

# Archaeological investigations at 77-79, St Johns and Powell's Row, St Johns, Worcester



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## **Archaeological investigations at 77-79, St Johns and Powell's Row, St Johns, Worcester**

Peter Lovett

With contributions by Rob Hedge

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 77-79, St Johns and a watching brief at Powell's Row, St Johns, Worcester (NGR SO 84015 54320). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr HoLim Yung for Mr Peter Styles, who intends to redevelop the site with mixed use properties, for which a planning application has been submitted.

The investigations revealed a series of walls relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of Powell's Row. These included floor surfaces and a probable coal cellar. Behind the former Zig Zag nightclub (77-79, St Johns), a 3m deep unlined well was discovered, containing mid-19<sup>th</sup> century bricks and a small quantity of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This was likely to have been associated with the King's Head pub, which stood on the site before being replaced by a cinema in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This then became the nightclub, the concrete floor and eastern limit of which were also identified.

A small rim sherd from a thin-walled 16<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian-type ware (fabric 78.5) vessel, probably a cup or tyg, was recovered from a shallow pit of indeterminate function, of probable late medieval date.

Pockets of post-medieval soils and underlying subsoils were revealed during the investigations, though no evidence for earlier occupation was identified. This suggests that the suburb of St Johns did not extend this far to the south during the medieval period.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 77-79, St Johns and a watching brief at Powell's Row, St Johns, Worcester (NGR SO 84015 54320). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr HoLim Yung for Mr Peter Styles, who intends to redevelop the site with mixed use properties, for which planning applications have been submitted to Worcester City District Council (references P14C0464 and P16K0302).

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application (WCM 98689).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Worcester City Council (WCC 2016) and for which two project proposals (including detailed specification) were produced (WA 2015; WA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Statement of standards and practices appropriate for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester* (WCC 1999).

The event references for this project, given by the HER are WCM 102167 (evaluation) and WCM 102168 (watching brief).

### 2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation were:

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

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To observe all ground breaking activity.
- To make a stratigraphic record of deposits exposed by groundworks.
- To make a record of the extent and depth of groundworks.
- To make a record of all finds and environmental material recovered.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Elspeth Iliff (BA (hons.); MSc). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA. Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

The sites have been the subject of two desk-based assessments (HA 2014; HA 2016). The history of the buildings is presented in two reports by Hughes (2000, 44-51; 2008). Building recording was undertaken of the former club after the fire by Worcestershire Archaeology (Robson-Glyde 2008). The archaeological investigations associated with the Sainsbury's development adjacent to the east were undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (Wainwright 2015).

### 3.3 List of sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- George Young 1779
- Roper and Young 1808
- Ordnance Survey Surveyors Map 1811-13
- Hall 1829
- Bentley 1840
- Tithe Map 1841
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1888
- Ordnance Survey 1928

#### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

### 3.4 Fieldwork strategy

Detailed specifications were prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology for both the watching brief (WA 2015) and the evaluation (WA 2016). Fieldwork was undertaken between 21 June and 23 June 2016. The site reference number and site code is WCM 102167 (evaluation) and WCM 102168 (watching brief).

Three trenches, amounting to just over 48m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 600m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of 8% (Trenches 1-3). A fourth trench was excavated as part of the watching brief off Powell's Row (Trench 4). The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. 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.

### 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, by Rob Hedge

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993).

### 3.7 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

Only a sample of later material was collected from the spoil during machining. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building material (CBM) was noted on site but not recovered.

### **3.7.1 Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded in a Microsoft Access database.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

### **3.7.2 Discard policy**

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of, and consultation with, the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

## **3.8 Environmental archaeology methodology**

### **3.8.1 Sampling policy**

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.

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context**

The site lies upon Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member superficial deposits, themselves sitting upon Sidmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2016). The site fronts onto Powell's Row to the south, and lies behind the now derelict frontages of 77-79, St John's to the west. To the north the site is bordered by the backyard of the neighbouring plot, and to the east is parking associated with local businesses. The site lies at c 27.3m AOD, sloping down slightly to the west.

The following is a brief summary of the site background taken from existing sources (HA 2014; HA 2016; Hughes 2000; Hughes 2008; Robson-Glyde 2008; Wainwright 2015).

The potential for early activity is partially predicated on the conjectured existence of a large prehistoric enclosure (WCM 96514), and more substantially on Middle Iron Age remains within a Late Iron Age enclosure (Wainwright 2015). This same enclosure appeared to be reused in the early Roman period, and possibly acted as a trading point between the local population and the Roman military.

St John's street to the west, is considered to be medieval in origin, and various excavations in the area have found evidence of medieval activity (Wainwright 2015). This layout continued into the post-medieval period with little change. The Roper and Young map of 1808 suggests that Powell's Row was at this time unpopulated, and it was not until Hall's 1829 map that any buildings are shown along this lane. The 1840 map by Bentley shows further infilling of the backyard areas of the development site, whilst the 1841 Tithe Map shows better the development of Powell's Row. However, it is not until the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 that the earliest accurate representation is available. This shows that what is now the (derelict) Zig Zag nightclub was then the Kings Head pub. The pub closed sometime prior to 1914, when a cinema was built on the site (WCM 98689). This was possibly the first purpose built cinema in Worcester (Hughes 2008). It

closed in 1980, and was refitted as a nightclub, which operated until 1998. It suffered a series of fires, the last of which resulted in its partial demolition in 2008 (Robson-Glyde 2008).

