

Joseph Chamberlain College
Birmingham

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Wessex Archaeology

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BIRMINGHAM

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (London) was commissioned by Environ UK to undertake an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment on the site of Joseph Chamberlain College, Birmingham, centred on NGR 407700 284900. Standard Life Investments has proposed redevelopment of the site for a new retail complex.

This Desk-based Assessment has utilised publicly accessible and archive sources to investigate, as far as is reasonable and practicable, the nature and extent of any known or potential archaeological resource within the Site and a surrounding Study Area. The synthesised results of the study are set-out below.

Very little was noted either from the SMR data or through the map regression exercise, with only Roman stray finds of coins and Post-medieval structural evidence in the environs of the Site.

Impact from the construction of the retail complex will be slight due to the intention to surcharge the present land levels and then discretely pile through the raised level.

Consequently Wessex Archaeology would recommend that no further archaeological assessment or consideration of mitigation be required of the impact of the proposed development.

Acknowledgements

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The Author would like to express appreciation for the assistance of the staff of the Local Studies and History and Archives sections of Birmingham Central Library.

Research and compilation of this Assessment was undertaken by Stephanie Knight (*Project Supervisor*), and Illustrations were prepared by Liz James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology (London) by Lawrence Pontin (*Senior Project Manager*).

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.0 Project Background

1.0.0 Wessex Archaeology (London) was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Desk-based assessment on the site of Joseph Chamberlain College (hereafter ‘the Site’), centred on NGR 407700 284900 and situated between Balsall Heath Road, Haden Way, Belgrave Middleway and Sherbourne Road, Birmingham.

1.0.0 The proposed development includes ten retail units running along the east and north of the Site, with two-level car parking on the western side. The majority of the development will occur between 115 and 121m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), at levels above the present ground surface and requiring the importation of between 44,000 and 60,000m³ of fill, and the removal of approximately 14,000m³ of existing material.

2 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

2.1 National Planning Guidance

2.1.1 The Department of the Environment published its *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16) in 1990. This sets out the policy of the Secretary of State on archaeological remains on land, and provides many recommendations that have subsequently been integrated into Local Development Plans.

2.1.2 PPG16 acknowledges the potentially fragile and finite or irreplaceable nature of such remains (*para. 6*), and sets out the desirability of preservation of archaeological remains and their settings as a material consideration within the planning process (*para. 18*).

In addition, *Para. 19* states:

“ in their own interests... prospective developers should in all cases include as part of their research into the development potential of a site... an initial assessment of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains.”

Para. 25 adds:

“Where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case and

that development resulting in the destruction of the remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself, before granting planning permission, that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains. Such excavation and recording should be carried out before the development commences, working to a project brief prepared by the planning authority and taking advice from archaeological consultants."

2.2 Local Planning Guidance

2.2.1 The Birmingham Unitary Development Plan (UDP) provides guidance on planning policy with regard to archaeology. The Deposit Draft Alterations May 2001 concerning archaeology (3/14 and 8/11) have not been challenged and therefore 'carry considerable weight' (Archaeology Strategy 2003: 4.5).

Chapter 3 states:

- *"Wherever possible, sites and remains included [in the SMR] ... will be protected and enhanced according to their merits, as will further archaeological remains which may be added to this list"* **Para. 3.31**
- *"the Council will have regard to the advice set out in PPG16"* **Para. 3.33**

Chapter 8 states:

- *"An assessment of the archaeological aspects of development proposals will be required from applicants before the planning application is determined. Planning permission will not be granted where the assessment of the archaeological implications is inadequate"* **Para. 8.36**
- *"Development proposals which will have an adverse effect on scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important remains and their settings will not be allowed"* **Para. 8.36**
- *"Development adversely affecting other known archaeological remains will be resisted although permission may be granted if the applicant has demonstrated that particular archaeological remains will be satisfactorily preserved either in situ or, where this is not feasible, by record"* **Para. 8.36**
- *"Where appropriate, Section 106 agreements will be negotiated to protect, enhance and interpret archaeological remains"* **Para. 8.36**

2.2.2 The Archaeology Strategy (June 2003) contains more detailed guidance on the council's policies regarding archaeology and development and has been adopted as draft Supplementary Planning Guidance. Some of the most relevant sections are transcribed below.

