

# Archaeological watching brief at 84, High Street, Broadway Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,  
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Status:

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## Archaeological watching brief at 84, High Street, Broadway, Worcestershire

Jamie Wilkins and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by C Jane Evans and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### Background information

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Consultant</i>                            | Alan McColm                         |
| <i>Client</i>                                | Tibbitts Family Discretionary Trust |
| <i>National Grid reference</i>               | SO 10054 37618                      |
| <i>Historic Environment Record reference</i> | WSM68498                            |
| <i>Planning authority</i>                    | Wychavon District Council           |
| <i>Reference</i>                             | 15/03069 and 15/03071               |
| <i>Brief</i>                                 | WCC 2014                            |
| <i>Project design</i>                        | WA 2017                             |
| <i>Project parameters</i>                    | ClfA 2014a                          |

#### *Previous archaeological work on the site*

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

#### *Archaeological, Historical, and Geological Background*

The site is located at the east end of the High Street, Broadway, situated at 104mAOD. The topography of the site is relatively flat, but the eastern end of the High Street is located at the top of a gentle slope, and is c 14m higher than the western end. The bedrock geology of the area is comprises Charmouth Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary rock formed by shallow seas in the Jurassic period, 183 to 197 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2017). No superficial deposits are recorded in the vicinity of the site.

84, along with 86, High Street, are listed buildings, of mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century date (WSM10903). The listing description is as follows (List Entry Number: 1288373):

*SP 1037 BROADWAY CP HIGH STREET (north side) 9/52 Nos 84 & 86 GV II Two houses. Mid- and late C18 with late C19 alterations. Limestone ashlar and squared rubble with brick, and slate roof. Two storeys. No 84, at left, of two bays with storey band. On the ground floor are canted bay windows on stone bases, linked by a slated canopy. On the first floor are iron casement windows with timber frames and openings with plain reveals. Doorway, between bays, has plain reveals. Chimney at right has cyma cornice. No 86 is of one bay. On the ground floor is a canted bay window with stone base, under a slated canopy which extends over the door to the left. The first floor wall is of brick and has a casement window with glazing bars. The door has plain reveals. Chimney to right of No 84. The right-hand gable wall shows the line of a previous thatched roof of steep pitch.*

A brief archaeological background is given in a letter from Worcestershire County Council to Wychavon District Council (dated 21 December 2016); as follows:

*The proposed development site is situated in the historic core of Broadway and forms part of an area of tenement plots on the north side of the High Street that can be identified from historic maps (WSM17732). They are first recorded cartographically in 1771 but are likely to be medieval in origin and were certainly established and built-up between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, as illustrated by the application property (WSM10903) and surrounding buildings, which span this date range.*

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*Consequently, the development area has the potential to contain archaeological remains that could provide information regarding the development and expansion of the village over time.*

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken along the High Street, revealing evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity primarily in the form of a selection of residual finds including pottery, ceramic building material, and animal bone. The projects comprised:

- 1994 – *Salvage recording at 96 High Street (WSM21625)*
- 1995 – *Watching Brief at 58b High Street (WSM23036)*
- 1995 – *Watching Brief at 108 High Street (WSM23953)*
- 2003 – *Watching Brief at 107 High Street (WSM32989)*

A large archaeological excavation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology in late 2016 and early 2017, in association with flood defence works at Badsey Brook, approximately 1km south-west of 84, High Street (WSM68324). This investigation revealed activity from a variety of periods, including Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon (Bradley forthcoming).

## **Aims**

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

## **Methods**

### *General specification for fieldwork*

WA 2012

### *Sources consulted*

HER

Sources cited by the HER

1771 Inclosure map of Broadway, scale 1:10,000, transcribed by David Gyatt, 1999

1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, 1884-5, scale 25":1 mile

### *Dates of fieldwork*

6 March to 19 April 2017

### *Area of site*

c 57.5m<sup>2</sup>

### *Dimensions of excavated areas observed –*

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Footings Trench | length 11.10m       |
|                 | width 7.50m         |
|                 | depth 0.72m – 0.94m |

### *Access to or visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation of the floor plan and strip foundations for the new rear extension. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, as a toothless, bladed bucket was employed. The trench, at only 0.72m-0.94m in depth, was safe to enter in order to record the deposits present.

*Artefacts, by C Jane Evans*

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (2014b), for archive creation by AAF (2011) and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

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

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each context. All information was recorded on a pro forma Access 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)).

