



The Rest

Bricklehampton, Worcestershire
Archaeological Recording

The Rest

Bricklehampton, Worcestershire, WR10 3HQ

Archaeological Recording

NGR: SO 97940 42151

Activity no: WSM 72504

Site code: bri19

OASIS ID: 110archa1-379349

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Front cover; The Rest from the south

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out at The Rest, Bricklehampton, Worcs. WR10 3HQ during construction of a new access and driveway to the existing house. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, within the former medieval settlement of Bricklehampton, also cropmarks identified from satellite imagery within the vicinity of the site may be contemporary with similar features identified around Shailers Farm and east of the church where targeted excavation had shown these were Iron Age and Roman in origin. Aerial photographs appear to indicate an early settlement comprising cropmarks spread across the tract of land stretching from Poplar Cottage situated on the western edge of the village to the land behind the Church of St. Michael (a C12th chapel) and Court farm on the eastern side of the village. The medieval settlement appears to have been focussed along the road branching north and in the area of land extending to the east of the chapel and to the west of Shailers Farm, its extent being defined by the outlying ridge and furrow.

The results of the excavation comprising a strip of reduced ground along the western boundary of the site were negative. The stratigraphy was characterised by natural clay overlain by a layer of relict subsoil and modern topsoil from which some residually discarded sherds of mostly post-medieval pottery were found. The evidence suggests an earlier open rural environment with little human activity other than that associated with agriculture prior to the development of the area in the early C20th.

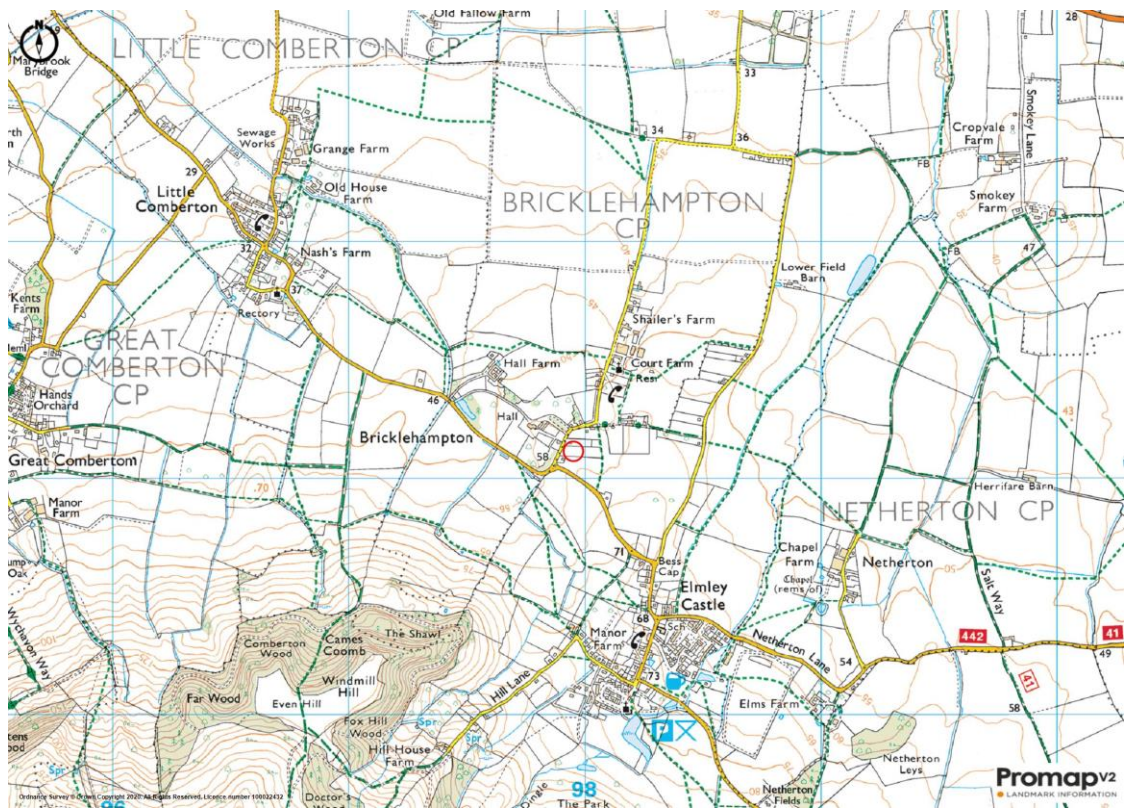


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)



