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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological strip, map and  
sample excavation at Lower Farm,  
The Green, Great Wolford,  
Shipston-on-Stour,  
Warwickshire.**

**NGR: SP 2496 3479**

Andrew Hyam



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Lower Farm, The Green, Great Wolford,  
Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire**

**NGR: SP 2496 3479**

**Andrew Hyam**

**For: Mr David Pearson**

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: .....04.02.2013.

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## **An Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation at Lower Farm, The Green, Great Wolford, Shipston-on Stour, Warwickshire.**

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### **Summary**

*An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Lower Farm, The Green, Great Wolford, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. The work took place between the 9th and 11th of October 2012 during the preparation and groundworks for a single tennis court in the grounds to the north of Lower Farm. The site lies in an open paddock on the northern edge of the historic village core of Great Wolford.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the strip, map and sample excavation.*

*The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museums Service under Accession Number T/1190*

### **Introduction**

In accordance with NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) this document forms the report for an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at Lower Farm, The Green, Great Wolford, Warwickshire, NGR SP 2496 3479. Planning permission has been granted for change of use of land and the erection of a tennis court with surrounding fencing (Planning Application Number 12/00936/FUL). Prior to development the land was used as an open paddock located to the north of Lower Farm. Because of the site location near to the core of the historic village one of the planning permission conditions stipulated by Stratford-on-Avon District Council was that an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation took place during the initial groundwork.

### **Background**

The village of Great Wolford lies approximately 5 km north-east of Moreton-in-Marsh and 7 km to the south of Shipston-on-Stour and is approximately 3 km to the east of the Roman Fosse Way (Fig. 1). It is in the south-western corner of Warwickshire. Lower Farm is located on the northern edge of the small village and is to the north-west of the 12th century village church, which lies on the eastern edge of the village. The proposed tennis court is centred on National Grid Reference SP 2496 3479 which is located in a paddock to the north of Lower Farm (Fig. 2). The paddock area is level but has a slight slope down to the north end of the site (Fig. 3).

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows the paddock virtually as it exists to the present day. A small rectangular structure is visible near to the south-east

corner of the tennis court site on this edition which survives until at least 1955. By the time of the 1979 edition this has been replaced by a rectangular structure which is still present and is not affected by the development. To the south-east of the site a double banked earthwork curves around the eastern edge of the village (MWA 1837). This does not extend as far as the site but, if the curve of the existing earthworks was projected beyond its northern end, it might once have extended around to the south-west across the northern end of the paddock. It is likely that this feature is from the medieval period. There are a number of isolated findspots identified in the HER but nothing has been found within the development area (Appendix 2).

