



1 Foxcote Hill

Ilmington, Warwickshire

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Historic environment desk based assessment

NGR: SP 21132 43302

Site code: FHI16

OASIS ID: 110archa1-260668

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August 2016

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Front cover; 1 Foxcote Hill, from the north-west

SUMMARY

An historic environment desk based assessment was carried out during July and August 2016 at 1 Foxcote Hill, Ilmington, Warwickshire in connection with an application for the conversion of an existing rear garage to residential.

The assessment has shown that there has probably been continued settlement activity at Ilmington from the prehistoric period, including Roman and medieval occupation as evidenced by a number of stray finds and recent archaeological discoveries.

The study lies on the south-eastern periphery of the village, at the base of the lane leading up Foxcote Hill, in an area that appears to have historically been a separate hamlet. The assessment concluded that the property was historically part of a farm, one of three that appears to have been established during the 17th century as a result of further expansion of the village. The house itself represents a building associated with one of these former farmsteads, possibly a barn later converted into labourers' cottages, one of which was subsequently demolished.



Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)

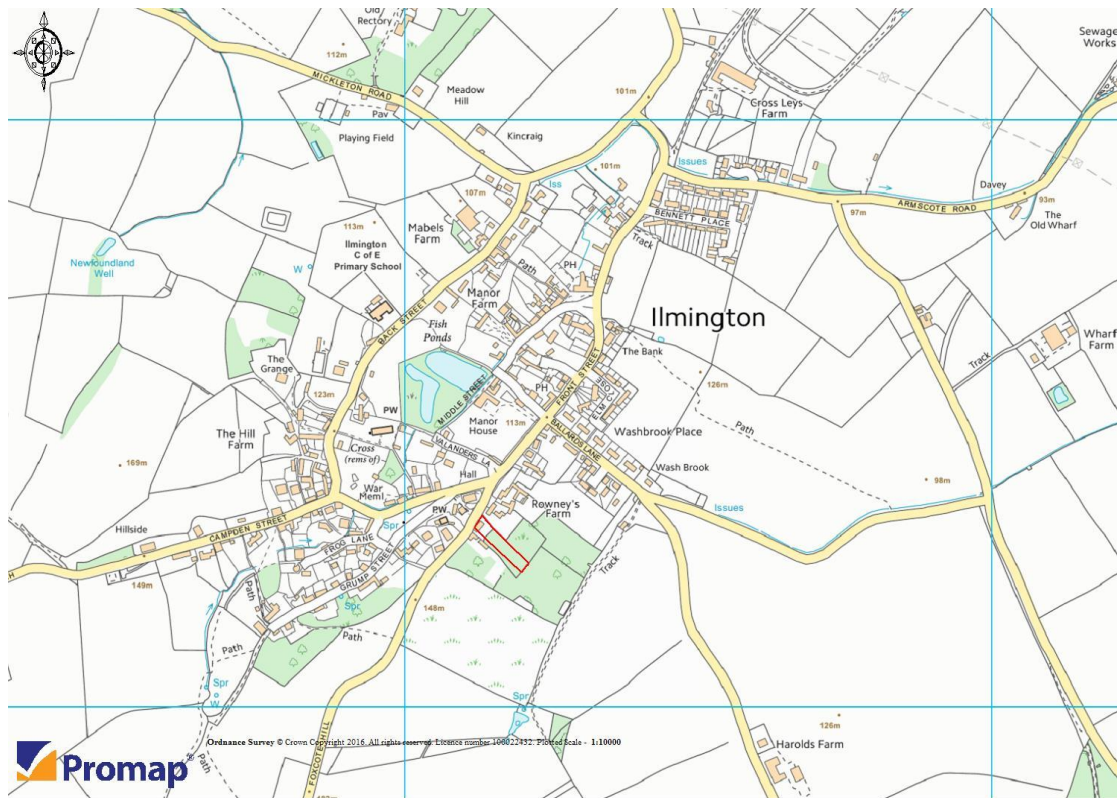


Fig. 2; study site (outlined in red)

INTRODUCTION

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

This document details the results of an historic environment desk based assessment during July and August 2016 at 1 Foxcote Hill, Ilmington, Warks. CV36 4LD at the request of the owners Mr Murray & Mrs Ribbans. The assessment was required by the Planning Department of Stratford upon Avon District Council, as a response to a proposal for the development of the site comprising the replacement of an existing garage with a one-bedroom annex to provide semi-independent accommodation. It was recognised that there may be potential within the site for the presence archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed development and therefore an assessment of the archaeological implications is required in advance of consideration of the proposals.

