

Archaeological watching brief at the former Vauxhall Inn, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire



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With a contribution by Jane Evans

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Alan McColm and APU Retail Ltd at the former Vauxhall Inn, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 03508 43661; HER ref WSM68507). The proposed development site is located in area considered to be of high archaeological potential and so all groundworks associated with the development were monitored.

A dressed, blue-lias stone wall was recorded, surviving below the boundary walls of No.44 and No.45 Merstow Green. The wall survived for ten courses and was determined to be part of the Evesham Abbey precinct wall, constructed in the 14th century under Abbot Chyryton. The wall followed a broadly east to west alignment and the route is consistent with the section of scheduled wall surviving above ground, to the west. Deposits associated with the construction of the wall were also recorded, and indicate that the wall was trench built.

Deposits predating the construction of the 14th century wall were observed. These included a medieval layer, and a potential Roman metalled surface. Residual Roman artefacts were recovered from a large number of deposits on site which comprise the majority of the finds assemblage retained. This project has provided a brief insight into Roman activity within Evesham, and strengthens the premise that the Merstow Green area was at the centre of this occupation.

Further archaeological features recorded comprised a post-medieval ditch, 20th century walls, construction related dump deposits and floors.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the former Vauxhall Inn, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 03508 43661). It was commissioned by Alan McColm whose client APU Retail Ltd is redeveloping the public house, comprising: the demolition of a boiler house, the change of use from A4 to A5 for part of the building and single storey extension, and the change of use of part of the first floor to form one self-contained two bedroomed flat, for which a planning application was submitted to Wychavon District Council (ref. W/13/01832/CU).

The proposed development site is located in an area considered to be of high archaeological potential, and therefore containing potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the development.

The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Service of Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2016) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

2 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible within the constraints of the groundworks associated with the development.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Jamie Wilkins (BA (hons.)); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2015 and has been practicing archaeology since 2013, and Tom Vaughan (BA (hons. Dunelm); MA; ACIfA), assisted by Morgan Murphy (BA (hons.); MA), and Jem Brewer (BA (hons.)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Jane Evans (BA, MA, MCIfA) contributed 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

- 1st edition, 1886, Ordnance Survey, sheet Worcestershire XLIX.3, scale 25":1 mile
- 1904, Ordnance Survey, sheet Worcestershire XLIX.3, scale 25":1 mile
- 1923, Ordnance Survey, sheet Worcestershire XLIX.3, scale 25":1 mile
- 1938, Ordnance Survey, sheet Worcestershire XLIX.3, scale 25":1 mile

Aerial photographs

- Britain from Above - Image ref EPW014619

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 2016).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 20 and 28 March 2017 (Trench 1), and on 7 August (Trench 2). The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM68507. The Worcestershire Archaeology project reference code assigned to this project is P4802.

The Trench 1 groundworks observed comprised an area covering the entirety of the proposed floor plan of the new building, amounting to just over 264m². This was excavated to approximately 0.30m below ground surface (bgs). A trench, 32m by 0.6m, was excavated within the south of this area, to a depth of between 1m and 1.20m bgs. A sondage was excavated against the boundary wall of No.44 Merstow Green, to expose and identify the depth of foundations of that wall. Further groundworks comprised two 1m by 1m footings, excavated to 1.20m bgs. The location of these groundworks is indicated in Figure 2.

Trench 2 comprised a single service trench, to the west of Trench 1, across the car park in the western end of the site. It was dug to between 0.70-1.02m bgs, and was 0.30m wide. The location is indicated in Figure 7.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological observation using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. 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).

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 Jane Evans

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), the multi-period *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (<http://romanpotterystudy.org/2016/06/29/now-standard-pottery-studies-archaeology/>), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993).

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each context producing finds. All information was recorded on a pro forma Access database table. No artefacts were recovered from environmental samples.

The pottery was examined by eye, with reference to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and 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.

Animal bone was quantified by count and weight but not identified to species.

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 current land-use

The site of the former Vauxhall Inn is located in Merstow Green, at the southern end of Evesham; situated relatively centrally within a horse-shoe meander of the River Avon. The River Avon is approximately 440m to the east, 518m to the west, and 500m to the south. The topography of the site is reasonably level, which is likely to be a result of longstanding development and habitation. The site is bounded by Abbey Lane to the west and Abbey Road to the east. The northern boundary comprises the southern wall of No. 44 Merstow Green, a 19th century redbrick property. The south of site is bounded by a local garage.

The site was until recently in use as a Public House. A timber-framed, modern extension and above-ground cellar were demolished in 2016, in preparation for the groundworks of the redevelopment.

The bedrock geology of the site comprises Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by a superficial deposit comprising New Inn sand and gravel member, associated with river terracing (BGS Viewer 2017).

4.2 Archaeological context

In preparation for this project, a full HER assessment was commissioned, with a search radius of 500m from the centre of the site. The archaeological background was also provided in the Brief (WCC 2016) and is included here:

The development area is located in the historic core of Evesham, at the junction between the A4184 Abbey Road and Merstow Green, lying to the west of the site of St Mary's Abbey, a Benedictine foundation established in the 8th century (NHLE 1005297).

Of particular relevance to the current application is the presence of Abbot Chyryton's Wall (WSM02821), which was built by Abbot William de Chyryton (1317-44) and divides the outer precinct of the Abbey from Merstow Green, with land to the south of the wall falling within the outer precinct and that to the north being part of the town.

The course of the wall is believed to run along the line of the rear boundary wall between No's 44 and 45 Merstow Green and the Inn. A section of the wall was investigated in 1975 during the excavation of foundations for the Health Centre to the west of No. 44 Merstow Green. This revealed the foundations of a wall c.5-6' deep (approx. 1.5 – 1.8m) and up to 5' wide (1.5m), consisting of unmortared dressed rubble stone. A ditch predating the wall was discovered, probably representing an original boundary of the Abbey precinct. Elements of the wall further west are both Scheduled and Listed (NHLE SM 1005501 & LB 1350435) but no designations apply to the remains believed to underlie the development area.

To the west of the site a stretch of Abbot Chyryton's Wall, beside Boat Lane, is scheduled and listed (NHLE SM 1005501 & LB 1350435), but was the focus of excavation and salvage recording in the 1990s, following pipeline works by Severn Trent Water Ltd (Cook, Pearson, and Ratkai

1996; Cook 1997). Below the ground surface, the wall was recorded as existing in its original form. This comprised five courses of faced, rectangular, mortared stones, above five courses of roughly faced, rectangular, mortared stones. Furthermore, these interventions recorded a ditch predating the precinct wall, which has been interpreted as a precinct boundary, prior to the construction of the wall.

Prehistoric activity has been recorded in Evesham. In 2007 an excavation c 400m to the south-west of the site identified a Late Bronze Age settlement, comprising a small roundhouse and associated grain storage pits (Mann 2008; WSM37561). Further prehistoric activity has been recorded during investigations at 93-97 High Street (WSM26358; WSM27191; WSM28764). The features and deposits encountered comprised ditches and pits, containing artefacts providing a middle Iron Age date (Edwards and Hurst 2000).

Evidence for Roman activity within Evesham has typically been in the form of residual artefacts recovered from later deposits (Edwards and Hurst 2000; Mercian Archaeology 2006; Mann 2008). However, investigations at 13, Vine Street in 2001 recorded ditches and gullies of Roman date. These features remain significant as they are the first structural features dated to the Roman period within Evesham (Lockett and Griffin 2006). Roman activity is much more widespread within the landscape surrounding Evesham; including, but not limited to, significant rural settlements at Kemerton to the south-west (Dinn and Evans 1990) and Broadway (WSM68324; Bradley forthcoming) to the south.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-7 and Plates 1-22. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

No deposits pre-dating the modern period were recorded within Trench 2.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural geology comprised orange sand and gravels, interspersed with yellowish clay. This deposit was observed within Trench 1 at varying levels, dependent to the levels of truncation. The strip foundation trench revealed this deposit at 30.30m AOD in the east, and 30.26m AOD in the west. The natural geology was observed at 1.02m below ground surface (bgs) in the westernmost pad-footing trench. The sondage next to wall 123 (Figure 4) was excavated to 1.30m bgs (30.15m AOD), without this natural geology being observed.

The undisturbed natural geology was not observed within Trench 2.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Roman deposits

A possible Roman deposit (116) was observed in the south of the site, at 0.86m bgs. This layer comprised a dark silty sand, and survived for 0.12m in thickness, directly above the natural substrate (117). It was sealed by a later subsoil (115) and was present in the entirety of the strip foundation trench. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit, however, this layer may be the equivalent of (122) recorded in the northern sondage. Therefore, the date may be medieval, and the Roman find may be residual.

