

Archaeological watching brief at All Saints Farm, Stockwood Lane, Little Inkberrow, Inkberrow, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for Moule and Co, on behalf of JD Developments

December 2020



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ALL SAINTS FARM STOCKWOOD LANE LITTLE INKBERROW INKBERROW WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological watching brief report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: All Saints Farm, Stockwood Lane, Little Inkberrow,
Inkberrow, Worcestershire, WR7 4JG

Local planning authority: Wychavon District Council

Planning reference: 20/01099/FUL

Central NGR: SP 0060 5774

Commissioning client: Moule and Co on behalf of JD Developments

WA project number: P5931

WA report number: 2981

HER reference: WSM73506

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Version	Date	Author	Details	Approved by
1	11/12/2020	Graham Arnold	Draft for comment	Tom Vaughan

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An archaeological watching brief at All Saints Farm, Stockwood Lane, Little Inkberrow, Inkberrow Worcestershire

By Graham Arnold

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at All Saints Farm, Stockwood Lane, Little Inkberrow, Inkberrow, Worcestershire (NGR SP00604 57743). It was commissioned by Moule and Co on behalf of JD Developments, in advance of the construction of a live / work unit and reinstatement of access. Planning permission had been granted subject to a programme of archaeological works.

The site is on a plot to the north-west of Inkberrow village and is a former farmstead dating to the 19th century, with a mixture of farm buildings.

Excavations for the foundations for the new building, covering an area of 200m², were observed. A modern brick yard surface and truncations from water pipes and other modern disturbance were recorded cutting modern made ground and natural deposits. There was no evidence of any original topsoil or subsoil deposits remaining. This suggests that the area was subject to modern levelling when the existing Dutch barn, the farmyard and recently demolished lean-to building were originally constructed in the mid-20th century.

No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed within the observed areas, with only late 19th and 20th century deposits recorded.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in October 2020 at All Saints Farm, Stockwood Lane, Little Inkberrow, Inkberrow, Worcestershire (NGR SP00604 57743). This comprised observation of the foundation trenches for the proposed building footprint, which covered an area of 200m². The project was commissioned by Moule and Co Ltd on behalf of JD Developments. Planning permission has been granted subject to a programme of archaeological works (planning reference 20-01099-FUL).

The Archaeology and Planning Advisor to Wychavon District Council considered that the development had the potential to impact upon heritage assets, specifically the 19th century All Saints Farm (WSM53544) and a marl pit (WSM45930) to the east of the site.

No brief was provided but a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2020) and approved by the Archaeology and Planning Advisor to Wychavon District Council. The watching brief also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in the *Standard and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

2 Site location, topography and geology

The site has been subject to a Planning Statement by Moule and Co (2020) in support of the application and this provides some background to the site setting.

All Saints Farm is located to the northwest of Inkberrow, along Stockwood Lane and just to the north of the Withybed Lane Junction. The site is a former farmstead which includes a mixture of buildings, including the existing farmhouse. There are a range of traditional farm buildings.

The site consists of modern buildings of varying construction and condition, mainly timber and steel framed with tin. This includes a Dutch style barn and a low-level tin clad lean-to building. However, due to the poor construction of the buildings the tin clad lean-to were removed prior to the new developments construction.

The footprint of the proposed building covers 200m and is bounded by pastoral fields and equestrian paddocks to the north and west, the current All Saints Farm house to the south and a road to the east, with gates as proposed vehicular access to the site.

The site is fairly flat, at approximately 77m AOD, having been occupied by outbuildings and a yard previously. There is evidence of the former brick yard surface on the existing ground surface of the development area.

The underlying geology comprises bedrock of Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formation, with no known superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2020).

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Introduction

Prior to fieldwork commencing, a search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) was made, covering a search area of 500m around the site. The summary is presented below:

The site includes three Historic England Listed (All Saints Farm WSM53544; Stonehouse Farm WSM 08637; Manor Farmhouse WSM49741) and 7 unlisted, historic buildings within the search area.

The earliest structures date to the 17th century and include 3 timber framed dwellings in addition to several 19th century agricultural buildings.

An Historic England funded project to identify the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire also recorded 4 farmsteads within the search area dating to the 17th – 19th century.

