

# An Archaeological Evaluation at St Martin's Gate, Worcester, Worcestershire



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## **An Archaeological Evaluation at St Martin's Gate, Worcester, Worcestershire**

Pete Lovett

With contributions by Rob Hedge

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at St Martin's Gate, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85287 55008). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client intends to undertake development of the site for which a planning application has been submitted.

One trench was excavated in the proposed development site. This revealed a series of post-medieval layers, cut by a large ditch running north to south, and backfilled with demolition material. A brick surface and bedding layers were laid as the current ground surface, and were associated with the Vinegar Works, some buildings of which remain on the site. The earliest deposit yielded fragments of glazed medieval floor tile, but was considered to be residual within a post-medieval context.

Although the potential for medieval and Roman remains was considered likely on the site, none were identified. This is considered to be due to the depth of post-medieval activity, which extended to the full depth of the trench. The natural matrix was not identified at any point.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at St Martin's Gate, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85287 55008). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, whose client intends to undertake development of the site for which a planning application has been submitted to Worcester City Council (reference P09D0106).

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

No brief has been prepared by the Curator (Worcester City Council) but the project conforms to generality of previous briefs and industry standards. A project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2015).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester* (Worcester City Council 1999).

The event reference for this project, given by the HER is WCM102107

### 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 was undertaken by Pete Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. James Spry assisted with the fieldwork. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers, (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA), and Steve Rigby. Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) prepared the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

#### 3.3 List of sources consulted

##### *Cartographic sources*

- Vaughan's map of 1651
- Doharty's map of 1741
- Broad's map of 1768
- Mainley's map of 1822
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1885, Ordnance Survey, scale 1:500
- 1904 Ordnance Survey map

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### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

### **3.4 Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 13 and 15 July 2015. The site reference number and site code is WCM102107.

One trench, amounting to just over 15m<sup>2</sup> in area, was excavated over the site area of 0.27ha, representing a sample of 0.005%. The location of the trench is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a wheeled 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.

### **3.5 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.

### **3.6 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge**

#### **3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy on site conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

#### **3.6.2 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 2000 database.

The pottery and ceramic building material 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](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### **3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### **3.7.1 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. Hand recovered animal bone is discussed in the artefacts section.

### **3.8 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**

The site is located to the east of the centre of the historic city of Worcester (Fig 1). It is bounded to the south by St Martin's Gate road, to the west by commercial premises, and to the north and east by a recent commercial complex, known as St Martin's Gate. The remaining buildings within the development site were originally associated with the Hill, Evans & Co. Vinegar Works.

The site sits on Sidmouth Mudstone, overlain by alluvial deposits associated with the Frog Brook (BGS 2015).

Although prehistoric activity is known from elsewhere in Worcester, there is no evidence for prehistoric occupation within the development area.

A number of excavations have been undertaken across the land that now comprises the St Martin's Gate commercial complex, revealing extensive Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity in the area (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 2014).

The Roman road connecting Worcester to Droitwich runs to the north of the proposal site, and was revealed in two locations during excavations in 2010 (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 2014). Also observed during this work were a series of ditches, draining to low-lying ground. This reclamation allowed for subsequent domestic activity. Investigations in 2002 on land immediately to the west of the site recorded Roman deposits at a depth of 1.8m, including pits and ditches, along with evidence of metal working. These were sealed by a 'dark earth' deposit, dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century.

The development site lies outside the medieval St Martin's Gate entrance to the city of Worcester. As such, it would have been used for industrial activity that could not take place within the city itself. A medieval tiliary, first mentioned in documentary evidence in 1455 (Dingwall and Ramsey 2002, citing Hughes 1980, 285), may well have been the brick and tile structure recorded by Worcestershire Archaeology to the north-west of the proposed site. This was considered to be part of a larger kiln complex, accounting for the large quantities of waste tiles found during excavation of a Civil War ditch (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 2014, 36-7).

