

1. Summary

Development Stage 2A2: 2A0326/5.2/FH Flood Alleviation Area at Land West of Station Road, Oxfordshire

Site Details

Development Stage	2A2
Site Name	2A0326/5.2/FH
Type of Works	Flood alleviation area
Proposed Archaeological Works	Strip, Map and Sample
National Grid Reference	SP 61810 23725
Site Area	3.4 ha (34,151 m ²) with c. 8,000m ² to be excavated
Chainage	Not applicable
Land Use	Pasture, with hedgerows and trees
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) which will involve the observation, investigation and recording of the removal of topsoil. Subject to the flood modelling requirements, the Site will be subject to excavations up to a depth of approximately 1.2m; the full depth of which will be recorded within the investigations. It is important to stress the specified area of SMS will be machine stripped under archaeological control to the first archaeological horizon, to the natural geology where no archaeological remains are encountered, or to the required depth of the flood alleviation area. 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 Strategy¹.

Previous Archaeological Works

Type of Work Undertaken	Findings
Geophysical Survey	Geophysical survey was undertaken in 2019 ² . The results did not identify any anomalies of a definitive archaeological origin. Two magnetically weak linear trends were identified in the west of the dataset which form a rectilinear anomaly which has unclear origins. A large area of geological variations was visible in the northern half of the dataset and magnetic disturbance was

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 Unpublished Report.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

² EWR Alliance 2019c. 2A 0326-5.2-FH: *Archaeological Geophysical Survey Report*. Unpublished Report



	visible around the peripheries of the dataset which are most likely modern in origin, relating to trackways and metallic boundary fencing.
--	--

Archaeological Works within the surrounding area

Type of Work Undertaken	Distance from Site	Findings
None	None	None

Archaeological Potential

Potential	Period	Type of remains likely to be encountered
High	Late Medieval	Remains of an agricultural nature e.g. ridge & furrow; field system; finds associated with manuring
	Post-medieval	Remains of an agricultural nature
Medium	Romano-British	Field systems; settlement
Low	Palaeolithic	Flint scatters
	Mesolithic	Flint scatters
	Neolithic	Lithic scatters; settlement
	Bronze Age	Settlement; ceremonial
	Iron Age	Settlement; artefacts
	Early Medieval	Field systems; settlement
	Modern	Agricultural remains



2. Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out a methodology for an archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) during construction of a flood alleviation area at 2A0326/5.2/FH ('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 works³.

The Site is located within Development Stage 2A2 of the EWR2 scheme (centred on NGR Ref: SP 61810 23725; Figure 1). The Site comprises a roughly sub-rectangular parcel of land of approximately 3.4 ha located to the north-east of Launton, c.1.4km from the centre of the hamlet. The Site is currently in use for pasture and contains hedgerows and trees. The Site lies within the local authority administrative area of Cherwell District Council.

Topographically, the Site is situated on undulating and uneven ground, ranging from approximately 70m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in the north, sloping down towards the south to approximately 67m aOD. The underlying bedrock of the Site is Peterborough Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic period, c.164 to 166 million years ago⁴. No superficial deposits are recorded on the Site.

The Site is required for a flood alleviation area. The exact scope of works will be subject to site conditions, however, preliminary designs comprise:

CUT/FILL SUMMARY						
NAME	CUT FACTOR	FILL FACTOR	2D AREA	CUT	FILL	NET
PROPOSED CFSA 2A0326 - LAUNTON BROOK	1.0	1.0	11186.44 m ²	7306.64 m ²	0.00 m ²	7306.64 m ² <CUT>

The area is shown within Figure 2 (Civil Engineering CSFA Design Section A1 - Launton Brook (Western Section) General Arrangement and Setting Out), will be completely stripped of topsoil and will require deeper excavations in some areas. The extent of the intrusive works thus means that archaeological mitigation within the Site is required. The larger area shown on Figure 1 comprises the working and storage area, which will not be subject to intrusive works.

