



**Land off Kipling Road  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
Warwickshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**Taylor Wimpey West Midlands**

CA Project: 3554  
CA Report: 11257

January 2012

Land off Kipling Road  
Stratford-Upon-Avon  
Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 3554  
CA Report: 11257

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date	31 January, 2012
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land off Kipling Road
<b>Location:</b>	Stratford-upon-Avon
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 2078 5395
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	12-20 October 2011
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Warwickshire Museum
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	R10/00016/OUT
<b>Site Code:</b>	KRS 11

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2011 at the request of Taylor Wimpey at Land off Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Fourteen trenches were excavated.

Ditches representing elements of a post-medieval field system were encountered. Further undated ditches, possibly from the same pattern of cultivation, and a curvilinear ditch were also identified.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Taylor Wimpey West Midlands at Land off Kipling Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon (centred on NGR: SP 2078 5395; Fig. 1). Outline planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council (SUADC) for residential development of the site. The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a condition of planning consent prior to the commencement of development.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by CA (2011) and approved by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire Museum Field Services, the archaeological advisor to SUADC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Caroline Rann by means of a site visit on 14th October 2011.

### ***The site***

1.3 The site is approximately 3.7ha and comprises two pasture fields approximately 1.3km southeast of the historic core of Stratford-upon-Avon (Fig. 2). It is bound to the north, east and west by residential properties fronting the A3400 Shipston Road and Kipling Road, and to the south by a pasture field and an existing pond. The site lies at approximately 40m AOD and is generally flat.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone overlain by drift deposits of Wasperton Sands and gravels (BGS 2011). These drift deposits were encountered in all trenches.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 Although few archaeological sites have been previously recorded in the immediate vicinity, evidence for activity spanning the prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-

medieval and modern periods was identified during an archaeological evaluation on land off Shipston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon (JMHS 2011), located approximately 0.5km to the south of the development area.

- 1.6 The absence of further known archaeological sites may be due to a lack of previous archaeological investigations across the wider area rather than an absence of activity during the pre-medieval periods.
- 1.7 A geophysical survey undertaken in September 2011 revealed a small number of linear anomalies that may represent the infilled ditches of former field or enclosure boundaries; and a few discrete positive anomalies that may represent pits (Stratascan 2011).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist SUADC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 14 trenches, all measuring 50m long and 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The location of Trench 12 was altered slightly in the field due to the presence of a buried service. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).
- 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* (2007).

- 1.10 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* (2010).
- 1.11 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 Warwickshire Museum along with the paper and digital 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 All identified archaeological features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil with the exception of a modern bovine burial in Trench 10. For the purposes of clarity the ditches are described as *narrow* (<0.8m in width) or *wide* (>0.8m in width) and *shallow* (<0.25m in depth) or *deep* (>0.25m in depth).
- 2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within trenches 2, 4, 8 and 11-14.
- 2.4 Two geological features identified towards the southern end of Trench 9 correlated approximately with anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey. No correlation between archaeological features and geophysical anomalies was identified.

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

- 2.5 A wide, deep ditch, 106, was identified towards the northern end of Trench 1 on a north-west/south-east alignment. It contained two silty sand fills, 107 and 108, from which no finds were recovered.



- 2.6 A wide, deep ditch, 103, lay centrally within the trench and was aligned parallel to ditch 106. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the primary silting fill 104 and a single flint flake from the secondary silty sand fill 105.
- 2.7 The location of ditches 103 and 106 correlated with anomalies identified by geophysical survey that are suggestive of cultivation/plough marks..

**Trench 3 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.8 A narrow, shallow curvilinear ditch, 303, was identified along the northern edge of trench 3. It contained a single sandy silty fill 304 from which no artefactual material was recovered. The location of this feature did not correlate with any feature identified by geophysical survey.

**Trench 5 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.9 A narrow, shallow ditch 503 lay centrally within the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. It contained a single silty sand fill 504 from which no finds were recovered. The location of this feature did not correlate with any anomaly identified by geophysical survey.

**Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 3)**

- 2.10 A wide, shallow ditch, 603 lay at the eastern end of Trench 6 on a north-west/south-east alignment. It contained an undated primary fill 604 derived from erosion of the north-eastern side of the ditch. This was sealed by a secondary silty sand fill 605 into which a quantity of irregular pebbles, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and pottery dating to the 18th-century had been dumped. This material was mostly concentrated in the upper half of the fill suggesting it had been deliberately dumped into the open ditch.
- 2.11 A narrow shallow ditch 606 lay to the east of ditch 603 on a parallel north-west/south east alignment. It contained a single grey brown silty sand fill 607 from which no finds were recovered.
- 2.12 The location of ditches 603 and 606 did not correlate with any feature identified by geophysical survey.





**Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 3)**

- 2.13 A wide, shallow ditch, 712, lay towards the northern end of Trench 7 on a north-west/south-east alignment. It contained a single silty sand fill 713 from which a small quantity of CBM of 16th to 18th-century date was recovered. A narrow, shallow ditch, 703, lay immediately to the south of ditch 712 on a perpendicular north-east/south-west alignment. It contained a single silty sand fill 704 from which no artefactual material was recovered. The full extent of any relationship between the two ditches lay beyond the trench and therefore was not investigated.
- 2.14 Three pits or postholes 705, 708 and 710 were located in close proximity to the two ditches described above. A large root present in its fill suggested pit 705 may have been formed by an attempt to dig out tree roots. Pits 708 and 710 both measured less than 0.1m in depth and contained single silty sand fills, 709 and 711 respectively, from which no artefactual material was recovered. No relationship between these two pits and the adjacent ditches 703 and 712 could be established due to the similarity in fills.
- 2.15 None of the archaeological features identified in Trench 7 correlated with any anomaly identified by geophysical survey.

**Trench 10 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.16 A bovine burial 1004, identified centrally within trench 10, was defined in plan but not excavated although a single long bone was retained for identification. It was interpreted as being modern as the rectangular shape in plan and vertical sides of the grave 1003, which was cut through the subsoil, strongly suggested it had been cut by machine. The location of this feature did not correlate with any anomaly identified by geophysical survey.

**The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence**

- 2.17 The finds assemblage recovered from the evaluation is summarised in Appendix B. The pottery assemblage consisted of 15 sherds of pottery weighing 263g. In addition, flint, vessel glass, clay tobacco pipe, a nail, ceramic building material and animal bone was recovered. The assemblage was retrieved from six stratified contexts and dated from the 17th to 18th century. The level of preservation was good with the pottery displaying negligible levels of abrasion.

### The Pottery

- 2.18 The pottery assemblage consisted entirely of sherds that could be dated from the 17th to 18th century. While this included glazed earthenwares that would have been produced during the 17th or 18th century, there was a strong possibility that the pottery assemblage may be of a narrower 18th century date. Joining sherds from a copy of an oriental tea bowl, from ditch fill 604, in Dutch or English tin-glazed ware was probably 18th century date. Stoneware sherds from the same deposit were similar in appearance to English tankard types produced around the middle of the 18th century. A further un-featured stoneware sherd from topsoil layer 400 may have been of 18th or 19th century date.

### Other artefacts

- 2.19 A struck flint flake from ditch fill 105 was the only object of possible prehistoric date.
- 2.20 Fragments of vessel glass from ditch fill 604 were similar to bottles, such as 'onion' types produced during the early to late 18th century.
- 2.21 A small piece of clay tobacco pipe stem, from topsoil 1400, could only be attributed a broad date range of 17th to 18th century.
- 2.22 Ceramic building material as brick and roof tile was retrieved from ditch fills 604, 713 and topsoil 1400. All were typical of material produced during the post-medieval period, with the brick probably of 17th to 18th century date.
- 2.23 An iron nail fragment from ditch fill 604 was, based on the ceramic *terminus post quem*, of 18th century date.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite visual scanning of the topsoil and subsoil, the only artefactual material recovered pre-dating the post-medieval period was a single prehistoric flint flake recovered from fill 105 of ditch 103. The absence of other dateable artefactual material recovered from this ditch suggests that the flint flake is not necessarily indicative of a prehistoric date for this feature and is most probably residual within this feature.

### *Post-medieval*

- 3.2 A post-medieval boundary ditch was defined by ditches 603 and 712 with ditch 106 most probably representing a westward continuation. The location and alignment of this ditch broadly correlates with a field boundary, later depicted as a track, which is displayed on 19th and 20th-century Ordnance Survey Mapping (Old Maps). Ditches 606 and 103 ran parallel to this and may have belonged to the same pattern of cultivation. The alignment of ditch 703, and perhaps ditch 503, suggest a field boundary aligned perpendicular to this boundary although there is no cartographic depiction of this.
- 3.3 Three pits or postholes in the angle formed by ditches 703 and 712 and may represent a structure in the corner of a field. However given the shallow nature of 708 and 710 and the presence of a large root in 705 this is a somewhat tenuous interpretation.