- *"The City Council's response to development proposals affecting archaeological remains will have regard to national and regional archaeological research frameworks and agendas"* **Policy 1**
- *"The City Council will ensure that the Planning Archaeologist is involved in pre- or post-application discussions on proposals where there are archaeological implications"* **Policy 2**

- “The City Council will prepare briefs for archaeological work required as part of the planning process, will advise on the fitness for purpose of proposals for archaeological work, and will monitor archaeological work” **Policy 3**
- “The City Council will maintain a list of archaeological contractors and consultants known to be able to undertake archaeological work in accordance with briefs prepared by the Council” **Policy 4**
- “The City Council will expect all archaeological work in the City to be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that it is consistent with best professional practice” **Policy 7**
- “Where existing information suggests that a proposed development is likely to affect archaeological remains, above or below ground, the City Council will require a Planning Application, application for Listed Building Consent or application for Conservation Area Consent to be accompanied by an archaeological assessment, normally including an archaeological evaluation, depending on the extent of proposed development and the archaeological sensitivity of the location. Such information should also include details of appropriate mitigation measures. The application will be refused if this information is not submitted” **Policy 8**
- “The developer, his/her agent or his/her archaeological consultant contacts the Planning Archaeologist for an initial appraisal of the archaeological implications. This should be done at the site identification stage, and well before a scheme design is begun. The Planning Archaeologist will be able to advise whether or not there will be archaeological implications and indicate the likely significance of the archaeological remains and the likely requirement for further archaeological work” **Para. 5.7**
- “If the initial appraisal shows that there are likely to be archaeological implications but that further information is required before a decision is made, the first stage of assessment is a deskbased assessment” **Para. 5.9**
- “Archaeological excavation undertaken as part of an evaluation is a sampling exercise and is not a substitute for more extensive excavation that may subsequently be required in advance of development. This involves a limited amount of fieldwork to define the character, extent, quality and preservation of the archaeological resource” **Para. 5.10**
- “Planning permission will not be granted if the assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposed development is inadequate” **Para. 5.11**
- “The assessment and evaluation may not be required where there has been previous archaeological work on the site and sufficient is already known to assess the impact of the proposed development” **Para. 5.12**
- “Where scoping has identified that archaeological remains are likely to be affected by a proposed development, an Environmental Impact Assessment which does not contain an adequate assessment of the archaeological impact of the proposed development and proposed mitigation measures will not be acceptable”. **Policy 9**

- *“The City Council will seek advice from English Heritage where it considers that archaeological remains affected by development proposals are of national importance and will consult English Heritage on specialist areas such as archaeological science and unusual site types”* **Policy 10**
- *“The City Council will always encourage preservation of archaeological remains within a new development”* **Para. 5.14**
- *“Wherever it is practicable and feasible, the City Council will encourage innovative design to ensure in-situ preservation of archaeological remains as part of new development”* **Policy 11**
- *“Where the City Council considers that preservation in situ of archaeological remains which are not of national importance is appropriate and feasible, it will require design which ensures this. Where it considers that preservation of archaeological remains by record is acceptable because preservation in situ is not feasible or necessary, or there is an opportunity for enhancing knowledge of particular areas or periods, the City Council will require archaeological mitigation measures which maximise the return of archaeological information. Innovative approaches to achieve this will be encouraged”* **Policy 12**
- *“‘preservation by record’ usually consists of archaeological excavation followed by analysis and publication of the results”* **Para. 5.15**
- *“All archaeological work required in Birmingham as a condition of planning permission must be undertaken in accordance with the project management structure described in English Heritage’s The Management of Archaeological Projects (1991), usually known as ‘MAP2’”* **Para. 5.19**
- *“Where the City Council considers that preservation by record of archaeological remains is acceptable and it imposes conditions requiring archaeological excavation in advance of commencement of development, the scheme of investigation must include provision for excavation, postexcavation assessment, analysis, preparation of a publishable report and publication in a recognised journal or series. Conditions will not be discharged until the on-site archaeological work has been completed to the satisfaction of the City Council and there is proof that the applicant has satisfactorily secured the implementation of post-excavation assessment, analysis, preparation of a publishable report and publication in a recognised journal or series”* **Policy 13**
- *“The City Council will require an appropriate level of archaeological assessment and recording, depending on the extent of proposed development, when application is made for development involving ground disturbance in current residential and industrial/commercial areas where existing information indicates that there are likely to be archaeological remains”* **Policy 15**
- *“Excavations in ... areas that are now predominantly residential suburbs ... have demonstrated the survival of below ground archaeological remains. ... There is also likely to be particularly good preservation of archaeological remains in gardens in residential areas”* **Para. 5.21**
- *“In addition to these, areas that are currently in industrial or commercial use may contain surviving archaeological remains”* **Para. 5.22**

- *“In the case of unexpected archaeological discoveries during development, or discoveries of unexpected complexity or importance during archaeological works required as part of development proposals, the City Council will encourage developers to enter into discussions to consider ways in which these remains can be preserved or recorded”* **Policy 17**
- *“The unpredictability of archaeological remains means that despite all appropriate assessments there will be occasions when archaeological remains are unexpectedly discovered during development, or when archaeological works reveal remains of unexpected complexity or importance”* **Para. 5.24**
- *“In sites which are publicly prominent, in addition to archaeological works required as conditions of planning permission, the City Council may also attach conditions requiring public interpretation of archaeological results through information panels or other means or will enter into planning agreements for public display and interpretation of archaeological remains through interpretation panels or literature wherever feasible”* **Policy 18**

2.2.3 **Appendix 5** of the Archaeology Strategy provides advice to developers, repeated below.

