



**Bewdley Lane  
Evesham  
Worcestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**Bovis Homes**


CA Project: 4285  
CA Report: 13353  
HER ref. WSM 48229

June 2013

Bewdley Lane  
Evesham  
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4285  
CA Report: 13353

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date	20 June 2013
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Bewdley Lane
<b>Location:</b>	Evesham, Worcestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 03227 43982
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	13-16 May 2013
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	W/11/02505/PN
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	WSM 48229
<b>Site Code:</b>	BEW 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2013 at Bewdley Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire. Twelve trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features pre-dating the modern period were encountered within the site. An undated ditch within Trench 2 may represent one of a series of former east/west-aligned plot boundaries depicted on an 1868 Boundary Commission map of Evesham in this area. An undated wall footing was found in Trench 5.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bovis Homes at Bewdley Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 03227 43982; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Wychavon District Council (WDC) (ref. W/11/02505/PN) for residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mr Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (WAAS), archaeological advisor to WDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Mr Glyde.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development site encloses an area of approximately 2.3ha and includes the remains of former nursery buildings and greenhouses. The site is bordered by residential properties to the east, by Blind Lane to the north and by grassed areas to the south and west. The River Avon lies approximately 100m west of the site. Ground level drops from approximately 28m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the east of the site to 24m AOD at its western edge.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Undifferentiated) of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods, overlain by Pliocene sand and gravel deposits and Holocene Alluvium (BGS 2013). The natural geological substrate, varying from orange sands and gravels to blue-grey clay with gravels, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.



### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 A search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) was carried out for archaeological sites or artefact findspots within 500m of the site. Mesolithic worked flints have been recovered on the western edge of the River Avon and during excavations in the High Street (Napthan *et al.* 1996; Edwards and Hurst 2000). A Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead and a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint knife are also recorded from Evesham (WSM 21048; WSM 21047). The site of a Late Bronze Age settlement has also been identified in Abbey Road, where excavated features included an 8m diameter circle of postholes as well as grain storage pits (reused as refuse pits) and a five-post structure also interpreted as having been used for grain storage (WSM 45210). Excavations within the High Street have also exposed multi-phased, probably domestic, activity spanning the Middle and Late Iron Age (Edwards and Hurst 2000) whilst two poorly provenanced Iron Age coins are also recorded from the town (Allen 1961).
- 1.6 No Roman settlement remains are recorded from the vicinity of the site, although stray, residual, finds have been recovered from medieval deposits in the locality. The High Street site may, after its abandonment in the Late Iron Age, have been used as arable land during the Roman period.
- 1.7 An Anglo-Saxon minster church in Evesham was established c. AD 700 and nearby settlement serving and dependent on the minster has been inferred, although no archaeological evidence has been encountered. A planned town was laid out in the late 11th or early 12th century and prospered into the 16th century. The abbey precinct lay approximately 100m to the south of the site (WSM 02821).
- 1.8 Whilst the main focus of medieval settlement is likely to have been to the east of the site, in the core of the present town, an evaluation to the rear of a burgage plot at 65 Bewdley Street unearthed 11th and 12th-century features. An evaluation undertaken at 2 Bewdley Street found no features predating the 19th century, although a single sherd of Romano-British pottery and three sherds of medieval pottery were noted. The 1827 Inclosure map for All Saints parish shows the site to have formed part of meadows alongside the River Avon. From the time of the 1st edition OS map of 1887 through to 1963 the site is depicted at least partially as orchard, in common with much land around Evesham.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable Wychavon District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### **Methodology**

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches (Trenches 1 and 11 were approximately 10m in length, Trenches 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12 were approximately 15m in length, and Trenches 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 were approximately 25m in length). Minor adjustments to the positions and sizes of Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 were made due to machine access requirements with the approval of Mike Glyde of WAAS. Machine excavated sondages at either end of the Trench 1 revealed up to 1.6m of modern made ground, and excavation was consequently halted due to health and safety considerations. Trench 5 was split into three parts, coded 5A, 5B and 5C, due to obstacles presented by modern structural remains. 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).
- 1.11 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). 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) and 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).

- 1.12 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 site archive will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum under accession number WSM 48229 along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate encountered within the excavated trenches varied from orange-brown sands and gravels to blue-grey clay with gravels. In Trenches 2 to 8 and 10 to 12 the natural substrate was overlain by between 0.2m and 0.6m of grey-brown silt-clay subsoil and 0.1m to 0.4m of dark brown silt-clay topsoil. Modern dump deposits were encountered directly overlying the natural clay substrate in Trenches 1 and 9. The backfilled trench of a modern culvert was identified within Trench 3 and modern field drains were noted in Trenches 2 and 8.
- 2.3 No archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9 to 12.

### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 2.4 An east/west-aligned U-shaped ditch 206, 0.75m in width and 0.35m in depth, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base, cut subsoil 202. It contained a single, undated, sandy-silt fill 207 which was sealed by modern made ground 200.

