

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
1 Gardeners Square, Evesham,
Worcestershire

Graham Arnold

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

3rd September 2010

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Worcestershire County Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Project 3564
Report
WSM 42445

Archaeological Watching Brief at 1 Gardeners Square, Evesham, Worcestershire

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Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr and Mrs Couch
<i>Site address</i>	1 Gardeners Square
<i>National Grid reference</i>	404382, 243485
<i>Historic Environment Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 42445
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	10/01553
<i>Brief</i>	n/a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2010
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

The site is close to Evesham town centre (WSM 20783) and was therefore considered to have the potential for the survival of archaeological features. There had been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995, RCHME 1996
Date of fieldwork	26 August 2010
Area of site	1m ²
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Soakaway length 1 m width 1 m depth 0.60 m

Access to and visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated area was undertaken during excavation by hand. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated deposits. The area totalling 1m² was cleaned by hand.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of deposits associated with the soakaway allows a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. However, unobserved groundworks were carried out on the site prior to the watching brief and there is therefore no archaeological record of these works.

Deposit description

Context	Type Colour Texture	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth (below ground level)
001		Modern concrete	26/08/10	Concrete	0 – 0.20m BGL
002	Moderately compact reddish orange coarse	Sand and gravels	26/08/10	Made ground with some bioturbation	0 - 0.60m BGL

Discussion

The stratigraphy encountered comprised reddish orange coarse sands and fine rounded river gravels which appeared have been recently imported into the site. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. Natural ground was not encountered.

Conclusions

No archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the excavation of the soakaway which was excavated into recently imported material.

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 watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Couch at 1 Gardeners Square, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR ref S0 404382, 243485; SMR ref WSM 42445. Only redeposited sands were observed and excavation did not reach natural deposits. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Mr & Mrs Couch (the client) and Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer (the curator).

Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

HEAS, 2008 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated November 2008

HEAS 2010 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at 1 Gardeners Square, Evesham, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 24 August 2010, **P3564**

IfA, 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

Figures

Plates



Plate 1 The Soakaway hole being excavated looking southeast



Plate 2 The soakaway excavated to full depth looking south



Plate 3 The west facing section of the soakaway and the spoil heap including the concrete base removed



Plate 4 Plan of the soakaway and the west facing section with the spoil heap including the concrete base removed

Appendix 1 Technical information

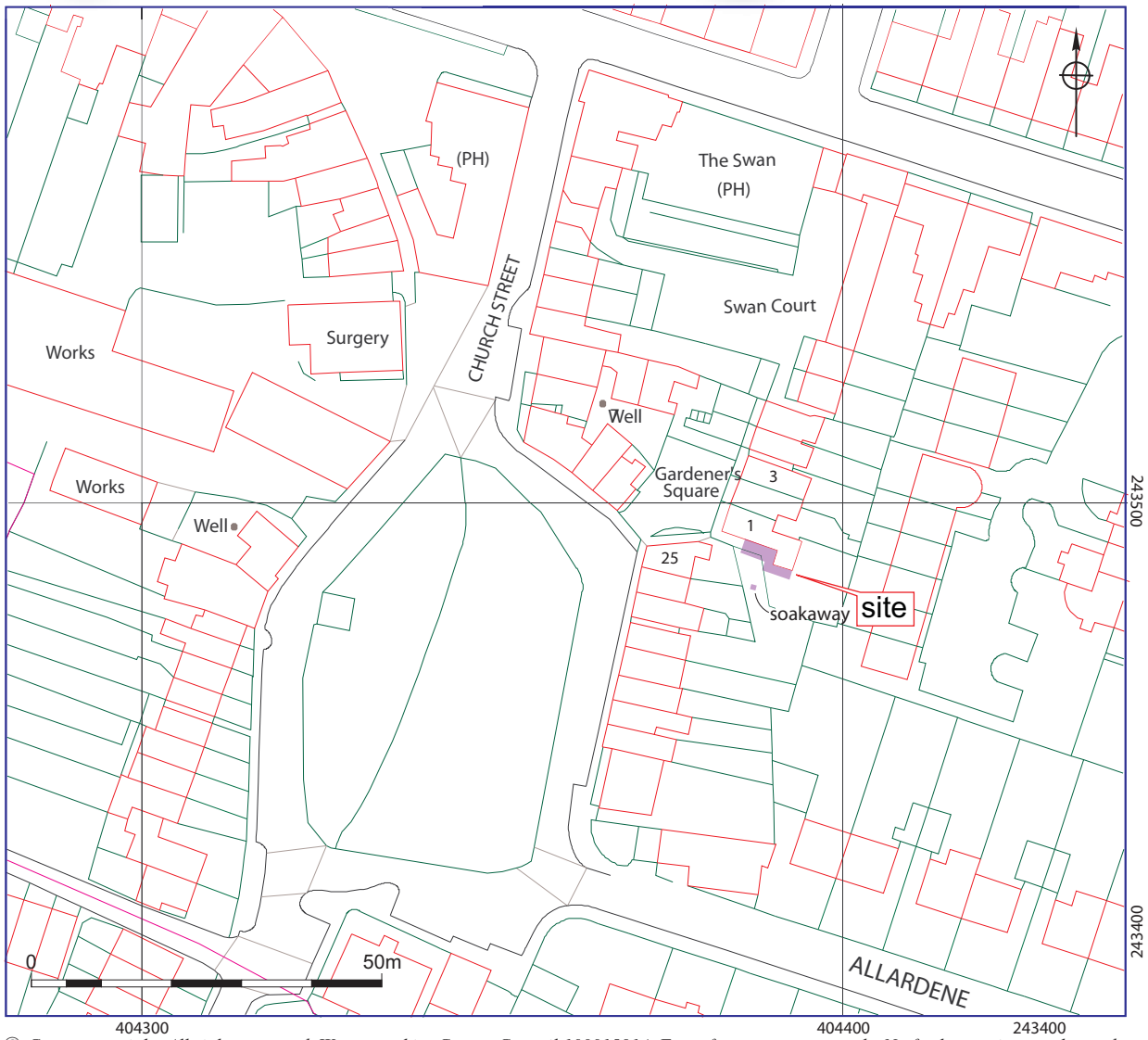
The archive

The archive consists of

- 1 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Trench record sheet AS41

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416



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Location of the site

Figure 1