

Archaeological Evaluation of the former Worcester College of Technology site, Barbourne Road, Worcester



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Archaeological evaluation at Worcester College of Technology, Barbourne Road, Worcester

Elizabeth Connolly

With contributions by Laura Griffin

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Worcester College of Technology, Barbourne Road, Worcester (SO84555615). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs consulting (the Client), on behalf of their client McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd. Worcester City Council have granted permission for a change of use of existing buildings to 60 no 'later living' residential units and associated ancillary accommodation, landscaping and car parking, partial demolition and extension of building to facilitate conversion. Permission has been granted subject to conditions including Condition 4 which specifies a programme of archaeological works.

The application site is located just west of the A449 Barbourne Road, approximately 1.5km north of the centre of Worcester, some 600m from the River Severn and some 260m south of the Barbourne Brook.

A desk-based assessment prepared for the site noted that the site's location on a river terrace made it theoretically predisposed to prehistoric archaeology, but it was considered likely that this likelihood would have been compromised by a high level of 19th and 20th century development at the site.

The site is located 390m north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Britannia Square, the site of a Roman shrine and adjacent to the main Roman route between Roman Worcester and Droitwich.

The site was shown on Doherty's map of 1751-3 as being located within agricultural fields. On the 1843 tithe map of Claines a structure, Thames House, is set back from the frontage within the site. The rest of the site is undeveloped. The 1887 -1888 Ordnance Survey map shows more detail of Thames House, its associated formal gardens and orchard to the south. In the late 1920s Thames House was demolished and replaced by the existing buildings, a locally listed Art Deco courtyard arrangement. It is located in the St George's Square Conservation Area, in which there are 21 Grade 2 listed buildings.

The evaluation of the site comprised the excavation of five trenches placed within the courtyard of the former college, in the footprint of the rear range of the building and in a car park and former location of a temporary building to the rear.

Recorded deposits largely comprised made up ground and garden soil overlying natural river terrace gravels. In the south west of the site, the brick-built entrances of a Second World War air raid shelter (WCM 92505) probably built specifically for the City of Worcester Grammar School for Girls were uncovered.

Immediately to the west of the former college building, the brick footings of a building were recorded, with a tied-in garden wall. These are thought to represent the remains of an outbuilding depicted on the OS 1st Edition map and associated with Thames House.

Residual finds were recorded during the evaluation of a sherd of medieval pottery and a fragment of Medieval tile. One sherd of Post-Medieval pottery and some clay pipe were also found, as well as some modern domestic ceramic sherds.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Worcester College of Technology, Barbourne Road, Worcester (SO84555615). It was commissioned by Cathy Patrick of CgMs consulting (the Client), on behalf of their client McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd. Worcester City Council have granted permission for a change of use of existing buildings to 60 no 'later living' residential units and associated ancillary accommodation, landscaping and car parking, partial demolition and extension of building to facilitate conversion (P13A0155). Permission has been granted subject to conditions including Condition 4 which specifies a programme of archaeological works.

The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by WA, 2014.

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester* (Worcester City Council 1999).

The event reference for this project, given by Worcester City HER is WCM 102050.

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

- 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 fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Bradley MA, AlfA; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2008 and has been practicing archaeology since 2005. The report was undertaken by Elizabeth Connolly MA, who joined Worcestershire Archaeology 2013 and has been in archaeological practice since 1999. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt. Laura Griffin, AlfA, Senior Finds Archaeologist, contributed the artefact report.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, (CgMs 2012). The assessment was conducted on a study area of a 500m radius from the site and was consulted prior to fieldwork.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 18 September 2014 and 29 September 2014. The site reference number and site code is WCM 102050.

Five trenches were excavated across the site. The trenches were located within the courtyard of the former college building, in the footprint of the rear range of the building and in a car park and former location of a temporary building to the rear. The evaluation was carried out in two stages, prior to, and after the removal of some modern services.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked 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 samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012a). 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 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.5.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (WA 2012a; appendix 2).

3.5.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and so they not included below, nor included in the Table 1 quantification.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

3.5.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- modern pottery, and;
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.6 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

Much of the following section is derived from the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012).

The application site is located just west of the A449 Barbourne Road, north of the centre of Worcester. It is bounded to the north by Barbourne Terrace, to the south by residential plots and to the west by Thornloe road and a boundary with a school. The river Severn is located c 660m to the west of the site.

The bedrock geology is of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Triassic period. Superficial geology is Worcester sand and gravel, which were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Society, 2014). The site appears to

be raised up with an increase of levels from east to west. This contrasts with the natural topographical slope seen along Barbourne Terrace, the northern boundary, which slopes gently from west to east.

One undesignated asset survives within the site; an air raid shelter located to the rear of the college outbuildings (WCM 92505). There are four Grade II listed buildings along Barbourne Terrace, four along Thornloe Walk and twenty one within St George's Square.

The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Britannia Square is located c 390m to the south of the site (SM 1005277) and the site lies with the Conservation Area of St George's Square.

The desk-based assessment noted that the site's location on raised ground, relatively close to the Barbourne Brook and on river terrace levels made it theoretically favourable for prehistoric activity although the significant impact of 19th and 20th century developments would have reduced the probability of survival of archaeological remains from Prehistory.

