

Archaeology Wales

Spring Cottage, Claverley, Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No. 1606

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



Archaeology Wales

Spring Cottage, Claverley, Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at Spring Cottage, in Claverley, Shropshire. It draws upon the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during excavations for new stables and a new rear extension. The watching brief was undertaken as a condition of planning as the development site is located within the southeast of Shropshire, former Stottesdon Hundred, that have been of relevance for the agricultural and administrative development of the historic county of Shropshire, since the 10th - 11th century. The area is surrounded by medieval landscapes comprising mostly of deer parks and significant castles such as Bridgnorth and Cleobury Castles. The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis.

Two trenches were excavated, one at the northwest plot of Spring Cottage, where the new stables are to be located; and one to the rear of the house, where an extension is programmed to be built. The overall soil sequence encountered during the watching brief consisted of a natural (geological) deposit of mid-brownish orange silty sands, which underlay a mid-brown sandy subsoil that contained 20th century stoneware and china and, to the rear of the house, also a deposit of soil for raising of the garden with domestic materials from late 19th-early 20th century. The upper soil layer consisted of turf topsoil.

Two modern features were identified during the groundworks to the rear of the house, a red bricks wall and a single alignment of red tiles, both used for delimitation of the garden. They were recorded since the excavation of the trench involved the intrusion on these.

No medieval or early post-medieval features, deposits or residual artifacts were identified during the watching brief. The results of the fieldwork provisionally indicate a low level of medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavated areas.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

An archaeological watching brief has been carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) during excavations for two small developments: 'Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling' with associated Planning Application No. 16/05495/FUL and 'Erection of stables' with associated Planning Application No. 16/05496/FUL, both located at Spring Cottage, Sytch House Green, Claverley, Wolverhampton, Shropshire WV5 7AL, centred on SO 377932 290202 (Figure 1 and 2).

In its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, the Historic Environment Team at the Shropshire County Council, recommended that an archaeological mitigation (watching brief) of the development area was undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work to be undertaken was drawn up by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, project manager for AW. This was subsequently approved by SCC-HET (Appendix II).

The AW project number is 2520 and the site code is HBR/17/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix III). The archaeological work has been undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Ingilis.

1.2 Topography

The site falls within a Green Belt area in open countryside in southeast Shropshire, to the south of the village of Claverley and approximately 10km east of Bridgnorth. It is accessed via minor roads from the A458 to the south or the A454/B4176 to the north.

The site comprises of a small parcel of irregular shape, with approximately 1,375 sq. m (1.375ha) and roughly arranged in a northwest-southeastern axis. It is limited at all sides by field boundaries characterized by large mature trees, being delimited in the southeastern and southwestern areas by local paths. It is situated at an average height of 122m aOD. There is a small brook flowing northwards that crosses the development site on its southeastern end.

The site comprises a number of small buildings located at the northwest area. The Spring Cottage itself, a traditional white rendered property with eaves dormers that includes a two-storey brick building with large arch openings, a self-contained cottage later adapted for garaging.

To the west of the site there is paddock land used for horses. There is garden land surrounding the cottage and annex. Some landscaping work has been done. The surrounding land is generally agricultural, however there is a neighbouring dwelling, Spring Gorse Cottage, approximately 75m away to east. That property has recently been extended.

1.3 Mapped Geology

The underlying geology on site comprises Wildmoor Sandstone Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 246 to 251 million years ago (Triassic) within a local environment previously dominated by rivers. The superficial deposits on site comprise sand and silt formed up to 3 million years ago (Quaternary) within a local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes (British Geological Survey 2017).

1.4 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

The site lies within the historic limits of east Shropshire, formed during the 10th century after the Anglo-Saxon division of Mercia into shires. The area experienced a significant development during the Norman period, characterized for the erection of eminent castles such as Cleobury and Bridgnorth Castle, the keeping of large forest areas for deer hunting, and the division of hundreds for administrative and economic purposes.

The development site lies within an area that has remained as open country side and is characterized by soft, undulating hills, agricultural crops, and traditional, agricultural buildings normally associated with farming landscapes, like farmhouses, barns, stables and cottages arranged around open courtyards, normally next to small streams or brooks.

The area in which the development site is located was part of the former Stottesdon Hundred, mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), that occupied the southeast area of Shropshire, and which main town was Bridgnorth, to the northern side. It was limited by Staffordshire to the east, Herefordshire to the south and the immediacies of Shropshire Hills to the west. The area is profuse in forest land and much of it has been protected under Green Belt policy. There are a number of listed buildings in the area with characteristics similar to the buildings at the Spring Cottage.

Most relevant are the group of Lower Beobridge, located only 1.5km to the northeast, Kings Barn in Farmcote (1.8km to the north), or the Brook House buildings, located approximately 2km to the southwest. The characteristics of the buildings within the development site, and its location within a historic landscape, suggest a medium to high potential for subsurface archaeology or previous layout of the building to be encountered during demolition works and groundworks.

2 *Aims and Objectives*

The watching brief was undertaken to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence or nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works to the archaeological resource;
- 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 investigate and record the archaeological remains to a satisfactory or proper standard;
- to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3 Methodology

3.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the ClfA's Standards and Guidance: for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation. The methodology for the archaeological watching brief followed that set out within the approved WSI (Appendix II). This work included the following key elements:

The foundations were excavated using a *circa* 2.5 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavations were monitored under close archaeological supervision.

The trenches base and sections were hand cleaned using pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features;

All identified deposits were examined and recorded during the evaluation;

All areas were photographed using high-resolution (10mp+) digital photography;

All the deposits were described in the field on pro-forma context sheets using a continuous number sequence for all contexts;

The watching brief was undertaken in two different days by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, for Trench 1 (for the stables, to the northwest) on 22nd March 2017, and for Trench 2, to the rear of the house, on 25th July 2017.

Context numbers were allocated during the fieldwork. They were ascribed to the soil deposits identified during the watching brief, and to the modern structural remains that had to be removed during excavation of Trench 2. These contexts are summarised in Appendix I.

3.2 Finds

None of the finds assessed during fieldworks were retrieved.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental Samples

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork.

