

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF
AT
28 CROSS STREET, OSWESTRY,
SHROPSHIRE

Graham Arnold

11th February 2011

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Worcestershire County Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Project P3633
Report 1812

Archaeological watching brief at 28 Cross Street, Oswestry, Shropshire

Graham Arnold

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Ross Developments Ltd
<i>Site address</i>	28 Cross Street, Oswestry
<i>National Grid reference</i>	329138, 329631
<i>Historic Environment Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	n/a
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Shropshire Council 10/00792/FUL
<i>Brief</i>	CgMs 2010
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

Oswestry has been the subject of a recent survey undertaken as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Dalwood and Bryant 2005) and contains a summary of previous archaeological work in the town.

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, IfA 2008				
Sources consulted	Central Marches Historic Town Survey				
Date(s) of fieldwork	12-13 January 2011				
Area of site	c 100m ²				
Sampling area sampled	Indicated on Fig 1				
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	<table> <tr> <td>Foundations</td> <td>length 32m width 0.70m depth 0.80m max</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Services</td> <td>length 20m width 0.70m depth 1.0m max</td> </tr> </table>	Foundations	length 32m width 0.70m depth 0.80m max	Services	length 20m width 0.70m depth 1.0m max
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Services	length 20m width 0.70m depth 1.0m max				

Access to or visibility of structures and deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to allow clear differentiation of deposits. No archaeological deposits were encountered but natural clay was observed at the base of every trench.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Type Colour Texture	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth (OD or below ground level)
1000	Brick and Concrete rubble	Backfill of previous decked courtyard previously on site lying above present ground surface	Modern	Overburden	0m
1001	Friable modern brick rubble in a orangeish brown silty clay.	Brick demolition and rubble made ground with concrete footings and numerous modern services running across site.	Modern	Building rubble and demolition material	0 – 0.60m
1002	Natural clay	Compact reddish brown clay with frequent large rounded and subangular stones, occasionally cut by modern service trenches		Natural	0.40 – 0.80m +

Discussion

Stratigraphy within the foundation and service trenches was comprised of modern demolition material lying above the natural clay with frequent truncation by service trenches and previous concrete footings. No significant archaeological deposits, structures or finds were present. The amount of modern truncation and disturbance suggests that archaeological features are unlikely to survive in this area.

Conclusions

No significant archaeological deposits were encountered. Natural ground was recorded at a maximum of 0.80m below ground level. All other deposits consisted of modern demolition rubble, made ground and was heavily truncated by modern services from the existing buildings surrounding the site.

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 CgMs Ltd acting as the agent for Ross Developments Ltd at 28 Cross Street, Oswestry, Shropshire (centred at NGR 329138, 329631). Recorded deposits comprised modern demolition rubble and made ground, heavily truncated by modern services from the existing buildings surrounding the site. No archaeological deposits or features were present during the works.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Ross Developments Ltd, Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting, and Mike Watson, Historic Environment Officer for Shropshire County Council.

