



# Hindlip Hall The Drive, Hindlip Worcester

Archaeological Evaluation



for AB Heritage

CA Project: 660683

CA Report: 16250

Site Code: HIN 16

Accession No: AYBCM: 2016.49

May 2016



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#### **SUMMARY**

**Project Name:** Hindlip Hall, The Drive

**Location:** Hindlip, Worcester

**NGR**: SO 8826 5870

**Type:** Evaluation

Date: 18-21 April 2016

Planning Reference: W/15/02662/FULL

**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Collection Store

Accession Number: AYBCM: 2016.49

Site Code: HIN 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester. The fieldwork was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a new operations and communications centre with car parking, other facilities and associated works and water attenuation pond. The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven trenches.

Archaeological interest in the site derived from its close proximity to a high concentration of archaeological remains, most notably an Iron Age and Roman settlement located to the immediate north-east of the site and an Iron Age pit alignment recorded immediately north-west of the site. The projected alignment of a Roman road traverses the north-western corner of the site. Geophysical survey did not identify any evidence for these features within the site.

The evaluation identified a single undated, but probable post-medieval/modern ditch. Evidence for modern landscaping, most probably associated with the modern construction of an entranceway to the site was revealed throughout the northern part of the site.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British occupation or activity was found during the evaluation. No features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval/modern period were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- In April 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester (centred on NGR: SO 8826 5870; Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by AB Heritage. The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition attached to the development by Wychavon District Council (WDC; planning reference: W/15/02662/FULL; Condition 12). The development will comprise the construction of a new operations and communications centre with car parking, other facilities and associated works and water attenuation pond.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of seven trial trenches, was detailed within the brief, Requirements for Archaeological Field Evaluation on land at Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SP (WAAS 2016). The brief was produced by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS), the archaeological advisors to WDC.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WAAS 2012), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* 2 (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015). It was monitored by Adrian Scruby including a site visit on the 20 April 2016.

#### The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site is located approximately one mile north of the northern suburbs of Worcester. It consists of a sports field and adjacent arable land located within the grounds of the Grade II\* Listed Hindlip Hall (Fig. 1).
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology comprises Sidmouth Mudstone Formation mudstone of the Triassic period, overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of sand and gravel of the Spring Hill Sand and Gravel Member (BGS 2016).

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in a Historical, Heritage and Archaeological Statement (HHAS), produced by Bailey Garner (2015). In addition a geophysical survey of the site has been undertaken (AB Heritage 2016). The following is a brief synopsis of this information.
- 2.2 A search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and County Records Office will be undertaken as part of this project to supplement the information contained within the HHAS.
- 2.3 Within the search area there are 15 listed historic buildings dating from the 14th-19th centuries, as well as 18 other non-listed historic buildings dating largely from the 16th-20th centuries. In addition six farmsteads and out-farms are recorded within the wider environs of the site, which date from the 16th-19th century.
- 2.4 An abundance of unstratified finds have been recorded within a 1km radius of the site. Of particular note are a stone hand-axe and a Romano-British coin.

#### Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) to Roman (AD43 – AD 410)

- 2.5 No Palaeolithic remains are recorded within the site, although recent research has identified Spring Hill Sand and Gravel deposits, such as are recorded within the site, as having the potential to contain Palaeolithic artefacts.
- 2.6 The find spot of a stone axe (HER Ref. WSM29222) is recorded to the area east of Hindlip Hall.
- 2.7 Excavations undertaken in 2009 to the immediate north-east of the site revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlements, with an Iron Age pit alignment recorded immediately north-west of the site (HER Ref. WSM40549 and WSM42296). The projected line of the pit alignment extends into the western part of the site, although no evidence for either the pit alignment or the Roman and Iron Age settlement were identified by the recent geophysical survey. The projected alignment of a Roman road is recorded as running north-east to south-west traversing the north-western corner of the site (HER Ref. WSM30529).

