

WATCHING BRIEF
AT
AMPHLETT HALL,
CROWN CLOSE,
BROMSGROVE,
WORCESTERSHIRE



© Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire Archaeology
Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive
Sawmill Walk
The Butts
Worcester
WR1 3PB

Status:	revised 14 November 2013
Date:	30 July 2013
Author:	Andrew Walsh
Illustrator:	Carolyn Hunt
Project reference:	P4093
Report reference:	2033
HER reference:	WSM 48253

Watching brief at Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

Andrew Walsh

Background information

<i>Client</i>	UWC Limited
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 95808 70732
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM48253
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Bromsgrove District Council W/12/0774
<i>Brief</i>	Glyde 2013
<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 on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

The site is located to the west of the medieval core of Bromsgrove in an area identified as potentially part of the Anglo-Saxon Minister precinct, and later, the medieval churchyard to St John the Baptist. The archaeological background of Bromsgrove town centre is presented in a previous report prepared by WA (Rogers, Robson-Glyde and Dalwood 2013).

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

WA 2012

The excavations were carried out by three students from New College, Bromsgrove assisted by their tutor. Prior to undertaking the work the students received a brief talk by the author on archaeology and the planning process, why the archaeological watching brief was being undertaken, and what they may find during the works.

Sources consulted

Rogers, Robson-Glyde and Dalwood 2013

Date(s) of fieldwork

3 June 2013

Area of site

c 12.8m²

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Foundations length 3.6m
 width 3.5m

depth 0.4m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during hand excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. Selected areas were cleaned by hand.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Description and discussion

The single footing trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m, revealing a sequence of topsoil and subsoil. A description of the deposits exposed during the works is presented in Appendix 1.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified. Natural deposits were not identified in the trench so it is possible that archaeological features, deposits or finds remain in situ below the excavated deposits.

Pottery, tile, glass and clay tobacco pipe stems dating to the 19^h and 20th centuries were recovered in the topsoil but not retained.

Conclusions

No archaeological features, deposits, or significant finds were identified during the works. However natural deposits were not identified in the trench and archaeological features and/or deposits may remain preserved below the trench.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project; Glen Wells (UWC Limited), the students and staff of New College, Bromsgrove, and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

Bibliography

Glyde, M 2013 *Requirements for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire*, Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council

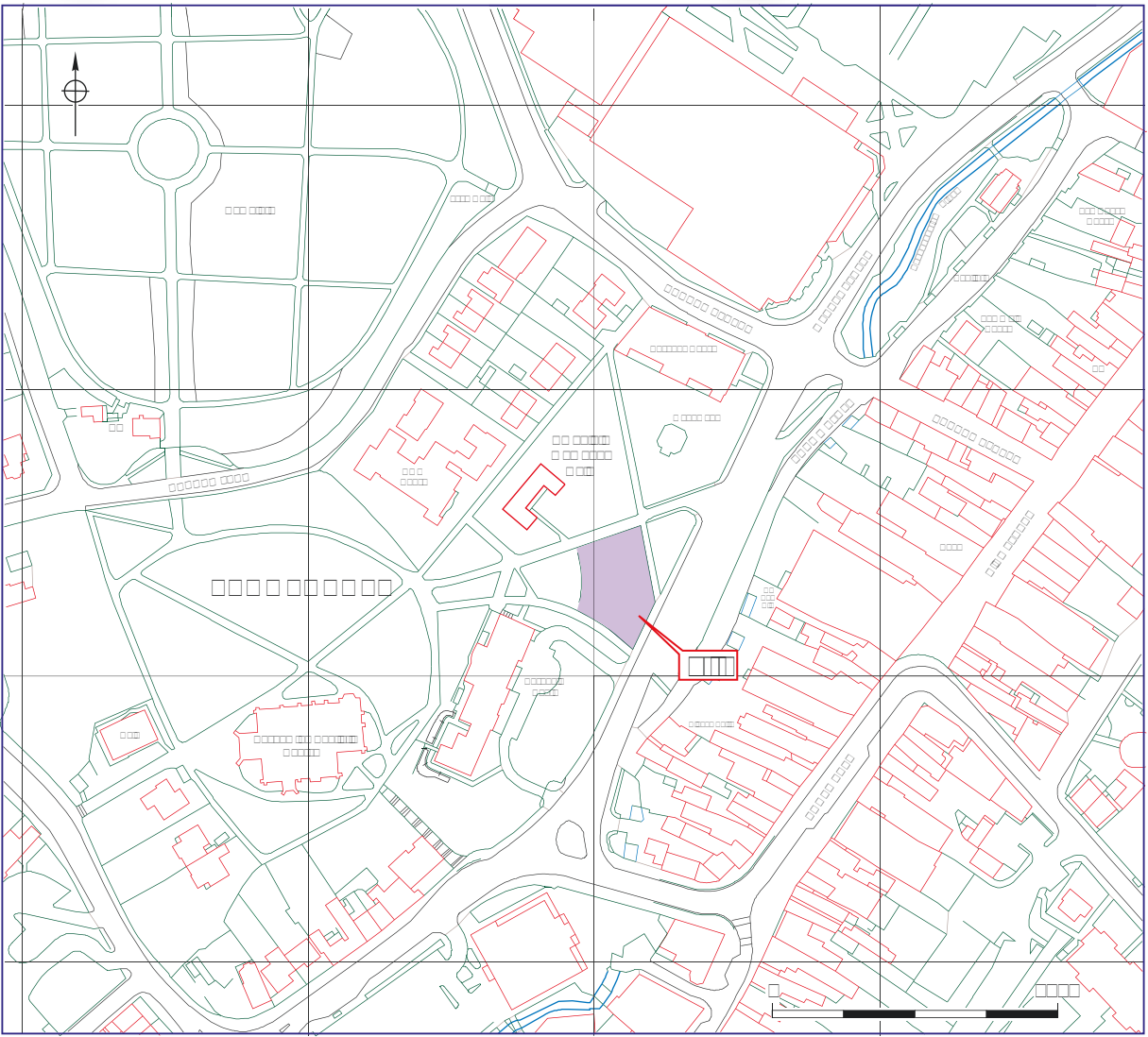
IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

