



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

GROVEFIELDS HOUSE,

FULBROOK LANE,

HAMPTON LUCY, WARWICKSHIRE

NGR SP 26417 59580

On behalf of

Mrs A. Bowen

MARCH 2015

REPORT FOR Mrs A. Bowen
Grovefields House
Fulbrook Lane
Hampton Lucy
Warwickshire
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Grovefields House, Fulbrook Lane, Hampton Lucy, Warwickshire (NGR SP 26417 59580). An area of 100m² was stripped of topsoil prior to the construction of a stable building. Additionally a small test pit was dug in order to establish the potential depth of any surviving archaeological horizons. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at Grovefields House, in the parish of Hampton Lucy. (NGR SP 26417 59580).

The site lies between 45m OD and the underlying geology is 2nd Terrace River Gravels. The land in the area of the site had until recently been used as arable land, before being enclosed and converted to pasture in 2008.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission was granted by the Stratford on Avon District Council for the change of use of land for equestrian purposes and for the erection of a stable building on a concrete base at Grovefields House, Hampton Lucy, Warwick, CV35 8AT (ref. S13/01767/FUL). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site. This was in line with NPPF (the planning policy current at the time) and other Local Planning policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Aerial photographs show enclosures, pits, gullies and linear features surrounding the site (MWA957). Partial excavation has suggested a Later Prehistoric to Romano-British date. The site appears as a right-angled double ditch, showing quite strongly in permanent pasture. Two cuttings were made (Dyer 1964): one sectioned the inner ditch, the other inconclusively explored a further section of it in an attempt to recover additional dating evidence. The section revealed a ditch 3.6m wide and 1.4m deep, dug as a somewhat irregular shallow U through natural strata of sand and gravel. Finds included a few fragments of Romano British pot and tile (MWA5155) and a few pieces of horse teeth. Two worked flints dating to the Prehistoric period (MWA7185) were found 275m to the east of the site during archaeological observations (Palmer 2006).

Further archaeological recording was undertaken on this site (Palmer 2008) 50m to the west of the development area. This revealed that the site had both Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age elements, as well as Iron Age and Romano-British components. A significant Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit group was excavated: it yielded an important assemblage of pottery, querns, rubbing stones and charred

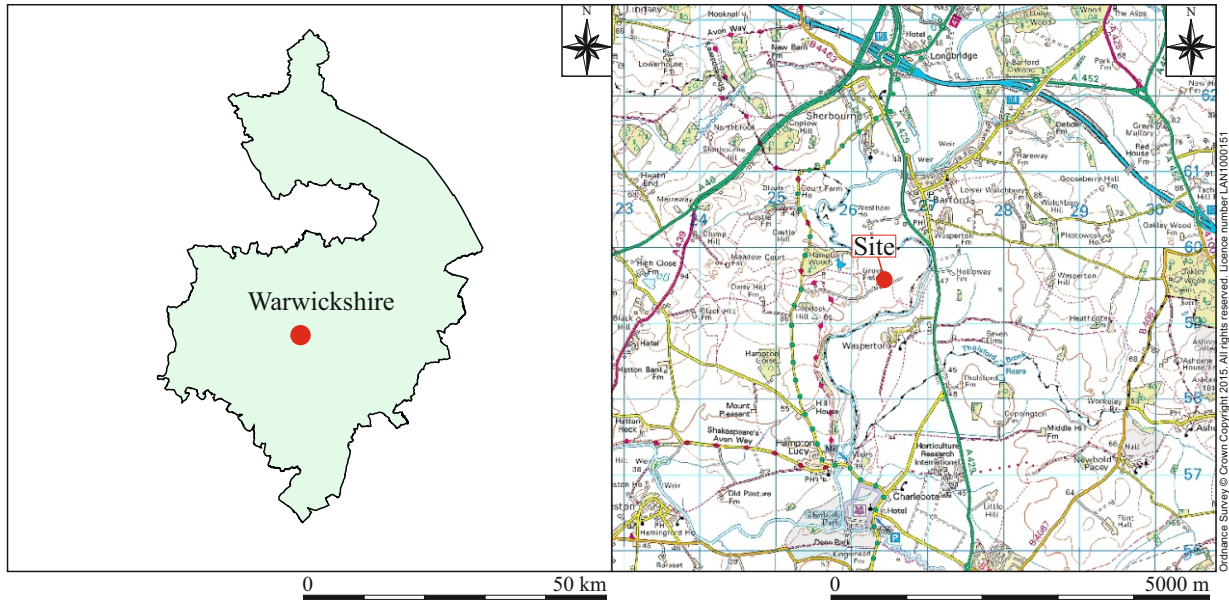


Figure 1: Site location

plant remains. A scatter of Iron Age and Romano-British features were also recorded, including pits, a ditch and postholes. The enclosure ditch was sampled but remained undated except by a few later Iron Age and Romano-British pottery sherds in the upper fills. A late Iron Age roundhouse and palisade were excavated, along with contemporary pits and undated features (Palmer 2010).

