

# Land at The Willows, Long Marston Road Welford-on-Avon Warwickshire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Spitfire Properties LLP

CA Project: 5380  
CA Report: 15312

June 2015



# Land at The Willows, Long Marston Road Welford-on-Avon Warwickshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

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A	08 June 2015	Steven Sheldon	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client Comment	Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at The Willows, Long Marston Road
<b>Location:</b>	Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 1494 5152
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	3-5 June 2015
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	APP/J3720/A/14/2215940
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Warwickshire Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	WOA 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 on land at The Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Six trenches were excavated.

The earliest features encountered consisted of ploughed out medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remains, located within the western half of the site (Trenches 4-6). An undated ditch, corresponding to a field boundary depicted by the 1884 Ordnance Survey map, and an area of modern disturbance were identified close to the eastern extent of the site (Trench 1).

No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Spitfire Properties LLP on land at The Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (centred on NGR: SP 1494 5152; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken following a planning appeal decision (ref APP/J3720/A/14/2215940), which followed a planning application made to Stratford District Council (SDC; ref: 13/02520/FUL) for residential development, associated infrastructure and open space. A *Generic Brief* for archaeological evaluation (Warwickshire County Council (WCC) 2012) prepared by Anna Stocks (WCC Planning Archaeologist), the archaeological advisor to SDC, provided the basis for the required works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Anna Stocks. 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 0.6ha in extent, and comprises open gardens set back from Long Marston Road. It is bounded to the east by residential frontages along Long Marston Road, and in all other directions by open land and gardens. The site lies at approximately 45m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic periods. Superficial deposits are mapped as Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel (BGS 2015). The natural substrate, consisting of clay with limestone inclusions, was identified at the limit of excavation of all trenches.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 While no evidence of archaeological remains within the site is available, archaeological discoveries nearby indicated that as yet undiscovered remains could

survive within the site. The following is a summary the Historic Environment Record search and other pertinent data sources relating to the area surrounding the site.

- 2.2 Five prehistoric sites are located within 600m of the development area, including three of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (CA 2013a).
- 2.3 There are five Roman sites recorded within the vicinity of the development area, including a settlement site (Scheduled Monument 1005719) approximately 750m to the northwest (CA 2013a).
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief (Hood 2005; 2009) were carried out c.200m south of the development area. These revealed Saxon settlement features, linear cropmarks and a prehistoric pit alignment, as well as medieval pottery. The medieval settlement of Welford-on-Avon lies c.130m north of the site (CA 2013a).
- 2.5 The post-medieval sites include of ridge and furrow earthworks around Hunt Hall House lie c.500m to the southwest (CA 2013a).
- 2.6 A plot of land c.50m to the south of the current site was subject to archaeological evaluation, though only evidence of recent landscaping and demolition activity was identified (CA 2013b).

### 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 SDC 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 6 trenches, measuring between 10m and 35m in length and totalling 155 linear metres (see Fig. 2 for locations). Trench 4 was moved from its original position due to the presence of a potential live service detected during CAT scanning and Trenches 2 and 3 were moved slightly due to their proximity to trees. All 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*. 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 from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum. 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.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 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 substrate identified comprised clay with occasional limestone fragments. In Trench 1 it was directly overlain by modern topsoil measuring 0.32m in thickness. In Trenches 2-5 the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil of between 0.08m and 0.23m in thickness. In Trenches 2, 3 and 5 the subsoil was overlain by modern

topsoil of between 0.15m and 0.28m in thickness. At the north-western end of Trench 4 and Trench 6, the subsoil was overlain by c.0.1m of modern make-up or levelling (comprising ash and clinker) which was in turn sealed by topsoil of between 0.08m and 0.15m in thickness.

- 5.3 Within Trenches 4, 5 and 6, the subsoil was cut by a series of north-south aligned plough furrows. These measured up to 2.78m in width and contained similar silty clay fills. Small quantities of post-medieval/modern artefactual material were recovered from fill 503 of furrow 504 in Trench 5. The fills of the furrows were in all cases sealed by topsoil.
- 5.4 An area of modern disturbance (105) was exposed at the south-eastern end of Trench 1. This may relate to the construction of residential properties along Long Marston Road.

