



aeon archaeology

Meadowview, Monkhopton, Nr. Bridgenorth May 2016 : V 1.0



Watching Brief
Project Code: A0069.1
Report no. 0086



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Watching brief

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Project Code: A0069.1

Date: 12/5/2016

Client: Stony Croft Ltd.

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stony Croft Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a new residential dwelling on land to the east of Meadowvale residential home, Monkthopton, Bridgenorth as a condition of full planning permission (15/03100/FUL)

The archaeological watching brief at Monkthopton, Bridgenorth did not produce any archaeological remains or artefacts. The initial levelling work on the land involved the removal of approximately 0.4m of topsoil at the south-western boundary of the site with a tracked excavator, close to the B4368 (Bridgenorth to Craven Arms road). No archaeology was discovered during this phase of works. Following this the foundation trenches for a dwelling and a garage were excavated, followed by a large pit for a waste tank as well as a series of trenches intended for waste and drainage pipes. The trenches showed that the land was predominantly used for arable farming and grazing, this is due to the frequency of faunal remains. The identification of an area to the west of the site exhibited large amounts of degraded limestone approximately 0.55m below the original field surface. Its presence in the subsoil was interpreted as potential 'cast off' from stone facing works that must have been conducted on the residential home immediately to the west of the site.

The lack of any evidence of the postulated route of the Central Wales Roman Road (HER PRN 04067) within the trench suggests that it ran outside of the proposed development boundary. The subsoils were especially deep which suggests the field had been heavily cultivated over the years. It could have passed further to the north closer to Moor Brook and therefore it is possible that some land improvements such as deep ploughing could have removed traces of the road. Furthermore it may be further to the south perhaps following the course of the B4368. As such it can merely be postulated that it passes outside of the proposed development area.

Considering the results of the archaeological watching brief the potential for the preservation of preserved remains at the site is considered low and as such no recommendations for further archaeological mitigatory works are proposed and it is recommended that the archaeological condition be discharged.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stony Croft Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of a new residential dwelling on land to the east of Meadowvale residential home, Monkhopton, Bridgenorth. The works centred on **NGR SO 63240 94054** (figure 1). The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a condition of full planning permission (**15/03100/FUL**) for the construction of a private residential dwelling with associated driveway, garden, and access.

Shropshire County Council considered the site to be of potential archaeological interest and wished to secure the satisfactory treatment of the archaeological remains and/or recording of the subsequent findings. A condition relevant to archaeology was therefore applied to the permission for the development by Shropshire County Council:

