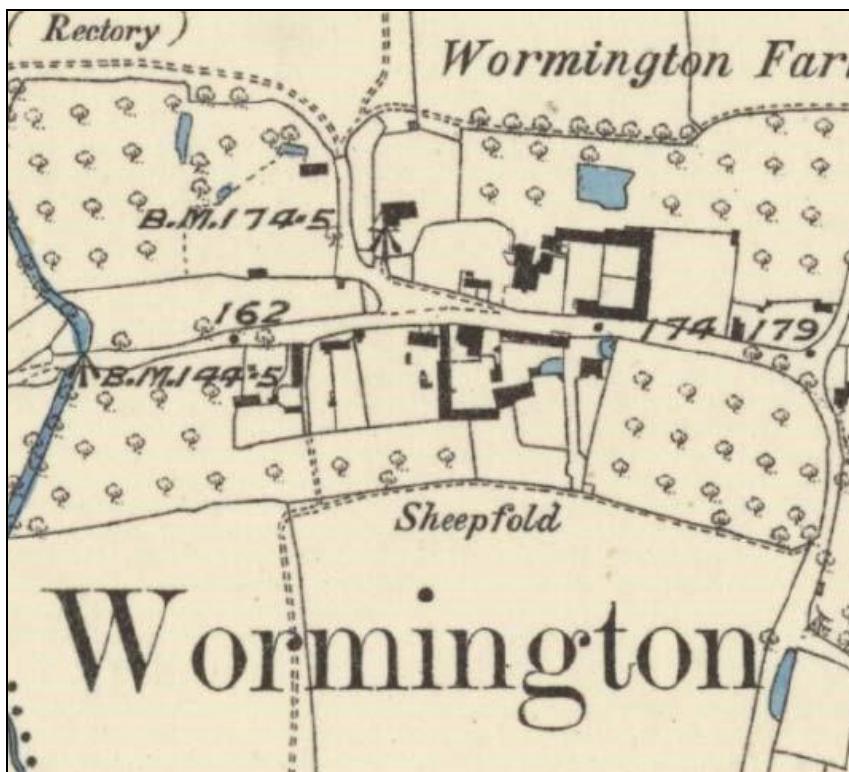


**Proposed Wormington Village Hall, Main Street,  
Wormington, Gloucestershire**

(NGR: 403875 236439)



An Archaeological Field Evaluation 2016

Planning Ref: Pending

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by



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*On behalf of:*

***Wormington  
Village Society***

**Reporting:** Richard Cherrington

**Fieldwork:** Richard Cherrington and Tommy Gray

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**Cover Image: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1883 - 1884**

## **Contents**

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### **Summary**

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION**
- 2.0 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND GEOLOGY**
- 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND SUMMARY**
- 4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**
- 5.0 EVALUATION RESULTS**
- 6.0 THE FINDS**
- 7.0 CONCLUDING STATEMENTS**
- 8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
- 9.0 REFERENCES**

### **List of Figures**

- Figure 1:** *Site Location*
- Figure 2:** *Proposed Development and Trench Location*
- Figure 3:** *Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1884*
- Figure 4:** *Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1902*
- Figure 5:** *Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1924*
- Figure 6:** *Modern site plan c. 2010*

**Figure 7:** *Trench 1 Plan*

**List of Plates**

**Plate 1:** *Site prior to evaluation trenching looking north*  
**Plate 2:** *Trench 1 looking south (3 x 1.0m scales, 1 x 0.50m scale)*  
**Plate 3:** *Trench 1 (north end) exposed natural deposit (103)*  
**Plate 4:** *Trench 1 Sondage 1 looking west*  
**Plate 5:** *Trench 1 typical section (north end) looking west (0.50m scale)*  
**Plate 6:** *Trench 1 typical section (south end) looking west (0.50m scale)*  
**Plate 7:** *Finds from Deposit 102 (10cm scale)*

**List of Tables**

**Table 1:** *Trench 1 summary of deposits*

## **Summary**

*During April 2016, Benchmark Archaeology (BA) undertook a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) on the proposed site of Wormington Village Hall, Main Street, Wormington, Gloucestershire (NGR: 403875 236439, Figures 1 and 2). The work was commissioned and funded by Wormington Village Society.*

*Wormington Village Society is currently proposing the construction of a Village Hall on the site which lies in an area of archaeological potential. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) advised that a programme of AFE be undertaken in order to define the character and extent of any archaeological remains that exist in the area. The results of this work will facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation or other mitigation measures in any future development.*

*Prior to the fieldwork a project design (Cherrington 2016) specifying the methodology to be employed during the AFE was produced and submitted as a requirement of the document entitled 'Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation' issued by Gloucestershire County Council (2015).*

*Archaeological trial-trenching did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance. The only feature recorded was c. 19<sup>th</sup> Century in date and comprised a probable mineral extraction pit. No evidence for in situ or disarticulated human remains extending beyond the western boundary of the adjacent churchyard was recorded. It is possible, however, that any human remains formerly present may have been removed during probable localised mineral extraction.*