- *“The proper management of archaeological remains through the planning process does not necessarily preclude development but may determine how development can take place”*
- *“The key to ensuring that archaeological requirements fit smoothly into the development process is to ask about the requirements at the earliest possible stage in the process rather than waiting until development proposals are well advanced”*
- *“The cost of all archaeological work necessitated by proposed development has to be met by developers, therefore it is in developers’ interest to address and quantify the cost and time implications have at an early stage in the process”*
- *“Developers or potential developers are strongly advised to contact the City Council’s Planning Archaeologist or an archaeological consultant when they are identifying potential development sites, to find out whether there are likely to be archaeological requirements, and what further work might be required. Through early consultation developers and potential developers can reduce uncertainties, avoid surprises and ensure that the archaeological requirements are incorporated into the design process, the cost of archaeological work included in the project budget and the time required for archaeological work incorporated into the development programme”*
- *“If consultation about archaeological requirements is not made at an early stage in the process, there is a risk of unanticipated delay and expense through requirements for archaeological assessment before an application is determined, for redesign of a scheme to ensure preservation of archaeological remains in situ or requirements for archaeological work in advance of commencement of development”*
- *“A few planning applications in Birmingham have so far been refused on archaeological grounds. These have been where inadequate information was provided on the archaeological implications of the proposed development or where the proposed development would have had an adverse effect on archaeological remains which merited preservation”*

- *“The archaeological implications of new development have generally been addressed through imposing conditions requiring archaeological recording and/or through development design which ensures in-situ preservation of archaeological remains”*
- *“Where preservation of archaeological remains in situ is required or feasible this can be achieved through appropriate site layout or foundation design”*
- *“Where further archaeological work is required, the type and extent of archaeological work required will depend on the type of archaeological remains and the impact of a proposed development on them”*
- *“Archaeology is normally only one of several material considerations that must be considered when determining a planning application. Permission will not be automatically granted for a development just because the archaeological implications have been addressed, if other aspects of the proposal are unacceptable in principle. In such cases, the City Council will alert the applicant to this at the earliest possible stage”*

2.3 Statutory Designations

- 2.3.1 The Site is not in a Conservation Area.
- 2.3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments on Site.
- 2.3.3 There are several Grade II Listed Buildings in the vicinity of the Site (**Appendix 2**) but none are within the area proposed for redevelopment.

3 METHODS

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aim of this Desk-based Assessment is to investigate, as far as is reasonable and practicable, the nature and extent of any known or potential archaeological resource within the Site boundaries. In order to assess the Site's potential in a wider context, a Study Area has been defined, comprising an area with a radius of 630 metres from Site centre (**Fig. 1**). The original study area of 500m from the Site centre was extended due to the small number of records for this area.

3.1 Research

3.1.2 A number of publicly accessible sources of primary and synthetic information were consulted. These are detailed below and all sites referred to in the text are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

SMR

3.1.2 The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Birmingham is compiled and maintained by Birmingham City Council, and is a register of all known archaeological and historic sites and findspots within the Birmingham area. The SMR was consulted for all information it holds regarding the Site and Study Area and this information has been synthesised in **Fig. 1**. A gazetteer of Archaeological sites and findspots is presented as **Appendix 1** and the Listed Buildings presented separately as **Appendix 2**.

3.1.2 Full SMR listings have not been reproduced here, but form part of the project archive.

Cartographic Sources

3.1.2 A map regression exercise has been conducted in order to establish the Site's historic land-use and development.

3.1.2 Reproductions of historic published and manuscript maps were consulted at the Local Studies and History section of Birmingham Central Library and at Wessex Archaeology's own library. Map sources consulted are listed in **Appendix 3**.

3.1.2 Ordnance Survey maps which show significant site detail, and/or important structural changes are presented as **Appendix 4**.

Published and Unpublished sources

3.1.2 Published and unpublished material including interim excavation notes, local history books, sale deeds, tithe apportionment and street directory listings were consulted at the Local Studies and History section of Birmingham Central Library and at Wessex Archaeology's own library.

3.1.2 No manorial records or enclosure maps and awards were recorded in the card index of the Local Studies or Archive sections of Birmingham Central Library.

4 SITE TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

4.1 Topography

- 4.1.1 The Site lies on a west facing shallow slope, and forms an inverted 'L' shaped area which is bound by major roads (Haden Way and Belgrave Middleway) to the north and east, and Sherbourne Road to the south west.
- 4.1.2 The Site lies at a lower level than Haden Way to the east and Belgrave Middleway to the north (MLM Environmental 2003). Modern ground levels on the main area of the Site are 112m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in the north west and 118m aOD in the south east.
- 4.1.3 The Site is presently occupied by several low rise school and sports buildings of late twentieth century construction. Areas at the periphery that are not currently built on are grassed and sparse tree/shrub cover is also present around the periphery of the Site. An all weather pitch is situated in the north-west part of the Site.

