



**Symmetry Park,
Ardley**

**Written Scheme of
Investigation for an
Archaeological and
Heritage
Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental
Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
**Tritax Symmetry
Ardley Ltd.**

December 2021
Report Reference
edp2355_r007a

Contents

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Section 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| Section 2 | The Site | 3 |
| Section 3 | Methodology | 5 |
| Section 4 | Report Content | 7 |
| Section 5 | Bibliography | 9 |

Appendix

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Appendix EDP 1 | Site Location Plan |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

This version is intended for electronic viewing only

| | Report Ref: edp2355_r007 | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| | Author | Formatted | Peer Review | Proofed by/Date |
| 007_DRAFT | EB | FM | - | - |
| 007a | - | - | RS | FJ 161221 |

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) for approval by the archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council.
- 1.2 This document sets out the methodologies to be employed in the preparation of an Archaeological and Heritage Assessment. The aim of the proposed assessment is to assess the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment which has the potential to be affected by the proposed development. The assessment is in support of a proposed commercial development on land at Ardley, Oxfordshire.
- 1.3 The assessment will address the requirements of Paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021) and Policy ESD 15 of the Adopted Cherwell District Local Plan 2011-2031.
- 1.4 The assessment will also conform to additional guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment contained in the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020).

This page has been left blank intentionally

Section 2

The Site

Location and Boundaries

- 2.1 The Site is located to the immediate east of the junction between the A43 and B4100, and 0.5km to the east/north-east of Junction 10 of the M40 near Ardley, Oxfordshire. The Site comprises eight agricultural, arable fields, with the proposed development footprint covering an area totalling c.77 hectares (ha).
- 2.2 The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 455362, 229178.
- 2.3 The Site is in two parts located to the north and south of the B4100 road. The western boundary of the Site is formed by the A43 dual carriageway and the north and east by minor roads. The southern part of the Site is adjacent to further fields of arable land and woodland. The boundaries within and around the Site are formed mainly by well-maintained hedgerows. Its location and layout are shown on **Appendix EDP 1**.

Geology and Topography

- 2.4 The underlying geology within the site comprises limestone sedimentary bedrock of the White Limestone Formation, with Forest Marble Formation and Bladon member mudstone and limestone in the central eastern part of the Site (www.bgs.ac.uk). There are no superficial deposits recorded.
- 2.5 The land within the Site is largely flat (c.115m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)), although it gently slopes downwards towards the east, to a height of c.110m aOD along the eastern boundary road.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Section 3

Methodology

- 3.1 The report will be produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 3.2 The assessment will adopt a 1km radius from the Site boundary Study Area for its consideration of potential physical effects on heritage assets. A broader study area will be adopted for the evaluation of potential effects upon the setting of designated heritage assets.
- 3.3 The assessment will involve the consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary, cartographic, aerial photographic and LiDAR sources. The principal sources of information will comprise:
- Information held by the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) on known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots, within the vicinity of the Site;
 - Information from the Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Character study;
 - Information from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), available from the PAS website;
 - A previous desk-based assessment written by EDP, and the sources acquired for that study, for a closely comparable site (EDP, 2015_r004a);
 - The National Heritage List for England curated by Historic England for designated heritage assets;
 - Fieldwork reports from previous archaeological investigations close to the Site;
 - Geological maps held on-line by the British Geological Survey;
 - Geotechnical reports (if available);
 - Maps and other relevant documents and books held by the Oxfordshire History Centre and online sources, including all editions of the Ordnance Survey;
 - LiDAR Data coverage of the Site and its environs. To be acquired from the Environment Agency as a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and then processed into visualisations using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (ver. 1.3 ZRC SAZU, 2016). The most effective visualisation(s) would then inform the assessment; and

- Aerial photographs held by the Historic England Archive and, if relevant, those held by the HER.
- 3.4 The information gathered from these sources will be complemented by a site walkover. This walkover will consider the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the Site, identify visible historic features, and assess possible factors which may affect the survival or condition of known or potential assets. The Site walkover will also consider, where appropriate, the contribution made by the land within the Site to the settings of designated and non-designated heritage assets situated within its wider zone of influence and the value of the historic landscape resource more generally.
- 3.5 A report will be produced which will provide a synthesis of relevant information for the Site and thereafter will conclude with, (1) an assessment of its likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines, and (2) an assessment of the likely effect of the proposed development upon designated assets. With regard to (2) above, the assessment process will be undertaken with reference to the Historic England guidance *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second edition)* (HE 2017).

Section 4

Report Content

4.1 The report structure will be dependent on the findings of the research, the needs of the project, and the stage within the planning process. The report will, as a minimum, contain the following sections:

- Non-technical summary;
- Introduction;
- Context of project;
- Site location and description;
- Geological and Topographical description;
- Aims and purpose of the assessment;
- Methodology;
- Baseline archaeological and heritage information presented as a period-based archaeological and historical background, consisting of:
 - Designated heritage assets;
 - Non-designated heritage assets;
 - Cartographic, aerial photographic and LiDAR evidence (if data is available to a sufficient resolution to be useful for the purposes of the assessment); and
 - Site walkover.
- Assessment of the potential for archaeological remains within the Site considering previous/known impacts;
- Assessment of the potential physical impact of the proposed development on the significance of archaeological remains within the Site;
- Assessment of the potential effect on the significance of designated heritage assets through changes to their settings;
- An assessment of the impact of development on the character of the historic landscape;

- Conclusions;
- Supporting data in appendices, as necessary;
- References; and
- Supporting illustrations, including reproduction of relevant HER data, LiDAR data (if available) and historic maps.

4.2 Provided that there are no issues of commercial confidentiality, a copy of the archaeological and heritage assessment will be submitted to the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record. Considering the standard process of client review and editing, this will most likely be broadly contemporary with the submission of the planning application.

Section 5

Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020. *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*. Reading.

EDP, 2015 *Symmetry Park, Ardley, Archaeological and Heritage Assessment*. EDP_r004a

Historic England (HE), 2017. *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second Edition)*. London.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2019. *The National Planning Policy Framework*. London.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Appendix EDP 1
Site Location Plan





CARDIFF
02921 671900

CHELtenham
01242 903110

CIRENCESTER
01285 740427

info@edp-uk.co.uk
www.edp-uk.co.uk

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. Registered as a Limited Company in England and Wales. Company No. 09102431. Registered Office: Tithe Barn, Barnsley Park Estate, Barnsley, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 5EG



**URBAN
DESIGN
GROUP** REGISTERED
PRACTICE

IEMA Transforming the world
to sustainability

**Landscape
Institute**
Registered practice