



The Forge House

6 School Street, Honeybourne, Worcestershire

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Archaeological Recording

NGR: SP 11321 43784

Site code: hon18

WSM71053

OASIS ID: 110archa1-368470

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14th October 2019

one ten archaeology

6 Elm Close, Pebworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8XL

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Front cover; Forge House from north-west

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out during April and May 2019 at Forge House, School Street, Honeybourne, Worcestershire, WR11 7PJ during excavation associated with a small rear extension. The Historic Environment Record (HER) showed that the site lies within the historic core of the village in an area where there is evidence to suggest that settlement may have started during the Iron Age continuing into the Roman period. The development, small in scope, comprised strip foundations with the internal floor areas being subsequently reduced. No residual finds were recovered during the excavation and no archeological deposits or cut features pre-dating the construction of the house were observed during the works. Instead excavation showed that the underlying geology comprised a stiff Lias clay to be largely undisturbed, there appears to have been some truncation, but this was associated with the overlying relict subsoil deposit.

Stray finds within the area of the site suggest settlement may have started in the Late Iron Age and continued into Romano-British period, this is supported by the results of archaeological fieldwork to the east on land between the village and Ricknild Street where Roman deposits have been discovered.

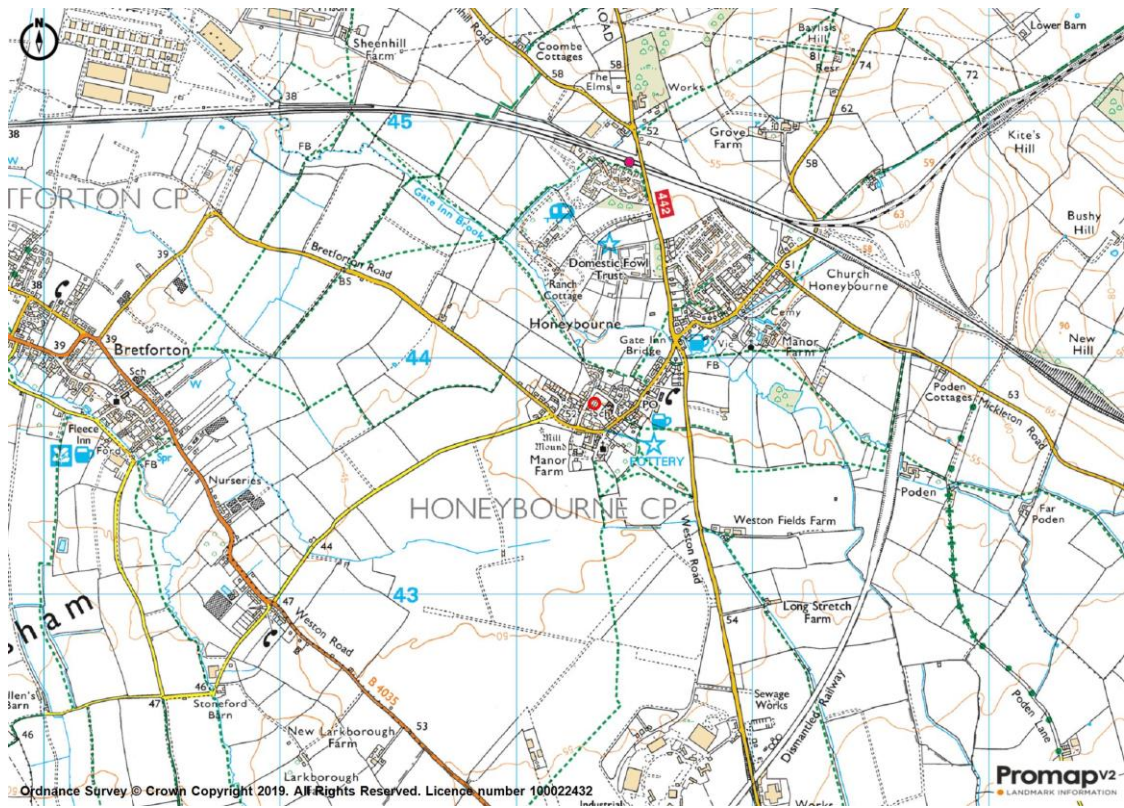


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)

