

**80 TIDDINGTON ROAD  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON  
WARWICKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP  
AND SAMPLE**

*For*

**CGMs CONSULTING**

*on behalf of*

**Ms JULIE ANN AYERS**

CA PROJECT: 2852  
CA REPORT: 09091


JUNE 2009



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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

CA PROJECT: 2852  
CA REPORT: 09091

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date	10 June 2009
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signed	
date	16 June 2009
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS .....	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	8
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	8
5. REFERENCES .....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	10
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS .....	10
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	11

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Plan of excavation showing archaeological features and previous works (1:250)
- Fig. 3 Section drawings (1:20)

## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	80 Tiddington Road
<b>Location:</b>	Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 21380 55300
<b>Type:</b>	Strip, Map and Sample
<b>Date:</b>	08-20 May 2009
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	08/02905/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford upon-Avon
<b>Site Code:</b>	TID 09

An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2009 at 80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire. An area covering 540m<sup>2</sup> was excavated.

A low density of archaeological features, comprising shallow ditches, post-holes and a pit were identified to the north and west of the stripped area. The majority of these features were securely dated to the Roman period and appeared to be related to drainage, land division or stock management/control. The low density of archaeological features encountered, along with a lack of anthropogenic material from the features, and any of the overlying topsoil or subsoil deposits, suggests that the site lies outside of the Roman settlement previously identified to the north-east and may represent an area of farmland. A 20th-century air raid shelter was also identified in the south-east corner of the stripped area.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample for CgMs Consulting (CgMs) on behalf of Ms Julie Ann Ayers at 80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire (centred on NGR: SP 21380 55300; Fig. 1). The Strip, Map and Sample was undertaken to satisfy a condition placed on the planning permission for the demolition of the current building and construction of a new property on the site (Stratford-upon-Avon District Council (SDC) ref. 08/02905/FUL).
- 1.2 The Strip, Map and Sample was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Fieldwork* prepared by Ms Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire Museum Field Services (WMFS) the archaeological advisor to the Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, a *Specification for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Watching Brief* prepared by CgMs and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Ms Stocks. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Ms Stocks, including site visits on 15 and 20 May 2009.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is bordered by Tiddington Road to the north-west, by a golf course to the south-east and by domestic dwellings and gardens to the north-east and south-west. The site is situated at approximately 43m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and comprises an area of generally flat ground forming part of the garden of 80 Tiddington Road.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as 2nd terrace river gravels of the Pleistocene (BGS 1974). This was encountered across the site and comprised interleaving brownish yellow sand and gravel with patches of compact reddish brown sand and gravel.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 The earliest archaeological artefact recovered from the site is a Palaeolithic hand axe (MWA 893). It was identified in c. 1930 during the construction of the current building at 80 Tiddington Road. The find is considered to be re-deposited in the gravel terrace and does not represent evidence of a settlement site of this period.
- 1.6 It is thought that the first settlement in the vicinity of the site was established at the end of the Iron Age period, c. AD 30-50, but may have been established possibly later, around a Roman fort positioned close to the nearby river crossing. Indications of the settlement's existence was recognised during the 18th and 19th century. Archaeological recording began in the 1920s when housing development spread along Tiddington Road. In 1923, a cemetery was uncovered at 77 Tiddington Road (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) ref. MWA 1014) along with Iron Age pottery (MWA 1064) north-west of the development area. The construction of the golf course, south and east the site revealed more Roman burials and building remains. Further excavation work in the late 1930s revealed Roman pottery in the surrounding area (MWA 1072). Large scale excavations carried out to the north-east of the development area along Tiddington Road in the early 1980s revealed dense Roman occupation from the 1st to 4th century AD. A large ditch was also revealed around at least part of the settlement. Settlement buildings were mostly of timber with thatched roofs, although a large stone house was also identified. Plots contained outbuildings, wells, rubbish pits and corn-drying ovens. Cemeteries, rubbish pits and field systems were located outside the settlement.
- 1.7 North of Tiddington Road, in the area of Reading Court sheltered housing, Roman occupation dates from the 1st to 3rd century. The earliest buildings were timber roundhouses surrounded by animal enclosures. In the 2nd century, paved roads were laid accompanied by rectangular timber buildings. Pottery kilns were also identified in this area. As a result of the early 1980s excavations, the undeveloped parts of the settlement were given Scheduled Ancient Monument status (SAM 184). A series of archaeological watching briefs and evaluations have taken place either side of the current development site; at 82 Tiddington Road (WMFS 2000 and 2007) and land adjacent to 80 Tiddington Road (WMFS 1996 and 1997). The archaeological evaluation carried out adjacent to 80 Tiddington Road comprised three trenches ranging between 15-17m long (Fig. 2; WMFS 1996). Roman material and features were identified in all three trenches, although no evidence of a

