

making sense of heritage

18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Reference: S14/00454/FUL Ref: 109320.02 November 2015

wessexarchaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:

Mr & Mrs D. Walker 18 King's Lane Broom Bidford-on-Avon Warwickshire B50 4HD

Prepared by: Wessex Archaeology Portway House Old Sarum Park SALISBURY Wiltshire SP4 6EB

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November 2015

Planning Reference: S14/00454/FUL Report Ref: 109320.02



Quality Assurance

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Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	408675 252983	3	

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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D Walker to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension to an existing detached modern building adjacent to the 17th century cottage at 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4HD, centred on National Grid Reference NGR 408675 252983.

Planning consent (ref: S14/00454/FUL) was granted for the extension by Stratford District Council on condition that the archaeological works be carried during all groundworks associated with the proposed development.

An area measuring 32 square metres was monitored during the watching brief which was excavated down to a depth of 0.7m below the current ground surface. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the watching brief.



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank David and Susan Walker for commissioning the work and their assistance during the course of the project is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are extended to John Robinson who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Authority and the team from A&K Building and Landscaping who carried out the groundworks.

The watching brief was undertaken by Steve Thompson. This report was written and compiled by Steve Thompson with initial historical research by Naomi Brennan, and edited by Gareth Chaffey with report illustrations by Linda Coleman.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology ('WA') were commissioned by Mr & Mrs D. Walker (the 'Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension to an existing detached modern building adjacent to the 17th century cottage at 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4HD (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference NGR 408675 252983. (**Figure 1**)
- 1.1.2 Planning consent (ref: S14/00454/FUL) has been granted for the extension by Stratford District Council on condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried during all groundworks associated with the proposed development.(**Figures 1 & 2**)
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2015) setting out the methodologies and standards that were employed by WA in order to undertake the archaeological watching brief was submitted to the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council (WCC) prior to fieldwork commencing. In format and content the WSI conformed with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (ClfA) *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a).
- 1.1.4 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief which took place between the 20th and 22nd June 2015.

1.2 Site location, topography, current land use and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located approximately 500 m south-west of Broom village centre at the western end of King's Lane. It is bordered by the River Arrow to the west, domestic properties to the east along King's Lane and agricultural fields to the north and south. The underlying geology comprises Triassic mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, which is overlain by Pleistocene sand and gravel of the Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member (British Geological Survey 2014). The site is located at approximately 37 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The location of the watching brief comprised a modern concrete slab associated with the modern building and an area of lawned garden. (**Figures 1 & 2**)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A 500 m Study Area around the Site (**Figure 1**) was considered in order to provide a sufficient archaeological background to the Site and its environs. This baseline was prepared using Historic Environment Record (HER) data sourced from WCC as well as nationally designated site and buildings in the National Heritage List for England (NHLE).



The results of which were included in the WSI (WA 2015) A summary of the results are included here.

2.1 Statutory and local heritage designations

- 2.1.1 The development site itself is an extension to a former garage next to the 17th century Grade II Listed house (NHLE 1355335, listed as 'The Cottage'). The former garage is a detached modern building, although in a sympathetic style and is not considered to contribute to the significance of the Listed Building.
- 2.1.2 Within the Study Area are eight additional Grade II Listed Buildings reflecting post-medieval settlement and dating to the 17th and 18th centuries (NHLE 1024667, 1024668, 1024670, 1024708, 1200671, 1022767, 1200775, 1355337). Five of these lie within the village of Broom and its associated Conservation Area and include two 17th century inns (NHLE 1024708, 1200767).

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Little early prehistoric activity in known in the immediate area though a flint scatter and possible pit group of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date was found as part of archaeological investigations for the A345 Norton Lenchwick Bypass (MWA7227) and further Bronze Age activity was identified in the wider area to the north of the Study Area (MWA7229).
- 2.2.2 This suggests some potential for activity from this time within the Site, particularly due to its location near the River Arrow as riverine environments often attached early occupation and exploitation.

Iron Age and Romano-British

- 2.2.3 An area of late Iron Age or Romano-British occupation was located in the western part of the Study Area during excavations in advance of the A435 Bypass (MWA7457) with an Iron Age and Romano-British field system and a Roman vial also found in this area (MWA7456).
- 2.2.4 Further Romano-British activity is known to the south of the Site where a number of coins from this period were located by metal detecting (MWA18298).

