

BICK13



Grange Farm, Bickenhill, Warwickshire

Archaeological Monitoring

Prepared for Dr Jugjit Singh Sanghera



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client: Dr Jugjit Singh Sanghera

National Grid Reference: SP 1881 8224

Parish Council: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

OASIS ref.: Headland4-223401

Archive will be deposited with: Warwickshire Museum

Project Manager: Michael Tierney

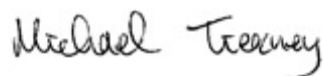
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Schedule
Report: September 2015

Signed off by



Michael Tierney

Date: 11th September 2015

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GRANGE FARM, BICKENHILL, SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE

Archaeological Monitoring

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the conversion of a barn and the associated outbuildings at Grange Farm, Bickenhill, Solihull, Warwickshire, in response to a condition placed on a planning consent (Planning Ref: 2013/571/FUL). The archaeological monitoring revealed stratigraphy comprising brick, stone and concrete floor surfaces which overlay foundation deposits which overlay the natural geological deposit within the structures; and topsoil over the natural externally. A modern pit and two postholes were additionally recorded. No archaeological remains or finds of interest were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

Dr Jugjit Singh Sanghera (the client) has been granted planning consent (2013/571/FUL) by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for the conversion of the existing two barns and attached outbuilding into two residential dwellings at Grange Farm, Bickenhill, Solihull, SP 1874 8239; 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 investigation required, that involved a programme of monitoring to be undertaken during the development works (WCPA 2014). This work was requested in accordance with government guidance as set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012).

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the monitoring (Headland Archaeology 2014), 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.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The DA lies to the northeast of Solihull, approximately 1 kilometre to the southeast of Birmingham airport, within the village of Bickenhill. It is centered on SP 1881 8224 and is bounded by St Peter's Lane to the north and Church Lane to the east. The village of Bickenhill is roughly triangular and includes a single parish church and village green.

The land on which the DA sits is at 110mOD. The current use of the DA is two barns and an outbuilding surrounded by arable fields, see Illus 2 and 3.

The geology of the area is described as mudstone of the Mercia Group. No superficial deposits are recorded in the area (British Geological Survey – Accessed 28/08/2014).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

As stated in the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2014) The DA is located in an area of high archaeological potential within the core of the medieval village of Bickenhill.

No evidence for any prehistoric or Roman features has been uncovered in the vicinity of the DA, although the Fosse Way (the Roman road linking Exeter to Lincoln) was c. 2.5km to the east.

The DA is positioned close to, or possibly within, the medieval settlement of Bickenhill. Bickenhill is an old Anglo Saxon settlement, originally named Bichehelle (Bica's Hill) and Bickenhill manor was held by Edward the Confessor. Domesday records the value of the parish to its lord, Thorkil/Turchil of Warwick, at £1/5s in 1086 (<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/> accessed 28/08/2014). The parish, part of the Coleshill hundred, is mentioned twice in the Domesday record, as *Bickenhill* and *Middle Bickenhill*. A total population for the two settlements is estimated at 19 households which, between them, land for 3-5 plough teams, 3 acres of meadow and 88 furlongs of forested land (ibid).

Earlier archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in the vicinity of the DA. For example, a trial-trench evaluation on Church Lane to the north east of the DA uncovered a pit and linear feature, both of which were undated (BUFAU 2006). However, there are no records of previous archaeological works which satisfactorily demonstrate the extent or scale of preservation of the medieval settlement.

Grange Farm, including the barns themselves are shown in broadly the same way on all maps since the 1888 OS. It was therefore possible that remains associated with the 19th century occupation (boundary features, rubbish pits, etc) could have been uncovered in the DA. The farmhouse is Grade II listed, although the barns are not

designated in their own right.

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The WSI (Headland Archaeology 2014) states that 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: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Watt 2011); *Exploring Our Past* (English Heritage 1991), and *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (English Heritage 1997).

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 Site works

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th and 21st of June 2015. This observed the excavation of the footings and the ground levelling to the construction foundation level in the barn and outbuildings. Also the external excavation of drainage trenches entering the barn.

