

Land Adjacent to Hyde Close South Littleton Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
GMT Developments Ltd

CA Project: 5741
CA Report: 16027

WAAS Event Number: WSM67630

January 2016



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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:750)

Fig. 3 Photograph: Trench 3



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land Adjacent to Hyde Close
Location:	South Littleton, Evesham
NGR:	SP 0753 4592
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	13-15 January 2016
Planning Reference:	W/13/01444
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Accession Number:	WSM67630
Site Code:	HYD 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 on land adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire. Five trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified several north/south aligned furrows. No other features of archaeological significance were identified. A single small piece of post-medieval pottery and an iron, ring shaped object were recovered from the subsoil.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for GMT Developments Ltd on land adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0753 4592; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with Condition 5 of planning consent granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC, planning reference W/13/01444) for residential and associated infrastructure development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to Hyde Close, Station Road, South Littleton, Worcestershire* (WAAS 2015) prepared by Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (WAAS), the archaeological advisors to WDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Adrian Scruby. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire*.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.86ha in extent, and comprises an area of open land currently under pasture. The site lies at approximately 40m AOD and drops away slightly to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Wilmcote Limestone Member – Mudstone and Limestone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2016). These deposits were encountered in all trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site was subject to an archaeological assessment (EDP 2013) and geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2013). These were supplemented by a search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) of a 500m radius from the centre of the site. The following is a summary of the available archaeological evidence.

- 2.2 The closest prehistoric material lay approximately 60m to the north of the site, and comprised two arrowheads of broadly Neolithic or Bronze Age date (EDP 2013).
- 2.3 A large assemblage of Iron Age material (including c.5000 sherds of pottery) was recovered from fields to the north of 'Skyfield' on Long Hyde Road, approximately 400m northwest of the site (WSM 40866 and 07338). This, alongside recovered burnt daub, suggests the presence of a settlement, possibly focused on high ground around the southern end of Cleeve Hill.
- 2.4 South Littleton may lie on the junction of two Roman roads (WSM 31682 and 23364). There is little confirmed evidence of the alignment of WSM 31682, though a number of resources contend that it runs within 90m of the site's north-eastern corner. Similarly the alignment of WSM 23364 is not directly verified (EDP 2013). An assemblage of Roman artefacts (located c.250m to the north-east of the site: WSM 29080) and a Roman soil deposit (located c.50m to the north of the site: WSM 34309) suggest some level of activity in the area.
- 2.5 Approximately 700m to the west of the site, a cemetery dated to the 5th to 7th centuries is known (WSM 24394, 34726, 29654); the site is Scheduled. There is some discussion regarding the existence of a second burial ground of this date. This is variously noted to be in the same location as this Scheduled site, or alternatively further to the south around Cleeve Hill (WSM 26808).
- 2.6 South Littleton is confirmed as being established by the early 13th century: the site is located to the south of the main areas of medieval activity. WSM 24486 (a Holloway on Bennett's Hill) and 07339 (artefacts) suggest the site was in agricultural use, and likely remained so into the post-medieval period.
- 2.7 The geophysical survey completed across the site and additional areas to its west indicated the presence of anomalies of potential archaeological interest (Archaeological Surveys 2013).

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 five trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 5 measured 20m in length, Trench 4 measured 30m in length and Trenches 2 and 3 measured 35m in length. All trenches measured 1.6m in width. 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. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the archive and artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum under accession number WSM67630. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 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 Limestone bedrock and brash mixed with clay was encountered at a typical depth of 0.45m–0.50m below present ground level (bpgl). In all trenches the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil, which was in turn sealed by topsoil. Two artefacts were recovered from the subsoil in Trench 1: a sherd of post-medieval pottery and an iron, ring shaped, object.
- 5.3 The geophysical anomalies targeted by the trenches were determined to represent variations in the geology (Trenches 1, 2, 3) or remnants of ridge and furrow (Trenches 2, 3 and 5), see Fig. 2.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was hand-recovered from the subsoil. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Quantities of the artefact types are given in 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, although it can be grouped among Fabric 100 used for 'Miscellaneous post-medieval wares' (Hurst and Rees 1992, 209).
- 6.2 *Pottery: Post-medieval*
An unabraded sherd from the handle of a jug or cup in glazed earthenware (GLEW), dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries, was recorded in subsoil 101.
- 6.3 *Other finds*
Subsoil 101 also produced a ring-shaped object (external diameter c. 40mm) of iron, of uncertain date. It is in a moderately corroded condition.



