

**Land off Hereford Road
Leigh Sinton, Malvern
Worcestershire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Bromford Developments Ltd

CA Project: 6617
CA Report: 6617_1
May 2019

WSM:71502



Land off Hereford Road
Leigh Sinton, Malvern
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6617
CA Report: 6617_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	7/6/19	Tim Havard	Oliver Good	Internal Draft	General Edit	Richard Greatorex
B	17/7/19	Oliver Good	Richard Greatorex	Final	Curator review	Aidan Smyth

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS (FIGS 1-3)	6
6. THE FINDS	7
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.....	7
8. DISCUSSION.....	8
9. CA PROJECT TEAM	8
10. REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan (1:25,000)
Figure 2	Trench location plan (1:750)
Figure 3	Photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Hereford Road
Location:	Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire
NGR:	377648 250453
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28-30 May 2019
Planning Reference:	15/01662/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
WSM Number:	71502
Site Code:	HERO 19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2019 on Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire. Four trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts pre-dating the 20th century were recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bromford Developments Ltd on Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire centred on National Grid Reference 377648 250453 (see Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken as a required condition for the construction of 18 dwellings and associated works on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Aidan Smyth, Planning and Archaeology Advisor, Malvern Hills District Council, the archaeological advisor to Malvern Hills District Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2.4ha and comprises a single parcel of land currently under rough pasture. It is bordered in the north by housing developments on the outskirts of Leigh Sinton, to the east and south by Christmas tree plantations and to the west and north-west by the A4103, beyond which lies agricultural land. The site slopes gently down towards the south, from approximately 63m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to approximately 57m aOD in the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Triassic Rocks (undifferentiated) – mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period in an environment dominated by hot deserts. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS Online 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The below is a summary of the archaeological background presented in a full desk-based assessment (THEC 2015) and further informed by a recent full Historic Environment Record (HER) search within a 1km buffer around the Site (search ref: 674843).

Prehistoric

- 2.2 A stone axe of Neolithic date is recorded as having been found approximately 980m north of the Site. A possible unfinished Neolithic arrowhead is recorded from the parish of Leigh, by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) as are knapped flint flakes and artefacts including scrapers and blades. These are considered to date from the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age (THEC 2015). Antiquarian reports describe a Bronze Age axe head being found within the vicinity of the Site.
- 2.3 An Iron Age coin is known from the parish. This is recorded by the PAS and is stated as likely to be a contemporary copy. A copper alloy penannular brooch of late Iron Age – early Roman date and a further fragment of an Iron Age penannular brooch are also recorded in the PAS (THEC 2015).

Roman

- 2.4 Pevsner lists Roman kilns at Leigh Sinton and finds of ceramics, coins, military uniform pieces and a silver bracelet are known from the parish. A Roman tile kiln was revealed in 1961 at Upper Sandlin Farm 1.7km north-west of the Site. Scott also mentions Roman pottery finds from across the parish of Leigh & Bransford. A single sherd of Roman Severn Valley Ware was found during the 2006 evaluation at Moat Farm. A number of unstratified Roman coins, brooches and a strap fitting are recorded within the Site environs (THEC 2015).
- 2.5 A Roman waster site and probable location of a Romano-British kiln is recorded approximately 930m to the south of the Site, along with associated scatters of pottery. The pottery scatters also included tegula and imbrex roof tiles suggesting the presence of a Roman building. Excavation in the 1960's also identified part of a ditch which contained a number of pottery wasters. A further pottery manufacturing site has been identified 1.3km to the south east. Excavations here uncovered ditches, postholes, a beam slot and the remains of a kiln along with significant assemblage of pottery totalling more than 500 vessels, dated from the middle-late 2nd century. A watching brief associated with the Alfrick-Malvern pipeline approximately 640m south east of the Site recorded an extensive scatter of Severn Valley ware pottery of Roman date. This collection of sites, broadly to the south of the Site is considered to represent a centre of Roman pottery production in the Malvern area principally producing Severn Valley Ware but also coarser vessels made in the local Iron Age tradition.

