



**Land off Sparrowhall Lane
Powick
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Black Pear Planning
on behalf of
Mr G. Price

CA Project: 4281
CA Report: 13355
HER No.: WSM 48239

May 2013

Land off Sparrowhall Lane
Powick
Worcestershire

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|-------------|--|
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| date | 20 May 2013 |
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| date | 23 May 2013 |
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| signed |  |
| date | 23 May 2013 |
| issue | 01 |

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| SUMMARY | 2 |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| <i>The site</i> | 3 |
| <i>Archaeological background</i> | 4 |
| <i>Archaeological objectives</i> | 4 |
| <i>Methodology</i> | 5 |
| 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3) | 6 |
| <i>The Finds</i> | 6 |
| 3. DISCUSSION..... | 7 |
| 4. CA PROJECT TEAM | 8 |
| 5. REFERENCES | 8 |
| APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS | 9 |
| APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM..... | 10 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)
Fig. 3 Trenches 8 and 9; sections and photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Sparrowhall Lane
Location: Powick, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 8176 5113
Type: Evaluation
Date: 13-16 May 2013
Planning Reference: MH/13/0616
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
HER No: WSM 48239
Site Code: SLP 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2013 at land off Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire. Ten trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified archaeological features in 2 of the 10 excavated trenches. The earliest feature encountered was a pit of medieval date in Trench 9. A medieval/post-medieval ditch or furrow was identified in Trench 8 and a similar, although undated, ditch or furrow was identified in Trench 9. An isolated, undated pit was also identified in Trench 8.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Black Pear Planning on behalf of Mr G. Price on land at Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8176 5113; Fig. 1). An outline planning application has been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council (ref. no. MH/13/0616) regarding a proposed residential development, prior to the determination of which further information on potential heritage assets is required (archaeological evaluation), in accordance with a *brief* prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council Archive and Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to Malvern Hills District Council (Glyde 2013).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mike Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), 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 14 May 2013.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 2.25ha, currently comprising two open fields. The site is broadly triangular in shape and is bordered to the north-west by Sparrowhall Lane and residential properties fronting it, to the north-east by properties fronting Bowling Green Road and to the south by Bowling Green Farm and the A449 Malvern Road.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation of the Triassic Period (BGS 2013). 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. A recent archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Russell Close, approximately 100m to the south-east, identified features of Middle Iron Age and unknown date (WSM 47424, WSM 47977; CA 2012). 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, however there is no recorded Roman activity within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.
- 1.6 Archaeological evaluation has recorded medieval and post-medieval field boundaries and agricultural features, in addition to an unstratified post-medieval find of a cannonball c. 0.5km to the north-east of the 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 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). This information 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 ten trenches; Trenches 1a and 1b each 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). Trench 1 was split into two trenches (1a and 1b) each measuring 25m in length, due to the presence of overhead services and trees, Trenches 4, 7 and 9 were moved slightly from their original positions to avoid the line of a sewer identified on site, with the approval of Mr Glyde. 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 B, 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 excavated trenches comprised brown red clay with occasional gravel and sand patches. This was overlain by between 0.08m and 0.3m of subsoil which was itself overlain by topsoil measuring between 0.1m and 0.4m in thickness. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within Trenches 1-7.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 Shallow ditch 806 was identified towards the north-western end of the trench. It was aligned east/west, had a shallow 'U'-shaped profile and contained a single fill, 805, from which fragments of medieval/post-medieval (13th to 18th-century) ceramic tile were recovered.
- 2.4 Small, shallow pit 804 was located to the south-east of ditch 806. It contained a single undated fill 803.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.5 Narrow, shallow ditch 903 was identified towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It was aligned east/west and contained a single undated fill 904, which was cut by modern land drain 905.
- 2.6 Shallow, bowl-shaped pit 907 was partially exposed towards the centre of the trench. It contained a single fill, 908, which contained occasional charcoal fragments. A single sherd of 11th to early 14th-century pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature.