Roman activity has been recorded within the study area, to the south of the site, mainly focused on the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Britannia Square c 300m from the site. Britannia Square was identified as the site of a Roman temple with a series of discoveries relating to partial remains of Roman structures and artefacts being made from the 19th century onwards. The site is located on the main route between Roman Droitwich and Worcester, and has the potential for roadside activity associated with this period.

A timber laced causeway or embankment was recorded on either side of the nearby Barbourne Bridge c 210m to the north of the site, which may date to the early Medieval period.

Although still on a main approach into the medieval town of Worcester the site appears to have formed part of an undeveloped rural landscape during this period. Ridge and furrow was recorded c 400m to the south west (WCM 91164) and Pitchcroft recreation ground, also 400m to the south east, formed a common meadow (WCM 96637). A tithe barn for Claines survived up to 1878 (WCM 96065) in the location of the Grammar School and Whiston's Priory fishpond is also recorded (WCM 96575).

The site was shown on Doherty's map of 1751-3 as being located within agricultural fields south of the Barbourne Road. The 1843 tithe map of Claines shows a structure, Thames House, set back from the frontage within the site. The rest of the site is undeveloped. The 1887 -1888 Ordnance Survey map shows more detail of Thames House, its associated formal gardens and orchard to the south. Land within the northern half of the site is open. Land to the rear of the formal gardens has been subdivided by 1904, but there appears to be no other change to the site. On the 1928 Ordnance Survey map, there has been only a slight change in land to the rear of Thames House which now served as an Upper Sixth Form for Worcester Secondary School for Girls . This map must have captured the site just before Thames House was demolished and replaced by the existing locally listed Art Deco courtyard arrangement of buildings, which served as the City of Worcester Grammar School for Girls. Tennis courts occupy the north-western corner of the site. Bishop Perowne Church of England Secondary School took over the buildings in the 1960s, with some new build to the rear. The site then became Worcester Technology College, as shown on the 1994 Ordnance Survey map.

In addition to the air raid shelter within the site, a number of air raid shelters and Second World War features were noted by the desk-based assessment within the search area.

4.2 Current land-use

During the evaluation, clearance of the site was being undertaken with the exception of the frontage of the former college building.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

A loose orange-brown sandy gravel was found in all trenches, ranging in depth from 0.48m below present ground level in the centre of the site to 1.04m below present ground level in the south west of the site (Plates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). This was interpreted as natural river terrace gravel.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Post Medieval

Possible post-medieval pits or tree boles were recorded in Trenches 3 and 5, in which a dark grey brown silty sand fill was recorded containing charcoal flecks, occasional ceramic building material, clinker and mortar fragments (Plate 6, Figures 3 and 5).

A layer of made ground comprising re-used garden soils was recorded in all trenches, ranging in depth from 0.20m to 0.6m in the south west of the site. The layer comprised soft, dark grey gravelly silt, with frequent charcoal flecks, CBM, clay pipes and was interpreted as a Post Medieval layer. Some plastic contamination was found in this layer indicating some modern disturbance.

5.1.3 Phase 3: 19th Century

Brick walling forming the external walls of a building were recorded in Trench 5, (503, Plate 7, Figure 4), measuring 4.5m, roughly north-south, with a possible doorway to the south. The wall was variously the thickness of a stretcher and an edge, or three bricks. The building was clearly 19th or early 20th century in date and appeared to contain a mixture of re-used bricks, bound with a concrete mortar. The wall is possibly an outbuilding visible on the OS 1st Edition map to the rear of Thames House. It defined an area of sandy rubble infill, the demolition layer of the building, containing finds of 19th and 20th century pottery.

A wall abutting building 503, one brick width, appears to have been built within the same construction cut, as a garden wall. This was revealed by excavation for a length of about 4m. This wall is also depicted on the OS 1st Edition map.

5.1.4 Phase 4: 20th Century

Brick walls associated with an air raid shelter (WCM 92505) were recorded in Trench 1 to the south west of the former college building (Figure 3). In the south west of the trench, walls 104 and 105 (revealed in plan for 1.5m and 1.3m respectively) were interpreted as the south western entrance to the shelter (Plate 8). In the northern part of the trench walls 106, 107 and 108 were interpreted as the north eastern entrance (Plate 9). 1.5m of wall 106 was revealed in plan; 0.30m of wall 107 and 0.50m of wall/step 108.

A construction cut 112/114 was recorded for the air raid shelter. Cut 109 was recorded as the construction cut for the north east entrance of the shelter. No cut was recorded for the south west entrance of the shelter. The wide cuts recorded suggest freestanding wall construction.

Material infilling between and around the south western entrance was recorded as the backfill of a construction cut, disturbed and redeposited during demolition (113).

A demolition layer, 111, of the main part of the air raid shelter was recorded. It contained plastic and modern metal.

Infill material (110) recorded around walls 106 and 107, was interpreted as the demolition of construction 109. It contained metal and ceramic building material.

5.1.5 : Modern

In Trench 1 a layer of tarmac overlay light blue compacted gravel, which included a concrete drain and other modern detritus. A substantial amount of corrugated metal sheets was also recorded in this layer. These were probably reused from the air raid shelter to create the hardcore levelling layer.

In Trenches 2 and 4 topsoil overlay the made-up ground. In Trenches 3 and 5 the topmost layer was a concrete floor slab, which in Trench 3 overlay a brick bedding layer.

