

**Land at Perryfields Road Phase II
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Walker Troup Architects Ltd

on behalf of

BDHT


CA Project: 4756
CA Report: 14143

April 2014

Land at Perryfields Road Phase II
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4756
CA Report: 14143

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date	7 April 2014
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date	7 April 2014
issue	01

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- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing modern features (1:1250)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Perryfields Road Phase II
Location: Bromsgrove, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 95251 72054
Type: Evaluation
Date: 3-4 April 2014
Location of Archive: Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: PRF 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2014 at Land at Perryfields Road Phase II, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Two trenches were excavated.

A ditch that follows the alignment of a field boundary depicted on the 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map was identified in Trench 2 but not in Trench 1, possibly being slightly further east. Postholes and ceramic land drains of early modern or modern date were also identified. No further features or deposits were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at request of Walker Troupe Architects Ltd on behalf of BDHT at Land at Perryfields Road Phase II, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 95251 72054; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support an application (planning application reference 14/0160 of the Bromsgrove District Council) for a residential development with associated works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological evaluation (WHEAS 2014) prepared by Aisling Nash, Historic Environment Planning Officer for the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS) of Worcestershire County Council (WCC), 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 2013), 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 comprises two parcels of agricultural land, approximately 0.53ha in extent, to the south of Perryfields Road. The site lies at approximately 100m AOD and is flat.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation of the Triassic era with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2014). Sand clay was encountered at the base of both excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 In line with the requirements of the Brief, a Historic Environment Record (HER) search was undertaken in addition to a review of public domain data and aerial photography from the mid-20th century.

- 1.6 Limited archaeological information is recorded on the HER from any time period. A palaeochannel is noted c.200m northwest (WSM56631 and WSM566332), and a Neolithic picrite battle axe (WSM09396) was found 250m north of the site. Fockbury Mill Farmhouse, a 17th century farmhouse, lies c.500m to the north (WSM01237). Aerial photography confirms that the site itself has been open farmland since at least the mid 20th century.
- 1.7 A Phase I archaeological evaluation identified on the adjoining land to the south only a post-medieval boundary ditch corresponding to one seen on 19th-century maps and two plough furrows (WSM39896; CA 2008). Trenching undertaken by WHEAS further to the south-west (Worcestershire Sites and Monument Record (WSM) 33913) revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

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 WCC 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 two trenches measuring 50m long and 1.6m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (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).
- 1.10 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 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).
- 1.12 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. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 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 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in both excavated trenches. Undisturbed natural geological substrate comprising sand clay was revealed at approximately 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a layer of homogenous silt sand subsoil which was up to 0.2m thick. Cut into the subsoil in both trenches were ceramic land drains. In Trench 2 a series of early modern/modern features were identified. These comprised a north-east to south-west aligned ditch (215) and five postholes (205, 207, 209, 211, and 213). The ditch and two of the postholes produced post-medieval or modern pottery, the earlier elements likely intrusive. Topsoil was recorded at the surface of both trenches.
- 2.3 The sequence differed slightly in the southern portion of Trench 2, where the subsoil and three of the postholes (205, 207, and 209), were overlain by a modern make-up deposit (201) and were observed to have been truncated. The made ground was up to 0.3m thick and contained modern brick and scrap metal fragments.

The finds evidence

- 2.6 Finds recovered from the evaluation consisted entirely of pottery.

2.7 *Pottery: Post-medieval/modern*

One sherd of refined whiteware, which dates to the 18th to 19th centuries, was recovered from the fill 204 of posthole 205.

2.8 Fill 206 of posthole 207 produced one sherd of late English stoneware, most likely dating to after c.1850.

2.9 Fill 214 of ditch 215 produced two sherds of black-glazed earthenware, one of which was a base sherd from a tankard. This type of pottery dates to the 18th to 19th centuries.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map depicts a field boundary on the same alignment as ditch 215 (Fig. 2). It is likely that the ditch 215 forms a section of the 1885 boundary. The 1885 ditch was not seen in Trench 1, where no truncation was identified. The explanation for the absence of the ditch in Trench 1 seems to be the fact that the boundary could be slightly further east. The 1885 boundary ditch was observed in the Phase I evaluation trenches 11 and 15 (CA 2008).

