

Ashby Farm, The Hollows Long Compton Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1732

MAY 2017



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Ashby Farm Long Compton
Commissioned by:	Anthony Anson @ Hollows Building Co Ltd
Project Report No.	1732
Site Code:	LA15
Planning Reference:	14/00134/FUL
Planning Authority:	Stratford upon Avon
Planning Archaeologist:	NA
National Grid Reference:	SP 2894 3165
Team:	
Project Manager:	Stuart C Palmer MCIfA
Fieldwork:	Bryn Gethin BA
Author:	Bryn Gethin BA
Illustrations:	Candy Stevens
Report checked by:	Stuart C Palmer MCIfA
Date:	May 2017
Report reference:	Gethin, B, 2017 <i>Ashby Farm, The Hollows, Long Compton, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> , Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1732

Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

Montague Road

Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology

CONTENTS

	Summary	2
1	Introduction	3
2	Site Location	4
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	5
4	Aims and Methods	8
5	Results	9
6	Conclusions	10
	Acknowledgements	11
	References	12

PHOTOGRAPHS

1	Trench 1	13
2	Trench 2	13
3	Trench 3	14
4	Trench 5	14
5	Trench 4	15

APPENDICES

A	List of Contexts	16
---	------------------	----

FIGURES

1	Location of application area and Historic Environment information
2	Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905
3	Location of excavated trenches

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of five trial trenches, was undertaken on behalf of The Hollows Building Company Ltd prior to new housing development.

No archaeological finds or features were present in the trenches suggesting that the site had most likely been in agricultural use from at least the medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council for the demolition of existing farm buildings and for the proposed development of up to 7 dwellings with new access at Ashby Farm, The Hollows, Long Compton.
- 1.2 It is a condition of the existing planning permission that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been approved by the Planning Authority.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation which was carried out on 15th May 2017. This report presents the results of that work. This work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for field evaluation (2014).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located to the south of the village of Long Compton on the southern edge of Warwickshire, overlooking the valley of the Nethercote Brook. It is situated on the shoulder of a prominent ridge with a steep slope to the north and the land rising gradually to the south.

- 2.2 The underlying geology is a Jurassic formation of Middle Lias clays and silts capped by Ferruginous Sandstone and Oolitic Limestone (BGS 1974). Historically this rock was mined for iron ore, and the surrounding landscape is pockmarked by quarry pits.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 3.1 There is only a single record for evidence of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity in the area of the proposed development. Warwickshire Historic Environment Record WA 6041 records 'a tight cluster of snapped blades, two possible microliths, one Mesolithic arrowhead and a few unbroken blades.
- 3.2 Just over 1km to the south-east of the site is the site of the Rollright Stones (Lambrick 1988). This is a complex of megalithic and other monuments that straddle the border with Oxfordshire and probably represents a regionally important gathering place throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. The location is well-appointed for the construction and display of ceremonial monumental architecture. The Rollright Stone circle and the Whispering Knights portal dolmen lie over the border, whilst Warwickshire's only known standing stone, known as the King Stone (WA 2394) was probably constructed to mark the location of a cemetery.
- 3.3 The 18th century antiquarian William Stukely described a barrow to the east of the King Stone, crossed by a dry-stone wall, which had stonework on its east side and this is clearly visible on air photographs.

Roman

- 3.4 There is evidence for Roman period settlement on the hillside above the site. This includes a record of a possible Roman villa site (WA 9228) and evidence of settlement in the form of rectilinear cropmark enclosures which may form part of a villa or a significant farmstead site (WA 12196).

Medieval

- 3.5 Medieval Long Compton (MWA 8968) can be traced as far as back Domesday (1086) when the manor was held by Geoffrey de Mandeville for the King. In 1086 Long Compton was a large settlement and very valuable, with 30 hides and land for 20 ploughs, the lord being responsible for 25 slaves, 45 villagers with a priest, 13 smallholders and 2 men-at-arms with 10 ploughs.

- 3.6 Earthwork evidence for possible deserted medieval settlement lies immediately to the east of the site. A license to hold a market on Mondays was granted 15th May 1231. The Holloway (WA 2371) is named after a hollow way street of medieval date.
- 3.7 That much of the parish was under the plough in the medieval period is clear from the evidence left in the fields in the form of ridge and furrow (Fig 1).

Post-medieval

- 3.8 Aerial photographs taken in March 1944 by the US Air Force show about 300 individual vehicles or covered dumps of material stored in preparation for the invasion of Europe in June 1944 (WA 12159). Other aerial photographs show a variety of undated earthworks (WA 4779, WA 12198 and WA 4780).

Medieval data from Warwickshire Historic Environment Record

<i>HER ref</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
2371	Long Compton Medieval Settlement	Possible deserted medieval settlement at The Hollow
12191	Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow ploughing to the east of Long Compton
12192	Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow ploughing
12193	Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow ploughing
1218	Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow ploughing
8968	Long Compton Medieval Settlement	Probable extent of medieval settlement in Long Compton from the Ordnance Survey map of 1886

- 3.9 The earliest detailed map of the area dates to 1882 (Ordnance Survey 1882, Fig 2). This shows the site was unoccupied, with a footpath running along its northern edge and a stream going into a culvert in the south-eastern part of the site.
- 3.9 The present development site was partially evaluated by Archaeology Warwickshire in 2011 by means of two trial trenches (locations of Fig 3) which did not reveal any significant archaeological evidence (Wright and Thompson 2011).

Post-medieval data from Warwickshire Historic Environment Record

<i>HER ref</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
2369	Drinking fountain	
12198	Windmill mound	Earthworks with circular bank
3842	Site of pound	Pound at the northern end of the village
4829	Turnpike road	Toll road from Stratford to Andoversford

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area to be developed; to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the area.
- 4.2 Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.
- 4.3 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.
- 4.4 The five trenches were opened up by a 360° excavator fitted with a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket after the demolition of the extant buildings. Broken surfaces, topsoil and other plough soils were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until either the geological natural was reached.

5 RESULTS

Geological Natural

- 5.1 Geological natural was exposed in all five trenches and consisted of yellowish brown clay.

Deposit Sequence

- 5.2 A layer of greyish brown clay loam was recorded across most of the area examined which was considerably deeper in the northern part of the site. This is likely to have been an agricultural soil.
- 5.3 Several areas of modern disturbance associated with the former buildings were recorded cutting the natural (in green on Fig 3).
- 5.4 No significant archaeological deposits were exposed and no artefacts were recovered.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has established that no archaeological deposits will be disturbed by the proposed development.

- 6.2 It is possible that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period; a conclusion which is based on a lack of evidence for settlement rather than empirical evidence in the form of historic plough furrows.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Anthony Anson for commissioning the work, Graham Lewis at Avoncroft Homes Ltd for assistance on site and Keith Williams at Stansgate Planning for facilitating the project.

REFERENCES

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

Ordnance Survey 1834 *First Edition one inch to one mile map*, Sheet 51, Worcester

Ordnance Survey 1882 *First Edition 1:2500 map*, Warwickshire Sheet 44.9

Thompson, P, and Wright, K, 2011 *Ashby Farm, The Hollows, Long Compton, Warwickshire, Archaeological Evaluation*; Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1109



1. Trench 1



2. Trench 2



3. Trench 3



4. Trench 5



5. Trench 4

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Trench	Context	Description	Depth (m)	Comment
1	100	Modern disturbance	0.10 – 0.27	
1	101	Greyish brown silty clay	0.25 – 0.33	Former plough zone?
1	102	Yellowish brown clay		Geology
2	200	Modern disturbance	0.22 – 0.50	
2	201	Greyish brown silty clay	0.33 – 0.75	Former plough zone
2	202	Yellowish brown clay		Geology
3	300	Modern disturbance	0.35	
3	301	Greyish brown silty clay	0.75	Former plough zone
3	302	Yellowish brown clay		Geology
4	400	Modern redeposited material	0.55 – 0.75	
4	401	Greyish brown silty clay	0.10 – 0.35	Former plough zone
4	402	Yellowish brown clay		Geology
5	500	Modern redeposited material	0.10 - 0.30	
5	501	Yellowish brown clay		Geology

