



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

STONE HOUSE, 18 WELFORD ROAD,

BARTON, BIDFORD-ON-AVON,

WARWICKSHIRE, B50 4NP

NGR SP 1088 5112

On behalf of

Mr P Fleming

JULY 2016

REPORT FOR Mr P Fleming
Stone House,
18 Welford Road,
Barton,
Bidford-on-Avon,
Warwickshire

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation within the rear of the property of Stone House, on the south side of Welford Road in the south-east part of the village centred on national grid reference NGR SP 1088 5112. The two trenches excavated were devoid of any archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located within the rear of the property of Stone House, on the south side of Welford Road in the south-east part of the village centred on national grid reference NGR SP 1088 5112. The geology is 2nd Terrace River Gravels (BGS, Sheet 218). The site was situated on a north facing slope of the river Avon valley at c. 37m AOD.

1.2 Planning Background

Stratford-on-Avon District Council granted planning permission for the erection of 1 no. dwelling together with creation of new access and restoration of historic orchard grounds and associated landscaping (ref. 15/04548/FUL). Due to the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains two conditions were applied. Condition 9 required a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological evaluative work to be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA, and a programme of archaeological evaluative work and associated post-excavation analysis, report production and archive deposition detailed in the WSI to be undertaken with a report detailing the results of this fieldwork submitted to the planning authority. Condition 10 requires the submission of an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy document (including a Written Scheme of Investigation for any archaeological fieldwork proposed) to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the LPA prior to any development works taking place.

1.3 Archaeological Background

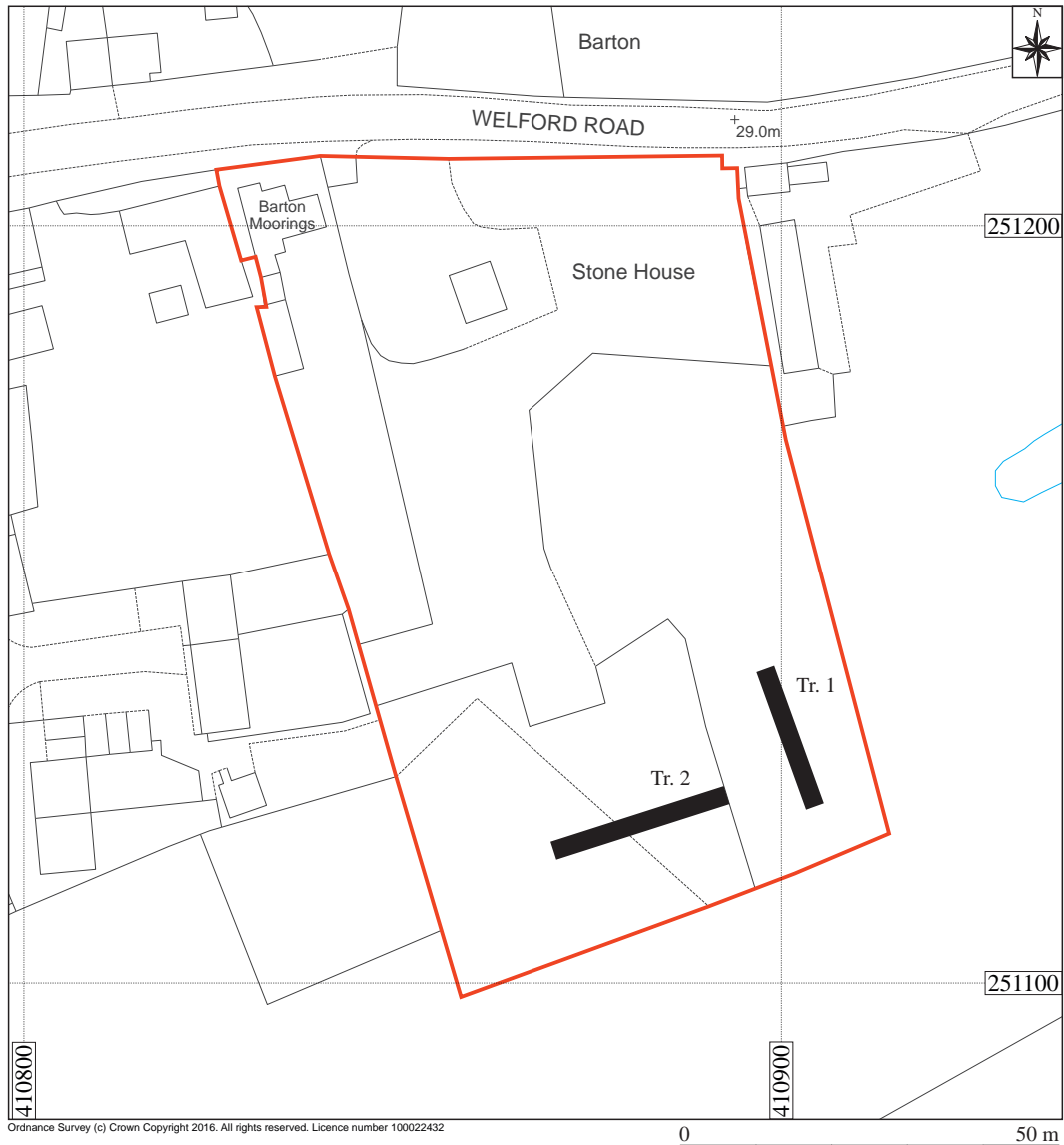
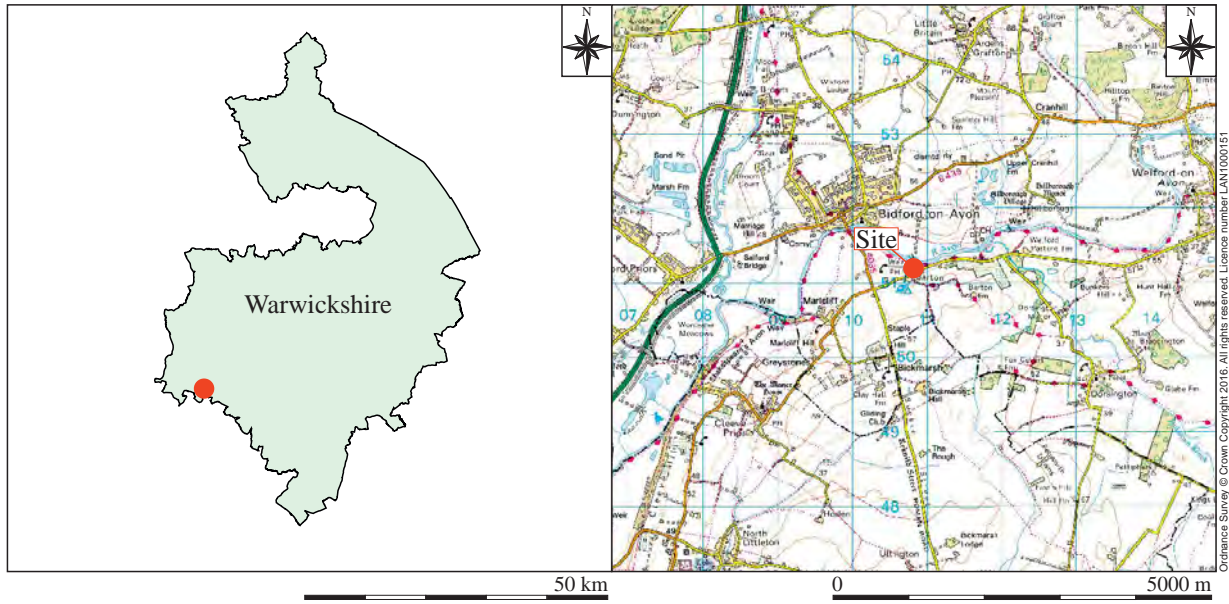
The archaeological and historical background to the site is given below using these dates:

