



**Kiln Lane
Leigh Sinton
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd

CA Project: 4448

CA Report: 13624


WCC Reference: WSM 50206

November 2013

Kiln Lane
Leigh Sinton
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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date	11 November 2013
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date	11 November 2013
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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan; showing furrows and land drains (1:2000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Kiln Lane
Location: Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 78010 50646
Type: Evaluation
Date: 24-28 October 2013
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: LAL 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2013 on land off Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire. Twelve trenches were excavated.

Evidence of medieval/post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified in Trenches 2, 3, 5-7, 9 and 10.

No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the archaeological evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd. on land off Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 78010 50646; Fig. 1). An archaeological evaluation of the site was recommended by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to Malvern Hills District Council, to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site to accompany a future planning application.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Mr Glyde. The evaluation also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is 1.9ha in extent and comprises agricultural land bounded by residential properties to the north, east and west and by fields to the south. The site lies at approximately 55m AOD, and is relatively flat.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone of the Triassic Period (BGS 2013). The natural substrate, comprising clay with occasional patches of gravel, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

1.5 A Historic Environment Record (HER) search was requested of Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2013) covering an area of 500m surrounding the site. Whilst it is not intended to replicate all the information from this search here, the salient points are summarised below.

1.6 The village of Leigh Sinton is first mentioned in documentary evidence of 1275 as Sothyntone in Lega (Mawer and Stenton 1927). The medieval landscape of Leigh Sinton (WSM 26407), as defined by aerial photography and cartographic evidence, borders the site to the north. Earthworks located approximately 300m east of the site

probably represent medieval housing platforms and hollow ways (WSM 41558); these suggest the village has either shrunk or the core has migrated northward to its current location.

- 1.7 Two probable moated sites of medieval origin are located on the outskirts of the village. The largest (WSM 35483) is located approximately 250m north-east of the proposed development area: the northern part of the moat survives as a pond and the southern part has been subject to excavation (Vaughan 2006). This revealed the moat to be over 10m in width with a depth of 1.1m. The smaller moated site is located 350m to the west of the proposed development area and probably marks the western extent of medieval Leigh Sinton.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Malvern Hills District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 2 and 10 were moved from their original positions, with the approval of Mr Glyde, due to their proximity with overhead power lines,. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.10 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).

- 1.11 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 Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The archive will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum. 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 (FIGS 2-3)

- 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 The natural geological substrate within each of the excavated trenches comprised clay with occasional patches of gravel. This was overlain by between 0.14m and 0.36m thickness of subsoil which was itself overlain by between 0.12m and 0.36m thickness of modern topsoil and turf.
- 2.3 Within Trenches 2, 3, 5-7, 9 and 10 the natural substrate was cut by a series of plough furrows, measuring up to 3m in width. In all of the excavated trenches, excluding Trenches 1 and 12, a number of land drains were noted. These land drains contained distinctive mixed fills, often including large pieces of re-deposited natural clay and, where tested, ceramic drain pipes were normally encountered at depths of 0.5m or more below the level of the natural substrate.
- 2.4 No further features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the evaluation.



3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow field systems, was identified in Trenches 2, 3, 5-7, 9 and 10.
- 3.2 No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the archaeological evaluation, and despite the scanning of spoil both visually and with a metal detector, no finds were recovered.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Jonathan Orellana and Anne Templeton. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Louise Martin. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 17
October 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Mawer A and Stenton F. 1927 *The Place Names of Worcestershire. English Place-Name Society.*

Vaughan, T. 2006 *Archaeological Evaluation at Moat Farm, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire*

WCC (Worcestershire County Council) 2013 *Historic Environment Record Search, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire*



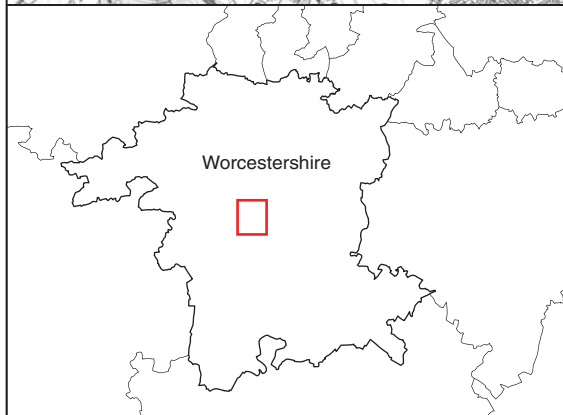
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.35
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.2
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.36
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.14
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.36
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.14
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.2
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.36
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.14
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.3
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.24
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.2
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.2
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.2
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.14
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.3
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.34
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.15
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	LOE
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.14
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.36
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	LOE
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.3
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.19
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.21
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.14
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.1
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.2
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	>30	>1.8	0.2

