

Staddlestones Station Road, Broadway Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Green Villa Homes Ltd.

HER Reference: WSM67949
OASIS Project ID: cotswold2-262068
CA Project: 5892
CA Report: 16313

June 2016



Staddlestones
Station Road, Broadway
Worcestershire

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Staddlestones
Location: Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire
NGR: SP 09070 37951
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 6-8 June 2016
Planning Reference: W/15/00371/PN
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: SSRB 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of three residential houses at Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire.

Concrete foundations and brick wall footings were identified during the watching brief and are probably associated with a modern building first depicted on the 1938 Ordnance Survey County Map of Worcestershire. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Green Villa Homes Ltd. at Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 09070 37951; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC) for the construction of three residential houses to the rear of apartments 'Staddlestones' and minor changes to an existing car park layout (WDC Planning ref: W/15/00371/PN, Condition 5).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Adrian Scruby, Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service (WAAS), the archaeological advisor to WDC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WAAS 2016).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2ha in extent, and comprises the Staddlestones apartments with associated hardstanding, green space and dense vegetation to the front and rear. It is bounded to the west by Station Road, to the north by a residential garden and to the east and south by a large commercial/residential complex with car parking. The site lies at approximately 81m AOD, with ground level gradually rising to the north-east to approximately 84m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are noted (BGS 2016). The natural substrate identified during the watching brief comprised firm, blue-grey clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site, which sits on the outskirts of the village of Broadway and at the foot of Fish Hill, an outlier of the Cotswolds, has not been subject to archaeological assessment. However, the village of Broadway has been subject to a number of archaeological investigations, some of which are still ongoing. The following is a summary of the conclusions of these assessments,

supplemented by the results of a search of the Historic Environment Record (WAAS ref: WSM 67949; WAAS 2016).

- 2.2 There is extensive evidence for archaeological activity within the village of Broadway and its surrounding landscape, which suggests substantial multi-phase occupation in the area from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period. Prehistoric activity is particularly prevalent around the proposed development site. A number of earthworks and cropmarks have been identified dating from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period. Several of these are closely located, approximately 150m north-east and 0.43km south-west of the site. A Bronze Age circular enclosure is also located 0.7km east of the site (WAAS ref: WSM 04138; WAAS 2016).
- 2.3 Unstratified Mesolithic flints and prehistoric pot have been recovered from plough soil in a number of locations in Broadway, the closest being approximately 0.28km west of the current site (WAAS ref: WSM24810; WAAS 2016). Notably, a Bronze Age leaf-shaped sword has also been recovered, although this cannot be located (WAAS ref: WSM10946; *ibid.* 2016). An evaluation in 2000, approximately 0.48km to the south-east, recorded a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint manufacturing site (WAAS ref: WSM30074; *ibid.* 2016). A geophysical survey and an evaluation undertaken by CA in 2013 at Averill Close, Broadway, approximately 0.42km to the east, also revealed a number of Iron Age features with enclosure and circular ditches (CA 2013; WAAS ref: WSM55805; WSM56931; *ibid.* 2016).
- 2.4 Excavation in 1946 ahead of quarrying to the west of Broadway, approximately 0.2km west of the current site, revealed continual occupation from the Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon period. Circular hut sites, cemetery and associated features with finds were recorded (WAAS ref: WSM36370; *ibid.* 2016).
- 2.5 An archaeological evaluation conducted by WAAS in 2014 at Milestone Ground on a series of cropmarks identified by aerial photography, approximately 200m south-west of the site, recorded a well-preserved multi-phase farmstead with an inhumation, pit alignment and residual Iron Age activity (WAAS ref: WSM01861; WSM57125). Evidence indicated that the site extends further than the cropmarks suggested. A rectangular enclosure has also been identified approximately 0.75km north-east of the site (WAAS ref: WSM09993; *ibid.* 2016).

- 2.6 In the 13th century, Broadway was established as a Borough with a grant to hold a market, which only fell into disuse in the 17th century. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, suggesting agricultural activity, have been recorded throughout the village, for example approximately 500m north-east of the site (WAAS ref: WSM55805; WSM10069; WSM10070: WSM12111; *ibid.* 2016). A geophysical survey and evaluation in 1990, approximately 490m south of the site, recorded medieval wall foundation and surfaces (WAAS ref: WSM29557; *ibid.* 2016).
- 2.7 The proposed development site is shown on a 1771 Inclosure Plan lying within a north-west/south-east aligned plot of land under the reference 'Earl of Coventry'. On the 1902 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map, the site has been amalgamated with the surrounding plots to make one larger field. The 1938 Ordnance Survey County Map of Worcestershire depicts a single structure located in what is approximately the centre of the current site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a single trench located within the central area of the site (Fig. 2). Following the recording of the archaeological remains identified during the early stages of the watching brief an archaeologist was present during further intrusive excavation which further reduced the ground level to within the natural substrate across the area of groundworks.