In addition to the built environment there are also monument records for the site of ponds (WSM45287) and marl pits (WSM 45930) as well as numerous records for earthworks of ridge and furrow (WSM69975-WSM69981) indicating an agricultural landscape.

A single Portable Antiquity Scheme finds record is currently identified within the search area; a lithic implement probably dating to the Neolithic period (WSM32993). A further find of a Neolithic axe (WSM 07939) has also been reported to the HER although no further details are recorded.

There has been very little archaeological investigation within the search area aside from an evaluation in 2014 (WSM 58050) which recorded no significant archaeological deposits or finds. Whilst this means that the survival of archaeology is largely unknown for the search area, the predominance of pasture within the wider landscape would suggest there is high potential for survival.

4 Project aims

The aims of the watching brief were to observe, investigate 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.

5 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2020). Fieldwork was undertaken on 19 October 2020.

Foundation trenches, covering 200m² in area, were excavated across the site. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

Observation of the excavated foundation trenches and ground reduction was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits.

Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a GNSS device with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m.

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

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire.

6 Archaeological results

The location of the site and the observed groundworks are provided in Figures 1 and 2. Photographs of the observed groundworks are provided in Plates 1-8.

6.1 Phasing/Trench descriptions

19th century made ground (100) and natural deposits (101 and 102) were observed during the groundworks, cut by modern disturbance (106) and water main pipes. No significant archaeology was recorded during the works.

6.1.1 Summary trench description table

Context	Brief description	Max depth (m)	Depth from ground surface (m)	Comments
100	Made ground	0.25 – 0.40	0.00	Firm, mixed dark grey brown silty clay with building rubble and sub-round stones. Occasional white porcelain. Ironwork and building debris. Levelling layer 0.25m depth in south and 0.40m depth in north of site.
101	Natural	0.60 – 0.75	0.25 – 0.40	Firm mid greyish yellow clay with occasional blue mottling and rounded stones
102	Natural	-	1.00	Compact firm blue grey lias clay with moderate flat, angular stone.
103	Brick yard surface	0.10	0.00	Brick surface consisting of machine made red bricks 9" x 4" x 3" in dimension. No mortar. One to two bricks thick. Surface of previous farm yard.
104	Fill	0.20	0.25	Soft dark greyish black silty clay. Made ground backfilling wet area. Mixed re-deposited natural material.
105	Fill	0.30	0.45	Blue grey gleyed clay at base of wet area. Modern backfilled deposit
106	Cut	0.50	0.20	Cut of modern truncation with sloping sides and 3m wide in centre of western trench sections.

Table 1: Summary of context descriptions

7 Artefactual evidence

Recovery of artefacts was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event, no artefacts were identified which were considered to be suitable for analysis. White porcelain sherds and ironwork were observed within the made ground (100) and (103) but not retained.

8 Environmental evidence

Environmental sampling was approached using standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event, no deposits were excavated which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis. Feature 106 was judged to have been a modern truncation or as a result of the modern water pipe crossing the site.

9 Discussion and conclusions

No significant archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during the groundworks. There was no topsoil or subsoil over the area, indicating that the site had been scarped previously, probably during construction of the lean-to shed which has recently been demolished and the associated yard surfacing. The made ground dated to the late 19th to mid-20th century.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

10 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Graham Arnold, PCIfA, who also prepared the report. The project was managed by Tom Vaughan, MCIIfA. Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton, MCIIfA.

11 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for the successful conclusion of this project: Jonny Howard (JD Developments), Justin De Vries and Marissa Bird (formerly Moule & Co. Ltd; now The Rural Planning Co.), and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon District Council).