### ***Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 4)***

- 2.5 A shallow north-west/south-east-aligned wall footing trench 510, 0.95m in width and 0.06m in depth, cut the natural substrate 509. It contained a single surviving, level, course of flat limestone slabs 510 which was directly overlain by modern made ground 508 (comprising dark brown clay with modern brick fragments) and modern concrete 500.



### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 While the background information gathered suggested the area had archaeological potential, the evaluation recorded no pre-modern archaeological features which were capable of direct dating.
- 3.2 An undated ditch noted in Trench 2 was noted to follow an east/west orientation. A possible interpretation by be that it formed part of plot boundaries depicted on the 1868 Boundary Commission map of Evesham. Given its stratigraphic location, being cut through the subsoil, it is unlikely to be of significantly earlier age though limitations of comparison to cartographic sources of mid-19th century date or older means such interpretation cannot be precise. Moreover, it was clear from the modern site topography that the ditch was unlikely to survive to the west (where terracing had occurred) while to the east evidence from Trench 3 suggests that the ditch was not present. The wall footing within Trench 5 cannot be attributed to a specific feature illustrated on cartographic sources, not appearing on any imprints after 1868. Similarly to the ditch within Trench 2, the potential for a greater area of survival is unclear but the general levels of modern disturbance (particularly to the west) mean that additional length or returns may not survive.
- 3.3 The modern ground surface has been subject to appreciable terracing, particularly around Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, in addition to areas to the west of Trench 2 and 5. This will limit the potential for additional archaeological remains survival which would expand upon the current level of understanding of the site in those areas.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber and Chris Watts. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Grey. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

## 5. REFERENCES

- Allen, D 1961 'A study of the Dobunnic coinage' in Clifford, EM 1961 *Bagendon: A Celtic Oppidum* Cambridge
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 17 May 2013
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- Napthan, M, Hancocks, A and Pearson E 1996 *Evaluation at the Northwick Arms Hotel, Bengeworth, Evesham*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, Unpublished report, Ref. No. **475**



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>10	>1.7	0.05	
1	101	Layer		Dump deposit	Light grey brown silt-clay	>10	>1.7	1.6	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Blue-grey gravel-clay	>10	>1.7		
2	200	Layer		Made ground	Yellow stone rubble over terram membrane	>25	>1.7	0.25	
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>25	>1.7	0.1	
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown silt-clay	>25	>1.7	0.2	
2	203	Layer		Natural	Mid brown sand-clay with gravels	>25	>1.7		
2	204	Cut		Service trench	E/W-aligned; not excavated	>	1.15		
2	205	Fill	204	Backfill deposit	Mixed clay backfill	>25	1.15		
2	206	Cut		Ditch	E/W-aligned, U-shaped profile, steeply-sloping sides and rounded base	>1.7	0.76	0.4	
2	207	Fill	206	Backfill deposit	Brown-grey sand-silt	>1.7	0.76	0.4	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>25	>1.7	0.3	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown sand-silt	>25	>1.7	0.35	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Pink-brown sand-clay	>25	>1.7		
3	303	Cut		Modern culvert trench	N/S-aligned; not excavated	>1.7	11		
3	304	Fill	303	Backfill deposit	Mixed grey-blue and brown clay	>1.7	11		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>15	>1.7	0.3	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown clay-sand	>15	>1.7	0.3	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Orange sands and gravels	>15	>1.7		
5	500	Layer		Modern surface	Concrete	>22	>1.7	0.13	
5	501	Layer		Dump deposit	Black-brown cinder	>22	>1.7	0.24	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid brown silt-clay with gravel	>22	>1.7		
5	503	Layer		Modern surface	Tarmacadam	>22	>1.7	0.13	
5	504	Layer		Dump deposit	Mixed clay and stone rubble	>22	>1.7	0.31	
5	505	Layer		Natural	Mid brown to grey-blue silt-clay and gravel	>22	>1.7		
5	506	Layer		Modern surface	Modern brick and concrete	>22	>1.7	0.1	
5	507	Layer		Dump deposit	Brown clay	>22	>1.7	0.35	
5	508	Layer		Dump deposit	Brown clay and brick and limestone fragments	>22	>1.7	0.3	
5	509	Layer		Natural	Mid brown silt-clay with gravel	>22	>1.7		
5	510	Wall		Sandstone wall footing	NE/SW-aligned wall footing, one level course of blocks up to 400mm long, 200mm wide and 100mm thick,	>1.7	0.95	0.1	
5	511	Cut		Wall construction cut	Shallow linear cut with steeply-sloping sides and flat base.	>0.8	>0.2	0.06	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>15	>1.7	0.38	

