

**WYCHBOLD HALL, STOKE LANE  
WYCHBOLD  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**OWENS DEVELOPMENTS LTD**

CA PROJECT: 2805  
CA REPORT: 09038


MARCH 2009



WYCHBOLD HALL  
STOKE LANE, WYCHBOLD  
WORCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2805  
CA REPORT: 09038

prepared by	David Cudlip, Project Officer
date	13 March 2009
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Project Manager
date	20 March 2009
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	27 March 2009
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Wychbold Hall  
**Location:** Wychbold, Worcestershire  
**NGR:** SO 9226 6549  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 24 February to 2 March 2009  
**Planning Reference:** W/08/3198  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum  
**Site Code:** WYC 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between February and March 2009 at the request of Owens Developments Ltd. at Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

Undated ditches were identified in two of the trenches. Furrows relating to medieval or post-medieval agriculture were encountered in one trench. The remains of two buildings and associated features were identified; these correlated to Wychbold Hall as marked on the OS map of 1885, and its successor, which was built in the 1930s. An 'Anderson' air-raid shelter was revealed, built onto the north-eastern corner of the earlier Wychbold Hall.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between February and March 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Owens Developments Ltd. at Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9226 6549, Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of a residential and leisure development on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (WCC 2008) prepared by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire County Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mike Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mike Glyde, including a site visit on 2 March 2009.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is currently covered by rough grassland, scrub and woodland. The highest point of the site is at its north-eastern boundary, approximately 66m AOD; it slopes downhill to an approximate height of 55m AOD at its south-western corner.
- 1.4 The site covers an area of 3.5ha.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as New Red Sandstone of the Permian and Triassic geological eras (BGS 1979).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 An assessment of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and search of the Worcestershire County Record Office was undertaken on 10 February 2009. This identified the site as lying within an area of high archaeological potential.

- 1.7 Excavation undertaken by BUFAU in 2000, approximately 300m to the north of the site, revealed a ditched Iron Age farmstead enclosure with a Roman ditch and rectilinear enclosure to the south of this (WSM 29599). Fieldwalking undertaken to the south and south-east of the site on land bordering Stoke Lane produced a number of abraded Severn Valley Ware pot sherds of Romano-British date and sherds of post-medieval date (WSM 33346). Further fieldwalking undertaken on a field approximately 300m to the east of the site produced a large quantity of Romano-British pot sherds, all of which were highly abraded (WSM 33345).
- 1.8 There is documentary evidence for Wychbold being the manorial base for the parish from the 9th century AD (WCC 2008) and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book (WSM 02100). There is similar evidence for the existence of a manor house from 1066 (ibid). Wychbold Hall was demolished in 1936 due to problems with subsidence. A replacement was built shortly after, on more stable land in the northern part of the site. This later house fell into disrepair and was demolished in the 1980s; since then the site has remained undeveloped (WCC 2008).

### ***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 Worcestershire County 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 8 trenches of the following lengths:

- Trench 1: 30m
- Trench 2: 35m
- Trench 3: 55m
- Trench 4: 60m
- Trench 5: 65m
- Trench 6: 40m
- Trench 7: 90m
- Trench 8: 25m

Each trench was 3.6m wide, making the total trenching area equivalent to approximately 4% of the site. Trench 1 was moved to the east of its original location

to avoid a pond, whilst trench 6 was shortened at its north-eastern end to avoid an air-raid shelter and established trees. These alterations were approved by Mike 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); 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 (FIGS 2-6)**

- 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.

### ***Trench 1 (Fig. 2)***

- 2.2 The natural substrate comprising red-brown clay was identified at a depth of 0.75m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was sealed by subsoil, which was covered by topsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.

### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)***

- 2.3 The natural substrate was identified at 0.7m bpgl. It was sealed by subsoil, through which was cut concrete wall foundation 204. This foundation had brick wall 203 built

on top of it. The brick walls were butted by tarmac layer 202, which was sealed by demolition rubble layer 201, on top of which lay turf layer 200. The foundations correlate closely to the now demolished 1930s rebuild of Wychbold Hall shown on the OS map of 1938 and shown in outline on Fig. 2.

