

**Land at Station Road
Honeybourne
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Earthwork Survey

for
Barratt Homes Ltd


CA Project: 4415
CA Report: 13551
WCC HER Ref for Earthwork Survey: WSM49637

October 2013

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CA Project: 4415
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date	14 October 2013
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Station Road
Location: Honeybourne, Worcestershire
NGR: SP 1159 4415
Type: Earthwork Survey
Date: 20 August 2013
Planning Reference: W/11/02686/PN
Location of Archive: Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: STH 13

An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2013 on Land at Station Road, Honeybourne.

The earthwork survey recorded a series of east/west aligned linear features which represent evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological earthwork survey for Barratt Homes Ltd on land at Station Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1159 4415; Fig. 1). The survey was undertaken to establish the extent of the medieval field systems evident on aerial photographs in accordance with a programme of archaeological works recommended by Mr Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Historic Environment, archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council. The earthwork survey was undertaken to fulfil a condition (no. 14) attached to planning consent granted on appeal for residential development of 25 dwellings on the site and associated infrastructure (Wychavon District Council (WDC) Planning ref: W/11/02686/PN).
- 1.2 The earthwork survey was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003), *Recording Archaeological Field Monuments, a descriptive specification* (RCHME 1999) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is 1.74ha in extent, and comprises a single field, under permanent pasture, containing extant ridge and furrow running on an east/west alignment. The field is bounded by Station Road to the east, an access road to the Domestic Fowl Trust to the north and fields to the west and south (Fig. 1). The Gate Inn Brook runs along the southern edge of the site. The site lies at approximately 47m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Rhaetian to Pliensbachian age (BGS 2013). Superficial Head deposits of the Quaternary age have been mapped to the south of the site (ibid).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Consultation of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the County Records Office indicates that the proposed development is situated in an

archaeologically sensitive area immediately to the east of the Roman road known as Ryknild Street (WSM30300), which runs north from the Fosse Way at Bourton-on-the-Water to Alcester (Margary 1973, road 18a). This road crosses the Gate Inn Brook immediately to the south-east of the site (WSM21579) and an evaluation Brief for the site prepared in 2011 notes that the site lies in an area rich in Roman (and prehistoric) settlement sites and that this nodal point may increase the potential for such activity (WHEAS 2011, 4). In the vicinity of Honeybourne a number of Roman artefacts, including coins and a brooch fragment, have been reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (WSM38609). A Historic Environment Assessment of South Worcestershire interprets the scatters of Roman material from around Honeybourne as being suggestive of a well populated late prehistoric and Roman landscape (WHEAS 2010, 128).

- 1.6 Visible within the site are the remains of east/west aligned ridge and furrow cultivation of probable medieval date (WSM46217) which form part of a wider pattern of such remains within the fields to the west of Honeybourne. Ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date were previously recorded during an earthwork survey at Blenheim Farm, 1.3km north-east of the site (CA 2011a).
- 1.7 The HER records that since the 1880s the current field was the site of an annual sheep sale. The boundaries have remained unchanged since the 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map which records the field as open pasture with only a footpath crossing the south-eastern corner. In contrast, the Second and Third Editions of 1901-2 and 1923 respectively record the northern two-thirds of the site as an orchard and sheep pens in the south-western corner.
- 1.8 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2011 (CA 2011). Thirteen trenches were excavated. Five Romano-British drainage ditches on a north-east/south-west alignment and a pit of probable Iron Age date were located at the southern end of the site. An undated east/west ditch cut the Romano-British drainage ditches and continued beneath the extant ridge and furrow that lies in the site and the fields to the west of Honeybourne. It is not known if this feature is related to drainage of either period or had another entirely unrelated purpose.
- 1.9 A brick surface was also identified and interpreted as a feature forming part of a cattle pen area marked on the Third edition Ordnance Survey map of 1923. A

number of disturbed natural patches have been identified as tree throw disturbance associated with the removal of the orchard recorded on the historic mapping.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to record the extant ridge and furrow within the site and create a detailed plan of the results.
- 1.11 The site has the potential to contribute to a key research agenda objective identified in Hurst (2011), Esmonde Cleary (2011) and Hunt (2011) which focuses on the nature of the agricultural economy and changes over time, demonstrated by the evidence from the physical remains, including for the medieval period, field patterns and the dating and nature of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Methodology

