

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION AT  
THE OLD BUILDER'S YARD,  
SOUTH STREET, WORCESTER

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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## **Archaeological evaluation at the Old Builder's Yard, South Street, Worcester**

**Tom Vaughan, Elizabeth Pearson and Erica B Darch**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological type of project was undertaken at the Old Builder's Yard, South Street, Worcester (NGR: SO 8527 5465; WCM 101113). It was undertaken on behalf of Misters Bros Ltd, who intends to develop the site with eight flats and three workshops/shops 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. More specifically it was considered that there was the potential for Roman activity, the medieval Greyfriars chapel and burial ground, Civil War, later industrial remains, and palaeoenvironmental material from the Frog Brook valley.

Although containing no dateable material alluvium at the eastern end of the site has been ascribed a Roman date based on its similarity to dated alluvium on another site. The significance of the alluvium is limited but does have the potential to add to the understanding of the nature of the Frog Brook. The western end of this site, however, was subject to modern disturbance and no deposits relating to the Franciscan friary and its burial ground were identified, though a single human bone and medieval pottery were recovered.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Old Builder's Yard, South Street, Worcester (NGR: SO 8527 5465), on behalf of Roger Ainley and Associates, agent for the developer, Mistery Bros Ltd. They intend to develop the site with eight flats and three shops/workshops and intend to submit a planning application to Worcester City Council (temporary reference 103N0249), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WCM 94536).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcester City Museum Archaeology Service (WCMAS 2003) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2003).

#### 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 areas of potential have been identified:

- Roman activity along the valley of the Frog Brook;
- the location and character of remains associated with the medieval Greyfriars, including burials;
- the location and character of significant post-medieval remains, including Civil War features and later industrial remains;
- the survival of significant palaeoenvironmental remains associated with the valley.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

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

##### *Cartographic sources*

- 1610, John Speed, Worcester, CRO 4885/VI 899.x426

- 
- 1653, Vaughan, An exact Ground Plan of the City of Worcester ass it stood fortified, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1651.
  - 1660, Anon., An exact Ground Plan of the City of Worcester ass it stood fortified, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1651.
  - 1742, Doharty, Plan of Worcester City, CRO 4885vib.899-426; PAC C3
  - 1779, George Young, A Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester. CRO 2960&726; PAC C1
  - 1782, Thomas Nash, Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester.
  - 1795, Valentine Green, Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester.
  - 1768, Broad, Plan of Worcester City... CRO 4720 f.900 400 51/PRO LRRO 1 No. 411
  - 1810, Eaton, Map of Worcester.
  - 1829, Eaton, A Plan of the City and Environs of Worcester.
  - c. 1832, Crisp, A Map of the City and Suburbs of Worcester.
  - 1835, Clements, A Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester.
  - 1840, Bentley, Plan of Worcester.
  - 1888, Ordnance Survey, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 25":1 mile.
  - 1904, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile.
  - 1928, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile.
  - 1940, Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile.

*Documentary sources*

- County histories (VCH III and IV).

## 2.2 **Fieldwork**

### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2003).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

Two trenches, amounting to just over 31.50m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 300m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of 10.5%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 180° wheeled 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 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.

Although alluvium is formed through a natural process, it does contain artefacts and these processes are likely to be affected by human activity, and is treated as an archaeological deposit for the purposes of this report.

## 2.3 **Artefacts**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended). This in principle determines that all finds, of whatever date, must be collected. However, in this case only a sample of later material was collected from the spoil during machining. These comprised the majority of the finds recovered from the site.

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. Artefacts were identified, quantified, dated and recorded on a Microsoft Access 97 database. The pottery was examined and recorded by fabric type according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

## 2.4 **Environment**

### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). Samples of 20 litres were taken from three clay deposits (contexts 102, 103 and 104), of which the former was an undated alluvial deposit, and latter two undated and medieval alluvial (or redeposited alluvial) clay (see Section 4.5 below). The sample from context 102 was taken with the aim of retrieving material for radiocarbon dating as well as identification of organic remains. Human and animal bone was hand-collected during excavation.

### 2.4.2 **Method of analysis**

The samples were processed by flotation followed by wet sieving using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residues sorted on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power EMT light microscope and remains identified using modern reference specimens housed at the Service.

Human and animal bone identified using modern reference specimens housed at the Service and identification manuals (Schmid 1972 and Hillson 1992).

## 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

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

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

The site lies on the east side of Worcester, 50m east of City Walls Road, on the floodplain of the Frog Brook. It comprises a rectilinear plot of land on the north side of South Street, at most 28m from east to west and 12.5m north to south. It is a flat area of rough gravel, at a height of approximately 20m AOD. The modern Trading Standards Office and garage workshop buildings lie to the north and east; South Street is to the south, and a Victorian building, currently occupied by the Easter and Steele upholstery showroom is to the west. A small office-cabin occupies the north-west corner, and an electrical sub-station lies to the south-west.