#### Early medieval to present (AD 410-present)

- 2.8 The village of Hindlip (derived from 'hind leap') is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, suggesting that it has pre-Norman origins. The first recorded manor house was constructed for Thomas Solley towards the end of the 14th century.
- 2.9 The West Mercia Constabulary Museum is a timber-framed house with late 13th-century origins, featuring later alterations. It is thought to potentially pre-date the earliest Hindlip Hall, later becoming Rectory to the adjacent Church of James. The building latterly served as the Police Museum and is listed as such; it now serves as living accommodation.
- 2.10 The Church of St James is a Grade II\* Listed building with 15th century origins. It was largely rebuilt in 1864 in in the late gothic style.
- 2.11 The Grade II\* listed Hindlip Hall was constructed in *c*. 1815, and later altered and extended. It occupies the site of an earlier Hindlip Hall dating from the 16th century, which is understood to have replaced the earlier manor house. The house has been heavily extended and altered. Internally the building has been largely institutionalised, although some historic character remains within the principal reception rooms and stairwell.
- 2.12 The garden to Hindlip Hall and its surrounding parkland appears on the list of historic parks and gardens (No. 18). Historic mapping suggests that the wider designed parkland setting of Hindlip Hall was not established until the late 19th century.

#### Geophysical Survey

2.13 A geophysical survey of the site detected a ditch-like anomaly in the northern part of the site (Fig. 2). Within the south-western and central parts of the site a number of linear anomalies were identified, interpreted as field drains as well as a rectangular anomaly interpreted as a possible water storage tank. No evidence for the Roman or Iron Age settlements recorded to the north-east of the site was identified. Similarly there was no indication that the pit or road alignments revealed to the north-west of the site extended into the site.

#### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed in the WSI (CA 2016) 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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered 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 evaluation comprised the excavation of seven trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 to 5 measured 50m long and 1.8m wide, equating to a 4% sample of this 1.2ha area. Trenches 6 and 7 measured 10m in length and 1.8m in width. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) coordinates 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, although no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA 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 Milton Keynes, prior to its final deposition with Worcestershire Museum Collection Store. 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 2-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results (Fig. 2). Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The evaluation recorded an undated ditch within Trench 2 (Figs 2, 6 and 7). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed within the remaining trenches.

#### Trenches 1 & 2 (Figs 2 & 5-7)

- 5.3 Trenches 1 and 2 were located within the northern part of the site, partially excavated through a modern embankment. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within both trenches. The natural geological substrate, which comprised mid grey red clay with small stone inclusions, was observed at between 1.33m (Trench 1) and 1.85m (Trench 2) below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a buried soil layer, up to 0.4m in thickness, which comprised grey brown compact clay silt with small stone inclusions. This most likely represents the former topsoil. This was overlain by redeposited natural, comprising light brown red compact clay with stone inclusions, up to 0.74m thick. This material was presumably deposited during modern landscaping associated with the creation of a new site entrance to the immediate north-west of the site. This was in turn sealed by topsoil, up to 0.34m thick.
- 5.4 Located towards the south-eastern end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 204 (Fig.7). It measured up to 3.3m wide and 0.3m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill 205 comprising fragments of CBM in a grey clay matrix. It was deposited as a deliberate act of backfilling, most likely during the construction of earthen banks at the northern end of the site during modern landscaping.
- 5.5 The pit alignment identified to the west of the site was not observed within Trench 1.

#### Trenches 3, 4 & 5 (Fig. 2)

A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within Trenches 3, 4 and 5. The geological substrate, comprising light pink brown compact sandy clay, with small stone inclusions was observed at an average depth of 0.26m bpgl. This was directly overlain by topsoil, up to 0.26m thick. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within these trenches.

## Trenches 6 & 7 (Fig. 2)

5.7 Trenches 6 and 7 were 10m long and 2m wide. The natural geological substrate (602) within Trench 6 was observed at a depth of 0.77m bpgl and comprised pink brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions. This was overlain by a deliberately dumped deposit of mixed red brown and grey brown compact sandy clay (601) measuring up to 0.57m thick. This represents landscaping/levelling deposit associated with the construction of modern sports pitches. This was sealed by mid grey brown topsoil (600) measuring up to 0.2m thick. The natural substrate within Trench 7 consisted of bands of pink brown sandy clay and friable clayey sand, encountered at an average depth of 0.18m bpgl. This was directly overlain by topsoil which measured 0.18m in thickness.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