### ***Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 5)***

- 2.4 The stratigraphic sequence revealed in this trench was very similar to that seen in trench 2. The natural substrate was identified at 0.5m bpgl. It was sealed by subsoil, through which was cut concrete wall foundation 304. This foundation had brick wall 303 built on top of it. The brick walls were butted by tarmac layer 302, which was sealed by demolition rubble layer 301, on top of which lay turf layer 300. The foundations again correlate closely to the footprint of the 1930s Wychbold Hall shown on the OS map of 1938.

### ***Trench 4 (Fig. 2)***

- 2.5 The natural substrate was revealed at 0.5m bpgl. It was cut by modern drains 404 and 410; these appear to have been associated with the modern foundations identified in trenches 2 and 3. The natural was also cut by pits 406 and 408 from which post-medieval or later finds were recovered.

### ***Trench 5 (Fig. 2)***

- 2.6 The natural substrate was identified at 0.95m bpgl at the southern end of the trench, and 0.45m bpgl at its northern end; it was cut by ditch 505, which was sealed by subsoil. This subsoil layer was cut by ditch 502, which yielded modern dating evidence. The subsoil was absent from the southern half of the trench, having been stripped away prior to the construction of wall 513, which was cut into the natural substrate. This wall correlated well to a garden terrace wall associated with Wychbold Hall as shown on the OS map of 1885. The area of the trench to the south of this wall was filled by redeposited natural layer 510, which was sealed by demolition layer 509. This was sealed by modern make-up and tarmac.

### ***Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 5)***

- 2.7 The natural substrate was identified at 1.1m bpgl. It was sealed by subsoil and topsoil. The topsoil was cut by sandstone wall foundation 608; 19th century pottery was recovered from the mortar of this wall. The foundation was covered by a thin layer of mortar, 606, which formed a bedding layer for brick wall 605. Bricks taken from this wall are of 19th-century date. The walls were sealed by demolition layers



602, 603 and 604. At the north-eastern end of this trench, an 'Anderson' air-raid shelter, 601, was identified. This had been built onto wall 605. It was sealed by turf layer 600.

### ***Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 6)***

- 2.8 The natural substrate was revealed at 1.7m bpgl at the southern end of the trench, and 0.7m bpgl at its northern end; it was cut by ditch 704 and three furrows, one of which was excavated. These features were all sealed by subsoil and topsoil. At the southern end of the trench, the topsoil was sealed by a layer of modern make-up.

### ***Trench 8 (Fig. 2)***

- 2.9 The natural substrate was identified at a depth of 1m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was sealed by subsoil, which was covered by topsoil and modern dumping. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.

### ***The Finds Evidence***

- 2.10 Quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe, glass, slag and metalwork were recovered from eight deposits (Appendix B). A total of 13 sherds (189g) of post-medieval to modern pottery types were recovered from four deposits. These comprise unglazed earthenwares, black glazed earthenwares and creamwares, which typically date from the 18th to 19th centuries. Ceramic building material was recovered from four deposits and consisted of eight fragments (including three complete bricks) weighing 1.1kg. The majority of fragments derive from unglazed roof tiles of post-medieval or modern date. Non-ceramic artefacts recovered consist of a piece (266g) of iron working slag from 405 and a copper alloy window catch from deposit 602.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Two undated ditches, 505 and 704, were identified in the course of the evaluation. These could relate to the Iron Age or Romano-British remains identified in previous excavations carried out to the north and south of this site however there is no evidence to substantiate this. The three furrows identified in trench 7 are evidence of medieval or post-medieval agriculture in the area; that they were only seen in this trench could be due to the degree of modification of the landscape caused by the

construction, demolition and reconstruction of Wychbold Manor house and gardens in the post-medieval and modern periods. Within trenches 5 and 6 the remains of a Victorian house and its garden walls were identified. These are the earliest signs of Wychbold Hall encountered by the evaluation. Two pits in trench 4 were probably associated with the gardens of this building, which was demolished in 1936. At this point, a new building was erected to the north of the Victorian house; this appears as 'Wychbold Hall' on the OS map of 1938. The foundations, walls and drains of this were identified in trenches 2, 3 and 4 however the demolition of the above-ground structure in the 1980s appears to have been very thorough. At some point during World War II, an 'Anderson' air-raid shelter was built onto the north-eastern end of the demolished or partially demolished Victorian Wychbold Hall.

