

ES Appendix 10.3

Pre-application Consultation Responses

From: [Faye Mitchard](#)
To: [Faye Mitchard](#)
Subject: FW: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley
Date: 08 February 2024 10:31:13
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Faye Mitchard
Personal Assistant

m 07519 324519
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Dear Rob,

Thank you for making those additions, we can accept this WSI.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:02 PM
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

Thank you for getting back to me so swiftly with your comments, much appreciated. Please find attached a revised version. I should have addressed everything in your email below but please do let me know if anything is amiss or if you would be happy for this to be finalised and submitted.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, MCIFA
Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Dear Rob,

Thank you for this WSI – I apologise I completely left out the further trenching from the brief I supplied.

Though there will be a further Contractor Method Statement, there are a number of points to update before we can accept the WSI, as this is the document the Method Statement will be based on:

4.8 The mechanical excavator will be fitted with an appropriate toothless ditching bucket

4.11 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits identified must be excavated by hand through a specified or agreed sampling procedure to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described.

4.13 The trenches will not be backfilled until signed off by OCAS

Excavation:

- This section will need to include the excavation methodology for site stripping
- There should also be a point to say metal detecting will be employed during the excavation
- 4.25 If the work is done in phases, summary reports of each phase should be submitted in .pdf form to the planning archaeologist and the HER in digital form within twelve months of the completion of fieldwork within each phase.
- The procedure for the treatment of Treasure - If, during the course of excavation, items are found that may be potentially defined as 'Treasure' under the Code of Practice for the Treasure Act 1996, the archaeological contractor will be responsible for ensuring that the County Coroner is informed. County Archaeological Services and the Finds Liaison Officer will also need to be informed of any possible treasure finds.
- Transfer of Title arrangements should be included in the WSI - In the event of the legal owner(s) resolving to retain all or part of the site archive, they shall be responsible for the future preservation and maintenance of any material element of that archive. That part of the site archive in question, shall be transferred to the legal owner only after; all necessary processing, research, analysis and investigative/stabilising conservation and correct packing necessary to prepare the archive for preservation and in a usable, accessible form, and to produce a full report for publication, has been completed. The owner shall ensure that all necessary provision is made for the long-term preservation of the archive in a satisfactory environment, and that it is accessible for future research. The contracted archaeological organisation will ensure that a proper record of material is kept by the landowner shall be included in the written archive and public record. The explicit (written) permission of the owner shall be obtained for the latter in order that the *Data Protection Act 1984* is not contravened.

- 4.44 GIS (shape) files of the final phases excavated site plan should be provided to OCAS
- 6.5.2 A Plan will need to be provided to OCAS prior to any site monitoring meeting
- 6.5.3 No parts of the excavation areas will be handed back to the developer until written confirmation that they have been signed off is obtained from County Archaeological Services. A post excavation plan showing the features and interventions along with grid references will need to be provided for any sign off areas in advance of this written confirmation.
- Oxfordshire Museums Service should be notified of the fieldwork so an accession number can be issued, and included in the report
- Could a plan be included which shows the potential phases of the excavation over the geophysics results

As you have included in this WSI, we will require a supplementary Method Statement from the appointed archaeological contractor, which should also include a list of specialists.

Just for your information, our monitoring charges are currently under review and are likely to increase from £240 in April.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:38 AM

To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Good morning, Victoria,

Hope all is well with you. Please find attached a draft, overarching WSI in relation to the site at Ardley. The document follows the guidance issued in your brief which is appended to it. Please can you let me know if you have any comments or if you would be happy for us to submit this with the application?

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, MCIFA
Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Dear Rob,

Thank you for these, please find attached a brief for the archaeological mitigation at Ardley. I have included a point to say the buffers can be agreed when it is known (if) the phased approach is to go ahead, which area will be mitigated first.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

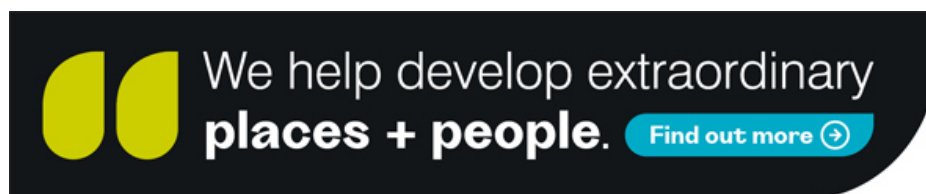
As requested....

