

# Archaeological watching brief at Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014  
Author: Graham Arnold [garnold@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:garnold@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Contributors: Rob Hedge  
Illustrator: Carolyn Hunt  
Project reference: P4413  
Report reference: 2159



**Contents**  
**Summary**

**1**

**Report**

<b>1 Background.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Reasons for the project .....	2
<b>2 Aims.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Methods.....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Personnel.....	2
3.2 Documentary research .....	2
3.3 Fieldwork strategy .....	2
3.4 Structural analysis .....	2
3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results .....	3
<b>4 The application site .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use .....	4
<b>5 Structural analysis.....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits .....	4
5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits .....	4
5.1.3 Phase 3: modern deposits .....	4
5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge .....	4
<b>6 Synthesis .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Publication summary .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9 Bibliography.....</b>	<b>7</b>



---

## **Archaeological watching brief at Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire**

Author Graham Arnold

With contributions by Rob Hedge

### **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire (NGR SP 2322 4205). It was undertaken on behalf of Cathryn Noon, who has been granted permission from Stratford on Avon District Council for the erection of a one and a half storey rear extension and erection of detached two bay garage with room over (reference 12/00876/FUL).

The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for the garage, the extension to be constructed at a later date. The section of a drainage ditch was recorded crossing the foundation trenches from which worked limestone was recovered. This was cut into an alluvial layer from which medieval pottery was recovered. Modern services and the foundations of a concrete building were also recorded.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire (NGR SP 2322 4205). It was commissioned by Cathryn Noon, who intended the erection of a one and a half storey rear extension and erection of detached two bay garage with room over for which a planning application was submitted to and approved by Stratford on Avon District Council (reference 12/00876/FUL).

The proposed development site was considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application. A brief was prepared by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council.

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Warwickshire Museums Service (WCC 2014) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2014).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

### 2 Aims

### 3 Methods

The aims and scope of the project were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Suzi Richer (BSc, MSc, PhD); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2014 and has been practicing archaeology since 2003. Graham Arnold (MSc) prepared the report. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (MIfA). Rob Hedge (BA, MA Cantab) contributed the finds analysis.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

##### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 29 September 2014.

Foundations were excavated using a 360° tracked mini-excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation of archaeological deposits was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

#### 3.4 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

---

For the purposes of the report, the three sides of the garage foundations s are referred to as Trenches 1-3 (Figure. 2)

### **3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge**

#### **3.5.1 Recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

#### **3.5.2 Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series published for Warwickshire by Soden and Ratkai (1998).

#### **3.5.3 Discard policy**

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified, including fieldwalked material;
- post-medieval pottery, and;
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

### **3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context**

Darlingstott is a small village in quiet country some 2km to the north-west of Shipston on Stour, the Roman Fosseway running between these settlements. The solid geology of the area is Rugby Limestone Member - Mudstone and Limestone (BGS 2014) which is overlain by alluvial clay deposits. Homelea lies adjacent to a crossroad in the centre of the village, within the medieval core of Darlingstott (MWA 8945). The land slopes from east to west towards a drain or stream running along the western boundary.

On the first edition Ordnance Survey map, the site of Homelea is depicted as an orchard, with a smithy.

The village has ten designated listed buildings, including several stone-built 17<sup>th</sup> Century houses, a barn dated 1662 (DWA3952) and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Church of St George (DWA4566). One event record for a negative watching brief is recorded at Eddon House (EWA 9935).

Two areas of earthworks (MWA 6456) visible from aerial photographs and LiDAR data are thought to represent medieval settlement implying that the village contracted in the later medieval period. An early medieval wagon way (MWA8653) is also recorded in the HER between Longdon and

Darlingscott from documentary evidence. Other monuments in the area relate to the Church and the dismantled railway at which formerly ran some 200m to the south of the site (MWA 7546).

## **4.2 Current land-use**

The site is currently a garden with a grassed lawn and herbaceous borders.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2 and 3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

An oxidised alluvial clay (103) was recorded at 0.95m below ground level. This upper part of the deposit was brown in colour, becoming more yellow-grey and mottled lower down due to waterlogging.

### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits**

Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the alluvial clay (Context 102) in the east facing section or Trench 1.

### **5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits**

Post medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (101).