Palaeoenvironmental deposits of Roman and medieval date have been identified along the Frog Brook, 170m to the north (WCM 100855 and 100896). Intensive Roman occupation has been recorded 120m to the west (WCMAS 2003; WCM 100983).

In 1225 the Franciscan Grey Friars established their friary on the east side of the city, in a ‘...marshy place, hardly inhabited...’ (VCH II, 16; WCM 90029 and 96466). They are known to have had a chapel, dedicated to St Lawrence, and burial ground outside the city walls adjacent. It may have received as its first inhumation the Earl of Warwick, William Beauchamp in 1298. According to the annals ‘...they buried him in a place where no one had yet been interred, in which in wintertime he will be said to be drowned rather than buried, where I have once seen herbs growing.’ (VCH II, 169).

A large number of graves, including a stone coffin, are reported to have been disturbed during the construction of Sigleys glove factory (the present Tannery Mews north-east of the study area) in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A skull was also unearthed, at a depth of 2.5m, on the corner of Carden Street and City Walls Road in 1977 (WCMAS 2003; WCM 96030, 98168, 100757, 100980; WSM 00595).

The medieval city defences comprising the stone wall and external ditch lie 65m to the west of the site. The Friars’ Gate Bridge is thought to have been at the present junction of Union Street and City Walls Road (WCM 96102-7, 96135-6, 100505-8 and 100263). The friar’s chapel and burial ground are therefore thought to lie within the immediate vicinity of the study area.

The friary is recorded to have been dissolved on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1538, when it was surrendered into the hands of Richard Ingworth, Bishop of Dover, and from thence it was granted to the bailiff and citizens of Worcester (VCH II, 172; VCH IV, 392).

Speed’s 1610 city map depicts the Friars’ Gate, with ditches or banks to either side as the road leaves the city, over the city ditch which contains the Frog Brook at this point (WCM 96136). Beyond the gate nothing is indicated except stylised strip fields, suggesting that it comprised undeveloped agricultural land. However an extra-mural building is recorded as a pest-house by the city corporation during 1630s (WCM 90630). Vaughan’s 1653 map depicts the civil war defences leading to Fort Royal some distance to the south of Friars’ Gate, but no buildings immediately adjacent. The anonymous 1660 map is a direct copy without additional information. Friar’s Gate is recorded to have been strengthened in 1643 as ‘The Blockhouse’, although the map does not depict any obvious refortification of the old defences at this point (WCM 96102-6; 96141, 96149 and 96150).

Doharty’s map of 1742, identifies a building to the north and south of Friars’ Gate, a track leading north-east and the layout of the fields, denoted as Block house Fields. Broad’s map of 1768, indicates the building to the south-east of Friars’ Gate, but no further detail beyond the city wall. Young 1779, Nash 1782 and Valentine Green 1796, indicate two further irregular buildings due west of the gate, with associated formal gardens to the south, plus a curving road leading north-east to the Worcester-Birmingham canal. The two buildings appear to front onto the present Carden Street and be located within the area of the present



Worcestershire County Council and Tannery Mews properties to the north of the evaluation site, and the gardens would have extended over the proposed development area.

Eaton's 1810 map places the site within a large sub-crescent shaped plot containing two buildings. It is unclear if they lie within the study area. His map of 1829 reveals extensive development east of Friar Street, with the construction of Carden Street and Charles Street with buildings along each frontage. There is as yet no apparent development to the east end of the nascent South Street. Crisp, 1832, Clements, 1835 and Bentley, 1840 are rather small scale, but indicate the site to be built up on the corner of South Street (then a through road connecting with Carden Street). Clements identifies the area as Block House.

The Ordnance Survey maps show how the site developed through the last 120 years. It lay on the corner and straddled the eastern arm of South Street. The proposed development site was occupied by small buildings (houses?) fronted either side of South Street in 1888 and these are shown on maps until at least 1940.

City Walls Road was built in the mid 1970s, along the alignment of the city ditch and, adjacent to the site, over the old Talbot Road (*ibid.*). This prompted the development of the area between Carden Street and the canal in its present state. The site itself has been occupied as a builder's yard, by Mistert Bros Ltd for the past 20 years.

The site lies within an unsurveyed urban area, so it is not possible to identify the dominant soil group on the site (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983). However according to the British Geological Survey it comprises Quaternary drift of alluvium, grey and brown silty clay, over River Severn Terrace Deposits of brown pebbly sand, pebbles of brown sandstone and quartz (British Geological Survey 1985; British Geological Survey 1993).

#### 4. **Description**

The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1, with Table 1 summarising the artefacts recovered. The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2.

##### 4.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

The natural matrix composed a light grey clay with pebble gravel and increasing decayed red sandstone fragments to the west (contexts 105 and 202). The level of the natural was *c* 17.85m AOD to the east and *c* 18.20m AOD to the west side of the site.

##### 4.2 **Phase 2 Medieval deposits**

An alluvial clay (context 104) has been given a *terminus post-quem* date of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century (see Section 4.4 below), and was identified at *c* 18.55m AOD, toward the eastern side of the site. It sealed two further undated alluvial clay layers (contexts 102 and 103) above the natural gravel.

