

SPODE COTTAGE PUBLIC HOUSE
RUGELEY ROAD, ARMITAGE
STAFFORDSHIRE

BUILDING RECORDING

CLIENT: Mr and Mrs P Smith

June 2018

REPORT NO. CA138/HMB/smith
OASIS REF. commerci1-317506

PREPARED BY HELEN MARTIN-BACON, PRINCIPAL HERITAGE
CONSULTANT, MCIFA.



This report has been prepared by Commercial Archaeology Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence in accordance with the terms of the contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Commercial Archaeology Ltd accepts no responsibility of whatever kind to third parties to whom this report may be made known. This document has been prepared with the best data made available at the time of the survey. It is not possible to guarantee the accuracy of secondary data provided by another party or source.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the standards and guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Copyright of this document is held by Commercial Archaeology Ltd and has been prepared for use by the Client for all reasonable use and for the purpose of this project.

SPODE COTTAGE, ARMITAGE, STAFFORDSHIRE
BUILDING RECORDING REPORT – CA138/HMB/smith

Site name: Spode Cottage, Armitage

OASIS reference: commerci1-317506

Location: Rugeley Road, Armitage, Staffordshire NGR SK073163



Figure 1. Location map, Spode Cottage

Report Summary: Planning permission (17/00519/COU) was granted by Lichfield District Council for the conversion of Spode Cottage Public House to residential use. Following advice from Staffordshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist a condition has been imposed by Lichfield District Council to carry out a programme of level 1 building recording prior to conversion work commencing.

A heritage statement was prepared (DB-P March 2017) which assessed the building as follows: -



Due to extensive late 20th century alterations and additions the site has low archaeological interest. The remaining historic fabric is of medium architectural and historic interest due to the extensive alterations which are themselves of no interest. The site and building has no artistic interest.

Therefore, a programme of level 1 building recording was deemed a proportionate response to discharge the condition. The building recording survey was undertaken in accordance with the Historic England volume 'Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice (HE 2016).

The latter document defines a level 1 building recording survey as a basic visual record to identify the building's location, age and type and is sometimes undertaken to contribute to a wider aim. Level 1 surveys are generally of exteriors although inspection of significant interior features can be undertaken.

Project Aims and Methodology

The overarching project aim is to record the historic core of the building in advance of commencement of works associated with the proposed change of use.

The specific project objectives to be addressed by this building recording are:

- To identify and record evidence of the original layout of the building (including the roof space)
- Record rooms to be affected by the proposed scheme
- Identify and record any additional information on phasing and evidence for any historic fixtures and fittings.

Building Recording Methodology

In accordance with the description of a level 1 survey as defined in Historic England's volume 'Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice (HE 2016) the methodology applied at Spode Cottage Public House comprised a basic visual record supplemented by sufficient information to enable identification of the building's location, age and type.

The survey consisted of external photographs and internal photographs with particular emphasis on architectural or historic features which may be lost as a result of conversion works.

Recording consisted of:

- Annotation of existing floor plans;
- An overall photographic survey of the buildings in their present condition comprising general and detailed shots of the exterior of the building and interior shots of rooms and significant/historic features;
- A photographic record comprising SLR colour, digital shots supplemented by black and white 35mm shots;



- Written notes on the building's construction, present and former use and layout.
- HER and Cartographic research to set the building into context have been drawn from the Heritage Statement (D Burton-Pye 2017)

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a), and Standard and Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (CIfA 2014b). All works conformed to Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (HE 2015a).

Reporting Methodology For ease of reference the following naming conventions have been used to identify the different areas of Spode Cottage Public House (see Plate 1 for labelling). For Room number location please refer to Appendices 1 and 2

- Eastern Bay - 19th century addition - Comprising Rooms 1, 8 and 9
- Central Bay – eastern wing of 17th century building – comprising rooms 2 and 7
- Western Bay – western wing of 17th century building – comprising rooms 3 and 7
- 19th century single story addition – comprising room 4
- Gable end south wing – comprising room 5

All written, drawn and photographic material arising from the building recording survey will form the site archive and will be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery (PMAG) under a unique accession number. The site archive will be prepared in accordance with established professional guidelines and with the PMAG guidelines for the preparation and presentation of archaeological archives and conditions for the acceptance of archaeological material from excavations and fieldwork.

The Staffordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist will be notified in writing when the site archive has been deposited with the recipient museum.

All digital records will be securely stored in an appropriate format which can be maintained in perpetuity in their original form and in line with current best practice as laid down in *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown, D 2007).

A hard copy and digital copy of this report will be submitted to the client, to the Staffordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist and the Staffordshire HER.

The building recording at Spode Cottage Public House has been registered with OASIS under the reference number – commerc1-317506.



Historic Background

The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record has two entries (PRN 136011 AND PRN 52638) for the site and buildings known as Spode Cottage Public House. It records the building as *'a listed 17th century timber framed farmhouse which is now used as a restaurant'*.

