



# Land off Oxford Road Calne Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for CgMs Consulting

on behalf of David Wilson Homes (South West)

CA Project: 6472 CA Report: 17755

January 2018



# Land off Oxford Road Calne Wiltshire

# Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6472 CA Report: 17755













	Document Control Grid								
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by			
А	16 January 2018	Peter Busby	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Cliff Bateman			

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

#### **CONTENTS**

SUMM	ARY	.2
1.	INTRODUCTION	.3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	.3
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	.4
4.	METHODOLOGY	.4
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)	.5
6.	THE FINDS	.7
7.	DISCUSSION	.7
8.	CA PROJECT TEAM	.9
9.	REFERENCES	.9
APPEN	IDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	.10
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 identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:1000)
- Fig. 3 Trenches 1 and 3: section (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 4 Trenches 4 and 6: sections (1:20) and photographs

#### **SUMMARY**

Project Name: Land off Oxford Road

**Location:** Calne, Wiltshire

**NGR:** 400601 172601

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date:** 18-20 December 2017

**Planning Reference:** Wiltshire Council 15/11230/OUT and 15/12431/OUT

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

Site Code: OXC 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2017 on land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire. A total of eight trenches was excavated.

A small pit/posthole containing a single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was identified cutting the natural substrate in a trench excavated in the northern third of the site. A further single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered as a residual find from the surface of a furrow also identified in this trench. An undated posthole, identified cutting the natural substrate in the central part of the site, may equally be of Roman date due to the similarity in its form and fill characteristics.

Evidence of agricultural practice, comprising the ploughed out remains of probable medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, was identified in the northern and central parts of the site. Two ditches, one of which contained a single sherd of pottery of 12th to 14th-century date, were identified cutting the subsoil in the northern part of the site and also seemingly relate to agricultural land management, drainage or division. These ditches may be associated with parts of the identified ridge and furrow field system due to their broadly similar alignment.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of David Wilson Homes (South West), on land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 400601 172601; Fig. 1). Outline planning permission for residential development with associated landscaping, parking, open space and new vehicular access has been granted by Wiltshire Council (WC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed (WC planning refs: 15/11230/OUT, condition 16 and 15/12431/OUT, condition 17). Following consultation between CgMs Consulting and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council it was determined that this would initially comprise geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation. The geophysical survey has previously been undertaken (SUMO Services Ltd 2017).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CgMs (2017) and with a subsequent *Method Statement* (MS) produced by CA (2017). Both documents were approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

## The site

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 2.5ha in extent and comprises two agricultural fields, currently under pasture. The site is bounded to the west by the A3102 (Oxford Road), to the south by an electricity sub-station, to the north by High Penn Lane and to the east by further agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 85m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2017). The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The development area has not been subject to archaeological desk-based assessment. However, a programme of archaeological work undertaken as part of

the North Calne Distributor Road development, located immediately to the west of the current site, revealed a highly truncated ditch and a holloway, both of which contained pottery of broad Roman date (CgMs 2017). Although limited in nature, the evidence obtained from these works suggests the presence of Roman activity in the vicinity (*ibid*.).

2.2 The current site is located *c*.165m to the south-east of the deserted medieval village of Beversbrook. This site is a Scheduled Monument (*Medieval Settlement 520m North-East of Lower Beaversbrook Farm*: National Monument 31656). A programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching, undertaken immediately to the south and east of the current site, revealed only limited evidence of probable agricultural activity of uncertain and post medieval date (*ibid.*).

## Geophysical survey

2.3 The preceding geophysical survey (SUMO Services Ltd 2017) of the current site identified several weak linear trends of uncertain origin and a number of ferrous responses, likely to be of modern origin. No anomalies of definite archaeological origin within identified.

#### 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 eight trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 2 and 3 were moved from their original position, as set out in the MS, due

to the presence of a modern service. All 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 The 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 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 2-4)

- 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 In all of the excavated trenches the natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay, was recorded at a depth of between 0.42m and 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, measuring between 0.14m and 0.25m in thickness. In Trenches 1-4 and 6 the subsoil was cut by a series of plough furrows, all of which contained similar light silt clay fills. These measured up to 1.9m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.11m. In Trench 1 the plough furrows were aligned north-west/south-east, in Trench 2 the plough furrows were aligned broadly north-east/south-west, whereas in

Trenches 3, 4 and 6 the plough furrows were aligned broadly north/south. A single sherd of residual pottery of broad Roman date was recovered from the surface of fill 406 within furrow 407, identified in Trench 4. The fills of the furrows were sealed by between 0.2m and 0.28m thickness of topsoil.