Whilst the suburb became populated by relatively wealthy citizens in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, all these houses were thought to be lost during the battles of the Civil War (Connolly 2014). Vaughan's map of 1651 shows the land east of St Martin's Gate to be cultivated fields, whilst Doharty's 1741 plan and Broad's 1768 plan both show buildings along the street frontages. Mainley's map of 1822 shows buildings fronting onto St Martin's Gate, with empty land behind. The Vinegar Works of Hill, Evans & Co. were constructed in 1830.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2002 (Cherrington and Cutler 2002) included a trench (Trench 3) excavated within the present site. The earliest features comprised elements of a brick built cellar in the form of a springer wall, 3.6m in length and 1.7m in height. This comprised elements of brick-built footings upon which stood two courses of very large regularly cut stone blocks, 2.7m long and 1m high. The stone blocks measured between 0.6m x 1.3m and 0.4m x 0.8m and were probably cut from Oolitic Limestone. The masonry had been pointed in places with cemented mortar. A steel support propped the central portion of the masonry.

### **4.2 Current land-use**

The land is currently used as a public carpark, with a series of light industrial operations occupying the adjacent buildings.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2 and 3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.



### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Late medieval/early post-medieval deposits

The earliest deposit reached was a firm light blue grey silty clay, 117 (Plate 3, Fig 3). This was observed at about 2m below the current ground surface, and contained an assemblage of floor and roof tile, brick fragments and mortar (CBM). Due to the depth of the trench and the dubious stability of the sides, this deposit was reached by a machine-dug sondage. As such, interpretation is less precise than were it hand excavated, but the CBM assemblage suggested a demolition dump spreading laterally throughout the deposit. Also, as the building material was the product of demolition, it is entirely possible that the context was post-medieval.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval deposits

The late medieval/early post-medieval deposits were sealed by 116, a layer of yellow brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional CBM fragments, which in turn was sealed by 115, a dark grey sandy clay. Both 116 and 115 are conjectured to be accumulation layers. 113 lay above 115, and was a thin layer with frequent small fragments of CBM and mortar. 112 was another accumulation layer with CBM, mortar and charcoal fragments throughout. This was cut by large north to south ditch 122 (Plates 2 to 4, Fig 3). This linear feature was 4.2m wide, and filled with a series of early rubble dumps and later, slower clay accumulations.

After this ditch had filled up, it was cut on both its east and west sides (Fig 3). To the west, another possible ditch cut, 124, truncated 122, and extended beyond the western limit of the trench. On the eastern side, a shallow scoop pit, 110, clipped the edge of 122. This was backfilled with dumps of brick rubble, cinder and coal, and clay. Sealing that was a thin mortar scree, and made ground, before a hardcore layer was laid to take the brick structure 102 and surface 101. 102 was possibly a threshold, being only four courses deep, and edged with stone blocks. If so, the building was to the north of the evaluation trench, and did not extend to the south.

### 5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A modern tarmac, 100, covered the on-edge brick surface in a patchwork fashion.

## 5.2 Artefact and environmental analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage came from five stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying low levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size, at 23g being considerably above average. This reflects the robust nature of the post-medieval and modern wares present.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
medieval	ceramic		floor tile	2	606
medieval/early post-med	ceramic		roof tile	4	1472
late med/early post-med	ceramic		brick	4	1858
late med/early post-med	ceramic		roof tile	5	1332
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		clay pipe	5	16
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	4	122
modern	ceramic		pot	4	64
modern	organic	wood	button	4	1
undated	bone	animal bone	animal bone	11	593
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6064</b>

Table 1 Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	3	110
Post-medieval/modern	83.1	Worcester porcelain	1	12
Modern	85	Modern china	3	52
Modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	1	12
<b>Totals</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>186</b>

Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric

context	count	weight(g)	Feature type	Period
112	3	50	Layer	modern
114	3	330	Ditch	modern
117	5	213	Layer	Late med/early post-med
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>593</b>		

Table 3 Quantification of the animal bone

### 5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 4 and 2 in that order and in combination.

#### *Medieval/early post-medieval*

The majority of material from this date was recovered from deposit (117), into which a machine sondage was dug. It yielded two fragments of decorated medieval floor tile. One, in a fabric consistent with Worcester manufacture, was worn to the extent that no decoration remained. The second, in an unusual fabric containing large grog and possible limestone inclusions, was also heavily worn (Plate 8).

Fragments from two bricks, 2" and 2 1/8" in thickness and in a hard, overfired fabric, one with straw impressions on the underside, are consistent with a 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date. A large, aerated, vitrified fragment is thought to be a waster of broadly similar date.

Roof tile fragments from (117) are thought to be medieval or early post-medieval in date; two pieces are nibbed, and a number can be ascribed to fabric 2c, known to have been produced in the city from the later 15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Later post-medieval/modern*

Whitewares (fabric 85) of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date were present, along with clay pipe stem fragments, sherds from a thick yellow-glazed redware (fabric 78) vessel of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>h</sup> century date, and a green-painted wooden button.