The earliest identification of a building on the site is shown on the Tithe Map (Figure 2) and associated Award for Armitage with Handsacre (1841) – (Stafford record office document number D5903/2/1) and was known as *Lower Lodge Farm*. Although considerably altered by 20th century additions, much of the original fabric remains and represents a good example of a 17th century timber framed building.

Spode Cottage has fulfilled a number of roles during its history and information from the archives via the *"May Grimley Collection"* contains an article by a local historian (Collection number 4817). From this archive The Heritage Impact Statement (D Burton-Pye March 2017) references that the building possibly served as a boarding school around 1851 run by a Miss Catherine Whiteford however this should be treated with some caution as this conflicts with the description in the Tithe Award 7 years later. By 1872 Thomas Hollins was farming at Lower Lodge and by 1900 the property was owned by Rev. E Samson who sold it to Mr Bartelett in 1917. It also references that in 1943 the army took over Lower Lodge farm for billeting purposes after which it was then used as storage by the army. Around 1946 Mr Smith opened it as *"Ye Old Farm Café"* and later renamed it *"The Coaching Station"*. It then continued to serve as a café until it was taken over by Mr and Mrs Speight who named it *"The Old Farmhouse"*. It continued as a restaurant until the 1980's since which time it has remained vacant.

Cartographic Evidence

The earliest Cartographic evidence, 1841 Tithe Map, shows a plan form which is in line with the planform we see today. However, by 1884 the northern elevation had been added to by an extension on its west bay, this outline then continues until 1961 when it returns to its 1841 shape clearly showing the east and west porches. This is a result of its development from a farm to a restaurant and its various uses during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is also shown that the series of outbuildings to the south and west of the 17th century building has changed with only one building remaining.



Figure 2 1841 Tithe Map Armitage with Handsacre; detail of Lower Lodge Farm, Staffordshire Records Office, Doc No D/5903/2/1