4.2 Geology

- 4.2.1 The Site lies on an area of Triassic Keuper Marl (Mercia Mudstone), with patches of Glacial Pleistocene sands and gravels overlying the Keuper Marl to the north-east and south. Bands of Late Pleistocene alluvium and river terrace run NNE-SSW to the east and west of the Balsall Heath area and cut into the sands and gravels. An area of Glacial Pleistocene boulder clay is situated close to the Site (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1955).
- 4.2.2 Keuper Marl gives rise to soils rich in clay and of low acidity. Some water stagnation can occur but, when mixed with sandstone (which underlies the Keuper Marl in the Birmingham region), a reasonably fertile soil is produced.
- 4.2.3 An area of alluvium may be present in the north west corner of the Site beneath made ground (MLM Environmental 2003).

4.3 Hydrology

- 4.3.1 The river Rea joins the Bourne Brook to the south west of the Site and runs SSW-NNE approximately 200m to the west of the Site. The Worcester and Birmingham canal lies beyond in Edgbaston.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 No Prehistoric finds or sites are recorded in the Study Area. Neolithic polished axes have been recovered from the River Rea (Skipp 1980: 11), but outside the area covered by this assessment. Bronze Age burnt mounds have been found in many areas of Birmingham.

5.1.2 Geological information suggests that this area is well drained and would have supported forest growth in early prehistory, with relatively fertile soil also suitable for cultivation. Iron Age hillforts are known in Shirley and Hagley, some distance away.

5.2 Roman (AD 43 – 410)

5.2.1 Three Roman coins are recorded from the Study Area (**WA1**, **WA2** and **WA3**). Although stray coins may have been curated by individuals and taken some distance from their find spot, the three coins are in relatively close proximity and may well indicate use of the area in the Roman period.

5.2.2 The Roman temple at Coleshill and Roman fort at Metchley are well documented, and a Roman road to the west of the Site is also known, although it's exact route though the city is not.

5.3 Anglo-Saxon (AD410-1066)

5.3.1 No Anglo-Saxon finds have been recorded in the Study Area, although again this does not necessarily mean that there are no archaeological remains from this period. An Anglo-Saxon spearhead from Edgbaston suggests activity in the general area, but not specifically in Balsall Heath.

5.4 Medieval (AD1066-1499)

5.4.1 Edgbaston is noted in the Domesday book (VCH 1971: 179) and Mosely is also a Manor at this time, although no mention was made of Balsall Heath. Ekwall (1991: 24) states that a place named Belesale belonged to the Knights Templars in 1185, and that Balleshale existed by 1353. Both these names appear to be archaic forms of the modern 'Balsall'.

5.5 Sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

5.5.1 Deeds of 1577, 1696 and 1708 show that the Rotton family owned part or all of Balsall Heath during this period, but its use is not mentioned and the area may simply have been farm land. Jones (1975: 1) suggests that the area now occupied by Longmore Street was boggy meadow and Balsall Heath Road was a field path, although he offers no specific proof.

5.5.2 Early maps of the area in the sixteenth century show tree cover over the Balsall Heath area with habitation at Mosely and Birmingham, although these

are very large scale and unreliable. By 1793 buildings are shown along the area now occupied by Mosely Road, but not on Site, although Hart records that 12 houses were situated on Balsall Heath in 1782.

5.6 Nineteenth century

- 5.6.1 A mill (**WA4**) along the Rea at Edgbaston is recorded on a map of 1822, with a road or path leading westwards towards the Site. However this map does not cover the area of Balsall Heath which at this time was still separate from Birmingham.
- 5.6.2 By 1840 many of the roads that are present on maps until the 1950s are visible, including Balsall Heath Road, Sherbourne Street, Longbridge Street, Haden Road and Belgrave Road (now Belgrave Middleway). The land was mainly residential in character with one shop, two public houses (one of which remained until the 1950s), stabling, a Malthouse (that remained until 1890) and three brickyards. These are relatively small in area and probably relate to brick making activity rather than extraction of raw materials (the latter would almost certainly truncate archaeological remains). The brickyards appear to lie just within the south eastern boundary of the Site.
- 5.6.3 Many of the tithe entries are recorded as ‘pleck’, which Field (1993: 23) describes as ‘a small patch of ground’, indicating relatively low intensity of building.
- 1.0.0 The tithe map has not been reproduced here due to the poor quality of the available copy, which forms part of the project archive.
- 2.0.0 After this period the main development of the Site to house working class families took place, shown on the OS map of 1890 (**Fig. 2**). By 1869 White records a mixture of retailers, residential and public buildings (schools and chapels) on Site, but also a ‘cow keeper’, maintaining some link to rural activity.
- 3.0.0 Some industrial use is apparent, with three Malthouses within the approximate area now occupied by the Site, and Belgrave Works (metal workers) to the north west.

