

Withy, Boat Lane Welford-on-Avon Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Mr and Mrs Sebastian

CA Project: 5889
CA Report: 16579

November 2016



Withy, Boat Lane
Welford-on-Avon
Warwickshire

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon
Location: Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire
NGR: SP 1456 5211
Type: Evaluation
Date: 17 October 2016
Planning Reference: 14/01646/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Warwickshire Museum
Site Code: WBL16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2016 at Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Two trenches were excavated.

A modern pit containing demolition debris was identified. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mr and Mrs Sebastian at Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (centred on NGR: SP 1456 5211; Fig. 1). Outline planning permission for the erection of a single storey bungalow was granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SoADC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (ref: 14/01646/FUL, condition 6).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological evaluation prepared by Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice (WCCAIA 2015), the archaeological advisors to SoADC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by SoADC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), and Warwickshire County Council's *Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines* (2012).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is situated within the rear garden of Withy, a cottage fronting on to Boat Lane to the north. It is bounded by Mill Lane to the south and residential properties on all other sides. The site lies at approximately 37m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic and Triassic periods, overlain by superficial deposits of Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member of the Quaternary period (BGS 2016). Natural sand and gravel deposits were identified in both trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Avon valley is known to have been occupied throughout the Prehistoric period; however few sites of this date are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the development site. A Late Iron Age pit alignment has been identified on aerial photographs approximately 1km south-east of the site (HER ref: MWA1801), with

further aerial photographs showing cropmarks of possible enclosures further to the south (MWA 1802). Finds of Roman building materials including roof tile have been recorded approximately 1km east of the site (MWA1344), suggesting that a villa may have been located nearby.

- 2.2 The proposed development site is located within the core of the medieval settlement of Welford-on-Avon. Welford is listed in the Domesday Book and is thought to have had its focus on the Parish Church of St. Peter (MWA 1805) 100m north of the site, extant parts of which date to the 12th century. Welford Mill, first used in the medieval period and which continued in use until 1958 (MWA 1816), was located 150m west of the site at the end of Mill Lane. There was also a purported medieval crossing of the river at the end of Boat Lane, 160m to the north-west of the site (MWA 1808).
- 2.3 Cartographic evidence indicates that the current road configuration of Mill Lane, Boat Lane and Headland Road has been consistent throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries, with the site located to the rear of cottages fronting on to Boat Lane (Old Maps 2016).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable SoADC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches (Fig. 2). Trench 1 measured 7m long and Trench 2 5.3m long. Both trenches were 1.6m wide. The location and length of Trench 1 had to be altered slightly in the field due to buried services and tree canopies. The location and length of Trench 2 had to be altered due to buried

services, tree canopies and the presence of asbestos within the backfill of a modern pit identified at the southern end of the trench. Both trenches measured 1.6m in width. Trenches were set out by hand and surveyed using Leica GPS in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*.

- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum Service. 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 (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 In both trenches the natural substrate, comprising sand and gravel, was identified at an average depth of 0.8m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by subsoil averaging 0.5m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil deposits averaging 0.31m in thickness. No significant archaeological features were identified in either trench (Fig. 3). Modern pit 2003 which contained a single fill, 2004, comprising mixed silty clay and building demolition debris was identified at the southern end of Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 3)

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the development area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains.
- 6.2 The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the medieval period either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during previous development. The presence of an *in situ* subsoil would argue against the latter suggestion.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Jay Wood, assisted by Chris Watts. The report was written by Jay Wood. The illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Jay Wood, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 18 October 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Old Maps 2016 <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/> Accessed 18 October 2016

Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice (WCCAIA) 2015 *Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8EN: Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

