

**Land off Banks Road
Badsey
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Taylor Wimpey UK Limited


CA Project: 4559
CA Report: 14319
Worcs HER Event no.: WSM57552

July 2014

Land off Banks Road
Badsey
Worcestershire

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date	14 July 2014
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date	16 July 2014
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signed	
date	17 July 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Banks Road, Badsey
Location: Worcestershire
NGR: SP 07188 43799
Type: Evaluation
Date: 11-14 July 2014
Planning Reference: Wychavon District Council ref. no. 12/01823
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: BAN 14
Worcs HER Event no.: WSM57552

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2014 at land off Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. Four trenches were excavated. Two north-south orientated agricultural cultivation furrows and a modern pit were identified but no significant archaeological features or deposits. No artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Taylor Wimpey UK Limited on land at Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 07188 43799; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of a condition on outline planning consent granted by Wychavon District Council for residential development on the site (ref. no. 12/01823). Condition 5 of the consent requires:

A) Prior to determination of the reserved matters application a programme of archaeological work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation, shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment.*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

A brief (WCC 2013) for the necessary archaeological works was prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, the archaeological advisors to Wychavon District Council. A staged programme of work was required and geophysical survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys in June 2014. A metal detecting survey had been proposed

but the ground conditions were not conducive to reliable survey. The trenching described in this report was the final part of the staged evaluation of the site.

- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *brief* and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Mike Glyde, the archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council. 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 Mike Glyde, the archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.95ha, and comprises one agricultural field, recently ploughed. The site lies at approximately 40m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation – Siltstone, sedimentary bedrock of the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are mapped on the site but Kidderminster Station Member Sand and Gravel Superficial Deposits of the Quaternary Period occur to the east and west of the site (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 A search of the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record was carried out before the compilation of the WSI (HER ref. WSM49783). There are no records of earlier prehistoric activity or settlement within the immediate area of the site. An archaeological evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology in 2013 at Bretforton Road Badsey, found evidence for a possible Iron Age settlement site with ditches and pits recorded within the trial trenches (WSM47978).
- 1.6 Towards the northern edge of the site, the Aldington Inclosure map of 1808 recorded field names of Black Bank Ground and Black Bank Meadow (WSM30854) and to the north of this, fields containing the name Blackminster are recorded on the Offenham Tithe Map of 1841 (WSM30836). The use of the word "Black" within the fieldnames

often suggests previous settlement of this land, most likely of Roman origins. This interpretation may be supported by a number of Roman finds found within the area, including, at Black Banks itself, coins of Claudius to Gratianus, Roman pottery, a stone quern, spindle whorls, bronze clasp, bronze handle of key and a glass lachrymatory. A British coin of Antredigus was also found (WSM02740; WSM30329). Other Roman period finds have been made on land south of Blackminster Bridge, Bretforton (WSM02744) and by metal detectorists, imprecisely located but lying within the parish (WSM32203). A river crossing point across Bretforton Brook at Lower Blackminster has been postulated in the form of a paved ford (at SP 073 445) and Romano-British pottery sherds were apparently found nearby (WSM02745). The picture which emerges from the HER records for the environs of the site, and for the wider landscape, is certainly of extensive Roman settlement and other activity.

- 1.7 Badsey is mentioned in Domesday Book but the location and extent of the early settlement is unclear and it has been conjectured from the 1812 Enclosure map that it lay to the south of this site (WSM24404). The site lies beyond the core of the medieval and post-medieval village.
- 1.8 The remains of a medieval infirmary belonging to the Monks of Evesham Abbey may also exist below ground to the south-west of the development site but its precise location is unsure (WSM03601).
- 1.9 The site is shown as lying within a larger field on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891; by the 2nd edition of 1905, part of the site is depicted as orchard, and by 1938 all the site is shown as planted with trees. By 1954 the field in which it lies was still orchard but had been sub-divided into north-south strips across its southern two-thirds, and the current site forms one of these strips. The site remained as orchard until the early 21st century.
- 1.10 A geophysical survey using detailed magnetometry was carried out across the site in June 2014 by Archaeological Surveys (2014). The survey showed the presence of extensive modern disturbance and bonfires of modern date across the southern part of the site and pit-like anomalies, presumably from the removal of the orchard trees which were present on the site. The infilled furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation were visible, running north-south at the northern end of the site, as well as some

possible linear anomalies of unknown origin, but little else of possible archaeological origin.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 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 Wychavon 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