5.7 Twentieth century

- 5.7.1 Any bomb damage from the First or Second World Wars was minimal, and the ground plan and use of the area altered relatively little up until the 1950s, although industrial use intensified. Two of the malthouse buildings were replaced by light engineering works and furniture works, a diecasting works was constructed on a previously residential site and a timber yard built on a previously open area.
- 6.2.1 The hotel was demolished and housing erected in its place before 1955. However, many of the plots of land did not alter significantly, and Kelly’s

1954 Directory shows a similar but updated range of retailers and trades to 1869, including taxis, gun makers and forges.

- 5.7.3 The whole area was cleared before 1970 and the northern part of the Site covered by playgrounds. Some landscaping may have accompanied the erection of Highgate School and a community centre at this time.
- 5.7.4 Modern road levels appear to be approximately 1m lower on modern maps compared to those from the 1950s, probably resulting from road widening in the 1970s.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

6.1 Summary of Archaeological Potential

6.1.1 The very small number of Sites and Monuments Records for this Study Area is perhaps more a reflection of limited previous archaeological work in Birmingham than of the actual past use of the site. No excavations have been undertaken in the Study Area, as the main periods of redevelopment occurred in the middle-late nineteenth century and the 1970s, prior to the implementation of PPG16.

6.1.2 In other built-up areas of Birmingham, survival of archaeological remains has been good, and past construction has had relatively little impact below ground level (Mike Hodder pers. comm.). The Site is outside the main area of brick working that may have impacted on archaeological features.

Prehistoric Potential

6.1.3 Although no prehistoric sites or finds were recorded in the study area, there is unquantifiable potential for prehistoric remains to be found. Unusually, no prehistoric stray finds have been recorded, but this may reflect the apparently limited re-development on site rather than a true absence of prehistoric occupation.

6.1.4 The Archaeology Strategy notes the presence of prehistoric remains in other areas of Birmingham, but that it is “*difficult on the basis of current evidence to predict where such remains might be found. Few actual structures are known as yet but they may be indicated by surface scatters of objects*” Para. 2.4.

6.1.5 When found, objects or sites of this period are “*particularly significant in Birmingham because of their relative rarity. They may be found on sites known or expected to be of later date. Extensive archaeological excavation may be necessary to investigate sites of this date, and radiocarbon dating will be essential*” Para. 2.4.

6.1.6 Later prehistoric crop marks have been found in rural areas around Birmingham and “*there are likely to be far more Iron Age settlements like that found in Sutton Coldfield but they are difficult to locate*” Para. 2.6.

6.1.7 Although archaeological potential has not been proven, low potential must be considered for archaeological remains of all Prehistoric periods to have been present on Site.

Roman Potential

6.1.8 Three coins found in the Study Area suggest some Roman activity on or near the Site. However the potential for finding archaeological remains of this date within the Site area cannot be closely quantified on this limited information.

6.1.14 Two Roman settlements in close proximity have been found at Kings Norton, and the Archaeology Strategy notes the potential for more sites to be found within the city boundary (Para. 2.8).

6.1.10 Although archaeological potential has not been proven, there is moderate potential for archaeological remains of the Roman period to have been present on Site.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Potential

6.1.11 No positive potential of Anglo-Saxon activity on Site has been identified, although the absence of evidence does not preclude the possibility of remains from this period.

6.1.12 Anglo-Saxon finds and sites in Birmingham are rare, and the Archaeology Strategy states: *“It is difficult on the basis of existing evidence to predict the location, size and character of early and mid-Anglo-Saxon settlements in Birmingham, but remains of this period may be found on Roman sites”* Para. 2.10.

6.1.13 Balsall Heath is first mentioned as a location in the medieval period, when it appears to have been relatively undeveloped, perhaps farmland. No definite find spots or sites have been identified in the Study Area, and the potential for finding these during groundworks is unquantifiable.

6.1.15 Other areas outside the medieval town of Birmingham but within the current city boundary have revealed evidence of medieval buildings and field systems, indicating use of the hinterland of Birmingham at this time.

6.1.16 Although archaeological potential has not been proven, there is some potential for Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeological remains to have been present on the Site.

Post-medieval and Later Potential

6.1.16 While a place named Bossal Heath existed by 1577, no details of land use are known until 1840, when the area had been mostly settled for residential use. Occupation intensified later in the century but development was relatively static from 1890 to 1955. Most of the land was used as working class housing until the area was cleared in the third quarter of the twentieth century and a school constructed.

