



**Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

**The Cabbage Patch, Rowneys Farm, Foxcote Hill  
Ilmington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire:  
Archaeological Investigative Works**



**by Rebecca Shaw  
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1780 Great Western Road  
Anniesland  
Glasgow  
G13 2TL

Tel: 0141 959 3168  
Mob: 077861 35432  
Email: [rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com](mailto:rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com)  
Website: [www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk](http://www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk)

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# 1 Introduction

This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works undertaken on a site located at Rowneys Farm, Foxcote Hill, Ilmington in Warwickshire (NGR: SP 2119 4339) (Figure 1). The proposed works comprise the erection of two dwellings on land known locally as “The Cabbage Patch” to include closure of the existing access and the creation of a new vehicular access (planning application no. S13/13/03310/FUL) (Figure 7a).

In order to inform on the archaeological concerns Stratford-on-Avon District Council asked for archaeological evaluation works to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist (Anna Stocks) who provides advice to Stratford-on-Avon District Council on such matters, provided guidance on the nature of the archaeological works required.

The evaluation works comprised four machine cut evaluation trenches (extending to 39.7m) excavated under archaeological supervision. The trenches were sited to ensure that all areas subject to ground disturbance by the development proposals were evaluated, with two trenches within the footprint of the two new dwellings; one within the car-parking area and one over the new driveway (Figures 7a & 7b). No significant archaeological remains were uncovered during the monitoring works.

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services has been appointed to act with regard to the condition by D A Cook (Builders) Ltd on behalf of their clients. The terms of the works were agreed through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Shaw, 2014) with Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist and Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

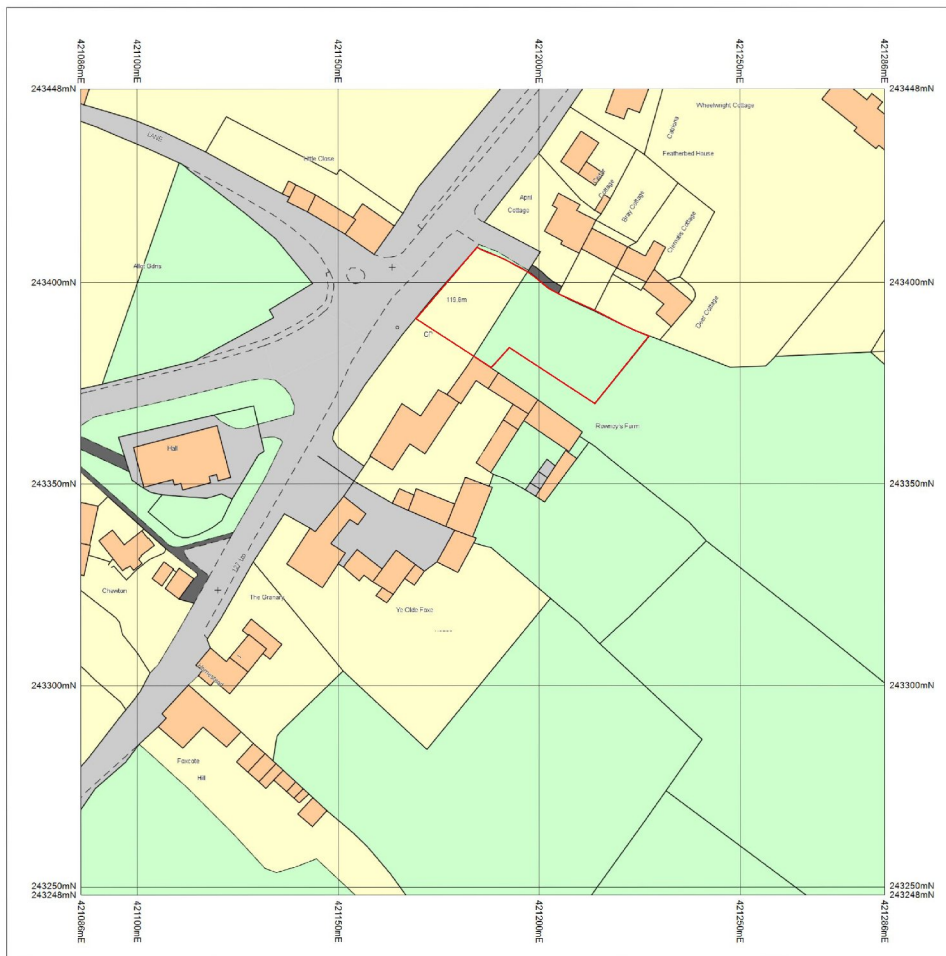


Figure 1 – Current ordnance survey map showing location of proposed development works © Crown Copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey – 100048957