The Finds

- 2.7 A single bodysherd (18 g) of medieval date was recovered from deposit 908 (the fill of pit 907). The sherd is unfeathered and dating in the later 11th to early 14th century range is suggested by the fabric, which is equivalent to Worcester-type sandy unglazed coarseware type 55 (Bryant 2004, 281).



- 2.8 Eight fragments of ceramic tile (weighing 74 g) in a hard, pale orange fabric were recorded from deposit 805 (the single fill of shallow ditch 806). The largest fragment is flat and sanded to its underside. A broad medieval to post-medieval (13th to 18th centuries) date is likely for this material.

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 8 and 9, located in the eastern part of the site.

Medieval/post-medieval

- 3.2 Medieval (11th to early 14th-century) pottery was recovered from the fill of pit 907, identified in Trench 9. The isolated nature of this feature makes detailed interpretation impossible at present, although it may be suggestive of settlement or agricultural activity.

- 3.3 Medieval/post-medieval (13th to 18th-century) tile was recovered from ditch 806, identified in Trench 8, and it is possible that this ditch relates to land management, drainage or division. However, the shallow nature and open profile of this feature along with its orientation, parallel to the modern A449 Malvern Road, suggest that it may represent the remains of a ploughed-out furrow. This interpretation is supported by aerial photographs which show the possible remains of east/west orientated earthworks in the eastern part of the site (Google 2013).

Undated

- 3.4 Undated pit/posthole 804 and undated ditch 903 were identified in Trenches 8 and 9 respectively. Due to its isolated nature the exact function of pit 804 remains unclear. It is possible that ditch 903 is broadly contemporary with ditch 804, identified in Trench 8, due to the similarity of their respective fills, profiles and alignments. Whilst the possibility remains that ditch 903 relates to land management, drainage or division, it would appear more likely, given its similarity to ditch 804, that it represents the remains of a further ploughed-out furrow.



4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Gary Baddeley, Anthony Beechey, Sikko van der Brug and Aleksandra Osinka. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The finds report was written by Ed McSloy. The illustrations were prepared by Daniel Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 20 May 2013

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Google 2013 *Google Maps* <http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=w> Accessed 23 May 2013

