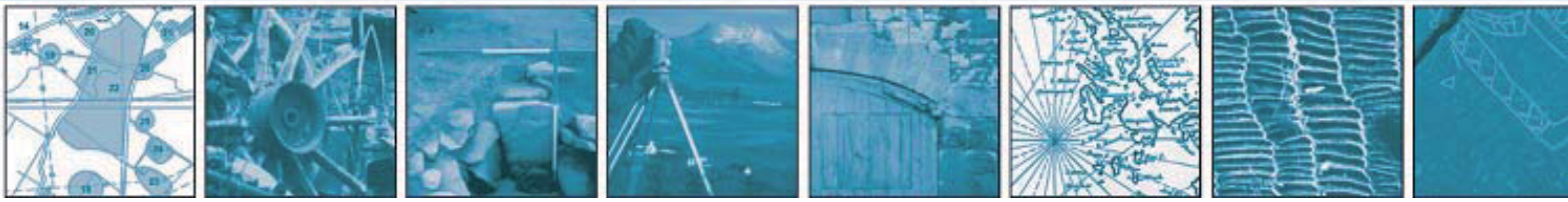
Project Code: OFSW10
Date of Report: February 2011
Client: Mr Paul Gray
HAS: 875



THE OLD FORGE, ST WEONARDS, HEREFORD

Archaeological Watching Brief and Historical Building Survey

David Doyle
BSc(Hons)

Simon Mayes
BA(Hons)

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client	MR PAUL GRAY
National Grid Reference	SO 49537 24281
Address	FORGE COTTAGE, ST. WEONARDS, HR2 8NU
Council	HEREFORDSHIRE
National Monument No.	27493
HAS	875
Project Manager	ANDY BOUCHER
Text	DAVID DOYLE & SIMON MAYES
Graphics	ANNA SZTROMWASSER
Fieldwork	DAVID DOYLE & SIMON MAYES
Schedule	
Fieldwork	22 FEBRUARY 2010–22 SEPTEMBER 2010
Report	FEBRUARY 2011

Signed off by: .....

Andy Boucher BSc(Hons) MIfA, Project Manager

Date:.....

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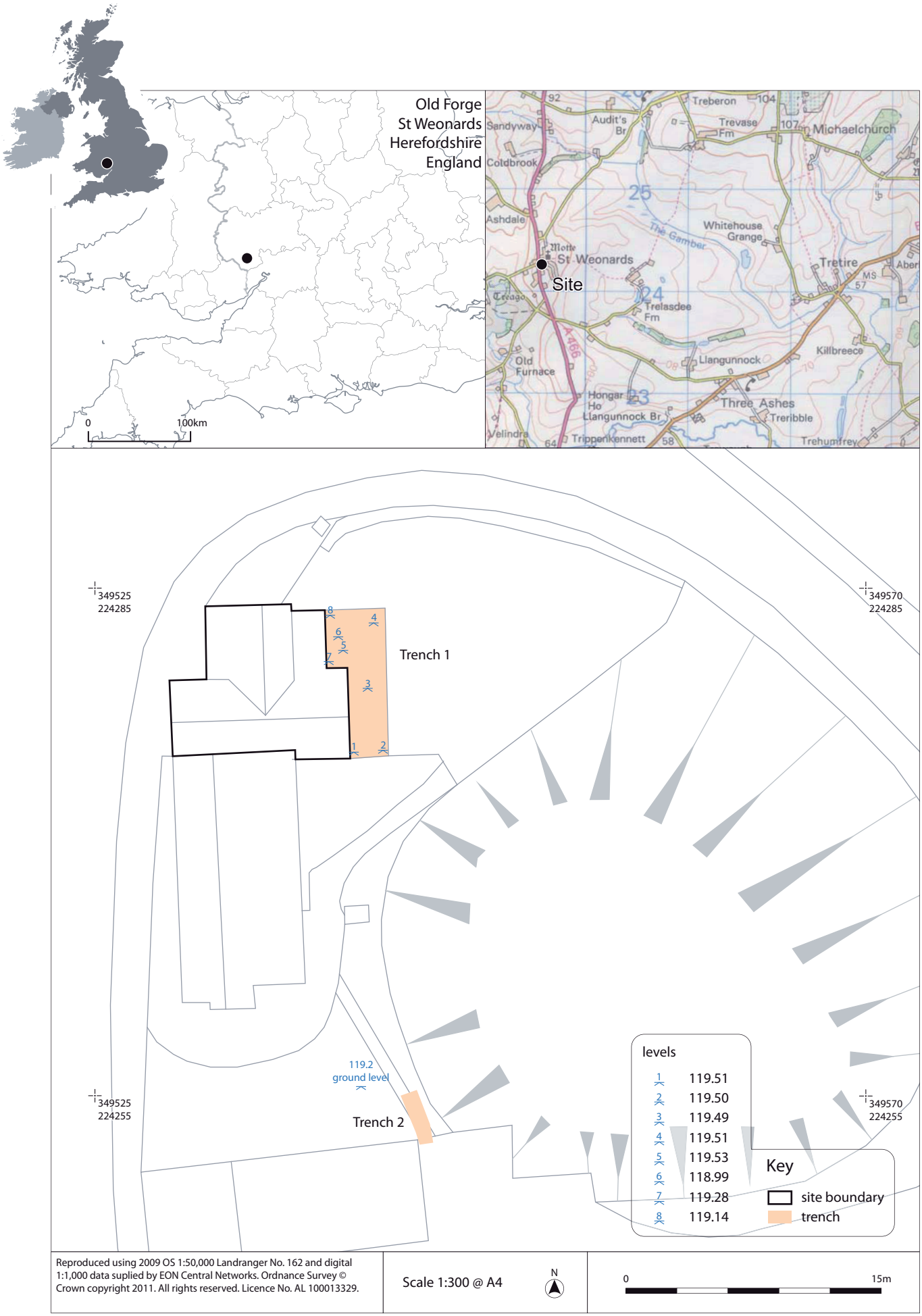


