

Watching brief at Neilson Caravan Park, Defford Arms Defford, Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology
Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester
WR1 3PD

Status:
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Author: Simon Woodiwiss, swoodiwiss@worcestershire.gov.uk, 01905 765508
Project reference: P4148
Report reference: 2146
HER reference: WSM58045

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Author Simon Woodiwiss

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr Overton
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 9231 4330
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 58045
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/13/0175
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2013
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2012

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

The watching brief was undertaken with regard to a general specification for fieldwork (WA 2012)

Sources consulted

Worcestershire Archaeology were requested to undertake this fieldwork at very short notice as the area had already been stripped of topsoil, the archaeological condition having been inadvertently overlooked. As a result no HER search was undertaken in advance of fieldwork, and as the results were negative there seemed no justification for undertaking a HER search on completion of fieldwork.

Date(s) of fieldwork

1 September 2014

Area of site

c 0.53ha

Dimensions of excavated areas observed

Topsoils had already been stripped for access roads and concrete bases for cabins as shown on the attached plan, though areas stripped included any areas between the cabins and the roads. Excavation for a septic tank was observed (approximately 3x3m).

Access to or visibility of deposits

The area stripped generally had topsoil remaining and only in smaller areas were subsoils/natural exposed. No archaeologically significant deposits were observed, though should pre-post-medieval deposits have existed it is unlikely these would have been observed due to the remaining topsoil. The surface was weathered so that any artefacts should have been clearly visible. All artefacts

observe were post-medieval and modern and none were retained. The stripped area was inspected for a period of about 45 minutes.

Statement of confidence

Though no significant deposits or artefacts were observed, site conditions could not be taken to have established that such significant deposits or, to a lesser extent, artefacts were not present on the site. The context of a number of prehistoric and Roman sites in the vicinity cited by the Brief, and that these suggest that a significant archaeological site may exist within the planning application area has not been altered by this watching brief except with respect to a site of Roman date (see below).

Deposit description

Description (ie Colour, Texture)	Date	Interpretation	Depth (OD or below ground level)
Medium brown sandy soil, with occasional pebbles and post-medieval and modern items	Post-medieval and modern	Topsoil	300mm
Lighter brown sandy soil		Subsoil	0-300mm
Sandy gravel		Natural	>300-600mm

The archive

The project archive consists entirely of this report and the appended notes made in the field.

Discussion

Items identified on site included black glazed pottery, brick and tile, clay pipe and more modern material. One item of flint was retained for specialist opinion but was not considered to be an artefact (R Hedge pers comm). The item was discarded. The density of artefacts increased towards the Defford Arms.

Conclusions

The extent of groundworks for the development will not have physically impacted should significant deposits exist on this site. Due the absence of Roman artefacts it seems unlikely that a Roman site existed within the development area. The presence of any prehistoric site, however, cannot be ruled out.

