

PHFW13



Peter Hall Farm, Walsgrave on Sowe, Warwickshire:

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording

Prepared for Mrs Linda Meakin



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client

Mrs Linda Meakin

National Grid Reference

SP 41189 80801

Parish:

Council:

OASIS ref.:

Archive will be deposited with:

Warwickshire

headland4-169773

Warwickshire Museums

Project Manager:

Author:

Fieldwork:

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Report

May 2014

Signed off by



Joe Abrams

Date: 02/07/2014

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PETER HALL FARM, WALSGRAVE ON SOWE.

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the renovation of farm buildings at Peter Hall Farm, Walsgrave on Sowe, Warwickshire in order to provide information on its archaeological potential. No significant archaeological remains or finds were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mrs Linda Meakin (the client) has been granted full planning consent (R13/1315) for the conversion of several standing disused farm buildings and the construction of access and a car port at Peter Hall Farm; Walsgrave on Sowe, Warwickshire, SP 41189 80801, henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA) (Illus 1).

The local planning authority (LPA) is advised on archaeological matters by the Archaeological Advisor (AO). Due to the archaeological potential of the DA the AO has instructed that archaeological monitoring would be required prior to construction of the development. This work is requested in accordance with government guidance as set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) paragraph 128.

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

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site lies in open countryside in a landscape dominated by the towns of Coventry to the West, and Rugby to the East. The M6 runs along a low ridge some fourteen hundred metres to the North. Peter Hall Farm is situated in east Warwickshire (site centre SP 41193 80801). The development includes the conversion of several standing disused farm buildings and the construction of an access route and car port, forming a single residential unit with associated parking and

services. The site is currently in use as a farm. just below the crest of the ridge on the terrace of a north facing slope. The geology of the area is Mercia Mudstone, with overlying deposits of the Bosworth Clay group, laid down at some point during the Quaternary Glaciation. The South of the site is bounded by Peter Hall Lane

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The DA is situated in a landscape dominated by two main arterial routes: the Fosse Way and Watling Street, which are known to have been in use from their construction in the first or second centuries AD, until the advent of the modern road network in the early twentieth century. Two potential prehistoric barrows are noted in the wider area (NMR 889195 and NMR 337576) and Roman finds have been collected from several dispersed locations within the parish.

The DA lies within an area of significant archaeological potential dating to the Medieval period. It is situated within the probable extent of the Medieval settlement of Lower Smite (HER MWA 4199).

Peter Hall Farm is a multi-phase structure incorporating elements of St Peter's Church, the former parish Church of Lower Smite (HER MWA 3722). The contemporary form of the structure is consistent with the Georgian trend for *model farms*; the main elements of the farm were constructed in the late 18th century.

It is thought likely that the church at Peter Hall formed the nucleus of settlement for the Medieval village of Lower Smite (NMR 337880). The old parish name of Smite was replaced by Combe but is preserved in Smite Brook, Smeeton Lane and Smite Hill. A well defined sub-rectangular enclosure was recorded from aerial photograph evidence close to Smite Brook. Ridge and furrow field systems have been identified to the

southwest of Peter Hall but there is no indication of any remains of the village.

The Cistercian Abbey of Combe was founded in July AD1150 by Richard De Camvill. During the 13th century the monks enclosed the villages of Upper and Lower Smite to create sheep pasture. It was the richest monastic house in Warwickshire at this time. The buildings were refurbished during the 15th century. Following the Dissolution the Combe Abbey estate was granted to Mary, Duchess of Somerset and Richmond.

Combe Abbey House was constructed on the site of the Cistercian abbey. John Harrington acquired the abbey in 1581 and built the house incorporating three sides of the 15th century cloister. The house passed to the Craven family in 1622 and the park was enclosed in 1634. By 1667 the southwest wing of the house had been rebuilt. The formal gardens were extended in the 1680's. Subsequently, Capability Brown remodelled the gardens and park, constructed the lake and associated structures during the 1770's. Later during the 1820's major alterations were undertaken by Lewis Cottingham. There was continued refurbishment and restoration works during the early and late 20th century.

If archaeological remains were to be present within the DA, they would most likely to comprise Medieval and later remains. If Medieval or Post-medieval remains were to be present, these would most likely to be of an agricultural nature.

