garden and paved area between the former magistrates court and the police station. Both trenches were excavated down to the natural clay matrix, and deposits within both trenches were found to have been truncated by services, modern structures and construction activities. Only one potential archaeological feature was identified; a small natural hollow or gully containing a silty clay deposit with one prehistoric struck flint. Residual Roman and medieval pottery sherds and a flint scraper were recovered from the subsoil, although a piece of ceramic drain in the subsoil attests to 18th century disturbance.

The results indicate that the site has been modified quite heavily in the late 20th century, and as such, there is little potential for the survival or presence of significant archaeology within the development area. The presence of prehistoric stuck flint suggests prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity, although occupation was not on the site itself and was probably located further to the south or south-west.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former Magistrates Court, Ombersley Street East, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 8961 6320l; Fig 1), for West Hart Partnership on behalf of their client Alfred McAlpine. West Hart Partnership intends to demolish the existing building and construct a three storey medical centre with associated parking, and has submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (reference W/05/1553), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (HER ref. WSM 22019).

1.2 **Project parameters**

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Advisor) (HEAS 2006a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2006b).

1.3 **Aims**

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

More specifically, the Central Marches Historic Town Survey for Droitwich identified that Ombersley Street East may have formed the southern boundary of the Roman and Saxon settlement. Several archaeological sites where Roman and Saxon remains have been recovered which are located in the Covercroft area, just north of Ombersley Street East, support this. The project therefore had the following aim:

• To identify remains relating to the southern boundary of the Roman and Saxon settlement.

2. Methods

2.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2000b). Fieldwork was undertaken on 6th and 7th November 2006. The site reference number and site code is WSM 35959.

Two trenches, amounting to just over $52m^2$ in area, were excavated over the site area. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The site was divided into two zones. Zone 1

was located in the car park between the former magistrates court and Nine Foot Way (Plate 1). Trench 1, an 'L' shaped trench, was situated in the west side of the car park (Plate 2). Zone 2 was located in a small garden and paved area between the former court and police station (Plate 3). Trench 2 was excavated on the west extent of the area to avoid existing services (Plate 4), although three non-live cables were uncovered during machining.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a JCB wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

The following techniques were considered for use but were not considered to be appropriate for this project; geophysical survey, fieldwalking and topographic/earthwork survey.

2.2.2 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 Artefacts, by Angus Crawford

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). All artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits.

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994).

2.4 Environmental

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the event no deposits were identified during the evaluation, which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site is located to the immediate south-west of the town centre of Droitwich, close to Victoria Square. It currently consists of the former magistrates court, which was constructed

in the 1960s/1970s, and includes part of the current car park used by the Droitwich Police Station, which is situated to the rear of both buildings (Fig 1). This encompasses an area of approximately 1300 m^2 .

Droitwich is located on the Worcestershire Plain, which is geologically based on Triassic marls and sandstone. More specifically, the soils surrounding the site are of the Whimple Series, although Compton and Spetchley soils are also present (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983; Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1984). This consists of drift over Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous reddish mudstone. Specifically, soils are stagnogleyic argillic brown earths, which are loamy or loamy over clayey soils with a mottled, slowly permeable subsoil. The loamy horizons in the upper section tend to be porous although the clayey horizons are dense and slowly permeable which causes slight seasonal waterlogging.

Prehistoric sites have not been recorded in Droitwich town centre. However, Mesolithic flint tools (c 8000 to 4000 BC) and Neolithic pot sherds (c 4000 - 2000 BC) have been recovered from Bays Meadow, located to the north of the River Salwarpe, north of the present site.

Droitwich is most famous for salt production. Remains from Iron Age (c 500 BC – AD 43) salt working have been recovered from Dodderhill, as well Friar Street to the south-west. Remains from this site revealed use from the $3^{rd}/2^{nd}$ century BC through to the Roman period (AD 43 - 410).

