

Archaeological Evaluation of Land off the High Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



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Archaeological Evaluation at land off the High Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton

Jonathan Webster

With contributions by Laura Griffin

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off the High Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton (NGR: 38873 29991). It was requested by CgMs Ltd on behalf of their client McCarthy & Stone Retirement Living Lifestyles Ltd, who intend to construct a series of retirement apartments with associated landscaping and car parking, for which a planning application has been granted by Wolverhampton City Council, subject to conditions including archaeological works.

The site lies on the eastern side of High Street in Tettenhall on the northern side of College Road. Prior to the development the site comprised three houses and their gardens.

Seven trenches, between 5m and 20m long were excavated on the site. The trenches were placed to gain maximum coverage of the site, although their placing was restricted to some degree by the presence of standing structures and live services.

Near the northern edge of the area of investigation an east/west aligned ditch was recorded in two trenches. An assemblage of 17th Century pottery was recovered from a fill of this ditch which is thought to represent a former field or property boundary which ran perpendicular to the High Street.

To the south-west of the site, three parallel intercutting ditches were recorded running approximately north-south. The remains of a stone wall survived in the base of the easternmost of these ditches which are thought to represent different phases of a boundary which formerly comprised the western edge of this land parcel. On a map of 1613 a north-south aligned boundary is shown in this location, although on later maps, as today, it had been realigned to conform with the general orientation of the High Street.

Within a trench on the eastern edge of the site, a ditch dated to the 19th Century aligns with a former boundary depicted on the 1840 Tettenhall and Tettenhall Wood Map and subsequent Ordnance survey maps until 1977.

Overall the investigations revealed that relatively deep deposits survived across much of the site despite later truncations during the construction of domestic housing in the 1970s and later landscape and gardening interventions.

No direct evidence for occupation or industry were recorded although the presence of an assemblage of 17th Century sherds in the northern ditch might suggest the proximity of settlement, perhaps the property depicted on the 1613 map a small distance to the north.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off the High Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton (NGR: 38873 29991). It was requested by CgMs Ltd on behalf of their client McCarthy & Stone Retirement Living Lifestyles Ltd, who intend to construct a series of retirement apartments with associated landscaping and car parking, for which a planning application has been granted, subject to conditions including archaeological works, by Wolverhampton City Council (reference 14/00384/FUL).

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, after a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013) identified a modest potential for the survival of undiscovered medieval activity within the site.

The project conforms to a project proposal produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014) and approved by Eleanor Ramsey, Archaeology and Historic Environment Officer, Wolverhampton City Council.

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

The internal site reference for this project is P4450. The event reference will be supplied by Wolverhampton Historic Environment Records on the deposition of this report.

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation were to:

- describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Jonathan Webster, BA (hons), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practising professional archaeology since 2001; assisted by Mike Nicholson, BA (hons). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers MSc, BA (hons). Finds were analysed by Laura Griffin, BA (hons). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt MfA, BSc (hons).

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by CgMs Ltd (CgMs 2013). The DBA identified a modest potential for undiscovered Medieval activity although the potential for other periods remained low.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

Fieldwork was undertaken in two parts, firstly between the 6 November and 7 November, followed by further investigations on the 14 November and a final site meeting with the Planning Archaeologist, Wolverhampton City Council on the 17 November. A reference number will be provided by Wolverhampton Historic Environment and Records office on deposition of this report and the site archive.

Seven trenches, amounting to just over 122.5m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 3087m², representing a sample of 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The trenches were placed in a random spread across the proposed development area although they were somewhat restricted in their placing due to the presence of live services, trees and areas of demolition.

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 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.

3.1 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

3.1.1 Recovery policy

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

3.1.2 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 are not included below, nor included in the Table 1 quantification.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and where, possible referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form to the *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery Type Series* (Soden and Ratkai 1998).

3.1.3 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.

3.2 Environmental archaeology methodology

3.2.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

3.3 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

It is noted that during the site investigations the recorded property boundaries were interpreted as later Post-Medieval features. This was due, in part, to the presence of intrusive pottery. Following post-excavation analysis and input from the curator, this dating has been revised to the early Post-Medieval period.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

This section is summarised from the desk-based assessment referred to above.

The area of investigation was sat on a plateau that lies at roughly 142m above Ordnance Datum (AOD); the plateau ran northeast to southwest with the land dropping steeply away 330m to the east to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal. The underlying geology is mapped as pebbly sandstones formed approximately 237 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period and part of the larger Bromsgrove Sandstone formation, from which the plateau is formed. No overlying superficial geology is mapped (BGS 2014).

The earliest known possible activity in the general area of Tettenhall is a Roman Road (HER 13056) that is postulated as crossing the Smestow Brook at Tettenhall Road bridge (330m to the east), and links the forts of *Pennocrucium* (near Gailey) and Greensforge.

Tettenhall is known to have Saxon origins (HER 5846) and is referred to as both the location for an Anglo-Saxon Manor and the 'Battle of Tettenhall' which is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicles. The church at Lower Green to the northeast is recorded as having been founded by King Edgar (who died AD 975).

The area of investigation is mapped as being within the medieval settlement area of Tettenhall (HER 8611) with further settlement being recorded to the north and ridge and furrow to the northwest. A map of 1613 depicts the site as undeveloped although buildings are shown to the immediate west, north and east.

Later maps show that while development continues to occur around the site the development area itself remains an undeveloped parcel of land until the 1961-1969 OS map; at which point number 33 High Street is constructed in the western part of the site while the eastern plot is subdivided into two. This subdivision has disappeared by 1977 when Numbers 22 College Road and 31A High Street are constructed. These three houses remained on site until the current development at which point they were demolished.

4.2 Current land-use

The study area had been in use as domestic properties and associated gardens up until the current redevelopment started. At the time when the investigations were carried out the houses were in the process of being demolished and the boundary divisions between the various gardens removed.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated in a north/south alignment at the north end of the development area in the former garden of No 31a Grove House. The natural substrate (104) was revealed at a height of 141.63m (AOD) and comprised a silty clay with occasional bands on gravels running through it and covered by 0.28m of mixed subsoil (103). That in turn was sealed by a series of overlying deposits. At the north end of the trench a ditch [111] was revealed orientated northwest to southeast and measuring 1.49m in width with moderately steep sides that dropped onto what appeared to be a

concaved base, although the full base extent was not seen as it descended below the limit of excavation. It had four infills that were a combination of natural siltation, and more interestingly a large dump of deliberately deposited material (109) that contained fragments of ceramic building material and an assemblage of 17th century pottery.

