

Worcester City Defences



Conservation Management Plan



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and English Heritage**

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INTRODUCTION

Worcester City Defences

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The central area of what is now the City of Worcester was fortified by successive lines of defence from the late Iron Age to the Civil War. As late as the Second World War extensive provision was made for the defence of the city centre and its surroundings. All the phases of fortification of Worcester (Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern) are represented in the archaeological record.

The medieval walls still stand in many places and define the core of the historic city, which remains the administrative, retail, financial and religious heart of Worcester. Most if not all of the remainder of the circuit survives as buried remains, including the ditch and all of the gates except the Watergate.

The Conservation Management Plan was commissioned to provide guidance on the appropriateness of current uses and maintenance, and as a management framework to protect the heritage significance of the site into the future.

In Part ONE the Conservation Management Plan draws on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) to give a background of the archaeological and historical context of the walls, and to describe their significance. Part TWO draws out the conservation issues and the policies designed to conserve significance, and provides a management framework for the repair and maintenance of the buried and standing remains. In part THREE the Gazetteer describes and characterises each length of the medieval walls.

The plan policies are listed below, arranged under the following seven heads:

1. *Aims and Objectives*
2. *Existing Policies and Controls*
3. *Gaps in Knowledge*
4. *Repairs and Maintenance Strategy*
5. *Maintenance and Protection*
6. *Ecological Protection*
7. *Promotion of Understanding and Access.*

CONSERVATION POLICIES

1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Policy

- 1.1 The Conservation Management Plan should be formally adopted as the basis for future management of Worcester City Defences.
- 1.2 Future management should protect the historic fabric and character of the City Defences and their setting, and the surviving evidence for former use and functions.
- 1.3 Ensure the recognition of the City Defences, whether standing or buried, as a separate component of the overall monument that is the historic City of Worcester.
- 1.4 Steps should be taken to minimise risk to the historic fabric of the monument from normal public use and administrative operations.
- 1.5 Other values inherent in the monument and its immediate environs, including ecological value, should be identified, and protected where appropriate, and any conflict should be resolved on a basis of knowledge, advice and agreement.
- 1.6 All statutory and legal requirements for the protection of the monument, the health and safety of individuals and the requirements of equality legislation must be met.

2 EXISTING POLICIES AND CONTROLS

Policy

- 2.1 Having regard to the significance of the City Defences and their component parts set out in this Plan, the protections afforded by current designations should be reviewed, with the aim of ensuring comprehensive and consistent coverage over the full extent of the standing or suspected defences.
- 2.2 With the proposed changes in statutory protection systems, active consideration should also be given to the nature and extent of future designation of the City Defences, which should be strengthened rather than being diminished.
- 2.3 Adoption and implementation of the Conservation Management Plan policies should be within the context of conservation and archaeological strategies for the historic city.

3 GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

Policy

- 3.1 Further studies and surveys should be undertaken to improve understanding of the defences and their setting.
- 3.2 Archaeological survey and analysis should be commissioned to clarify little-understood features of the walls, including the encased remains along the Butts and the lost sections along the riverside.
- 3.3 Research into the defences should be promoted, with a planned agenda for investigations and an ability to respond to opportunities.
- 3.4 A habitat survey and species listing should be commissioned, to evaluate the site's ecological significance as a basis for future planning.

4 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Policy

- 4.1 This Conservation Plan should be adopted as the basis for a comprehensive phased programme of remedial and maintenance work
- 4.2 Regular and effective programmes of structural maintenance should be undertaken, with planned monitoring, inspection, conservation and repair, where necessary reviewing and revising existing arrangements.
- 4.3 All works, whether new works, conservation or repair, must be informed by a clear and detailed understanding of the monument, be preceded by appropriate investigations of the historic fabric, and be fully recorded.
- 4.4 All works must be carried out in accordance with the highest standards of conservation, retaining significance, avoiding loss of fabric, and adhering to historical accuracy in design, materials and workmanship.

5 MAINTENANCE & PROTECTION

Policy

- 5.1 The identified sections of the defences currently in need of maintenance should be made eligible for a programme of grant-aided repairs carried out in an approved manner, under guidance of Worcester City Council and English Heritage, in a five-year scheme financed by the City, County, and English Heritage.
- 5.2 Effective, regular and funded programmes should be established for maintenance of the Defences, to standards which reflect their historic

- importance
- 5.3 A system of regular (six-monthly) inspection should be instigated to monitor the condition of the Defences

6 ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

Policy

- 6.1 Advice and recommendations on the ecology of the site (Policy 3.3) should inform future site management and maintenance activities, ensuring protection for significant habitats or species, but not to the detriment of protection of the monument.

7 PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING AND ACCESS

Policy

- 7.1 Appreciation and understanding of the Defences by the public should be encouraged, with provision for signage and interpretation. The possibility of creating viewing galleries in certain areas should be investigated.
- 7.2 The defences should be incorporated into local tourism strategy and promotion as a key element of the historic city.
- 7.3 The defences should be used as an educational resource for local school groups and for adults and could be incorporated into themed walks and trails within the city.
- 7.4 The line of the historic defences should be maintained within any future development. This may include (where possible) the city ditch and Civil War defences as well as the city walls.
- 7.5 The line of the defences should be delineated on the ground. This should particularly concentrate on showing missing features.
- 7.6 Every opportunity should be taken to maximise the visibility and legibility of the defences, including exposing further sections of the walls where this can be justified on sustainability grounds and where the future maintenance of such sections is assured.

Worcester City Defences

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Context and Purpose

The Conservation Management Plan for Worcester City Defences was commissioned jointly by Worcester City Council and English Heritage in 2004. Its purpose is to define the historic significance of the defences, and to provide a basis of policy and guidance for day-to-day management of the remains of the defences, the consideration of development proposals for sites along the circuit, and enhancements to access and interpretation.

In particular the document is required to inform:

- decisions on the future presentation of Worcester City Defences
- an implementation plan for capital repair works and regular maintenance.

The Plan is also required as the basis for future agreements with English Heritage over use and repair of the standing defences.

The report draws together existing information about the defences in order to develop an understanding of their development through time; assesses the significance of the site and its components; defines issues which impact on the site; and proposes policies for guiding future management and protecting significance.

REPORT STRUCTURE

The Plan is divided into three main sections:

Part One - Understanding and Significance

To establish an understanding of the city defences, sources for their history are reviewed and the development of the defences described in outline, through the principal periods of construction and use from the Iron Age and Roman periods to 1651 (the Battle of Worcester), and to its present day role.

The Plan establishes criteria for assessing the cultural and heritage significance of the site and its elements and suggests categories where degrees of significance can be identified.

Worcester City Defences are considered to have considerable and in some cases exceptional significance:

- as an example of civic military architecture for a particular defensive purpose
- as the defining boundary of the medieval and post medieval city
- as a demonstration of the city's fortification from the Roman period to the Second World War.

Part Two - Conservation Issues and Policies

Factors are identified which render the significance of the site vulnerable to damage, loss or erosion, and policies are proposed for minimising the risks, together with guidelines for practical implementation.

The most important areas of policy are those which relate to the protection of the defence's historical significance, through the establishment of appropriate uses and the performance of regular programmes of repair and maintenance.

Policies are also proposed for ensuring adequate statutory protection for the defences, and for protecting ecological significance.

Proposals are made for implementing the Policies, by establishing appropriate levels of use and by developing programmes for capital repair works and ongoing maintenance, accompanied where necessary by impact assessments and strategies for mitigating any negative effects.

