

**Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close
Powick
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Bovis Homes


CA Project: 4011
CA Report: 12351
HER No.: WSM 47424

November 2012

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Powick
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prepared by	Steven Sheldon, Project Supervisor
date	19 November 2012
checked by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date	27 November 2012
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	27 November 2012
issue	01

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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		

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close
Location:	Powick, Worcestershire
NGR:	SO 81917 50938
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	12-15 November 2012
HER No:	WSM 47424
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code:	LRR 12

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2012 at Land to the rear of Russell Close, Powick, Worcestershire. Fifteen trenches were excavated.

A ditch and a pit/ditch terminal containing quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery were identified in Trench 2. An undated posthole was also identified within the trench and may be broadly contemporary. Although these features are suggestive of settlement activity, no other contemporary features were identified during the evaluation making further interpretation impossible.

Evidence of modern activity comprising the infilling of a large pit or natural hollow was identified in Trenches 11 and 12. A further large modern pit was identified in Trench 13.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bovis Homes on land to the rear of Russell Close, Powick, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 81917 50938; Fig. 1). A pre-application enquiry has been made to the Malvern Hills District Council regarding a proposed residential development, prior to the determination of which further information on potential heritage assets is required, in accordance with a *brief* prepared by Mike Glyde of Worcestershire County Council Archive and Archaeology Service, planning advisor to Malvern Hills District Council (Glyde 2012).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (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 Glyde, including a site visit on 15 November 2012.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 2.8ha, and comprises open fields currently used as rough pasture. It is bordered to the north by the A449 Malvern Road, to the east by the Crown Inn public house, to the west by open farmland and to the south by houses fronting Russell Close.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation of the Triassic Period (BGS 2012). 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 An HER assessment has been undertaken of the area of proposed development, and the results are summarised here. There is no recorded prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site and evidence for Roman activity is similarly sparse. A north/south aligned Roman road runs c. 3km to the east of the site, radiating from the Roman settlement at Worcester c. 4km to the north-east.

- 1.6 The earliest evidence of human occupation within the immediate vicinity of the site dates from the medieval period; archaeological investigations, limited to a single evaluation, have recorded medieval and post-medieval field boundaries and agricultural features, in addition to an unstratified post-medieval find of a cannon ball c.0.5km to the north-east of site. Possible medieval fishponds have been recorded on LiDAR and aerial photographs at Collet's Green.
- 1.7 Settlement within the wider area remains dispersed in between larger hamlets and villages set within a surrounding landscape of agricultural character. The field pattern is largely comprised of irregular and sub-regular large enclosures with pockets of smaller-scale irregular fields.
- 1.8 Above ground archaeology within the vicinity of the site is limited to a dispersed array of 19th and 20th-century buildings, including farm buildings and cottages, and Second World War air raid shelters. The site of the former Powick Mental Hospital is recorded to the south of Bowling Green.
- 1.9 There are no Scheduled Monuments or conservation areas within the wider area. Listed buildings within the vicinity include the Grade II Listed Administration Block of the Powick Hospital and a Grade II Listed late 17th-century timber framed house, south of the A449.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation are 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), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Malvern Hills 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 fieldwork comprised the excavation of 15 trenches; Trenches 11 and 12 measured 25m in length and 1.6m in width, the remaining trenches measured 50m in length and 1.6m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). 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).
- 1.12 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). 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. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum, 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 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. In Trenches 1, 4, 6, 8 and 9 this was directly overlain by modern ploughsoil measuring c. 0.3m in thickness. In Trenches 2-3, 5, 7, 10-15 this was overlain by between 0.05m and 0.65m thickness of subsoil

which was itself overlain by the modern ploughsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within Trenches 1, 3-10, 14 and 15.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 Narrow, shallow ditch 202 was identified towards the north-western end of the trench. It was aligned east-west, had a 'U'-shaped profile and contained a single fill, 203, from which three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered.
- 2.4 Small, undated posthole 204 was located towards the centre of the trench. The secondary fill of this feature, 205, comprised evidence of stone post-packing. To the south-east pit/ditch terminal 207 was identified. It had moderately sloping sides, a flat base and it contained a single fill, 208, from which two sherds of probable Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Trenches 11, 12 & 13 (Fig. 2)