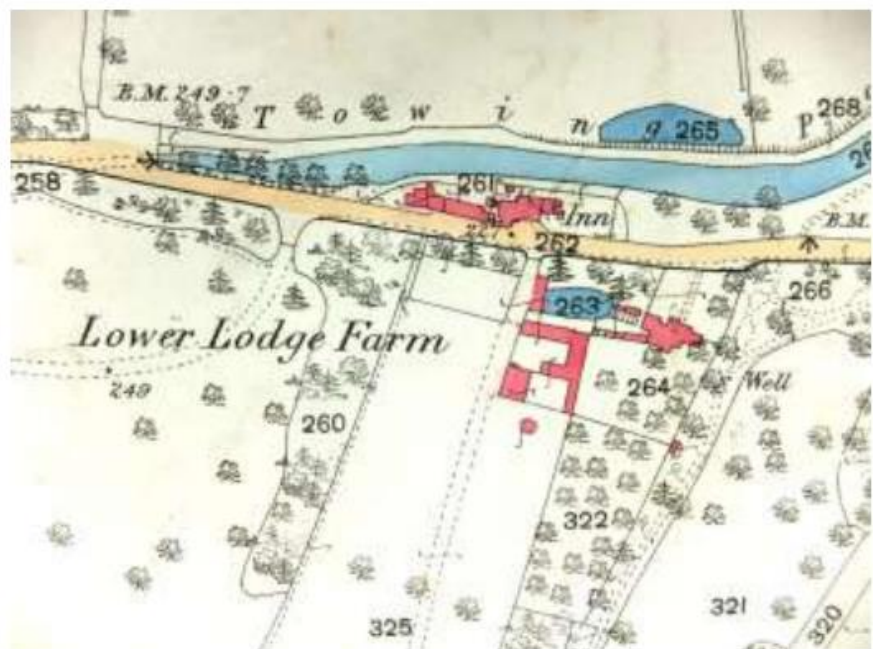


Figure 3 First edition Ordnance Survey 1884 Sheet number XLVI.13

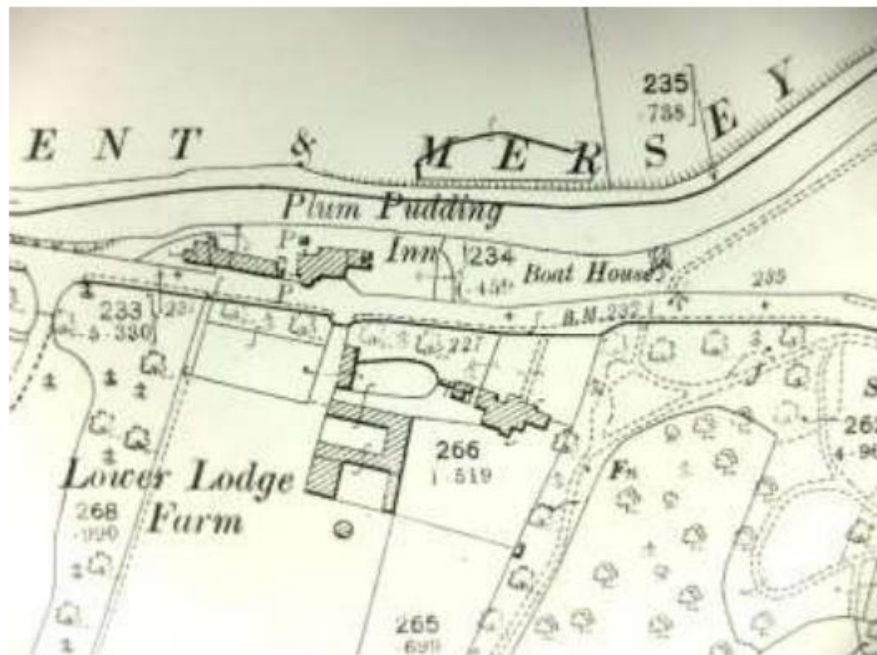
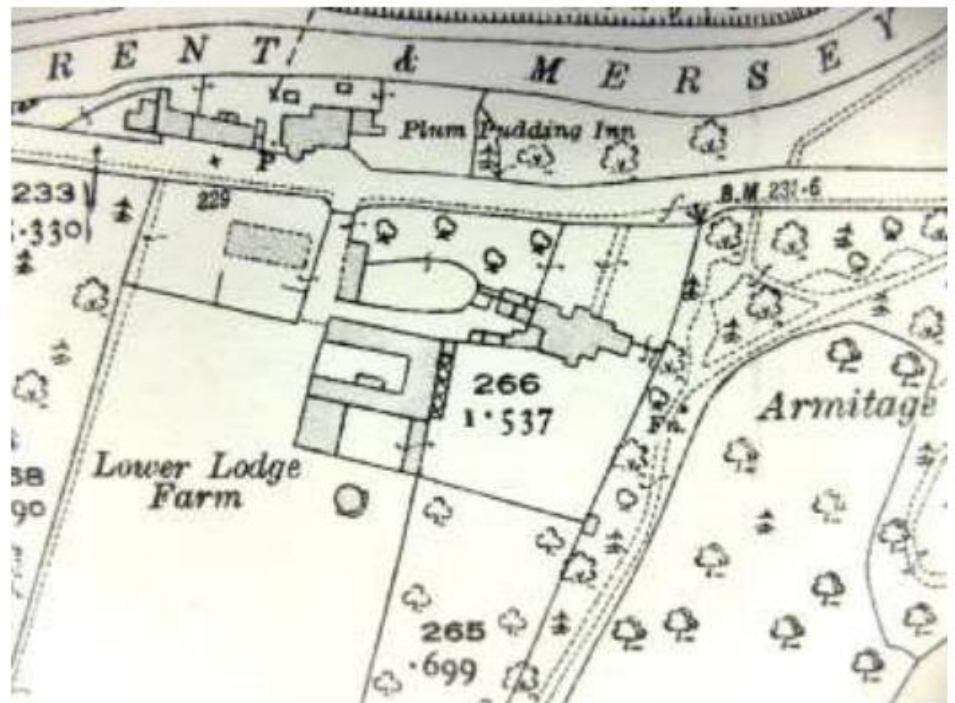


