

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT BERROW COTTAGE HOMES
KNOWLE
WARWICKSHIRE**

SP 1825 7668

On behalf of

Barton Hasker Architects Ltd

August 2007

REPORT FOR Barton Hasker Ltd Architects
1620-22 High Street
Knowle
Solihull
West Midlands B93 0JU

PREPARED BY Gwilym Williams

FIELDWORK 3rd July 2007

REPORT ISSUED 1st August 2007

ENQUIRES TO *John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ
Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk*

JMHS Project No: 1785

Archive Location Warwickshire Museum

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	4
3 STRATEGY	4
3.1 Research Design	4
3.2 Methodology	4
4 RESULTS	6
5 RELIABILITY OF RESULTS AND METHODOLOGIES	6
6 FINDS	7
5.1 Pottery	7
7 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS	7
8 DISCUSSION	7
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
APPENDIX – Archaeological Context Inventory	8
FIGURES	
Figure 1 Site Location	2
Figure 2 Trench plan and section	5

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Berrow Cottage Homes by John Moore Heritage Services as a condition of planning permission prior to the construction of a two-storey community complex. The site was considered to lie within an archaeologically sensitive area of the medieval settlement of Knowle.

No significant archaeological remains were found. A modern pit and a ditch containing late 19th or early 20th century artefacts were found.

1 INTRODUCTION**1.1 Origins of the Project**

A planning application was submitted to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, which granted planning permission for the erection of a two-storey community complex building comprising community room, office and 1 bed flat at Berrow Cottage Homes, 2 Kenilworth Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 0Ja (2006/221). Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains a condition was attached to this permission requiring the applicant, prior to development commencing, to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the planning Authority. Warwickshire Museum prepared a Brief for a first phase of archaeological work on the site, namely a field evaluation. The aim of the evaluation was to inform further archaeological mitigation as part of the development. John Moore Heritage Services prepared a *Written Scheme of Investigation*, which was approved by Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

