

**Hanley Road
Malvern Wells
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for


Cala Homes (Midlands)

CA Project: 4600
CA Report: 13634
HER Activity Number: WSM50192
December 2013

Hanley Road
Malvern Wells
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4600
CA Report: 13634

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date	15 November 2013
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date	9 December 2013
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	4
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)	5
<i>The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence</i>	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	6
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	9
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1250)
- Fig. 3 Trench 6; plan, section and photograph

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Hanley Road
Location:	Malvern Wells, Worcestershire
NGR:	SO 7777 4225
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	11–15 November 2013
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code:	HAN 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2013 at Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire. A total of thirteen trenches were excavated.

One pit, containing small, heavily abraded fragments of Iron Age pottery, was recorded during the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Cala Homes (Midlands) at Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7777 4225; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) for the construction of 40 new dwellings with associated access, landscaping and allotments.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013a) and approved by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 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).

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 2.6ha in extent, and comprises disused playing fields situated at the eastern edge of Malvern Wells. The site is bounded by Hanley Road to the north, Rothwell Road to the west, and by agricultural land to the east and playing fields to the south. The site ground level falls from 110m AOD in the south-west to 90m AOD in the north-east
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation of the Mesozoic era, with mixed superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel laid down during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2013).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An HER record search (ref WSM50192, October 2013) completed for these works indicated no archaeological remains on the site.
- 1.6 The Malvern Hills appear to have formed a focus for Bronze Age activity. Barrows have been identified along their length, the nearest c. 900m to the south-west of the site (Bowden 2005). A series of enclosures have also been identified by aerial

photography within the Malvern Hills area, possibly representing late Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement. The closest of these enclosures is located c.1.8km to the north-east of the proposed development site.

- 1.7 A large number of Roman pottery kilns have been identified at Great Malvern, with further examples at Howsell, c. 5.7km to the north of the proposed development site (Bowden 2005, 28). Evidence of early Roman settlement has also been identified at Cradley, c. 6.1km to the north-west.
- 1.8 A series of post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are have been identified to the north (HER refs WSM34167, WSM34140, WSM34166, and WSM34169).
- 1.10 An archaeological evaluation of land immediately to the north of the site identified two possible prehistoric cremation burials as well as several modern field boundary ditches and an undated lynchet (CA 2013b).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 The objectives of the evaluation were 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 MHDC 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

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13 trenches measuring 50m by 1.8m in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The locations of several of the trenches were altered to avoid established trees and a public footpath. Trenches 4 and 6 were broken to avoid underground services. With the approval of Mike Glyde (WAAS), Trench 9 was rotated and moved north due to the presence of terraces in its proposed location. Trench 14 was not excavated for the same reason. The 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* (2013).
- 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 comprised gravels at the north of the site and alternating bands of gravels, silts and clays to the south. Made ground layers were identified overlying buried topsoils in Trenches 1 and 2 in the north-east of the site and in Trenches 10-13 in the south-west of the site. These layers pertain to mid twentieth-century landscaping of the site during construction of tennis courts and a football pitch.
- 2.3 No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1-5 and 7-13. A sub-circular tree throw containing Iron Age pottery was recorded in Trench 6. The results are discussed below.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 The natural geological substrate was cut by sub-circular tree throw 604, identified near the southern end of the trench. It contained a single dark, organic fill, 603, containing occasional burnt stones and flecks of charcoal. The pottery recovered from the fill was likely to be Middle Iron Age in date, but was very highly abraded suggesting that it was intrusive.

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.4 Artefactual material recovered from evaluation consisted entirely of pottery from a single context.