To the south of this, a series of three postholes were revealed to cut through all of the above deposits. Further to the south an irregular cut [106] was found upon investigation to be a former tree throw that is thought to be of mid to late 20th century.

5.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 20m in length by 1.20m in width and was orientated roughly north-south along the western side of the development area. The natural substrate (203) was revealed at a depth of 141.68m (AOD) and comprised a firm silty clay 1.02m below the present ground level. This was sealed by 0.56m of silt rich sandy subsoil (202), which was truncated by small gully 210 that was aligned on a roughly northwest to southeast course and had steep sides that dropped onto a moderately concaved base 0.57m in depth.

This in turn was partially truncated by parallel ditch 208, a steep, almost vertically sided ditch that descended onto a flat base 0.30m in width by 0.57m in depth. Finally to the south was linear feature 206, a U-shaped ditch that is thought to have been a former field boundary due to the presence of a dry stone built at its base. This wall (204) was constructed of locally sourced unhewn stone blocks and identical in style to that seen in Trench 3. The wall measured 0.78m in height and was for the most part a single course wide. It was butted by a single silt rich deposit (205) that also in-filled ditch 206 and appeared to have been deposited through low energy natural processes such as Aeolian deposition. All of the above was then covered by 0.46m of humeric highly disturbed topsoil (201) of modern date.

5.1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 20m in length by 1.20m in width and was orientated roughly east-west. The natural substrate (303) was recorded 0.89m below the present ground surface at 141.84m (AOD) and comprised a firm silty clay overlain by 0.45m of subsoil (302). This in turn was truncated at the west end of the trench by ditch [306], a moderately steep U-shaped north-south aligned ditch that measured 1.68m in width and 0.59m in depth. Placed along the centre of the ditch a sandstone dry stone wall (304) was 0.59m in height with the sandstone blocks averaging 0.23m in length by 0.18m in width and 0.12m thick. The blocks were sub-rounded in shape and comprised locally sourced stone from the Bromsgrove Sandstone formation (with the exception of a single well weathered slate fragment). The wall was constructed as a double course thick wall with no bonding and built in a dry stone fashion and the same as wall 204. This wall was butted by a sterile, silty sand of firm compaction (305) that also filled ditch [306]. It is clear that this material was the result of a low energy natural Aeolian siltation that accumulated over an unknown period of time. All of the above was sealed by 0.32m of modern garden soils/topsoil 301.

5.1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located close to the eastern edge of the site and measured 10m in length by 1.20m in width and orientated roughly east/west. The natural substrate (403) was revealed 0.57m below the present ground level at a height of 141.84m (AOD). It was sealed by 0.25m of sandy silt rich subsoil (402) that was truncated at the east end of Trench 4 by a ditch [405] at least 1.90m in width by 0.46m in depth. The ditch was orientated roughly north/south and had a steep sided ditch that dropped onto a slightly concaved base creating a U-shaped profile. It was filled by a single silty sand deposit (404) which contained several modern artefactual finds. All of the above was then sealed by 0.32m of highly mixed humeric garden soil/topsoil 401.

5.1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was placed in the northwest corner of the development area across the footprint of the former domestic property, No.31a Grove House. The trench was aligned northwest to southeast and measured 10m in length by 2.50m in width. The natural substrate (505) was revealed at an average height of 141.52m (AOD) and, as seen elsewhere, comprised a firm silty clay. It was truncated first by ditch 512 that was aligned in an almost east to west direction and measured at least 0.89m in width with gentle sides that dropped onto a slightly V-shaped base. It was filled by a single, naturally deposited sediment (511) that measured 0.13m in depth and was heavily truncated by the foundations of the former house. Although truncated the ditch location, size and profile are consistent with the ditch recorded in Trench 1 [111], and it is believed that these two features are the continuation of a single linear feature representing a former field boundary. This was sealed by 0.28m of mixed subsoil (504) that appears to have been disturbed during the former housing development and this was overlain by 0.34m of highly disturbed humeric rich topsoil (503). All of the above were truncated by three brick walls and concrete foundations of the former house. The topsoil was sealed by 0.33m of modern bedding (501 & 502) that had been used to underlie the concrete floor slab of the building.

5.1.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was orientated northwest to southeast across the former footprint of house No 22 in the north-east corner of the development area. The natural substrate (615) was revealed at a depth of 141.42m (AOD), although it rose up sharply to the west up to a height of 141.84m (AOD). This was overlain by 0.12m of silt rich loam mixed with the natural substrate (614). It is thought that this material may represent the remnants of a former subsoil that has been severely truncated by later activity. It was sealed by two humeric rich sandy loams (610 & 611) that are thought to be part of the same deposit although truncation by foundation trench 604 has removed this relationship. This band measured 0.20m in depth although this increases to 0.33m to the northwest. The southeast end of this deposit was covered by 0.30m of mixed silt rich loam (609) that contained moderate quantities of CBM and was sealed by 0.38m of general brick rubble (608).

All of the above were truncated by three foundation trenches, two parallel, aligned north-east to south-west and the third, orientated northwest to south-east. The foundation trenches measured between 0.30m and 0.34m in width. They were filled by a concrete foundation and brick wall surrounded by loose brick rubble infill. The walls were butted by 0.10m of concrete floor slab (607) associated with the former domestic property and removed during the present phase of investigation.

5.1.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was placed in the centre of the site orientated east-west across the footprint of the former No 33 High Street, measuring 5m by 2.50m. The trench was shortened due to the presence of a live gas main. The natural substrate (707) was revealed 0.74m below the present ground levels at a height of 141.78m (AOD). This was overlain by a 0.06m thick band of mixed redeposited natural substrate (706) that contained occasional charcoal flecks throughout. This in turn was sealed by a silty sand subsoil (705) 0.34m thick, that was itself covered by 0.18m of humeric silts (704) that comprised a buried topsoil horizon that was covered during the construction of the former domestic property in the 1970s. All of the above had been truncated by a 0.90m wide machine excavated linear cut [709] orientated east-west with vertical sides that dropped onto a flat base 0.58m in depth, and then was sealed by a band of three modern foundation bedding 0.27m thick which was then covered by the concrete floor slab itself, 0.09m thick.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

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

The assemblage consisted of 70 finds weighing 2646g and came from 10 stratified contexts and could be dated from the post-medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of

artefact condition, this was generally good with sherds displaying low levels of abrasion and a higher than average sherd size.

period	material class	object specific type	total	weight (g)
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	2	32
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	1	1
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	24	1023
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	10	840
post-med/modern	ceramic	brick	10	377
post-med/modern	ceramic	brick/tile	1	2
post-med/modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	3	188
post-med/modern	ceramic	pan tile	1	66
modern	ceramic	pot	8	61
modern	glass	vessel	2	27
modern	glass	window	3	9
undated	coal		3	15
undated	charcoal		3	2

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.

