

**Archaeological watching brief
at land between Rose Cottage and Lynley,
Broad Lane,
Bishampton,
Worcestershire**

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WSM 69430

Oasis ref martinco1-296992

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Archaeological watching brief at land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton, Worcestershire

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton (SO 9902 5132; Fig 1) at the request of Stephen Davis of Ivy Architectural Services on behalf of his client, Mr G P Moule. This work was undertaken in compliance with a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCIfA, (planning reference W/16/02307/PN). The written scheme of investigation was approved by Adrian Scruby of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. The archaeological watching brief was to comprise documentary research, a watching brief on groundworks and a report.

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton, Worcestershire. No features were identified. Finds dating between the Roman and modern periods were collected from the topsoil and subsoil.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

The documentary material

Geology and topography

The search area sits within an open, gently rolling agricultural landscape based on bedrock geology made up of mudstone and superficial geology made up of a large deposit of sand and gravel seen in the west. The surrounding area is characterised by surviving piecemeal enclosure, although some boundary loss is evident this historical landscape is mostly intact. Settlement within the region is made up of nucleated rural villages connected by a network of minor roads. Within the search area the nucleated clustered settlement of Bishampton village is surrounded by Parliamentary enclosure and field amalgamation with isolated areas of piecemeal enclosure and modern subdivision.

Historic mapping

The earliest available mapping is the inclosure plan of 1795, held by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford upon Avon. This is a very faded and delicate document and a transcription was provided by the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record. The transcription shows very few, if any, buildings and appears to show that the area of the current development was a field at this time. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows the current site was lightly wooded and the Ordnance Survey map of 1903 shows the site as open ground (Fig 2).

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

There are a number of historic buildings, monuments, landscape components or events nearby or adjacent to the site. By proximity to the site these are:

Immediately adjacent to the site

Historic buildings

WSM 42519 - Jasmine Cottage, Broad Lane - Cottage of the 17th century AD

Monuments

WSM 03058 - site of smithy - post medieval

WSM 30402 - Saxon road route suggested in research by Hooke (1981)

Landscape components

WSM 42160 - Feckenham Forest (late 11th century), Feckenham Forest was disafforested in 1629

WSM 60723 - Post Office and barn, Extant 18th century listed farmstead with converted buildings

Events

WSM 32770 - unstratified finds found in 1960s at The Old School House, 17th to 19th century

WSM 35775 - unstratified finds, found in garden of The Old School House, post-medieval

Surrounding the site

Historic buildings

WSM 02387 - Whitehorn Cottage, Main Street, 17th century, timber frame and plaster and whitened brick on stone foundations

WSM 03030 - Baptist Chapel, corner of Broad Lane, former Baptist Chapel of 1844; small, brick, with gables

WSM 42514 - Post Office, 18th century, whitened brick cottage with earlier timber frame and brick barn abutting

WSM 42515 - The Old School House, 17th century, timber frame and brick with machine tile roof which has been raised and rebuilt

WSM 42517 - Orchard View, Broad Lane, 17th century cottage, timber frame and whitened brick nogging

WSM 42518 – Westcote, 17th century, was 2 cottages, now one property, timber frame, whitened brick nogging

Summary of the HER information

The known archaeology and structures in the vicinity of the site, with the exception of Feckenham Forest (late 11th century) date to between the 17th and 19th centuries.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 27th September 2017. It comprised monitoring of the excavations. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

Description

A mid grey brown very clayey loam (context 001), overlay a dark grey brown slightly sandy tenacious clay (context 002) which in turn overlay a light orange buff tenacious clay (context 003). Land drains were present, one being of a 'horseshoe' cross-section (context 004; Figs 3.2, section 1 and 4). Section 2 (Figs 3.2, section 2 and 5) was essentially identical, but the topsoil had already been stripped and there was no land drain present. No other features were observed.

