



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
Of 42 Temple Way,
Coleshill,
Warwickshire (SP 1957 9025)**

By Gerwyn Richards



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**An Archaeological Evaluation of
42 Temple Way,
Coleshill, Warwickshire.**

(NGR SP 1957 9025)

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: PAP/2008/0445

For: Ms A. Hathaway

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Ms A. Hathaway to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 42 Temple Way, Coleshill, Warwickshire in advance of the construction of a new residential unit. The proposed development area had been identified as being an area of significant archaeological potential.

A single evaluation trench was excavated within the proposed footprint of the building in order to ascertain the likely extent of any potential archaeological remains.

A significant build up imported material was recorded but nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the trench.

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Warwickshire County Council, under the accession number T/1138.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Ms A. Hathaway to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed works at 42 Temple Way, Coleshill, Warwickshire (SP 1957 9025; Fig. 1). The proposed development involves the construction of a new residential unit (Planning Application Number PAP/2008/0445; Fig. 2). No previous non-intrusive or intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area.

2. Archaeological & Historical Background

The proposed development area is currently a garden containing lawns with an evergreen hedge along the northern boundary and a small slab from a recently demolished timber shed. 42 Temple Way is part of housing development constructed in the early 1980s. The large garden came about as a result of the presence of a large deciduous tree which was originally retained but has since become diseased and been felled (A. Hathaway *pers com*).

A search of the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was conducted (Appendix 1). In addition a visit was made to the Records office to obtain earlier maps of the area.

The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, immediately adjacent to a Roman settlement partially excavated in the late 1970s (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record MWA 6232) which includes a bath house and a temple site. As well as the Roman activity an Iron Age settlement was excavated on Grimstock Hill (MWA5130).

There was settlement in Coleshill throughout the medieval period; extensive tracts of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing can be identified on aerial photographs. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1886) records a gravel pit to the south-west of the proposed development area (MWA6112).

As a result of the potential for the Roman settlement and associated deposits to extend into the area of development, the Planning Control Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council, recommended the need for a phase of archaeological investigation comprising a programme of evaluation trenching to confirm whether archaeological remains were present within the application area.



Figure 1: Site location Scale 1:50000

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3. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were through archaeological trial trenching:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas to be affected by the development.
- To provide information on the extent, character, condition and date range of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Further archaeological recording would be undertaken, if required, in the light of the results of this programme.



Figure 2:
Proposed Site Lay Out with Approximate Building Footprint in Green
(Original Drawing Supplied by Client).

4. Methodology

A single residential unit is planned within the proposed development area (Fig. 2). In consultation with Planning Control Archaeologist it was decided to evaluate the impact of proposed development with the excavation of single 6m x 1.6m trench. This excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision and took place on March 9th 2010. All excavations were carried out using a 1.5 tonne mini digger with a flat bladed ditching bucket.

The archaeological work followed the *Brief for archaeological field evaluation, 42 Temple Way, Coleshill, Warwickshire, B46 1HN* (WCCAS/soa/NW08_0445.2) and *Design Specification for archaeological work* (ULAS 10-340).

5. Results (Fig. 3)

The trench was located within the garden to the north-east of 42 Temple Way, within the proposed footprint of the new development (Fig. 3). The trench was 6 metres long and aligned north-east to south-west. The ground sloped noticeably dropping from the south-west to the north-east. The south-west end of the trench lay within the area of the slab for a recently removed garden shed. Excavation revealed this slab to be insubstantial with no significant disturbance on the underlying substratum.

Approximately 350mm to 500mm of imported topsoil and building waste was excavated before a buried topsoil was exposed. The buried topsoil ranged in depth from approximately 200mm to 250mm (Fig. 4). Below this buried topsoil a substratum of apparently undisturbed grey-yellow brown sandy clay with gravels was exposed, a further 200mm of this substratum was excavated reaching a full trench depth of 800mm, confirming it as an undisturbed substratum.

