

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION,  
AT  
THE REAR OF 23-24 FOREGATE  
STREET, WORCESTER

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3278  
Report 1673  
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# **Archaeological Evaluation at the rear of 23-24 Foregate Street, Worcester**

**Sarah Phear**

**With contributions by Dennis Williams**

## **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the rear of 23-24 Foregate Street, Worcester (NGR: SO 8494 5535). It was undertaken on behalf of Boughton Butler LLP, who intends to build residential housing, offices and a carpark for which a planning application will be submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

Two trenches placed within the site revealed evidence for both horticultural and building activities in the post-medieval period, with no evidence for earlier (medieval, Roman or Prehistoric) activity. A pattern of land use in the form of ground levelling and filling activities in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is present to the rear of 23 Foregate Street, along with an extant brick wall interpreted as a boundary wall. The pattern of land use is similar at the rear of 24 Foregate St, along with evidence for building demolition, which could be related to the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century building currently fronting Foregate Street, or as a result of demolition and clearance of the Foregate suburb during and after the Civil War in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore, the absence of any earlier settlement remains at the site, which is in the Historic core of the Roman town (not in the historic core of the medieval settlement as it outside the walls), may also be the result of the 17<sup>th</sup> century demolition and disturbance.



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## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 23-24 Foregate Street (NGR: SO 8494 5535), Worcester (Fig 1), on behalf of Boughton Butler LLP. Boughton Butler LLP intends to submit a planning application to Worcester City Council for residential accommodation, offices and associated car parking, and the Curator (Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section) considers that remains of archaeological interest may be affected (WCM 98407 and 98834).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section (WCMAS 2008) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2008).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

More specifically the following aims have been identified (WCMAS 2008 6), based on research priorities (RP) identified within *An archaeological resource assessment and research framework for the city of Worcester* (Worcester Urban Archaeology Strategy 2007):

- Documenting the extents of Roman Worcester (RP3.30)
- The medieval suburbs (RP5.1)
- Sampling of medieval backplot areas (RP5.12)
- Medieval boundaries and land divisions (RP5.27)
- Industry and land-use patterns in the suburbs (RP5.14)
- Colonisation of back-plot areas and land in suburbs in the post-medieval period (RP6.1)
- Civil War destruction (RP6.21)

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

### *Cartographic sources*

- First edition Ordnance Survey sheet XXXIII.4.21, 1886
- Map of Worcester by T. Eaton, 1808
- John Speed's map of Worcester, 1610

## 2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2008). Fieldwork was undertaken between 13 and 15 January 2009. The site reference number and site code is WCM 101670.

Two trenches, amounting to *c* 32m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of *c* 580m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of *c* 5.5%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Trench 1 was sited across the boundary of 23-24 Foregate Street, aligned north-south, and Trench 2 was placed at the rear of 24 Foregate Street, aligned north-south and east-west ('L' shaped). This latter trench was so excavated due to the presence of services in the centre of the carpark, restricting the area that could be sampled.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using an 180° wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and a deposit was partially excavated to ascertain its nature (i.e. negative or positive feature) and to retrieve artefactual material. No deposits were encountered that required environmental sampling. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

### 2.2.2 **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.

## 2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS, 1995, appendix 4).

All artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits although only a sub-sample of finds were collected from 20<sup>th</sup> century deposits. All artefacts will be retained.

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. 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 on *pro forma* sheets.



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The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees, 1992; Hurst, 1994).

#### 2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

Deposits suitable for environmental analysis were not encountered during the evaluation, and therefore environmental analysis was not required.

#### 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

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

### 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site, located to the rear of 23-24 Foregate Street, is in the historic core of the Roman town and medieval suburb Archaeologically Sensitive Area and the Foregate Street and The Tything Conservation Area. The site is currently used for car parking and a garden, and is bounded by Taylor's Lane to the north, a carpark to the east, and the Gala Bingo hall to the south. The site is located geologically on the Second Worcester Terrace, which comprises sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1993).

There have not been any previous archaeological works on the site, except for monitoring of superficial groundwork next to the adjacent buildings in 2008 (WCMAS 2008, .3). However, Foregate Street has evidence of Roman settlement particularly in the area to the west of the street, with a small number of Roman pot sherds identified in a small evaluation on Pierpont Street in 2004-5 (WCAS 2008, 3). Additionally, a Roman road is thought to run beneath Foregate Street and The Tything, heading north (WCM 9115).

Foregate Street in medieval times was a suburb, originating at the time of the Norman Conquest, and became separated from the rest of the city by built defences in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (WCAS 2008, 3). Archaeological features dating to this period identified elsewhere in the city includes both industrial remains (e.g. kilns) and domestic features (e.g. back plot boundary features).

John Speed's map of Worcester in 1610 indicates a single row of houses along Foregate Street, with empty back plots. Evidence for later post-medieval activities are documented in and around the site by Taylor's Lane, which dates to this period, and also from building remains. The latter includes 23 Foregate Street (Grade II listed) built in 1792 with later alterations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (WCM 98407 and 101199) with a similarly dated structure next door (WCM 98833 and 100672; also Grade II). Northeast of the site, across Taylor's Lane, Almshouses and Inglethorp's Hospital were constructed, the latter in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the former in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (WCM 96071 ).

Across the road on the west side of Foregate Street a watching brief recorded evidence of 17<sup>th</sup> century stoney layer and pits, and a garden soil (WCM 101051). A desk-based assessment of buildings on Pierpont Street also suggests horticultural land use in the area (WCM 101319 and 101311). Additionally, further evidence for a cultivation soil was observed further west on Pierpoint Street where late 18<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup> century development over former cultivation soils were apparent (WCM 101904).