## 2 Background

The old name for Ilmington is *Ilmedane* which suggests wood was abundant (Gardner & Ibbotson, 1974) and the village is thought to be medieval in origin. The Historic Environment Record (HER) however, records a number of archaeological finds within and around the proximity of the village which also indicate prehistoric and Roman activity.

Early mapping sources depict that from at least the latter half of the eighteenth century (when the lands of Ilmington Village were enclosed) to the present day, the proposed development site has been open undeveloped ground. The only feature of note is a possible boundary (wall or hedge) aligned roughly NNE / SSW which is marked on both the Enclosure Award Map (Figure 3a) and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3b) towards the western end of the site.

The current owner's family purchased the proposed development plot (as part of Rownes Farm) over 50 years ago and since this period it has mainly been used to grow vegetables (hence 'Cabbage Patch') and trees (Mr Gunn pers. comm.).



Figure 2 – Aerial photograph of proposed development site (1992)  
© Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service

## 3 Project Works

The works, consisting of four machine cut trenches, were carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and were undertaken as stipulated in the Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

All works complied with the Chartered Institute For Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and English Heritage Policy Statements.

## 4 Findings

The locations of the four trenches are shown in (Figure 7b) and the findings are detailed

within the appendices on page 11.

Trench 1 was aligned roughly E / W and measured 15.5m by 2.3m (at most) (Figures 4b & 7b). In general the topsoil comprised either a greyish brown loam [101] or a very dark brown fairly (rich) fine silt [110] above a pale yellowy brown clay subsoil [102] (Figure 4b). At the W end of the trench red bricks [107] from a former path (Mr Gunn pers. comm.) were noted immediately below the turf. Visible below deposit [110] - along a section of the southern edge of the trench - there was a cobbled / stone surface [109] measuring roughly 11.5m in length and 0.80m in width (visible as runs under baulk) (Figure 4c). The cobbled surface [110] comprised various sized (mostly sub-angular) stones (front cover) with a very compact yellowy grey clay [111] spread over the upper surface. Numerous sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery & glass were recovered from both the upper surface of deposit [111] and within topsoil [110] - occasional sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire slipware were also recovered. The denuded remains of a stone wall [108] was noted towards the western end of the cobbled surface [109] (Figure 4d) – the wall, which comprised mainly angular stones, appeared to cut through cobbled surface [109]. A narrow linear feature [112] (Figure 4b) was noted towards the eastern end of the trench, which measured roughly 15cm in width and 100mm in depth.

Trench 2 was aligned NW / SE, measuring 9m by 1.8m and between 300mm and 400mm in depth (Figures 6a & 7b). In general the topsoil comprised a greyish brown loam [101] with frequent roots (from adjacent hedge and trees / bushes). The subsoil comprised a compact pale yellowy brown clay [102] (Figure 5b) and three features [103], [104] and [105] were visible within the base of the trench. Feature [103] comprised an irregular oval measuring 1.10m by 0.40m (at most) and was filled with a loosely compacted greyish brown loam [101]. Features [104] and [105] comprised slightly rounded square shaped features measuring roughly 0.70m by 0.70m and 1m by 0.90m (respectively) and both contained a mid to dark brown loam [106] containing charcoal flecks & occasional sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century china.

Trench 3 was aligned NNW / SSE and measured 9.5m by 4.3m (at most) (Figure 7b) (this trench was widened slightly during works to ensure appropriate coverage as the initial trench was slightly misaligned). The trench was excavated to a depth of 260mm (at most) (Figure 6b) and comprised a greyish brown loam [101] above a compact pale yellowy brown clay [102] (Figure 5a). Moderate roots were visible in the base of the trench and three sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> china were recovered from topsoil [101].

