

# Archaeological watching brief of Field 3, west of Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth Shropshire

*for*

David Symonds Associates  
on behalf of Severn Valley Railway



October 2018

Worcestershire Archaeology

Find out more online:  
[www.explorethepast.co.uk](http://www.explorethepast.co.uk)



# Archaeological watching brief of Field 3, west of Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Local planning authority:	Shropshire Council
Planning reference:	16/00156/FUL
Central NGR:	SO 71408 92626
Commissioning client:	David Symonds Associates on behalf of Severn Valley Railway
Client project reference:	
WA project reference:	P5301
WA report reference:	2625
HER reference:	
Oasis reference:	Fieldsec1-323187
Museum accession number	

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	24/10/18	Client report	Graham Arnold and Tom Vaughan	Tom Vaughan

This report is confidential to the client.

Worcestershire Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

---

## **Archaeological watching brief of Field 3, land west of Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire**

Graham Arnold

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Background information**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of land west of Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (NGR SO 71408 92626). It was undertaken on behalf of David Symonds Associates on behalf of their client, Severn Valley Railway, who intends to construct an overflow carpark and railway turntable, for which a planning application has been submitted to Shropshire Council (reference 16/00156).

The watching brief followed a geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) and an archaeological evaluation (Lovett 2018) of the site. Due to site constraints during the evaluation, it was not possible to access the south-westernmost field, Field 3. The Senior Archaeological Advisor, Shropshire Council, therefore requested an archaeological watching brief of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development in the field. This involved the construction of an access road and an associated drainage trench.

Monitoring of groundworks was undertaken between 17 September and 18 October 2018.

The archaeological background is given in the evaluation report (Lovett 2018).

### **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, within the constraints of the client's groundworks.

### **Methods**

The project conformed to the WSI (WA 2018), the ClfA *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014) and *Worcestershire Archaeology Manual of service practice, recording manual* (WA 2012).

#### *Access to or visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. 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 description

Photographs of the works are provided as Plates 1 – 8 and the location of the areas observed is on Figure 1.

### Trench 1

Site area: Field 3 Access road strip

Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 4m Depth: 0.65m

Orientation: See Figure 1

Plates: 1-3

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1001	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown clayey silty sand with heavy root disturbance	0.00 – 0.20m
1002	Subsoil	Friable mid brownish red silty sand with moderate pebbles and cobbles, occasional charcoal flecking and heavy root disturbance	0.20 – 0.65m

### Trench 2

Site area: Field 3 Road Drainage

Maximum dimensions: Length: 100m Width: 0.70m Depth: 0.70 – 1.00m

Orientation: See Figure 1

Plates: 4-8

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown clayey silty sand with heavy root disturbance	0.00 – 0.20m
2001	Subsoil	Friable mid brownish red silty sand with moderate pebbles and cobbles occasional charcoal flecking and heavy root disturbance	0.20 – 0.80m
2002	Natural	Firm reddish orange sandy clay with occasional pebbles, gravels and cobbles. Changes to a firm pinkish red sandy clay at top of hill	0.60 – 1.00m+

---

## Discussion and conclusions

No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed during the watching brief of the groundworks in Field 3. The natural was not exposed within the wider strip for the road (Trench 1), but was observed within the narrower drainage trench adjacent (Trench 2), from 0.60m+ below the ground surface. The stratigraphy of well-developed topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits, was similar to that observed during the evaluation in Fields 1 and 2 to the north-east. Occasional 20<sup>th</sup> century debris was noted in the topsoil, but not retained. The developed soil profile, lack of truncation or residual finds below the topsoil indicates that the site has not been the subject of intensive activity prior to the present development.

## 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 David Symonds Associates, acting on behalf of Severn Valley Railway, of land to the west of the Severn Valley railway (NGR SO 71408 92626). The project followed geophysical survey and evaluation of the two fields to the north-east. Archaeological monitoring of intrusive groundworks was carried out in the south-western field where site constraints had prevented access previously. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the works. The developed soil profile, lack of truncation or residual finds below the topsoil indicates that the site has not been the subject of intensive activity prior to the present development.*

## Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Chris Bond and Martin White (Severn Valley Railway), Jonathan Symonds ((David Symonds Associates), Walsh Construction, and Hugh Hannaford (Senior Archaeological Advisor, Shropshire Council).