*Statement of confidence*

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

**Deposit description**

| Context | Classification | Description   | Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits |
|---------|----------------|---|---|
| 100     | Modern layer   | Loose, orangey-yellow, sandy mortar skim, located across the floor plan of a former patio area.   | 0m - 0.08m  |
| 101     | Topsoil        | Moderately compact, dark black, silty clay, buried topsoil present across entirety of trench. Frequent inclusions of rubble, animal bone, charcoal, pottery, glass, ceramic building materials, and sub-angular limestone cobbles and pebbles. Below (100) and (104). | 0.08m – 0.35m   |
| 102     | Subsoil        | Moderately compact, mid yellowish-brown, silty clay. A disturbed natural or subsoil. Moderate inclusions of animal bone, charcoal, pottery, ceramic building materials, and sub-angular limestone cobbles and pebbles. Sealed by (101).                               | 0.35m-0.72m   |
| 103     | Natural        | Compacted, yellow, sandy clay brash and limestone. Cotswold natural geology.  | 0.72m +   |
| 104     | Hardcore       | Loose, rubble hard-core layer located below the floor plan of the former extension, demolished prior to project. Comprising limestone, ceramic building materials and glass, in a silty clay matrix.  | 0.08m – 0.28m   |

No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed. The development required machine excavation of the entire floorplan to a depth of c 0.70m below ground surface (bgs). A second phase of development required the excavation of a strip foundation for wall footings, however this was not observed as the natural geology was exposed in the initial strip, with no archaeological features or deposits present.

The stratigraphy observed across site varied due to the location of the former 1960s extension which was demolished in preparation for the new development. Within the floor plan of the former extension the overlying deposit comprised rubble hardcore. Exterior to the floorplan of the former extension, an overlying sandy mortar layer was recorded. This deposit related to a former garden patio, also removed prior to the current groundworks. Both of these deposits were modern in date and were associated with the most recent phase of occupation at this property.

A former garden soil, 101, was observed below modern deposits 100 and 104. This comprised a dark blackish-brown clay loam, with frequent inclusions, including pottery, animal bone, glass, ceramic building material (CBM), and clay pipe fragments. A selection of the material culture present was retained for identification. Below this deposit a possible subsoil, 102, was recorded. It comprised dark greenish-brown silty clay and may have been redeposited natural, potentially related to the construction of the present house. This layer contained inclusions of sub-angular limestone fragments and pebbles, animal bone and pottery.

The natural substrate was recorded on site as a yellow limestone brash, and was present across the entirety of the area observed. There was some variety in the depths at which this deposit was recorded; to the south this deposit was at 100.27m AOD, and to the north it was at 100.50m AOD.

## Artefactual Analysis by C Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1-4. Finds included post-medieval and modern pottery, clay pipe, animal bone and oyster shell (Table 1). All finds came from the former garden soil 101 and subsoil 102.

| period        | material class | material subtype | object specific type | count | weight(g) |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| post-medieval | ceramic        | earthenware      | clay pipe            | 3     | 10        |
| post-medieval | ceramic        | earthenware      | pot                  | 8     | 354       |
| modern        | ceramic        | earthenware      | pot                  | 3     | 14        |
| undated       | bone           | animal bone      | fragment             | 5     | 567       |
| undated       | organic        | shell (oyster)   | shell                | 1     | 9         |

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

| Broad period  | fabric code | Fabric common name       | count | weight(g) | average weight |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|
| Post-medieval | 78          | Post-medieval red ware   | 4     | 293       | 73             |
| Post-medieval | 81.2        | Westerwald stoneware     | 1     | 16        | 16             |
| Post-medieval | 81.3        | Nottingham stoneware     | 1     | 4         | 4              |
| Post-medieval | 84          | Creamware                | 1     | 5         | 5              |
| Post-medieval | 91          | Post-medieval buff wares | 1     | 36        | 36             |
| Modern        | 85          | Modern china             | 3     | 14        | 5              |
| total         |             |                          | 11    | 368       | 33             |

*Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric*

*Summary of artefactual evidence by period**Post medieval*

A range of post-medieval pottery fabrics was identified (Table 2), most dating broadly to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century, consistent with the dating of the tenement plots. Forms included dishes and bowls in black- and brown-glazed ware (Fabric 78), mugs in Westerwald and Nottingham stoneware (Fabrics 81.2, 81.3), and a press-moulded dish with trailed slip decoration. Most of the pottery came from the former garden soil 101, only two sherds coming from the subsoil 102. The only other post-medieval finds were fragments of clay pipe stem, not closely datable.