## 4.2 Current land-use

The site was formerly a nightclub with associated outbuildings, whose buildings have been demolished and the hardstanding broken up.

# 5 Results

## 5.1 Structural analysis

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

### 5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural geology consisted of a moderately compact light yellow brown coarse sand in Trench 3, becoming stonier in Trench 4. In Trenches 1 and 2 the natural was a firm pinkish sandy clay with pebbles. The natural lay at between 0.67m and 1.2m below present ground level.

A subsoil was identified in all four trenches, variably silty sand, sandy silt and sandy clay, and ranging from 0.23m to 0.56m thick.

### 5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

In Trench 3 an accumulation layer 312 was cut by a small pit, 311, filled with a sandy deposit (Plate 3; Fig 5). This contained a single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian-type ware, and was the only artefact recovered relating to the medieval period.

### 5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

In Trench 1 a large circular pit, 108, was excavated (Plates 2 and 4; Fig 4). This cut through the subsoil, and measured 1.8m wide and 3.2m deep (1.2m hand excavated and 2m excavated by machine). It was filled with a dump of bricks and occasional slate shelving. A blue engineering brick was recorded from near the base of the pit, indicating a post-1840 date. The feature was likely to have been a well, but no structural lining was observed, either in the hand excavation or subsequent machining.

An east to west aligned wall was revealed in the edge of the western end of Trench 1, c 0.36m below ground surface (Plate 6). It emerged from the western end and ran for 0.93m, and was at least 0.75m high. It was of low quality construction, with evidence of reused bricks. The bond was irregular, and the brick was bonded with a soft pinkish white lime mortar (a mortar that was observed on several other brick walls across the site).

Accumulation layer 309 sealed late medieval pit 311. At the eastern end of Trench 2 was observed a similar buried accumulation deposit, which sat above the subsoil. This deposit, 207, was 0.28m thick and was probably formed as backyard soils. In Trench 4 this was recorded as 412. Layer 309 was truncated by a 0.8m deep pit filled with brick rubble, which was in turn truncated by a sewer pipe trench.

Several walls were revealed during the watching brief in Trench 4. A sandstone wall 408 with a coal stained brick base 407 was observed under the extant building on the western side of the site, fronting onto Powell's Row (Plate 7; Fig 4). This was probably a low coal cellar or chute, and had been backfilled with rubble prior to the construction of the existing building. This sandstone wall ran east to west across the width of the trench, and appeared to return south in the opposing section of the trench. A two brick wide wall 420 ran north to south, perpendicular to Powell's Row. This was four courses high and bonded with a firm white mortar. On the south-eastern side of Trench 4 was wall 418, which ran east to west, and came to an intended end at its western extent. This was similarly bonded with firm white mortar. It was abutted on the south side by a quarry tile floor, and

on the northern side by a brick surface, suggesting internal and external areas respectively (Plate 9). These three structures were all bedded on a thin silty sand deposit, which in turn lay above the aforementioned accumulation layer 412 (Plate 10).

Immediately north of surface 417 was an east to west wall, 416. This was bonded with a soft pink mortar, and consisted of bricks measuring 240mm long x 55mm thick. To the west, a larger wall 422 was identified (Plate 8). This too was bonded with a soft pinkish mortar, though the brick size differed, measuring 230mm long x 115mm wide x 50mm thick. It ran north to south for 2.2m before returning east at its northern end. Two metres north of wall 422 was another wall bonded with pinkish mortar. This wall, 415, was aligned east to west, with bricks measuring 230mm long x 70mm thick. It was built on a foundation of brick rubble and mortar. These walls were all built into accumulation layer 412.

#### 5.1.4 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A concrete slab was discovered to cover the majority of Trench 2, being the floor for the nightclub that previously stood, buried by its own demolition debris. This was initially observed at the eastern end of Trench 1, and extended through c 8m of Trench 2. It was seen to lie upon a thin bed of made ground, which in turn sat directly on the natural strata. An extension trench to the south was excavated in an attempt to ascertain the limit of this concrete slab, but the surface extended beyond the full extent of the trench here. To the eastern end of the trench, the concrete slab ended as it abutted a north-east to south-west wall. This wall, 203, was itself butted by a wall running perpendicularly. Both walls cut through the accumulation layer 207 (Plate 5).

A brick built inspection chamber for a pipe manifold sat within the middle of Trench 4, whilst a similar structure was observed at the southern limit of the extension to Trench 2. The majority of the site was covered in a mixed layer of demolition material, up to 0.12m deep.

### 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

#### 5.2.1 Analysis

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1–2.

The assemblage came from two stratified contexts and could be dated from the late medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying high levels of abrasion: although the mean sherd size, at 19.3g, was above average, reflecting the robust nature of some of the coarse post-medieval earthenwares present.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
late medieval	ceramic		pot	1	3
post-medieval	ceramic		brick	1	736
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	7	162
post-medieval	ceramic		roof tile	2	810
post-medieval/modern	metal	iron	nail	1	9
modern	ceramic		pot	1	9
undated	bone	animal bone	mammal bone	5	264
				Totals	18 1993

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Late medieval	78.5	Cistercian ware	1	3
Post-medieval	77	Midlands yellow ware	1	2
Post-medieval	78.1	Red sandy ware	4	157
Post-medieval	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	1
Post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	1	2

Modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	1	9
		Totals	9	174

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

### Summary of artefactual evidence

The sole artefact from fill (310) of pit [311] was a small rim sherd from a thin-walled 16<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian-type ware (fabric 78.5) vessel, probably a cup or tyg. The remainder of the assemblage came from the upper fill (106) of well [108], the lower fill (107) of which contains engineering brick, indicating a date of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or later. However, the artefacts recovered from the upper fill are largely indicative of earlier activity on the site, including:

- coarse domestic redwares (fabric 78.1; 18<sup>th</sup> century)
- salt-glazed stoneware (fabric 81.5; mid-18<sup>th</sup> century)
- 'manganese mottled' buffware (fabric 91)
- Midlands Yellow ware (fabric 77; 17<sup>th</sup> century date)
- roof tile and brick (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century).