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	c. 800,000 - 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c. 10,000 - 4,400 BC
Neolithic	c. 4,400 - 2,500 BC
Bronze Age	c. 2,500 - 800 BC
Iron Age	c. 800 BC - AD 43

Historic

Roman (Romano-British) Period	AD 43 - AD 410
Early Medieval Period	AD 410 - AD 1066
High and Late Medieval Period	AD 1066 - AD 1542



Key Site boundary Evaluation trenches

Figure 1: Site location

Post Medieval Period	AD 1542 - AD 1704
Imperial	AD 1704 - AD 1800
Industrial	AD 1801 - AD 1900
Modern	1901 onwards

There are a series of sites within the vicinity of the site which have consisted of Prehistoric finds. The majority of the sites consist of flint scatters which were recovered during metal detecting within the area (MWA16356: SP 106 521; MWA17794: SP 101 510; MWA4022: SP 1069 5039; MWA4025: SP 1070 5060; MWA4512: SP 1080 5210; MWA4553: SP 10140 5095; MWA4811: SP 1070 5200; MWA4842: SP 1085 5195; MWA7046: SP 1080 5210). Several of the flint scatters dated from several periods within the Prehistoric, which are Mesolithic to Bronze Age (MWA5680: SP 1030 5090) and Neolithic to Bronze Age (MWA6989: SP 1120 5190; MWA15634: SP 10 51). There were also several scatters which consisted of primarily specific periods, including Mesolithic (MWA6988: SP 1120 5190; MWA7046: SP 1080 5210; MWA16361: SP 10 52), Neolithic (MWA15584: SP 108 514; MWA4035: SP 1040 5180; MWA9804: SP 10154 51252) and Iron Age (MWA6637: SP 1080 5210).