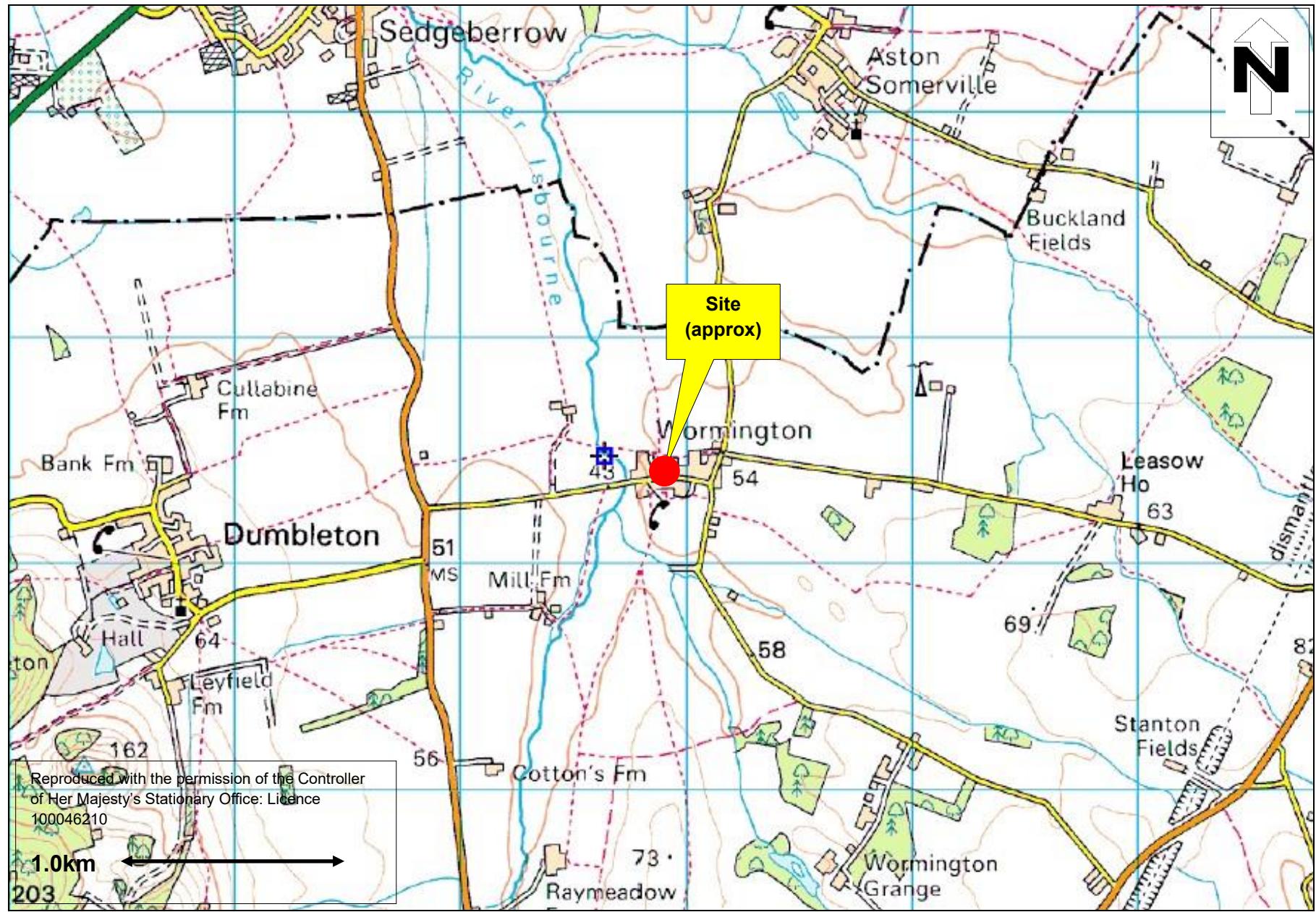
*The proposed development subject to the planning condition comprises the construction of a new village hall building with associated services and probable access and hard / soft landscaping (Planning Ref: Pending).*

*Based on the excavated evidence and the scale of the proposed development it would appear unlikely that the proposed development would impact upon any complex deposits of archaeological significance.*

*Any recommendations regarding the need for any further mitigation will need to be made by the AA, TBC.*

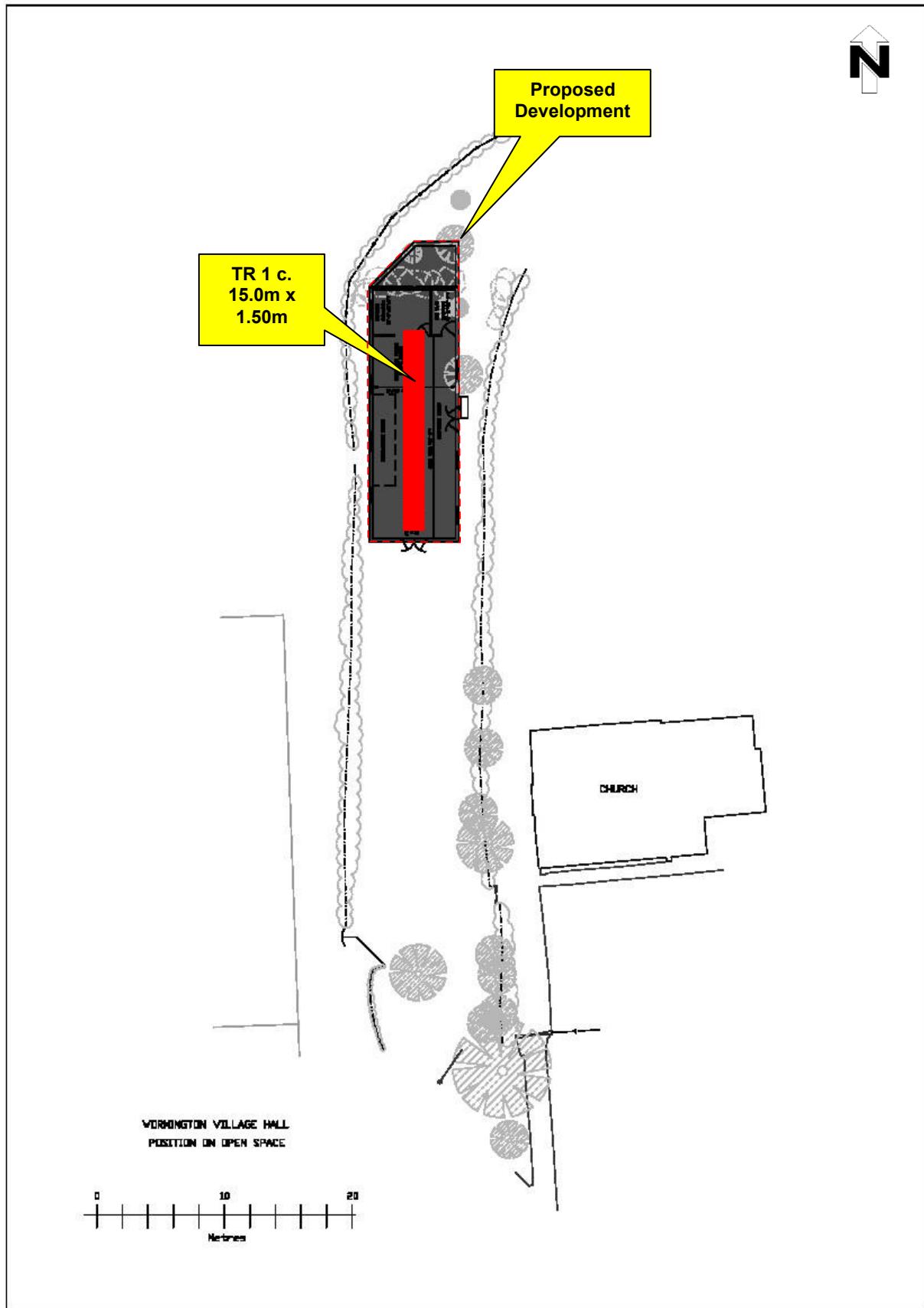
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*Proposed Wormington Village Hall, Main Street, Wormington, Gloucestershire (NGR: 403875 236439):* 1  
*An Archaeological Field Evaluation 2016 (Planning Ref: Pending). **CLIENT DRAFT NOT FOR PLANNING***