4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive 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 under ID cotswold2-262068.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

5.1 The natural geological substrate 1002, a blue grey clay, was revealed at a depth of between 0.1m and 0.28m across the excavated area. In the western third of the site this was overlain by silty clay subsoil 1001, averaging 0.13m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by silty clay garden soil 1000 which averaged 0.15m in thickness. Evidence of modern terracing and landscaping was identified within the eastern portion of the site where subsoil 1001 was absent and natural substrate 1002 was directly overlain by garden soil 1000 (Fig. 7).

5.2 Heavily truncated modern concrete footings and associated brick walls forming a structure 14.2m long and 10.5m wide were identified within the site (Figs. 3-6). In the western third of the site all archaeological features were seen to cut through subsoil 1001. It was not possible to determine this in the eastern area of the site as the subsoil had been removed by modern landscaping.

5.3 No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified and despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The modern structure identified during the watching brief appeared to correlate closely to the size and position of a building shown on the 1938 Ordnance Survey County Map of Worcestershire and a 1945 aerial photograph of the site. It is probable that the structure was constructed at some point between 1924 and 1938, as it is not depicted on the 1924 Ordnance Survey County Map of Worcestershire.

6.2 The absence of pre-modern archaeological deposits may indicate that they either do not extend as far as the development, or more likely that they may have been

removed during terracing and landscaping associated with the construction and demolition of the modern structure identified during the watching brief.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jay Wood. The report was written by Jay Wood. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed 9 June 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Averill Close, Broadway, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report No. 13577*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) 2016 *Historic Environment Record Search: Staddlestones (sic), Station Road, Broadway* 18 May 2016

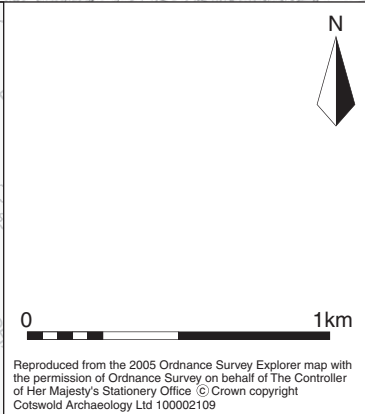
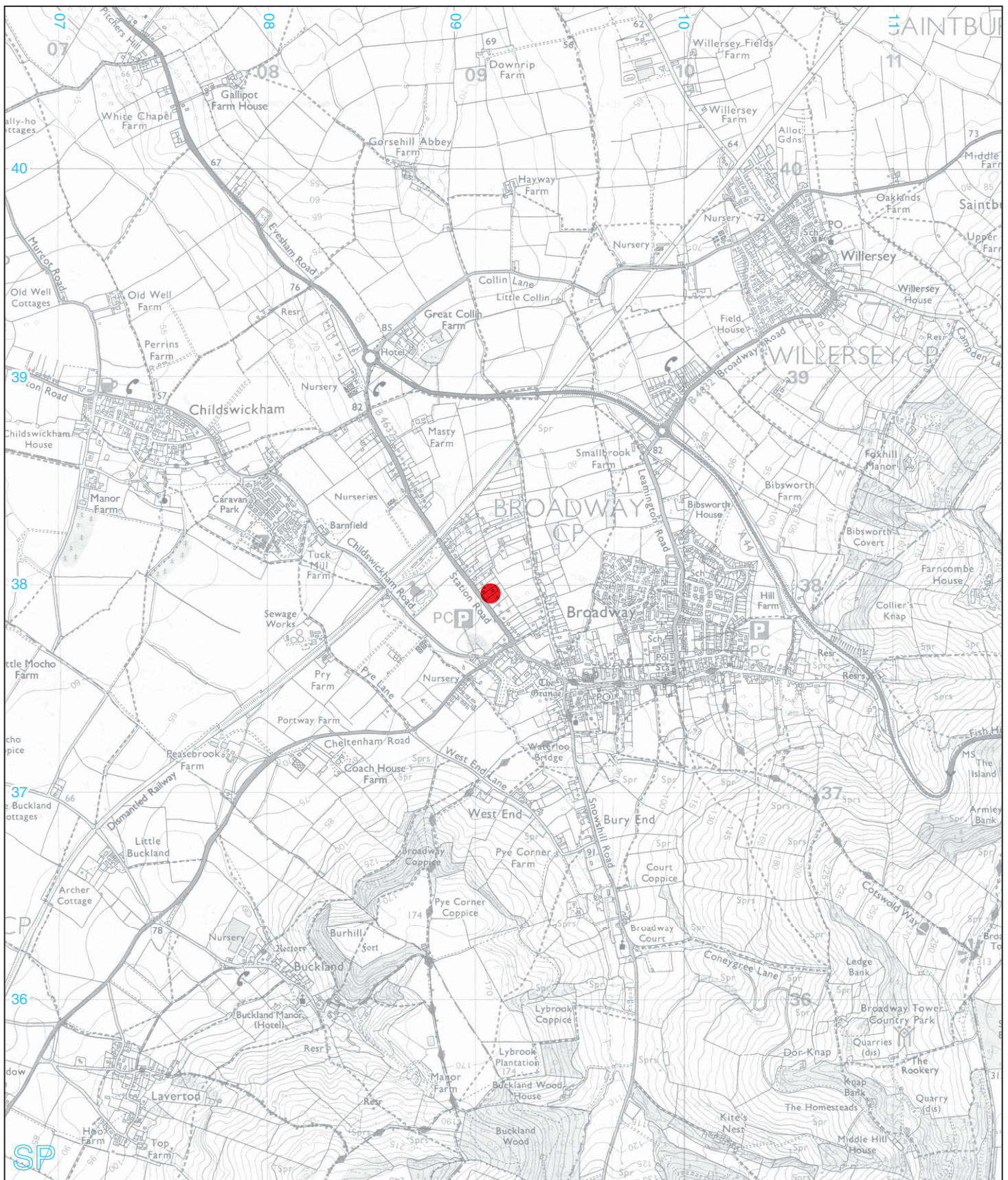


