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HARVINGTON HALL, WORCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2008 -2009

Project No. 1865

May 2009

HARVINGTON HALL

Near Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2008-9

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HARVINGTON HALL, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief, 2008-9

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HARVINGTON HALL, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief, November 2008-9

SUMMARY

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Brownhill Hayward Brown Chartered Architects, acting on behalf of Harvington Hall Management Committee, to undertake an archaeological watching brief in respect of proposed groundworks at Harvington Hall, near Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire, scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. 299), sited on NGR SO 8777 74453

The watching brief look place during groundworks by a JCB and a mini digger, both fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Other works were carried by pneumatic drills and hand digging. The site work was undertaken between November 2008 and February 2009.

The only archaeological feature observed during groundworks was an unmortared linear course of worked stone set within a layer of modern overburden. Only partially exposed and aligned between the chapel and northern part of the Hall, this feature was interpreted as the footings for a garden wall or other boundary, reusing discarded stone. No artefactual material predating the modern period was recovered.

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HARVINGTON HALL, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief, 2008-9

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Harvington Hall (hereinafter referred to as the site) is a grade I listed great house set within a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. 299) comprising a number of large water features including a substantial moat, probably of 13th-century date, which surrounds a triangular-shaped platform containing the Hall and a number of outbuildings. The Hall, a substantially 16th-century building with late medieval core, forms a significant group with three grade II listed ancillary structures, namely a 16th/17th-century malthouse, at the east corner of the platform, an 18th-century Roman Catholic chapel, on the north side, and a 17th-century bridge crossing the western arm of the moat.

1.1.2 In 2008 Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Brown Hayward Brown, chartered architects, on behalf of Harvington Hall Management Committee to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks within and around the scheduled area. Wyre Forest District Council Listed Building Consent, Planning Application Number 08/0440/LIST and Scheduled Monument Consent ref. HSD 9/2/10871.

1.1.3 The impetus for the project was the award of Heritage Lottery funding for the repair and conversion of the malthouse, which was in a poor structural condition and under utilised. In association with this, the upgrade of facilities at the Hall was undertaken, with particular emphasis on improved access for the disabled. These improvements included the creation of a disabled car parking area, the upgrading and extension of the path network and various surfaces within the moated site, the excavation of service trenches and inspection chambers, and the replacement of a concrete floor in the malthouse. Also included was the creation of a landscaped mound to the northwest of the Hall.

1.1.4 This report outlines the results of the watching brief carried out between November 2008 and February 2009, and has been prepared in accordance to the project design produced by Birmingham Archaeology (Appendix 1) which was approved by English Heritage. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IFA 2008).

2 LOCATION

2.1.1 Harvington Hall is situated approximately 3 miles east of Kidderminster, and just over one mile northwest of Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire at NGR SO 8777 74453. (Fig 1). The works took place within the moated area and just ouside the moat to the east.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features, structures, deposits, or horizons exposed during intrusive groundworks across the site. The more intrusive works included the excavation of service trenches and inspection chambers by machine, and the removal of the upper layers of the malthouse floor. Less intrusive works included the replacement of gravel and brick

paths and the removal of topsoil in preparation for the construction of a landscaped mound.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 Groundworks comprised the excavation of service trenches by a mini digger, and top and subsoils by a JCB. Both machines were equipped with a toothless bucket. All other groundworks were carried out by staff using pneumatic drills or hand tools. These works were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist and complemented with the salvage recording of any archaeological deposits and features revealed during works.

4.1.2 All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, and sections were drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using black and white monochrome, colour slide and digital photography.

4.1.3 The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate repository subject to permission from the landowner.

5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1.1 The name Harvington is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is listed in the Domesday Book under the Manor of Chaddesley Corbett. Harvington subsequently became a separate manor, and it is possible that a change in status may have led to the construction of the Harvington Hall moat. A fragment of pottery uncovered during ground works in 1991 suggests that the square moat and its platform were in existence in the 13th-century. From 1270 onwards the de Herwyntons appear in surviving documents. This family owned the manor of Harvington, and was responsible for the developments taking place on the moated site until 1344, after which date the manor was inherited by Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

5.1.2 The earliest known structure on the platform was a medieval timber-framed building on a sandstone foundation. The most substantial survival of this building is the low block facing east which was the solar, which retains at least one timber-framed truss of 15th-century character.

