

Archaeological Watching Brief at  
The Teardrop Site,  
Bordesley Lane,  
Redditch,  
Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
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HER reference: WSM 47467



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## Watching brief at the Teardrop Site, Bordesley Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire

Graham Arnold

### Background information

<i>Client</i>	WYG Environment Planning Transport Ltd
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 0432 6864
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 47467
<i>Planning authority</i>	Redditch Borough Council
<i>reference</i>	R/11/0258
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2012
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2013
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2012

#### *Previous archaeological work on the site*

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken within the site. The site is currently a raised area adjacent to a modern roundabout.

#### *Previous archaeological work on associated sites*

A full HER search was carried out for the project (WCC 2013) and the relevant parts of this are summarised below.

The remains of Bordesley Abbey (WSM00010) lie directly to the east of the site. This Cistercian Abbey was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and by the time of its dissolution in 1538 had 20 monks including the Abbot. The buildings and land were granted to Lord Windsor in 1542. The abbey was excavated in 1864, between 1969 and 1973 and in the 1980s. St Stephens Chapel (WSM00012), which was the only part of the abbey to survive dissolution survived until 1805. The abbey and site of the chapel are Scheduled Monuments (1005304). Forge Mill to the south of the abbey (WSM00019) is the possible location of the abbey mill and is also a Scheduled Monument (1005270) There are also a collection of medieval fishponds (WSM00810; WSM03887) associated with the Abbey and its hinterland and post-medieval watermills (WSM00036; WSM00038) associated with the needle-making industry in the Redditch area.

### Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to observe groundworks and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible. The brief anticipated that significant deposits may be defined as those likely to be of medieval and post-medieval date.

### Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012a

Sources consulted

HER (WCC 2013)

## Dates of fieldwork

28 January 2013 - 27 June 2013

## Area of site

c 6,567m<sup>2</sup>

## Sampling

area sampled c 4m<sup>2</sup>. Indicated on Fig 1 (2 x geotechnical pits)

## Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Trial Trench 1    length 1.50m  
                         width 0.60m  
                         depth 2.80m (stopped at ground water level)

Trial Hole 2    length 2.50m  
                         width 0.60m  
                         depth 4.10m

## *Access to or visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation of two geotechnical trial holes. From the negative archaeological results and confirmation of 20<sup>th</sup> Century made ground down to disturbed natural Mercian mudstone it was agreed with Mike Glyde Historic Environment Planning Officer for Worcestershire County Council, that no further archaeological monitoring of the site was required. 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. No further works were required.

## *Deposit description*

Description of the deposit details is given in Appendix 1.

## **Discussion**

Two initial geological test pits were monitored. These demonstrated that the site was heavily built up with a mixed demolition material (101 + 201) and that the heavy landscaping when creating the adjacent roundabout had removed any *in situ* deposits. All of the deposits related to later 20<sup>th</sup> Century material, with metalwork and plastics retrieved. The maximum depth of the pits was 4.1m, with natural geological Mercian mudstone (102 + 202) reached at 4.00m below ground level. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

## **Conclusions**

The monitoring of the ground investigations demonstrated that no significant archaeology remains on site and the previous heavy landscaping of the area during the late 20<sup>h</sup> Century has removed any of the original ground levels.

## **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.

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*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of WYG Environment Planning Transport Ltd at the Teardrop Site, Bordesley Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire (NGR ref SP 0432 6864; HER ref WSM 47467). Initial geotechnical test pits were monitored and modern deposits were found to be overlying the natural Mercian mudstone geology at a depth of 4.00m below ground level. This demonstrated that the site had been heavily truncated during modern landscaping works and that no original ground surface relating to medieval or post-medieval activity in the area survived.*

## **Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Des Jones (Lynx Forecourt Contracts Manager), Kirsten Holland and Martin Brown (Principal Archaeologists, WYG Environment Planning Transport Ltd), Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer).

