

**Archaeological watching brief
at Grove Cottage
Kington Lane
Kington
WR7 4DQ**

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

20th May 2018

WSM 70280

Oasis ref martinco1-317586

Sundowner
Circus Field Basin
Stocklake
Aylesbury
HP20 1AP

07850 918755

Archaeological watching brief at Grove Cottage, Kington Lane, Kington, WR7 4DQ

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land adjacent to Grove Cottage, Kington Lane, Kington, Worcestershire WR7 4DQ (SO 9901 5592; Fig 1) at the request of Mr Alan Smith of Alan Smith Associates, on behalf of his clients, Mr and Mrs Sanders. This work was undertaken in compliance with an email from Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor of Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils, dated 27th February 2018, and plans and elevations provided by Alan Smith. The written scheme of investigation was approved by Aidan Smyth of Wychavon District Council (planning ref: 17/02474/HP, event number WSM 70280).

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land adjacent to Grove Cottage, Kington Lane, Kington, Worcestershire WR7 4DQ. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were collected.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

The documentary material

Geology and topography

The search area sits within a rolling lowland landscape based on Mercia Mudstone geology with superficial deposits of sands and gravels with loamy and clayey soils. The historic landscape is mixed with remnants of enclosed strip fields to the north and south west of the search area with some field amalgamation and parliamentary enclosure. The village of Kington is defined as a nucleated row settlement and has seen little modern expansion.

Historic mapping

The earliest available map is a transcription by David Guyatt of the Kington tithe map of 1838 with additions from the Vernon Estate maps of 1731-32. This cannot be reproduced for reasons of copyright. However, it shows nothing relevant to the present site. The first map which shows the site is the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (Fig 2). This apparently shows Grove Cottage as part of Court Farm. The farmyard and its surrounding buildings lie to the north of the cottage. This group of buildings is separated from the farmhouse by a belt of mixed woodland. A pond immediately to the south of the cottage is probably a former brick pit. By the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (Fig 2) the configuration of the buildings is largely unchanged although the grounds of Court Farm are more open, the belt of woodland having gone.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

There are a number of entries on the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record for the area surrounding Grove Cottage but as the archaeological project identified only surfacing for the carport, a slightly truncated topsoil and the natural subsoil, a brief summary has been included here.

There are nine historic buildings within the search area of which six are listed. They range in date from the 17th to the 19th centuries and are predominately associated with farmsteads, with St James' Church being the oldest building dating to the 13th to the 16th centuries. An English Heritage project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire recorded five historic farmsteads in the area ranging in date from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

In addition to the built environment, there are records for farm buildings and a field barn west of Court Farm which are now demolished. Ridge and furrow earthworks survive throughout the search location with one area adjacent to the extant earthworks of the medieval village. The earthworks comprise building platforms and holloways and are visible on both LiDAR and aerial photographs. Possible fishponds dating to the medieval period are recorded to the north-west of Court Farm in addition to a pit and cobbled surface of possible medieval date located to the east of Bourne Farm. To the north west of the search area is the possible alignment of a Roman road running from

Bromsgrove.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 8th May 2018. It comprised monitoring of the excavations comprising a narrow, 'U' shaped foundation trench approximately 0.6m to 0.7m deep. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

Description

A layer of angular gravel and fine sand (context 001) overlay a very dark grey-brown sandy loam with inclusions of brick and tile (context 002). This in turn overlay a green-grey tenacious clay (context 003).

Interpretation

The angular gravel and fine sand (context 001) were, respectively, the surfacing for the carport and a levelling layer. These overlay a slightly truncated topsoil (the uppermost part of which had been skimmed to accommodate context 001). The topsoil in turn overlay the natural subsoil (context 003).

The finds

There were no finds from the excavations.

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mr Alan Smith, Mr and Mrs Sanders and Aidan Smyth 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 WSI

It will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury upon approval of the report.

The digital archive consists of:

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

It will be deposited with OASIS (Appendix 2) upon approval of the report.

