

## Marden Farm Residential and Care Home Development Calne Wiltshire

**Archaeological Evaluation** 

for **Redrow Homes** 

CA Project: 4876 CA Report: 14370

June 2015

# Marden Farm Residential and Care Home Development Calne Wiltshire

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

CA Project: 4876 CA Report: 14370

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#### **SUMMARY**

**Project Name:** Marden Farm Residential and Care Home Development

Location: Calne, Wiltshire NGR: SU 0011 6944

Type: Evaluation

**Date:** 04-09 August 2014

**Planning Reference:** N/12/04038/FUL and APP/Y3940/A/13/2206076

**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes

Site Code: MFC 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2014 at Marden Farm, Calne, Wiltshire. A total of thirteen trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a possible pond from which material of medieval date was retrieved. A network of palaoechannels in the north-western part of the site and two parallel modern tracks were also recorded.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Redrow Homes at Marden Farm, Calne, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 0011 6944; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil Condition 13 of a planning appeal decision (ref APP/Y3940/A/13/2206076), which followed a planning application made to made Wiltshire Council (WC ref: N/12/04038/FUL) for the development of a specialist dementia care facility with associated access and landscaping. The application also includes an outline proposal for residential development comprising of up to 125 dwelling units and associated services, access and open space.
- 1.2 The evaluation was requested by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, WC Archaeologist and was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 10 August 2014.

#### The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is *c*.6.2ha in extent, and comprises six arable fields separated by drainage ditches. It is bordered to the north by a hedgerow dividing the site from further agricultural land and to the east the present urban area of Calne. The development area is bounded to the south, west and north by agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 81m AOD, rising towards the north-west. The evaluation area comprised a the central/southern subdivision of this, limited by ecological contraints to the north (Great Crested Newt habitats).
- 1.4 The site lies at the boundary of a number of defined geological bedrocks. These comprise Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation of the Jurassic Period in the south-eastern corner of the site, Gault Formation Mudstone of the Cretaceous Period in the south-west corner of the site and Stanford Formation Limestone of the Jurassic Period in the northern half of the site (BGS 2014). The natural substrate encountered on site was in agreement with this record. A silty clay

was observed in Trenches 1-10 and 13 while alternating bands of clay and limestone brash were recorded in Trenches 11 and 12.

#### Archaeological background

- 1.5 A Heritage Desk-Based Assessment of the site was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2012 (CA 2012). This was followed by a geophysical survey (AS 2013). The results of this assessment and survey are summarised below.
- 1.6 There are no prehistoric or Roman archaeological remains recorded within the site or a 500m study area surrounding it. However, the site is located upon a prominent south-facing slope close to a watercourse and was considered an area likely to have been utilised during the prehistoric and/or Roman periods (CA 2012).
- 1.7 The site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland to the south of Calne and its surrounding open fields from the medieval period onwards. The site was comparatively closer to other medieval settlement areas, such as that 500m to the east at Quemford, suggesting that the area was relatively active in the period. However, it is likely that any activity within the site was pasture based (CA 2012).
- 1.8 The geophysical survey indicated generally weak magnetic responses throughout the site, with short, fragmented and weak positive anomalies of uncertain origin located in most survey areas. Parallel linear anomalies were considered likely to indicate agricultural activity with the possibility of former ridge and furrow in the south-eastern part of the site. Patches of strongly magnetic debris indicated the presence of modern magnetic material possibly related to dumping, ground consolidation or the presence of former structures (AS 2013).

#### Archaeological objectives

1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were 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). This information will enable WC 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

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13 trenches (all measuring 50m x 1.8m), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The evaluation area was restricted by the Great Crested Newt habitat area in the north of the site, and also focused on targeting geophysical anomalies (mainly in the central area of the site). Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were shortened to avoid buried services and a footpath. The 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).
- 1.11 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 (2013).
- 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 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 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 2-3)

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.

- 2.2 The natural substrate was exposed in all of the trenches at a typical depth of 0.45m below the present ground level (bpgl). In Trenches 1-10 and 13 this comprised lias clay, while in Trenches 11 and 12 the natural substrate varied between lias clay and limestone brash outcrops. Above this, subsoil (in Trenches 1-7, 9-13) was overlain by c.0.25m of topsoil was recorded in all trenches.
- 2.3 No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13. There was no subsoil present in Trench 8; this trench contained two parallel north/south aligned modern tracks. Plough scars were observed across all trenches.

