

**Land to the rear of Maypole House
Wombourne
South Staffordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Kendrick Homes


CA Project: 3281
CA Report: 11078

July 2011

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Wombourne
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date	18 July 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land to the rear of Maypole House
Location: Wombourne, South Staffordshire
NGR: SO 87477 93059
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 9 December 2010 – 21 March 2011
Planning Reference: 08/00461/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Stoke-on-Trent Museums Service
Site Code: MPS10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of fourteen dwellings and nine commercial units on land to the rear of Maypole House, Maypole Street, Wombourne.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between December 2010 and March 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Kendrick Homes on land to the rear of Maypole House, Maypole Street, Wombourne (centred on NGR: SO 87477 93059; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC) for the construction of fourteen dwellings and nine commercial units (Planning ref: 08/00461/FUL). This condition was recommended by Mr Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council (SCC), archaeological advisor to SSDC. 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 the *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* prepared by Mr Dean (SCC 2010). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), 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 site lies to the rear of Maypole House, Wombourne (Fig. 2), at approximately 94m AOD with the ground level dropping away to the south. It occupies an area of approximately 4350m² and prior to development was being used as a car park and caravan storage facility.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Wildmoor Sandstone Formation of the Scythian Era (BGS 2011).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The scheme lies within the historic core of Wombourne. The place name of Wombourne is Old English and probably derives from the near-by brook of that name. The name may relate to a pool like feature on that watercourse. In Domesday (1086) there were fourteen taxable villagers and three smallholders

(although the total number of inhabitants was larger (see 1.7) along with a priest, four ploughs and two mills. This would indicate a comparatively large and prosperous settlement just after the Norman Conquest (SCC 2010, 2-3).

- 1.7 The population of Wombourne at the time of Domesday was 26 and in the 14th century 18 people were assessed for tax. By 1563 the parish contained 37 households. The church in Wombourne was founded before 1086. The manor house was situated on the opposite side of the village green to the church and housing was probably concentrated in this area during the medieval period (ibid.).
- 1.8 Ironmaking is recorded in the parish of Wombourne from the late 16th century, utilising the Wom Brook and Smestow Brook for power and local sand for moulding. The number of ironworkers in Wombourne increased significantly in the 19th century (with 48 in 1861 and 73 by 1871). Nail making also took place in the parish from the 17th to the late 19th century, with 18 nail shops recorded in Wombourne in 1816 and 242 nailers in the parish by 1871. The number had fallen back to 87 by 1871, when techniques of mass production began to take over from local industry. By 1881 there were none (ibid.).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (SCC 2010). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks comprising site stripping, the excavation of footing trenches and the excavation of service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Written, graphic and photographic records of observed groundworks were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with Stoke-on-Trent Museums Service in due course. 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 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified across the whole development area (Fig. 3). The natural geological substrate consisting of orange and red-brown sand with frequent pebbles was observed at an average depth of 0.95m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a layer of subsoil averaging 0.3m in thickness but becoming noticeably greater in depth towards the south-west corner of the site. The subsoil was overlain over most of the development area by a dark brown silt-sand layer, a probable buried topsoil. Similarly to the subsoil, this deposit was of a greater thickness in the south-west corner of the site. In the northern part of the development area the buried topsoil survived only in patches. These deposits were sealed over the entire development area by a layer of compacted made-ground averaging 0.5m in thickness but becoming considerably less thick in the south-west corner (averaging 0.3m). The made-ground was covered in some areas by tarmac surfaces.
- 2.2 During the watching brief a number of modern features, post-dating the subsoil, were observed. These features included three shallow waste pits, 104, 206 and 905, two pet graves, 204 and 1704, a narrow ditch 804, a soak-away drain 504 and a large pit of unknown function 1405.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified no archaeological remains that pre-dated the modern period within the area of observed groundworks. Although it is possible that archaeological deposits were removed in the modern period during the levelling of the site for the construction of the car-park and caravan storage facility, the survival of remnant topsoil and subsoil below the made-ground across the entirety of the site suggests modern truncation has not been severe. It is therefore likely that the absence of archaeological deposits indicates that structural remains associated with the medieval settlement and ironmaking industry and the post-medieval nail-making industry either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Haines and Alex Wilkinson. The report was written by Charlotte Haines. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett and Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled by Charlotte Haines, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

