

# Land off Main Road Kempsey Worcestershire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Taylor Wimpey

CA Project: 5305  
CA Report: 15571  
WSM Event Number: WSM66625

August 2015



# Land off Main Road Kempsey Worcestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5305  
CA Report: 15571  
WSM Event Number: WSM66625



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	4/08/2015	Steven Sheldon	Ian Barnes	Internal review	Client Issue	Cliff Bateman

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

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:1000 & 1:500)

Fig. 3 Trench 4: sections (1:20) and photographs

Fig. 4 Trench 10: sections (1:20) and photograph

Fig. 5 Trench 7, looking north (scale 1m)

Fig. 6 Trench 10, looking west (scale 1m)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land off Main Road
<b>Location:</b>	Kempsey, Worcestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 8529 4846
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	8-14 July 2015
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Malvern Hills District Council ref: 13/01130/OUT
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
<b>HER Number:</b>	WSM66625
<b>Site Code:</b>	MRK 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 on land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire. A total of ten trenches were excavated.

A ditch containing small quantities of post-medieval material was identified in Trench 4. Although this ditch does not correspond to known ditches illustrated on 18th or 19th century map sources, it is of the same orientation.

An undated pit was identified in Trench 4 (located towards the south-eastern corner of the site). A further undated pit was identified in Trench 10 (located towards the north-eastern corner of the site): this was cut by an undated ditch/gully, possibly relating to land division or drainage.

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Taylor Wimpey on land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8529 4846; Fig. 1). Outline planning consent for 80 residences was granted by Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC, planning ref: 13/01130/OUT), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed. The archaeological work was recommended by Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire County Council), the archaeological advisor to MHDC.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation* (WHEAS 2008), 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 2.6ha in extent, and comprises an area of open grassland. The site is bounded to the west by farmland, to the south by Ferry Lane, to the north by the grounds of The Lawns Nursing Home and to the east by Bight Farm and Main Road (A38). The site lies at approximately 18m AOD, and is broadly flat.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of the Triassic period. Superficial deposits are mapped as Worcester Member – sand and gravel of the Quaternary period (BGS 2015). The natural substrate identified during the evaluation comprised clayey gravel with patches of sand and gravel.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site was investigated through geophysical survey (WA 2013) but has not previously been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment. 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 (hereafter the study area), alongside pertinent publically available information.

- 2.2 The site and study area do not contain any designated archaeological assets, nor are any archaeological assets recorded.
- 2.3 No substantive archaeological evidence exists of any pre-medieval activity in the study area. Early cartographic sources show that the area was sparsely developed by the late 19th century, with Bight Farm and The Lawns illustrated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1885).
- 2.4 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken which identified a small number of anomalies. These were interpreted as representing either shallow cut features or changes in the underlying geological substrate (WA 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* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable MHDC 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 10 trenches, each measuring 25m in length and 4m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). 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*. However, 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 Worcestershire County Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural substrate identified within the site comprised clayey gravels with patches of sand and gravel. This was overlain by a silty sand subsoil, of between 0.21m and 0.49m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by topsoil of between 0.32m and 0.43m in thickness.
- 5.3 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 1-3 and 5-9. A number of shallow, irregular features were identified within Trenches 1 and 3. These were investigated and were considered to represent variations in the natural substrate. Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 4 and 10. All archaeological features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil. The results are discussed below.

### ***Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.4 East-west aligned ditch 404 was identified towards the southern end of the trench and had a shallow regular profile (Fig. 3, Section AA). It contained a single sandy silt



fill, 403, from which a fragment of clay pipe stem and fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material were recovered. Shallow, sub-circular pit 406 was partially exposed towards the north-western corner of the trench (Fig. 3, Section BB). It contained a single, undated sandy silt fill, 405. Neither feature was identified by the preceding geophysical survey.

### **Trench 10 (Figs 2 & 4)**

- 5.5 Irregular pit 1005 was partially exposed towards the centre of the trench. It contained a series of undated silty sand and sand/gravel fills, 1006, 1007, 1008 and 1009 (Fig. 4, Section FF). Pit 1005 was cut by north-west/south-east aligned ditch/gully 1003/1010 (Fig. 4, Sections DD and EE). It had a shallow concave profile and contained a single, undated silty sand fill, 1004/1011. Neither feature was identified by the preceding geophysical survey.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material, consisting of an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material of probable post-medieval date and a post-medieval clay pipe stem, was recovered from fill 403 of ditch 404. None of the finds from this deposit are archaeologically significant and will not be retained.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see *archaeological background* above) the evaluation identified only limited archaeological remains. These were confined to Trenches 4 (located towards the north-eastern corner of the site) and 10 (located towards the south-eastern corner of the site), with the remaining trenches being entirely devoid of archaeological features. A number of pit-like anomalies, identified by the preceding geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2013) were either not identified during the evaluation or were considered to correspond to localised changes in the underlying natural substrate. The archaeological features identified in Trenches 4 and 10 were not identified by the geophysical survey.