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

Fieldwork was undertaken by David Cudlip, assisted by Darran Muddiman and Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by David Cudlip. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The finds report was prepared by Teresa Gilmore. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1979 *Geological Map of the United Kingdom South*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2008 *Requirements for an Archaeological Evaluation at Wychbold Hall, Stoke Road, Wychbold, Worcestershire: Brief for Archaeological Recording*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil	25	3.6	0.35	
101	Layer	Subsoil	25	3.6	0.40	
102	Layer	Natural: Red brown sandy clay	25	3.6	L.O.E.	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Turf	35	3.6	0.1	
201	Layer	Demolition rubble	35	3.6	0.8	
202	Layer	Tarmac	10	3.6	0.1	
203	Masonry	Brick walls	NA	1	0.7	
204	Masonry	Concrete foundation	NA	1	0.1	
205	Cut	Cut for 204	NA	1.5	0.7	
207	Layer	Subsoil	35	3.6	0.7	
207	Layer	Natural	35	3.6	L.O.E.	

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Turf	55	3.6	0.2	
301	Layer	Demolition rubble	55	3.6	1	
302	Layer	Tarmac	10	3.6	0.2	
303	Masonry	Brick walls	9.25	3.25	0.5	
304	Masonry	Concrete foundation	9.25	3.25	0.45	
305	Cut	Cut for 304	10	3.5	0.5	
306	Layer	Subsoil	55	3.6	0.5	
307	Layer	Natural	55	3.6	L.O.E.	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil	60	3.6	0.12	
401	Layer	Tarmac	40	3.6	0.02	
402	Layer	Make-up for 401	40	3.6	0.24	
403	Masonry	Brick fill of 404: Drain	6	0.4	NA	
404	Cut	Drain cut	6	0.4	NA	
405	Fill	Mid brown silty clay fill of 406	1.5	1.3	0.45	C19
406	Cut	Cut of pit	1.5	1.3	0.45	
407	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt fill of 408	1	0.8	0.24	p-med
408	Cut	Cut of pit	1	0.8	0.24	
409	Fill	Pebble drain fill	5.5	0.5	0.13	C18-C19
410	Cut	Cut of drain	5.5	0.5	0.13	
411	Layer	Subsoil	60	3.6	0.17	

412	Layer	Natural	60	3.6	L.O.E.	
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## Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil	45	3.6	0.07	
501	Deposit	Brown grey silty clay fill of 502	4	1.05	0.12	modern
502	Cut	Cut of ditch	4	1.05	0.12	
503	Layer	Subsoil	45	3.6	0.09	
504	Deposit	Light grey brown sandy silt fill of 505	5	0.9	0.25	
505	Cut	Cut of ditch	5	0.9	0.25	
506	Layer	Natural	45	3.6	L.O.E.	
507	Deposit	Tarmac	2	0.05	0.05	
508	Deposit	Make-up for 507	2	0.22	0.22	
509	Deposit	Demolition layer derived from the Victorian Manor house	2	3.6	0.32	
510	Deposit	Redeposited natural make-up	14	3.6	0.32	
511	Cut	Cut for wall 513	14.5	3.6	NA	
512	Deposit	Backfill of 511	3.6	0.1	NA	
513	Masonry	Worked sandstone block garden/terrace wall	6.5	1	NA	

## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Turf	22	3.6	0.1	
601	Masonry	'Anderson' air-raid shelter	2.7	3.6	2	
602	Deposit	Demolition deposit: Brick rubble	4.7	3.6	1	C19-C20
603	Deposit	Demolition deposit: Brick rubble	2.5	3.6	1	
604	Deposit	Demolition deposit: Brick rubble	2.5	3.6	1	
605	Masonry	Brick walls of Wychbold Manor	19	3.6	0.7	C19
606	Layer	Mortar bedding layer	11	3.6	0.04	
607	Fill	Backfill of construction cut 609	19	3.6	L.O.E.	
608	Masonry	Worked sandstone block wall foundations	19	3.6	0.5	C19
609	Cut	Cut for wall 608	19	3.6	L.O.E.	
610	Layer	In-situ topsoil	19	3.6	0.3	C19
611	Layer	In-situ subsoil	19	3.6	0.3	
612	Layer	Natural	19	3.6	L.O.E.	

## Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Modern levelling deposit	3	3.6	1.15	
701	Layer	Topsoil	90	3.6	0.25	
702	Layer	Subsoil	90	3.6	0.25	
703	Fill	Mid brown grey sandy clay fill of 704	3.6	1	0.2	
704	Cut	Cut of ditch:45° sides, shallow slot in base	3.6	1	0.2	
705	Layer	Natural	90	3.6	L.O.E.	

## Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot- date
800	Layer	Modern dumping	25	3.6	0.4	
801	Layer	Topsoil	25	3.6	0.3	
802	Layer	Subsoil	25	3.6	0.3	
803	Layer	Natural	25	3.6	L.O.E.	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