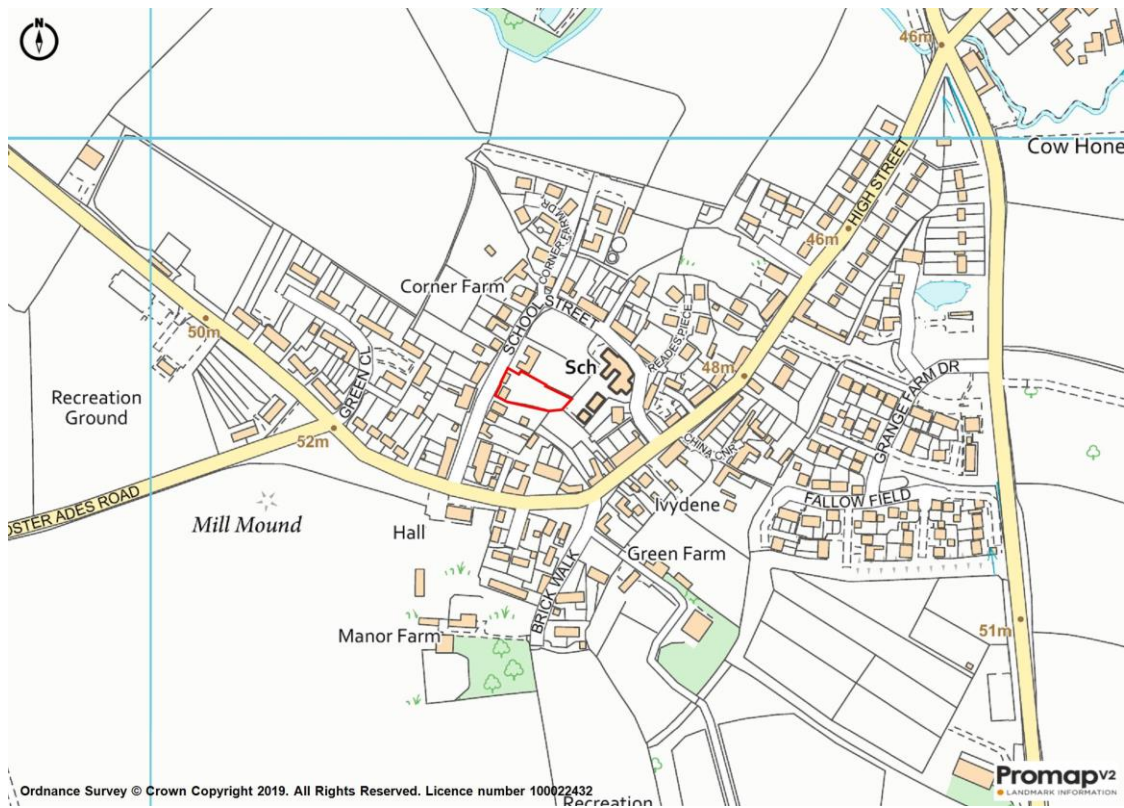


Fig. 2; area of study (outlined in red)

INTRODUCTION

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

This document details the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') carried out during 25th April and 16th May 2019 at The Forge House, 6 School Street, Honeybourne, Worcestershire WR11 7PJ at the request of Eastabrook Architects. Planning permission had been granted (planning Ref: 17/02222/HP) for Alterations and extensions to the existing property conditional on a programme of archaeological recording during groundworks. The proposed development lies within the historic core of what was formerly Church Honeybourne and in proximity to a postulated route of a Roman road between Hinton on the Green and Honeybourne. Any groundwork's associated with the development had the potential to disturb deposits of archaeological potential.

Geology and topography

Honeybourne is a parish which currently lies in Worcestershire, it formerly comprised two villages called Church Honeybourne and Cow Honeybourne which were separated by Ricknild Street. The site is situated in Church Honeybourne along School Street which lies in the historic core of the village. The site lies at a height of about 50m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is represented by a roughly rectangular plot amounting to about 1,200m². The underlying geology is a Lias clay (BGS, 1974).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out over a 500m radius centred on the site in order understand the archaeology of the locality. Significant aspects of the data within the HER that is relevant to the site, including an analysis of the results of the previous evaluation and historical mapping, will be included within the final report. The search area sits within a rolling lowland topography based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone and superficial geology made up of deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The surrounding area is made up of regular, planned enclosure. The settlement pattern is generally nucleated, however, 20th century ribbon development in between villages, localised industry and a prison have eroded this

character. Honeybourne airfield, within the south west of the search area and which was operating during the Second World War, has been largely reverted to farmland. Within the search area the nucleated settlement of Honeybourne village is surrounded by modern expansion, field reorganisation, amalgamation and modern subdivision. The search area also includes the Honeybourne Conservation Area.