### ***Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.5 Ditch 103 was partially exposed in the north-western half of the trench, and cut into the natural substrate. It was aligned north-west/south-east and had a shallow regular profile (Fig. 3, Section AA). It contained a sterile silt clay fill, 102.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material consisting of pottery, ceramic building material, glass and an iron nail, was recorded from fill 504 of furrow of furrow 504; see Appendix B for a detailed summary.
- 6.2 The sherd of pottery (weighing 45g) is a rim sherd from a large, shallow bowl in a hard, pale-orange-fired black-glazed earthenware fabric of midlands type. It probably dates to the 18th or early 19th centuries. A glass fragment and fragment of ceramic pipe are likely to be of similar date. An iron nail fragment from this deposit is not closely dateable. None of the finds from this deposit are archaeologically significant and none of this material will be retained.



## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the proposed development area, with the majority of trenches either entirely devoid of archaeological features or otherwise revealing only medieval or later plough furrows. Ploughed out remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow were recorded in the western half of the site (Trenches 4-6) and an undated ditch in Trench 1.
- 7.2 Ditch 103 in Trench 1 correlates closely with a field boundary shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1884 Ordnance Survey map. This field boundary was still extant on the 1955 OS map, after which the field layout adjacent to Long Marston Road was periodically altered by successive phases of residential development. However, the lack of dating evidence (in spite of the full excavation of the exposed area of the ditch) preclude a definitive interpretation.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Matthew Coman. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The finds report was written by Ed McSloy and Andrew Clarke. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

## 9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 21 April 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013a *Land at Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Heritage Statement*. CA typescript report **13489**
- CA 2013b *Land at Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **13644**

Hood, A. 2005. *Bank Farm, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation*.

Hood, A. 2009. *Watching Brief at Bank Farm, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire*.

Warwickshire County Council 2012 *Generic Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey brown sand silt	>14	>1.6	0.32	
1	101	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid light yellow grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	>14	>1.6	>0.3	
1	102	Fill	103	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent charcoal and red brick/tile flecks throughout	>1.6	5.6	0.3	
1	103	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned partially exposed pit or ditch	>1.6	5.6	0.3	
1	104	Fill	105	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay with abundant concrete, plastic and metal fragments throughout	>1.6	>3.6	0.6	
1	105	Cut		Modern pit	Modern pit	>1.6	>3.6	0.6	Modern
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey brown sand silt	>24	>1.6	0.16	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid light brown grey silt clay with frequent rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	>24	>1.6	0.23	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid light yellow grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	>24	>1.6	>0.2	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey brown sand silt	>32	>1.6	0.15	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid light brown grey silt clay with frequent rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	>32	>1.6	0.22	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid light yellow grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	>32	>1.6	0.2	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey brown sand silt	>35	>1.6	0.15	
4	401	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Dark black grey ash and clinker	>35	>1.6	0.05	
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Mid light brown grey silt clay with frequent rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	>35	>1.6	0.21	
4	403	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid light yellow grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	>35	>1.6	>0.1	
4	404	Cut		Furrow	N/S aligned furrow	>1.6	2.78	0.36	
4	405	Fill	404	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent charcoal flecks throughout	>1.6	2.78	0.36	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey brown sand silt	>35	>1.6	0.28	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid light brown grey silt clay with frequent rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	>35	>1.6	0.08	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid light yellow grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	>35	>1.6	>0.5	
5	503	Cut		Furrow	N/S aligned furrow	>1.6	1.86	0.24	
5	504	Fill	503	Fill	Mid grey brown silt clay with frequent charcoal flecks throughout	>1.6	1.86	0.24	C18-C19
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey brown sand silt	>10	>1.6	0.08	
6	601	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Dark black grey ash and clinker	>10	>1.6	0.12	
6	602	Layer		Subsoil	Mid light brown grey silt clay with frequent rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	>10	>1.6	0.2	
6	603	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid light yellow grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	>10	>1.6	>0.1	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
504	Post-medieval pottery	Black-glazed earthenware	1	45	C18-C19
	Ceramic building material	Ceramic pipe?	1	24	
	Post-medieval glass	Green vessel glass	1	2	
	Iron object	Nail	1	-	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at The Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 on land at The Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Six trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The earliest features encountered consisted of ploughed out medieval and/or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation remains, located within the western half of the site (Trenches 4-6). An undated ditch, corresponding to a field boundary depicted by the 1884 Ordnance Survey map, and an area of modern disturbance were identified close to the eastern extent of the site (Trench 1).</p> <p>No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	3-5 June 2015	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at The Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area	0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 1494 5152	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Warwickshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Warwickshire Museum	N/A
Paper	Warwickshire Museum	Trench recording forms, Section drawings, Photographic register
Digital	Warwickshire Museum	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land at The Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>15312</b>		

