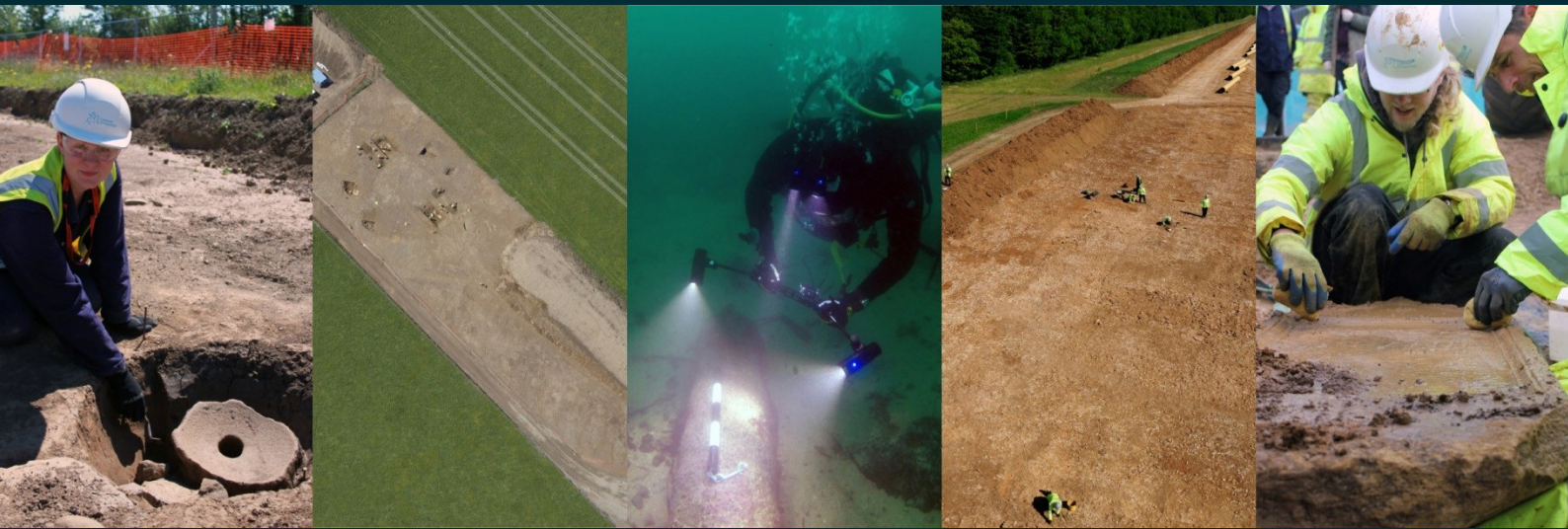


**Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
Ashton-under-Hill
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Mr D Finch and Mrs A Finch

CA Project: 5533
CA Report: 15672
Accession Number: WSM 67029
OASIS Reference: cotswold2-226829
September 2015



Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
Ashton-under-Hill
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5533
CA Report: 15672



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	18 September 2015	Alex Thomson	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client Comment	

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	4
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4).....	5
6. THE FINDS	6
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	6
8. DISCUSSION.....	6
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
10. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	9
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:250)
- Fig. 3 Trench 1: plan (1:100), section (1:20) and photograph
- Fig. 4 Trench 1, looking southwest (2x 1m scales)
- Fig. 5 Trench 2, looking southeast (2x 1m scales)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
Location:	Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire
NGR:	SO 9978 3753
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	1 September 2015
Planning Reference:	Wychavon District Council, W/14/02725/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Accession Number:	WSM 67029
OASIS Reference:	cotswold2-226829
Site Code:	MFA 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2015 on land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire. Two trenches were excavated.

One small, undated ditch was identified in Trench 1. Its purpose is could not be determined, however it aligns with extant boundaries so may represent a minor land division.

