

**Tempwood  
Defford Road, Pershore  
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

*for*

**Bovis Homes**


CA Project: 4565  
CA Report: 13656  
WCC HER REF: WSM49789

November 2013

Tempwood  
Defford Road, Pershore  
Worcestershire

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date	22 November 2013
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date	26 November 2013
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signed	
date	26 November 2013
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Tempwood  
**Location:** Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** SO 9387 4528  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 6-11 November 2013  
**Planning Reference:** W/13/01258  
**WCC HER Reference:** WSM49789  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum  
**Site Code:** TDR 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2013 at Tempwood, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

An undated ditch was the only archaeological feature identified.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bovis Homes on land at Tempwood, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9387 4528). An archaeological evaluation of the site was recommended by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council (WDC) to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site to accompany a planning application (Ref. W/13/01258).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mr Glyde. The evaluation also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (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 site consisted of an area of approximately 0.1ha and is currently cleared scrub/woodland and former orchard which is bounded on the northwest and northeast by Defford Road. To the south lies extensive agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 20m AOD on land, reducing in height towards the River Avon to the south.
- 1.4 The solid geology underlying the site is Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period with superficial deposits of Quaternary Pershore Sand and Gravel member (BGS 2013).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 A desk-based assessment for the site was prepared by Cotswold Archaeology, which accompanied the application for planning consent and reference should be made to that report for the detailed archaeological background (CA 2013; HER ref. WSM48223). In summary: no known Neolithic or Bronze Age remains have been

found in the immediate proximity of the proposed development site. Archaeological investigations c. 100m to the north and north-east of the proposed development site at Pershore Cemetery have identified a rural settlement site occupied from the early Roman period, (possibly as early as the Late Iron Age), through to the 3rd century AD (HEAS 2009). There is no cartographic, archaeological or historical evidence to suggest that the proposed development site was a focus of settlement in the medieval or early post-medieval period. Since the advent of accurate mapping in the late 18th century, the proposed development site can be shown to have been wooded in the late 19th century, with evidence of recent activity in the form of temporary enclosures and buildings on site.

- 1.6 An archaeological investigation was undertaken on land adjacent to, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire. A large rectilinear enclosure was identified with internal features that may represent buildings and dates to the 2nd Century AD.

#### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 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 with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), 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).

#### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches (all 1.8m wide): four measured 30m in length, two measured 20m, one measured 40m and one trench was split to avoid a service and measured 17m in length and 1.8m wide. The trenches are shown in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 1). 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* (2012).

- 1.9 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* (2013).
- 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). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within all of the trenches, with the natural substrate comprising mid-light brown-yellow silty sand with gravel being sealed by mid grey-brown sandy silt subsoil, in turn, overlain by dark grey-brown sandy silt topsoil. Alluvial deposits were identified in Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8 which overlaid the natural and were in turn sealed by subsoil.
- 2.2 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results (see Appendix A for context descriptions). Within Trenches 2 and 8 features of modern origin were tested (including land drains). Within the Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 no evidence of any activity was noted. A possible ditch was recorded in Trench 4.

### **Trench 4**

- 2.3 Alluvium 402 was cut by possible ditch 404 (Figure 3, Section AA) that was aligned east/west with moderately sloping sides and flat base. It measured 0.85m in width and 0.3m in depth and was filled by silty sand, 405, which contained no dating evidence. It was sealed by subsoil 401, which was overlain by topsoil 400.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 A possible ditch was the only feature of archaeological interest identified on site. Cartographic evidence does not depict a ditch in this location and the alignment of the feature does not correspond with modern field systems. However, due to its undated, isolated nature, further interpretation is not possible.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, assisted by Sikko Van Der Brug. The report was written by Daniel Sausins and Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Andy Clarke. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *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 22 November 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **13233**

HEAS (Historic Environment and Archaeology Service) Worcestershire County Council 2009 *Archaeological Investigations at Pershore Cemetery, Defford Road, Worcestershire*. Ref No. 1687