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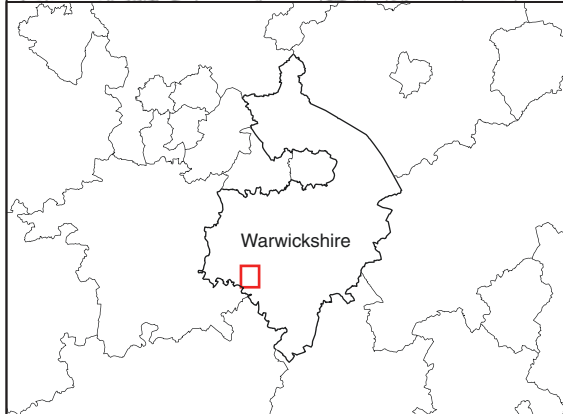
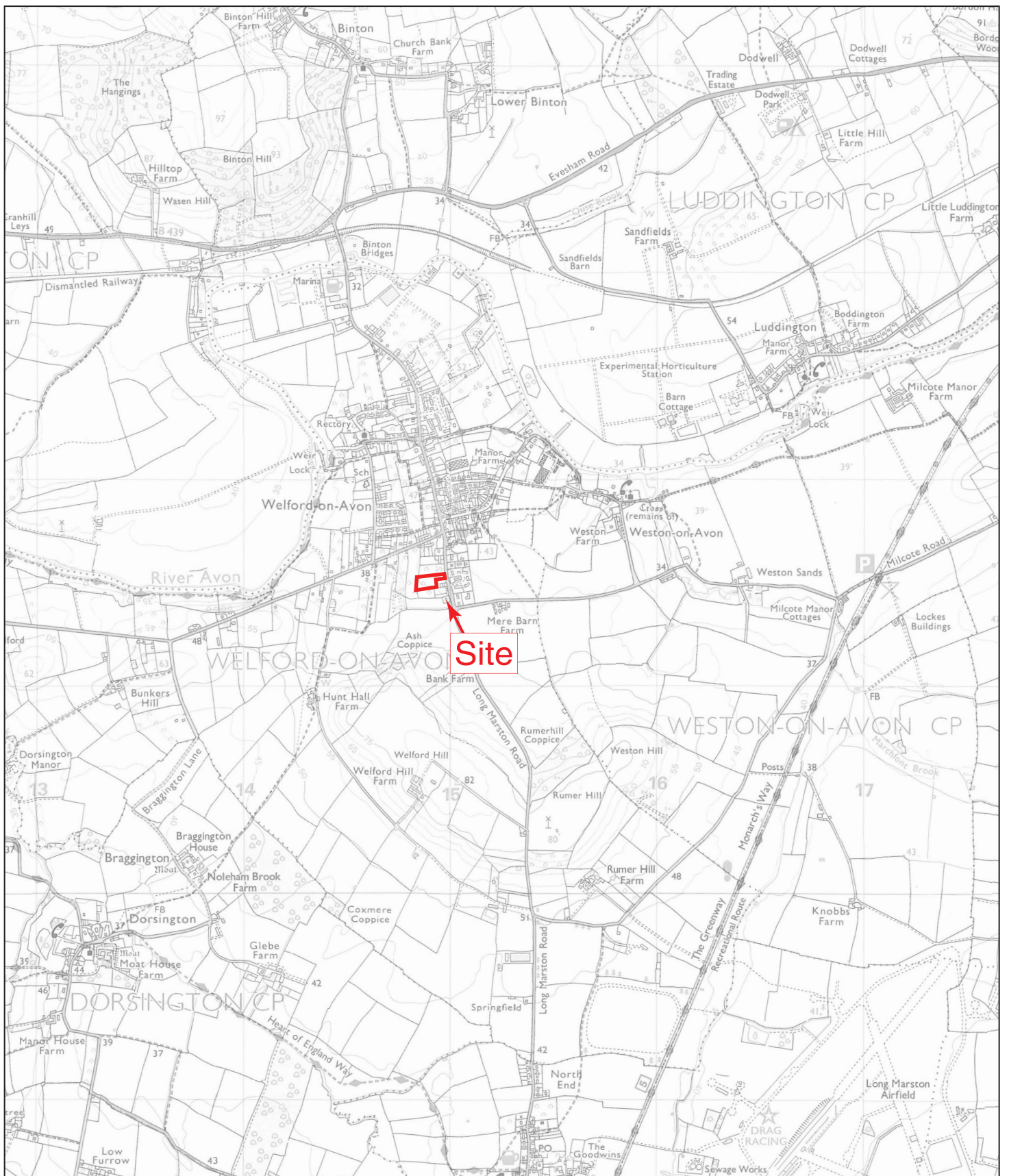
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at the Willows, Long Marston Road,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	JB	PROJECT NO.	5380	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	SS	DATE	15-06-2015	
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	<b>1</b>