A potential relict floor surface (126) was sealed by deposit (122), at 30.15m AOD. The surface comprised pebbles, cobbles and slag in a compact clayey sand (Plate 16). Roman pottery and animal bone was also recovered from this deposit. The presence of slag may suggest a form of metaled surface and a horizon pre-dating the construction of wall (123). This potential floor surface also represents the limit of excavation for the sondage, and so any earlier deposits were not observed.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Medieval deposits

Abbot Chyryton's Wall

A dressed wall comprising mortared, blue lias stone, following an east to west alignment was observed in the north of site. The wall was present for the length of the boundary between No.44 and No.45 Merstow Green, c 23.65m in length, and served as a foundation for the properties (Plates 13 and 18). It was observed to survive for an overall depth of 0.88m. It is highly probable that this structure is the surviving remains of the Evesham Abbey precinct wall constructed for Abbot Chyryton.

The sondage revealed that ten courses of blue lias stone blocks survived; below which a small step out, comprised of a further two courses, was present. These appeared to be set into a bed of sandy mortar. The largest of the blue lias blocks measured 470mm in length, 220mm in width, and 150mm in depth. Some of the blocks appeared to show tool marks (Plate 14).

A section of the wall in the centre of site, measuring 6m in length, was not observed. This was due to the presence of a large modern, concrete pad which was to be left in situ during the development. The concrete pad was only visible for c 0.5m in depth, and certainly continued deeper, and in so doing, is likely to have truncated parts of the wall.

A construction cut [124] for the wall was visible in both sections of the sondage. The cut extended southwards from the base of the wall and was 0.21m in height. This suggests that only the base of the cut was visible and that the wall was trench built. At the base of the cut, two construction related deposits were observed. Deposit (121) comprised blue lias stone chippings and fragments in a silty sand matrix. This deposit appears to be a layer associated with construction refuse, and may represent a builder's horizon. A further deposit (127) was observed directly below the mortar foundations for wall (123). It comprised light coloured, coarse sand with some rubble and pottery inclusions. It is likely to represent a form of trample or bedding, in preparation for construction work.

Other Deposits

The construction cut [124] was observed to cut deposit (122). The layer comprised a dark, blackish-brown silty sand, and contained animal bone, ceramic building materials, and pottery dating to the Roman and medieval periods. This deposit was observed to continue beneath the wall. Below deposit (122), an orange, sandy layer was observed. The deposit was relatively sterile and no dating material was recovered. This layer, along with (123), sealed the potential Roman floor surface (126).

5.1.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits

A buried topsoil or garden soil was observed across the entirety of the site. This deposit was dark black in colour and contained frequent material typical of occupational refuse. The depth of the soil varied but at its thickest was 0.47m. It was present below the floor of the former modern extension, but was also truncated by walls (107) and (110). In the south and west of the site, this deposit was overlain by carpark related deposits; and in the east of the site was overlain by the public house extension.

An orangey-brown soil was observed in the north of site, and had a thickness of 0.47m. It was observed to abut wall (123), and was sealed by relict topsoil (103). The cultural material recovered from this layer comprised pottery sherds, animal bone, and ceramic building material. A post-medieval date is indicated by the tile recovered. This deposit was not observed in the strip foundation trench in the south of site, and so may be localised. The formation of this deposit may have been facilitated by the presence of wall (123).

In the easternmost end of the strip foundation trench, a north to south aligned ditch [119] was recorded. The ditch was visible for 0.70m in length, as the trench was located perpendicular to the feature. It survived at 30.95m AOD and was 0.29m in depth and 0.81m in width. The ditch profile

comprised steep, almost vertical sides, with a sharp break of slope and a flat bottom. It may represent a robbed-out wall relating to an earlier phase of development. The feature was observed to cut two potential subsoils (115) and (116), and was sealed by buried topsoil (103).

5.1.5 Phase 5: Modern deposits

Trench 1

A number of modern deposits were observed across the area. The floor plan of the former public house extension was overlain by a rubble horizon (102). This layer appeared to comprise a mixture of hardcore and demolition rubble, associated with the construction, and demolition of the extension.

Two red brick walls were recorded in the east of the area, below rubble deposit (102). The exterior of the walls (107) existed for 9.38m in an east to west orientation, before returning north for 5.4m, where it met the boundary wall of No.44 Merstow Green. The wall comprised 3 courses of stretchers in a sandy, lime mortar. The wall survived to a height of 0.23m, and no foundations were observed, as the wall continued below the limit of excavation.

A less substantial wall (110) was observed to abut wall (107). It was located within the area demarked by wall (107) and was also constructed out of red brick. It survived for two courses laid in English cross, and was constructed on blue lias stone foundations, which were visible above the limit of excavation. Wall (110) is likely to represent an internal partition wall that did not require the level of construction required for (107). The foundations of blue lias slabs appear to have been robbed out from earlier, medieval wall (123). Both walls (110) and (107) were cut into relict topsoil (103).

A small patch of redbrick and blue lias stone floor surface (104) was observed in the north-west of site. The floor was sealed by carpark deposit (101), and only survived for an area of c 6.45m². The floor was constructed out of a selection of materials including red brick, red quarry tile, and blue lias stone slabs. The bricks contained a 'frog' with *MARSTON* stamped inside. Similar to wall (110), it seems highly likely that the blue lias component of the flooring was robbed from the earlier wall (123) on site. The southern limit of the flooring was demarked by a row of edging bricks, suggesting that this was an original boundary to the floor surface. The floor was set into a dark, clay bedding material (105), from which glass, clay pipe, and pottery was recovered.

A substantial concrete pad was present in the centre of the area, abutting the boundary wall of No. 44 Merstow Green. The overall depth of the concrete footing was not observed, but was seen to truncate the potential Abbey precinct wall (123). The concrete footing appeared to relate to the modern construction of an over-ground cellar.

The south and west of the area was covered by a tarmac carpark surface (100) and its associated hardcore bedding layer (101). The south-east of the area was overlain by concrete slabbing (113), and associated hard-core (114). These deposits relate to the 20th and 21st century function of the site, as a public house.

Trench 2 (Plates 19-22)

The tarmac car park surface (200) sealed an irregular mixed rubble layer of red brick fragments, occasional blue brick fragments, angular gravel, pebbles and cobbles, yellow sandstone fragments and patches of light grey gravel (201). This sealed a disturbed relict soil comprising dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional 19th-20th century debris (202). This overlay subsoil of mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional brick and blue and white china fragments (203), which extended beyond the excavated depth of the trench. Modern services were noted to cut into the soils.

A wall foundation was observed at 0.58m bgs on an approximately east to west alignment across the middle of the trench (204). It comprised two extant courses of red brick fragments and half bricks irregularly laid in and surrounded by creamy yellow sandy mortar. Within the narrow

confines of the trench it was unclear if it lay below or was within the base of rubble layer (201), which extended to a much greater depth to the south of the foundation.

Within the southern c 3.30m of the trench a consolidated dump deposit was recorded at 0.70m bgs (205). It comprised red 19th century bricks and fragments in decayed light brownish cream cement mortar. It was sealed by relict soil (202) and extended beyond the depth of the trench.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1-4.

A range of finds was recovered, including pottery, ceramic and stone building material, clay pipe, vessel and window glass, metal finds and animal bone. The finds dated to the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods and came from a range of feature types (Tables 1 and 2).

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	24	251
?Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	18
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	<i>tegula</i>	1	319
medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	23	330
late med/early post-med	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	3
medieval/post-medieval	stone	lias	building stone	2	3544
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	clay pipe	8	17
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	45
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	tile	4	268
post-medieval	glass	pale green	window	1	1
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	27
post-medieval/modern	glass	pale green	ink bottle	1	59
modern	ceramic	earthenware	brick	1	2300
modern	ceramic	earthenware	drain	1	77
modern	ceramic	earthenware	pot	14	68
modern	glass	clear	jar	1	7
undated	bone	animal bone	fragment	43	629
undated	ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	3	22
undated	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	1	1

undated	metal	iron	unident	1	68
undated	metal	slag(fe)	fragment	2	93

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage by period, material and object type

Feature type	period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Construction Cut	late med/early post-med	ceramic	pot	1	3
	medieval	ceramic	pot	11	115
	modern	ceramic	pot	7	41
	post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	5	8
	post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	23
	medieval/post-medieval	stone	building stone	1	2034
	post-medieval/modern	glass	ink bottle	1	59
	Roman	ceramic	pot	3	28
	Roman?	ceramic	pot	3	18
	undated	bone	fragment	17	267
	undated	ceramic	fragment	1	1
Ditch	medieval	ceramic	pot	5	27
	post-medieval	glass	window	1	1
	Roman	ceramic	pot	1	4
	undated	bone	fragment	2	4
	undated	metal	unident	1	68
Floor	modern	ceramic	brick	1	2300
	modern	ceramic	drain	1	77
	modern	ceramic	pot	5	18
	modern	glass	jar	1	7
	post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	2
Layer	medieval	ceramic	pot	7	188

	medieval/post-medieval	stone	building stone	1	1510
	post-medieval	ceramic	tile	4	268
	Roman	ceramic	pot	13	158
	undated	bone	fragment	16	212
	undated	ceramic	brick/tile	1	4
Surface	Roman	ceramic	pot	5	34
	undated	ceramic	brick/tile	2	18
		slag(fe)	fragment	2	93
		bone	fragment	8	146
Topsoil	modern	ceramic	pot	2	9
	post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	2	7
	post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	22
	post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	27
	Roman	ceramic	pot	2	27
	Roman	ceramic	tegula	1	319