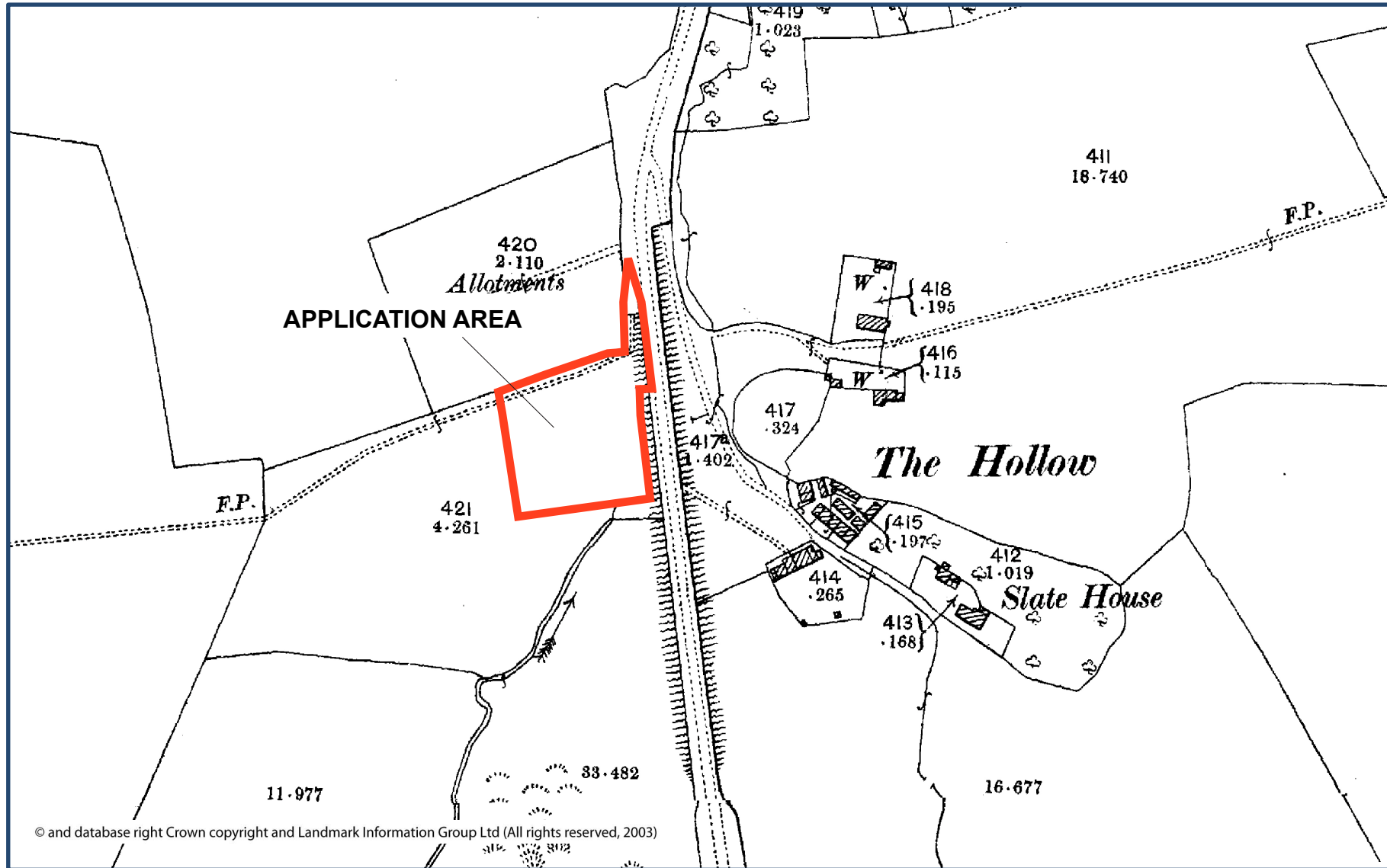


Fig 2: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905

