

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT
THE BUNGALOW,
STATION ROAD,
BLACKMINSTER, BADSEY,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Jo Wainwright

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 3731
Report 1855
WSM 45801

Archaeological watching brief at The Bungalow, Station Road, Blackminster, Badsey, Worcestershire

Jo Wainwright

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr James Munro
<i>Site address</i>	The Bungalow, Station Road Blackminster, Badsey Evesham, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference (centred on)</i>	SP 07163 44696
<i>Historic Environment Record event reference</i>	WSM 45801
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>reference</i>	W/09/02588
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2011a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2011b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on this site itself.

Background and previous archaeological work on associated sites

A watching brief, at a site approximately 50 metres to the north-west, also then known as The Bungalow, was carried out by the Service in 2009 and 2010 (Curran and Vaughan 2010; WSM 41754). Two areas were stripped down to the natural stratum for the erection of a house and a garage. No archaeological features or layers were identified and it was suggested that the land use on the site had been purely agricultural prior to the present development.

The following is a summary from Curran and Vaughan (2011, 1-2).

The village lies on the south-east side of the county. It is within a relatively low lying area, at a height of 30-41m AOD. It is situated between Broadway Brook to the west and Bretforton Brook to the east, both tributaries of the River Avon, which flows through Evesham, 4km to the east.

The soils in the immediate area belong to the Evesham 1 soil series (411a) comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils associated with shallow well drained brashy calcareous soils over limestone. The geology comprises Jurassic clay and limestone (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

Evidence of Late Iron Age and Roman activity has been identified within the village and the surrounding fields. A number of stray finds have been uncovered in the vicinity, including Romano-British pottery sherds, coins and other artefacts (WSM 02744, 29151, 7207, 38457 and 35827). A site of possible Romano-British occupation has also been identified south of Blackminster, where Roman material and Iron Age pottery has been recovered (WSM 02740).

The name Blackminster itself may indicate the presence of a Roman occupation site (WSM 30836). Further evidence is the Aldington Inclosure plan of 1807 which includes fields named 'Black Bank Ground' and 'Black Bank Meadow' (WMS 30854), while the 1841 tithe plan also denotes several fields in the surrounding area with the name 'Black' (WSM 30836).

The site also lies within an Anglo-Saxon landscape. An Anglo-Saxon burial was discovered during quarrying in 1852 in 'Shoulder of Mutton Field', the location of which has been identified to the north-west of the present site from the tithe plan (WSM 26807). It is considered that the burial was part of a larger Anglo-Saxon cemetery, although no further burials have been recorded since. Finds of Anglo-Saxon material have been recovered in the vicinity, including a saucer brooch, which may relate to burial activity (WSM 07042).

In the 19th century the site lay within a long field known as 'Old Saintsoin Ground'. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map the site had been amalgamated into a larger field, which contained a building to the west side known as Upper Blackminster. Sheepditch Barn lay within an adjacent field. By the 1920s the field had been subdivided with orchards to the north and south. The

central portion had been put to allotments. They were accessed via the track which still exists today and defines the north extent of the 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

General specification for fieldwork		CAS 1995 HEAS 2008
Sources consulted		Historic Environment Record (HER) 1 st edition, 1885-6, Ordnance survey map, 25":1 mile 1923-7, Ordnance survey map, 25":1 mile
Date of fieldwork		5 July 2011
Area of site		c 720m ²
Foundation trench dimensions	Width	0.60m
	Length	c 70m
	Depth	0.70-1.10m
	Total Area	c 45m ²
Access road strip (not observed)		c 130m ²

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. However, an access area was stripped down c 0.20m and stoned up before an archaeologist was on site. After the foundation excavations were observed it was decided by the Historic Environment Planning Advisor for Worcestershire County Council that further observations of the service trench excavations would not be necessary as the area already observed produced negative results.

Statement of confidence

Although the strip for the access road was not made available for observation, access to, and visibility of, deposits within the foundation trenches allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil and turf	Very dry compact light grey brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments up to 40mm diameter. Tree root disturbance.	0.00-0.30m
101	Natural	Compact mid yellow brown clays with 60% limestone fragments generally within level beds. However, these beds sometimes dip down towards the north.	0.30m+

Discussion

The excavations for the foundations of the house revealed a shallow topsoil directly overlying the natural matrix. There was a lot of disturbance from tree roots within the footings trenches. No finds were recovered from the topsoil.

Conclusions

No significant archaeological features, layers, horizons, structures or artefacts were identified. It is considered that the land use on the site was purely agricultural and has not been subject to intensive occupation at any stage prior to the present development, such that the Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity identified in the vicinity did not extend into the area of the present 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.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of James Munro at The Bungalow, Station Road, Blackminster, Badsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR SP 07163 44696; HER ref WSM 45801). The excavation of foundation trenches identified no significant archaeological features, layers, horizons, structures or artefacts. It is considered that the land use on the site was purely agricultural and has not been subject to intensive occupation at any stage prior to the present development, such that the Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity identified in the vicinity did not extend into the area of the present site.

Acknowledgements

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

Bibliography

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

Curran, E and Vaughan, T M, 2010 *Archaeological watching brief at The Bungalow, Station Road, Blackminster, Badsey, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council report **1777**, dated 9 July 2010

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

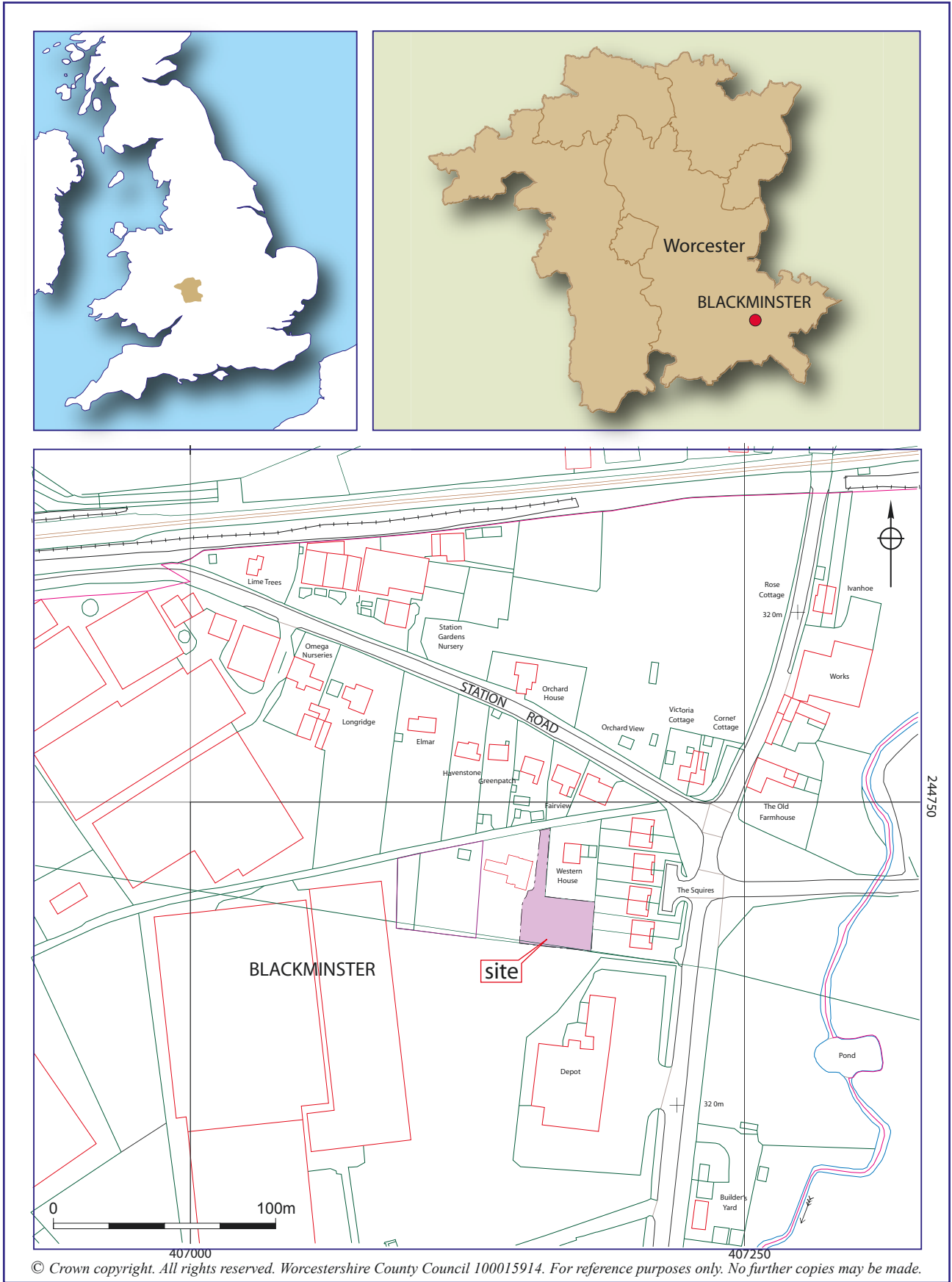
HEAS 2011a *Requirements for a programme of archaeological work (watching brief) at The Bungalow, Station Road, Blackminster, Badsey, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 5 July 2011

HEAS 2011b *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at The Bungalow, Station Road, Blackminster, Badsey, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 5 July 2011, **P3731**

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

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Midland and Western England, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



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Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: General view of foundation trenches in progress, view south-south-east



Plate 2: Sample foundation trench section



Plate 3: General view north-west of foundations trenches with access road in background

Appendix 1 Technical information (WSM45801)

The archive

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Fieldwork progress records AS2 |
| 1 | Photographic Records AS3 |
| 10 | Digital photographs |
| 1 | Annotated architect's drawing |
| 1 | Trench Record Sheets AS41 |
| 1 | Computer disk |
| 1 | Paper copy of this report |

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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