

**Land south of Badsey Road
Badsey
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Stansgate Planning Ltd
on behalf of
Cameron Homes Ltd


CA Project: 4708
CA Report: 14064

February 2014

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Badsey
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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signed	
date	25 February 2014
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land South of Badsey Road
Location: Badsey, Worcestershire
NGR: SP 06687 43612
Type: Field evaluation
Date: 11-13 February 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcester County Museum
Site Code: LHB 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2014 at land south of Badsey Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. A total of seven trenches were excavated.

Evidence for ridge and furrow field systems were recorded in the eastern part of the site. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Stansgate Planning Ltd on behalf of the Cameron Homes Ltd at land south of Badsey Road, Badsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 06687 43612; Fig. 1). The archaeological evaluation was requested by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer (HEPO), Worcestershire County Council, and will support a planning application for redevelopment of the site to be submitted to Wychavon District Council (WDC).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) 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 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).

The site

1.3 The proposed application site is approximately 1.78ha in extent, and comprises a roughly triangular ploughed field immediately beyond the western extent of Badsey (Fig. 2). It is bounded on the south-west side by the Badsey Brook and on the north by the B4035. The site lies at approximately 31m AOD down by the brook and rises to approximately 36m AOD in the north-eastern corner of the site.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2014). Natural deposits were identified in all trenches.

Archaeological background

1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was completed for the site (CA 2014b) as part of the planning application submission. This document is summarised below.

1.6 Significant quantities of Roman material have been recovered during fieldwalking on the Badsey Undergrounds (immediately to the west of the site) and the Black Banks

sites (a short distance to the north-east). No preceding activity has been demonstrated and prehistoric evidence is limited to the area in general.

- 1.7 The site is open agricultural land, and is illustrated as such on the 1808 Aldington Enclosure map. The site was separated from the northern edge of the built-up area of Badsey by the grounds of the 16th-century manor house until c 1923.

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 WDC 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 seven trenches, all 50m in length by 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). They were laid out to sample all areas of the site while avoiding known constraints. Trenches 2, 4 and 6 were moved north from their proposed locations to allow additional clearance to an overhead power line. 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). The exception was furrows, where one furrow was hand excavated in each trench before the remaining furrows were removed by machine to determine if any archaeological deposits survived below them.

- 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) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.
- 1.12 The 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, Appendix A.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate was exposed within all trenches. No features of archaeological interest were observed in Trenches 4, 5, 6, and 7 and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered from these trenches. The deposits in these trenches consisted of natural sealed by a 0.08m-0.4m thick silt clay subsoil (401, 501, 601, and 701), which in turn was sealed by a 0.25m thick modern ploughsoil.
- 2.3 In Trenches 1, 2, and 3 a series of undated furrows were observed cutting natural, with no underlying archaeological features or deposits. The furrows in Trench 1 were on a north/south alignment, whilst those in Trenches 2 and 3 were north-west/south-east aligned. All the furrows contained similar fills and had been truncated by modern ploughing.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The only archaeological features observed during the evaluation were an undated ridge and furrow field system. Both the remains of the ridge and furrow field system and the subsoil observed in Trenches 4, 5, 6, and 7 had been truncated by modern ploughing.

- 3.2 Set against the findings of the preceding archaeological desk based assessment (CA 2014a), the findings of the trial trench evaluation are only partially consistent with expectations. The trenches did locate evidence of ridge and furrow, which itself appears to reflect the ploughing orientation clearly visible on aerial photography of 1945 (not reproduced). The presence of such remains was highlighted within the desk based assessment (ibid), and has been recorded at Brewer's Lane approximately 350m to the southeast (Headland 2012).
- 3.3 It is less clear why the prehistoric or Roman remains considered possible by the desk based assessment were not recovered: it notes that the recovery of Roman pottery to the west in the Badsey Undergrounds could be attributed to manuring, though the associated coinage and prehistoric pottery flagged a potential for a more substantial area of activity (CA 2014a). If manuring was the source of the Roman pottery, and the associated material is seen as residual or intrusive, the historic lack of orchard planting within the site as compared with adjacent land parcels is of more relevance. If the site has been consistently more ploughed (as evidenced from OS imprints from the late 19th and early 20th century) it is feasible that more disturbance could have occurred, resulting in a greater dispersal (and potentially removal) of any archaeological materials present.
- 3.4 The influence of periodic flooding could also potentially have influenced activity. While the difference is not profound, the site is marginally lower than that to the west of Badsey Brook: the site is largely level at around 30-33m AOD while to the west directly adjacent to the Brook the ground level is 34m AOD and rises to 40m AOD in a relatively short distance. As such, there may have been a preference for activity to the west which is consistent with farming practices of the late 19th century. However, as noted, these conclusions are not conclusive.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Sarah Foster, Aleksandra Osinska and Michael Joyce. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 20
February 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Land at Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey, Worcestershire:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014b *Land at Badsey, Worcestershire: Desk-Based
Archaeological Assessment*, CA Report No, **13692**