SCC (Staffordshire County Council) 2010 *Land to the rear of Maypole House, Maypole Street, Wombourne: Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Dark brown black, topsoil			0.40	Modern
101	Layer	Rubble and red brick mixed with 100, made-ground			0.50	Modern
102	Layer	Orange brown sand, subsoil			0.20	
103	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				
104	Cut	Irregular shallow waste pit	1.0	1.0	0.12	Modern
105	Fill	Coal fill of 104	1.0	1.0	0.10	Modern
106	Fill	Cream-grey sand-silt fill of 104	1.0	1.0	0.02	Modern
107	Layer	Brown sand and brick rubble, subsoil			0.50	
108	Layer	Tarmac			0.15	Modern
109	Deposit	Modern dumped material				Modern

Trench 2

Present ground level: East end: 93.11m AOD

West end: 92.81m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Tarmac			0.04	Modern
201	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.70	Modern
202	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.25	
203	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				
204	Cut	Pet grave	0.75	0.50	0.50	Modern
205	Fill	Dark grey-black silt-sand with lime and animal bone, fill of 204	0.75	0.50	0.50	Modern
206	Cut	Square pit	1.0	0.90	0.30	Modern
207	Fill	Dark grey silt sand fill of 206	1.0	0.90	0.30	Modern

Trench 3

Present ground level: 93.83m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Tarmac			0.04	Modern
301	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.45	Modern
302	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.15	
303	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.25	
304	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 4

Present ground level: 93.61m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.50	Modern
401	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.15	
402	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.30	
403	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 5

Present ground level: 93.33m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.50	Modern
501	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.15	
502	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.30	
503	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				
504	Cut	Soak-away drain	>4.0	1.0	0.55	Modern
505	Fill	Fill of 504	>4.0	1.0	0.55	Modern

Trench 6

Present ground level: 93.04m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.65	Modern
601	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.15	
602	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.20	
603	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 7

Present ground level: 92.89m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.55	Modern
701	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.28	
702	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.22	
703	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 8

Present ground level: South end: 92.87m AOD

North end: 93.13m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.52	Modern
801	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.15	
802	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.20	
803	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				
804	Cut	Narrow linear ditch	>4.0	0.34	0.30	Modern
805	Fill	Orange-red sand-clay primary fill of 804	>4.0	0.24	0.10	Modern
806	Fill	Dark brown silt-sand secondary fill of 804	>4.0	0.34	0.30	Modern

Trench 9

Present ground level: South end: 93.13m AOD

North end: 93.66m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Tarmac			0.04	Modern
901	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.36	Modern
902	Layer	Patches of black-brown silty sand, buried topsoil			0.13	
903	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.30	
904	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate			0.72	
905	Cut	Circular pit	0.75	0.70	0.16	Modern
906	Fill	Dark grey-black silt-sand fill of 905	0.75	0.70	0.16	Modern

Trench 10

Present ground level: 92.70m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.25	Modern
1001	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.40	
1002	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.42	
1003	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 11

Present ground level: 92.68m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.31	Modern
1101	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.21	
1102	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.56	
1103	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 12

Present ground level: 92.68m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.41	Modern
1201	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.21	
1202	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.46	
1203	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 13

Present ground level: 93.63m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.50	Modern
1301	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.21	
1302	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.32	
1303	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 14

Present ground level: East end: 92.80m AOD

West end; 92.90m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Tarmac and gravel			0.07	Modern
1401	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-sand, dumps of building sand and rubble dumps of gravel, made-ground			0.63	Modern
1402	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.31	
1403	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.25	
1404	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				
1405	Cut	Oval pit	5.60	>2.40	>1.0	Modern
1406	Fill	Dark grey-black silt-sand fill of 1505	4.40	>2.40	>0.30	Modern
1407	Fill	Dark brown silt-sand fill of 1405	5.20		0.80	Modern
1408	Fill	Dark brown-grey silt sand fill of 1405	2.60		0.30	Modern
1409	Fill	Column of dumped red sand, fill of 1405	1.70	1.50	>1.0	Modern

Trench 15

Present ground level: 93.79m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1500	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.58	Modern
1501	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.31	
1502	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.29	
1503	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 16

Present ground level: 93.84m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1600	Layer	Tarmac			0.04	Modern
1601	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.51	Modern
1602	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.11	
1603	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.26	
1604	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				

