

Plots at St Egwins Gardens Stratford Road, Honeybourne Worcestershire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample



for
Mr J. Thomas

CA Project: 6692
CA Report: 18365
WCC Reference: WSM 70606

July 2018



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	23 July 2018	Alison Roberts	Richard Young	First Issue		Laurie Coleman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Plots at St Ecgwins Gardens
Location:	Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire
NGR:	411792 244079
Type:	Strip, Map and Sample
Date:	10 July 2018
Planning Reference:	Wychavon District Council W/16/01702/OU
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code:	EDG 18

An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2018 at St Ecgwins Gardens, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire. Two areas were excavated.

Three drainage ditches were identified within the western area. Whilst undated, they appear to be the continuations of Roman features identified to the north-east during a previous evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) at the request of Mr J. Thomas at Plots at St Ecgwins Gardens, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire (centred at NGR: 411792 244079; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Outline planning permission for the erection of five bungalows was granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC; planning ref: W/16/01702/OU), conditional (condition 12) on a programme of archaeological work being completed. The first phase of this programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological evaluation, which was completed in May 2017 (CA 2017). Following consultation with Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, WDC, the archaeological advisor to WDC, it has been determined that an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise should be undertaken to fulfil condition 12.
- 1.3 The SMS was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014); the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The site is approximately 0.85ha in extent and comprises a former agricultural field on the south-eastern edge of Honeybourne. The area to be subject to development is located in the northern half of the site and covers approximately 0.3ha. The site is bounded to the north by residential properties fronting on to Stratford Road, to the west by the Gate Inn public house and Weston Road, and to the south and east by agricultural land. A small watercourse, the Gate Inn Brook, forms the site's southern and western boundaries. The site lies at approximately 50m AOD, on land that slopes gradually down to the brook at the south.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) of the Jurassic and Triassic

Periods with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2018). The natural geological substrate encountered during the SMS comprised of mixed blue orange clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 2.1 A Historic Environment Assessment of South Worcestershire (WHEAS 2010) characterises the area around Honeybourne as having strong potential for the survival of later prehistoric archaeological remains, although none are known from within the site itself, or the immediate vicinity.

Roman

- 2.2 The site is located 25m to the east of the Roman road known as Ryknild Street (WSM30300 - also known as Buckle Street), which runs north from the Fosse Way at Bourton-on-the-Water to Alcester (Margary 1973, road 18a). This road crosses the Gate Inn Brook immediately to the west of the site (WSM21579). Recent archaeological excavations have uncovered evidence for Roman settlement immediately to the west of the road (CA 2013; WSM49638), 150m north-west of the site, and on the course of the Honeybourne to Wormington gas pipeline, approximately 1.2km south-east of the site (Hart and McSloy 2012).
- 2.3 In the vicinity of Honeybourne a number of Roman artefacts including coins and a brooch fragment have been reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (WSM38609). The Historic Environment Assessment of South Worcestershire interprets the scatters of Roman material from around Honeybourne as being suggestive of a well-populated Roman landscape (WHEAS 2010).
- 2.4 The evaluation of the site in 2017 recorded one Iron Age/early Roman and two Roman drainage ditches on a north-east/south-west alignment and two postholes of Roman date at the south-western end of the site (CA 2017, Trench 3).

Medieval

- 2.5 The site is located close to the core of the medieval settlement of Church Honeybourne. The village is listed in the Domesday Book as *Huniburne* and developed further with the establishment of the Church of St Ecgwin (WSM02825) in the 13th century, 200m west of the site.

- 2.6 Extensive areas of medieval and later ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded to the south of the Gate Inn (WSM46233), including in the fields immediately to the south of the site; however, none is recorded within the site itself.

Post-medieval/modern

- 2.7 Historic mapping indicates that the site comprised undeveloped land between the Gate Inn and the main village settlement throughout the modern period. During the recent archaeological evaluation a shallow north/south aligned drainage ditch of probable post-medieval date was identified in the middle of the site (CA 2017, Trench 4).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

- 3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). The location of the excavation area was recommended with Aidan Smyth (WDC), informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2017) and the proposed

development footprint. Two excavation areas (Areas 1 and 2, Fig. 2), both measuring 12m by 8m were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. The excavation area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

- 4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no samples were taken.
- 4.5 No artefacts were recovered during the SMS.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the SMS results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, comprising a mixture of blue and orange clay, was revealed in both the excavation areas. This was overlain by a layer of silty clay subsoil which averaged 0.1m in depth, which, in turn, was sealed by 0.25m of topsoil.

