

**MILFORD HOUSE CARE HOME
MILFORD MILL ROAD
SALISBURY
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

GELDER AND KITCHEN

on behalf of

BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE LTD

CA PROJECT: 3044
CA REPORT: 10017

FEBRUARY 2010



**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

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prepared by	Jamie Wright (Project Officer)
date	9 February 2010
checked by	Cliff Bateman (Project Manager)
date	10 February 2010
approved by	Simon Cox (Head of Fieldwork)
signed	
date	16 February 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Milford House Care Home
Location: Milford Mill Road, Salisbury
NGR: SU 1587 2951
Type: Evaluation
Date: 8 February 2010
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Site Code: MHS 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2010 at Milford House Care Home, Milford Mill Road, Salisbury. One trench, measuring 17m in length, was excavated.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Gelder and Kitchen on behalf of Barchester Healthcare Ltd at Milford House Care Home, Milford Mill Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1587 2951; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of an extension at the care home (App. No. S/2009/1345).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a request for archaeological evaluation outlined in a letter dated 23 September 2009 from Helena Cave-Penny (Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council), the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire (WCC 1995), the Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 8 February 2010.

The site

- 1.3 The application area lies 1.5km east of the historic core of Salisbury on Milford Mill Road at approximately 46m AOD. It is approximately 400m² and comprises an area of formal and informal garden.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Newhaven Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous era (British Geological Survey 2005). The drift geology is mapped as Head – variable deposits of sandy, silty clay, locally gravelly; chalky and flinty in dry valleys – with Alluvium near the Rivers Bourne and Avon: both these deposits are Quaternary in age.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site itself lies immediately south of the scheduled monument W1740 *Medieval Pottery Kilns, Milford Farm*, and to a series of earthworks possibly representative of medieval settlement. Close to Milford House, a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, in association with medieval wares, has previously been recovered (Wiltshire SMR SU12NE406).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The general objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the site. This information will assist Wiltshire Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single L-shaped trench with arms of 11m and 6m, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The shape of the trench echoed that of the proposed development and was positioned to avoid borders planted with mature trees and shrubs, and an area of formal lawn.
- 1.8 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* (2007).
- 1.9 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* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were recovered.
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited

with Salisbury and South Wiltshire 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

2.2 Natural geology in the south of the trench comprised calcareous sand with fractured flints; in the north this was overlain by decalcified chalk. Both deposits, assumed to be Head, were sealed by a c. 0.2m thick brown clay, a previous topsoil, which was itself overlain by a c. 0.15m thickness of builders' rubble comprised of stone, brick, mortar and plastic. In places this rubble extended to the base of the trench. Sealing the rubble was the present topsoil, a grey silty soil with many small flints. Before its use as a residential home the grounds of the house had been used as an orchard and it is probable that the buried topsoil dates to that time.

2.3 The loose nature of the natural deposits and the presence of frequent large flints meant that a clean surface could not be achieved mechanically and was therefore hand cleaned. While this exposed roughly east to west striations in the natural it showed that no archaeological features were present.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

2.4 No finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were revealed during the evaluation. Modern disturbance, in all likelihood resulting from previous phases of construction works,

had intermittently extended through to the natural geology and may have partially truncated any existing archaeological features.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken, and the report written, by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by Angela Aggujaro. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2005 *Sheet 298, Salisbury, Solid and Drift*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Milford House Care Home, Milford Hill Road, Salisbury: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

