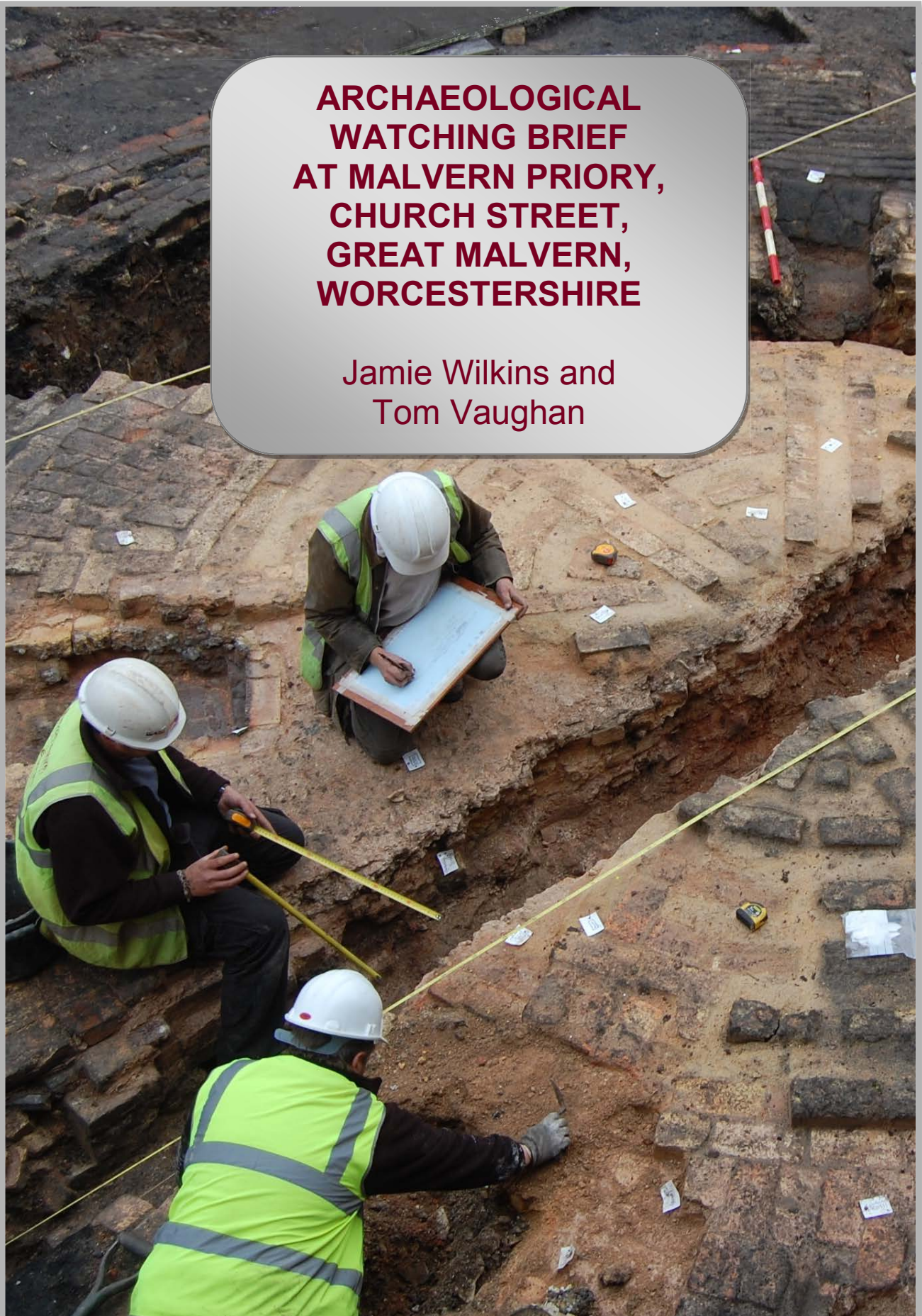


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
AT MALVERN PRIORY,
CHURCH STREET,
GREAT MALVERN,
WORCESTERSHIRE**

Jamie Wilkins and
Tom Vaughan



Archaeological watching brief at Malvern Priory, Church Street, Great Malvern, Worcestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire Archaeology
Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester
WR1 3PD

Status:

Date: 6 June 2018

Author: Jamie Wilkins jwilkins@worcestershire.gov.uk
and Tom Vaughan, tvaughan@worcestershire.gov.uk

Contributors: Laura Griffin

Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt

Project reference: P5308

Report reference: 2564

HER reference: WSM70288

Oasis id fieldsec1-318181

Archaeological watching brief at Malvern Priory, Church Street, Great Malvern, Worcestershire

Jamie Wilkins and Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Laura Griffin

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Outside Studios
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 77590 45890
<i>Historic Environment Record event reference</i>	WSM70288
<i>Planning authority</i>	Worcester Diocesan Advisory Committee
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2018
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2018
<i>Project parameters</i>	ClfA 2014a

Site Background

This project comprised the installation of two interpretation plinths as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded heritage trail called 'Route to the Hills'. This was considered to have the potential to affect heritage assets of archaeological interest (HER ref 00491 and 00492).

