



**207 Banbury Road  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
Warwickshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**Charles Church Developments Ltd**


CA Project: 3641  
CA Report: 11305

December 2011

207 Banbury Road  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
Warwickshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 3641  
CA Report: 11305

prepared by	Steven Sheldon, Project supervisor
date	8 December 2011
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date	16 December 2011
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	16 December 2011
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	207 Banbury Road
<b>Location:</b>	Stratford-upon-Avon
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 2182 5373
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	29 November to 7 December 2011
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	11/02072/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Warwickshire Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	T/1165
<b>Site Code:</b>	BNR 11

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between November and December 2011 at 207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Ten trenches were excavated.

Two pits, one of which contained a residual worked flint flake and a small quantity of late medieval/post-medieval tile, were identified in the southern part of the site. The function of these pits remains unclear. A large pit in the north-east of the site, probably relating to quarrying/clay extraction, contained pottery of 20th-century date. The remains of an undated linear feature, probably representing a former hedge, were identified in the north of the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between November and December 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Charles Church Developments Ltd at 207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (centred on NGR: SP 2182 5373; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a programme of archaeological works undertaken as a condition of planning consent prior to the commencement of development comprising the erection of up to 29 dwellings with associated car parking, access, infrastructure and open space (SUADC planning ref. 11/02072/FUL).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire Museum Field Services (WMFS), the archaeological advisor to SUADC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (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* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Ms Stocks, including a site visit on 5 December 2011.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is approximately 1.3ha in area and comprises the site of an existing property and its associated gardens at 207 Banbury Road, approximately 2km southeast of the historic core of Stratford-upon-Avon. It is bounded to the south-west by the A422 Banbury Road, to the east and west by residential properties also fronting the A422 Banbury Road, and to the north by an arable field.
- 1.4 The bedrock geology is Mercia Mudstone, overlain by sands and gravels of the Allstone Member (BGS 2011). The natural substrate, comprising brown red clay with occasional gravel and sand patches, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record (WSMR) indicates that the site lies immediately to the south-west of an area containing cropmarks suggesting archaeological features of an undetermined date (WSMR MWA 1009). The cropmarks

indicate linear features and enclosures, possibly representative of settlement of prehistoric or Roman date.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the SUADC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 10 trenches; Trench 1 measured 20m in length and 1.6m in width, Trenches 2-7 measured 30m in length and 1.6m in width, Trench 8 measured 15m in length and 1.6m in width, Trench 9 measured 6m in length and 1.6m in width and Trench 10 measured 11.5m in length and 1.6m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 3 were moved from their original position due to the presence of potential live services detected during CAT scanning of the trench locations. A short north-west/south-east orientated extension was added to the north-eastern end of Trench 1 to further investigate a feature identified in the trench. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).
- 1.8 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).
- 1.9 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).

- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of WMFS the artefacts will be discarded (see 2.6 below). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum under accession number T/1165. 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 2-4)

- 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 within each of the trenches comprised brown red clay with occasional gravel and sand patches. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within Trenches 3-5, 9 and 10.

### *Trench 1 (Fig. 2)*

- 2.3 A linear feature, initially interpreted as a ditch terminal, was identified at the north-eastern end of the trench. However, further excavation of the feature within an extension of the trench established that it represented an irregular treethrow pit.

### *Trenches 2 & 7 (Fig. 2)*

- 2.4 An area of modern disturbance, 203 and 704, probably relating to the partial backfilling of a quarry or clay extraction pit, was exposed within Trenches 2 and 7 respectively. The pit cut the subsoil, contained pottery of 20th-century date, concrete fragments and glass and was still visible in the field as a large, shallow depression.

### *Trench 6 (Fig. 2)*

- 2.5 Shallow linear feature 604 was partially exposed towards the north-western end of the trench. The feature was 100% excavated and found to be highly irregular in both plan and profile. It contained a single undated fill and exhibited evidence of root disturbance, and was therefore interpreted as the remains of a former hedge.

### *Trench 8 (Figs 2-4)*

- 2.6 Small irregular pit 805 was partially exposed towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It contained a single fill, 806, from which an abraded flint flake and four

fragments of late medieval/post-medieval tile were recovered. To the south-west, circular pit 809 was revealed. It had a regular U-shaped profile and contained a single undated fill, 810.

