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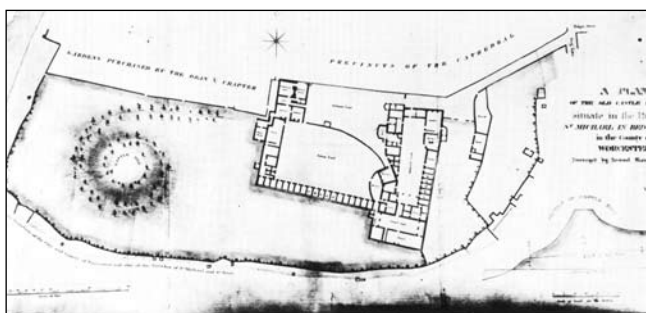
## 4.01

THE CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL  
PRECINCT WALL**Location**

The castle and cathedral lie at the southern end of the historic city and the castle's wall provided the southernmost line of defence. The site of the castle lies under King's School and College Green. The cathedral had a walled precinct. This entry covers the site of the castle motte and bailey, the outer bailey ditch (from Castle Place to the Water Gate).



**Development/Documentation** The castle was built after 1069 as a timber motte and bailey encroaching on the precinct of the cathedral priory. It was besieged in 1139, 1150 and 1151. In 1204 King John ordered the replacement of the timber gate in stone. The northern part of the castle (presumably much of the outer bailey) was returned to the Cathedral Priory in 1217, and there is no evidence of replacement defences ever being constructed on this side. By 1221 it was in use as a prison and in 1263 it was attacked and taken in the Baron's war. The castle was in disrepair by 1449 and Leland states it was 'clene downe' by 1540.



**1822 Plan of the Castle**

In the Civil War a small four-bastioned sconce was built on top of the mound. This sconce is shown on the Battle of Worcester maps of 1660, 1680 and later. The demolition of the motte (1826-46) is attested from documentation and illustrations in.

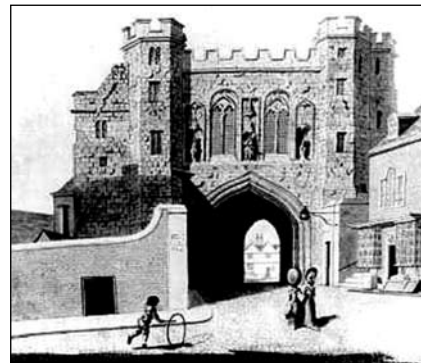
The cathedral precinct seems to have been first walled in the 12th-13th century and this wall appears to have been joined with that of the castle at some date after the cathedral priory's recovery of part of the bailey in 1217.

## Description

Worcester's castle has almost entirely vanished although its plan may be traced in the street pattern to the south of the cathedral. The castle was built after 1069 on a low eminence south of the cathedral. It was created as a royal castle and was never granted to a notable family or used as a residence. Historic plans and descriptions of the castle show it to have been basic in form with a single large bailey enclosed by a rampart, ditch and curtain wall. Within this enclosure stood a large flat topped motte.

The castle was seemingly largely abandoned at an early date although a constable lived on site until the early 17th century. the Battle of Worcester maps appear to show the castle rampart without walling although what may be a ruin is shown in the bailey. The castle gate is shown as a tall gabled building. The same map shows that the motte was reused in the civil war with a small sconce on its summit and concentric platforms or ditches mounting guns around the base.

The castle was used as a prison from at least 1221



**Williams the Edgar Tower  
1782**

and a succession of prison buildings stood on the site (the last being demolished in 1826). The motte was levelled in 1826-46.

The site of the castle is now occupied by housing or the buildings of King's School, Severn Street runs along the site of the ditch. Brick revetment walls on the south side of the road may relate to the counter-scarp of the ditch and stone walling in the boat house and car park on the north side may relate to a scarp wall.

The precinct wall is more intact and survives as revetment walls along Kleve Walk (4.04, 4.06). These walls are made up of large blocks of sandstone supported by occasional buttresses. In places they are topped with brick buildings and walling.

The most spectacular survival is the Edgar Tower which allows access to the precinct from the east. This massive gate-tower is Worcester's most impressive surviving early fortification and details such as functional loops and murder holes show that it was not entirely impractical as a fortification.

### **Status**

Buried remains within the cathedral precinct are Scheduled Ancient Monument (WT 343a). The site is within the Historic City Conservation Area. The boundary wall on Kleve Walk is Grade II\* listed (see 4.04 and 4.06).

### **Significance**

Elements of the castle survive beneath the ground surface, but the loss of the majority of the fabric has meant that the castle has diminished significance to the defensive circuit as a whole. There is however great potential for buried remains and deposits as a consequence this is an area of considerable significance.

### **Condition/ issues**

The survival and condition of any remaining buried fragments is largely unknown. Risks include any excavation or development

which would be likely to affect archaeological deposits.