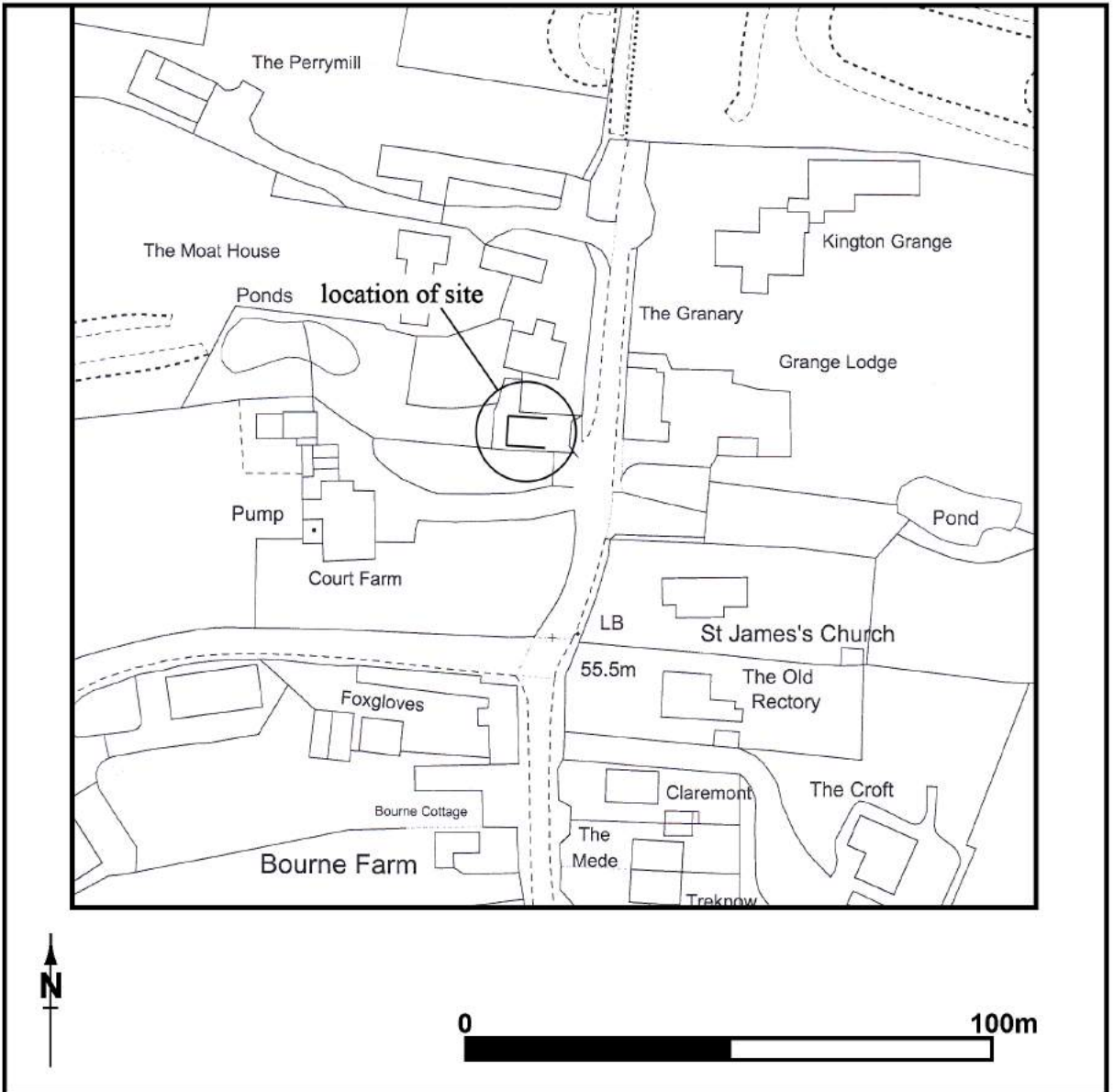
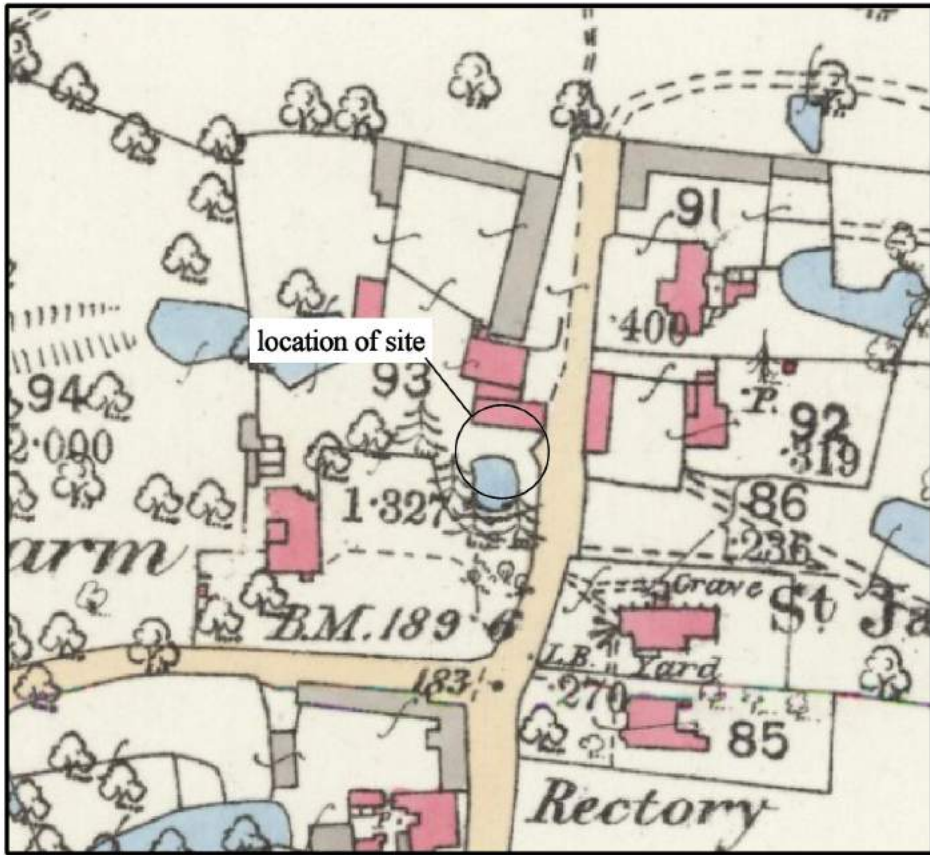


