

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT HALL FARM, MAIN
STREET, SEDGEBERROW,
WORCESTERSHIRE

James Goad BA AIFA and Laura Griffin BA AIFA

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

10th December 2003

© Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County
Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University College Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



Project 2479
Report 1203
WSM 33393

Archaeological watching brief at Hall farm, Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire

James Goad BA AIFA and Laura Griffin BA AIFA

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Rebecca Allchurch
<i>Site address</i>	Land by Hall Farm, Main Street, Sedgeberrow Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 402404 238610
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 29775
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/03/1316
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2003
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2003
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999

Previous archaeological work on the site

Unlike the western and central part of Main Street, little or no previous archaeological work has been undertaken in this area of the village.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

The village of Sedgeberrow lies on low land on the west bank of the River Isbourne on the road from Winchcombe to Evesham. The soils are slightly stony calcareous clays of the Lodgegrove Association (Beard et al 1984) over Lower Lias (Geological Survey 1988).

Various archaeological finds from the area are on record eg WSM 28760, with significant finds located during deepening of the River Isbourne in 1827 (VCH I, 193-194).

Cropmarks recorded by aerial photography show that the present village is surrounded by the remains of earlier field ditches, routeways and enclosures (WSM 5504, 5506, 5510, 15997, 22927). These potentially date from the Iron Age or Roman periods. Near to this site coins and pottery dating (WSM 5507, 7517) from the 1st to the 4th centuries were discovered at the site of a School. A Roman road (WSM 28761) is also believed to run along the higher ground just to the west of the village. The School also produced a Saxon sceatta and a small group of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds (WSM 7518) in the 1930's (Buteux 2000).

The site lies only 100m north-west of St Mary's church (WSM 6991), which contains what may be the remnants of an Anglo-Saxon church. The building contains building material dating prior to the church's dedication in 1331 (Price and Watson 1984).

The area is recorded in the Domesday book with a village, two mills and a church (Thorn and Thorn 1982). Traces of the medieval landscape exist in the present village. The plots on either side of Main Street were laid out in the medieval period but what date is not known. The back of the plots to the north of Main Street was defined by a stream and those to the south by a rear access road now only visible as a cropmark, but shown on a 1813 map of the village (Buteux 2000).

The results of salvage recording and evaluation work at Trebor, Main Street in 1998 revealed the presence of ditches and gullies. Some of these features were structural in nature and date to the Iron Age and Roman periods. These could be farmstead buildings within field boundaries picked up as the cropmarks visible on the edge of the village by aerial photography (Buteux 2000).

Aims

The aims and scope of this project are stated in the Brief.

Methods

General specification for watching brief	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR Sources cited by the SMR 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Worcs XLIV SE 3904 9044 1:5000 (reproduced at 1:10560) 1885 1 st Edition OS Map 1:10000
Date(s) of fieldwork	2 nd December 2003
Area of deposits observed	c 36.5m ² . Indicated on Figure 2
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Foundations length 56m width 0.50-0.70m depth 1.00m

Access to or visibility of structure

Observation of the excavated area was undertaken during and after machine excavation. Excavation was undertaken using a wheeled JCB excavator using both 500mm and 700mm toothed buckets. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits. Access to the trenches was possible and selected areas were cleaned to confirm the depth and nature of the deposits present.

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 descriptions

Table 1

Context	Type Colour Texture	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth (OD or below ground level)
100				Machine-cut trenches	0-1.10m
101	Mid grey friable silty sand	Garden soil		Topsoil/garden soil layer	0-0.30m
102	Mid brown friable sandy clay	Occasional small rounded stones		Layer	0.30-0.80m
103	Light brown loose sandy gravels	Moderate small to medium rounded stone inclusions		Natural	0.80-1.10m
104	Sticky dark grey sandy silt	Occasional small rounded stones. Organic		Fill of pit/garden feature cut 105	0.30-0.60m

		quality to the deposit			
105		Concave-sided and round bottomed feature, filled by deposit 104		Pit or garden feature of a modern date	0.30-0.60m

Artefactual analysis

All material was of late post-medieval to modern date and came from one stratified context and the ground surface. Context 104 contained two brick fragments of late post-medieval to modern date. Unstratified finds consisted of single sherd of a modern stone china (fabric 85) plate dating to between the late 19th and 21st centuries and one brick fragment of similar date (Hurst and Rees 1992).

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage

Context	Material	Total	Weight (g)
U/S	Modern pottery	1	39
U/S	Brick	1	244
104	Brick	2	242

Discussion

A thorough inspection of the groundworks was made during the course of the project. The only real archaeological feature was probably a garden feature dating from the post-medieval to modern period. There was no indication of the feature continuing anywhere else in the footprint trenches. The development seems to have no impact on any existing archaeology. The nearest SMR features of interest north of the village include certain indistinguishable earthworks/features (WSM 32732). The site at Hall Farm seems not to have impacted on any of these possible features or anything associated with them.

Conclusions

There appears to be no significant archaeology on this site, which might be true of this section of the village, although this cannot be confirmed until more work of this nature is undertaken in the area. Although Sedgeberrow has yielded a variety of features and artefacts of archaeological interest, it is likely that the village contains areas which do not contribute anything to the archaeological record, of which this is likely to be one.

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.

A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Rebecca Allchurch at Hall Farm, Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire (NGR SO 402404 238610; WSM 33406). No significant archaeology was present in the areas exposed by the groundworks. The single feature identified was post-medieval or modern in date and was a probable garden feature of limited extent.

Archive

Fieldwork progress records AS2	1
Photographic records AS3	1
Digital photographs	13
Boxes of finds	1

The project archive is intended to be placed at:	Worcestershire County Museum Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury Near Kidderminster Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
telephone	01299 250416

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Rebecca Allchurch and Mike Glyde.

Bibliography

Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, J M, Ragg, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**

Barclay, W J, Green, G W, Holder, M T, Moorlock, B S P, Smart, J G O, Strange, P J, and Wilson, D, 1988 *Bristol Channel (sheet 51°N-04°W): solid geology*, 1:250,000 map, British Geological Survey, Keyworth

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

HEAS 2003 *Brief for an archaeological programme of work at Land at Main Street, Sedgeberrow*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 11th November 2003

HEAS 2003 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Main Street, Sedgeberrow, Worcestershire* Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 14th November 2003, **P2479**

Hurst, J D, 1994 (as amended) *Pottery fabrics. A multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **445**

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 *Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester*, in Woodiwiss, S G (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Mawer, A, and Stenton, F M, 1927 *The place-names of Worcestershire*, Cambridge University Press, London

Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**

Thorn, F, and Thorn, C, 1982 *Domesday Book - Worcestershire*, Chichester

VCH I, Page, W (ed), 1913 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire*, **I**
