



# Land at The Ship Inn Ross Road Hereford, Herefordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for CJ Bayliss (Hereford) Ltd

on behalf of Beau Homes Ltd

CA Project: 6237 CA Report: 17260 HER Ref: EHE80301

June 2017



# Land at The Ship Inn Ross Road Hereford, Herefordshire

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						<u> </u>		

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#### SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at The Ship Inn

**Location:** Ross Road, Hereford, Herefordshire.

NGR: 350720 239135

Type: Evaluation

**Date:** 2-4 May 2017

Planning Reference: Herefordshire Council planning ref. 160988

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Hereford Museum Resource and Learning

Centre

Accession Number: 2017-15 Site Code: OSI 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 on land at The Ship Inn, Ross Road, Hereford, Herefordshire. One trench was excavated.

The earliest deposit identified comprised a probable cultivation soil from which late 17th to 18th-century pottery was recovered. Six probable pits, one of which contained artefactual material of 18th-century date, were identified cutting the cultivation soil. Whilst the exact function of these pits remains unclear, they are likely to relate to domestic waste disposal to the rear of 18th and/or 19th century buildings known to have formerly occupied the site.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CJ Bayliss (Hereford) Ltd, on behalf of Beau Homes Ltd, on land at The Ship Inn, Ross Road, Hereford, Herefordshire (centred on NGR: 350720 239135; Fig. 1). Planning permission for residential development was granted by Herefordshire Council (HC; planning ref: 160988, Condition 25), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed. Following consultation between Beau Homes Ltd and Julian Cotton, Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Council it was determined that this should initially comprise archaeological trial trench evaluation.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Mr Cotton. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Mr Cotton, including a site visit on 4 May 2017.

#### The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 1.4ha in extent and comprises the buildings of the former Ship Inn as well as associated tarmac car parks and areas of vegetation. The site is bounded to north-west by the A465 (Belmont Road), to the south-east by the A49 (Ross Road) and to the south and south-west by residential properties and associated public open space. The site lies at approximately 51m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Raglan Mudstone Formation Siltstone and Mudstone of the Silurian Period. Superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits, 1 Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period are noted throughout the site (BGS 2017). The natural substrate, comprising compact mid redbrown silt clay with frequent angular stone inclusions, was identified in the excavated trench.

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site and a wider study area have been subject to a heritage desk-based assessment (CA 2013). The following is a brief summary of this assessment, along with any other publically available information pertinent to the site.

#### Prehistoric

- 2.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified within the site itself; however the site is located in an area known to contain alluvial and river terrace deposits both of which are considered to have some potential to contain Palaeolithic remains in secondary contexts (CA 2013).
- 2.3 Some evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity has been recorded in the wider study area. This includes; a scatter of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint artefacts and an unstratified sherd of Bronze Age pottery recorded c. 300m to the north-west of the current site (Archaeological Investigation Ltd. 2011), a pit of Neolithic date recorded c. 250m to the north-west of the site (Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2001a) and an assemblage of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint flakes recorded c. 440m to the north-east of the site (CA 2013).
- 2.4 Evidence of Iron Age activity in the wider study area is limited to a small pit and a possible hearth identified c. 300m to the north-west of the current site during a programme of archaeological works (Archaeological Investigation Ltd. 2011) and an Iron Age coin recorded as a chance find on the northern bank of the Wye c. 400m to the north-west of the site (CA 2013).

### Roman

2.5 Archaeological evidence currently indicates that Roman activity in Hereford was focused to the north of the River Wye (*ibid*.). Evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the current site is limited to a bronze figure of Hermes recovered to the north of the River Wye, c. 400m to the north-west of the site (*Ibid*.) and a small assemblage of residual Roman pottery recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken c. 100m to the north-west of the site (Archaeological Investigation Ltd. 2001a and 2011).

#### Medieval

- 2.6 The site lies within a broader area defined as having potential for the survival of medieval features and deposits and a number of archaeological investigations within the wider study area have recorded evidence of both medieval occupational and industrial activity (CA 2013).
- 2.7 A scatter of 10th to early 12th-century pottery was identified during archaeological works undertaken c. 300m to the north-west of the current site in the area of the new St Martins Bowling Green (Archaeological Investigation Ltd. 2011). A number 13th to 15th-century features, all seemingly associated with industrial activity or pottery production, were also identified during these investigations (*ibid.*). Further medieval structures, layers and deposits have been recorded c. 100m to the north-east of the site (Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2000; 2001b; 2001c).

#### Post-medieval and Modern

- 2.8 Cartographic evidence indicates that by the 17th-century the current site was bounded by roads correlating to the routes of the modern A49 and A465 (CA 2013). Fields are shown within the western and central areas of the site throughout the 17th and 18th-centuries. However, a number of structures, with associated plots to their rears, appear to have been built along the eastern edge of the site by the beginning of the 18th-century. These structures are unnamed but may represent antecedents of the Ship Inn (ibid.).
- 2.9 By the beginning of the 19th-century, historic mapping indicates that structures had also been built along the western edge of the site, mirroring those already present to the east (*ibid.*). A map of 1808 and the 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of St John's show the western part of the site occupied by part of an enclosure marked as a "Burying Ground", associated with a small structure lying beyond the site (marked as a mortuary chapel on later 19th-century mapping). The 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map indicates little change within the site itself; however the mortuary chapel, and presumably therefore the burial ground, is depicted as disused (*ibid.*).
- 2.10 Aerial photographs taken during the 1970s show that the mortuary chapel had been demolished and the area immediately to the south of the current site was occupied by housing (*ibid*.). The extent of below-ground disturbance associated with this development is unclear; however it may have caused some disturbance to earlier remains. It is also possible that the former burial ground, including the southern part

of the current site, was cleared of human remains during the construction of these houses, although there is currently no evidence to support this (*ibid*.).

#### 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 HC 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 a trench measuring 10m in length in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Due to the depth of excavation required, the trench was stepped to a maximum width of 4m. The trench was 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 The trench was 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. 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 Hereford Museum Resource and Learning Centre under accession number 2017-15, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

# RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and biological evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 The natural substrate, comprising compact mid red-brown silt clay with frequent angular stone inclusions, was encountered at approximately 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by deposit 102, measuring between 0.35m and 0.48m in thickness, from which two sherds of late 17th to 18th-century pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered. This deposit appears to represent a cultivation soil or a gradual episode of make-up. All identified archaeological features cut this deposit and were sealed by buried topsoil 101, which measured up to 0.35m in thickness. Buried topsoil 101 was in turn overlain by modern topsoil, 100.
- 5.3 Two sub-rectangular features, 104 and 106, were identified along the south-western edge of the trench. Both were aligned broadly east/west and had similar flat-based profiles and near-vertical sides. Feature 106 (Fig. 3, section AA) measured 1.5m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.28m in depth. It contained a single sandy silt fill, 107, which was fully excavated within the trench and from which three sherds of 18th to 19th-century pottery, a fragment of post-medieval glass, a fragment of clay pipe stem, two iron nails and a small quantity of animal bone was recovered. Approximately 2m to the south-east, feature 104 (Fig. 3, section AA) was partially exposed. It measured at least 2m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.9m in depth and contained a single friable sandy silt fill 105, which was fully excavated within the trench and contained frequent red brick, concrete and stone fragments.

- 5.4 A further partially exposed feature, 112, was identified in the north-western corner of the trench. Its friable sandy silt fill, 113, contained frequent red brick, concrete and stone fragments and was fully excavated within the trench.
- 5.5 Sub-square pit 114 (Fig. 4, section BB) was partially exposed towards the south-eastern corner of the trench. It had vertical sides and a flat base and measured 1.1m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.24m in depth. It contained two fills, 115 and 116, the latest of which, 116, contained 15 sherds of 18th-century pottery, a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), three fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, a bone knife handle and six fragments of animal bone.
- 5.6 Two pits, 108 (Fig. 3, section AA) and 110, were identified towards the southeastern end of the trench. Both had shallow irregular profiles and contained similar undated sandy silt fills, 109 and 111, respectively.

#### THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three deposits (pit fill 116, feature fill 107 and probable cultivation soil 102). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Fabric codes, in Appendix B and in parenthesis in the text, correspond to the Hereford/ Worcester pottery type series codes as defined by Hurst and Rees (1992).