The finds

The finds came exclusively from the topsoil and the subsoil (contexts 001 and 002). These comprised:

Roman

A small, undiagnostic sherd of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) could be dated to the Roman period.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of three sherds of late 17th-18th century date. Two sherds were from a black glazed vessel of post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) and the other from a highly abraded tin-glazed ware vessel, most likely of English production (fabric 82).

Modern

Modern pottery consisted of eight sherds of modern china (fabric 85), three of creamware (fabric 84) and three of porcelain (fabric 83), all of which could be dated between the mid 18th and 20th century.

The modern china included sherds with blue transfer decoration, whilst one sherd of porcelain had gold gilt around the rim. The creamware was very yellow in colour, indicating it to be at the earlier end of the production range c.1740 – 1760.

Interpretation

The entire area of the site showed a fairly typical topsoil, subsoil, undisturbed natural subsoil succession.

Depositional and post-depositional processes

The soil profile might be considered to be natural although it contains a small number of finds of the Roman to the modern period. It is reputed to have been an orchard and the limited cultivation and ground disturbance associated with such a use could easily account for the quantity and nature of the finds.

Bibliography

Cook, M, 2017 *Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief at land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton, Worcestershire*

Hooke, D, 1981 *Anglo-Saxon West Midlands*; BAR

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Stephen Davis of Ivy Architectural Services, his client Mr G P Moule and Adrian Scruby of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service for their kind cooperation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

- 3 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing
- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the report illustrations
- 1 Hard copy of the brief
- 1 Hard copy of the WSI

It will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury upon approval of the report. It is anticipated that the finds, having a *tpq* of the mid 18th-20th century, will not be of interest to the museum. However, the museum will be consulted in this respect before disposal.

The digital archive consists of:

- 1 Digital copy of the report (.doc format)
- 8 Illustrations (.bmp format)

It will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service upon approval of the report.

