

**Land at Bretforton Road
Badsey
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Armour Heritage Ltd
on behalf of
Mrs M King


CA Project: 4177
CA Report: 13071
HER No.: WSM 48205

March 2013

Land at Bretforton Road
Badsey
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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date	27 February 2013
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date	11 March 2013
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signed	
date	14 March 2013
issue	02

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Bretforton Road
Location:	Badsey, Worcestershire
NGR:	SP 0750 4370
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19-22 February 2013
Planning Reference:	W/12/2754
HER No:	WSM 48205
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code:	BRR 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2013 at Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. Sixteen trenches were excavated.

A ditch terminal and a pit/ditch terminal containing quantities of probable Iron Age pottery and animal bone were identified to the east of site. Although these features are suggestive of settlement activity, no other contemporary features were identified during the evaluation making further interpretation unreliable.

An undated pit/posthole and an undated ditch were identified in in the north-western corner of site.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Armour Heritage Ltd on behalf of Mrs M King at Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0750 4370; Fig. 1). A planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council for development of the site comprising the construction of 28 new dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping (Planning reference W/12/2754), prior to the determination of which further information on potential heritage assets is required, in accordance with a *brief* prepared by Mike Glyde of Worcestershire County Council Archive and Archaeology Service, planning advisor to Wychavon District Council (WCC 2013).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Armour Heritage Ltd (2013) and approved by Mr Glyde. The evaluation also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 2ha. It comprises a large pasture field containing scattered trees and remnants of a fruit trees. The site is bounded to the north by the B4035 Bretforton Road and to the south, west and east by farmland.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Undifferentiated) of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2013). The natural substrate, comprising light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

1.5 A search of archaeological and historic records was undertaken as part of the fieldwork process. The premise that the area had archaeological potential was highlighted by Mr Glyde in his request for the site to be archaeologically evaluated, and this has been explored through a review of recent archaeological fieldwork and



research which has relevance to the understanding of the site and its place within the wider historic environment.

Prehistoric

- 1.6 There is dispersed evidence of prehistoric activity in the area surrounding the site, though no clear evidence from within it. Mainly comprising pottery and other artefactual evidence, records of activity are known from c 1150m to the southeast (EH reference 328361), Blackbank Field (c300m to the northwest) and c 100m to the east (EH reference 328374). Commentary from the Gloucestershire NMP, which is recorded as encompassing these archaeological sites, does not suggest earthwork or cropmark evidence is present.

Roman

- 1.7 The prevailing landscape of the prehistoric period, as suggesting underlying activity, continues into the Roman period. Approximately 1km to the east, a possible villa location has been identified at Badsey Fields (Scott, 1993); the interpretation was primarily through review of artefacts recovered. At a similar distance to the southeast, additional settlement evidence has been identified (May, G 1845) though this was not verified by the Gloucestershire NMP, and it has been hypothesised that medieval ridge and furrow may have been misinterpreted. Similar doubt has been expressed regarding the possible Roman enclosure c750m to the south (EH reference 328356). Irrespective of potential variations of interpretation of the above, there is positive artefactual evidence from the area surrounding the site.

Anglo Saxon

- 1.8 An Anglo-Saxon sceatta has been recovered from the study area, though has been coarsely located (Hill and Metcalf, 1984). It has been suggested that sceattas recovered in such circumstances might represent evidence of trading centres (Dalwood, 2003), though this has not been substantiated locally.

Medieval – Post Medieval

- 1.9 Badsey is noted to have developed significantly through the medieval and Post Medieval periods. Extensive ridge and furrow is noted across the parish in the medieval period (which may obscure earlier remains), though much of the Post Medieval core of Badsey is protected with the Conservation Area (Wychavon District Council 2009), of which the site falls outside to the northeast.



