

BBPD10



BARN AT BAGE POOL, THE BAGE, DORSTONE

Watching Brief

for Mr & Mrs Ferneyhough

DCSW2005/1682/F

September 2011

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Project Manager

Mike Kimber

Author

Benedikte Ward & Lise Brekmoe

Fieldwork


Benedikte Ward & Lise Brekmoe

Graphics

Julia Bastek

Approved by

Mike Kimber, Project Manager



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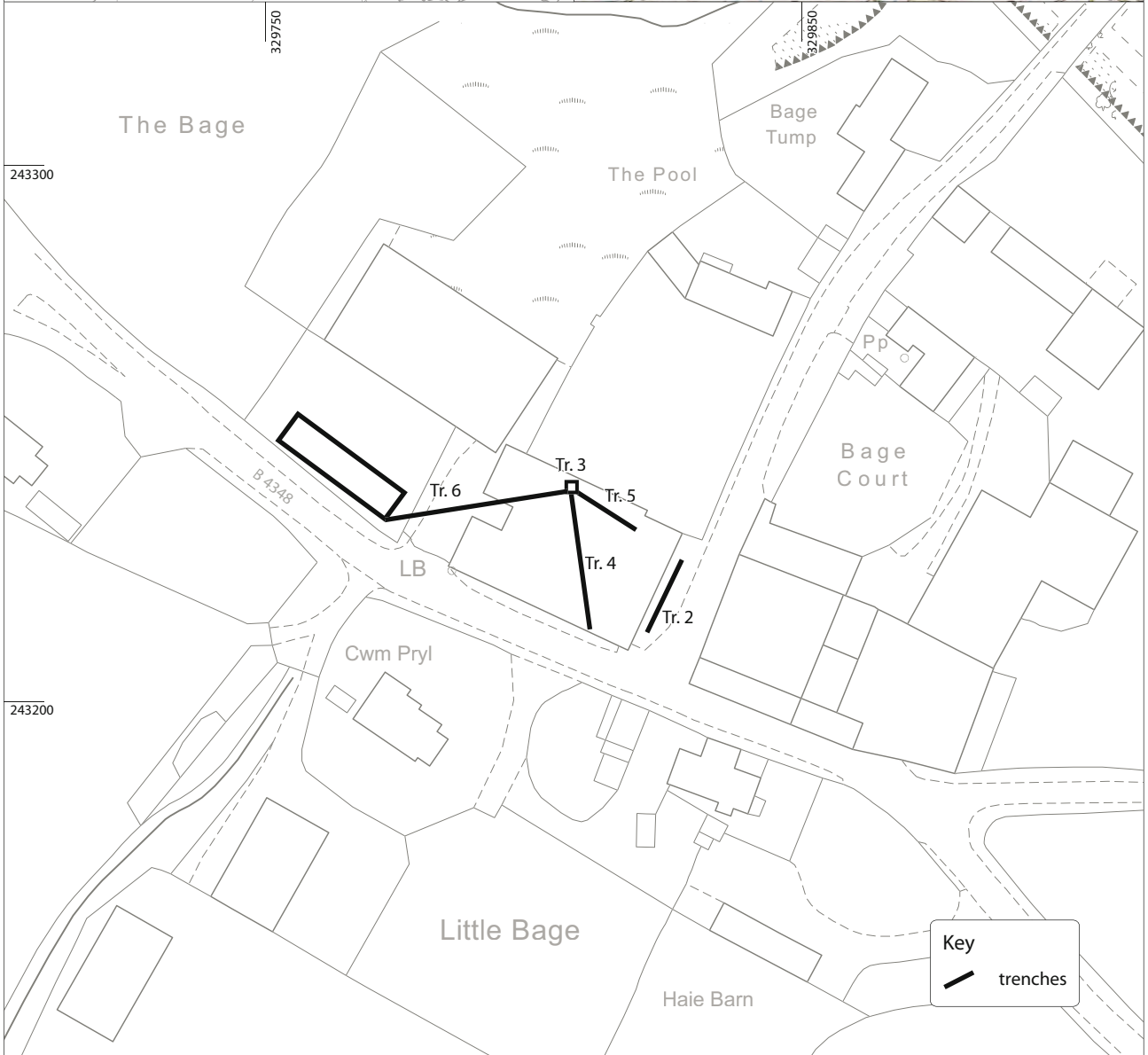
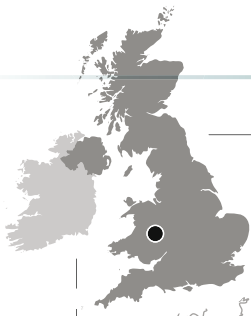
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ
T 0143 236 4901 • F 0143 236 4900 • E hereford@headlandarchaeology.com
www.headlandarchaeology.com

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Scale 1:1,250 @ A4

0 50m

Illus 1
Location plan

BARN AT BAGE POOL, THE BAGE, DORSTONE

Watching Brief

A watching brief was carried out at Badge Pool barn, Dorstone while seven service trenches were being dug, during the conversion of the barn.

