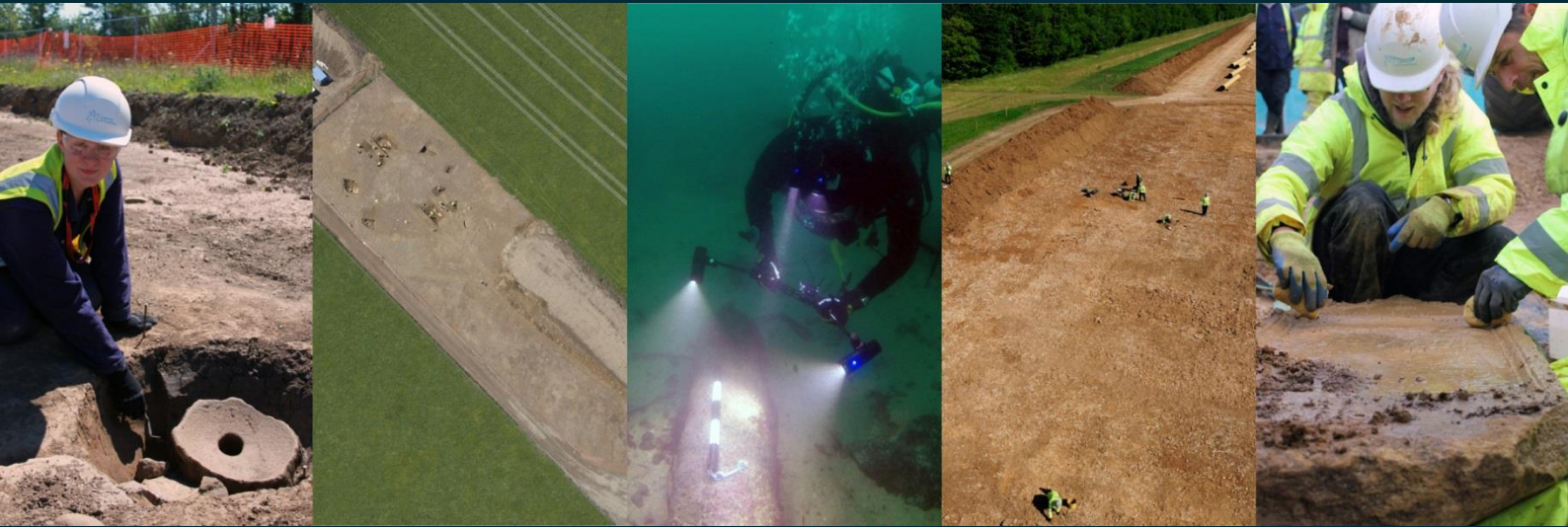


Land at Park Lane
Cherhill
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Cherhill Parish Council

CA Project: 6168
CA Report: 17134

March 2017



Land at Park Lane
Cherhill
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.	METHODOLOGY.....	5
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	6
6.	THE FINDS.....	7
7.	THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.....	7
8.	DISCUSSION.....	8
9.	CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
10.	REFERENCES.....	9
	APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	10
	APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	10
	APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and proposed design plans (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Trench 1: section (1:20) and photograph



Summary

Project Name:	Land at Park Lane, Cherhill
Location:	Cherhill, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 04096 70150
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	27-28 February 2017
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes
Site Code:	NVH 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2017 on land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.

A north/south aligned ditch containing medieval (11th to 15th-century) pottery was recorded towards the centre of the site, this was re-cut by a further ditch on a similar alignment, which contained further medieval (13th to 16th-century) pottery, animal bone and residual flint fragments. A deposit of chalk rubble, probably relating to the use or demolition of post-medieval buildings known to have previously existed within the site was also identified.