3.2 Postholes 211 and 213 were located immediately adjacent to, and appear to respect ditch 215. Postholes 205 and 207 contained very small sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery and were of the same shape and dimensions to post holes 211 and 213. The pottery is likely to be intrusive and driven into the postholes during their uninstalation and post removal.

3.3 When compared against the results of the DBA (WHEAS 2014) and Phase I evaluation (CA 2008), the recorded early modern/modern features are only partially consistent with expectations. Phases I and II of the evaluation both recorded limited archaeological remains and appear to suggest that the presence/absence of the subsoil across the entire evaluated area correlates with varying levels of disturbance. This is reflected in comparatively poor overall levels of archaeological material.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees, assisted by Michael Joyce. The report was written by Greg Crees. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Greg Crees, 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 19 February 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Perryfields Road Phase II, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **08218**

WHEAS (Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service) 2014 *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation at Site A, Perryfields, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire*. Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.3	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid brown red silt sand			0.2	
1	102	Natural		natural geological substrate	mixed yellow red sand and sand clay				
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.28	
2	201	Layer		made ground	mid blue grey brown with modern brick and scrap metal inclusions			0.3	
2	202	Layer		subsoil	mid brown red silt sand			0.2	
2	203	Natural		natural geological substrate	mixed yellow red sand clay				
2	204	Fill	205	fill of post hole	mid brown sand silt clay, homogenous	0.22	0.22	0.1	C18th - C19th
2	205	Cut		post hole	square, vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to flat base	0.22	0.22	0.1	
2	206	Fill	207	fill of post hole	mid brown and red sand silt clay, mixed	0.22	0.22	0.08	C19th - C20th
2	207	Cut		post hole	square, vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to flat base	0.22	0.22	0.08	
2	208	Fill	209	fill of post hole	mid brown sand silt clay, homogenous, charcoal inclusions	0.25	0.12	0.12	
2	209	Cut		post hole	oval, vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to flat base	0.25	0.12	0.12	
2	210	Fill	211	fill of post hole	mid brown sand silt clay, homogenous	0.22	0.22	0.08	
2	211	Cut		post hole	square, vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to flat base	0.22	0.22	0.08	
2	212	Fill	213	fill of post hole	mid brown sand silt clay, homogenous	0.22	0.22	0.1	
2	213	Cut		post hole	square, vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to flat base	0.22	0.22	0.1	
2	214	Fill	215	fill of ditch	mid orange grey silt clay, occasional to moderate poorly sorted medium to large stone inclusions, occasional small charcoal		1.65	0.6	C18th - C19th
2	215	Cut		ditch	linear on N/E - S/W alignment, moderate sides with imperceptible break of slope to slightly rounded base		1.65	0.6	

