

SAINSBURY'S ST JOHN'S
WORCESTER. SUPPLEMENTARY
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF LAND OFF SWANPOOL WALK

Report for Arthur Amos Associates

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Figure 1. Sainsbury's St John's Worcester. Development site, land adjoining Swanpool Walk.

Figure 2. Sainsbury's St John's Worcester. Christopher Whitehead High School: evaluation trenches (2002) and significant proposed impacts.

Sainsbury's St John's Worcester. Supplementary desk-based assessment of land off Swanpool Walk

Hal Dalwood

Part 1 Project summary

A supplementary desk-based assessment was undertaken of land off Swanpool Walk, St John's, Worcester (NGR: SO 8415 5435), in order to update current understanding of a development site. Three linked desk-based assessments were undertaken in 2000-1. This supplementary desk-based assessment was undertaken in view of the changing knowledge of the historic environment of this part of Worcester between 2001 and 2007.

The supplementary desk-based assessment examined the evidence for a prehistoric enclosure, which can be partially mapped, although archaeological evidence is lacking. The development site occupies the southeast quadrant of the putative enclosure.

Recent archaeological fieldwork revealed part of a Romano-British field system immediately east of the development site: it is probable that the field system extends into the development site.

The development site adjoins a long row of house plots along the south side of St John's. It is clear that the house plots developed as part of the suburb of St John's from the late 12th century, and a recent archaeological evaluation in a backplot has produced evidence for medieval occupation. The development site includes areas that lie within medieval backplots, and these areas have considerable potential.

The character of the suburb of St John's saw little change in the post-medieval period, with some workshops and associated buildings built on backplots. The development site includes areas that lie within post-medieval backplots, and these areas have archaeological potential. There was varied low-intensity usage of the fields that occupied the rest of the development site in the post-medieval period, and buildings included a number of barns.

The need for archaeological field evaluation to determine the character and survival of buried archaeological deposits throughout the development area is confirmed.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A supplementary desk-based assessment was undertaken of land off Swanpool Walk, St John's, Worcester (NGR: SO 8415 5435). It was undertaken on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates (acting for Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd) to inform them on the archaeological potential of the development site. Worcester City Council considers that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WCM 96514).

Three desk-based assessments of the development site and its environs were commissioned by Town Planning Consultancy Ltd for Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, and undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services in 2000-1 (Field and Tann 2000; Tann 2000; Field and Tann 2001). Planning permission and conservation area consent were granted in 2001-2 for the proposed developments (P99C0440, P99C0441, P00C0016, P00C0017, L00004). The consents were subject to conditions relating to the historic environment, comprising securing a agreed programme of archaeological work (including field evaluation, preservation *in situ* of significant deposits, excavation of significant deposits, and building recording) and a watching brief. These conditions have not yet been implemented.

In the five years since the completion of the desk-based assessments, archaeological interventions in the immediate vicinity of the development site have produced new information which has a direct bearing on the understanding of the archaeological potential of the development site. In this period the Worcester Urban Archaeological Database Project has greatly enhanced the Worcester City Historic Environment Record, and other synthetic research has increased the understanding of this part of Worcester.

A brief for an archaeological desk-based assessment was issued by Worcester City Council on 19 June 2006 (WCMAS 2006). An earlier version of this desk-based assessment report was completed by the Service in June 2006. Since that time, Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd have made some changes to the development scheme, including proposals for new all-weather sports pitches and carparks in the grounds of Christopher Whitehead High School, and a new planning application will be submitted. This report relates to the revised scheme and replaces the June 2006 report.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 1999), Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 '*Planning and the Historic Environment*', PPG 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*', and relevant EIA guidance and Legislation.

The project conforms to the brief prepared by Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section (WCMAS 2006), and takes into account subsequent revisions to the development scheme, following discussion with James Dinn (Worcester City Council).

1.3 Aims

The supplementary desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to update the archaeological assessment of the development site. It is intended to be read in conjunction with more detailed information contained in previous reports relating to this development. The research aims identified in the Brief were addressed (WCMAS 2006, 5).

2. Methods

2.1 Study area

The application sites and the surrounding area were studied in the initial desk-based assessment (Field and Tann 2000), which was updated following changes to the development proposals (Field and Tann 2001). The planning application was subsequently approved. A new planning application by Sainsbury's includes new car parks and all-weather football pitches at Christopher Whitehead High School. This supplementary desk-based assessment includes consideration of recent archaeological information from the immediate vicinity of the development site, and recently-published research into the area (Hughes 2000; Baker and Holt 2004).

2.2 Sources searched

A search of the Worcester City Historic Environment Record was obtained on 19 June 2006, and sources referenced in event and monument records were consulted. The HER was consulted again on 17 April 2007, and additional archaeological information was collected from reports produced later than June 2006.