*Modern*

Three sherds of modern pottery were recovered from the former garden soil 101; two joining sherds from a blue-and-white decorated cup, and a stripe-decorated sherd from another vessel.

| context | material class | object specific type | fabric code   | Broad period  | count | weight(g) | Start date | End date | tpq date range |
|---------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-----------|------------|----------|----------------|
| 101     | ceramic        | pot                  | 78            | Post-medieval | 2     | 185       | 1600       | 1800     | 1800-2000      |
|         |                |                      | 81.2          | Post-medieval | 1     | 16        | 1600       | 1750     |                |
|         |                |                      | 81.3          | Post-medieval | 1     | 4         | 1690       | 1790     |                |
|         |                |                      | 84            | Post-medieval | 1     | 5         | 1760       | 1790     |                |
|         |                |                      | 85            | Modern        | 3     | 14        | 1800       | 2000     |                |
|         |                |                      | 91            | Post-medieval | 1     | 36        | 1700       | 1800     |                |
|         | clay pipe      |                      | Post-medieval | 2             | 8     |           |            |          |                |
|         | organic        | shell (oyster)       |               | undated       | 1     | 9         |            |          |                |
| bone    | animal bone    |                      | undated       | 2             | 146   |           |            |          |                |
| 102     | ceramic        | pot                  | 78            | Post-medieval | 2     | 108       | 1600       | 1800     | 1600-1800      |
|         |                | clay pipe            |               | Post-medieval | 1     | 2         |            |          |                |
|         | bone           | animal bone          |               | undated       | 3     | 421       |            |          |                |

*Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts*

## Animal Bone, by Elizabeth Pearson

| context | material class | material subtype | count | weight(g) | Feature type | Period                  |
|---------|----------------|------------------|-------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 101     | bone           | animal bone      | 2     | 146       | Garden soil  | post-medieval to modern |
| 102     | bone           | animal bone      | 3     | 421       | subsoil      | post-medieval           |
| Totals  |                |                  | 5     | 567       |              |                         |

*Table 4: Hand-collected animal bone by context*

A total of 5 fragments (567g) of animal bone were hand-collected from the post-medieval/modern former garden soil and subsoil. The animal bone was well-preserved, consisting of, for example a single cattle metacarpal, chopped through the shaft and showing possible signs of waterlogging. A single cattle radius and shaft of a possible cattle femur or humerus (both butchered) were recovered from the subsoil. Little interpretation could be made of these remains, although their preservation shows the potential for recovering well-preserved and relatively intact animal bone, should further fieldwork be undertaken in the vicinity.

A single part-complete oyster shell was also recovered from the garden soil 101.

### *Further analysis and reporting*

No further analysis is required.

### *Discard and retention*

All finds could be considered for discard in consultation with the receiving museum.

## Conclusions

No significant archaeological features or deposits were present within the groundworks monitored (the floor plan of the new rear extension). A former garden soil and possible subsoil were present below modern hardcore deposits. These layers contained a selection of post-medieval/modern pottery, CBM, and animal bone which are typical of assemblages associated with domestic refuse.

There is the potential that the deposit 102 is not a naturally occurring subsoil, but is disturbed or redeposited natural. It was present across the entirety of the trench, and may be associated with a form of levelling or large scale construction, possibly for the present house in the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This might explain the lack of deposits or features predating the post-medieval period, in an area where evidence of medieval activity would otherwise be anticipated.

## 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 at the request of Alan McColm, on behalf of the Tibbitts Family Discretionary Trust, at 84, High Street, Broadway, Worcestershire (NGR SO 10054 37618; HER ref. WSM68498). 84, High Street is a listed building (WSM10903; LEN1288373).*

*No significant archaeological features, structures, layers, deposits or finds were recorded within the groundworks monitored. A former garden soil was present, and contained artefactual evidence typical of post-medieval domestic refuse. This soil overlay a possible subsoil, or redeposited natural deposit, containing a similar artefactual assemblage, indicating a similar date of origin. It*

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may relate to levelling or construction activity, potentially associated with the construction of the present house in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The natural sandy clay brash was noted at c 0.72m below the ground surface.

## Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Alan McColm, Mark Tibbitts (the Tibbitts Family Discretionary Trust), Rob Beardsmore (SWP Building Contractors), and Adrian Scruby (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council).