Figure 4 Second edition Ordnance Survey 1902 Sheet number XLVI.13



F Figure 5 Third edition Ordnance Survey 1924 Sheet number XLVI.13

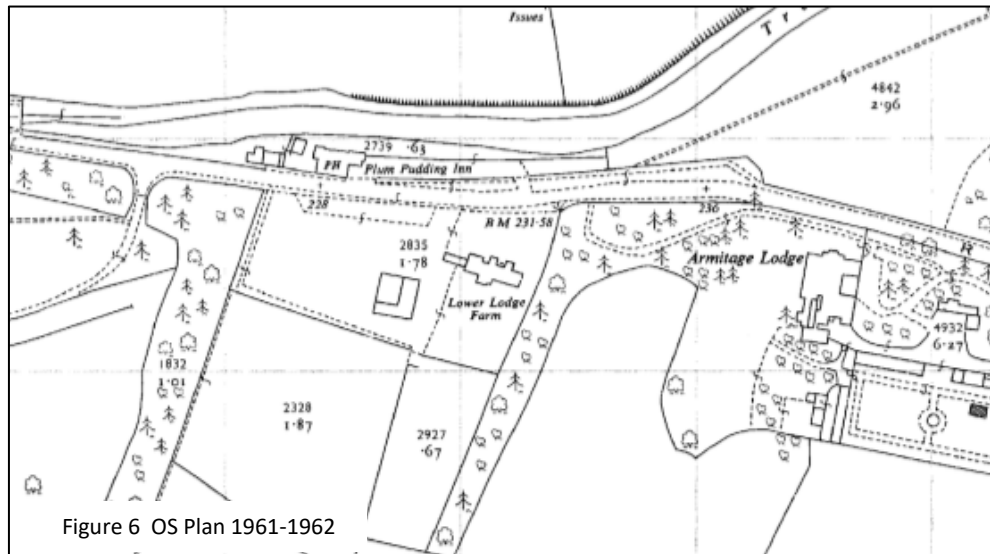


Figure 6 OS Plan 1961-1962

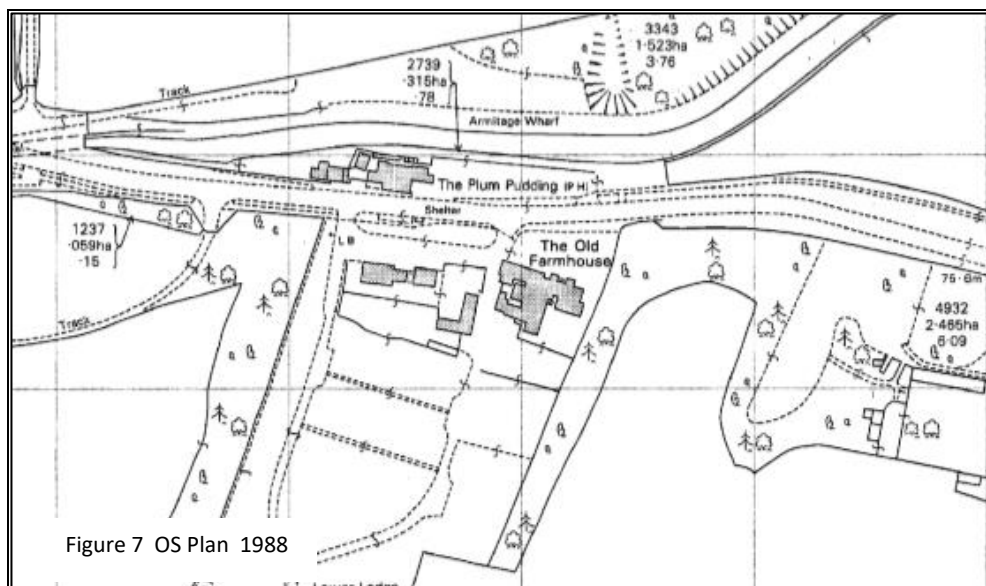


Figure 7 OS Plan 1988

Site description The site is situated on the Rugeley Road in the village of Armitage in the county of Staffordshire. The 17th century building is aligned approximately east to west with its front elevation facing north. It is adjoined on its western elevation by a single-story building aligned east to west, its front elevation facing north. The 17th century building is adjoined on its south elevation by a substantial 20th century extension comprising the now vacant restaurant with adjoining carpark to the rear.

To the south of the site is the Lower Lodge Mobile Homes Park. On the opposite side of the Rugeley Road to the north of the cottage is the Trent and Mersey Canal. The site is bordered on the east by a brick wall with sandstone foundations behind which



Exterior

are mature trees. To the west of the site is an L-shaped barn, originally part of Lower Lodge Farm with a tarmac car park to its north.

Spode Cottage comprises a two-story building with three bays, it is adjoined on its western side by a single-story brick building – a later addition of most likely 19th century date. The north elevation of Spode Cottage Public House is fronted by gardens through which a pathway leads from sandstone gate piers off the pavement of the Rugeley Road to the entrance of the cottage which is located in the 17th century part of the building.

The north elevation of Spode Cottage Public House comprises two main phases of construction. The eastern bay comprises a 19th century brick built two story extension whilst the central and western bays represent the 17th century building where boxed timber framing is visible. The eastern bay looks like a later addition and is probably contemporary with the addition of the long single-story building on the western side of the 17th century building. In addition, the northern elevation of the building is adjoined by two gabled porches which are contemporary with the construction of the 19th century eastern bay/extension and which partially obscure the timber framed elevation of the 17th century building.

A covered area between the porches consists of a sloping slate roof and vertical timber supports which cover a later 19th century entrance to the western bay 17th century building.

Cartographic evidence suggests that originally the 17th century building had a cross gable extending from the rear of its western bay (Figure 2). This is confirmed externally by the presence of the upper part of the south wing and confirms that the 17th century building was L-shaped in plan. The south wing is still in existence by 1924 (Figure 5) but by 1988 it has been incorporated into the 20th century restaurant extension (Figure 7). The first-floor gable end is now only partially visible (Plate 2) as the south and west elevations of the building are now extensively obscured by later 20th century additions. Any remaining historic features are not visible.

The chimney, which is brick built is possibly a 19th century replacement to any earlier 17th chimney. It is possible that the brick-built chimney represents two phases of building activity, with the base of the current stack forming the first phase and the stacks above forming an upward extension. This may have been done to improve the down draft.

