

**Land off Holly Close
Bretforton
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Rooftop Housing Group


CA Project: 3955
CA Report: 12286
WCC HER Reference: WSM 47403

October 2012

Land off Holly Close
Bretforton
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 3955
CA Report: 12286
WCC HER Reference: WSM 47403

prepared by	Dan Sausins, Project Supervisor Designate
date	9 October 2012
checked by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date	17 October 2012
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	17 October 2012
issue	01

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.

© Cotswold Archaeology

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Office 49 Basepoint Business Centre Caxton Close, Andover Hampshire, SP10 3FG t. 01264 326549
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	11
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing modern features and furrows (1:350)
- Fig. 3 Trench 2, photograph
- Fig. 4 Trench 4, photograph



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Holly Close
Location: Bretforton, Worcestershire
NGR: SP 08971 44356
Type: Evaluation
Date: 4-7 October 2012
Planning Reference: W/12/1519
WCC HER reference: WSM 47403
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcester County Museum
Site Code: BHC12

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2012 of land off Holly Close, Bretforton, Worcestershire. Six trenches were excavated.

Furrows of probable post-medieval or modern date, and modern pits, postholes, ditches and land drains were recorded. A single sherd of medieval pottery, located within a modern pit, was the only pre-modern artefact recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Rooftop Housing Group at land off Holly close, Bretforton, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 089771 44356; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (W/12/1519) for the construction of residential properties with car parking space, private amenity rear gardens and associated works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* prepared by Mike Glyde of Worcestershire County Council Archive and Archaeology Service (WCCAS; Glyde 2012), the archaeological advisor to the Wychavon District Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2012) and approved by Mike Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service 2010), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Mike Glyde., including a site visit on the 5 October 2012.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of 5810 m², and comprises informal allotments and waste land. The site lies at approximately 40m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2011). Light grey and bright yellow gravels were identified across the trenches during the archaeological evaluation works.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site is located immediately north of the projected line of a putative Roman road. Its full extent, as mapped by the HER, runs from the southern edge of the River Avon c. 6km to the north, running south-west along Cleeve Hill before turning south-

east through South Littleton and Bretforton, joining Ryknild Street at Weston-Sub-Edge, c. 4.5km to the south-east of the site. The northern section of this road, to the north of South Littleton is well established (Margary 1973, 288 road **183**), but the section adjacent to the site, between South Littleton and Weston-Sub-Edge is more putative. Margary states that 'beyond' Littleton road **183** continues along the modern road. He does not state which road, but the obvious choice (continuing the north-east/south-west alignment) would be the B4510 towards Evesham.

- 1.6 Cropmark enclosures of possible prehistoric or Roman origin are recorded c. 370m north of the site. To their east, further cropmarks potentially representing a trackway and enclosure of prehistoric/Roman pottery are recorded. Finds of Roman pottery and coins are recorded from an adjacent field.
- 1.7 The site is located c. 60m to the north of the historic core of Bretforton, and c. 260m north-east of medieval settlement at Grange Farm (including Grade II* Listed buildings). The site most likely formed part of the agricultural hinterland in the medieval period and there is potential for medieval agricultural features, such as pits and ditches, to survive below-ground within the site. An area of Ridge and furrow earthworks is recorded c. 380m north of the site.
- 1.8 The site is located in the historic parish of Bretforton, Inclosed by Act of Parliament in 1765. The earliest cartographic source to depict the site in detail is a 1770 estate plan, which shows the site situated within an agricultural field annotated as *Bull Butts*. No Tithe map is recorded for the parish. No major changes are depicted on the First or Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps. The area of the site is annotated as *Allotment* on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1923 and aerial photographs indicate it remained allotment through the 20th century.
- 1.9 Archaeological evaluation at Ivy Lane c. 65m north-west of the site in 2007, comprising two trenches, recorded undated linear features and furrows associated with ridge and furrow earthworks. A desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation are recorded immediately east of the site, although no information on the results of this study were available from the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) at the time of the completion of the WSI (24 September 2012; Aisling Nash, Worcestershire HER Officer, pers. comm.).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Wychavon District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.11 The evaluation comprised the excavation of six trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig 2). All trenches were 20m long and 1.8m wide, with the exception of Trench 6, which was 30m long and 1.8m wide. This represented a 4% sample of the proposed development area. In consultation with Mike Glyde, the proposed location of Trench 5 was revised due to health and safety considerations. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained Cotswold Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.
- 1.12 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).
- 1.13 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) and 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).

- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It is proposed that the artefacts be discarded. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Worcester County Museum. 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 The geological substrate was predominately light grey and bright yellow gravels across the trenches, overlain by mid-light brownish yellow sandy clay subsoil. In all trenches the subsoil was cut by furrows all aligned approximately east – west, and in Trenches 1 and 3 the furrows were in turn cut by land drains (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 In Trench 1 a sub-rectangular pit, 103, contained modern metal objects including an oil can (these were noted but not recovered). In Trenches 2 and 4 pits 206 and 410 also contained post-medieval or modern material. Trench 2 also contained two further small pits/postholes. Pit 204 was recorded at the south-eastern end of trench cut into furrow 210 and contained a sherd of medieval pottery and modern glass within its fill 205. Posthole 208 was recorded at the north-western end of trench cutting natural 203. No relationship was observed between this and furrow 213, however, their fills appeared identical. Modern ditch 211, aligned northeast-southwest, cut furrow 210. All features and furrows with the exception of 208 cut the subsoil 202, and were sealed by topsoil 200. The only additional artefactual evidence was modern ceramic tile from a furrow within Trench 2.
- 2.3 Furrows within Trench 6 had been truncated by ditches 603 and 605. Both ditches were sited on the alignment of existing modern fence boundaries.



The finds

- 2.4 Artefactual material was recovered from four deposits (Appendix B). A single small sherd of medieval pottery was identified from deposit 205. It consists of a (sagging) base sherd probably from a jar. The sherd is burnt and the fabric tentatively identified as of Worcester sandy unglazed ware (Worcester Fabric 55: Bryant 2004, 281), a type produced across the 12th to 14th centuries. The medieval sherd appears to be a residual find, occurring with modern glass. The remaining artefactual material, consisting of a further glass fragment and a sherd of ceramic tile is of modern date. In view of the late dating or re-deposited nature of the recovered material, none of the finds will be retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The trenches revealed the presence of furrows aligned approximately east–west across the site, truncated by modern features that are in all likelihood associated with the site’s most recent use as allotments. No pre-modern archaeological features were observed, and a single sherd of medieval pottery, found within a modern context, represents the only find of any antiquity. No evidence was found for the line of the putative Roman road, and in all likelihood the site lay within the agricultural hinterland of Bretforton in the medieval and post-medieval periods as suggested above (see *Archaeological Background* 1.5 – 1.7),.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Sausins, assisted by Luke Brannlund and Stefanie Vincent. The report was written by Dan Sausins. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Dan Sausins, 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 Accessed 2 October 2012
- Bryant, V. 2004 'Medieval and early post-medieval pottery', in Dalwood and Edwards 2004, 281–339
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land off Holly Close, Bretforton, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*.
- Dalwood, H. and Edwards, R. 2004 'Excavations at Deansway, Worcester: Romano-British small town to late medieval city', York, Council for British Archaeology Report 139
- Glyde, M. 2012, "*Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at land off, Holly Close, Bretforton, Worcestershire*" Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council,



