

Land at (SO 71699 61492)

Church Road

Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire



Land at (SO 71689 61492)

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Archaeological recording, 'watching brief'

SO 71689 61492

WSM66218

Site code: CUT14

OASIS ID: 110archa1-221647

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one ten archaeology

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Appendix 1; Church House Farm (Figs. 6 & 7)

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out on land at Church Road, Clifton on Teme, Worcs. during November 2014 in connection with the erection of a detached house.

Historic mapping (OS 1888) shows the site much as it is today, occupying the north-west corner of a large open field that extends from the south side of Church Road on the eastern edge of the village. The field was formerly part of Church Farm situated opposite the site, where the large stone and brick barn is clearly 18th century, but the timber-framed farmhouse shows that the farm has its origins at least in the Tudor period. The farm appears to form part of a wider historic landscape, it is approached via a track along its west side which turns east beyond the farm and continues to Homme Castle, where there is a Norman motte. It also includes the church and a field between in which earthworks indicating a medieval settlement have been recorded.

No archaeological deposits were observed during the excavation, instead a sequence of three homogenous stratified deposits were recorded. The earliest of these was the natural substrate comprising a geology of alternating clay and sandstone geology. This was in turn overlain by a layer of relict subsoil which was sealed by the existing topsoil. The absence of any archaeological deposits and a lack of finds suggests little human activity within the study site apart from that associated with agriculture and that the early focus of village which appears to have been established along the north side of Church Road does not appear to extend to the south of the road.



Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)

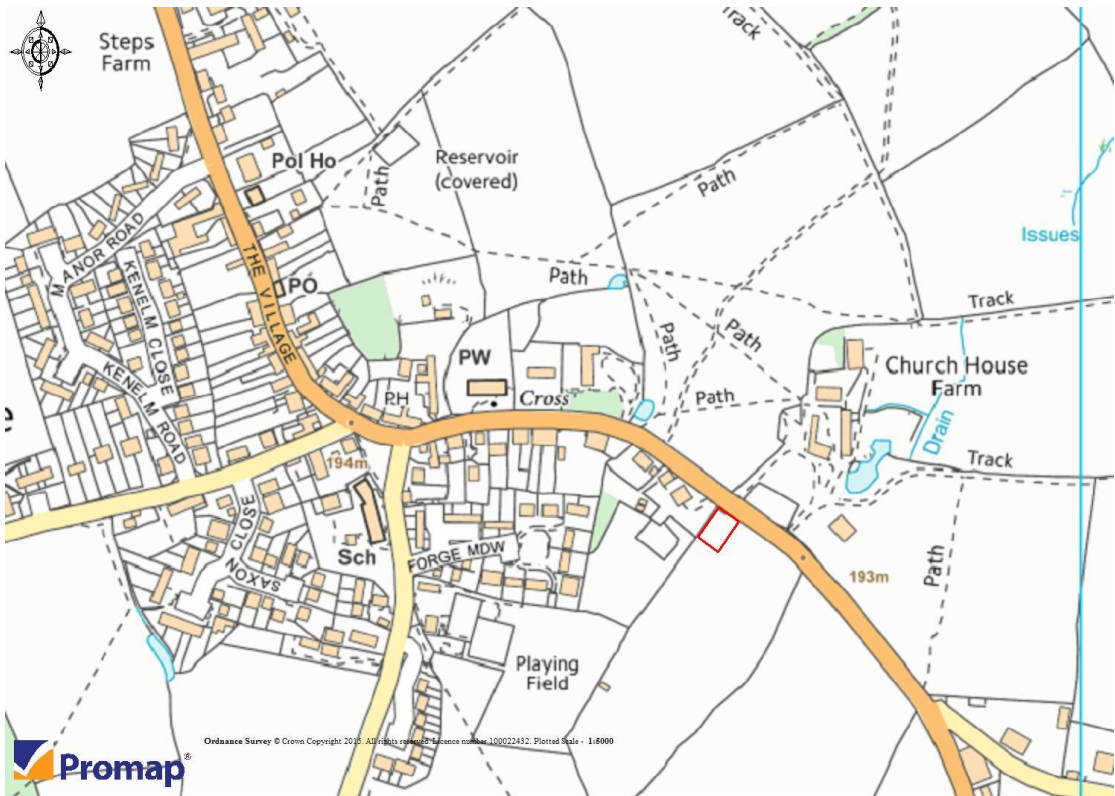


Fig. 2; area of study (site marked in red)

