MHBG/02

LAND BEHIND MILLHAM HOUSE, BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by Origin 3
on behalf of Comparo Ltd

14/01223/APP

April 2015

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

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project info

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project team

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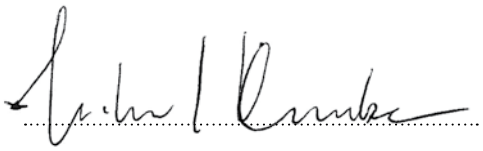
APPROVED BY	Mike Kimber – Project Manager



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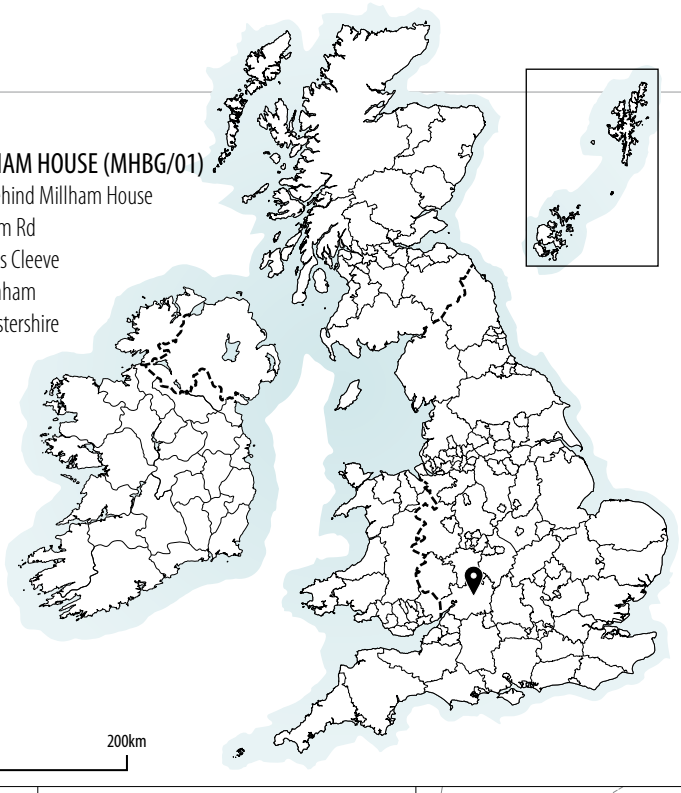
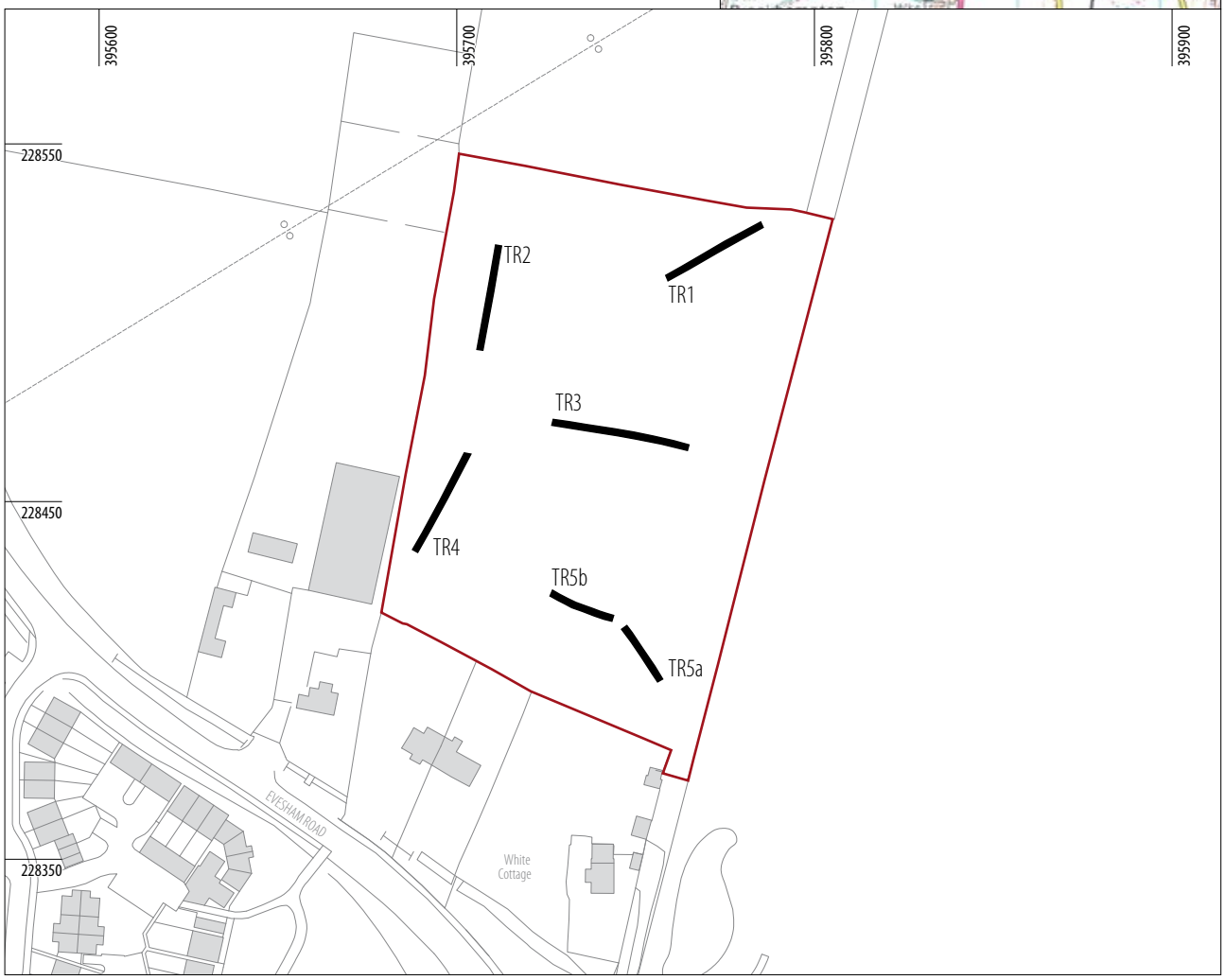
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

