

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

The Old Forge
Grosmont
Monmouthshire

NGR: SO 40464 24496
HER Fieldwork Ref: (E003391)
JOB NO: BA0927RRATOFSG



*Duchy of Lancaster plan of the manor of Grosmont in 1588
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)*



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1. Non-Technical Summary

Archaeological observation of groundworks relating to the construction of a dwelling, garage and access road was carried out on land at The Old Forge Grosmont Monmouthshire in November/December 2010 and subsequently in September/October 2011.

Remains of post-medieval buildings at the side of the road adjacent to the site were revealed during the course of the groundworks and a possible quarry feature was recorded in the northernmost extent of the site.

Features and finds suggestive of medieval or post-medieval occupation were excavated to the N of the new building.

Groundworks to the south of the building, including the excavation of five linked pits comprising a drainage channel, revealed modern deposits overlying natural silt and bedrock. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified during this phase of the work.

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mr and Mrs O. Huntsman Myrtle Cottage Grosmont Monmouthshire to carry out archaeological observation of groundworks at the Old Forge (NGR: SO 40464 24496) relating to the construction of a two-storey dwelling with detached garage, turning area, access road and associated works in 2010 & 2011 (*figs. 1 & 2*).

Copies of this report will be remitted to Mr and Mrs Huntsman, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and the regional Historic Environment Record.

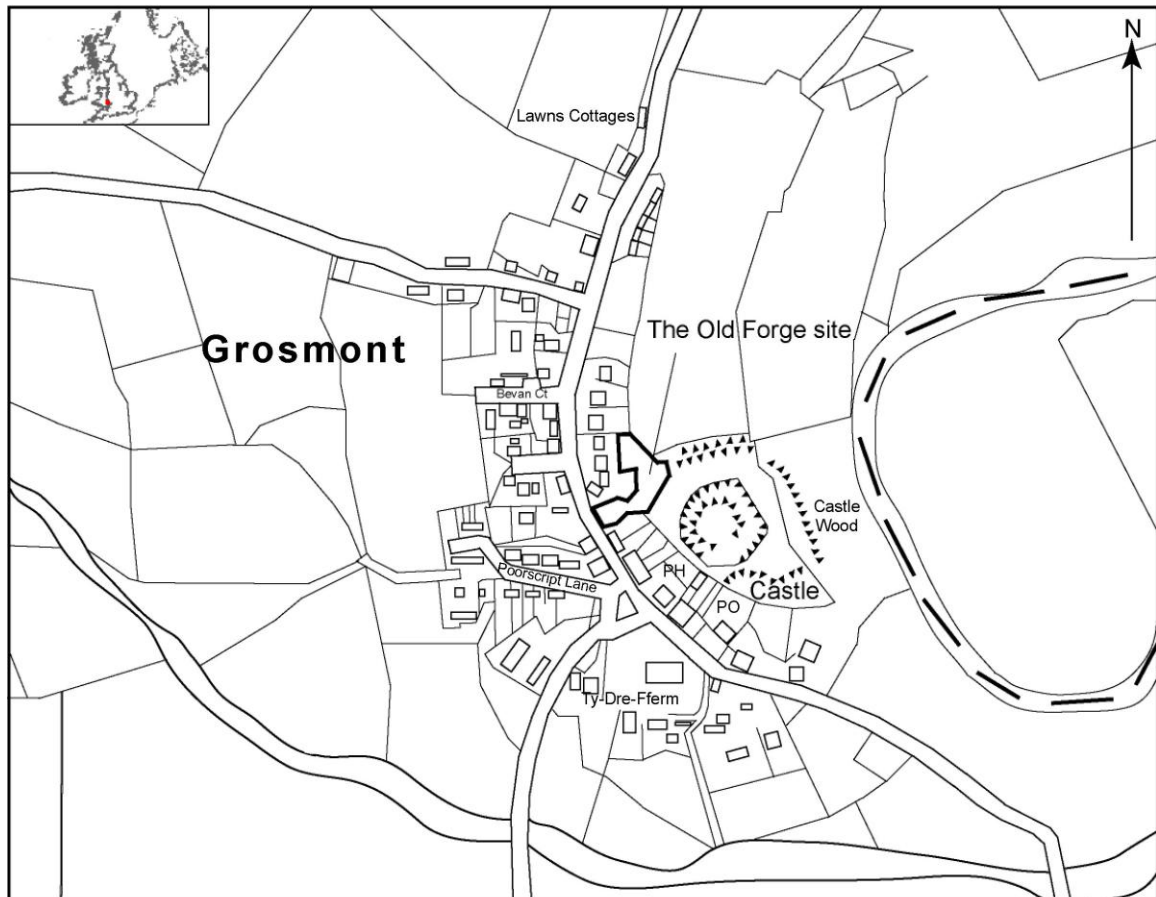


Fig. 1: Site location plan

3. Soils and Geology

The site lies within an area of typical argillic brown earths of the BROMYARD series (571b), composed of well-drained reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone, with some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging and some well-drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone. The underlying geology is composed of Devonian reddish silty shale, siltstone and sandstone. An area of typical brown alluvial soils of the LUGWARDINE series (561d) lies immediately adjacent, along the course of the river. These are composed of deep, stoneless, permeable reddish fine silty soils, with similar coarse silty



soils locally, associated with fine silty soils variably affected by groundwater. The geology comprises reddish river alluvium.