The presence of this material in the upper fill of the well, alongside its abraded condition, suggests that it is likely to comprise residual material incorporated into the well when backfilling occurred in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and probably denotes that the backfilling was a deliberate act rather than gradual process.

Both the 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery from (310) and the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century material from (106) are most likely to relate to the known medieval and post-medieval settlement of St Johns.

#### 5.2.2 Further analysis and reporting

No further work on the assemblage is considered necessary.

#### 5.2.3 Discard and retention

With the possible exception of the single late medieval sherd from (310), the assemblage is not considered worthy of retention.

## 6 Synthesis

### 6.1 Medieval

A small pit containing a single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian-type ware pottery (fabric 78.5) was identified cutting through an earlier accumulation layer. This appeared to be an isolated pit, of no clear function, and was the only feature that could be dated to this period.

### 6.2 Post-medieval

The archaeological remains identified in both the evaluation and the watching brief are predominantly of post-medieval date or later. The wall and concrete slab excavated in Trench 2 related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century nightclub. The remaining walls were likely to have corresponded to the buildings mapped on the 19<sup>th</sup> century cartography of the area. Walls 416 and 420 certainly correspond well with buildings on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (Fig 3), whilst the surfaces bisected by wall 418 (Plate 9) are only slightly misaligned to the earlier mapping. Similarly walls 415 and 422 are close to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition map, whilst the stone wall and brick floor seen under the extant building in the south-west corner of the site corresponds to the small square outbuildings.

Wall 109 and circular pit 108 (Plates 6 and 4), both in Trench 1, are the only features that sit at odds with the structures illustrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition mapping. The pit, at over 3m deep, was almost certainly a well, though why it was not lined is curious. It contained a blue engineering brick at the base of its backfill, confirming a post-1840 date for its abandonment. It could have been backfilled in preparation for subsequent alterations to the plot, and indeed the 1841 Tithe Map suggests

fewer buildings behind the high street frontages than shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, and the possibility of a well in a position that could correspond to feature 108. This would have probably been the King's Head pub during this time, though no material finds recovered from the site could be associated with such a building. In fact, there was a dearth of material remains across the site.

The construction of the cinema in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century has apparently heavily truncated evidence of previous activity of the site, though it must be noted that at the eastern extent of the cinema building, the post-medieval soil and underlying subsoil were deep and undisturbed. This, coupled with the dearth of artefacts, suggests limited agricultural use for the site prior to the construction of buildings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 6.3 Research frameworks

The research framework for Worcester (WCC 2007) outlines research priorities that are relevant to the development site; RP5.1, the medieval suburbs, and RP7.5, investigation of the historic suburbs. Whilst no density of medieval remains were identified during the excavations, this negative result further defines the limits of the area of medieval occupation of St Johns. Intensive activity and occupation of Powell's Row is likely to have begun in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with low level agricultural activity preceding it.

## 7 Significance

The archaeological remains consist predominantly of shallow wall foundations, cutting a post-medieval soil. These walls correspond, with varying degrees of accuracy, to historic mapping for the area. As such, the remains are of limited significance.

All the remains were discovered at a shallow depth, sometimes as little as 0.12m below the ground surface. The walls associated with Powell's Row extended to a depth of between 0.35m and 0.65m from the current ground level.

## 8 The impact of the development

### 8.1 Impacts during construction

The archaeology survives just below the current ground surface, at c 0.12m depth, so any ground works will potentially impact upon the buried remains, however the archaeological deposits identified are considered to be of low significance.

### 8.2 Impacts on sustainability

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

## 9 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 at 77-79, St Johns and a watching brief at Powell's Row, St Johns, Worcester (NGR SO 84015 54320). It was undertaken on behalf of Mr HoLim Yung for Mr Peter Styles, who intends to redevelop the site with mixed use properties, for which a planning application has been submitted.*

*The investigations revealed a series of walls relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of Powell's Row. These included floor surfaces and a probable coal cellar. Behind the former Zig Zag nightclub (77-79, St Johns), a 3m deep unlined well was discovered, containing mid-19<sup>th</sup> century bricks and*

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a small quantity of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This was likely to have been associated with the King's Head pub, which stood on the site before being replaced by a cinema in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This then became the nightclub, the concrete floor and eastern limit of which were also identified.

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## 10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, HoLim Yung, Peter Styles, and James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council).