Other evidence for buildings in the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries include 24 Foregate Street (WCM 98834), the Victoria Institute across Taylor's Lane (WCM 96491) and the current Library, City Museum and Art Gallery building (WCM 98535). The 1st edition OS map (1886) also

indicates several small buildings fronting onto Taylor's Lane to the rear of 24 Foregate Street.

In more recent times the area was associated with World War I and II, with the military headquarters in the Victoria Institute (WCM 92469). An air raid shelter is documented on Taylor's Lane (WCM 92185), and a water tank on the site (WCM 924410).

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3-4. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### 4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural deposits were observed at varying depths in both trenches. In Trench 1 the natural (113) comprised coarse yellowish-brown sands and gravels at 22m AOD in the northern half of the trench, and at greater depth (20.78m AOD) in the southern half due to scarping/cutting activities (see Section 4.1.3 below). The natural in Trench 2 (202) comprised reddish-pink sands and gravels present at a shallower depth of 21.85m AOD. The natural in both trenches was consistent geologically with the Second Worcester Terrace.

#### 4.1.2 Phase 2 Roman and medieval deposits

No Roman or medieval deposits were observed in the evaluation, including an absence of residual pottery in later deposits.

#### 4.1.3 Phase 3 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century deposits

The main deposits in both trenches can be dated to 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, with additional 19<sup>th</sup> century layers.

##### *Trench 1* (Figure 3; Plates 1-3)

Trench 1 can be divided into two distinct areas demarcated by a late 18<sup>th</sup> century brick wall foundation running east-west through the trench (context 110). To the south of this wall a 2m+ thick deposit was present (105, with a small lense 108), which included a mix of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, general brick and tile, and some bone and charcoal fragments. This layer sat above the natural at 20.78m AOD and had a *terminus post quem* of the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. On the north side of the wall the deposits differ, with a series of thin layers (104, 106, and 107) overlaying the natural at 22m AOD. Finds from layer 107 indicate a slightly earlier depositional age of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

##### *Trench 2* (Figure 4; Plates 4-6)

Deposits in Trench 2 differ to Trench 1 in that they contain demolition dumping pits cut through levelling deposits, and the latter are also located at a shallower depth with the natural present at 21.85m AOD. Deposits 211 and 226 appear to cover the majority of the area, and are similar in makeup to layer 105 discussed previously. These layers are truncated by two pits (208 and 213), the fills (207 and 212) of which contained broken brick and tile, mortar fragments and pot sherds, the former dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the latter to the late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two smaller pits (223 and 225) truncate layer 211 (observed on the west trench wall only), and differ from the demolition pits already mentioned due to an absence of demolition related materials. However, no finds were recovered.

#### 4.1.4 Phase 4 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits

##### *Trench 1*

A levelling layer (103) was recorded which sealed the earlier deposits, including the wall. Pottery dated it to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

##### *Trench 2*

Deposits dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Trench 2 are represented by what appears to be a levelling deposit (210) situated above the earlier layers (211 and 226), and deposit 206 in the eastern extent of the trench.

Above the pits (discussed above) were deposits 219, 220 and 221, which again are related to levelling of the back plot. Deposit 219 was truncated by rubbish pit (218) which had three observable fills (215-217) containing ash, mortar and fragments of ceramic building material, thus representing building demolition/works. Remnants of a brick wall (214) were recorded orientated east-west at the northern extent of the trench. While no cut was apparent, the wall was placed through the fills of pit 218, thus placing it most likely in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the east extent of the trench thin cobbled layer/surface (203) was observed, with two foundation layers in association (204-205).

#### 4.1.5 Phase 5 20<sup>th</sup> century and modern deposits

##### *Trench 1*

Deposits related to this period include two levelling layers (101 and 102) over which the gravelled carpark surface (100) was placed.

##### *Trench 2*

Modern layers in this trench are represented by the tarmac (200) and hardcore layer (201).

#### 4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

##### 4.2.1 The artefact assemblage

The assemblage, recovered from nine stratified contexts, consisted of 132 finds with a total weight of 20.011kg (Table 1). These comprised pottery, brick, tile, fired clay, glass, clay pipes, bone and shell. The standard of preservation was generally good, with very little abrasion of the pottery sherds.

The bone finds included teeth and part of a rib, from cattle, and sections of two long bones from sheep, while the two oyster shells are typical of those often found in Roman or medieval contexts in Worcester. No further analysis of these animal finds was carried out.

Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
Bone	Undiagnostic	16	172
Brick	Post-medieval	9	11226
Brick/tile	Undiagnostic	2	32
Clay pipe	Post-medieval	12	67
Fired clay	Undiagnostic	2	62
Glass	Post-medieval	2	514
Pottery	Post-medieval	66	4520
Pottery	Post-med/modern	5	100
Shell	Undiagnostic	2	60
Tile	Post-medieval	16	3258

Totals:	132	20011
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Table 1: *Quantification of the assemblage*

#### 4.2.2 The pottery

The assemblage contained 71 pottery sherds, with a total weight of 4.620kg. All were grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Most sherds were identifiable by their fabrics and could, therefore, be dated according to their production spans.

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	5	82
77	Midlands yellow ware	2	126
78	Post-medieval red wares	50	4028
81	Stonewares	1	34
81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	3	38
82	Tin-glazed (Delftware)	3	72
85	Modern china	5	100
90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	90
91	Post-medieval buff wares	1	50
		71	4620

Table 2: *Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type*

#### ***Post-medieval red wares***

Post-medieval red wares (fabric 78) dominated the pottery assemblage (contexts 103, 105, 107 and 112), but covered considerable variations in fabric detail, decoration and forms. Red ware vessels were coated with good quality black or dark brown glazes (some on all surfaces, but others only on the inside). These were produced over a wide 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> date range, but later red wares were usually finer in appearance.