## Bibliography

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

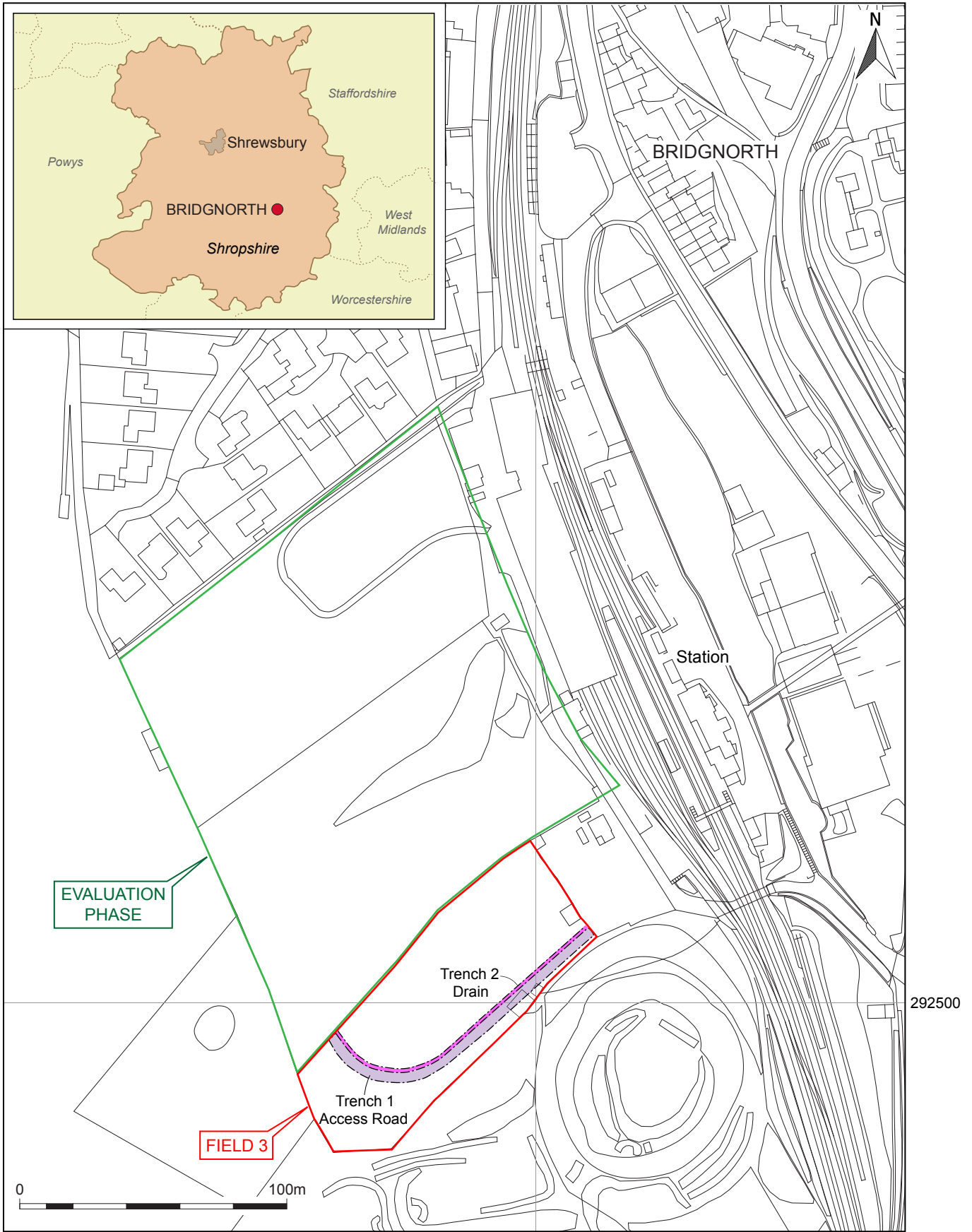
Lovett, P J, 2018 *Archaeological evaluation of land west of Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire*, Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire Archaeology, report **2587**, version 2, dated 31 July 2018, P5301

SUMO 2018 *Geophysical survey report – Land west of the Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire*, SUMO Geophysics Ltd, unpublished survey report **12601** dated 24 May 2018

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

WA 2018 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief of Field 3, west of Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire te name, parish, county*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 23 August 2018, **P5301**

**Figures**



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100024230

Location of Field 3

Figure 1



---

## Plates



*Plate 1 The access road under excavation, view north-west, no scales*



*Plate 2 The access road stripped, view south, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 3 Sample section of access road showing topsoil and subsoil observed in strip, 0.5m and 1m scales*



*Plate 4 The drainage trench during excavation, view north-west, no scales*



*Plate 5 The drainage trench during excavation adjacent to new road, view north, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 6 View south of the completed drainage trench, no scales*



*Plate 7 Sample section of drainage trench in the south end of the site, view east, 2x 1m scales*



*Plate 8 Sample section of drainage trench in the north of the site, view south-east, 2x 1m scales*

---

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: P5301 Field 3 WB phase)**

The archive consists of:

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

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery,  
Barker Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire, SY1 1QH

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