cemetery was discovered, suggesting that the development site lies within or close to the Roman settlement. Archaeological deposits were identified at an approximate depth of 0.7m. Two archaeological watching briefs carried out at the neighbouring 82 Tiddington Road revealed two undated pits, one of which may be associated with Roman activity (WMFS 2007). Pottery, dating to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd century were encountered in the topsoil. A fragment of human bone was identified during the 2000 observations, it is likely that the bone is residual and came from a burial nearby (WMFS 2000).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.8 The academic objectives of the programme of archaeological recording were:
- i. To ensure the adequate record of any buried archaeological remains that may be exposed within the defined strip, map and sample area and all proposed drainage runs and soakaways prior to their removal by development; and any additional archaeological mitigation required for additional proposed works impacting on archaeological deposits.
  - ii. To produce a plan of all archaeological features exposed within the defined strip, map and sample area.
  - iii. To investigate and record exposed archaeological features/deposits in order to clarify both their date, character, and significance and to provide a clear understanding of their chronology.
  - iv. To ensure that any artefacts/environmental evidence is recorded, assessed and - if appropriate - analysed to an acceptable standard.
  - v. To make available the results of the investigations.

### **Methodology**

- 1.9 The excavation area was stripped 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).

- 1.10 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), however no deposits suitable for sampling were identified. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the excavation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive (and artefacts, subject to the agreement of the legal landowner) will be deposited with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-Upon-Avon. 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. A summary account of the work will be submitted to the editor of *West Midlands Archaeology* no later than 31 March 2010.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results: detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 The earliest feature encountered during the site strip was shallow, irregular gully/ditch 113 identified in the north-west of the stripped area. This contained a single gravelly fill that was cut by ditch 107 at its western end. Shallow, U-shaped ditch 107 was aligned north-east/south-east and contained a single, sandy silt, fill that contained several sherds of Roman pottery. Shallow, U-shaped ditch 115 was identified to the north-east of the stripped area. A small quantity of fragmentary animal bone was recovered from the fill of this feature. This was also aligned north-east/south-west and had a similar fill and profile to ditch 107. It is possible that ditches 107 and 115 form part of a field or settlement boundary. Both ditches appeared to have distinct termini within the stripped area as no evidence suggesting substantial truncation of these features by later activity was evident, suggesting that they formed part of the same boundary system with a deliberate break/entrance between them.



- 2.3 Towards the centre of the stripped area post-hole 111 that was filled with distinctive dark brown silt containing rare charcoal flecks was identified. No datable material was recovered from this feature. This feature was cut by small, sub-circular pit 109. This was filled by a homogenous silty sand fill that contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. To the south-west of these features a further post-hole, 105, was identified. This contained a similar fill to post-hole 111. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this feature.
- 2.4 In the far south west of the stripped area a modern air raid shelter, 117, was identified. This was square in plan and was constructed from reinforced concrete, red brick and breeze block. A further modern intrusion, 119, containing red brick fragments and plastic was identified adjacent to this.