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

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works

This document sets out the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') at The Rest, Bricklehampton, Worcs., WR10 3HQ during 16th December 2019 at the request of the owner Mr James Maud. Planning permission had been granted (planning Ref: 18/00263/CU) for the construction of a new access road to the existing property conditional on archaeological recording during groundworks. The development lies within an area of archaeological potential within the former medieval settlement of Bricklehampton, also cropmarks identified from satellite imagery (Glyde, 1999) within the vicinity of the site, may be archaeological in origin. The development comprised a linear strip of land representing the new access road, an area totalling about 100m²

Geology and topography

Bricklehampton is a small hamlet in the parish of St. Andrew, Pershore, lying between Elmley Castle and Little Comberton. The parish is long and narrow (containing 914 acres), lying north and south, the northern boundary being the River Avon. The road from Pershore to Evesham passes through the north of Bricklehampton and the village lies on a branch from this road. The site sits within an area consisting of an open, flat landscape based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone with a large deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The village is geologically located on a Drift Head deposit (BGS, 1974) and the site lies on the south side of the village at a height of about 50m AOD and is represented by a roughly rectangular plot of land extending east from the road branching north.

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 is outlined below.

Stray flint finds from the village (WSM07695) suggest activity at Bricklehampton beginning in the Neolithic. Aerial photographic evidence has revealed settlement features within the area. A rectangular enclosure seen as a cropmark (WSM 03674) is recorded north of Hall Farm, Bricklehampton. a further enclosure (WSM 03677) is visible again southeast of the parish church and at Nailers Farm a group of five enclosures (WSM 06045) of different form including a square enclosure with entrance on east side have been identified. Three other single ditched rectilinear enclosures and a small 'D' shaped enclosure with terminal defined entrance on east side are also visible. An enclosure and ditches (WSM 03679) have also been identified west of Lower Field Barn and a further series of cropmarks (WSM 11383) have been recorded from aerial photographs southeast of Poplar Cottages. Although these cropmark features remain currently undated, their morphology is similar in form with other cropmarks which are known to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date.

Field walking or excavation at an unknown date which led to the recovery of late pre-Roman Iron Age coins somewhere behind the church (WSM 35818). Further Roman coins have been recorded more recently as part of the portable antiquities scheme. Possible Romano-British inhumations (WSM 20056) were uncovered in 1950 during process of machine stripping topsoil preparatory to quarrying behind the church in Bricklehampton. One skeleton was found under a slab and another body was also found in the same area surrounded by upright stones and nine stones on top. Other skeletal material was found nearby.

Geophysical survey in 2010 targeted parts of two rectangular enclosures (WSM06045) at Nailers Farm and identified anomalies suggesting outer and internal ditches, two small sub-circular enclosures, and nine pits. A subsequently excavated trench targeting these anomalies exposed a sequence of ditches and the robbed-out walls of a stone building, all associated with Roman pottery.

Geophysical survey in 2012 targeted part of the enclosure (WSM03677) enclosures southeast of the church and found features including re-cut ditches, a pit, and a rubble wall foundation, all associated with late Iron Age and Roman pottery.

The earliest mention of a settlement at Bricklehampton is in the late C10th and again in 1160 when historically Bricklehampton was an outlying manor in the parish of Pershore, St. Andrew within the Hundred of Pershore. The medieval settlement can be largely traced from the OS First Edition 1884-9 which shows a ribbon development of small farms and cottages along the road leading north past the Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels, Bricklehampton (WSM 07689). The chapel, which was dependent on the church of St. Andrew, Pershore has been so



Fig.3; HER locations

extensively restored and altered as to leave few traces of its history, but based on the earliest surviving architectural fabric including the south doorway and the massive circular stone font, it is C12th.