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 4 trenches, each measuring 25m long x 2m wide (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).
- 1.13 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).
- 1.14 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. All artefacts recovered were modern and they were discarded on site. Excavated spoil and the exposed trench bases were scanned with a metal detector but no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

- 1.15 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire 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 are to be found in Appendix A. Trenches 2 and 4 were devoid of any features at all. The natural geological substrate (102, 202, 302, 402) consisting of dark bluish grey Lias clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.58m below present ground level. This was overlain by yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (101, 201, 301, 401) averaging 0.3m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.24m of dark greyish brown topsoil (100, 200, 300, 400), which had been heavily ploughed recently. Evidence of modern bonfires and fragments of iron scrap metal and agricultural tools were observed across the site.
- 2.2 At the south-western end of Trench 1, pit 103 measured 4.8m long and 0.6m deep and cut topsoil 100. Fill 104 comprised dark brownish grey silty clay and contained fragments of modern glass and flower pot (not retained). This pit related to a larger area of dumped material visible in the topsoil and including the fragmentary remains of an Anderson air-raid shelter. It is likely that the geophysical anomaly indicative of magnetically enhanced material relates to an area of burnt material within the topsoil as these were observed in abundance across the site. Two north/south aligned cultivation furrows (corresponding to geophysical anomalies) and a heavily root-disturbed tree throw pit relating to the site's former use as an orchard were observed cutting subsoil 301 in Trench 3.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The only features identified were undated agricultural cultivation furrows and a modern pit, with no significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts present, confirming the results of the preceding geophysical survey.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley, assisted by Jonathan Orellana and Franco Vartuca. The report was written by Rebecca Riley and the illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Rebecca Riley, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard MIFA.

5. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys 2014 *Land off Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. Magnetometer Survey*. Report no. **553**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 1 July 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land off Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2013 *Requirements for a staged programme of archaeological work at Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire.*

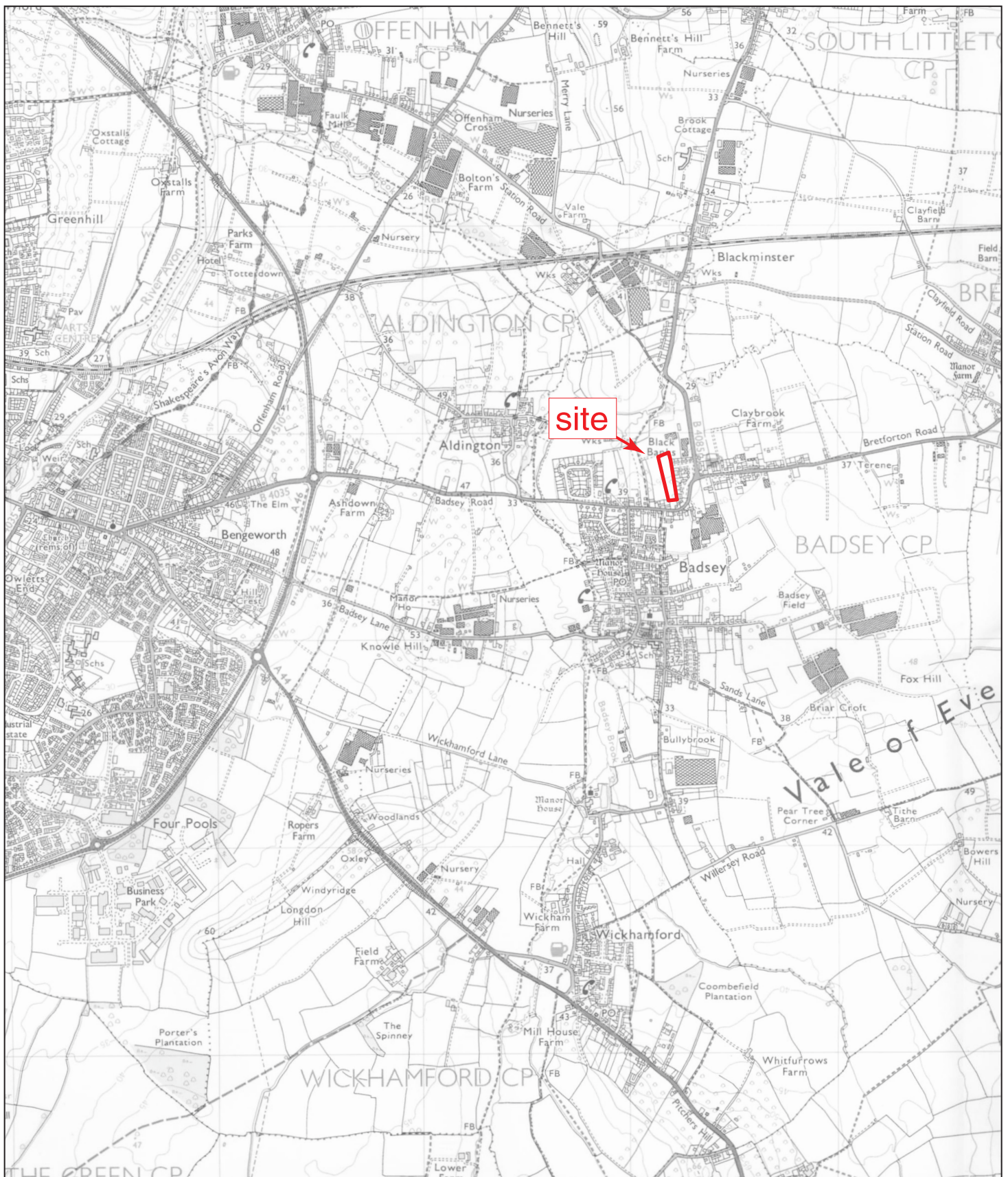


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid brownish grey silty clay	25	2	0.15	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	yellowish grey brown silty clay	25	2	0.3	
1	102	Layer		natural	bluish grey clay with yellowish patches	25	2		
1	103	Cut		pit	irregular linear feature cutting topsoil	>2.6	0.8	0.6	modern
1	104	Fill		Fill of 103	dark brownish grey silty clay with much modern debris	>2.6	0.8	0.6	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid brownish grey silty clay	25	2	0.24	
2	201	Layer		subsoil	yellowish grey brown silty clay	25	2	0.15	
2	202	Layer		natural	bluish grey clay with yellowish patches	25	2		
3	300	Layer		topsoil	mid brownish grey silty clay	25	2	0.24	
3	301	Layer		subsoil	yellowish grey brown silty clay	25	2	0.3	
3	302	Layer		natural	bluish grey clay with yellowish patches	25	2		
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid brownish grey silty clay	25	2	0.24	
4	401	Layer		subsoil	yellowish grey brown silty clay	25	2	0.3	
4	402	Layer		natural	bluish grey clay with yellowish patches	25	2		
4	403	Cut		furrow	linear furrow cutting subsoil and natural	>2.6	0.7	0.2	
4	404	Cut		furrow	linear furrow cutting subsoil and natural	>2.6	0.7	0.2	
4	405	Cut		tree-throw pit	Irregular pit cutting subsoil	1.2	>0.6	0.2	modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2014 at land off Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire. Four trenches were excavated. Two north-south orientated agricultural cultivation furrows and a modern pit were identified but no significant archaeological features or deposits. No artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.	
Project dates	11-14 July 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014; HER Event no. WSM49783	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Banks Road, Badsey, Wychavon District, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.95ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 07188 43799	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Collard	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical	None	None
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench records, photo records
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land off Banks Road, Badsey, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14319		



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PROJECT TITLE

**Land off Banks Road, Badsey,
Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

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PROJECT NO. 4559 DATE 15-07-2014
DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

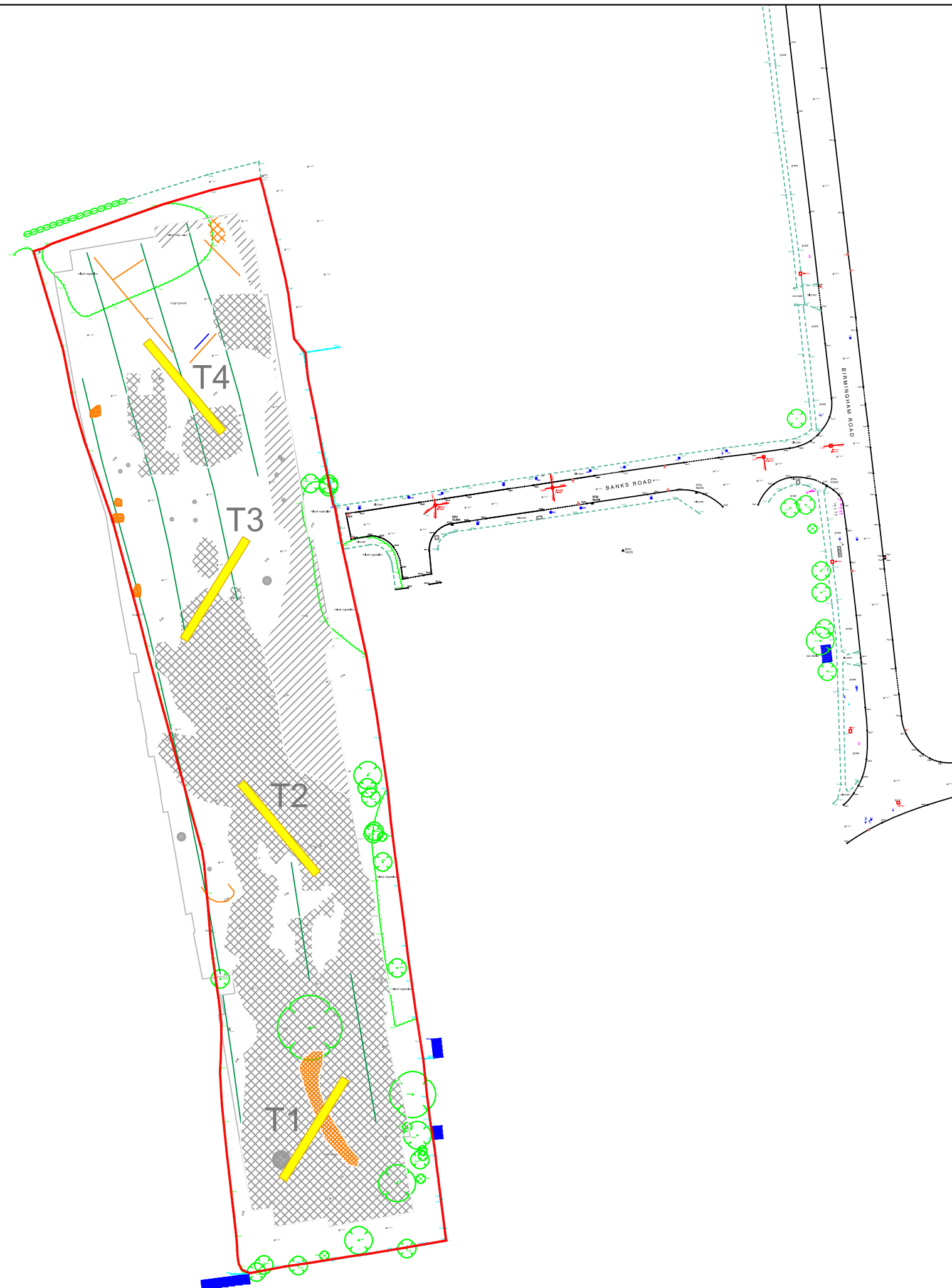
FIGURE NO.

1

P:\4559 banks road badsey eval\Geomatics\WS\4559 trench plan.dwg

Abstraction and interpretation of magnetometer anomalies

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremnant/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



- site
- evaluation trench

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE
Banks Road, Badsey

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	4559	DATE	02-07-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	ATB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:1000	