Illus 1
Site location with excavation details

THE OLD FORGE, ST WEONARDS, HEREFORD

Archaeological Watching Brief and Historical Building Survey

by David Doyle & Simon Mayes

Archaeological Investigations Ltd/Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a Level 2 building survey and carried out a watching brief at The Old Forge St Weonards. The Level 2 building survey comprised a photographic and descriptive record of the existing structure prior to the proposed development. The building known as the Old Forge comprises of three major Phases of construction with subsequent internal and external alteration to the existing fabric and roof structure.The watching brief was carried out during the ground works associated with the development. This comprised a trench at the east of the building and a small trench on the south of the site. The watching brief exposed the footings of the existing building in the first trench, however, no other features of archaeological importance were revealed.

1. INTRODUCTION

A Level 2 building survey and an archaeological watching brief were carried out at The Old Smithy, St Weonards (Illus 1 & 4) in order to satisfy a planning condition relating to the development of the site (Planning Ref. No.: DCSW2005/2520/F and DCSW2005/2521/L). The site lies adjacent to St Weonards Tump a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979) and the work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design agreed in advance with Herefordshire Archaeology (advisors to the local planning authority).

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the village of St Weonards, Herefordshire on the A466 Hereford to Monmouth Road and lies at the north west foot of a large mound known locally as 'the tump'. The tump has previously been identified as a Bronze Age mound with later medieval occupation and possible later reuse as a castle site. The site is currently occupied by private housing and lies at a height of approximately 120m OD.

The underlying geology lies within what is referred to as the Lower Old Red Sandstone. It is predominantly sandstone (drab red-brown in colour) within what is more technically termed the Brownstones Formation.

3. BACKGROUND

As briefly mentioned above the site is located next to the 'tump', originally circular in plan, and measuring approximately 42m in diameter by 15m in height. Modern disturbance to the top of the mound means it is now lower than this. It was excavated in 1855 by Wright and two unaccompanied burnt burials were discovered in a vaulted chamber (Phillips, 325). The impression left by this excavation is still visible. The mound also has the appearance of a motte, however, there is no evidence of a surrounding ditch or associated bailey. This may have been destroyed by the addition of new roads and drains in the area in 1967. The later interpretation of the 'tump' is that it was used as a base for a watchtower built on top of the pre-existing pre-historic burial mound (Phillips, 326).