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works (Figs. 1 & 2)

This document sets out the results of archaeological recording 'watching brief' on land at Church Road, Clifton on Teme, Worcs. during November 2014 at the request of EJ Planning. The development comprised the erection of a detached house. The work was required as a condition of planning permission granted in respect of an application (Ref: MH/13/01592) to Malvern Hills District Council and was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment & Archaeology Service (Glyde, M., 22th, August, 2014). The approved development lies immediately adjacent to a block of medieval tenement plots on the edge of what has been defined as the medieval market town. It is not known whether the settlement extended beyond the mapped area, however earthwork remains probably associated with the settlement occur on the opposite side of the road.

Geology and topography

The village, named after the River Teme which runs nearby lies on the road from Tenbury to Worcester, which enters the parish in the north-west, and runs south-east across it. This road is carried over the Teme at Ham Bridge on the eastern boundary of Clifton upon Teme. Near Ham Bridge a branch from it runs north to meet the road leading from Tenbury to Stourport near Stanford Bridge. At a sharp bend of the Worcester road lies the east end of the village, containing St. Kenelm's Church and the vicarage, with the school to the west, and to the south, on the opposite side of the road, the Red Lion Inn.

The development site is represented by a roughly square plot of land lying on the eastern edge of the village within the north-west corner of a field (SO 71689 61492), off (south side) Church Road, Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire. The site lies at a height of about 192m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and the underlying geology comprises Red Marls and Sandstones (BGS, 1976). This was confirmed during excavation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The village is an excellent example of an Anglo-Saxon settlement overlooking the River Teme, situated on the ancient salt route that led from Droitwich to

Leominster. The earliest surviving mention of the village is in the Latin charter of King Athelstan, granting it to the monks of St. Peter's Monastery in Worcester in 934 AD when it was referred to as Clistun ultra Tame. During the time of the wars with the Welsh, the manor of Clifton became established and was granted Royal Borough status in 1377. The original manor house, built around 1200 on the site of the present Lion Inn (WSM04658). Clifton-upon-Teme was in the upper division of Doddingtree Hundred.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out over a 500m radius centred on the site. This search area covers the majority of Clifton.

The monuments record shows that a Roman road (WSM04836) leads south east from the fort along the line of the modern B4204 to Clifton village & is then continued by a footpath to Woodmanton, but cannot be traced beyond this point. An alternative route is shown to leave the B4204 to the north east of Salford Court Farm & continuing as field boundaries & footpath east of Clifton Village.

The extent of a former manorial enclosure (WSM17771) is defined by street lanes and rear property boundaries, the western extent is provisional. The Manor house stood on the site of Lion Hotel (WSM04658), and it is probable that there was an enclosed area with barns and other agricultural buildings.

The village is also the site of a possible Saxon ecclesiastical centre (WSM17778), although there is no structural evidence documentary sources mention a dedication of Church to Saint Kenelm (WSM08048) suggesting a middle/late Saxon Ecclesiastical centre (Minster) at Clifton. Other evidence for Minster status is suggested by Church having dependent chapels at Lower Sapey, Edwin Loach & Shelsey Walsh in 1535. The Church to Saint Kenelm has also been referred to as Saxon 'mother church'.

The village (WSM04833) was an abortive attempt to found medieval new town, in 1270 enfranchised as seigneurial free borough with market on Thursdays and annual fair - grant confirmed 1377 some of the street patterns of the present village may have been laid out at this time, but the place had failed to develop and had lost its market by the 15th Century.

Earthworks (WSM21474) east of vicarage, west of Church House Farm and adjacent to the road were recorded during fieldwork in 1994. Includes a ditch or holloway parallel to road and other indistinct earthworks stretching approximately 50 Metres to north of road. No earthworks extend east of lane to Church House Farm. The earthworks were interpreted as part of medieval settlement, and the

area may contain evidence of medieval occupation. It is possible that the settlement shrank at the end of the medieval period.

Church House Farm

Church House Farm (WSM54344) is a partially extant 17th century listed farmstead with unconverted buildings. Loose courtyard with L-plan range plus detached buildings to the third side of the yard. Prominent regular courtyard in association, with multi-yard group. The farmhouse is detached with side on to the yard. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Located within or in association to a village. Large modern sheds are located to the side of the site (Hathaway, E, Lake, J and A, Mindykowski, 2012).

