

Land off Campden Lane, Willersey, Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1609

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Land off Campden Lane, Willersey, Gloucs
Commissioned by:	Richard Ingles
Project Report No.	1609
Site Code:	GW16
Planning Reference:	Pre-application
Planning Authority:	Cotswold District Council
Planning Archaeologist:	Charles Parry, Gloucestershire
National Grid Reference:	SP 1088 3945
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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation consisting of three trial trenches was undertaken on behalf of Richard Ingles on the edge of the medieval settlement of Willersey. A single 19th/20th century feature was found. Extant ridge and furrow across the site suggests that it has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission it to be sought from Cotswold District Council for the construction of three new dwellings on land off Campden Lane, Willersey, Gloucestershire, WR12 7PG.

1.2 The archaeological adviser to the local planning authority, Charles Parry, advised that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to provide the planning authority with further information with regard to the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored with the Cotswold Museum Service where an accession no will be allocated (Site Code GW16).

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is located on the northern side of Campden Road to the rear of The Cottage and Hill Spring Cottage within the village of Willersey, in the parish of the same name. It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 1088 3945 (Fig 1). The eastern limits of the conservation area lie to the south-west of the site.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Blue Lias formation and Charmouth formation mudstone (British Geological Survey 2016).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 A Roman coin hoard and two burials were discovered in the village in 1968, during the construction of a farm building (Historic Environment Record no 2778). This suggests there may have been a settlement in the area at that time.

3.2 At the time of Domesday (1086) the village was held by Evesham Abbey and was within the Hundred of Witley. It was recorded as having a medium sized population and a large income. The Church of St Peter dates to around this time (HER 43255). Earthworks are visible to the south of the church (houseprices.io 2016) and include fishponds and the remains of buildings. These could relate to a grange of the Abbey of Evesham or perhaps an earlier siting of the Manor House. The abbots of Evesham are reputed to have used the Manor House as a summer residence.

3.3 The building currently known as the Manor House in Willersey does have some elements of 14th century date (HER 27549). It belonged to the staunch Catholic Roper family in the 16th and 17th centuries, a fact which may explain the secret stone altar.

3.4 There are a number of Listed Buildings in the village which are recorded on the HER:-

<i>HER no</i>	<i>description</i>
13254	17 th century Dovecote
27551	17 th century Willersey House
43248	Gazebo c. 1914, Willersey House
43249	17 th century house, The Gables
43250	19 th century Cheltenham cottages
43251	17 th century No 2 Church Street
43252	18 th century cottages Church Street
43253	1844 Village School
43254	Church end cottage 17 th century
43256	17 th century chest tomb
43257	17 th century chest tomb
43258	Willersey Store c. 18 th century
43264	Pair of semi-detached cottages 16 th /17 th century
43266	17 th century former farm buildings
43267	18 th century former farmhouse
43268	18 th century gate piers
43269	18 th Century Rex House
43270	18 th century semi-detached houses
43271	Methodist chapel converted from houses 17 th century
43272	Sycamore House 16 th /17 th century
43273	The Bell Inn 17 th century

43275	The Old Bakehouse, 18 th century
43276	Chestnut House 18 th century
43280	Rose Cottage, 18 th century

3.5 Other monuments recorded on the HER are: -

<i>HER no</i>	<i>description</i>
18489	Early 20 th century gas lamps
47531	War Memorial

3.6 Previous archaeological work in the village includes a negative watching brief during an extension to St Peter's Church in 1995 and the discovery of a bank associated with a drainage ditch in 2000 (HER 8276). Post-medieval building remains were found during a watching brief at the primary school in 1997. Further work in 2001 was negative (HER 18485).

3.7 Modern aerial photographs and lidar images show that there are faint traces of ridge and furrow earthworks running east-west across the site (google, houseprices.io). These suggest that the site lay within the open fields in the post-medieval and probably medieval periods. Historic mapping from 1903, shows that the site was in use as an orchard at that time (Ordnance Survey, 1 inch to 1 mile map, National Library of Scotland 2016).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area to be developed; to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the area.

4.2 Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.

4.3 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.

4.4 The three trenches were opened up by JCB with a 1.60m wide, toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and other plough soils were removed under the supervision of an

experienced archaeologist until either the top of archaeological remains or geological natural was reached.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Ridge and furrow survived across the site to a height of c.0.1m. Furrows were approximately 8m apart and aligned NE-SW. Trenches 1 and 2 did not contain any archaeological features and no finds were recovered from them (Fig 3). Topsoil and ploughsoil overlay the geological natural and descriptions and depths can be found in Appendix A.