Post-medieval

Three contexts (109, 115 and 118) in Trench 1 could be given a *terminus post quem* date of post-medieval date on the basis of the material retrieved. The assemblage from ditch fill 109 was of particular note due to containing a number of well-preserved sherds datable to the 17th century.

These included blackware (MB01 and MB02) jar and bowl forms, as well as a sherd of Midlands yellow ware (MY01) and the rim of a slip-decorated dish (SLPW02). One of the blackware base sherds was of particular note due to having a kiln stacking scar on underside. It is likely that the majority, if not all of these wares were produced relatively locally, with blackware production known at Wednesbury (Brears 1971).

Remaining material of post-medieval date consisted of flat roof tile and brick fragments and a single clay pipe stem.

Modern

Remaining finds came from subsoil and layer contexts and were all of late 18th century date onwards (see table 3). Pottery consisted of domestic forms in modern china (MGW), creamware (CRW), pearlware (PLW), and porcelain fabrics.

Other finds of note included a rim fragment of fine, white opalescent glass. This type of glass is known to have been produced locally in the Brierley Hill area of the West Midlands.

period	fabric code	fabric name	count	weight (g)
post-medieval	MB01/MB02	Midlands blackware	20	934
post-medieval	MYW	Midlands yellow	1	52
post-medieval	SLPW02	slipware (trailed)	1	32
post-medieval	STE	English stoneware	1	5
modern	CRW	creamware	1	11
modern	PLW	pearlware	1	2
modern	MGW	porcelain	2	3
modern	MGW	modern china	2	38
modern	-	unglazed earthenware	2	7

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	2	14	M18C	20C	20C
102	charcoal		3	2			
102	ceramic	brick/tile	1	2			
109	ceramic	pot	21	978	17C		17C
109	ceramic	pipe	1	1			
109	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	8	630			

109	coal		2	9			
115	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	146			Post-medieval
118	ceramic	brick	2	32			Post-medieval
118	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	64			
202	ceramic	brick	3	22			17C
202	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	96			
202	ceramic	pot	1	36	17C		
302	ceramic	brick	1	118			20C
302	ceramic	pot	3	6	19C	20C	
404	ceramic	brick	3	65			
404	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	92			
404	glass	vessel	1	24			19C
404	ceramic	pot	1	2	19C		
404	glass	vessel	1	3	19C		
404	ceramic	pot	1	9	17C	18C	
611	ceramic	pot	1	37	19C	20C	20C
611	ceramic	brick	3	172			
611	ceramic	tile	1	66			
704	ceramic	pot	1	2			modern
705	coal		1	6			undated
705	glass	window	3	9			

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6 Synthesis

The evaluation revealed a series of former property boundaries which survived beneath houses built in the late 20th Century and their gardens.

Near the northern boundary of the area of investigation ditch 111 and 511 recorded in trenches 1 and 5 can be dated to the 17th century date or earlier based on an assemblage of pottery recovered from fill 109. This feature truncated subsoil 102 from which modern material was recovered leading to an initial interpretation that the 17th Century pottery was residual. However as the tree bowl 106 cuts this layer, it is now considered that it is more likely that the modern material is intrusive and that the 17th Century date is correct. This boundary is perpendicular to the High Street and no features of similar orientation and location are shown on cartographic sources and as such an earlier date is likely. The feature itself is thought to represent a land demarcation.

To the south-west of the site, three parallel intercutting ditches were recorded running approximately north-south through trenches 2 and 3. The remains of a stone wall survived in the base of the easternmost of these ditches (ditches 206 and 306) and it is probable that these represent different phases of a boundary which formerly comprised the western edge of this land parcel.

Initially this feature was interpreted, due to relative physical relationships onsite, to be of later post medieval date, and specifically to represent a boundary between the field system and the High Street to the west. This interpretation was furthered by the presence of a line of trees marked on

the 1887 1st edition map that was thought could have been placed in the strip of land between this boundary and the current road.

However, further analysis has demonstrated that these ditches align approximately with the 1613 map of Tettenhall (CgMs 2013, Fig. 2). On this map the western boundary of the plot is shown with a 'dog-leg' appearance with the southern half of the boundary orientated approximately north-south. This is in contrast to the later Ordnance Survey maps and the current layout in which this boundary continues on a NE-SW line.

This earlier boundary cannot be located exactly due to the sketched nature of the map but the best fit (See Figure 5) depicts the boundary lying to the immediate east of the ditch 206/306 and on a roughly similar alignment and it is likely that all the ditches recorded in trenches 2 and 3 represent this former alignment prior to alteration between 1613 and 1840 when the Tettenhall and Tettenhall Wood Map (CgMs 2013, Fig 4) depicts the current layout.

Within Trench 4 on the eastern edge of the site, ditch 405 dated to the 19th Century aligns with a former boundary depicted on the 1840 Tettenhall and Tettenhall Wood Map and subsequent Ordnance survey maps until 1977 (Fig. 6).

Overall the investigations revealed that relatively deep deposits survived across much of the site despite later truncations during the construction of domestic housing in the 1970s and later landscape and gardening interventions. No direct evidence for occupation or industry were recorded although the presence of an assemblage of 17th Century sherds in ditch fill 109 might suggest the proximity of settlement, perhaps related to the property depicted on the 1613 map a small distance to the north.

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 of land off the High Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton (NGR: 38873 29991). It was requested by CgMs Ltd on behalf of their client McCarthy & Stone Retirement Living Lifestyles Ltd, who intend to construct a series of retirement apartments with associated landscaping and car parking, for which a planning application has been granted by Wolverhampton City Council, subject to conditions including archaeological works.

The site lies on the eastern side of High Street in Tettenhall on the northern side of College Road. Prior to the development the site comprised three houses and their gardens.

Seven trenches, between 5m and 20m long were excavated on the site. The trenches were placed to gain maximum coverage of the site, although their placing was restricted to some degree by the presence of standing structures and live services.

It was noted that during the site investigations the property boundaries were interpreted as later Post-Medieval features. This was due, in part, to the presence of intrusive pottery. Following post-excavation analysis and input from the curator, this dating has been revised to the early Post-Medieval period.

Near the northern edge of the area of investigation an east/west aligned ditch was recorded in two trenches. An assemblage of 17th Century pottery was recovered from a fill of this ditch which is thought to represent a former field or property boundary which ran perpendicular to the High Street.