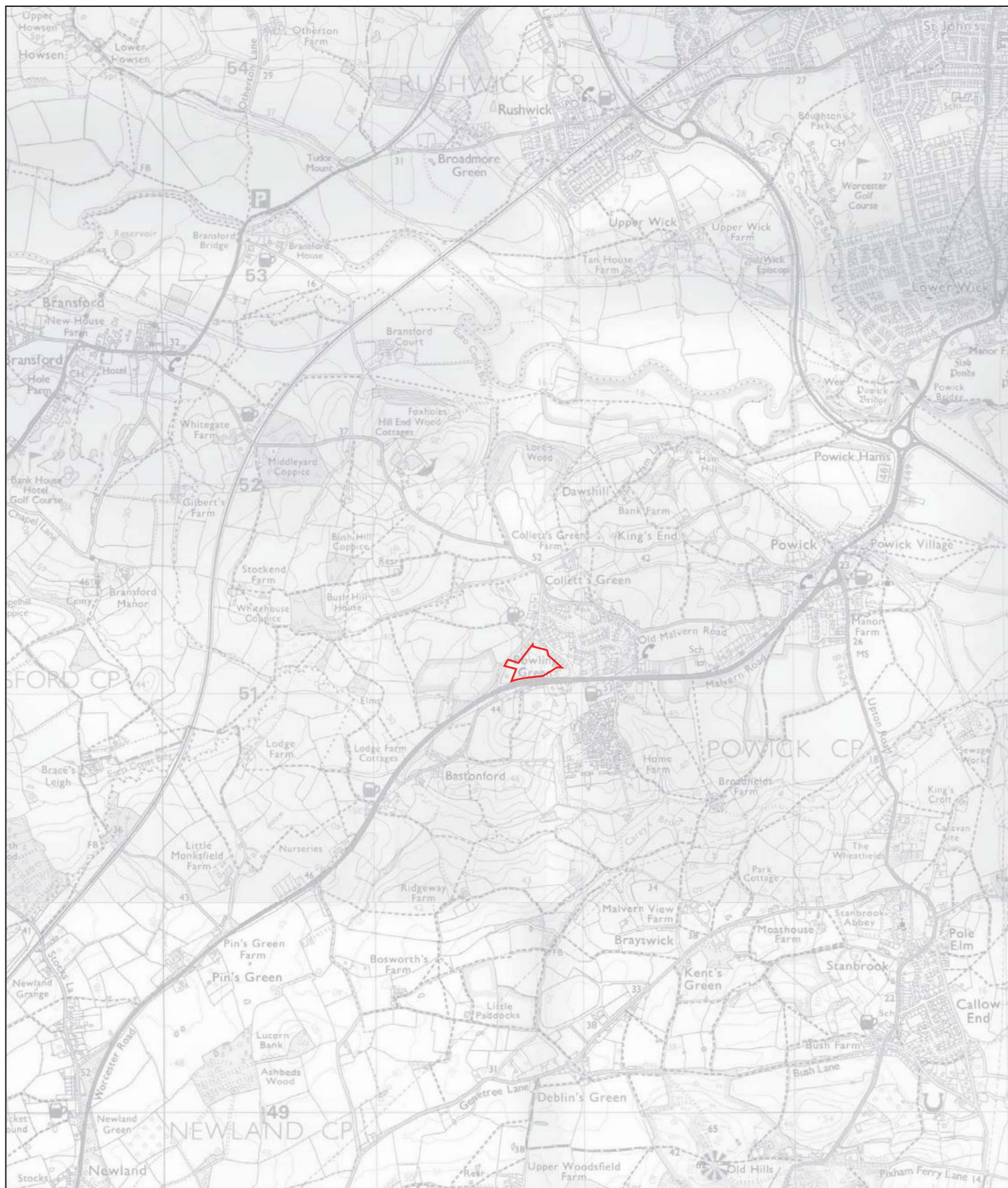


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth /thickness (m) | Spot-date |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1a | 100 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 1a | 101 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.25 | |
| 1a | 102 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.55 | |
| 1b | 110 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 1b | 111 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.2 | |
| 1b | 112 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.2 | |
| 2 | 200 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.2 | |
| 2 | 201 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.15 | |
| 2 | 202 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.45 | |
| 3 | 300 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.3 | |
| 3 | 301 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.1 | |
| 3 | 302 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.1 | |
| 4 | 400 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.3 | |
| 4 | 401 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.2 | |
| 4 | 402 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.3 | |
| 5 | 500 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.35 | |
| 5 | 501 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.3 | |
| 5 | 502 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.15 | |
| 6 | 600 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.4 | |
| 6 | 601 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.08 | |
| 6 | 602 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.1 | |
| 7 | 700 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.27 | |
| 7 | 701 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.13 | |
| 7 | 702 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.1 | |
| 8 | 800 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.3 | |
| 8 | 801 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.2 | |
| 8 | 802 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.1 | |
| 8 | 803 | Fill | 804 | Fill | Single fill of pit/posthole 804 | 0.58 | 0.4 | 0.07 | |
| 8 | 804 | Cut | | Pit/posthole | Pit/posthole | 0.58 | 0.4 | 0.07 | |
| 8 | 805 | Fill | 806 | Fill | Single fill of ditch 806 | >2 | 1.3 | 0.15 | C13-C18 |
| 8 | 806 | Cut | | Ditch | E/W ditch | >2 | 1.3 | 0.15 | |
| 9 | 900 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.3 | |
| 9 | 901 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange brown silt clay | >50 | >1.6 | 0.22 | |
| 9 | 902 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Brown red clay with occasional sand and gravel patches | >50 | >1.6 | >0.1 | |
| 9 | 903 | Cut | | Ditch | E/W ditch | >5.8 | 0.61 | 0.21 | |
| 9 | 904 | Fill | 903 | Fill | Single fill of ditch 903 | >5.8 | 0.61 | 0.21 | |
| 9 | 905 | Cut | | Modern land drain | Modern land drain | >5.8 | 0.26 | 0.18 | |
| 9 | 906 | Fill | 905 | Fill | Single fill of modern land drain | >5.8 | 0.26 | 0.18 | |
| 9 | 907 | Cut | | Pit/posthole | Pit/posthole | >0.25 | 0.84 | 0.18 | |
| 9 | 908 | Fill | 907 | Fill | Single fill of pit/posthole 907 | >0.25 | 0.84 | 0.18 | C11-C14 |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
| Project Name | Land off Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire | |
| Short description | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2013 at land off Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire. Ten trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified archaeological features in 2 of the 10 excavated trenches. The earliest feature encountered was a pit of medieval date in Trench 9. A medieval/post-medieval ditch or furrow was identified in Trench 8 and a similar, although undated, ditch or furrow was identified in Trench 9. An isolated, undated pit was also identified in Trench 8.</p> | |
| Project dates | 13-16 May 2013 | |
| Project type | Field Evaluation | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Land off Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 2.25ha | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SO 8176 5113 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Glyde, M (WHEAS) | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Laurent Coleman | |
| 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 forms, section drawings, photographic registers |
| Digital | Worcestershire County Museum | Digital photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Land off Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13355 | | |