Medieval/Post-medieval

- 2.6 A medieval moat was investigated by evaluation trenching, 600m north-east of the Site which contained a mixture of medieval and post-medieval ceramics as well as residual Roman pottery. Possible house platforms and hollow ways, c. 830m east, are visible in aerial photographs while a possible moat is visible c. 300m north west, on historic mapping. Surviving ridge and furrow field systems have been identified throughout the landscape surrounding the Site and probable house platforms and hollow ways have been recorded approximately 570m to the east. An evaluation approximately 260m north-east identified the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. Unstratified medieval pottery and metal objects are recorded from the surrounding landscape including coins, strap mounts, purse fittings, a seal matrix and buckles (THEC 2015).
- 2.7 The extent of medieval Leigh Sinton is recorded as bordering the north-eastern boundary of the Site, suggesting that the Site lies within the immediate agricultural hinterland of the settlement.
- 2.8 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data records the Site as lying in an area of 'fields and enclosed land' suggesting that the present landscape is largely the result of developments in the post-medieval/modern periods. The irregular boundaries visible in some fields in the landscape around the Site suggest piecemeal enclosure which likely started in the medieval period, with some boundaries almost certainly respecting medieval or earlier alignments.

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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the Malvern Hills District Council 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 four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). **Trenches 1 to 3** measured 50m in length whilst **Trench 4** measured 20m in length; all trenches measured 1.8m in width. The 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* and 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 site archive 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 1-3)

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

5.2 No archaeological features were identified in **Trenches 1-4**. Within **Trenches 1** and **4** the natural substrate was directly overlain by the existing topsoil. In **Trenches 2** and **3** the natural substrate was sealed by subsoil which was in turn sealed by the existing topsoil.

5.3 A natural geological hollow, **303** was identified in the northern half of **Trench 3**, measured up to 0.6m deep and 10m wide and contained a single fill **304** identical to the subsoil within the trench.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Despite visual scanning of the excavated spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the 20th century was recovered.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1 No ecofactual material was recovered during the course of the evaluation.



8. DISCUSSION

8.1 Despite the potential outlined above, no features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the evaluation. The complete absence of any artefactual material pre-dating the modern period suggests that the Roman activity known in the vicinity did not extend into the site. The presence of subsoil in **Trenches 2 and 3** suggests that modern agricultural activity is likely to have had a minimal impact on any archaeological features which might have otherwise survived on the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Anthony Beechey and Jack Harrison. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.

10. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2019, *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 26/3/19

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

The Historic Environment Consultancy (THEC) 2015, Heritage Statement: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land South of A4103, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire, WR13 5EA, Report ref: 2015/1246

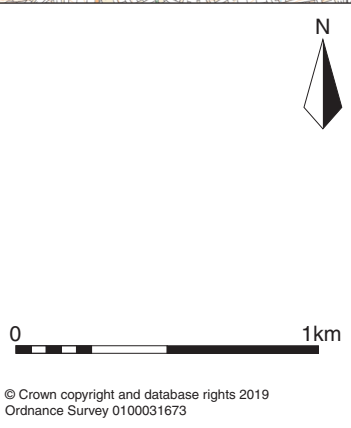
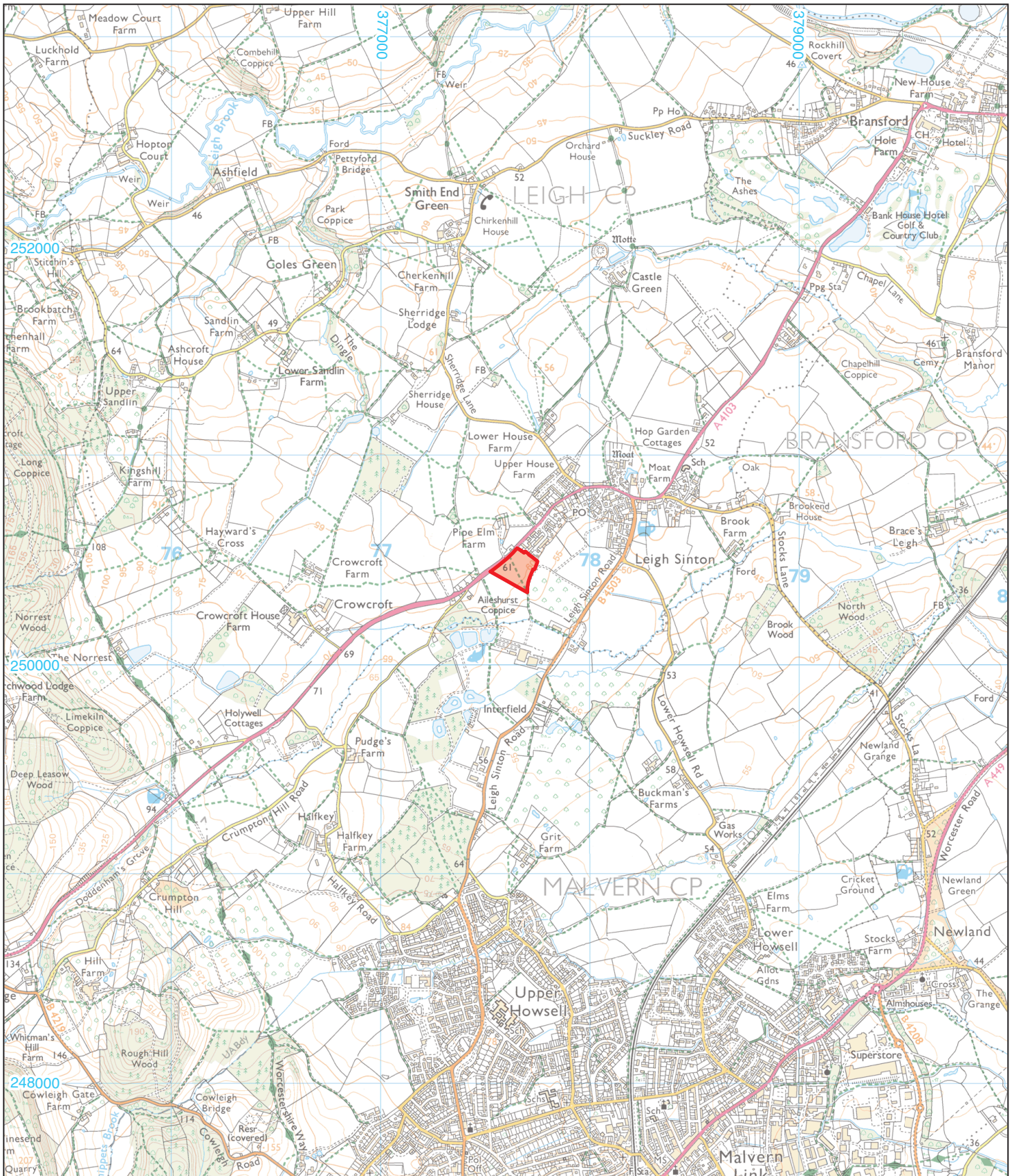


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Light grey brown silty sand	50	1.8	0.35	
1	101	Layer		Natural	Mid pink brown mixed clay sand and patches of clay	50	1.8	>0.1	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.35	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty sand – intermittent	50	1.8	0.1	
2	202	Layer		Natural	As 101	50	1.8	>0.1	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	As 100	50	1.8	0.3	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown silty sand	50	1.8	0.1	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid pink brown clay with rare patches of sandy clay	50	1.8	>0.1	
3	303	Cut		Geological feature	Natural hollow, moderate irregular side, uneven base	8	>1.8	0.6	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of natural hollow	As 301	8	>1.8	0.6	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2019 on Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire. Four trenches were excavated. No archaeological features were identified and no artefactual material pre-dating the 20th century was recovered.	
Project dates	28-30 May 2019	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Statement (THEC 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire;	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	377648 250453	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Olly Good	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	none
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench recording sheets, photographic register
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report 6617_1		