4. OBJECTIVES

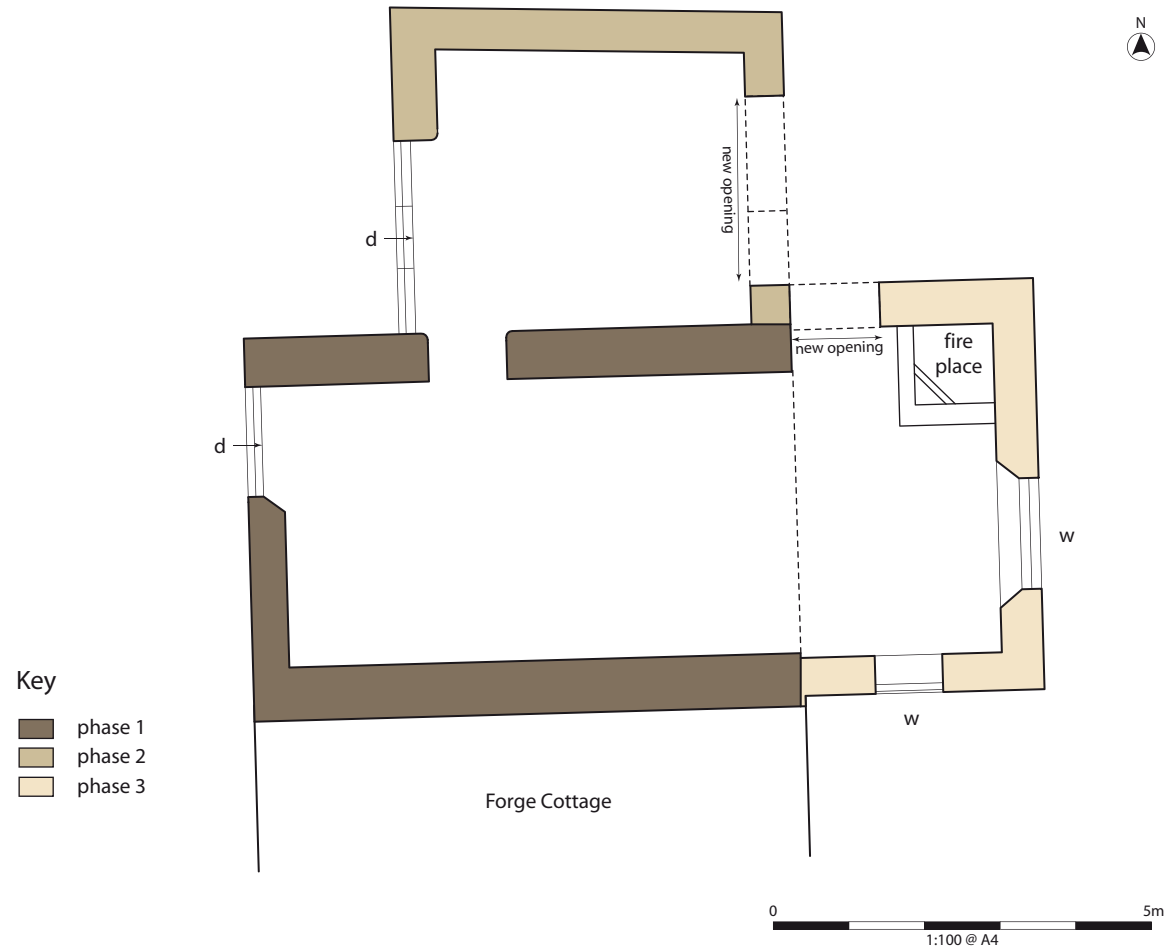
The aim of the project was primarily to ensure that any features of archaeological or historic significance affected by the development were adequately recorded and reported on.

Specifically the objectives included making a record of the building and monitoring ground disturbances associated with the development with a view to ultimately producing a report on the findings and depositing the archive with the local repository.

5. METHOD

5.1 Research

Information held in the company library was consulted including historic maps and texts relating to local history.



Illus 2
Building recording phase plan

5.2 Building recording

A Level 2 Historic Building survey was undertaken following the standards set out by English Heritage (2006) and the IfA (2008). This comprised a site visit, and the production of a written description and photographic record. Later alterations within the building were surveyed using a combination of Disto (Electronic distance measuring device) and tape-and-offset measurements. The photographic registers are included as Appendix A1.5.

5.3 Monitoring of ground work

Excavation was undertaken by the main contractor using a mechanical excavator with the use of a toothless bucket where possible, although a toothed bucket had to be used when hard surfaces and compact deposits were encountered. All trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision.

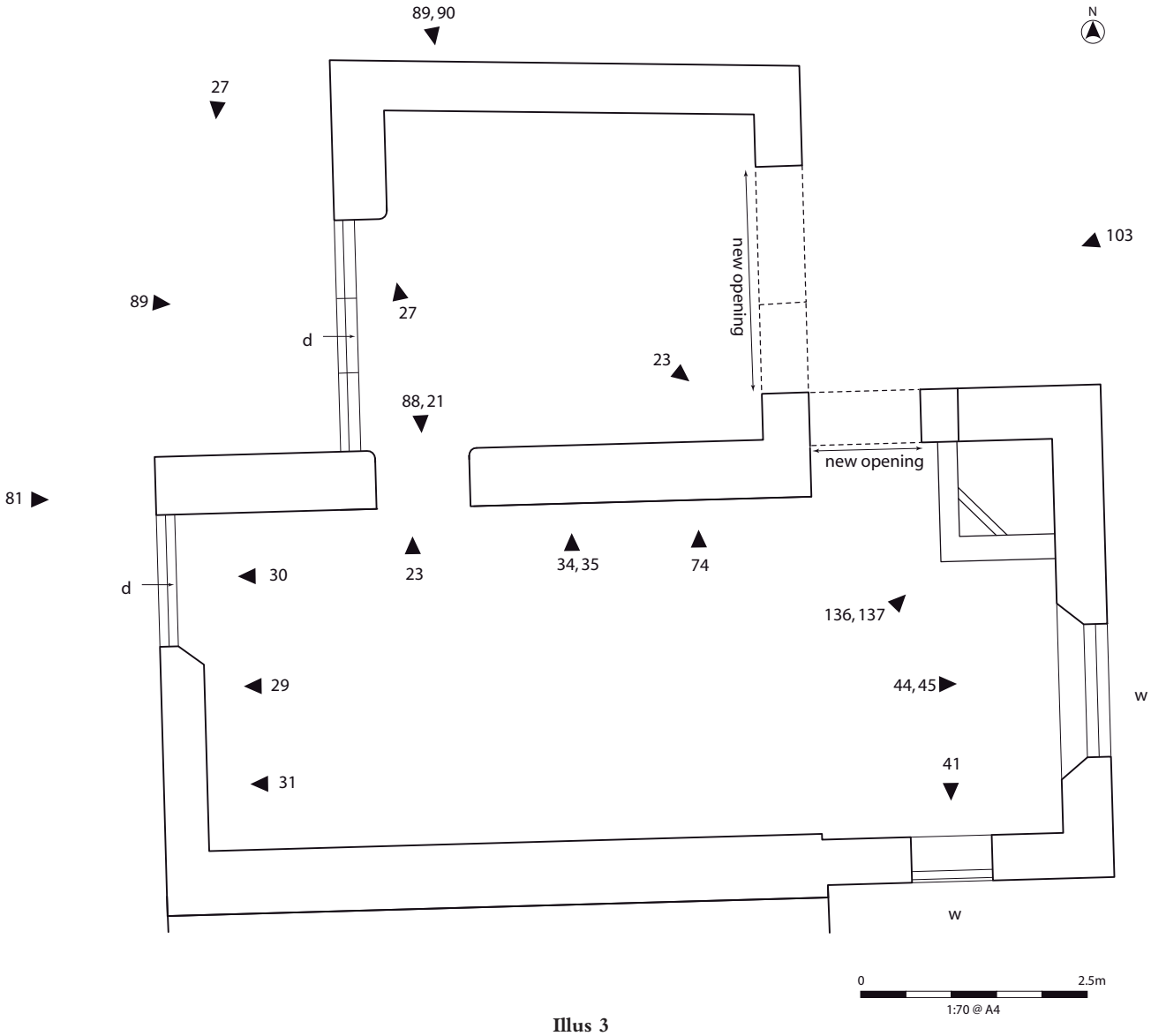
All records made followed the standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards and numbered consecutively.Trench plans were drawn at 1:50, whilst selected representative sections of trenches were produced at 1:20. Photographs were taken using 35mm monochrome and colour slide film (7.2mp digital photographs were taken for illustrative purposes). Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings. All the observations were tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping.

6. RESULTS

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the area to the east of the Old Forge and measured approximately 5.25m by 8.75m in plan. It was excavated to an average depth of 0.75m (base of trench = 119.5m OD) below the current ground surface (Illus 1).

The exposed stratigraphy comprised a yellow sandstone bedrock beneath a red silty clay subsoil [101] and topsoil [100]. The topsoil and the subsoil showed signs of having been heavily disturbed by modern activities.The trench also contained a number of services and a large concrete water storage tank with associated piping. The lower section of



Illus 3
Photographic location plan (see Appendix A1.4)

Illus 4
Plate 1 showing external view of the building

the existing building's walls and a portion of the foundations of the existing building were exposed in the west side of the trench (Illus 1). The foundations were not extensive and the building appears to have been constructed on sandstone bedrock. A small drainage channel was excavated to the north of this area to a depth of approximately 118.99m OD. No features of archaeological interest were present in the trench.

6.2 Trench 2

This was smaller than Trench 1, and measured 3.5m by 1.1m in plan and 0.7m in depth at its deepest. The excavations only resulted in the removal of the topsoil [200] exposing the subsoil [201] beneath. This excavation coincided with the line of excavations for a drain run from Mount Cottage to Forge Cottage undertaken in 2002 (Illus 1).

7. DISCUSSION

There were no archaeological features in either Trench 1 or Trench 2. There was evidence, in the form of near surface bedrock, to indicate that the mound did not have an associated ditch at this point. Whilst the possibility remains that such a feature could lie beneath the current house and old forge the anticipated scale of any such ditch would rather argue against this.

8. BUILDING RECORDING

8.1 Results

In summary the building known as the Old Forge comprises of three major phases of construction with subsequent internal and external alteration to the existing fabric and roof structure.

At the time of survey the building appeared to consist of two single structures, butting the adjoining residence, and forming a 'T' shaped plan. However, through examination of the fabric it was demonstrated that the buildings are the result of 3 phases of construction (see Illus 2 & 3). The main residence (Forge Cottage) appears to have been extended northwards and subsequently incorporated into the fabric of the old forge. The northern extension to forge cottage has filled the gap between the two structures and originally the old forge was a detached property facing onto the main route between Monmouth and Hereford, and was thus well positioned for a blacksmith to practice his trade.

The evidence indicating that the earliest phase of the forge was a detached structure lies in the internal fabric and ground plan. The width of the Phase 1 walls are clearly different to those of the suggested Phase 2 building.

After the construction of the Phase 2 extension, further alterations included the incorporation of a permanent blacksmiths hearth within a small offset extension to the Phase 1 and 2 structures and the removal of the eastern wall of the original Phase 1 building. This again is visible within both the fabric and the existing ground floor plan (see Illus 2). Prior to the construction of the Phase 3 annex, there was no obvious indication that a heath existed within the structures.

All the buildings use the same reddish mortar with white inclusions and similar stones. On the rear elevations these mainly comprise rounded shaped and weathered sandstone blocks laid in a rustic style coursing and lacking any obvious indications of tooling marks on their external surfaces. In the elevations facing the street frontage the coursing becomes slightly more regular but are still rustic in their construction and coursing. Both the internal and external secondary finishes to the buildings show the remains of various layers of lime wash over rendering.

The internal structure of the buildings retains some interesting features associated with their industrial heritage. The key architectural elements are probably the remains of the hearth and blocked flue, however, there were also small traces of cobbled floor surface surviving in patches throughout the buildings, especially within the Phase 2 building. There were also storage spaces inserted into what were once possibly blocked openings. The Hearth area has the remains of an external feedhole cut through the northern wall, although its original purpose is difficult to determine on the basis of surviving evidence. The main flue had been reduced to below roof level.

Changes in the use and layout of the buildings is illustrated through the insertion and blocking of external openings. For example, the lower window on the west wall was inserted into the blocking of what was once an external doorway. In this case the segmental arched lintel shared the same construction characteristics as that of Old Forge Cottage, suggesting a contemporary relationship between the date of the blocking and the construction of the cottage. Another large opening on the east wall of the Phase 2 building was also blocked and a smaller window inserted within this possibly indicating that the access to the building changed. The construction of the Phase 2 building necessitated the opening of an internal doorway between Phases 1 and 2. The style of the curved internal jambs matches those observed in the external point of access through the west wall, suggesting a contemporary connection to both alterations.

The roofs are unlikely to be original, due to the presence of re-used timbers, though its rustic charm and mismatched design may indicate that the reused elements are not too distant from there original locations.

9. CONCLUSION

The building survey has demonstrated that whilst the Old Forge has been much altered evidence for the phases of its development is still clearly ledgable within the building's fabric and original features associated with its industrial past still survive and will be retained in the future proposals for the building.

10. REFERENCES

English Heritage, 2006, *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice.* Hawthornes.

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.*

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*

Phillips, N., 2005*, Earthwork Castles of Gwent and Ergyng AD 1050-1250*. University of Sheffield.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

A1.1 Trench register

Trench no.	Orientation	Length & width	Excavated depth (max)
Trench 1	Located behind the small out buildings	8.75m by 5.25m	0.75m
Trench 2	Following new path layout	1.1m by	0.75m

A1.2 Context register

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Depth
100	Trench 1	Moderately stony, sandy loam, mid brown, dry loose compaction, small abundant stones. Modern topsoil across site	0.6m
101	Trench 1	Silty clay, reddish brown, plastic, rare small stones. Subsoil	0.015m +
102	Trench 1	Hard clay/stone, red to yellow, gradual, very hard, large sandstone outcrops. Natural	– unknown
200	Trench 2	Moderately stony, sandy loam, mid to light brown, dry loose compaction, small to abundant stones. Same as [100]	0.7m max
201	Trench 2	Silty clay, reddish brown, plastic, rare small stones	0.01m +
203	Trench 2	Hard clay/stone, red to yellow, gradual, very hard, large sandstone outcrops. Natural	– unknown

A1.3 Annotated plans register

Drawing no.	Section	Plan	Description
1	–	Surveyed site plan	Location plan and details

A1.4 Photographic register (CD enclosed)

Photo no.	Digital reference	Direction facing	Description
1	OFSW10 1	E	Internal elevation, showing east wall details, Phase 2 building
2	OFSW10 2	E	Internal elevation, showing east wall details, Phase 2 building
3	OFSW10 3	E	Internal elevation, showing east wall details, Phase 2 building
4	OFSW10 4	E	Internal elevation, showing east wall details, Phase 2 building
5	OFSW10 5	NE	Internal elevation, showing east and north wall details, with internal construction break
6	OFSW10 6	E	Detail of opening within east wall, Phase 2 building
7	OFSW10 7	E	Detail of opening within east wall, Phase 2 building
8	OFSW10 8	NE	Detail of construction break, Phase 2 building
9	OFSW10 9	N	Detail of reused timber within in wall, possible leveling block, Phase 2 building
10	OFSW10 10	NE	Detail of construction break, Phase 2 building
11	OFSW10 11	NW	Roof construction detail, Phase 2 building
12	OFSW10 12	N	Details of internal elevation, Phase 2 building
13	OFSW10 13	N	Details of internal elevation, Phase 2 building
14	OFSW10 14	N	Details of internal elevation, Phase 2 building
15	OFSW10 15	N	Details of internal elevation, Phase 2 building
16	OFSW10 16	N	Details of alteration to roof construction, Phase 2 building
17	OFSW10 17	N	Details of alteration to roof construction, Phase 2 building

Photo no.	Digital reference	Direction facing	Description
18	OFSW10 18	N	Details of alteration to roof construction, Phase 2 building
19	OFSW10 19	S	Detail of inserted doorway between Phase 2 & 1 buildings
20	OFSW10 20	S	Detail of inserted doorway between Phase 2 & 1 buildings
21	OFSW10 21	S	Detail of inserted doorway between Phase 2 & 1 buildings
22	OFSW10 22	–	–
23	OFSW10 23	SE	Internal elevation, Phase 2 building
24	OFSW10 24	S	Detail of inserted doorway between Phase 2 & 1 buildings
25	OFSW10 25	S	Internal elevation, Phase 2 building
26	OFSW10 26	SE	Internal elevation, Phase 2 building
27	OFSW10 27	NW	Detail of rounded door jamb, Phase 2 building
28	OFSW10 28	S	Detail of rounded door jambs, Phase 2 & 1 buildings
29	OFSW10 29	S	Top light, internal elevation, Phase 1 building
30	OFSW10 30	S	Bottom inserted window detail, Phase 1 building
31	OFSW10 31	S	Detail of south wall elevation, Phase 1 building
32	OFSW10 32	S	Detail of south wall elevation, Phase 1 building
33	OFSW10 33	S	Detail of south wall elevation, Phase 1 building
34	OFSW10 34	N	Inserted storage space, possible block opening within Phase 1 elevation, north wall
35	OFSW10 35	N	Inserted storage space, possible block opening within Phase 1 elevation, north wall
36	OFSW10 36	N	View above hearth, with flue remains
37	OFSW10 37	N	View above hearth, with flue remains
38	OFSW10 38	W	Internal detail, Phase 1 building
41	OFSW10 41	–	Internal elevation, detail
42	OFSW10 42	–	Internal elevation, detail
43	OFSW10 43	N	Remains of Hearth flue
44	OFSW10 44	E	Internal elevation, Phase 3
45	OFSW10 45	E	Internal elevation, Phase 3
46	OFSW10 46	E	Internal elevation, Phase 3
47	OFSW10 47	E	Internal roof arrangement within Phase 3
48	OFSW10 48	SE	Internal elevation
50	OFSW10 50	S	Construction break between Phase 1 & 3
51	OFSW10 51	S	Construction break between Phase 1 & 4
52	OFSW10 52	S	Construction break between Phase 1 & 5
53	OFSW10 53	S	Detail of opening within south wall Phase 3 building
54	OFSW10 54	S	Detail of opening within south wall Phase 3 building
55	OFSW10 55	S	Detail of opening within south wall Phase 3 building
57	OFSW10 57	N	Possible remains of flue within northern wall, Phase 1
58	OFSW10 58	N	Possible remains of flue within northern wall, Phase 1
59	OFSW10 59	N	Possible remains of flue within northern wall, Phase 1
61	OFSW10 61	–	Detail of stone trough
62	OFSW10 62	–	Detail of stone trough

Photo no.	Digital reference	Direction facing	Description
65	OFSW10 65	N	Detail of various wall hangings and fixings
66	OFSW10 66	N	Detail of various wall hangings and fixings
67	OFSW10 67	E	Timber support arrangement of north south cross member, Phase 1 building, later addition creating internal floor level
68	OFSW10 68	E	Internal elevation of Phase 1 building
69	OFSW10 69	N	Internal elevation of northern wall, Phase 1 building
70	OFSW10 70	N	Internal elevation of northern wall, Phase 1 building
71	OFSW10 71	S	Plaster finish and laths applied to internal roof space within Phase 1 building
72	OFSW10 72	S	Plaster finish and laths applied to internal roof space within Phase 1 building
73	OFSW10 73	S	Plaster finish and laths applied to internal roof space within Phase 1 building
74	OFSW10 74	N	insertion of change of roof lines, Phase 1 & 2
78	OFSW10 78	S	External view of the buildings
79	OFSW10 79	SE	External view of the buildings
80	OFSW10 80	W	External view of the buildings
81	OFSW10 81	W	External view of the buildings
82	OFSW10 82	W	External view of the buildings
83	OFSW10 83	W	External view of the buildings
84	OFSW10 84	SE	External view of the buildings
85	OFSW10 85	SE	External view of the buildings
86	OFSW10 86	SE	External view of the buildings
87	OFSW10 87	SE	External view of the buildings
88	OFSW10 88	SE	External view of the buildings
89	OFSW10 89	S	External view of the buildings
90	OFSW10 90	S	External view of the buildings
91	OFSW10 91	S	External view of the buildings
92	OFSW10 92	S	External view of the buildings, showing later lean-too
93	OFSW10 93	S	External view of the buildings, showing changes in roof lines and materials
94	OFSW10 94	SE	External view of the buildings, showing changes in roof lines and materials
95	OFSW10 95	SE	Roof lines and motte
97	OFSW10 97	E	Garden area from buildings
98	OFSW10 98	W	External elevation with applied finish, Phase 3 building
99	OFSW10 99	W	External elevation with applied finish, Phase 3 building
100	OFSW10 100	W	External elevation with applied finish, Phase 3 building
101	OFSW10 101	W	External elevation with applied finish, Phase 3 building
102	OFSW10 102	–	–
103	OFSW10 103	W	External elevation with applied finish, Phase 3 building
104	OFSW10 104	W	External elevation with applied finish, Phase2 & 3 building
105	OFSW10 105	SW	Changes in roof lines between phases
106	OFSW10 106	SW	Changes in roof lines between phases
107	OFSW10 107	W	Changes in roof lines between phases
108	OFSW10 108	SW	Changes in roof lines between phases

