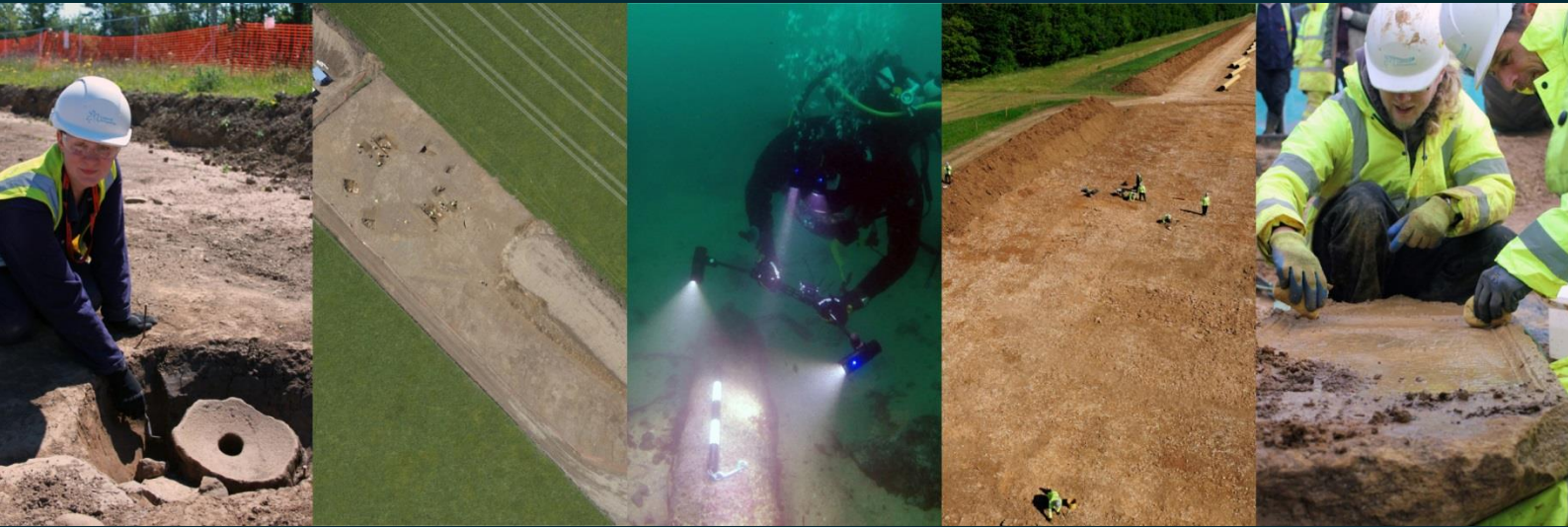


**Rose Bank Phase II
London Road
Worcester**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Poole Phillips Associates

on behalf of
Matthews Construction

CA Project: 6210
CA Report: 17190
HER Event Number: WCM102230
April 2017



Rose Bank Phase II London Road Worcester

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6210
CA Report: 17190



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	28 MARCH 2017	CHRISTOPHER LEONARD	IAN BARNES	DRAFT	CLIENT COMMENT	REY

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and previous evaluation trenches (1:500)

Fig. 3 Trench 7: post-excavation photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Rose Bank Phase II
Location:	London Road, Worcester
NGR:	SO 85858 54249
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	27 March 2017
Planning Reference:	Worcester City Council ref P15D0146
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcester City Museum
Site Code:	ROSE 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2017 at Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester. One trench was excavated.

Three brick drains, most likely serving the 19th-century cottages, and a layer of brick rubble probably derived from the demolition of the cottages were recorded during the evaluation. No other features or deposits were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Poole Phillips Associates, on behalf of Matthews Construction, at Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester (centred on NGR: SO 85858 54249; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Worcester City Council (WCC; Ref: P15D0146) for the construction of a residential development. The current evaluation was the second phase of work on the site, following a previous evaluation in 2016.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological evaluation (WCC 2015) prepared by James Dinn, Archaeological Officer for WCC and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by James Dinn. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Worcester* (WCC 2016).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 1.4ha in extent, and comprises the remains of a former 19th-century garden in the south of the site, with the northern area occupied by a 20th-century bungalow, outbuildings and landscape gardens. The eastern area is wooded. The site is bounded to the north and east by residences fronting onto Edward Close and Victoria Avenue respectively, to the south by gardens of residences along St Catherine's Hill and to the west by an area of trees. The site lies between 43–45m AOD, varying across its area and dropping sharply at the north of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation– Mudstone of the Triassic Period (BGS 2017). Orange clay was identified as the natural substrate within the trench.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2015, a Desk Based Heritage Assessment was prepared to accompany a planning application for the site (CA 2015). A short summary of this assessment and

the results of the 2016 historic building assessment (CA 2016a) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2016b) are presented below.

