

**THE HILLS  
TANHOUSE LANE, REDDITCH  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**P J PLANNING**

*on behalf of*

**J VARNEY (BUILDERS)**

CA PROJECT: 2894  
CA REPORT: 09117  
WCC HER REFERENCE: WSM 40833


JULY 2009



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date	22 July 2009
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- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:750)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** The Hills  
**Location:** Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** SP 0630 6905  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 6-7 July 2009  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcester County Museum  
**Site Code:** RED 09  
**WCC HER Reference:** WSM 40833

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2009 at The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire. Four trenches were excavated.

An undated irregularly shaped pit which contained pig bones was identified in trench 1. A group of 14 modern pits was identified in trenches 3 and 4.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for PJ Planning on behalf of J Varney (Builders) at The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0630 6905; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Redditch Borough Council for the residential development of the site, comprising the construction of 14 houses.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (WCC 2009) prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS), the archaeological advisors to Redditch Borough Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008) as well as the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is bounded to the north by the B4497, to the east by Icknield Street and to the south and west by properties on Redstone Close (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 105m AOD on generally flat land.
- 1.4 The site encloses an area of approximately 0.5ha, which comprised a demolished house, outbuildings and garden.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone of the Triassic period (BGS 1989). The natural substrate was encountered within all the evaluation trenches.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 The site lies immediately to the west of Icknield Street (WSM 30441, Margary 1973, Map 11, No. 18A), a Roman road running between Gloucestershire and Yorkshire. The road is still in use as the B4497 to the north of the site. It was excavated in 1968

at Ipsley, 2.5km to the south of the site, and was recorded as being 'badly eroded' (Fasham 1988). Ickniel Street intersects with a Salt Way approximately 350m to the north of the site.

- 1.7 'The Mound', a Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Monument Worcestershire No. 277, Worcestershire Sites and Monument (WSM) 00045), lies 300m to the north-east of the site. The monument comprises an irregular earthwork ring, situated on a local high point. Although the Scheduled Monument lies close to Ickniel Street, it is not believed to be of Roman origin. It may have originated in the Iron Age, although this has been disputed. The monument is first documented in 972 AD, when it is recorded as a 'burghleahe', or camp clearing. The WSM records it as a possible minor strong point during the 13th century, but it was abandoned and used as agricultural land shortly afterwards.
- 1.8 Beoley Park (WSM 28807), a 19th-century park, previously lay to the north of the site. An 1895 plan of the park indicates that it extended across the Salt Way and included land immediately to the north of the site, although it did not appear to extend into the site itself. The site is first recorded in detail on the Tithe Map of 1834, which records the site as lying within 'Little Lodge Field'. This name is potentially derived from an association with the nearby parkland, although no lodge or any other building is recorded on the map. East of the site lies a field recorded as 'Mill Close' (WSM 35561). No buildings or other mill features are recorded within the site or its vicinity.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.9 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 Redditch Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches each measuring 25m in length and 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The locations of three trenches were amended from those agreed in the WSI due to the presence of mature trees, with the approval of Mr Glyde.

- 1.11 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).
- 1.12 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 were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.13 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 Worcestershire 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 expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix A.
- 2.2 During the evaluation a single undated pit and a group of 14 modern pits were identified in trenches 1, 3 and 4. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in trenches 1, 2 and 4; undisturbed natural, comprising pink clay, was revealed within all of the trenches, at a depth of approximately 0.40m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, up to 0.29m thick which was in turn sealed by topsoil 0.20m thick. In trench 3 a deposit of modern demolition rubble was also identified.

**Trench 1 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.3 Pit 1003 was located at the centre of the trench and cut the subsoil 1001 and the natural geological substrate 1003. The single fill, 1004, contained pig bones, did not contain any datable material and was overlain by topsoil 1000.

**Trench 3 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.4 A modern demolition layer 3001 was identified and found to be cut by ten pits of modern date.

**Trench 4 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.5 Four pits, of similar character to those identified the trench 3 were found to cut the subsoil, 4001.

**The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence**

- 2.6 The only deposit to produce finds was 1004, the fill of pit 1003. A small quantity of clinker (five fragments weighing 4g) and the bones from a single skeleton of a juvenile pig of less than 6 months old at death were recovered from this deposit.

**3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Fourteen modern pits were identified during the evaluation (trenches 3 and 4). A single undated pit, containing the skeletal remains of a juvenile pig, was also identified (trench 1). This pit cut the subsoil and may also be of a relatively recent date. No evidence of features or deposits associated with Icknield Street was identified during the evaluation.

**4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce, assisted by Andrew Loader. The specialist report was compiled by Dr Sylvia Warman and Ed McSloy. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.



## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1989 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift*. Sheet 183: Redditch, 1:50,000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Fasham, P. J. 1988 'Archaeological excavations at Ipsley, 1968 and 1969'. *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*, 3rd ser., **11**, 7-22.

