

Waverley Farm Court, Furge Lane, Henstridge, Somerset

SHER 32276
TTNCM 66/2013

Archaeological Watching Brief



on behalf of

Boxer Properties Limited

Sarah Newns

Avon Archaeology Limited

Bristol: July 2013



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Frontispiece: South-facing elevation of barn at west end of range of agricultural buildings along northern boundary of site. View from south.

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Figure 1



Approximate Location of the Study Area shown by red circle
Grid lines at 1 km intervals (extract from OS 1:25000)



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Figure 2



Waverley Farm Court. Detail and boundary of the study area (in red).
Scale as shown.



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NOTE

Whereas Avon Archaeology Limited have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

Summary

This report details the results of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise (Watching Brief, TTNCM 66/2013; SHER 32276) undertaken by Avon Archaeology Limited, on 27th April, 2011 and 12th, 17th and 18th June, 2013, during groundwork at Waverley Farm Court, Furge Lane, Henstridge, Somerset (NGR ST 72454 19633). Planning Permission (SSDC 08/01101/FUL, a revision of planning application 05/02262/FUL) was given for the erection of four dwellings and the conversion of a former shop and outbuildings into three single dwellings, with the provision of a carport and parking spaces. The site occupies an area of approximately 2000 square metres and is located on the south side of the village, bounded by the High Street to the east, Furge Lane to the south, Manor Farmhouse and residential properties to the north and agricultural land to the west.

The site lies just within the bounds of the Henstridge Conservation Area, within what was probably the core settlement area of the medieval village. The possibility of earlier settlement evidence is suggested by the presence of Later Bronze Age worked flints, and burials and artefacts of Iron Age and Romano-British date, at Stalbridge Quarry, to the south-west of the site.

The Watching Brief was undertaken on behalf of Boxer Properties Limited, in accordance with a scheme of work (WSI, Young 2008) approved by the Archaeological Officer for Somerset County Council. In view of the uncertain archaeological potential of the study area, a Condition (3) was attached to planning consent by South Somerset Council, which required the archaeological monitoring of all preliminary earthmoving and intrusive groundwork associated with the redevelopment of the site, and the recording of all unforeseen archaeological deposits revealed.

The present Watching Brief was entirely negative in its findings, as the areas monitored revealed no features other than modern pipe trenches and a modern post-hole, and made ground deposits of relatively recent date. The undisturbed natural substrate, which varied between brashy limestone and a stiff marly clay, was encountered at depths varying between 300mm below the present ground surface at the west end of the site, dipping down to over 1m below the present ground surface towards the south.

1 Introduction

The study site (**Figures 1 and 2**), Waverley Farm Court, Furge Lane, Henstridge (NGR ST 72366 19606) is located just within the Henstridge Conservation Area and has an approximate area of 2,000 square metres, consisting of an area of open ground to the rear of buildings fronting the High Street. The area is at present partly grassed and partly concreted, with a range of former agricultural outbuildings along the northern boundary (**Plate a**) and see **Cover photo** and **Frontispiece**). Access is currently to the far west of the site, off Furge Lane. The land slopes considerably from west to east, with an approximate drop of 2m in height over the length of the development area. The site is bounded by an electricity sub-station and bungalow to the south, Manor Farmhouse and other buildings to the north, buildings fronting the High Street to the east and an open field to the west.

Planning permission (05/02262/FUL), with subsequent revision SSSC 08/01101/FUL, was granted for the conversion of the barns into dwellings, the erection of four new dwellings along the western edge of the site and the provision of a car-port and car-parking spaces. The development footprint also indicates that a very small portion of the agricultural field to the west will be incorporated into the new site access road off Furge Lane (Area B, see below and **Plate b**).

A condition (Condition 3) was attached to the planning consent, requiring the provision of an archaeological watching brief during development groundwork and the presentation of the results of that work in an appropriate report (SHER 32276) for submission to Somerset County Council.