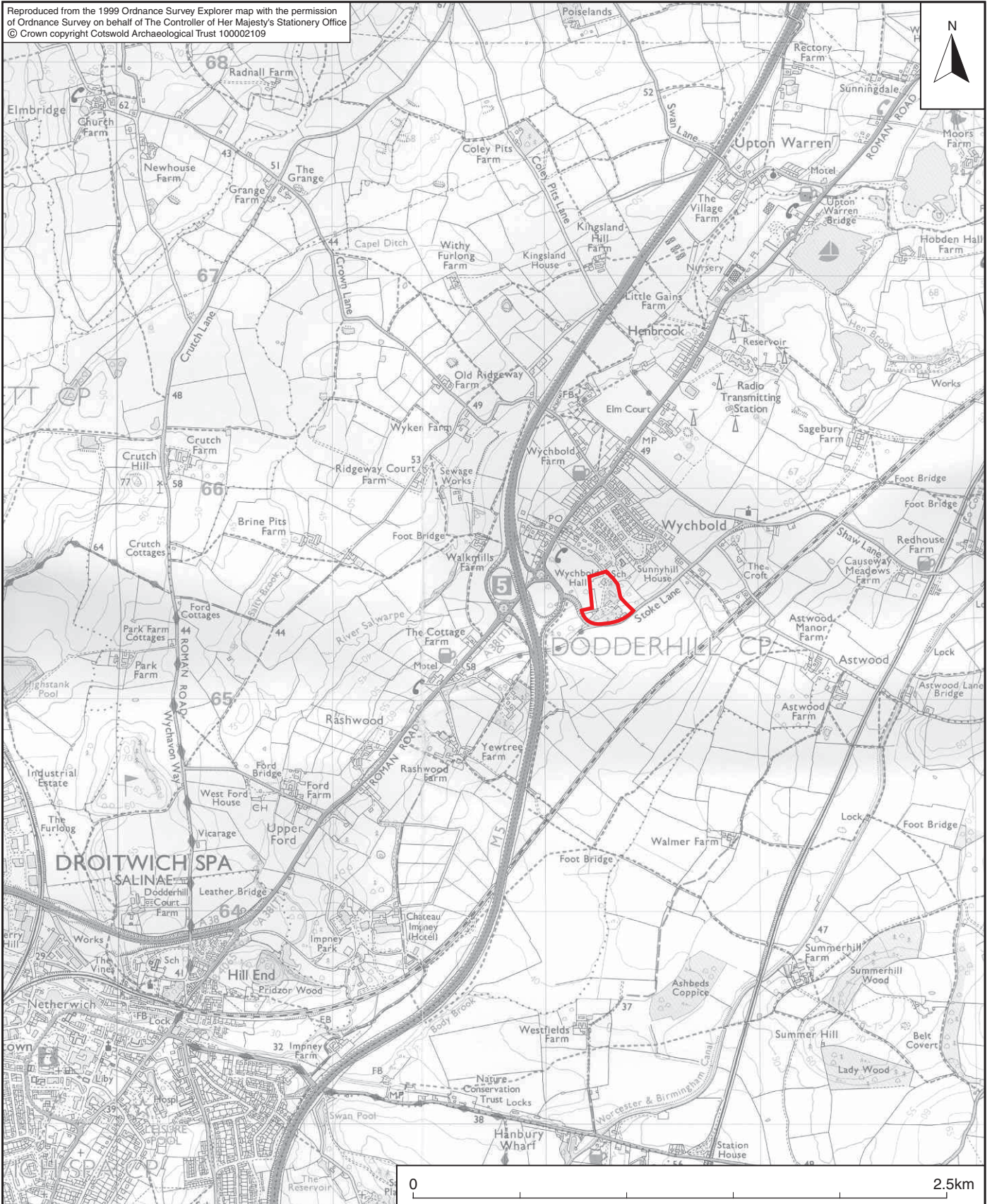
## Finds Concordance

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
405	Iron slag	1	266	C19
	Post-medieval pottery: earthenware, black-glazed ware, creamware	7	56	
407	Ceramic building material: tile	1	45	PMED
409	Ceramic building material: tile	2	51	C18-C19
	Post-medieval pottery: black glazed earthenware	2	113	
501	Ceramic building material: brick, misc	2	199	MOD
	Modern glass: jar?	2	10	
602	Post-medieval/modern ceramic wall tile	1	89	C19-C20
	Copper alloy window catch	1	87	
605	Ceramic building material: brick 8½" (21.6cm) x 3¾" (9.5cm) x 2½" (6.4cm) 9¼" (23.5cm) x 4 3/8" (11.1cm) x 3" (7.6cm) 8¾" (22.2cm) x 4 3/8" (11.1cm) x 2¾" (7cm)	3	10742	C19
608	Post-medieval pottery: creamware	2	3	C19
610	Post-medieval pottery: black-glazed earthenware, creamware	2	17	C19
	Clay pipe stem	1	2	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Eight trenches were excavated. Undated ditches were identified in two of the trenches. Furrows relating to medieval or post-medieval agriculture were encountered in one trench. The remains of two buildings and associated features were identified; these correlated to Wychbold Hall as marked on the OS map of 1885, and its successor, which was built in the 1930s. An 'Anderson' air-raid shelter was revealed, built onto the north-eastern corner of the earlier Wychbold Hall.	
Project dates	24 February to 02 March 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	No	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	3.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9226 6549	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	David Cudlip	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Modern material: Discarded
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, plans, sections, level sheets, photo registers, colour slides, monochrome prints and negatives
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Copy of report, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> : CA Report No. <b>09038</b>		





**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane  
Wychbold, Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