#### Pottery

6.2 Pottery totalling 20 sherds (193g) was recovered during the course of the evaluation. The assemblage has been well broken-up, with an average sherd weight of 10g, although minimal abrasion was recorded. Two sherds in Midlands Purple (100) were recovered, including a base sherd most likely from a cup. This ware type is dateable to the late 14th to 18th-centuries in this region. Pottery dating to the late 17th to 18th-centuries was represented by three sherds of yellow slipware (91), three of Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed earthenware (100) and one sherd of Westerwald stoneware (81.2). Creamware (84) and white salt-glazed stoneware (81.5), dateable to the 18th-century, were recovered from pit fill 116. A total of seven sherds of black-glazed earthenware (78) are of 18th to 19th century date and a base

sherd from a vessel in refined whiteware (85) dates to the late 18th to 19thcenturies.

#### Ceramic building material

6.3 Two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material were recorded – flat roof tile from fill 107 of feature 106 and an unclassifiable fragment from fill 116 of pit 114.

#### Other finds

- 6.4 A total of six fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, of broad late 16th to late 19th-century date, were recovered from fill 107 of pit 106 and fill 116, the latest fill of pit 114.
- 6.5 A fragment from a post-medieval wine/spirits bottle in dark green glass was retrieved from fill 107 of feature 106.
- 6.6 Pit fill 116 produced a decorated bone handle from a knife of post-medieval date. A portion of the heavily corroded iron blade was still attached.

#### 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

#### **Animal Bone**

- 7.1 A total of 25 fragments (208g) of animal bone was recovered from cultivation deposit 102, fill 107 of feature 106 and fill 116 of pit 114, all dating to the post-medieval period. The recovered material was well preserved but had been subject to both historical and modern damage. It was however possible to identify the remains of cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis aries/Capra hircus) and domestic goose (Anser anser).
- 7.2 Three fragments of cattle bone were identified, all of which were from meat-poor areas of the carcass, such as the bones of the feet or skull. Sheep/goat was identified from ten fragments of meat-poor and also meat-rich bones, such as the scapula or femur. The presence of goose was also confirmed from a single wing bone (the ulna) recovered from fill 107 of feature 106. Heavy, cleaver-like chop marks and impact damage were observed suggesting that much of the assemblage had an origin in secondary butchery, i.e. the separation of a carcass into joints of meat.

#### 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 A small number of archaeological features were identified during the evaluation, all of which were shown to cut probable post-medieval cultivation soil 102.
- 8.2 The presence of cultivation soil 102, and the absence of artefactual material of pre-17th-century date within the excavated trench, supports the findings of the preceding archaeological desk based assessment that suggested that the central parts of the development area remained in agricultural usage until at least the 17th-century (CA 2013).
- 8.3 Pit 114 contained pottery of 18th-century date and pits 108 and 110 are likely to be contemporary due to the similarities of their fills. These pits may therefore be contemporary with the development of structures along the eastern frontage of the current site (see archaeological background above). The original function of these pits remains unclear; however the small quantities of butchered sheep and cow bone recovered from the latest fill of pit 114 suggests that they may have functioned as rubbish pits for domestic butchery waste. As such, they appear typical of the activity to be expected in the rear of post-medieval building plots.
- 8.4 The function of features 104, 106 and 112 also remains unclear. The size, shape and broadly east/west alignment of features 104 and 106 raises the possibility that they represent grave cuts associated with the former early 19th-century burial ground that is known to have occupied the western parts of the site (see archaeological background above). However, this suggestion would appear highly unlikely as they lay outside the recorded boundaries of this burial ground and no human remains were recovered from these features during the evaluation, despite the complete removal of their respective fills. Furthermore, the recovery of butchered animal bone, clay pipe stem, glass and 18th to 19th-century pottery from the fill of feature 106 and the presence of abundant CBM and stone fragments within the fills of features 104 and 112, suggests that they most likely represent further rubbish pits for the disposal of either domestic waste or demolition material.

#### CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Gary Baddeley. The report was written by Tim Havard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. 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 Steven Sheldon.