In Trench 5 several service trenches including a gas main were recorded, as was a brick and concrete structure which served as an access duct for the pipes forming the school/college heating system.

5.1 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 3.

The assemblage consisted of 21 finds weighing 173g and came from five stratified contexts. The assemblage could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally fair with sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion, although actual sherd size was lower than the average.

period	material class	object specific type	Total	Weight (g)
	slag		1	1
medieval	ceramic	pot	1	1
medieval	ceramic	roof tile (flat)	1	31
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	1
post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	1	4
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	2	3
modern	ceramic	pot	9	19
modern	ceramic	brick	5	113

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Diagnostic sherds were dated by form type, whilst remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Medieval

A small sherd of pottery and a fragment of flat roof tile (context 102) could be dated to the medieval period but both were residual. The pottery was identified as coming from a Brill-Boarstall ware

(fabric 63) jug of 13th–14th century date. The tile was of Worcester production (fabric 2a) and datable to the 13th–15th century.

Post-medieval

Post-medieval material consisted of a single fragment of post-medieval red ware (fabric 78; context 102) of late 17th–18th century date and two clay pipe stems (contexts 102 and 401).

Modern

Remaining finds were all of late 18th century date onwards (see Table 3). Pottery consisted of domestic forms in modern china, creamware, stoneware and porcelain fabrics (fabrics 85, 84, 81.3 and 83 respectively). All brick fragments retrieved were also of modern date.

period	fabric code	fabric name	count	weight (g)
medieval	63	Brill-Boarstall ware	1	1
post-medieval	78	post-medieval red ware	1	1
modern	81.3	Nottingham stoneware	1	5
modern	83	porcelain	1	1
modern	84	creamware	2	3
modern	85	modern china	5	10

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ
102	ceramic	pot	5	10	L19C	20C	19C
102	ceramic	pot	1	1	L17C	18C	
102	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	31	13C	15C	
102	ceramic	pot	1	1	13C	14C	
102	ceramic	pipe	1	2			
110	ceramic	brick	1	7			modern
111	ceramic	brick	3	84	19C	20C	19C
111	ceramic	pot	1	2		L18C	
304	ceramic	brick/tile	1	4			modern
304	slag		1	1			
401	ceramic	pot	2	6		L18C	19C
401	ceramic	pot	1	1	18C	20C	
401	ceramic	pipe	1	1			
401	ceramic	brick	1	22	19C	20C	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.2 Significance of the artefactual assemblage

This is a standard, largely domestic assemblage, and its composition suggests activity throughout the later post-medieval and modern periods. The presence of medieval material at this location is not unexpected either, with the site being situated on one of the main historic routes into the city. The fragmentary nature of the assemblage could be viewed as consistent with an earlier (ie medieval) agricultural use until the suburbs became established.

6 Synthesis

No evidence was found at the site for archaeological deposits, of prehistoric, Roman or early medieval date. The natural river terrace gravel was exposed, undisturbed, within all the trenches implying, other than agricultural practice, little human activity has taken place in this area.

Some pottery and tile dating to the 13th to 15th centuries were recovered from the site, in residual contexts. Although the site lies just west of a major route into the Medieval city, it seems likely that this was a result of manuring of the agricultural land depicted on Doherty's map of 1751-3.

Post-medieval pottery and clay pipe were also found at the site. This could also relate to agriculture or relate to use of Thames House.

The layer of made up ground comprising re-used garden soils can help to explain the distinct topographical anomaly identified at the site prior to excavation, with levels increasing at the site from east to west instead of west to east. The Second World War air raid shelter (WCM 92505) recorded in the south west of the site may also explain this, as it appears to have been infilled and some of its materials re-used on site, corrugated iron for example was used in a hardcore levelling layer in Trench 1.

The remains of an outbuilding and garden wall associated with Thames House and visible on the OS 1st Edition map were also recorded, indicating the survival of some features from the period prior to the construction of the grammar school.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The brick-built north-eastern and south-western entrances of a Second World War air raid shelter (WCM 92505) were recorded to the rear of the college, in the south west of the site. The remains of the shelter potentially survive between the entrances, having likely been infilled soon after the end of the war.

Some structures relating to Thames House survive within the site, although these will have been largely compromised by construction of the grammar school.

7.2 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The extent and depth of the air raid shelter is unknown. This structure was probably designed and built specifically in the 1940s for the City of Worcester Grammar School for Girls. In plan an area of about 15m was recorded, taking the north-east and south west entrances as the extent of the shelter. It is probable that shelter remains may survive to some depth beneath present ground levels.

8 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 at Worcester College of Technology, Barbourne Road, Worcester (SO84555615). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs consulting (the Client), on

behalf of their client McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd. Worcester City Council have granted permission for a change of use of existing buildings to 60 no 'later living' residential units. Permission has been granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

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The evaluation of the site comprised the excavation of five trenches placed within the former courtyard of the former college and in a car park to the rear.

Recorded deposits largely comprised made up ground and garden soil overlying natural river terrace gravels. In the south west of the site, the brick-built entrances of a Second World War air raid shelter (WCM 92505) probably built specifically for the City of Worcester Grammar School for Girls were uncovered.