Archaeological and historical background

The background is taken from the brief (WCC 2018) and HER.

The Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael (WSM 00491) was originally a Benedictine Priory (WSM 00492) which is thought to have been founded c AD 1085. The cruciform Norman church was probably completed by c 1120. An eastern Lady Chapel was added in the 12th century and enlarged in the 14th century. Building began again in the 15th century with a new chancel and chapels and perhaps a crossing. At the Dissolution the church, apart from the lady chapel, was saved when it was purchased by the parish. By 1788 it was quite ruinous. Some refurbishment began in 1816 but in 1833 Pugin noted it was still in "dreadful repair". Major restoration was completed by George Gilbert Scott in 1860-62.

To the east of the surviving Priory church building there is documentary evidence of two 15th century tile kilns having been revealed in c 1833 and 1902 (WSM00505).

The present building is a Grade I Listed Building (NHLE number 1082794).

A late 14th century stone cross is located between two footpaths, close to the western entrance to the churchyard (DWR71, WSM12099), although it has been moved twice from its position depicted on Doherty's map of 1744 at the junction of the two paths (WSM12099).

Previous archaeological work on site

A geophysical survey, undertaken in 2012 in preparation for the instalment of a new gas heating supply, highlighted a number of burials and possible buried structures within the churchyard (Stratascan 2012). As part of the same works, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the excavation of the pipe trenches (Arnold and Vaughan 2014; WSM57086). No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered however the presence of unstratified medieval floor tiles, and an 18th century made-ground horizon was recorded which may be associated with the restoration works of 1860-62.

In preparation for the 'Route to the Hills' project, a further geophysical survey was undertaken in 2016. No evidence of archaeological remains were identified close to the Priory steps but possible vaults and structural remains were identified close to the north-east corner of the church (Stratascan 2016).

Aims

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

Methods

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012

Sources consulted

Worcestershire HER

Sources cited by the HER

Stratascan 2012; 2016

Arnold and Vaughan 2014

Date of fieldwork

25 April 2018

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Trench 1	length 1.26m
	width 0.84m
	depth 0.32m

Trench 2	length 1.28m
	width 0.74m
	depth 0.44m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after hand excavation, and at just 0.30m to 0.44m deep, the trenches were safely accessible. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits.

Statement of confidence

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

Deposit descriptions and discussion

The location of the interpretation plinths was informed by the results of a geophysical survey, and so avoided any known graves or buried structures (Stratascan 2016). The trench locations are presented in Figure 2.

Trench 1

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil / Turf	Soft, dark greyish-brown, clay loam containing moderate sub-rounded pebbles.	0-0.14m
101	Made-ground	Compacted, mid orangey-grey, silty sand containing frequent rubble inclusions comprising brick, tile, glass, pottery, sandstone, sand-mortar, limestone, clinker, and charcoal.	0.14-0.32m +

Trench 1 was located c 8.5m north of the east end of the Priory, and immediately south of a tarmac footpath. No archaeological features, structures or deposits were observed. A thin turfed topsoil (100), 0.14m deep, overlay a made-ground deposit (101). The made-ground comprised a compacted, orangey-grey, silty sand and contained an abundance of building rubble, including roof tiles, floor tiles, brick, and glass (Plate 1). It extended to the full depth of the trench. This is considered to be the same made-ground deposit encountered during the previous watching brief along the vehicular access within the churchyard (Arnold and Vaughan 2014; WSM57086).