3. Key Potential

Prehistoric (500,000BC – AD43)

There is an absence of evidence for Palaeolithic activity in the vicinity of the Site. This is thought to be due to alluvial deposits masking early prehistoric remains in this area⁵; bands of which are recorded along the north-western and south-eastern extents of the Site. However, there is presently little identified evidence for Lower Palaeolithic remains on the gravel terraces of the River Cherwell in the area around Bicester⁶. There is also no evidence for Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the Site; although, lithic scatters have been found during archaeological investigations near Bicester. As such there is Low potential for remains of these dates to be present on the Site.

No evidence for Neolithic activity is recorded close to the Site, with Neolithic activity within Oxfordshire primarily based within the Thame valley close to the river's confluence with the River Thames approximately 17km south-west of the Site⁷. However, activity has been found further afield and the absence of known Neolithic sites may be a result of limited archaeological investigation rather than

³EWR Alliance, 2019. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy*. Unpublished Report Section 8, Table 8.1

⁴ British Geological Survey Website, 2019.

⁵ Hardaker, T. (2014) *The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic of Oxfordshire*. In Hey, G and J, Hinds (eds) *Solent-Thames Research Framework*;

⁶ Network Rail, 2018. *Order Environmental Statement. Volume 2ii - Route Section 2A*. Chapter 7, Cultural Heritage.

⁷ Ibid

limited activity during this period. The potential for Neolithic remains to be encountered is judged to be Low.

Despite a wealth of Bronze Age activity in the county of Oxfordshire, there is no evidence of Bronze Age activity in proximity of the Site. There is an observable bias in Bronze Age occupation towards Milton Keynes and Aylesbury and as a result, Bronze Age remains within the region appear to be primarily focused within the Ouzel river valley, c. 25 km to the east between Blechley and Leighton Buzzard. Oxfordshire had been subject to extensive woodland clearance carried out in the Middle/Late Iron Age, with environmental data corroborating the rise in open grassland environments⁸. Iron Age enclosed settlement and land management is observable in the wider landscape, with Late Iron Age remains recorded 2.5km west of the Site. However, no evidence dating to this period is recorded within the Site or its immediate vicinity. There is deemed to be Low potential for Bronze Age and Iron Age remains within the Site based on current evidence.

Romano-British (AD43 – AD410)

The Romano-British period saw widespread activity across the EWR route and the wider landscape⁹. Dispersed rural settlement has been encountered beyond the limits of the major Romano-British centres such as Alchester in the region of Oxfordshire and along the 2A EWR route. Remains to the west of the Site were found in 2002 during an excavation at Bicester Perimeter Road, c.2km from the Site (MOX12667; SMR Ref: 16540). A ditch and posthole were recorded which contained bone and Iron Age and Romano-British pottery. Further Late Iron Age to Romano-British evidence was then encountered in 2004, c. 2.5km south-west of the Site (MOX23494; SMR Ref: 26122). A farmstead and field system dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD was excavated with trackways and field ditches as well as two wells.

During trial trenching at Compound A1¹⁰ c.1.6km west of the Site, remains of Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and land management was encountered in 2019 which appears to be the northern periphery of the settlement. At Site Compound A4, 3.8km east of the Site, archaeological evaluation recorded features containing Samian ware pottery and possibly black burnished ware and greyware which date to the Romano-British period¹¹. There is deemed to be a Medium potential for remains to be present within the Site.

Early Medieval (AD410 – AD1066)

There is no current archaeological evidence recorded within the Site or surrounding area which dates to the Early Medieval period; much of the activity at that time centred around Marsh Gibbon, c. 2km south-east of the Site, and Bicester, c. 2km to the south-west¹². There is deemed to be Low potential for Early Medieval remains.

Late Medieval (AD1066 – AD1540)

The manorial estate of Marsh [Gibbon] within the Hundred of Mow is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086)¹³ and based on the Site's current position, over c. 2km north of Marsh Gibbon, it is likely that it lay beyond the limits of settlement within the associated ploughlands. This is further evidenced by the presence of ridge and furrow, visible on LiDAR imagery and ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs in the surrounding area; there is High potential for such remains to be present although these are not visible within the Site itself.

⁸ Lambrick, G. (2014) The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age: Resource assessment. In G. Hey, and J. Hind, (eds) *Solent-Thames Research Framework*

⁹ Network Rail, 2018. *Order Environmental Statement. Volume 2ii - Route Section 2A*

¹⁰ EWR Alliance, 2019b. Compound A1: Land East of Bicester Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished report.