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	>18	>13	0.15	
1	1001	Layer		subsoil	dark yellow brown silty clay	>10	>3.4	>0.13	
1	1002	Layer		natural substrate	mid blue grey clay	>18	>13	>1.2	
1	1003	Cut		footings construction cut	Steep to vertical sides, broadly flat base	14.2	0.5	0.2	
1	1004	Fill		footings	concrete used as base for brick walls	14.2	0.4	0.2	
1	1005	Structure		external wall	NE/SW orientation, brick	7.37	0.23	0.24	
1	1006	Fill		construction cut backfill	mid blue grey clay, common small stone	>7.37	0.26	0.25	
1	1007	Structure		internal wall	NW/SE orientation, brick	7.54	0.11	0.08	
1	1008	Structure		internal wall	NE/SW orientation, brick	4.96	0.12	0.32	
1	1009	Structure		internal wall	NW/SE orientation, brick	2.05	0.11	0.08	
1	1010	Structure		external wall	NW/SE orientation, brick	6.1	0.22	0.08	
1	1011	Structure		internal wall	NE/SW orientation, brick	3	0.11	0.24	
1	1012	Cut		cut of drain	NW/SE orientation	>2.75	0.13	0.1	
1	1013	Fill		drain cut backfill	dark grey brown silty clay	>2.75	0.13	0.1	
1	1014	Structure		support/base	concrete	1.55	0.58	0.25	
1	1015	Structure		manhole	brick, rectangular, single course thick	0.84	0.53	0.8	
1	1016	Cut		cut of manhole	rectangular, vertical sides, flat base	0.85	0.58	0.8	
1	1017	Fill		backfill of manhole	concrete, used to fill in along western edge of cut 1016	0.85	0.05	0.8	
1	1018	Structure		external wall	NW/SE orientation, brick	2.05	0.23	0.08	
1	1019	Structure		doorway	NW/SE orientation, brick	1.3	1.5	0.08	
1	1020	Structure		internal wall	NE/SW orientation, brick	2.18	0.11	0.08	
1	1021	Structure		external wall	NW/SE orientation, brick	3.5	0.23	0.08	
1	1022	Structure		external wall	NE/SW orientation, brick	1.85	0.23	0.08	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of 3 residential houses at Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire.</p> <p>Concrete foundations and brick wall footings were identified during the watching brief and are probably associated with a modern building depicted on the 1938 Ordnance Survey County Map of Worcestershire. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed.</p>	
Project dates	6-8 June 2016	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 09070 37951	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jay Wood	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Database and digital photos.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 16313</p>		