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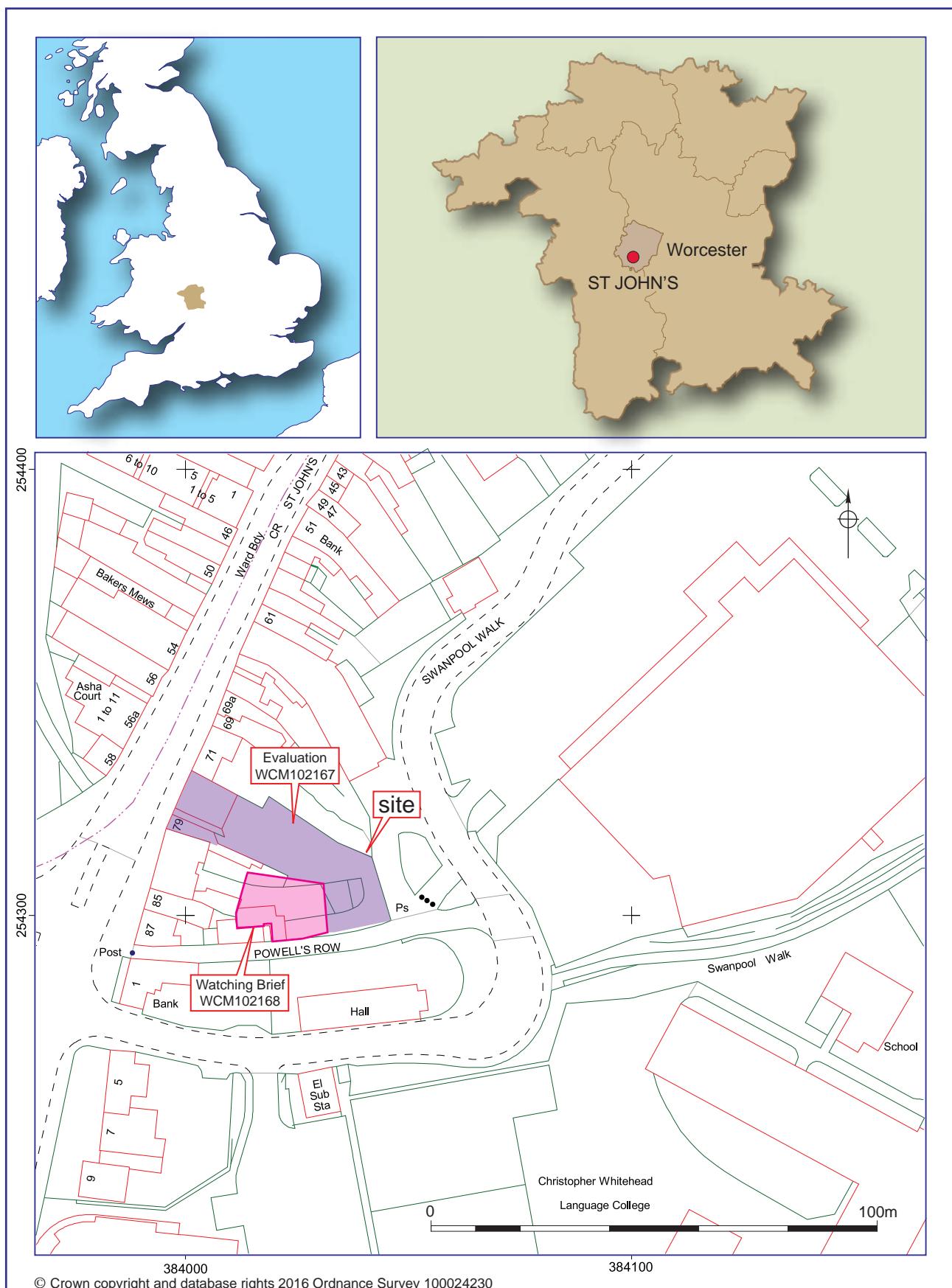
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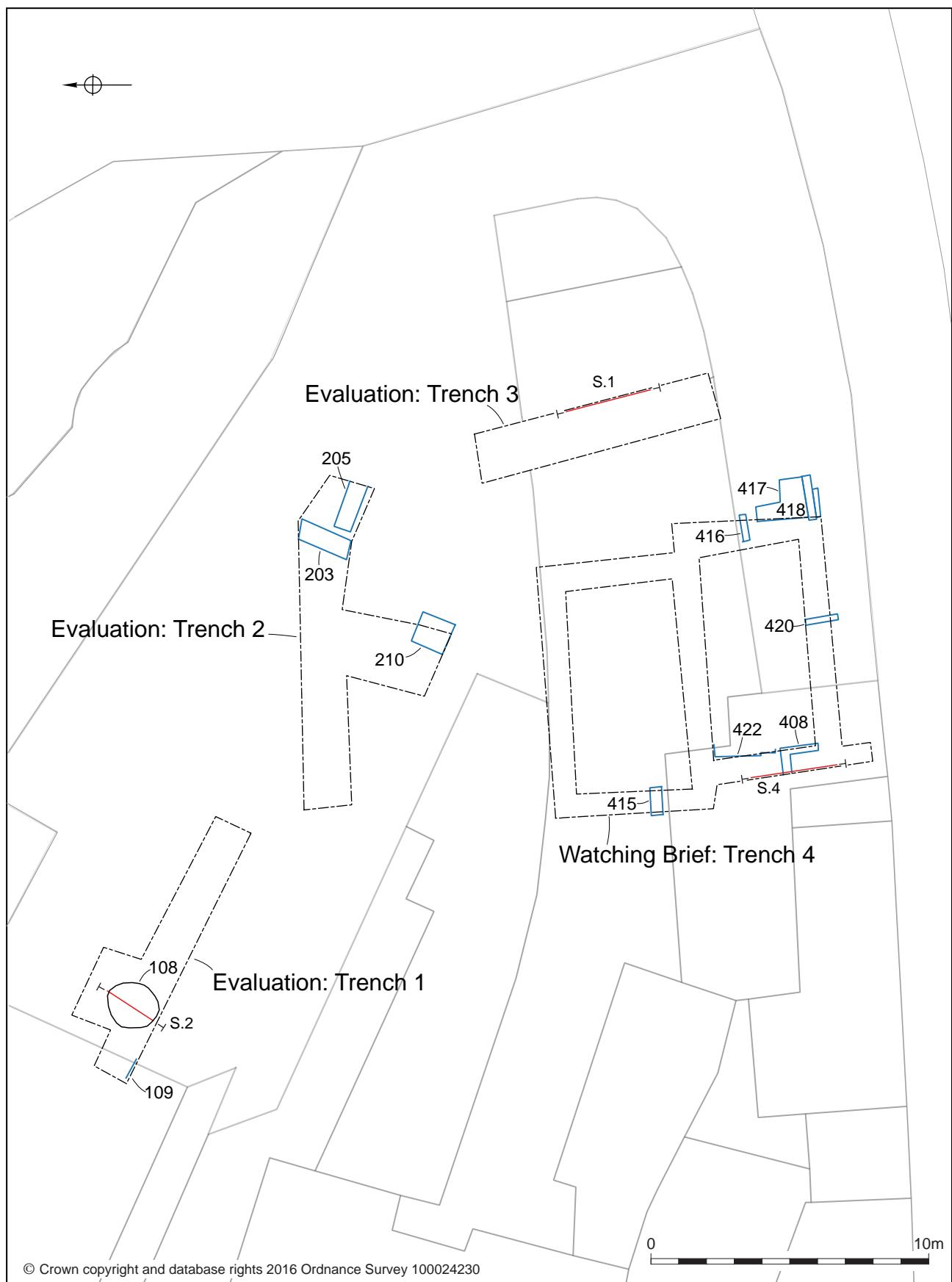
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## **Figures**



