

# Cotswold Archaeology

## Calverton Manor Pool House Calverton Milton Keynes

Archaeological Evaluation



for Mr and Mrs Lock

CA Project: 660469 CA Report: 15313

Accession Number: AYBCM: 2015.93 HER Event Number: EMK1258

June 2015



Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Calverton Manor Pool House Calverton Milton Keynes

### Archaeological Evaluation

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#### CONTENTS

SUMM	ARY	.2
1.	INTRODUCTION	. 3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	.4
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	. 5
4.	METHODOLOGY	.6
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2 - 8)	.7
6.	THE FINDS	. 8
7.	DISCUSSION	. 9
8.	CA PROJECT TEAM	. 9
9.	REFERENCES	. 9
APPEN	IDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	. 11
APPEN	IDIX B: THE FINDS	. 12
APPEN	IDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	. 13

#### LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Site, looking north-west
- Fig. 4 Site, looking north
- Fig. 5 Trench 1: plan and photograph (1:100)
- Fig. 6 Trench 1: sections and photographs (1:20)
- Fig. 7 Trench 1: section and photograph (1:50)
- Fig. 8 Extract from the 1881 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map

#### SUMMARY

Project Name:	Calverton Manor Pool House
Location:	Calverton, Milton Keynes
NGR:	SP 7896 3908
Туре:	Evaluation
Date:	22 May 2015
Planning Reference:	15/00060/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum Service
Accession Number:	AYBCM: 2015.93
Site Code:	CALM 15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2015 at Calverton Manor, Calverton, Milton Keynes. The work was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition that was attached to planning consent for the construction of a swimming pool and pool house to the rear of the manor house. The evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench.

The site comprises part of the enclosed garden to the rear of Calverton Manor. The evaluation identified two undated, but probable post-medieval/early modern ditches. These are likely to represent boundary or drainage features. In addition two undated postholes were identified.

All the features were sealed by a horizontally deposited layers containing material dating to the to the post-medieval/modern periods.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the proposed site of Calverton Manor, Calverton, Milton Keynes (centred on NGR: SP 7896 3908; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Lock, was carried out prior to the construction of the pool house and swimming pool to the rear of the manor house.
- 1.2 Planning permission for the development was granted by Milton Keynes Council (MKC; the local planning authority), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (ref: 15/00060/FUL). The scope of the archaeological work, which comprised the excavation of a 10m by 1.8m trial trench in the area of the proposed swimming pool, was established through discussions between CA and Nick Crank, MKC's Archaeological Officer (MKCAO).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2015). The fieldwork also followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Nick Crank, including a site visit on 22 May 2015.

#### The site

1.3 The site is located at the northern end of the village of Calverton, approximately 1km to the south of the centre of Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes (Fig. 1). The proposed development area is approximately 100m<sup>2</sup> and comprises part of the enclosed garden to the rear of Calverton Manor (Figs 2 & 3). It is bounded to the north and east by a recently reconstructed stone wall with a south-west facing brick face (fig. 4). Construction of which was approved in the Listed Building Consent for the restoration of the manor house, completed in 2011; beyond the wall lies 'The Warren', a five acre grazing pasture and the surviving part of an old orchard. To the west and south of the site is a walled garden, and to the north-west lies the manor house and its range of outbuildings. Locally the site is situated on flat ground at approximately 77m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), although in its wider topographical setting it lies on a gradual west-facing slope, overlooking the valley of

Whaddon Brook, a small stream that flows northwards to join the River Great Ouse *c*. 0.8km to the north of the village.

1.4 The solid geology of the area comprises Jurassic mudstone of the Blisworth Clay Formation (BGS 2015), overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of the Oadby Member, which consist of brown to grey silty clay, with chalk and flint fragments and lenses of sand and gravel (diamicton).

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record (HER) contains thirty-eight records of known archaeological sites within a 250m radius of the site, which lies within the Calverton Conservation Area.
- 2.2 The potential for Roman remains within the site is demonstrated by Roman find spots recorded *c.* 300m south-west of the site. Finds include pottery, spurs, coins and an arrowhead (MMK171, MMK172, MMK173, MMK174, MMK175; SP 787 389). Further finds of Roman pottery have been found in the vicinity of Calverton Rectory (MMK5718; SP 787 389).
- 2.3 The parish of Calverton comprises the hamlets of Lower, Middle and Upper Weald and was recorded as *Calvertone* in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (VCH 1927). At the time of the survey the manor was held by Hugh de Bolebec and on his death in 1146 his son Hugh inherited the estate. By 1331 the manor had passed into the ownership of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, whose descendants probably built the earliest surviving parts of the manor house, probably in the late 15th or early 16th century.
- 2.4 The manor house, now known as Calverton Manor, formerly Manor Farm House, is a Grade II\* Listed limestone-built house, located immediately to the north of the parish church (MMK3755). The house was built during the tenure of the Earls of Oxford in about 1500, with considerable alterations carried out in the middle of the 17th century. After the sale of the house to William Selby Lowndes, at the beginning of the 19th century, further alterations were made. Extant buildings formerly serving the manor include the former coach house (Grade II listed), the Red Barn and the previously tied Manor Farm cottages (Grade II listed). A full account of the history of

