

**PERRYFIELDS ROAD
BROMSGROVE
WORCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

WEST MERCIA HOUSING GROUP

CA PROJECT: 2725
CA REPORT: 08218


OCTOBER 2008



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WORCESTERSHIRE

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CA PROJECT: 2725
CA REPORT: 08218

| | |
|-------------|---|
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| date | 22 October 2008 |
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| date | 24 October 2008 |
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| signed |  |
| date | 24 October 2008 |
| issue | 01 |

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:1250)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Perryfields Road
Location: Bromsgrove, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 9531 7194
Type: Evaluation
Date: 14-21 October 2008
Planning Reference: B/08/0758
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcester County Museum
Site Code: PPR08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2008 at the request of West Mercia Housing Group at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Twenty-one trenches were excavated.

One field boundary ditch dating to the post-medieval period was identified within three trenches. Evidence of modern farming activity was shown by the presence of a furrow in two trenches.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for West Mercia Housing Group at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9531 7194; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support a planning application (ref. B/08/0758) submitted to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) for the erection of a 150 unit residential development with associated works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation* (WHEAS 2008) prepared by Mr Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS), the archaeological advisor to BDC, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), as well as the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Glyde.

The site

- 1.3 The site comprises a 4ha area of land within an open field on the north-western edge of Bromsgrove and is bounded to the north by Perryfields Road, to the east by King George Recreation Ground, to the south by housing off King George Close, and to the west by an open field, currently under pasture (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 100m AOD, with the ground level dropping away gradually to the south-east. It is currently in use as pasture.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as New Red Sandstone containing Mercia Mudstone clay of the Permian and Triassic era (BGS 1979). Mercia Mudstone clay was encountered across the site.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies within the hinterland of the medieval market town of Bromsgrove. A programme of archaeological trenching (Worcestershire Sites and Monument Record (WSM) 33913) undertaken by WHEAS 400m south-west of the site revealed no archaeological features or deposits. A Neolithic picrite battle axe (WSM09396) was found 250m north of the site. A Desk-Based Assessment and Rapid Field Survey (WSM30026) was undertaken during construction work on the M42, Junctions 1-7a. There is sparse evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation known in the area (CA 2008).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Bromsgrove District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 22 trenches; 14 of which measured 50m in length and 1.8m wide, 7 of which measured 25m in length and 1.8m wide in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was not excavated due to the presence of crops within this area of the site, with the approval of Mr Glyde, WHEAS.
- 1.8 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* (2007).
- 1.9 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* (2003) and no deposits were identified that

required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.10 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 artefacts will be deposited with Worcester County Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features are included in Appendix A.
- 2.2 A total of twenty-one trenches were excavated during the evaluation, eighteen of which did not contain any archaeological features. A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the trenches. Undisturbed natural, comprising red clay was revealed at a depth of approximately 0.35m below present ground level (bpgl). This was sealed by a layer of topsoil.

Trench 11 (Fig 2)

- 2.3 Ditch 1102 was orientated north-west/south-east; its fill 1103 contained pottery dating to the post-medieval period. This feature cut the natural substrate and was sealed by topsoil. Parallel and to the south-west of this feature was furrow 1104 orientated north-west/south-east and sealed by topsoil.

Trench 15 (Figs 2)

- 2.4 Ditch 1502 was orientated north-west/south-east; its fill 1503 contained roof tile dating to the post-medieval period. This feature cut the natural substrate and was sealed by topsoil.

Trench 21 (Figs 2)

- 2.5 Ditch 2102 was orientated north-west/south-east; its fill 2103 did not contain any dating evidence. This feature cut the natural substrate and was sealed by topsoil. Parallel and to the south-west of this feature was modern furrow 1104 orientated north-west/south-east and sealed by topsoil.

The Finds Evidence

- 2.6 One sherd of black-glazed red earthenware (3g) was recovered from deposit 1103 and is consistent with a 16th to 18th-century date.
- 2.7 One fragment of post-medieval roofing tile (107g) was recovered from deposit 2103.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Ditch 1102, 1502, 2102 contained one sherd of pottery dating from the 16th to 18th century and one piece of post-medieval roof tile. The 1885-86 First Edition Ordnance Survey map depicts a field boundary on the same alignment (Fig. 2) and this ditch most probably represents a drainage channel alongside this boundary. Evidence of modern farming activity is indicated in trenches 11 and 21 by a furrow which was orientated north-west/south-east.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce, assisted by Jessica Cook. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The finds report was prepared by Teresa Gilmore. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1979 *Geological Map of the UK: South, 1:625,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2008 *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Ref: B/08/0758*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Trench not excavated. | | | | |

Trench 2 Present ground level: 104.14m AOD (south-west end), 104.67m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 200 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.32 | |
| 201 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 3 Present ground level: 102.63m AOD (south-west end), 103.18m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 300 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.27 | |
| 301 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 4 Present ground level: 102.29m AOD (south-east end), 103.46m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 400 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.35 | |
| 401 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 5 Present ground level: 103.91m AOD (south-west end), 104.84m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 500 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.37 | |
| 501 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 6 Present ground level: 104.42m AOD (south-east end), 105.15m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 600 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.41 | |
| 601 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 7 Present ground level: 105.43m AOD (south-west end), 106.08m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 700 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.36 | |
| 701 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 8 Present ground level: 102.86m AOD (south-east end), 105.31m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 800 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.29 | |
| 801 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 9 Present ground level: 102.60m AOD (south-west end), 103.50m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-----|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 900 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.34 | |
| 901 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 10 Present ground level: 100.98m AOD (south-east end), 103.42m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1000 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.30 | |
| 1001 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 11 Present ground level: 98.68m AOD (south-west end), 100.16m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1100 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.42 | |
| 1101 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |
| 1102 | Cut | Post-medieval field boundary ditch. | | 0.97 | 0.27 | |
| 1103 | Deposit | Single fill of 1102. Mid orange brown sandy silt. Very occasional small stone inclusions. | | 0.97 | 0.27 | Post-medieval |
| 1104 | Cut | Modern furrow. | | 0.55 | 0.19 | |
| 1105 | Deposit | Fill of 1104. Mid orange brown sandy silt. | | 0.55 | 0.19 | |

Trench 12 Present ground level: 99.31m AOD (south-east end), 101.39m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1200 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.25 | |
| 1201 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 13 Present ground level: 98.48m AOD (south-west end), 99.08m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1300 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.38 | |
| 1301 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 14 Present ground level: 98.26m AOD (south-east end), 100.30m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1400 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.31 | |
| 1401 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 15 Present ground level: 101.63m AOD (south-west end), 100.27m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1500 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.49 | |
| 1501 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |
| 1502 | Cut | Post-medieval field boundary ditch. | | 0.78 | 0.68 | |
| 1503 | Deposit | Single fill of 1502. Orange brown silt, friable compaction, rare small stone inclusions. | | 0.78 | 0.68 | |

Trench 16 Present ground level: 99.19m AOD (south-east end), 101.86m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1600 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.32 | |
| 1601 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 17 Present ground level: 100.77m AOD (south-west end), 101.47m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1700 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.33 | |
| 1701 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 18 Present ground level: 98.02m AOD (south-east end), 100.02m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1800 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.36 | |
| 1801 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 19 Present ground level: 97.62m AOD (south-west end), 98.55m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1900 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.41 | |
| 1901 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 20 Present ground level: 97.10m AOD (south-east end), 98.55m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2000 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.22 | |
| 2001 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

Trench 21 Present ground level: 96.70m AOD (south-west end), 97.52m AOD (north-east end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|---------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 2100 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.44 | |
| 2101 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |
| 2102 | Cut | Post-medieval field boundary ditch | | 0.76 | 0.43 | |
| 2103 | Deposit | Single fill of 2102. Pinky brown silt, friable compaction, very occasional small stone inclusions. | | 0.76 | 0.43 | Post-medieval |
| 2104 | Cut | Modern furrow | | 0.50 | | |
| 2105 | Deposit | Single fill of 2104. Mid orange brown sandy silt, friable compaction. | | 0.50 | | |

Trench 22 Present ground level: 96.14m AOD (south-east end), 97.81m AOD (north-west end)

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|------|-------|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2200 | Layer | Topsoil and turf layer, Dark orange brown, clay-sand silt. Friable compaction. Occasional small stone inclusions. | | | 0.38 | |
| 2201 | Layer | Natural. Mid red clay (Mercia Mudstone/sandstone). | | | | |

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

| Context | Artefact type | Count | Weight (g) | Spot-date |
|----------------|---|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1103 | Post-medieval pottery: black glazed red earthenware | 1 | 3 | C16-C18 |
| 2103 | Ceramic building material: roof tile | 1 | 107 | PMED |