### *Undated*

- 3.4 The curvilinear nature of ditch 303 suggests that it may not have been part of the post-medieval pattern of land use described above but without further exposure of this feature and given the absence of any recovered artefactual material no further interpretation can be offered.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Jon Pick and Jay Wood. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) Viewed 16 January 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land off Kipling Road, Stratford, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2011 *Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Shipston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.*

Old Maps (Old Maps- the online repository of historic maps) 2011 <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html> Viewed 16 January 2012

Stratascan 2011 *Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire; Geophysical Survey*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.27	
101	Layer	Subsoil			0.38	
102	Layer	Natural substrate: mid yellow brown sand with pockets of red brown gravel			>0.12	
103	Cut	Ditch	>2.2	2.44	0.41	
104	Fill	First fill of 013			0.21	
105	Fill	Second fill of 103			0.29	prehist
106	Cut	Ditch	>2.2	1.31	0.34	
107	Fill	First fill of 106			0.07	
108	Fill	Second fill of 106			0.27	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.25	
202	Layer	Natural substrate: mid yellow white sand with red brown gravel pockets			>0.1	

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.28	
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.43	
302	Layer	Natural substrate: mid yellow white sand with red brown gravel pockets			>0.1	
303	Cut	Possible rectilinear ditch. Same as 305.	>1.6	0.6	0.11	
304	Fill	Fill of 303. Same as 306.			0.11	
305	Cut	Possible rectilinear ditch. Same as 303.	>1.6	>0.4	0.03	
306	Fill	Fill of 305. Same as 304.			0.03	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	C18-C19
401	Layer	Subsoil			0.22	
402	Layer	Natural substrate: mid red brown silty sand.			>0.1	

## Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.33	
501	Layer	Subsoil			0.5	

502	Layer	Natural substrate: mid brown silty sand with gravel pockets			>0.1	
503	Cut	Ditch	>0.82	0.4	0.1	
504	Fill	Fill of 504			0.1	

## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.23	
601	Layer	Subsoil			0.38	
602	Layer	Natural substrate: as 302			>0.1	
603	Cut	Ditch	>2.3	1.07	0.25	
604	Fill	First fill of 603			0.05	C19
605	Fill	Second fill of 603			0.25	
606	Cut	Ditch	>2.3	0.4	0.04	
607	Fill	Fill of 606			0.04	

## Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.31	C17-C18
701	Layer	Subsoil			0.39	
702	Layer	Natural substrate: mid brown orange silty sand with frequent gravel patches			>0.2	
703	Cut	Ditch	>2.3	0.6	0.13	
704	Fill	Fill of 703			0.13	
705	Cut	Possible posthole	0.7	0.7	0.28	
706	Fill	Root disturbed fill of 705		0.35	0.28	
707	Fill	Fill of 705			0.13	
708	Cut	Probable pit	0.45	0.45	0.05	
709	Fill	Single fill of 708			0.05	
710	Cut	Probable pit	0.45	0.45	0.07	
711	Fill	Fill of 710			0.07	
712	Cut	Ditch, same as 603, not excavated	>3.02	1.25	n/a	
713	Fill	Fill of 712. Not excavated.				

## Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
801	Layer	Subsoil			0.45	
802	Layer	Natural substrate: patches of red brown clay and patches of light grey brown sand and gravel			>0.1	

## Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0.32	

901	Layer	Subsoil			0.42	
902	Layer	Natural substrate: mid yellow brown sand with patches of red pink clay			>0.08	
903	Cut	Tree bole	>1.23	0.98	0.37	
904	Fill	Fill of 903				

## Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
1001	Layer	Subsoil			0.55	
1002	Layer	Natural substrate: as 802			>0.2	
1003	Cut	Cut for modern animal burial: unexcavated	2.5	1.5	n/a	
1004	Fill	Fill of 1003 including animal skeleton				

## Trench 11

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil			0.29	
1101	Layer	Subsoil			0.45	
1102	Layer	Natural substrate: mid red brown sand with frequent gravel patches			>0.15	