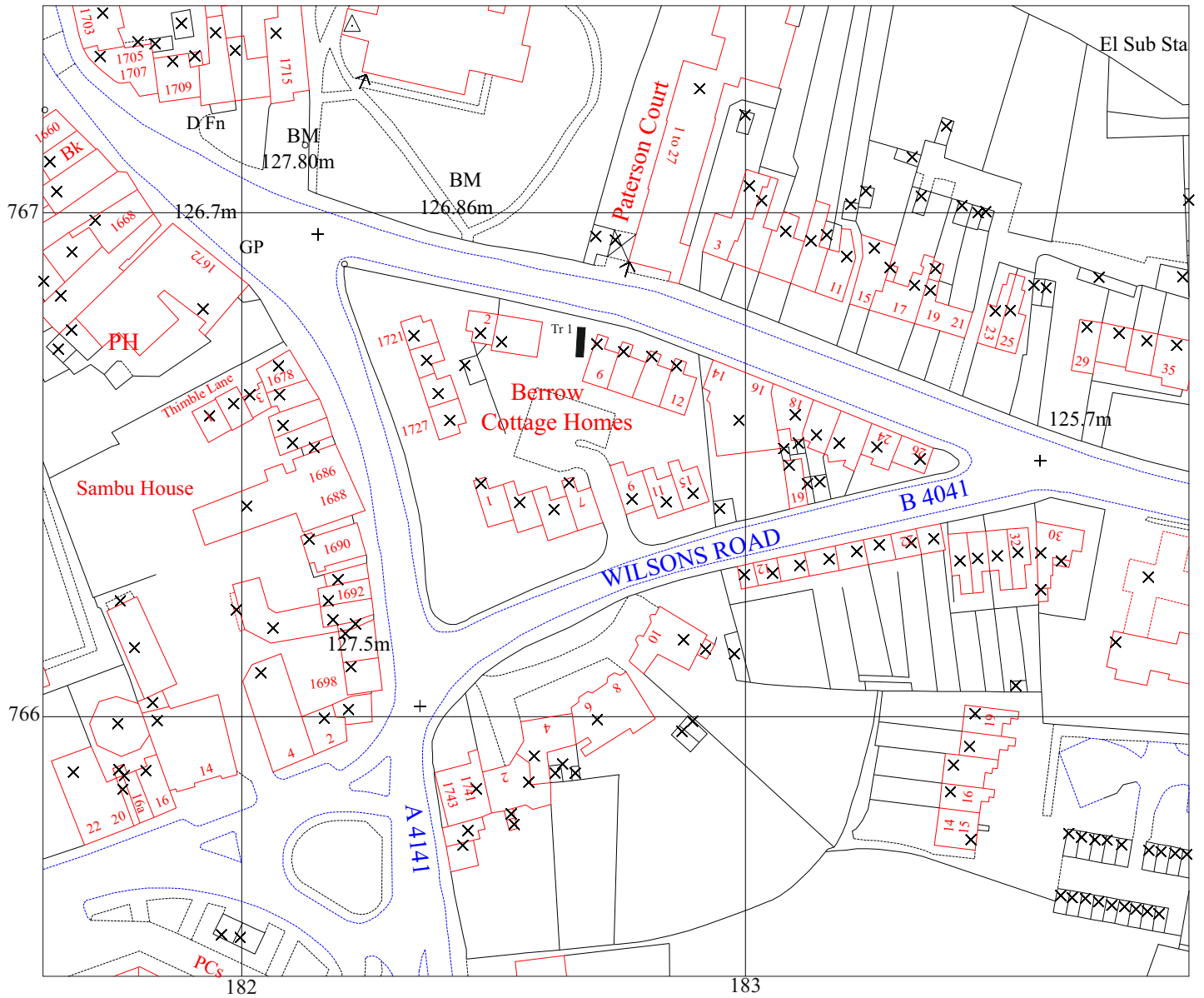
1.2 The Site (Figure 1)

The site is located on the south side of Kenilworth Road, Knowle at NGR SP 1825 7668 in the parish of Solihull. The underlying solid geology is Sherwood Sandstone Group (Institute of Geological Sciences 1:250,000 Series, East Midlands Sheet 52⁰N-02⁰W, Solid Geology).

1.3 Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken. The County Record Office and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) were consulted. SMR data held by Warwickshire Museum showed that the site was located within an area of known historical importance, although the archaeological potential was less well known.

The proposed development site lies within the medieval settlement of Knowle (MSI5834; SP1814 7682), which takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon '*gnolle*' a small hill, which largely retains its original form from the 13th century. Traces of ridge and furrow are extant to the north and south of the current proposal area (MSI8770 SP 1840 7690 and MSI8771 SP 1832 7654). The village does not feature in Domesday, as it was a hamlet within the medieval parish of Hampton-in-Arden. Indeed, Knowle only ceased to be part



0 m 50 m

Figure 1. Site and trench location

of the parish of Hampton in 1850. The place was first documented at the start of the 13th century (Solihull SMR MSI5834), when William de Arden gave it to his wife, Amice de Traci. By 1220 they were using a chapel at the house, while the parishioners were obliged to go to the parish church at Hampton-in-Arden. Textual evidence indicates the presence of a potter and kiln, as well as other industrial activities having been carried out in the hamlet (MSI10425) in the latter part of the 13th century.

Subsequently in 1284, the manor was sold by John le Lou and Amice his wife to Edward I, and following the death of Queen Eleanor, it was granted to Westminster Abbey as part of the endowment of a chantry for her soul. At the time of the Dissolution Knowle was granted to the Bishop of Westminster, but following the suppression of that see in 1550 it passed to the Bishop of London. By the middle of the 16th century the Crown had acquired the manor, and in 1573 Elizabeth I granted it to Robert, Earl of Leicester. When he died the manor reverted to the Crown until 1622, when it was granted to Sir Fulk Grevill, Lord Brooke (VCH, 1947).

