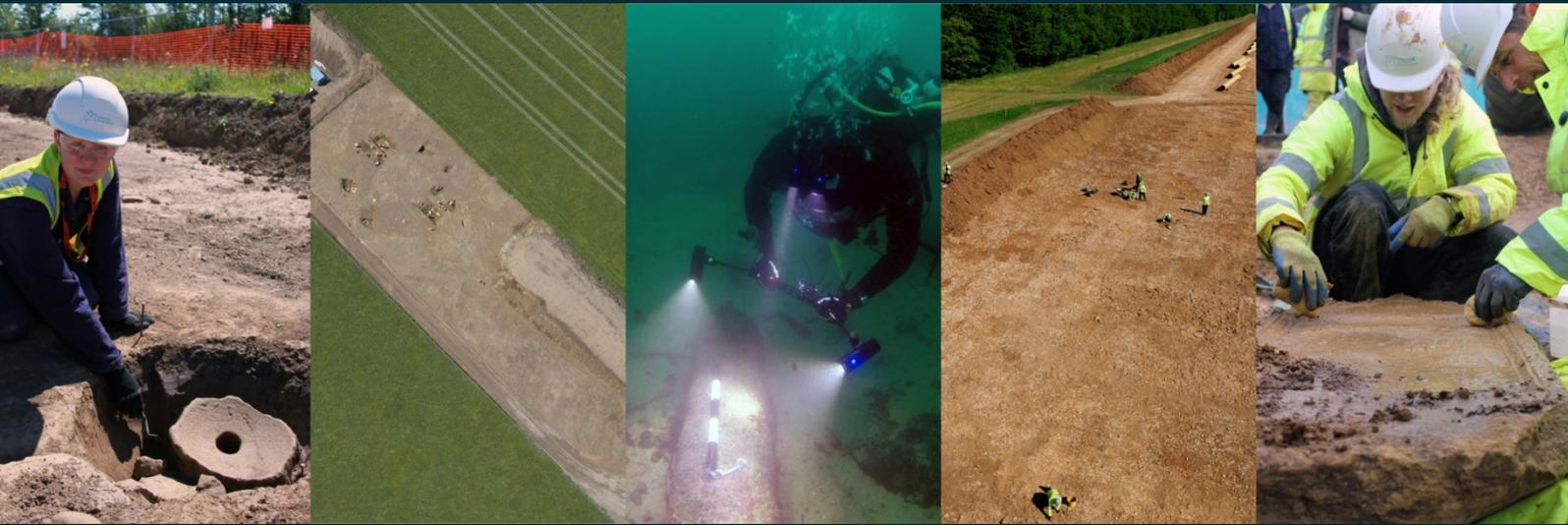


Land at Springfield Nursery Fladbury Worcestershire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation



for
Framptons Town Planning

on behalf of
Evesham Vale Growers Ltd

CA Project: CR0037
CA Report: CR0037_1
HER Ref: WSM71611

June 2019



Land at Springfield Nursery Fladbury Worcestershire

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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	25 June 2019	Marino Cardelli	Steven Sheldon	Internal review	Draft	Cliff Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Springfield Nursery
Location:	Fladbury, Worcestershire
NGR:	399000 247033
Type:	Strip, map and sample excavation
Date:	7 and 8 May 2019
Planning Reference:	Worcestershire County Council planning ref: 18/000018/CM
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum Service
Site Code:	FLAD 19

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2019 on land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire.

Two artefactually undated ditches, both of which are likely to relate to agricultural land management or division, were identified. One of these ditches may represent a continuation of a boundary ditch, previously identified during an earlier phase of archaeological to the south of the current site, where it was tentatively interpreted as being of Roman date.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation for Framptons Town Planning, on behalf of Evesham Vale Growers Ltd, on land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: 399000 247033; Fig. 1). Planning permission for the construction of an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) storage tank (part retrospective) was granted by Worcestershire County Council (WCC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed (WCC planning ref: 18/000018/CM, condition 10). Following consultation between CA and Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon District Council, the archaeological advisor to WCC it was determined that this would comprise a programme of archaeological SMS excavation.
- 1.2 The excavation was undertaken 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 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

- 1.3 The development area is located in the north-eastern part of a wider nursery site and comprises a level area of grass and part of an existing soil bund which lies at 28m AOD (Fig. 1). The nursery site itself is bounded to the north by the A44 (Evesham Road), to the south by a railway line and to the east and west by farmland.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. Superficial deposits of Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member – Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period are recorded across the northern half of the site (BGS 2019). The natural substrate, comprising compact clay with occasional gravel patches, was identified throughout the area of archaeological excavation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The wider nursery site has been subject to Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment (RPS 2010) and archaeological trial-trench evaluation (WCCHEAS 2011a). An area located in the south-eastern part of the nursery site was subsequently subject to archaeological excavation prior to the construction of a lagoon (WCCHEAS 2011b).
- 2.2 Scheduled Ancient Monument *Settlement Site North of Springhill Farm* (National Monument 1005352), interpreted as a probable Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, is located 350m to west of the current site. The location of the settlement is known from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and appears to contain seven ring ditches, five sub-rectangular enclosures, two rectangular enclosures and a curvilinear double-ditched enclosure. Within the south-western part of the nursery site itself a further cluster of cropmarks, seemingly representing associated prehistoric/Romano-British enclosures, has been identified from aerial photographs (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 2.3 The preceding archaeological trial-trench evaluation (WCCHEAS 2011a) identified a number of Bronze Age and Iron Age pits, postholes and ditches; the majority of which correlated closely to cropmarks previously identified in this part of the site (see Fig. 2 and *paragraph 2.2* above). Identified archaeological features in the remaining excavated trenches were limited to probable post-medieval/modern field boundaries and the ploughed-out remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 The archaeological excavation (WCCHEAS 2011b) identified evidence of further medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture along with a single, north/south aligned boundary ditch, from which a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery was recovered. This ditch continued beyond the northern edge of the excavation area and appears to run into the area now occupied by the AD storage tank.

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 2019) and comprised the excavation of an area measuring 36m² (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). However, the excavation area was moved to the south following an on-site meeting between Steven Sheldon (CA), Evesham Vale Growers Ltd and Aidan Smyth (WDC).

4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of non-archaeologically significant soils 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 the 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*; however no deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.3 The archive from the excavation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire County 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 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Natural substrate 102, comprising compact yellow brown clay with occasional gravel patches, was identified throughout the excavation area at a typical depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by sandy clay subsoil 101, averaging 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by topsoil 100. All identified archaeological features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil.
- 5.3 Broadly north/south aligned ditch 105 was exposed in the eastern part of the excavation area. It measured up to 0.94m in width, 0.19m in depth, had an open 'U'-shaped profile (Fig. 3, section AA) and contained a single undated sandy silt fill, 106.
- 5.4 North/south aligned ditch 107 was exposed in the western part of the excavation area. It measured up to 0.78m in width, 0.16m in depth, had an open 'U'-shaped profile (Fig. 3, section BB) and contained a single undated sandy silt fill, 108, which was cut by modern field drain 111.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The exact function of undated ditches 105 and 107 remains unclear. However, their nature suggests that they are likely to relate to agricultural land management or division, or form a possible trackway. It would appear likely, given its alignment, that ditch 107 identified in the western part of the stripped area represents a continuation of a postulated boundary ditch, from which a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery was recovered during the preceding archaeological excavation, undertaken to the south of the current site (see *archaeological background* above). Whilst it remains possible that ditch 107 is of Roman date, the limited quantity and the abraded nature of the Roman pottery recovered from this ditch during the preceding archaeological excavation suggests that this material is likely to be residual in a later feature.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Marino Cardelli and Sara-Jayne Boughton. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon and Alex Thomson.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 9 May 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Land at Springhill Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation*

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

RPS (RPS Planning & Development Ltd) 2010 *Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment: Evesham Road, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, RPS Ref. **DLE2079/archaeology/008**

WCCHEAS (Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service) 2011a *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Evesham Road, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, WCCHEAS Report No. **1496**