A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mr David Finch and Mrs Audrey Finch on land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9978 3753; Fig. 1). A planning application has been made to Wychavon District Council (WDC; planning ref: W/14/02725/FUL) for residential development and associated infrastructure at the site. Aisling Nash (Historic Environment Planning Officer (HEPO), Worcestershire County Council, the archaeological advisors to WDC) required that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken to inform the understanding of any archaeological assets within the development area, secured through Condition 6 of the planning permission.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological evaluation prepared by Aisling Nash (Nash 2015), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Adrian Scruby, WCC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), 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 0.14ha in extent, and comprises open gardens, bounded to the north by a small stream, to the south-east by a further stream and Back Lane and on all other sides by open fields and gardens. The site lies at approximately 47m AOD, sloping gently from north-west to south-east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic period. Superficial deposits of Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary period are also noted (BGS 2015). The natural substrate observed in both trenches and consisted of sandy clay with irregular patches of gravel.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not previously been the subject of archaeological work. As such, the following archaeological background is a summary of information obtained from a Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) search of a c.500m radius around the site, alongside pertinent publically available information.
- 2.2 Prehistoric and Roman evidence is known in the area surrounding the site, and comprises evidence of possible occupation in several locations: these include a possible Neolithic/Bronze Age enclosure c.150m to the east (WSM56936) and an area of possible Iron Age/Roman occupation c.130m to the east. The area is noted to have high palaeolithic potential.
- 2.3 Numerous areas of medieval to modern agricultural activity are recorded. Ridge and furrow is noted in the landscape surrounding the site (i.e. a region centred c.700m to the north-west, WSM35911) and several farm buildings of post-medieval age are noted c.300m to the north of the site (i.e. WSM53623).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench locations were designed to fall within the footprint of the proposed development. Both trenches were 20m long and 1.8m wide. The 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*.

- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 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* and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The physical archive and, subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum under accession number WSM 67029. The digital site archive will be deposited with the ADS. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, consisting of sandy clay with irregular patches of gravel, was exposed in both of the excavated trenches at a typical depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). In both trenches the natural substrate and archaeology was sealed by a silty clay subsoil (from which one sherd of pottery was recovered in Trench 1), of a typical thickness of 0.36m. This was covered by modern topsoil, measuring approximately 0.22m in thickness. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in Trench 2

- 5.3 In Trench 1, ditch 1003 was identified in the north-western extent of the trench. It was aligned south-west/north-east and measured approximately 0.3m in depth and extended beyond the limit of excavation to a width of 0.65m, with moderately sloping sides and flat base. It contained clay silt fill 1004 from which a sizable assemblage of animal bones was recovered. No dating evidence was identified.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from the subsoil in Trench 1. The recovered material dates to the post-medieval period. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric (see Appendix B). The pottery fabric present is not represented on the Worcestershire pottery type series codes as defined by Worcester County Council's online ceramics database.

Pottery: post-medieval

- 6.2 Two joining bodysherds of glazed earthenware (GLEW) were recovered from subsoil 1001. This type of pottery is dateable to the mid-16th to 18th centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A total of 129 fragments of animal bone (weighing 547g) were recovered from fill 1004 of ditch 1003. The bone included well preserved fragments of a sheep/goat humerus (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and a horse molar (*Equus caballus*). The remainder of the assemblage was all identified as juvenile cattle (*Bos taurus*) bones and are likely to originate from a single calf of less than one year old. No evidence of butchery or pathology was observed, meaning no further interpretative information could be determined.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Only one feature of archaeological interest was identified during the course of the evaluation. Undated ditch 1003 identified in Trench 1 is similarly orientated to extant boundaries, suggesting it may be of post-medieval or later origin.

