

Archaeology Wales

Land to the rear of Upper Norton Barn High Walton, Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Kate Pitt ACIfA

Report No. 1474

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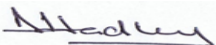



Archaeology Wales

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Mr and Mrs M Corfield at Upper Norton Barn. It details the results of an archaeological watching brief, undertaken during groundworks for an extension, as a condition of the Planning Permission 15/01445/FUL (Shropshire Council).

The results of the investigation indicate this area has largely been disturbed during previous groundworks and the underlying geological deposits (sandy clay and outcrops of sandstone bedrock) appear to have been severely truncated across most of the site. This would have destroyed any features or deposits that once existed in this area. No archaeological features or finds were identified during the watching brief.

This watching brief was undertaken to the standards set in the ClfA's Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On 22nd April 2016 Archaeology Wales Limited (AW) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Upper Norton Barn, High Walton, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9LT (Figures 1 & 2). The application site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 346120 281570 (SO 4612 8157). The barn is recorded on the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) as formerly part of an historic farmstead that dates from or before the 19th century (PRN 24052).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development relates to the construction of an extension to the rear (south) of the dwelling Upper Norton Barn. The proposed extension measures some approximately 7.25m out from the barn (roughly north-south) and 5.5m wide (roughly east-west).
- 1.1.3 The Local Planning Authority is Shropshire Council (SC), and the application number is 15/01445/FUL. An archaeological watching brief is a requirement of the Planning Permission (Condition 3).
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological investigation has been prepared by AW at the request of Mr and Mrs M Corfield. This was subsequently approved by Dr Andy Wigley, Principle Archaeologist, Shropshire Council Historic Environment Team (SC-HAT) prior to work being undertaken on the site. The WSI is included as Appendix III of this report.
- 1.1.5 The AW project number for the work is 2374 and the site code is NCS/15/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix IV).

1.2 Geology & Topography

- 1.2.1 The development site is underlain by bedrock geology of sandstone of the Downton Castle Formation. No superficial deposits are mapped within the development area (British Geological Survey, 2016).
- 1.2.2 The development site is located within the garden to the rear of the Upper Norton Barn, at an approximate altitude of 167m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.2 The proposed development appears to be located in the general vicinity of a burial ground (PRN 03198). A number of skeletons were reputedly unearthed at Upper Norton Farm by workmen digging foundations for farm buildings. These are perhaps those structures positioned some 100m or so west of Norton Farm Barn. At the time of discovery the burials were thought to be Roman, but it is more likely that the burials are associated with the Civil War Battle of Stokesay (PRN 03192); this was fought in the locality on 8th June 1645. A chapel (PRN 03541) presumed to be associated with this burial ground is thought to be located to the south of Upper Norton Farm. The precise locations of the chapel and cemetery are not known. Other archaeological monuments reported in the locality significantly include a Roman road (PRN 02613), which lies approximately 160m to the west of the development site. Overall, the archaeological record indicates there is a general potential for 17th century burials and other archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.3.3 The 1843 Tithe map for Culmington Parish depicts a building to the north of the development site which may have been associated with the chapel. Early Ordnance Survey maps also indicate that farm buildings were formerly located in the general area of the proposed development. There is consequently a general potential for remains of post-medieval, or earlier, structures within the development site.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Watching Brief

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), is:
 - To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
 - To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the

watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard;

- To establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3 Methodology

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 The methodology for the archaeological watching brief followed that set out within the approved WSI (Appendix III). This work included the following key elements:

- The site overburden was removed in spits with a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The watching brief was maintained on all groundworks within the development site.
- The fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Yates. Management of the project was undertaken by Kate Pitt (ACIfA). The watching brief was carried out in April 2016.
- All areas were photographed using high-resolution (14mp+) digital photography. The on-site illustrations were drawn on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, as appropriate). All the deposits were recorded in the field on pro-forma context sheets.
- The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance: for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental Evidence

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered during the fieldwork.

4 Results of the Watching Brief

4.1 Description

4.1.1 The weather conditions were dry during the fieldwork. The watching brief was undertaken during excavations of strip foundations for the extension (Plates 1-6).