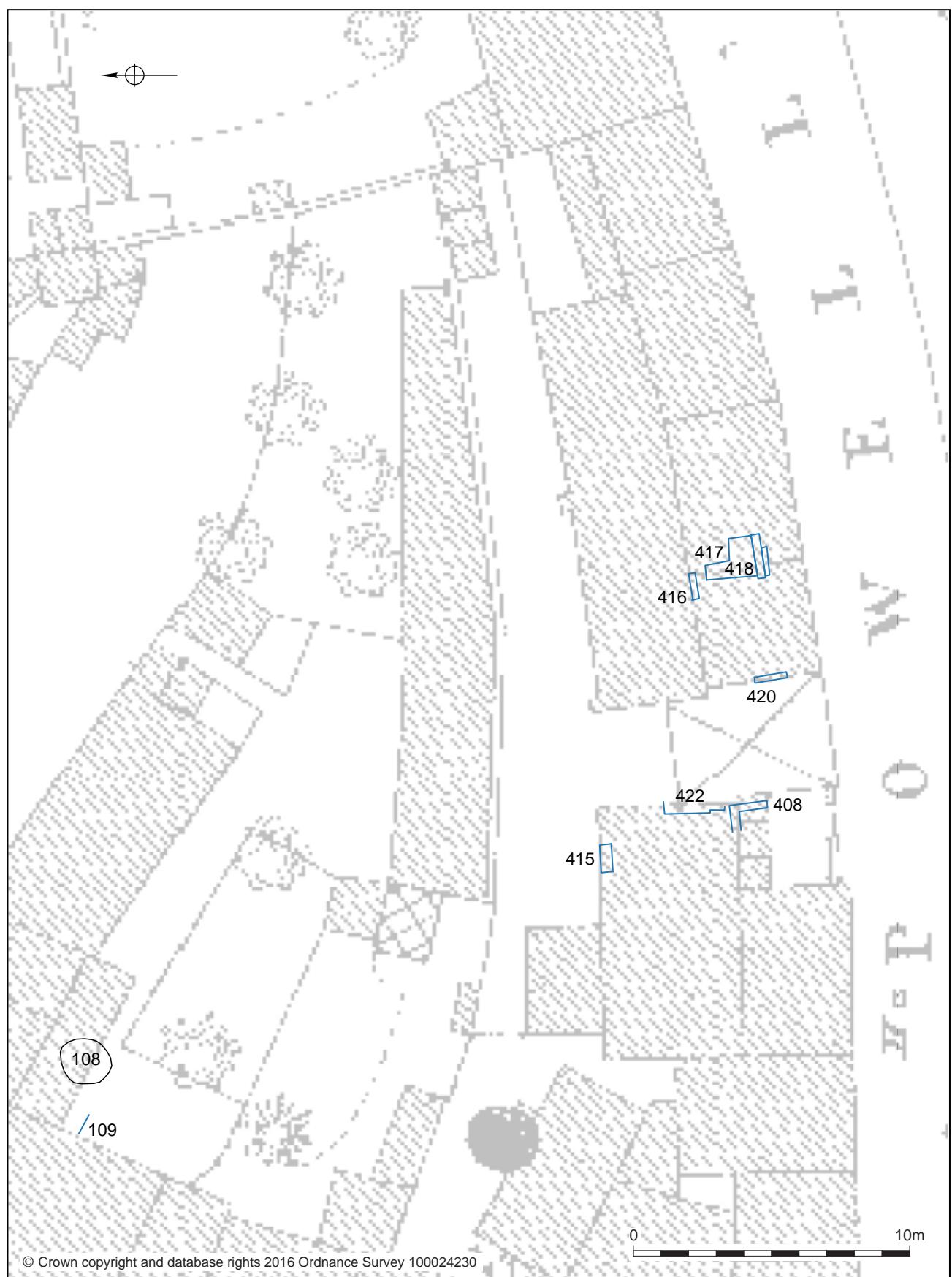
*Location of the site*

*Figure 1*



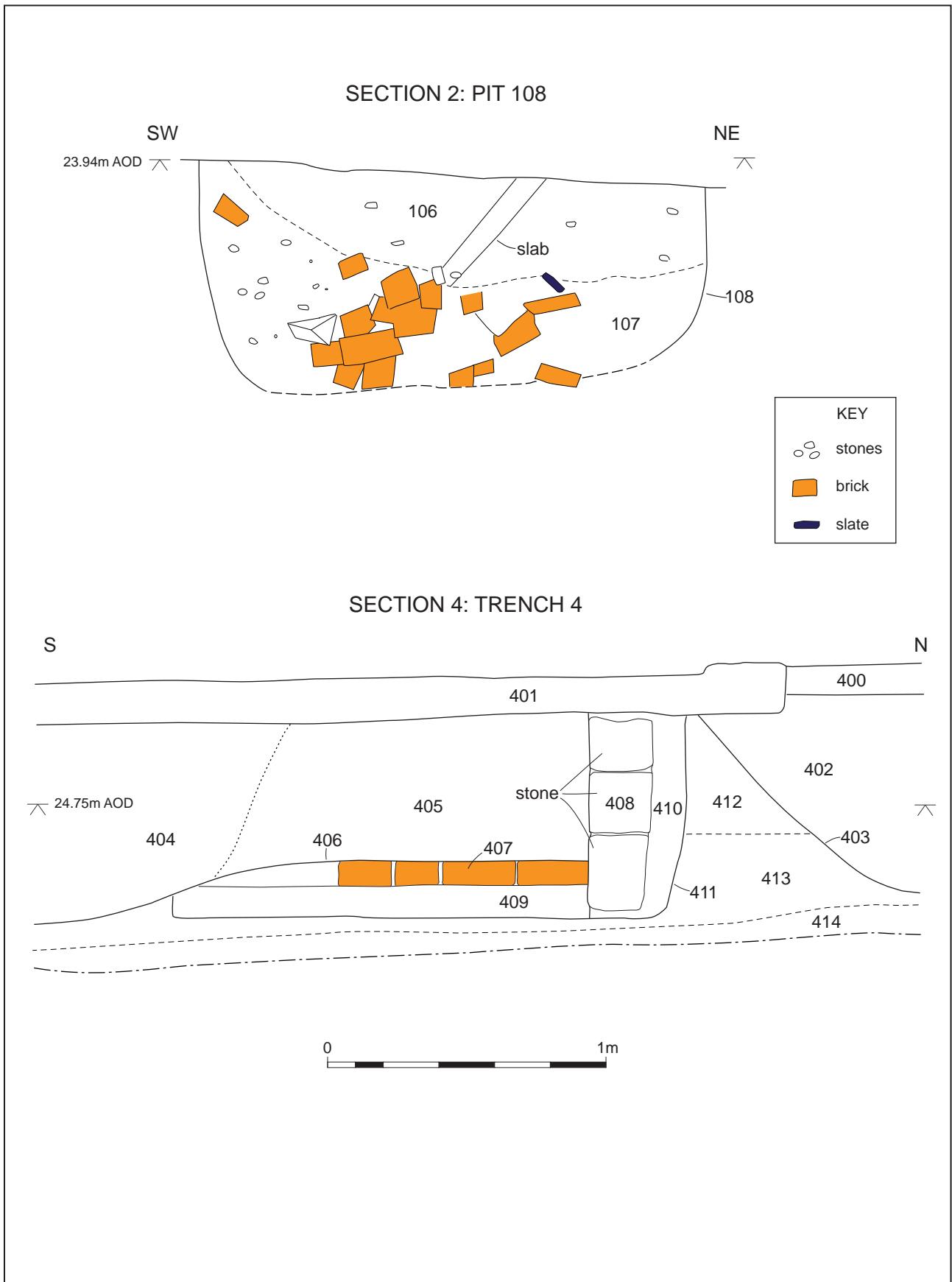
Trench location plan

Figure 2



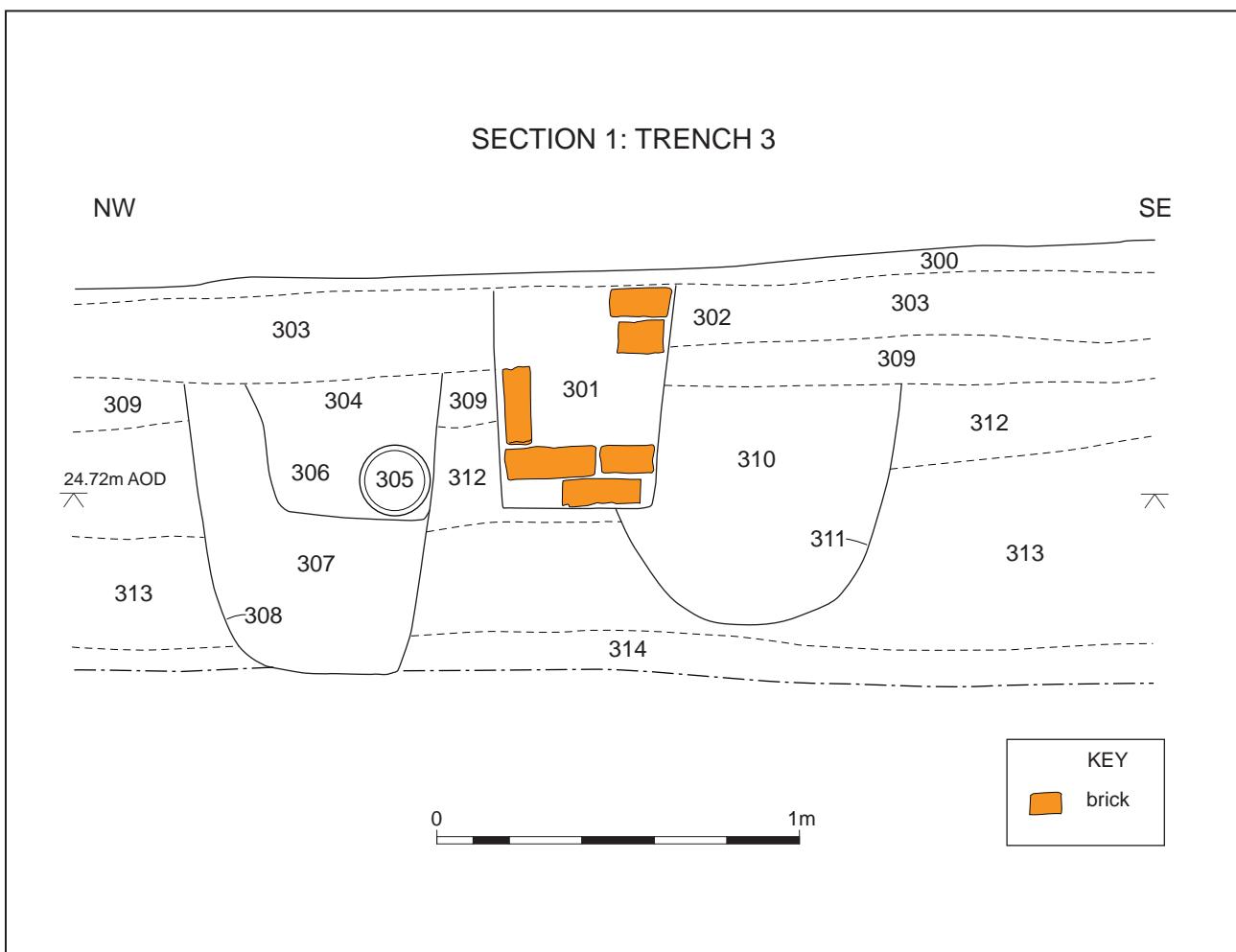
Features overlaid on OS 1st edition map

Figure 3



Sections 2 and 4

Figure 4



## *Section 1*

*Figure 5*

## Plates



*Plate 1 General shot of site, looking south-west, prior to site investigations*



*Plate 2 Trench 1, looking west (1m scales)*

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*Plate 3 Section 1 in Trench 2, looking east (1m scales)*



*Plate 4 Well 108, in Trench 1, looking west (1m scale)*

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Plate 5 Eastern end of Trench 2, showing wall 203, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 6 Wall 109 at west end of Trench 1, looking south (1m and 0.5m scale)

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Plate 7 Coal cellar 407 and 408, in Trench 4, looking west (1m scales)