- 2.5 An area of modern disturbance, 1105 and 1205, seemingly relating to the backfilling of a large rubbish pit or natural hollow, was exposed within Trenches 11 and 12 respectively. The pit cut the subsoil, had a maximum depth of 2.5m and contained concrete, brick and tarmac fragments. The pit was still visible in the field as a large, shallow depression. A further large modern rubbish pit, 1302, was identified towards the centre of Trench 13. It cut the subsoil, had a maximum depth of 2.1m and contained further concrete, brick, tile and tarmac fragments.

The Finds

- 2.6 The finds assemblage retrieved from the evaluation consisted of five sherds of pottery weighing 66g. Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill of ditch 202 and were of a hard fired and burnished fabric with inclusions of angular metamorphic rock. These were identified as sherds of handmade Malvernian ware (Peacock Group A; Worcestershire County Council fabric 3) from a globular jar of middle Iron Age date. The vessel featured a simple upright rim and a post-firing perforation through the shoulder, possibly for suspension or repair using leather or similar material.
- 2.7 The remaining two, joining, sherds, recovered from the fill of pit/ditch terminal 207, were of a similar fabric, though with poorly sorted, rock inclusions and featuring an oxidised surface. A Middle Iron Age date for this material is also considered likely.

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, 11, 12 and 13.

Middle Iron Age

- 3.2 Pit/ditch terminal 207 and ditch 202, both identified in Trench 2, contained quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery and it is possible that undated posthole 204, also identified in Trench 2, is broadly contemporary. Although these features are suggestive of settlement activity, no demonstrably contemporary features were identified during the evaluation making further interpretation impossible at present. The HER assessment identified no prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site (see *Archaeological Background* above).

Modern

- 3.3 Modern activity was identified in Trenches 11, 12 and 13. Modern disturbance identified in Trenches 11 and 12 would appear to represent the backfilling of a large rubbish pit or natural hollow extending beyond the limits of the Trenches. The remains of this feature were still visible in the field as a shallow depression. A further large pit, identified in Trench 13, was filled with similar modern material and therefore would appear to represent a westward continuation of this activity.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Matthew Brooks, Noel Boothroyd, Sarah Foster and Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The finds report was written by Angus Crawford. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. 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) 2012 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 19
November 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close, Powick,
Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy
Framework*

Glyde, M. 2012, "Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at Land to the Rear of 18
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Worcestershire County Council.