- 2.2 There is no recorded evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate proximity of the site which is located c. 0.9km from the River Severn, the focus of activity of this date (CA 2015).
- 2.3 The site remained within the agricultural hinterland of Worcester from the medieval period, evidence of which is recorded to the east of the site in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks; shallow remnants of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow were recorded in the south of site during the first phase of evaluation associated with this planning application (CA 2016b).
- 2.4 Based upon documentary evidence of troop manoeuvres and known areas of defences associated with the Siege of Worcester in 1642 and the Battle of Worcester in 1651, it is considered likely that the site formed part of the field of conflict for both battles (*ibid* 2015).
- 2.5 At the beginning of the 19th century land to the north of London Road in the vicinity of Rose Bank was sold off for the development. The 19th century structures in the centre of the site, comprising a residential dwelling ('gardener's cottage') and outbuildings, date from this phase of development and were formerly associated with a large Georgian villa, known as 'Catherine Hill House' (not located within the proposed development site). The historic building assessment concluded that the cottage originally comprised two dwellings and was contemporary with the outbuildings (CA 2016a).
- 2.6 The 2016 evaluation revealed features and remnants of structures identified across the northern and central parts of the site that may relate to structures thought to be present during the mid-19th century (CA 2016b). At this time, greenhouses and ancillary structures were thought to occupy the site including an early-19th century walled garden. However, more recent disturbance limited the extent to which a definitive interpretation could be made.



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 WCC 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, 20m long and 1.8m wide, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). 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 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 natural substrate.
- 4.3 Stratigraphical 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.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcester City 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

5.2 The natural geological substrate (703), comprising orange clay, was identified across the trench at a depth of 1.42m below present ground level (bpgl) at the southern end of the trench and 0.64m bpgl at the northern end. The natural was covered by subsoil 702, which was typically 0.29m in thickness. The subsoil was cut by three drains constructed from red brick (Fig. 3), which may be associated with the 19th-century cottages. The subsoil was sealed by made ground 701, comprised of crushed bricks and rubble, which was 0.42m in thickness at the southern end of the trench and 0.1m in thickness at the northern end. This was in turn sealed by modern topsoil 700.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the potential for archaeological medieval and post-medieval remains (see archaeological background above), no features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were identified during the evaluation. This is consistent with the results of the previous phase of archaeological evaluation (CA 2016b), in confirming that features relating to the cottages and earlier ridge and furrow either did not extend to the north of the cottages, or were truncated by later use of the site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Holly Young. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 28 March 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015, *Rose Bank, London Road Worcester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* CA Report No. **14414**

CA 2016a *Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester: Historic Building Recording* CA Report No. **16149**

CA 2016b *Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*
CA Report No. **16219**

CA 2017 *Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WCC (Worcestershire City Council) 2015 *Brief for archaeological evaluation, mitigation and building recording, Rose Bank, Worcester.*

