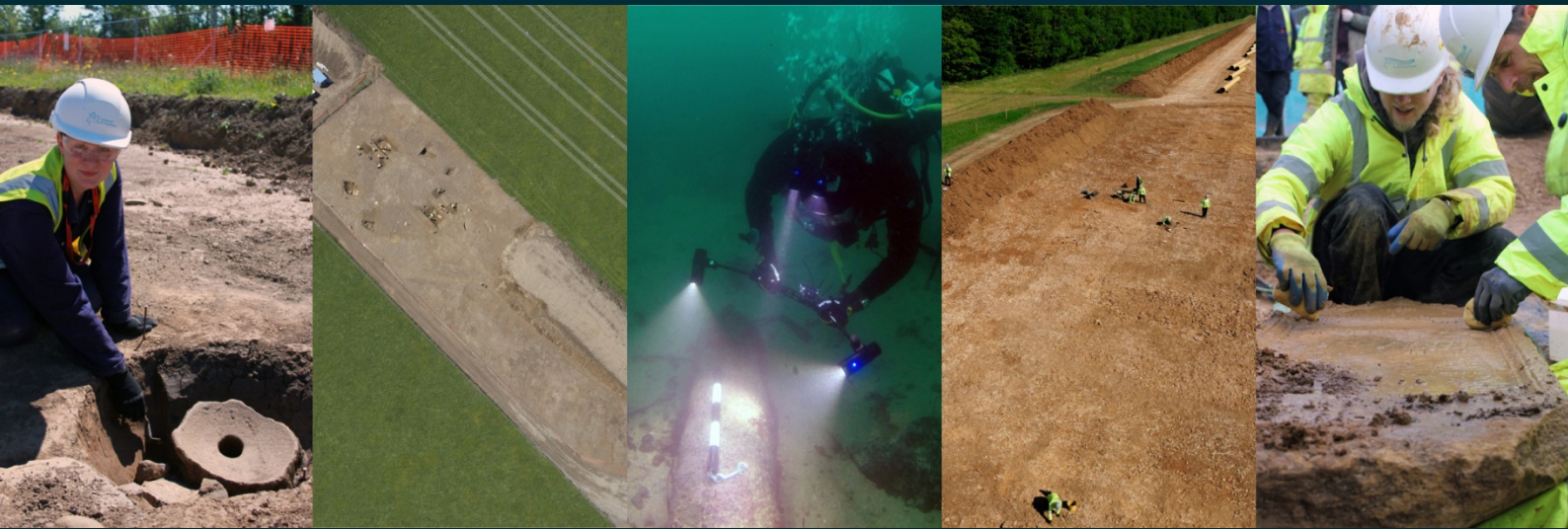


Malmesbury Garden Centre Crudwell Road, Malmesbury Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Aldi Stores Ltd

CA Project: 6784
CA Report: 18547

November 2018



Malmesbury Garden Centre
 Crudwell Road, Malmesbury
 Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6784
 CA Report: 18547



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	19 November 2018	Mark Brett	Richard Young	Draft		Laurie Coleman
B	11 December 2018	Mark Brett	Richard Young	Final	Consultant comment	Laurie Coleman

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

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	7
6. THE FINDS	8
7. DISCUSSION.....	8
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
10. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	11
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	12
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	13

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological feature and previous evaluation trenches (1:1000 and 1:200)
- Fig. 3 Pit 502; photograph and section (1:20)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Malmesbury Garden Centre
Location:	Malmesbury, Wiltshire
NGR:	Centred on 394000 188477
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	24 October 2018
Planning Reference:	Wiltshire Council planning ref. 18/06980/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code:	MALG 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2018 at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a single truncated pit which contained a number of sherds of early Roman pottery.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Aldi Stores Ltd at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 394000 188477; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a hybrid planning application made to Wiltshire Council (WC: 18/06980/FUL) for Full Approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a Class A1 Foodstore with associated access, car parking and landscaping, and Outline Approval for a replacement garden centre and/or Class B1/B2/B8 Employment uses.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a recommendation by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018a) and approved by Mrs Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