5.2 A linear feature on the same alignment as a plough furrow was excavated in Trench 3 (303). The feature was 0.93m wide and 0.16m deep. Animal bone and an iron nail were noted in the yellowish brown clay silt fill (304). A further linear feature on a NNE-SSW alignment was excavated in Trench 3 (305). Stratigraphically it was later than the ridge and furrow and a sherd of 19th/20th century pottery (not retained) from the fill (306) confirmed this.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Linear feature 303 was probably the remains of a plough furrow. The site seems to have been in agricultural use since the medieval period and no evidence for earlier occupation or activity was found.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Tim Hammond for facilitating the work and Charles Parry for representing the planning authority..

REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> Accessed January 2016

Houseprices.io 2016 *Free Government open source Lidar data*
<https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map> accessed January 2016

National Library of Scotland 2016 *Ordnance Survey, One inch to One mile, Gloucestershire VII.SW, Revised: 1900, Published: 1903*

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17&lat=52.0531&lon=-1.8455&layers=171> accessed
January 2016



1. Trench 1



2. Trench 2



3. Furrow 303



4. Ditch 305

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Depth m or height above OD m</i>
1	100	Dark brown clay silt	Topsoil	0.20
1	101	Yellowish brown clay silt	ploughsoil	0.30
1	102	Yellowish brown clay	Geological natural	83.97
2	200	Brown clayey silt	Topsoil	0.20
2	201	Yellowish brown clay silt	Ploughsoil	0.40-0.50
2	202	Yellowish brown clay	Geological natural	85.10
3	300	Dark brown clay silt	Topsoil	0.20
3	301	Yellowish brown clay silt	Ploughsoil	0.40 -0.50
3	302	Yellow/blue clay	Geological natural	86.21
3	303	Linear feature, NE-SW, moderately steep sides, flattish base	Furrow?	0.16
3	304	Yellowish brown clay silt	Fill of 303	0.16
3	305	0.88m wide ditch, NNE-SSW aligned	19 th /20 th century feature	0.20
3	306	Greyish brown clay silt	Fill of 305	0.20