Schedules are set out for both capital and maintenance works, and prioritised as appropriate for short-, medium- and long-term implementation.

Appendices to this section provide:

- A model brief for repairs
- A list of designated sites
- A list of HER monuments
- A list and digest of HER events and their results
- A list of current Local Plan policies, with a short gloss for each giving its relevance to the city defences.

Part Three - The Gazetteer

The Gazetteer sets out the main components of the defences (The Riverside Walls, The Northern Walls, The Eastern Walls and detached elements). For the purposes of the Gazetteer the defences have been broken down into thirty discrete elements. Some of these elements are standing whilst others are buried, hidden or lost. The Gazetteer introduces the development status and significance of each element and also provides a description and a discussion of policies, conditions and issues.

Conservation principles

The principles and philosophy of Conservation Management Planning are described in *Informed Conservation* (Clark 2001) and *Conservation Plans in Action* (Clark (ed) 1999). The Plan is based on the model briefs set out in *Conservation Plans in Action*, and *Conservation Management Plans: Model Brief*, Heritage Lottery Fund (2004). Further underlying principles are set out in English Heritage's emerging *Conservation Principles*, and in *The Conservation Plan* (Kerr 1996). Account must also be taken of the series of international charters and European conventions on the built heritage (summarised in the English Heritage *Conservation Bulletin* 50 (Autumn 2005) of which the most informative for conservation plan purposes is the *Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance*, Australia ICOMOS (1999) (the Burra Charter); the Granada Convention on protection of Architectural Heritage (1985), and the Valetta Convention on protection of Archaeological Heritage (1992) are also important, and have been ratified by the UK. Further guidance is given by the reports from the APPEAR project, relating specifically to enhancing the accessibility of buried archaeological remains. The need to protect significance during processes of change or conservation is enshrined in Government Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment and PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning (both are expected to be replaced in the short to medium term by a consolidated Planning Policy Statement).

Consultation and Acknowledgements

The Plan has been prepared through consultation with a number of individuals and representatives to whom thanks are due:

James Dinn, Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council; the late Stuart McNidder, Head of Planning, Worcester City Council; Jim Pithouse, Senior Planning Officer, Worcester City Council; Georgia Smith, City Centre Manager, Worcester City Council; Will Scott, Conservation Officer, Worcester City Council; Ian Yates, Parks Manager, Worcester City Council; Paul O'Connor, Senior Planning Officer, Worcester City Council; Chris Dobbs, Landscape Architect, Worcester City Council; Andy Walford, Highways Partnership, Worcestershire County Council; Chris Guy, Cathedral Archaeologist. Consultation also took place with the Worcester Civic Society (Technical Panel), Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, and English Heritage.

In addition the Plan has been subject to public consultation. This comprised an exhibition at the Guildhall in November-December 2005, a newspaper feature covering the project, and the circulation of the draft report to stakeholders in Summer 2006. The report was also made available on the Worcester City Council website.

PART ONE: UNDERSTANDING AND SIGNIFICANCE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Scope of the Plan

The scope of the Plan, as set out in the brief (Worcester City Council, 2003), is the surviving standing and buried elements of the medieval city defences, and the sites of lost features. It therefore covers the site of the city ditch and any banks to the rear of the wall as well as gates and bridges. The sites of several Civil War bastions which may have extended beyond the ditch or lain on its outer (counterscarp) side are also included. For practical reasons it was necessary to exclude the castle and the Cathedral precinct walls from the Plan, along with the concentric lines of defence within the city centre (Roman and Anglo-Saxon) and beyond (outer Civil War defences).

The Plan therefore covers the main western, northern and eastern defensive lines, of largely medieval date. These comprise the riverside walls northwards from the Cathedral Watergate to Croft Road, the northern defences (mainly along The Butts), and the eastern defences along City Walls Road and to the north (Cornmarket) and south (Amber Wharf and Sidbury to Severn Street), finishing at the site of Frog Gate where the city defences joined those of the castle.



Figure 1: 19th century view of the riverside walls and the Bishop's palace.

Short descriptions of the castle, the Cathedral precinct defences, and Fort Royal and associated Civil War earthwork defences are given in the gazetteer. The Cathedral has recently produced its own Conservation Plan (April 2006).

1.1.2 Review of Sources

Town and city defences in England have been somewhat neglected in academic study. This may be partly due to the scarcity of remains (particularly when compared to the continent) and they have certainly been overshadowed by the study of castles. The two main general examinations of urban defences are Turner (1970) and Creighton and Higham (2005), with other important studies by Barley (1975) Bond (1987). These have shown that as few as a quarter of medieval boroughs were walled, though most larger and prominent places had a defended circuit with gates,

typically rebuilt in the 13th century and maintained through the late medieval period, though gradually abandoned thereafter. The survival of considerable lengths of walls is comparatively rare.

As an important cathedral city Worcester has long been the subject of historical interest. However this was long dominated by the Cathedral and precinct, and little attention was given to the city walls and their gates until comparatively recently. Although there are maps and historical records of the gates there are no known good-quality drawings or prints of either the walls or the gates; compared with many similar walled towns and cities the pictorial evidence is slight.

Some areas of the defences however are better represented; early views of the riverside walls and the Edgar Tower (Cathedral precinct gatehouse) abound. This may be related to the more impressive survival of these structures, and also to their association with the Cathedral; in particular the riverside walls often appear incidentally in views of the Cathedral or more general 'picturesque' views of the Severn.

A number of 19th-century drawings and early 20th-century photographs show fragments of sandstone masonry which appear to be otherwise lost sections of the main circuit of the city wall, though it has not always been possible to identify the locations shown.

The principal historical works on the city defences date from the 20th century, the most important being the *Victoria County History of Worcester* (vol 4, 1924) and Carver's (1980) *Medieval Worcester: an Archaeological Framework*, with articles on the documentary sources for the defences (Beardsmore 1980), and on recording work associated with the City Walls Road development (Bennett 1980; Hirst 1980; Wills 1980).

The published works and other material have been synthesised in a series of archaeological event and monument descriptions in the *City of Worcester Historic Environment Record (HER)*. The descriptions of the medieval defences were largely written by



Figure 2:
H.H. Lines 1881 drawing of the watergate.

Nigel Baker in 2001 (a list of monument records is given in Appendix 3A and a digest of the results of archaeological recording events in Appendix 3B). To date there are around 200 event records (including excavations, building recording, and watching briefs on intrusive works) and nearly 100 monument records (interpreted elements often surviving as standing or buried remains) for the city defences (all periods) in the HER.

Sources held in the HER include the scheduling and listing information, published material, and unpublished archaeological reports, dating from the 1950s to the present day, detailing the results of excavations, assessments and standing building recording work.

The recent work by Baker and Holt *Urban Growth and the Medieval Church: Gloucester and Worcester* (2004) has presented a remarkable and sophisticated analysis of the urban topography, with a valuable summary of the development of the defences.

The primary sources relating to the walls are somewhat limited. There are a number of murage grants during the medieval period (Beardsmore). City Ordinances mention repairs and additions to gates and walls and to their eventual demolition. Rent books detail later uses of the wall and ditch and chart their change from municipal to private ownership. Many of these sources are available through the Worcestershire Record Office (WRO). Unfortunately the WRO has only relatively recently taken charge of the extensive city archive and at the time of writing only a small part of the archive has been catalogued thoroughly.