Trench 17

Present ground level: 92.68m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1700	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.49	Modern
1701	Layer	Patches of black-brown silt-sand, buried topsoil			0.11	
1702	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil			0.35	
1703	Layer	Orange and red brown sand and pebbles, natural geological substrate				
1704	Cut	Pet grave	>0.45	0.50		Modern
1705	Fill	Dark brown silt-sand, lime and animal bone, fill of 1704	>0.45	0.50		Modern

Trench 18

Present ground level: 94.16m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1800	Layer	Tarmac			0.11	Modern
1801	Layer	Dark grey-brown silt-clay, rubble and re-deposited natural substrate, made-ground			0.52	Modern
1802	Layer	Orange-brown sand, subsoil				

APPENDIX B: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using a spot height located on Maypole Street to the North East of the site (95.0m AOD).

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5	Trench 6
Current ground level	0.00m (93.02m)	0.00m (93.11m)	0.00m (93.83m)	0.00m (93.61m)	0.00m (93.33m)	0.00m (93.04m)
Top of buried topsoil	N/a	N/a	0.49m (93.34m)	0.50m (93.11m)	0.50m (92.83m)	0.65m (92.39m)
Limit of Excavation	2.00m (91.02m)	1.10m (92.01m)	1.80m (92.03m)	1.50m (92.11m)	1.50m (91.80m)	1.45m (91.59m)

	Trench 7	Trench 8	Trench 9	Trench 10	Trench 11	Trench 12
Current ground level	0.00m (92.89m)	0.00m (93.13m)	0.00m (93.66m)	0.00m (92.07m)	0.00m (92.68m)	0.00m (92.68m)
Top of buried topsoil	0.55m (92.34m)	0.52m (92.61m)	0.40m (93.26)	0.25m (91.82)	0.31m (92.37m)	0.41m (92.27m)
Limit of Excavation	1.40m (91.49m)	1.00m (92.13m)	0.80m (92.86)	0.95m (91.12m)	1.10m (91.58m)	1.20m (91.48m)

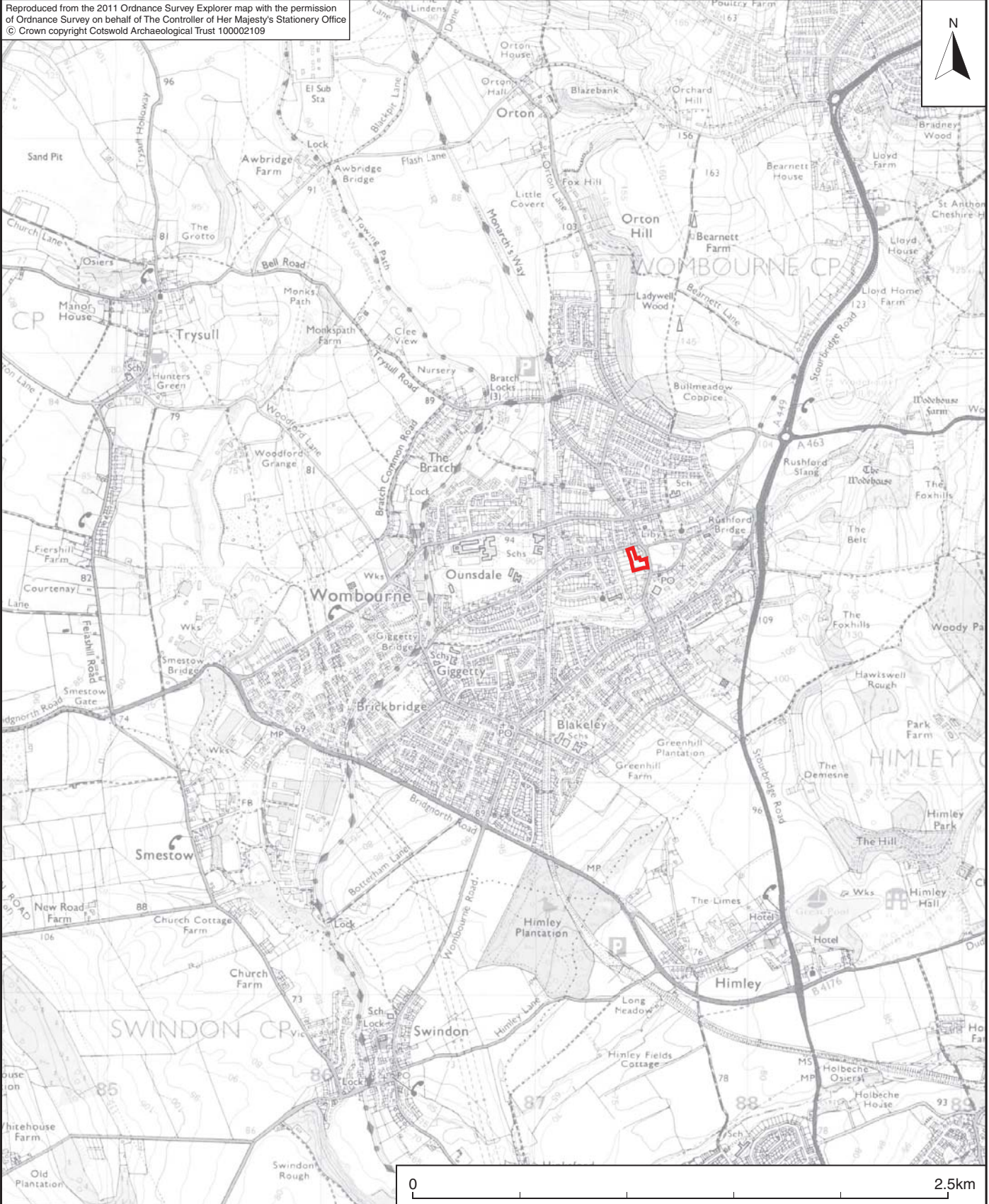
	Trench 13	Trench 14	Trench 15	Trench 16	Trench 17	Trench 18
Current ground level	0.00m (93.63m)	0.00m (92.90m)	0.00m (93.79m)	0.00m (93.84m)	0.00m (92.68)	0.00m (94.16)
Top of buried topsoil	0.50m (93.13m)	0.70m (92.20m)	0.58m (93.21m)	0.55m (93.29m)	0.49m (92.19m)	N/a
Limit of Excavation	1.25m (92.38m)	1.40m (91.50m)	1.30m (92.49m)	1.55m (92.29m)	1.10m (91.58m)	0.65m (93.51m)


Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the rear of Maypole House, Wombourne	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of fourteen dwellings and nine commercial units on land to the rear of Maypole House, Maypole Street, Wombourne.</p> <p>No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	9 December 2010 – 21 March 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Maypole Street, Wombourne, South Staffordshire	
Study area	4350m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SO 87477 93059	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Staffordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Staffordshire County Council	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Charlotte Haines and Alex Wilkinson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	None	
Paper	Stoke Museum Service	Context records, site location plan, trench location plans, day sheets, photo register
Digital	Stoke Museum Service	Project background, reports
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land to the rear of Maypole House, Wombourne, South Staffordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report. 11078</p>		

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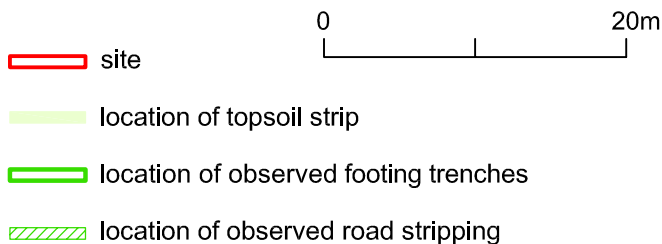


 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Land at the rear of Maypole House Wombourne, South Staffordshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

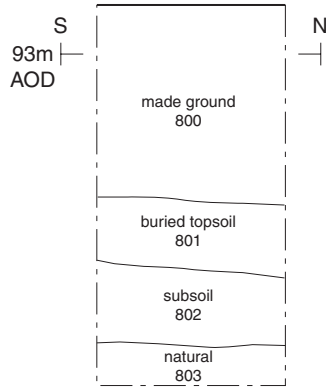
PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the rear of Maypole House
 Wombourne, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
**The site showing location of
 groundworks**

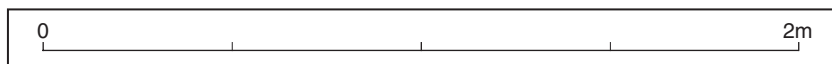
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Trench 8; section AA



Trench 8, east facing section of trench 8, looking west (scale 1m)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the rear of Maypole House
Wombourne, South Staffordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph

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JB

SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

3281

FIGURE NO.

3