Area 1 (Figs 2-3)

- 5.3 Within the north-eastern corner of the area was a series of three intercutting curvilinear ditches , 1003, 1005 and 1007 (Fig. 3, Section AA) aligned broadly north-east/south-west at the northern end and curving to a broadly east/west alignment on the western edge of the SMS area. The stratigraphically earliest feature, ditch 1003,

measured at least 10m in length, 1.12m in width and 0.56m in depth with gently sloping sides and contained a single undated silt fill 1004. It was cut on its north-eastern side by ditch 1005, which measured at least 10m in length, 1.59m in width and 0.56m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and contained a grey silty clay fill, 1006, which remained undated. This was in turn cut by ditch 1007 which measured at least 10m in length, 1.77m in width and 0.34m in depth with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a grey silty fill 1008 which remained undated.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 All three ditches (1003, 1005 and 1007) encountered during the SMS lie on the same broadly north-east/south-west at their northern ends as the three ditches identified during the previous evaluation and it is therefore possible that they are parts of one or more of the same features.
- 6.2 Roman activity within the site appears to span several centuries with the ditches appearing to be reinstatements of one another. This may suggest that the area was subject to flooding in the Roman period. The alignment of these ditches broadly corresponds to those found during the excavation, undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2013, 150m north-west of site (CA 2013; WSM49638). The ditches found during that excavation were also aligned north-east/south-west and were interpreted as drainage ditches, draining water away from settlement focus towards the Gate Inn Brook (CA 2013).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Alison Roberts. Illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudaro. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 8.1 The archive from the site is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire County 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.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 11 July 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land at Station Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire: Archaeological Excavation*. CA Report **13545**

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CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *St Ecgwins Gardens, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample*

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

Hart, J and McSloy, E.S 2012 'Roman Occupation in the Vale of Evesham: the archaeology of the proposed Honeybourne to Wormington Natural Gas Pipeline 2006-07', in *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society* **3(23)** 1–28

WHEAS (Worcestershire Historic Environmental and Archaeology Service) 2010 *Historic Environment Assessment for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Area*

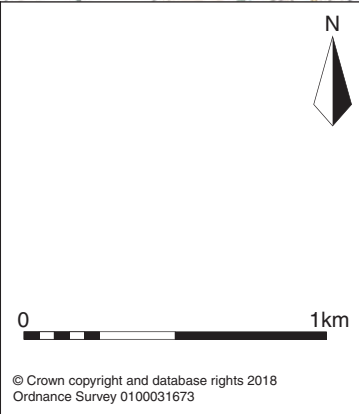
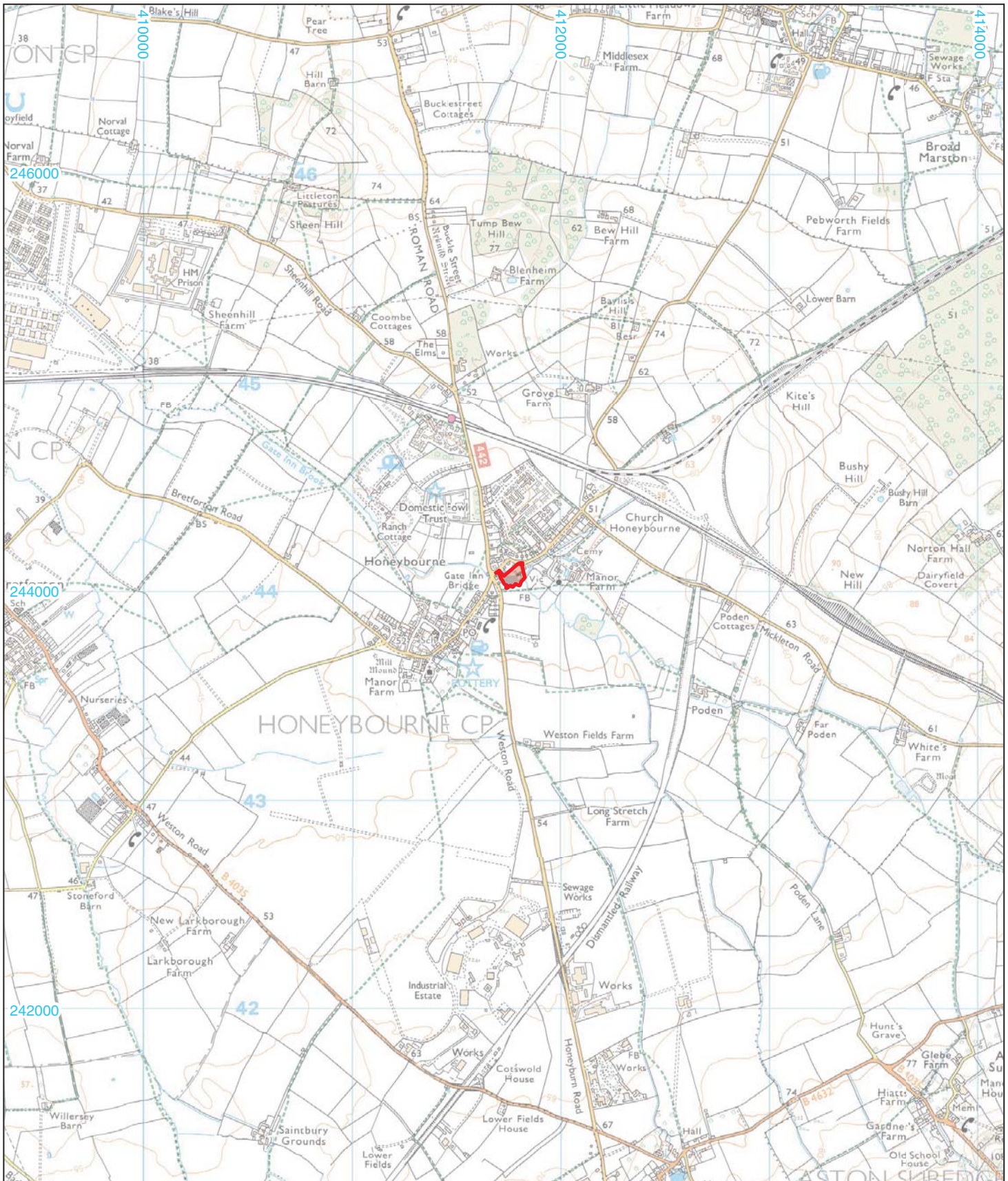


