

**Land North of Worcester Road  
Great Witley  
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Excavation

*for*  
**Bloor Homes Ltd**


CA Project: 4547  
CA Report: 14173  
WSM 48244

May 2014

Land North of Worcester Road  
Great Witley  
Worcestershire

Archaeological Excavation

CA Project: 4547  
CA Report: 14173  
WSM 48244

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date	13 May 2014
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land North of Worcester Road
<b>Location:</b>	Great Witley, Worcestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 7563 6583
<b>Type:</b>	Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	15-17 April 2014
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC; ref: no. MH/12/01412)
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	WSM 48244
<b>Site Code:</b>	WRW 14

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2014 on Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire. Two areas (targeting features identified in an archaeological evaluation) were excavated and comprised Phase 2 of a programme of archaeological works.

The excavation identified a number of undated archaeological features comprising two ditches, a gully and three pits sealed beneath a post-medieval colluvial deposit. A probable modern pit cut through the colluvium.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation for Bloor Homes Ltd on Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7563 6583; Fig. 1). The excavation was undertaken to accompany planning permission for residential development of the site granted by Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC; ref: no. MH/12/01412), conditional on a programme of archaeological work. This work forms the second phase of work on the site. The first phase comprised archaeological evaluation.

1.2 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief* (Glyde 2013) for the archaeological works produced by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to MHDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013a) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), 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 Glyde, including a site visit on 16 April 2014.

### **The site**

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 1.3ha on the eastern edge of Great Witley, and comprises a horse paddock, under pasture, as well as a former coal yard. It is bounded by Great Witley Primary School to the east, by Worcester Road to the south, and by residential properties and agricultural land to the west and north. The site lies at approximately 112m AOD, with ground level dropping downwards to the south-east.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Wildmoor Sandstone Formation of the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded for this area (BGS 2013). The natural substrate on site consisted of reddish orange sands and gravels.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 Prior to the start of the programme of archaeological works a search of Worcestershire HER entries within a 500m radius of the site was undertaken to supply baseline evidence for known archaeological and historic records within the site and/or wider vicinity (Cole 2013). Although the HER search notes that Roman coinage has been recovered from the wider parish (WSM 39528) no archaeological features or findspots of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval date are known from the site itself or the wider, 500m, search area.
- 1.6 The evaluation was undertaken in June 2013 (CA 2013b). A north/south aligned ditch was identified in the north-western corner of the site cut into the natural substrate. It may represent a former field boundary as its alignment was parallel with the current field boundary to the west, however due to the shallow nature of the feature and the lack of dating evidence no further interpretation was possible. Two probable pits were revealed in the centre of the site (Trench 1). A single sherd of highly abraded Severn Valley Ware, broadly dating to the Roman period was recovered from one; however the abrasion suggested that the pottery was residual within the feature.
- 1.7 A possible north-west/south-east aligned ditch terminus and a probable tree throw were identified within the south-western corner of the site (Trench 3). Both of these features were cut by a gully which was on the same alignment as the ditch terminus. The lack of dating evidence and the shallow nature of these features prevented any further interpretation. A probable curvilinear ditch terminus was located to the west of ditch terminus described above. Too little of it was exposed within the evaluation trench to allow any further interpretation. A probable hedgerow was also identified. It ran parallel to the current field boundary and had very irregular edges indicative of root disturbance. It is possible that this is a continuation of a field boundary represented by the ditch to the north, however this remains uncertain.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.8 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:
- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered

- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

1.9 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy

### **Methodology**

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two areas comprising an area of 300m<sup>2</sup> (Areas 4 and 5), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The excavation areas were targeted to further investigate a number of archaeological features identified in the first phase of works. The areas 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).
- 1.8 All areas 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* (2013).
- 1.9 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 one feature was sampled and assessed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the excavation 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 under accession number WSM 48244, 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 excavation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 The excavation revealed the full extent of a number of linear and discreet features identified during the previous evaluation (CA 2013b). This allowed further interpretation of their form and function. In addition to these features, a pit 404 and tree throw pit 502 were also identified in Areas 4 and 5 respectively.