No further finds, feature or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Cherhill Parish Council on land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 04096 70150; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform an application for a Community Right to Build Order for the construction of a new village hall, associated car parking and amenities at the site, on the recommendation of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by TALITS (2016a) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 27 February 2017.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.44ha in extent, and comprises a single open field laid to rough pasture. It is bounded to the east by further agricultural land, to the north by the garden of a neighbouring residential property, to the west by Park Lane and to the south by the A4. The site lies at approximately 120m AOD, with the ground sloping slightly from north-east to south-west.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Chalk Formation and Zig Zag Chalk Formation formed during the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2017). Natural geological substrate comprising brown grey chalky clay and yellow grey chalk was identified in all trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has previously been subject to a Statement of Significance and Heritage Statement (JME Conservation Ltd 2017) and a geophysical survey (TALITS 2016b). The results of these studies are summarised below, along with pertinent publically available information.



- 2.2 No archaeological features are recorded within the proposed development site itself, however a number of archaeological remains are recorded in close proximity. These include the discovery of a complete Bronze Age Beaker recorded during the laying of a water pipe at Upper Farm, c. 200m to the north of the site, in 1927 (TALITS 2016a).
- 2.3 Cherhill Hill, which encompasses a hillfort and post-medieval white horse and obelisk is located c. 500m to the south of the site. The hillfort, Oldbury Castle, consists of a large, irregularly shaped bivallate Iron Age enclosure that developed from an earlier Bronze Age site (TALITS 2016a)
- 2.4 An evaluation at Bell Farm in 1996, located to the west of the site, revealed five ditches believed to date to the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. It is possible that the Roman features identified relate to the site of a villa located approximately 0.2km to the north of Bell Farm itself (TALITS 2016a).
- 2.5 The site is located to the south-east of the historic core of the village of Cherhill which has origins in the medieval period. The church of St James dates to the 12th-century and a number of later medieval and early post-medieval listed buildings are recorded on the Wiltshire HER. A book on the history of the Cherhill (*Blackford 1941*) contains a map reconstructing known buildings within the village in 1780. The map depicts two domestic buildings within the site, which are still shown on the Tithe Map of 1843 (JME 2017), but are not depicted by the time of the 1884 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (JME 2017).
- 2.6 Extensive ground disturbance is thought to have occurred in the north-western part of site during the modern period, during construction work associated with the raising and levelling of the A4 roadway immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of site.
- 2.7 A geophysical survey of the site undertaken in January 2016 (TALITS 2016b) found no evidence for archaeological features, with only known features, including a water pipeline, being recorded. Notably, there were no clear traces of the buildings known to have existed on the site from historic mapping.



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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information 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). Trenches 1 and 2 measured 20m in length and Trench 3 measured 25m in length; all trenches measured 1.8m in width. 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*, 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*.
- 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, Devizes, 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 Natural geological substrate comprising mixed brown grey chalky clay and yellow grey chalk was observed in all trenches at an average depth of 0.42m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural was overlain by silt clay subsoil in all trenches, which measured an average depth of 0.18m. The subsoil was in turn sealed by grey brown silty clay topsoil c. 0.2m in depth. No archaeological features were revealed in Trenches 2 or 3.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3 A north/south aligned ditch 1008, measuring 0.96m in width and 0.49m in depth was recorded cutting the natural substrate. It contained a single clay silt fill 1007 from which two sherds of pottery dating to the 11th to 15th-centuries were recovered along with fragments of animal bone. The ditch was re-cut on the same alignment by ditch 1006, which measured 1.58m in width and 0.5m in depth. The re-cut contained two fills, 1005 and 1004. The earlier fill, 1005, comprised grey brown clay silt and contained a single sherd of late 13th to 16th-century pottery. The later fill 1004, comprised brown grey silty chalk and contained six sherds of mid 12th to late 15th-century pottery, a single fragment of animal bone and three residual prehistoric worked flint flakes. The fills of these ditches were sealed by subsoil 1001.
- 5.4 A deposit of chalk rubble 1003 was identified at the north-western end of the trench. It overlay subsoil 1001 and sealed by topsoil 1000. This deposit, which extended beyond the limits of the trench, measured at over 6.8m in length and 1.8m in width and contained a single sherd of Yellow Slipware pottery of late 17th to 18th-century date.