4 Results of the Watching Brief

4.1 Excavations for stables foundations in northwest area, Trench 1

The new stables (Planning Associated Number 16/05496/FUL) were planned to be erected in the paddock fields to the northwest area of Spring Cottage (see Figure 4, Plates 9-14). A single trench, Trench 1, of approximately 11.6m by 9.5m and orientated northeast to southwest, was excavated following the proposed plan of the stables. Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

The overall soil sequence exposed during excavations of Trench 1 consisted of *circa* 0.10m - 0.15m depth of natural (104), not fully excavated, below a subsoil (102) *circa* 0.30m-0.35m thick, beneath a turf topsoil (101) *circa* 0.05-0.10m thick. The soil sequence is clear along the southwest half of Trench 1, although the natural (104) is not visible throughout the northeast half since this was not excavated further than approximately 0.40m depth.

The natural (104) comprised a firm, light brownish orange deposit of gravelly silt. This deposit was encountered at approximately 0.40m below ground level, at *circa* 121.65m OD. This deposit was consistent across the base of the trench, when this was deeper than 0.40m. The overlying subsoil (102) comprised a soft, mid greyish brown deposit of silty sands. This layer contained no finds, but occasional presence of small and medium (10-100mm), angular and rounded stones. The subsoil was encountered some 0.05m to 0.1m below surface, and it was consistent throughout all the trench. The turf topsoil (101) consisted of tightly set grass within a matrix of compacted, mid-brown deposit of silty sands, also consistent throughout all Trench 1. No archaeological evidence for features or deposits was observed in this trench.

4.2 Excavations for extension foundations in rear of the house, Trench 2

The extension of the house (Planning Associated Number 16/05495/FUL) was planned to be erected to the rear of the main house of Spring Cottage (see Figure 5, Plates 15-26). A single trench, Trench 2, of approximately 14m by 6.70m and orientated slightly northeast to southwest, was excavated following the proposed plan of the foundations for the extension. Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m.

The overall soil sequence exposed during excavations of Trench 2 consisted of *circa* 0.15m - 0.20m depth of natural (204=104), not fully excavated, overlaid by an anthropogenic deposit of soil for building up ground (203) *circa* 0.35m-0.40m, below a subsoil (202=102) *circa* 0.25m-0.30m thick, beneath a turf topsoil (201=101) *circa* 0.05-0.10m thick. The soil sequence is clear along the western half of Trench 2, although the natural (204=104) is not visible throughout the eastern half since this was not excavated further than approximately 0.65m depth, due to the no necessity for deeper foundations.

The natural (204=104) comprised a firm, light brownish orange deposit of gravelly silt. This deposit was encountered at approximately 0.70m below ground level, at *circa* 121.30m OD. This deposit was consistent across the base of the trench, when this was deeper than 0.70m. The overlying anthropogenic (203) comprised a firm, mid yellowish-brown deposit of silty clayish sands, poorly sorted. This layer was encountered at approximately 0.30-0.35m from

ground surface, consistent throughout Trench 2, and contained occasional presence of fragments of 19th and 20th century finds of domestic nature, and frequent presence of small and medium (10-100mm) angular and rounded stones. The overlying subsoil (202=102) comprised a soft, mid greyish brown deposit of silty sands. This layer contained few 20th century finds, and occasional presence of small and medium (10-100mm), angular and rounded stones. The subsoil was encountered at 0.05m to 0.10m below surface, and it was consistent throughout all the trench. The turf topsoil (101) consisted of tightly set grass within a matrix of compacted, mid-brown deposit of silty sands, also consistent throughout all Trench 2. No evidence for archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Additionally, two modern structural remains were recorded in Trench 2, associated with the creation of the terraced garden to the rear of the house.

Wall [205] (Plates 16-18) is located at the southern edge of the terraced garden, built against the dumped levelling layer (203). It is aligned slightly southwest to northeast, and it is made of a combination of red bricks of approximately 210mm x 120mm x 80mm, hold with lime mortar, and assorted blocks of limestones of approximately 230mm x 150mm x 120mm. It has approximately 5m in length, and approximately 0.65m in height.

Alignment [206] (Plate 20) is located also at the rear of the house, aligned in this case with the northern outer side of the kitchen, in a slightly southwest to northeast direction. It is a single row made of squared CBM tiles of approximately 210mm x 210 mm. They are laid out over subsoil (202=102), in very recent times. However, the tiles seem of older fabric reused for the decorative edging of the garden. It measures approximately 2.5m in length.

4.3 Results for finds

Several fragments of finds of domestic nature were found within deposit (203), which was interpreted as a layer of dumped soil for levelling of the garden to the rear of the house. The finds assemblage consisted mostly of fragments of red bricks, glass bottles and decorative objects made of white china, along with some fragments of black glazed pottery, pieces of iron objects and ceramic drain pipes. A comparatively smaller number of fragments of very modern, domestic objects including plastic were seen in subsoil (202).

None of these finds were associated to any archaeological feature. They all can be relatively dated to the late 19th to late 20th century.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Overall Interpretation

The overall soil sequence encountered across the development site comprised a natural (geological) deposit (104=204) consistent throughout all site and localized in both Trench 1 and Trench 2. The layer of dumped soil for levelling of the garden to the rear of the house (203) must have been deposited during the early/mid-20th century as *terminus post quem* for

the terracing of the rear garden, moment in which was also built the bricks and stone wall [205] to support the terraced garden. The overlying subsoil (102=202) has been deposited during the latest decades. It is consistent throughout both trench 1 and Trench 2, however the presence of some fids in trench 2 is most likely as the result of gardening activity to the rear of the house. To this moment can be related the layout of the square tiles [206] as decorative edge for the rear of the house, only visible in trench 2. The upper soil layer consisted of turf topsoil (101=201) grown within the last decades, consistent across site.

5.2 *Assessment of Archaeological Potential*

No features were identified within the excavated trenches for the footings of the stables and the extension of the house. This may indicate an absence of medieval occupation, although it should be noted that the excavated area represents only a small percentage of this plot. Despite the negative results of the archaeological investigation, there nonetheless remains a minor potential for *in situ* remains to the rear of this property.

5.3 *Storage and Curation*

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA, 2014). The resultant archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2006, revised 2015).