5.1.3 From 1344 onwards for nearly 200 years, the Manor of Harvington (and the manor of Chaddesley Corbett) remained part of the Warwick Estate. Evidence suggests that occupation of the moated site during these two centuries was constant. Alterations to the medieval timber-framed building date from the 14th and 16th centuries, and a green glazed jug dating from the 15th century was found in the moat during the 1930s.

5.1.4 John Pakington, a lawyer, brought the manors of Chaddesley Corbett and Harvington in 1529, and, by his death in 1551, owned over 30 manors in the Midlands, as well as property in London. Harvington was inherited by his second son also named John. It was this John Pakington who may have begun to build the Elizabethan parts

of Harvington Hall. Construction was continued and probably completed by his son Humphrey Pakington. Buildings were constructed on all four sides of a central courtyard, blocked doorways on the three landings of the Great Staircase indicate the floor levels of the demolished west wing. The tower-like structure that survives at the north end of the site is later than the other parts of Harvington Hall, dating from the later 17th century.

5.1.5 The sandstone for the foundations and dressings came from the quarry at the northwest corner of the moat, which is marked on an estate map of 1745-6 by Thomas Thorp.

5.1.6 The Pakington family owned and resided at Harvington Hall until 1631 when the Hall was inherited by Lady Yate. She lived there until her death in 1696 when Harvington was passed to her elder sister Mary, the wife of Sir Robert Throckmorton. The most important change to the hall, whilst under the ownership of the Throckmorton family, came in the early 18th century when the west and north sides of the courtyard were demolished by Sir Robert, the 3rd Baronet. In 1743 Sir Robert, the 4th Baronet, converted the upper floor of a range of farm buildings, which lie to the northeast of the malthouse, into a chapel, which survives today. Less than 100 years later, in 1825, the Georgian chapel was replaced by a new church, built across the road from the hall by Sir George Throckmorton, the 6th Baronet. Thirteen years after this Sir Charles Courtenay Throckmorton, the 7th Baronet built the Priest's House on the south side of the church, and for the first time in 250 years there was no priest living in the hall.

5.1.7 During the 19th-century the hall became neglected and gradually stripped of its furniture, fixtures and fittings, the Throckmorton income diminished rapidly and the family began to sell off its estates. In 1923 Mrs Ellen Ryan Ferris bought the moated site, its buildings, the church and priest's house and gave them to the archdiocese later consolidated into the Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered. This trust has owned the property ever since. In 1930, structural work began at the hall and in 1931 it opened to its first visitors. Programmes of restoration and preservation were carried out throughout the 20th-century on both the hall and its outbuildings, and have continued to this date.

5.1.8 (This historical and archaeological background account is an abridged version of that which appeared in a report produced by Birmingham Archaeology in 2004 [Driver and Hislop 2004]).

6 RESULTS (see plan, Fig. 2)

6.1.1 Natural geology was not encountered during groundworks.

6.1.2 **Disabled Car Park Area.**

The gravel car park was stripped to a depth of 0.10m to create disabled parking spaces.

No archaeological remains were identified at this depth.

6.1.3 **Replacement of brick surface on bridge.**

The brick surface of the main entrance bridge was resurfaced using a one-off-one-on method. It was recorded that beneath the 9 inch by 4 inch brick outer course there was an inner course of bricks, each measuring 8 inches by 4 inches.

6.1.4 **Replacement of gravel paths**

No archaeological features or remains were observed during groundworks.

6.1.5 **Excavation of service trenches and inspection chambers**

A number of service trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.30m and 0.40m (Fig. 2).

Rubble, sand, gravel and brick overburden, in differing concentrations, was encountered throughout the length of service trenches. However, set within the overburden, a linear course of unmortared worked sandstone blocks were exposed in section within a length of service trench that was aligned north-west to south-east between the chapel and the main hall (Plate 1). The course ran for 3.90m along the northern section of the trench, and was at a depth of 0.15m. The blocks were up to 0.20m in depth and up to 0.40m in length.

