



# Greenfields Farm

Hyde Lane, Upton Upon Severn, Worcestershire.



# *Greenfields Farm*

Hyde Lane, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire, WR8 0SE.

Archaeological Recording

NGR: *SO 84095 40263*

Site code: *US22*

Activity no: *wsm78373*

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*Front cover; View of the development from the southwest.*

## *SUMMARY*

Archaeological recording (watching brief) was carried out during October 2022 at Greenfields Farm, Hyde Lane, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire during the excavation of the foundations for a new conservatory. The development to the front of the existing building is situated over a previous structure (now demolished) evident on historic mapping within a C19 redeveloped farmstead ([wsm52149](#)).

The development was small in scope and the foundation for the new extension comprised a narrow strip trench. A pit or trench-like feature recorded in the southwest corner of the trench coincides with the alignment of a former wall for a former farm building shown on the 1841 tythe map and the OS 1884 & 1904. It is likely that this feature represents the robbed out remains of this structure. The presence of fragments of red brick within the fill of the feature suggests a building constructed in this material.

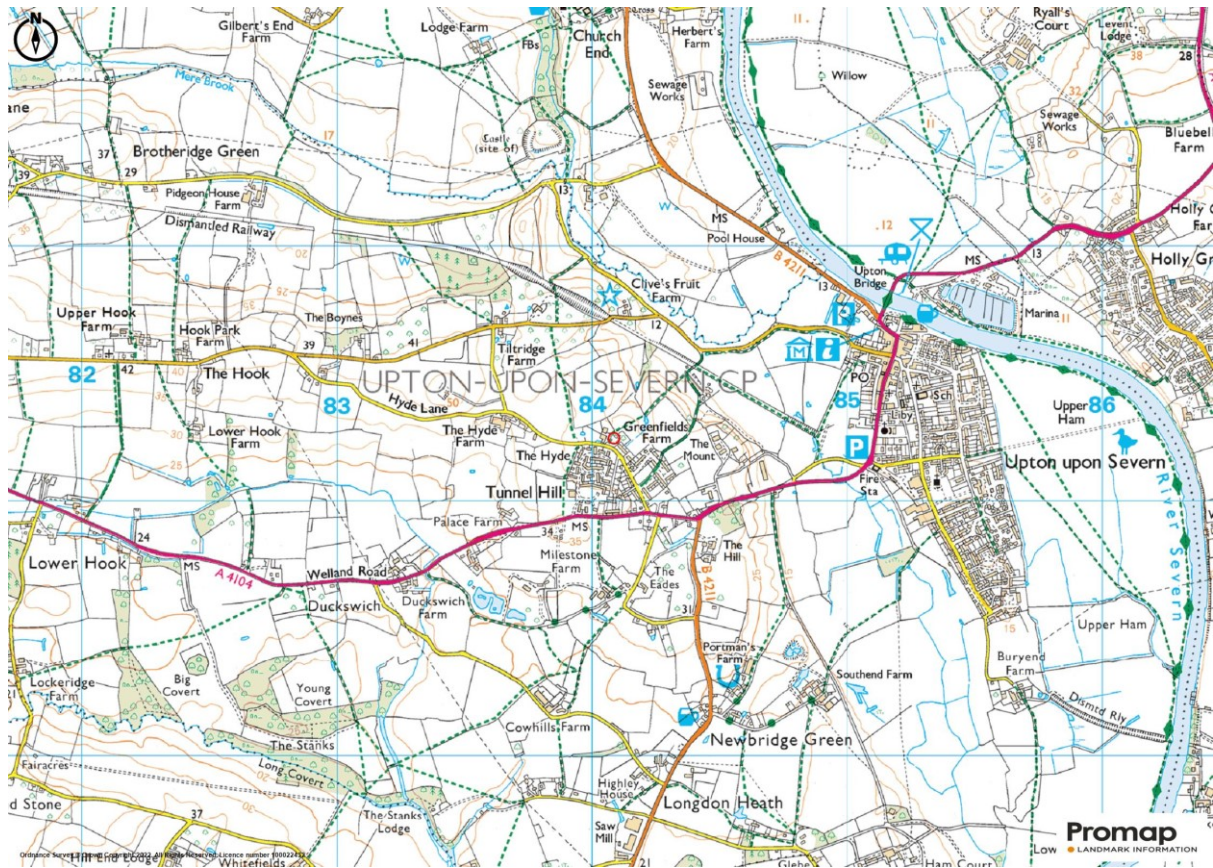


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)