A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during ground disturbance was requested by the Archaeological Officer for Somerset County Council as a standard requirement of Planning Permission and in accordance with the guidelines set out in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012). The archaeological monitoring was required to record all unforeseen archaeological structures and/or deposits, revealed during the course of the development ground work.

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Boxer Properties Limited to carry out the work as above and in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), MoRPHE (2008) and the standard procedures of Avon Archaeology Limited. All standard aims, objectives and procedures for this type of archaeological work, as set out by the County Archaeological Officer and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) were followed and no omissions were intended.

The archaeological objectives of the project were detailed in a Scheme of Work for Archaeological Watching Brief and Recording designed by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (Young, 2008) in accordance with a project brief issued by the Archaeological Officer for Somerset County Council. The main objectives were to identify and record all significant buried archaeological structures and deposits revealed during the course of the development ground works.

The village of Henstridge has medieval origins (see **Historical Background**, below) and the study area lies within the historic core of the settlement. Further settlement activity, of prehistoric and Romano-British date, in the form of artefacts and burials, has been recorded at Stalbridge Quarry, to the south-west of the site. Geologically, the site is underlain by Cornbrash Limestone, with outcrops of Forest Marble clay and Upper Fuller's Earth to the west. These geological deposits, in particular the presence of Cornbrash, are further indicators of the potential for buried archaeology.

The recording was undertaken in two phases, an initial phase, involving the level reduction and partial trenching for the northernmost house (undertaken in April 2011) and a second phase, involving the remaining trenching and topsoil stripping for the access road (undertaken between 12th and 18th June, 2013). This was followed by the preparation of this report and the compilation of the site archive, which will be deposited with the Taunton Museum, under the accession number, TTNCM 66/2013.

2 Geology, Topography and Landuse

The underlying geology of the site is recorded as follows by the British Geological Survey (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer 1:625,000):

Great Oolite Group – Sandstone, Limestone and Argillaceous rocks. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 164 to 169 million years ago in the Jurassic period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow carbonate seas. These rocks were formed in warm shallow seas with carbonate deposited on platform, shelf and slope areas; often rich in corals and shelly faunas. May include evaporates where seawater was trapped and salts concentrated by evaporation.

No superficial deposits were recorded.

During the excavations, the upper layer of the natural substrate appeared as a stiff orange clay, containing some brash (Context 102; see **Plate c**), recorded in all of the trenches, at depths varying between 300mm and 950mm below the present ground surface. This orangey clay overlay, variously, Context 106, a firm clay layer, Context 107, a distinct brashy layer and Context 114, a marly clay. Context 107 was observed only within Trenches 4 and 6, and consisted of a distinct band of limestone brash, approximately 100mm thick, sealed by Context 102 and overlying Context 106. Context 106 was recorded in the base of the majority of the trenches and consisted of a clean grey clay, sometimes containing limestone brash, at depths varying between 800mm and 1.5m below the present ground surface. Context 114, a marly clay, varying between orange and yellowish grey in colour, was recorded intermittently in the base of Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8 and 10, at a minimum depth of 950mm below the present ground surface in Trench 5, and a maximum depth of 1.5m in Trenches 2 and 10. The natural limestone bedrock (Context 103) was observed intermittently in the base of Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12, at approximately 1m below the present ground surface, over the northern part of the excavated area.

The site covers an area of approximately 2,000 square metres and is flanked by buildings fronting the High Street to the east, the Manor Farmhouse and other buildings to the north, a pasture field to the west and an electricity sub-station and bungalow to the south. The site shelves fairly steeply from west to east (see **Plate a**), dropping approximately 2m in height, to a height of approximately 80m a OD adjacent to the High Street (Gary Gabriel Associates, 2008). At the time of the Watching Brief, the study area consisted largely of an area of open ground, partly concreted and partly under grass (**Plate a**), with a range of former agricultural buildings (including two barns, one of which is shown on the **Frontispiece**) along the northern edge of the site.

