

# 21 Waterloo Crescent Bidford-on-Avon Warwickshire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
J Varney Builders

CA Project: 5755  
CA Report: 16101

February 2016



# 21 Waterloo Crescent Bidford-on-Avon Warwickshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

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## CONTENTS

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

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:750)
- Fig. 3 Trench 3 plan gully terminus 303: section and photograph (1:100 and 1:20)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	21 Waterloo Crescent
<b>Location:</b>	Bidford-on-Avon
<b>NGR:</b>	SP1022 5247
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	18 February 2016
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Stratford upon Avon District Council ref: 14/02360/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Warwickshire Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	WCB 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at 21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Three trenches were excavated.

A single undated gully was the only feature of possible archaeological interest revealed during the current works. Post-medieval furrows, as well as tree-throw pits associated with a late 19th/ 20th-century orchard identified on cartographic sources, were also recorded.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for J Varney Builders at 21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (centred on NGR: SP1022 5247; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application made to Stratford upon Avon District Council (SuADC; ref: 14/02360/FUL) for the construction of domestic dwellings and associated groundworks. The evaluation was recommended by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to SuADC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Anna Stocks. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and Warwickshire County Council's *Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines* (2012). It was monitored by Anna Stocks.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.4ha in extent, and comprises scrubland to the north of Waterloo Crescent. It is bounded by the gardens of residential properties to the south, the grounds of commercial properties to the west and north and by an agricultural field to the east. The site lies at approximately 49m AOD, with ground levels dropping away to the south-west.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group of the Triassic Period (BGS 2015). No superficial deposits are recorded within the site, although Ailstone Member - sands and gravels of the Warwickshire Avon - are recorded to the east and west of the site. Silty clay and gravels were identified across site.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 No designated heritage assets are recorded within the boundary of the site.

- 2.2 The projected line of Ryknild Street Roman Road runs approximately 300m to the west of the proposed development site. In addition, a number of finds of various dates have been recovered in the vicinity of the site. Flint objects of principally Neolithic date and early medieval metal artefacts have been found c. 200m to the north-east of the site during metal detecting (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) ref. no. MWA16349 and 18647). Similarly, metal artefacts of Roman and medieval date have been found c. 250m to the north-east of the site and c. 150m to the south-west of the site respectively (HER ref. no. MWA15606, 5108 and 5109).
- 2.3 A potential foci of prehistoric or Roman activity, represented by a cropmark enclosure, has been identified c. 100m north-east of the site. Cropmarks are visible on an area of Fourth River Terrace gravels to the east of the proposed development site on 2002 aerial photographs (CA 2011, 13). These include the southern part of a rectangular enclosure, possibly with a double ditch, the northern part of which has been covered by a later 20th-century industrial estate. No archaeological works associated with the construction of the estate are recorded. Overlapping features at the southern end of the enclosure suggest multiple phases of activity (*ibid.*). Roman settlement is recorded c. 550m south of the proposed development site (HER ref. no MWA7125). Archaeological evaluation to the west of Waterloo Road, some 200m to the west of the site, has revealed pits and ditches thought to be medieval in origin (HER ref. no. 7427 and 8187). The proposed development site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland to the medieval settlement at Bidford-on-Avon.
- 2.4 The site is depicted as orchard on late 19th and 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are 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 SuADC 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 three trenches, each trench measuring 30m in length and 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were laid out over the location of footings for the proposed development. 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 artefacts will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum along with the site 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.

#### **5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 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 The natural geological substrate was broadly similar throughout site and consisted of brown red silt clay with gravel inclusions that was first encountered at an approximate depth of 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl). It was sealed by approximately 0.2m of relic ploughsoil derived from furrows that was, in turn, overlain by 0.25m of topsoil. Bioturbation was identified within Trench 1 (tree-throw pits 102 and 104); modern pits containing 20th-century pottery were identified within Trench 2 (pits 202 and 204) and furrows, on an east/ west alignment, were identified in all trenches. Also on an east/ west alignment was gully terminus 503. It had steep sides and a concave base. It measured approximately 0.4m in width, 0.18m in depth and contained a naturally derived silty fill. The gully cut the substrate and was covered by the relic ploughsoil. It contained no artefacts and remains undated.