- 1.10 A review of historic mapping indicates that the site was maintained as allotment land under the ownership of John Proctor (Enclosure Map of 1812), with the site boundary falling across three distinct fields at this time. Subsequent mapping and early Ordnance Survey map imprints do not suggest the field divisions varied significantly from this point, being relatively irregular.
- 1.11 Bretforton Road itself is noted (at the time of the Enclosure) as follows: "One public Turnpike Road of the width of forty feet marked Number 1 on the surveyor's map commencing at the Hamlet of Aldington and leading from the Town of Evesham aforesaid towards the Village of Bretforton in an Eastwardly direction and in its usual track until it enters the Parish of Bretforton aforesaid".
- 1.12 The site specifically fell within a larger area of ownership of John Proctor. The award notes in his respect: "Also all that other Allotment situate in Hadshill Field containing seven acres and twenty-one perches, bounded on the East by the Allotment herein awarded to the said Edward Wilson, on the South by an Allotment herein awarded to the Curate of Badsey and the Allotment herein awarded to the said Dean and Chapter and their Lessees John Millard, John Benton and Ann Slatter, on the West by old Inclosures belonging to the said Thomas Byrd and on the North by the Bretforton Turnpike Road". The land can be traced into the ownership of his decedents, and reflects the construction of dwellings adjacent to the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The general objectives set within the WSI (AH 2013) for the evaluation were to:
- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development.
 - Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site.
 - Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits
 - Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.



- 1.11 The site specific objectives of the evaluation were to:
- Establish the potential for significant palaeoenvironmental deposits to be present across the site.
 - Determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains (should they be present) by means of artefactual or other associated evidence.

Methodology

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 16 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1-14 and Trench 16 measured 30m in length and 1.8m in width. Trenches 4, 7, 12 and 14 were moved from their original position due to their proximity to trees. Trench 15 was shortened to a length of 10.5m due to its proximity to trees and an existing outbuilding. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.13 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.14 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.15 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

2.2 The natural geological substrate within each of the trenches comprised light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches. This was overlain by between 0.35m and 0.7m thickness of subsoil which was itself overlain by between 0.12m and 0.15m thickness of modern topsoil and turf. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within Trenches 2-14 and Trench 16. Modern features were identified in Trenches 4, 7, 8, 12 and 13.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.3 Sub-circular pit/posthole 1003 was identified towards the centre of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and contained two undated fills, 1004 and 1005.

2.4 Pit/posthole 1003 was cut by shallow ditch 1006 to the south. It was aligned north-east/south-west, had a shallow flat-based profile and contained two undated fills, 1007 and 1008.

Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 3)

2.5 Shallow, north-east/south-west aligned ditch terminal 15003 was located towards the north-western end of the trench. It contained a single fill, 15004, from which two sherds of probable Iron Age pottery were recovered.

2.6 Pit/ditch terminal 15005 was identified at the north-western end of the trench. It had a shallow, irregular profile and contained a single fill, 15006, from which two sherds of probable Iron Age pottery were recovered.

The Finds

2.7 The finds recovered from the evaluation consisted of five sherds of pottery weighing 26g. A quantity of fired clay, a piece of ceramic building material and fragments of animal bone were also recovered. The finds assemblage was recorded from three contexts and could be dated to the Iron Age or post-medieval periods. Where mentioned, pottery fabrics are in concordance with Worcestershire County Councils, Archives and Archaeology Service fabric series (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994; and at www.worcestershireceramics.org).



Pottery

- 2.8 Four sherds of pottery with finely crushed shell-tempering were recovered from deposits 15004 (the fill of ditch terminal 15003) and 15006 (the fill of pit/ditch terminal 15005). The sherds were abraded, unfeatured and dating is based on the fabrics, which are broadly consistent with Iron Age type 4.3.
- 2.9 A single sherd of Nottingham Stoneware (81.4) was recorded from topsoil 15000 in Trench 15. The fabric was of pinkish colour, which is more typical of Nottingham Stonewares wares, produced from the late 17th to early 18th century.

Other finds

- 2.10 Two unfeatured pieces of fired clay, associated with the Iron Age pottery from fill 15004 of ditch 15003, could not be identified further.
- 2.11 A small piece of ceramic building material, recovered from topsoil 15000, is likely to be part of a roof tile of post-medieval date.
- 2.12 Animal bone fragments recovered from fill 15004 of 15003 and fill 15006 of ditch 15005 were identifiable as domesticated sheep and cow including one small unidentifiable burnt fragment. Due to the surface erosion of the bone, no butchery marks were visible.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the proposed development area. These features were confined to Trenches 1 and 15.

Iron Age

- 3.2 Ditch terminal 15003 and pit/ditch terminal 15005, both identified in Trench 15, contained quantities of probable Iron Age pottery. Although these features are suggestive of settlement activity given the recovery of domesticated fauna, no demonstrably contemporary features were identified during the evaluation making further interpretation unreliable at present.



