



Parcel H6 Land at Millfields Cam Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for: Vistry Homes Ltd

CA Project: CR1129 CA Report: CR1129_1

December 2022



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CONTENTS

SUMMAI	RY	2
1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
4.	METHODOLOGY	5
5.	RESULTS	6
6.	THE FINDS	6
7.	DISCUSSION	7
8.	CA PROJECT TEAM	8
9.	REFERENCES	8
APP	ENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APP	ENDIX B: THE FINDS	11
APP	ENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Location of Parcel H6, showing location of evaluation trenches with geophysical survey results, archaeological features found and previous evaluation trenches (1:5,000)
- Fig. 3 Trench 5: trench plan (1:200), section (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 4 Photographs

SUMMARY

Project name: Parcel H6, Land at Millfields

Location: Cam, Gloucestershire

NGR: 375336 200616

Type: Evaluation

Date: 14-17 November 2022

Planning reference: SDC planning ref: S.15/2804/OUT

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Museum in the Park, Stroud and the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

Site Code: CALMFC22

In November 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Parcel H6, Millfields, Cam, Gloucestershire. A total of 9 trenches were excavated.

A ditch, likely to be related to agricultural land management, drainage or division and containing pottery of 17th to 18th century date, was identified in a trench excavated in the central part of the site. The ploughed-out remains of medieval/post-medieval furrows were also identified in trenches excavated in the central and northern parts of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Parcel H6, Land at Millfields, Cam, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 375336 200616; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Vistry Homes Ltd.
- 1.2. The overall site comprises a series of land parcels (E1-2 and H1-6). Outline planning permission has been granted by Stroud District Council (SDC) for Parcels E1-2 and H1-5 (SDC planning ref: S.15/2804/OUT). Parcel H6 was excluded from the previously approved development plans but was annotated as 'land of future development'.
- 1.3. The results of this evaluation of parcel H6 will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which will be made to SDC.
- 1.4. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Rachel Foster (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council), the archaeological advisor to SDC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Rachel Foster.
- 1.5. The evaluation was also in line with Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

Parcel H6

- 1.6. Parcel H6 is approximately 2ha in extent. It lies at the eastern outskirts of Cam, Gloucestershire. The site currently comprises of agricultural land and is bounded by further agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 48m above ordnance datum (AOD) and slopes gently upwards towards the eastern part of the site, reaching 54m AOD.
- 1.7. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Blue Lias formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, sedimentary bedrock which formed in the Triassic and Jurassic Periods (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site (in whole or in part) has been the subject of two Desk-Based Assessments (DBAs; CAT 2002; CA 2015) and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015). An archaeological evaluation (CA 2016) was undertaken directly to the west of the site, on plots H4 and H5 (Trenches 37-45).
- 2.2. The DBAs (CAT 2002 and 2015) highlighted later prehistoric and Roman occupation and activity within the locality, although no features or findspots were recorded within the current site itself.
- 2.3. The geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015) identified a concentration of linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies, the majority of which were focused to the north-east of the site, adjacent to the River Cam. Within Plot H6 no anomalies of archaeological origin were identified.
- 2.4. The archaeological evaluation carried out by CA in 2016, identified archaeological asset survival was biased towards the north-east of the site, which reflected the results of the preceding geophysical survey. To the north-east of the site, particularly against the flood plain of the River Cam, the surviving archaeology was noted to be characterised by a series of rectilinear enclosures and linear boundaries suggesting agricultural or rural activity. The majority of the features identified during this phase of evaluation were dated to the late Iron Age to Roman period. The level of artefact recovery suggested a moderate level of post deposition disturbance, consistent with agricultural activity. To the south of site, comparatively fewer archaeological features were identified, however two features of a possible Iron Age date were identified that contained burnt bone (CA 2016).
- 2.5. An archaeological excavation undertaken to the north-east of the current site by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS 2019) identified the structural remains of a high-status Roman villa that included the hypocaust system belonging to a bathhouse.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable SDC to identify