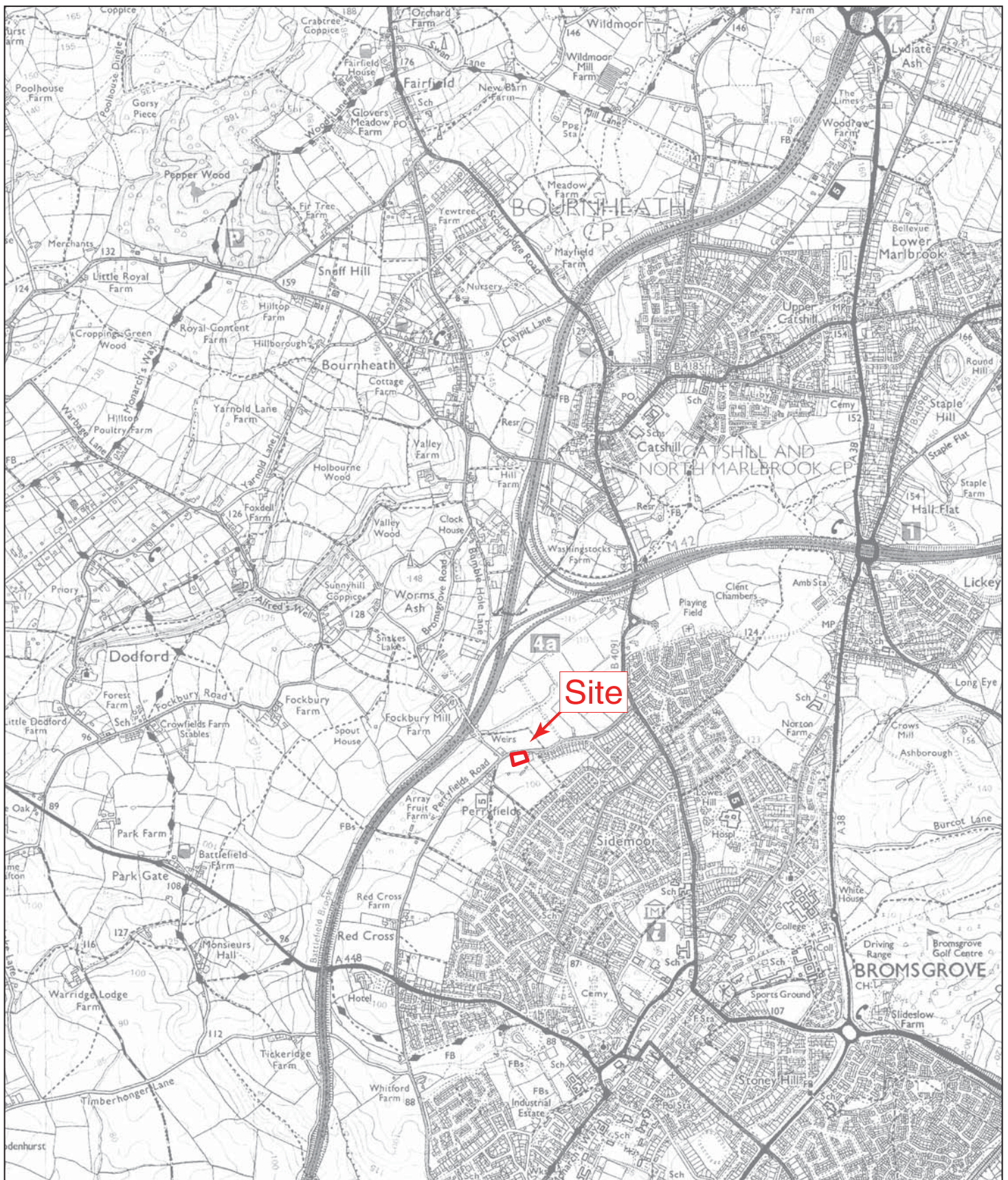
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
204	Post-medieval pottery: refined whiteware	1	0	C18-C19
206	Post-medieval pottery: late English stoneware	1	3	C19-C20
214	Post-medieval pottery: black-glazed earthenware	2	65	C18-C19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Perryfields Road Phase II, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2014 at Land at Perryfields Road Phase II, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A ditch dating to the post-medieval or modern period was identified, and it is probably associated with a field boundary depicted on the 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map. Post holes and ceramic land drains also of post-medieval or modern date were also identified. No further features or deposits were identified.</p>	
Project dates	3-4 April 2014	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2008)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Bromsgrove, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.53ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 95251 72054	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Ceramics
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench sheets, Permatrace drawings etc
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Perryfields Road Phase II, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14143		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Perryfields Road Phase II
 Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

