

# border archaeology

archaeology & built heritage



## Archaeological Observation

On behalf of

**Mrs M Albright**

Concerning

**Land Adjacent to The Old  
Stores  
Bearwood Lane  
Pembridge  
Herefordshire  
HR6 9EA**

September 2018



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## 1 Executive Summary

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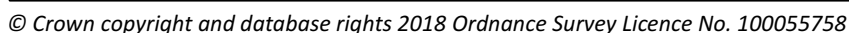
*Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Border Oak Design and Construction Ltd on behalf of Mrs M. Albright to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation during groundworks excavations for a two-storey two-bedroom dwelling on Land adjacent to The Old Stores Bearwood Lane Pembridge Herefordshire HR6 9EA.*

*The site is located in the historic settlement core of Pembridge, close to the Church and Scheduled Moated site at Court House Farm, in an area considered to be archaeologically sensitive, particularly with regard to the medieval and Saxo-Norman period.*

*A large pit containing 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery was revealed on the eastern side of the site, with further 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery present to the north.*

*An absence of subsoil, together with substantial dumps of post-medieval building material seen at the entrance, suggest the site has been levelled/landscaped potentially removing any earlier archaeological features/deposits that may have been present.*

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Border Oak Design and Construction Ltd on behalf of Mrs M Albright to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation (AO) during the excavation of footings for a two-storey two-bedroom dwelling on Land adjacent to the Old Stores Bearwood Lane Pembridge Herefordshire HR6 9EA (NGR SO 39015 58064) (*figs. 1 & 2*).



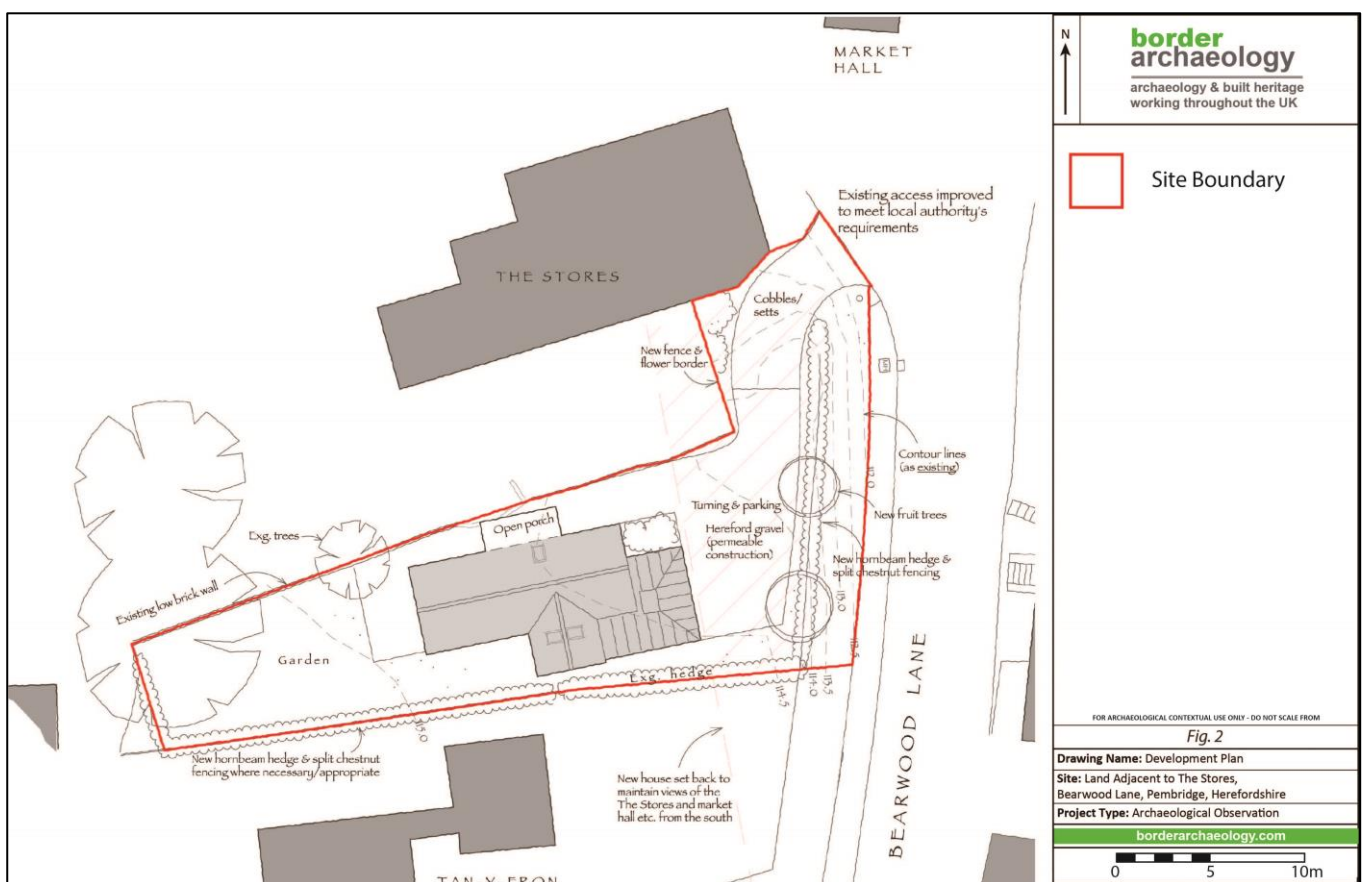
The site comprises a former garden designated as a 'brownfield' site, being disused and somewhat unkempt in appearance. The adjacent Grade II\* listed Old Stores contains a possible 14<sup>th</sup> century core, although the property was extensively remodelled during the 17<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



