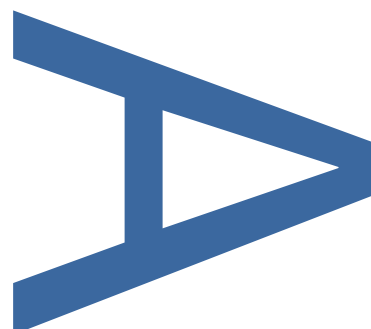
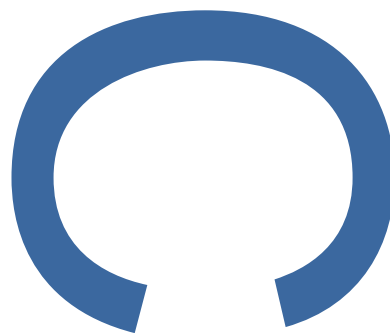


**LARK STOKE MANOR, DOWNS HILL  
ROAD, ADMINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY  
TRIAL TRENCHING ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**



**JUNE 2019**

**REPORT NO: R.13720**

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## **Lark Stoke Manor, Downs Hill Road, Admington, Warwickshire:**

### **An Archaeological Evaluation**

**Local Planning Authority:** Stratford-upon-Avon District Council

**Planning Reference:** PREAPP/00003/18

**Central National Grid Reference:** SP 19740 43875

**Site Code/Event Number:** LMAW19

**Report No.** R. 13720

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## ABSTRACT

*Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Clarke to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Lark Stoke Manor, Downs Hill Road, Admington, Warwickshire. The investigations were required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains within a Scheduled Ancient Monument ahead of constructing a new garage/barn for which a planning application has been submitted to Stratford-upon-Avon District Council.*

*Following the advice of Historic England three hand excavated evaluation test pits were undertaken to test the potential for archaeology in the footprint of the new build. All the test pits had to be moved to varying degrees due to the presence of a very steep slope, woodland and a stone retaining wall. The investigations revealed that the area had been reworked in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the conversion of the area from a working farm to private house. This was demonstrated via a large spread of modern material that lay directly onto the natural substrate. The third test pit was located immediately parallel to a modern stone retaining wall and revealed that the lawn directly overlay the natural with little else of note excepting the construction cut and backfill for the modern wall.*

*No evidence was found relating to any earlier activities and the presence of the substantial slope would suggest that the chances over much of the area to be developed is low. Previous investigations undertaken to the south revealed a number of medieval inhumations associated with the known former chapel, whilst there is no evidence that this extended north enough to be impacted upon by the proposed new build, movements around this southerly area would need to be carefully managed to ensure that no impact occurs.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at Lark Stoke Manor, Downs Hill Road, Admington, Warwickshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 19740 43875: Figure 1) between the 3rd and 5th June 2019. The investigations were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Clarke to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and impact upon it from the addition of a garage and a barn for which a planning application has been submitted to Stratford-upon-Avon District Council (Pre-Planning Reference: PREAPP/00003/18).
- 1.2 The proposed development is situated with the known Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) 'medieval settlement of Lark Stoke, Admington', (SAM reference: SM30047; HA1016568). Given the knowledge of the archaeological resource and the potential for impact, by the new development, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Historic England required a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to investigate this.
- 1.3 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2014a).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Jonathan Webster, Pre-Construct Archaeology (WSI 2019) in response to an archaeological brief which was prepared in consultation with Dr Neil Rimmington, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Planning Group, Historic England (Email: 24th April 2019). Scheduled Monument consent was granted in correspondence dated 28th May 2019.
- 1.5 In addition, the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching conforms to the

guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014a);
- *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014b);
- *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014c);
- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Morphe)*, Historic England: London (HE 2015);
- *Generic Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines; Archaeological Information and Advice*, Warwickshire County Council: Warwick (WCC 2017);
- *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, London (Taylor and Brown 2018);
- *Fieldwork Operations Manual, Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick Office*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Warwick (Webster 2018).

1.6 The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where observed;
- to establish the character of any potential features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- to recover artefactual materials from as many contexts as possible to allow for a refined chronological sequence of the site to be established;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material to gain an understanding on site preservations, potential and gain an understanding of formation processes;

- to provide the Local Planning Authority with a characterisation of the potential of the site so an informed decision can be made.

1.7 And specifically to;

- determine the presence or absence of known medieval deposits/features within the area of the proposed development;
- investigate the potential fringe extent of a known medieval cemetery to the south of the proposed build;
- to investigate the potential for colluvial deposits within the proposed footprint of the building and, if present, to investigate the potential for underlying archaeology to be present.

