

Land at Hill Lane Elmley Castle Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
The Trustees of the Newell Palmer Financial Planning SSAS

CA Project: 6490
CA Report: 18083
HER Ref: WSM70017

March 2018



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 Elmley Castle
 Worcestershire

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	21 March 2018	Andrew Donald	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Cliff Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Hill lane
Location:	Elmley Castle, Worcestershire
NGR:	397783 241248
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	7 February 2018
Planning Reference:	17/02152/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Accession Number:	WSM70017
Site Code:	LHL18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2018 during groundworks associated with the construction of a ménage on land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire.

Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified within the area subject to groundworks.

No further 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 February 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Trustees of the Newell Palmer Financial Planning SSAS on land at Hill lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire (centred at NGR: 397783 241248; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a ménage (Wychavon District Council (WDC); Planning ref: 17/02152/FUL, condition 3).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, WDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 1.1ha in extent, within which the proposed ménage measured 966m², and comprises part of an agricultural field, currently under pasture. The site is bounded to the south-east by Hill Lane and the grounds of a residential property known as Hillside Cottage and to the south-west, north-west and north-east by further agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 79m AOD at its western edge, with ground levels gradually sloping up to reach 83.5m AOD at the eastern extent of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic Period. Superficial deposits of Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period are noted throughout the site (BGS 2018). The natural substrate was not revealed during the current works due to the limited depth of the groundworks undertaken.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not been subject to previous archaeological assessment and the presence and extent of below-ground archaeological remains in the area is largely unknown, primarily as a consequence of limited detailed archaeological investigation being undertaken. As such, the following archaeological background is a summary of information obtained from a Historic Environment Record (HER) search of a c.

500m radius around the site (hereafter the study area), along with any publically available information pertinent to the site.

- 2.2 No finds or features of prehistoric date are recorded within the site or the immediate area, although the gravel terraces associated with the River Avon, which are present throughout much of the locality, have the potential to contain evidence of prehistoric activity.
- 2.3 Evidence of Roman activity is limited to the discovery of a hoard of 3rd and 4th century AD coins located c.300m to the north-west of the current site (WSM46216). An archaeological excavation, undertaken to recover the hoard (WHEAS 2011), also produced evidence for eight phases of Roman activity; including evidence of a substantial stone-built building.
- 2.4 The medieval period is well represented and the HER records a deer park (WSM07681) associated with Elmley Castle, c. 400m to the south-east of the current site. Elmley Castle itself, a medieval ringwork and bailey located within two Iron Age hillforts (National Monument 1005279), lies c. 800m to the south of the current site. Within the current site, and an adjacent field located immediately to the north-east, medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are recorded (WSM69638). Two further areas of ridge and furrow earthworks (WSM69624 and WSM35867) are located c. 150m to the north-west and c. 400m to the north of the current site respectively.
- 2.5 The post-medieval period is equally well represented with the HER recording a number of dispersed farmsteads of 18th and 19th-century date as well as a number 16th and 17th-century timber framed dwellings. The latter include; Stewards House (WSM38927), located c. 100m to the south of the current site and Hillside and Deakin Cottages (WSM38924 and WSM38923) located immediately to the south-east of the current site.
- 2.6 The 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the current site as part of a large open field, this is subdivided into two smaller fields on the 1924 edition of the OS mapping. The site itself appears to have remained in agricultural use throughout the 20th century and both the site itself, and the surrounding field system, remain essentially unchanged on all subsequent editions of the OS mapping.

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 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the removal of topsoil throughout the footprint of the proposed ménage (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contactors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.

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. 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 2-3)

5.1 Throughout the area subject to groundworks the subsoil was revealed at a typical depth of 0.15m below present ground level (bpgl). Excavation ceased at the top of this deposit. The subsoil was cut by a series of three evenly spaced, north-west/south-east aligned plough furrows, all of which correlated to faint negative

earthworks still visible in this part of the site. The furrows measured up to 1.8m in width and, where investigated, had a maximum depth of 0.16m. All contained quantities of modern artefactual material including plastic, metal fragments and wood. The fills of the furrows were subsequently sealed by topsoil.

- 5.2 No further 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 Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the remains of a ridge and furrow field system, was identified in the area of observed groundworks. The presence of these furrows has previously been recorded by the Worcestershire HER and all of the identified furrows correlated to faint negative earthworks still visible in this part of the site. Despite the archaeological potential of the development area (see *archaeological background* above), the watching brief identified no further archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. However, it remains possible that archaeological features/deposits survive but were not revealed by the current works due to the limited depth of the groundworks undertaken.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Donald. The report was written by Andrew Donald. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 12 March 2018



CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *Land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

WHEAS (Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service) 2011 *Archaeological excavation near Elmley Castle, Worcestershire: assessment and updated project design*. WHEAS Report No. **1862**

