

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT
CONDOVER HOUSE, CONDOVER, SHROPSHIRE 2016**

by
H R HANNAFORD MCIFA

A Report for
CHARTERS PROPERTY LTD.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2016 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on groundworks associated with a development at Condover House, Condover, Shropshire SY5 7AA (NGR SJ 4930 0595). The works included the conversion of the existing house to form two dwellings, the construction of a garage, and the construction of a single detached dwelling. The watching brief in March 2016 was on the excavation of the foundations for the garage.

1.2 The village of Condover is believed to have early medieval origins. In the late Saxon period Condover was a large royal manor of 13 hides with 10 outliers, held by King Edward the Confessor. At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, the manor was held by Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, who kept over half of it as a demesne estate. In 1226 the manor was briefly held by Henry III's sister Joan (wife of Llewelyn the Great of Wales), but by 1284 it had been acquired by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells. In the later medieval period, the manor passed through a number of owners, but in the late 16th century it was acquired by the Owen family, who held it until the estate was broken up and sold in 1896. (Thorn & Thorn, 1986, 4,1,2 and notes).

1.3 The areas of current development around Condover House are in an undeveloped garden area within the village. It was therefore considered possible that archaeological features and deposits relating to the medieval and later development of the settlement might survive on the proposed development site.

1.4 Because of the potential archaeological significance of the development area it was made a condition of the planning consent that the development should be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work, to comprise a watching brief on groundworks associated with the development. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council was commissioned to carry out this programme of archaeological work.

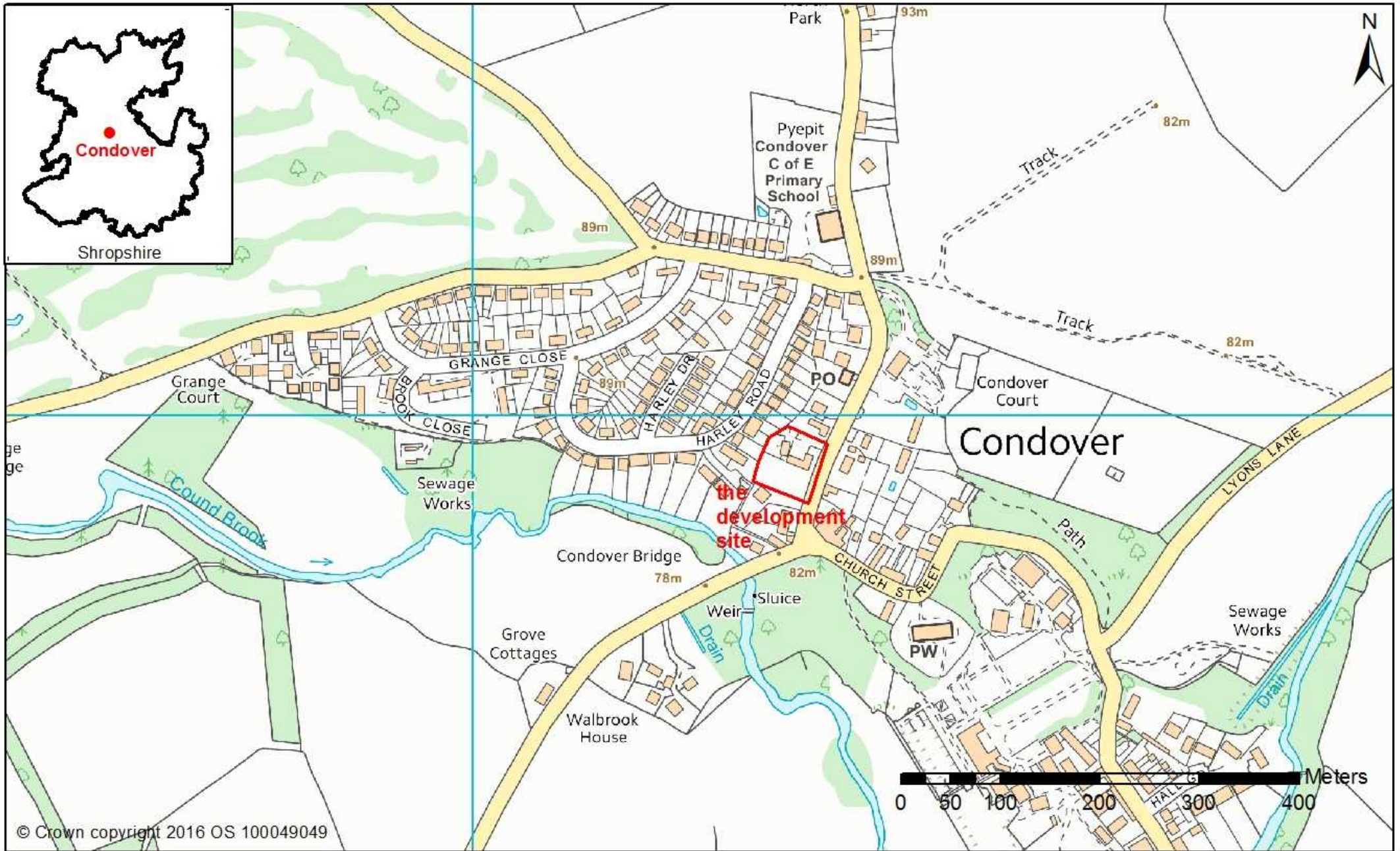
2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 On the site of the new garage on the north side of the existing house, the groundworks comprised the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new garage. The uppermost deposit comprised about 0.3m depth of stone over 0.2m of a reddish-brown sandy clay. This in turn lay over the natural subsoil, which consisted of a dark orange brown sand banded with gravel.