Trench 4 was aligned WSW / ENE, measuring 5.7m by 1.8m and between 190mm and 290mm in depth (Figures 6c & 7b). The topsoil comprised a greyish brown loam [101] and was above a compact pale yellowy brown clay [102] (Figure 5c). Two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> china and one clay pipe stem were recovered from topsoil [101].

## 5 Discussion

Cartographic evidence depicted that from at least the late eighteenth century there has been no development within the application area. However, as the Historic Environment Records indicated that a wide variety of sites and finds dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods, have been recorded within the Ilmington area, there was potential to uncover archaeological remains that pre-dated the eighteenth century.

In general the archaeological investigative works mainly revealed a topsoil comprising a greyish brown loam [101] above a pale yellowy brown clayey subsoil [102]. Given the location of the site, at the base of a slope, there was the possibility that hillwash over the centuries would have created a fair depth of topsoil. The topsoil however, was fairly shallow, measuring 400mm at most (trench 2) and as little as 160mm (trench 3). The 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> pottery sherds that were recovered from the fills of features [103]; [104] & [105], within trench 2 (Figure 5b), indicate these features are fairly modern. The reasonably straight edges on two of the features, as well as their loose fill, appears consistent with information from the current owner that this was where (plug) conifer trees were planted (circa 50years ago) which were subsequently dug up and used as family Christmas trees over the decades.

The only features of note uncovered during the excavations were within trench 1 and comprised a cobbled / stone surface [109] (Figure 4c) and the denuded remains of a stone wall [108] (Figure 4d). Although the southern extent of the cobbled surface [109] was unknown (as it ran beneath the baulk) it appears to represent an area of hard-standing that could be related to the farm outbuilding to the immediate south. The cobbles therefore could extend to the exterior wall of the outbuilding. The clay deposit [111] above the cobbles was so compacted that it is probable that it was either deliberately spread.

Although numerous sherds of pottery; glass & bone were recovered from [111] they mainly came from the upper surface and were likely deposited after the cobbled surface went out of use. The majority of the finds, which mostly came from deposit [110], were quite *midden-like* in nature and may have come from a nineteenth century rubbish or compost heap. Although occasional sherds of eighteenth century Staffordshire slipware were recovered, the sherds were mixed amongst nineteenth century finds. The denuded wall [108] that was located towards the western end of the trench, cut through the cobbled surface [109], indicating the wall was constructed after the cobbled surface. Comparison of the Enclosure Award (Figure 3a) and 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 3b) depicts a possible boundary wall in more or less the same location as wall [108].

Although the majority of the finds recovered from trench 1 were nineteenth century in date, evidence from early mapping indicates that the cobbled surface [109] and the denuded wall [108] may date to the late eighteenth century.

Given that no significant archaeological remains or deposits were uncovered during the course of the evaluation trenches the recommendation is that no further archaeological works are required. The appropriateness and acceptability of this recommendation rests with Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist who provides advice to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

## 6 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken on a site located at Rowneys Farm, Foxcote Hill, Ilmington in Warwickshire. The works were undertaken as part of the requirement of the issued planning consent for the erection of two dwellings on land known locally as "The Cabbage Patch" to include closure of the existing access and the creation of a new vehicular access. The works, which were carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015, comprised a series of trenches excavated over the areas that would be affected by the proposed new development.

In general the trenches revealed a fairly shallow greyish brown loam above a compact pale yellowish brown clayey subsoil. The majority of finds that were recovered were nineteenth century in date and mainly came from within a dark brown fairly rich fine silty deposit in trench 1, which may have been a compost / rubbish heap. Evidence indicates the cobbled surface and denuded stone wall, which were also within trench 1, probably date to the late eighteenth century.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were uncovered during the course of the monitoring works.