Stone roof tiles and a fragment of box flue tile were recovered from the plough soil above these features. An additional geophysical survey grid targeted an oval enclosure to the south but found anomalies suggesting a sequence of ditches. Two corresponding ditches and a posthole were found within an investigative trench. The features were associated with Roman pottery including a rimsherd of 4th century shell-tempered ware.

A suspected shrunken medieval village ([WSM 32553](#)) at Bricklehampton has been noted in a list of possible Medieval village sites, if confirmed its presence would suggest that the village was a larger settlement than is currently understood. The extent of the medieval settlement can be defined by the outlying Ridge and furrow (agricultural earthworks) which has been identified to the northeast ([WSM 03675](#)), the northwest, southwest ([WSM35867](#)) and south ([WSM24016](#)) of Bricklehampton village. Ridge and furrow are also observed within the grounds of Bricklehampton Hall ([WSM1848](#)) which is a C20th development built of stone in the Italian style and stands in a small park ([WSM29043](#)). It was the residence of Mrs. Robert Hinshaw.

RESULTS

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 new road area. The development comprised the excavation of a linear area measuring approx. 40m long and 2.70m wide. Excavation involved removal of the topsoil followed by the excavation of the underlying subsoil exposing the surface of the natural clay substrate.

Machine excavation was only used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and was used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining was conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket and ceased when the natural substrate was revealed, excavation continued by hand thereafter.

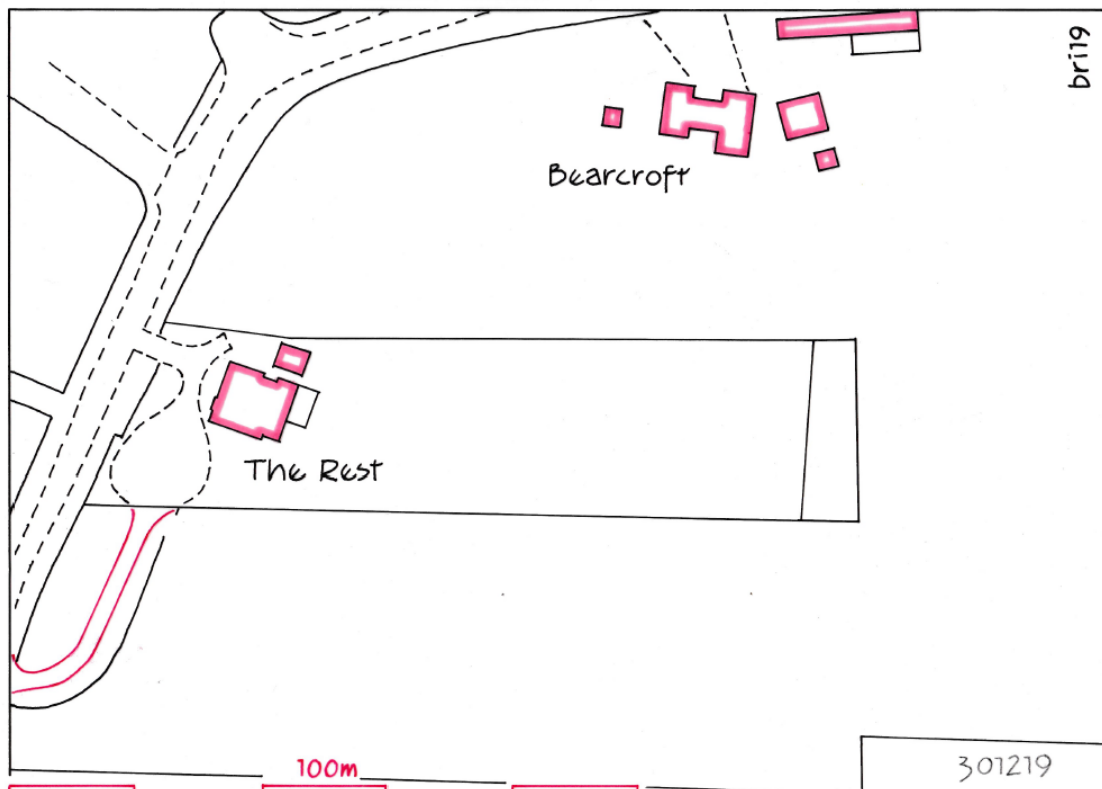


Fig.4; Site plan.

