



Archaeological Observation

For

Gordon Cork Esq

At

**Teddon Farm
Clows Top
Kidderminster
DY14 9NQ**

April 2018



REPORT SPECIFICATION

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Contents:

1	Executive Summary	1
2	Introduction.....	2
3	Aims	2
4	Site Description.....	3
	4.1 Soils and Geology.....	3
5	Historical and Archaeological Background	3
6	Methodology	3
7	Results	6
8	Discussion	7
9	Bibliography.....	8

1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Gordon Cork Esq to carry out Archaeological Observation (or 'watching brief') of groundworks relating to the proposed erection of an agricultural building for the purpose of machinery and fodder storage, together with the formation of a rolled stone apron and access, at Teddon Farm Clows Top Kidderminster DY14 9NQ (NGR: SO 71611 73998) (Planning Ref. 17/01847/FUL).

Topsoil was removed from along the line of the proposed access road to a depth of c.0.22m with a pipe trench running parallel to the road excavated to a depth of 0.75m. A curved French drain was also excavated to drain the surface water from lower areas of the site.

All areas concerned were excavated to natural deposits in order to determine and record the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which may have been present on the site.

Although LiDAR data suggested a linear feature of potential Iron Age origin ran north-south below the proposed access road, no evidence of such a feature, or any other deposits or features of archaeological significance, was revealed during the groundworks excavations.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Gordon Cork Esq to carry out Archaeological Observation in connection with the proposed erection of an agricultural storage building with rolled stone apron and access road at Teddon Farm Clows Top Kidderminster DY14 9NQ (NGR: SO 71611 73998) (Planning Ref. 17/01847/FUL).

