

Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road  
Burton upon Trent  
Staffordshire  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
David Wilson Homes

CA Project: 6469  
CA Report: 17735

January 2018



Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road  
 Burton upon Trent  
 Staffordshire

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Upper Outwoods Farm  
**Location:** Beamhill Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire  
**NGR:** 422710 325440  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 4th – 8th, 18-19th December 2017  
**Planning Reference:** East Staffordshire Borough Council P/2016/00232/ P/2013/00429  
**Location of Archive:** Potteries Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** UOF 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2017 at Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. A total of 13 trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was retained.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Orion Heritage, on behalf of David Wilson Homes, at Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire (centred at NGR: 422710 325440; Fig. 1). Planning permission for an access road and landscaping was granted by East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC; planning ref: P/2016/00232), in addition to planning permission for the erection of 950 dwellings, primary school and day nursery, retail space, a health care centre and community facilities (ESBC; planning ref: P/2013/00429). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany both planning applications.
- 1.2 The evaluation scope was confirmed during consultation with Debbie Taylor (Historic Environment Advisor, Staffordshire County Council), the archaeological advisor to ESBC. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was subsequently produced by CA (2017) and approved by Debbie Taylor. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 81ha in extent, and comprises pasture and former arable fields. It is bounded to the north by Beamhill Road, east by residential properties, the south by Field Lane and the west by Outwoods Lane. The site lies at between 70m and 90m AOD, with ground level falling towards the central area of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group of the Triassic Period. Superficial deposits of Mid Pleistocene-Diamicton Till are mapped at the southern extent of the site (BGS 2017). Natural substrate consisting of till with occasional outcrops of bedrock were observed in all trenches.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site has been subject to Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2000) and geophysical survey (Headland Archaeology 2017). The following is a summary of those investigations.

- 2.2 No prehistoric or Roman evidence was noted following a search of on the Historic Environment Record (HER). Medieval archaeological assets within the site, and in the immediate surrounding areas, consist largely of ridge and furrow earthworks. During the post-medieval and modern periods, parts of the site were deforested (VCH: 1970; 181-183). The extant field system can first be seen on mapping dating to the 1700s and later OS mapping (CgMs 2000).
- 2.3 A geophysical survey of the site identified anomalies consistent predominantly of post-medieval and modern agricultural landscaping and ridge and furrow remains (Headland Archaeology 2017).

### 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* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable ESDC 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 initially comprised the excavation of 13 trenches, all measuring 50m in length by 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 10 was located across a possible cropmark identified by the HER and the geophysical report. At the request of the Debbie Taylor, Trenches 12 and 13 were added to the agreed scope to further examine the possible cropmark. 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*: no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were retained due to their modern date.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. 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 2-5)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate, consisting of clay with gravel, was revealed in all trenches at an average depth of 0.3m bpgl. This was overlain by subsoil averaging 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil. Trenches 1-4, 6-7, 10 and 12 contained no archaeological features. Modern ditch 503 was noted within Trench 5.
- 5.2 North-south aligned furrows were encountered in Trenches 9 and 11 (Fig. 4). They were up to 1.2m in width and cut the subsoil. The silty-clay fills contained modern material.
- 5.3 At the southern end of Trench 8, southeast-northwest aligned ditch 803 was identified. It was 0.75m in width and contained silty clay fill 804, which contained modern material (Fig. 3). This ditch correlated with a geophysical anomaly. North-south aligned ditch 1303 was identified in the eastern half of Trench 13 (Fig. 5). It was 0.6m in width and contained silty-clay fill 1304, from which modern material was noted. Both features cut the subsoil and were sealed by topsoil.
- 5.4 While a definitive conclusion cannot be stated, it is probable that the potential archaeological features identified by the HER and the geophysical survey relate to minor changes in natural geology as particularly observed in Trenches 10 and 12.



## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified limited archaeological remains. Ditches identified in Trenches 8 and 13 correspond directly with field boundaries on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map and the previous geophysical survey.
- 6.2 Ditch 503 does not appear on either the geophysical survey or OS mapping; the current land owner believes this was a service trench. Furrows observed in Trenches 9 and 11 matched those seen during the previous geophysical survey.
- 6.3 The absence of archaeological deposits supports the conclusion of the DBA with respect that much of the site was forested until the late-medieval period (CgMs 2000). It is likely that should archaeological feature have been present these have been removed by general forestry activity or subsequent agricultural activity.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund, assisted by Noel Boothroyd, Chris Watts and Chantal Ash. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by 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 30 November 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Upper Outwoods Farm Beamhill Road Burton on Trent Staffordshire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CgMs 2000 *Outwoods, Burton upon Trent, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*