- 8.2 The lack of any prehistoric or Roman archaeological evidence suggests that the areas of activity and occupation identified to the east (see above) either do not extend into the site area or have been truncated by subsequent activity.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, assisted by Monica Fombelida. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andrew Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Alex Thomson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 2 September 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Nash, A 2015 *Requirements for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill* Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt	>20	>1.8	0.2	
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey silty clay	>20	>1.8	0.35	
1	1002	Layer		Natural Substrate	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with gravel patches	>20	>1.8		
1	1003	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned linear with moderately sloping sides and flat base	>0.78	>0.65	0.3	
1	1004	Fill	1003	Fill of ditch	Brownish grey clayey silt	>0.78	>0.65	0.3	
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt	>20	>1.8	0.23	
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey silty clay	>20	>1.8	0.37	
2	2002	Layer		Natural Substrate	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with gravel patches	>20	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1001	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GLEW	2	14	MC16-C18

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

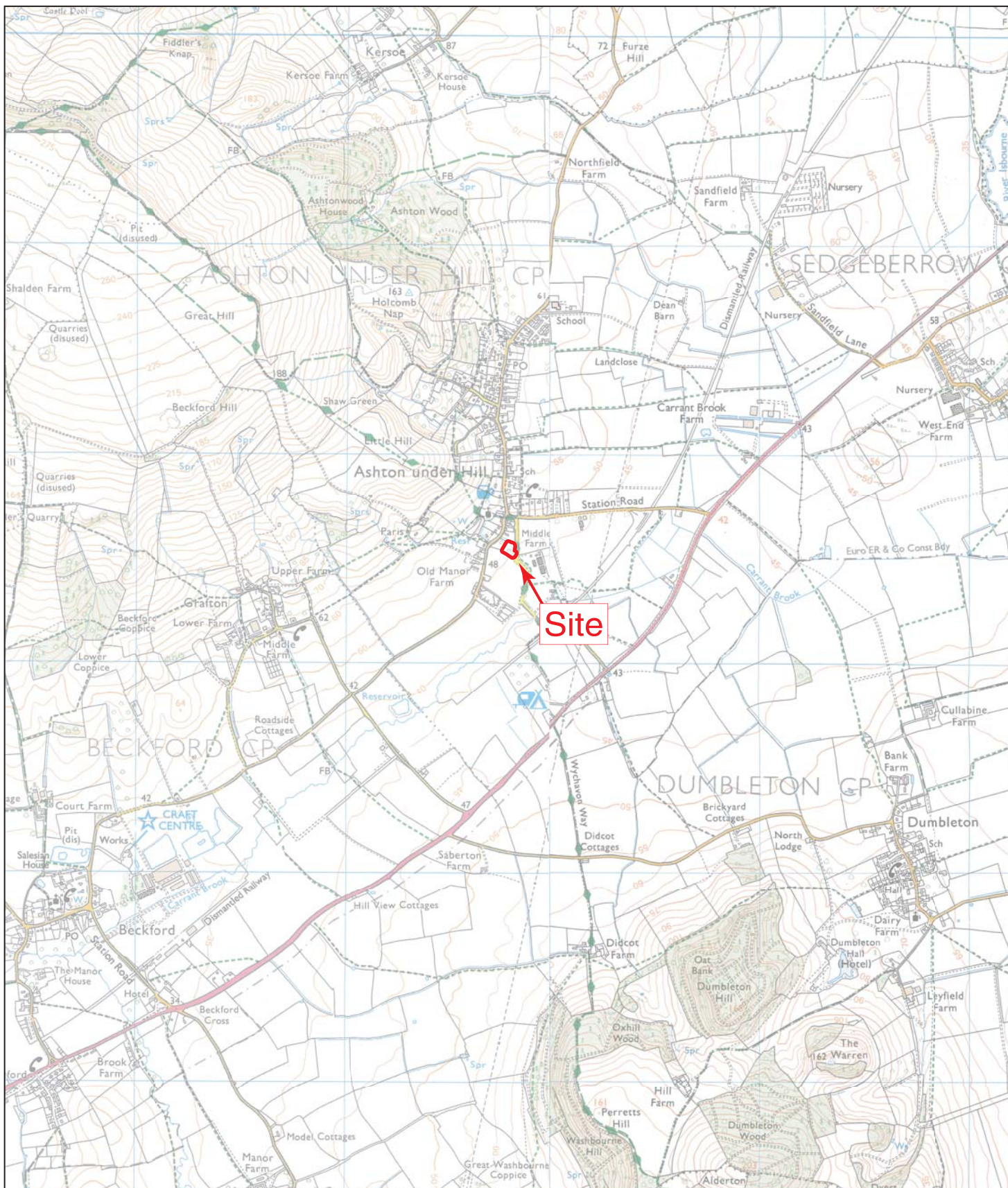
Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	EQ	Total	Weight (g)
1003	1004	127	1	1	129	547
Total		127	1	1	129	
Weight		484	19	44	547	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM – REF: COTSWOLD2-226829