**Figure 1:** *Site Location*





An Archaeological Field Evaluation 2016 (Planning Ref: Pending). **CLIENT DRAFT NOT FOR PLANNING**

**Figure 2: Proposed Development and Trench Location**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION (Figures 1 and 2)

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 During April 2016, Benchmark Archaeology (BA) undertook a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) on the proposed site of Wormington Village Hall, Main Street, Wormington, Gloucestershire (NGR: 403875 236439, Figures 1 and 2). The work was commissioned and funded by Wormington Village Society.

1.1.2 Wormington Village Society is currently proposing the construction of a Village Hall on the site which lies in an area of archaeological potential. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) advised that a programme of AFE be undertaken in order to define the character and extent of any archaeological remains that exist in the area. The results of this work will facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation or other mitigation measures in any future development.

1.1.3 Prior to the fieldwork a project design (Cherrington 2016) specifying the methodology to be employed during the AFE was produced and submitted as a requirement of the document entitled '*Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*' issued by Gloucestershire County Council (2015).

### 1.2 Benchmark Archaeology

1.2.1 Benchmark Archaeology (BA) is an independent archaeological organisation providing a wide range of archaeological services carried out to the highest professional standards. They carry out watching briefs, evaluations, excavations, surveys, desk-based assessments, historic building recording and church archaeology, in addition to other specialist and logistical services. BA offers a cost-effective service, whilst itself maintaining the highest professional standards, and enhancing the archaeological record. All projects are carried out in accordance with NPPF, the guidance of the Treasure Act (1996), and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) and Historic England.

1.2.2 Richard Cherrington is Principal Archaeologist at BA. He has several years experience as a supervising commercial archaeologist working for university and local authority archaeological units in the UK and overseas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ancient History & Archaeology, a PG Cert in Environmental Management, and a PG Diploma in Practical Archaeology. Richard is an Associate of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA) and a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society (FRGS). Richard is also member of the

Council for British Archaeology (CBA), Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG), and the British Brick Society (BBS).

## 2.0 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND GEOLOGY (Figures 1 and 2)

2.1 The site is located on land to the west of the Church of St Catherine, Main Street, Wormington, Gloucestershire (NGR: 403875 236439, Figures 1 and 2). Wormington is located c. 7.0km to the south of Evesham in the northern part of Gloucestershire close to the border with Worcestershire.

2.2 The proposed development site is bounded by agricultural land (north), the Church of St Catherine and churchyard (east), residential dwellings (south) and agricultural buildings (west). The site is currently under grass cover and enclosed by hedge and tree cover.

2.3 The underlying geology of the site consists of mudstone deposits of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Head comprising gravel, sand, silt and clay ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)). The typical soilscape comprises freely draining lime-rich loamy soils supporting herb-rich chalk and limestone pastures and lime-rich deciduous woodlands. Landcover is arable with grassland at higher altitude. General cropping consists of spring and autumn-sown cereals and other crops including grass. No site-specific geo-technical information was available at the time of writing. The site lies at a height of c. 51m – 52m AOD.



Plate 1: Site prior to evaluation trenching looking north

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND SUMMARY (Figures 3 - 6)

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 It is understood that no previous formal intrusive archaeological work has taken place on the application site. Previous archaeological work undertaken immediately to the east of the site within the churchyard (Area 43126) recorded evidence for activity on or in the vicinity of the site during the Romano-British, early Medieval, and late Medieval / early Post-Medieval periods. The recovery of unstratified Romano-British pottery represented the first officially recorded (2010) Roman activity in Wormington.

#### 3.2 GHER Data

3.2.1 To gain a better understanding of the archaeological background of the site a Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (GHER) search covering the village of Wormington was undertaken on 10.04.2016. The search produced a total of 13 records comprising archaeological monuments and events with a Medieval to Modern date range. A number of Listed Buildings are also recorded.

- *Area 2043: Early Medieval rood sculpture at Saint Catherine's Church, Wormington, Dumbleton @ NGR: 403880 236430*

*On the east wall of the south aisle is a crucifix of local stone discovered by RES Thomas in the garden of Wormington Grange and thought possibly to have come from Winchcombe Abbey. It is of Anglo-Saxon origin dating from c1000 AD, measuring 33" (0.84m) x 19" (0.48m) and depicts Our Lord with a lamb's head. There is a description and illustration of this stone in Antiquity, Vol.39, p55-6 by Taylor HM.*

*1965 - The Wormington rood is noted as carved in a distinctly Eastern style within a review of Early Medieval stone sculpture within The Cotswolds. No information is given on the possible origin for this stone, just the style of its carving.*

*2009 - The crucifixion sculpture at Wormington is now set into the east wall of the south aisle of the church. This is dated to the late 10th or early 11th century. The suggestion that the figure bears a lamb's head shown in profile (by HM Taylor) is now thought to be incorrect; it is thought that a human head is shown, tilted, with a misplaced forked beard.*

- *Area 6785: Wormington Medieval Settlement @ NGR: 404000 236400*

*Medieval settlement including church (SMR 2043) and good street plan with linear type form. Old road on map between Wormington and Dumbleton. There is also a medieval moated site at SP040365. Wormington appears as "Wermetune" in 1086 Domesday Book and means "Farmstead associated with Wyrma". "The idea that Wormington Grange is one and the same as*

*Wormington Parva goes back to Beresford and Hurst, but somehow they have got it wrong, for the documentary evidence leaves no doubt about the equivalence of Wormington Grange and Wormington Magna. That does incidentally appear not just from the documents themselves, but can also be seen from Gloucester Archives online catalogue entry (under ref D892/T22). I would think that it would be a good idea to enter a caveat of some sort into your existing records." {Pers Comm from enquiry 4361.}*

- **Area 8409:** Listed Building grade II\* 15th century Anglican church, altered in the 19th and 20th centuries, known as the Church of Saint Catherine, Wormington village, Dumbleton @ NGR: 403943 236453

