

**Wykham Park Farm
Banbury
Oxfordshire**

Written Scheme of Investigation for an
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Gallagher Estates Ltd.

CA Project: 4325

August 2013

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approved by	Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out details of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for an archaeological evaluation of land at Wykham Park Farm, Banbury, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: SP 4471 3869) at the request of Gallagher Estates Ltd.
- 1.2 An outline planning application (ref: 13/00321/OUT) has been made to Cherwell District Council (CDC) for the development of 1,000 dwellings and an associated community centre including a primary school, retail and office space.
- 1.3 This WSI has been guided in its composition by the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006) and any other relevant standards or guidance contained within Appendix B.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 47.7ha, and comprises arable land on the southern outskirts of Banbury. It is bounded to the north by Salt Way, to the west by the A361 Bloxham Road and to the south and east by open farmland. The site lies at approximately 130m AOD, on land that slopes down toward the south and east.
- 1.5 The site is located at the interface of Marlstone Rock Formation Limestone and Dyrham and Whitby Mudstone formations, with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2013).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 An Environmental Statement relating to the proposed development area, including the results of a geophysical survey of the site, was compiled by Wardell Armstrong (WA 2013). This document highlighted a set of parallel north-west/south-east aligned cropmarks to the south of the site, interpreted as Neolithic causewayed enclosure ditches (HER ref: MOX4460), which appear to extend into the development area and correlate with a segmented geophysical anomaly. An enclosure ditch was excavated in a field evaluation to the north of the site, but

contained no dating evidence (CA 2012). The geophysical survey identified a number of possible archaeological features; these are particularly focused toward the western end of the site, where a number of ditches, possibly representing enclosures and trackways have been identified, one of which may be a former route of the Salt Way. In the north of the development area the geophysical survey has identified ditches belonging to a small Iron Age settlement excavated in the adjoining field (CA 2012).

- 1.7 Further analysis of aerial photographs of the site and its surroundings has identified cropmarks possibly relating to curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures within the site. Another cropmark appears, in conjunction with an anomaly identified in the geophysical survey, to form a further possible causewayed enclosure at the west of the site. Cropmarks relating to two Bronze Age round barrows are recorded 200m south of the site (HER ref MOX12183).
- 1.8 A watching brief undertaken during the laying of a water main identified two Neolithic pits 180m to the south of the site, one of which contained a large amount of pottery (JMHS 2005).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable CDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.10 The evaluation comprises the excavation of 159 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan. All trenches will be 30m long and 2m wide. In addition a contingency of up to a further 2% of the site area will be available for evaluation if necessary. This contingency may only be used in areas not designated as 'open space' on the master plan. Trenches will be set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-

ordinates using Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained Cotswold Archaeology staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. The position of the trenches may be adjusted on site to account for services and other constraints, with the approval of the archaeological advisor to the LPA. The final 'as dug' trench plan will be recorded with GPS. The field at the eastern end of the site has been omitted from the current trenching scheme, with a view to it being evaluated as a condition of planning consent.

- 1.11 In the area that falls within the 250m 'newt zone' around Pond 6, where there may be a population of Great-Crested Newts, all trenches and spoil storage areas have been positioned outside of the 10m newt buffer zone bordering hedgerows.
- 1.12 All trenches will be excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately adjacent to each trench.
- 1.13 Following machining, all archaeological features revealed will be planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1 *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits will be recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using Leica 1200 series GPS or Total Station (TST) as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Where detailed feature planning is undertaken using GPS/TST this will be carried out in accordance with Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (CA 2012). Photographs (digital colour) will be taken as appropriate. All finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 1995).
- 1.14 Sample excavation of archaeological deposits will be limited and minimally intrusive, sufficient to achieve the objectives identified in Section 1.7 above, and at this stage there is no requirement to sample all archaeological features encountered. Where appropriate excavation will not compromise the integrity of the archaeological record, and will be undertaken in such a way as to allow for the subsequent

protection of remains either for conservation or to allow more detailed investigations to be conducted under better conditions at a later date.

- 1.15 Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and un-stratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained.
- 1.16 Where human remains are encountered, these will not normally be excavated, but will be planned and recorded in detail. Where excavation of human remains is required, this will be conducted following the provisions of the Coroners Unit in the Ministry of Justice.
- 1.17 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. Samples will be taken, processed and assessed for potential in accordance with Technical Manual 2 *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003).
- 1.18 Upon completion of the evaluation all trenches will be backfilled by mechanical excavator.
- 1.19 CA will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein.

2. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

- 2.1 This project will be under the management of Simon Carlyle, MIfA, Principal Fieldwork Manager, CA.
- 2.2 The staffing structure will be organised thus: the Principal Fieldwork Manager will direct the overall conduct of the evaluation as required during the period of fieldwork. Day to day responsibility however will rest with the Project Leader who will be on-site throughout the project.

