Historical and Archaeological Context of Worcester Lane Sites Referenced in the Draft Black Country Plan Released 25th June 2021

by

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This brief note covers sites designated as DUH206, DUH207 and DUH209 in the Draft Plan (see Figure 1 below). DUH209 seems to extend some distance further south than the 'Call for Sites' submission 10050 (see Figure 2).



Fig 1. Extract from Policies Map (Appendix 1) of the Draft Black Country Plan



Figure 2. Call for Sites submission 10500

Little is known about the history and archaeology of the sites allocated on the Draft Local Plan although DUH207 and DUH209 seem to have been part of an oak woodland, perhaps a managed wood-pasture, referenced as *acleg* 'oak leigh' in a mid-tenth-century charter (James, 2014; 133–134; James 2017: 25–26). At that time, Worcester Lane was probably not in existence (James 2017: 26, Fig 8); it may not have come into use as main thoroughfare until several centuries later. The Right of Way leading into Quarry Park Road is likely a remnant of an ancient path which delineated the northern edge of *acleg* 'oak leigh'.

The earliest map showing this area is the Pedmore Tithe plan of 1846 (Figure 3).

Site DUH206 occupies the eastern edges of the fields Dean Field, Lower Heath Piece and Doe Bank. The name 'Dean Field' is almost certainly derived from the Old English word *denu* 'valley' (Gelling and Cole 2014: 113–122) referencing a stream valley here which leads northwards towards the pool in Peartree Drive (probably the pool named *stiran mere* in the aforementioned charter). 'Lower Heath Piece' probably refers to a field which, at the time of its naming, abutted heath-land to its west and northwest (James 2020a: 4). The origin of 'Doe Bank' is less clear but it may be a reference to deer which were kept in, or which frequented, that area.

Sites DUH207 and DUH 209 overlap with the fields named 'Fourteen Lands' and 'Upper and Lower Compton' on the Pedmore Tithe Plan. The former name probably refers to the number of medieval open-field selions which were enclosed when the 'Fourteen Lands' field was formed. The term 'Compton' in the latter field names probably refers to an Anglo Saxon settlement in the vicinity (James 2020b: 43–44), although this seems to have lain near the southern end of Ounty John Lane, some distance west of sites DUH207 and DUH209.

Dudley MBC's Historic Environment Record (HER) has only three entries in the immediate vicinity of sites DUH206, 207 and 209. These are reproduced in Figure 4 below and on subsequent pages.

There has been limited archaeological investigation of this area. Although little of note has been found so far, land to the south, east and west is rich in both prehistoric and later archaeology (James 2019: 8–13). It is not, therefore, implausible that more valuable archaeology remains within DUH206, 207 and 209. Indeed, Section 3.2.4 of the *Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation Study* (Oxford Archaeology, 2020) acknowledges that '...less is known about the historic environment of the Green Belt areas' [within which sites DUH 206, 207 and 209 fall] and that '...the distribution of known archaeological sites within the HERs is unlikely to represent the true distribution of archaeological remains within the Black Country; instead it represents the distribution of previous archaeological investigation'.



Fig 3. Extract from the Pedmore Tithe Plan of 1846



Fig 4. Extract from Dudley's Historic Environment Record (kindly supplied by Mr Mark Mather, 2019) illustrating three recorded features in, and abutting, sites DUH206, DUH207 and DUH209.

HER Number 5886 - MDD1020 Site Name Site of Oxford, Worcester, Wolverhampton Railway Line.

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
<mark>5886</mark> - MDD1020	Site of Oxford,Worcester,Wolverhampton Railway Line.	Monument

Opened in Dudley 1850, not completed to Wolverhampton until 1853. Amalgamated with Great Western Railway 1860. Passenger line closed 6th Jan 1964.

Monument Types and Dates

RAILWAY (Post Medieval - 1800 AD to 1899 AD) Evidence STRUCTURE

Description and Sources

Description

Nicknamed 'The Old Worse and Worse' this railway was incorporated in 1845 and opened in Dudley in 1850, (it was not completed to Wolverhampton till 1853). On 15th July 1860 it became part of the West Midland Railway and in 1860 was amalgamated with the GWR. The passenger line closed 6th Jan 1964 and the freightliner depot on 29th Sept 1987.<1><2>

It opened piecemeal, beginning with a small section near Worcester in October 1850, and it was over two years before it reached Dudley and then at first it was a single line and ran only from Brettell Lane, narrow gauge and restricted goods. It had no money and owned no locomotives or other vehicles. It existed by hiring contract engines that other companies had discarded. Engine failures and breakdowns were commonplace. Its later history included a famous disaster when 14 passengers were killed and 50 severly injured when on the 23rd August 1858 two trains on excursions from Worcester to Wolverhampton collided between Brettell Lane and Round Oak.<3>