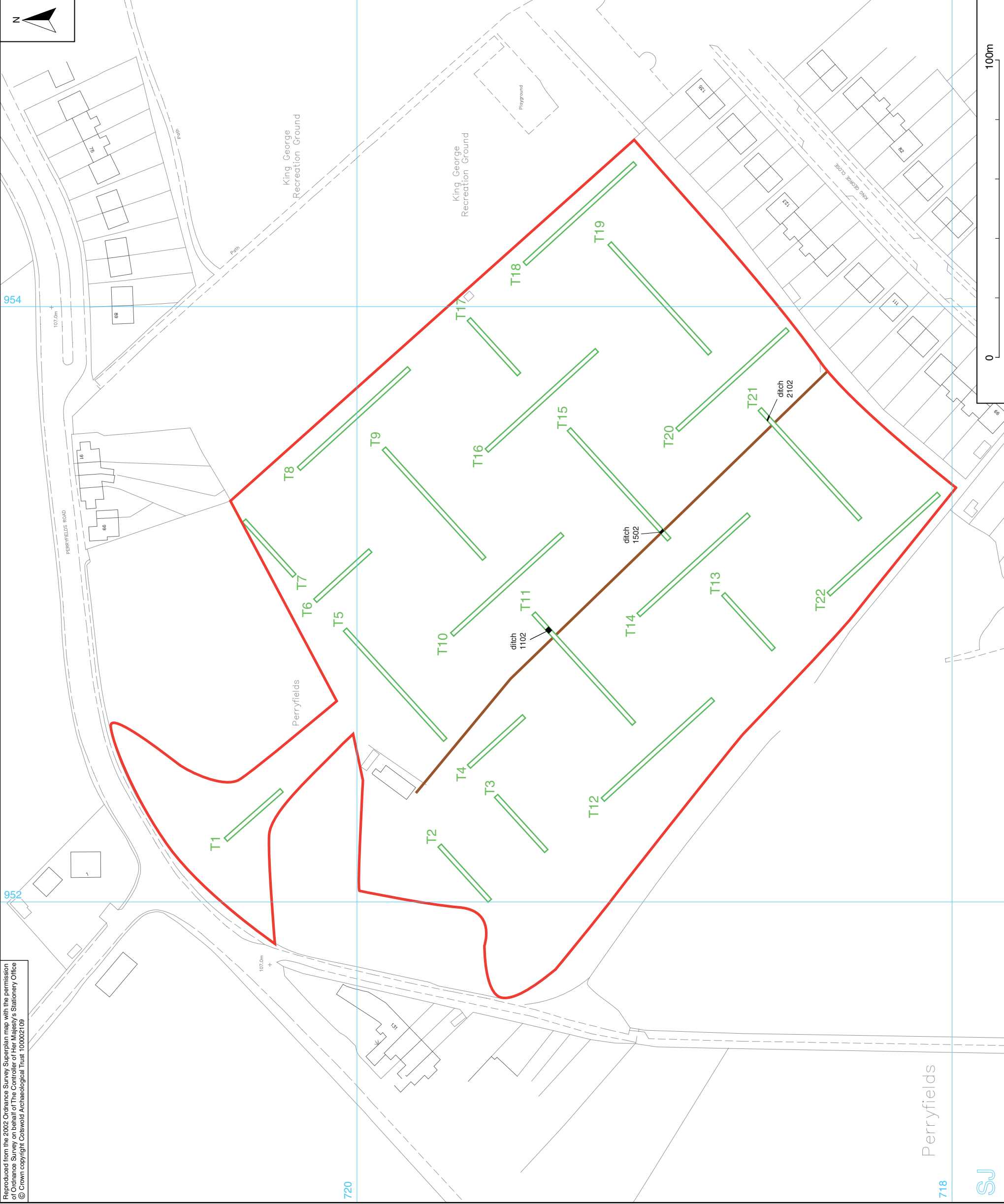
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|--|---|
| Project Name | Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2008 at Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Twenty one trenches were excavated. One field boundary ditch dating to the post-medieval period was identified within three trenches. Evidence of modern farming activity was shown by the presence of a furrow in two trenches. | |
| Project dates | 14-21 October 2008 | |
| Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc) | Archaeological Evaluation | |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | None | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 4ha | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SO 9531 7194 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Worcestershire County Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Richard Young | |
| Project Supervisor | Stuart Joyce | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | Worcester County Museum | Ceramics |
| Paper | Worcester County Museum | WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs |
| Digital | Worcester County Museum | Digital photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 08218 | | |

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| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|
|  COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove Worcestershire | | | |
| FIGURE TITLE Site location plan | | | |
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| RK | 1:25,000@A4 | 2725 | 1 |



- site
- = trenches
- boundary depicted on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1885-6
- archaeological features

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY | |
| PROJECT TITLE Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove Worcestershire | |
| FIGURE TITLE Trench location plan showing archaeological features | |
| DRAWN BY RK | SCALE 1:1250@A3 |
| PROJECT NO. 2725 | FIGURE NO. 2 |

Perryfields

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