#### Trench 1 (Fig 2)

2.4 Three sherds of medieval pottery and a sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware were recovered from palaeo-channel 103. This layer's composition was characteristic of being of waterborne deposition. No archaeological features were identified in this trench,

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

2.5 Possible large pond 203, which measured 21.5m in width and *c*.0.2m in depth, was identified cutting natural substrate 202 in Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Section AA). It contained multiple clay fills (204, 205, 207, 208, 209 and 210, not all visible in section). Ten sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries from fill 204 and a fragment of Romano-British roof tile from fill 209. Modern pit 211 (which contained fill 206) cut subsoil 201 and the upper fill of pond 203 (fill 205).

#### Trenches 3 and 4 (Fig 2)

2.6 Within Trench 3, undated sandy clay deposit 303 was aligned north-east/south-west and overlay natural substrate 302. It contained three large water-worn boulders which had been struck by the plough. Deposit 303 appeared to continue in Trench 4 as undated deposit 403, which also contained water-worn boulders and overlay natural substrate 402. Both deposits share similar characteristics to the palaeochannels recorded in Trench 1.

#### The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

2.7 Finds recovered from evaluation included pottery and ceramic building material.

Medieval

- 2.8 A total of seven sherds of Cotswold oolitic limestone tempered ware, dating to the 10th to 13th centuries (Vince unpublished) was recovered from fill 204 of pond 203 and subsoil 901. Those from fill 204 included rimsherds from an everted rim jar.
- 2.9 Sandy coarseware fabrics totalling nine sherds were recorded in possible palaeochannel 103 and from fill 204 of pond 203, including a rimsherd from a jug from 103. A likely source for this material is the Lacock/Nash Hill kilns (McCarthy 1974, 107). The pottery can be broadly dated to the 12th to 14th centuries.

#### Post-medieval

2.10 Subsoil 901 produced a bodysherd of Creamware, which dates to the mid to late 18th century.

#### Ceramic building material

2.11 Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. These comprised a fragment of Roman tile from pond backfill 209 and an unclassifiable fragment of modern date from subsoil 901.

#### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified the presence of a possible pond in Trench 2. The pond contained a series of fills which, from their unclear boundaries, suggested that the feature had been filled by dumped material. While both medieval pottery and Roman tile was retrieved from these fills, it is unlikely that a timeframe for this dumping can be robustly concluded.
- 3.2 A network of palaeochannels, some of which contained pottery dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, were identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. This appears to accord with the existence of a stream running to the north of the site (CA 2012).
- 3.3 The remaining evidence supports the contention that the site had been subject to ploughing in the recent past. In Trench 8 the subsoil had been removed and plough scars were observed across all of the trenches. As such, the absence of archaeological features is very likely to be attributable to recent activities. Alternatively, as suggested by the desk based assessment (CA 2012), the possibility

that activity within the site may have been highly ephemeral and of limited visibility during this evaluation cannot be entirely discounted.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley, assisted by Noel Boothroyd, Franco Vartuca, Sara-Jane Boughton and Ellie Buttery. The report was written by Rebecca Riley, Jacky Somerville. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young and Ian Barnes.