### **5.1.4 Phase 3: modern deposits**

Modern service trenches for mains and waste water were recorded crossing all trenches and concrete foundations for a modern structure were also found in the northeast of the site (Plate 5; trench 3- Figure 3). A former footpath running north-south through the garden was visible with a hardcore base footing ([106]; Figure 2).

### **5.1.5 Undated deposits**

A drainage ditch ([104]; Plate 3) ran east – west across the trench and into the adjacent drainage ditch along the boundary of the property. This contained humic material from tree roots and worked limestone pieces (Plate 4) in the backfill, but no dateable material was recovered.

## **5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge**

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1–3.

The assemblage came from two stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying moderate to high levels of abrasion. The mean sherd size was 8.1g, which is considered below average.



period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
medieval	ceramic		pot	2	6
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	7	67
post-medieval	glass		vessel	1	4
post-medieval	glass		window	1	2
undated	ceramic		brick/tile	1	1
undated	metal	iron	nail	1	2
<b>TOTALS:</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>82</b>

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

broad period	fabric code	Warwickshire series fabric common name	count	weight(g)
medieval	RS01	Warwickshire black ware	1	1
medieval	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	1	5
post-medieval	CRW	creamware	1	1
post-medieval	MB02	Midlands blackware - later tradition	3	46
modern	MGW	modern glazed ware	3	20
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>73</b>

Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric

### Summary of artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, see Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

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

#### Medieval

Two residual sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from alluvial clay deposit (102). One very abraded 2g body sherd could be identified as a fragment of a Warwickshire Black ware (fabric RS01) cooking pot, of 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century date. A small thickened rim sherd, weighing 5g, could not be definitively assigned to a specific fabric, but could be identified as coming from a fine, wheel-made sandy cooking pot, probably of local origin, and considered likely to be mid 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century in date (orange surfaces with a dark grey reduced core; fabric containing frequent sub-rounded white and clear 0.5–2mm quartz inclusions, occasionally visible on the inner surface, occasional mica flecks on both inner and outer surfaces, sparse small black ferrous inclusions and rare red stone, possibly ironstone inclusions of 1.5mm diameter).

#### Post-medieval

Subsoil (101) contained a small assemblage of post-medieval domestic pottery and glass. Two abraded sherds of Midlands blackware, later tradition (fabric MB02), with a buff fabric, smooth black glaze on the inner surface and red slip on the outer, belonged to a pancheon or bowl of 18<sup>th</sup> century date. A small, much abraded body sherd of a creamware (fabric CRW) plate of mid to late-

18<sup>th</sup> century date was also recovered, along with a small fragment of an applied lip from a green glass vessel of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date and an abraded piece of clear window glass with 5 parallel scores across one surface.

A further unstratified body and handle sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Midlands blackware (MB02) with a fine red body and even black glaze on inner and outer surfaces was recovered; it is likely to be from a chamber pot, similar in form to Barker's form 67 (Barker 1986, 74).

#### *Modern*

Two sherds of modern glazed ware (MGW) from subsoil (101) and another unstratified were all from transfer-printed blue and white china vessels: one 19<sup>th</sup> century body sherd from a willow pattern plate, one base sherd of an inkwell or small mug, and an abraded rim sherd of a dish or plate.

#### *Undated*

A small (32mm long), corroded iron nail was recovered from subsoil (101). Alluvial deposit (102) contained a very small fragment of undiagnostic CBM.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
Unstrat	ceramic		pot	1	1	1800	2000	1800-2000
	ceramic		pot	1	8	1700	1800	
101	ceramic		pot	1	7	1800	1900	1800-1900
	ceramic		pot	1	12	1800	1900	
	ceramic		pot	2	38	1700	1800	
	ceramic		pot	1	1	1740	1790	
	glass		vessel	1	4	1700	1900	
	glass		window	1	2	1550	1900	
	metal	iron	nail	1	2			
102	ceramic		brick/tile	1	1			1225-1400
	ceramic		pot	1	1	1200	1400	
	ceramic		pot	1	5	1225	1400	

*Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts*

## **6 Synthesis**

The alluvium encountered within the foundation trenches might be associated with the small stream which runs to the north of the village or perhaps with what appears to be a former or seasonal watercourse in a marshy field to the south west of Homelea which is visible on aerial photographs (e.g. Google Earth). The medieval pottery recovered from this alluvium may imply a medieval date for this level although their abraded nature might suggest that they are residual in this context. The size and condition of the medieval sherds recovered suggests that they may be residual, although no definitively later artefactual material was recovered from the alluvial clay within which they were contained. The remainder of the assemblage comprises 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic material, and the abraded condition of the artefacts suggests that this is likely to reflect background scatter pertaining to the nearby settlement, and probably derived from agricultural activity, notably manuring.

