



Home Farm

Main Street, Broadwell, Warwickshire

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Archaeological recording

SP 45190 65999

Site code: BRO17

OASIS ID: 110archa1-342629

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one ten archaeology

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Front cover; the site during development, view to the north-east

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out during February and September 2018 at Home Farm, Main Street, Broadwell, Warwickshire, during conversion of an existing barn together with alterations to form a single dwelling house.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) has shown that the site lies historically in an area where there is evidence to suggest that settlement began during the Late Iron Age and continued to flourish in Romano-British period possibly centred on a farmstead comprising a D-shaped enclosure north of Home Farm. During the medieval period settlement became focused around the existing village of Broadwell, one of a series of manors documented within the parish. Evidence of this can be seen in the earthwork remains of the deserted dwellings along the southern and eastern edges of the village, including a chapel and a former moat which probably marks the site of the manor house.

Archaeological recording was focussed on the excavation work in the former threshing barn and the external drainage. A date incorporated into the wall of the barn indicates it was built in 1811. Medieval carpenters' marks on the roof truss for the west bay show that some timbers are re-used.

No archeological deposits or cut features pre-dating the construction of the former barn were observed during the works. Excavation showed that the underlying geology comprised a stiff Lias clay and within the barn this was immediately overlain by the internal floor surfaces consisting of lias stone flooring in each of the bays. In the area of the drainage excavation to the south of the barn, the clay was overlain by the C19 fold yard surface also constructed with Lias stone. This was in turn sealed by a thick deposit of brick and stone rubble which formed the sub-base for the existing C20 concrete yard.



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 details the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') carried out during 16th, 19th February and 13th September 2018 at Home Farm, Main Street, Broadwell, Warwickshire, CV23 8HB. The development comprised conversion of an existing barn together with alterations to form a single dwelling house including the demolition of existing agricultural farm buildings. The work was required as a condition of planning permission granted in respect of an application (Ref: R14/2302) to Rugby District Council and was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Warwickshire Archaeological Information and Advice. The development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Broadwell (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9071). There was potential for the proposed development to impact upon archaeological deposits, including structural remains, boundary features and rubbish pits, associated with the occupation of this area from at least the medieval period.

Geology and topography

Broadwell is a village in the civil parish of Leamington Hastings situated roughly midway between Dunchurch and Southam on the A426 road. Domesday (1086) shows that Broadwell (like the neighbouring villages of Leamington Hastings, Hill and Kites Hardwick) was once a manor in its own right with its origins probably linked to the Anglo-Saxon period. Broadwell currently comprises roughly 70 households. There are four farms in the village itself (Home Farm, Croftlands Farm, Broadwell House Farm and Hospital Farm) and several smallholdings. Other farms border the village. Broadwell lies in the broad flat valley of the River Leam. The valley is bounded to the north by the Rugby ridge and Lawford Heath, to the south by a low range of upland which forms part of the Northamptonshire/Warwickshire ironstone hills. The site lies on the north-west periphery of the village at a height of about 87m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Home Farm is situated on the western edge of the village. The development area (1,800m²) comprises the early C19 barn, the south range, part of the existing fold yard and ground to the north and east of the barn.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted with a search carried out over a 1000m radius centred on the site. This showed 29 monuments records and 6 event records recorded within the search area. A summary of the more significant information is outlined below.

Prehistoric activity within the search area is characterised by the recovery of Late Iron Age artefacts during metal detecting. One of these was found within the central area of the village (MWA22094) whilst the other (MWA21798) was discovered to the west of Home Farm in the adjacent field.

Romano-British settlement at Broadwell is evidenced by an enclosure, (MWA8285), visible as a D-shaped cropmark on aerial photographs situated about 200m to the north-west of Home Farm. Following fieldwalking which had produced substantial Roman material, two small trial trenches subsequently enlarged, were excavated (EWA6432) across the enclosure. The excavation recorded the enclosure ditch in one trench and a posthole in the other which was suggested as being part of the break in the ditch and marking an entranceway (Watson, 2011). Metal artefacts dated to this period have also been detected in areas to the west (MWA21491), east (MWA21505) and south-west (MWA22061) of the enclosure. A Romano-British artefact (MWA21799) has also been found to the east of Home Farm. A Roman coin (MWA1366) was recovered from the area of Sunnyside, Broadwell and similarly dated finds have been discovered on the southern edge of the village (MWA22094 & MWA21589).

