

# Archaeological Watching Brief At 41 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire



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**Worcestershire Archaeology**  
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Status: Copy for client  
Date: 14 November 2014  
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Project reference: P4465  
Report reference: R2164  
HER reference: WSM 66238



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## Watching brief at 41 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire

Graham Arnold

### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Nicola and Ian Jordan (Jordan Builders)
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 0341 4371
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 66238
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>Reference</i>	W/14/1749
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2014
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2014
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2009

### Archaeological Background

The development proposed two foundation footings for a small two storey extension on the rear of the property. The site is in the historic core of the town, with significant remains likely to relate to medieval occupation. Therefore it was considered by the Curator to have the potential to affect an archaeological site (HER ref WSM 20771).

### Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

### Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012

Sources consulted

HER

Date(s) of fieldwork

6 November 2014

Area of site

c 3m<sup>2</sup>

Sampling            area sampled    Indicated on Fig 1

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Foundations NW-SE length 3.00m  
width 0.50m  
depth 1.00m

Foundations NE-SW length 2.70m  
width 0.50m  
depth 1.00m

#### *Access to or visibility of deposits*

The foundation trenches were dug by hand under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits.

#### *Statement of confidence*

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved

#### *Deposit description*

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Made ground	Friable dark blackish brown silty clay with frequent concrete, tile and brick fragments, rare porcelain and animal bone. Frequent humic material and roots. Cut by modern storm drains.	0.00 - 0.50m
101	Disturbed natural	Moderately compact orangeish brown sandy gravel and silts. Disturbed by modern services, existing building foundations and root action. Getting lighter in colour with depth.	0.30 – 0.80m
102	Natural	Sterile compact yellowish orange sand and gravels.	0.80m +

## **Discussion**

The natural ground was observed at 0.80m below ground level, with disturbed ground including modern material above this relating to garden soils and excavation of services (Plates 1- 4).

## **Conclusions**

No significant archaeology was observed or disturbed during the works within the area monitored. The area had been subject to previous disturbance with services and foundations for the existing house and natural ground observed at 0.80m below ground level.

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## 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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Jordan Builders at 41 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR ref SP 0341 4371; HER ref WSM 66238). The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town; however, only modern made ground and disturbed areas were found overlying the natural geology, with the area cut by a number of modern drains.

## Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Nicola and Ian Jordan, Jordan Builders; Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council.

## Bibliography

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

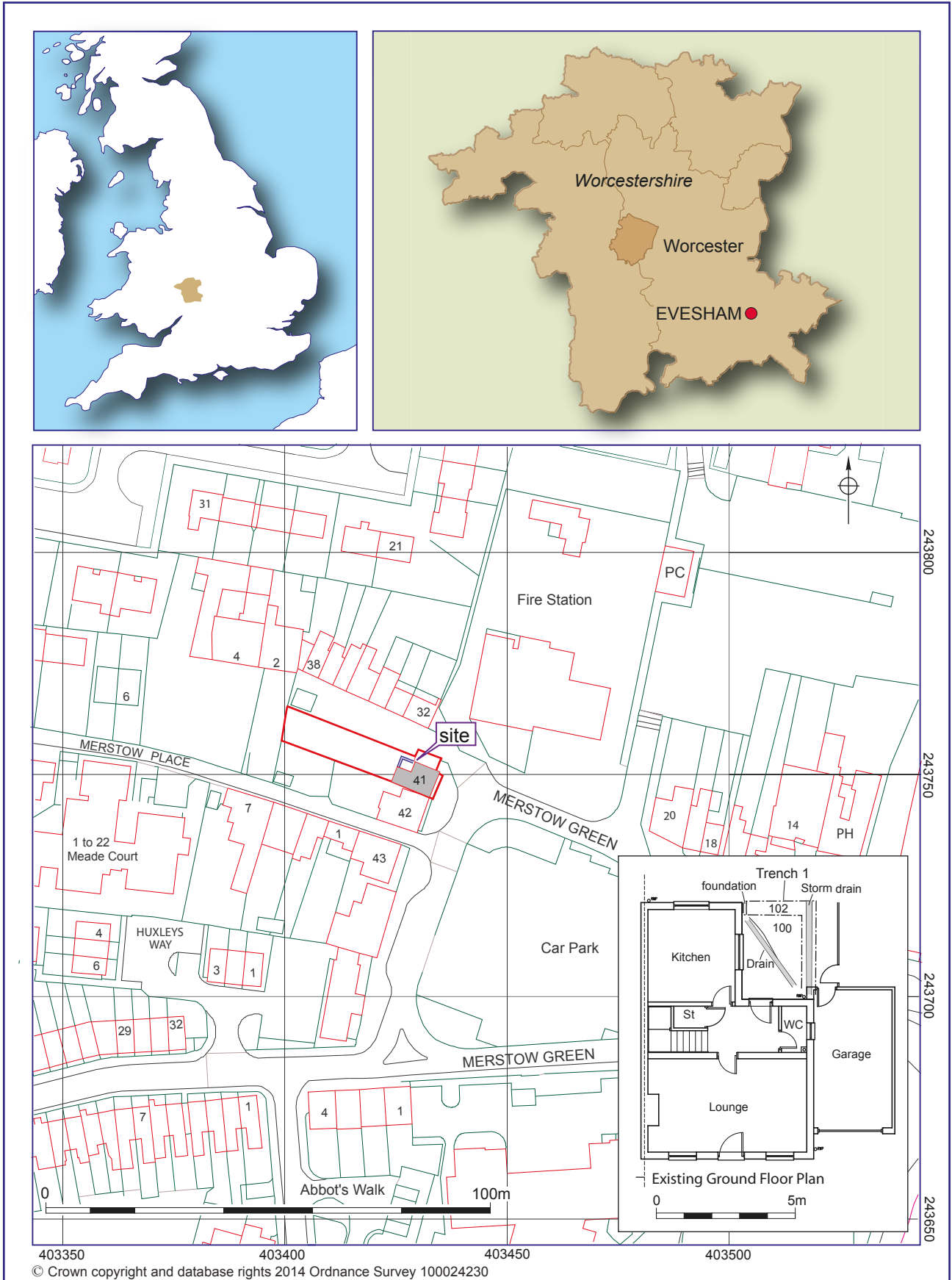
WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2014 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at 41 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated **P4465**

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

WCC 2014 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Planning Consent*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document Version 1 dated September 2014

**Figures**



Location of the site and trench location (based upon EasyPlan Drg.2613)

Figure 1

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## Plates



*Plate 1: The site of the footings before excavation, view south-east*



*Plate 2: The north-west facing section of trench 1*





*Plate 3: The north-west to south-east orientated footing showing modern ceramic pipe*



*Plate 4: Trench 1, north-east facing section*

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WSM 66238)**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress report AS2
- 1 Photographic record AS3
- 10 Digital photographs
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Trench record sheet AS41
- 1 Computer disk
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum  
Museums Worcestershire  
Hartlebury Castle  
Hartlebury  
Near Kidderminster  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ  
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416