The defences (and Worcester generally) do not have a long history of archaeological activity. The first formal archaeological excavation in Worcester took place only in 1957 (on the Roman defences), and the first excavation (as opposed to salvage recording during development) of part of the defences at around the same time.

Early work included excavations and recording by Spackman in the early 1900s and Richardson in the 1950s. This included recording of part of the Sidbury Gate, and the city ditch and wall on the Butts. Some work took place under the aegis of the Severn Valley Study Group in the late 1950s and early 1960s, generally consisting of targeted small-scale trenching. The main impetus for study was the creation of the City Walls Road in the early 1970s (over 20 HER event records for the defences relate to this). This cleared many areas of masonry for the first time since the early 18th century and gave the opportunity for excavation (notably by Bennett and Barker). Subsequent work has mostly taken place in advance of or during development, including evaluation trenches which have identified the ditch and the internal bank at numerous locations, as well as surviving buried remains of the wall.

1.1.3 Topography and Context

Worcester's siting and history have been dominated by its relationship with the River Severn. The core of the historic city sits on the river's east bank, on a low gravel-capped ridge running parallel with the river and with the low-lying ground of the Severn floodplain to the west and the Frog Brook valley to the east; the Frog Brook joined the Severn just south of the castle. To the south-east above the suburb of Sidbury the ground rises and provides views of the city.

In the 19th and 20th centuries the city grew far beyond its early core and now both sides of the river have urban and suburban elements. This later development has almost entirely encircled the early city although the medieval centre still remains the commercial and physical centre of Worcester city and county.

There are a few points where one may get a long view of the remains of the city walls. Perhaps the most picturesque sections are those along the river which form the cathedral and Bishop's Palace boundaries. When viewed from the opposite bank of the river these lengths of wall can be seen in their entirety. On the eastern side of the historic city



Figure 3: Prospect of Worcester from the West (anon 1750)

the remains of the medieval sandstone walls may be seen in several places along the City Walls Road. These are, however, partially obscured by plants or by being preserved in cuttings below the modern road surface.

Other upstanding elements of the defences are almost entirely hidden and are often unrecognised. The stretch of wall running parallel with the Butts (on the north side of the historic centre) is almost entirely hidden from view. Despite this, this section of the wall may give the best impression of the wall's original scale. These sections are largely hidden by modern buildings and by plant growth.

The majority of the wall remains hidden because it lies below or within buildings of the modern city; some sections of walling may, however, be traced in cellars. The city ditch and the Civil War defences are in all cases hidden and cannot be viewed, though the alignment of part of Infirmary Walk is thought to have been influenced by one of the triangular bastions.

1.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 Introduction

Beardsmore's (1980) documentary history of Worcester's defences, concentrating particularly on the castle and the medieval walls and gates, remains the principal source for this aspect, and is drawn on heavily here. It is likely that further documentary evidence for the later fate of the walls may be found in the city archives, though these are still poorly accessible, and a detailed examination of them was beyond the remit of this plan.

1.2.2 Prehistoric

An Iron Age settlement has been suggested as lying within the area of the historic city (Barker 1969), though the evidence of a defensive enclosure or circuit at this early date is still not strong (a length of ditch was recorded at Lychgate).

1.2.3 Roman

Roman Worcester (possibly *Vertis*) remains something of an enigma and although extensive Roman deposits have been identified little is clearly understood of the Roman town, or indeed the fort which probably preceded it. Excavated remains include large ditches at Copenhagen Street and the Lychgate Centre (east of the High Street), delineating a defended area.

Newport Street, which led to the medieval bridge, was preceded by a Roman road on a similar alignment, presumably leading to a river crossing (by bridge, ford or ferry). There is some evidence of occupation at Worcester into the early 5th century, though the town was significantly reduced in size by the early 4th century; however, there is as yet no suggestion of continuous occupation into the Anglo-Saxon period. Although the town may have been long abandoned, enough must have survived for the *-caester* s An outline development plan for the county of the city of Worcester / prepared for the Reconstruction and Development Committee of the City Council by Anthony Minoprio and Hugh Spencely uffix to be added to the town's name, though this may have been no more than the defensive earthworks.

1.2.4 Anglo-Saxon

Worcester became for a while the capital of the small Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of the Hwicce. This was later to become part of Mercia before being incorporated into a unified England. The cathedral was established in

the 7th century, apparently within the surviving Roman earthwork, which seems to have continued in use for defence, and later formed part of the *burh* defences.

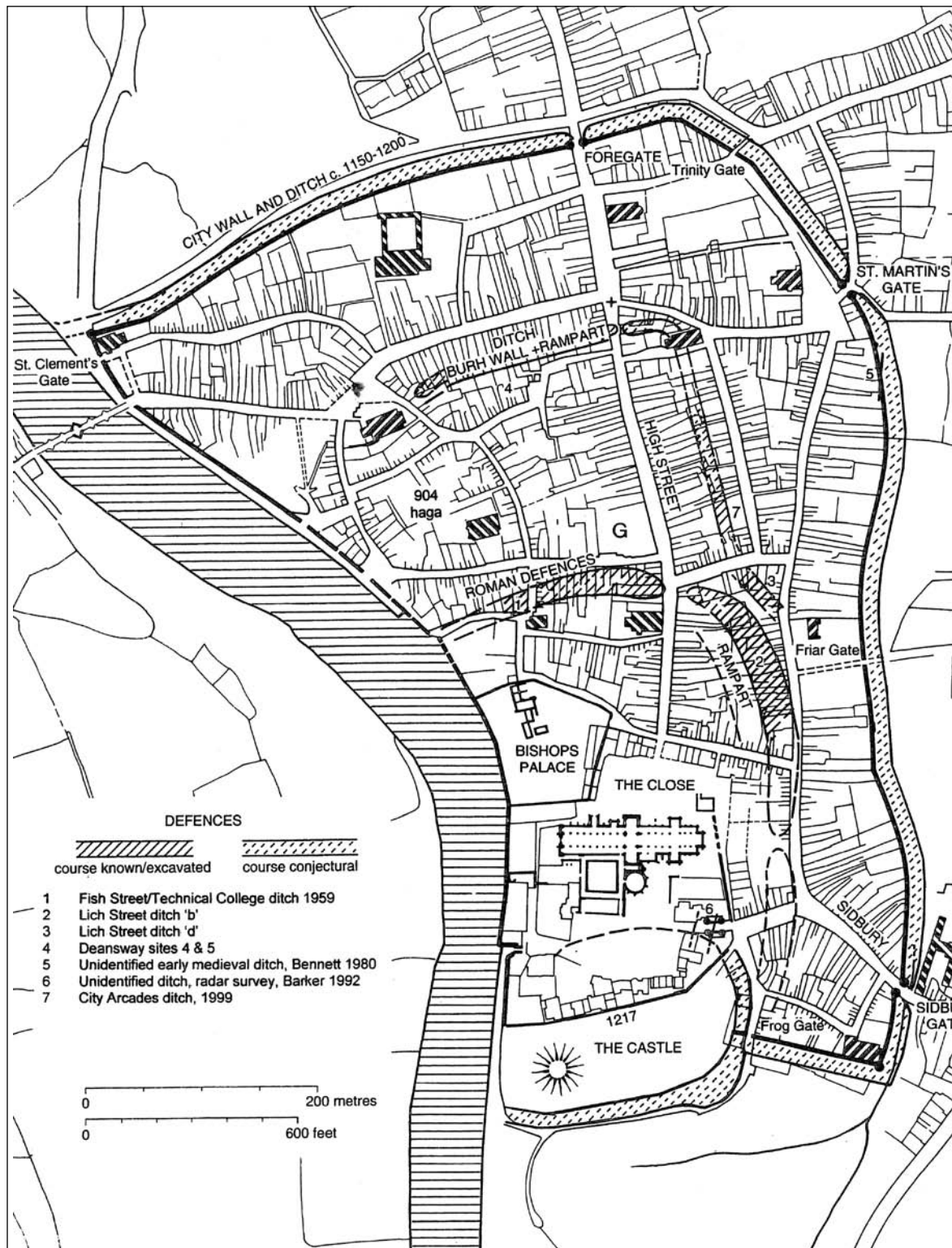


Figure 4: Successive lines of Roman, Saxon, and later medieval defences (Baker and Holt 2004)