¹¹ EWR Alliance, 2019. A4: Land East of Station Road, Buckinghamshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report. Unpublished Report

¹² National Grid, 2018. *Order Environmental Statement. Volume 2ii - Route Section 2*

¹³ Domesday Book Online, 2019

Post Medieval (AD1540 –1901)

Early mapping depicts the settlements of 'Mershe Gibbon', 'Bicester' and 'Launton' in the vicinity of the Site although minimal detail of the settlements or surrounding land is given¹⁴. In the late 18th century, more detailed mapping of the Site shows Station Road to the east of the Site, aligned south-west to north-east between Launton and Poundon; no structures are depicted within the Site¹⁵. Ordnance Survey mapping from the 19th century illustrates the Site within a landscape of enclosed fields with the Site shown as arable land¹⁶.

The line of the existing railway, established in the mid-19th century, runs c. 100 m to the south of the Site. The site of Launton Station (MOX5012; SMR Ref: 5870) is recorded located 350 m to the south of the Site on the railway line. However, as the Site is set off the railway line there is deemed to be Low potential for post-medieval remains, with the exception of evidence of continued agricultural use.

Modern Period (Post-1901)

There has been minimal change to the Site throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, as exemplified by cartographic evidence¹⁷ and aerial imagery. The Site has continued to occupy agricultural land throughout the modern period.

Historic Landscape Character

The present character of the Site can be defined as 18th to 19th century parliamentary type enclosures with a late nineteenth century railway to the south.

4. Previous Works

Geophysical survey was undertaken in 2019¹⁸. The results did not identify any anomalies of a definitive archaeological origin. Two magnetically weak linear trends were identified in the west of the dataset which form a rectilinear anomaly which has unclear origins. A large area of geological variations was visible in the northern half of the dataset and magnetic disturbance was visible around the peripheries of the dataset which are most likely modern in origin, relating to trackways and metallic boundary fencing¹⁹.

5. Proposal for Archaeological Investigations

The proposed programme of works at 2A0326/5.2/FH will initially involve a programme of archaeological SMS. All works will follow the specific methodologies set out in Section 6 of the Heritage Delivery Strategy²⁰:

- 6.4 Strip, Map, Sample (SMS)
- 6.5 Archaeological Monitoring
- 6.6 Construction Integrated Recording
- 6.7 Chance Finds Procedure
- 6.9 Environmental Sampling

¹⁴ Saxton, 1574. *Oxonii, buckinghamiae et berceeriae Comitatum*.

¹⁵ Cary, J., 1794. *Cary's England, Wales and Scotland (Sheets 23-24)*.

¹⁶ Ordnance Survey, 1815. *Bicester*; OS, 1881. *Oxfordshire XXIII.3*. 25 inch to the mile; OS, 1885. *Oxfordshire XXIII*. Six inch to the mile; OS,

¹⁷ OS, 1900. *Buckinghamshire XXI.NE*. Six inch; 25 inch. OS, 1922. *Oxfordshire XXIII.3*. 25 inch to the mile. OS, 1923. *Buckinghamshire XXI.NE*. Six inch; OS, 1952. *Buckinghamshire XXI.NE*. Six inch; OS, 1968. *OS Plan*, 1: 2,500.

¹⁸ EWR Alliance 2019. 2A 0326-5.2-FH: Archaeological Geophysical Survey Report. Unpublished Report

¹⁹ EWR Alliance, 2019b. 2A 0326 – 5.2 – FH (West): Archaeological Geophysical Survey Report. Unpublished Report.

²⁰ EWR Alliance, 2019a. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy*. Unpublished Report

- 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

The SMS will be carried out in one phase (Figure 1). No known services are present within the Site. The area will be CAT scanned prior to any excavation.

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, the natural sub-stratum, or the maximum required depth for the flood alleviation site (max 1.2m in depth); 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 Plan²¹.

The final excavation sample will be agreed following the site visit, however the minimum requirements for sample excavation in line with Historic England guidelines²² 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.