Fig 1: Location of site

1885



1904

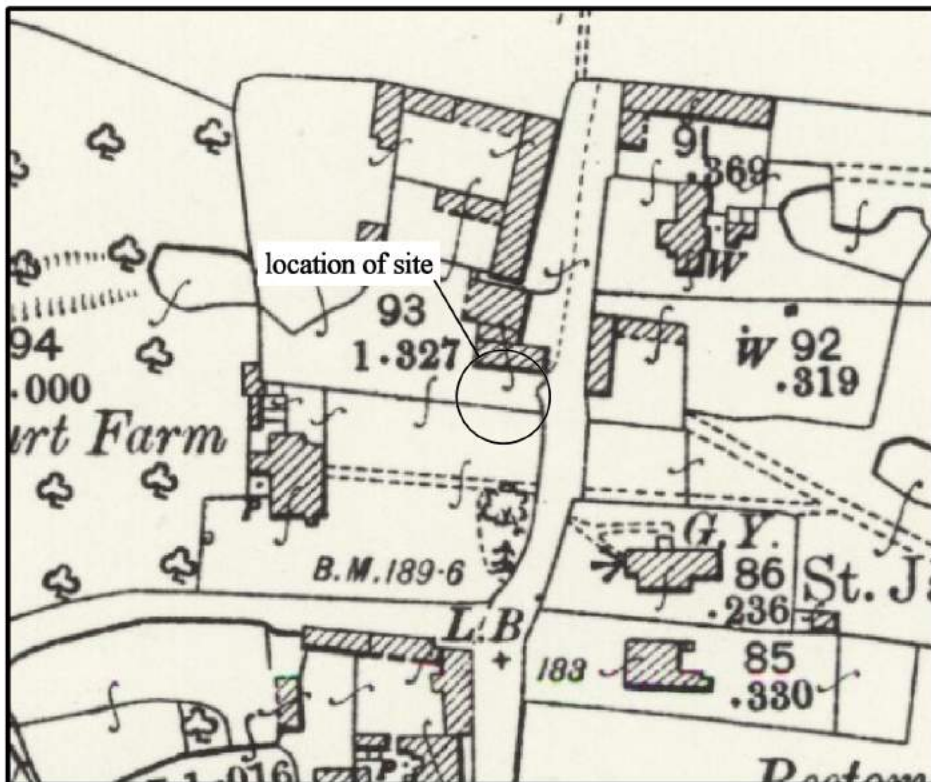


Fig 2: Historic mapping



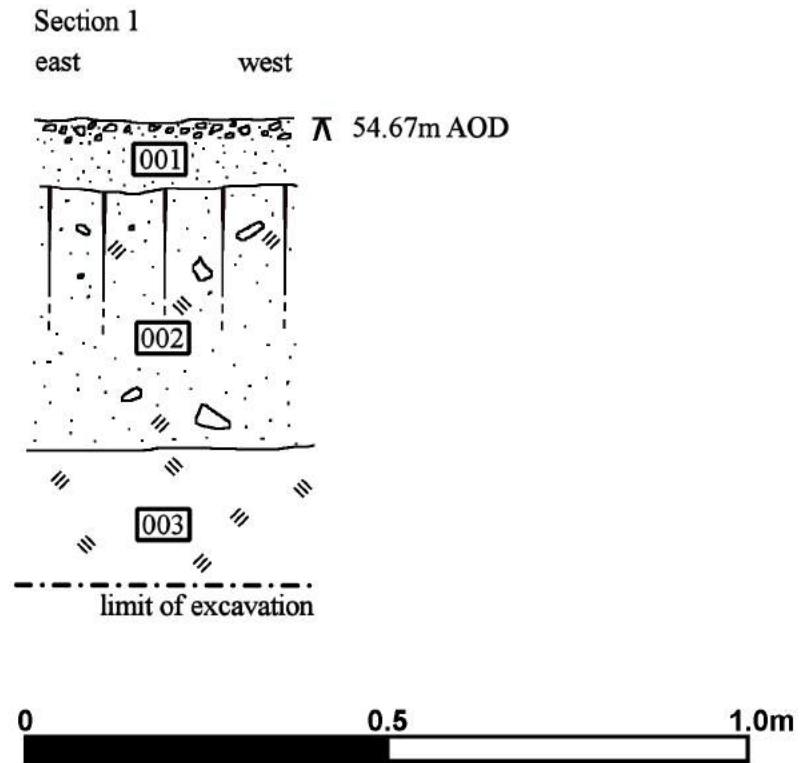
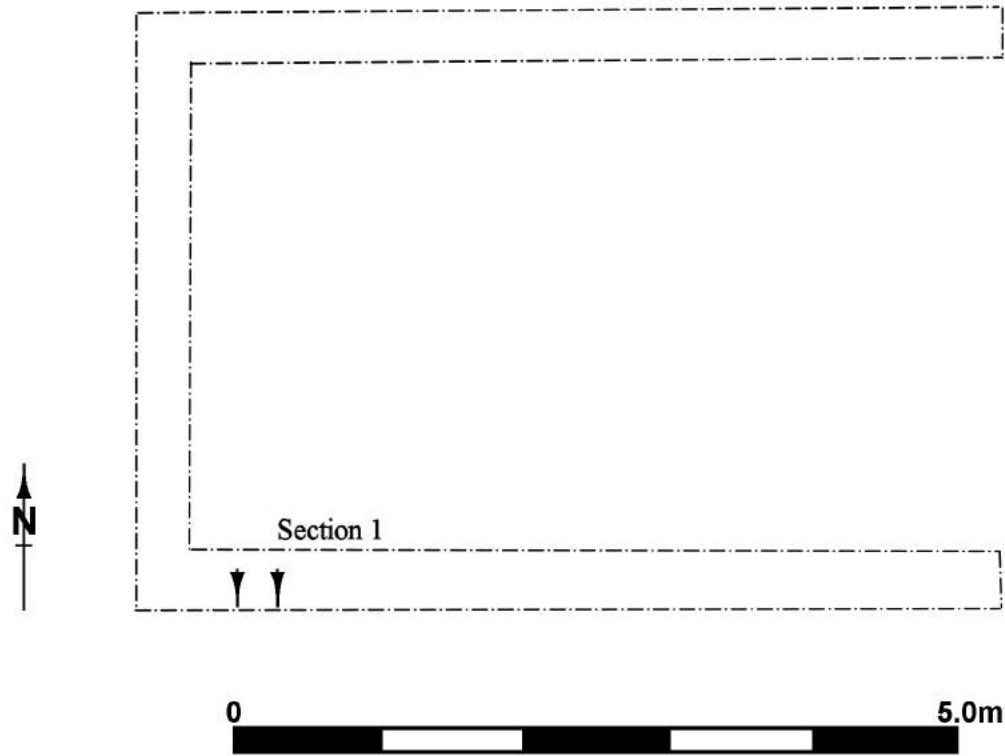


Fig 3: Plan of excavation and typical section of deposits









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

Fig 3.2: Key to section



Fig 4: General view of site



Fig 5: View of area of section (Fig 3.1)

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Gravel underlain with fine sand	Carport surface with levelling layer of sand
002	Very dark grey-brown sandy loam with common brick, tile and concrete fragments	Topsoil
003	Green-grey tenacious clay	Natural subsoil

Appendix 2: OASIS

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: martinco1-317586

Project details

Project name	Grove Cottage, Kington Lane, Kington
Short description of the project	Watching brief at Grove Cottage, Kington Lane, Kington
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2018 End: 20-05-2018
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 70280 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	17/02474/HP - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON KINGTON Grove Cottage, Kington Lane, Kington, WR7 4DQ
Postcode	WR7 4DQ
Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 9901 5592 52.201107353856 -2.014487257279 52 12 03 N 002 00 52 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 54.17m Max: 54.17m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
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Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
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	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

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