and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches (Fig. 2):
 - 8no 50m x 1.8m trenches
 - 1no 30m x 1.8m trench
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. They were scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment, in accordance with the CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services. The positions and lengths of trenches were adjusted on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of Rachel Foster.
- 4.4. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.5. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. Artefacts were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- 4.8. CA will make arrangements with Museum in The Park, Stroud for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact

collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

4.9. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded in all of the excavated trenches. The natural geological substrate, comprising compact mid yellow-brown silt clay was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil measuring an average of 0.22m in thickness, that was sealed by topsoil measuring an average of 0.13 m in thickness.
- 5.3. No archaeological features, excepting medieval/post-medieval furrows, were recorded in Trenches 1 to 4 and 6 to 9. A number of shallow, irregular features were investigated in Trenches 3 to 5 and were found to represent tree-throw pits. Northwest/south-east aligned furrows were investigated in Trenches 2, 5 and 9. A single ditch, of post-medieval, date was recorded in Trench 5.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

5.4. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 5005 was recorded towards the south-eastern end of the trench. It measured 1.82m in width and 0.31m in depth and contained a single silty clay fill, 5006, from which two sherds of pottery of 17th–18th century date and a fragment of fired clay were recovered.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. Artefactual material consisting of pottery and fired clay was recovered from a single deposit. Recording of this material was direct to an Excel spreadsheet, from which Appendix B, Table 1 is taken. The artefacts have been recorded by fragment/item count, weight, type and morphological characteristics according to each find

category. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the CIfA finds Toolkit (CIfA 2021).

Pottery

6.2. A total of two sherds, weighing 12g, of glazed red earthenware (GRE) of 17th–18th century date was recovered from fill 5006 of ditch 5005.

Fired Clay

6.3. A single fragment (22g) of fired clay was recorded in fill 5006 in a medium fired, pink and buff fine sandy fabric which preserves no features indicative of function.

Summary

A small artefactual assemblage was recorded from the evaluation. The pottery is of post-medieval date and the fired clay does not lend itself further to the interpretation of the site.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the site, the evaluation recorded no features or deposits pre-dating the medieval/post-medieval periods.
- 7.2. The ploughed out remains of medieval/post-medieval furrows, were identified cutting the subsoil in Trenches 2, 5 and 9 and their presence suggests that the current site was in agricultural usage during these periods.
- 7.3. Trenches 1 and 2 targeted anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey that were interpreted as being of possible archaeological origin. However no features corresponding to these anomalies were identified within the excavated trenches; therefore it appears likely that these anomalies relate to observed changes in the natural substrate. Similarly, no evidence of an anomaly interpreted as representing a former pond was identified in Trench 7.
- 7.4. Ditch 5005, identified in Trench 5, contained pottery of 17th to 18th-century date. The form of this ditch suggests that it relates to land management, drainage or division and may therefore be associated with the identified ridge and furrow field system due to its broadly similar alignment.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Scurr, assisted by Jason White, Mark Holding, Chris Hayward, Alexander Heath, Sofia Sunnervik and Ryan Briggs. This report was written by Richard Scurr. The finds evidence report was written by Claire Collier-Jones. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Monica Fombellida.

9. REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey 2022 *BGS Geology Viewer* https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewer/ Accessed November 2022
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2002 Land at Draycott Mills, Cam, Near Dursley, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Assessment, CAT Report No. 02012
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Land at Millfields, Cam, Gloucestershire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment, CA Report No. **15641**
- CA 2016 Land at Millfields, Cam, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report **16193**
- CA 2022 Parcel H6, Land at Millfields, Cam, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.
- ClfA 2021 ClfA Finds reporting toolkit https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit (accessed October 2022)
- Stratascan 2015 Land at Millfields, Cam: Geophysical Survey Report, ref. J8774