### ***Area 4 (Figs 2-3 & 5-6)***

- 2.3 In addition to two probable pits, 105 and 107 previously investigated in the south-eastern end of Trench 1, pit 404 was revealed in the centre of Area 4. Sub-oval in shape, pit 404 measured 0.5m in length, 0.34m in width and 0.13m in depth with steep sloping sides to a broadly flat base and contained a single artefactually sterile silty sand fill 405 (Fig. 6, section BB).
- 2.4 Pits 105 and 404 were sealed by colluvium 401 from which was recovered pottery dating from the late 13th to early 17th centuries. Further investigation of pit 107/402 revealed it to be cut through colluvium 401 and sealed by topsoil 400, suggesting a post-medieval or modern date (Fig. 5, section AA).

### ***Area 5 (Figs 2-4 & 7)***

- 2.5 Area 5 revealed a north-west continuation of ditch 311/505, the south-east continuation of gully 315 (both previously investigated in Trench 3), and a probable tree throw pit 502. It also confirmed a feature interpreted as a probable curvilinear



ditch terminus (307) was in fact a discreet pit (Fig. 2). No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features in Area 5.

- 2.6 Ditch 505 measured 0.42m in width, 0.09m in depth, was truncated at its north-western extent, had moderate sloping sides to a slightly rounded base, and contained a single silty sand fill 506. Tree throw pit 502 was sub-oval in shape, had a shallow sloping irregular base, and contained a single dark brown sand fill 503.
- 2.7 All features in Area 5 were sealed by colluvium 501 from which post-medieval and modern pottery and ceramic building materials were recovered. The colluvium was overlain by topsoil 500 which also contained post-medieval and modern artefacts.

### ***The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence***

- 2.8 Finds recovered included pottery and ceramic building material. Codings for pottery fabrics given in the text and Appendix B in parenthesis correspond to the Worcestershire pottery type series codes as defined by Worcester County Council's online ceramics database.

#### *Pottery: medieval/post-medieval*

- 2.9 One bodysherd of Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (69) was recovered from colluvium 401. This ware type was manufactured in the Hanley Castle area from the late 13th to early 17th centuries.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 2.10 One bodysherd of black-glazed earthenware, which dates to the 18th to 19th centuries, was recovered from topsoil 500.
- 2.11 Colluvium 501 produced one base sherd of glazed earthenware, of 16th to 18th century date, and one base sherd of refined brown-glazed earthenware from a bowl or dish, dating to the 18th century.

#### *Ceramic building material*

- 2.12 A total of 12 fragments of ceramic building material of post-medieval or modern date were recovered from topsoil 500 and colluvium 501. Four from topsoil 500 were identifiable as fragments of flat roof tile.

### *Animal bone*

- 2.13 A single cow (*Bos taurus*) molar (7g) was recovered from colluvium 501.
- 2.14 A single palaeoenvironmental sample was recovered from the fill 506 within ditch 505. The fill was silty in nature, suggesting the ditch naturally silted up after it went out of use. This being the case, the possibility of residual material is high and it is recommended no further work is undertaken and this sample is discarded.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation have identified a limited number of archaeological features within the proposed development area. These consisted of two ditches, a gully and a hedgerow probably representing field boundaries, four discreet pits of uncertain function, and two tree throw pits. With the exception of pit 107/402, all the features were sealed by a post-medieval or modern colluvial deposit and were very shallow in nature. Artefactual dating was limited to a single sherd of Severn Valley Ware, broadly dating to the Roman period, found in pit 105 during the evaluation and post-medieval and modern material from the colluvium and topsoil. The single sherd of Severn Valley Ware was highly abraded, suggesting that the pottery was residual within the feature, although the possibility that pit 105 is of Roman date cannot be discounted.

### *Post-medieval and modern*

- 3.2 The colluvium and overlying topsoil in Areas 4 and 5 contained artefacts of post-medieval or modern origin. By inference, pit 107/402 that cut through the colluvium deposit in Area 4 was post-medieval or modern in date.

### *Undated*

- 3.3 A small number of isolated, artefactually undated pits 105, 404, 307 and tree throws 313 and 502 were revealed. Ditches 103 and 311/505, gully 315 and hedgerow 305 in Trenches 1 and 3, and Area 5 were also artefactually undated and probably represent former field boundaries, their alignment consistent with the modern field boundaries.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Sarah Foster. The report was written by Ray Holt. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *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 20 May 2013
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013a *Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013b *Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire, Fieldwork Summary*. Unpublished CA report
- Cole, T. 2013 *Historic Environment Record Search. Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire. WSM 48244*.
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- Glyde, M. 2013 *Requirements for a programme of archaeological work at Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire*.
- Worcester County Council online ceramic database, <http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/> (accessed 23 April 2014).