6 *Bibliography and References*

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Figures

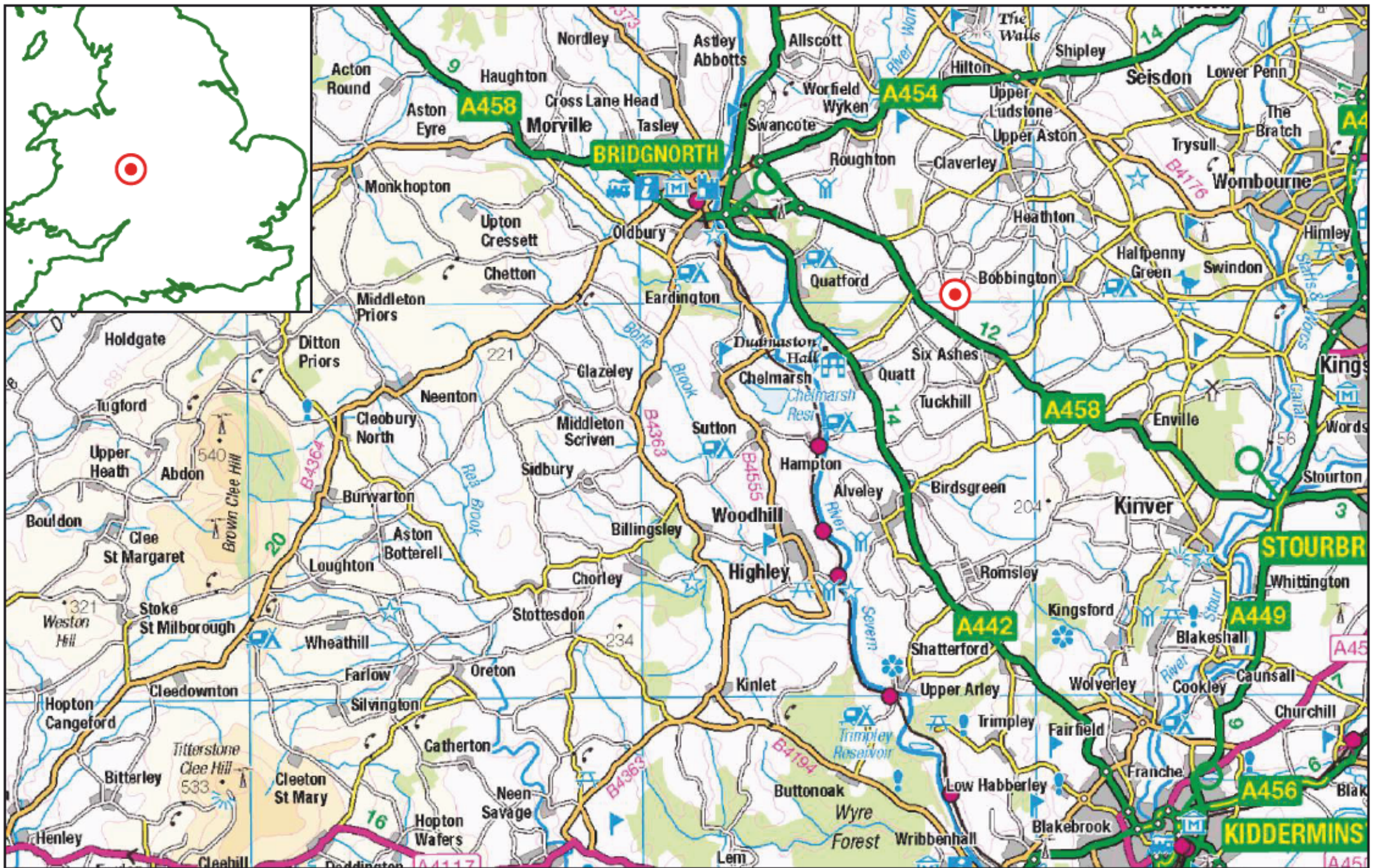


Figure 1: Location Map of proposed development area (target) within Shropshire; scale 1: 200,000