Although the barn is right next to a Grade II listed building as well as being near to a motte and baily, no archaeology was present at the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between the 19th and 26th of January and 1st and 2nd of June 2011 Headland Archaeology (UK) Limited carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Bage, Dorstone, Herefordshire (NGR SO 2981 2432). The work was commissioned by the client in respect of a planning application for the conversion of an existing barn into a residence; garages; storage area and parking area; replanting a hedge and the creation of new drainage leading to a soakaway.

The programme of archaeological works was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which was approved in writing by the local planning authority in line with conditions on the planning permission for the development.

1.1 Site location

The site lies adjacent to Bage Pool House in the hamlet of The Bage approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the village of Dorstone in the Golden Valley, Herefordshire. The barn undergoing conversion is situated to the south of the Bage Pool House gardens at approximately 52m OD and is bounded to the south by the B4348, the Bage Pool House driveway to the east and a farmyard to the west.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the archaeological work was to record any remains of archaeological significance encountered

in the course of the works, produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.

3. METHOD

The watching brief was conducted during several site visits to monitor ground works, which included internal excavation within the footprint of the barn to reduce ground levels and the excavation of exterior service trenches running along the east wall of the barn and from the barn itself across the entrance to the west going into the adjacent field (Illus 1).

The excavated areas were closely examined for any features and the spoil was examined for the presence of dating evidence. Excavation was undertaken by mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket where possible although a toothed bucket had to be used to break harder surfaces.

3.1 Background history and previous works

The name 'Bage' comes from the Welsh word 'Bach' meaning river bend or nook and is mentioned in the Domesday Book as the possession of Gilbert fitz Turolde (Morris 1983, pp. 24–25).

The site lies 50m south of the Grade II listed building of 5/126 Bage Pool. 75m to the northwest, lies the Grade II listed Bage Court. 100m northeast of the site is a Grade II listed barn and cow house. Across the main road through the Bage (B4348) lies the Grade II listed Newhouse Farm (5/127 Little Bage).



2

Illus 2

Bage Pool barn, overall view of site

3.2 Recording

All recording followed *IfA* Standards and Guidance. A plan of excavations and features encountered were maintained at a scale of 1:100 and has been tied to the National Grid. Archaeological features and areas of ground disturbance were photographed with graduated metric scales and include 35mm colour transparencies, black&white prints and digital photographs.

3.3 Samples and artefacts

Occasional fragments of animal bone, bottles, jars and tiles were recovered during the course of the ground reduction within the barn. The fragments, of 19th and 20th century date, were not retained, as it is likely they were imported alongside the rest of the context and therefore have no value as dating evidence. No finds were retrieved during the excavation of the service trenches.

No contexts suitable for sampling were uncovered during the course of the watching brief.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Reduction of floor levels

The barn is rectangular in plan measuring approximately 7m (east-west) and 25m (north-south). The building comprises a northern and a southern bay, separated by a central corridor. The current entrance is on the west wall, whilst the eastern entrance has been closed off in modern times. The ground in the south and north bay was reduced by approximately 0.4m. A gravelled area (104) in the central passage was not excavated, as the developer requires machine access for future building work.

South bay

A 0.15m layer of modern ground level consisting of a mixture of dark brown clay loam and animal waste [100] was removed, exposing an area of cobbling [101] and a reddish brown sandy rubble layer [102]. The cobbled



Illus 3
Bage Pool barn, inside

3

surface was exposed in the south bay alongside the west wall and northern internal wall. The surface measured 8m north-south and 3.5m east-west and consisted of medium to small size river cobbles, possibly from the nearby Bach Brook, forming a compact surface. The cobbles abutted both the external west wall and the internal wall to the north, but stopped approximately 2m from the southern gable end of the barn and 3m from the east wall. Due to their natural rounded shape as river cobbles, it was not possible to identify the level of wear on the stones. Along the east edge of the surface, a series of rectangular slabs had been placed on edge, functioning as a revetment for the cobbled surface. The slabs were of local stone similar to those used in the walls of the barn and measured between 0–5m and 1.5m(l), 0.3m(h) and 0.1m(w).