Headland Archaeology 2017 *Upper Outwoods Farm, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, Geophysical Survey*

VCH (Victoria County History) 1970 *A History of the County of Stafford: Burton upon Trent: Volume 9*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

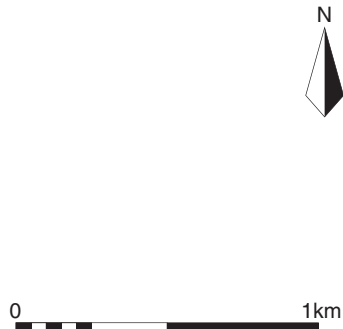
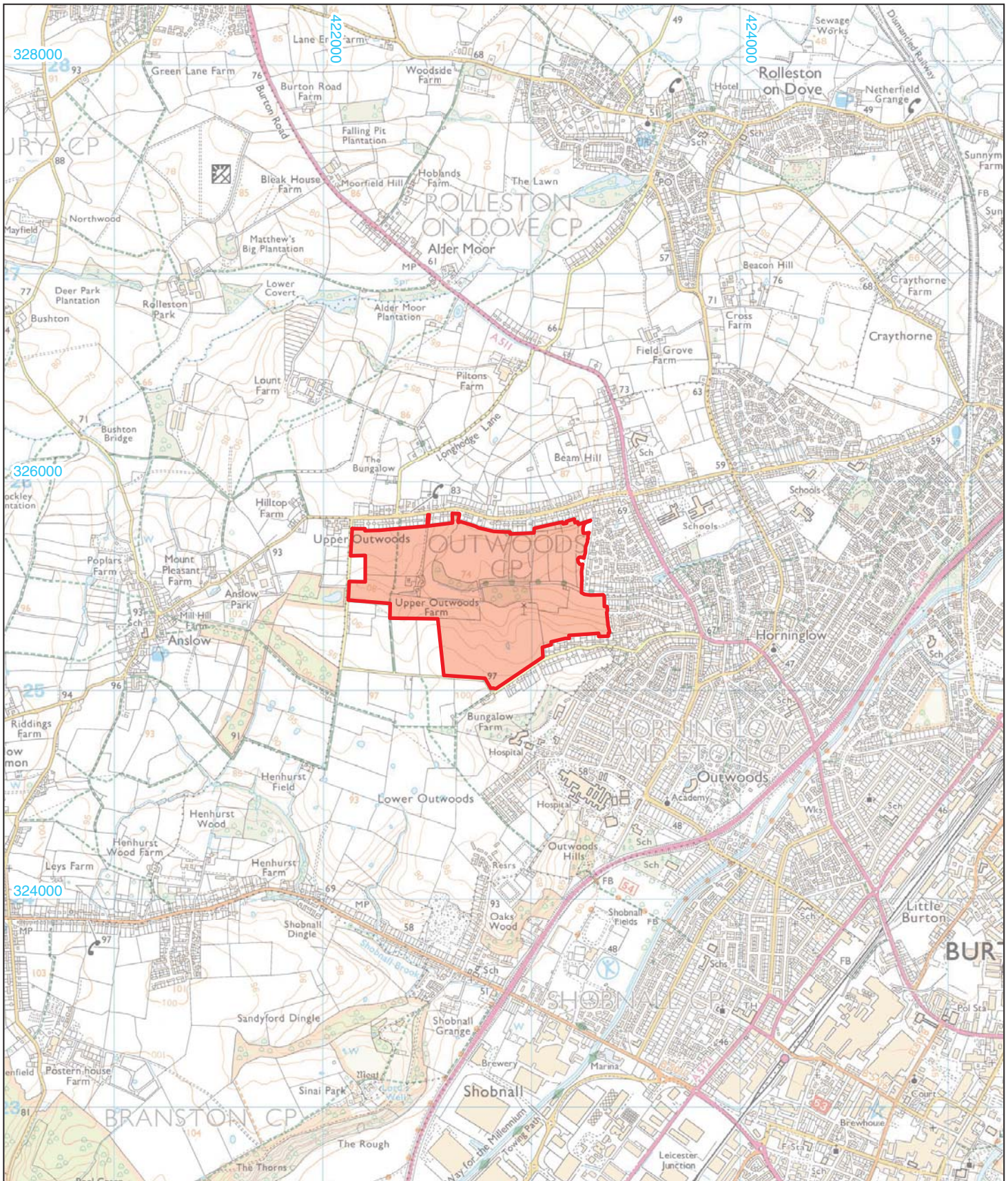
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.15	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
5	503	Cut		Modern ditch	East-west linear in plan	1.8	1.48	n/a	
5	504	Fill	503	Fill of modern ditch	Dark red-brown silt clay	1.8	1.48	n/a	modern
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.15	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.1	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.2	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.15	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.2	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.15	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
8	803	Cut		Modern ditch	Southeast-northwest in linear in plan	2.28	0.77	n/a	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of modern ditch	Dark grey-brown silt clay	2.28	0.77	n/a	modern
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.25	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.25	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.1	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	