- 2.3 The field team will consist of a maximum of 7 staff (e.g. 1 Project Officer; 1 Project Supervisor and 5 Archaeologists).
- 2.4 It is envisaged that the project will require approximately 20 days fieldwork. Analysis of the results and subsequent reporting will take up to a further three weeks.
- 2.5 Specialists who will be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project as necessary are:

Ceramics	Ed McSloy (CA)
Metalwork	Ed McSloy (CA)
Flint	Ed McSloy (CA)
Animal Bone	Jonny Geber (CA)
Human Bone	Jonny Geber (CA)
Environmental Remains	Sarah Cobain (CA)
Conservation	Wiltshire Conservation Service
Geoarchaeology	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)

- 2.6 Depending upon the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered it may be necessary to consult other specialists not listed here. A full list of specialists currently used by Cotswold Archaeology is contained within Appendix A.

3. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING

- 3.1 Following completion of fieldwork, all artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA Technical Manuals and Oxfordshire County Museums Service guidelines.
- 3.2 An illustrated report will be compiled on the results of the fieldwork and assessment of the artefacts, palaeoenvironmental samples etc. Copies of the report will be distributed to the client and to Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council and deposited with the Oxfordshire HER.
- 3.3 Should no further work be required, an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Archaeological*

Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007).

3.4 As the limited scope of this work is likely to restrict its publication value, it is anticipated that a short publication note only will be produced, suitable for inclusion within an appropriate local archaeological journal. A summary of information from the project will also be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

3.5 CA will make arrangements with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, CA Health, Safety and Welfare Policy (2012) and procedures. A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to commencement of fieldwork.

5. INSURANCES

5.1 CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000.

6. MONITORING

6.1 Notification of the start of site works will be made to the Richard Oram so that there will be opportunities to visit the evaluation and check on the quality and progress of the work.

7. QUALITY ASSURANCE

7.1 CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field*

Archaeology (IfA 2009). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the IfA.

- 7.2 CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

8. REFERENCES

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CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land East of Bloxham Road, Banbury: Archaeological Excavation*, CA Report No. **11326**

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2005 *An Archaeological watching brief on Banbury Booster 876F Oxfordshire*

WA (Wardell Armstrong) 2013 *Wykham Park Farm, Oxfordshire: Environmental Statement*.



APPENDIX A: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS***Ceramics***

Neolithic/Bronze Age	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Elaine Morris (University of Southampton) Ros Cleal (freelance)
Iron Age/Roman (Samian) (Amphorae stamps)	Ed McSloy (CA) Peter Webster (freelance) David Williams (freelance)
Anglo-Saxon	Paul Blinkhorn (freelance) Jane Timby (freelance)
Medieval/post-medieval (Clay pipe)	Ed McSloy (CA) Duncan Brown (freelance) Reg Jackson (freelance)
Ceramic Building Material	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Mills (freelance) Sandra Garside-Neville (freelance)

Other Finds

Small Finds	Ed McSloy (CA)
Lithics (Palaeolithic)	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Harding, Wessex Archaeology
Worked Stone	Fiona Roe (freelance)
Inscriptions	Roger Tomlin (Oxford)
Glass	Ed McSloy (CA) Hilary Cool (freelance) David Dungworth (English Heritage)
Coins	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Richard Reece (freelance)
Leather	Quita Mould (freelance)
Textiles	Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance)
Iron slag/metal technology	Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University) Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage)
<i>Biological Remains</i>	
Animal bone	Jonny Geber (CA)
Human Bone	Jonny Geber (CA)
Environmental sampling	Sarah Cobain (CA) Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Pollen	Nick Daffern (WHEAS)
Diatoms	Nigel Cameron (UCL)
Charred Plant Remains	Wendy Carruthers (freelance) Liz Pearson (WHEAS)
Wood/Charcoal	Dana Challinor (freelance)

Insects	David Smith (Birmingham University) QUEST (Reading University)
Mollusca	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Fish bones	Hannah Russ (freelance) Philip Armitage
Geoarchaeology	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Scientific Dating	
Dendrochronology	Cathy Groves (ARCUS) Robert Howard (NTRDL Nottingham)
Radiocarbon dating	University of Waikato (New Zealand) Beta Analytic (USA) Rafter (New Zealand)
Archaeomagnetic dating	Don Tarling (Plymouth)
TL/OSL Dating	Phil Toms (University of Gloucestershire)
Conservation	Wiltshire Conservation Services



APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

- AAF 2007 *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.* Archaeological Archives Forum
- AAI&S 1988 *The Illustration of Lithic Artifacts: A guide to drawing stone tools for specialist reports.* Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Paper 9
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