- 2.7 Five parallel, north-west/south-east aligned linear features, probably representing plough scars or similar agricultural features, were also identified. Two contained modern artefactual material and all were shown to cut the subsoil.

### ***The Finds***

- 2.8 Artefactual material comprising a prehistoric worked flint flake, small quantities of modern pottery, ceramic building material and industrial residues, was recovered from four deposits (appendix B). The dateable (ceramic) elements suggest that most or all relates to relatively modern activity. The worked flint flake from deposit 806 (the fill of irregular pit 805) exhibits extensive edge damage and is clearly re-deposited. It exhibits no secondary working and is not closely dateable. In view of the modern dating or re-deposited character of the assemblage, none of this material will be retained.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the proposed development area. These features were confined to Trenches 2, 6, 7 and 8.

### *Post-medieval*

- 3.2 Pit 805, identified in Trench 8, contained a quantity of late medieval/post-medieval tile and it is possible that undated pit 809, also identified in the trench, is broadly contemporary. However, at present there is no clear indication of the function of these pits.

### *Modern*

- 3.3 Modern activity was identified in Trenches 2 and 7 where a large pit, probably relating to quarrying/clay extraction, contained modern pottery, concrete fragments and glass. Two quarry pits are shown approximately 350m to the east of the site on the 1884-1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey map. A further quarry pit is located



approximately 100m to the east of the site and is shown on an aerial photograph dated 1945. It is likely that quarry pit 203/704 identified during the evaluation represents a westward continuation of this activity.

#### *Undated*

- 3.4 An undated, irregular linear feature, 604, was identified in Trench 6 and would appear to represent the remains of a former hedge.

#### *Conclusion*

- 3.5 There is no evidence that the cropmarks, recorded by the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record, to the north-east of the site continued into the proposed development area, and the only archaeological features recorded during the evaluation appear to be post-medieval and modern in date.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

## **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 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 02 December 2011)

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.18	
101	Layer	Make-up/levelling layer			0.2	
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.28	
103	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.4	
104	Cut	Land Drain	>1.5	0.4	N/A	
105	Fill	Single fill of 104	>1.5	0.4	N/A	
106	Cut	Treethrow	>1.6	0.6	0.18	
107	Fill	Single fill of 106	>1.6	0.6	0.18	
108	Cut	Geological feature	>1.6	1.3	0.15	
109	Fill	Single fill of 108	>1.6	1.3	0.15	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.25	
202	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.5	
203	Cut	Quarry/clay extraction pit	>13	>1.6	1.45	
204	Fill	1st fill of 203	>13	>1.6	1.05	C19-C20
205	Fill	2nd fill of 203	>13	>1.6	0.2	
206	Fill	3rd fill of 203	>13	>1.6	0.2	

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.25	
302	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.45	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
401	Layer	Subsoil			0.3	
402	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.5	

## Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
501	Layer	Subsoil			0.25	
502	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.45	
503	Cut	Land Drain	>2	0.4	N/A	
504	Fill	Single fill of 503	>2	0.4	N/A	

## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.23	
601	Layer	Subsoil			0.2	
602	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.6	
603	Fill	Single fill of 604	>1.6	2.18	0.09	
604	Cut	Root disturbance/former hedgerow	>1.6	2.18	0.09	
605	Fill	Single fill of 606	>1.6	0.1	N/A	
606	Cut	Land Drain	>1.6	0.1	N/A	

## Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.27	
701	Layer	Subsoil			0.23	
702	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.02	
703	Fill	Fill of 704	17	>1.6	N/A	
704	Cut	Quarry/clay extraction pit	17	>1.6	N/A	

## Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
801	Layer	Subsoil			0.25	
802	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.45	
803	Cut	NW/SE plough scar	>1.6	0.36	N/A	
804	Fill	Single fill of 803	>1.6	0.36	N/A	
805	Cut	Irregular pit		>0.51	0.25	
806	Fill	Single fill of 805		>0.51	0.25	
807	Cut	NW/SE plough scar	>1.6	0.36	0.27	
808	Fill	Single fill of 807	>1.6	0.36	0.27	
809	Cut	Circular pit		1.11	0.15	
810	Fill	Single fill of 809		1.11	0.15	
811	Cut	NW/SE plough scar	>1.6	0.4	N/A	
812	Fill	Single fill of 811	>1.6	0.4	N/A	
813	Cut	NW/SE plough scar	>1.6	0.35	N/A	
814	Fill	Single fill of 813	>1.6	0.35	N/A	
815	Cut	NW/SE plough scar	>1.6	0.48	N/A	
816	Fill	Single fill of 815	>1.6	0.48	N/A	

## Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Concrete slab			0.15	
901	Layer	Bedding deposit for 900			0.21	
902	Layer	Subsoil			0.09	
903	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.4	

## Trench 10

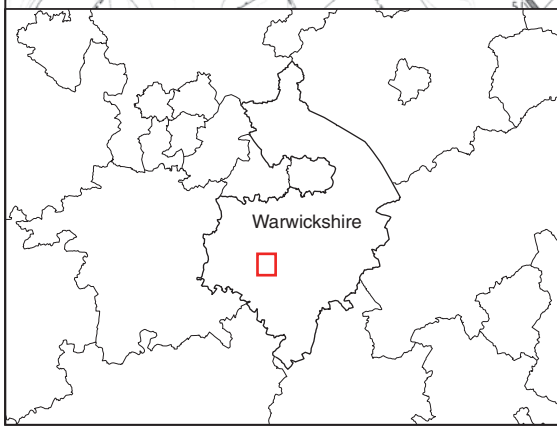
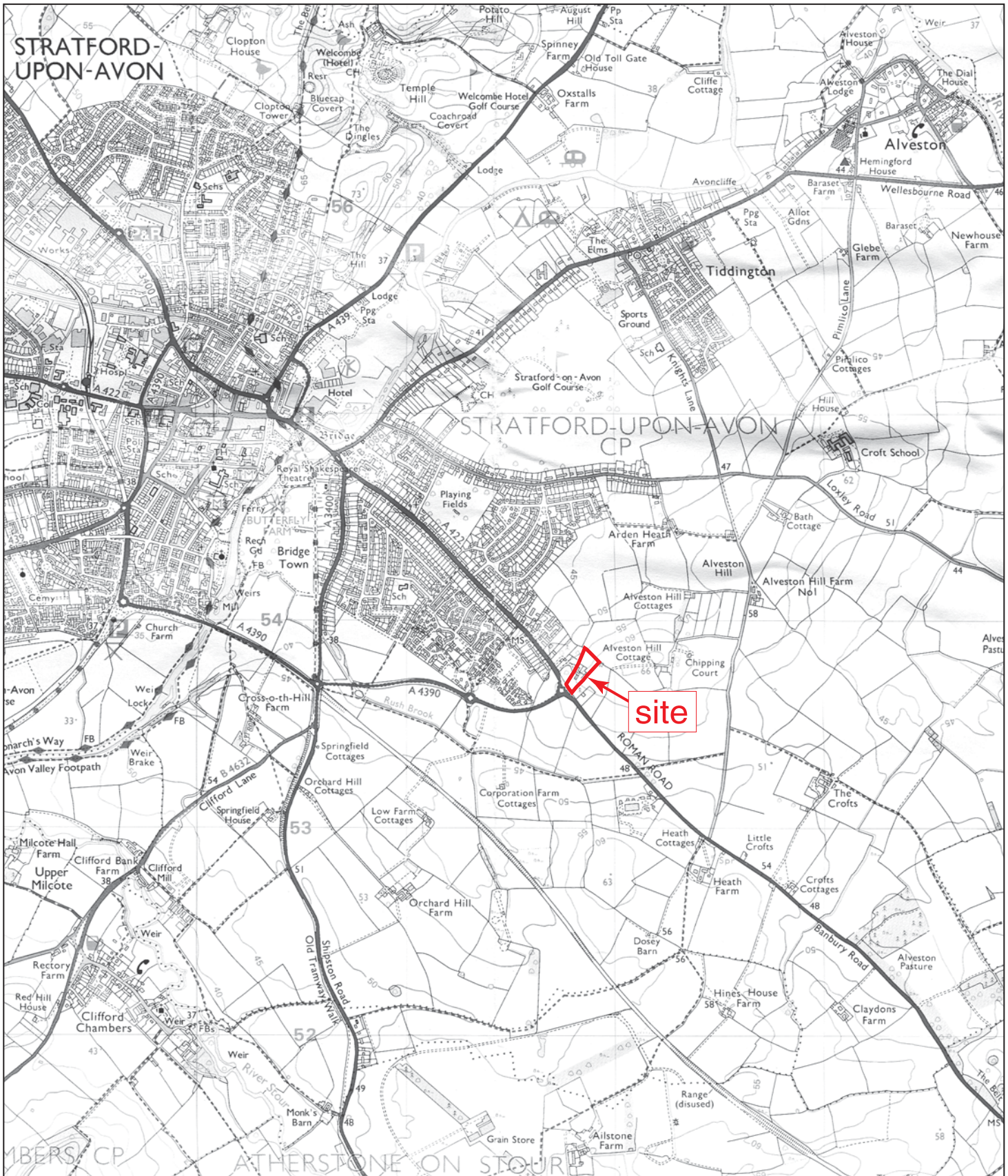
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.1	
1001	Layer	Modern rubble: make-up/levelling layer			0.15	
1002	Layer	Natural Substrate			>0.55	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight(g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
806	Ceramic building material: flat tile fragments (late medieval/post-medieval)	4	41	Lmed/Pmed
	Worked flint: broken flake	1	1	
808	Ceramic building material: brick fragments	5	10	C19-C20
	Industrial residues: ironworking slag; clinker	1	5	
	Modern glass: bottle; moulded neck	1	4	
	Animal bone: cattle; chicken	2	3	
814	Industrial residues: clinker	1	3	-
816	Modern pottery: unglazed earthenware (flowerpot)	1	15	C19-C20
	Ceramic building material: brick fragment	1	3	
	Industrial residues: ironworking slag; clinker	6	16	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between November and December 2011 at 207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Ten trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Two pits, one of which contained a residual worked flint flake and a small quantity of late medieval/post-medieval tile, were identified in the southern part of the site. The function of these pits remains unclear. A large pit in the north-east of the site, probably relating to quarrying/clay extraction, contained pottery of 20th-century date. The remains of an undated linear feature, probably representing a former hedge, were identified in the north of the site.</p>	
Project dates	29 November-7 December 2011	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 2182 5373	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Warwickshire Museum T/1165	Trench recording forms, WSI, context sheets, section drawings, photographs and pro forma registers
Digital	Warwickshire Museum T/1165	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>11305</b>		