6.1.17 Remains of any cellars and structural remains of the earlier buildings may be present beneath the levelled area. All three Listed Buildings within the Study Area are nineteenth century in date (**LB1**, **LB2** and **LB3**), in keeping with the observed concentration of development at this time.

6.1.18 The Archaeology Strategy says of the Post-medieval period: *“Archaeological remains ... above and below ground, are vulnerable because of under-*

appreciation of their significance despite their relatively recent date” Para. 2.17.

6.1.19 The potential for late Post-medieval remains to have been present on Site is high.

6.2 Previous Development

6.2.1 The land was mainly developed in the nineteenth century into an industrial and residential area, and some redevelopment, related to intensifying industrial use, took place on several plots of land up to the 1950s.

6.2.2 Clearance and landscaping of land between 1955 and 1970 was followed by construction of the school. Made land was probably formed at this time during landscaping.

6.2.3 This type of rapid development will have impacted upon the buried archaeological resource, as a result of the creation of any cellars and the use of destructive modern building techniques such as mass spread foundations. The increase in the height aOD of ground levels does suggest however the possible masking in places, rather than truncation, of archaeological deposits.

7 DEPOSIT SURVIVAL AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Deposit Modelling

- 7.1.1 Generally good survival of archaeological remains in Birmingham suggests that any archaeological deposits will be in good condition. Although there is no positive evidence to indicate that archaeological deposits survive on Site, remains from all phases are possible.
- 7.1.2 One would expect a greater quantity of Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon stray finds if there had been intensive use of the area in these periods. In the far north west corner of the Site, alluvium may mask earlier archaeological features (MLM Environmental 2003), but the proposed developments will not impact to this depth.
- 7.1.3 The area was apparently rural in the medieval period, suggesting the possibility of low density remains perhaps including farm buildings and associated features. In the later Post-medieval period, residential and industrial use is demonstrated. Clearance of land and raising of ground levels occurred in the twentieth century.
- 7.1.4 Made ground covers almost all of the Site, excepting the south-east corner, and is especially deep to the north west. It comprised a mixed deposit of Mercia Mudstone (Keuper Marl) and cultural materials of an apparent late Post-medieval date, including glass, ceramic building material and concrete (MLM Environmental 2003).
- 7.1.5 Any *in-situ* archaeological deposits will lie beneath the made ground, in the Mercia Mudstone. All proposed redevelopment excavation is of made ground except an area in unit 1, and two access roads in the south east corner of the Site, so impact on archaeological features resulting from this part of the groundworks associated with the redevelopment is likely to be minimal.
- 7.1.6 Options for foundations include piling or trench fill/deepened pads that would impact into Mercia Mudstone. Retaining structures in the form of piled or gravity walls may be required in certain areas such as the northern periphery of the Site, between the retail units and car parking area and along Haden Way. Piling rather than mass spread foundations would minimise the impact upon archaeological deposits, but nevertheless have the potential to truncate small areas of underlying archaeological remains.
- 7.1.7 Perched water tables are suggested to be present on Site, although as these are likely to have resulted from leaking drainage systems (MLM Environmental 2003: 10), the area was probably not waterlogged prior to modern development, and so organic archaeological remains are unlikely to be present. Thus piled foundations are unlikely to affect the preservation of waterlogged archaeological remains.

7.1.8 Tree and/or shrub cover may have bioturbated some subsurface features around the periphery of the Site, but is unlikely to have significantly affected deposits underlying made ground.

7.1.9 The archaeological potential of the site is unquantifiable. However, on the basis of proposals submitted to Wessex Archaeology, *and assuming piled foundations are adopted*, groundworks associated with the proposed redevelopment are unlikely to have significant impact on any archaeological resource.

7.2 Recommendations for Further Work

7.2.1 There is a marked paucity of evidence for Prehistoric, Roman and medieval use of the site. Given this and the limited impact of redevelopment, Wessex Archaeology would recommend that no further archaeological assessment or consideration of mitigation be required of the impact of the proposed development.

7.2.2 The final decision on the extent and nature of further archaeological work lies with Birmingham City Council's Planning Archaeologist, Dr Mike Hodder.

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Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Sites and Findspots Listed by the SMR.

Dates are:

ROM Roman

PMED Post-medieval

WA No.	Street Name	Easting	Northing	Date	Description
1	Lincoln Street	407400	284600	ROM	Coin
2	152 Highgate Road	408300	284700	ROM	Coin
3	Connybere Street	407700	285300	ROM	Coin
4	Balsall Heath Road	407100	285000	PMED	Speedwell Mill
5	Hollycot Gardens	407500	284500	PMED	Glass works

Appendix 2: Listed Buildings Within the Study Area.

WA No.	Name	Easting	Northing	Grade
LB1	Lench's Trust Almshouses	407720	285300	II
LB2	St Albans Church	407670	285330	II
LB3	Library and Public Baths	407800	284400	II

Appendix 3: Non-Ordnance Survey Cartographic Sources Consulted.

