# Archaeological Evaluation at Goodrich House, Worcester, Worcestershire







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Status: Version 1 Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 Author: Pete Lovett <u>plovett@worcestershire.gov.uk</u> Contributors: Rob Hedge Illustrator: Laura Templeton Project reference: P4719 Report reference: 2294 HER reference: WCM102148 Oasis id fieldsec1-237231

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# Archaeological evaluation at Goodrich House, Worcester, Worcestershire

Pete Lovett

With contributions by Rob Hedge

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Goodrich House, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85187 55201). It was undertaken on behalf of Lett and Sweetland Architects, whose client intends to construct six apartments on the site for which a planning application has been submitted.

The site lies to the rear of the historic suburb of Lowesmoor. It was previously the yard for Holy Trinity School for girls which was built in 1834 and closed in 1938, the buildings becoming the Heenan and Froude Social Club.

Two trenches were opened, each roughly 10m long. Beneath the 0.5m of overburden associated with the construction of the car park were levelling layers laid down from the 1930s. These sealed a sunken barrel pit, a posthole and quarrying activity.

The barrel pit was filled with various glass bottles, a watering can and pottery. This was indicative of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century domestic activity and the use of the site as a school. This feature was associated with the school yard, whilst the backfilling probably represented the demise of the school in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The posthole was similarly dated.

The quarry activity represented low level gravel extraction to the rear of the historic Lowesmoor burgage plots, and the backfill contained consistently dated pottery, suggesting that infilling took place sometime in the late 17<sup>th</sup>/ early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A remnant subsoil was identified, truncated and sealed by the post-medieval activity. No further evidence of archaeological activity was discovered, supporting the conjecture that the area had been undeveloped agricultural land for most of its history.

## Report

## 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Goodrich House, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85187 55201). It was commissioned by Lett and Sweetland Architects whose client intends the construction of a two-storey block of 6no one bed apartments on a site adjacent to Goodrich House, Sansome Place, Worcester.

A planning application for the development was submitted to Worcester City Council (reference PD 15 D0437). The proposed development site lies within the Lowesmoor Conservation Area, and correspondence with Worcester City Council Development Management (Archaeology) established that further information was required to accompany the application in the form of a desk-based assessment and field evaluation. A desk-based assessment of the site (WA 2015) was prepared. This identified a low potential for the survival of Roman deposits, a moderate potential for the survival of medieval deposits and a high potential for the survival of post-medieval deposits.

Following this a brief for evaluation was prepared by Worcester City Council (WCC 2015) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2015) was submitted and approved. This document describes the results of the field evaluation.

The project conforms to Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014); Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester (Worcester City Council 1999).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WCM102148.

### 2 Aims

The general aims of the evaluation were to:-

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

More specifically the aims of the project were to address the following research priorities identified in the Worcester City Urban Archaeological Strategy (WCC 2007):-

- Documenting the extents of Roman Worcester (RP3.30)
- The medieval suburbs (RP5.1)
- Industry and land-use patterns in the suburbs (RP5.14)
- Medieval ceramic industries (RP5.30)
- Other medieval industries (RP5.31)
- Investigation of the historic suburbs (RP7.5)

## 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led by, Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc), Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA. Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken on behalf of Lett and Sweetland Architects (Lovett 2015). The DBA identified a low potential for the survival of Roman deposits, a moderate potential for the survivability of medieval deposits and a high potential for post-medieval deposits.

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 4 January and 5 January 2016. The site reference number and site code is WCM102148.

Two trenches, amounting to just over 36m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 400m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of 9%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 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 and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012a). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material, and making good the car park surfaces.

#### 3.4 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.

#### 3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014; <u>http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa</u>), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011; <u>http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/</u>), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993; <u>http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm</u>).

#### 3.5.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2). Where deposits of 20<sup>th</sup> century date were encountered, only a small sample of artefactual material was retained for dating purposes.