Geology and topography

Ilmington is a village and civil parish about 3.5 miles north-west of Shipston-on-Stour and 8 miles south of Stratford-on-Avon. The study site (1 Foxcote Hill) lies to the south-east of the village on a steep slope at the bottom of Foxcote Hill and consists of a semi-detached stone and render house with a slate main roof. To the rear is a long thin back garden with a detached brick and tile garage building about 15m behind the house.

Aims and objectives

The objective of the historic environment desk-based assessment is to define the likely extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains on the application site so that appropriate mitigation strategies can be devised. To aid the production of mitigation strategies the assessment will also include a plan showing the existing site lay out and a description of the proposed development indicating, where known, the predicted impact of the proposed foundations including drainage and services.



Plate 1; the study site from the south-east



Summary of archaeological results

A total of 66 monument records and 10 event records are identified from the HER within the 1km search area centred on the site. A summary of the significant information is outlined below.

Prehistoric

MWA2711; a Neolithic hand-axe was found on Windmill Hill

MWA5743; Prehistoric features containing flints and pottery sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age date were found during archaeological work at Ballards Lane. They were found 300m north east of the church, Ilmington. A feature was located containing a number of flints and two small, undecorated sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Coleman, 1992). Two Medieval ditches were also located (WA 5744).

MWA6068; an arrowhead, dating to the Neolithic period, was discovered 150m north of the church during an excavation.

MWA6105; a lower palaeolithic bifacial hand-axe, found 700m south west of Ilmington some years ago. One edge has been worked by opposed serial flaking but the other edge and part of the butt are unmodified and retain their original cortex. This asymmetrical work gives the tool the appearance of a segmental chopper. There is some doubt about its original provenance and it has been suggested that it might have come from the collection of a local antiquary which was broken up in the mid. 19th century (Pickin, 1987).

MWA6106; a beehive quern stone dating to the Iron Age period was found 400m east of the church, Ilmington.

MWA5306; the complete upper half of an Iron Age rotary quern of beehive type was found incorporated in a garden wall. The quern is fashioned from a medium coarse millstone grit and may have come from one of the quarry workshops in Derbyshire or S Yorkshire. It is 230 mm high and has a conical profile tapering from 280 mm (base diam) to 230 mm. There is a circular grain hollow, 55 mm deep, sunk in the top of the quern which connects with a rectangular-section handle socket. The base is well polished but unusual in being flat rather than

concave. Beehive querns are uncommon in Warwickshire although at least two have been recorded on Meon Hill (Pickin, 1987).

Roman

MWA19010; a series of Romano-British artefacts found during metal detecting to the south-west of the village.

MWA5306; pottery dating to the Roman period was found during an excavation of Ilmington moat (PRN 5305), 150m north of the church,

MWA5647; pottery dating to the Roman period was. A group of fifteen sherds found 500m east of Ilmington were brought into the Museum. Seven are Roman, six Saxon and two Medieval. The Roman pottery includes one sherd of a limestone-tempered jar of late Iron Age-early Roman date.

MWA6335; Roman pottery sherds found 300m north east of the church.

MWA6338; the site of a probable Roman settlement north-east of Washbrook Place identified from finds. The pottery seems to have a 2nd century to 4th century date range. This scatter has also produced tile, suggesting the presence of a building. Independent research undertaken in 2014 confirmed the presence of a Late Iron Age and Roman settlement focused on the rear of Washbrook Place, Ilmington. A geophysical survey (EWA10324) identified a sub-rectangular enclosure with a number of peripheral enclosures. The enclosures are interpreted as being of Late Iron Age origin on the basis of morphological characteristics, corroborated by pottery finds from a rapid field walking survey (EWA10325) undertaken as part of the same program of work. (Carey & Meredith, 2014).

Saxon/early medieval

Documentary sources show that in the late 10th century the village's toponym was *Ylmandunes* in Old English. The word *ylme* means an elm-tree, or elm wood and *dūn*, a hill. This evolved into Elmington because it had many elm trees which have disappeared since the arrival of Dutch Elm Disease to England in the 1970s.

A manor existed at Ilmington at the time of the Domesday Survey clearly indicating that a manorial settlement had already been established there by 1086. Foxcote, which may perhaps represent the estate in Ilmington held by Odard in 1086, is called a hamlet in 1316 which had no independent manorial rights.