Production of salt during the Roman period is documented from many sites in Droitwich and includes a Roman fort at Dodderhill (c 47-70 AD) and settlement over a wide area to the south of the River Salwarpe. The town was known as *Salinae* meaning 'salt-works'. This name was used in documents in the Saxon period during which a substantial salt trade developed.

There is evidence of Roman and Saxon settlement close to the present site, the majority of which has been recovered through archaeological salvage projects. In nearby Covercroft remains of a Roman kiln and oven were recovered (WSM 04146) and Roman pottery has also been found close by (WSM 00481). At an additional site in Covercroft (WSM 04147) two north-south orientated ditches were also recorded. A series of shallow occupation features were excavated in St Andrews Square car park (WSM 04145) with finds dating to the Roman period, as well as the medieval and post-medieval periods. A further area of dense archaeological features is located within St Andrews Square (WSM 04144). Remains include Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation debris. During a watching brief at the old Police Station (WSM 00601) a pottery sherd dating to the Saxon period (AD 700 - 1100) was recovered from an enclosure ditch, although pottery sherds recovered from the uppermost fill date from the 11th and 12th centuries, indicating that it remained open up to this time.

Medieval Droitwich was a prosperous trading centre as it was the only specialised industrial centre in the West Midlands (Freezer n.d). However, little physical growth of the township occurred during this time. Several medieval and post-medieval sites have been recorded close to the former magistrates court. The Saltworks in Covercroft (WSM 10575) are notable and date from the 16th century. While the Brine Baths in Droitwich Private Hospital (WSM 31626) date predominantly to the Victorian and modern periods, there is evidence of earlier activity in the 17th century. The remaining recorded sites are mainly buildings dating to the Victorian period and include the Bathhouse in Victoria Square (WSM 00260), a kiln site (WSM 10577) and a clay pit (WSM 10576) in Ombersley Street East, two chapels (WSM 00259 and WSM 02379), several buildings (WSM 04911, WSM 04912, and WSM 04913) and a railway embankment (WSM 10574).

4. **Results**

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural deposits (context 1005/2003) observed during evaluation comprised a light fawn/brown clay derived from the underlying mudstone. These were overlain by deposits of prehistoric and medieval date.

4.1.2 **Phase 2 Prehistoric deposits**

In Trench 1 a deposit (context 1006) was identified that may have formed during the prehistoric period, although this is unclear due to the presence of only one artefact dating to the Bronze Age. Context 1006, a mid-grey clay silt, was located within a natural hollow or gully running east-west across the site (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 5). The deposit contained one prehistoric flint.

4.13 **Phase 3 post-medieval/modern deposits**

A deposit containing residual prehistoric flint, Roman and medieval pottery, and an 18th century ceramic drainpipe fragment overlay the natural matrix. This comprised a clayey subsoil (context 1004/2002) (Plate 6).

Overlying the subsoil were several modern deposits and one structure. In Trench 1 there was no evidence of a topsoil, probably owing to activities related to the placement of a modern car park surface. Immediately above the subsoil in Trench 1 were two brick and clay levelling deposits (context 1002, 1003) which were in turn covered by a cinders layer (context 1001). This was capped by the tarmac car surface with associated gravel hardcore (context 1000) (Plate 4).

Immediately above the subsoil in Trench 2 was a relict topsoil containing some brick and mortar flecking (context 2007). The rest of the topsoil was probably removed during building activities in the recent past. This includes activities related to construction of context 2004, a concrete tunnel connecting the former magistrates court to the police station, located towards the southern extent of the trench. There were also deposits related to ground levelling to place the modern path - a sand and gravel layer (context 2001) and a clay layer (context 2006). The modern brick and concrete path, context 2005, was probably laid in the 1970's. The topsoil in the garden area in Trench 2 was imported, after these construction activities (2000) (Plate 7).

