1. Summary

Development Stage 2A1: Land West of Bicester Bypass, Temporary Road Diversion (Mill Meadow), Oxfordshire

Site Details

Development Stage	2A1
Site Name	Land West of Bicester Bypass (Mill Meadow)
Type of Works	Temporary Road Diversion
Proposed Archaeological Works	Strip, Map and Sample
National Grid Reference	SP 60080 23081 (centred)
Site Area	0.7 ha (7300 m^2)
Chainage	109100 to 108900
Land Use	Pasture, mature trees and hedgerows
Local Planning Authority	Cherwell District Council
Curator	Oxfordshire County Council; Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist (archaeologydc@oxfordshire.gov.uk or 07917 001026)

Proposed Archaeological Investigation

Archaeological works will comprise a Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) undertaken in two phases which will involve the observation, investigation and recording of the removal of topsoil. The area of the mill mound and related earthworks to the north which have previously been investigated through trial trenching will not be included in the area of SMS and will be fenced off. It is important to stress the specified area of SMS will be machine stripped under archaeological control to the first archaeological horizon, or to the natural geology where no archaeological remains are encountered. All work will be carried out by the Contractor in accordance with national, regional and local policy and guidelines, and in conjunction with the Heritage Delivery Strategy[1].

Previous Archaeological Works

Type of Work Undertaken	Findings
LiDAR	LiDAR data of the Site has been analysed. Faint traces of ridge and furrow are visible within the Site, however no further archaeological features are visible. The Mill mound and associated earthworks are visible on LiDAR data to the north of the Site.

[1] EWR Alliance, 2019a. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy.* Unpublished Report. Section 6.6

Geophysical survey	Geophysical magnetometry[2] and resistivity[3] survey, carried out within the SMS area in 2018 and 2019 respectively indicated the presence of archaeological remains associated with the mound to the north of the Site.
Trial Trenching	A trial trench investigation was carried out across the Site and to the north of the Site in November 2019[4], Trenches in the north of the field targeted a group of three mounds which rise above the level of the field. These were thought to be evidence of a mill mound and associated works and were defined utilising LiDAR. Within the area of the SMS, shallow ditches, and tree pits with few finds were recorded, and probably represent field boundaries. The shallowness was a typical characteristic of all features and may indicate that some of their original depth has been lost to agriculture or to fluvial erosion. The latest features include residues of coke fuel, post-dating the 17th century and used into the 20th century. Their presence in this agricultural field, while showing a post-medieval date for the features, may represent either dumping of industrial waste in the field since the 1600s, or even brought in by seasonal flooding or represents railway detritus. The most recent finds appear to have been incorporated into the topsoil and tops of features by a mixture of gravity and softness of the topsoil, including a modern cup and pieces of clay pigeon[5].

[2] EWR Alliance, 2018. *Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion (Gradiometer): Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished report.
[3] EWR Alliance, 2019. *Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion (Resistivity): Archaeological Geophysical Survey.* Unpublished report.
[4] EWR Alliance, 2020. East West Rail Phase 2: Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report Unpublished report.
[5] ibid

Archaeological Potential

Potential	**Period**	**Type of remains likely to be encountered**
High	Medieval	Remains of an agricultural nature e.g. ridge & furrow; field system; finds associated with manuring; remains associated with Mill mound.
	Post Medieval	Remains associated with quarrying activities and the railway; industrial remains relating to the brick works; agricultural remains
Medium	Romano-British	Settlement; field systems
	Early Medieval	Field systems; settlement
Low	Palaeolithic	Flint scatters
	Mesolithic	Flint scatters
	Neolithic	Lithic scatters; settlement
	Bronze Age	Settlement; ceremonial
	Iron Age	Settlement; field systems
	Modern	Agricultural remains

2. Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out a methodology for an archaeological SMS in two phases during construction work for a temporary road diversion at Land West of Bicester Bypass, Temporary Road Diversion (Mill Meadow) ('the Site'). The Site is highlighted within the 'Specific Sites requiring Written Schemes of Investigation' section of the Heritage Delivery Strategy as requiring a WSI for these archaeological works[6].

The Site is located within Development Stage 2A1 of the EWR2 scheme (centred on NGR Ref: SP 60080 23081). The Site comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of land of approximately 0.7 ha located to the east of Bicester Trade Park, on land to the west and south of the A4421. The Site is currently in use for pasture as well as containing mature tree lines and hedgerows. The Site lies within the local authority administrative area of Cherwell District Council.

The survey area is situated on generally level ground at approximately 72m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying bedrock geology throughout the Site is mapped as Kellaways Sand Member[7] overlain with superficial Alluvial clay, silt, sand, and gravel deposits recorded in the north and west of the Site corresponding with the stream. These are overlain by slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils[8].

The Site is required for the temporary road diversion of Charbridge Lane. The area of the SMS will be stripped of topsoil in two phases (Figure 1) and may require deeper excavation in some areas. The extent of the intrusive works thus means that archaeological mitigation within the Site is required. The area of the mill mound and related earthworks to the north which have previously been investigated through trial trenching will not be included in the area of SMS and will be fenced off to ensure protection and preservation of the area.

3. Key Potential

Prehistoric (500,000BC – AD43)

No remains of prehistoric date are known within the Site or immediate surroundings.

Within the wider landscape, Palaeolithic sites appear to be associated with rivers or other bodies of water, which may suggest a reason for the absence of Palaeolithic activity within the vicinity of the Site. Within the valley of the Langford Brook that forms the northern boundary of the Site, extensive Mesolithic finds have been recorded. Several lithic scatters have also been found during archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the Site near Bicester.

There is little archaeological evidence in the wider area from the Neolithic period. There is an observable bias in Bronze Age occupation towards Milton Keynes and Aylesbury and as a result, Bronze Age remains within the region are primarily focused within the Ouzel river valley, c. 50km to the east between Bletchley and Leighton Buzzard. Bronze Age barrows have been recorded as cropmarks on aerial photographs within the wider area and a number of later prehistoric enclosures have also been recorded. The potential mill mound located in the north-east of the Site could have re-used prehistoric earthworks. Mill mounds have been known to re-use prehistoric barrows, whilst others were thrown up in the course of construction to purposefully support the windmill[9]. Boreholes carried out during the trial trenching at the Site have identified the original, pre-mound land surface, with one

[6]EWR Alliance, 2019. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy.* Unpublished Report Section 8, Table 8.1 Page 8-8
[7] British Geological Survey, 2019. *Geology of Britain.* Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/. Accessed: 14 April 2020
[8] Soilscapes, 2019. *Soilscapes Map.* Available at: http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/. Accessed: 14 April 2020
[9] Ibid.

possible worked piece of chert or jasper; showing that the underlying horizons contain evidence for prehistoric activity[10].

Romano-British (AD43 – AD410)

The Site is located in an area of archaeological interest, being located immediately north-west of a probable Iron Age and Romano-British settlement which was identified during road construction. A ditch and posthole were discovered, along with Iron Age and Roman pottery. Further Iron Age and Romano-British sites have been recorded in the area including a settlement site 600m to the south[11].

One tiny fragment of Roman greyware was collected from a sample taken from a ditch within Trench 7 of the trial trench investigation within the Site, however this was collected alongside 19th century whiteware so may be residual[12].

Trial Trenching was carried out at EWR Compound A1[13], c.200m to the east of the Site, 15 of the trenches contained archaeological features. There were 30 linear features, either ditches or gullies, four pits and two amorphous spreads. From the 14 contexts which produced ceramic material three can be dated to Late Iron Age and 10 to the Roman period. The ditches and gullies observed in the evaluation are likely related to land management or agricultural activity e.g. land divisions, fields and paddocks. The spread of isolated features revealed no cohesive plan or field system. The activity is thought to be peripheral to any Iron Age/Roman domestic activity with the focus likely to be immediately to the south.

Early Medieval (AD410 – AD1066)

The Site lies directly to the east of Bicester. Bicester as we see it today evolved on both sides of a ford over the River Bure, close to the Saxon Minster of St Edburg's. The first group of farms were established in the vicinity of what became the Manor of King's End followed by a later settlement on the east side of the Bure which became the Manor of Market End.

The mound and related earthworks located to the north of the Site was investigated during trial trenching. The dating of the mound and its function was refined by the evaluation trenches and assessment, but its exact character and use is still unclear. The uppermost layer at the top of the mound is dated to the 11th to 13th century[14]. This may represent an intrusive pit, a levelling layer, or finds from activities on top of the mound in the medieval period.

Late Medieval (AD1066 – AD1540)

The Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER) records the mound to the north of the Site as the site of a medieval or post-medieval windmill mound which it suggests might relate to a demesne windmill recorded in Launton in 1279. As described above, the exact date of the mound remains enigmatic.

The Site is mentioned on a map of Launton entitled 'Launton in Oxfordshire An(n)o.Domi 1607' which lists the field as 'Castall Meade'. Whilst the mound is not recorded on the map, the field name, which is derived from the Old English Castel, suggests the presence of an archaeological earthwork feature within the field. Castel is the Old English for Castle and when used in field names often alludes to castles, in this case possibly a late medieval adulterine castle[15].

[10] EWR Alliance, 2020. East West Rail Phase 2: Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report Unpublished report.
[11] Bray, D., 2018. *Possible medieval/post medieval mill mound to the north-east of Bicester, Oxfordshire.* Oxford: Oxford Archaeology South.
[12] EWR Alliance, 2020. East West Rail Phase 2: Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report Unpublished report.
[13] EWR Alliance, 2019 Compound A1: Land East of Bicester Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished Report
[14] Ibid
[15] Ibid.

Aerial photos show extensive ridge and furrow in the immediate vicinity of the Site. Based on the remains of the ridge and furrow, the Site would have been agricultural land during the late medieval / post-medieval period[16].

Another feature has been noted to the south-west of the Site, which could also possibly be another mill mound. Examples of mill mounds have been identified in other locations nationally and demonstrate that suitable sites were utilised over a long period[17].

Further archaeological remains associated with late medieval activity are likely to survive within the Site.

Post Medieval (AD1540 – c.1750) and Industrial Period (c.1750 – 1901)

The Launton Inclosure Map published in 1814 shows many of the strip fields depicted within the Parish on earlier pre-enclosure maps. The Site known as Castell Meade on the earlier map remained the same in plan. There is no reference on the map to the mound within the field, which at the time was known as Hopyard Meadows, suggesting that at this time hops were grown within the field[18].

The line of the London and North Western Railway (Oxford to Bletchley branch) (MOX MOX5870) was opened in the mid-19th century and runs along the southern boundary of the Site. It is possible that detritus from the construction of this may be present in the Site. This was not visible in the magnetometer survey previously undertaken, due to a large gas main running in the same location which overwhelmed this section of the magnetometer results.

Modern Period (Post-1901)

Historical maps show that there have been some landscape changes, with the surrounding area staying relatively agricultural. More recent additions include the business park to the west, as well as the alteration of the Bicester Road, the construction of Charbridge Lane and a roundabout that may have damaged or destroyed the north-eastern half of the potential mill mound to the north of the Site[19].

Historic Landscape Character

The present character of the Site can be defined as rough unenclosed ground, reorganised by 18th – 19th century enclosure, and later interrupted by the 19th century railway line[20].

4. Previous Works

LiDAR data of the Site has been previously analysed. Faint traces of ridge and furrow are visible within the Site, however no further archaeological features are visible. The mound and associated earthworks are visible on LiDAR data to the north of the Site.

In 2018, a magnetometry survey was conducted and a number of discrete linear trends were identified that could be archaeological and may relate to the possible mill mound in the north-east of the Site, although the mound itself could not be clearly identified. A discrete pit-like anomaly was also detected; however, the feature appears isolated and could potentially be geological in nature. Several agricultural trends, related to field drainage, were also identified as were several areas of magnetic disturbance of a

[16] Ibid.
[17] EWR Alliance, 2020. East West Rail Phase 2: Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report Unpublished report.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Oxfordshire County Council, 2017. *Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.*

likely modern date. These were especially visible at the survey edges and boundaries. The response of a large modern service was also detected running east to west along the southern boundary[21].

An archaeological geophysical resistivity survey was then undertaken in 2019 in order to clarify if any archaeological features were present in the same location as the topographic features visible above ground. A total of 0.3 ha of survey was completed focussing on the potential mill mound area to the north-east of the Site. The survey results were clearly affected by external interference; however, the results suggested the presence of a low resistance sub-circular feature, located in the area of a potential mill mound[22].

A trial trench investigation was carried out across the Site in November 2019, with trenches placed throughout the Site and to the north of the Site, targeting the mound area. Within the area of the SMS, shallow ditches, and tree pits with few finds were recorded, and probably represent field boundaries. The shallowness was a typical characteristic of all features and may indicate that some of their original depth has been lost to agriculture or to fluvial erosion. The latest features include residues of coke fuel, post-dating the 17th century and used into the 20th century. Their presence in this agricultural field, while showing a post-medieval date for the features, may represent either dumping of industrial waste in the field since the 1600s, or even brought in by seasonal flooding or represents railway detritus. The most recent finds appear to have been incorporated into the topsoil and tops of features by a mixture of gravity and softness of the topsoil, including a modern cup and pieces of clay pigeon[23].

5. Proposal for Archaeological Investigations

The proposed programme of works at Land West of Bicester Bypass, Temporary Road Diversion (Mill Meadow) will initially involve a programme of archaeological SMS in two phases. All works will follow the specific methodologies set out in Section 6 of the Heritage Delivery Strategy[24]:

- 6.4 Strip, Map, Sample (SMS)
- 6.5 Archaeological Monitoring
- 6.6 Construction Integrated Recording
- 6.7 Chance Finds Procedure
- 6.9 Environmental Sampling
- 6.10 Human Remains
- 6.11 Finds
- 6.12 Recording & Reporting
- 6.13 Archiving

Where archaeological remains are encountered, further mitigation may be required. This will be discussed and agreed between the Contractor, the Employer and the Curator.

6. Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Methodology

Service plans have been provided for the Site. A gas pipe, with a 15m exclusion zone, is located in the southern area of the Site, running parallel to the railway, roughly east to west across the Site. No known

[21] EWR Alliance, 2018. *Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion (Gradiometer): Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished report.
[22] EWR Alliance, 2019. *Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion (Resistivity): Archaeological Geophysical Survey.* Unpublished report.
[23] EWR Alliance, 2020. East West Rail Phase 2: Land West of Bicester Bypass, Charbridge Lane Overbridge Diversion, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report Unpublished report.
[24] EWR Alliance, 2019. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy.* Unpublished Report

services are present within the remainder of the Site. The area will be CAT scanned prior to any excavation. To the west of the Site, a river runs along the boundary of the field, however the buffer for the river is outside the area of SMS.

The SMS will be carried out in two phases: Phase 1 being the southern half of the SMS area and Phase 2 being the northern half (Figure 1).

All topsoil stripping will be monitored and directed by the supervising archaeologist. Archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping will be at a ratio of one archaeologist per mechanical excavator. Topsoil and overburden will be removed in successive level spits down to the first archaeological horizon, or the natural sub-stratum, whichever is encountered first. At this point, ground works will cease while archaeological recording is carried out.

The removal of topsoil and overburden will be carried out with mechanical excavators utilising a flat bladed bucket (toothless), and in horizontal spits. Plant will work away from, and not track across, the machined surface until the monitoring archaeologist has given permission to do so. Movement of plant over the remainder of the Site will be minimised to prevent rutting or damage to sub-surface archaeological features as far as is practicable. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately and will be visually scanned.

All investigation of archaeological horizons will be by hand, with cleaning, inspection, and recording both in plan and section. Any works regarding soil management will adhere to the site requirements contained within the Development Stage 2A1 Soil Management Plan[25].

The final excavation sample will be agreed following the site visit, however the minimum requirements for sample excavation in line with Historic England guidelines[26] are stated below, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council:

Table 6-1 Minimum requirements for sample excavation

Type of Remains	Requirement for sample excavation
Complex/ very significant features/ deposits/ artefact assemblages/ artefacts	Sampling to be subject of further discussion with the Richard Oram Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council. If of exceptional nature, the advice of Historic England may be sought.
Hearths, ovens, kilns	50-100% of domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens). Also to be sampled for arch/mag as standard if appropriate (this applies to any in-situ burnt features unless agreed otherwise on site following discussion). Palaeoenvironmental sampling to be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist.
Possible prehistoric roundhouses or other post-built structures	Total excavation of all post-holes, spreads/ occupation layers and cut features (e.g. ring-gullies) directly associated with structures. Metal detector to be used at all stages of excavation/ removal, for better artefact recovery (e.g. for droplets of bronze).
Possible cremation burials	Total excavation; lifting of intact/ semi-intact pottery vessels with following micro-excavation in laboratory.
Linear features	Excavation by hand of sections across all termini, all junctions or intersections of cut features and, in the body of

[25] East West Rail Alliance (2020) *East West Rail Phase 2. Sub-Section 2A1 Soil Management Plan*
[26] Campbell, Moffett and Straker (2011) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

	the features (if datable, ancient and manifestly rich in ancient palaeoenvironmental remains, the following scope of works: 10% of each linear feature's exposed area Partial excavations within a linear at junctions of cut features will not be a substitute for sections across the body of the linear, away from such junctions, because of possible contamination between intercutting contexts. With prior agreement with the Planning Archaeologist, the remainder of the fills may be excavated mechanically under close archaeological supervision and control and thorough metal detecting
Discrete cut features general	Total excavation by hand of all discrete datable and ancient cut features of less than 2 sq. metres plan area, and such features manifestly rich in ancient palaeoenvironmental remains; except where deeper than 1 metre, when half-sections will be acceptable. Metal detector to be used at all stages of excavation/ removal, for better artefact recovery.
Post-holes	Post-holes probably associated with structures - complete excavation by hand. Otherwise a 50% sample will be undertaken of isolated post holes.
Pits	Default - half-section. Further sampling to be decided on basis of Health & Safety considerations/ vulnerability of fill/ contents.
Structural Features	All structural features will be fully revealed in plan and recorded. All individual elements including walls, floors, doorways, and any negative features will have context boundaries distinguished facilitating a full written, drawn and photographic record. Negative structural features (beamslots etc) will be 50% sampled.
Demonstrably 19th/ 20th-century features	If not evidently part of a structure, e.g. a structure of industrial archaeological interest, or if without good artefact assemblage, record and sample only that sufficient to confirm late date. If artefact-rich/ part of a structure, treat as with pits and post-holes above.
Highly/nationally significant features (e.g. high-status burials)	Developer and Planning Archaeologist to be notified immediately on discovery/recognition. Strategy for excavation/scientific investigation/conservation etc to be agreed before work resumes.

A sampling strategy appropriate to the archaeological features and deposits will be adopted. This will include bulk samples for most archaeological contexts as well as provision for column and other necessary sampling. Bulk samples will be taken using ten litre plastic, lidded tubs (with handles) or securely fastened strong polythene bags (double bagged). All sample tubs/bags will be appropriately and clearly labelled with site codes, context details and sample information using permanent ink.

Bulk samples of dry contexts will be taken in the range of 40-60 litres as appropriate. Samples of wet (i.e. waterlogged) deposits should total 20L. Where the context is of a lower volume, 100% of the context will be sampled.

Monolith and kubiena box samples should be taken where necessary to allow for specialist analysis of deposits. The location and depth should be accurately recorded, and all samples should be taken with a 50mm overlap where more than one monolith is required. Column samples should also be taken down the length of a section where appropriate. These samples should be neatly packed and secured with plastic and rubber bands. All samples will be appropriately and clearly labelled with site codes, context details and sample information using permanent ink.

In waterlogged conditions, it is possible that timbers will survive below ground. Where there is potential for timbers to be dated, they should be sampled following Historic England guidelines[27].

All samples will be recorded in a sample register forming part of the site record.

The Contractor will be responsible for the safekeeping of all samples on-site and during transportation to the processing facility.

EWR Alliance will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains or changes in the programme of ground works on Site.

Linear features and occasional discrete features will be located using a Trimble R8 GNSS GPS and tied into the National Grid. Where complex features or groups of features are encountered, these will be recorded at a scale of 1:20 on planning sheets based on a 5m grid system. The grid will be used for planning features and all other horizontal control on site. Vertical control will be established from the nearest Ordnance Survey bench mark (OSBM), with the traverse completed as part of a closed loop. Temporary benchmarks will be established across the site, as required.

Archaeological recording, where not precluded by Health & Safety considerations, will consist of:

Planning of all exposed archaeological features and horizons (including boundaries of natural) at an appropriate scale. 1:50 will be utilised to initially map the entire exposure and linked to detail plans at 1:20 of excavated features.

Limited hand cleaning of archaeological sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.

Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of their spatial distribution.

A scaled photographic record of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.

A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits.

The SMS area and all features will be excavated only to a safe working depth, although they potentially will be stepped if required. The excavated area will be secured with road pins and barrier mesh, if required.

Records will be produced using either pro-forma context sheets compatible with those published by the Museum of London[28], and features will be planned according to the single context method.

[27] Historic England, 2010. *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines to the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*.
[28] MoL,1994. *Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition)*

A full photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera to produce RAW and JPEG images.

A record of the full sequence of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the SMS will be made. Plans and sections of features will be drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:20 or 1:50, with sections drawn at 1:10.

A metal detector will be made available on site to aid in the recovery of artefacts if required. The detector will not be set to discriminate against iron.

Any finds of human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential a Licence will be sought from the Home Office. The Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Officer will be informed.

Any finds covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act (1996, amended 2003, 2008) and Treasure (Designation) Order 2002[29], including gold and silver, will be secured and preserved in situ until a view can be obtained from the Portable Antiquity Scheme officer.

All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained. Certain classes of material, i.e. post-medieval pottery and building material may be discarded after recording if a representative sample is kept. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the Oxfordshire County Council's Archaeological Adviser.

Finds will be studied to provide a date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery. In addition, the artefacts will be used to characterise the Site, and to establish the potential for all categories of finds should further archaeological work be necessary.

All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with the Oxfordshire Museums Service. Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2[30].

Provision for onsite conservation and finds treatment, in addition to any scientific dating of materials uncovered, will be undertaken where appropriate.

Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services (OCCAS) will monitor progress and standards throughout the project. The County Archaeological Officer shall be notified of the start date at least two weeks prior to commencement of work in order to arrange a date for the monitoring visit(s).

The SMS area should not be backfilled until after they have been monitored by OCCAS.

Upon completion of the project the landowner and the Oxfordshire Museums Service will be contacted.

7. Site in the Context of the Research Agenda

Given evidence of Romano British activity within the vicinity of the Site, there is High potential for remains of a similar date to be present within the Site. Medieval activity is known to the north, therefore there is a High potential for remains associated with the Medieval period to be present in the area of the Site. There is considered to be a High potential for medieval agricultural remains to survive given the presence of known ridge and furrow, the proximity of medieval finds to the Site, as well as the results of the trial trenching investigation. The potential for encountering hitherto unknown remains of other periods is Low but cannot be ruled out.

[29] MSO (1996, revised 2002, 2008) *Treasure Act 1996*.
[30] United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983. *Conservation Guidelines No. 2*.

The Heritage Delivery Strategy outline the Specific Research Objectives (SROs) that the work on EWR2 may address[31]. Where remains of medieval ridge and furrow are encountered within the Site, they may have the potential to contribute to:

- **SRO27:** Can we provide new insight into Early Medieval crafts, trade and industries, particularly pottery, ironworking and stone?
- **SRO28:** Can we understand more about the fate of Roman roads in the Early Medieval period and, if possible, the structure of the Medieval road network?
- **SRO29:** Understand the chronology of development and character of later medieval field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region
- **SRO30:** Better understand the character and organisation of later medieval ridge and furrow and field systems
- **SRO31:** Can we investigate other key later medieval land use such as water resources; deer farms; the growth of horticulture?
- **SRO32:** Can we understand better later medieval rural settlement, particularly the origins and nature of nucleated village settlement and the origins /continuation of dispersed settlement as farms/granges/hamlets?

The ability of any other remains which might be encountered to contribute to the established regional and sub-regional research framework[32] and the SRO's would be dependent upon the nature, condition, extent and significance of the remains. Any such remains, however, could have the potential to contribute to and/or further the understanding of the patterns of land use, settlement and/or economy of the period to which they belong. Should hitherto unknown remains be encountered during archaeological monitoring, they should be considered in the context of Section 4 of Heritage Delivery Strategy and Solent-Thames Framework, or any successor document.

8. Archiving

On completion of the project, an electronic copy of the post-excavation assessment report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) as per Section 6.13 of the Heritage Delivery Strategy[33].

On completion of the EWR project the archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum. An accession number will be applied for from Oxfordshire County Museum. The archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the Museum and following national guidance[34][35].

9. Bibliography

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[31] EWR Alliance, 2019. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy.* Unpublished Report Section 4.4
[32] Hey, G. and Hind, J., 2014. Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas. Oxford Wessex Monograph Series
[33] EWR Alliance, 2019a. Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order: Heritage Delivery Strategy. Unpublished Report
[34] Archaeology Data Service/ Digital Antiquity (2011). *Guides to Good Practice*. Archaeology Data Service, University of York
[35] Brown D H, 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. Second Edition.

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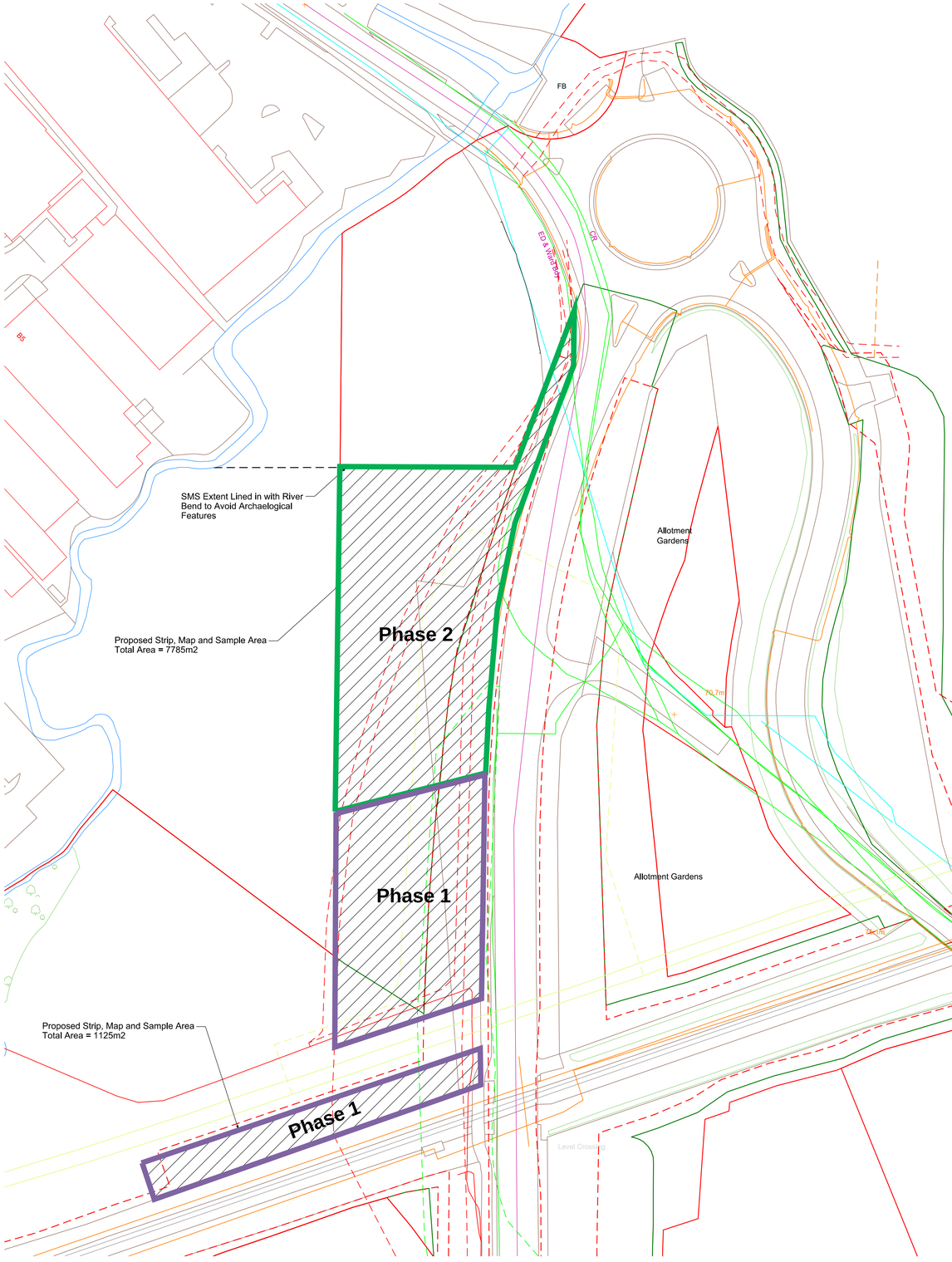
Revision & Version
P01.01.01

Drawing Number
133735_2A-EWR-OXD-OB_36AA-DR-CP-01000



Rev	Date	Description of Revisions	Dsnd	Chkd	Appr
P01	16/04/20	DRAFT	---		

Status: Unassigned
Suitability: S0

EWR Alliance
Connecting People

Project
East West Rail
(Western Section)
Phase 2

Drawing Title
Charbridge Lane SMS
Revised Area

Designed	---	Signed	Date ---
Drawn	---	Signed	Date ---
Checked	---	Signed	Date ---
Approved	---	Signed	Date ---

Scale(s): Scale
ELR - Project Chainage (Miles Yards): OXD - 108962 (18m0543y)
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Sheet: 0 of 0
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