- 8.2 The isolated nature and limited exposure of pits 406 and 1005, identified in Trenches 4 and 10 respectively, coupled with a lack of dating evidence from either feature, makes a clear interpretation of this activity impossible. The exact function of undated ditch/gully 1003/1011 is unclear for similar reasons, although it may relate to land management, drainage or division.
- 8.3 Clay pipe stem and ceramic building material of post-medieval date was recovered from the fill of ditch 404, identified in Trench 4. The function of this ditch is likely to relate to land management and/or division given that its alignment correlates closely with the general pattern of fields illustrated on the First Edition OS map (1884-1886) through to the 1964 imprint.
- 8.4 Overall, the combined evidence from the geophysical survey and trial trenching suggest the site has limited archaeological potential for any significant activity prior to the post medieval period, though lack of dating evidence makes a robust assessment of the remains identified difficult.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Peter Busby and Tom Slater. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. 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.

## 10. 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 14 July 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*



DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Wessex Archaeology 2013 *Land at Bight Farm, Kempsey, Worcestershire: detailed Gradiometer Survey Report* **Report Ref: 101800.01**



## 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	>25	>4	0.35	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.38	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.06	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.33	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.21	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.2	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.33	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.48	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.14	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.43	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.4	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.02	
4	403	Fill	404	Single fill of ditch 404	Mid grey brown sand silt with frequent rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks throughout	>4	2.24	0.25	P-med
4	404	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned, shallow 'U'-shaped profile	>4	2.24	0.25	
4	405	Fill	406	Single fill of pit 406	Homogenous mid grey brown sand silt with rare charcoal flecks	>0.8	>0.36	0.58	
4	406	Cut		Pit	Partially exposed, sub-circular pit	>0.8	>0.36	0.58	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.39	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.4	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.01	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.41	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.42	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.04	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.38	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.28	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.5	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.41	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks	>25	>4	0.49	

					throughout				
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.05	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.32	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.28	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.25	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt	>25	>4	0.33	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks throughout	>25	>4	0.28	
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown red clay gravel with patches of yellow grey sand and gravel	>25	>4	>0.1	
10	1003	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE aligned, shallow concave profile. Same as 1010.	>5.1	0.5	0.11	
10	1004	Fill	1003	Single fill of ditch/gully 1003	Light grey brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	>5.1	0.5	0.11	
10	1005	Cut		Pit	Irregular, partially exposed pit	2.4	>0.62	0.43	
10	1006	Fill	1005	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of pit 1005	Light brown silt sand, no visible inclusions	>0.94	>0.32	0.06	
10	1007	Fill	1005	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of pit 1005	Mid red brown sand and gravel with rare charcoal flecks	>0.94	>0.25	0.08	
10	1008	Fill	1005	3 <sup>rd</sup> fill of pit 1005	Mid light brown silt sand, no visible inclusions	>94	>0.62	0.13	
10	1009	Fill	1005	4 <sup>th</sup> fill of pit 1005	Light brown red silt sand with abundant rounded pebble inclusions	>0.88	>0.5	0.28	
10	1010	Cut		Ditch/gully	NW/SE aligned, shallow concave profile. Same as 1003	>5.1	>0.4	0.22	
10	1011	Fill	1010	Single fill of ditch/gully 1010	Light grey brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks	>5.1	>0.4	0.22	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 on Land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire. Ten trenches were excavated.</p> <p>An undated pit was identified in Trench 4 (located towards the south-eastern corner of the site). A further undated pit was identified in Trench 10 (located towards the south-eastern corner of the site) and was demonstrated to be cut by an undated ditch/gully, possibly relating to land management, drainage or division.</p> <p>A ditch containing small quantities of post-medieval material was identified in Trench 4. Although this ditch does not corresponded to known ditches illustrated on 18th or 19th century map sources, its orientation is the same as boundaries illustrated on these imprints.</p> <p>No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	8-14 July 2015	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysics (Wessex Archaeology 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Kempsey, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.55ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8529 4846	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
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	N/A	N/A
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic register, section drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>15571</b>		

