

# The Malt House, Broadwell, Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING



*understanding heritage matters*

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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** The Malt House, Broadwell

**Commissioned by:** Mr J Cockerill (Initiated by Ashley Leeman  
APT Design)

**Project Report No.** 1646

**Site Code:** LM13

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**National Grid Reference:** SP 4544 6590 and SP 4591 6598

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr J Cockerill, within the northern limit of the medieval settlement. Soil stripping for a new manège and foundation trenching for a new domestic extension were observed. The manège, at the rear of the plot, was reduced to the required depth within the overburden and no archaeological features were revealed. However, Roman pottery and a significant medieval pottery assemblage and a few sherds of 17th to 19th century pottery and assorted finds were recovered. A series of drainage trenches cut into the base of the manège into geological natural clay did not reveal any archaeological features. No deposits were revealed in the foundation trench at the front of the plot although several denuded earthworks visible in the garden may represent house platforms associated with a shrunken part of medieval Broadwell.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission was granted by Rugby Borough Council for the construction of a new garden room and manège at The Malt House, Hayway Lane, Broadwell, Rugby (R12/1987). The site lies within the supposed extent of the medieval settlement of Broadwell and it was therefore a condition of planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority which was carried out between June and August 2013. This report represents the results of that work and the archive will be stored at Warwickshire Museum under the site code LM13.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The development site is located on the north side of Hayway Lane in the centre of the hamlet of Broadwell in the parish of Leamington Hastings. The new manège is located at National Grid Reference SP 4591 6598 and the extension is located National Grid Reference SP 4544 6590. The underlying geology of the area is Blue Lias (British Geological Survey 1984).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains disturbed by the

development, to collate the records in an archaeological archive and present the significant aspects of the archive in a report for dissemination.

3.2 The secondary aim was to form an understanding of the remains recorded in terms of their character and date, and to place the evidence in its local and regional context.

3.3 The objective of the work was a programme of controlled excavation to development formation levels, or the geological natural, whichever the higher.

3.4 The work undertaken involved the examination of early map evidence as well as records of archaeological remains in the area and local historical journals and other publications. An experienced archaeologist was made available for each day of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with WSI/Brief planning condition.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Malt House, a half-timbered building with brick infill, probably originally 17th century in date is located on the north side of Hayway Lane in the middle of the hamlet of Broadwell. The proposed development lies within the medieval settlement of Broadwell (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9071) and extensive earthworks remains of medieval settlement survive on the eastern and western sides of the village. The site is currently occupied by the existing dwelling and associated garden or paddock. The development includes a new manège and alterations to the existing building. It is possible that the associated work may reveal evidence of medieval settlement.

### **Prehistoric and Romano-British**

4.2 Cropmarks recognised from aerial photographs of the area include evidence of an enclosure 500m north-west of the existing village (MWA 8285). This probably indicates prehistoric or Romano-British origins, but the evidence of settlement has yet to be tested. Further evidence of Romano-British activity is recorded in the village as a 3rd century Roman coin (WMA 1366) whilst Romano-British pottery have come from the fields to the south-east (MWA 1640).

### **Medieval**

4.3 Broadwell is not mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086, but it may have been included with the entry for Leamington Hastings. The parish of Leamington Hastings

contains four settlements, Leamington Hastings itself, with the parish church, Kites Hardwick, Hill and Broadwell. All were formerly separate manors and the lady of the manor of Broadwell is recorded in 1375. The manor was associated with the Swinnerton and Stafford families and is last mentioned as a separate entity in 1545 (VCH 1951, 151). The earthworks of a large moat (MWA 13127), no doubt the site of the manor house, have recently (2012) been identified at the east end of the village.

4.4 There is extensive evidence of the remains of the medieval shrunken village where various earthworks and house platforms survive on the eastern and western sides of the current village (WMA 3089 and 5669). Additional earthworks suggest possible property boundaries and ridge and furrow cultivation beyond the limit of the village. The settlement is almost as large as Leamington Hastings and had its own chapel, no doubt subordinate to the parish church, the site of which is believed to have been at the south-east end of the village (MWA 3056).

### **Post-medieval**

4.5 The post-medieval Church of the Good Shepherd is attached to a house at the west of the village and a Methodist chapel was built in 1871.

4.6 The Malt House itself is a partly timber framed building with brick infilling and a large number of 20th century extensions. The timber framed building is essentially long and narrow with one short extension and may well have originally been built as a barn. It is likely to date from the 17th or very early 18th century.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS**

5.1 Observation and recording was undertaken during the groundworks associated with a new manège and with a small extension to the existing house.