The HER search identified 24 archaeological activities and 23 HER monuments recorded. A summary of the more significant information is outlined below. Cartographic sources comprising 1778 Inclosure Award and OS 1885 map show the site situated within the historic core of the village and numerous early farmsteads are arranged around the outer edge. There has been significant loss (greater than 50%) of traditional buildings located within the old village on OS 1885 map (Hathaway, Lake, and Mindykowski, 2012). As a result of increased pressure for housing over the last decade, the village of Honeybourne has increased through several developments that have resulted in further archaeological discoveries. In 2011 an evaluation (WSM46054) at land off Station Road revealed a localised area of middle Iron Age and Romano British deposits identified (Cotswold Archaeology, 2011).

An archaeological Evaluation in 2013 on Land at Grange Farm, Honeybourne (WSM47433) in advance of housing development targeted with seven 50m trenches geophysical anomalies that were hand sampled. Only one feature was recorded comprising of a linear arrangement of tightly packed rounded cobbles 1.1m wide and containing pieces of Roman roof tile. It was suggested that the feature could be a land drain that incorporated hard core used on the former Roman road Ryknild Street which runs near to the site. The small amounts of Roman pottery from across the site are also suggested to indicate low level non-settlement activity nearby, most likely also originating from Ryknild Street (Murphy & Mayes, 2013).

An archaeological watching brief in 2014 at Grange Farm, Honeybourne (WSM66235) revealed a stone packed feature which further investigation showed was linear in plan and likely to represent a Roman road. Following further consultation, a programme of archaeological recording was agreed (WSM66927) in which a 12m section of the road should be exposed, cleaned and recorded (Trench 1) with further sections being preserved in situ within the development. Another two evaluation trenches (1 & 2) were excavated to establish the line of the road in the southern part of the site. The results showed that the road comprised two to three stone surfaces set in a shallow depression and flanked by roadside ditches and that the road feature continued through the site, surviving

less well to the south. It was concluded that the feature represents the original Roman road, known as Riknild Street. The current line of Weston Road/Station Road performs a distinct eastward kink as it passes through the village of Honeybourne and it is now clear that this represents a divergence from the original line (Cornagh & Rogers, 2015).

RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)

Method and nature of the excavation

The objective of the archaeological recording was to obtain an appropriate record of the archaeological deposits and finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of the site. The development comprised the excavation of a rectangular area measuring 30 square metres and resulted in ground reduction involving the removal of the overlying relict subsoil and topsoil exposing the surface of the natural substrate.

Description of deposits

Excavation revealed the natural substrate (102) which comprised a Lias clay, throughout the excavation area at a level height of approx. 50.50m AOD, no archeological deposits or cut features were observed overlying or cut into the surface of this deposit. In the northern part of the excavation the clay was overlain by thin 0.10m layer of undated relict subsoil (101) consisting of a greyish-brown, silty-clay, probably partially truncated. This was sealed by a 0.20m thick deposit of modern topsoil (100). Along the southern edge of the excavation area the subsoil was overlain by 0.20m of lias and limestone walling, and then 0.30m of topsoil. No residual finds were recovered from the soil layers.

FINDS

No finds were recovered during the excavation.