²¹ East West Rail Alliance (2020) *East West Rail Phase 2. Sub-Section 2A1 Soil Management Plan*

²² Campbell, Moffett and Straker (2011) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

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 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 guidelines²³.

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.

²³ Historic England, 2010. *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines to the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*.

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 London²⁴, and features will be planned according to the single context method.

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 2002²⁵, 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. 2²⁶.

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.

²⁴ MoL, 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition)*

²⁵ MSO (1996, revised 2002, 2008) *Treasure Act 1996*.

²⁶ United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983. *Conservation Guidelines No. 2*.

7. Site in the Context of the Research Agenda

The Heritage Delivery Strategy outline the Specific Research Objectives (SROs) that the work on EWR2 may address²⁷.

Given the location of the Site within an area of known medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow, there is considered a High potential for medieval and post-medieval remains, particularly agricultural remains, to survive within the Site. If medieval features or medieval and later ridge and furrow are encountered within the Site, they may have the potential to contribute to:

- **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
- **SRO39:** How did post-medieval rural industries impact on the landscape, and what was their contribution to society over the period of the urban-centred industrial revolution?
- **SRO40:** What was the impact of the agricultural revolution on the post-medieval landscape?

If features associated with the British-Romano period are encountered, they may have potential to contribute to:

- **SRO09:** What is the evidence for pre-Iron Age phases of enclosure, and to what extent were Iron Age and Romano-British field systems and settlement influenced by earlier structuring of the landscape?
- **SRO18:** Can we investigate continuity of local traditions by excavating sites with well-preserved deposits of both Late Iron Age and Roman date?
- **SRO22:** Can we provide new insight into Roman crafts, trade and industries, particularly pottery, ironworking and stone?
- **SRO23:** The Romano-British period saw the beginning of more established infrastructure network. Can we investigate the development of these routes, trackways and roads and the influence they had on landscape change?
- **SRO25:** Identify evidence for late Roman occupation and attempt to identify any continuity in settlement patterns between the end of the Romano-British period and the Early Medieval period.

The potential for encountering hitherto unknown remains of other periods is Low but cannot be ruled out.

The ability of any other remains which might be encountered to contribute to the established regional and sub-regional research framework²⁸ and the SROs 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.

²⁷ EWR Alliance, 2019a. *Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order Heritage Delivery Strategy*. Unpublished Report Section 4.4

²⁸ Hey, G. and Hind, J., 2014. *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*. Oxford Wessex Monograph Series

8. Report Preparation

Upon completion of the SMS, the stratigraphic record and all excavated material from the Site will be reported on. Within one year of completion of the work on site, these results will be presented as a post-excavation assessment report.

The report will include, as a minimum:

- A non-technical summary containing the essential elements of the results preceding the main body of the report.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction including a list of all staff members involved in the project.
- Summary geological, archaeological and historical background details for the Site.
- A statement of the aims of the project.
- A statement of the methodology of the excavation and an assessment of the same.
- A preliminary archaeological site narrative and account of the phasing based on the stratigraphic record and spot dating.
- Plans and sections at an appropriate scale cross-referenced with the written description.
- Appropriate maps, photographs and artefact drawings.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits identified during the work.
- All finds and environmental specialist reports.
- An interpretation of the results of the excavation in relation to archaeology in the vicinity and an identification of any significance and research implications arising i.e. consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the site set in its broader landscape setting.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Site matrix.
- Context register.

Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, will be sent a copy of the draft report before a final version is produced or submitted to the local Planning Authority. Once finalised, copies of the report (paper & electronic) will also be submitted to be deposited in the relevant HER.

Any significant variation in the project design, including timetables, proposed after the agreement of the proposals must be acceptable to the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council.

9. 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 Strategy²⁹.

²⁹ EWR Alliance, 2019a. Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order: Heritage Delivery Strategy. Unpublished Report

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 guidance³⁰³¹.

10. Bibliography

Archaeology Data Service/ Digital Antiquity (2011). *Guides to Good Practice*. Archaeology Data Service, University of York

British Geological Survey Website, 2019. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. URL: www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain. Date accessed: December 2019.