The church of St John the Baptist, St Lawrence and St Anne (MSI1276; SP 1824 7674), located c. 100m north of the site, was founded by Canon Walter Cooke after 1396 as a chapel under papal licence. The VCH suggests that it may well have reused stone from the earlier chapel of William de Arden. The chapel was consecrated in 1402 when a royal licence was granted to found a chantry chapel. The church was not unduly affected by the Reformation as the Commissioners in 1547 recommended maintaining it as a parish church. At about the same time as the church was founded Walter Cooke and six others obtained a licence to found a fraternity and guild in honour of God and St Anne; the property of the guild, including the Guild Hall (MSI329, SP 1819 7672), was however sold off piecemeal between 1548 and 1553; the adjacent Guild House (MSI330, SP 1820 7673) housed the Guild of St Anne and is now the church hall. Archaeological monitoring of a topsoil strip in the graveyard in 1995 did not reveal any significant archaeological remains (MSI1276:3, SP 1824 7674).

Several early post-medieval buildings exist in the immediate vicinity of the site: the Red Lion (MSI336; SP1819 7669), 1678-80 Warwick Road (MSI337; SP 1820 7667), 1682-4 Warwick Road – a 19th century refitting of an earlier building (MSI338; SP 1821 7666), and 1709 Warwick Road (MSI328; SP 1818 7672). None have been examined archaeologically. A number of nineteenth century houses and buildings exist in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. The houses identified within the search area comprise 1707 High St (MSI10428; SP 1815 7673), 12-24 Wilsons Road (MSI10430; SP 1833 7664), the row at 14-26 Kenilworth Road (MSI10456; SP 1832 7667), as well as a chapel (MSI10445; SP 1821 7663) and school (MSI10431; SP 1828 7672).

The proposed development site features on enclosure maps from 1813 and 1816, where the land is shown as largely open, with a small structure under the site of Clutton Cottage (Nos. 2, 4 and 6) at Berrow Cottage Homes. Otherwise, the development site which lies close to the street frontage, is largely un-developed on late 19th century mapping and up to and including the 1937 1:2500 map. The enclosure maps call the square piece of land comprising the southwest corner and the northern edge of the current site, the Bowling

Green. In 1885 Sarah Letticia Berrow conveyed to trustees land at the Bowling Green, Knowle for the construction of cottage homes for the “occupation rent-free of persons in reduced circumstances not of the pauper class” (VCH, 1947). In 1923 she subsequently bequeathed to the trustees of Berrow Cottage Homes £4,000 and the residue of her real and personal estate for the maintenance of the houses or for an endowment fund for the support of the inmates. Further buildings were erected in the early 1980s.

2 AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The aims of the evaluation, as set 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.

and in particular:

- to determine the presence/absence of medieval or earlier post-medieval remains on the site.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

The investigation comprised a desktop assessment and the mechanical excavation of a trial trench supplemented by hand investigation of archaeological deposits. Basic research comprising examination of records held on the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record and maps held by the County Record Office was carried out. The results are included above.

The excavation of one trench was carried out by an experienced and qualified archaeologist with the assistance of one experienced colleague.

3.2 Methodology

A trench measuring 6m in length and 1.6m wide was excavated as close as possible to the