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage by feature type, period, material and object type

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	% count	weight(g)	% weight	average sherd wt
Romano-British	3	Malvernian ware	1	1%	10	1%	10
	12	Severn Valley ware	17	25%	173	24%	10
	12.2	Oxidised organically tempered Severn Valley ware	1	1%	7	1%	7
	43	Samian ware	1	1%	23	3%	23
	43.2	Central Gaulish samian ware	1	1%	3	0%	3
	98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	5	7%	47	6%	9
total Roman			26	39%	263	36%	10
Medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	4	6%	127	17%	32

	64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	6	9%	32	4%	5
Medieval/post-medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	14	21%	174	24%	12
total medieval			24	36%	333	45%	14
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	2	3%	45	6%	23
	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	1	1%	27	4%	27
total post-medieval			3	4%	72	10%	24
Modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	1%	21	3%	21
	85	Modern china	13	19%	47	6%	4
total modern			14	21%	68	9%	5
total			67		736		

Table 3: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric

5.2.1 Roman finds

Twenty six fragments of Roman pottery were recovered (Table 3), and one fragment of tegula. With the exception of five sherds from surface 126 and one sherd of Roman pottery from layer 116, the only find from this context, all were clearly residual being associated with medieval or later finds (Table 4). Most were undiagnostic sherds of Severn Valley ware or miscellaneous coarse ware fabrics that could not, without detailed analysis, be attributed a fabric code. The more diagnostic pieces included the rim of a samian, DR 38 bowl, probably dating to the mid- to late 2nd century, found in layer 120. This showed evidence of re-use; it was broken just above the flange, and the break had been deliberately smoothed/worn down. Another body sherd in Central Gaulish Samian, also with a 2nd century date, came from layer 122. Further indications of earlier Roman activity were provided by sherds of handmade Malvernian ware (Fabric 3) and organic-tempered Severn Valley ware (Fabric 12.2), the re-tooled base of a Severn Valley ware tankard, and the shoulder of a jar with pattern burnish, all layer 120. The tegula fragment, which had an upper cut-way, was found in the topsoil (103). Two small fragments of brick/tile from surface 126 might be Roman but were not sufficiently diagnostic to be dated with any confidence. If all the finds from this surface are Roman this would then suggest a Roman date for the two fragments of associated slag.

5.2.2 Medieval finds

There were twenty-four sherds of medieval pottery, including fragments of Worcester-type sandy unglazed cooking pots (Fabric 55) and Worcester and Malvern glazed wares (Fabrics 64.1 and 69). The earliest piece was from a mid-11th-12th century cooking pot. This is a highly unusual example of an early Worcester-type cooking pot (Derek Hurst pers comm), with upright sides, a thickened, slightly cupped rim and a band of impressed decoration on the shoulder. The surfaces were smoke-blackened internally and externally (Plates 23 and 24). This was found in layer 120. The other diagnostic sherds in this fabric dated more typically to the 13th-14th century (e.g. Bryant 2004 type 3, fig 177.9). The Worcester-type glazed wares are broadly dated to the 12th-14th centuries, and included a thumb-impressed base from a jug. The Malvernian glazed wares dated to the 14th-15th centuries and included two strap handles from jugs. Two fragments of lias building stone might also be medieval in date but are not diagnostic.

5.2.3 Post-medieval and modern finds

Various finds were attributed a general post-medieval date. These included fragments of clay pipe stem, tile, and a fragment of pale green window glass. The only find of interest was a small, octagonal ink bottle found in a backfill of construction cut 108 (fill 106). This had a crudely finished neck, 'burst-off from the blowpipe.' This method of finishing was common with cheap, mouth-blown utilitarian bottles made in England in the late 1800s to as late as 1920 (Boow 1991, 60). No maker's mark was evident. A range of modern china, brick and glass was also recorded and a few undated fragments, including a badly corroded indeterminate iron object.

5.2.4 Other finds

Six fragments of flint were recovered. These were all natural and un-worked (Rob Hedge, pers comm) so were discarded.

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	context tpq
103	ceramic	clay pipe	2	7	post-medieval			post-medieval/ modern
		pot	2	27	Roman			
			1	22	post-medieval			
			2	9	modern			
			1	27	post-medieval/ modern			
		tegula	1	319	Roman			
104	ceramic	brick	1	2300	modern			modern
105	ceramic	clay pipe	1	2	post-medieval			modern
		drain	1	77	modern			
		pot	5	18	modern			
	glass	jar	1	7	modern			
106	ceramic	clay pipe	4	6	post-medieval			post-medieval (1875-1920)
		pot	1	23	post-medieval			
			1	21	modern			
			4	17	modern			
	glass	ink bottle	1	59	post-medieval/ modern	1875	1920	
109	ceramic	clay pipe	1	2	post-medieval			modern
		pot	2	3	modern	1800	2000	
116	ceramic	pot	1	12	Roman			Roman

118	bone	animal bone	2	4	undated			post-medieval
	ceramic	pot	1	4	Roman			
			5	27	medieval	12th	14th	
	glass	window	1	1	post-medieval			
	metal	unident	1	68	undated			
120	ceramic	pot	4	56	Roman	AD 43	400+	post-medieval (14th to 15th?)
			1	7	Roman	late 1st	2nd	
			1	23	Roman	mid 2nd	late 2nd	
			1	31	medieval	mid 11th	12th	
			1	6	medieval	13th	17th	
			1	60	medieval	14th	15th	
			1	12	Roman			
		tile	4	268	post-medieval			
	stone	natural flint	4	26	undated			
121	bone	animal bone	17	267	undated			medieval (12th-14th)
	ceramic	pot	3	28	Roman			
			1	5	medieval	12th	14th	
			3	18	Roman?			
122	bone	animal bone	16	212	undated			medieval (13th-14th?)
	ceramic	brick/tile	1	4	undated			
			pot	3	28	Roman		
			1	3	Roman	1st	2nd	
			1	42	medieval	11th	14th	
			1	44	medieval	13th	14th	
			2	5	medieval	13th	17th	
			1	17	Roman			
	stone	natural flint	2	12	undated			
	stone	lias building stone	1	1510	medieval/ post-medieval			

126	bone	animal bone	8	146	undated			Roman (1 st -2 nd ?)
	ceramic	brick/tile	2	18	undated			
		pot	5	34	Roman			
	metal	slag(fe)	2	93	undated			
127	ceramic	pot	1	10	medieval	13th	14th	late medieval/early post med (15th-17th)
			1	3	late med/ early post-med	later 15th	17th	
			9	100	medieval	14th	15th	
		fired clay	1	1	undated			
	stone	lias building stone	1	2034	medieval/ post-medieval			

Table 4: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.2.5 Synthesis

The finds provide an indication of the date range of activity in the vicinity of the site. The Roman finds are of interest, adding to the evidence for Roman activity in Evesham, but apart from one sherd they are all residual. The early Worcester-type cooking pot, dating to the mid-11th to 12th century is an unusual find and therefore, of interest.

5.2.6 Further analysis and reporting

No further work is required on the assemblage.

5.2.7 Discard and retention

The early Worcester-type cooking pot should be retained, should discard be considered by the museum. None of the other finds are of particular significance.

5.3 Animal bone, by Jane Evans

context	material subtype	count	weight(g)	Feature type	Period (tpq)
118	animal bone	2	4	Ditch	post-medieval
121	animal bone	17	267	Construction Cut	medieval (12th-14th)
122	animal bone	16	212	Layer	medieval (13th-14th)
126	animal bone	8	146	Surface	Roman (1st-2nd)
total		43	629		

Forty three fragments of bone were recorded. The assemblage was insufficiently large or securely dated to enable meaningful comparison. Most fragments were associated with deposits that had a medieval, broadly 12th-14th century, *terminus post quem* (tpq). These, however, also contained residual Roman pottery, so the date of deposition is uncertain. The eight fragments from surface 126 are likely to be Roman.

6 Synthesis

Activity of Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern date were identified in Trench 1. No deposits pre-dating the modern period were recorded within Trench 2.

6.1 Roman

The floor surface (126) recorded in the northern sondage is potentially Roman in date, although the pottery cannot be securely identified as such. This surface was sealed by medieval deposits and certainly predates the construction of the 14th century Abbey precinct wall. The composition of the floor has similarities with metaled surfaces recorded during investigations at Roman Kenchester, in Herefordshire. That site identified surfaces, tracks, and roads comprising cobbles, gravels, slag, and other refuse (pottery and animal bone) pressed into clay matrices (Webster 2011). Therefore, it is likely that the metalled surface (126) is an indicator of substantial Roman occupation, and may relate to the movement of people or stock. However, it should be noted that the small sondage in which this deposit was observed, provided a limited assessment, and a deeper understanding will only be acquired through further investigations.