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Angus Crawford

Artefactual analysis

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the evaluated area consisted of nine sherds of pottery weighing 41g, in addition fragments of drain, ceramic building material and prehistoric flint were recovered. The group came from two stratified contexts and could be dated from the prehistoric period onwards (see Table 1). Level of preservation was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying moderate to high levels of abrasion.

| Context | Material | Туре | Total | Weight (g) |
|---------|---------------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| 1004 | Ceramic building material | Roman | 1 | 5 |
| 1004 | Ceramic | Drain | 1 | 86 |
| 1004 | Flint | Blade | 1 | 4 |
| 1004 | Iron | Unid | 1 | 3 |
| 1004 | Pottery | Medieval | 8 | 40 |
| 1004 | Pottery | Roman | 1 | 1 |
| 1006 | Flint | Scraper | 1 | 6 |

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.1 **Discussion of the pottery**

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). As no diagnostic form sherds were present the pottery assemblage was dated by fabric type to general periods or production spans.

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

| Context | Fabric Name | Fabric Number | Total | Weight (g) |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|
| 1004 | Oxidised Severn Valley Ware | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| 1004 | Worcester-type sandy glazed ware | 64.1 | 6 | 18 |
| 1004 | Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware | 69 | 2 | 22 |

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

4.2.2 Prehistoric

Two worked flints were identified as prehistoric in date and consisted of a broken Neolithic blade of 33 mm length and an early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper with a maximum diameter of 28mm. While the blade was broken the remainder of the artefact was in good condition suggesting that the breakage occurred during usage.

4.2.3 **Roman**

The Roman assemblage consisted of a single sherd of oxidised Severn Valley ware weighing 1 gram (fabric 12, context 1004) and a single fragment of ceramic building material weighing 5 grams (context 1004). Both have been subject to a high degree of abrasion and could only be broadly dated to the mid 1st to 4th century. The quantity, size and condition of the material were indicative of residual material within a later context date.

4.2.4 Medieval

The medieval pottery assemblage consisted of only two distinct fabric types, all from context 1004. These were two sherds of Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware (dating from the late 13th to early 17th century), and six sherds of Worcester-type sandy glazed ware. All sherds displayed a moderate degree of abrasion.

4.2.5 **Post-medieval to modern**

The assemblage for this period consisted of a single fragment of potential drain material. While the exact origin of the fragment was difficult to ascribe, the fabric contains buff clay inclusions commonly seen within brick and roof tile material dating to the 18th century.

5. **Synthesis**

5.1 Artefactual significance, by Angus Crawford

While context 1006 contains an early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper, the lack of further finds made it difficult to allocate a date range to this particular context. However, context 1004 can be dated by the ceramic drain fragment to the 18th century or latter with residual prehistoric, Roman and medieval material. While residual Roman and medieval material would be expected on an urban site within Droitwich, the well-preserved prehistoric material would be indicative of prehistoric activity within the region of the evaluated area.

5.2 **Prehistoric**

The flint scraper recovered from the deposit within a natural hollow/gully and the residual flint blade found in the subsoil, suggest prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. Evidence of prehistoric settlement is restricted to the Bays Meadow area, immediately north of the River Salwarpe, where flints from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods have been recovered. The site investigated here, however, is situated approximately 60m to the south of the river. It is thus likely that settlement of some kind was present in the Bronze Age and Neolithic Period on the south side of the river. Indeed it is expected that occupation from at least the Neolithic period should be visible in Droitwich as this is when the brine springs are argued to have been first exploited (Freezer n.d.). It is not known exactly where this settlement may have occurred and the flint may have travelled a significant distance from its original deposition due to water movement in the gully, and similarly with the residual flint in the subsoil.

5.3 Roman

The Roman pottery sherds found within the subsoil are residual and there was no evidence to indicate Roman occupation in the immediate vicinity. This then suggests that the boundary of Roman occupation (and Saxon) did not extend to the south side of Ombersley Street East. The abraded nature of the sherds indicates that they may have been redeposited in the soil over repeated occasions, and therefore the sherds are likely to have travelled some distance from their original area of deposition. It is thus difficult to assign a direct origin for these sherds, suffice to say that they are most likely to be derived from Roman settlement in the Covercroft area.