No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

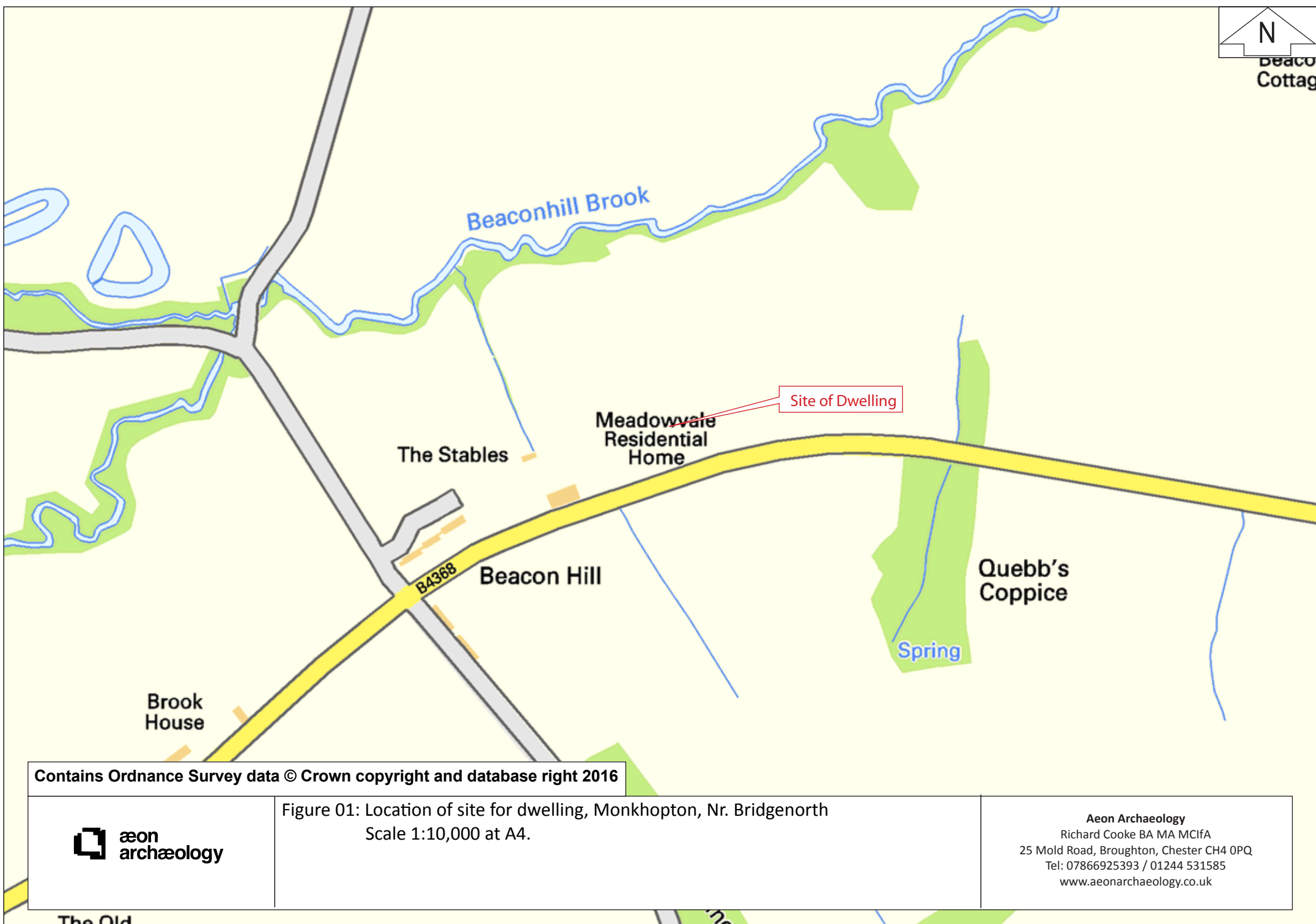
The reason for this condition is:

The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (appendix I) was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology on September 2015 which outlined the principle aims of the watching brief and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work.

This archaeological watching brief report is designed to comply with the spirit and intent of the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*, 2012 to achieve an investigation of archaeological remains, and to record and advance understanding of their significance before they are impacted upon by construction works.

This report conforms to the guidelines specified in the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).