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		topsoil/ allotment soil	dark organic blackish brown clay loam	20	1.8	0.19	modern
1	101	layer		subsoil	mid-light brownish yellow sandy clay	20	1.8	0.26	
1	102	layer		natural	light grey and bright yellow sandy gravels	20	1.8		
1	103	cut		pit	sub rectangular pit. Not fully excavated	1.3	1.4	>0.43	modern
1	104	fill	103	fill of pit	mid grey brown sandy clay	1.3	1.4	>0.43	modern
1	105	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	0.6		post med
1	106	fill	106	fill of furrow	mid grey brown clay sand	>1.8	0.6		post med
1	107	cut		furrow/ land drain	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	0.4		post med
1	108	fill	107	fill of furrow/land drain	mid blackish grey brown clay sand	>1.8	0.4		post med
1	109	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W, shallow sides and base	>1.8	1.85	0.55	post med
1	110	fill	109	fill of furrow	mid-light brown grey clay sand	>1.8	1.85	0.55	post med
1	111	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	0.8		post med
1	112	fill	110	fill of furrow	mid grey brown clay sand	>1.8	0.8		post med
1	113	cut		furrow/ land drain	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	0.4		post med
1	114	fill	113	fill of furrow/ land drain	mid blackish grey brown clay sand	>1.8	0.4		post med
2	200	layer		topsoil	dark blackish brown sandy silt	30	1.8	0.17	
2	201	fill	210	fill of furrow	dark orangy brown sandy silt	>1.8	>1.8	>0.32	post med
2	202	layer		subsoil	mid orangy brown sandy silt	10	1.8	0.17	post med
2	203	layer		natural	light orangy brown sandy silt	10	1.8		
2	204	cut		pit/ posthole	steep sides, concaved base	0.34	0.36	0.16	post med
2	205	fill	204	fill of pit/ posthole	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.34	0.36	0.16	post med
2	206	cut		pit	sub oval, moderate sides, concaved base	>1.18	>1.6	0.33	post med
2	207	fill	206	fill of pit	mid greyish brown sandy silt	>1.18	>1.6	0.33	post med
2	208	cut		pit/ posthole	circular, steep sided, concaved base	0.36	0.36	0.16	
2	209	fill	208	fill of pit/ posthole	mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.36	0.36	0.16	
2	210	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	>1.8	>0.32	post med
2	211	cut		ditch/ pit	roughly aligned NE-SW, unexcavated	>1.8	1.6		modern
2	212	fill	211	fill of ditch/pit	topsoil/ natural mix	>1.8	1.6		modern
2	213	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>2.5	1.2		modern
2	214	fill	213	fill of furrow	mid greyish brown sandy silt	>2.5	1.2		modern
3	300	layer		topsoil	dark brown sandy sily clay	20	1.8	0.2	
3	301	layer		subsoil	mid brown sandy silt	20	1.8	0.34	
3	302	layer		natural	light orangy yellow sandy gravel	20	1.8		
3	304	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>2.0	>5.0	0.5	post med
3	305	fill	304	fill of furrow	mid brown sandy silt with gravel	>2.0	>5.0	0.5	post med