Residual Roman pottery and ceramic building materials were present in the majority of deposits observed within Trench 1, and also form the majority of the assemblage recovered. The pot sherds appear to suggest Roman activity within the vicinity, dating from at least the 1st-2nd centuries AD. Furthermore, Samian ware imported from Gaul, and the roof *tegula* are indicative of a Roman settlement with potentially substantial and high-status structures.

The results of this project, when viewed in their wider context, suggest that Roman occupation in Evesham was located in the area now identified as Merstow Green. This premise is strengthened when considered with the Roman structural features identified at 13, Vine Street (c 100m to the north), which also provided evidence of Roman occupation from the 2nd century AD (Lockett and Griffin 2006). Moreover, 7 fragments of *tegulae* were recovered and provide further evidence for the presence of substantial Roman structures within the vicinity of Merstow Green.

6.2 Medieval

The blue, lias stone wall identified in the north of Trench 2 is considered likely to be the Abbey precinct wall constructed under Abbot Chyryton (1316-44). The wall appears to survive below ground in its original form and now exists as foundations for the post-medieval properties No.44 and 45 Merstow Green. This identification of the wall is supported by artefactual evidence recovered from associated deposits. 13th to 15th century pottery was recovered from a thin deposit beneath the wall, but still within the construction cut. Additionally, the layer truncated by the construction cut, contains pottery dating between the 11th and 14th centuries. These dates are consistent with the historical records dating the wall's construction to the 14th century.

The profile of the construction cut appears to indicate that the wall was trench built. This is consistent with the size of the wall, particularly the 1.5m width recorded in an adjacent development in 1975 (WCC 2016). The presence of frequent blue lias stone chippings and fragments at the base of the construction cut may represent a working horizon, littered with construction refuse.

The wall itself is particularly well constructed, with a fine dressed face. Therefore it remains unclear to what height the structure was intended to exist above ground. Parts of the surviving buried structure may well have been intended to be seen. The overall height of the precinct walls is not known, however, it is reasonable to suggest that substantial foundations would have been required. Therefore, it is unclear if the wall remains recorded in this investigation always functioned as below ground foundations.

The presence of Abbot Chyryton's wall below No.44 and 45 Merstow Green is a significant but not unexpected find. Previous archaeological work in 1975 and 1996 (Cook 1997; WCC 2016), combined with the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Dalwood 1996), identified that the

route of the wall was likely to exist within this area of Merstow Green. This project has been able to positively identify the presence, and survival of the 14th century wall, within the area of the development. Moreover, the course of the wall, when taken in context with previous archaeological work at Boat Lane and Abbey Lane, can now be accurately located.

The presence of a residual sherd of possible Saxo-Norman pot is a reflection of early medieval and Conquest-era activity within the vicinity of the development. This is perhaps unsurprising as Evesham Abbey was founded in the 8th century AD; however, the sherd provides further evidence that Merstow Green was subject to early-medieval activity.

6.3 Post-medieval and modern

The only post-medieval structural feature identified comprised a potential ditch or robbed-out wall, located in the east of Trench 1. The feature had sharp, vertical sides and a flat base, not dissimilar to a construction cut for a wall. The feature followed a north to south alignment and was sealed by a relict topsoil. Some medieval pottery was recovered, along with post-medieval glass. Due to the constraints of the strip foundation trench, this feature was only visible for 0.60m in length, and as such, only a limited interpretation can be given.

The walls (107) and (110), observed in the east of Trench 1, have been dated to the early 20th century. These walls reflect a development predating the former extension, demolished in preparation for this project. Similarly, the surviving floor surface in the west of Trench 1 was also dated to the 20th century. This floor probably represents an external yard surface, or stable flooring, and may have been post-medieval in origin. However, the artefactual evidence suggests that this surface was in use during the 20th century, and repaired and maintained during this period.

All deposits observed within Trench 2 were of 19th century and later date. Wall foundation (204) within Trench 2 is visible on the Ordnance Survey map of 1938 as a boundary wall. Consolidated brick rubble dump (205) within the southern end of Trench 2 is interpreted to be debris from adjacent construction in the mid-late 20th century.

7 The impact of the development

The section of Abbot Chyryton's wall which survives within the development area is not scheduled, unlike the section c 260m to the west, along Boat Lane (NHLE SM 1005501 & LB 1350435). It exists between 0.10m and 0.30m below the current ground surface. Although it is likely to have been damaged during the construction of 44 and 45 Merstow Green, 10 courses have survived as foundations. The associated construction-related deposits also survive with the wall, as well as deposits pre-dating its construction.

The 14th century wall will not be impacted or damaged during this development. It will remain below the ground surface and continue to exist as foundations. The sondage abutting this wall was excavated in order to test the depth of the foundations for the adjoining property No.44 Merstow Green. The sections of the wall which survive within the development area will have lintels placed on top, and will survive as foundations for the rear wall of the new development.

7.1 Impacts on sustainability

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131).

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141), which this investigation has achieved.

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 Alan McColm and APU Retail Ltd at the former Vauxhall Inn, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 03508 43661; HER ref WSM68507). The proposed development site is located in area considered to be of high archaeological potential and so all groundworks associated with the development were monitored.

A dressed, blue-lias stone wall was recorded, surviving below the boundary walls of No.44 and No.45 Merstow Green. The wall survived for ten courses and was determined to be part of the Evesham Abbey precinct wall, constructed in the 14th century under Abbot Chyryton. The wall followed a broadly east to west alignment and the route is consistent with the section of scheduled wall surviving above ground, to the west. Deposits associated with the construction of the wall were also recorded, and indicate that the wall was trench built.

Deposits predating the construction of the 14th century wall were observed. These included a medieval layer, and a potential Roman metalled surface. Residual Roman artefacts were recovered from a large number of deposits on site which comprise the majority of the finds assemblage retained. This project has provided a brief insight into Roman activity within Evesham, and strengthens the premise that the Merstow Green area was at the centre of this occupation.

Further archaeological features recorded comprised a post-medieval ditch, 20th century walls, construction related dump deposits and floors.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Alan McColm, T McKeivitt (APU Retail Ltd), Rob Farman (Rob Farman Building Services Ltd), and Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

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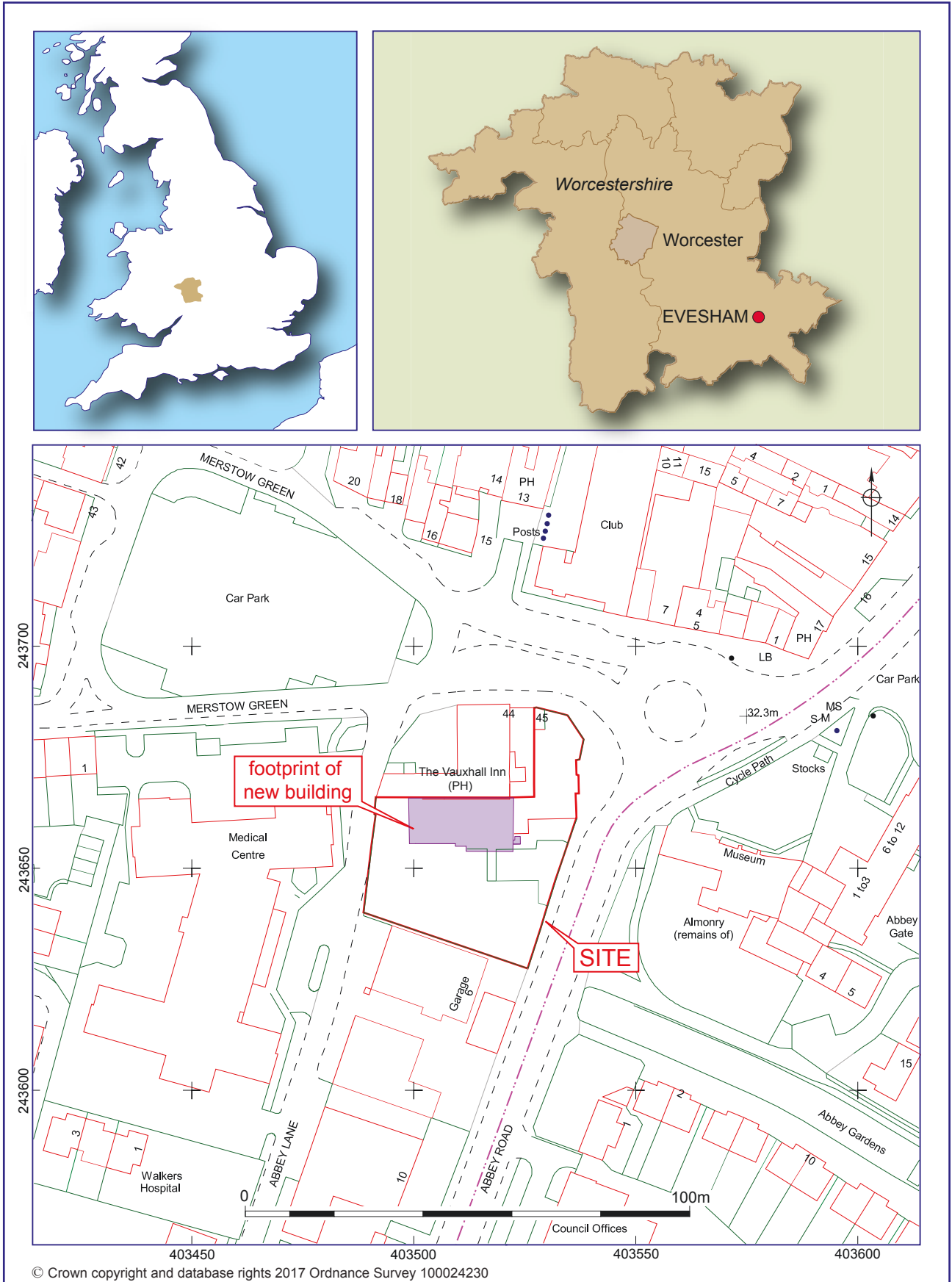
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Figures



