

WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
44, MAIN STREET,  
SEDEBERROW,  
WORCESTERSHIRE



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive  
Sawmill Walk  
The Butts  
Worcester  
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Status:  
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Project reference: P4084  
Report reference: 2013  
HER reference: WSM 48242



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## Watching brief at 44, Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan

### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr and Mrs Waites
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 02302 38484
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 48242
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/12/00062
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2012
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2013
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2012

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

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

It lay within a large field identified as Pound Close on the tithe plan of 1813. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 indicates that the field was then an orchard, although a number of houses had been built along the street frontage. The field remained an orchard through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century although by 1938 it had been divided into two discrete plots. The OS map of 1974-5 shows the present house to have been built by this stage, along with many other properties on the frontage.

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

A number of sites in the vicinity have been archaeologically investigated, including 41, 43 (the Old School site), 50, 52 and rear of 43-57, Main Street (WSM 07517, 33549, 34311 and 47415). These investigations have identified material of Romano-British and middle to late Anglo-Saxon date including a Roman burial, all of which indicate that Sedgeberrow was a significant settlement by at least the Late Saxon period.

The focus of the medieval village was the church of St Mary the Virgin, which lies approximately 200m to the east and contains elements of 14<sup>th</sup> century date (WSM 06991) and the manor house to the west which contains 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framing (WSM 06993).

### 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

Sources consulted

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Sources cited by the HER

1813 tithe plan

1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1885, Ordnance Survey map, 25":1 mile

1902, Ordnance Survey map, 25":1 mile

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1924, Ordnance Survey map, 25":1 mile

1938, Ordnance Survey map, 25":1 mile

1974-5, Ordnance Survey map, 1:2,500

#### Dates of fieldwork

14 and 15 May 2013

#### Area of site

c 39m<sup>2</sup>

#### Dimensions of excavated areas observed/excavated

Foundations	length 20.20m
	width 0.50-0.70m
	depth 0.92-1.06m
Test Pits	length 1-1.05m
	Width 0.85-1m
	Depth 0.02-0.32m

#### *Access to or visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, although any less clear may have not been identified.

Two test pits (Trenches 1 and 2) were hand dug in spits and cleaned by hand to determine the presence or absence of undisturbed deposits and archaeological artefacts.

#### *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**

The descriptions of the deposit recorded are given in Appendix 1.

## **Discussion**

The foundation trenches observed (Trenches 3-5; Plates 3 to 7) and test pits excavated (Trenches 1 and 2; Plates 1, 2, 6 and 7), revealed later post-medieval and modern deposits directly overlying the natural clay. The deposits comprised occasional patches of relict soil, over disturbed or redeposited clays, with varying quantities of brick and tile fragments, iron debris, occasional animal bone and slate fragments. The concrete foundations for the former extension were observed to extend into the natural matrix, as were a number of associated modern services.

At no point were undisturbed soils observed. All artefacts were identified as of later post-medieval and modern date. None were retained.

## **Conclusions**

No archaeologically significant features, layers, structures or horizons, nor artefacts pre-dating the later post-medieval were revealed.

The construction of the present house and former extension involved the removal of soils within the immediately vicinity of the building, which would have truncated and disturbed evidence of any shallow archaeological deposits which may have existed here. However the lack of any deeper archaeological remains suggests that the site was not extensively used or occupied prior to the

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later 20<sup>th</sup> century development. In the medieval and post-medieval periods it probably remained undeveloped and in agricultural use. Evidence of Romano-British and Saxon date has been found in the vicinity, so undisturbed areas of the site retain the potential for similar activity.