Description of deposits

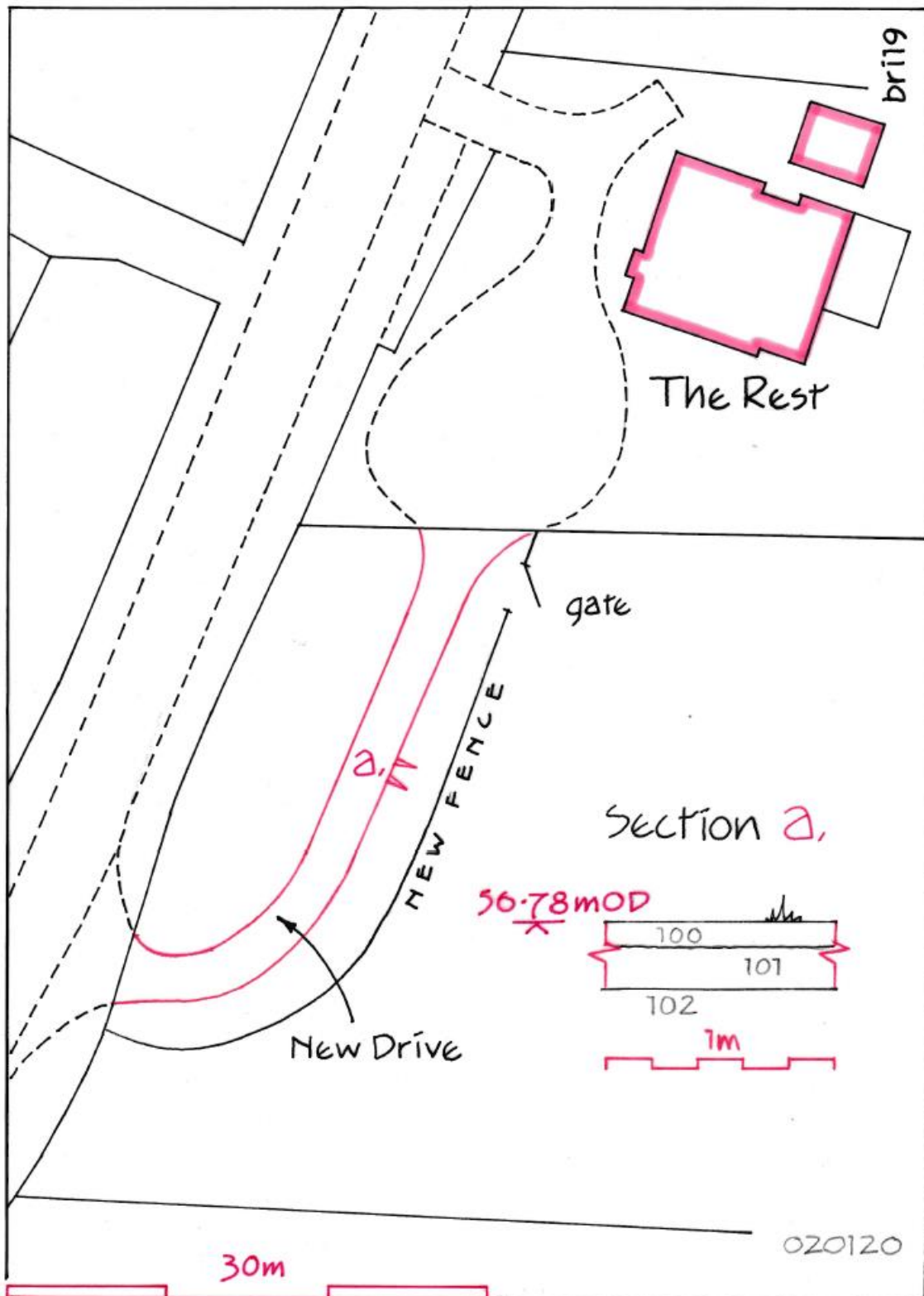


Fig.5; Trench plan and section.