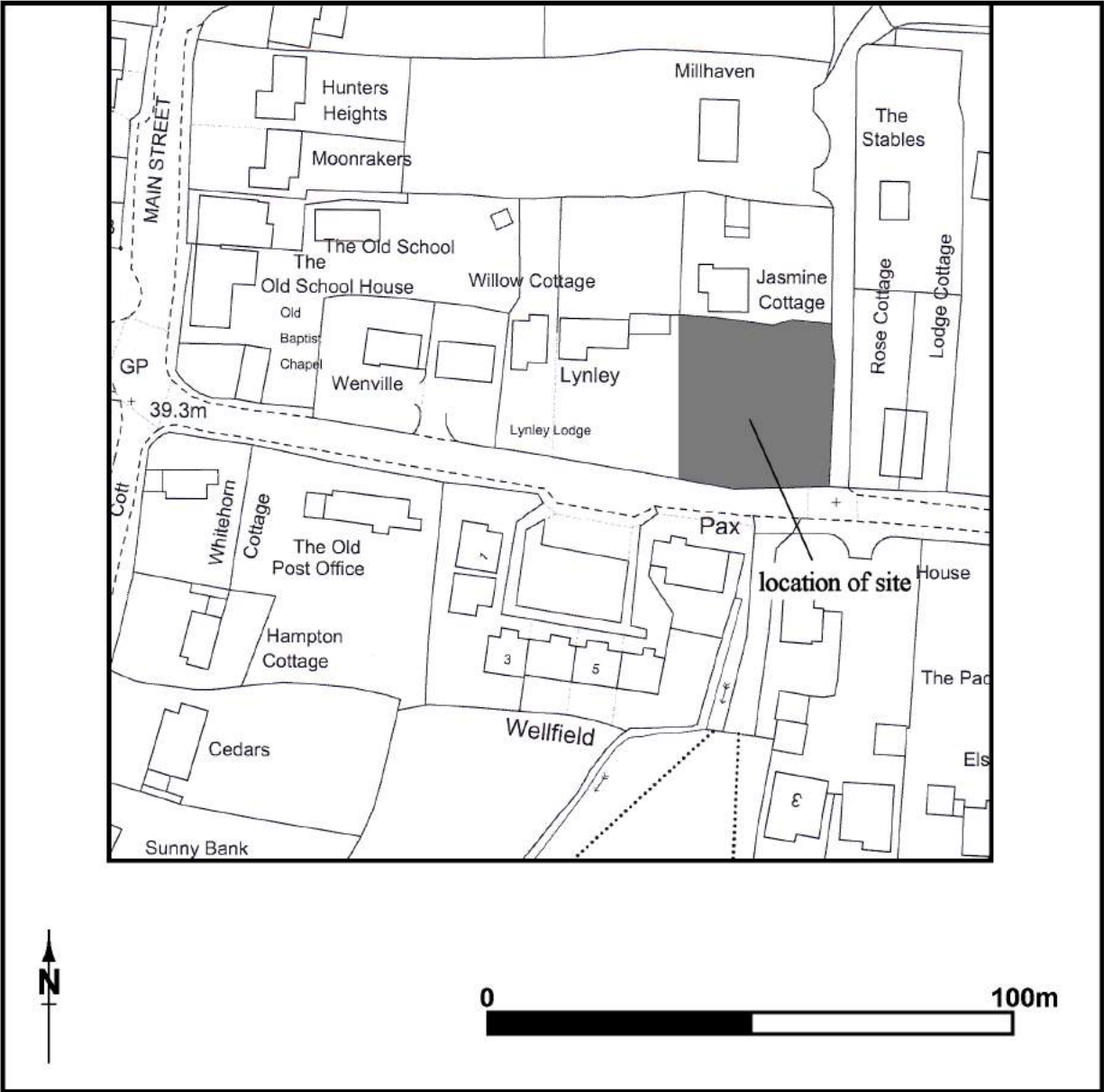
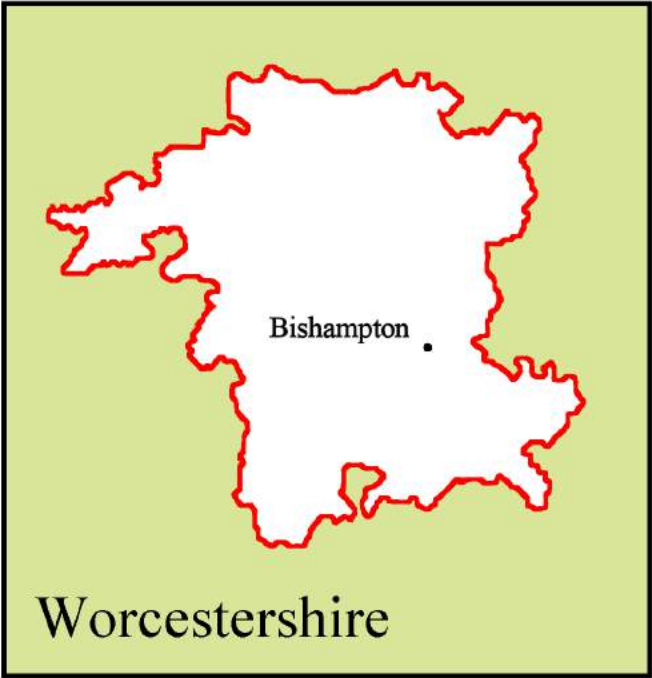
