

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT
LAND ADJACENT TO 8 SOUTH VIEW,
MAIN ROAD, WYRE PIDDLE,
WORCESTERSHIRE



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

Date: 14th November 2013
Author: Andrew Walsh, awalsh@worcestershire.gov.uk
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt
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HER reference: WSM50195

Contents
Summary

1

Report

1 Background	2
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
2 Aims	2
3 Methods	2
3.1 Personnel	2
3.2 Documentary research	2
3.3 Fieldwork strategy	2
3.4 Structural analysis	3
3.5 Statement of confidence in the methods and results	3
4 The application site	3
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use	3
5 Structural analysis	3
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	3
5.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits	3
6 Synthesis	3
7 Publication summary	3
8 Acknowledgements	4
9 Bibliography	4

Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to 8 South View, Main Road, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire

Author: Andrew Walsh

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land adjacent to 8 South View, Main Street, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9687 4745; HER ref WSM50195). Planning permission has been granted by Wychavon District Council for an extension of time for permission for the erection of five dwellings with private access drive within the site, subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological work. This development was considered by the Planning and Advisory of Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council to have the potential to affect a site of archaeological significance (WSM22091) and a brief was issued setting out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation.

Two evaluation trenches and one test pit were excavated. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land adjacent to 8 South View, Main Road, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9687 4745; Figure 1), commissioned by Mr M Turner of Dovetell Ltd. Planning permission has been granted by Wychavon District Council for an extension of time for permission for the erection of five dwellings with private access drive within the site, subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological work (reference W/11/0117). This development was considered by the Planning and Advisory of Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council to have the potential to affect a site of archaeological significance (WSM22091) and a brief was issued setting out the requirement for archaeological evaluation

The project conforms to the Brief (Glyde 2012) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2013). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this project is WSM50195.

2 Aims

The aims of this 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.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc AIfA FSA Scot and Pete Lovett BSc. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers BA MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MIfA.

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 31st October 2013. The site reference number and site code is WSM50195.

Two evaluation trenches, amounting to just over 80m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 2046ha, representing a sample of 4%. A third trench measuring 1.8m² was excavated upon request from the client to evaluate ground contamination. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 180° 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 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

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 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The proposed development site is located on level ground with an elevation of approximately 27m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The site is bounded to the north and east by the Worcester to Oxford railway line, to the south by the B4083 and to the west by a residential property. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as undifferentiated Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary sand and gravels of the Wasperton Member (BGS 2013).

No prehistoric or Roman activity is recorded on the site by the HER, although it did highlight extensive evidence that the area was exploited during these periods and that there was potential for this activity to extend into the site (Cornah 2013). The site is located immediately north of the B4083 which documentary evidence suggests may be a Saxon road. Wyre Piddle is recorded in the Domesday book and the village contains a number of medieval and post-medieval buildings. The site is located to the east of the village core, on what was probably agricultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently overgrown with brambles, although it was partially cleared of vegetation in the weeks prior to archaeological works.

5 Structural analysis

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and they are illustrated in Plates 1-3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. Details of the site archive are presented in Appendix 2.

5.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

A natural deposit consisting of an orangey red sandy gravel with occasional sandy clay patches was encountered in all trenches.

5.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Directly above the natural strata in all trenches was a soft mid-reddish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles subsoil, overlain by a soft dark reddish brown loamy topsoil.

6 Synthesis

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified during an archaeological evaluation at Land adjacent to 8 South View, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire.

7 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 on behalf of Mr M Turner of Dovetell Ltd at Land adjacent to 8 South View, Main Street, Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9687 4745; HER ref WSM50195). Two evaluation trenches and one test pit were excavated. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr M Turner and Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer.