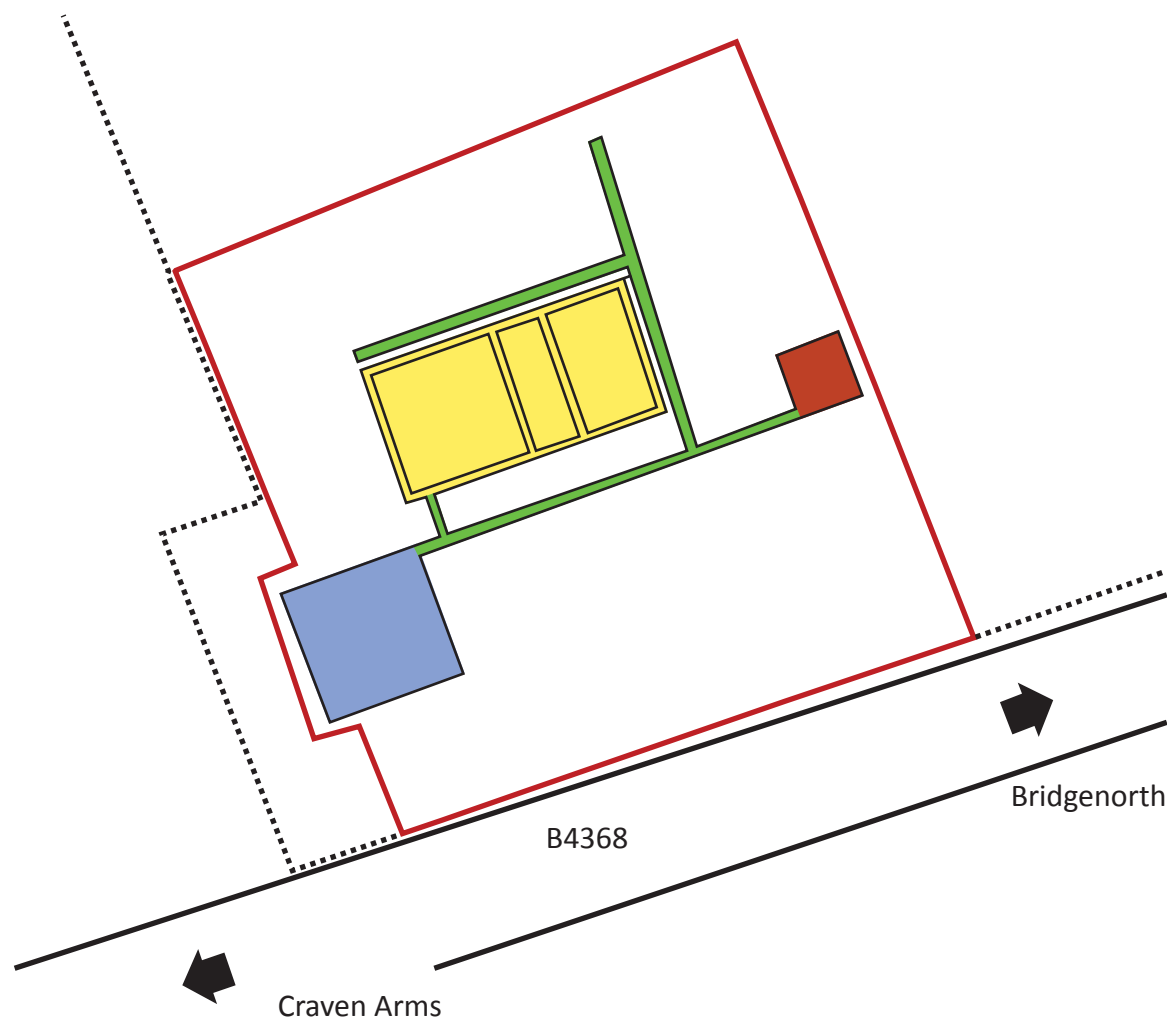









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Figure 01: Location of site for dwelling, Monkthopton, Nr. Bridgenorth
Scale 1:10,000 at A4.

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-  Boundary
-  Plot Boundary
-  Excavation
-  Dwelling
-  Garage
-  Waste
-  Drainage

3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of the new dwelling foundation trenches.

The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief were:

- Observation of groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling.
- To complete a drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features, including structures that may have been revealed by the work.
- Preparation of a full archive report.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological watching brief was:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Shropshire.
- To investigate the hypothesis that the projected route of the Central Wales Roman road runs through the proposed development site.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute For Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies, if required, with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Shropshire Historic Environment Record and the OASIS database so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving any material and documentary records from the project.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Watching Brief

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines an archaeological watching brief as:

‘A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.’ (CIfA 2014)

The Shropshire Archaeological Planning Service requested that a watching brief be maintained during the excavation of intrusive groundworks within the site development boundary. This level of watching brief entailed that an appropriately qualified archaeologist was present during all associated ground disturbance.

All soil removal was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code A0069.1

4.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

4.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers would be attributed and they would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client, Aeon Archaeology and the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Shropshire County Council. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from a relevant specialist if required.

4.5 Report and dissemination

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the Shropshire Archaeological Planning Service, and will be logged with the online OASIS database. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0069.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

5.0 SITE LOCATION

The Site extends over c. 1024m² and is located in the hamlet of Monhopton, off the B4368 (Bridgenorth to Craven Arms road) (Figure 1), centred, approximately at **NGR SO 63240 94054**.

The Site is bounded to the south by a mature hedgerow separating it from the B4368, to the west is the Meadowview residential care home for the elderly, to the north by Beaconhill brook and to the east by open fields.

The Site forms an approximate rectangle in plan and occupies the south-western portion of the field it is situated within. The northern area comprises of arable crop and a farm track. The southern area is embanked, sloping up sharply toward the B4368 to the south .

The topography of the site is gently sloping to the north except for the southern extremity close to the road. The British Geological Survey (BGS) **1:50 000 scale bedrock geology** map for the site indicates that the underlying geology equates with the Raglan Mudstone Formation – comprising of siltstone and mudstone sedimentary bedrock, which formed approximately 416 to 419 million years ago in the Silurian Period, as the previous local environment was previously dominated by rivers.

