

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

BOTLEY HILL FARM, TAMWORTH LANE,

HENLEY IN ARDEN, WARWICKSHIRE,

NGR SP 14038 68426

On behalf of

AM Architectural Design Ltd

FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT FOR AM Architectural Design Ltd
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FIELDWORK 8th June 2015 – 8th February 2016

REPORT ISSUED 10th February 2016

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Site Code: ULBHF 15

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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Botley Hill Farm, Henley in Arden, Warwickshire. The watching brief comprised monitoring the removal of the floor layers within the interiors of the three buildings and the central courtyard area partly enclosed by the three buildings, together with various service trenches within the development area. The monitored work revealed that the hillside had been terraced into creating a flat area for the barns to be constructed on, together with some activities relating to the use of the barns in the 19th and 20th centuries.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

Botley Hill Barns, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire (NGR SP 14038 68426) is in the historic parish of Wotton Wawen. Historically the parish of Wotton Wawen was based within the Hundred of Barlichway, within the historic county of Warwick. In 1861, several additional parishes were created from the Wotton Wawen parish, including Henley-in-Arden and Ullenhall. Botley Hill Farm is recorded as being within the parish of Ullenhall after 1861. The site is now located within the parish of Ullenhall, in the District of Stratford-upon-Avon and the modern County of Warwickshire.

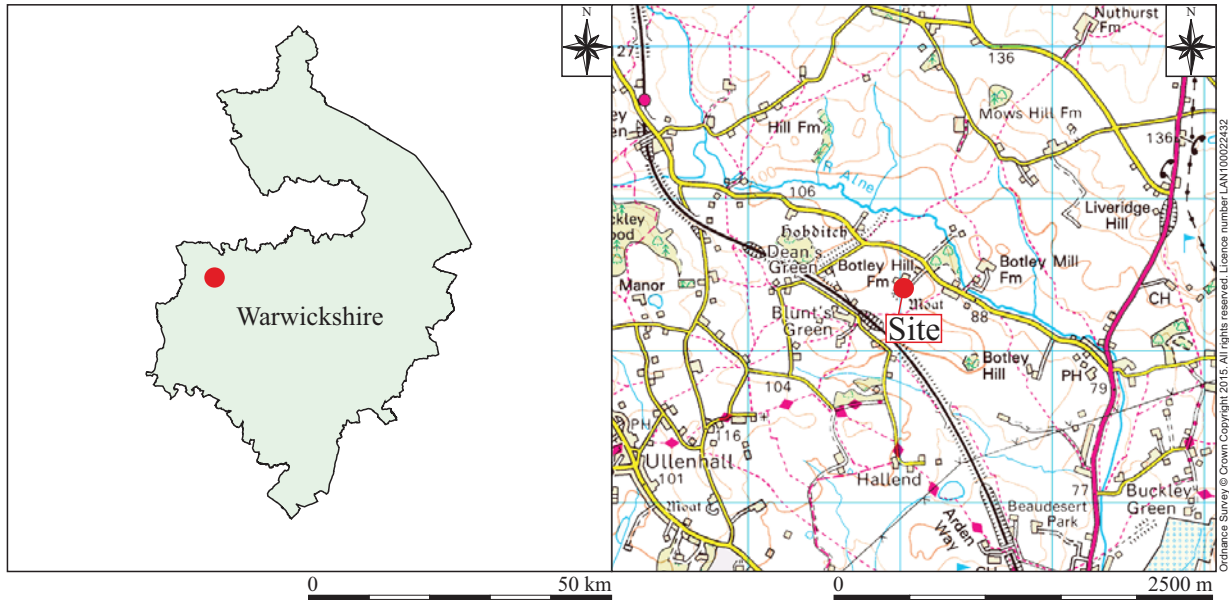
The site consists of three barns set in a U-shape with the opening on the southwest side. A modern barn has been built within the centre of the barns. Access roads run along the southeast, southwest and northeast sides of the barns leading to additional buildings adjacent to the site. The neighbouring buildings include a farmhouse, located on the opposite side of access road on the southwest of the barns. There are two additional farm buildings; one is located on the northwest and the other on the northeast. To the west of the barns and behind the farmhouse there is a moat. To the southeast and outside the area of the additional buildings are post-medieval fields.

