

# Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation Herefordshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*

**Mott MacDonald**

*on behalf of*

**Electricity Alliance West**

CA Project: 3408

CA Report: 12123

May 2012

# Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation Herefordshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3408  
CA Report: 12123

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signed	
date	31 May 2012
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation  
**Location:** Walford to Brelston Court, Herefordshire  
**NGR:** SO 5629 1998 to SO 5848 2122  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 6 April 2011 to 20 April 2012  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Hereford Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** WBC 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with underground cable replacement and uprating between Walford and Brelston Court, Herefordshire.

The watching brief identified one undated and one modern ditch, both most probably representing field boundaries or other agricultural features, three pits of indeterminate age and function, and two amorphous spreads of slag, clinker, and cinders probably indicating modern dumping of industrial debris.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between April 2011 and April 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mott MacDonald, on behalf of Electricity Alliance West, during groundworks associated with underground cable replacement and uprating between Walford (NGR: SO 5629 1998) and Brelston Court (NGR: SO 5848 2122), Herefordshire (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 an Environmental Report (National Grid 2011), prepared by RSK, the then archaeological advisors to the National Grid and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Julian Cotton, Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Council (HC). 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* (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Mr Cotton.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The cable corridor was approximately 2.57km in length. A 65m wide working strip was fenced throughout the corridor within which a 40m wide topsoil strip was undertaken. Current land use consisted of mixed agricultural fields and woodland.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as The Brownstone Formation of the Lower Devonian period (BGS 2011). A natural substrate of sandstone interleaved with clay bands was encountered on site.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) had previously been undertaken (AMEC 2009), the results of which are summarised below;

- No Scheduled Monuments
- No Registered Battlefields

- No Conservation Areas
- One Registered Park and Garden (Hill Court 4)
- 18 Listed buildings
- 10 non-Listed historic buildings, including the pumping station for
- Goodrich Court Landscape Park.
- 2 non-Registered parks (including Goodrich Court Landscape Park and
- Old Hill Court Landscape Park)

40 non-Scheduled sites were identified, including;

- Two prehistoric find spots
- A Roman road from Ariconium to Monmouth
- Medieval pottery find spot
- Cropmark field system and ditches
- Ridge and furrow
- The site of Goodrich Court
- 20 extant or former historic boundaries

1.6 RSK undertook surface artefact collection (fieldwalking) in April 2010 along the route. A 70m wide corridor was walked, which identified flint, ceramic, glass, metal, slag and ceramic building material. An assemblage of slag (metal residue) was identified in three fields, but is not believed to indicate a metal working site. The other assemblages were small, indicative of 'manuring' scatters or re-deposited material. No clusters of artefacts indicative of sub-surface archaeological remains were identified (RSK 2010a).

1.7 In June 2010 RSK commissioned a geophysical survey of all suitable land within the area of the scheme. The survey identified seven archaeological anomalies; two of these comprised linear features (probably former field boundaries), the other five were described as 'sub-circular' anomalies (RSK 2010b).

1.8 RSK undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of geotechnical test pits in January 2010. A total of seven test pits, each measuring c. 0.5m in length and 3m in width, were excavated. The watching brief identified one possible archaeological occupation deposit, in TP 03 in Plot 7, at approximately 1.8m below ground level (bgl). No finds were identified within it or in the overlying strata, which were interpreted as made ground. The test pit was located along the

western river bank, at the base of a steep slope, and directly adjacent to the remains of a pump house. The latter was heavily overgrown, but appeared to feature two ruinous red brick walls above ground, as well as a bricklined open pit. It is considered likely that this charcoal-rich deposit is related to backfilled below-ground features of this site. No archaeological observations were made in the remaining test pits (NG 2011).

- 1.9 RSK also undertook evaluation trenching throughout the site in February 2011. No archaeological features, deposits or significant finds were identified H. Kelly pers. Comm; (RSK 2011 in prep.).

