



**Land at Manor Farm  
Swindon Village  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**Green Park Land Company Ltd**

*on behalf of*

**Mrs Sue Rowe and Mrs Jane Owens**


CA Project: 4999  
CA Report: 14420

September 2014

Land at Manor Farm  
Swindon Village  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4999  
CA Report: 14420

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date	17 September 2014
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date	26 September 2014
issue	01

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- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)  
Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:500)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Manor Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 9345 2482
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	16-17 September 2014
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	CAGM 2014.3
<b>Site Code:</b>	MFS 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2014 on land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. A total of four trenches was excavated.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation. A single sherd of 1st to 2nd century AD pottery was recovered from an alluvial deposit identified within Trenches 3 and 4.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Green Park Land Company Ltd, on behalf of Mrs Sue Rowe and Mrs Jane Owens, on land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9345 2482; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to be submitted to Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) for the construction of eight new residential dwellings, with associated access, utilities and landscaping.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation prepared by CA (CA 2014a). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), 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).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.36ha in extent and comprises a former campsite and storage area for touring caravans. The site is bounded to the north-east by St Lawrence's Church, to the south-east by Manor Farm, to the south-west by River Swilgate and to the north-west by properties fronting Manor Court. The site lies at approximately 40m AOD and is generally flat but slopes slightly downwards to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation (mudstone) of the Jurassic Period. This is overlain in the northern part of the site by Cheltenham Sand and Gravel and to the south by Alluvium (both of the Quaternary Period) (BGS 2014). The natural substrate in Trenches 1 and 2 was comprised of yellow-brown sand with grey-green clay being identified within Trenches 3 and 4.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 A Heritage Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared (CA 2014b) and the results are summarised as follows:

- 1.6 No prehistoric or Roman remains are recorded within the site, although there is well-documented evidence for settlement and other associated features of these periods within the general area, particular on the Cheltenham Sands on which the village of Swindon stands. The assessment noted that there was some potential for currently unrecorded archaeological remains of these periods to be located within the site.
- 1.7 The site lies immediately to the south of the focus of medieval settlement activity at Swindon. The assessment concluded that there was some potential for currently unrecorded archaeological remains of this period to be located within the site.
- 1.8 The site has probably been an enclosure for pasture and/or orchard throughout the post-medieval period and through to the late 20th century, when it was brought into use as a campsite and store for touring caravans.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.9 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 CBC 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 four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All trenches were 1.8m wide; Trench 1 was 12.5m in length, Trenches 2 and 3 were 5m in length and Trench 4 was 25m in length. The trench locations are severely restricted by the presence of badger setts on the north-western, central and south-eastern parts of the site (Fig. 2). 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, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA Technical Manuals and Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery guidelines.
- 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 Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum under accession number CAGM 2014.3, 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 (FIG. 2)

- 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 geological substrate was identified in all trenches at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. In Trenches 3 and 4 it was overlain by an alluvial deposit averaging 0.25m in thickness. Subsoil deposits averaging 0.18m thick covered the natural substrate in Trenches 1 and 2 and the alluvial deposits within Trenches 3 and 4, and were in turn overlain by topsoil deposits averaging 0.2m thick. A single sherd of 1st to 2nd century AD pottery was recovered from alluvial deposit 302/402 within Trenches 3 and 4. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation.



### ***The finds evidence***

- 2.3 Alluvial layer 302 produced a single, unfeatured bodysherd in a charcoal-tempered variant of Severn Valley ware, which is commonly found in Gloucestershire and dates to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological deposits or features. The single sherd of 1st-2nd century pottery recovered from alluvial deposit 302 may be indicative of Roman activity within the broad area of the site. The survival of undisturbed subsoil and topsoil within each of the excavated trenches indicates that the area has not been truncated. It may therefore be concluded from the absence of archaeological deposits that activity associated with the nearby medieval settlement of Swindon Village does not extend into the site.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jay Wood, assisted by Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Jay Wood. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jay Wood, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman

## **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed 17 September 2014.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*,

CA 2014b *Land adjacent to Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Typescript Report No. **14229**



DCLG, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	topsoil	dark grey brown sandy silt	12.5	1.8	0.20	
1	101	Layer	subsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	12.5	1.8	0.16	
1	102	Layer	natural	mid yellow brown sand	12.5	1.8	0.29	
1	103	Layer	natural	mid blue grey clay	12.5	1.8	<0.13	
2	200	Layer	topsoil	dark grey brown sandy silt	4.5	1.8	0.20	
2	201	Layer	subsoil	mid grey brown sandy silt	4.5	1.8	0.16	
2	202	Layer	natural	mid yellow brown sand	4.5	1.8	0.29	
2	203	Layer	natural	mid blue grey clay	4.5	1.8	<0.13	
3	300	Layer	topsoil	dark grey brown sandy silt	5	1.8	0.17	
3	301	Layer	subsoil	mid orange brown sandy silt	5	1.8	0.23	
3	302	Layer	alluvial	dark grey brown clayey silt	5	1.8	0.22	C1-C2
3	303	Layer	natural	mid green grey clay	5	1.8	<0.05	
4	400	Layer	topsoil	dark grey brown sandy silt	25	1.8	0.18	
4	401	Layer	subsoil	mid orange brown sandy silt	16	1.8	0.22	
4	402	Layer	alluvial	dark grey brown clayey silt	25	1.8	0.20	
4	403	Layer	natural	mid green grey clay	25	1.8	<0.05	

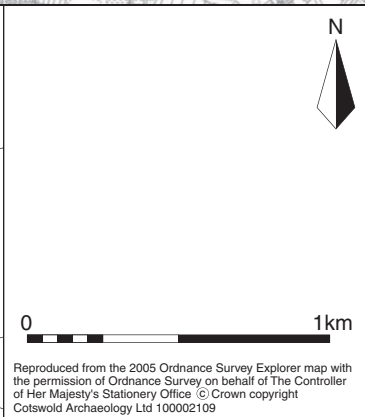
**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
302	Roman pottery: Severn Valley ware (charcoal-tempered variant)	1	30	C1-C2

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Manor Farm	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2014 on land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. A total of four trenches was excavated.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation. A single sherd of 1st to 2nd century AD pottery was recovered from an alluvial deposit identified within Trenches 3 and 4.</p>	
Project dates	16-17 September 2014	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage desk-based assessment (CA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.36ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 9345 2482	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	none	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Jay Wood	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum CAGM 2014.3	Ceramics and animal bone.
Paper	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum CAGM 2014.3	Trench sheets and registers.
Digital	Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum CAGM 2014.3	Database, survey data and digital photos.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report <b>14420</b></p>		






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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village,  
 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 4999	DATE 22-09-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	<b>1</b>

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- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- badger exclusion zone



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village  
 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	4999	DATE	26-09-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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