Brown D H, 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. Second Edition

Campbell, Moffett and Straker, 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

Domesday Book Online, 2019 URL: <https://opendomesday.org/>. Date accessed: December 2019

EWR Alliance, 2019a. Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order: Heritage Delivery Strategy. Unpublished Report

EWR Alliance 2019c. 2A 0326-5.2-FH: Archaeological Geophysical Survey Report. Unpublished Report

Hardaker, T. (2014) The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic of Oxfordshire. In Hey, G and J, Hinds (eds) *Solent-Thames Research Framework*

Hey, G. and Hind, J., 2014. Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas. Oxford Wessex Monograph Series

Historic England, 2010. *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines to the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*.

Lambrick, G. (2014) The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age: Resource assessment. In G. Hey, and J. Hind, (eds) *Solent-Thames Research Framework*

MoL, 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition)*

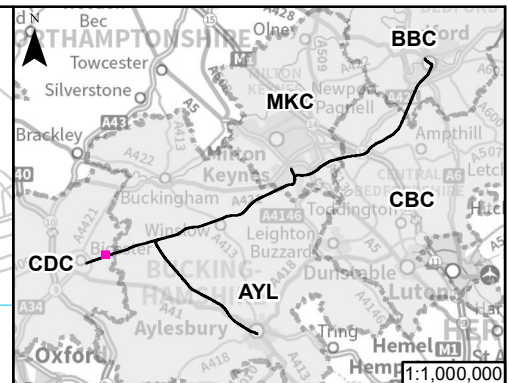
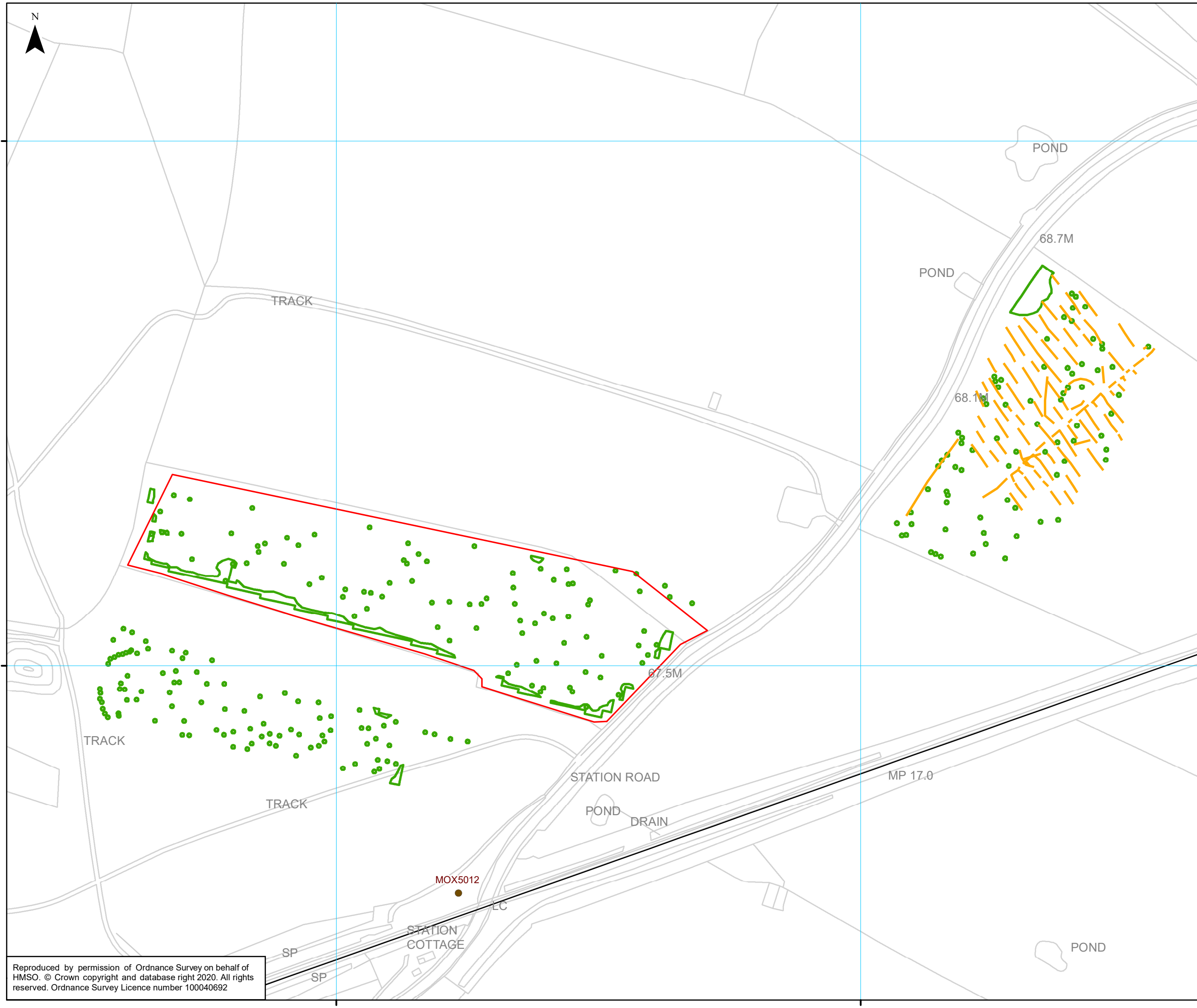
MSO (1996, revised 2002, 2008) *Treasure Act 1996*.