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Area No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam			0.3	
4	401	Layer		Colluvium	Mid reddish brown slightly silty sand			0.15 to 0.25	C14-EC17
4	402	Cut		Pit, same as 107	Sub circular pit with steep sloping sides to a flat base	1.2	1.05	0.35	
4	403	Fill	402	Single fill of pit	Dark brown slightly clayey sand	1.2	1.05	0.35	
4	404	Cut		Pit	Sub oval pit with moderate to steep sloping sides to a flat base	0.5	0.34	0.13	
4	405	Fill	404	Single fill of pit	Mid brown slightly silty sand	0.5	0.34	0.13	
4	406	Deposit		Natural substrate	Reddish orange sand and gravel				
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy loam			0.3	C18-C19
5	501	Layer		Colluvium	Mid reddish brown slightly silty sand with variable gravel content			Up to 0.5	C18
5	502	Cut		Tree throw	Irregular sub oval cut with shallow sloping sides to an irregular base	0.6	0.4	0.05	
5	503	Fill	502	Fill of tree throw	Dark brown sand	0.6	0.4	0.05	
5	504	Deposit		Natural substrate	Reddish orange sand and gravel				
5	505	Cut		Ditch, same as 311	Ditch aligned broadly NW/SE with moderate sloping sides to concave base		0.42	0.09	
5	506	Fill	505	Single fill of ditch	Orangey grey silty sand		0.42	0.09	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
401	Medieval/post-medieval pottery: Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware	1	3	C14-EC17
500	Post-medieval pottery: black-glazed earthenware	1	7	C18-C19
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	9	260	
	Vitrified clay	3	28	
501	Post-medieval pottery: refined brown-glazed earthenware; glazed earthenware	2	18	C18
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	3	24	
	Animal bone: cow tooth	1	7	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land North of Worcester Road Great Witley Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2014 on Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire. Two areas were excavated and comprised Phase 2 of a programme of archaeological works.  The programme of archaeological works identified a number of undated archaeological features comprising two ditches, a gully and three pits sealed beneath a post-medieval colluvial deposit. A probable modern pit cut through the colluvium.	
Project dates	15-17 April 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological excavation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Field evaluation (Unpublished CA report)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land North of Worcester Road Great Witley Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 75636 65839	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service.	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM 48244	Pottery, ceramic building material
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM 48244	Context sheets, trench recording forms, section drawings, photographic registers
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM 48244	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire: Archaeological Excavation</i> . CA typescript report <b>14173</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