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Sparrowhall Lane, Powick, Worcestershire

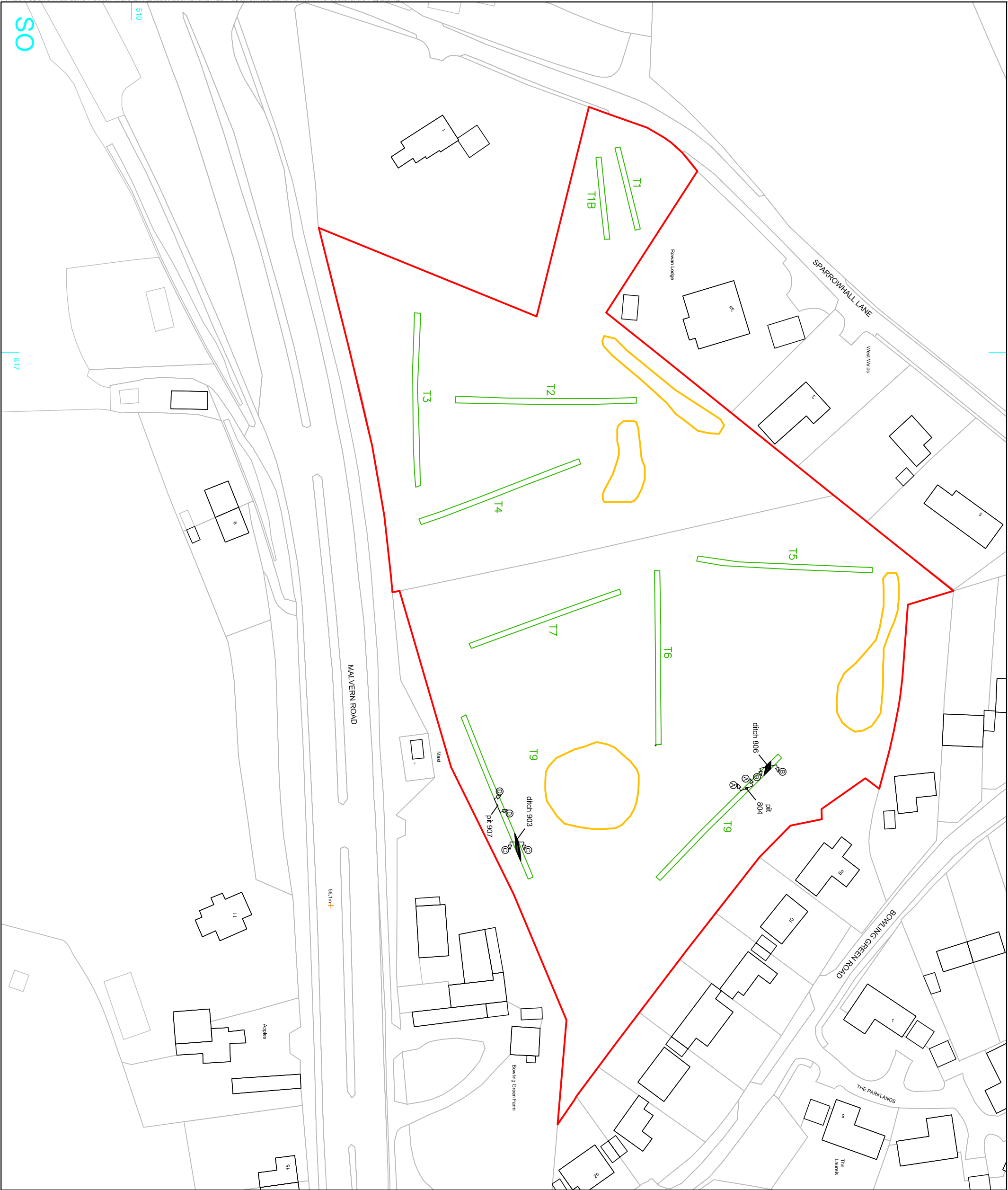
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4281 DATE 21-05-2013
DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



