

NEWN13



Newnham Grounds, King's Newnham, Warwickshire

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording

Prepared for Mr D Reay, Vicarage Farm, Church Lawford, Rugby, CV23 6HB



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Client</i> | Mr D Reay |
| <i>National Grid Reference</i> | SP 43827 77164 |
| <i>Parish:</i> | King's Newnham |
| <i>Council:</i> | Rugby Borough Council |
| <i>OASIS ref.:</i> | headland4-162232 |
| <i>Archive will be deposited with:</i> | Rugby Art Gallery and Museum |
| <i>Project Manager:</i> | Michael Tierney |
| <i>Author:</i> | Emma Jeffery and Joe Berry |
| <i>Fieldwork:</i> | Joe Berry |
| <i>Graphics:</i> | Julia Bastek |
| <i>Schedule</i> | |
| <i>Fieldwork</i> | 13 th -14 th April 2015 |
| <i>Report</i> | July 2015 |

Signed off by

Michael Tierney

Michael Tierney

Date: 13th July 2015

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NEWNHAM GROUNDS, KING'S NEWNHAM, WARWICKSHIRE

Archaeological Monitoring

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological observation of groundworks associated with the conversion of a redundant barn at Newnham Grounds, King's Newnham, Warwickshire, in response to a condition placed on planning consent (Planning Ref: R13/0613). The existing building had been built over a foundation layer, with concrete surfacing to the south. Beneath the foundation layer was subsoil throughout, and to the north of the new footings topsoil immediately overlaid subsoil. The excavation of the foundation trenches removed the majority of the wall foundations, throughout the smaller structure and along the eastern length of the larger structure. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered during the monitoring of the groundworks.

1 INTRODUCTION

The client, Mr D Reay, has been granted planning consent (R13/0613) for the conversion of a redundant barn to a residential dwelling at Newnham Grounds, King's Newnham, henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA) (Illus 1).

Due to the archaeological potential of the DA, a condition was attached to the planning permission which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. Warwickshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist (WCPA) prepared a brief detailing the archaeological work required: a programme of monitoring to be undertaken during the development works (WCPA 2013).

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the monitoring (Headland Archaeology 2013), undertake the site works, and prepare a report (this document) on the results. The WSI was approved by the WCPA prior to commencement of the project.

No archaeology was found during the observation of the groundworks.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The DA lies in north-eastern Warwickshire approximately 1km west of the village of King's Newnham. It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 43827 77164 and is situated c.250m east of the boundary between the parishes of Bandon & Bretford and King's Newnham.

The existing structure had already been demolished before the archaeological monitoring of the works began.

The land on which the DA sits is at 75mOD and slopes gently downward to the River Avon, which lies c.300m to the south.

The geology of the area is described as mudstone of the Mercia Group overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey – Accessed 23/10/2013).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The DA lies within an area of archaeological potential dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods.

The evidence for the earliest activity in the vicinity of the DA comprises several findspots of Mesolithic flint flakes and tools (MWA6043 and 6044). There is further evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, with the DA lying within a rich landscape of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary activity. This includes a complex of ring ditches (potentially the remains of a henge, enclosure, and barrow) approximately 400m to the northwest (MWA3455); and similar features at King's Newnham within 500m of the DA (MWA5676). Around 700m south of the DA are several enclosures (MWA344, 5409 and 6080) which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs - one of these may be a causewayed enclosure of Neolithic date. Several pit clusters of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are also known from the vicinity of the DA (MWA8818 and MWA 8819).

The DA is located c.750m to the east of the Roman road, the Fosse Way. Several cropmarks and settlement sites of Iron Age and Romano-British date are present within the vicinity of the DA (MWA3456, 10281, 12493).

For the medieval period, the HER contains a number of records describing ridge and furrow cultivation indicating the largely agricultural nature of the area at that time. This land would have served the areas surrounding the villages of Bretford (MWA10259), and the now shrunken medieval villages of King's Newnham (MWA3469) and Church Lawford (MWA3440).