### ***Methodology***

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). All intrusive groundworks and soil stripping along the proposed cable route corridor and any associated works, including compounds and storage areas, were monitored by an attending archaeologist from CA. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket. Where archaeological deposits were encountered which could be dealt with by the attending archaeologist within the conduct of the stripping works, they were recorded following Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a *pro-forma* context sheet by verbal and measured description; principal deposits will be recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Photographs (monochrome print; digital colour) were taken as appropriate. Where detailed feature planning was undertaken using GPS/TST this will be carried out in accordance with Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (CA 2009). All finds and samples were bagged separately with unique numbers related to the context record. All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 1995).
- 1.11 The depth of archaeological deposits across the site were assessed. The OD height of all principal features and levels were calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.
- 1.12 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 (if

any were found) will be deposited with Hereford Museum and Art Gallery, 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 The natural geological substrate consisting of bands of sandstone interleaved with bands of clay, was revealed in Plots 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 15 at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level. This was overlain in Plots 1, 2, 5, 9, 13, 15 and 16 by subsoil up to 0.59m in thickness, colluvium up to 2.0m in thickness in Plots 10 and 11, and alluvium in Plot 12. These deposits were in turn sealed by up to 0.3m of topsoil.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks in Plots 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16. A small assemblage of worked flint was retrieved from the topsoil within Plots 9, 13 and 15, with six sherds of Roman pottery being recovered from the topsoil within Plot 13. Three pits, two linear features and spreads of clinker and cinders were revealed in Plot 9. With the approval of Julian Cotton (HC), plots 3, 4, 8, 14, 17 and 18 were not monitored.

### *Plot 9*

- 2.3 The natural substrate in Plot 9 consisted of reddish brown sandstone with clay and sandy bands (recorded as deposits 902 and 917). It was cut by three pits 903, 905, 907 and ditch 909.
- 2.4 The pits were broadly circular in plan and ranged in size from 0.6m to 1.9m in diameter, and were typically 0.5m in depth. All contained red-brown sandy fills from which no artefactual material was recovered.
- 2.5 Ditch 909 measured 2m in width, 0.5m in depth and contained clay and gravel fill 910 from which modern pottery was retrieved.
- 2.6 A localised, red brown sandy subsoil, 916, was recorded along the south-western limit of Plot 9 and was cut by undated, north-west/south-east aligned, ditch 914. The



ditch measured approximately 3m in width and containing dark reddish brown sand fill 915.

- 2.7 The above features and deposits were overlain by red-brown sandy topsoil 901/913 which measured up to 0.25m in thickness. Two amorphous areas of cinders, clinker and slag, 911 and 912, containing pottery dating from the 19th to 20th century and interpreted as probable dumps of refuse, were revealed at the base of the topsoil in the southern part of the area (not illustrated), immediately overlying the natural substrate 902.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified few archaeological remains within the area of observed groundwork. The absence of archaeological deposits in Plots 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 may indicate that the probable archaeology identified by the geophysical survey was either not exposed by the development, perhaps due to the limited depth of machine stripping or represented anomalies within the natural substrate.
- 3.2 Plot 9 was the only area of observed groundwork where archaeological features and deposits were revealed. The two ditches, one of which contained modern artefacts, most probably represent agricultural boundaries. Neither ditch correlates with geophysical anomalies, nor are they depicted on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map when Plot 9 formed part of the parkland associated with Goodrich Court. It remains probable, if unproven on the current evidence, that the ditches became redundant during construction of the parkland in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.
- 3.3 The three pits have an undetermined function, contained no datable artefacts and could potentially date from the prehistoric period onwards, although most probably contemporary with the adjacent ditches. The discontinuous, amorphous spreads of slag, clinker, cinders and pottery probably indicate recent dumping of both industrial and domestic debris. The preceding fieldwalking survey also recovered post

medieval iron-working slag and other post medieval or modern artefacts within this general area (RSK 2010a).