6	601	Layer		Natural	Orange-brown clay with gravel	>15	>1.7		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>15	>1.7	0.25	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown sand-silt clay with gravel	>15	>1.7	0.3	
7	702	Layer		Subsoil	Grey silt-clay with gravel	>15	>1.7	0.6	
7	703	Layer		Natural	Grey clay with gravel	>15	>1.7		
8	800	Layer		Modern surface	Concrete	>22	>1.7	0.05	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown silt-clay	>22	>1.7	0.45	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Grey-yellow sand-clay with gravel	>22	>1.7		
9	900	Layer		Modern surface	Concrete	>22	>1.7	0.1	
9	901	Layer		Dump deposit	Clay and building rubble	>22	>1.7	0.45	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Blue-grey sand-clay with gravel	>22	>1.7		
10	1000	Layer		Modern surface	Concrete	>15	>1.7	0.1	
10	1001	Layer		Dump deposit	Clay and building rubble	>15	>1.7	0.3	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Blue-grey sand-clay with gravel	>15	>1.7		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silt-clay	>9	>1.7	0.4	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Grey-brown silt-clay	>9	>1.7	0.4	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Orange-brown sand-clay	>9	>1.7		
12	1200	Layer		Modern surface	Concrete	>15	>1.7	0.1	
12	1201	Layer		Dump deposit	Dark brown-black silt-clay with modern brick	>15	>1.7	0.4	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Orange-brown sand-clay	>15	>1.7		

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Bewdley Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2013 at Bewdley Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No archaeological features pre-dating the modern period were encountered within the site. An undated ditch within Trench 2 may represent one of a series of former east/west-aligned plot boundaries depicted on an 1868 Boundary Commission map of Evesham in this area,. An undated wall footing was found in Trench 5.</p>	
Project dates	13 - 16 May 2013	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	none	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Bewdley Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 03227 43982	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	none
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench Recording Sheets, Context sheets, Permatrace, Drawing Register, Photographic Register
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Bewdley Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>13353</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Bewdley Lane, Evesham  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4285 DATE 04-06-2013  
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00  
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FIGURE NO.  
**1**

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- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- ▬ archaeological feature
- ▬ modern



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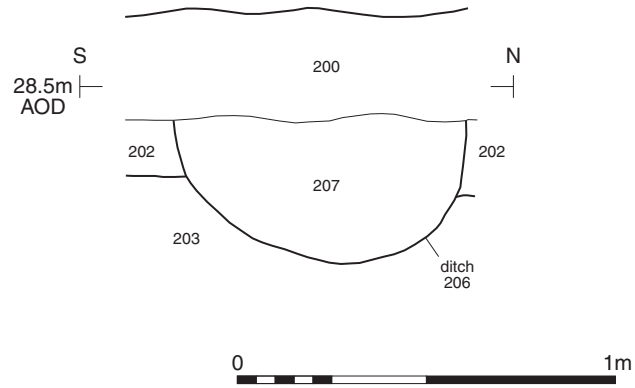
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan, showing  
 archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	4285	DATE	04-06-2013	FIGURE NO.
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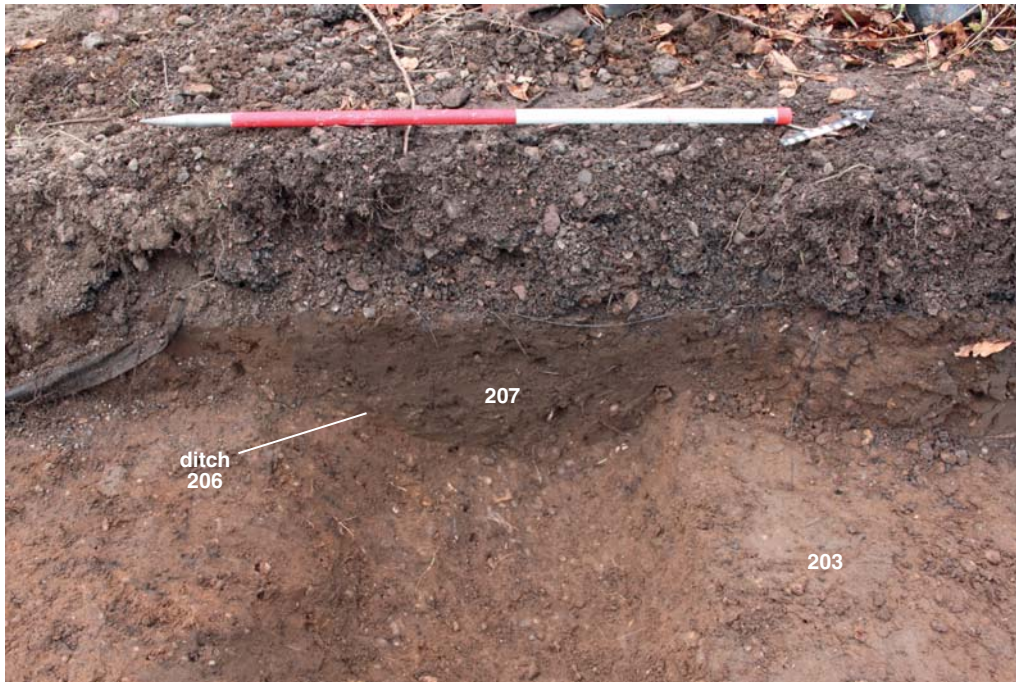
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Section AA



View of ditch 206, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 2: section and photograph**

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FIGURE NO.

**3**





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*PROJECT TITLE*

Bewdley Lane, Evesham  
 Worcestershire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Trench 5: view of wall footing 510,  
 looking south (scale 1m)**

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*FIGURE NO.*

**4**