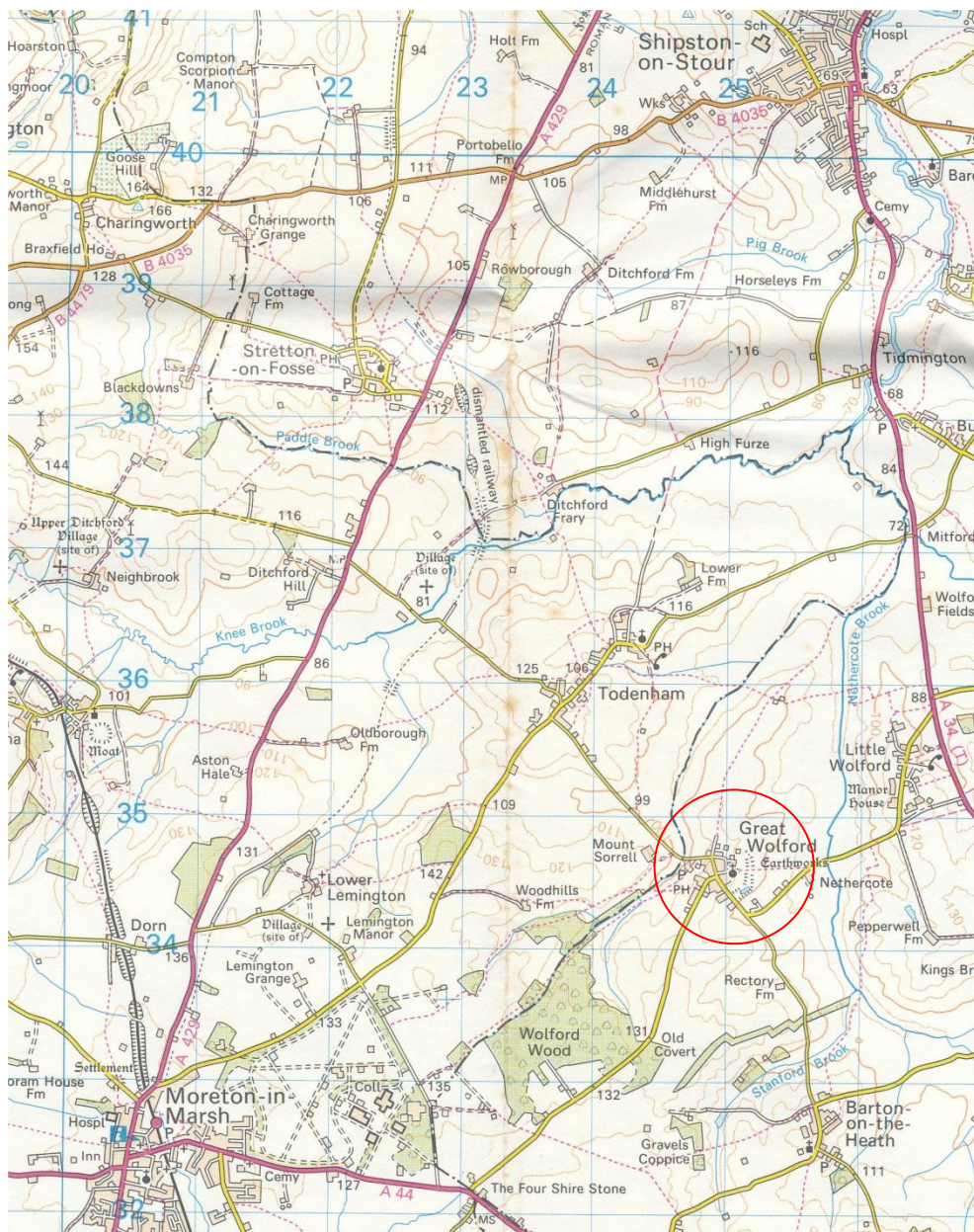


Figure 1 Site location  
Ordnance Survey licence no. AL100029495



Figure 2 Tennis court location  
Plan supplied by client

## Objectives

The main objectives of the strip, map and sample excavation can be summarised as:

- To identify the presence/absence of any or archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## **Methodology**

A tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to reduce the ground within the footprint of the proposed tennis court. A formation depth of between 0.2m and 0.35m was required for the court surface. Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the top of the subsoil. The subsoil was then removed down to the required formation depth or to top of natural whichever was first. All spoil was scanned for finds and other archaeological artefacts.

The foundation trench was examined by hand cleaning and any deposits located would be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

Sections of any excavated archaeological features would be drawn at an appropriate scale. The groundworks were recorded on standard ULAS pro-forma recording sheets noting soil depths and descriptions. Any drawn sections of archaeological features, if found, would be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum.

All deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. The recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS WSI. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological excavations* (2008).

## **Results**

Machine stripping was started in the north-western corner of the site removing the mid-brown sandy-silt topsoil which had a very fine consistency with a few small rounded stones. In this corner the topsoil was 0.32m in depth on top of a mid-orange brown silty-sand subsoil. A small exploratory excavation at this point indicated that the subsoil had a thickness of approximately 0.3m. As the topsoil was removed across the site its thickness reduced to 0.28m at the southern end. Further trial excavations by hand indicated that the subsoil had a consistent depth of 0.3m across the court area.

After measurement of levels and calculations of required formation depth it was decided that only the south-western half of the proposed court would need to be reduced in depth. To obtain the correct levels the remaining northern half would be built up using some of the subsoil removed from the south. Under this method only small areas of the natural substratum were seen. The natural consisted of a mid-brown orange silty-sand with small areas of gravel. A barrier membrane of geo-textile was to be laid over this followed by a stone layer.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed.



Figure 3 Tennis court site before commencement of work  
Looking south. Lower Farm behind trees on right. Court area beneath vehicles.



Figure 4 Initial topsoil strip  
Looking north-east.





Figure 5 Tennis court after topsoil strip  
Looking south. 1.5m scale



Figure 6 Southern area subsoil reduction  
Looking east. 1.5m scale

## **Discussion**

Despite the reasonable potential for locating archaeological features or deposits none was located during this strip, map and sample excavation. No finds were recovered during the topsoil strip and subsoil reduction. Because of the shallow formation depth only a small proportion of the subsoil was removed and which has left a protective layer over the natural substratum.