Earlier red wares included base sherds of a bowl and a small drinking vessel (103 and 105), 17<sup>th</sup> century in date, while a strap handle (107) was likely to have come from a jug of similar date.

Later red wares, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century in date, were found in contexts 103, 105, 107 and 112. These included 27 sherds from a black-glazed jug (105). Another identifiable form was a baluster jug, with a slightly everted rim (107). Its glaze (yellowish with brown mottling) was unusual for a vessel with a red ware fabric.

It was noted that red ware rim sherds from a wide-mouthed bowl, found in context 107, were from the same vessel as sherds found in the unstratified sample (112). Internal areas of this vessel had a white coating, similar to limescale (as might have been deposited from boiling water), but since there was no evidence of heating on the underside, it is more likely that it was used for mixing a substance such as lime plaster. The complete base of a jug or small jar was also recovered from 112. This red ware item had very thin walls, with a highly-fired, purplish-brown fabric.

#### ***Midlands yellow wares***

Two small examples of post-medieval Midlands yellow wares (fabric 77) were found. A small sherd from 105 was undiagnostic in terms of form, but 107 produced a rim sherd. The latter, from a flared bowl, was everted, with a flat top. This pottery was probably 17<sup>th</sup> century in date.

#### ***Post-medieval buff wares***

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Only one post-medieval buff ware sherd (fabric 91) was found in 103. This was a base with a beaded edge, possibly from a medium-sized bowl, with a slightly mottled brown fabric. This was probably 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.

#### ***Post-medieval orange wares***

A single base sherd of a post-medieval orange ware (fabric 90) was found in 227, an unstratified sample. This was from a large bowl and of 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### ***Staffordshire stoneware***

The base of a stoneware tankard (fabric 81), with a mottled brown glaze, was found in 105. and was of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date range.

#### ***White salt-glazed stoneware***

White salt-glazed pottery (81.5), including the base of a small bowl, was found in 105. One of these sherds exhibited a distinctive scratch-blue leaf design from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### ***Pearlware***

Three pearlware sherds (classified as miscellaneous fabric 100) were found in 112. These were characterised by a plain white glaze with a bluish tinge, and dated from the very late 18<sup>th</sup> mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### ***Tin-glazed delftware***

Sherds from a delftware (82) bowl, of mid-17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date range, were found in 212. This material had a tin glaze over a buff earthenware fabric, and in terms of quality, these were the most distinctive of the post-medieval finds from the excavation. One sherd was particularly notable, since it bore a hand-painted blue decoration, possibly representing a dog or dragon.

#### ***China***

Only five sherds of china (85), from the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were retained. Decorated with a blue willow pattern, and red-line edge patterns, these were confined to context 210.

#### **Other materials**

Brick and tile accounted for 57% of the assemblage, by weight. Tiles, roof and floor, from 103, 105, 107, 112, 212 and 227, were generally flat and largely undiagnostic in terms of date, although there was one example of a hand-made tile with a nib surviving, and with a nail-hole next to this. Nevertheless, the hard, orange-brown fabrics, usually sanded on one side, were consistent with post-medieval products.

Brick fragments (and one complete example) were recovered from 105, 107, 110, 207 and 214. The bricks were all hand-made, and some had considerable surface cracking and/or coarse lime mortar still adhering. None had frogs or perforations. Two brick fragments had no surviving parallel surfaces, so no dimensions could be determined. However, measurements were possible for seven other examples, giving an average thickness of 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches (60mm), and average width of 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (115mm). The maximum thickness and width were 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (68mm) and 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (122mm) respectively. There was only one intact brick, which was 9 inches (230mm) long. These measurements placed the bricks firmly in the category of the small sizes (i.e. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches) produced in Britain before the introduction of the Brick Tax in 1784.

Clay pipes were found in 105, 107, 110, 212 and 227. Although there were no diagnostic features such as stamps on any of these finds, the medium to large bowl sizes, together with pronounced heel and spur configurations on some of the bowl are consistent with production later than 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The only other find worthy of note was the lower part of a globe wine bottle hand-blown in a dark green potash glass, which had a degraded, iridescent surface. Its form and material were typical of late 17<sup>th</sup> century bottles.

## 5. Synthesis

### 5.1.1 Overview of artefactual evidence

The material recovered in the course of this evaluation contained a range of post-medieval pottery that well represented the post-medieval period. The pottery fabrics, supported by the brick sizes, further provided fairly clear evidence that all of the contexts (except 210) belonged to date ranges probably not later than the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This information is summarised in Table 3, which lists the finds that were used to establish terminus post quem dates for the various contexts.

It was noted that no residual Roman or medieval finds were excavated, although it would have been reasonable to expect these in this part of Worcester, albeit as residual material. On the other hand, there were no modern, intrusive finds in any of the post-medieval contexts, which was also remarkable for a site so close to the centre of the city.

Context	Material	Fabric number	Fabric name	Period	Fabric date range	Context terminus post quem date
103	Pottery	78	Red ware	Post-medieval	1600-1800	c 1800
	Pottery	91	Buff ware	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
105	Glass	-	-	Post-medieval	1650-1700	1760-80
105	Pottery	77	Midlands yellow	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
105	Pottery	78	Red ware	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
105	Pottery	81	Staffs stoneware	Post-medieval	1720-80	
105	Pottery	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	Post-medieval	1720-80	
107	Pottery	77	Midlands yellow	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
107	Pottery	78	Red ware	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
110	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-c1784	c 1784
112	Pottery	78	Red ware	Post-medieval	1600-1800	1790-1840/50
112	Pottery	100	Pearlware	Post-medieval	1790-1840/50	
207	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1784	c 1784
210	Pottery	85	China	Post-med/modern	1800+	1800+

212	Pottery	82	Tin-glazed ware	Post-medieval	c 1650-1750	c 1650-1750
214	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval	1700- 1784	1800
227	Pottery	90	Orange ware	Post-medieval	1700-1800	1700-1800

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

## 5.2 Post-medieval

The evaluation has revealed no evidence of activities on the site before the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This may be the result of land clearance activities having removed any earlier settlement evidence, which could be related to Civil War activities whereby the Foregate Street suburb underwent demolition and clearance (Worcester Urban Archaeology strategy 2007).