- 4.1.2 The excavation area was located immediately to the north of Upper Norton Barn. This area was level having being previously terraced, resulting in a bank of soil within the northern part of the site. The soil sequence encountered in this area consisted of topsoil, approximately 0.2m in depth, overlying geological deposits (natural) which comprised a light brown sandy clay with frequent sandstone fragments, and outcrops of sandstone bedrock.
- 4.1.3 The material excavated within the rest of the site, to the south of the bank, was identified as made ground (redeposited topsoil) directly overlaying bedrock. This deposit contained fragments of modern ceramic, glass and iron objects across this entire part of the site. The made ground appeared to be the result of backfilling following the re-grading of this area. The depth of this deposit, at 0.8m-1m thick, indicates the natural has previously been heavily truncated. Additional modern disturbance had resulted from service trenches and a field drain running east-west through the site.
- 4.1.4 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. In addition, no residual archaeological artefacts were retrieved from the topsoil or the made ground deposits.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Overall Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The upper soil sequence identified during the investigation comprised topsoil and made ground in the northern and southern part of the site, respectively. This overlay natural deposits of sandy clay and outcrops of sandstone bedrock. The natural appeared to have been severely truncated within the southern part of the site, and this would have destroyed any features or deposits that once existed in this area. No evidence for any anthropogenic activity was identified in any of the exposed or excavated deposits.

5.2 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

- 5.2.1 Despite the negative results of the archaeological investigation, there remains a general potential for burials to be found within the general scheme area in addition to those already unearthed at Upper Norton Farm (PRN 03198). These are presumed to be associated with the Civil War Battle of Stokesay (PRN 03192) and perhaps a 17th chapel reputedly located in the vicinity of Upper Norton Farm (PRN 03541).

6.3 Storage and Curation

- 6.3.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with: Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (CIfA, 2014) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE

(Historic England, 2006). The archive will be deposited with Shropshire Council. There is no material archive to deposit with Shropshire Museum Service.

6 Bibliography and References

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/> (Accessed 10/09/15)