1.8 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at location of site deposition.



## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The underlying geology is mapped as Mudstone from the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, which was deposited between 183 and 210 million years ago, between the late Triassic and early Jurassic periods, and indicative of an environment dominated by shallow seas. No superficial deposits are mapped as being present (BGS 2019). The soils are mapped as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils, with limited drainage (Landis 2019).

### **2.2 Topography**

2.2.1 The site is located c.1.5km west of the village of Ilmington to the south of Stratford-upon-Avon. The estate is situated within the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Beauty, in the county of Warwickshire. The immediate landscape is characterised as field systems intermixed with copses, with glacially produced valleys forming the wider overall landscape.

2.2.2 The area of investigation is immediately to the southwest of the current Lark Stoke Manor. The Manor lies on a plateau at a height of c.126m AOD (above ordnance datum). The grassed area sloped and varies in the immediate area of the proposed new build from a height of c.130m AOD to the northwest down to c.125m AOD in the southeast. Within the wider landscape the northwest side of the valley descends from a height of c.145m, to c.115m at the base of the valley before rising sharply again to the southeast to a height of c.170m.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (PCA 2018) was produced on the known historical and archaeological background of the site and immediate vicinity. It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview of that document, for more information please refer to the original report.

3.1.2 The area of investigation is one of known archaeological interest and potential, as it is situated within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM30047) known as 'medieval settlement at Lark Stoke, Admington'. Remains from this settlement comprise remarkably well-preserved upstanding earthworks, and includes at least ten crofts and tofts as well as associated field systems which are most evident in the area to referred to as 'The Town'. The earthworks were surveyed as part of the Admington survey in the 1990s, additionally intrusive works in the 1990's revealed both structural and artefactual material that dated from between the 12th and 15th centuries. The medieval background of the site is discussed further below.

#### **3.2 Prehistoric**

3.2.1 The area is thought to have been under tree cover during the Mesolithic period, which likely remained so into the Neolithic period, with humans seasonably exploiting the streams and rivers in the area. The earliest recorded archaeology within the radius of the site was a scatter of worked Mesolithic flints found at Bog Mill Stalls approximately 500m to the northwest. Furthermore, two Neolithic settlement sites have been noted to the west of Admington Lane Farm to the northwest, both situation within valleys. The landscape is thought to have developed to support semi-enclosed field systems set within a dispersed landscape of small farmsteads and settlements throughout the Bronze Age and Iron Age, although only stray finds are known to have been found within 1km of the area of investigation.

#### **3.3 Romano-British**

3.3.1 The archaeological record suggests a continuation of the above dispersed

settlement patterns into the Romano British period. 3 heritage assets were identified within the study area (**MWA7023**), which appear to indicate the presence of a nearby high-status Roman building additionally, a further concentration of Romano British pottery was also identified (**MWA7471**), which again indicated a line of farmsteads.

### **3.4 Early-Medieval**

3.4.1 Although there is a distinct paucity of evidence from the early medieval period, documentary evidence from the 8th century AD supports our understanding of the period in general. Through the early and mid-Saxon period, the area of investigation was encompassed by the estate of Mickleton which fragmented in the late 8th or early 9th century, with the area of Lark Stoke being held by the settlement of Hidcote at the time of the Domesday survey.

### **3.5 Medieval**

3.5.1 The size of the aforementioned settlement appears to have remained roughly static over the following 300 year, although there was a decline in the population as was seen nationally due to the Black death. It would appear that following this epidemic, there was a reasonable rate of recovery, as the Poll-tax returns from 1380 indicate that eleven households were eligible at the time of record.

3.5.2 The historic environment record bolsters our understand of the settlement patterns in the area during the medieval period, particularly of pertinence is **MWA1829** relating to the site of a Medieval deserted settlement 100m west of Lower Larkstoke, comprising of roads and house platforms that are visible as earthworks. Clustered in the northern area of the site are two other assets that are relevant to make mention of, particularly due to their proximity to these investigations, and they are **MWA12621**; a Medieval cemetery either for the family of Lower Lark Stoke Manor or the villagers of the deserted settlement of Lark Stoke, and **MWA12670**, A rubble-filled gully may represent the remains of a robbed-out wall. The evaluation that recorded the above gully also revealed a linear ditch, a group of seven inhumations dated to between the 12th and 15th centuries as well as two stone walls set at a right angle to

each other, thought to be part of a chapel.

3.5.3 During the 15th century, the register of the Guild of the Holy Cross, St Mary and St John the Baptist of Stratford-on-Avon suggests a rapid decline in settlement, supported by court rolls that recorded a number of buildings that were allowed to fall into ruin, leaving the settlement depopulated.