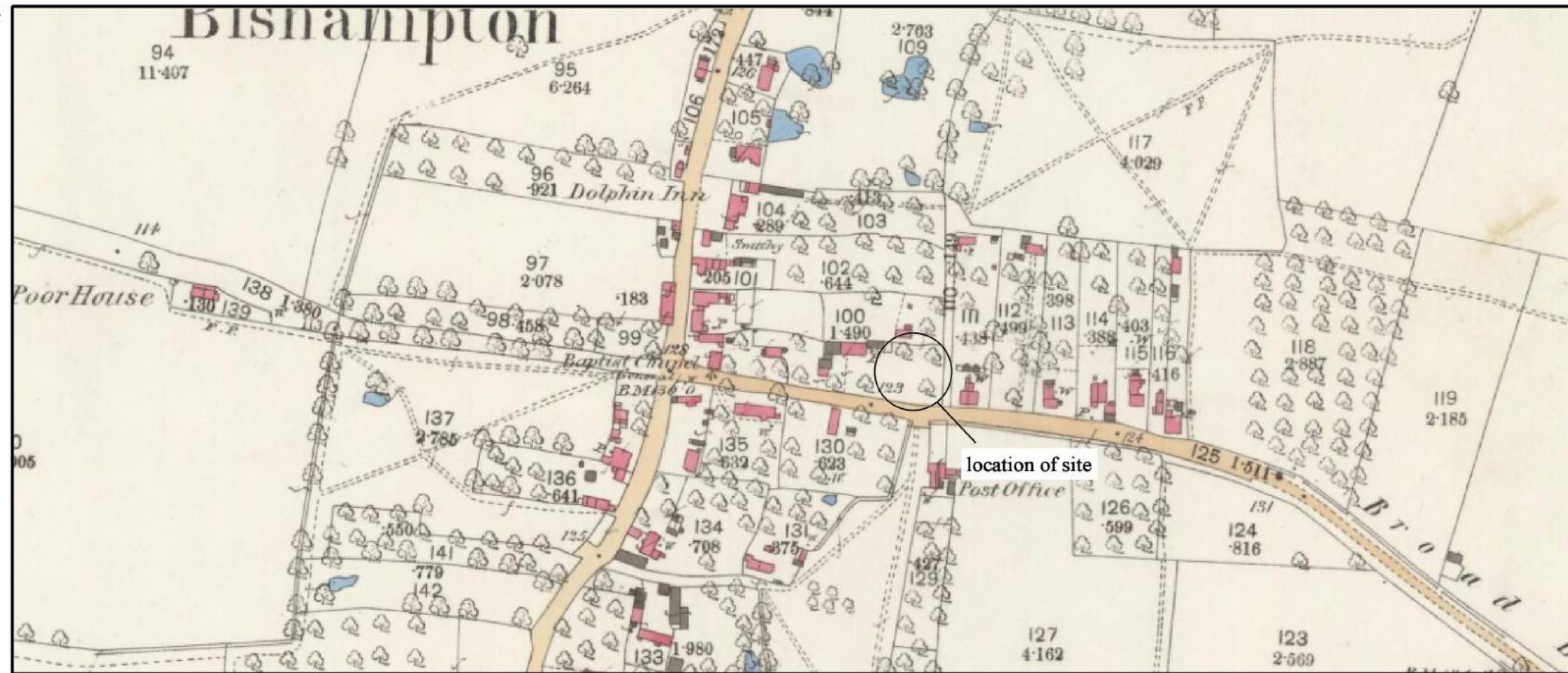