#### 5. REFERENCES

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#### **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickn ess (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.35	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown sandy clay	50	1.8	0.2	
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey yellow clay with light bluish grey patches	50	1.8	-	
1	103	Deposit		palaeo-channel	mid orangey brown sandy clay	>1.8	3.74	0.32	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.3	
2	201	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown sandy clay	50	1.8	0.2	
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey yellow clay with light bluish grey patches	50	1.8		
2	203	Cut		pond	possible pond	>1.8	21.5	≥0.4	
2	204	Fill	203	lower fill of pond	light brownish yellow silty clay	>1.8	3.8	0.2	
2	205	Fill	203	fill of pond	dark brownish grey sandy clay	>1.8	3.18	>0.2	
2	206	Fill	211	fill of pit	mid yellow clay	2.8	>1.8	0.28	
2	207	Fill	203	fill of pond	light brownish grey silty clay	>1.8	2.1	>0.18	
2	208	Fill	203	fill of pond	mid reddish brown clay	>1.8	1.37	unexc	
2	209	Fill	203	fill of pond	mid yellowish brown clay	>1.8	8.29	unexc	
2	210	Fill	203	fill of pond	dark grey clay	>1.8	2.86	unexc	
2	211	Cut		pit	cut of pit, cuts subsoil 201	2.8	>1.8	0.28	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.3	
3	301	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay	50	1.8	0.15	
3	302	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey yellow clay with light bluish grey patches	50	1.8	-	
3	303	Deposit		palaeo-channel	mid orangey brown sandy clay containing large water-worn boulders	>1.8	9.3	>0.5	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.3	
4	401	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay	50	1.8	0.15	
4	402	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey yellow clay with light bluish grey patches	50	1.8	-	
4	403	Deposit		palaeo-channel	mid orangey brown sandy clay containing large water-worn boulders	>1.8	14.5 8	-	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	mid greyish brown clay silt	50	1.8	0.25	
5	501	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay	50	1.8	0.15	
5	502	Layer		natural substrate	light orangey yellow clay with light bluish grey patches	50	1.8	-	
6	600	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with are small angular limestone fragments	50	1.9	0.3	
6	601	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellow orangey yellow to yellow brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0.1	
6	602	Layer		natural substrate	Light orangey yellow with light blue grey patches/mottles throughout	50	1.9	Unexc	
7	700	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with rare small/medium sized angular limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.25	
7	701	Layer		subsoil	Mid orangey to yellow brown sandy clay with rare small sized angular limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.15	
7	702	Layer		natural substrate	Mid orangey-yellow to orangey brown (with pale blue grey mottles) sandy clay	50	1.8		
8	800	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with rare small/medium sized angular limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.25	
8	801	Layer		natural	Orange and grey clay	50	1.8	NE	

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickn ess (m)	Spot-date
8	802	cut		Field drain	Stone filled field drain				
8	803	fill	802	Field drain	Fill of 802				
8	804	cut		Machine track	Linear feature	3.15	0.55	0.22	
8	805	fill	804	Machine track	Mixed dark grey sandy silty clay and orangeclay lumps	3.15	0.55	0.22	
8	806	cut		Machine track	Linear feature	3.15	0.55	0.22	
8	807	fill	806	Machine track	Mixed dark grey sandy silty clay and orangeclay lumps	3.15	0.55	0.22	
9	900	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with are small angular limestone fragments	50	1.9	0.2	
9	901	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellow orangey yellow to yellow brown sandy clay	50	1.9	0.15	
9	902	Layer		natural substrate	Light orangey yellow with light blue grey patches/mottles throughout	50	1.9	Unexc	
10	1000	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional small/medium limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.3	
10	1001	Layer		subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand clay	50	1.8	0.1	
10	1002	Layer		natural substrate	Mid orange brown clay	50	1.8	Unexc	
11	1100	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional small/medium limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.3	
11	1101	Layer		subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand clay	50	1.8	0.15	
11	1102	Layer		natural substrate	Mid orange brown clay	50	1.8	Unexc	
12	1200	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional small/medium limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.35	
12	1201	Layer		subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand clay	50	1.8	0.15	
12	1202	Layer		natural substrate	Mid orange brown clay	50	1.8	Unexc	
12	1203	Layer		Colluvium	Mid orangey brown sandy clay mixed with occasional small/medium limestone fragments	50	1.8		
12	1204	Layer		Natural substrate	Very pale grey limestone fragments in pale orange brown sandy clay matrix	50	1.8	Unexc	
13	1300	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional small/medium limestone fragments	50	1.8	0.2	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish to yellowish brown silty sandy clay	50	1.8	0.15	
13	1302	Layer		natural substrate	Bright yellow orange and pale greyish blue lias clay	50	1.8	Unexc	

