

## Archaeological Observation

On behalf of:

### Croft Building & Conservation Ltd

Concerning excavation of a cable trench  
for the National Trust at:

Attingham Park

Atcham

Nr Shrewsbury

Shropshire SY4 4TP

January 2017



## Report Specification:

### Compilation:

Katherine Crooks BA

### Editing:

George Children MA MCIfA

### Final Edit & Approval:

Neil Shurety Dip. M G M Inst M

### Report Ref:

BA1671APCB

### Grid Reference:

NGR: SJ 5483 0999

### OS Licence No:

100055758

### Date:

January 2017

*Cover: View of Stable Block*

**General Enquiries:** E: [info@borderarchaeology.com](mailto:info@borderarchaeology.com) | T: 01568 610101

## Border Archaeology Regional Offices

### Bristol

Trelawney House, Surrey Street,  
Bristol, BS2 8PS  
T: 0117 387 8921

### Leeds

No 1 Leeds, 26 Whitehall Road,  
Leeds, LS12 1BE  
T: 0113 3570390

### Leominster (Administration)

Chapel Walk, Burgess Street,  
Leominster, HR6 8DE  
T: 01568 610101

### Milton Keynes

Luminous House, 300 South Row,  
Milton Keynes, MK9 2FR  
T: 01908 933765

### Newport

Merlin House, No1 Langstone Business Park,  
Newport, NP18 2HJ  
T: 01633 415339

### Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre, Winnal Valley Road,  
Winchester, SO23 0LD  
T: 01962 832777

**Bristol | Leeds | Leominster | London | Milton Keynes | Newport | Winchester**

## Contents:

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Method .....	1
3	Results .....	1
	3.1 Eastern end of the trench.....	1
	3.2 Western end of the trench .....	2
4	Conclusion .....	3
5	Copyright .....	3



## 1 Introduction

---

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Croft Building & Conservation Ltd on behalf of the National Trust Attingham Park Atcham Nr Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4TP to undertake Archaeological Observation during the excavation of a cable trench adjacent to the former stable block at Attingham Park (NGR: SJ 5483 0999). Work was associated with the renovation of the stable block.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed during the course of the work.

## 2 Method

---

All excavation was carried out using a mini-excavator under archaeological supervision. Notes were made throughout and photographs were taken using a high-resolution digital camera.



*Plate 1: Work in progress on the E end of the trench*

## 3 Results

---

### 3.1 Eastern end of the trench

The trench measured a total of 0.60m deep and ran at a distance some 3.6m from the S entrance to the stable yard, increasing to 4.6m at the ESE corner of the building then turning to the N, a distance of some 25m (*Plate 1*).

At the W end of the trench three deposits were present with the upper 0.12m a mid-to-dark brown topsoil (101). Beneath it a layer of stone (102), some 0.10m thick, may have been associated with an area of hard-standing that occupied the area in recent times.

A layer of mid yellow-brown silty clay (103), measuring 0.12m thick, lay beneath this deposit and, in its turn, overlay a shallow layer of mortar (104), some 40mm thick. The area close to the entrance was greatly disturbed by former services.

The deposit beneath this was a yellow-brown silt clay with frequent angular stone, which may represent the natural subsoil on the site. At a point 4m from commencement of work, at the centre of the doorway, there was no evidence for previous disturbance, with the topsoil lying directly above the natural subsoil.

No deposits of archaeological interest or significance were seen in the E part of the trench.



*Plate 2: Section of trench view S showing topsoil (101) and former hard-standing (102)*

### 3.2 Western end of the trench

The trench on the opposite side of the gateway was excavated to a similar depth and ran from the entrance to the stable block to the WNW corner of the stable block, turning to the N to its termination at an iron fence.

Beneath the topsoil, a layer of stone was present. However, on the W side of the entrance a layer of mixed rubble, including cinder and brick rubble was present to the base (*Plate 2*).

---

## 4 Conclusion

---

The cable trench lay some 4m from the foundations of the stable block. Any features and deposits present were associated either with the modern services present on the S side of the stable block or the area of hard-standing seen on recent photographs.

## 5 Copyright

---

Border Archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the Council for the use of the report by the client and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

Report Title		Report Ref	
Archaeological Observation of a cable trench excavation at Attingham Park Atcham Nr Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4TP		BA1671APCB	
Compilation	Katherine Crooks BA		
Editing	George Children MA MCIfA		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	January 2017	Neil Shurety Dip. M G M Inst M