- The site lies within close proximity to a high concentration of archaeological remains, most notably an Iron Age and Roman settlement located to the north-east of the site. An Iron Age pit alignment is recorded immediately north-west of the site, with the projected alignment of a Roman road traversing the north-western corner of the site. A preceding geophysical survey did not identify any evidence for features relating to this activity within the site. Evaluation was undertaken to determine if the archaeological remains associated with these features extended into the site.
- 6.2 The evaluation identified a single undated ditch within Trench 2. The ditch corresponds with the general alignment of the surrounding field systems depicted on historic and current Ordnance Survey mapping, which predominantly relate to Parliamentary Enclosures of the post-medieval period (see Fig. 1).
- 6.3 Evidence for modern landscaping, most probably associated with the construction of an entranceway to the site was revealed throughout the northern part of the site,

with landscaping and truncation of the ground surface identified in the area of modern sports pitches (Trench 6).

Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval/modern period within the site. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the Iron Age and Roman occupation site excavated to the north-east of the site and the postulated alignments of further Iron Age and Roman features either do not extend as far as the development area, or that they may have been removed during previous development.

#### 7. PROJECT TEAM

7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Andrew Whelan, Daniel Riley, Michael Hughes and Anna Moosbauer. The report was written by James Coyne. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce and for AB Heritage by Dan Dodds.

#### 8. REFERENCES

AB Heritage 2016 Geophysical Survey of land at Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester

- Baily Garner 2015 Operations and Communications Centre Hindlip Park, Hindlip, Worcestershire: Historical, Heritage and Archaeological Statement, October 2015.

  Baily Garner LLP Job No. 27393
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 22 March 2016
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.
- WAAS (Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service) 2012 Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire

WAAS (Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service) 2016 Requirements for Archaeological Field Evaluation on land at Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SP

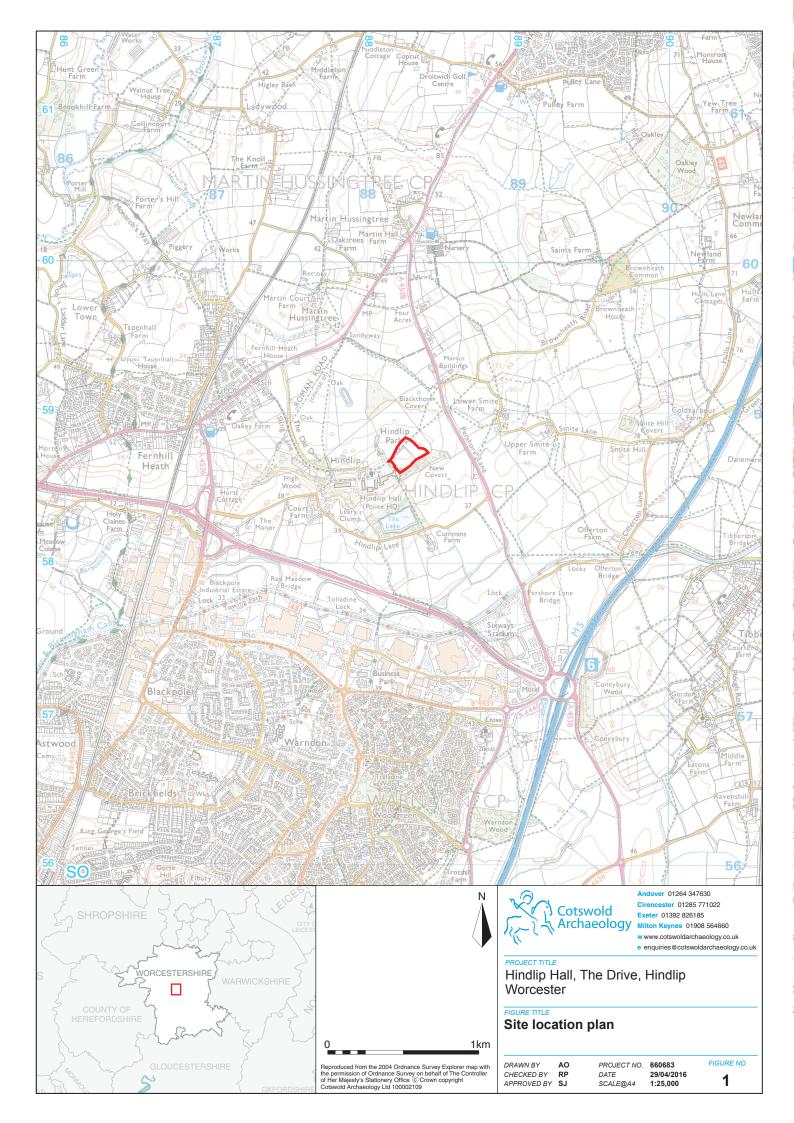
# APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

