

Archaeological watching brief at the proposed community hall, Pershore cemetery

for

One Creative Environments Ltd

December 2018



Worcestershire Archaeology

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Archaeological watching brief at the proposed community hall, Persnore cemetery, Worcestershire



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

Local planning authority:	Wychavon District Council
Planning reference:	18/01791/PA
Central NGR:	SO 93749 45290
Commissioning client:	One Creative Environments Ltd on behalf of Pershore Town Council
WA project reference:	P5443
WA report reference:	2643
HER reference:	WSM 70701
Oasis reference:	Fieldsec1-335073
Museum accession number	TBA
Project design	WA 2018
Project parameters	CIfA 2014, WA 2012

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	20/12/2018	Draft for client	Andrew Mann	Tom Vaughan

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Archaeological watching brief at the proposed community hall, Persore cemetery, Persore, Worcestershire

Andrew Mann

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Background information

Previous archaeological work on the site

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site in 2009 (Hughes and Vaughan 2009) which identified an enclosed Roman settlement of mainly 1st to 2nd century date.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

In 2012 an archaeological excavation was undertaken immediately north-east of Persore cemetery (Mann, Lovett and Rogers 2013). This identified further Roman settlement remains of 1st to 2nd century date and suggests that both sites form part of a larger settlement area.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to monitor geotechnical boreholes being excavated across the site and to observe and record any archaeological deposits, to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

Access to or visibility of deposits

The boreholes monitored were approximately 0.15m in diameter which limited the opportunity to observe deposits in-situ and required deposits to be recorded as the sleeved boreholes were opened during the site works.

Five boreholes were monitored during the watching brief. The positions of these can be seen in Figure 2.

Statement of confidence

Although the small size of the boreholes limited the information that could be obtained from monitoring such works, sufficient access to the sampled deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

No archaeological deposits were encountered during the works and no artefacts were recovered. The approximate depths of the topsoil and subsoil in each borehole are recorded in Table 1.

Context	Description	Interpretation	Thickness (m)
Borehole 1: Surface at 25.47m AOD			
100	Soft mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil	0.50
101	Soft orange brown sandy and clayey silts with occasional pebbles	Subsoil	0.40
103	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay	Natural	2.60 +

Borehole 2: Surface at 25.06m AOD			
200	Soft mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil	0.35
201	Soft orange brown sandy and clayey silts with occasional pebbles	Subsoil	0.70
203	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay	Natural	3.10 +
Borehole 3: Surface at 24.82m AOD			
300	Soft mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil	0.50
301	Soft orange brown sandy and clayey silts with occasional pebbles	Subsoil	0.50
302	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay	Natural	3.10 +
Borehole 4: Surface at 24.65m AOD			
400	Soft mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil	0.30
401	Soft orange brown sandy and clayey silts with occasional pebbles	Subsoil	0.50
402	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay	Natural	3.10 +
Borehole 5: Surface at 25.16m AOD			
500	Soft mid dark grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles	Topsoil	0.30
501	Soft orange brown sandy and clayey silts with occasional pebbles	Subsoil	0.40
502	Light orange brown stony/gravelly clay	Natural	2.80 +

Table 1: Deposits observed in each borehole monitored.

Discussion

No archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief and although not conclusive this appears to confirm the results of the archaeological evaluation (Hughes and Vaughan 2009). This suggested that the main focus of Roman activity was across the western half of the field in which the community hall is being constructed. The results suggest that the area of the proposed development may only contain occasional, discrete archaeological remains.

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 for One Creative Environments Ltd on behalf of Pershore Town Council at Pershore cemetery, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 93730 45311; HER ref WSM 70701). Five windowless boreholes were excavated across the footprint of a proposed community hall to a depth approximately 3.50m. Although the depths of the topsoil, subsoil and natural geology were established, no archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified in any borehole.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Jon Scharff (One Creative Environments Ltd), Ann Dobbins (Town Clerk, Pershore Town Council), and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Council).