5.4 Medieval

The medieval salt industry in Droitwich is well documented and has been discussed in Section 3 above. The pottery sherds recovered in the subsoil therefore provide further evidence of medieval settlement in the town centre. As the sherds are not associated with specific features (such as pits, kilns etc) it is not known exactly what type of activities took place on the site. However, the absence of such features as pits, kilns and structural remains does suggest that in the medieval period this particular area was still un-developed, without houses or other buildings. Rather, the pottery was likely to have been deposited during peripheral activity, such as manuring of fields or the dumping of domestic refuse.

5.5 **Post-medieval/modern**

The drain fragment dated to the 18^{th} century recovered in the subsoil provides a *terminus post quem* for the subsoil. While features related to occupation in the 18^{th} century were not present on the site, the fragment of drain suggests building activities of some sort in the area, and this is typical of an urban environment, where debris and refuse can become scattered across a wide area.

6. Significance

6.1 Archaeological

In considering significance, the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments (DoE 1990, annex 4), have been used as a guide.

The results indicate that the site has been modified quite heavily in the later 20th century. This has led to the removal of topsoil deposits throughout most of the site. The subsoil horizon remains largely intact over most of the site, but is devoid of archaeological features. As such, there is little potential for the survival or presence of significant archaeology within the development area.

While the presence of Bronze Age scraper and a Neolithic blade does suggest prehistoric settlement, occupation was not directly on this site and was likely located further to the south and/or south-west of the site.

7. **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 evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Alfred McAlpine at the former Magistrates Court, Ombersley Street East, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8961 6320; WSM 35959). Two trenches were excavated over the site area, one in Zone 1 which was located in the car park area, an one in Zone 2 in the small garden and paved area between the former court and police station. Both trenches were excavated down to the Natural clay layer, and deposits within both trenches had been truncated by services and modern structures and construction activities. Only one non-modern feature was identified, a small natural hollow/gully containing a clay deposit with one prehistoric flint. Residual Roman and Medieval pot sherds and a flint scraper were recovered from the subsoil, although a piece of ceramic drainpipe in the subsoil indicates disturbance in the 18th century.

No remains relating to the southern boundary of the Roman and Saxon settlement in Droitwich. The results indicate that the site has been modified quite heavily in the late 20th century, and as such, there is little potential for the survival or presence of significant archaeology within the development area. The presence of prehistoric flint suggests prehistoric settlement, but occupation was not on this site and was probably located further to the south and/or south-west of the site.

8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 10 Abbreviated context records AS40
- 3 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 49 Photographic records AS3
- 2 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Context number catalogue AS5
- 1 Levels record sheets AS19
- 1 Drawing number catalogue AS4
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk
- 1 Report

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

9. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Jim Hart (West Hart Partnership), Jim Morris (Alfred McAlpine), Mike Williams (Estates, Worcestershire County Council), Andrew Husband (Estate Surveyor, West Mercia Constabulary), and Mike Glyde (HEAS Planning Archaeologist).

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Sarah Phear. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Vaughan, finds analysis by Angus Crawford, and illustration by Caroline Hunt.

