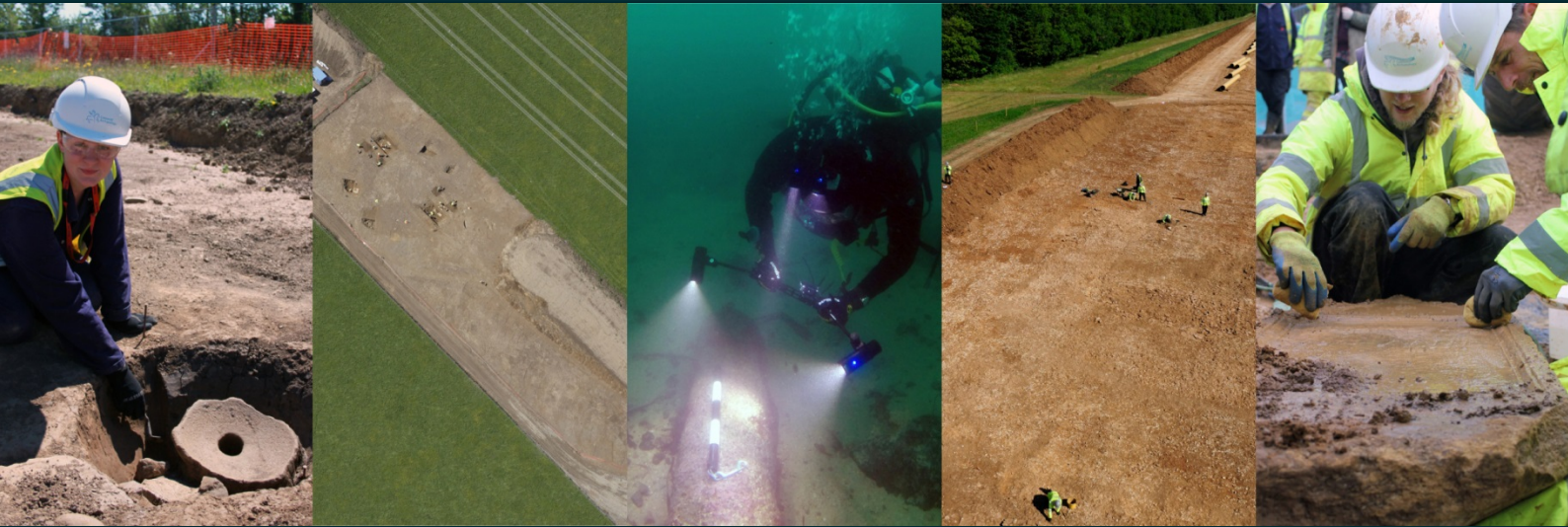


Land at Manor Farm Swindon Village Cheltenham Gloucestershire

Programme of Archaeological Work



for
Centaur Homes (East) Ltd

CA Project: CR0131
CA Report: CR0131_1

July 2019



Land at Manor Farm
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire

Programme of Archaeological Work

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| Document Control Grid | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------|----------------------|---------------|
| Revision | Date | Author | Checked by | Status | Reasons for revision | Approved by |
| A | 2 July 2019 | Luke Brannlund | Alex Thomson | Final | | Cliff Bateman |
| | | | | | | |
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:500)



SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Project Name: | Land at Manor Farm |
| Location: | Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire |
| NGR: | 393450 224820 |
| Type: | Programme of Archaeological Work |
| Date: | 1 July 2019 |
| Planning Reference: | CBC ref: 17/01644/FUL |
| Location of Archive: | The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum |
| Site Code: | CAMFS 19 |

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2019 on land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the archaeological works, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Centaur Homes (East) Ltd on land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 393450 224820). Planning permission for residential development, with associated access and landscaping, was granted by Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC; ref: 17/01644/FUL), conditional on a programme of staged archaeological works (Condition 13).