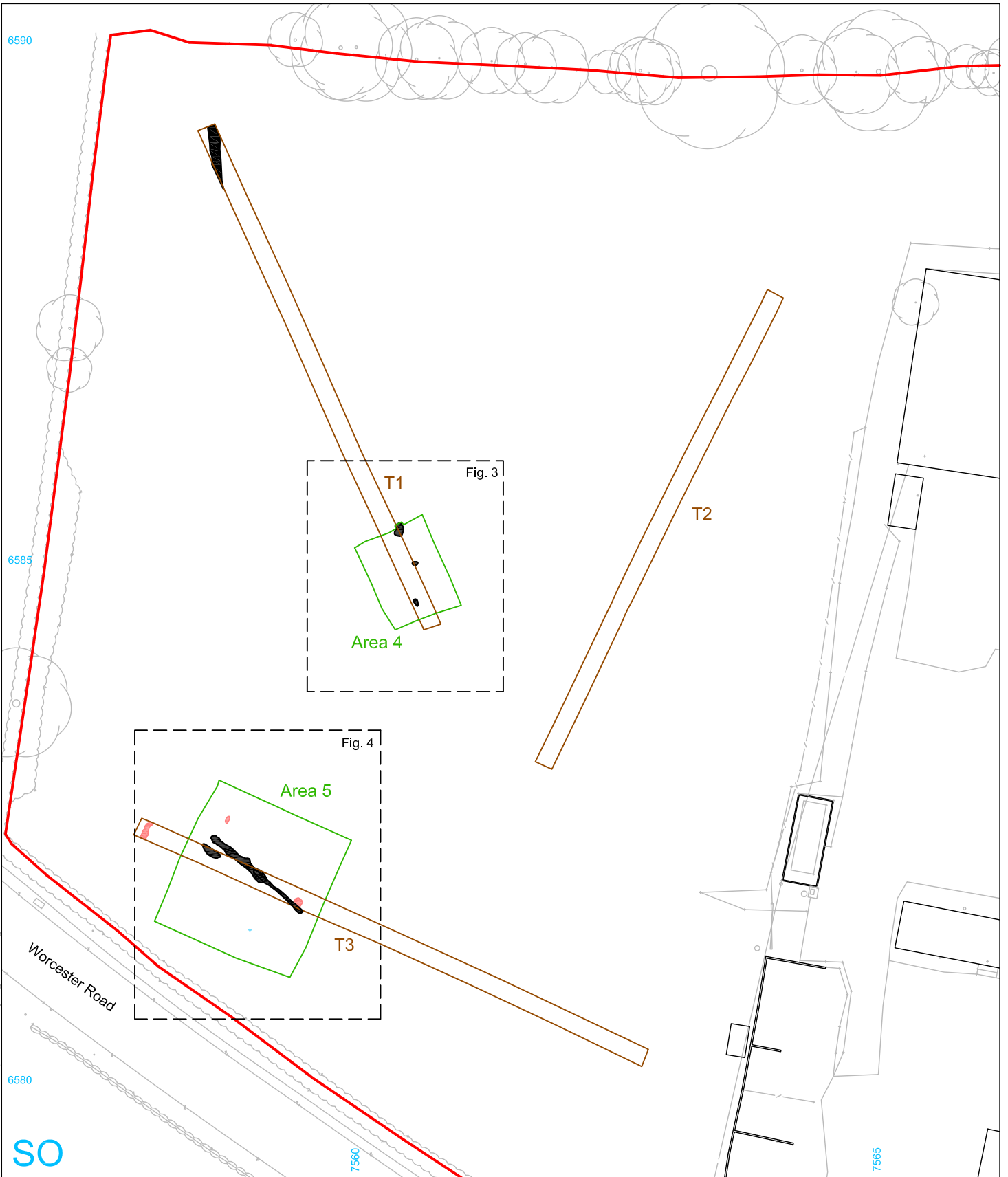


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FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- strip, map and sample area
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2013)
- archaeological feature
- treethrow