Monitoring was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2014). This involved continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording during all groundworks.

5.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The trenches 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 4.

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 (headland4-223401).

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

6 RESULTS

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

The stratigraphy predominantly comprised brick floors [001], [007], [009], [010], [011], stone floors [003], [004], and concrete floors (002), (005), (006), (008) floors. These ranged between 0.08m-0.25m in thickness. All floor levels can be dated to the late 19th century and the 20th century see Illus 5.

Brick floor [001] see Illus 6, was an even regular coursed floor bonded with a lime based mortar, it was the original floor at the northeastern end of Barn A Room 1 later cut by [021] to form the foundation for the concrete floor (002). Bricks from [001] were incorporated into the foundation deposit (020) for floor (002). Barn A Room 2 comprised five different floor surfaces; stone floor [003] see Illus 7, made up of irregular sized stones with some regularity in coursing but no overall pattern; this floor was re-laid at a later date. A replacement floor was added where the doorway is situated on the northeastern wall of the room, brick floor [007] comprised regular coursing bonded with mortar; stone floor [004] believed to be the original floor was made up of irregular sized stones however coursed in an even and regular pattern, it was repaired over time with more regular stones. The southwest end of the room was later replaced with a concrete floor (005) and a concrete pad (006) was also added to the eastern corner of the room. Barn B Room 2 was made up of two brick floors, [010] see Illus 8, was the original floor with an even, regular course bonded by sand, it covered 60% of the room; 40% of the room was covered by brick floor [009], the bricks appear to match [010] suggesting it was laid at the same time or later than [010]. [011] see Illus 9, was a regular coursed brick floor comprising the associated outbuilding floor.

Barn B Room 1 consisted concrete floor [008] with a pit in the centre of it. The pit [044] (see Illus 10) measured 3.8m x 0.9m x 1.25m, and was located opposite the entrance in the northwest wall [015] and a filled in doorway in the southeast wall [015]. Two sheets of concrete measuring 2.6m x 0.01m x 1.95m formed the northeast and southwest edges of the pit, whilst the southeast and northwest edges were not bordered. The

purpose of pit [044] is unknown, the rectangular shape and positioning between two doorways could suggest it was either for agricultural use or functioned as a garage pit enabling mechanics to work underneath vehicles. As it is modern it is therefore considered to have no archaeological significance.

Two postholes [049] and [051], relating to a dividing wall in the largest room of Barn B were investigated and recorded. Both were square in shape filled with a single context which comprised modern backfill. These postholes were positioned along the divide between floors [009] and [010], metal fixtures that once formed part of the divide were visible on the northeast and southwest facing interiors of wall [015].

The stratigraphy denotes the floor levels c.0.1m-0.5m thick; over a brown-red and brown-orange sandy-clay natural (100). Monitoring of the external drainage trench showed a stratigraphy of topsoil (101); over the natural (100).

No archaeological deposits or remains were noted during the excavation of the drainage trenches entering Barn A, see Illus 11.

Table 1: Significance of Heritage Assets

Description of Heritage Asset	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale
Two unlisted barns and associated outbuilding.	Medium significance of local interest.

6.1 Conclusion

The archaeological remains at the DA consisted 19th century floors which have subsequently been removed. No archaeological remains were found beneath the floor levels and foundations deposits.

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)
Two unlisted barns and associated outbuilding.	Conversion of redundant barns and associated outbuilding	Medium significance of local interest.	High

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic sources

British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk – Accessed 28/08/2014

BUFAU, 2006. *Incol Pressworks, Church Lane, Bickenhill, Solihull: an archaeological evaluation Report No 1527*

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/> accessed 28/08/2014

English Heritage, 1997. *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda*

English Heritage, 1991. *Exploring Our Past*

Headland Archaeology, 2014. *Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of works at Grange Farm, Bickenhill, Solihull.*