A watching brief was conducted at the site in 2012 (Yeates) during the construction for a new garage. Features included a significant number of ditches and gullies, which were stratigraphically early, but were essentially undated. They are probably of a comparable age to those recorded by Palmer (2006 & 2010), but categorically demonstrating this proved to be inconclusive. There was a considerable quantity of overburden into which were cut post-medieval structures and modern deposits. The post-medieval evidence was associated with part of the Grove Fields Farm complex.

Some of the cropmark enclosures in the fields surrounding Grove Fields Farm are likely to have originated in the Iron Age, although not all will have been occupied at the same time. An enclosure (MWA4950) of unknown date is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs 500m to the south-west. An undated linear feature (MWA6753) is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs 500m to the west. It may be significant that the majority of the small annular and penannular cropmark features, which almost certainly represent individual buildings and structures, lie outside the large enclosures. Some of these could also be small shrines or temples. Dotted amongst these cropmarks are large groups of pits. Some of these are conceivably storage pits that were used as silos for storing seed corn over winter.

The site of a possible watermill (MWA2202) lies 450m the south, first recorded in Domesday but is not mentioned of after 1291. A Knights Templars Cross carved on a stone (MWA7466) was found 100m to the east of the site. Nearby Sherbourne was one of Temple Balsall's subsidiary manors.

The boundary of Fulbrook Park (MWA850), a deer park lies just to the west. The park was attached to Fulbrook Castle, created in the reign of Henry V by the Duke of Bedford. The park was renewed and extended in the early 17th century.

Grove Field Farm House is a grade II listed building (DWA3849) dating to c. 1770 with some later additions and alterations. The farm is shown on the 2nd edition OS map as having a dispersed regular plan (HWA942). The farm is depicted on a Lucy estate map of 1736 (WRO L6/1035). Interestingly this shows a barn to the east of the development site within an oval enclosure. This barn and part of the enclosure is gone by 1791 when J. Clark produced a new Lucy estate map (WRO Z628L). Indeed it would appear that the entire farm complex had undergone substantial rebuilding in this period. The 1791 layout is replicated on the 1846 Tithe map (WRO CR569/122).

A field 200m to the east is recorded with the name Brick Kiln Grounds on the Lucy estate map of 1791 and the 1846 Tithe map, previously on the 1736 Lucy estate map it was known as Hither Ground in two fields collectively marked as Hither Copduck. This is indicative of brick making in the vicinity.

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 evidence of activity relating to the Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Archaeological Information and Advice (AIA), the archaeological advisors to Stratford-on-Avon District Council. 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. A photographic record was also produced.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

Excavation was undertaken by a 360° excavator fitted with a bladed ditching bucket.

4 RESULTS

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the groundwork.

Topsoil (100), a soft dark brown clayey silt loam with moderate sub-angular stone, was stripped from an area 10m x 10m in size (100m²) in order to create a level surface to accommodate the proposed building. The maximum depth of excavation was 200mm in the south-west corner of the site, decreasing to 50mm toward the north-east. This was the extent of the ground works for the construction of the stable building.

A small test pit was excavated in the south-west corner of the site in order to establish the depth of the underlying geology. The lowest horizon encountered here was (102), a firm mid yellowish brown coarse sandy gravel; this was interpreted as the underlying 2nd Terrace River Gravel. The natural gravel was overlain by subsoil horizon (101), a friable dark brownish grey clayey silt with a thickness of 800mm. Overlying subsoil (101) was topsoil (100), with a thickness of 300mm.

5 FINDS

No artefactual evidence was recovered.

6 DISCUSSION

Excavation revealed no archaeological features or deposits, despite the potential for such; this is undoubtedly due to the shallow depth of the slab trench.

The test pit excavated in the north-east corner of the site revealed a thick layer of subsoil overlying the natural geology, indicating that there is likely to be good potential for the preservation of any archaeological features associated with the Iron Age and Romano-British occupation of the area.

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 record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Warwickshire Museum.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Gilbert, D 2014 *Grovefields House, Fulbrook Lane, Hampton Lucy, Warwickshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished

Yeates, S J 2006 *Religion, Community and Territory: Defining Religion in the Severn valley and Adjacent Hills from the Iron Age to the Early Medieval Period*. Oxford: British Archaeological Report British Series 411 (iii)