Fig 1: Location of site

1884



1903

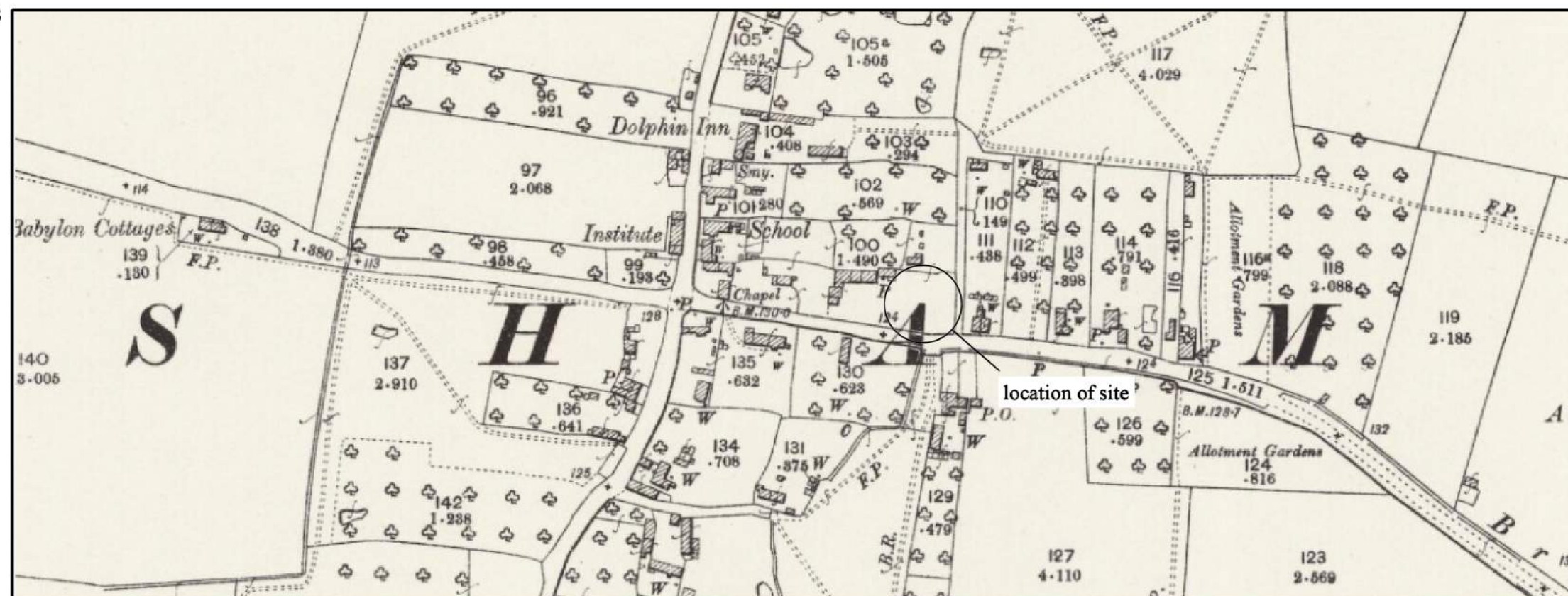


Fig 2: Historic mapping

0 200m

Fig 6



section 1

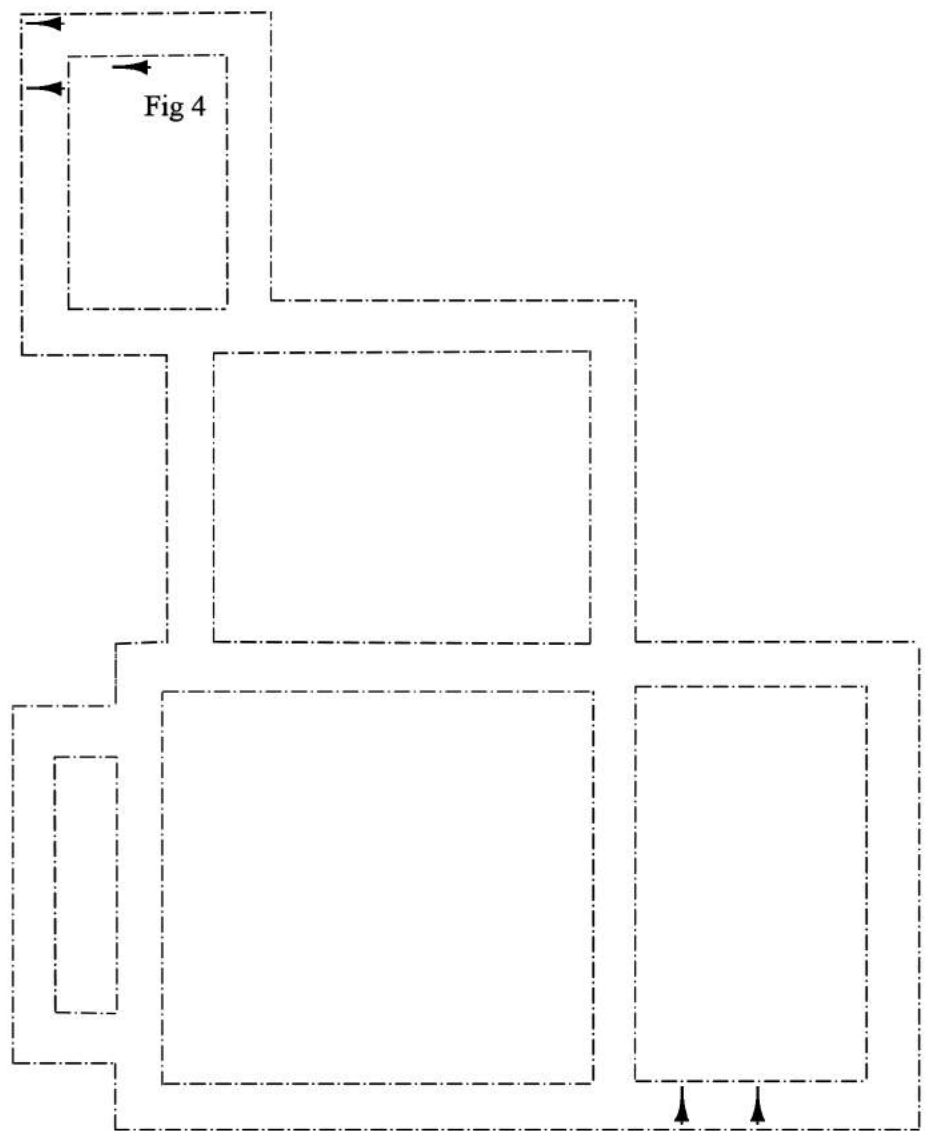


Fig 4

Fig 5

section 2



Fig 7

track

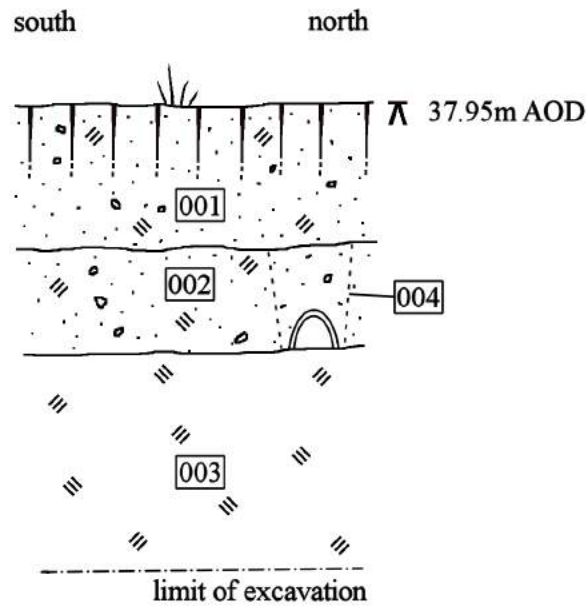
Rose Cottage



Broad Lane

Fig 3.1: Trench plan

Section 1



Section 2

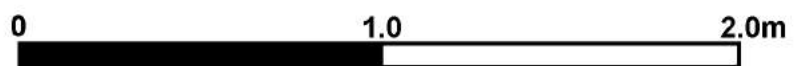
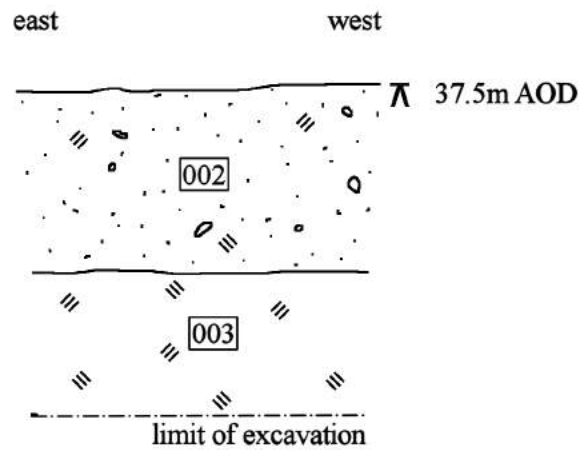


