

**Kites Farm  
Worcester Road  
Pirton  
Worcestershire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Brownswood Holsteins

CA Project: CR0216  
CA Report: CR0216\_1  
HER Ref: WSM72045

October 2019



Kites Farm  
Worcester Road  
Pirton  
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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## CONTENTS

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

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)  
Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:750)  
Fig. 3 Photographs

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Kites Farm  
**Location:** Pirton, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** 388090 248085  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 14 and 15 October 2019  
**Planning Reference:** Wychavon District Council refs: 18/01731/FUL and 19/01200/OUT  
**HER Ref:** WSM72045  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Services  
**Site Code:** KWR19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 at Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire. A total of four trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation and no artefactual material was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Brownswood Holsteins at Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire (centred at NGR: 388090 248085; Fig. 1). Planning permission for the development of an agricultural livestock building and outline planning permission for a new dwelling with associated access has been granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC), conditional on a programme of archaeological works being completed in respect of each development (WDC refs: 18/01731/FUL, condition 7 and 19/01200/OUT, condition 3 respectively). Following consultation between CA and Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, WDC, it was determined that the required archaeological works would initially comprise archaeological trial-trench evaluation.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Mr Smyth. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

1.3 The combined development footprint of the proposed agricultural livestock building and the site of the new dwelling measure a total of 1300m<sup>2</sup>. Both are located within a single large agricultural field, currently under pasture. The field is bounded to the west by Worcester Road and to the north, south and east by further agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 58m AOD at its eastern edge, with the ground level sloping down gently to approximately 57m AOD at the site's western extent.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Branscombe Formation formed during the Triassic Period (BGS 2019). Superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Spring Hill Member, formed during the Quaternary Period, are recorded in the western parts of the wider field (*ibid.*). The natural substrate, comprising orange-yellow silt sand with frequent patches of clay and sand, was encountered in all of the excavated trenches.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not been subject to previous archaeological assessment; however it is located in an area of known archaeological potential.
- 2.2 A large rectilinear enclosure, visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs, is recorded by the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (WHER) c. 200m to the south-west of the site (WHER ref: WSM11390). A geophysical survey undertaken in 2013 suggests that the cropmark is likely to represent a Type B Minor Cursus monument of probable Neolithic date; the banks of this monument were seemingly still evident until the early post-medieval period as it is depicted on 17th-century mapping, however later agricultural activity has since removed any earthworks (Aidan Smyth *pers. comm.*).
- 2.3 The village of Pirton is of medieval origin and is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Peritone*. The current parish church of St Peter's contains architectural elements of 12th-century date (NTRDL 2013). The site itself appears to lie within the northern part of a deer park, depicted on Pierce's 1623 Map of the Pirton Estates. This deer park may have an earlier medieval, or even Anglo-Saxon, origin (Aidan Smyth *pers. comm.*).
- 2.4 The site lies within the larger environs of the Croome Landscape Park (a Capability Brown landscape, commissioned in 1751), with Croome Court, the former seat of the Earls of Coventry, located 3km to the south of the proposed development. The 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the site itself occupied by a single large field, similarly arranged to that seen today. Both the site itself, and the surrounding field system, have remained essentially unchanged on all subsequent editions of the OS mapping.

## 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* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable 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 2012).

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches, each measuring 10m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 4 was moved slightly from its original position, as set out within the WSI, due to the presence of overhead cables. 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 natural substrate. 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.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Service. 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 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results, detailed descriptions of all contexts can be found in Appendix A
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, comprising orange-yellow silt sand with frequent patches of clay and sand, was identified in all of the excavated trenches at depths of



between 0.33m and 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by silty-clay subsoil, measuring between 0.04m and 0.12m in thickness, which was in turn covered by up to 0.3m thickness of topsoil.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the development site (see *Archaeological Background* above), no features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the evaluation. Such negative evidence suggests that prehistoric, medieval or 18th-century activity associated with the nearby Type B Minor Cursus, deer park or Capability Brown landscape respectively does not extend into the current site.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Eilidh Barr. The report was written by Eilidh Barr. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Eilidh Barr, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *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 25 October 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*.

NTRDL (Nottingham Tree-Ring Dating Laboratory) 2013 *St Peter's Church, Pirton, Worcestershire: Tree-Ring Analysis of Samples from the Timber-Framed Tower and Bell Frame*

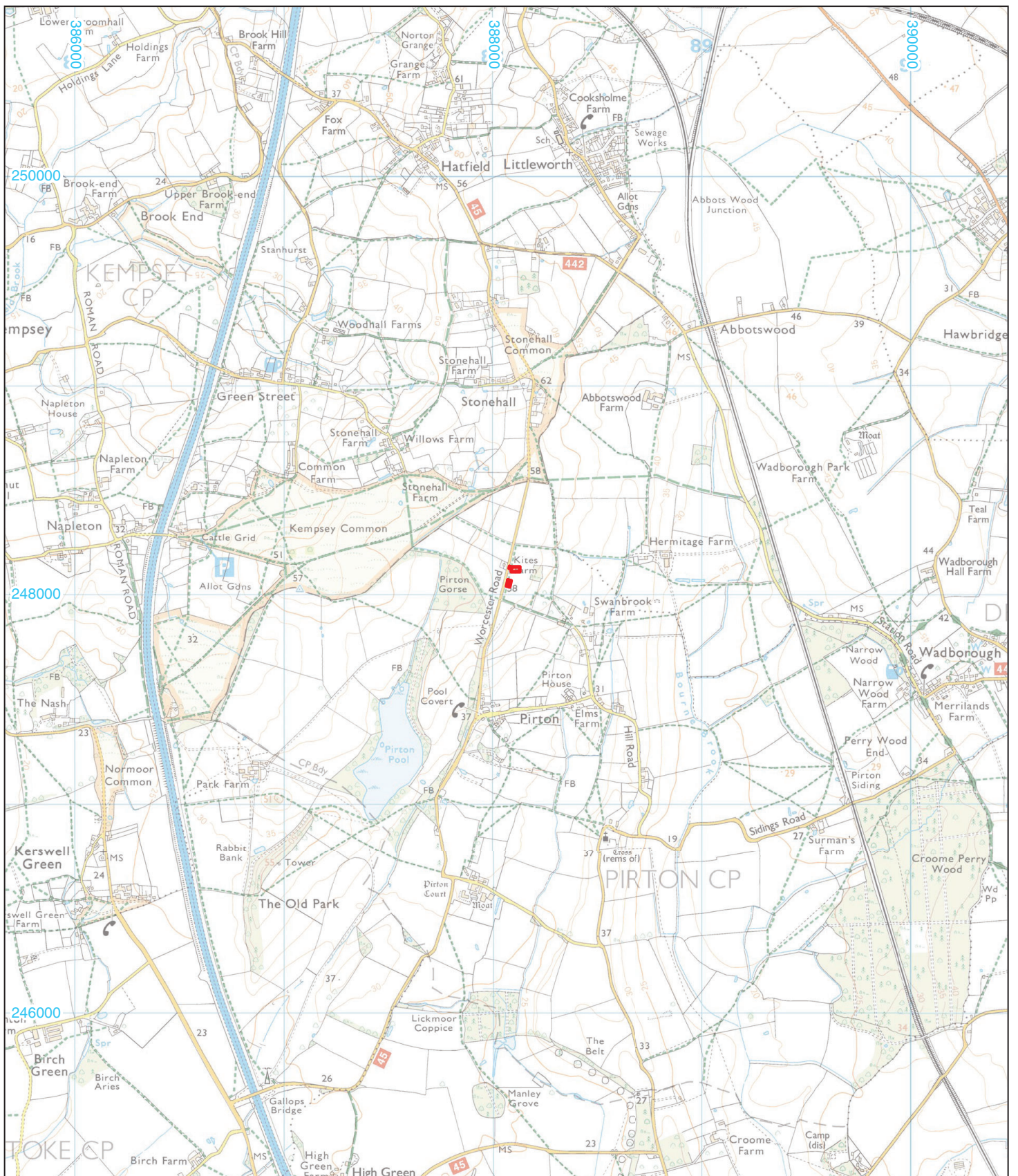


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebble inclusions throughout	>10	>1.8	0.3
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silt sand	>10	>1.8	0.08
1	102	Layer	Natural substrate	Mid orange-yellow silt sand with frequent patches of clay and sand	>10	>1.8	>0.3
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebble inclusions throughout	>10	>1.8	0.28
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silt sand	>10	>1.8	0.12
2	202	Layer	Natural substrate	Mid orange-yellow silt sand with frequent patches of clay and sand	>10	>1.8	>0.3
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebble inclusions throughout	>10	>1.8	0.29
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silt sand	>10	>1.8	0.04
3	302	Layer	Natural substrate	Mid orange-yellow silt sand with frequent patches of clay and sand	>10	>1.8	>0.3
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt sand with occasional rounded pebble inclusions throughout	>10	>1.8	0.3
4	401	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow silt sand	>10	>1.8	0.05
4	402	Layer	Natural substrate	Mid orange-yellow silt sand with frequent patches of clay and sand	>10	>1.8	>0.3

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2019 at Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire. A total of four trenches was excavated.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	14-15 October 2019	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1300m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	388090 248085	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Eilidh Barr	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
None		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
None		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Worcestershire Museum Service	Trench recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Worcestershire Museum Service	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>CR0216_1</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton,  
 Worcestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

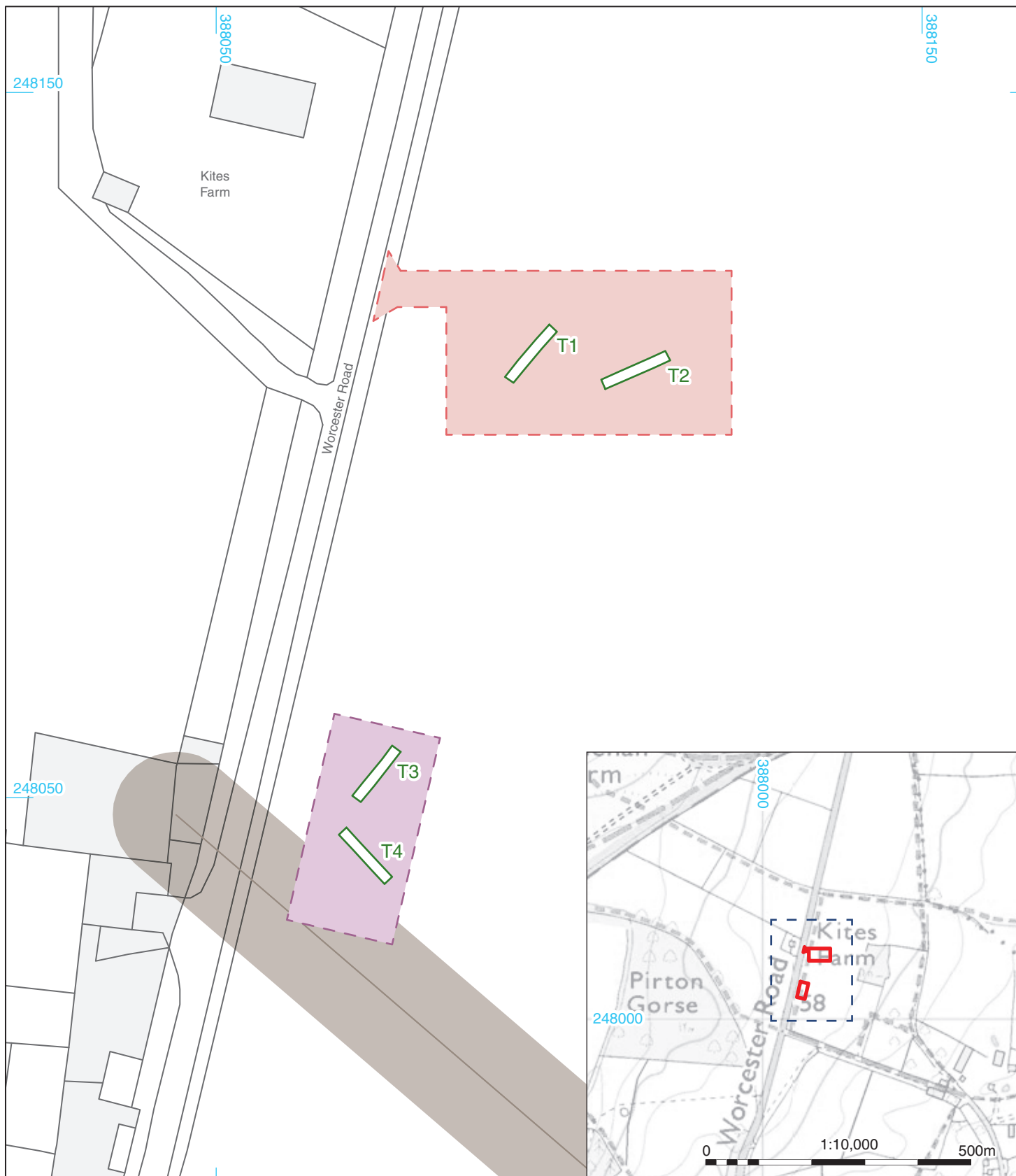
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 CHECKED BY DJB  
 APPROVED BY EB  
 PROJECT NO. CR0216  
 DATE 17.10.19  
 SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.  
 1





-  Proposed new dwelling and access  
(WDC planning reference 19/01200/OUT)
-  Proposed agricultural building  
(WDC planning reference 18/01731/FUL)
-  Evaluation trench
-  Overhead cable and 9m buffer zone



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#### PROJECT TITLE

Kites Farm, Worcester Road, Pirton,  
Worcestershire

#### FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan**

0 1:750 25m





*The site, prior to excavation of evaluation trenches*



*Trench 1, looking south-west (1m scales)*



*Trench 2, looking north-east (1m scales)*



*Trench 1: representative section, looking north-west (1m scale)*



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