### **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

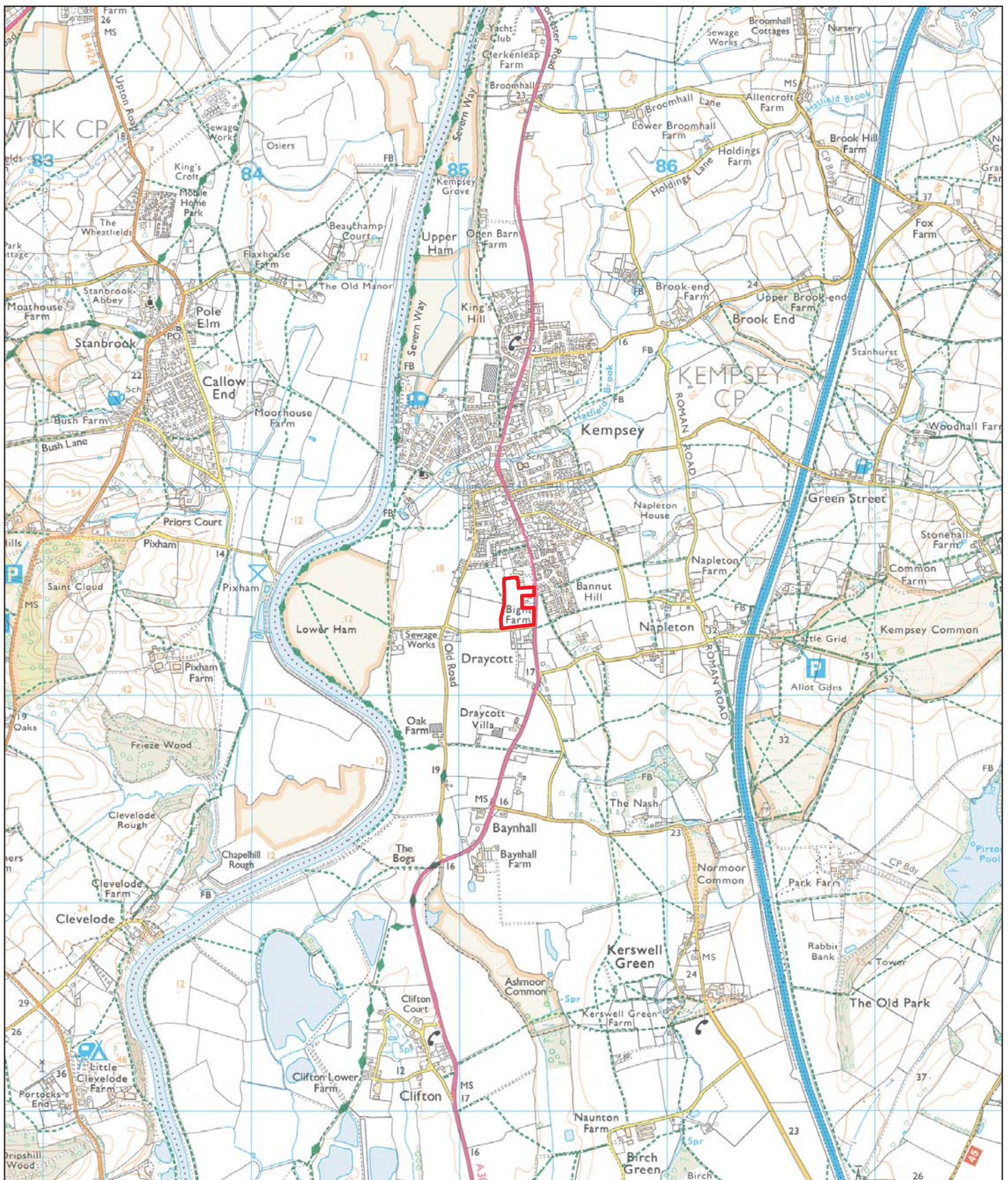
t: 01392 826185

### **Milton Keynes Office**

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

t: 01908 564660





Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Main Road, Kempsey,  
 Worcestershire

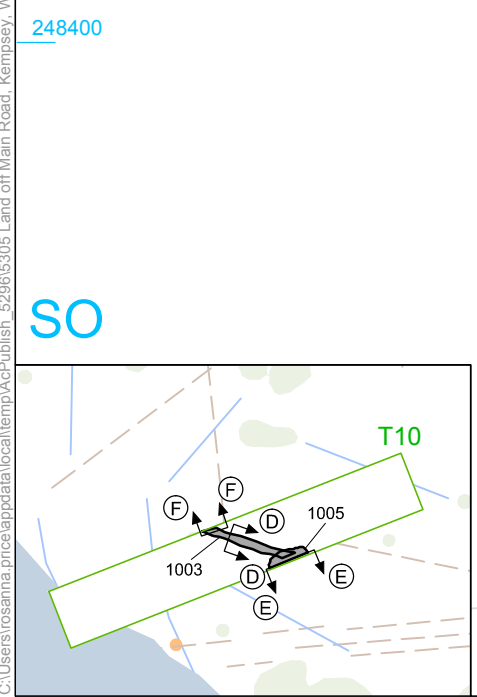
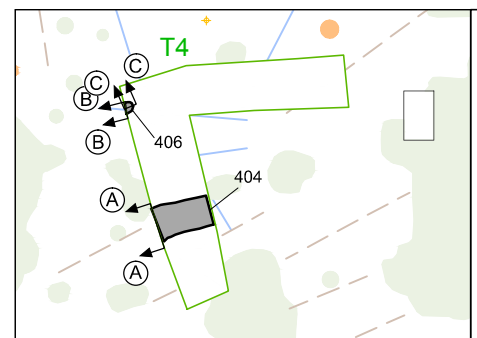
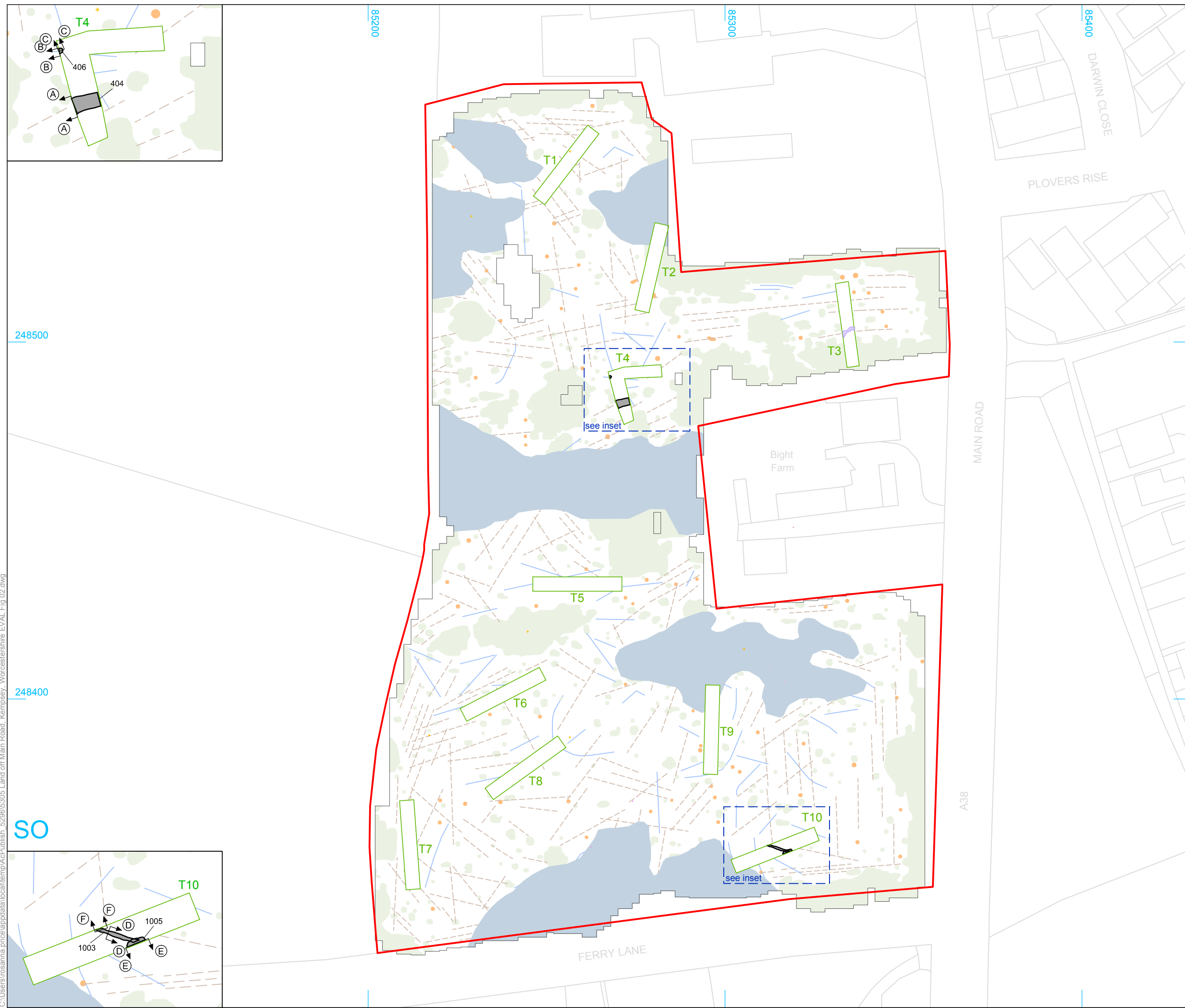
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	RP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	5305	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DB	<b>DATE</b>	16.07.15	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	IB	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	<b>1</b>

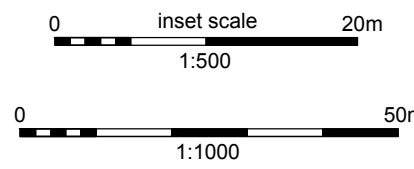




- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- geological feature
- section location

**Geophysics Key  
Wessex Archaeology**

- possible archaeology
- trends
- agricultural
- ferrous
- increased magnetic response



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	

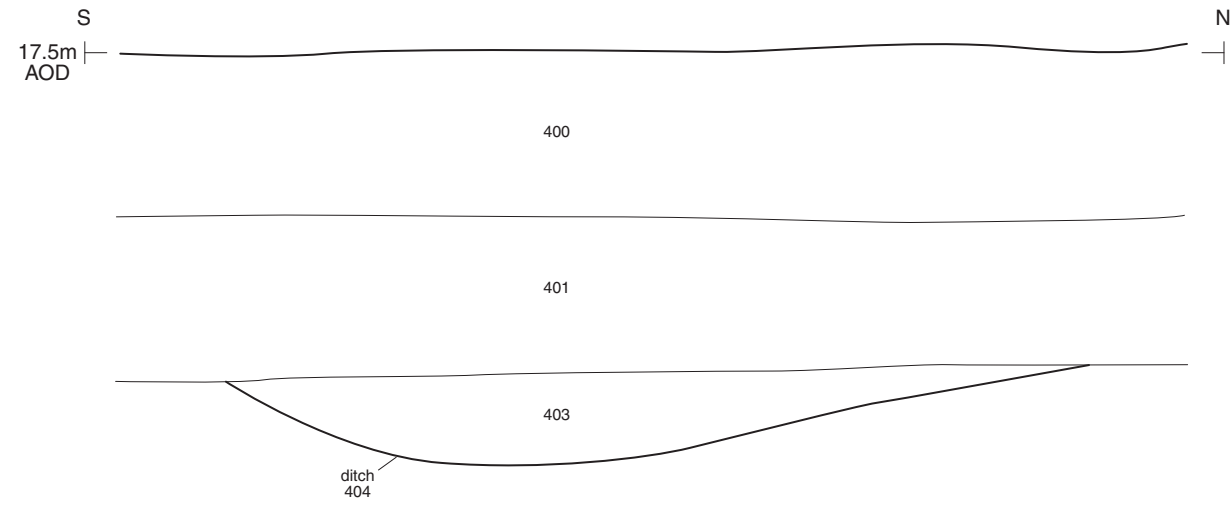
**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land off Main Road, Kempsey,  
Worcestershire

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

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5305	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	16.07.15	
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:1000 & 1:500	<b>2</b>