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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), and English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (English Heritage 1997). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

4.1 Specifically the aims of the investigation include:

- 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.

4.2 To facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit, the resulting archive (finds and records) will be archived in a local registered museum or repository (Museum Accession Number Applied for).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Site works

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken over the course of two days (10/2/14 and 19/05/14). This observed floor reduction internal to the building, a service trench and the soakaway and Klargester pits (Illus 2-5).

Monitoring was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2013). Namely involving continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording during all groundworks unless agreed otherwise with the AO.

5.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 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 1.

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 (headland4-169773).

There resultant archive will be deposited at Warwick Museum. All archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the IfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007).

6 RESULTS

6.1 Discussion

The technical detail of contextual information can be found in the Appendix 1. The following narrative is designed to interpret that technical detail and attempt to categorise its significance. Context numbers for deposits are expressed in parenthesis, i.e. (001), cuts of features are expressed in brackets, i.e. [003].

Monitoring of the floor reduction internal to the buildings (Illus 1) revealed made ground (1001, 2001) overlying geological deposits, no topsoil was present. Excavations of a service pipe trench, soak-away and Klargester Pit (Illus 2) external to the building revealed topsoil (3001) overlying subsoil (3002) The underlying geological deposit (3003) was uncovered at between 0.70 -0.75 meters in depth (Illus 2). Across the DA a deposit of modern brick and tile was encountered within the footprint of the building, and outside, in what had been a piece of pasture. The presence of a large soak-away running from the farm, north towards a small stream, was noted.

Two fragments of transfer printed blue and white ceramic were recovered from infilling material inside the eastern end of the barn. The smaller fragment is almost certainly a fragment from a *Willow* pattern plate. The second larger fragment is a piece of pearlware from a large flat bottomed dish or charger. Both fabrics and designs are typical of the late 18th to mid 19th centuries. The reason for raising the floor level inside the barn may be associated with a change in purpose: possibly the removal of a wooden drying floor for hay or grain.

Table 1: Significance of Heritage Assets

Description of Heritage Asset	Area	Feature Number/s	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale
18 th or 19 th century	1,2	1001, 2001	Low significance of Local

infilling deposit			Importance
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6.2 Conclusion

No evidence of significant archaeological remains was found within the DA. The presence of 18th/19th century ceramics within made ground deposits associated with the barn suggests that earth-moving and landscaping was undertaken as part of the barn construction. Monitoring has revealed no archaeological remains. It should be borne in mind that the sample was a very small sample of the local landscape and that it is not unusual for archaeologically sensitive areas to contain areas where no cut features are located. The surrounding area remains a sensitive one archaeologically, though the specific part of the 'site' being impacted by the proposals is located in an area of relatively blank ground within that sensitive area.

As no further ground works are required as part of the development the potential damage to any unidentified heritage assets is negligible.

Table 2: Impact on Heritage Assets (HA)

HA	Development impact	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale	Impact of development on heritage asset (None, Low, Medium, High)
n/a	Conversion of farm buildings and construction of access road	Low Significance of Local Scale	None

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic sources

Archaeological Archives Forum *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (published by the IfA 2007).

Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework, Government National Planning Policy*.

Headland Archaeology 2013. *Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Peter Hall Farm, Peter Hall Lane, Warwickshire*