Network Rail, 2018. *Order Environmental Statement. Volume 2ii - Route Section 2A*. Chapter 7, Cultural Heritage.

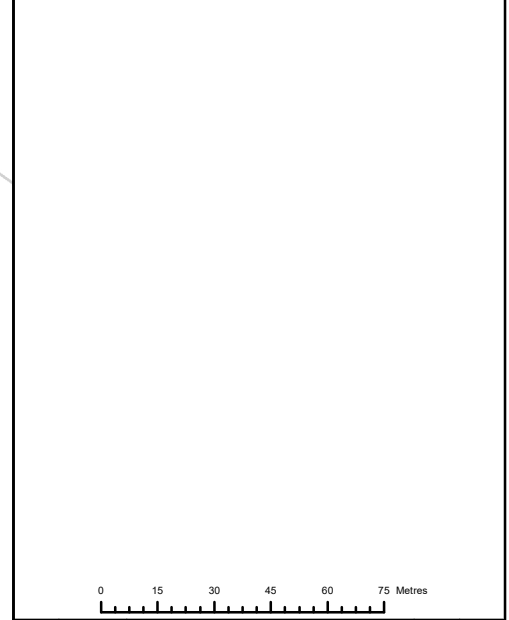
United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983. *Conservation Guidelines No. 2*.

³⁰ Archaeology Data Service/ Digital Antiquity (2011). *Guides to Good Practice*. Archaeology Data Service, University of York

³¹ Brown D H, 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. Second Edition.



- PROJECT EXTENTS
- LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARY
- SITE
- MONUMENT
- GEOPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION
- GEOPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION AREA



Rev	Date	Description of Revisions	Dsnd	Chkd	Appr
P01	30/09/20	FIRST ISSUE	KP	KS	AFM
Status					Suitability
PUBLISHED - STAGE APPROVED					A1



Project
THE NETWORK RAIL (EAST WEST RAIL BICESTER TO BEDFORD IMPROVEMENTS) ORDER

Drawing Title
FIGURE 2A0326 / 5.2 / FH - FLOOD ALLEVIATION AREA

Designed	Krithika S Patwardhan	Signed <i>Krithika S Patwardhan</i>	Date	30/09/2020
Drawn	Krithika S Patwardhan	Signed <i>Krithika S Patwardhan</i>	Date	30/09/2020
Checked	Kelvin Snell	Signed <i>Kelvin Snell</i>	Date	30/09/2020
Approved	Amy Farrington McCabe	Signed <i>Amy Farrington McCabe</i>	Date	30/09/2020

Scale(s) **1:2,000** ELR & Project Chainage **N/A**

Design Package Risk Classification **NORMAL** Sheet 1 of 1

Alternative Reference **Alternative_Ref** Revision **P01**

Drawing Number **133735_RW-EWR-XX-XX-DR-LH-010800**

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2020. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100040692