4. Historical & Archaeological Background

The Old Forge site is located within the area of the medieval urban settlement of Grosmont, immediately NW of the substantial, ruined Marcher fortress of Grosmont Castle. The site consists of a narrow 27m wide frontage onto the street, a relatively narrow strip about 35m wide which runs NE up the hillside away from the road and an area which is up to 35m wide and 160m long occupying the crest and top of the hill about 50m NW of the castle.

The earliest fortress at Grosmont consisted of the ringwork on which the present castle stands, probably dating from the late 11th or early 12th century (Knight 2000, 3-4). Grosmont Castle changed hands several times during the reign of King Stephen, before coming into the possession of King Henry II in about 1160 and the castle underwent sporadic repairs while in the possession of the Crown (Colvin 1963, II, 657). The castle remained in royal hands until 1201, when King John granted it to Hubert de Burgh, who was responsible for building the great hall and the curtain wall of the inner ward, with its circular mural towers (Knight 2000, 5-7). Grosmont subsequently came into the hands of the earls of Lancaster, who were responsible for extensive alterations to the fabric during the late 13th-early 14th century (Knight 2000, 23-4; Newman 2000, 241).

The date of the foundation of the town remains uncertain. Some scholars have suggested a late 12th century date (Beresford 1988, 559), while others have argued that it postdates the recorded clearance of a large area of woodland at Grosmont by Reginald de Braose in 1219 (Soulsby 1983, 137). Whatever the case, it would appear that Grosmont was well established by the mid 13th century, as a survey of 1250 records that the rents of the borough amounted to £8 8s 3d, indicating the presence of about 160 burgage plots in the town (Soulsby 1983, 137).

The town appears to have experienced a significant contraction of settlement during the late medieval period, probably as a result of plague and a major assault by Owain Glyndŵr's forces in March 1405, from which it appears never to have fully recovered (Soulsby 1983, 138). The decline of urban settlement at Grosmont appears to have been closely linked with the gradual decay and dilapidation of the castle, uninhabited by the late 1530s and described in a survey of 1563 as 'well and strongly buylded butt nowe in ruyne and decay' (Knight 2000, 14). A plan of the manor of Grosmont dated 1588 shows three houses situated immediately to the W of the castle (NA MPC 1/251).

Grosmont experienced a limited revival of its fortunes during the 18th and 19th centuries; the 1841 tithe map shows that some building activity had taken place immediately to the W and NW of the castle. The 1841 map also shows that the Old Forge site was then occupied by a small house fronting onto the main street with an extensive area of pasture and orchards to the rear. Further building activity to the N of the house is shown on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1889; however, by 1901 these buildings had been demolished and replaced by a large S-shaped building marked as a smithy.

Archaeological evidence for settlement activity to the NW and W of the castle is somewhat inconclusive; an evaluation carried out at Old Forge Garage in 1995 showed no evidence of



medieval occupation (Marvell 1995), although evidence for such occupation was identified further to the W at Well Field (NGR SO 4035 2450), where an evaluation carried out in 1989 revealed the wall of a medieval structure (Maylan 1989).

Observations based on oral testimony suggest the smithy, together with a forge to the rear, operated from premises situated next to the road until 1951 and that the property subsequently became a filling station in the 1960s, which in turn closed in the 1980s. At some point during this period, a vehicle repair garage appears to have been constructed on the hillside behind the filling station.

5. Methodology

Archaeological observation was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA, 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* (2010) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2008) and to the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHÉ) (2006) methodology.

All groundworks were machine excavated under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket with associated spoil being scanned for artefacts.

Archaeological features, structures or deposits identified during the course of the groundworks excavations were defined by trowel to determine their character, date, significance and quality.

5.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2010).

The written record comprises completed *pro-forma* context record sheets. Plans and sections were produced on gridded, archivally stable polyester film at scales of 1:100, 1:20, or 1:10 as appropriate. Measured sections were prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

The photographic record comprises high-resolution digital images of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Photographs include an appropriate scale and photographic records are indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view are maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

5.2 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

A small assemblage of artefactual material has been retained and these items will be cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008) and *First*



Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 2001), the aim being to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive (IfA 2009).

All retained artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site. The assemblage has been examined according to typological or chronological criteria and no conservation needs have been identified. No artefacts falling within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 were recovered.

The landowners will be encouraged to deposit the retained artefacts with the appropriate holding organisation, namely Abergavenny Museum. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to museum guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition.