Undated

- 3.3 Undated pit/posthole 1003 and undated ditch 1006 were identified in Trench 1. Due to their isolated nature the exact function of these features remains unclear. However, due to the east-west alignment of ditch 1006, it can be dated to pre 19th century as mapping from 1812 and first edition OS shows no field boundary in the location, while 1940's aerial photography only shows north-south aligned field boundaries.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon and Alistair Barber, assisted by Alex Thompson and Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.



5. REFERENCES

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- WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2013 *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at 52 Bretforton Road, Badsey, Evesham, Worcestershire*
- Wychavon District Council, 2009 *Badsey Conservation Area Adoption Statement*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.54	
1	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.1	
1	1003	Cut		Pit/posthole	Pit/posthole		1	0.3	
1	1004	Fill	1003	Fill	1st fill of pit/posthole 1003		1	0.1	
1	1005	Fill	1003	Fill	2nd fill of pit/posthole 1003		1	0.2	
1	1006	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	0.9	0.35	
1	1007	Fill	1006	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1006	>1.8	0.77	0.15	
1	1008	Fill	1006	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1006	>1.8	0.75	0.18	
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.12	
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.54	
2	2002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.3	
3	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.12	
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.54	
3	3002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8		
4	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
4	4001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.55	
4	4002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8		
5	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
5	5001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.45	
5	5002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>1	
6	6000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
6	6001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.53	
6	6002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.05	
7	7000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
7	7001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.7	
7	7002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.03	
8	8000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.14	
8	8001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.4	
8	8002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.07	
9	9000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
9	9001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.55	
9	9002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
10	10000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	

