

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT BERWICK GROVE FARM,
UFFINGTON, SHROPSHIRE 2013**

by
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A report for
Mr R L Burton

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Archaeology Service

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2013 groundworks were carried out at Berwick Grove Farm, Uffington, Shropshire, as part of work that included the erection of an extension and new porches to the house and the re-alignment of part of the existing drive and the formation of a new farm access. The farm is situated 5km east-southeast of the centre of the county town, Shrewsbury, and 1km north of the village of Atcham.

1.2 The development site was located in an area known to be rich in cropmark features representing the buried remains of archaeological features of prehistoric and Roman date. The new access drives would cross a number of linear cropmark features (Historic Environment Record [HER] No 02455 thought to represent the below ground remains of prehistoric or Roman land boundaries. This part of the proposed development site was therefore deemed to have moderate to high archaeological potential.

1.3 There was a possibility that archaeological remains might be encountered and impacted on during the groundworks for the new access tracks. Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource, it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief during the ground disturbance. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned to undertake the archaeological work.

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.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

2.1 The excavation for the new access tracks was carried out on the 1st and 2nd July 2013. The excavation was carried out with a 360° tracked excavator under archaeological supervision. The new farm access track was cut to a width of about 4m and a depth of c. 0.4m, the improvement to the existing driveway to a depth of c. 0.3m.

2.2 The topsoil comprised a dark greyish brown sandy silty loam c. 0.3m thick, which lay over an impoverished ploughsoil of brown sandy silty loam 0.1m thick. This in turn lay over the natural reddish brown sandy subsoil. There was no sign of any feature or deposit within the subsoil that might have given rise to the cropmark features (which are clearly visible on aerial photographs).

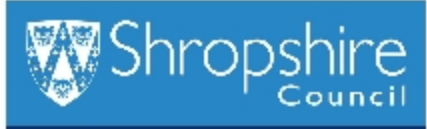
2.3 A single sherd of post-medieval slipware pottery and a small sherd of Roman Severn Valley ware pottery were recovered from the topsoil. A small flint thumbnail scraper – probably a chisel – of late Neolithic or Bronze Age date (see Fig.2) was also recovered from the topsoil on the southwestern edge of the excavation for the new farm track at SJ 54080 10460.

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



BERWICK GROVE FARM, UFFINGTON 2013
 Figure 1: The location of the site and the findspot of the flint scraper (F)

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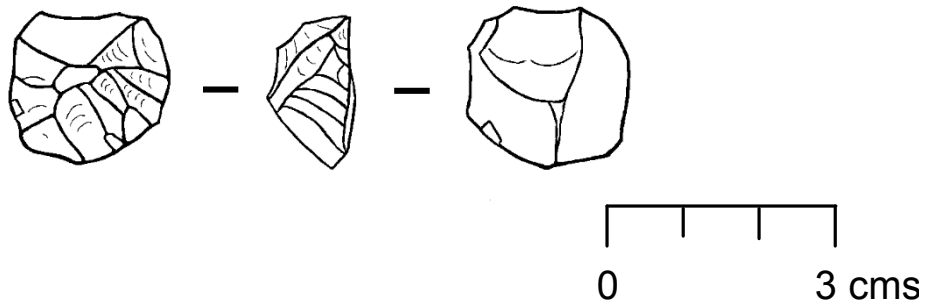


Figure 2: The flint thumbnail scraper (actual size)



Photo 1: The new farm access, looking NW, scales 1m and 0.5m



Photo 2: The re-aligned driveway, looking NW, scales 1m and 0.5m

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