

TVFS/01



LAND ADJACENT TO THE VICARAGE, FORD, SHROPSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Mr Brendan Critchlow

14/01786/FUL

June 2015

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project info

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LAND ADJOINING THE VICARAGE (TVFS/01)

Ford
Shropshire

0 200km



KEY

- development boundary
- 0.20/0.30m (topsoil)
- 1.00m (foundations)
- 1.00m (soakaways)

0 25m
scale 1:1,000 @ A4

ILLUS 1

Site location

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LAND ADJACENT TO THE VICARAGE, FORD, SHROPSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to The Vicarage in Ford, Shropshire. The work was undertaken in response to a planning condition. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the project.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Mr. Brendan Critchlow to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to The Vicarage in Ford, Shropshire (NGR 341026,313894).

Planning Permission had been granted for the development by Shropshire Council (14/01786/FUL) on condition that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). A WSI prepared by Headland Archaeology (Kimber 2014) was agreed with the archaeological advisor to Shropshire Council in advance of site works. Groundworks commenced on 23rd March 2015 and lasted for a period of two days.

'The proposed development site is located c.60m south-west of a complex rectilinear cropmark enclosure site of likely Iron Age and/or Roman date. As a result, there is a possibility that archaeological features or deposits associated with it are present on the proposed development site itself.'

The site was considered to have moderate archaeological potential.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological work were to:

- record any remains or finds of archaeological significance encountered in the course of the groundworks.
- produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.

2 SITE LOCATION

The development site is located immediately to the north of The Vicarage within the village of Ford, Shropshire (Illus 1). Prior to development the site comprised a small paddock bounded by hedgerows. A green lane provided access to the site from the south.

Underlying geology is recorded as Kinnerton Sandstone Bedrock overlain by glacial till of Quaternary date (BGS 2015).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

According to pre-application advice by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority:

5 METHOD

All groundworks were undertaken by the principle contractor using a tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. Groundworks associated with the development comprised the following:

- Initial topsoil strip (0.20 – 0.30m) over footprint of proposed dwelling;
- Topsoil strip over area of proposed access drive;
- Excavation of foundation trenches (1.00m in depth, 0.60m in width);
- Excavation of two soak-away drainage pits (1.00m in depth, 2.5m x 2.5m in plan).



2



3



ILLUS 2

Monitored excavations (camera facing south)

ILLUS 3

Eastern soakaway pit (camera facing NW)

Works were monitored by an archaeologist who was permitted sufficient time to record the stratigraphic sequence once deposits had been removed.

All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. 35mm black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only and will not form a part of the site archive.

6 RESULTS

Excavation depths across the site are indicated on **Illus 1**.

Deposits were consistent across the proposed development site (**Illus 2**). Glacial till comprising pink and orange sands and gravels [102] was identified at a depth of between 0.50 and 0.60m below ground level. Geological deposits were overlain by a mid brown silty clay subsoil [101] and a dark brown silty clay topsoil [100] (**Illus 3**).

No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were identified during the course of the groundworks.

7 DISCUSSION

No remains of archaeological significance were observed during this scheme of work. The deposits observed suggest that the site has predominantly used for agricultural purposes.

No continuation of the cropmark enclosure site identified to the north was observed within the development site.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kimber, M 2014 *Proposed Single Dwelling Adjoining the Vicarage, Ford, Shropshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (TVFS/01).

9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description	Depth below ground level
100	Topsoil – Soft, friable dark brown silty clay. Occasional small stones throughout.	0.00 – 0.32m
101	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown silty clay. Frequent small and medium stones throughout. Friable.	0.32 – 0.57m
102	Natural – Pink/orange gravels. Mid orange sandy patches throughout. Occasional large stones.	0.57 – 1.01m+

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	Direction	Description
01	–	Site ID shot
02	SW	Foundation trench – Car Port
03	NW	Working shot
04	N	Working shot
05	SE	Foundation trench – Living Room
06	NW	Working shot
07	NW	Foundation trench – Car Port
08	SW	Foundation trench – Utility Room
09	W	Western Soak
10	S	Western Soak
11	N	Eastern Soak
12	S	Working shot
13	NE	Driveway excavation
14	SE	Driveway excavation
15	NW	Driveway excavation
16	W	Driveway excavation



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