Cotswold Archaeology

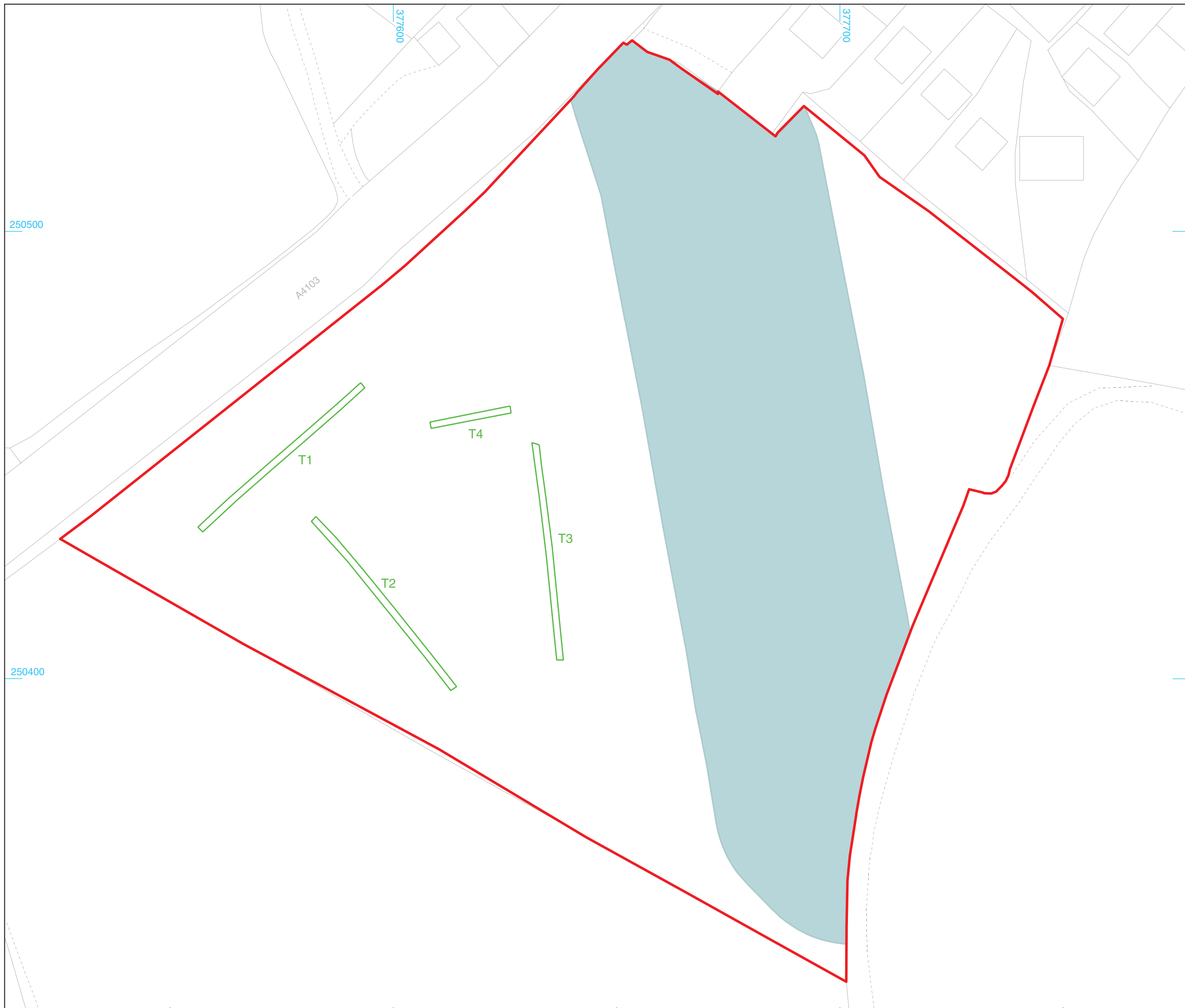
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton,
 Malvern, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY GB	PROJECT NO. 6617	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 10/05/2019	
APPROVED BY TH	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

© Crown copyright and database rights 2019
 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Gas main 25m buffer



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton,
 Malvern, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	GB DJB TH	PROJECT NO. 6617 DATE 10/06/19 SCALE@A3 1:750	FIGURE NO. 2
---------------------------------------	-----------------	---	-------------------------------



General view of the site looking south-east



Trench 4, general view, looking east



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton,
 Malvern, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	GB	PROJECT NO.	6617	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2019	3
APPROVED BY	TH	SCALE@A4	N/A	

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 1, Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