For Ordnance Survey mapping see Appendix 4.

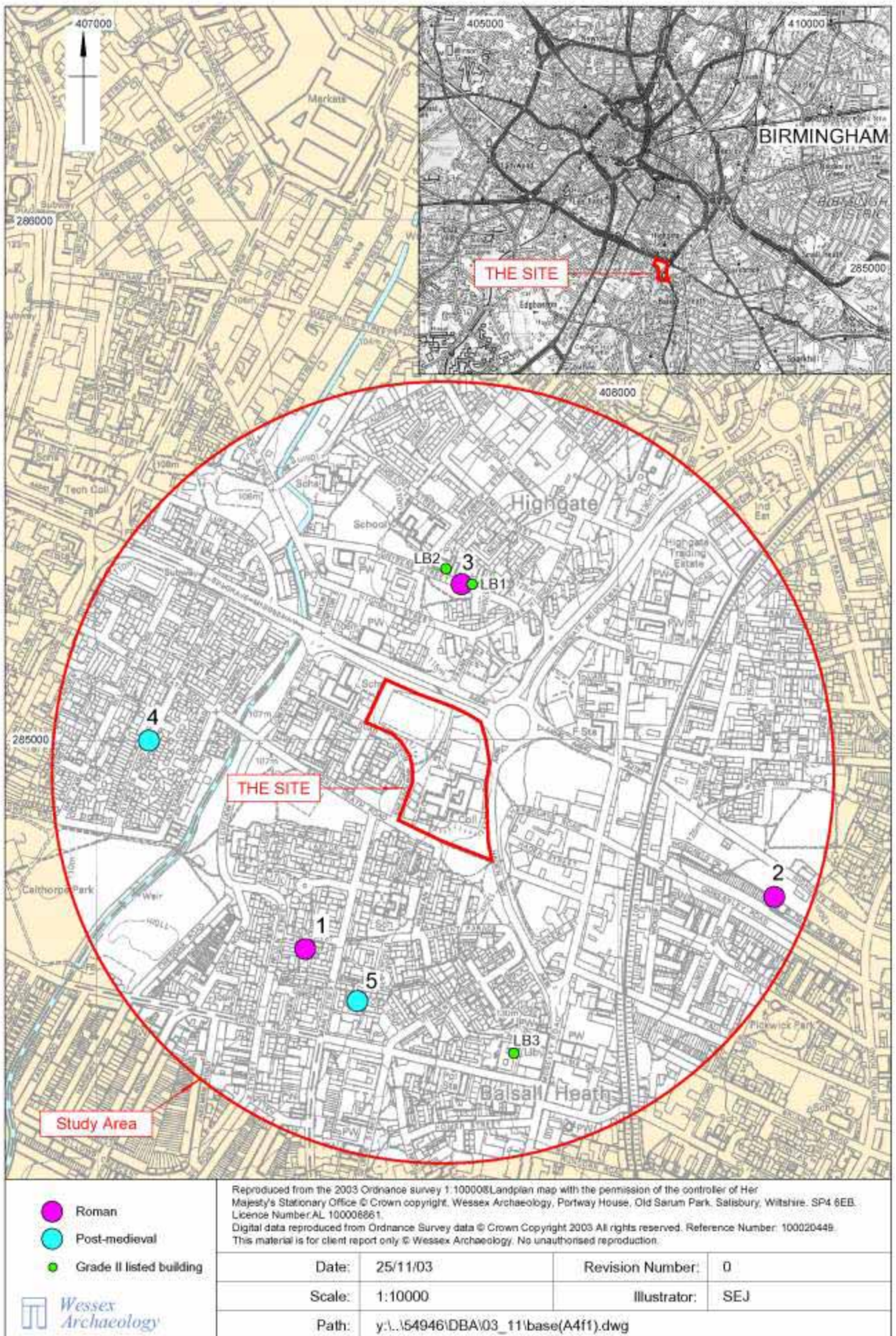
- 1576 Saxton 'Map of Warwickshire and Leicestershire' (BRO Ref: D2)
- 1610 Speed 'Worcestershire Described' (BRO Ref: D2)
- 1642 Anon. 'Map of Warwickshire and Leicestershire' (BRO Ref: D2)
- 1793 Yates 'Map of Warwickshire' (BRO Ref: D2)
- 1822 Greenwood 'Map of the County of Warwick' (BRO Ref: D2)
- 1831/ Anon. Unnamed (BRO Ref: D3)
- 1834
- 1840 Walker 'Map of the Parish of Kingsnorton, Part 5: Mosely Yield' (BRO Ref D11)
- 1855 Pigott-Smith 'Plan of the Borough of Birmingham' (BRO Ref: D6)
- c.1870 1st Edition Electrolyte Revision of map published 1834 (BRO Ref: D3)
- 1888 General Board of Health 'A Plan of the Urban Sanitary District of Balsall Heath' (BRO Ref: D6)
- 1955 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1:50,000, Drift Edition, Sheet 168.*

Appendix 4: Landmark Ordnance Survey Map Regression:

OS 1:2,500 Series Sheet XIV.9; 1890, 1904, 1916.