Medieval

MWA8943; Probable extent of the medieval settlement in Ilmington as indicated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886. This shows a large, dispersed village, with lanes and back lanes suggesting organic growth. There are numerous empty plots/small fields of orchards and trees. On the north-eastern end, the settlement is bounded by lanes; the boundary to the southwest is less clearly defined, but fields and footpaths suggest the line. The ridge and furrow survival abuts the village to the north and northeast, and also to the southwest.

MWA2700; The parish church of St Mary, located 100m south of the fish ponds, dates from about the middle of the 12th century although there was a priest, implying a church, at Ilmington in 1086.

MWA5305; the site of a medieval moat, a wide ditch usually surrounding a building, which lies under a fishpond. Part excavation has uncovered some medieval occupation debris, and the site remains visible as an earthwork. It is situated to the north of St Mary's Church.

1976: An exploratory excavation confirmed the existence of a moat under one of the ponds. Pottery sherds recovered were provisionally dated the 12th-13th century. The evidence suggests that there was originally a moated site here. By the 14th century an internal building was in a state of disrepair and at this time the moat was recut on two sides to provide fishponds (Ball *et al*, 1976).

MWA2705; Medieval fishponds used for the breeding and storage of fish. They are visible as earthworks and part excavation has shown that a moat lies beneath one of the ponds. They are situated 100m north east of the church at Ilmington.

MWA5744; an archaeological evaluation was carried out on a site at Ballards Lane, Ilmington in September 1992 approx. 300m north east of the church. Two Medieval ditches were located together with a prehistoric feature (Coleman, 1992).

MWA6336; pottery sherds dating to the Early Medieval period were found 300m north east of the church, Ilmington. A group of fifteen sherds brought into the Museum. Seven of these sherds are Roman, six Saxon and two Medieval. One particular problem with this group relates to four sherds of a shell-tempered

fabric (included in the Roman sherds). These may be of late Roman date, although they could also be late Saxon.

MWA6337; pottery sherds dating to the Medieval period were found 300m north east of the church, Ilmington. A group of fifteen sherds brought into the Museum. Seven sherds are Roman, six Saxon and two Medieval.

MWA6339; a single Medieval pottery sherd was found 600m north east of the church, Ilmington. A scatter of Roman pottery and tile included one Medieval sherd.

MWA6446; ridge and furrow cultivation in Ilmington Parish, dating from the Medieval period onwards. In some areas of the parish the ridge and furrow survives as an earthwork. In other areas it is visible on aerial photographs.

MWA6448; earthworks, which are probably of Medieval date, are visible on aerial photographs. The earthworks are located 400m south west of Ilmington.

Post-medieval

MWA20126; an eighteenth century cobbled surface and stone wall was discovered at the Cabbage Patch, Rowney's Farm, Foxcote Hill. An archaeological evaluation (EWA10355) of The Cabbage Patch took place in advance of proposed building development. The four trenches revealed no significant archaeological finds, but they did reveal a cobbled surface and denuded stone wall that could possibly date to the late eighteenth century, along with finds from the nineteenth century (Shaw, 2015).

MWA2703; Ilmington Manor House, which was built during the Post Medieval period. Much of the house was rebuilt during the 20th century. It is situated 200m north east of the church, Ilmington. The present house is situated 200 yards east of the church. Much rebuilt in the early part of the 20th century. Originally it consisted of an L-shaped plan with three storeys dating to the middle 16th century. The outbuildings have been joined to the original structure. The history of the manor house is documented well up to 1700, after which it becomes obscure.

MWA4548; an earthwork enclosure of unknown date is visible on aerial photographs. It is located 500m south west of Ilmington.

NEGATIVE EVENTS

EWA10012; Armscote Road, Ilmington, Warwickshire, archaeological evaluation
Seven trenches were excavated across the site but no significant archaeological features were encountered and no finds were recovered (Gethin & Cooper, 2012).

A negative watching brief (EWA9831) was carried out at Badgers Farm (Coutts C. 2010).

EWA9404; Archaeological Watching Brief at Meadow View, Back Street, Ilmington
No evidence of medieval settlement was recorded during a watching brief in Ilmington. Foundations of a building shown on early OS mapping, were recorded (Morton, 1998).

EWA9369; Watching brief undertaken on groundworks with the medieval settlement at Ilmington. No medieval features were recorded; a dressed stone well (undated) and other 19th and 20th century features were recorded (Curran & Vaughan, 2009).