Broadwell is not listed in the Domesday Survey, but a manor at Hill (MWA12859), approx. 500m to the north of Home Farm is recorded in 1086 as held by Abingdon Abbey. Lidar shows earthworks consistent with medieval tofts and crofts. The probable extent of the Medieval settlement at Broadwell (MWA9071) is based on the OS 1886 map, the extent of the surviving areas of the outlying ridge and furrow and more recently information from lidar imagery. Included in this monument is the shrunken medieval settlement area (MWA5669) situated to the east of the village comprising earthworks, including house platforms interpreted as the remains of former buildings. At the southern end of this area are the probable remains of a medieval chapel (WA3056) whilst immediately north is a moat which has an irregular, four-sided form (MWA13127). Further earthworks (MWA3083) visible 300m south east of The Green, Broadwell also appear to be related to shrunken medieval settlement remains. Medieval artefacts recovered during metal detecting have been found

out various locations in the outlying fields around the village (MWA21507, MWA21509, MWA21510, MWA21584, MWA21588).

RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)

Method and nature of the excavation

The objective of the archaeological recording was to obtain an appropriate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during grounds works associated with the development of the site. Observation and recording was undertaken during reduction of the internal floor areas; excavation of foundations (trenches 1-8 & 10) and the new drainage (trenches 9 & 11).

Description of deposits

Excavation showed that the underlying geology comprised a stiff olive-brown Lias clay (102) which was encountered throughout the excavations at a height of approx. 82.70m AOD. No archeological deposits or cut features pre-dating the construction of the former C19 threshing barn and the fold yard were observed in association with the clay. Instead, within the barn itself in the east and west bay, the clay was overlain by a floor surface (100) comprising a single 0.14m thick compacted deposit of Lias stone rubble. In the central bay, the clay was overlain by flagstones which formed the threshing floor. In the fold yard south of the barn the clay was overlain by a similar 0.14m thick deposit of Lias stones (101) which formed the early C19 yard surface. This was in turn sealed by a 0.24m thick deposit of brick and stone rubble which formed the sub-base for the existing concrete yard. Trench 10 was connected with the single-story south range and showed natural clay sealed by mainly brick rubble which was in turn capped by the existing concrete yard surface.

FINDS

No finds were recovered during the excavation.

Environmental data

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

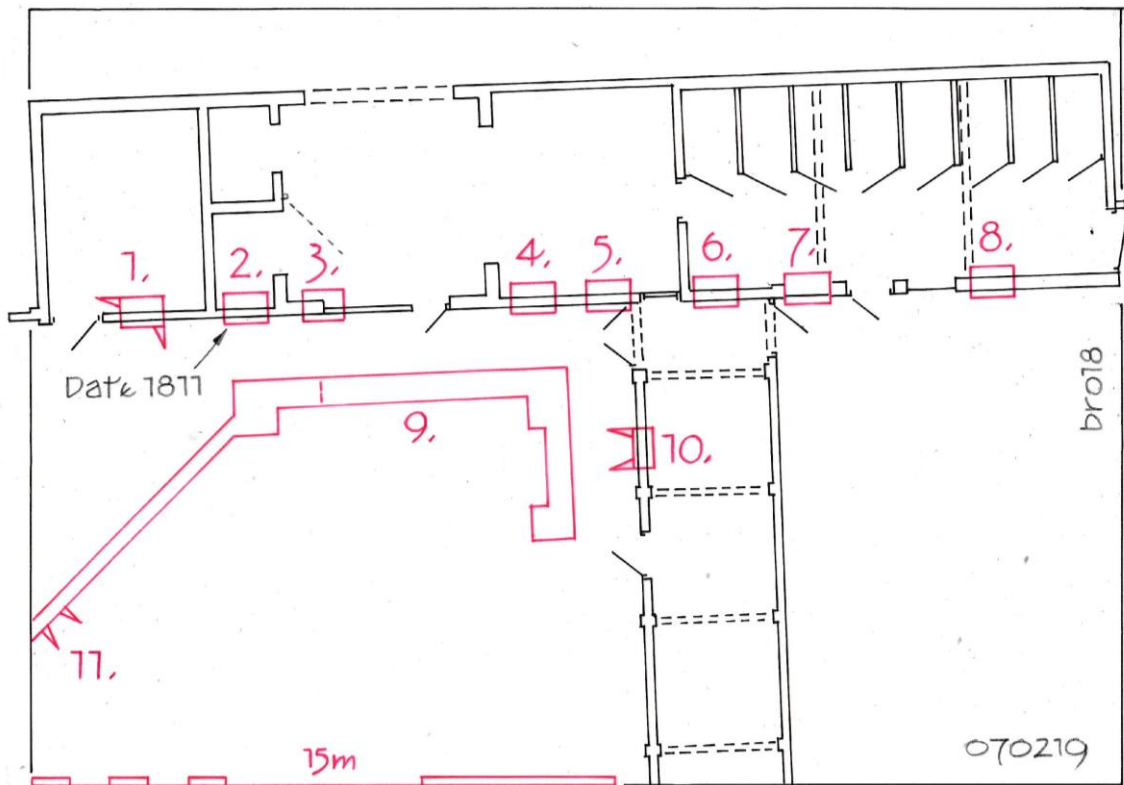


Fig. 3; site plan showing locations of the trench excavation

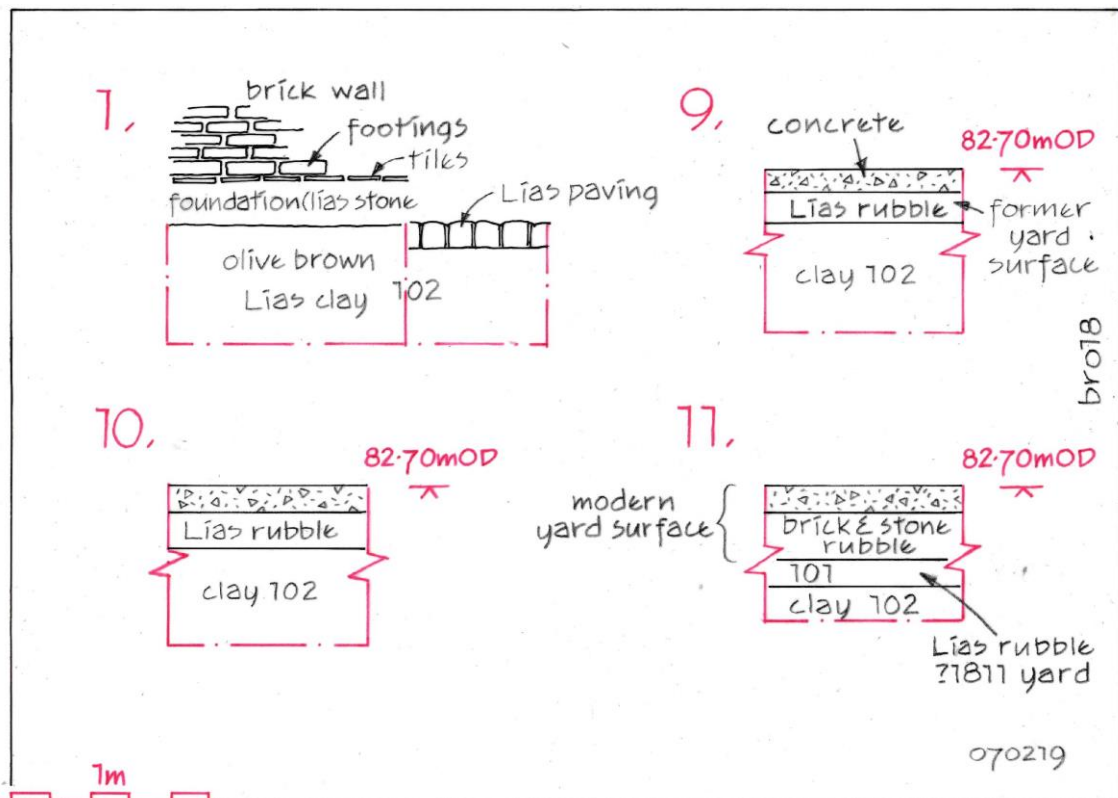


Fig.4; trench sections

DISCUSSION (Fig. 5)