5.3 In Trenches 1-3 and 5-8 a number of modern field drains were noted. These contained distinctive mixed fills, often including large pieces of re-deposited natural clay, and where tested, plastic drain pipes were normally encountered at depths of 0.5m or more below the level of the natural substrate.

#### Trench 1

5.4 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 105 was identified cutting the subsoil towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It measured 0.55m in width, 0.18m in depth, had a shallow flat-based profile and contained a single undated fill, 104.

#### Trench 3

North-west/south-east aligned ditch 305 (Fig. 3, section AA) was identified cutting the subsoil at the north-western end of the trench. It measured more than 0.8m in width, 0.2m in depth, had a shallow flat-based profile and contained a single fill, 304, from which a single sherd of 12th to 14th-century pottery was recovered.

## Trench 4

5.6 Small sub-oval pit/posthole 405 (Fig. 4, section BB) was identified cutting the natural substrate towards the centre of the trench. It measured 0.33m in length, 0.29m in width, had a shallow flat-based profile and contained a single fill, 404, from which a single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date was recovered.

#### Trench 6

5.7 Small sub-circular posthole 605 (Fig. 4, section CC) was identified cutting the natural substrate towards the south-eastern end of the trench. It measured 0.43m in length, 0.38m in width, had a steep-sided profile and a concave base and contained two undated fills, 604 and 606. The primary fill of this posthole, 604, comprised dark grey-brown silt clay and may represent a post-pipe.

#### 6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from four deposits (the fills of a pit/posthole, a furrow, a ditch and a field drain). The recovered material dates to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) have been devised for this report.

## Pottery: Roman

6.2 Pottery, only broadly datable to the Roman period, comprises two unfeatured bodysherds (4g): one in a greyware fabric from fill 406 of furrow 407 and one in a black-firing, sand-tempered fabric from fill 404 of pit/posthole 405.

#### Medieval

An unfeatured bodysherd (8g) from fill 304 of ditch 305 is in a hard-firing fabric, tempered with abundant quartz. This sherd is heavily abraded, with poor surface preservation. It is, however, likely to represent Scratch-marked ware, which is particularly common in southeast Wiltshire and dates to the 12th to 14th-century (Mepham 1993, 108).

#### Post-medieval

6.4 Fill 504 of modern field drain 505 produced an unfeatured bodysherd (1g) of white salt-glazed stoneware of 18th-century date.

#### Other finds

6.5 Also from modern field drain fill 504 is a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (2g), which is broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th-centuries.

#### 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has identified a only small number of archaeological features within the development area.
- 7.2 Where archaeological features were encountered there was a poor correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (SUMO Services Ltd 2017). The majority of features located in Trenches 1-4 and 6 were not identified by the geophysical survey, with the exception of a furrow corresponding to a linear anomaly identified in Trench

- 2. However, in the case of the majority of furrows identified in these trenches, it is likely that the similarity of their fill to the subsoil within the excavated trenches may have prevented their detection. Additionally, the targeting of geophysical anomalies within Trenches 5 and 7 revealed no archaeological features, although observed changes in the natural substrate in Trench 7 may explain at least some of the ditch-like anomalies.
- 7.3 Pit/posthole 405, identified in Trench 4, was demonstrably sealed by subsoil and contained a single sherd of pottery of broad Roman date; however the highly limited quantity of artefactual material recovered from this feature does not preclude the possibility that it is residual. It remains possible that similar, albeit undated, posthole 605 identified in Trench 6 is at least broadly contemporary as it was similarly sealed by subsoil. A further single sherd of residual pottery of broad Roman date was recovered from the surface of furrow 407, identified in Trench 4. Limited archaeological evidence suggesting the presence of Roman activity in the surrounding area, has previously been identified to the west of the current site (see archaeological background above) and the results of the current works appear to add further credence to this suggestion despite their equally limited nature. However, they do little to clarify the nature or extent of any postulated contemporary settlement due primarily to the limited number and isolated nature of the potential Roman features identified.
- 7.4 Evidence of agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow field systems, was identified in Trenches 1-4 and 6, cutting the subsoil. The available evidence therefore suggests that the current site lay within the agricultural hinterland of the settlements of Beversbrook or Calne during the medieval period.
- 7.5 A single sherd of 12th to 14th-century pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch 305, identified cutting the subsoil in Trench 3 and it is possible that artefactually undated ditch 105, identified in Trench 1, may be at least broadly contemporary as it was similarly shown to cut the subsoil. The limited quantity of artefactual material recovered from these ditches suggests that they are set away from any focus of settlement, and are perhaps most likely to be associated with agricultural land management, drainage or division. It is therefore possible that they are associated with part of the identified ridge and furrow field system exposed in Trench 1 due to their broadly similar alignment. Neither ditch appears to correlate to any field boundary depicted by available historic mapping suggesting that the field system in