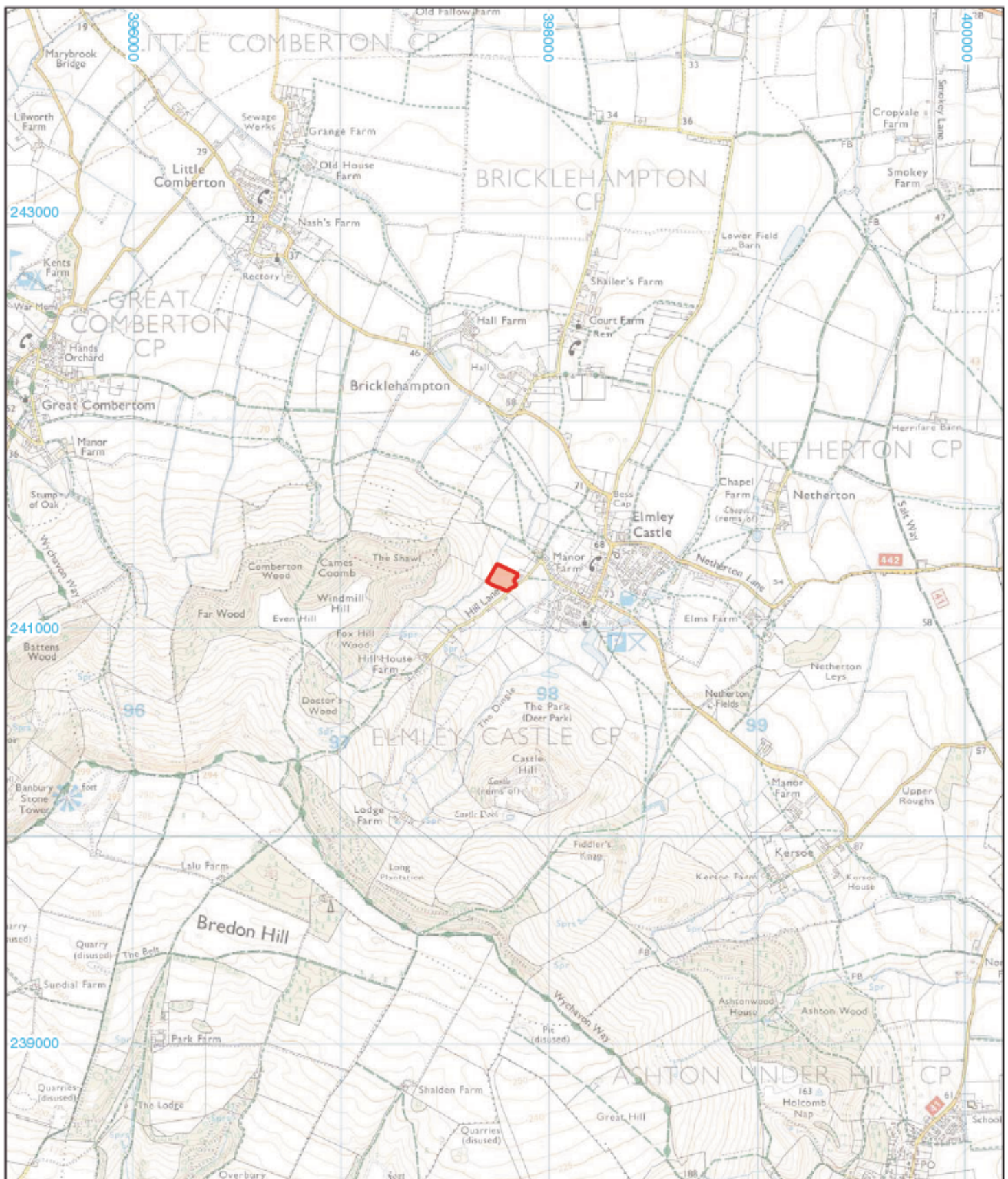


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area:	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt	>42	>23	0.15
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown clay silt	>42	>23	>0.1
1	102	Fill		Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional modern plastic, wood and metal inclusions	>42	1.8	0.16
1	103	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned furrow	>42	1.8	0.16
1	104	Fill		Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional modern plastic, wood and metal inclusions	>42	1.77	0.15
1	105	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned furrow	>42	1.77	0.15
1	106	Fill		Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional modern plastic, wood and metal inclusions	>42	1.8	0.15
1	107	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned furrow	>42	1.8	0.15

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in February 2018 by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a ménage on land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire.</p> <p>Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified within the area subject to groundworks.</p> <p>No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered</p>	
Project dates	7 February 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Hill lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	397783 241248	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Andrew Donald	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench recording forms, digital photographic register
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photographs.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 Land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 18083		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6490	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/02/2018	
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE	A4 1:25,000	1



- Site boundary
- Area of observed groundworks
- Furrows



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6430	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/02/2018	2
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:750	



The site, looking south-west



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Hill Lane, Elmley Castle,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 13/02/2018
APPROVED BY SS SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

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