Trench 2

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil / Turf	Soft, dark greyish-brown, clay loam containing moderate sub-rounded pebbles.	0-0.15m
201	Soil	Soft, dark orangey-brown, silty loam containing frequent charcoal, pottery, tile, brick, Malvern stone and occasional disarticulated human bone.	0.15-0.44m +
202	Gas Pipe	Live gas main, aligned north-west to south-east leading to an existing gas lamp, present above the graveyard gateway.	0.17-0.25m

Trench 2 was located in the north-west of the churchyard, c 3m south-east of the churchyard gate to Abbey Road. No archaeological features, structures or deposits were encountered. A thin turfed topsoil (200), similar to that in Trench 1, overlay a dark, silty-loam soil (201) (Plate 2), which extended to the full depth of the trench. The soil contained a small assemblage of pottery, clay pipe, tile, and brick. Three unidentified fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from this deposit, and were retained on-site for immediate reinterment within the trench.

A thin metal gas pipe lay within the eastern corner of Trench 2. This appeared to feed the gas lamp present above the Abbey Road entrance to the churchyard.

Artefactual Analysis, by Laura Griffin

The assemblage recovered totalled 16 finds weighing 1086g (see Tables 1 and 3). Material came exclusively from made ground (101) and soil (201) contexts and therefore material was residual and of mixed date. The level of preservation was good with finds displaying low levels of surface abrasion. The majority of the assemblage was of medieval date onwards.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
medieval	ceramic	floor tile	2	148
medieval	ceramic	ridge tile	2	433
medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	144
?medieval	glass	window	1	1
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	1	1
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	5	350
modern	ceramic	pot	3	9

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Summary of artefactual evidence by period

Medieval

Four fragments of roof tile and two of floor tile, were all of Malvernian production.

Roof tile

All roof tile came from context (101) and consisted of two fragments of flat tile and two of ridge tile. In general, all were typical of Malvernian products being unsanded and the ridge tiles having a strip of thin, green glaze running along the apex. However, one of the ridge tiles stood out for being substantially thicker than usual (i.e. 25mm) and also having deep ridges running the length of the underside.

Decorated floor tile

The floor tiles were both decorated and displayed designs which could be dated to the mid-15th century. The first design (context 101) is part of a 4-tile foliate pattern (Eames 1980, design no. 2689; Lewis 1999, design no. 338). The fragment retrieved is 24mm thick and had a sanded base. It is thought to be a possible waster due to a fault in the upper surface and the slip decoration being very indistinct.

The second fragment (context 210) is also from a 4-tile design (Eames 1980, design no. 1480; Lewis 1999, design no. 318B), this time with a repeating inscription: *Fiat voluntas Dei* (May the will of God be done). The fragment is 27mm thick with a sanded base and appears to have very little glaze surviving, although it is not clear whether this is due to wear or if the tile was discarded as another waster. Interestingly, there is a break in the slip which takes the form of a narrow line running down the tile. This is identical to that seen on examples from Wales, where it has been attributed to a crack in the design stamp (Lewis 1999, 52).

?Medieval

A small fragment of highly patinated green window glass was also considered likely to be of medieval date (context 101).

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of five sherds of pottery and a clay pipe stem, all of which could be dated late 17th-18th century. The pottery was domestic and typical of the period. It included fragments from two buff ware press-moulded dishes with inlaid slip decoration (fabric 91) and three sherds of sandy red ware (fabric 78). The largest of these sherds was from a large

pancheon or flared bowl form with an internal black glaze and distinctive rim form similar to examples seen in the late 17th-early 18th century kiln assemblage at Albion Square, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (Celoria and Kelly 1973, 67, no.125).

Modern

Finds of modern date consisted of one sherd of engine-turned dipped earthenware (fabric 85; context 201), one of creamware (fabric 84; context 201) and the base of a white salt-glazed stoneware plate or dish (fabric 81.5; context 101). All could be dated between the mid-18th-early 19th centuries.

Broad period	fabric number	Fabric name	count	weight (g)
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red ware	3	325
Post-medieval	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	3
Post-medieval	84	Creamware	1	4
Post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	2	25
Modern	85	Modern china	1	2

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	finds TPQ
101	ceramic	floor tile	1	60	M15C	L15C	L17-18C
101	ceramic	pot	1	9	L17C	18C	
101	ceramic	pot	1	3		18C	
101	ceramic	ridge tile	2	433	13C	16C	
101	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	144	13C	16C	
101	glass	window	1	1			
201	ceramic	floor tile	1	88	M15C	L15C	L18-E19C
201	ceramic	pipe	1	1			
201	ceramic	pot	1	23	L17C	18C	
201	ceramic	pot	1	293	L17C	E18C	
201	ceramic	pot	1	4	M18C	L18C	
201	ceramic	pot	1	2	L18C	E19C	
201	ceramic	pot	2	25	L17C	E18C	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Recommendations

No further analysis on the artefactual assemblage is considered to be required.