Pottery

- 2.5 Three very small bodysherds of Late Prehistoric pottery in a Malvernian rock-tempered fabric were recovered from fill 603 (fabric 3). One sherd featured incised decoration. The fabric and decoration suggests a Middle Iron Age date.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified very limited evidence for the presence of archaeological remains on the site. Tree throw 604 contained small amounts of charcoal and burnt stone, however it had a very irregular shape in plan and an uneven profile. The feature was located in a part of the trench in which the natural substrate had been heavily disturbed by root action; the trench itself was close to a hedgeline. The small fragments of heavily abraded Iron Age pottery recovered from the fill were intrusive.
- 3.2 The site has undergone heavy landscaping in recent times during the construction of terraces for a football pitch in the south-west of the site and several tennis courts in the north-east. The evaluation revealed that the made ground supporting these was deposited on top of the existing ground surface and was unlikely to have adversely affected any archaeology beneath. However the trenches in these areas identified no archaeological features.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard, assisted by Anthony Beechey, Sikko van der Brug and Franco Vartuca. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were

prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Christopher Leonard, and prepared for deposition by Jonathan Hart. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 15 November 2013

Bowden, M. 2005 *The Malvern Hills: an ancient landscape*. English Heritage

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013a *Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013b *Land adjacent to Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **12397**

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid red-brown sandy silt. Occasional small and medium angular stones	50	1.8	0.2	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown clay silt. Occasional small and sub-rounded and angular stones	50	1.8	0.2	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow-grey gravel	50	1.8		
1	103	Layer		Topsoil	Heavily rooted light grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small angular stones	30	1.8	0.13	
1	104	Layer		Made ground	Light yellow-brown clay. Occasional small angular stones	30	1.8	0.4	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.2	
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange-brown compacted sand and gravel	50	1.8	0.8	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	50	1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.25	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.2	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	50	1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.24	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.12	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	50	1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.2	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey clay silt. common small stones	50	1.8	0.14	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-grey clay silt with bands of mid yellow-grey gravel	50	1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.22	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.18	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Same as 502	50	1.8		
6	603	Fill	604	Pit fill	Light pink-grey clay silt. occasional charcoal and burnt stone	0.63	0.6	0.17	MIA
6	604	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base	0.63	0.6	0.17	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.3	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	50	1.8	0.2	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Same as 502	50	1.8		
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.17	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 501	50	1.8	0.15	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Red and yellow silty clays with bands of gravel	50	1.8		
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.2	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 501	50	1.8	0.2	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Same as 802	50	1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.25	
10	1001	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange-brown compacted silt and gravel	45	1.8	0.48	
10	1002	Layer		Made ground	Light yellow-brown silty clay. Occasional small and medium stones	45	1.8	0.32	
10	1003	Layer		Natural	Same as 802	50	1.8		
10	1004	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	45	1.8	0.1	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.2	
11	1101	Layer		Made ground	Same as 1001	50	1.8	0.6	

11	1102	Layer		Made ground	Same as 1002	50	1.8	1.0	
11	1103	Layer		Natural	Same as 802	50	1.8		
11	1104	Layer		Buried topsoil	Same as 1004	50	1.8	0.05	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.15	
12	1201	Layer		Made ground	Same as 1002	50	1.8	0.75	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Same as 802	50	1.8		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	50	1.8	0.3	
13	1301	Layer		Made ground	Same as 1002	50	1.8	0.85	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Same as 802	50	1.8		