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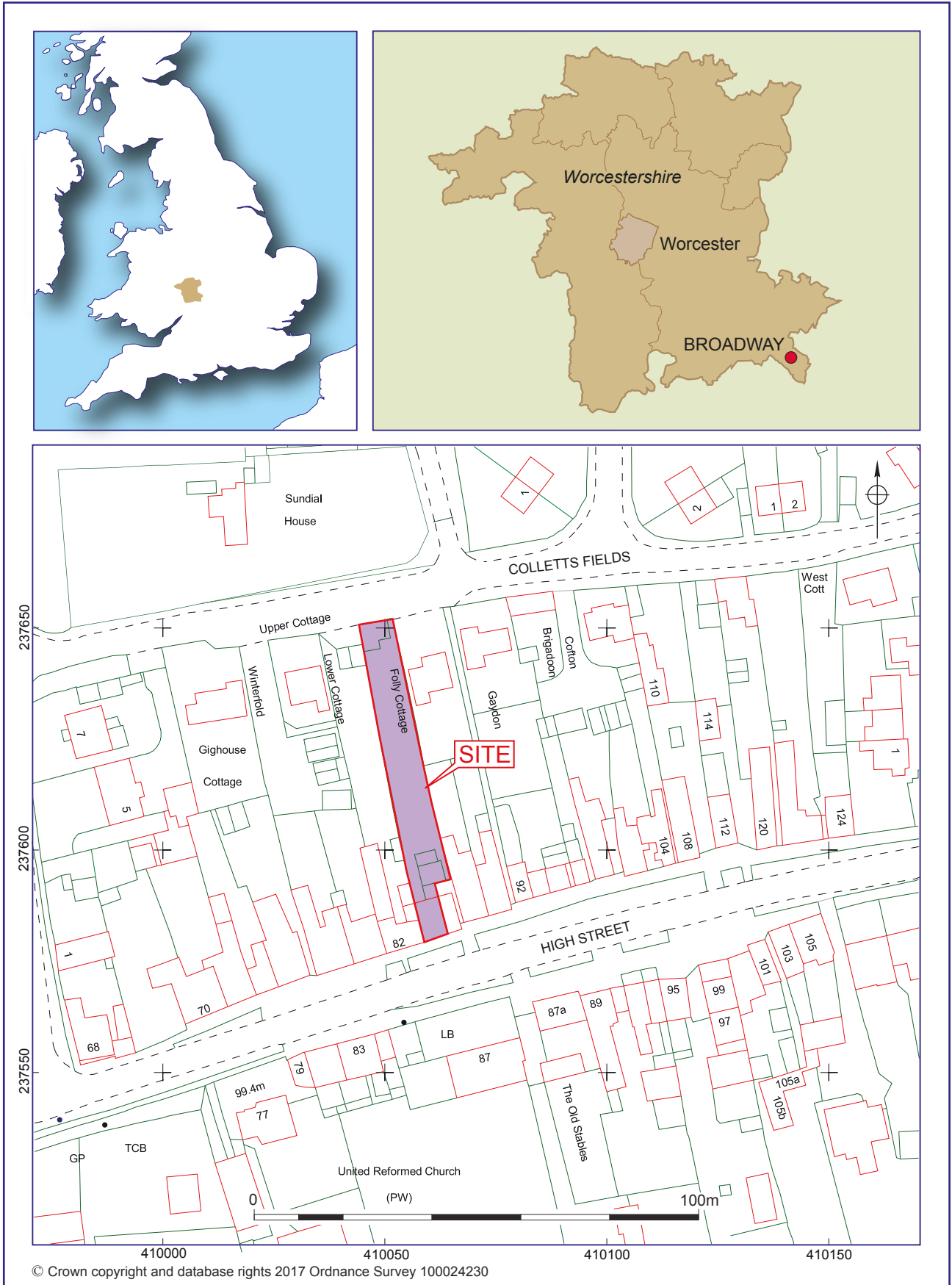
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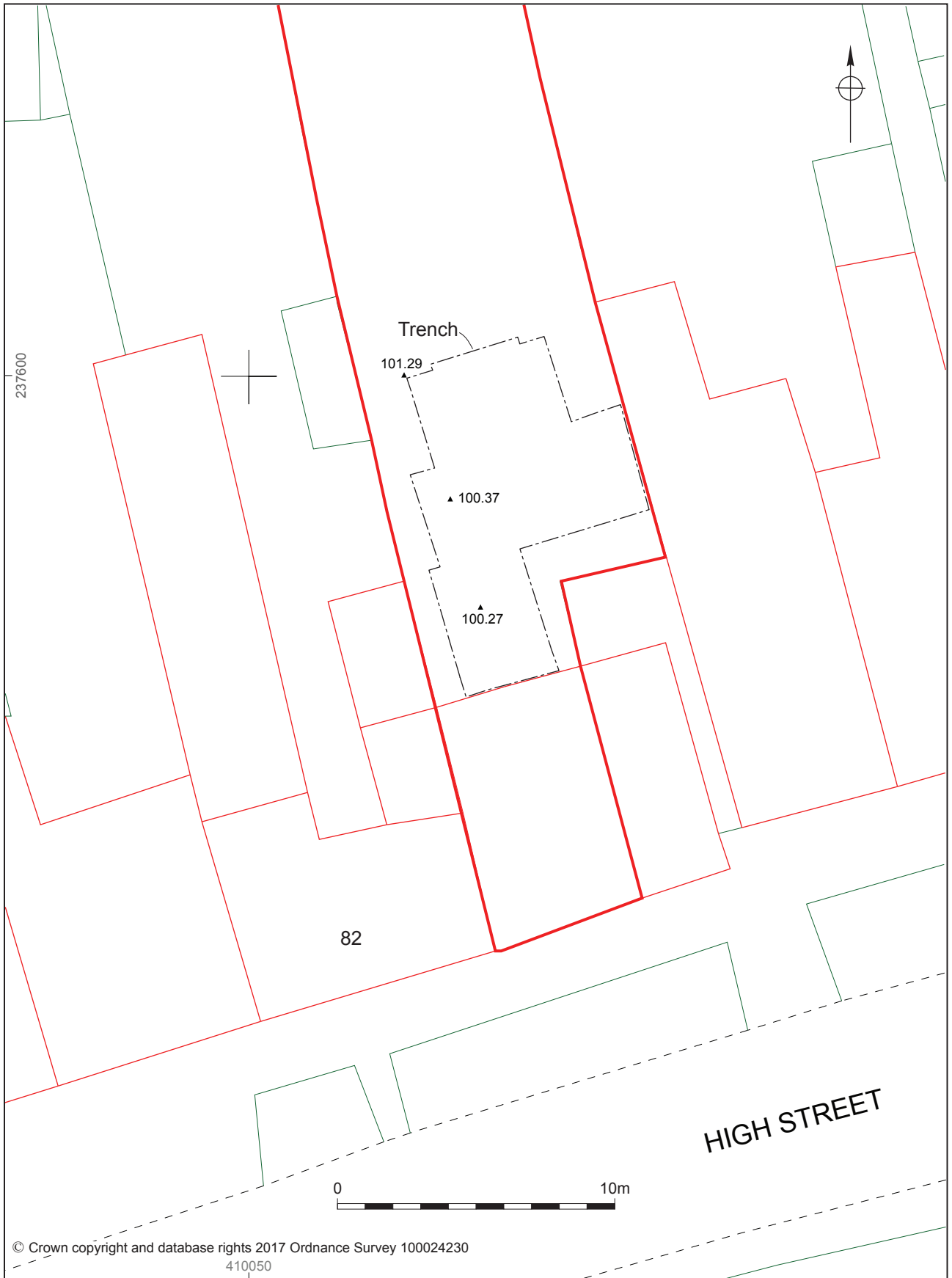
**Figures**





Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

**Plates**



*Plate 1 The site and trench layout, view south south-east towards property, no scales*



*Plate 2 The site and trench layout, view north-west, no scales*



*Plate 3 Working shot of machine excavation through deposits 104 and 101, view west, no scales*



*Plate 4 Deposits 104, 101, and 102 in the trench baulk, view south-west, scales 2m and 0.5m*



*Plate 5 Deposit 104, above relict garden soil 101, above subsoil 102, view south-west, scale 1m*



*Plate 6 The excavated trench, natural 103 in base, view south-east, 2x 1m scales*

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## Appendix 1 Technical information

### The archive (site code: WSM 68498)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 27 Digital photographs
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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



## Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 68498 (event HER number)

P5039

Artefacts

| period (note 1) | material class | object specific type | start date | end date | count | weight(g) | specialist report? (note 2) | Key assemblage? (note 3) |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Modern          | ceramic        | pot                  | 1800       | 2000     | 3     | 14        | yes                         | no                       |
| Post-medieval   | ceramic        | pot                  | 1600       | 1750     | 1     | 16        | yes                         | no                       |
| Post-medieval   | ceramic        | pot                  | 1600       | 1800     | 4     | 293       | yes                         | no                       |
| Post-medieval   | ceramic        | pot                  | 1690       | 1790     | 1     | 4         | yes                         | no                       |
| Post-medieval   | ceramic        | pot                  | 1700       | 1800     | 1     | 36        | yes                         | no                       |
| Post-medieval   | ceramic        | pot                  | 1760       | 1790     | 1     | 5         | yes                         | no                       |
| post-medieval   | ceramic        | clay pipe            |            |          | 3     | 10        | yes                         | no                       |
| undated         | organic        | shell                |            |          | 1     | 9         | no                          | no                       |
| undated         | bone           | fragment             |            |          | 5     | 567       | no                          | 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     |

| <b>period specific</b> | <b>from</b> | <b>to</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 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.