Watt, S, 2011. *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*

WCPA, 2014. *Brief for Archaeological Work and Building Recording, Grange Farm, St Peter's Lane, Bickenhill*

8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context Register

Context No.	Area	Description	Dimensions (m) L X W X D
001	Barn A	Brick floor with lime based mortar, even regular coursing	
002	Barn A	Concrete floor, light brown-grey, infrequent small-med SR stones	
003	Barn B	Stone floor with irregular size and arrangement of stones in second room of Barn B	
004	Barn B	Stone floor, with some irregularities in stones, bonded with sand	1.4m X 6.5m X -
005	Barn A	Concrete floor, light brown-grey, infrequent small-med SR stones	Depth 0.25m
006	Barn A	Concrete pad, light brown-grey, infrequent small-med SR stones, overlying floors [003] and [007]	Depth 0.1m
007	Barn A	Brick floor bonded with mortar, replacement of floor [003] around doorway	
008	Barn B	Concrete floor, light brown-grey, infrequent small-med SR stones, pit sunk into floor opposite door 3.8x0.9x1.25	
009	Barn B	Brick floor bonded with mortar	- X 2.8m X 0.09m
010	Barn B	Brick Floor bonded with sand, original floor surface in building	Width 1.7m
011	Store	Brick floor bonded with mid orange-brown sand with infrequent very small stones, possibly original floor surface in stone extension	Depth 0.08m
012	Barn A	Brick wall forming NE half of Barn A. Contains structural beams built directly onto natural geology approx. 0.5m below surface. Repaired in patches.	
013	Barn A	Brick wall sealing second entrance to Barn A	
014	Barn A	Brick wall, repair work includes an outer course of bricks added at a later date [045]	
015	Barn B	Brick wall with fairly regular coursing, broken and occ. end on brick incorporated. Repaired in patches. Largely original wall in second phase in sequence	
016	Store	Brick wall, regular coursing, little evidence of repair. Original wall of third main phase of construction	
017	Barn A	Brick Wall with regular coursing. Partitioning wall of Barn A. Double course of bricks with mixed bedded and end on bricks.	
018	Barn A	Made ground underlying concrete floor (002) Originally underneath brick floor (001) but cut away partly to lay concrete. Dark grey-brown silty sand with occ. Med-large SR-SA stones.	Depth 0.55m
019	Barn A	Foundation pit for floor in Barn A	
020	Barn A	Foundation layer for concrete floor (002). Light brown-red sandy silt with occ. small-med SR stones. Made from brick rubble.	Depth 0.01m
021	Barn A	Levelling of (018) to lay concrete floor (002). Foundation cut for (020)	
022	Barn A	Foundation fill for floors [003], [004], [005], and [007]. Made ground. Dark grey-brown silty sand occ. Med-large SR stones	Depth 0.5m
023	Barn A	Foundation cut filled by (022)	