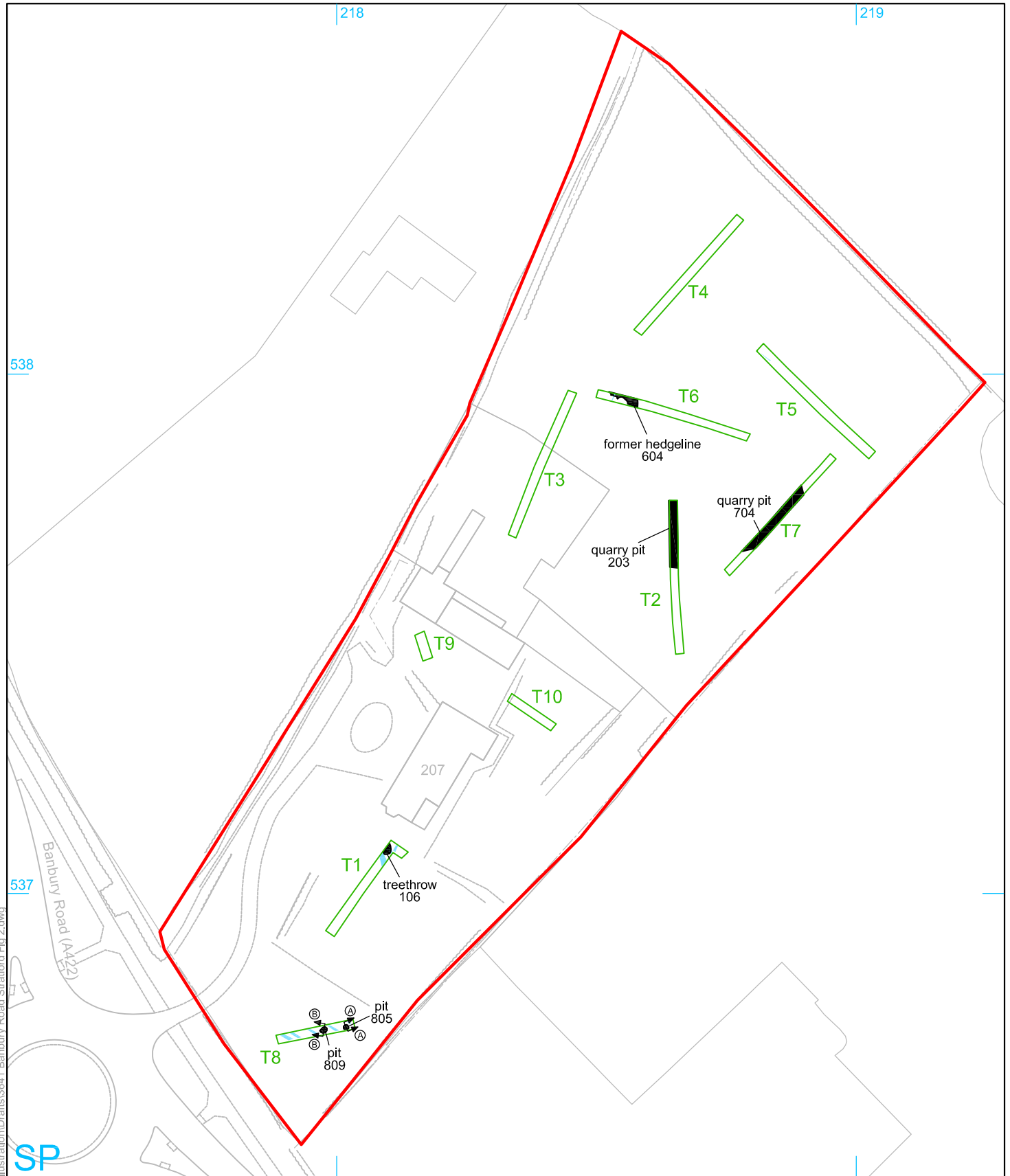
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 207 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO.	3641	DATE	16-12-2011	FIGURE NO.
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- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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 Warwickshire