The drainage ditch encountered was undated apart from occasional faced limestone fragments within the backfill. These are likely to have derived from a stone building in the vicinity, perhaps the

smithy depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. The ditch appeared to drain to the western boundary of the site and into the marshy field. All other evidence related to modern activity and intrusions such as services, landscaping for footpaths and extant concrete footings for an old structure in the northwest corner of the garden.

## 7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology 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 at Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire (NGR SP 2322 4205). It was undertaken on behalf of Cathryn Noon, who has been granted permission from Stratford on Avon District Council for a the erection of a one and a half storey rear extension and erection of detached two bay garage with room over (reference 12/00876/FUL).*

*The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for the garage, the extension to be constructed at a later date. The section of a drainage ditch was recorded crossing the foundation trenches from which worked limestone was recovered. This was cut into an alluvial layer from which medieval pottery was recovered. Modern services and the foundations of a concrete building were also recorded.*

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathryn Noon the client and Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council.

## 9 Bibliography

Barker, D, 1986 North Staffordshire post-medieval ceramics - a type series, Part One: Cistercian ware, 52-7; Part Two: Blackware, 58-75, *Staffordshire Archaeological Studies*, 3

BGS 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed 24 November 2014

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010 *PPS5 Planning for the historic environment: historic environment planning practice guide*, Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Culture, Media and Sport/English Heritage

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

Soden, I, and Ratkai, S, 1998 *Warwickshire medieval and post medieval pottery type series*, Warwickshire County Council

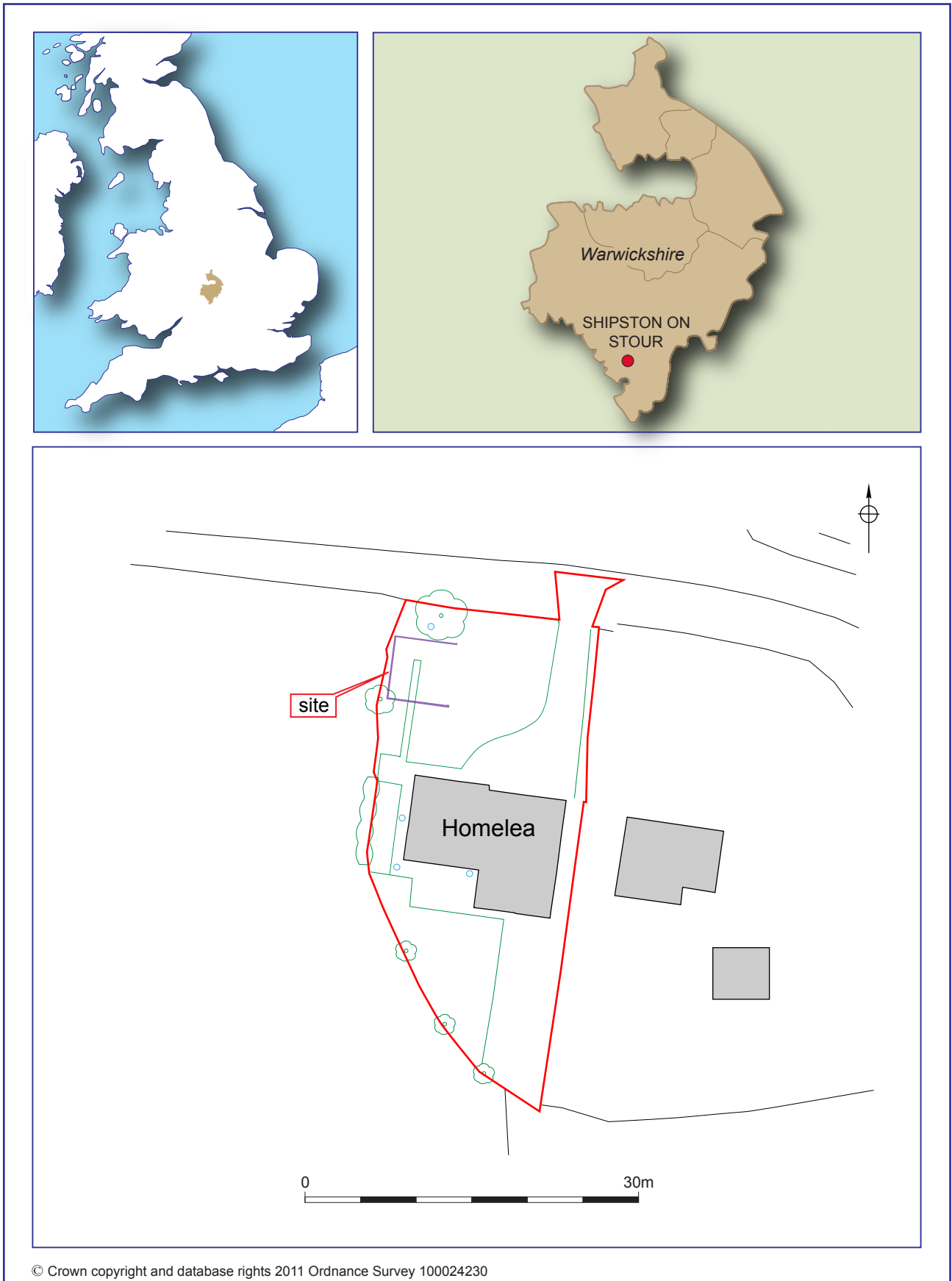
WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief at Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014, **P4413**