SO 93 SE DUMBLETON WORMINGTON VILLAGE 2/90 Church of St Catherine GV II\* 04/07/60 Small Anglican church. Reputed to have been built by the Abbot of Hailes in 1475, probably on the site of a C12 church; altered c1800; some fixtures by Ernest Gimson, installed 1926. West end of nave rubble, otherwise random squared and dressed limestone; stone slate roof with an ashlar stack; wooden bellcote. Small nave with north and south aisles with dormers in the position of transepts; chancel with parallel vestry on the north; small lean-to on the south. West end: C20 nine-panel door probably by Ernest Gimson, within a C18 entrance arch with paired columns either side, blind trefoil-headed panels between each pair of columns which are linked by a roll-moulded horizontal at the top; large trefoil-headed window with leaded panes within an ovolو-moulded surround with possibly earlier hood above. Five C12 corbels below the bell turret including bears' heads and a pair of human faces. Buttress with offsets at the east end of the south wall; three-light window with trefoil heads to each light within a 4-centred arched surround towards the east end; 2-light 4-centred arched window with trefoil-headed lights towards the east end; wide blocked pointed-arched opening below the dormer indicating position of former crypt; stone with three differing incised consecration crosses c1m west of the sill of the dormer matching fenestration to the north aisle. Chancel south wall: wide segmental-headed opening with limestone blocking containing the brick head of a smaller segmental-headed opening indicating the position of another crypt. Perpendicular 3-light east window. Two C19 two-light windows with cinquefoil-headed lights with moulded hoods to the north wall of the vestry. White weatherboarded bellturret at the west end with cinquefoil-headed 2-light openings with wooden louvres; leaded battlements and pyramidal roof. Flat and stepped gable end coping. C18 pointed finials to the east end of the nave and dormers.

Plastered interior: C20 faceted roofs to the nave and chancel, similar roofs to the side aisles; flagged and plank flooring installed 1926. Perpendicular 3-bay arcades with octagonal piers with moulded capitals and matching responds. C14 chancel arch with an almost round head and a continuous double flat chamfer; wide moulded C19 Tudor-arched opening with engaged columns forming the jambs from the chancel to the vestry; large restored trefoil-headed piscina in the south wall of the chancel. Anglo-Saxon stone. Crucifix, excavated from the grounds of Wormington Grange but said to have originally come from Winchcombe Abbey, now reset in the east wall of the south aisle. C15 octagonal stone font with blind quatrefoils on each side. Simple oak pews; octagonal oak pulpit with small fielded panels and communion rail with turned balusters and lozenge decoration where installed and presumably designed by Ernest Gimson in 1926. Rebuilt C17 oak choir stalls incorporating large C17 carved panels with nailing and guilloche decoration and C15 stall ends with blind crocketed arches. Mid-late C17 carved oak chair and mid-late C18 chair in chancel. Altar comprises a simple table presented in 1959. C17 carved oak chest in vestry. Two late C17- early C18 chairs with pierced backs and restored seats in the sanctuary. Tapestry curtains in north chancel arch from a design

by William Morris. Stained glass east window by William Morris and Co. in memory of Francis Clayton of Birmingham, died 1912. Some well preserved fragments of C15 glass in the westernmost window of the north and south aisles. Monuments on chancel north wall from left to right: brass memorial plaque of 1900; oval slatestone tablet to Samuel Gist, Lord of the Manor, died 1815. Chancel south wall from left to right: slatestone memorial with decorative border to William Anderson, died 1796; slatestone monument to John Partridge, former Rector, died 1775; slatestone monument with decorative border to James Partridge, former Rector, died 1734, inscriptions exfoliating at time of resurvey - March 1987. Two simple matching limestone tablets with crudely incised inscriptions below, one to John Partridge, former Rector, one to Mary his wife, died 1700; early C15 incised grave slab, depicting a man flanked by two wives with a very worn inscription round the border. Brass to Anne Savage, died 1605 showing an interesting representation of a lady's bed chamber and dress at the beginning of the C17, two heraldic shields either side. White and black marble monument to Hon Mary Gist, died 1844 and two other similar C19 tablets by Lewis of Cheltenham. (D. Verey, *The Buildings of England, The Vale and the Forest of Dean*, 1980). Listing NGR: SP 03943 36453. The west door, and probably the altar rails, are by Norman Jewson in 1931.

Norman Jewson (1884 - 1975) came from a family of timber merchants in Norwich. After studying at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge he worked at the architectural practise of Herbert Ibberson in London. Jewson was an accomplished watercolourist and after finishing his apprenticeship in 1907 he went on a sketching tour of the Cotswolds. Ibberson had recommended that Jewson visited Ernest Gimson in Sapperton and Gimson took him on as an 'improver'. As part of his training he was encouraged to draw a different wildflower everyday and adapt it to form a pattern suitable for plasterwork, wood carving or needlework. In 1911 Jewson married and converted a group of cottages at Bachelor's Court in Sapperton for himself. He set up his own practise in 1919 and quickly gained a reputation for the sympathetic conversion and adaptation of old buildings. He was a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and he wanted his buildings to have the basic qualities of the best old houses, built in the traditional way with local materials. Jewson buildings worked in a vernacular classicism with characteristically fine plasterwork. His work also included fine metal work and gates and detailed architectural lead work and wood carving. He also designed and made furniture.

- **Area 14933:** Negative watching brief at The Old House, Wormington. @ NGR: 403840 236330

1993 - A site visit was made by a member of staff of Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section to the Old House, Wormington to observe the digging of foundations to the west of the existing building on 26/04/1993. No archaeological features were observed in the foundation trenches. No finds were retrieved. The stratigraphy appeared to consist of topsoil over subsoil over natural gravel and clay. The Old House is located 100m to the southwest of St Catherine's Church in the likely area of medieval settlement.

- **Area 15263:** 1994 watching brief at Well House, Wormington, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403900 236370

1994 - As a condition of planning consent for the erection of a conservatory adjacent to the rear of Well House, a watching brief of the groundworks was undertaken on 21/01/1994 by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service. An excavated area of c3.1m x c2.3m x c0.5m (maximum depth) was observed. The ground was seen

to have been disturbed previously in the laying of three service pipes. Scant remains of a brick wall running parallel with the house E-W was also visible. Well House lies within the medieval settlement; C15 St Catherine's Church lies c60m to the N of the conservatory site.