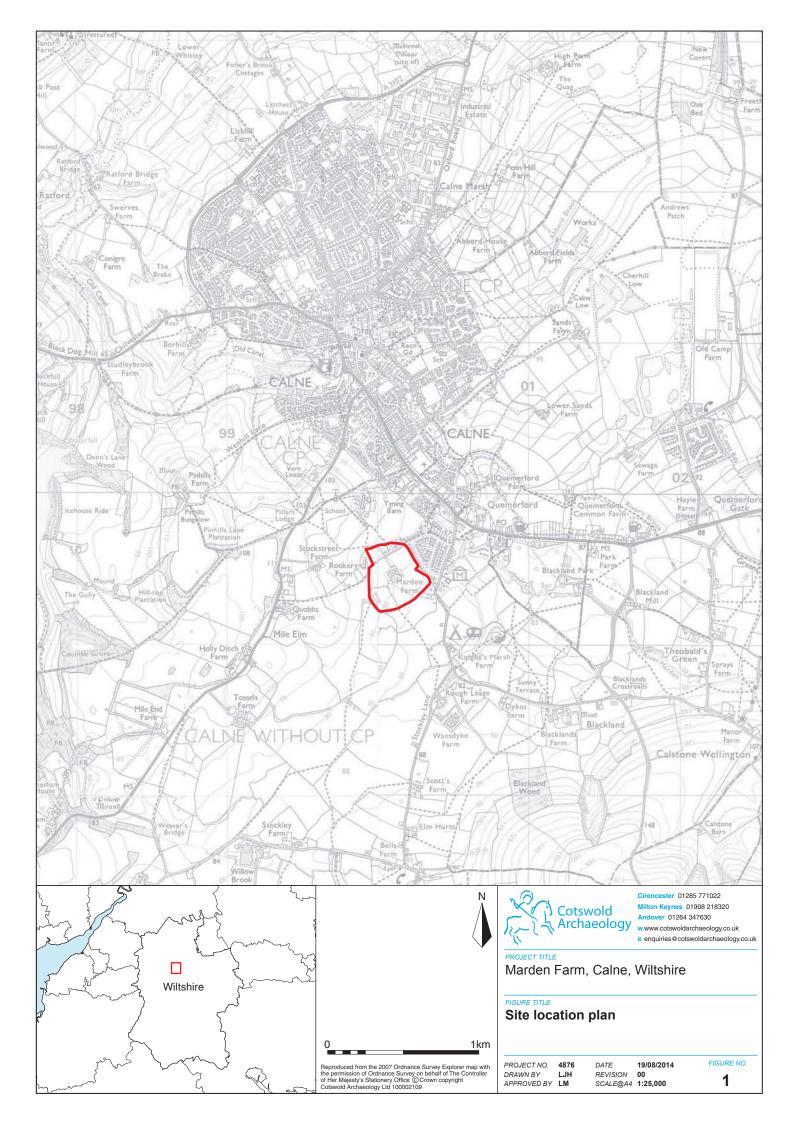
#### APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