Conclusions, by Jamie Wilkins, Tom Vaughan and Laura Griffin

No significant archaeological features, structures, deposits or grave cuts were observed within either trench. The results can be attributed to the small size and shallow depth of the trenches, at c 1m² and 0.32-0.44m depth, but also the deliberate positioning of trenches to avoid structures and features identified in the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016). It should be noted that grave cuts are often difficult to identify, as they generally contain the same material backfilled over the inhumation, as the surrounding soil matrix through which it was dug.

The 18th-19th century made-ground (101) encountered close to the Priory building in Trench 1 is almost certainly the same as that which was observed during the previous archaeological watching brief (Arnold and Vaughan 2014; WSM57086). This deposit is considered likely to represent large-scale earth moving in association with the documented renovation works in 1860-62. The potential exists for undisturbed, albeit truncated, grave soils and archaeological remains to exist below the made ground here.

Three unidentified, disarticulated fragments of human bone were recovered from a churchyard soil within Trench 2, and represent the only human bone observed during the works. The presence of grave soils close to the surface within this trench is significant and may be indicative of considerably less landscaping or earth moving within the north-west part of the churchyard. Subsequently the survival of archaeological remains is likely to be much higher here, particularly when compared to the area immediately surrounding the Priory building.

Although small, the range of artefacts and associated dating provide a useful aid to the understanding of deposit survival across the Priory churchyard. As with the assemblage from the previous watching brief (Arnold and Vaughan 2014, WSM57086), finds from the deposits were of mixed date and all medieval material was residual. This adds strength to the theory that large-scale earth moving activity close to the church building has taken place since the medieval period, most likely in association with the documented renovations of 1860–62. The presence of a possible floor tile waster was of interest, especially when taken with the fragments of two medieval tile wasters in the 2014 watching brief, as they may relate to the two tile kilns discovered c 200m to the east of the Priory in c 1833 and 1902 (Anon 1833; WSM00505).

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 Outside Studios at Malvern Priory, Church Street, Great Malvern, Worcestershire (NGR SO 77590 45890; HER ref WSM70288). The project comprised the installation of two interpretation plinths as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded heritage trail called Route to the Hills. This was considered to have the potential to affect heritage assets of archaeological interest (HER ref 00491 and 00492).

No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed, though the presence of a 18th-19th century made-ground horizon may reflect large-scale earth moving associated with the documented renovations of 1860-62. No grave cuts or articulated human remains were present within the trenches, and any disarticulated human remains were retained on-site for immediate reburial.

The presence of two 15th century medieval floor tiles from deposits in both trenches is significant, and can be associated with the documented discovery of two tile kilns c 200m to the east of the Priory in c 1833 and 1902 (WSM00505). At least one tile is a waster fragment and so adds to a growing body of evidence for on-site tile production within the Priory grounds. This is further supported by evidence from the previous watching brief (WSM57086) where two medieval tile waster fragments were also recovered.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Danny Bianchet (Outside Studios), the ground-crew from Joseph Woods Builders, Victoria Bryant (Diocesan Advisory Committee Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Worcester), and Aidan Smyth (Malvern Hills Planning and Archaeology Advisor).

Bibliography

AAF 2011 *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>

Anon 1833 Kiln for ancient church tiles, found near Malvern, *The Gentleman's Magazine, and Historical Chronicle*, **103**, 162

Arnold, G, and Vaughan, T M, 2014 *Archaeological watching brief at Great Malvern Priory, Church Street, Malvern, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **2156**, dated 7 November 2014, WSM 57086, P4292

BGS 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, British Geological Survey, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 27 April 2018

Celoria, F, and Kelly, J, 1973 *A post-medieval pottery site with a kiln base found at Albion Square, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire*, Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Rep, 4

ClfA 2014a *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

ClfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Eames, E S, 1980 *Catalogue of medieval lead-glazed earthenware tiles in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities British Museum*, London

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, S G (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**

Lewis, J M, 1999 *The Medieval Tiles of Wales*, National Museum of Wales

PCRG/SGRP/MPRG, 2016 *A standard for pottery studies in archaeology*

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections*, <http://www.swfed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/selectionretentiondispersalofcollections1-SMA.pdf>

Stratascan 2012 *Geophysical Survey Report - Great Malvern Priory*, unpublished report ref. J3161, dated October 2012

Stratascan 2016 *Geophysical Survey Report – Great Malvern Priory*, unpublished report