Medieval material was recovered from other later deposits, but no further layers of medieval date were observed.

##### 4.3 **Phase 3 Post-medieval and modern deposits**

Toward the western side of the site a subsoil layer (context 201) containing extensive 18<sup>th</sup> century debris (Section 4.4 below) was noted at a depth of *c* 0.75m (*c* 19.30m AOD) directly overlying natural deposits (context 202). Toward the eastern side the subsoil (context 101), at a depth of *c* 1.25m (*c* 18.75m AOD) overlay alluvium dated to the medieval period (context 104).

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A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered from the subsoil, notably a femur, radius and frequent phalanges. A discrete assemblage of animal bone was identified within the subsoil in Trench 2. It was conjectured to represent the basal fill of an otherwise indeterminate pit cut into this layer. The majority comprised the semi-articulate remains of a juvenile pig.

The mixed subsoil was sealed by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century building rubble, sandstone fragments, brick floor surfaces, grey gravel hardcore and humic sandy silt soil.

Post-medieval and modern building foundations and services were noted throughout the area. They comprised primarily modern service trenches, to a maximum depth of c 3m, a 19<sup>th</sup> century well, to c 5m depth, and 19<sup>th</sup> century cellars, to c 2m depth.

#### 4.4 **Artefact analysis**

The assemblage dated from the Roman to modern period, but was mostly medieval and post-medieval. The levels of abrasion varied, but were generally quite low.

The assemblage can be seen in Table 1. A summary of the pottery recovered can be seen in Table 2.

##### *Roman*

Context 104 contained one highly abraded piece of probable Roman tile. This was the only material of Roman date recovered.

##### *Medieval*

All contexts except 100 contained some medieval material. The pottery from context 104 (an oxidised glazed Malvernian ware foot (fabric 69) and Worcester type sandy glazed ware (fabric 64.1) would give a *terminus post quem* date of 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> century (Bryant 2001, 69). Although the roof tile present is of a type produced between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, the presence of medieval pottery would suggest it is more likely to date to the medieval period.

Context 103 contained a single sherd of Worcester sandy glazed ware (fabric 64.1) recovered from sample 2. It therefore has a *TPQ* date of 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Flat roof tile dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century recovered from contexts 101 and 102 included fragments with a green glaze which were identified as a Worcester fabric (L Griffin, pers comm).

##### *Post-medieval*

Contexts identified as of the post-medieval period were 100, 101, 201 and 203.

Context 201 could be given a *terminus post quem* date of 18<sup>th</sup> century on the basis of the pottery which included post-medieval red ware (fabric 78), post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91) and a sherd of white salt glazed stoneware (fabric 81.5). It also contained clay pipe, vessel glass, bone, clinker and window lead.

Context 203, located within layer 201 contained a large amount of animal bone, but no dateable material.

Context	Material	Type	Date range	Period	Total	Weight (g)
100 overburden	Pot	Post-medieval		Post-medieval	1	0
100	Slag				1	18
100	Pipe	Stem		Post-medieval	1	1
101	Tile	Flat roof tile		Medieval	1	126
101	Bone					550
101	Pot	Medieval	13 <sup>th</sup> – E17 <sup>th</sup> C	Medieval / Post-	2	134
101	Pot	Medieval		Medieval	1	1
101	Tile	Flat roof tile		Post-medieval	19	1316
101	Tile	Flat roof tile	13 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> C	Medieval / Post-	2	144
103 alluvium	Pot	Medieval	L 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C	Medieval	1	1
104 alluvium	Tile	Flat roof tile	13 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> C	Medieval / Post-	3	182
104	Tile	Flat roof tile			1	10
104	Tile			Roman	1	82
104	Pot	Medieval	L12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> C	Medieval	1	1
104	Bone					36
104	Pot	Medieval	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C (Bryant 2001, 69)	Medieval	1	64
201 subsoil	Clinker				1	10
201	Bone				3	1818
201	Iron	Nail			1	2
201	Pot	Post-medieval		Post-medieval	4	84
201	Tile	Flat roof tile		Medieval	1	34
201	Tile	Flat roof tile		Medieval	1	32
201	Tile	Flat roof tile		Post-medieval	4	752
201	Brick				1	26
201	Pot	Post-medieval	18 <sup>th</sup> C	Post-medieval	1	12
201	Pot	Post-medieval		Post-medieval	2	90
201	Pot	Medieval	13 <sup>th</sup> – E 17 <sup>th</sup> C	Medieval	2	20
201	Pipe	Stem		Post-medieval	1	2
201	Pipe	Bowl		Post-medieval	1	10
201	Lead	Window came		Medieval?	1	6
201	Glass	Vessel		Medieval?	1	1
201	Glass	Vessel		Post-medieval	2	138
201	Shell	Oyster			2	56
203 finds	Pot	Post-medieval	17th C	Post-medieval	2	8
203	Bone					824
203	Pipe	Stem		Post-medieval	2	4
203	Pot	Medieval	12th - 14th C	Medieval	1	16