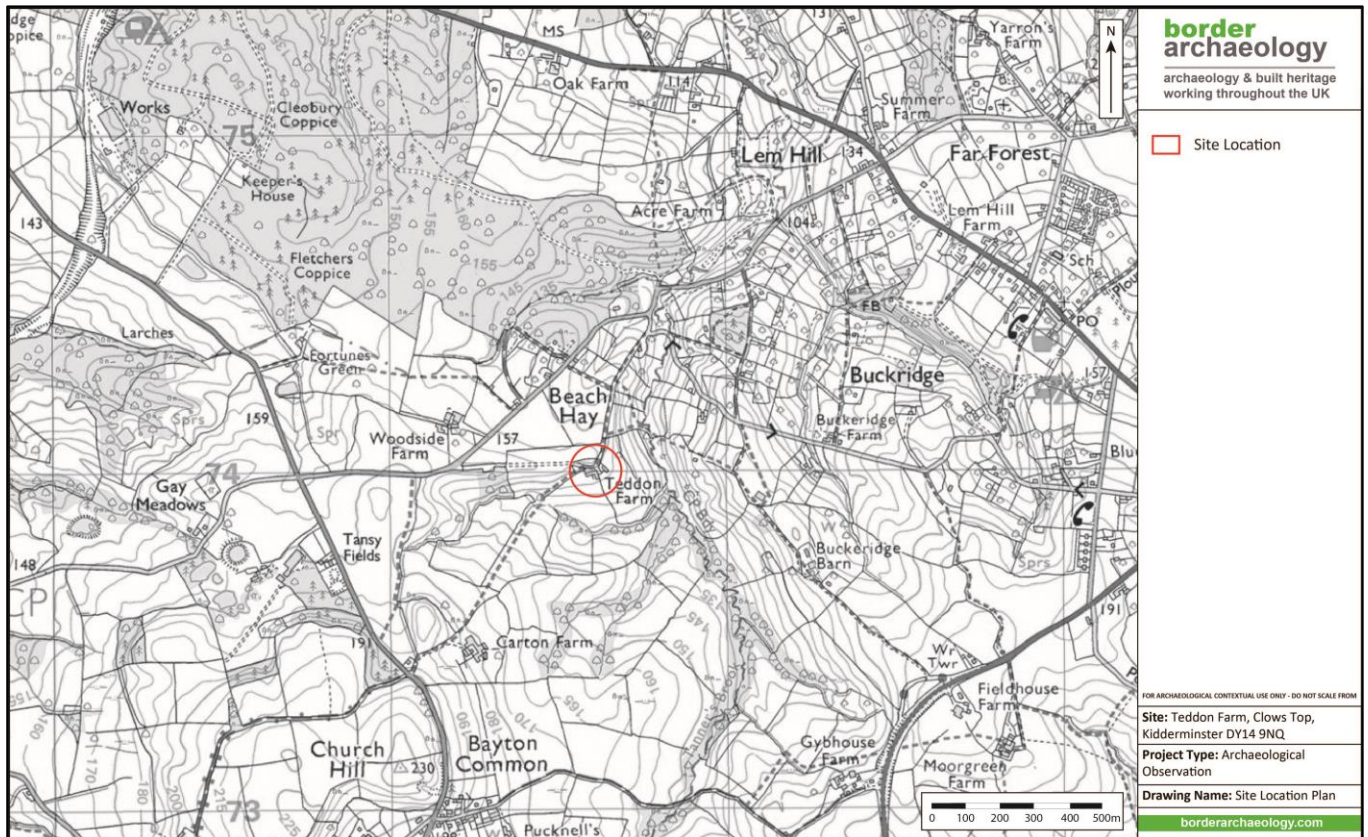


Fig. 1: Site location plan

3 Aims

The aim of the programme of archaeological work was to locate and record any archaeological finds, features or deposits within the groundworks area and to confirm that no impact on the archaeological resource occurs during the course of the groundworks without the implementation of this proposed programme of archaeological work. LiDAR data indicated a particular focus of interest in the form of a linear feature of potential prehistoric origin running N-S across the line of the access road.

4 Site Description

Teddon Farm (Worcestershire HER: WSM62166; WSM54516) comprises a probable 19th century unlisted farmstead with a brick and timber-framed farmhouse with an L-shaped range of mostly two-storey traditional outbuildings. The site lies at approximately 150m AOD and there is a network of linear ponds (Worcestershire HER: WSM42004) to the SW of the farm (NGR: SO 715 738).

The site lies on the Wyre Forest plateau, an area of Upper Carboniferous rocks, including the Coal Measures Group and Warwickshire Group. The landscape is one of smallholdings and cottages which emerged as a result of the enclosure and subsequent settlement of former common land, creating an *ad-hoc* settlement pattern associated with often small pasture fields and narrow lanes (Worcestershire County Council 2013).

4.1 Soils and Geology

The soils of the area are cambic stagnogleys of the BARDSEY series (713a) consisting of slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged loamy over clayey and fine silty soils over soft rock. The underlying geology is carboniferous mudstone with interbedded sandstone (SSEW 1983).

5 Historical and Archaeological Background

Cleobury Park (Record Id: 5153, NGR: SO 707 746), to the NW of Teddon Farm, was the site of a deer park which was in the possession of Edmund Mortimer by 1301. The park lay in the SE corner of the parish and included the surviving Nailing, Cleobury and Lodge Coppices. It appears to have been well-stocked as a documentary reference dated 1322 states that 280 deer had been stolen. A separate rabbit warren and a lodge were in existence by 1331.

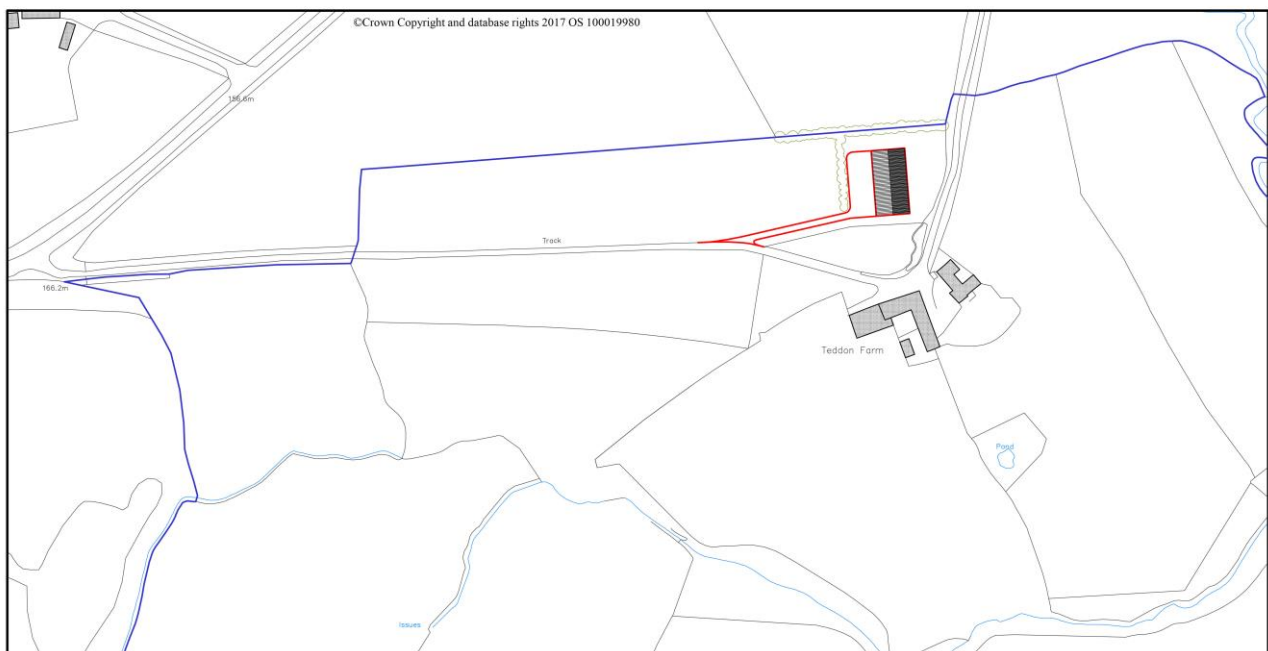
The park went into decline during the early post-medieval period and, whilst the park pale was renewed in 1622, already by this time parcels of land within the park were being leased out. Its use as a deer park had ceased by the mid-17th century, the park being valued only for timber and underwood in 1651.

