



**Former Trelleborg Site  
Tewkesbury  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**WYG Planning and Environment**

CA Project: 4017  
CA Report: 12333

November 2012

# FORMER TRELLEBORG SITE TEWKESBURY GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4017  
CA Report: 12333

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
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## SUMMARY

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Former Trelleborg Site                 |
| <b>Location:</b>            | Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire            |
| <b>NGR:</b>                 | SO 9215 3330                           |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Evaluation                             |
| <b>Date:</b>                | 29 October-2 November 2012             |
| <b>Planning reference:</b>  | 12/00640/FUL                           |
| <b>Location of Archive:</b> | To be deposited with Tewkesbury Museum |
| <b>Site Code:</b>           | TWS 12                                 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2012 at the Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Twelve trenches were excavated.

A single furrow, probably a part of the medieval ridge and furrow ploughing recorded from aerial photographs, survived. Relict ploughsoil at the very south of the site may also date to this period. Truncation in the north of the site may relate to the former presence of a branch line to Tewkesbury from the Birmingham to Gloucester railway, whilst elsewhere the high degree of truncation observed is presumed to results from the construction of the Trelleborg factory itself. Residual sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered from a buried topsoil deposit.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October and November 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for WYG Planning and Environment at the Former Trelleborg Site (centred on NGR: SO 9215 3330; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to Tewkesbury Borough Council for the development of a Sainsbury's foodstore, customer car park, petrol filling station, and associated highways works along the A46 (planning reference 12/00640/FUL).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC), and with a *Project Design* by WYG Planning and Environment (WYG 2012) and subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) by CA (2012) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Mr Parry, including a site visit on 2 November 2012.

### **The site**

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of 3.8ha, and comprises a site previously occupied by industrial buildings which have now been demolished; a number of stockpiles of crushed building material remain at the site. It is bounded to the north, east and west by industrial buildings and to the south by the A46. A stream runs through an open culvert in the south-east. The site lies at approximately 20m AOD, dropping to the south and south-east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth mudstone formation of the Sinemurian to the Pliensbachian era (BGS 2012). These deposits are mapped as being overlain by superficial deposits of Wasperton sand and gravel member dating to the Quaternary period and indicative of a local environment previously dominated by rivers (*ibid*). Geological deposits encountered during the

evaluation comprised coarse sands and gravels overlying stiff grey clay with pale calcareous inclusions, which are probably consistent with those predicted.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The site has been the subject of a detailed archaeological desk-based assessment (WYG 2012a), the results of which are summarised below. There are no designated or undesignated heritage assets recorded within the site
- 1.6 The desk-based assessment recorded low potential across the site for remains of the prehistoric to medieval periods; although medieval ridge and furrow has been recorded from aerial photographs taken prior to the development of the industrial estate (WYG 2012a). Historic map research has shown that the site was in agricultural use up until the mid-20th century. It is probable that the ridge and furrow has been removed by the modern development; likewise the ploughing may have truncated any earlier buried remains. The only recorded heritage asset within the site is a section of the former branch line to Tewkesbury from the Birmingham to Gloucester railway. The line ran east-west through the site at its northern boundary (*ibid*).
- 1.7 A site investigation of six boreholes and 16 test-pits in 2011 revealed a significant depth of modern demolition material overlying clays. At the far south of the site, an area that remained undeveloped according to the historic mapping, the survey indicated topsoil and subsoil deposits with limited modern inclusions overlying the natural clay; no archaeological material was identified during these investigations (WYG 2012a).
- 1.8 A number of sites have been identified in the wider study area around the site. Evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement has been found to the south of the A46, however nothing has been found to the north of the road; a 1995 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) evaluation on land to the immediate north and north-east of the Trelleborg site produced negative results (WYG 2012a). A large Second World War camp was recorded to the north of the site, and is now situated beneath a residential development (*ibid*).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.9 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 2008). This information will enable TBC in identifying and assessing the particular significance of any heritage asset, considering the impact of the proposed development upon it, and avoiding or minimising 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**

- 1.10 Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire City Council, stipulated that up to 5% of the site should be subject to archaeological evaluation. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches, representing a 2.6% sample of the site and, as no significant remains were present, a contingency for the remaining 2.4% sample was not invoked. All trenches were 1.8m wide. Trench 2 was 20m long; Trenches 9 and 12 were 30m long; Trenches 1 and 3 were 40m long; Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 were 50m long and Trench 8 was 110m long; the trenches were situated in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were located to assess the amount of truncation caused during construction of the former Trelleborg factory and were positioned within the former factory and beyond its footprint. Trench 1 was moved 3m to the north of its originally planned location to avoid damaging trees. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.11 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).