There were no remains of archaeological significance within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

6. Conclusion

Although within a promising location in the vicinity of known archaeological deposits, nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the course of the work. A significant build up of modern building waste had been dumped within the proposed development area, probably during the construction of the housing development in the early 1980s. It is unclear how much damage was caused during these earlier groundworks, although the buried topsoil suggests that much of the dumping was on top of the original surface.

7. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

CD containing 7 digital images

1 A4 contact sheet

8 Black & White negatives and contact prints

A4 Photo index sheet

1 A3 permatrace sheet of trench locations & site notes

1 A4 trench recording sheets

Unbound Copy of This Report (ULAS Report Number 2010-057)

The archive will be held at Warwickshire County Council under the Accession Number T-1138

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *West Midlands Archaeology* in due course.

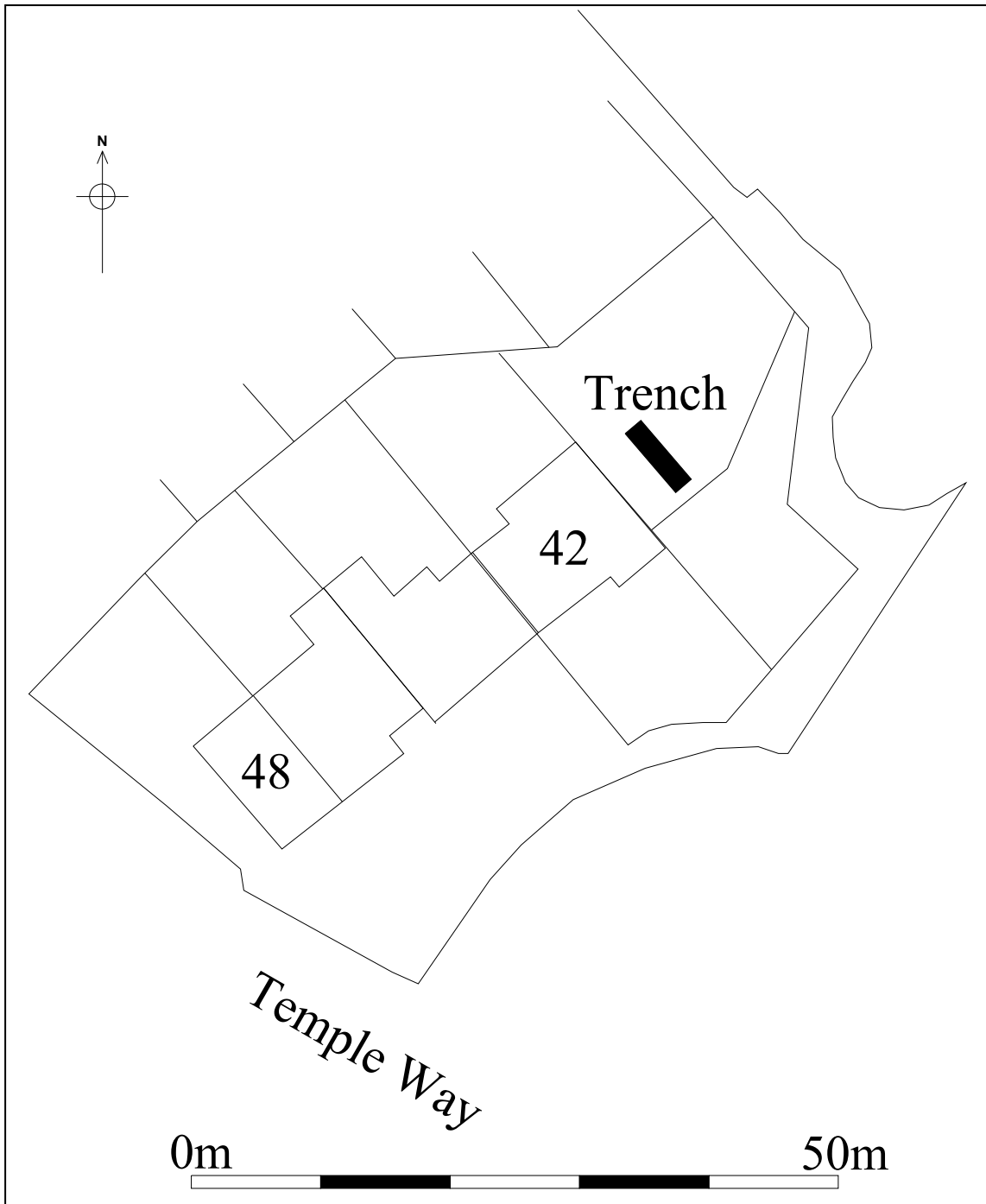


Figure 3 Trench Location.



Figure 4 West-South West Facing Section of Trench.



Figure 5 Trench Looking North West.

Appendix

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Events

EWA6505 Salvage Excavation of Temple and Other Building complex at Grimstock Hill, Coleshill

Rescue excavation was undertaken between Spring 1978 and 1980, largely by Birmingham University (and in conjunction with BUFAU). Area A (the temple complex) and M (the bath-house) were subject to the most extensive excavation; Salvage recording to the south, and along the line of Temple Way, was often very rapid. This includes magnetometer and resistance survey, albeit not of the most systematic nature.

EWA7642 Archaeological Evaluation at Ennersdale Road, Coleshill

12 evaluation trenches recorded a wide distribution of Romano British features and finds.

EWA6793 Arch Observation at Ennersdale Road, Coleshill

Archaeological observation of topsoil stripping after the demolition of bungalows revealed scatters of Roman and medieval pottery. During the reducing of levels, scatters of pottery and tile were found. At one point the stripping cut across a wall foundation.

Monuments

MWA10263 Romano British Settlement in Coleshill.