The area within the cathedral precinct is covered by the Cathedral Conservation Plan (2006).

## 4.02

## SOUTHERN EXTRAMURAL DEFENCES (CIVIL WAR)

**Location**

These (buried or destroyed) southern defences lay to the south of the city largely in the area now known as Diglis.



**Development/Documentation** During the Civil Wars the walls of Worcester were strengthened and extensive additional fortifications were provided (mostly large bastions attached to the walls) The southern defences sat outside the medieval walls and covered the approach to the city from the London Road.

**Description**

The southern defences are shown on a number of similar historic maps as a (presumably earthwork) trace made up of a bank and ditch lying to the south of the wall. A demi-bastion (a bastion with no flanks) is shown mid way along the trace and at its junction with the river sits a simplified crownwork. At its eastern end a small demi-bastion joins the trace to the Civil war Sidbury defences, and there is another one at the west end. Nothing now remains visible of these defences. Work at the Kings School swimming baths in 1966 and 1991 identified a probable Civil War ditch.

**Status**

Although the exact alignment of these defences is not known, almost the whole of the area through which they run is now designated Conservation Area (Historic City to the W, Sidbury and Fort Royal to the E (the line is also crossed by the Worcester and Birmingham Canal Conservation Area, though survival of

remains is less likely there). Only the line of Commandery Road is not designated in this way. None are scheduled.

**Significance**

There are no visible remains in this area but it has been demonstrated that elements of these defences survive as archaeological features (despite later building in the area). There is therefore great potential for buried remains and deposits and as a consequence this is an area of considerable significance.

**Condition/ issues**

The condition and location of any remaining buried fragments is unknown. Risks include any excavation or development which would be likely to affect archaeological deposits.

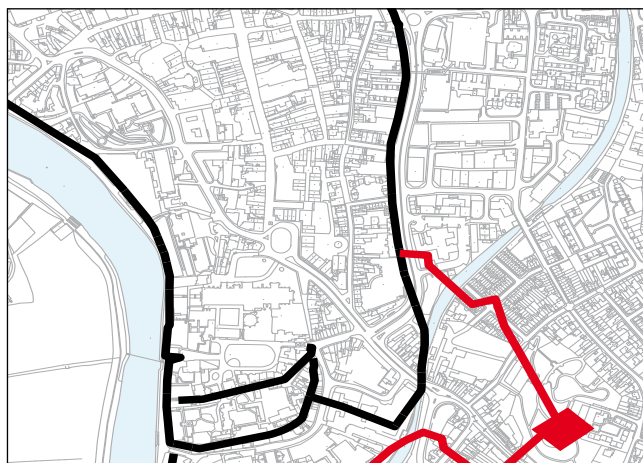


## 4.03

## FORT ROYAL AND THE EASTERN EXTRAMURAL DEFENCES (CIVIL

**Location**

The Civil War sconce at Fort Royal (in Fort Royal Park) was connected to the main city walls with a (now buried or vanished) defensive trace. This lay in the area of Hamilton Road and Fort Royal Park.

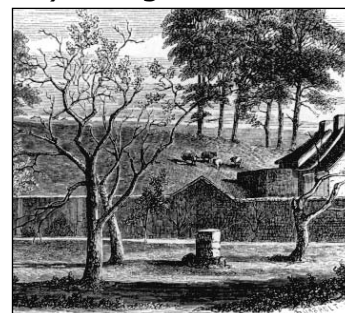


**Development/Documentation** During the Civil War (1642-51) Fort Royal was built as additional defence on the hill above the city's eastern suburb of Sidbury. It was connected to the city by an earthwork trace enclosing the Sidbury suburb (WCM 96510, 96152). It was used in the first siege and reused during Battle of Worcester in 1651. These defences were ordered to be levelled in 1651. The earthworks are shown on the Battle of Worcester maps of 1660, 1680 and later

Geophysical survey and excavations were carried out by Peter Reynolds on Fort Royal in the mid 1960s, though with disappointing results.

**Description**

Fort Royal is a small sconce (bastioned detached earthen defence) siting on a hill above the Sidbury suburb (WCM 96141). This was constructed during the Civil War to deny the enemy the use of the hill and to dominate the suburb. It



now survives as an earthwork and four small angular bastions can be clearly made out as can the surrounding ditch.

**Status**

Fort Royal is a Scheduled Ancient Monument lying within the Sidbury and Fort Royal Conservation Area. The line of the other Sidbury Civil War defences also falls within this conservation area.

**Significance**

One of the very few Civil War field fortifications to survive in an urban context in Britain. This monument and any associated buried archaeology or associated earthworks are of exceptional significance.

**Condition/ issues**

The condition and location of any buried remains is unknown. Risks include any excavation or development which would be likely to affect archaeological deposits.

The site of Fort Royal is entirely open and suffers limited erosion. Flower beds are maintained within the earthworks.