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Old Red Lion,

Kineton, Warwickshire

An Archaeological Evaluation 1996

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1.0: SUMMARY

This report outlines the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in advance of housing development, at the former site of the Red Lion Public House, Bridge Street, Kineton. (Fig 1).

No evidence of expected medieval activity was recorded in the exposed trench sections, or any artefacts of medieval, or earlier date, recovered.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the results of an archaeological watching brief, which affects 402sq. m of land close to St Peters Church, Kineton, Warwickshire, (Fig 1). The church, which dates from the early 14th century, may have at the time have acted as a focus for early settlement in the area. Other sites have been found in the immediate area. The work was undertaken in August 1996 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, on behalf of Jobart Builders.

In accordance with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, (PPG 16), A recommendation for an archaeological watching brief was made by the County Archaeology Officer of Warwickshire County Council in advance of a proposed housing development. The methodology of this evaluation conforms with the brief prepared by the County Archaeologist (Moir 1996).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed development.

This report provides a description of the results of the watching brief.

3.0: THE STUDY AREA AND ITS SETTING

The study area lies approximately 100m to the SSW of St Peters Church, in the parish of Kineton, (national grid reference SP 3340 5100). It is thought that the church could have been the centre of the medieval settlement in the area, located as it is on the frontage of Bridge Street, one of the main roads through the village. The site of a post-medieval windmill (WA 3870) lies to the North of the site, and King John's Castle, medieval in date, lies approximately 1km to the West of the site. No other sites have been located in the area.

4.0: WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

A total of ten trenches was located along the frontage of the proposed new dwellings, (Fig 2). These were excavated by machine, (in this case a JCB), to an approximate depth of 1m below the present surface (it is worth noting at this stage that the original topsoil/garden material had already been removed, to a depth of 0.30m)

A total length of 54.6m of trenches was opened, all of which were 0.50m in width. In all trenches the excavated material removed was deposited onto an area previously stripped down to subsoil level. The excavated sections were then cleaned by hand to define any archaeological features present.

Recording was done by means of pre-printed pro-forma sheets for contexts and features, supplemented by scale drawings, plans, sections, and photographs, which are held in the archive.

Trench A

Trench A measured 13.2m in length, with a slight break at 6.60m, aligned East West close to the Warwick Road frontage. This trench when excavated, at 1.20m in depth, was seen to be totally devoid of any features, only two contexts could be made out in the section, a solid brown natural clay, some 0.40m in depth, overlain by a 0.60m deposit/layer of crushed subsoil/topsoil, containing few modern artefacts, i.e. coke can and a spray can, no finds of an earlier date were seen or recovered from this section

Trench B

Trench B measured 8.3m in length, and was aligned North-South on the Western edge of the plot, close to the wall of the former brewery site, now a narrow lane. Two positive features were seen in the section, F2, footings for a later brick wall, and F1, a large ditch, probably associated with an earlier boundary, or used for drainage. Both features contained fragments of tile, which although not datable, could have been from any period up to and including the present day.

F1, (Fig 2), was seen in all trenches running North-South across the development site, but varied in size from West to East, being 4.0m in width in Trench C, to 2.5m in width in Trench I, the most Easterly trench. This ditch, which had slight sloping sides, was seen to be cutting the natural bedrock (1004), allayed of Blue Lias, overlain by a layer of compact hard buff clay, to a depth of 0.1m-0.15m. It also cut into the natural subsoil (1002), a very hard compact clay, dark brown in colour, to a depth of 0.8m below the surface. The ditch was filled with a deposit of grey brown clay (1001), containing a few small stones <4cm, and a small amount of tile and brick fragments, not dateable to any particular period.

F2, (Fig 2), was also seen to be in evidence in all sections of the trenches running West-East across the site. This wall foundation, (1003), approximately 0.6m in depth, and 0.6m in width, seen in the cleaned trench sections C, D, E, I, constructed of roughly laid,

unmortared, Blue Lias stone, also contained a few fragments of tile, although these also were too small to be dated.

Interpretation

It is possible that F2 could have been constructed at, or about the same time as, the ditch, F1 was being backfilled, as no real evidence of a cut could be made out in the cleaned sections.

Sealing both of these features was a thin, 0.20-0.30m layer of redeposited topsoil/subsoil. As with Trench A, only evidence of modern activity was seen in this makeup.

Trenches F, G, H, J

The remaining trenches (Fig 2), were not recorded in any detail, as no new features were observed in the sections.