Another two, possibly associated, sandstone blocks were partially exposed, on a similar alignment, in a service trench outside the chapel (Plate 2). The blocks were 0.30m in width by 0.20m in depth.

No datable finds were recovered during groundworks.

6.1.6 **Replacement of malthouse floor** (Plates 3 and 4)

The groundworks took place within the raised ground floor of the southern end of the malthouse.

The deepest layer located was a rubble levelling layer of modern brick, tile and large stones excavated to a depth 0f 0.10m. Overlying this was another levelling layer comprised of coal dust and cinders that had a depth of between 0.05m and 0.09m. Sealing both layers was a concrete floor, measuring between 0.016m and 0.11m deep.

The depth required to complete groundworks, 0.30m, meant that any original or early archaeological features remained undisturbed.

No datable finds were recovered during groundworks.

6.1.7 **Renewal of brick hardstanding on east side of malthouse**

No archaeological features or remains were observed during groundworks.

6.1.8 **Construction of a new turf mound** (Plates 5 and 6)

The deepest context reached during groundworks was a layer of pinkish clay-rich silt subsoil that remained unexcavated. The subsoil was overlain by a 0.35m deep dark brown organic topsoil that, in turn, was sealed a by 0.05m deep turf layer.

No archaeological features or remains were observed during groundworks.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1.1 Despite the theoretical potential for the discovery of archaeological features and remains during groundworks, the watching brief identified no archaeological features

or remains within a context that pre-dated the later post-medieval period. The course of sandstone blocks that was observed during the excavation of the service trench, between the chapel and Hall, was clearly set within a later build up of over-burden.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1.1 The project was commissioned by Brownhill Hayward Brown Chartered Architects, on behalf of Harvington Hall Management Committee. Thanks are due to Adrian Mathias for his co-operation and assistance throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Martin Yoeman, Site Foreman. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Brown, Ellie Buttery, Mary Duncan, Mark Charles, Erica Macey-Bracken and Phil Mann. Mark Charles produced the written report which was illustrated by Jemma Elliot, and edited by Malcolm Hislop who managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

9 REFERENCES

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Appendix 1
HARVINGTON HALL, WORCESTERSHIRE

PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Harvington Hall near Chaddesley Corbett in Worcestershire is a grade I listed great house set within a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. 299) which comprises a number of large water features including a substantial moat, probably of 13th-century date, which surrounds a triangular-shaped platform containing the Hall and a number of outbuildings. The hall, a substantially 16th-century building with late medieval core, forms a significant group with three grade II listed ancilliary structures, namely a 16th/17th-century malthouse at the east corner of the platform, an 18th-century Roman Catholic chapel, on the north side, and a 17th-century bridge crossing the western arm of the moat.

Heritage Lottery funding has recently been awarded for the repair and conversion of the malthouse, which is in a poor structural condition and which is currently under utilised. In association with this project proposals have been put forward for upgrading the facilities at the Hall, laying particular emphasis on improving access for the disabled. These proposals include the creation of a disabled car parking area, the upgrading and extension of the path network and various brick surfaces within the moated site, the excavation of service trenches and inspection chambers, and the replacement of a concrete floor in the malthouse.

Because these improvements to the infrastructure of the site are being undertaken within an archaeologically sensitive site, and may affect significant archaeological deposits, a mitigation strategy has been devised and enshrined in this document. This comprises a watching brief to be carried out in concert with the proposed improvements.

2.0 LOCATION

Harvington Hall is situated approximately 3 miles east of Kidderminster, and just over one mile northwest of Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire at NGR SO 877745.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Harvington appears in the Domesday Book under the manor of Chaddesley Corbett, but subsequently became a separate manor, and it is possible that the change in status was related to the construction of the moated site. A John de Harvington held land at Harvington in 1280, and the manor of Harvington was held by Adam son of William de Harvington (presumably a descendant) in the mid-14th century. At Adam's death in 1344 the manor reverted to the Earl of Warwick, and for nearly 200 years thereafter the manor remained part of the Warwick estate. It was probably during this period that a timber-framed hall house, part of which survives as the core of the existing house, was raised on the east side of the platform.