6 Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014). BA adheres to the requirements of the ClfA *Code of conduct* (2014) and is cognizant of *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (Worcestershire County Council 2016).



block plan 1:500



location plan 1:1250

Fig. 2: Plan showing area of groundworks (outlined in red) (Plan supplied to Border Archaeology for information)

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) states (2014, 4) that the purpose of a watching brief (a formal programme of Archaeological Observation & investigation) is:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works

- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard

Groundworks excavations were carried out by machine and toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, with a smaller bucket fitted as required.

A topsoil strip of approximately 3m width extended some 30m along the line of the access road to a depth of 0.25m. A parallel 30m pipe trench of 0.75m width was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.65m.

A French drain of c.14m × c.0.20m was installed to alleviate waterlogging.

No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic sampling purposes were identified and no finds recovered.

7 Results

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1000	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Soft dark brown silty clay, frequent organic material, occasional small inclusions; c.0.14m – c.0.30m thick. Overlying (1001).	-	-	-	-	-	Waterlogging on lower ground.
2	1001	-	Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid-brown silty clay, occasional small inclusions; c.0.08m - c.0.40m thick. Underlying (1000). Overlying (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1002	-	Deposit	Natural	Firm yellow clays, very frequent mudstone bedrock; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1001).	-	-	-	-	-	-

8 Discussion



Plate 1. View E showing shallow natural mudstone deposit on slope of access road

All groundworks within the designated areas were carried out under archaeological supervision but revealed no features or deposits of significance with no evidence for a putative Iron Age ditch feature as suggested by LiDAR data.

The excavations exposed natural mudstone geology beneath relatively shallow soils and this, combined with the unfavourable topography of the site, probably precluded its use in earlier periods for anything other than pasturage.

9 Bibliography

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Project details

Project name	Archaeological Observation at Teddon Farm, Clows Top
Short description of the project	Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Gordon Cork Esq to carry out Archaeological Observation (or 'watching brief') of groundworks relating to the proposed erection of an agricultural building for the purpose of machinery and fodder storage, together with the formation of a rolled stone apron and access, at Teddon Farm Clows Top Kidderminster DY14 9NQ (NGR: SO 71611 73998) (Planning Ref. 17/01847/FUL). Topsoil was removed from along the line of the proposed access road to a depth of c.0.22m with a pipe trench running parallel to the road excavated to a depth of 0.75m. A curved French drain was also excavated to drain the surface water from lower areas of the site. All areas concerned were excavated to natural deposits in order to determine and record the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which may have been present on the site. Although LiDAR data suggested a linear feature of potential Iron Age origin ran north-south below the proposed access road, no evidence of such a feature, or any other deposits or features of archaeological significance, was revealed during the groundworks excavations.
Project dates	Start: 28-03-2018 End: 28-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BA1823TFCT - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TFCT18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WSM70268 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	17/01847/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	WSM62166 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	WSM54516 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	WSM42004 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Monument type	FARMHOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	FARMSTEAD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE MALVERN HILLS ROCK Teddon Farm, Clows Top
Postcode	DY14 9NQ
Study area	63.75 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 71611 73998 52.36291761313 -2.416949975828 52 21 46 N 002 25 01 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Border Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Border Archaeology
Project director/manager	George Children MA MifA
Project supervisor	Lyndsey Bromage BSc
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Gordon Cork Esq

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire HER
Paper Archive ID	WSM70268

Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Report","Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Report edited by	George Children MA MCI fA.		
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