#### 10. REFERENCES

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# APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey sand silt with occasional rounded pebble inclusions.	>10	>4	0.2	duto
1	101	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark grey black sand silt	>10	>4	0.35	
1	102	Layer		Cultivation soil	Light orange brown silt sand with occasional irregular stone fragments	>10	>4	0.48	
1	103	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact mid red-brown silt clay with frequent angular stone inclusions	>10	>1.6	>0.1	
1	104	Cut		Pit??	Sub-rectangular, rounded corners, vertical sides, flat base.	>2	0.75	0.9	
1	105	Fill	104	Fill	Dark grey black sand silt with frequent red brick, and stone fragments.	>2	0.75	0.9	
1	106	Cut		Pit??	Sub-rectangular, rounded corners, vertical sides, flat base	1.5	0.8	0.28	
1	107	Fill	106	Fill	Mid grey brown sand silt with frequent coal fragments	1.5	0.8	0.28	C18- C19
1	108	Cut		Pit	Sub-square, rounded corners, steep irregular sides and flat base	0.48	0.38	0.3	
1	109	Fill	108	Fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt	0.48	0.38	0.3	
1	110	Cut		Pit	Sub-rectangular, rounded corners, irregular sides, uneven base	0.48	0.38	0.1	
1	111	Fill	110	Fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt	0.48	0.38	0.1	
1	112	Cut		Pit??	Sub-square, rounded corners, unexcavated	>0.5	>0.4	>0.2	
1	113	Fill	112	Fill	Dark grey black sand silt with frequent red brick, and stone fragments.	>0.5	>0.4	>0.2	
1	114	Cut		Pit	Sub-square, rounded corners, vertical sides, flat base	1.1	0.9	0.24	
1	115	Fill	114	Fill	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of pit 114. Light grey brown sand silt with rare charcoal flecks	1.1	0.9	0.06	
1	116	Fill	114	Fill	2 <sup>no</sup> fill of pit 114. Mid brown grey sand silt with rare charcoal flecks	1.1	0.9	0.18	C18

# APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Post-medieval pottery	Yellow slipware	91	1	12	LC17-C18
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	85	1	17	
107	Post-medieval pottery	Westerwald stoneware	81.2	1	5	C18-C19
	Post-medieval pottery	Yellow slipware	91	1	10	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Black-glazed earthenware	78	1	12	
	Post-medieval glass	Bottle		1	81	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		3	6	
	Iron	Nail		2	10	
116	Post-medieval pottery	Yellow slipware	91	1	6	C18
	Post-medieval pottery	White salt-glazed stoneware	81.5	1	2	
	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	84	2	21	
	Post-medieval pottery	Midlands Purple	100	2	22	
	Post-medieval pottery	Staffordshire mottled brown- glazed earthenware	100	3	9	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Black-glazed earthenware	78	6	77	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	21	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		3	8	
	Worked bone/iron	Knife handle		1	101	

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP), weight and context.

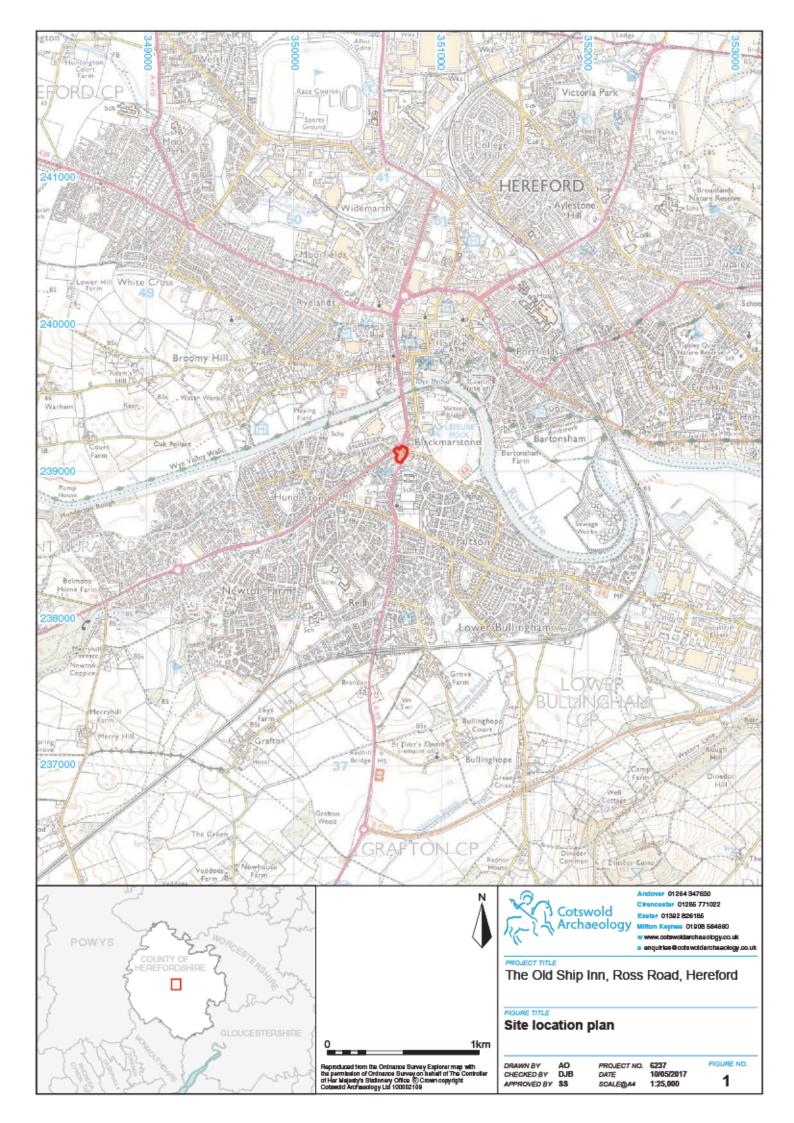
Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	Anser	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
	102		1			2	3	7
106	107	2	7	1	1	5	16	112
114	116	1	2		3		6	89
Total		3	10	1	4	7	25	
Weight		38	80	6	73	11	208	