3.5.4 The medieval manor house has proved somewhat illusive, although based upon current understanding of typical layouts of medieval villages it is thought to be location at the opposite end of the settlement to the current manor house, as the manorial chapel is thought to be situated near the existing manor house after landscape gardening in the mid-90s near the south of the present buildings revealed worked stone.

### **3.6 Post-medieval**

3.6.1 The current manor house is assumed to have been built in the early 17th century, based on records made by local antiquarian Fredrick Potter in the 20th century. Although the layout of the manor at this time is uncertain, records of a skirmish during the English Civil War suggest the building was of stone and comprised the house and a stable block. A previous archaeological investigation revealed a cobbled surface (**MWA12669**), supporting the assertion of stable block with external surfaces.

3.6.2 Following, the skirmish, the manor house was set alight, and in the following 350 years, the house, and its associated grounds, would pass through a number of owners. Of these owners, its worth making particular note of William Fletcher, who owned the property in the first half of the 19th century. He was responsible for significant alterations to the grounds, which are marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1884. Features included a ha ha, ponds and a cascade. The alterations carried out by Fletcher were not contained to the grounds exclusively; he was also responsible for reconstruction of the roofs on the two principal ranges associated with the manor. The remodelling of the estate carried out by Fletcher is likely to have had major impact on underlying archaeological deposits present, particularly in the vicinity of the fishponds and the adjacent stream.

3.6.3 By the 1830's, Fletcher had emigrated to America, and left the estate to his brother, who, after 20 years of residing there, subsequently let the grounds out to tenant farmers. Through the early and mid 20th century, farm outbuildings and barns were constructed, however aerial imagery shows that following their construction, the estate went through a period of decline, and by the 1990s the grounds were overgrown, and the buildings in a state of disrepair.

### **3.7 Conclusions**

3.7.1 Based on the known archaeological history and historic background it is believed that there is a low potential for prehistoric, Romano-British or early medieval deposits or features to be revealed. However, there is a high potential for medieval activity to be exposed with particular emphasis on the peripherals of the known graveyard and potential chapel. There is also a moderate chance for artefactual material from the English Civil War to be present although at present it is believed that the foci of the skirmish took place on the opposite side of the house. Finally, there is a moderate to high chance for postmedieval and modern deposits and features to be seen, predominantly associated with the 19th century 'redevelopment' of the gardens and the 20th century 'farming' practices undertaken in the area.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Excavation and Sampling**

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of three trenches measuring 2m in length by 1m in width across the proposed development footprint. The trenches were targeted to characterise the potential for archaeological remains. Once on site all three of the trenches had to be moved. Trench one had to be moved 2m to the southeast due to being placed upon a very steep slope that was covered with trees. Trench two had to be shifted 4m to the southeast due to the same issues as above. The southwest corner of Trench three had to be rotated clockwise so that it was placed parallel to and against the retaining wall. This was undertaken to avoid the trench spanning the wall itself. All movements were undertaken following agreement with Historic England.

4.1.2 All deposits were removed by hand, by a suitably trained archaeologist. All possible features were inspected for their potential and deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and palaeoenvironmental samples. All spoil was set aside beside each trench on tarpaulin and examined visually.

4.1.3 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem was then produced for each stratified context and the dates used to help determine the broad date phasing for the site. On completion of the fieldwork, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard local and national guidelines (CIFA 2014c). Please note, the following categories of materials will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified;
- modern pottery;

- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

4.1.4 Archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise, date them and determine their significance.

4.1.5 Field excavation techniques and recording methods followed those detailed in the Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines (WCC 2017), the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2018) and PCA Fieldwork Operations Manual Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick (Webster 2018).

## **4.2 Recording Methodology**

4.2.1 The limits of excavations and all details were hand planned, and an overall site plan produced. These were tied into the local landscape and ordnance datum using a Geomax Mesa2 rover unit. This utilised X-PAD Survey 3 software with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better with each point recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model.

4.2.2 All planning was undertaken by hand and drawn at an appropriate scale on polyester based drafting film and labelled in relation to a site-specific drawing register.

4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2018; Webster 2018). Context sheets were filled in by the archaeologist who excavated the deposit. All deposits seen during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 1.

4.2.4 All deposits were recorded with sufficient data to allow for a full characterisation of the context and its relationships to be made and allow for future studies to query and compare the dataset with confidence.