Margary, I. D. 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*; John Baker Publishing Limited: London

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2009 *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation at The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Church Hill North, Redditch, Worcestershire*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS****Trench 1** Present ground level: 105.86m AOD (west end), 105.11m AOD (east end)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt.			0.20	
1001	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellow-brown silty clay.			0.16	
1002	Layer	Natural. Yellow and orange mottled clay.			-	
1003	Cut	Cut of pit	0.75	0.43	0.09	
1004	Deposit	Fill of pit 1003. Grey-brown silty clay	0.75	0.43	0.09	

**Trench 2** Present ground level: 105.41m AOD (north end), 103.83m AOD (south end)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2000	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt.			0.20	
2001	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellow-brown silty clay.			0.29	
2002	Layer	Natural. Yellow and orange mottled clay.			-	

**Trench 3** Present ground level: 103.76m AOD (west end), 103.44m AOD (east end)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3000	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt.			0.13	
3001	Deposit	Demolition layer, containing brick, glass and tile.			0.23	
3002	Layer	Natural. Yellow and orange mottled clay.			-	

**Trench 4** Present ground level: 104.58m AOD (west end), 104.05m AOD (east end)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4000	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt.			0.20	
4001	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellow-brown silty clay.			0.18	
4002	Layer	Natural. Yellow and orange mottled clay.			-	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

The only deposit to produce finds was 1004 the fill of pit 1003. A small quantity of clinker (five fragments weighing 4g) and a large quantity of animal bone (102 fragments weighing 343g) was recovered from this fill. The bones are from a single skeleton of a juvenile pig of less than 6 months old at death.

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2009 at The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire. Four trenches were excavated.</p> <p>An undated irregular shaped pit which contained pig bones was identified in trench 1. A group of modern pits was identified in trenches 3 and 4.</p>	
Project dates	6–7 July 2009	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 0630 6905	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcester Museum	County Animal bone
Paper	Worcester Museum	County WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs
Digital	Worcester Museum	County Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>09117</b>		

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**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch  
 Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

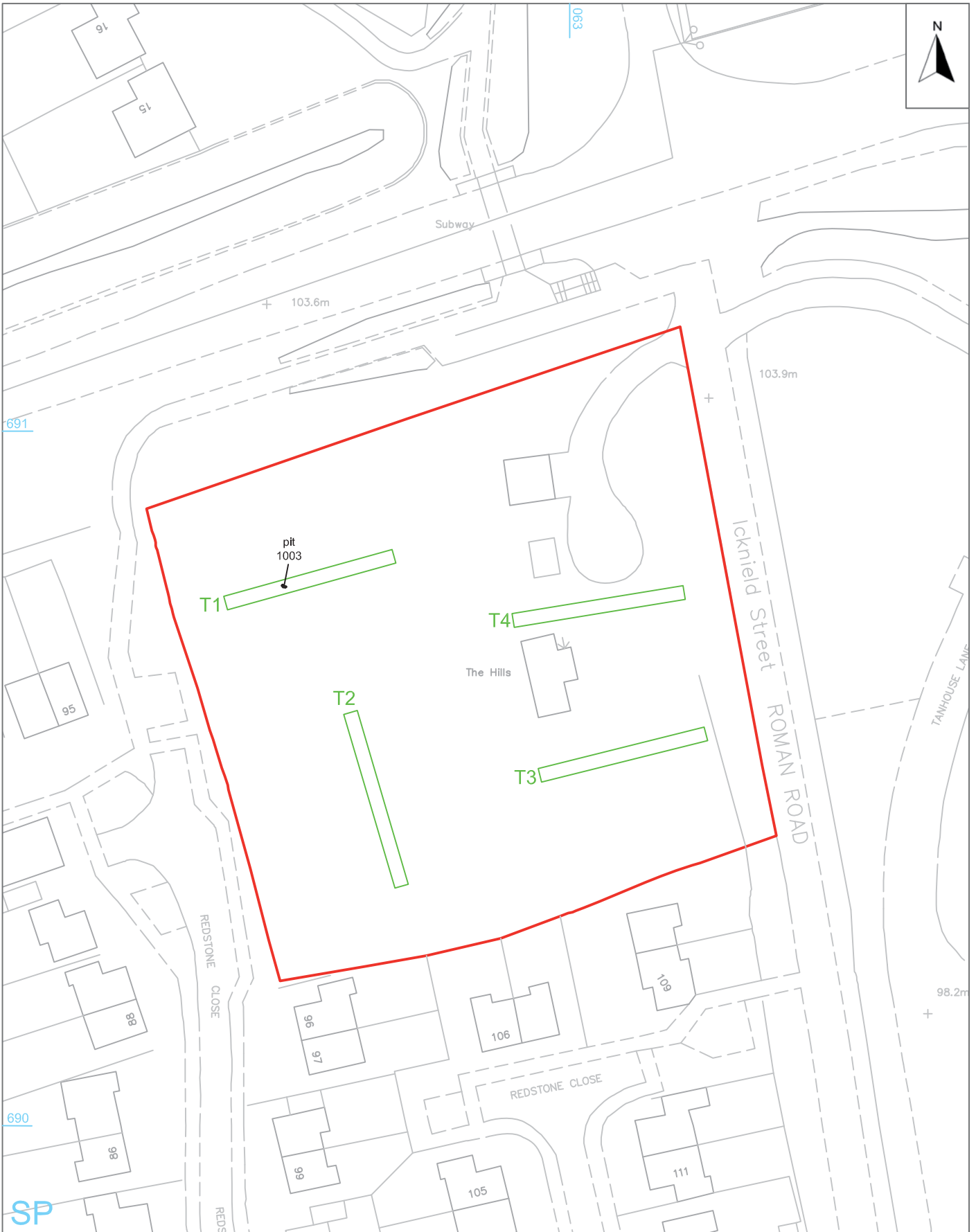
1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2894

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- site
- trench
- archaeological feature



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
**The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Redditch  
 Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:750@A4	2894	<b>2</b>