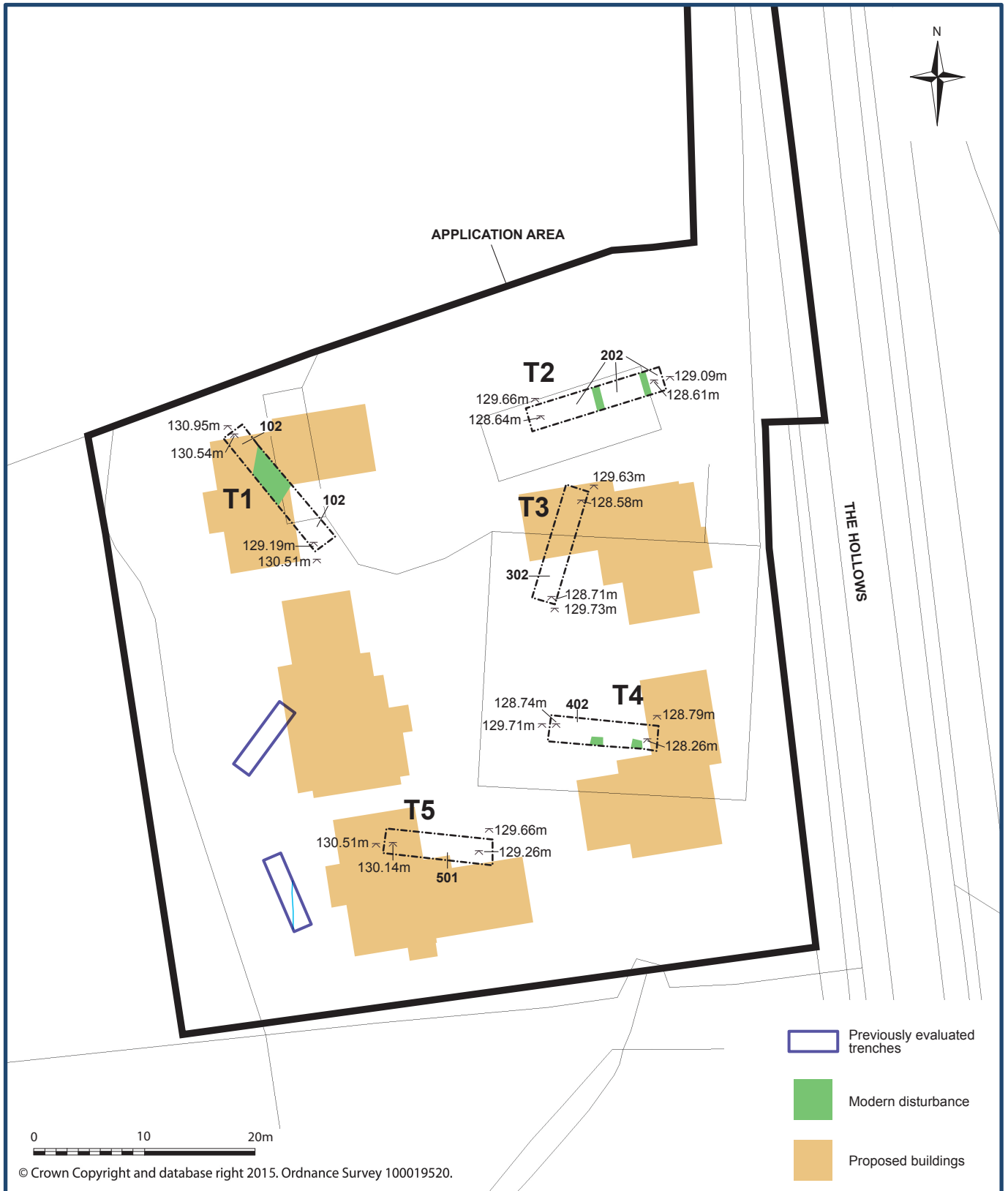


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches