



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
FORGE COTTAGE
HIGH STREET
LOWER BRAILES
WARWICKSHIRE**

NGR: SP 3163 3913

on behalf of Miss Katie Christensen



Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc

November 2011

ASC: 1331/LBF/2



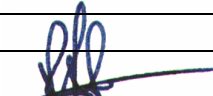
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LBF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1331
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-113272	<i>Accession no:</i>	N/A
<i>County:</i>	Warwickshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Lower Brailes		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Brailes		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 3163 3913		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.900sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Two storey rear extension, canopy porch to front elevation and alteration of window to a door on the front elevation		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	S10/00283/FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Stratford on Avon District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	25/10/11, 03/11/11		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Graham Caswell Woodland Cottage Pinewoods Road Longworth Oxon OX13 5HH		
<i>Client:</i>	Miss Katie Christensen		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Graham Caswell		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill	<i>Date:</i>	08/11/11
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	08/11/11

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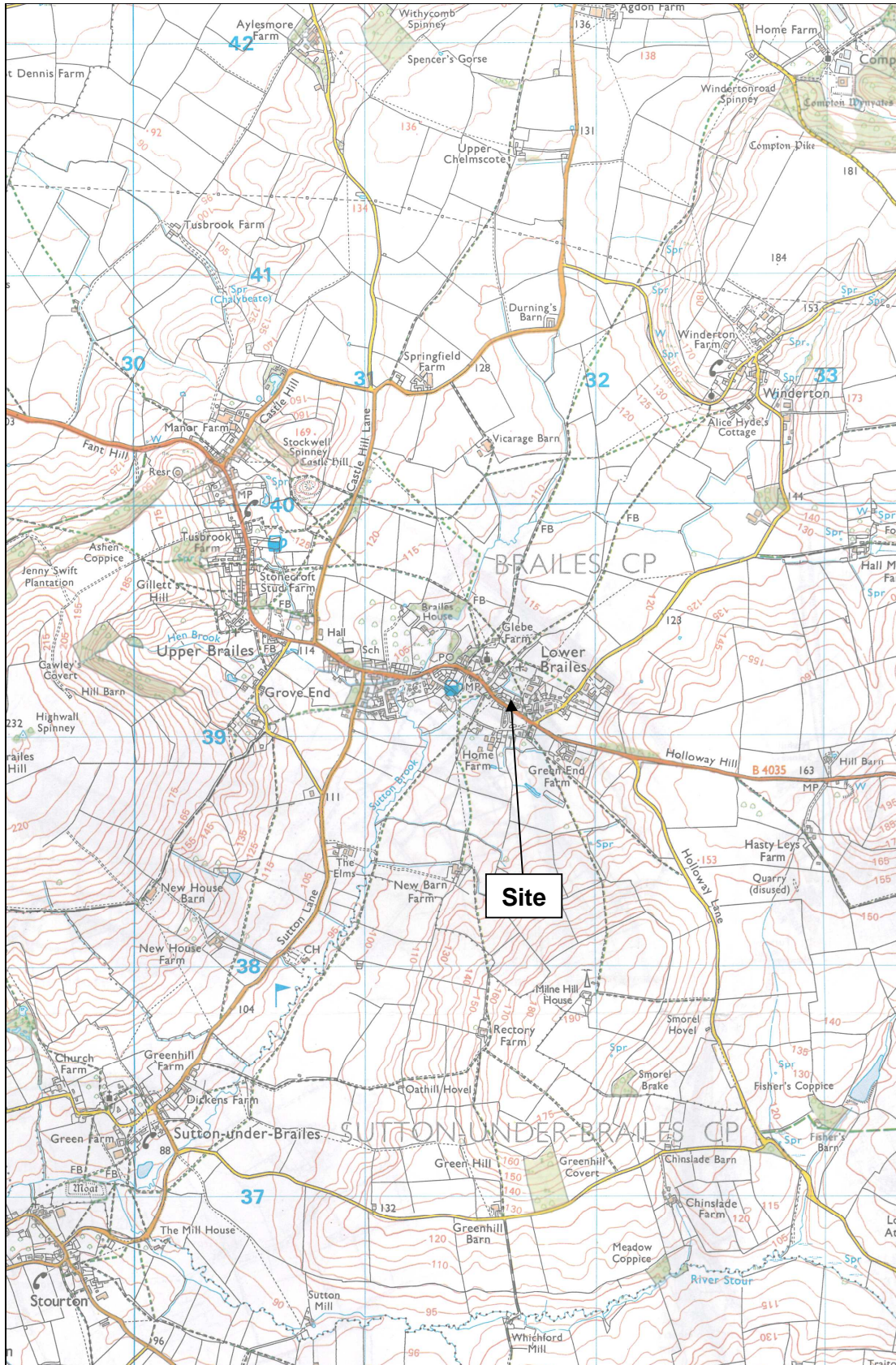