site
evaluation trench
area of scrub

0 50m

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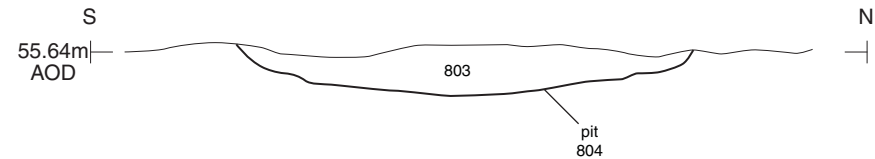
PROJECT TITLE
Sparrowhall Lane, Powick,
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing
archaeological features

PROJECT NO. 4281 **DATE** 21-05-2013 **FIGURE NO.** 2
DRAWN BY DJB **REVISION** 00
APPROVED BY PJM **SCALE**@A3 1:1000

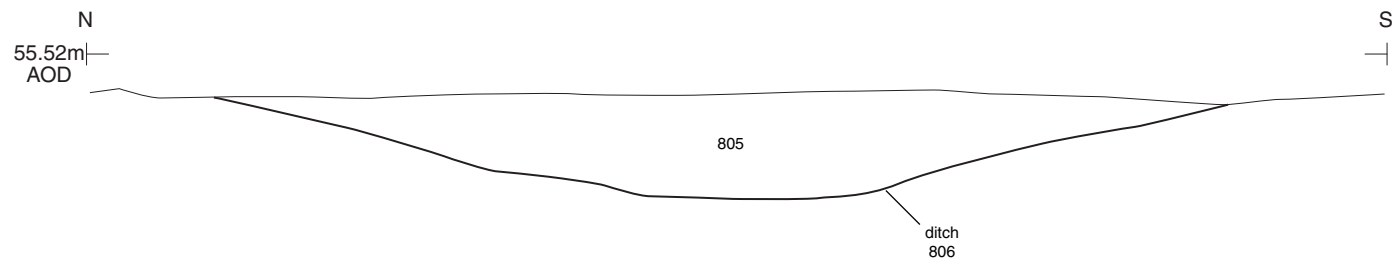


Section AA



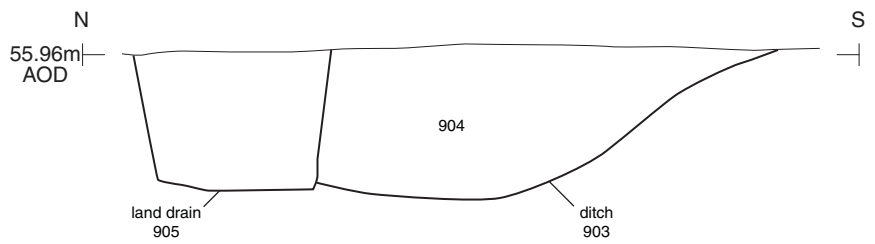
Pit 804 looking west (scale 0.3m)

Section BB



Ditch 903, looking east (scale 0.3m)

Section CC



Pit 907, looking south-east (scale 0.3m)

Section DD