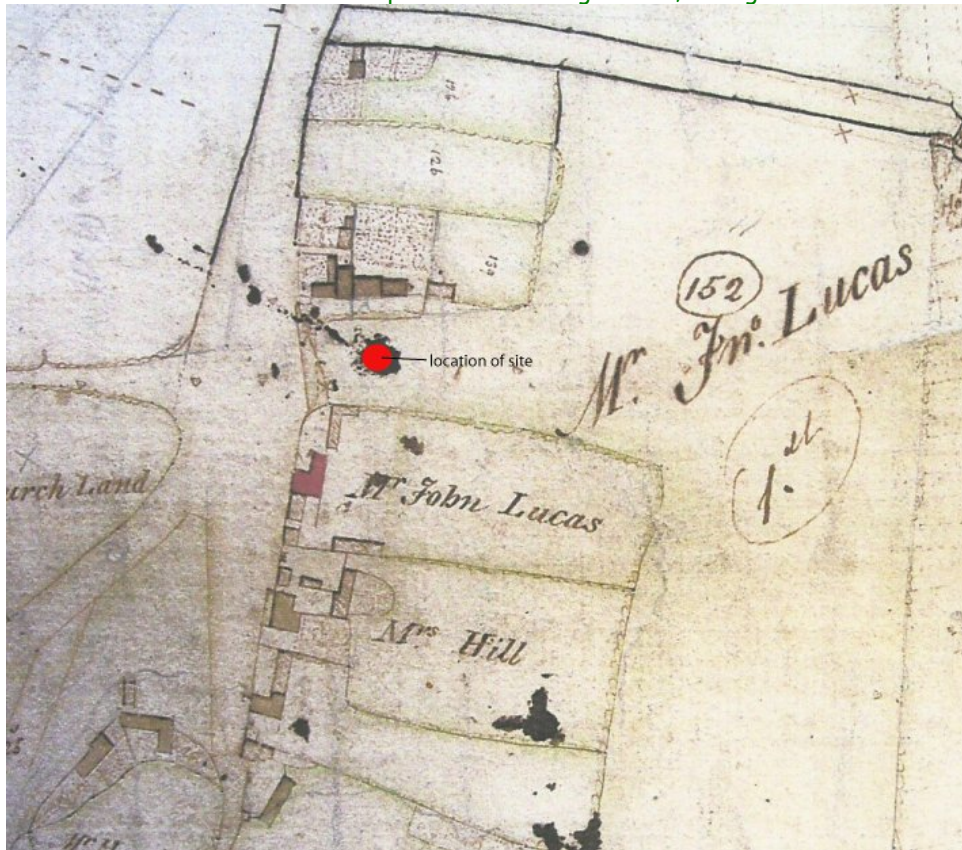


Figure 3a – Extract from the Enclosure Award Map of Ilmington Village (1781)  
(© Shakespeare Birthplace Trust ER 145/434-5)