Environmental data

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

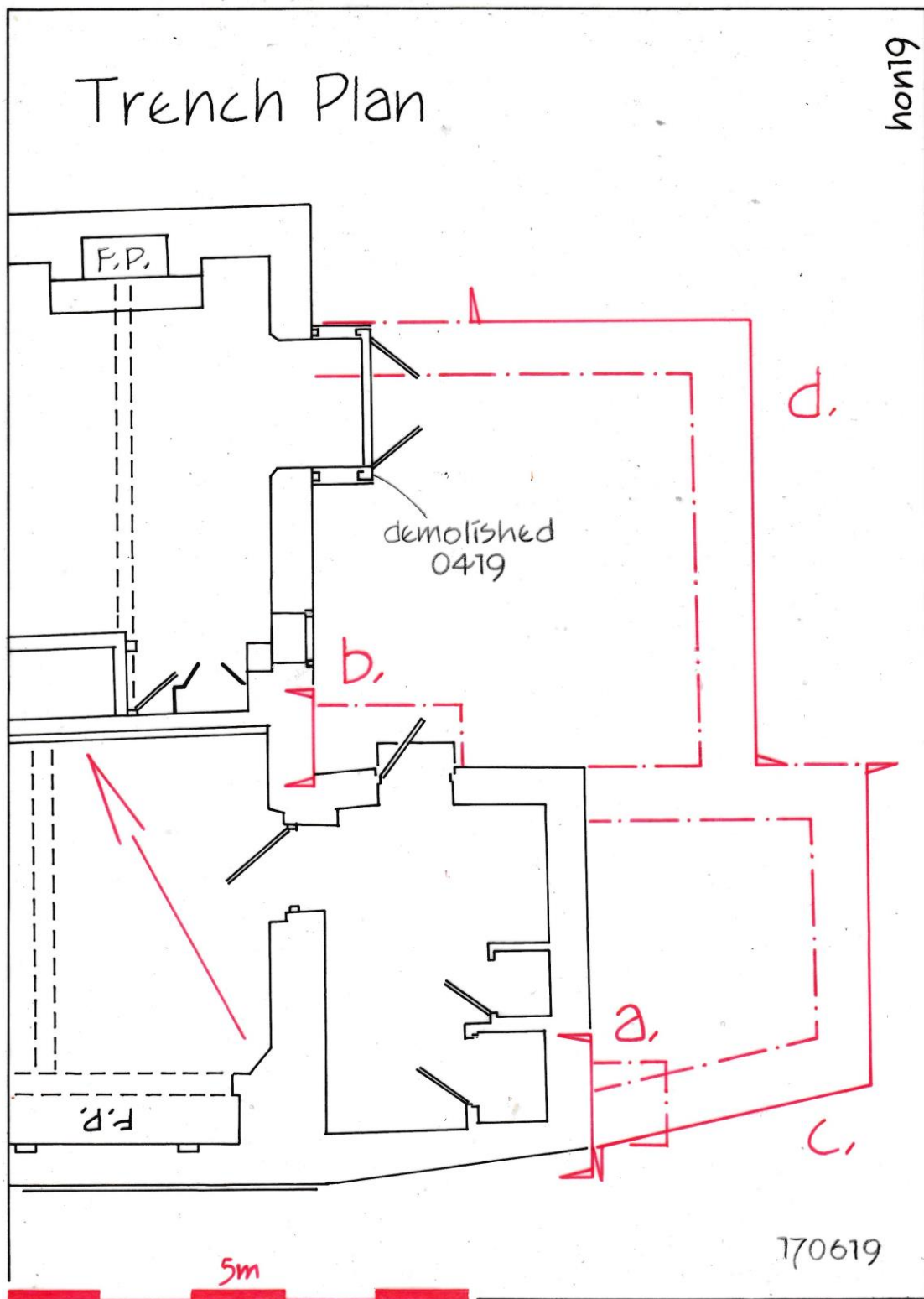


Fig.3; Trench plan

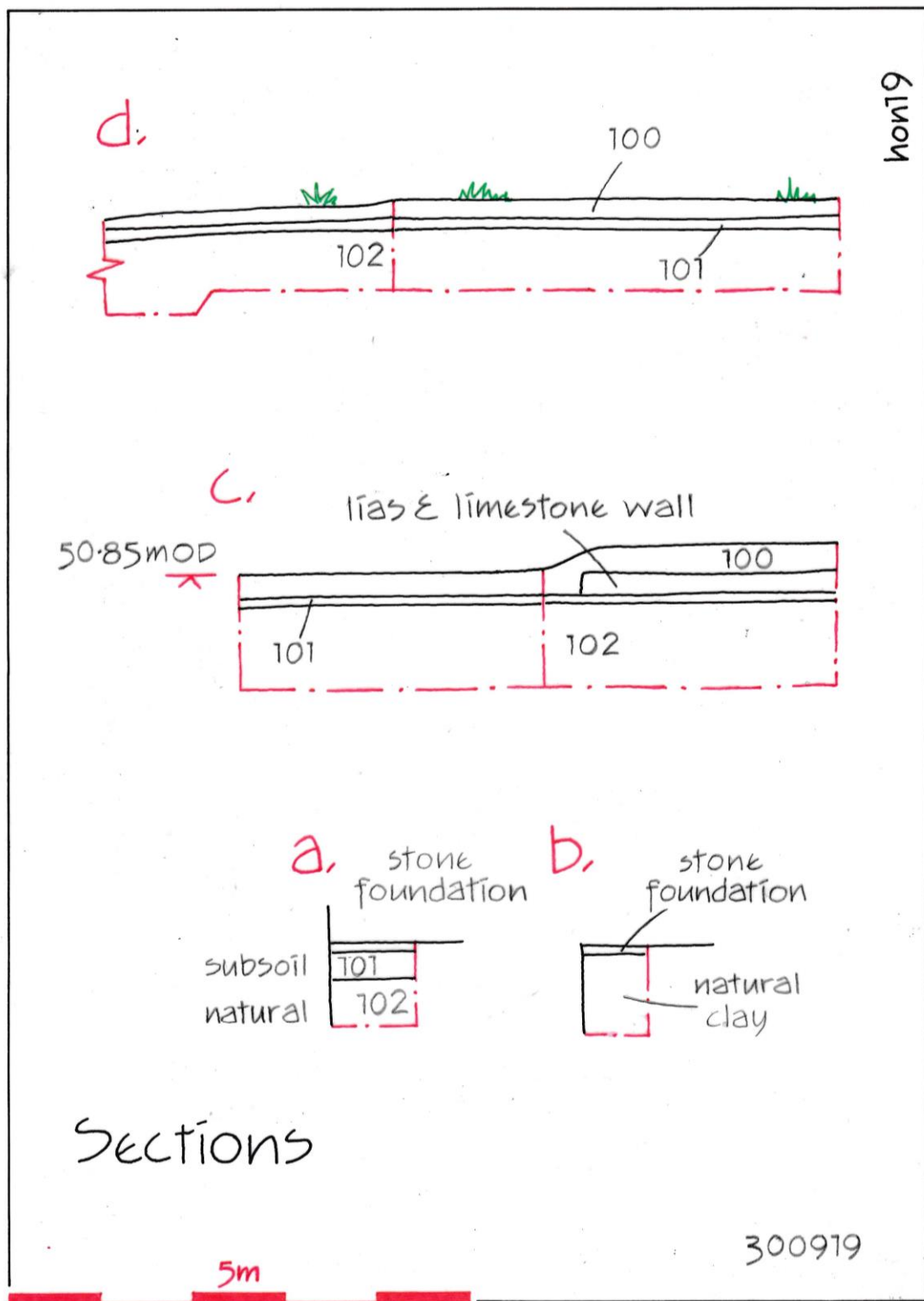


Fig.4; Sections

DISCUSSION

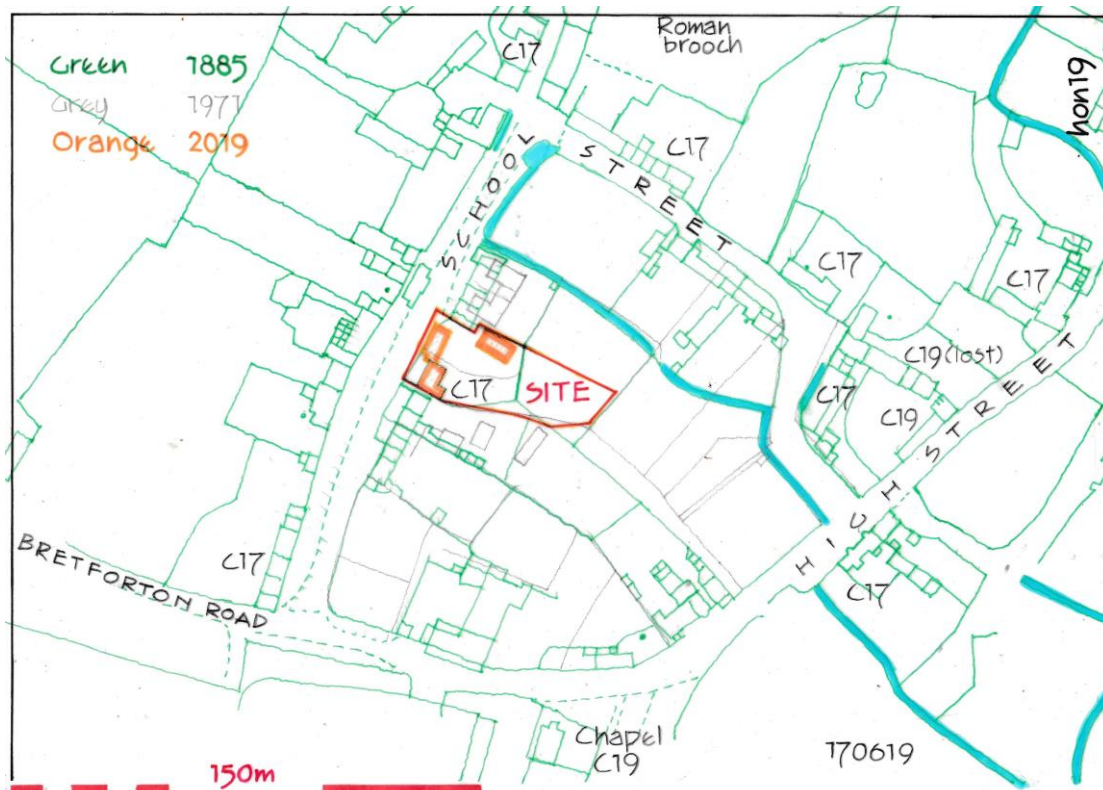


Fig. 5; The core of the settlement, showing the historic setting of the site, see appendix 2, plate 1 for location of church (beyond the lower edge of the plan).

The villages of Church Honeybourne and Cow Honeybourne formerly existed in the current parish of Honeybourne when it formed part of Gloucestershire and were separated by Ricknild Street, an ancient route-way crossing the county from north to south. Forge House lies in the area historically associated with the manor and hamlet of Cow Honeybourne which was annexed to Church-Honeybourne at the Dissolution. Cartographic sources comprising 1778 Inclosure Award and OS 1885 map show the site situated along School Street which probably reflects the western boundary of the historic core of the village with a string of small early farmsteads arranged around the outer edge with access tracks/roads radiating out to the wider agricultural landscape. These farms are generally of C17th and as a group indicate a period of substantial expansion.