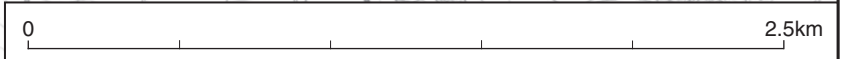
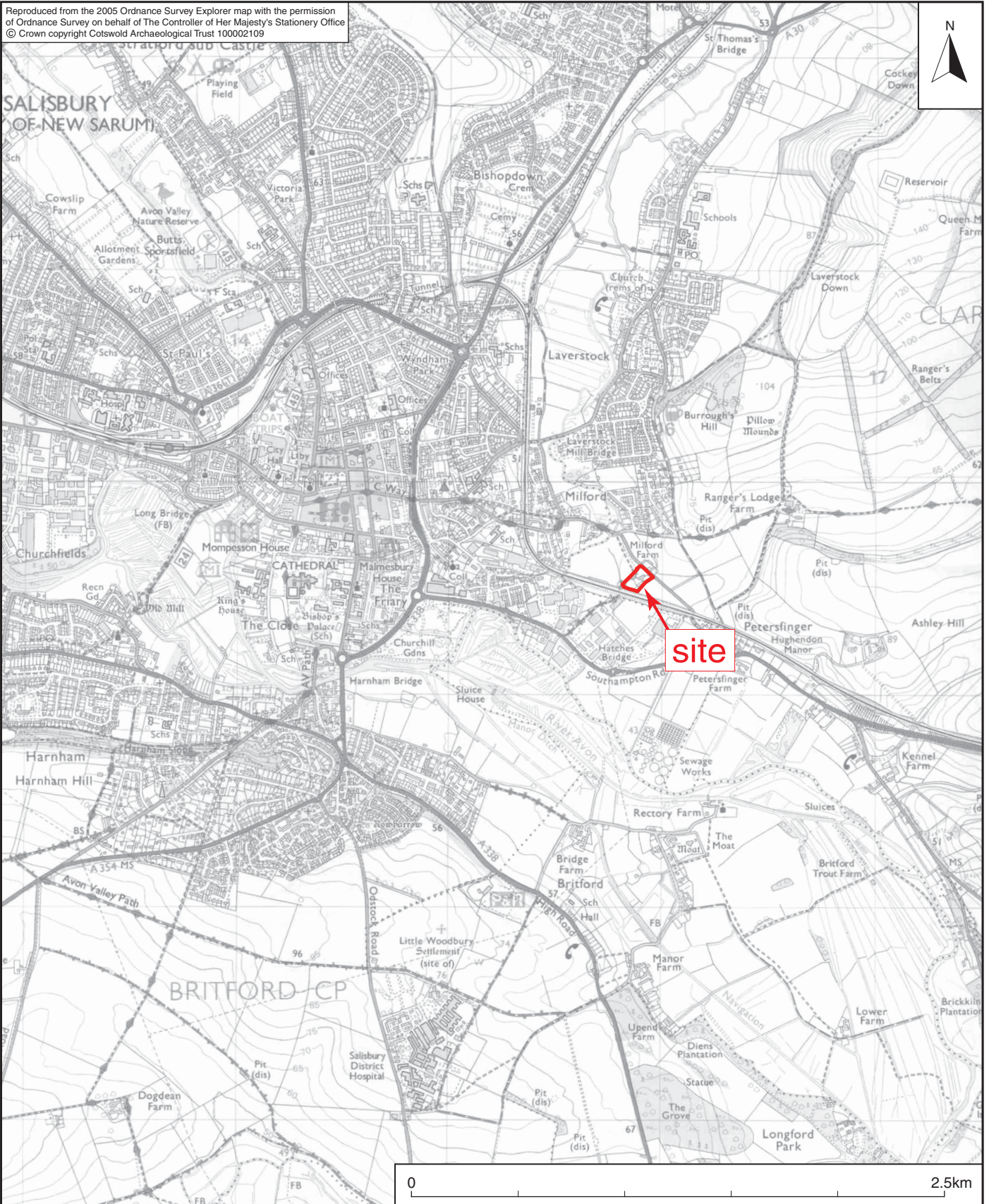
Trench 1 Topsoil at c. 46.2m AOD


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Present topsoil. Grey silty loam with common small flints	Whole trench		0 - 0.18	Modern
102	Layer	Builders' rubble including plastic.	Whole trench		0.18 – 0.34	Late C20
103	Layer	Original topsoil. Greyish brown clay loam.	Whole trench		0.34 – 0.55	
104	Deposit	Natural decalcified chalk.	4	3	>0.55	
105	Deposit	Natural calcareous sand.	9	6	>0.55	

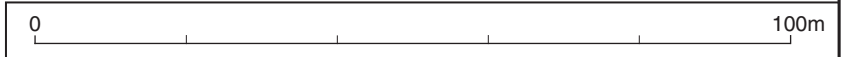
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM




PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Milford House Care Home,	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2010 at Milford House Care Home, Milford Mill Road, Salisbury. One trench, measuring 15m in length, was excavated. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.	
Project dates	8 February 2010	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Milford Mill Road, Salisbury	
Study area (M ² /ha)	400m ²	
Site co-ordinates)	SU 1587 2951	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Black and white negatives, contact prints
Paper	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Trench Sheet, Photo Sheets and Day Book
Digital	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Milford House Care Home, Milford Hill Road, Salisbury: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA Typescript 10017		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Milford House Care Home Milford Mill Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:25,000@A4	3044	1



-  site
-  footprint of proposed new building
-  location of trench

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Millford House Care Home, Milford Mill Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Trench Location Plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:1000@A4	3044	2