## **Archive**

The archive consists of:

This report,

2 pro-forma recording forms,

1 photo record sheet, combined for colour digital and 35mm black and white,

1 contact sheet of 12 35mm black and white photographs,

35mm black and white negatives,

1 contact sheet of 19 digital photographs,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographs.

## **Publication**

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in West Midlands Archaeology in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

## **Bibliography**

Brown, D. 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Warwickshire Museum. 2012. *Generic Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines*.

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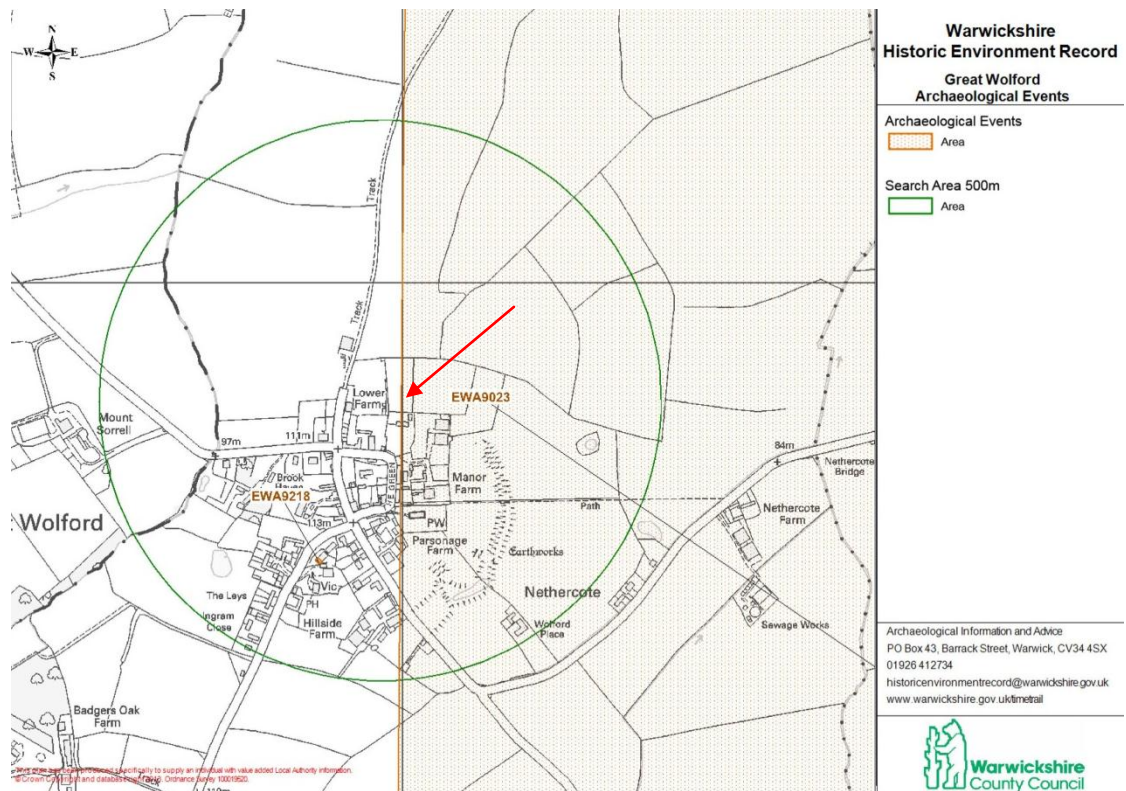
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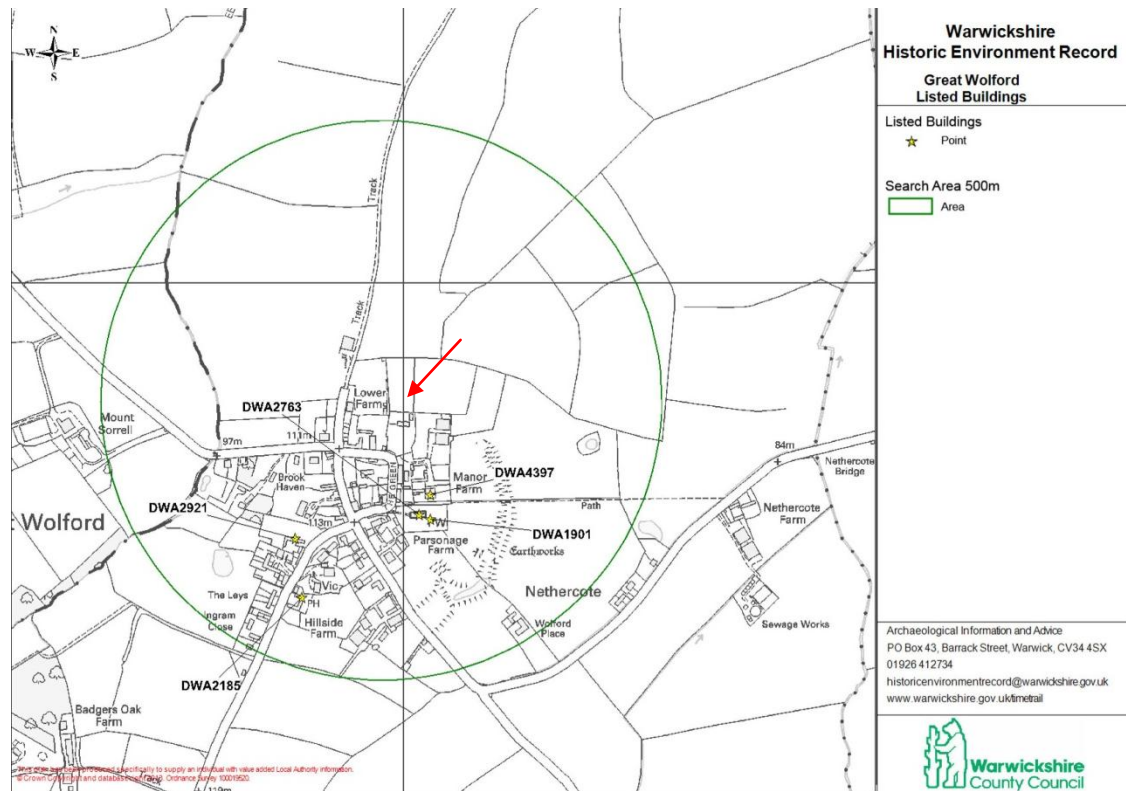
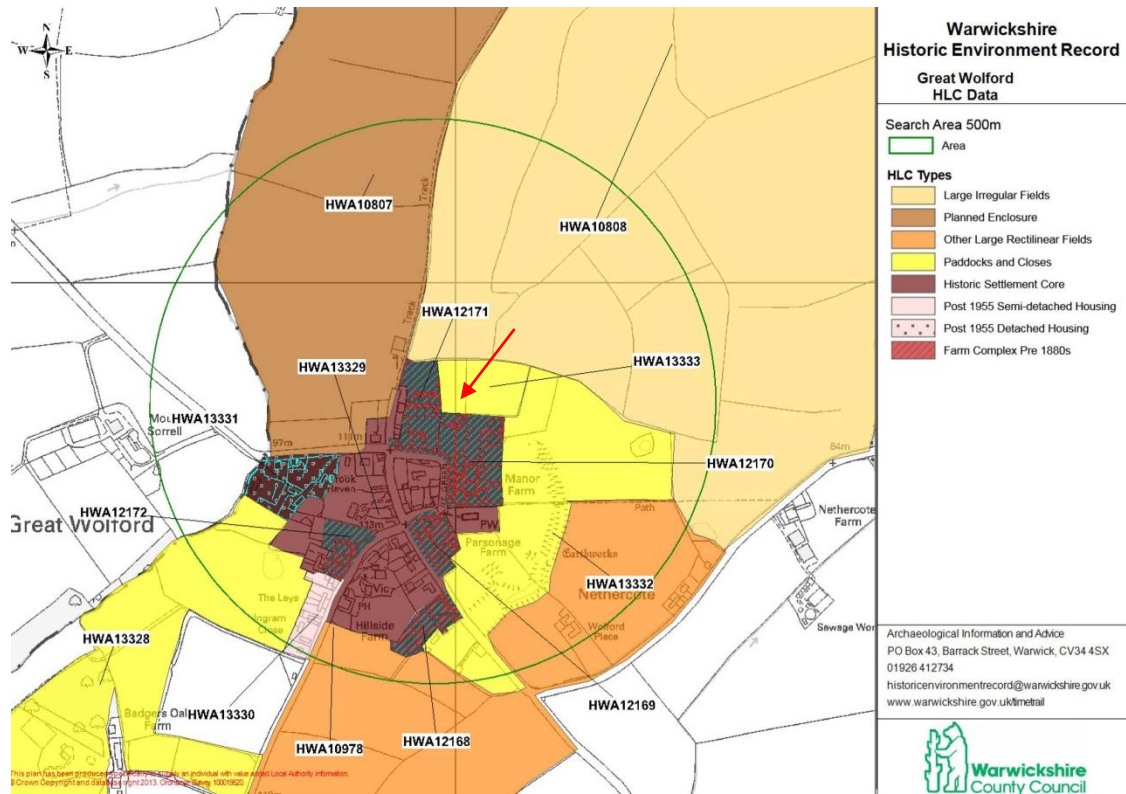
## Appendix 1 OASIS Information

