



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**6 THE LANE, BURMINGTON,**

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**NGR SP 2642 3803**

*On behalf of*

*Mr & Mrs Ashton*

**OCTOBER 2012**

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**REPORT FOR** Mr & Mrs Ashton  
C/o Nest Designs  
The Old School House  
Cherington  
Shipston on Stour  
Warwickshire  
CV36 5HS

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## **SUMMARY**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 6 The Lane, Burmington. No features earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century were recorded.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site location (Figure 1)**

The site is centred on national grid reference SP 2642 3803, in the parish of Burmington. The site of the trench was in the location of a demolished barn.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning consent has been granted by Stratford on Avon Borough Council for the demolition of extension and outbuildings, relocation of timber playroom, erection of new domestic outbuildings, two storey extension to house, alteration to second floor window, new external door to house, render to rear elevation of house and new 1.8m high fencing to front and side boundary and within rear garden at 6 The Lane, Burmington, Warwickshire (10/02760/FUL). A condition of the planning permission requires the applicant to secure the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which had been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. This was implemented as the proposed development was within an area of archaeological potential. This is in line with NPPF. Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist prepared a Brief for the first phase of the work, namely a field evaluation. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with the county planning archaeologist proposed a method to satisfy the requirements of the Brief.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The proposed development is located in an area of archaeological potential within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Burmington. 6 The Lane, a Grade II Listed Building, dates to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Burmington is a small parish on the Warwickshire River Stour. Pre-medieval finds from the area of the village and in the 500m search radius indicate no more than sporadic activity at present. Prehistoric flints have come from an evaluation in the village (MWA 7461/EWA9682: SP 2663 3784). Roman finds from the village include a coin and a possible bracelet (MWA7801).

In 1086 the manor of Burmington was held by Robert de Stafford (Morris 1976, 22.2, 3). The manor contained 5 hides and contained 12 villagers and 8 smallholders. There was a mill and meadow of 12 acres. It is noted at the end that Godwin held it from Robert. Robert also held the manor of Wolford, which is identified in later texts as the mother church; there was a priest at Wolford in 1086.

The name is recorded in 1086 as Burdintone (Gover et al. 1936, 298), and in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as Burminton(e) and has been interpreted as Beormundingtun, Beornmund's arm, or that there is a Beorma standing for Beormund or Beornmær.

