

**Norton Lane
Worcester
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief
(Addendum to CA report 10141)

for


Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd and Persimmon Homes Ltd

CA Project: 3401
CA Report: 11072
WCC Reference: WSM 42449
March 2011

Norton Lane
Worcester
Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3401
CA Report: 11072

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date	21 March 2011
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signed	
date	23 March 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Norton Lane
Location: Worcester, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 8677 5142
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 15 March 2011
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: NOW 11
WCC Reference: WSM 42449

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits at Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks works, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd and Persimmon Homes Ltd at Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8677 5142; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a recommendation by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site is situated to the south of Worcester, in the suburban area of Norton, on land to the immediate west of a housing estate adjacent to Norton Road and to the north and east of St Peter's Garden Centre (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 32m AOD, with ground levels dropping gently from north to south.
- 1.4 The area of observed test pits occupies 1.1 hectares of the 3.2 hectare site and comprises an area of relatively flat, mown grassland (Field 1).
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Branscombe Mudstone Formation of the Norian period of the Upper Triassic era (BGS 2011). This was observed in all trenches as a red-brown clay and with occasional gravel patches.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 A desk based assessment of the site undertaken by CSa describes the cultural heritage of the site and its environs fully (CSa 2010). A summary of that information is provided below.



- 1.7 The proposed development area occupies part of the site of the former Norton Barracks and lies in an area of archaeological potential. An undated cropmark enclosure is recorded by Worcestershire HER (WSM01367) approximately 120m to the west of the application area, and a large Roman farm or hamlet, with a specialist industrial character, approximately 650m to the north-east (Jackson et al 1992). A small watercourse along the southern boundary formerly feed a large medieval fishpond located 65m beyond the site (CSa 2010).
- 1.8 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken throughout the site in September 2010 during groundworks associated with ground clearance for suspected unexploded ordnance (UXO) identified during a preceding geophysical survey. The mechanical excavation of 186 test-pits, typically measuring 0.8m by 0.5m, was archaeologically monitored. The depths of the excavations were determined by the depth of the suspected UXO, and were typically between 0.05m and 0.36m below the present ground surface (the majority of the excavated test-pits did not penetrate below the existing topsoil). However, deeper excavations within 31 of the test-pits did identify evidence that modern demolition rubble had been spread throughout much of the site. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered (CA 2010a). The results of the geophysics and location of the test-pits are shown on Fig. 2.
- 1.9 Subsequent archaeological evaluation, comprising thirteen trenches, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2010 (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). Two intercutting ditches, mostly probably dating to the Roman period, although there is a possibility that the earliest is Iron Age in origin, were identified. The earlier of the ditches may have defined the northeast corner of an enclosure, although the possibility that it is curvilinear in plan should not be dismissed. Small quantities of iron slag were recovered from both ditches. No other archaeological remains were uncovered during the evaluation. Extensive modern disturbance and dumping was revealed in the southern field of the proposed development (CA 2010b).

Methodology

- 1.10 Following consultation between Messrs Glyde and Bateman (WHEAS and CA respectively), it was agreed that archaeological observation was necessary only within Field 1, adjacent to Crookbarrow Road. An archaeologist was present during intrusive

groundworks which comprised the machine excavation of seven geotechnical test pits (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be amalgamated with the preceding watching brief undertaken during UXO clearance works, and will be deposited with Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery. 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 (FIG 2)

- 2.1 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the observed geotechnical test pits with the natural clay substrate, containing occasional gravel patches, being revealed at an average depth of 0.44m below present ground level. This was overlain by subsoil averaging 0.29m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.15m of topsoil.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), and the close proximity to previously identified archaeological features (see section 1.9 above) the current watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.



4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS 2010 http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 16 March 2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010a *Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **10141**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010b *Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **10194**

CSa (CSa Environmental Planning) 2010 *Land off Norton Lane, Worcester: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Typescript report CSA/1596/02a

Jackson R, Hurst D, Pearson E and Ratkai S (1992). *Archaeology on the Strensham to Worcester Aqueduct*. In *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society 3rd Series*, **15**, 1-62.



