

Archaeological watching brief at 10, Cross Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology
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Background information

<i>Client</i>	Robert Perrin (Perrin Property Partnership)
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO59462 68153
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM66550
<i>Planning authority</i>	Malvern Hills District Council
<i>Reference</i>	M/14/01129/FUL
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2014
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2014
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2009

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

The site was located to the rear of 10, Cross Street, which is in the historic core of the medieval market town of Tenbury Wells (Fig 1). The town has been the subject of an extensive survey undertaken as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Dalwood 1996) which contains a summary of previous archaeological work in the town. The Historic Environment Record report for the area states:

'Within the search area lie 56 Historic Listed Buildings and 34 unlisted historic buildings. The majority of these buildings date to to the 18th and 19th century with outliers dating from as early as the 11th century and as late as World War Two. An English Heritage project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire also recorded 3 farmsteads within the search area dating to the 17th – 19th century. 10 Cross Street, the building at the centre of the search, is not itself listed. In addition to the built environment there are also 23 monument records within the search area. The majority of these records relate to defensive installations from World War Two, although there are several monuments dating to the medieval period that include a moat and a possible river crossing. There have been limited discoveries of unstratified finds within the search area. These include an unidentified sculpture and a medieval coin hoard that was discovered in the mid-19th century.' (WCC 2015, 25)

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:

Worcestershire HER

1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1885), scale 25':1 mile

Date(s) of fieldwork

13 January 2015

Area of site

c 1800m²

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Foundations length 2.9m by 4.85m by 2.9m
 width 0.6m
 depth 1.1m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the footing trench was undertaken during machine excavation. However the area of the footing trench had been reduced to natural deposits prior to archaeological monitoring. It was unclear when this had occurred although a number of previous buildings had been demolished on the site (Fig 2).

Statement of confidence

It is unclear how much material had been removed from the area of the footing trench prior to the arrival, although it could be estimated in the region of 0.20m to 0.50m (Plate 1). Natural deposits were visible across the area although it is unclear the degree to which the ground level was truncated. Therefore only a low degree of confidence can be attached to the work.

Results

A natural deposit of brownish red clay (100) was visible across the entire area of the footing trench, from ground level to the base of the excavated trench (1.1m below ground level). This was cut by a infilled brick lined well (101; Plate 2) near the north-west corner of the trench (Fig 2). The full depth was not determined. A sample brick from the well lining was spot dated to the early-mid 19th century (Shona Robson-Glyde pers comm). A pump is illustrated on the 1st edition OS map (OS 1885) slightly to the south of this location, which may have been related to this structure.

Context	Type	Description (ie Colour, Texture)	Date	Interpretation	Depth (below ground level)
100	Deposit	Brownish red clay	-	Natural	0.0m+
101	Structure	Brick lined well back filled with brownish grey silt and brick rubble.	19 th century	Well	0.0m+

Table 1: Deposit description

Discussion and conclusions

Part of a 19th century infilled brick lined well was recorded during the watching brief. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified, although the ground level had been reduced prior to monitoring, which may have removed evidence of other activity.

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 Robert Perrin of Perrin Property Partnership at 10 Cross Street, Tenbury Wells (NGR SO59462 68153; HER WSM66550) during the excavation of footing trenches for an extension to the existing building. A backfilled 19th century brick lined well was identified in the trench section, which cut into the natural clay to an indeterminate depth. No other archaeological remains were identified nor artefacts recovered. The ground level had been reduced by between 0.20m and 0.50m to natural deposits prior to the monitoring, which may have removed evidence of other activity.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project; Robert Perrin (Perrin Property Partnership) and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

Bibliography

Dalwood, H, 1996 *Archaeological assessment of Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester (including part of Burford, Shropshire, County Archaeology service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished report 348, dated May 1996, WR7844, available at Archaeology Data Service, http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-435-1/dissemination/pdf/PDF_REPORTS_TEXT/WORCESTERSHIRE/TENBURY_REPORT.pdf, accessed 14 January 2015*

