

**NORTON LANE  
WORCESTER  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**CSA ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

*on behalf of*

**TAYLOR WIMPEY UK LTD  
AND  
PERSIMMON HOMES LTD**


CA PROJECT: 3193  
CA REPORT: 10141  
WCC Reference: WSM 42449

AUGUST 2010

NORTON LANE  
WORCESTER  
WORCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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CA REPORT: 10141  
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date	16 August 2010
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date	6 September 2010
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	7 September 2010
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Norton Lane  
**Location:** Worcester, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** NGR: SO 8677 5142  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 03-06 August 2010  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** NLW 10  
**WCC Reference:** WSM 42449

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the clearance of potential unexploded ordnance at Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the clearance works, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for CSA Environmental Planning (CSA) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd and Persimmon Homes Ltd at Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8677 5142; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A programme of archaeological evaluation had previously been recommended at the site by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS) prior to determination of a planning application for re-development. However, clearance works are required in advance of the proposed evaluation trenching due to the high potential for unexploded ordnance (UXO), as confirmed by recent geophysical survey. The requirement for the watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the UXO clearance operation was agreed during discussions between Alan Thomas (CSA) and Mike Glyde. Its objective was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the clearance operations.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA 2010 and approved by Mike Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The site is situated to the south of Worcester, in the suburban area of Norton on land to the immediate west of a housing estate adjacent to Norton Road (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 32m AOD.
- 1.5 The site currently occupies 3.1 hectares and comprises an area of relatively flat, mown grassland (Field 1) and an area of undulating grass and scrubland with sporadic tree cover (Field 2).

- 1.6 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Twynning Mudstone Formation (with skerries) of the Norian period of the Upper Triassic era (BGS 1993). Drift geology in the form of Alluvium of the Quaternary era is present only in the southeast corner of the site (*ibid.*). The geology was not encountered during the groundworks.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.7 The proposed development area occupies the site of the former Norton Barracks. The potential UXO on the site has been confirmed by a recent geophysical survey that identified 296 individual targets. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, with the small watercourse along the southern boundary formerly feeding a large medieval fishpond. An undated cropmark enclosure lies approximately 100m to the west of the application area.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2010). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the ordnance mitigation works, comprising the excavation of shallow test pits in areas where the geophysical survey results gave positive readings on a metal detector. (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix A, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIG 2)**

- 2.1 A total of 186 machine excavated test-pits, typically measuring 0.8m by 0.5m, were monitored in the locations indicated in red and green on Fig. 2. The depths of the

excavations were determined by the depth of the suspected UXO, and were typically between 0.05m and 0.36m below the present ground surface.

- 2.2 The majority of the excavated test-pits did not penetrate below the existing topsoil. However, deeper excavations within 31 of the test-pits did identify evidence that modern demolition rubble had been spread throughout much of the site. Detailed records of the deposits are contained in the site archive.

- 2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. However, it should be noted that the groundworks associated with the UXO clearance were not of sufficient depth to penetrate beneath the topsoil or the modern demolition/levelling horizon. As a consequence, the current archaeological works have not been able to further define the archaeological potential of the site.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley. The report was written by Rebecca Riley. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Rebecca Riley, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

### 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1993 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), Sheet 199: Worcester, solid and drift edition, 1:50 000*