## 6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from four deposits (pit fills and subsoil). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval and modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Where possible pottery fabric codes are equated to the Warwickshire pottery type series as defined by Soden and Ratkai (1998).

### 6.2 *Pottery: Post-medieval/modern*

Pottery from this date range totals five sherds (77g). The average sherd weight of 15g suggests a high degree of fragmentation, and it's condition ranges from moderate to very good in terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation.

6.3 A sherd of unglazed earthenware (UGRE) from fill 203 of pit 202 is dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries. It was recovered alongside a sherd of refined whiteware, of late 18th to 19th-century. Fill 205 of pit 204 produced a base sherd from a flowerpot, dating to the 19th to 20th centuries. Two sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware (STE03) from subsoil 301 include a full-profile sherd from an ink pot. This ware type dates to the 18th century.

### 6.4 *Ceramic building material*

An unclassifiable fragment of ceramic building material of post-medieval date was recorded in pit fill 205. It is in a slightly abraded condition.



### 6.5 Other finds

Subsoil 101 produced the upper portion of a pewter fork, with notably long tines. This type is dateable to the late 17th to 19th centuries (Noël Hume 1969, 180).

## 7. DISCUSSION

7.1 A single gully, ridge and furrow, tree-throw pits and modern intrusions were identified. The tree-throw pits and modern pits cut the relic ploughsoil and contained 20th-century pottery. They are probably associated with an orchard depicted on historic mapping from 1923 (OS County, Warwickshire, 1923) until at least 1991 (OS Plan, Bidford-on-Avon, 1980-1991, 1:2500). The ridge and furrow predates the orchard and although the gully is sealed by ploughsoil (which contained 18th-century material that was associated with the ridge and furrow), the feature does not necessarily predate the post-medieval period.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Claudia Jorge and Dani Adams. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 9. 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 16 March 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land to the rear of 34 Waterloo Road, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA typescript report **11252**

CA 2015 *21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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

Noël Hume, I. N. 1969 *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Soden, I. and Ratkai, S. 1998 *Warwickshire Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery Type Series*. Warwick. Warwickshire Museum Field Services.

WCC (Warwickshire County Council) 2012 *Generic Archaeological Fieldwork Guideline*

WCC    2015    Warwickshire    HER  
<http://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/detail.aspx?monuid=WA2291>    Accessed 22  
December 2015