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

OS 1885 *1st edition Ordnance Survey map, scale 25':1 mile*

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

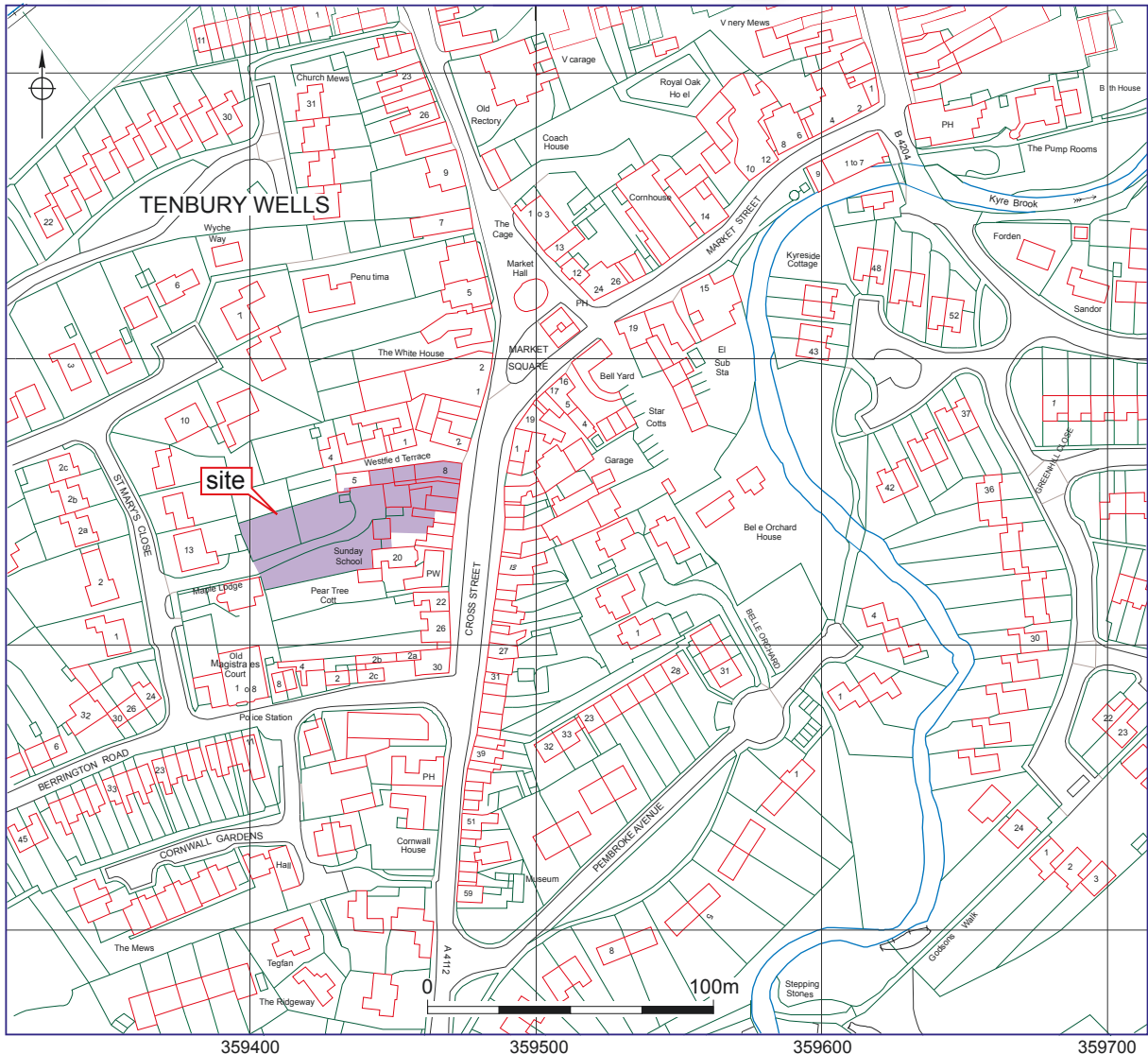
WA 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief at 10, Cross Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, revision dated 12 December 2014, **P4471**

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 *Standard Brief for an archaeological watching brief*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated September 2014

WCC 2015 *Historic Environment Record Search: 10, Cross Street, Tenbury, WSM66550*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 13 January 2015