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	12	8	0.1
1	1001	Layer		subsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	12	8	0.15
1	1002	Layer		natural substrate	orange-blue clay	12	8	>0.05
1	1003	Cut		ditch	U-shaped ditch, north-east/south-west aligned	>10	>1.12	0.56
1	1004	Fill	1003	fill of ditch	mid grey brown silty clay	>10	>1.12	0.56
1	1005	Cut		ditch	U-shaped ditch, north-east/south-west aligned	>10	>1.59	0.56
1	1006	Fill	1005	fill of ditch	mid grey brown silty clay	>10	>1.59	0.56
1	1007	Layer		ditch	U-shaped ditch, north-east/south-west aligned	>10	1.77	0.34
1	1008	Layer	1007	fill of ditch	mid grey brown silty clay	>10	1.77	0.34
2	2001	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	12	8	0.1
2	2002	Layer		subsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	12	8	0.15
2	2003	Layer		natural substrate	orange-blue clay	12	8	>0.05

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Plots at St Ecgwins Gardens	
Short description	An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2018 at St Ecgwins Gardens, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire. Two areas were excavated. Three drainage ditches were identified within the western area. Whilst undated, they appear to be the continuations of Roman features identified to the north-east during a previous evaluation.	
Project dates	10 July 2018	
Project type	Strip, Map and Sample	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.85 ha	
Site co-ordinates	411792 244079	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, matrix, section
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital Photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>St Ecgwins Gardens, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample</i> . CA typescript report 18365		