Saxon and medieval

- 2.2.5 Broom is listed in the Domesday Survey (1086) as a moderately sized settlement of 14 households. No confirmed Saxon activity in known in the Study Area though the settlement itself is likely to pre-date the conquest. Broom formerly consisted as two hamlets known as 'Kings Broom' and 'Burnell's Broom' lying in the northern (MWA9027) and southern (MWA592) parts of the Study Area respectively.
- 2.2.6 The remains of medieval houses are known from Broom Court, a former manor house (MWA589) and at the western edge of Broom where a well, pottery and building materials have been found (MWA601).
- 2.2.7 A number of areas of ridge and furrow have been identified in the Study Area which are likely to represent areas of medieval or post-medieval cultivation. A number of medieval metal finds have also been found approximately 190 m to the south of the Site (MWA18300).



Post-medieval, 19th century and modern

- 2.2.8 Further post-medieval settlement can be demonstrated by the Listed Buildings which date to this time, including the 17th century property on the Site (NHLE 1355335) and formal gardens associated with post-medieval properties (MWA8538, MWA13004).
- 2.2.9 In the 19th century the Evesham and Redditch Railway and the Stratford on Avon and Midland Junction Railway were constructed and a number of features relating to their development can be seen within the Study Area including railway bridges and the site of a signal box (MWA1438, MWA7233-MWA7238, MWA7835 and MWA19926).
- 2.2.10 Within Broom during an archaeological watching brief at 51 High Street the remains of a 20th century smithy site was identified by the iron slag and building remains present within the site (MWA8180).
- 2.2.11 18 King's Lane can be seen on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (1886-7) as one of a few properties situated along the lane in an area labelled as King's Broom. The former garage can first be seen on the 1974 OS edition.

Undated

- 2.2.12 A number of cropmarks visible on aerial photographs have been identified within the Study Area as part of the National Mapping Programme. These include several linear features and a former quarry site (MWA598, MWA4909, MWA6176, MWA12370, MWA19190). Without further investigation the exact date and nature of these features is unknown.
- 2.2.13 Also within the Study Area are two ford sites across the River Arrow (MWA593, MWA595), these are likely to have been a focus for route ways and activity before permanent bridge crossings were established.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief were outlined within the submitted WSI (WA 2015).

3.2 General

- 3.2.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:
 - to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
 - to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
 - to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
 - to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
 - to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and
 - to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.



4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 All ground works associated with the construction of the extension were monitored during the watching brief. This involved the removal of the 0.10 m thick concrete slab and the reduction of the ground level across the whole site by 0.40 m followed by the excavation of the footings trenches to a depth of 1 m below the current ground surface.
- 4.1.2 The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by WA and appropriate time was allowed by the groundworks team for inspection of the suspected archaeological features. Periodically the Site was scanned with a metal detector to aid the recovery of finds.
- 4.1.3 A number of exploratory hand-dug holes were also monitored while services were being traced.

4.2 Recording

- 4.2.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's pro forma recording system.
- 4.2.2 A complete drawn record of the excavation was compiled including both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights. A representative section of the overlying deposits recorded within the trenches and the test pits was recorded and drawn.
- 4.2.3 A photographic record was maintained during the watching brief using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individually excavated contexts are retained in the Site archive and a tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.1.2 The following result section should be read in conjunction with trench descriptions in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences (Plates 1–4)

- 5.2.1 An area measuring 6.2 m by 5.3 m was investigated during the watching brief, covering an area of 32 square metres. Following the removal of a 5 m long by 3 m wide by 0.1 m thick concrete slab (101), the removal of the overlying turf and current topsoil of the garden took place. The topsoil (102) was a 0.18 m thick very dark brown silty loam which sealed a 0.24 m thick subsoil deposit (103) a mid-yellow brown sandy silt. The subsoil (103) sealed a 0.20 m thick light yellow brown silty sand alluvial layer (104) most likely derived from flood events from the River Arrow which sealed the natural river gravels (105) which were exposed at 35.60 m aOD.
- 5.2.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified during the watching brief.