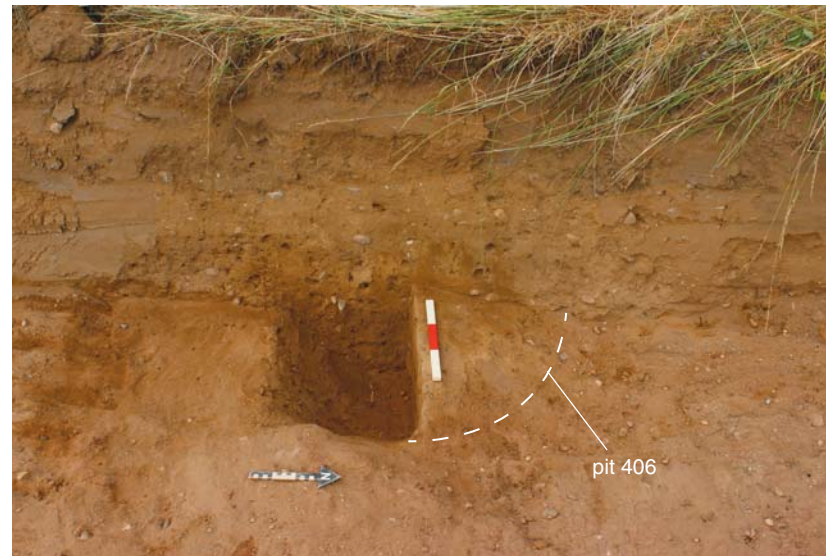
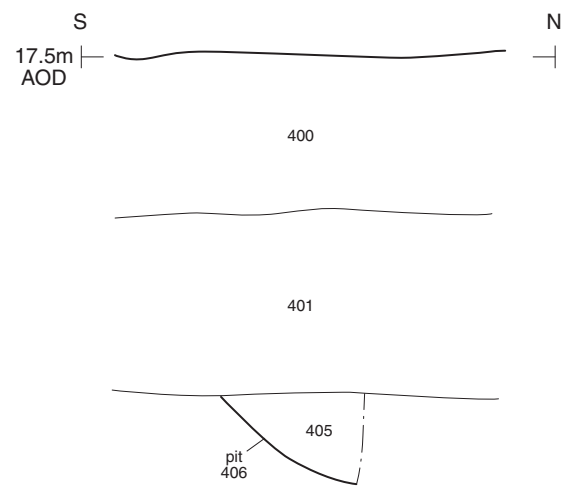
C:\Users\rosanna.prince\pdata\localtemp\AcPublish\_5296\5305\_Land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire EYAL Fig 02.dwg

Section AA



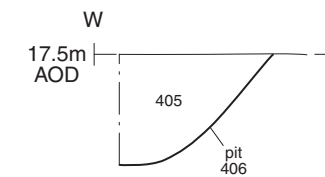
Ditch 404, looking west (scale 1m)

Section BB

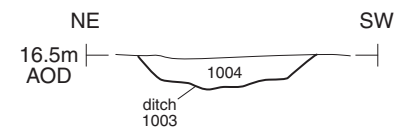


Pit 406, looking west (scale 0.3m)

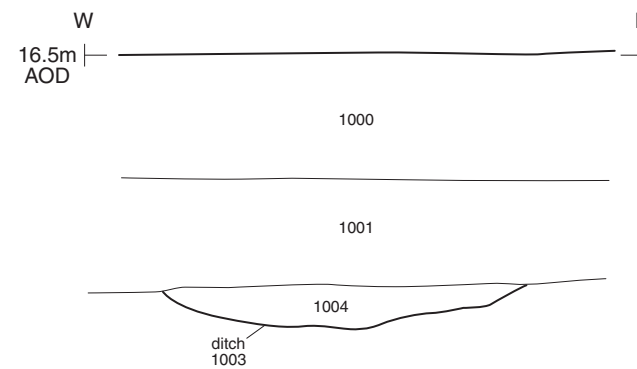
Section CC



Section DD

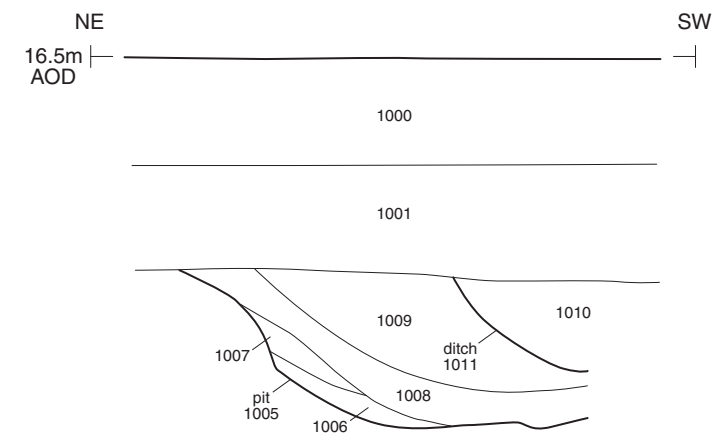


Section EE



Pit 1005 and ditch/gully 1011, looking south-east (scale 0.3m)

Section FF




**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 off Main Road, Kempsey,  
 Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 10; sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5305	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	17.07.15	4
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:20	





5



6

5 Trench 7, looking north (scales 1m)

6 Trench 10, looking west (scales 1m)



Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Main Road, Kempsey,  
 Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5305	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	17.07.15	5 & 6
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	N/A	