



New dwelling at

Middle Brook House

Illmington, Warwickshire

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Programme of archaeological work

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one ten archaeology

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Front cover; Middle Brook House, view to the south-east

SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological work was carried out in August and October 2016 at Middle Brook House, Mickleton Road, Ilmington, Warwickshire in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling on the site.

Excavations revealed a series of cut features interpreted as structures, pits and ditches indicative of early settlement. The evidence suggests that this activity occurred throughout the 3rd century AD, probably in phases, and appearing to have been abandoned by the 4th century, or shifted away. The features are closely concentrated within a small area and appear to reflect the nucleus of a small farmstead or group of low status buildings possibly connected to a larger villa complex.

Until now evidence of Roman occupation at Ilmington has been based on stray pottery finds found either side of Middle Street and a substantial settlement at Windmill Hill which appears to have originated in the Late Iron Age continuing into the 3rd century AD. The excavations at Middlebrook House have shown that Roman settlement was also established at the north end of the village during the 3rd century, possibly as part of a small farmstead or a range of structures and enclosures connected to a nearby villa complex where the main buildings are situated.



Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)



Fig. 2; area of study (outlined in red)

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works (Figs. 1, 2, 3 & 4)

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological work carried out during 15th and 16th August and 6th, 7th and 10th October 2016 at Middle Brook House, Mickleton Road, Ilmington, Warks., CV36 4JQ on behalf of the owners, Mr and Mrs Barnard. The work was required by the Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice Team as a condition of planning permission (planning Ref: 16/00161/FUL) which was granted for the erection of a single detached dwelling on the site.

It had been shown that the proposed development lay within an area of archaeological potential, within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Ilmington (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA8943) and the development may impact upon archaeological features associated with the medieval occupation of the village.

The evaluation (trial trenching) represented an initial investigation and confirmed the presence of Roman deposits surviving within the footprint of the proposed development. A mitigation strategy comprising a watching brief followed and the results of both interventions are detailed in this combined report.

Geology and topography

Ilmington is a village and civil parish about 3.5 miles (5.6km) north-west of Shipston-on-Stour and 8 miles (13km) south of Stratford-upon-Avon. The study site lies at approximately 101m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) at the north end of the village and currently comprises an area of the land adjoining the north-east side of Middle Brook House. The development itself covered an area of 120m². Preliminary investigations showed that the underlying solid geology comprises Lower Lias, Mainly clay (BGS, 1974). Although excavation confirmed the presence of the clay, the surface of the natural geology within the study site was largely gravel.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Documentary sources show that in the 10th century the village's toponym was *Ylmandunes* in Old English. The word *ylme* (Old English) means an elm-tree, or

elm wood and *dūn* (Old English), 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. The village was listed in Domesday and the parish church of St. Mary dates from about the middle of the 12th century (VCH, 1949).

The archaeological evidence, derived mainly from the Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that little archaeological work has been carried out in the village and most information is otherwise based on the standing monuments and stray finds. These demonstrate prehistoric activity in the area of Ballards Lane (MWA5743) where features containing flints and pottery sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age date were excavated (CAT, 1992). A Neolithic arrowhead (MWA6068) has also been found 150m north of the church.

Evidence for Roman occupation within the village has been based mostly on stray finds to the south. However recent independent research (Carey & Meredith, 2014) confirmed the presence of a Late Iron Age and Roman settlement focus to the east of the village on Windmill Hill. The geophysical survey (EWA10324) revealed enclosures interpreted as being of Late Iron Age/Romano-British origin on the basis of morphological characteristics, corroborated by Iron Age and Roman pottery finds from a rapid field walking survey (EWA10325) undertaken as part of the same program of work.

The site of a Roman settlement (MWA6338) has also been identified approx. 300m east of Wharf Farm from pottery and tiles collected from the area which seemed to suggest a 2nd century to 4th century AD date range. This scatter has also produced tile including a piece of flue tile, which implies the proximity of a building of some substance and sophistication.

Although there is currently no evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation at Ilmington, it is mentioned in Domesday suggesting a settlement is likely to have been established in the village before the Norman conquest. The presence of a series of medieval monuments including former fishponds near the historic core shows that Ilmington flourished during the medieval period.

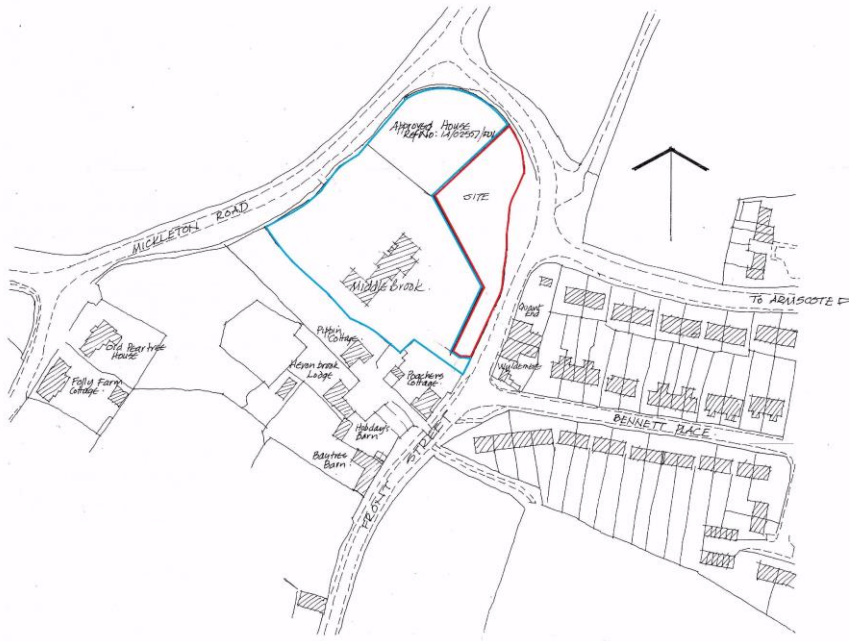


Fig. 3; Ilmington (north), location of study site (outlined in red)

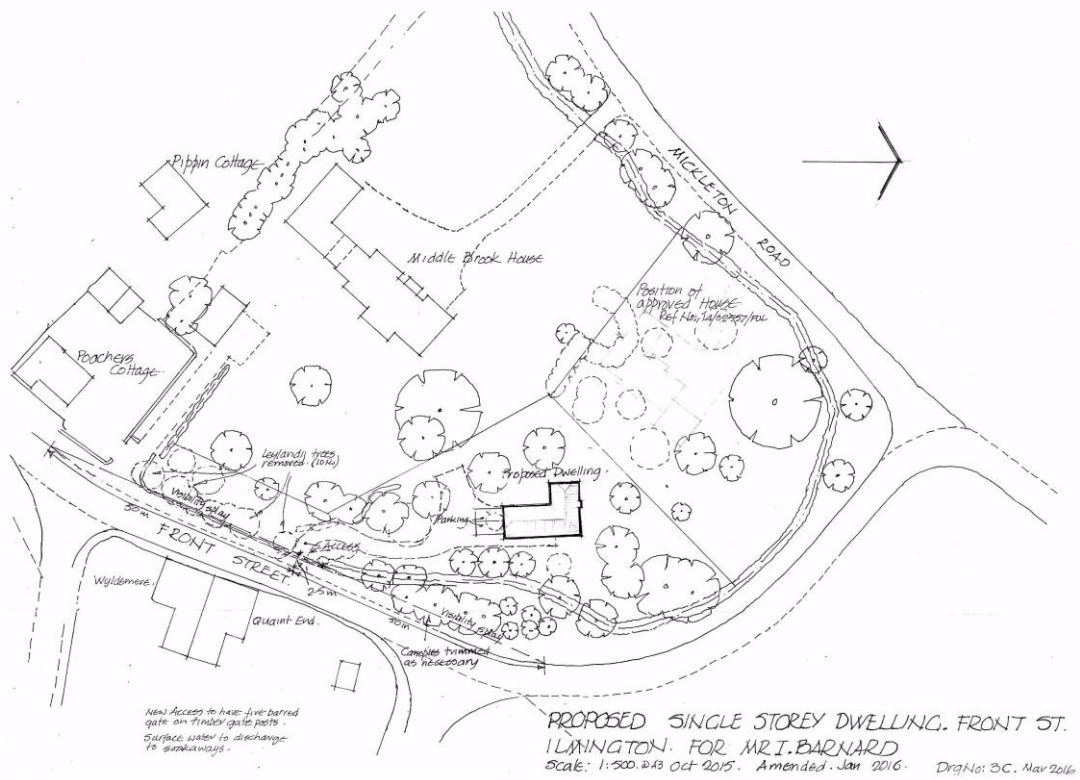


Fig. 4; location of new dwelling (area of excavation)

RESULTS (Figs. 5, 6 & 7)

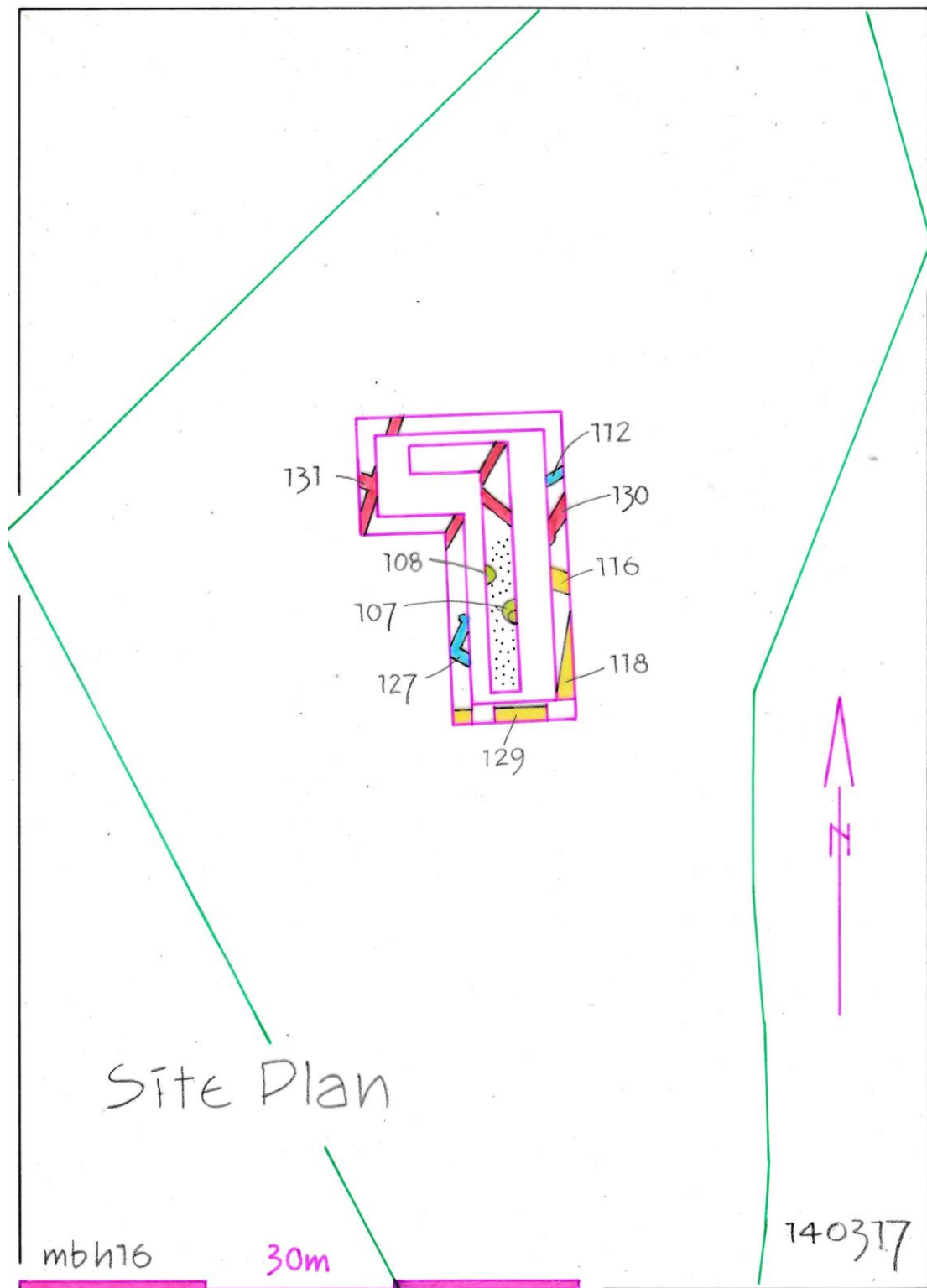


Fig. 5; trench plan showing area of excavation and the main archaeological features

Method and nature of the excavation

The programme of work was in two stages. An evaluation was initially carried out consisting of a single L-shaped trench located centrally within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. This was followed by excavation comprising a 0.90m wide trench along the outline of the proposed foundation trench connected with the new development. The archaeological overburden consisting of homogenous layers of relict subsoil and modern topsoil was removed to expose the surface of the natural substrate where a series of archaeological deposits were revealed. These were then sampled through hand excavation and recorded.

Description of deposits; general stratigraphy

Context 102 (Natural substrate); Context 101 (relict subsoil layer) & Context 100 (topsoil layer)

The surface of the geological horizon (102), comprising a variation between a light yellowish-brown Lias clay and gravel, was exposed throughout the two phases of excavation at a level height of about 100.80m AOD. A series of truncated features were observed cut into the surface of this deposit which are, where possible, grouped by type. Overlying the natural substrate and sealing these features (described below) to a depth varying between 0.20-35m, was a thick homogenous deposit of a relict subsoil or cultivation layer (101). This comprised a light to mid-greyish-brown silty-clay with a component of limestone fragments (some burnt) increasing in density and size in the north-east corner of the excavation. The topsoil layer, a dark greyish-brown clayey-silt ranged between 0.25-0.35m thick.

Description of deposits; main archaeological features

BUILDING 130

Context (cut feature) 109 (filled by 105)

The cut feature comprised a linear, north-west to south-east aligned shallow trench (109) with an irregular-shaped profile trench, approx. 0.50m wide with one steep sloping side and the other more gradually sloped. It was filled by a single deposit (105) consisting of a mid-dark yellowish-brown, silty-clay with a small component of charcoal flecking. Two large burnt pieces of limestone,

fragments of animal bone and some sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.

Context (cut feature) 110 (filled by 106)

Aligned perpendicular to trench 109 on a north-east to south-west orientation was a similarly shallow linear cut feature (110). The profile was more regular with steep sides. It was 0.40m wide at the surface whilst the base, which was flat-bottomed, was about 0.24m wide. The single fill deposit (106) was equivalent to context 105, albeit with a component of several unburnt fragments of limestone. A continuation of this feature was recorded in the second stage of excavation (see below).

Context (cut feature) 122 (filled by 121)

Although the direct relationship was not established, it seems clear that the similarly shaped trench cut (122), represents a continuation south-east of feature 110. The fill deposit 121 which was equivalent to contexts 105 & 106 produced a single small piece of unburnt limestone, some fragments of animal bone and a couple of sherds of Roman pottery.

Context (cut feature 114 (filled by 113)

Trench cut 114 appears at first to comprise the remains of a small linear ditch or large gully-like feature, but its position and alignment (north-east to south-west) when viewed in relation to trench cuts 109, 110 & 122, suggests that it may have formed part of the same structure. It is 0.80m wide and 0.23m deep, steep on the one (?inner) side, but more gradually sloping on the other and lies parallel with trench 110, separated by a distance of about 3.75m. Although the relationship is obscured by the unexcavated area in-between, these two features appear to be connected by the perpendicular trench 109 (perhaps as an internal partition). A slight steep-sided protrusion on the south-east side of feature 114 appears to correspond with the end of feature 109. The fill deposit (113) comprised a greyish-brown silty-clay with a small component of charcoal flecking. Finds included some small unburnt limestone fragments, animal bone and Roman pottery sherds indicating a date after AD 270.

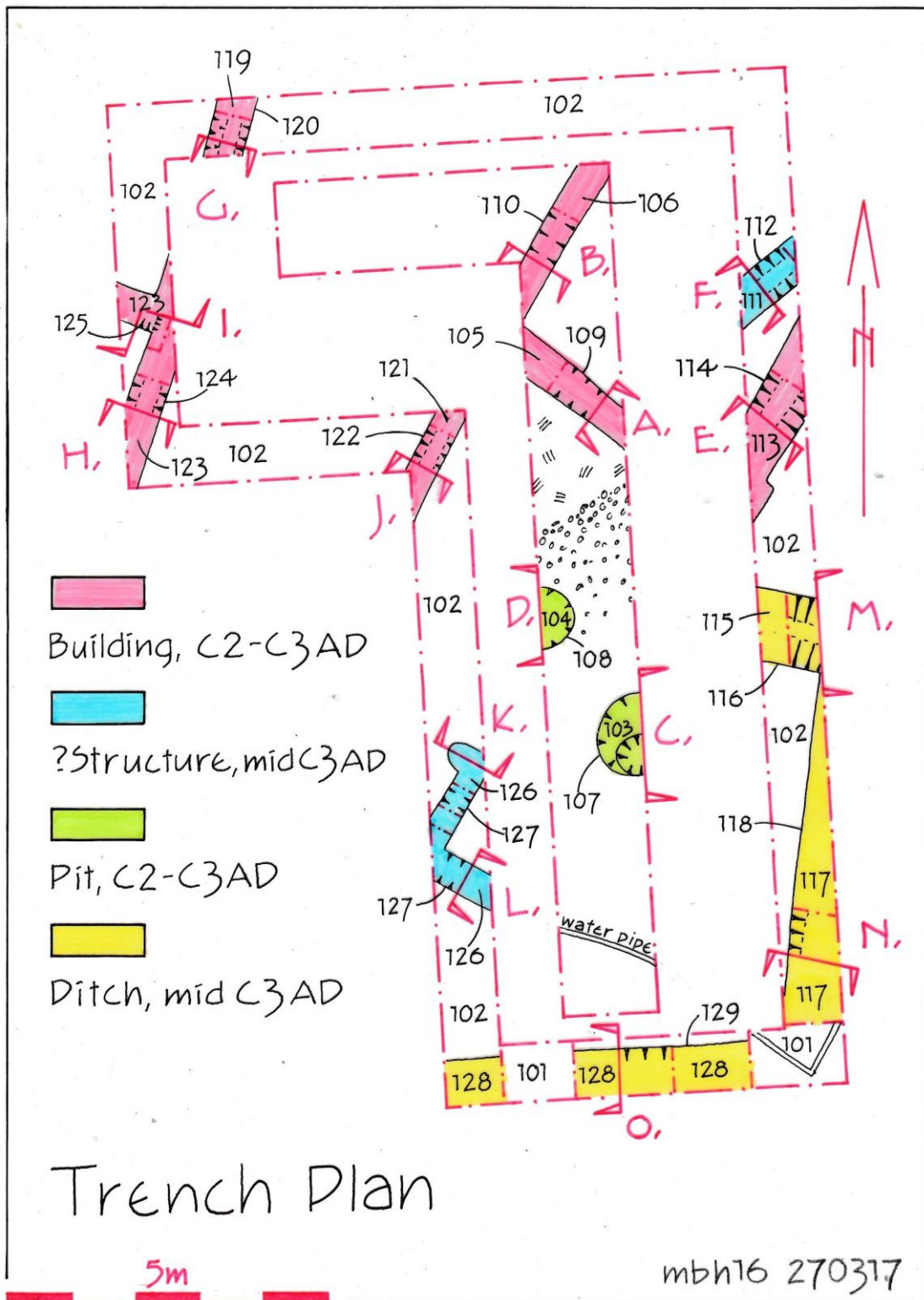


Fig. 6; detail of excavation showing main archaeological features

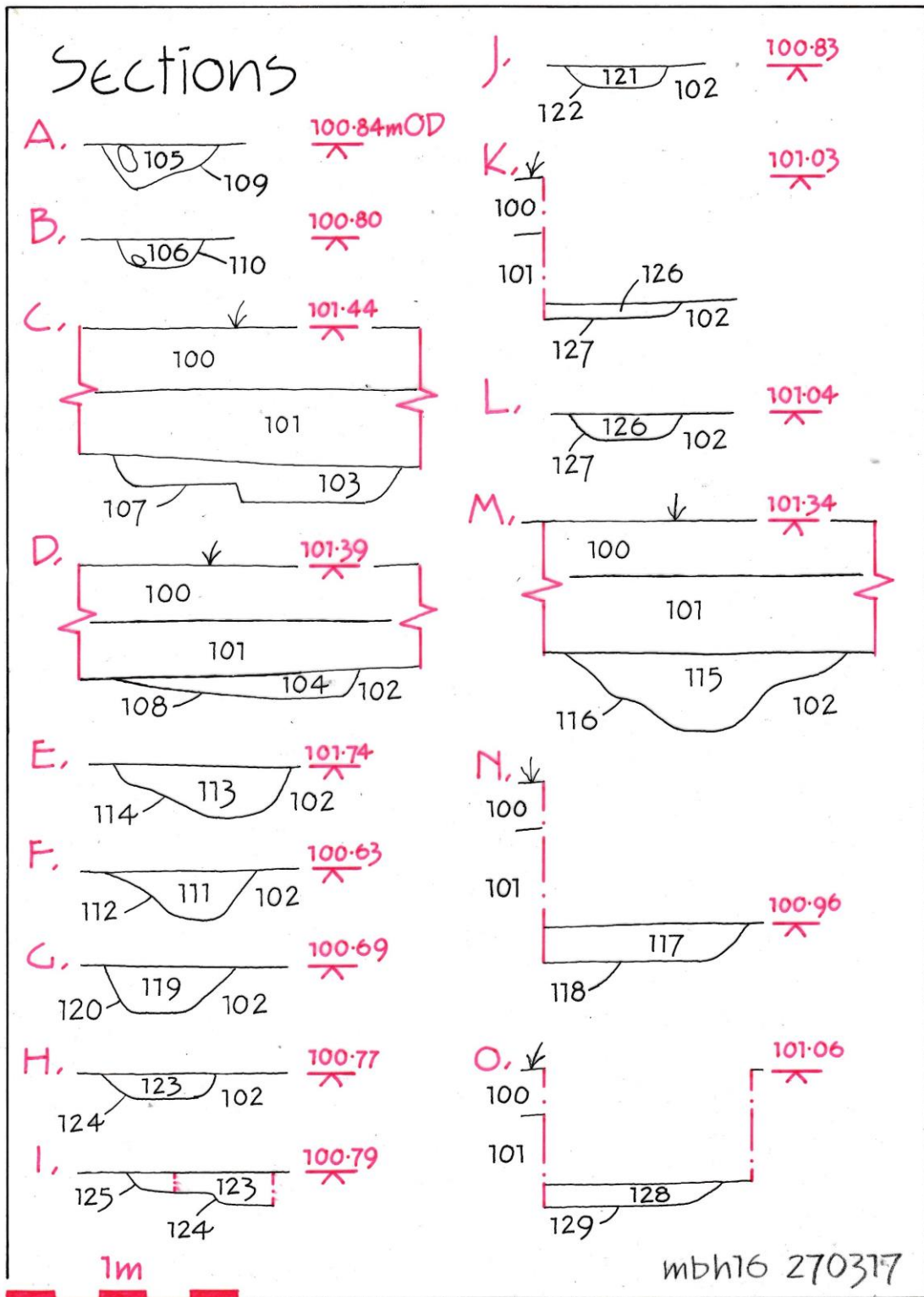


Fig. 7; sections of main features



Plate 1; cut features 109 & 110, from the north-east



Plate 2; cut feature 114, from the north-east



Plate 3; cut feature 122, from the north-east

BUILDING 131

Context (cut feature) 120 (filled by 119) & Contexts (cut features) 124 & 125 (filled by 123)

Aligned north-east to south-west was a small narrow trench (120 & 124) 0.58m wide and 0.20m deep with one steeply sloping side, the other more gradual. It was filled by deposits 119 and 123 consisting of mid-grey, silty-clay producing mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD pottery. Connecting perpendicular to the north-east side of this feature was another slightly narrower and shallower trench (125) filled by the same deposit. This was interpreted as an internal partition extending to the north-west.



Plate 4; cut feature 120, from the north-east



Plate 5; cut features 124 & 125, from the north-east

Context (cut feature) 127 (filled by 126)

The feature comprised a right-angled shallow linear cut trench about 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and aligned on a north-east to south-west and also a north-west to south-east axis. The north-east end of the feature was slightly wider with a distinctive rounded, outer corner. It was filled by a single deposit consisting of a mid-greyish brown, silty-clay. Finds comprised some animal bone and sherds of pottery dated to the mid-3rd century.



Plate 6; cut feature 127, from the north-east

PITS

Context (cut feature) 107 (filled by 103) & Context (cut feature) 108 (filled by 104).

Two probable pits were partially exposed, both were shallow and appeared circular or sub-circular. Excavation suggests that the more northerly feature (108) was about 1.0m in diameter or width on the north-south axis, about 0.12m deep on the north side and tapering off on the south side, probably a result of later truncation. It was filled by a single deposit (104) consisting of a mid-dark greyish-brown, clayey-silt containing a component of small limestone fragments,

some of which were burnt. Finds included animal bone (a single cow horncore) and a single sherd of pottery dated from the 2nd-3rd century AD.

The remaining pit-feature (107), was 1.30m wide on the north-south axis and about 0.10m deep. The base was flat, except for the south side where the bottom went deeper for a further 0.08m with another smaller, sub-circular flat-based element of the feature. It was filled by 103, a deposit equivalent with 104 and produced finds consisting of animal bone and an assemblage of pottery sherds dated from 120 AD.



Plate 7; cut feature 107 (plan view)



Plate 8; cut feature 108, from the east

DITCHES

Context (cut feature) 112 (filled by 111)

The feature comprised a linear trench aligned north-east to south-west, 0.66m wide and 0.20m deep, with one steep sloping side and the other more gradual, and a flat base 0.20m wide. The single fill deposit consisted of a mid-greyish-brown, silty-clay with finds comprising a fragment of animal bone and Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century AD.

Context (cut feature) 116 (filled by 115)

The linear ditch (116) was aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 1.15m wide and 0.34m deep. The upper sides of the ditch were gently sloping, although the south side was much steeper towards the base of the feature. It was filled by a single deposit (115) which consisted of a mid-yellowish-brown, silty-clay with a component of small limestone fragments. Finds comprised some animal bone and pottery dated from the late 2nd-3rd century AD.



Plate 9; cut feature 112, from the north-east



Plate 10; cut feature 116 & fill deposit 115, from the west

Context (cut feature) 118 (filled by 117)

The linear ditch (118) was aligned north-east to south-west. Partial excavation revealed shallow flat bottomed feature with at least one steeply sloping side. It was filled by a single deposit consisting of a mid-dark, yellowish-brown, silty-sandy-clay with a component of gravel and the occasional small fragment of limestone. Finds comprised animal bone and Roman pottery.

Context (cut feature) 129 (filled by 128)

The linear ditch (129) was aligned east-west. Partial excavation revealed shallow flat bottomed feature with at least one steeply sloping side. It was similar with ditch 118 and also filled by an equivalent single fill deposit (128) which produced animal bone and pottery dated from the mid-3rd century AD.



Plate 11; cut feature 118, from the north-east



Plate 12; cut feature 129 (filled by 128), from the east

FINDS

The Roman Pottery Dr Philip Mills MCifA

Introduction

There were 197 sherds, weighing 3322g, of pottery with a minimum number of rims (MNR) of 26 presented for assessment from the site. The stratified material, excluding top and sub soil material came to 100 sherds, 1459g including 11 rims and 3 bases. The material was rapidly scanned and recorded by context ware type and part using number of sherds (NoSh), weight (Wt.) in grams and minimum number of rims (MNR). The material was grouped using the Warwickshire ware type codes.

Dating

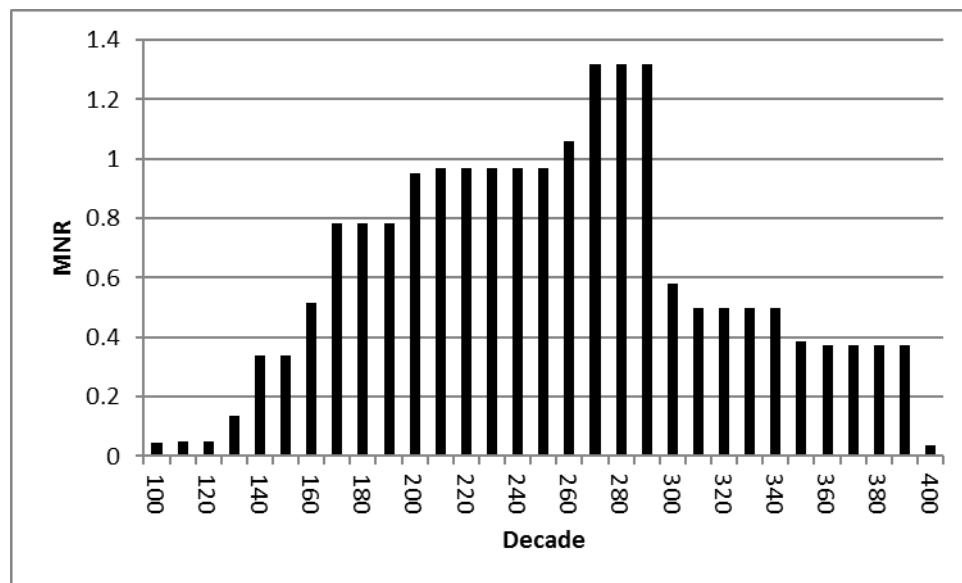


Figure 1 Date distribution by MNR of all forms with a date range of 150 years or less

The summary of the spot dating by context is presented in Appendix 1. Figure 1 shows the date distribution for all the pottery rims with a given date range of less than 200 years.

The main period of activity starts in the mid-2nd century with a slight rise in the 3rd century and peaking in the later 3rd century with a sharp 4th century decline.

The earliest pottery was a single sherd of class E grog tempered Aylesford-Swarling tradition pottery of AD 1-70 date from (101). This does not seem to be related to the rest of the assemblage. There is a central Gaulish samian sherd of AD 120-200 date also from (101).

There is a samian Dragendorf 72 beaker form (123) of mid-2nd to mid-3rd century date.

There is a Severn Valley ware (Tomber and Dore 1998 SVW OX) Webster (1976) type 43 tankard from (104). There are two SVW OX Webster (1976) type 23 jars from (101) of mid-2nd to late 3rd century date.

There are late 2nd to late 3rd century SVW forms from (101) including two Webster (1976) type 50 bowls, and four Webster (1976) type 42-43 tankards. There is a further type 43 tankard from (1115).

3rd century material is attested by two black burnished ware jars (Tomber and Dore 1998 DOR BB1) one from (126) and one from (127). There are two examples of simple rim dishes or bowls with intersecting burnished arcades of 3rd to mid-4th century date: one from (1010) and one from (128).

Late 3rd to 4th century vessels include SVW OX type 9, 29 and two type 27 jars from (101) as well as a developed bead and flange rim DOR BB1 bowl from (113).

Apart from the unstratified class E sherd there is no evidence of deposition for the main occupation of the site before the third century, with the central Gaulish samian likely to be residual as an heirloom in this case. The main dating evidence suggest a flourishing around the mid to late 3rd century. There is no evidence of much continuation into the 4th century.

Taphonomy

The breakdown of the context types the material was recovered from is shown in Table 1. The majority of the material is from ditches, at 54%, which is a good indicator of rural deposition. However, a large amount is from slots which may indicate that it is a slightly higher status rural settlement.

Table 1 Breakdown of the assemblage by context type

Cxt Type	NoSh%	Wt%	MNR%	MSW
Pit	18.0	23.6	18.2	19.4
Ditch	43.0	51.4	54.5	17.4
Slot	39.0	24.7	27.3	9.2
<i>N</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1459</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>145.9</i>

Supply

Table 2 Main Ware types showing the breakdown of the assemblage by ware type.

Class	Ware	NoSh%	Wt%	MNR%	MSW
B	Black Burnished	19.00%	10.21%	36.36%	7.84
C	Shell	7.00%	4.04%	0.00%	8.43
G	Grittied	2.00%	0.34%	0.00%	2.50
M	Mortaria	2.00%	1.99%	9.09%	14.50
O	Oxidised	44.00%	58.12%	27.27%	19.27
R	Reduced	22.00%	21.04%	18.18%	13.95
S	Samian	2.00%	0.21%	9.09%	1.50
W	Whiteware	1.00%	3.91%	0.00%	57.00
Z	Post- Medieval	1.00%	0.14%	0.00%	2.00
		100	1459	11	145.90

Class B, black burnished wares is high at 19% by Nosh, although it is close to the edge of the 20% contour suggested by Allen and Fulford (1996, Fig 8). . This may be exaggerated by the relatively low size of the stratified assemblage and the presence of 10 sherds (itself 10% of the total) of a single vessel - the developed bead and flange rim bowl from (113). This high level may also reflect the lack of early material from the site—given that supply of BB1 to Alcester (and the North in general) reaches a peak in the late 3rd century, and is probably ended by the mid-4th century (Evans 2009, 110).

Class C, Calcareous tempered pottery is present at 7%. There are no rim sherds noted in this class and likely includes material from a number of sources.

Class e, Aylesford- Swarling tradition wares was represented by a single unstratified sherd from (101).

Class G, hand-made gritted wares was present at 2%, which is line with what would be expected for the region.

Class M, mortaria was present at 2% and comprise entirely Mancetter-Hartshill (Tomber and Dore 1998 MAH WH) products and is in line with the norm for rural sites in the region.

Class O, oxidised wares were the most abundant ware present at 44%. It mainly comprises SVW OX. This is as would be expected at the North-Eastern edge of its supply (Allen and Fulford 1996).

Class Q, white slipped wares, occurs as an unstratified flagon rim.

Class R, reduced wares is relatively strong at 22%, this includes some grey versions of Severn Valley ware forms.

Class S, samian, is 2% of the overall assemblage. The absence of any other fine wares is of note. This relatively low level of fineware is consistent with a rural site.

Class w, white wares are present at 1%

Class Z, medieval and later are present at 1%.

Functional analysis

Table 3 shows the approximate functional analysis for the assemblage.

The rim levels are quite low so the figures need to be treated with some caution.

The level of jars, 36% compared to dishes and bowls would suggest a site at the high end of the rural pattern, and perhaps close to a villa (Evans 2001, Fig 5). The comparison of drinking vessels with jars would also suggest something on the high end of the rural range (Evans 2001, fig 7).

Table 3 Approximate functional analysis of the assemblage by minimum numbers of rims

Function	J	Tk	BK	M	B	D	N
	36.4	18.2	9.1	9.1	18.2	9.1	11 <i>rims</i>

Discussion and Summary of Potential

This is a small group of material, which would appear to mainly date from the 3rd century, peaking in the late 3rd century but with no evidence of much activity in the 4th century. The taphonomic profile, supply levels and functional analysis suggest that the site is rural in nature, but toward the higher end of the rural range such as a villa. There are a number of unusual aspects to the assemblage that can be partly explained by the small sample size but also the absence of much earlier material at the site. No further work is recommended on the assemblage at this time.

Retention and Conservation

All the stratified material should be retained and requires no particular conservation measures other than stable storage conditions. Discard of the unstratified material is not recommended, but if it is to be undertaken a record should be kept of all material discarded.

The Ceramic Building Materials and Fired Clay by Dr Philip Mills MCIfA

Introduction

There were 20 fragments, weighing 1176g, of ceramic building material and fired clay presented for assessment from the site. This included 6 fragments, 415g, of stratified material. The small amount of material means that the full catalogue can be presented by context.

The catalogue

Context 101

5 fragments, 315 g of fired clay disc (Evans 2009, 129-133) with grog, shell and chalk inclusions with organic voids on the surfaces. 390mm in diameter, 29mm thick, Roman.

9 fragments, 446g probably from a tegula in fabric T71 (Mills 2009 WMC01).
Roman

Context 103

1 fragment, 144g probably from a tegula in fabric T71. Roman

Context 113

1 fragment, 10g of oxidised sandy burnt clay

1 fragment, 58 g of a fired clay fragment (?) with a thick calcium carbonate encrusted surface possibly from Opus signinum. Worn on one face so possibly used as burnisher.

Context 119

1 fragment of flue tile or voussoir, fabric T71 possible keying with fine toothed combed with widely separated teeth (C2+)

Context 126

2 fragments of oxidised burnt clay, 46 g

Discussion and Summary of Potential

This is a small collection of Roman CBM and burnt clay. Pieces of note include the fired clay disc, which is currently interpreted as a specific cultural preference in rural Warwickshire. There is also a calcium carbonate encrusted fragment of fired clay which may derive from a mortar layer.

There is not enough material present to establish whether it derives from a nearby structure, although generally flue tiles are common in the usual CBM rural groups so the site being on the periphery of a hypocaust structure cannot entirely be ruled out.

No further work is recommended. The CBM can be discarded as appropriate to the requirements of the local accessioning museum although the fired clay disc should be retained.

Environmental data

The Animal Bone by Jennifer Wood

The remains were generally of a moderate to poor overall condition, averaging between grades 3 and 4 on the Lyman criteria (1996). Five fragments of bone recovered from (101), [107], [108], [109] and [112] displayed evidence of butchery. The cut mark evidence appears consistent with meat removal and jointing of the carcass. The cattle horncore recovered from [108] displays cut marks which may suggest horn removal for working purposes. A single fragment of unidentified burn bone was recovered from subsoil deposit (101). Two fragments of bone recovered from [107] and [109] displayed evidence of carnivore gnawing. The lack of gnawing on the remaining assemblage may suggest that the remains were rapidly buried after disposal, limiting the access of scavengers. No evidence of pathology was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
101	N/A	Cattle	Metatarsal	L	1	94	Fragmentary midshaft
		Cattle	Radius	R	1	86	Midshaft, in two pieces
		Cattle	Nav-Cuboid	R	1	40	Single knife cut on the anterior surface
		Cattle	Tooth	R	1	36	Upper M3
		<i>Equid (Horse Family)</i>	Tooth	R	1	30	Lower M3
		Unidentified	Unidentified	X	1	5	Burnt grey/black
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	3	Shaft fragment
		Cattle	Mandible	L	1	16	Condyle
		Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	21	Blade
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	5	28	Shaft
103	107	Dog (<i>Canis Sp.</i>)	Tibia	L	1	27	GL=148mm, Bp=33mm, SD=11mm, Bd=22mm
		Dog (<i>Canis Sp.</i>)	Femur	L	1	31	Medial condyle missing. GL=147mm, Bp=35mm, DC=18mm, SD=13mm,
		Dog (<i>Canis Sp.</i>)	Innominate	R	1	16	Ilium and acetabulum
		Dog (<i>Canis Sp.</i>)	Innominate	L	1	13	Ilium and acetabulum
		Cattle	Scapula	R	1	15	Blade and spine fragment. Possible carnivore gnawing on the blade

		Sheep/Goat	Tooth	R	1	8	Broken lower M3
104	108	Cattle	Horncore	R	1	195	Chop mark at the base on frontal
105	109	Large Mammal Size	Ulna	R	1	28	Midshaft, carnivore gnawing on the proximal end.
		Cattle	Scapula	R	1	171	Blade and glenoid. Chop mark at the neck and blade scrapes on the visceral side of the blade.
		Large Mammal Size	Thoracic	B	1	27	Spinous process in 3 pieces.
111	112	Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	2	Blade, two knife cuts on the blade
113	114	Cattle	Skull-Maxilla	R	1	73	
		Dog	Mandible	L	1	24	No teeth in occlusion
115	116	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal	X	1	2	Proximal shaft
117	118	Cattle	Tooth	L	1	8	Upper PM
		Pig	Tooth	R	1	3	Lower canine, male
		Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	R	1	13	Neural arch fragment
119	120	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	2	23	Blade
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	4	
		Equid (Horse Family)	Innominate	L	1	35	Acetabulum fragment
121	122	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	12	Blade
		Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	2	Shaft
126	127	Cattle	Mandible	R	1	54	Body fragment and M3=g
		Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	2	Shaft fragment
		Unidentified	Unidentified	X	1	17	
128	129	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	4	46	Shaft fragments
		Cattle	Tooth	R	1	20	Upper PM
		Cattle	Phalanx I	L	1	16	Proximal end. Bp=29mm

As can be seen from Table 1, cattle are the most abundant species identified within the assemblage. Dog (*Canis Sp.*) was the next most abundant species identified although the remains may have originated from a single individual. A small number of Sheep/goat, *Equid* (horse family) and pig were also identified. Due to the limited size of the assemblage, little further information can be gained, beyond the presence of the remains on site. The represented species are fairly typical for the period and the represented skeletal elements are consistent with remains commonly associated with domestic butchery and food waste. The presence of the horncore from [108] may suggest that some small-scale craft industry had been undertaken on site. No further work is required on this assemblage.

DISCUSSION (Fig. 8)

Excavations within the grounds and to the north of Middlebrook House have revealed a series of cut features interpreted as structures, pits and ditches indicative of early settlement. The evidence suggests that this occupation occurred mostly throughout the 3rd century AD and was probably carried out in phases before being seemingly abandoned by the 4th century. The features are closely concentrated within a small area and appear to reflect the nucleus of a small farmstead or group of low status buildings possibly connected to a larger villa complex.

The form of some of the features suggests the remains of two separate structures (130 & 131) probably reflecting the positions of former detached buildings. They each lie on a roughly north-east, south-west alignment, although not parallel to one another. Both buildings appear to share an adjoining trench on the one side about half-way along the exposed feature suggesting an internal division or partition within the structure resulting in at least two bays. This was particularly evident in structure 131 where the trench (125), which was slightly narrower, was also noticeably shallower than the main perpendicular trench (120 & 124) which appears to mark the outer (main) north-east wall. In the other structure (130), there is a similarly formed right-angled feature also implying an internal partition. In this building however, all of these features (109, 110 & 122) share a similar profile. Although the south-east end of feature 109 was not established with any certainty, its orientation aligns well with a sloping cut protrusion at the south-east end of feature 114, itself situated parallel with cut features 110 & 122. This would suggest a building with an internal width of about 3.75m.

The smaller, narrower right-angled feature to the south (127) which comprised a shallow trench cut clearly shares an alignment with structure 130 suggesting some connection, perhaps as part of a larger building, or as a detached structure or outbuilding. A rounded, extended terminus may represent the footprint of a former wooden post.

In general, the trench cuts comprising buildings 130 and 131 appear to indicate the former positions of linear foundations. A significant component of fragments of limestone (some burnt) from the fill of some of these trenches suggests the remains of a former dwarf wall that originally supported timber-framing in-filled with wattle and daub. These fragments of masonry may represent the remains of former walls probably robbed-out at a later date.

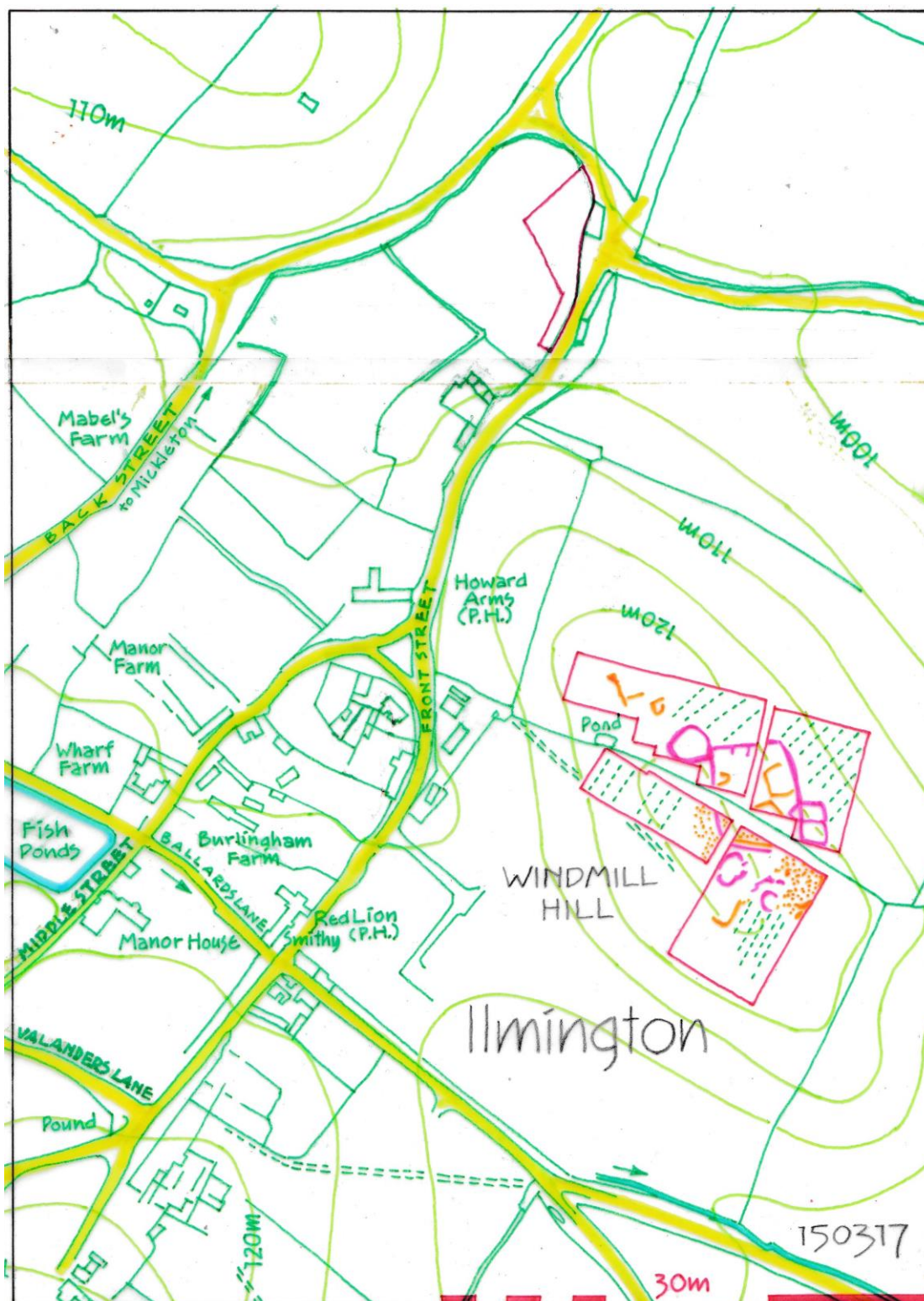


Fig. 8; historic environment plan showing north end of Ilmington village. Green; OS 1886. Late Iron Age & Romano-British settlement features discovered on Windmill Hill also shown. Study site is outlined in red.

The assemblage of stratified roof tile fragments from many of the features is too small in size and quantity to suggest that these structures were roofed in this style, but the presence of roof tile is a strong indication that a more substantial high status building (with hypocaust) is situated nearby. An absence of tile and the seemingly rudimentary construction of these buildings suggests that they were probably thatched dwellings of low status. Analysis of the animal bone shows remains commonly associated with domestic butchery and food waste.

The two probable pits, even though truncated, were relatively shallow. One of these produced a horn core suggesting that some small-scale craft industry had been undertaken on the site.

Four ditch-like features were recorded and of these, two (118 & 129) were similar in profile, probably representing the same ditch. Initially aligned north-east to south-west, the ditch also continues east, perhaps marking a boundary or enclosure around the south side of the settlement.

The function of feature 112 is inconclusive. Its alignment bears no relation to any of the other features, but its profile suggests the remains of a former structure, perhaps an earlier phase of construction. It could equally have originally acted as a small ditch or gully.

The orientation of the ditch feature 116 also does not appear to share an alignment with any of the other features. It was also noted that a continuation of this feature was not recorded in the central part of the excavation suggesting a ditch-terminus beneath the unexcavated area lying in-between.

The results have clearly shown that Roman occupation consisting of a small settlement and comprising at least two probable low status buildings with associated pits and ditches survives, albeit heavily truncated, to the north-east of Middlebrook House. The heavy truncation, probably from medieval cultivation, meant the features were generally shallow, and the volume of the fill deposits was small. Although these produced stratified finds, they were in low quantities and many of the finds were collected as residual material from the overlying relict cultivation soil (101).

Until now evidence of Roman occupation at Ilmington has been based on stray pottery finds found either side of Middle Street and a substantial settlement at Windmill Hill which appears to have originated in the Late Iron Age and continued into the 3rd century AD. A recent evaluation at Armscote Road (Gethin & Cooper, 2012) comprising Seven trenches, recorded no significant archaeological deposits. The excavations at Middlebrook House have shown that Roman settlement was also established at the north end of the village during the 3rd century, possibly as part of a small farmstead or a range of structures and

enclosures connected to a nearby villa complex where the main buildings are situated. It may be that the profound bend around the site made by the main road and junction of the Ilmington, Stratford and Mickleton roads, is the outcome of an earlier route-way that follows the boundary of an earlier significant settlement.

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Archive Location

A digital (pdf) copy of the report (referenced with OASIS) will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. A pdf copy of the report will also be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Appendix 1; OASIS

Project name	New dwelling at Middlebrook House, Imington, Warwickshire; programme of archaeological work
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2016 End: 10-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MBH16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BUILDINGS Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition
Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON ILMINGTON Middlebrook House
Postcode	CV36 4JQ
Study area	120 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 21371 43888 52.092509543379 -1.68802496401 52 05 33 N 001 41 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 100.8m Max: 100.8m
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	Developer
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section"
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	New dwelling at Middlebrook House, Ilmington Warwickshire; programme of archaeological work
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S
Date	2017
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	8 March 2017

Appendix 2; The Roman Pottery; spot dating by Dr Philip Mills MCIFA

The spot dates given are to serve as *termini post qua* for succeeding deposits. They are based on the latest material in each deposit. Dates are arrived at from the pottery without regard to the stratigraphic sequence.

Context	Spot date	NoSH	Wt	MNR
101	N/A	97	1863	15
103	120+	18	349	2
104	C2-C3	1	62	1
105	120+	6	75	1
111	C2+	12	128	0
113	AD 270+	20	230	1
115	LC2-C3	6	316	1
117	Roman	8	88	0
121	Roman	2	15	0
123	MC2-MC3	6	17	1
126	(M) C3	13	125	1
128	(M) C3	8	54	3

Appendix 3; Pottery full catalogue

Context	Fabric	Function	Form Type	Part	Base	NoSh	Wt	MNR	RE	Comments	Date From	Date to
101	B01	D	SRD	Rim		2	16	1	0	Rounded arcades	201	400
101	C00			Body		5	301	0	0			
101	C00			Base	11	1	18	0	0			
101	C00			Body		3	41	0	0			
101	e00			Body		4	65	0	0		1	70
101	M22			Body		1	27	0	0	black grit	100	400
101	O00			Base	12	1	29	0	0	organic temper		
101	O00			Base	11	1	89	0	0	SJ base with organic temper		
101	O00			Base	11	1	18	0	0	svw flagon base		
101	O00			Body		50	644	0	0	most if not all svw		
101	O2	B	WEB	Rim		1	20	1	0		166	300

Context	Fabric	Function	Form Type	Part	Base	NoSh	Wt	MNR	RE	Comments	Date From	Date to
	0		50									
101	O2 0	B	WEB 50	Rim		1	37	1	0		166	300
101	O2 0	D	WEB 74	Rim		1	33	1	0		101	400
101	O2 0	J	WEB 37	Rim		1	11	1	0		266	400
101	O2 0	J	WEB 27	Rim		1	21	1	0		266	400
101	O2 0	J	WEB 29	Rim		3	93	1	0		266	400
101	O2 0	J	WEB 23	Rim		1	9	1	0		133	300
101	O2 0	J	WEB 9	Rim		1	29	1	0		201	400
101	O2 0	T k	WEB 42-3	Rim		2	92	1	0		166	300
101	O2 0	tk	WB 43	Rim		1	26	1	0		166	300
101	O2 0	tk	WEB 43	Rim		1	26	1	0		166	300
101	Q0 0	F		Rim		1	15	1	0		70	300
101	R0 0			Base	1 2	1	54	0	0			
101	R0 0			Body		7	90	0	0			
101	R0 0	J	WEB 23	Rim		1	17	1	0	grey SVW	133	300
101	S2 0			Body		2	30	0	0		120	200
101	S2 0			Body		1	6	1	0		140	200
101	Z3 0			Body		1	6	0	0	brown stoneware		
103	B0 1			Body		3	25	0	0			
103	C0 0			Body		1	7	0	0			
103	O2 0			Body		9	12 5	0	0			
103	R0 0			Body		3	13 0	0	0			
103	R0 0	J		Rim		1	19	1	0	A small jar with a dark sandy reduced ware with stubby everted thickened	70	400

Context	Fabric	Function	Form Type	Part	Base	NoSh	Wt	MNR	RE	Comments	Date From	Date to
										rim		
103	R00	J		Rim		1	43	1	0	necked jar with beaded rim	70	400
104	O20	tk	43	Rim		1	62	1	0		101	300
105	B01			Body		1	2	0	0			
105	M13	M		Rim		1	16	1	0		100	400
105	O00			Body		1	6	0	0			
105	O20			Body		3	51	0	0			
111	C00			Body		1	4	0	0			
111	O00			Body		2	24	0	0			
111	O20			Body		5	81	0	0			
111	R00			Base	11	3	18	0	0	malvernian wm?		
111	R00			Body		1	1	0	0			
113	B01	B	DBF RB	Rim		10	88	1	0		270	350
113	M13			Base	11	1	13	0	0		100	400
113	O00			Body		2	29	0	0			
113	R00			Body		5	41	0	0			
113	W00			Body		1	57	0	0	worn mortaria? MAH AH	100	400
113	Z30			Body		1	2	0	0			
115	B01			Body		1	8	0	0			
115	O20			Body		2	280	0	0			
115	O20	tk	43	Rim		1	13	1	0		166	300
115	R00			Body		2	15	0	0			
117	O00			Base	11	8	88	0	0	burnt exterior		
121	O00			Body		1	4	0	0			
121	R00			Body		1	11	0	0			

Context	Fabric	Function	Form Type	Part	Base	NoSh	Wt	MNR	RE	Comments	Date From	Date to
123	B01			Body		1	3	0	0			
123	C00			Body		1	6	0	0			
123	G00			Body		2	5	0	0			
123	S00	BK	72	Rim		2	3	1	0		150	366
126	B01	J	8	Rim		1	7	1	0		201	300
126	C00			Body		3	36	0	0			
126	O00			Body		1	3	0	0			
126	O00			Body		5	60	0	0			
126	R00			Body		3	19	0	0			
128	B01	D	SRD	Rim		1	5	1	0	int arcade	201	400
128	B01	J	8	Rim		1	11	1	0		201	300
128	C00			Body		1	6	0	0			
128	O00			Body		2	13	0	0			
128	O20	B	W35	Rim		1	9	1	0		101	400
128	R00			Body		2	10	0	0			