Fig. 2; study site (outlined in red)

## *INTRODUCTION*

### *Location and scope of work*

This document sets out the results of archaeological recording (watching brief) during 17th October 2022 at Greenfields Farm, Hyde Lane, Upton on Severn, Worcs., WR8 0SE. Planning permission had been granted (*planning Ref: M/22/00606/HP*) for a new conservatory. The permission was subject to condition comprising the archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) of all groundworks likely to expose, damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present.

The proposed development may have affected heritage assets of known archaeological significance ([wsm52149](#)). The 'historic environment' encompasses all those material remains that our ancestors have created in the landscapes of town and countryside. It includes all below and above-ground evidence including buildings of historic and architectural interest. The proposed development area (PDA) lay within a C19 redeveloped farmstead ([wsm52149](#)). The proposed development to the front of the existing building was situated over a previous structure (now demolished) evident on the First Edition OS map of 1884. The function or character of the demolished building was unknown. Given the scale of the development, and the anticipated archaeological potential, the likely impact on the historic environment caused by this development was offset by the implementation of a conditional programme of archaeological works. This would comprise the archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) of all groundworks likely to expose, damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present, principally the reduction of ground levels/ topsoil stripping/ drainage and service channels.

### *Geology and topography*

Upton-upon-Severn is a town and civil parish in the Malvern Hills District of Worcestershire, situated on the west bank of the River Severn and is located 5 miles (8km) southeast of Malvern. Lying on the A4104 (formerly A440), the 2011 census recorded a population of 2,881 for the town. The site is located on the north side of Tunnel Hill, a hamlet situated about 1km west of the town at a height of about 35m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), the proposed development consists of the footprint of the new conservatory, an area totalling



about 8m<sup>2</sup>. The underlying geology comprised the 4th Kidderminster Terrace of the River Severn (BGS, 1989).

### *Archaeological and historical background*

An HER search was carried out on a 500m radius of the provided grid reference on the 13/09/2022, as specified in the search request. There are 4 archaeological activities and 20 HER monuments recorded within the search area. The search area sits within a flattish to slightly undulating topography based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone and smaller deposits of silt and sandstone. Superficial geology is made up of large deposits of sand and gravel and alluvial, which follows the course of the River Severn. The region comprises medium to large arable fields, the result of field amalgamation over the last century, in the north, and smaller, less regular pastoral fields in the south, which is characteristic of surviving piecemeal enclosure. Settlement comprises C20 housing, with a historic core. Within the search area nucleated settlement and modern expansion is surrounded by large areas of field amalgamation and smaller areas of meadow, orchard and recent woodland.

There are five Historic England Listed Structures and nine unlisted, historic buildings. The listed structures date to the C17 through to the C19; a timber-framed farmhouse ([wsm32946](#)), dwellings ([wsm32944](#)), ([wsm32945](#)) and a milestone ([wsm32947](#)). The Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire project recorded six farmsteads ([wsm52143](#)) ([wsm52149](#)), ([wsm59793](#)), ([wsm59799](#)), ([wsm59801](#)), ([wsm52150](#)) and one outfarm ([wsm58893](#)) dating to the C17 through to the C19.

There are monument records for archaeology dating to the medieval through to modern periods, which includes medieval ridge and furrow ([wsm34528](#)), post medieval toll house ([wsm45423](#)) and Second World War pillbox ([wsm28693](#)) and anti-tank block ([wsm28703](#)).

The Portable Antiquity Scheme has identified finds within the search area, which includes a Roman brooch, medieval and post medieval coins and post medieval lead shot. There have been some intrusive archaeological investigations, which includes a desk based assessment, geotechnical survey, watching brief and evaluation. Archaeology in the surrounding region comprises unstratified Iron Age and Roman pottery, found off Hyde Lane, which could suggest an area of occupation nearby. Generally, within this region, however, there is little evidence as to the presence or nature of below ground archaeology. Listed buildings are scattered across this area and some sites relating to Second World War defence are recorded at Tunnel Hill. Within the area there could be potential for below

ground archaeology from Roman through to modern periods, given the proximity of recorded finds. A project to identify the potential for Palaeolithic Archaeology in Worcestershire recorded deposits within the search area with potential for archaeology dating back 241,050 years.