3 Historical Background by Dr Nick Corcos

The place-name Henstridge probably contains as a first element the word *Hengest*, although its intended use in this context is rather uncertain. The term means ‘a stallion’, and coupled with the second element, which is straightforwardly Old English *hrycg*, ‘a ridge’, the meaning could be either ‘the ridge associated with a man called Hengest’, or ‘the ridge where stallions are kept’, or which in some other way was associated with those animals (Mills 2011).

The earliest spelling occurs in a document which also marks the estate’s first appearance in the historical record. This is an Anglo-Saxon charter dated to between the years 953 to 955, and issued by King Eadred of Wessex. This is number 570 in Sawyer’s handlist of charters (Sawyer 1968).

There are brief notes of two other Henstridge charters, also of tenth century date, that appear in a list of such documents held by Glastonbury Abbey in the post-Conquest period, and compiled in the 13th century (S1712 and S1736). The charters themselves do not appear to survive, and the nature of their path into the Glastonbury archive is problematic (Abrams 1996, 137-139). The main Henstridge charter, S570, does not record the amount of land being granted, although it has a boundary in Old English attached to it; and there is wide divergence of expert opinion about exactly what was included within the bounds of the grant as it relates to the landscape today. Some, for example, would include Abbas Combe and Temple Combe, as well as Henstridge itself (ESawyer). By the time of Domesday Book, in 1086, the main estate at Henstridge was assessed at 10 hides and was a royal manor, but this was only the largest holding, for there were other, smaller DB places which later emerged in the medieval period as within the boundary of the later parish. A small estate of a further four hides was also recorded under the name Henstridge, although thought actually to be at Yenston, about 1.5km north-west of Henstridge village, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a hide at *Tornie*, the exact location of which is unknown, but which was somewhere on Milborne Hill, and according to the Somerset VCH,

was often described as in Milborne Port parish (VCH 1999).

A Domesday Book estate of the best part of 15 hides, then, accounts for the large size of the parish as it emerged by the 19th century, at 1,721hectares (4,253acres). Throughout the post-Conquest period and into the post-medieval and early modern periods, the lands at Henstridge became fragmented into a number of separate holdings and manors, the origins and descents of which are enumerated in detail in the VCH. The same source notes that the various Henstridge estates together had a relatively large area of woodland, and there were no fewer than two parks within the parish boundary. There were common arable fields, but they appear to have always been rather fragmented, and there was a heavy emphasis in the farming economy on pasture and dairying. The common fields were all enclosed by the 17th century. By the turn of the 20th century, the economy was overwhelmingly pastoral, with only just under 460ac (186ha) of arable being recorded. The number of operational farms in the parish decreased throughout the 19th and into the 20th century, but even by the early 1830s, only half of the parish’s households were employed in agriculture. In the second half of the 19th century, glove-making was an important source of employment, but was short-lived, and was in decline by 1900.

4 Archaeological Background

Information on the archaeological background to the site has been taken from the

Somerset Historic Environment Record (SGHER), which may be accessed on-line, with additional information gleaned from early Ordnance Survey maps of the area, accessed via the web-site "old-maps.co.uk" (see **References**).

As noted above, in the **Historical Background**, it is likely that the village of Henstridge dates from at least the medieval period. Evidence for earlier settlement in the vicinity of the village has been provided by the discovery artefacts and burials of Iron Age and Romano-British date, approximately 1.3km to the south-west of the present site, at or near the present Stalbridge Quarry (PRN 53957). Quarrying activity in 1927 revealed three partially extended inhumations, cut into the bedrock, at NGR ST 717 185. A hearth and pottery of probable Iron Age date was also revealed some 4 feet below the contemporary ground surface, at approximately NGR ST 7159 1850. Further Iron Age pottery, pits and burials were recovered during quarrying during World War II, also at NGR ST 717 185. Further human bone was revealed during stone digging in the same vicinity in the 1970s.