Fig 3.2: Sections









	loam and/or topsoil
	stones
	sand/gravel
	clay
	bricks
	ash and charcoal
	limit of excavation
	height above Ordnance Datum

Fig 3.3: Key to sections



Fig 4: Section 1



Fig 5: Section 2



Fig 6: General view of site from north-north-west



Fig 7: General view of site from south-south-east

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Mid grey brown very clayey loam	Topsoil
002	Dark grey brown slightly sandy tenacious clay with a clay pipe in the bottom	Fill of 004
003	Light orange buff tenacious clay	Natural subsoil
004	Shallow. sloping sided cut with a flat bottom	Land drain trench

Appendix 2: The finds

Artefactual analysis by Laura Griffin

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for finds work by ClfA (2014), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

Aims

- To identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts;
- To describe the range of artefacts present;
- To preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts.

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Results

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and of their associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 18 sherds of pottery weighing 135g (see Table 1). All material came from the subsoil (context 002) and was predominantly of post-medieval and modern date, with the exception of a small Roman sherd.

Level of preservation was fair, with finds displaying moderate levels of surface abrasion and an average sherd weight of 7.5g.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
Roman	ceramic	pot	1	4
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	3	34
modern	ceramic	pot	14	97

Table 1: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage

Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been dated and quantified (see Table 1). Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Roman

A small, undiagnostic sherd of oxidised Severn Valley ware (fabric 12) could be dated to the Roman period.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval assemblage consisted of three sherds of late 17th-18th century date. Two sherds were from a black glazed vessel of post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78) and the other from a highly abraded tin-glazed ware vessel, most likely of English production (fabric 82) .

Modern

Modern pottery consisted of eight sherds of modern china (fabric 85), three of creamware (fabric 84) and three of porcelain (fabric 83), all of which could be dated between the mid 18th and 20th century.

The modern china included sherds with blue transfer decoration, whilst one sherd of porcelain had gold gilt around the rim. The creamware was very yellow in colour, indicating it to be at the earlier end of the production range c.1740 – 1760.

Period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Roman	12	Oxidised Severn Valley ware	1	4
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	2	31
Post-medieval	82	Tin glazed ware	1	3
Modern	83	Porcelain	3	11
Modern	84	Creamware	3	22
Modern	85	Modern china	8	64

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

Significance

The finds assemblage is consistent with domestic activity of the post-medieval and modern periods. The small fragment of Roman pottery should be noted but is of low significance on its own.

Recommendations

No further work required.

Bibliography

AAF 2011 *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Available at <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>

ClfA 2014 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Available at <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, S G (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**, 200-9

PCRG/SGRP/MPRG, 2016 *A standard for pottery studies in archaeology*

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections*. Available at <http://www.swfed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/selectionretentiondispersalofcollections1-SMA.pdf>

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

Site code: BLB/17

HER No. WSM 69430

Artefacts

period - note 1	material class	object specific type	start date	end date	Co unt	weig ht (g)	spec ialist repo rt? (note 2)	key asse mblag e? (note 3)
Roman	ceramic	pot	43	410	1	4	Y	N
post- medieval	ceramic	pot	1650	1799	3	34	Y	N
modern	ceramic	pot	1740	2000	14	97	Y	N

Notes

- 1) In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001

Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.

3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.

Appendix 3: The OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-296992

Project details

Project name	Land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton, Worcestershire
Short description of the project	Watching brief at land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton, Worcestershire
Project dates	Start: 27-09-2017 End: 10-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 69430 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	W/16/02307/PN - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 10 - Orchard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON BISHAMPTON Land between Rose Cottage and Lynley, Broad Lane, Bishampton, Worcestershire
Study area	900 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 9902 5132 52.159746635757 -2.014327624234 52 09 35 N 002 00 51 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.5m Max: 37.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project director/manager	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project supervisor	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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