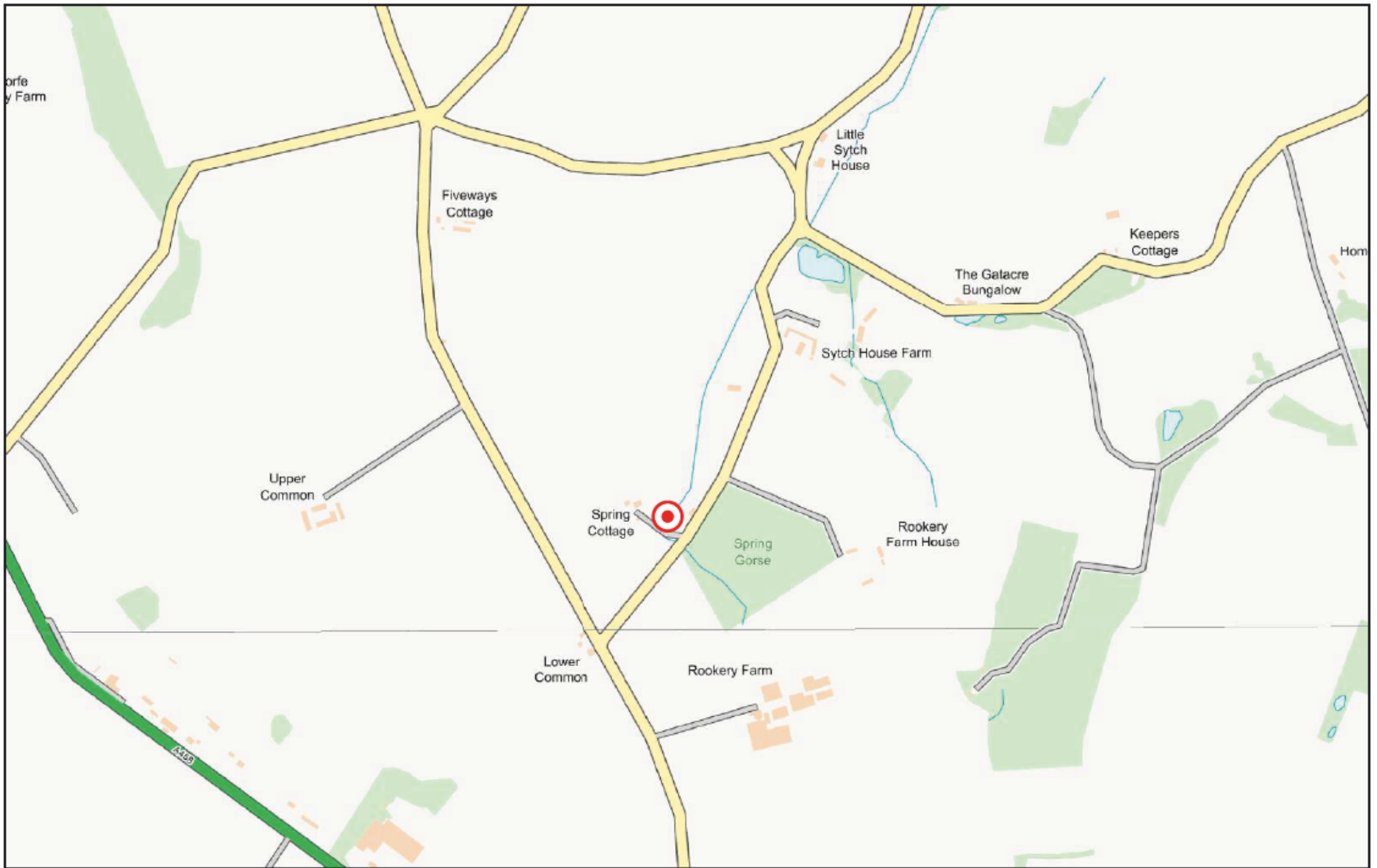
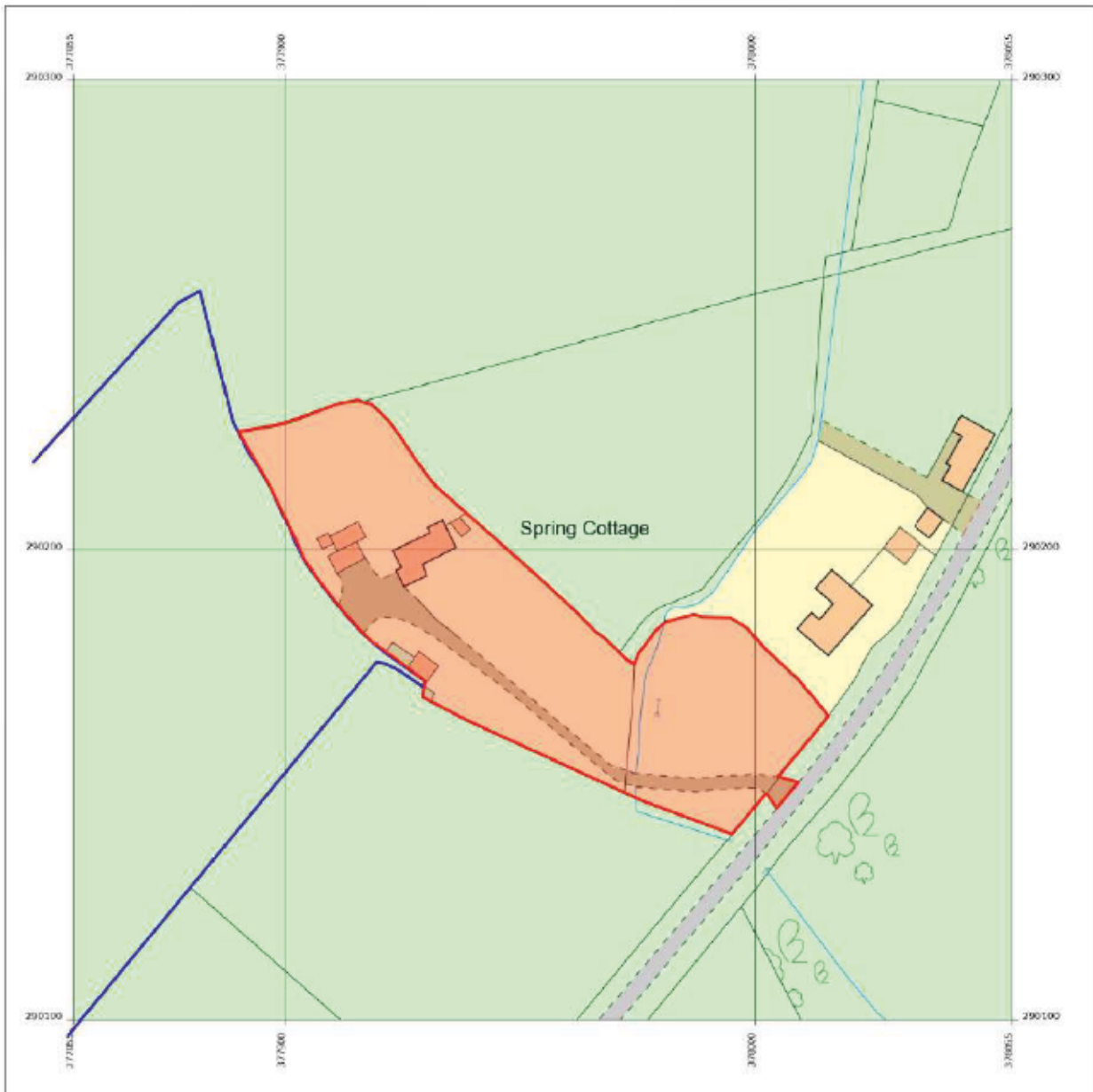


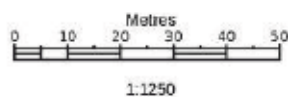
Figure 2: Location Map of proposed development area (target) within Spring Gorse; scale 1: 12,500





road 06 Oct 2016 from the Ordnance Survey MasterMap (graphy) Database and incorporating surveyed revision (ble at this date.

representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



Spring Cottage, Spring Gorse, Gateacre,
Claverley, Wolverhampton
WV5 7AL

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 PETER HUNT ARCHITECTS Hunters Moon, Gorse Green Lane Belbroughton Worcs DY9 8UH Tel: 08454 300 200 Email: projects16@peterhunt.uk.net	Drawn by _____ Date _____ Checked by _____ Date _____ CAD File Ref 16-782 Spring Cottage A13.pln	Drawing Name Location Plan		
	Drawing Status Feasibility			
This drawing is Copyright and should not be used or reproduced without permission Work to figured dimensions only - do not scale	Proposed Extension and Alteration Spring Cottage Spring Gorse, Gateacre Claverley WV5 7AL		Drawing Scale 1:1250	Drawing Size A4
			Project No 16-782	Drawing No 101

Figure 3: Plan of proposed development area from Peter Hunt Architects; scale 1: 1,250

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Plates



Plate 1: View of entrance of Spring Cottage; shot facing NW



Plate 2: View of entrance of Spring Cottage; shot facing NW



Plate 3: View of main buildings range at Spring Cottage; shot facing NW



Plate 4: View of main house at Spring Cottage; shot facing N



Plate 5: View of main house and sheds at Spring Cottage; shot facing N



Plate 6: View of main buildings range at Spring Cottage; shot facing N



Plate 7: View of old stables at Spring Cottage; shot facing SW



Plate 8: View of old stables at Spring Cottage; shot facing W



Plate 9: View of paddock fields at NW from Spring Cottage; shot facing SW



Plate 10: View of paddock fields at NW from Spring Cottage, preparation for Trench 1; shot facing N



Plate 11: View of works at Trench 1, for new stables; shot facing NW



Plate 12: View of works at Trench 1, for new stables; shot facing E



Plate 13: View of NE facing section and contexts (101), (102) and (104) at Trench 1; shot facing SW



Plate 14: View of SE facing section and contexts (101), (102) and (104) at Trench 1; shot facing NW



Plate 15: View of works for Trench 2, for extension at the rear of the house; shot facing N



Plate 16: View of works for Trench 2, and brick garden wall [205] at the rear of the house; shot facing NE



Plate 17: View of brick garden wall [205] at the rear of the house; shot facing N



Plate 18: Detail of brick garden wall [205] at the rear of the house; shot facing NW



Plate 19: View of works for Trench 2 at the rear of the house; shot facing NE



Plate 20: View of alignment of reused ceramic tiles [206], in Trench 2 at the rear of the house; shot facing SE



Plate 21: View of works for Trench 2 at the rear of the house; shot facing W



Plate 22: View of SE facing section in Trench 2, at the rear of the house; shot facing NW



Plate 23: Detail of SE facing section and contexts (201), (202), (203) and (204) in Trench 2; shot facing NW



Plate 24: Detail of typical domestic finds from demolition deposit (203) in Trench 2 (not kept)



Plate 25: View of end of the works for Trench 2 at the rear of the house; shot facing E



Plate 26: View of end of the works for Trench 2 at the rear of the house; shot facing W

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Appendix I

Context Descriptions

Context No	Description	Depth/Height	Interpretation
(101=201)	Tightly set grass within a matrix of compacted, mid-brown deposit of silty sands.	0.05m - 0.10m	Turf topsoil across site.
(102=202)	Soft, mid greyish brown deposit of silty sands. This layer contained occasional presence of small and medium (10-100mm), angular and rounded stones.	0.25m - 0.30m	Overlaying subsoil formed due to the deposit of sedimentary and anthropogenic materials during the past decades.
(203)	Firm, mid yellowish-brown deposit of silty clayish sands, poorly sorted; frequent presence of small and medium (10-100mm) angular and rounded stones.	0.35m - 0.40m	Anthropogenic deposit, layer of dumped material for levelling of garden at the rear of the house.
(104=204)	Firm, light brownish orange deposit of gravelly silt, with no significant inclusions. Well sorted.	Unknown	Sands and silts formed up to 3 million years ago (Quaternary) within a local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes.
[205]	Wall made of red bricks of 210mm x 120mm x 80mm, hold with lime mortar, and assorted blocks of limestones of 230mm x 150mm x 120mm. It has 5m in length. All measurements are approximated.	0.65m	Located at the rear of the house, built against the dumped levelling layer (203) to support the southern edge of the terraced garden.
[206]	Single edging row made of squared CBM tiles of approximately 210mm x 210 mm. It measures approximately 2.5m in length.	0.08m	Located at the rear of the house, aligned with the northern outer side of the kitchen, in a slightly southwest to northeast direction; decorative edging.

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Appendix II

Written Scheme of Investigation

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

AT SPRING COTTAGE, CLAVERLEY, SHROPSHIRE

Prepared for:

Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis

Planning Application Number: 16/05495/FUL & 16/05496/FUL
Project No: 2507

27/02/2016



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Figure 1. Location Map of Site within Shropshire

Figure 2. Location Map of Site within local area, Spring Gorse

Figure 3. Detailed plan of the site, showing areas of proposed investigation

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation (a watching brief) to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief, and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed developments of Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling with associated Planning Application No. 16/05495/FUL and Erection of stables with associated Planning Application No. 16/05496/FUL, both located at Spring Cottage, Sytch House Green, Claverley, Wolverhampton, Shropshire WV5 7AL, centred on SO 377932 290202.

The proposed development area lies within the southeast of Shropshire, former Stottesdon Hundred, that have been of relevance for the agricultural and administrative development of the historic county of Shropshire, since the 10th-11th century. The area is surrounded by medieval landscapes comprising mostly of deer parks and significant castles such as Bridgnorth and Cleobury Castles.

The buildings to be intervened retain elements that are considered characteristic of the traditional architecture of the area, similar to those of several Listed Buildings located in the immediate vicinities. It is considered that during the building associated groundworks there is a medium to high potential for encountering previous (historic) layout of the building, of sub-surface archaeology.

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

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (a watching brief) to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of 'Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling' with associated Planning Application No. 16/05495/FUL and 'Erection of stables' with associated Planning Application No. 16/05496/FUL, both located at Spring Cottage, Sytch House Green, Claverley, Wolverhampton, Shropshire WV5 7AL, centred on SO 377932 290202 (Figure 1 and 2).