Evidence for the *burh* of the 890s and the associated episcopal enclosure or *haga* (documented in 904) has been reviewed by Baker et al (1992) and Baker and Holt (2004). A new defensive circuit was constructed to the north of the Roman defences (which seem to have remained in use), though well within the line of the later medieval city wall. Remains of what were probably the burh defences have been identified at at least two locations. Excavation to the south of Broad Street (part of the Deansway project; Dalwood and Edwards 2004) revealed a ditch and an earthen bank, incorporating an insubstantial stone and timber revetment, which would probably have been topped by a wooden palisade and wall walk. Close to the west side of the Shambles, a large ditch was recorded during excavation and watching brief (Griffin et al 2004). Neither of these records was made under optimum circumstances, and the other possible records of the *burh* defences are considerably more uncertain.

Although its site has been convincingly identified, no remains of the episcopal *haga* boundary have been seen. Excavations in the south-eastern part of the city have produced evidence of banks which may indicate the boundary of another *haga*, perhaps that near St Peter's mentioned in a charter of 969. Not too much need be made of this, since the word *haga* was regularly used (as in Domesday Book) to mean a house or urban property, and not necessarily any significant defended enclosure.

1.2.5 Later Medieval

Evidence for the development of medieval Worcester has been reviewed in detail by Baker and Holt (2004). After the Norman Conquest the city saw a number of dramatic changes. These included the building of St Wulfstan's new cathedral (by 1089) to replace the two Anglo-Saxon cathedrals, and the construction of the castle (from 1069). Parts of the *burh* defences may have continued in use for some time following the Norman Conquest, though built development had already extended well beyond them by the 11th century. In many places the new defensive line crossed areas which had already been developed, presumably entailing the demolition of buildings and the relocation of their occupiers; the three extra-mural suburbs of Sidbury, Lowesmoor, and the bishop's planned suburb along Foregate Street and The Tything all seem to have been established before the wall.

The River Severn was crossed by the medieval (or earlier?) bridge (some way to the north of the present bridge) which gave access to the west bank suburb of St John's.

At the storming of Worcester in 1139 it is clear that the north side of the city was without fortification, and this may indicate a period when the Anglo-Saxon defences had been abandoned but the new defensive line

was incompletely established. There is also a suggestion that the walls were unfinished as late as 1150 when Stephen took the city. The East Gate (St Martins Gate), Sidbury Gate and North Gate (Foregate) are all documented during the 12th century. It seems clear that the wall (or at least its line) was completed by 1216 when the city was taken by an attack on the castle. This disloyalty was punished by the choice of a £100 fine or by having the walls pulled down.

In common with most English towns, it is not until the 13th century that the historical record of the walls becomes fuller. From 1224 to 1239 there are a number of applications for murage (ie the right to levy taxes to raise or repair walls) which indicate a period of intense activity. In 1252 a system of watch and ward was initiated which may have seen the occupation of the gates by the watchmen, and this initiated a further series of murage grants between 1252 and 1310. Destruction between 1263 and 1265 during the Barons' war (of the bridge and possibly parts of the defences) created a need for further rebuilding. Another phase of murage occurred between 1364 and 1411. The last murage grant was in 1439.

This extensive rebuilding or enhancement of the walls during the 13th century is seen throughout England and Wales. This is partly driven by the increased wealth and independence of towns but it is also a reaction to uncertain political times. Developments in fortification in this period included the increased use of drum towers (large round towers often with battered bases). In this period large numbers of crossbow loops were also used or were

added to earlier fortifications. Historic mapping which shows details of Worcester's gates and towers show gates with drum towers and several crossbow loops which may belong to 13th century work on the walls.

Other money also went towards the cost of building and repairing the fortifications; this included various grants, fines and

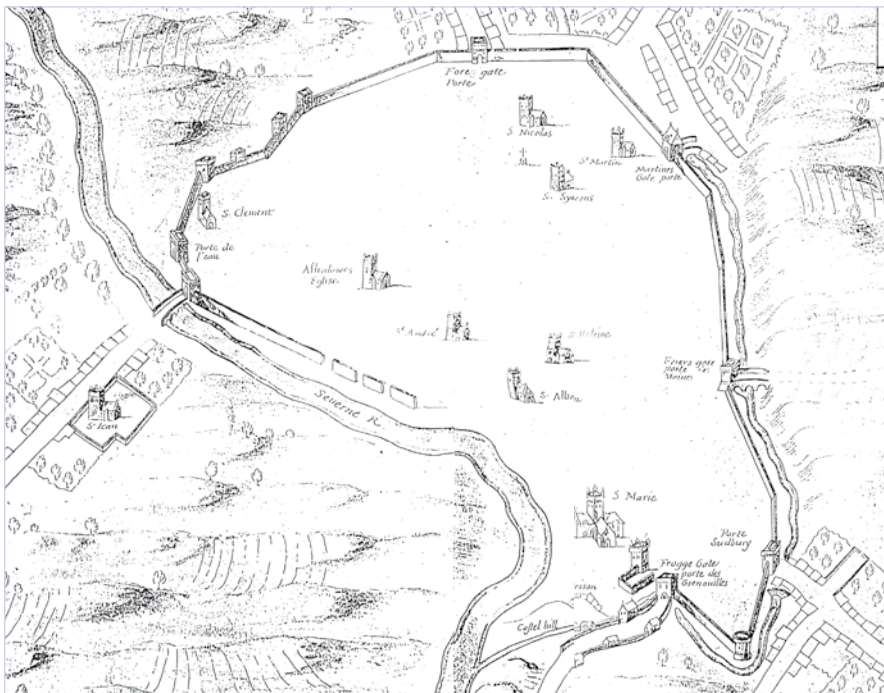


Figure 5:
Anonymous 1640s Map of Worcester showing defences

dues. In 1459 Henry VI granted the citizens the right to repair the walls using broken stones from the castle when a Yorkist attack was feared.

Although not so substantially constructed, the cathedral precinct wall must have functioned partly as an extension of the city wall, and the riverside arm was crenellated (effectively fortified) in 1237. Later documents refer to the crenellation of the priory buildings and the cathedral close.

The castle formed the southern end of the defensive circuit. The motte and bailey castle was built from 1069 by Urse d'Abitot Sheriff of Worcestershire. The castle stood to the south of the cathedral at the southern end of the gravel terrace. In its construction part of the precinct of the cathedral was sequestered and this remained a source of friction until the land's restoration in 1217. In 1088 the castle saw action when it was held for William II during a rebellion. The castle suffered from several of the fires which affected the city (in 1113, 1189 and 1202; see Beardsmore 1980).

