

**LAND OFF TEWKESBURY ROAD  
ECKINGTON  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**CALA HOMES (MIDLANDS)**


CA PROJECT: 2999  
CA REPORT: 09198  
WCC REFERENCE: WSM41759

NOVEMBER 2009

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signed	
date	27 November 2009
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25 000)  
Fig. 2 Site, showing location of trenches (1:500)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington  
**Location:** Worcestershire  
**NGR:** SO 9228 4106  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 19-20 November 2009  
**Planning Reference:** W/07/0973  
**Location of Archive:** Worcestershire County Museum Service  
**Site Code:** WSM 41759

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2009 at the request of CALA Homes (Midlands) on land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire. Six trenches were excavated. A single undated shallow gully was recorded, and despite visual scanning of the topsoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CALA Homes (Midlands) on land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9228 4106; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil condition 5 attached to a planning consent (ref. W/07/0973) granted by Wychavon District Council for the construction of 20 dwellings and other associated works on the site.
- 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 advisor to Wychavon District 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 for Archaeologists (2001), the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Managers Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site lies to the south of the village of Eckington, bordered on the west by a railway line, the north and south by housing, and to the east by the B4080 (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 21m AOD, and slopes up slightly towards the road.
- 1.4 The site comprises an area measuring c. 0.8ha of agricultural land, under arable cultivation at the time of the evaluation.
- 1.5 The underlying Drift geology of the area is mapped as deposits of the Second (Wasperton) Terrace of the Quaternary era (BGS 1993), which was encountered throughout the site.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 No archaeological sites or events are recorded within the site boundaries on the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record. It lies to the south of and outside the historic medieval and post-medieval village and settlement centre of Eckington. It does, however, lie within a wider area rich in prehistoric, Romano British and medieval settlement sites, including a large enclosed site approximately 900m to the south (Scheduled Monument 33032). Examination of the historic mapping shows the land under agricultural cultivation, including use as an orchard.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains. This information will assist Wychavon 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**

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trenches, each 30m by 1.8m in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). After discussions with Mike Glyde, trench 3 was relocated to the south of its original position due to its proximity to a septic tank soakaway for Primrose Cottage and Sandrene to the north.
- 1.9 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).

- 1.10 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) and no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum Service. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

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

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Of the six trenches excavated, trenches 4 and 5 contained no archaeological features, whilst trenches 1 and 2 only contained agricultural furrows aligned north-west/south-east. Furrows were also observed within trench 3, as well as a possible stone drain, 311. This drain cut through the subsoil; due its proximity to the expected location of a soakaway for the septic tank it was left *in situ*.
- 2.3 Within trench 6 a shallow gully 603 was excavated. This was cut by a later tree throw pit 605. This gully ran north-west/south-east, as did the furrows, but its fill differed from that observed within the furrows. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Only one possible archaeological feature was observed during the evaluation, a shallow gully within trench 6. It seems likely that due to the similarity of alignment between this and the furrows observed to the north of the site that they are part of the same land management system. Despite this area being recorded as an orchard on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, no evidence of this was uncovered with only one tree throw pit being recorded.

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

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, assisted by Andy Loader and Jess Cook. The report was written by Kelly Saunders. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard

#### **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1993 *England and Wales solid and drift geology, sheet 199, Worcester: 1:50 000 series*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2009 *Requirements for an archaeological evaluation at land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire*. Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, dated October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.52	
101	Layer	Natural substrate				
102	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		2.35		
103	Deposit	Fill of 102		2.35		
104	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		2.2		
105	Deposit	Fill of 104		2.2		
106	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		0.65	0.18	
107	Deposit	Fill of 106		0.65	0.18	
108	Cut	Modern service		0.25		
109	Deposit	Fill of 108		0.25		
110	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		1.5		
111	Deposit	Fill of 110		1.5		

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.6	
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.28	
202	Layer	Natural substrate				
203	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		c.2		
204	Deposit	Fill of 203		c.2		

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.5	
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.18	
302	Layer	Natural substrate				
303	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		1.4		
304	Deposit	Fill of 303		1.4		
305	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		1.4		
306	Deposit	Fill of 305		1.4		
307	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		0.74		
308	Deposit	Fill of 307		0.74		
309	Cut	NW-SE aligned furrow		0.9		
310	Deposit	Fill of 309		0.9		
311	Masonry	Stone drain		0.4	0.33	
312	Cut	For 311		0.4	0.33	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.44	
401	Layer	Subsoil			0.1	
402	Layer	Natural substrate				