By the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the site appears to be characterised by two types of activities. The first concerns evidence for horticulture/cultivation. Documentary sources record cultivation soils to the south and west of the site, and these date to the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The large make-up deposit in Trench 1 retains features of a cultivation soil, being homogenous throughout and forming a thick (2m+) levelling layer. This layer appears to have been placed after the land was scaped or altered, as indicated by the 1.2m difference in the level of the natural. Additional evidence is indicated by the base layer in the north half of the trench dating to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, pre-dating the former levelling layer (dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century).

While there was no such definable layer in Trench 2, there was evidence of several smaller levelling deposits bearing similarities to this larger layer. It can be surmised, then, that cultivation was taking place at the rear of the Foregate Street plots, an activity that is conjectured to have continued on from the medieval period, although the plot boundaries may have altered after the Civil War. Indeed, it is apparent on the 1886 OS map (Figure 5) that this area was an ornamental garden attached to 23 Foregate Street, along with several other gardens between Sansome Walk, Pierpoint Street and Taylor's Lane. Thus, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the site was largely characterised by gardening activities from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The second type of evidence concerns buildings and building demolition. On comparison with the 1886 OS map (Figure 5) and the 1808 map of Worcester by Thomas Eaton, it is apparent that neither brick walls recorded in the evaluation coincide with buildings on the maps. The results indicate that the wall in Trench 1 (back of 23 Foregate Street) has a *terminus post quem* of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, whereas the wall in Trench 2 is slightly younger, dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 18<sup>th</sup> century wall runs in line (east-west) with the southern brick boundary wall of 24 Foregate Street. Therefore, the wall could demarcate an older plot boundary, pre-1800. That the wall appears to demarcate a difference in land use in the trench therefore suggests different activities on the former properties, at least up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The OS map also indicates a much larger building present on the site in 1808 and 1886 to the rear of no. 24. Yet, the brick wall recorded in Trench 2 does not coincide with the former building's footprint. The wall was quite small and not well constructed, and could have formed a short-lived garden wall/boundary in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. What may date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the cobbled surface recorded in the east side of Trench 2 that appears to begin approximately where the building footprint ends on the east side.

In relation to building demolition the pits present in Trench 2 indicate that this part of the site was used as a disposal area during building demolition, construction and/or refurbishment. Number 24 Foregate Street is documented as being built in the 1830s, and no. 23 in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. As the pits date to the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries it can be posited that they relate to earlier buildings that were on the site, the materials being dumped in pits to the rear of the plots

when the 19<sup>th</sup> century house was constructed. Alternatively, the pits may represent the Civil War related phase of demolition of the Foregate suburb.

### 5.3 **20<sup>th</sup> century and modern**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the change of the large rear garden of 23 Foregate Street to a gravel carpark, in which some levelling activities took place. Similarly, the cobbled surface was covered over with tarmac behind 24 Foregate Street, and both areas began to accommodate cars.

### 5.4 **Research frameworks**

In relation to the list of research framework topics discussed in Section 1.3, the results of the evaluation can be considered directly relevant to only two: land-use pattern in the suburbs (RP5.14) and colonisation of back-plot areas and land in suburbs in the post-medieval period (RP6.1), and indirectly to Civil War destruction (RP6.21)

The results, as discussed in section 5.2, indicate that land-use in this particular area of the suburb of Foregate Street largely had an horticultural focus, from the medieval period through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The construction of Taylor's Lane in the post-medieval period did lead to new use of the back-plots, by providing a new street frontage on the north extent of the site where none had previously existed. One can surmise that new buildings/refurbishment of houses fronting onto Foregate Street (particularly so for 23-24) did create some change in land use along with demolition activities during and after the Civil War. Yet, the majority of the land away from both street frontages did not alter dramatically, with most of the site still utilised as a garden until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6. **Significance**

### 6.1 **Archaeological significance and impact**

In considering significance, the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments (DoE 1990, annex 4), have been used as a guide.

The results indicate a low level of significance in relation to the archaeological remains at 23-24 Foregate Street. While there is some potential for structures and deposits of late medieval/early post-medieval date to exist on the site outside of the areas sampled by trenches, there is a low potential for other significant archaeological remains. While the subsurface plans are not known for the development, the archaeological remains have low significance and therefore any impact made by the development is considered to be low.

## 7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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 the rear of 23-24 Foregate Street, Worcester on behalf of Boughton Butler LLP, (NGR: SO 8494 5535; WCM 101670 ). The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

Two trenches revealed evidence for both horticultural/gardening and building activities in the post-medieval period, with no evidence for earlier (medieval, Roman or prehistoric)



settlement. A pattern of land use in the form of ground levelling and filling activities in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is present to the rear of 23 Foregate Street, along with an extant brick wall interpreted as a boundary wall. The pattern of land use is similar at the rear of 24 Foregate Street, along with evidence for building demolition which could be related to the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century building currently fronting onto Foregate Street, whereby an older structure (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century) on the site or nearby, underwent demolition, or as a result of demolition and clearance of the Foregate suburb associated with the Civil War. Furthermore, the absence of any earlier settlement remains at the site, which is in the historic core of the Roman town and medieval suburb, may also be the result of this demolition.