The following sources were consulted for this supplementary desk-based assessment:

- 110 Archaeology 2006 *Archaeological Evaluation at 5 Bull Ring, St John's, Worcester*, report by 110 Archaeology
- Baker, N, and Holt, R, 2004 *Urban Growth and the Medieval Church: Worcester and Gloucester*. Aldershot: Ashgate
- DoE 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, Department of the Environment
- Field, N, and Tann, G, 2000 *Swanpool Walk, St John's, Worcester. Proposed Retail and Sports Centre Developments. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Lindsey Archaeological Services, report **385**
- Field, N, and Tann, G, 2001 *Swanpool Walk, St John's, Worcester. Revised Proposals for Retail and Sports Centre Development. Supplementary Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Lindsey Archaeological Services, report **504**
- Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson 2007 *Sainsbury's, St John's, Worcester. Works to Christopher Whitehead High School, Specification of Works*. Document dated March 2007, issue 01A
- Hughes, P, 2000 *The Development of St John's*. Report for Worcester City Council.
- IFA 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists
- Napthan, M, 2006a *Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 11-17 St John's, Worcester (WCM 101415)*, Mike Napthan Archaeology report, February 2006
- Napthan, M, 2006b *Archaeological Watching Brief at the rear of 11-17 St John's, Worcester (WCM 101474)*, Mike Napthan Archaeology report, dated 13 November 2006
- Napthan, M, 2006c *Archaeological Building Recording and Watching Brief at the rear of 29 St John's, Worcester*, Mike Napthan Archaeology report, November 2006

- *Plan of Hardwick Manor, 1754*. Worcestershire Record Office BA1691.48 r971.2
- Tann, G, 2000 *19A, 19 and 21 St John's, Worcester. Proposed Pedestrian Access, Retail and Youth Centre Developments. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Lindsey Archaeological Services, report **479**
- WCMAS 2006 *Brief for an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Land Adjoining Swanpool Walk (and Adjacent Sites), St John's, Worcester*, Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section, brief dated 19 June 2006
- Wessex Archaeology 2002 *Christopher Whitehead School, St John's, Worcester. First Phase of Archaeological Evaluation*. Wessex Archaeology, report **50624.01**
- Williams, P, 2003 *Historic Building Recording at 7 Malvern Road, St John's, Worcester*, unpublished report

2.3 **Other methods**

Consultation has been undertaken with James Dinn (Worcester City Council Archaeology Officer) to establish the key issues likely to be of importance in assessing the archaeological potential of the development site. A site visit was undertaken on 23 April 2007.

2.4 **Results**

Consideration of the available information has been undertaken, and an updated archaeological assessment of the development site has now been reached (see below). This report should be read in conjunction with the earlier desk-based assessments (Field and Tann 200 and 2001).

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

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

3. **Updated assessment**

3.1 **Overview of sources of archaeological information**

The initial desk-based assessments were not able to draw on information on buried archaeological deposits, due to the absence of previous archaeological fieldwork in the area. Subsequently a number of archaeological interventions in properties along the south side of Bull Ring and St John's have provided detailed archaeological information on buried deposits in this area, and the grounds of Christopher Whitehead High School have been subject to archaeological field evaluation (Figs 1 and 2). This recent archaeological fieldwork comprises an evaluation at the rear of 5 Bull Ring (110 Archaeology 2006), evaluation and subsequent watching brief at 11-17 St John's (Napthan 2006a, 2006b), and building recording and watching brief at 29 St John's (Napthan 2006c). The revised development scheme includes works in the grounds of Christopher Whitehead High School, which was evaluated in 2002 in relation to a different development proposal (Wessex Archaeology 2002). The origins and development of the landscape of the immediate area has been studied in the context of a wider study of Worcester (Baker and Holt 2004).

3.2 **Topography and geology**

The site topography and geology were considered in the initial desk-based assessment (WCM 100618; Field and Tann 2000, 4-5). Recent archaeological fieldwork has provided information on natural deposits in the vicinity of the development site.

An evaluation of land to the rear of 5 Bull Ring, located gravel at 21.70m OD near the street frontage and, in a trench immediately east of the development site, located gravel at 23.20m to 23.40m OD (WCM 101422; 110 Archaeology 2006). A separate evaluation to the rear of 11-17 St John's, immediately north of the development site, located Mercia Mudstone at 24.95m OD (WCM 101415; Napthan 2006a, 5).

Evaluation trenches in the grounds of Christopher Whitehead School showed that the natural deposits are Mercia Mudstone with some areas of gravel (WCM 100866; Wessex Archaeology 2002).

3.3 **Historic environment**

3.3.1 **Prehistoric enclosure**

The initial desk-based assessment summarised limited prehistoric evidence from the St John's area, and did not indicate any prehistoric evidence from the development area (Field and Tann 2000, 5-6).