1.3 A parcel of land in the north-western corner of the site measuring c. 0.8ha (centred at NGR: 393974 188456) is the subject of the full application, with the remainder of the total site area of 3.59ha forming the outline application area. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the small parcel of land (see Figs 1 & 2). The parcel of land subject to the current archaeological works comprises storage areas associated with Malmesbury Garden Centre. It is bounded to the north by agricultural land, to the east by rough grassland, to the south by the garden center itself and to the west by the A429, Crudwell Road. The site lies at approximately c. 90m AOD, and is broadly flat.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaway Clay Member, sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018). The natural clay substrate was encountered within each trench.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has been the subject of a recent Heritage Assessment (CA 2018b). This study follows an earlier desk-based assessment (WYG 2011) and trial trench evaluation (CA 2012) relating to a previous planning application for development of the site (WC ref: N/11/04092/OUT). The results of these studies are briefly outlined below:

Prehistoric

2.2 Neolithic occupation within the vicinity of the site is attested to by flintwork finds, including two flint flakes found c. 660m to the east of the site near Charlton Bridge (CA 2018b), and a small assemblage of unstratified Neolithic worked flint recovered during excavations at Whychurch Farm c. 400m to the west of the site (CA 2017).

2.3 The earliest phase of settlement identified at Whychurch Farm was represented by two Beaker period (Early Bronze Age) pits containing large quantities of domestic pottery and struck flint. Occupation at this site appears to have continued into the Middle and Later Bronze Age, with remains of these periods comprising post-built structures, pit clusters, and a possible field system (ibid.).

2.4 Additionally, two possible Bronze Age round barrows have been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs located c. 610m and c. 670m to the north-east of the site (CA 2018b).

2.5 An Early/Middle Iron Age ditch was also recorded at Whychurch Farm (CA 2014), and within the wider landscape, excavations within Malmesbury have demonstrated that the modern town, situated over 1km to the south of the site, is likely to have been established on the site of an Iron Age hillfort (BARAS 2002; Collard and Havard 2011).

Roman

2.6 Substantial evidence for Roman settlement within the vicinity of the site was recorded near Marsh Farm, c. 210m to the east, during investigations along the route of the Easton Grey to Minety pipeline (CA 2004; Hart *et al.* 2005). Geophysical survey, fieldwalking and excavations on this site identified a stone built villa house, a possible second building, and a complex of ditched enclosures and trackways. Based on the pottery finds, the villa complex appeared to have dated to

the 3rd or 4th century AD, although was suggested to have replaced an earlier, timber-built structure (CA 2018b).

- 2.7 Limited evidence for Roman settlement has also been identified within the historic core of Malmesbury (ibid) including during excavations at Tetbury Hill, 1.3km to the west of the current site, where the remains of agricultural enclosures and buildings were recorded (CA 2015).

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.8 The recording of *Caesterbroke*, meaning ‘the brook of the Roman fort or station’, in a Saxon charter of AD 681 has been suggested to refer to the Roman villa identified near Marsh Farm, and may therefore imply that the use of this site continued into the Early medieval period (CA 2018b).
- 2.9 Malmesbury was founded as a religious school in the late 7th century, and is first recorded as *Mealdumesburg* in AD 675 (ibid.). The town went on to become a Saxon burh and medieval borough town, surrounded by a defensive earth bank. Much of the land surrounding the town was held by Malmesbury Abbey throughout the early medieval and medieval periods, and is likely to have been under agricultural use (Baggs *et al.* 1991).
- 2.10 A medieval settlement at Filands c. 50m to the west of the site, is recorded on documentary sources as *Fulinge* in AD 1194 (ibid.) and other settlements of medieval origin are known at Milbourne, c. 650m to the south-east of the site, and at Whychurch Farm, c. 400m to the south. The site is likely to have been situated within the agricultural hinterland of these settlements during the medieval period; a series of former field boundaries and ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date have been identified on aerial photographs within the site. However, no extant earthworks were identified during a site visit undertaken as part of the Heritage Assessment (CA 2018b).