In 1529 the manors of Chaddesley Corbett and Harvington were bought by John Pakington, and, on his death, were inherited by his second son, John. It was this John who probably began to rebuild the Hall in brick, the work being continued by his son, Humphrey. The result was a courtyard house with buildings on all four sides, of which only the south and east sides remain. It is likely that the Pakingtons were also responsible for the early phase(s) of the stone and timber malthouse at the western corner of the platform.

The Pakington family resided at Harvington Hall until 1631 when the Hall was inherited by Lady Yate. During Lady Yate's time the malthouse appears to have been extended, tree-ring dates obtained by Robert Howard in 2004 suggesting a date of 1657 for the northwest end of the building. Lady Yate lived there until her death in 1696 when Harvington came to the Throckmorton family through her sister, Lady Mary, wife of Sir Robert Throckmorton. In the early 18th century the Throckmortons demolished the west and north wings of the courtyard house. In 1743 Sir Robert, 4th baronet, converted the upper floor of existing farm buildings on the north side of the platform into a chapel.

Archaeological evidence suggests that occupation has been continuous since the 13th century, and the high status of the site from the 14th century onwards was demonstrated in a small excavation by the Hereford City Archaeology Unit in 1995 when abundant roof and floor tiles were recovered. The excavation of drainage ditches exposed wall foundations apparently representing structures demolished prior to the setting out of the site after the 16th century rebuilding. A trench dug through the silts of the moat to accommodate new services, was less archaeologically rewarding, owing to the moat having been dredged in 1931 when sandstone roof tiles and a 15th-century green-glazed jug were recovered.

4.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the archaeological watching brief is to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits uncovered during hand-cleaning of infrastructure excavation, and to prepare a report summarising the findings.

The excavation of the new service trench and inspection chambers in particular will provide the opportunity to record the character of the stratigraphy within the moated enclosure and to recover further artefactual dating evidence for the occupation of the site. It is also possible that the structural remains of buildings may be encountered.

On the broader canvas, there is the prospect adding to corpus of knowledge about moated sites and their structural development, particularly with regard to the medieval/post Reformation interface. In this respect, Harvington Hall is of special interest in that the 16th century Hall was built around the existing medieval house, part of which was incorporated. The proposed project has the potential to locate ancillary buildings that may have predated the malthouse and chapel.

The response to specific activities will be as follows:

Disabled car parking area

The creation of a new disabled car parking area to the east of the moat at the start of the path to the main gateway will involve some groundworks. These will be undertaken under constant archaeological surveillance.

Replacement of brick surface of bridge

The existing brick surface of the bridge is to be removed and the sub-base assessed. Prior to the bricks being lifted the surface will be recorded by means of photographs and written description. Monitoring and recording of the bridge sub-base after the removal of the bricks will also be carried out.

Replacement and of gravel paths

The existing sub-base is to be retained *if satisfactory*. No action required unless the sub-base is replaced, in which case it will be done under archaeological surveillance.

Creation of new gravel path

Ground works for the creation of a new footpath leading to the malthouse will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

Replacement of decayed bricks to hardstanding on west side of the Hall

A written and photographic record will be made of the feature prior to any alterations taking place. The plan is to replace individual bricks, and no further action will be taken unless large areas of the existing brickwork are removed and the sub-base excavated; in such circumstances the work will be monitored by an archaeologist and the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits recorded.

Excavation service trench and inspection chambers

It is possible that the new service trench and associated inspection chambers, both of which are to be 600mm deep, and which are to be cut across the moated platform, will disturb archaeological deposits. Therefore their excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological surveillance.

Replacement of malthouse floor

This will involve the removal of the existing concrete floor and the preparation for its replacement. While the removal of the concrete itself will not need to be monitored by an archaeologist, the removal of the sub-base and any groundworks will be kept under constant surveillance.

Renewal of brick hardstanding on east side of malthouse

The hardstanding is to be renewed and existing bricks supplemented with new bricks, the whole pavement being relaid. Any ground works for the sub-base will carried out under constant archaeological surveillance.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

An experienced archaeologist will attend site to monitor groundworks, as required. Groundworks to be observed will include the stripping of topsoil, B-horizon subsoils, and trenches cut into the natural subsoil.

Following the stripping of topsoil the machined surface will be inspected, and sufficient hand-cleaning will be undertaken to facilitate the definition of archaeological or possible archaeological features and deposits.