6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

6.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Trench sheets	3
Digital photographs	48
Context Sheets	0
Drawings	0

6.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief as no suitable deposits or fills were encountered.

6.3 Artefacts

No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological watching brief.

7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA AIfA, archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended from 3rd-5th and 9th & 10th May 2016 and the weather conditions varied from bright sunshine to periods of prolonged rainfall.

A strip of land at the northern half of the field plot measuring approx 32.0m in width by 20.0m in length, orientated southeast to northwest was stripped of topsoil and subsoil over the course of three days. The site sloped gently towards the north and therefore between 0.15m and 0.25m deep layer of mid-brown clay/silt topsoil was removed. The soil horizon was carefully stripped away using a mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket in spits of approximately 0.05m-0.1m. The stripping was monitored the entire time by the archaeologist but no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were observed.

Then footings were excavated for a dwelling and the garage; these trenches were rectilinear in plan. The garage footprint was 7.90m x 6.90m and the dwelling was 15.35m x 6m. The trenches continued to cut through the previous topsoil layer by a further 0.20m (mid-brown clay/silt topsoil). Lying below was a mid red-brown silt/clay subsoil layer, which was greater than 0.6m in depth as it extended beyond the remit of the foundation trenches for the buildings. This reduction was also monitored by the archaeologist with particular attention being paid to any possible cut features such as foundation trenches, large masonry or layed surfaces. No archaeological features were observed and no archaeological artefacts recovered.

Following this phase of works further excavations were carried out on a large pit of 3.60m in depth. It was designed to receive a sanitation vessel and was to be the intended cesspit for the property. The pit measured 3.30m x 3.20m in square. The pit cut through the topsoil layer (mid-brown clay/silt) to a depth of 0.45m. The subsoil that lay below was the same mid red-brown silt/clay subsoil layer as found elsewhere on the site which was 0.60m at this location. Visible in section below this layer was a 0.40m layer of similar mid red-brown silt/clay subsoil but it was further characterized by a high frequency of angular and sub-angular limestone pebbles. Following this layer was the familiar red/brown natural clay which extended a 1.70m below the previous soil. It was at a depth of 3.20m that a hard dark grey clay marl was encountered and it extended a further 0.45m up to the limit of excavation.

Finally a perimeter of trenches was excavated around the dwelling in order to receive waste pipes and drainage pipes, therefore these trenches were dug with a slight slope to facilitate a necessary fall. The contents of these trenches were identical in nature to the foundation trenches excavated for the footings of the building; except they were approx. 0.30m shallower and less of the subsoil was revealed. No archaeological remains were discovered throughout the works.



Plate 1 - Pre levelling work - building plot



Plate 2 - Context shot of site after partial strip



Plate 3 - Section of footing for dwelling



Plate 4 - Trench for external wall - East (NW-SE alignment)



Plate 5 - Section of footing for Garage (South West facing)