4.2.5 The primary photographic record of the site was undertaken using a 35mm

black and white (silver halide) film SLR. This was complemented with high-resolution digital photographs using a Canon EOS 1300D digital SLR camera with an 18.0-megapixel resolution. Photographs were taken of all deposits and all images labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to site specific photography registers, one for the film photography and a second for the digital images.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section described the results of the evaluation at Lark Stoke Manor. It is not intended to fully describe every deposit encountered, however a full discussion can be found in Appendix 1 and the revised locations are shown on figure 2.

### 5.2 Test pit 1

5.2.1 Test pit 1 was the most south westerly of the three interventions and was orientated northeast to southwest. The trench was rotated 90 degrees and moved approximately 2m to the southeast from its original location. This was required due to the original placement being on a steep slope situated within dense woodland.

5.2.2 The natural substrate **(102)** was revealed at a depth of 0.30m BPGL (Below present ground level; 126.61m AOD) at the south of trench on the plateau, increasing to 0.50m BPGL (126.79m AOD), this change largely being reflective within the current topography. **(102)** comprised a moderately compact sterile clay or mid orange orangey brown clay with frequent rooting throughout and was at least 0.05m in thickness. This was overlain by a layer of 0.35m thick deliberately backfilled modern material **(103)**. Made up of a mid-greyish brown silty clay, with occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded bolder sized fragments of Oolithic limestone throughout. In addition to this modern brick, glass, plastics and former cabling was also noted. This was then in turn covered by a 0.10m thick layer of topsoil **(101)**, highly humeric in nature, heavily rooted and composed of a moderately compact mid-brown greyish silty clay.

### 5.3 Test pit 2

5.3.1 Test pit 2 was also situated upon a steep slope within dense woodland. The trench was rotated by 90 degrees and moved 4m to the southeast.

5.3.2 The natural substrate **(202)** was revealed in the southwest of the trench at a depth of 0.40m BPGL (126.54m AOD) the geology was broadly level for 1.08m

of the trench when it then stepped up a moderately sloped angle to a height of 126.75m AOD (0.12m BPGL) in the northeast. It comprised a moderately compact sterile mid orangey brown clay and was at least 0.03m in thickness. Similarly, to Test Pit 1 this was overlain by a modern spread **(203)** 0.32m in thickness, it was moderately compacted mid-greyish brown silty clay, containing frequent rooting throughout, occasional modern ceramics and metal objects. This was then sealed by 0.05m of topsoil **(201)**, it comprised a highly humeric, heavily mixed with rooting silty clay of moderate compaction, mid-brownish grey in colour.

#### **5.4 Test pit 3**

5.4.1 Test pit three was placed upon the current lawn immediately parallel to the retaining wall for the gravel parking area to the immediate northeast. This was rotated clockwise roughly 90 degrees as upon laying out it was noted that the trench had been placed astride the wall.

5.4.2 The natural substrate **(302)** was observed at 0.42m BPGL, 124.62m AOD at the south of the test pit up to a height of 124.77m AOD at the north, reflecting the existing slope. The natural substrate seen was a sterile light yellowish-brown clay with moderate compaction and no visible inclusions. The natural was truncated along its eastern edge by cut **[303]**, the construction cut for the retaining wall to the immediate east. The visible extent of the cut was at least 2m in length and 0.23m in width, the cut was visible to at least 0.05m in height. It was filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay **(305)** that contained two subangular boulders **(304)** that were placed in the backfill as part of the consolidation. The above was sealed by a topsoil deposit **(301)**, as with **(305)** this deposit comprised a mid-brownish grey silty clay of moderate compaction that became more humeric towards the top and recorded at a thickness of up to 0.42m.

#### **5.5 Archaeological finds and/or Palaeoenvironmental sampling**

5.5.1 All deposits were inspected for their artefactual and palaeoenvironmental potential, unfortunately no deposits were seen that were considered suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling.

5.5.2 All artefactual material seen was of modern date and a representative sample of these were collected from each of the test pits from as many contexts as possible to help ascribe clear dating to the stratigraphic sequence. All of the following finds were found in the topsoil deposits of the test pits. A sample of ceramic building material (CBM) was collected from **(101)**, which appears to be a degraded red brick of late post medieval to modern date. From **(201)** a large sherd of white and black glazed pottery was found, with part of the base and rim in place, which may be part of chamber pot. From **(301)** an assortment of smaller finds was collected including a fragment of animal bone, a small metallic fitting, and some further CBM.

## 6 FINDS ASSESSMENT

By Gary Taylor and Alex Beeby

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Artefacts recovered during investigations at Lark Stoke Manor, Admington, Warwickshire are reported, below. The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014). In the absence of a published post-medieval pottery type series for Warwickshire, codes from the neighbouring Leicestershire type series have been used where necessary (c.f. Sawday, Unpublished).