Topographically the barns are located on a north facing slope on a northern spur of Botley Hill. The barns are set at a height of c. 101m above Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/hml) is a Mercia Mudstone Group; a mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200-251 million years ago during the Triassic period.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission was granted by the Stratford on Avon District Council for the conversion of curtilage listed barns to 3 no. Dwelling houses (renewal of 11/01746/FUL) Botley Hill Farm, Tanworth Lane, Henley-in-Arden, B95 5QY (ref. 14/02321/FUL). In March 2015, a further planning permission was granted for the conversion and change of use of curtilage listed barns into four dwelling houses with associated private amenity space (Ref: 14/03195/FUL). Due to the possible presence



Key Site boundary Monitored area
 Watching brief completed during floor reduction Watching brief not undertaken during floor reduction

Figure 1: Site location

of archaeological features, including skeletal remains a condition was requested requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the period of ground works. This is in line with the NPPF and Local Plan policies. Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice team prepared a *Brief* for such archaeological work.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The development site lies adjacent to a moat, which may date back to the medieval period (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 984), which surrounds the Listed Building of Botley Hill Farmhouse, which dates to the early 16th century.

Ullenhall is first recorded within the 1086 Domesday Book as *Holehale* (Gover, Mawer et al. 1936, 245). The name would appear to be related to neighbouring Oldberrow that is first documented as *Ulenbeorge* in a pre-Conquest charter and also *ulanwyllan* that occurs in the same charter. It is suggested that the etymology of the place is difficult in that it could be derived from Old English *ūle*, owl, or that it could be derived from a personal name. As the name occurs as a river-name an animal or divine name is more likely. Ull or Ullr is major Germanic god with a Norwegian divine name interpreted as glory. The place-name Botley has first been recognised in a document dated 1199 where it is recorded as Butteleia (Gover, Mawer et al. 1936, 243). The name has been interpreted with an etymology of *Botta's-leah*, Botta's clearing or wood.

The manor of Ullenhall is recorded as being located in Ferncombe Hundred in 1086 and in 1066 was a manor held by Waga (Morris 1976, 22.6). The manor in 1086 contained 1 hide, but had 17 villagers along with 11 smallholders. Perhaps most significantly is the area of woodland that is classed as being ½ league long and 1 furlong wide.

The first map which depicts the barns and identifies Botley as Botley Hill Farm is the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map from 1886 (Warks31.4 FE1886). The map shows the all 3 barns and their original layout. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Warks31.4 SE1905) shows the same layout as the first. The Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Warks31.4 FoE1938) also shows the same layout of the barns, suggesting that the changes to the layout, which includes the instalment of the Dairy happened after 1938. The 1843 Tithing Map (CR0569-278.P2) was examined but no records for the estates in the relevant area were held at the Record Office.

There are a number of archaeological sites recorded within the area surrounding Botley Hill Farm. The sites have been identified through fieldwalking, geophysical survey and partial excavations. The earliest sites recorded are from the Iron Age. A site c.2287m by 1877m centred to the North-north-west of Botley Hill Farm is the Early Iron Age Hobditch Causeway (EWA9047, EWA9048, EWA2872, EWA6117, EWA6416, EWA9962, MWA1202, SP 1385 6883). The site is a series of visible earthworks that have undergone partial excavations, evaluation trenches, fieldwalking, field survey and geophysical surveys. Additional ditches have been recorded as part of the Hobditch Causeway. The first is located North-west of Botley Hill Farm and was identified during field observation and partial excavation (EWA1294, EWA6118, MWA1213, SP 1449 6914). It is a linear feature consisting of

a bank and at least one ditch, and has been interpreted and a possible field boundary. The second site recorded as an addition to the Hobditch Causeway is a linear embankment located North-west of the proposal site (MWA4792, SP 1327 6889).

There was continued use of the area into the Roman period. A Roman Settlement was recorded at Hobditch Causeway due to a series of partial excavations (EWA3033, EWA6136, EWA6423, EWA6487, MWA4791, SP 1378 6873). The settlement is centred North-west of Botley Hill Farm. A second Roman Settlement has been identified during partial excavation and is located *c.*400m North of Botley Hill Farm (EWA3034, MWA4795, SP 1400 6884). During field observations a possible Roman Tile Kiln was identified North-north-west of Botley Hill Farm (EWA1975, MWA4793, SP 1417 6893).