- 1.12 Field survey of the ridge and furrow cultivation remains and any other visible earthwork features was carried out using a Leica 1200 series “SmartRover” RTK GPS. Final survey drawings were created using AutoCAD and ESRI ArcMap software, allowing both hardcopy and digital versions of drawings to be produced.
- 1.13 Survey work was carried out using a Leica 1200 RTK (real-time kinematic) GPS, which has +/- 2cm accuracy for all 3D observations and measurements. This was supported by hand measurement, field notes and photographs where required. Digital base mapping will be available to at least 1:1250 scale.
- 1.14 The survey itself was carried out using the GPS to log coded points and string lines, using Cotswold Archaeology’s comprehensive codelist. Where obvious topographical features such as earthworks were visible these were surveyed on the basis of break-of-slope.
- 1.15 Once the survey fieldwork was complete, the data was downloaded from the instrument into Leica GeoOffice, a proprietary survey processing package, and then exported to a CAD system, from which a hachured plan drawing could be produced.
- 1.16 In addition to hard copy prints at a suitable scale, the survey will be available as a digital file, in DXF, shapefile or other similarly widely applicable format, and with

drawing layers in accordance with either EH guidance on the presentation of digital survey data or client specification.

2. RESULTS (FIG 2)

- 2.1 The archaeological earthworks present on the site comprised a single east/west orientated ridge and furrow field system (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). These linear earthworks were regularly spaced, typically measuring 8m from ridge to ridge. The earthworks were well preserved with an average depth of 0.37m from the top of the ridge to the base of the furrow, although in some areas this depth was reduced to just 0.2m.
- 2.2 The ridge and furrow had been completely destroyed in the south-west corner of the site. During the preceding evaluation (CA 2011b) a brick surface was identified as a feature forming part of a cattle pen area, marked on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (Fig. 2). It is probable that the ridges were levelled prior to the construction of the brick surface.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The earthwork survey identified the extant remains of a ridge and furrow field system on an east/west alignment within the site. These remains form part of a wider pattern of ridge and furrow cultivation that spread throughout the fields to the west of Honeybourne (WSM46217).
- 3.2 Medieval ridge and furrow is typically spaced 10m apart (Rackham 1986, 167) whereas later ridge and furrow is generally spaced every 4.5m to 5m (ibid, 169). Medieval ridge and furrow can also have a characteristic reverse 'S' shape, often remaining as a gentle curve if they have been truncated by later field boundaries or ploughing (Taylor 1975, 82) whilst later ridge and furrow is generally straight (Rackham 1986, 168). Given that the survey area was not extensive it is not possible to tell whether there is any curvature of the earthworks, however the spacing suggests that the ridge and furrow is likely to be medieval in origin.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork and cartography were undertaken by Andrew Baines. The report was written by Rebecca Riley and the illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Baines, and prepared for deposition by Jennie Hughes. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