The agricultural use of the area continued into the post-medieval period, as is shown on historic maps from the late 19th century. Buildings are shown within the footprint of the DA from the 1880s (First Edition OS Map). They consisted of two small unconnected buildings on maps from the 1880s up to 1925. This was changed into the single building (the demolished barn) by the 1950s.

A photographic survey of the barn was undertaken prior to the commencement of construction works, in fulfilment of another part of the planning conditions. This showed that, before its demolition, the barn consisted of a large structure, open to the south and west but enclosed on its north and east sides by brick and metal walls, and a smaller entirely brick built structure adjoining to the west (ABRS 2013).

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives are outlined in the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2013). In general the purpose of the investigation was to record and enhance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost (NPPF para 141). This was to be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The local and regional research contexts are provided by *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011). Any evidence retrieved during the works was analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks. In particular the site had a high potential to contain remains of prehistoric (particularly Neolithic and Bronze Age) activity, Romano-British settlement, and medieval agriculture.

Specifically the aims of the investigation included:

- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.
- Establishing the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.
- Securing where appropriate, the assessment, analysis, conservation, and long-term storage of any artefactual / ecofactual material recovered from the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Field Methodology

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the 13th and 14th April 2015. This included the observation of the excavation of foundation trenches for the new building (Illus 2). This covered a total length of 76m, by between 0.45m and 0.8m in width, by 1m in depth (Illus. 2).

The barn had been levelled and removed by the time monitoring of the works had begun. The only surviving standing architecture consisted of the steel beam roof supports, also removed during the course of the works.

Monitoring was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2013). This involved continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording during all groundworks likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits or remains. The groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a flat-bladed bucket.

All works were conducted in accordance with standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (CIfA 2014a) and adheres to English Heritage's (2009) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007).

5.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b). The trench and contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was compiled. The site plan was accurately tied in to the National Grid and a scale version is shown in Illus 2.

A digital photographic record was taken and a metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

5.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database (headland4-162232).

There resultant archive will be deposited at Rugby Museum and Art Gallery. All archive preparation will be

undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the ClfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (ClfA 2014c).

6 RESULTS

The foundation trench consisted of a 0.8m cut along the outside of the new building's footprint, which largely coincided with that of the demolished structure, and two cross trenches, 0.45m wide, at approximately the centre of the new building (Illus. 2).

To the north of the site, grey brown sandy silt topsoil (1005), 0.2m in thickness, overlay a red brown silty sand subsoil (1003) (Illus. 3). Beneath the concrete yard and within the footprint of the building, foundation layers, (1001), a dark grey brown sandy silt, and (1002), an orange brown sandy silt, both 0.2m thick, overlay the subsoil. This was finally overlain by the concrete yard surface (1000), 0.1m thick (Illus. 4). Within the building, this concrete layer had been broken up and partially removed prior to the monitoring works but is clearly visible in the photographs from the building survey (ABRS 2013). Across the entire site the subsoil (1003), between 0.1m and 0.2m in thickness, overlay red brown sand natural deposits (1004).

The remains of the foundations of the 19th-20th century barn were mostly removed during the excavation of the new foundations. The only elements which survived this were the length of the east side of the demolished barn and the eastern wall of the smaller structure, where the new foundations were cut outside the structural remains (see Illus. 5).

The natural showed no signs of disturbance, either from the construction of the demolished barn or from other sources. No archaeological artefacts were discovered during the course of the works.

6.1 Conclusion

No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered during the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trench. No further groundworks will be undertaken.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic sources

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Watt, S 2011, *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research.* Oxford: Oxbow Books.

