

**THE VICARAGE,
HAWKESBURY,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: ST 805 824

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 945
March 2014



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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between May 2013 and February 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the change of use of land, the construction of a garage and lean-to store and associated services at The Vicarage, Hawkesbury, South Gloucestershire. (NGR: ST 805 824). The work was commissioned by Andrew Kenyon Architects on behalf of the landowner Mr Paul Wilmott.

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of footings for a new garage and lean-to store, along with associated service trenching.

The archaeological monitoring uncovered no archaeological features.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Roman

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between May 2013 and February 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during groundworks at The Vicarage, Hawkesbury, South Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 805 824). The work was commissioned by Andrew Kenyon Architects on behalf of the landowner Mr Paul Wilmott.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with two Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) produced by Foundations Archaeology (2012 and 2013), which were based on the brief issued by South Gloucestershire Council and also prepared in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008) and *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (Ref. No PK11/3867/F) has been granted for a change of use of land and the construction of a garage and lean-to store at The Vicarage, Hawkesbury. Additional planning permission (Ref. No. PK11/3521/F) was also granted for the undergrounding of existing services and the replacement of the water supply at The Vicarage.
- 2.2 The site lies at the centre of the shrunken Medieval settlement of Hawkesbury and it is likely that archaeological remains associated with the settlement survive within the site area. The Vicarage itself is Grade II listed and dates from the 15th century with alterations and additions between the 18th and 20th centuries. It lies to the east of the Grade I listed parish church of St. Mary and also falls within Hawkesbury Conservation Area.
- 2.3 The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of remains dating predominantly to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods. This did not prejudice the archaeological works against evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits with a specific view to:

- locate, date and define any early Saxon evidence. Specific attention was to be given to establishing the character of any early Saxon activity and for the presence of evidence relating to high status;
- locate, date and characterize the Medieval and Post-medieval stratigraphic sequence. These deposits, if present, have the potential to provide data relating to changes in Medieval activity through time, along with evidence relating site specific activities and status;

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following general objectives:

- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
- iii) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All groundworks that had the potential to impact upon buried archaeological deposits were carried out under constant archaeological observation. At the location of the new garage, the groundworks comprised the excavation of foundation footing trenches 0.70m wide by up to 1.35m deep and service trenches associated with drainage around the garage. The excavations of the three footing pads for the construction of the lean-to store were 0.7m² and 0.45m deep. The service trenches for the electricity and water were 0.6m wide and between 0.7m and 0.8m deep. All mechanical excavation was undertaken by use of a 360° tracked machine, using a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 Investigation of archaeological deposits was conducted manually, by an archaeologist, in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI's. All archaeological deposits and features were subject to appropriate levels of investigation and recording. Spoil tips were scanned for finds. All recovered archaeological artefacts were allocated a context reference number and retained. Modern artefacts were noted and discarded.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **NEW BUILD GARAGE:** (Figure 2). The lowest deposit within the trench comprised a solid orange/beige, natural clay. The natural clay was sealed by

subsoil layer (102), 0.4m – 0.5m thick, which consisted of a light brown/orange, plastic, silt clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks and frequent limestone fragments, this extended across the entire area of the garage footing trenches. Layer (102) was not demonstrably associated with any artefacts or features except a single undiagnostic (but not Modern), heavily abraded piece of pottery. Layer (102) was overlain by (101), a dark brown/grey, plastic, silt clay topsoil, which was between 0.3m and 0.45m thick. The drainage trenches associated with the garage were up to 0.7m deep and did not penetrate all the way through layer (102) and so the natural deposits were not encountered.

5.2 **SERVICE TRENCH:** The service trench for the water and electricity was 0.6m wide and 0.75m deep, (Figure 2). Natural ground was not encountered within the trench. The basal layer of the sequence within the trench, to the south of the existing barn conversion, comprised (102). Here this layer was sealed by Modern deposit (106), a grey brown, plastic, clay silt which contained brick fragments and builders sand, and was between 0.2m and 0.4m thick. This layer was overlain in turn by (103) the gravel surface of the driveway, 0.2m-0.3m thick.

5.3 To the north of manhole 1, (Figure 2), the ground had been heavily disturbed by Modern intervention. After 22 linear metres of excavation, to the north of manhole 1, layer (102) dissipates and the basal layer was subsoil (108), a dark brown, plastic, clay silt which contained frequent limestone fragments and fragments of animal bone. This layer was then sealed by a 0.26m thick layer of (103). After 33 linear metres of excavation, north of manhole 1, a water pipe was visible in the west facing section of the entire driveway. The stratigraphical sequence continued from this point with (108) sealed by (103). A number of fragments of gravestone were recovered from the backfill of the water pipe from between 76 and 78 linear metres north of manhole 1, these were returned to the church.

5.4 Close to the existing barn a fragment of worked masonry was recovered from the backfill of the service trench. The fragment of limestone was faced and approximately 0.30m³.