Bibliography

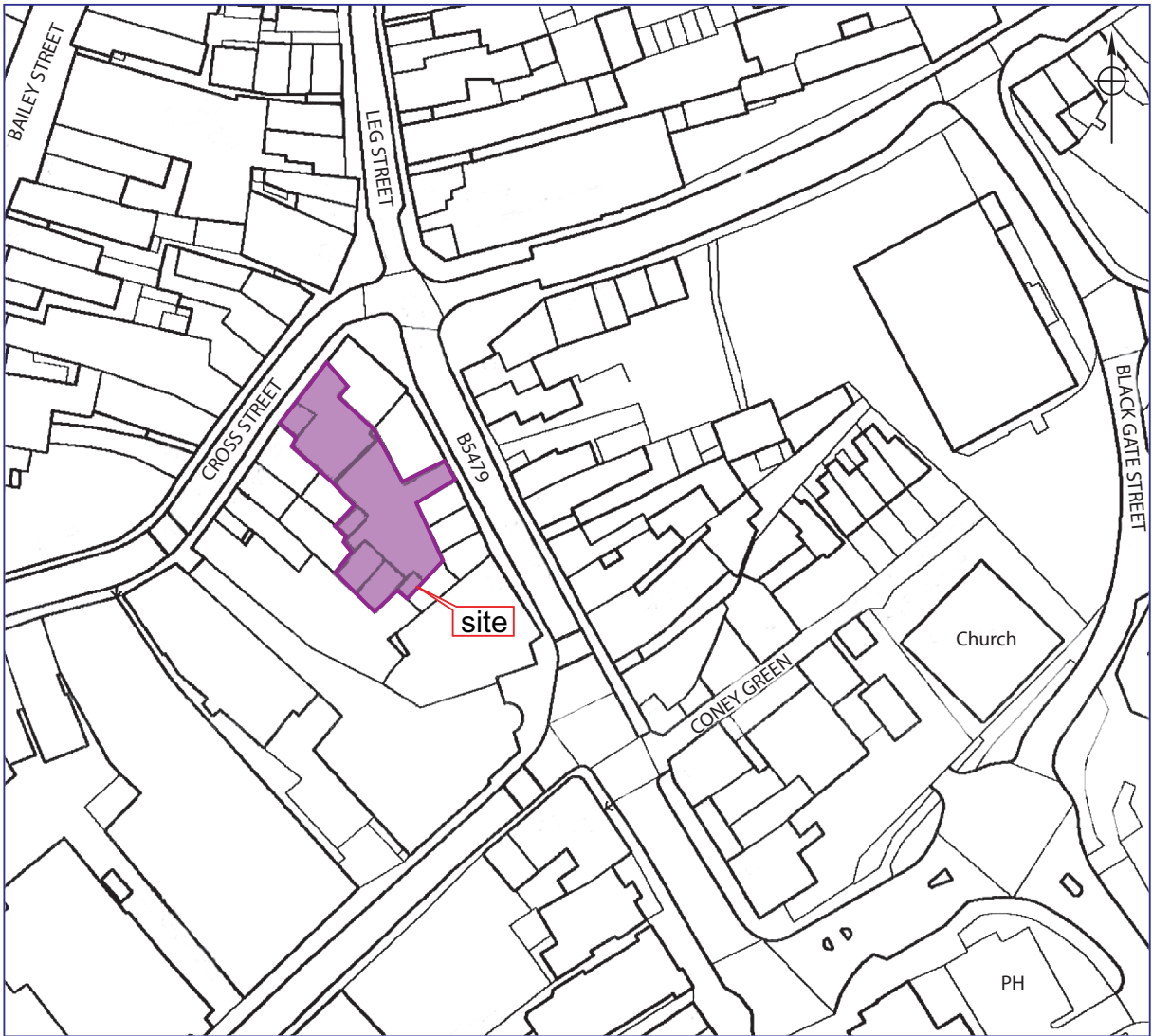
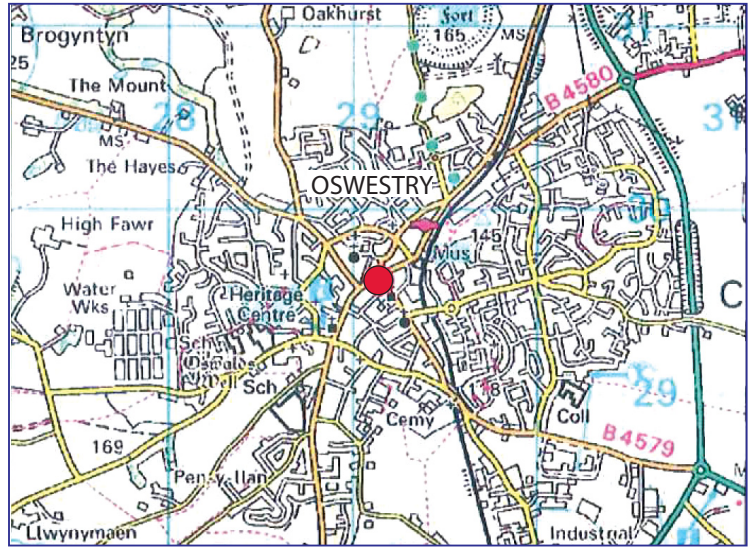
CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report 399

Dalwood, H and Bryant, V, HEAS 2005 *The Central Marches Historic Towns Survey 1992-1996 : Oswestry*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council and English Heritage,

Patrick, C and Gidman J, 2010 *Specification for Archaeological Observation and Recording of Below Ground Works at 28 Cross Street Oswestry*. CgMs Consulting unpublished document dated December 2010