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In October-November 2011 a watching brief was carried out at Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warwickshire during the construction of a rear extension to the property. The project revealed frequent dumped deposits of 19th/20th century refuse immediately outside the existing house and a number of ironstone concentrations thought to be boundary walls, dated to the 19th/20th century. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 In October-November 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warwickshire. The project was commissioned by Graham Caswell on behalf of Miss Katie Christensen, and was carried out according to a brief (Stocks 2010) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Stratford on Avon District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Warwickshire Museum Field Services*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2010). The relevant planning application reference is S10/00283/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located within the district of Stratford on Avon, in the parish of Brailes, and the settlement of Lower Brailes, at NGR SP 3163 3913 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises a roughly rectangular piece of ground on the northern side of the High Street. The site is bordered to the north east by open fields, and by residential developments on its remaining sides. Access is from the High Street (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area belong to the Wickham 2 Association, which are characterised as *slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Small areas of slowly permeable calcareous soils on steeper slopes over drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay*

or mudstone (Soil Survey 1983, 711f). The underlying geology comprises Jurassic lower lias (BGS, Sheet 201). The site lies at an elevation of c.110mAOD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a two storey rear extension, canopy porch to front elevation and alteration of window to a door on the front elevation (Fig. 3).

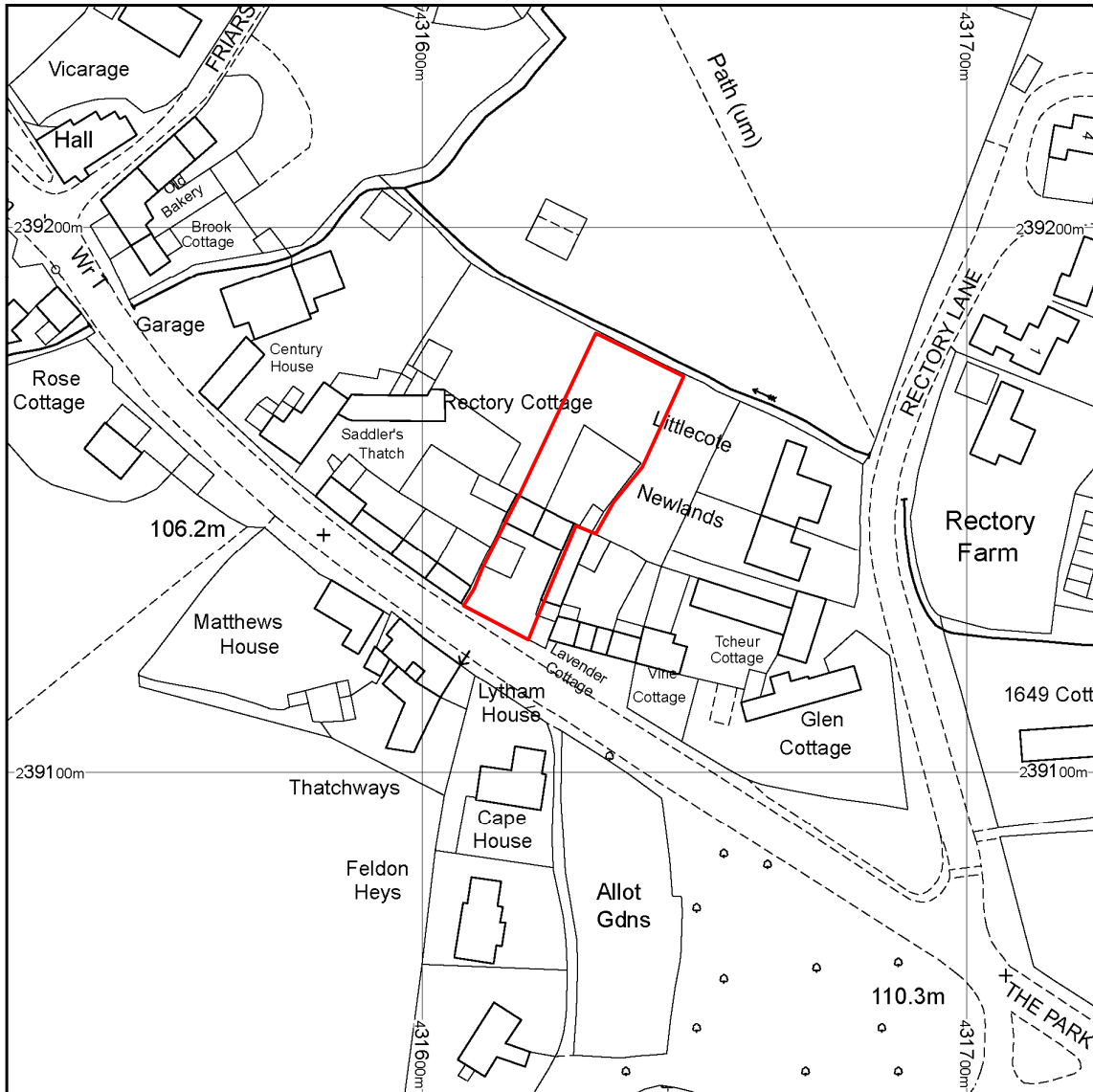