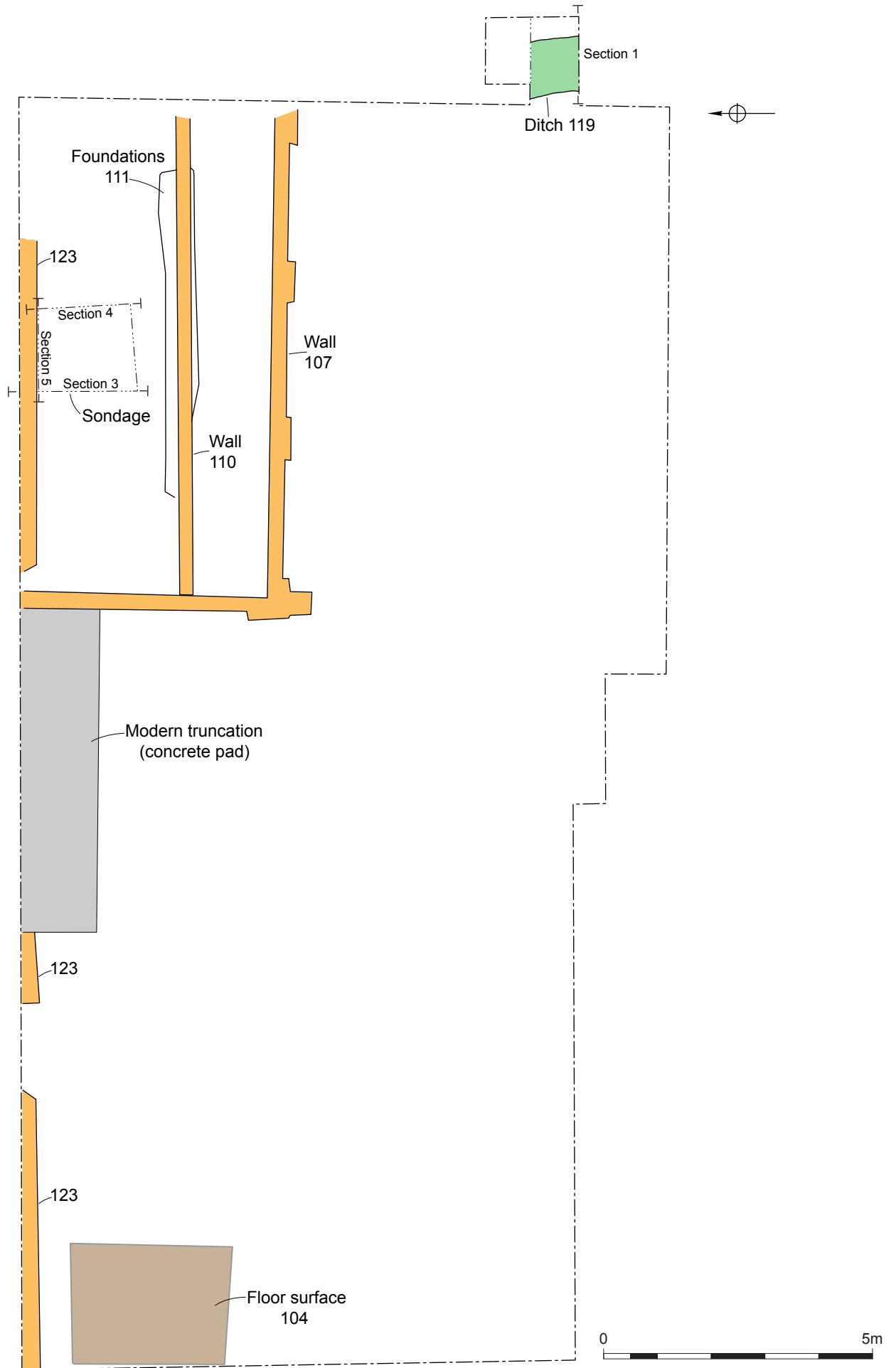
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench 1: groundworks for new building