### ***The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence***

- 2.5 Artefactual or ecofactual material comprising quantities of pottery, metallurgical residues and animal bone were recovered from three deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.6 Pottery of Roman date was recovered from ditches 107 and 115 (fills 106 and 114 respectively), and pit 109 (fill 108). The largest group, from ditch fill 106 consisted of five sherds, including large, joining fragments from a Severn Valley ware jar. Dating within the earlier Roman period (probably 2nd century) is suggested by a sherd of an early Severn Valley ware (organic-tempered) variant and a Black Burnished ware sherd which exhibits acute-angled lattice decoration. The sherds from deposits 108 and 114 are only broadly dateable to the Roman period.
- 2.7 A small fragment of ironworking slag was recovered from ditch fill 106. It may derive either from smithing or smelting processes, although the small amount present is not sufficient to imply industrial activity in the immediate area.
- 2.8 Animal bone was recovered from two deposits. Fragments identifiable to species from ditch fill 106 include two fragments of sheep-sized horn core and part of the proximal end of a cow metapodial which has been chopped. Ditch fill 114 contained 20 fragments of cow-sized bones principally from the long bones and scapula. The bones are moderately well preserved.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The strip, map and sample exercise identified a low density of archaeological features across the application area. The majority of these features date to the Roman period and were concentrated to the north and west of the stripped area.
- 3.2 The sinuous and shallow nature of gully 113 would appear to suggest that this feature was associated with rudimentary drainage or land division. It is possible that ditches 107 and 115, both of which were regular in form and on a relatively straight alignment, represent a formalisation of this land management during the Roman period.
- 3.3 Structural evidence was limited to the discovery of two post-holes, 105 and 111, towards the centre of the stripped area. However, the exact purpose of these features is unclear as no related features were identified. The position of these features in the centre of a gap between ditches 107 and 115 may suggest that they were associated with stock management or control. The relatively small quantity of pottery recovered from pit 109 would suggest that it was not used for rubbish disposal and it may, therefore, have been dug to extract small quantities of sand and gravel.
- 3.3 Previous works (WMFS 1996, 2000 and 2007) have suggested that the site lies within or close to the Roman settlement previously identified to the north-east. However, the low density of archaeological features exposed by the current works, combined with the lack of anthropogenic material from these features, and from any of the topsoil or subsoil deposits, suggests that the site may actually lie outside of the former settlement and may represent an area of farmland.

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Andrew Loader and Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Solid and Drift Geology Sheet 200: Stratford-Upon-Avon, 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Exercise*

CgMs (CgMs Consulting Limited) 2009 *80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire: Specification for Programme of Archaeological Work-Strip, Map and Sample and Watching Brief*

WMFS (Warwickshire Museum Field Services) 1996 *Archaeological Evaluation at 80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire*

WMFS (Warwickshire Museum Field Services) 1997 *Archaeological Observation adjacent to 80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire*

WMFS (Warwickshire Museum Field Services) 2000 *Archaeological Observation at 82 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire*

WMFS (Warwickshire Museum Field Services) 2007 *Archaeological Recording at 82 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, WMFS Report No. 0727*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.30	
101	Layer	Modern make-up and levelling			0.40	
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.20	
103	Layer	Natural substrate: interleaving brownish yellow sand and gravel with patches of compact reddish brown sand and gravel			>0.10	
104	Fill	Dark brown silt sand backfill of post-hole 105		0.30	0.34	
105	Cut	Post-hole				
106	Fill	Dark brown silt sand backfill of ditch 107	>6.20	0.59	0.31	C2 AD
107	Cut	Narrow, SE-NW aligned ditch, moderate U-shaped profile	>6.20	0.59	0.31	
108	Fill	Dark grey brown silt sand backfill of pit 109, rare charcoal flecks throughout		0.76	0.18	Roman
109	Cut	Small, shallow, sub-circular pit, function unknown		0.76	0.18	
110	Fill	Mid grey brown silt sand backfill of post-hole 111		0.38	0.34	
111	Cut	Post-hole		0.38	0.34	
112	Fill	Light brown sand and gravel backfill of ditch 113	3.25	0.34	0.29	
113	Cut	Narrow, shallow ditch, moderate U-shaped profile	3.25	0.34	0.29	
114	Fill	Dark brown silt sand backfill of ditch 115	5.87	0.44	0.20	Roman
115	Cut	Narrow, SE-NW aligned ditch, moderate U-shaped profile	5.87	0.44	0.20	
116	Fill	Modern reinforced concrete air raid shelter	6.00	3.50	>2.00	Modern
117	Cut	Construction cut for 116	6.00	3.50	>2.00	Modern
118	Fill	Mid dark brown sandy silt, red brick and plastic inclusions, fill of 119	4.30	1.70	0.40	Modern
119	Cut	Irregular cut of modern intrusion, unknown purpose	4.30	1.70	0.40	Modern