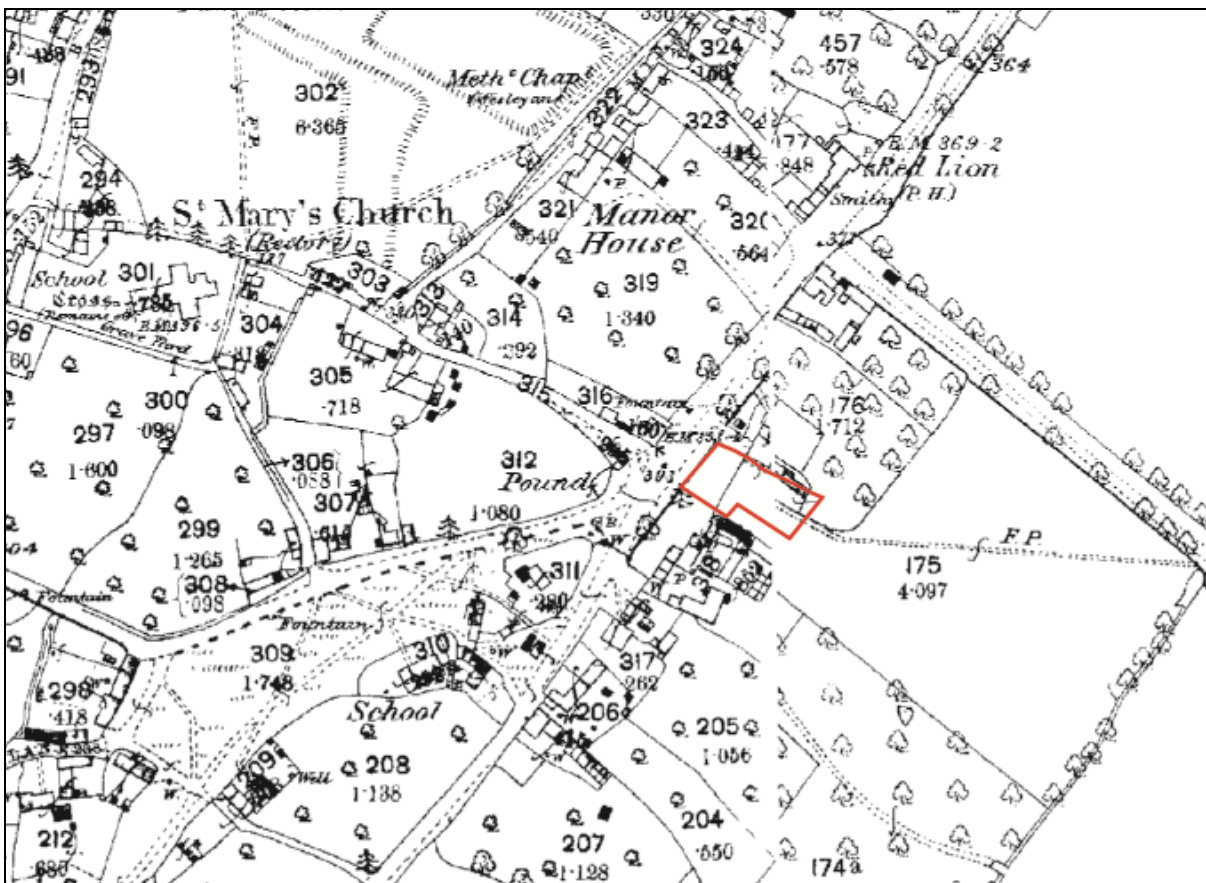


Figure 3b – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (1885) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (643260132)





Figure 4a – Trench 1 pre-ex (from E)



Figure 4b – Trench 1 post-ex (from E)



Figure 4c – Trench 1 – cobbled surface [109]



Figure 4d – Trench 1 – wall [108]





Figure 5a – Trench 3 post-ex (from SSE)



Figure 5b – Trench 2 post-ex (from SE)



Figure 5c – Trench 4 post-ex (from WSW)





