Land at Orchard House, Banbury Road, 
Kineton, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: OHK 15/139
(SP 3446 5092)
Land at Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire

An Archaeological Evaluation and Metal Detector Survey

for Mr Chris Hoyle

by David Platt
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OHK 15/139

December 2015
Summary

Site name: Land at Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire

Grid reference: SP 3446 5092

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation and Metal Detector Survey

Date and duration of project: 11th-12th November 2015

Project manager: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: OHK 15/139

Area of site: 0.4ha

Summary of results: A gully and a pit were observed during the evaluation. Both of these were undated but the gully lay beneath medieval ridge and furrow. A collection of late post-medieval metal artefacts was recovered during the metal detecting survey, this included a musket ball but nothing else of note. Due to the presence of the gully beneath the ridge and furrow earthworks and possibly the pit, parts of the site are considered to have a little archaeological interest.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Warwick Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 14.12.15
                          Steve Preston 14.12.15
Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire CV35 0JY (SP3446 5092) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Hoyle of the above address.

Planning permission (14/02761/OUT) has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council for the construction of 8 houses on a parcel of land at Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, the consent is subject to a condition (10) requiring a programme of archaeological fieldwork. This is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012, para 128) and the Council’s policies on archaeology. This to determine the archaeological potential of the site and if necessary, inform a mitigation strategy for the project. It was determined that this should consist of a field evaluation by means of trial trenches, and, because of the site’s location in relation to the Edgehill battlefield, supplemented by a metal detector survey.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council, who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Aidan Colyer and Joan Garibo on 11th and 12th November 2015 and the site code is OHK15/139. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Warwick Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of Kineton to the north of Banbury Road (Figs 1 and 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Blue Lias (BGS 1982) and this was observed in the trenches as a mottled mid blue grey and red brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions. The current land use is garden and paddock, north of the buildings of Banbury Road Farm and Brooklands Farm, with open fields beyond that to the north, and the site lay at 80m above Ordnance Datum, on land that rises to the north.
Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been summarized in a brief supplied by Ms Anna Stocks the county archaeological officer. The site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. Aerial photographs show a cropmark complex to the east (Warwickshire HER MWA6784) which appears to represent a series of crofts fronting onto a central street or trackway. A number of stone scatters suggesting buildings have been recorded from the cropmark area; the recovery of a number of finds of Roman date, including coins and pottery, from this area suggests that it was occupied during the Roman period (MWA1184). Whilst it is probable that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period, as evidenced by the ridge and furrow that survives across this site and immediately to the east (MWA19648), there is a potential for archaeological deposits pre-dating this agricultural use to survive, possibly include activity associated with the Roman settlement to the east. Further to the west lies the medieval settlement of Kineton (MWA9016) with the 18th century turnpike road between Upton and Wellesbourne (MWA4814) to the south of the site.

The site is also located to the north of the Edgehill battlefield. The battle, which took place in October 1642, is not particularly well understood. It is believed that Parliamentarian 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. Artefact scatters are probably one of the best opportunities of understanding fully what took place on that day.

The site location is not covered by the early 19th century tithe and enclosure maps of the area but it does appear on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (Fig. 6). Here it is shown as a smaller area within a larger field to the north of a group of buildings labelled Walton Farm.

Objectives and methodology

Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and
- to report on the findings of the evaluation.
It was proposed to dig five trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide using a JCB backhoe type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision, to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. The trenches were to examine the full depth of deposits above natural bedrock. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of this scheme of work brief, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation in situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

**Metal Detector Survey**

A metal detecting survey was to be undertaken across the development site. The site was to be surveyed along transects 2.5m apart, with the transects running parallel to the ridge and furrow which survives across the site. The locations of all finds were to be accurately recorded using a GPS receiver. Both ferrous and non-ferrous objects were to be recovered. The recovery of archaeological objects was to be restricted to the topsoil. In the event that an object or group of objects were located below topsoil depth, these were to be left in situ and arrangements made for their recovery under controlled excavation conditions.

**Results**

**Evaluation**

The trenches were dug as intended with the exception of trench 5 which was rotated to be aligned N - S. They ranged in length from 20m to 22m and in depth from 0.40m to 0.80m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

**Trench 1 (Fig 3; Pl. 1)**

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 20.60m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed or finds recovered.

**Trench 2 (Fig 3; Pls 2 and 4)**

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 20.60m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features were observed or finds recovered.
Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)
Trench 3 was aligned S - N and was 22.0m long and between 0.50 and 0.60m deep. In the areas of furrow the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying natural geology, in the areas of ridge the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.35m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. A gully (1) was observed aligned NW - SE and this was 0.45m wide and 0.08m deep and had a single fill (52) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)
Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.0m long and between 0.40 and 0.70m deep. In the areas of furrow the stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.20m subsoil overlying natural geology, in the areas of ridge the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. A pit (2) was observed at the NE end of the trench. This was 0.53m in diameter and 0.13m deep and its single fill (53) consisted of a light grey brown clayey silt with very occasional charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered. A tree bole (3) was also observed in this area of the trench, this was 0.12m deep and had an uneven base and sides which contained a light grey brown clayey silt. No finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)
Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 20.0m long and 0.4-0.8m deep. In the areas of furrow the stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural geology. In the areas of ridge the stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.48m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No features were observed or finds recovered.

