

SLWB12



## LAND TO THE REAR OF SUNNYHILL HOUSE

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*for CgMs on behalf of  
Wychbold Developments LLP*

W/11/02571/09  
APP/H1840/A/12/217973

*December 2012*



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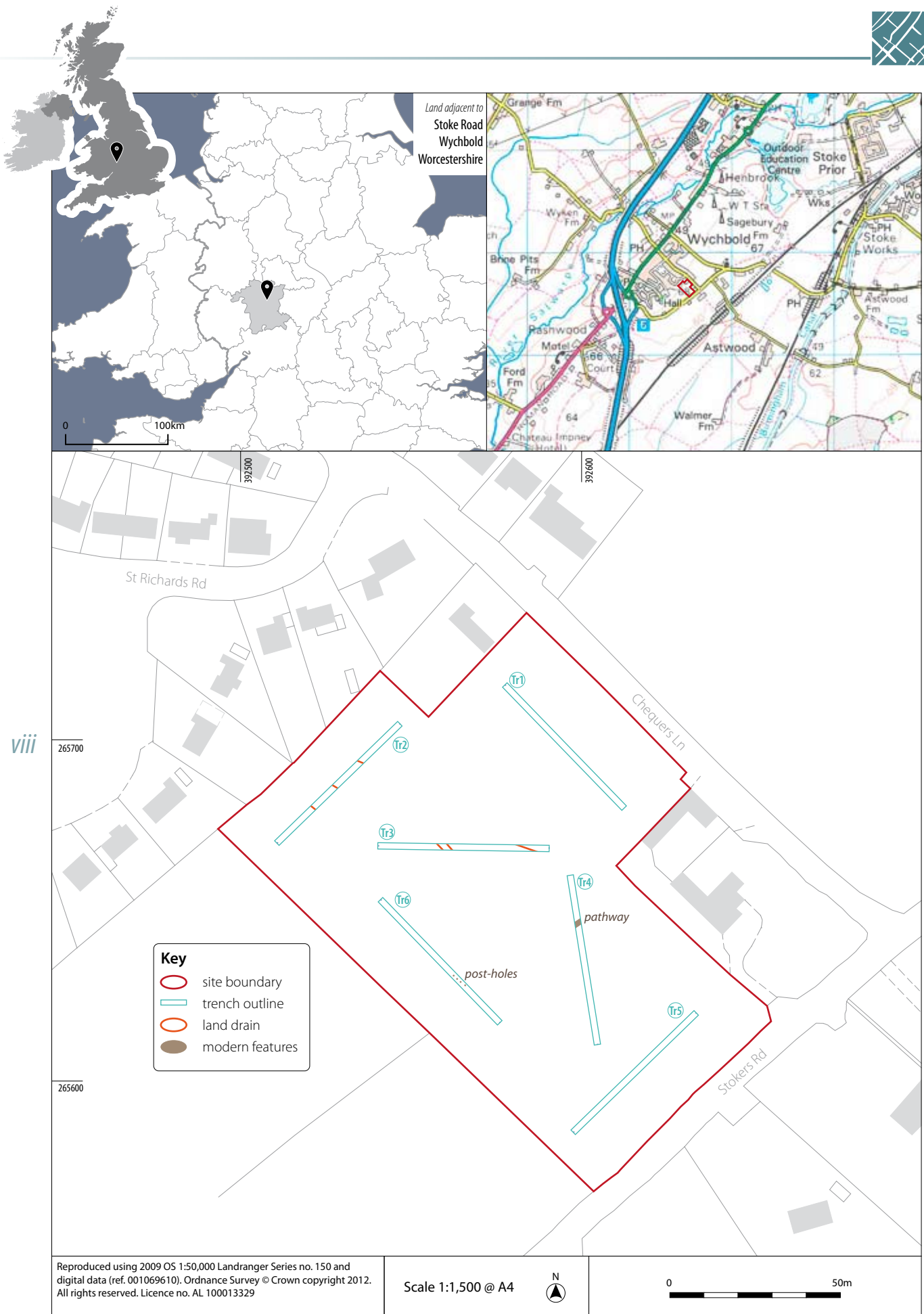
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**Illus 1**

Site location

# LAND TO THE REAR OF SUNNYHILL HOUSE

## Archaeological Evaluation

*An archaeological evaluation comprising six trial trenches was conducted by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (on behalf of CgMs, acting as agents to Wychbold Developments LLP) on Land to the rear of Sunny Hill House, Wychbold, Worcestershire. A series of features relating to drainage and relatively modern uses of the site were identified. However, no significant archaeological deposits were encountered.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The agent, CgMs acting on behalf of Wychbold Developments LPP, commissioned Headland Archaeology Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Sunny Hill House, Wychbold, Worcestershire in advance of residential development. This is in accordance with the planning conditions set out by the local planning authority, Wychavon District Council (W/11/02571/09 and APP/H1840/A/12/217973). Headland Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Headland Archaeology 2012) encapsulating the brief produced by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Mr Mike Glyde (Glyde 2011).