The cobbles had been set into a sand deposit [102] which covered the entire south bay. The deposit consisted of a reddish brown sand loam with frequent angular stone rubble and occasional fragments of glass, jars and slate roof tiles. The context was not fully excavated as the formation level was reached within it. A deeper excavation measuring 0.6m by 0.5m and 0.5m depth in the southeast corner of the south bay did expose underlying light brown

silty clay [103] 0.05m below the level of excavation. The depth of context [102] was therefore a minimum 0.3m. As it ended at the same level as the footing of the barn, it is likely that it was deposited at the time of the construction of the barn.

North bay

A small area of cobbling [106] was exposed in the north bay. The surface had been disturbed and only a small, irregular area measuring 1.5m x 1m was present, consisting of 0.2m rectangular stones, hence differing from cobbling [103] in the south bay. The cobbles were set in a reddish brown rubble layer, most likely identical to that of [102] in the south bay.

4.2 Trench 2 – External service trench

A service trench running north-south, 1.5m east of the barn was excavated to a depth of 0.6m. The trench was 0.5m wide and 15m long, starting by the eastern bricked-up entrance to the barn and continuing approximately



Illus 4
Exterior wall [202]

was red/brown in colour and had quite a sandy texture. No archaeology was discovered during the excavation.

4.5 Trench 5 – Service trench

A small service trench was dug from northern end of the barn to the septic tank. The trench was 10.7m long x 0.3m wide and the depth of the trench by the wall of the barn was 0.5m sloping downwards to 0.60m the sewage tank. The soil was quite a uniform red/brown colour throughout the trench. No archaeology was discovered during the excavation.

4.6 Trench 6 – Soak-away trench

A trench from the septic tank was dug across the yard, through the entrance to the site and over into the field further west of the barn, where the soak-away trench was dug. The trench was 0.3m wide and 0.5m deep.

In the interface between the yard and the field, there was quite a lot of building rubble, which probably related to

4 3m north of the north-eastern corner of the building. A modern, gravelled driveway from the east entrance of the barn was uncovered in the southernmost part of the trench. The only area revealing archaeological deposits were limited to the northernmost 3m of the trench, where a east-west running wall [202] within a foundation trench [204] was uncovered. The wall appears to join with the north-eastern corner of the barn and runs parallel with a modern gate and garden wall 0.5m further south. Abutting the wall to the north was a gravelled surface. It is likely that the wall is a former garden wall and the gravelled deposit an earlier ground surface. Two fragments of blue and white china were observed within the fill of the foundation trench for the wall, which indicates a late, most likely 19th century date. According to the current owner of the barn, some construction work around the barn was undertaken in 1973, which is a possible date for the demolition of the garden wall and construction of the modern gate and wall directly to the south.

4.3 Trench 3 – Septic tank

A 2m x 2m x about 2.5m deep hole was dug to insert the septic tank. The soil was a deep red brown colour and quite sandy. No archaeology was discovered during the excavation.

4.4 Trench 4 – Service trench

A 12m long service trench was excavated running from the south east corner of the barn to the septic tank. The trench was 0.6m wide x 0.5m deep sloping slightly downwards to 0.6cm deep by the sewage tank. The soil



Illus 5
Cobbled surface inside barn

the construction of the modern barn in the adjoining field and the demolition of other structures.

The soak-away trench dug in the field measured 6m x 24m in plan and was 1.5m deep. No archaeology was discovered during the excavation.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

There was no evidence of activity on the site predating the 18–19th centuries. The cobbled surface in the barn is likely to have been its original floor surface. The wall footing found in Trench 2 is also likely to relate to the barn. Modern disturbance has been caused by previous construction activity at the western edge of the farmyard.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Morris, J(ed.), 1983, *Domesday Book*, Herefordshire, Phillimore, Chichester.