6.1.2 A total of six items weighing a total of 43g were recovered.

### 6.2 Results

6.2.1 Table 1 below shows a full archive summary of the material collected, listed in context number order.

Test Pit	Context	Material	Description	Date	NoF	Wt(g)
1	103	Ceramic building material	Brick; handmade; fine oxidised fabric; sparsely occurring pale mudstone inclusions; post-medieval to early modern; stacking scar	19th to early 20th Century	1	652
2	203	Pottery	Fabric Code EA8 - Creamware; large thick-walled, straight-sided domestic bowl with long everted rim; crazed and dark stained glaze; full profile	Early to mid 19th Century	1	259
3	301	Ceramic building material	Ceramic building material; fine; surfaceless flake; moderately occurring rounded ferruginous mudstone	19th-20th Century	1	7
3	301	Iron	Washer; ,37mm external diameter;15mm diameter perforation; late post-medieval	18th-20th Century	1	22
3	301	Charcoal	Charcoal; roundwood	Undated	1	15
3	301	Bone	Animal bone; medium sized mammal; unfused	Undated	1	6
<b>Total</b>					<b>6</b>	<b>961</b>

Table 1, Summary of the finds collected

6.2.2 Items were recovered from the topsoil within Test Pit 3 (301) as well as spreads in Test Pits 1 and 2 (Contexts 102 and 203 respectively).

### 6.3 Discussion

6.3.1 All of the material is likely to be of post-medieval or early modern date,

including both items of domestic waste and demolition rubble. None of the material is of special note.

6.3.2 **Test Pit 1:** Produced a single fragment for a post-medieval dated brick. The item is probably 19th century in date.

6.3.3 **Test Pit 2:** Yielded a large fragment from a large thick-walled domestic bowl in Creamware (EA8). The vessel is probably of early to mid 19th century date.

6.3.4 **Test Pit 3:** Produced an iron washer of late post-medieval date and a moderately large piece of charcoal roundwood. The size and state of this suggests it has not suffered degradation through time, implying it is not particularly old, or has been in an inert environment and been undisturbed since deposition. Its recovery from topsoil indicates the former.

6.3.5 In addition to a single flake of 19th or 20th century dated ceramic building material, a single animal bone was also recovered. This is probably from a medium-sized mammal and indications of unfused epiphyses suggest it was immature.

## 6.4 Potential and Recommendations

6.4.1 The material is of very limited potential. The isolation of the animal bone renders it fairly insignificant. No further work is required and the material can be discarded.

## **7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The presence of a modern deliberately deposited layer across quite a large part of the investigated area is thought to have been placed after the demolition of the farm outbuildings when the site was being converted back into a home as opposed to a working farm. The lack of a subsoil or any colluvial, combined with the depth to the geology in trench 1 is suggestive of it being entirely within the foundation base of one of the previous barns demolished in the late 1990s and this is confirmed by overlying the survey data with historic mapping and aerial imagery. What is more puzzling is the step seen in test pit 2. This is on the same alignment of one of the known recent barn buildings but too far north of anything known, however the infilling of the pit with the same material would suggest that whatever it was has been all but removed during the previous phase of landscaping. The only other feature of note was associated with the construction of the still extant retaining wall immediate adjacent to Trench 3.
- 7.2 The test pits were able to demonstrate that much of the area was disturbed during the conversion from working farm to house and in making the current lawns. Whilst previous works demonstrated that medieval remains that cut the geology are present to the south, these are away from the proposed development area and are unlikely to be majorly impeded upon. The presence of the substantial slope within the proposed footprint will require a substantial quantity of material having to be moved, although it is not considered likely that any archaeology would be present within this area given the nature of the slope.
- 7.3 In conclusion, despite the quality of the known archaeology in the area as a whole it is considered that the construction of the new barn and garage is likely to have little to no direct impact upon it, however care should be given with regards to the transiting anything to the south of the proposed build to ensure that no impact occurs upon the known archaeology.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr and Mrs Clarke for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Dr Neil Rimmington, Historic England, for their advice and for monitoring the work. The author would also like to thank the project team: James Webb and Theo Fautley. Illustrations were produced by illustrator. Finds analysis was conducted by Finds supervisor. The project was managed by Jonathan Webster, who was also responsible for the quality of the project. The report was proofread and edited by Jonathan Webster.