To the south-west of the site, three parallel intercutting ditches were recorded running approximately north-south. The remains of a stone wall survived in the base of the easternmost of these ditches which are thought to represent different phases of a boundary which formerly comprised the western edge of this land parcel. On a map of 1613 a north-south aligned boundary

is shown in this location, although on later maps, as today, it was realigned to conform with the general orientation of the High Street.

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8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathy Patrick, Archaeological Consultant, CgMs Ltd Consultancy, Eleanor Ramsey, Archaeology and Historic Environment Officer, Wolverhampton City Council.

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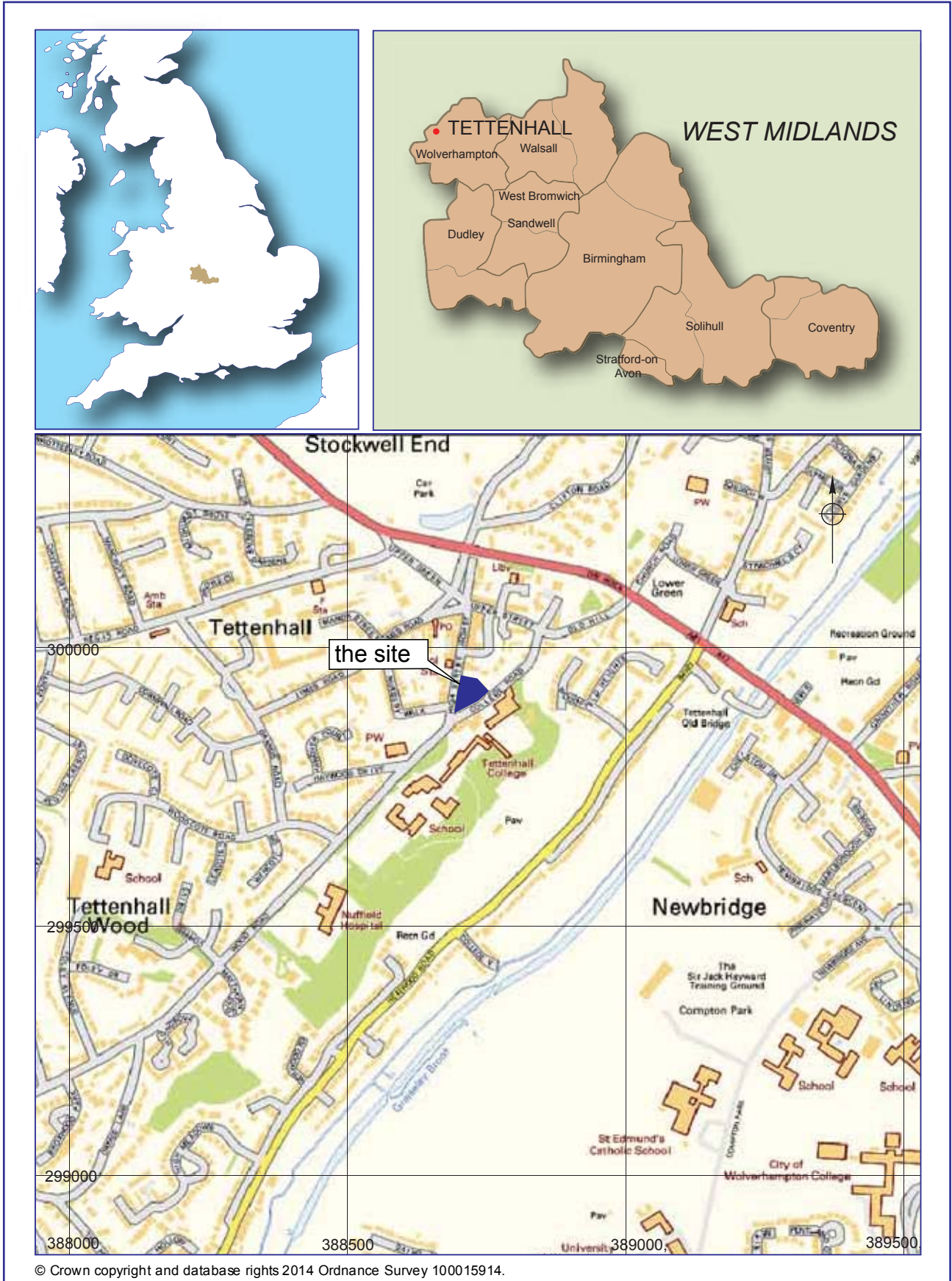
Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Midland and Western England*, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)

WA 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation of land at High Street, Tettenhall*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 16 October 2014 **P4450**

WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

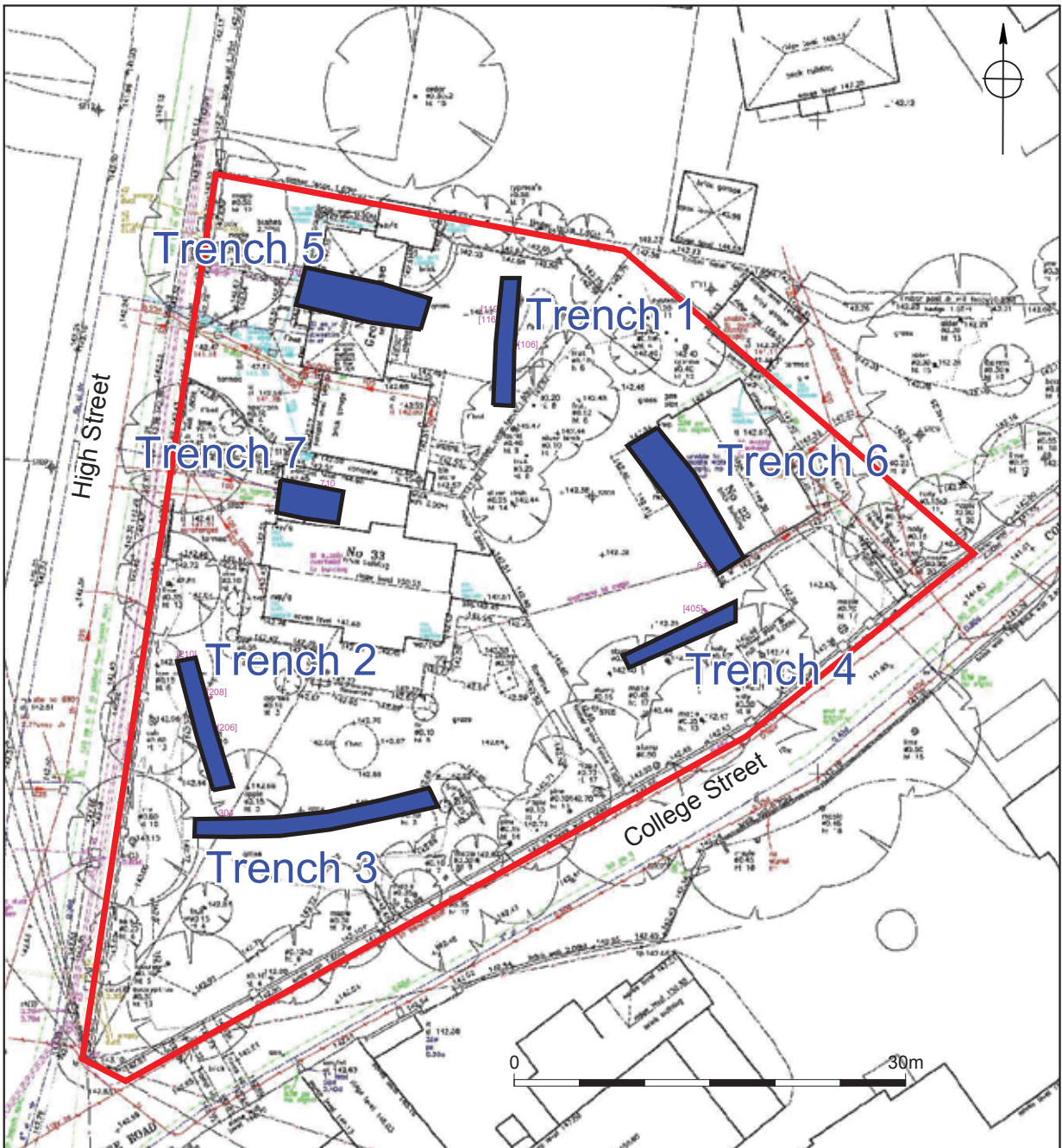
WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended July 2012

