

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF (PHASE 1)
AT THE
LITTLE SAUCE FACTORY,
55, LONDON ROAD,
WORCESTER

Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

23 September 2011

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Project 3663
Report 1872
WCM 101889

Archaeological watching brief at the Little Sauce Factory, 55, London Road, Worcester

Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr Peter Styles
<i>Site address</i>	The Little Sauce Factory, 55 London Road, Worcester
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 85475 54255
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WCM 101889
<i>Planning authority</i>	Worcester City Council
<i>reference</i>	P07D0419 and L07D0079
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2011
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2011
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous recorded archaeological work undertaken on the site.

Background and previous archaeological work on associated sites

The site is located on Fort Royal hill. Fort Royal itself (WCM 96141 and 96151) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 312), associated with the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651, which was the last major engagement of the conflict (WCM 91096). The following information is taken from the Brief (WCC 2011):

The origins of Fort Royal probably go back to the documented fortification of the city in 1642. Further works may have been carried out to strengthen defences in 1643 and in 1644-5, when Fort Royal was linked to the city by lines of defence to the north and south (WCM 100892). The fort was refurbished or rebuilt in 1651, before the battle of Worcester, and the ramparts slighted almost immediately after the battle. Buried remains of the deep ditch of the south-east bastion of the fort may survive on the site, and the alignment of the earthwork defensive line south of the fort may also cross the site.

Documentary evidence indicates that a windmill also occupied Fort Royal hill, which may have existed in the medieval period, when it was known as Cole Hill (WSM 96587).

London Road, adjacent to the south of the site, is considered to have been an important route, which is potentially of Anglo-Saxon date, if not earlier. The medieval suburb of Sidbury lies adjacent. Evidence of tile kilns from the period has been unearthed during investigations at Sidbury Place (WSM 96560 and 100411),

There have been a number of archaeological investigations on Fort Royal hill adjacent to the site, including an excavation by Peter Reynolds in 1969 when a section has dug through the south-east ditch (WCM 100147). Other works within the fort yielded a negative result, due to intense truncation (WCM 100529 and 100530). Elsewhere investigations in the vicinity have included the identification of a single posthole on an otherwise heavily disturbed site at 20-22, London Road (WCM 100657), negative results at Fort Royal House (WCM 100541), an indeterminate cut feature at Fort Royal Homes (WCM 100659), and a possible north-south aligned feature at 5-6, Prospect Place (WCM 100673).

A more fulsome account of Fort Royal Park has previously been presented in a desk-based assessment prepared by the Service (Miller and Dalwood 2006).

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.

The project has the potential to address a number of identified research questions (*WCC 2007*) including

- The medieval suburbs (RP5.1);
- Medieval ceramic industries (RP5.30);
- Analysis of the city defences in the post-medieval period (RP6.14);
- The landscape of the 1651 battle (RP6.15)

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995 IfA 2008 WCC 1999
Sources consulted	Worcester City Historic Environment Record (HER)
Date(s) of fieldwork	11 July and 24 August 2011
Area of site	c 96m ²
Sampling area sampled	c 27m ² . Indicated on Fig 2
Dimensions of foundation trenches observed	
Trench 1	length 22.00m width 0.75m depth 1.60m
Trench 2	length 4.70m width 0.70m depth 1.50m

Access to or visibility of deposits

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

Deposit description
Trench 1

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface - top and bottom
101	Modern brick wall	Red brick wall bonded with a light cream lime rich mortar, constructed in English coursing; orientated north-west to south-east; butts onto boundary wall to south-east	0.31 – 0.71m
102	Modern surface	Tarmac	0.00 - 0.08m
103	Dump deposit	Mid reddish brown silty sands with frequent CBM, charcoal and lime inclusions throughout. Frequent late willow pattern pottery noted throughout	0.09 – 0.70m
104	Fill of 105	Mid reddish brown silty sands with frequent CBM, charcoal and lime inclusions throughout. Frequent late willow pattern pottery noted throughout	0.09 – 1.50m
105	Cut	Vertical sided foundation cut with a flat base; filled by 104	0.09 – 1.50m
106	Natural	Firm, sterile light greenish yellow sand rich clay with bands of light greenish yellow gleyed marl	0.70 – 1.32m +