## 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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Waites at 44, Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (NGR SO 02302 38484; HER ref. WSM 48242). The footings for a new extension were observed, and two test pits dug to ascertain the presence or absence of undisturbed soils and artefacts. No significant archaeological remains were revealed, nor were artefacts recovered predating the later post-medieval period. Disturbed or redeposited clays were observed directly over the natural clay which was further disturbed by a number of modern services. The construction of the present house and former extension appears to have involved the removal of soils, which would have truncated any shallow archaeological remains. The site lay within an undisturbed orchard through the 19<sup>th</sup> century and remained undeveloped prior to the construction of the present house in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Evidence of Romano-British and Saxon date has been found in the vicinity, so undisturbed areas of the site retain the potential for similar activity.*

## Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr and Mrs Waites, Graham Hallett, Robert Sinclair and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

## Bibliography

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

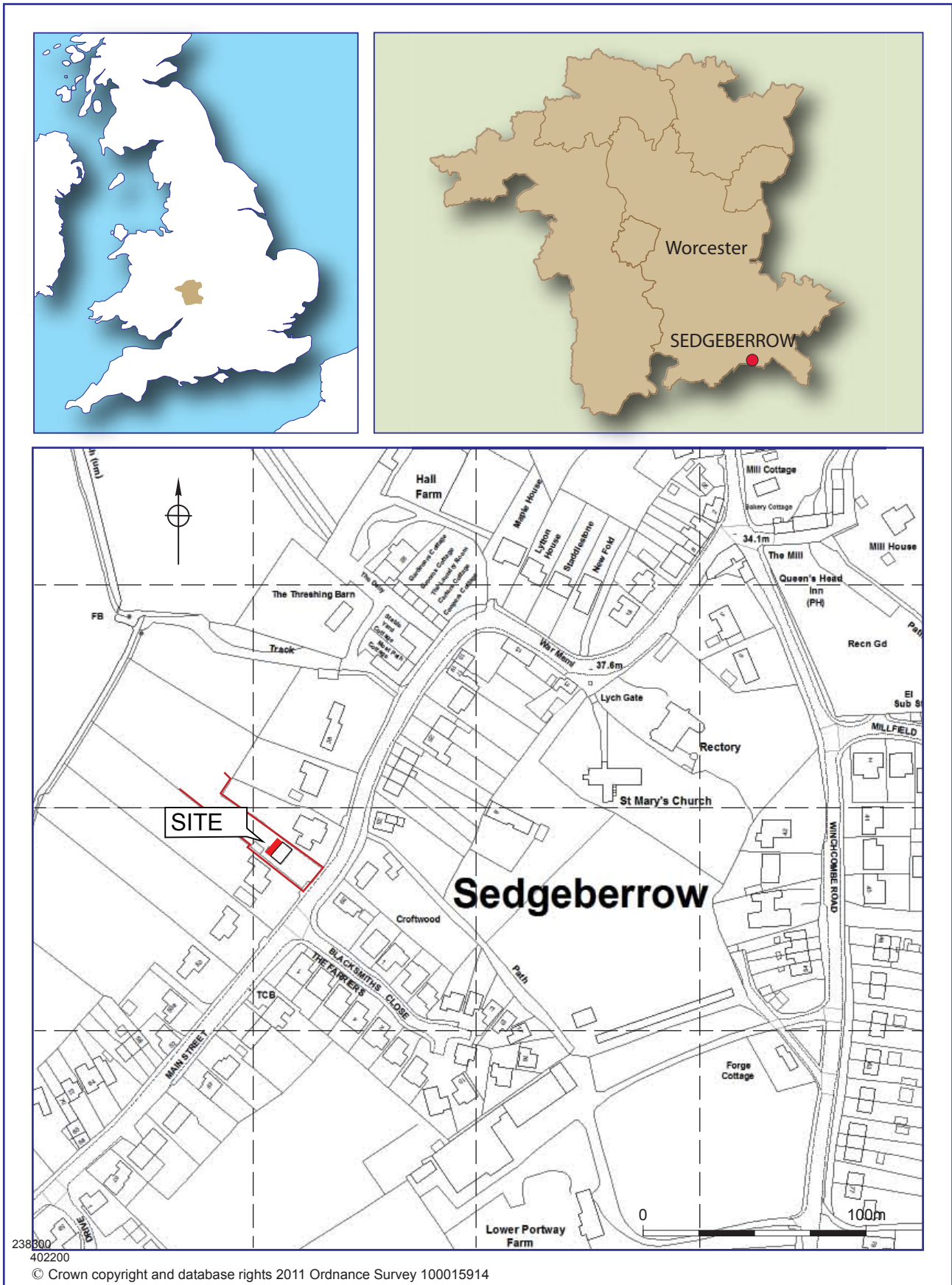
WA 2012 *Manual of Service Practice, Recording Manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2013 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at 44, Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 1 March 2013, **P4084**