5.0: DISCUSSION

No evidence of medieval activity was found. The dateable tile and brick fragments are most probably post-medieval in date, associated as they are with the drainage ditch and wall footings, the positions of both of which can be remembered by local residents. It is of interest that the whole area of the development was at one time covered with farm buildings, before its incorporation into the Red Lion Public House. This may account for the lack of surviving features in the area.

6.0: IMPLICATIONS

Given that the area to the street frontage has been extensively trenched by the house foundations, and that the results area largely negative, further archaeological work will not be worthwhile.

7.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by Jobart Builders. The fieldwork , report and illustrations were undertaken by Jon Sterenberg. Iain Ferris edited the text. Many thanks to Mr Bartos for his help on site.

8.0: REFERENCES

Moir, D. 1995. Brief for archaeological Work, The Red Lion Public House, Bridge Street, Kineton, Warwickshire, unpublished.

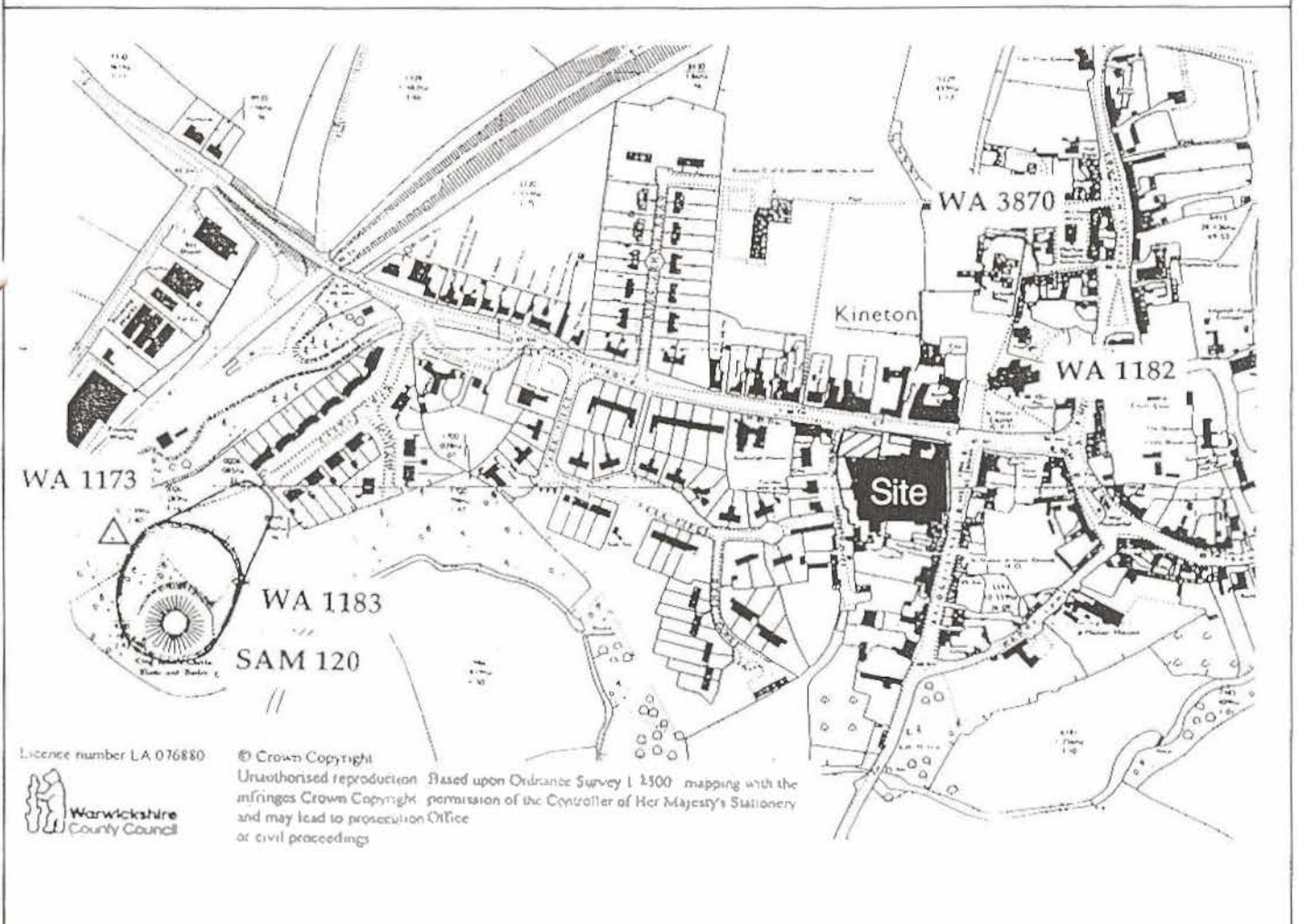
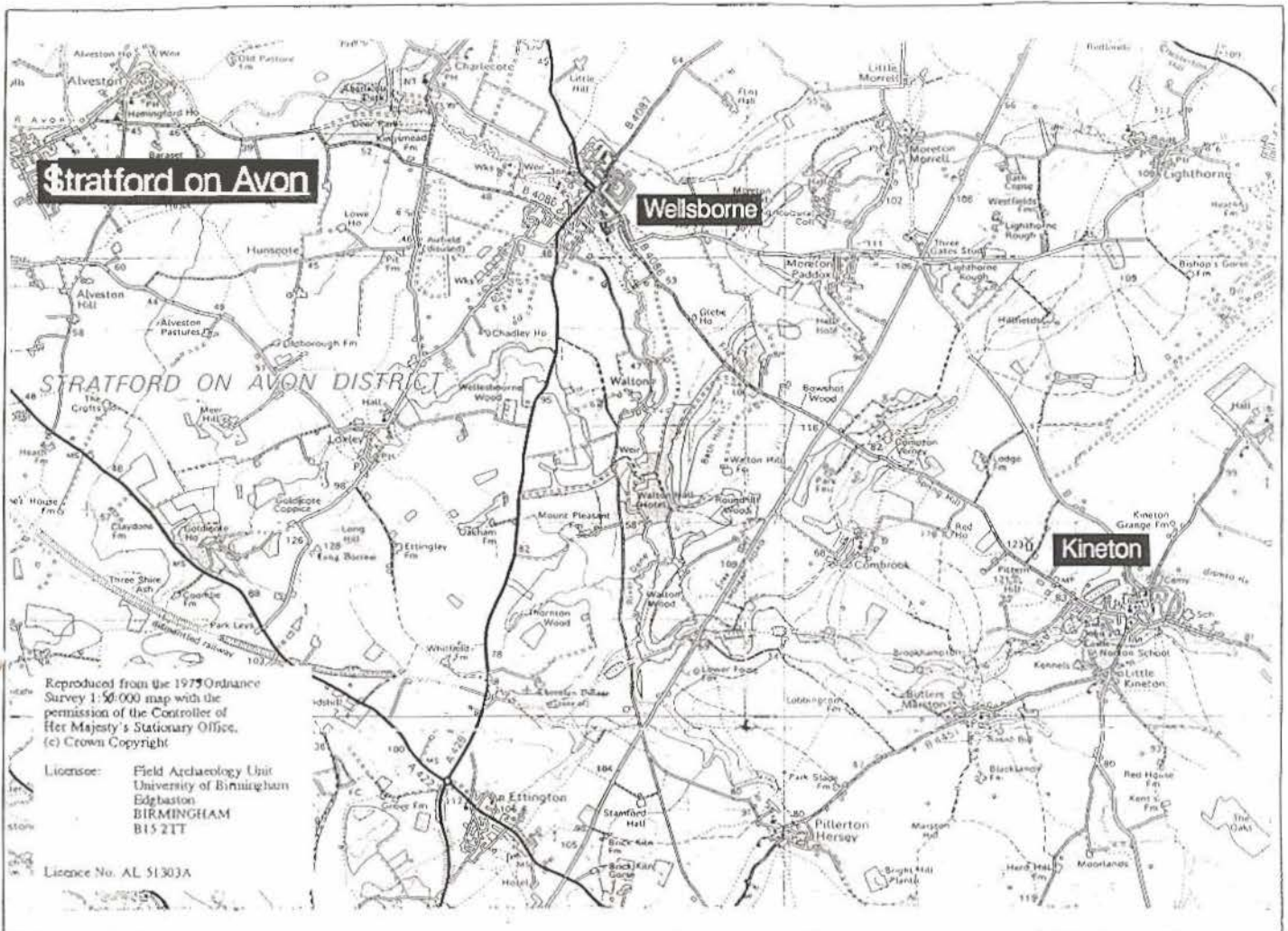


Fig 1