The site's location within the historic settlement core, close to the Church and Scheduled Moated site at Court House Farm, suggests there is high potential to encounter surviving medieval settlement remains and other significant buried features.

AO was carried out in two phases commencing on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with the excavation of a substantial service trench on the S side of the site followed by foundation groundworks on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic sampling were encountered during the course of the groundworks.



### 3 Tabulated Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	100	Deposit	Aggregate & membrane.	Modern stone surface at the E end of the site; 0.20m thick. Overlying (104).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	101	Deposit	Natural.	Bright red brown stony clay with manganese; > 1.80m thick (across site). Underlying (104). Cut by [103] and [106].	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	102	Deposit	Fill of [103].	Moderately compacted mid-reddish-brown clay; occasional to moderate charcoal and ash, occasional pottery; 2.20m E/W x 1.20m N/S - base not seen but >1.0m depth. Underlying (104).	-	✓	-	-	-	1 × sherd Staffordshire / Bristol slipware; possible creamware sherds visible in base of trench – not recovered. C18 – ea. C19.
4	103	Cut	Large pit.	Sub-circular in plan; aligned E/W (as seen); sides concave, base not seen; 2.20m × 1.20m × > 1.0m. Cut (101). Filled by (102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	104	Deposit	Topsoil.	Firm dark greyish-brown silt clay; occasional stones & rubble; 0.20m thick. Underlying (100).	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	105	Deposit	Variant of natural clay mainly at W end of site.	Firm strongly reddish-brown silt with greenish & argillic patches. Cut by [105]	-	-	-	-	-	-



Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Finds					Comments
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
7	106	Cut	Large rubbish pit or area of disturbance on NW corner of site.	Sides and dimensions not clear. Cut (105). Filled by (107).	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	107	Deposit	Fill of [106].	Moderately compacted reddish-brown silt clay; occasional CBM/burnt clay flecking & black flecks. Underlying (104). Fill of [106].	-	✓	-	-	-	Later post-medieval pottery; not retained.

## 4 Discussion

With the exception of two large pits of post-medieval date - [103], [108] - no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of the construction groundworks.

The pits demonstrated that the area had been used for the disposal of rubbish in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, possibly while the site was part of a garden, with what appeared to be domestic pottery in the fill of the pits. The absence of subsoil indicates further major disturbance across the site.

The service trench excavation revealed an area of disturbance on the S side of the site, containing occasional flecks of ceramic building material and charcoal. It is suggested, therefore, that pit [106], the edges of which could not be established, may have been present for the full width of the site. Pottery seen in [106] was of post-medieval or later post-medieval date. Furthermore, substantial dumps of post-medieval building material were seen at the entrance to the site, suggesting levelling/landscaping activity, again probably during the later post-medieval period. It therefore seems likely that disturbance had taken place over the entire site potentially removing any earlier archaeological features/deposits that may have been present.



*Plate 1: View W of foundation excavations*

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## 5 Copyright

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## 7 Appendix 1: The Post-medieval Pottery

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*K. H. Crooks*  
*Border Archaeology*

A single sherd of post-medieval pottery (6.2g) was recovered from (102), the fill of pit [103]. The sherd was of Staffordshire or Bristol slipware, in a red fabric with streaks of paler yellow and dark red clay. It had a black internal glaze.

Occasional sherds, possibly of creamware, from the same feature were seen in the base of the trench during excavation but were not recovered. This would suggest a date in the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century for pit [103].

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