

Archaeological evaluation of land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for

Court Property Developers Limited

September 2018



Find out more online:
www.explorethepast.co.uk



Archaeological Evaluation of land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Local planning authority:	Malvern Hills District Council
Planning reference:	16/01203/out
Central NGR:	SO 9002 6282
Commissioning client:	Court Property Developers Limited
WA project reference:	P5392
WA report reference:	2599
HER reference:	WSM 70554
Oasis reference:	Fieldsec1-326169

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	03-09-18	Draft for client approval	Peter Lovett	Robin Jackson

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.

Contents
Summary

1

Report

Illustrations by Laura Templeton **1**

1 Background..... **2**

1.1 Reasons for the project 2

2 Aims..... **2**

3 Methods..... **2**

3.1 Personnel..... 2

3.2 Documentary research 2

3.3 List of sources consulted 2

3.4 Fieldwork strategy 2

3.5 Structural analysis 3

3.6 Artefact methodology 3

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology 3

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results 3

4 The application site **3**

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context..... 3

4.2 Current land-use 4

5 Results **4**

5.1 Structural analysis 4

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits 4

5.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits 4

6 Synthesis **4**

7 Publication summary **5**

8 Acknowledgements **5**

9 Bibliography..... **5**

Archaeological evaluation of land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire

Peter Lovett

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9002 6282). It was undertaken on behalf of Roy Pendleton of Court Property Developers Limited, who intends to construct 14 new build homes, for which outline planning permission has been granted.

Four trenches were excavated across the site. No features of archaeological significance were identified. The results of the evaluation work showed that the site had previously been heavily landscaped, which would have removed any archaeological deposits had they been present.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9002 6282; Fig 1).

The project was commissioned by Roy Pendleton of Court Property Developers Limited who intends to construct 14 new build homes for which a planning application has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council (reference 16/01203/out). Permission was granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

The proposed development site was considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WSM 33185).

No specific brief was prepared, but the project proposal (WA 2018) was produced following discussions and correspondence with Aidan Smyth, the Wychavon and Malvern Hills Archaeology and Planning Advisor.

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

2 Aims

The aims of the evaluation brief were;

- to describe any heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to assess the nature, importance and extent of any heritage asset; and
- to assess the impact of the application on any heritage asset.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.) ACIfA), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. On site assistance was provided by Gwyneth Thomas (Ba (hons)) and Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc, ACIfA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Robin Jackson (BA (hons.); ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA).

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 OS map sheet XLVII S.W.

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 15th and 16th August 2018. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM 70554. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5392.

Four trenches, amounting to just over 218m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 0.5ha, representing a sample of 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using an 8 tonne 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). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

Due to the presence of some timber playground structures associated with the former pub beer garden, some trench locations had to be slightly altered from those set out in the WSI. Trenches 1 and 3 were both shortened from their proposed lengths, but the width of the trenches was wider than originally intended so the percentage area investigated was still met.

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

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were identified.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology

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.

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site is relatively flat, and is bordered to the north by agricultural land, to the east by the Marbank Brook, to the south by the Pheasant Inn and Drake Street, and to the west by B4208. The land drops sharply down to the brook on the eastern side. The Pheasant Inn lies abandoned and derelict, and is sited on the north-eastern side of a crossroads, with the development site encompassing the gardens and parking of the former pub.

The underlying geology comprises Sidmouth Musdtone Formation with occasional superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2018).

The manor of Welland is first mentioned in the 9th century, when it formed part of the inheritance of King Coenwulf. Although Welland is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, it was probably then included in the manor of Bredon as a survey of the lands of the bishopric taken in 1299 notes that all the tenants of Welland owed suit at the court of Bredon and in valuations of Bredon Manor, taken in 1299, 1408 and 1529, Welland is included.

The oldest building in Welland is a cruck-framed cottage, believed to date from the 16th century (WSM20575). Church Farm, to the east of the site, has a barn that dates to the 17th century (WSM 32909), suggesting that the present farmhouse which dates to the 19th century (WSM56827) had an earlier precursor, while Lawn Farm farmhouse also has 17th-century origins (WSM40360).

The historic field pattern of the area is one of enclosure, which has generally been preserved. The nature of the settlement however, which was one of linear formation, has superseded by modern nucleated development to the west of the study site.

The late Victorian St James's Church (WSM 03736) lies opposite the site to the south. This replaced the original medieval church that was situated 1 mile to the south-east at Welland Court. The original St James's Church was a small building that had fallen into disrepair. An increasing population required a larger facility, and it was demolished following the construction of the new church in 1875.

A number of Second World War features are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, relating to the Defence of Britain. A Home Guard explosives store is recorded as having been built to the rear of the Pheasant Inn (WSM 33185), located in an Anderson shelter. The exact location is unclear, as it is recorded as oral evidence.

A recent evaluation at Lawn Farm 175m to the south-east produced only post-medieval agricultural remains (Headland 2015).