024	Barn B	Mid reddish-brown silty sand with occ. Small-med SA-SR stones. Made ground fill of foundation cut [025]	Depth 0.45m
025	Barn B	Foundation cut for floor (008)	
026	Barn B	Mid orange-brown silty sand with occ. small-med SR-SA stones. Fill of foundation cut [027] for floors [009] and [010]. Made ground.	
027	Barn B	Foundation cut filled by (026) for floor [009] and [010]	
028	Store	Mid orange-brown silty sand with occ. small-med SR-SA stones. Fill of foundation cut [029] for floor [011]. Made ground.	Depth 0.4
029	Store	Foundation cut filled by (028) for floor [011]	
030	Barn A	White paint applied to outside of wall [012]	
031	Barn A	White paint applied to outside of wall [013]	
032	Barn A	White paint applied to the inside of wall [014] and outside of wall [045]	
033	Barn B and Store	Render applied to the outside of wall [015] and [016] 0.02m thick	
034	Barn B	Plater applied to the inside of wall [015]. Approx. 0.01m thick	
035	Barn B	Whitewash applied to plaster (034) in the inside of wall [015]	
036	Barn A	Cut of foundation trench filled by wall [012]	Depth 0.45m
037	Barn A	Cut of foundation trench filled by wall [014]	Depth 0.4m
038	Barn B	Cut of foundation trench filled by wall [017]	Depth 0.35m
039	Barn A	Rough concrete fill of foundation trench [040]	Depth 0.2m
040	Barn A	Foundation cut for wall [013]	Depth 0.2m
041	Barn B	Rough concrete fill of foundation trench [042]	Depth 0.4m
042	Barn B	Foundation trench for wall [015]	Depth 0.4m
043		VOID	
044	Barn B	Rectangular box cut through foundation layer of (024) and coated by concrete (008)	
045	Barn A	Brick wall enclosing earlier wall [014]. Regular course bricks bonded by mortar	
046	Store	Rough concrete fill of foundation trench [047]	Depth 0.1m
047	Store	Foundation for wall [016]	Depth 0.1m
048	Barn B	Modern backfill of posthole [049]. Mid greyish brown sandy loam, briefly investigated, finds recovered are modern.	0.26m X 0.29m X -
049	Barn B	Square cut of posthole filled by (048) posthole relates to previous separation of room clear in division of floor [009] and [010]. Situated 3m from SW facing wall [015] and 2.15m from SE facing wall [015]	0.26m X 0.29m X -
050	Barn B	Modern organic backfill of posthole [051]. Mid grey-brown sandy loam. Modern material apparent in fill.	0.25m X 0.3m X -
51	Barn B	Square cut of posthole filled by (050). Related to wall divider, clear in relationship between floors [009] and [010]. Situated 1.56m SW of [049], 2.15m from wall [015].	0.25m X 0.3m X -

Photographic Register

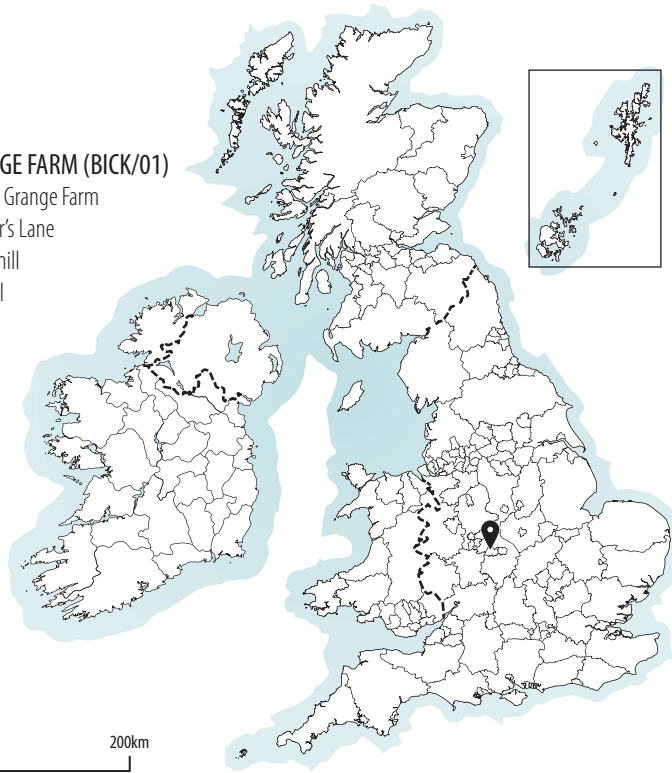
Photo Number	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
1	2051	SW	Wall in main barn - partition wall
2	2052	NW	Outer wall and floor in main barn (A)
3	2053	NE	Outer wall and floor in main barn (A)
4	2054	NE	Outer wall and floor in main barn (A)
5	2055	SW	Floor [003] in Room 2 in main barn (A)
6	2056	SW	Floor [003] in Room 2 in main barn (A)
7	2057	N	Floor [003] in Room 2 in main barn (A)
8	2058	NE	Floor [003] in Room 2 in main barn (A)
9	2059	NE	Floor [001] in main barn
10	2060	NE	Floor [001] in main barn
11	2061	SW	Working shot - concrete removal
12	2062	SW	Floors [009] and [010] in Barn B
13	2063	SW	Floors [009] and [010] in Barn B
14	2064	SE	Floor [008] on Barn B
15	2065	E	Working shot - removal of floor [001]
16	2066	E	Foundations (018)
17	2067	SE	Footings dug in Barn A Room 1
18	2068	SE	Footings dug in Barn A Room 1
19	2069	SE	Footings dug in Barn A Room 1
20	2070	SE	Footings dug in Barn A Room 1
21	2071	SW	Floor [009]
22	2072	SW	Floor [009]
23	2073	SW	Floor [009]
24	2074	SW	Main room in Barn B
25	2075	NE	Footings in Barn A Room 1
26	2076	SE	Footings in Barn A Room 1
27	2077	NE	Finger marks in brick wall [013]
28	2078	NE	Finger marks in brick wall [013]
29	2079	NE	Finger marks in brick wall [013]
30	2080	E	Working shots - removal of [003], [004], (005), (006), [007]
31	2081	SE	Working shots - removal of [003], [004], (005), (006), [007]
32	2082	E	Working shots - removal of [003], [004], (005), (006), [007]
33	2083	S	Working shots - removal of [009] and [010]
34	2084	SW	Working shots - removal of [009] and [010]
35	2085	SE	Working shot - Footings in Room 2 Barn A
36	2086	SE	Working shot - Footings in Room 2 Barn A
37	2087	SE	Wall [012]
38	2088	SE	Wall [013]
39	2089	SW	Wall [017]