There is continued activity into the Roman period, with archaeological evidence of a settlement having been recorded to the northwest of the site (MWA12432: SP 1025 5189; EWA8233: SP 1025 5188), with the remains of a building (MWA7125: SP 1018 5190; EWA6244: SP 1019 5189) and a farmstead to the northeast which were recorded during an excavation (MWA4923: SP 1131 5191; EWA6137: SP 1123 5193). Also recorded within the area was a ford, which continued to be used into the medieval period (MWA591: SP 1012 5177) and a Roman Road (MWA445: SP 0891 5706).

As with the Prehistoric period, there are several sites within the vicinity of the site which have consisted of finds which were discovered during metal detection activities within the area. The finds include brooches (MWA9981: SP 10300 50402; MWA9330: SP 1105 5090; MWA5697: SP 1070 5200; MWA10214: SP 10804 50312; MWA4982: SP 1030 5090), and a hoard of coins (MWA9331: SP 11050 50900; MWA5989: SP 1060 5020; MWA5572: SP 1010 5095; MWA5560: SP 1080 5210; MWA4028: SP 1070 5060; MWA4036: SP 1040 5180; MWA5066: SP 1070 5040). Several sites recorded within the area as containing Roman finds did not provide any additional information regarding the finds recorded (MWA18267: SP 10 52; MWA18830: SP 10 50; MWA18973: SP 10 51; MWA4010: SP 1010 5130; MWA4039: SP 1010 5130).

There is evidence of continued activity into the early medieval period with several sites within the area containing finds dating from the period (MWA10033: SP 10562 51897; MWA10211: SP 10604 52086; MWA19065: SP 103 514; MWA303: SP 1086 5185; MWA4021: SP 1080 5210; MWA5573: SP 1010 5095; MWA5696: SP 1070 5200; MWA8269: SP 1040 5180; MWA9798: SP 10650 52102).

There appears to have been continued development within the vicinity of the site with records indicating a settlement to the northwest at Bidford-on-Avon (MWA9031: SP 10092 51954) and evidence of Barton being a shrunken medieval village (MWA590: SP 1077 5119). Several features recorded which indicate the presence of a settlement within the area include the ruins of a 13th century chapel (MWA594: SP 1077 5119),

an early 16th century mill (MWA607: SP 1173 5152) and a road (MWA8674: SP 0920 5435). As with the previous periods, there were several findspots recorded that were identified through metal detecting activity within the area (MWA15587: SP 108 514; MWA4024: SP 1069 5040; MWA4029: SP 1070 5060; MWA4037: SP 1040 5180; MWA4897: SP 1050 5200; MWA4981: SP 1010 5130; MWA5561: SP 1080 5210; MWA5574: SP 1010 5095; MWA5681: SP 1030 5090; MWA5698: SP 1070 5200; MWA7808: SP 1040 5180; MWA9805: SP 10154 51252; MWA8924: SP 10734 51183; MWA9801: SP 10650 52101; MWA9797: SP 10650 52104; MWA9332: SP 11450 50955).

There was continued development into the post-medieval period with evidence of a shrunken village at Barton (MWA5119: SP 1077 5119) and several buildings dated to the post-medieval period. The buildings include Barton Manor House which had a date stone with 1663 inscribed (MWA2250: SP 1078 5119) and a dovecote to the north of the site (MWA2251: SP 1080 5127). Additionally remains of buildings which have been dated to the post medieval period have been identified during archaeological excavations (MWA7126: SP 1018 5190; EWA862: SP 1019 5189). Records indicate that there was activity within the area with documentary sources describing the use of the River Avon (MWA4340: SP 1432 5211) with physical evidence consisting of a lock established on the river c.1664 (MWA4345: SP 1153 5148). Additionally, a barn was identified on historical maps; however, it is unclear when this building was established (MWA12740: SP 1006 5107; EWA9724: SP 1006 5107).

As with the previous periods, there are several sites within the vicinity of the site which consisted of findspots which were identified during metal detecting (MWA15534: SP 106 521; MWA15587: SP 108 514; MWA15628: SP 1034 5145; MWA4030: SP 1070 5060; MWA4038: SP 1040 5180; MWA5562: SP 1080 5210; MWA5575: SP 1010 5095; MWA5606: SP 1085 5195; MWA5621: SP 1010 5130; MWA5631: SP 1070 5040; MWA5682: SP 1030 5090; EWA7387: SP 1030 5090; MWA5699: SP 1070 5200; MWA9796: SP 10650 52099).