Figures



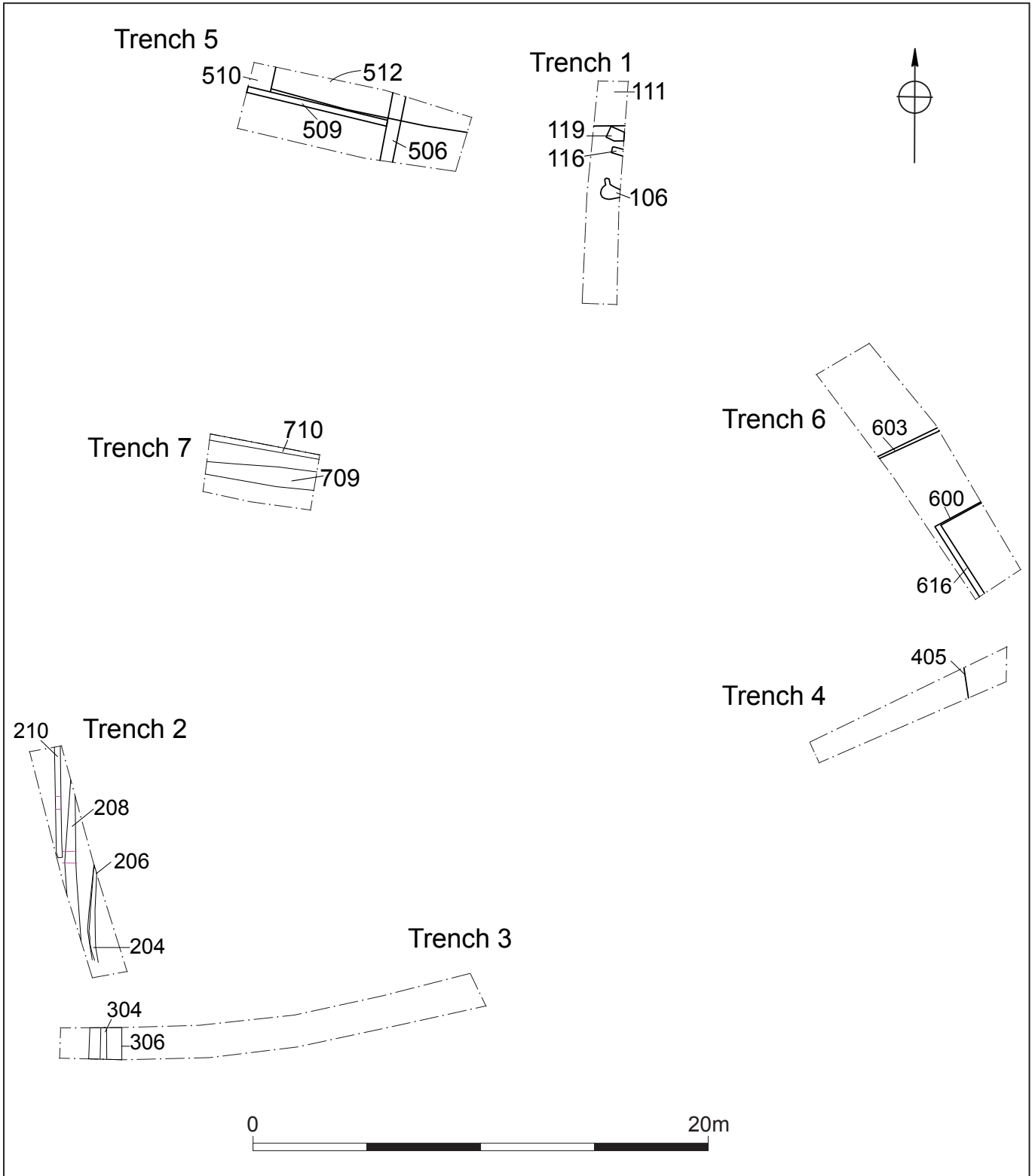
Location of the site

Figure 1



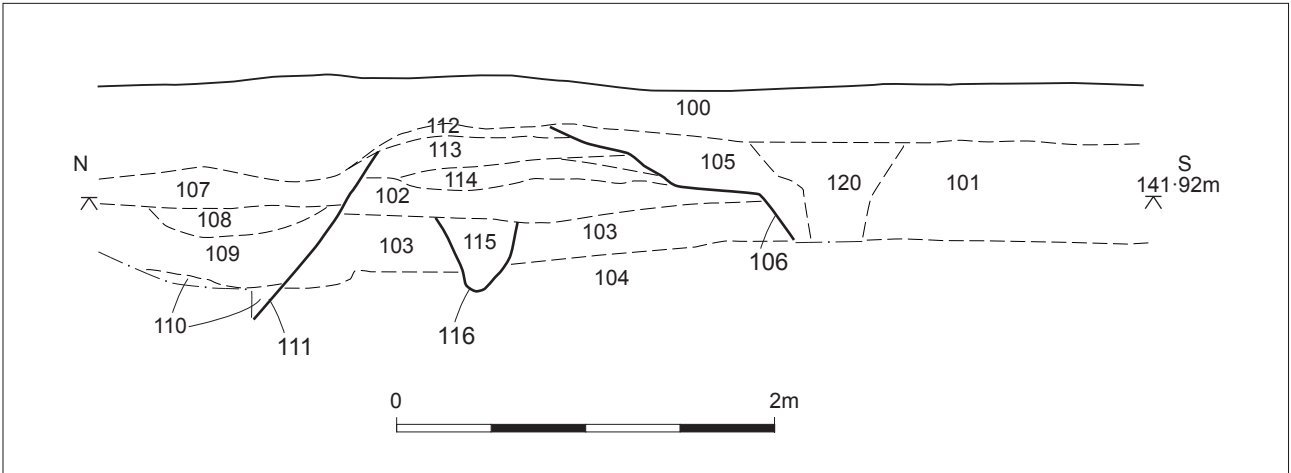
Trench locations

Figure 2



Archaeological features

Figure 3



West facing section through deposits in Trench 1

Figure 4



Figure 5: Trench location overlain to plan of 1613.



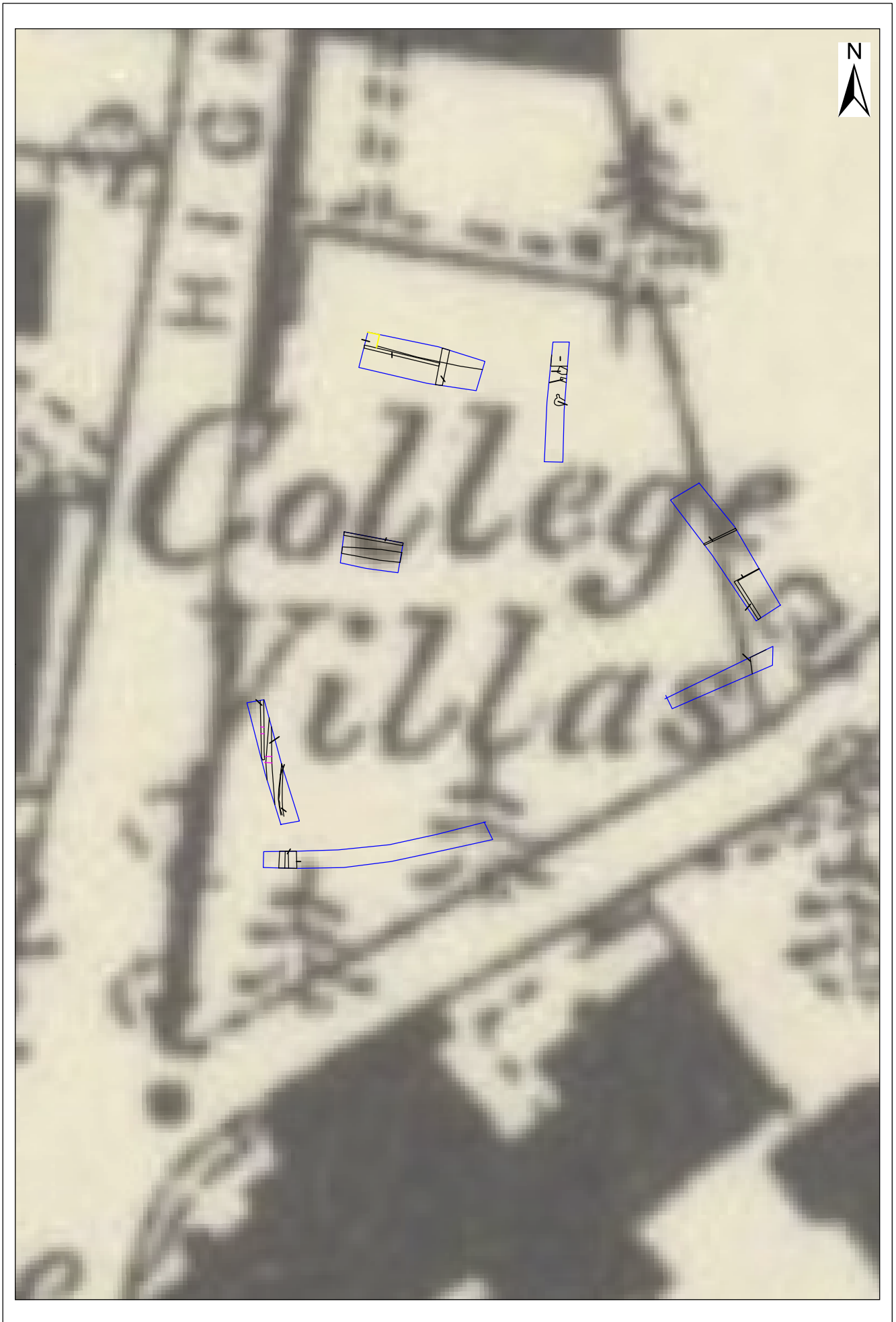


Figure 6: Trench location overlain on 1884 1st Edition Ordnance Survey. Sheet: Staffordshire LXII. NW.



Plates



Plate 1: General view of trench 1. Looking Northwest. Scale 2x1m



Plate 2: Ditch 111 and associated deposits. West facing section. Scale 1m



Plate 3: Wall 204 set within ditch 205. Looking Southwest. Scale 1m



Plate 4: Ditch 208 and 210. North facing section. Scale 0.3m



Plate 5: General view of trench 3 showing wall 304. Looking East. Scale 2x1m



Plate 6: Heavily truncated ditch 709. West facing section. Scale 0.5m

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 10m

Width: 1.20m

Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark greyish brown	0.56m	Occasional poorly sorted gravels and frequent root disturbance throughout, horizon with 101 sharp. Modern garden topsoil.
101	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay	0.55m	Occasional poorly sorted subrounded gravels and charcoal flecks throughout and occasional root disturbance throughout.
102	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay	0.20m	Same as 101.
103	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish brown silty clay	0.28m	Contained occasional poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels and charcoal flecks throughout.
104	Natural	Layer	Firm light orangey yellow	0.02m +	Sand and gravels banding with no other inclusions noted and seen to be the natural substrate.
105	Pit	Fill	Soft light greyish brown silt loam	0.64m +	Deposit appears to have been deliberately deposited within pit 106. Although no finds were recovered smearing was noted along with small fragments of CBM.
106	Pit	Cut		0.64m +	Cut of irregular shaped pit that cuts through subsoils 101-103.
107	Ditch	Fill	Moderately compact light greyish brown sandy silty	0.28m	Upper fill of linear 111 which appears to be a natural infilling of the already silted up linear 111. The deposit is primarily composed of Aeolian sediments.
108	Ditch	Fill	Moderately compact light yellowish brown silty sand	0.16m	band of silt, a natural infilling of an area of subsidence after 111 had become infilled.
109	Ditch	Fill	Compact light greyish brown sandy silt loam	0.38m	Main fill of 111, result of a deliberate backfill and used as a rubbish dump with large quantities of artefactual material and CBM being seen throughout.