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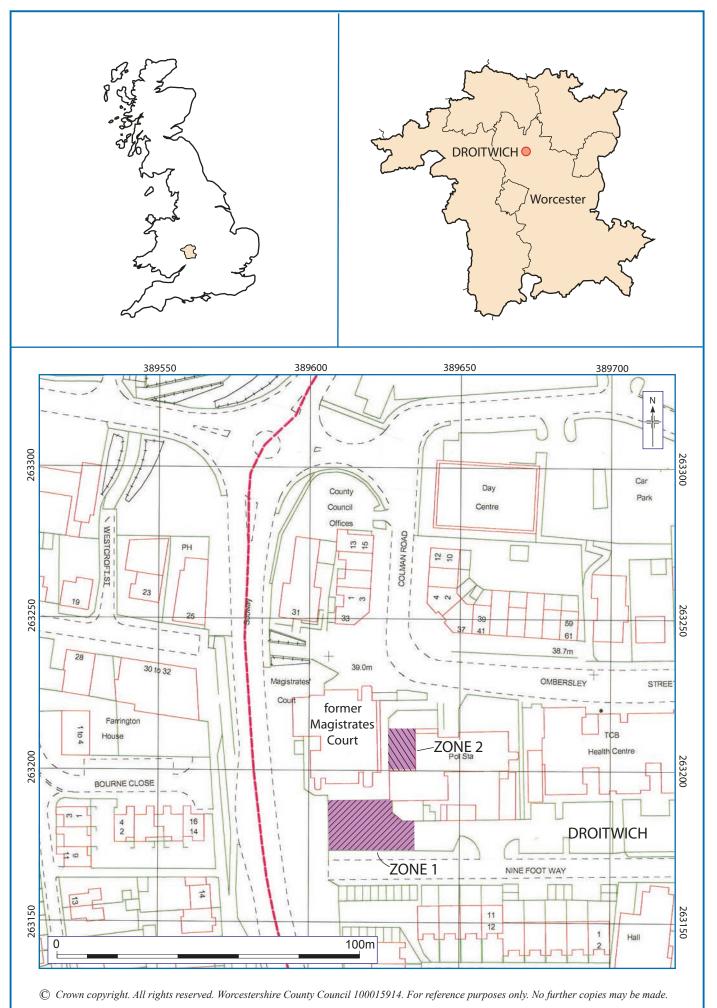
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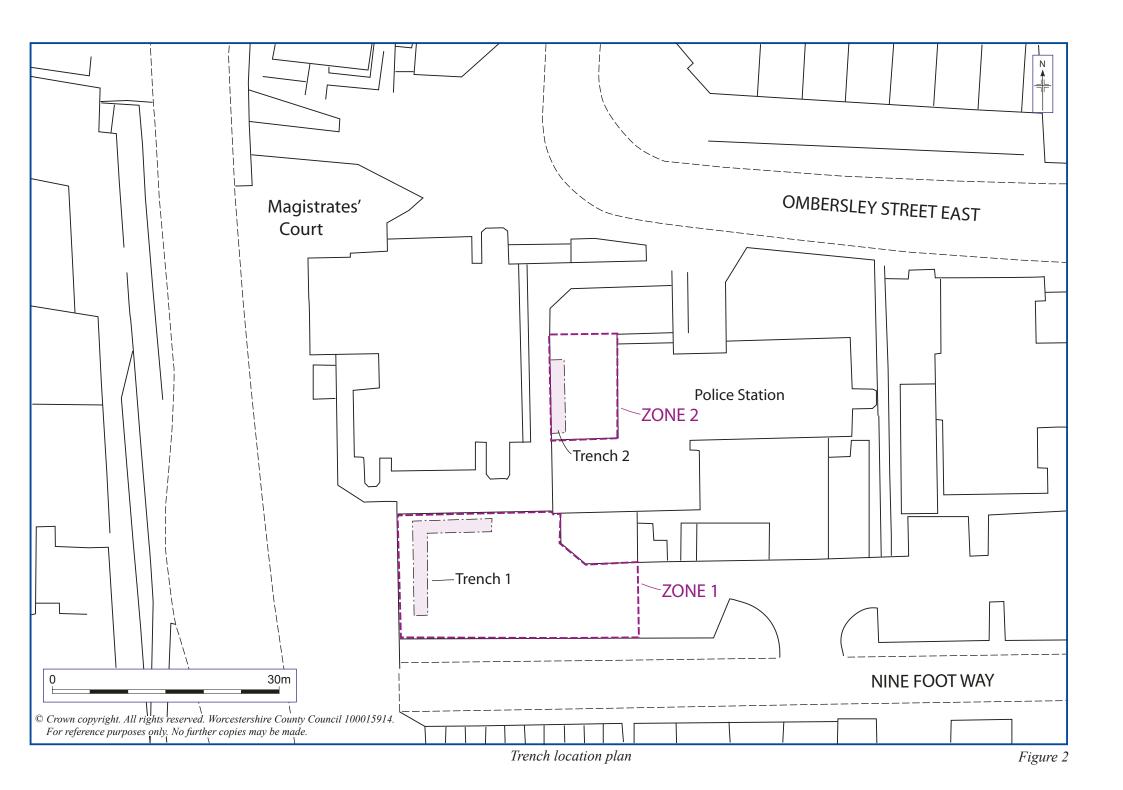