Dudley Tunnel 1/2 a mile in length.<4>

As recorded in Canal Company Map in 1896.<6>

Sources

- (1) Bibliographic reference: Ned Williams. 1994. The Railways of Dudley.
- (2) Bibliographic reference: KM Beck. 1983. The West Midlands Lines of the GWR.
- (3) Monograph: VL Davies & H Hyde. 1970. Dudley and the Black Country 1760-1860.
- Bibliographic reference: Michael Hale. 1995. The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway through the Black Country.
- (5) Bibliographic reference: Glynn Barratt, Laura Broughton. 2009. Midland Metro Phase 1 Extentions; Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension Archaeological Desk-based Assessment..
- (6) Unpublished document: British Waterways. Various. Documents held by British Waterways.

Associated resources - None recorded

Location

National Grid Reference SO 91084 88387 (point)	SO98NW
Administrative Areas	
Borough	Dudley
County	West Midlands
Ward	Amblecote, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Brierley Hill, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Brockmoor & Pensnett, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Castle & Priory, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Coseley East, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Lye & Wollescote, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Norton, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	Pedmore & Stourbridge East, Dudley, West Midlands
Ward	St. Thomas's, Dudley, West Midlands

MonFullRpt

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HER Number	6192 - MDD1039	Site Name	I rehern's Farm; rail	lway signal post.
HER Number	Site Na	me		Record Type
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On the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Line. (SMR5886)				
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Monument Typ		D)		
Evidence	1901 AD to 2050 A STRUCTUF	,		
Description an	d Sources			
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Signal post. <1>				
Sources				
(1) Map: Si	tes & Monuments M	1ap - HWCC.		
Associated res	sources - None rec	orded		
Location				
National Grid F	Reference			
SO 90441 8143			SO98SW	
Administrative				
Historic County	Wo	orcestershire		
Historic Parish		dmore		
Ward	Pe	dmore & Stourb	ridge East, Dudley, W	/est Midlands
Address/Histo	ric Names			
Railway Signal	Post, Trehern's Far	m, Worcester La	ne, Pedmore, West	Midlands
Designations,	Statuses and Scor	rings		
Associated De	signations - None	recorded		
Other Statuses	and Cross-Refere	ences		
Sites & Monum	ents Record - 6192			Active
Ratings and Se	corings - None rec	orded		
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Other Land Cla	ISSES			
Landuse		Throu	ghfare	
Related Monur	nents - None Reco	orded		
Finds - None I	recorded			
Associated Ev	ents/Activities - No	one recorded		
Associated Inc	lividuals/Organisa	tions - None re	corded	

HER Number 6192 - MDD1039 Site Name Trehern's Farm; railway signal post.

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7091 - MDD1145 Pipeline Salvage Recording;Mesolithic/Modern Find Spot 7091 - MDD1145 Pipeline Salvage Recording;Mesolithic/Modern Find Spot Prehistoric flint flake, Post Med - Poltery (36), Shell(1), Bone(1), Clay Pipe(5), Tile(5). Salvage recording of pipeline across the southern part of the parish of Pedmore. Find Spot Description Prehistoric flint flake, Post Med - Poltery (36), Shell(1), Bone(1), Clay Pipe(5), Tile(5).<1> Salvage recording of pipeline across the southern part of the parish of Pedmore. Sources Bibliographic reference: Duncan Brown. 1992. Evaluation of the Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley Bypass. 80 process Bibliographic reference: Robin Jackson & A Hancocks. 1996. Salvage Recording on the Frankley to Norton LinkMain. Internal Report, 482 Associated resources - None recorded Sources Mational Grid Reference Sources Sol gost 8 1488 (point) SO985W Address/Historic Names Pedmore & Sourbridge East, Dudley, West Midlands Address/Historic County Worcestershire Historic County Pedmore Susciated Designations - None recorded Active Designations, Statuses and Scorings Active Rassociated Designations - None recorded Active Coher Land Classes Disturbed grassiand	HER N	umber	Site Name	Record Type
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Appendix: A note on hedgerows

The hedgerow abutting Worcester Lane has been noted in James (2021: 10–12), being included as hedge #40 in Plan 04 and the subsequent table.

This hedge-line was first recorded on the Pedmore Tithe plan in 1842, but it may be older. There is no known historic basis for it to be classed as an 'Important' hedgerow under the *Hedgerows Regulations* 1997. It may qualify as 'Important' under the Regulations' 'Wildlife and Landscape' criteria, but a detailed survey of the hedge's flora and fauna would be required to ascertain whether this is the case.

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