- 1.12 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) but 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).
- 1.13 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 will be discarded, and the site archive deposited with Tewkesbury 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 (FIG. 2)

- 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 Much of the site was heavily disturbed with horizontal truncation and terracing, to create a flat surface, while vertical truncation for services, possible foundations etc was also present. Only in Trenches 1 and 2, in the south of the site and close to the A46, did topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits survive modern disturbance. The north of the site, in Trenches 4, 9 and 10, was most heavily disturbed with redeposited material to 1.2m depth but modern services cut through this material, which probably pre-dates the Trelleborg factory. The extent of the modern features is depicted on Figure 2. No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

### **Soil profile**

- 2.3 In Trenches 1 and 2 natural grey clay (103; 204), with calcareous flecks and occasional reddish brown sandy patches, was overlain by c. 0.2m depth of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, possibly a medieval ploughsoil (102b; 203). Above the subsoil was grey brown silty clay, assumed to be buried topsoil (102a; 202), which contained single sherds of Roman and medieval/early post-medieval pottery, and two small fragments of brick/tile (see below *The Finds*). This was sealed by c. 0.15m depth of redeposited natural gravels and limestone rubble (101; 201), with the dark brown modern topsoil overlying (100; 200). In trenches to the north the natural clay was covered by a layer of reddish or yellowish brown coarse sand and fine gravel



with a maximum depth of c. 0.3m. In Trench 11 this layer of sand and gravel was covered by a very dark grey clay believed to be a truncated buried topsoil, and nearby was an east-west aligned furrow.

### ***The Finds***

- 2.4 Artefactual material comprises single, abraded sherds of Roman (16g) and medieval/early post-medieval (3g) pottery and two small fragments of brick/tile (11 g) of uncertain date. All was recovered from buried topsoil deposit 102a.
- 2.5 The Roman sherd which is unfeathered is identifiable as oxidised Severn Valley ware, a type broadly dateable across the Roman period (1st to 4th centuries AD). The medieval/early post-medieval sherd is a small chip of Malvern Chase type redware and as such dateable c. 1300–1600.
- 2.6 In view of their re-deposited nature, the finds will not be retained.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 A single furrow, probably a part of the medieval ridge and furrow ploughing recorded from aerial photographs, survived, and the relict plough soil in Trenches 1 and 2 may also date to this period. The truncation in the north of the site seemed to pre-date the Trelleborg factory and may relate to the construction of a former branch line to Tewkesbury from the Birmingham to Gloucester railway. The high degree of truncation and levelling up observed in other trenches is presumed to date to the construction of the Trelleborg factory, the creation of a horizontal surface for building and parking, and the supply of services.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Alex Thomson and Chris Watts. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, 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/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 24  
October 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire:  
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WYG Planning and Environment 2012 *Easter Group, Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury,  
Gloucestershire: Project Design*

WYG Planning and Environment 2012a *Former Trelleborg Site, Ashchurch Industrial Estate,  
Tewkesbury: Archaeological & Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*