7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site register

Context register

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions
100	Barn interior	Modern ground floor surface consisting of manure, hay and clay.	D: 015m W: 6.5m L: 25m N/S
101	Barn interior	Cobbled surface in S end of barn. The cobbles are rounded river stones. Some disturbance on the S side (first 0.3m caught by bucket on digger). 4 rectangular stone slabs measuring between 1m and 2m x 0.5m (height) x 0.2m width have been placed on edge as revetment for the cobbled surface. The surface is above rubble [102] with revetment having been dug into the rubble. A step of 0.1m in the middle. The context was not sampled as the layer upon which it is set is likely to have been brought in from elsewhere.	3.5m E/W 8m N/S D: 0.2m
102	Barn interior	Sand deposit of a mid brown-reddish brown colour with frequent stone rubble. Loose composition. Underlies cobbles [101] and overlies a light brown silty clay [103] in the south half of the barn. The deposit was not fully excavated as the level of the trench was reached before the deposit was fully excavated. A service cut was dug in the SE corner of the barn, showing a further 0.05–0.1m of rubble coming into a light brown clay. Not sampled as must likely brought in from elsewhere.	D: 0.3m
103	Barn interior	Light brown clay underlying [102]. Only excavated in a small trench (see dimensions) to accommodate services in SE corner of barn.	L: 0.5m N/S W: unknown but min. 0.6m D: min. 0.5m
104	Barn interior	Modern gravel deposit between e and w doors of barn. Not excavated as developer needs machine access to the barn	L: 4m N/S W: 6.5m E/W D: min 0.2m
105	Barn interior	Rubble layer in the north end of the barn. Same as [102] but given a different number as [104] was not excavated and divides the two.	L: – W: – D: –
106	Barn interior	Cobbled surface in the north end of the barn. Uneven south edge. Northern and eastern edge at 90° angle to each other. Made from roughly cut local stone similar to those used in the construction of the barn itself. Stones measures 0.1–0.3m. Remaining surface 1m N/S, 1.5m E/W x 2m N/E – S/W.	L: 1m N/S W: 1.5m E/W D: 0.2m
200	External service trench	Topsoil 1 gras and dark brown loam	L: – W: – D: 0.2m
201	External service trench	Stone rubble east of barn entrance on east wall, modern date	L: 5m E/W W: 5m N/S D: 0.3m
202	External service trench	Linear stone structure running E/W between N/E corner of the barn and N/S running garden wall belonging to the Grade II Listed Bage Pool house 50m n of the site. Consists of sub-angular rectangular local stone between 0.2m – 0.5m x 0.3m – 0.5m in size. The structure directly underlies a gravel layer and the N/E corner of the barn appears uneven, indicating the removal of an E/W running wall joining up with the N/S running garden wall.	L: ? W: 2m D: min 0.6m
203	External service trench	Loose, mid reddish brown in cut [204] containing wall structure [202]	L: – W: – D: –

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions
204	External service trench	Cut containing fill [203] and wall structure [202]. Foundation trench for 18 – 19th century garden wall.	L: – W: – D: –
205	External service trench	Grey gravel which abuts linear wall structure [202]. Lies north of wall in what is currently the Bage Pool House garden.	L: unknown W: unknown D: 0.1
206	External service trench	Same as [203]	L: – W: – D: –
300	3 Sewage tank	Loose, sandy, red brown soil. Hole dug for sewage tank. 2x2m at the top, but tapering in to a rounded base at about 2.5m depth. Uniform colour all the way through trench. Contained no archaeology.	L: 2m W: 2m D: 2.5m
400	4 Service trench	Loose, sandy, red brown soil. Service trench for drain pipe. Trench cut across farm yard from s/e corner of the barn to a sewage tank. Trench sloping slightly down towards the sewage tank. Uniform layer of soil and contained no archaeology.	L: 24m W: 0.6m D: 0.6m
500	5 Service trench	Loose, sandy, red brown soil. Trench running from north end of house across farmyard to septic tank. Slopes slightly down towards the septic tank.	L: 10.7m W: 0.3m D: 0.6m
600	6 Service trench	Loose, sandy, red brown soil. Service trench running from septic tank across farmyard going west out through entrance to site and across into field. In places the top .05cm soil were a darker reddish brown colour. A few smaller stone present, but no archaeology	L: 36m W: 0.3m D: 0.5m
700	7 Service trench / soakaway	Darkish brown loose soil. Square soakaway trench in field adj. to site. Field slightly higher and sloping down to the north. Made up ground from when the foundations to a modern barn, adjacent to field were dug. By the edge of the concreted drive into the site and the edge of the grassy field, some building rubble had been deposited. In the long trench on the south side, other large stones were deposited. In a very few places it was possible to see the line of the previous surface. No archaeology present.	Square L: 24m x 2m L: 6 m x 2m W: 0.60m D: 1.5m