- **Area 36704:** Listed Building grade II 17th century timber framed house, with 19<sup>th</sup> century extensions to rear, known as Bankside, Wormington village, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403841 236360

SP 03 NW DUMBLETON WORMINGTON VILLAGE 2/88 Bankside GV II 04/12/87 Cottage. C17 and C19. Square-panelled timber framing with painted brick infill on a limestone plinth, left gable end and rear coursed squared and dressed limestone now partly rebuilt in brick; later extension in brick painted to imitate timber framing, concrete tile roof with brick stacks, one on an ashlar stump. Rectangular plan with gable end to road, successive C19 extensions to the south gable end. 1½ storeys and single storey. Garden front: two C20 three-light casements with plastic frames; C20 plate glass window far right. Two 2-light eaves dormers with plastic casement windows. Early plank door off centre right under a raking canopy. C17 eaves dormer with coved and timber-framed gable and barge boarding with a curved margin at the rear. Garden front of C19 extensions: three segmentalheaded 2-light casements to the ground floor; 2-light eaves dormer to the C19 extension; segmentalheaded plank door to the single storey part. Interior not inspected.

- **Area 36706:** Listed Building grade II 20th century K6 telephone box, Main Street, Wormington village, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403736 236360

SP 03 NW DUMBLETON MAIN STREET Wormington Village 1371/2/10003 K6 telephone kiosk GV II 29/04/99 Telephone kiosk. 1935. By Giles Gilbert Scott. Cast Iron. Intact square kiosk of K6 type with domed roof, unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door.

- **Area 36707:** Listed Building grade II 17th century timber framed farmhouse, with 18th, 19th and 20th century alterations, known as Manor Farmhouse, Wormington village, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403928 236363

SP 03 NW DUMBLETON WORMINGTON VILLAGE 2/91 Manor Farmhouse GV II 04/12/87 Farmhouse. C17, early C18 in two phases, early C19 and C20. Square-panelled timber framing with rendered infill; south gable end coursed squared and dressed limestone; late C18-early C19 extension and some rebuilding in brick, now painted; C20 timber-framed extension; stone slate, slate and concrete tile roofing. Rectangular main body with slightly later extension to the west gable end; late C18-early C19 extension and C20 extension at right angles to the north; early C18 timber-framed range at right angles to the east gable end of the east - west range. South-facing elevation with gable of the early C18 range projecting forwards right; light wooden casements with leaded panes some containing reused early glass; small single-light fire window with a single thick glass pane to the projecting gable end; hipped C18 roof dormer with early leaded panes and C20 eaves dormer. C20 plank door under a lean-to porch along the side of the early range. Fivewindowed east facing elevation lit by C20 two and 3-light casements with leaded panes. The central part of this elevation has been rebuilt in-brick, projecting timber at this point suggests that timber-framing may once have extended out at right angles at this point. C18 two-light roof dormer upper right. Roadside front: 16-pane sash to the ground floor of the late C18-early C19 extension; 9-pane sash to the first floor. C20 extension: two C20 twolight casements to the right-hand return and a 2-light dormer. Half-hipped and hipped gable ends to the C18 ranges. Former gable end stack in early brick

*with decorative pilasters to the main body. Gable-end stack to the south gable end.*

- **Area 36708:** Listed Building grade II early to mid-18th century timber framed granary about 15m southeast of Manor Farmhouse, Wormington village, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403941 236342

*SP 03 NW DUMBLETON WORMINGTON VILLAGE 2/92 Granary c15m south east of Manor Farmhouse GV II 04/12/87 Granary. Early-mid C18. Coursed squared and dressed-limestone ground floor; square panelled timber-framing with brick infill to the upper floor; stone slate roof. Rectangular plan. Two open-fronted bays separated by a single square stone-built pier; blocked doorway at the centre of the rear wall; partially blocked window to the right gable end; half-hipped gable ends.*

- **Area 36709:** Listed Building grade II 17th century timber framed house known as Well House, Wormington village, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403903 236370.

*SP 03 NW DUMBLETON WORMINGTON VILLAGE 2/93 Well House GV II 04/12/87 House. C17. Square-panelled timber framing with painted brick infill, part of the entrance front and the right gable end coursed squared and dressed limestone; limestone plinth; red tile roof; brick stack on an ashlar stump. Rectangular plan. C20 flat-roofed porch at front not of special interest. Two storeys and attic. Roadside elevation from left to right: C19 two-light casement with horizontal glazing bars; 2-light wood casement with horizontal glazing bars to the coursed squared and dressed limestone part. Three early rectangular oriel windows to the first floor with moulded sills and uprights, leaded panes and horizontal glazing bars. Two light dormer close to the ridge, off-centre right, one light with glazing bars. Central C20 plank door obscured by a C20 flat-roofed porch. Two single-light and one 2-light double chamfered stone-mullioned casements to the right gable end. Gable-end stack. Interior not inspected.*

- **Area 36710:** Listed Building grade II pair of late 17th to early 18th century semi detached timber framed houses, numbers 1 and 2 Wormington Farm Cottages, Wormington. @ NGR: 403862 236366

*SP 03 NW DUMBLETON WORMINGTON VILLAGE 2/94 Nos 1 and 2 (Wormington Farm Cottages) GV II 04/12/87. Pair of semi-detached cottages. Late C17-early C18. Square-panelled timber framing with rendered and painted brick infill on a coursed squared and dressed limestone plinth; red tile roof with brick stacks. Rectangular plan with later extension at right angles rear right. 1½ storeys. Five-windowed roadside front. Four C20 two-light casements to the ground floor; five C20 two-light dormers. All casements with horizontal glazing bars. C20 plank door with single octagonal pane to No 1; C20 plank door with fillets and 4 glazed panes to No 2. Axial and gable-end stack. Interior not inspected.*

- **Area 42444:** The former St Catherine's Rectory is now part of Wormington Grange, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403959 236402.

*The former St Catherine's Rectory is now part of Wormington Grange, Dumbleton. The building was altered or added to by Norman Jewson. Norman Jewson (1884 - 1975) came from a family of timber merchants in Norwich. After studying at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge he worked at the architectural practise of Herbert Ibberson in London. Jewson was an accomplished watercolourist and after finishing his apprenticeship in 1907 he went on a sketching tour of the Cotswolds. Ibberson had recommended that*

Jewson visited Ernest Gimson in Sapperton and Gimson took him on as an?????. As part of his training he was encouraged to draw a different wildflower everyday and adapt it to form a pattern suitable for plasterwork, wood carving or needlework. In 1911 Jewson married and converted a group of cottages at Bachelors Court in Sapperton for himself. He set up his own practise in 1919 and quickly gained a reputation for the sympathetic conversion and adaptation of old buildings. He was a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and he wanted his buildings to have the basic qualities of the best old houses, built in the traditional way with local materials. Jewson's buildings worked in a vernacular classicism with characteristically fine plasterwork. His work also included fine metal work and gates and detailed architectural lead work and wood carving. He also designed and made furniture.