the building has been presented in a report prepared by Woodfield A & A Services (Woodfield 2008).

- 2.5 The parish church of All Saints was originally built in the 12th century but was largely rebuilt between 1818 and 1824, partially utilising the original foundations and incorporating some of the original fabric (VCH 1927). Calverton House, located 300m to the west of the manor house, is a mid-Regency building that was built *c*.1820 as the rectory for the newly rebuilt parish church (CA 2015).
- 2.6 Find spots of medieval to modern date, including a medieval horseshoe (MMK3877) and heraldic pendant (MMK3879), a post-medieval trade token (MMK3878) and a modern 'Bucks yeoman' button (MMK3880), are noted 200m north-west of the site.
- 2.7 Recent restoration work to the manor house by Mr and Mrs Lock, the current owners of Calverton Manor, has been monitored by Woodfield A & A Services, the results of which have been presented in an interim report (Woodfield 2010). The report does not mention any works in the area of the proposed swimming pool, but Mr Lock has indicated that the area has been heavily disturbed by the foundations of a brick wall erected by the previous owner and the insertion of drains and a soakaway for an underground rainwater storage tank (D Lock pers. comm.). Mr Lock has explained that as there were no finds in this location, there was nothing for Woodfield A & A Services to record and report.

#### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2015) were to:
  - Establish the location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that were present;
  - Determine the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site through the assessment of bulk soil samples taken from any suitable archaeological deposits;
  - Determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that were present.

3.2 The evaluation results will enable MKCAO, archaeological advisor to Milton Keynes Council, to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and develop plans to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage resource conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench, measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide, in the location shown in figure 2. The trench was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009). The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded with GPS.
- 4.2 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* (2009).
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003), however, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2010).
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes and following completion of the project, the artefacts will be retained by the legal landowner. 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.

#### 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 - 8)

#### Trench 1 (Figs 2 - 5)

- 5.1 The geological substrate 1014, which comprised light yellow brown sandy clay, was identified at an average depth of 1.4m below present ground level. This was cut by north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1006, located at the centre of the trench (Figs 5 & 6; section AA). It measured 0.7m in width and 0.54 m in depth, and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single red brown sandy clay fill 1007, which was subsequently cut by pit 1012. Pit 1012 was oval in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single dark grey brown sandy clay fill, deposited by gradual silting.
- 5.2 Also cutting the fill of ditch 1006 was posthole 1004 (Figs 5 & 6; section BB). This was circular in plan, with steeply sloping, near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with grey brown sandy clay (1005), deposited as a deliberate backfill. Located to the north of posthole 1004, was posthole 1008, which measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.07m in depth, with a single homogenous sandy clay fill (Figs 5 & 6; section CC).
- 5.3 The southern edge and part of the base of ditch 1010 was revealed at the northern end of the trench (Figs 5 & 7; section DD). It was orientated east to west and had a steep, splayed side, and a flat base. It was filled with a homogenous grey brown sandy clay (1011) deposited by gradual silting. The ditch broadly corresponds with a boundary depicted on the 1881 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 8).
- 5.4 All the archaeological features cut the geological substrate, except where re-cutting of earlier features occurred. No artefactual material was recovered from the respective fills of these features, which are dated based on stratigraphic and spatial analysis.
- 5.5 Overlying the geological substrate in the southern part of the trench was deposit 1003, comprising firm sandy clay. Overlying this and the respective fills of all the archaeological features was reworked deposit 1002, which contained one sherd of post-medieval/modern pottery, as well as two fragments of post-medieval glass. This was in turn overlain by deposit 1001, which comprised grit, pebble and brick in a silty matrix; this contained post-medieval pottery (not retained). This was sealed by dark

brown sandy clay (1000), the topsoil exposed by the removal of the synthetic turf that covered the site prior to the evaluation.