This WSI has been prepared by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) at the request of Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Shropshire County Council - Historic Environment Team (henceforth SCC-HET) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to Shropshire County Council. SCC-HET has recommended that an archaeological mitigation (watching brief) of the development area is

undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The recommendations made by SCC-HET are set out in a Decision Notice to Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis dated 2nd December 2016. In terms of direct impacts on the archaeological interest of the proposed development site, and in line with Paragraph 141 of the NPPF, it is advised that a programme of archaeological work be made a condition of any planning permission for the proposed development:

'3. No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a phased 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.

Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest. This information is required prior to the commencement of the development as it relates to matters which need to be confirmed before the development proceeds in order to ensure a sustainable development.'

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation/watching brief during building intervention is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of sub-surfaces remains on the site of the development. The work is to ensure that all fabrics, fittings and fixings of the building, and all buried artefacts and deposits underneath the building, are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site falls within a Green Belt area in open countryside in southeast Shropshire, to the south of the village of Claverley and approximately 10km east of Bridgnorth. It is accessed via minor roads from the A458 to the south or the A454/B4176 to the north.

The site comprises of a small parcel of irregular shape, with approximately 1,375 sq. m (1.375ha) and roughly arranged in a northwest-southeastern axis. It is limited at all sides by field boundaries characterized by large mature trees, being delimited in the southeastern and southwestern areas by local paths. It is situated at an average height of 122m aOD. There is a small brook flowing northwards that crosses the development site on its southeastern end.

The site comprises a number of small buildings located at the northwest area. The Spring Cottage itself, a traditional white rendered property with eaves dormers that includes a two-storey brick building with large arch openings, a self-contained cottage later adapted for garaging.

To the west of the site there is paddock land used for horses. There is garden land surrounding the cottage and annex. Some landscaping work has been done.

The surrounding land is generally agricultural, however there is a neighbouring dwelling, Spring Gorse Cottage, approximately 75m away to east. That property has recently been extended.

The underlying geology on site comprises Wildmoor Sandstone Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 246 to 251 million years ago (Triassic) within a local environment previously dominated by rivers. The superficial deposits on site comprise sand and silt formed up to 3 million years ago (Quaternary) within a local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes (British Geological Survey 2017).

3. Archaeological background

The site lies within the historic limits of east Shropshire, formed during the 10th century after the Anglo-Saxon division of Mercia into shires. The area experienced a significant development during the Norman period, characterized for the erection of eminent castles such as Cleobury and Bridgnorth Castle, the keeping of large forest areas for deer hunting, and the division of hundreds for administrative and economic purposes.

The development site lies within an area that has remained as open country side and is characterized by soft, undulating hills, agricultural crops, and traditional agricultural buildings normally associated with farming landscapes, like farmhouses, barns, stables and cottages arranged around open courtyards, normally next to small streams or brooks.

The area in which the development site is located was part of the former Stottesdon Hundred, mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), that occupied the southeast area of Shropshire, and which main town was Bridgnorth, to the northern side. It was limited by Staffordshire to the east, Herefordshire to the south and the immediacies of Shropshire Hills to the west. The area is profuse in forest land and much of it has been protected under Green Belt policy. There are a number of listed buildings in the area with characteristics similar to the buildings at the Spring Cottage.

Most relevant are the group of Lower Beobridge, located only 1.5km to the northeast, Kings Barn in Farmcote (1.8km to the north), or the Brook House buildings, located approximately 2km to the southwest.

The characteristics of the buildings within the development site, and its location within a historic landscape, suggest a medium to high potential for subsurface

archaeology or previous layout of the building to be encountered during demolition works and groundworks.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014)*.

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- 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.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start in March 2017. Archaeology Wales will update SCC-HET with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis and to SCC-HET within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014)*.

The Watching Brief for the extension and all associated groundworks of The Spring Cottage and The Stables will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist and will include all other associated work. To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency extension might need to be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis and SCC-HET.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

During goundwork, any mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket wherever possible. If historical/ 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.

If architectural or structural remains that require recording are revealed during the demolition works, the archaeologist on site should be afforded time to record them. This will be done as quickly as possible and only attempted if safe to do so. Some of the fabric of the structure might need to be sampled during the demolition (mortar, timber etc).

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis, SCC-HET and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

6.2. 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.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

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

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

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

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002)*.

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13 (1993)*.

A meeting with Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis, SCC-HET and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

SCC-HET will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

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

Representatives of SCC-HET will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until SCC-HET has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. SCC-HET will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) 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
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.

- 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.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis and SCC-HET upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to SCC-HET.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist from Archaeology Wales Ltd. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of SCC-HET and Mrs Claudette Jaggard-Inglis.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

12. Quality Control

12.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

12.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

13. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

14. References

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Retrieved 27.02.2017.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 1993: *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13*.

- 2014: *Standard and guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- 2014: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

English Heritage, 2002: *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology*.

GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, 2017. *History of Stottesdon, in Bridgnorth and Shropshire*. A Vision of Britain through Time. <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/10501>. Retrieved 27.02.2017

Historic England, 2006 (rev. 2015): *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.