The surface of the natural substrate (102) which comprised a deposit of yellowish-brown clay was exposed through the length of the excavation at a height of about 56.18m AOD. Truncating the clay was a single cut linear trench feature associated with the construction of a water pipe was recorded at the south end of the new access road aligned north-south across the excavation. The pipe, which was situated at the base of trench, was made of metal and was probably installed to supply a former water trough in the southwest corner of the site. Overlying the clay to a depth of approx. 0.20m throughout the excavation area was a layer of relict subsoil (101) which was in turn sealed by a 0.10m thick deposit of modern topsoil (100).

FINDS

A total of six sherds of pottery weighing 88g were recovered from two contexts (101 & 103). Context 101 (the relict subsoil layer) produced four residual sherds of pottery, three of which were modern, the remaining small, thin and highly abraded sherd, probably as a result of ploughing at 7g, is possibly medieval. Two abraded sherds were recovered from the back fill of the pipe trench (context 103), one of these sherds was glazed and is post-medieval in date, the other a curved fragment, about 10mm thick, may be a fragment of a land drain.

Environmental data

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



Pottery finds from contexts 101 & 103

DISCUSSION

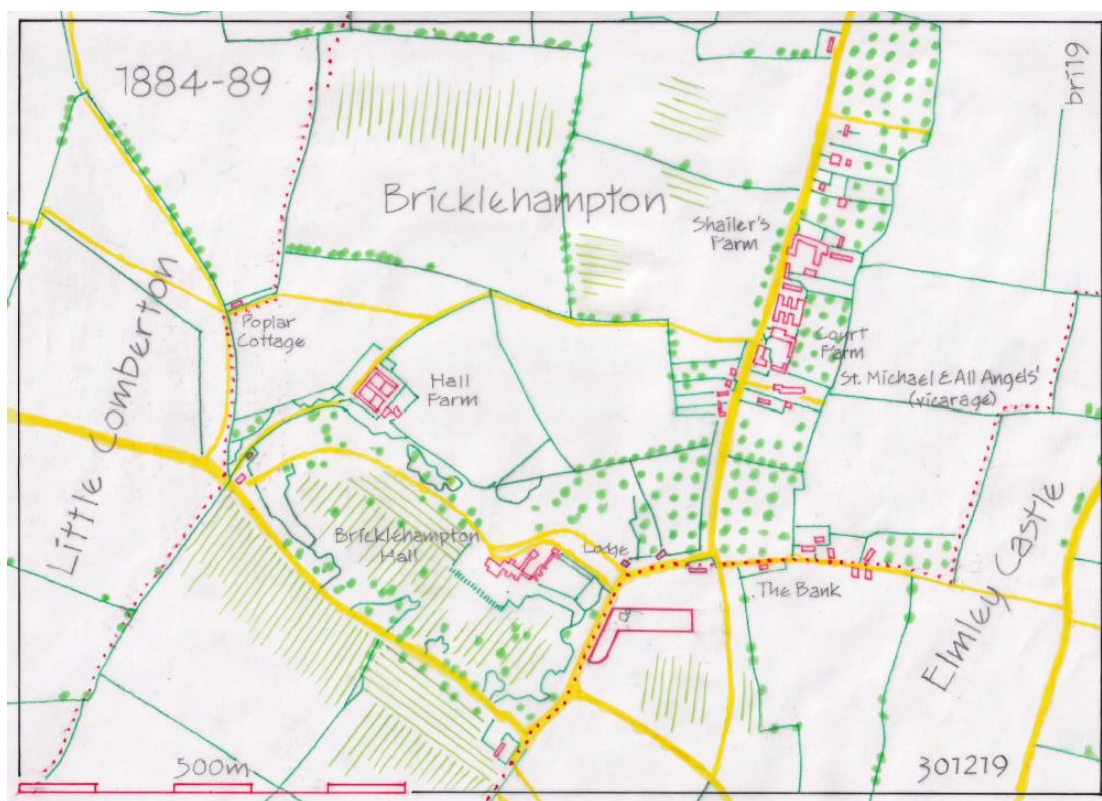


Fig. 6; The core of the settlement, showing the historic setting of the site. Ridge & furrow (green lines) is plotted from the HER data and Google Earth. The site (The Rest) is outlined in red.