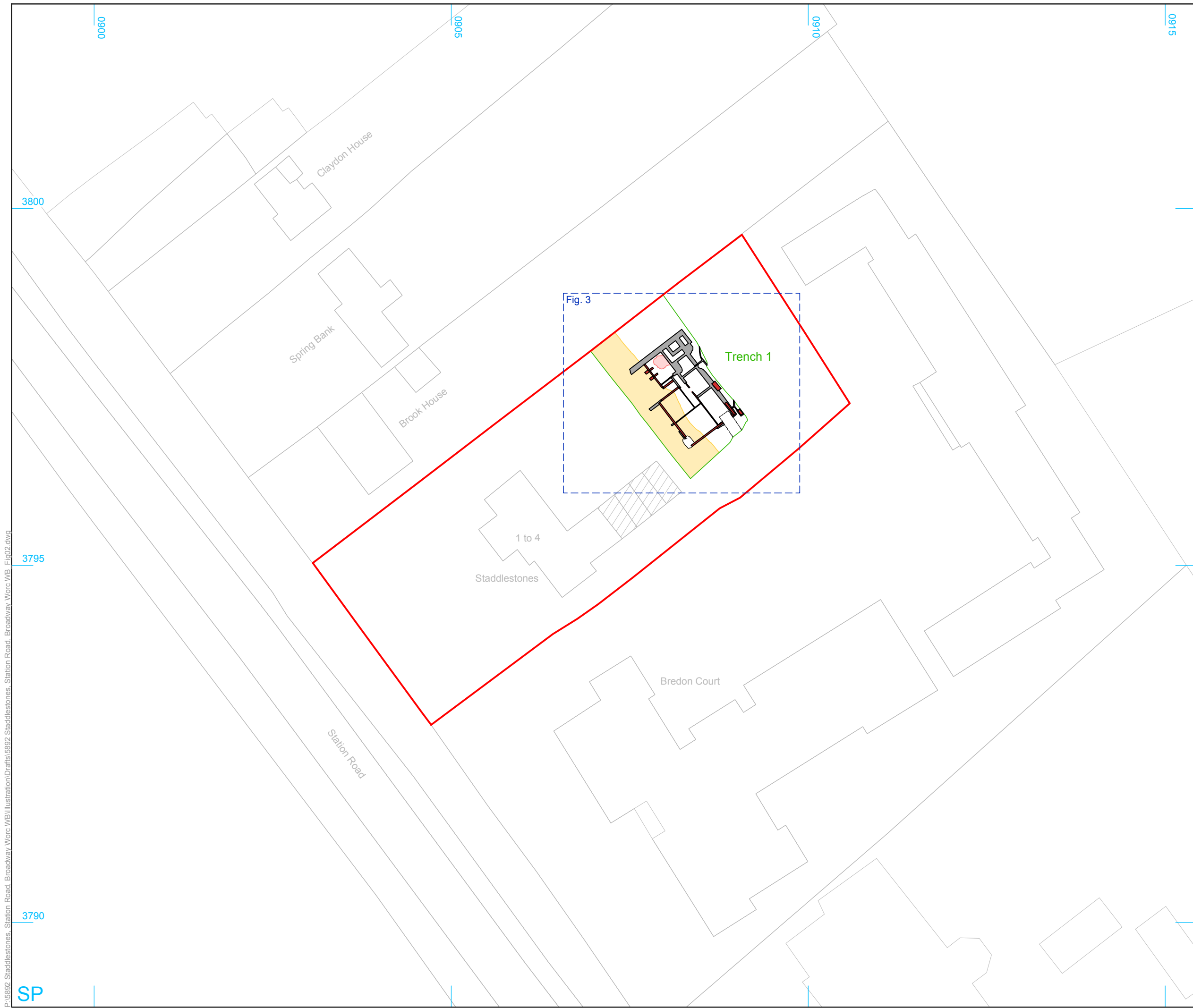
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PROJECT TITLE
 Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AO	PROJECT NO. 5892	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY LM	DATE 20/06/2016	1
APPROVED BY RP	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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- site boundary
- demolished
- area of observed groundworks
- brick structural feature
- concrete footing
- extent of subsoil prior to ground reduction
- treethrow



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 groundworks

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5892	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	20/06/2016	2
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SP



- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks
- brick structural feature
- concrete footing
- extent of subsoil prior to ground reduction
- treethrow
- A B section location



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Plan of groundworks, showing
 archaeological features

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	5892	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	20/06/2016	3
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:100	

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4



5

- 4 View of eastern area of structural remains, looking south-east (scale 1m)
- 5 View of western area of structural remains, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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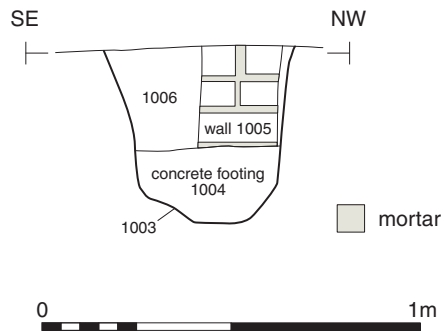
Staddlestones, Station Road, Broadway
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	17/06/2016	4 & 5
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Section AA



View of wall 1005, looking south-west (scale 0.5m)



View of southern end of structural remains, looking south-east (scales 1m)



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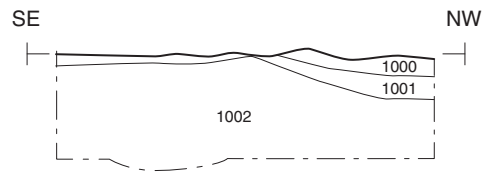
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FIGURE TITLE

Wall 1005: section and photographs

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Section BB



General site stratigraphy, looking south-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph

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