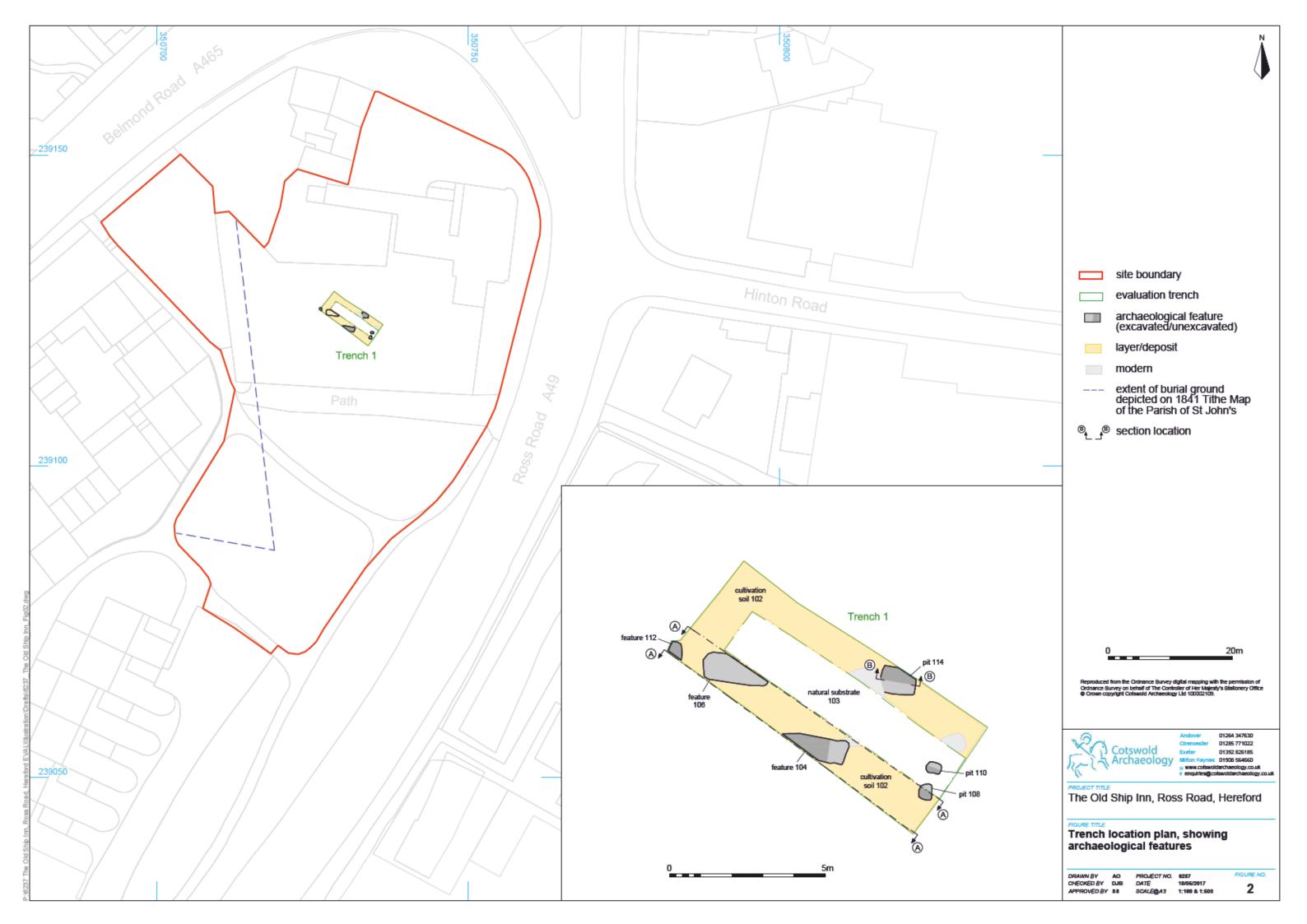
BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; Anser = goose; LM= large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal

# APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

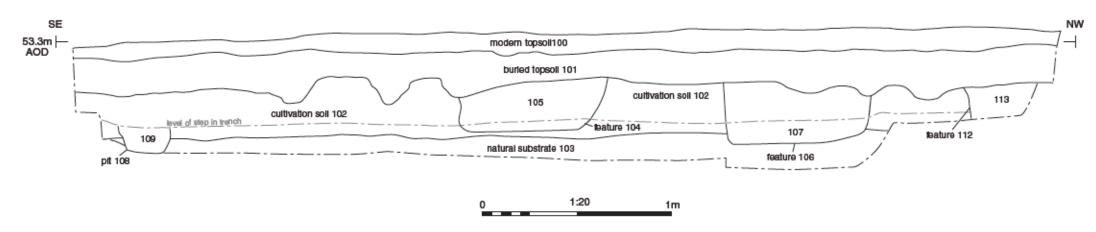
PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name	Land at The Ship Inn, Ross Road, Archaeological Evaluation	Hereford, Herefordshire:				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was u	undertaken by Cotswold				
	Archaeology in May 2017 on land at T Hereford, Herefordshire. One trench was					
	Tiereloid, Tiereloidaillie. One tiericii waa	excavated.				
	The earliest deposit identified comprised a probable cultivation soi					
	from which late 17th to 18th-century pottery was recovered. S					
	probable pits, one of which contained a					
	century date, were identified cutting the					
	exact function of these pits remains uncle					
	to domestic waste disposal to the rear or buildings known to have formerly occupie					
Project dates	2-4 May 2017	ed tile Site.				
Project type	Field Evaluation					
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CA 2013)					
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Site Location Land at The Ship Inn, Ross Road, Hereford, Herefordshire					
Study area (M²/ha) 1.38ha						
Site co-ordinates	rdinates 350720 239135					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	N/A					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Tim Havard					
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS PROJECT ARCHIVES	None	Content				
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.):	Content:				
Physical	Herefordshire Museum and Resource	Pottery, clay pipe stem,				
	Learning Centre/2017-15	worked bone, animal bone				
Paper	Herefordshire Museum and Resource	Context sheets, trench				
· spoi	Learning Centre/2017-15	recording sheet.				
		permatrace drawings,				
		photographic register				
Digital	Herefordshire Museum and Resource	Digital photographs				
	Learning Centre/2017-15					
BIBLIOGRAPHY						
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Evaluation. CA typescript report 17260						

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# Section AA





Feature, 104 looking west (1m scale)



Feature106 (fully excavated), looking west (1 m scale)



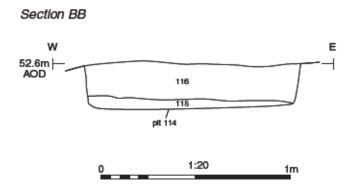
Pit 110, looking south-west (0.4m scale)



The Old Ship Inn, Ross Road, Hereford

Trench 1: section and photographs

DRAWN BY AD CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY \$\$ PROJECT NO. 6237 DATE 10/05/2017 SCALE@A3 1:20





Pit 114, looking north (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630 ater 01286 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 n Keynes 01908 564660 tarchaeology.co.uk

The Old Ship Inn, Ross Road, Hereford

Trench 1: section and photograph

DRAWN BY AO CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY \$8

PROJECT NO. 6237 DATE 10/05/2017 SCALE@A4 1:20

4



#### **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 53
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