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.11 The study area retained a predominantly agricultural character throughout the post-medieval and early modern periods. The earliest available cartographic depiction of the site is the Andrew’s and Drury’s map of 1773, on which a curvilinear field boundary is shown to bisect the site. The 1842 Malmesbury Tithe map depicts the site within four irregular fields, but by the time of the 1885 First Edition Ordnance

Survey map the fields are shown to have been amalgamated into a single enclosure. No notable changes are shown to have occurred within the site throughout the 20th century, prior to the establishment of the existing garden centre in 1989 (ibid.).

- 2.12 The evaluation undertaken at the site in 2012 identified a single post-medieval drainage ditch and an undated ploughing headland (CA 2012).

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* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered 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 *Revised National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 5 trenches (numbered 1-5), each 10m long and 1.5m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (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*.
- 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 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 The general stratigraphy encountered throughout Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 comprised the natural clay substrate overlain directly by modern stone and hardcore deposits associated with the use of the site for storage. In Trenches 4 and 5 the natural clay was separated from the overlying modern deposits by geotextile membrane. In Trench 3, the natural substrate was overlain by a layer of clay interpreted as buried topsoil, which was in turn overlain by geotextile and modern surface material.
- 5.3 A single archaeological feature was identified in Trench 5 and is described below. The remaining trenches contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.4 Pit 502 was identified at the southern end of the trench, where it extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation. The exposed part of the feature was irregular in shape and measured at least 2.8m in length and 1.45m in width. It was 0.25m deep, with a moderately sloping western side and a flattish base. It contained a single silty clay fill, 503, from which seven sherds of late 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery were recovered.
- 5.5 Pit 502 and the natural clay substrate throughout the remainder of the trench were covered by geotextile membrane overlain by modern hardcore surface material 501.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material dating to the Roman period was hand-recovered from the fill of the single pit identified during the evaluation. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric (Appendix B) and the fabric codes have been created for the purpose of this report.

Pottery

- 6.2 Pottery totals seven sherds (22g) from fill 503 of pit 502. Two fabrics are represented – a black-firing, sandy-tempered fabric (BS) and a vesicular fabric tempered with sparse organic material (LSO). The vesicles in the latter fabric are likely to have resulted from the leaching of calcareous inclusions such as limestone. The pottery is likely to date to the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Pit 502, which contained pottery dated to the late 1st to 2nd centuries, appears to pre-date the main phase of occupation of the nearby villa complex, which dated to the 3rd or 4th centuries AD. Although the presence of a timber-built precursor to the villa was suggested during investigations of the villa (CA 2004), Pit 502 is unlikely to be directly related to activity within or around the villa, but it does attest to activity of this date in the wider area. The shape of the feature and its location within the Lias clay geology suggests that it may have been dug to extract the clay.
- 7.2 With the exception of the area where Trench 3 was located, the site has obviously been stripped down to the natural substrate in relatively recent times in order to level the site prior to laying the stone and hardcore surface material to provide storage areas for the garden centre. The fact the geotextile membrane had been placed directly upon the level upper surface of the natural substrate may indicate a degree of truncation associated with the modern activity. The exception was in Trench 3 where the original topsoil survived underneath the modern surface material.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Dan White. The report was written by Mark Brett. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The

illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

10. REFERENCES

BARAS (Bristol and Region Archaeological Services) 2002 *Post-Excavation Assessment Report of the Excavation at St Joseph's Primary School, Malmesbury.*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 15 October 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *A New Roman Villa Near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.* Report ref. **04180**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Malmesbury Garden Centre, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* Report ref. **12049**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* Report ref. **14576**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation.* Report ref. **16721**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018a *Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018b *Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Heritage Assessment.* Report ref: **18206**

Collard, M. and Hart, J., 2011 'The prehistoric and medieval defences of Malmesbury: archaeological investigations at Holloway, 2005-2006' in *WANHM* **104**, 79-94