Plate 6 - Footing for garage - exterior wall west



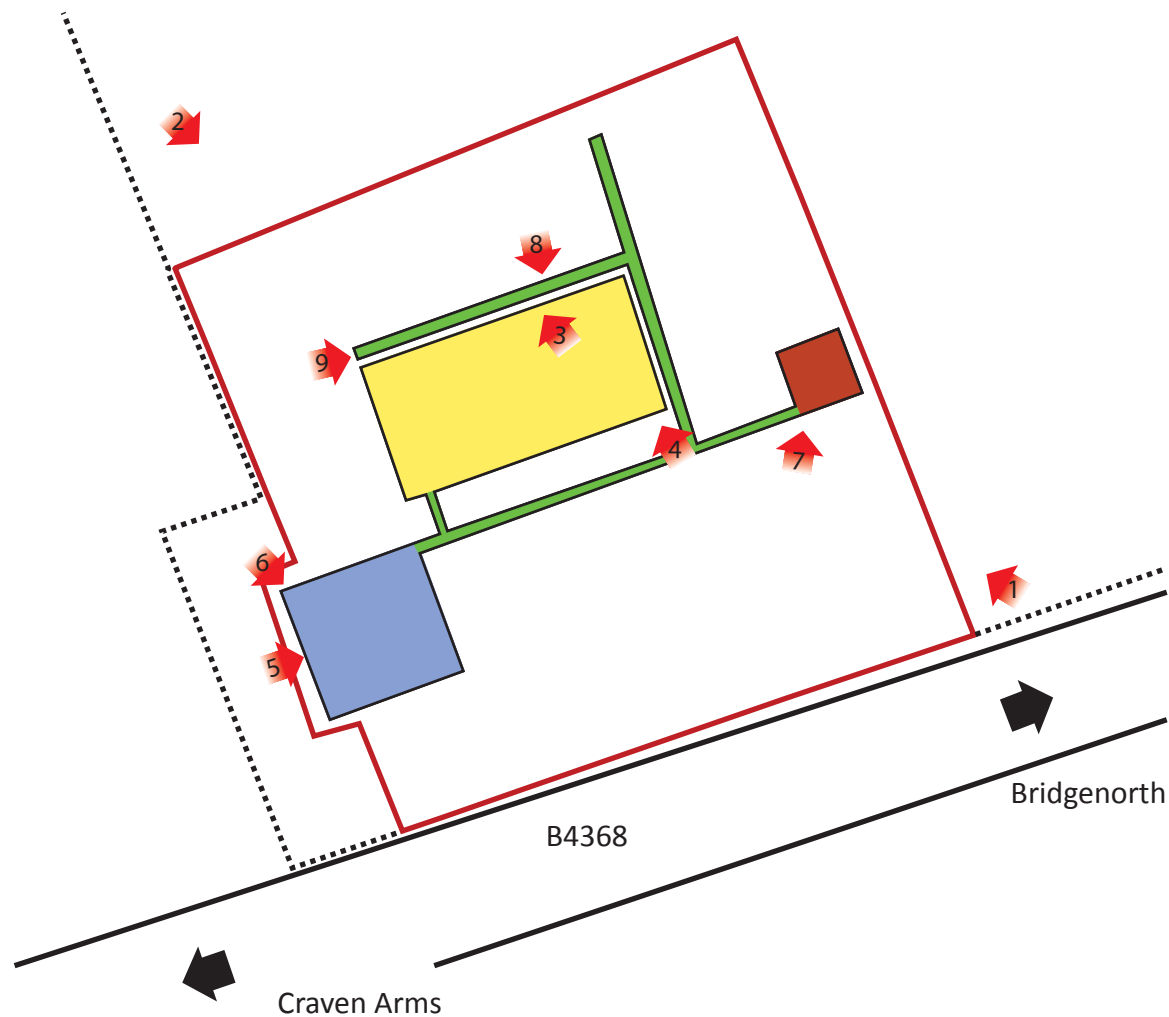
Plate 7 - Section of Septic tank pit - no scale due to depth (approx 3.70m)



Plate 8 - Section of Drainage Trench - facing to North East



Plate 9 - Drainage Trench - alignment NE-SW



- Boundary
- Plot Boundary
- Excavation
- Dwelling
- Garage
- Waste
- Drainage

Figure 04: Representative section of footings trench for dwelling - South East facing.