Greenfields Farm ([wsm52149](#)) is a redeveloped C19 farmstead with a regular courtyard of L-plan. The farmhouse was detached and set away from the yard.

## **RESULTS:**

### *Method and nature of the excavation*

In general, the purpose of archaeological recording is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting. This was to be achieved by obtaining an appropriate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during groundworks. The development comprised the excavation of a single 0.45m wide foundation trench for the new extension excavated to a depth of about 0.90m. Machine excavation was only be used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and was used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket.

The work was carried out in accordance with guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

### *Description of deposits*

Top of ground level at top of foundation at 35.30m AOD

The surface of the natural geological substrate (102) comprising gravel was exposed throughout the excavated trench at a level height of about 55.3m AOD. Overlying the gravel throughout the trench was an undated relict subsoil layer (101) consisting of a mid greyish-brown, sandy-silt 0.25m thick. Truncating this layer in the southwest corner of the trench, although not clearly defined, was a pit or trench-like feature [104] about 1.50m wide and about 0.25-30m deep. It was filled with a deposit of mid to dark greyish-brown, sandy-silt (103), small fragments of brick were observed within the fill. There was significant root penetration associated with the fill of the feature and presumably the remains of previous landscaping. Sealing the subsoil deposit was the existing ground level deposit (100) consisting of modern stone and soil 0.25m thick.



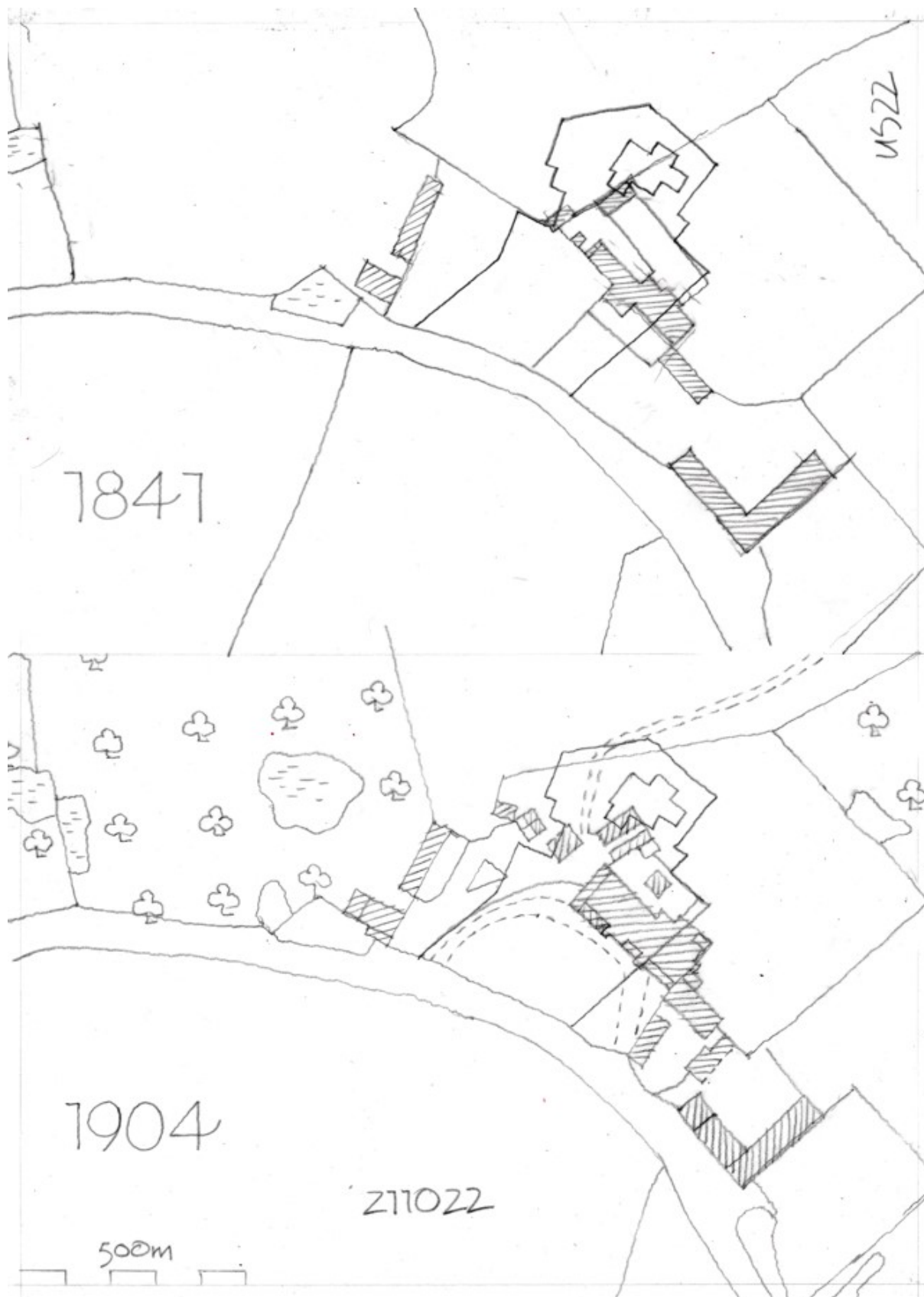
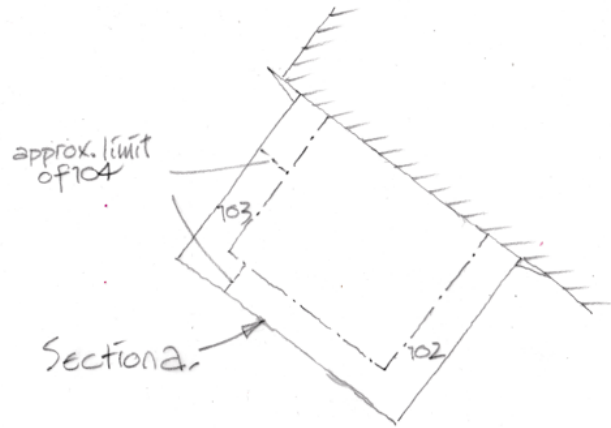