Fieldwork

The HER records four instances of fieldwork. A watching brief (WSM21955) carried out at the Church of St Kenelm, during installation of a drain. The topsoil contained only modern finds and sealed a reworked layer that contained occasional human bone fragments, modern brick and some ironwork. The presence of modern material in the latter layer was probably the result of disturbance caused by grave digging and earlier drainage work (Wichbold, 1993).

A watching brief (WSM34492) was undertaken at The Anchorage, Church Road. No significant archaeological deposits were observed. The small artefactual assemblage was largely material of post-medieval date from a modern deposit (Vaughan, 2005).

A watching brief (WSM35800) was undertaken at Church House Farm, Clifton-Upon-Teme. During excavation of the sewer pipe trench an earthwork was identified and interpreted as a hollow way leading to the deserted former medieval settlement remains west of Church House Farm. The artefacts recovered from the hollow way were dated to the post-medieval period but it is likely that this feature is of medieval date and continued to be used into the 17th and 18th century. No defined medieval layers or features were identified, although two residual medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the subsoil, which may relate to the settlement activity or later agricultural activity (Lee. 2007).

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief (WSM48058) was carried out in respect of a proposed residential development at Pound Lane, Clifton Upon Teme. The works found no evidence of the expected village pound or any other archaeological activity apart from that associated with field cultivation. A probable plough furrow was located within the south-eastern extent of the evaluation site, suggesting a change in land usage within this area. The lack of

activity elsewhere suggests that the site had remained under pasture for a considerable period (Charles, 2009).

RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)

Method and nature of the excavation

Archaeological recording was undertaken to obtain a record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of the site. Machine excavation was only used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and was used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining was conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision at all times using a toothless bucket. The trench was 0.60m wide and approx. 1m deep throughout the excavation.

Description of deposits

Context 102 (natural geology)

The surface of the geological horizon (context 102), a natural substrate comprising a dark reddish-brown clay, with some green mottling (pale green clay) and large pockets of shaley-like sandstone stratum, was exposed throughout the excavated foundation trenches. The surface of this deposit, truncated during machining to a depth varying between 0.30m and 1m, was recorded throughout the excavation at a level height of approx. 191.80m AOD. No archaeological features were observed cut into or overlying this layer.

Context 101 (layer) and Context 100 (layer)

Overlying the natural clay and sandstone stratum throughout all areas of the excavation was the undated subsoil layer (context 101), comprising a greyish-brown sandy-silt with a reddish tinge throughout the deposit. The layer measured 0.30m deep throughout the excavated trenching. Sealing this subsoil layer throughout the site was the existing topsoil, a dark greyish-brown loam up to 0.25m thick. The entire layer was stripped by machine prior to trench excavation.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved during the excavation and deposit 101 was undated.

Environmental data

No animal bone was recovered and none of the deposits exposed during the excavation proved suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