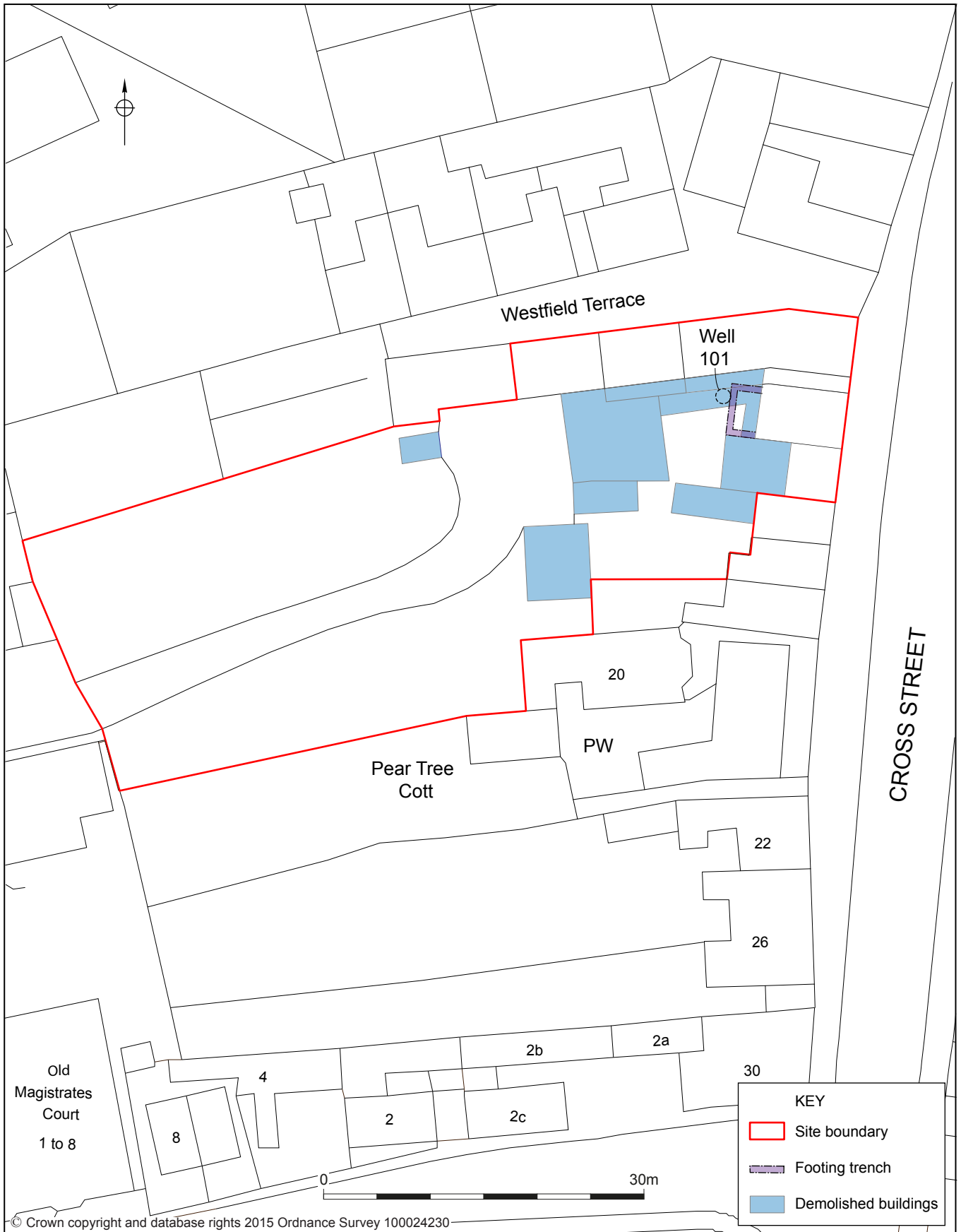
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



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Location of footing trench and demolished buildings

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: The area of the footing trench, reduced to natural clay prior to monitoring, view north



Plate 2: Sample section through footing trench, with brick lined well 101, cutting the natural clay, scale 1m, view west

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM66550)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 16 Digital photographs
- 1 Trench record sheets 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