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

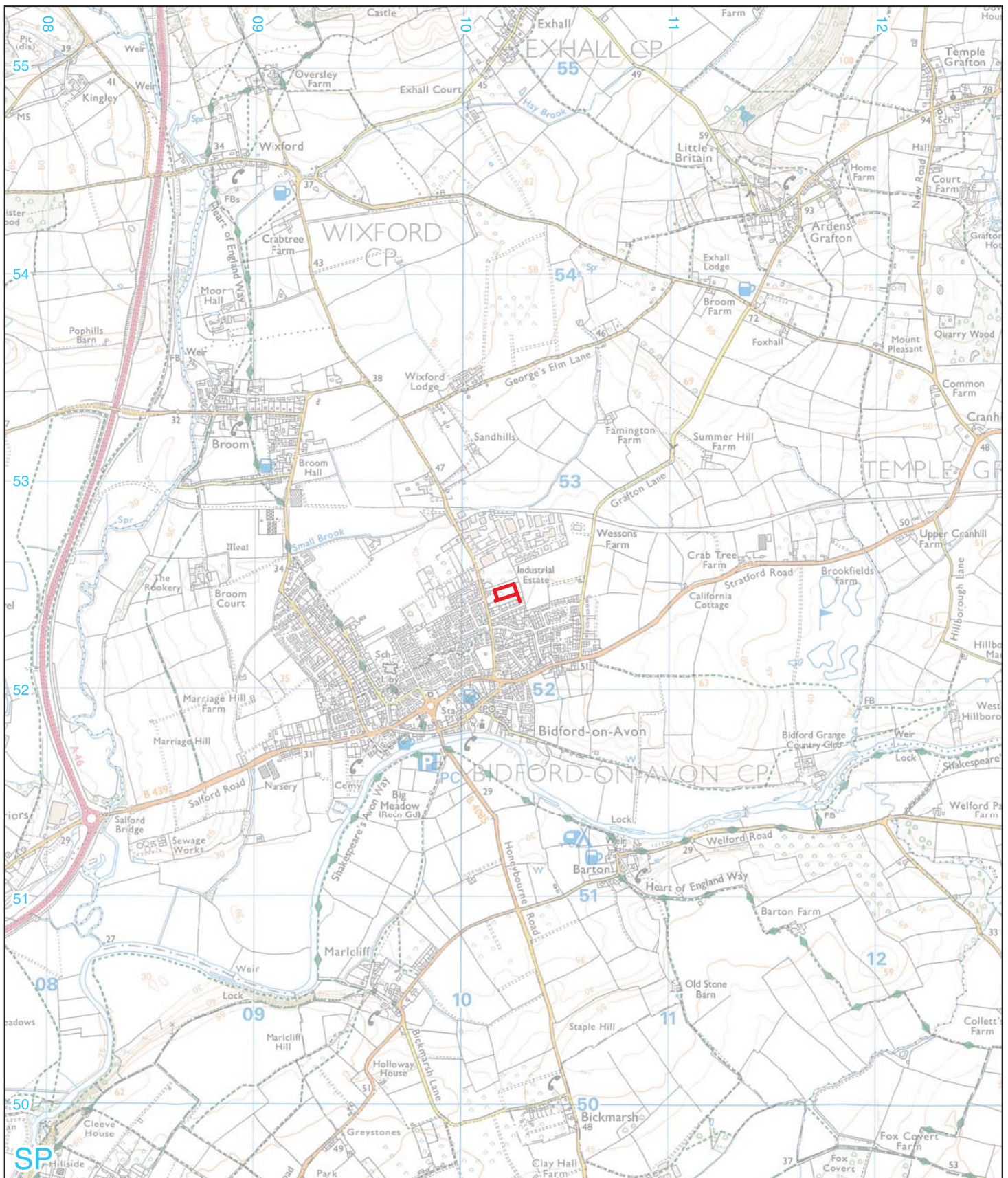
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay			0.21	
1	101	Layer		Relic ploughsoil	Mid red yellow-brown silty clay			0.18	
1	102	Cut		Bioturbation	Irregular in plan and profile	0.15	0.42	0.12	
1	103	Fill	102	Bioturbation fill	Mid grey brown clay silt	0.15	0.42	0.12	
1	104	Cut		Bioturbation	Irregular in plan and profile	1.21	0.8	0.18	
1	105	Fill	104	Bioturbation fill	Light grey brown clay silt	0.45	0.6	0.04	
1	106	Fill	104	Bioturbation fill	Mid grey brown clay silt	0.94	0.8	0.18	
1	107	Layer		Natural substrate	Light-mid brown red clay silty with brown red clay				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay			0.23	
2	201	Layer		Relic ploughsoil	Mid red yellow-brown silty clay			0.3	
2	202	Cut		Pit	Sub circular, moderate sides	0.78	0.49	>0.3	
2	203	Fill	202	Pit fill	Dark grey brown clay silt	0.78	0.49	>0.3	Modern
2	204	Cut		Pit	Sub circular, moderate sides	0.42	0.45	>0.3	
2	205	Fill	304	Pit fill	Dark grey brown clay silt	0.42	0.4	>0.3	Modern
2	206	Layer		Natural sub	Dark red clay with gravel inclusions				
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay			0.23	
3	301	Layer		Relic ploughsoil	Mid grey yellow-brown silty sandy clay			0.3	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid brown red clay with gravel				
3	303	Cut		Gully	Aligned NE/SW, steep sides and flat base	>0.94	0.4	0.18	
3	304	Fill	303	Gully fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt	>0.94	0.4	0.18	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fabric Code</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
101	Pewter object	Fork		1	28	LC17-C19
203	Post-medieval pottery	Unglazed earthenware	UGRE	1	38	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	MGW	1	1	
205	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	FLOW	1	5	C19-C20
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	10	
301	Post-medieval pottery	White salt-glazed stoneware	STE03	2	33	C18