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

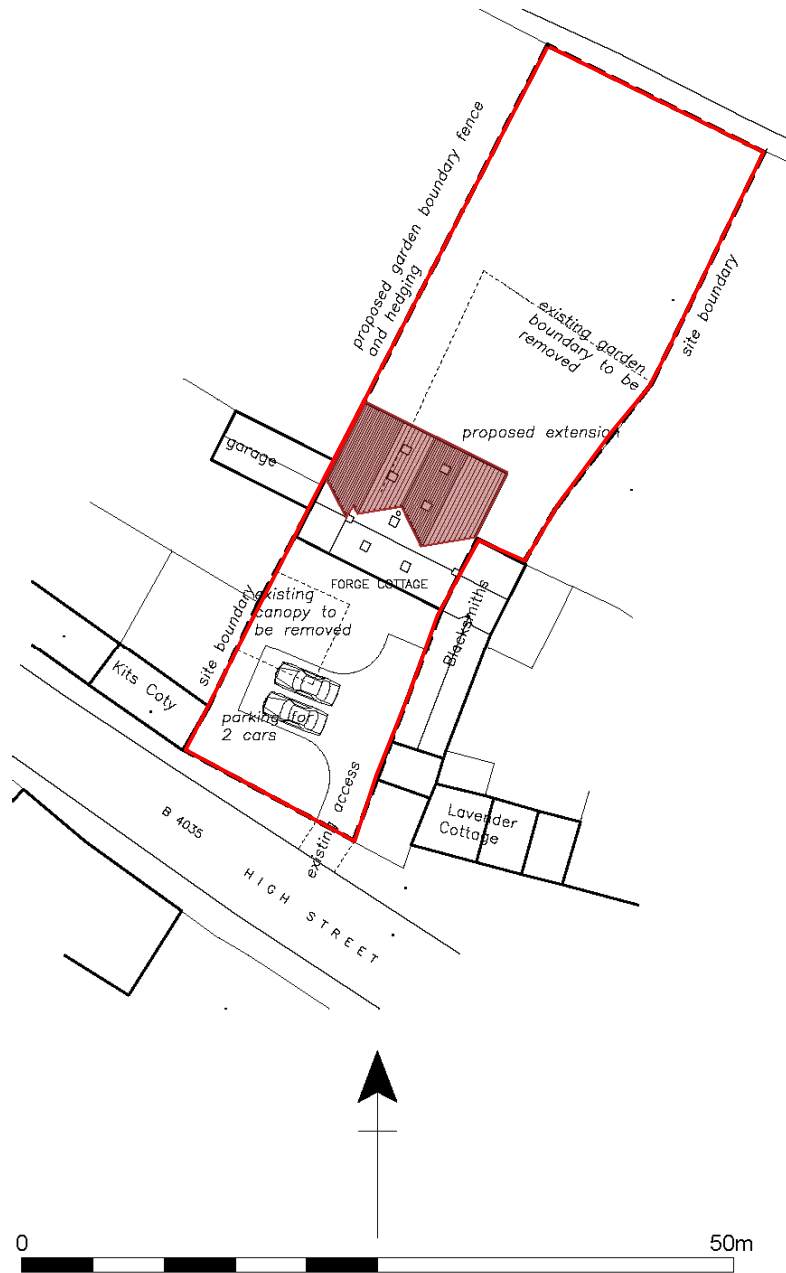


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- The whole of the area to be disturbed to be examined
- Any ground reduction across the site to be undertaken using a wide, toothless ditching bucket

2.4 Constraints

The work was carried out in line with the project design, with full co-operation of the client and with no constraints.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (MWA), ASC's own library and other readily available sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC-AD43)

Early settlement patterns in the Lower Brailes area are not well understood. The finds of a Middle Bronze Age unlooped palstave or axe (MWA7502) and a late Iron Age brooch (MWA10115) in fields to the north of the village suggests there may have been activity in the area.

3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

The site of a possible Roman settlement has been identified in field's c.500m to the north of the village. Excavations carried out in the 1960s and 70s revealed large amounts of mainly 2nd century artefacts along with a rough stone surface (MWA2318, 2319, 5258). Roman coins and metal artefacts were recovered in the fields to the north of Lower Brailes (MWA10114, 8148), while more were found to the south of the village at Holloway Hill (MWA2327), and within the village itself (MWA2331).

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

There is no direct evidence for settlement in the area during the Saxon period, but it is possible that both Upper and Lower Brailes have their origins in this era. Both are included under one entry in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and the settlement described is substantial (land for 60 ploughs, with 100 villeins and 30 bordars with 46 ploughs, and a mill) suggesting it was well established by the time of the survey (Williams & Martin, 2003, 651).