Trench 2

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface - top and bottom
201	Modern surface	Tarmac	0.00 – 0.08m
202	Modern hardcore	Type 1 hardcore	0.08 – 0.20m
203	19 th century backfill and reclamation.	Mid brownish orange silty sands with frequent CBM, charcoal and lime inclusions throughout. Frequent late willow pattern pottery noted throughout	0.18 – 0.68m
204	Natural	Firm, sterile light greenish yellow sand rich clay with bands of light greenish yellow gleyed marl	0.09 – 1.50m
205	Redeposited natural	Moderately compact light greenish yellow sandy clay with lenses of yellowy orange clay within construction cut of modern wall	0.09 – 1.50m

Discussion

Two foundation trenches were monitored during this phase of works within the east corner of the site (Fig 2). In both trenches modern tarmac and hardcore overlaid 19th century backfilled material and a brick wall associated with a recently demolished building. Natural undisturbed sand and clay was found between 0.09m and 0.70m below present ground level, directly below the 19th century and later material. No earlier deposits were observed.

The finds assemblage collected on site came from the dump and backfill deposits, (103 and 104), in Trench 1. It consisted of a small assemblage of transfer printed, blue and white willow pattern, bone

china sherds of 19th and early 20th century date, including a waster Royal Worcester egg cup, dated 1924 (pers comm Dennis Williams). None of the finds were retained.

Conclusions

No archaeologically significant deposits were observed during the watching brief on phase 1 of the works. None of the research questions raised in the Worcester Urban Archaeology Strategy (WCC 2007) can be addressed at present. Only modern deposits relating to 19th century and later development was found. It is considered that this will have involved removal of any shallow earlier deposits down to the natural within this area of the site.

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 Peter Styles at the Little Sauce Factory, 55, London Road, Worcester (NGR SO 85475 54255; HER ref WCM 101889). During phase 1 of the project two foundation trenches were excavated. Only features and deposits relating to 19th century and later development were observed during the works.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr Peter Styles, and Mr James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council).

Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

HEAS 2011 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief (phase 1) at the Little Sauce Factory, 55, London Road, Worcester*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 10 March 2011, **P3663**