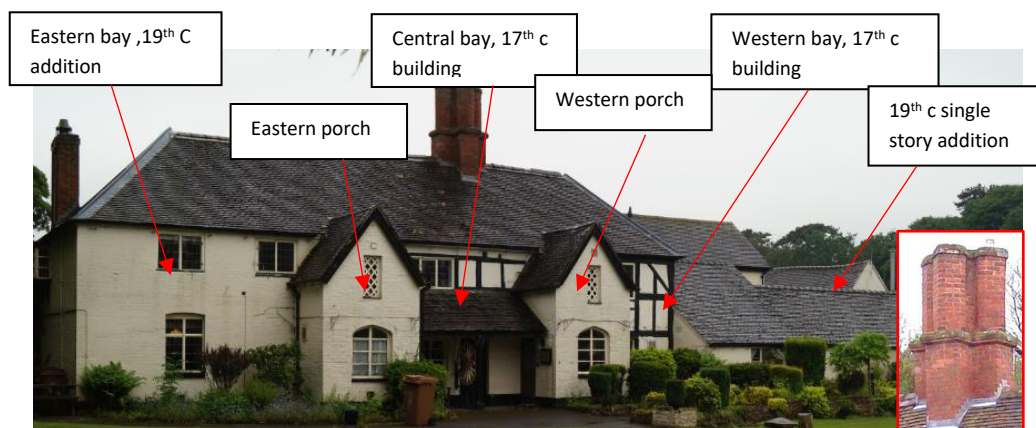


Plate 1. North elevation



Plate 2. South elevation showing substantial 20th century additions

Interior Description

Ground Floor On the front elevation of the 17th century building there is an entrance via the western porch which gives access to the western side of the 17th century building. The doorway looks likely to be the original entrance to the building as the timbers look to be authentic (Plate 12). The doorway leads directly onto the significant, centrally located chimney stack and forms a “baffle” entry with the stairs located on the opposite side of the central stack.

Room 1 Room one which represents the 19th century brick-built extension (eastern bay) has been significantly changed by 20th century additions with none of the original fabric visible. There is a replica fire place (Plate 4) and the windows are later replacements. Modern replica timber framed doorways lead through to the 17th century part of the building (Plate 5) and give access to the eastern porch which was being used as an area to store cleaning items. No early fabric was visible in the eastern porch (Plate 6).



Plate 3. Room 1 in eastern bay shows 20th century additions



Plate 4. Replica fire surround



Plate 5. Room 1 doorway to original 17th century building from 19th century addition (eastern bay)



Plate 6. Eastern porch

Room 2

Room 2 forms the eastern bay of original the 17th century building. The chimney stack is located on its western side and has had modern refurbishments represented by new brickwork and the insertion of a replica, 19th century oven (Plate 8) . The main axial beam has been boarded over. The black and red quarry tiled floor is likely to be part of a 19th century refurbishment. (Plate 7)

The doorway in the north elevation of room two is likely to be a later addition to form a new main entrance to the 17th century building. Given its location towards the centre of the front elevation of the 17th century building it is likely that it replaced the original main entrance made obsolete by the addition of the western porch (Plate 9).



Plate 7. View of room 3 showing original front entrance



Plate 8. Central chimney stack located in room 7 of 17th century building.



Plate 9. Later 19th century entrance in north elevation of 17th century building

Room 3 Access from Room 2 to 3 is gained by a passage on the north side of the chimney stack, Room 3 forms the western bay of the 17th century building. This passage also gives access to the 19th century, western porch which adjoins the north elevation of the cottage. In recent times the porch housed the main entrance to the modern restaurant. There was little existing historic fabric visible in the western porch apart from what looks likely to be the original timbers of the door frame that formed the original entrance to the 17th century building (Plate 12).

Room 3 is extensively covered by later additions; the fireplace appears to be original but has been painted and a brick façade inserted (Plate 11). The ovolo mouldings on the inner edge of the stone fire surround match that of the wooden beam over the fire opening and the main axial beam is visible and aligned west-east (Plate 13). The exposed timber framing forming the south partition of Room 3 had been re-used as evidenced by the presence of mortices and peg holes that did not align with the beams and studs (see Plate 14).



Plate 10. Doorway showing original timbers in passageway linking Room 2 to 3



Plate 11. Room 3 fireplace and timbers showing modern brick insert



Plate 12. Western porch - original timbers of original 17th century entrance visible



Plate 13. Room 3 axial beam visible, likely to be original.



Plate 14. Re-used exposed timber partition in Room 3

Room 4

Room 4 makes up the 19th century, single story building adjoining the west elevation of the 17th century building. It had been used as an office and tap room and preserved no historic fabric or fixtures and fittings. (Plates 15 and 16).



Plate 15. Room 4 – office use



Plate 16. Room 4 – tap room

Staircase

The staircase gave access to the first floor and was located to the south of the central chimney stack in the south elevation of the 17th century building. The stairs are not original to the 17th century building as they appear to bear no signs of age and could be 19th century or even later.

First Floor

Room 5

Room 5 – which is part of the 17th century building represents the first-floor room of the original 17th century south-wing (incorporated at ground level into the modern restaurant extension). There was no evidence of any historic fabric visible in room 5. (Plate 17). The remainder of rooms accessed via a hallway in the western bay, from the 20th century extension.



Plate 17. Room 5 – bedroom in south wing of western bay, no historic fabric is visible

Room 6

Room 6 had extensive timber framing in situ visible on the western wall. The stone fire surround may have been an original and has a modern gas fire inserted (Plate 19).