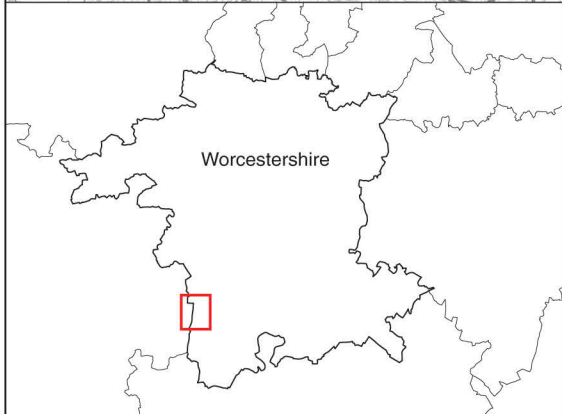
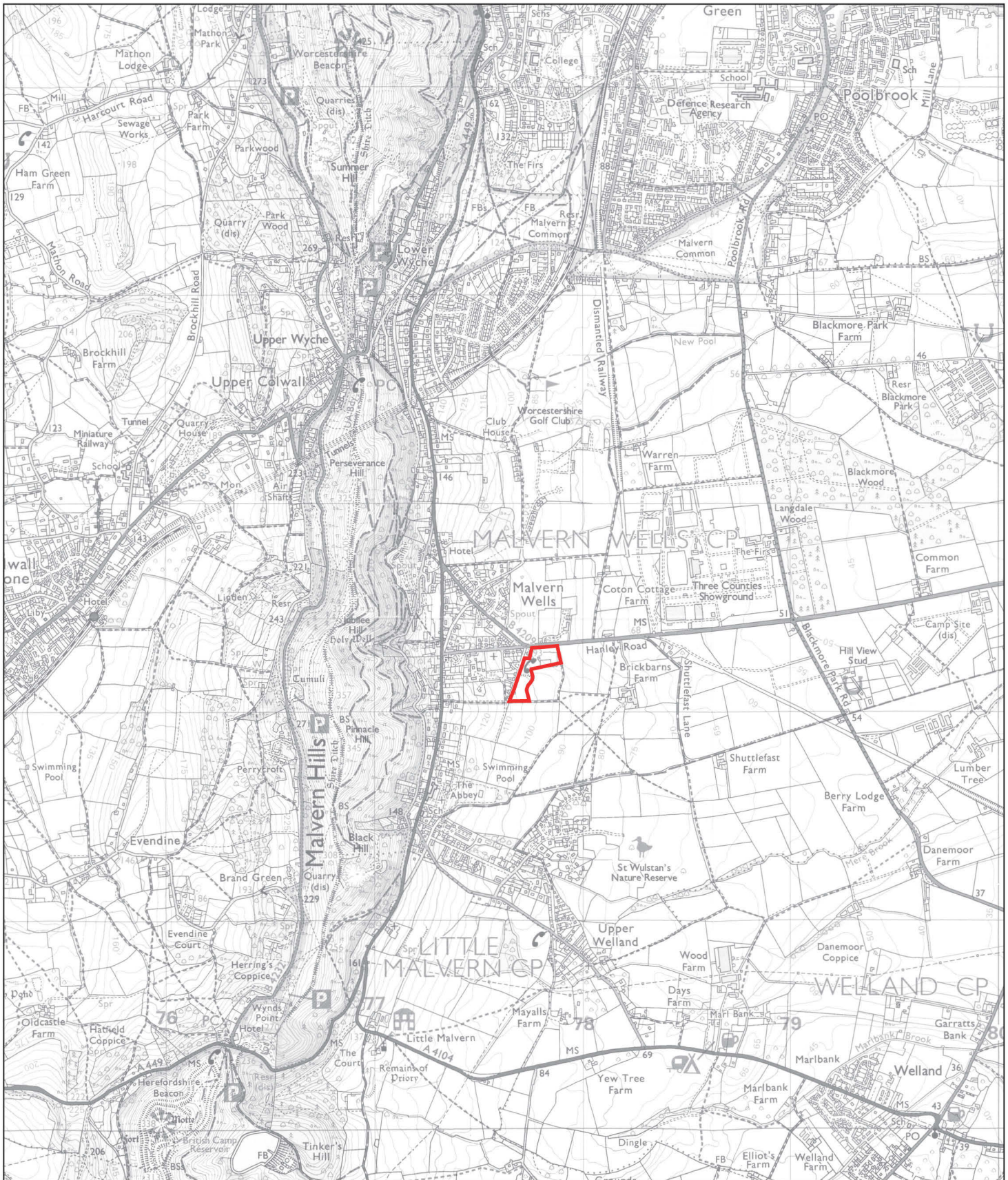
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
603	Late Prehistoric pottery: Malvernian rock-tempered (fabric 3)	3	1	MIA