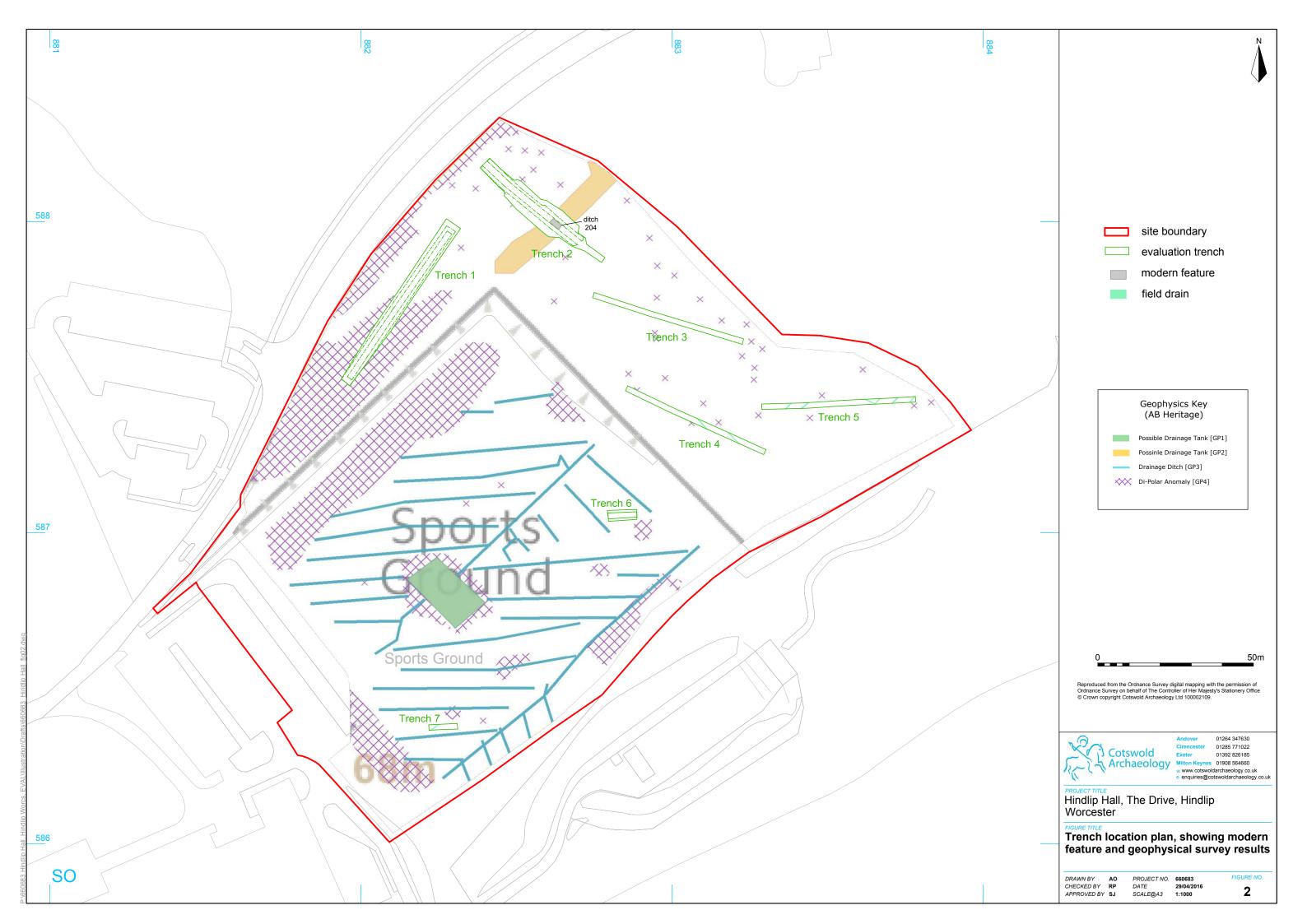
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
1 1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silt.	N/A	N/A	0.43	uale
1	101	Layer		Redeposited	Mid brown red clay.	N/A	N/A	0.38	
		,		Natural	,				
1	102	Layer		Buried Soil	Mid grey brown clayey silt. Contained modern finds.	N/A	N/A	0.29	Modern
1	103	Layer		Natural	Mid pink red clay.	N/A	N/A		
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.25	
2	201	Layer		Redeposited Natural	Light brown red silt.	N/A	N/A	1.10	
2	202	Layer		Buried Soil	Mid brown grey clayey silt.	N/A	N/A	0.50	
2	203	Layer		Natural	Mid grey red firm clay.	N/A	N/A		
2	204	Cut		Ditch	North-east/south-west orientated ditch, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base.		3.3	0.3	
2	205	Fill	204	Single fill	Fragments of CBM in a grey clay matrix.		3.3	0.3	
								•	
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay.	N/Á	N/A	0.26	
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mid pink red firm clay.	N/A	N/A		
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty clay.	N/A	N/A	0.26	date
4	401	Layer			Light pink red silty clay.	N/A	N/A		
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	(m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty clay.	N/A		0.27	
5	501	Layer		Natural	Light pink red firm clay.	N/A			
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown silty.	N/A	N/A	0.20	
6	601	Layer		Made ground	Banded and mixed: Friable red brown and grey brown silty sands, sandy silts and clays.	N/A	N/A	0.59	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Red brown sandy silts with grey silts and clays.	N/A			
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Light brown grey silty clay.			0.18	
7	701	Layer		Natural	Light pink red silty clay, with pinkish red sand banding.				