## **Bibliography**

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

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

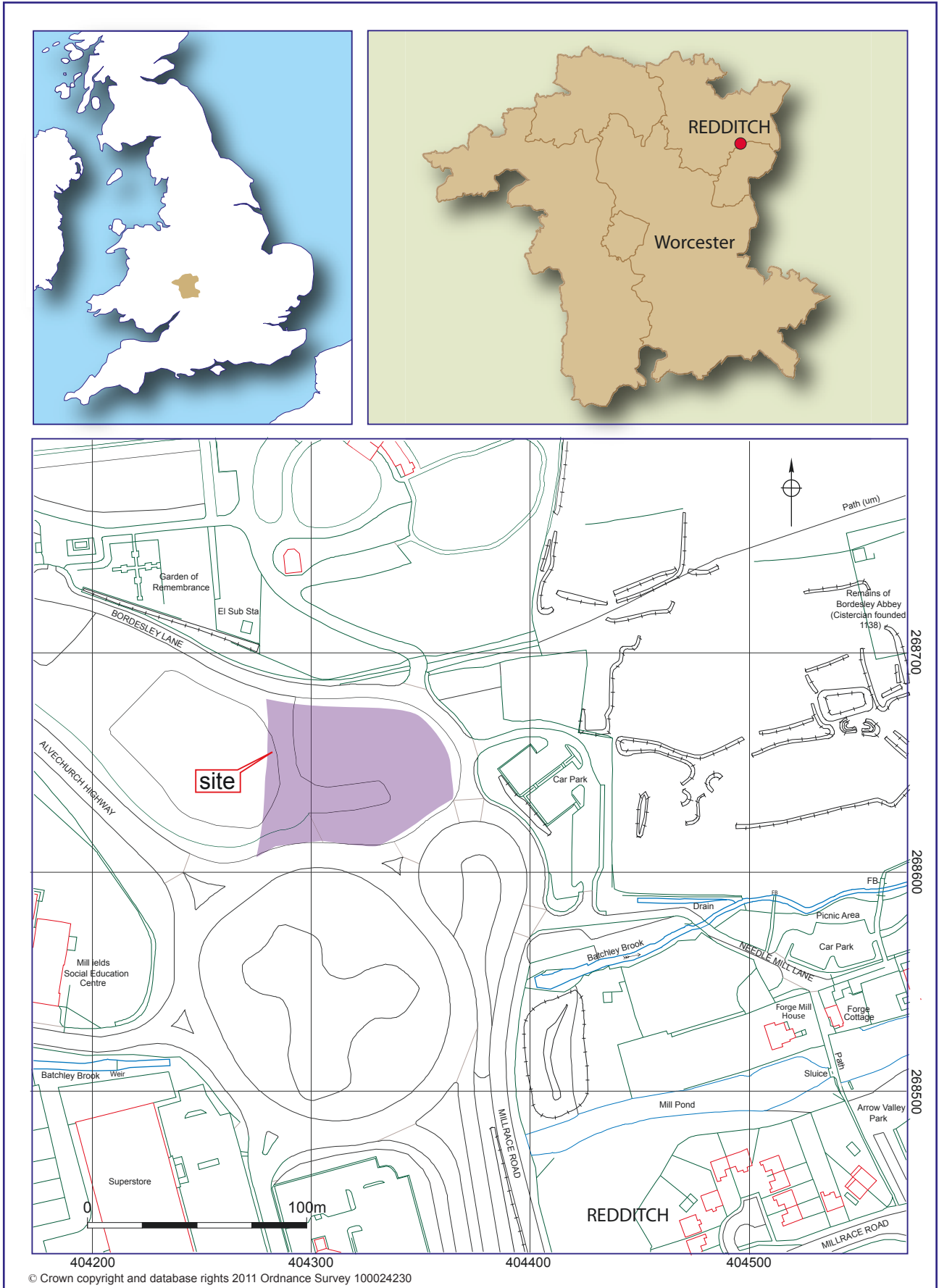
WA 2013 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at The Teardrop Site, Bordesley Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 22 January 2013, **P3989**

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 *Requirements for a programme of archaeological work at land at Teardrop Site, Bordesley Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 23 October 2012

