

Archaeological watching brief at Long Itchington War Memorial, Long Itchington

for
Long Itchington Parish Council

October 2018



Worcestershire Archaeology

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Archaeological watching brief at Long Itchington War Memorial, Long Itchington, Warwickshire



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Worcestershire Archaeology
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Local planning authority:	Stratford on Avon District Council
Planning reference:	17/03317/FUL
Central NGR:	SP 41446 65259
Commissioning client:	Long Itchington Parish Council
WA project reference:	P5407
WA report reference:	2609
Oasis reference:	fieldsec1-329221

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	25/10/2018	Version 1	Tim Cornah	Tom Rogers

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Archaeological watching brief at Long Itchington War Memorial, Long Itchington, Warwickshire

Tim Cornah

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Long Itchington War Memorial, Long Itchington, Warwickshire (NGR SP 41446 65259). It was undertaken on behalf of Long Itchington Parish Council, who intend the construction of a permanent external memorial for which a planning application has been granted.

It was considered that there was a potential for the survival of archaeological remains of Saxon or Medieval date within the footprint of the memorial, however in the event, no remains of archaeological significance were uncovered.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A watching brief was undertaken at Long Itchington War Memorial (NGR SP 41446 65259). It was commissioned by Long Itchington Parish Council, who intends the construction of a permanent external memorial for which a planning application has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council (reference 17/03317/FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions including the requirement that excavations are monitored by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with recommendations outlined in a Technical Note produced by Orion Heritage and dated December 2017.

A Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief was produced and approved by Stratford on Avon District Council.

The project conforms to *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).

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 Client's groundworks.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc, ACIfA),; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (MSc; MClfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MClfA).

3.2 Documentary research

The archaeological background to the site has been previously summarised within a an archaeological technical statement (Orion Heritage 2017).

3.3 List of sources consulted

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 2018).

Fieldwork was undertaken on the 19th of September 2018. The Worcestershire Archaeology project number is P5407.

A single trench, amounting to 19.6m² in area, was excavated. The location of the trench is indicated in Figure 1.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a wheeled 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

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

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology

No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were present.

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 following within this section is taken from the Archaeological Technical Statement for the site (Orion Heritage 2017).

A level of 69.9m above ordnance datum is recorded just to the southwest of the site within a grassed area and this rises to 71m above ordnance datum at the junction of The Green and the A423 to the east of the site.

The underlying geology of the site is recorded as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Triassic era with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2018)

Recent excavation at Marton Road Farm, c. 225m northeast of the site, has recorded evidence for a burnt mound dating to the Middle Bronze Age. The remains comprised a discrete area of pits, a trough and associated hand-dug pond, along with charcoal deposits and heat-cracked stones; radiocarbon dating and stratigraphic evidence suggested that the burnt mound had been used seasonally over a period of 100 years. Artefactual evidence was limited to a small number of worked flints (Worcestershire Archaeology 2016).

It is also noted that archaeological evaluation at Glebe Farm recorded two Bronze Age cremation burials (HER EWA842; HER MWA5748; c. 215m southeast of the site).

A single sherd of Roman pottery was recorded during excavation at Marton Road Farm, c. 225m to the northeast of the site. No other evidence relating to the Roman period has been recorded by archaeological investigation in the wider area.

Long Itchington is the subject of an Anglo-Saxon Charter describing how, in AD1001, the settlement was given to Clofic by King Ethelred the Unready for services rendered (Payne, 1968). Long Itchington is also mentioned in The Domesday Book as 'Icentone', lands held by Cristina, the grand-niece of Edward the Confessor (Williams and Martin, 2003). During this time, Long Itchington contained two corn mills and a church. The land by the river was meadow and the surrounding landscape probably comprised woodland (Payne, 1968).

The Domesday survey for Long Itchington refers to the settlement as having two priests at the church, which can indicate minster status. It is therefore possible that the current Norman church in the village centre has Saxon or Early Medieval origins (HER 13235).

A possible Anglo-Saxon burial (HER MWA1706), comprising an urn and fragments of human bone within an earth mound, was found during stone quarrying in 1864, c. 615m to the north of the site.

The site is located within the historic core of Long Itchington, as identified by the HER (MWA9061). Ordnance Survey mapping from 1887 onwards shows that the site has remained undeveloped, forming part of The Green landscape, to the present day.

5 Results

The trench recorded is shown in Fig 1.