MILLHAM HOUSE (MHBG/01)
land behind Millham House
Evesham Rd
Bishop's Cleeve
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire





KEY
application site boundary
trench location

N
0 100m
scale 1:2,000 @ A4

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ILLUS 1
Site location

LAND BEHIND MILLHAM HOUSE, BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on land immediately to the north of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. Ridge and furrow field systems survived as substantial earthworks within the site. Excavation recovered pottery dating to the 12th – 13th centuries from within and beneath the surviving ridges, but no associated archaeological features were identified.

The trial trench evaluation confirmed that prehistoric enclosures observed in the adjacent field do not continue into the proposed development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on land to the rear of Millham House, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. The archaeological works commissioned by Origin 3 on behalf of Comparo Ltd relate to the submission of a planning application (14/01223/APP) for the residential development of the site.

In response to the application the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury District Council, Mr Charles Parry, determined that the site had the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest. In accordance with relevant policy and best practice, the archaeological advisor requested that a field evaluation be undertaken in order to provide sufficient information to allow the consideration of the planning application.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Origin 3 to undertake the required works in accordance with a project design agreed with the archaeological advisor (Craddock-Bennett 2015).

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development site (**Illus 1**) comprises a single pasture field located at NGR 395729,228462 (site centre). The site, measuring approximately 1.34ha is located at the northern extent of the village of Bishop's Cleeve, and immediately prior to the current works was in use as a horse paddock.

The site is bound to the south by the rear garden of Millham House and to the west by the site of a former scrap yard. Pasture land extends to the north and a recent housing development is present to the east.

The site has an undulating topography due to the presence of well-preserved ridge and furrow landforms; the level varying between 47.53mOD in the south-west of the site to 50.86m in the north-east.

The underlying geology of the site comprises Mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2015).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A comprehensive program of archaeological evaluation has been undertaken on land immediately to the east of the site at Homelands Farm. A geophysical survey (Masters 2009) identified a number of enclosures of probable prehistoric date located immediately to the east of the proposed development site. A square enclosure with possible internal building potentially continued into the proposed development area.

A substantial Romano-British villa estate and field system has been identified at Home Farm c.500m to the south of the proposed development area. Evaluation trenches excavated at Homelands Farm (Sheldon 2010) identified a single ditch of Romano-British date.

ILLUS 2

Trench locations in relation to geophysical survey results

Excavations undertaken around the parish church of St Michael and All Angels and at Cleeve Hall have revealed evidence of 12th–14th century structural features and agricultural activity. Topsoil stripping for the by-pass in 1989 revealed evidence for medieval occupation to the west of the village.

