

**Land at Western Road
Hagley
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd

CA Project: 4996

CA Report: 14389


Event Number: WSM57558

September 2014

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Hagley
Worcestershire

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CA Project: 4996
CA Report: 14389

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issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Western Road
Location:	Hagley, Worcestershire
NGR:	SO 9085 7993
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	11-15 August 2014
Planning Reference:	Bromsgrove District Council ref: B/12/0875
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Event Number:	WSM57558
Site Code:	WRH 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2014 at land at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire. A total of seventeen trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation. As no clear evidence of truncation was noted within any of the excavated trenches these results are, on balance, likely to reflect an absence of archaeological activity in the investigated area.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd at land at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 90850 79938; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken following issue of planning permission for housing and associated infrastructure by Bromsgrove District Council (BDC; ref: B/12/0875), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed (conditions 26 and 27).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief* for archaeological evaluation (WAAS 2014) prepared by Aisling Nash, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to BDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Aisling Nash. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects 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 is approximately 3.6ha in extent, and comprises a series of open fields and plantation areas. The plantation areas in the northeast of the site will be retained. The site comprises a rectangular land parcel orientated along a northwest-southeast axis. Beyond the northeast boundary lie open fields, which also exist to the site's north-west and south-east. To the southwest are dwellings which face on to Western Road. The site lies at between 107m and 119m AOD, broadly falling from the south-east to north-west extents.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation - Sandstone of the Triassic Period (BGS 2014). Natural substrate was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 A Historic Environment Record (HER) search was carried out as part of a desk-based assessment (DBA) for a site directly to the north (CA 2011). This was followed by trial trench evaluation (CA 2013). The following is a summary of information from these sources.
- 1.6 Cropmarks recorded to the northeast relate to former field boundaries recorded on the 1838 Tithe Map and are not considered to be of archaeological or historic value. An extant hedgerow which forms part of the northern boundary of the site forms part of the boundary between the historic parishes of Hagley and Clent, and as such may be considered to be historically 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- 1.7 The prominent south-facing hillock to the northeast of the site overlooks Gallows Brook and would have been an attractive location for prehistoric settlement. The cropmark enclosure recorded to the northeast of the site is indicative of late prehistoric settlement in the site vicinity, and there is some potential for currently unrecorded prehistoric archaeological remains to occur within the site.
- 1.8 There are no Roman features recorded within the site or study area and the potential for currently unrecorded Roman remains is considered to be low. The site has formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Hagley since the early medieval period, and the potential for archaeological remains (dating from the early medieval to modern periods) is considered to be low.
- 1.9 Areas of modern plantation are recorded across the northern parts of the site. It is likely that any currently unrecorded archaeological remains in the vicinity of these plantations have been impacted upon.
- 1.10 The evaluation identified limited evidence for activity on pre-dating the post-medieval/modern eras. An undated possible posthole and five undated possible pits were identified. A number of field boundaries were identified which appear to correspond to boundaries depicted on the 1838 Hagley Tithe Map. Pottery and flint recovered from colluvial and alluvial deposits recorded within the site may suggest activity of either prehistoric or Anglo Saxon period in the area surrounding the site (CA 2013).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 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 the 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

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 17 trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1-9 and 12-17 measured 50m in length and 1.6m in width, and Trenches 10-11 measured 25m in length and 1.6m in width. Only minor variations in trench location were required to account for root protection zones. 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). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.15 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 the Worcestershire County Museum, 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 evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of sandy clay, was exposed in all of the excavated trenches at a typical depth of 1.1m below the present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by colluvium (in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 12), subsoil (in Trenches 1-15) and topsoil (in all trenches).
- 2.3 A series of tree bowls were recorded in Trenches 13 and 15; all were observed at the natural substrate surface. The tree bowl in Trench 13 contained no artefactual material and was not recorded further.

Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.4 Two tree bowls were recorded in Trench 15, both being evidently amorphous in plan and poorly defined in profile. Tree bowl 1504 was recorded in the northwest end of Trench 15. Pottery of post-medieval date and a single fragment of modern glass were recovered from fill 1503. Tree bowl 1506 was recorded to the southwest of tree bowl 1504; two fragments of roof tile were recovered from its fill (1505).

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.5 Artefactual material was recorded from two deposits (Appendix B).

Pottery

- 2.6 A single bodysherd of Midlands Purple (108) was recovered from fill 1503 of tree bowl 1504. Jars and cups in this ware type were manufactured at sites across the midlands during the late 14th to 18th centuries.
- 2.7 Fill 1505 of tree bowl 1506 produced a scrap of transfer-printed refined whiteware, which is datable to the late 18th to 19th centuries.