A detailed study of the topography of this part of the city has raised the possibility that the development site occupies part of a large prehistoric enclosure (Baker and Holt 2004, 194-5; WCM 96514). The character of this suggested prehistoric enclosure is one of the research aims of archaeological work on this development site (WCMAS 2006, 5).

The configuration of plot boundaries in St John's, and the curving alignment of footpaths (now represented by Bromwich Lane and Swanpool Walk), was interpreted as conforming to and deflected by an earthwork enclosure. The documentary evidence indicated that part of this footpath layout was in existence as a linear routeway in the 9th century, and its irregular, deflected, alignment was presumably in existence at this period. The upstanding earthwork that deflected the alignment of this linear routeway would certainly have been fairly substantial and a prehistoric origin would be likely (Baker and Holt 2004, 194-5). There is a 1.0m drop in level between the present sports centre carpark and Swanpool Walk, which is of some antiquity (Field and Tann 2004, 9, Plate 3).

The hypothesis put forward by Baker and Holt is that most of the settlement of St John's lies within a prehistoric enclosure, c 350m north to south, and located on the edge of the river terrace. It is admitted that archaeological evidence for this enclosure is absent (Baker and Holt 2004, 195).

Two recent archaeological evaluations within the putative enclosure did not produce any evidence for prehistoric occupation (110 Archaeology 2006 [WCM 101422]; Napthan 2006a [WCM 101415]). However the relative small scale of these interventions cannot be said to have ruled out the possibility that an Iron Age hillfort occupies this part of Worcester. Any occupation evidence in the interior of the hillfort may be very localised, and its location is essentially unpredictable.

The suggested scale of the earthwork enclosure implies substantial defences, comprising an earthwork bank and a wide external ditch. If Bromwich Lane and Swanpool Walk reflect the line of these defences, they can be expected to have followed the outside of the ditch (Fig 1). The change in level between the Sports Centre carpark and the footway of Swanpool Walk may reflect heavily truncated earthworks. Although the rampart may only survive as a low levelled bank at best, the backfilled external ditch would certainly survive as a substantial

archaeological feature, and is capable of being located if present. The evaluation to the rear of 5 Bull Ring (110 Archaeology 2006) showed that the line of the putative defences did not run north to south through this site, which is close to the line of the hypothetical enclosure perimeter. It is possible the defences lay between this site and Bromwich Lane (Fig 1).

The putative prehistoric enclosure is a credible hypothesis based on documentary and topographic evidence. Such a prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort, would be of considerable significance if its presence was demonstrated. The defences are where the form and date of such a monument can most readily be established. Occupation deposits in the interior would be very significant, as their discovery would lead to new understanding of local prehistoric settlement. The low level of past and present building in the development site would suggest that truncation of buried archaeological deposits would be limited, and therefore deposits relating to an Iron Age hillfort may survive.

3.3.2 **Romano-British field system**

The initial desk-based assessment could not provide much evidence for Roman occupation in the area of the development site, although cited the suggestion that there was a Roman bridge crossing at Worcester (Field and Tann 2000, 6). The research aims of archaeological work on this development site include the hinterland of Roman Worcester, and the identification of survival of Roman landscape elements.

Recent archaeological fieldwork at Newport Street, Worcester, has shown that a metalled Roman road is aligned on the site of the medieval bridge (R Jackson pers comm). Whether the Severn was crossed by a bridge or a ford in the Roman period is unknown at present, but this new evidence supports the hypothesis that some elements of the historic road network west of the bridge in St John's are of Roman origin. Baker and Holt have suggested that the present road network (St John's, Bromyard Road, and Bransford Road) was in existence in the early medieval period (Baker and Holt 2004, 195, fig 6.4). It is possible therefore that the east-west alignment of St John's (the street) follows a Roman road alignment.

An archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 5 Bull Ring located Romano-British deposits (Fig 1: WCM 101422; 110 Archaeology 2006). Evaluation trenches located two enclosure ditches at right angles to each other, aligned southwest to northeast and northwest to southeast. One ditch was flat-based, 1.70m wide and 0.42m deep; the other was V-shaped and 1.50m wide and 0.70m deep. Both ditches contained Roman pottery dated to the late 1st to early 2nd century (110 Archaeology 2006). The limited amount of cultural material indicated that these features were probably field boundaries, rather than adjacent to a settlement focus. These Roman field boundaries lie just 10m east of the development site under consideration.

One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from evaluation trenches to the rear of 11-17 St John's (Fig 1: WCM 101415; Napthan 2006a).

