



Archaeological Observation

**White House
Coach Drive
Fladbury
Worcestershire**

**NGR: SO 9945 4637
HER Fieldwork Ref No: WSM42111**

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Plate 1: White House Fladbury Worcestershire, May 2010

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Report specification

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1. Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological observation (watching brief) of groundworks relating to the erection of a one-and-a-half storey dwelling, detached garage and associated works (Application no W/09/1343) was undertaken in the garden to the rear of White House Fladbury Worcestershire on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. P. Stubbs (Planning ref. W//09/1343). The work was carried on the 12th and 13th of May 2010

Considerable tree- and shrub-root disturbance, as well as minor quarrying and waste-pit activity, was identified during the machine excavation of footings.

No finds were recovered predating the later 19th century. Archaeological observation confirmed that no significant archaeological deposits were damaged or disturbed during the groundworks.

2. Introduction

- 1.1 Border Archaeology was instructed by Mr & Mrs P Stubbs, White House, Coach Drive Fladbury Worcestershire, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation (commonly known as a watching brief) of groundworks relating to the erection of a one-and-a-half storey dwelling, detached garage and associated works (Application no W/09/1343).
- 1.2 Copies of this report will be remitted to Mr & Mrs Stubbs, Mike Glyde Esq., Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Historic Environment & Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, and to the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record.



Fig 1: Site location plan

3. Project Aim

- 3.1 The aim of the programme of archaeological work was to ensure the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological finds, features or deposits revealed during the course of the groundworks phase of the development and to confirm that no impact on the archaeological resource occurred without the implementation of this proposed programme of archaeological work.

4. Soils & Geology

- 4.1 The geology of Fladbury is dominated by the River Avon which runs approximately 225m to the E of the site. The site is located on an alluvial terrace which is composed of soils of the 541r Wick 1 series. The underlying geology is deep well-drained coarse loamy and sandy soils locally over gravel. The resource exploitation of the local area is dominated by large-scale gravel- and sand-quarrying.



Plate 2: Section showing sand, gravel, clay and loam layers. Darker soil near surface may be tree-root disturbance.

5. Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

- 5.1 The village of Fladbury, situated between Evesham and Pershore, appears to be an area of significant archaeological potential, with remains spanning the Neolithic through to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods, and any ground-breaking activity thus has the potential to reveal further evidence of multi-period activity.
- 5.2 The site is situated within or in close proximity to the medieval manorial complex of Fladbury.
- 5.3 Fladbury appears to have been the site of a pre-Conquest religious house, which is attested as reverting to the see of Worcester in the early part of the 9th century. At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, Fladbury is listed as a possession of the Bishop of Worcester, lying within the hundred of 'Oswaldslow', comprising some 300 hides of land in the SE part of the county. The survey refers to 40 hides paying tax valued at £9.
- 5.4 The Domesday entry also mentions a priest and a mill and details the entitlement of the bishop to the products of the manor's extensive woodland, covering an area '2 leagues [six miles] long and ½ wide, from which the Bishop has whatever comes from it, in hunting and in honey and in timber for the salt-houses of Droitwich and 4s' (Thorn & Thorn 1982).
- 5.5 Anecdotal evidence suggests that were cattle barns immediately to the E of the site and that the area under observation had been a farmyard before it became part of the back garden of White House.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 Archaeological observation is carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA, 2001). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* (2006) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2002) and to *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (2008).
 - 6.2 Prior to commencement of fieldwork, an HER fieldwork reference number was obtained from the Information and Records Officer of the Worcestershire Archaeological Service, which is clearly marked on all reports, finds and archive material. This number is WSM42111.
- 6.3 Methodology**
- 6.4 All groundworks were machine excavated under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket with associated spoil scanned for artefacts.



- 6.5 Archaeological features, structures or deposits identified during the course of the groundworks excavations were trowelled and cleaned by hand with investigation sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality.

6.6 Recording

- 6.7 Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual*.