Immediately to the west of the former college building, the brick footings of a building were recorded, with a tied-in garden wall. These are thought to represent the remains of an outbuilding depicted on the OS 1st Edition map associated with Thames House.

Residual finds were recorded during the evaluation of a sherd of Medieval pottery and a fragment of Medieval tile. One sherd of Post-Medieval pottery and some clay pipe were also found, as well as some modern domestic ceramic sherds.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathy Patrick, CgMs Consulting and James Dinn, Worcester City Archaeologist.

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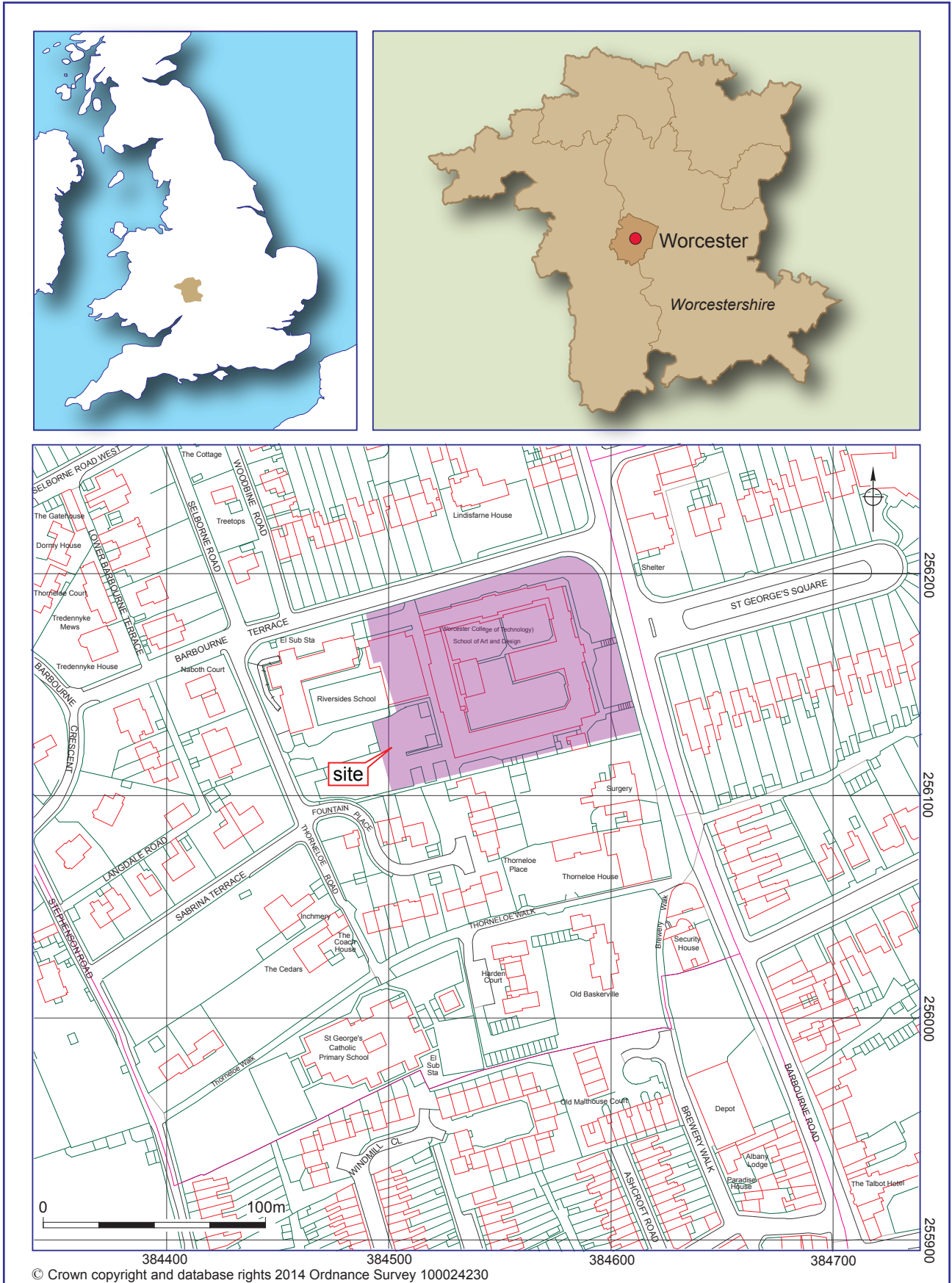
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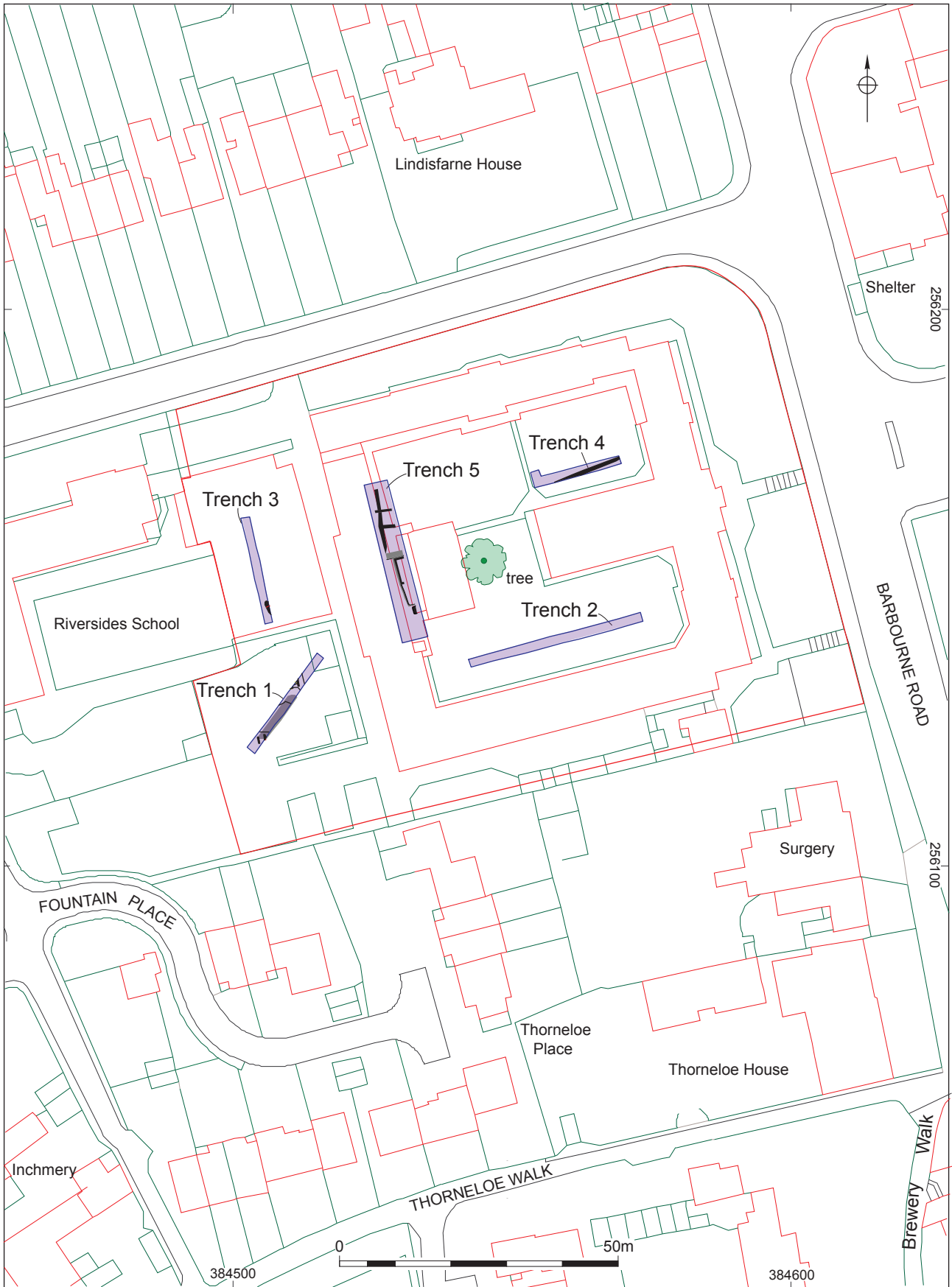
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Figures