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

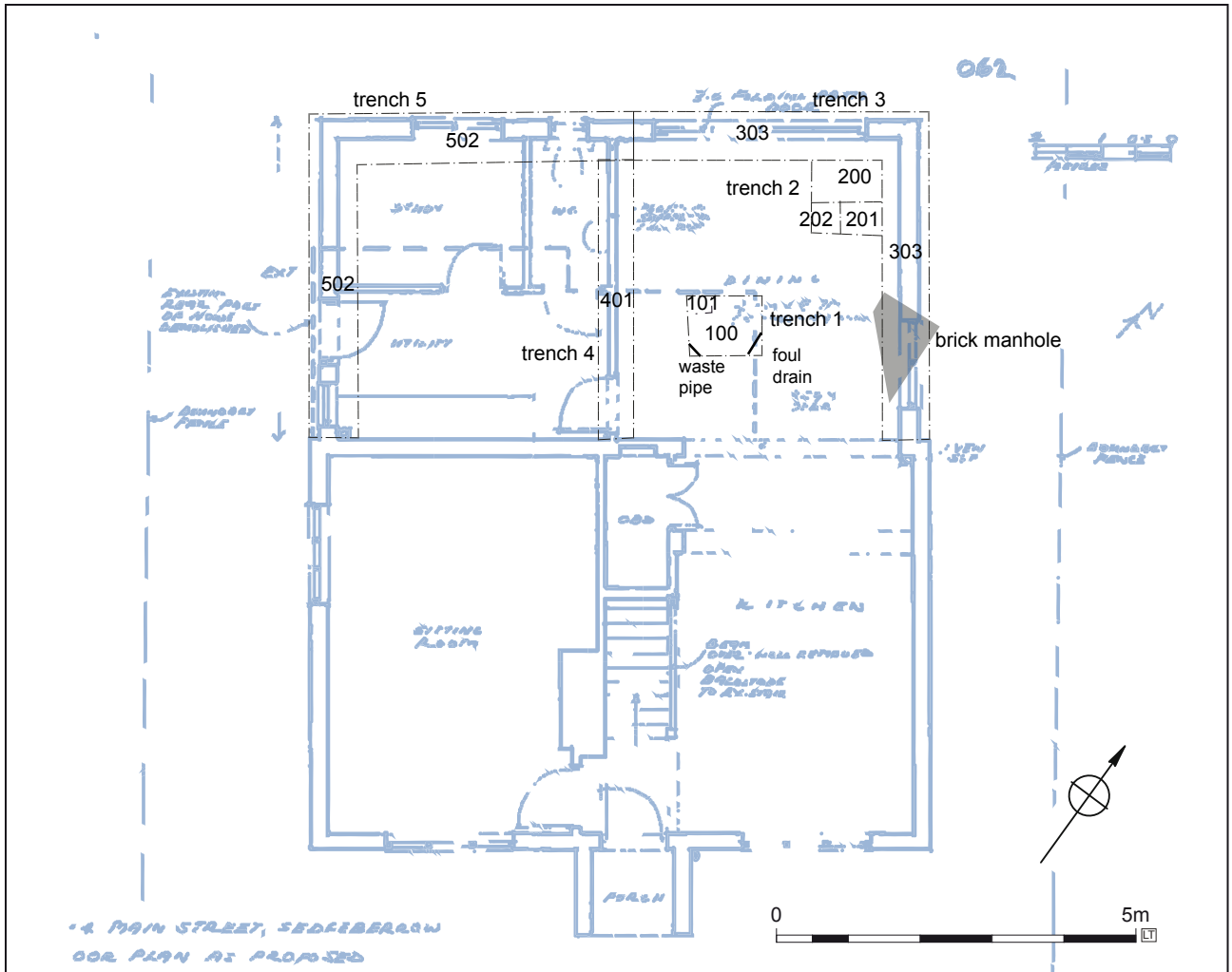
WCC 2012 *Requirements for a programme of archaeological work at 44, Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 24 August 2012

# Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of trenches

Figure 2



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## Plates



*Plate 1 Trench 1 (test pit) with deeper sondage in west corner, view north-west*



*Plate 2 Trench 2 (test pit) with deeper sondage to south-east, view south-west*



*Plate 3 Trench 3 (foundation) section, view east*



*Plate 4 Trench 4 (foundation) sample section, view north-east*



*Plate 5 Trench 5 (foundation) section, view east*



*Plate 6 General view east of the site after excavation of all foundation trenches*



*Plate 7 General view north-east of the site after excavation of all foundation trenches*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.05m Width: 0.85m Depth: 0.18-0.32m

Orientation: north-east to south-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay with frequent late post-medieval/modern brick, tile, cement, coal, slate fragments, occasional iron debris and pebble gravel. Compact and cohesive. Very diffuse boundary with 101 below. Cut by service trenches. Same as 400.	0.00-0.24m
101	Natural	Mid/light greyish yellow clay. Compact and cohesive. Occasional irregular pebbles and small stones. Same as 202, 303, 401 and 502.	0.18m+

### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.05m Width: 1m Depth: 0.02-0.28m

Orientation: north-west to south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Layer	Dark grey silty clay with frequent late post-medieval/modern brick, tile, cement, coal, slate fragments, occasional iron nails, glass, flower pot and pebble gravel. Compact and cohesive. Very diffuse boundary with 201 below. Same as 301.	0.00-0.10m
201	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay with frequent late post-medieval/modern brick, tile, cement, coal, slate fragments, occasional iron debris and pebble gravel. Compact and cohesive. Very diffuse boundary with 202 below. Same as 100, 302.	0.09-0.40m
202	Natural	Mid/light greyish yellow clay. Compact and cohesive. Occasional irregular pebbles and small stones. Same as 101, 303, 401 and 502.	0.33m+

### Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8.25m Width: 0.65-0.70m Depth: 0.92-1.06m

Orientation: north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Surface	Modern yellow pea gravel surface (loose) with permeable membrane below. Same as 500.	0.00-0.04m
301	Layer	Dark grey silty clay with frequent late post-medieval/modern brick, tile, cement, coal, slate fragments, occasional iron nails, glass, flower	0.04-0.10m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		pot and pebble gravel. Compact and cohesive. Very diffuse boundary with 302 below. Same as 200.	
302	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay with frequent late post-medieval/modern brick, tile, cement, coal, slate fragments, occasional iron debris and pebble gravel. Compact and cohesive. Very diffuse boundary with 202 below. Same as 100, 201.	0.09-0.33m
303	Natural	Mid/light greyish yellow clay. Compact and cohesive. Occasional irregular pebbles and small stones. Becoming more orange with depth. Same as 101, 202, 401 and 502.	0.33m+

#### Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 3.85m Width: 0.50m Depth: 0.92-1.02m

Orientation: north-west to south-east

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay with frequent late post-medieval/modern brick, tile, cement, coal, slate fragments, occasional iron debris and pebble gravel. Compact and cohesive. Very diffuse boundary with 101 below. Cut by service trenches. Same as 100,	0.00-0.21m
401	Natural	Mid/light greyish yellow clay. Compact and cohesive. Occasional irregular pebbles and small stones. Becoming more orange with depth. Same as 101, 202, 303 and 502.	0.15m+

#### Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 8.10m Width: 0.65-0.70m Depth: 0.92-1.03m

Orientation: north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Surface	Modern yellow pea gravel surface (loose) over tarmac, over mixed compact concrete and pea gravel (to south-west); concrete floor with machine made brick foundation layer. Same as 300.	0.00-0.18m
501	Foundation	Modern concrete foundation for former extension.	0.11-0.63m
502	Natural	Mid/light greyish yellow clay. Compact and cohesive. Occasional irregular pebbles and small stones. Becoming more orange with depth. Same as 101, 202, 303 and 401.	0.18m+

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 48242)**

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 21 Digital photographs
- 1 Scale drawings
- 5 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