

**Newtown Road
Worcester
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
The Spetchley Estate


CA Project: 3765
CA Report: 12178

October 2012

Newtown Road
Worcester
Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3765
CA Report: 12178

prepared by	Tom Weavill, Archaeologist
date	13 July 2012
checked by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date	9 October 2012
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	9 October 2012
issue	02

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	8
APPENDIX B: ANIMAL BONE QUANTIFICATION.....	9
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan (1:1250)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Newtown Road
Location: Worcester, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 8820 5470
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 14 May-26 June 2012
Planning Reference: P11Q0448
Location of Archive: Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: NRD 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of a sustainable drainage system at Newtown Road, Worcester. This included the excavation of sewers a swale and an attenuation pond.

A single pit containing 19/20th-century pottery and animal bone was revealed and a rubble deposit, possibly associated with the demolition of a former cottage, was observed during the groundworks.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between May and June 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for The Spetchley Estate at Newtown Road, Worcester (centred on NGR: SO 8820 5470; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil two conditions attached to a planning consent for a sustainable drainage system associated with the construction of a proposed care home (Planning ref: P11Q0448). These conditions were a requirement for a programme of archaeological work to include a watching brief (Condition no. 3) and a provision for the retention and/or recording of buried remains of medieval or earlier date (Condition no. 4). 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 detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2012b) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Mr James Dinn. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *General Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Worcester City* (WCC 1998) 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). It was monitored by Mr James Dinn.

The site

- 1.3 The site consists of three fields bounded by the A4440 Gunnery Way to the east, the B4636 to the north, the Worcestershire Royal Hospital to the west, and pasture fields to the south (Fig 2). The site lies at approximately 73m AOD, with ground level dropping away to the north-east. The bedrock geology is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone formation of the Olenekian to Carnian era; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2012).

Archaeological background

- 1.4 A Heritage Impact Assessment has previously been carried out for the site through which the development runs (CA 2011). A summary of the findings of this report are presented below.

- 1.5 Prehistoric sites are known in the wider Worcester region, for example the possible burial mound of Whittington Tump 2km to the south of the Site, and Iron Age occupation close to the present centre of the city, however no prehistoric finds or deposits are recorded within the site, or its close environs.
- 1.6 The site lies around 3km to the east of the Roman settlement within the city of Worcester. A crop mark identified as a linear feature turning at a right-angle in the north-west corner of the field below the site, with an apparent entrance on its southern side, has characteristics consistent with a late prehistoric or Roman enclosure. In order to gain more information on the nature of this feature, and its survival and extent within the site, four evaluation trenches were excavated in the site, adjacent to the crop mark (CA 2004). A single ditch was discovered, which is likely to form part of the north-south aligned side of the feature, and a single sherd of 1st to 2nd-century AD Roman pottery was recovered from its fill. Its unabraded condition suggests that it was deposited in the ditch at that date, indicating that the ditch went out of use within the Roman period. The enclosure ditch was not revealed in the other trenches, possibly due to its termination, falling between the excavated areas, or turning to the east rather than the expected west. The sterile fill of the ditch suggests that it is more likely to have had a largely agricultural function than being associated with intensive settlement or industrial activity.
- 1.7 The see of Worcester, the centre for the new Diocese, was created in AD 680. The site is situated across two parishes within the diocese, St Martin's to the west and Warndon to the east, the line of the parish boundary running through the western field and continuing partially as the site boundary. The line of the former boundary does not survive as an observable earthwork within the site, but is preserved as a low flattened earthwork bank and ditch further to the south of the site.
- 1.8 A cottage was formerly situated to the north-west of the site labelled as 'Cottage and Garden' in the accompanying Tithe Register and owned by Robert Berkley Esquire, the local landowner who held all of the land within the site. The date of construction of the cottage is unknown, but potentially early 19th or 18th century. The cottage is illustrated on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map, but had been demolished by the time of the 1967 Edition.