EWA10023; Clifford Orchard, Frog Lane, Ilmington. Archaeological evaluation.
Four trenches were excavated to identify the presence of any possible archaeological remains at the proposed development site. No features or finds were found apart from a cut by a modern pond feature in Trench 3 (Palmer, 2012).

EWA9099; Archaeological Observation at Cuckoo Cottage, Ilmington during groundworks for an extension; no evidence of medieval or earlier activity was recorded; an undated blocked doorway and an 18th to 19th century garden soil was encountered (Pratt & Jones, 2007).

Development or other impact (Fig. 3)

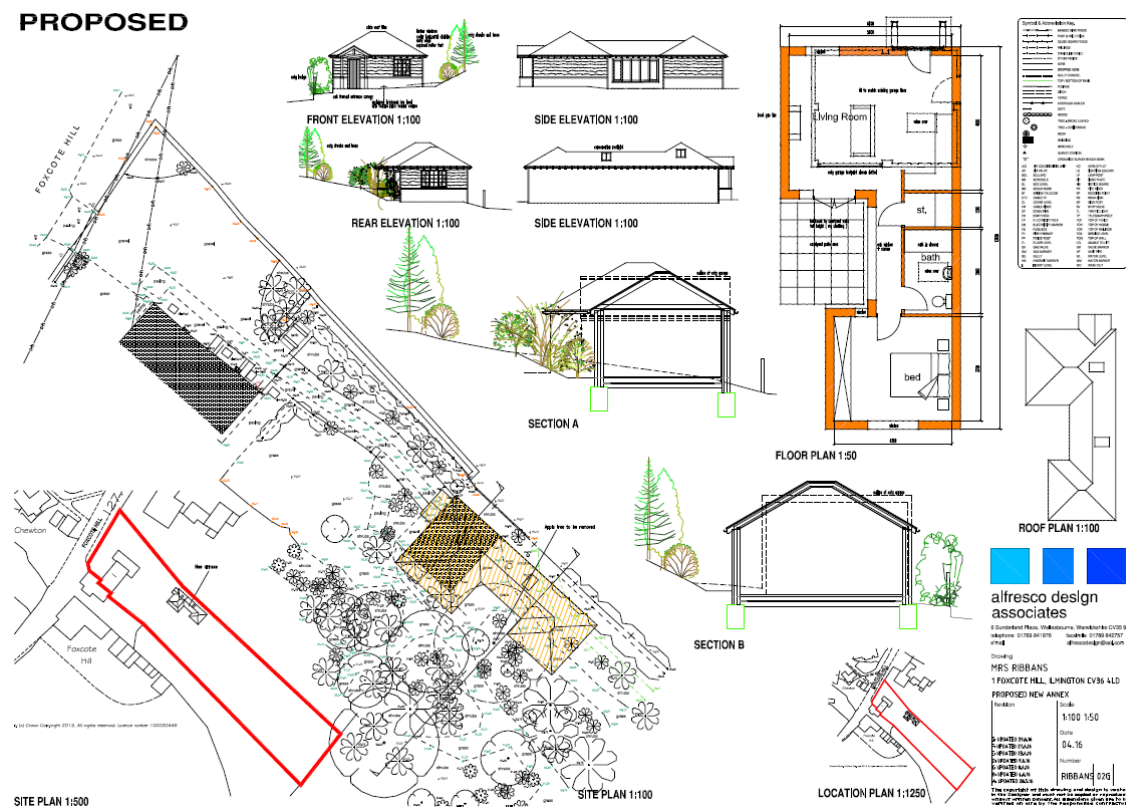


Fig. 3; existing garage and proposed replacement building

1 Foxcote Hill is a semi-detached stone and render house with a slate main roof. To the rear there is a long thin back garden including a detached brick and tile garage building about 15m to the east of the house. The proposed development is to replace the existing garage with a one-bedroom annexe as shown above. The main area of impact on the underlying deposits will be during excavation of the strip foundations associated with the groundworks.

DISCUSSION (Fig. 4)

Prehistoric

Evidence of prehistoric activity is recorded at some distance from the study site in various locations mainly as stray finds comprising Palaeolithic and Neolithic hand axes, a flint arrow head and some Iron Age quern-stones. Excavation at Ballards Lane however, approx. 250m north-east of the study site, revealed a feature producing flint and pottery of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date indicating possible evidence for prehistoric occupation.

No archaeological deposits or finds related to this period have been found within or in close proximity of the study site itself which lies at some distance from these finds and therefore the potential for the survival of prehistoric archaeology is considered low.