110	Ditch	Fill	Compact light yellowish brown sandy silt loam	0.25m +	Sterile fill of low energy naturally derived sediments near the base of ditch 111.
111	Ditch	Cut		0.88m +	Cut for roughly east/west aligned ditch.
112	Layer	Layer	Loose light whiteish yellow rubble	0.20m	layer of modern rubble/hardcore that has been deliberately dumped. Probably during the construction of the present houses.
113	Layer	Layer	Moderately compact mid greyish brown silty clay	0.23m	layer of re-deposited subsoil that has been deliberately lain.
114	Layer	Layer	Soft mid orangey red sand	0.17m	Layer of sand that appears to have been deliberately dumped. Interpreted that this material is a band of redeposited natural.
115	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact light greyish brown sandy silt	0.40m	Homogenous deposit that is thought to have been a deliberate backfill of a former posthole. A single piece of CBM was recovered.
116	Pit	Cut		0.40m	Cut for pit/posthole.
117	Layer	Layer	Loose light whiteish yellow rubble	0.08m	Layer of CBM and deliberately deposited rubble of post-medieval date.
118	Pit	Fill	Moderately compact mid greyish brown silty clay	0.58m	Fill of posthole pit which is seen to cut through 101.
119	Pit	Cut		0.58m	Cut of unknown feature whose shape suggests that it is associated with a former square post. The feature was seen in plan only and was not seen in section.
120	Pit	Fill	Soft light orangey brown sandy silt loam	0.54m +	Deliberately deposited humeric deposit within modern pit feature 106.

Trench 2

Length: 10m

Width: 1.20m

Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
201	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark brownish blue silty sand	0.46m	Frequently disturbed by root action and occasional moderately sorted rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. Horizon clarity with 202 is sharp.
202	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid yellowish red silty sand	0.56m	Frequent charcoal flecks seen throughout along with occasional rounded to sub-rounded poorly sorted gravels.
203	Natural	Layer	Firm light reddish grey silty clay	0.02m +	Contains occasional mid greyish red silty clay bandings throughout and occasional rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. No other inclusions noted.
204	Wall	Structure		0.78m	Dry stone wall (same as 304), constructed of unhewn sandstone blocks with average block measuring 0.23m in length by 0.18m in width and 0.12m in height. No bonding used. Thought to be a former field boundary as wall is not built to be load bearing.
205	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greyish red silty sand	0.78m	(Same as 305). Appears to be a naturally derived Aeolian sedimentation within ditch 206 which butted wall 204. This material was sterile.
206	Ditch	Cut		0.78m	(Same as 306). Cut for a roughly Northeast/Southwest aligned U-shaped linear with moderately steep sides that drop onto a slightly concaved base.
207	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid reddish grey sandy clay	0.46m	Contained high content of charcoal flecks throughout. This material was a deliberate backfill of ditch 208. The high charcoal content being imported as opposed to being burnt in-situ.
208	Ditch	Cut		0.46m	Northeast/Southwest

					aligned linear with steep almost vertical sides that dropped onto a flat base.
209	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid blueish grey silty sand	0.57m	Fill of 210 with occasional charcoal flecks throughout but no other inclusions noted. This deposit is thought to be the result of low energy natural siltation with the charcoal flecks being carried into the deposit from fires near by through wind blown processes.
210	Ditch	Cut		0.57m	Cut for Northeast/southwest aligned linear with steep sides that drop onto a flat base.

Trench 3

Length: 20m Width: 1.20m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
301	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark blueish brown sandy silt loam	0.45m	Topsoil deposit highly disturbed by root action with very occasional rounded to sub-rounded pea-grit to gravels. Horizon clarity with 302 is clear.
302	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish yellow silty sand	0.44m	Occasional poorly sorted sub-rounded gravels and plant roots throughout, although overall disturbance was noted as being low.
303	Natural	Layer	Firm light reddish grey silty clay	0.02m +	natural substrate with occasional banding of mid greyish red silty clays and rare rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout.
304	Wall	Structure		0.79m	Roughly aligned Northeast/Southwest aligned drystone wall (Same as 204). Constructed of unhewn sandstone blocks placed in drystone fashion. Thought to have been locally derived material although a single slate block was also seen within the makeup. Average block was sub-angular and measured 0.23m in length by 0.18m in width and 0.12m in height.
305	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greyish red silty sand	0.79m	Occasional poorly sorted rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. Deposit is sterile in overall nature and it is thought to be the result of natural low energy siltation and primarily Aeolian derived sediments. No laminations were noted.
306	Ditch	Cut		0.79m	Moderately sided Northeast/Southwest ditch with a U-shaped profile that dropped onto a slightly concaved base.

Trench 4

Length: 10m

Width: 1.20m

Orientation: East to West

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
401	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark blueish brown silty clay	0.32m	Topsoil highly disturbed by root action with occasional poorly sorted sub-rounded gravels throughout.
402	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish grey sandy silt loam	0.25m	Subsoil which while having occasional root disturbance throughout is thought to have an overall low level of disturbance.
403	Natural	Layer	Firm light yellowish grey sandy silty clay	0.21m +	Natural substrate that included moderately sorted rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout along with occasional root action.
404	Ditch	Fill	Firm dark blueish brown sandy silt loam	0.46m	Contained moderately sorted rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout along with occasional root action. Appears to be the natural infilling of linear 405 by humeric rich material such as fallen leaves.
405	Ditch	Cut		0.46m	Northeast/Southwest aligned linear with moderately sloped sides that decended onto a slightly concaved base.
406	Wall	Structure		0.28m	Line of four unhewn sandstone blocks that lie along the southeast face of 405 and on the same alignment.