Thank you for your other email, much appreciated. I will be preparing the AMS over the coming weeks so will probably consult with you again on it this side of Christmas.

Best regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner *(he/him) BA (Hons), MA, MCIFA*
Associate



The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

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Cardiff, CF10 4HF

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From: Keighley Wasenczuk <Keighley.Wasenczuk@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 2:23 PM
To: Richard Greatorex <Richard.Greatorex@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>; Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Hi Rob,

Please find attached a zip file containing shapefiles for the trench locations and the features.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you

Keighley

Keighley Wasenczuk
Managers Assistant



t 01264 347651
m 07738 883725
e Keighley.Wasenczuk@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
Stanley House, Walworth Road, Andover
Hampshire, SP10 5LH

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From: Richard Greatorex <Richard.Greatorex@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 2:19 PM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Cc: Keighley Wasenczuk <Keighley.Wasenczuk@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Hi Rob

I will ask Keighley to forward for you,

Kind regards

Richard

Richard Greatorex
Principal Fieldwork Manager

t 01264 347633
m 07703 684031
e Richard.Greatorex@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk



www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

Stanley House, Walworth Road, Andover
Hampshire, SP10 5LH

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From: [Emma Harrison](#)
To: [Rob Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley
Date: 10 December 2021 17:41:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

Dear Rob

Apologies for the delay in my reply. I have been passed this enquiry from my colleague Joyce. The approach you outline below appears to be sensible, however this is not a formal response and this would be provided if a Scoping opinion is submitted to CDC. I can not find any reference to this on the system at the current time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance

Kind Regards

Emma Harrison

Conservation Officer

Planning Policy and Conservation

Environment and Place

Cherwell District Council

Direct Dial: 01295 221846

emma.harrison@cherwell-DC.gov.uk

www.cherwell.gov.uk

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From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 26 November 2021 09:56

To: Joyce Christie <Joyce.Christie@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>

Subject: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

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Dear Joyce,

I am writing to consult with you regarding the scope of a heritage assessment for another site in Cherwell District, this time on land adjacent to Junction 10 of the M40 at Ardley. The attached plan shows the site area with designated assets out to 2km highlighted.

As for the site at Junction 9 our approach would be to assess both designated and non-designated assets up to 2km from the site boundary inclusive of all listed buildings and conservation area.

Please could you let me know if you would also endorse this approach for this site, or if you have any comments?

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant



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From: [Wilkinson, David](#)
To: [Rob Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley
Date: 14 December 2021 16:09:45
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image60790c.JPG](#)

Dear Rob,

Thank you for requesting Historic England's advice on this proposal, specifically on the approach you are proposing for designated assets.

In general I support the approach you are taking and my only caveat would be that as this is a large development, with structures over 20 m high, there could be heritage assets which are more than 2km away from the development but whose setting could be impacted. I would advise that this is considered in your assessment.

I do not have further comments at this stage but Historic England will of course comment in detail, as necessary, on the planning application,

Yours sincerely,

David Wilkinson

David Wilkinson, BA, MLitt, MCifA

Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire.

London and South East Regions Group

Please note that my normal working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Historic England

Floor 4, The Atrium, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London, EC4R 2YA

Mobile: 07785 631175

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From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 26 November 2021 09:40

To: Wilkinson, David <David.Wilkinson@HistoricEngland.org.uk>

Subject: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

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Dear David,

I am writing to consult with you on another site in Cherwell District for the same client, this time on land adjacent to Junction 10 of the M40 at Ardley. The attached plan show the site area with designated assets out to 2km highlighted.

As for the site at Junction 9 our approach would be to assess assets up to 2km from the site boundary inclusive of all listed building and scheduled monuments.