6. Results

A possible quarry on the E-facing wall of the trench for the proposed garage was observed, comprising a cut [137] and associated fill (138) (*plate 1*). A layer of green sandstone (130) was evident, probably representing the material quarried. This stone did not appear in the wall of the trench S of [137] and (138). A deposit of dumped modern material (131) in cut [132] located immediately to the S of (138) may also have filled a void left by the quarry. No dating evidence was observed in the quarry feature. The cut may have extended some distance down the hillside being subsequently filled and levelled using waste material. The quarry may possibly represent a source of building stone for the castle or for construction activity elsewhere in the town.

The earliest feature for which there was dating evidence was a pavement or floor (135) composed of flat pieces of green or red sandstone up to 0.24m × 0.18m in size, some of which had the appearance of worn flagstones (*plate 2, fig. 3*). There were several large pieces of animal bone present, together with eight small abraded sherds of possibly Herefordshire A5 or A6 ware, which would date this feature to 13th – early 15th century. Both wares were used to make jugs and costrels. A sherd of possible Midlands Purple Ware (Worcestershire fabric 108), which was in use from the late 14th through to the 18th century, was also included.

Located some 2m to the W of (135) was a further, crescent-shaped stone scatter (136) (*plate 3*) possibly representing part of the same building. This feature produced a sherd of A5/A6 and one of possible Herefordshire A8, dating to the 12th and early 13th century.

Three unstratified medieval sherds were recovered from the topsoil in the NE area of the site. Five additional medieval sherds were found in a post-medieval feature (134) immediately NE of (135). This may suggest medieval occupation in the NE and central hilltop parts of the site. The small size and abraded condition of the sherds is indicative of later cultivation activity.

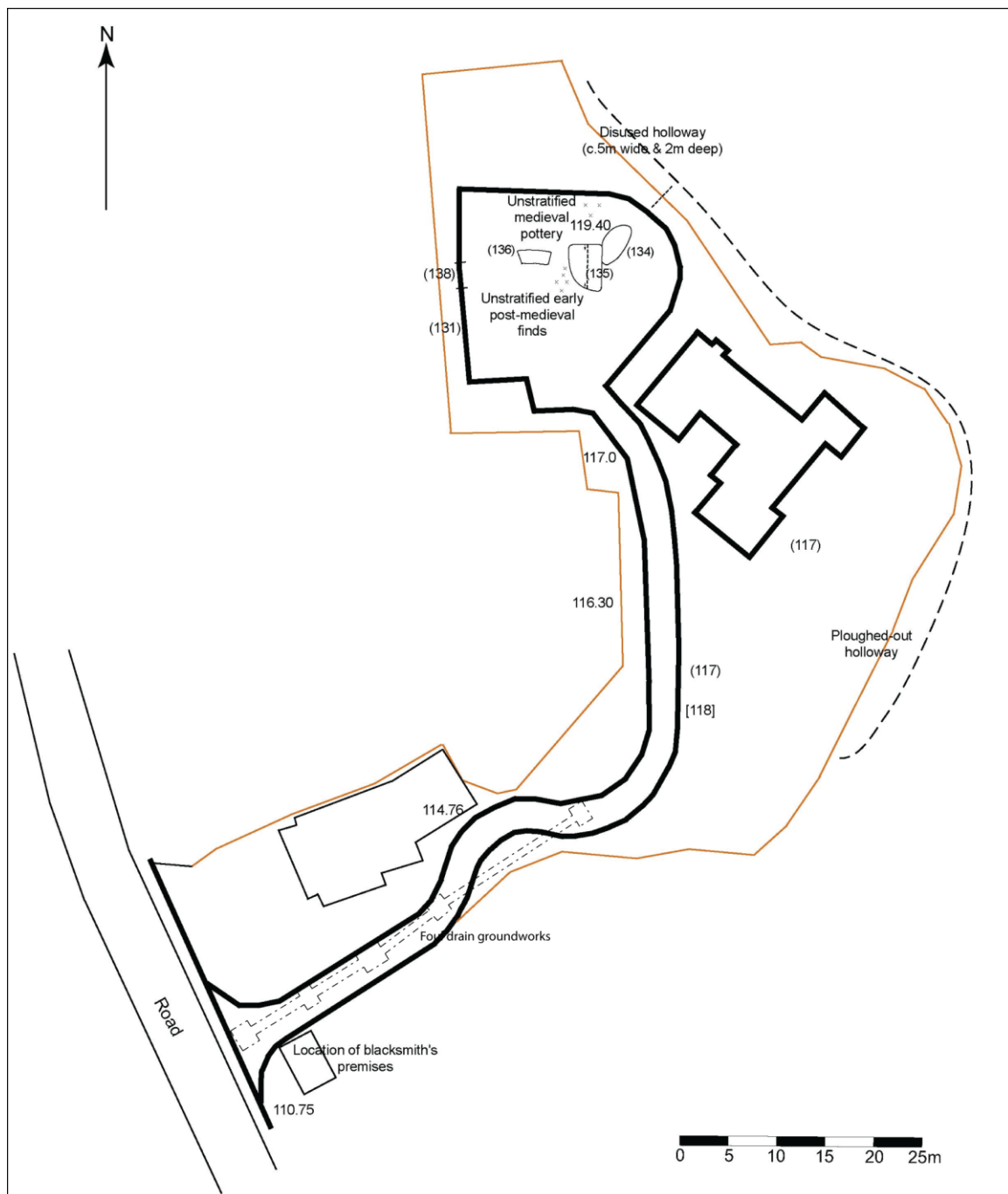


Fig. 2 Plan showing detail of site and locations of finds



Plate 1: Possible quarry [137], (138) to left of ranging rod. Green sandstone (130) can be seen to the right. The cut [132] containing dumped material (131) is located above and to the left of the parallel yellow painted lines.