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot- date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.08	
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.22	
1	1002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.10	
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.2	
2	2002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
3	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.23	
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.07	
3	3002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
3	3003	Cut		Tree Throw	Irregular oval shape n plan, irregular edges and base		0.37	0.2	
3	3004	Fill	3003	Fill of Tree throw	Mid grey-brown silt clay, friable, no finds		0.37	0.2	
4	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.23	
4	4001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.09	
4	4002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
4	4003	Cut		Tree Throw	Irregular oval shape in plan, irregular edges and base	0.59	0.38	0.04	
4	4004	Fill	4003	Fill of Tree throw	Mid grey-brown silt clay, friable, no finds	0.59	0.38	0.04	
5	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.28	
5	5001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.07	
5	5002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
5	5003	Cut		Tree Throw	Irregular sub-ovular shape in plan, concave, moderately sloped edges and irregular rounded base	1.59	0.45	0.17	
5	5004	Fill	5003	Fill of Tree throw	Mid grey-brown silt clay, friable, no finds	1.59	0.45	0.17	
5	5005	Cut	_	Ditch	Moderate sloped edges, gentle concave base, NW- SE orientation	>1.8	1.82	0.31	
5	5006	Fill	5005	Fill of Ditch	Mid grey-brown silt clay, friable with 1% charcoal inclusions	>1.8	1.82	0.31	PM
5	5007	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.83	0.08	
5	5008	Fill	5007	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.83	0.08	
5	5009	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.75	0.18	

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot- date
5	5010	Fill	5009	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.75	0.18	
5	5011	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.79	0.12	
5	5012	Fill	5011	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.79	0.12	
5	5013	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.97	0.1	
5	5014	Fill	5013	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.97	0.1	
5	5015	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.9	-	
5	5016	Fill	5015	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.9	-	
6	6000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.3	
6	6001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.07	
6	6002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
7	7000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.27	
7	7001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>30	>1.8	0.08	
7	7002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>30	>1.8	-	
8	8000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.27	
8	8001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.11	
8	8002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
9	9000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silt clay	>50	>1.8	0.21	
9	9001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Yellow-brown clay silt, compact	>50	>1.8	0.11	
9	9002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, compact silt clay with rare spots of iron panning/manganese and medium sized rare pebbles	>50	>1.8	-	
9	9003	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	1.3	-	
9	9004	Fill	9003	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	1.3	-	
9	9005	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	1.35	-	
9	9006	Fill	9005	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	1.35	-	
9	9007	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	1.37	-	
9	9008	Fill	9007	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	1.37	-	
9	9009	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.89	-	
9	9010	Fill	9009	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.89	-	

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot- date
9	9011	Cut		Furrow	Gentle sloped, rounded base, NE-SW orientation	>1.8	0.83	ı	
9	9012	Fill	9011	Fill of Furrow	Mid grey-brown silt clay, compact, 1-5% iron panning inclusions	>1.8	0.83		