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

PROJECT NO.	3641	DATE	16-12-2011	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:1000	

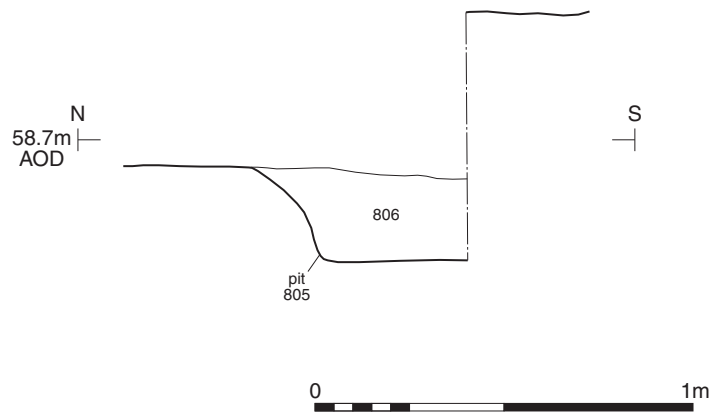


P:\3641\_207 Banbury Road Stratford on Avon Works EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\3641 Banbury Road Stratford Fig 2.dwg

SP



Trench 8; section AA



Pit 805, looking east. (Scale 0.5m)



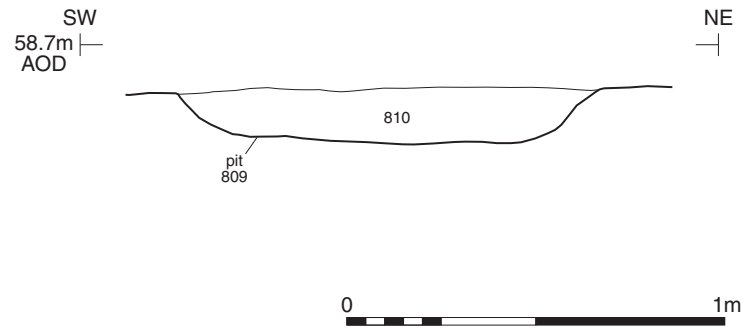
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PROJECT TITLE  
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Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 8; section AA and photograph  
of pit 805**

PROJECT NO.	3641	DATE	16-12-2011	FIGURE NO.
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Trench 8; section BB



Pit 809, looking north-west. (Scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 8; section BB and photograph  
of pit 809**

PROJECT NO. 3641  
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DATE 16-12-2011  
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FIGURE NO.

**4**