The new evidence for Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the development site is potentially of regional (rather than national) significance. It seems likely that the field boundaries located just east of the development site are part of a more extensive field system which extends into the development site. The scale of past and present building in the development area would suggest that buried deposits relating to a Romano-British field system are likely to survive. It is probable that there is contemporary settlement within or close to the medieval settlement area, but the location of this cannot be predicted on present evidence.

3.3.3 **Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation**

The initial desk-based assessment assembled detailed documentary evidence for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods (Field and Tann 2000, 6-8). A more detailed study of the

documentary sources for the development of St John's has been undertaken (Hughes 2000), which was incorporated into the revised desk-based assessment of the development proposals (Field and Tann 2001). The current assessment is focused on subsequent archaeological and historical research that relates closely to the development site.

The research aims of archaeological work on this development site include investigating the medieval suburbs of Worcester, medieval boundaries and land divisions, sampling backplot areas, and the character of industry and land-use patterns in the suburbs.

An early medieval routeway has been identified from documentary sources, that follows the edge of the gravel terrace on a north-south alignment, and was recorded as the *folc hearpath* in a charter dated to 851 (Baker and Holt 2004, 194, fig 6.4; Field and Tann 2000, 7). This early medieval routeway is represented by Bromwich Lane, to the east of the development site, and its irregular alignment is interpreted as due to deflection around a prehistoric enclosure (see above). This early medieval routeway is of considerable interest, but its alignment passes east of the development site (Fig 1).

Baker and Holt state that the basic network of roads in St Johns was in existence by the late pre-Conquest period, including St John's (the street), Bromyard Road and Bransford Road, with Malvern Road a possible later addition (Baker and Holt 2004, 195, fig 6.4). The development of the suburb of St John's around the church of St John in Bedwardine took place in the high medieval period. The church is first documented in c 1190 which is consistent with the earliest building fabric of the church dating to the late 12th century (Baker and Holt 2004, 214). Documentary evidence shows that settlement had developed by the 13th century (Field and Tann 2000; Hughes 2000). The layout of the medieval suburb has been studied, and medieval house plots have been identified north and south of Cripplegate (now Tybridge Street) and St John's (the street); the line of plots on the south side of St John's extends to the junction with Bransford Road (Baker and Holt 2004, 194-5, fig 6.4).

Baker and Holt state that the medieval plots south of St John's (the street) consisted of 'a long eastern series ending against a straight back-fence line running northeast-southwest; and a western series of plots representing subdivisions of a triangular block in the angle of St John's and the east-west lane known as Powell's Row' (Baker and Holt 2004, 195, fig 6.4). The medieval back fence they mention is represented by the modern boundary at the rear of properties on the south side of St John's, which marks the northern boundary of the development site. Similarly, the rear property boundaries of properties that adjoin the eastern side of the development area are probably of medieval date.

An archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 11-17 St John's recorded cultivation soils containing pottery dating to the 13th to 14th century and animal bone, and a shallow feature of medieval or post-medieval date (Fig 1: WCM 101415; Napthan 2006a). The evaluation trenches were to the rear of the backplot, and it is possible that more extensive deposits survive closer to the street frontage. A subsequent watching brief on the construction work did not record any further medieval artefacts (Fig 1: WCM 101474; Napthan 2006b). A watching brief at the rear of 23 St John's did not record any medieval artefacts either (Fig 1: WCM 101480; Napthan 2006c). The recorded deposits show that the backplots have some potential for providing information on the medieval development of the St John's suburb, although it seems unlikely that deposits are deep or complex. The development site incorporates backplot areas, which have some potential for surviving medieval archaeological deposits (Fig 1).

The block of land between the rear of properties on St John's and Swanpool Walk is documented at the 'Frericroft' in the 13th century, open land leased by the Prior and Convent of Worcester (Hughes 2000, 9, fig 2). The part of the development area south of Swanpool Walk was probably open ground in the medieval period (Baker and Holt 2004, fig 6.4).

To the south lay a lane (Swanpool Walk), and south of this there was a fishpond (*vivarium*) that was owned by Richard Bruton in the late 13th century; this was later known as the

Swanpool (Hughes 2000, 8). The Swan Pool is shown as a large pool immediately south of Swanpool Walk on the 1754 plan of Hardwick Manor (Field and Tann 2000, fig 5; WRO BA1691.48 r971.2). The backfilled pool was partly investigated during a recent archaeological evaluation of the Christopher Whitehead School High site (Fig 1: WCM 100866; Wessex Archaeology 2002). Only relatively modern backfill deposits were recorded, and the full depth of the feature could not be established due to safety considerations.

The wide eastern end of Bransford Road was a green in the medieval period and used as a cattle market until the 19th century (Field and Tann 2000, 8).

3.3.4 Post-medieval occupation

The initial desk-based assessment assembled detailed documentary evidence for the post-medieval period (Field and Tann 2000, 8-9). The research aims of archaeological work on this development site include understanding the colonisation of back-plot areas and land in suburbs in the post-medieval period.

