

**Land to the Rear of Brook Crescent
Hagley
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Billingham and Kite Ltd


CA Project: 5229
CA Report: 15079

March 2015

Land to the Rear of Brook Crescent
Hagley
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5229
CA Report: 15079

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing features (1:750)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land to the Rear of Brook Crescent
Location: Hagley, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 9066 8003
Type: Evaluation
Date: 16–18 February 2015
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcester County Museum
Site Code: BRCH 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2015 at Land to the Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire. Six trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits pre-dating the modern era were recorded in any of the trenches, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Billingham and Kite Ltd on land to the rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9066 8003; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in connection with a planning application to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) for a residential development.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (WCC 2015) prepared by Emma Hancox and Aisling Nash (Historic Environment Policy and Advisory Manager and Historic Environment Record Manager/Historic Environment Planning Officer respectively, Worcestershire County Council), the archaeological advisors to BDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) as approved by Aisling Nash. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards 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).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development is approximately 1.3ha in extent, and comprises mainly pasture. The previous land owners utilised the site as a pig farm. The site is bounded to the north and west by Brook Crescent and Kidderminster Road, to the east by farmland and to the south by Western Road and Broadwaters Drive. The site lies at approximately 100m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation – Sandstone of the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015). Natural sand and gravel deposits were encountered in all trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 A Historic Environment Record (HER) search was carried out in advance of the evaluation. In addition, a desk based assessment (CA 2011) and trial trench

evaluations (CA 2013 and 2014) had previously been undertaken on land to the east (Fig. 1). The following is a summary of information from these sources.

- 1.6 The HER search results suggested there was evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. The prominent south-facing hillock to the northeast of the site would have been an attractive location for prehistoric settlement. A cropmark enclosure recorded c.500m to the northeast of the site is indicative of late prehistoric settlement in the site vicinity. There are no Roman features recorded within the site or the HER study area. The site has formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Hagley since the early medieval period (CA 2011).
- 1.7 Two trial trench evaluations were undertaken to the east of the site, outside of the site subject of Billingham and Kite's planning application number 13/0819 (Fig. 1). The first identified a small number of undated features (CA 2013). Pottery and flint recovered from colluvial and alluvial deposits recorded across this evaluated area suggested prehistoric or Anglo Saxon activity in the wider landscape. A number of field boundaries were also identified which appear to correspond to boundaries depicted on the 1838 Hagley Tithe Map (ibid 2013). The second evaluation did not identify any archaeological features, though did highlight the presence of colluvium consistent with the earlier evaluation (CA 2014).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 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 BDC 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

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches. Trench 1 was 25m long and Trench 2 was 40m long; all other trenches were 50m long and 1.6m wide. Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were moved from their original locations due to access issues or unfavourable ground conditions. The final, as dug, trench locations are 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).

- 1.10 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* (2013).
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 The site archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcester County Museum. 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 in accordance with undertakings given in the amended Written Scheme of Investigation.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The natural sand or occasionally gravel substrate was encountered at a typical depth of 0.45m–0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). In all trenches the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil, typically 0.21m–0.42m in thickness. The subsoil was in turn sealed by topsoil, typically 0.2m in thickness. No archaeological features of pre-modern date were identified.
- 2.3 In Trench 6 the subsoil was cut by a pit whose fill contained 20th century ceramic building material: the pit was not fully excavated once it was determined to be of

modern date. Examples of geological features and tree throw pits were identified in Trench 4.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No features or deposits pre-dating the modern era were identified during the course of the evaluation. This is consistent with the results of archaeological evaluations of adjoining land to the east, which recorded very sparse evidence for activity in this part of Hagley before the post-medieval period (CA 2013 and 2014).
- 3.2 With respect to this site specifically, it is likely that its previous as a pig farm led to significant disturbance to the topsoil and subsoil, potentially explaining the lack of recovery of artefacts in these horizons.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Peter Searle. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 20 February 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land at Kidderminster Road, Hagley, Worcestershire: Heritage Desk Based Assessment*. CA Report **11214**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land at Kidderminster Road, Hagley, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report **13661**
- CA 2014 *Land at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report **14389**

CA 2015 *Land to Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2015 *Requirements for a Staged Programme of Archaeological Work at land off Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire*. Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council