Of note is a single base sherd of Worcester-made porcelain (fabric 83.1) from layer (112): exhibiting an unglazed strip inside the footring caused by the 'pegging' process which identifies it as a Worcester product (Miller 2014, 138), there is a small bulge marring the surface. It may have been a 'second', or reject, either from the main Royal Worcester works or possibly from the nearby Grainger factory.

### 5.2.2 Summary environmental evidence

A total of 593g (11 fragments) of animal bone was hand-collected from two modern features and the late medieval/early post-medieval layer (117) (see Table 3). The bone, which was well-preserved, included sheep/goat metapodials and cattle femur fragments from modern deposits (112) and (114); layer (117) produced cattle metapodials and tibia fragment, and a

single dog tibia (Liz Pearson, pers. comm.). As this was a small assemblage, no further work was carried out on this material.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
105	ceramic		pot	2	28	1800	2000	1800 - 2000
	ceramic		pot	1	12	1800	2000	
112	bone	animal bone	animal bone	3	50			1800 - 2000
	ceramic		clay pipe	2	6	1600	1910	
	ceramic		pot	1	24	1800	2000	
	ceramic		clay pipe	2	6	1600	1910	
	ceramic		roof tile	1	100	1475	1700	
114	bone	animal bone	animal bone	3	330			1750 - 1900
	ceramic		pot	1	12	1750	1900	
115	ceramic		pot	3	110	1700	1900	1800 - 1950
	ceramic		clay pipe	1	4	1600	1910	
	organic	wood	button	4	1	1800	1950	
117	ceramic		floor tile	1	284	1200	1600	1500 - 1700
	ceramic		floor tile	1	322	1200	1600	
	ceramic		brick	1	656	1500	1700	
	bone	animal bone	animal bone	5	213			
	ceramic		brick	2	800	1500	1700	
	ceramic		brick	1	402	1500	1700	
	ceramic		roof tile	4	1472	1200	1700	
	ceramic		roof tile	4	1232	1475	1700	

Table 4: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

## 6 Synthesis

One trench was excavated in the development area. At no point was the undisturbed natural matrix revealed. The deepest observed deposit contained glazed medieval floor tile, but this in itself is not a reliable indicator for dating. The tile came from within an assemblage of CBM demolition, with the brick of a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century date. This may be evidence of the levelling of the suburb during the Civil War, though conversely it could be residual material relating to the redevelopment of the area during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The overlying layers were probably formed in the late-17<sup>th</sup> to early-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, though, when the area was given over to cultivation, or as backyard plots. The wooden button found in layer 115 with a date range of 1800-1950 could easily be intrusive, as the ground was worked.

The large ditch, 122, was presumably a boundary ditch associated with the buildings fronting onto St Martin's Gate, probably backfilled with material relating to their demolition prior to the construction of the Vinegar Works in 1830.

### 6.1 Research frameworks

#### ***RP6.1 Colonisation of back-plot areas and land in suburbs in the post-medieval period***

*Excavation of back-plot areas and suburban plots colonised by cottages in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, to identify factors such as durability and density of housing, associated material*

*culture, sanitation and waste disposal practices. High priority needs to be given to areas where documentation of high quality is available to support and amplify the archaeological evidence, and to areas where buildings survive, or there is good quality photographic or illustrative evidence for former buildings. (WCC 2007)*

The evidence for post-medieval suburban occupation of the site is well documented, with the street frontages occupied from before the Civil War to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **RP5.14 Industry and land-use patterns in the suburbs**

*Further excavation in suburban areas to identify the range and scale of industries located there and as a (negative) guide to the extent of settlement (see RP5.1).*

#### **RP5.30 Medieval ceramic industries**

*Worcester's wider importance as a tile-producing centre gives a broader impetus to the need to understand this industry. As well as floor and roof tiles, the range of products probably included bricks of various types, and perhaps ovens. Dating of the kilns is important. The overall layout and landscape of tileries should be investigated, not just the kilns themselves. Although 'Worcester-type' wares are widely found in the city, no pottery manufacturing sites have been identified. (ibid)*

Whilst medieval deposits were not reached during this evaluation, the potential for their survival remains high, and both of the research proposals outlined above could be expected to feature in further works. The excavations by Worcester Archaeology in advance of the St Martin's Gate development adjacent revealed considerable ceramic industries (Dalwood and Woodiwiss 2014). The finds appear to corroborate the documentary evidence for demolition of properties outside of the city wall in this area in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, possibly associated with the Civil War. The presence of a well-worn medieval floor tile in an unusual fabric is worthy of note.