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test pit 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP100	Layer	Topsoil			0.16	
TP101	Layer	Subsoil			0.3	
TP102	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			0.49	
TP103	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

Test pit 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP200	Layer	Topsoil			0.13	
TP201	Layer	Subsoil			0.29	
TP202	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			0.68	
TP203	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

Test pit 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP300	Layer	Topsoil			0.16	
TP301	Layer	Subsoil			0.32	
TP302	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			0.48	
TP303	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

Test pit 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP400	Layer	Topsoil			0.17	
TP401	Layer	Subsoil			0.21	
TP402	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			0.59	
TP403	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

Test pit 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP500	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
TP501	Layer	Subsoil			0.3	
TP502	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			0.83	
TP503	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

Test pit 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP600	Layer	Topsoil			0.18	
TP601	Layer	Subsoil			0.26	
TP602	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			1.22	
TP603	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

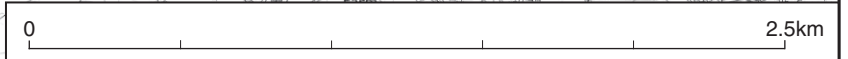
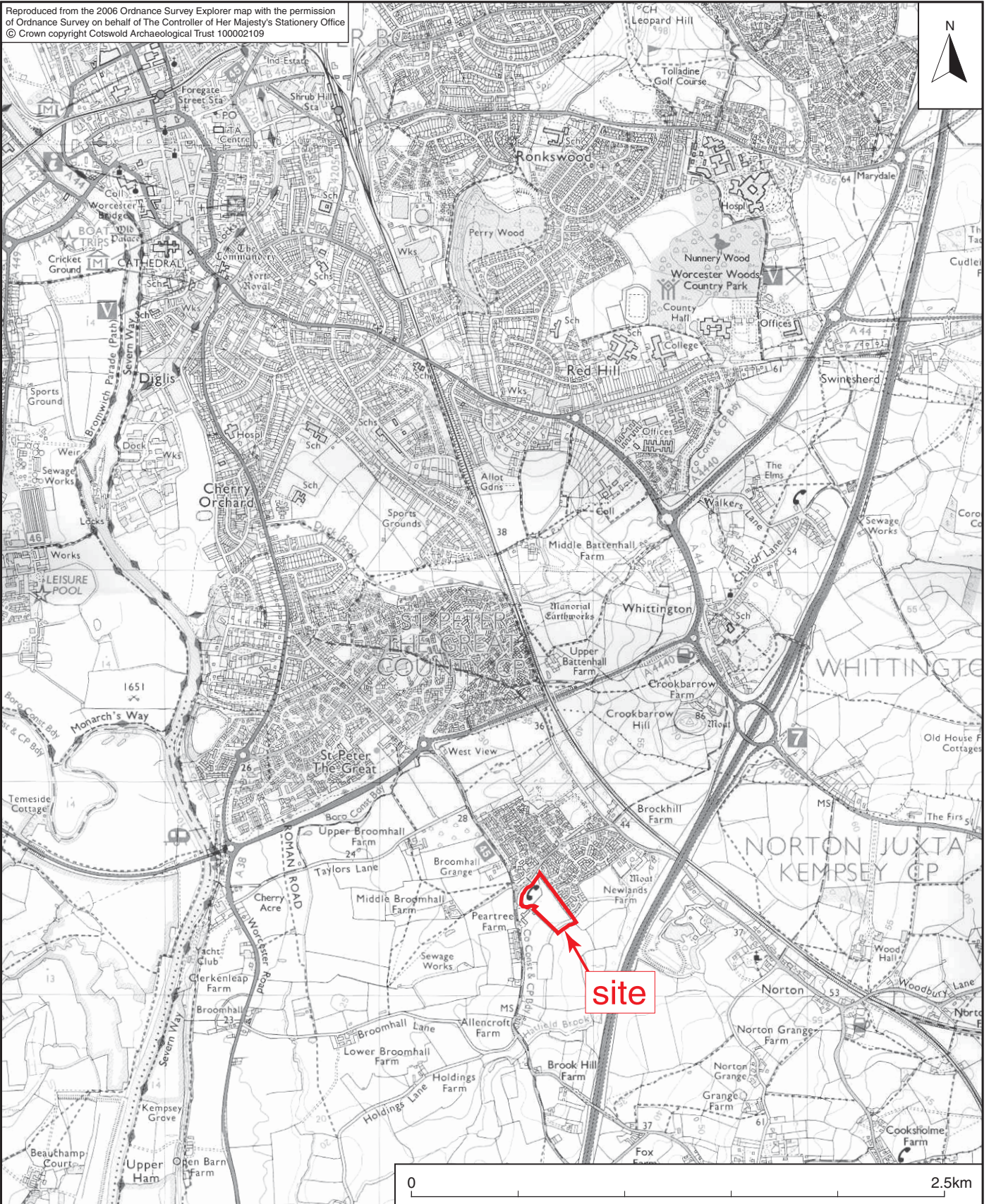
Test pit 7


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
TP700	Layer	Topsoil			0.13	
TP701	Layer	Subsoil			0.35	
TP702	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay with occasional bluish grey patches			0.55	
TP703	Layer	Natural substrate: reddish brown clay and mudstone gravel				