12	1202	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid red brown clay with occasional patches of gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.2
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APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2013 on land off Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Evidence of medieval/post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified in Trenches 2, 3, 5-7, 9 and 10.</p> <p>No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the archaeological evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	24-28 October 2013	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.9ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 78010 50646	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	N/A
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13624		



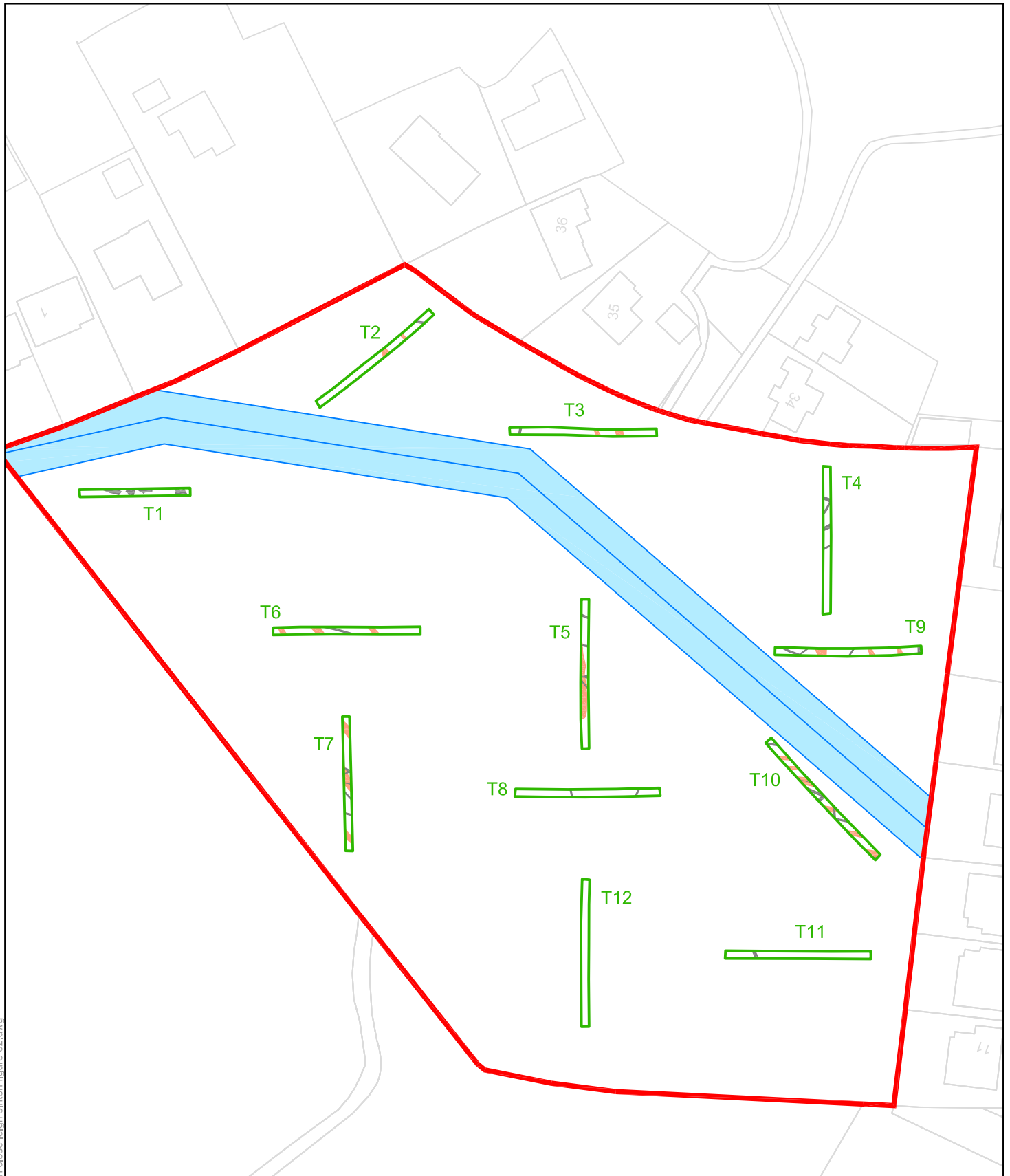
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PROJECT TITLE
 Kiln Close, Leigh Sinton

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4448	DATE 07-11-13	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY LM	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  services
-  furrow
-  land drain



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PROJECT TITLE
Kiln Close, Leigh Sinton

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing furrows and land drains



PROJECT NO. 4448 DATE 07-11-2013
 DRAWN BY LM REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:1000

FIGURE NO.

02