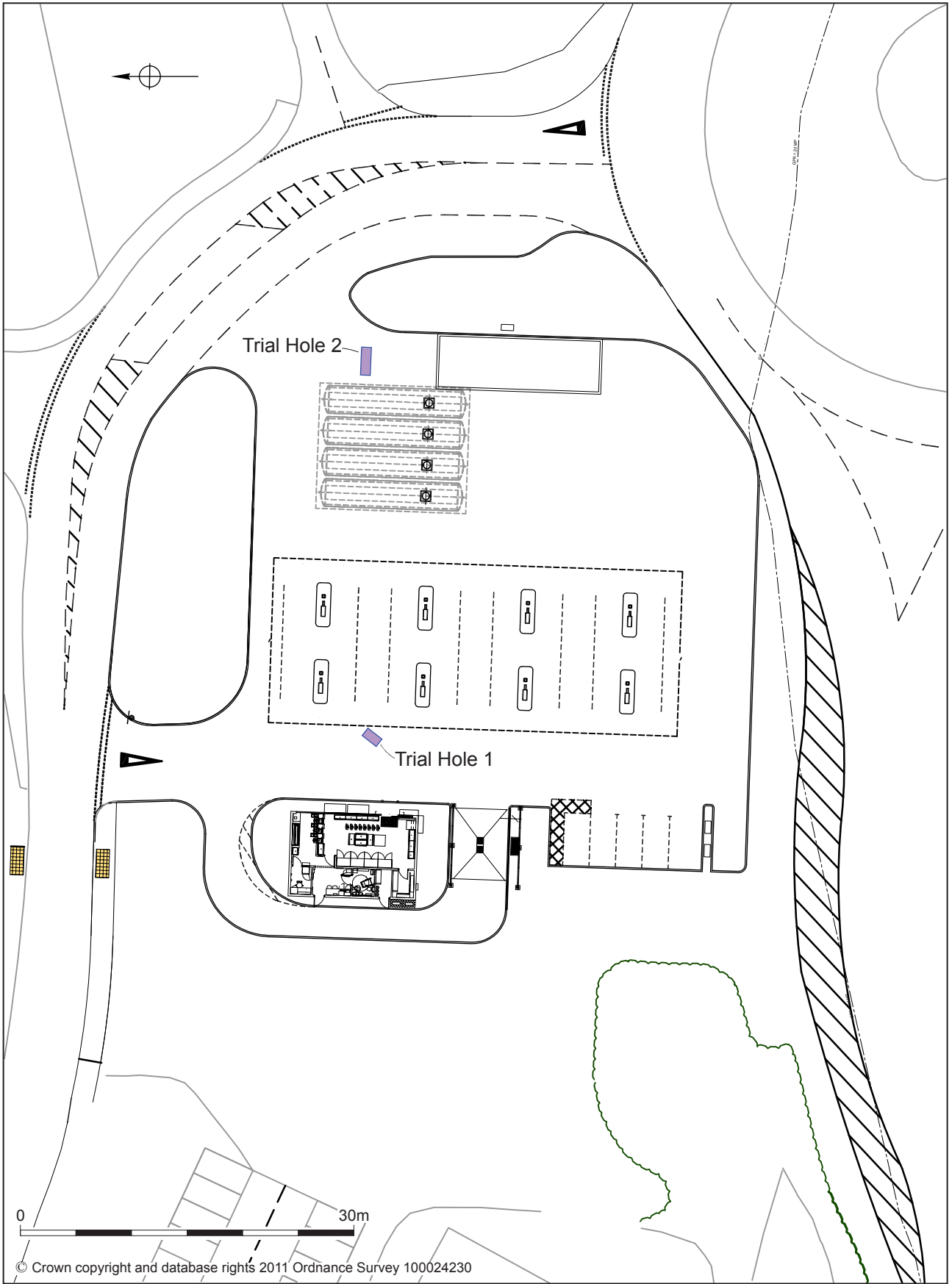
WCC 2013 *Historic Environment Record Search for Bordesley Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 26 January 2013

# Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of Trial Holes (based upon Martindales Drg No 2759/38)

Figure 2



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## Plates



*Plate 1 Trial hole 1 down to the ground water level demonstrating 20<sup>th</sup> Century made ground deposits, view of north-west facing section*



*Plate 2 Trial hole 2 4.1m total depth demonstrating redeposited Mercian mudstone, clays and 20<sup>th</sup> Century rubble material, view of south facing section*



*Plate 3 Mixed Mercian mudstone and 20<sup>th</sup> Century demolition material from Trial Hole 2, view northeast*



*Plate 4 General shot of site location.*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trial Hole 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.50m Width: 0.60m Depth: 2.80m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Thin dark brown organic layer with frequent tree roots and occasional rounded stones	0 – 0.20m
101	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> Century made ground consisting of compacted dark blackish grey clays with frequent gravels, bricks, plastic, metalwork, terram and occasional tarmac and concrete. Orange and blue clay patches. Modern rubble used to landscape the site. Base not reached due to occurrence of groundwater.	0.20 – 2.80m

**Ground water recorded at 2.40m and trial hole abandoned at 2.80m.**

### Trial Hole 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.50m Width: 0.60m Depth: 4.10m

Orientation: East - West

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Thin dark brown organic layer with frequent tree roots and occasional rounded stones	0.00 – 0.20m
201	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> Century made ground consisting of compacted dark blackish grey clays with frequent gravels, bricks, plastic, metalwork, terram and occasional tarmac and concrete. Orange and blue clay patches. Modern rubble used to landscape the site.	0.20 – 3.80m
202	Natural	Red Mercian mudstone, geological horizon	3.80 – 4.10m

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 47467)**

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 25 Digital photographs
- 1 Scale drawings
- 2 Trench record sheets 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