

**Oldwalls
Holloway
Malmesbury
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Mrs Margaret Lufkin

CA Project: 5845
CA Report: 16228

May 2016



OLDWALLS HOLLOWAY MALMESBURY WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Oldwalls
Location: Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9353 8737
Type: Evaluation
Date: 25 and 26 April 2016
Planning Reference: 15/10317/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code: OLD 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of three trenches was excavated.

Evidence of modern truncation and subsequent ground make-up/levelling, possibly relating to the construction of a nearby 19th-century railway tunnel or, more likely, the construction of the existing domestic property was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Mrs Margaret Lufkin at Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury (centred on NGR: ST 9353 8737; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Wiltshire Council (WC (planning ref: 15/10317/FUL) for the erection of a single detached house within the garden of the existing property, known as Oldwalls.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.1ha in extent and comprises part of the garden of Oldwalls. The site lies at approximately 81m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with ground level sloping upwards from east to west. It is bounded by the B4040 (Holloway) to the south, an area of woodland on the bank of the River Avon to the north and by residential properties and gardens to the east and west.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone and Cornbrash Formation – Limestone of the Jurassic period (BGS 2016). No superficial deposits are noted within the proposed development area. Probable natural substrate, comprising compact yellow grey clay with limestone inclusions, was encountered in Trench 2 (see below).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Archaeological interest in the site arises primarily from its location, close to the line of Malmesbury town wall, parts of which are Scheduled (Wilts. 881). The site of the medieval East Gate (also known as the Holloway Gate) lies approximately 50m to the south-west of the proposed development area.
- 2.2 The archaeological, historical and topographical context of Malmesbury's defences has been described in detail in a report on the archaeological investigations of 1998-

2000 on the line of the town wall at Nun's Walk, to the south of the present site (Longman 2006). In summary; this work concluded that the defences originated as part of an Early Iron Age hillfort. Successive remodelling and enhancement of the defences occurred during the second half of the 1st millennium BC, and a complex sequence of ramparts was recorded during the investigations, along with evidence for external ditches. It is likely that this was associated with the elaboration of the defences around an entrance close to the site adopted for the medieval East Gate.

- 2.3 A further programme of archaeological recording, undertaken during the repair, restoration and reconstruction of a section of the town wall, approximately 200m to the south of the proposed development area, provided further evidence of the Iron Age defences and supported earlier findings that these had their origins in the Early Iron Age (Collard and Havard 2011).
- 2.4 Documentary evidence suggests that a monastery was founded at Malmesbury in the 7th century AD and it appears that the town had been fortified as an Anglo-Saxon burh by the late 9th century when it is recorded in the Burghal Hidage. The investigations at Nun's Walk indicated that the burh defences were remodelled in the 10th or 11th century AD by the addition of a substantial bank and ditch. Further enhancement of the defences occurred during the early 12th century AD with the construction of a stone wall, attributed to Bishop Roger of Sarum. Following a period of neglect at the end of the medieval period the defences were reconstructed during the Civil War before being slighted by parliamentary forces in 1646. In the later post-medieval period, the walls were rebuilt and altered on a piecemeal basis by individual property owners (Collard and Havard 2011).
- 2.5 The line of the now dismantled Malmesbury branch railway, first opened in 1877 and closed in 1963, runs approximately 40m to the south-west of the proposed development area and parts of the railway line embankment are still visible.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation has been

designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Wiltshire 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were originally intended to measure 10m in length and 1.8m in width. However, the size of the trenches was reduced from those set out within the WSI due to the presence of buried services and the depth of modern overburden encountered, with the approval of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. Trench 1 measured 2.5m in length and 1.3m in width, Trench 2 measured 2.7m in length and 1.3m in width, Trench 3 measured 4.1m in length and 1.3m in width. 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*.
- 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*.
- 4.3 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*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 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 Wiltshire Heritage 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 & 3)

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Probable natural substrate, 204, comprising compact yellow grey clay with limestone inclusions, was exposed in Trench 2 at a depth of 2.05m below the present ground level (bpgl). The depth of modern overburden along with the level nature and disturbed upper surface of the natural substrate suggested that it had been truncated by modern activity. It was overlain by a series of make-up/levelling deposits, 203, 202 and 201, all of which contained frequent modern brick and concrete fragments. The latest of these deposits, 201, was overlain by modern topsoil and turf.
- 5.3 The natural substrate was not exposed in the remaining two trenches due to the substantial depth of modern overburden encountered. Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.31m bpgl. The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was make-up/levelling deposit 106 which contained modern glass, concrete and wood. This was overlain by a series of further make-up/levelling deposits, 105, 104, 103, 102 and 101. The latest of these, 101, was overlain by modern topsoil and turf. Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.68m bpgl. The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was make-up/levelling deposit 302 which contained modern brick and concrete fragments along with three sherds of residual 12th to 13th-century pottery. Deposit 302 was overlain by a further make-up/levelling deposit, 301, from which a single sherd of residual 13th to 15th-century pottery was recovered. The foregoing deposits were sealed by modern topsoil and turf.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

Pottery

- 6.2 A total of four sherds of residual medieval pottery, weighing 89g, were recorded from modern make-up/levelling deposits 301 and 302 (appendix B). No county-wide pottery type currently exists for Wiltshire and, in its absence, codings taken from the Cirencester type series have been used.
- 6.3 All sherds are unfeatured and no rimsherds are present. A sherd in a coarse, sandy jug fabric with clear glaze was recorded from modern make-up/levelling deposit 301 and is dateable to the 13th to 15th centuries. One unfeatured base sherd of handmade Minety ware (**200**), a calcareous gravel-tempered fabric common to the area and dateable to the 12th to 13th centuries, was recorded from modern make-up/levelling deposit 302. Also from this deposit were two sherds in Cotswold-type oolitic limestone-tempered fabric (**202**). This type is also well known from the area and is dateable to the late 11th to 13th centuries.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 7.2 The substantial depths of modern overburden encountered during the evaluation, along with an absence of *in-situ* topsoil and subsoil deposits and the disturbed nature of the probable natural substrate identified in Trench 2, strongly suggest that the ground level across the proposed development area has been substantially reduced at some point in the past.
- 7.3 The exact cause of the truncation identified remains unclear. However, a tunnel for the Malmesbury branch railway is shown immediately to the south-west of the proposed development area on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map and it is possible that disturbance associated with its construction may have extended further into the proposed development area. However, the modern debris observed within the earliest make-up/levelling deposits in each of the excavated trenches

suggests that the truncation is more likely to have occurred during the construction of the existing property, located immediately to the east of the proposed development area, or during subsequent landscaping of its grounds.

- 7.4 Whatever the cause of the truncation encountered during the course of the evaluation, it is almost certain that any potential archaeological deposits, had they existed, would have probably been removed by this truncation.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Andrew Hurst. The report was written by Ray Holt. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 5 April 2016
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
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Cirencester, Cotswold Archaeological Trust

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil and turf	Dark grey brown sand silt	>2.5	>1.3	0.35	
1	101	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Mid yellow grey sand silt with frequent mortar and modern building rubble	>2.5	>1.3	0.2	
1	102	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Mid orange brown clay with frequent concrete fragments, modern glass and wood	>2.5	>1.3	0.7	
1	103	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Light yellow brown sand clay with frequent mortar fragments and modern building rubble	>2.5	>1.3	0.3	
1	104	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown sand clay with occasional concrete and modern glass fragments	>2.5	>1.3	0.35	
1	105	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Yellow sand silt with occasional wood and red brick fragments	>2.5	>1.3	0.25	
1	106	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Light grey brown clay silt with frequent modern glass, concrete and wood	>2.5	>1.3	>0.35	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil and turf	Dark grey brown sand silt	>2.7	>1.3	0.26	
2	201	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt clay containing modern brick and concrete fragments	>2.7	>1.3	0.59	
2	202	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Dark grey brown silt clay containing limestone fragments, charcoal and modern brick and concrete fragments	>2.7	>1.3	0.75	
2	203	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Light grey brown silt clay containing modern brick and concrete fragments	>2.7	>1.3	0.43	
2	204	Deposit		Probable natural substrate	Compact yellow grey clay with limestone inclusions, evidence of disturbance noted at surface of deposit	>2.7	>1.3	>0.43	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil and turf	Dark grey brown sand silt	>4.1	>1.3	0.25	
3	301	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Light grey brown silt clay containing frequent modern brick and concrete fragments	>4.1	>1.3	0.84	
3	302	Layer		Make-up/levelling	Dark grey brown silt clay containing modern brick and concrete fragments	>4.1	>1.3	0.76	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Code	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
301	medieval pottery	GI	1	10	C13-C15
302	medieval pottery	200	1	70	C12-C13
		202	2	9	

Fabric code table

Period	Code	Description
medieval	200	Limestone-tempered, Minety ware
	202	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered
	GI	coarse, sandy fabric with clear glaze

Codes in bold equate to Rigby's (1982) Cirencester type series

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. A total of three trenches was excavated.</p> <p>Evidence of modern truncation and subsequent ground make-up/levelling, possibly relating to the construction of a nearby 19th-century railway tunnel or, more likely, the construction of the existing domestic property was identified in all of the excavated trenches.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	25 and 26 April 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 9353 8737	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Pottery
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording sheets, photographic register, section drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16228		



**Cotswold
Archaeology**

t 01285 771022
f 01285 771033
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

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DRAWN BY RP
CHECKED BY LM
APPROVED BY SS

PROJECT NO. 5845
DATE 03.05.16
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- proposed building footprint
- evaluation trench
- section location