The castle saw action again in the wars of Stephen and Matilda. Florence of Worcester mentions a fort near the castle, the location of which is now lost. In 1151 King Stephen attacked the castle (having burnt the city the previous year) and constructed two siege castles (on Red Hill and Henwick Hill). After the Civil wars in 1155, Hugh Mortimer re-fortified the castle against Henry II.

In July 1216 William Marshall held the city and castle against the army of King John. The city was lost when the king's men were let into the castle. In 1217, Henry III granted the cathedral back its confiscated lands. There are several contemporary accounts which detail the results of this land transfer and long-running arguments over its consequences.

The loss of much of the castle bailey to the cathedral seems to have nullified the real defensive value of the castle and in 1263 the rebel Earl of Derby stormed the site with little difficulty. The castle became the site of the county gaol and the defences were neglected. In 1459 stone from the castle was used by the citizens to repair the walls, bridge and gates.

1.2.6 Post Medieval

In about 1540 Leland noted that the castle was 'clene downe' and that the castle mound was overgrown. The walls and gates of the city remained intact however as can be seen on Speed's plan of 1610.

The city was held for the King during the first Civil War and to aid the defence the suburbs were cleared. The walls were strengthened and new bastions added to mount guns. A sconce (later Fort Royal) was built above Sidbury and connected to the walls with a bastioned trace which

also protected the Sidbury suburb. The castle was used again as a fortification and guns were mounted on its motte. By the Second Civil War many of these defences still existed and were repaired and utilised by the Royalists. The city was besieged in both 1643 and 1646, as well as being the scene of the final battle of the Civil Wars in 1651.

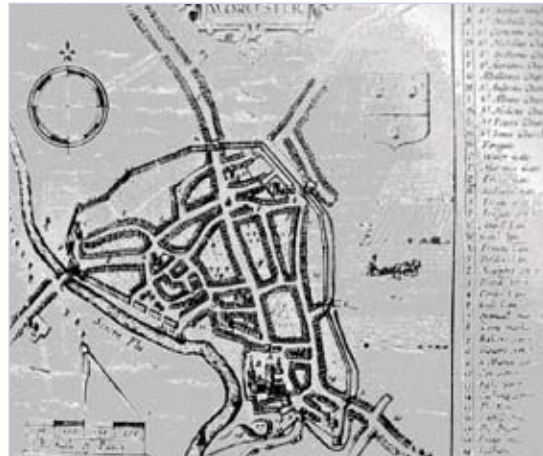


Figure 6: John Speed's map of 1600

After the Civil Wars the new defences were at least partially slighted, although the medieval walls and gates appear to have remained. The walls were still largely intact in the late 17th-century and during the 18th century were often used to mount summerhouses (as seen on the Buck brothers' print of 1732 and Broad's map of 1768). By the end of the 18th century, however, most of the walls and ditches had been leased or sold to private owners, and all of the gates demolished, with the possible exception of Friar's Gate which may just have survived into the 19th century – these were now no longer objects of civic pride but were regarded as unsightly and inconvenient to traffic. By the end of the 19th century, much of the walls and all of the ditch had disappeared from view, only to be rediscovered during clearance for the building of City Walls Road in the early 1970s.

The city was essentially unaltered in its extent even into the beginning of the 19th century, with the increased population accommodated within the walled area and medieval suburbs. Worcester had always had an industrial aspect and this was demonstrated by a waterfront made up of numerous warehouses. Light industry was also well represented including the gloving industry which survived into the 20th-century. From around 1810 the city began to expand beyond its medieval footprint. The impact of this on the remains of the defences was particularly marked on the east side, where a new residential and industrial quarter, named the 'Blockhouse' after one of the Civil War installations, expanded towards the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, opened in 1815. The line of the defences became no more than a property boundary, or in some cases disappeared altogether. Further south, around Sidbury, the new canal occupied the line of the medieval ditch.

The castle was used as a prison up until 1814 when the prisoners were moved to the new county gaol. The Dean and Chapter purchased the site in 1820 and the gaol was demolished in 1826. The site was then sold on to Thomas Eaton who levelled the motte and most of the ramparts between

1826 and 1846. In 1867 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners purchased the site and it is now home to the King's School.

In the 1840s the creation of Diglis Lock and the raising of the water level dramatically altered the appearance of the surviving elements of the riverside defences, which became partially buried under the new towpath (now Kleve Walk). Elsewhere remaining fragments of the old defences were either demolished or absorbed into buildings or boundary walls.

The Second World War saw the latest attempt to construct defences for the city centre, though by now as part of a much wider defended area. A pillbox and machine gun position were constructed to cover the bridge, though these have been demolished.

After the Second World War plans were prepared which would have resulted in a major remodelling of the city and in the process the loss of much of the old city (Minoprio & Spencely 1946). A network of dual-carriageway roads was planned across the city but very little of this was finally built. However the plans set the climate for the 1950s-1970s in which a great number of new buildings were constructed in the historic core and much of the urban landscape was changed forever. In the early 1970s a new dual carriageway inner bypass was constructed along the east side of the historic city. This followed the city wall for much of its line, and consequently was named 'City Walls Road'. The removal of a number of buildings and the exposure and excavation of the city wall made visible a monument which had been largely hidden since the late 18th century.



Figure 7: Building the City Walls Road in 1975. The remains of the walls can be seen on the left of the picture.

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFENCES TODAY

1.3.1 Introduction

The visible remains of the defences today are somewhat fragmentary. The visible upstanding remains relate to the medieval and post medieval masonry defences, with other features such as gatehouses, bridges, ditches and earthworks surviving only as buried remains. The main visible sections of stone wall are found along the riverside, The Butts and City Walls Road, but other buried sections are known or suspected to exist along most of the length of the original circuit.

1.3.2 The Riverside Walls

The riverside walls were made up of the castle and cathedral precinct walls to the south, and to the north the walls of the city itself. Only parts of the riverside walls now remain visible but in places these remains are quite spectacular. The remains are best seen from the river-side path at Kleve Walk. It should be borne in mind that these walls are largely buried and that only the top part of the wall is now visible (this is due to the raising of the water level after 1844). The walls act as a revetment to the sloping ground alongside the river.

The southern part of the wall is a buttressed sandstone wall, with an 18th century brick stable building built on top (Gazetteer 4.04, outside the scope of this plan). To the north of this is the small Watergate (Gaz. 4.05); this is the only surviving gate on the city wall circuit (although the Edgar Tower, a gate from the city into the precinct, also survives) and the medieval sandstone vault is topped by a 17th-century brick house.

To the north of the gate the sandstone wall continues as far as the wall of the



Figure 6: View of the riverside walls by William Marlow (1740-1813)

Bishop's Palace (4.07). This is interrupted by the red sandstone gable of the monastic reredorter and by several phases of stonework and brickwork (4.06-4.07). These walls all revet the higher ground levels within the precinct (within which lie at least two medieval vaulted spaces). Further north, fragments of wall, including an arched gateway, are found in the (mostly brick) garden wall of the Bishop's Palace. Beyond the palace precinct the wall is lost from view and its course and survival are largely unknown, although remains were excavated in the 1960s-70s in what is now the Copenhagen Street car park.