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by James Wright, assisted by Alex Wilkinson, Martin Harrington and Peter Davenport. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

#### 5. REFERENCES

AMEC 2009 *Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation Combined Phase 1 & 2, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment.*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) accessed 4th May 2012.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation, Gloucestershire: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

NG (National Grid) 2011 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology section, *Proposed Underground Cable Replacement & Uprating, Ross-on-Wye Environmental Report*, 72-82.

RSK 2010a *Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation, Archaeological Artefact Collection.*

RSK 2010b *Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation, Geophysical Survey.*

RSK 2011 (in prep.) *Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation, Archaeological Evaluation*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Plot 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
101	Layer	Subsoil			n/k	

Plot 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
201	Layer	Subsoil			n/k	

Plot 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	layer	Topsoil			0.1 to 0.4	
501	Layer	Subsoil			Up to 0.59	
502	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

Plot 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
601	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

Plot 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
701	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

Plot 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
801	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

Plot 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
901	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
902	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	
903	Cut	Circular pit – not excavated		1.74		
904	Fill	Fill of 903		1.74		
905	Cut	Circular pit		1.9	0.5	
906	Fill	Fill of 905		1.9	0.5	
907	Cut	Circular pit		0.6	0.45	
908	Fill	Fill of 907		0.6	0.45	
909	Cut	Linear feature	>2m		0.5	
910	Fill	Fill of 909	>2m		0.5	LC19-EC20
911	Spread	Dump of slag and cinders	2.5			
912	Spread	Dump of slag and cinders	1.0			C19-C20

913	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
914	Cut	Ditch	n/k	3.0	n/k	
915	Fill	Fill of 902	n/k	3.0	n/k	
916	Layer	Subsoil			n/k	
917	Layer	Natural substrate			n/k	

## Plot 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
1002	Layer	Colluvium			0.2 to 2.0	
1003	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

## Plot 11

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1101	Layer	Topsoil			0.1	
1102	Layer	Colluvium			>0.1	

## Plot 12

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1201	Layer	Topsoil			0.1	
1202	Layer	Alluvium			n/k	

## Plot 13

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1301	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
1302	Layer	Subsoil			n/k	
1303	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

## Plot 15

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1501	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
1502	Layer	Subsoil			>0.2	
1503	Layer	Natural substrate			n/a	

## Plot 16

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1600	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
1601	Layer	Subsoil			>0.12	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

The finds assemblage recovered from the watching brief is summarised in Table 1. The pottery assemblage consisted of 44 sherds of pottery weighing 805g. In addition, ceramic building material, vessel glass, iron tap slag, nails, clay tobacco pipe and lithic material was recovered. The assemblage was recovered predominately as surface finds within topsoil deposits, with only three excavated deposits containing finds, all of which were, or are suspected to be, modern in date. The level of preservation was varied, with the material generally displaying moderate to high degrees of abrasion.

### *Pottery*

#### Roman

Six Roman pottery sherds were recorded from plot 13. All of the material was of small size and highly abraded. A sherd of Central Gaulish samian that had lost all of its distinctive red slip was the only identifiable fabric type, and dated to the 2nd century. The remaining sherds from plot 13 could only be classified as from fine oxidised wares of broad Roman period date. A further rim sherd in oxidised Severn Valley ware was recovered as an unstratified find. The form, in this instance, is identifiable as a jar or bowl with an everted rim, which is probably of 3rd to 4th century date.

#### Post-medieval

The post medieval pottery assemblage consisted of a range of glazed earthenwares, including utilitarian wares and tablewares, produced during the 17th and 18th centuries. All sherds were abraded and recovered as residual or unstratified finds. The range and condition of the material was suggestive of discarded pottery, dispersed during agricultural soil improvement (such as manuring), during the post-medieval period.