#### 3.5.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. 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 referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

#### 3.5.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

#### 3.5.4 Environmental sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

### 4 The application site

#### 4.1 Archaeological context

The site lies to the south of Sansome Walk on the eastern side of the historic centre of Worcester. It is currently occupied by Goodrich House, a building constructed in the 1960s, and an associated car park.

The historic street of Lowesmoor which runs to the south of the site, represents the north-eastern route into the medieval city of Worcester, and was one of the earliest extra-mural suburbs to develop. Known to have existed from at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it potentially began as early as the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The burgage plots that divided the land during this early development have been maintained throughout much of its existence, being reinstated following the purported razing of the suburb during the Civil War.

The proposed development site spans the backplot of houses fronting Lowesmoor and the land beyond the boundary. Cartographic evidence demonstrates that the land remained open fields until the Holy Trinity School for girls was built in 1834. The school house still stands on land to the west of the development site, which was itself a yard area and outbuildings. The school closed in 1938, after it had fallen in to financial difficulties, and was sold to become Heenan and Froude Social Club.

A more detailed historic background to the site is set out in the desk-based assessment (WA 2015).

#### 4.2 Current land-use

The site is a private car park, laid with tarmac and gravel.

## 5 Structural analysis

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

#### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural gravel was observed in both trenches, at a depth of 0.9m below current ground surface in Trench 1 and 0.86m in Trench 2. A remnant subsoil was present above this in the length of Trench 1, but only sporadically in Trench 2, due to various truncations.

#### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits

A large cut through subsoil and natural deposits in Trench 2 probably represents post-medieval gravel extraction. This was backfilled with a series of rubble dumps, typical of 19<sup>th</sup> Century activity. In Trench 1, a sunken barrel pit (109) was excavated. This cut through the remnant subsoil. The pit had a wooden barrel placed in it, though only the metal hoops remained, and was backfilled with various glass bottles, animal bone, watering cans, buckets, window glass and sherds of ceramics. A small posthole further to the south of Trench 1 also cut through the subsoil. Sealing these features were a series of levelling layers, some of which were seen in both trenches.

#### 5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A plastic water pipe supplying Goodrich house was encountered in Trench 2, as was the cut for a sewer. This latter was marked with a rough line of bricks placed along its length. In Trench 1 a metal pipe was encountered, probably a defunct water supply. This was directly above a ceramic storm drain. All of these services were sealed by made-up layers associated with the construction of the carpark. A small pit had been dug through these layers before the tarmac had been laid.

#### 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage came from five stratified contexts and could be dated from the post-medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying low levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size, at 39g, being well above average, reflecting the robust nature of many of the wares present, and that they were in their original depositional context.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	4	188
post- medieval/modern	ceramic		clay pipe	2	5
post- medieval/modern	ceramic		kiln furniture	1	17
modern	ceramic		pot	18	673
modern	glass		vessel	7	2174
undated	bone	animal bone	animal bone	12	151
undated	organic	shell	crab claw	1	9
·			Totals	45	3217

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	1	84
Post-medieval	78.1	Red sandy ware	1	32
Post-medieval	82	Tin-glazed ware	1	37
Post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	1	35
Modern	85	Modern china	12	318
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	69
Modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	5	286
		Totals	22	861

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

#### Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

#### Post-medieval

The backfill (210) of quarry pit [211] contained domestic earthenwares of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date, including a single sherd of blue-and-white tin-glazed 'delftware' of uncertain origin. A later 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century date is considered likely for this assemblage. Fill (210) also contained a fragment of crab claw. If contemporary with the pottery, this may represent an unusual instance of consumption of marine crustaceans so far inland (approximately 60 miles from the nearest possible source) at that date.

#### Modern

Fill (106) within barrel pit [109] contained a range of domestic artefacts of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, including fragments of fine mocha and banded ware pottery vessels and a number of glass bottles, predominantly 'Codd' and 'torpedo' types that would have contained carbonated soft drinks. Although most were fragmentary and dating is therefore problematic, two bottles marked 'Sheppards Worcester' and manufactured by 'A. Alexander & Co of Leeds/Leeds & London' are though to date from 1884–1913 (Lockhart 2013, 312). A quantity of animal bone, mostly butchery waste but including a single domestic cat mandible, was also recovered. A *tpq* date range for the deposit of 1900–20 is proposed.

