

Land at Wolston Priory, Wolston, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1513
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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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Commissioned by:	Nexus Heritage
Project Report No.	1513
Site Code:	WP14
Planning Reference:	N/A
National Grid Reference:	SP 415 758
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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a drainage trench within the Scheduled Monument of Wolston Priory did not reveal any evidence for medieval or earlier occupation. No other significant archaeological remains were apparent.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of the archaeological observation of a service trench in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent and a written scheme of investigation (Nexus Heritage) and was commissioned from Archaeology Warwickshire and carried out in December 2014. This report presents the results of that work.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is located on land north of Priory Road, Wolston centred on national grid reference SP 415 758.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is River Terrace sand and gravels.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

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 An experienced archaeologist was made available for each day of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with their Written Scheme of Investigation.

4 WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 The watching brief recorded a simple deposit sequence formed by topsoil deposits and natural soil horizons. A single natural hollow or depression (4) was recorded across the eastern half of the trench. This was filled by a greyish blue silty clay (5), which contained no dateable material.

Deposit sequence

4.2 Geological natural (3) characterised by brown sand and gravel was recorded at a depth of between 0.8m and 0.9m below current ground level.

4.3 The natural gravels were overlaid by a layer of yellowish brown sandy loam (2), which was 0.5m thick and contained no significant inclusions. This was sealed by a layer of brown sandy loam (1), which was between 0.3m and 0.35m thick. The top of this topsoil layer formed the current ground surface. The layer contained fragments of brick, tile and slate (not retained).

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 No significant archaeological finds or features were recorded during the supervision and watching brief during the excavations of the 0.7m wide drainage trench. The hollow is most likely alluvial or colluvial silt and clay filled natural depression, but might possibly be associated with the adjacent ridge and furrow.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Nexus Heritage for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

Nexus Heritage, 2012, *Land at Wolston Priory and Moated Site, Wolston, Warwickshire – Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (Nexus Report No: 3057.R02)

Nexus Heritage, 2012, *Land at Wolston Priory and Moated Site, Wolston, Warwickshire – Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Supervision and Watching Brief* (3111.R01)

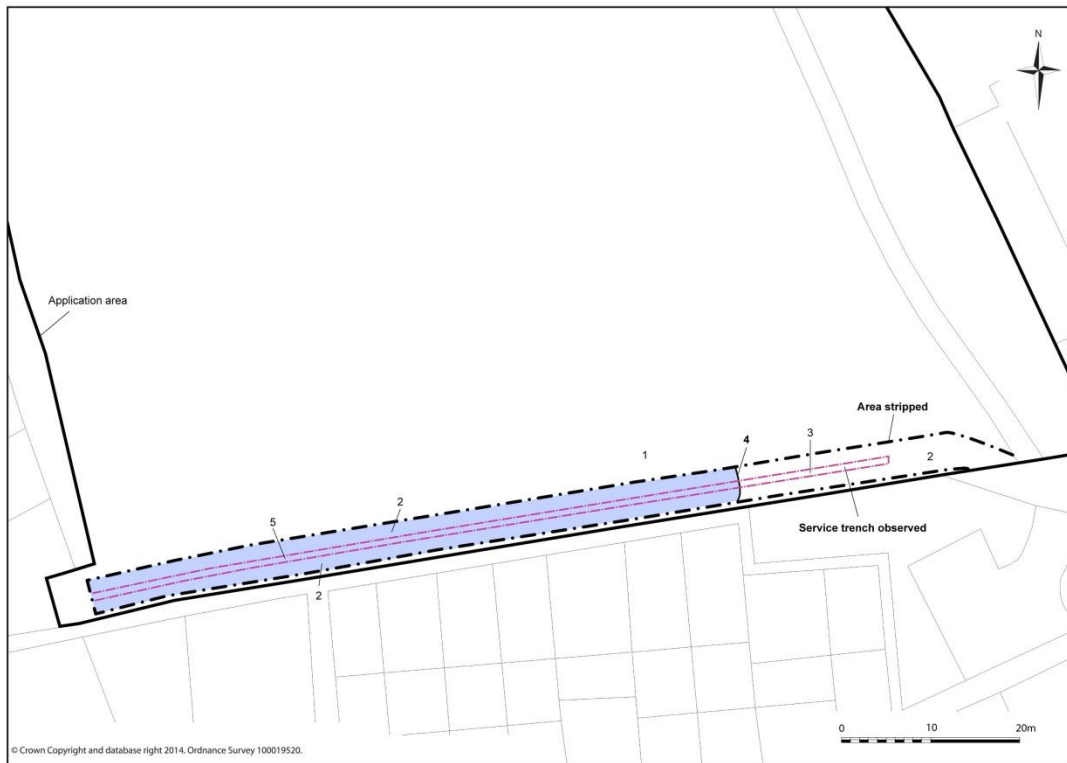


Fig 1: Trench location



Fig 2: View along excavated trench