Figure 6a - NE facing section (partial) through Trench 2



Figure 6b - WSW facing section (partial) through Trench 3



Figure 6c - NNW facing section (partial) through Trench 4



Data Structure Report - The Cabbage Patch, Ilmington

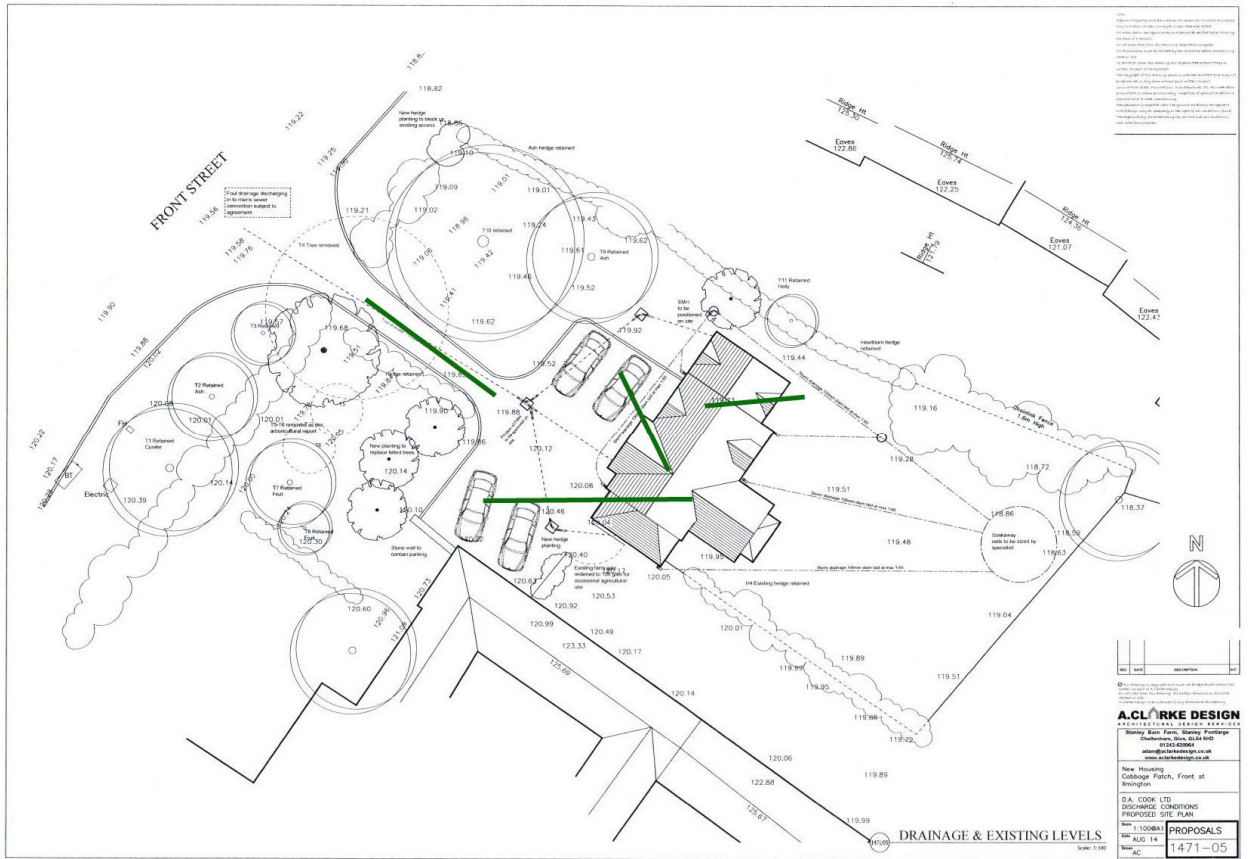


Figure 7a – Site plan showing proposed new dwelling / trench locations



Figure 7b – Site map showing actual location of excavated trenches.

## References

### **Documentary**

DCLG 2012 National Planning Policy Framework. Planning Policy Statement 5: *Planning for the Historic Environment*

Gardner S.M 1974 The History of Ilmington  
Ibbotson E.M.H

### **Cartographic**

Enclosure Award 1781 Enclosure map of village (Shakespeare Birthplace Map Trust – ER 145/434-5)

Ordnance Survey 1885 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500, Warwickshire

Ordnance Survey - Current Ordnance Survey 1:1,250, Warwickshire

### **Aerial Photographs**

Ilmington oblique AP 1992 Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service (SP2143/C - WAR13651/11)

## Acknowledgements

I would like thank D A Cook for arranging plant & facilities for the site works and to Stuart Cook for plant operation. Also appreciated was background knowledge provide by Mr Gunn as well as the historical background & mapping provided by Brian Meredith. Many thanks also to Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist for preparation of the brief and to the Historic Environment team for their help and hospitality during my visit to their offices.



## Appendix 1: Trench Details

### **Trench 1**

Orientation:	East to West
Size:	15.5m by 1.8m (2.3m at most)
Subsoil character:	Pale yellowy brown clay [102]
Modern features:	Denuded wall [108]; Cobbled surface [109]
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None

### **Trench 2**

Orientation:	Northwest / Southeast
Size:	9m by 1.8m
Subsoil character:	Pale yellowy brown clay [102]
Modern features:	Tree bowls [103]; [104]; [105]
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None.

### **Trench 3**

Orientation:	North northwest / South southeast
Size:	9.5m by 1.8m (4.3 at most)
Subsoil character:	Pale yellowy brown clay [102]
Modern features:	None
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None.

### **Trench 4**

Orientation:	West southwest to east northeast
Size:	5.7m by 1.8m
Subsoil character:	Pale yellowy brown clay [102]
Modern features:	None
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None.
Artefacts:	None.