#### 1.1 Location

The site is located towards the southeast of the village of Wychbold, and is currently under pasture. Centred at National Grid Reference SO 926 656, the north-western edge and south-western boundaries are defined by rear gardens of existing houses. A hedge line divides the western boundary of the site from the local Recreation ground, whilst the southern and eastern sides are constrained by Stoke Lane and Chequers Lane respectively.

The area covers approximately 13,500 m<sup>2</sup> and lays at around 58.70m OD in the north, rising up to 63.80m OD towards the southern boundary. The underlying geology comprises Rock Salt or Halite beds of the Drotwich Formation. Superficial drift deposits within the vicinity comprise sands and gravels of the Bushley Green Formation (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

#### 1.2 Archaeological background

A Search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500m radius of the site indicated that the development area does not encompass any Scheduled ancient monuments. However, one listed building was identified (WSM02100), Wychbold Hall, a medieval manor house (grade II), and approximately 350 m towards the southwest.

The HER search identified that parish records have evidence of human occupation within this area from the late 11th century. However Archaeological events are limited to several field walking episodes, evaluations, a watching brief, geophysical survey and an excavation. Of the four evaluations conducted within close proximity to the site (WSM2916, 17807, 29599, 27032) two identified significant archaeological deposits.

An Evaluation conducted by Archaeological Investigations Ltd in 1999 (WSM17807) approximately 450m to the north east of the site, uncovered a network of ditches, ring gullies, postholes and heaths likely to be Iron Age or Romano-British in date (800BC-409AD). An excavation conducted in 2000 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (WSM29599), 400m to the north east of the site, also identified an Iron Age enclosure.

Evidence for medieval period sites are agricultural in nature as Ridge and Furrow is located at four sites within the study area (WSM 05635, 05636, 40982, 11705). Either through field walking or through survey they have been dated between 1066AD and 1539AD.

Within the study area, evidence relating to a second world war crash site was identified (WSM47186) approximately 300m east



**Illus 2**

*General view of Trench 6*

**Illus 3**

*Pathway within Trench 4*

by determining whether there are any remains of archaeological significance present within the development site.

A mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, excavated six evaluation trenches. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology. Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation continued by hand. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Photographic records consisted of both Digital, and 35mm black-and-white print with graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital surveying was also undertaken using a Trimble differential GPS system

### 3. RESULTS

The deposits encountered within the evaluation trenches consisted of modern features associated with land drainage and evidence for modern construction.

The general stratigraphy within the site consist of a dark brown sandy topsoil (avg 0.20m) over a band of orangey brown pebbly subsoil (average 0.20m). This overlay the undisturbed natural geology, which comprised a mixed and poorly sorted gravels in a orangey brown silty matrix. A sondage within Trench 5, cut to investigate the stratigraphic makeup of the site, identified that the gravels were approximately 0.30m deep and overlay mixed deposit of blue green sands and pebbles, both layers where considered as archaeologically sterile horizons, hence excavation ceased at the level of the gravels.

The results from the excavation of Trenches 1, 2 and 3, identified evidence for relatively deep cut modern land drains. Within Trench 3, a possible gravel filled septic tank soak away was also present (*Illus 1*).

During the excavation of Trench 4 an E-W aligned brick constructed pathway was laid within the topsoil (*Illus 2*). It was 1.9m wide and formed of un-bonded bricks (0.25 x 0.12 x 0.10m in size). Its construction and position within the topsoil suggest it is recent. No other archaeological features were identified.

Trench 5 contained no archaeological features. During the excavation of Trench 6 a series of post holes 0.30m in diameter and 0.15m deep were identified. Cut from the topsoil the postholes

of the site. This consisted of a crash site for a Junkers Ju88 A-5. Site visits in the 1970s by the Warplane Wreck Investigation Group located parts of the plane within the garden of The Croft and the surrounding fields, located c. 500m to the east of the site.

## 2. METHOD

The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to satisfy the first stage of investigation required by the local planning authority,



contained evidence of concrete and plastic. The identified posthole probably formed the foundations of a modern field shelter or small barn.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

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The archaeological evaluation has established that only deposits from modern periods survive within the development area. The features identified indicate that the land use has changed over time within the development area. However examination of the available cartographic documentation suggests that the development area has always been pastureland. Indeed, none of the available maps identify the pathway or barn, further suggesting that these are in-fact relatively modern structures. As such, these later features indicate that the site was occupied by agricultural structures until fairly recently. The site was subsequently abandoned and left to grass over in order to be used as rough pasture

The excavation of the evaluation trenches indicates that no historically significant archaeological deposits survived within the confines of the area investigated.