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2015 on land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>One small, undated ditch was identified in Trench 1. Its purpose is could not be determined, however it aligns with extant boundaries so may represent a minor land division.</p> <p>A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1.</p>	
Project dates	1 September 2015	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire	
Study area	0.14ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 9978 3753	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM 67029	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM 67029	Context sheets, Trench sheets, field drawings, photographic register
Digital	ADS/ WSM 67029	Database, digital photos, etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15672		



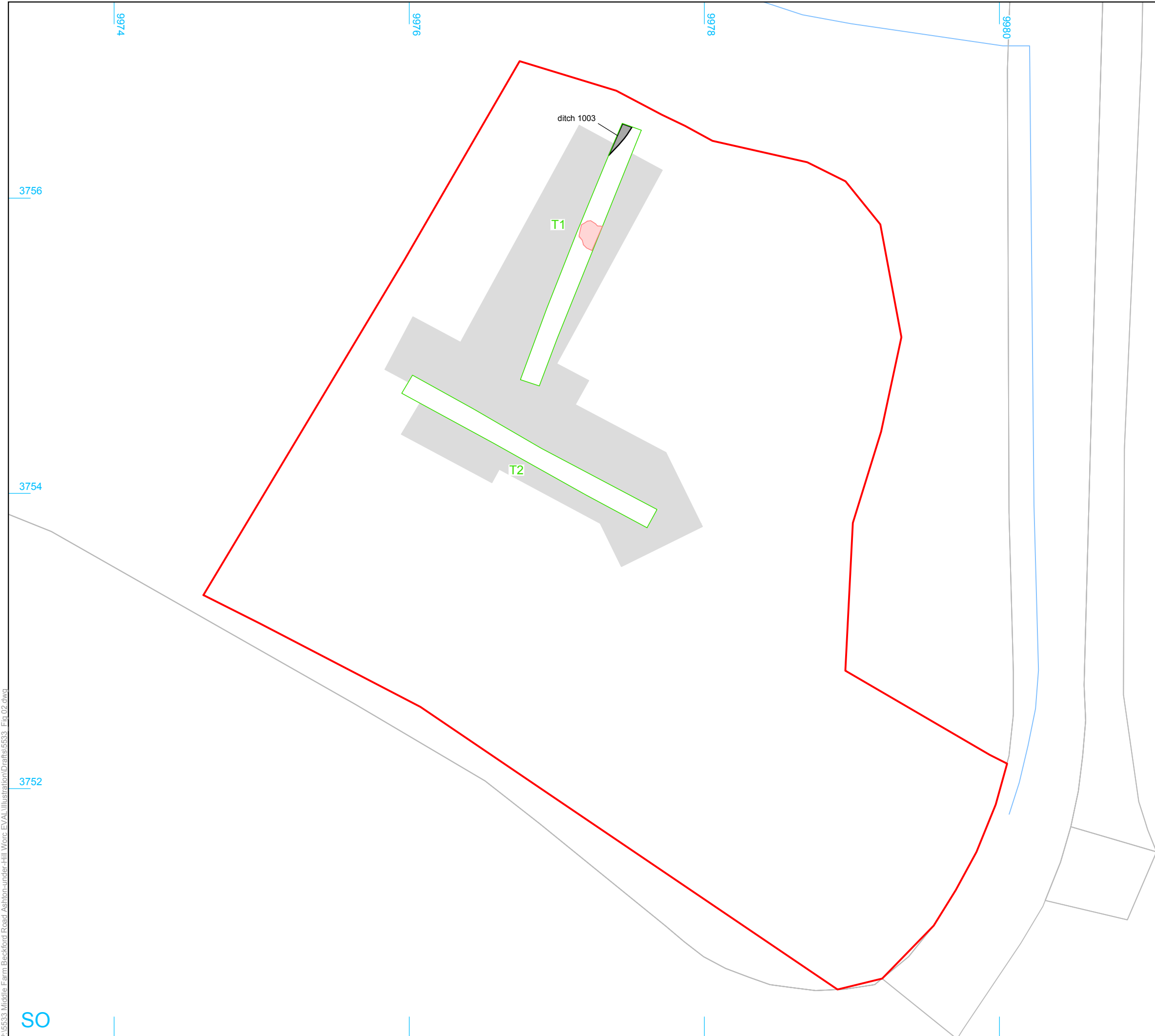
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
 Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5533	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM/DJB	DATE	09/09/2015	
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109