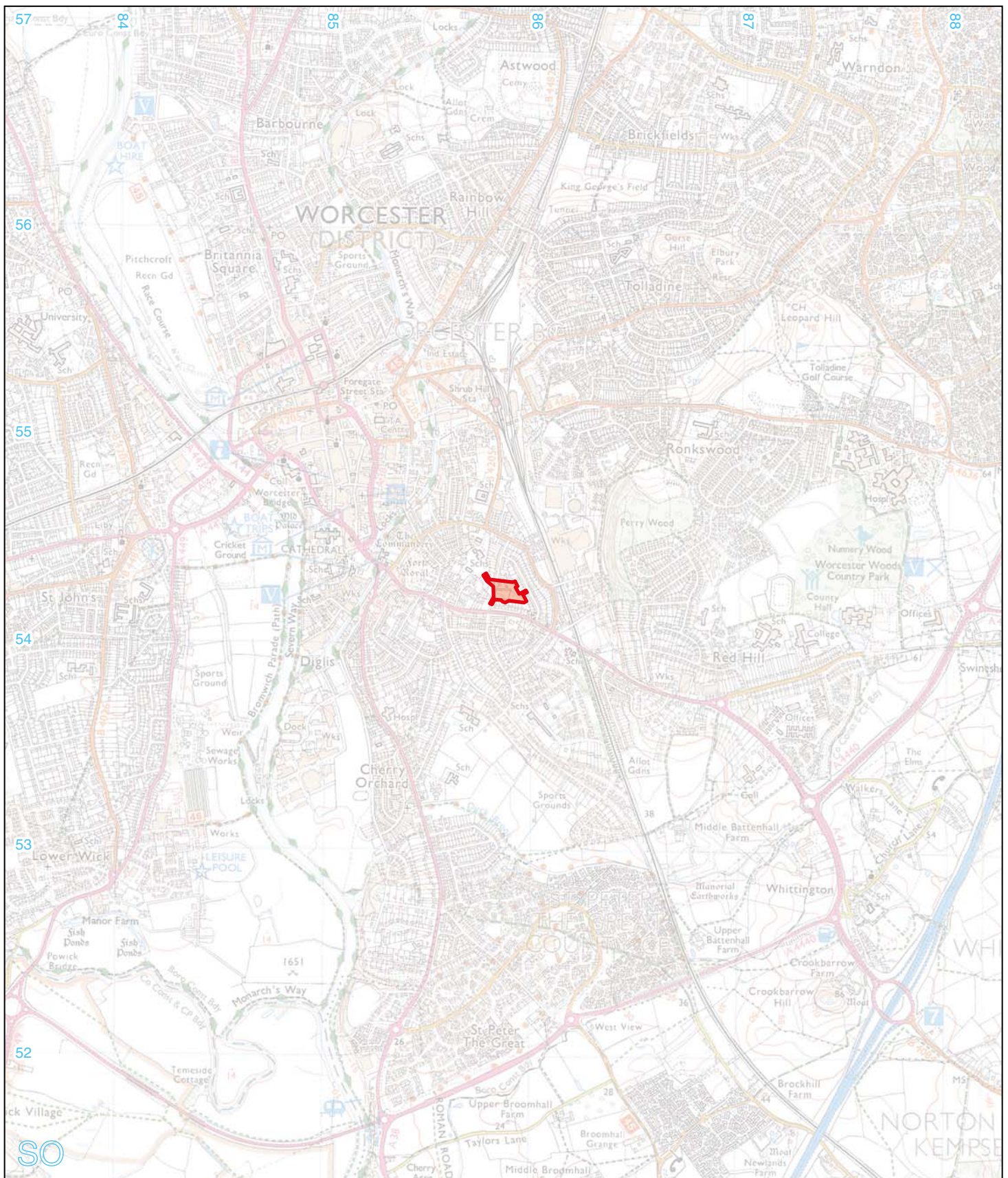


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
700	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Modern brick and rubble inclusions. Large amounts of post-medieval and modern pottery and glass	0.71
701	Layer	Made ground	Deposit of modern brick and rubble within mid grey silty clay matrix	0.42
702	Layer	Subsoil	Light grey-orange silty clay	0.29
703	Layer	Natural	Grey-orange clay. Root disturbance and occasional silt patches	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Rose Bank Phase II, London Road, Worcester	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2017 at Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester. One trench was excavated. Three brick drains, most likely serving the 19th-century cottages and a layer of brick rubble probably derived from the demolition of the cottages were recorded during the evaluation. No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were identified.	
Project dates	27 March 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CA 2015) Historic Building Assessment (CA 2016) Field evaluation (CA 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	London Road, Worcester	
Study area	c. 1.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 85858 54249	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcester City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	Worcester City Museum	Trench recording form
Digital	Worcester City Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Rose Bank Phase II, London Road, Worcester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17190		



 Site location



0  1km

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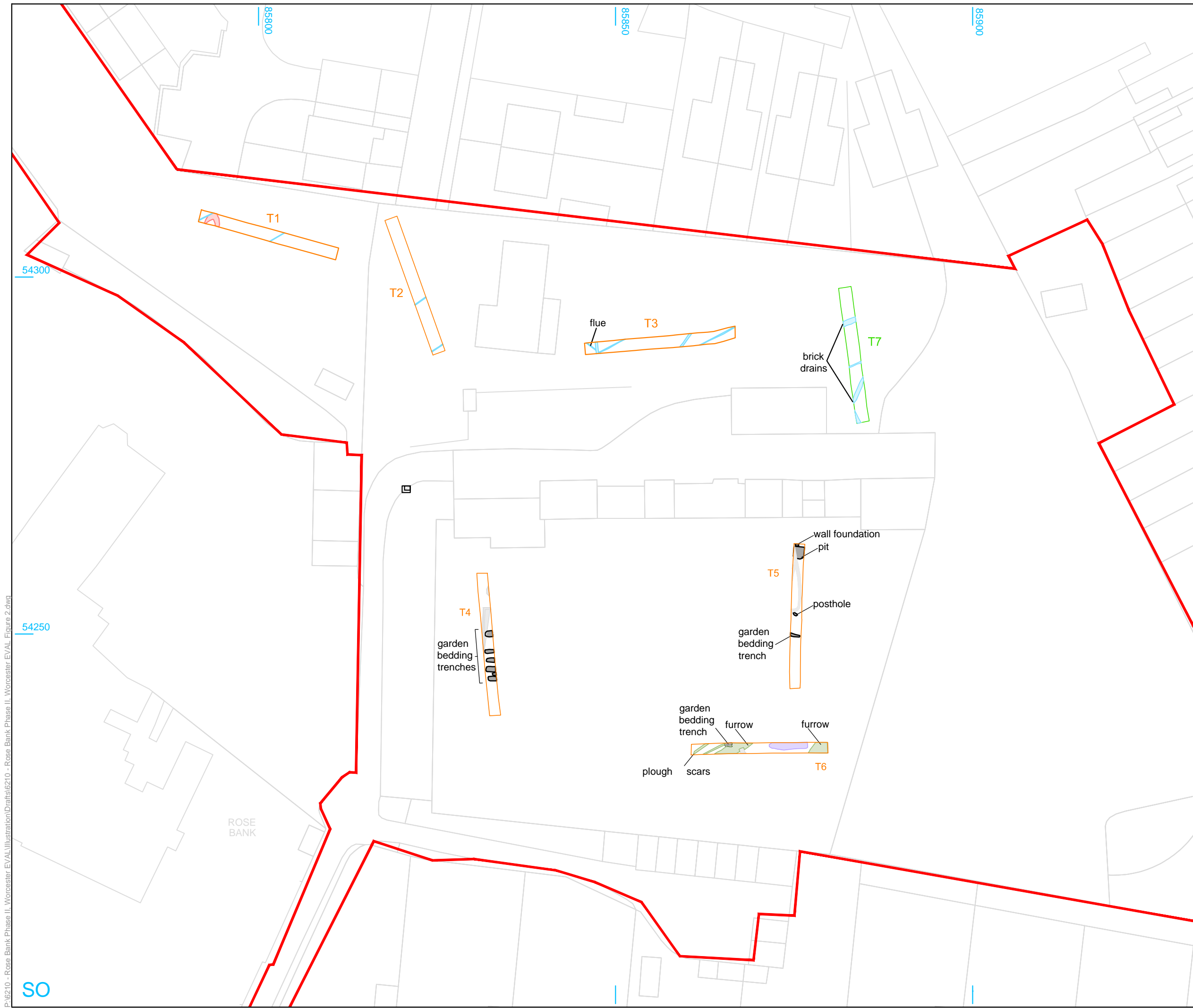


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PROJECT TITLE
Rose Bank, London Road, Worcester
Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SO/TC	PROJECT NO.	6210	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	26/04/2016	
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2016)
- archaeological feature
- layer/deposit
- geological feature
- furrow
- modern
- field drain
- treethrow

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PROJECT TITLE

Rose Bank, London Road, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan showing archaeological features and previous evaluation trenches

DRAWN BY TC	PROJECT NO. 6210	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY AO	DATE 31/03/17	2
APPROVED BY IB	SCALE@A3 1:500	



Post-excitation photograph of Trench 7, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 7, showing the brick drains, looking south-west (1m scale)

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	PROJECT TITLE Rose Bank Phase II, London Road Worcester		
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	FIGURE TITLE Photographs		
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