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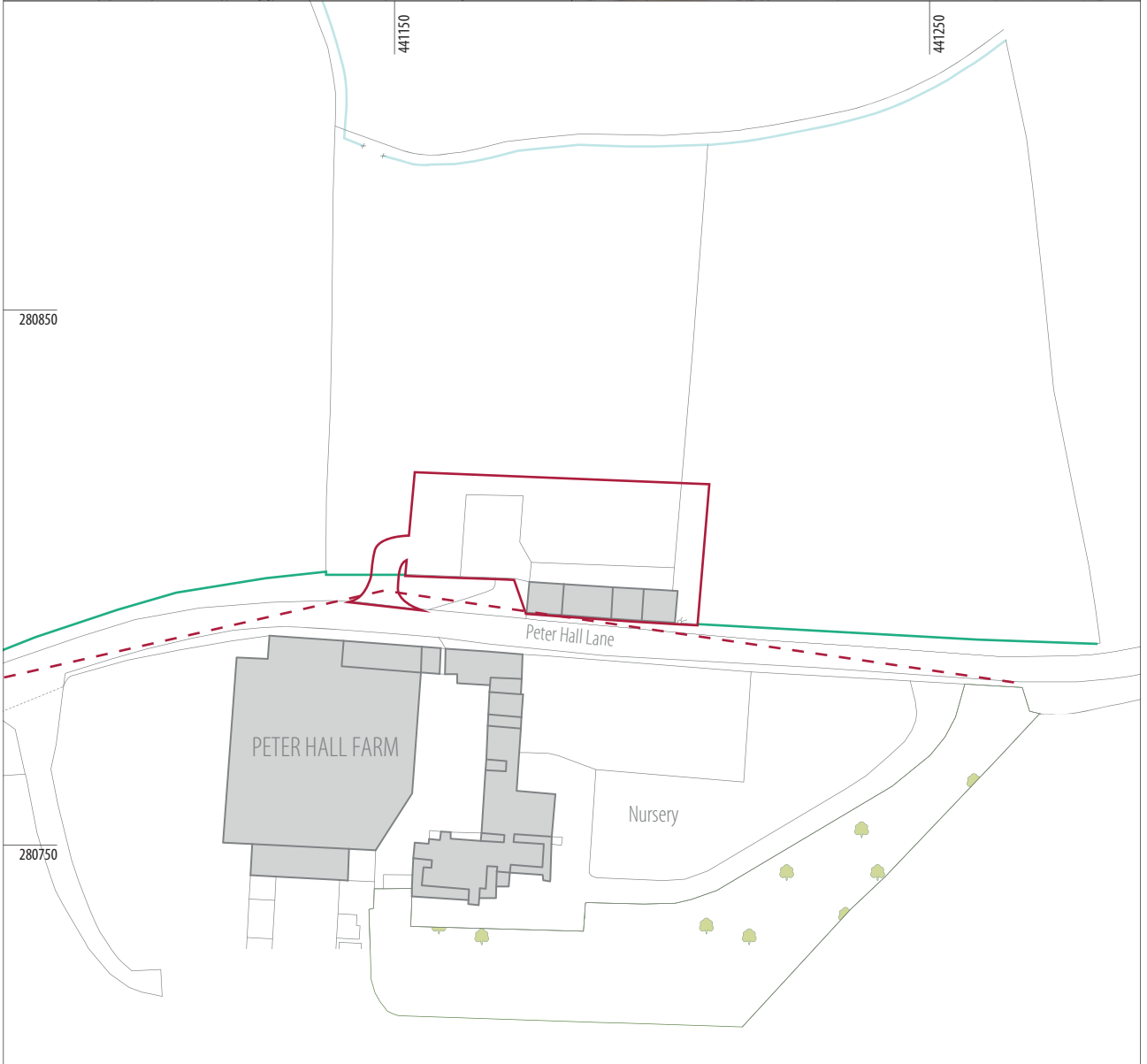
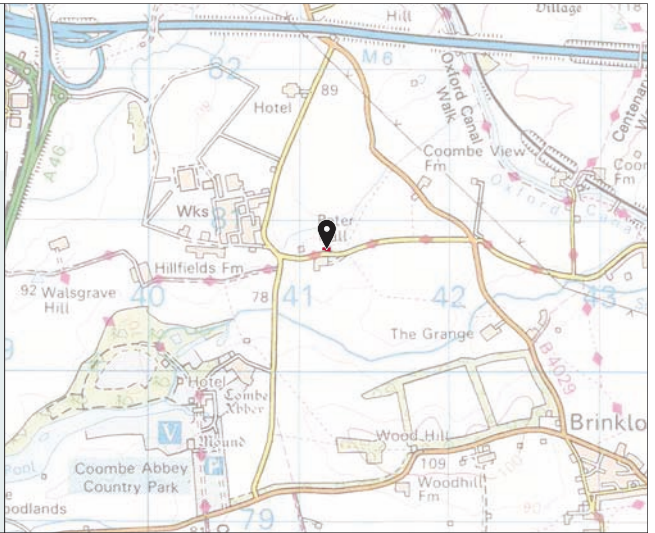
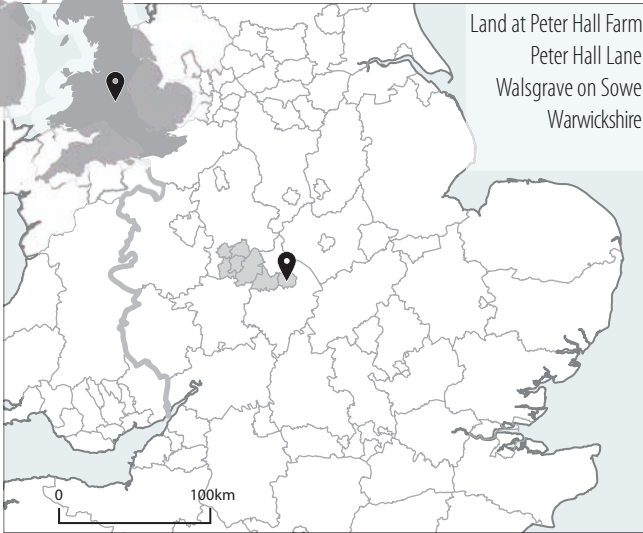
8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context no.	Area	Description
1001	1	Rubble with chunks of brick and tile, tarmac and concrete. Max depth = 0.25m
1002	1	Mid brown silty clay interspersed with yellow grey silty clay-2001 and 3002
2001	2	Mid brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, occasional fragments of CBM and modern brick across the whole area. Some patches of modern disturbance.
3001	3	Topsoil - dark red brown loam. Frequent deposits of brick and tile. Max depth = 0.35m
3002	3	Subsoil - light yellow brown marl mixed with clayey gravel; max depth = 0.30m
3003	3	Natural - compacted mid yellow orange clay. Max depth of dig: 0.70m

