



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**AT**

**WESTCOTE HOUSE, TYSOE ROAD,**

**RADWAY, WARWICKSHIRE**

**NGR SU 3593 4774**

*On behalf of*  
*Mr & Mrs L. Elliot*

**JANUARY 2011**

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## **Summary**

*A metal-detector survey was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services. No finds associated with the 1642 Battle of Edgehill were recovered.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The site is centred at national grid reference SP 3593 4774, in the parish of Tysoe, within a field adjacent to Westcote House. The underlying geology is lower lias.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Stratford on Avon District Council granted planning permission for the change of use of land for equestrian purposes, the erection of new barn and ménage for equestrian use associated with Westcote House (replacement of existing barn and ménage) at Westcote House, Tysoe Road, Radway, Warwick, CV35 0BS (Planning Ref. 10/01152/FUL). A condition was attached requiring the implementation of archaeological work. This is in line with PPS 5 and Local Plan policies.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The proposed development is located within the Edge Hill battlefield as recorded on the English Heritage Battlefields Register and the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record. The battle, which took place in October 1642, is not particularly well understood. It is believed that Parliamentary forces occupied ground to the south east of Kineton at the start of the day, with Royalist forces on the scarp of Edge Hill. It can be assumed, however, that as the day progressed these two forces moved widely across the landscape.

Rupert gave the order to attack. As his charge gathered momentum, a troop of Parliamentary horse under Fortescue abruptly defected. The rest of Ramsay's brigade apparently gave an ineffectual volley of pistol fire from the saddle before turning to flee. Rupert's and Byron's troopers rapidly overran the enemy guns and musketeers on this flank and galloped jubilantly in pursuit of Ramsay's men. Wilmot charged about the same time on the other flank. Feilding's outnumbered regiment quickly gave way, and Wilmot and Digby also chased them to Kineton where the Royalist horse fell out to loot the Parliamentary baggage (Young 1967).

The Royalist infantry advanced in the centre. Many of the Parliamentary foot had already run away as their cavalry disappeared, and others fled as the infantry came to close quarters. The brigades of Sir Thomas Ballard and Sir John Meldrum nevertheless stood their ground. The Parliamentary cavalry regiments of Stapleton and Balfour positioned in the centre emerged through gaps in the line of Parliamentary foot soldiers, and charged the Royalist infantry. With no Royalist cavalry to oppose them, they put many units to flight. The King had left himself without any proper reserve. As his centre gave way, he ordered one of his officers to conduct his sons to safety while he himself tried to rally his infantry. Some of

Balfour's men charged so far into the Royalist position that they menaced the princes' escort and briefly overran the Royalist artillery before withdrawing. Sir Edmund Verney died defending the Royal Standard, which was captured by Parliamentarian Ensign Arthur Young. Around this time, some of the Royalist horse had rallied and were returning from Kineton. Captain John Smith recovered the Royal Standard that was being taken to the Parliamentarian rear as a trophy. As the Royalist cavalry reformed on the flanks, and as evening drew on, Essex ordered his men to break off the battle (Scott *et al* 2004, Young 1967).

Artefact scatters are probably one of the best opportunities of understanding fully what took place on that day. Grant undertook a survey in the 1970s of the battlefield area, which included some fields just to the north of the development site. Recent archaeological fieldwork in the immediate vicinity of this development site has recovered artefacts, including bullets, associated with the battle (Foard 2005). The proposed development was considered likely to disturb any artefact scatters across this area, which, if unrecorded, would result in a loss of information about this important battle.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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

- To undertaking a metal detector survey, locate and recover any metal artefacts from across the area to be disturbed by the proposed development.

In particular:

- to record any artefacts relating to the battle of 1642

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

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



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### **3.2 Methodology**

The areas to be disturbed by the proposed development, including the ménage and the new barn were surveyed by metal detector along transects 2m apart. The location of all finds was recorded. The survey across the footprint of the new barn was undertaken following the lifting of the existing floors.

The transects ran parallel to the ridge and furrow which previously survived across this site prior to its recent flattening and plotted from recent satellite imagery. The layout of the ridge and furrow that survived across this area prior to its recent flattening provided a base plan for the detector survey. This enabled recovery patterns to be matched against the profile of the agricultural landform. Both ferrous and non-ferrous objects were recovered. The recovery of archaeological objects located by metal-detector during the field survey was restricted to the ploughsoil.