6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was recovered from four deposits during the evaluation (three ditch fills and one chalk rubble layer). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and a detailed quantification of identified material is presented in Appendix B.

Pottery

Medieval

- 6.2 A total of six bodysherds (94g) of medieval pottery were recovered from ditches 1006 and 1008 within Trench 1. They were in moderate to good condition, in terms of abrasion and surface preservation. A sherd of Minety ware (MIN, North Wiltshire oolitic limestone-tempered ware), recovered from fill 1004 of ditch 1006, is of mid 12th to late 15th century date. A coarse, quartz-tempered fabric (MQZ) which occurs as bodysherds from deposits 1004, 1005 and 1007 is probably of a local type. It is similar to unglazed coarsewares produced at Nash Hill, Lacock, Wiltshire and dating in the 12th to 14th/15th century range is suggested.

Post-medieval

- 6.3 A bodysherd (23g) in yellow slipware (YSW) was retrieved in an unabraded condition from rubble layer 1003. This ware type dates to the late 17th to 18th centuries.

Lithics

- 6.4 Fill 1004 of ditch 1006 produced three flint flakes. They are broadly prehistoric in date but have likely been redeposited within a medieval feature.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A total of four fragments (416g) of animal bone were recovered from deposits 1004 and 1007, the fills of medieval ditches 1006 and 1008.

Animal Bone

- 7.1 In general, the animal bone was well preserved, making the identification of sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) possible from an isolated molar in deposit 1004 and horse (*Equus caballus*) from two metacarpals (a bone of the lower

forelimb) in deposit 1007. These species were commonly exploited as domesticated animals in this period (Baker and Worley, 2014), so their presence is to be expected. However due to the low recovery, there is no further interpretative inference to be made beyond species identification.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation identified a medieval ditch and post-medieval spread of chalk rubble, neither of which were identified by the preceding geophysical survey (TALITS 2016b).

Medieval

8.2 Ditches 1006 and 1008, identified in Trench 1, contained material dating to the late 11th to 16th-centuries and it is likely that these ditches relate to agricultural land management and/or division. The village of Cherhill is known to have origins in the medieval period, as evidenced by the 12th-century church of St James, located c. 250m north-west of site. Further medieval ditches have previously been recorded to the west of the site during evaluation at Bell Farm in 1996 (TALITS 2016a). The re-cutting of the ditch in Trench 1 is indicative of maintenance and suggests a sustained period of use.

Post-medieval

8.3 Chalk rubble layer 1003, identified at the north-western end of Trench 1, contained a single sherd of late 17th to 18th-century pottery. It is possible that this deposit relates to the domestic buildings recorded within the site on the 1843 Tithe Map and may be associated with their construction or demolition. No further evidence relating to the buildings was recorded by the geophysical survey or during the evaluation and it is likely they were been entirely removed in the modern period, possibly during construction work associated with the raising and levelling of the A4 roadway immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, assisted by Anthony Beechey. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were



prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Alex Thomson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Charlotte Haines and Steven Sheldon.

10. REFERENCES

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014 *Animal bones and archaeology: Guidelines for best practice* Swindon, English Heritage

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html accessed 1 March 2017

JME Conservation Ltd 2017 *Proposed Village Hall, Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire: Statement of Significance and Heritage Statement*

RPS Clouston 1996 *Bell Farm, Cherhill Wiltshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report*

TALITS 2016a *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of the New Village Hall Site at Cherhill, Wiltshire*