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Drawing register

Drawing no.	Scale	Plan or Section	Description
1	1:100	Plan	Plan of cobbled surface and ground made up inside barn
2	1:10	Section	Section of electricity trench at interior of barn – SE corner ([102], [103])
3	1:10	Section	Section of [204] and wall [202]. East facing

Photographic register

Photo no.	B&W	Colour	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
1	–	–	Y	S	Area of service trench before excavation
2	–	–	Y	N	Wall [202]
3	–	–	Y	E	Wall [202]
4	–	–	Y	N	Wall [202] after removal of upper layer
5	–	–	Y	W	Wall [202] after removal of upper layer



Photo no.	B&W	Colour	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
6	-	-	Y	N	Wall [202] after removal of upper layer
7	-	-	Y	S	Service trench at level
8	-	-	Y	N	Service trench at level
9	-	-	Y	W	E facing sections showing wall [202]
10	-	-	Y	W	E facing section showing gravel [205]
11	-	-	y	E	W facing section, wall [202]
12	-	-	Y	NNW	Cobbled surface [101]
13	-	-	Y	W	Cobbled surface [101], south extend and revetment slabs
14	-	-	Y	W	Cobbled surface [101] (several shots due to diff light conditions)
15	-	-	Y	W	Cobbled surface [101] (several shots due to diff light conditions)
16	-	-	Y	W	Northern extend of cobbles [101]
17	-	-	Y	W	Northern extend of cobbles [101]
18	-	-	Y	S	Cobbles [101] and rubble deposit [102]
19	-	-	Y	S	Cobbles [101] and rubble deposit [102]
20	-	-	Y	SSW	Illustration photo (no scale)
21	-	-	Y	SSW	Illustration photo (no scale)
22	-	-	Y	-	Overexposed
23	-	-	Y	-	ID shot
24	-	-	Y	W	Demolished internal wall at level of excavation
25	-	-	Y	W	Demolished internal wall at level of excavation
26	-	-	Y	S	Stone slabs [106] within [105]
27	-	-	Y	S	Stone slabs [106] within [105]
28	-	-	Y	S	South extend of barn at level
29	-	-	Y	S	South extend of barn at level
30	-	-	Y	S	South extend of barn at level
31	-	-	Y	S	South extend of barn at level
32	-	-	Y	S	South extend of barn at level
33	-	-	Y	E	Electricity trench, internal showing footing
34	-	-	Y	E	Electricity trench, internal showing footing
35	-	-	Y	E	Electricity trench, internal showing footing
36	-	-	y	E	Electricity trench, internal showing footing
37	-	-	Y	N	North end of barn at level
38	-	-	Y	N	North end of barn at level
39	-	-	Y	N	North end of barn at level
40	-	-	Y	S	Barn at level of excavation
41	-	-	Y	S	Barn at level of excavation
42	-	-	Y	E	[104] rubble surface between E&W doors
43	-	-	Y	E	[104] rubble surface between E&W doors
44	-	y	-	-	ID shot
45	-	Y	-	N	Wall [202] looking N
46	-	Y	-	N	Wall [202] after removing first layer of stones