1.3.3 The Northern Wall

Visible elements of wall reappear along the northern part of the defensive circuit. As with the riverside walls (which basically revet the river bank) large parts of these walls act as a revetment for ground surfaces which are higher within the walls than without. Buried remains of St Clement's Gate and wall are known to survive in the northwest corner of the city (4.13, 4.14), but the first standing remnant is a much damaged and very fragile stretch of sandstone wall behind Images Night-club (4.14). The remains to the east of this are better preserved. They all lie to the south of The Butts, which lies on the outer edge of the city ditch. The fragments of sandstone wall all lie within far larger areas of brickwork and it is probable that this brickwork may hide and protect earlier fabric beneath.

These surviving elements of the wall are found to the rear of the small business premises that line the south side of The Butts. The best preserved section (and possibly the best preserved stonework in the entire circuit) survives as the rear wall of a garage and is made up of large blocks of neatly dressed sandstone (4.15). Other small fragments of wall survive along the northern line of the wall and other remains are known or suspected to lie beneath the modern ground surface. A recent evaluation has shown that the line of the wall between Angel Place and The Foregate is still uncertain.

The remains of the ditch and what may be fragments of Civil War defences (external bastions and internal banks and ditches) have been partially excavated, as have the remains of the Foregate and (perhaps) its bridge, demonstrating the widespread survival of below ground remains (4.17).

To the east of the Foregate, the eastern part of the northern walls is largely lost and even its course remains partly unknown. This area of poor information extends as far as the site of the Trinity Gate and the eastern part of the city walls (4.18-20).

1.3.4 The Eastern Walls

The eastern walls include what are now perhaps the most noticeable and best known parts of the city's defences. This visibility is due to the creation of the City Walls Road in the early 1970s which meant that walls which had remained long hidden by buildings were exposed again. The remains along the road are in multiple ownership and exhibit a number of conservation and management problems (see gazetteer). The eastern walls often act as revetments to built-up land behind the wall though in this case this represents the building up of deposits behind the wall when it was in place; the ground here was relatively flat (with a gentle slope down to the east) before the walls were built. On the outside of the wall the land is in public ownership, comprising highway, pavement and areas of planting. On the inside (largely in private ownership), there is some open space, made up of gardens, yards and car parks, while a number of buildings are built up to or over the wall line.

The northernmost surviving element is a length of sandstone wall running from Cornmarket to Windsor Row and this has well preserved stretches of masonry with numerous brick repairs (4.21, .22). The remains of a turret base, which was exposed and repaired in the 1970s, is the most notable feature on this stretch of wall.

Between Windsor Row and Charles Street the wall continues but in places only a couple of courses are visible beneath more modern brick walling. The areas of historic fabric are interspersed with numerous areas of brick repair.

Between Charles Street and Union Street is an area of impressive medieval city wall. This is overlain by numerous brick structures but the sandstone base was excavated in the 1970s and has been preserved in a form of underpass (4.24). This underpass allows one to view the battered sandstone base of the wall and gives a clear idea of the scale of the wall. Unfortunately however this underpass has been detrimental to the conservation of the wall and a comparison of photographs taken in the 1980s with those taken today shows a dramatic decline in both its presentation and physical condition.

One other small fragment of visible wall remains further along City Walls Road, with modern brickwork (replacing earlier walls) built off it (4.26). After this point the wall is no longer visible, but arrangements were made during the construction of City Walls Road for the lower parts of the wall to be preserved. As with the northern section of walls it is suspected that

sections of the city ditch and Civil War bastions may also survive beneath the present ground surface.

The city walls then reached eastwards to enclose part of the suburb of Sidbury. In 1907 part of the Sidbury Gate was exposed and these remains now lie in the cellar of 73-75 Sidbury (4.28). Further south, the presence of wall remains has been confirmed by excavation in 2005 to the NE and SW of St Peter's church, but nothing remains visible above ground of this area of the defences (4.29-4.30).

1.3.5 The Castle

This area is outside the limit of this plan (4.01). Much of the castle site was levelled in the early 19th century but some low stone revetment walls may relate to the fortifications. As elsewhere on the defences brick revetment walls on Severn Street may hide the remains of earlier defensive features. A standing length of the riverside wall formed the western boundary of the castle and cathedral precinct. This (to the south of the Watergate) lies outside the plan area.



Figure 8: H.H. Lines's drawing of 1871 shows a (now lost) fragment of the city wall behind Old St Martin's Church

1.4 Outline chronology of Worcester City Defences

Iron Age and Roman

1st century BC – 4th Century AD

Successive late Iron Age and Roman defensive circuits

Anglo-Saxon

680 Cathedral established in centre of Roman defences

889X899 Anglo-Saxon *burh* established

904 Reference to bishop's haga

969 Reference to *haga* near St Peter's

1041 'Hardacanut's Revenge' – city assumed to have been undefended

Medieval – castle

1069 Castle established

1088 Castle held for William II during rebellion

1139 Castle unsuccessfully besieged by Matilda; city captured (no fortifications on N side)

1150 Castle unsuccessfully besieged by Stephen

1151 Castle unsuccessfully besieged by Stephen; city captured and burnt

1155 Castle fortified against Henry II

Medieval – city walls etc

1154-89 First mention of St Martin's Gate

1182 First mention of Foregate

before 1197 First mention of Sidbury Gate

c 1200 First mention of Bar Gate (probably at city end of bridge)

1216 City besieged and entered via castle

1217 Castle bailey returned to priory

1224 First murage grant (several more to 1239)

1231	First mention of Friar's Gate
1236-37	Bishop instructed to crenellate riverside wall
1263-65	Action during Baron's war
1313-28	Rebuilding of Severn bridge and Bridge Gate; Bar Gate presumed to have become redundant
1439	Last murage grant
1459	Bridge Gate ruinous
1467	First mention of St Clement's and Frog Gates
c 1540	(Leland) First mention of Trinity Gate Castle 'clene downe'

Civil Wars

1642	Defences refurbished and enhanced
1643	Worcester unsuccessfully besieged
1646	Worcester successfully besieged
1651	Battle of Worcester

Disuse and demolition

After 1655?	Trinity Gate demolished
Before 1677?	Frog Gate demolished
1702	Foregate demolished
1702?	Bridge Gate demolished
1768	Sidbury Gate demolished
Between 1767 and 1820	Friar's Gate demolished
1787 St	Martin's Gate demolished
1826-46	Castle levelled

Other post-medieval and recent changes

1844	Riverside towpath constructed
1973	Clearances for City Walls Road

1.4 ASSESSMENTS

1.4.1 BASIS OF THE ASSESSMENTS

Before developing policies for appropriate uses, conservation, or management, it is useful to establish what makes a place important and why it warrants protection. In doing this, assessments of significance need to be made, based on criteria which are relevant to the place in question.

Major types of significance, especially for buildings and landscapes, are expressed in relation to designated sites and areas and are set out in legislation and in Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG 15 & 16:

- ***architectural or historic interest, historic associations and group value*** (for Listed Buildings)¹
- ***special architectural or historic interest*** (character and appearance) (Conservation Areas)²
- ***national significance*** (Scheduled Ancient Monuments)³

Criteria for inclusion in the statutory lists and schedules are additionally useful in assessing significance on a broader scale:

- ***architectural interest*** : design; decoration; craftsmanship; building types and techniques; significant plan forms
- ***historic interest***: important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural and military history
- ***historical association***: with nationally important people or events
- ***group value***: where buildings comprise an important architectural or historic unity.