#### Modern

The modern pottery assemblage consisted of refined whitewares, usually featuring blue on white transfer printed decoration, as well as sherds from porcelain vessels produced during the 19th or 20th century. A stoneware jar could be more specifically dated to the late 19th or early 20th century and was retrieved from ditch fill 910. As with the post-medieval pottery, the sherds were consistent with the general discard of household midden material.

### *Other finds*

#### Iron

A quantity of iron tapping slag was recovered. Twenty two pieces, weighing 138g, were retrieved from undated deposit 911, and a further 21 pieces, weighing 856g, were recovered as unstratified material from Plot 9. The recorded material is similar in appearance to smelting waste from either the Roman or medieval periods.

#### Glass

All of the glass assemblage was from late post-medieval or early modern period bottles, with a most likely date range of 18th to 19th century.

#### Lithic material

A quantity of worked flint was identified, all of which was recovered from topsoil deposits deposited. The majority are flakes without secondary working, which are only broadly datable. An end-scraper, recovered from Plot 13, is not closely datable.

#### Ceramic building material

The ceramic building material consisted entirely of small, abraded roof tile fragments and could not be securely dated.

#### Clay tobacco pipe

A stem fragment recovered from Plot 13 could only be dated to between the 17th to 19th centuries.

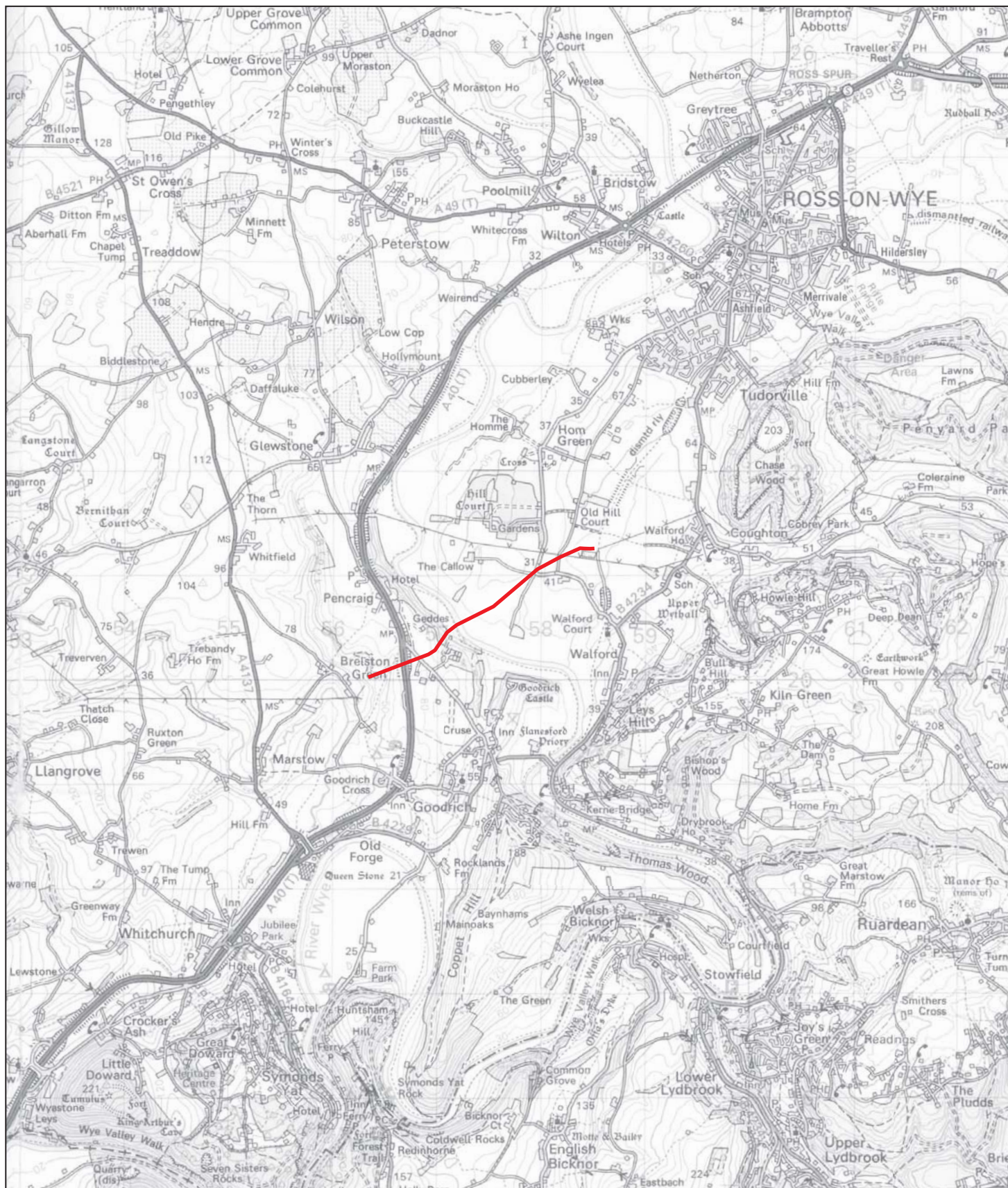
**Table 1**

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
700	Modern pottery: porcelain	2	46	LC19-EC20
800	Modern pottery: porcelain	1	4	C19-C20
	Post medieval pottery: glazed and unglazed earthenwares	4	32	
	Ceramic building material: flat roof tile	2	39	
901	Iron: tap slag	21	856	C19
	Flint: flakes	3	4	
	Modern pottery: refined whiteware; pearlware			
910	Modern pottery: stoneware	3	344	LC19-EC20
911	Iron: tap slag	22	138	undated
912	Modern pottery: refined whiteware	8	75	C19-C20