Trench 5

Length: 10m Width: 2.50m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
501	Layer	Layer	Loose light orangey red sand	0.01m	Modern bedding layer for concrete floorslab of former domestic house known to have been constructed in the 1970s.
502	Layer	Layer	Loose light blueish grey Hardcore	0.32m	Modern bedding layer of hardcore that appears to have been placed during the construction of the domestic property.
503	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately compact dark blueish brown silty sand	0.34m	Humeric former topsoil with evidence of being frequently disturbed by root action. Appears to have been former topsoil horizon that was buried during the construction of the former domestic property.
504	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid brownish grey silty sand	0.28m	Former subsoil that contained occasional poorly sorted rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout.
505	Natural	Layer	Firm light reddish grey sandy clay	0.02m +	Natural substrate that contained occasional rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout.
506	Wall	Structure		1.06m total	North/South aligned concrete footing with brick wall on top of it. Brick wall comprised modern machine made frogged red brick that had been well fired but contained CBM inclusions and measured 0.23m in length, 0.11m wide, 0.08m in height. Concrete slab measured 0.70m in wide and 0.20m thick.
507	Layer	Layer	Loose mid orangey red	1..17m	Modern demolition from the current redevelopment that has infilled a small cellar area.

508	Wall	Structure		0.96m	Modern north/south aligned internal brick wall of cellar. Comprised of a single course thick wall, 12 courses in height and constructed in a header style with a light greyish yellow firm mortar. Bricks same as 506.
509	Wall	Structure		0.86m	East/west former internal brick wall of domestic building demolished during current development. Two courses thick and built in a header fashion with the same brick type and mortar bonding as described above.
510	Wall	Structure		0.12m	East/west aligned concrete footing upon which 509 has been placed.
511	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	0.12m	Fill of linear 512 with occasional charcoal flecks and poorly sorted rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. Appears to have been the result of low energy siltation.
512	Ditch	Cut		0.12m	Cut for east/west aligned ditch heavily truncated by foundation 510 but with gentle sides dropping onto a slightly V-shaped concaved base with a degree of undulation noted.

Trench 6

Length: 10m

Width: 2.50m

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Wall	Structure		0.63m	Northeast/southwest aligned concrete internal wall of former domestic property demolished during the current redevelopment. Wall measured 1 brick course wide by 4 in height. Individual bricks measured 0.44m in length, 0.21m in width and 0.11m in height.
601	Foundation trench	Cut		0.63m	Construction cut for wall 600 with vertical sides that drop onto a flat base. Excavated by machine and then infilled with a wall and backfill 602. Part of the building demolished during the current development.
602	Foundation trench	Fill	Loose light orangey red rubble	0.63m	Backfill of foundation trench [601] around wall 600. Backfill comprises loose brick rubble mixed with a dark silty loam (Same as 609).
603	Wall	Structure		0.73m	Well fired, frogged machine made red brick internal wall of former house. Orientated northeast/southwest and parallel to 600. Wall only one course wide.
604	Foundation trench	Cut		0.73m	Construction cut for wall 603. Same in function and profile as 601.
605	Foundation trench	Fill	Loose light orangey red rubble	0.73m	Backfill of foundation trench 604, same in composition as 602.
606	Wall	Structure	Compact light greyish yellow Concrete	0.13m	Concrete foundation for wall 603.
607	Floor	Structure	Compact light greyish yellow Concrete	0.10m	Concrete floor slab for former domestic dwelling.
608	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose light orangey red rubble	0.38m	Brick rubble layer that has been used to create a level platform for the construction of the former domestic property.

609	Layer	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silt loam	0.30m	Contained occasional CBM fragments and rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. Humeric nature suggests that it may be a buried topsoil.
610	Layer	Layer	Firm mid brownish red sandy clay	0.20m	Mixed natural and subsoil that contained occasional charcoal flecks and rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. Thought to be a buried Subsoil.
611	Layer	Layer	Firm mid blueish brown silt loam	0.33m	Frequent charcoal flecks and occasional rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout. Possible former topsoil. Its humeric and almost 'fluffy' nature makes it look like 'dark earth' make up deposits.
612	Arbitrary	Structure		0.28m	Single large unhewn sandstone block. No obvious cut seen in surrounding deposit 611.
613	VOID	Cut			Thought to be a possible northeast to southwest cut for an unknown feature but upon further investigation this was revealed to be a variation in the natural substrate.
614	Layer	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silt loam	0.12m	Contained occasional charcoal flecks and rounded to sub-rounded gravels throughout.
615	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey sand	0.03m +	natural substrate with occasional rounded to sub-rounded gravels noted throughout.
616	Wall	Structure		0.66m	Same as 600 but aligned at 90 degrees.

Trench 7

Length: 5m

Width: 2.50m

Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
701	Floor	Structure	Compact light yellowish grey Concrete	0.09m	Concrete floor slab of former domestic building.
702	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose light yellowish grey Hardcore	0.04m	Loose angular gravels and hardcore mix used as part of the bedding for the overlying concrete floor slab.
703	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose dark greyish blue ash	0.07m	Ash and clinker band that was used as part of the foundation bedding for floorslab 701.
704	Layer	Layer	Firm mid greyish blue sandy silt	0.18m	Contained frequent angular to subangular gravels throughout and was heavily disturbed by root action. This deposit is thought to be the former topsoil that was buried during the construction of the former domestic property in the 1970s.
705	Layer	Layer	Firm mid blueish grey silty sand	0.34m	Contained occasional rounded to subrounded gravels and very occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Thought to be the former subsoil which was further buried during the construction of the 1970s domestic property.
706	Layer	Layer	Firm light greyish orange silty sand	0.06m	Band of redeposited or mixed natural that contains occasional charcoal flecks throughout.
707	Natural	Layer	Firm light yellowish grey sandy silt	0.02m +	natural substrate that contained a moderate quantity of rounded to subrounded gravels throughout
708	Ditch	Fill	Moderately compact mid greyish brown silty sand	0.58m	Moderate angular to rounded gravel inclusions along with several fragments of CBM and occasional charcoal. Thought to be related to the construction of the former domestic property.

709	Ditch	Cut	0.58m	East/west aligned linear of machine excavation with vertical sides and a flat base. Believed to be associated with the construction of the former 1970s domestic property.
710	Wall	Structure	0.67m	East, west aligned brick Wall. 2 courses thick and constructed in a header fashion with a light orange yellow mortar bonding. Individual bricks are well fired, machine made frogged red bricks measuring 0.23m in length by 0.13m in width and 0.07m in height. Wall survives 7 courses high and sits atop a concrete foundation 0.11m thick.

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 16 Context records AS1
- 4 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 83 Digital photographs
- 2 Scale drawings
- 8 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:

Wolverhampton Arts and Museums Service
Wolverhampton City Council
Wolverhampton Art Gallery
Lichfield Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1DU