Please could you let me know if HE would also endorse this approach for this site, or if you have any comments?

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant



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From: [Oram, Richard - Communities](#)
To: [Rob Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley
Date: 23 December 2021 10:46:08
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)

Rob,

Thank you for sending me this report.

I can confirm that it is acceptable.

We will need to test these results through evaluation. The most recent results do appear to have been fairly successful and in addition to the archaeological features it has picked up there is quite a lot of the underlying geology also visible as seen on Aps. As such a 2% targeted sample in the area of this most recent survey will be acceptable.

The wider survey however does not show any possible features and very little of the underlying geology we can see on Aps and so I am less confident that we can appropriately target any features in this area and as such we will need a 4% sample for this area. What I would suggest however is that a 4% sample is set out on a plan and initially only every other trench is opened. If these do show that archaeological features continue into this site that were not picked up by the earlier survey then the rest of the 4% can be undertaken.

Regards

Richard

Richard Oram
Lead Archaeologist
Archaeology
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND
Tel 07917 001026

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From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: 16 December 2021 13:00
To: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

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Dear Richard,

Please find attached a copy of the draft geophysics report for the site at Ardley. Please let me know if you have any comments on the report and/or on the scope of archaeological evaluation?

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner
Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m 07557 021709
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2021 08:59

To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

Rob,

We will be requiring an archaeological evaluation on this site prior to the determination of any planning application and this will come in the form of a formal objection to the application.

We will also need to see a draft copy of the geophysical survey report for our comments before it is submitted for planning purposes as clearly set out in the agreed WSI. The survey work will need to be undertaken in line with this agreed WSI.

Regards

Richard

Richard Oram

Lead Archaeologist

Archaeology

County Hall

New Road

Oxford

OX1 1ND

Tel 07917 001026

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From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 06 December 2021 17:37

To: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

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Thank you Richard,

The survey is ongoing this current week and I will share with you the initial results when they are in hand and the draft report. That 'banjo enclosure' site could prove interesting.

By way of a heads-up on the client's submission. Basically, Tritax Symmetry are keen to get an outline application submitted in short order (prior to the Christmas break) so as it can be considered alongside the recently submitted Albion Land applications (Refs. 21/03267/OUT and 21/03268/OUT) a short distance to the south-west, being as both their and Albion's proposals are for similar development provision. Due to the timescales dictated by the Albion Land applications, we have had to rush to get a DBA and geophysics completed along with an ES chapter and, as such, will have to submit the application with trial trenching having not yet been completed. In this respect, the ES will go in with the geophysics report and DBA as baseline information and with the ES making an informed assessment of the site's archaeological potential and its likely significance from these sources, caveated as subject to revision following the forthcoming trial trenching.

We understand that from your point of view this is not ideal, but Tritax want you to be aware that under normal circumstances they would have looked to engage earlier and complete all archaeological evaluation in advance of the submission and, that there is every intention to carry out trial trenching in advance of determination. We are presently approaching contractors for their availability in the new year and will consult with you fully once the geophysics results are in hand on the scope for trenching and, consequently agree a WSI well in advance of carrying out any work.

Please let me know if you wish to discuss this programme any further.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner

Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m 07557 021709

w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 December 2021 09:10

To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

Rob,

I can confirm that this WSI is now acceptable.

Regards

Richard

Richard Oram

Lead Archaeologist

Archaeology

County Hall

New Road

Oxford

OX1 1ND

Tel 07917 001026

 Save money and paper - do you really need to print this email?

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 02 December 2021 09:25

To: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

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Dear Richard,

Thanks you for your comments, please find attached an updated version of the WSI. Please can you confirm if this is now able to be approved?

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner

Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m 07557 021709

w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 November 2021 14:35

To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

Rob,

We did have the earlier geophysical survey report (EOX 6619).

There will need to be some changes to this WSI before we can agree it.

4.1 There is certainly cropmarks of a possible banjo enclosure (PRN 17456) visible on aerial photographs at this location as included on the HER (also visible on Google Earth). This area is not in the northern portion of the site and was

however excluded from the earlier geophysical survey and so is not the same site highlighted from this survey. This area is included in the areas proposed within this WSI and so it would be useful to note this in the WSI.