A sherd from a later 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century stoneware blacking bottle and a fragment of a fine, white clay ceramic turned ring, original diameter *c*.130mm, were recovered from fill (116) of posthole (117). The latter is a fragment of kiln furniture, probably a separating ring used to space stacked vessels in the kiln, and is likely to have derived from either the nearby Grainger's works or from the Royal Worcester factory. The dimensions of the piece are at the upper end of the range of similar ceramic rings recovered during evaluation works at the Severn Street Royal Worcester site (Weale 2008, 6).

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
104	glass		vessel	1	19	1850	1905	1850-1905
106	ceramic		clay pipe	2	5	1600	1910	1900-1920
106	ceramic		pot	5	118	1800	1950	1900-1920

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
	ceramic		pot	1	67	1900	1950	
	ceramic		pot	4	219	1850	1920	
	glass		vessel	1	281	1810	1920	
	glass		vessel	1	407	1884	1913	
	glass		vessel	1	417	1871	1920	
	glass		vessel	1	418	1884	1913	
	glass		vessel	1	316	1850	1905	
	bone	animal bone	animal bone	11	129			
	ceramic		pot	1	69	1800	1950	
116	ceramic		kiln furniture	1	17	1751	2000	1850-1950
207	ceramic		pot	7	200	1800	1950	4005 4050
207	glass		vessel	1	316	1905	2000	1905-1950
	ceramic		pot	1	35	1700	1800	
	ceramic		pot	1	84	1600	1800	
	ceramic		pot	1	32	1600	1800	
210	ceramic		pot	1	37	1590	1730	1670-1730
	organic	shell	crab claw	1	9			
	bone	animal bone	animal bone	1	22			

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

## 6 Synthesis

#### 6.1 Post-medieval

Evidence for the playground associated with the Holy Trinity School was not discovered during the evaluation. Any potential surfaces or outbuildings would have been removed during the construction of the car park and Goodrich House itself; there is 0.4m of foundation for the tarmac surface.

The barrel pit is almost certainly associated with the school yard, and was likely backfilled when the school closed in the 1930s. Indeed, the glass bottles recovered are almost all for carbonated drinks which would have been appropriate libations for a Christian girls' school. These vessels, along with the other finds recovered from the barrel pit are indicative of late 19th and early 20th century domestic activity and coincide with the use of the site as a school and the decline of the school at that date. The small posthole to the south is again likely to be associated with yard activity, and contained a fragment of kiln furniture (Plate 6) dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The quarrying evident in the southern trench was probably backfilled sometime prior to the development of the school site. The only dateable material recovered were two fragments of pottery, with a probable date of late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This land lies just beyond the northern extent of the burgage plots of Lowesmoor, and had been undeveloped throughout the medieval period up until the construction of the school (WA 2015).

The good condition and consistent dating of the pottery within the quarry pit suggests that infilling took place sometime in the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A levelling layer that occurred in both trenches, sealing the barrel pit and the quarry backfilling, was likely laid down following the demise of the school, with material dateable to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is some ambiguity as to the ownership of the site after the school is closed and leased to Heenan and Froude. It is not altogether clear if the social club had rights to the plot; certainly they did not by the time they too closed their doors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Goodrich House itself was built in the 1960s (*ibid.* p7-8), and it is surmised that the car park was constructed alongside it, removing any existing surfaces.

#### 6.2 Research frameworks

Whilst there had been the potential for the investigation to address a number of research priorities identified in the Worcester City Urban Archaeological Strategy (WCC 2007), the high level of truncation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has rendered the results incapable of any meaningful insight.

## 7 Significance

The archaeological remains discovered during the evaluation are predominantly of a 20<sup>th</sup> century date and consist of a small number of discrete features. There is also evidence for 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century quarry pits. The material that fills these features consists of demolition material or domestic waste dumps. These features are all sealed by early 20<sup>th</sup> century levelling layers.