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS***Finds concordance*


Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
106	Roman pottery: Severn Valley ware; black sandy ware; Black Burnished ware	5	196	C2 AD
	Metallurgical residue: vesicular ironworking slag	1	2	
	Animal bone: cattle, sheep-sized	3	11	
108	Roman pottery: handmade, coarse quartz-tempered (BB imit?)	1	17	Roman?
114	Roman pottery: greyware	1	20	Roman
	Animal bone: cow-sized	20	36	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2009 at 80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire. An area covering 540m <sup>2</sup> was excavated.  A low density of archaeological features, comprising shallow ditches, post-holes and a pit were identified to the north and west of the stripped area. The majority of these features were securely dated to the Roman period and appeared to be related to drainage, land division or stock management/control. The low density of archaeological features encountered, along with a lack of anthropogenic material from the features, and any of the overlying topsoil or subsoil deposits, suggests that the site lies outside of the Roman settlement previously identified to the north-east and may represent an area of farmland. A 20th-century air raid shelter was also identified in the south-east corner of the stripped area.	
Project dates	08-20 May 2009	
Project type	Strip, map and sample	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Yes	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	540m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 21380 55300	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon	ceramics and animal bone
Paper	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon	context sheets, context register, colour/black and white photographs and registers, section drawings
Digital	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon	digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>80 Tiddington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample</i> . CA Typescript Report No. <b>09091</b>		





 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> 80 Tiddington Road Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire			
<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> <b>Site location plan</b>			
<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
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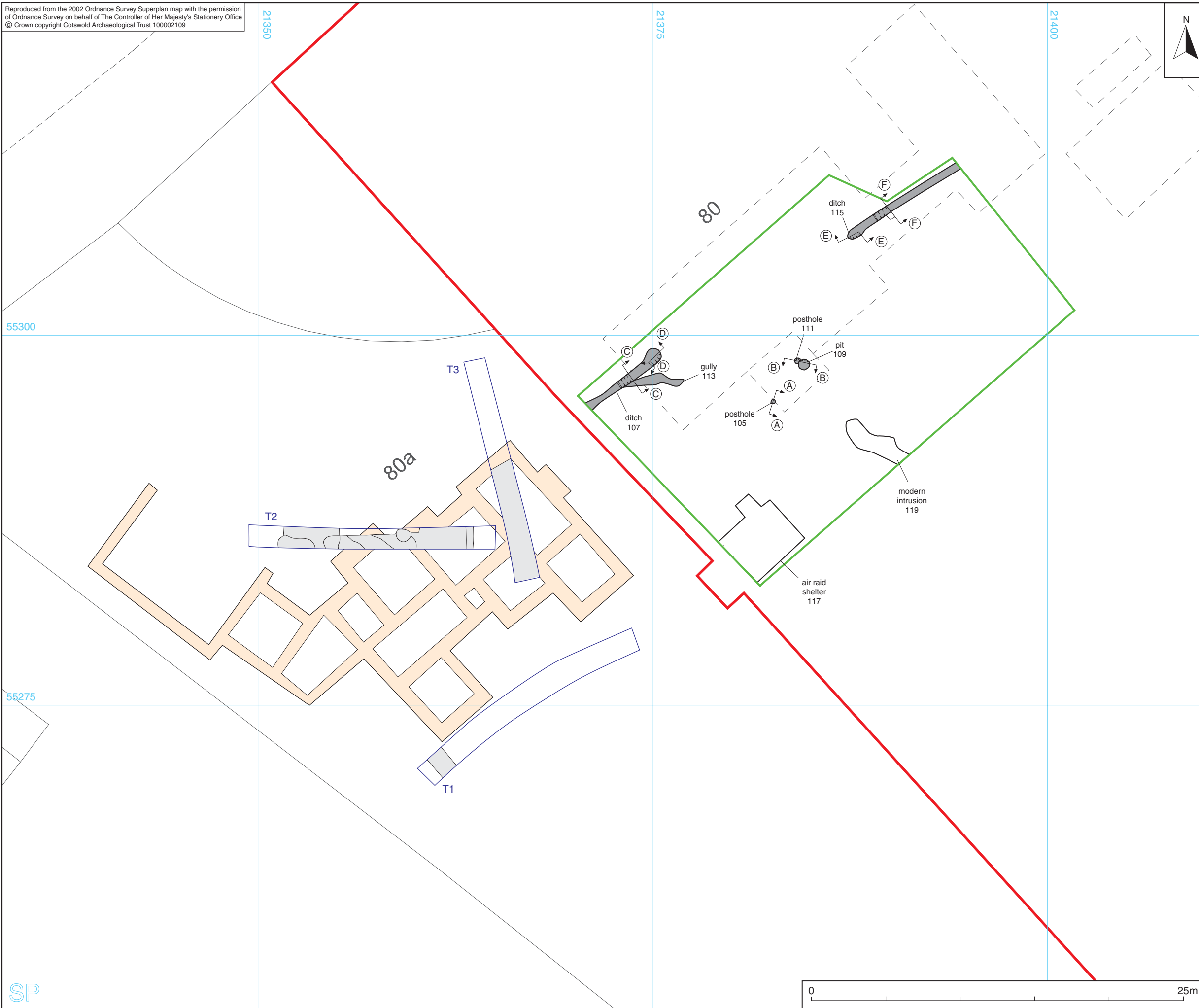
21350