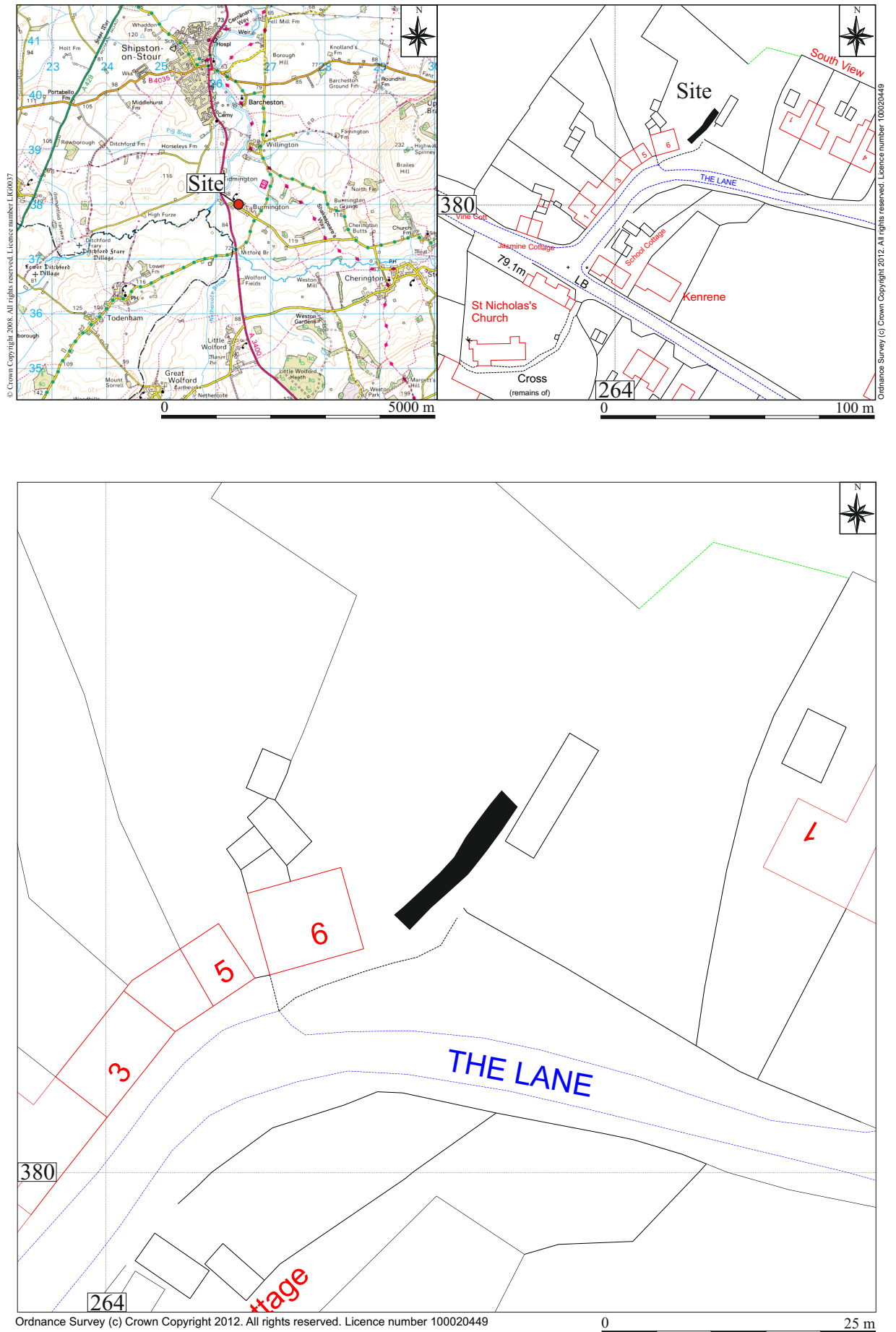


Figure 1. Site location

The Stafford family retained the manor in 1212, 1243, 1372, 1398, and 1403, when they are still documented as holding a knight's fee in the manor (VCH 1949, 26-28). In 1242 it is apparent that the Grenville family held the manor from the baron of Stafford. In 1442 the estate descended through a female line to Amice, before being passed to Humphrey Stafford, before being passed to a number of male relations. In 1469 Lord Stafford was made Earl of Devon, before the manor passed to Thomas Strangways. In 1540 Henry Annesley and Nicholas Tooley acquired the manor, and in 1617 it passed to Henry, Earl of Northampton. The Northampton family sold the manor in 1801 to Rev. T. Lambert Snow and in 1932 it was acquired by Lady Beecham.

The church at Burmington has always been recognised as a chapel of the church of Wolford (VCH 1949, 26-28). It was named as a chapel in 1311 when the church and chapel were appropriated, and the chapel was confirmed to Merton College in 1634.

Medieval sites in the village include the church of Saint Barnabas and Saint Nicholas (MWA2262/DWA3577: SP 26381 37952), the manor house (MWA2265/DWA3401: SP 26338 37931) with parts dating to the 13th century, the medieval churchyard cross (MWA2263: SP 2637 3793), and the site of the medieval mill (MWA2266/DWA2076: SP 26070 38068). Indications of a settlement and a sunken medieval village at Burmington occur (MWA3888: SP 2666 3793; MWA6378: SP2646 3781; MWA8977: SP 26524 37916), and Tidmington (MWA2105: SP2586 3828; MWA8980: SP 26074 38415). Ridge and Furrow agricultural activity is evident in the parish of Burminton (MWA3887) and Tidmington (MWA3910). Medieval finds from the village of Burmington include a coin (MWA7802: SP 2618 3822).

Two antiquarian maps survive for Burmington at the Warwickshire Record Office, both dated to the c. 1844. These include an estate map (WRO CR569-56) and a tithe map (WRO QS75-25). Many of the buildings in Burmington are listed and date to the 17th or 18th century and presumably are represented on these maps. Both maps show the line of The Lane with some six buildings on the north and west side of the thoroughfare, but with some rear outbuildings. The 1:2500 map of 1885-8 shows some six buildings on the north and west side of The Lane. There is a smithy marked on the south side. The 1:2500 map of 1905 shows buildings in a similar location but these are drawn as if slightly larger, though this may be alterations in cartography rather than rebuilding in the physical landscape.