## Trench 12

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Topsoil			0.41	
1201	Layer	Subsoil			0.42	
1202	Layer	Natural substrate: mixed brown and red brown sands with frequent gravel patches			>0.05	

## Trench 13

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Topsoil			0.27	
1301	Layer	Re-deposited natural clay mudstone. Dumped deposit/levelling layer			0.15	
1302	Layer	Buried topsoil: very patchy			0.07	
1303	Layer	Natural substrate: dark yellow brown sandy gravel with brown sand pockets			>0.1	

## Trench 14

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Topsoil			0.29	C17-C18
1401	Layer	Subsoil			0.46	
1402	Layer	Natural substrate: mid grey brown silty sand with frequent gravel patches			>0.1	

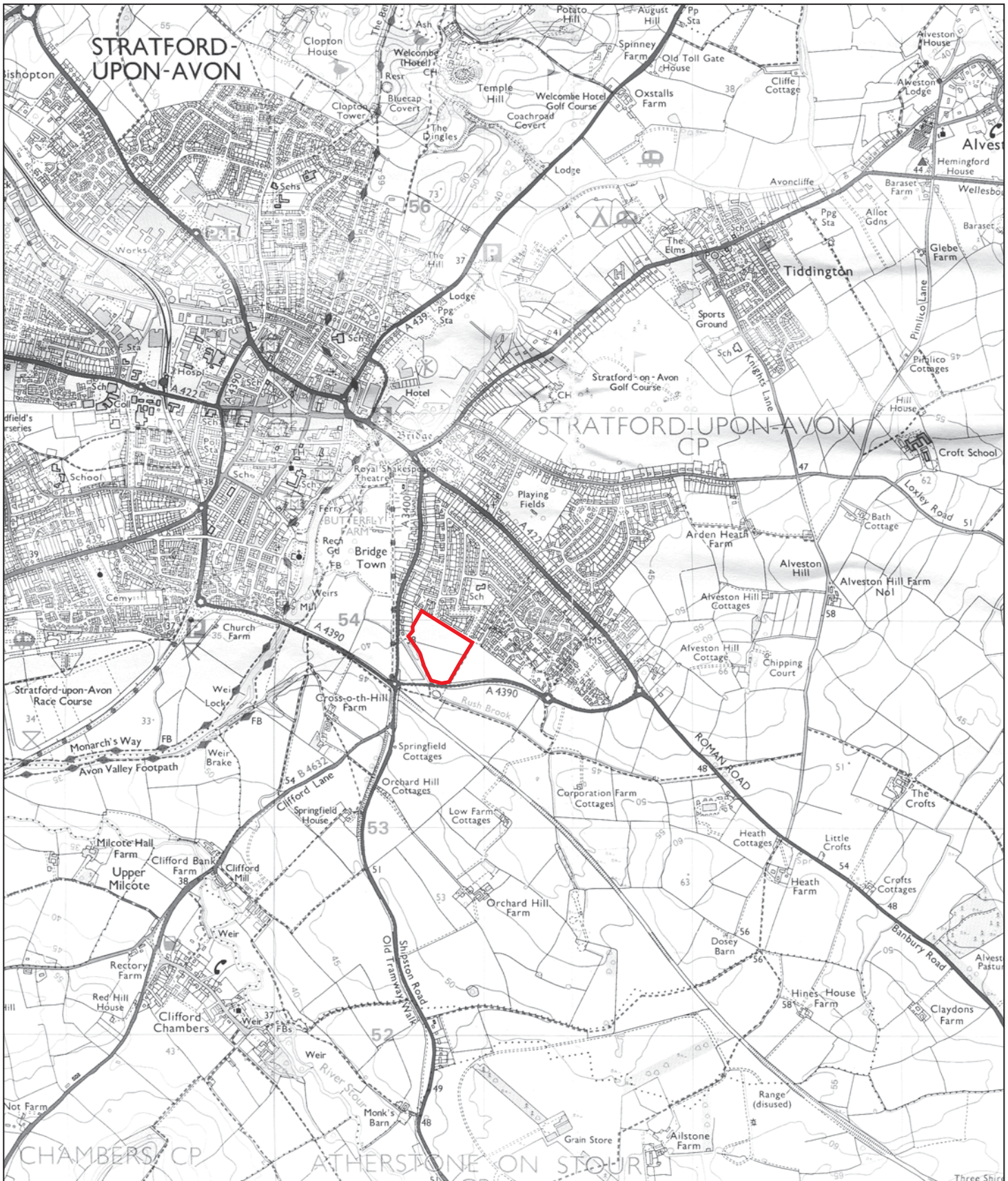
**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
104	Bone: animal	40	13	
105	Flint: flake	1	4	prehistoric
400	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware, stoneware	2	20	C18-C19
604	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware, stoneware, tin-glazed ware	12	240	C18
	Glass: vessel	7	148	
	Ceramic building material: brick and roof tile	36	6321	
	Iron: nail	1	15	
	Bone: animal	48	684	
713	Ceramic building material: roof tile	2	13	C16-C18
	Bone: animal	4	1	
800	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	3	C17-C18
1004	Bone: animal	1	596	
1400	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	2	C17-C18
	Ceramic building material: roof tile	1	65	



## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2011 at the request of Taylor Wimpey at Land off Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Fourteen trenches were excavated. Ditches representing elements of a post-medieval field system were encountered. Undated features comprising several other ditches possibly from the same pattern of cultivation and a curvilinear ditch were also identified.	
Project dates	12-20 October 2011	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Stratascan: <i>Geophysical Survey Report, Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land off Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	3.7ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 2078 5395	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None written	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		For example ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land off Kipling Road, Stratford, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>11257</b>		



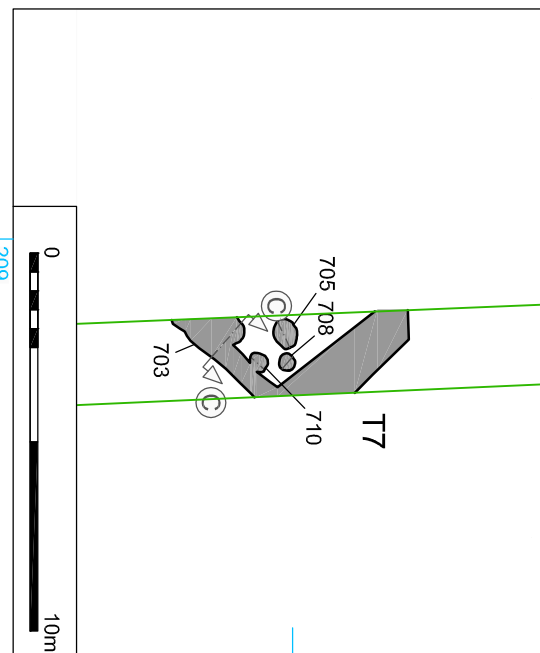
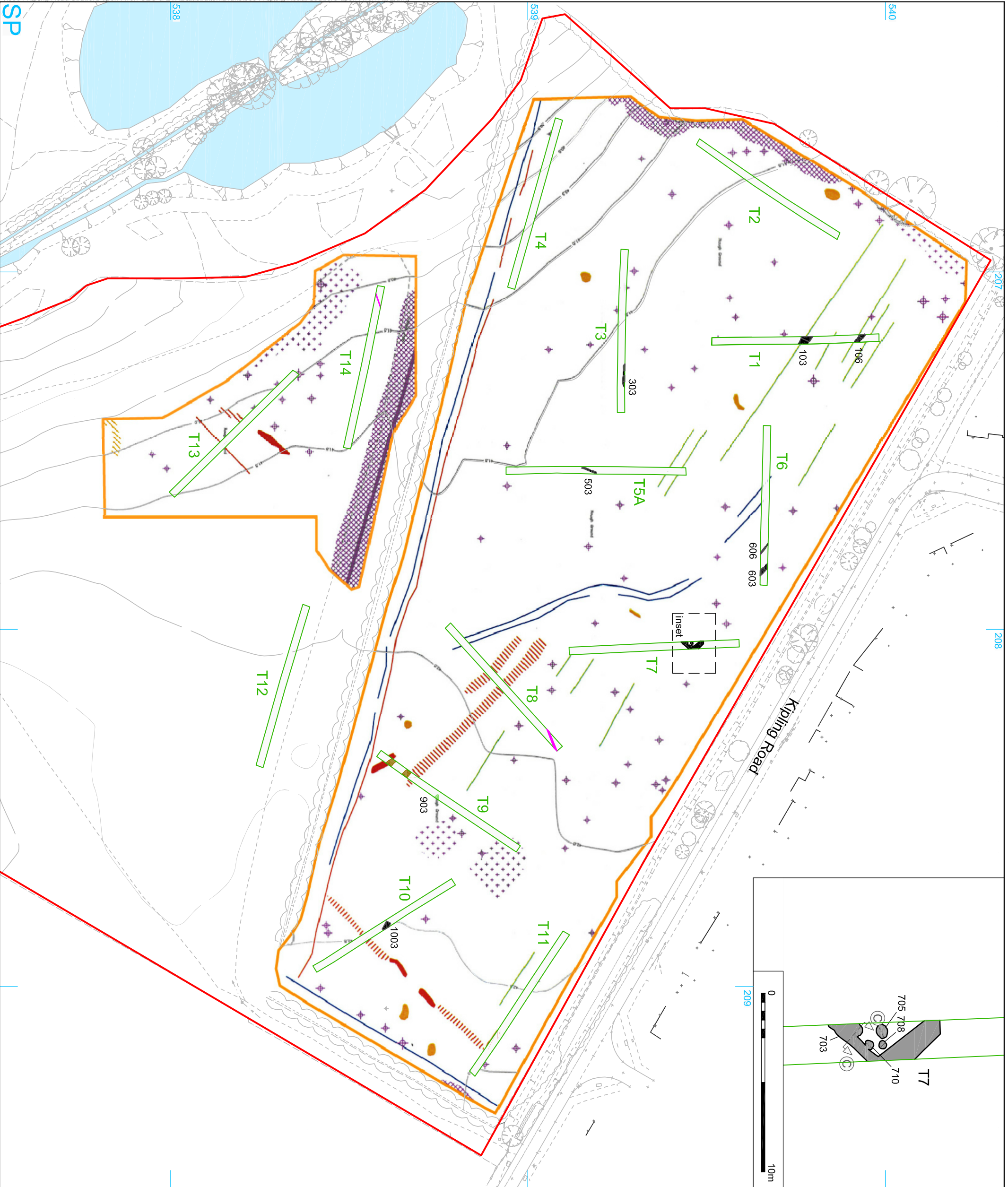
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon  
 Warwickshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 3554	<b>DATE</b> 17-01-2012	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>DRAWN BY</b> JB	<b>REVISION</b> 00	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> PJM	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	<b>1</b>



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- treethrow
- geological feature
- watercourse

**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS**

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Moderate strength discrete anomaly - probable thermomement feature
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

**POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Moderate strength discrete anomaly - possible thermomement feature
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

**OTHER ANOMALIES**

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing or other modern service
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of anomorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin



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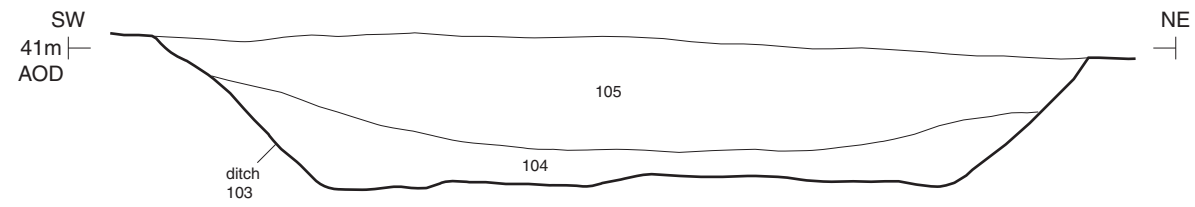
**Cotswold Archaeology**  
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 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Kipling Road, Stratford-upon-Avon

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

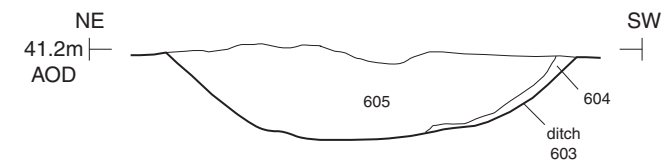
**PROJECT NO.** 3554 **DATE** 17-01-2012 **FIGURE NO.**  
**DRAWN BY** JB **REVISION** 00 **SCALE**@A3 1:1000 & 200 **2**  
**APPROVED BY** PJM

Trench 1, section AA



Trench 6, looking west (scales 1m)

Trench 6, section BB



Trench 6, ditch 603, looking south-east (scale 0.4m)

Trench 7, section CC