- 2.8 A bodysherd of black-glazed earthenware, of 18th to 19th century date, was recovered from fill 1503 of tree bowl 1504.

Ceramic building material

- 2.9 Fill 1505 of tree bowl 1506 produced two fragments of flat roof tile of post-medieval date.

Glass

- 2.10 A single fragment of green-coloured modern bottle glass was recorded in fill 1503 of tree bowl 1504.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 3.2 The existence of colluvium in a number of excavated trenches accords with the results of the evaluation to the north (CA 2011). The colluvium respects the topography of the site, following an arc of lower ground around the north and west extents of the site. No dating evidence was present within the colluvium to indicate a potential timeframe for its deposition.
- 3.3 The evidence recorded during this evaluation therefore does not support activity of Post Medieval date or earlier. However, the presence of isolated areas of earlier archaeological material cannot be entirely precluded.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Leonard, assisted by Noel Boothryd and Michael Joyce. The report was written by Chris Leonard. The finds report was prepared by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. 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 21 July 2014
- 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**
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- WAAS 2014 *Requirements for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire*. Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council
- Worcester County Council online ceramic database, <http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/> (accessed 20 August 2014).



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.4
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown orange sand	50	1.6	0.26
1	102	Layer		Colluvium	Mid/light brown orange clay-sand	50	1.6	0.24
1	103	Layer		Natural	Orange – orange/grey sand	50	1.6	NE
1	104	?Cut		Natural depression	Recorded as a cut during initial investigation, but interpreted as a natural feature	1.6	5.3	0.4
1	105	?Fill	104	Fill of 104	Material collected within natural depression. Dark red-brown sand	>1.5	5.3	0.18
1	106	?Fill	104	Fill of 104	Material collected within natural depression. Mid brown-red sand	>1.5	4.42	>0.34
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay	50	1.6	0.35
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown sand	50	1.6	0.9
2	202	Layer		Natural	Yellow/red-brown sand	50	1.6	NE
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.6	0.34
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.2
3	302	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red-brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.3
3	303	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-orange sand with bands of dark red-pink clay.	50	1.6	NE
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.6	0.3
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.34
4	402	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red-brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.41
4	403	Layer		Natural	Mid orange pink sand with bands of dark red pink clay and light orange yellow sand	50	1.6	NE
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sand	50	1.6	0.37
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown orange sand	50	1.6	0.51
5	502	Layer		Natural	Dark red/grey sand	50	1.6	NE
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silt	50	1.6	0.3
5	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown orange sand	50	1.6	0.55
6	602	Layer		Natural	Dark red sand	50	1.6	NE
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.25
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand	50	1.6	0.4
7	702	Layer		Colluvium	Light red brown sand	50	1.6	0.3
7	703	Layer		Natural	Mid red sand	50	1.6	NE
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.25
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Dark red brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.4
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid red-brown sand and mid red brown clay	50	1.6	NE
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.3
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand	50	1.6	0.35
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid red-brown sand and mid red brown clay	50	1.6	NE
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	25	1.6	0.42
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand	25	1.6	0.31
10	1002	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red brown silty sand	25	1.6	0.34
10	1003	Layer		Natural	Dark red pink sand	25	1.6	NE
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	25	1.6	0.89
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand	25	1.6	0.28

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
11	1102	Layer		Colluvium	Light yellow grey sandy silt	25	1.6	0.13
11	1103	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red brown silty sand	25	1.6	0.16
11	1104	Layer		Natural	Dark red pink sand	25	1.6	NE
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	50	1.6	0.28
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.2
12	1202	Layer		Colluvium	Mid red brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.29
12	1203	Layer		Natural	Dark orange red sand	50	1.6	NE
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.25
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown sand	50	1.6	0.4
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Mid red-brown sand and mid red brown clay	50	1.6	NE
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.25
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.25
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Mid red-brown sand and mid red brown clay	50	1.6	NE
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.25
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty sand	50	1.6	0.2
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Mid/light brown orange sand	50	1.6	NE
15	1503	?fill		Fill of 1504	Fill of tree bowl			
15	1504	?cut		Tree bowl	-			
15	1505	?fill		Fill of 1506	Fill of tree bowl			
15	1506	?cut		Tree bowl	-			
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown silt sand	50	1.6	0.37
16	1601	Layer		Natural	Mid red orange sand and clay	50	1.6	NE
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark orange brown silt sand	50	1.6	0.37
17	1701	Layer		Natural	Mid red orange sand and clay	50	1.6	NE