Acknowledgements

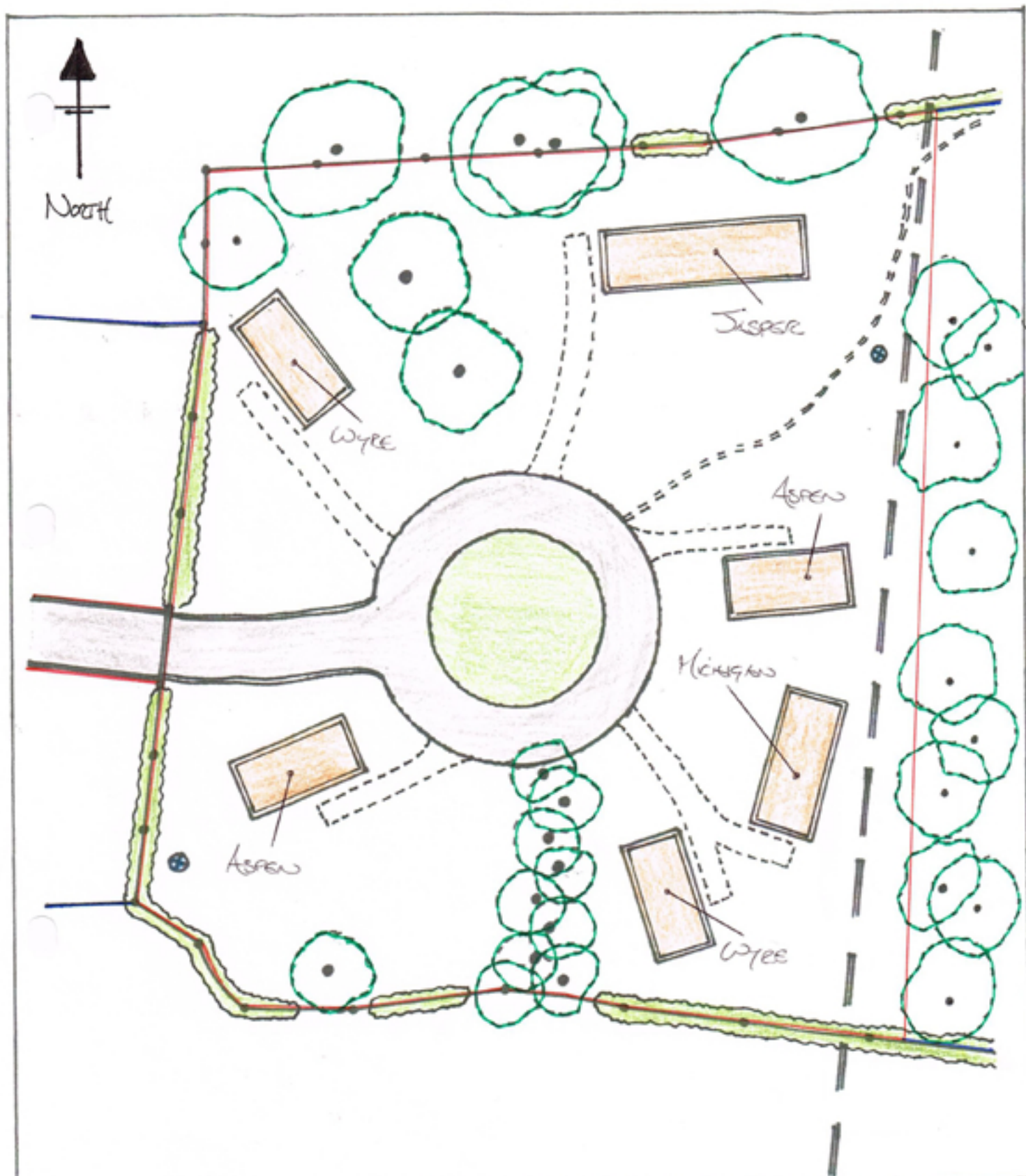
Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Les Overton.

Bibliography

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

WA 2012 Manual of service practice, recording manual, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WCC 2013 Requirements for a programme of archaeological work at Neilson Park, Defford Arms, Upton Road, Defford, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 13 June 2013



Client DETAILS:	Mr. N. Overton Defford Arms, Upton Rd Defford, Worcs	Ref:	PR/LAY/400/1.1.E
Type:	Proposed Layout	Drawn By:	TG
Scale:	1:500	Revisions/ NOTES:	(E) RELOCATION OF UNITS AND BOUNDARY (NAMED)

FIELD PROGRESS REPORT

Worcestershire Archaeology AS2

SITE CODE	Sub-div	Date	Post	Name
WSM 58045 P4148		01-09-14	ASM	SWOODWISS
Staff			Volunteers	
LIS + DIWORA ANITA.				
Weather SNOW GRS				
Work report			arr	dep
DISEASE PLANS			10:10	11:10
<p>TOPsoils already stripped, every patches of net were appearing in places, c 300mm removed. Walk over of surface for about 45 mins, only later not soil seen (Black, grey, clay pipe, stoneware, blue & white transfer? wares. 1 piece of flint not obviously worked. Weathered surface, so should have picked up any significant artefacts. Though features would be difficult to identify.</p> <p>Made for septic tank observed during excavation c 300mm Topsoil c 600mm subsoil sandy gravel. With some sandy below.</p> <p>Area of site nearest pits more evidence of modern activity.</p> <p>Suggested less talk to Mr Turner AM.</p>				