- 1.9 A recent geophysical survey detected limited evidence of archaeological activity to the south of the site, with only a small length of potential ditch and two potential pits being identified (PCG 2011). It was also unable to locate the ditch to the south, the presence of which had been attested to by the earlier evaluation (CA 2004). It is believed this may be due to the feature located during the earlier evaluation being a more restricted, localised feature, because of the magnetic contrast with the surrounding soil, or potentially the masking effects of ridge and furrow.
- 1.10 During evaluation in March 2012 twenty eight trenches were excavated on land at Newtown Road, mostly within land just to the south of the drainage scheme but some falling within the western part of it. The possible continuation of a large enclosure identified in aerial photography and recorded in the 2004 evaluation was identified along with a narrow gully and an undated pit, all to the south of the drainage scheme. Traces of post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture were observed across the site (CA 2012a).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012b). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a drainage route approximately 450m in length, a swale approximately 600m in length and an attenuation pond. To facilitate the recording of the groundworks, sections of the drainage runs, the swale and the attenuation pond were allocated trench numbers from 29 to 33 (Fig. 2), continued from trench numbers issued during the 2012 evaluation of the site (CA 2012a).
- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery. As the artefacts are relatively modern in date they will not be retained. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 2903 consisting of reddish brown silty clay was revealed throughout the groundworks at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level. This was overlain by a reddish brown silty clay subsoil averaging 0.15m in thickness. A single pit, 3302, filled by loose dark greyish brown silty clay 3301, containing 19th/20th-century pottery (not retained) and a large amount of semi-articulated animal bone, was seen to be cutting through this in Trench 33, in the north-west corner of the site. This was sealed by 0.25m of dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil 3300 which was visible throughout the groundworks. This was covered by a rubble deposit 3305 which was only observed within Trench 33 and in the western extent of Trench 30 in the north-west corner of the site.

The Animal Bone

- 2.2 Animal bone, amounting to a grand total of 5,019.0g, was recovered from context 3301 (Appendix B). The material was dominated by large cattle bones (*Bos taurus*), from a minimum of two animals; one mature and one juvenile individual. Additionally, there were 40 caprovine bone fragments (*Ovis aries sive Capra hircus*) – of which the majority were identified as ribs – and eight fragments of cervical and thoracic pig vertebrae (*Sus sp.*). The majority of the bones displayed transverse or axial saw marks, which would suggest that the remains are either late post-medieval or modern in date. These were for instance observed at the glenoid cavity of a scapula and the acetabulum of a coxae of cattle, axially through all identified vertebrae, and through the distal metaphysis of a juvenile cattle tibia. The remains appear to be secondary butchery waste, as the majority of the bones derived from meat rich elements.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Modern pit 3302 was likely used by the last tenant farmer at Trotshill, Bert Newell, to dispose of butchery waste between the 1960s and 1980s (Henry Berkeley *pers. comm.*). The rubble deposit observed in Trench 33, above topsoil 3300, likely relates to the demolition of the former cottage recorded within this area of the site on the 1905 Ordinance Survey map (see Section 1.10, above and Fig. 2). This had

been demolished by the time of the 1967 Edition Ordnance Survey map (CA 2012b).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, Tom Weavill and Fiona Keith-Lucas. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012a *Newtown Road, Worcester, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report **04129**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012b *Newtown Road, Worcester, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Newtown Road, Worcester: Heritage Impact Assessment*
CA Report No. **11183**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *Newtown Road, Worcester, Worcestershire. Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report **04129**
- PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2011 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land off Newtown Road, Worcester*.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 29

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2901	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey clayey silt			0.2	
2902	Layer	Subsoil: Reddish brown silty clay			0.2	
2903	Layer	Natural substrate: Reddish brown silty clay			>1.6	

Trench 30

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey clayey silt			0.2	
3001	Layer	Subsoil: Reddish brown silty clay			0.15	
3002	Layer	Dark grey silty clay with frequent CBM and hardcore inclusions.			0.75	
3003	Layer	Natural substrate: Reddish brown silty clay			>0.4	

Trench 31

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey clayey silt			0.25	
3101	Layer	Subsoil: Reddish brown silty clay			0.12	
3102	Layer	Natural substrate: Reddish brown silty clay			>0.7	

Trench 32

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey clayey silt			0.2	
3201	Layer	Subsoil: Reddish brown silty clay			0.1	
3202	Layer	Natural substrate: Reddish brown silty clay			>1.7	

Trench 33

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3300	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey clayey silt			0.25	
3301	Fill	Fill of pit 3102: Dark greyish brown loose silty clay with abundant charcoal flecks and animal bone.	>0.15	1.07	0.6	C19th
3302	Cut	Pit: shape unknown in plan, straight sided with shallow concave base.	>0.15	1.07	0.6	C19th
3303	Layer	Subsoil: Reddish brown silty clay			0.2	
3304	Layer	Natural substrate: Reddish brown silty clay				
3305	Layer	Dark grey silty clay with frequent CBM and hardcore inclusions.			0.75	