The finds from the evaluation represent a wide range of post-medieval wares, including tin-glazed delftware, pearlware, clay pipes and a 17<sup>th</sup> century hand-blown class wine bottle.

## 8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Peter Scaiff (Scaiff LLP), Iain Bauermeister (Boughton Butler LLP), and James Dinn (Worcester City Council Archaeological Officer).

## 9. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Sarah Phear. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tegan Cole, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

## 10. Bibliography

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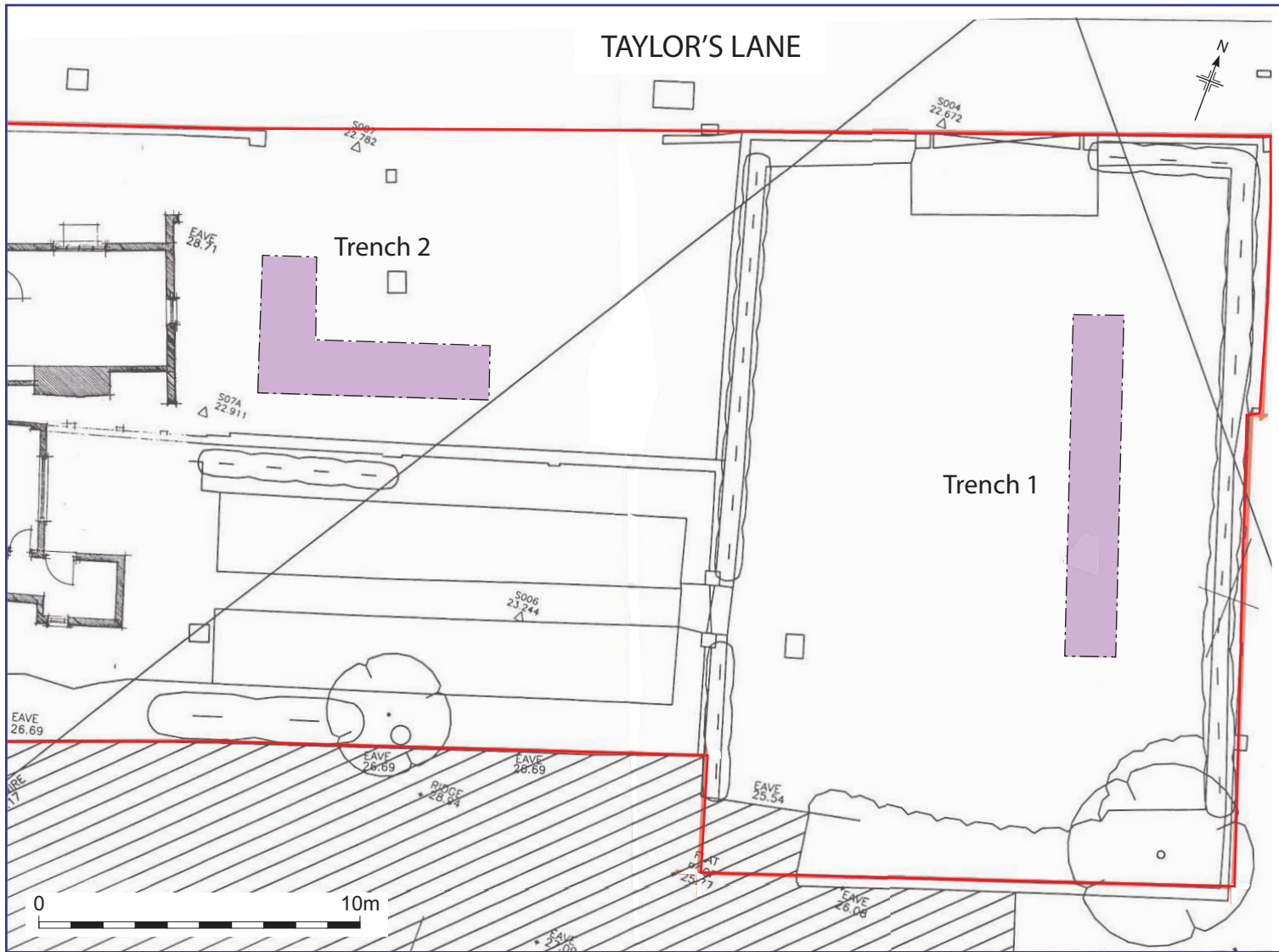
# Figures