Two areas were surveyed. Area 1, for the ménage, was 60m by 40m while that of the new barn, Area 2, was 25m by 12m (Fig. 1).

## **4 RESULTS (Figure 2)**

### **4.1 Soils**

The topsoil in Area 1 was a mid brown-grey silt-clay (1) that was at least 0.25m thick. This was the only deposit encountered.

Area 2 had been heavily disturbed by modern activity, the majority of the area was stone and gravel in a matrix of mid brown-grey sandy-clay (2). When the floor of the existing barn was removed a concrete slab on a stone base was encountered, this appeared to be over 0.5m thick.

### **4.2 Survey**

#### **Area 1**

The area of the field was poorly drained with large pools of standing water in places. These pools appeared to mark the location of the earlier agricultural furrows. The area was grassed, but this had been scored by vehicle tracks in two places, and two modern wooden fences had been removed.

#### Ferrous Objects

The following ferrous objects were located (positions on Fig. 2):

1. A D-Ring attached to a cylindrical fastening point, this has a 13mm screw threaded hole. Object measures 68mm by 42mm by 32mm overall. It is likely to be a part from agricultural machinery.

2. Slightly curved piece measuring 51mm by 37mm by 19mm. Possibly part of a boiler or agricultural machinery.
3. Tube 7mm in diameter and 64mm long welded to a piece of plate, still has traces of red paint. It is likely to be a part from agricultural machinery.
4. Modern horseshoe.
5. Hexagonal 1lb kitchen weight for balance scales. Damaged, measuring 54mm by 44mm.
6. Irregular oxidised lump with copper alloy pieces attached, measuring 66mm by 40mm by 30mm. Unknown, but could be part of horse harness.

Four relative modern nails, possibly associated with the fences recently removed, seven hand made nails, three short-lengths of wire and a modern tack were noted but not retained.

#### Non-Ferrous Objects

The following ferrous objects were located:

Four similar expended cartridge cases were recovered, one was very badly damaged. Although damaged the diameter of the bullet aperture appears to be roughly 12.5mm, which would make them .50 BMG (12.7mm) rounds.

7. Cartridge case .50 BMG slight damage
8. Cartridge case .50 BMG slight damage
9. Cartridge case .50 BMG slight damage, moderately corroded
10. Cartridge case .50 BMG considerably damage

Two cartridge head stamps display 42 TW indicating a manufacture date of 1942 in the Twin Cities Ordnance Plant, Minnesota, USA. Production of small arms ammunition began here on March 9, 1942, and the plant remained in production for 42 months.

11. Heavily damaged circular object, which may be the cartridge head of a World War 2 1" or 1.1" signal (flare) round

Aluminium foil, a bayonet-cap for a light bulb, a short length of modern copper water pipe and two bottle caps were noted but not retained.



