

Land off Stoney Furlong Lane Eckington Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Mr O. Griffiths

CA Project: 5170
CA Report: 15547
Worcestershire HER Event No. WSM 66250

July 2015



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Eckington
Worcestershire

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:200).



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Stoney Furlong Lane
Location: Eckington, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 2823 1411
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 12-30 June 2015
Planning Reference: W/14/00162/OU, condition 5
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Accession Number: WSM 66250
Site Code: SFUR 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new house on land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr O. Griffiths on land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 2823 1411; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of a new house (Planning ref: W/14/00162/OU; condition 5).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) approved by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) the archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council (WDC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief as a Condition of Planning Consent in Worcestershire* (Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS) 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development is approximately 0.1ha in extent and currently comprises a lawn bounded to the north and the east by residential properties (Hawthorn House and Harvest House respectively), to the south by agricultural land and to the west by Stoney Furlong Lane (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 41m AOD, and drops away slightly to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period overlain by superficial deposits of Pershore Sand and Gravel (BGS 2014).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (WHER) demonstrated that the site lies approximately 500m to the south-east of the medieval and post-medieval core of Eckington (WSM25914), within a landscape which has been

subject to ridge and furrow cultivation. No heritage assets are recorded within the site itself.

- 2.2 Although no prehistoric or Roman remains are recorded within the site; there is evidence for settlement and other features associated with these periods 700m to the north-west. A single unstratified Roman pottery sherd has also been recovered on agricultural land approximately 600m to the east of the proposed development area (WSM33840).
- 2.3 Eckington is mentioned in a charter of Edgar of 972 (*Eccyncgtune*), and was in the hands of Pershore Abbey. By the Norman conquest it was held by Westminster Abbey, who had subsequently leased it by the later 12th century (CA 2014). No early medieval activity is recorded within the site or the immediate vicinity, with the possible exception of the cross at the north end of Church Street. Eckington appears to be developed as a nucleated farming village, with no clear evidence for urban-style medieval tenements (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising:

Area 1: an initial stage of ground reduction/topsoil strip

Area 2: excavation of foundations for the new house

Area 3: excavation of foundations for an associated garage

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum Service under accession number WSM 66250. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

5.1 A broadly analogous stratigraphic sequence was revealed throughout the observed groundworks, with the natural clays and gravels being identified within Areas 2 and 3 between 0.5m and 0.8m below the present ground level. These were overlain by subsoil, typically 0.3m in depth, that was immediately sealed by topsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits and any artefactual material pre-dating the modern period indicated that the prehistoric and Roman activity recorded to the north-west were very unlikely to have extended as far as the site. Despite the proximity to the medieval and post-medieval core of Eckington noted above, the site is likely to have been located in the agricultural hinterland in these periods.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund, Tim Havard and Tom Weavill. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett.

The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 December 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown silty clay			0.2-0.5	modern
2	200	Layer		subsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay with gravel			0.3	
2	201	Layer		natural substrate	Yellow orange clay gravel			c1	
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	blue grey clay with occasional mudstone			>1	
3	300	Layer		subsoil	as 200			0.3	
3	301	Layer		natural substrate	as 201			0.6	
3	302	Layer		natural substrate	as 202			>0.8	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new house on Land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	12-30 June 2015	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	none	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 2823 1411	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund, Tim Havard and Tom Weavill	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum Service / WSM 66250	trench recording sheets, photographic register sheet
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum Service / WSM 66250	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 15547		

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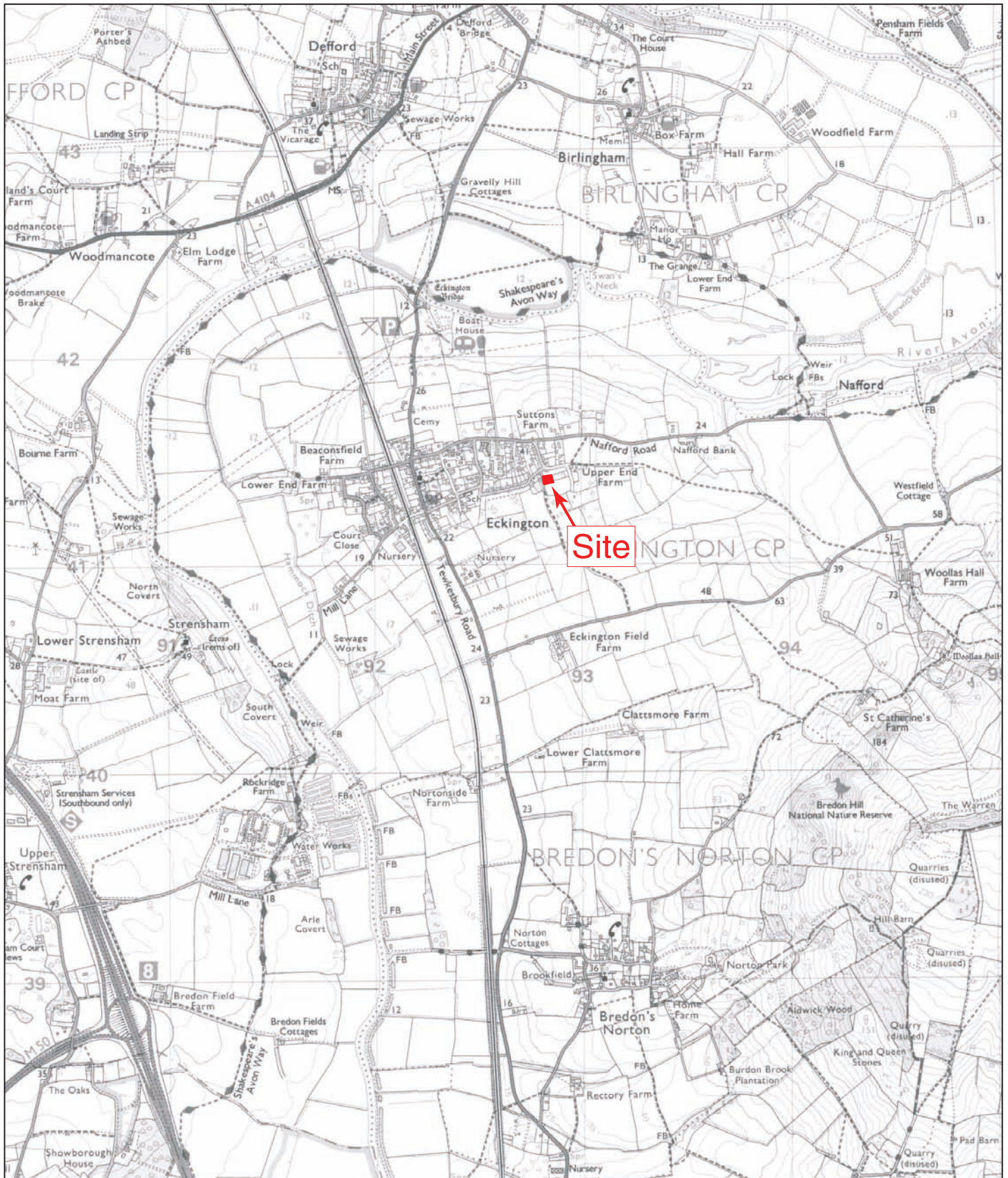
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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

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PROJECT NO. 5170
 DRAWN BY JB
 APPROVED BY LM

DATE 06-07-2015
 REVISION 00
 SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



0 10m

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site boundary

topsoil strip only

foundation trench

Andover 01264 347630

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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Stoney Furlong Lane, Eckington,
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of observed
groundworks

DRAWN BY LVB/LB PROJECT NO. 5170 FIGURE NO. 2

CHECKED BY TH DATE 06/07/2015

APPROVED BY CMB SCALE@A3 1:200