#### 5. REFERENCES

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- British Geological Survey website, Accessed November 2012 at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>
- Headland Archaeology 2012 *Land to the rear of Sunny Hill House, Wychbold, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
- Vyce, D 1999 *Stoke Lane, Wychbold; An Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Archaeological Investigations Ltd.
- Historic Environment Record search, November 2012.WSM47425, Sunnyhill House, Wychbold, Dodderhill, Worcester.



## 6. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Context/Trench register

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
1	1001	Mouldable Dark brown ,sandy loam, 1% small pebble inclusions	1.80 x 50m, 61.35–59.75m OD ground level	0.20m
	1002	Mouldable Orange brown sandy loam, inclusions, 2–5% rounded pebble.		0.20m
	1003	Orange brown silty loam, inclusion, 50% small to medium rounded gravels		Excavation ceased at this level

#### Summary of excavation

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the gravels, no archaeology was encountered, nor were any finds or feature observed that did not relate to the modern land drainage. (illus 1)

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
2	2001	Mouldable Dark brown ,sandy loam, 1% small pebble inclusions	1.80 x 50m, 59.07–58.53m OD ground level	0.20m
	2002	Mouldable Orange brown sandy loam, inclusions, 2–5% rounded pebble.		0.20m
	2003	Orange brown silty loam, inclusion, 50% small to medium rounded gravels		Excavation ceased at this level

#### Summary of excavation

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the gravels, no archaeology was encountered, nor were any finds or feature observed that did not relate to the modern land drainage. (illus 1)

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
3	3001	Mouldable Dark brown ,sandy loam, 1% small pebble inclusions	1.80 x 50m, 58.82–60.75m OD ground level	0.20m
	3002	Mouldable Orange brown sandy loam, inclusions, 2–5% rounded pebble.		0.20m
	3003	Orange brown silty loam, inclusion, 50% small to medium rounded gravels		Excavation ceased at this level

#### Summary of excavation

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the gravels, no archaeology was encountered, nor were any finds or feature observed that did not relate to the modern land drainage. (see illus 1)

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
4	4001	Mouldable Dark brown ,sandy loam, 1% small pebble inclusions	1.80 x 50m, 61.21–63.09m OD ground level	0.20m
	4002	Mouldable Orange brown sandy loam, inclusions, 2–5% rounded pebble.		0.20m
	4003	Orange brown silty loam, inclusion, 50% small to medium rounded gravels		Excavation ceased at this level
	4004	Brick constructed pathway. Approximately 1.9 meters wide, constructed from a single coursed of fired clay bricks of various colours (0.25 x 0.12 x 0.10m), the pathway was cut into the topsoil.		1.9mwide aligned East-West.

**Summary of excavation**

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the gravels, the remains of a brick constructed pathway was identified. (*Illus 1*)

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
5	5001	Mouldable Dark brown ,sandy loam, 1% small pebble inclusions	1.80 x 50m, 63.80–63.87m OD ground level	0.20m
	5002	Mouldable Orange brown sandy loam, inclusions, 2–5% rounded pebble.		0.20m
	5003	Orange brown silty loam, inclusion, 50% small to medium rounded gravels		0.30
	5004	Green blue sands with rounded gravel inclusions		Excavated 0.30m below 5003

**Summary of excavation**

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the gravels; no archaeology was encountered, No features were observed relating to the modern land drainage. (*Illus 1*). A small sondage was excavated to investigated the stratigraphic makeup

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Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth
6	6001	Mouldable Dark brown ,sandy loam, 1% small pebble inclusions	1.80 x 50m, 62.64–59.70m OD ground level	0.20m
	6002	Mouldable Orange brown sandy loam, inclusions, 2–5% rounded pebble.		0.20m
	6003	Orange brown silty loam, inclusion, 50% small to medium rounded gravels		Excavation ceased at this level
	6004-6008	0.30m x 0.10m post holes cut from 6001 and cut into 6003		

**Summary of excavation**

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine to the top of the gravels, a series of postholes aligned north south were recorded within the evaluation trench, excavation of the posthole revealed fragments of concrete and plastic. (*Illus 1*)



## Appendix 2 Photographic register

Photo	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
1	Y	Y	N	Trench 1
2	Y	Y	E	Trench 1 Section
3	Y	Y	W	Trench 2
4	Y	S	S	Trench 2 Section
5	Y	Y	S	Trench 3
6	Y	Y	E	Trench 3 Section
7	Y	Y	S	Trench 3 gravel soak away
8	Y	Y	S	Trench 4
9	Y	Y	W	Trench 4 Section
10	Y	Y	W	Trench 4 detail of brick path
11	Y	Y	N	Trench 4 detail of brick path
12	Y	Y	E	Trench 5
13	Y	Y	N	Trench 5 Section
14	Y	Y	N	Trench 5
15	Y	Y	N	Trench 5 Section
16	Y	Y	N	Trench 5 excavated post hole
17	Y	Y	S	Trench 5 line of post holes





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