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SCALE

**1:25,000@A4**

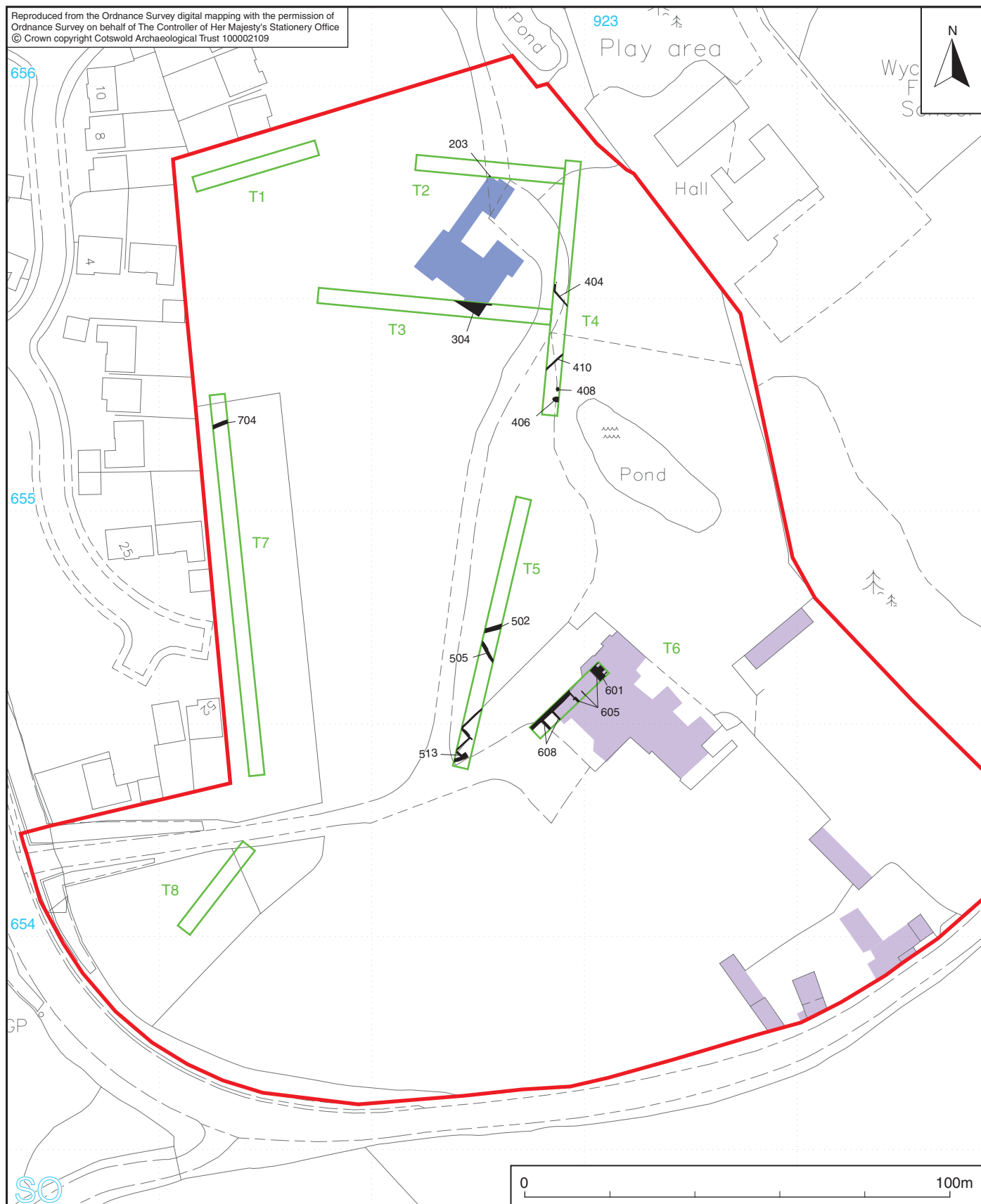
PROJECT NO.

**2805**

FIGURE NO.

**1**





- site
- evaluation trench showing archaeological feature
- building depicted on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885
- building depicted on Ordnance Survey map of 1938



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane  
Wychbold, Worcestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan, showing  
archaeological features**

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1:1250@A4

PROJECT NO.

2805

FIGURE NO.

**2**



3

**3 Trench 6 showing the remains of Victorian Wychbold Hall**



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane  
Wychbold, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

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SCALE

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PROJECT NO.


2805

FIGURE NO.

**3**



4

4 Trench 3 showing the remains of 1930s Wychbold Hall	 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
	PROJECT TITLE Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane Wychbold Worcestershire			
	FIGURE TITLE <b>Photograph</b>			
	DRAWN BY LG	SCALE n/a	PROJECT NO. 2805	FIGURE NO. <b>4</b>





5



6

**5 Trench 6 showing Anderson shelter at the north-eastern end**

**6 Trench 7 showing ditch 704, looking east**



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

Wychbold Hall, Stoke Lane  
Wychbold, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

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FIGURE NO.

**5 & 6**