**Table 1: Summary of the assemblage**

Fabric name	Fabric	Period	Total	Weight
Worcester type unglazed ware	55	Medieval	1	16
Worcester type sandy glazed ware	64.1	Medieval	2	2
Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware	69	Medieval	5	218
Post-medieval red wares	78	Post-medieval	3	54
Stoneware	81	Post-medieval	1	0
White salt glazed stoneware	81.5	Post-medieval	1	12
Tin glazed ware	82	Post-medieval	2	32
Post-medieval buff wares	91	Post-medieval	3	96
Miscellaneous medieval wares	99	Medieval	1	1

**Table 2: Quantification of pottery fabrics**

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## 4.5 Environmental remains

### *Hand-collected animal and human bone*

A total of 3.23kg of bone was hand-collected from contexts 101, 104, 201 and 203. An almost complete, articulated skeleton of a juvenile pig was recovered from context 203. Well preserved animal bone in contexts 101, 201 and 104 also included large fragments of cattle femur and tibia, sheep or goat scapula, metapodials and phalanges, pig mandible and tibia (unfused) and small mammal rib fragments.

A human femur shaft was recovered from context 201.

### *Wet-sieved and floated samples*

All three samples from the clay deposits contained small quantities of fragmented charcoal and animal bone. As these deposits were either alluvial clays or redeposited alluvial clays, the provenance of this material and other inclusions is uncertain. Insufficient organic remains were recovered for radiocarbon dating from the undated lower clay (102), although the charcoal flecks and bone suggest that this layer was deposited when there was human activity in the area. Moreover, it may correlate with a grey clay observed during an evaluation (Martin 2001) and watching brief at the Studdert Kennedy Centre (Ciaraldi and Martin 2001) which was dated to the Roman period. At South Street one small, abraded fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the overlying greyish brown clay (103). All three clay layers sampled are evidently extensive, at least between South Street and the St Martins Gate area of the city. Environmental remains (organic inclusions) from these deposits are of low potential for providing information on the economy and palaeoeconomy of the site.

The structure and nature of deposition of these layers, however, may aid interpretation of the changing fluvial environment on the site, within the catchment area of the Frog Brook and also the River Severn locally. Although documentary evidence suggests that the area was frequently marshy at least in the medieval period, the source and longevity of the flooding and alluviation is largely unknown. Any fluvial changes may reflect natural or man-made channel modification. A geoarchaeological study during an evaluation at Tallow Hill (Whitworth and Edwards 2001) has previously demonstrated a change from higher energy flooding of the Frog Brook to lower energy ponding from the Severn downstream. It was suggested that deeper deposits elsewhere in the Frog Brook may be useful for a more detailed study.

The alluvial deposits at South Street are relatively deep compared to those recorded at Tallow Hill, and appear to show a distinct change in deposition. The undated charcoal flecked grey clay (102) was relatively homogenous (indicating it to be waterlain). The overlying greyish brown clay (103), however, was more mixed, containing lenses of degraded red and white sandstone and both angular and rounded stones (indicating either deposition under high energy conditions, or redeposition of some material, possibly colluvium). The overlying deposit (104) was similar with abundant sandy ochre mottling.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Roman

The recovery of a single sherd of pottery is not unexpected given the existence of Roman urban activity to the west of the study area. The lowest layer of alluvial clay (102) identified within the eastern side of the site may correspond with the alluvium observed at the Studdert Kennedy Centre, which was dated to the Roman period. Aside from the alluvium it is unlikely that significant deposits of Roman date exist within the study area. The alluvium does have the potential to add to earlier studies on the development and nature of the Frog Brook and its flood plain.

## 5.2 Medieval

The relatively large quantities of medieval and post-medieval flat roof tile and a small piece of window lead, suggest that there was either a structure in the vicinity, or that the area was used as a dumping ground for building material from elsewhere. The medieval pottery recovered would also be consistent with domestic activity.

The disarticulate human bone recovered from the redeposited post-medieval layers is considered to have derived from the medieval chapel and burial ground of St Lawrence, which lay adjacent to the site and to the north-west. The burial ground may have extended within the boundaries of the present site, although no layers of medieval date were identified within the sample trenches, with the exception of alluvium to the east. The western end of the site has been subject to disturbance during the modern period, though were the medieval burial ground to have extended within the site, isolated areas of intact deposits may survive amongst this later disturbance, and will be vulnerable to disturbance below approximately 18.55m OAD.

The alluvium was truncated at the western end of Trench 1 and does not appear to have extended as far west as Trench 2, so that it would appear that the site lies on the edge of the alluviated area. The upper layer of alluvium observed on the east side of the site has been ascribed a medieval date. Thus the lower layers are of earlier, but indeterminate, date. The alluvium conforms to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century documentary information (see Section 3 above) indicating that this area was marshy and subject to seasonal flooding.

## 5.3 Post-medieval and modern

The pottery recovered, and other material such as clay pipe, vessel glass and oyster shell indicate activity of a domestic nature in this period. The extensive post-medieval building rubble and debris noted within both trenches is considered to have been deliberately dumped, probably to raise the height of the area above the water table.