Deposit description

Context	Type	Description (ie Colour, Texture)	Date	Interpretation	Depth (below ground level)
100	Layer	Soft loose grey brown sandy silt with occasional limestone brash fragments.	Modern	Topsoil	0-0.16m
101	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy silt with a very high content of limestone brash	Post-medieval?	Made ground	0.16-0.26m
102	Layer	Fairly compact light greyish yellow sandy silt with occasional limestone brash fragments	Undated	Subsoil	0.26-0.50m
103	Layer	Compact yellow orange silt sand with very frequent limestone brash	Natural	Natural	0.50->0.90m
104	Fill	Compact red brown sand and gravels	Modern	Fill of [105]	0.16->0.90m
105	Cut	Vertical sided modern cut, not excavated.	Modern	Modern service cut	0.16->0.90m

6 Conclusions

Despite the possibility of remains features of a Saxon and medieval dates, only layers of post-medieval and modern were present within the excavated area. This confirmed the evidence of the historic mapping which suggested that the site was historically undeveloped.

7 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Long Itchington parish council.

8 Bibliography

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Figures

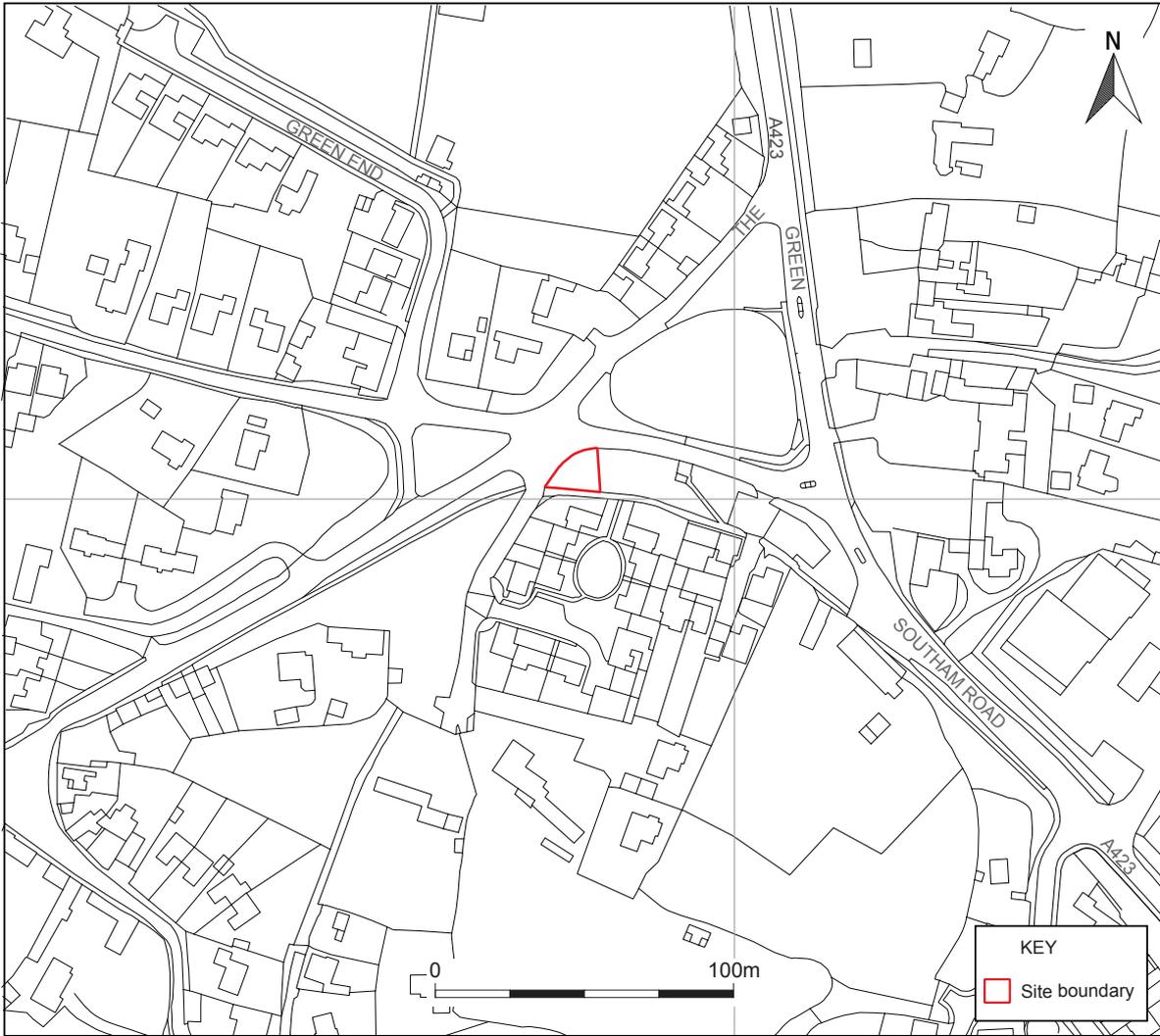
Plates



Plate 1 The site, facing east



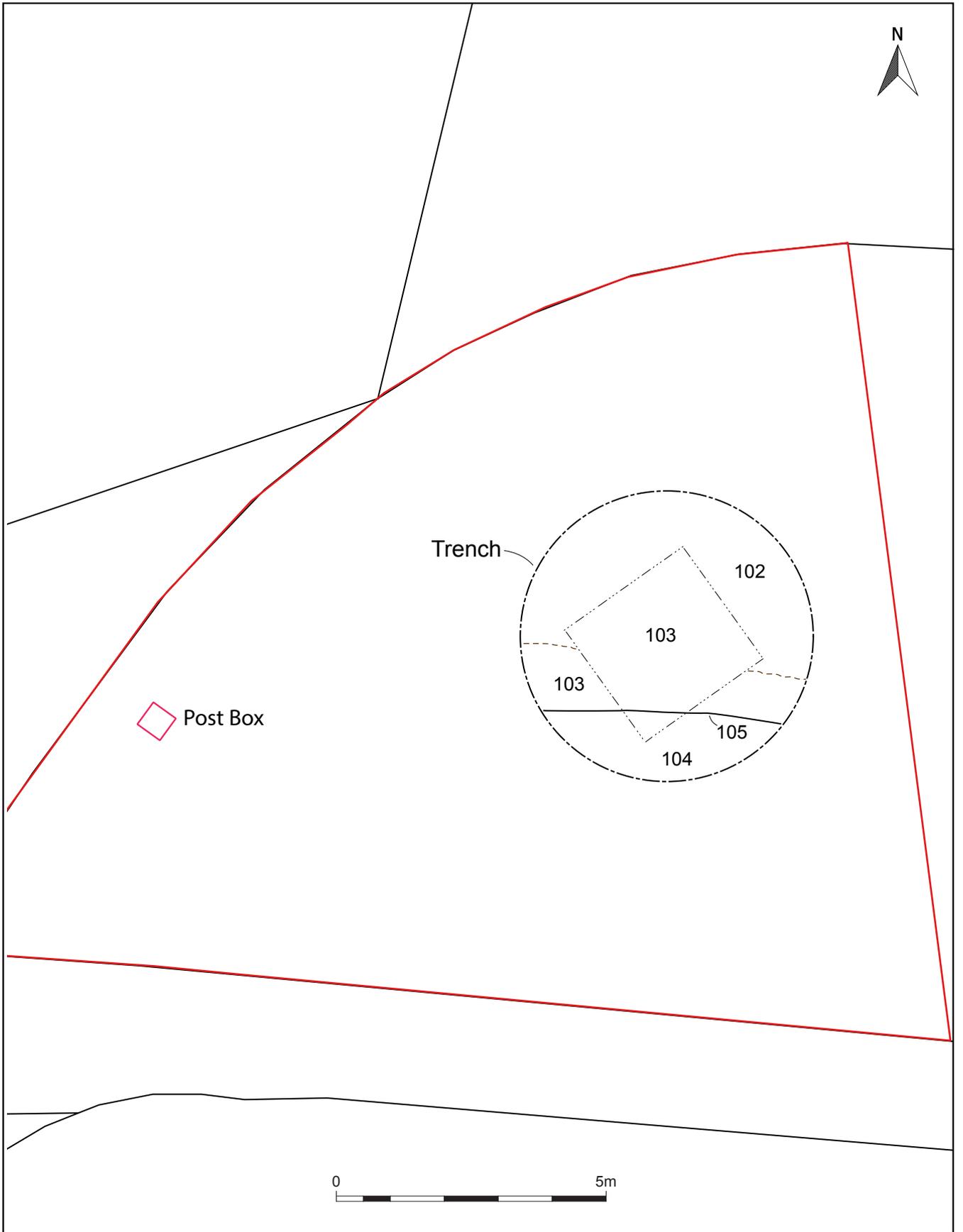
Plate 2 The trench, facing east



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Location of the site

Figure 1



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Trench location plan

Figure 2

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

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

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Market Hall Museum
Market Place
Warwick
Warwickshire
CV34 4SA

Tel 01926 412500

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