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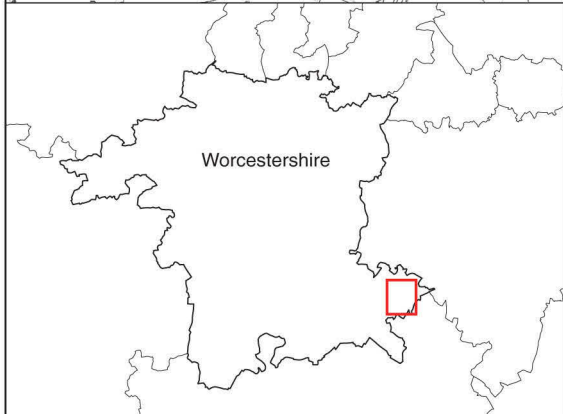
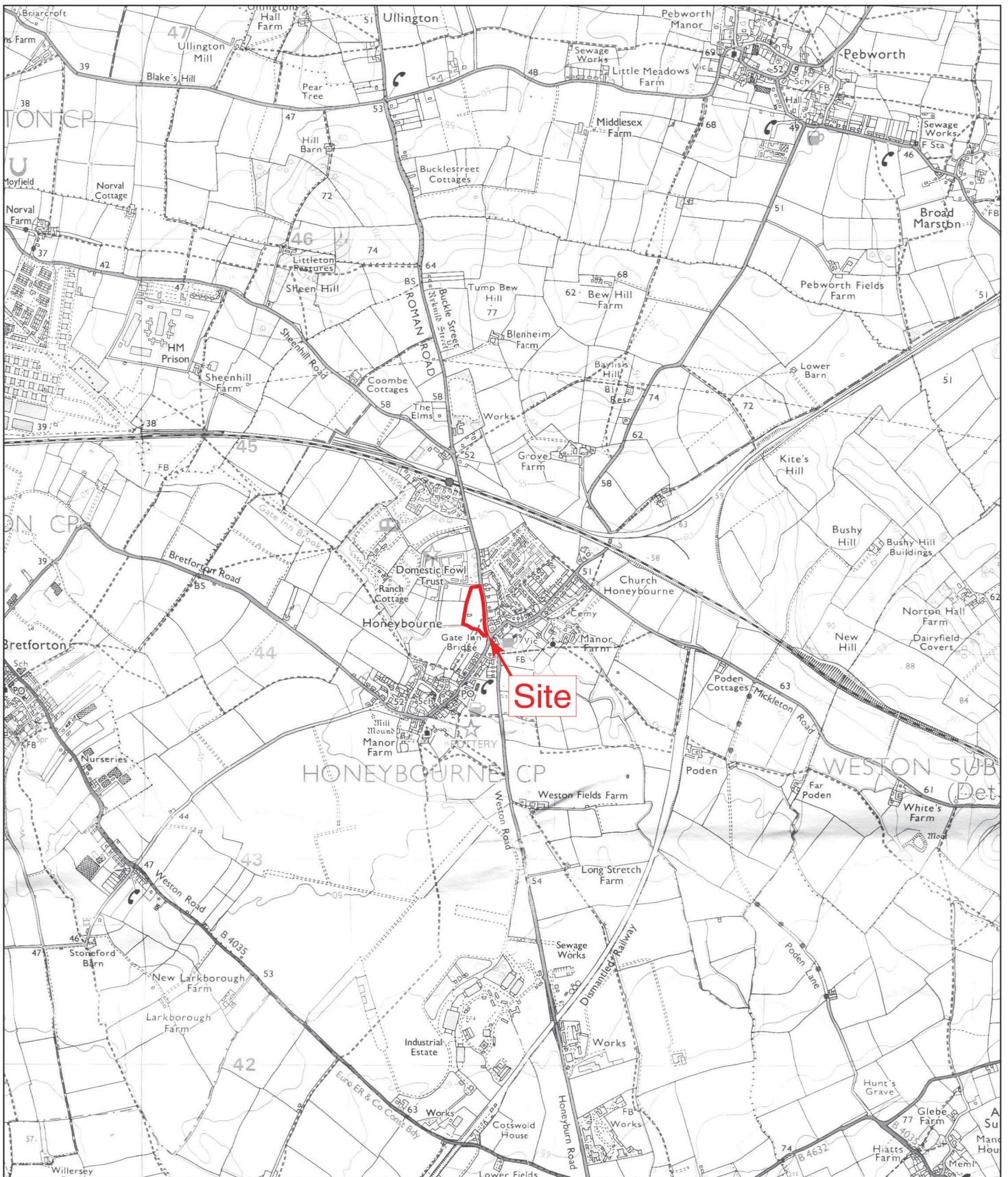
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WHEAS (Worcestershire Historic Environmental and Archaeology Service) 2011 *Requirement for an archaeological evaluation at land off Station Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire.*



APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Station Road	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2013 on Land at Station Road, Honeybourne. The earthwork survey recorded a series of east/west aligned linear features which represent evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.	
Project dates	20 August 2013	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Earthwork Survey	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Archaeological evaluation (CA 2011)	
Future work	Archaeological excavation	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Station Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.74ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1159 4420	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Andrew Baines	
MONUMENT TYPE	Broad Ridge and Furrow	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos, CAD plan
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Land at Station Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire: Archaeological Earthwork Survey</i> . CA typescript report 13551		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Station Road, Honeybourne
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 4415 DATE 25-09-2013
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- ridge
- furrow
- previous evaluation trench
- brick surface



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Station Road, Honeybourne
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Earthwork survey results

PROJECT NO.	4415	DATE	25-09-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