Hart, J., Collard, M. and Holbrook, N. 2005 'A New Roman Villa near Malmesbury' in *WANHM* **98**, 297-306

MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2018 *Revised National Planning Policy Framework*

WYG, 2011 *Proposed mixed-use development, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury: Archaeology and Heritage Desk-Based Assessment.*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

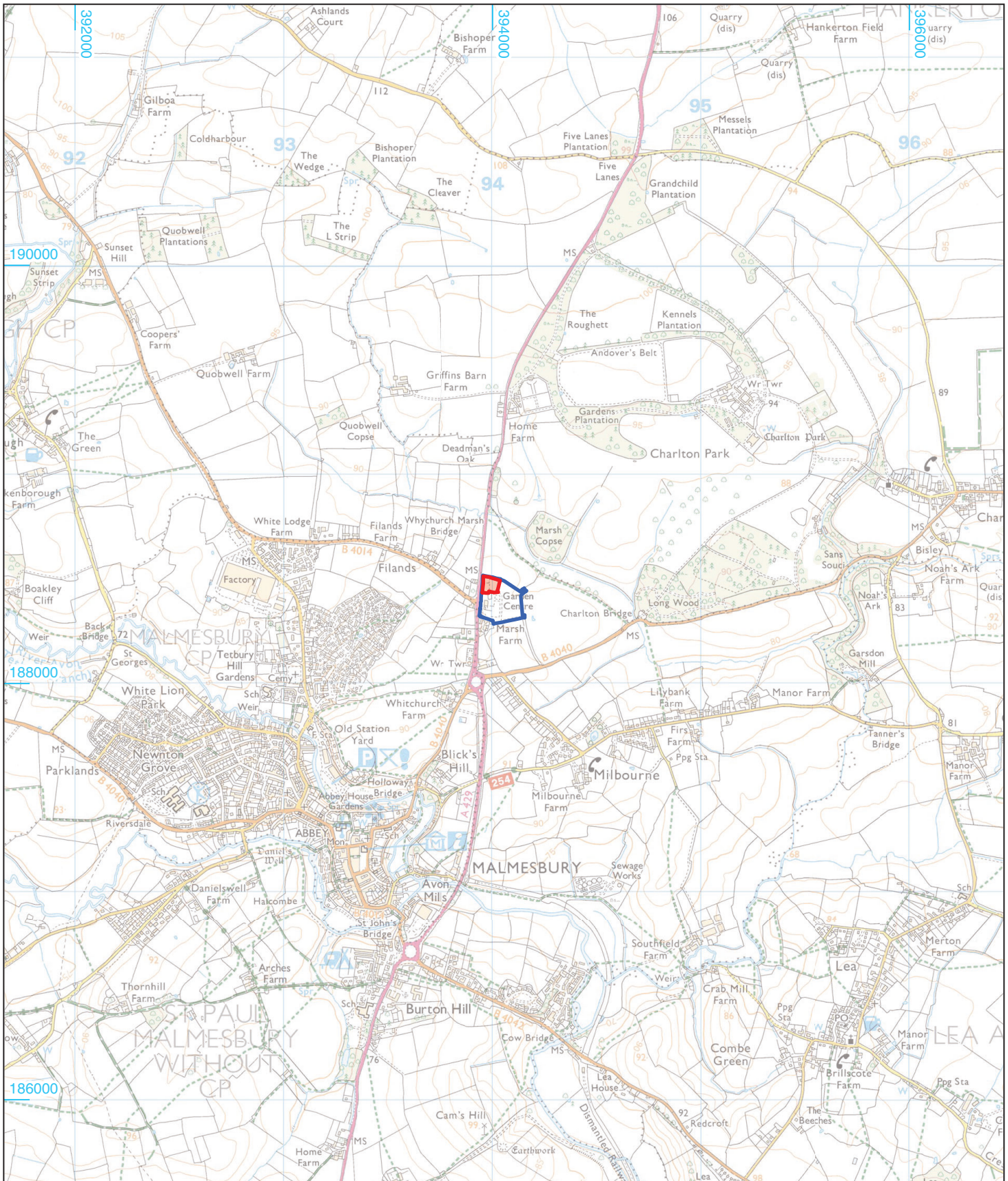
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Modern surface	Loose modern hardcore rubble and dust			<0.4	
1	101	Layer		Natural substrate	Orangey yellow clay with grey patches			N/K	
2	200	Layer		Modern surface	Loose crushed limestone rubble and dust			<0.35	
2	201	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange and dark bluish grey clay			N/K	
3	300	Layer		Modern surface	Loose modern hardcore rubble and grit			0.2	
3	301	Layer		Buried topsoil	Dark bluish grey clay with orangey brown mottles/seams. Gleyed, sterile				
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow clay			N/K	
4	400	Layer		Modern surface	Loose black crushed stone rubble and dust				
4	401	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow clay			N/K	
5	500	Layer		Modern surface	Loose modern hardcore rubble and dust				
5	501	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange and dark bluish grey clay			N/K	
5	502	Cut		Pit	Irregular shape, moderately sloping western side, flattish base	>2.8	>1.45	0.25	
5	503	Fill	502	Pit fill	Mid grey silty clay with blue and orange mottles; contains rare charcoal flecks			0.25	RB