Plate 8 Wall 422, in Trench 4, looking east (1m scales)



Plate 9 Wall 418 and surfaces 417 and 419, in Trench 4, looking south (1m scales)



Plate 10 Section under wall 418, in Trench 4m, looking east (1m scale)



*Plate 11 Trench 4 general shot, looking south-west*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 10m      Width: 1.6m      Orientation: north-west to south-east

#### Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid orangey Brown silty sand	0.09M	Topsoil/levelling deposit with orange sand patches and occasional subangular pebbles and cobbles.
101	Modern Layer	Layer	Hard dark greyish black	0.22M	Modern cinder material levelling deposit.
102	Modern Layer	Layer	Friable mid yellowish Brown clayey sand	0.14M	Levelling Deposit with moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles.
103	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey red sandy clay	0.23M	Subsoil. Possibly redeposited natural
104	Natural	Layer	Compact mid orangey red sandy clay		Gravelly natural
105	Surface	Layer	Concrete	0.10M	Layer of concrete floor seen at SE end of trench but does not extend into the trench.
106	Well	Fill	Moderately Compact mid greyish brown clay silt		Upper fill of well [108]. Occasional pot, frequent CBM, occasional slate shelves and occasional bone.
107	Well	Fill	Moderately Compact mid greyish brown sandy clay		Fill of Well [108]. Full of dumped CBM/bricks.
108	Well	Cut		2M	Cut of almost vertical sided round, unlined well, 1.9m diameter. Filled by 106 and 107, containing large amounts of dumped material (mainly brick). Deliberate backfill after use with rubble. Finds suggest modern.
109	Wall	Structure		0.75M	Brick wall in west end of Tr 1, in south section. Construction cut visible high up. Wall consists of four different mortars. Very patchy construction. Reused bricks in places. One has a charcoal stained end. Hard pinkish white lime mortar with white grits. Brick dimensions: L:210mm D:60mm B:110mm.
110	Construction Cut	Cut			Construction cut for wall 109.

