

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

**33 THE GREEN, BILTON,
RUGBY, WARWICKSHIRE.**

SP 4835 7369

On behalf of

Mr. C. Edmonds

OCTOBER 2005

REPORT FOR Mr. C. Edmonds
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Summary

A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the ground work for an extension to 33 The Green, Bilton, Rugby. The investigation revealed numerous modern service trenches, but no archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located around national grid reference SP 4835 7369 in the parish of Rugby, and lies at approximately 115m OD.

1.2 Planning Background

Rugby Borough Council has granted planning permission for the construction of a two story extension and change of use of first floor at 33, The Green, Bilton, Rugby, Warwickshire (ref. R05/0757/04572/P). Due to the potential presence of archaeological remains a condition has been attached requiring an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the period of groundworks.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval settlement at Bilton, recorded on the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record as MWA 9494. It is also close to the site of the Bilton Stocks (MWA 3340), situated on the Green and used during the post medieval period. Also on the Green is a medieval market cross (MWA 3341). To the north-east of the property lies the site of Henry Flavell's smithy and forge (MWA 3637), this is marked on the 1840 tithe map. Also in the area (SP 4849 7382) and marked on the 1840 tithe map is a stone quarry (MWA 33636).

The property itself is marked on the 1840 tithe map, it is registered as lot 213 a house and garden, owned by Mr Thomas Flavell and rented to Mr. William Ward. He also rented the adjacent property (212), a carpentry shop, yard and outbuildings. The first edition O.S. map of 1887 shows no change to the building, but with trees in the garden. The 1840 tithe map recorded an orchard in the adjacent property (215).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- to record any remains associated with the medieval settlement.

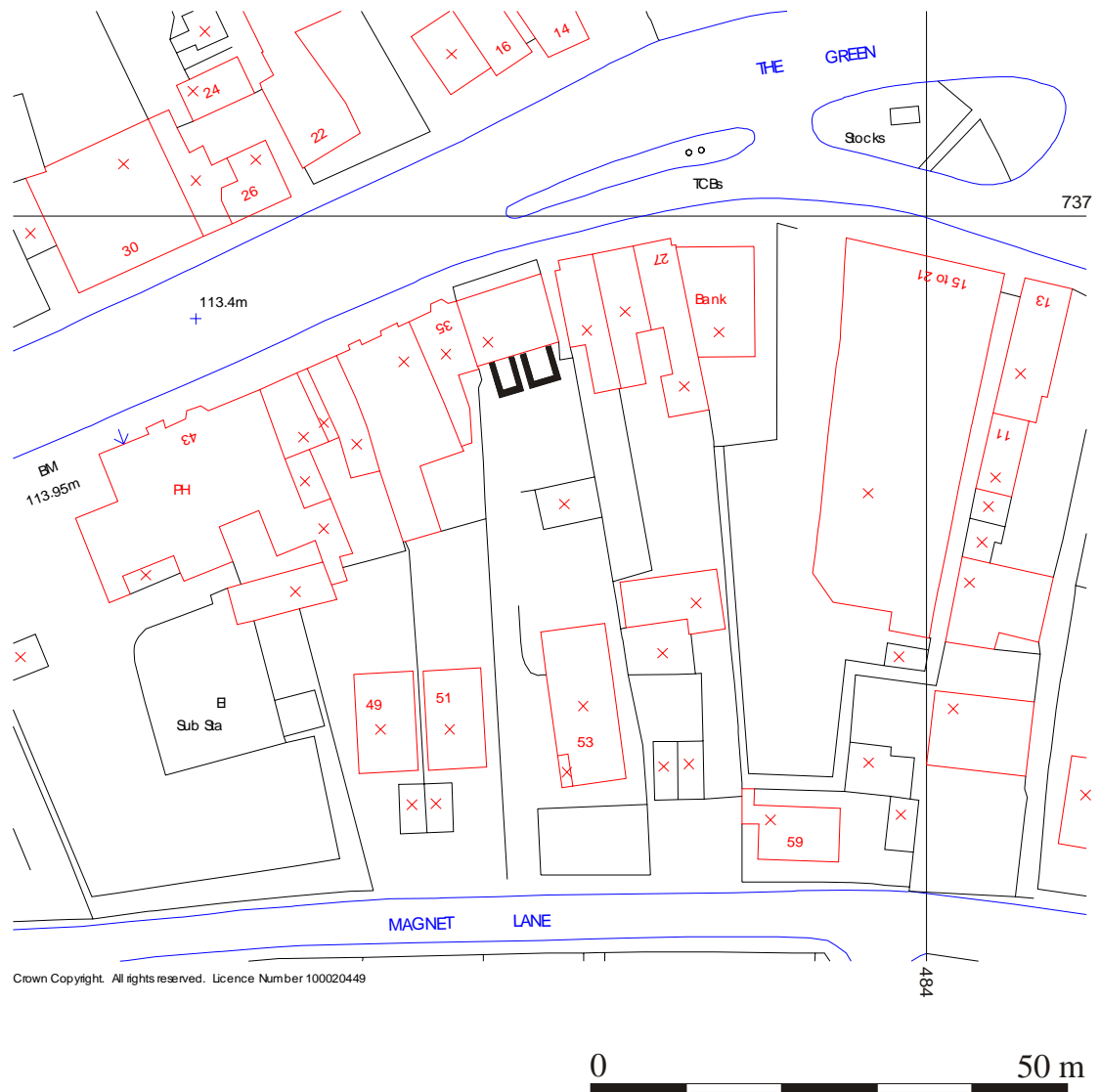


Figure 1. Site location.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Warwickshire County Museum Field Services. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

The excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored. This work was conducted using a 2.5 ton tracked 360° excavator.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

All features were assigned individual context numbers. This number covered both the feature cut and the fill for pits, unless the feature was sample excavated by hand. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. A general description of the feature fills is given.

The upper layer consisted of a made ground of dark grey sandy clay with large amounts (30%) stone, rubble and brick (1). This was up to 0.6m thick and noticeably of a modern date with finds of rubber and plastic at its lowest levels.

Across the majority of the site this made ground was overlying the natural orange-brown sandy clay (2). In the east of the site a thin layer of buried soil was located. This was 0.05m thick and a dark brown-grey sandy clay (3).

The footings [4] & [5] of the back wall of the building were exposed clearly revealing the two phases of previous extension to the original structure. A number of services were located. Rarely did these penetrate into the natural, the soak-away (6) being the deepest feature being 0.85m deep.

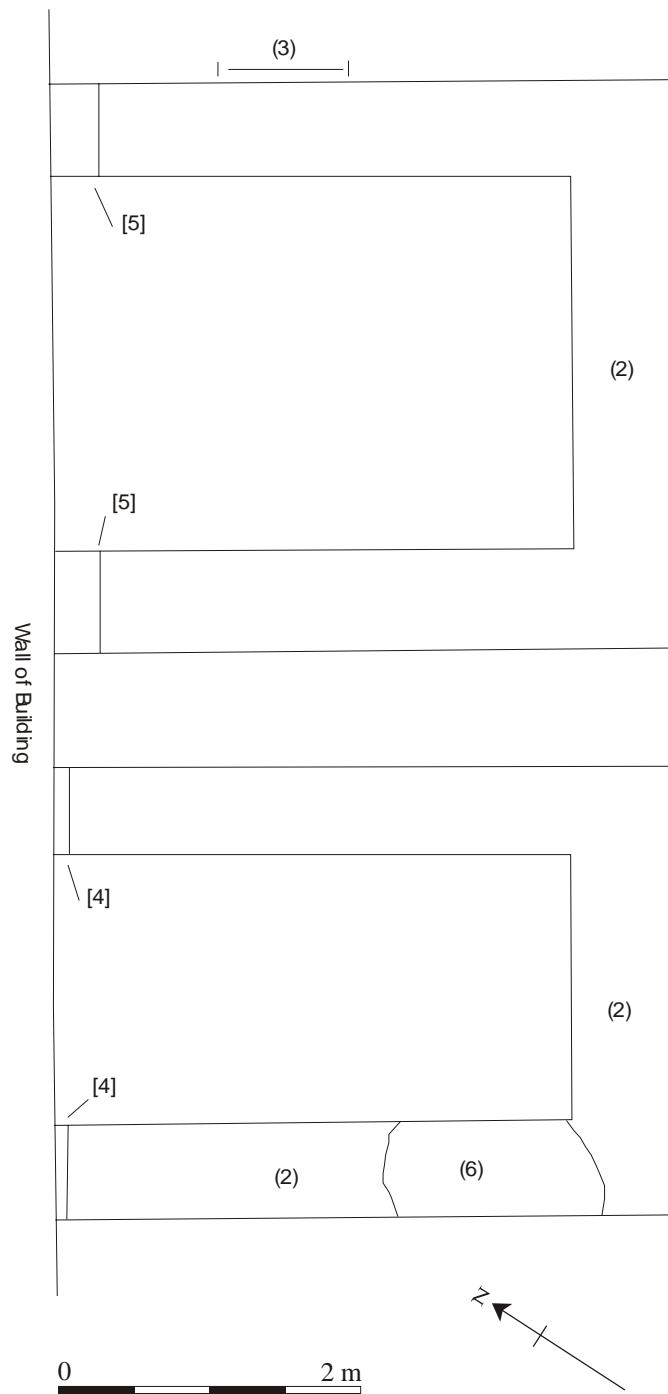


Figure 2. Plan of Trenches

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery

A single sherd of 19th century slipware was recovered from the buried soil (3). Other sherds of this and a later date were noted in the made ground (1).

6 DISCUSSION

The watching brief uncovered no archaeological features. The only features located were modern service trenches, including a soak-away (6) that was still in use.

The buried soil (3) is likely to be associated with the garden recorded on the 1840 tithe map.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site records

Finds contents list

Finds

Pottery

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Revised Sept 1999