

# Land South of Worcester Road Drakes Broughton Worcestershire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

on behalf of  
Bovis Homes

CA Project: 6707  
Wychavon District Council Planning Ref: W/14/01419/OU  
WSM Event Number: WSM70519  
CA Report: 18408

September 2018



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## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6707  
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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land South of Worcester Road  
**Location:** Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** 392579 248311  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 30 July 2018 to 3 August 2017  
**Planning Reference:** Wychavon District Council: W/14/01419/OU  
**WSM Event Number:** WSM70519  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with the Worcestershire County Museum  
**Site Code:** DBP 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July and August 2018 on land south of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

Two ditches were recorded in the central area of the site, and were noted to cut the subsoil. Given their stratigraphic level, they may relate to the early modern use of the site as an orchard, market garden and for agriculture though an earlier origin cannot be entirely discounted.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July and August 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for The Environmental Dimension Partnership, on behalf of Bovis Homes, on land south of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire (centred at NGR: 392579 248311; Fig. 1). Outline planning permission for the residential development of the site has been granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC; ref: W/14/01419/OU). The requirement for an archaeological evaluation at the site was recommended by Mike Glyde (Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service) and confirmed by Aidan Smyth (Planning and Archaeological Advisor, WDC), the archaeological advisor to WDC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Mr Smyth, including a site visit on 1 August 2018.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 4.4ha in extent, and comprises an area under grass with dispersed trees. It is bounded to the north by Worcester Road and on all other sides by agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 44m AOD, and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of Jurassic period. Superficial deposits are noted to be present across the northern area of the site, and comprise Ailstone Member (Warwickshire Avon) - sand and gravel of the Quaternary period (BGS 2018). The natural substrate comprised sandy clay.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to archaeological and heritage assessment (EDP 2014) which is briefly summarised below.

- 2.2 Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered in the vicinity of the site, and a limited quantity of artefacts of prehistoric date have also been recovered (EDP 2014).
- 2.3 Roman evidence is limited to spot finds (a brooch mount, finger ring and coin). The precise recovery location of these artefacts is unknown (EDP 2014).
- 2.4 The location of the core of the medieval settlement of Drakes Broughton is not clearly established. A building of unclear purpose is illustrated within the site on the First Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (EDP 2014); map imprints dated to the late 19th century show other possible structures within the site boundary.

### 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 the 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 2018).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 8 trenches (Trenches 1, 3, 5 & 6 were 60m in length, Trenches 2, 4, 7 & 8 were 30m in length; all trenches were 1.8m in width), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). With the exception of Trenches 2 and 6, the locations of all trenches were adjusted from the positions suggested in the WSI due the presence of trees and badger setts. 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. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum in due course. 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 A similar stratigraphy was observed across the site. Natural substrate comprising red and yellow sandy clay was recorded at a depth of between 0.4 and 0.65m below present ground level (bpgl). It was sealed by a layer of mid brown sandy clay subsoil averaging approximately 0.15m in depth, which was in turn sealed by grey brown topsoil. No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1, 2 & 4-8. Modern geotechnical pits were recorded in Trenches 5 and 7. Modern field drains which cut the subsoil layer were recorded in all trenches.

### ***Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.3 The subsoil was cut by two north-west/south-east aligned ditches, 303 and 311. Undated ditch 303 was approximately 2m in width and was filled by mid brown sandy clay 304. It was truncated by three modern field drains. Ditch 311 ran parallel to ditch 303 and was 3.08m in width and 0.93m in depth. No finds were recovered from its fills 312, 313, 314 and 315. It was cut along its south western edge by a modern field drain 305. The fills of both ditches were sealed by topsoil 300.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Whilst no dateable material was recovered from the two parallel ditches recorded in Trench 3. No boundaries are depicted in this location on historic mapping, and the alignment of the ditches does not respect extant boundaries. Historic mapping suggests that this part of the site was planted as an orchard between 1831 and 1885 and an aerial photograph shows it was possibly being used as a market garden in 1946. By the time of an aerial photograph taken in 1962, this part of the site is shown under arable cultivation (EDP 2014). It is likely the ditches relate to land management or drainage during the post-medieval/modern period, though in the absence of dating evidence an earlier date cannot be entirely discounted.
- 6.2 No evidence for the building illustrated within the site on the First Series Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1831, nor were any clear signs present of a structure during the site walkovers undertaken during this investigation. Given the potential margin of error in the 1831 map imprint, no firm conclusion can be drawn regarding this structure as it is not certain that the completed trenches targeted the structure's location.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jerry Austin, assisted by Ann Templeton and John Hadistly. The report was written by Charlotte Haines. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Charlotte Haines and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.





## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *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 9  
September 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018: *Land south of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

EDP (The Environmental Dimension Partnership) 2014 *Land at Drake's Broughton, Worcestershire: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment*. Report ref:  
**EDP2080\_02a**

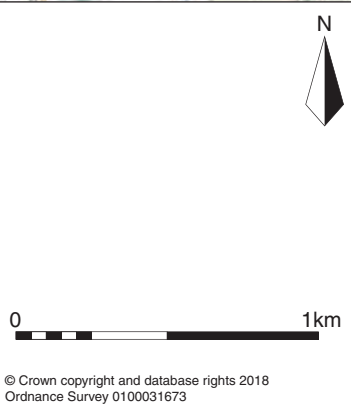
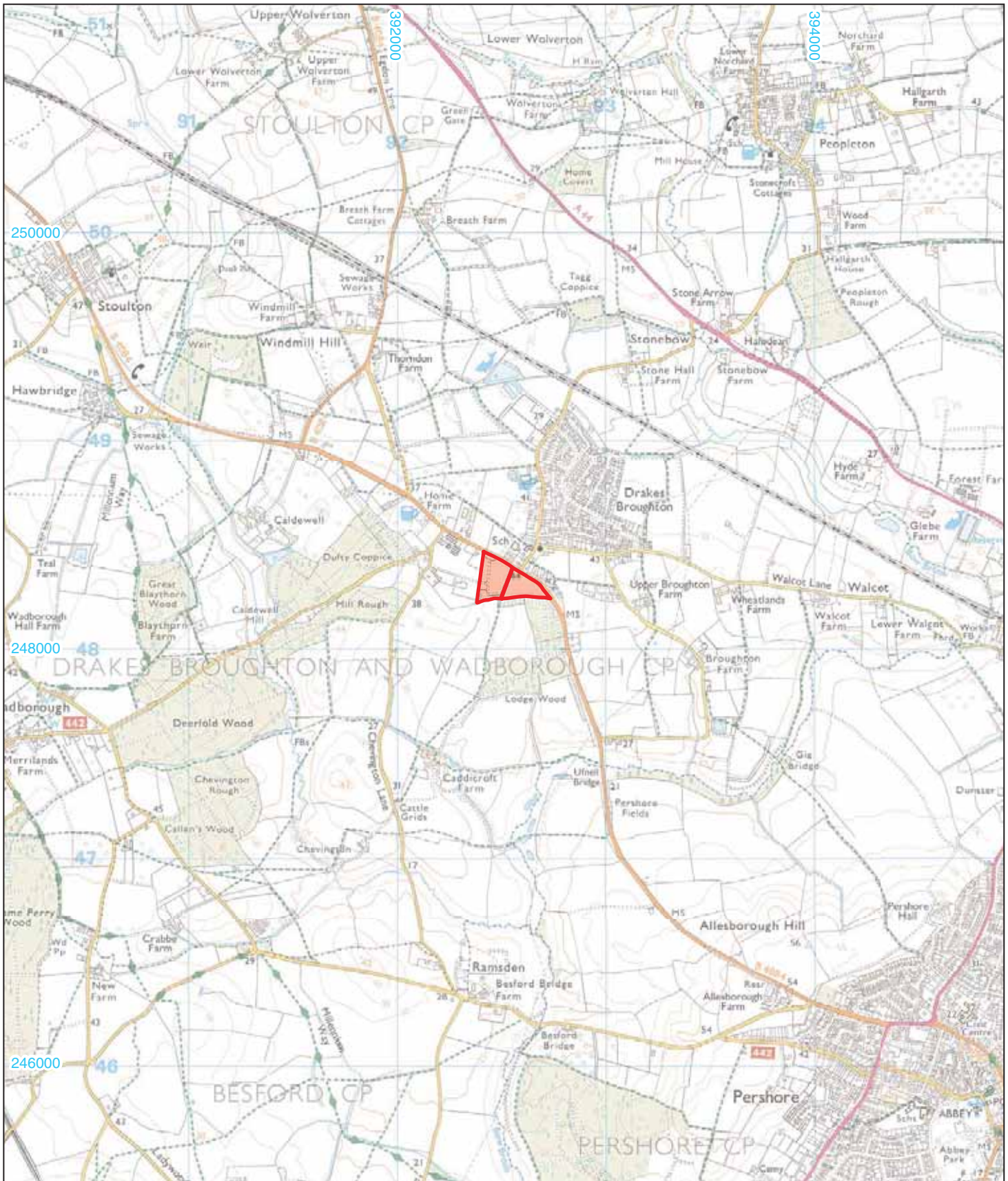


## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

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 sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.4	Modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.15	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Red and yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>60	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.55	modern
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.1	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Red and yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>30	>1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.3	Modern
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.13	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Red and yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>60	>1.8		
3	303	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned linear, not excavated	>1.8	2		P-med
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch	Mid brown sandy clay	>1.8	2		P-med
3	305	Cut		Field drain	NE/SW aligned	>1.8	0.4		Modern
3	306	Fill	305	Fill of field drain	Modern field drain	>1.8	0.4		Modern
3	307	Cut		Field drain	NE/SW aligned	>1.8	0.4		Modern
3	308	Fill	305	Fill of field drain	Modern field drain	>1.8	0.4		Modern
3	309	Cut		Field drain	NE/SW aligned	>1.8	0.4		Modern
3	310	Fill	305	Fill of field drain	Modern field drain	>1.8	0.4		Modern
3	311	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned linear, sloping sides, concave base	>1.9	3.60	0.93	P-med
3	312	Fill	311	Fill of ditch	Mid grey orange silty clay	>1.9	2	0.16	P-med
3	313	Fill	311	Fill of ditch	Mid blue grey silty clay	>1.9	2.15	0.16	P-med
3	314	Fill	311	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown clay silt	>1.9	3.08	0.64	P-med
3	315	Fill	311	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt	>1.9	1.66	0.14	P-med
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.3	Modern
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.14	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>30	>1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.3	Modern
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.15	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Red and yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>60	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.3	Modern
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>60	>1.8	0.15	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Red and yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>60	>1.8		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.24	Modern
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.2	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>30	>1.8		
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.3	Modern
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	>30	>1.8	0.15	
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow sandy clay with pebbles	>30	>1.8		

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land South of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July and August 2018 on land south of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire. Eight trenches were excavated. Two ditches were recorded in the central area of the site, and were noted to cut the subsoil. Given their stratigraphic level, they may relate to the early modern use of the site as an orchard, market garden and for agriculture though an earlier origin cannot be entirely discounted.	
Project dates	30 July 2018 – 3 Aug 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land South of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	4.4Ha	
Site co-ordinates	392579 248311	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Jerry Austin	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/a	N/a
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context Sheets, Trench Sheets, Drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Database, digital photos, survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 Land South of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>18408</b>		

