

**The Old Vicarage, Church Road
Clifton-upon-Teme
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Mr C. Austin

CA Project: 5148
WSM HER REF. WSM66234
CA Report: 14592

December 2015

The Old Vicarage, Church Road
Clifton-upon-Teme
Worcestershire

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	5
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2 AND 3).....	5
<i>The finds</i>	7
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
5. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	10
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	11
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:500)

Fig. 3 Trenches 2 and 3, sections (1:20)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	The Old Vicarage
Location:	Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire
NGR:	SO 7158 6166
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	26–28 November 2014
Planning Reference:	SO 7158 6166
WSM HER REF.	WSM66234
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code:	OVC 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire (WSM HER REF. WSM66234). Four trenches were excavated.

Four undated ditches on east/west or north/south alignments and two undated pits were identified in the evaluation. The ditches may relate to the tenement plots of the planned medieval town. The natural substrate surrounding one of the pits exhibited signs of *in situ* burning.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation (WSM HER REF. WSM66234) for Mr C. Austin at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 7158 6166; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (ref. 14/01352) to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) for residential development comprising four dwellings with associated access and car parking.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* (WCC 2014) prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council (WCC), the archaeological advisors to the MHDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) 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).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.4ha, and comprises an area of enclosed garden/former paddock at a height of c. 190m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Maughans Formation - Argillaceous Rocks and Sandstone sedimentary bedrock of the Devonian Period with no superficial deposits (BGS 2014). Grey clay natural was encountered in all of the trenches excavated.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 A search of the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record was carried out before the compilation of this WSI (HER ref. WSM66234). The site was located close to the parish church of St Kenelm, which has fabric dating from the 13th century onwards but its name (St Kenelm died in AD 813) suggests it was a pre-conquest foundation and there may have been a middle/late Saxon Ecclesiastical centre (Minster) at Clifton, although there is no structural evidence. Other evidence for Minster status is suggested by Church having dependent chapels at Lower

Sapey, Edwin Loach and Shelsey Walsh in 1535 and it has also been referred to as the 'mother church' (WSM17778).

- 1.6 The site lies close to the church, but to the north-east and away from the boundaries of the graveyard. The present house (the Old Vicarage) lies to the south and was built in 1840 on the site of the previous vicarage, a medieval timber framed building (WSM177754). The application site is within an area of probable medieval tenement plots on shown on the 1845 Tithe Map (WSM17777). Clifton was an abortive attempt to found a medieval new town which in 1270 was enfranchised as a seigneurial free borough with market on Thursdays and annual fair. The grant was confirmed in 1377 some of the street patterns of the present village and the tenement plots may have been laid out at this time, but the settlement had failed to develop and had lost its market by the 15th century (WSM04833).
- 1.7 To the east of the site, there are earthworks west of Church House Farm extending approximately 50m to the north of the road. A watching brief on sewer pipe installation recorded a ditch or holloway which runs parallel to the road across this area (WSM35800). The artefacts recovered from the holloway were dated to the post-medieval period but it is likely that this feature is of medieval date and continued to be used into the 17th and 18th century. No defined medieval layers or features were identified, although two residual medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the subsoil, which may relate to the settlement activity or later agricultural activity. Other visible but indistinct earthworks in this area may be deserted former medieval settlement remains and perhaps show evidence for the shrinkage of the settlement towards the end of the medieval period (WSM21474).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 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 2009). This information will enable the MHDC 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 4 trenches measuring 20m in length and 4.m in width in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were set out by hand in the locations specified in the WSI (CA 2014) and were hand planned at an appropriate scale.
- 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) and four deposits were sampled. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 All of the spoil resulting from the machining of the trenches and subsequent excavation of features was scanned with a metal detector to aid finds recovery.
- 1.13 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, which will also be deposited digitally with the Archaeology Data Service. 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 AND 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.
- 2.2 The general stratigraphy across the site comprised natural clays overlain by a layer of subsoil, on average 0.2m thick, itself overlain by approximately 0.5m of topsoil. In