The large central chimney stack between Rooms 6 and 7 is constructed of large sandstone blocks surmounted by corbelled brickwork (Plate 20). The brickwork was most likely a 19th century addition to the 17th century stone stack. A narrow door located to the side of the upper part of the exposed chimney stack gives access to the roof void which contains the original roof beam (Plate 21).



Plate 18. Room 6 showing original timbers



Plate 19. Room 6 fire surround, possible later addition with modern fire inserted



Plate 20. North side of chimney stack in passageway between rooms 6 and 7



21. Doorway to roof void on northern side of chimney stack



Plate 22. Northern side of chimney stack showing later brick corbelling

- Room 7** Room 7 which is located in the central bay of Spode Cottage Public House and forms the western side of the 17th century building, is accessed by passing the central chimney stack on its north side through an opening/hallway (Plate 20). The east wall of this room was the end wall of the 17th century building and any timber framing that still exists is completely obscured by modern decoration and repairs. (Plate 24).
- Room 8** Room 8 is the first of the rooms which forms the eastern bay of Spode Cottage Public House and represents the later 19th century addition to the 17th century building. Partially visible in Room 8 is the base of a truss and tie beam which formed the original roof timbers. Although truncated by a modern false ceiling the original timbers show that the 17th century roof construction was of King post design. (see Plate 23) On all other walls of the room the original framing is obscured behind modern decoration .
- Room 9** Room 9 is the second of the rooms which forms the eastern bay of Spode Cottage Public House. Of some interest, is a window in the eastern elevation of Room 9 with characteristic 19th century splay reveals, the window itself is probably a later replacement (Plate 25). An adjoining wing to the south elevation of Room 9 is part of the 20th century additions and comprises a dressing room with en-suite and is of no historical interest (Plate 2).



Plate 23. Room 8, truss and tie beam truncated by modern ceiling



Plate 24. Room 7 – 20th century additions obscuring any historic features



Plate 25 Room 9 - 19th century window with 19th century splay reveals



Plate 26. 20th Century additions comprising dressing room and ensuite

Conclusion:

Spode Cottage although greatly altered by 20th century additions still retains significant historic features from the original 17th century building. Its origins were as a two bay, two story farm house with an impressive central chimney stack. Its plan form was originally L-shaped with a characteristic baffle entrance typical of 17th century vernacular buildings.

During its life as a farm in the 1800's if not also the 1700's there were a series of outbuildings to the south and west of Spode Cottage as evidenced by the Tithe Map of 1841 (Figure 2). The outbuildings were in existence up to 1924 as seen on the 1924 OS Map (Figure 5), however, by 1961 (Figure 6) they had largely except for the L-shaped barn which is in existence today. It is possible that the proximity of the Trent and Mersey Canal from at least the mid-18th century gave impetus to the growth and expansion of the farm from its 17th century origins.

It is shown from the map evidence that the northern elevation has undergone various changes in outline, the 1841 Tithe Map shows an outline consistent with the current planform, with the two gabled porches and the eastern bay of the building being in existence by that date (Figure 2). However, over the subsequent years the map evidence indicates that the northern elevation of the original 17th century building could have extended outwards at the west end (see Figures 3, 4 and 5). Interestingly this is evidenced at the western end of the northern elevation by a series of horizontally placed openings that may have contained trusses to support an extension.



It is not until the 1961 OS Map (Figure 6) that the outline of the northern elevation of Spode Cottage changes back to that depicted on the 1841 Tithe map. This is also the current layout/planform.

There is evidence from the 1884 OS map (Figure 3) that a large pond existed to the west of 19th century one story addition, this has now disappeared under a modern car park. There was no direct evidence observed pointing to any of its former uses as a school, café or billeting.

Despite extensive modern alternations and extensions, Spode Cottage Public House retains significant elements of the 17th century timber-framed farm house which is a good example of local vernacular architecture.



References:

SCC 2018, Specification for a Level 1 Building Recording Former Spode Cottage Public House, Rugeley Road, Armitage. Staffordshire County Council.