Bibliography

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

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 at the community hall, Pershore cemetery, Three Springs Road, Pershore, Worcestershire*. Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 26 September 2018, **P5458**

Hughes, J and Vaughan, T M, 2009 *Archaeological excavation and watching brief at Three Springs Road, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **1687**, dated 1 April 2009, P3168

Mann, A C, Lovett, P J, and Rogers, T V, 2013 *Archaeological excavation and watching brief at Three Springs Road, Pershore, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report 2002, dated 28 November 2013, P3634

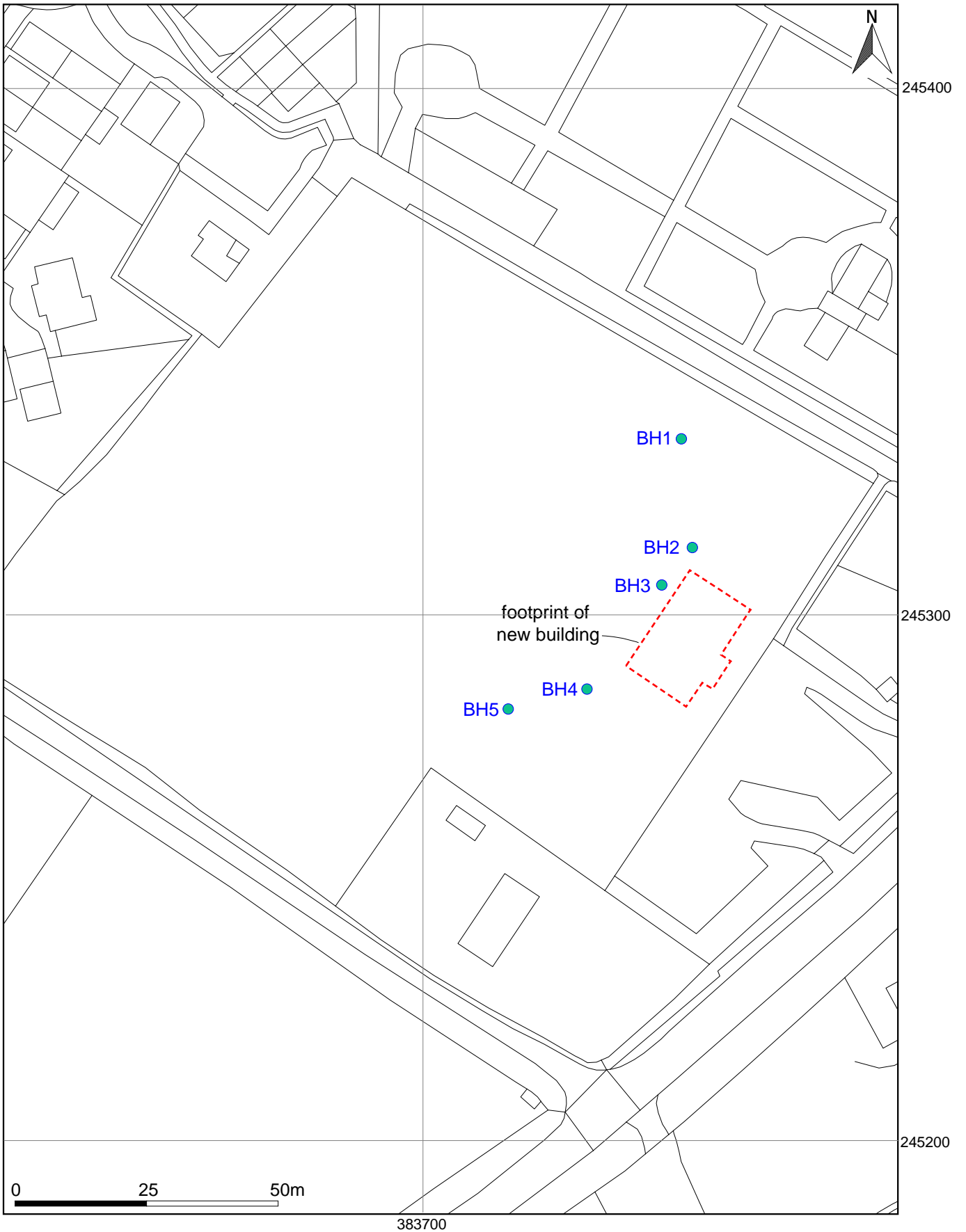
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



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Location of boreholes

Figure 2

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70701)

The archive consists of:

- 5 Trench record sheets AS41
- 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).