



Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

Modern living in an historic environment

**A programme of archaeological observation and
recording on land at Hinton-in-the-Hedges,
Northamptonshire**

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Hinton-in-the-Hedges

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Summary

A programme of attendance to observe groundworks for the laying out of new isolated agricultural buildings did not uncover any archaeological deposits or features and was curtailed as its potential diminished.

Introduction

Full Planning Consent was previously granted to Mr K Dale by South Northamptonshire Council for the replacement of agricultural buildings on land on the south side of Brackley Road, Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 5673 3684; S/2008/1521/P; Fig 1). This was granted an extension to time-limit (S/2012/0202/EXT) to which a condition (11) was attached in respect of archaeology, since the site lies within a general area in which a number of Romano-British remains have previously been found (RCHME 1982, 91-2).



Fig 1: Site location (arrowed). Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015

The work was carried out in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation by Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd and dated 25 February 2015 in response to the planning condition which recognised that the site had some archaeological potential and called for a programme of observation, recording and reporting during groundworks for the two buildings, a stable and a related barn/store, with the possibility of curtailment if the potential was not realised.

Fieldwork

Site attendance took place on Tuesday 17 March, during which the L-shaped footprint of the new stable was stripped under archaeological control using a JCB-type mechanical excavator.

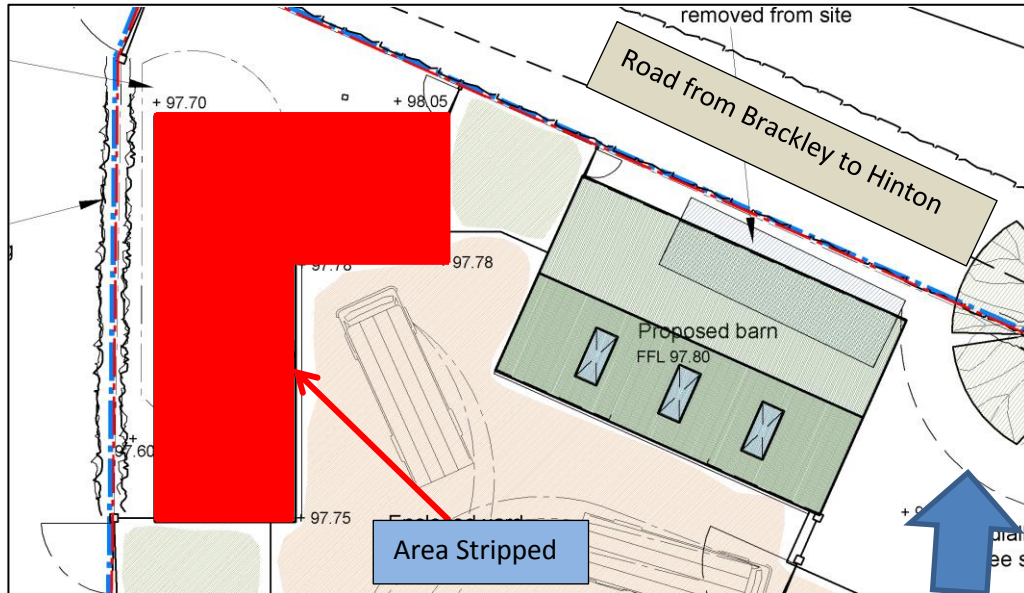


Fig 2: The new buildings, including the stables stripped under archaeological control (after Roger Coy Partnership survey)



Fig 3: During mechanical stripping looking east



Fig 4: During mechanical stripping looking south; part of soil bund beyond

Hinton-in-the-Hedges

An area of some 120 sq m was stripped of topsoil using a wide toothless ditching bucket. There was no subsoil present and the relatively thin topsoil (an average of 150mm thickness) lay directly on top of the natural geology, which was soft free-draining orange sand. The soil overburden was thicker (up to 400mm) where a former imported soil bund had previously been removed, and its remnants survived.

No cut or upstanding features were present and no finds of any date or description were forthcoming.

In view of this lack of potential it was agreed with the NCC Assistant Archaeological Advisor that site monitoring could cease and the archaeological work was curtailed.

Conclusion

The site's original perceived potential was not borne out by archaeological monitoring. Since there were not even any stray finds, it is likely that no archaeological sites lie in the immediate vicinity.

Reference

RCHME 1982 *An inventory of the historical monuments in the County of Northampton; Volume IV: Archaeological sites in South-West Northamptonshire*, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England



IS Heritage , 29 March 2015