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
503	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	4	14	RB
	Roman pottery	Limestone-and-organic tempered pottery	LSO	3	8	RB
	Burnt stone			1	2	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2018 at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Five trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified a single truncated pit which contained a number of sherds of early Roman pottery.	
Project dates	24 October 2018	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment; WYG 2011 Heritage Assessment; CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, St Paul Malmesbury Without, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	Centred on 394000 188477	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
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	Ceramics, stone
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording forms, context sheets, Permatrace drawing, photographic register
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18547		



- Area of evaluation
- Application boundary



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
Ordnance Survey 0100031673

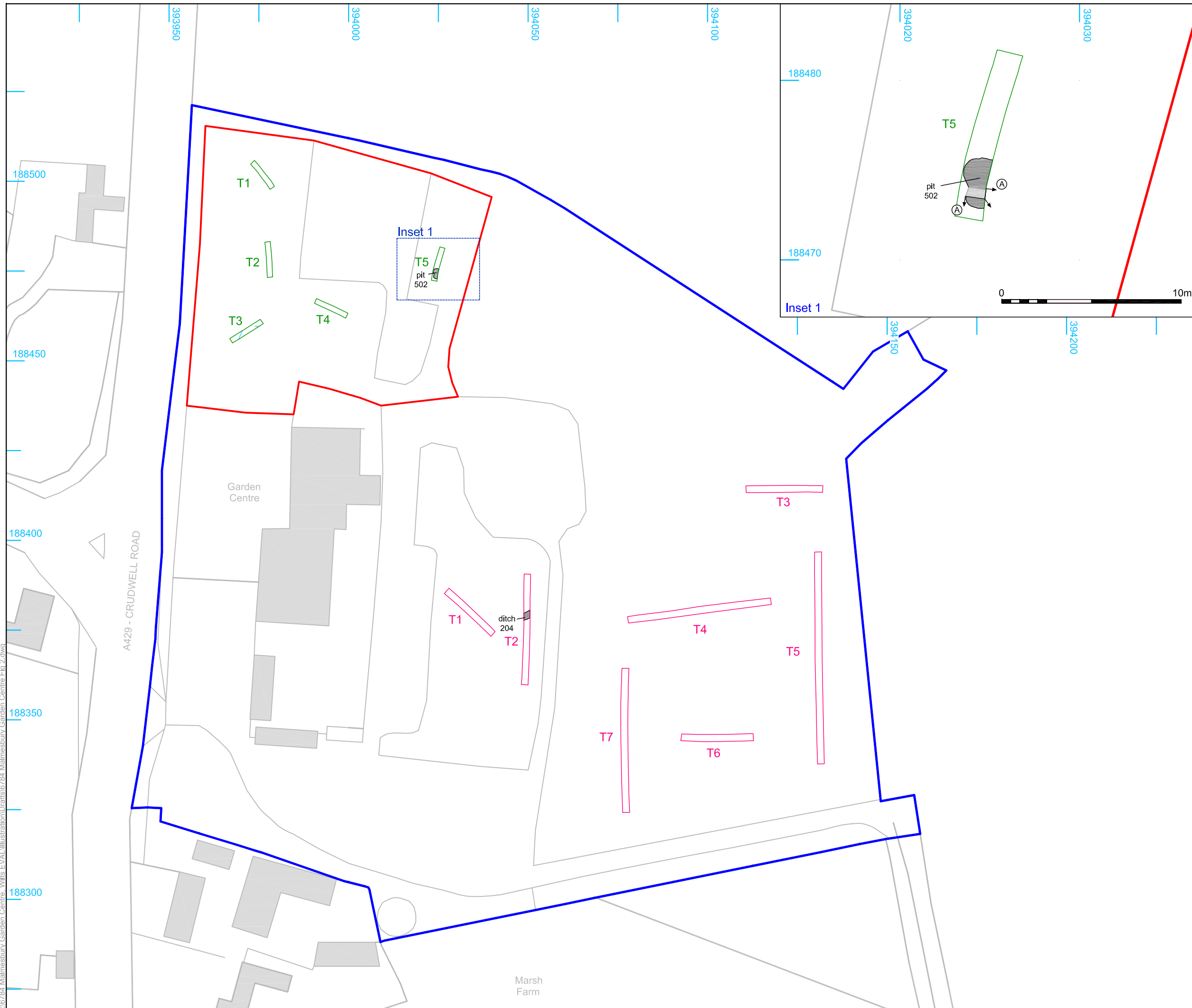


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY TB	PROJECT NO. 6784	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 30.10.18	
