

**GREEN FARM HOUSE
TILSWORTH ROAD
STANBRIDGE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Project: GF1569

Document: 2009/113
Version 1.0

OASIS ref. albionar1-66318

29th October 2009

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
David Ingham	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shottliff

Produced for:
Westacre Homes Ltd



Introduction

Planning permission (CB/09/05192) was granted for the demolition of part of a barn and the erection of a garage at Green Farm House, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire. This was on condition that a programme of archaeological monitoring and reporting was undertaken on the groundworks as requested by Central Bedfordshire Council's Conservation and Design Team. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Westacre Homes Ltd to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2009) and undertake the work.

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Ingham (Project Officer), who also prepared this report. The project was managed by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

A copy of this report and the project archive can be found at Luton Museum (Accession No. 2009.124).

Site Description and Location

Green Farm House is located in the centre of Stanbridge at SP (4)9664 (2)2417 (Fig. 1). The site lies at a height of *c.* 108m OD, with the land falling to the south and rising to the north. The underlying geology comprises Gault Clay.

Archaeological Background

The site lies within the historic core of Stanbridge (HER 16886), bordering the medieval green (HER 10963). Documentary evidence for the village can be traced back to the 12th century, but a Saxon origin is likely. The current house (HER 5949) is a Grade II listed building, as is one of the associated barns (HER 16141). These buildings date to the post-medieval period (17th–18th century), but occupy the site of the medieval sub-manor of Kimptons, which documentary evidence dates to the 14th century. It is possible that this sub-manor represents encroachment onto the original village green (S. Coleman, pers. comm.). Adjacent earthworks include ridge and furrow cultivation (HER 7769) and those associated with the village green (HER 10963).

Project Methodology

Methods employed during the project complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1999), English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991), and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (2001). The full methodology is given in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2009).

Description and Results of Groundworks

The groundworks comprised the mechanical excavation of footing trenches for the new garage, which has external dimensions of 8.8m by 5.7m (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, Photograph 1). The trenches — 0.6m wide and *c.* 1m deep — followed the footprint of the previous building, the concrete floor of which lay on a thin bed of rubble set directly into the undisturbed geological stratum (Fig. 2, Photograph 2). The outer faces of the trenches revealed 0.5m of mixed overburden; the presence of brick and concrete fragments throughout suggests that this material constitutes infill of the construction trench for the former barn.



All works requiring archaeological monitoring were completed under close archaeological supervision on 12th October 2009. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed.

Conclusion

Despite the potential of the site to preserve archaeological remains of the medieval and post-medieval periods, no features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed within the footprint of the new garage. It is possible that any shallow remains that once existed were destroyed during construction of the original barn, although the absence of deep features such as pits and ditches is likely to be genuine.

Bibliography

- Albion Archaeology 2001 *Procedures Manual Volume 1: Fieldwork*, 2nd edition
- Albion Archaeology 2009 *Green Farm House, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*
- English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition
- IFA 1999a *Code of Conduct*
- IFA 1999b *Standard and Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*