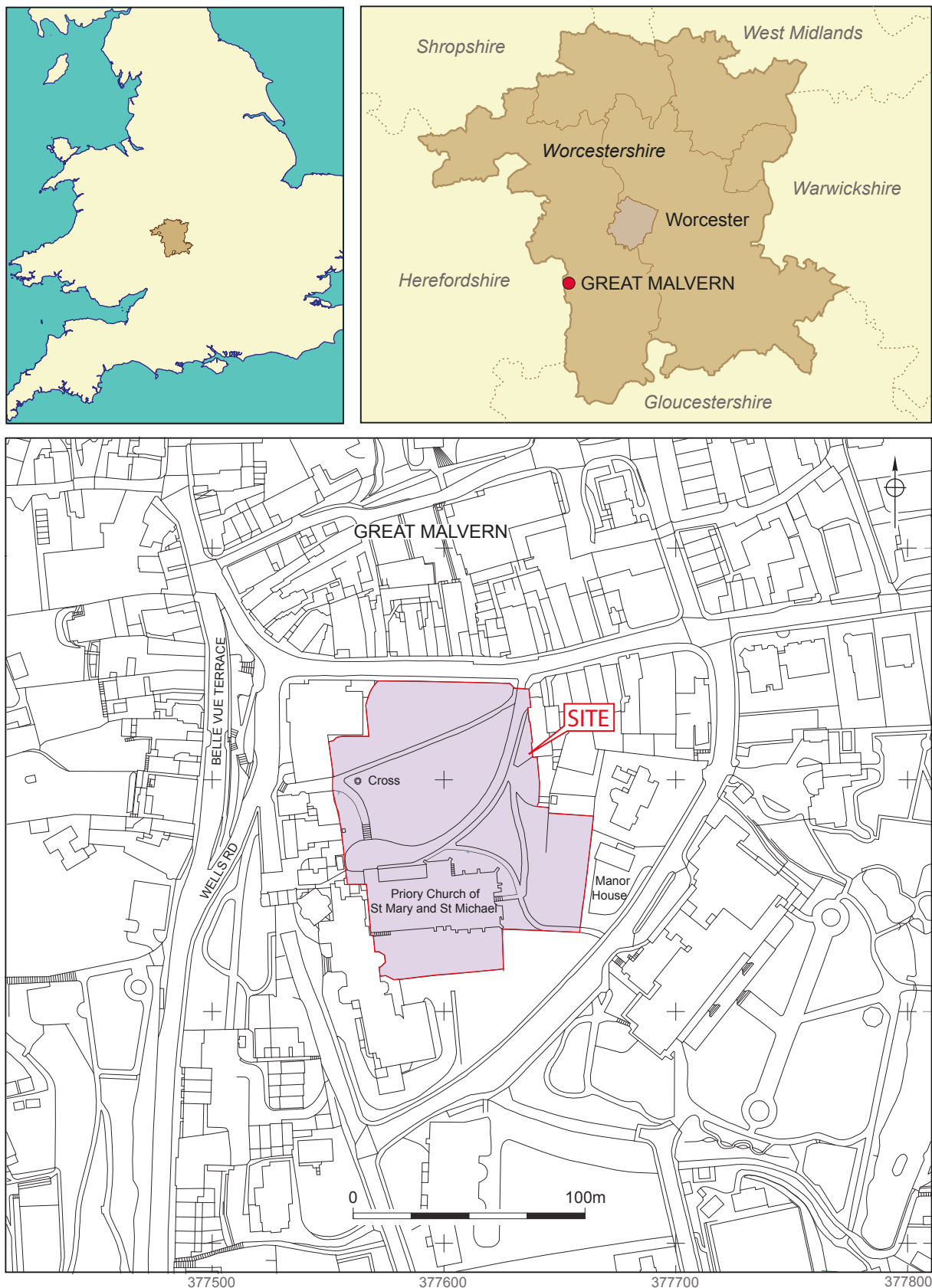
WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2018 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Malvern Priory, Great Malvern, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 20 April 2018, **P5308**

WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, amended March 2016

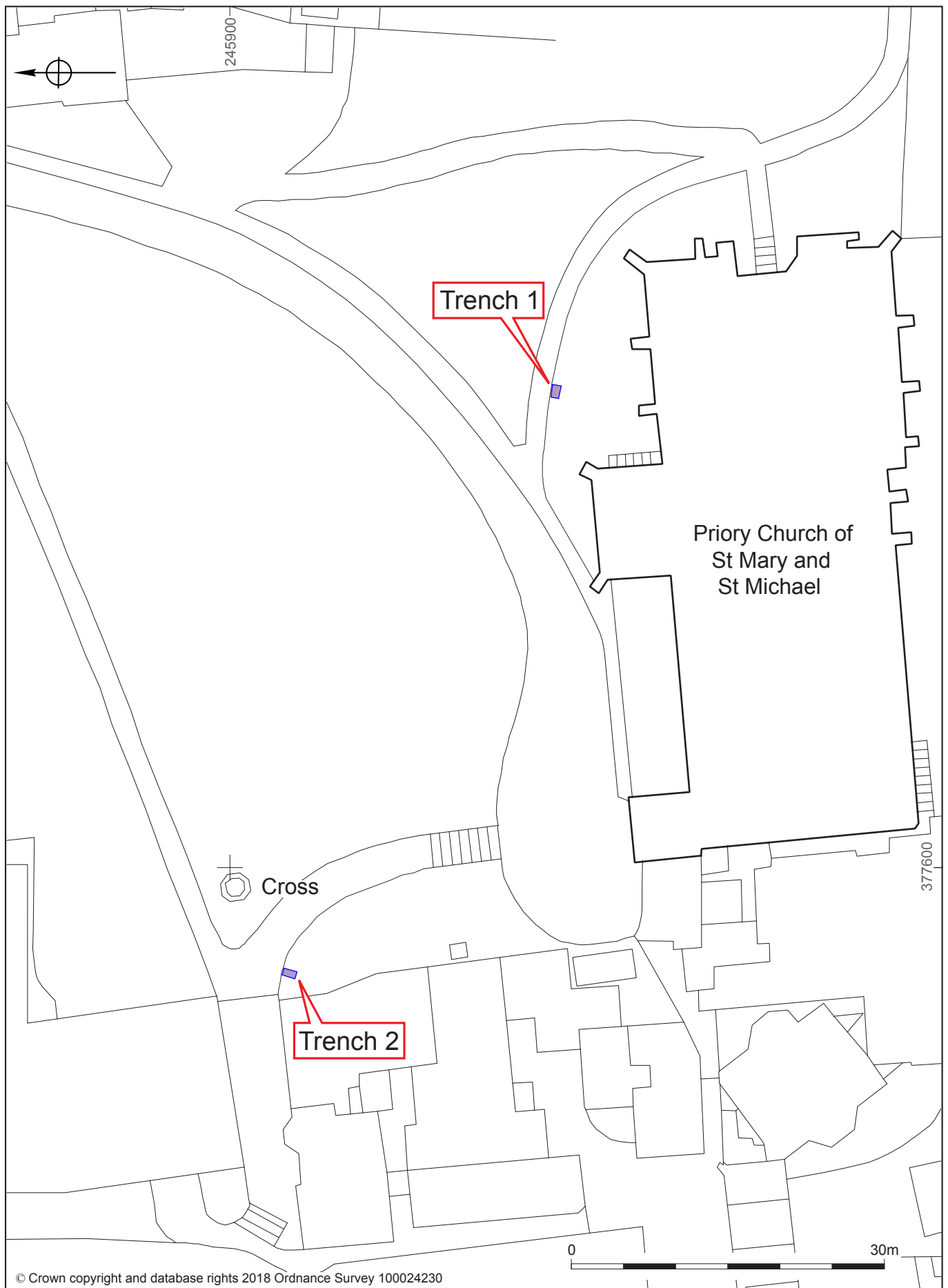
WCC 2018 *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Faculty in the Diocese of Worcester*, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, Version 1, dated March 2018

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1, made-ground deposit (101) in the base, view north, scales 0.5m and 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2, churchyard soil (201) in the baulk and base, gas pipe (202) visible in the eastern corner, view south-east, scales 0.5m and 1m

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70288)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 17 Digital photographs
- 2 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

A copy of the report will be deposited with the appropriate Historic Environment Record (HER).

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 70288 (event HER number)

P5308

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	Count	weight (g)	specialist report? (note 2)	key assemblage? (note 3)
?medieval	glass	window	1	1			N	N
medieval	ceramic	floor tile	2	148	M15C	L15C	Y	Y
medieval	ceramic	ridge tile	2	433	13C	16C	Y	N
medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	144	13C	16C	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	1	1			N	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	32	L17C	18C	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	3	318	L17C	E18C	Y	N
modern	ceramic	pot	1	3	M18C	L18C	Y	N
modern	ceramic	pot	1	2	L18C	E19C	Y	N
modern	ceramic	pot	1	4	M18C	L18C	Y	N

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 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.