Where it is safe to do so, the archaeologist will enter construction trenches for the purpose of undertaking hand-cleaning of the trench sides and base for the better definition of any archaeological features or deposits present. No excavation of archaeological features, other than hand-cleaning, would be undertaken. Where it is unsafe to enter deep trenches archaeological recording will be confined to photography and the completion of pre-printed pro-formas.

Should significant, or potentially significant groups of archaeological features be uncovered the Planning Archaeologist and Archaeological Consultant (if any) will be consulted immediately so that an alternative strategy for more detailed investigation can be devised, in consultation with the developer.

Human remains

No excavation of human remains would be undertaken until a Home Office Licence was obtained, and the Planning Archaeologist, the local Coroner, and the Police consulted.

Recording

Recording would be by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate), and 35mm monochrome print and high resolution colour digital photography.

Finds

Finds would be recovered by context would be washed, marked and bagged. Appropriate conservation work would be undertaken. A metal detector would be used as an aid to finds recovery.

Environmental sampling

All datable features would be sampled objectively for the recovery of charred or waterlogged plant remains, pollen and insect remains.

6.0 STAFFING

The project manager will be Dr Malcolm Hislop MIFA, and the watching brief will be maintained by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

Specialists, where appropriate, will be as follows:

Dr Ann Woodward- Prehistoric pottery, Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

Dr Jeremy Evans- Roman pottery, Honorary Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

Stephanie Rátkai- Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Honorary Research Associate and Finds Researcher, University of Birmingham.

Erica Macey-Bracken- Small finds, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Dr Andrew Howard– Archaeo-Geomorphology, Lecturer in Archaeo-Geomorphology and Remote Sensing, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Ben Gearey- Birmingham Archaeo-Environmentals, University of Birmingham - pollen and plant macro-fossils.

Dr Tom Hill – Environmental Archaeologist, Birmingham Archaeo-Environmentals, University of Birmingham

Dr Wendy Smith- Charred plant remains, Honorary Research Fellow in Archaeo-Botany, University of Birmingham.

Matilda Holmes- Animal bone, freelance consultant archaeozoologist.

Dr David Smith- Micro-fauna, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Megan Brickley- Human Bone, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Roger White- Coins and brooches, Project Manager, Lecturer and Assistant Director (Development), Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Jane Cowgill- slag and industrial residues, freelance consultant.

Rowena Gale- charcoal and wood. freelance consultant.

7.0 REPORT FORMAT

The archaeological watching brief report will comprise:

- Description of the development and archaeological background
- Details of the archaeological results set within their context.
- Spot-dating of datable finds, and brief finds and environmental reports
- A discussion of the watching brief results.
- Plans showing the locations and extent of the development site subjected to the watching brief, supported by historic map extracts to place the watching brief results in the wider context.
- Simplified feature plans and sections, where applicable.
- A selection of colour photographs, where applicable.

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. Two copies of the report will be lodged with the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council. A digital copy on CD-ROM will be provided. A summary report may be submitted for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology.*

8.0 ARCHIVE

The full site archive will include all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site, and will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992).

9.0 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA)
- All Birmingham Archaeology staff will follow the Code of Conduct of the IFA at all times.
- The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999, revised 2001).
- The archaeological watching brief will follow the specific guidelines and requirements laid down in the Design Brief prepared by the relevant Planning Archaeologist, and the particular requirements set down in this document, which will be followed by all project staff. All

variations will be agreed in advance with the relevant Planning Archaeologist and Archaeological Consultant.