40	2090	NW	Wall [014]
41	2091	SW	Working shot Barn B - Room 2
42	2092	SW	Working shot Barn B - Room 2
43	2093	SE	Wall [015]
44	2094	SE	Wall [015]
45	2095	SE	Wall [015]
46	2096	NE	Wall [015]
47	2097	SW	Wall [016]
48	2098	SE	Working shot - Digging through (026)
49	2099	SE	Working shot - Removal of floor [011]
50	2100	N	Stripping for drain
51	2101	S	Strip for drain
52	2102	S	Strip for drain
53	2103	S	Strip for drain
54	2104	S	Strip for drain
55	2105	S	Strip for drain
56	2106	SW	Strip for drain
57	2107	NE	Strip for drain
58	2108	SE	Foundation [042] and wall [015]
59	2109	SW	Foundation [037] and wall [014]
60	2110	E	Working shot - Removal of cross beam
61	2111	SE	Foundation [038] and wall [017]
62	2112	NE	Foundation [036] and wall [012]
63	2113	SE	Foundation [047] and wall [016]
64	2114	SW	Footings in store
65	2115	SE	Beams from [012]
66	2116	NW	Beams from [012]
67	2117	SE	Beams from [012]
68	2118	NE	Footings in Room 1 Barn A
69	2119	NE	Footings in Room 1 Barn A at cross beam location
70	2120	SE	Concrete (108) in Room 1, Barn B
71	1	SE	Barn B upon arrival 8.6.15
72	2	SE	East end of Barn B upon arrival 8.6.15
73	3	NE	Barn A after being levelled
74	4	SE	Barn A after being levelled
75	5	S	Barn B after being levelled
76	6	SE	Footings cut in Barn A at SW end, NE of [017]
77	7	E	Footings cut in Barn A at SW end, NE of [017]
78	8	E	Footings cut in Barn A at SW end, NE of [017]
79	9	SE	Post holes [049] and [051]
80	10	SE	Post holes [049] and [051] w/scale
81	11	Plan	Post hole [049]
82	12	Plan	Post hole [051]
83	13	Plan	Sectioned post hole [049]
84	14	Plan	Sectioned post hole [049]