Watching briefs during extensions to the quarry in 2002 revealed worked flints of probable Late Bronze Age date (PRN 15438 and PRN 15831), but did not reveal any further Iron Age or Romano-British settlement evidence. Aerial photographs centred on ST 7134 1833 show an annular feature, possibly a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow, over 1.7km south-west of the site (PRN 28632). The HER records that the above feature may, however, be the remains of a World War II radio installation associated with the nearby naval air station at Landshire Lane (PRN 28633).

Henstridge was sited just south of the cross-roads of two major turnpike roads, at Henstridge Ash, the north-south Castle Cary to Stalbridge road, linking Bristol with the south, and the east-west Shaftesbury to Sherborne road (linking London with the south-west - the latter mentioned in documents of 1411, VCH 1999). The village appears to have been laid out along a grid pattern, with subsidiary lanes running parallel to the above two major routeways. The southern extent of the village is bounded by Landshire Lane, which marks the county boundary between Somerset to the north and Dorset to the south. Earliest settlement evidence within the village itself consists of a large Saxo-Norman boundary ditch, revealed during a watching brief at the Fountain Inn on the High Street, approximately 150m north-east of the present site (PRN 28149, at NGR ST 7245 1976). A further two later ditches, of medieval date, and a possible medieval pit and boundary ditch were also revealed. Excavations at Church Farm, 160m north-west of the study site, revealed further medieval settlement remains, in the form of a substantial wall foundation with associated ditch, and pottery of 12th/13th century date (PRNs 28158/28159/28182; NGR ST 722 197).

Earthworks approximately 1.5km south-west of the village reveal the presence of the deserted medieval village of Toomer, recorded from at least the 14th century (PRN 53968). In the mid-15th century, a licence was granted to enclose land at Toomer to create a park and a free warren, perhaps suggesting that the village had already been abandoned by this date (PRN 53969). The Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" (1887) records a small area of woodland to the south of Landshire Lane as a Rabbit Warren.

English Heritage record some thirty-eight listed buildings within the parish of Henstridge. Those closest to the study area comprise a small number of largely 18th century buildings fronting the High Street. Manor Farmhouse, just north of the study area, is of 17th century date. The parish church, dedicated to St Nicholas, is listed grade II*, and has 12th century origins, but was largely rebuilt in the 19th century.

The study site itself is sited within the core of the medieval settlement, within the area bounded by Church Street to the north, Furge Lane to the south, the High Street to the east and Furge Grove to the west, an area which also contains the medieval parish church (PRN 53955), and Church Farm (above). The First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (dated 1887) shows a couple of buildings within the study area fronting the High Street, with the barn and outbuilding to the north (see **Frontispiece**), as at present, and a further building or buildings in the location of the present electricity sub-station. Furge Grove, to the west, is named "Pound Lane", presumably formerly leading to the village lock-up. The field to the rear (west) of the site is recorded as an orchard, as at present. A well is located just south of the study area, within the bounds of the electricity sub-station, and a smithy to the south, on the west side of the High Street.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey, dated 1903, shows little change in terms of the buildings, but the site itself is divided into three longitudinally (east-west), presumably with walls or fence-lines, one flanking the barns to the north, one demarcating the site boundary to the south and a third demarcating the curtilages of the buildings fronting the High Street.

By the time of the 1928 25" Edition (Dorset) further barns or outbuildings appear to have been added at the northern edge of the site. The smithy is no longer recorded and a range of regular dwellings has been erected to the south-east of the site, fronting the High Street. The next available map, the 1962 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 appears to show little change in the study area, but records a group of temporary buildings (probably World War II Nissen huts (PRN 17704) to the south side of Furge Lane. By the time of the 1980 1:2,500 map, the site is no longer divided longitudinally and the electricity sub-station has been constructed to the south.

During the Second World War, a naval air station was established to the north-east of the village (PRN 53963, NGR ST 74 20). This was commissioned as HMS Dipper in 1943 and after the war was used as a satellite training station by the Fleet Air Arm at Yeovilton (PRN 55405).