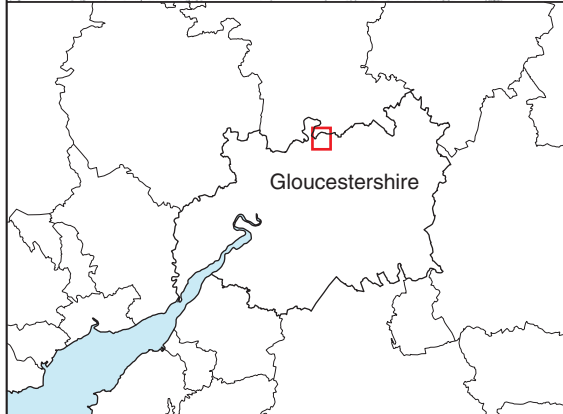
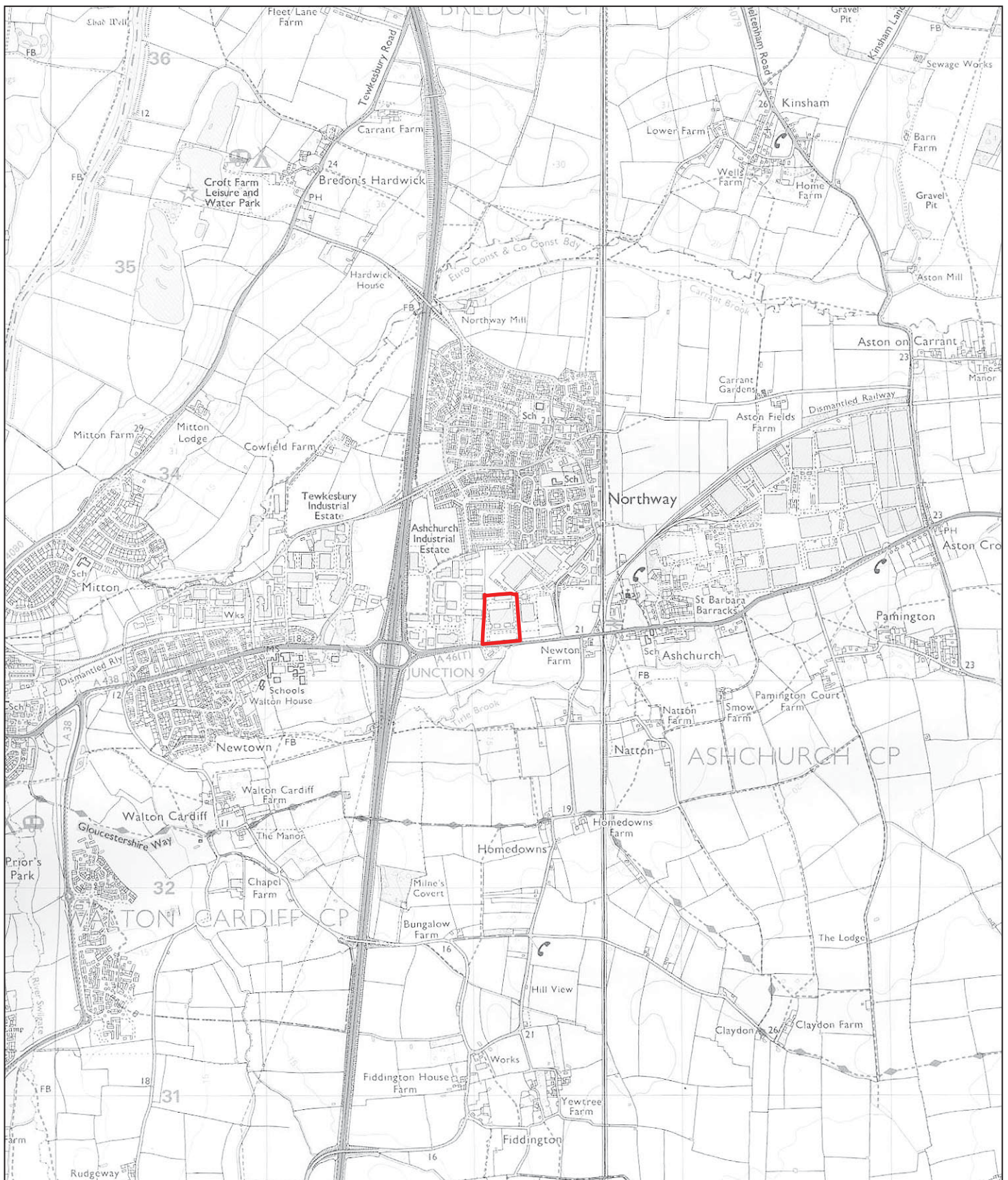


## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type  | Context interpretation | Description  | L (m) | W (m) | Depth /thickness (m) | Spot-date |
|------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1          | 100         | Layer | topsoil                | Dark greyish brown clay loam   | 40    | 1.8   | 0.2                  | modern    |
| 1          | 101         | Layer | Redeposited nat.       | Clay and gravel mix  | 40    | 1.8   | 0.15                 | modern    |
| 1          | 102a        | Layer | Buried topsoil         | Greyish brown clay   | 40    | 1.8   | 0.2                  | C20       |
| 1          | 102b        | Layer | ?Med ploughsoil        | mid grey sandy clay  | 40    | 1.8   | 0.2                  | ?Med      |
| 1          | 103         | Layer | Natural                | Grey clay with occasional gravel   | 40    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 2          | 200         | Layer | Topsoil                | Dark greyish brown clay loam   | 20    | 1.8   | 0.15                 | Modern    |
| 2          | 201         | Layer | Redeposited nat.       | Natural gravel and limestone rubble  | 20    | 1.8   | 0.15                 | Modern    |
| 2          | 202         | Layer | Buried topsoil         | Greyish brown clay   | 20    | 1.8   | 0.2                  | C20       |
| 2          | 203         | Layer | Buried subsoil         | Pale yellowish grey clay   | 20    | 1.8   | 0.3                  | ?Med      |
| 2          | 204         | Layer | Natural                | Greyish brown clay with some gravel  | 20    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 3          | 300         | Layer | Made ground            | Gravel and rubble  | 40    | 1.8   | > 1.2                |           |
| 3          | 301         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 40    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 4          | 400         | Layer | Made ground            | Mixed natural and building rubble, >1m in N of trench                      | 50    | 1.8   | 0.4                  |           |
| 4          | 401         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 50    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 5          | 500         | Layer | Made ground            | Mixed natural and building rubble  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.3                  |           |
| 5          | 501         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 50    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 6          | 600         | Layer | Made ground            | Mixed natural and building rubble  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.2                  |           |
| 6          | 601         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 50    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 7          | 700         | Layer | Made ground            | Mixed gravels and demolition rubble  | 40    | 1.8   | c. 0.5               |           |
| 7          | 701         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 40    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 8          | 800         | Layer | Made ground            | Gravel and demolition rubble   | 110   | 1.8   | c. 0.5               |           |
| 8          | 801         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 110   | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 9          | 900         | Layer | Made ground            | Gravel, sandy clay and demolition rubble. >1m deep in N                    | 30    | 1.8   | c. 0.3               |           |
| 9          | 901         | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 30    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 10         | 1000        | Layer | Made ground            | Mixed clay and rubble. No natural exposed within trench.                   | 50    | 1.8   | c. 1                 |           |
| 11         | 1100        | Layer | Made ground            | Limestone rubble, getting progressively deeper to SE                       | 50    | 1.8   | 1.2                  |           |
| 11         | 1101        | Layer | Natural                | Sand and gravel over grey clay   | 50    | 1.8   |                      |           |
| 11         | 1102        | Cut   | Furrow                 | Shallow furrow aligned E-W   | 3     | 0.6   | 0.05                 |           |
| 11         | 1103        | Fill  | Fill of 1102           | Dark grey clay   | 3     | 0.6   | 0.05                 |           |
| 11         | 1104        | Layer | Buried topsoil         | Very dark grey clay, only surviving in middle of trench                    | 5     | 1.8   | 0.15                 |           |
| 12         | 1200        | Layer | Made ground            | Demolition rubble and natural, same material filled two deeper truncations | 30    | 1.8   | c. 0.4               |           |
| 12         | 1201        | Layer | Natural                | Coarse sand and fine gravel, with no clay showing.                         | 30    | 1.8   |                      |           |

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>   |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Project Name   | Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire   |                                 |
| Short description  | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2012 at the Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single furrow, probably a part of the medieval ridge and furrow ploughing recorded from aerial photographs, survived. Relict ploughsoil at the very south of the site may also date to this period. Truncation in the north of the site may relate to the former presence of a branch line to Tewkesbury from the Birmingham to Gloucester railway, whilst elsewhere the high degree of truncation observed is presumed to results from the construction of the Trelleborg factory itself. Residual sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered from a buried topsoil deposit.</p> |                                 |
| Project dates  | 29 October-2 November 2012  |                                 |
| Project type   | Field evaluation  |                                 |
| Previous work  | Desk-Based Assessment (WYG 2012)  |                                 |
| Future work  | Unknown   |                                 |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>  |   |                                 |
| Site Location  | Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire   |                                 |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)  | 3.8ha   |                                 |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)   | NGR: SO 9215 3330   |                                 |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>  |   |                                 |
| Name of organisation   | Cotswold Archaeology  |                                 |
| Project Brief originator   | WYG Planning and Environment  |                                 |
| Project Design (WSI) originator  | Cotswold Archaeology  |                                 |
| Project Manager  | Simon Cox   |                                 |
| Project Supervisor   | Jamie Wright  |                                 |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>   |   |                                 |
|  | None  |                                 |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>   |   |                                 |
|  | None  |                                 |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>  |   |                                 |
|  | Intended final location of archive  | Content                         |
| Physical   | Tewkesbury Museum   | None                            |
| Paper  | Tewkesbury Museum   | Trench and photo sheets, etc    |
| Digital  | Tewkesbury Museum   | Survey data, digital photos etc |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>  |   |                                 |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>12333</b> |   |                                 |



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Former Trelleborg site, Tewkesbury  
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**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

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FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- modern feature



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Former Trelleborg Site, Tewkesbury  
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan**



|             |      |          |            |            |
|-------------|------|----------|------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 4017 | DATE     | 05-11-2012 | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY    | IA   | REVISION | 00         | <b>2</b>   |
| APPROVED BY | PJM  | SCALE@A4 | 1:1250     |            |

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