TALITS 2016b *Cherill New Village Hall: Geophysical Survey*, TALITS Report No. **1017.205**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay	>20	>1.8	0.2	Modern
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Brownish-grey silty-clay	>20	>1.8	0.19	
1	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brownish-grey chalky-clay and yellowish-grey chalky-clay	>20	>1.8		
1	1003	Layer		Chalk rubble	Light brownish-white chalk rubble in a silty-clay matrix	>6.8	>1.8	0.11	LC17-18th
1	1004	Fill	1006	Fill of ditch	Light brownish-grey silty-chalk	>2	1.06	0.16	
1	1005	Fill	1006	Fill of ditch	Dark greyish-brown clayey-silt	>2	1.58	0.35	
1	1006	Cut		Ditch re-cut	N/S aligned linear with moderately sloping sides and V-shaped base	>2	1.58	0.5	LC13-C16
1	1007	Fill	1008	Fill of ditch	Greyish-brown clayey-silt	>2	0.96	0.49	
1	1008	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned linear with steeply sloping sides and U-shaped base	>2	0.96	0.49	LC11-LC15
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay	>20	>1.8	0.2	Modern
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Brownish-grey silty-clay	>20	>1.8	0.17	
2	2002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brownish-grey chalky-clay and yellowish-grey chalky-clay	>20	>1.8		
3	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.21	Modern
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Brownish-grey silty-clay	>25	>1.8	0.18	
3	3002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light brownish-grey chalky-clay	>25	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1003	Post-medieval pottery	Yellow slipware	YSW	1	23	LC17-C18
1004	Medieval pottery	Lacock/Nash Hill ware	MQZ	2	11	MC12-C15
	Medieval pottery	Minety ware	MIN	1	7	
	Worked flint	Flake		3	24	
1005	Medieval pottery	Lacock/Nash Hill ware	MQZ	1	5	C12-C15
1007	Medieval pottery	Lacock/Nash Hill ware	MQZ	2	71	C12-C15

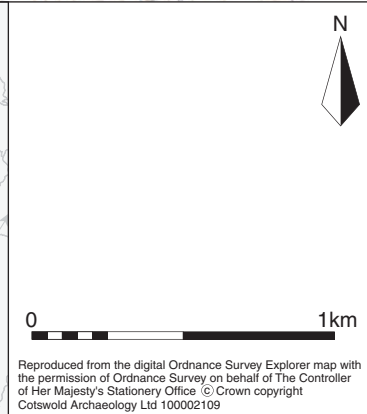
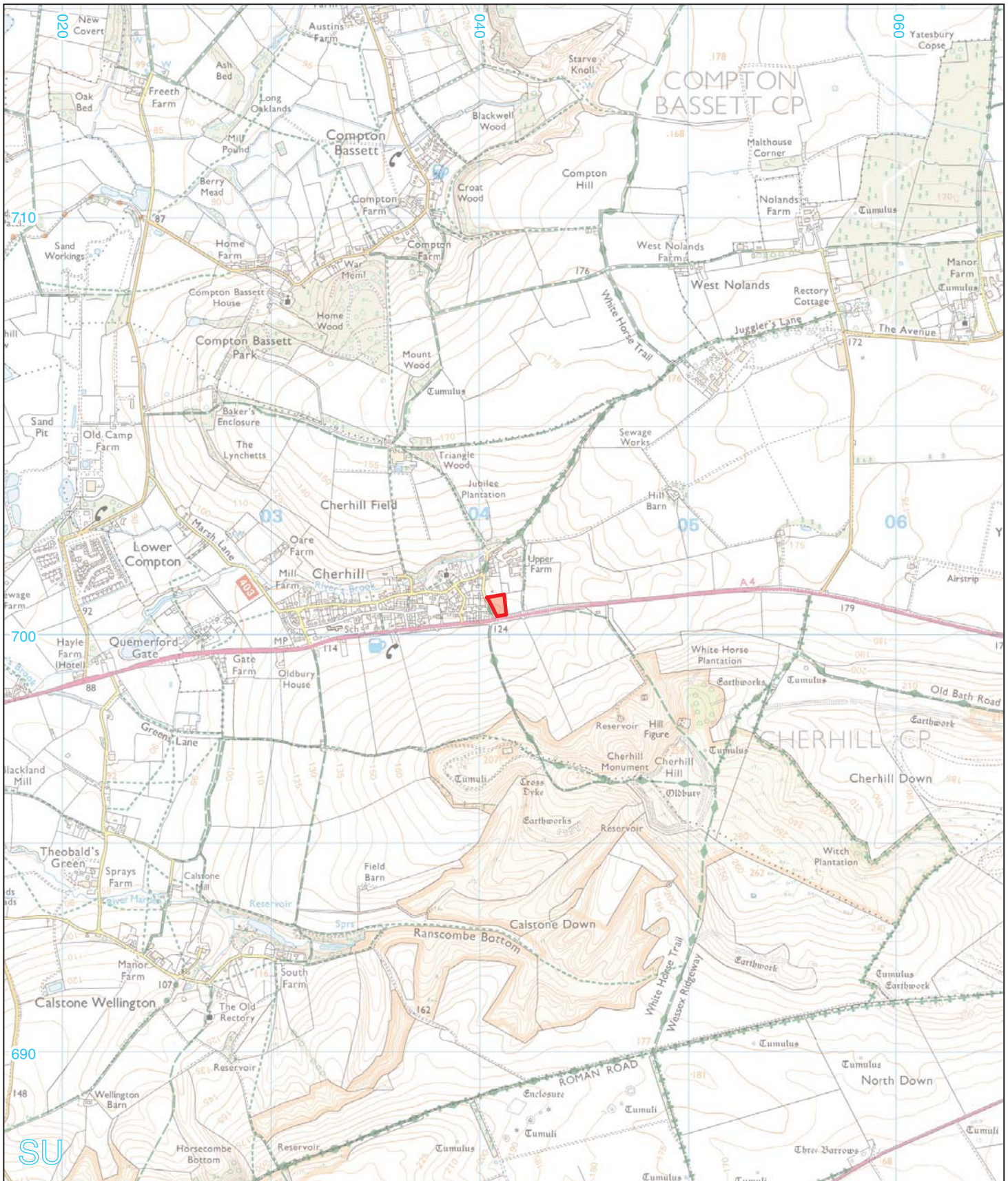
Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	O/C	EQ	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
1006	1004		1		1	2
1008	1007			2		2
Total			1	2	1	4
Weight			5	405	6	416