- 6.8 The written record comprises completed *pro-forma* context record sheets

- 6.9 Plans and sections were produced on gridded, archivally stable polyester film at scales of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate. Representative measured sections were prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established on-site and plans, elevations and sections contain grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings are numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

- 6.10 The photographic record comprises high-resolution 10.3MPX digital images of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Photographs include an appropriate scale and photographic records are indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view are maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

6.11 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

- 6.12 A small assemblage of late 19th century artefactual material was retained and these items will be cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2001) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001), the aim being to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (IfA 2001).

- 6.13 All artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code, context number and HER fieldwork reference number (WSM42111) before being removed off-site.

- 6.14 No artefacts that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 were recovered.

7. Archive Compilation & Assessment

- 7.1 All records created during fieldwork are checked for consistency and accuracy and form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH, 2006) containing all data collected, including records, ecofacts, artefacts and other specialist materials and ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.
- 7.2 Archives are assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990), *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission, 1994) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).
- 7.3 All archive material will be clearly marked with the museum Accession Number and HER fieldwork reference number (WSM42111).

8. Results

- 8.1 The site record show that the top three layers of deposit over the entire site are very disturbed, due largely to recent tree- and shrub-root activity.
- 8.2 There was also some evidence of shallow pitting and quarrying. The quarry pits have an irregular base and reach down through the top three topsoil layers: (101), (102), and (103), into the top 0.10 to 0.20m of the underlying gravel layer (104).
- 8.3 Two pits with more evenly shaped bases containing charcoal and some finds or artifacts were recorded consistent with anecdotal evidence that casual low-impact quarrying for the gravel and the digging of pits to bury garden and household waste occurred on the site. All of this contributes to the disturbed appearance of the upper deposits. The underlying alluvial gravel, clay and sand appeared entirely undisturbed.
- 8.4 Datable finds recovered from the pits or soil layers were few and of late 19th century date.