- site boundary
- proposed building
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- treethrow



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109.

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
Ashton-Under-Hill, Worcestershire

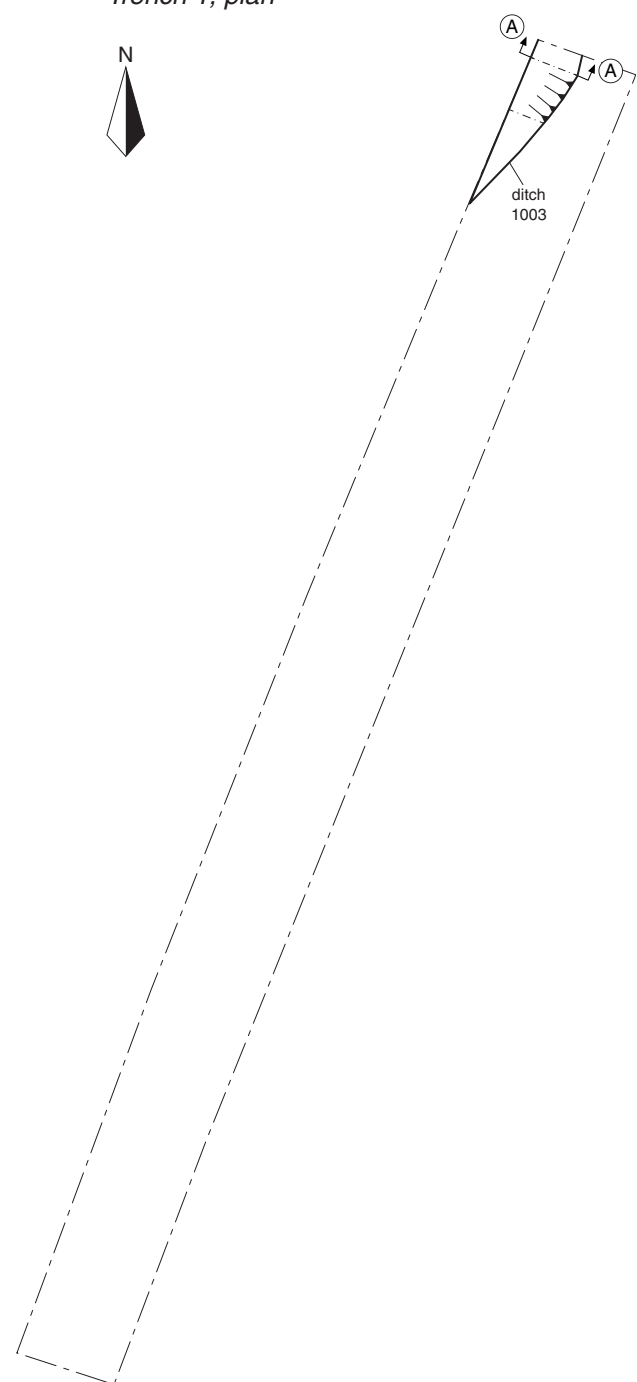
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing
archaeological features

DRAWN BY AO	PROJECT NO. 5533	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY LM/DJB	DATE 09/09/2015	2
APPROVED BY IB	SCALE@A3 1:250	