There are various Roman research objectives, including the extent of the road network (RP3.7), the dumping of iron slag (RP3.8) and most pertinently activity in the Frog Brook valley (RP3.12). As with the medieval research points, the lack of Roman remains observed during this evaluation should not preclude the possibility of their survival.

## **7 Significance**

The majority of the buried deposits were post-medieval in date, and consisted of accumulated layers and cut features relating to the changing development of the site. The limited excavation depth achieved retains the possibility of preserved medieval and Roman deposits being present. Previous excavations in the immediate area have revealed good preservation of Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains at various depths. As such, the potential for achieving the research objectives as outlined above is good.

## **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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting at St Martin's Gate, Worcester, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 85287 55008; HER ref WCM102107). A single trench was excavated. Demolition material probably associated with the destruction of the suburb during the Civil War in 1651 was recovered from the lowest observed deposits. There followed a series of accumulated layers deriving from the redevelopment of the area into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, either from cultivation or backyard plots. A large north to south ditch was dug through these layers, possibly as a plot delineation. This was backfilled with demolition rubble, likely to be from associated buildings fronting St Martin's Gate, prior to the construction of the Vinegar Works of Hill, Evans & Co in 1830.*

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## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathy Patrick and Nicola Waddington (CgMs Consulting), and James Dinn (Archaeological officer, Worcester City Council).