WCPS, 2013, *Brief for Archaeological Work: Land opposite Newnham Grounds.*

8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context Register

| Context no. | Description | Dimensions |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1000 | Concrete Yard | 0-0.1m |
| 1001 | Foundation layer: dark grey-brown sandy-silt with frequent stones and occasional rubble | 0.1-0.3m |
| 1002 | Foundation layer: mid red-orange-brown sandy-silt with frequent stones and occasional rubble | 0.1-0.3m |
| 1003 | Subsoil: mid red-brown silty-sand with occasional stones | 0.2-0.4m |
| 1004 | Natural: mid red-brown sandy with infrequent sub-rounded medium-large stones and occasional patches of green-brown sandy-clay | 0.6m+ |
| 1005 | Topsoil: dark grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional sub-rounded medium stones | 0-0.2m |
| 1006 | Wall from previous building. Observed running N-S along eastern side of development footprint; and around the foundation trenches in the western part of the development footprint. Unfrogged bricks set in a lime mortar. Two courses deep. Observed on the ground-surface. | 15m X 0.4m X 0.2m (E part); 21.2m X 0.4m X 0.2m (W part) |
| 1007 | Foundation trench. Number given for survey | 76m X 0.45-0.8m X 1m |

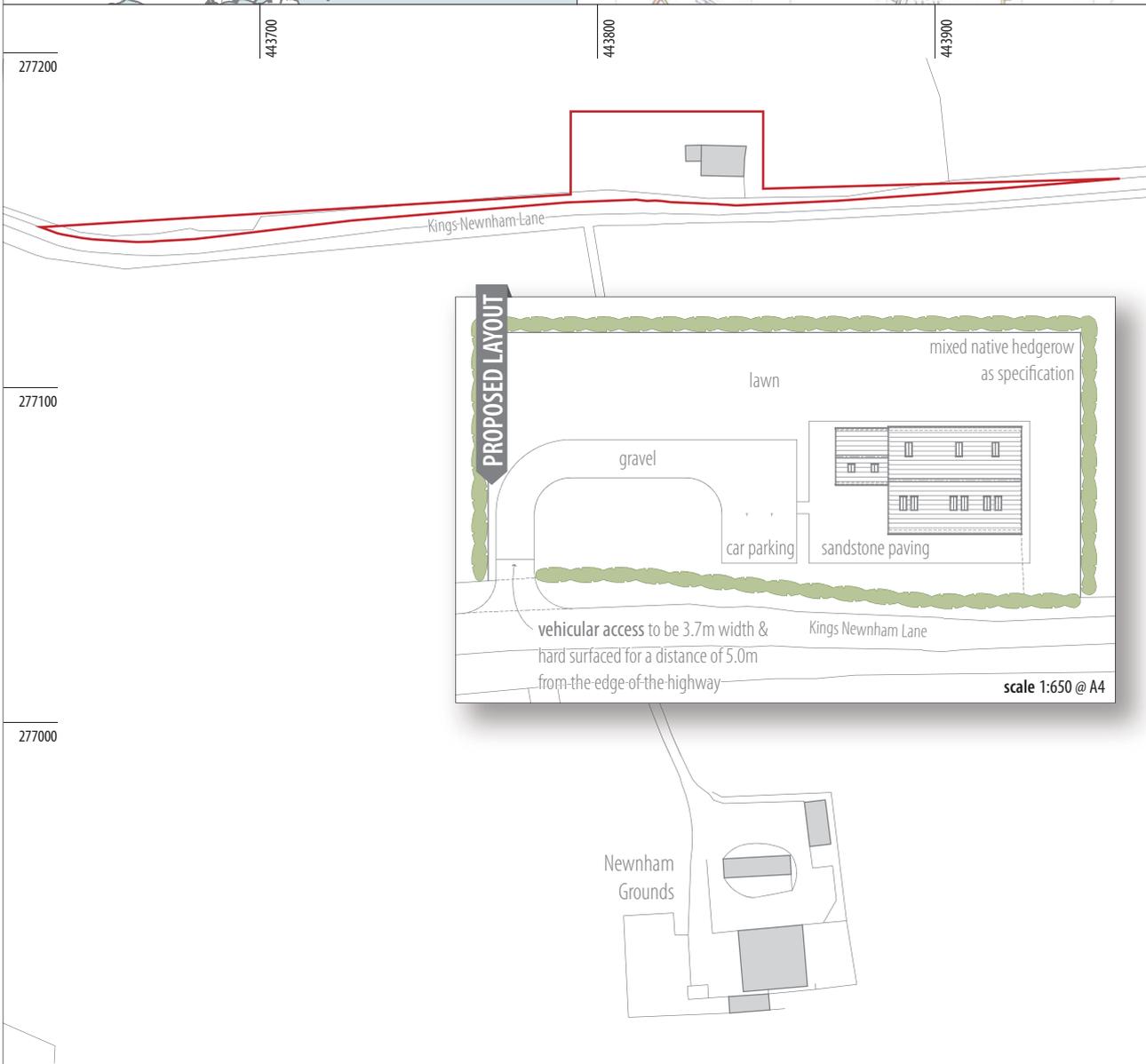
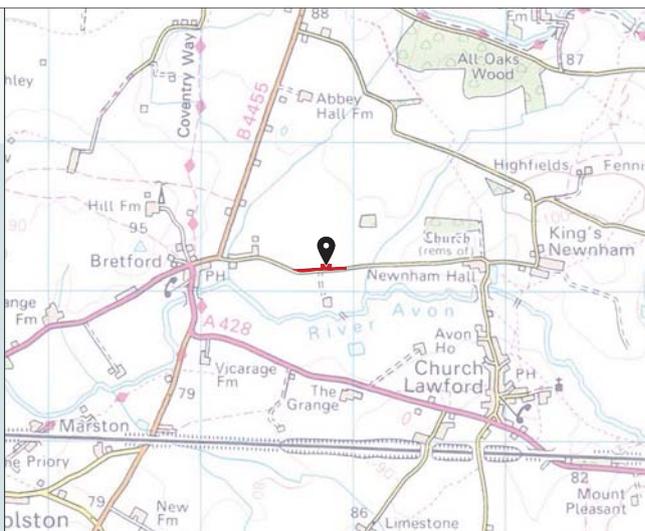
Photographic Register