In addition the criteria for Scheduled Ancient Monuments include:

- ***extent of survival***
- ***current condition***
- ***rarity***
- ***representivity, either through diversity or because of one important attribute***

¹ PPG 15: *Planning and the historic environment*, 1994, Section 6.10

² Ibid., Section 4

³ PPG 16: *Archaeology and planning*, 1990, Annex 4

- **importance of the period to which the monument dates**
- **fragility**
- **connection to other monuments, or group value**
- **potential to contribute to our information, understanding and appreciation**
- **diversity - the combination of high quality features**

For less tangible qualities, it is useful also to employ values derived from the Conservation Plan approach developed for Australian sites⁴. These additional values are:

- **representative value:** the ability to demonstrate social or cultural developments
- **historical continuity** in buildings and activities
- **literary and artistic values**
- **formal, visual and aesthetic qualities**
- **evidence of social historical themes**
- **contemporary communal values**
- **power to communicate values and significance**

Measures for evaluating the significance of the defences have been based on all the criteria above, where they have seemed relevant.

In the assessments which follow, some *degrees* as well as varieties of significance are occasionally proposed. Four levels of significance are conventionally expressed as: *exceptional; considerable; moderate; low*, with two additional categories of *intrusive*, where a feature detracts visually from heritage merit or threatens to obscure understanding or significance, and finally *uncertain*, where (especially with buried remains) the degree of significance cannot be known, but must not therefore be ignored.

1.4.2 DEGREES OF SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria above have also helped to define degrees of significance, the relative importance of key elements or phases, and the judgements on individual elements of the site at Gazetteer level.

The degrees adopted are:

- **exceptional significance**
Aspects or elements of the site which are of key national or international significance, as among the best examples (or the only

⁴ Categories are developed from those proposed in James Semple Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, 1996.

surviving example) of an important class of monument or artefact, or outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena, or of very major regional or local significance. Typically, in terms of Listed Building designation, this assessment might equate with Grade I or II*, and would also include all Scheduled Ancient Monuments, though other individual elements of the site might be of lesser significance.

- **considerable significance**
Elements which individually constitute good and representative examples of an important class of monument or feature, have particular significance through association (although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale) or are major contributors to the overall significance of the site. This degree of importance might typically equate with Grade II in terms of Listed Buildings.
- **moderate significance**
Elements which show some cultural significance, or contribute to the character and understanding of the site, or help to provide an historical or cultural context for features of individually greater significance. This may include buildings and features not individually listed but where the presumption is towards protection and enhancement as part of the site's essential character.
- **low significance**
- Elements which are of individually low value in general terms, or have little or no direct significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the site, without being actually intrusive.
- **intrusive**
Items which are visually intrusive or which detract from or obscure understanding of significant elements or values of the site. Recommendations may be made on removal or other treatment.
- **uncertain**
Some features or areas are of uncertain significance as there is no real evidence as to the presence or absence of archaeological remains. This uncertainty of significance should not mean there is a presumption of absence of remains.

Lower degrees should not be taken to imply that elements so assessed can be lost or damaged without having impact on the significance of the site as a whole. Each element contributes to the overall values and character of the site and should not be sacrificed without assessing the broader implications.

1.4.3 WORCESTER CITY WALLS: ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Introduction - overall significance

Worcester is one of some 150-200 defended medieval towns in England, but only at about 25 are there standing remains of town walls. These features are some of the most characteristic of the period, but their survival above ground is relatively rare. A substantial proportion of the surviving examples are refurbished Roman walls, making the survival of purely medieval walls even rarer. Regionally, by comparison with adjoining counties, Worcester has an average rate of survival for defensive elements. Shrewsbury, Stafford, Derby, Leicester and Northampton have minimal or no remains. Oxford has one fine part but little else, while Gloucester has few upstanding remains, and Hereford some walls but few other parts. At both Warwick and Coventry there are gates and some lengths of walls (Creighton & Higham 2005). At Worcester, although the main upstanding elements are alongside the river, the walls and their remains can easily be followed, and their effect on the street pattern has remained visible.

Assessments of significance for Worcester City Defences derive from the architectural and archaeological interest of its structures and designed layout, and its place in national and local history. Although the defences (particularly the walls) are in differing states of preservation ranging from upstanding buildings to below ground remains of unknown condition, it is clear that the potential for almost all of the circuit surviving in a good state of preservation is high, as is the potential for discoveries of earlier phases of the defences.

*The historic importance of the defences and the potential for there being considerable archaeological remains along much of the circuit makes the overall significance **Exceptional**.*

The nature of significance of Worcester City Defences

The defences of Worcester have significance as throughout much of Worcester's history they would have provided the backdrop to any external view of the city, a means of enclosure providing security (at a number of levels) to those living and working inside, and would have rivalled the cathedral as a defining element of the city and as a subject of civic and communal pride.

*This very long standing historical significance to the city as a whole makes those remains which are both standing and buried of exceptional significance as a whole even though its individual parts have been identified as being of **varying degrees of significance**.*

Significance may be identified in the following categories A-F:

A. Special architectural and archaeological interest

Designed defensive purpose

The city walls derive considerable significance from their design as an example of a medieval walled city. As such they reflected the apogee of medieval fortification (battered wall bases to prevent undermining or scaling, semi-circular drum towers on the gates and crossbow loops on the towers). Although the extent of their value as serious fortifications is doubtful, they were graced with all the outward visual signs of the latest defensive developments.

This significance is enhanced by the seeming lack of later major additions (until the emergency measures instigated by the Civil War). These Civil War fortifications also show a designed defensive purpose and historic mapping shows what appear to be both single bastions and a complicated earthwork bastioned trace.

*The defences demonstrate defensive elements from a wide range of periods ranging from early banks and ditches to medieval walls and gates to Civil War bastions as such it is of **considerable significance**.*

Extent of survival and archaeological potential

Despite the fragmentary nature of the standing structures and their apparent isolation from each other, parts of the city defences are known to be rich in archaeological potential. The extent of survival of historic fabric beneath later accretions on The Butts is unknown but may be considerable. Similarly excavation on The Butts has revealed that the profile and deposits of the city ditch are almost intact in many places.

On the City Walls Road survival of the base of the medieval walls and the ditch was demonstrated in the 1960s and 1970s and recent excavation has revealed that the remains of what may be Civil War defences are present in this area. At many other points on the defences (Sidbury Gate, Foregate, St Clement's) substantial remains of the gatehouse structures have been exposed by excavation and are known to still exist.

A recent deposit model (Worcester City Council forthcoming) has demonstrated that in almost all of the historic core of the city there is a high potential for substantial survival of early remains and that this is largely due to the depths of the urban archaeological deposits. With the exception of the north-eastern corner of the walled city, and some limited

areas of truncation elsewhere, the deposit depths are rarely less than 2.5m, and often as much as 5.5m. Along the riverside there is less information on deposits, but recent work indicates the presence of substantial alluvial layers as well as cultural deposits. Along the northern section of the riverside walls, although the presence of any remains or even the line of the wall is unsure, the depth of the stratigraphy makes it highly likely that substantial and significant archaeological remains may be encountered.

The cultural significance and special architectural and historic interest of the site are partly underlined by the designation of certain sections as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade II Listed Buildings. These designations however are inadequate for protecting the entirety of the defences and only refer to small areas which were visible at the time of listing and scheduling.

*The potential of the buried archaeological remains is high and is therefore of **exceptional significance***

B. Historical interest & associations

Place in national, local, and defence history

Worcester City Defences are perhaps somewhat unusual in having been put to the test on several occasions. In the sieges of the wars of Stephen and Matilda (where they may have been a defensive circuit) and the Barons' Wars (1216, 1263-65) and the much later battles of the Civil Wars (1641-51) national events had a direct impact upon the defences.