Roman

Evidence of Roman activity has been recorded at Ilmington in various locations indicating perhaps a pattern of occupation. Stray finds comprising a series of Romano-British artefacts (MWA19010) were found during metal detecting approx. 700m to the south-west of the village and again during an excavation of the medieval moat (MWA5306;), approx. 150m north of the church. Roman pottery was also found just to the east of the manor house (MWA6335). The evidence suggests that the historic core of the medieval village around the church and moated site may also contain Roman occupation deposits.

There is strong evidence from finds and a geophysical survey (Carey & Meredith, 2014), for a Late Iron Age or Romano-British settlement comprising possible a farmstead (MWA6338) situated approx. 250m north-east of the study site at land to the rear of Washbrook Place. Another scatter of similarly date finds (MWA5647) was made further to the east of this perhaps indicating Roman settlement focused on an area stretching east along the north side of Ballards Lane.

The study site, which lies further to the south of Ballards Lane at the bottom of Foxcote Hill and on the southern extremity of the village, is in an area where there have been no Roman finds to date and consequently, it is anticipated that the potential for Roman deposits to survive within the area of the proposed development to be low.

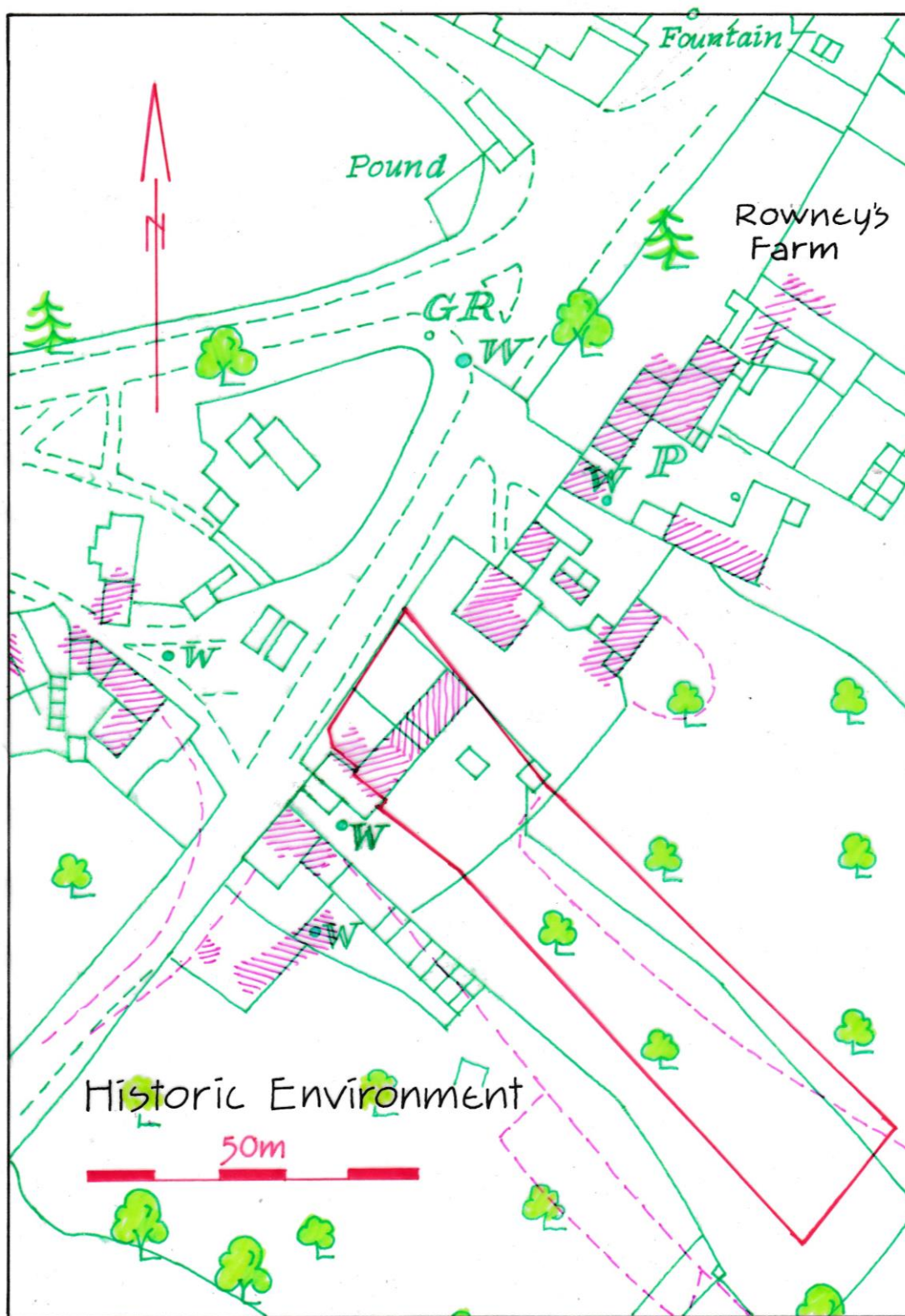


Fig. 4; historic environment plan ('best fit'); Ilmington-south-east, Foxcote Hill. Pink; 1775 Inclosure Award. Dark green; OS First Edition 1885. Red; study site.

Medieval

The village is largely dispersed, but the historic core, which is based primarily on the 1775 Inclosure Award and the OS First Edition 1885 can be identified as situated around the church where a number of medieval earthworks, including a moat, are still visible. Excavation from this and the surrounding area has produced finds indicating occupation from the early medieval period followed by what appears to be significant expansion during the 12/13th century. The study site lies on the south-east periphery of the village and outside the extent of the known medieval settlement. There are currently no known medieval monuments or finds recorded within or in close proximity to the study site and therefore the potential for medieval deposits to survive within the area of the proposed development is considered low.

Post-medieval

Historic mapping, in conjunction with an analysis of the standing buildings shows that the study site formerly represented one of three small farmsteads situated on the south-east edge of the village at the base of Foxcote Hill. The other two were 'Ye Olde Foxe House' and Rowney's Farm. All three were probably established in the 17th century during further expansion of the village, either before the Civil War or during the subsequent Restoration period. 1 Foxcote Hill has undergone some significant alterations. The house was historically part of the former 17th century farm (which included the adjacent property), possibly a barn which was later converted into two labourers' cottages. These can be identified from old photographs which show a brick front beneath the existing render in contrast to the masonry of the rear wall indicating substantial alterations. The uneven configuration of the windows also shows that there was a re-ordering of an earlier building when the cottages were created. Eventually, the northern Cottage was demolished leaving the existing house as the surviving element of this former range.