Stray finds within the area of the site suggest settlement may have started in the Late Iron Age and continued into Romano-British period, this is

supported by the results of archaeological fieldwork to the east on land between the village and Ricknild Street where Roman deposits have been discovered.

No residual finds were recovered during the excavation at Forge House and there was no evidence to indicate early settlement activity although the development itself, comprising a rear extension, was small in scope. The natural clay (102) was exposed throughout the trenches and this shown to be largely undisturbed, there appears to have been some truncation, but this was associated with the overlying relict subsoil deposit (101).

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OS 1902, Second Edition

Archive Location

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



Plate 1; Section a.



Plate 2; Section c.



Plate 3; Section d.



Plate 4; Section d, detail.



Plate 5; View of excavation from north-east.



Plate 6; View of excavation from south-east.

APPENDIX 1: OASIS

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | The Forge House 6 School Street, Honeybourne, Worcestershire; Archaeological Recording |
| Project dates | Start: 25-04-2019 End: 16-05-2019 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | WSM71053 - HER event no. |
| Any associated project reference codes | hon18 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON HONEYBOURNE The Forge House, 6 School Street |
| Postcode | WR11 7PJ |
| Study area | 1200 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | SP 11321 43784 52.091871370074 - 1.834737920239 52 05 30 N 001 50 05 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 |
| <i>Project bibliography 1</i> | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | The Forge House 6 School Street, Honeybourne, Worcestershire; Archaeological Recording |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Cook, S |
| Date | 2019 |
| Issuer or publisher | one ten archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Warwickshire |
| Entered by | sean cook (sean@onetenarchaeology.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 30 September 2019 |