Warwickshire County Council 2014 *Brief for Archaeological Work; Erection of a one and a half storey rear extension and erection of detached two bay garage with room over; Homelea, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4PN* Warwickshire County Council unpublished document dated  
May 2014



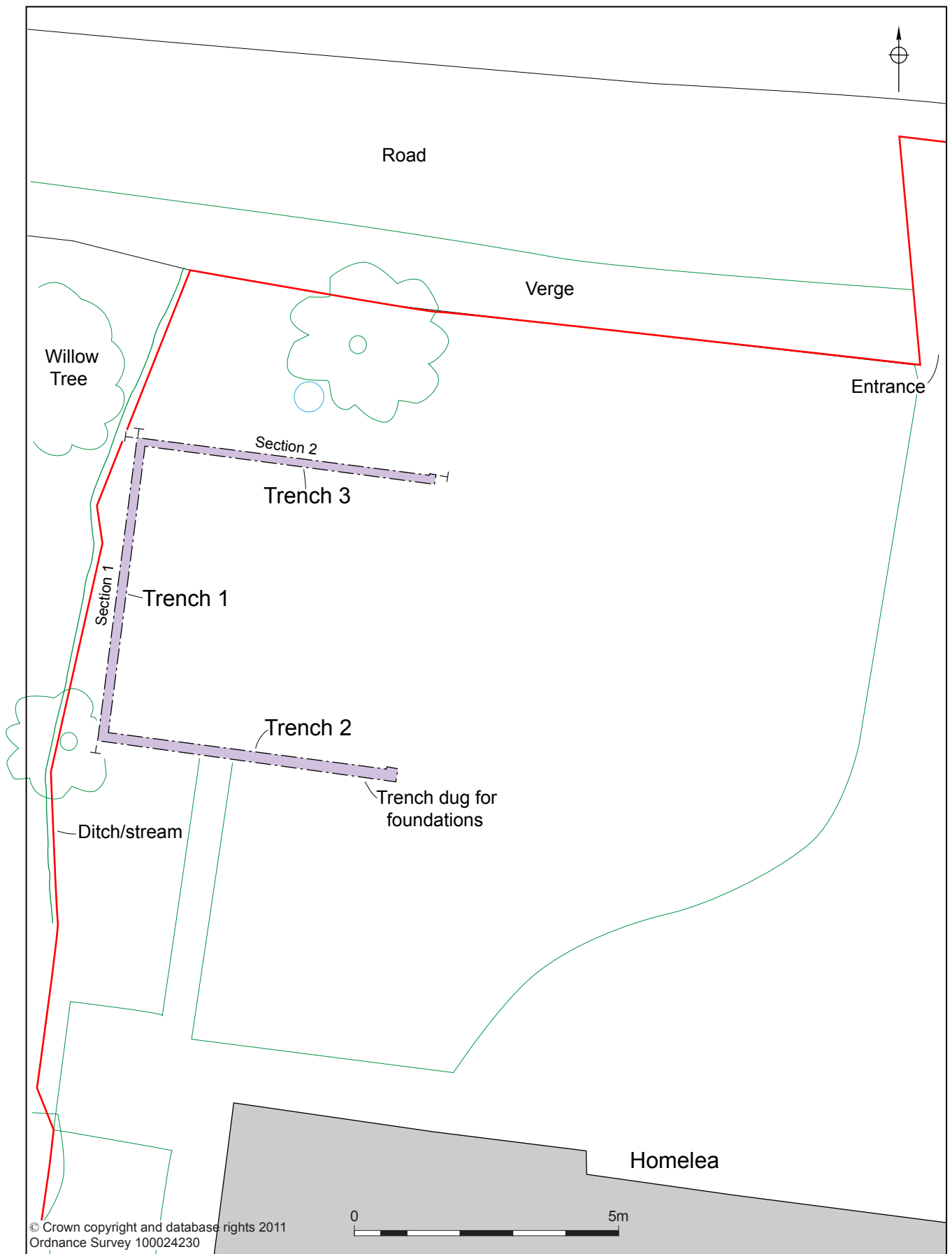
**Figures**



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100024230

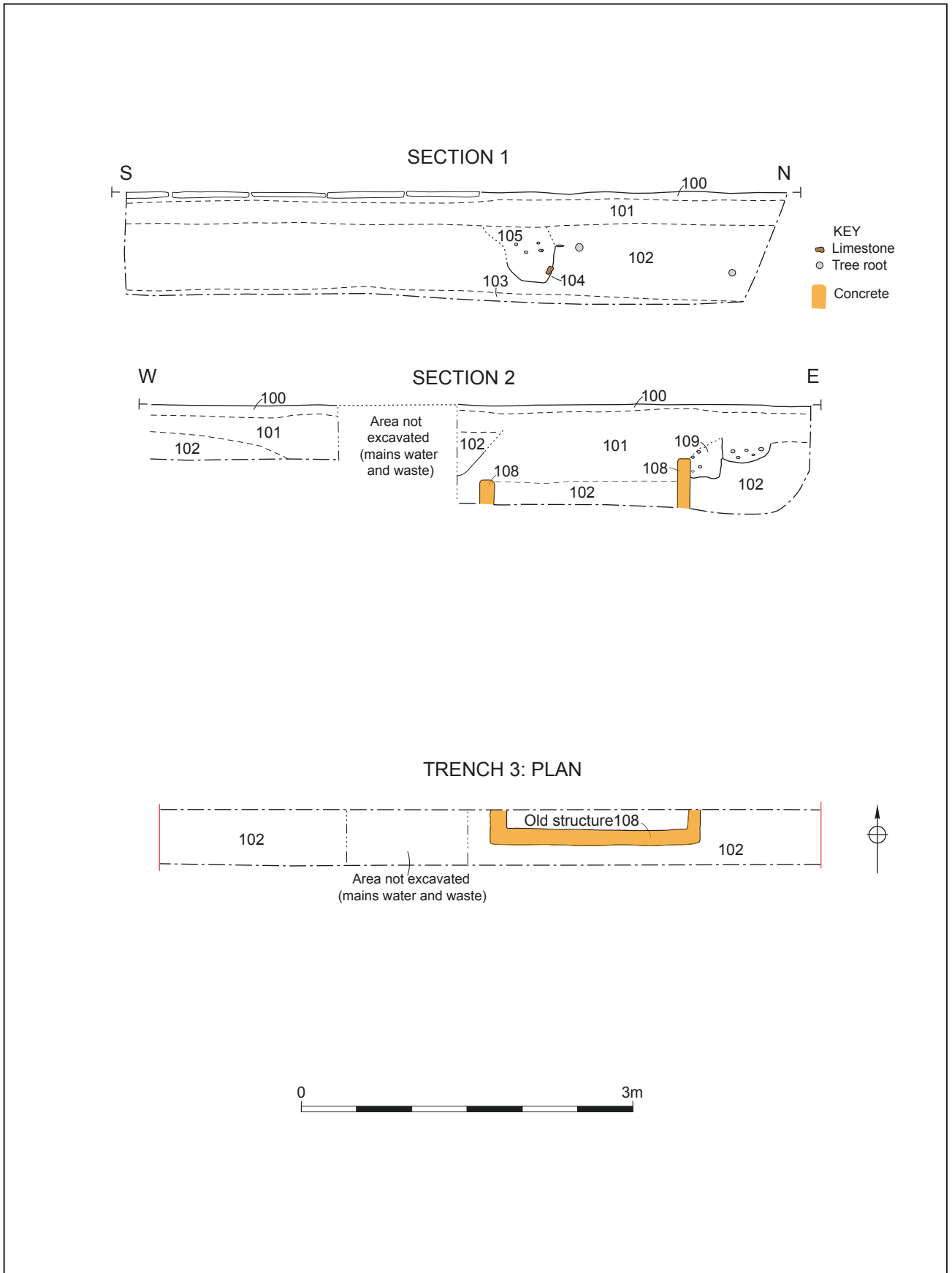
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2