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

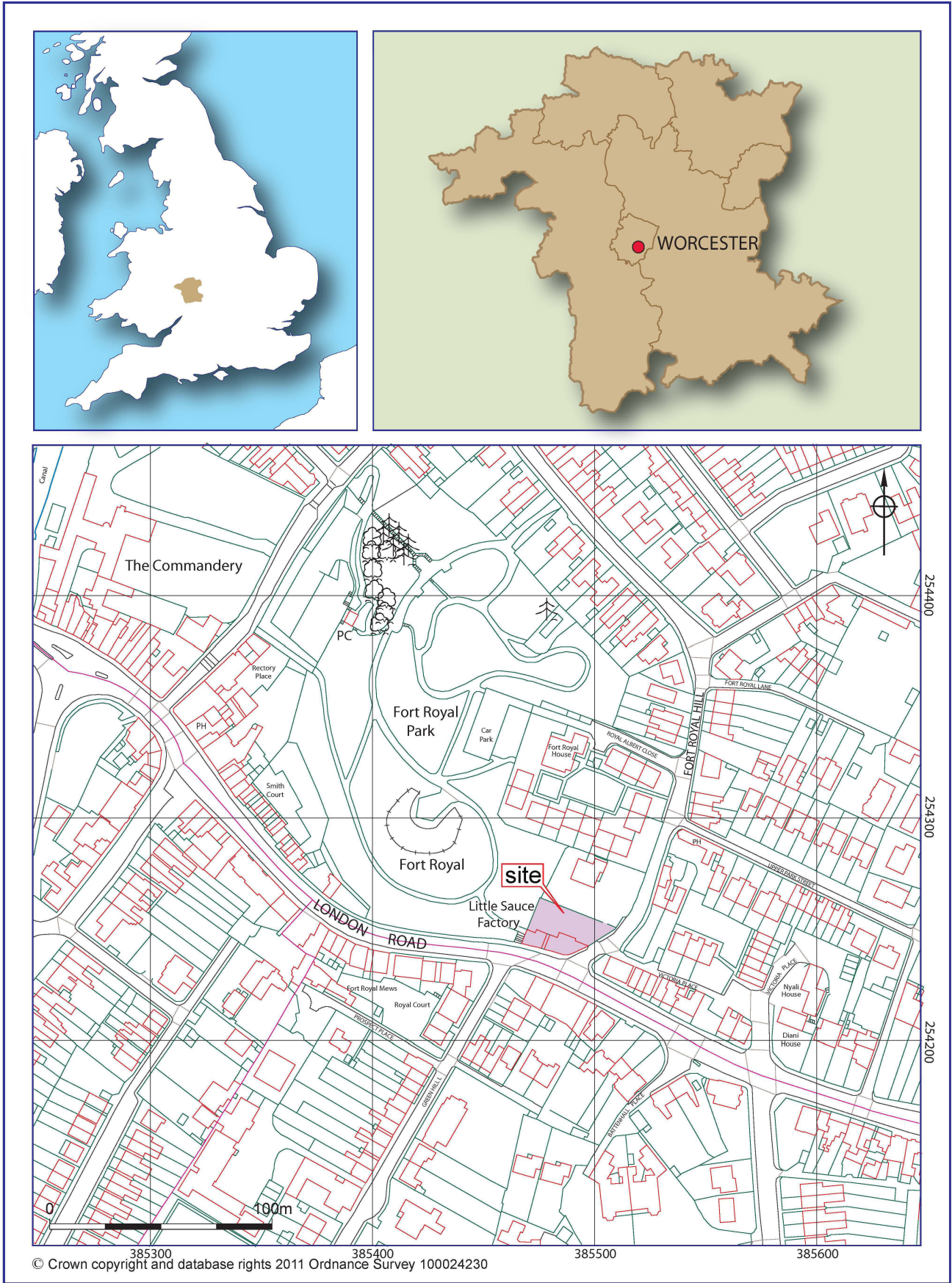
Miller, D and Dalwood, H, 2006 *Desk Based Assessment of Fort Royal Park, Worcester*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report **1479**, P2961, dated 28 November 2006

WCC 1999 *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester*, Worcester City Council

WCC 2007 *Worcester Urban Archaeological Strategy, An outline resource assessment and research framework for the archaeology of Worcester*, Worcester City Council, September 2007 version 2.51