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Lower Brailes (MWA2315), with further earthworks being recorded to the south of the existing settlement. Documentary evidence records that Henry III granted a market and fair to John de Pleissis and his wife Margery in 1248, both to be held at the manor, the location of which is unknown. Earthworks are also recorded at Upper Brailes, suggesting the existence of a further shrunken medieval settlement located to the north west of the development site (MWA2359). Various medieval finds have also been recovered around the village, including a fragment of a ring and a spangle (MWA10093) a 13th or 14th century stone mortar (MWA1352) coins, pottery sherds and fragments of a brooch (MWA2252), while immediately to the south of the development site, on the south side of the High Street, a fragment of a bone comb and c.150 sherds of 11th-14th century pottery were recovered from the garden of Thatchways (MWA12352). A

metal detector survey recovered a variety of finds dating from the 11th-17th centuries, including strap ends and buckles, c.500m to the north of the church (MWA7059).

The Church of St George does not have any architectural details that pre-date the 13th late 13th century, but excavations in 1879 are said to have revealed 12th century foundations. Documentary evidence records that Roger, Earl of Warwick in the reign of Henry I (1100-35) gave the church to the priory of Kenilworth, suggesting the church was established by this time (MWA2301). Located c.500m to the north west of the development site is Brailes House, a largely 18th century house which, according to local tradition, is the manor house of Lower Brailes. It is also said that the current structure stands on the site of a much older house, but this has not been verified (MWA2338).

The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation survive within the parish of Brailes. Some of this survives as earthworks, whereas other parts are only visible on aerial photographs (MWA6436). A trackway or saltway of medieval date is also recorded within the parish (MWA8672).

3.6 *Post-Medieval - Modern* (1500- present)

The site is bounded to the south by the B4035, which follows the route of an 18th century turnpike road (MWA4828) which linked Banbury and Barcheston via Brailes.