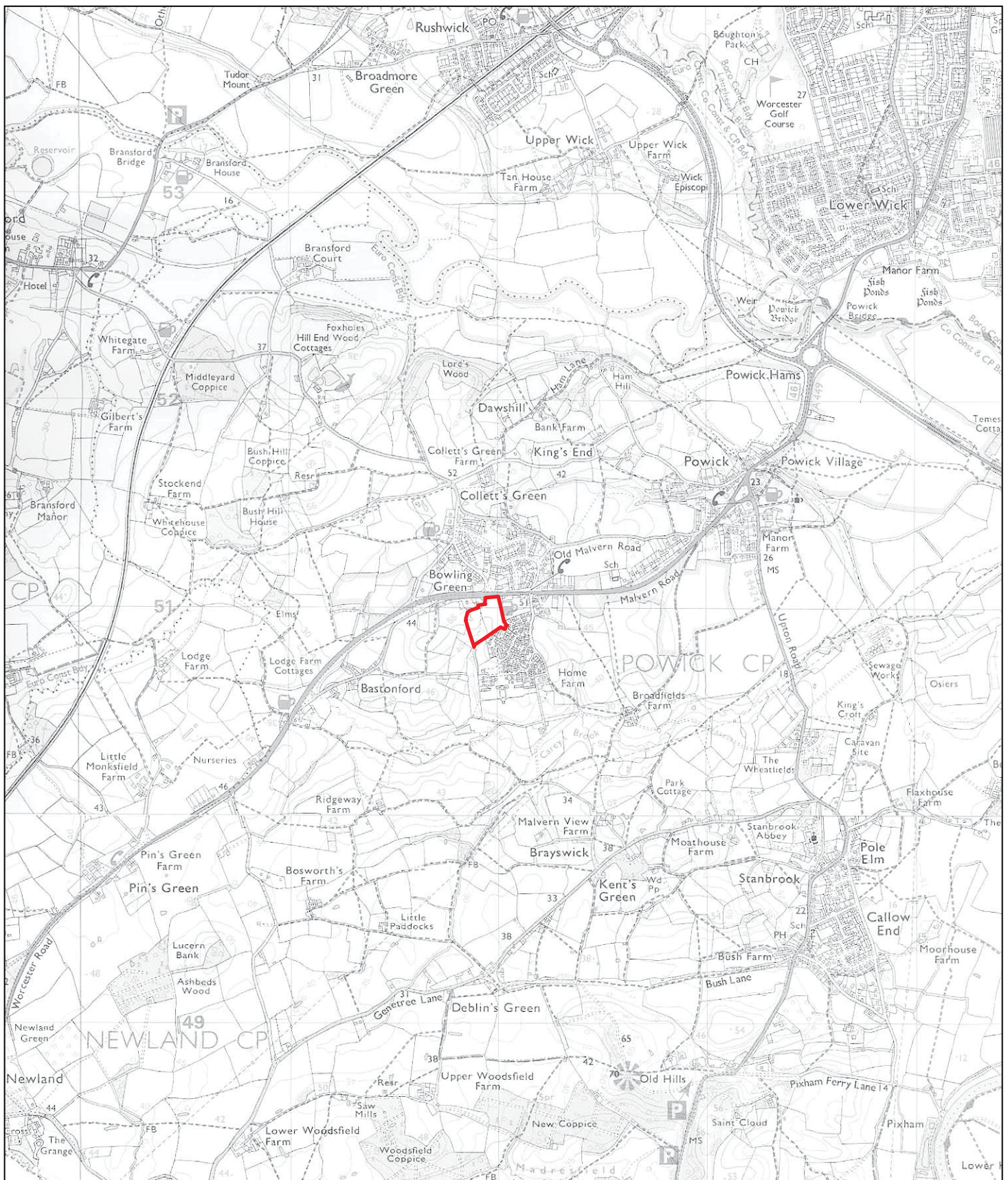
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.3
1	101	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.09
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.25
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.2
2	202	Cut		Ditch	E/W ditch	>1.6	0.3	0.21
2	203	Fill	202	Fill	Single fill of ditch 202	>1.6	0.3	0.21
2	204	Cut		Posthole	Posthole	0.47	0.46	0.29
2	205	Fill	204	Fill	2nd fill of posthole 204	0.47	0.46	0.19
2	206	Fill	204	Fill	1st fill of posthole 204	0.47	0.46	0.1
2	207	Cut		Pit/ditch terminal	Pit/ditch terminal	0.6	0.52	0.17
2	208	Fill	207	Fill	Single fill of pit/ditch terminal 207	0.6	0.52	0.17
2	209	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.5
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.2
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.21
3	302	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.05
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.29
4	401	Fill	402	Fill	Modern ceramic land drain	>1.6	0.44	N/A
4	402	Cut		Cut	Cut for land drain	>1.6	0.44	N/A
4	403	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.04
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.28
5	501	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.14
5	502	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.5
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.22
6	601	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.3
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.23
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.65
7	702	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.04
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.22
8	801	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.06
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.28
9	901	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.05
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.33
10	1001	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.37
10	1002	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.05
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>25	>1.6	0.32
11	1101	Fill	1105	Fill	4th fill of pit/hollow 1105	>25	>1.6	0.14
11	1102	Fill	1105	Fill	3rd fill of pit/hollow 1105	>25	>1.6	0.32
11	1103	Fill	1105	Fill	2nd fill of pit/hollow 1105	>25	>1.6	0.38
11	1104	Fill	1105	Fill	1st fill of pit/hollow 1105	>25	>1.6	1.54
11	1105	Cut		Modern pit	Modern pit or infilled natural hollow	>25	>1.6	2.42
11	1106	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>25	>1.6	>0.05
11	1107	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>25	>1.6	0.05
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>25	>1.6	0.31
12	1201	Fill	1205	Fill	4th fill of pit/hollow 1205	>25	>1.6	0.4
12	1202	Fill	1205	Fill	3rd fill of pit/hollow 1205	>25	>1.6	0.8

