



# West View

Buckle Street, Ullington, Worcestershire

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Archaeological recording

NGR: SP 11207 46645

Site code: ULL18

HER activity no: WSM70270

OASIS ID: 110archa1-324388

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Contents	
SUMMARY .....	2
INTRODUCTION .....	4
<i>Location and scope of works (Figs. 1 &amp; 2)</i> .....	4
<i>Geology and topography</i> .....	4
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
RESULTS (Fig. 3) .....	5
<i>Method and nature of the excavation</i> .....	5
<i>Description of deposits</i> .....	6
FINDS.....	7
<i>Environmental data</i> .....	7
DISCUSSION .....	7
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	8
<i>Archive Location</i> .....	9
APPENDIX 1: OASIS .....	9

Front cover; the site during development, view north-west

## SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out in June 2018 at West View, Buckle Street, Ullington, Worcestershire during construction of a turn out area or menage on land adjacent to the existing dwelling. The development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, near the deserted medieval settlement at Ullington and close to Buckle Street, an ancient route-way between Alcester and Gloucestershire. No archaeological deposits were encountered during the excavation, although excavation mostly comprised the removal of the topsoil and some of the underlying subsoil leaving exposed only a small area of the natural clay. The evidence suggest little human activity within site before its development and the lack deposits and dateable finds from the excavation supports this interpretation.





Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)



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

## INTRODUCTION

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

This document sets out the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') carried out during 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at West View, Buckle Street, Ullington, Worcestershire, WR11 8PH at the request of the owner Linda Cox. Planning permission has been granted (planning Ref: 17/02497/FUL) for the construction of a turn out area on the site conditional on a programme of archaeological recording during groundworks. The development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, close to Buckle Street, an ancient route-way and near the medieval settlement at Ullington which was already established by 1086 when it was recorded in the Domesday survey.

### *Geology and topography*

The hamlet of Ullington, which straddles Buckle Street, lies within the parish of Pebworth along with the hamlet of Broad Marston. The development site (approx. 700m<sup>2</sup>) lies on the east side of West View, a property situated in the south-east corner at the Ullington crossroads where the road branches north-south from Bidford to Honeybourne and east-west from Pebworth to the Littleton. The site which lies at approximately 50m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) currently comprises open grassland. The underlying geology is Lower Lias, mainly clay (BGS, 1974) and this was confirmed during the excavation.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric activity within the search area is indicated by the discovery of a single Iron Age quarter slater during metal detecting (WSM24088) at Sheen Hill approx. 500-700m to the south of the study site, opposite Buckle Street Cottages. Finds also included at least three Roman coins of C3-C4 date, a few sherds of Roman pottery and medieval pottery and a disc brooch, possibly Saxon. Crossing the centre of the search area is a stretch of Roman Road (Ryknield Street) from Sheen Hill to Bickmarsh Lodge (WSM30300). The accepted route for much of the seven miles of road between Honeybourne and Bidford-on-Avon (Margery, 1973) is aligned with the modern highway (Buckle Street) through the Honeybournes joining Alcester to Gloucestershire. A watching brief (WSM26360) was carried out

in 1997 at Ullington during a water pipeline project, following the line of the Roman Road and deposits interpreted as the former road were noted at intervals along the route. At two locations the presence of an aggar (centrally raised ridge) was suggested (Pearson & Woodiwiss, 2000).

A Possible Roman road (WSM23363) is conjectured linking Ryknild Street to the road following Cleeve Hill. It also follows the parish boundary between Cleeve Prior and North and Middle Littleton.

A medieval settlement at Ullington (WSM00867) with its own chapel (WSM00869) is documented in Domesday. The chapel is also mentioned in 1334/36 and again in an unspecified document of 1486. The deserted village is represented by the earthworks situated to the south and east of Ullington Hall Farm. The remains indicate a pattern of roads and crofts, but no house sites are visible.

Ridge and furrow are aligned east-west in the western part of the field, bounded on eastern by north-south aligned bank and there is a possible track or hollow-way running southeast-northwest. In 1986 salvage recording of earthmoving during construction of an agricultural building revealed an in-filled east-west aligned linear feature 3.90m wide with visible cart ruts suggesting a probable hollow-way. A low bank is on the northern side. Beyond the bank are the remains of a half-timbered building with internal hearth. investigation revealed it was damaged by fire. Unstratified pottery dating to the C12 to C13 century has been located from the vicinity.

Ridge and furrow are also situated west and south-west of the study site (WSM70222, WSM70223, WSM70224, WSM70233, WSM70232).

## RESULTS (Fig. 3)

### *Method and nature of the excavation*

The archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014).

The objective of the archaeological recording was to obtain an appropriate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of the site. It was anticipated that the development would comprise reduction of the existing ground level through the excavation of a large rectangular area. Excavation was carried out by machine using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision.

### Description of deposits

Context 102 (natural substrate); context 101 (relict subsoil) & context 100 (topsoil)

The surface of the geological horizon (102) or natural substrate which comprised a light brown Lias clay was partially encountered within a rectangular area in the south-east corner of the excavation at approx. 0.45m below ground level and situated at a height of about 50.50m AOD. No archaeological features or deposits were observed either cut into or overlying this deposit.

Sealing the natural clay throughout the excavation area was a layer of relict subsoil (101) consisting of a mid-greyish-brown, silty-clay at about 0.25m thick. Within this deposit across the excavation area were fragments of brick, pieces of concrete and some metal objects of recent origin clearly indicating that the layer is largely associated with redeposition. The deposit was removed to the surface of the natural clay in the south-east corner of the excavation, but only partially excavated throughout the remainder of the site. Overlying this deposit was the modern topsoil (100) at approx. 0.20m thick. This was redeposited on the adjacent topsoil to the east of the development.

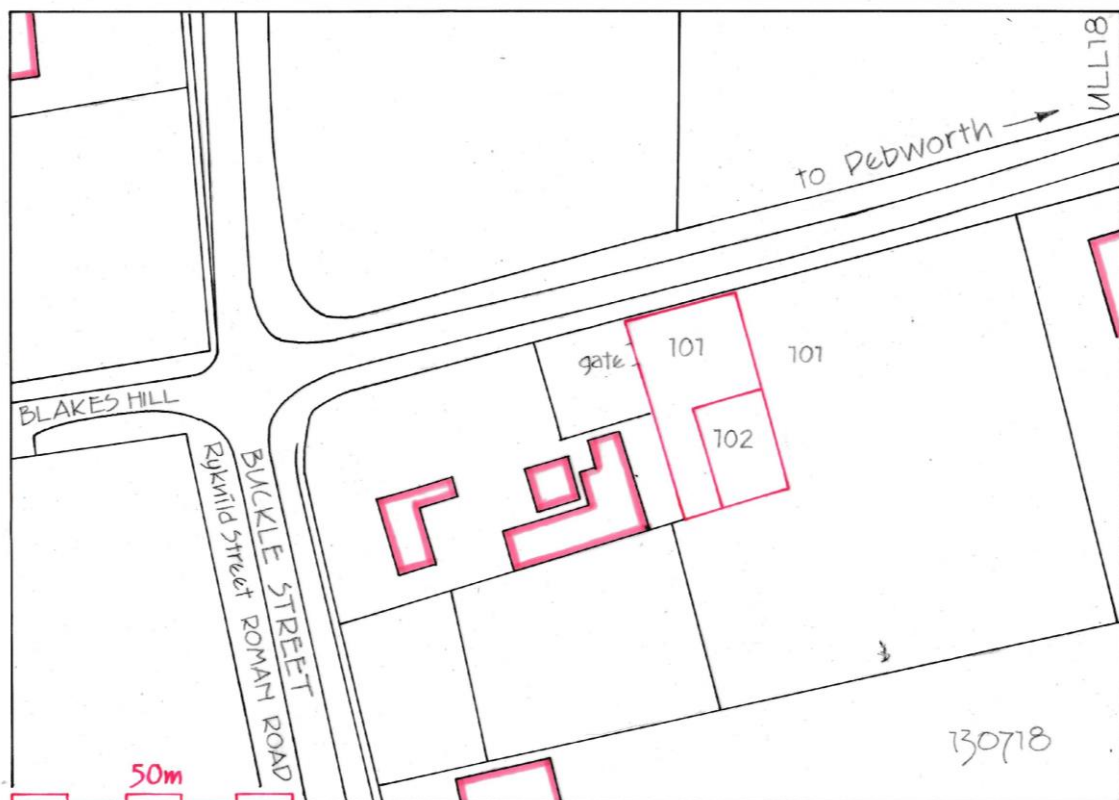


Fig. 3; site plan area of the excavation (outlined in red)



## FINDS

No finds were recovered during the excavation.

### *Environmental data*

None of the deposits exposed during the excavation proved suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

## DISCUSSION

The Historic Environment Record (HER) clearly demonstrates that the study site lies within an area where there is potential for significant archaeological deposits. It is located on the side of the Roman Road (Ryknield Street) joining Alcester in the north with to Gloucestershire to the south and which is also the junction (cross-road) of the road joining Pebworth in the east and the Littletons to the west. It is therefore possible that road-side settlement remains from this period and even earlier could be expected to survive within the area. Activity associated with this period is supported by the discovery of Iron Age and Roman artefacts (WSM24088) in the fields opposite Buckle Street. The conjectured Roman road (WSM23363) linking Ryknild Street to the road following Cleeve Hill suggests that the area may have historically been the location for a confluence of minor route-ways joining with Ryknield Street.

The medieval settlement at Ullington (WSM00867) with its own chapel, (WSM00869) lies a short distance to the north-east of the site almost adjacent to Ryknield Street. Its former size suggests a settlement of some importance due perhaps in part to its strategic location as evidenced by a series of ancient route-ways which appear to converge in the Ullington area. An absence of ridge and furrow to the south of this settlement in 1885 is unlikely to be the result of disturbance suggesting that the settlement may have extended further than has been currently accepted.

Excavation resulted in partial exposure of the natural substrate within the south-eastern corner of the turn-out area which appeared undisturbed. For the remaining area of the site excavation did not penetrate below the relict subsoil layer (101). This layer has been at least partly redeposited as evidenced by the frequent presence of modern construction debris within the layer. Sealing this layer throughout the area was the modern topsoil. The lack any earlier artefacts suggests

little no human activity before development of the site during the 1990s when West View was built.



Fig.4; Ullington historic environment plan

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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CIfA, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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Margary, I., 1973. *Roman Roads in Britain*, 281

Pearson, E; Woodiwiss, S. 2000. *Watching Brief on the DG2 Schemes Worcestershire (Severn Stoke, Callow End, Crowle & Ullington)*. Archaeological Service - Worcestershire County Council.

Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service 2018.

### *Archive Location*

A digital (pdf) copy of the report (referenced with OASIS) will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS

### **Project details**

Project name	West View Buckle Street, Ullington, Worcestershire; archaeological recording
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2018 End: 11-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ULL18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WSM70270 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON PEBWORTH West View, Buckle Street
Postcode	WR11 8PH
Study area	700 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 11207 46645 52.117598497263 -1.836307906947 52 07 03 N 001 50 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.5m Max: 50.5m

### **Project creators**

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

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient OASIS  
Paper Archive Exists? No  
Paper Contents "none"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title West View Buckle Street, Ullington, Worcestershire;  
archaeological recording  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Cook, S  
Date 2018  
Issuer or publisher one ten archaeology  
Place of issue or  
publication Warwickshire  
URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>  
Entered by sean cook (sean@onetenarchaeology.co.uk)  
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