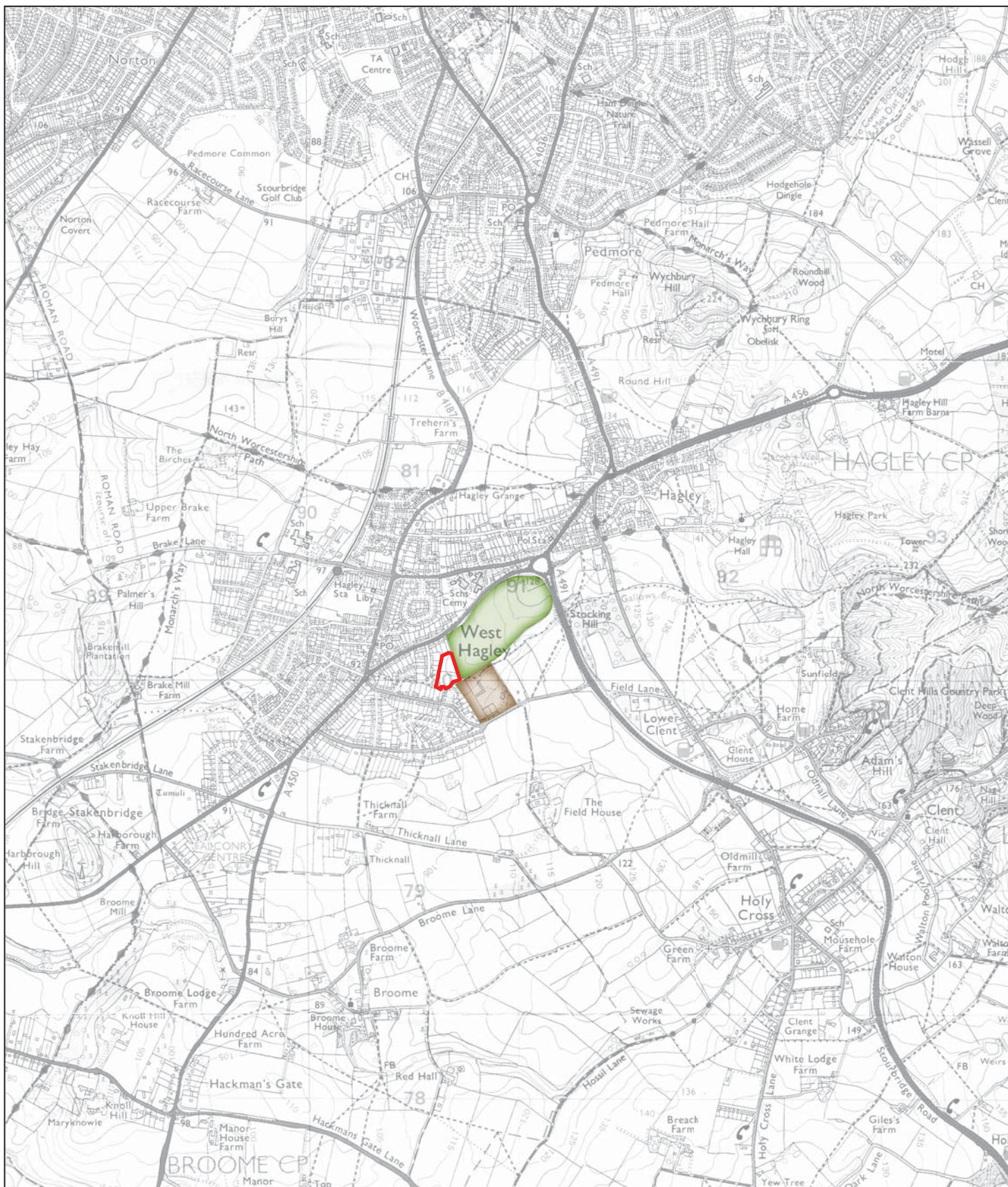


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.18
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Very few stones	0.42
1	102	Layer	Natural	Brown-red sand and gravel at west, pink and yellow sand at east	
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.2
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Very few stones	0.42
2	202	Layer	Natural	Brown-orange sand and gravel at west, orange sand at east	
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.24
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Very few stones	0.23
3	302	Layer	Natural	Brown-orange sand and gravel with patches of orange sand	
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.21
4	401	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Very few stones	0.21
4	402	Layer	Natural	Brown-red sand and gravel	
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.16
5	501	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Very few stones	0.28
5	502	Layer	Natural	Brown-orange sand	
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.22
6	601	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Very few stones	0.37
6	602	Layer	Natural	Brown-orange sand with patches of gravel	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2015 at Land to Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire. Six trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No features or deposits pre-dating the modern era were recorded in any of the trenches, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	16–18 February 2015	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Hagley, Worcestershire	
Study area	1.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 9066 8003	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire. Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	Worcester County Museum	Trench recording sheets, photograph register
Digital	Worcester County Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land to Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15079		



 site

previous archaeological works:

 CA 2014

 CA 2013



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

**Land to Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley
Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

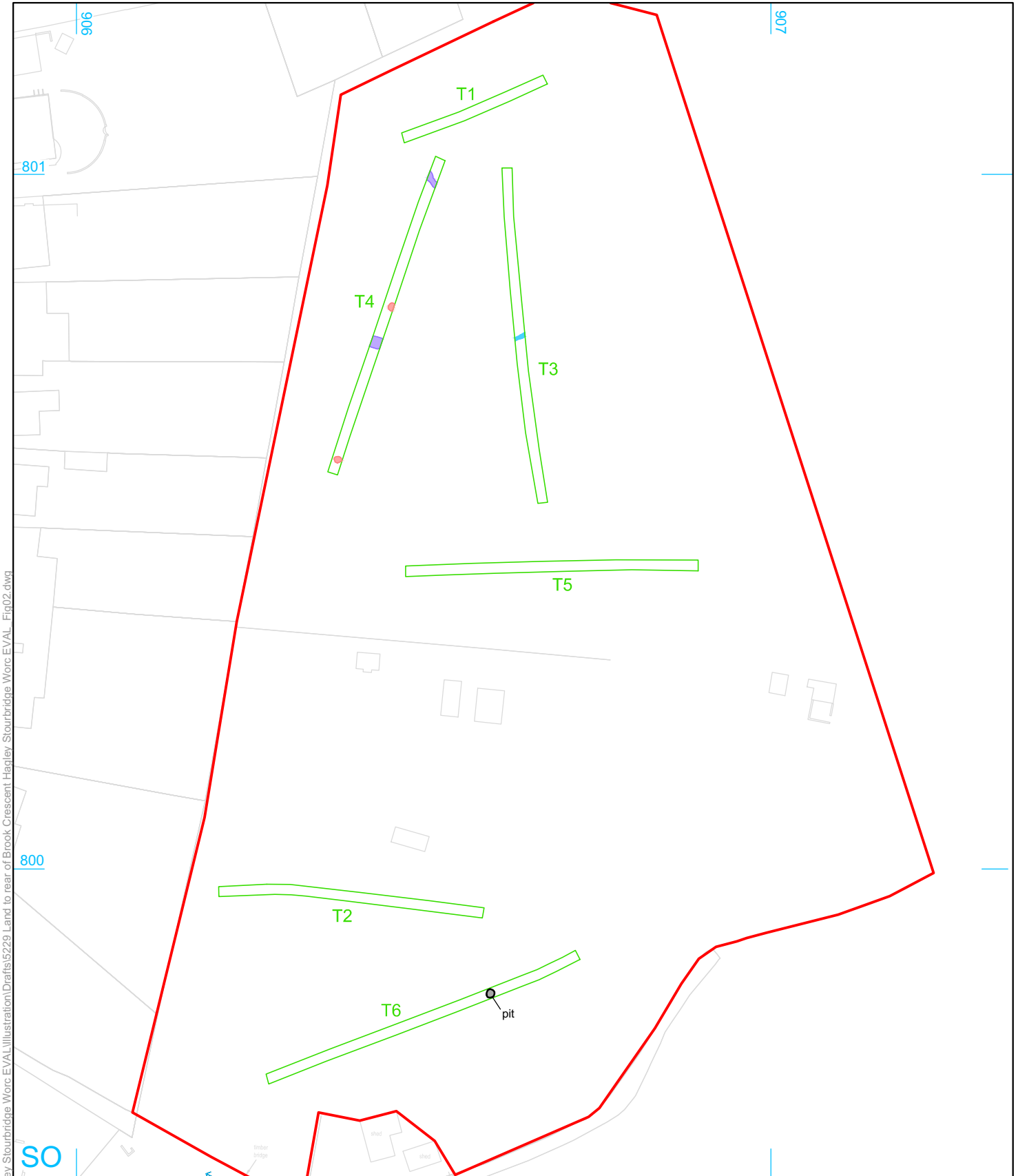
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FIGURE NO.

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- modern feature
- geological feature
- field drain
- treethrow





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PROJECT TITLE
**Land to Rear of Brook Crescent, Hagley
Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing features

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5229	FIGURE NO.
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