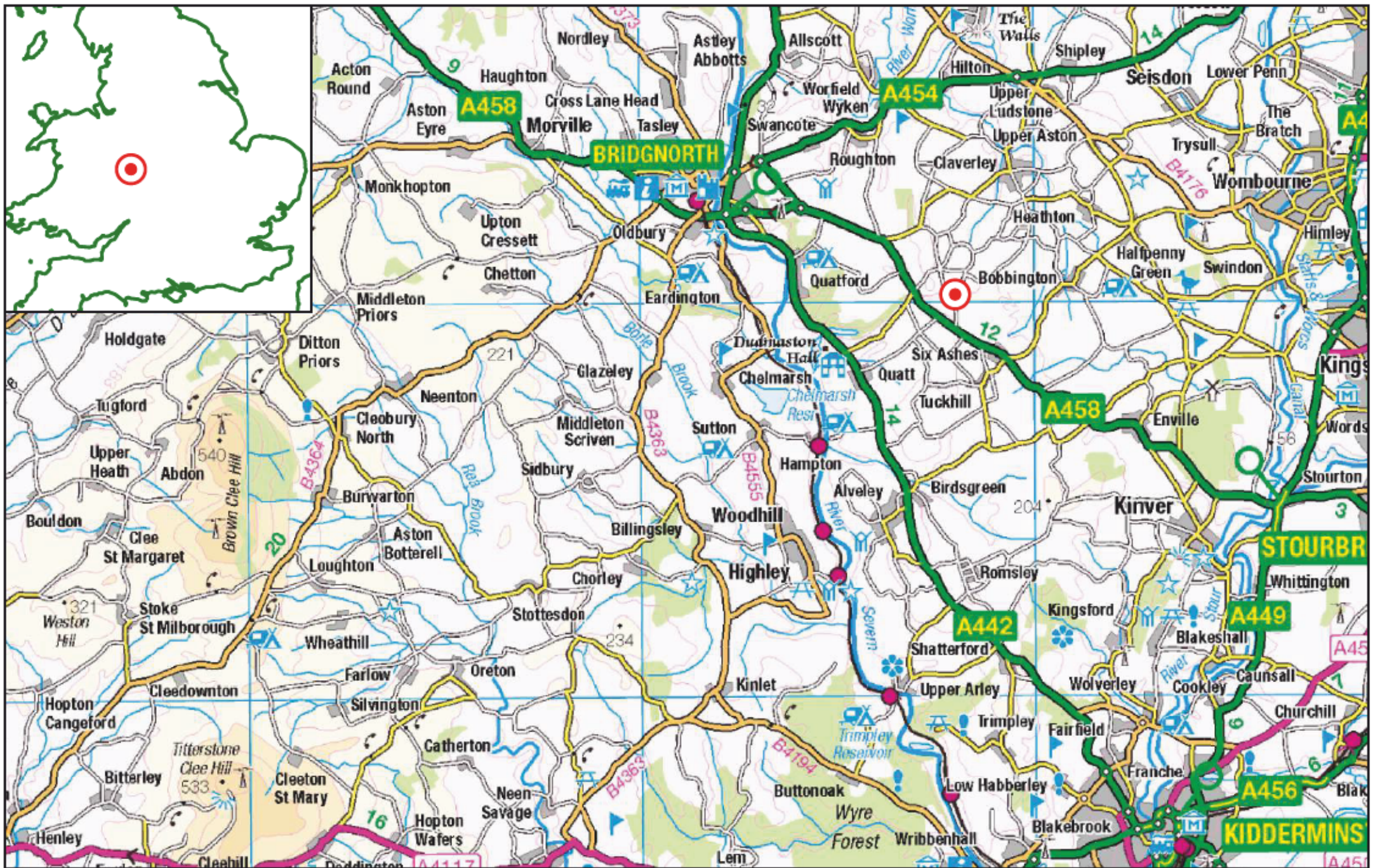


Figure 1: Location Map of proposed development area (target) within Shropshire; scale 1: 200,000