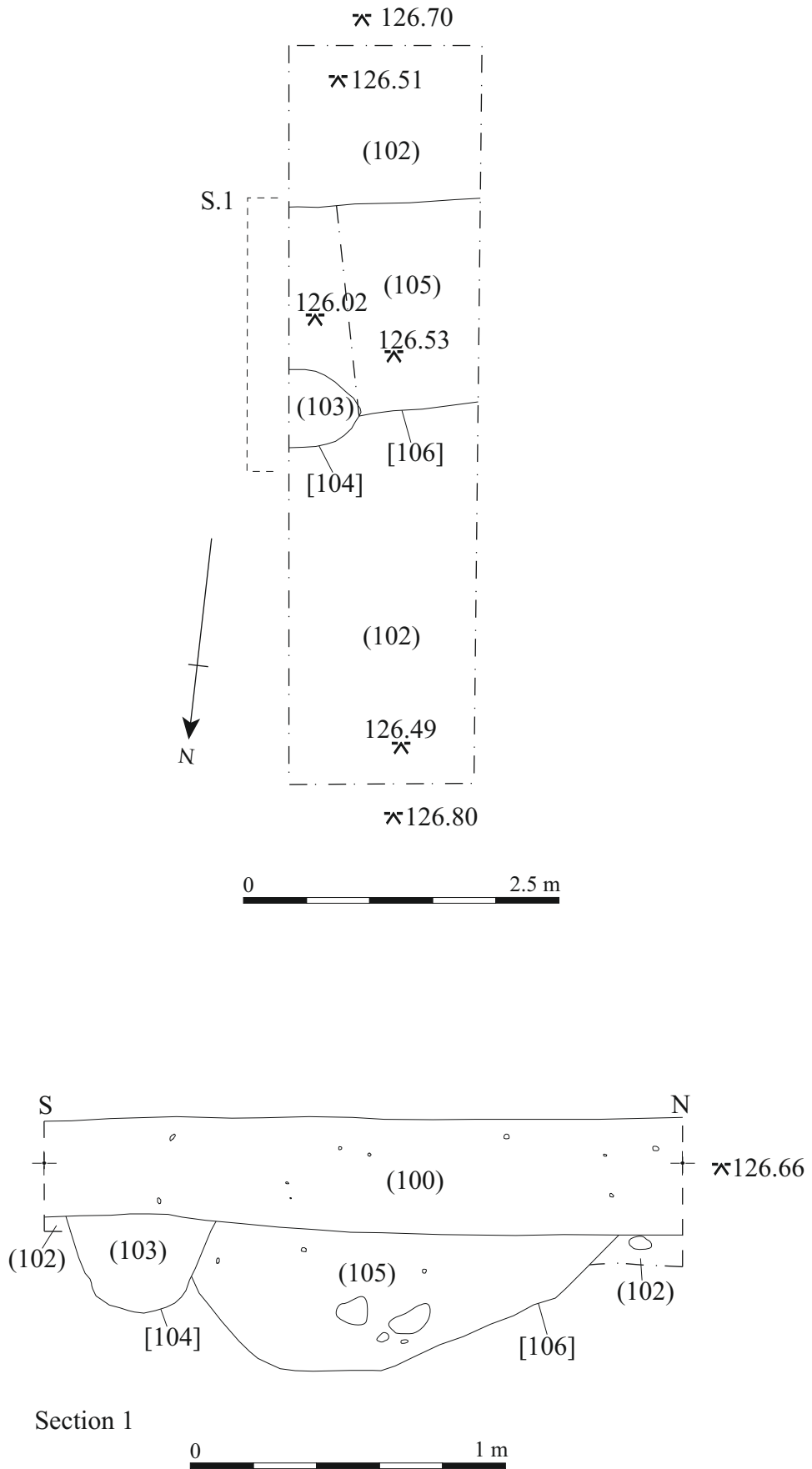


Figure 2. Plan and section

positions as required in the Warwickshire Museum's Brief. Limited space meant that it was necessary to shift the trench slightly to accommodate the exigencies of the site layout. The trench excavation was carried out by a JCB using a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of "natural" deposits under direct archaeological control. Cleaning was carried out by hand, followed by photographing of the trench and recording in plan and section of all observable data.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving a written record of each archaeological deposit encountered and scale drawings prepared where appropriate. Other general methodologies for the work were in accordance with IFA guidelines and the requirements of Warwickshire Museum.