The listed buildings, not previously noted, include 6 The Lane an 18th century farmhouse (DWA2746: SP 26419 38023), the site. Burmington Farm is also listed (DWA4380: SP 26536 37900), along with its barn (DWA1805: SP 26499 37878), a granary (MWA2365/DWA3681: SP 26512 37908), and the shelter shed (DWA1514: SP 26563 37911). The Manor House barn is also listed (DWA4068: SP 26362 37946), while the gardens are noted on the HER but undated (MWA13005: SP 2646 3781). The other listed buildings include Shepherds Hey and Glencote, two cottages in the Lane (DWA3578: SP 26393 37997). The finds include a coin of Henry VIII (MWA7803). The remaining sites on the HER are of an imperial date, later 18th and 19th century. These include Burmington Mill House (MWA2267: SP 2610 3805), a milepost (MWA4211), the turnpike road (MWA4829: SP 2255 4300), Tidmington Bridge (MWA2100: SP 2606 3828), and Tidmington House Grounds (MWA8614: SP25888 38599).

The barn was recorded prior to demolition (JMHS 2012).

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular:

- To determine whether any remains of the medieval settlement survive on the site

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* designed by JMHS and agreed with Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist, JMHS carried out the work, which comprised the excavation of a trenches across the site.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

### **3.2 Methodology**

The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of a single trench across the site by a 5-tonne excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, supplemented by limited hand investigation of archaeological deposits. The trench was 15m long and 1.6m wide (Fig. 1).

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Field Results (Figure 2)**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material.

The lowest layer was a bright orange-brown clay related to the Lower Lias deposits in the region (1/03).

Lying above the natural (1/03) was a 0.1m thick layer of mid orange-brown silt-clay (1/02) containing some small fragments of animal bone.

Cut into this layer (1/02) were three small pits, a linear feature and two very large cut features.

The first pit 1/06 was circular in plan and 1m in diameter. It had a near vertical side, a flat base and was 0.35m deep. It was filled with a pale-mid grey silt-clay (1/07) flecked with charcoal and small fragments of animal bone. This pit was partially sealed by the make-up layer (1/14) of the previously demolished outbuilding.

The second pit 1/08 was also circular in plan, 0.5m in diameter and filled with a dark-mid grey silt-clay (1/09) flecked with charcoal and containing c. 19<sup>th</sup> century glass and pottery sherds.

The third pit 1/10 was sub-circular in plan approximately 1m in diameter and filled with a dark-mid grey silt-clay (1/11) flecked with charcoal that also contained c. 19<sup>th</sup> century glass and pottery sherds.

A linear feature 1/12 aligned roughly northeast to southwest ran along the trench for 8m, its terminal ends were not seen and it was over 0.5m wide. This feature was filled with a dark-mid grey silt-clay (1/13) flecked with charcoal and contained c. 19<sup>th</sup> century glass and pottery sherds.

To the southwest of the trench a large sub-rectangular feature 1/04 was cut through layer (1/02). This feature was 3.5m long by over 1.2m wide, had near vertical sides, a flat base and was 0.7m deep. It was filled with a pale-mid grey silt-clay (1/05) flecked with charcoal, small fragments of animal bone and a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century white earthenware recovered from near its base. It was cut by a later wider shallower cut 1/15 to the southwest, the full extent of which was not seen but it was 0.5m deep with a flat base and over 1.6m wide. This was filled with a mid-dark grey silt-clay (1/16) flecked with charcoal and containing animal bone.

The majority of the rectangular cut 1/04 lay under the floor layer (1/14) of the previously demolished outbuilding. This layer consisted of a 0.1m thick spread of orange-brown clay-sand overlain by a single layer of unfrosted red bricks.

The uppermost layer outside the footprint of the previous outbuilding was a dark brown-grey clay loam topsoil (1/01) up to 0.2m thick.

#### **4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results**

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological evaluation took place during good weather conditions. The percentage size of the sample was considered sufficient for the development area.