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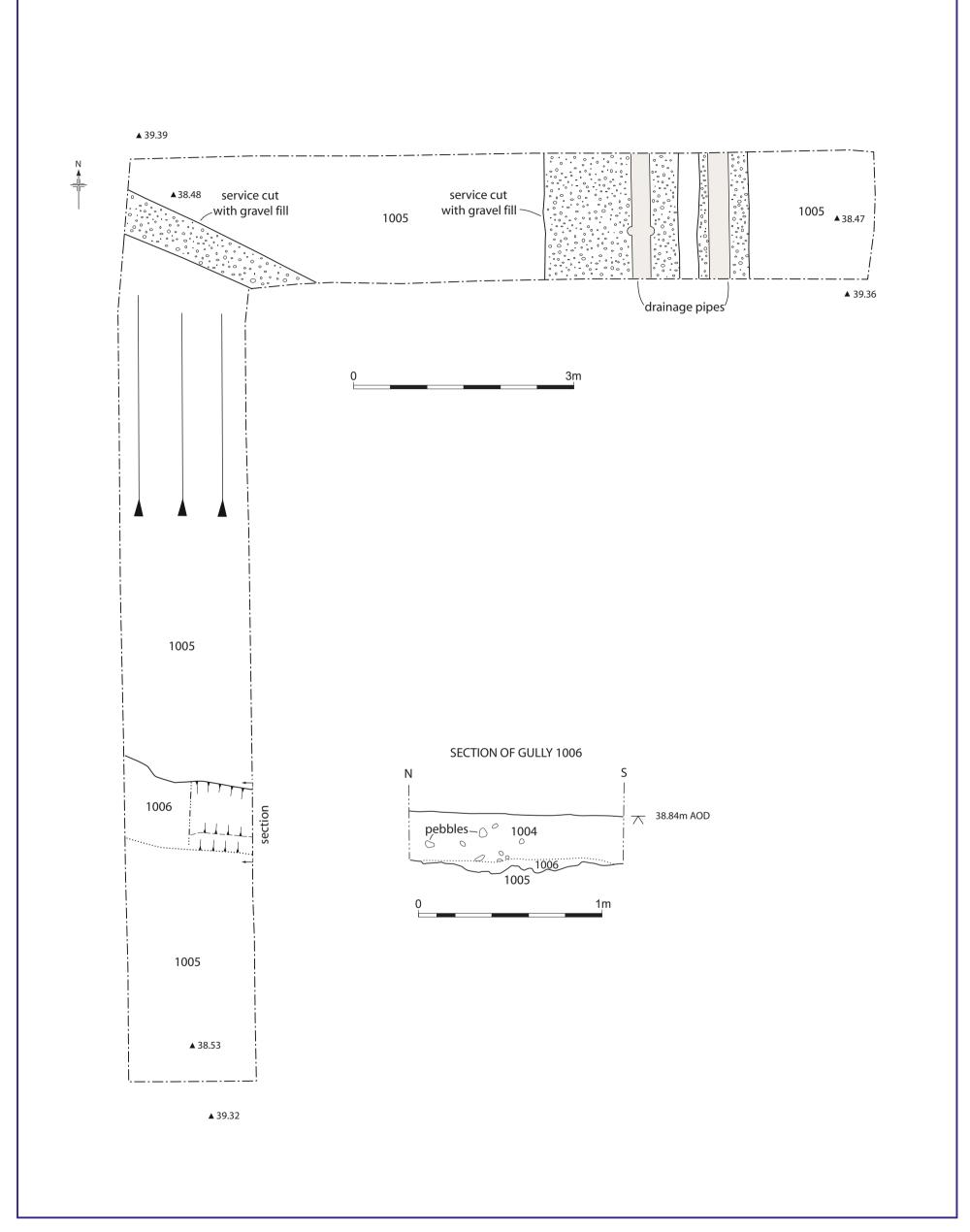
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Figures

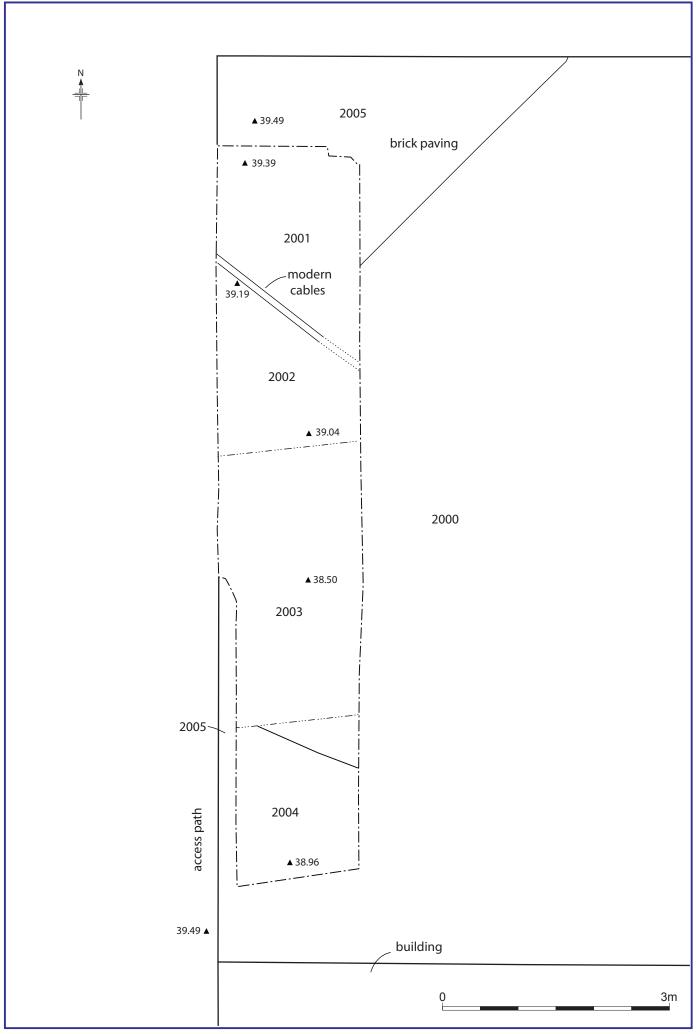






Trench 1: plan and section of natural gully 1006

Figure 3



Plates



Plate 1. Zone 1, car park between former magistrates and Nine Foot Way, pre-excavation



Plate 2. Trench 1 in Zone 1, general shot, view north-east

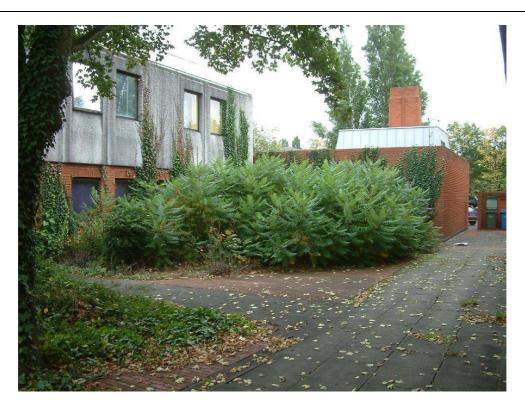


Plate 3 Zone 2, small garden and paved area between the Police Station and the former Magistrates Court, pre-excavation



Plate 4. Trench 2 in Zone 2, general shot, view south



Plate 5. Trench 1, deposit 1006 within the natural hollow/gully



Plate 6. Trench 1, sample section, view west.



Plate 7. Trench 2, sample section, view west.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

| Site area: | Zone 1 | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Maximum dimensions: | Length: 22m | Width: 1.6m | Depth: 0.81-1.10m |
| Orientation: | North-south and | east-west | |

Orientation:

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1000 | Modern car park surface | Dark blackish grey tarmac with angular gravel chips to 0.08m, over light fawn-grey angular small-medium gravel and gravel dust to 0.33m; compacted but not cohesive. | 0.00-0.45m |
| 1001 | Cinders | Dark greyish black layer of cinders, loose to moderately compact. Extends across entire trench. Levelling layer for surface 1000. | 0.33-0.65m |
| 1002 | CBM and clay layer | Dark brownish red brick and clay layer, compact. Thin deposit located at southern end of trench only. Occasional small flecks of CBM and mortar \leq 5mm; large medium fragments of brick 0.06-0.05m. A discontinuous layer. In west wall only. Likely levelling layer for placement of 1000. | 0.50-0.59m |
| 1003 | Modern CBM layer. | Orange brick fragments 0.08-0.08m to 0.10-0.06m, and small to medium sized yellow stone and concrete fragments, loose. Situated in north end of trench only. Likely levelling deposit for placement of 1000. | 0.47-0.50m |
| 1004 | Subsoil | Light greyish-brown silty clay with frequent mid brownish-orange mottling, compact and cohesive. Occasional flecks of charcoal and small fragments, ≤ 5mm, pieces of medieval pottery, small rounded pebbles, and micro-roots, and small fragments of CBM. Rare flint. Thickness of layer increases in northerly direction following the gradual slope of the natural 1005. | 0.50-0.84m |
| 1005 | Natural | Fawn-grey to light yellowish-grey sandy clay-silt, compact and moderately cohesive. Frequent small to medium rounded and sub rounded pebbles and ferromanganese flecks. Occasional micro-roots., rare medium to small roots. Gradual slope in northerly direction. A small natural gully/hollow situated at southern end of trench, running EW and filled by 1005. | 0.66m + |
| 1006 | Fill of natural hollow | Light to mid grey silty clay with yellowish orange mottling, compact and cohesive. Occasional charcoal small flecks, small-medium rounded and sub- rounded pebbles, pinkish/red sandstone frags. Fill of hollow within surface of 1005 toward south end of trench. Contained a single struck flint. | 0.72-0.80m |

Trench 2

| Site area: | Zone 2 | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Maximum dimensions: | Length: 9.5m | Width: 1.6m | Depth: 0.09-1.02m, |
| Orientation: | North-south | | |

Main deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 2000 | Topsoil | Dark blackish-brown humic silty-loam, moderately compact and cohesive. Frequent small roots. Occasional rounded small pebbles gravel, and very small red brick fragments. | 0.00-0.34m |
| 2001 | Foundation/ hardcore | Light grey sub-angular fine gravel and gravel dust over and mixed into five medium orangey-red sand, compact and cohesive. A modern construction layer. | 0.24-0.45m |
| 2002 | Subsoil | Dark greyish-brown silty-clay, compact and cohesive. Very occasional small rounded pebbles. | 0.62-0.92m |
| 2003 | Natural | Light fawn-brown clay with frequent patches of small rounded pebbles. | 0.83m + |
| 2004 | Modern tunnel | Light fawn-off-white concrete structure in southern end of trench only aligned NW/SE. Cut into natural 2003. | 0.54m + |
| 2005 | Modern surface/Flooring | Red brick paving with bricks set on edge and within Portland cement mortar overlying deep very light pinkish-white concrete base with frequent gravel inclusions. Forms edge of flowerbed and part of floor surface to north. | 0.00-0.27m |
| 2006 | Layer | Slightly sandy brown clay, compact and moderately cohesive. Occasional sub rounded pebble gravel. Extended throughout entire trench. Levelling/construction layer contemporary with 2001. | 0.36-0.56m |
| 2007 | Relict topsoil | Mid greyish-brown silty clay, compact and cohesive. Occasional yellowish mortar flecks, charcoal and red brick flecks throughout. | 0.48-0.63m |