- **Area 43126: Building Recording and Watching Brief at St Catherine's Church, Wormington, Dumbleton. @ NGR: 403880 236420**

2010 - During October and November 2010, Benchmark Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Building Recording and Watching Brief at St. Catherines Church, Wormington. The work was undertaken during reordering and groundworks on the site. The building recording provided a photographic record of the Vestry and Stokehole prior to reordering works. During the watching brief four undated grave-cuts containing human burials were identified in Trench 2. None of these grave-cuts were fully exposed and continued beyond the confines of the trench. The dimensions of the grave-cuts suggested that all these burials were either adults or adolescents, as the required depths had been reached the burials were left in situ. Although the burials were undated they pre-dated the laying out of the current path which appears to be depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 and be of some antiquity. Unstratified pottery recovered from the site comprised RomanoBritish, early Medieval, and late Medieval - early Post-Medieval wares. The four sherds of Romano-British pottery suggest activity on or in the vicinity of the site during the Roman period. The early Medieval sherd may represent activity on the site associated with the probable 12th Century church. Dates for the late Medieval - early Post-Medieval pottery tie in well with activity on the site after the construction of the present church in c. 1475.

3.2.2 To summarise, the GHER data suggests the application site has the potential to contain features and deposits with a Romano-British to Modern date range. The close proximity of the site to the Church of St. Catherine suggests that there is some potential for the recovery of in situ and disarticulated human remains. This potential would be greatly heightened if the current western boundary of the churchyard has retracted over time and the site lies within a former burial ground.

### 3.3 Cartographic Background

3.3.1 Ordnance Survey mapping covering the period 1884 to c. 2010 (Figures 3 - 6) depicts the site as a north – south aligned irregular plot to the west of the Church of St. Catherine. No significant changes to the plot are recorded on the consulted maps.