the area was changed prior to the production of the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map, presumably as a result of enclosure during the post-medieval/modern periods.

#### 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Nathan Chinchen. The report was written by Peter Busby. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

#### 9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer\_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 8
  January 2017
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation
- CgMs 2017 Land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation
- Graham, A. H. and Davies, S. M. 1993 Excavations in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1977 and 1986 1988. Wessex Archaeology Report No. **2**. Salisbury
- Mepham, L. 1993 'Pottery' in. Graham, A. H. and Davies, S. M. 1997, 101-14
- SUMO Services Ltd 2017 Land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report, SUMO Job Ref. 11823

# **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.25	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.2	
1	103	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.1	
1	104	Fill	105	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 105, light yellow brown silt clay	>2	0.55	0.18	
1	105	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, shallow flat- based profile	>2	0.55	0.18	
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.25	
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.2	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.15	
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.2	
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.25	
3	303	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.15	
3	304	Fill	305	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 305, light yellow brown silt clay	>4.5	>0.8	0.2	C12-C14
3	305	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, shallow flat- based profile	>4.5	>0.8	0.2	
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.2	
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.3	
4	403	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.15	
4	404	Fill	405	Fill	Single fill of pit/posthole 405, mid grey brown silt clay	0.33	0.29	0.04	RB
4	405	Cut		Pit/posthole	Small sub-oval pit/posthole, shallow flat-based profile	0.33	0.29	0.04	
4	406	Fill	407	Furrow fill	Single exposed fill of furrow 407	>2	1.1	-	
4	407	Cut		Furrow	NE/SW aligned furrow	>2	1.1	-	
5	501	Layer	1	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.25	ļ
5	502	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.2	
5	503	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.15	
5	504	Fill		Fill	Single fill of modern field drain 505, orange brown silt clay	>2	0.5	0.4	
5	505	Cut		Modern field drain	NE/SW aligned, vertical sides and flat base	>2	0.5	0.4	
6	601	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.21	
6	602	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.23	
6	603	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.11	
6	604	Fill	605	Fill	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of posthole 605, dark grey-brown silt clay	0,.45	0.2	0.14	
				1				•	