APPROVED BY REY	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- area of evaluation
- application boundary
- current evaluation trench
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2012)
- cut feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- field drain
- section location



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

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
Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and previous evaluation trenches

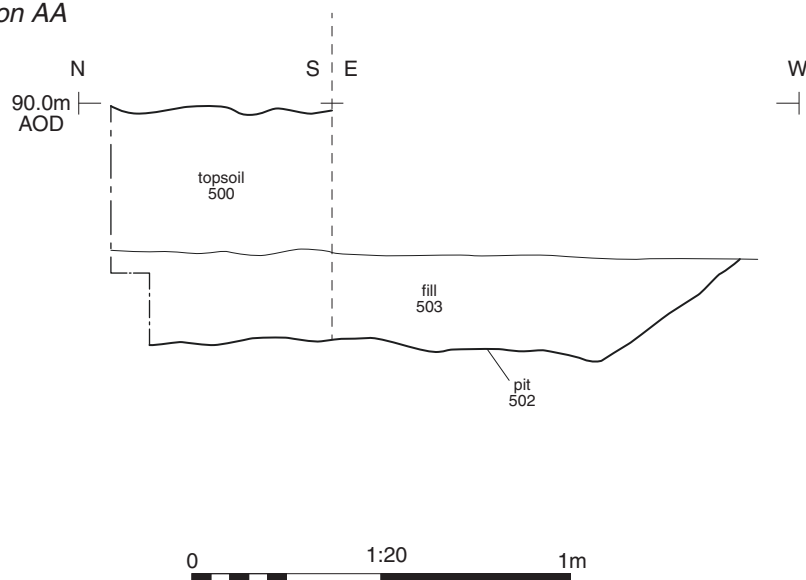
DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	6784	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30.10.18	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:1000 & 1:200	

P:\6784_Malmesbury Garden Centre - Wilts_EVA\Illustration\Drawings\6784_Malmesbury Garden Centre Fig 2.dwg



Pit 502, looking north (1m & 0.5m scales)

Section AA



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

PROJECT TITLE

Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell
 Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Pit 502: Photograph and section

DRAWN BY TB PROJECT NO. 6784
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 30.10.18
 APPROVED BY REY SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

3

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

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