The pattern of backplots along St John's established in the medieval period (see above) saw little change in the post-medieval period. Archaeological evaluation in backplots behind 11-17 St John's located post-medieval cultivation soils (Fig 1: WCM 101415; Napthan 2006a). The development site does incorporate back-plot areas, which have potential for surviving archaeological deposits (Fig 1).

The area to the south of the rear boundary is shown on the 1754 Map of Hardwick Manor as divided into three fields (Field and Tann 2000, fig 5). The middle of the three fields is recorded as having the fieldname 'Small Barn', which suggests there was a barn in this field at this date; later mapping shows two buildings, probably barns, in this area (Field and Tann 2000, 10).

A tanning industry was recorded in St John's in the 17th century, and there was a tannery on Bromyard Road until 1861 (Field and Tann 2000, 8). Evaluation trenches in the grounds of Christopher Whitehead High School, close to Malvern Road, located dumps of cattle horncores in a post-medieval pit and a ditch fill, possibly associated with hornworking (Figs 1 & 2: WCM 100866; Wessex Archaeology 2002). Research into the history of 7 Malvern Road indicated that the building was associated with the tanning industry, and suggested that buried remains of a tannery lay behind the house (WCM 101130; Williams 2003). This area lies immediately north of the site of the proposed Sports Centre. The part of the development site south of Swanpool Walk (the new Sports Centre) as built on in the post-medieval period, with houses on the street frontage, and service buildings and gardens to the rear (Field and Tann 2000, 12). It is likely that post-medieval occupation evidence survives in this area.

3.4 The application sites

The impact of the revised proposals was considered in a report produced by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Field and Tann 2001). The initial desk-based assessment (Field and Tann 2000) considered a number of potential impacts on the historic environment that are no longer relevant. The buildings comprising 77-83 St John's were proposed for demolition for an access road (now withdrawn). The buildings comprising 19 and 19A St John's were proposed for demolition, and subsequently a detailed desk-based assessment of these properties was undertaken (Tann 2000). These buildings are no longer proposed for demolition.

1. Bransford Road junction. The junction of Swanpool Walk with St John's, Bransford Road, and Malvern Road will be redesigned. On the southern side of Bransford Road the open area (used for car parking) appears to be a remnant of St John's Green, a medieval market place (Field and Tann 2001, 1). This area might retain significant buried archaeological deposits.

2. Sainsbury's store and adjacent carparking areas. The construction of the new store is the main element of the proposed development (Field and Tann 2000, 9-11; Field and Tann 2001, 1). The archaeological potential of this area is not known with certainty at present.

The development area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort, although this is only based on interpretation of cartographic and topographic evidence. The southern boundary of the development area along Swanpool Walk follows the alignment of the perimeter of the suggested prehistoric enclosure, and buried deposits would be expected to comprise an exterior ditch and a levelled bank or rampart. Such deposits, if present, would be significant.

This area may also contain buried remains relating to a Romano-British field system, on the basis of excavated buried remains immediately to the east. The area was open ground in the medieval period, adjacent to houses and backplots: the area may contain buried remains related to medieval agricultural activity or other medieval activity. The area was enclosed as fields in the post-medieval period, with two buildings, probably barns.

In the late 19th century the area was orchards (Field and Tann 2000, 10). The preservation of buried archaeological remains under such land-use is likely to be reasonably good, although locally there may be damage from tree roots (Field and Tann 2000, 17).

3. Swanpool Walk realignment. The realigned part of Swanpool Walk may have some impact on buried archaeological remains (Field and Tan 2001, 2). This area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort (discussed above under the main supermarket site).

4. Landscaping along Swanpool Walk footpath. Landscaping along the north edge of Swanpool Walk may have an impact on buried archaeological deposits (Field and Tann 2001, 2).

5. Pedestrianisation of Powell's Row and vehicular access to the rear of properties in St John's. Changes to the access to the rear of properties at the southeast of St John's will encroach on back-plot areas, and could have an impact on buried archaeological deposits (Field and Tann 2001, 2). This area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort (discussed above under the main supermarket site).

6. Pedestrian access adjacent to 33 St John's. Groundworks associated with the planned pedestrian access are unlikely to have an impact on buried archaeological in this backplot (Field and Tann 2001, 3). This area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort (discussed above under the main supermarket site).