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

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APPENDIX I: Figures

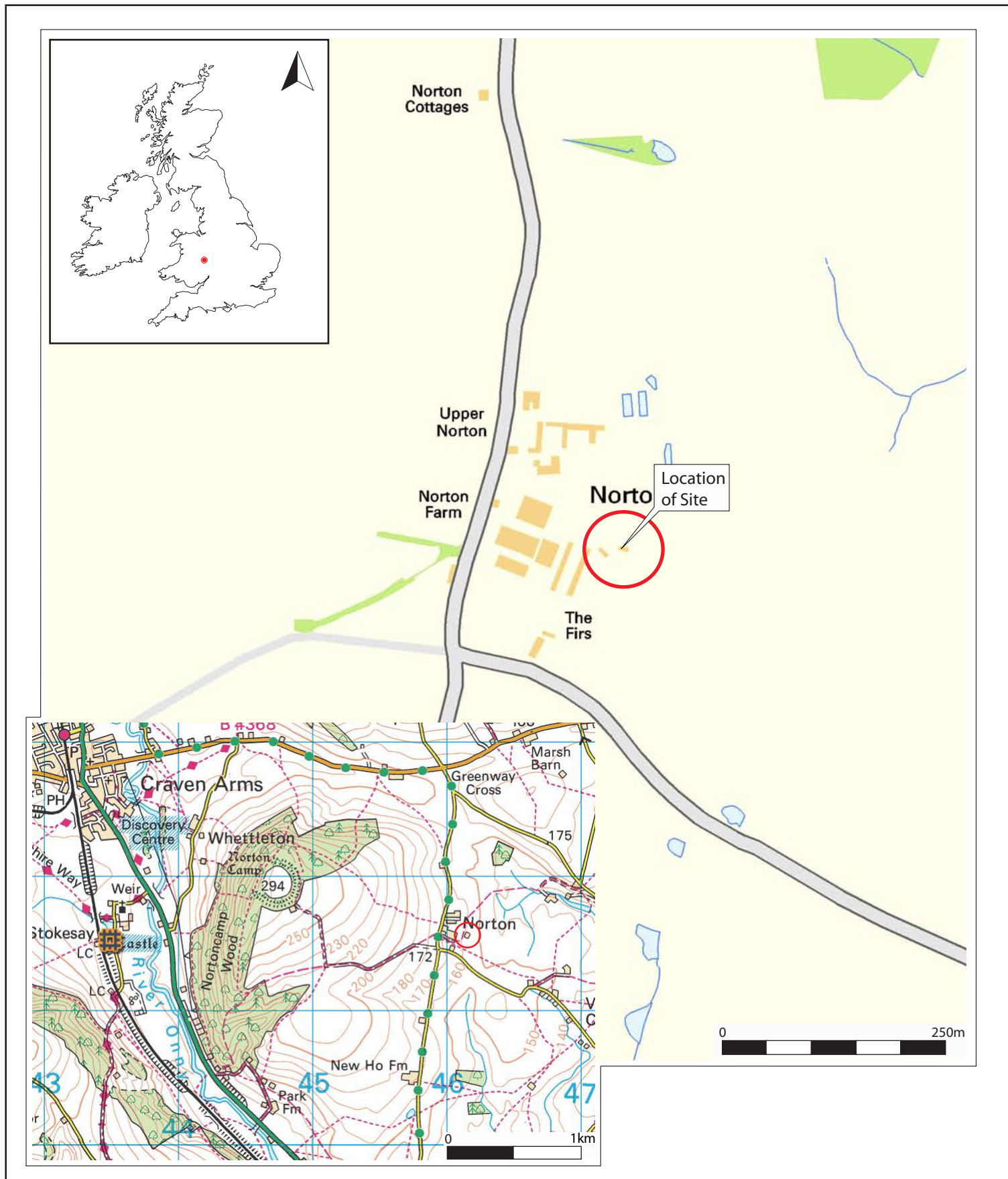


Figure 1
Location of Site

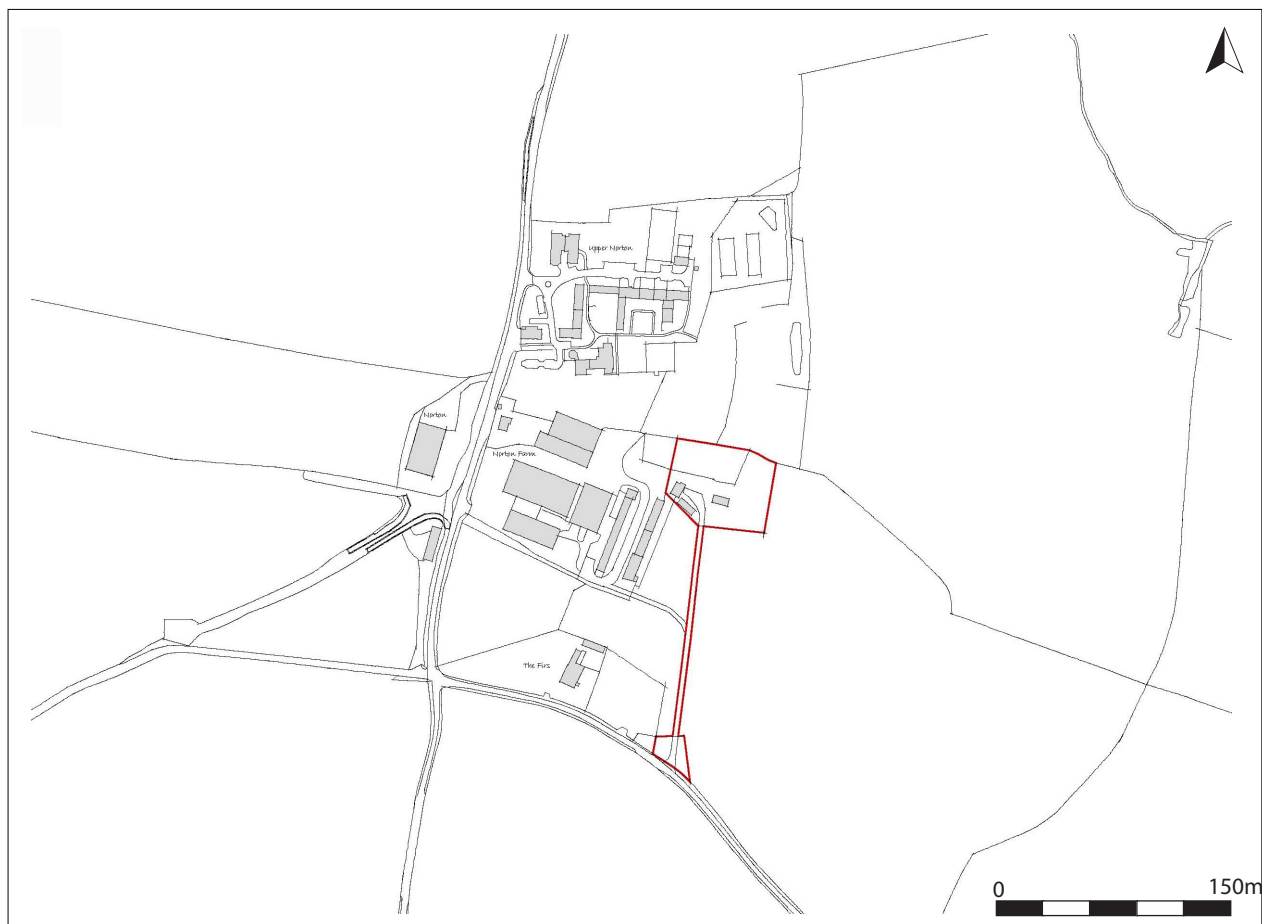


Figure 2
Map showing development site

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APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1: Overall view of foundation trenches.
Scale 2m, Looking south



Plate 2: South facing section of the foundation trench showing bedrock
Scale 2m, Looking north



Plate 3: South facing section of the foundation trench
Scale 2m, Looking north



Plate 4: South facing section and base of the foundation trench
Scale 2m, Looking north



Plate 5: West facing section and base of the foundation trench
Scale 2m, Looking east



Plate 6: West facing section and base of the foundation trench
Scale 2m, Looking east

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APPENDIX III: Written Scheme of Investigation

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SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

**Upper Norton Barn, High Walton, Craven Arms,
Shropshire**

Prepared for:

Mr and Mrs M Corfield

14th September 2015

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigation details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the erection of an extension to a dwelling, at Upper Norton Barn, High Walton, Craven Arms, Shropshire.

1. Introduction and archaeological background

This Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) has been prepared by Kate Pitt (ACIfA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) at the request of Mr and Mrs M Corfield. It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during an archaeological watching brief at Upper Norton Barn, High Walton, Craven Arms, Shropshire (Henceforth - the site). The planning application number is 15/01445/FUL.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Dr Andy Wigley, Principal Archaeologist, Shropshire County Council – Historic Environment Team (SCC-HET). SCC-HET have recommended that a watching brief is undertaken during all extension groundworks due to be carried out at the site.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

The proposed development lies c.160m east of the known route of a Roman road (PRN 02613) and near to a possible burial site (PRN 03198) where a number of human skeletons were unearthed in an orchard by workmen digging foundations for farm buildings. Locally, these skeletons are supposed to be from a Roman cemetery, but more likely to be burials connected with the Battle of Stokesay, 1645. Additionally, it is traditionally thought that a Chapel existed c.50m south of Upper Norton Farm (PRN 03541) and this may be associated with the cemetery noted above. The transcription of the Tithe Award map for Culmington Parish of the 1843 depicts a building north of the development site which may have been associated with the chapel and historic editions of the Ordnance Survey map indicates the former farm buildings within the vicinity of the development site. The development site therefore has some archaeological potential.