The artefactual material represents typical domestic waste ranging from the late-17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century, apart from the presence of crab. The latter is of significance due to its rarity in the archaeological record, but otherwise the assemblage has little particular significance.

The majority of the assemblage is not considered worthy of retention, with the exception of the crab claw and the (imported?) tin-glazed ware from quarry pit fill (210) and possibly the kiln furniture from posthole fill (116), though the latter is just another example of a widely recognised type.

The importance of the archaeological remains is low, with little ability to answer any of the research priorities as discussed above.

The archaeological deposits are uniformly sealed by at least 0.5m of modern material. The discrete nature of the remains limits certainty as to the extent of the archaeology, but coupled with the known history of the site, it does suggest a low density of isolated features.

## 8 **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.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Goodrich House, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85187 55201). It was undertaken on behalf of Lett and Sweetland Architects, whose client intends to construct six apartments on the site for which a planning application has been submitted.

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Two trenches were opened, each roughly 10m long. Beneath the 0.5m of overburden associated with the construction of the car park were levelling layers laid down from the 1930s. These sealed a sunken barrel pit, a posthole and quarrying activity.

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was associated with the school yard, whilst the backfilling probably represented the demise of the school in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The posthole was similarly dated.

The quarry activity represented low level gravel extraction to the rear of the historic Lowesmoor burgage plots, and the backfill contained consistently dated pottery, suggesting that infilling took place sometime in the late  $17^{th}$ / early  $18^{th}$  century.

A remnant subsoil was identified, truncated and sealed by the post-medieval activity. No further evidence of archaeological activity was discovered, supporting the conjecture that the area had been undeveloped agricultural land for most of its history.

## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Peter Sweetland at Lett and Sweetland Architects and James Dinn, Worcester City Archaeologist.

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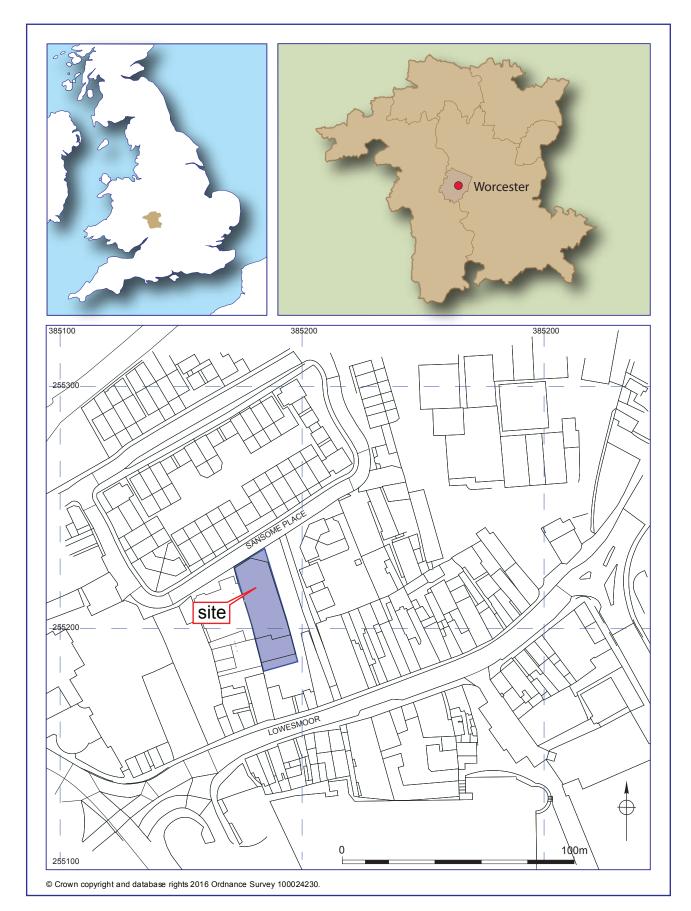
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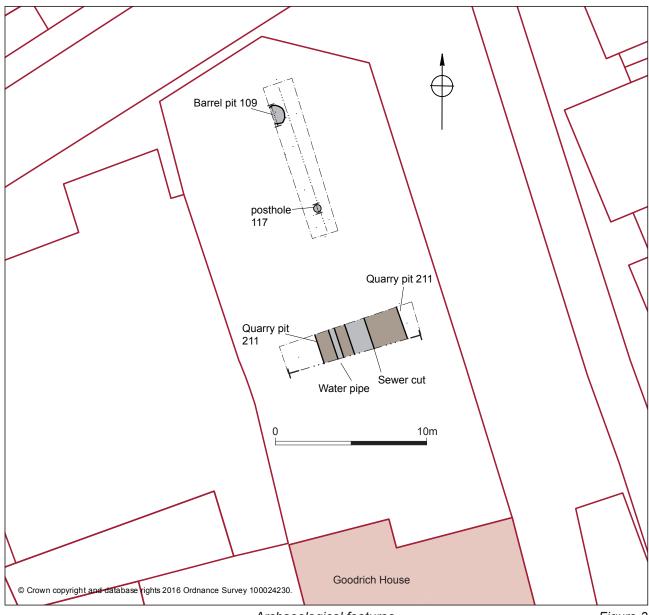
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# Figures