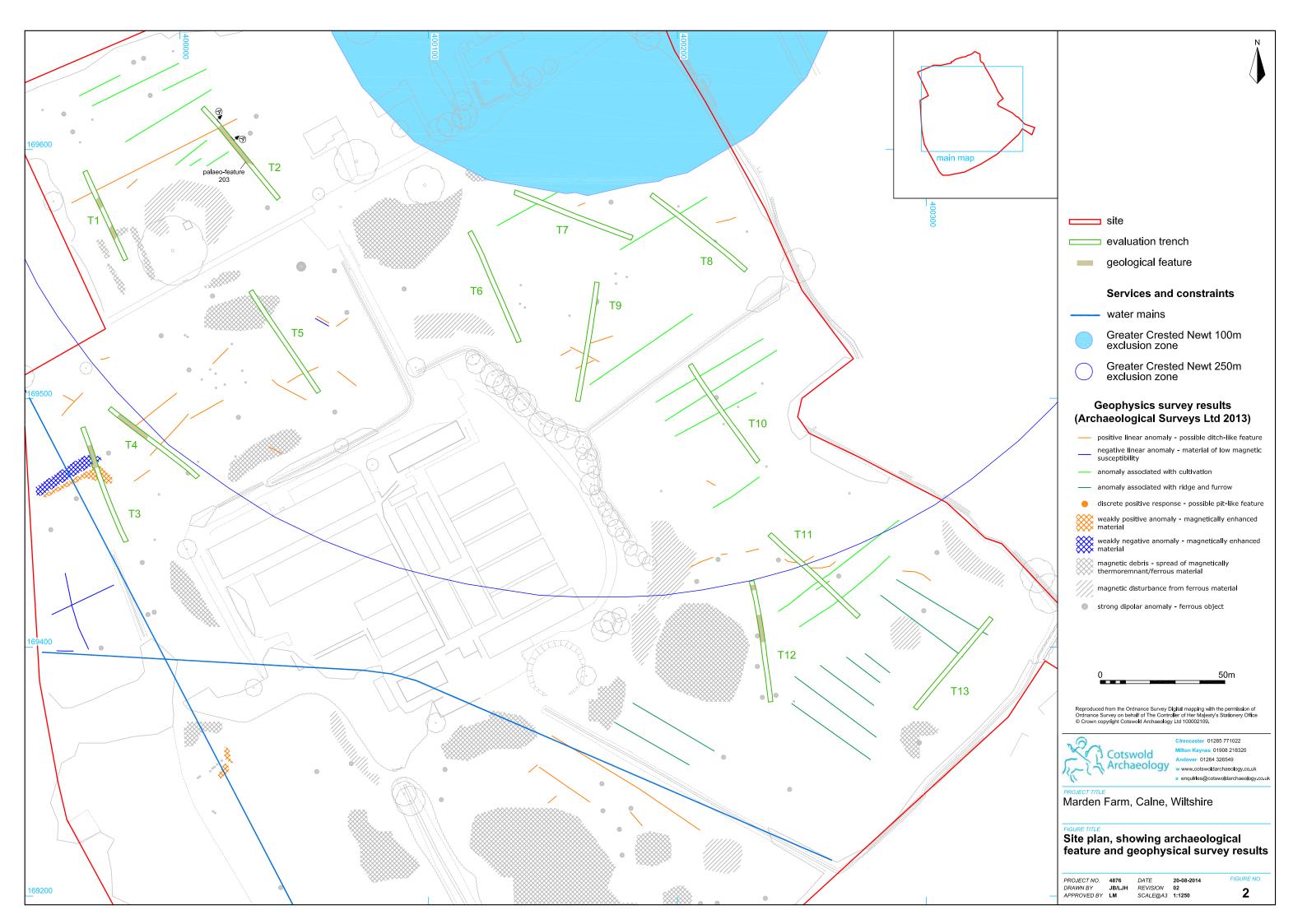
Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
103	Medieval pottery: sandy coarseware	3	13	C16-C18
	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware		81	
204	Medieval pottery: Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware;	10	63	C12-C14
	sandy coarseware; coarse sandy coarseware			
209	Ceramic building material: tile		187	RB
901	Medieval pottery: Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware	4	5	Modern
	Post-medieval pottery: Creamware	1	<1	
	Modern ceramic building material	1	2	

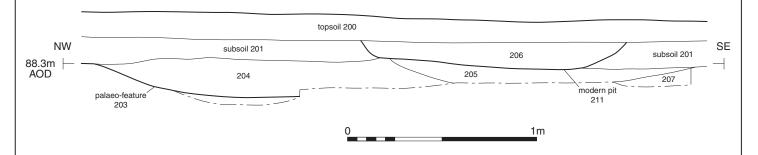
#### APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Marden Farm, Calne, Wiltshire	)				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2014 at Marden Farm, Calne, Wiltshire. A total of thirteen trenches were excavated.					
	The evaluation identified a possible pond from which material of medieval date was retrieved. A network of palaoechannels in the north-western part of the site and two parallel modern tracks were also recorded.					
Project dates	04-09 August 2014					
Project type	Field Evaluation	-				
Previous work  Heritage Desk-based Assessment (CA 2012)  Magnetometer Survey (AS 2013)						
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Marden Farm, Calne, Wiltshire	)				
Study area (M²/ha)	6.2ha					
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 0011 6944					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	N/A					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Richard Young and Ian Barnes	3				
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)				
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	pottery, ceramic building material				
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench Recording Forms, Contex Sheets, Photographic Registers Permatrace drawings				
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos, survey data				
BIBLIOGRAPHY		<u>,                                     </u>				
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Marden</i> 1	Farm, Calne, Wiltshire: Archaeolo	gical Evaluation. CA typescript repo				





#### Trench 2, Section AA





Trench 2, Looking SE, palaeo-feature 203 (2 x 1m scales)