There are several post-medieval religious buildings situated within Lower Brailes. The Grade II Listed Roman Catholic chapel of Saints Peter and Paul was built in 1726, and was subsequently enlarged (MWA2306). A Friends Meeting house or chapel was constructed in Lower Brailes in the post-medieval period. The original building was constructed c.1684. In 1854 Quaker meetings stopped and the building was used by Wesleyan Methodists. In 1891 a new Methodist Chapel was constructed on the site, which closed in 1932. The building is now a private dwelling, although the Quaker graveyard is still located to the rear of the house (MWA2304).

A variety of post medieval finds have been recovered from land to the east of Henbrook Lane, almost a kilometre to the west of the development site. These included a large bronze button decorated with a female bust, clay pipe bulbs and a bronze harness fitting (MWA7136).

The existing house on the site, Forge Cottage, dates from the 19th century, and has a Blacksmiths in the building attached to the western side of the cottage. Ordnance survey maps dated to the 19th and 20th century depict a number of site boundary alterations with no changes to the building itself.

4. Results

4.1 The ground reduction and associated drainage for the new extension were observed. A total of two site visits were made, details of which are presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 The site stratigraphy comprised:

c. 0-0.18m max of topsoil consisting of dark brown, friable, silt;

c.0.18-0.68m max of made-ground consisting of mid greyish brown, friable silty clay with moderate tile and charcoal inclusions;

c.0.68+ m of natural strata comprised of a light-mid brownish orange, mottled grey and orange, firm clay.

4.3 **Ground Reduction** (Fig.4; Plates 1-2)

The initial ground reduction measured c.12.7 × 6.0 × 1.15m max. As the natural stratum was revealed it was not deemed to be necessary to observe the footing trench.

The made-ground contained frequent dumped deposits of broken pottery, window glass, glass bottles, window fitting and clay pipe dated to the 19th/20th century. Such finds were thought to be refuse associated with the existing house, and none of which were retained.

No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

4.4 **Drainage Trench** (Fig.4; Plates 3-5)

The drainage trench was orientated N-S and extended from the new extension to the brook found at the far end of the garden. It measured c.30.0 × 0.48 × 1.3m max.

Structures of unmortared ironstone were observed. These were thought to represent rough walls, constructed in the same material as the existing house. The wall orientated NW-SE is thought to be the site boundary depicted from the 1885 to the present day OS map or the boundary depicted on the 1922 OS map. The wall orientated NE-SW is thought to be the site boundary depicted on the 1900 OS map. There was also a further concentration of ironstone that was only visible in the trench section (Fig. 4).

No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.



Figure 4: Plan of ground reduction and associated drainage trench (scale 1:250)



Plate 1: Ground reduced area, looking NW



Plate 2: Stratigraphy of ground reduced area, looking SE (scale 2×1m)



Plate 3: Drainage trench, looking SW (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Stratigraphy of drainage trench, looking NW (*scale 2×1m*)



Plate 5: Wall, orientated NW-SE, looking E (*scale 1m*)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The reduced area revealed frequent dumped deposits of 19th/20th century material including broken pottery, glass bottles, window glass, window fittings and clay pipe. This material was thought to be directly associated with the existing house and deemed to be of little significance.
- 5.2 The drainage trench contained a number of ironstone concentrations thought to represent rough walls, coinciding with boundaries depicted on 19th/20th century OS maps (Fig. 4).
- 5.3 No significant archaeological features were observed. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the development cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features were present on the site.
- 5.4 ***Confidence Rating***
The works were carried out in good site conditions with full co-operation of the client. Therefore the results are given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Graham Caswell on behalf of Miss Katie Christensen, to whom the writer is grateful to for their assistance. The project was monitored by *Warwickshire Museum Field Services* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to contractors W. E Sutton Ltd.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Site record drawings
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Rouse, C 2010 *Project Design for a Watching Brief at Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warwickshire*. ASC:1331/LBF/1.
- Stocks, A 2010 *Brief for Archaeological Work at Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes Warwickshire* Museum Field Services.