APPENDIX 2: Forge House

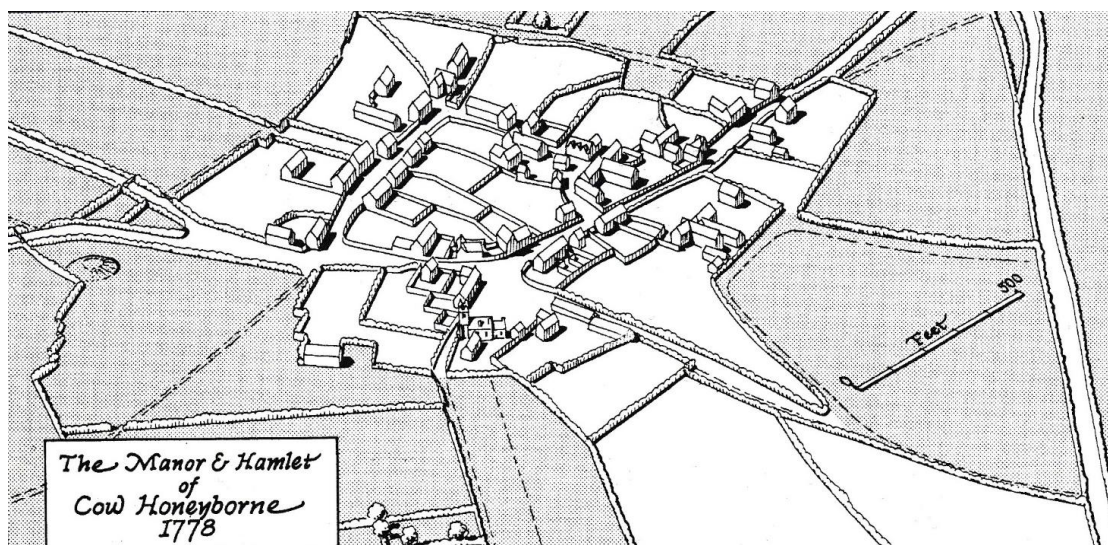


Fig 1; Forge House is shown on this view based on a Tithe map of 1778.