Plate 2: Cleaned portion of stone surface feature (135)



Plate 3: Crescent-shaped scatter of stones (136) 2m W of pavement (135)

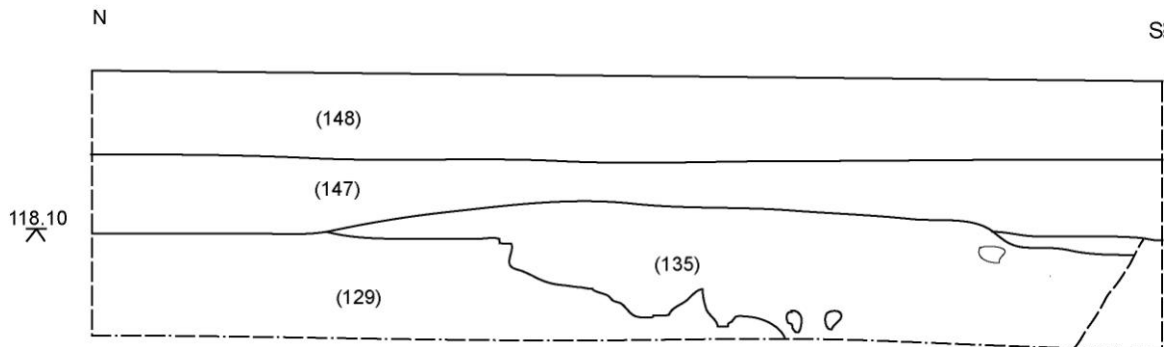


Fig. 3: W-facing section through surface (135) with topsoil layer (128) removed

A hedgebank (133) forming the SW side of a hollow-way and possibly of medieval origin extended around the NE side of the property. Eight shrub species were counted within the 27m length removed during the groundworks providing a rough assessment of the possible antiquity of this feature.

Pieces of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stem were scattered across the hilltop area but a particularly dense concentration was observed towards the NE corner of the site (134) and may represent an earthen floor or yard where post-medieval waste accumulated from the 18th or 19th centuries.



Plate 4: View of hedgebank (133) (right) with the castle in the background



Plate 5: Hedgebank (133) after hedge removal showing hollow-way to right



Plate 6: Hedgebank (133) after removal of bank

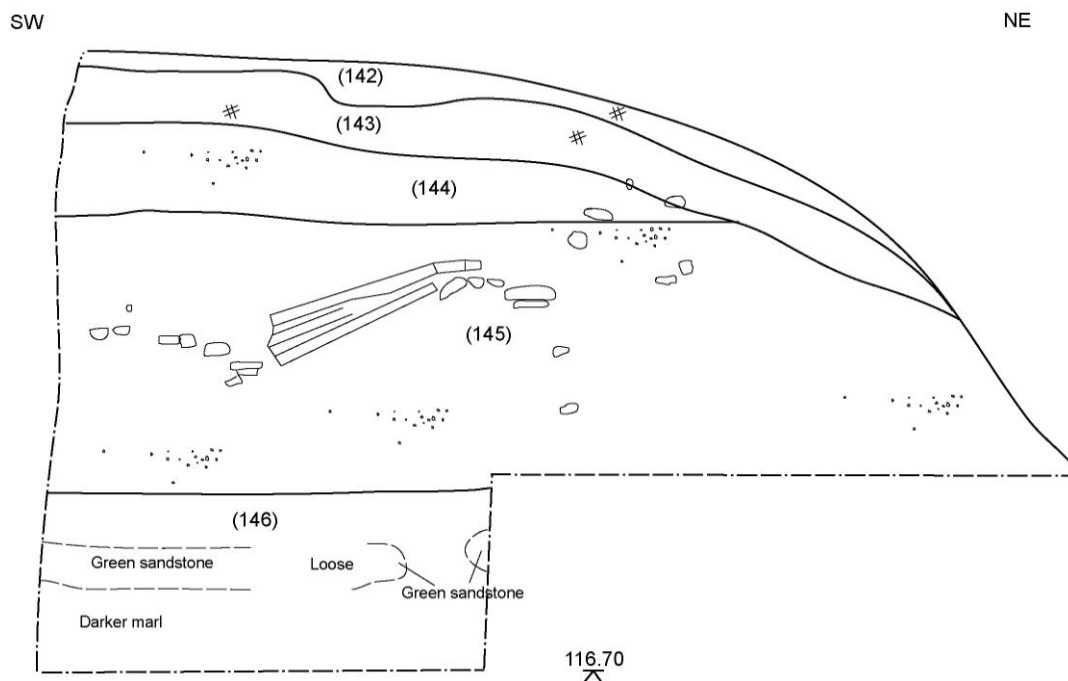


Fig 4: SE-facing section through hedgebank (133)