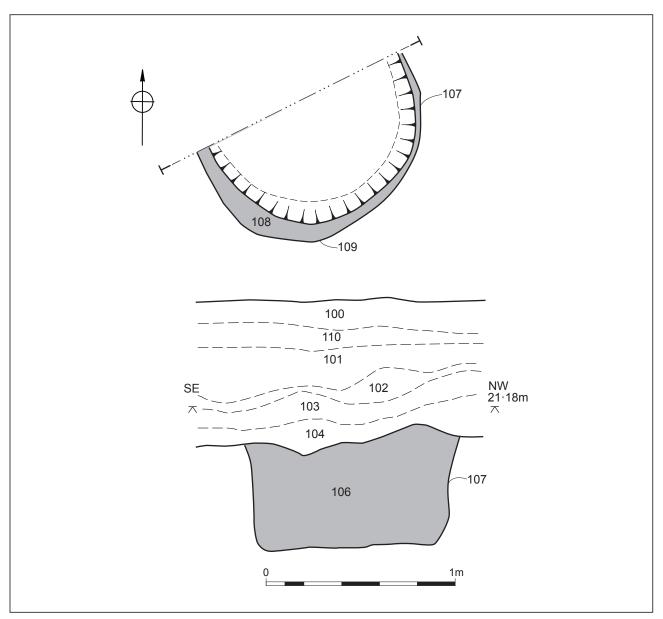
Location of the site





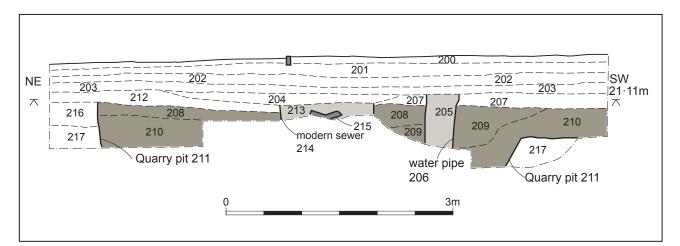
Archaeological features

Figure 3



Barrel pit 107, plan and section

Figure 4



Quarry pit 211, section

Figure 5

## Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north, 1m scales



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking west, 1m scales



Plate 3: Barrel pit 109 looking north-west, 1m scale



Plate 4: Excavating barrel pit, looking north-east



Plate 5: Posthole 117 looking south-east, 0.2m scale



Plate 6: Turned ceramic ring (kiln furniture) from fill (116) of posthole [117]