A gradiometer survey carried out by ASWYAS in February 2015 (Webb 2015) identified ridge and furrow field systems. Areas of magnetic disturbance in the north-east and south-east corners of the site were due to metallic debris discarded on the surface of the field. No evidence for the continuation of the prehistoric enclosures into the development area was identified.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the extent, nature and importance of any buried heritage assets within the proposed development area.

Specifically the evaluation aimed to:

- Provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed development to be assessed;
- Assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- Produce a site archive for deposition with Tewkesbury Museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2014)
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2014)

The evaluation comprised the excavation of approximately 2% of the proposed development area by means of five trenches totalling 168 linear metres.

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil/upper subsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital photographic images, colour slide and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

Fieldwork was undertaken on the 26th and 27th March 2015.

Due to the difficulties of excavating Trench 5 at an angle to the extant ridge and furrow (5a), the orientation of the trench was altered (5b) to enable the safe excavation of the remainder of the trench.

4 RESULTS

A full trench and context register is included in Appendix 1. A plan of the excavated trenches and geophysical survey interpretation can be found on **Illus 2**.

4.1 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was excavated at a 45° angle to the extant ridge and furrow. A mid-brown silty clay topsoil [101] measuring 0.30m in depth overlay a modified subsoil deposit [102] which formed the ridges within the field system (**Illus 3–4**). A clean, undisturbed geological subsoil [103] was identified at a depth of 0.85m below the top of the ridge, which survived to a width of c.17m. The eastern furrow within the trench impacted into deposit [103] to a depth of 0.65m. A single sherd of Malvernian cooking pot dating to the 13th century was recovered from the interface of deposits [102] and [103].

4.2 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was excavated on a north-south orientation within the base of a furrow. Topsoil [201] measuring 0.20m in depth overlay a light brown silty clay subsoil [202]. Geological deposits [203] were encountered at a depth of 0.40m below ground level.

4.3 TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was excavated at 90° to the orientation of the ridge and furrow and provided a section through three of the best preserved ridges within the development area (**Illus 5**). The ridges survived to a height of 0.75m above the undisturbed geological deposits [303] and measured between 7.70m and 10m in width. A single sherd of mid-12th–mid-13th century jug was recovered from the subsoil deposits [302] forming the ridges.

4.4 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 identified a soil profile consistent with the results of Trench 2. Geological deposits [403] were encountered at a depth of 0.45m below silty clay deposits of topsoil [401] and subsoil [402].

4.5 TRENCH 5

Due to safety concerns regarding the stability of the mechanical excavator, the orientation of Trench 5 was altered part of the way through its excavation.

Extant ridge and furrow was present within the trench, however the ridges survived to a lesser height (0.55m) to those observed in Trenches 1 and 3. No features of archaeological significance were observed.

ILLUS 3

Trench 1 – plan (camera facing NE)

ILLUS 4

Trench 1 – SE facing section

ILLUS 5

Trench 3 – Oblique view through ridge and furrow

5 DISCUSSION

The location of furrows associated with ridge and furrow field systems shows a strong correlation with the results of the geophysical survey.

The presence of 12th–13th century pottery both within and beneath the plough ridges suggest that the landforms post-date this period, and may be later medieval or post-medieval in date.

The pottery recovered does not appear to be associated with any features. Both sherds were abraded and may have been introduced to the site through manuring or casual discard. The place of pottery manufacture is of interest; both sherds appear to have come from Worcestershire, despite there being closer markets (Cheltenham, Winchcombe and Tewkesbury) supplying pottery at this time. The reason for this may relate to the fact that the Bishop of Worcester held the manor of Cleeve, and potentially exerted some influence over the pottery available in the village.

No evidence was observed for the continuation of the prehistoric enclosures observed on the adjacent site into the proposed development area.

6 CONCLUSION

The trial trench evaluation confirmed that the prehistoric enclosures observed in the adjacent field do not continue into the proposed development area.

Although the pottery assemblage was small, it provided interesting information regarding medieval pottery distribution and trade.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2014 British Geological Survey [online] www.bgs.ac.uk (accessed 18th March 2015)

Craddock-Bennett, L 2015 Land Behind Millham House, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation. Headland Archaeology Project MHBG15

Masters, P 2009 Geophysical Survey of Land at Homelands Farm, Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Cranfield Forensic Institute Report No. 040.

Sheldon, S 2010 Land at Homelands Farm, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. Cotswold Archaeology Report No. 10028.

Webb, A 2015 Land to the rear of Millham House, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire: Geophysical Survey. ASWYAS.