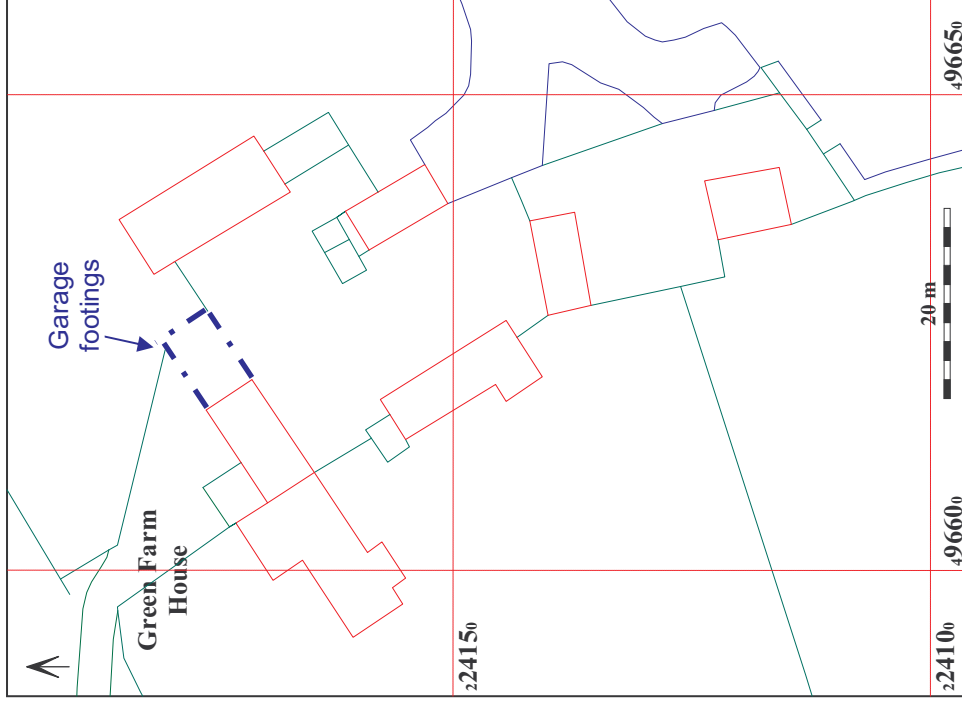
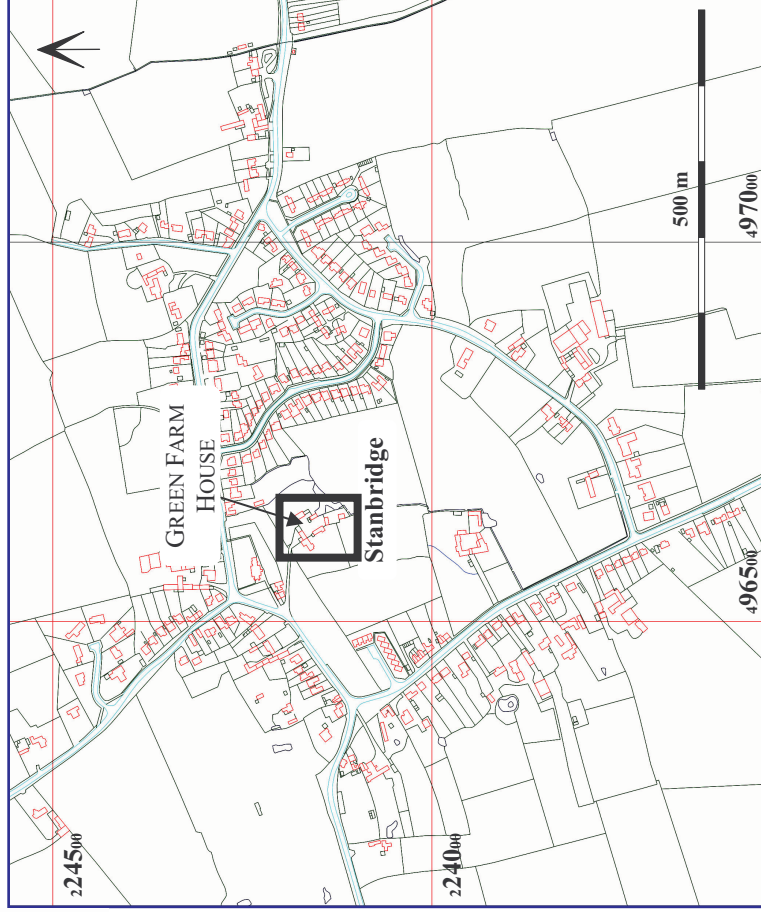


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map by Albion Archaeology, Central Bedfordshire Council, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. OS Licence No. 100017358(LA). © Crown Copyright.



Photograph 1: Extent of the garage footings



Photograph 1: Evidence of the disturbance caused by construction of the previous barn

Figure 2: Selected photographs