## Trench 5

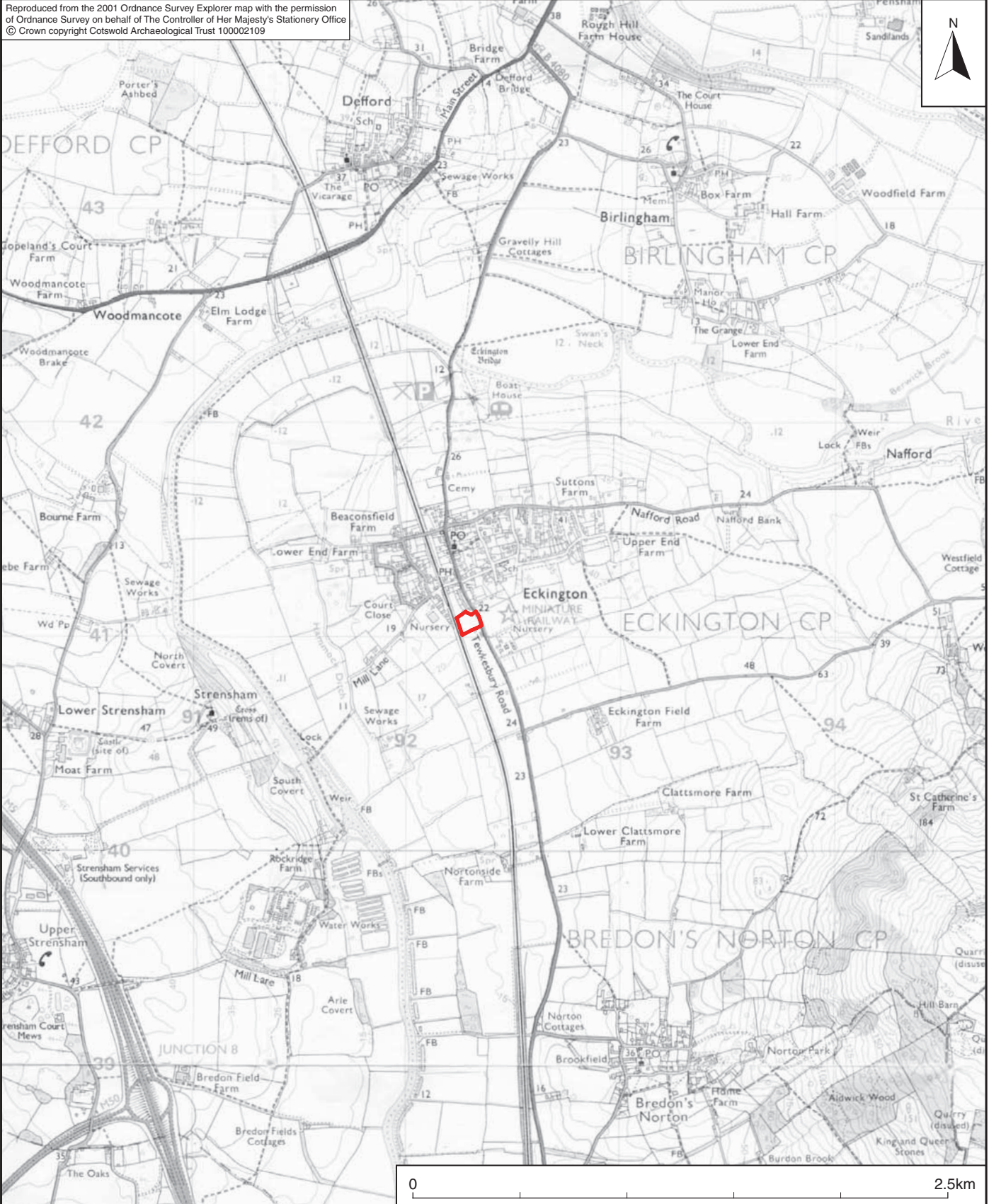
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.43	
501	Layer	Subsoil			0.2	
502	Layer	Natural substrate				
503	Cut	Modern service		0.2	0.12	
504	Deposit	Fill of 503		0.2	0.12	


## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.37	
601	Layer	Subsoil			0.33	
602	Layer	Natural substrate				
603	Cut	NW- SE shallow gully	>3	0.65	0.11	
604	Deposit	Fill of 603, mid grey orange brown clay sand	>3	0.65	0.11	
605	Cut	Tree throw pit	1.4	0.3	0.17	
606	deposit	Fill of 605	1.4	0.3	0.17	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2009 at the request of CALA Homes (Midlands) on land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire. Six trenches were excavated. A single undated shallow gully was recorded, and despite visual scanning of the topsoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.	
Project dates	19-20 November 2009	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	HER WSM25914	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 9228 4106	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Mike Glyde (WHEAS)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Collard	
Project Supervisor	Kelly Saunders	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum Service	Pro forma recording sheets
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum Service	Digital Photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land off Tewkesbury Road, Eckington, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA Report No. <b>09198</b>		



 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Land off Tewkesbury Road Eckington, Worcestershire			
<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> Site location plan			
<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
PJM	1:25,000@A4	2999	<b>1</b>



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- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- furrow
- modern feature



**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Tewkesbury Road  
 Eckington, Worcestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site showing location of trenches

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
PJM	1:500@A3	2999	2