0 1 2 3 km



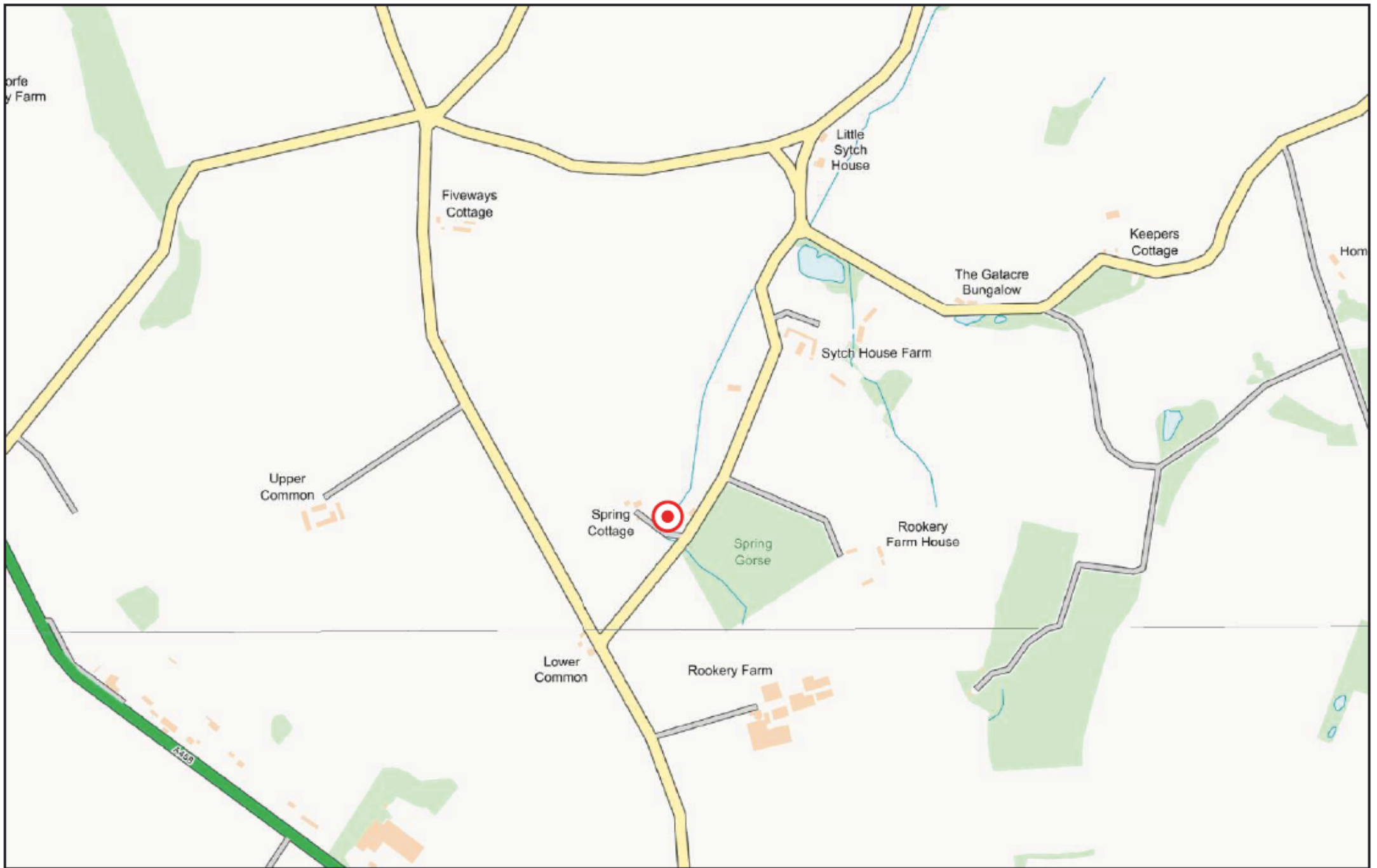
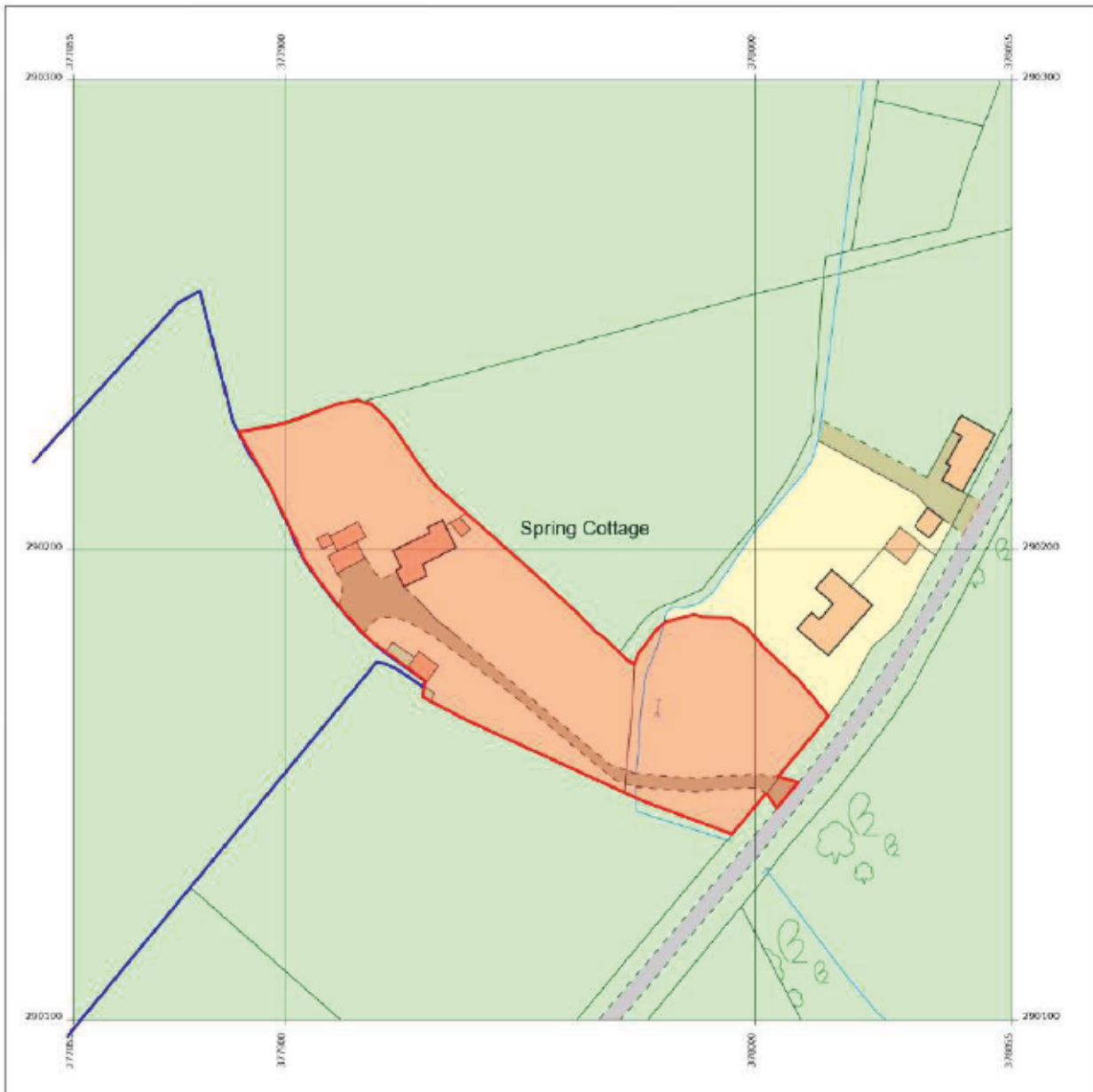


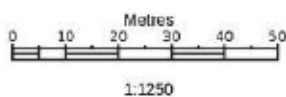
Figure 2: Location Map of proposed development area (target) within Spring Gorse; scale 1: 12,500





road 06 Oct 2016 from the Ordnance Survey MasterMap (graphy) Database and incorporating surveyed revision (ble at this date.

representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



Spring Cottage, Spring Gorse, Gateacre,
Claverley, Wolverhampton
WV5 7AL

Supplied by: Stanfords 06 Oct 2016
Licence: © Crown Copyright and
database rights 2016 OS100035409
Order Licence Reference: O1047676
Centre coordinates: 377955 290200

 PETER HUNT ARCHITECTS Hunters Moon, Gorse Green Lane Belbroughton Worcs DY9 8UH Tel: 08454 300 200 Email: projects16@peterhunt.uk.net	Drawn by _____ Date _____ Checked by _____ Date _____ CAD File Ref 16-782 Spring Cottage A13.pln	Drawing Name Location Plan		
	Drawing Status Feasibility		Drawing Scale 1:1250	
This drawing is Copyright and should not be used or reproduced without permission Work to figured dimensions only - do not scale	Proposed Extension and Alteration Spring Cottage Spring Gorse, Gateacre Claverley WV5 7AL		Drawing Size A4	Project No 16-782
			Drawing No 101	

Figure 3: Plan of proposed development area from Peter Hunt Architects; scale 1: 1,250

Archaeology Wales

Appendix III

Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Spring Cottage, Claverley, Shropshire

Site Name:	Spring Cottage, Claverley
Site Code:	SCC/17/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR (SO) 377932 290202
Site Type:	Residencial/Rural
Project Type:	Watching brief
Project Manager:	Aurea Izquierdo Zamora (AW)
Project Dates:	March-September 2017
Categories Present:	Report, photographs, maps, plans
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	Shropshire County Council
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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