## Appendix 2: Record Summariesg

*Context Summaries*

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Topsoil	Greyish brown loam clay between 160mm and 400mm in depth
102	Subsoil	Compact pale yellowy brown
103	Tree bowl	Irregular oval measuring 1.10m by 0.40m and filled with [101]
104	Tree bowl	Slightly rounded square shaped feature measuring roughly 0.70m by 0.70m and filled with [106]
105	Tree bowl	Slightly rounded square shaped feature measuring roughly 1m by 0.90m and filled with [106]
106	Fill of features [104] & [105]	Mid to dark brown loam with flecks of charcoal and occasional sherds of 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> century pottery
107	Red brick path	Red brick path immediately below turf (path from farmhouse to garden – Mr Gunn pers comm.)
108	Denuded wall	Denuded wall, aligned north / south, comprises mainly angular stones mixed with topsoil [101] – cuts through cobbled surface [109]
109	Cobbled / stone surface	Cobbled / stone surface measuring roughly 11.5m in length and 0.80m in width (as visible as runs under baulk). Comprised various sized (mostly sub-angular) stones.
110	Topsoil	Dark brown fairly (rich) fine silt, averaging 300mm in depth, containing frequent sherds of mainly 19 <sup>th</sup> century ceramics & glass and occasional bone fragments (occasional sherds of 18 <sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire slipware)
111	Clay deposit above [109]	Very compact yellowy grey clay with numerous sherds of mainly 19 <sup>th</sup> century ceramics & glass within the upper surface of the clay (occasional sherds of 18 <sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire slipware)
112	Possible plough scar	Narrow linear, aligned NW / SE and measuring 15cm in width by 100mm in depth most

*Photographic Record*

No.	Colour Disc No.	Image No.	B&W Disc No.	Image No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	1	1	General pre-ex of trench 2 after scrub removal	SE	9/03/15
2	1	2	1	2	General pre-ex of trench 1 after scrub removal	E	9/03/15
3	1	3	1	3	Trench 2 post-ex	SE	9/03/15
4	1	4	1	4	Trench 3 post-ex	SSE	9/03/15



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5	1	5	1	5	Trench 4 post-ex	WSW	9/03/15
6	1	6	1	6	Trench 1 post-ex	E	10/03/15
7	1	7	1	7	Pre-ex of linear [112] in trench 1	SE	10/03/15
8	1	8	1	8	WSW facing section (partial) within trench 3 (DRG 005)	SSW	10/03/15
9	1	9	1	9	NNW facing section (partial) within trench 4 (DRG 006)	NNW	10/03/15
10	1	10	1	10	NE facing section (partial) within trench 2 (DRG 004)	NNE	10/03/15
11	1	11	1	11	N facing section (partial) within trench 1 (DRG 008)	N	10/03/15
12	1	12	1	12	Wall [108] within trench 1	N	10/03/15
13	1	13	1	13	General of cobbles [109] within trench 1	W	10/03/15

*Drawing Record*

Sheet No.	Drawing No.	Description	Scale	Date
1	001	Post-ex plan of trench 2	1:100	9/03/15
1	002	Post-ex plan of trench 3	1:100	9/03/15
1	003	Post-ex plan of trench 4	1:100	9/03/15
1	004	NE facing section through trench 2 (partial)	1:10	10/03/15
1	005	WSW facing section through trench 3 (partial)	1:10	10/03/15
1	006	NNW facing section through trench 4 (partial)	1:10	10/03/15
1	007	Post-ex plan of trench 1	1:100	10/03/15
1	008	N facing section through trench 1 (partial)	1:10	10/03/15

## Contact Details

### **Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

1780 Great Western Road  
Anniesland  
Glasgow  
G13 2TL

tel: 0141 959 3168  
mob: 07786 135432  
email: [rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com](mailto:rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com)  
website: [www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk](http://www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk)

### **Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist**

Planning Archaeologist  
Archaeological Information and Advice  
Shire Hall, PO Box 43  
Warwick CV34 4SX

tel: 01926 412276  
email: [annastocks@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:annastocks@warwickshire.gov.uk)