Location of the site

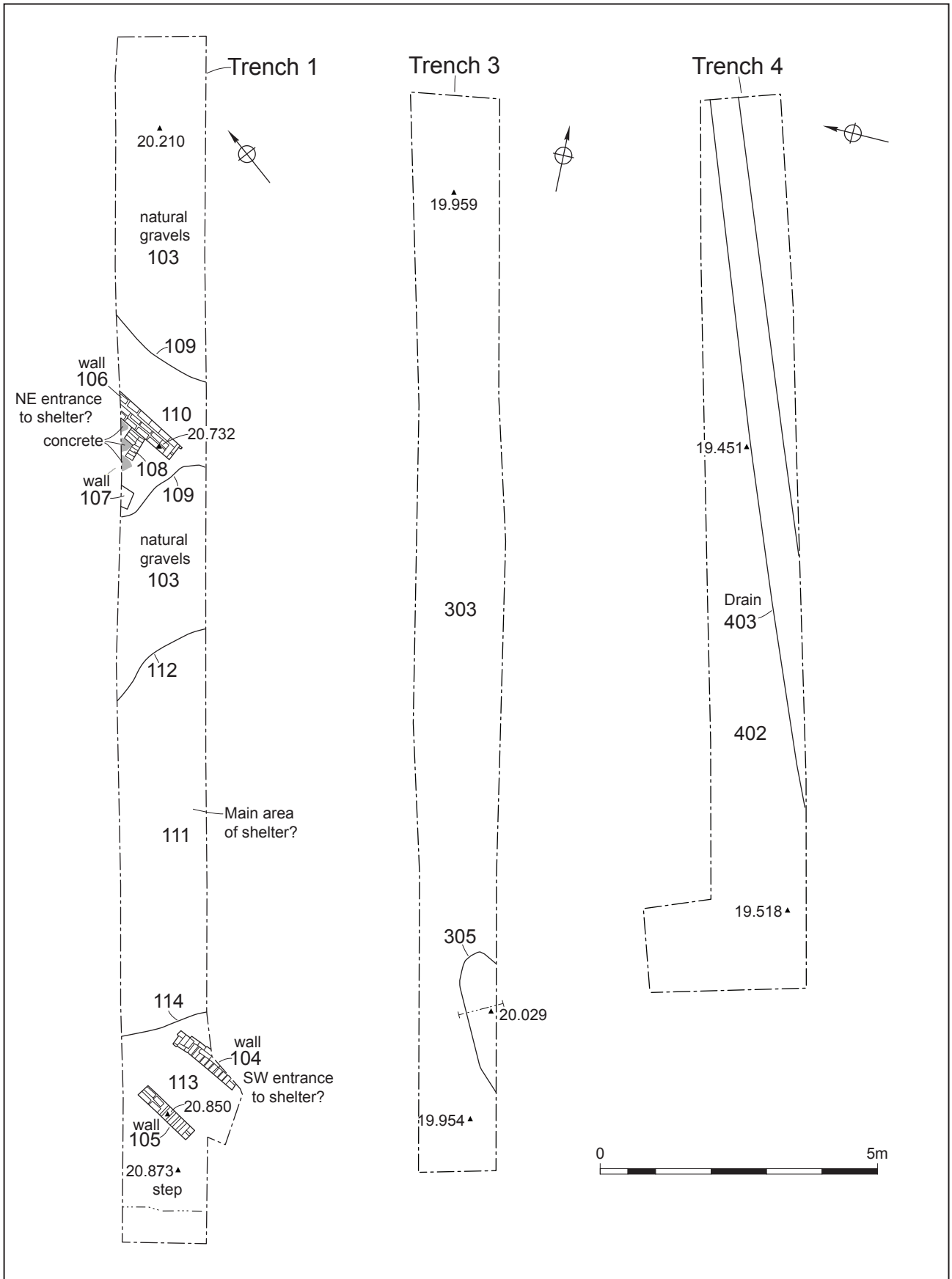
Figure 1



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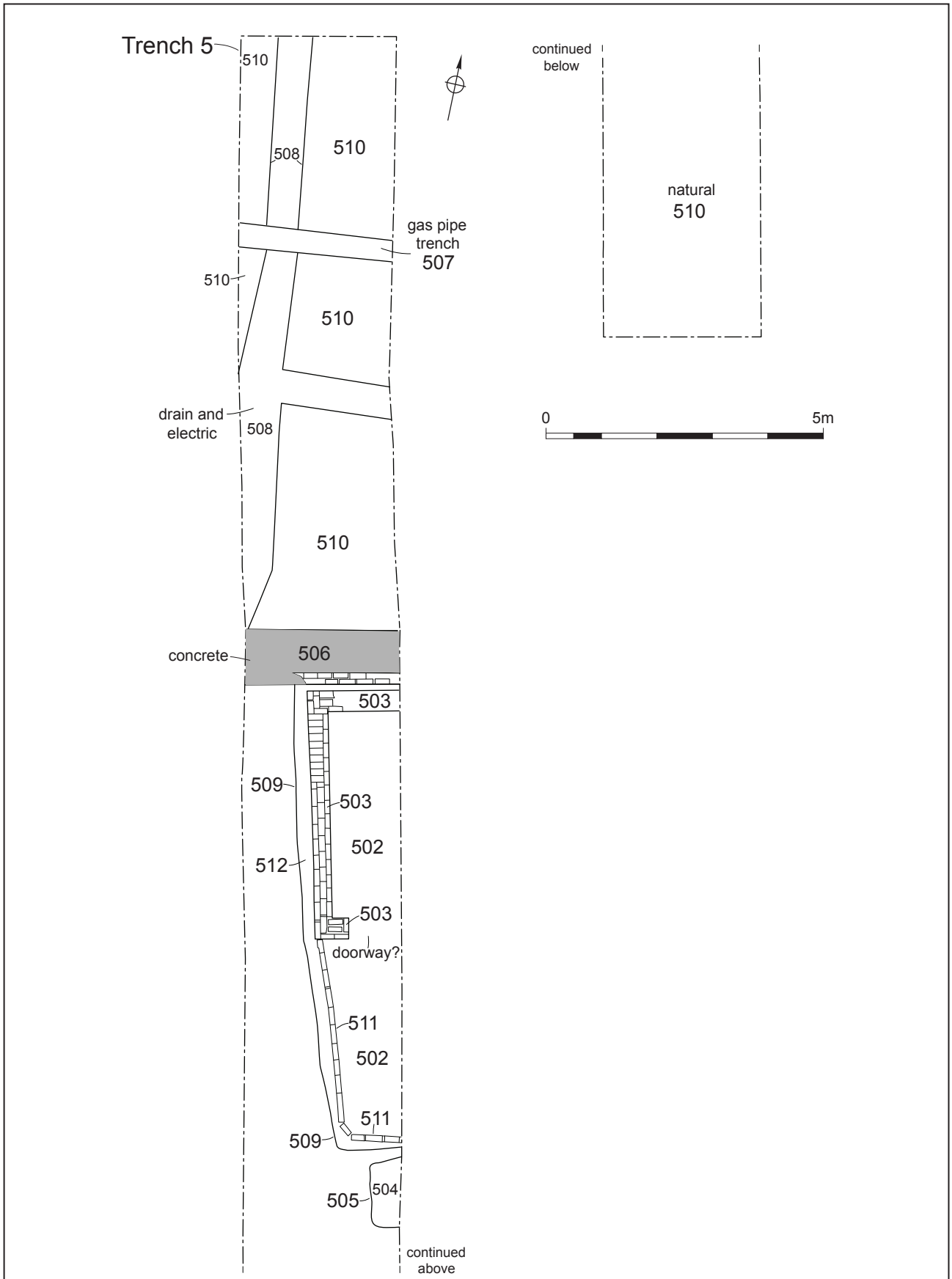
Trench location plan