The work was monitored by Anna Stocks of Warwickshire Museum.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

Deposits and fills are referred to in the text and figures in round brackets, i.e. (100); cut features are referred to in square brackets, i.e. [104].

Machine excavation was undertaken to the level of the natural (102), orange-brown silty sand and large gravels. This was cut by two features, an east-west ditch [106] running parallel to Kenilworth Road and a small pit [104] which cut the ditch.

The ditch [106] was an east-west aligned feature, measuring 1.65m wide and extending beyond the confines of the trench. It was c. 0.5m deep. The break of slope at the top and bottom of the ditch was rounded, the sides were somewhat concave and the bottom was rounded. The ditch [106] was filled with pale grey-brown silty sand (105), which contained c. 3% mixed gravels and some late Victorian or Edwardian white ware pottery.

The ditch was cut by a more recent sub-rounded pit [104], which measured 0.7m in diameter and was 0.3m deep. It was filled with dark brown-black silty sand (103) with c. 5% charcoal and contained a quantity of car-parts and rubbish.

To the north of the ditch a layer of subsoil (101) was present between the natural (102) and the topsoil (100). The subsoil (101) was a pale brown loamy silty sand with c. 40% mixed gravel and c. 1% charcoal. This was sealed by the topsoil (100) which also sealed the two modern features. Similar late nineteenth/early twentieth century pottery to that recovered from the ditch [106] was collected from (100).

5 RELIABILITY OF RESULTS AND METHODOLOGIES

The evaluation was carried out in optimal conditions and apart from the need to shift the trench to the east in order to avoid damaging the roots of the trees within the proposed area of development, the works were carried out to the specification of the brief.

6 FINDS

6.1 Pottery

Three sherds of Late Victorian or Edwardian pottery were recovered from the fill of the ditch. These have been retained. Furthermore, the six sherds from the topsoil have also been retained.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

No environmental samples were taken.

8 DISCUSSION

Although the site was in an area of good archaeological potential, the trench clarified that no significant archaeological remains were present on the site. The pit was obviously modern, as parts from a car were included within the backfill. The finds from the ditch were all late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The ditch extended beyond the edge of site, beneath a raised area of land to the west.

To the west of the trench the land rose significantly, by *c.* 0.7m. The monitoring archaeologist for Warwickshire Museum Service had requested that the trench investigate this raised area; due to the presence of trees it was not possible to locate the trench across the raised area.

However, it is apparent from the trench excavated, that this raised piece of land overlay the ditch and had been deliberately built up, and should be associated with the construction of Clutton Cottage, now known as 2, 4 and 6 Kenilworth Road.

The land, which was formerly known as The Bowling Green, was purchased originally by Sarah Berrow's father before 1885, the year when she conveyed the land to the trustees for the construction of Berrow Cottage Homes. The ditch revealed during the evaluation can be associated with the piece of land, The Bowling Green. The ditch formed part of a northern boundary on the Kenilworth Road.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1994. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

Salzman, L.F. (ed.) 1945 *Victoria County History: Warwickshire.*

APPENDIX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Dark brown silty loam 3% gravel; heavily rooted	c. 0.30m	>1.6m.	>6m	Topsoil
101	Layer	Pale brown loamy silty sand c. 40% gravel 1% charcoal	0.10m	>1.6m	>1.5m	Subsoil
102	Layer	mid orangey brown silty sand and gravels	unk	>1.6m	6m	Natural
103	Fill	loose dark brown/black silty sand 5% charcoal	0.50m	>1.6m	>1.65m	Fill of pit [104]
104	Cut	Subcircular, 0.7m (diam), straightish sides, rounded bottom	0.25.m	0.7m	0.7m	Rubbish pit
105	Fill	Pale grayish brown silty sand 3% mixed gravel	0.5m	1.65m	>1.6m	Fill of ditch[106]
106	Cut	Linear gentle break of slope at top and base, concave sides rounded bottom	0.5m	1.65m	>1.6m	Ditch