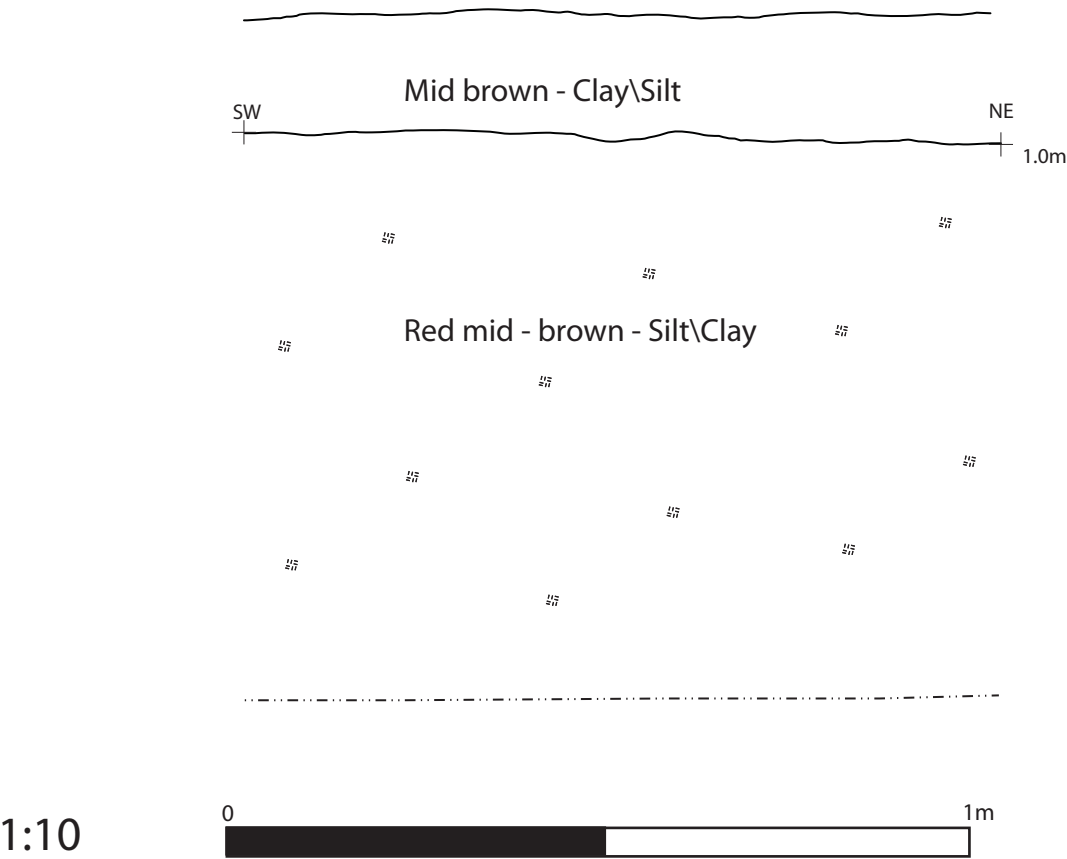
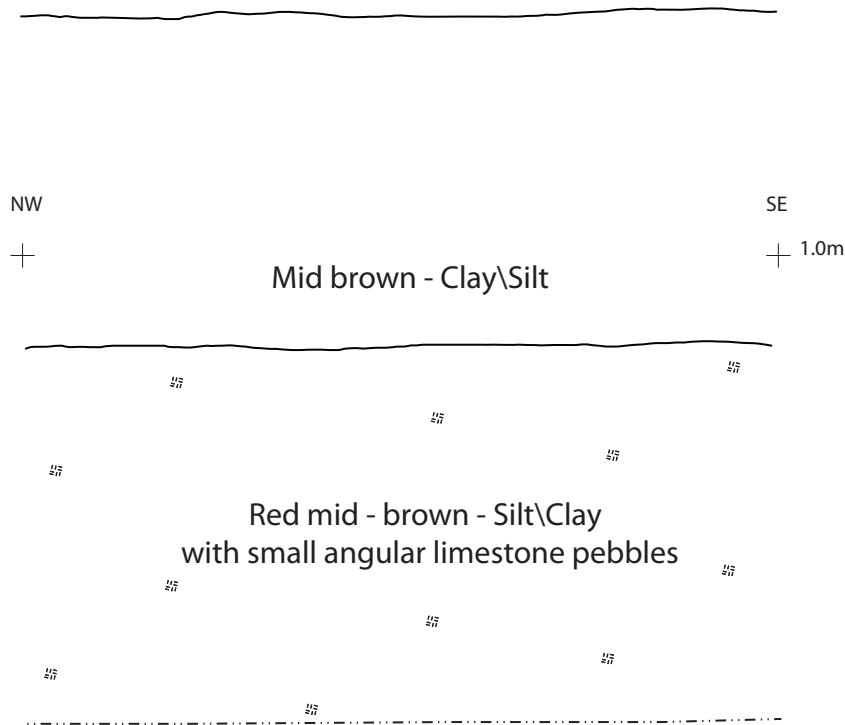