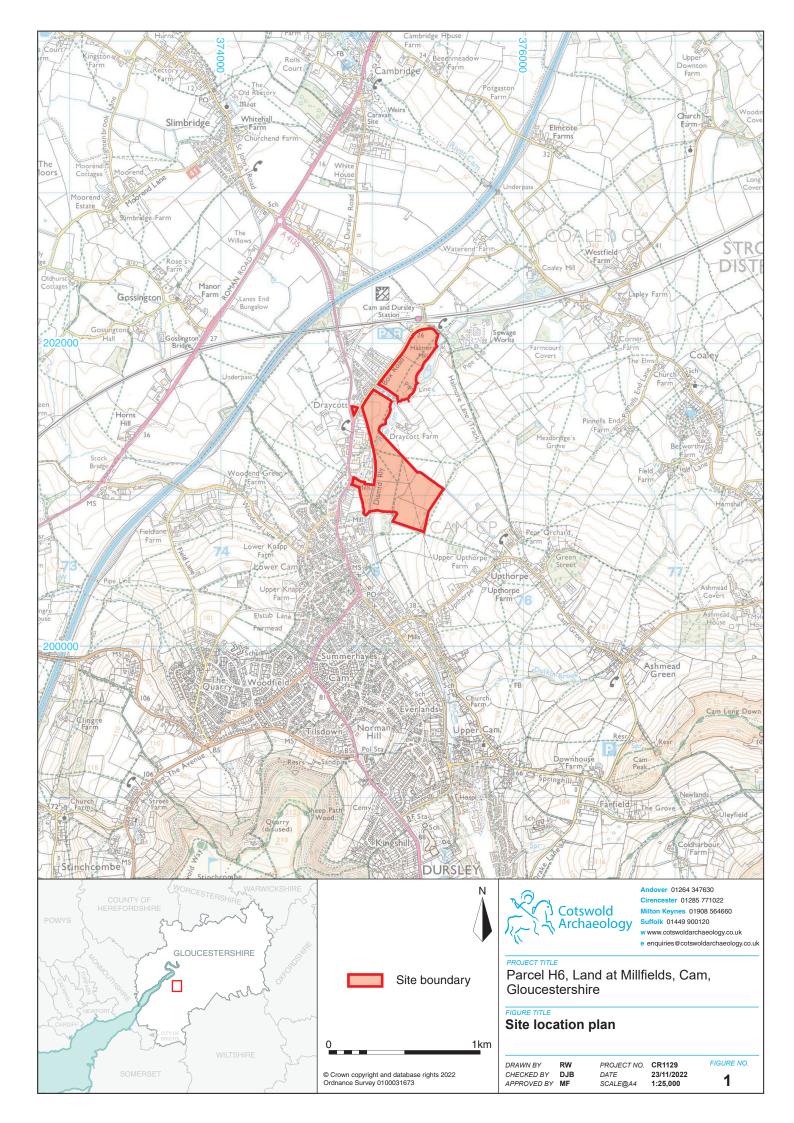
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