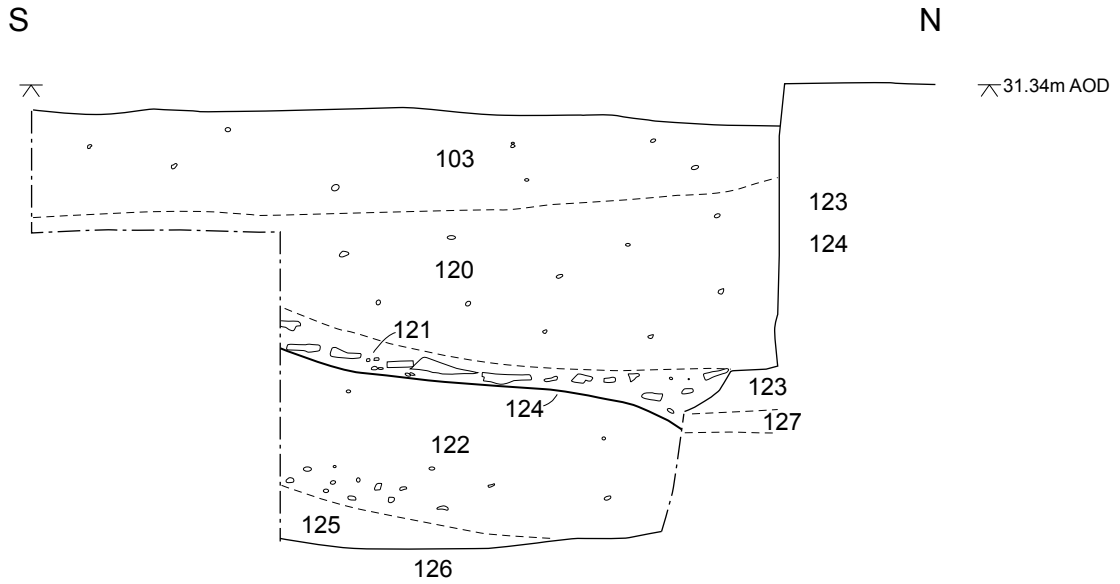
Figure 2



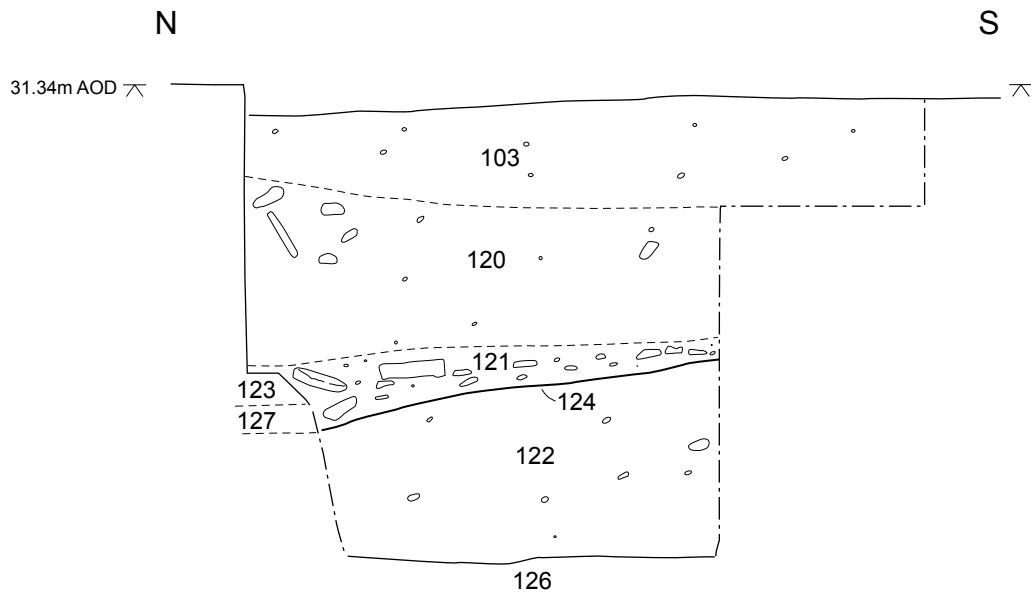
Trench 1: archaeological features

Figure 3

SECTION 3: DEPOSITS ASSOCIATED WITH WALL 123



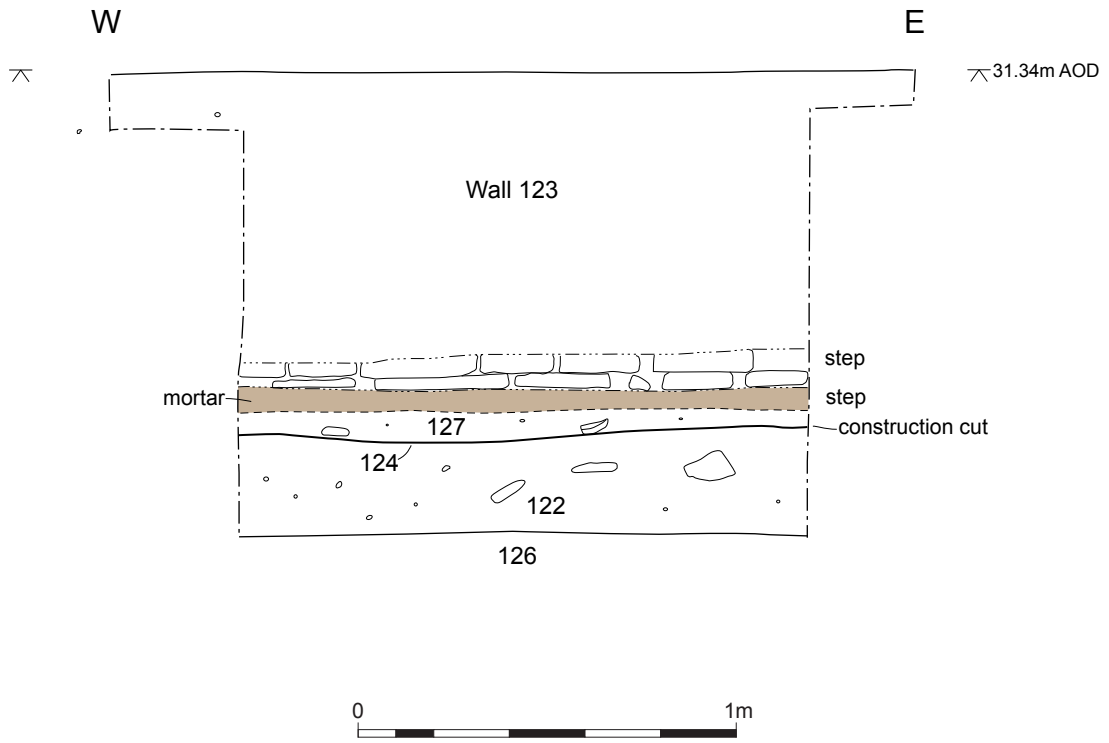
SECTION 4: DEPOSITS ASSOCIATED WITH WALL 123