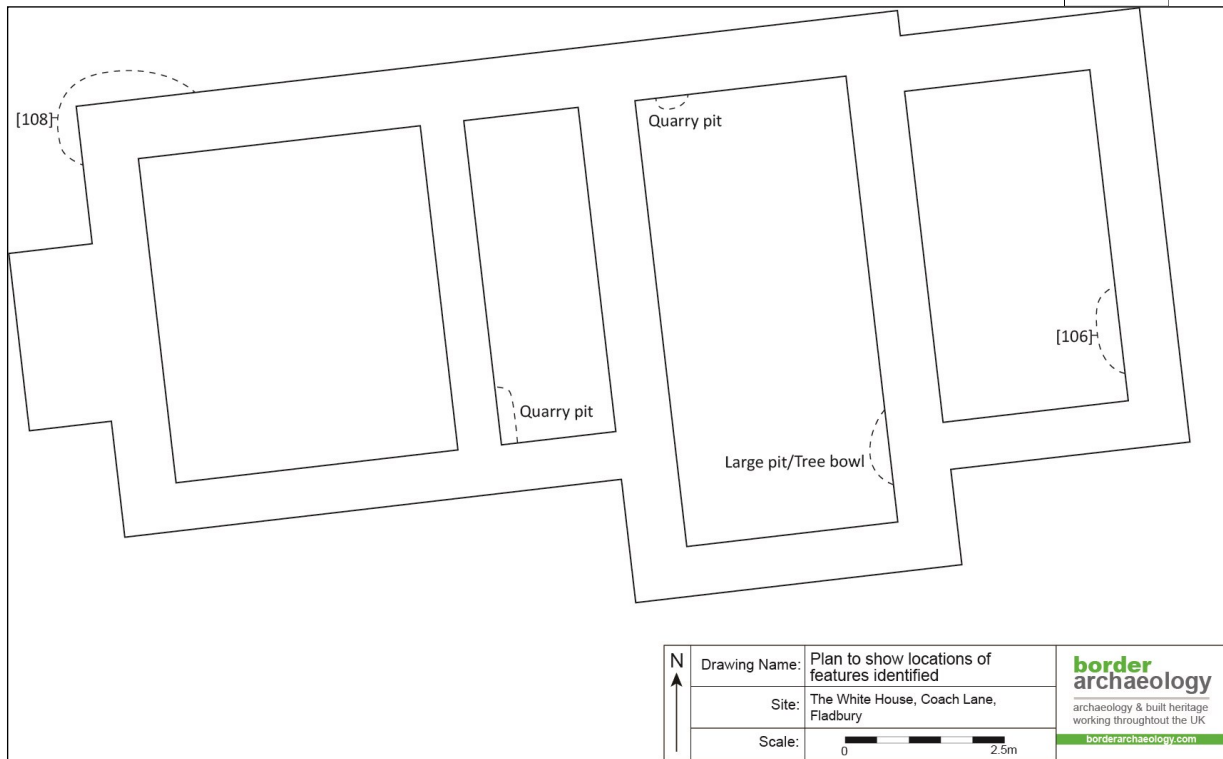


Fig. 2: Trench plan showing identified features



Plate 3: Section showing irregular base of possible gravel quarry pit



Plate 4: Refuse pit in NW corner of construction footprint

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 There was no significant occupation of this site before the 19th or early 20th century. No archaeology was disturbed or destroyed during the operation to excavate the footings of the proposed new dwelling.

10. Copyright

- 10.1 Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepted that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

11. References

AAF (2007) *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

Border Archaeology (2008) *Field Recording Manual*



EH (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (Appendix 3)*

EH (2006) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

EH (2006) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*

IfA (2001) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

IfA (2002) *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*

IfA (2001) *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

IfA (2006) *Code of conduct*

MGC (1994) *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*

SSEW, 1983, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Silsoe, Soils of Midland and Western England

Thorn, F. & Thorn, C. (1982) *Domesday Book: Worcestershire*, Chichester

Walker, K. (1990) *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section

Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. (2001) *First Aid for Finds*, London

Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeology Service (2008) *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire*.

12. Appendix: Context Register

Context No	Description
101	Moderately compact mid greyish-brown sandy loam; c. 0.40m in depth overlying (102).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Garden topsoil.</i>
102	Loose mid greyish-brown sandy loam, disturbed lower horizon; average thickness c. 0.20m. Underlies (101), overlies (103).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Upper garden subsoil.</i>
103	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown sandy clay with small amount (>5%) loam, very disturbed; average thickness 0.25m. Underlies (102), overlies (104).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Lower garden subsoil mixed with possible alluvial flooding deposit (clay).</i>
104	Loose light reddish-brown sandy limestone gravel; frequent single and lenses of rounded flint and quartz pebbles; horizon with 103 very disturbed; c. 0.40m thick. Underlies (103), overlies (105).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Alluvial deposited naturally occurring subsoil.</i>
105	Moderately compact mid reddish-brown sand; occasional pebbles. Underlies (104) (lowest layer observed).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Naturally deposited alluvial sand with individual pieces and lenses of gravel.</i>
106	Cut; possible oval plan (partially visible); break of slope top sharp, sides vertical, break of slope base sharp, base flat; surviving dimensions 1.40m × 0.56m × 0.17m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of rubbish pit</i>
107	Moderately compact dark greyish-brown sandy silt; frequent charcoal flecks, single fragment of slate roofing tile
INTERPRETATION	<i>Pit to bury rubbish and possible remains of bonfire</i>
108	Cut; circular or semi-circular plan (partially visible); break of slope top gradual, sides irregular, gradual, break of slope base gradual, base generally flat; visible dimensions 1.25m × 0.45m depth.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of pit to bury rubbish - not possible to establish precise width or form</i>
109	Moderately compact very dark greyish-brown, slightly sandy silt; occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks, one animal bone with sharp butcher's cut.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of rubbish pit</i>



Document Control

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