A post-medieval house platform (140) was observed at the SE end of the removed section of hedgebank (133), comprising a short length of sandstone masonry wall measuring 0.75m × 0.50m forming part of a structure of some 8m × 4m (plate 7). Two linear deposits of masonry about 0.3m wide made up the two sides of the building still visible; no structural remains were evident at the NW extent. Set within the construction platform were a toilet pipe and the remains of a coal store. The character of the masonry and some of the finds indicated an earlier post-medieval origin for the building. This was mixed with the soil of hedgebank (133), which suggests it was demolished and dumped into the bank. On the SE side, it was partly covered by (141), a dump of soil containing modern waste such as iron and plastic,



which may have originated from the filling station and garage at the base of the hill. This earthwork is visible on the pre-excitation photographs of the site (*plate 8*).



Plate 7: House platform structure (140) showing the intact wall base in the foreground; the ranging rods mark the extent of the foundation walls. The dark soil on the left side of the wall line is (141)



Plate 8: Post-medieval house platform (140) before excavation represented by the raised area in the centre of the photograph



The SW end of the site adjacent to the road (*fig. 2*) was occupied by the smithy and forge during the early 20th century, which evidently remained in operation until c.1950.

The only evidence for these activities is a stone floor level (116) below the layer of brick. Its location appears consistent with the position of a small structure (its gable-end facing the viewer) visible in the centre of an undated photograph (*plate 10*), to the right of the white building. Large pieces of clinker were found within and beneath this feature.



Plate 9: Remnant of the floor (116) that may have been part of the smithy or the forge



Plate 10: Undated aerial photograph which shows structures on the Old Forge property, near the road (buildings to the right of the white house in the foreground), the building in the centre with its apex facing the viewer probably being the blacksmith's premises or forge workshop



Plate 11: Undated photograph showing the smithy in operation



The most recent feature to occupy this site was the filling station and vehicle repair workshop (*plate 12*). The filling station is the small flat-roofed building with the petrol pumps in front of it. Modern waste was recorded in (117)/[118] and (131)/[132]. Contexts (101)-(110), (115), (116), and (121)-(127) probably represented part of the 20th century building phase on the site.



Plate 12: Oblique aerial view looking W showing the filling station (centre). The red building on the slope above was probably the vehicle repair garage. The building with the corrugated iron roof and the taller extension adjoining to the rear on the right of the photograph may represent the site of the former smithy and forge.

6.1 Groundworks excavations to the SE of the new dwelling

Further ground reduction works were observed in this location, where the upper deposits (119, 117) had previously been removed under archaeological supervision. The excavations extended roughly 20m × 5m × 0.75m and revealed natural marl deposits (301) overlying fragmented mudstone/sandstone (302). No archaeological features or deposits were present (*plates 13 & 14*).

6.2 Results from foul drainage trenching excavations

The groundworks for the foul drain installation comprised five drain chambers linked by continuous trenching, excavated between the road and the new building. The total excavation under observation measured 45.5m (the area to the S of the building having been previously excavated under archaeological supervision). The trenching was approximately 0.6m wide and 1m deep and the pits were 2.5m × 2.5m × 1.4m.

Natural bedrock (204) was encountered at a depth of 0.5m-1m below existing ground level. Overlying this was (203), a firm, sterile reddish clayey silt, 0.37m thick, also naturally derived. Overlying (203) was (202), a trenchwide dark brown mottled clayey silt deposit, 0.43m thick. Overlying (202) was (205), a dark brown loam, 0.2m thick, underlying (201), a sandstone and brick rubble deposit laid over a permeable membrane.



Plate 13: View SE showing excavated area to SE of new dwelling



Plate 14: View SW showing deposits revealed to SE of new dwelling



7. Conclusion

Structural remains and features representing several periods were recorded during the course of the archaeological observation. A cobbled surface and stone scatter near the N end of the site on the hilltop produced 13th-early 15th century pottery and appeared to be earliest feature for which there was dating evidence, while the hedgebank situated on the NE boundary contained eight tree/shrub species, suggesting, based on species count, admittedly a rather imprecise measure of antiquity, that this feature may also be of medieval origin.

A scatter of unstratified early post-medieval pottery was identified in the centre of the site, near the cobbled surface, and later post-medieval material comprising scattered 18th to early 20th century pottery, CBM and clay pipe stems occurred on the hilltop in the NE corner of the site. A house platform was located near the centre of the NE edge of the site.

Further ground reduction works to the SE of the new dwelling revealed natural deposits (301, 302), with no evidence of archaeological finds, features or deposits present.

The remains of the smithy, forge, filling station and vehicle repair garage, together with associated waste dumps, represent the most recent 20th century phase of occupation.