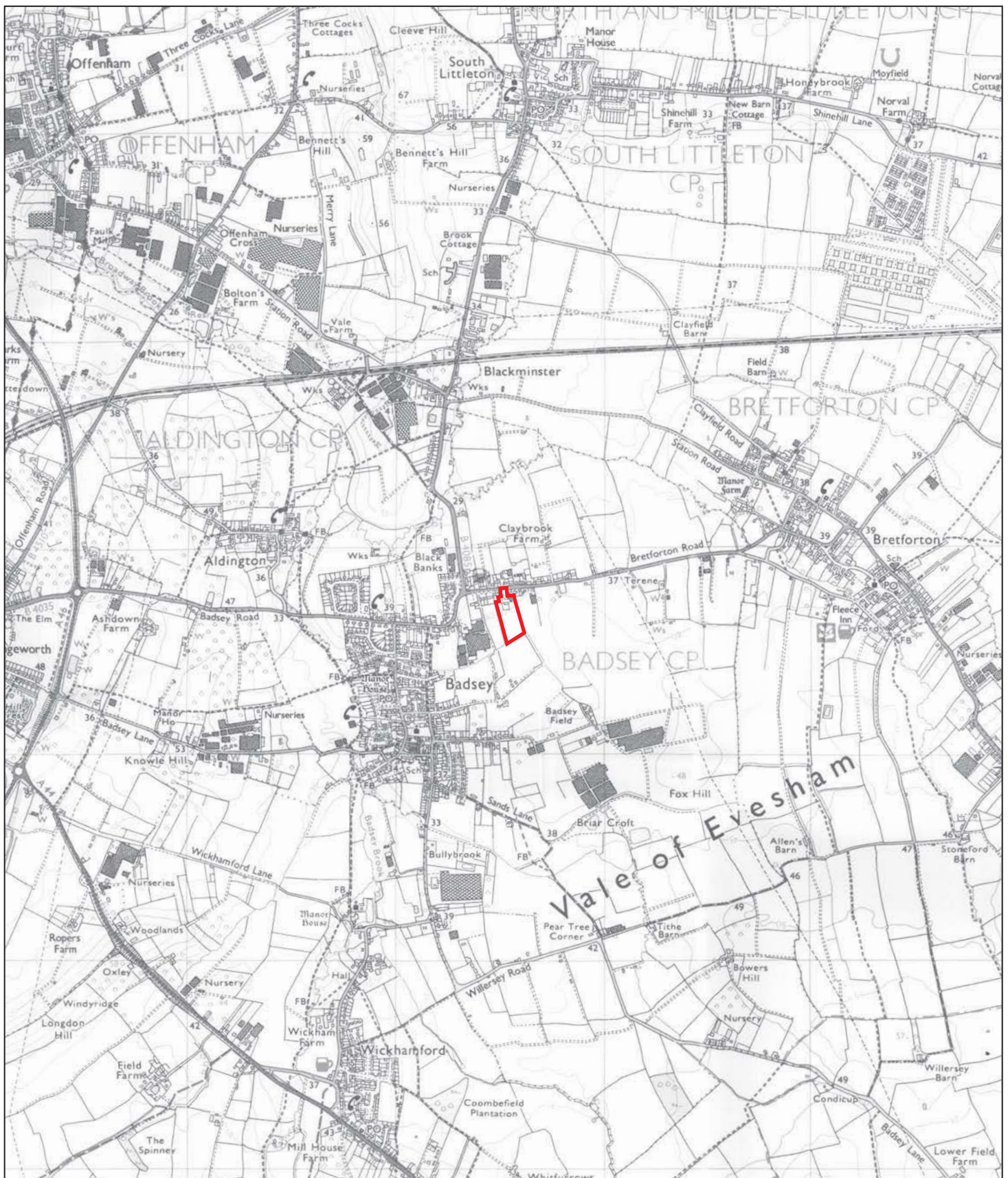
10	10001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.35	
10	10002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.1	
11	11000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
11	11001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.35	
11	11002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.5	
12	12000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.11	
12	12001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.6	
12	12002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.03	
13	13000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
13	13001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.45	
13	13002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.02	
14	14000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
14	14001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.53	
14	14002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>30	>1.8	>0.8	
15	15000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>10.5	>1.8	0.15	P-med
15	15001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>10.5	>1.8	0.53	
15	15002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with frequent gravel patches	>10.5	>1.8	>0.01	
15	15003	Cut		Ditch terminal	NE/SW ditch terminal	>2.7	0.96	0.12	
15	15004	Fill	15003	Fill	Single fill of ditch terminal 15003	>2.7	0.96	0.12	IA?
15	15005	Cut		Pit/ditch terminal	Pit/ditch terminal	>0.52	1.42	0.09	
15	15006	Fill	15005	Fill	Single fill of pit/ditch terminal 15005	>0.52	1.42	0.09	IA?
16	16000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.14	
16	16001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.45	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
15000	Post-medieval pottery: Nottingham Stoneware (fabric 81)	1	4	LC17-EC18
	Ceramic building material: tile fragment	1	2	
15004	Iron Age pottery: fossilized shell-tempered ware (fabric 4.3)	2	14	Iron Age
	Fired clay: undiagnostic	2	8	
	Bone: animal (one fragment burnt)	21	55	
15006	Iron Age pottery: fossilized shell-tempered ware (fabric 4.3)	2	8	Iron Age
	Bone: animal	16	27	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2013 at Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. Sixteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A ditch terminal and a pit/ditch terminal containing quantities of probable Iron Age pottery and animal bone were identified to the east of site. Although these features are suggestive of settlement activity, no other contemporary features were identified during the evaluation making further interpretation unreliable.</p> <p>An undated pit/posthole and an undated ditch were identified in in the north-western corner of site.</p>	
Project dates	19-22 February 2013	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0750 4370	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Glyde, M (WHEAS)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Armour Heritage Ltd	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon and Alistair Barber	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Pottery
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, section drawings, photographic registers
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 52 Bretforton Road, Badsey, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report 13071		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey
 Worcestershire