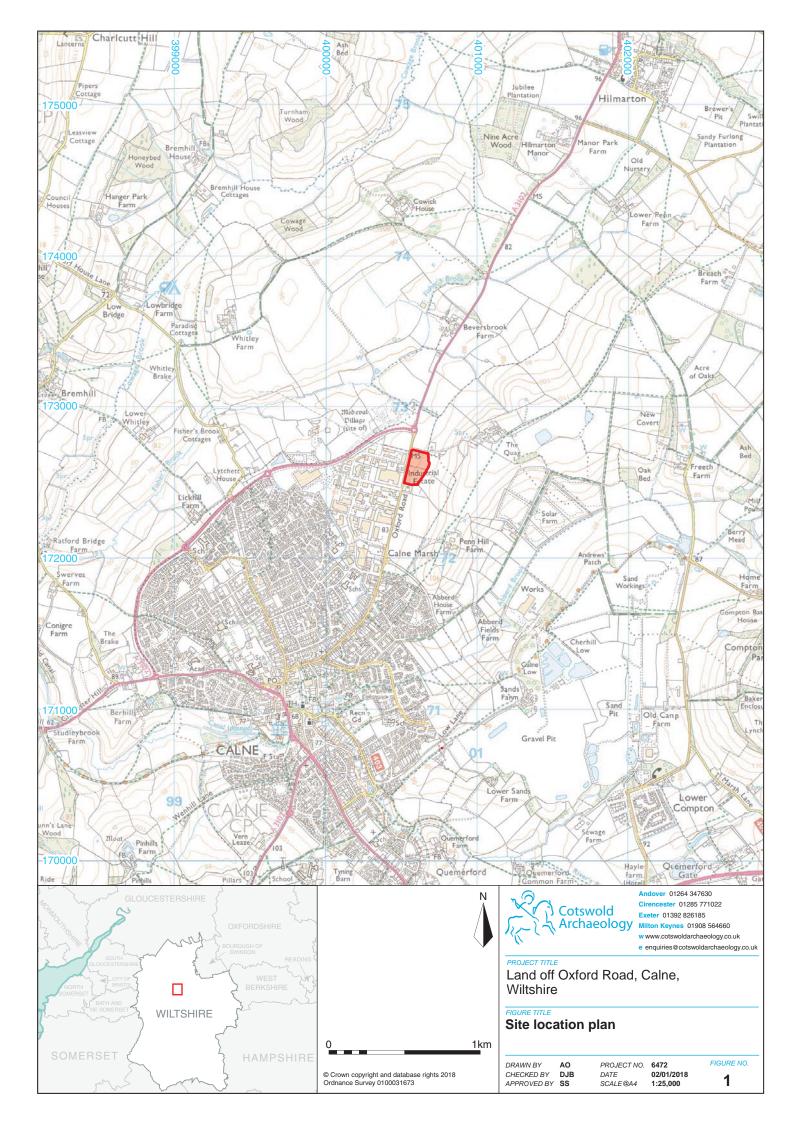
					steep sides and flat base				
6	606	Fill	605	Fill	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of posthole 605, light grey brown silt clay	0.43	0.17	0.15	
7	701	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.27	
7	702	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>8.5	>1.8	016	
7	703	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches and bands of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.06	
8	801	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.28	
8	802	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silt clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>30	>1.8	0.14	
8	803	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact orange-brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>1.8	>0.12	

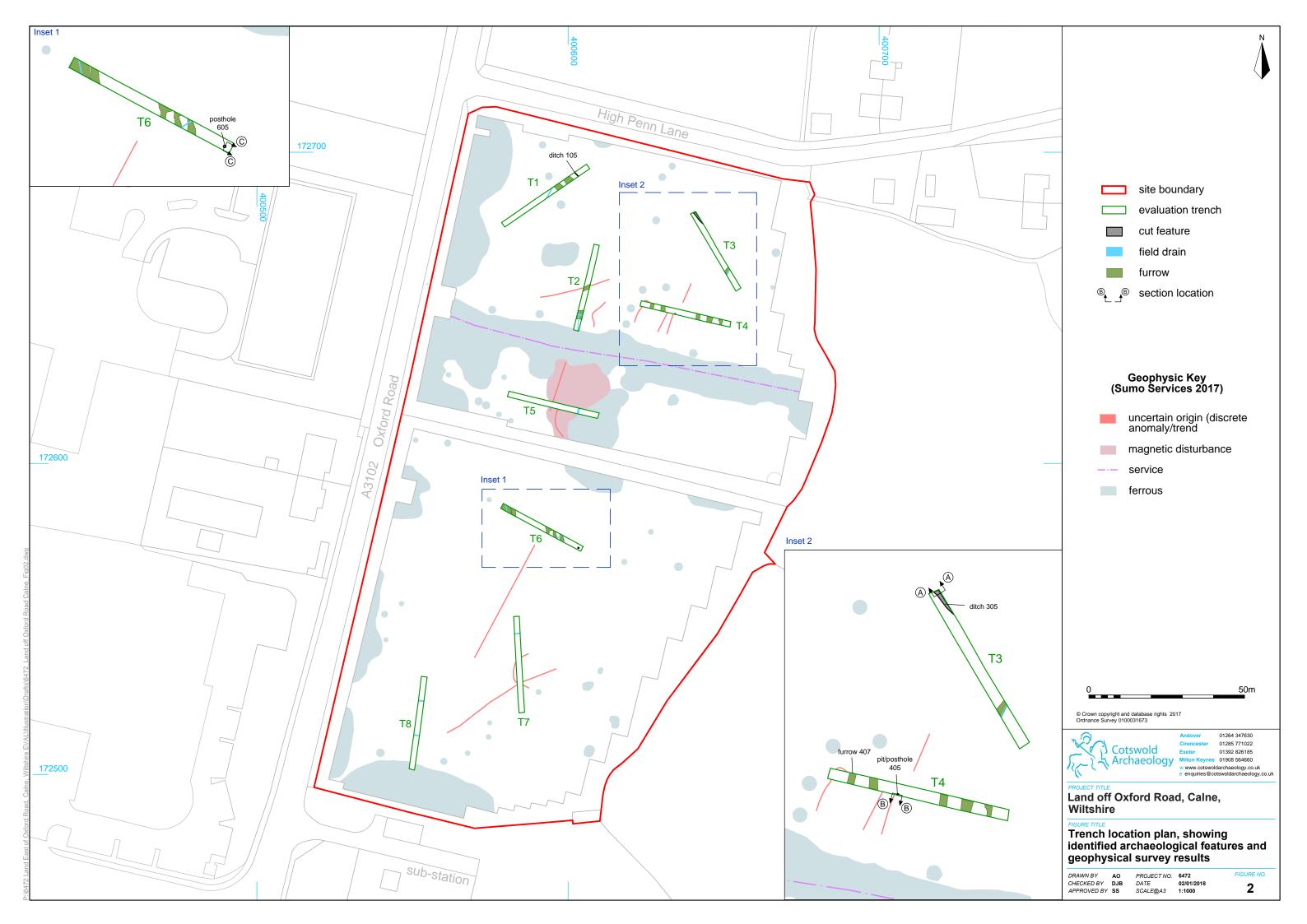
# **APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	Medieval pottery	Scratch-marked ware	SMW	1	8	C12-C14
404	Roman pottery	Black-firing, quartz-tempered fabric	BS	1	1	RB
406	Roman pottery	Greyware	GW	1	3	RB
504	Post-medieval pottery	White salt-glazed stoneware	WSS	1	1	C18
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		1	2	