Headland Archaeology 2012 *Land adjacent to Brewers Lane, Badsey Archaeological
Evaluation* Report Ref **W/09/01690/OUT**

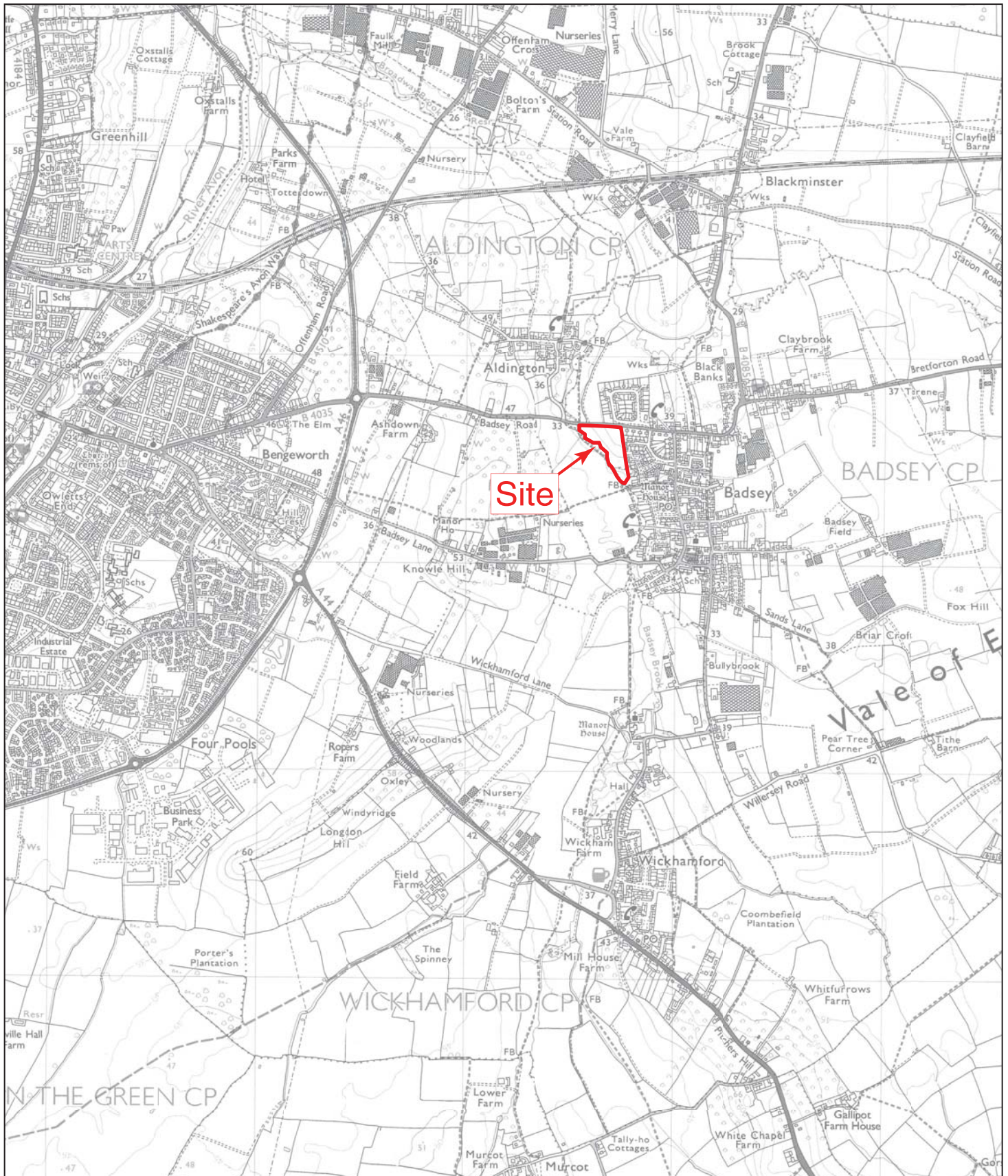


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Ploughsoil	Grey brown silt clay with <1% small mudstone stones	>50.00	>2.00	0.25
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow silt clay	>50.00	>2.00	0.08
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light grey silt clay and light grey mudstone	>50.00	>2.00	>0.25
1	103	Fill	104	Furrow fill	Brown silt clay	>2.60	2.25	0.25
1	104	Cut		Furrow	N/S linear cut with shallow rounded sides and concave base	>2.60	2.25	0.25
1	105	Fill	106	Furrow fill	Brown silt clay	>2.60	3.30	0.24
1	106	Cut		Furrow	N/S linear cut with shallow rounded sides and concave base	>2.60	3.30	0.24
2	200	Layer		Ploughsoil	Grey brown silt clay with <1% small mudstone stones	>50.00	>2.00	0.24
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Orange brown sand clay	>50.00	>2.00	0.08
2	202	Layer		Natural	Yellow grey clay and light grey mudstone	>50.00	>2.00	>0.12
2	203	Cut		Furrow	N/S linear cut with shallow rounded sides and concave base	>2.20	1.30	0.20
2	204	Fill	203	Furrow fill	Orange brown sand clay	>2.20	1.30	0.20
3	300	Layer		Ploughsoil	Same as 101	>50.00	>2.00	0.24
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 201	>50.00	>2.00	0.08
3	302	Layer		Natural	Grey orange clay and yellow clay	>50.00	>2.00	>0.05
3	303	Fill	304	Furrow fill	Orange brown sand clay	>2.20	1.02	0.08
3	304	Cut		Furrow	N/S linear cut with shallow rounded sides and concave base	>2.20	1.02	0.08
4	400	Layer		Ploughsoil	Same as 101	>50.00	>2.00	0.24
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow grey silt clay	>50.00	>2.00	0.15
4	402	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and blue grey clay	>50.00	>2.00	>0.11