	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware; creamware	4	96	
	Glass: vessel	5	40	
1301	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenwares	4	48	
	Roman pottery: Central Gaulish samian, miscellaneous oxidised wares	6	31	
	Glass: vessel	1	55	
	Ceramic building material	2	23	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	4	
	Iron: nail	1	6	
	Flint: flakes and scraper	25	57	
1501	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	3	98	
	Glass: vessel	1	1	
	Iron: nail	1	11	
	Ceramic building material	1	39	
	Flint: flake	1	2	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation, Herefordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with underground cable replacement and uprating between Walford and Brelston Court, Herefordshire.</p> <p>The watching brief identified one undated and one modern ditch probably representing field boundaries or other agricultural features, three pits of indeterminate function, containing no datable artefacts and two amorphous spreads of slag, clinker, and cinders probably indicating modern dumping of industrial debris.</p>	
Project dates	6 April 2011 to 20 April 2012	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work (	Fieldwalking (RSK), Geophysical survey (RSK), Archaeological Evaluation (RSK)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Walford to Brelston Court, Herefordshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 5629 1998 to SO 5848 2122	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	National Grid	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	James Wright, Peter Davenport, Alexandra Webster	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Hereford Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics, iron, glass and flint
Paper	Hereford Museum and Art Gallery	Field recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Hereford Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos, GPS survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Walford to Brelston Court Cable Installation, Herefordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>12123</b></p>		