Figure 2



Trenches 1, 2 and 3: plans

Figure 3



Trench 5: plan

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1, from south west



Plate 2 Trench 2, from west



Plate 3 Trench 3, from south



Plate 4 Trench 4, from west



Plate 5 Trench 5, from north



Plate 6 Pit, 305, from north



Plate 7 Brick wall, 506, from south-west



Plate 8 Walls, 105 and 104, from north



Plate 9 Walls, 106, 107 and 108, from south

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Layer	Layer		0.14m	Black tarmac with light grey brown sandy bedding/gravel levelling. Former carpark surface.
101	Modern Layer	Layer		0.30-1m	Light blue grey compacted gravels, includes concrete drain and other modern detritus. Also a substantial amount of corrugated metal sheets. Possibly from air raid shelter. Deeper in centre of trench. Interpretation: hardcore levelling.
102	Layer	Layer			Mid blackish brown sandy silt with charcoal, gravels, post medieval pottery etc. Also clay pipe and CBM. Interpreted as Post-Medieval made ground, former garden soil.
103	Natural	Layer			Natural terrace gravels.
104	Wall	Structure		1300 visible	East wall of south west entrance of air raid shelter. Contains re-used bricks. Brick dimensions (3 measured): 230mm by 110mm by 75mm; 9" by 4 1/4" by 3". Bricks are hand-made, and seem consistent in size. Six courses visible from base; header-stretcher-header-stretcher alternating. There are at least two lower courses. The wall is aligned north-south, and faces west. The bond is a cement mortar. There are remains of possible lime mortar on a good number of bricks but none on the face. Wall is one and a half brick's thickness (English bond). 330mm wide. Mid-20th century in date. Contemporary with 105.
105	Wall	Structure		1300m visible	Constructed of orange brick, no frog. Some a bit over-fired. Brick dimensions (3 bricks measured, some variation in size): 230mm by 110mm by 75mm or 9" by 4" (some 4 1/4") by 3". Handmade. Eight courses visible (but likely to be more). Wall aligned north-south, facing east. Bonded with cement mortar. Possible remains of

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
					lime mortar on a good number of bricks, one on an external face. No sign of any steps. Wall one brick length thick; 230mm. Wall of south west entrance of air raid shelter. Mid- 20th century in date. Contains re-used bricks.
106	Wall	Structure		1350 visible	Orange brick, dimensions: 230mm by 100-110mm by 75mm; 9" by 4-4 1/4-4 1/2" by 3". Handmade. Alternate stretcher-header. Six courses visible. Wall oriented north-south, facing west. Cement mortar; with lime mortar on some surfaces. 370mm wide. East wall of north east entrance to air raid shelter. Contains re-used bricks.
107	Wall	Structure		500mm visible	Orange brick; dimensions: 230mm by 100-115mm by 75mm; 9" by 4-4 1/2" by 3". Handmade. Stretcher-header alternately. Six courses visible. Wall runs north-south and faces east. Bonded with cement mortar, with lime mortar visible on some surfaces. Contemporary with 106, 108. West wall north east entrance to air raid shelter. Probably constructed of re-used bricks. Mid-20th century in date.
108	Possible floor	Structure			Top layer red brick, then orange brick then concrete. Width of top: 110mm by 75mm depth; 4 1/4" by 3". Base width same as top. Top machine made, base handmade. Top laid on side, base flat. Steps or floor. Faces up. Cement mortar. Mixed re-used bricks. Contemporary with 106 and 107.
109	Linear	Cut			Orientated north-south. Construction cut for north-east entrance to air raid shelter. Unexcavated, only exposed in plan. Mid-20th century in date. Wide cut suggests free standing wall construction rather than trench built. Quite clearly cuts through post medieval soils in section.
110	Linear	Fill	Loose mid brown sand		Sandy gravel. Found around walls 106, 107. Mid-20th century. Finds include metal, CBM.
111	Modern Layer	Fill	Moderately Compact dark brown sand		Unexcavated. Sandy gravel, either to do with construction or more likely demolition of air raid shelter. Probably infill from demolition during levelling of site in latter half of 20th century. Finds include plastic and modern metal. As well as pot, CBM, concrete, corrugated iron.
112		Cut			Unexcavated. Possible cut for construction

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
					of air-raid shelter, infilled with 111. A large construction cut, appears to go down to a substantial depth. Width 7m, length 1.6m plus.
113		Fill	Loose mid brown		Unexcavated. Sandy gravel. Fill of construction for south west entrance to air raid shelter, which is not visible. Material infilling between and around south west entrance walls to air raid shelter. Possible backfill of construction cut disturbed and redeposited during demolition.
114	Linear	Cut			Unexcavated. Width 7m, length 1.6m plus. Possibly the same as 112.

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.51m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer		0.15m	Soft, loose, mid-grey-brown silty sand topsoil. Turf and topsoil layer.
201	Made ground	Layer		0.36m	Soft dark grey gravelly silt with frequent charcoal flecks, CBM, pipes, plastic. Made ground/post medieval soils.
202	Natural	Layer			Loose mid-orangy brown sandy gravel. Natural gravels of river terrace.