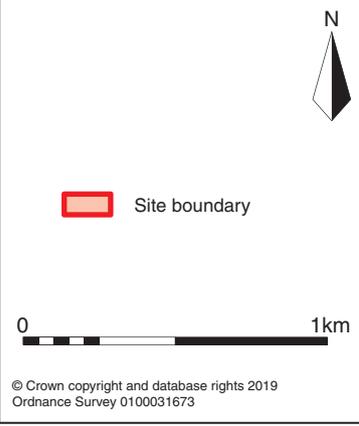
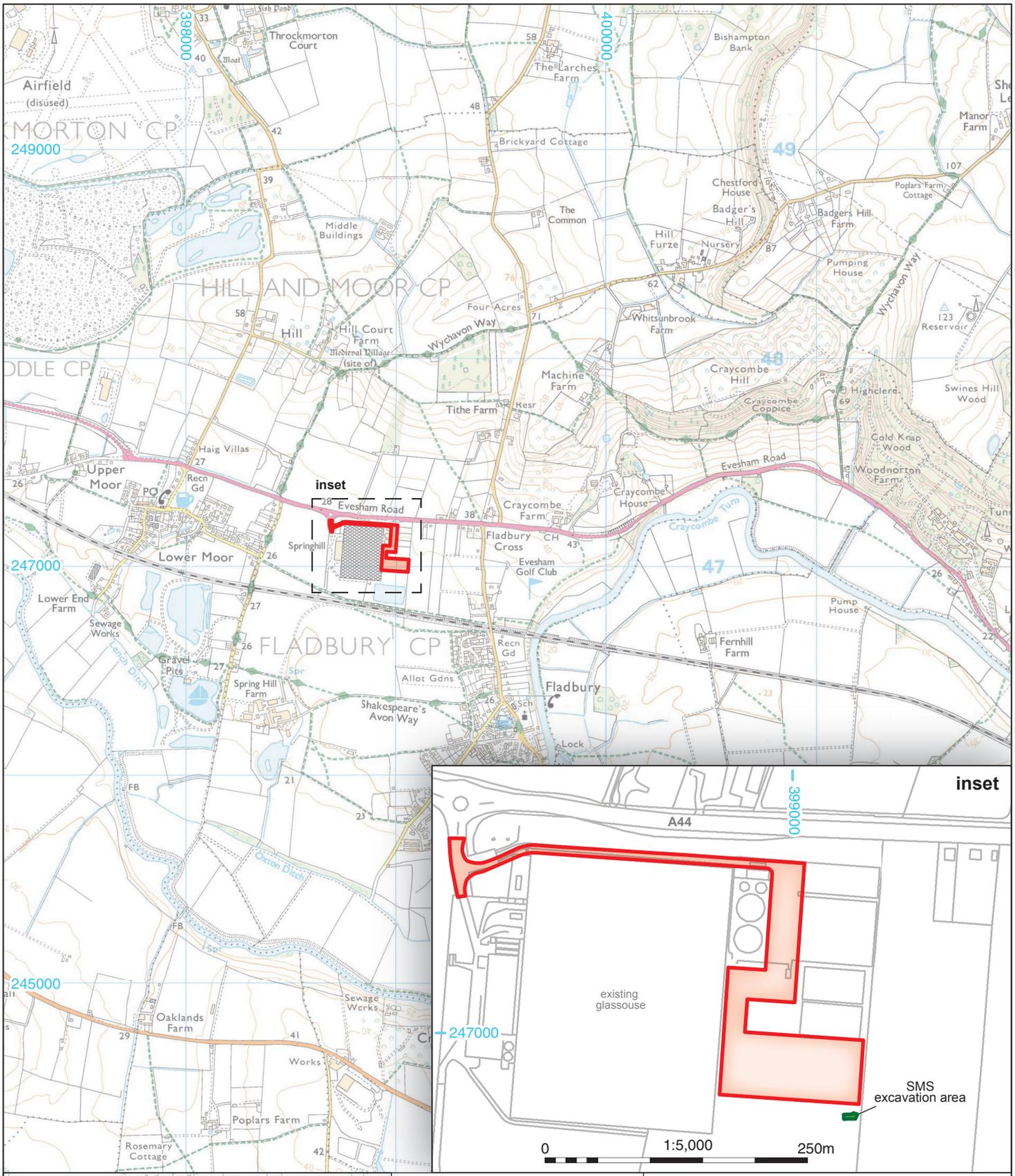
WCCHEAS 2011b *Archaeological Investigations at Springhill Farm, Evesham Road, Lower Moor, Fladbury, Worcestershire*, WCCHEAS Report No. **1808**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand silt with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>9	>4	0.4
101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown sand clay	> 9	> 4	0.2
102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow brown clay with occasional gravel patches	> 9	> 4	N/A
103	Deposit		Modern bund	Highly mixed dark grey brown sand clay with frequent angular stone inclusions	>4.8	>4	1.9
104	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-
105	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, open 'U'-shaped profile	>4	0.94	0.19
106	Fill	105	Fill	Mid grey brown sand silt	>4	0.94	0.19
107	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, open 'U'-shaped profile	>4	0.78	0.16
108	Fill	107	Fill	Mid grey brown sand silt	>4	0.78	0.16
109	Cut		Modern field drain	NE/SW aligned field drain	>4	0.29	N/A
110	Fill	109	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt	>4	0.29	N/A
111	Cut		Modern field drain	NE/SW aligned field drain	>4	0.3	0.34
112	Fill	111	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt	>4	0.3	0.34

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2019 on land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire.</p> <p>Two artefactually undated ditches, both of which are likely to relate to agricultural land management or division, were identified. One of these ditches may represent a continuation of a boundary ditch, previously identified during an earlier phase of archaeological to the south of the current site, where it was tentatively interpreted as being of Roman date.</p>	
Project dates	7-8 May 2019	
Project type	Strip, map and sample excavation	
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (RPS 2010) Archaeological trial-trench evaluation (WCCHEAS 2011a) Archaeological excavation and watching brief (WCCHEAS 2011b)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	399000 247033	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon and Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content :
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum Service	Context sheets, context registers, photographic registers, permatrace drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum Service	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land at Springhill Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire: Strip, Map and Sample Archaeological Excavation</i> . CA typescript report CR0037_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

FIGURE NO.
 1

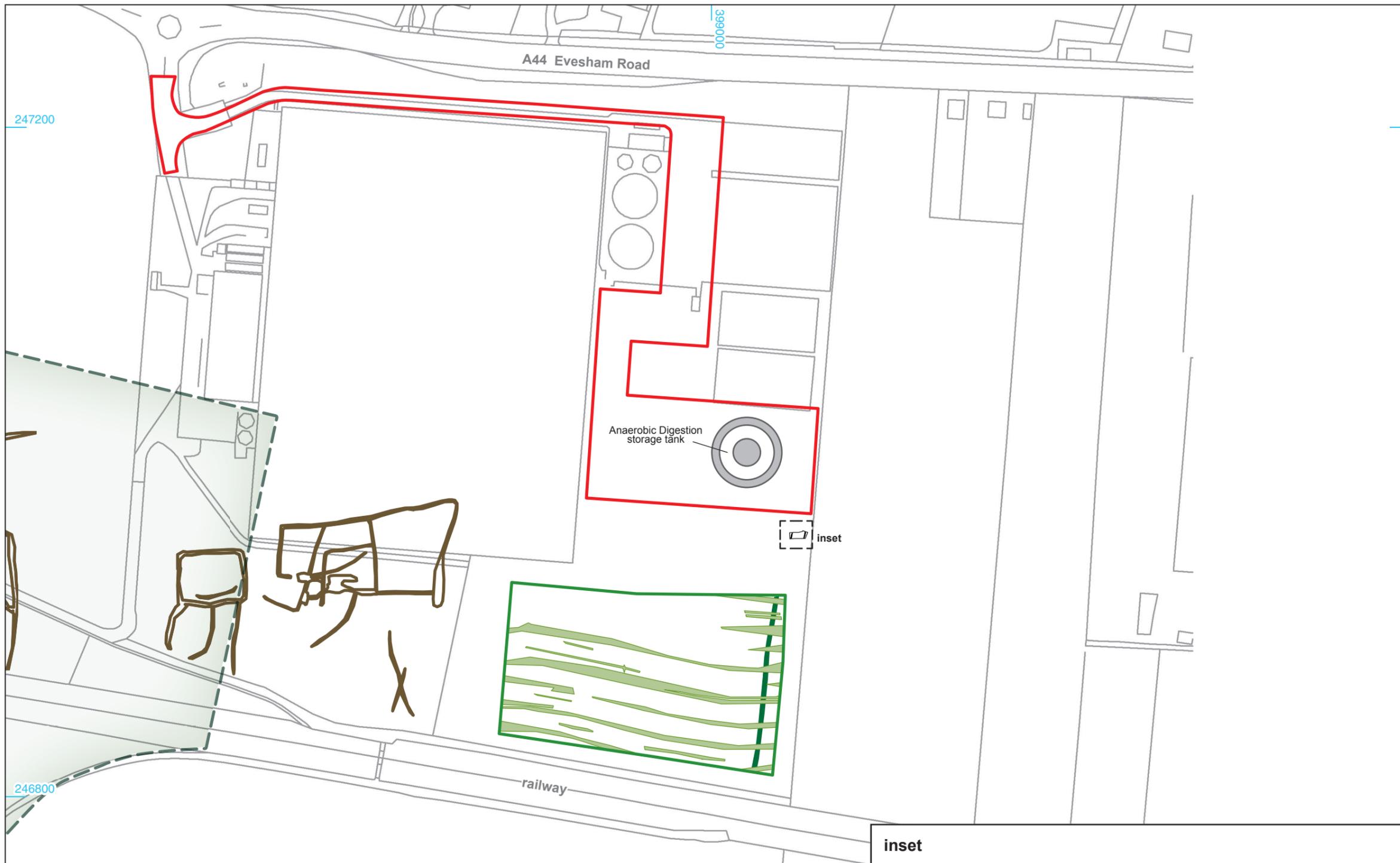
PROJECT NO.
 CR0037

DATE
 13/05/2019

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CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY AT

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- Site boundary
 - Excavated area
 - Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
 - Field drain
 - Section location
 - Proposed excavation area
 - Scheduled Monument
- Previous archaeological works:
- Archaeological features as identified from cropmarks
 - Previous evaluation (WCCHEAS 2011b)
 - Ditch
 - Furrow