13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt			0.25	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.25	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown clay with gravel patches			n/a	
13	1303	Cut		Modern ditch	North-south linear in plan	1.8	0.6	n/a	
13	1304	Fill	1303	Fill of modern ditch	Mid grey-brown silt clay	1.8	0.6	n/a	modern

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2017 at Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. A total of 13 trenches were excavated.  No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was retained.	
Project dates	4-8, 18-19 December 2017	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	CgMs 2000 Outwoods, Burton upon Trent, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment  Headland Archaeology 2017 Upper Outwoods Farm, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, Geophysical Survey	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Beamhill Road, Burton on Trent	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	81ha	
Site co-ordinates	422710 325440	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	none	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		
Paper	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, Trench Sheets
Digital	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road, Burton upon Trent: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>17735</b>		





**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

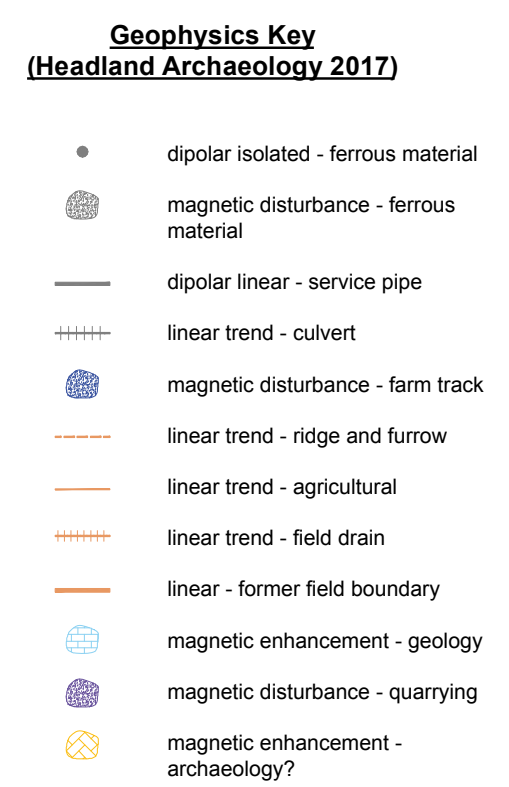