### **Manège**

5.2 An area 40m long by 25m wide was reduced; the ground sloped down to the east which necessitated greater reduction on the west side in order to create a level area. After the initial soil stripping a series of drainage trenches, each 0.4m wide and between 0.2m and 0.23m deep, were excavated.

5.3 Visible within the drainage trenches, geological natural was yellowish brown clay (102). This was overlain by a layer of grey clay (101) which was excavated into at the

western end by a depth of 0.12m. Numerous sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this layer. This was covered by up to 0.28m of very dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (100). At the eastern end of the site the reduction level did not penetrate below the base of (100).

### **Foundation trenches**

5.4 The foundation trench was dug using a small tracked machine: it was 5.85m long, 0.65m wide and up to 1m deep. At the base of the trench, geological natural Lias limestone (203) was overlain by 0.2m of geological natural grey clay (202).

5.5 The natural was overlain by between 0.5m and 0.6m of greyish brown clay loam (201) from which no finds were recovered. This was covered by between 0.2m and 0.3m of dark greyish brown clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks (200). A single sherd of 19th century pottery was noted in this layer.

## **6 FINDS**

6.1 A finds assemblage including 385 sherds of pottery, several fragments of clay pipe stem, as well as single fragments of glass, animal bone and metalwork was recovered during the fieldwork (Appendix B).

### **Pottery by *Iain Soden***

6.2 A total of 346 sherds of pottery dating roughly between the 12th and 17th centuries were recovered. They came from just two contexts and all but a possible 6 sherds of the material was residual (coloured in the table below). Together they weigh 2.271kg and derive from eight different ceramics types or traditions. They have been identified to type or tradition as set out in the Warwickshire County Type Series (Ratkai and Soden 1998).

6.3 No medieval contexts were exposed and the majority of material was abraded and had been disturbed, rained-on, frosted and generally abused by the weather for up to 700 years. The average sherd weight (6.6g) reflects this. It is not clear whether the earlier material derives from middening, simply because it is so dispersed. It is simply wholly disturbed and weathered in character.

6.4 The pottery retrieved from the two contexts was as follows:

Type/context	Warks code	Production range	100	101	Totals
<i>Roman material</i>		<i>C1st-4th</i>	17	3	20
Chilvers Coton A	WW01	c1250-1300	16/84g	22/201g	38/285g
Chilvers Coton C	Sq30	c1250-1500	4/31g		4/31g
Potterspury Ware	WW10	c1250-1500	4/16g	3/12g	7/28g
?Deritend Ware	Sg12	c1250-1300	1/34g		1/34g
Shelly coarsewares	CS/CO types	c1100-1400	82/536g	60/337g	142/873g
Sandy coarsewares	Sq types	c1100-1400	80/510g	52/297g	132/807g
Midlands Purple	MP	C15 <sup>th</sup> -17th	12/145g	6/64g	18/209g
Midlands Yellow	MY	c1550-1720	1/4g		1/4g
<b>Totals</b>			<b>200/1360g</b>	<b>143/911g</b>	<b>343/2271g</b>

6.5 The continued accumulation of the topsoil context 100 is dated by the presence of ceramics and other finds of 19th-century date. However, context 101 contains six sherds of Midland Purple which can date no earlier than the mid-15th century and may, in all probability, date to a century or more later. Layer 101 may be dated no earlier than the 15th century.

6.6 The coarsewares probably derive from a half-dozen or more sources in all directions, with St Neots-types, Brackley/Banbury types, Northamptonshire shelly traditions and Coventry-derived sandy wares all present in this mélange of water-abraded and residual storage/cooking pots. They do not warrant further attention.

6.7 The more distinctive Nuneaton (Chilvers Coton) products are present in sufficient numbers to make note of the strength of that industry, which must have been mixing from the late 13th century, via the market at Coventry, with very similar products coming north from Potterspury. Irrespective of the whereabouts of the traditional county boundary, other centres locally, such as Catesby Nunnery, near Daventry, are known to have sent representatives to Coventry for their provisions, including ceramics. Such a source would account for the presence also of a possible Deritend vessel.