7. Pedestrian access adjacent to 19 St John's and new Youth Centre. This area was subject to a detailed desk-based assessment, which identified that the area of highest potential is the rear of the properties where buried deposits of medieval and later date can be expected (Tann 2000, 15). The adjacent plot to the east (11-17 St John's) was evaluated and a watching brief was carried out during construction: medieval artefacts were recovered from cultivation soils and later deposits were recorded (Napthan 2006a and 2006b). A watching brief on a nearby plot to the west (23 St John's) was carried out during construction work: a post-medieval cultivation soil was recorded but no earlier deposits or artefacts were recorded (Napthan 2006c). Groundworks associated with the proposed new pedestrian link and construction of the new Youth Centre are likely to have a detrimental effect on buried archaeological archaeological deposits (Tann 2000, 15). This area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort (discussed above under the main supermarket site).

Demolition of the warehouse building to the rear of the property is proposed, and the southern part of the building is believed to incorporate an 18th century malthouse (Tann 2000, 15). An appropriate level of detailed building recording will be required before demolition.

8. New Sports Centre, Malvern Road (former council yard). The proposed new Sports Centre has potential for buried archaeological deposits in the form of buildings of late post-medieval date along the Malvern Road frontage, and it is possible that this land was occupied in the medieval period (Field and Tann 2000, 13). This area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort (discussed above under the main supermarket site).

9. Christopher Whitehead High School. Proposed works in the grounds of Christopher Whitehead High School comprise construction of an extended 56 space carpark outside the front of the school building on Malvern Road, and the construction of two new all-weather pitches (50x39m and 50x35m). Details are shown on Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson drawings SK100C, SK101D, SK102B, and SK103B and construction methods have been specified (Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson 2007). The school grounds were largely outside the scope of the original desk-based assessments, although relevant cartographic and documents relating to the area were considered (Field and Tann 2000 and 2001). However the site was evaluated in 2002 when six evaluation trenches were excavated (Wessex Archaeology 2002), and this fieldwork provides useful information for the purposes of this desk-based assessment.

The areas to be affected in the current proposed development coincide with trenches excavated in the earlier evaluation. Wessex Archaeology Trenches 3 and 4 coincide with the 56 space carpark next to Malvern Road, Trench 2 coincides with the 50x35m all weather pitch next to the new Sports Centre, and Trench 6 coincides with the 50x39m all weather pitch near Bromwich Road (Fig 2).

Area of extended carpark. Trench 3, close to Malvern Road, contained postholes and large, shallow pits, containing post-medieval pottery and cattle horncores, probably deriving from hornworking. The overlying modern deposits were 0.45m deep. The ground reduction and construction of the new carpark area will involve ground reduction of *circa* 0.50m (Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson 2007, 15). This area therefore has some archaeological potential, and buried archaeological deposits may be affected by the construction of the carpark.

Area of 50x35m all-weather pitch. Trench 2 recorded no archaeological features. Natural was overlain by 0.80m of modern levelling deposits. The construction of the new pitch and related drainage will require ground reduction to the depth of *circa* 0.60m (Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson 2007, 5). This area has no significant archaeological potential and construction will not have an impact on buried archaeological remains.

Area of 50x39m all-weather pitch. Trench 6 contained no archaeological features. Natural deposits were overlain by 1.40m of post-medieval and modern soils. The construction of the new pitch and related drainage will require ground reduction to the depth of *circa* 0.60m (Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson 2007, 5). This area has no significant archaeological potential and construction will not have an impact on buried archaeological remains.

The site of the large pool known as The Swanpool (a fishpond in the medieval period) lies on the north edge of the school grounds, and is not affected by the proposed works.

10. Rear of 47 St John's (Jeynes Home Hardware). The plot of land to the rear of Jeynes Home Hardware has been included in this desk-based assessment. This area was outside the scope of the original desk-based assessments, although relevant cartographic and documents relating to the area were considered (Field and Tann 2000 and 2001). The area is occupied by two commercial buildings that are part of the commercial premises of Jeynes Home Hardware, comprising a modern steel-framed building (used for hardware retail) to the north and a 20th century brick building, used for storage, to the south, separated by a yard. These buildings are not historically significant.

This area lies immediately south of the defined area of medieval back plots. This area lies within a (possible) prehistoric enclosure, perhaps an Iron Age hillfort (discussed above under the main supermarket site).

4. **Conclusions and recommendations**

This supplementary desk-based assessment has developed the understanding of the archaeological potential of the development site, due to the availability of new archaeological information from adjacent parts of St John's. The character and range of buried deposits that may survive within the development area has been predicted with varying degrees of confidence.