The foul drainage excavations revealed no remains of archaeological significance. The uppermost deposits appeared to have been truncated by an access road (201). The construction (and later demolition) of the post-medieval buildings and garage situated towards the street frontage may also have removed earlier features in this location.

8. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepted that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

9. References

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10. Context Register

10.1 Main phase of groundworks

Context No	Description
(101)	Indurated brick surface; measures 0.07m thick, 2.5m width and c. 4m length. Overlies (103).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Modern fan-shaped brick surface forming forecourt of fuel station</i>
(102)	Loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt & gravel; occasional CBM fragments; measures 0.02m thick, extends >4m. Overlies (102).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Modern gravel spread over SW end of former driveway probably for a hard-standing.</i>
(103)	Very compact but friable, poorly mixed red and brown clay, gravel & CBM dust; occasional charcoal flecks; measures 0.08-0.15m thick and >6.8m long on the S side of the driveway. Overlies (115), Underlies (101).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Mixed make-up layer of gravel, CBM dust/fragments & clay, probably serving to level ground below brick surface (101).</i>
(104)	Well compacted mid reddish-brown sandstone/shale; frequent very small mica flecks; measures > 0.25m, extends >1.5m. Underlies (107).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural bedrock revealed on N side of driveway but full extent not visible. Location suggests it may have been quarried, but not enough is visible to be certain</i>
(105)	Loose dark reddish-brown silty clay (c. 40/60); occasional angular stones; measures 0.4m, extends >2.5m. Overlies (106).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Topsoil on E side of the road and up the side of the hill in the SW part of the site, extending as a hedgebank along the roadside on the SW edge of the site</i>
(106)	Loose dark brown poorly mixed silt-clay (c.50/50); frequent slate fragments up to 0.36m in size, mortar and angular stones. Overlies (107), Underlies (105).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Rubble-filled layer to raise level beneath hedgebank on SW edge of site.</i>
(107)	Moderately compact mid greyish-/reddish-brown clayey silt (c. 30-40/60-70); abundant angular gravels; measures 0.06m, extends >1.5m length visible. Overlies (104) Underlies (106).
INTERPRETATION	<i>The absence of finds suggests it is natural subsoil probably formed by erosion of bedrock (104).</i>
(108)	Loose reddish-brown fine angular gravel and CBM dust in a silty matrix, containing occasional flecks and pieces of charcoal. It is 0.05m thick on average and is visible as a layer extending >8m along the SE end of the driveway. Overlies (101) Underlies (110).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Levelling layer to even out surface between (101) and (110).</i>
(109)	Friable dark greyish-brown micaceous clay; occasional charcoal flecks; average thickness 0.17m, visible as a layer >4.1m long on S side of driveway. Overlies (104) Underlies (109).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Possible natural clay layer with some contamination from above.</i>
(110)	Indurated black layer of gravel chippings and bitumen; measures 0.05m thick, extends >8m, visible along S side of the driveway near road. Overlies (108) Underlies (102).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Bitumen surface layer above cobbled brick surface (101). Modern hard standing probably for petrol station.</i>



(111)	Loose black charcoal and angular stones; occasional flecks of mortar, iron (possibly slag), late post-medieval pottery; measures 3m × 2.8m, thickness not determined. Overlies (105).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Patch of burnt material probably from building demolition.</i>
(112)	Moderately compact dark red brown silty clay (c. 20/80); frequent flecks of charcoal, CBM, mortar and angular stones. Visible over an area 3.5m wide in cut of driveway extending up the hill to the house site; total length and thickness not visible. Fills [113].
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Possible site of demolished modern garage.</i>
[113]	Cut; irregular in form; overall size and shape not visible; oriented E-W; break of slope top sharp, remainder of profile not visible. Filled by (112), cuts (105).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Cut of demolished building (112).</i>
(114)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty clay (c.10-20/80-90); frequent charcoal flecks, occasional mortar flecks, angular flat stones and bricks, very occasional post-medieval pottery; measures 0.17m, extends 5.5m × 15m long. Overlies (105), truncated at SW by removal of fuel tank
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Probable spread of material from the filling station demolition</i>
(115)	Hard dark reddish-brown micaceous clay & large pieces of greenish sandstone; occasional charcoal flecks; measures c. 0.1m thick extends 3m at the S end of the driveway. Overlies (109), Underlies (103).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Broken local sandstone mixed with clay possibly used as hard standing or a layer of eroded, re-deposited natural stone and clay.</i>
(116)	Masonry; sandstone flags & occasional brick; bonded with yellow and light grey mortar, occasional black inclusions; occasional slag and clinker and small pieces of plastic covered wire; size of material (stone) 0.4m × 0.34m × 0.08m, (brick) 0.21m × 0.11m × 0.06m. Overlies (122), Underlies (124).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Floor surface associated with filling station or forge/blacksmith; materials probably quarried from (104)</i>
(117)	Moderately compact dark brown to black silty clay (c. 40/60); frequent charcoal flecks, occasional stones, CBM, metal and pieces of plastic; measures 0.3m extends >37m × 12.5m (to base of driveway trench). Fills [118]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Dump of waste probably from garage, filling station and possibly earlier dumps from nearby houses. Lies on surface, edge uncertain in places</i>
[118]	Cut; shape, size and profile not visible; oriented N-S; break of slope top sharp, sides (visible) irregular convex. Filled by (117).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Cut for deposit (117).</i>
(119)	Moderately compact mid red silty clay (c. 20/80); occasional charcoal flecks and rounded stones; extends over most of hilltop in the area where the driveway has been dug (the SW part) to a thickness of 0.15m. Overlies (117).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Topsoil layer</i>
(120)	Hard dark red clay/marl layer; occasional pebbles; measures 0.1m extends 0.4m. Underlies (121).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Probable natural red marl.</i>
(121)	Hard dark reddish-brown silty (micaceous) clay (c. 20/80); occasional pebbles; 0.2m thick, 0.58m wide and occurs 0.38m below surface. It contains. Overlies (120), underlies (122).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Possibly natural clay layer similar to (109).</i>