5.5 **NEW LEAN-TO STORE:**

Pad 1: (Figure 2), The pad was excavated down onto layer (102), this was sealed by Modern deposit (106) which was 0.27m thick. This was overlain by (105) a layer of hardcore rubble, 0.09m thick, which was in turn sealed by (104), a concrete floor surface, 0.09m thick.

Pad 2: The lowest deposit within this pad comprised (106), which was penetrated for a depth of 0.25m. This was then sealed by gravel pathway (103), 0.2m thick.

Pad 3: The lowest deposit within this pad comprised (106) which was penetrated for a depth of 0.25m. This deposit was sealed by (107) a layer of re-deposited, light brown orange, plastic, silt clay, 0.1m thick, which contained flecks of brick. This then sealed by gravel driveway (103), 0.1m thick. No archaeological finds or

features were present within any of the pads and the works did not expose the natural deposits.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring has identified no archaeological deposits or features. Finds included a single sherd of undiagnostic (but not Modern), abraded pottery from subsoil (102) to the rear of the existing barn conversion, animal bone from subsoil (108) and a fragment of limestone masonry which was recovered from spoil near to the barn. Also recovered from the service trench were fragments of gravestone, which were returned to the church. No Saxon or Medieval layers were encountered within the watched areas. Natural ground was only reached in the footings for the garage and not in the service trench, nor footings for the lean-to. As excavation was not deep enough to penetrate through the subsoil and/or Modern make-up layers in these areas, it is possible that archaeologically significant deposits could survive at greater depths.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the appropriate museum. A short report will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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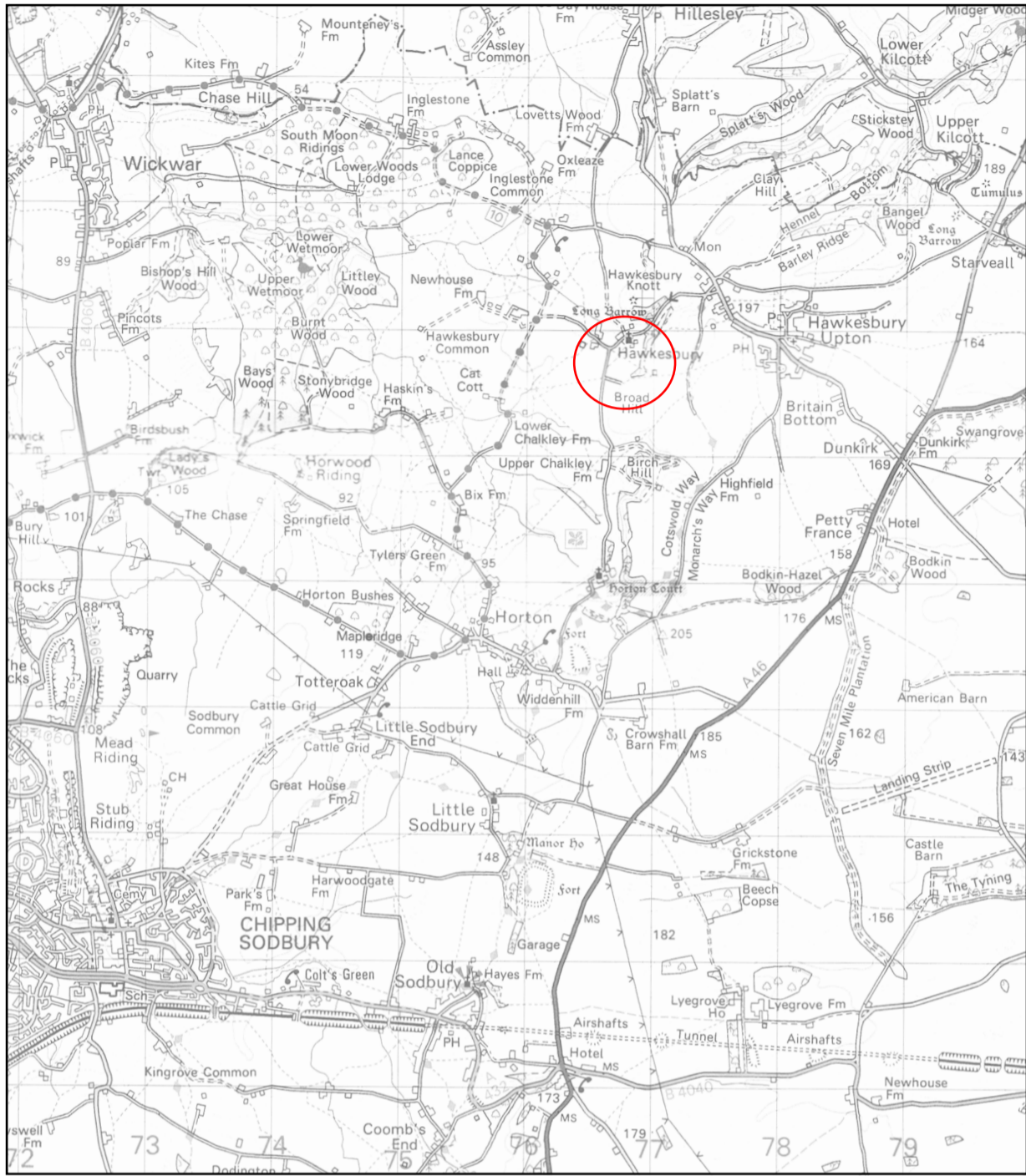
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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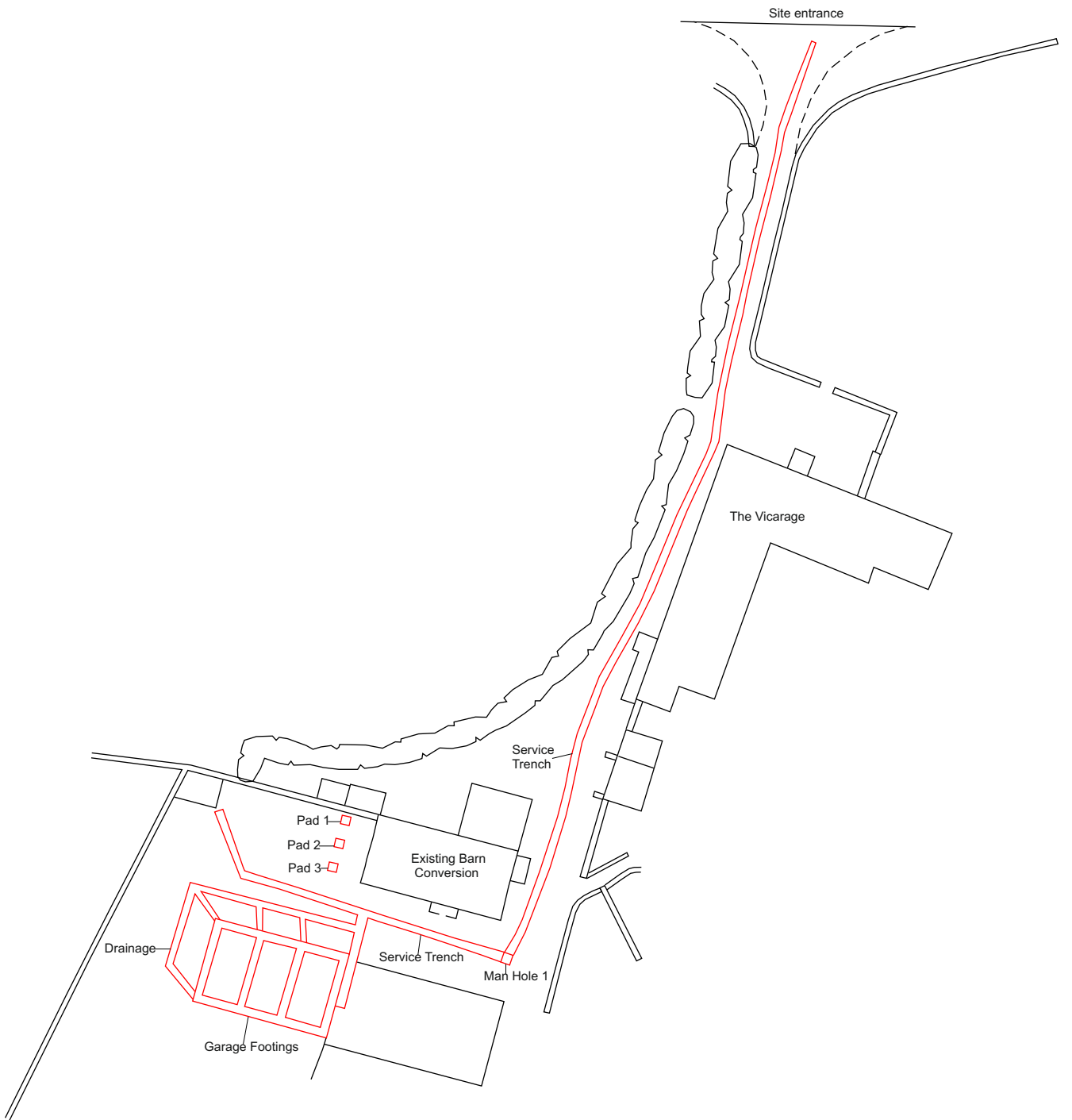
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Site Code: TVH12
Accession Code:

N


0m 2km


1:50,000

FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code:TVH12
Accession Code:

N


 Watched Locations


0m 20m

 1:500

FIGURE 2: Watched Areas