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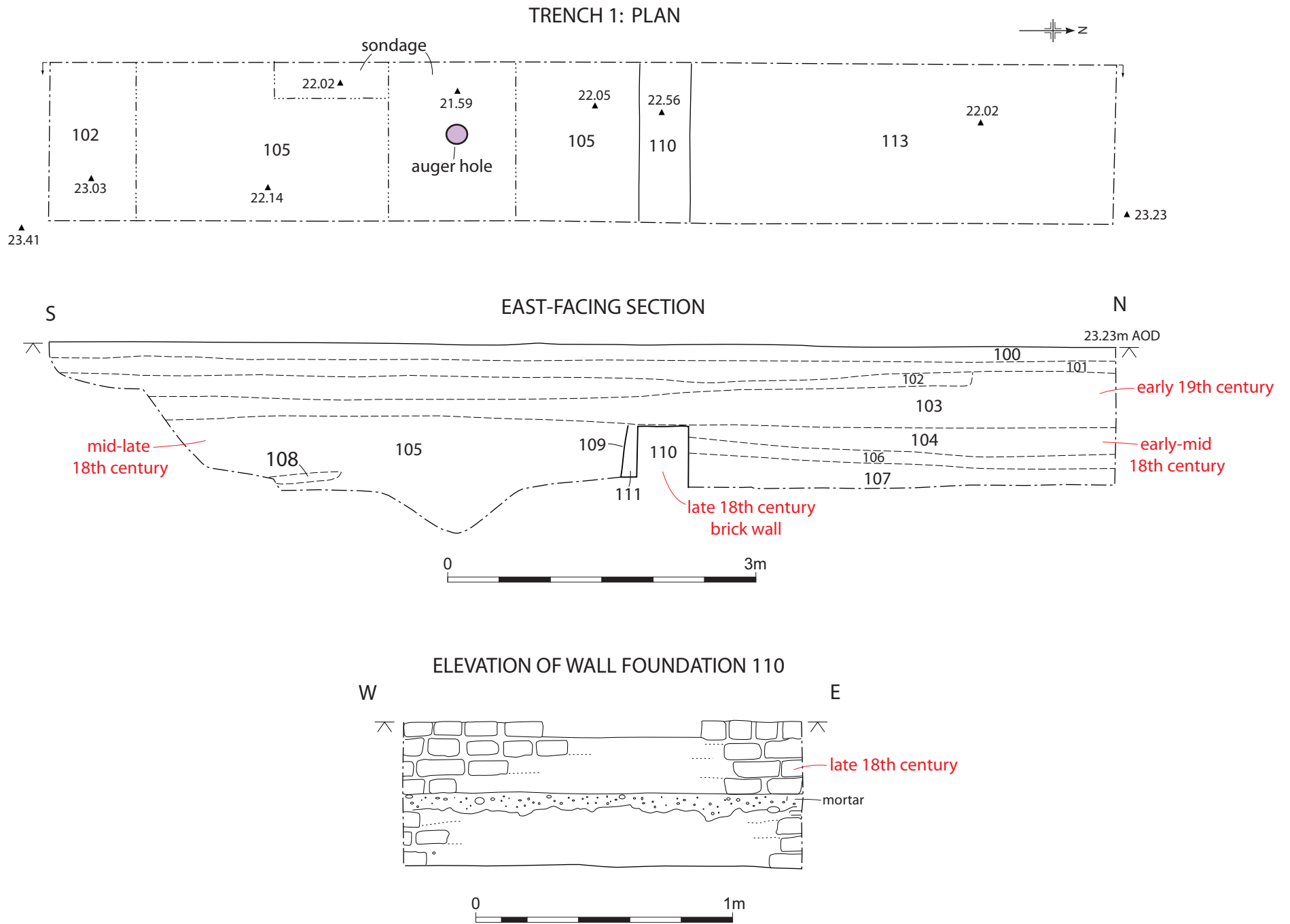
Location of the site