Sections 3 and 4

Figure 4

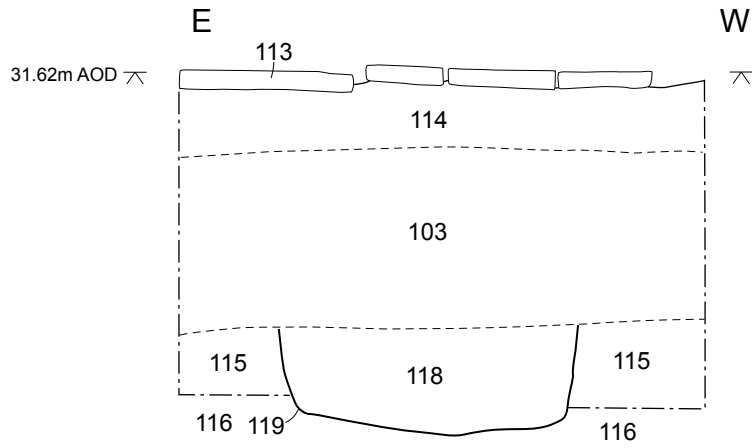
SECTION 5: WALL 123



Section 5

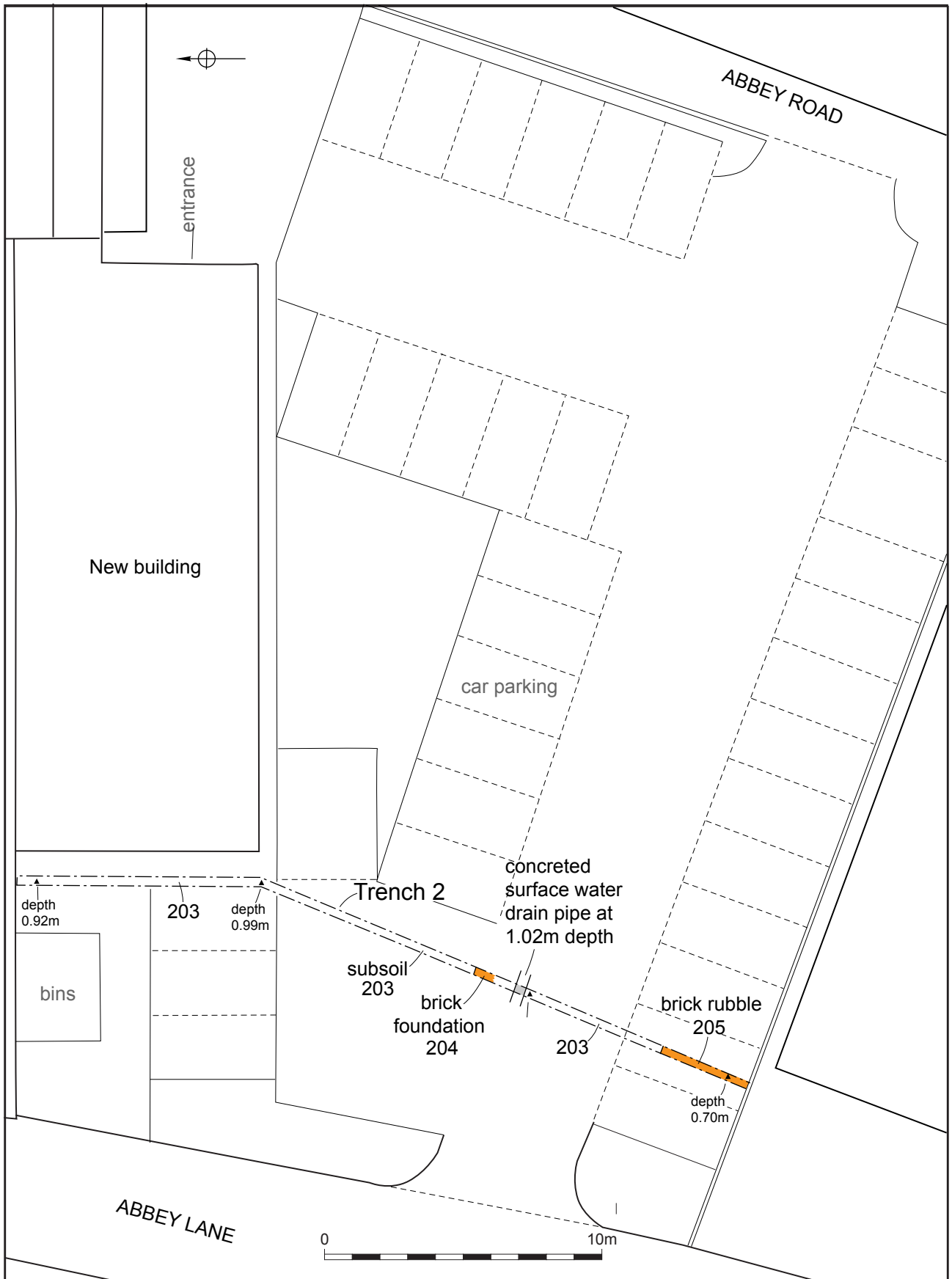
Figure 5

SECTION 1: DITCH 119



Section 1

Figure 6



Trench 2: location and plan

Figure 7

Plates



Plate 1, The site from the south-west, view north-east, 2x 1m scales



Plate 2, Floor surface 104, view north, 2x 1m scales



Plate 3, Walls 107 and 110, view north-east, 2x 1m scales



Plate 4, Wall 110 above blue lias foundations 111, view south, 0.5m scale 0.5m



Plate 5, Strip foundation trench, view east, 2x 1m scales

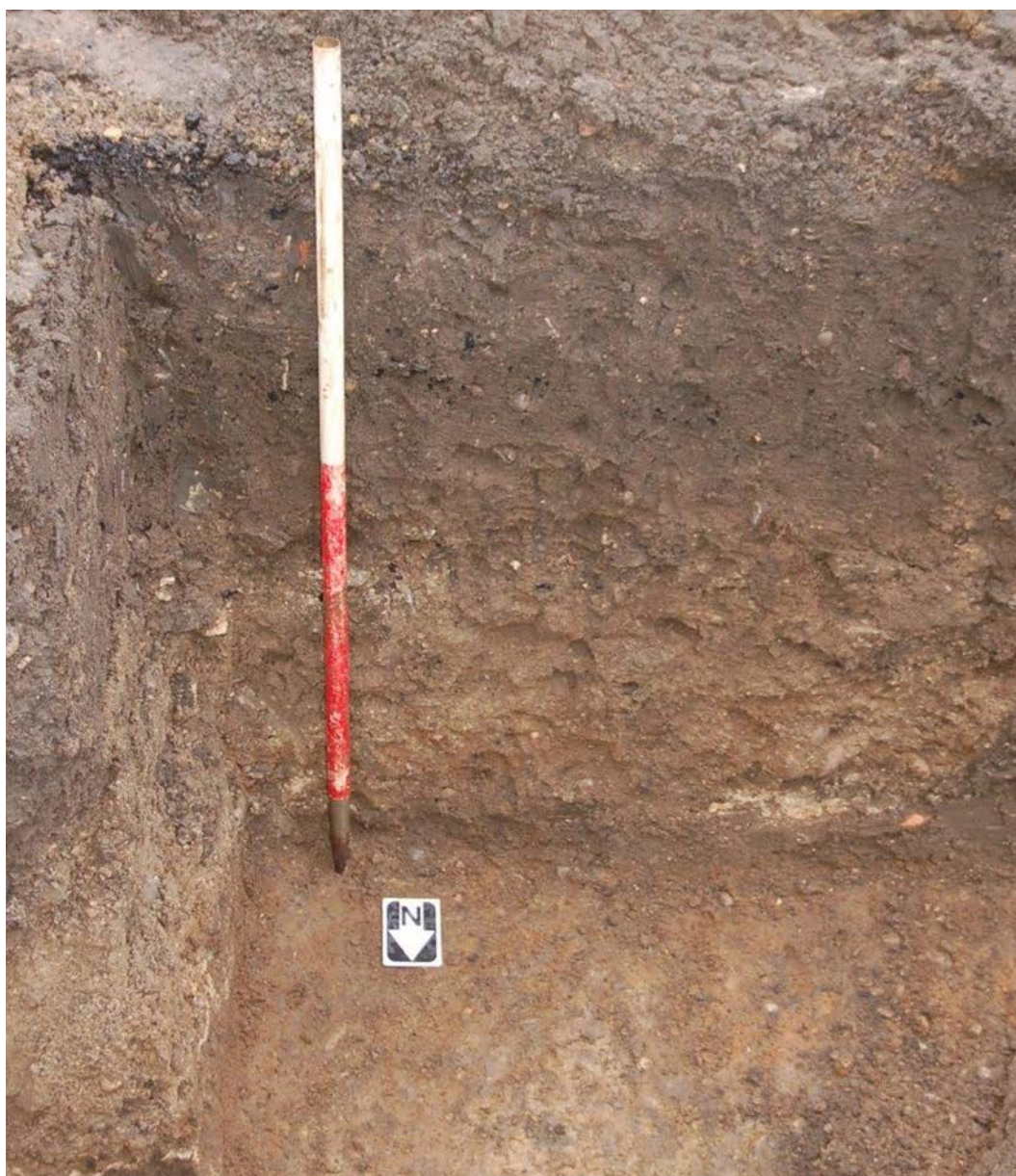


Plate 6, Strip foundation trench baulk; showing buried topsoil 103, yellowish subsoil 115, and thin deposit 116 at base of baulk, above natural substrate 117, view south, 1m scale



Plate 7, Pre-excitation shot of ditch or robbed-out wall 119, view south, 0.5m scale



Plate 8, Post-excitation shot of ditch or robbed-out wall 119, view south, 0.5m scale



Plate 9, East facing section of the sondage beside wall 123, view west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 10, East facing section of the sondage beside wall 123, view north-west, 1m scale



Plate 11, West facing section of the sondage beside wall 123, view east, 1m scale



Plate 12, West facing section of sondage beside wall 123, view north-east, 1m scale



Plate 13, Abbot Chryton's wall with boundary wall of No.44 Merstow Green built above, view north, 1m scale



Plate 14, Abbot Chryton's wall above earlier deposit 122, view north, 1m scale



Plate 15, Sondage south of Abbot Chryton's wall, floor surface 126 visible at the base, view north, 0.5m and 1m scales



Plate 16, Floor surface 126 at the base of the sondage; pebbles, cobbles and iron slag compacted into a clay sand, view north, 0.5m scale



Plate 17, Abbot Chryton's wall at west of site, view west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 18, Abbot Chryton's wall at west of site; the red bricks of No.44 Merstow Green are above the earlier blue lias stone wall, view north-west, 1m scale



Plate 19, general view of north end of Trench 2, view north, 2x 1m scales



Plate 20, sample section of Trench 2, view south, 2x 1m scales



Plate 21, wall foundation (single course) (204) in Trench 2, view west, 1m scale



Plate 22, consolidated rubble deposit (205) in the south end of Trench 2, view north-east, 2x 1m scales



Plate 23, Rim sherd of the mid-11th to 12th century 'Worcester type' cooking pot from layer (120), 2x 5cm scales



Plate 24, Close up of the impressed decoration located on the shoulder of the mid-11th to 12th century 'Worcester type' cooking pot, no scale

Appendix 1 Context descriptions

Trench 1

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Surface	Layer	Hard Tarmac	0.09m	Tarmac car park surface in west and south of site.
101	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose light yellow Hardcore	0.10m	Yellow sand and rubble bedding layer for tarmac (100).
102	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose rubble	0.10- 0.35m	A rubble / demolition / hardcore horizon below the recently demolished part of Vauxhall Inn. Due to demolition works, very difficult to determine what was a hardcore bedding for the building and what is a demolition horizon. Covers the east and north of site within the floorplan of former pub and associated buildings (over ground cellar).
103	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black clay loam	0.47m	Dark, loamy soil present across the entire site. Likely an old buried topsoil / garden soil. Present beneath floor plan of former pub (102) etc. Also present below patio layers (113) + (114); and car park layers (100) + (101). Appears to be below floor (104) + (105) and walls (109) + (110). Cut by construction cuts [108] + [112]. Varies in depth but seems to be 0.47m at deepest. Depth possibly relates to constant reworking of soils during market garden industry. Dependent on levels of truncation and build up above, it appears to be between 0.20m and 0.35m below current ground surface. It butts wall (123) and likely built up against it.
104	Floor	Structure		0.07m	Small patch of floor surface located at west end of site. Appears to be a mish-mash of redbrick and blue lias slabs. Finds from layer (105) suggest this floor was at least repaired in 20th century. Red bricks consist of three types: bricks without frogs, bricks with a frog

					<p>and the word MARSTON, and bricks with a frog and the word PHORPR and L.B. Finds from (105) included modern pot, glass, wood, and a piece of clay pipe. Also one fragment of red quarry tile was present in this floor. Blue lias slabs likely robbed out from nearby abbey precinct wall (123). There appears to be a form of edging on the south of this patch of floor - bricks laid the opposite way round. Suggests this was an original edge / limit of flooring.</p>
105	Floor	Layer	Moderately Compact dark blackish brown sandy clay	0.06m	<p>Bedding layer in preparation for the laying of floor (104). Dark in colour. Finds post-med and probably modern: some appear to be 20th century. This layer, along with floor (105), was later removed and observed to be sat above buried soil (103).</p>
106	Construction Cut	Fill	Moderately Compact mid brownish grey sandy silt		<p>Backfill around wall (107) in construction cut [108]. Finds comprise pottery (potentially 20th century), animal bone, glass and clay pipe. Finds suggest this wall was backfilled around 19th / 20th centuries. Fill contains significant amount of charcoal.</p>
107	Wall	Structure		0.23m	<p>Redbrick wall which runs east-west, before returning north to the boundary wall of property No.44 Merstow Green. Appears to be an outer / load-bearing wall as foundations are not visible. Dates from (106) suggest post-med, possibly 19th or 20th century. It is abutted by wall (110) which is likely an internal, partition wall. Redbrick 234mm by 120mm by 76mm. Some of the bricks appear to have a whitewash.</p>
108	Construction Cut	Cut		Unexc	<p>Construction cut for wall (107). Filled by wall (107) and backfill (106). Finds suggest post-med to modern date. Construction cut not bottomed. Cuts</p>