(122)	Moderately compact mid brown clayey silt (c. 40/60); frequent angular green sandstone, occasional slag, clinker and charcoal; measures 0.1m extends 1.6m × 0.35m. Overlies (121) Underlies [123] and (125).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Layer of soil and broken stone possibly to level ground for floor and hard standing.</i>
[123]	Cut; size, shape and profile not visible; base flat but slightly irregular and it contains masonry feature (124). Overlies (122), underlies (124), filled by (124).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of base of brick structure (124).</i>
(124)	Masonry; orientation unclear; single brick course; extends 0.80m long and about 1.20m wide; size of materials 0.22 × 0.08 × 0.1m; irregular stretcher bond; light yellowish-grey mortar bonding, occasional black inclusions. Underlies (125) and (127), fills [123]
INTERPRETATION	<i>May be part of herringbone surface (101) or a wall around edge of (116).</i>
(125)	Layer of loose poorly mixed red with mid brown fine angular gravel and CBM dust. It contains occasional flecks of mortar and charcoal. It is up to 0.15m thick and at least 1.35m wide. It Overlies (124) and underlies (126).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Disturbed layer of demolition material lying on brick structure (124).</i>
(126)	Loose mottled mid brown sand-silt-clay; frequent CBM fragments, angular stones and pebbles; measures 0.35m thick extends >0.55m. Overlies (127) and (125).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Disturbed topsoil layer caused by machining.</i>
(127)	Indurated black bitumen and fine angular gravels; measures 0.04m thick extends >0.2m. Overlies (124), underlies (126).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Former bitumen hard standing surface associated with filling station.</i>
(128)	Moderately compact dark brown sandy clayey silt (c. 20/20/60); occasional charcoal flecks, burnt wood and frogged brick; measures c. 0.3m. Overlies (129), (130)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural topsoil mixed with dumped material extending over area of house, garage and turning circle</i>
(129)	Moderately compact reddish-brown sandy clay; occasional angular pebbles; measures 0.2-0.5m thick. Underlies (128). Overlies (130)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural subsoil over most of top of hill.</i>
(130)	Indurated green/pinkish-red sandstone (partially decayed); measures 0.15-0.75m thick. Underlies (129) and Overlies (139).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural sandstone.</i>
(131)	Moderately compact dark brown slightly sandy silt; frequent charcoal flecks, CBM, mortar, metal, wood, glass, organic material, plastic, rubber, polystyrene and angular stones; measures (average) 0.45m extends >9.5m. Fills [132]
INTERPRETATION	<i>Layer of soil mixed with modern dumped material which may cover most of the S part of the hill top. Similar to (117).</i>
[132]	Cut; irregular in form (as seen); orientation unclear; measures 0.5m extends 9.5m × 3-4m; break of slope top sharp, sides straight; break of slope base irregular, base flat but irregular. Cuts [137] & (138), filled by (131).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut for dumped material (131).</i>