The present water table, was recorded in a Victorian well on the north-east side of the site, is 4m below the present surface, or c 16m AOD.

## 6. 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.

*A evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Misters Bros Ltd client at the Old Builders Yard, South Street, Worcester (NGR ref. SO 8527 5465; HER ref. WCM 101113). Alluvium at the eastern end of the site has been given a Roman date based on the similarity of deposits to those on another site. Remains of a Franciscan friary had been recorded on an adjacent site and documentary references exist. The western end of this site, however, was subject to later disturbance and no deposits relating to the Franciscan friary and its burial ground were identified, though a single human bone and medieval pottery were recovered.*

## 7. The archive

The archive consists of:

- 2 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3

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- 5 Context number catalogues AS5
  - 8 Digital photographs
  - 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
  - 1 Levels record AS19
  - 10 Abbreviated context records AS40
  - 2 Trench records AS41
  - 1 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 (01905) 25371

## 8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Derek Misters, Misters Bros Ltd; Roger Ainley and Associates; James Dinn, Worcester City Council Planning Archaeologist.

## 9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Vaughan and Andy Brown, finds analysis by Erica B Darch, environmental analysis by Liz Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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## 11. **Abbreviations**

HER	Historic Environment Record.
WCM	Numbers prefixed with 'WCM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section Sites and Monuments Record.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Council, Historic Environment Record.

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 13m Width: 3.20-3.75m Depth: 2.30-3.05m

Orientation: east-west

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)s
100	Overburden	Mixed hardcore, modern structures and patches of dark brown humic topsoil. Concrete and grey gravel surface, 19 <sup>th</sup> century brick floors, concrete, red sandstone and building rubble and services.	0.00-1.25m
101	Alluvium/subsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional pebbles, charcoal, pottery, tile and bone; moderate grey limestone and red sandstone frags. Diffuse boundary with [104] below to east. Compact and cohesive. Cut by frequent modern services.	1.25-1.55m
102	Alluvium	Mid bluish grey mottled clay, occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles, red sandstone flecks and frags. Compact and cohesive. Diffuse boundary with [105] below. Above [103] within eastern end of trench.	1.94-2.14m
103	Alluvium	Greyish brown slightly sandy clay. Fawn mottled. Very mixed: occasional red sandstone and white limestone frags, charcoal and sub-angular pebbles. Very occasional roots. Moderately compact and cohesive. Diffuse boundary with [104] above within eastern end of trench.	1.62-1.94m
104	Alluvium	Light orangey brown slightly sandy clay. Moderate charcoal. Occasional red sandstone and white limestone frags, and sub-angular pebbles. Very occasional roots. Moderately compact and cohesive. Diffuse boundary with [103] below and [101] above.	1.42-1.62m
105	Natural	Light grey clay with extensive small-medium sized sub-rounded pebble gravel. Occasional red sandstone frags. Very compact and cohesive. Same as [202].	2.14m +



**Deposit description:**

Due to the depth of deposits the trench had to be widened and stepped out before it was possible to remove deposits down to the level of the natural.

Post-medieval and modern finds were noted within overburden [100]. Medieval and early post-medieval material was noted within context 101. Occasional disarticulate bone within context 101 was determined to be of both human and animal origin.

A 19<sup>th</sup> century cellar was recorded within the middle of the trench continuing into the north section. It was cut into the alluvium to a depth of *c* 2m below the present surface. A brick lined well of similar date was noted within the north-east corner of the trench. It ran to at least 5m below the present surface and contained approximately 1m of water, making the water table *c* 16m AOD. A modern water/sewer pipe was observed within the western end of the trench at a depth of *c* 3m.

**Trench 2**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 7.40m Width: 2.90m Depth: 1.95m

Orientation: NNE/SSW

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Overburden	Mixed hardcore, modern and post-medieval debris with patches of dark brown humic topsoil. Grey gravel at surface, bands of crushed brick, mortar and charcoal; occasional small-medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, charcoal, concrete, tiles, china, bone, red sandstone and white limestone. Diffuse boundary with [201] below.	0.00-0.76m
201	Subsoil	Mixed deposit. Dark brown slightly sandy silty clay. Frequent pottery, tile, animal bone, tobacco pipe. Contains [203]. Cut by drainage trenches filled with tile and mortar [200].	0.76-2.05m
202	Natural	Mid-light grey clay with frequent sub-rounded pebbles and increasing red sandstone frags to south. Moderately compact and cohesive. Same as [105]. Cut by drainage trenches.	1.95m +
203	Finds assemblage	Discrete assemblage of articulated bone and occasional pottery within base of [201].	1.50-1.60m