Local events also had an impact on the defences (and vice versa). They were an important physical and administrative barrier and were also once the subject of civic pride and considerable expense. In their later history the gates and walls were regarded as a hindrance to transport, development and wealth, and their demolition and neglect corresponds with Worcester's rise as an industrial and commercial centre.

The medieval walls do not represent a great achievement in military engineering and should not be compared with more seriously defensive town walls (e.g. the Edwardian towns of Wales). Rather Worcester's walls could be seen as a municipal structure with a secondary military purpose. As such the defences are a survival of a once common but now largely vanished type of (partially symbolic) municipal defence.

*The defences did play an important role in national events especially in the Civil Wars. Although the defences were at no time innovative they were functional and are of **considerable significance**.*

Social history - communicating past ways of life in the City

The overall plan of the defences and the arrangement and detail of defensive features give a clear and vivid indication of considerable significance in the development of the city and its historical limits. With the notable exception of the medieval suburbs, the built up area of the city was effectively confined by the defences for many centuries and the layout of streets and wealth of historic buildings within the defences reflects this.

Losses of visible elements of the defences may have diminished this significance in many areas, though the survival of some extensive areas of the medieval wall allows a vivid sense of past life to be communicated.

*Although only fragments remain above ground the defences are key to understanding the historic city and can be used to demonstrate not only the extent of the city but aspects of its social hierarchy, government and perceived threats. As such the defences are of **considerable significance**.*

C. Context and setting

Group values - the Worcester Defensive Landscape.

The considerable significance of the 13th-century walls and the Civil War defences is enhanced by their belonging to a wider defensive landscape within the boundaries of the modern city.

The Castle, Fort Royal, the defended bridge, St John's sconce and the eastern and southern Civil War defences all had direct physical associations with the main defences.

Several siege castles (forts built by a besieging force) are known from historical sources. Their locations are roughly known and lay near the historic walled city. There were also Parliamentary Civil War siegeworks at Worcester.

Additionally the centre of Worcester was defended in the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

As part of a wider defensive landscape Second World War features may be found in the city and show that despite its peaceful appearance Worcester has been influenced by a very long history of conflict and defence.

The survival (or potential survival) of a number of defensive

*remains at Worcester both inside and outside the main defensive circuit is unusual and is of **considerable significance**.*

Landscape setting and views

Views of the defences form an important element of modern day Worcester. The views of the cathedral from across the river form perhaps the defining image of the city and the precinct wall is an essential part of this image. On the current £20 note this view of the cathedral is shown although the wall is partly obscured by a reclining St Cecilia and associated greenery.

Significant views of exposed sections of the walls may be had along City Walls Road. These views help define the extent of the medieval city to motorists and pedestrians. The visual amenity is somewhat detracted from by the poor condition and presentation of sections of the walls along this road.

Other standing stretches such as those along The Butts may be poorly presented and poorly understood but in some respects provide the most significant views of the medieval walls and strongly suggest the height and forms of the original walls.

*The views have the potential to be of considerable significance but the nature of their current presentation reduces this to **moderate significance** in most cases.*

D. Ecology

No part of the defences has been identified as being of major ecological significance. A full habitat survey has not yet been carried out however.

An assessment of lichens on selected historic buildings in Worcester has been carried out by Joy Ricketts and this identified no significant lichens on those standing remains which were assessed.

Until a full survey is carried out the significance of the ecology is uncertain.

E. Contemporary social values

Contact with people of the past

The survival of parts of Worcester's historic defences provides opportunities for a real sense of contact with the past, reflecting on themes of violence

and war, and contemplating the changes brought by the passage of time.

There is potential to enhance understanding and enjoyment of the site and landscape through quite modest provision of information and an encouragement to learn more.

*As a tool to communicate the idea of contact with people of the past the defences of Worcester are of **considerable significance**.*

Community values - a sense of place

The defences are a significant local element in the shaping and development of the city. They have great potential in helping to foster a powerful sense of continuity, pride and sense of place. Additionally parts of the standing defences form important backdrops to famous views of the city.

*The city was long defined by its defences and interest in them is still strong as such their potential for conveying a sense of place is **considerable**.*

Potential for use within Education and Learning

The defences have the potential to provide an important local educational resource. They are surviving examples of both important and exciting national events and also demonstrate the functioning and priorities of medieval and post medieval cities.

The visible sections of the walls are illustrative of how buildings develop and are added to patched and repaired over time. They could be used to demonstrate phasing of historic fabric as well as changing building materials and techniques.

*As an educational resource the defences are of **considerable significance** as they could be used to demonstrate the development of the city.*

F. Tourism

With its fine architecture and magnificent cathedral Worcester quite rightly markets itself as a historic (and specifically medieval) city. The walls form the largest component of this historic city and define its historic core. Although the defences are unlikely to be either a local or a national tourist destination in their own right they have the potential to form an integral part of any visit by the heritage tourist. The 2005 Worcester Visitor Economy

Strategy states the following:⁵

"The first priority is the enhancement of the city centre. This means continued improvement of the built environment, and continued efforts to develop a vibrant and diverse retail and leisure environment. It means thinking more about how improvements to the city centre, the riverfront and the cathedral surrounds can be better integrated.

The aim is to build on Worcester's greatest strength and the fact that it is an attractive cathedral city. Its objective is to raise itself into the top rank of cathedral cities".

This emphasis on being a 'Cathedral City' strongly implies that the history and heritage of the city is seen as being at the heart of visitor strategy. Similarly there is emphasis on the city centre, the riverfront and the cathedral area all of which are defined by the historic city defences. The Heritage Strategy from the same document details a list of priorities, certain elements of which are likely to have an impact on the presentation of the historic defences:

'Strategy'

- *To seek, in the master planning process, to highlight the heritage of the city and use it as a backdrop to contemporary economic activity.*
- *To include in the master planning a scheme for improved interpretation of the city's heritage. This might include a Boston-style, pavement-marked,*
- *heritage walk.*
- *Deliver the planned upgrade of the Commandery and Fort Royal Park.*
- *Find a new use for the Guildhall that ensures that it fills a role at the heart of the city and has a high level of accessibility".*

It is interesting that Fort Royal Park and the Commandery (both of which are associated with Civil War events in the city) are mentioned in the survey whereas the city defences themselves are not. This seems to reflect a partial lack of awareness of the parts of the defences which are outside public ownership despite the fact that there are substantial standing remains. Similarly council publications such as the 'Worcester Visitor', whilst continually emphasising certain historic aspects of Worcester, seem to neglect the wider historic city which is defined by the defences. This means that tourists and visitors are directed to the larger historic attractions such as the cathedral and Worcester Porcelain rather than the rest of the historic city.

⁵ Worcester Visitor Economy Survey Locum Destination Consulting Jan 2005

The council has indicated however that in the future tourism may focus more on the wider town. This may mean that areas such as Friar Street and New Street which are rich in historic buildings may become part of Worcester's historic experience. Further pedestrianisation or restricted parking in these areas may make them more attractive to visitors and this may have implications for the city defences.

*The defences have the potential to be of **considerable significance** for tourism. Although they are unlikely to be a destination in their own right, they can be used to illustrate and define the medieval city and to encourage visitors to those areas of historic Worcester which are not around the cathedral close.*