5 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

5.1 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken in two phases, an initial phase, in which trenching and level reduction associated with the northernmost of the houses was monitored (see **Plate c**), and a second phase, which comprised the monitoring of topsoil stripping for the access road, and the excavation of the remaining foundation trenches. The first phase was undertaken by Dr Nick Corcos on 27th April, 2011, and the second by Kevin Potter and Sarah Newns over a period of three days, between 12th and 18th June, 2013. The foundation trenches were numbered Trenches 1 to 12 and the area of monitored level reduction and area of topsoil stripping were referred to as Areas A and B (see **Figure 3**). The level reduction associated with the three southernmost houses was not monitored, as so little of archaeological interest was observed during the excavation of the foundation trenches.

The foundation trenches were excavated from north to south, starting with Trenches 11 and 12, which were excavated during the first phase of the watching brief. Those for external walls (Trenches 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12) measured 650 to 700mm wide, and were excavated with a toothed bucket, and those for internal walls measured 450 to 500mm wide (Trenches 1, 4, 7 and 9) and were excavated with a grading

bucket. The two longitudinal trenches (Trenches 2 and 5) measured 28.8m long, and the transverse trenches measured approximately 6m long. The trenches varied in depth between 1m (at the north end of the site) and 1.5m (at the south end).

Recording was undertaken using standard Avon Archaeology Limited paper records. All archaeological features and deposits were photographed and recorded. A small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material of 18th/19th century date was retrieved during topsoil stripping for the access road (Area B; see **Table of Finds**). Archaeological contexts were numbered consecutively from 100 (see **Table of Contexts**).

5.2 Detailed Observations

Foundation trenches (nos. 1 to 12 and including Area A)

Stratigraphy

The sequence of deposits observed was broadly similar throughout the site. The most recent deposit exposed in section consisted of a thin layer of powdery grey silty topsoil, with intermittent concrete fragments and scalplings, (Context 100), which formed the remains of the former concrete yard surface (removed during the initial phase of the Watching Brief, see **Plate c**), measuring up to 250mm thick towards the west end of the site. An intermittent layer of yellow sand (Context 101) was observed in the east-facing section of the baulk at the west end of the site, and probably constituted a make-up layer for the concrete yard surface. This overlay Context 113, a fine, dark grey silty loam deposit, containing frequent charcoal flecks and some lime and ceramic building material flecks and small stones. Rare post medieval (transfer printed ware) sherds were observed within this layer, but were not retained. Context 113 was observed over the southern half of the site only (Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10), extending to a maximum thickness of 550mm towards the western edge of the site.

At the southern end of Trench 2 and western end of Trench 10 (see **Plate d**), Context 113 overlay an isolated deposit of reddish brown friable material (Context 115), consisting of a silty loam matrix, containing frequent coal and clinker fragments, with rare post medieval pottery sherds (not retained) as above. This isolated lens was observed within Trenches 2 and 10 only, and reached a maximum thickness of 300mm within Trench 10.

The yellowish brown clay subsoil (Context 112) was observed over the southern part of the site only (Trenches 9 and 10; southern end of Trenches 2 and 5), and was overlain by Context 113. The subsoil was recorded at a maximum height of 300mm below the present ground surface at the eastern end of Trench 7 and attained a maximum thickness of 350 to 400mm at the southern end of Trench 5. The natural substrate was recorded in all twelve trenches, at a maximum height of some 300mm below the present ground surface towards the central part of Trench 2, and dipping down to over 1m below the present ground surface towards the southern end of the site (Trench 10). The upper layer of the natural substrate consisted of an orange clay, containing some brash (Context 102), which was recorded in all of the trenches and varied in thickness between 400mm (in Trench 5) and 850mm in Trench 2. The level reduction in Area A revealed this orange clay layer, with intermittent brash, over the totality of the stripped area (7m north-south by 7m east-west), at a depth of 530mm below the present ground surface (**Plate c**). This overlay, variously, Context 106, a firm clay layer, Context 107, a distinct brashy layer and Context 114, a marly clay. Context 107 was observed only within Trenches 4 and 6, and consisted of a distinct band of limestone brash, approximately 100mm thick, sealed by Context 102