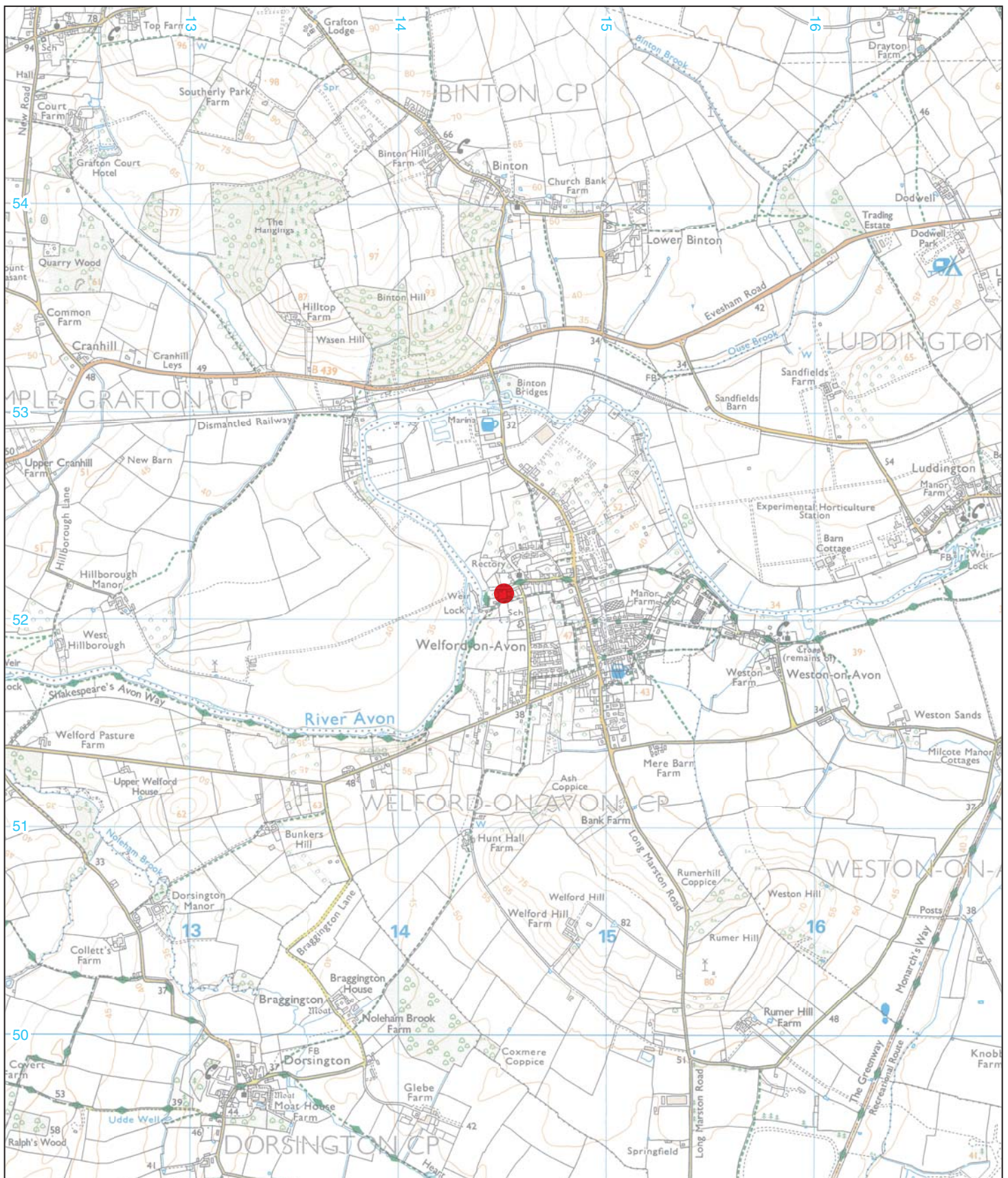


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	mid brown grey silt	>7	>1.6	0.33	
1	1001	Layer		subsoil	dark brown slightly silty sand, abundant small and medium stone	>7	>1.6	0.55	
1	1002	Layer		natural substrate	mid orange brown sand and gravel	>7	>1.6	>0.05	
2	2000	Layer		topsoil	mid brown grey silt	>5.3	>1.6	0.3	
2	2001	Layer		subsoil	dark brown slightly silty sand, abundant small and medium stone	>5.3	>1.6	0.56	
2	2002	Layer		natural substrate	mid orange brown sand and gravel	>5.3	>1.6	>0.1	
2	2003	Cut		cut of pit	sub-ovoid, steep sides, only partially excavated due to contaminants	>1.2	>1.1	>0.85	
2	2004	Fill	2003	backfill of pit	dark brown slightly silty sand, abundant small and medium stone, abundant modern demolition debris	>1.2	>1.1	>0.85	Modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2016 at Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Two trenches were excavated. A modern pit containing demolition debris was identified. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	17 October 2016	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 1456 5211	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jay Wood	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Paper	Warwickshire Museum	Trench sheets and drawings
Digital	Warwickshire Museum	Database, survey results and digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 09158		