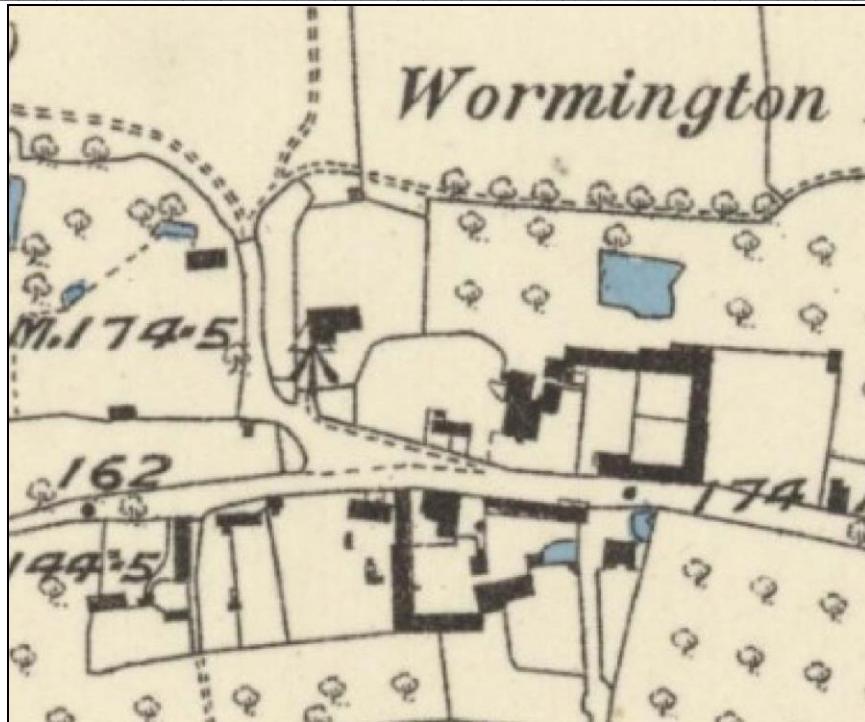


Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1884

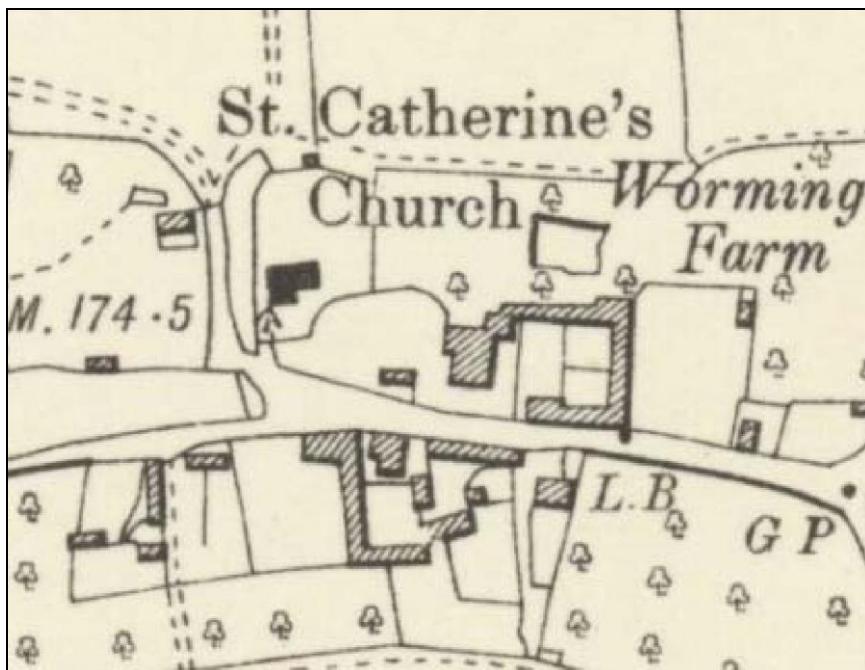


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1902



Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1924

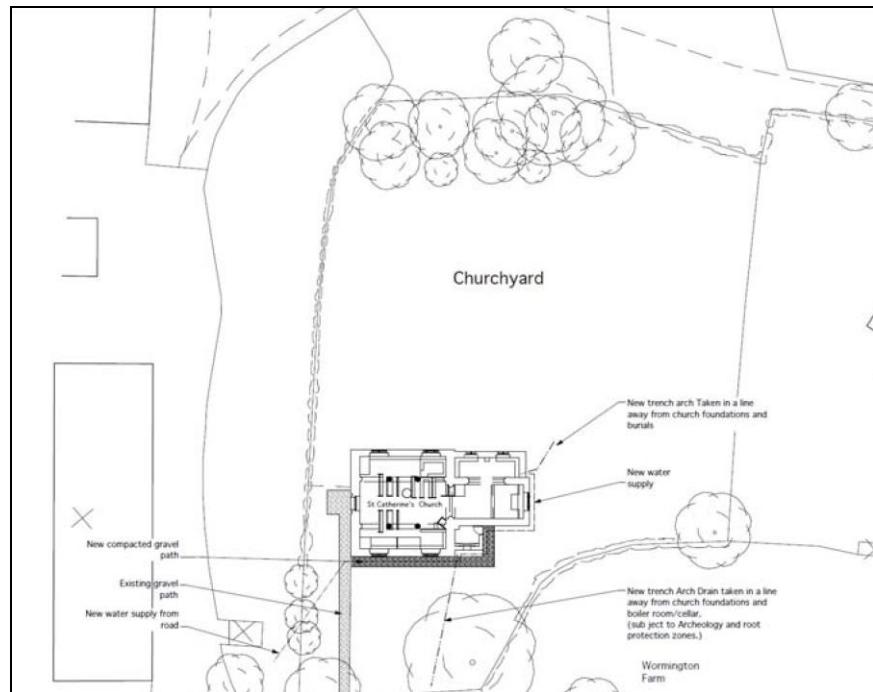


Figure 6: Modern site plan c. 2010

## 4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY (Figure 2)

### 4.1 Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching)

#### 4.1.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) defines

Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) as: “*a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate*” (ClfA 2014).

4.1.2 The ClfA states that the purpose of AFE is: “*to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context*” (ibid).

4.1.3 Upon completion, the ClfA suggests that AFE may lead to one or more of the following:

- *The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource*
- *The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource*
- *The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research*

4.1.4 The purpose of the work was to define the character, date, and extent of archaeological remains that exist in the area under consideration, and to facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation or other mitigation measures in any future development.

4.1.5 The AFE sought to assess, amongst other variables, the presence, absence, depth, quality, date and condition of preservation of archaeological remains and palaeoenvironmental deposits that lay within areas identified as of potential archaeological significance.

4.1.6 It was proposed that AFE would comprise the excavation of a single trench (Trench 1, c. 15.0m x 1.50m) within the footprint of the proposed development (Figure 2).

4.1.7 A representative amount of archaeological features were to be sample excavated by hand in order to determine the date, character etc. of features encountered. The following sample excavation percentages for typical features were envisaged:

- *Linear features: 25%*
- *Post-holes: 50%*
- *Pits: 50%*
- *Suitable datable waterlogged deposits: to be environmentally sampled (see section 4.1.9 below)*

4.1.8 Other features such as stone structures, floor / occupation layers and kilns / furnaces were to be identified, sampled and recorded within the parameters of the evaluation and in a manner not causing any unnecessary damage to important remains which requiring preservation or further mitigation works. The treatment of any human remains encountered are discussed in section 4.1.9 below

4.1.9 To achieve the AFE aims, the following fieldwork methodology was adopted as appropriate:

- *All archaeological operations will take into account personal safety and follow current Health and Safety legislation.*
- *Trenches will be surveyed and located to an accuracy of 0.1m or greater using tapes, plane table or EDM equipment.*
- *Tarmacadam, concrete and other hardstanding will be stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a suitable bucket. It may be necessary to utilise a breaker, toothed bucket or other plant to remove any hardstanding, but for archaeological purposes a toothless ditching bucket will be used below this horizon. This machine excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.*
- *Mechanical excavations will take place to a level of either natural deposits or when archaeological horizons are encountered.*
- *If archaeological horizons are encountered then subsequent excavations will be undertaken by hand.*
- *Trench plans will be drawn at scale 1:50 and 1:20 as appropriate and located on a site plan. Sections will be drawn at scale 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate.*
- *All finds and samples will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines 2. Advice will be taken on an appropriate environmental sampling strategy, where appropriate.*
- *If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extant and condition to be described and analysed. Environmental sampling guidelines provided by English Heritage (2011) will be adhered to.*

- *Where appropriate, specialist analysis of artefacts will be carried out by recognised experts.*
- *All human remains will initially be left in situ. Where it is necessary to remove human remains, then this will be carried out in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations. It will also be carried out in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation pertaining to the removal of human remains.*
- *Registers will be maintained of all photographs, levels, plans, sections, finds and samples taken, made or gathered in the field.*
- *General and scaled site photography will be carried out using high-resolution digital images.*
- *A detailed context record will be maintained on individual pro-forma record cards. Each archaeological layer, fill, cut, etc., will be individually numbered and described.*
- *Trenches will be back-filled subject to agreement with the curatorial monitoring authority.*
- *All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled the 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (MAP2).*
- *The project will be carried out in accordance with recommendations made by the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists documents: 'Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures' (2014), 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (2014), 'Code of Conduct' (2014) and 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material' (2014).*

## 5.0 EVALUATION RESULTS (Figure 7, Plates 1 – 6, Table 1)

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The AFE fieldwork was undertaken on 21.04.2016 with a team of one archaeologist and one logistical assistant present on site. Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Further excavation and cleaning was carried out manually.

### 5.2 Results

#### 5.2.1 *Trench 1*

Alignment: North - South  
 Dimensions: 15.0m x 1.50m  
 Level: 50.01m - 50.66m AOD (@ top of natural ground surface)

5.2.1.1 Undisturbed natural deposits of orange – yellow sandy clay and gravel (103) were encountered at a depth of up to c. 0.35m below the modern ground surface (@ 50.66m AOD). No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded cutting these natural deposits.

5.2.1.2 The remainder of the trench was occupied by a large probable pit feature of uncertain dimensions filled with sandy loamy clay deposits (101 and 102) containing frequent late Post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century) pottery and ceramic building material (see Section 6.0 below). Two sondages (Sondages 1 and 2) were excavated into Deposit 102 which revealed truncated natural deposits at a depth of c. 1.0m below the modern ground surface (@ 50.01m AOD).

5.2.1.3 Fill deposits 101 and 102 were overlain by a sandy clayey loam topsoil deposit (100) measuring up to c. 0.35m in depth.