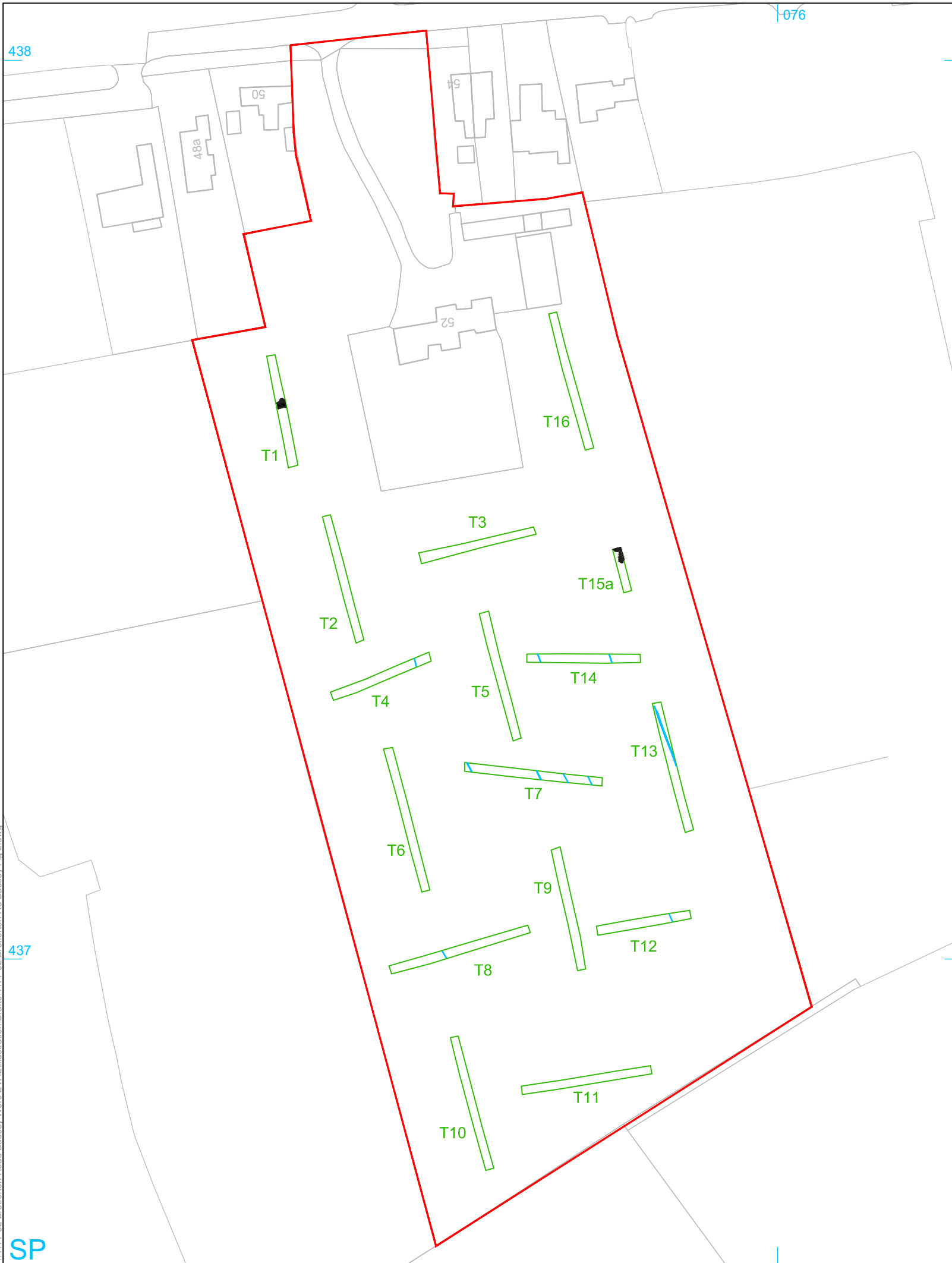
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

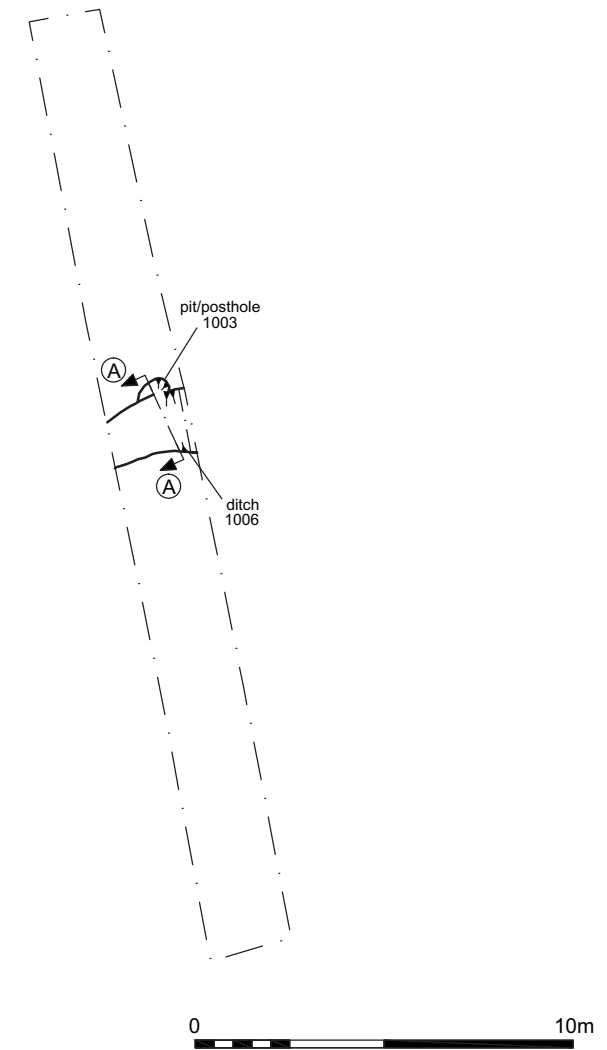
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FIGURE NO.