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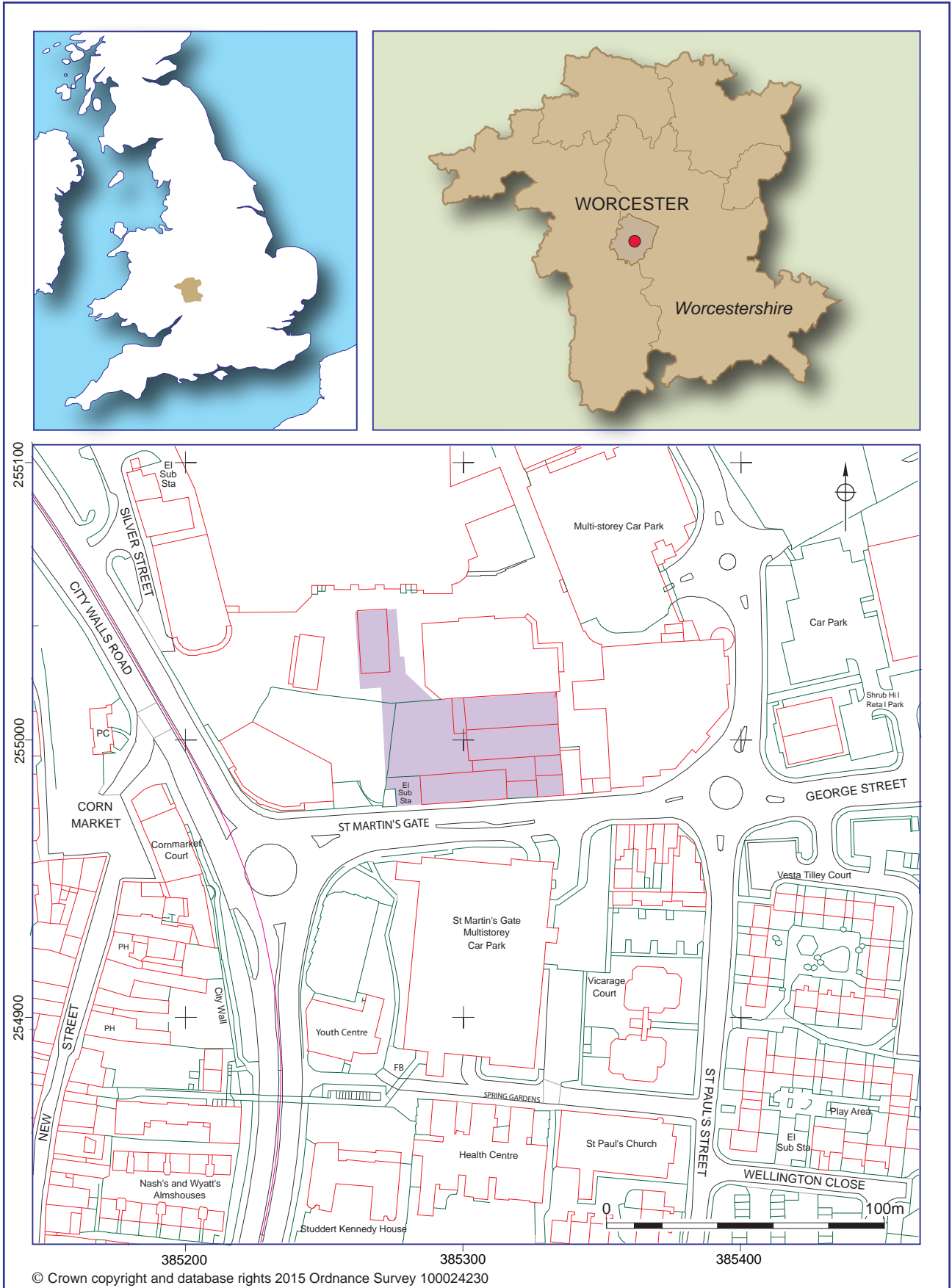
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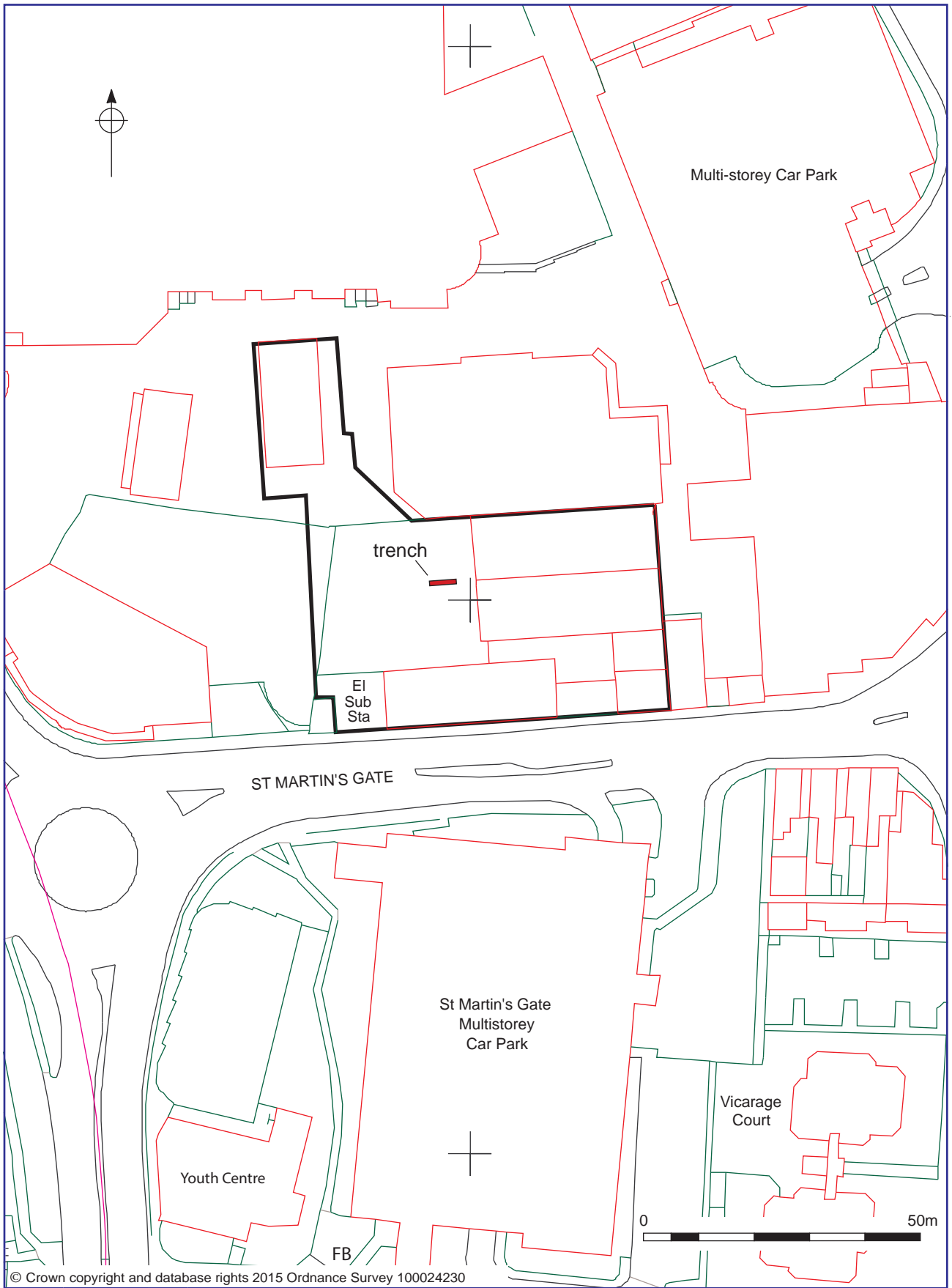
## Figures