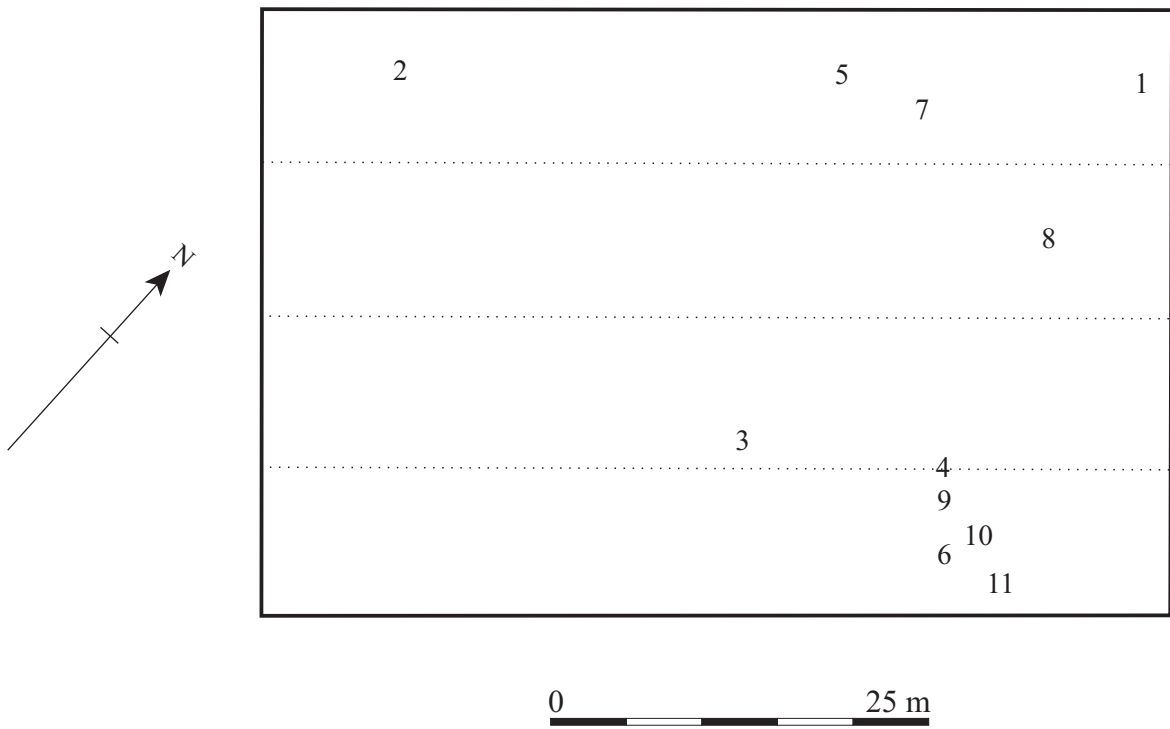


Figure 2. Plot of artefacts within Area 1

## Pottery

A few sherds of pottery were noted on the surface of Area 1. While they were not retained their presence was noted. The pottery was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive):

SLM10. Late Chilvers Coton ware (C), 15<sup>th</sup> century

MGW. Modern earthenwares, late 18<sup>th</sup> century +

## **Area 2**

This area appears to have been heavily disturbed in recent years. The area of hard standing and the access way has been consolidated by “digging-in” quantities of imported stone and rubble, this is obviously an attempt to alleviate the poor drainage and standing water problems noted in Area 1.

Much of the south eastern portion of the area was located over a large concrete slab set approximately 0.1m below present ground surface, this contained iron reinforcement bars. To the north of this roughly in the middle of the area a linear response was encountered that would indicate buried services.

The only finds located within the area were relatively modern nails and bottle caps.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

No objects relating to the battle of Edgehill were recovered. Although the area survey was small compared to the size of the registered battlefield area, the results are consistent with previous work carried out in the area, placing the battle site to the north (Foard 2005).

Most notable of the finds were the four .50 BMG cartridge cases for the M2 Browning Machine Gun from the Second World War. In 1942 the M2 was almost exclusively seen employed as an aircraft weapon in the UK. Although, approximately 5km to the south is RAF Edgehill and 6km to the north is RAF Gaydon, the squadrons stationed there were flying Wellington bombers, an aircraft not fitted with the M2. These cartridge cases must be accidental loss from a passing plane returning from a mission.

## **6 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

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museums' Store.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foard, G. 2005 *History from the Field: The Edgehill Battlefield Survey*. The Battlefields Trust

English Heritage 2006 *Our Portable Past*

Ratkai, S and Soden, I, in archive *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series*

Scott, C.L., Turton, A. and Gruber Von Arni, E.E. 2004 *Edgehill the Battle Reinterpreted*

Sutherland, T.L. 2005 *Battlefield Archaeology – A Guide to the Archaeology of Conflict*. BAJR

Young, P 1967 *Edgehill, The Campaign and the Battle*

### Online Resources

Allied Cartridge Head Stamps <http://www.lerenfort.fsnet.co.uk/page27N.htm>  
Accessed 12/01/2011

RAF Edgehill  
<http://www.controltowers.co.uk/E/Edgehill.htm> Accessed 13/01/2011

RAF Gaydon  
<http://www.controltowers.co.uk/G/Gaydon.htm> Accessed 13/01/2011

Twin Cities Ammunition Plant  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin\\_Cities\\_Armory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Cities_Armory) Accessed 12/01/2011