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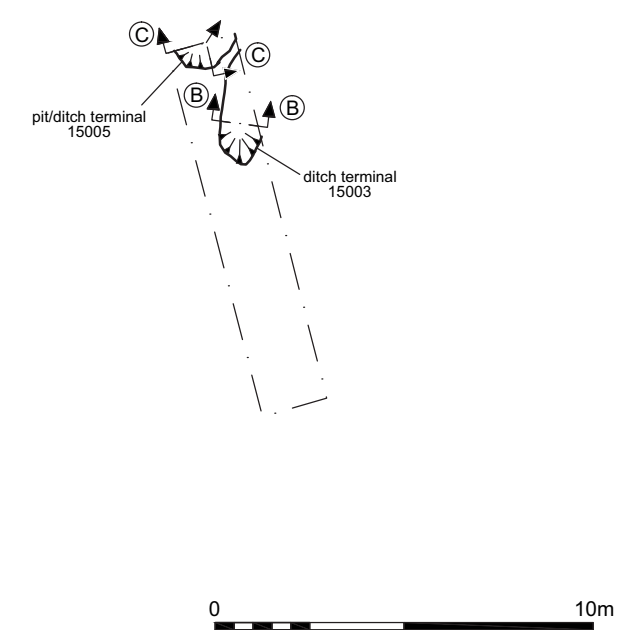


Trench 1; plan



- ▭ site
- ▭ evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- ▭ modern

Trench 15; plan



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Breforton Road, Badsey
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