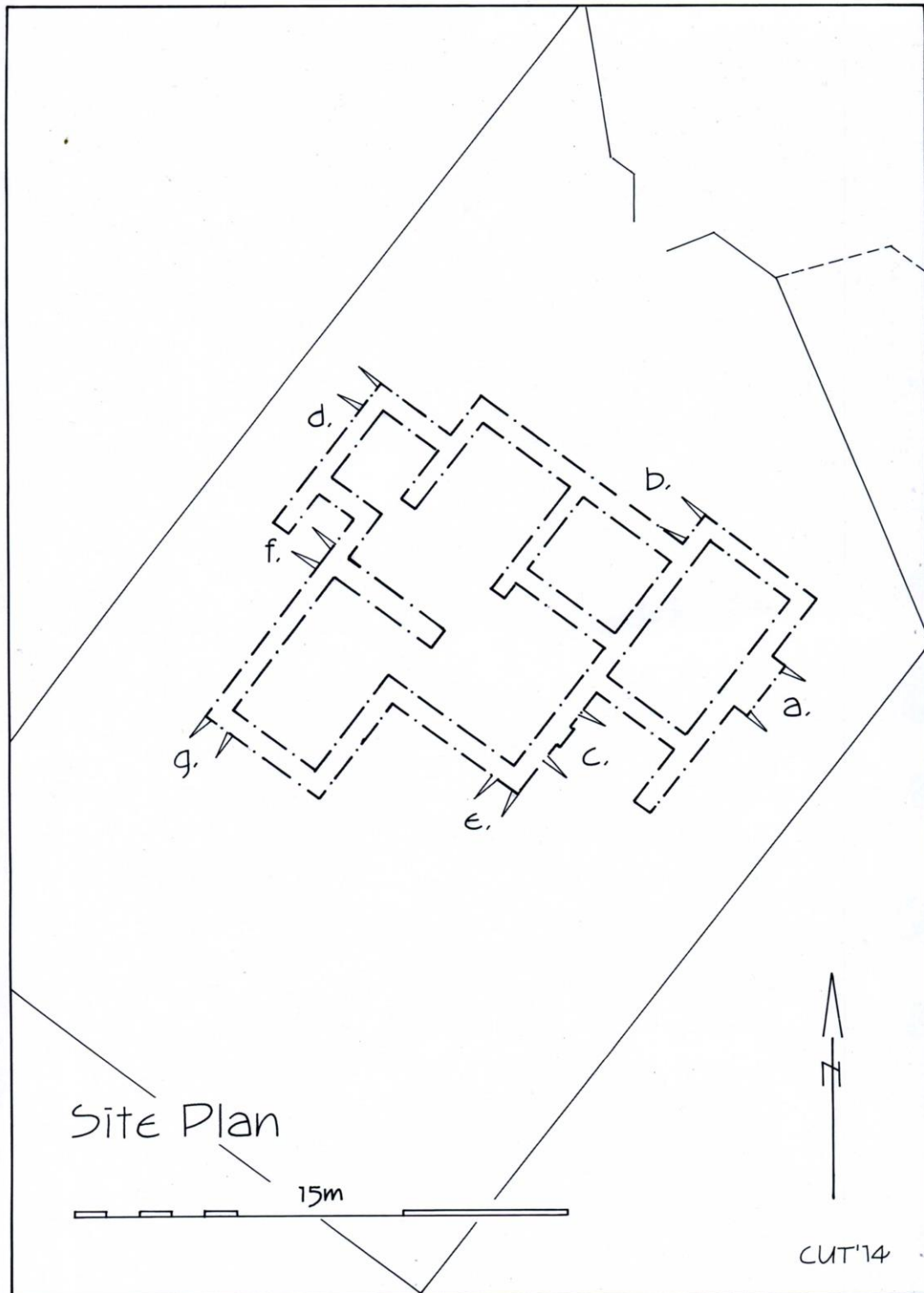


Fig. 3; site plan

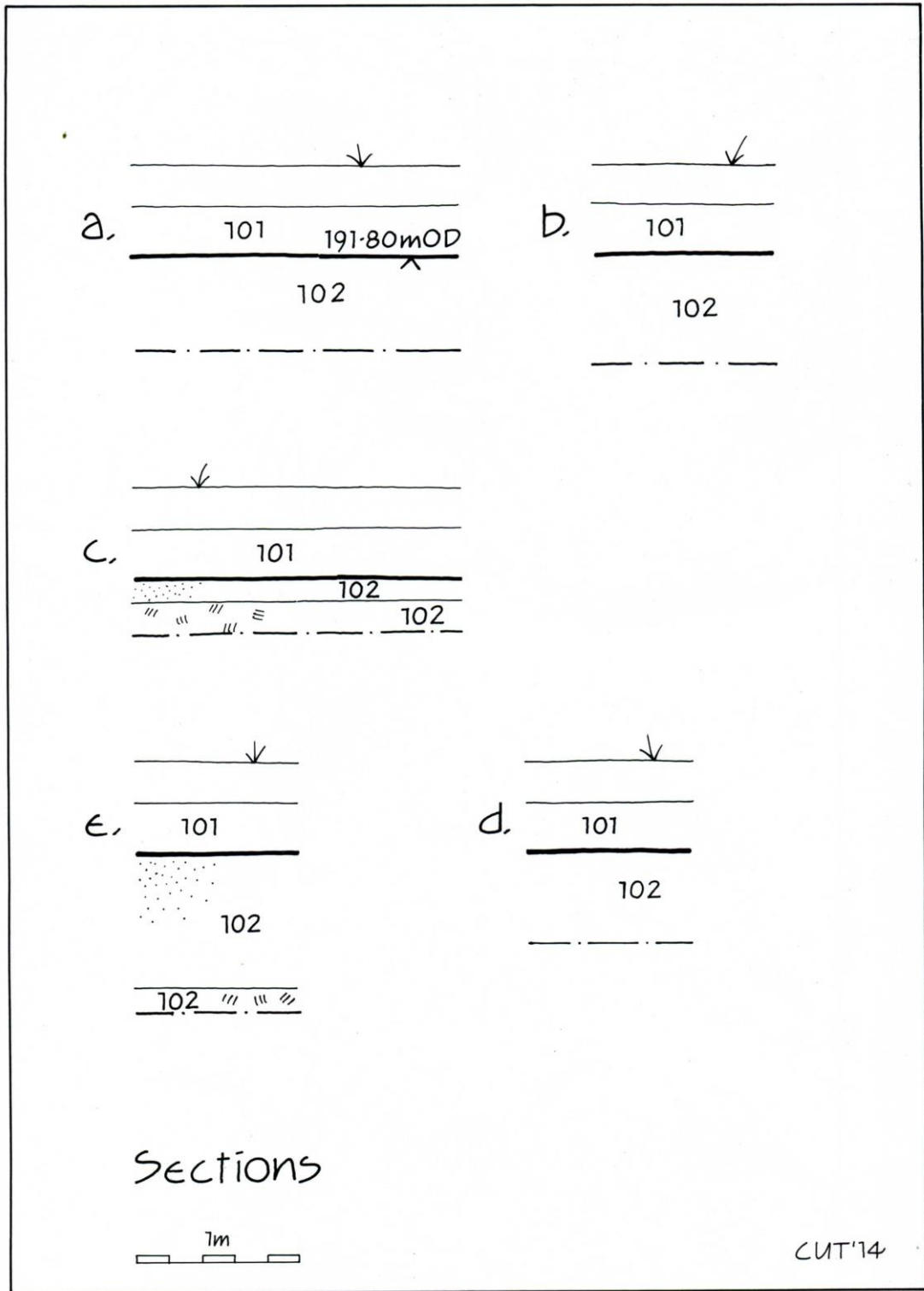


Fig. 4; sections



Plate 1; overall view of the site to the north



Plate 2; section a, detail



Plate 3; section b, detail



Plate 4; section c, detail



Plate 5; section d, detail



Plate 6; section e; detail



Plate 7; section f, detail



Plate 8; section g, detail

DISCUSSION (Fig. 5)

Historic mapping (OS 1888) shows the site much as it is today, occupying the north-west corner of a large open field that extends from the south side of Church Road on the eastern edge of the village, an open shed lying on the west side of the field and to the south of the study site was still standing in 2014 (Plate 9). The field was formerly part of Church Farm situated opposite the site, where the large stone and brick barn is clearly 18th century, but the timber-framed farmhouse shows that the farm has its origins at least in the Tudor period (see Appendix 1). The farm appears to form part of a wider historic landscape, it is approached via a track along its west side which turns east beyond the farm and continues to Homme Castle, where there is a Norman motte. It also includes the church and a field between in which earthworks indicating a medieval settlement have been recorded.

No archaeological deposits were observed during the excavation, instead a sequence of three stratified homogenous deposits were recorded. The earliest of these was context 102, the natural substrate comprising a geology of alternating clay and sandstone geology. This was in turn overlain by context 101, a layer of relict subsoil which was sealed by the existing topsoil (context 100). The absence of any archaeological deposits and a lack of finds suggests little human activity within the study site apart from that associated with agriculture and that the early focus of village which appears to have been established along the north side of Church Road does not appear to extend to the south of the road.

