

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
7, BROADWAY ROAD,  
CHILDSWICKHAM,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

Tom Vaughan

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

6<sup>th</sup> June 2006

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2913  
Report 1444  
WSM 35084



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## Archaeological watching brief at 7, Broadway Road, Childswickham, Worcestershire

**Tom Vaughan**

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### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Centaur Homes
<i>Site address</i>	7, Broadway Road, Childswickham, Worcestershire, WR12 7HP
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 0735 3885
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 35084
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Wychavon District Council W/06/0035
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2006a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2006b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999
<i>Previous archaeological work on the site</i>	

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

### *Previous archaeological work on associated sites*

Stray Roman finds have frequently been uncovered in the vicinity of the site, with evidence of extensive settlement to the north of the present village, which has Iron Age and Bronze Age occupation evidence (WSM 31100). Earthworks of enclosures exist to the northwest and west, which have been interpreted to be of prehistoric or Roman origin (WSM 01864 and 04561). Excavations in 2001 at Perrin's Farm, c 200m to the east (and earlier stray finds) have revealed Neolithic flints, a Bronze Age ditch and later Iron Age/Roman occupation, which culminated in the construction of a villa in the later 3<sup>rd</sup> century (WSM 09985, 20021, 24426, 30766, 30773, 30777, 31100, 33743 and 33974). This activity has been found to continue south of Broadway Road off The Squires and Blacksmiths Lane (WSM 31092 and 33959). In addition a dense scatter of Iron Age and Roman material has been identified at Burnside Cottage further to the west and cropmarks denoting probable prehistoric activity have been identified to the east of the village (WSM 30651) indicating that the general area was intensively occupied in these periods (Napthan and Ratkai 1996). The prehistoric and Roman activity appears to have been largely restricted to areas of free-draining sand and gravel and did not continue into adjacent areas of impermeable clay subsoil (Vaughan 2002, 5).

The village itself is possibly of early medieval origin. The earliest documentary references to the estate date from the early 8<sup>th</sup> century (WSM 26888 and 33743). The present parish church of St Mary lies at the southern end of the village. It incorporates a number of mid 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century elements although is largely Victorian (WSM 01823; Pevsner, 1968, 118-9). Earthworks of abandoned tofts and crofts north of the church indicate that the village suffered a degree of abandonment and contraction in the medieval period (WSM 04853). Earthworks representing a possible moated manor house have been identified to the south-west of the church and designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 31956; WSM 05293 and 32812). Extensive ridge and furrow surrounds the village, including a number of fields adjacent to the development site (WSM 01424, 01445, 06697, 22498, 24133, 31617, 31618 and 30788).

Excavations in 2002 to the rear of the Childswickham Inn, 160m to the west, identified only a small number of post-medieval and modern features in the form of gullies, pits and postholes (Vaughan 2002). Cartographic sources indicate that the site formed part of a larger orchard in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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## 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.

## Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	HER Sources cited by the HER 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 1890 OS 6":1 mile 1903 OS 6":1 mile 1924 OS 6":1 mile
Date of fieldwork	1 <sup>st</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2006
Area of site	c 690m <sup>2</sup> . Indicated on Fig 2
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Foundations      length 165.8m width 0.45m depth 0.80-1.10m

### *Access to and visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken after machine excavation. The soil strip of the northern half of the site was very shallow and undertaken only into the subsoil. The exposed trench sections were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though 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.

## Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
100	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty sand, homogenous, loose and uncompact; diffuse and irregular boundary with 101 below; occasional modern building debris: brick fragments, ceramic drainpipe, plastic, etc.	0.00-0.50m
101	Natural	Yellow orange clayey sand, loose and uncompact; diffuse and irregular boundary with 100 above; occasional rounded small pebbles;	0.40m +
102	Natural	Yellow orange clayey sand and gravel; compact and moderately cohesive; small sub-angular and rounded pebbles; only observed toward southern end of site.	1m +

The depths were measured from the ground surface as existing after the site strip and removal of the topsoil, which was redeposited within the southern half of the site.

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## Discussion

Only a small quantity of modern debris was observed within the subsoil, which was not retained. No artefacts (either stratified or residual) predating the modern period were recovered.

No archaeological features, structures, horizons or deposits were recorded within the foundation trenches. The subsoil, 100, was noted to lie directly over the natural material, 101 and 102. Areas of modern brick were noted, cut deeper into the natural matrix, which were interpreted to relate to the recently demolished 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow.