7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation did not uncover any evidence of activity pre-dating the furrows identified in Trenches 2, 3 and 5. Despite visual scanning of the excavated spoil, only two artefacts were recovered from the subsoil. The low level of artefactual retrieval suggests that it is unlikely the site was used for any other purpose than agriculture from the medieval period onwards.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Claudia Jorge. The report was written by Tim Havard. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes

10. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys 2015 *Land West of Station Road, South Littleton, Worcestershire: Magnetometer Survey Report*. Report no. 471

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 6 January 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land Adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Hurst, D. and Rees, H. 1992 'Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester', in Woodiwiss, E. (ed.), 200–9.

The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) 2015 *Land West of Station Road, South Littleton, Worcestershire: Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment*



WAAS (Worcestershire Archaeology and Archives Service) 2015 *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to Hyde Close, off Station Road, South Littleton, Worcestershire*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark black grey silty clay	20	1.6	0.24
1	101	Layer		subsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	20	1.6	0.2
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash and plated bedrock mixed with yellow white clay	20	1.6	>0.2
2	200	Layer		topsoil	as 100	35	1.6	0.3
2	201	Layer		subsoil	as 101	35	1.6	0.2
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	limestone brash and plated bedrock mixed with yellow white clay	35	1.6	>0.2
3	300	Layer		topsoil	as 100	35	1.6	0.2
3	301	Layer		subsoil	dark grey brown silty clay with rare irregular limestone inclusions	35	1.6	0.23
3	302	Layer		natural substrate	orange brown silty clay with patches of limestone brash	35	1.6	>0.2
4	400	Layer		topsoil	as 100	35	1.6	0.3
4	401	Layer		subsoil	dark grey brown silty clay with 20% irregular limestone inclusions	35	1.6	0.28
4	402	Layer		natural substrate	red brown silty clay with patches of limestone brash	35	1.6	>0.2
5	500	Layer		topsoil	as 100	20	1.6	0.27
5	501	Layer		subsoil	as 401	20	1.6	0.23
5	502	Layer		natural substrate	orange brown silty clay	20	1.6	>0.2

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GLEW	1	3	MC16-C18
	Iron object	Ring		1	12	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land Adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 on land adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire. Five trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified several north/south aligned furrows. No other features of archaeological significance were identified. A single small piece of post medieval pottery and an iron, ring shaped object were recovered from the subsoil.	
Project dates	13-15 January 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment (The Environmental Dimension Partnership 2015) Geophysics (Archaeological Surveys 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land Adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.86ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 0753 4592	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (WAAS)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM67630	Pottery, metal object
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM67630	Trench recording sheets, photographic registers
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum/ WSM67630	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land Adjacent to Hyde Close, South Littleton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16027		