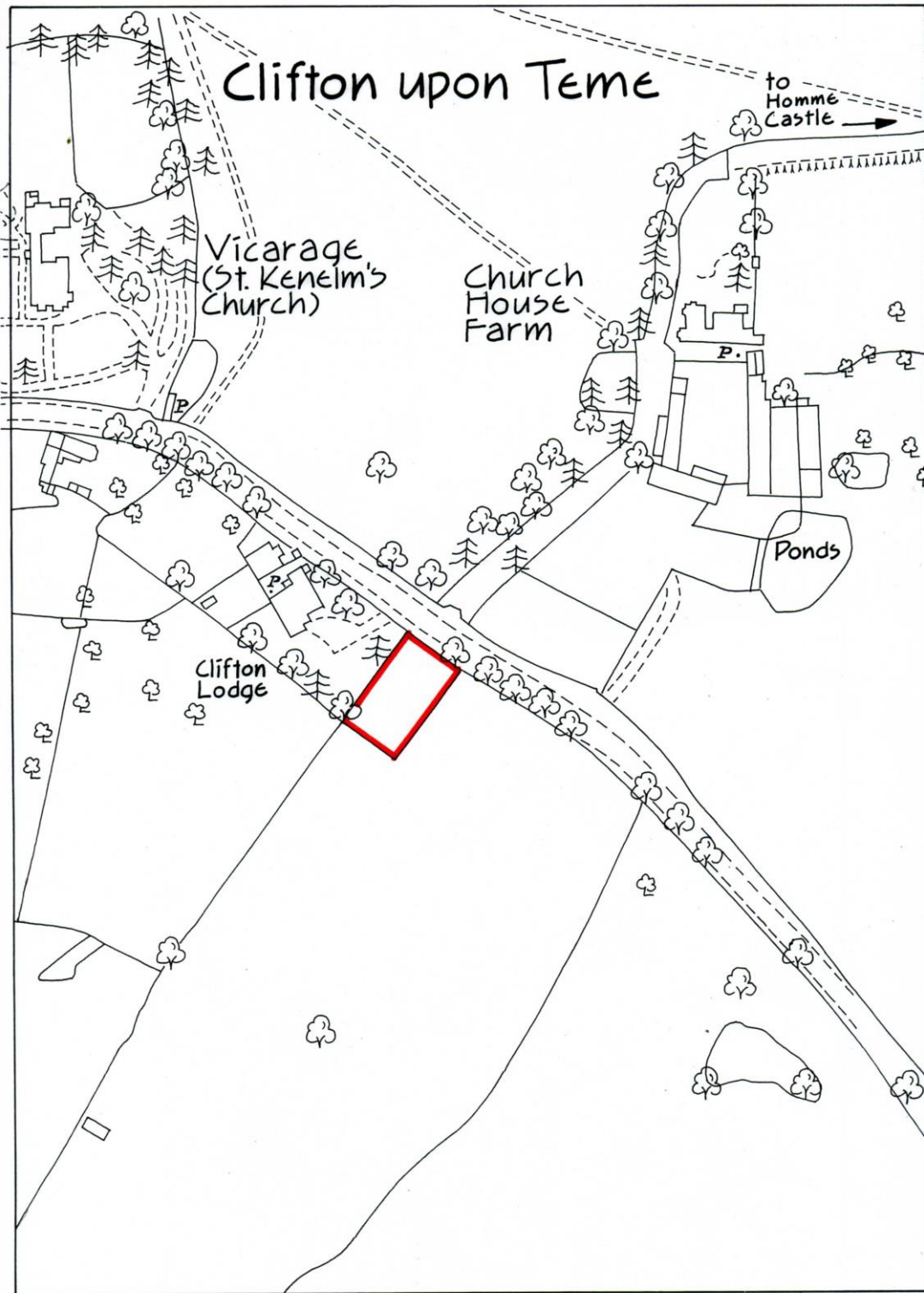


Figure 5; Clifton upon Teme, east end in 1888, study site marked in red

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Archive Location

The archaeological documentary archive arising from the work will be appropriately conserved and deposited with the Worcestershire County Museum. A pdf copy of the report will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Documentary archive:

X1 (unbound) report

APPENDIX 1: Church House Farm; building description (Figs. 6 & 7)

by Jill Atherton

The farm lies on the east side of the settlement, beyond the church (St. Kenelm's) and the vicarage, it is set back from the road from Worcester into Wales and is approached via a track along its west side which turns east beyond the farm and continues to Homme Castle.

The 1st Ed. OS (1888) shows a large rectangular fold yard, bounded by buildings on all sides, and a smaller one to the east. The range forming the east side of the smaller yard is lost, but was as wide as the extant range opposite, it was comprised of an open (cart-shed) to the north with a small building attached at the end, and hop workers' accommodation to the south (WSM49831)

The south end of the main yard is bounded by a five-bay barn (WSM49825) attached to the west-range on the north side and there is an open fronted shed around the north-east corner beyond this the fold-yard is open to allow access to the east yard and the large pond, south-westward, there is a smaller pond north of it. The barn is constructed of local sandstone with brick dressings, the openings have segmental heads as do the recessed panels flanking the central doors, which are filled with regular grids of vent-holes, the cornice is denticulated. There is access under the gable to a loft at the west end, and there are remains of the low walls flanking the threshing floor together with an oil-can niche at the north end. The tile-clad roof is of a traditional build; double-framed with collars, short raking-struts and pairs of purlins. The open front of the shed is supported on brick piers and presently enclosed.