A possible Medieval settlement was identified through aerial survey and is located North of the Botley Hill Farm (EWA3123, MWA5649, SP 1402 6883). The site is recorded as a possible Medieval house platform and crop marks. Another Medieval settlement is located North-west of Botley Hill Farm and was identified during a partial excavation (EWA3035, MWA4797, SP 1368 6861). A date of 11th to 14th century was given due to the pottery recovered during the excavation. There are additional Medieval sites recorded within the surrounding area, including Botley Mill Farm (EWA1290, MWA1206, SP 1444 6865 and an associated wind mill (MWA1089, SP 1444 6865), which is located to the East of Botley Hill. To the North-west *c.*299m by 235m is Hobditch Coppice, an area of managed woodland dated from Medieval period (MWA8772, SP 13330 68674). A moat *c.*72m by 59m is located on the West side of Botley Hill Barns, within the farm (MWA984, SP 1396 6840). The date of the moat is unknown, with only the West side remaining.

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.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice team, archaeological advisors to Stratford on Avon District Council.

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

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of groundworks that had the potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains. Any archaeological deposits and features revealed were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan before being excavated and recorded at an appropriate level. All artefacts were collected and retained except for concentrations of building material where a representative sample would be kept.

Some existing floors of the barns were reduced and had material laid for the new floors before the archaeologist was notified that the work had commenced (see Fig. 1).

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. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

The plan shows the barns as three rectangular buildings set out in a U-shape with an opening on the southwest side (Fig. 2). The buildings were brick with tile roofs. The brick was a mixture of red clay brick and blue vitrified brick, which indicates a pre-mid 19th century date.

The Cart Shed, Cow Shed and Dairy were all located within the northeast building range. The Cart Shed was located in the southeast part of this structure and the Cow Shed in the middle. On the northwest end was the Dairy, a later addition which extends past The Old Forge and Bull Pens. There is an addition on the southeast end which appears to be contemporary with the building.

The Stable Block was located to the south-east and is perpendicular to the Cart and Cow Shed. The buildings are connected with an archway at the north corner of the Stable Block and the south corner of the addition on the Cart Shed.

The Old Forge and Bull Pens were located to the northwest and run parallel to the Stable Block. The Old Forge and Bull Pens were connected to the Cow Shed in its east corner.

The watching brief comprised of monitoring the removal of the floor layers within the interiors of the three buildings and the central courtyard area partly enclosed by the three buildings (Fig. 2).

The removal of the floors within the Old Forge and Bull Pens (Plate. 1) in early June 2015, involved excavation of the natural clay (a reddish brown clay) to a depth of 0.4m once the existing floors had been removed. No archaeological features were encountered.