P:\5533 Middle Farm Beckford Road Ashton-under-Hill Worc EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\5533_Fig 02.dwg

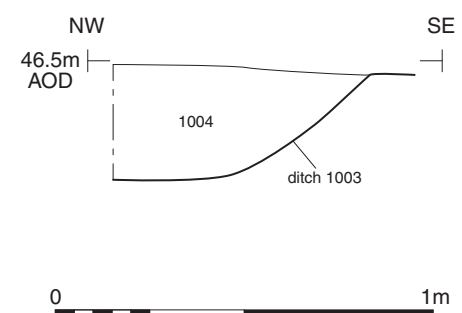
SO

Trench 1, plan



0 5m

Section AA



Ditch 1003, looking north (0.5m scale)

 Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

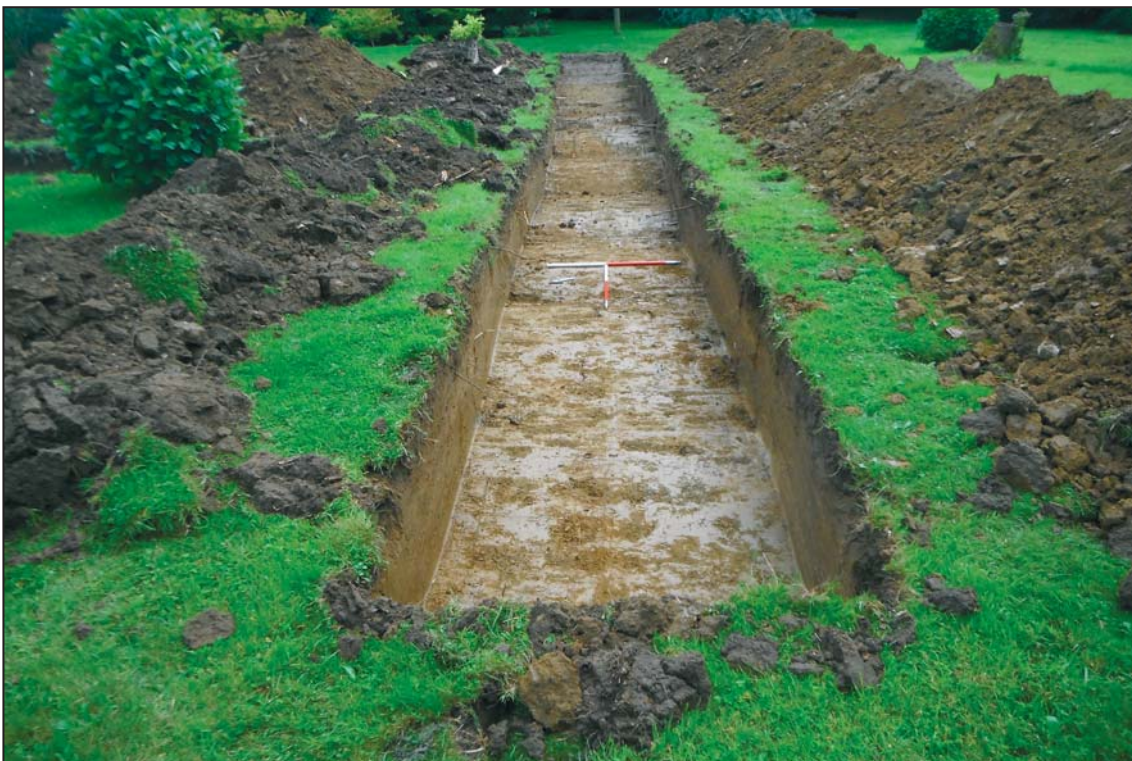
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 5533 FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY LM/DJB DATE 10/09/2015
APPROVED BY IB SCALE@A3 1:20 and 1:100 3



4



5

4 Trench 1, looking south-west (1m scales)

5 Trench 2, looking south-east (1m scales)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Middle Farm, Beckford Road
 Ashton-under-Hill, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5533	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM/DJB	DATE	10/09/2015	4 & 5
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	N/A	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 8
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660