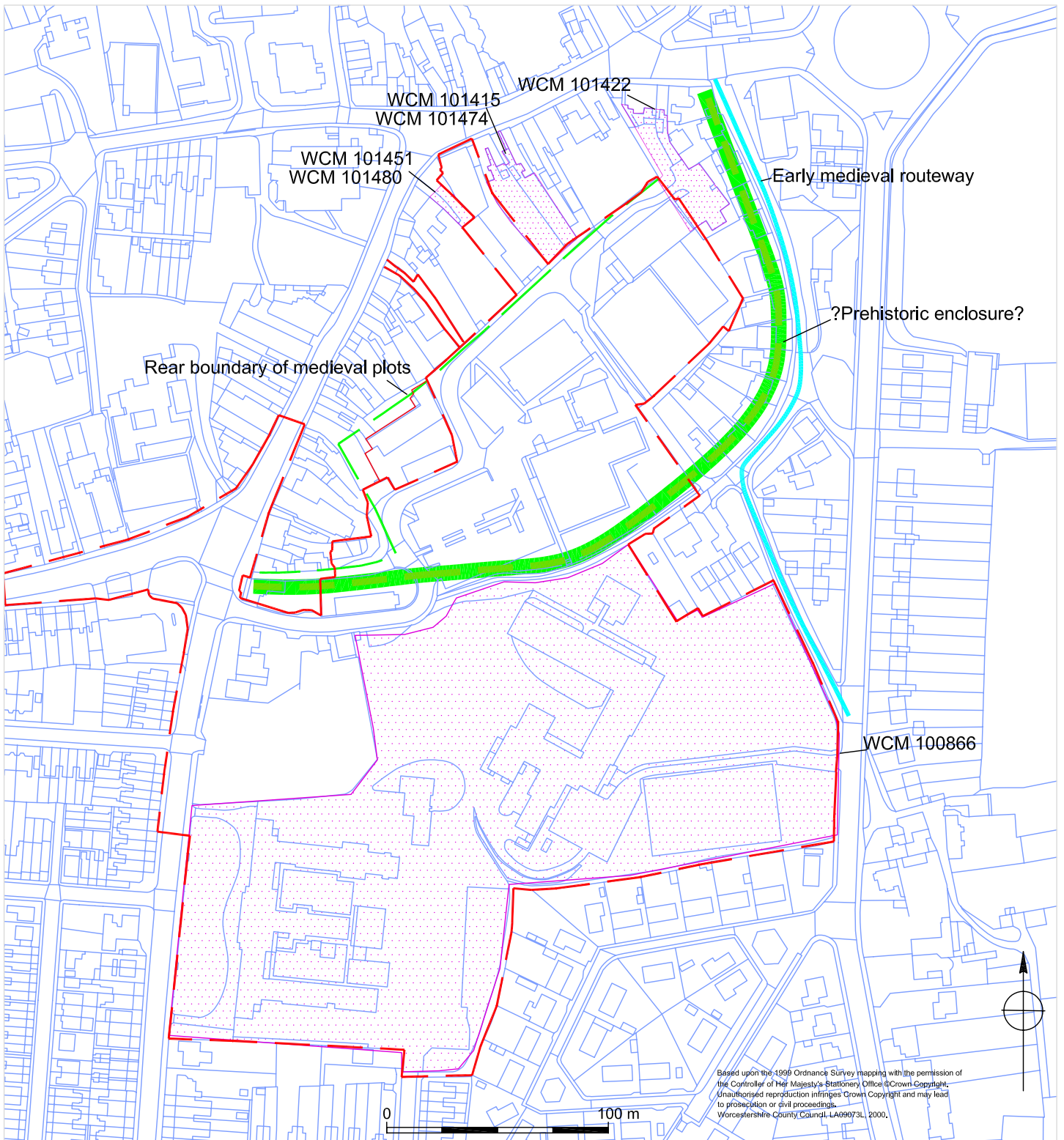
The existing planning condition requires that a full programme of archaeological fieldwork shall be secured before development commences (WCMAS 2006, 3). The first stage of such a programme is a field evaluation, which should be carefully targeted on significant areas of impact as identified in this desk-based assessment and earlier desk-based assessments (Field and Tann 2000, Tann 2000, Field and Tann 2001).

It is recommended that the archaeological field evaluation should have the following goals:

- Evaluation trenching of the proposed site of the new Sainsburys' store and adjacent carparking area, land to rear of 19 St John's (new Youth Centre site), and land adjacent to Malvern Road (new Sports Centre site). A sample level of 4% of the total area has been advised by James Dinn for the evaluation of this area (Worcester City Council). The evaluation trenching should include attention to the possible enclosure bank and ditch (the southern perimeter of the development site) and areas within historic backplots, as well as the main store and carpark area which potentially contain Iron Age and Romano-British deposits.
- An evaluation trench or trenches in the area of the proposed 56 space carpark at Christopher Whitehead High School to determine the extent and character of post-medieval pits adjacent to Malvern Road.

5. **Personnel**

The assessment was undertaken by Hal Dalwood. Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton.