— cable route

0 1km

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**PROJECT TITLE**

**Brelston Court to Walford Cable  
Installation, Herefordshire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

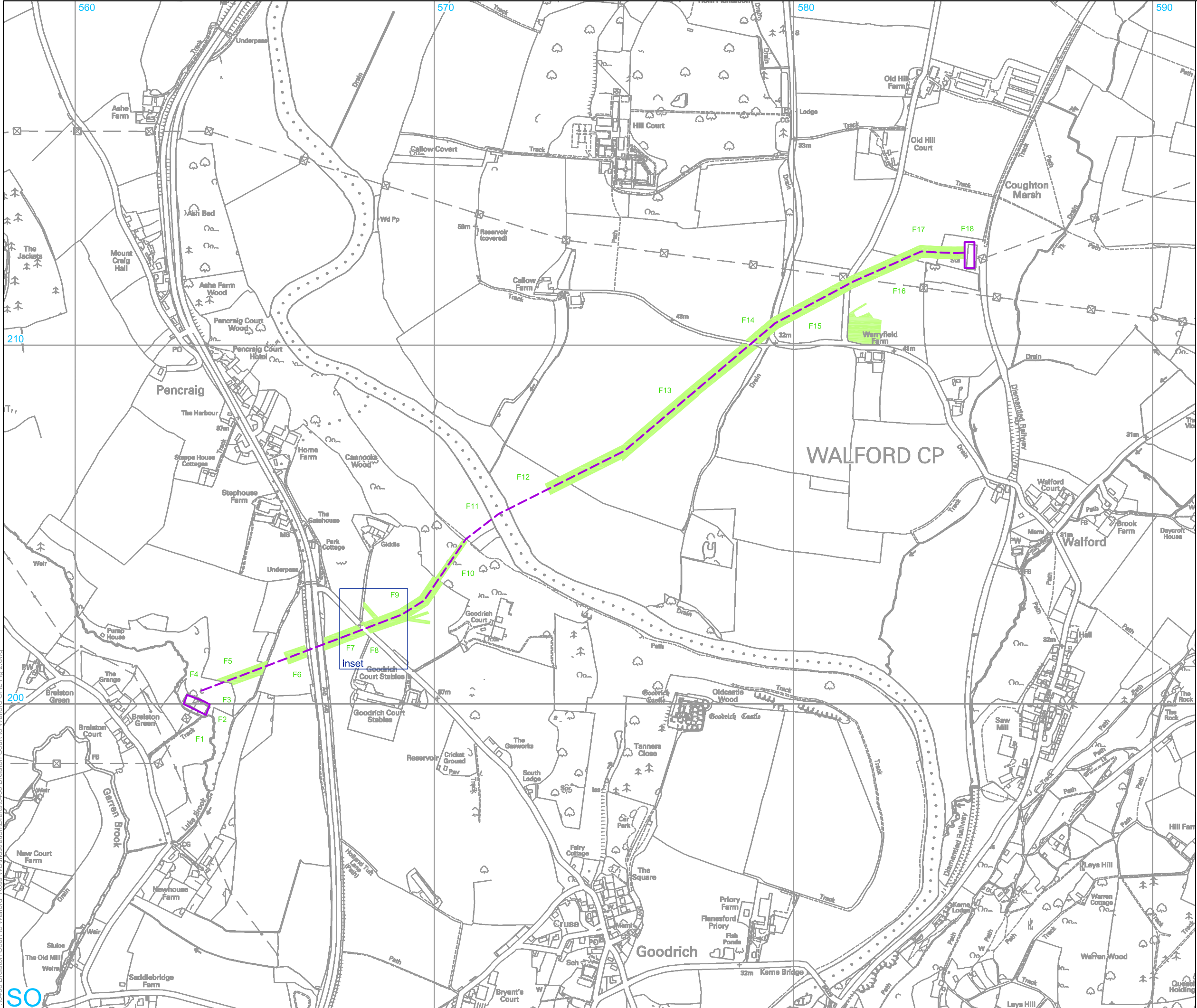
**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO. 3408 DATE 11-05-2012  
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APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**





