

# Longbridge Manor, Stratford Road, Warwick, Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1531  
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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Longbridge Manor, Warwick

**Commissioned by:** Gary Plant of GFP Consultants Ltd on behalf of Forever Living Products (UK) Ltd.

**Project Report No.** 1531

**Site Code:** WLM11

**Planning Reference:** W/11/0740

**National Grid Reference:** SP 2682 6256

**Team:**

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of a new bin store in an area where medieval and 19<sup>th</sup> century remains had previously been found. No features were exposed and no archaeological finds were recovered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for a single storey building with new parking areas at Longbridge Manor, Stratford Road, Warwick (W/11/0740). The development lies within the probable extent of a medieval hamlet and close to several possible archaeological sites which show as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Prior to planning permission being granted an archaeological evaluation took place which indicated that archaeological remains, possibly of Iron Age date, might survive on the site (Gethin 2012).

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to carry out an archaeological excavation (2012) and watching brief (2014-15) prior to and during the construction of a new area of car-parking. An early Bronze Age flint scraper was found along with a small group of medieval features that were dated by pottery to the 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, which suggests they represented part of the medieval hamlet of Longbridge. A large ditch may have formed the boundary with the open fields whilst a pit and two gullies had a less certain function. The low yield of pottery and other finds tends to suggest that the areas examined lay some distance from medieval houses. The date range of the pottery may imply an early abandonment, perhaps during the first half of the 1300s. Given the hamlet still had up to ten houses in 1424 it is possible that these were concentrated on the northern side of the Stratford Road (Gethin 2015).

1.3 The single storey building will be completed at a later date. This report concerns the foundation trenches associated a bin store within the car-park carried out in April 2015. The archaeological archive will be added to the existing site project archive and stored at the Warwickshire Museum under the site code WLM11.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site lies at map reference SP 2682 6256 within the parish of Warwick. It lies on the south side of Stratford Road just to the south of Longbridge Manor house.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is 2nd Terrace River Gravel although it also lies very close to deposits of Lower Lias clay (British Geological Survey 1974).

### 3 RESULTS

3.1 Two short trenches were excavated for the foundation of the new bin store. These were 1m deep and 0.5m wide. The geological natural sand and gravel (4003) was reached at a depth of 1m. It was overlaid by 0.32m of brown sandy loam (4002), which seems most likely to have been an older plough soil. This was covered by 0.58m of modern hardcore (4000) make-up for the existing car-park which was sealed by 0.1m of tarmac surface (4000). No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Gary Plant of GFP Consultants Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of Forever Living Products (UK) Ltd.

### REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 1974 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), Solid and Drift Geology, Stratford-upon-Avon Sheet 200.*

Gethin, B, 2012 *Longbridge Manor, Stratford Road, Warwick, Warwickshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1201.

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General view of the excavated trenches

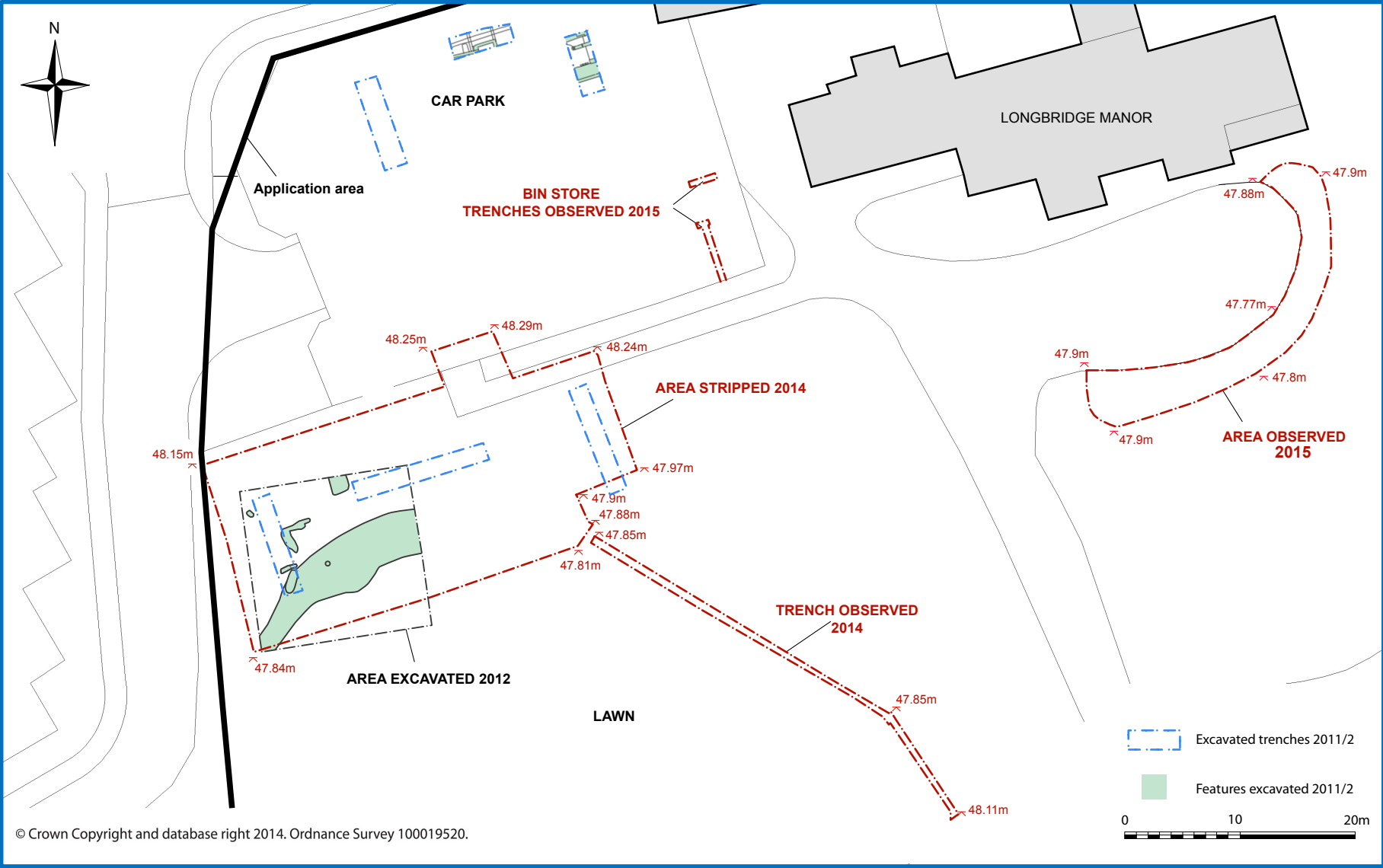


Fig 1: Location of all areas and trenches excavated, stripped and observed 2011-15