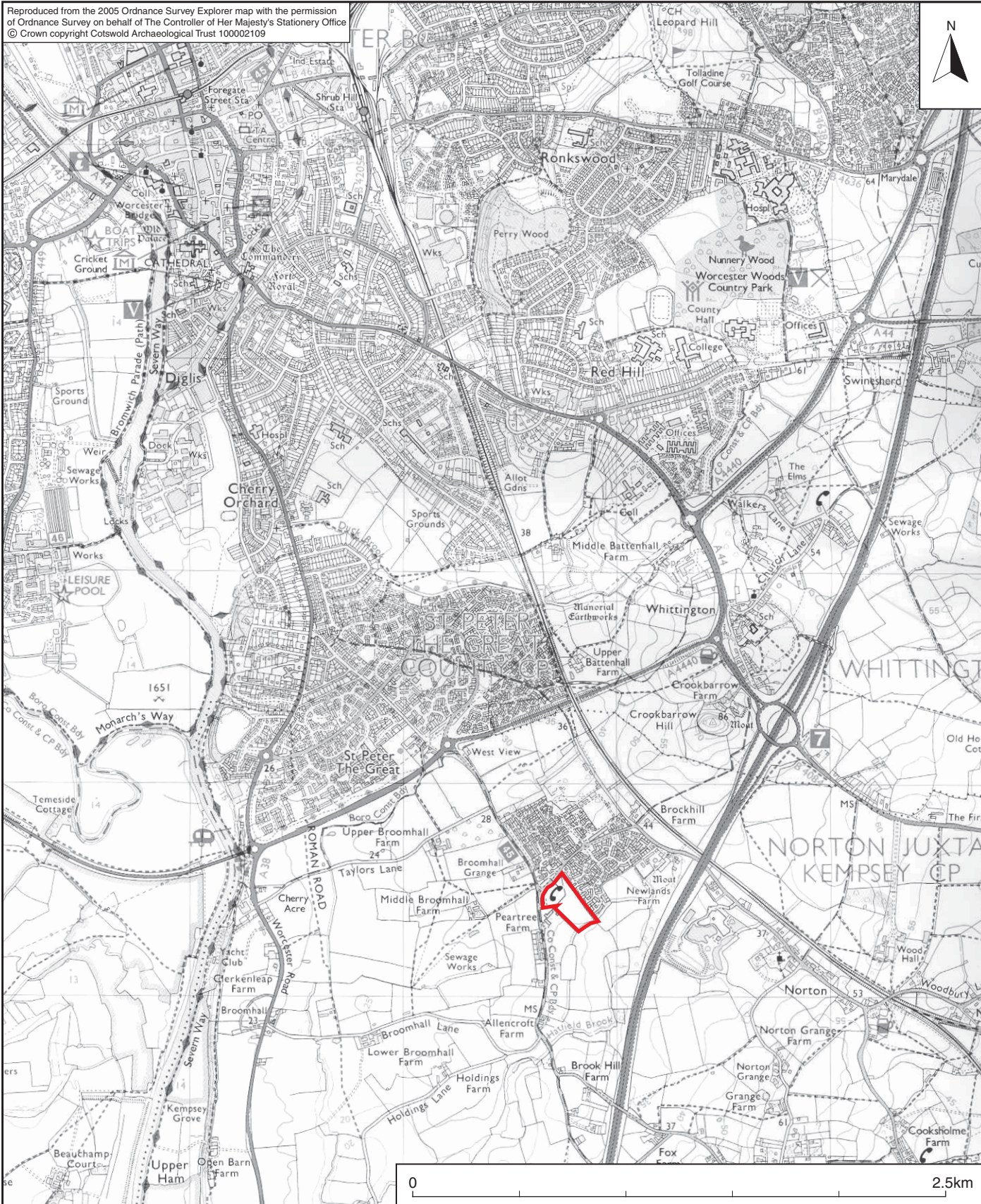
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Norton Lane, Worcester: Written Scheme of Investigation  
for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the clearance of potential unexploded ordnance at Norton Lane.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during clearance works, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	03-06 August 2010	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Evaluation	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	3.1 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8677 5142	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery	Trench Recording Forms, Photographic Registers
Digital	Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2010. <i>Norton Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire. Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>10141</b>		





**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Norton Lane, Worcester**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

**LG**

SCALE

**1:25,000@A4**

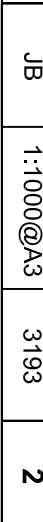
PROJECT NO.

**3193**

FIGURE NO.

**1**





COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site, showing observed test pits**

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JB	1:1000@A3	3193	<b>2</b>