6.5 xy trace plots will need to be included within the report along with the greyscale and interpretation plans.

The report should however not include recommendations for the treatment of any remains or any further archaeological work that will be required (viii).

11.1 whilst we would not physically monitor the evaluation we will need to monitor the quality of the work through the report as set out in ClfA standards and so this should be included in the monitoring section of the WSI.

As a requirements of this it is essential that we are sent a draft copy of the report for our comments before a final version is produced or submitted for planning as set out in 6.8.

Regards

Richard

Richard Oram
Lead Archaeologist
Archaeology
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND
Tel 07917 001026

 Save money and paper - do you really need to print this email?

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 12 November 2021 17:27

To: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: edp2355 - Junction 10 M40 Ardley

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Dear Richard,

I'm not sure if you have been consulted on this previously (possibly back in 2015?) but my client are looking to submit an application to develop a site close to junction 10 of the A40 at Ardley, Oxfordshire. Part of the site was subject to geophysics back in 2015 and we are under an assumption that you would be looking to have the survey extended to cover the whole present site area. ASWYAS have produced a WSI in respect of the remaining part of the survey (attached). Please let me know if you have any comments on the WSI?

I know that previously you have not been able to accept links within emails, is this still the case? If not then the link below will take you to the original geophysics report should you wish to access it which is too big to attach:

 [Appendix EDP 1 4385_arb Report \(FINAL\).pdf](#)

We will also be writing an up to date DBA for the site and I will forward you a WSI in relation to this next week at some point.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant



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From: [Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council](#)
To: [Rob Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching
Date: 24 August 2022 15:07:37
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)

Hi Rob,
Thank you for making those changes, we can now accept this WSI.
Kind regards,
Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: 24 August 2022 14:19
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Emily Brewer <emilyb@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

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Hi Victoria,
Please find attached CA's updated WSI. Are you able to confirm if this is now acceptable please?
Many thanks,
Rob
Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 August 2022 09:54
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

Hi Rob,
Thank you for this WSI, just a couple of things to add/amend before I can accept it:
4.7 Says excavation will be carried out to CFA standards using CFA record forms
4.16 OCAS should also be informed of the discovery of treasure
4.18 OCAS should be informed of the discovery of human remains
If the work is delayed, should we reschedule my site visit which I have booked in on 1st September?
Kind regards,
Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: 23 August 2022 12:36
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Emily Brewer <emilyb@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

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Thanks Victoria,

CA have been on the ball and have issued the WSI today (attached).
Appreciate that we should agree a start date two weeks after the agreement of the revised WSI, however given the circumstances whereby we had already agree a WSI would you be happy, if we can agree the WSI by the end of this week, if we started initial preparations on site next week and then trenching with a full team from the 5th September?

Many thanks,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIFA

Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)

w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 August 2022 09:47

To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

Hi Rob,

Hopefully if it is just a reissue of the WSI I should be able to look through it quite quickly. I have quite a few site visits this week but at the moment have Friday free so I will be able to review the WSI then, if not before.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 23 August 2022 09:32

To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>; Emily Brewer <emilyb@edp-uk.co.uk>

Cc: Oram, Richard - Oxfordshire County Council <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

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Dear Victoria,

I am just providing an update on the trial trenching that is planned for the site at Ardley. The programme has been delayed as the client have decided to go with a new contractor (Cotswold Archaeology). As such we will be re-issuing the agreed WSI as a Cotswold document (hopefully asap this week). Please can you let me know what your suggested turn around would be to get that reviewed given that none of the pertinent details will change?

Many thanks,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIFA

Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)

w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 27 July 2022 09:11

To: Emily Brewer <emilyb@edp-uk.co.uk>

Cc: Oram, Richard - Oxfordshire County Council <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>; Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

Dear Emily,

Thank you for the notification of the start date. I am currently only busy on the afternoon of Thursday 18th August, so could carry out a monitoring visit at any other time that suits the team.