Metal Detector Survey
The site was surveyed along transects 2.5m apart running parallel to the ridge and furrow which was still evident across the site. The locations of all the finds were recorded using a GPS receiver (Fig. 5). A Fisher Research Labs F5 detector was used, fitted with a 10in elliptical concentric open-centre search coil set to all metals mode. The conditions were dry and clear. In areas where there were more than 2 signals within a 1m square an additional survey was conducted perpendicular to the ridge and furrow.

Some 23 metal objects were recovered during the metal detecting survey (Appendix 2). All artefacts that could be definitively identified as modern were discarded after identification on site. Of the 23 metal objects 21
are ferrous, 1 is lead and 1 is copper alloy. These objects are in a good state of preservation and all were recovered from the topsoil or upper subsoil.

Finds

Metalwork by Aidan Colyer

Lead Objects
A single lead musket ball was recovered from the survey (FS17). This had a diameter of 19mm and is spherical, although not perfectly so, and weighed 38g. A groove runs 2/3rds around the centre and there are small dents on the surface. Similar examples to this musket ball can be seen within the portable antiquities scheme records BERK-OFF9D4 and BERK-23AE13, due to its smaller calibre compared to those used in the later 18th century it would suggest a date around the 17th century.

Copper Alloy Objects
A single copper alloy object was recovered from the survey (FS14), this was a large ring which had an external diameter of 44mm and an internal diameter of 38mm and weighed 7g. There is no obvious join which would suggest that it was cast, due to its size and rough nature it is not likely to be a piece of jewellery but its use cannot be ascertained.

Ferrous Objects
Ferrous objects were recovered from findspots 1-13, 15-16 and 18-23.

Top of Iron Railing
A railing topper was recovered during the survey (FS1), this was 119mm in length, 34mm wide, weighed 387g and was constructed from cast iron. This piece consisted of a large spike with a partial shaft still attached to the base, the spike is 84mm of the total length and is four sided with the edges sculpted to resemble stylised wax dripping. There is a small amount of scrollwork at the base of the spike. This piece is likely to modern due to its casting, preservation and design.

Pipe/guttering
Two pieces of pipe were recovered, the first (FS2) was 120mm long, 37mm wide and 3.5mm thick and weighed 58g. The second (FS20) was 105mm long, 49mm wide and 3.5mm thick and also weighed 58g. These appear to be made of cast iron and are most likely two pieces of modern metal gutter.
Handle attachment
A bracket for a handle attachment (FS15) was recovered during the survey, it was roughly triangular with a protrusion on one side. It was 93mm long, 57mm wide and 6.5mm thick and weighed 64g. This piece is a triangular attachment with three rivets that is likely to be from a metal vessel to attach a handle.

Strapping
Three pieces of metal strapping were recovered all of which are ferrous.

The first of these pieces (FS10) was rectangular with the dimensions 76mm by 25mm, it was 2.5mm thick and weighed 21g. There are no holes for rivets to suggest that this piece was attached to another object. This piece is likely a piece of strapping or reinforcement.

The second piece (FS21) was 171mm long, 11mm wide and 5mm thick, it weighed 51g. This piece has been heavily damaged and bent and has no clear rivets or rivet holes. This piece is likely a piece of strapping or reinforcement.

The third piece (FS23) was 106mm long, 28mm wide and 2mm thickness and weighed 27g. The end of the piece is cut to form a triangle and there are three holes for rivets along the length. This piece is most likely a bracket for a gate or shelving.

Nails and tacks
In total three nails or tacks were recovered, the first (FS3) was 50mm in length with a head width of 7.5mm. The shaft tapers from 5mm by 5mm to a point, it weighed less than 1g and is likely to be a horseshoe nail or tack.

The second piece (FS6) was 43mm long with a shaft measuring 4mm by 3mm at the top and then tapering to a point. This piece weighs less than 1g. There is no obvious head to this piece and it is likely a horseshoe nail or tack.

The third piece (FS7) was 163mm long with a curved shaft which measured 7mm x 5.5m, one end is bent at 90 degrees from the main shaft and the other end is flattened into a point. This piece is potentially a carpenter’s dog or a reinforcing nail for a wooden joint.

Key
A key end (FS4) has a shaft part 49mm long with a diameter of 9.5mm although half changes to a diameter of 8mm. The bit is 19mm by 20mm with a thickness of 6mm. The weight of this piece is 29g. The centre of the bit is cut out and resembles an hourglass in shape. This is likely to be a standard post medieval key although without the rest of the key more accurate dating is impossible.
**Horseshoe**
A single large horseshoe (FS8) had an arc length of 127mm with a width of 31mm and a thickness of 8mm. The weight of this piece is 263g. There is a groove around the outer side of one side of the piece. The two nails that are still within the piece show this was a countersunk area for the nail heads.

**Hooks and hooked tools**
A hook (FS11) was recovered, this was broken at the shaft end and was 35mm in length, 23mm in width and the thickness ranged between 6mm and 5mm. The weight of this piece is 8g. This is a simple hook that cannot be closely dated or identified further.

A hooked tool (FS12) was recovered, this was 134mm in length with the main shaft having a maximum width of 12mm and thickness of 7mm. The end is a squared off hook which extends out 11mm with a width of 6.5mm and a thickness of 3mm. This item is likely a tool due to the hooked end and what would presumably be a tang or crude handle. It is similar to a modern farrier’s tool so could be an older cruder form.

A second hooked tool (FS18) was also recovered, this was 127mm in length with a maximum width of 13mm and thickness of 7mm. This was identical to FS12 with one end hooked with the other tapering and therefore this is likely to be another example of a hooked tool possibly used by a farrier.

**Clothing attachments**
A piece of boot heel reinforcement (FS16) was recovered, this was 64mm in length and 61mm in width. The width of the metal around the curve is 19mm and the piece weighed 31g. The piece was flattened with one side heavily worn. The sides are different in that one is flat and the other is ridged suggesting that it may have been made for grip. The wear is on one side of the piece again suggesting it was a worn down piece from a boot heel.

A square buckle (FS19) was recovered, this was 39mm by 38mm and the metal of the frame has a diameter of 6mm. This piece weighs 23g. The buckle has no bar but the prong is still present and attached to the frame. It is of simple design so cannot be easily placed to a definitive time period but is likely to be post medieval in date due to its state of preservation.

A curved stirrup or spur (FS22) was 56mm long with a width of 8mm and a thickness of 3mm. It weighed 25g. This piece has a square tab of metal protruding from the centre of its horseshoe shape, the end of which is slightly curved over. The piece is squashed but could conceivably be a simple spur or part of a stirrup.

**Knife**
Part of a knife blade (FS13) was recovered, this was 64.5mm long and 15mm wide. The thickness of the rear of the blade is 3.5mm and it tapers to a finer edge. The blade itself would likely have been relatively small although there has been heavy corrosion and damage to this piece. This blade cannot be dated although a broad medieval to post medieval date would seem likely to be correct.
Unidentified objects
The piece recovered from Findspot 5 is a square of ferrous metal with the dimensions 45mm by 40mm with a varying thickness between 6mm to 11mm, this weighed 61g. This piece is slightly curved but due to its size is unidentifiable further than being a piece of scrap metal. The piece recovered from Findspot 9 is a roughly square ferrous piece with the dimensions 50mm by 82mm. The thickness has a range of 3mm to 8mm at its thickest and weighed 83g.

Conclusion
Ridge and furrow was evident across the majority of the site, and the furrows were evident in trenches 2, 4 and 5 cutting the natural geology. The two features that were observed in the evaluation contained no dating evidence but the gully lay beneath the ridge and furrow. The group of artefacts recovered from the metal detecting survey were mostly of modern or 19th-century date at the earliest. The presence of a single musket ball, perhaps of 17th century date was the only find possibly related to the Battle of Edgehill.

Due to the presence of the gully which is of medieval or earlier date, along with the undated pit, parts of the site are considered to have a little archaeological interest.

References
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SE and SW end

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<td>0.50-0.60</td>
<td>Furrow 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.35m mid brown grey clayey silt subsoil, 0.35m+ natural mottled pale blue grey and pale red brown silty clay geology. Ridge 0-0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.55m mid brown grey clayey silt subsoil, 0.55m+ natural mottled pale blue grey and pale red brown silty clay geology. [Pl. 3]</td>
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<td>0.40-0.70</td>
<td>Furrow 0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.38m mid brown grey clayey silt subsoil, 0.38m+ natural mottled pale blue grey and pale red brown silty clay geology. Ridge 0-0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.60m mid brown grey clayey silt subsoil, 0.60m+ natural mottled pale blue grey and pale red brown silty clay geology. [Pls. 2 and 4]</td>
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### APPENDIX 2: Metal detector finds

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Land at Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Kineton and Warwickshire.

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Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Banbury Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.
Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

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Kineton, Warwickshire, 2015
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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.
Land at Orchard House, Kineton, Warwickshire, 2015
Metal Detector Survey

Figure 5. Location of metal objects recovered
Land at Orchard House, Banbury Road, Kineton, Warwickshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 6. First Edition Ordnance Survey 1885.
Plate 1. Trench 2, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.
Plate 3. Trench 3, gully 1. looking south east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

Plate 4. Trench 4, Pit (or gully terminal) 2, looking east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.
TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern ............................................................... AD 1901
Victorian ............................................................ AD 1837
Post Medieval ......................................................... AD 1500
Medieval .............................................................. AD 1066
Saxon ................................................................. AD 410
Roman ................................................................. AD 43
Iron Age ............................................................... 750 BC

Bronze Age: Late ..................................................... 1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle ................................................ 1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early ................................................... 2100 BC

Neolithic: Late ....................................................... 3300 BC
Neolithic: Early ...................................................... 4300 BC

Mesolithic: Late ...................................................... 6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .................................................... 10000 BC

Palaeolithic: Upper .................................................. 30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle ............................................... 70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower ............................................... 2,000,000 BC