(133)	Moderately compact to loose mid reddish-brown sandy-clay silt (c. 30-40/60-70), frequent angular stones, occasional modern waste (plastic, tin etc), 2 worked stones (possibly medieval), 1 slate roof tile, 1 bone, 5 pieces of post-medieval pottery; measures 2m extends c.50m. A 27m length in the middle of the bank was recorded where the hedge was removed and the bank dug out. Plant species observed included Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), Box (<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>), Apple (<i>Malus domestica</i>) and Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Hedgebank and W side of hollow way which runs along the NE edge of the hill top part of the site. House platform (140) lies at its SE end.</i>
(134)	Moderately compact to hard dark brown clayey sandy-silt (c. 10-20/60-80), frequent charcoal flecks, occasional flecks of CBM and small angular pieces of green sandstone, 14 pieces of post-medieval & 5 pieces medieval pottery, 1 piece of glass, 2 pieces of CBM and 8 tobacco pipe stems; measures 0.05m extends 3m x 2m Underlies (128) Overlies (129).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Spread of charcoal flecking & finds running NE to SW in an area about 4.75m x 2m located near the top of the hill and the holloway (133), which might represent the disturbed remains of a 19th C surface</i>
(135)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty clay (c.20/80); frequent charcoal flecks & local flat green sandstone (up to 0.24m x 0.18m in size), occasional sherds of medieval pottery, animal bone; measures 0.35m extends 5m x 3.3m. Underlies (128). Overlies (129).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Medieval building or floor surface, possibly workshop or forge.</i>
(136)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty clay (c.25-30/75-80); frequent charcoal and local flat green sandstone (up to 0.23m x 0.12m in size); occasional medieval pottery, 1 piece of slate; extends c. 2.5m x 1.35m Underlies (128). Overlies (129)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Crescent-shaped stone scatter located approximately 2m W of, and possibly related to, (135).</i>
[137]	Cut; shape and size not visible; orientation unclear; extends 2.5m x <0.9m; break of slope top sharp, sides moderate; break of slope base concave; base irregular but flattish. Filled by (138). Cuts (139).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of quarry seen on W side of garage trench. Layer (130) lies immediately to the N but disappears to the S of this cut.</i>
(138)	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay (c. 40/60); occasional angular pebbles & small flat stones; measures 0.9m x 2.5m. Cut (on S side) by [132], fills [137].
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of quarry cut [137].</i>
(139)	Hard dark red marl; occasional rounded pebbles; measures about 1.5m thick. Cut by [137] and [132], Underlies (130)
INTERPRETATION	<i>Natural marl subsoil layer that appears to cover most of the hilltop and is very similar to (120).</i>
(140)	Masonry; rectangular in form; comprises walls on S and E sides of c. 0.30m thickness; measures: 1 wall is 8m long the other is 4m long, 1 intact wall base on NE corner of the structure measures 0.75m long and 0.50m wide; toilet pipe visible in middle of structure with the remains of a coal store on W side, 1 piece of post-medieval pottery, 2 pieces of CBM, 2 pieces of iron, 1 piece of slate, 2 pieces of clinker and 1 glass jar. Underlies (141).



<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-medieval house platform probably built in the 18th or 19th C and occupied into 20th C. Located at the SE end of flattened portion of hedgebank (133)</i>
(141)	Moderately compact dark greyish-brown clayey silt (c. 10-20/80-90); frequent charcoal flecks, clinker, angular & rounded stones, metal and plastic waste; extent and depth of deposit uncertain. Overlies (140), same as (117).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Dumped soil and waste materials, possibly from petrol station and garage which may extend over SE third of hilltop area</i>
(142)	Loose dark brown clayey silt (c.20/80); frequent rounded stones, occasional flecks of charcoal; measures 0.2m extends 3.9m. Overlies (143).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Heavily rooted topsoil on hedgebank (133).</i>
(143)	Moderately compact mid greyish-brown silt clay (c.50/50); occasional rounded stones, small angular pieces of green sandstone and charcoal flecks; measures 0.2m extends 3.6m. Underlies (142), Overlies (144).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Subsoil of hedgebank (133) disturbed by plant roots.</i>
(144)	Hard light reddish-brown clay (slightly silty in places); occasional angular pieces of green sandstone. Underlies (143), Same as (129).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural clay beneath (133)</i>
(145)	Hard mid red clay/marl; frequent large pieces of green sandstone in discontinuous layers; measures 1.16m extends 4.26m wide
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural marl layer which may be associated with the deposits of green sandstone on the hill. Similar to (139)</i>
(146)	Hard dark red marl; frequent flecks of manganese & a discontinuous layer of green sandstone; measures 0.76m thick extending into base of trench, extends >1.82m
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural marl soil layer.</i>

10.2 Groundworks for foul drainage installation

Context No	Description
(201)	Moderately compact reddish-brown sand, sandstone and CBM; measures 0.4m-0.6m extends >44.9m × >2.5m. Overlies (005).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Modern surfacing deposit, separated from underlying deposits by a permeable membrane</i>
(202)	Firm dark brown orange mottled clayey silt; frequent stones and charcoal flecking; measures 0.43m extends >44.9m × >2.5m. Underlies (205) Overlies (203).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-medieval or modern make-up or levelling deposit</i>
(203)	Firm red clayey silt; measures >0.37m extends >33.3m × >2.5m. Underlies (202) Overlies (204).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural clayey silts</i>
(204)	Indurated mudstone/sandstone bedrock; measures >1m extends >44.9m × >2.5m. Underlies (203)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural bedrock</i>
(205)	Firm dark brown clay-sand-silt; measures 0.2m extends 4m × 0.6m. Underlies (201) Overlies (202)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Former soil horizon, probably post-medieval or modern</i>



10.3 Ground reduction works to SE of dwelling

Context No	Description
(301)	Hard mid red clay/marl; moderate small angular sandstone/mudstone fragments; extends >20m x >5m x 0.3-0.7m
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural marl layer deposit</i>
(302)	Fragmented mudstone/sandstone bedrock; extends >20m x >5m x >0.3m
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural bedrock</i>



11. Document Control

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