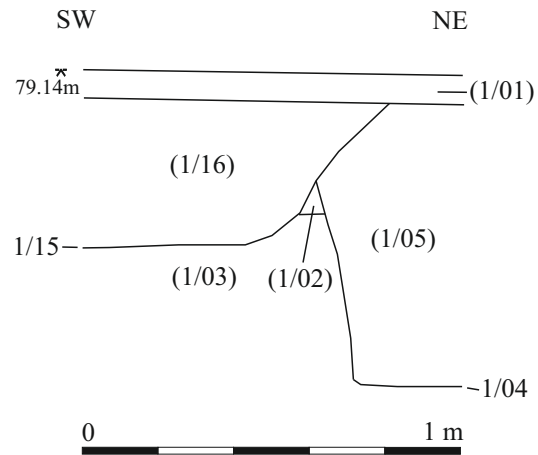
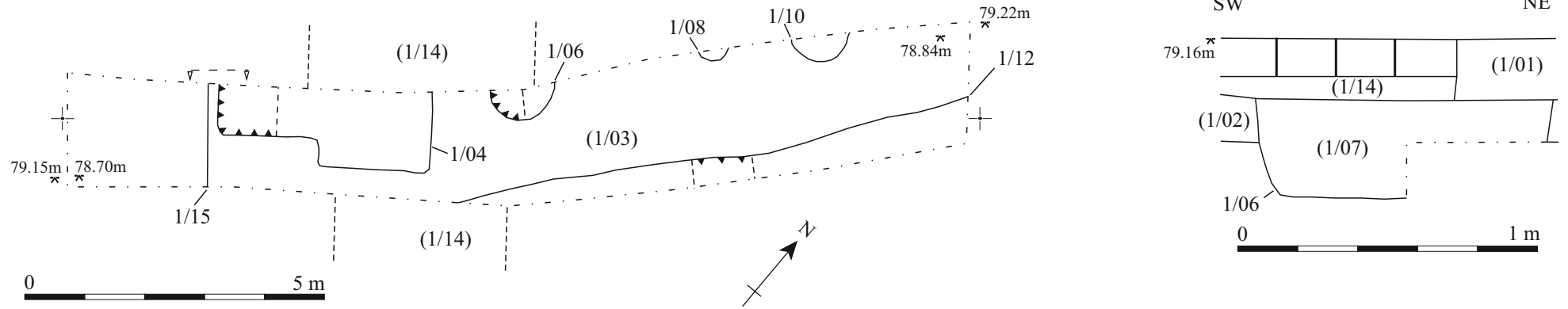


Figure 2 Trench Plan and Sections

Trench overview looking Southeast

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery

The pottery was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

MGW. *Refined white earthenware*. c 1800+. Contexts (1/05), (1/09) & (1/11)  
MGW. *Modern earthenwares*, late 18<sup>th</sup> century +. Contexts (1/09), (1/11) & (1/13)

The sherds were identified and not retained.

### 5.2 Glass

The majority of the glass seen within contexts (1/09), (1/11) and (1/13) was from wine bottles; the stem of a wine glass was also present within context (1/11). Sherds from a Victorian green glass graduated medicine bottle were present within context (1/09). All glass sherds were identified and not retained.

### 5.3 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken as the potential of the deposits was not felt to be sufficient to warrant sampling.

## 6 DISCUSSION

Two of the pits 1/08 and 1/10 appear to represent domestic waste pits common in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century back garden plots. The linear feature 1/12 is likely to represent a hedge or decorative planting bed as obvious dark planting features containing considerable quantities of roots were seen on the surface of the fill along its length.

The pit 1/06 may represent a domestic waste pit in use prior to the construction of the outbuilding. However the function of large rectangular pit 1/04 is a mystery. It was not fully excavated and could represent the cut for the construction of an earlier well or an abandoned attempt to provide the out building with a sunken floor or basement.

It is possible that the pit 1/04 is associated to the extensive repairs and re-working the building had undergone (JMHS 2012). An examination of the bricks in the floor surface (1/14) shows a mix of fabrics and firing conditions. Therefore it is likely that the floor may have been replaced at some point possible in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century with bricks reused from elsewhere.

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