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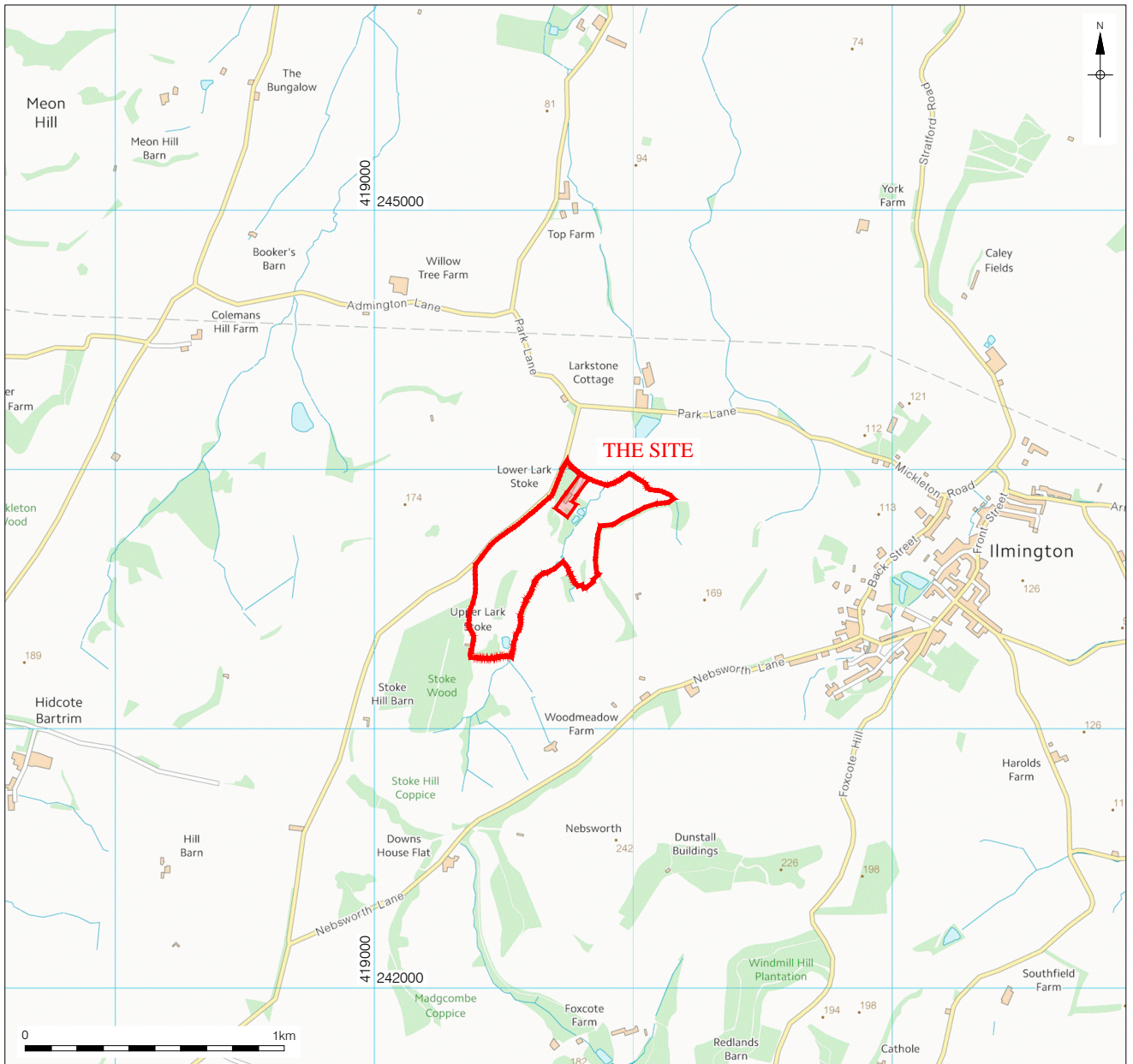
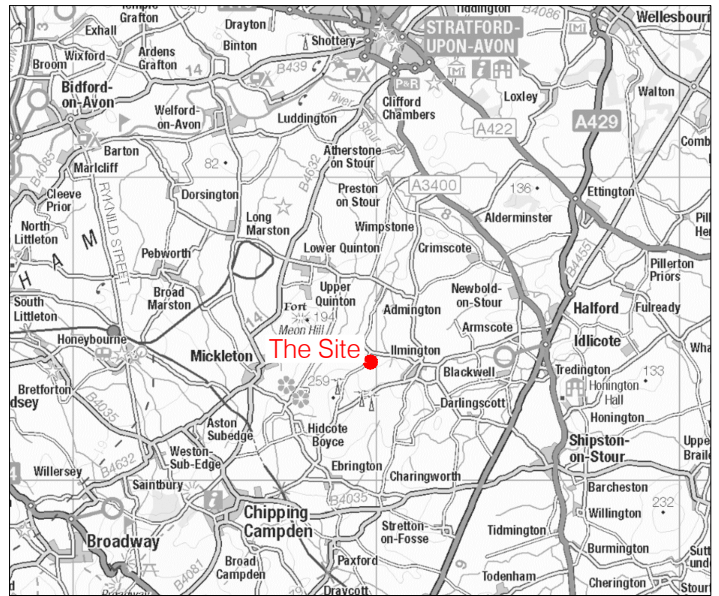
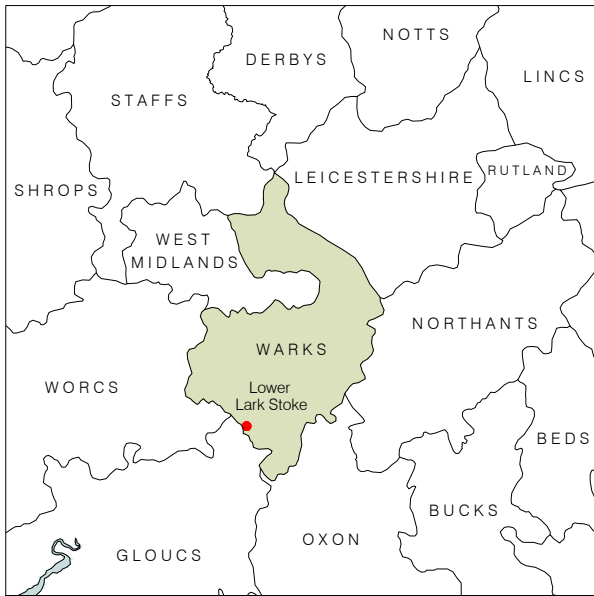
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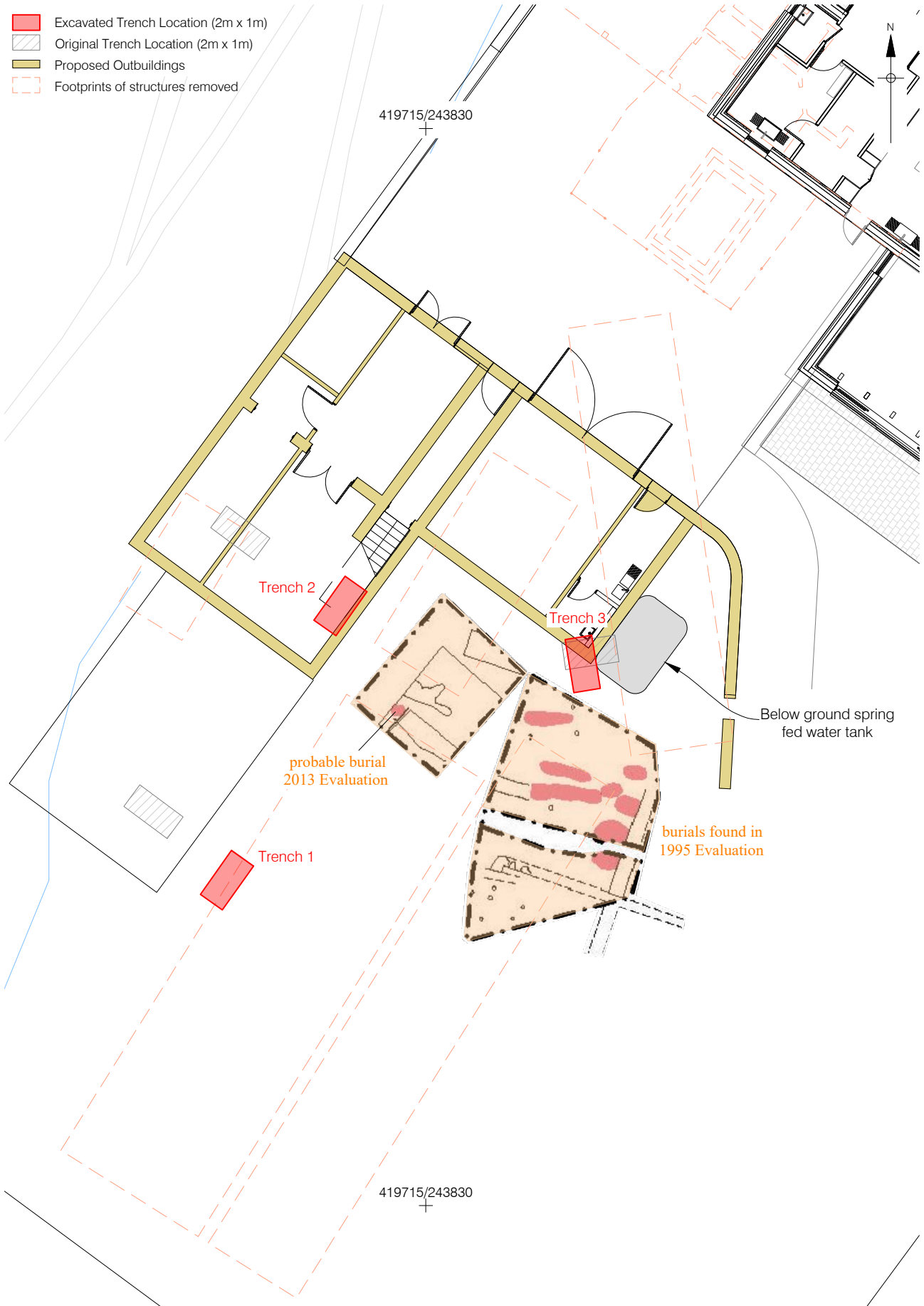
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01/05/19 MR