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH REGISTER

TR1	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
	NE-SW	30	1.6	0.6
Context	**Description**			**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
101	Topsoil: brown, silty clay, friable, rooting, no inclusions.			0.0-0.3
102	Subsoil: light, greyish brown, silty clay, friable, occasional small stone fragments.			0.3-0.85
103	Geological Subsoil: orange, firm, silty clay.			0.85+
104	Fill of furrow: brownish grey, silty clay, friable, flecks of stone.			0.0-0.65
105	Cut of furrow W=3.5: Linear			0.0-0.65
Summary				
Horse paddock, pasture. Fragment of medieval pot recovered from interface between deposits [102] and [103].				
Very high ridge and furrow (0.85m).				

TR2	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
	NNE-SSW	30	1.6	0.4
Context	**Description**			**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
201	Topsoil: brown, silty clay, friable, rooting, no inclusions.			0.0-0.2
202	Subsoil: light brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions.			0.2-0.4
203	Geological Subsoil: Light orangey brown, silty clay, no inclusions.			0.4+
Summary				
Horse paddock, pasture. Occasional fragment of land drain.				

TR3	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
	WNW-ESE	40	1.6	0.75
Context	**Description**			**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
301	Topsoil: light brown silty clay			0.0-0.2
302	Subsoil: light, greyish brown, silty clay, friable, occasional small stone fragments.			0.2-0.75
303	Geological subsoil: Light orangey brown, silty clay, no inclusions.			0.75+
Summary				
Horse paddock, pasture. Abraded fragment of medieval pottery (M12th – M13th C) recovered from deposit [302].				

TR4	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
	NNE-SSW	30	1.6	0.35
Context	**Description**			**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
401	Topsoil: brown, silty clay (40%-60%), friable, rooting, no inclusions.			0.0-0.2
402	Subsoil: light brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions.			0.2-0.45
403	Geological subsoil: Light orangey brown, silty clay, no inclusions.			0.45+
Summary				
Horse paddock, pasture. No archaeology.				
Land drain along base of trench.				

TR5a	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
	NW-SE	19	1.6	0.6
Context	**Description**			**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
501	Topsoil: Brown, humic, silty clay			0.0-0.2
502	Subsoil: light brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions.			0.2-0.55
503	Geological subsoil: Light orangey brown, silty clay, no inclusions.			0.55+
Summary				
Horse paddock, pasture. Land drain along trench base (stone filled).				
Evidence of ridge and furrow running N-S.				

TR5b	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)
	NW-SE	19	1.6	0.6
Context	**Description**			**Depth of deposit (mBGL)**
504	Topsoil: Brown, humic, silty clay			0.0-0.15
505	Subsoil: light brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions.			0.15-0.55
506	Geological subsoil: Light orangey brown, silty clay, no inclusions.			0.55+
Summary				
Horse paddock, pasture. Land drain along trench base (stone filled).				
Trench 5 split in into two due to difficulty with machining at angle to R&F				

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

STEPHANIE RATKAI

The assemblage numbers just two sherds (29g) of pottery, both of medieval date, found in context (102) and (302). A catalogue of the finds is given below.

There are two points of interest. Firstly the form of the Malvernian cooking pot is unusual. The cooking pot was of large diameter with a simple everted rim, with a flat internal face and a slightly rounded external face. The large, prominent granitic grits and the brown colour of the clay body would suggest this vessel belongs to the 13th century. Vince (1985) suggests that from about the mid-13th century onwards the cylindrical cooking pot with an inturned rim was the norm. It is therefore possible that the cooking pot belongs to the first half of the 13th century.

Secondly, neither sherd is local to Bishop's Cleeve. The combination of Worcester-type glazed ware and Malvernian cooking pot is one that is commonly found in Worcestershire, and both the Bishop's Cleeve pots may have arrived via markets at Worcester or Evesham, despite the fact that there were closer markets at Cheltenham, Winchcombe and Tewkesbury, that could have provided pottery made more locally. However, the Bishop of Worcester held the manor of Cleeve and this may have had some influence on the pottery found in the village.

References

Vince, A G 1985 'The Pottery' in Shoesmith, R Hereford City Excavations Volume 3 The Finds, CBA Res Rep 56, 1985, 35–65.

Appendix 2.1 Finds catalogue

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date
102	1	24	Pottery (Medi)	Malvernian cooking pot	Cooking pot rim (not in-turned type), external soot, abraded on interior	13th
302	1	5	Pottery (Medi)	Worcester-type glazed ware	Jug, very abraded surfaces, trace of external glaze, trace of roller-stamped decoration, sherd recently broken into three	M12th–M13th

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