and overlying Context 106. Context 106 was recorded in the base of the majority of the trenches and consisted of a clean grey clay, sometimes containing limestone brash, at depths varying between 800mm and 1.5m below the present ground surface. Context 114, a marly clay, varying between orange and yellowish grey in colour, was recorded intermittently in the base of Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8 and 10, at a minimum depth of 950mm below the present ground surface in Trench 5, and a maximum depth of 1.5m in Trenches 2 and 10. The natural limestone bedrock (Context 103) was observed intermittently in the base of Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12, at approximately 1m below the present ground surface, over the northern part of the excavated area.

Archaeological features

The only features observed during the watching brief were of relatively recent date, and consisted of two pipe trenches and one modern posthole. Cut 104 (**Plate e**) was recorded in Trenches 2 and 4, and consisted of the linear cut for a small modern plastic water pipe, aligned roughly south-west north-east, located approximately 12m south of the northern boundary of the site. The cut measured over 600mm long by 500mm wide and was between 200mm and 280mm deep, truncating the orange clay layer (Context 102). The cut was filled by Context 105, a dark grey/black smooth silty loam, overlain by Context 100, the topsoil layer.

Context 108 consisted of the cut for a 200mm diameter concrete water pipe, aligned south-west north-east and recorded within Trenches 2 and 7, at approximately 18m south of the northern site boundary. Cut 108 measured approximately 700mm maximum depth and was filled by Context 109, a dark grey clayey silt with some small stones and rare brick fragments. Context 109 was overlain by the topsoil and concrete layer (Context 100). The cut measured over 1.5m south-west north-east and further fragments of pipe were observed within Trench 6, to the north.

A small modern posthole, Context 110 (**Plate f**), was recorded towards the southern end of Trench 2, truncating the topsoil and concrete layer (Context 100). The posthole measured 400mm deep by 330mm wide and contained the remains of an in-situ wooden post or stake, 250mm long by 50mm diameter. The posthole was back-filled by Context 111, a yellowish brown silty clay loam with some tile fragments.

Area B

Topsoil stripping for the access road (Area B) revealed a considerable depth (up to 500mm) of agricultural/plough-soil, tapering towards the south, consisting of a silty clay loam (Context 116), which was observed over an area approximately 15m east-west by 20m north-south (**Plate b**). Context 116 overlay a limestone brash with clay subsoil (Context 117), similar to Context 107, observed in Trenches 4 and 6. Sherds and ceramic vessels of 18th/19th century date were retrieved from Context 116 (see **Summary of the Finds**, below).

6 Summary of the Finds (see Table of Finds, below)

A small assemblage of finds was retrieved during the Watching Brief, all dating from the 18th/19th centuries and all from Context 116, the build-up of agricultural soil observed during topsoil stripping for the access road (Area B, above). The majority of the finds were domestic ceramics and comprised two complete stoneware jars, one pearlware body sherd, one porcelaineous fabric plate sherd and two glazed redware sherds. Three ceramic tile sherds were also retrieved. One fragment of coal was

retrieved, but not retained.

Further 19th century (transfer printed ware) sherds were also observed within Contexts 113 (redeposited topsoil layer) and 115 (possible track make-up layer), but were not retained.

7 Discussion and Interpretation

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief. This is perhaps surprising, given the location of the study area within the probable core of the medieval settlement. One might have expected to find possible rubbish pits or other medieval settlement evidence located to the rear of buildings fronting the High Street. No evidence for boundary walls delineating medieval burgage plots, or even the boundary features recorded on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition of 1903 (above) were recorded. It is possible that the area was levelled for use as a farm yard in the recent past, thus removing any earlier deposits, and that dump material was brought in from elsewhere (hence the significant depth of made ground).