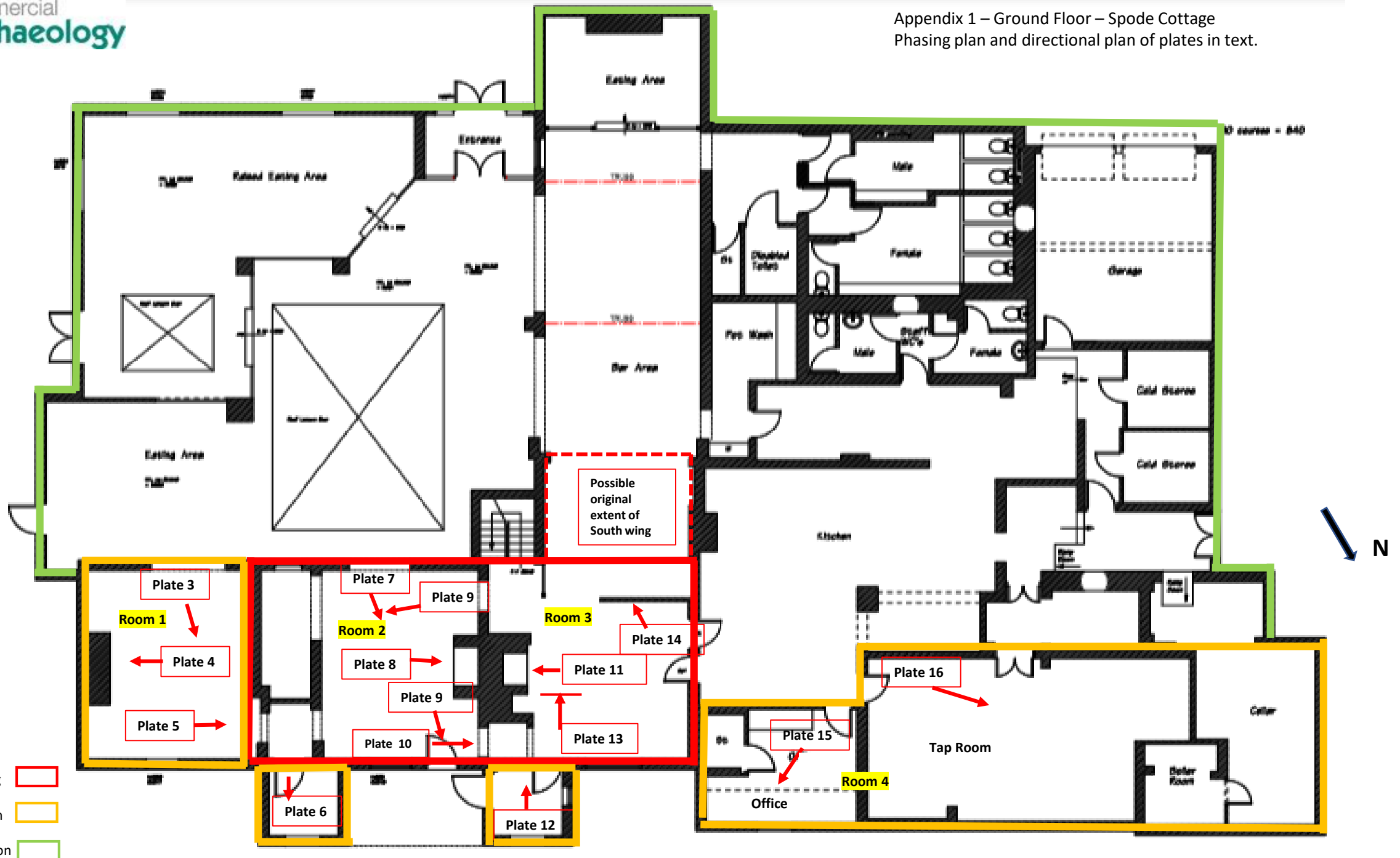
HIA 2017, Heritage Assessment/Statement of Significance Spode Cottage. David Burton-Pye.

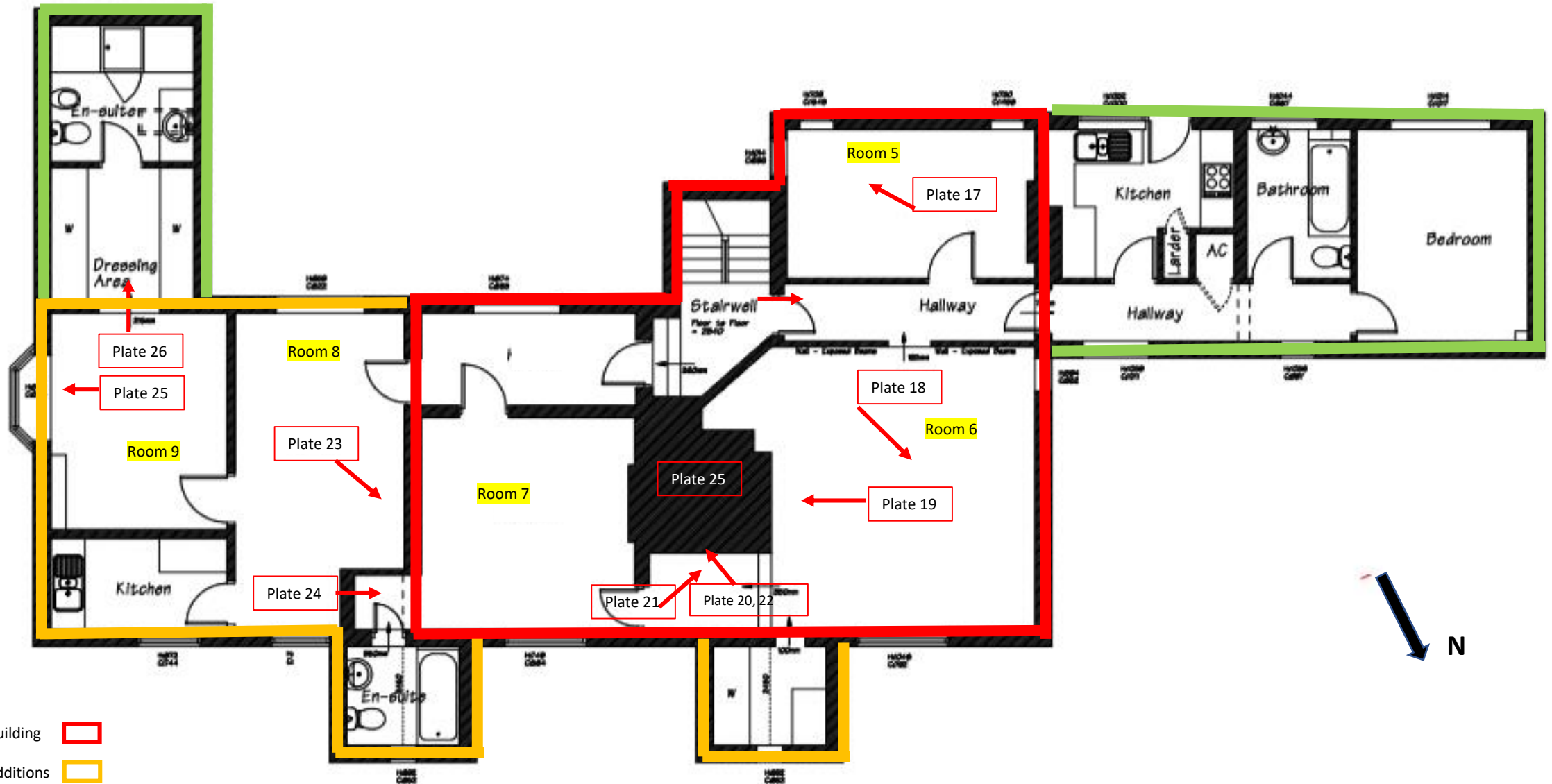
HE 2015a MoRPHE, Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment.