4.2 Current land-use

The site forms the beer garden and car park of the Pheasant Inn, being a mixture of overgrown grass and bushes, and tarmac surfaces.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

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

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits were observed in all four trenches, at a depth of between 0.58m and 1.28m from current ground level. The geology was uniformly a heavy red clay marl, though Trench 1 revealed patches of superficial sandy gravel head deposits (Plate 3).

5.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Directly above the natural stratum in Trenches 1-3 was a late 19th- 20th century made ground deposit. This contained various amounts of brick, coal, glass, china, and other assorted rubble material. In Trench 2, parallel shallow linear features were observed cutting the natural (Plate 4). These were filled with similar material to the overlying made ground. A particularly dense deposit of brick rubble was observed in the middle of Trench 2, along with a dressed stone block c.0.3m x 0.3m x 0.2m. Some of the bricks were hand made, and none were bonded to each other or had any mortar attached.

In Trench 3 a more modern material sealed the earlier made ground (Plates 5-6). This was dumped topsoil and rubble, including a crisp packet with a best before date of June 2001.

Trench 4 was situated within the carpark area, and the ground had been scarped prior to the construction of the parking area. A heavy redeposited clay lay above the natural ground, with type 1 hardcore above that, followed by the tarmac layer (Plate 7).

A topsoil lay at the top of the sequence of deposits in Trenches 1-3. A modern service (104) was located in Trench 1, backfilled with upcast natural red clay.

6 Synthesis

No archaeological features of any significance were encountered during this evaluation work. The site had clearly undergone significant landscaping at some point in the recent past. The two parallel features seen in Trench 2 were probably track marks from the plant machinery that

scaped the site, pushing the dumped material into the soft ground as it worked. There was no evidence in the trenches for the Second World War explosives store recorded as present on the site in the HER.

7 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 evaluation was undertaken of land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9002 6282). It was undertaken on behalf of Roy Pendleton of Court Property Developers Limited, who intends to construct 14 new build homes, for which outline planning permission had been granted.

Four trenches were excavated across the site. No features of archaeological significance were identified. The results of the evaluation work showed that the site had previously been heavily landscaped, which would have removed any archaeological deposits had they been present.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Roy Pendleton of Court Property Developers Ltd, and Aidan Smyth, Wychavon and Malvern Hills Archaeology and Planning Advisor.

9 Bibliography

BGS 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed 17 August 2018

CIfA 2014 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

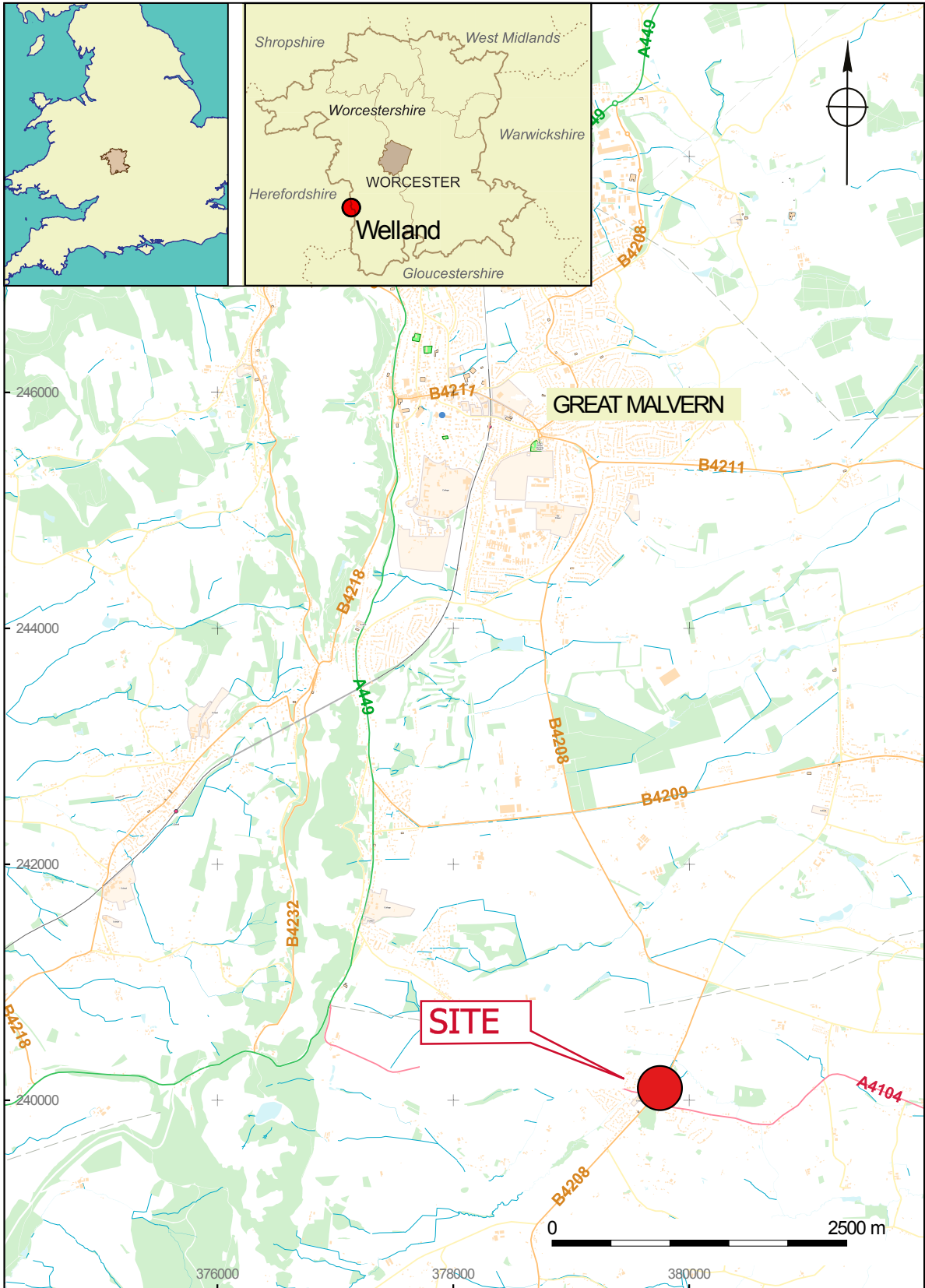
Headland 2015 *Land at Lawn Farm, Welland, Worcestershire; Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology, unpublished document, dated March 2015