#### 6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was hand-recovered from one deposit (layer 1002). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric (Appendix B, Table 1). Pottery fabrics are equated to the Bedfordshire type series as defined by Whittingham (2009).

#### Pottery: Post-medieval/modern

6.2 A sherd of Industrial fine earthenware (transfer-printed refined whiteware), datable to the late 18th to 19th centuries, was retrieved from layer 1002. It is in very good, unabraded condition.

#### Glass

6.3 Two fragments of glass of post-medieval date were recovered from layer 1002. One is a fragment from the rim of a thin-walled vessel in clear glass, in good condition. The other is a fragment from a wine or spirits bottle in dark green coloured glass, which is heavily oxidised.

#### 7. DISCUSSION

#### Undated

- 7.1 The earliest features encountered during evaluation comprised ditches of probable post-medieval or modern date. Ditch 1010 broadly corresponds with a boundary depicted on the 1881 First Edition Ordnance Survey map and fits within the alignment established and/or respected by the current property boundaries. Ditch 1006 was undated and although it does not fit closely within the current boundary orientations it probable relates to a subdivision or drainage. The identified features appear to relate to post-medieval or modern land division.
- 7.2 Two undated postholes were identified; however, their exact functions are uncertain. They may be associated with and broadly contemporary with the adjacent postmedieval/modern activity.

#### 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Edwin Pearson. The report was written by James Coyne. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

#### 9. **REFERENCES**

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- Woodfield, P 2008 Calverton Manor, Calverton, Milton Keynes: The Manor House, Historical Account and Building Record, unpublished report
- Woodfield, P 2010 Calverton Manor, Calverton, Milton Keynes: The Manor House, Archaeological Recording During Building Works, unpublished interim report

Whittingham, L. 2009 'Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery', in Beresford, G. 2009, 153–78.

#### APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown sandy clay			0.25	
1	1001	Deposit		Overburden	Light grey brown silt with frequent grit, pebble and brick fragment inclusions			0.35	
1	1002	Deposit		Overburden	Grey brown sandy clay. Contained post-medieval pottery			0.07	LC18-C19
1	1003	Deposit		Interface	Red brown sandy clay	2	1.7	0.23	
1	1004	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan, steep, near vertical sides, flat base.		0.32	0.18	
1	1005	Fill	1004	Single fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay		0.32	0.18	
1	1006	Cut		Ditch	North-west/south east orientated ditch. Moderately sloping sides, flat base.	>1.8	0.7	0.54	
1	1007	Fill	1007	Single fill	Dark red brown sandy clay	>1.8	0.7	0.54	
1	1008	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan, steep, near vertical sides, flat base.		0.44	0.07	
1	1009	Fill	1008	Single fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay		0.44	0.07	
1	1010	Cut		Ditch	East/west orientated ditch. Moderately steeply sloping sides, flat base.	>1.8	>0.84	0.52	
1	1011	Fill	1010	Single fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay	>1.8	>0.84	0.52	
1	1012	Cut		Pit	Oval shaped pit. Asymmetrical profile, moderately sloping north- eastern side, moderately steeply sloping south-western side. Concave base	>1.3	0.92	0.31	
1	1013	Fill	1012	Single fill	Dark grey brown sandy clay	>1.3	0.92	0.31	
1	1014	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay				

#### APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

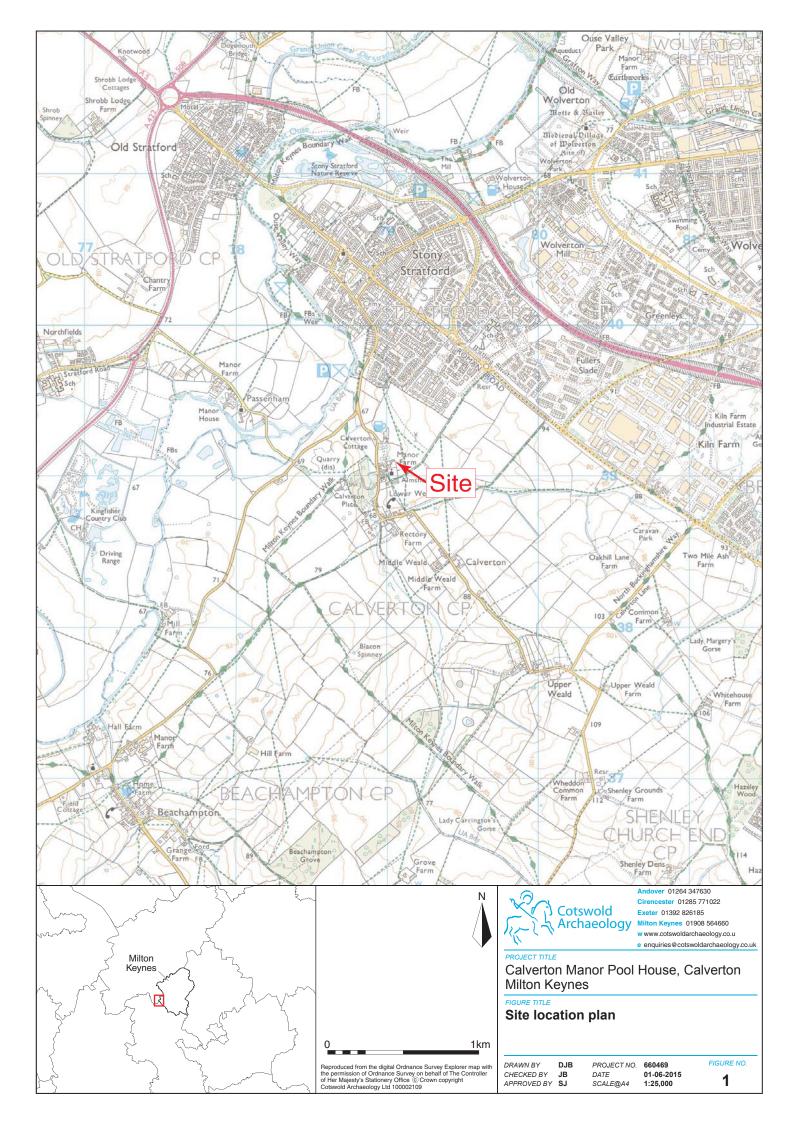
Table	1:	Finds	concord	lance
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Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1002	Post-medieval/modern	Industrial fine earthenware	1	1	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval glass	Vessel	2	5	

#### APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton,	Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton, Milton Keynes					
Short description	Archaeology in May 2015 at Calverton Keynes. The work was carried out in condition that was attached to planning c of a swimming pool and pool house to the The evaluation comprised the excavation	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2015 at Calverton Manor, Calverton, Milton Keynes. The work was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition that was attached to planning consent for the construction of a swimming pool and pool house to the rear of the manor house. The evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench.					
	Calverton Manor. The evaluation ide probable post-medieval/early modern di	The site comprises part of the enclosed garden to the rear of Calverton Manor. The evaluation identified two undated, bu probable post-medieval/early modern ditches. These are likely to represent boundary or drainage features. In addition two undated postholes were identified.					
	All the features were sealed by a hor containing material dating to the to the periods.						
Project dates	22 May 2015						
Project type	Evaluation						
Previous work							
Future work	Unknown	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION							
Site Location	Calverton Manor, Calverton, Milton Keyn	es					
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	100m <sup>2</sup>						
Site co-ordinates	SP 7896 3908						
PROJECT CREATORS							
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project Brief originator	N/A						
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA type Cotswold Archaeology						
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce						
Project Supervisor	James Coyne						
MONUMENT TYPE	None						
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None						
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (HER event number: EMK1258)	Content					
Physical	To be retained by client	Pottery, glass					
Paper	Buckinghamshire County Museum Service	WSI, pro-forma register and recoding forms					
Digital	Buckinghamshire County Museum Service	Digital survey data digital photographs					
BIBLIOGRAPHY		· · · · ·					

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton, Milton Keynes: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report **15313** 



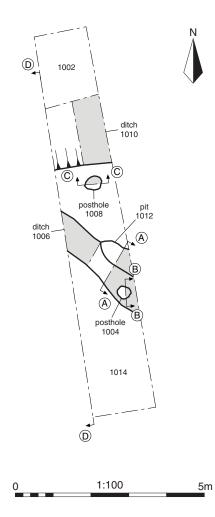






3 4	Site looking north-west Site looking north	Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk				
-		Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton Milton Keynes				
		FIGURE TITLE Photographs				
		DRAWN BY DJB PROJECT NO. 660469 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY JB DATE 01-06-2015 3 & 4				

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Trench 1 looking north (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton Milton Keynes

# FIGURE TITLE Trench 1: plan and photograph

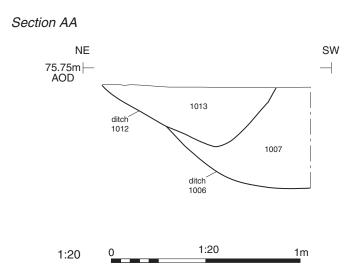
DRAWN BY DJB CHECKED BY JB APPROVED BY SJ