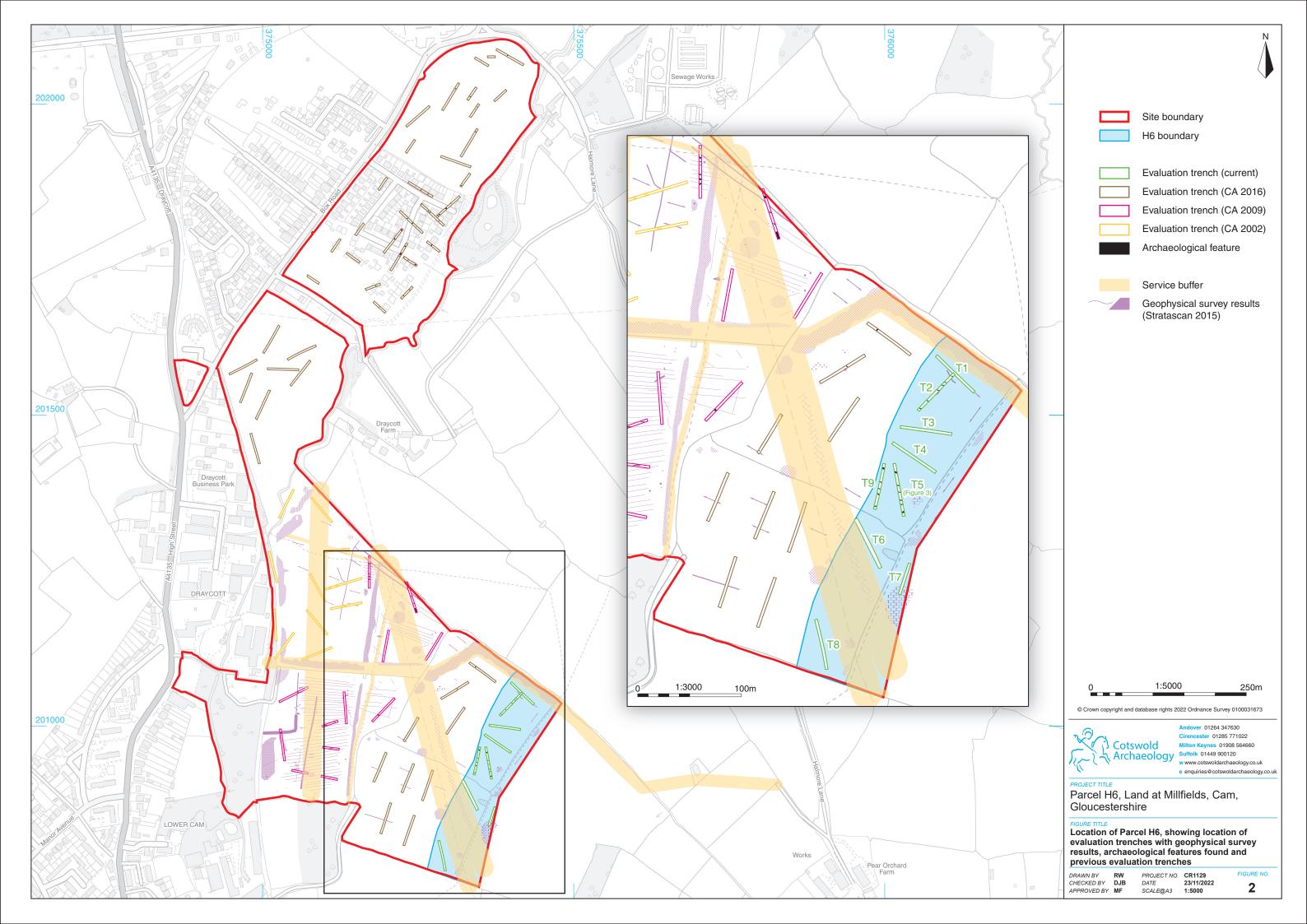
Table 1: Finds Concordance

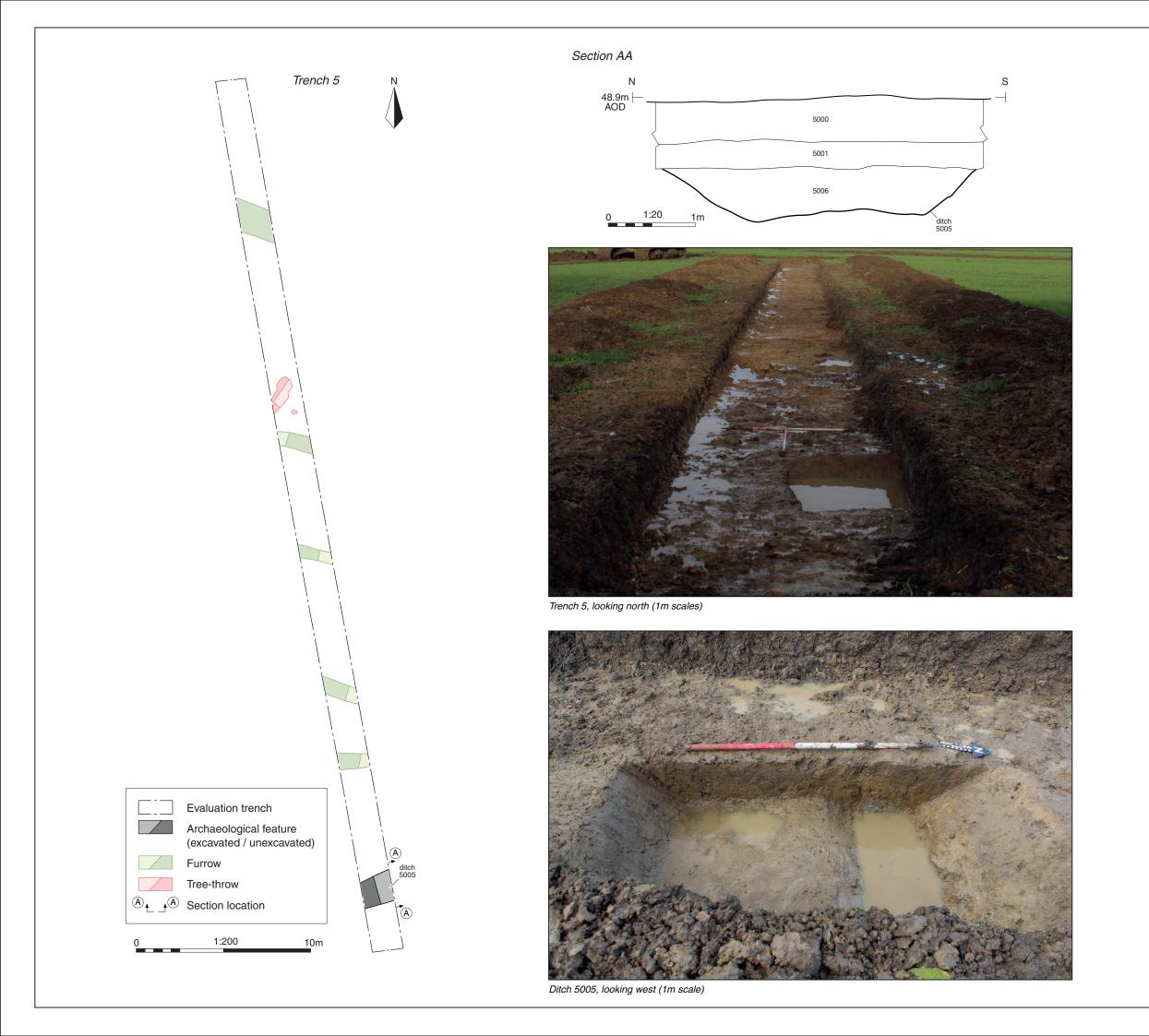
Context	Material	Fabric	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
5006	PM Pottery	GRE	Glazed red earthenware	2	12	PM
	Fired Clay		Medium fired, pink and buff, fine sandy	1	22	