1.2 Following consultation with Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CBC, it was agreed that the programme of archaeological work would initially consist of the excavation of a single evaluation trench within the central area of the site, to supplement pre-determination trenching previously undertaken (CA 2014a) and to determine the scope of any further archaeological work should it be required. A detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2019) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is 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 slopes gently downwards to the south.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Charmouth Formation, formed during the Jurassic era, which is overlain in the northern part of the site by Cheltenham Sand and Gravel and to the south by alluvial deposits, both of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2019). The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the archaeological works comprised yellow-brown alluvium and grey-green clay.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been subject to a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA; CA 2014b) and an initial phase of archaeological evaluation (CA 2014a). The results of these studies and other available information are summarised below.
- 2.2 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 is situated (CA 2014b).
- 2.3 An archaeological evaluation undertaken between October 2017 and January 2018 on land at Elms Park, to the west of the current site, identified intensive activity dating from the Iron Age through to the late Roman period (CA 2018). Notably, this comprised a dense area of ditched enclosures, located approximately 750m to the north-west of the current site, and a smaller area of ditched enclosures, c. 200m to the west of the proposed development area (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 The site also lies immediately to the south of the focus of medieval settlement activity at Swindon (CA 2014b). The assessment noted that there is potential for currently unrecorded archaeological remains of this period to be located within the site (*ibid.*).
- 2.5 The site has probably been an enclosure for pasture and/or orchard from at least the post-medieval period through to the late 20th century, when it was brought into use as a campsite and store for touring caravans (*ibid.*).
- 2.6 An initial phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the current site by Cotswold Archaeology in 2014, in which a total of four trenches were excavated (CA 2014a). No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation, although a single sherd of 1st to 2nd century AD pottery was recovered from an alluvial deposit in the south of the site (*ibid.*).



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works 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 would then 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 through the specification of further archaeological mitigation, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single evaluation trench, measuring 22m in length and 1.8m in width, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench was 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 trench was 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* but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Natural geological substrate 5003, consisting of yellow-brown alluvium and grey-green clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.65m below present ground level. This was overlain by 5002, averaging 0.25m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.4m of topsoil, 5001. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within the trench and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) the programme of archaeological works identified no archaeological deposits or features. This supports the results of the previous phase of evaluation trenching, which also identified no archaeological remains.
- 6.2 The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that archaeological remains associated with the nearby prehistoric and Roman activity at Elms Park and the nearby medieval settlement of Swindon Village do not extend into the site.
- 6.3 The previous identification of alluvial deposits in the south of the site, and also within the current trench, suggests that part of the site was subject to inundation from the River Swilgate to the south and, as such, may not have been suitable for settlement or agricultural activities.



7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund, assisted by Kinga Werner. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by, Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 2 July 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **14420**

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

CA 2018 *Elms Park, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Typescript Report No. **17746**

CA 2019 *Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

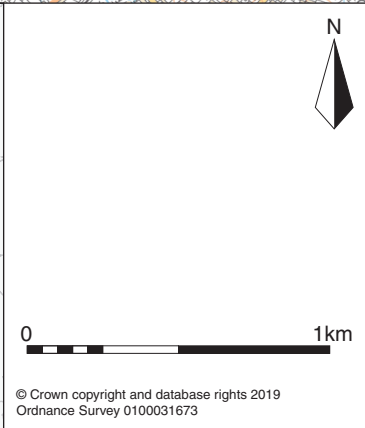


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | D (m) |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 5 | 5000 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark grey brown sandy-clay | >22 | >1.8 | 0.45 |
| 5 | 5001 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light grey-brown subsoil | >22 | >1.8 | 0.2 |
| 5 | 5002 | Layer | | Natural | Yellow-brown alluvium and grey-green clay | >22 | >1.8 | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Project Name | Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire | |
| Short description | A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2019 on land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. One trench was excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the archaeological works, and no artefactual material was recovered. | |
| Project dates | 1/7/19 | |
| Project type | Programme of Archaeological Work | |
| Previous work | Archaeological Evaluation CA 2014a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment CA 2014b | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 0.36ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | 393450 224820 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Gloucestershire County Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Alex Thomson | |
| Project Supervisor | Luke Brannlund | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | | |
| None | | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | | |
| None | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Paper | Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery | Field recording sheets |
| Digital | Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery | Digital Photos |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report CR0131_1 | | |





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PROJECT TITLE




Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | RW | PROJECT NO. | CR0131 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 04/07/2019 | |
| APPROVED BY | LVB | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | 1 |



-  Site boundary
-  Evaluation trench
-  Evaluation trench (CA 2014a)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Manor Farm, Swindon Village,
 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | RW | PROJECT NO. | CR0131 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 04/07/2019 | 2 |
| APPROVED BY | LVB | SCALE@A4 | 1:500 | |

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