3	306	cut		land drain	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>2.0	>1.0	0.5		modern
3	307	fill	306	fill of land drain	dark brown sandy silt clay	>2.0	>1.0	0.5		modern
3	308	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>2.0	>3.0			post med
3	309	fill	308	fill of furrow	mid brown sandy silt clay	>2.0	>3.0			post med
4	400	layer		topsoil	dark orangish brown sandy silt clay	20	1.8	0.2		
4	402	layer		subsoil	light orangish brown sandy silty clay	20	1.8	0.22		
4	403	layer		natural	mottled mid greyish brown and mid orangish brown gravel	20	1.8			
4	404	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. Shallow sides and base	>1.1	0.84	0.07		post med
4	405	fill	404	fill of furrow	mid orangy brown sandy silt	>1.1	0.84	0.07		post med
4	406	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. Shallow sides and base	>1.0	0.79	0.07		post med
4	407	fill	406	fill of furrow	mid greyish brown sandy silt	>1.0	0.79	0.07		post med
4	408	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. Shallow sides and base	>1.0	0.41	0.05		post med
4	409	fill	408	fill of furrow	mid greyish brown gravel	>1.0	0.41	0.05		post med
4	410	cut		pit	sub rectangular pit. Not fully excavated		>2.0			modern
4	411	fill	410	fill of pit	dark black sandy loam. Inc kettle and bed frame		>2.0			modern
5	500	layer		topsoil	dark organic blackish brown clay loam	20	1.8	0.18		
5	501	layer		subsoil	mid-light brownish yellow sandy clay	20	1.8	0.23		
5	502	layer		natural	light grey and bright yellow sandy gravels	20	1.8			
5	503	fill	504	fill of furrow	light grey brown sandy clay and gravel	>1.8	0.8	>0.32		post med
5	504	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. Unexcavated	>1.8	0.8	>0.32		post med
5	505	fill	506	fill of furrow	light grey brown sandy clay and gravel	>1.8	1.5	>0.37		post med
5	506	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	1.5	>0.37		post med
5	507	fill	508	fill of furrow	light grey brown sandy clay and gravel	>1.8	1.2	>0.35		post med
5	508	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. unexcavated	>1.8	1.2	>0.35		post med
6	600	layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sandy clay silt	30	1.8	0.16		
6	601	layer		subsoil	mid orangy brown silty sand with gravel	30	1.8	0.27		
6	602	layer		natural	orangy yellow sand and gravel	30	1.8			
6	603	cut		ditch	NW-SE aligned, shallow sided, concaved base	>2.0	1.1	0.14		modern
6	604	fill	603	fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty sandy	>2.0	1.1	0.14		modern
6	605	cut		ditch	NW-SE aligned, shallow sided, concaved base	>2.0	1.3	0.15		modern
6	606	fill	605	fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty sandy	>2.0	1.3	0.15		modern
6	607	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. machined out	>2.0	8	>0.4		post med
6	608	fill	607	fill of furrow	mid brown sandy clay and gravel	>2.0	8	>0.4		post med
6	609	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. machined out	>2.0	4	>0.4		post med

6	610	fill	609	fill of furrow	mid brown sandy clay and gravel	>2.0	4	>0.4	post med
6	611	cut		furrow	roughly aligned E-W. machined out	>2.0	3	>0.4	post med
6	612	fill	611	fill of furrow	mid brown sandy clay and gravel	>2.0	3	>0.4	post med

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
205	Medieval pottery: Worcester sandy (fabric 55)	1	7	C19-C20
	Modern glass	1	4	
207	Post-medioeval/modern glass	1	3	C18-C19
214	Ceramic building material: flat tile	1	21	C19-C20
305	Animal bone:	1	2	-
	charcoal	3	1	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land of Holly Close	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2012 at Land off Holly Close, Bretforton, Worcestershire. Six trenches were excavated. Furrows of probable post-medieval or modern date, and modern pits, postholes, ditches and land drains were recorded. A single sherd of medieval pottery, located within a modern pit, was the only pre-modern artefact recovered.	
Project dates	4-7 October 2012	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	none	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Holly Close, Bretforton, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	5810 m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 08971 44356	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcester County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Dan Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Worcester County Museum	None
Paper	Worcester County Museum	Context Sheets, trench registers, photograph registers, section drawings
Digital	Worcester County Museum	Digital photographs & survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Land off Holly Close, Bretforton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 12286		



t 01285 771022
 f 01285 771033
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

**Land off Holly Close, Bretforton
 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 Archaeological Trust 100002109

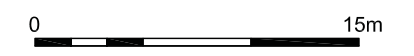
PROJECT NO. 3955 DATE 17-10-2012
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- furrow
- modern



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

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

PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Holly Close, Bretforton,
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing modern
 features and furrows

PROJECT NO.	3955	DATE	17-10-2012	FIGURE NO.	
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:350		2

P:\3955 Land off Holly Close, Bretforton, Worc. EVAL Illustration\Drawings\3955 Bretforton Fig 2.dwg

SP



3

3 Trench 2, looking north-west (scales 1m)



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

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Holly Close, Bretforton
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO.	3955	DATE	17-10-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	N/A	



4

4 Trench 4, looking north-west (scales 1m)



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

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Holly Close, Bretforton
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO.	3955	DATE	17-10-2012	FIGURE NO.	4
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	N/A		