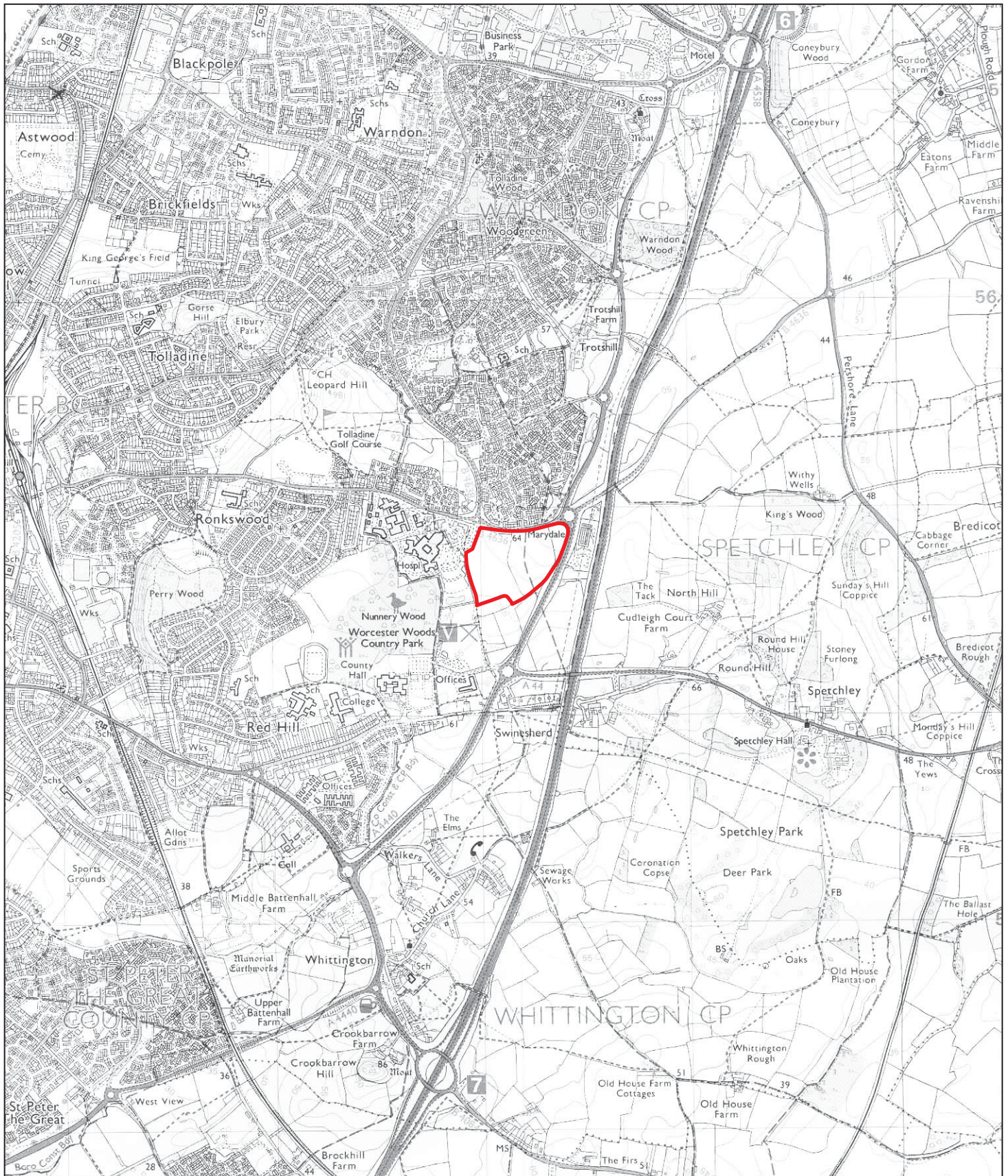
APPENDIX B: ANIMAL BONE QUANTIFICATION

*Identified species and skeletal element in the animal bone material from context 3301.
BOS = cattle; S/G = caprovine; SUS = pig; LM = large sized mammal*

Element	BOS	S/G	SUS	LM
Cranial	3	-	-	-
Mandible	1	-	-	-
Loose teeth	1	-	-	-
Hyoid	1	-	-	-
Atlas	-	1	-	-
Cerv.vert.	3	1	4	-
Thor.vert.	7	1	4	-
Sacrum	1	-	-	-
Cocc.vert.	1	-	-	-
Ribs	4	37	-	-
Scapula	1	-	-	-
Carpal	1	-	-	-
Coxae	1	-	-	-
Femur	1	-	-	-
Tibia	3	-	-	-
Malleolus	2	-	-	-
Astragalus	1	-	-	-
Calcaneus	3	-	-	-
Tarsal	1	-	-	-
Indet.	-	-	-	24
Total:	36	40	8	24
Weight (g):	4,794.0	130.0	31.0	64.0