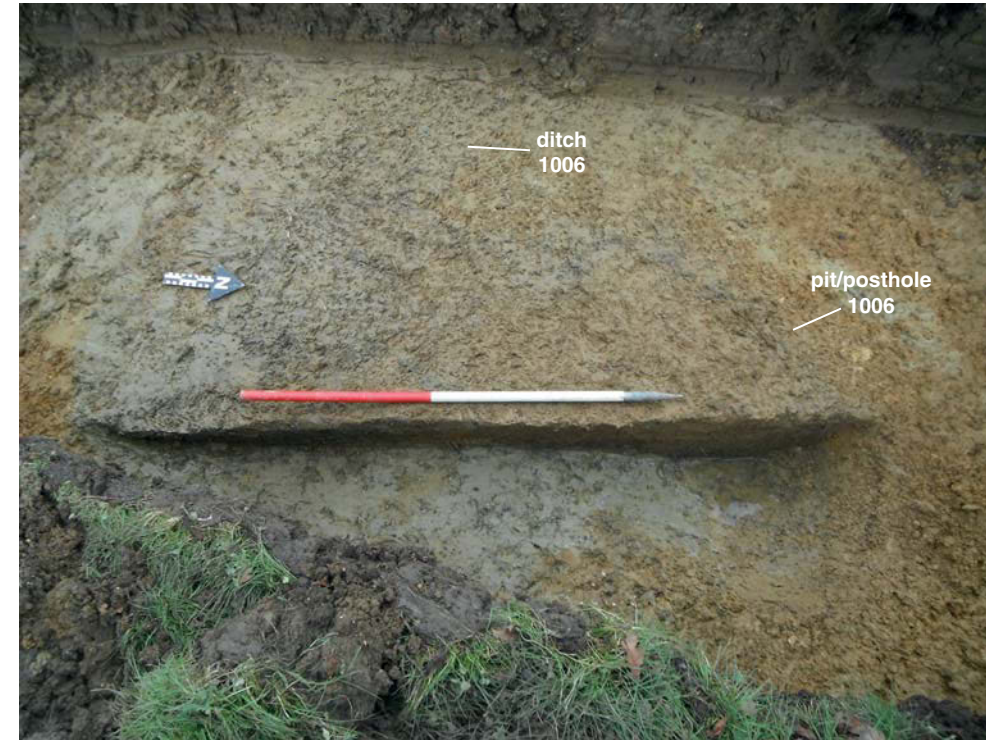
PROJECT NO.	4177	DATE	27-02-2013	FIGURE	
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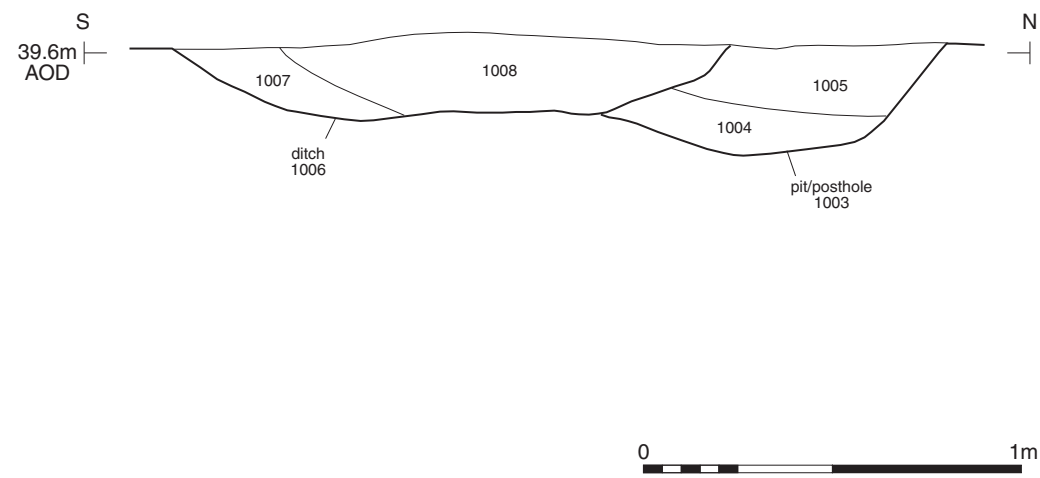




Trench 1; view of pit/posthole 1003 and ditch 1006, looking west. (Scale 1m)



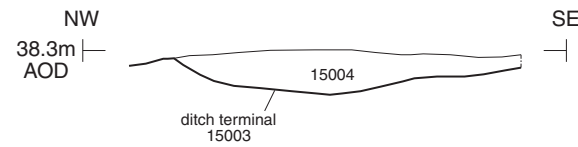
Trench 1; section AA



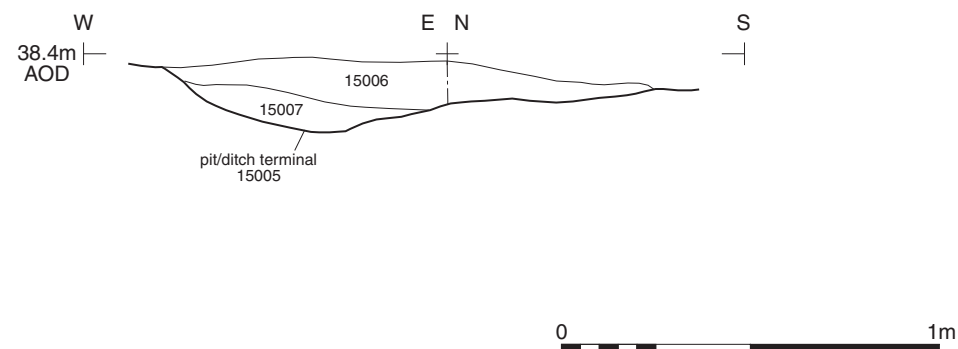
Trench 15; view of ditch terminal 15003 and pit/ditch terminal 15005, looking north. (Scales 1m)



Trench 15; section BB



Trench 15; section CC



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Bretforton Road, Badsey
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1 and 15; sections and
photographs

PROJECT NO. 4177 DATE 27-02-2013 FIGURE NO.
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