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at 21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single undated gully was the only feature of possible archaeological interest revealed during the current works. Post-medieval furrows, as well as tree-throw pits associated with a late 19th/ 20th-century orchard identified on cartographic sources, were also recorded.</p>	
Project dates	18 February 2016	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP1022 5247	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Warwickshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
<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	Warwickshire Museum	ceramics
Paper	Warwickshire Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	Warwickshire Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>21 Waterloo Crescent, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report <b>16101</b></p>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 21 Waterloo Crescent  
 Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire









**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

0 1km

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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	SO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	5755	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	24/02/2016	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	RY	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	<b>1</b>



-  site boundary
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature
-  furrow
-  modern
-  field drain
-  bioturbation
-  section location



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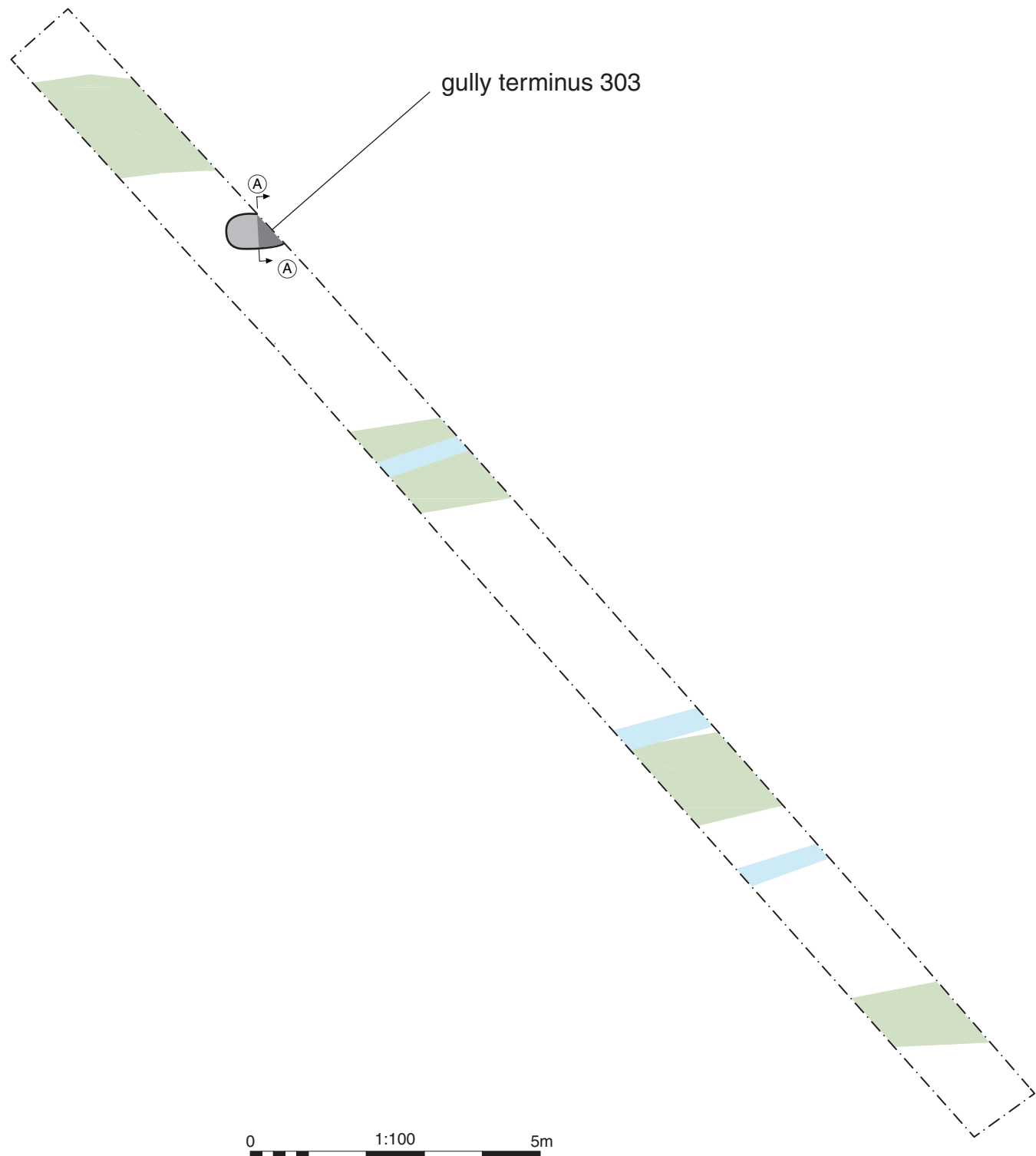
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 21 Waterloo Crescent  
 Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features