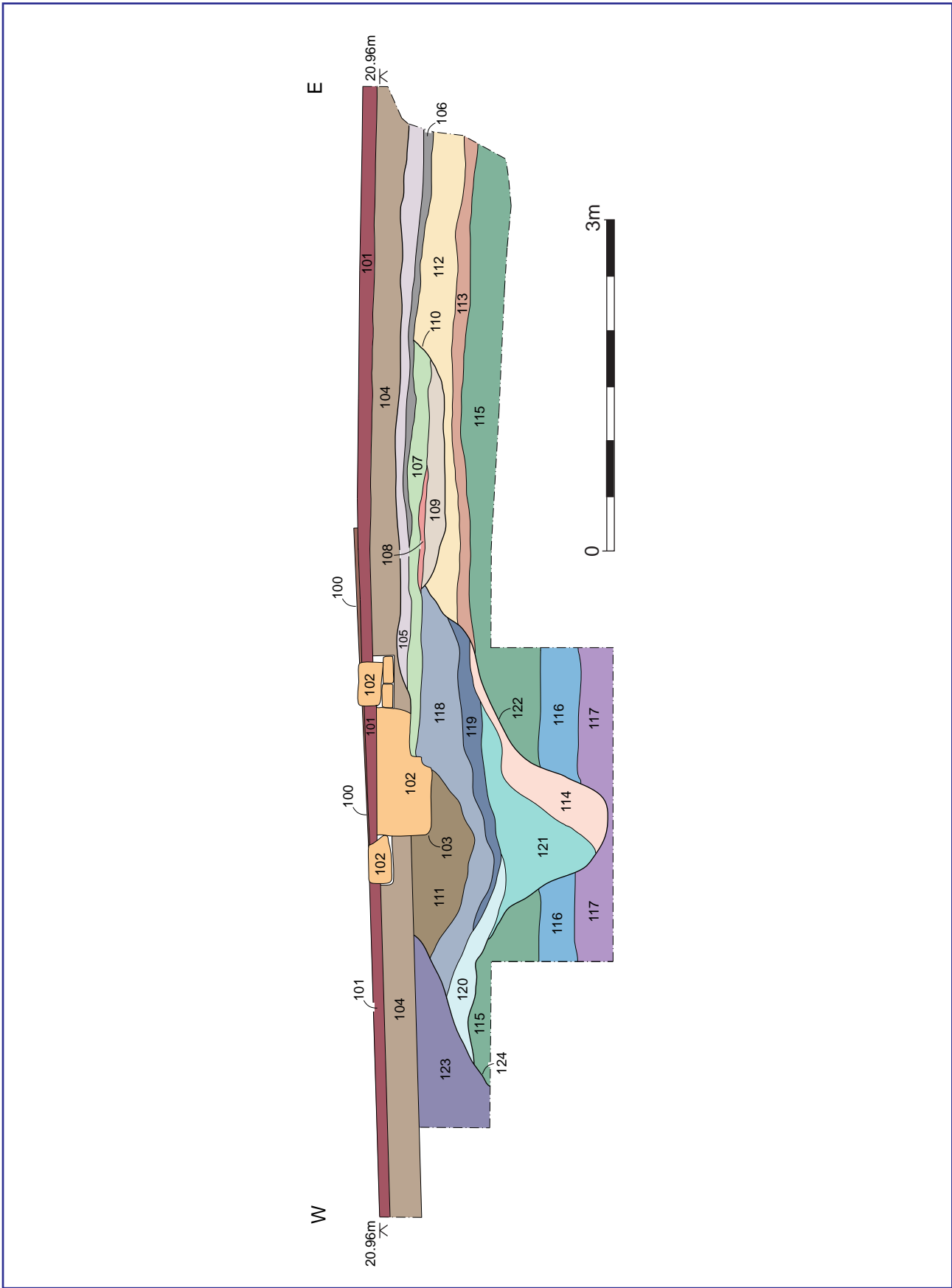
Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of the trench