5	500	Layer		Ploughsoil	Same as 101	>50.00	>2.00	0.26
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Orange grey silt clay	>50.00	>2.00	0.15
5	502	Layer		Natural	Orange sand clay and blue grey clay	>50.00	>2.00	>0.27
6	600	Layer		Ploughsoil	Same as 101	>50.00	>2.00	0.23
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown silt clay	>50.00	>2.00	0.40
6	602	Layer		Natural	Yellow clay/silt clay and brown grey clay	>50.00	>2.00	>0.35
7	700	Layer		Ploughsoil	Same as 101	>50.00	>2.00	0.25
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown sand clay	>50.00	>2.00	0.08
7	702	Layer		Natural	Yellow clay/silt clay and brown grey clay	>50.00	>2.00	>0.60

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land south of Badsey Road, Badsey, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2014 at Land south of Badsey Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. A total of seven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Evidence for ridge and furrow field systems were recorded in the eastern part of the site. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.</p>	
Project dates		
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (Worcestershire HER Intervention no.: WSM55801 CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Badsey, Worcestershire: Desk Based Archaeological Assessment</i> , CA Report No, 13692	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land south of Badsey Road, Badsey, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.72ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 06687 43612	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land South of Badsey Road, Badsey, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14064		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land South of Badsey Road, Badsey
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