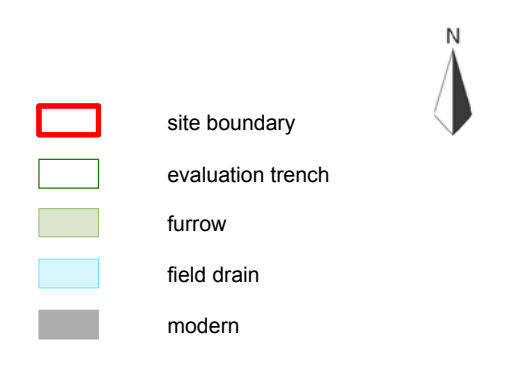
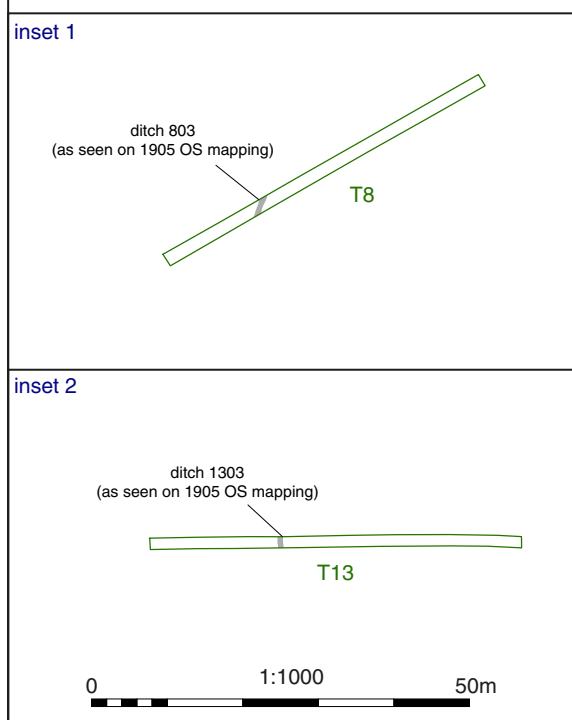
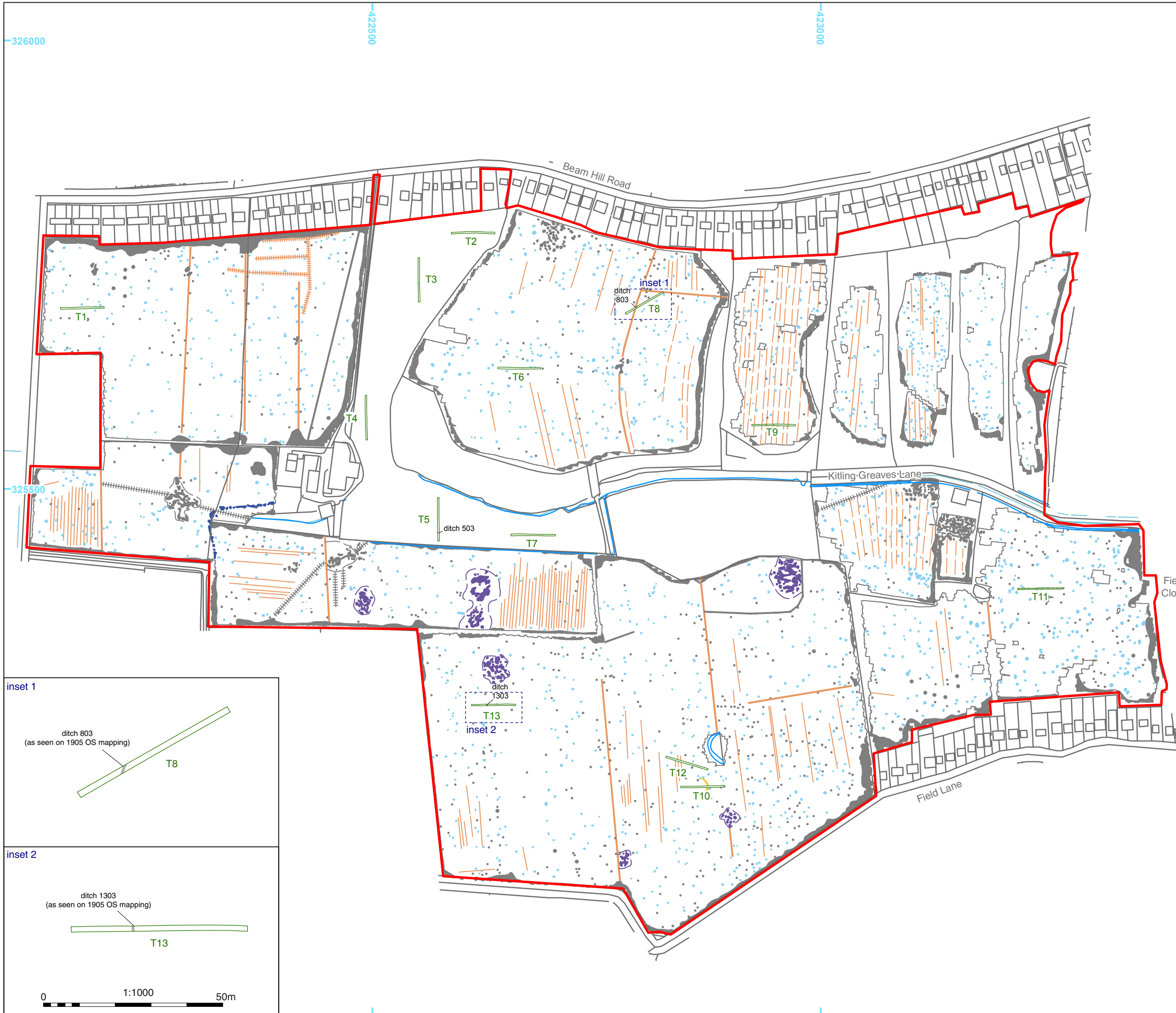
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road,  
 Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b> CP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 6469	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 21/12/2017	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> IB	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	<b>1</b>

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**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
 Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road,  
 Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features and geophysical  
 survey results**

DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO 6469 FIGURE NO.  
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 21/12/2017  
 APPROVED BY IB SCALE@A3 1:4,000 2





3

Trench 8: ditch 803, looking north-east (scale 1m)



5

Trench 13: ditch 1303, looking east (Scale 1m)



4

Trench 11: photograph of furrows, looking south-east (scales 1m)


**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
 Upper Outwoods Farm, Beamhill Road,  
 Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6469	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	21/12/2017	<b>3-5</b>
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	NA	



#### **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