

**A WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT BANK HOUSE FARM,
YOCKLETON, SHROPSHIRE 2013**

by
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A report for
PF & MJ Williams & Son
Bank House Farm
Yockleton

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Archaeology Service

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Yockleton is a village 9km to the west of the centre of Shrewsbury, Shropshire. In April 2013 groundworks were carried out at Bank House Farm, Yockleton, Shropshire, in preparation for the erection of two poultry units on agricultural land to the west of Yockleton village and to the north of the hamlet of Stoney Stretton (centred on NGR SJ 3853 1022).

1.2 The development site lies immediately to the north of the line of the Roman road (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 00098) from Wroxeter to Forden Gaer, a road still in use as the modern B4386 road from Shrewsbury to Westbury. The site lies in land that formerly may have been part of a medieval park (HER 07717) on the west side of Yockleton.

1.3 Because of the scale of the development and the potential archaeological significance of the site, an archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment of the development. The archaeological assessment found that there was a low potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric to Roman date being within the development site. It recommended that adequate provision for the development would be met by an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the development.

1.4 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

1.5 The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by Nock Deighton Agricultural LLP on behalf of their clients to undertake the archaeological watching brief.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

2.1 The excavation for a new access track from the B4386 road to the site of the new poultry units was carried out at the end of April 2013. The excavation was carried out with a 360° tracked excavator under archaeological supervision. The access track was cut to a width of about 3.5m and a depth of c. 0.35m.

2.2 The topsoil comprised a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam c. 0.3m thick, which lay over the natural brown to yellowish brown sandy silty clay subsoil.

2.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the excavations.

2.4 One point of geological, rather than archaeological, interest, was the exposure of red sandstone bedrock beneath the topsoil in the southwest angle of the access track at NGR SJ 3875 0988



Photo 1: Excavations for the new access on the B4386 road, looking W, scale bar 05m



Photo 2: Excavations for the new access track, looking W, scale bar 05m



Photo 3: Excavations for the new access track, looking N