2 Site specific objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the CIfA (2014) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

3 Watching Brief Methodology

General

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitable qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014).

Detailed

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the excavation of all foundation trenches, service trenches and/or reductions in ground level associated with the proposed developments.

If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent and nature of the feature and for excavation and recording to take place.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and SCC-HET. Full excavation of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.

Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site can be temporarily suspended. This will allow a period of consultation with the SCC-HET and if required the opinion of specialists.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and the Local Planning Authority.

The methodology and timescale of additional archaeological work to investigate such features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme; the feature will be fenced off and secured thus allowing the site programme to continue

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera or above.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned

and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and the Environment Agency, HET-SC and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, SCC-HET and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name
Animal bone	Jen Kitch
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall
Clay pipe	Hilary Major
Glass	Andy Richmond
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby
Post Roman pottery	Paul Blinkhorn
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers

4 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with Morphe (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to SCC-HET for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

Representatives of SCC-HET will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. SCC-HET will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the offices of HET-SC with the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

An OASIS record will also be established and uploaded for the site.

5 Resources and timetable

Standards

The watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief will be undertaken at the convenience of the client.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

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APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Upper Norton Barn, High Walton, Craven Arms

Site Name:	Upper Norton Barn
Site Code:	NCS/15/WB
Other Ref No:	PRN 24052 (Upper Norton Barn)
NGR:	SO 4612 8157
Site Type:	Garden
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Kate Pitt
Project Dates:	April 2016
Categories Present:	Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	NA
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	NA
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

Archaeology Wales

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