| Photograph no. | Digital | Direction | Description |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---|
| 001 | 122235 | S | N-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over subsoil over natural |
| 002 | 122415 | E | W-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 003 | 122607 | E | W-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 004 | 122658 | W | E-facing section of foundation trench, showing wall [1006] over foundation layer over natural |
| 005 | 122753 | W | E-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete and foundation layer, over subsoil over natural |
| 006 | 135016 | N | S-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 007 | 145247 | S | N-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over subsoil over natural |
| 008 | 145342 | E | W-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over subsoil over natural |

| | | | |
|-----|--------|---|---|
| 009 | 152940 | W | E-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 010 | 160441 | S | N-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over subsoil over natural |
| 011 | 160901 | W | E-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 012 | 161004 | N | S-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 013 | 163645 | S | N-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 014 | 163730 | E | W-facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete over foundation layer over subsoil over natural |
| 015 | 092844 | N | S-facing section of foundation trench, showing topsoil over subsoil over natural |
| 016 | 101457 | S | N-facing section of foundation trench, showing topsoil over subsoil over natural |
| 017 | 110946 | E | W-facing section of foundation trench, showing topsoil over subsoil over natural |



land adjacent to
Kings Newnham Lane
near King's Newnham
Warwickshire



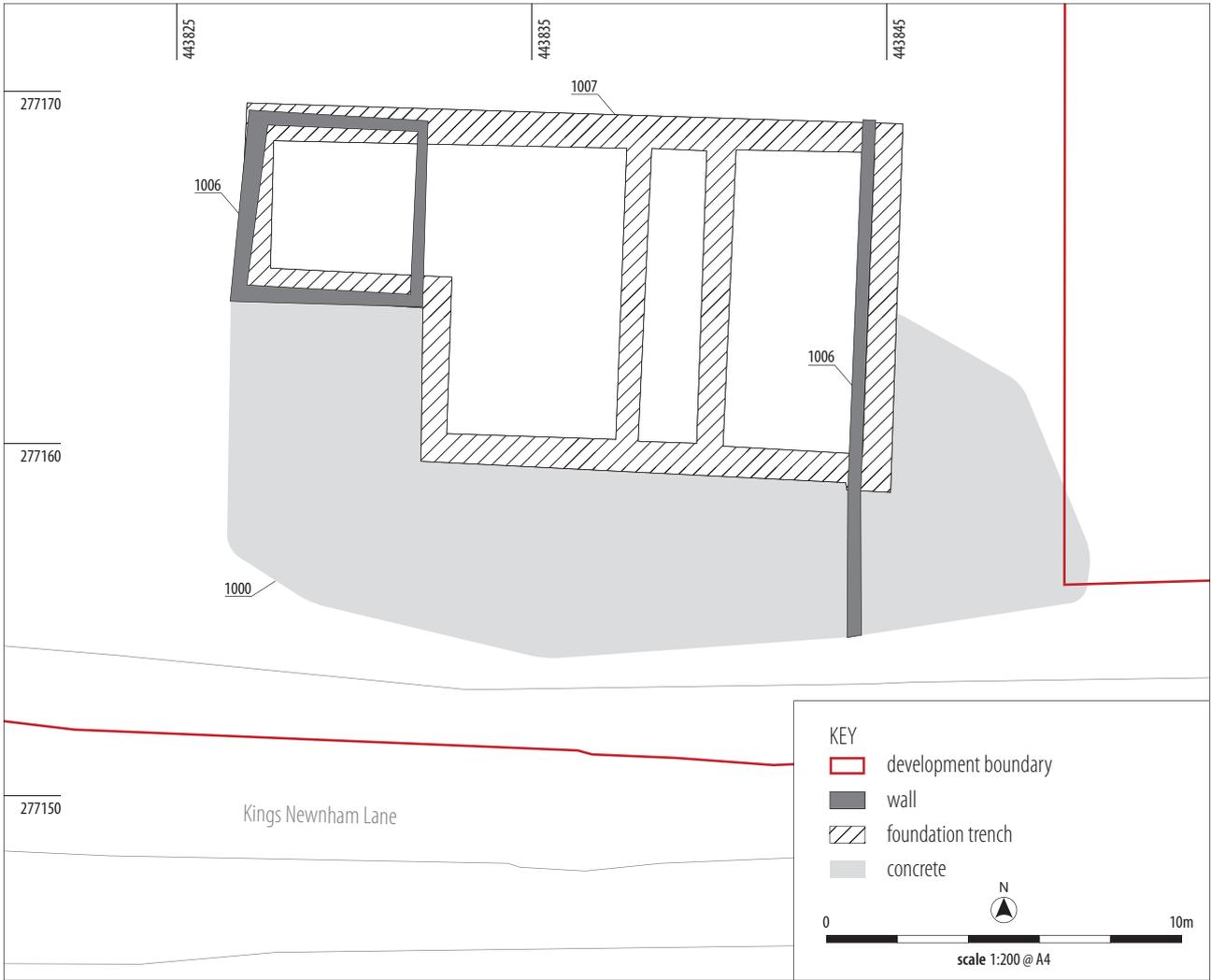
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0 100m

ILLUS 1
Site location



ILLUS 2
Plan of foundation trenches monitored

ILLUS 3

E facing section of foundation trench, showing wall [1006]



ILLUS 4

N facing section of foundation trench, showing concrete (1000) over make-up deposit (1001) over subsoil (1003) over natural (1004)



ILLUS 5

S facing section of foundation trench, western part of the site, showing topsoil (1005) over subsoil (1003) over natural (1004)