6.8 One particular sherd merits more than a passing mention, not just because this is among the first medieval material from Broadwell. This is a roulette-stamped jug sherd with Lombardic lettering. Medieval and early post-medieval pottery with lettering is exceedingly



rare. However, this is now the fourth vessel with (probably) the same roller-stamp inscription. The only complete example is a tall cylindrical Midland Purple jug from Coventry (Hertford Street in the Shelton Collection, and now on display in The Herbert museum). A second example is a single sherd from Flore, Northamptonshire (Blinkhorn and Dix 1992, 107-8). A third example comes from excavations at Belgrade Plaza, Coventry (Blinkhorn 2008, in Mason, McAree and Soden 2008, 45-6). An unrelated sherd with applied lettering also derives from Hay Lane, Coventry (Soden 1990). These incised roulette-stamped examples seem to have an inexpert script thought to be MEAMQODMQ. It may denote something akin to 'What's mine is mine'. Although the Broadwell sherd is not in a sealed context (it is from topsoil), it is only the fourth such sherd, apparently from the same maker and the same stamp, maybe working in Nuneaton or North Warwickshire, and probably of late 15th or early 16th century date.

6.9 Broadwell appears to be served by pottery-producing centres to all directions of the compass from the 12th-14th centuries. There then may be a gap in occupation as there is almost nothing from the period c1400-1500, with a slight resurgence on the plot in the late 15th or early 16th century, but lacking the ubiquity of storage/cooking pot types of the earlier period. Occupation continued thereafter.

### Clay pipe

6.10 Seven fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from context 100. The undiagnostic fragments were 5mm to 8mm in diameter and derive from various 18th-19th century pipes.

### Other finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
100	Fragment of window glass, 31mm long, 11mm	17th-19 <sup>th</sup> C
100	Fragment of slate pencil 42mm long with circular cross section 5.5mm diameter	19th C
100	A circular copper alloy ring, 30mm diameter, circular cross section 2mm diameter	post-medieval
100	A fragment of animal bone knife handle, 74mm long and 21mm wide. The handle is worked and polished with a "lozenge-shaped" cross section 8mm deep. A single iron rivet with circular bore for blade fitting	19th century
100	A fired clay marble, sphere, 16mm diameter	

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The construction of the manège and the excavation of foundation trenches did not impact on any significant archaeological features although the assemblage of finds recovered from the area of the manège is significant.

### **Roman**

7.2 The 14 sherds of Roman pottery probably date from the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD. One sherd was a fragment of imported Samian ware with the illegible remains of the potters name stamped on it. Another was a sherd of mortaria (a Roman mixing bowl) and was made in Oxfordshire. The remainder were local grey ware sherds.

7.3 The Roman assemblage is sufficient to suggest that the site lies close to a foci of activity, albeit of uncertain character. Roman sites are recorded on the Warwickshire HER in the vicinity of Broadwell including MWA 8185 (Mason 2013) some 200m to the north-west of the site.

### **Medieval**

7.4 No features associated with the medieval settlement of Broadwell were revealed, but the assemblage of medieval and early post-medieval pottery, is a significant find in its own right, providing invaluable data regarding the chronology and pottery supply to the village.

7.5 The manège site lies partly in the back plots associated with medieval settlement along Hayway Lane, abutting the former open fields to the north which would have been farmed by the people of Broadwell. Such areas were used for multiple purposes in the medieval and post-medieval periods including allotments, animal husbandry, and industry and may have contained outbuildings. Such evidences conceivably still survive below the manège or close by.

7.6 No significant finds or deposits were recovered in the new foundation trench. The deposit sequence here is not easy to understand but it could be a result of levelling earthworks. During the observation it was possible to see denuded earthworks in the lawn on the west side of the house which probably represent house platforms of medieval buildings.

7.7 A large assemblage of pottery was recorded by the Coventry and District Archaeological Society between 1997 and 2004 (CADAS 2011) during fieldwalking to the north-west of the village.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1. The area of the manège after initial stripping, looking north



2. The area of the manège after excavation of drain trenches, looking north-east





3. Medieval earthworks visible in the garden



4. A view of The Malt House during the excavation of the foundation trench



5. A view of the excavated foundation trench



## APPENDICES

### A List of Contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
100	Very dark greyish brown clay loam	Current topsoil
101	Grey clay layer	Post-medieval
102	Yellowish brown clay	Natural geology
200	Very dark greyish brown clay loam	Current topsoil
201	Greyish brown clay loam	Possibly medieval
202	Grey clay	Natural geology
203	Lias Limestone	Natural geology

### B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
100	Pottery	242	17 x 2nd-3rd century 225 x 11th-16th century 25 x 18th-19th century
100	Clay pipe	7	Stems, 18th-19th century
100	Glass	1	window, 17th-18th century
100	Slate	1	pencil, 19th century
100	Cu alloy	1	ring, 19th century
100	A bone	1	knife handle, 19th century
101	Pottery	143	11th-15th century, 3 x 2nd -3rd century