12	1203	Fill	1205	Fill	2nd fill of pit/hollow 1205	>25	>1.6	1.1
12	1204	Fill	1205	Fill	1st fill of pit/hollow 1205	>25	>1.6	0.29
12	1205	Cut		Modern pit	Modern pit or infilled natural hollow	>25	>1.6	2.5
12	1206	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>25	>1.6	0.1
12	1207	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>25	>1.6	>0.05
13	1300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.4
13	1301	Fill	1302	Fill	2nd fill of modern pit 1302	7.04	>1.6	0.6
13	1302	Cut		Modern pit		7.04	>1.6	1.5
13	1303	Fill	1302	Fill	1st fill of modern pit 1302	7.04	>1.6	0.9
13	1304	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>1
13	1305	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.1
13	1306	layer		Dumped deposit	Modern dumped deposit	>15	>1.6	0.11
14	1400	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.31
14	1401	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.31
14	1402	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.1
15	1500	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.32
15	1501	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay	>50	>1.6	0.27
15	1502	layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches	>50	>1.6	>0.08

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close, Powick, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2012 at Land to the rear of Russell Close, Powick, Worcestershire. Fifteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A ditch and a pit/ditch terminal containing quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery were identified in Trench 2. An undated posthole was also identified within the trench and may be broadly contemporary. Although these features are suggestive of settlement activity, no other contemporary features were identified during the evaluation making further interpretation impossible.</p> <p>Evidence of modern activity comprising the infilling of a large pit or natural hollow was identified in Trenches 11 and 12. A further large modern pit was identified in Trench 13.</p>	
Project dates	12-15 November 2012	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close, Powick, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.8ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 81917 50938	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Glyde, M (WHEAS)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Pottery
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, section drawings, photographic registers, B&W photographs
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close, Powick, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 12351		



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

PROJECT TITLE

Land to the rear of 18 Russel Close
 Powick, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan



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PROJECT NO. 4011 DATE 22-11-2012
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern



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

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close
 Powick, Worcestershire

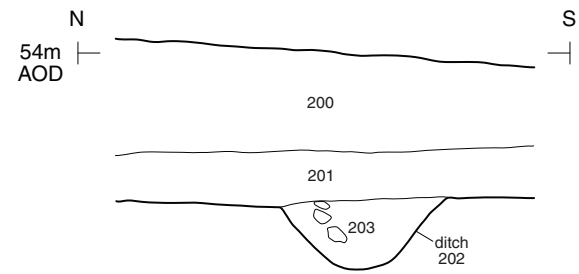
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	4011	DATE	22-11-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	IA	REVISION	01	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

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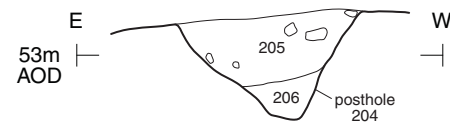


Section AA



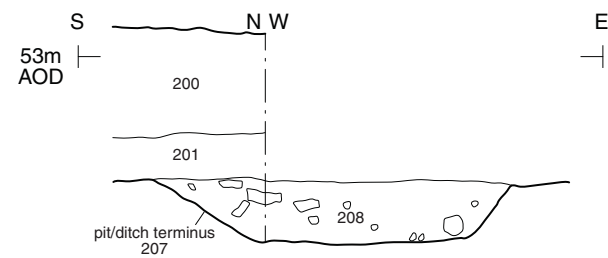
Ditch 202, looking east (scale 0.3m)

Section BB



Posthole 204, looking south (scale 0.3m)

Section CC



Pit/ditch terminus 207, looking north (scale 0.3m)



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

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the rear of 18 Russell Close
 Powick, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2; sections and photographs