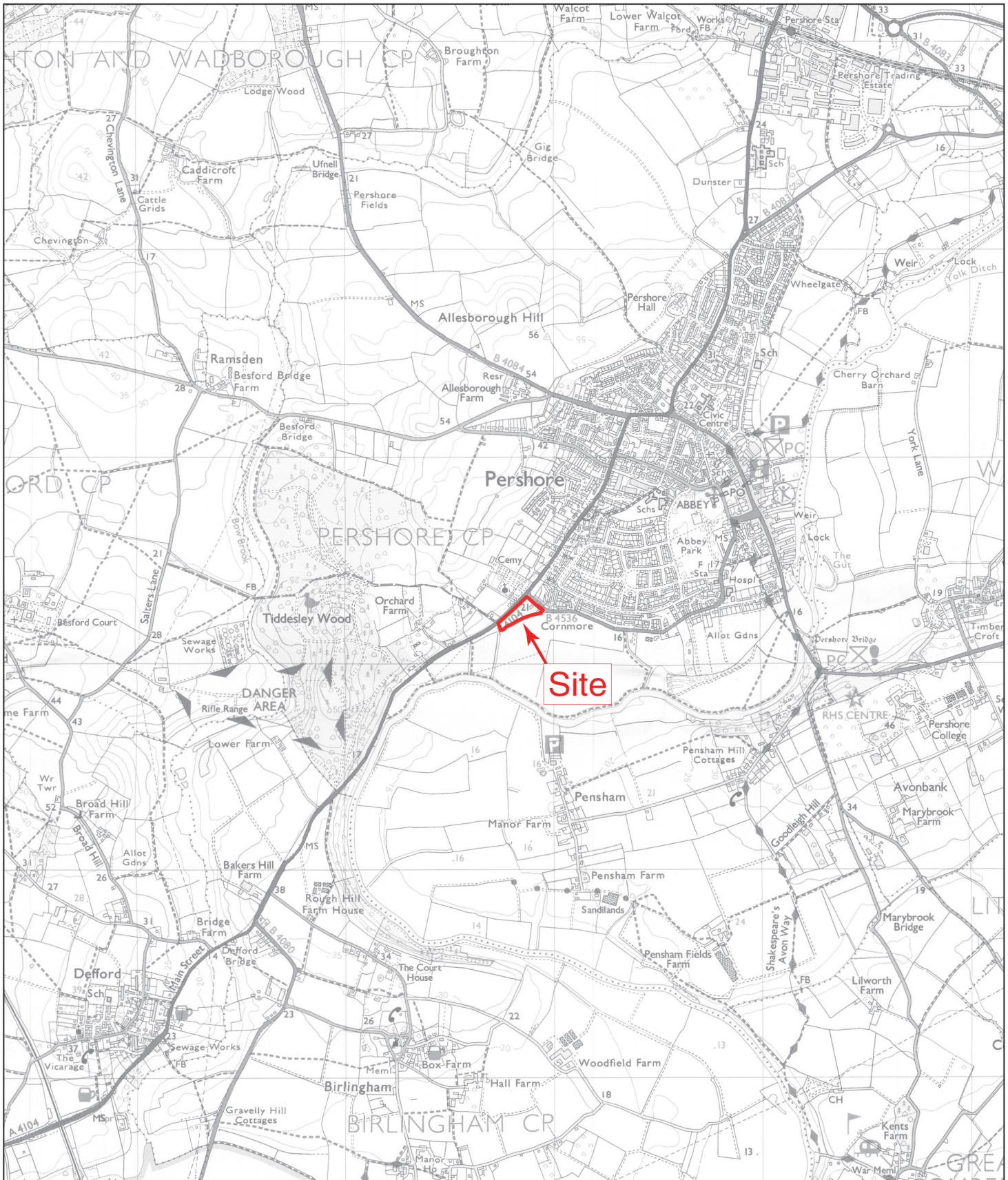


## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt			0.03
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay sandy silt			0.2
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow silty sand and gravel			
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt			0.35
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay sandy silt			0.2
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid-light brown-yellow silty sand and gravel			
2	203	Cut		Ditch	Modern. Aligned NW/SE, vertical sides	>2.0	0.67	0.46
2	204	Fill	203	Ditch fill	Mottled mid grey-brown ad light brown-yellow silt sand with wood chips and plastic flower pot.	>2.0	0.67	0.46
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt			0.3
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay sandy silt			0.25
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid grey-brown clay sandy silt			
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt			0.28
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown sandy silt			0.5
4	402	Layer		Alluvium	Mid grey-brown sandy silt			0.6
4	403	Layer		Natural	Red-brown sandy and gravel			
4	404	Cut		Ditch	Aligned E/W, moderate sides, flat base	>1.8	0.85	0.3
4	405	Fill	404	Ditch fill	Mid-dark brown silty sand	>1.8	0.85	0.3
5	501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt			0.3
5	502	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red-brown sandy silt			0.3
5	503	Layer		Alluvium	Mid grey-brown sandy silt			0.4
5	504	Layer		Alluvium	Mottled red-brown and grey-brown sandy clay			0.2
5	505	Layer		Natural	Red-brown sandy and gravel			
6	600	Layer		Layer	Dark grey sandy silt			0.3
6	601	Layer		Layer	Mid red-brown sandy silt			0.7
6	602	Layer		Layer	Mid-dark red-brown sand and gravel			
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt			0.35
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-dark red-brown sand and gravel			0.8
7	702	Layer		Alluvium	Mid grey-brown sandy silt			0.4
7	703	Layer		Natural	Mid-dark grey brown sand and gravels			
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt			0.2
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid-dark red-brown sand and gravel			0.5
8	802	Layer		Alluvium	Mid grey-brown sandy silt			0.3
8	803	Layer		Natural	Red-brown silty clay with dark grey silty sand bands			

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Tempwood, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2013 at Tempwood, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire. Eight trenches were excavated. An undated ditch was the only archaeological feature identified.	
Project dates	6-11 November 2013	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Tempwood, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9387 4528	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wychavon District Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
<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	Worcestershire County Museum	none
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, section drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Tempwood, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>13656</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Tempwood, Defford Road  
 Pershore, Worcestershire

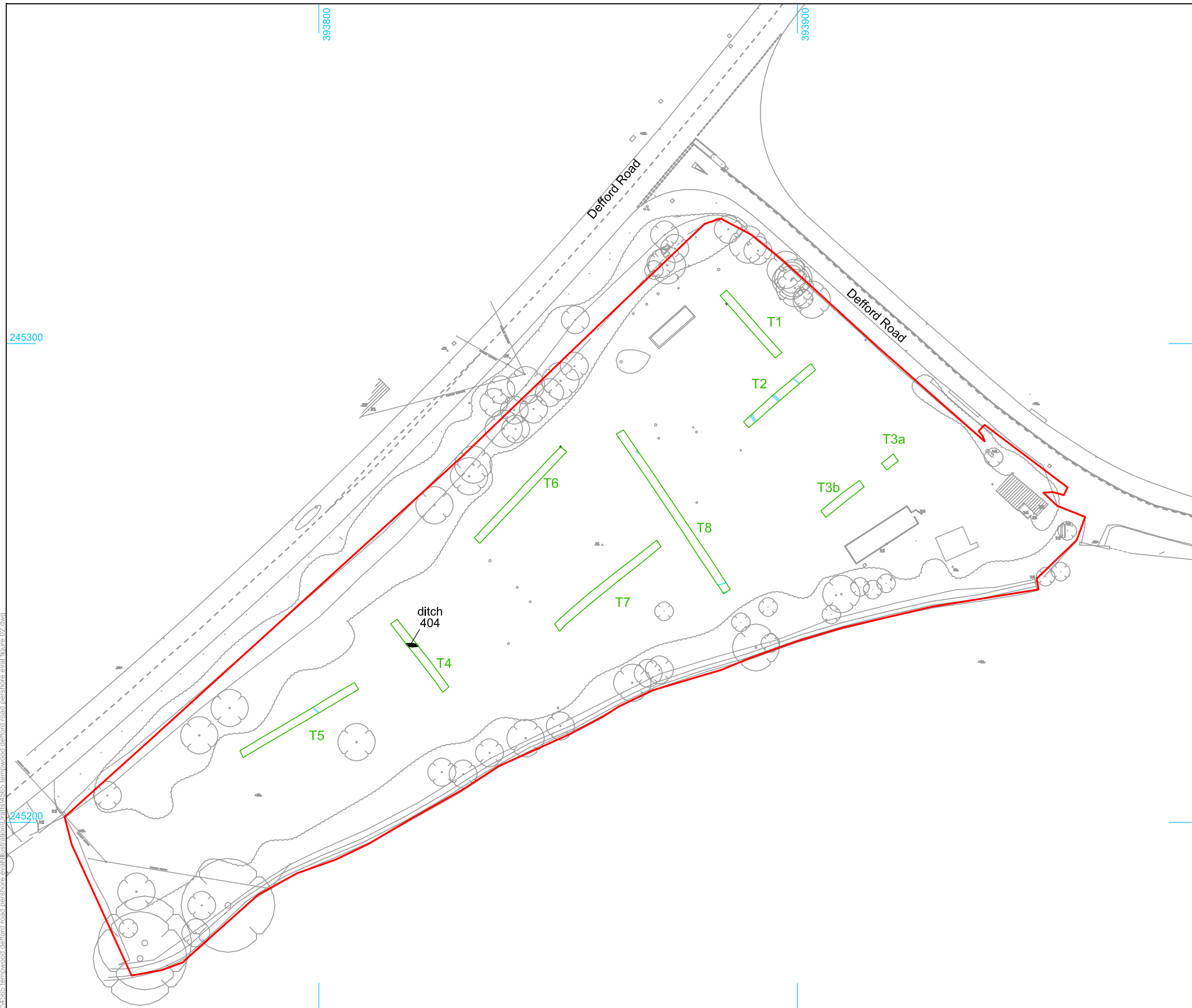
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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PROJECT NO.	4625	DATE	19-11-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	1
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- ▬ site boundary
- ▬ evaluation trench
- ▬ archaeological feature
- ▬ modern



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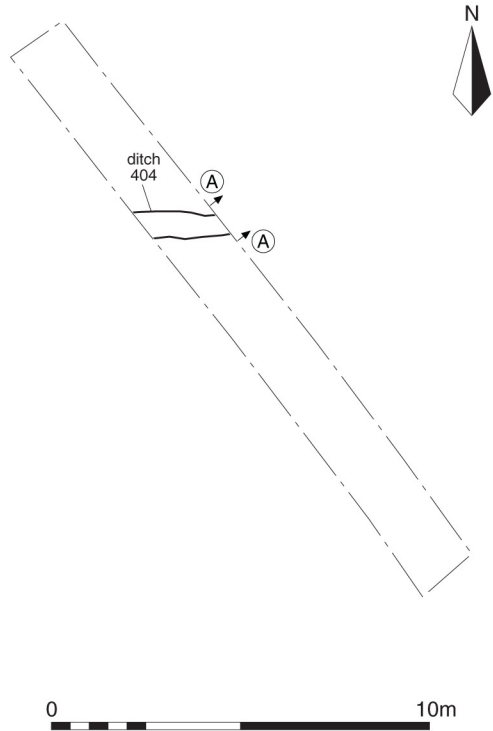
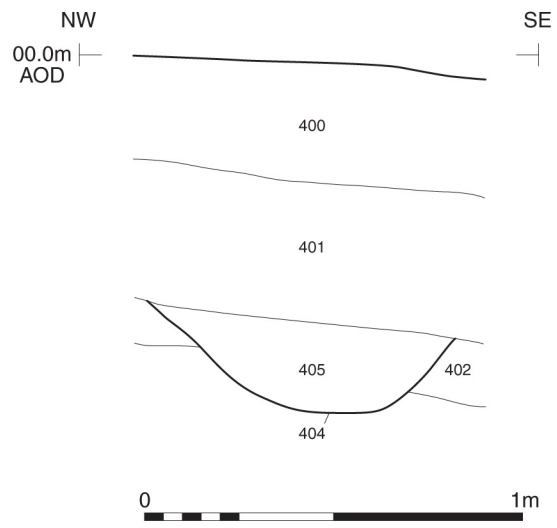
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Tempwood, Defford Road  
 Pershore, Worcestershire

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

PROJECT NO.	4565	DATE	19-11-2013	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:750	

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Section AA



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PROJECT TITLE

Tempwood, Defford Road  
 Pershore, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 4, plan and section**

PROJECT NO. 4625      DATE 22-11-2013  
 DRAWN BY LM      REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY LM      SCALE@A4 1:20 & 1:200

FIGURE NO.

**3**