6 FINDS

6.1.1 No finds were recovered during the programme of works.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were recorded on the site.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The archaeological watching brief conducted on the Site at King's Lane, Broom was successful in its stated aims of clarifying an absence of buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development.
- 8.1.2 Despite the Site's location within a relatively rich archaeological landscape, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The agreed WSI (WA 2015), recommends that the project archive resulting from the watching brief be deposited with Warwickshire Museum under an accession number to be issued by Warwickshire Museum Service. Prior to deposition the archive will be temporarily stored at WA's offices in Salisbury under site code **109320**. Deposition of the archive with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 **Preparation of archive**

- 9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). Details of the archaeological watching brief will also be entered into the online "OASIS" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (**Appendix 2**).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site code **109320**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
 - 1 file of paper records & A4 graphics
- 9.2.3 The archive of all records and finds will be consistent with the principles of Management of *Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015).

9.3 Discard policy

- 9.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).



9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations* 2003.

9.5 Security Copy

9.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10 **REFERENCES**

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Wessex Archaeology, 2015, 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Report Ref: 109320.01



APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARIES

Bgl: Below Ground Level.

	Dimensions :	6m by 5.3m by 1m	Gro	und			
Trench 1 Coordinates (NGR):		408677.12, 252994.43 surf 408676.84, 252989.02 leve		ace	36.21m aOD		
Context	Category	Description		Dep	oth (bgl)		
101	Layer	Modern slab of concrete located on the northern side of the existing garage/annex. Measured 5m 3m and was 0.10m thick and set directly into the topsoil (102) of the garden.	Modern slab of concrete located on the northernside of the existing garage/annex. Measured 5m byBm and was 0.10m thick and set directly into the				
102	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of the garden to the north and north-west of the existing garage/annex. Very dark brown silty loam with 101 set into it. Seals (103).					
103Mid – light yellow brown sandy silt with common small sub-rounded and rounded flints <0.04m and quartz gravels. Sealed by (102) and seals (104).0.18-0.42m							
104	Alluvium	Light yellow brown silty sand with common small rounded and sub-rounded flints <0.05m. Deposition likely to be the result of multiple flood events from the River Arrow. Seals (105) and sealed by (103)			2-0.62m		
105	River Gravels	Compact silty clay with sandy components and 0.62m+					
Comments	: no archaeological f	inds or features were observed within the area of w	vatchi	ng brief			



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-233116

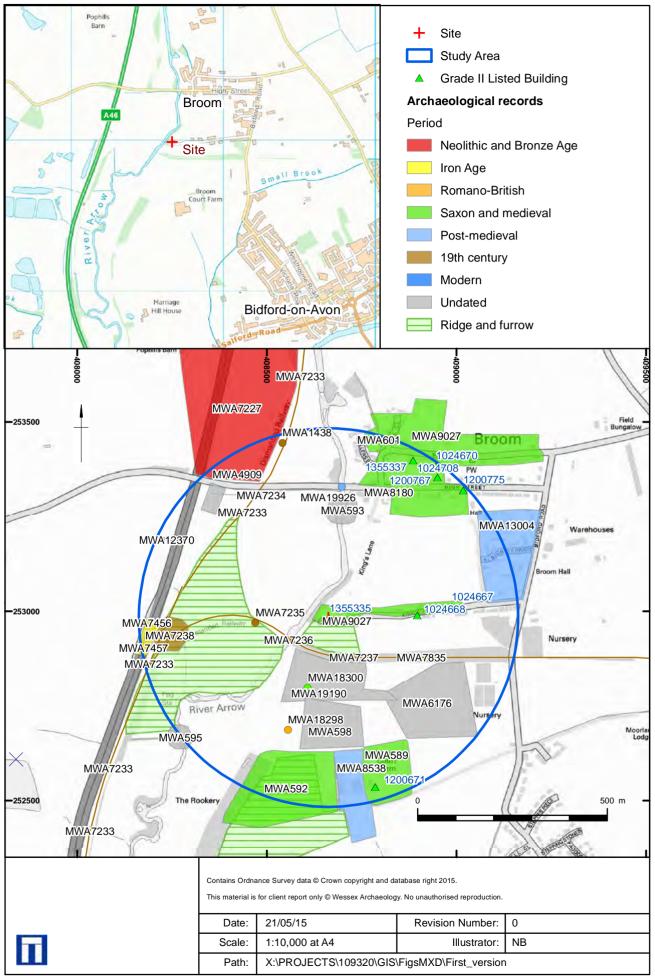
Project details Project name 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4HD Short description Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D Walker to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension to an existing detached modern building adjacent to the 17th centruy cottage at 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4HD, centred on National Grid Reference NGR 408675 252983. An area measuring 32 square metres was monitored during the watching brief which was excavated down to a depth of 0.70m below the current ground surface. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the watching brief. Project dates Start: 20-06-2015 End: 22-06-2015 Previous/future No / No No / No Any associated project Recording project Project reference codes S14/00454/FUL - Planning Application No. project reference codes Usted Building Current Land use Uster 5 - Garden Ivpe Watching Brief" Project location Watching Brief" Country England Site location WARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON BIDFORD ON AVON 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire Postcode B50 4HD		
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CountryEnglandSite locationWARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON BIDFORD ON AVON 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
CountryEnglandSite locationWARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON BIDFORD ON AVON 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire		
Site location WARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD ON AVON BIDFORD ON AVON 18 King's Lane, Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	Project location	
Broom, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	Country	England
Postcode B50 4HD	Site location	
	Postcode	B50 4HD