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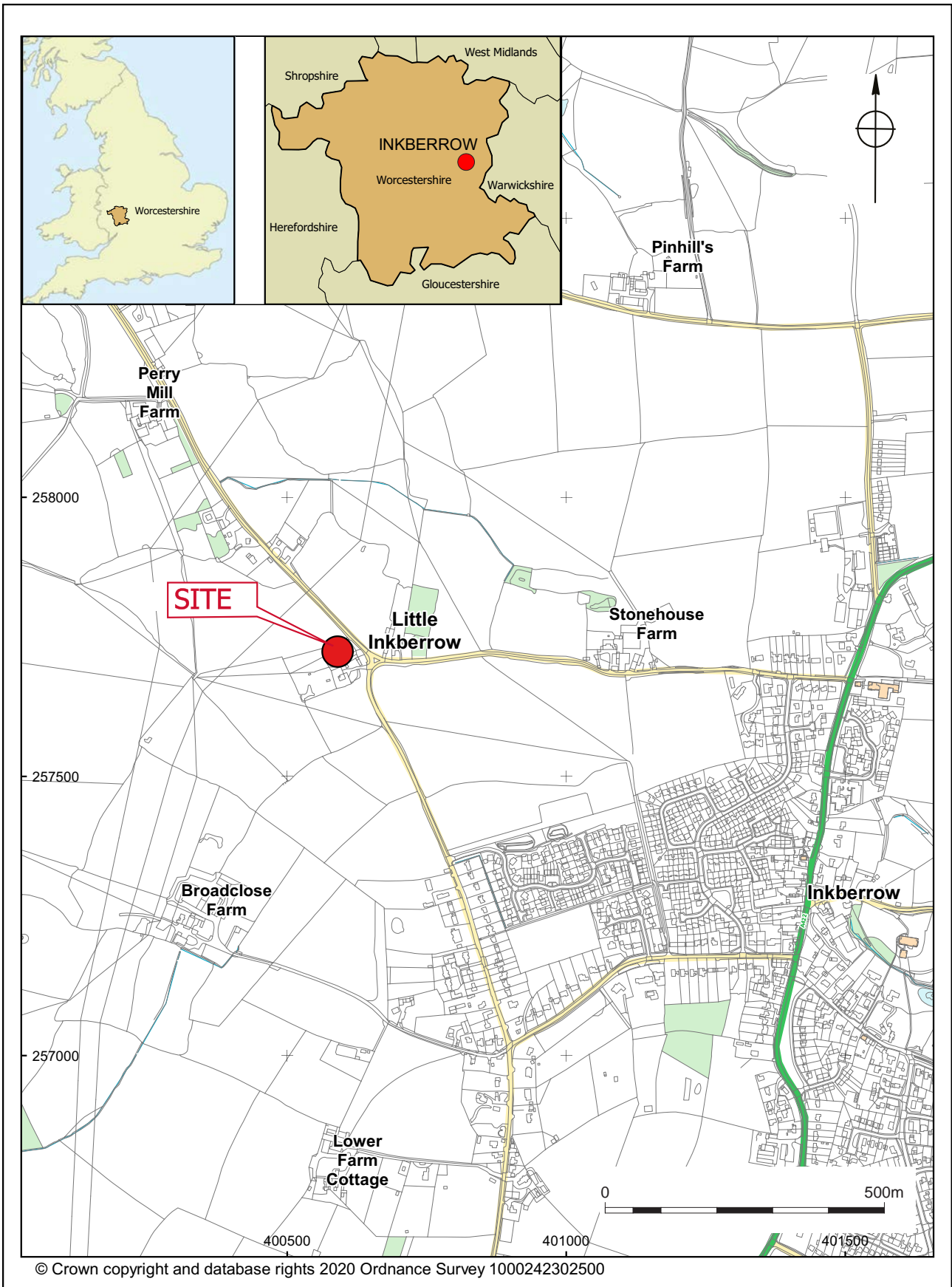
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Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



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Location of trenches and archaeological features

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: Site area laid out before foundation trench excavation commenced, view south-east, no scales



Plate 2: Southern trench showing made ground and brick surfacing, view west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 3: Brick floor surfacing from the existing lean-to barn and yard surface, view south-west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 4: Central trench being excavated showing made ground and natural clays, view south, 2x 1m scales



Plate 5: North-east side of foundations, made ground cut by modern water pipe, view north-west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 6: Modern truncation [106] filled by blue clay with made ground above, view north, 2x 1m scales



Plate 7: Sample section of north-western trench, showing made ground (100), yellow clay (101) and natural geology (102), view north-west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 8: Foundation trenches complete, view south-east, 2x 1m scales

Appendix 1: Summary of project archive

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	None – discarded on site
Paper	Context sheet, Diary (Field progress form),
Digital	GIS, Images raster/digital photography , Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire.

Appendix 2: Summary of data for HER

WSM73506

No Specialist Data – negative watching brief