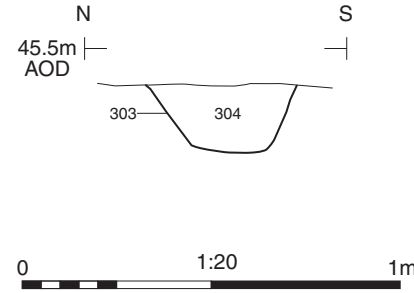
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/02/2016	2
APPROVED BY	RY	SCALE@A3	1:750	

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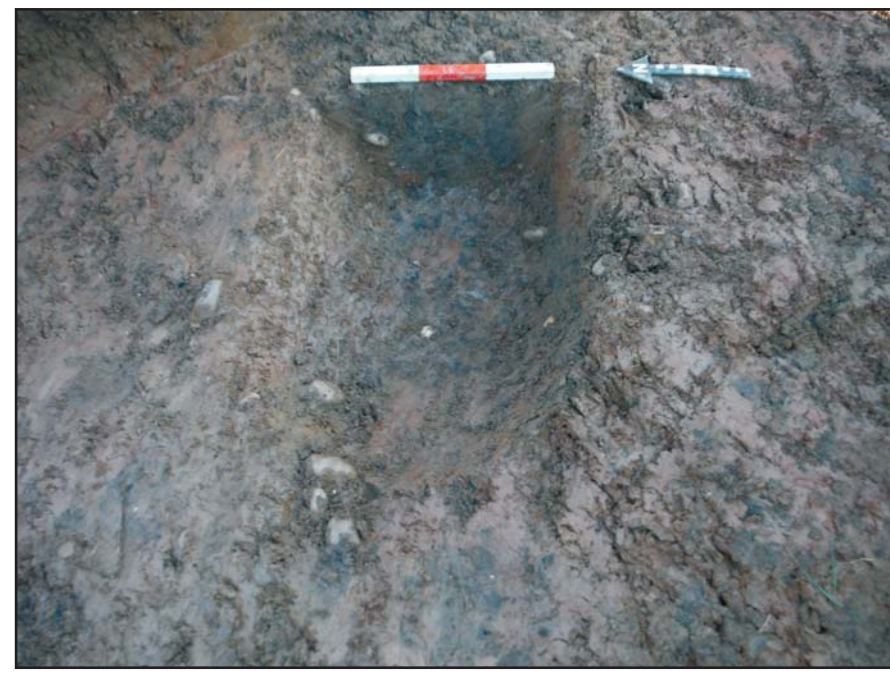
SP



Section AA



- archaeological feature
- archaeological feature (excavated)
- field drain
- furrow



Gully terminus 303, looking east (scale 0.3m)

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PROJECT TITLE  
 21 Waterloo Crescent  
 Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 3 plan and gully terminus 303:  
 section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	5755	FIGURE NO.
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