Trench 3 plan and sections 1 and 2

Figure 3



## Plates



*Plate 1: The site location prior to work, view west*



*Plate 2: Trench 2 in plan, view west*

---



*Plate 3: East facing section of ditch [104] that contained faced limestone fragments and roots*



*Plate 4: Example of a shaped limestone piece from ditch [104]*



*Plate 5: South-facing section showing concrete blocks in section from previous building on site*

---

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Building foundations

Site area: U-shaped foundations trench - Trenches 1 - 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 6.00m x 6.00m Width: 0.50m Depth: 0 – 1.00m

Orientation: North-south with two east-west spurs

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Friable mid brown sandy silt with frequent tree roots with modern terracotta pot inclusions	0.00 – 0.13m
101	Subsoil	Compact mid brown clayey sandy silt with frequent small roots; rare CMB, animal bone, willow pattern china and small rounded stones	0.13 – 0.33m
102	Natural alluvial clay	Very compact mid greyish brown clay with rare large roots, occasional limestone lithorelicts and one piece of pottery recovered from section.	0.22 – 0.95m
103	Natural alluvial clay lower deposit	Moderately compact mottled yellowish grey and orange waterlogged clay with occasional limestone lithorelicts.	0.95 – 1.00m +
104	Cut of ditch	Drainage ditch with U shaped profile running East –West into the ditch bounding the western edge of the site.	0.33 – 0.88m
105	Fill of ditch	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with frequent roots overlying pieces of broken faced limestone.	0.33 – 0.88m
106	Cut of footpath bedding	Drainage ditch with V-Shaped profile seen in Trench 2 section orientated northeast – southwest. Modern.	0.30 – 0.60m
107	Fill of footpath bedding	Disturbed friable redeposited natural fill and gravel underlying old footpath. Modern	0.33 – 0.93m
108	Structure	Concrete foundations formed of Severn Newton concrete blocks for small extant building in this location. 1.90m x 0.35m	0.50 – 1.00m +
109	Fill	Redeposited yellow brown clay backfill from	0.33 – 0.53m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		digging concrete foundations	

## Appendix 2 Technical information

### The archive

The archive consists of:

- 9 Context records AS1
- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 31 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 5 Scale drawings
- 1 Recorded finds records AS13
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-ROM/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Warwickshire Museum  
The Butts  
Warwick  
Warwickshire, CV34 4SS

Tel. Warwick (01926) 412500

---

## Summary of data for Warwickshire HER

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
medieval	ceramic		pot	2	6
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	7	67
post-medieval	glass		vessel	1	4
post-medieval	glass		window	1	2
undated	ceramic		brick/tile	1	1
undated	metal	iron	nail	1	2
<b>TOTALS:</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>82</b>

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

broad period	fabric code	Warwickshire series fabric common name	count	weight(g)
medieval	RS01	Warwickshire black ware	1	1
medieval	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	1	5
post-medieval	CRW	creamware	1	1
post-medieval	MB02	Midlands blackware - later tradition	3	46
modern	MGW	modern glazed ware	3	20
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>73</b>

Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
Unstrat	ceramic		pot	1	1	1800	2000	1800-2000
	ceramic		pot	1	8	1700	1800	
101	ceramic		pot	1	7	1800	1900	1800-1900
	ceramic		pot	1	12	1800	1900	
	ceramic		pot	2	38	1700	1800	
	ceramic		pot	1	1	1740	1790	
	glass		vessel	1	4	1700	1900	
	glass		window	1	2	1550	1900	
	metal	iron	nail	1	2			
102	ceramic		brick/tile	1	1			1225-1400
	ceramic		pot	1	1	1200	1400	
	ceramic		pot	1	5	1225	1400	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts