



# Site K5, Orchard Grove, Kemble, Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

**November 2019**

**Client: EDP on behalf of Kemble Farms Ltd**

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: KOGCFEV2

NGR: 398887 197337





Client Name: EDP on behalf of Kemble Farms Ltd  
Document Title: Site K5, Orchard Grove, Kemble, Gloucestershire  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Grid Reference: NGR 398887 197337  
Planning Reference: N/A  
Site Code: OAKEOG19  
Invoice Code: KOGCFEV1  
Receiving Body: Corinium Museum  
Accession No.: N/A

OA Document File Location: X:\k\Kemble Clayfurlong Farm\Eval reports  
OA Graphics File Location: X:\k\Kemble Clayfurlong Farm\010Geomatics

Issue No: 1  
Date: November 2019  
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## Site K5, Orchard Grove, Kemble, Gloucestershire

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

Between 30 October and 1 November 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Site K5, Orchard Grove, Kemble, Gloucestershire (NGR 398887 197337). A total of five trenches measuring 20m by 1.6 were excavated within the area of a proposed residential development. The trenches were positioned to provide an even coverage of the site and investigate the results of a metal detector survey. No archaeological features were identified, suggesting there is limited or no potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site and confirming the results of previously submitted desk-based assessment.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Charles Parry who monitored the work on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by John Carne who was supported by Bj Ware. Survey and digitizing were carried out by John Carne and Aidan Farnan. Thanks are also extended to the team that prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Kemble Farms Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Local Planning Authority in advance of the determination of a Planning Application. Discussions between EDP and Charles Parry established the scope of works required and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA addressing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2019). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies, particularly Policy S6 and Chapter 7.7 of the Local Plan that pertains to Kemble (Cotswold District Council 2014), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2014).

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The site is centered on NGR 398887 197337 on the northern periphery of Kemble, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1). It is situated to the north-west of Kemble Primary School, sharing the eastern boundary with the school's playing fields. West Lane is to its west, and to its south lies a row of properties on School Road. The site lies between 107 and 110m aOD, and slopes down from south to north.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development, c 0.56ha, is currently in use as private back gardens and car parking on its south side, and the northern two-thirds of the site is pasture occupied by sheep. A graveled access road from West Lane separates the sheep field from the back gardens.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as limestone from the Great Oolite Group with superficial deposits of sand, clay and gravel alluvium along watercourses (BGS online).

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (DBA; L-P: Archaeology 2018). The following summary is provided to place these works in context.
- 1.3.2 No later prehistoric remains are known within proximity of the site. However, it should be noted that funerary activity is evident from three middle-late Iron Age pit burials that were excavated at Fosse View House, located some 150m to the south-west.
- 1.3.3 Romano-British inhumations have been found off West Lane within 100m of the site. A further inhumation within a stone coffin was found at Fosse View House, about 100m south-west of the site.
- 1.3.4 Seven Anglo-Saxon burials were excavated at a site off West Lane within 100m to the south-west of the site.

1.3.5 The DBA concluded there was limited potential for remains of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date, and a moderate potential for Romano-British and early medieval remains to be present within the development area.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were to:

- i. establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- ii. determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation or preservation
- iii. determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise
- iv. characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible
- v. determine the geo-archaeological and paleo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered where appropriate
- vi. recover suitable materials for scientific dating where appropriate
- vii. make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent development designs or mitigation strategies
- viii. produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission
- ix. disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance
- x. establish the presence or absence of prehistoric features or other evidence such as stray finds
- xi. establish the presence or absence of further funerary or other activity of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon date.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation works comprised a metal detector survey followed by the excavation of five trenches measuring 20m by 1.6m each.

2.2.2 Prior to the commencement of the trial trench evaluation, the site was subjected to a metal detector survey. The survey was used to identify metal objects that may indicate the presence of burials. Several positive signals were recorded by the survey and therefore the proposed locations of all five trenches were adjusted from those outlined in the WSI to better target the results. The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy.

2.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a JCB with a 1.6m-wide toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from the trench edges. Trenches and the up-cast spoil were scanned with a metal detector as appropriate. Machining continued in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon

which is encountered first. The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.

- 2.2.4 All hand excavation and recording were undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in the WSI.
- 2.2.5 Upon completion of the works and in agreement with the Local Planning Archaeologist, Charles Parry, the trenches were backfilled.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A.

### **3.2 Metal detector survey**

3.2.1 An array of positive signals (Fig. 2) was recorded during the metal detector survey, but they were not investigated, with all material left *in situ* and the results used to better target the trenches. During the evaluation, the upcast spoil was scanned with the metal detector but no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered. The artefacts were not retained.

### **3.3 General soils and ground conditions**

3.3.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of clay was overlain by a clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil (Plates 1-4). The thickness of overburden deposits increased from an average of 0.5m in the south to 0.88m in the north. This reflects the topography of the site and the surrounding area which falls steeply from the south towards the lower lying flood plains of the River Thames in the north.

3.3.2 Although the weather conditions were favourable for the duration of the fieldwork (dry and cloudy), significant water ingress occurred in Trenches 1 and 2 and the northern end of Trench 4.

### **3.4 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

3.4.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in any of the trenches. A potential feature was investigated in Trench 3 but was determined to be a natural depression filled with subsoil.

### **3.5 Finds summary**

3.5.1 Artefactual evidence comprised a single animal bone and post-medieval pottery. All finds were recovered from subsoil deposits in Trenches 1 and 5 respectively, and were not retained.

## **4 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 4.1.1 Despite water ingress in several of the trenches, the geological horizon was well defined and any archaeological features present would have been easily identified.
- 4.1.2 The distribution of the trenches provided an even coverage of the site while targeting the results of the metal detector survey. The evaluation can be considered to provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

### **4.2 Evaluation objectives and results**

- 4.2.1 The aims of the evaluation works were to assess the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits and if possible, date the remains through artefactual evidence.
- 4.2.2 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation works. This is supported by lack of significant artefactual evidence. This suggests there is little to no potential for archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area and supports the conclusions of the previously submitted desk-based assessment.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.88
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.54	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.82
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.54	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.36	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	20
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.50
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

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## APPENDIX B      BIBLIOGRAPHY

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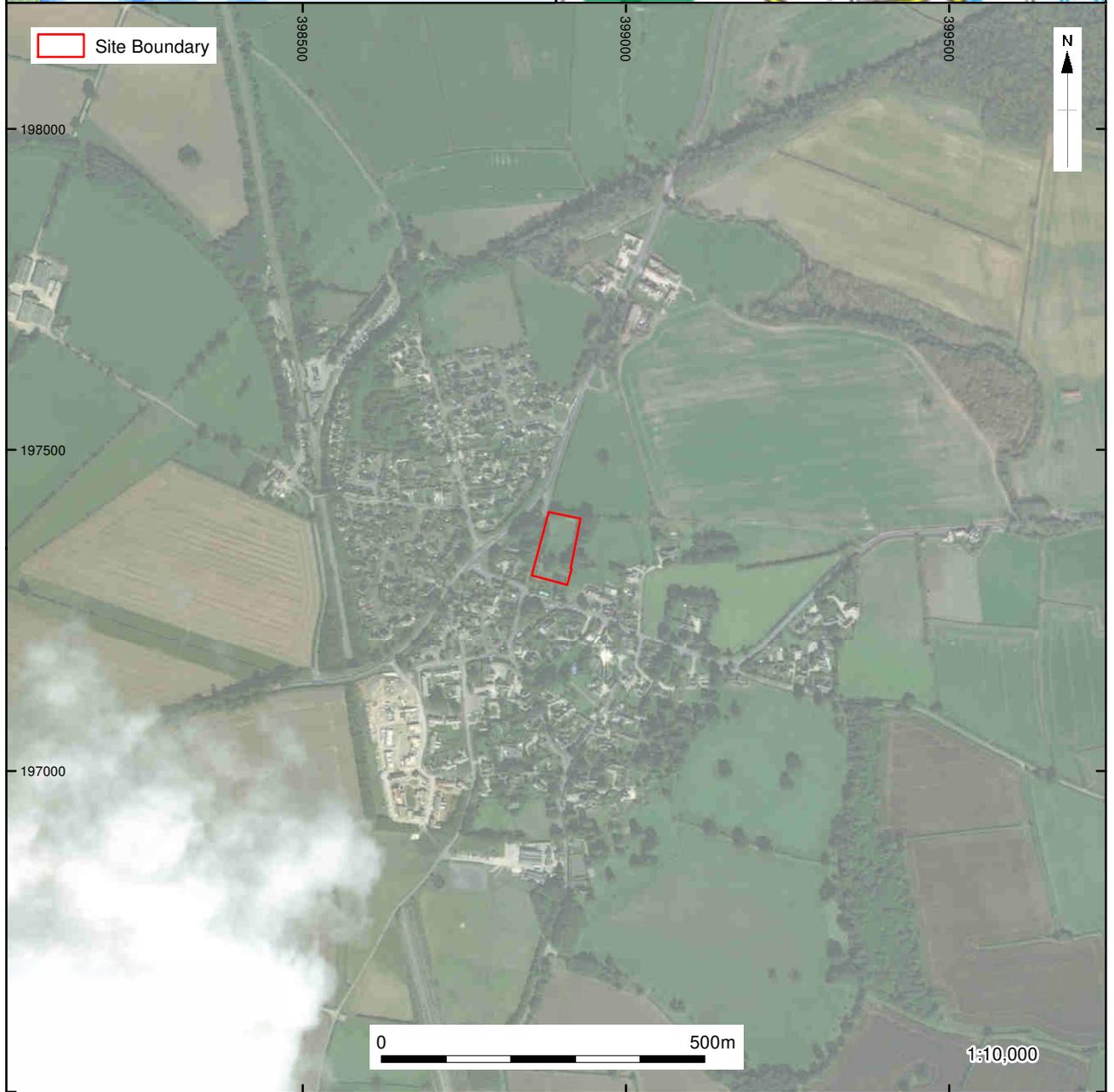
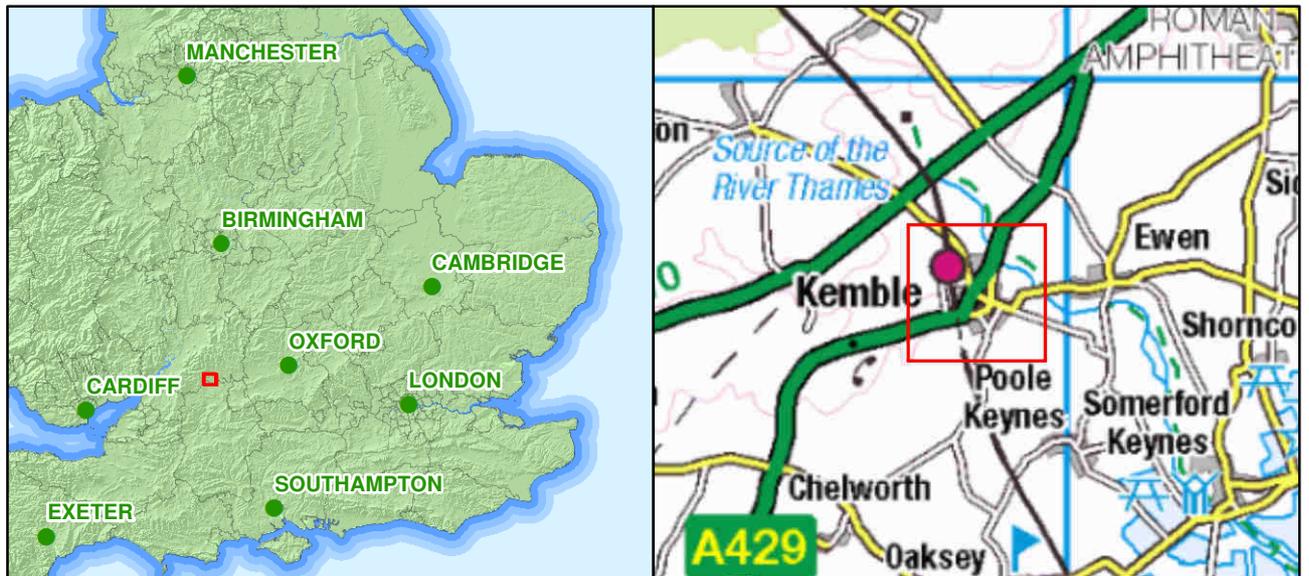
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**APPENDIX C****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>Site name:</b>	Site K5, Orchard Grove, Kemble
<b>Site code:</b>	OAKOG19
<b>Grid Reference</b>	398887 197337
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	30 October to 1 November 2019 (3 Days)
<b>Area of Site</b>	0.56ha
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX20ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	A total of five trenches measuring 20m by 1.6 were excavated within the area of a proposed residential development. The trenches were positioned to provide an even coverage of the site and investigate the results of a metal detector survey. No archaeological features were identified suggesting there is limited or no potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

X:\Kemble Clayfurong Farm\010\Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\OrchardGrove\_Figure1.mxd'gary.jones'22/10/2019



Figure 2: Trench locations and results of metal detector survey



Plate 1: Trench 3, view to east



Plate 2: Trench 3, view to north



Plate 3: Trench 2, view to south



Plate 4: Trench 2, view to west



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