Recommendation

The assessment has shown that there has probably been continued settlement activity at Ilmington from the Neolithic or Bronze continuing into the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. A small nucleated settlement is likely to have focused near the historic core of the existing village, whilst the archaeological evidence also indicates settlement during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods towards the north and east of the village. The study site is situated on the south-

east edge of the village at some distance from these known areas of early occupation. It is anticipated that the development, within the rear garden of the property, is unlikely to impact on any archaeological deposits other than garden soils associated with the post-medieval occupation of the property and therefore no further work is recommended.

Archive Location

The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and an online form submitted to OASIS (see Appendix 1).

Methodology

The assessment has been compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Guidance and Standards for an historic environment desk based assessment (CIFA, 2014).

The Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out within a 1km radius centred on the site. This included 66 monument records and 10 event records. No site specific geotechnical information was available at the time of the assessment.

A visit to the study site was made followed by a visit to the Warwickshire Record Office. The earliest historical maps available covering the study site was the 1775 Inclosure Award and the OS First Edition (1885). Significant information from the HER and the historic maps (based on a 'best fit') is incorporated into the Historic environment illustration (Fig. 4).

Timescales used in this report:

Prehistoric BC450,000-AD43

Palaeolithic 450,000-12,000 BC

Mesolithic 12,000-4,000 BC

Neolithic 4,000-1,800 BC

Bronze Age 1,800-600 BC

Iron Age 600-AD43

Roman AD43-410

Saxon/early medieval AD410-1066

Medieval AD 1066-1530

Post-medieval AD 1531-1800

Modern AD 1800-present

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- Warwickshire Historic Environment Record 2016

APPENDIX 1 OASIS

Project name	1 Foxcote Hill, Ilmington, Warwickshire; historic environmen desk based assessment
Project dates	Start: 21-07-2015 End: 21-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FHI16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	110archa1-260668 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Desk based assessment
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON ILMINGTON 1 Foxcote Hill
Postcode	CV36 4LD
Study area	2350 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 21132 43302 52.087249721632 - 1.691550178392 52 05 14 N 001 41 29 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Contents	"none"

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1 Foxcote Hill, Ilmington, Warwickshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	one ten archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Warks.
URL	http://www.oasis.ac.uk
Entered by	sean cook (seancook@btinternet.com)
Entered on	21 August 2016