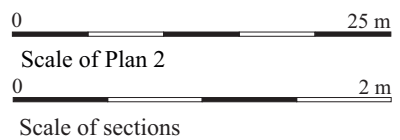
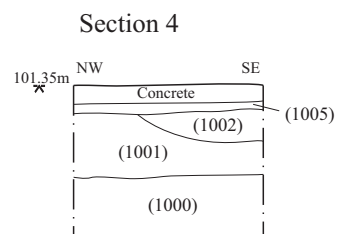
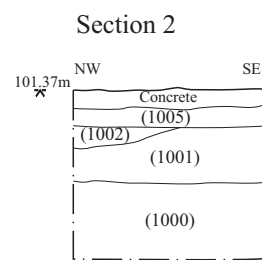
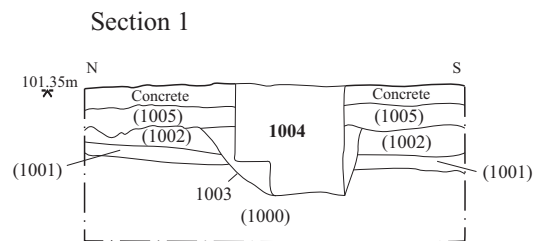
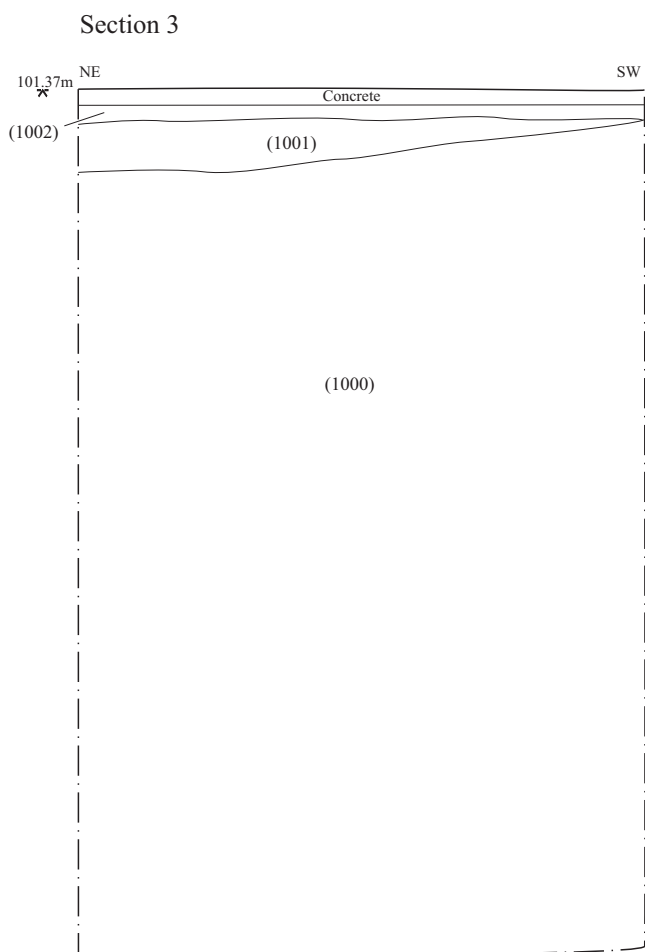
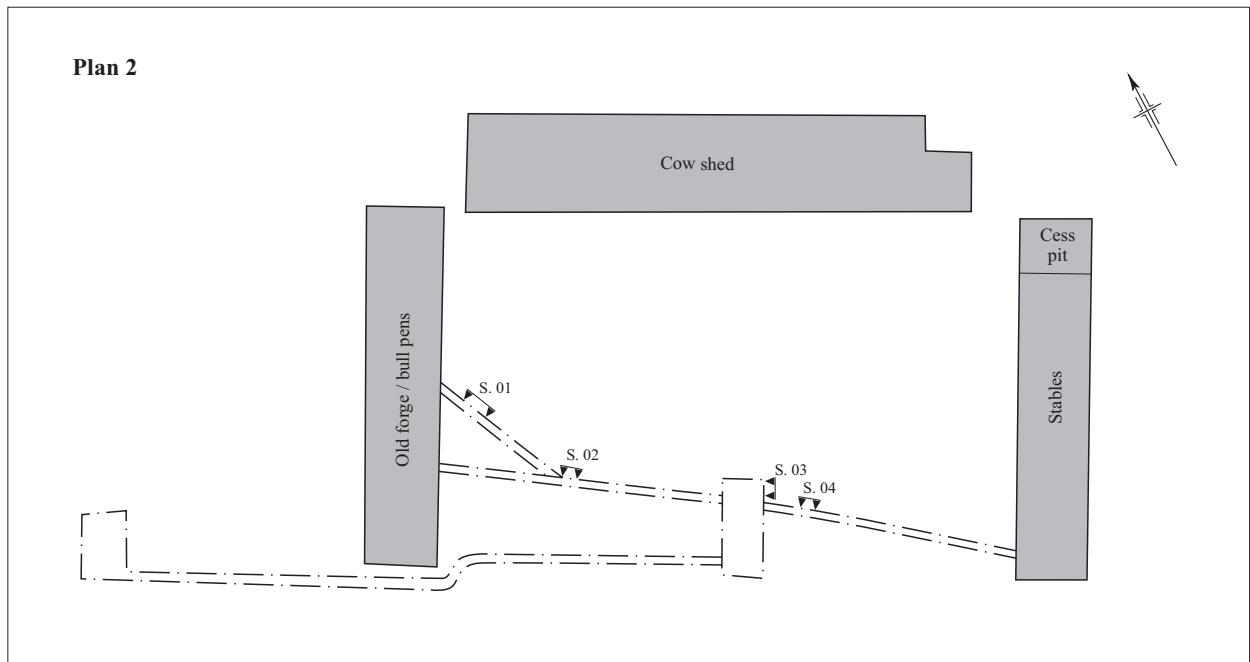