Figure 2



South facing section through trench

Figure 3

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## Plates



*Plate 1 The site from the west*



*Plate 2 Ditch 122, looking north*

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*Plate 3 Showing sondage into medieval deposit 117, looking north*



*Plate 4 Section 1 showing build-up of layers, looking north*

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*Plate 5 Showing excavated Trench 1, with sondage, looking east*



*Plate 6 Showing Section 1 obliquely, looking north-east*



*Plate 7 Showing reinstatement of Trench 1 and new surface, looking east*

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*Plate 8 Medieval floor tile retrieved from 117*



## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 10

Width: 3.6

Orientation: East to west

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Surface	Layer		0.02	Tarmac
101	Surface	Structure		0.1	Brick surface
102	Wall	Structure		0.66	Five course high wall with a stone block at each side. Possible threshold.
103	Construction Cut	Cut		0.66	Construction cut for threshold 102
104	Layer	Layer	Soft dark brownish orange sand	0.28	Rubble layer as bedding for brick surface 101
105	Layer	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	0.18	Dumped demo layer, levelling
106	Layer	Layer	Compact light whiteish yellow mortar	0.14	Thin mortar scree, over east end of trench.
107	Pit	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown clayey sand	0.24	Levelling layer partially filling a shallow pit, and extending beyond it.
108	Pit	Fill	Loose dark blackish grey silty sand	0.06	Thin dump of dark industrial waste
109	Pit	Fill	Loose mid orangey red	0.2	Rubble fill of pit
110	Pit	Cut		0.33	Shallow scoop pit
111	Ditch	Fill	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey sand	0.56	Upper fill of large ditch
112	Layer	Layer	Moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey sand	0.2	Accumulation layer, post medieval.
113	Layer	Layer	Soft mid greyish brown clayey sand	0.12	Dumped layer of crushed building demo. Make-up layer
114	Ditch	Fill	Loose rubble	0.4	Dump of building demo into large ditch
115	Layer	Layer	Soft dark brownish grey sandy clay	0.4	C18/19th accumulation layer
116	Layer	Layer	Firm light yellowish brown silty clay	0.35	Probable post-med accumulation layer
117	Layer	Layer	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay	0.3	Late med/early post-med layer with a large dump of CBM demo in it.
118	Ditch	Fill	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay	0.44	Probable upcast backfilling ditch
119	Ditch	Fill	Soft mid greyish brown sandy clay	0.18	Backfill of large ditch

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120	Ditch	Fill	Loose light whiteish yellow mortar	0.24	Mortar dump down west side of ditch
121	Ditch	Fill	Soft light greyish brown clayey sand	0.5	Dumped backfill of ditch
122	Ditch	Cut		1.64	Large N-S ditch, filled with rubble and sediment fills
123	Ditch	Fill	Soft mid brownish grey clayey sand	0.64	Rubble and demo rich backfill of probable ditch
124	Ditch	Cut		0.64	Probable ditch cut

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: WCM102107)**

The archive consists of:

- 21 Context records AS1
- 3 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 18 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 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  
Museums Worcestershire  
Foregate Street  
Worcester  
WR1 2PW

Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371

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## Summary of data for Worcester City HER

WCM102107 (event HER number)

P4614

### Artefacts

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	Specialist report?
late med/early post-med	ceramic		brick	4	1858	1500	1700	Y
late med/early post-med	ceramic		roof tile	5	1332	1475	1700	Y
medieval	ceramic		floor tile	2	606	1200	1600	Y
medieval/early post-med	ceramic		roof tile	4	1472	1200	1700	Y
modern	ceramic		pot	4	64	1800	2000	Y
modern	organic	wood	button	4	1	1800	1950	Y
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		clay pipe	4	16	1600	1910	Y
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	12	1750	2000	Y
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	3	110	1700	1900	Y
undated	bone	animal bone	animal bone	11	593			Y

### Notes

- 1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065

Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

<b>period specific</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>to</b>
Lower Palaeolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.

3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.