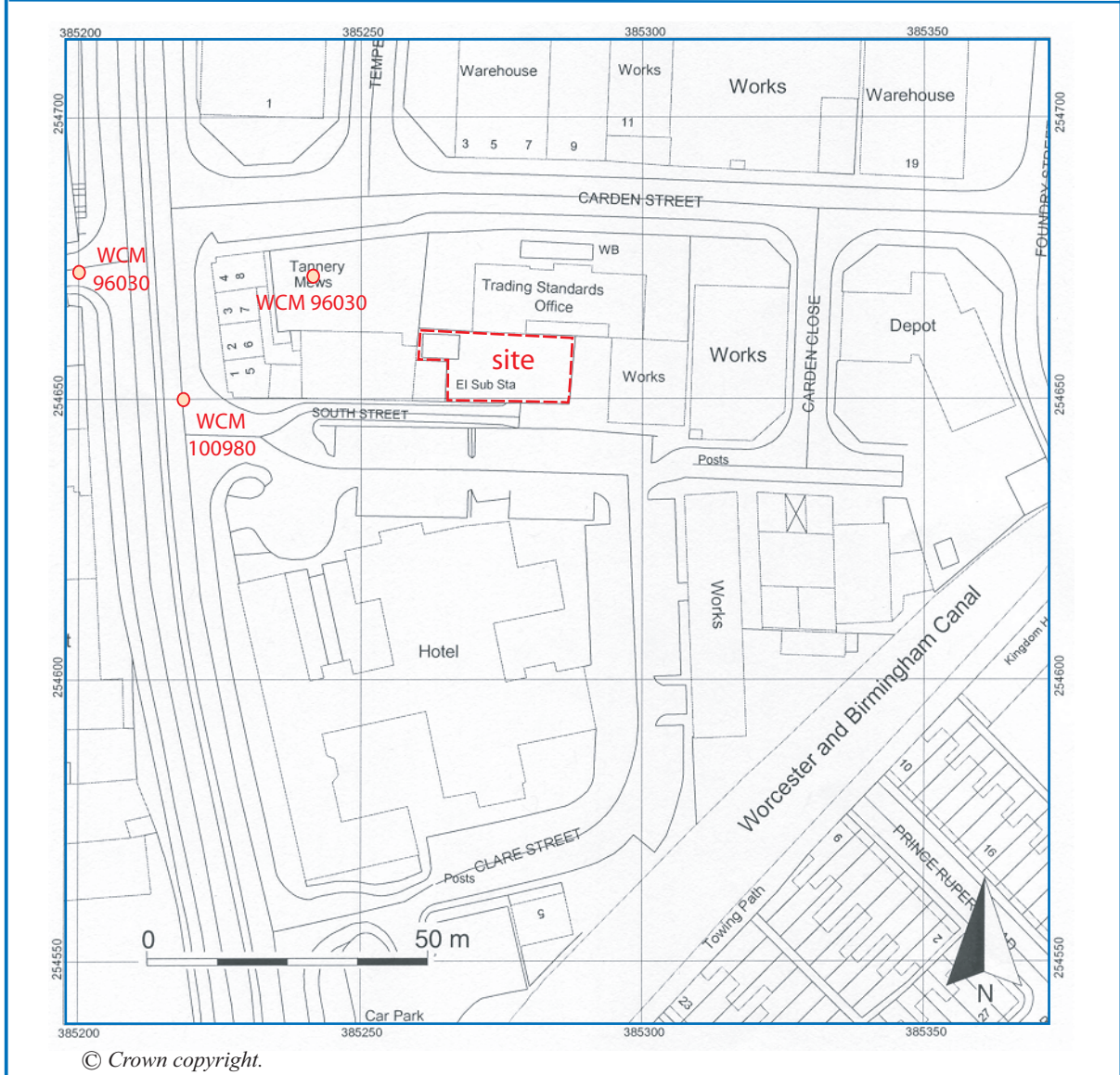
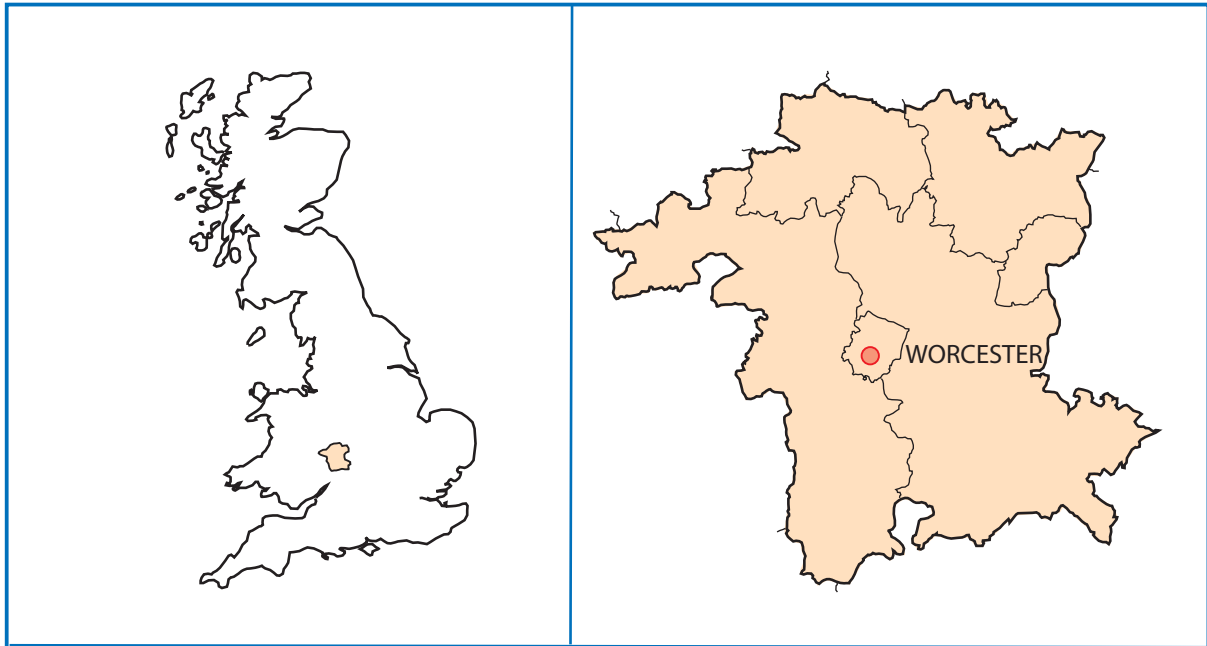
**Deposit description:**

