

Archaeological watching brief at 2, Keepers Cottages, Cheltenham Road, Broadway, Worcestershire

for

Sam Knight and Kelli Champion

September 2018



Worcestershire Archaeology

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Local planning authority:	Wychavon District Council
Planning reference:	18/00302/FUL
Central NGR:	SP 08658 37337
Commissioning client:	Sam Knight and Kelli Champion
WA project reference:	P5340
WA report reference:	2579
HER reference:	WSM 70548
Oasis reference:	fieldsec1-325984

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	19/09/18	edited	Elsbeth Iliff	Tom Vaughan

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Elsbeth Iliff

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Sam Knight and Kelli Champion
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 08658 37337
<i>Historic Environment Record event reference</i>	WSM 70548
<i>Planning authority</i>	Wychavon District Council
<i>Reference</i>	18/00302/FUL
<i>Brief</i>	WCC 2014
<i>Project design</i>	WA 2018
<i>Project parameters</i>	ClfA 2014

The site lies on flat land at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment on superficial head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay, overlying Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2018).

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

The site lies within an area of extensive prehistoric and Roman activity. To the north-west is a large circular enclosure with two entrances and internal divisions (WSM 06743); to the north-east are cropmarks indicating a multiphase Iron Age and Roman enclosure with an associated cemetery (WSM 01861); to the east and south-east sit a number of cropmarks of enclosures (WSM 04138); and to the west are further cropmarks of enclosures (WSM 01860). 350m to the south is a large multiphase site encompassing Bronze Age through to Roman enclosures, and medieval ridge and furrow (WSM 68324). There is also widespread evidence for ridge and furrow in the surrounding landscape (WSM 10063, 10064, 10065, 10066).

Two phases of an archaeological watching brief were carried out 390m to the north-west at Northwick Farm, in 2016 and 2018 by WA. The only archaeological feature recorded during this programme of works was a furrow (Lovett 2016; WSM 67771; Iliff 2018; WSM 70196).

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 within the constraints of the Client's groundworks.

Methods

The development involved the excavation of a service trench and a soakaway. These trenches have been numbered 1 and 2 respectively.

General specification for fieldwork

WA 2012

Sources consulted

HER

Date(s) of fieldwork

13 to 15 August 2018

Area of site

c 289m²

Sampling area sampled c 14.6m². Indicated on Fig 2

 sample size c 5%

Dimensions of excavated areas observed –

Services length 14.2m

 width 0.6m

 depth 0.7m

Soakaway length 1.2m, with a 3.3m by 3.9m T-shaped spur

 width 1.2m

 depth 1.6m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, although 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.

Deposit description

The description of the deposits is given in Appendix 1.

Discussion

Trench 1, was a long, thin trench for installation of services to connect two new wood cabins to existing services. This reached a depth of 0.7m and revealed topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) deposits. Natural deposits were not observed in this trench.

Trench 2 consisted of a 1.2m by 1.2m soakaway, with a T-shaped spur coming off its eastern side. The soakaway area was excavated to a depth of 1.6m, and revealed a layer of mixed topsoil and made ground containing modern waste (200), a buried topsoil (201), a subsoil (202) and natural natural strata (203) at 75.26m AOD. The T-shaped spur was only excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m, so the natural strata was not encountered here.

No archaeological deposits were observed in either trench, and although modern brick and metal rubble was noted in both trenches, no finds pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

Conclusions

No significant archaeological features, layers, structures or horizons were revealed, nor were artefacts predating the 20th century recovered. The shallow nature of Trench 1 coupled with the greater depth of overburden deposits meant that the natural strata was not exposed, so it was not possible to observe any potential archaeological deposits. The natural strata was seen within the soakaway area of Trench 2, but the adjacent spur was not deep enough to expose it. As such, this watching brief can only say that no archaeological deposits were seen within the area of the soakaway, and can provide little clarification of the nature of any potential archaeology within the rest of the development area. The lack of residual archaeological material predating the 20th

century in the topsoil and subsoil deposits is worth noting however, considering the extensive cropmark activity recorded on the HER for this area.

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 on behalf of Sam Knight and Kelli Champion at 2, Keepers Cottages, Cheltenham Road, Broadway, Worcestershire (NGR SP 08658 37337; HER ref WSM 70548). The excavation of two trenches for services and a soakaway for two wood cabins was monitored. Natural geology was only seen in a 1.2m by 1.2m area for the soakaway and no archaeological deposits were observed in this area. Elsewhere the trenching was not deep enough to expose the natural, so it was not possible to see potential archaeological deposits, and this, coupled with the limited impact of the construction project, precluded any further archaeological investigation.

Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Sam Knight and Kelli Champion (the clients), and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils).

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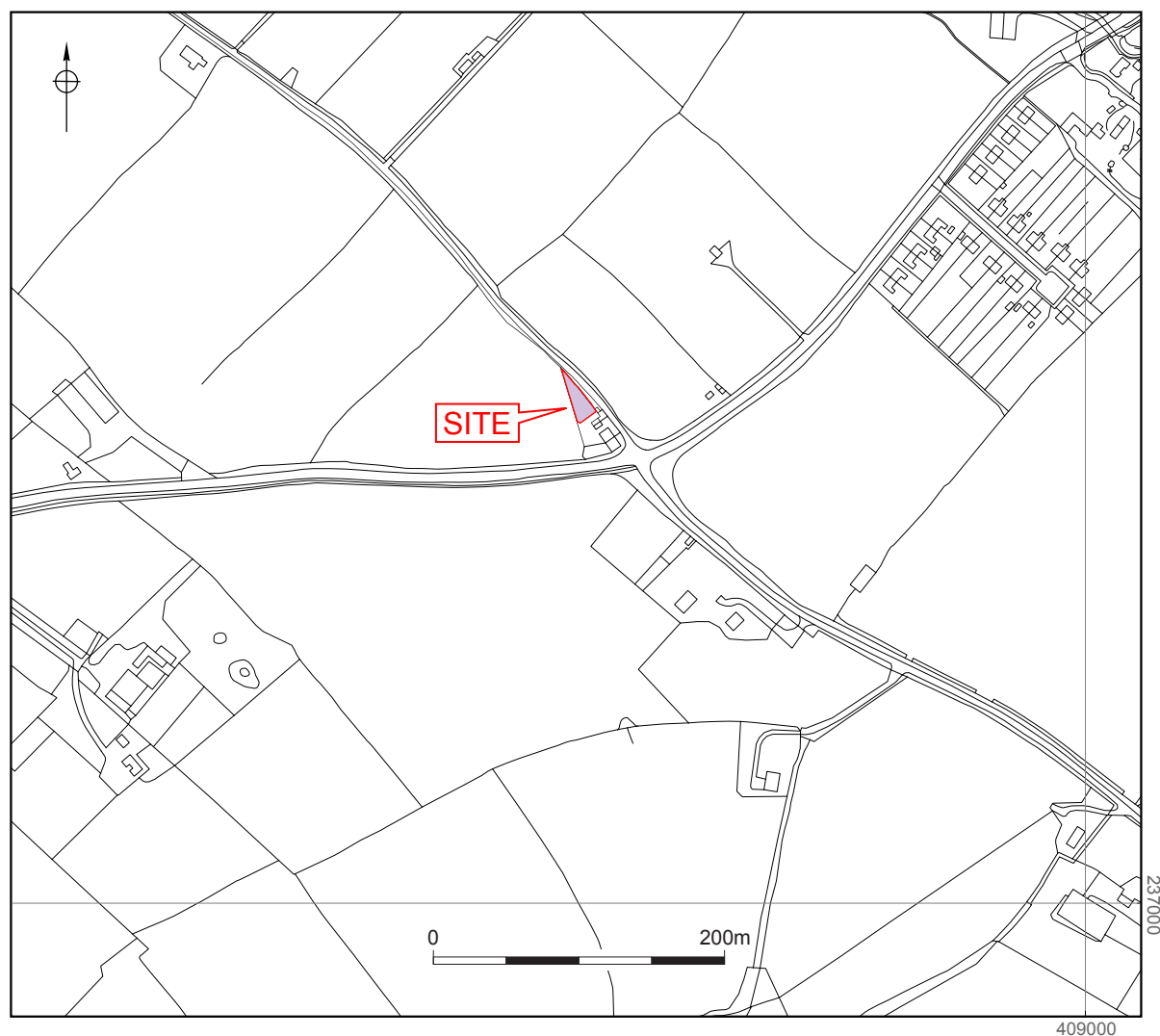
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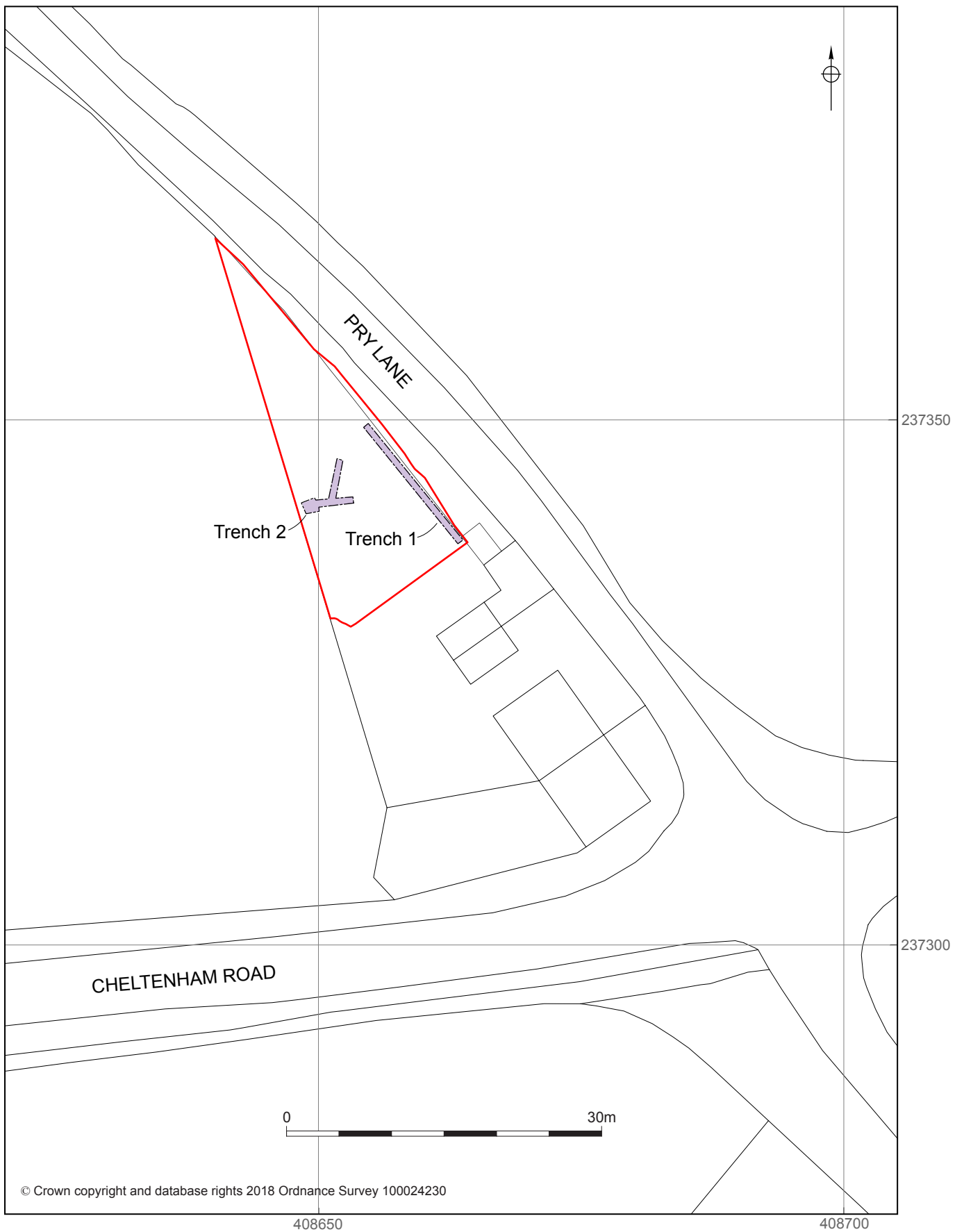
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench location plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: The site, looking south-east (no scales)



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north-west (2x 1m scales)



Plate 3: Section of Trench 1, facing north-east (0.5m scale)



Plate 4: Trench 2, facing west (2x 1m scales)



Plate 5: Trench 2 spur, facing north (1m scale)



Plate 6: Section of Trench 2 soakaway, facing north (1m scale)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1 – service trench

Maximum dimensions: Length: 14.2m Width: 0.6m Depth: 0.7m

Orientation: NE-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (top and bottom of deposits)
100	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional modern rubble	0.00-0.50m
101	Subsoil	Friable mid orangey brown clayey silty. Occasional modern rubble, and moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.50m-0.70m+

Trench 2 – soak away

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.2m Width: 1.2m Depth: 1.6m
(plus 3.3m by 3.9m T-shape spur)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (top and bottom of deposits)
200	Made ground	Friable mid orangey brown clayey silt with occasional modern rubble	0.00-0.24m
201	Buried topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt	0.24-0.44m
202	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay with moderate subangular pebbles and cobbles	0.44-0.74m
203	Natural	Loose light yellowy orange brashy sand and gravel	0.74m-1.60m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 70548)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 15 Digital photographs
- 2 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

A copy of the report will be deposited with the appropriate Historic Environment Record (HER).