Photo no.	B&W	Colour	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
47	-	Y	-	S	View of service trench
48	-	Y	-	N	View of service trench
49	-	y	-	W	E facing section of wall [202]
50	Y	-	-		ID shot for site
51	Y	-	-	S	Cobbles [101] in south end of barn = 1 m scale
52	Y	-	-	S	Cobbles [101] in south end of barn = 1 m scale
53	Y	-	-	W	Cobbles [101] close up of N extend / end
54	Y	-	-	W	Cobbles [101] southern end of barn
55	Y	-	-	N	Cobbles [101] looking north
56	Y	-	-	S	Stone slabs in [105] facing S [north end of barn
57	Y	-	-	S	Stone slabs in [105] facing S [north end of barn
58	Y	-	-	S	Rubble layer [102] at level, south end of barn
59	Y	-	-	S	Rubble layer [102] at level, south end of barn
60	Y	-	-	N	Northern end of barn at level of excavation [105]
61	Y	-	-	N	Northern end of barn at level of excavation [105]
62	Y	-	-	S	Barn at level of excavation. Looking south
63	Y	-	-	N	Barn at level of excavation, looking north [105]
64	-	-	-	-	-
65	Y	-	-	-	ID shot for site
66	Y	-	-	N	Wall [202]
67	Y	-	-	N	Wall [202] after removing first layer of stones
68	Y	-	-	S	Service trench looking S
69	Y	-	-	N	Service trench looking N
70	y	-	-	W	East section showing wall [202]
71	Y	-	-	E	T 3: Hole for septic tank
72	Y	-	-	E	T4: trench from S/W of barn across yard
73	Y	-	-	E	T4: trench from S/W of barn across yard
74	Y	-	-	W	T4: trench from S/W looking west
75	Y	-	-	W	T4: trench from S/W looking west
76	Y	-	-	E	T4: trench from S/W looking east
77	Y	-	-	W	T4: trench from S/W looking west
78	Y	-	-	S/W	T 5: trench from northern end of barn to septic tank looking S/W
79	Y	-	-	S/W	T 5: trench from northern end of barn to septic tank looking S/W
80	Y	-	-	N/E	T5: trench from northern end of barn to septic tank looking N/E
81	Y	-	-	N/E	T5: trench from northern end of barn to septic tank looking N/E
82	Y	-	-	S/W	T6: section looking S/W
83	Y	-	-	S/W	T6: section looking S/W
84	Y	-	-	S/W	T6: section looking S/W
85	Y	-	-	S/W	T6: section looking S/W
86	Y	-	-	S	T6: section looking S
87	Y	-	-	S	T6: section looking S



Photo no.	B&W	Colour	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
88	Y	-	-	S/W	Photo of whole trench
89	-	-	Y	W	T4: section looking W
90	-	-	Y	W	T4: close-up pf section looking W
91	-	-	Y	N/W	T4: Looking up the whole trench
92	-	-	Y	N/W	T4: Looking up the whole trench
93	-	-	Y	W	Section looking E
94	-	-	Y	-	"front cover" photo of all the machines in the yard
95	-	-	Y	N/E	T5: section looking N/E
96	-	-	Y	N/E	T5: section looking N/E
97	-	-	Y	S/W	T5: section looking S/W
98	-	-	Y	S/W	T5: section looking S/W
99	-	-	Y	N/W	T6: looking at the N/W section
100	-	-	Y	N/W	T6: looking at S/W section
101	-	-	Y	N/W	T6: looking at S/W section
102	-	-	Y	S	T6: near garage looking S
103	-	-	Y	S	T6: near garage looking S
104	-	-	Y	S	T6: near garage looking S
105	-	-	Y	S	T7: Photo in field, trench looking S
106	-	-	Y	N	T7: section looking N
107	-	-	Y	W	T7: length of trench looking E

7.2 Appendix 2 – Contractors report form

Report Name and Title	Barn at Bage Pool, Dorstone		
Contractors Name and Address	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Unit 1 Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ		
Site Name	Barn at Bage Pool, Dorstone		
Grid Reference (8 fig)	SO 29812432	Planning application no.	DCSW2005/1682/F
SMR/HER number/s of site	HER 1835		
Date of Field Work	January & June 2011		
Date of Report	September 2011		
NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS – None			
Pottery	Period	Number of sherds	
Other	Period	Quantity	
NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED			
Sieving for charred plant remains	No of features sampled		
	No of buckets		
C14/scientific dates	No and Type		
	Result		
Pollen	No of columns / spot samples		
	Name of pollen specialist		
Bone	Number of buckets coarse sieved for bone		
	Quantity Recovered	Period	
Insect	No of Columns/spot samples		
	Name of insect specialist		
Other	Type and specialist		
Summary of the report	7 service trenches were excavated by machine during the work on the barn conversion. 2 inside the barn and 5 outdoors. The trenches were all of different length and depth. Considering the proximity to Grade II listed building and the history of the site, no archaeological remains were found in the course of the watching brief. No finds were retrieved either.		



Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
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North East (HQ)

13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

T 0131 467 7705 • **F** 0131 467 7706 • **E** office@headlandarchaeology.com

North West

10 Payne Street, Glasgow G4 0LF

T 0141 354 8100 • **F** 0141 332 9388 • **E** glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

Midlands & West

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ

T 0143 236 4901 • **F** 0143 236 4900 • **E** hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

South & East

Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 4QH

T 01525 850 878 • **E** leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com