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 25,000 at A4

- Excavated Trench Location (2m x 1m)
- Original Trench Location (2m x 1m)
- Proposed Outbuildings
- Footprints of structures removed



0 10m

Figure 2  
Trench Location Plan  
1:200 at A4

## 10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1; test pit 1, North east facing, 1m scale



Plate 2; test pit 2, north east facing, 1m scale



Plate 3; test pit 3, facing south, 1m scale



## 11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

### Test pit 1

Length: 2m                      Width: 1m                      Orientation: north – south  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Thickness	Discussion
101	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay, heavily rooted with moderate compaction	0.10m	Topsoil, recorded at a thickness of 0.10m
102	Layer	Mid orange brown clay, moderate compaction	>0.05m	Natural substrate
103	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay, containing modern ceramic and iron, moderate compaction	0.35m	Modern spread of made ground, probably associated with forestry landscaping

### Test pit 2

Length: 2m                      Width: 1m                      Orientation: north - south  
 Minimum Depth: 0.12m                      Maximum Depth: 0.40m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Thickness	Discussion
201	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay, moderate compaction	0.05m	Topsoil, recorded at a thickness of 0.05m
202	Layer	Orangey brown clay, moderate compaction	>0.03m	Natural substrate
203	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay, containing modern ceramic and iron, moderate compaction	0.32m	Modern spread of made ground, probably associated with forestry landscaping

### Test pit 3

Length: 2m                      Width: 1m                      Orientation: east - west  
 Minimum Depth: 0.30m                      Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Thickness	Discussion
301	Layer	Mid brown grey silty clay, moderate compaction	0.42m	Topsoil, recorded at 0.42m thickness
302	Layer	Light yellowish-brown clay, moderate compaction	>0.03m	Natural substrate
303	Cut	Construction cut for	>0.05m	Construction cut for the

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
		modern retaining wall orientated northwest-southeast. Width at least 0.23m by >2m in length		modern retaining wall filled with 304 & 305
304	Structure	Subangular boulders of locally sourced oolitic limestone	>0.18m	Blocks of locally sourced limestone used as part of the backfill 305 within construction cut 303 for modern retaining wall.
305	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay of moderate compaction. Highly disturbed.	>0.05m	Modern backfill of construction cut 303 for retaining wall.



## 12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-356262

### Project details

Project name	Lark Stoke Manor, Admington, Warwickshire evaluation
Short description of the project	Following the advice of Historic England three hand excavated evaluation test pits were undertaken to test the potential for archaeology in the footprint of the new build. All the test pits had to be moved to varying degrees due to the presence of a very steep slope, woodland and a stone retaining wall. The investigations revealed that the area had been reworked in the latter part of the 20th century, during the conversion of the area from a working farm to private house. This was demonstrated via a large spread of modern material that lay directly onto the natural substrate. The third test pit was located immediately parallel to a modern stone retaining wall and revealed that the lawn directly overlay the natural with little else of note excepting the construction cut and backfill for the modern wall.
Project dates	Start: 03-06-2019 End: 05-06-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SM30047.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DMV Medieval
Methods & techniques	Test pits
Development type	Small-scale extensions
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	Pre-determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	Warwickshire, Stratford on Avon, Admington
Postcode	CV36 4JH
Study area	0.5Ha
Site coordinates	SP 19740 43875

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	J Webster
Project design originator	J Webster

Project director/manager	J Webster
Project supervisor	J Webb
Type of sponsor/funding body	Householder

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