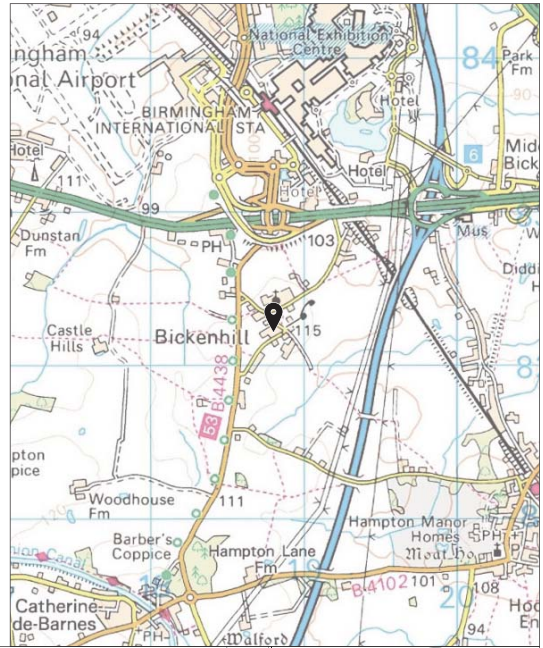
85	15	SE	Concrete structure in Barn B Room 1
86	16	SE	Concrete structure in Barn B Room 1 emptied of backfill
87	17	SE	Barn A Room 2 levelled
88	0359	S	Exterior view of Barn A, Barn B and the outbuilding
89	0360	SE	Exterior view of Barn B
90	0361	SE	Exterior view of Barn A
91	0362	SE	Exterior view of Barn A
92	0363	NE	Excavation of drainage ditch
93	0364	NE	Excavation of drainage ditch
94	0365	SE	Exterior view of Barn A
95	0366	SE	Exterior view of Barn A
96	0367	SE	Exterior view of Barn A
97	0368	SE	Exterior view of Barn A
98	0369	S	Exterior view of Barn B and outbuilding in relation to the yard
99	0370	SE	Excavation of drainage ditch
100	0371	S	Exterior view of Barn B and the outbuilding
101	0372	N	Excavation of drainage ditch
102	0373	-	Beam and brick
103	0374	S	Excavation of drainage ditch
104	0375	S	Excavation of drainage ditch

GRANGE FARM (BICK/01)

land at Grange Farm
St Peter's Lane
Bickenhill
Solihull



0 200km



Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL 100013329

KEY
[Red outline] development boundary

0 50m
N
scale 1:1,250 @ A4



SOUTH & EAST

Building 68C, Wrest Park
Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS
01525 861 578
www.headlandarchaeology.com