--- cable route  
areas archaeologically monitored

0 500m

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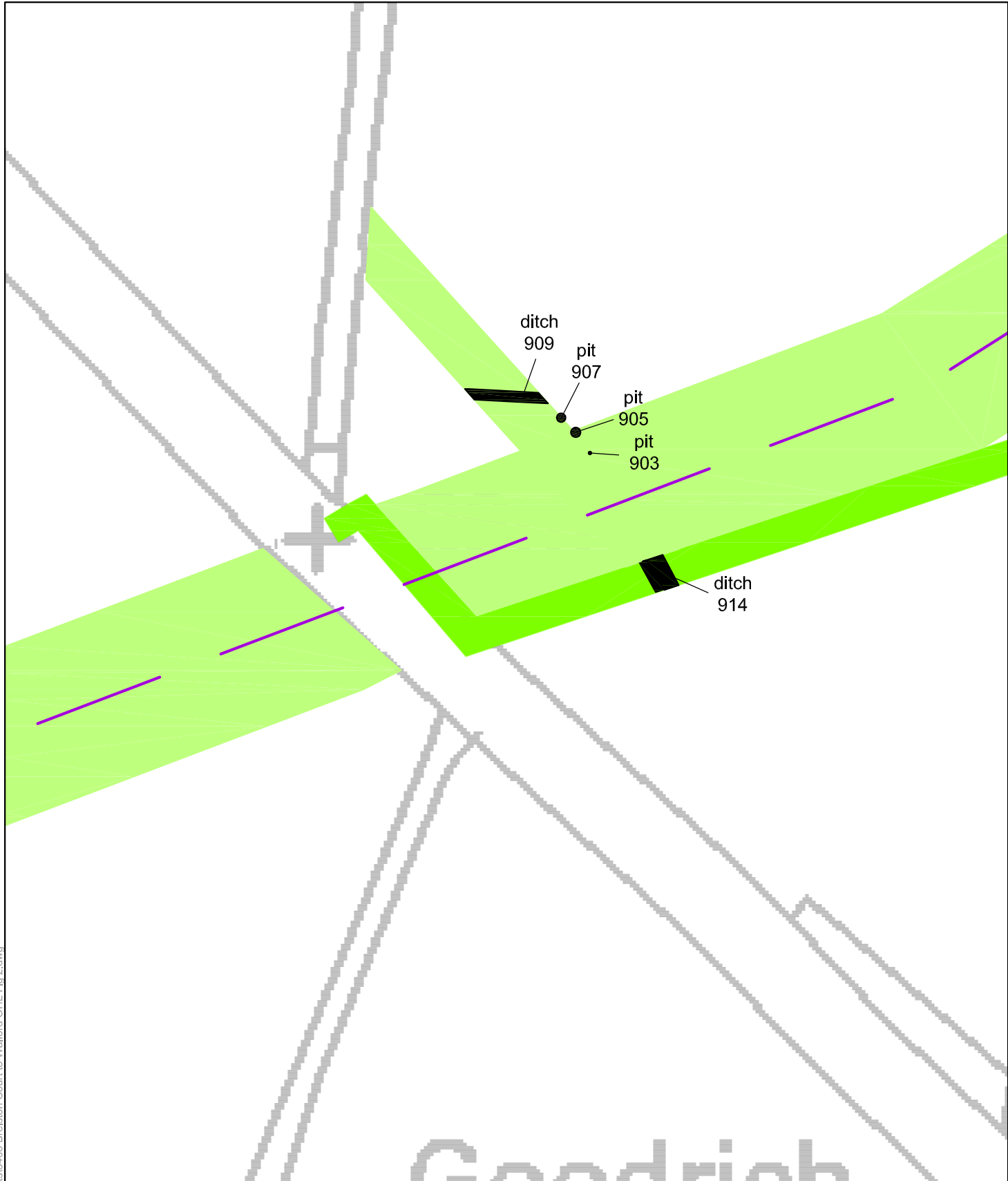


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PROJECT TITLE  
Brelston Court to Walford OHL

FIGURE TITLE  
The site, showing location of groundworks

PROJECT NO.	3408	DATE	21-05-2012	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:10,000	



- cable route
- area of observed groundworks
- archaeological feature



0  50m



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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Brelston Court to Walford OHL

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Field 9 showing archaeological features

PROJECT NO. 3408 DATE 14-05-2012  
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:1000

FIGURE NO.

3