Trench 4 a 0.12m thick layer of made ground comprising mixed topsoil and rubble overlay the subsoil and was sealed by the topsoil. Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 East/west aligned ditch 103 was 1.39m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately steep sides and an irregular, uneven base. It was filled by clay silt 104, which contained fragments of burnt wood. No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from the ditch.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.4 One pit and two north/south aligned ditches were identified cutting the natural substrate in Trench 2. Undated pit 208 was sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides and an irregular base. The full extent of the pit could not be determined as it extended outside the trench to the north. The ditch contained four fills (209, 210, 211 and 212), none of which contained any dating evidence. The pit was observed in plan to be cut by ditch 206 which was 0.86m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by silty clay 207, in which charcoal flecks were present. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch.
- 2.5 Ditch 203 was 1.7m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The eastern side was stepped where it was cut into sandstone bedrock. The ditch contained two successive clay fills, lower fill 205 and upper fill 204, which both contained burnt wood fragments. No artefacts were recovered from either fill.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.6 One east-west aligned ditch and a pit were excavated in Trench 3. Ditch 304 was 1.6m wide and 0.38m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill, 305, was a silty clay that contained a large number of charcoal flecks, but no artefacts.
- 2.7 Pit 306 was circular in plan, 0.63m in diameter and 0.18m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The pit was initially filled by a 0.07m thick layer of charcoal, 307, which was sealed by backfill 308, a grey clay containing a high proportion of charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from either fill. The natural

substrate was scorched around the edges of the pit, indicating *in situ* burning. A bulk environmental sample was taken from the fill of the pit.

The finds

- 2.8 Finds recovered from the evaluation include pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and metal objects. None of the post-medieval pottery fabrics recovered were represented in the Worcestershire pottery type series codes as defined by Worcester County Council's online ceramics database.

Pottery: post-medieval/modern

Subsoil 201 produced a bodysherd of glazed earthenware, which is dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries. Two bodysherds of Pearlware and three of a transfer-printed refined whiteware, both of which date to the late 18th to 19th centuries, were recovered from topsoil 100.

Ceramic building material

Subsoil 101 produced a fragment of glazed tile of modern date.

Clay tobacco pipe

Single fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, were recorded in subsoil deposits 201 and 301.

Metal objects

A total of five heavily corroded iron objects were recorded in three deposits (see Table 1). Those which could be identified are: a modern door hinge from subsoil 101; and a nail and probable buckle plate from topsoil 300.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation revealed two north/south aligned ditches and one east/west aligned ditch, all of which were undated. Historical mapping indicates that the site had no internal divisions as far back as the first edition Ordnance Survey map of Worcestershire in 1885 (HER data and Old Maps). It is therefore possible that the ditches are related to the tenement plots of the planned medieval town (within settlement component WSM17777), running north-south from the main road,

although they may equally date to the post-medieval period before the field boundary arrangements shown on the late 19th-century OS mapping.

- 3.2 Two undated pits were also recorded in the evaluation, although pit 208 was cut by one of the north-south ditches. Pit 306 had a thin layer of charcoal as its initial fill. The presence of scorching of the natural around the edges of the pits indicates that *in situ* burning was taking place in the pit and that the charcoal was probably related to the pit's use.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Edwin Pearson and Daniel Wojcik. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.



5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 10 December 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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

Old Maps 2014 <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html#/Map/371580/261660> Accessed 10 December 2014

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2014 *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton upon Teme, Worcestershire*. Issued 17 October 2014.



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey clay silt. Common stones	21.1	4.5	0.6
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	21.1	4.5	0.29
1	102			Natural substrate	Mid grey-brown clay silt			
1	103	Cut		Hedgerow ditch	E/W aligned. Irregular sides and base	>4.5	1.39	0.4
1	104	Fill	103	Ditch fill	Mid brown-grey clay silt	>4.5	1.39	0.4
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	20.3	4.11	0.49
2	201			Subsoil	Same as 101	20.3	4.11	0.11
2	202			Natural substrate	Same as 102			
2	203	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Moderately steep sides, concave base	>4.11	1.7	0.35
2	204	Fill	203	Ditch fill	Upper fill. Dark brown-grey clay silt. Common stones	>4.11	1.7	0.29
2	205	Fill	203	Ditch fill	Lower fill. Mid grey-brown clay silt. Occasional small stones	>4.11	0.83	0.2
2	206	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Moderately steep sides, concave base	>4.11	0.86	0.25
2	207	Fill	206	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Common stones and charcoal	>4.11	0.86	0.25
2	208	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Moderately steep sides, irregular base	>1.45	1.3	0.47
2	209	Fill	208	Pit fill	Mid brown-grey clay silt	>1.45	1.3	0.2
2	210	Fill	208	Pit fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt. Common charcoal	>1.45	1.3	0.27
2	211	Fill	208	Pit fill	Dark brown-grey clay silt. Common charcoal	>1.45	1.3	0.1
2	212	Fill	208	Pit fill	Mid grey-brown clay sand. Common charcoal	>1.45	1.3	0.1
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	20	4	0.5
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	20	4	0.8
3	302				Context void			
3	303	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			
3	304	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides, flat base	>4	1.6	0.38
3	305	Fill	304	Ditch fill	Mid grey-yellow silty clay. Frequent charcoal	>4	1.6	0.38
3	306	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Moderately steep sides, concave base	0.63	0.63	0.18
3	307	Fill	306	Pit fill	Deposit of charcoal	0.63	0.63	0.07
3	308	Fill	306	Pit fill	Mid brown-grey silty clay. Frequent charcoal	0.63	0.63	0.11
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	18.7	3.9	0.34
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Mixed topsoil and rubble	18.7	3.9	0.12
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	18.7	3.9	0.18
4	403	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102			

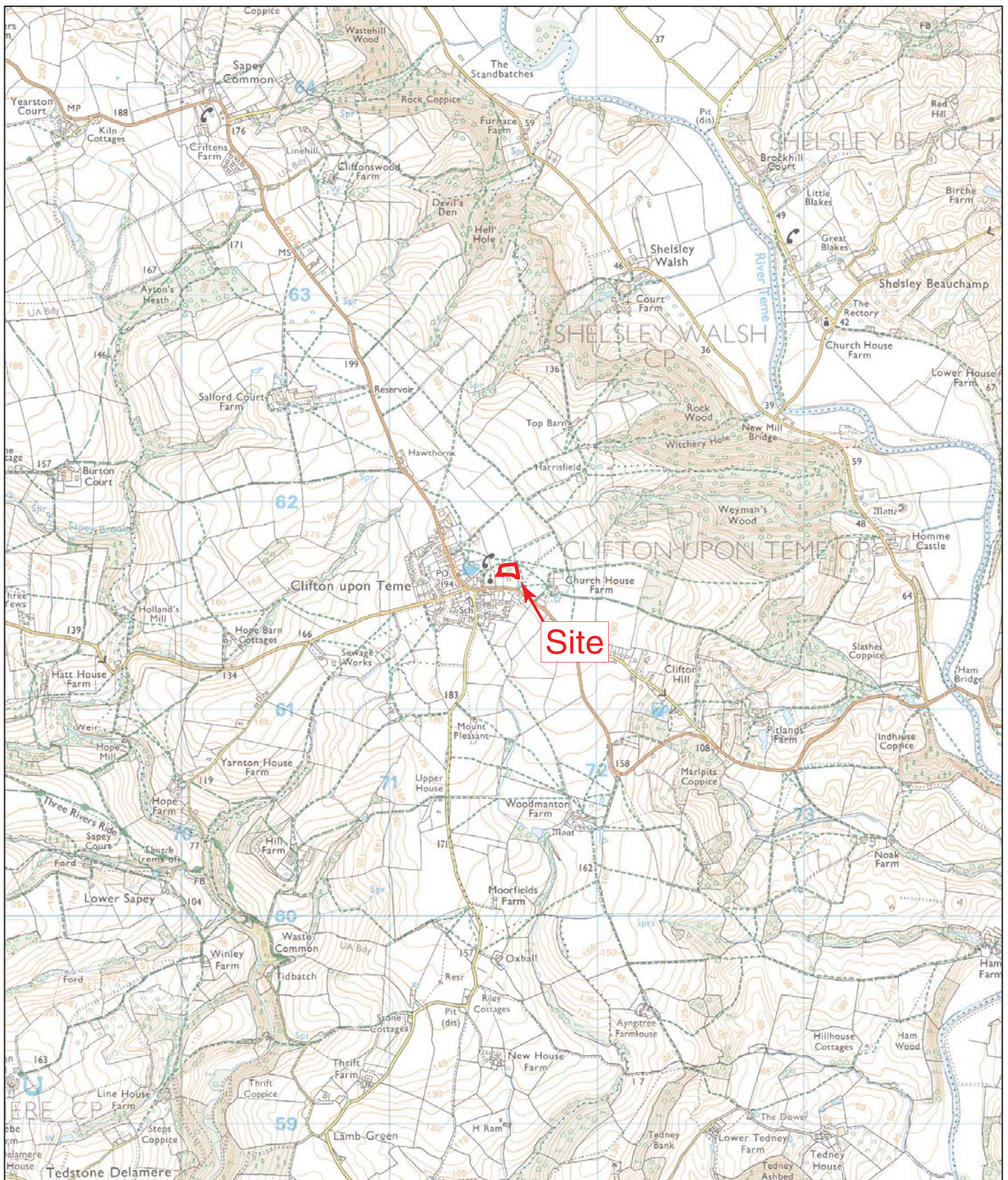
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
100	Post-medieval/modern pottery: Pearlware; transfer-printed refined whiteware	5	37	Post-medieval/modern
101	Modern ceramic building material: tile	1	44	Modern
	Iron objects	2	151	
201	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	9	LC16-LC19
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	1	
	Iron object	1	36	
	Coal	1	4	
300	Iron object	2	22	-
301	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	7	LC16-LC19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire (WSM HER REF. WSM66234). Four trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Four undated ditches on east/west or north/south alignments and two undated pits were identified in the evaluation. The ditches may relate to the tenement plots of the planned medieval town. The natural substrate surrounding one of the pits exhibited signs of in situ burning.</p>	
Project dates	26–28 November 2014	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire	
Study area	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 7158 6166	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Collard	
Project Supervisor	James Coyne	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Ceramics,
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets etc
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum, ADS	Site records, Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14592		



Site



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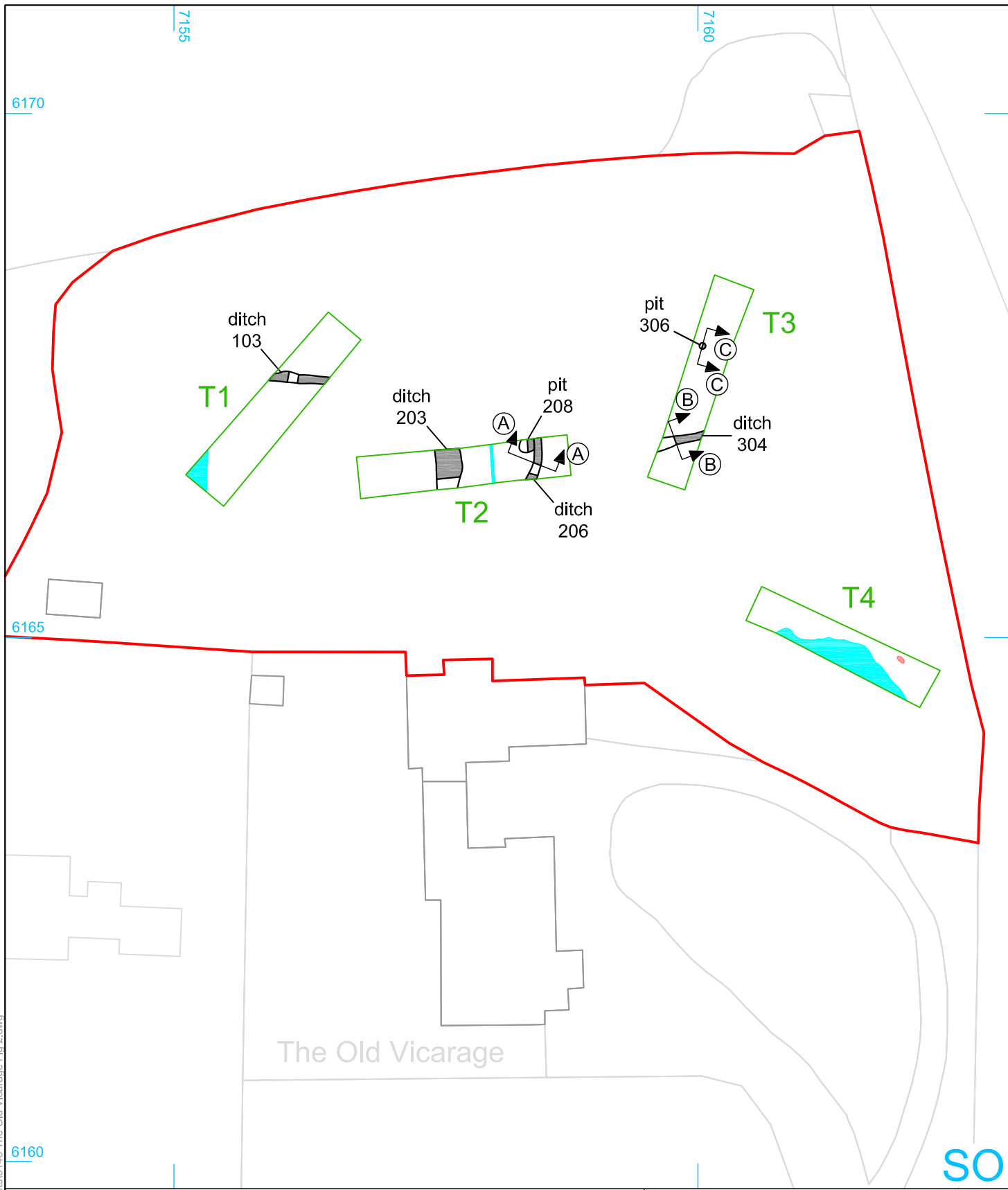
PROJECT TITLE
 The Old Vicarage, Church Road,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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PROJECT NO. 5148	DATE 12-12-2014	FIGURE NO.
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-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature
-  modern
-  treethrow



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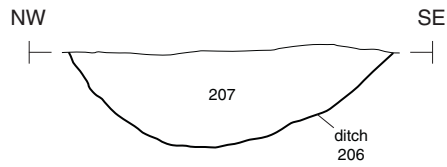
PROJECT TITLE
 The Old Vicarage, Church Road,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features

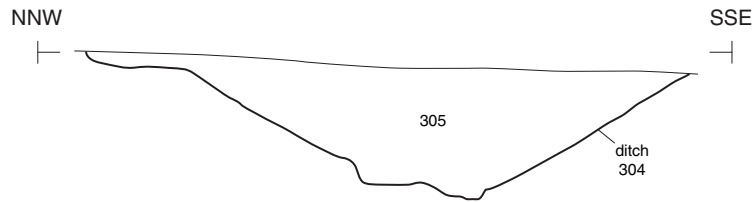
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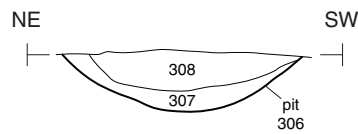
Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



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FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 2 and 3: sections

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FIGURE NO.

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