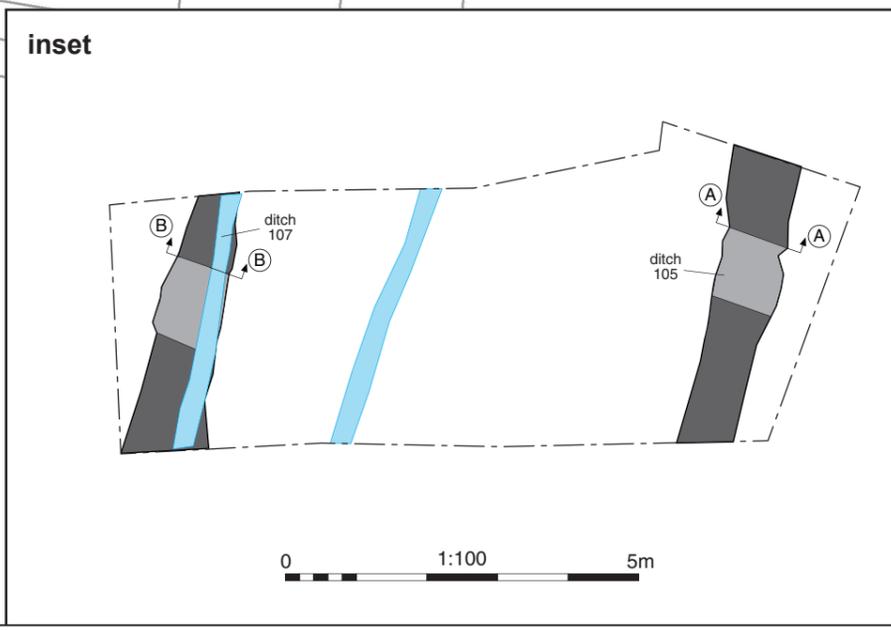


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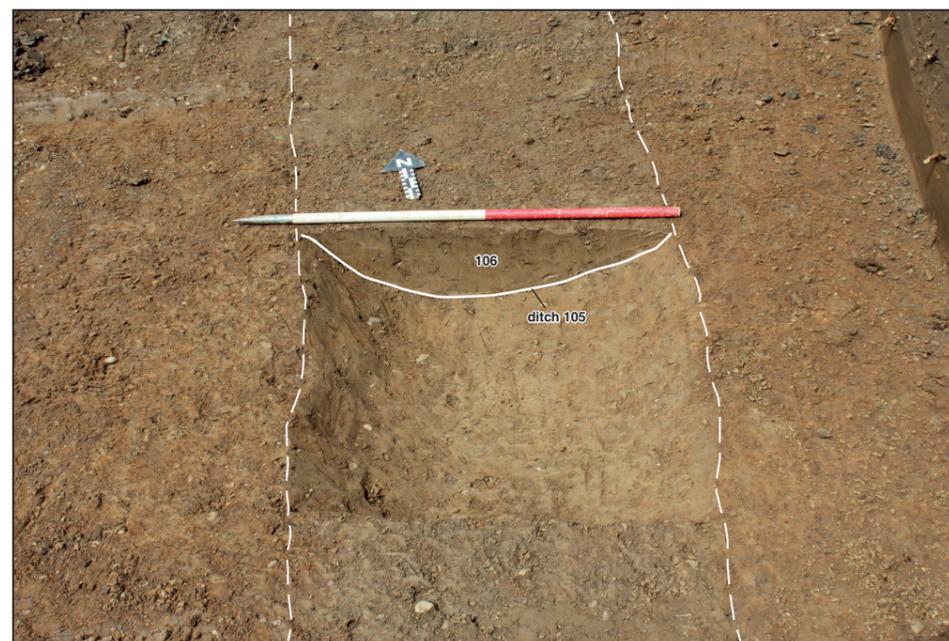
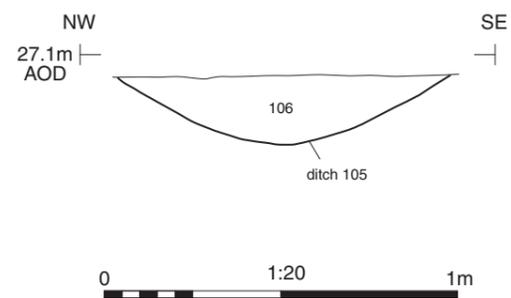
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Springfield Nursery, Fladbury, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing excavation area, identified archaeological features, cropmarks and previous archaeological works

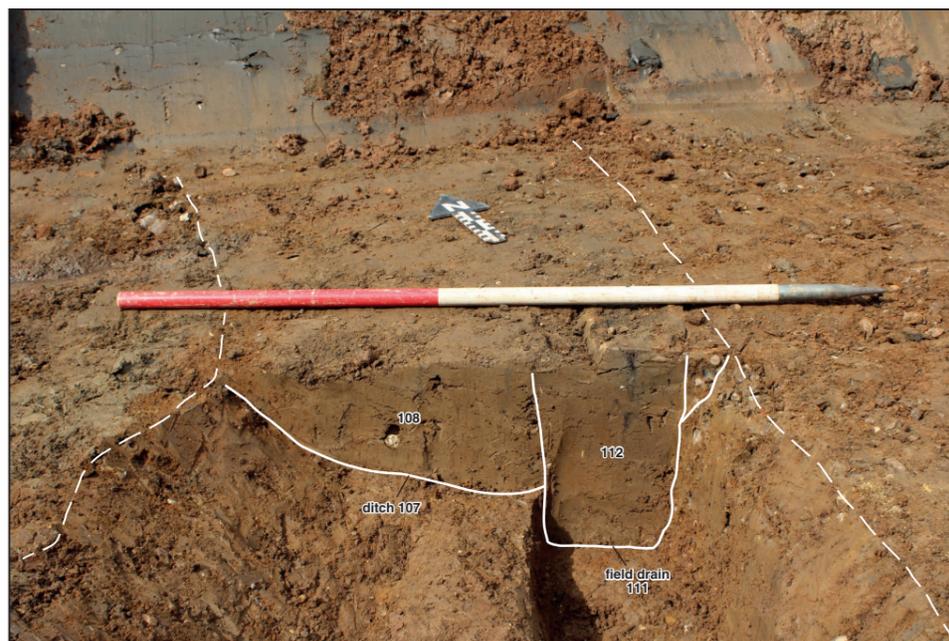
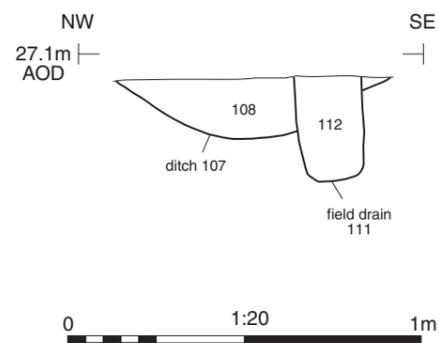
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<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 13/05/2019	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AT	<small>SCALE</small> @A3 1:2,500 / 1:100	

Section AA



Ditch 105, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section BB



Ditch 107, looking north-east (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Ditches 105 and 107: sections and
 photographs**

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