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2013 at Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire. Thirteen trenches were excavated. A tree throw containing intrusive small, heavily abraded fragments of Middle Iron Age pottery, was recorded during the evaluation.	
Project dates	11–15 November 2013	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Malvern Wells, Worcestershire	
Study area	2.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 7777 4225	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Pottery
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, registers
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Hanley Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13634		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Hanley Road, Malvern Wells
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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PROJECT NO.	4600	DATE	21-11-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- ▬ site boundary
- ▬ evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- tree-throw



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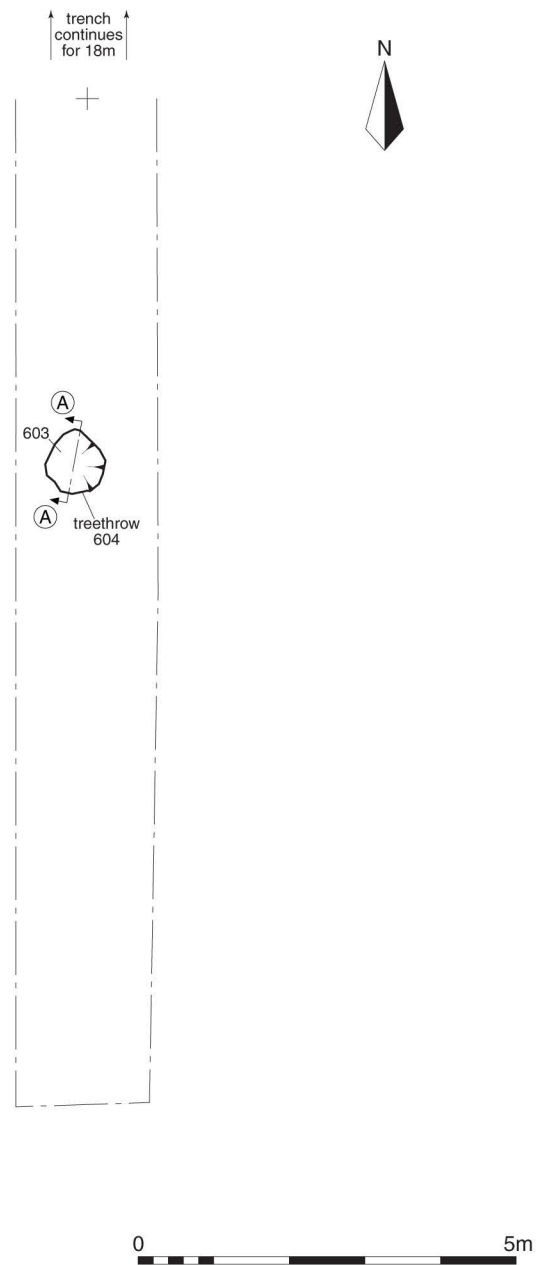
PROJECT TITLE
 Hanley Road, Malvern Wells
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

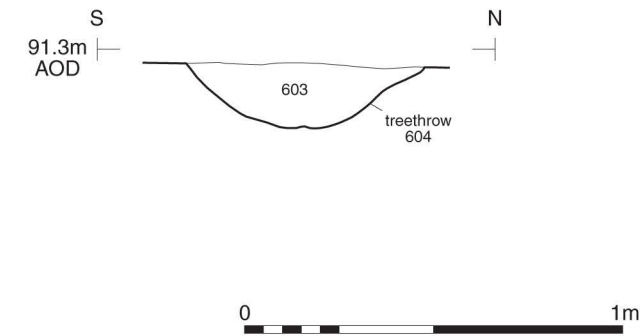
PROJECT NO.	4600	DATE	21-11-2013	FIGURE NO.	2
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:1250		

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Trench 6; plan



Section AA



View of treethrow 604, looking west (scale 0.4m)

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PROJECT TITLE
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 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6; plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	4600	DATE	21-11-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:100 & 1:20	