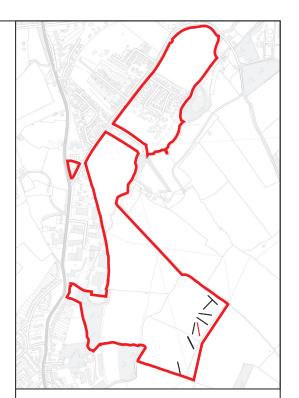
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS					
Project name	Parcel H6, Land at Millfields, Cam, G	loucestershire			
Short description In November 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried of archaeological evaluation at Parcel H6, Millfields, Gloucestershire. A total of 9 trenches were excavated.					
	A ditch, likely to be related to ag drainage or division and containing p date, was identified in a trench excav site. The ploughed-out remains of me were also identified in trenches export the site.	ottery of 17th to 18th century rated in the central part of the edieval/post-medieval furrows			
Project dates	14-17 November 2022				
Project type	Evaluation				
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessments (DBAs; CA Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 201	Desk-Based Assessments (DBAs; CAT 2002; CA 2015) Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015)			
Future work	Unknown				
PROJECT LOCATION					
Site location	Land at Millfields, Cam, Gloucestersh	nire			
Study area (m²/ha)	2ha				
Site co-ordinates	375336 200616				
PROJECT CREATORS					
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project brief originator	N/A				
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Manager	Monica Fombellida				
Project Supervisor	Richard Scurr				
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content			
Physical	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Pottery			
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo registers, drawings			
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	digital photos, maps			
BIBLIOGRAPHY	·				
	arcel H6, Land at Millfields, Cam, Gloucester	rshire: Archaeological			
Evaluation, CA Typescript report CR1		S			









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PROJECT TITLE
Parcel H6, Land at Millfields, Cam,
Gloucestershire

Trench 5: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY MF

 PROJECT NO.
 CR1129

 DATE
 23/11/2022

 SCALE@A3
 1:200, 1:20

3



Trench 1, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 8, looking north-west (1m scales)



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PARCEL TITLE
Parcel H6, Land at Millfields, Cam,
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE Photographs

DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY MF
 PROJECT NO.
 CR1129

 DATE
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 NA



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