**Trench 2**

Length: 10m      Width: 1.6m      Orientation: east to west

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose light whiteish grey sand	0.09M	Gravelly modern levelling deposit/made ground
201	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose mid reddish brown sand	0.5m	Gravelly sandy rubble dump. Frequent bricks and other modern material.
202	Surface	Structure	Concrete		Concrete floor layer. Depth not visible in this trench. Same as 105.
203	Wall	Structure		0.33M	Modern brick wall, crossing trench and aligned N-S. Butts 202.
204	Construction Cut	Cut			Construction cut for wall 203.
205	Wall	Structure		0.55M	Brick wall aligned E-W
206	Construction Cut	Cut			Construction cut for 205
207	Layer	Layer	Friable mid brown sandy silt	0.28M	Buried topsoil
208	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid orangey Brown silty sand	0.46M	Buried subsoil. Moderate charcoal flecks.
209	Natural	Layer	Compact mid orangey red sandy clay		Gravelly natural
210		Structure			Brick inspection chamber covered in concrete with concrete steps. Opened and immediately recovered.

**Trench 3**

Length: 10m      Width: 1.6m      Orientation: north to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Modern Layer	Layer	rubble	0.08M	Rubble levelling
301	Wall	Structure			Brick wall. Partially disturbed Small with footing running NE-SW. 110x230x70mm
302	Construction Cut	Cut		0.64m	Construction cut for wall 301.
303	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid greyish Brown silty sand	0.24M	Rubble levelling layer
304		Fill			Backfill of drain run.
305	Drain	Structure			Ceramic drain pipe
306	Drain	Cut			Cut of drain run.

307	Pit	Fill				Brick rubble backfill of small pit/ditch. Doesn't continue in other section. 0.8m
308	Pit	Cut				Small pit/ditch
309	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid brownish grey silty sand	0.14m		19th/20th century accumulation layer.
310	Pit	Fill	Soft mid yellowish Brown silty sand	0.66m		Fill of pit [311]
311	Pit	Cut				Cut of small pit
312	Layer	Layer	Soft mid brownish grey silty sand	0.32M		Postmed accumulation layer.
313	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid yellowish Brown silty sand	0.56M		Subsoil
314	Natural	Layer	Moderately Compact light yellowish Brown silty sand			Natural. 1.1m BGS

**Trench 4**

Length: 11m      Width: 9m      Orientation: North to south

**Context summary:**

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Modern Layer	Layer		0.12m	Modern levelling layer
401		Structure		0.18m	Concrete footing of existing building in SW corner of site.
402	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact mid greyish Brown silty sand	0.1M	Backfilling of demo material into specifically
403	Pit	Cut			Cut of pit for demo dump.
404	Modern Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid greyish Brown silty sand		Dumped levelling layer of rubble for construction of building above.
405		Fill			Brick and rubble infill of earlier coal cellar
406		Cut			Cut representing demolition of part of earlier cellar.
407	Floor	Structure			Brick floor of earlier coal cellar. Bricks measure 230mm by 55mm. Lying on bed of friable greenish white sandy mortar.
408	Wall	Structure			Roughly hewn red and green sandstone blocks forming an E-W wall and the northern boundary of a probable cellar associated with buildings fronting Powell's Row.
409	Modern Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark greyish Brown sandy clay	0.12M	Levelling material for cellar floor 407

77-79, St Johns and Powell's Row, Worcester

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410	Construction Cut	Fill	Soft dark greenish grey clayey sand		Construction cut backfill
411	Construction Cut			0.72M	Construction cut for coal cellar, with wall 408 and floor 407 in it. C. 2m N-S.
412	Layer	Layer	Soft mid brownish grey sandy silt	0.4M	General accumulation layer.
413	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid yellowish Brown sandy silt	0.3-0.46M	Subsoil
414	Natural	Layer	pinky brown		Natural. 0.92m BGS
415	Wall	Structure		0.65M	E-W wall, 5 courses high. Bricks 230mm x 70mm. Soft pink mortar, on a 0.17m thick bed of mortar and rubble foundation. 0.55m wide. 0.65m base to current ground level.
416	Wall	Structure			E-W wall, 3 courses high, header structure header. Soft pink mortar. 0.35m base to CGL
417	Floor	Structure			Red brick yard surface abutts wall 418. 235mm x 50mm x 120mm
418	Wall	Structure			E-W wall 0.26m high. 240mm x 110 x 50. On firm white mortar
419	Floor	Structure			Quarry tile floor 280mm x 130 x 25. On firm white mortar
420	Wall	Structure			N-S wall, 4 courses 230mm x 40 x 125. 0.4m from base to CGL
421	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft mid brownish grey silty sand		Occasional charcoal, mod mortar flecks. Bedding layer for walls and floors 416-419
422	Wall	Structure			3 course N-S wall, 230mm x 115 x 50, soft pink mortar. 2.2m N-S, 0.4m base to CGL.

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## Appendix 2 Technical information

### The archive (site code: WCM 102167; WCM 102168)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 2 Scale drawings
- 6 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery  
Museums Worcestershire  
Foregate Street  
Worcester  
WR1 2PW

Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371

## Summary of data for Worcester HER

WCM 102167 (event HER number)

P4869

### Artefacts

period	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	count	weight(g)	Specialist report? (1)	(2) Key assemblage?
late medieval	ceramic	pot	1500	1600	1	3	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1600	1800	1	736	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1600	1700	1	2	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1720	1770	1	1	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1680	1740	1	2	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1700	1800	4	157	Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1475	1750	2	810	Y	N
post-medieval/modern	metal	nail	1600	1900	1	9	Y	N
modern	ceramic	pot	1800	1950	1	9	Y	N
undated	bone	mammal bone			5	264	Y	N

### Notes

- 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 Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001

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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.