CIfA 2014a, Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Code of Conduct.

CIFA 2014b, Standard and Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.

R W Brunskill 1971, Vernacular Architecture.





Key:
17th century building
19th century additions
20th century extension

Appendix 3: Staffordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record

Activity and Source Submission Form

Submission date -
Site Activity or Event
Name of event (eg. Watching Brief at The Blue Boar, Ipstones.)
Level 1 Building Recording at Spode Cottage Public House
Location of event (eg. The Blue Boar P.H. Overton Lane, Ipstones.)
Spode Cottage, Rugeley Road, Armitage, Staffordshire
NGR <input type="text" value="sk 07301634"/>
Civil Parish
Armitage
Brief Description of event (eg. Watching brief during cellar alterations and renovation, prior to conversion to residential use.)
Building recording prior to conversion to residential use
<p>"Activity Type(s)" (highlight as appropriate) <i>Air Photography / Evaluation-trial excavation / Field Walking / Measured survey-drawing / Geophysical survey / Archaeological excavation-full / Archaeological excavation-part / Field survey / Photogrammetric survey / Rectified photo survey / Photographic record / AP interpretation / Salvage-rescue excavation / Watching brief / Environmental sampling / Post-excavation analysis / Documentary research</i></p> <p>Commencement date (eg. 01-May-1978)</p>
30.05.2018
Completion date (eg. 02-Sept-1983)
06.06.2018
Organisation or contractor details (organisation name, address, telephone, e-mail etc.)
Commercial Archaeology Limited 1 Dairyhouse Lane, Dilhorn, Staffs. ST10 2PW 01782 551770 07799 332112
Report Details
Date
June 2018
Type of document (highlight as appropriate) <i>Written / Photographic / Cartographic / Drawn</i>
Title
CA138/HMB/smith
Author(s)
Helen Martin-Bacon
Brief summary of contents
Level 1 building recording
<p>Brief description of document (eg. Written text with illustrations, bibliography and references. Appendices dealing with environmental sampling. 32 pages. etc.)</p> <p>Written text with photographs, cartographic material, appendices with phased plans and references</p>
Cross references to Staffordshire SMR (if applicable please list Primary record numbers)
n/a



HERITAGE SERVICES:

- Constraints reports for land acquisition.
- Desk-Based Assessments.
- Heritage Impact Assessments.
- Heritage Statements and Assessment of Significance.
- Listed Building and Scheduled Monument Consents.
- Historic Landscape Assessments.
- Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
- Historic Building Recording.
- Setting Assessments.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES:

- Project Management and Set Up.
- Preparation of Methodologies.
- Scoping and negotiation with LPAs
- Preparation of Mitigation Strategies.
- Preparation of WSIs.
- Full range of Fieldwork Services.
- Consultancy and Advice.
- Preparation of Risk Assessments.
- PR & CSR/Public Outreach.

Contact Helen Martin-Bacon MCifA, Director, Commercial Archaeology
Helen@commercialarchaeology.co.uk
www.commercialarchaeology.co.uk

Office: 01782 551770
Mobile: 07799 332112