109	Construction Cut	Fill	Soft light greyish brown silty sand	0.58m	through buried topsoil Backfill around wall (110) and foundations (111) in construction cut [112]. Fill contains post-med pottery and clay pipe. Possibly even modern 20th century.
110	Wall	Structure		0.26m	Red brick wall (110) built on foundations of blue lias stones (111). It butts earlier wall (107) and is likely an internal partition wall as the foundations are not as deep. Finds from (109) suggest post-med. 2 courses of redbrick survive. Brick dimensions: 227mm by 79mm by 127mm.
111	foundations	Structure		0.32m	Foundations stones comprising blue lias slabs laid down in preparation for construction of wall (110). It is believed that this foundation layer was robbed out from the original abbey precinct wall (123). These foundations are not particularly substantial so it is likely that wall (110) was an internal wall. Sits above buried soil (103).
112	Construction Cut	Cut		0.58m	Construction cut for wall (110), foundations (111), and backfill (109). Likely post-med to modern. Truncated heavily by later activity above (102) etc.
113	Modern Layer	Layer	Compact Concrete	0.05m	Concrete paving slabs associated with the beer garden for the former pub. Located at east and south of site, around foundation strip trench.
114	Modern Layer	Layer	Compact light yellow Hardcore	0.17m	Yellow sand, gravels and limestone fragments. Hardcore for beer garden patio slabs (113).
115	Subsoil	Layer	Loose dark brownish yellow silty sand	0.23m	A sandy layer with few inclusions apart from sand, and pebbles / gravels. Cut by ditch [119]. Sits above layer (116) which may be Roman in date. Possibly a subsoil or a made ground from redeposited natural. Sits below (103). No finds. Located in south of site, and seen in strip foundation trench. Distinct from (120), a brown subsoil

					which sits below (103) in north of site. Suggests different activities going on.
116	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark greyish brown silty sand	0.12m	Thin layer below (115) but just above natural substrate (117). Seen at bottom of strip foundation trench approx 0.90 - 1.00m below ground surface. Some pottery recovered from this layer - potentially Roman. This layer is potentially the same as layer (122) seen in the north of site.
117	Natural	Layer	Soft mid reddish orange		Orange sand and gravel natural seen at roughly 1.15m - 1.30m below ground surface in strip foundation trench at south of site. In centre of site, at the base of a concrete pad footing, it was observed at 1.00m bgs. No sign of it in north of site at all.
118	Ditch	Fill	Moderately Compact mid greyish brown silty sand	0.29m	Fill of ditch [119]. Brown silty deposit. Sealed by buried topsoil (103). Above subsoils (115) and (116). Contains some pot and glass. Pot seems medieval. Glass makes it seem post-medieval - could be intrusive?
119	Ditch	Cut		0.29m	Cut of north-south ditch seen in eastern end of strip foundation trench. Approx 0.90m below current ground surface. Finds suggest medieval to post-med; plus it cuts through potential subsoils (115) + (116). Quite shall. Possibly related to former buildings on this plot. Seems possible that it is actually the remnants of a construction cut for a robbed out wall. The sides of the cut are very steep and near vertical, and the base is particularly flat.
120	Layer	Layer	Soft dark orangey brown silty sand	0.50m	Dark brown, sandy deposit / layer below post-med buried topsoil (103). Appears to be above and abut wall related deposits (121), (123). Unclear on depositional processes. Possibly an old horizon, built up against wall. Some

121	Construction Cut	Fill	Compact dark greyish brown rubble	0.10m	<p>Roman and Saxo-Norman pot likely residual as the wall should date to 14th century AD. Possibly similar to (103) that this deep, rich soil is related to some form of market garden activity.</p> <p>Thin layer consisting of blue lias stone fragments in a silty sand matrix. Appears to be sitting above construction cut [124] for abbey precinct wall (123). This is likely a layer relating to construction refuse when the wall was built. Possibly a backfill. Slopes in towards the wall from the south (as seen in sondage sections). Shows construction cut nicely. Contains some pot and</p>
122	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark blackish brown silty sand	0.42m	<p>Dark, fine sandy layer below wall / construction related deposits (127) and (121). Cut by construction cut [124]. A possible Roman horizon. Only pot recovered appears to be Roman in date. Sits above deposits (125) and (126).</p>
123	Wall	Structure		0.90m surviving	<p>Blue lias stone wall or wall foundations for Abbot Chryton's precinct walls, which head west down Boat Lane towards the river. Walls damaged by post-med buildings No. 44 and No. 45 which are built on top of these and use them as foundations. 10 courses remain with a step out consisting of a further 2 courses. Bigger blocks are present 2 courses from the top. Possibly the start of the visible wall? Visible in trench (eastern end) for 8.70m. Present at west end of trench but only 0.10m-0.20m below surface. Only 8 courses survive here. Should be 14th century in date. According to historical records. Within construction cut [124], which can be seen below (121). Possibly above Roman layer (122). There seems to be some form of chisel marks on the</p>

					stones. Largest block measures 470mm x 220m x 150mm. Smallest measures 210mm in length and 50mm in depth. 10 courses of dressed, squared, irregular stretcher blue lias stone blocks.
124	Construction Cut	Cut			Construction cut for wall (123). Contains related deposits (121) and (127). Appears to be the bottom / base of cut that is visible in sections. This suggests that the wall was trench built. Which makes a lot of sense considering the size
125	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.15m visible	Light, sandy layer below (122) and above (126). Only visible in east facing section 3 of sondage. It is potentially just a lens in (122) or a localised deposit. No finds. Seems to slope towards the north.
126	Surface	Layer	Compact dark yellowish brown clayey sand	Unexc	Possible cobbled surface below (125) and (122). Contains frequent pebbles and cobbles in a clay sand matrix. Clearly not natural - contains charcoal, animal bone, and pot. Also represents the limit of our excavation. Did not dig sondage any deeper. Pot may suggest a Roman date. Could just be a very compact layer, but in plan looks like a surface. Also appears to have small quantities of slag / hearth concretions compacted into the surface along with the cobbles and pebbles. Could be a form of metaled surface.
127	Construction Cut	Fill	Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.16m	Layer / fill below the mortar footings of wall (123). Seems to be a possible trample layer at the base of construction cut and may be the same as (121) or at least virtually contemporary. Contains some possible medieval pot. Likely a construction related deposit. Sits above (122).

Trench 2

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Surface	Layer	Hard Tarmac	0.14m	Tarmac car park surface; over 201
201	Modern Layer	Layer	Mixed hardcore /rubble	0.08-0.56m	Red brick frag; occ blue brick frag angular gravel; dark yellow/brown sand; occ small/large pebbles & cobbles; occ yellow sandstone frags; discrete patches of light grey hardcore; below 200; irregular boundary with 202 below; levelling deposit; to 0.37m bgs north of 204; to 0.56m bgs to south of 204
202	Relict soil	Layer	dark blackish brown sandy silt	0.31-0.48m	occ 19 th -20 th C debris; compact & cohesive; well defined boundary with 203 below; redeposited?
203	Subsoil	Layer	mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.48m+	occ small pebbles, yellow sandstone, brick & porcelain frags; compact & cohesive; below 202; extends beyond base of trench
204	Wall foundation	Structure	laid red brick frags	0.58m+	bedded in cream/yellow sandy mortar; within base of or below 201; above 202 Surrounded by cream/yellow mortar / decayed cement; irregularly laid; brick frags only; width unclear as merges with 201 rubble to south; only 2 courses extant; visible on 4 th edition OS map as a boundary wall
205	Modern Layer	Layer	brick/mortar rubble deposit	0.70m+	Very compact & cohesive; red 19 th C bricks in decayed light brownish cream cement mortar; flattish surface but irregular & uneven; below 202; full depth unknown; within southern c3.30m of trench only; debris from adj construction?

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 68507)

The archive consists of:

29	Context records AS1
2	Field progress reports AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
172	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
7	Scale drawings (5 on permatrace; 2 on paper)
1	Context number catalogue AS5
3	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:

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

A copy of the report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) as appropriate.

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 68507 (event HER number)

P4802

Artefacts

Period (note 1)	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	count	weight(g)	specialist report (note 2)	key assemblage (note 3)
late med/early post-med	ceramic	pot	later 15th	17th	1	3	yes	no
medieval	ceramic	pot	11th	14th	1	42	yes	no
medieval	ceramic	pot	12th	14th	6	32	yes	no
medieval	ceramic	pot	13th	14th	2	54	yes	no
medieval	ceramic	pot	13th	17th	3	11	yes	no
medieval	ceramic	pot	14th	15th	10	160	yes	no
medieval	ceramic	pot	mid 11th	late 11th	1	31	yes	yes
medieval/post-medieval?	stone	building stone			2	3544	yes	no
modern	ceramic	brick			1	2300	yes	no
modern	ceramic	drain			1	77	yes	no
modern	ceramic	pot			12	65	yes	no
modern	ceramic	pot	1800	2000	2	3	yes	no
modern	glass	jar			1	7	yes	no
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe			8	17	yes	no
post-medieval	ceramic	pot			2	45	yes	no
post-medieval	ceramic	tile			4	268	yes	no
post-medieval	glass	window			1	1	yes	no
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot			1	27	yes	no
post-medieval/modern	glass	ink bottle	1875	1920	1	59	yes	no
Roman	ceramic	pot			16	184	yes	no
Roman	ceramic	pot	1st	2nd	1	3	yes	no
Roman	ceramic	pot	late 1st	2nd	1	7	yes	no
Roman	ceramic	pot	mid 2nd	late 2nd	1	23	yes	no

Roman	ceramic	tegula			1	319	yes	no
Roman?	ceramic	pot			3	18	yes	no
undated	bone	fragment			43	629	yes	no
undated	ceramic	brick/tile			1	4	yes	no
undated	ceramic	fragment			1	1	yes	no
undated	stone	fragment			6	38	yes	no
undated	metal	unident			1	68	yes	no

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

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	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.