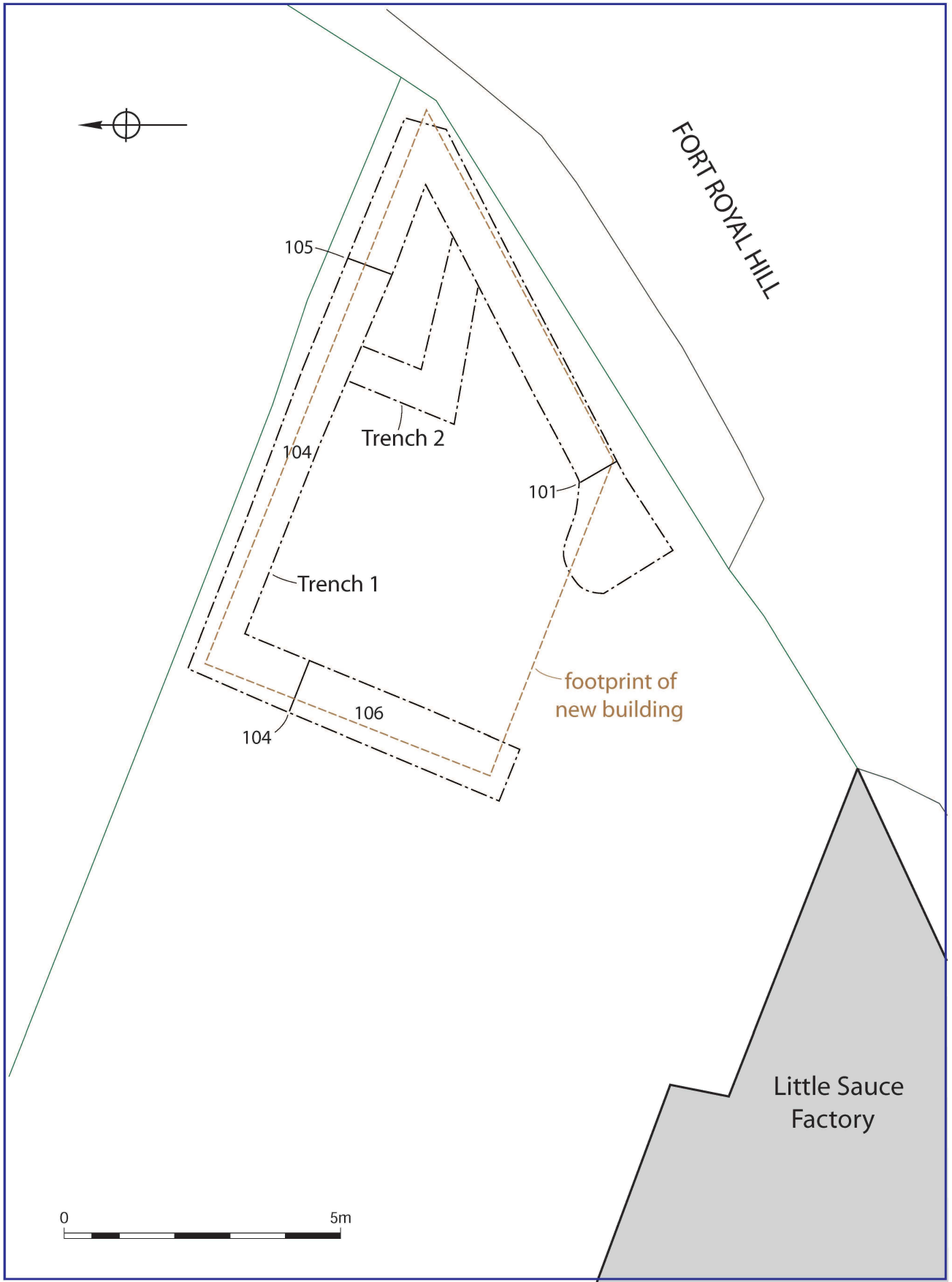
WCC 2011 *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at Little Sauce Factory, London Road, Worcester*, Worcester City Council Heritage and Design, unpublished document dated 7 March 2011

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



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Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 in progress, looking north



Plate 2 Trench 1 during excavation, showing the perimeter wall 101, looking north-east

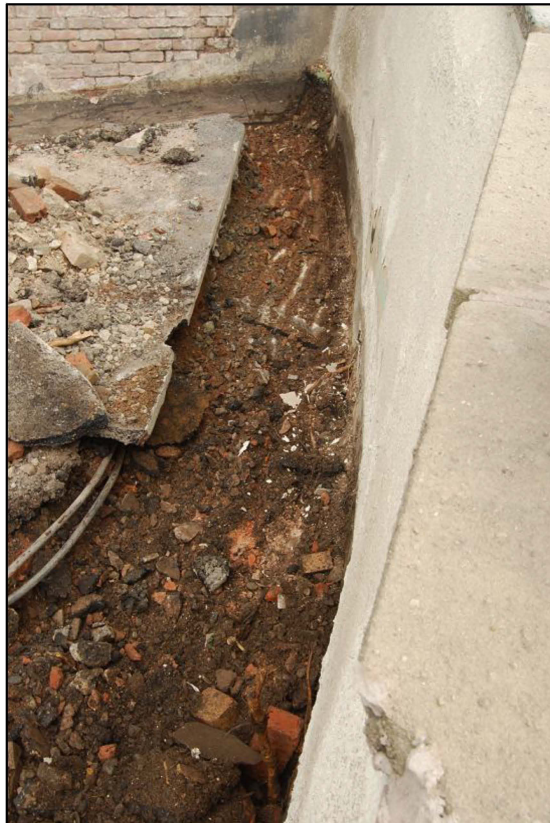


Plate 3 Wall 101, looking north



Plate 4 Natural sandy clay and marl deposits, 106, in the base of Trench 1, looking south-west