An evaluation of land to the south of known Romano British settlement uncovered evidence of activity including a large pit or ditch, other rubbish pits with fill containing pottery from the 2nd - 4th centuries, a hearth/oven, and a pebbled surface. Slag and furnace lining debris indicated metal working. The Romano British activity appears to extend further to the east than previously known, and the settlement to have been in existence from the 2nd century onwards. It was most likely a roadside settlement.

MWA278 Findspot - Roman coin

Roman coin was found 200m north of Grimstock Hall

MWA279 Findspot - Roman coins

Findspot - several Roman coins were found near Rose Road, Coleshill.

MWA280 Findspot - Roman coin hoard

A hoard of coins dating to the Roman period found to the east of Ennersdale Road, Coleshill.

MWA4433 Site of Roman Temple on Grimstock Hill

The site of a Roman temple lying 200m east of Lichfield Road, Coleshill. The temple was found during an archaeological excavation

MWA5129 Findspot - Prehistoric flints

Prehistoric flint artefacts were found during excavation of Roman bath house in Roman Way, Coleshill.

MWA5130 Site of Iron Age Settlement on Grimstock Hill

The site of an Iron Age settlement which was located 500m north east of Gilson Hall. It was found during an archaeological excavation.

MWA5131 Site of Roman Bath House on Grimstock Hill

The site of a Roman bath house situated 500m north east of Gilson Hall.

MWA6112 Site of Gravel Pit in Coleshill

The site of a gravel pit from which gravel was extracted during the Imperial period. It was marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886, and was situated 350m north of Coleshill Bridge.

MWA8781 Roman Wall and finds, Ennersdale Road

Roman pottery, brick and tile were found during archaeological work. The foundations of a Roman wall were also discovered in Ennersdale Road, Coleshill.

MWA9631 Coleshill Royal Observer Corps Post

The site of a Royal Observer Corps post established in the Modern Period to monitor and track enemy aircraft. It was located in the area of Trajan Hill.

MWA9773 Roman Coin found in Coleshill

The chance find of a Roman coin in Coleshill in the area of Temple Way, Norton Leas.

Appendix 2

Historic Maps

A number of readily available historic maps were consulted during the course of these works. Until the construction of the current housing development in the 1980s the area had always been agricultural with no identifying features to locate the proposed development area as a result these maps are not reproduced for the purpose of this report.

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