0 10m

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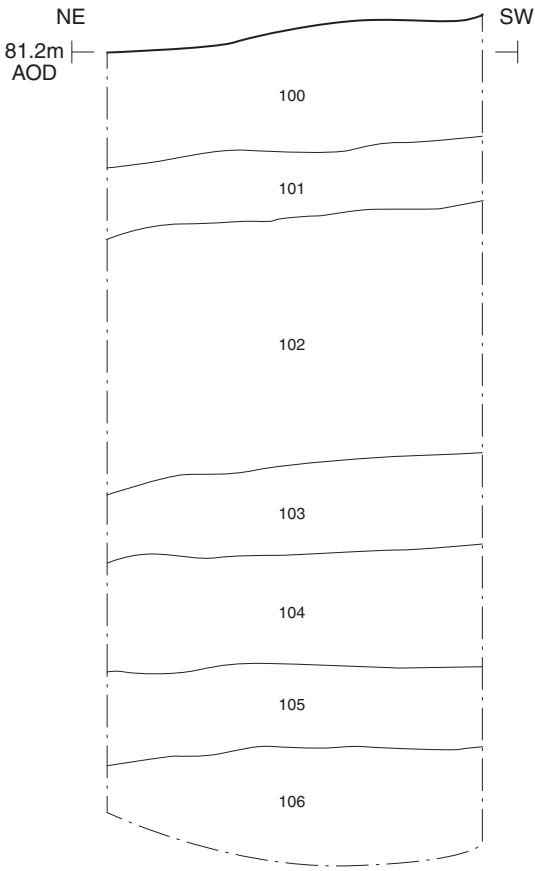
Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury,
Wiltshire

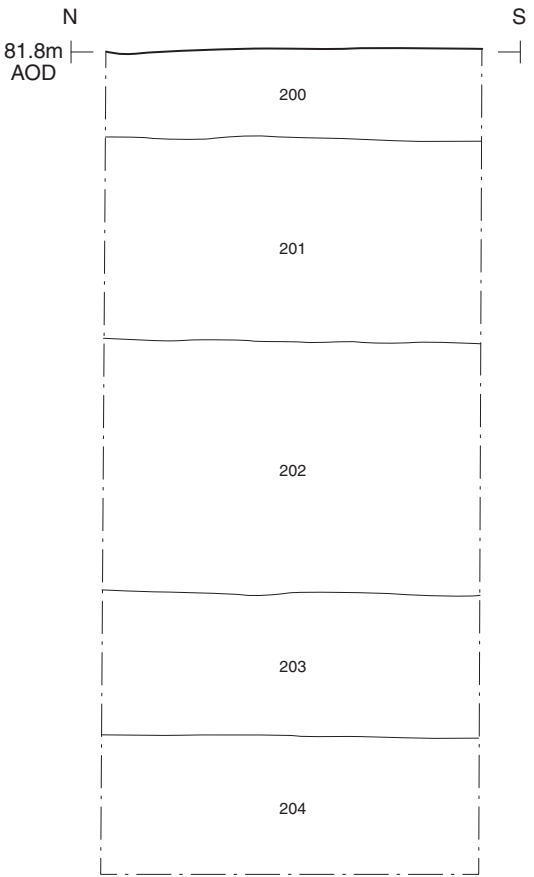
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

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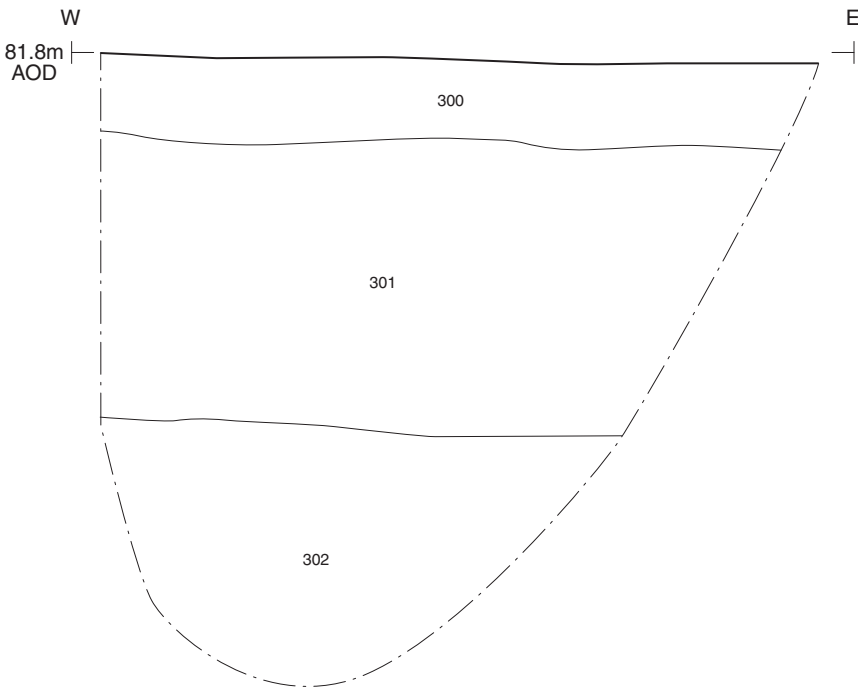
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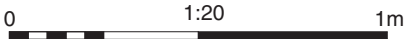
Section BB



Section CC



The site, showing Trench 3 in the foreground



 **Cotswold Archaeology**
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Oldwalls, Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1-3: Representative sections and general site photograph

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	5845	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	03.05.16	3
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660