Figure 1



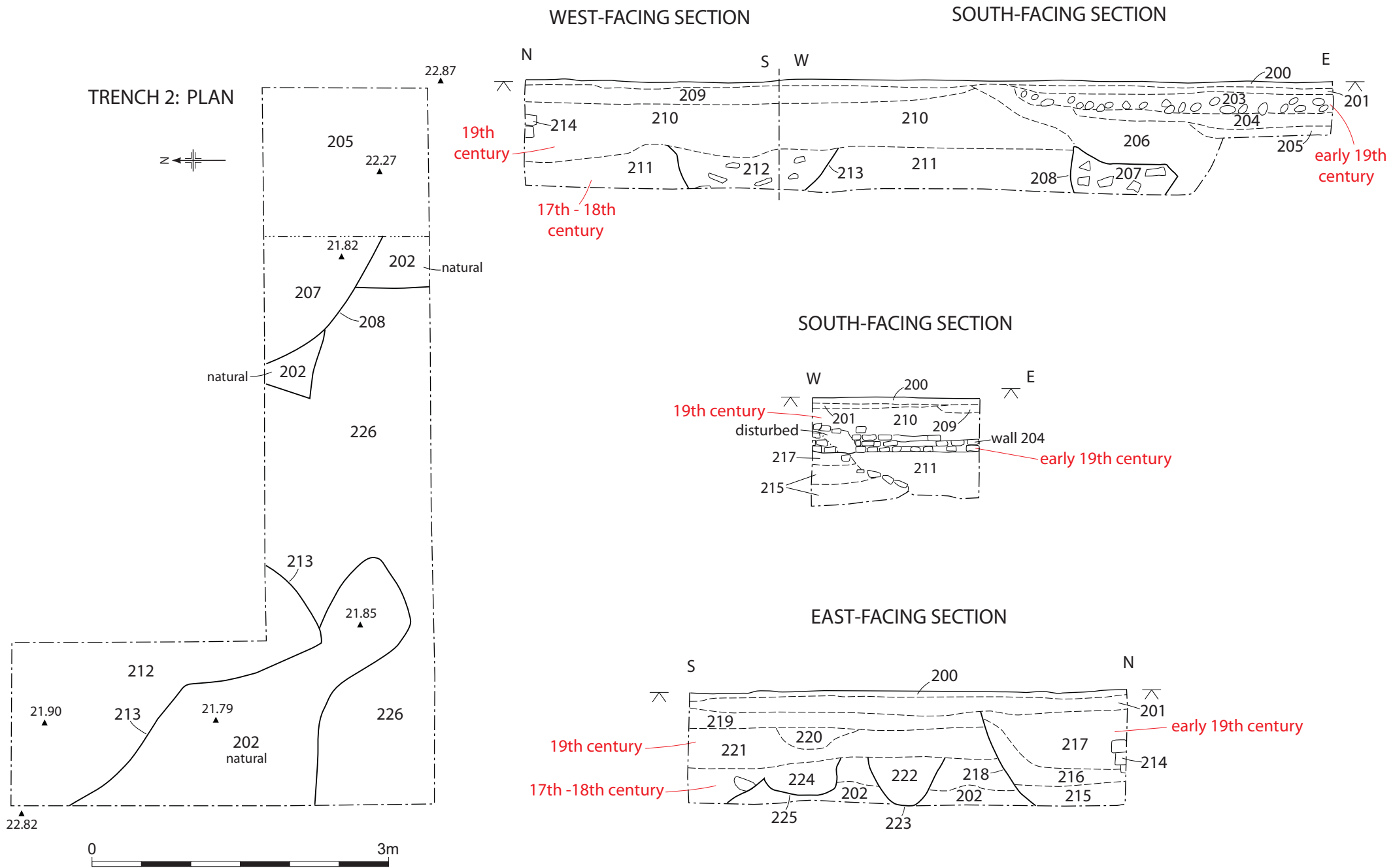
Location of Trenches 1 and 2

Figure 2



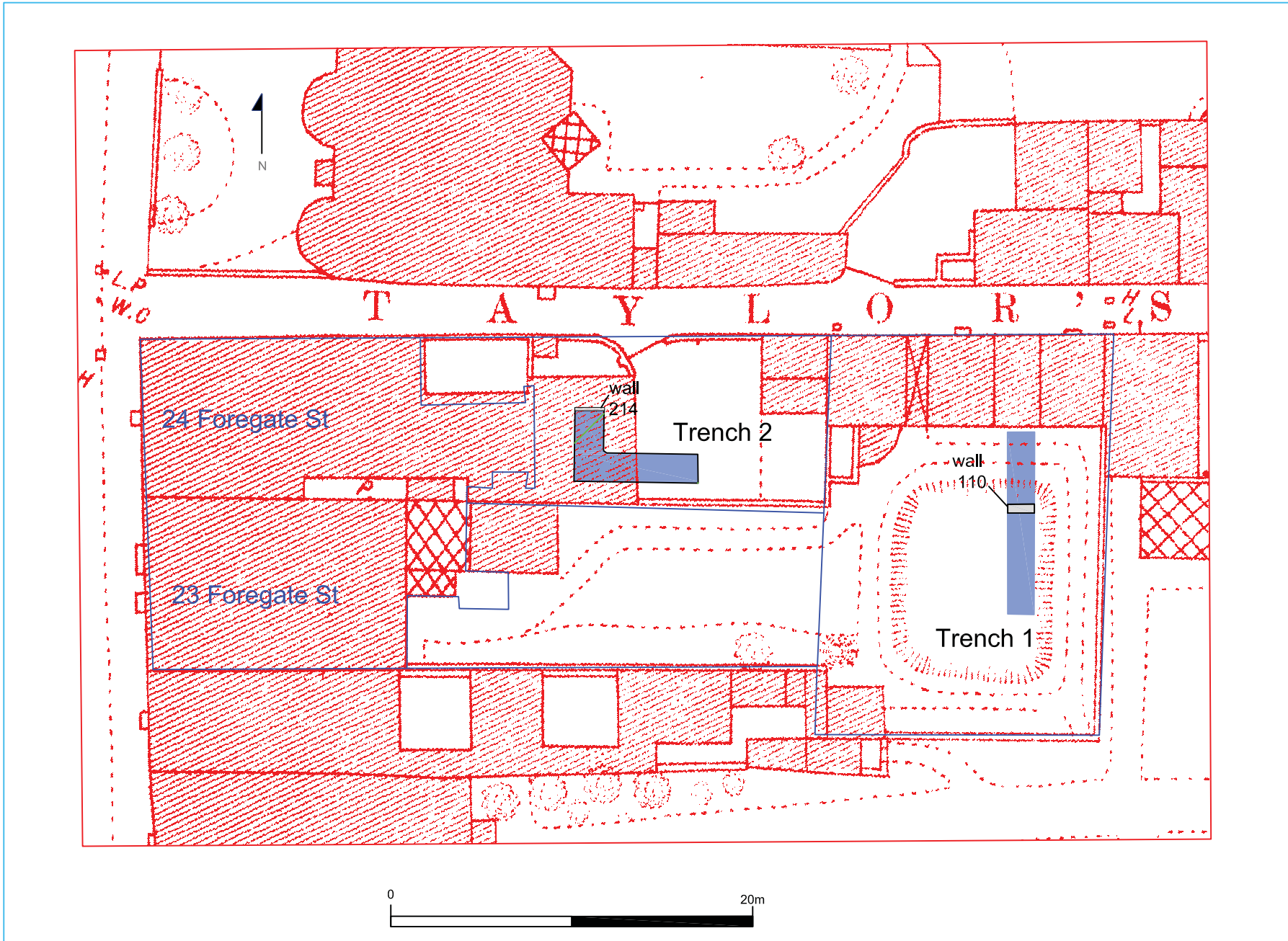
*Trench 1: Plan and sections*

*Figure 3*



Trench 2 : Plan and sections

Figure 4



1st Edition (1886) OS map (red) and the site boundary (blue) with the location of Trenches 1 and 2

Figure 5

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## Plates



*Plate 1 Brick wall foundation (110) in Trench 1, facing north*



*Plate 2 Trench 1 thick cultivation soil (105) beneath 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century levelling deposits, facing west*

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*Plate 5 Trench 2 the 'L' shape of the trench and the natural sands and gravels, facing west*



*Plate 6 Trench 2 'L' shape of trench indicating natural sands, facing south*



*Plate 3 Trench 1 brick wall (110) in the middle of the trench, facing north*



*Plate 4 Trench 2 brick wall (214), facing north*

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## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.5m Width: 1.6m Depth: 1.31-1.83m