## **APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name	Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worceste	er				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was a Archaeology in April 2016 at Hindlip Worcester. The fieldwork was underta attached to planning consent for communications centre with car part associated works and water attenuation comprised the excavation of seven trenchance Archaeological interest in the site derived a high concentration of archaeological Iron Age and Roman settlement locate east of the site and an Iron Age pit alignmorth-west of the site. The projected all traverses the north-western corner of the did not identify any evidence for these fear The evaluation identified a single und medieval/modern ditch. Evidence for no probably associated with the mode entranceway to the site was revealed the of the site.  Despite the archaeological potential of the Age or Romano-British occupation or accevaluation. No features or deposite	Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester  An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip, Worcester. The fieldwork was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a new operations and communications centre with car parking, other facilities and associated works and water attenuation pond. The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven trenches.  Archaeological interest in the site derived from its close proximity to a high concentration of archaeological remains, most notably an Iron Age and Roman settlement located to the immediate northeast of the site and an Iron Age pit alignment recorded immediately north-west of the site. The projected alignment of a Roman road traverses the north-western corner of the site. Geophysical survey did not identify any evidence for these features within the site. The evaluation identified a single undated, but probable post-medieval/modern ditch. Evidence for modern landscaping, most probably associated with the modern construction of an entranceway to the site was revealed throughout the northern part of the site.  Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British occupation or activity was found during the evaluation. No features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval/modern period were observed and no artefactual material				
Project dates	18/04/2016 – 21/04/2016					
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation					
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (AB Heritage, 2016); Archaeological Excavation (Worcestershire Archaeology, 2009).					
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	The Drive, Hindlip Hall, Worcester – WR3 8SP					
Study area (M²/ha)	N/A					
Site co-ordinates	SO 8826 5870					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	AB Heritage					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce (CA); Dan Dodds (AB Heritage)  Julian Newman					
MONUMENT TYPE						
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content				
Physical	N/a	None.				
Paper	Worcestershire Museum Collection Store (museum/Accession no: AYBCM	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs				
Digital	: 2016.49)	Digital photographs, digital survey data				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	i survey data				

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- Site, looking north 3
- Site, looking north-east



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Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip Worcester

FIGURE TITLE

# **Photographs**

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PROJECT NO. 660683

DATE 29/04/2016

SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO. 3 & 4







- 5 Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)
- 6 Trench 2, looking north-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip Worcester

FIGURE TITLE

## **Photographs**

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 SCALE@A4
 N/A

FIGURE NO. 5 & 6





7 Trench 2 section, looking west (1m scale)



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FIGURE NO.

PPO IECT TITLE

Hindlip Hall, The Drive, Hindlip Worcester

FIGURE TITLE

# **Photograph**

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 DATE
 29/04/2016

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 N/A



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