

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEFAT  
THE OLD PARSONAGE,  
RECTORY FARM LANE,  
BREDON'S NORTON,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

Adam Lee

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

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Project 3629  
Report 1813  
WSM 43236



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## Archaeological watching brief at The Old Parsonage, Rectory Farm Lane, Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire.

**Adam Lee**

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### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Dr James Flynn
<i>Site address</i>	The Old Parsonage, Rectory Farm Lane, Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire SO92993880
<i>National Grid reference</i>	
<i>Historic Environment Sites and Monuments</i>	
<i>Record reference</i>	WSM 43236
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/10/1923
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2010a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2010b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

### *Previous archaeological work on the site*

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

### *Archaeological background to the site*

The Old Parsonage lies on the southern edge of the village of Bredon's Norton (Fig 1) on relatively flat ground within an area of Lias clay with rich clay soils. The building is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, although it appears narrower than its present form and divided into two parts.

A cluster of assets are shown on the Historic Environment Record to the south of the village. These include cropmarks of a possible trackway (WSM 24023) in the field immediately to the south of the Old Parsonage, an area of possible Iron Age/Roman occupation to the south of Brookfield Farm, ridge and furrow recorded to the west of Brookfield Farm (WSM 07640) and an enclosure cropmark to the west of Rectory Farm (WSM 29226). The most notable site in the vicinity is a probable Roman villa (WSM 42437) which was found during the excavation of a Severn Trent pipeline 50m to the southwest of the development site. It is possible that peripheral features associated with this site may extend into the area around the development site.

There are been a number of metal detecting find spots within 500m of the development site which have produced Iron Age, Roman and early medieval/medieval finds; (WSM 25979 west of Home Farm, Bredon's Norton; WSM27863 Meadow Hill, Bredon's Norton; WSM 30521 west of Rectory Farm, Bredon's Norton; WSM 39782 west of Factory Farm, Bredon's Norton). There are numerous listed buildings within the village and Norton Park to the east of the village is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century House surrounded by parkland.

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### 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.

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## Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	HER
Date(s) of fieldwork	12/01/2011
Total area of excavated foundation trenches	10.46m <sup>2</sup> . Indicated on Fig 2
Dimensions of foundation trenches	
Trench 1	Area 3.70m <sup>2</sup> Length 6.90m Width 0.50m Depth 1.00m
Trench 2	Area 6.76m <sup>2</sup> Length 14.05m Width 0.35-0.55m Depth 1.00m

### *Access to or visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken after hand excavation of the foundation trenches. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified.

### *Statement of confidence*

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

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## Deposit description

### Trench 1

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt with moderate small to large stones. Moderate fragments of modern CBM, mortar, limestone. Frequent root disturbance.	0-0.30m
101	Brick Structure	Red brick and cement structure with lime stone base. Filled with rubble.	0-1.00m
102	Subsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt with moderate small to medium stones and limestone fragments.	0.30-0.70m
103	Fill feature	Firm dark grey brown clay silt with moderate small to medium stones and limestone fragments. Deposit is very similar to (102). No finds retrieved from this deposit.	0.70-0.97m
104	Cut for feature	Feature is an unknown shape in plan and unknown function. Concave side and base. Contains one fill 103. This feature could have been filled with subsoil 101 as they are very similar in composition.	0.70-0.97m
105	Natural	Limestone brash. Moderately compact mid to light silt matrix with small to large fragment of limestone.	0.70-1.00m+

### Trench 2

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt with moderate small to medium stones.	0-0.30m
201	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with moderate small to medium rounded stones	0.30-0.90m
202	Natural	Limestone brash. Moderately compact mid to light silt matrix with small to large fragment of limestone.	0.90-1.00m+

## Discussion and Conclusions

Foundation trenches were excavated for two single storey extensions to the existing property (Fig 2, Plates 1 and 3). The trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m and ranged in width from 0.35m to 0.55m. No finds were recovered from the site. The spoil removed from the foundation trenches was also scanned for finds and none were found.