5.2.1.4 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

Deposit/feature number	Deposit/feature description	Depth of deposit	Deposit/feature type
100	Mid greyish-brown sandy clayey loam	Up to c. 0.35m	Topsoil
101	Dark brown sandy loamy clay with occasional gravel and post-medieval pottery and CBM	Up to c. 1.0m	Modern fill
102	Dark brown greyish sandy loamy clay with occasional gravel and post-medieval pottery and CBM	Up to c. 1.0m	Modern fill
103	Orange – yellow sandy clay and gravel	Up to c. 1.0m below the modern ground surface (@ between 50.01m – 50.66m AOD)	Natural ground surface

**Table 1: Trench 1 summary of deposits**



**Plate 2: Trench 1 looking south (3 x 1.0m scales, 1 x 0.50m scale)**



Plate 3: *Trench 1 (north end) exposed natural deposit (103)*



Plate 4: *Trench 1 Sondage 1 looking west*



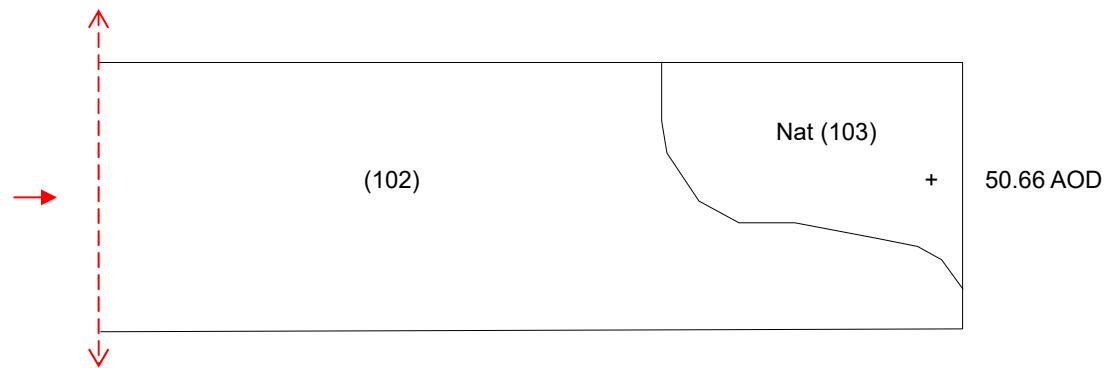
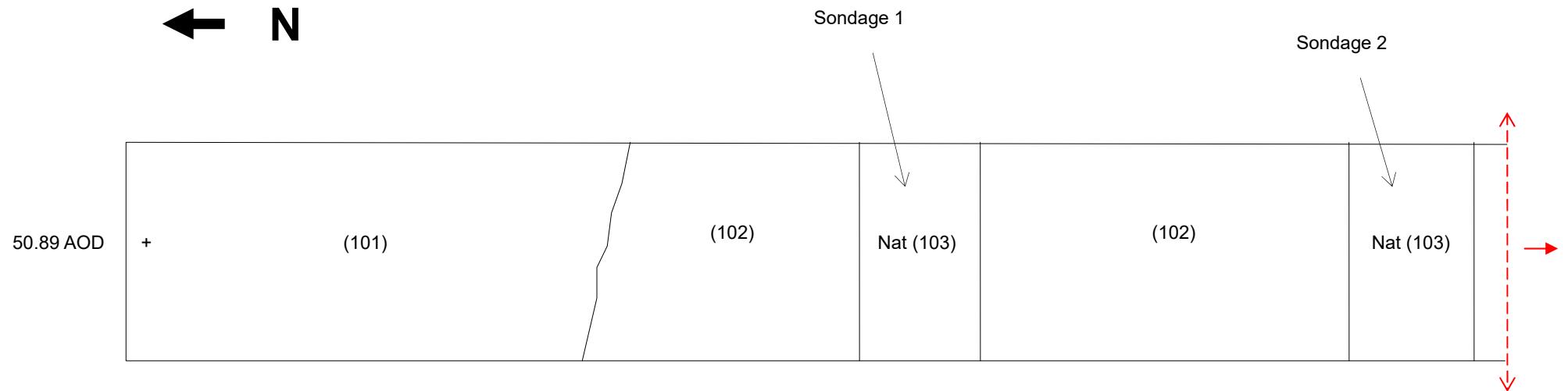
**Plate 5: Trench 1 typical section (north end) looking west (0.50m scale)**



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**Plate 6: Trench 1 typical section (south end) looking west (0.50m scale)**

← N



0 5.0m

**Figure 7: Trench 1 Plan**

## 6.0 THE FINDS (Plate 7)

### 6.1 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

6.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 134g. It all occurred in a single context (102) of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Is single small fragment of common red brick was also recovered.

6.1.2 The following fabric types were noted:

- **Creamware**, c 1740-1880. (Towner 1978). 4 sherds, 42g.
- **Iron-glazed Earthenware**, late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Brears 1969). 2 sherds, 87g.
- **Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century wares**. 2 sherds, 5g.

6.1.3 All the fabric types are common finds in the region.



Plate 7: Finds from Deposit 102 (10cm scale)

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**7.0 CONCLUDING STATEMENTS**

**7.1** Archaeological trial-trenching did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance. The only feature recorded was c. 19<sup>th</sup> Century in date and comprised a probable mineral extraction pit. No evidence for in situ or disarticulated human remains extending beyond the western boundary of the adjacent churchyard was recorded. It is possible, however, that any human remains formerly present may have been removed during probable localised mineral extraction.

**7.2** The proposed development subject to the planning condition comprises the construction of a new village hall building with associated services and probable access and hard / soft landscaping (Planning Ref: Pending).

**7.3** Based on the excavated evidence and the scale of the proposed development it would appear unlikely that the proposed development would impact upon any complex deposits of archaeological significance.

**7.4** Any recommendations regarding the need for any further mitigation will need to be made by the AA, TBC.

**8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**8.1** The project was managed by Richard Cherrington BA, PG Cert, PG Dip Archaeol, ACIfA, FRGS, Principal Archaeologist, Benchmark Archaeology who also carried out the AFE fieldwork and wrote this report. Logistical assistance was supplied by Tommy Gray. The project was monitored by Charles Parry, acting as Archaeological Advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council. The work was commissioned and funded by Wormington Village Society.

**8.2** We would like to thank the team from Highgate Construction Ltd. for their cooperation and assistance during the fieldwork.

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