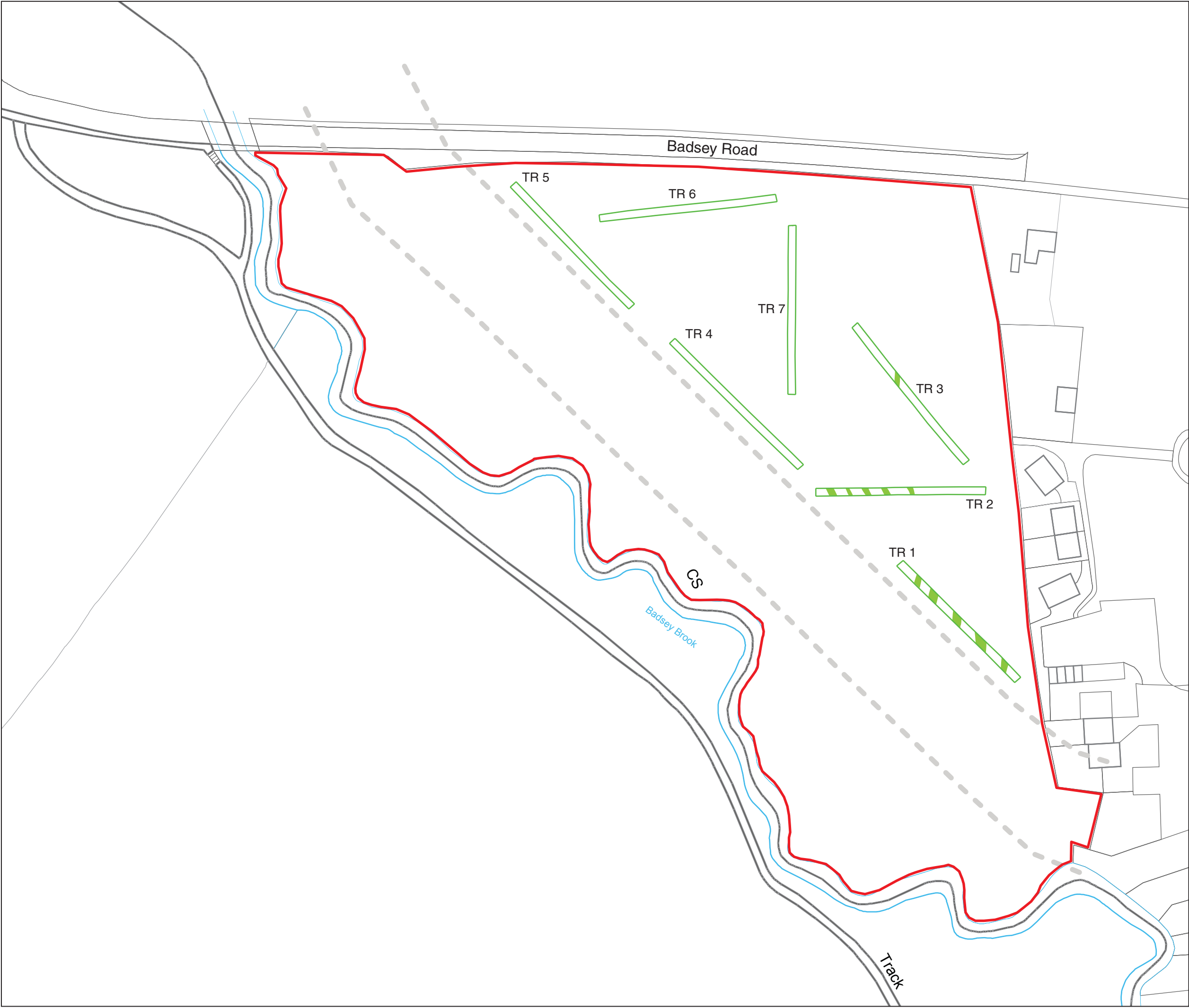
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PROJECT NO. 4708 DATE 21/02/2014
 DRAWN BY AO REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- modern
- furrow
- furrow line
- evaluation trench
- overhead cable exclusion zone

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE

Land South of Badsey Road, Badsey
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan showing
archaeological features

PROJECT NO. 4708
DRAWN BY AO
APPROVED BY LM

DATE 21/02/2014
REVISION 00
SCALE@A4 1:1000 & 1:500

FIGURE NO.
2