Significantly, no artefacts or deposits of earlier (prehistoric or Roman) date were recorded, suggesting either that the possible settlement in the area of Stalbridge (PRNs 15831, 15438, 53957) did not extend in the direction of Henstridge, or that any evidence for earlier settlement had been removed by later levelling activity (above).

The only artefacts retrieved are a small number of ceramics of 18th/19th century date, recovered from agricultural soil at the south-west corner of the site (Context 116).

The undisturbed natural substrate, consisting of a stiff orange clay, overlying brashy limestone or marly clay, was recorded at depths of between 300mm and 950mm below the present ground surface.

8 Summary and General Conclusions

The archaeological monitoring and recording exercise at Waverley Farm Court, Furge Lane, Henstridge revealed no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

No direct evidence for the existence of medieval occupation on the site, or of any earlier activity, in the form of structures, artefacts or deposits, was recorded during the Watching Brief. Modern activity was recorded, in the form of two pipe trenches, a posthole and levelling deposits. It is likely that evidence for any earlier activity on the site may have been removed by comparatively recent levelling of the farmyard, with subsequent dumping of imported material.

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Maps and Plans:

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10 Table of Contexts

Context Number	Location	Dimensions as recorded	Description
100	All trenches apart from Tr.1.	Entire excavated area (30m by 7m). Maximum thickness 250mm (north end of trench 2).	Mixed layer of topsoil with concrete fragments and scalplings, remnants of former yard surface.
101	North end of trench 2.	3-4m north-south by 80mm maximum thickness.	Layer of yellow sand, probable part of bedding for concrete yard surface.
102	All trenches and Area A.	Entire excavated area (30m north-south by 7m east-west). Minimum thickness 450mm (Trench 5); maximum thickness 800mm (Trench 2). Recorded at a maximum height of 300mm below present ground surface (Trench 2) and minimum height of 1m below present ground surface (Trench 10).	Orange clay layer with occasional brash, forming upper layer of natural substrate. See Plate c.
103	Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12.	Recorded intermittently in base of trenches over northern part of site only i.e. 13m north-south north-south by 7m east-west.	Brashy limestone bedrock, thickness unknown. Overlain by Context 106.
104	Trenches 2 and 4	Length >600mm; width 500mm; depth 200mm-280mm.	Cut for modern plastic water pipe, aligned south-west north-east, truncating Context 102. Filled by Context 105. See Plate e.
105	As above.	As above.	Fill of Cut 104, composed of very dark grey/black clayey silt, with some small stones and charcoal flecks. Contains black plastic water pipe, 30mm diameter. Overlain by topsoil (Context 100).
106	Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12.	Intermittently visible over entire excavated area i.e. 30m north-south by 7m east-west. Minimum recorded thickness: 100mm.	Firm clean grey clay, containing occasional limestone brash. Recorded at minimum height of 1.5m below present ground surface (Trenches 2 and 10) and a maximum height of 800mm below present ground surface (Trench 4).
107	Trenches 4 and 6	Over 4m north-south by over 2-3m east-west; up to 300mm thick.	Layer of limestone brash overlain by Context 102. Itself overlies Context 106.
108	Trenches 2 and 7 (pipe fragments also observed in Trench 6)	Length: 1.5m by 1.07m wide (at acute angle to cut) by maximum 700mm deep.	Cut for modern concrete water pipe trench, aligned south-west north-east. Filled by Context 109; truncates Context 113.
109	As above	As above	Fill of modern cut for concrete water pipe, consisting of dark grey/black clayey silt, with some small stones and rare brick fragments. Overlain by topsoil/yard surface (Context 100). Pipe itself is at a depth of