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PROJECT TITLE

Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon
Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

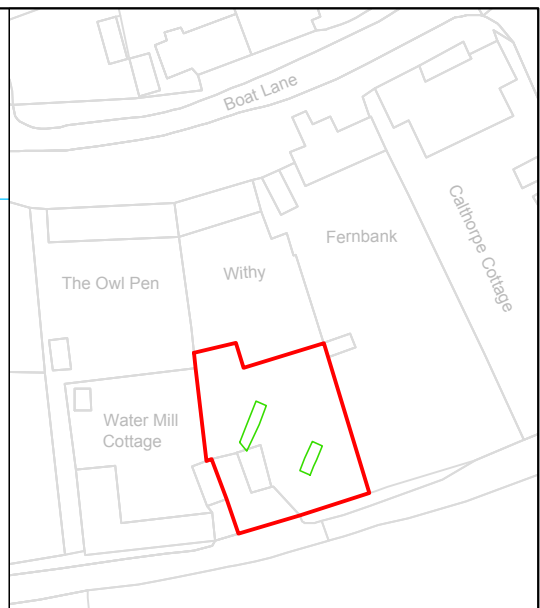


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DRAWN BY AO
 CHECKED BY DJB
 APPROVED BY REY

PROJECT NO. 5889
 DATE 24/10/2016
 SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- ▭ site boundary
- ▭ proposed building
- ▭ evaluation trench
- modern feature



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PROJECT TITLE
 Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon
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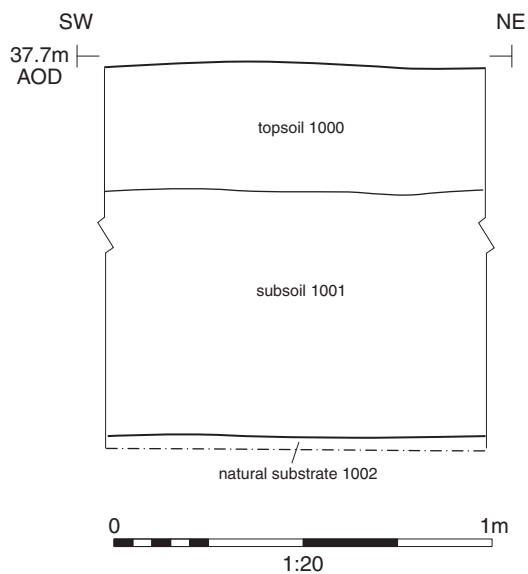
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing location
 of groundworks

DRAWN BY	LOC/AO	PROJECT NO.	5889	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/10/2016	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:100	

P:\58889 bungalow at Withy, Boat Lane, Welford-on-Avon Works EVAL\Illustration\Drawings\5889 bungalow at Withy Boat Lane Fig02.dwg

SP


Section AA



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 2, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1 and 2: section and photographs

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5889	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/10/2016	
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	1:20	3

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