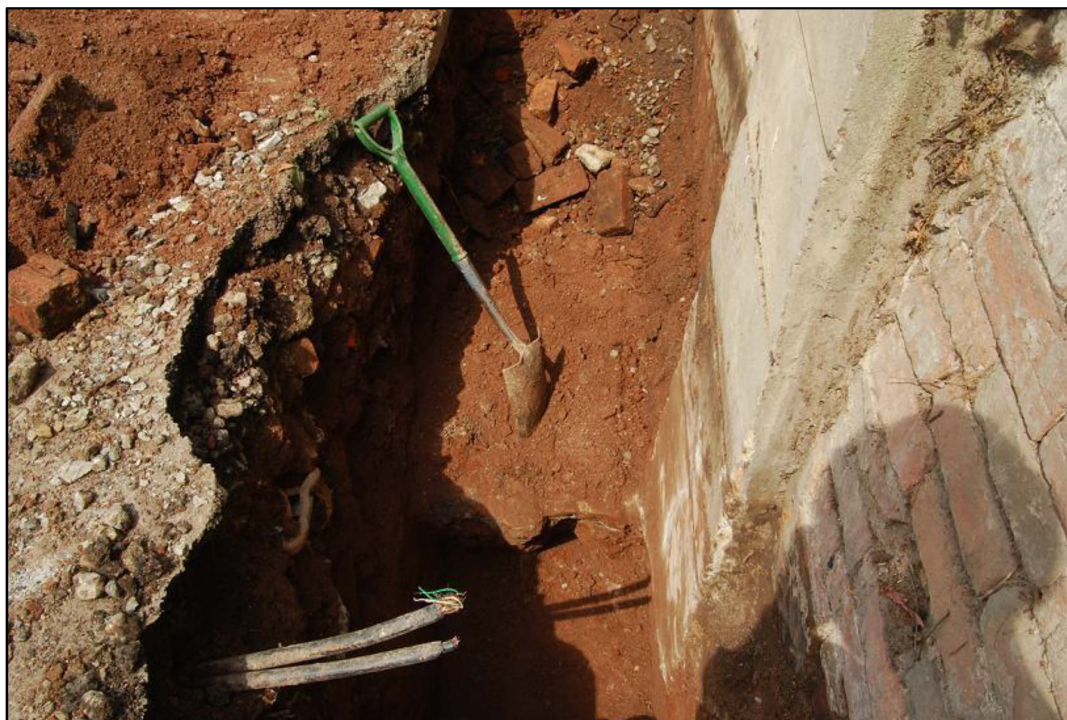


Plate 5 Trench 1 with backfill, 104, from perimeter wall, 101, and natural sand and marl, 106, at the base, looking north-west



Plate 6 West-facing section of Trench 1 showing the stratigraphy



Plate 7 East facing section of Trench 2, showing modern surface, 201, backfilled material, 203, and natural marl, 204, at the base



Plate 8 South facing section of Trench 2, showing backfilled material, 203, services and natural marl, 204



Plate 9 North facing section of Trench 2, showing backfilled material, 203, and natural sandy clay and marl, 204



Plate 10 General view of Trench 2 after excavation, looking north-east

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WCM 101889)

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | Field progress reports AS2 |
| 1 | Photographic records AS3 |
| 21 | Digital photographs |
| 1 | Drawing number catalogues AS4 |
| 1 | Scale drawings |
| 2 | Trench record sheets AS41 |
| 1 | Box of finds |
| 1 | Computer disk |
| 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