			600mm below present ground surface and measures 600mm diameter.
110	Trench 2, at junction with Trench 7	330mm east-west by 400mm deep	Cut for modern posthole, possibly truncating Context 100. Contains fill (Context 111). Flat-bottomed, shape in plan not known. See Plate f.
111	As above	As above.	Fill of modern posthole cut (Context 110). Consists of yellowish brown silty clay loam, with charcoal flecks and some tile fragments. Wooden post/stake in-situ, 250mm long by 50mm diameter.
112	Trenches 2, 5, 9 and 10	Over southern and eastern part of site only, approximately 12m north-south by 7m east-west. Minimum thickness of 200mm in Trench 9 and at junction of trenches 5 and 7, increasing to a maximum of 350mm-400mm at west end of Trench 10 and south end of Trench 5.	Yellowish brown clay subsoil with rare charcoal flecks, occasional small stones. Overlain by Context 113. Itself overlies Context 102.
113	Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (i.e. southern half of site)	Approximately 12m north-south by 7m east-west by maximum depth of 550mm at south end of Trench 2. Tapers away to north	Dark grey/black silty loam topsoil layer, probably redeposited, containing charcoal flecks, ceramic building material flecks, lime flecks and small stones. Rare transfer printed ware sherds observed, but not retrieved. Overlain by modern topsoil layer (Context 100). Itself overlies make-up layer (Context 115).
114	Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8 and 10	Intermittently over an area approximately 12m north-south by 7m east-west by over 100mm thick.	Marly clay, varying orange/yellowish grey in colour, visible in base of trenches. Overlain by Context 102. Variant of natural substrate (see also Context 106).
115	Trenches 2 and 10	3.2m east-west by 2.3m north-south. Maximum thickness 300mm (to west), tapers away to east.	Band of compacted dumped material, consisting of dark reddish brown friable silty loam matrix, with frequent coal and charcoal flecks and some burnt material (?clinker). Also contains rare post medieval transfer printed ware sherds – not retained. Possible track make-up, or levelling layer. See Plate d.
116	Area B	15m east-west by 20m north-south, by 500mm thick	Silty clay loam probable ploughsoil, containing 19 th century pottery. See Plate b.
117	Area B	15m east-west by 20m north-south, by unknown thickness	Limestone brash in orange clay matrix, similar to Context 107. See Plate b.

11 Table of Finds

Context	Material	Count	Weight	Description
116	Pottery	6	664g.	Brown metallic glazed stoneware ink bottle, dark grey fabric, measures 160mm high, with pouring lip, stamped "...ATT/... NOTT/...GEY MILL". Probable Nottingham/Derbyshire type stoneware, dated 18 th /19 th century (Gutierrez 2007, 633); Salt-glazed white stoneware jar, 670mm high, external diameter 620mm, dated 18 th /19 th century (Gutierrez 2007, 633); Plain white china (pearlware) body sherd, late 18 th /19 th century (Gutierrez 2007, 630); Moulded porcelainous fabric shell-edged plate rim sherd with hand-painted decoration, dated 19 th century (Gutierrez 2007, 630); Two miscellaneous glazed redware sherds (probable Somerset redware), dated late 18 th /19 th century (Gutierrez 2007, 629).
116	Ceramic building material	3	76g.	Three post medieval ceramic tile sherds (one of which is glazed).
116	Coal	1	34g.	1 small fragment of coal (not retained).

Plates



a) General view of study site from west, before excavation, showing concrete yard surface, barns in centre rear of frame and ground sloping down to east.



b) Area B from east, showing depth of agricultural soil (116) and natural clay with brush layer (117). Scales: 2 x 1m.



c) Area A from south-west, after removal of concrete, showing natural orange clay (102) and boundary wall to north.



d) North-facing section, west end of Trench 10, showing make-up layers (113) and (115), overlying subsoil (112) and natural clay (102). Scales: 1 x 1m; 1 x 500mm.



e) Modern water pipe trench, Cut 104, from west, Trench 2. Scales: 2 x 1m. Also shows natural clay (102).



f) Modern post-hole, Cut 110, from west, Trench 2. Scales: 2 x 1m. Also shows natural clay (102).

Figure 3



Plan showing location of Trenches 1 to 12, Areas A and B and modern features recorded. Scale as shown.