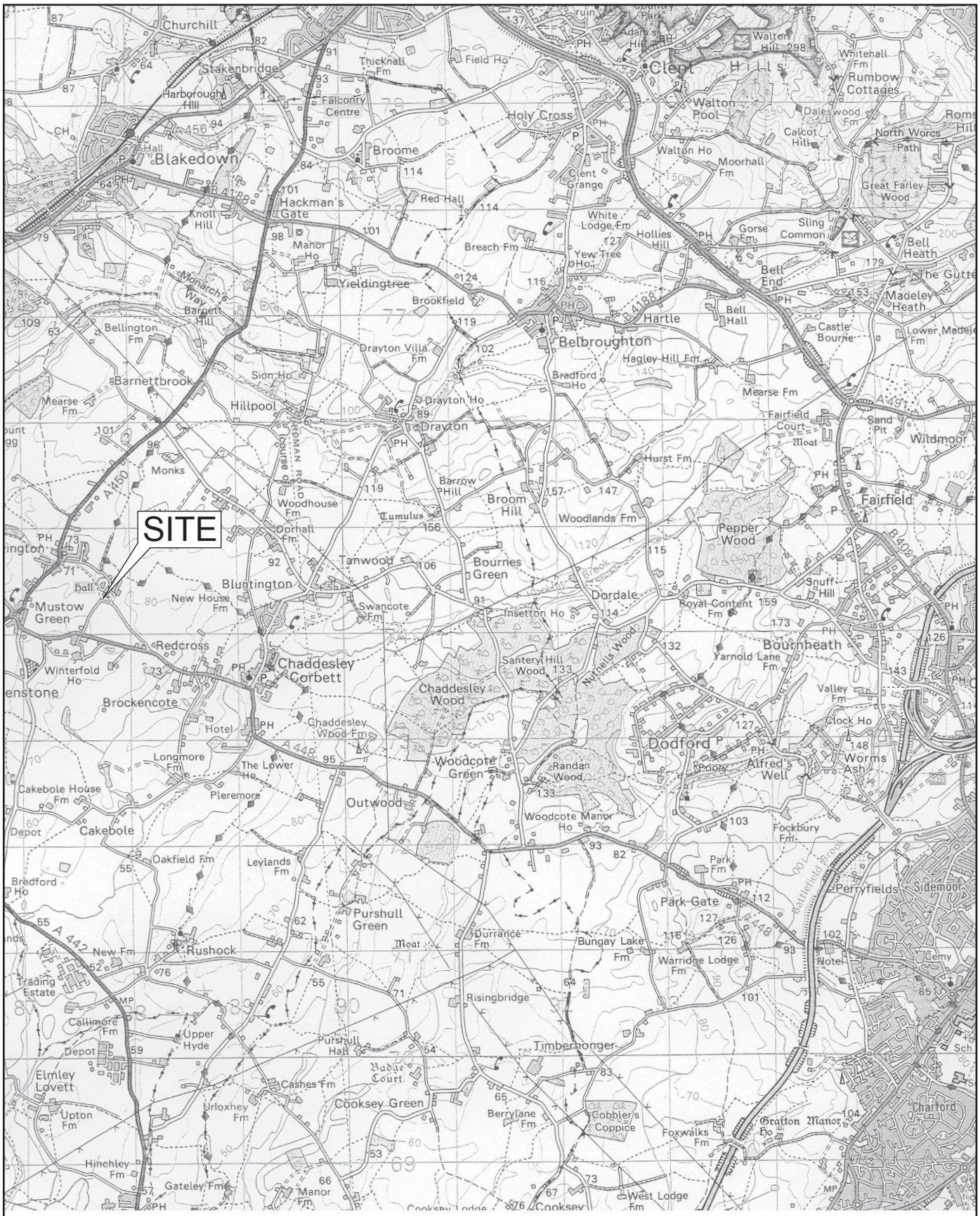
10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- A Risk Assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the archaeological watching brief.
- Birmingham Archaeology staff will follow the Health and safety guidelines contained in the Birmingham Archaeology Health and Safety Manual. This follows the requirements of the SCAUM Health and Safety Manual, and is approved by the Health and Safety Unit of the University of Birmingham.

11.0 PROGRAMME

The watching brief programme will follow that of the general contractor undertaking construction groundworks, with regular liaison between Birmingham Archaeology and the general contractor to ensure that regular archaeological attendance is maintained during the groundworks sufficient to ensure that the requirements of the Design Brief are fulfilled.

A suitable time allowance for hand-cleaning and recording of archaeological features and deposits should be made by the main contactor and their groundworkers. The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will maintain regular liaison with the site manager/foreman to keep disruption of the improvement programme to a minimum.