The earliest evidence of human activity within the area of the site is from stray flint finds suggesting prehistoric settlers at Bricklehampton. Aerial photographs indicate an early settlement comprising Cropmarks identified spread across the tract of land stretching from Poplar Cottage situated on the western edge of the village to the land behind the Church of St. Michael (a C12th chapel) and Court farm on the eastern side of the parish. A line running from the Timber-framed building called 'The Bank' and along the north side of Bricklehampton Hall appears to mark the southern edge of this settlement. These cropmarks are morphologically consistent with similarly known examples in other areas of the country which are dated from the Late Iron Age and Romano-British occupation periods suggesting that a settlement at Bricklehampton originated during this time. This was confirmed following some geophysical survey and investigative trenching (in 2010 & 2012) around Shailers Farm and behind the chapel which examined cropmark enclosures (WSM03677 & WSM06045) and identified

settlement features which produced Iron Age and Roman finds. Some of the burials recorded in the vicinity are interpreted as probably associated with this occupation.

Interestingly, the ancient settlement of Bricklehampton topographically occupies a tongue of land in the south of the parish situated along the main road connecting the parishes and villages of Little Comberton to the west and Elmley Castle to the east. It may be that this location, along a significant trade route and line of communication, was recognised as strategic position which lead to the establishment of a settlement.

The medieval village appears to be the focussed along the road branching north and in the area of land extending to the east of the chapel and to the west of Shailers Farm, its extent being defined by the outlying ridge and furrow. This would suggest that Court Farm, which lies near the chapel, maybe the location of the former manor house.

The results of the excavation comprising a strip of reduced ground along the western boundary of the site were negative. The stratigraphy was characterised by natural clay overlain by a layer of relict subsoil and modern topsoil from which some residually discarded sherds of mostly post-medieval date were found. The evidence suggests an earlier open rural environment with little human activity other than that associated with agriculture prior to the development of the site in the early C20th.

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Page, W and J.W. Willis-Bund, J.W., (editors), 1924. *Parishes: Pershore, St Andrew with Defford and Wick, A History of the County of Worcester*, Victoria County History, **4**, 163-177.

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OS 1885, First Edition

OS 1904, Second Edition

Archive Location

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

Plates



Plate 1; View of the excavation southward, toward Bredon Hill in the distance.



Plate 2; Modern pipe-trench at the south end of the site, from north.



Plate 3; Detail of the modern trench showing iron-pipe.



Plate 4; Typical section through the excavation.

APPENDIX 1; OASIS

Project details

Project name	The Rest Bricklehampton, Worcestershire, WR10 3HQ; Archaeological Recording
Project dates	Start: 16-12-2019 End: 16-12-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BRI19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	110archa1-379349 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON PERSHORE The Rest Bricklehampton, Worcestershire, WR10 3HQ
Postcode	WR10 3HQ
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 97940 42151 52.077300066304 -2.030061736293 52 04 38 N 002 01 48 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 56.18m Max: 56.18m

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	No
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Exists?

Digital Archive recipient OASIS

Paper Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title The Rest Bricklehampton, Worcestershire, WR10 3HQ; Archaeological Recording

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Date 2020

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APPENDIX 2; The Church



Plate 1; South-west prospect of St Michael and All Angels Church.



Plate 2; The south wall of the nave showing later insertions and additions.



Plate 3; View from south-east showing long C13 chancel.



Plate 4; The mid C12 south door, note the engaged nook-shafts.



Plate 4; View eastward showing medieval roof timbers.



Plate 4; View westward into tower, note C12 font.



Plate 4; The C12 font.