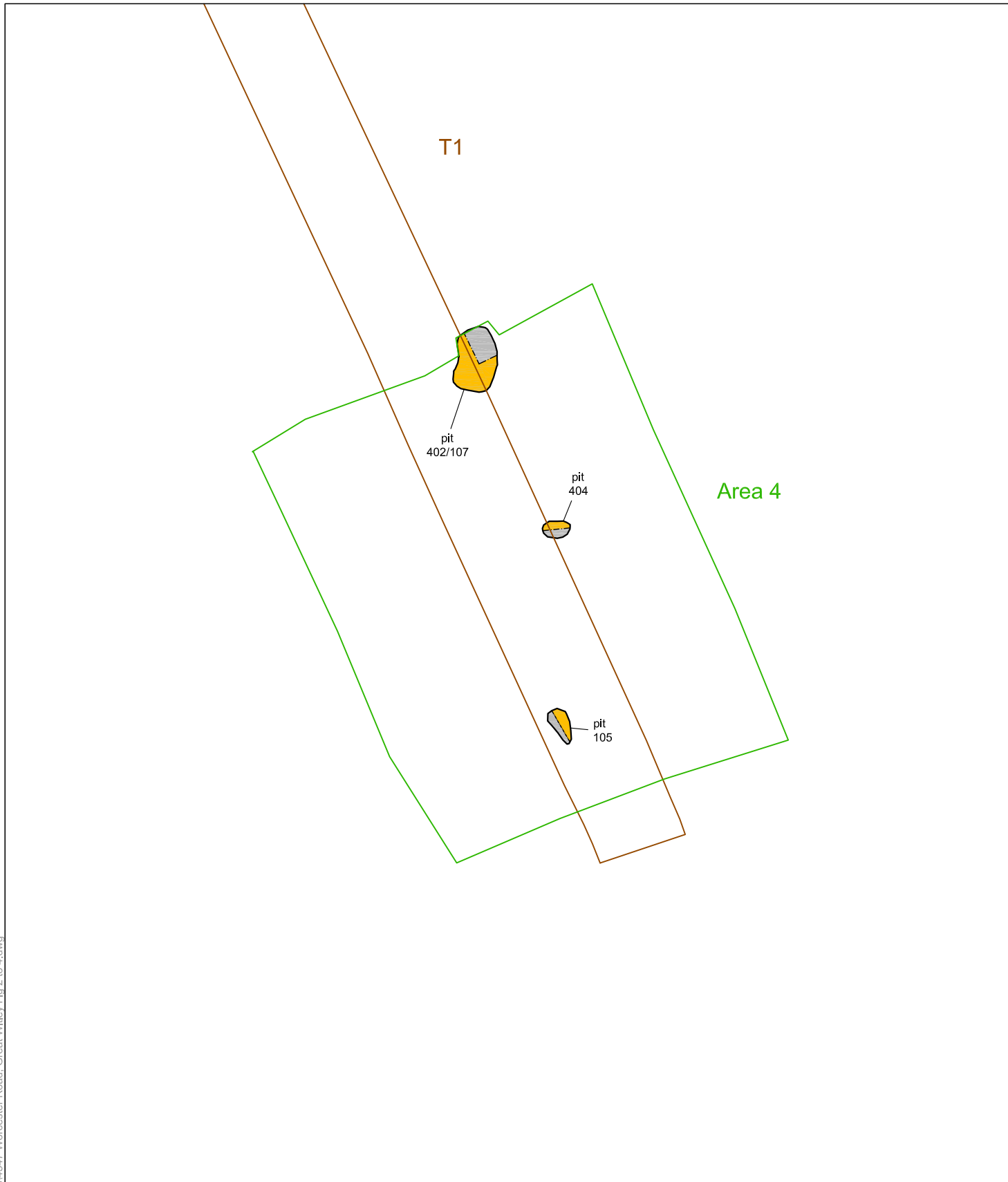
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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing archaeological features**

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-  site
-  strip, map and sample area
-  previous evaluation trench (CA 2013)
-  archaeological feature
-  excavated



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FIGURE TITLE

**Area 4, showing archaeological features and previous evaluation trench**

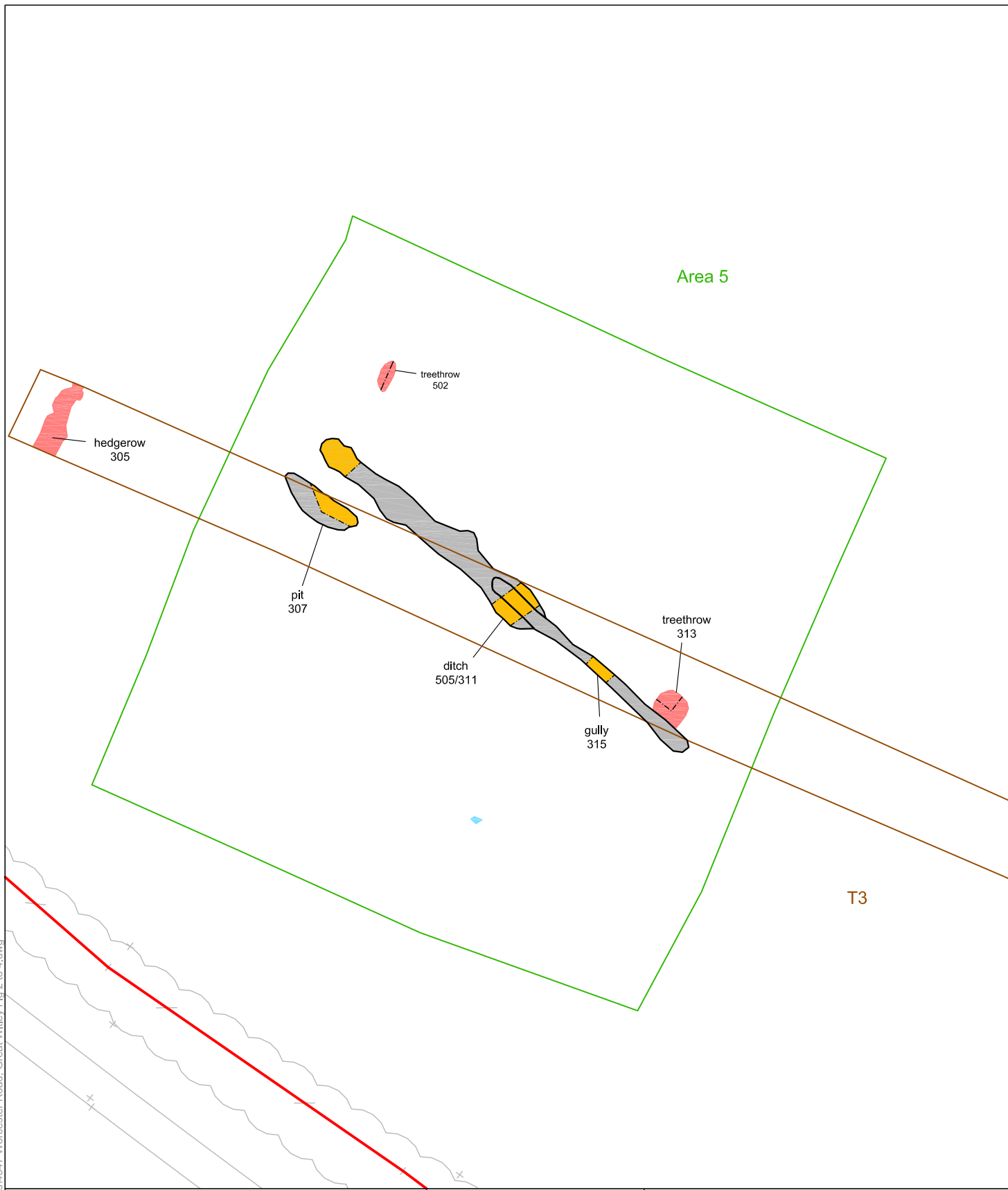
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FIGURE NO.