# **APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

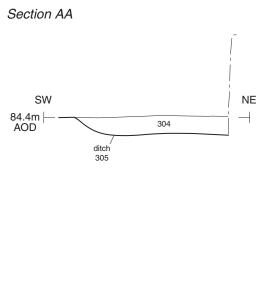
Project Name	Land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshir	re				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was					
·	Archaeology in December 2017 on	land off Oxford Road, Calne				
	Wiltshire. A total of eight trenches was	s excavated.				
	A small pit/posthole containing a sin	gle sherd of pottery of broad				
	Roman date was identified cutting the					
	excavated in the northern third of the					
	pottery of broad Roman date was rec					
	the surface of a furrow also identified					
	posthole, identified cutting the natura of the site, may equally be of Roman					
	form and fill characteristics.	date due to the similarity in its				
	Evidence of agricultural practice, of					
	remains of probable medieval/post cultivation, was identified in the nort					
	site. Two ditches, one of which conta					
	of 12th to 14th-century date, were in					
	the northern part of the site an	d also seemingly relate to				
	agricultural land management, draina					
		may be associated with parts of the identified ridge and furrow field				
Danie et dete e		system due to their broadly similar alignment.				
Project dates		18-20 December 2017				
Previous work	oject type Field evaluation evious work Geophysical survey (SUMO Services Ltd 2017)					
Future work		Unknown				
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshir	re				
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	c. 2.5ha					
Site co-ordinates	400601 172601					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon					
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby					
MONUMENT TYPE		None				
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	Contont				
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive:	Content:				
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Pottery, clay tobacco				
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording forms,				
		context sheets, permatrace drawings.				
		permatrace drawings, photographic registers				
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photographs				
BIBLIOGRAPHY	<b>9</b>	1 0 1 222 9 24 2				







Ditch 105, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



1:20



Ditch 305, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



3

PROJECT TITLE
Land off Oxford Road, Calne,
Wiltshire

Trenches 1 and 3: section and photographs

DRAWN BY AO
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY SS PROJECT NO. 6472 DATE 02/01/2018 SCALE@A3 NA

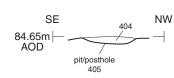


Pit/posthole 405, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

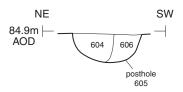


Posthole 605, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

# Section BB



# Section CC





Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660

Land off Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire

Trenches 4 and 6: sections and photographs

DRAWN BY AO
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY SS

PROJECT NO. 6472 DATE 08/01/2018 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