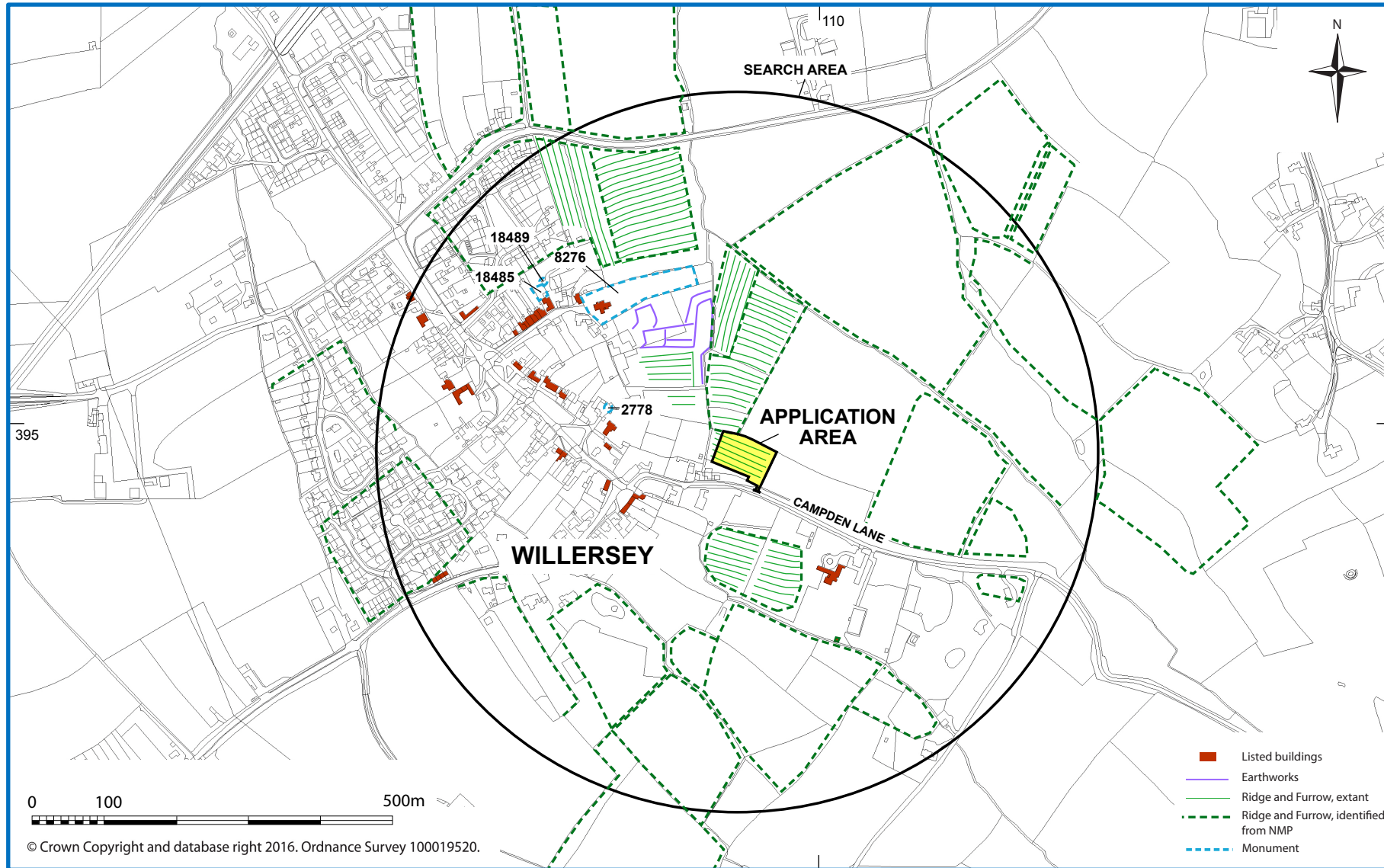


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

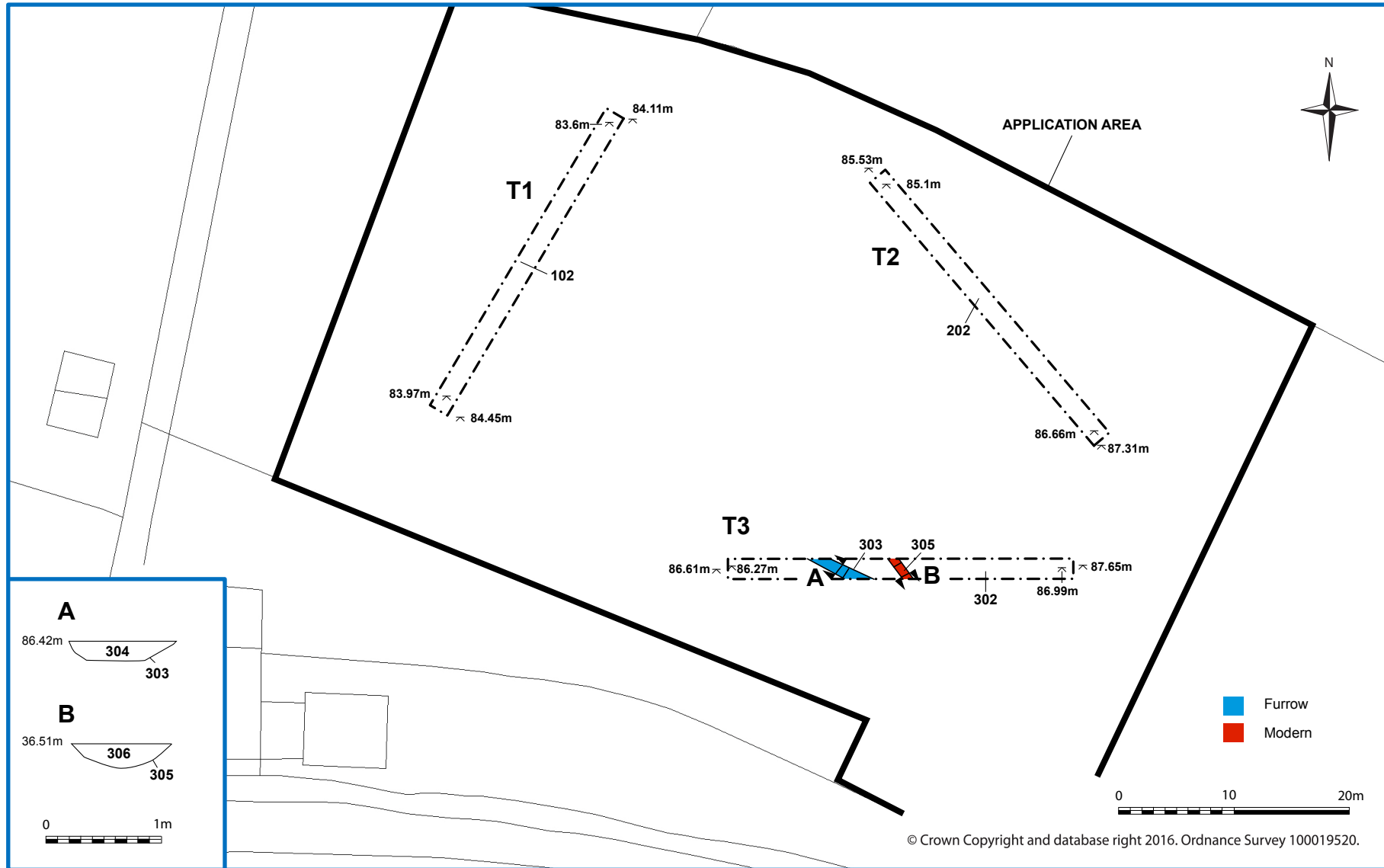


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches and sections A and B