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Williams, A & Martin, GH *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* Penguin Classics.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project: FORGE COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, LOWER BRAILES		Project No/Code: 1331/LBF	Sheet: 1 of 2
Client/Developer:		Date of visit: 25/10/11	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7.00	Finish: 16.30	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD, DRY. SITE / WEATHER - RAINED IN AFTERNOON			
Observations: OBSERVED THE GROUND REDUCTION FOR THE NEW EXTENSION. FINDING FREQUENT QUARDED DEPOSITS OF BROKEN POTTERY, GLASS WINDOWS, GLASS BOTTLES, WINDOW FITTINGS - (19" / 20") STRATIGRAPHY :- TOPSOIL :- DARK BROWN, FRABLE, SILTY, c. 0.18m (D) MADE-GROUND :- MID GRAYISH BROWN, FRABLE, SILTY CLAY WITH FREQUENT TILE, CHARCOAL c. 0.17m (D) NAT :- LIGHT - MID BROWN ORANGE BROWN, SET, CLAY VARIED IN DEPTH BETWEEN c. 0.8 - 0.46 _m BCSL AREA MEASURED c. 12.7m x 6m x 1.15m MAX			
Comments: NO SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS, FEATURES OR DEPOSITS. WILL RETURN ONCE THEIR READY TO LOCATE THE DRAINAGE TRENCH.			



A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: FORGE COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, LOWER BRAILES		Project No/Code: 1331/LBF	Sheet: 2 of 2
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 03/11/11	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.00	Finish: 13.30	
Completed by: CS			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: GOOD SITE CONDITIONS, RAINED IN THE AFTERNOON			
Observations: OBSERVED THE EXCAVATION OF THE DRAINAGE TRENCH STARTING FROM THE NEW EXTENSION TO THE BROOK AT THE END OF THE GARDEN. TRENCH MEASURED C. 30 x 0.48 x 1.3m MAX. STRATIGRAPHY:- TOPSOIL C. 0.1m NADE-GROUND C. 0.5m MAX - MID GREYISH BROWN, FRAGILE/FIRM SILTY CLAY WITH FLICKS OF BRICK NO OF CONCENTRATIONS OF IRONSTONE VISIBLE IN TRENCH SECTION THOUGHT TO BE ROUGH LENS WITH NO MORTAR. - SITE BOUNDARIES			
Comments:			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warks			SITE NO/CODE: 1331/LBF
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		√	Forge Cottage, looking SE
2		√	New extension area, pre-ex, looking SE
3		√	Excavation of ground reduction, looking W
4		√	Excavation of ground reduction, looking NW
5	√	√	Stratigraphy of ground reduced area, looking SE (<i>scale 2x1m</i>)
6	√	√	Ground reduced area, looking S (<i>scale 1m</i>)
7	√	√	Ground reduced area, looking SW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
8	√	√	Ground reduced area, looking SE
9	√	√	Drainage trench stratigraphy, looking NW (<i>scale 2x1m</i>)
10	√	√	Concentration of ironstone, rough wall, looking E (<i>scale 1m</i>)
11		√	Concentration of ironstone, rough wall, looking NW (<i>scale 2x1m</i>)
12		√	Concentration of ironstone, rough wall, looking NE (<i>scale 2x1m</i>)
13		√	Drainage trench, looking SW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
14		√	Excavation of drainage trench, looking N
15		√	Footing for new extension, looking W
16		√	Footing for new extension and drainage trench, looking NW
17	√	√	Drainage trench, looking NE
18		√	Drainage trench, looking N (<i>scale 1m</i>)

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warks	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-113272
Short Description:	In October-November 2011 a watching brief was carried out at Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warwickshire during the construction of a rear extension to the property. The project revealed frequent dumped deposits of 19 th /20 th century refuse immediately outside the existing house and a number of ironstone concentrations thought to be boundary walls, dated to the 19 th /20 th century. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	House and Garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	Cottage	Monument period:	19 th century
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Warwickshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 3163 3913
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warwickshire, OX15 5HX		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.900 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.106.2 OD m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Anna Stocks	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA	Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc
Sponsor / funding body:	Landowner		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	25/10/11	End date:	03/11/11
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Warwickshire Museum	None	
Paper:		Brief, PD, report, site records, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files including digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: Forge Cottage, High Street, Lower Brailes, Warwickshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1331/LBF		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc		
Page nos	20	Date:	08/11/11