Although limited, there was continued activity into the Imperial and Industrial period with remains of buildings located within Barton dating from the 18th century (MWA20565: SP 1021 5186; EWA9239: SP 1021 5186) and a toll road established in c.1790 (MWA8684: SP 09788 53158). As with the previous periods, there are several sites within the vicinity of the site which consisted of findspots which were identified during metal detecting (MWA10171: SP 10163 51355; MWA4009: SP 1010 5095; MWA4020: SP 1080 5210; MWA4023: SP 1080 5030; MWA4026: SP1070 5060).

There were two sites recorded within the vicinity of the site with a modern date, the first is a house built in 1914 (MWA8529: SP 10328 51705; EWA6613: SP 1032 5170) and the second is an underground monitoring post (MWA9558: SP 11110 52079).

There are two enclosures of unknown date which were identified on aerial photographs, one to the northeast (MWA6738: SP 1119 5210) and one to the northwest (MWA4567: SP 0998 5146). There are also two sites which contained finds of an unknown date (MWA18650: SP 10 50; MWA2750: SP 1074 5132).

A series of historical maps were examined to determine the physical development of the project site. The earliest map examined was Beighton's Map of Warwickshire from 1728 (CR1316), which indicates the location of Barton as a few roads on the south bank of the River Avon. The next map examined was Yeates' Map of Warwickshire from 1793 (MA1793), which depicts the same as Beighton's map but with the presence of buildings on the road edge.

The remainder of the maps examined were from the 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey series, with the earliest of these maps being the Second Edition from 1901 (Warks43.14). This map was the earliest to be examined with a detailed depiction of the Barton area, with the only features depicted within the site being the existing buildings in the northwest part of the site. The map does depict an additional building on the south edge of the southern existing building, with two small additional buildings immediately south and on the west edge of the site. The next map examined was the Third Edition Ordnance survey map from 1923 (Warks43.14), which depicts the same as the Second Edition with the addition of a rectangular building on the east side of the east side of the southern existing building. Also the map depicts that the part of the site without any buildings is a wooded area.

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.

In particular:

- 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.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with 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

The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of two trenches each 1.65m wide (Fig. 1) supplemented by limited hand investigation of any archaeological deposits. One trench originally 30m long (but shortened to 24.5m, due to limited

access because of standing trees) orientated E/W, was excavated from the west side of the proposed pool room. The other was 20m long and was excavated southwards from the north edge of the proposed garage.

Excavation was undertaken by a 5 ton excavator equipped with a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the uppermost archaeological horizon or geological horizon under direct archaeological supervision. The machine excavation was used only for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material.

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.

The trenches were backfilled after recording.

Site procedures carried out also followed Cifa (2014c) guidelines and the requirements of the Warwickshire Generic Brief.

4 RESULTS (Figure 1)

Trench 1 was orientated north – south 20m long, 1.65m wide and 1.2m deep. It contained orange / brown clay and gravels (1/03), the natural horizon, overlain by a 1m thick layer of mid-orange / brown clay (1/02), a colluvial subsoil. This was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of a dark brown clay loam (1/01) topsoil. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south

Trench 2 was orientated east – west 24.5m long, 1.65m wide and 1.2m deep. It contained an orange / brown clay and gravels (2/03), the natural horizon, overlain by a 0.8m thick layer of mid-orange / brown clay (2/02), a colluvial subsoil. This was overlain by a 0.16m thick layer of a dark brown clay loam (2/01) topsoil. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking west

The evaluation was conducted in good weather conditions and the natural horizon was clearly defined and it is considered that the reliability of the results are good.

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from any of the contexts from both trenches.

6 DISCUSSION

Both trenches were devoid of any archaeological features possibly due to the location on a fairly steep north facing slope of the River Avon valley.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

<u>Paper record</u>	<u>Physical record</u>
The project brief	None
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 the Warwickshire Museum.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the lack of any archaeological remains (features and artefacts) found during the evaluation trenching no further archaeological work is recommended prior to, or during, the development ground works.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Code of Conduct*

Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists 2014a *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001b *Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*

JMHS 2016 *Stone house. 18 Welford Road, Barton, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire Archaeological Field Evaluation Written scheme of Investigation* (unpublished report)

APPENDIX 1 Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Compact, dark brown clay loam	0.2m	1.65m	20m	-	Topsoil	-
1/02	Deposit	Mid-orange brown clay	1m	1.65m	20m	-	Subsoil	-
1/03	Deposit	Orange / brown clay with gravels	-	1.65m	20m	-	Natural	-
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Compact, dark brown clay loam	0.16m	1.65m	24.5m	-	Topsoil	
2/02	Deposit	Mid-orange brown clay	0.8m	1.65m	24.5m	-	Subsoil	
2/03	Deposit	Orange / brown clay with gravels	-	1.65m	24.5m	-	Natural	