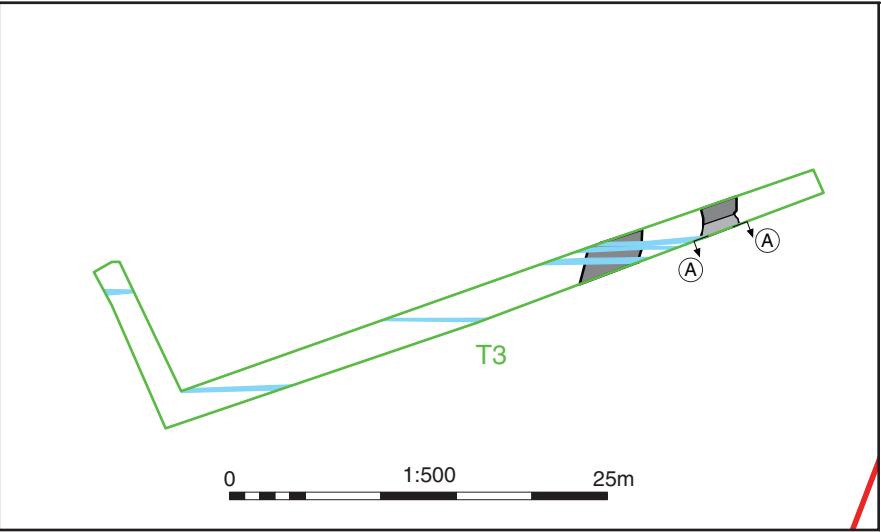
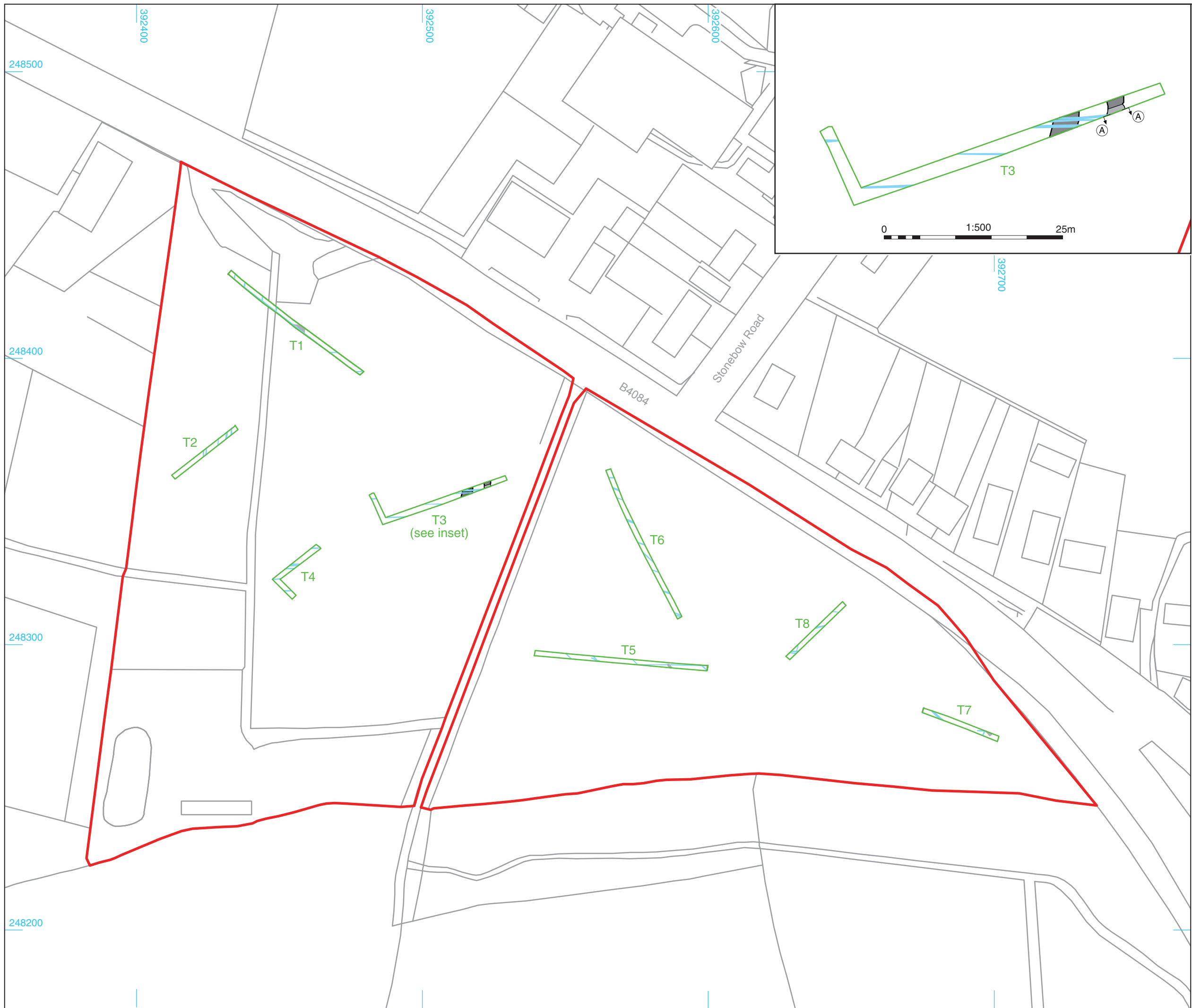