9 Bibliography

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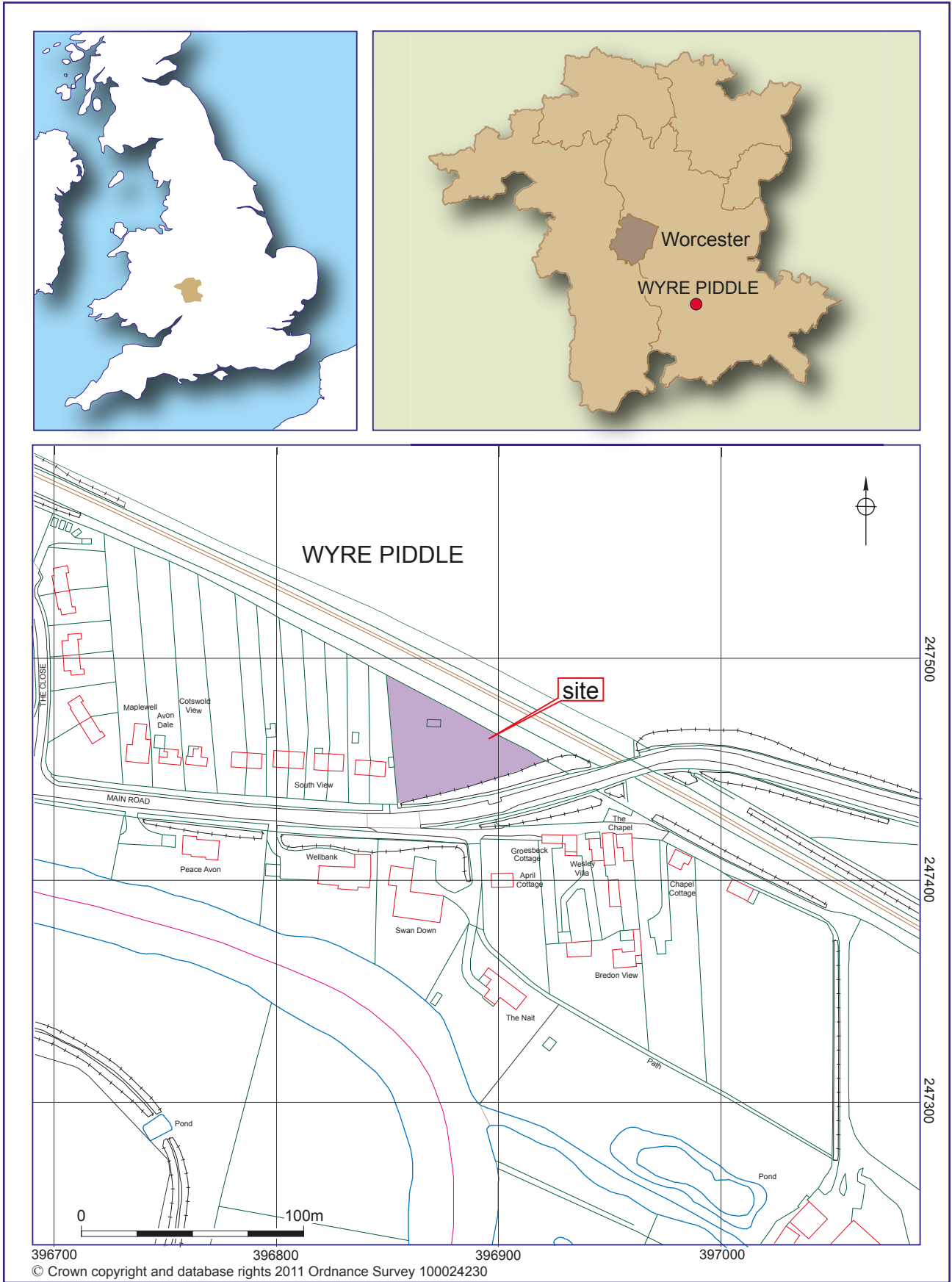
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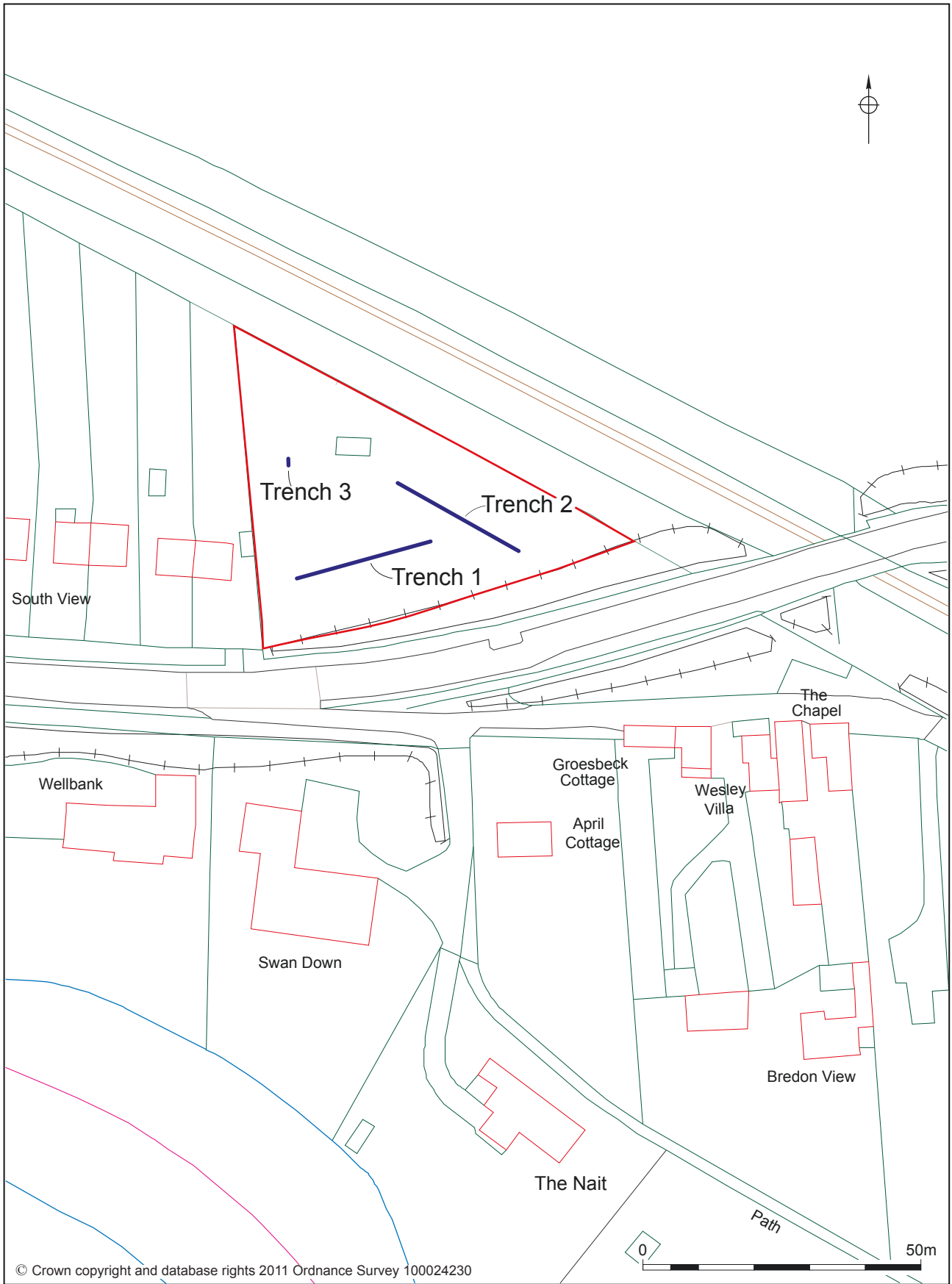
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 2. Trench 2 facing north west



Plate 3. Trench 3 facing east

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 26m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.85m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty sandy loam	0-0.23m
101	Subsoil	Soft mid-reddish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles	0.23-0.81m
102	Natural	Orangey red gravels and sand with occasional sandy clay patches	0.81m+

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 26m Width: 1.55m Depth: 0.9m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty sandy loam	0-0.28m
201	Subsoil	Soft mid-reddish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles	0.28-0.88m
202	Natural	Orangey red gravels and sand with sandy clay patches and pebbles	0.88m+

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.55m Width: 1.2m Depth: 0.88m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty sandy loam	0-0.2m
301	Subsoil	Soft mid-reddish brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles	0.2-0.7m
302	Natural	Orangey red gravels and sand with occasional sandy clay patches	0.7m+

Appendix 2 The archive (site code: WSM50195)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 15 Digital photographs
- 3 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 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