Depth: 0.9m

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

## Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.8m

Orientation: north-east to south-west

Main deposit description

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Modern Layer	Layer		0.1	Tarmac
101	Modern Layer	Layer		0.28	Hardcore
102	Modern Layer	Layer		0.18	Makeup for tarmac
103	Layer	Layer	Moderately compact dark brownish black sandy silt	0.12	19th/20th C levelling layer
104	Layer	Layer	Firm dark greenish brown clay silt	0.2	Made ground o=sealing barrel pit
105	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid greenish brown sandy silt	0.14	Remnant subsoil
106	Pit	Fill	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.64	Backfill of barrel pit. Lots of domestic waste in it; glass, pot, bone, watering
107	Pit	Fill		0.64	Hooped wooden barrel lining the pit, only metal hoops remain
108	Pit	Fill	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.64	Fill between cut edge and barrel
109	Pit	Cut		0.64	Cut for sunken barrel pit
110	Modern Layer	Layer		0.1	Bedding layer for tarmac
111	Pit	Fill			Fill of modern pit
112	Pit	Fill			Fill of modern pit
113	Pit	Fill			Fill of modern pit
114	Pit	Fill			Fill of modern pit
115	Pit	Cut			Modern pit beneath tarmac
116	Posthole	Fill	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.26	Loose fill of posthole
117	Posthole	Cut		0.26	Small posthole
118	Natural	Layer			Gravel terrace

## Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length:		10m	Width: 1.8m	Deptł	ר: 0.8 – 1.2m	
Orienta	ation:	north-w	est to so	outh-east		
Main d	leposit desci	ription				
200	Modern Layer	Layer			0.1	Tarmac
201	Modern Layer	Layer			0.18	Make up layer for tarmac
202	Modern Layer	Layer			0.16	Hardcore
203	Modern Layer	Layer			0.12	Fine black gravel makeup layer
204	Layer	Layer			0.16	Dumped layer of rubble as makeup
205	Linear	Fill				Fill of water pipe trench
206	Linear	Cut				Cut for water pipe trench
207	Layer	Layer	Firm da sandy s	rk greyish black ilt	0.18	19th/20th C levelling layer, cut by many services.
208	Pit	Fill	Soft mic silt	l greyish brown clay	0.26	Backfill of quarry pit
209	Pit	Fill	Soft mic sand	l greyish brown silty	0.56	Backfill of quarry pit
210	Pit	Fill	Loose li silty san	ght whiteish grey Id	0.42	Backfill of quarry pit
211	Pit	Cut			0.75	Quarry pit for gravel extraction
212	Layer	Layer				Same as 207
213	Linear	Fill				Fill of sewer pipe cut
214	Linear	Cut				Cut for sewer pipe
215	Linear	Fill				Brick alignment to mark position of sewer pipe
216	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid sand	d reddish brown silty	y 0.33	Remnant subsoil

# Appendix 2 Technical information The archive (site code:WCM102148)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 75 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 2 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery

Museums Worcestershire

Foregate Street

Worcester

WR1 2PW

Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371

## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

#### WCM 102148 (event HER number)

#### P4719

#### Artefacts

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
modern	ceramic		pot	6	187	1800	1950	Y	Ν
modern	ceramic		pot	1	67	1900	1950	Y	Ν
modern	ceramic		pot	4	219	1850	1920	Y	Ν
modern	ceramic		pot	7	200	1800	1950	Y	Ν
modern	glass		vessel	1	281	1810	1920	Y	Ν
modern	glass		vessel	1	417	1871	1920	Y	Ν
modern	glass		vessel	2	825	1884	1913	Y	Ν
modern	glass		vessel	2	335	1850	1905	Y	Ν
modern	glass		vessel	1	316	1905	2000	Y	Ν
post- medieval post-	ceramic		pot	1	35	1700	1800	Y	N
medieval	ceramic		pot	2	116	1600	1800	Y	N
post- medieval	ceramic		pot	1	37	1590	1730	Y	N
post- medieval/ modern	ceramic		clay pipe	2	5	1600	1910	Y	N
post- medieval/ modern	ceramic		kiln furniture	1	17	1751	2000	Y	N
undated	bone	animal bone	animal bone	12	151			N	N
undated	organic	shell	crab claw	1	9			N	N

#### Notes

1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC

Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.

3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.