Kind regards,
Victoria

From: Emily Brewer <emilyb@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 25 July 2022 10:20

To: Oram, Richard - Oxfordshire County Council <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>; Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

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Dear Richard/Victoria,

I hope this email finds you well,

I am writing to follow up from Rob's email regarding the archaeological trenching at Ardley,

As noted, the work is due to start on site from the 15th August and so I wanted to make you aware of this start date,

With this in mind, could we please discuss a suitable date for an initial site visit from one of yourselves?

Thanks very much,

Emily Brewer

Emily Brewer BA (Hons), ACIfA

Archaeology and Heritage Consultant

m [07519 324651](tel:07519324651)

w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 21 June 2022 09:49

To: Oram, Richard - Communities <Richard.Oram@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Emily Brewer <emilyb@edp-uk.co.uk>

Subject: FW: Symmetry Park Ardley Trenching

Dear Richard,

Just a quick email on the Symmetry Park site at Ardley. I just wanted to check whether you were aware of the metal detecting finds that have been made in the vicinity of the cluster of geophysical anomalies that lies within our site? I had assumed that you probably were although I'm not sure how these things are communicated between yourself and the FLO? The finds are listed and located on the attached and include a coin horde in situ in a pot in a placed deposit that was reported on in The Searcher magazine.

Briefly, we have gathered what information we can from the FLO, the archaeologist Anni Byard who helped excavated the coin horde and the detectorist group and are treating this as additional baseline information for our evaluation. In terms of the evaluation we will tweak the trench plan to intersect with the coin horde but will generally be evaluating the area in which the finds were made anyway which equates closely with the cluster of anomalies. CFA have suggested that they do half length but double width trenches across the area in which the archaeology is concentrated so as to get a broader picture in each trench. What would your opinion on that approach be? I'm not 100% sure its necessary at this stage as we will probably be excavating anyway at some point but appreciate your opinion.

At the moment we are still on for carrying out the work after crops are harvested in August.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, CIFA

Principal Archaeology and Heritage Consultant



The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

First Floor, The Bonded Warehouse, Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff, CF10 4HF

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)

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From: [Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council](#)
To: [Rob Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex
Date: 21 March 2023 12:44:25
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)

Hi Rob,

Thank you for this report, we can accept it, and it should be submitted with any forthcoming planning application on the site.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: 21 March 2023 09:02
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex

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Hi Victoria,

Sorry to chase, my client are very keen to get this agreed and submitted, are we likely to get the report from you today please?

Many thanks,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIFA
Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Rob Skinner
Sent: 15 March 2023 12:04
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex

No worries Victoria, thank you!

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 March 2023 11:52
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex

Hi Rob,

Apologies, I have been on annual leave and was ill for a few days last week but am aiming to finish going through the report by early next week.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: 15 March 2023 11:32

To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex

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Hi Victoria,

Just a quick email to see if you have had a chance to look at the report yet?

Many thanks,

Rob

Rob Skinner BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA

Associate



The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

First Floor, The Bonded Warehouse, Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff, CF10 4HF

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)

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From: Rob Skinner

Sent: 03 March 2023 09:25

To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex

Hi Victoria,

Hope all is well with you. Please find attached Cotswold's draft report for the evaluation at Ardley. Please let me know if you have any comments or if you would be happy for us to submit this?

Kind regards,

Rob

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 November 2022 15:32
To: Richard Greatorex <Richard.Greatorex@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>; Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Photo from Richard Greatorex

Thank you for the update, well done to the team for finishing this week – the weather has been pretty bad!

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Richard Greatorex <Richard.Greatorex@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>
Sent: 18 November 2022 15:18
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>; robs@edp-uk.co.uk
Subject: Photo from Richard Greatorex

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Richard Greatorex
Principal Fieldwork Manager



t [01264 347633](tel:01264347633)
m [07703 684031](tel:07703684031)
e Richard.Greatorex@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

Stanley House, Walworth Road, Andover
Hampshire, SP10 5LH



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From: [Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council](#)
To: [Rob Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley
Date: 31 October 2023 09:44:09
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)

Dear Rob,

Thank you, these proposed areas are acceptable.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

Thank you for your agreement regarding the quarry pits. Noted re: the undated gullies/ditches in Field 2. On that basis would you support the attached proposal which shows three mitigation excavation areas? I have tweaked the one in Field 1 to suit our discussion below whereby it now takes in the full extent of the 'corner' of the trackway so as we can fully investigate it. As usual this work would be supported by a contingency for extension should significant remains occur beyond the boundaries that would include further stripping of the trackway, if this is deemed fruitful after the excavation of the field 1 area.