Due to the depth of deposits the trench had to be widened and stepped out before it was possible to remove deposits down to the level of the natural.

The discrete finds assemblage in context 203 observed within the base of the disturbed subsoil [201] comprised the largely articulated remains of a small carnivorous animal. However there were also bones from other larger animals and possible human finger bones in association. They are determined to represent the basal deposit of an otherwise indeterminate pit cut into layer 201.

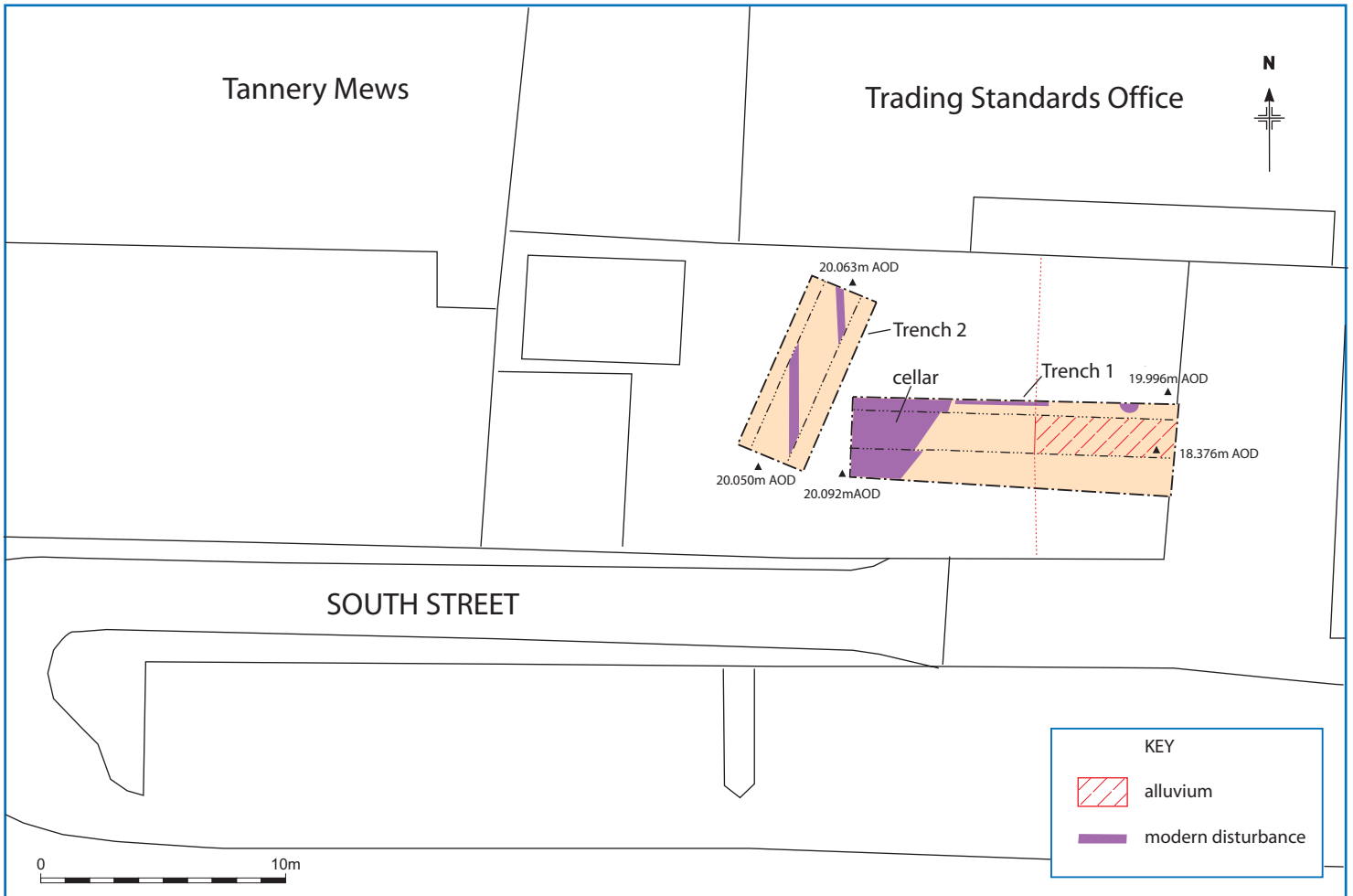
Post medieval and modern finds were noted within overburden [200]. Earlier post-medieval material was noted within context 201. Occasional disarticulated bone within context 201 was determined to be human.