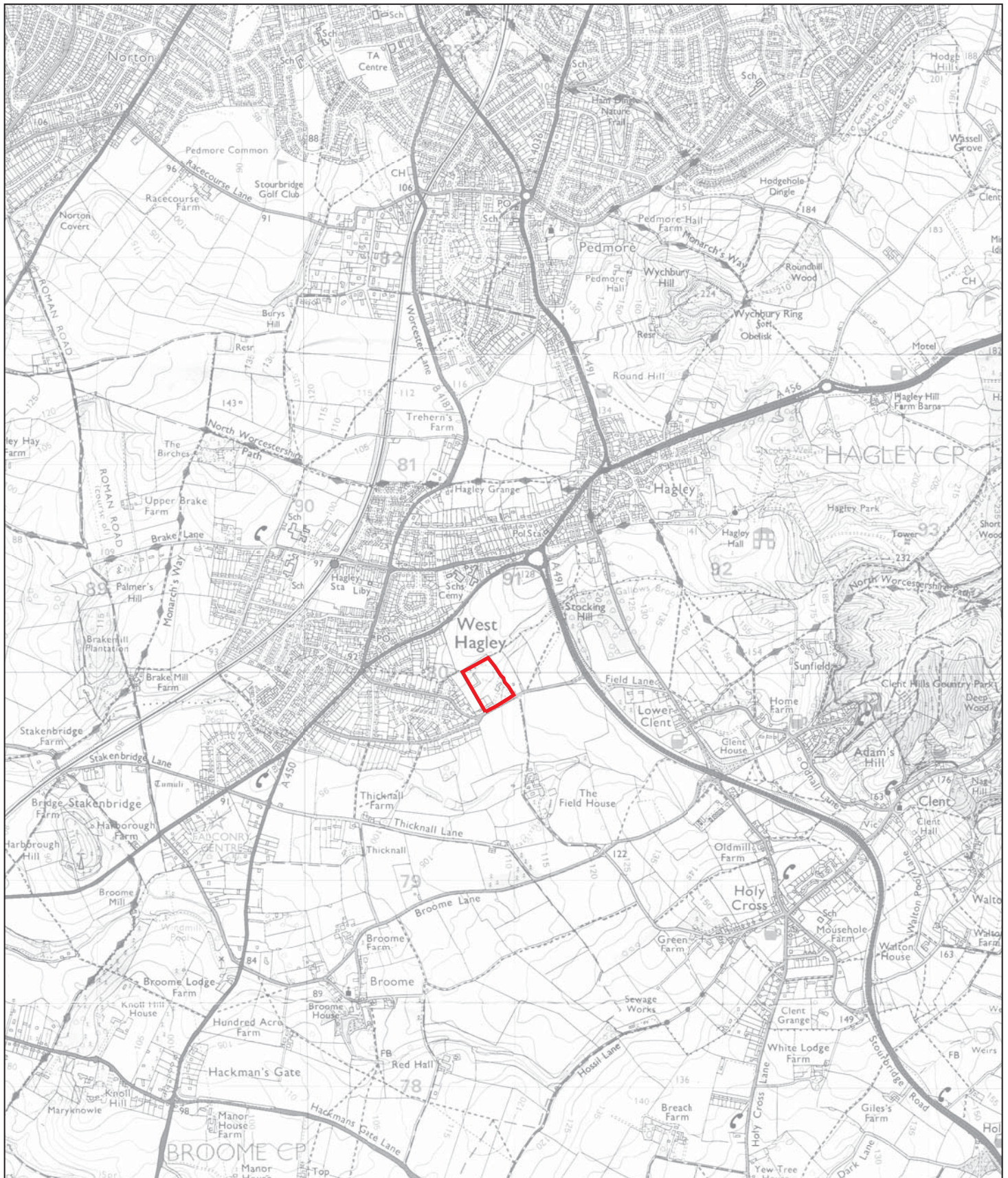
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
1503	Post-medieval pottery: Cistercian ware; black-glazed earthenware	2	9	Modern
	Modern glass: bottle	1	3	
1505	Post-medieval/modern pottery: transfer-printed refined whiteware	1	<1	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: tile	2	140	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2014 at land at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire. Fifteen trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation. No clear evidence of truncation was noted within any of the excavated trenches, meaning these results are on balance likely to reflect an absence of activity in the investigated area.	
Project dates	11-15 August 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	3.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 90850 79938	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Chris Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Ceramics/glass
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Western Road, Hagley, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14389		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Western Road
 Hagley, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4996	DATE 01-09-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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390700

390800

390900

391000

280000

289900

289800



- ▭ site
- ▭ evaluation trench
- ▭ archaeological feature
- ▭ modern feature
- ▭ natural feature



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Western Road
 Hagley, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	4996	DATE	03-09-2014	FIGURE NO.	2
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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE	@A3 1:1000		



Trench 1: Plan



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Western Road, Hagley,
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 4996 DATE 01/09/2014
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FIGURE NO.

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