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Newtown Road, Worcester, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of a sustainable drainage system at Newtown Road, Worcester. This included the excavation of sewers a swale and an attenuation pond.</p> <p>A single pit containing 19/20th-century pottery and animal bone was revealed and a rubble deposit, possibly associated with the demolition of a former cottage, was observed during the groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	14 May-26 June 2012	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Cotswold Archaeology: Field evaluation 2004; 2012 Pre-Construct Geophysics: Geophysical survey 2011	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Newtown Road, Worcester, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	14ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8820 5470	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt, Tom Weavill, Fiona Keith-Lucas	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Newtown Road, Worcester, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 12178</p>		



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Newtown Road, Worcester
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

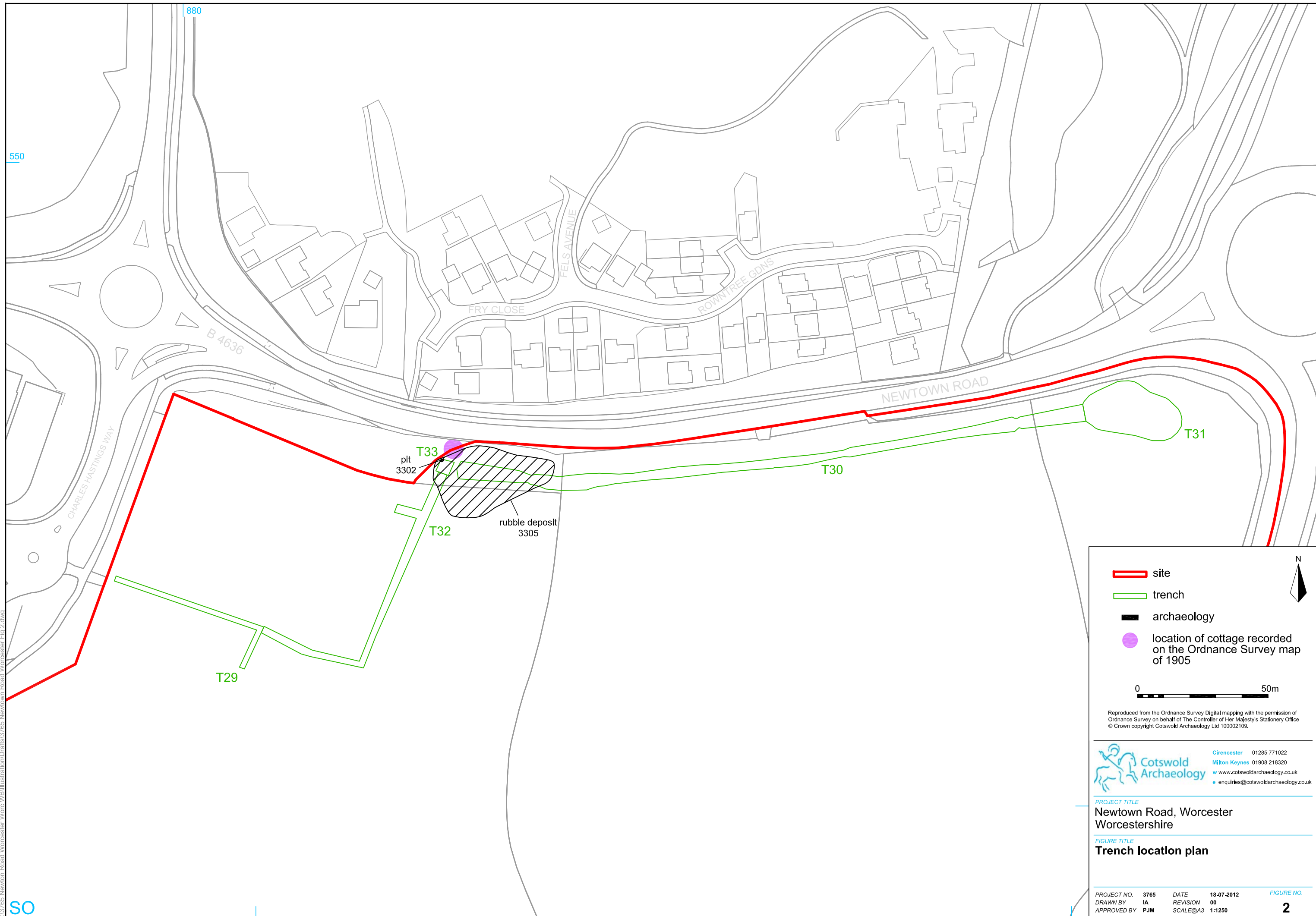


Reproduced from the 2006 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright
 Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3765 DATE 18-07-2012
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



▬ site
▬ trench
 archaeology
● location of cottage recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1905

0 50m

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109.


 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Newtown Road, Worcester
 Worcestershire
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	3765	DATE	18-07-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	IA	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:1250	

P:\3765 Newtown Road Worcester Worc WPB\Illustration\Drafts\3765 Newtown Road Worcester F1h 2.dwg