Figure 2: Plans and sections



Plate 1. Reduced floor level in Bull Pen looking northeast

The Dairy building had been demolished and the brick floor with lowered area in the centre of the room was infilled with building rubble.

There was a three month pause for the watching brief whilst the developers arranged / sought conditions attached for the removal of bats in the remaining two buildings. Upon returning to the site, the development had re-commenced with no archaeological monitoring of the floor reduction in the Cow Shed and the southern extent of the Stable Block (Fig. 2).

Further archaeological monitoring involving reduction of the floor level by 0.4m was undertaken in the Cart Shed, the small building attached to the southeastern end of the Cart Shed and Northern room of the Stable Block (Fig. 2). This revealed a made ground consisting of a redeposited natural clay mixed with brick rubble, with no archaeological features present. However a brick vaulted cess pit was located below the floor surface at the end of the northern room of the Stable Block (Fig. 2). It was 2.3m wide, 4m long, and had an internal height of 1.5m, and consisted of a brick built sides and arched roof with a concrete base and a small 0.8m wide entrance on the southeast wall.

A trench 3.3m wide, 6.7m long and 3.6m deep was excavated within the courtyard area (Fig. 2 & Plate. 2), for a septic tank. The southern 4m extent of the trench comprised a concrete slab floor directly overlying the natural clay with bricks and tile compressed into the upper surface of the natural clay; there was no evidence of any topsoil or subsoil and was devoid of any archaeological features. The natural clay was 1.6m thick and overlay a siltstone bedrock. The southern c.3m extent of the trench had a 0.3m thick layer of a grey / brown silty clay (1001) that contained 19th century brick and tile debris, that overlay the natural clay.



Plate 2. Septic tank trench looking southeast

Three service trenches for foul water were monitored; two trenches ran from the Old Forge and Bull Pen building and one trench ran from the old stable building to the central trench containing the septic tank (Fig. 2 & Plate. 3). These trenches were 0.5m wide and ranged in depth from 0.5m – 1.5m. The trenches contained layer (1001), described above, overlying the natural clay. A 0.15m thick layer of clinker (1002) overlay (1001) and extended for 8m east of the Old Forge building and 10m west of the Old Stable building (Fig. 2). Cutting through these layers were the foundation walls from the 20th century barn that was situated within the courtyard of the barn complex and the whole courtyard area was covered with a concrete floor slab.

In February 2016 a trench 2m wide, 2.8m long and 2.3m deep was excavated southwest of the Old Forge and Bull Pens building (Fig. 2 & Plate. 4) to expose the existing water pipes to connect to. The trench consisted of concrete floor slab laid directly onto the natural clay. A 0.5m wide and 2.3m deep trench extended from this trench, southeast to link up with the septic tank trench in the courtyard (Fig. 2 & Plate. 4). Again this trench was devoid of any archaeological remains and consisted of concrete floor slab laid directly onto the natural clay.



Plate 3. Trench running from Stable Block to septic tank trench looking southeast



Plate 4. Trench southwest of Bull Pen looking northwest

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from any of the deposits encountered except for 19th century brick and tile debris.

6 DISCUSSION

The lack of any topsoil and subsoil across the site suggests that the area encompassing the barn complex was terraced into the hillside in the central and southern extents and the ground was made up with redeposited clay down slope to the northeast to create a level area for the construction of the barn complex during the 19th century.

There was no archaeology present below the barn floors, and two of the service trenches contained two post-medieval layers, one consisting entirely of clinker. This clinker layer, presumably a waste product of the farm, was utilised as a hardstanding along the front of the Old Forge and Stable buildings.

The results of the watching brief do not alter the results given in the building recording report (JMHS 2015a).

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

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