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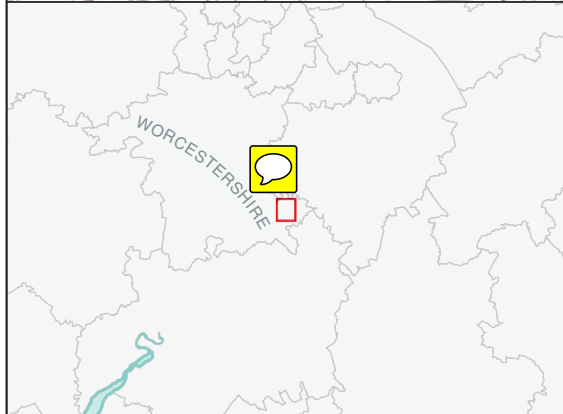
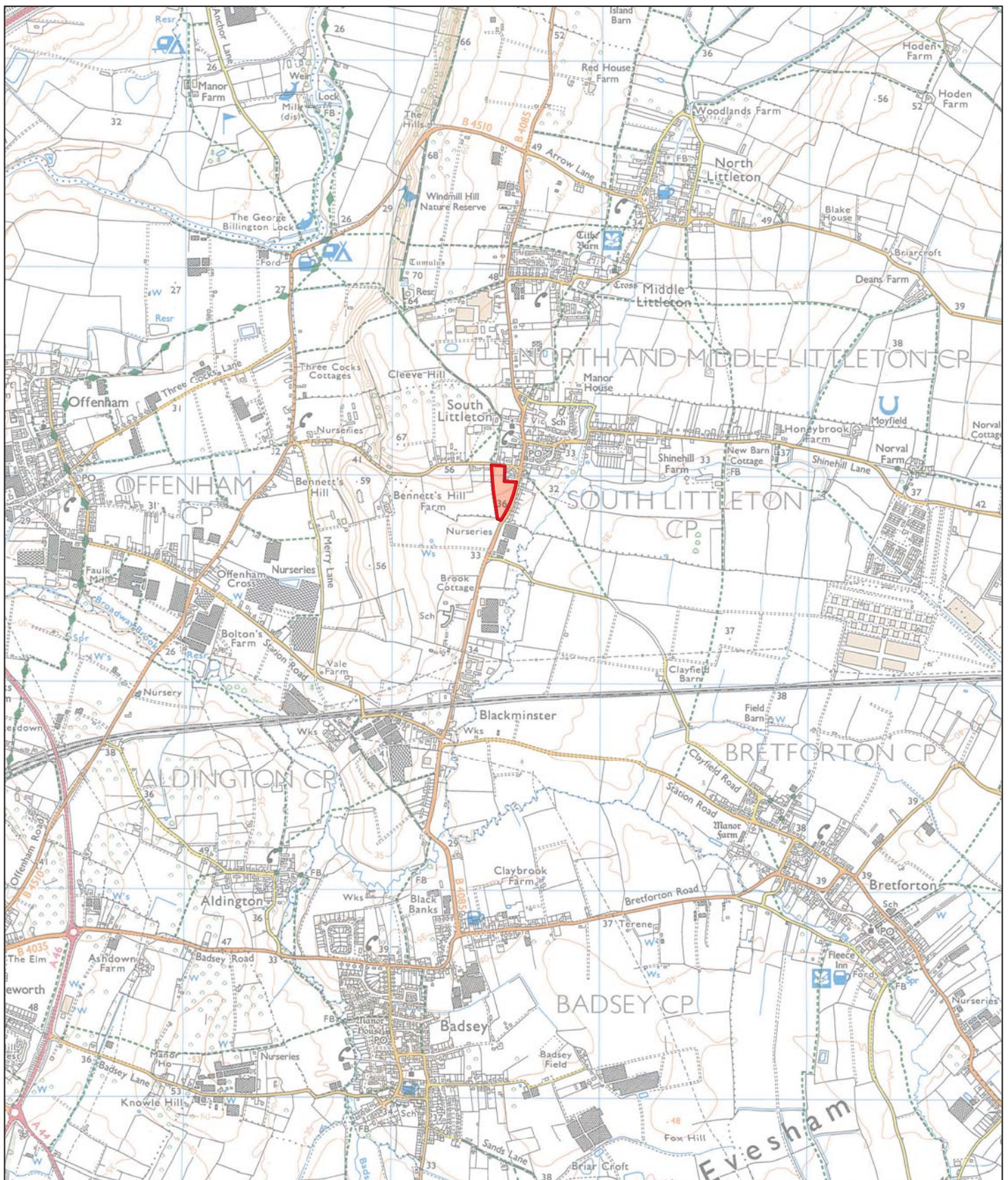
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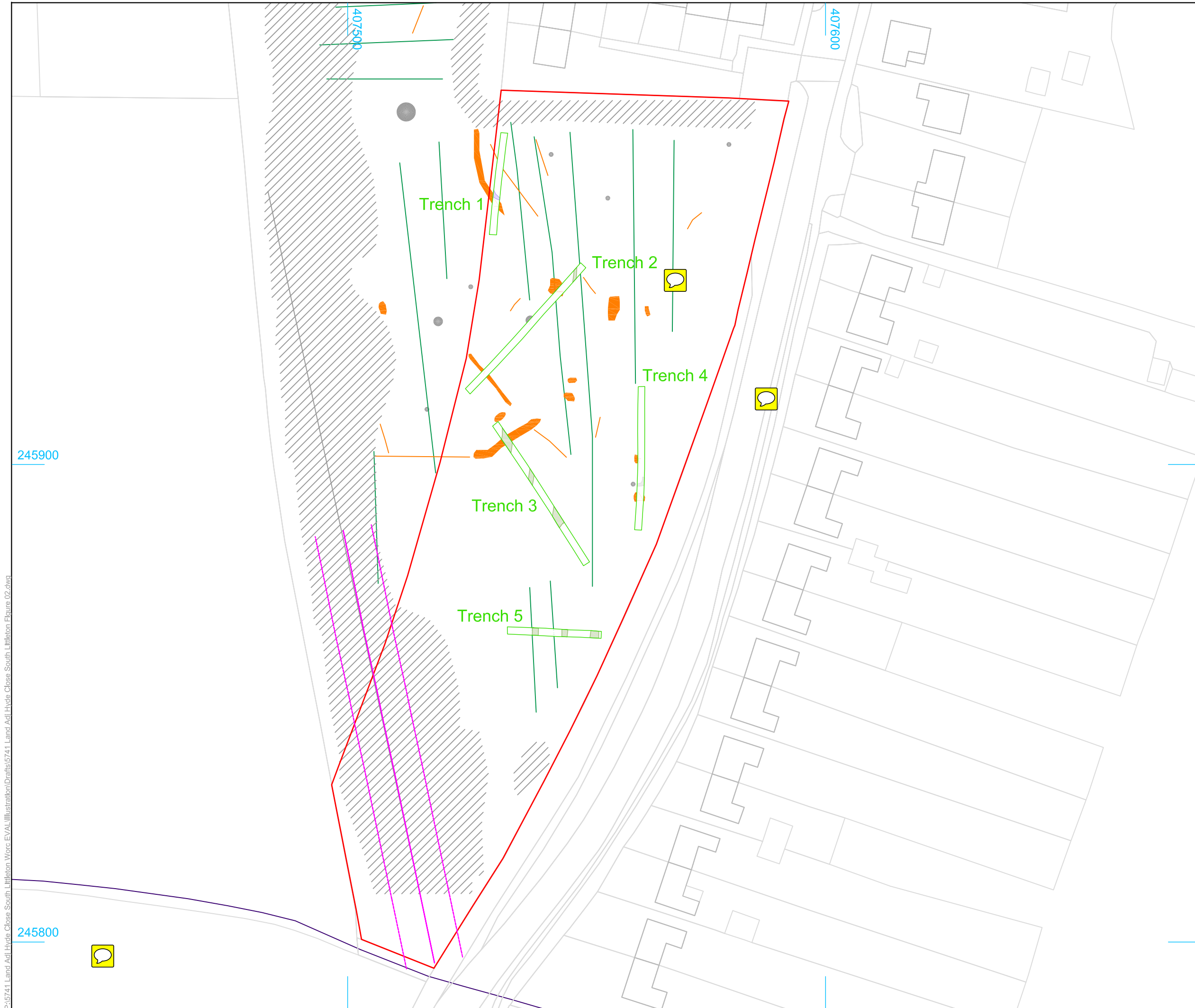
PROJECT TITLE
 Land Adjacent to Hyde Close
 South Littleton, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- furrow
- geological feature
- modern
- pipeline exclusion zone

Geophysics Key

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
Land Adjacent to Hyde Close South Littleton, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench Plan

DRAWN BY	LOC / LM	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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Land Adjacent to Hyde Close
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FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph of Trench 3, looking
north-west**

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FIGURE NO.

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