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## Conclusions

No significant archaeological remains were identified nor were any residual finds predating the modern period recovered from the site. This would appear to indicate that neither the Roman activity identified adjacent to the north-west, nor the medieval settlement, centred on the church to the south, extended into this area of the modern village.

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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 Centaur Homes at 7, Broadway Road, Childswickham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0735 3885; HER ref WSM 35084). The foundation trenches of the new building within the northern half of the site were monitored. The subsoil was noted to directly overlie the natural matrix of clayey sand and gravel. Modern building debris relating to the recently demolished 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow was observed within the subsoil, but no earlier artefacts, either residual or stratified, were recovered. No archaeological features, structures, horizons or deposits were recorded. This would appear to indicate that neither the Roman activity identified adjacent to the north-west, nor the medieval settlement, centred on the church to the south, extended into this area of the modern village.*

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## Archive

Fieldwork progress records AS2	2
Photographic records AS3	1
Digital photographs	21
Context number catalogues AS5	1
Abbreviated context records AS40	3
Drawings	1
Boxes of finds	1
Computer disks	1

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum  
Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury  
Near Kidderminster  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ  
01299 250416

telephone

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## Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mark Harrison (Centaur Homes) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire Historic Environment Planning Advisor).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Angus Crawford, report production was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss.

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## Bibliography

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HEAS 2006a *Requirements for an archaeological watching brief at 7, Broadway Road, Childswickham, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006

HEAS 2006b *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at 7, Broadway Road, Childswickham, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006, **P2913**