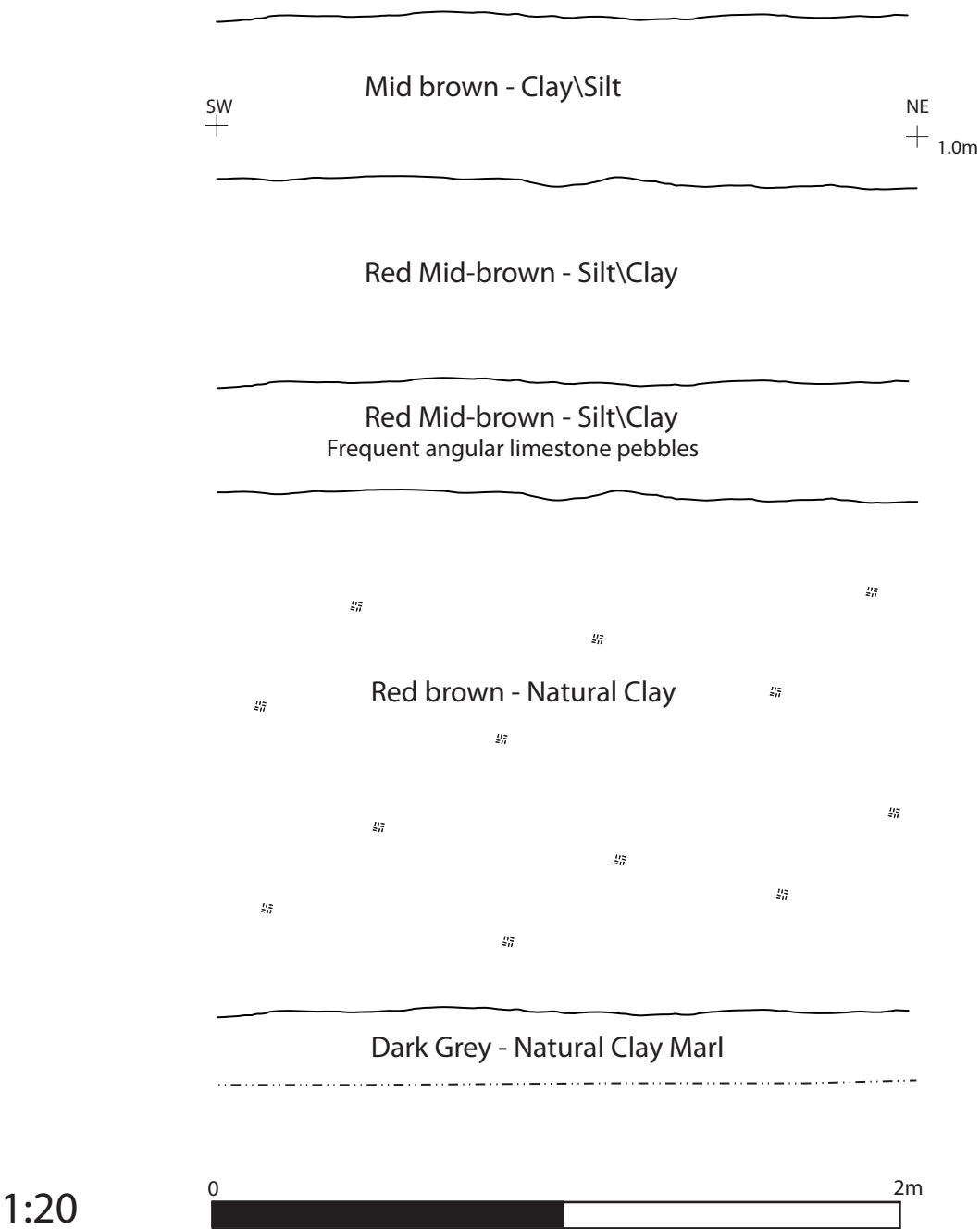
Figure 05: Representative section of Garage footing North East facing.



Figures 04 and 05: Trench sections.

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Figure 06: Representative section of the Pit for the Cesspit.



8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological watching brief at Monkhopton, Bridgenorth did not produce any archaeological remains or artefacts. The excavations revealed that the at the western boundary of the development the site had possibly been used as an area of deposition for 'cast-off' during stone facing works on the Meadowview residential home at some point in the past. The rest of the site has appeared to be used for agricultural processes for some time; ranging from grazing land in the past (as evidenced by stray faunal remains) right up to the present day as an area of rape seed cultivation.

The lack of any evidence of the postulated route of the Central Wales Roman road within any of the excavations suggests that it ran outside of the proposed development boundary. The subsoils were especially deep which supports the interpretation that the field had been heavily cultivated over the years. A roman road could have passed further to the north closer to Beaconhill Brook however agricultural processes such as deep ploughing may well have removed traces of the road. It is possible that it followed the course of the B4368.

Considering the observances made during the watching brief the potential for the preservation of preserved remains at the site is considered low and as such no recommendations for further archaeological mitigatory works are proposed and it is recommended that the archaeological condition be discharged.