The proposal would also include the 8 trial trenches which are not shown on this plan.

If you agree to this, I can then discuss this with my client as a suitable basis for a mitigation strategy document/WSI.

Many thanks,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 8:09 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Dear Rob,

Thank you for this further information regarding the quarry pits at Ardley Symmetry Park. It is likely that the large area of quarrying is post-Medieval and will not need further archaeological mitigation. My previously suggested area of SMS covered the ditches and gullies recorded in Trenches 24 and 34, and so, could a much smaller area of SMS be carried out to investigate these features.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

Since your email below it occurred to me to revisit the desk-based assessment, as there is reference to 19th stone quarrying in the site from the estate map of 1860, which is referenced at 4.182 in the report – ‘...an estate map of 1860, which records a field name within the Site as ‘stone pit ground’’. In looking into this reference, we have carried out a little more research and acquired a copy of the schedule that accompanied this map (both map and relevant part of the schedule are attached).

It is noteworthy that the map records a stone pit in the site and several nearby (albeit not in the location of our pits in Field 2 of the evaluation) and, that Field no. 15 (in the Schedule) is named as Stone Pit Ground. This field equates to our Field 7 and we found quarry pits in that field in TRs 50 and 59. Whilst this evidence does not identify the large quarry pits in Field 2, it does demonstrate that the land at the site was being used for stone extraction at this time. It was clearly recognised as a source of limestone and quarrying was taking place which could easily have been occurring in various areas (other than those specifically identified on the map in 1860) where the stone is present, during the 19th century and before.

The field in which the larger pits were found is named in the Schedule (Field 13) as ‘Lime Kiln Ground’. There are evidently no above ground remains of a lime kiln and no buried remains were

found in the evaluation that would have identified a kiln's location, however, as noted by Historic England in their *Introduction to Heritage Assets – Pre-industrial limekilns* document, 'The stone for burning was usually extracted from sources close to the kilns themselves, so extraction pits may sometimes lie nearby'. On this basis I would suggest that the limestone quarrying in that area probably relates to 19th century lime making, and thus the pits are most likely of 19th century date. Certainly, I refer to my argument in my email below that, in an area that evidently provides a source of stone, early quarry pits would almost certainly have been over-dug and expanded by later efforts at extraction (which appears to have definitely occurred) and so what we are now seeing are backfilled pits related to 19th century (or thereabouts) extraction of limestone.

Furthermore, I queried the provenance of the pits with Richard Greatorex at Cotswold, and he said the following, (noting that Richard wasn't aware of the recorded lime making history when he wrote this):

'if they were undisturbed Roman quarries we would have had more evidence from them – at least some basic food utensils – even if they were using slaves. They are not even that extensive and the quality of stone is poor/fragile – Tritax and Albion Land only use that stuff for their piling mats or to raise ground levels if building on the flood plain – historically probably just used as infill for walls or 'hard' core for track ways – not much use for anything else – if it was being more widely used the quarries would have been much larger – this looks like post-med farmers just grabbing the best outcrops for their farm tracks.'

With the additional map evidence and Richards comments I would again refer to my argument below that the greatest likelihood is that the pits are of a relatively recent date and are of limited archaeological interest and thus do not warrant a level of controlled archaeological investigation especially considering the amount of work that would be required to properly section and sample one of them, let alone all of them. We already know the basics, that quarrying has occurred historically in the local area, right up until at least the 19th century, and that therefore there may have been a local source of stone for the Roman buildings. This information does feed into the interpretation of the site, but I have serious doubts as to whether we can achieve much more than that. I mean, what's to say that a slightly better quality of stone was available just beyond our site boundary? Being restricted by our site area, we don't have information on all of the surrounding land so we can never really know where the building stone actually came from, to assume it came from our site from an area of known later limestone extraction is ignoring the nature of the Roman landscape and the extent of the building resources that would have been available to them.

I hope that with this additional information you might reconsider your position but I'm happy to discuss this issue further.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner (he/him) BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA

Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 8:52 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Dear Rob,

I would still like there to be a level of archaeological monitoring in the area of the quarry pits; though there was no definitive evidence of them being Roman, the evaluation also did not prove that they are post-Medieval. Would it be more practicable to carry out a watching brief on the area when the area and level of reduction has been finalised, and then a level of sampling can be agreed.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 10:24 AM
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

I've just been speaking to the planners on this. The cut and fill proposals are not yet fully finalised and so cannot be released at this point. He did say that in general, the plan would be to reduce levels in the western part of the site and build up in the east, which will include a bund. As such, I would presume that levels would be reduced in the area where we recorded the quarries.

If you can now get back to me regarding the quarry area and my comments in the email below that would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)

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From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Hi Rob,

Yes please, I would like to better understand the groundworks in this area.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

Thank you for getting back to me. The approach for field 1 seems sensible and I will broach this as a way forward with the client.

Can I just gauge your thoughts regarding your request for cut and fill info specifically for the quarry areas, are you just looking to better understand the site's proposed groundworks?

Many thanks,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Associate

m [07557 021709](tel:07557021709)
w www.edp-uk.co.uk

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Hi Rob,

Thank you for your comments; I would be happy for the Field 1 excavation area to be extended as you have proposed, and then we can assess if further work is warranted on the trackway. The WSI could include a clause with a contingency for extending the excavation area if there are features continuing out of which require further excavation/recording.

Would the client be able to provide any information on the proposed cut/fill in the northern quarry area?

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 12:13 PM

To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

Thanks for getting back to me.

Regarding the strip, map and sample area suggestion I have a few comments which are below. It's also worth pointing out that there will be some cut and fill proposed across the site so there probably won't be an even topsoil strip in all areas, I can find out more about this.

Trackway

In order to provide useful context to the Anglo-Saxon buildings, it would need to be demonstrated that the trackway is in fact broadly contemporary. Based on the eval results, for the ditches that seemed to definitely define the track we have had no dating evidence. In that respect the track could be a product of any period including much later periods whereby it would be of limited archaeological interest and the expense associated with flat blade stripping it under archaeological supervision would be disproportionate to its significance.

A piece of IA pottery came out of the ditch at 16207, but it's not clear whether that E-W ditch is in fact related to the track which is only properly defined as such in the geophysics further north. It could be an unrelated and fairly run of the mill IA ditch crossing that field. As such again, on the basis of the data that we have, I'd query the need for the eastern of the two SMS areas in field 1, as we don't know if there is a track in this location.

However, I appreciate that if the track is contemporary with the settlement remains then it would provide an interesting context to them and thus be of elevated significance so as to warrant the extra work in plotting its course and digging further sections.

What I suggest follows (although I'd have to run all of this by my client). In the programme the

excavation area would come first, as the aim would be to complete these areas before any other site groundwork (in the areas in question). If we tweaked the excavation plan a bit, we could include the corner bit of the track (see attached plan). That work should be able to define whether the track actually corners and runs east, whether there is a relationship with the A-S settlement and hopefully get some dating evidence for the track and any other ditches in the area. Once this work is complete, we could then make a decision on the significance of these features and thus the reasonableness of further SMS. Does that sound like a plan that you'd support?