2.2 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

3 REFERENCES:

Eyton, Rev. W, 1858: *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. vi, p8-20
Thorn, F and Thorn, C (eds), 1986: *Domesday Book: Shropshire*, Chichester



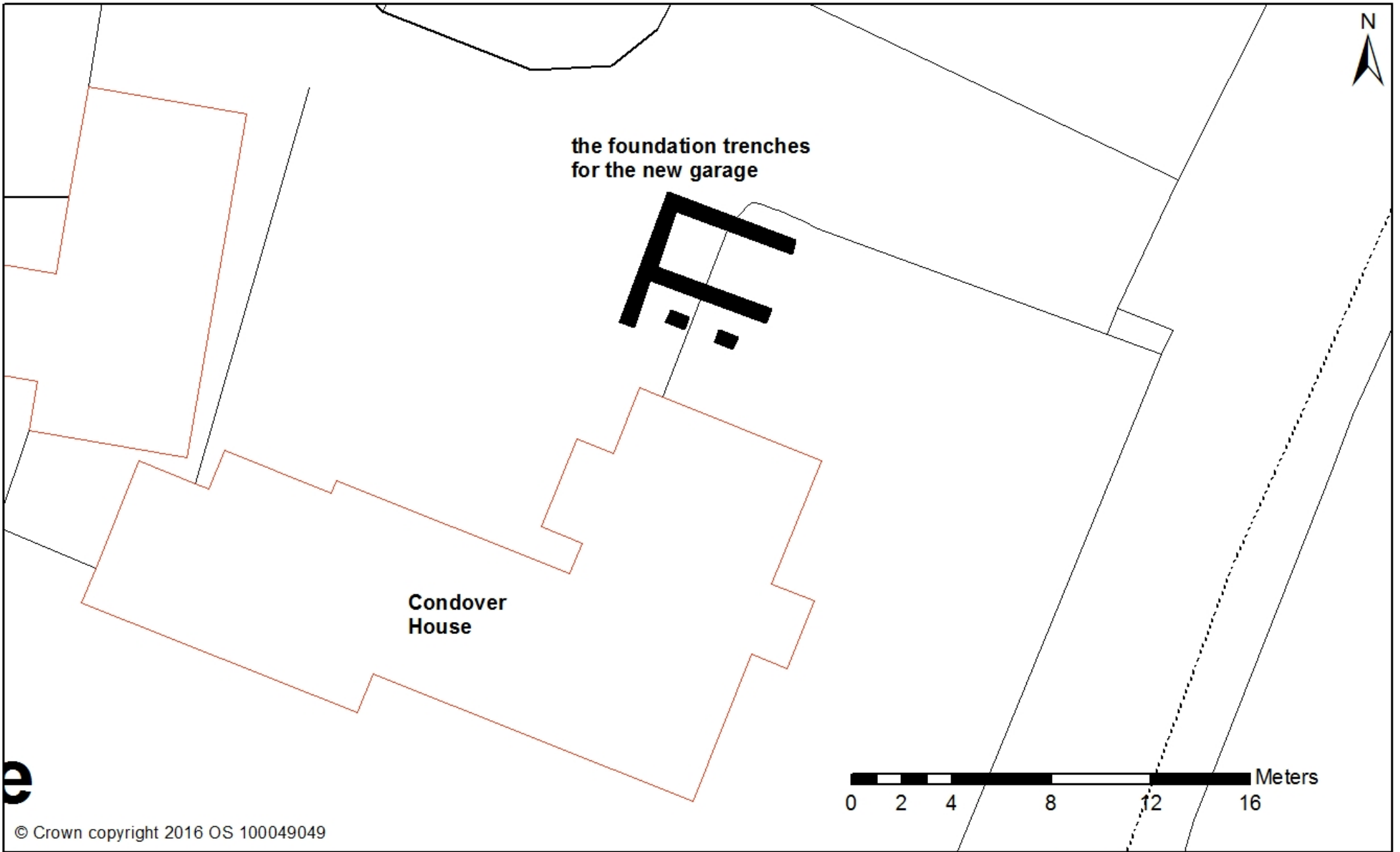
© Crown copyright 2016 OS 100049049



CONDOVER HOUSE, CONDOVER 2016
 Figure 1: The location of the development site

Archaeology Service,
 Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council,
 Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Scale: 1:5,001



© Crown copyright 2016 OS 100049049



Photo 1: The development site, looking SE



Photo 2: The foundation trench for the W side of the garage, looking SW; scale bar 1m

CONDOVER HOUSE, CONDOVER 2016