21375

21400

55300

55275



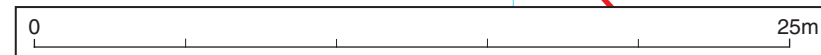
- ▭ site
- ▭ edge of groundworks
- archaeological features
- ▭ evaluation trenches
- archaeological features observed during evaluation (WMFS 1996)
- ▭ foundation trenches observed (WMFS 1997)
- - - footprint of demolished building



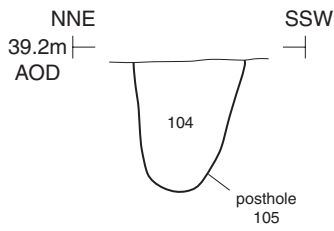
PROJECT TITLE  
**80 Tiddington Road  
 Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Plan of excavation showing archaeological features and previous works**

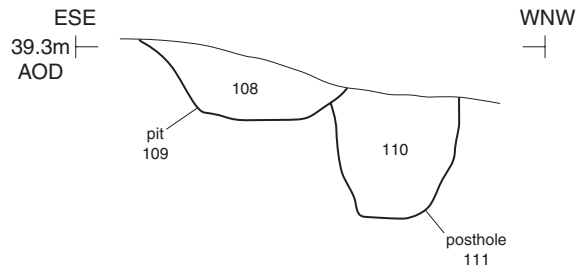
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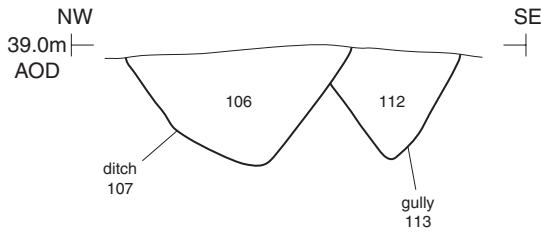
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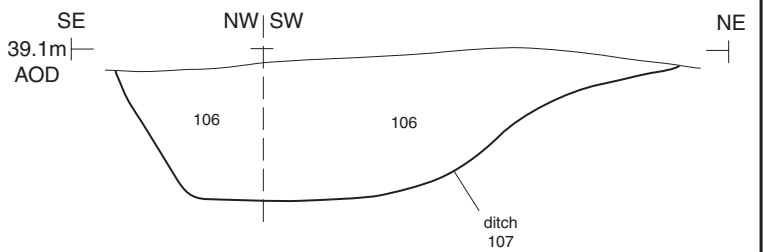
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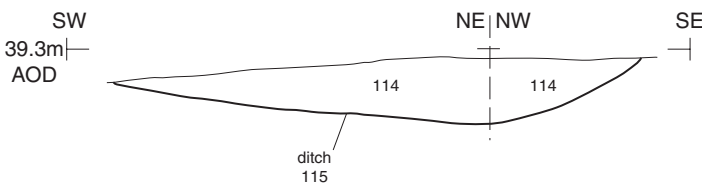
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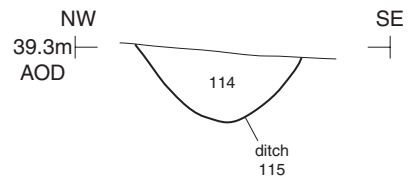
Section DD



Section EE



Section FF



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

80 Tiddington Road  
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE

Sections

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SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

2852

FIGURE NO.

3