 PROJECT NO.
 660469

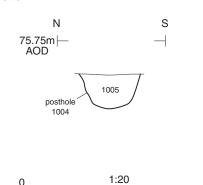
 DATE
 01-06-2015

 SCALE@A3
 1:100

FIGURE NO. 5



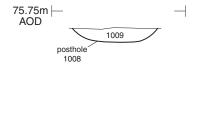
Section BB



1m

W

Section CC



Е

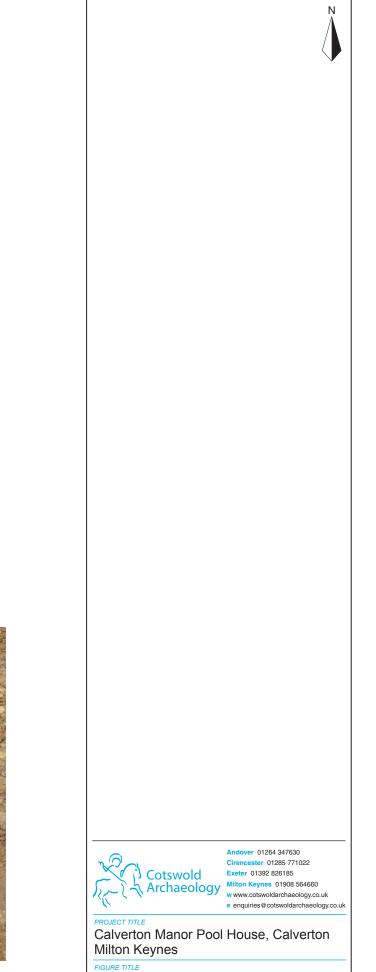




Posthole 1004 looking east (scale 0.3m)



Posthole 1008 looking north (scale 0.3m)



Trench 1: sections and photographs

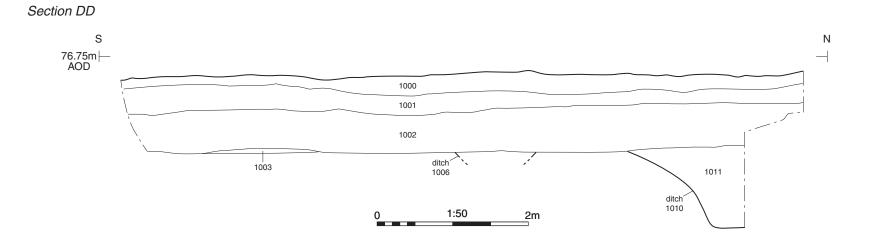
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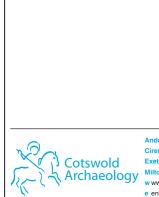
 SCALE@A3
 1:20

FIGURE NO. 6





Ditch 1010 looking west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE Calverton Manor Pool House, Calverton Milton Keynes

FIGURE TITLE Trench 1: section and photograph

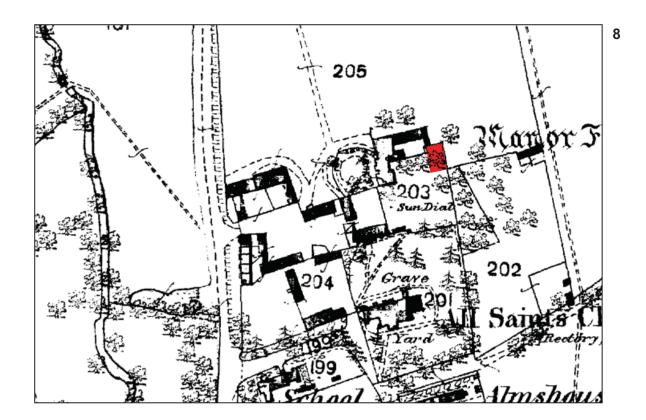
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 PROJECT NO.
 660469

 DATE
 01-06-2015

 SCALE@A3
 1:50

FIGURE NO. 7



8	Extract from the 1881 Ordnance Survey map of Calverton	Arc I Arc	otswold chaeology	Andover 01264 3476 Cirencester 01285 7 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01906 w www.cotswoldarcha e enquiries@cotswold	71022 5 3 564660 eology.co.uk
		Calverton M Milton Keyn		House, Cal	verton
		FIGURE TITLE Historic ma	apping		
		DRAWN BY DJB	B PROJECT NO	o. 660469	FIGURE NO.
		CHECKED BY JB APPROVED BY SJ	DATE SCALE@A4	09-06-2015 1:2000 (approx)	8



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