St Edmund's Church, Stoulton
View from SE c1120

A230319

51019

Plate 5; Another C12 church, a little earlier than that at Bricklehampton.

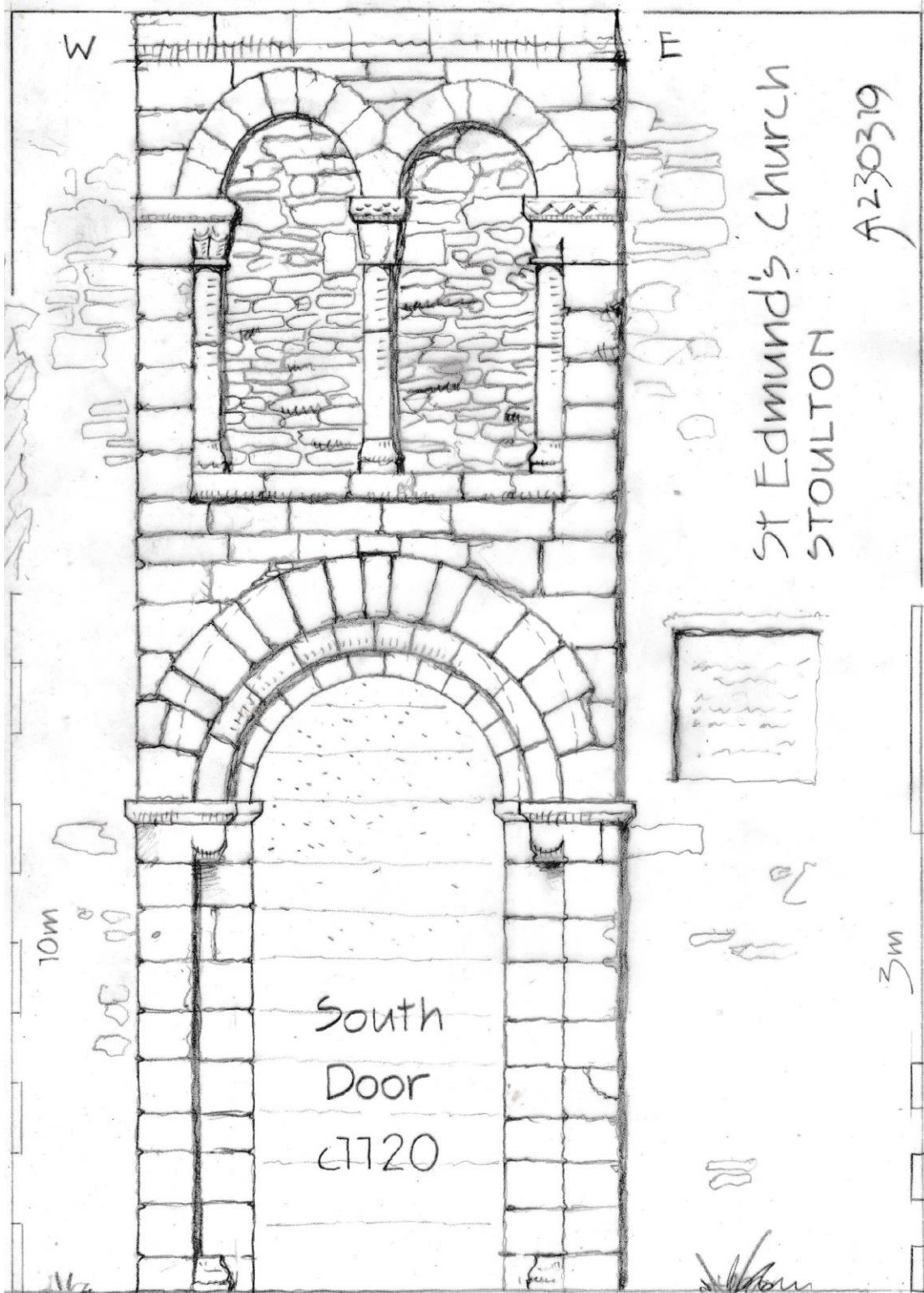


Plate 5; The detached nook-shafts of the south-door have been removed.