**3**







- site
- strip, map and sample area
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2013)
- archaeological feature
- treethrow
- modern
- excavated



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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Area 5, showing archaeological features and previous evaluation trench**

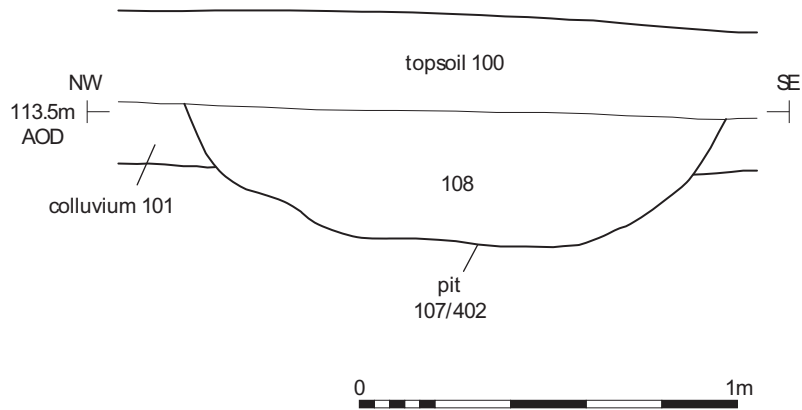
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P:\4547\Worcester Road Great Witley SMS\Illustration\Drafts\4547 Worcester Road, Great Witley Fig 2 to 4.dwg

Section AA



Pit 107/402, looking north-west (scale 0.4m)



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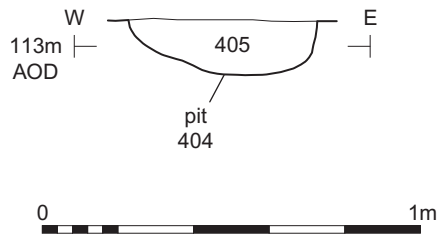
Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Area 4: section and photograph**

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Section BB



Pit 404, looking south (scale 0.4m)



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FIGURE TITLE

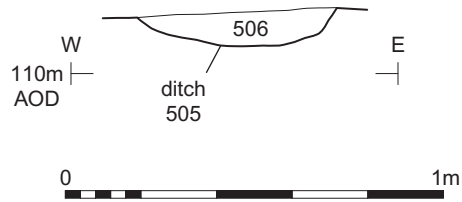
**Area 4: section and photograph**

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FIGURE NO.

**6**

Section CC



Ditch 505, looking east (scale 0.4m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Area 5: section and photograph

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