Fig. 3; historic environment plans: 1841 Tithe Map and 1904 2nd Ed. OS



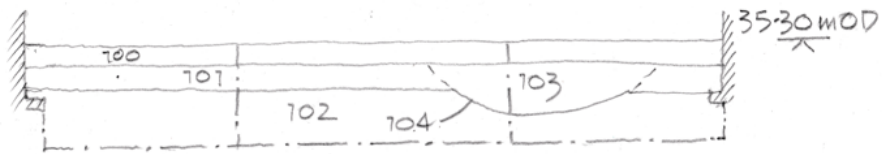
Fig. 4; site plan showing location of trench 1.

# Trench Plan



W522

# SECTION a.



131222

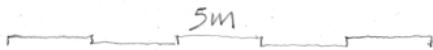


Fig. 5: Trench plan and section.

## FINDS

Finds made during the excavations comprised fragments of red brick from within the fill deposit (103). These were not retained.



## *DISCUSSION*

Historic mapping (1841 & 1904) shows that the current site known as Greenfield Farm was formerly part of a larger C19 farmstead ([wsm52149](#)), with a regular courtyard of L-plan which has since been demolished. The farmhouse was detached and set away from the yard. The development was small in scope and the foundation for the new extension comprised a narrow strip excavated trench. The single pit or trench-like feature [104] recorded in the southwest corner of the trench coincides with alignment of a former wall and farm out-building shown on the 1841 tythe map and the OS 1884 & 1904. It is likely that this feature represents the robbed out remains of this structure. The presence of fragments of red brick within the fill of the feature suggests a building constructed in this material.

## *Archive Location*

The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) via the on-line portal OASIS.

## *BIBLIOGRAPHY*

Geological survey of Great Britain, 1989. *Redditch, sheet 183; 1:50,000 series (solid and drift edition)*.

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Watt, S. 2011. *The Archaeology of the West Midlands, A framework for research*, University of Birmingham.

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1841 Tythe map.

OS First Edition, 1884.

OS Second Edition, 1904.

*Plates*



*Plate 1: overall view northeast of the foundation trench.*



*Plate 2: view northeast showing foundations of the existing house.*





*Plate 3: view southeast of foundation trench showing stratigraphy in the SE corner.*



*Plate 4: view NW showing pit-like feature [104] and fill deposit (103).*