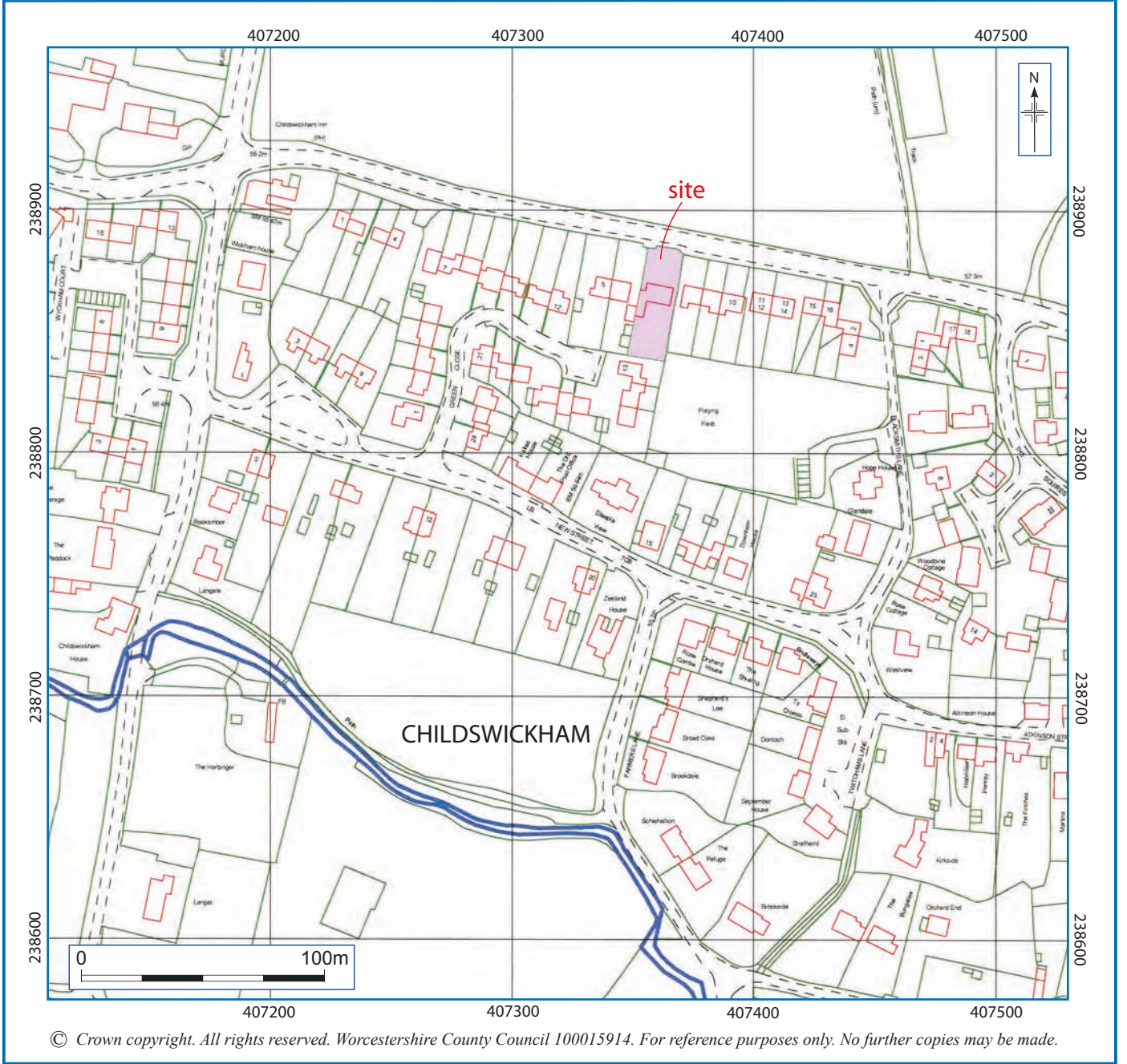
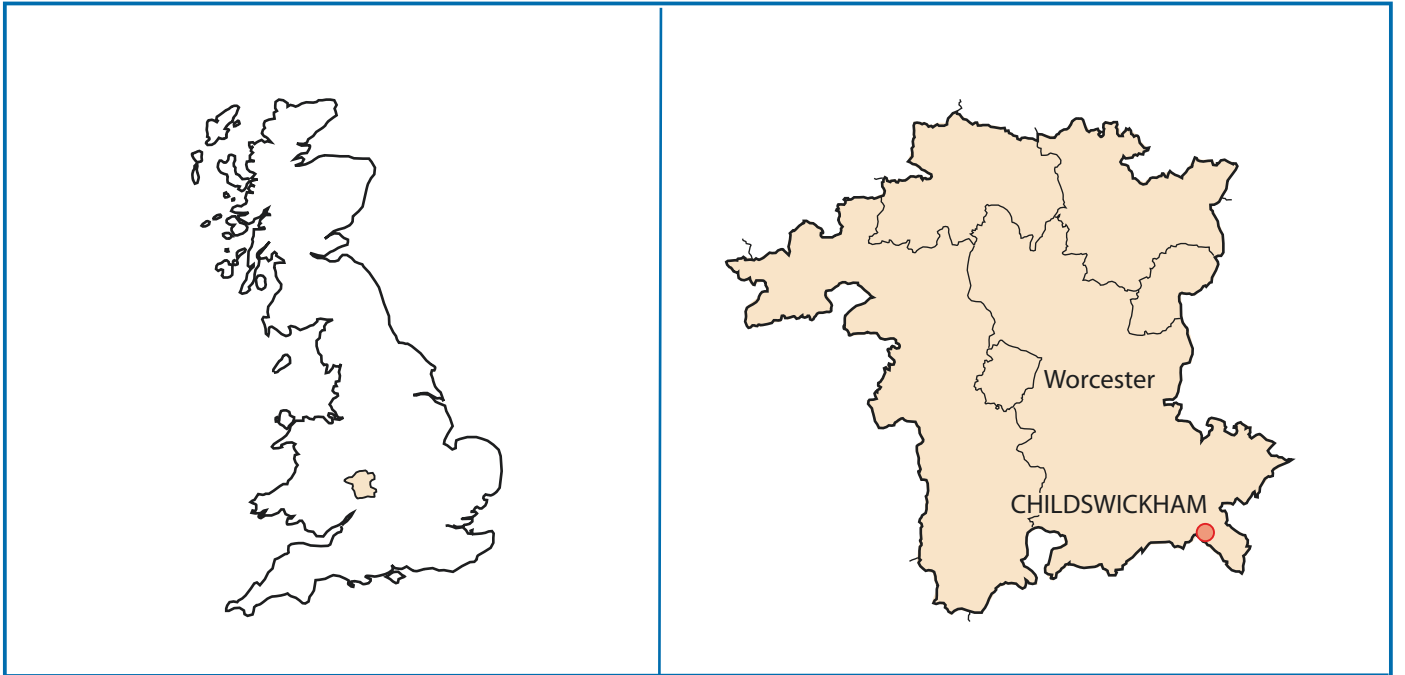
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Location of the site.

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2



**Plates**



1. Sample of southern foundation trenches, view north-west



2. Sample of southern foundation trenches, view west



3. Eastern foundation trench, view south



4. Sample section of foundation trench