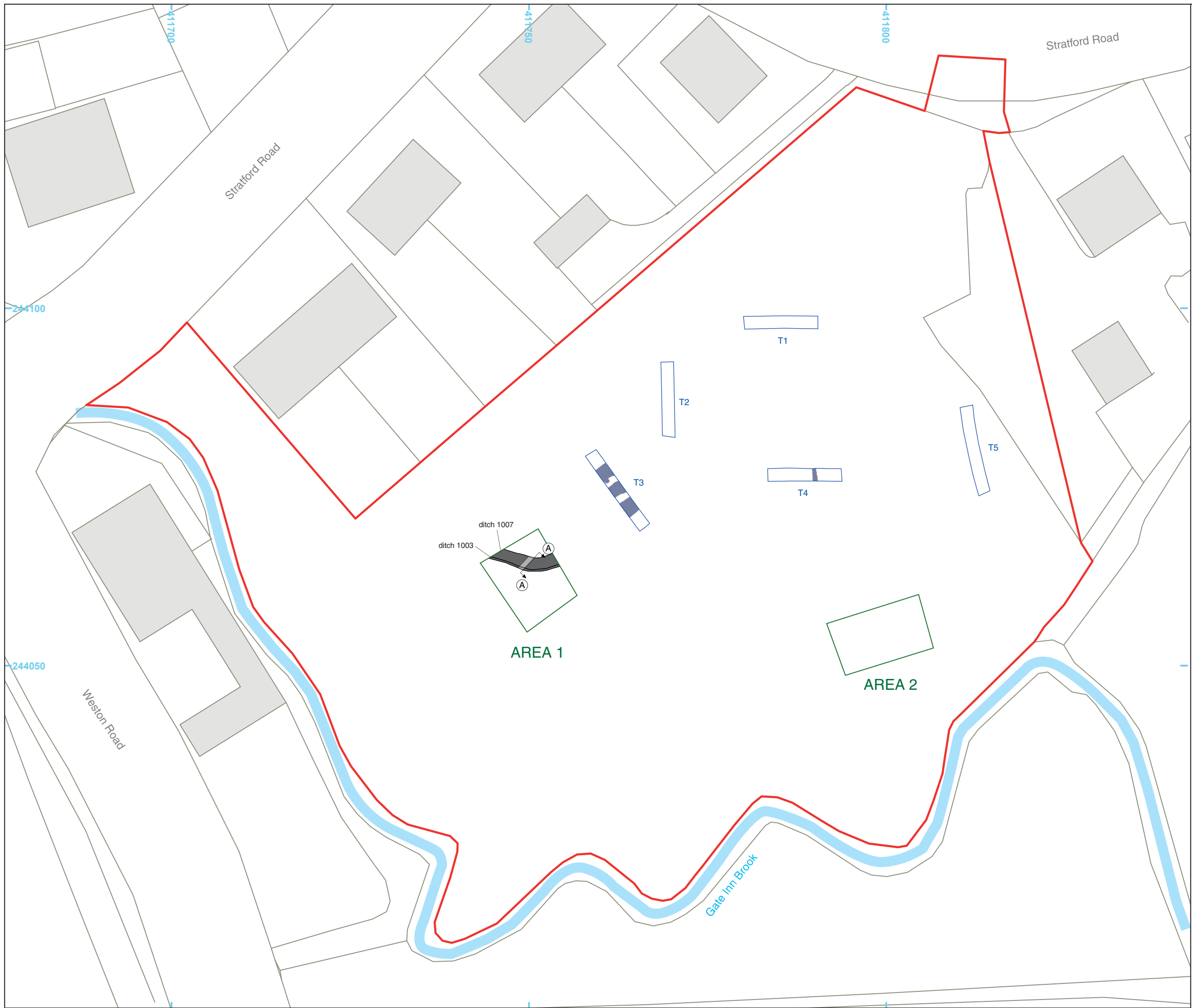

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PROJECT TITLE
 Plots at St Egwins Gardens, Stratford Road,
 Honeybourne, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

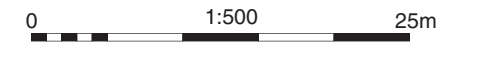
DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6692	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/07/2018		
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		

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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature (excavated unexcavated)
- Previous evaluation trench (CA 2017)
- Archaeological feature (CA 2017)

A ↑ A Section location



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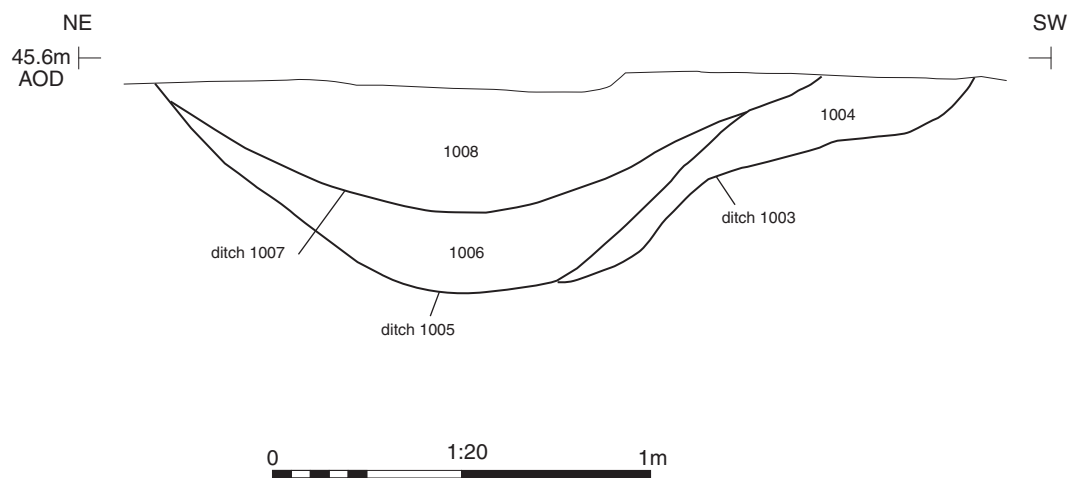
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PROJECT TITLE
 Plots at St Egwins Gardens, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing the excavation areas and the previous evaluation results

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6692	FIGURE NO.
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Section AA



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PROJECT TITLE

Plots at St Egwins Gardens, Stratford Road,
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FIGURE TITLE

Area 1, section

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