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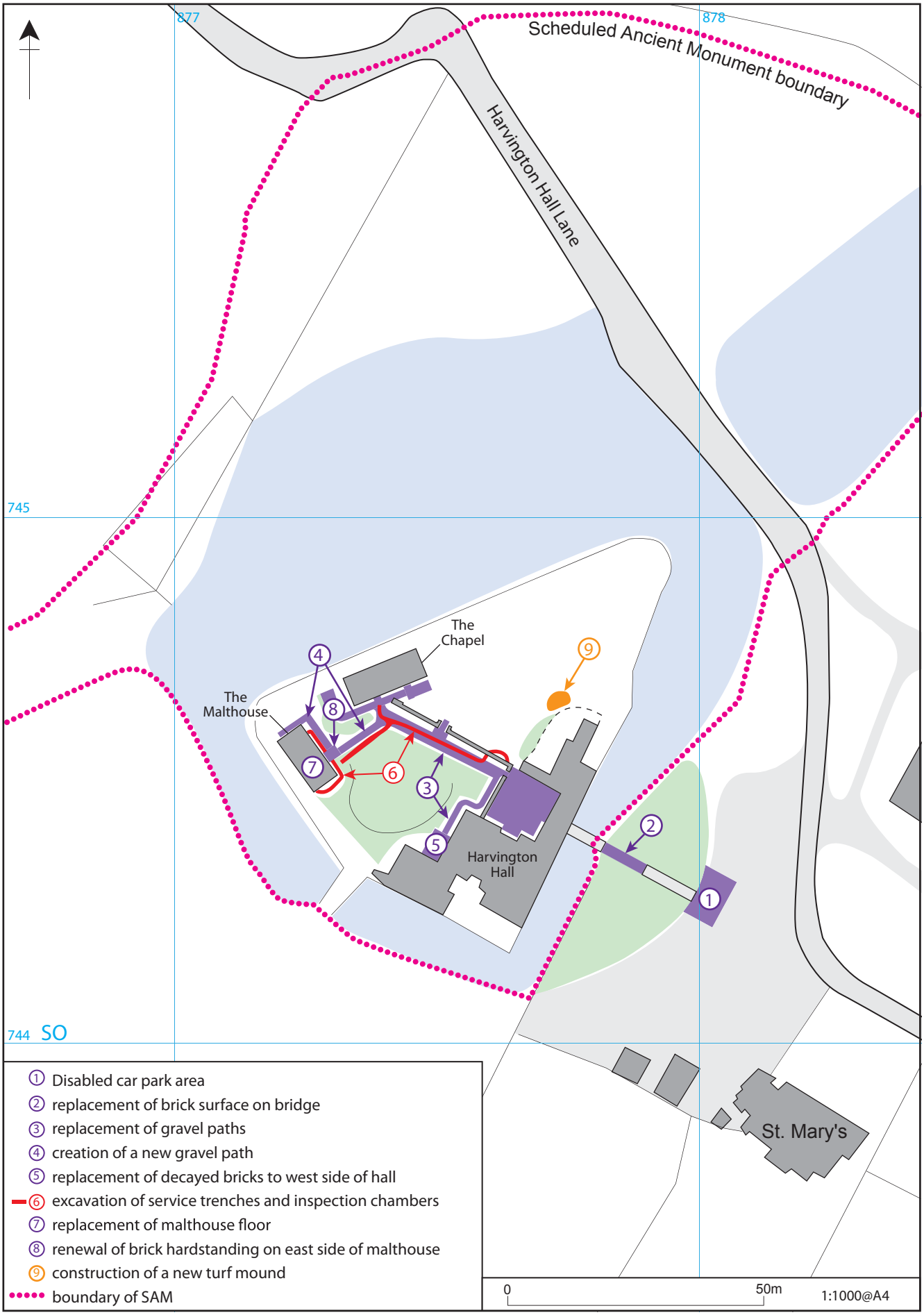
PN: 1865

Harvington Hall, Worcestershire

Figure 1: Site Location



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Harvington Hall, Worcestershire

Figure 2: Site Plan

Service trench; course of sandstone blocks, from the southeast

Service trench; sandstone blocks outside the chapel from the east

Malthouse floor groundworks, from the east

Malthouse floor stratigraphy, from the northwest

Mound construction groundworks, from the north

Mound construction after excavation, from the south