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- site boundary
- evaluation Trench
- archaeological feature
- furrow
- B B section location



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at the Willows, Long Marston Road, Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire**

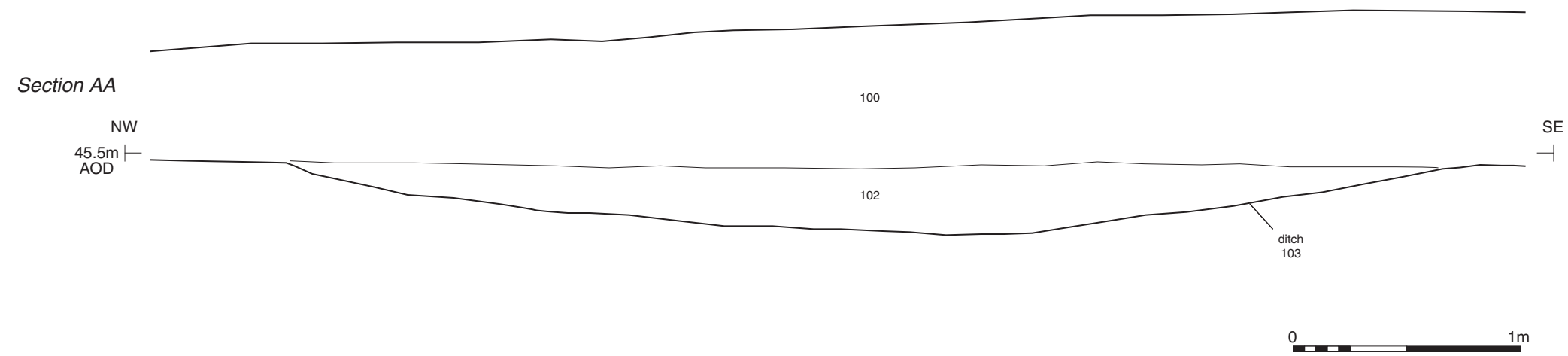
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	JB	PROJECT NO.	5380	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	SS	DATE	15/06/2015	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE @A3	1:500	

P:\5380 The Willows Long Marston Road Welford-on-Avon Works EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\5380 The Willows Welford Fig 2.dwg

SP





Ditch 103, looking east (scales 2m)


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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1; section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	JB	PROJECT NO.	5380	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:25	