O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; Ind = indeterminate

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2017 on land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A north/south aligned ditch containing medieval (11th to 15th-century) pottery was recorded towards the centre of the site, this was re-cut by a further ditch on a similar alignment, which contained further medieval (13th to 16th-century) pottery, animal bone and residual flint fragments. A deposit of chalk rubble, probably relating to the use or demolition of post-medieval buildings known to have previously existed within the site was also identified.</p> <p>No further finds, feature or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	27-28 February 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (TALITS 2016) <i>Heritage Statement</i> (JME Conservation Ltd 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.44ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 04096 70150	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	TALITS	
Project Manager	Charlotte Haines and Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Pottery, animal bone, flint
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Context sheets, trench sheets, section drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17134		





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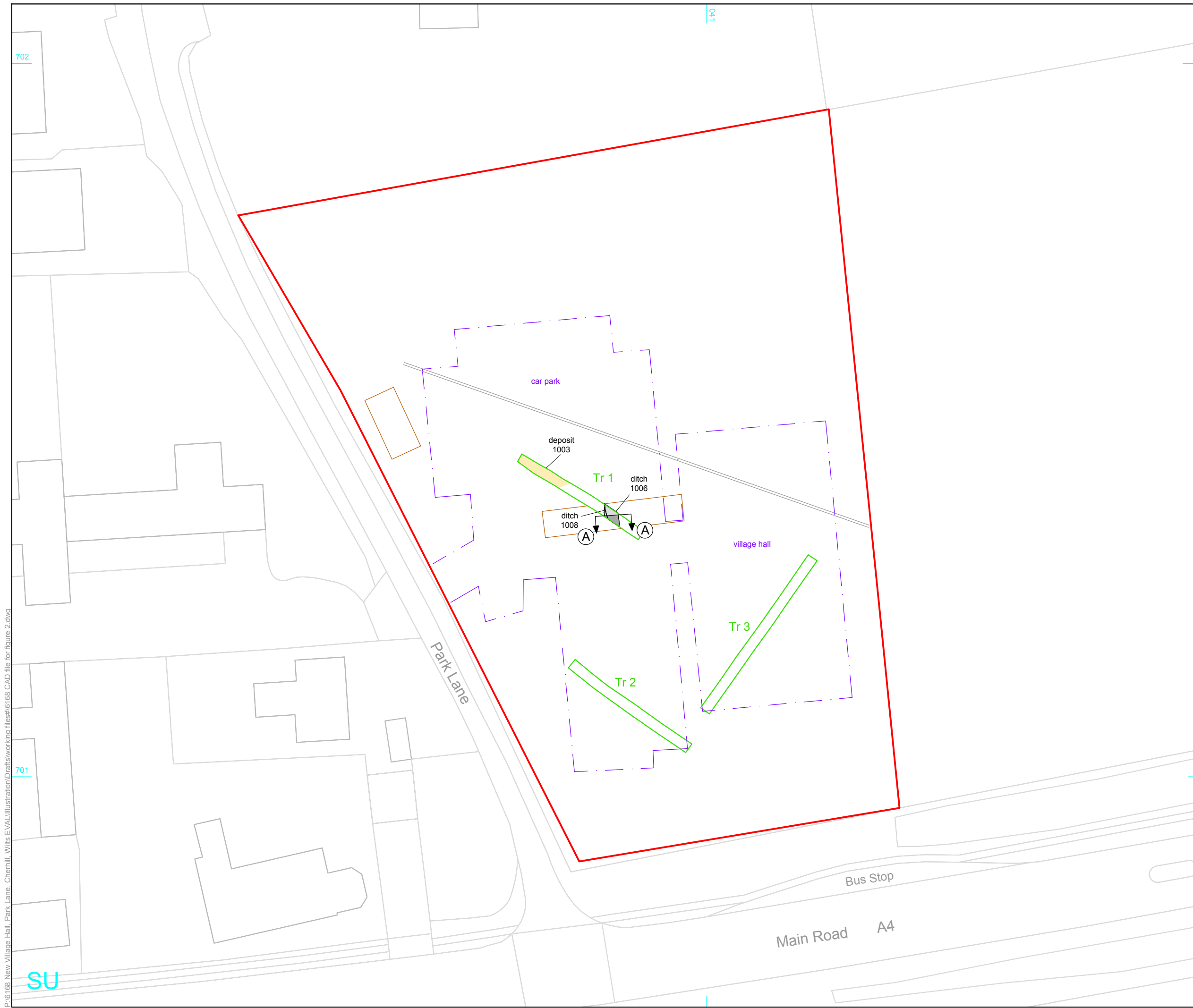
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Deposit
- Proposed car park and building footprint
- Buildings depicted on 1843 Tithe map
- Modern service
- ⓐ ↕ ⓐ Section location

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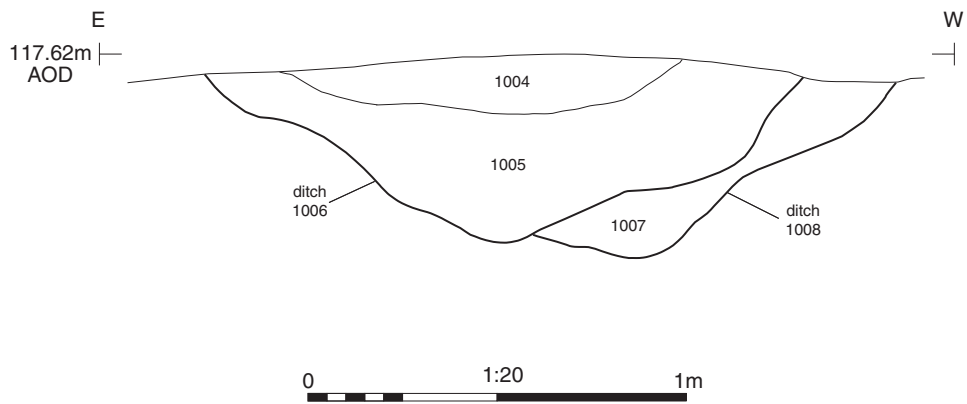
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Park Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features and proposed design plans

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Section AA



Trench 1, ditches 1006 and 1008 looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: section and photograph

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