Frame no.	B/W no.	Direction	Description
01		SE	E compartment pre-ex
02		SW	E compartment pre-ex
03		S	E compartment pre-ex
04		SE	Working Shot E compartment
05		E	Working Shot E compartment
06		SE	Working Shot E compartment
07		S	Center compartment pre-ex
08		SW	Center compartment pre-ex
09		SE	Center compartment pre-ex
10		SE	Whole Barn General
11		S	Whole Barn General
12		SW	Whole Barn General
13		S	E part of barn general
14		S	Whole Barn General
15		SE	W part of barn (not being excavated)
16		SW	W part of barn (not being excavated)
17		SE	W part of barn (not being excavated)
18	35/2	SE	E compartment excavated
19		SE	E compartment excavated
20		SE	E compartment excavated
21		SE	E compartment excavated
22	34/2	SW	E compartment excavated
23		SW	E compartment excavated
24		NW	E compartment excavated
25		NW	E compartment excavated
26		NE	E compartment after excavation
27		NE	E compartment after excavation
28		S	E compartment W part post-ex
29		S	E compartment W part post-ex
30		S	E compartment E part post-ex

31		S	E compartment E part post-ex
32		W	Land Drain 1002
33		W	Land Drain 1002
34		W	Land Drain 1002
35		NW	Working Shot C compartment
36		NE	Working Shot C compartment
37		NW	Central compartment post-ex
38		NW	Central compartment post-ex
39		NE	Central compartment post-ex
40		SE	Central compartment post-ex
41		SE	Central compartment post-ex
42		SW	Central compartment post-ex
43		SW	Central compartment post-ex
44		S	Central compartment post-ex
45		S	Central compartment post-ex
46		NW	Soakaway Trench
47		NW	Soakaway Trench
48		SE	Soakaway Trench and Klargester Pit
49		SE	Soakaway Trench and Klargester Pit
50		E	Klargester Pit
51		E	Klargester Pit
52		SW	Access track
53		SW	Access track
54		S	Development Area



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ILLUS 1
Site location



ILLUS 2
Site plan

ILLUS 3

Photo plate showing Area 1

ILLUS 4

Photo plate showing Area 2



ILLUS 5

Photo plate showing Area 3