The one and a half storey west range (WSM49828) is timber-framed with square panels, consisting of stables and hay-lofts. The tile-clad roof is double-framed with single purlins and the north gable has three short posts below the collar (the outer ones to the principal-rafters). There are both stone and later brick infillings and re-orderings, the south end is later than the barn (stone and denticulations). A rear brick outshot was added across the central area which has two rows of vent-holes along its entire length. There is a small single-storey brick building at the north end of the range (WSM49829) which has been identified as a forge.

The two-storey brick east-range (WSM49827) retains much of the earlier timber-framed building which was rebuilt, infilled, extended north and included two new hop-kilns. The upper floor is lit by a window in the south gable and there is evidence for a rear outshot below square panels of timber-framing. Attached at the south end is a single-storey cow-house (WSM49826); this appears to have

originally been an open fronted stone structure (byre) later infilled with brick and lap-boarded stud-work when a brick outshot was added at the rear (feeding-passage). The low brick structure attached at the north end appears to be remains of the pig-houses, with denticulated cornice.

The house (WSM17060) lies beyond a short stone wall, defining the north end of the fold-yard, and the square panels of the one and a half storey timber-frame were infilled with brick when the house was updated and extended north with three gabled ranges; a longer one at the west end (? on an earlier foot-print) and a pair further north. These are all constructed in stone with brick dressings and detailed like the barn, two bay-windows were added to the west prospect of the house with a tall window, presumably lighting the stair, between them. The east end of the house was also rebuilt, or extended, in stone with brick dressings as was the single storey bake-house beyond, the yard at the front was provided with a pump.

At a little distance behind the services is a small brick privy with sockets for fence-rails under the south gable.