Orientation: North-south

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Carpark surface	Gravel surface of carpark..	0-0.15m
101	Surface layer	Mix of lime and clay as foundation surface for 100.	0.15-0.34m
102	Layer	Mid orangish-red clay, compact. Frequent small to medium CBM fragments; occasional small charcoal fragments.	0.34-0.52m
103	Layer	Mid-dark brown silty clay, moderately compact. Frequent small CBM fragments; occasional small bone fragments.	0.34-0.77m
104	Layer	Light yellowish-orange silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent to occasional CBM fragments. Present in north half of trench only.	0.77-1.03m
105	Layer	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay, compact. Frequent small CBM fragments; occasional root activity, pot sherds and bone fragments. Present in south half of trench only.	0.77-2.63m
106	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty sand, loose. Occasional small CBM fragments. In north half of trench only.	1.03-1.25m
107	Layer	Mid orangish-greyish-brown silty sand, loose. Frequent medium-large rounded pebbles. In north half of trench only.	1.25-1.31m
108	Layer/lense	Light yellowish-pink silty sand, loose. Frequent small shell fragments and pot sherds. Within 105.	1.42-1.51m
109	Cut for wall	Present on south side of wall only. Sharp BFS, vertical side, base not visible. Oriented east-west. Filled by wall 110 and fill 111.	0.77-1.41m+
110	Wall foundation	Brick wall, 0.52m wide, 8 courses of orangey-red bricks visible. Bricks measured: 0.15x0.12x0.06m. Bonded with cream mortar with green and white flecks. Foundation wall surviving only, with one row of south faced bricks remaining. Fills cut 109.	0.77-1.6m+
111	Fill	Dark greyish-blackish-brown silty sandy clay, compact to friable. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Fill of 109.	0.77-01.41m+
112		Unstratified finds	
113	Layer - Natural	Mid brownish-orange coarse sands and gravels.	1.31-2.93m

**Trench 2**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 7.25m and 2.25m Width: 1.6-1.7m Depth: 1.1-1.2m

Orientation: 'L' shaped

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Carpark surface	Layer of tarmac.	0-0.06m
201	Hardcore	Base layer for tarmac surface.	0.06-0.11m
202	Layer - Natural	Reddish-pink coarse-medium sands, loose. Frequent small rounded pebbles and subangular gravels.	1-1.2m+
203	Layer/surface	Medium-large rounded pebbles set in a plastic dark grey sandy silt, compact; occasional charcoal flecks. Modern garden cobbled surface. Present in east end of trench only.	0.11-0.3m
204	Layer	Mid reddish-brown silty sand, moderately compact. Occasional small rounded pebbles. Foundation layer for 203.	0.3-0.45m
205	Layer	Mix of whitish mortar flecks and fragmented small-medium CBM, loose; occasional charcoal flecks.	0.45-0.5m+
206	Layer	Mid-dark grey silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent medium mortar and CBM fragments; occasional charcoal fragments. Present at east end of trench only.	0.6-1.1m+
207	Fill	Mix of whitish mortar and large fragments of CBM, loose. Fill of 208.	0.59-1.1m+
208	Pit cut	Sharp BFS, steep sides, base not visible. Filled by 207.	0.59-1.1m
209	Layer	Dark grey silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent small CBM fragments; occasional medium rounded pebbles.	0.06-0.16m
210	Layer	Dark grey silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent small CBM fragments; occasional medium rounded pebbles; occasional lenses of red sand.	0.16-0.7m
211	Layer	Greyish-red silty sand, moderately compact. Occasional small CBM fragments, mortar and pebbles.	0.7-1.1m+
212	Fill	Mid brownish-grey silty sand, loose. Frequent mortar fragments, CBM fragments and pot sherds. Some ash also visible in plan extended below base of excavation. Fill of 213.	0.7-1.1m
213	Pit cut	Sharp BFS, steep sides, base not visible. Appears oval-oblong in plan but not fully exposed. Filled by 212.	0.7-1.1m
214	Wall	Brick wall visible in section only oriented east-west. 3.5 courses of orangey-red bricks remaining. Bricks measure: 0.25x0.12x0.06m. Bonded with a yellow sandy mortar. Cut not visible.	0.3-0.55m
215	Fill	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt, moderately compact. Occasional charcoal flecks, small pebbles. Top fill of 218.	0.11-0.79m
216	Fill	Mix of small mortar fragments, small charcoal and small CBM fragments. Fill of 218.	0.15-0.98m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
217	Fill	Mid greyish-red sandy silt, moderately compact. Frequent-occasional small rounded pebbles; occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of pit 218.	0.98-1.1m+
218	Pit cut	Sharp BFS, steep sides, base not visible. Filled by 215, 216, 217.	0.11-1.1m
219	Layer	Mid brownish-grey silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent small mortar fragments.	0.2-0.35m
220	Layer/lense	Reddish-brown silty sand, moderately compact. Small lense within 221.	0.35-0.5m
221	Layer	Greyish-brown silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent small CBM and mortar fragments. Similar to 211.	0.35-0.75m
222	Fill	Dark grey silty sand, moderately compact, mixed with red sand. Fill of pit 223.	0.75-1.1m
223	Pit cut	Sharp BFS, steep sides, concave base. Filled by 222.	0.75-1.1m
224	Fill	Dark grey silty sand, moderately compact, mixed with red sand. Fill of pit 225.	0.75-1.1m+
225	Pit cut	Sharp BFS, steep sides, concave to flat base, and partially indeterminate as it extends beyond excavation. Filled by 224.	0.75-1.1m+
226	Layer	Dark greyish-brown silty sand, moderately compact. Frequent small CBM and mortar fragments; occasional small charcoal fragments. Visible in plan only.	1.15m+
227		Unstratified finds	

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## Appendix 2 Technical information

### The archive

The archive consists of:

16	Context records AS1
3	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
49	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
1	Levels record sheets AS19
2	Trench record sheets AS41
9	Scale drawings
2	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery  
Foregate Street  
Worcester  
WR1 2PW  
Tel. Worcester (01905) 25371

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