Study area	32 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 08675 52983 52.174632130695 -1.873128930946 52 10 28 N 001 52 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.6m Max: 37m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Warwickshire County Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Steve Thompson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Warwickshire Museum Services
Digital Archive recipient	Warwickshire Museum Services
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"



Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Entered by	Steve Thompson (s.thompson@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	4 December 2015



Location of Site, archaeological records and designated heritage assets within the Study Area

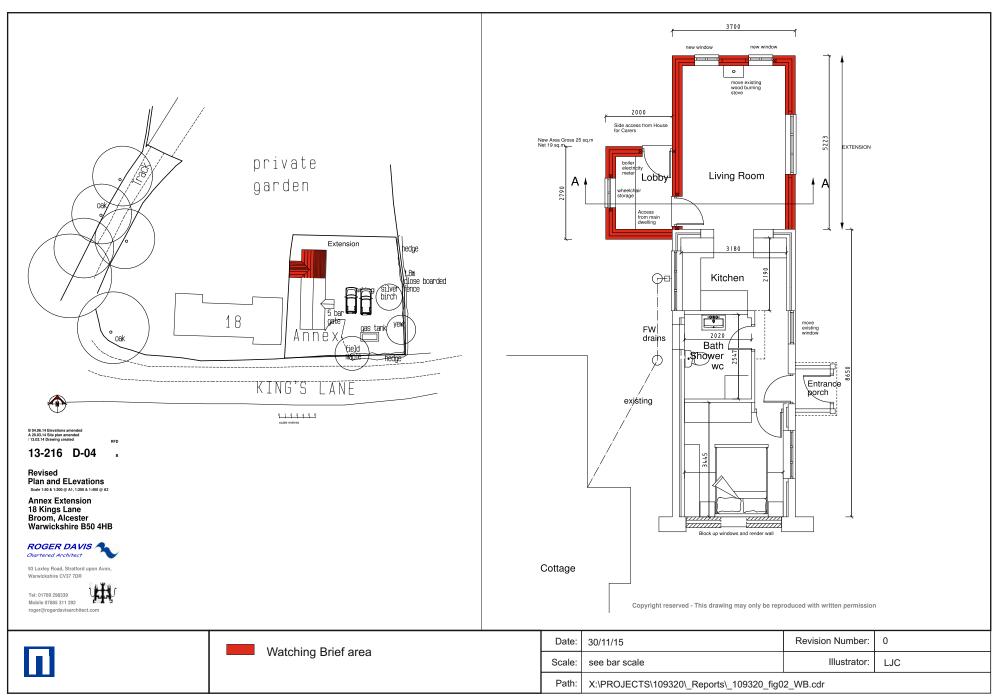




Plate 1: View of site from NE prior to commencement of works.



Plate 2: Area reduced to the top of alluvium 104. View from the north (scale 1m, 0.5m).

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1	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	LJC	
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Plate 3: View of excavated footings exposing river gravels 105. View from SW.



Plate 4: South facing section of footings trench (scale 1m, 0.5m).

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