Photo no.	Digital reference	Direction facing	Description
109	OFSW10 109	W	External detail between elevations, Phase 2 & 3
110	OFSW10 110	SW	External detail of Phase 3 northern wall
111	OFSW10 111	NW	Corner elevation of Phase 3 building, showing lower doorway
112	OFSW10 112	S	Corner elevation of Phase 3 building, showing lower doorway
113	OFSW10 113	S	Modern constructed shelter against external elevation, Phase 3 building
114	OFSW10 114	S	Modern constructed shelter against external elevation, Phase 3 building
115	OFSW10 115	S	Modern constructed shelter against external elevation, Phase 2 building
116	OFSW10 116	S	Modern constructed shelter against external elevation, Phase 2 building
117	OFSW10 117	S	External detail of northern wall of Phase 2 construction
118	OFSW10 118	SE	External detail of northern wall of Phase 2 construction
119	OFSW10 119	SE	External detail of northern wall of Phase 2 construction
120	OFSW10 120	SE	Modern constructed shelter against external elevation, Phase3 building
125	OFSW10 125	E	Garden resident
126	OFSW10 126	N	Inserted doorway, below existing ground level, Phase 3 building
127	OFSW10 127	N	Inserted doorway, below existing ground level, Phase 3 building
128	OFSW10 128	N	Modern constructed shelter against external elevation, Phase 3 building
129	OFSW10 129	NW	detail of roof lines and construction details between old forge cottage and the old forge range of buildings
130	OFSW10 130	NW	Changes in roof lines between phases
131	OFSW10 131	NW	Changes in roof lines between phases
132	OFSW10 132	N	modern construction to rear of buildings from reused timbers
133	OFSW10 133	N	modern construction to rear of buildings from reused timbers
134	OFSW10 134	NW	detail of step down into inserted doorway, Phase 3 building
135	OFSW10 135	E	Detail of inserted window and blocked opening within west facing elevation of Phase 1 building
136	OFSW10 136	N	Detail of Hearth and external chute/flue
137	OFSW10 137	N	Detail of Hearth and external chute/flue
138	OFSW10 138	N	Detail of Hearth and external chute/flue
139	OFSW10 139	N	Detail of Hearth and external chute/flue
140	OFSW10 140	N	Detail of Hearth and external chute/flue
141	OFSW10 141	S	detail of door way within southern wall Phase 3 building
142	OFSW10 142	E	Detail of window within Phase 3 construction
143	OFSW10 143	E	inserted storage space within east wall of Phase 3 construction
144	OFSW10 144	E	inserted storage space within east wall of Phase 3 construction
145	OFSW10 145	N	Detail within hearth area showing flue/chute
146	OFSW10 146	N	Detail within hearth area showing flue/chute
147	OFSW10 147	N	Detail within hearth area showing flue/chute
148	OFSW10 148	N	Detail within hearth area showing flue/chute
149	OFSW10 149	–	View up remains of flue
150	OFSW10 150	W	view of raking hole/flue
151	OFSW10 151	W	view of raking hole/flue

A1.5 Photographic register

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
152	427/23	407/21	2344	W	Trench 1, mid-ex
153	427/22	407/20	2345	N	Trench 2, section
154	427/21	407/19	2346	N	Trench 2, plan
155	427/20	407/18	2347	E	Trench 2, section
156	427/19	407/17	2348	S	Trench 1, north facing section
157	427/18	407/16	2349	N	Trench 1, general
158	427/17	407/15	2350	W	Trench 1, general
159	n/a	n/a	2351	W	Trench 1, general
160	427/16	407/14	2352	SW	Trench 1, general
161	427/15	407/13	2353	W	Trench 1, exposed wall and doorway
162	427/14	407/12	2354	W	Trench 1, exposed wall and doorway
163	427/13	407/11	2355	S	Trench 1, exposed wall and coal chute
164	427/12	407/10	2356	S	Trench 1, exposed wall and coal chute
165	427/11	407/9	2357	S	Trench 1, general
166	427/10	407/8	2358	S	Trench 1, exposed lower wall
167	n/a	n/a	2359	S	Trench 1, exposed lower wall

Appendix 2 – Hereford contractors recording form

ARCHAEOLOGY. SUBMISSION OF REPORT FORM
HASR 1

Report Name and Title	Archaeological Watching Brief and Historic Building Survey on the Old Forge St.Weonards, Herefordshire
Archaeological Contractor etc (Name & Address)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd Unit 1 Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford, HR4 9NZ
Site Name	Old Forge, St.Weonards, Herefordshire
Grid References	SO 49537 24281
SMR Numbers	27493
Planning or Other Ref	DCSW2005/2520/F and DCSW2005/2521/L
Date of Field Work	March 2010- October 2010
Date of Report	Febuary 2010
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS
Pottery **N/A**	**Period** **Number of sherds** **N/A**
Other **N/A**	**Period** **Quantity** **N/A**
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED
Sieving for charred plant remains	*No of Features sampled* No of buckets **N/A**
C14/scientific dates	*No and Type* Result **N/A**
Pollen	*No of Columns/spot samples* Name of pollen specialist **N/A**
Bone	*Number of buckets coarse sieved for bone* *Quantity Recovered* *Period* **N/A**
Insect	*No of Columns/spot samples* *Name of pollen specialist **N/A***
Other	*Type and specialist* **N/A**
Summary of the report	Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Paul Gray to undertake a program of archaeological works at the Old Forge, St Weonards, Hereford as a condition of Planning approval Ref. DCSW2005/2520/F and DCSW2005/2521/L. This report comprises an record of the works.

Herefordshire Archaeology. Submission of Report Form HASR 1 01/01/2005