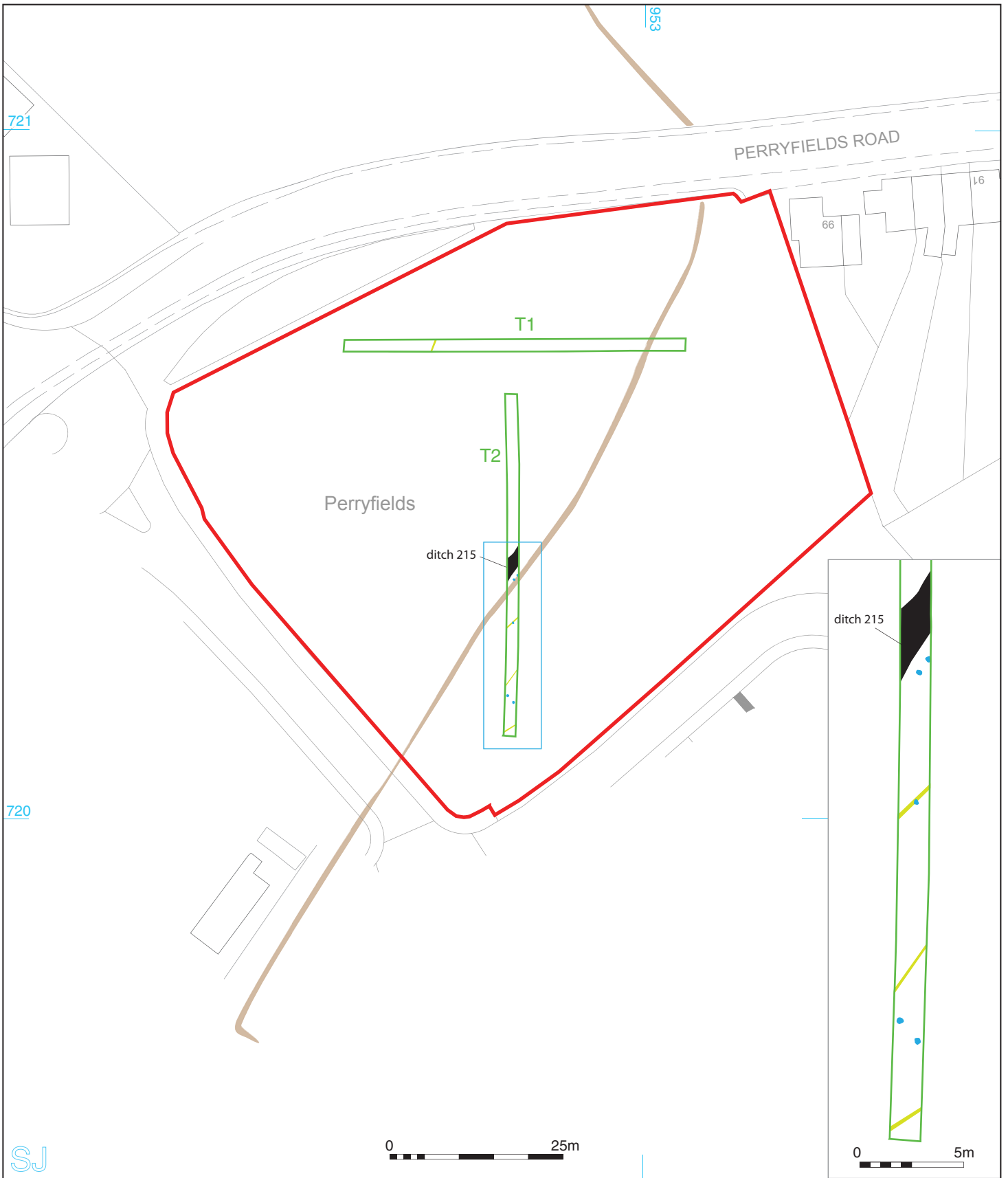
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4756 DATE 10/04/2014
 DRAWN BY AO REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1

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SJ

- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern feature
- land drain
- boundary depicted on 1st Edition OS map dated 1885



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Perryfields Road Phase II
 Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan detail; showing
 archaeological and modern features

PROJECT NO.	4756	DATE	10/04/2014	FIGURE NO.	
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:750 (inset 1:250)		2

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