Quarry area

With the quarry pits, again there is no unequivocal evidence that they were Roman and thus possibly related to the settlement. The rocky area in which they are situated evidently provided a source of good stone and it is likely that it was queried in successive phases probably over a long history. What we have now is going to be the most recent phase whereby any Roman prospection may have been totally expanded and over dug. For example, if Romans dug a quarry pit and left a hole what's stopping people a few hundred years later from expanding that same hole outwards? At that point it ceases to be a Roman quarry and any evidence of that initial phase would be lost. Furthermore, quarry pits are very hard to get decent archaeological evidence out of as they are not generally immediately backfilled rather, they would be backfilled at a later date with nearby spoil tips or even later agricultural rubbish. I know that a piece of Roman pot was found in 3503 but it was from an upper fill and could easily have been chucked in with spoil at any date. To get decent dating evidence you'd need a thorough sample of the basal deposits of all the pits which would be a hell of a lot of work potentially for nothing if the pits are later and/or over cut or that no dating material is found.

On the basis of the evidence that we have, we know there was quarrying in this location and can speculate that the Romans may have started it, so we have some possible context to the settlement. But I don't really see what further SMS work would tell us about these features without recourse to total excavation and then, I would argue that such a big, expensive job would be disproportionate to their significance when there is a fair likelihood that their final phases are much later, and thus of limited archaeological interest.

Please do let me know your thoughts. Happy to have a chat about this on a call or teams maybe?

I think that the client would be in favour of submitting an overarching WSI or Mitigation Strategy as that has been the approach on other schemes and would allow the archaeological work to progress rapidly.

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA
Associate



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From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: RE: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

Hi Rob,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, I had some annual leave last week. I am happy with the proposed excavation areas and trench locations. I wondered if it would be possible for the areas shown in blue on the attached plan to be subject to Strip, Map, Sample? I am presuming that the areas will be stripped to the natural prior to the construction works commencing, and so if there could be an archaeologist on site to map and sample the extent of the possible trackway in Field 1, and the full extent of the pits/associated features in Field 2, this would be useful for providing context to the Roman and Anglo Saxon features in the excavation areas.

We can certainly agree to include clauses in the conditions and the WSI which would allow development to commence in some areas whilst archaeological mitigation is required in others. Is it intended that an agreed WSI will be submitted with the application as well as the ES? This will mean that there are no pre-commencement archaeological conditions to discharge at the start of the project (agreement of the WSI), and there will only need to be one archaeological condition for the mitigation.

Kind regards,

Victoria

From: Rob Skinner <robs@edp-uk.co.uk>
Sent: 25 September 2023 12:25
To: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Emily Brewer Rees <emilybr@edp-uk.co.uk>
Subject: edp2355 - Symmetry Park, Ardley

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Hi Victoria,

Hope all is well with yourself. We have been asked to consult with you regarding a possible scope for archaeological excavation for the site at Ardley should the development be consented. We need to agree a scope now so as to be able to update the ES chapter with details on the

proposed mitigation (ahead of planning submission at the end of the year) and in order to allow us to understand costs and also to schedule how the works would sit within the development programme which is being worked up in anticipation of planning permission.

You have already seen the evaluation report, but it is available here for reference:

 [AN0619 Symmetry Park Ardley archaeological evaluation FINAL.pdf](#)

Following appraisal of this report and our discussions on site, we are of an understanding that excavation will be appropriate in terms of mitigation and, on the basis of current information, that no preservation in situ is required. It is also understood that the excavation should comprise two areas, one focussed on the Roman buildings and their associated archaeology (in Fields 5 and 6) and the other on the Anglo-Saxon settlement remains found in the southern field (Field 1). It is also understood that we will need to do some further trial trenching in the area that was occupied by a cover crop at the time of the evaluation, just to the NW of the field with the Roman buildings in it, and thus there is potential for excavation depending on what is found.

The attached plan shows two areas suggested for excavation and 8 trial trenches in the cover crop area. Are you able to comment on this approach please?

We would also like to discuss your preferred approach should the site end up coming forwards in phases, i.e. with individual units constructed one at a time. if this is the case then we would be looking to agree a clause in a WSI that would allow development in some parts of the site ahead of the archaeological work provided that the development has no implications for the agreed archaeological areas. Appreciate that we can agree some wording for use in the WSI in due course when the document is worked up.

I look forward to your response,

Kind regards,

Rob

Rob Skinner (*he/him*) BA (Hons), MA, ACIfA

Associate



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