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 19.5m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.81m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
300	Modern concrete	Layer		0.12m	Concrete floor slab.
301	Modern Layer	Layer		0.20m	Mixed bricks, unbonded. Brick bedding for concrete.
302	Made ground	Layer		0.49m	Dark grey brown sandy silt with ash, charcoal, bricks, gravels etc. Mixed made ground/post medieval garden soil.
303	Natural	Layer			Natural gravels, same as 202.

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
304	Pit	Fill	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.50m	Contains charcoal flecks, CBM and clinker. Post medieval fill of pit.
305	Pit	Cut		0.50m	Oval pit at limit of excavation of Trench 3. Possible Post-Medieval tree throw.
306	Pit	Fill	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand	0.20m	Same as 304.
307	Pit	Cut		0.20m	Irregular and shallow cut, no clear form. Possible rooting but could be a gully feature.

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15.5m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer		0.20m	Soft mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil. Turf and topsoil layer.
401	Made ground	Layer		0.45m	Same as 201. Made ground, post-Medieval garden soil mix.
402	Natural	Layer			Natural terrace gravels, same as 202.
403	Drain	Cut			Ceramic drain service pipe trench/sewer? Unexcavated.

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 27m Width: 3m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
500	Modern Layer	Layer		0.16m	Concrete slab (broken by machine). Former school building concrete flooring.
501	Made ground	Layer		0.32m	Dark brown sandy silt with ash, charcoal, gravels, bricks, clinker etc. Made ground /Post-Medieval garden soil mix.
502	Building	Fill	Soft mid greyish brown	0.30m plus	Soft mid-grey brown sandy silt with brick and mortar infill. Contains CBM and 19th/20th century pot. Rubble-rich

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
			rubble		demolition material in a silty sand matrix. Infilled material within a building defined by walls (503). 19th-20th century in date, not excavated. Probably infilled when the school/college built over Thames House. Finds include pot, bone, metal, CBM.
503	Wall	Structure			Brick walling forming possible building. Constructed of orange bricks, regular dimensions: 240mm by 110mm by 75mm or 9 1/4" by 4 1/2" by 3". Smooth, machine made. Regular courses; bond form and number of courses not visible. Interpreted as the external walls of a building, with the facing external. Bonded with a concrete mortar, whiteish grey in colour. Appears to be constructed of a mix of bricks. The building post-dates the Post-Medieval soils/made ground (501). Likely to have been a short-lived structure associated with the early use of the school/college and related to the concrete duct (506) north of this, or perhaps an earlier outbuilding at the rear of Thames House. Clearly 19th or early 20th century in date. Infilled with 502. Appears to contain a mixture of re-used bricks. Seems likely to be an outbuilding visible on OS 1st Edition at the rear of Thames House with 511 as the garden walling in this area.
504	Pit	Fill	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand		Post-Medieval fill of possible pit/tree bole (505). Clearly a recent feature. May align with a similar feature in Trench 3. Very shallow. Finds include CBM, mortar and clinker.
505	Pit	Cut			Sub-oval in plan. Possible pit or tree bole feature extending beyond the limit of excavation of Trench 5. Could be on a similar alignment to a comparable feature in Trench 3. Possible associated with a line of trees at the rear of Thames House. Not fully excavated.
506	Wall	Structure			Constructed of brick and concrete. The bricks were broken and concreted together, so it was not possible to ascertain size. Smooth, machine made bricks. Regular coursing, although bond form and courses were not visible. Access duct for heating system. Internal facing. Bonded with whiteish-grey concrete mortar. Brick and concrete structure

Context	Feature type	Context type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
					aligned east-west and visible at surface, contemporary with concrete (500). Insulated heating pipes were still visible indicating that this was the access duct for the pipes forming the school/college heating system.
507					Service pipe trench, gas main.
508					Service trenches containing drains and electric cables; all linked
509		Cut			Square in plan (but only partly visible) with rounded corners. Possibly truncated by 506. Construction cut for 19th -20th century building (503). Suggests walls were trench-built and not a free standing construction. Probably pre-dates heating duct (506). Wall (511) also in this cut.
511	Wall	Structure			Brick construction. Brick dimensions 230mm by 105mm by 70mm, or 9" by 4 1/8" by 2 3/4". Smooth, hand-made. Regular coursing on edge stretcher. Form-extension. Facing external. Concrete mortar, re-used bricks. Width 0.07m; Length 3.5m. Additional piece of single course (in thickness) course walling abutting square building 503, but apparently built within the same construction cut as a planned element. Contains re-used bricks. Probably 19th century in date and part of garden walling at Thames House. Visible on OS 1st Edition.
512	Modern Layer	Layer			Backfill of construction cut, 509. Loose sandy gravel, light grey-brown in colour, with CBM fragments, mortar, clay pipe, etc.

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WCM 102050)

The archive consists of:

- 18 Context records AS1
 - 3 Field progress reports AS2
 - 1 Photographic records AS3
 - 47 Digital photographs
 - 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
 - 2 Scale drawings
 - 5 Trench record sheets AS41
 - 1 Box of finds
 - 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery
Foregate Street,
Worcester,
WR1 1DT
Tel (01905) 25371