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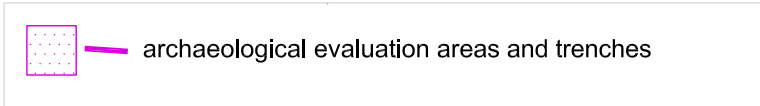


Figure 1: Sainsbury's St John's Worcester. development site, land adjoining Swanpool Walk

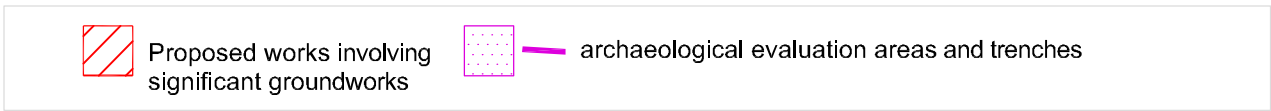
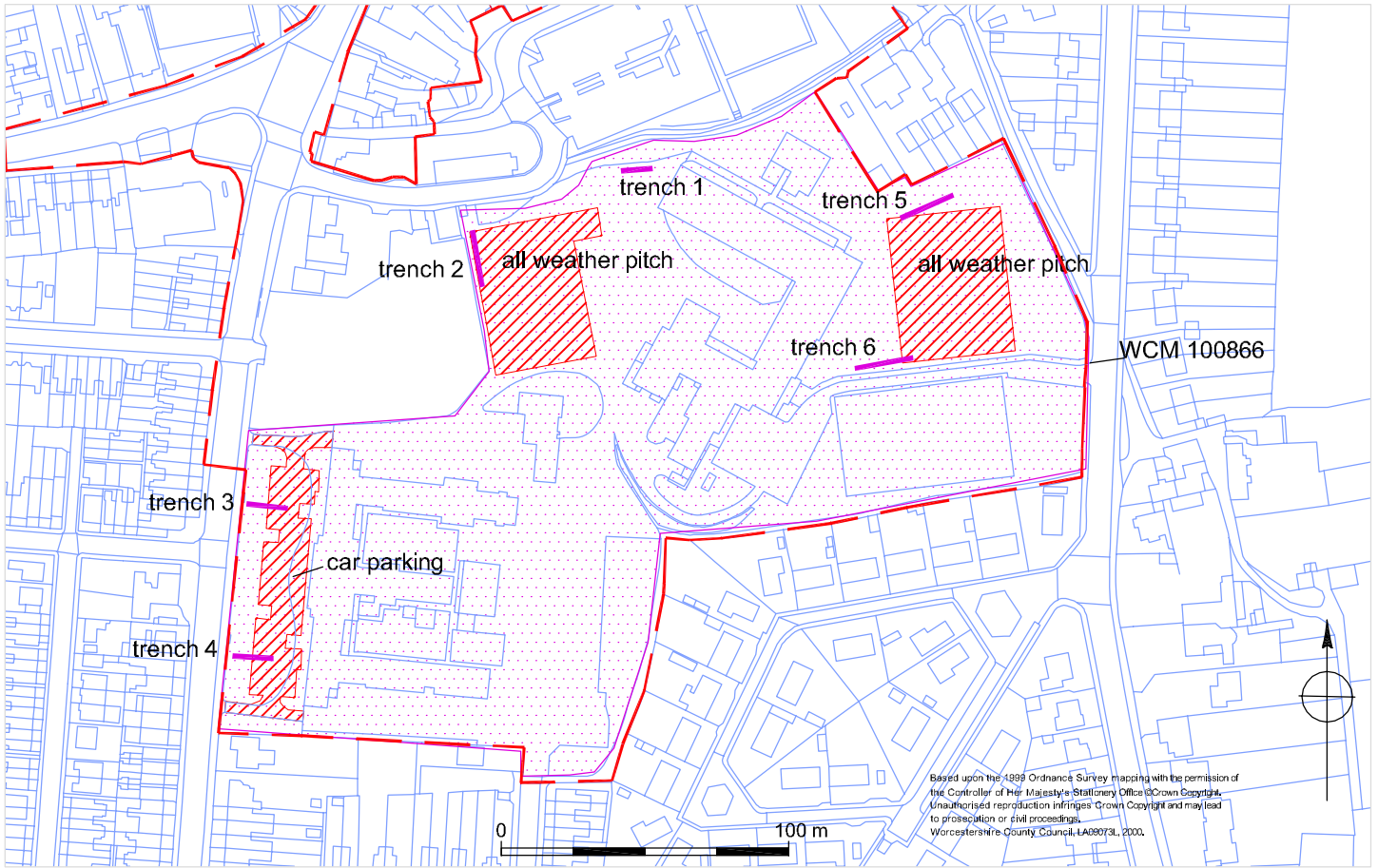


Figure 2: Sainsbury's St John's Worcester. Christopher Whitehead High School: evaluation trenches (2002) and significant proposed impacts