Two post-medieval features were identified, cutting into the natural matrix [202]. They lay on linear north-south alignments and contained post-medieval material as in context 200.



Location of the site.

Figure 1



Trench location plan.

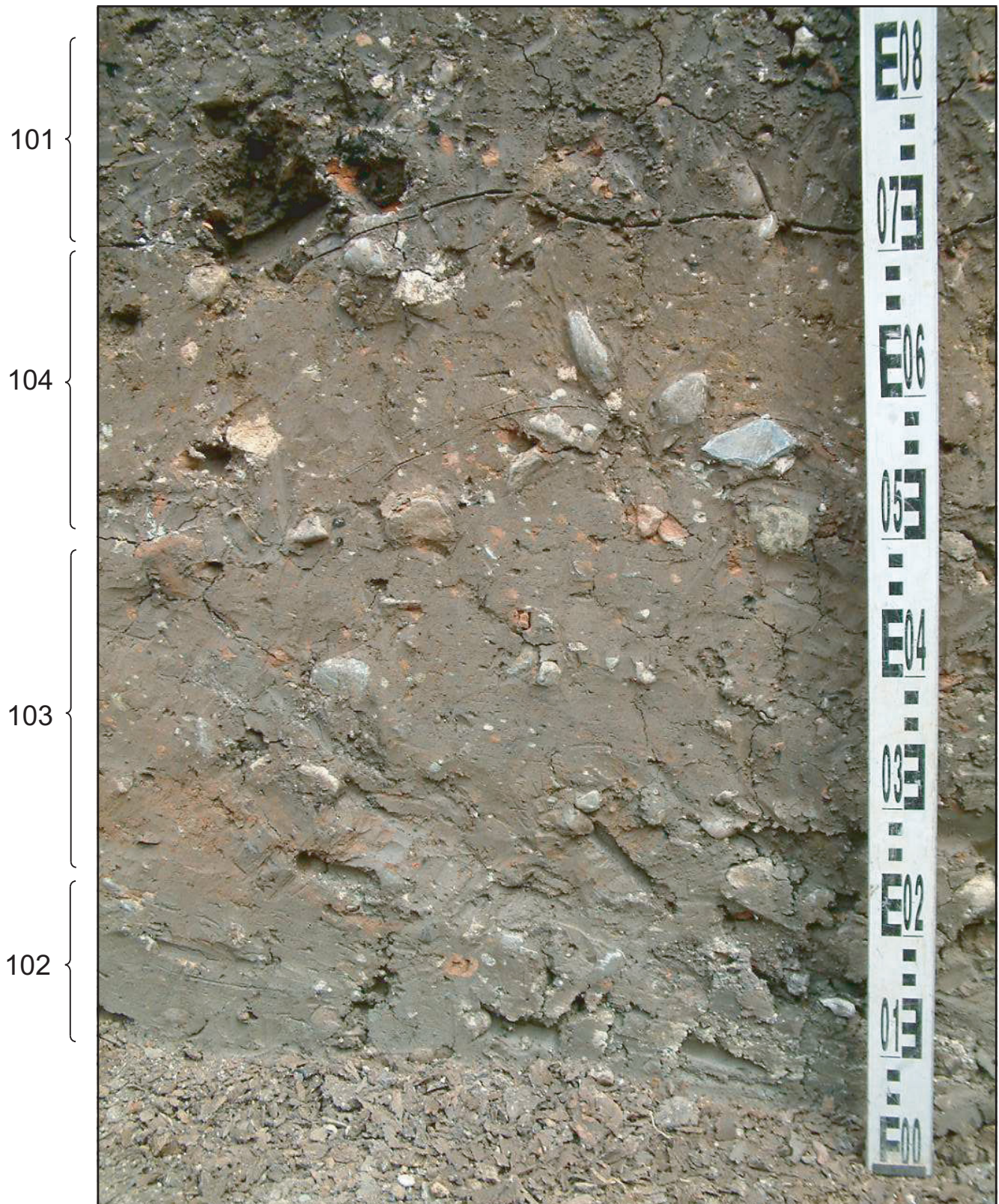
Figure 2

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Extract from 1905 Ordnance Survey (25": 1 mile) with modern map at 1:500.

Figure 3



*Plate 1: Trench 1 Section showing bands of alluvium.*