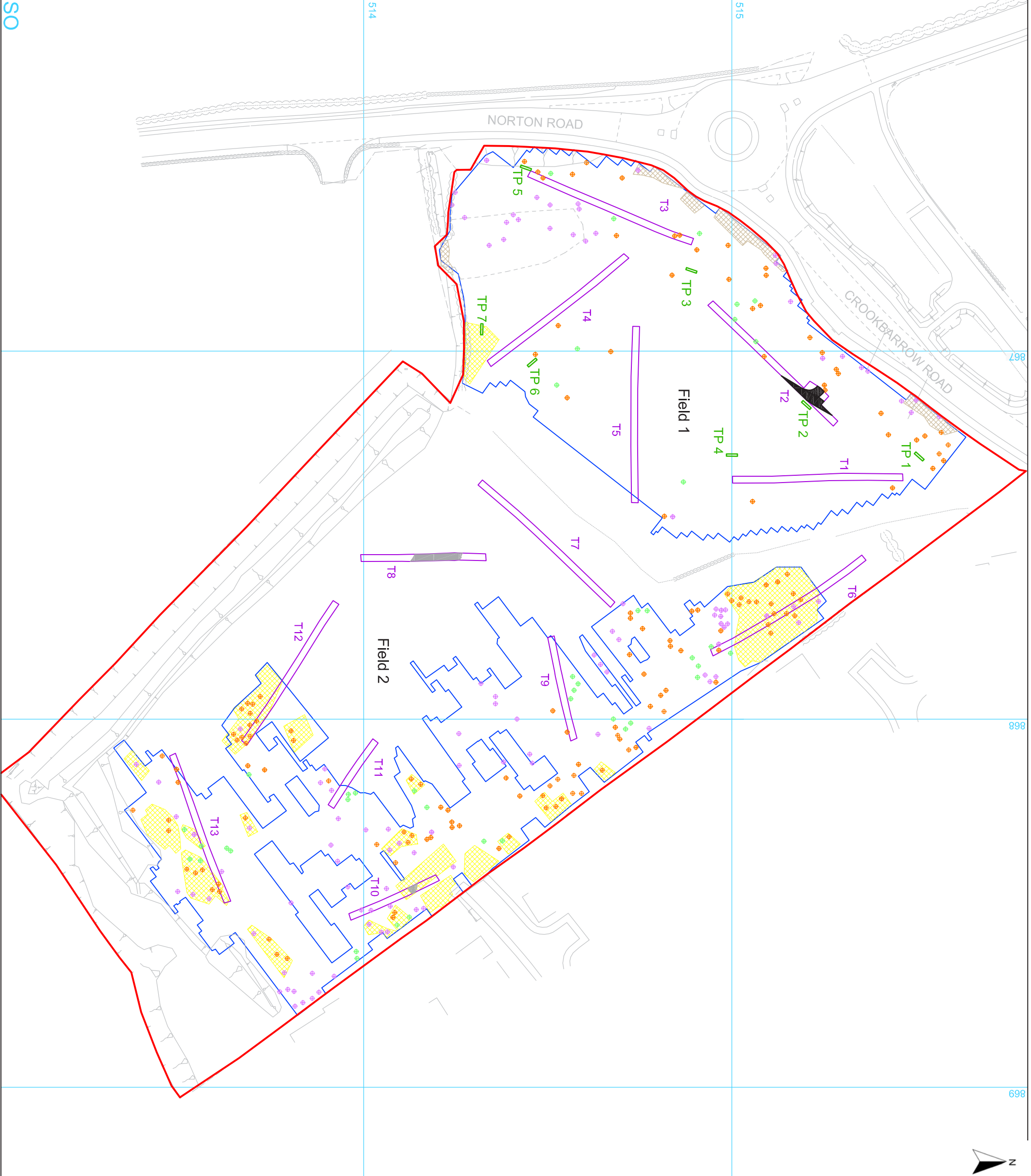
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits at Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks works, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered	
Project dates	15 March 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	DBA CSa Environmental CA Watching Brief (CA 2010 typescript report 10141) CA Evaluation (CA 2010 typescript report 10194)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8677 5142	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	N/A	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench Sheets, geotechnical test pit location plan and photographic registers
Digital	Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 11072		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Norton Lane, Worcester Worcestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	3401	1



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- site
- geotechnical test pit
- Locations of previously observed test pits (CA 2010)
 - + observed: no object found
 - + observed: ferrous object present (non-archaeological)
 - + unexcavated
- evaluation trench (CA 2011)
- archaeological feature
- modern feature
- geophysical survey results (2010)
- geophysical survey area
- Areas of high metal content
- Influence of above ground structures



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Norton Lane, Worcester
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed test pits

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:1000@A3	3401	2

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