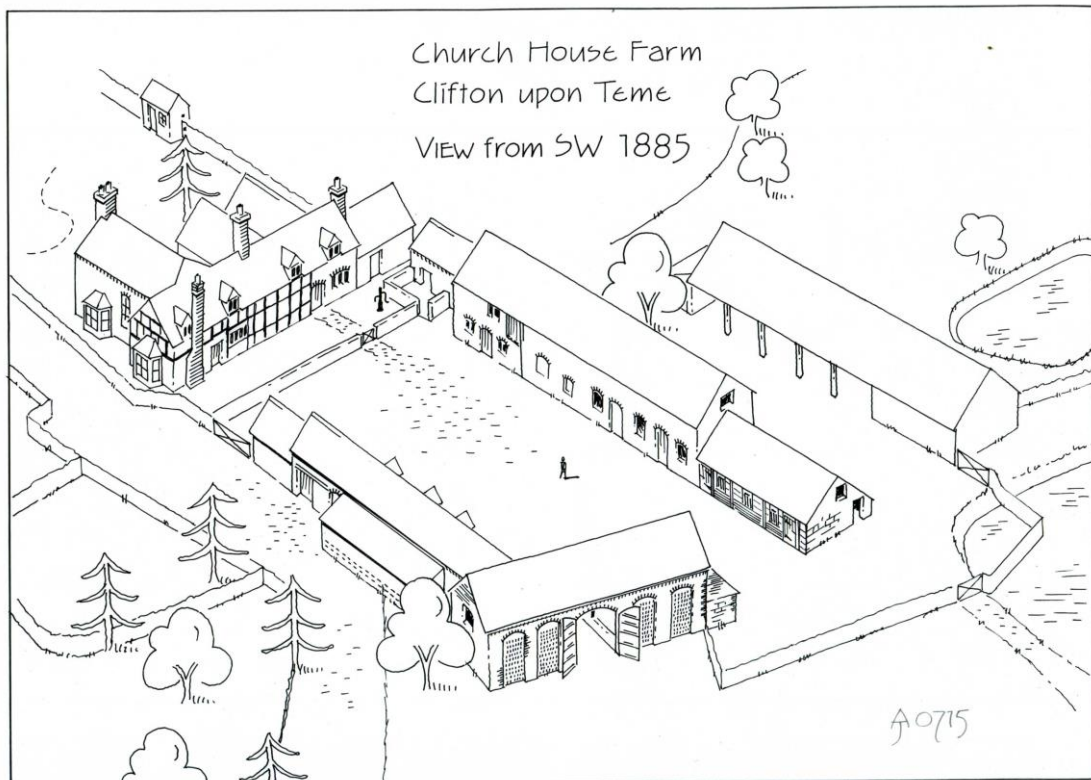


Figure 6; Church House Farm, view from the south-west in 1888

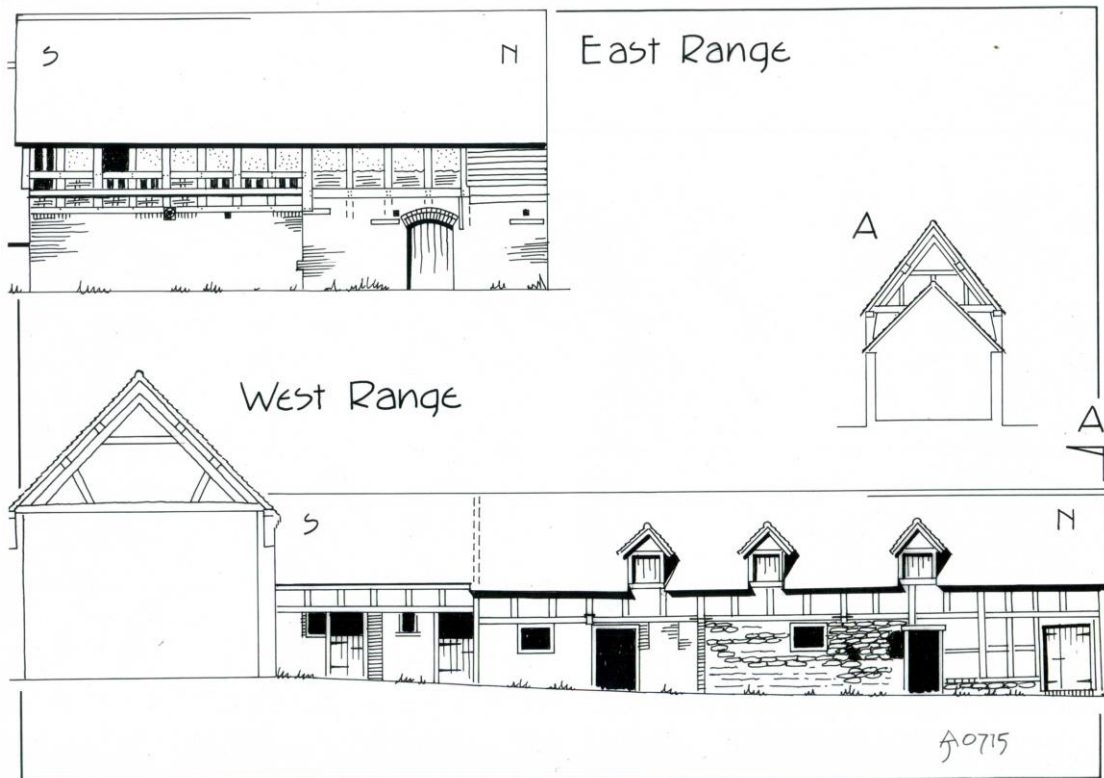


Figure 7; elevations, east and west range



Plate 9; open shed (south of study area), view from the south-east



Plate 10; Church House Farm, view from the south-west



Plate 11; the threshing barn, view from the south



Plate 12; west range from the north-west



Plate 13; east range from the north-west



Plate 14; south & east ranges from the south-east



Plate 15; east range from the west



Plate 16; the farm house, from the south-west



Plate 17; the farm house, from the west



Plate 18; rear of the farm house, view from the north-east

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: 110archa1-221647

Project name	archaeological recording at Land at (SO 71689 61492)
Short description of the project	Archaeological recording was carried out on land at Church Road, Clifton on Teme, Worcs. during November 2014 in connection with the erection of a detached house.
Project dates	Start: 03-11-2014 End: 04-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WSM66218 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CUT14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	UF None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE MALVERN HILLS CLIFTON UPON TEME Land at (SO 71689 61492)
Postcode	WR66DJ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 71689 61492 52.250479760331 -2.414752332362 52 15 01 N 002 24 53 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 191.8m Max: 191.8m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	county museum
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Paper Archive recipient	county museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological recording at land at SO71689 61492
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	one ten archaeology
Place of issue or publication	worcs.
Description	grey literature pdf
URL	http://www.oasis.ac.uk
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Entered on	9 September 2015