9.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SO 69 NE, SO 69 SE, SO 69 SW and SO 69 NW.

Published sources

Brown D. H., 2007. Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. Archaeological Archives Forum

British Geological Survey website. www.bgs.ac.uk

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Richards, J. & Robinson, D., 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: *Guide to Good Practice* (Second Edition). The Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice: Oxbow Books

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Code of Conduct*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Watching Brief*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*



**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF v1.1**

AEON PROJECT CODE: A0069.1

SITE: New Dwelling east of Meadowvale Residential Home, Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

PLANNING REF: 15/03100/FUL

DATE: 24th September 2015

PREPARED FOR: Stoney Croft Planning



Aeon Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been asked by Stoney Croft Planning to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new residential dwelling on land to the east of Meadowvale residential home, Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire as a condition of full planning permission (15/03100/FUL).

It is requirement that the content of this WSI be approved by the Shropshire Archaeological Planning Service prior to the commencement of works.

The watching brief will be maintained during the excavation of all groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling.

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

2.0 BACKGROUND

A design specification has not been produced by the Shropshire Archaeological Planning Service, but the following statement has been made a condition of full planning permission:

No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

The reason for this condition is:

The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

The proposed development is located astride the route of the postulated Greensforge (Staffs) to Central Wales Roman Road (HER PRN 04076). Additionally tithe map transcription and cropmark evidence demonstrate the presence of a former road/trackway with associated roadside buildings running in westerly direction from Beacon Cottage to join the B4368 close to the proposed development boundary.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The **watching brief** will consist of the following:

- Observation of groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling.
- A drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features, including structures that may be revealed by the work.
- Preparation of a full archive report.

If archaeological remains are encountered during the watching brief it may be necessary to suspend development work in that area. The client should have a suitable contingency in place in case of such a scenario.

4.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines an archaeological watching brief as:

‘A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.’ (CIfA 2014)

The Shropshire Archaeological Planning Service has requested that a watching brief be maintained during the excavation of intrusive groundworks within the site development boundary. This level of watching brief entails that an appropriately qualified archaeologist is present during all associated ground disturbance.

All soil removal will be undertaken either by hand or using a mechanical excavator. A conventional toothed bucket will be utilised to break through any hardstanding or man-made layers after which a toothless ditching bucket will be utilised until the first archaeological horizon is reached after which cleaning will be by hand. If no archaeological remains are encountered the watching brief will be maintained until the natural glacial substrata is exposed or the required excavation depth is reached, whichever occurs first.

A photographic record will be maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features will be excavated by hand and will be fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0069.1**.

4.2 Archive and Report Production

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged with Shropshire Museum Service and the Shropshire Historic Environment Record within six months of the completion of the project. The report will also be lodged with the online OASIS database.

A report of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager’s Guide (English Heritage 2006), and in the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of six months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary
- A table of contents
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site
- A statement of the project aims
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data)
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository

One digital .PDF copy of a draft version of the report will be made available by Aeon Archaeology to the client for comment within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Once approved Aeon Archaeology will forward the draft report to the Shropshire Development Control Archaeologist for review. Should the delivery of the report depend on the incorporation of reports arising from specialist and/or laboratory work then a revised timetable for delivery of the draft report may be agreed upon conclusion of the fieldwork stage. Once the report is approved by all parties a digital .PDF copy and a bound paper copy will be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record for long term archiving.

5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

The identification of significant archaeological features during the watching brief stage may necessitate further archaeological works. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the contractor and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed by the Shropshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service prior to implementation.

This WSI does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the watching brief, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples associated with any peat deposits. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new WSI will be issued for approval by the Shropshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Shropshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

8.0 SMALL FINDS

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be

granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Shropshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location will be recorded; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.

- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

10.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE

10.1 Staff

The work will be managed and by Richard Cooke BA MA MifA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology. An appropriately qualified archaeologist (Tbc) will undertake the watching brief.

10.2 Timetable

The archaeological watching brief can currently be undertaken from April 2016, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

12.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Insignia Insurance Policy 347002

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/16

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Insurance Policy 347002

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/16

13.0 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* prepared by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

The cost quoted does not include examination of, conservation of or archiving of finds discovered during the archaeological programme, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples.

SPECIALISTS

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list if required:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