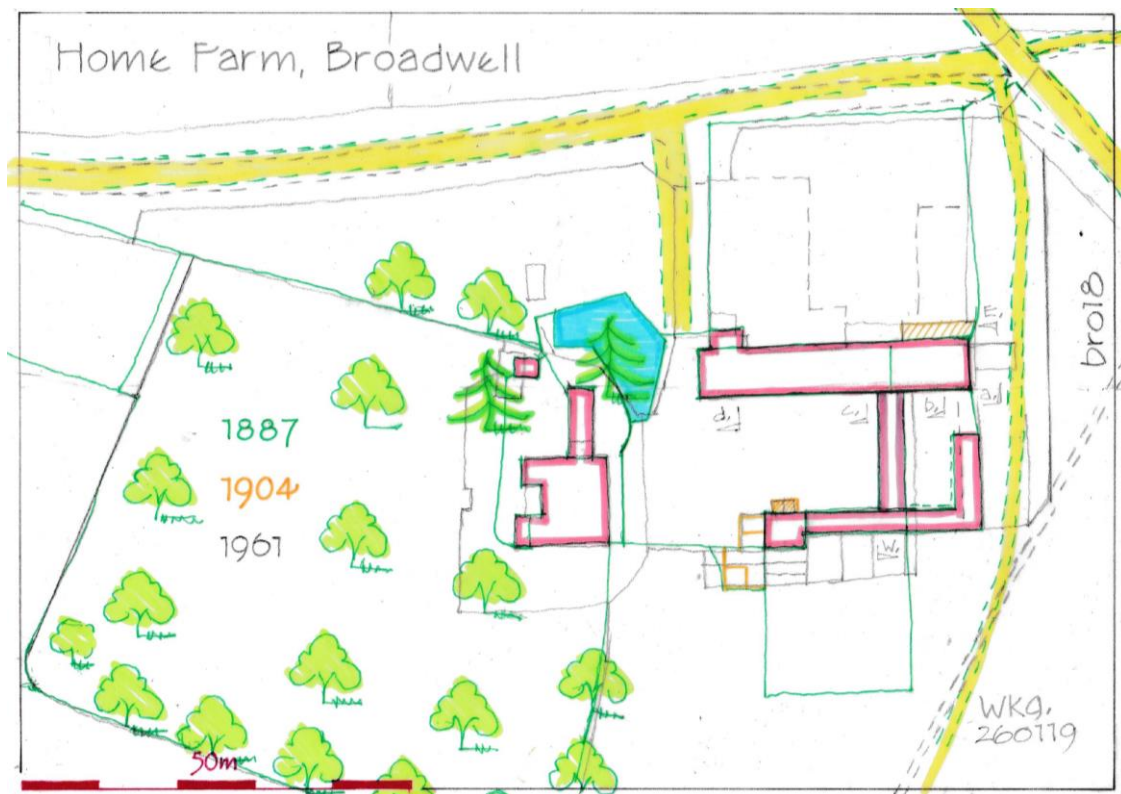


Fig. 5; plan of Home Farm in 1887 showing C20 additions. The threshing barn was constructed in 1811.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that Home Farm lies historically in an area where stray finds suggest settlement may have started in the Late Iron Age and continued in Romano-British period, possibly centred on a farmstead comprising a D-shaped enclosure north of Home Farm (Watson, 2011). During the medieval period settlement became focused around the existing village of Broadwell, one of a series of manors documented within the parish. The settlement extends mostly to the south-east of the farm and evidence of this can be seen in the earthwork remains of the deserted dwellings along the southern and eastern edges of the village, including a chapel and a former moat which probably marks the site of the medieval manor house.

Archaeological recording was focussed on excavation work carried out in the former threshing barn and the external drainage in the fold yard. A date incorporated into the wall of the barn using red bricks contrasting with the yellow bricks in the main fabric of the barn indicates it was built in 1811. Medieval carpenters' marks on the roof truss for the west bay show that some timbers are re-

used from an earlier building that may have existed on the site or have been sourced locally.

No archeological deposits or cut features pre-dating the construction of the former barn were observed during the archaeological recording. Excavation showed that the underlying geology comprised a stiff Lias clay and within the main threshing barn (trenches 1-5) this was immediately overlain by the internal floor surfaces consisting of compacted lias stone rubble in the east and west bays with the former threshing flagstone floor in the central bay. A similar stratigraphy was also recorded in the east range (trenches 6-8), formerly the stable block. In the area of the drainage excavation to the south of the barn, the clay was overlain by the C19 fold yard surface also constructed with Lias stone. This was in turn sealed by a thick deposit of brick and stone rubble which formed the sub-base for the existing C20 concrete yard.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Watson, K., 2011. *Broadwell: A collection of archaeological reports and papers by the Coventry And District Archaeological Society.*

Westman, A., (ed.), 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual*, Museum of London (3rd edition).

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Archive Location

A digital (pdf) copy of the report (referenced with OASIS) will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. The physical archive will be eposited with the Warwickshire Museum Service.



Plate 1; trench 1



Plate 2; trenches 4 & 5



Plate 3; former internal floor surface (100) of the main threshing barn (east bay)



Plate 4; trench 9, detail of section



Plate 5; trench 11 across farmyard



Plate 6; trench 11, detail of section



Plate 7; roof trusses in main barn, view to the west



Plate 8; medieval carpenters; marks on the roof truss in the west bay of the threshing barn

APPENDIX 1: OASIS

Project details

Project name	Home Farm Main Street, Broadwell, Warwickshire; Archaeological recording
Project dates	Start: 16-02-2018 End: 13-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BRO17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE RUGBY LEAMINGTON HASTINGS Home Farm Main Street, Broadwell
Postcode	CV23 8HB
Study area	1800 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 45190 65999 52.289873208729 - 1.337383238159 52 17 23 N 001 20 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 82.7m Max: 82.7m

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 recipient	county museum

Paper Media available "Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Home Farm Main Street, Broadwell, Warwickshire; Archaeological recording

Author(s)/Editor(s) Cook, S

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