ILLUS 1
Site location

ILLUS 2

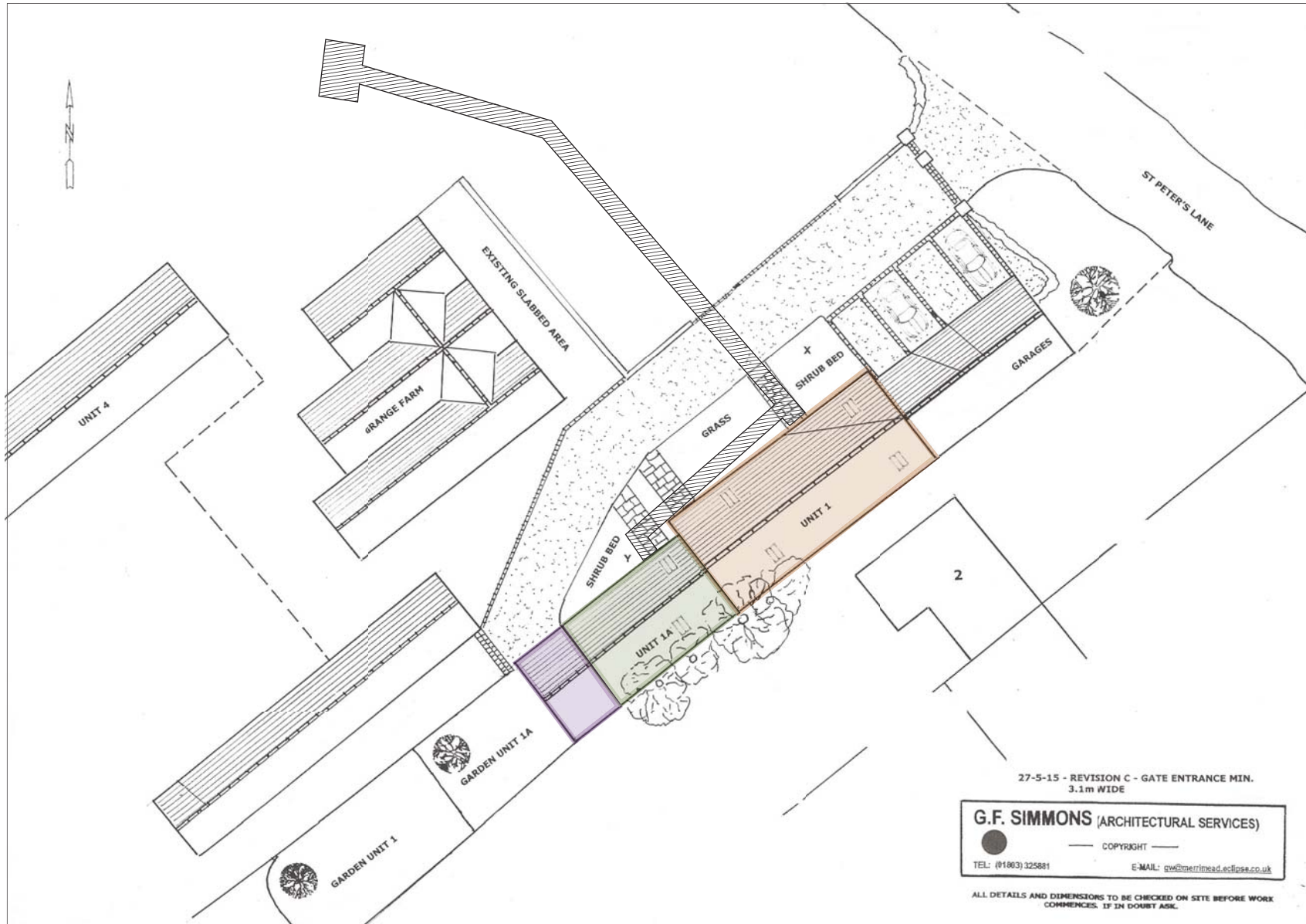
SW facing image of the exterior of Barn A