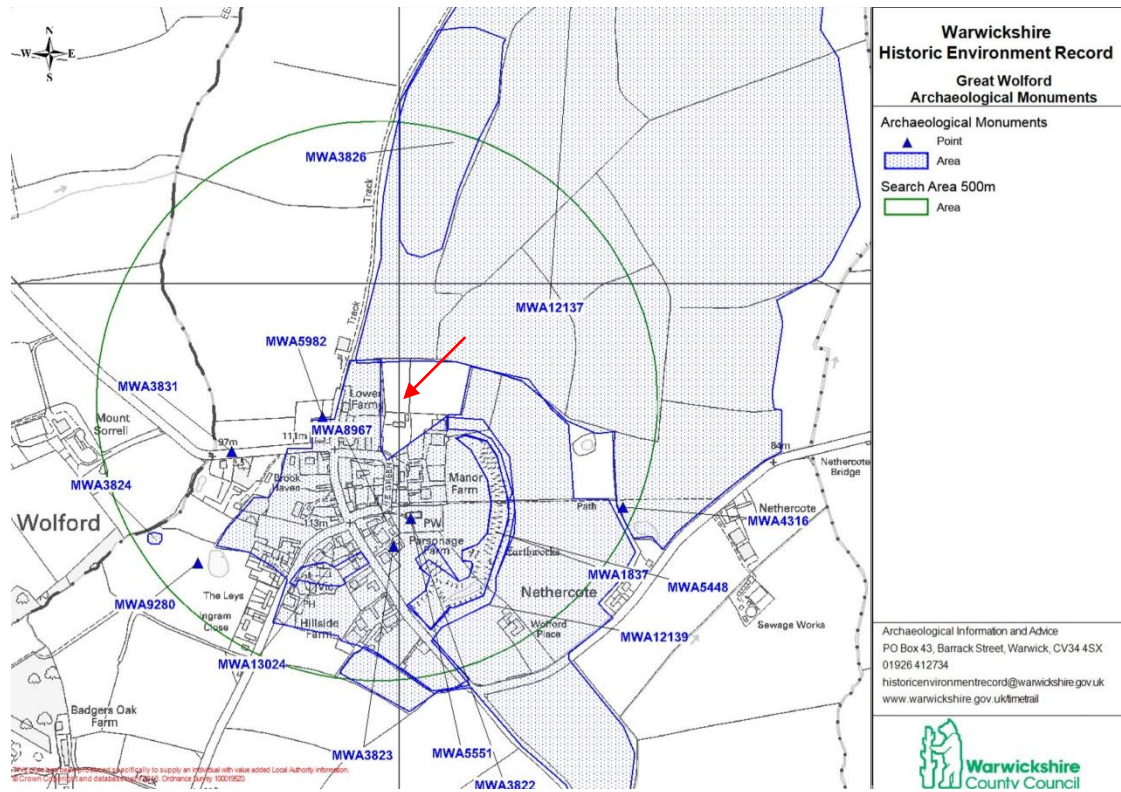
|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Project Name                     | An Archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at Lower Farm, The Green, Great Wolford, Shipston-on Stour, Warwickshire |
| Project Type                     | strip, map and sample excavation  |
| Project Manager                  | P Clay  |
| Project Supervisor               | A Hyam  |
| Previous/Future work             | None  |
| Current Land Use                 | Paddock   |
| Development Type                 | Installation of hard surface tennis court   |
| Reason for Investigation         | As a condition  |
| Position in the Planning Process | ongoing   |
| Site Co ordinates                | SP 2496 3479  |
| Start/end dates of field work    | 9.10.12 – 11.10.12  |
| Archive Recipient                | Warwickshire Museum   |
| Study Area                       | 500m <sup>2</sup> approx  |

## Appendix 2 HER Information

Site highlighted on each map







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