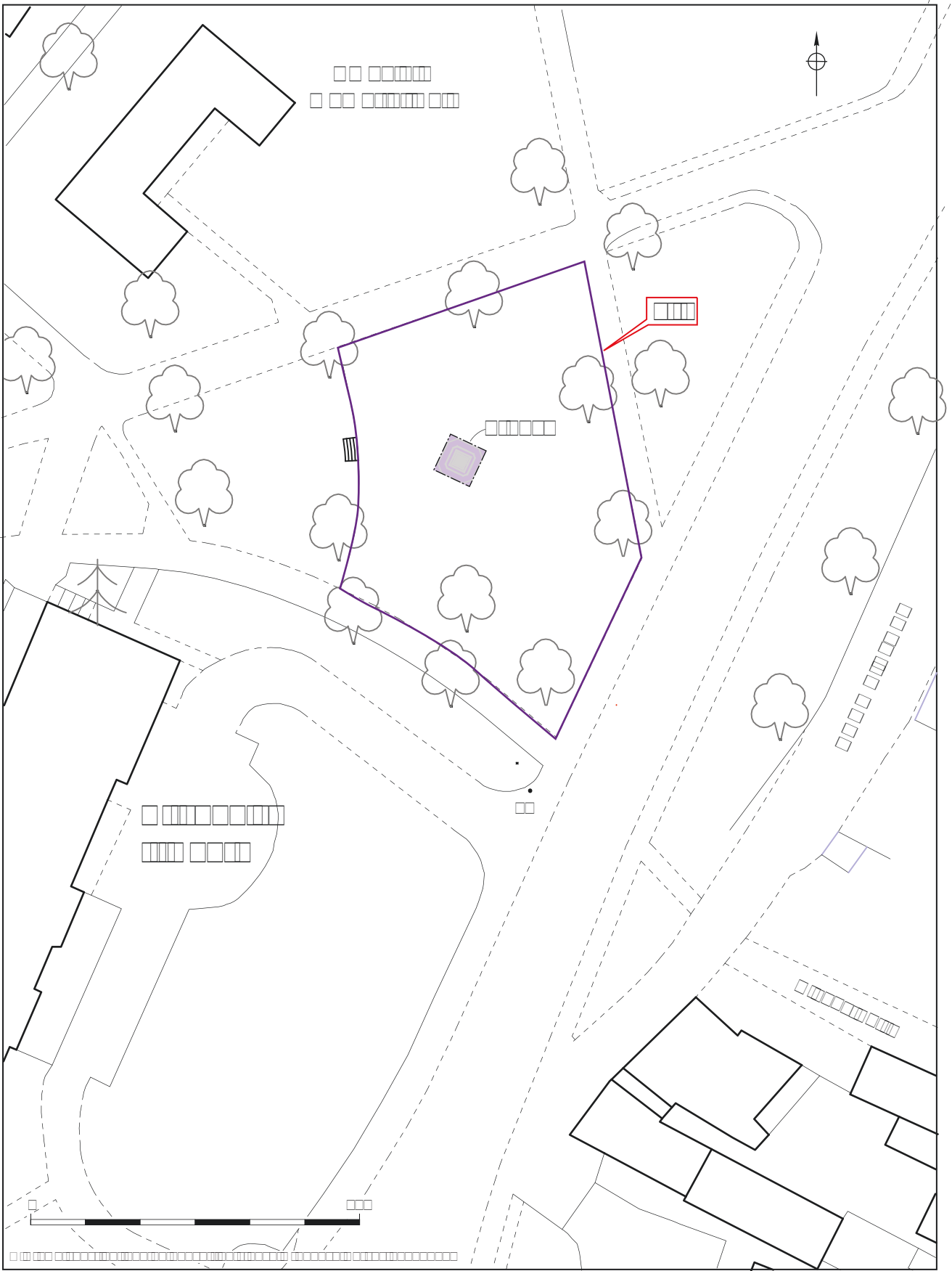
Rogers, T, Robson-Glyde, S, & Dalwood, H, 2013 *The Historic Environment of Bromsgrove Town Centre, Worcestershire: A Baseline Survey*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1926**, dated 4 February 2013

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

WA 2013 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Amphlett Hall, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 7 March 2013, **P4093**

Figures





Plates



Plate 1. The trench under excavation, facing south-west.



Plate 2. North facing section of the excavated trench.

Appendix 1 Trench description

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.6m Width: 3.55m Depth: 0.4m

Orientation: north to south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Dark slightly greyish brown loamy coarse sand	0-0.38m b.g.s.
101	Subsoil	Reddish brown silty sand	0.38-0.40m (excavated) b.g.s.

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 48253)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress report AS2
- 1 Photographic record AS3
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 12 Digital photos
- 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