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

WA 2018 *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation at land at Drake Street, Welland*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 13 August 2018, **P5392**

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

Figures



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Location of the site

Figure 1



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100024230
379700 379750 379800 379850

Trench Locations

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: The site, looking north-east (no scales)



Plate 2: The site, looking south (no scales)



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



Plate 4: Trench 2, with machine tracks, looking north-west (1m scale)



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking north-east (1m scales)



Plate 6: Section in Trench 3, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 4, looking south-east (1m scales)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 28m Width: 28m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
100	Topsoil	Layer	Frequent rooting, glass and coal. Topsoil, probably at least partially imparted.	0.37M	greyish brown clay silt
101	Subsoil	Layer	Partially disturbed as does contain some coal and gravel patches.	0.25M	greyish brown clay silt
102	Natural	Layer	With gravel patches.		Compact red clay
103	Drain	Fill	Red clay marl.		Compact red clay
104	Drain	Cut	Modern pipe cut.		

Trench 2

Length: 34m Width: 34m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
200	Topsoil	Layer	Occasional rounded stones and rooting. Imported topsoil deposit.	0.12M	greyish brown clay silt
201	Modern Layer	Layer	Mixed deposit consisting of mid to dark grey clay silt with patches of reddish clays. Frequent small rounded stones, handmade brick, coal and white china. C19th-C20th Made ground sitting into (202).	0.36M	grey clay silt
202	Natural	Layer	Compact and cohesive red marl clay with some patches of red gravels embedded within the clay.	0.48M	Compact red clay
203		Fill	With brick, china, and coal.		greyish red clay
204		Cut	East West aligned post medieval feature. Bedding trench/wheel rut? Not Excavated.		
205		Fill	With coal, brick and china.		Compact greyish red clay
206		Cut	East West aligned post medieval feature. Bedding trench/wheel rut? Not Excavated.		
207		Fill	Gravelly clay with china and coal.		greyish red clay

Land at Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire

208		Cut	East West aligned post medieval feature. Bedding trench/wheel rut? Not Excavated.	
209		Fill	Mixed red grey black clay silt and gravel. Occasional china, coal and slag and	Firm reddish grey clay silt
210		Cut	East West aligned post medieval feature. Bedding trench/wheel rut? Not Excavated.	
211	Modern Layer	Fill	High brick content dump, possibly in the top of [210]. Bricks are handmade and unfrogged. Average dimensions of bricks: 0.21Mx0.11Mx0.07M.	

Trench 3

Length: 13

Width: 13

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
300	Made ground	Layer	Made ground become topsoil.	0.36M	Moderately Compact yellowish brown silt loam
301	Made ground	Layer	Frequent rubble and plastic waste. Early C21st made ground. A crisp packet located in the fill held a best before date of 2001.	0.60M	Firm greyish brown clay
302	Made ground	Layer	C19th-C20th made ground.	0.26M	Firm yellowish brown silty clay
303	Natural	Layer	Red marl clay. 1.15M BGS.	1.15M BGS	red clay

Trench 4

Length: 34

Width: 34

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Deposit description
400	Modern Layer	Layer	Modern carpark surface for adjacent public house.	0.06M	Hard blueish black Tarmac
401	Modern Layer	Layer	Foundation layer of hardcore for modern carpark. Frequent angular cobbles within a sandy matrix.	0.28-0.16M	Friable brownish black
402		Layer	Re-deposited clay. Occasional blackened/degraded rooting.	0.16-0.36M	Compact greyish red clay
403	Natural	Layer	Red Marl clay.		Compact red clay

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70554)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 31 Digital photographs
- 4 Trench record sheets AS41
- 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