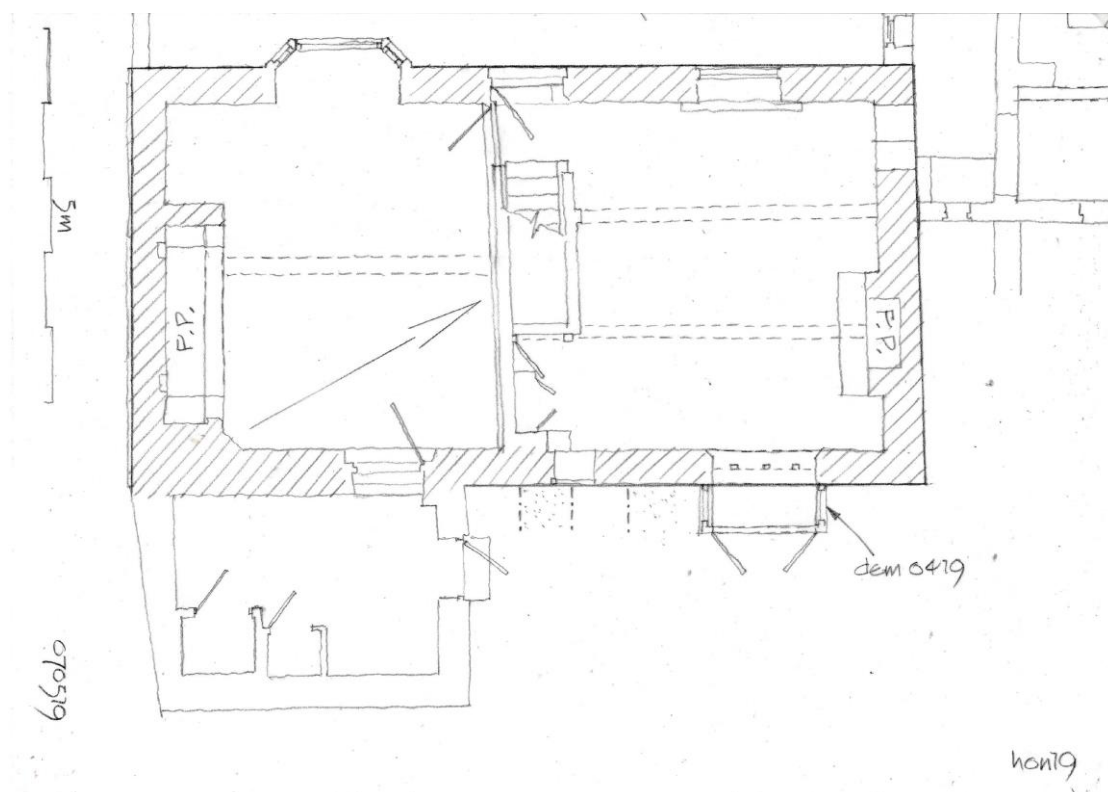


Fig 2; Gorge House, ground plan

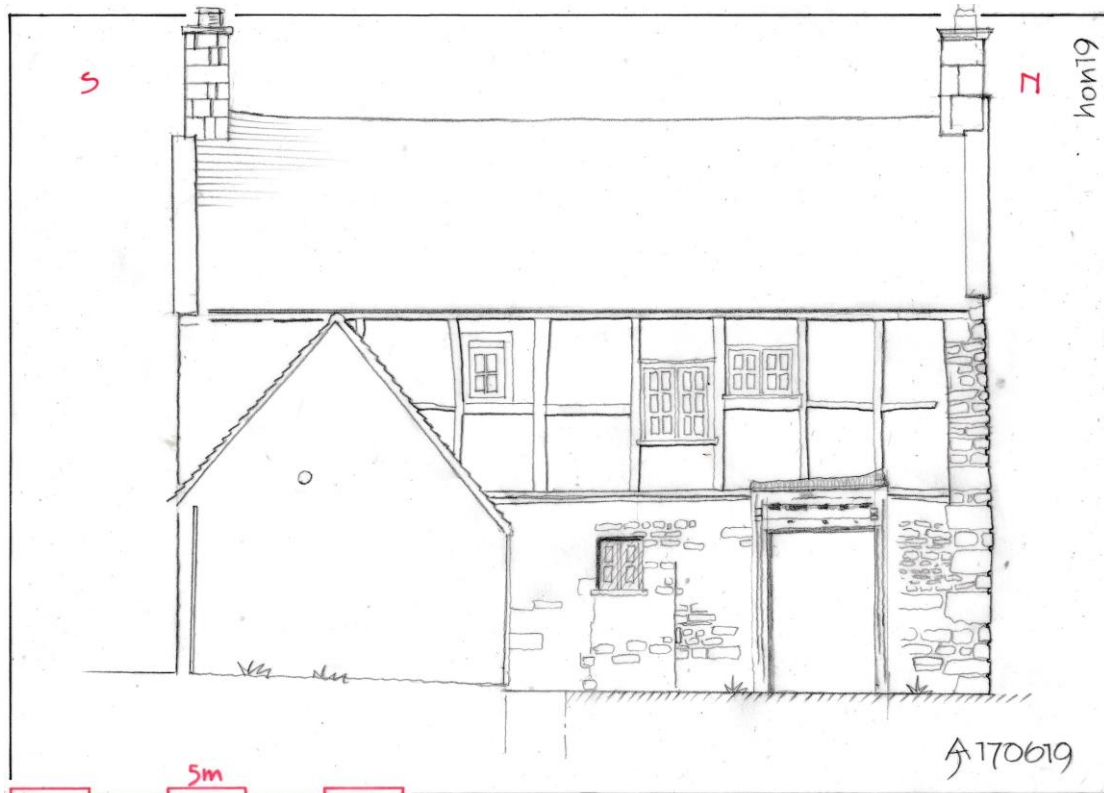


Fig 3; Rear elevation of house.



Fig 4; Rear elevation; detail of lintel, reused C18 principal-joist with notched-lap joints.



Fig 5; Rear elevation; view of lintel, reused C18 principal-joist with notched-lap joints.