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

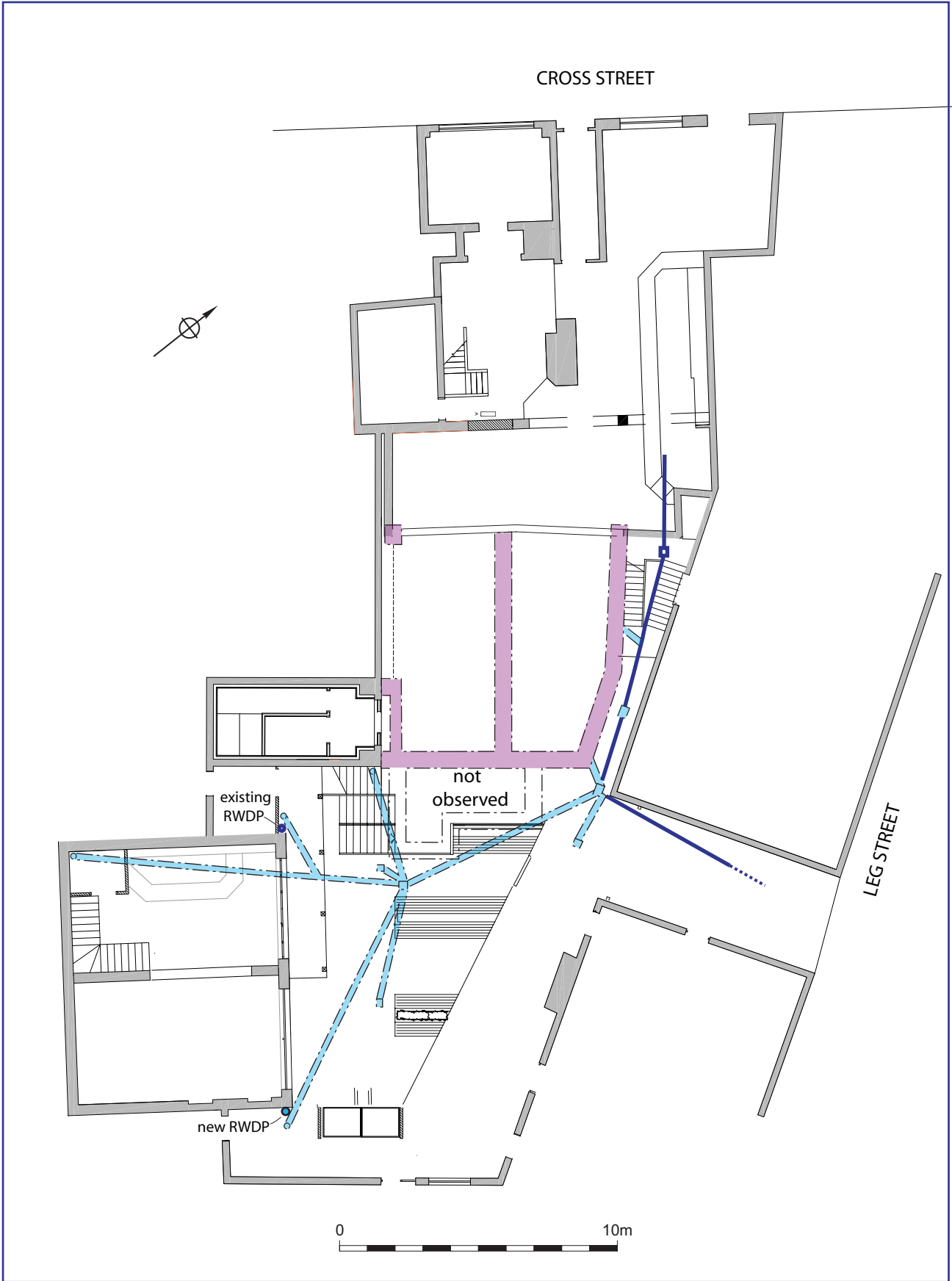
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan (based upon J Ross Developments dwg no. 0207-con07)

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 The General Site looking south



Plate 2 The East trench being excavated



Plate 3 Northeast facing section showing modern building rubble (1001) and natural clay (1002) in North East trench



Plate 4 Northeastern trench completed looking north



Plate 5 Platform for girder footings in the Western corner of courtyard showing building rubble and natural clay



Plate 6 Northwest trench general view and new services connections



Plate 7 Central trench after excavation showing building rubble and modern service disturbance above the natural clay



Plate 8 Modern gas mains crossing the south trench



Plate 9 East facing section of foundation trench



Plate 10 South trench, showing the modern building rubble, services and natural clay, looking west.



Plate 11 Overall trenches being completed

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

4	Context records AS1
1	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
15	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
1	Scale drawings
1	Context number catalogues AS5
1	Trench record sheets AS41
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Shropshire County Museum Service
Shropshire County Council
Wenlock Lodge
Acton Scott
Church Stretton
Shropshire, SY6 6QN

Tel. Church Stretton (01694) 781306