

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In autumn 2014 the Archaeology Service monitored groundworks associated with the conversion of farm buildings at Bromwich Park, Maesbury to holiday let accommodation (NGR SJ 3212 2556).

1.2 Bromwich Park is an unlisted farmhouse of 19th century date, and is part of an early 19th century farmstead (Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 27520). There has been significant alteration to the historic form of the farmstead, and large modern sheds have replaced much of the historic farmstead. The two farm buildings that were being converted are among the earliest on the site.

1.3 The development site lies c. 50m northwest of a medieval moated site associated with a later formal garden (HER 02508). The moat is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (List Entry [LE] No. 1017006, "Bromwich Park moated site and formal garden remains"). English Heritage were consulted and indicated that they had no objection to the development, but recommended that there should be archaeological monitoring of any ground works.

1.4 The remains of a possible deserted medieval settlement (HER 02385) lie 80m to the west of the development site, and the cropmark of a farmstead enclosure (HER 01411) of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date lies 200m to the northwest of the development site. The proposed development site was therefore considered to have some archaeological potential. There was a possibility that archaeological remains might be encountered and impacted on during the groundworks for the development.

1.5 Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource, it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work. Following consultation with the Principal Archaeologist, Shropshire Council, it was agreed that the programme of archaeological work should comprise an archaeological watching brief on the initial topsoil strip for the development. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by Design & Planning Associates Limited on behalf of their client to undertake the archaeological work.

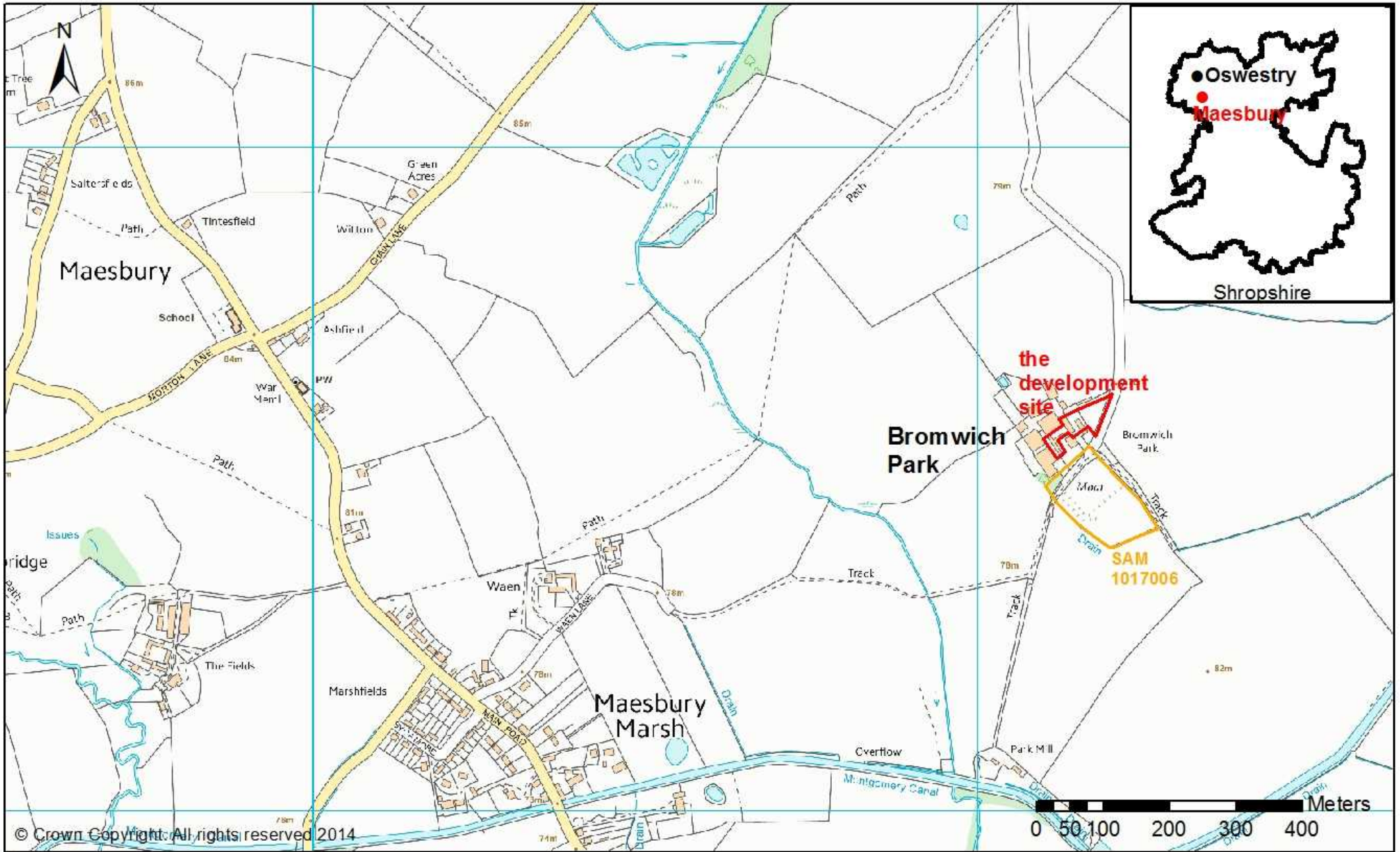
1.5 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

2.1 The site was visited on two occasions in October and November 2014 to monitor the excavation of drainage trenches associated with the development.

2.2 In a trench to the northeast of the farmyard, cut to link an existing soakaway to the new drainage system, a dark brown humic loam topsoil was seen to overlie a deposit of waterlogged peat. The farmyard itself, to the north and northwest, was on slightly higher ground, and here the modern concrete yard surfaces lay over made ground of gravel and pebble deposits up to 0.5m thick which in turn lay on natural brown and grey clay subsoils.

2.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief on the drainage works.



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BROMWICH PARK, MAESBURY 2014

Figure 1: the location of the development site

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Scale: 1:7,500