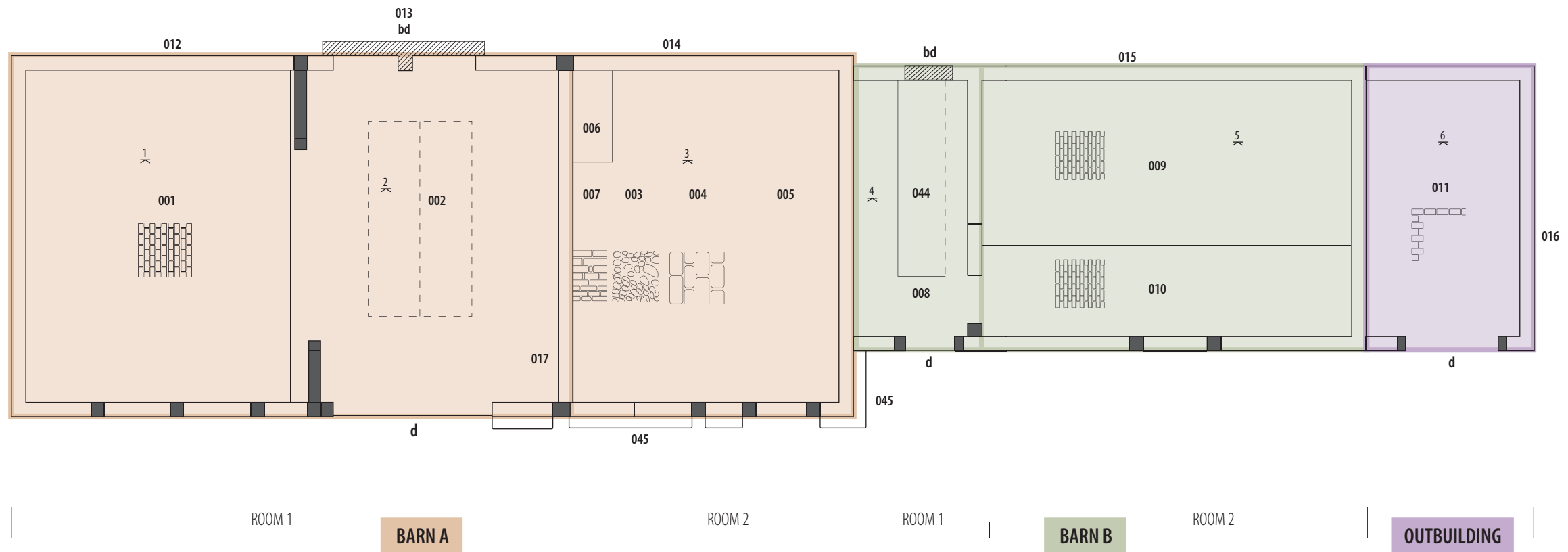
ILLUS 3

S facing image of the exterior of B and the associated outbuilding

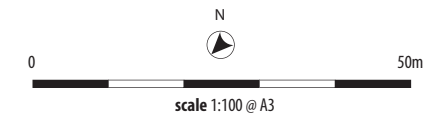




ILLUS 4
 Overall site plan



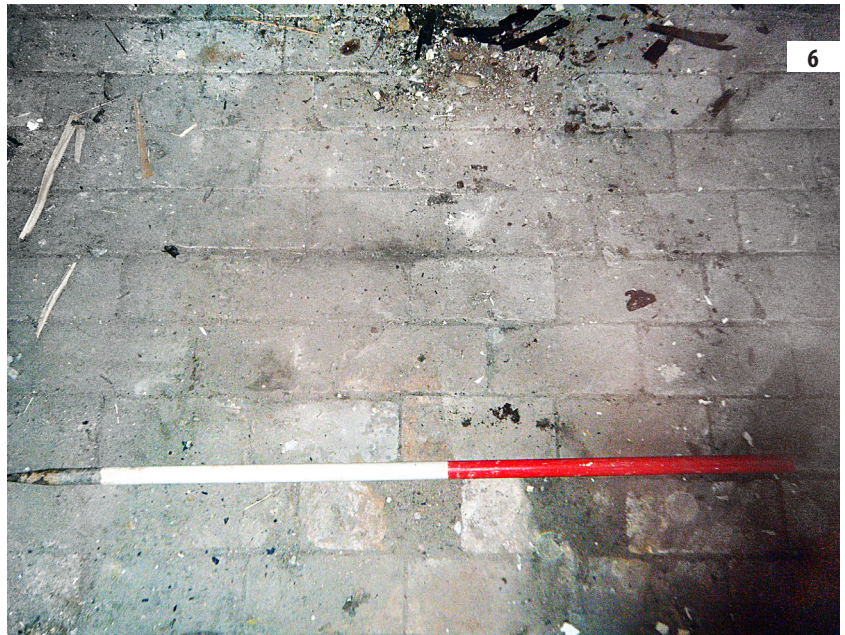
KEY		levels m AOD	
■	wooden beams	1	116.12
d	door	2	116.08
bd	blocked door	3	115.86
		4	115.74
		5	115.56
		6	115.48



ILLUS 5
Floor plan of Barn A, Barn B and the outbuilding

ILLUS 6

NE facing view of floor [001] in Barn A Room 1



ILLUS 7

NE facing view of floor [003] in Barn A Room 2



ILLUS 8

S facing shot of floors [009] and [010] in Barn B Room 2





ILLUS 9

SE facing shot of floor [011] in the associated storage outbuilding

ILLUS 10

SE facing shot of pit [044] in Barn B Room 1

ILLUS 11

S facing image of the excavation of the drainage trench entering Barn A