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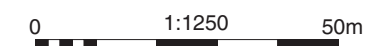
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land South of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire  
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	AO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	6707	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	08/08/2018		
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	CH	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000		

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- field drain
- modern



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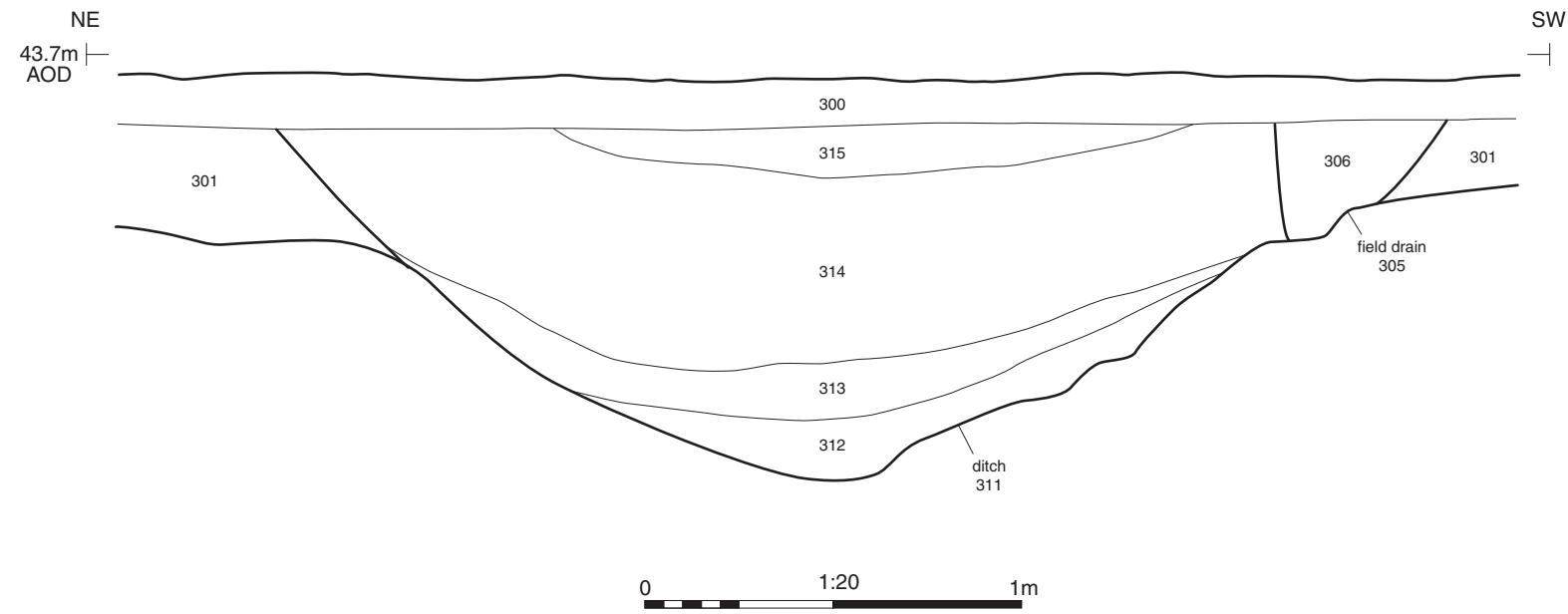
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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land South of Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcestershire**

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

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6707	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/08/2018	2
APPROVED BY	CH	SCALE@A3	1:1250 & 1:500	

Section AA



Ditch 311, looking south-east (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE  
 Trench 3: section and photograph

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6707	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/08/2018	3
APPROVED BY	CH	SCALE@A3	1:20	

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