Trench 1 revealed topsoil (100) overlying subsoil (102) and a feature [104] (Fig 3, Plate 2) to the south southwest and the foundations of a brick outside toilet, which is late post medieval/modern in date, to the north northeast. The feature identified in the section of trench 1 is of unknown function and date; no finds were recovered from this deposit. Feature (104) overlay natural deposit (105).

Trench 2 revealed topsoil (200) overlying subsoil (201), which in turn overlay natural deposit (202). No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

The sample area was far too small to make a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features in the vicinity of the existing buildings on the development site.

### Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*A archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Dr James Flynn at The Old Parsonage, Rectory Farm Lane, Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire (NGR ref (SO 92993880; HER ref WSM 43236). Foundation trenches were excavated for two single storey extensions to the existing property on the development site. The foundations of a brick outside toilet, which is late post medieval/modern in date and an undated feature were identified in the trench to the north of the existing house. No finds were recovered from the site. The sample area was too small to make a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features in the vicinity of the existing buildings on the development site.*

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### Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Dr James Flynn and Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

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### Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

HEAS, 2008 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated November 2008

HEAS 2010a *Requirements for a programme of archaeological work at The Old Parsonage, Rectory Farm Lane, Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010

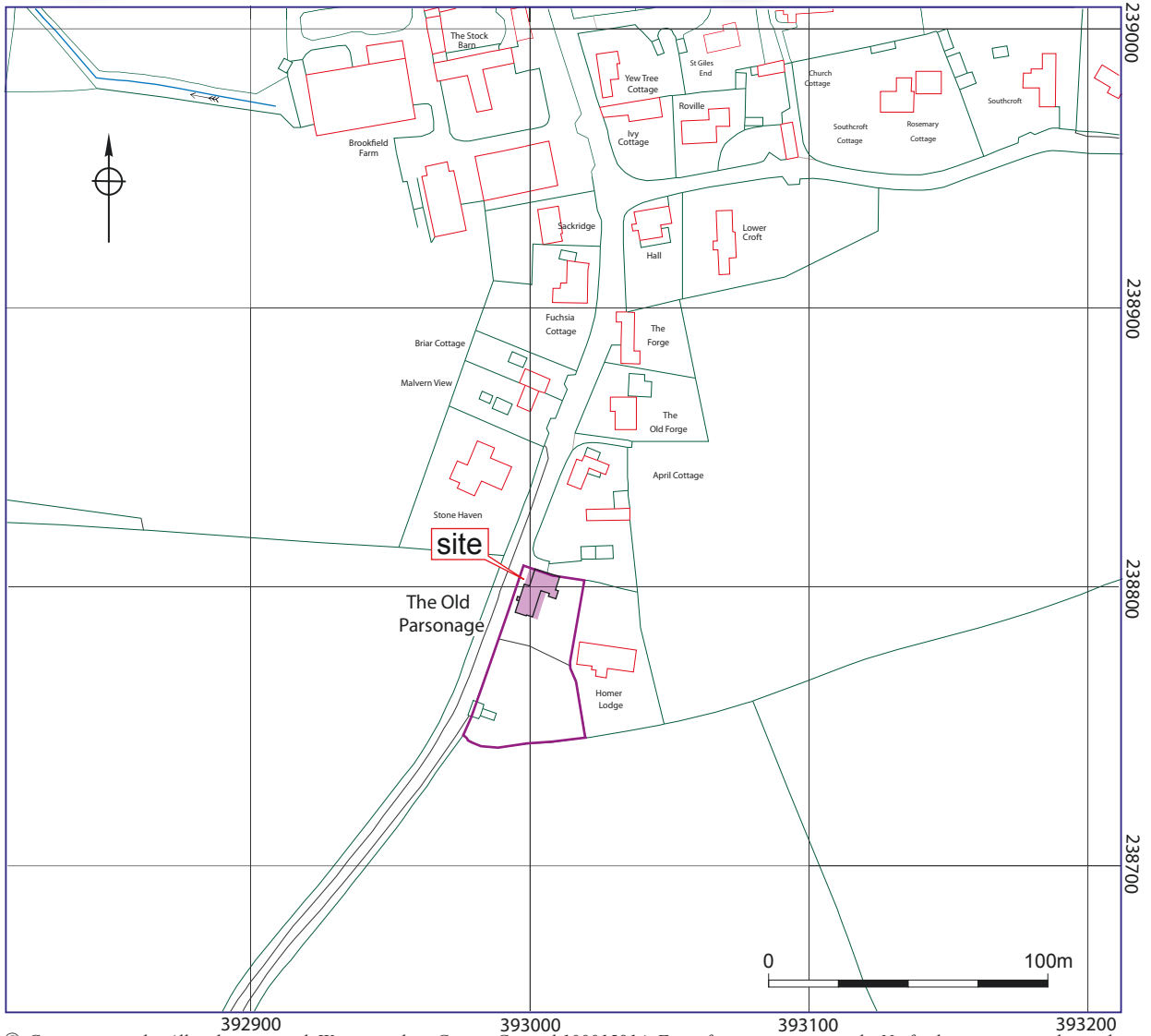
HEAS 2010b *Proposal for an archaeological at The Old Parsonage, Rectory Farm Lane, Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010, **P3629**

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

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## Figures

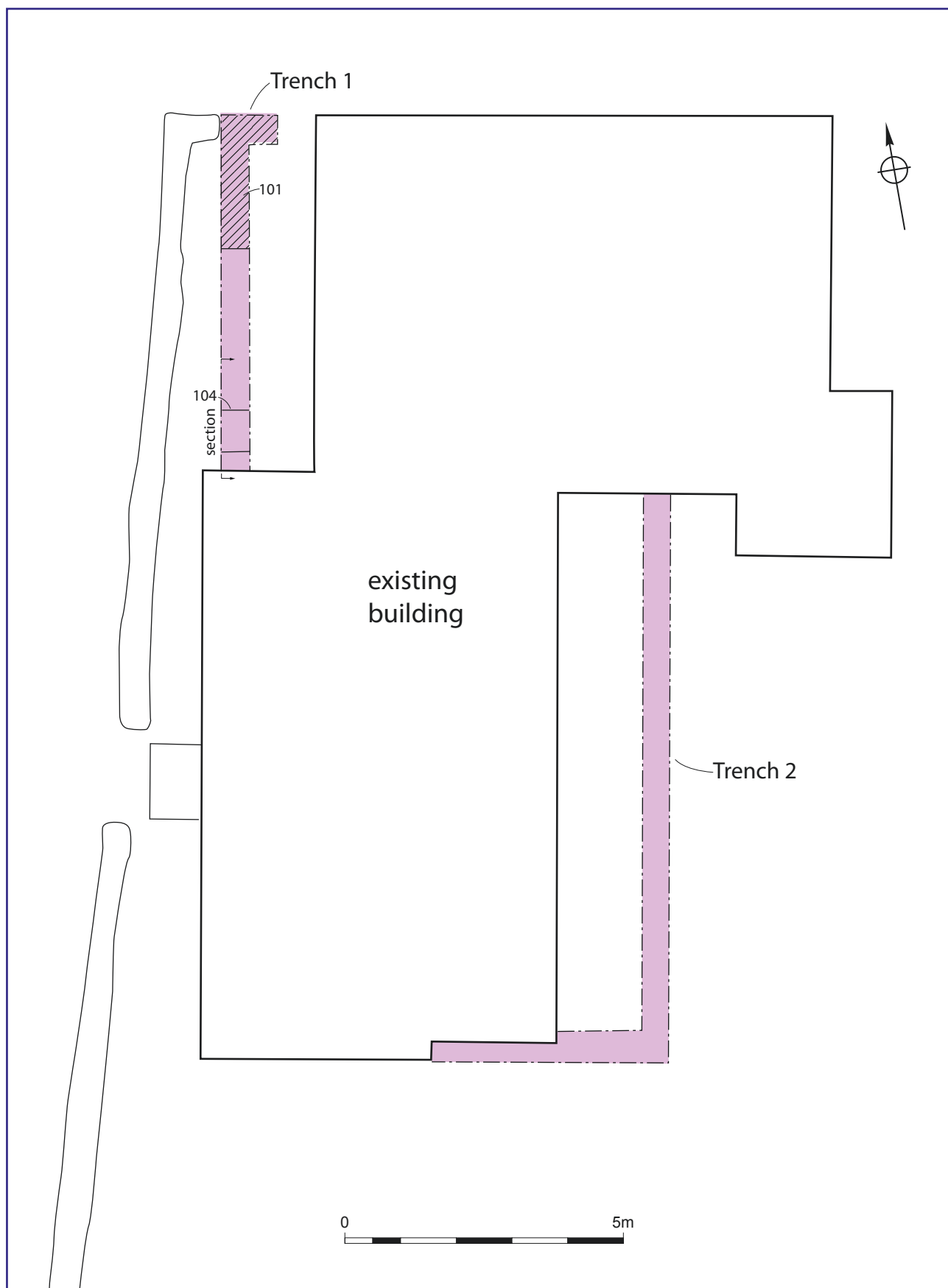


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Location of the site

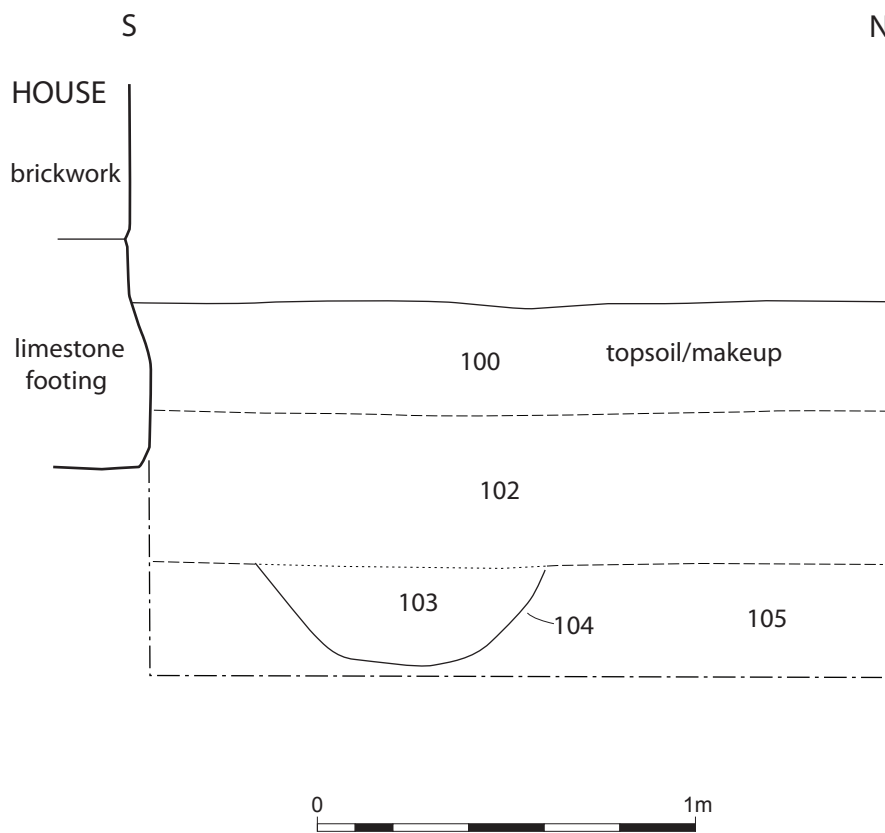
Figure 1





*Trench location plan*

*Figure 2*



*East facing section of Trench 1 (south end)*

*Figure 3*

## Plates



*Plate 1: Trench 1 looking southwest. Brick structure 101 is clearly visible in the side of the trench.*



*Plate 2: Trench 1 looking west west. Showing feature [104] at the southern end of the trench.*



*Plate 3: Trench 2 looking north.*

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive**

The archive consists of:

2	Context records AS1
1	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
9	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
2	Scale drawings
2	Trench record sheets AS41

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum  
Hartlebury Castle  
Hartlebury  
Near Kidderminster  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ  
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416