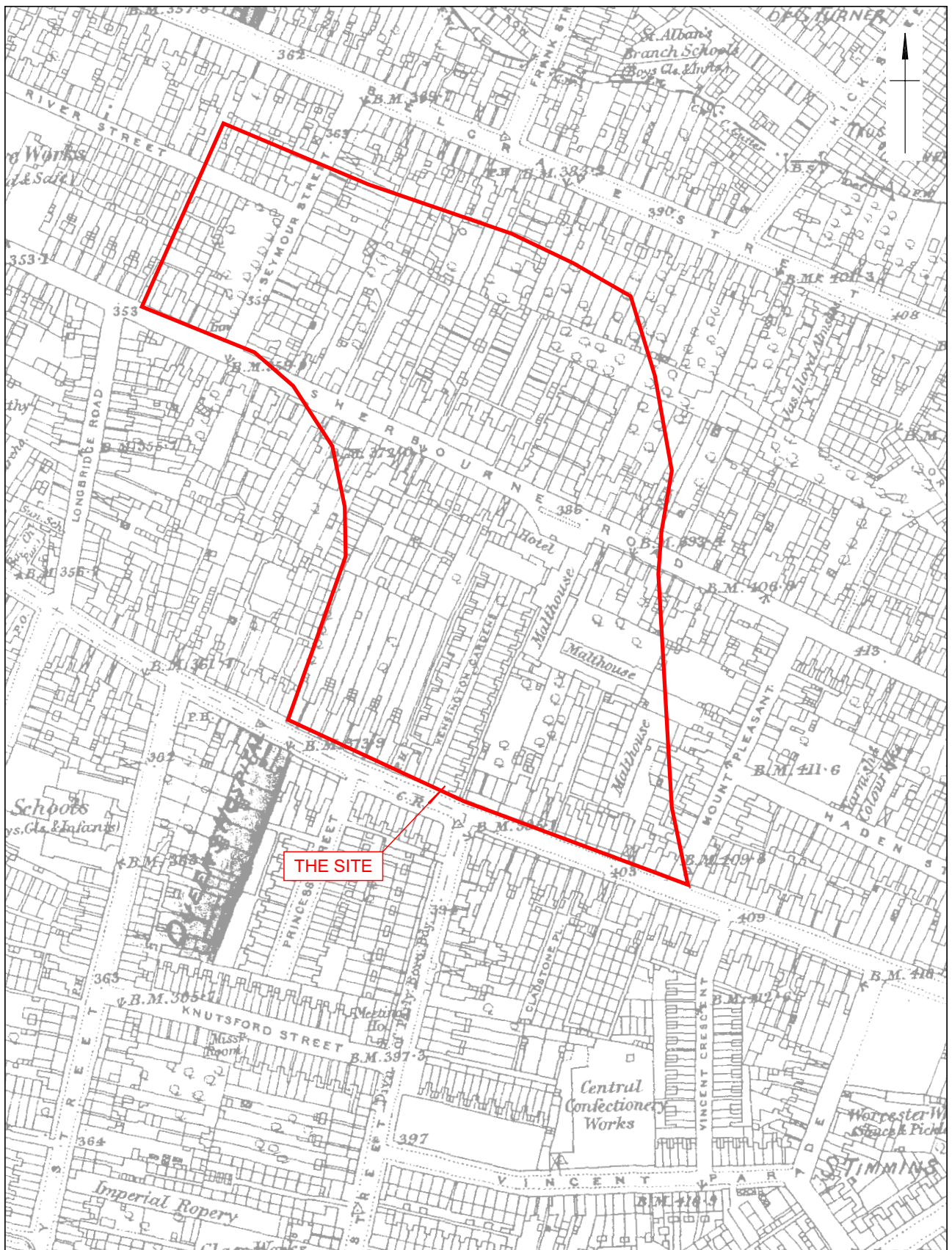
OS 1:1,250 Series SP 0784 SE; 1951, 1970, 1978, 2003.

OS 1:1,250 Series SP 0784 NE; 1954, 1984, 1999.



Site location plan showing Study Area and data synthesised from the SMR.

Figure 1



THE SITE

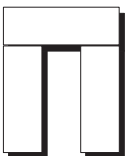
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Date:	25/11/03	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:2500	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	y:\.154946\DBA\03_11\base(A4f1).dwg		



1890 OS map 1:2500 Series Sheet XIV.9 - approximate location of proposed development

Figure 2



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