



Land east of Kidlington,
Oxfordshire

Heritage Appraisal

Prepared by
CSA Environmental

on behalf of
Barwood Development
Securities Ltd

Report No: CSA/3263/03

April 2017

Report Reference	Revision	Prepared by	Approved by	Comments
CSA/3263/03	-	AT	KK	
	A			
	B			
	C			
	D			



CONTENTS

Page

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Recorded Heritage Assets	1
3.0	Conclusion	3

Appendices

Appendix A: Figure 1. Site Location and recorded heritage assets

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an appraisal of the potential effects of a proposed residential development on land east of Kidlington in Oxfordshire (referred to hereafter as the Application Site) on heritage assets. Sources used to inform this appraisal consisted of the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), historic Ordnance Survey maps and a modern aerial photograph.
- 1.2 The Application Site covers an area of approximately 26.8 hectares centred on NGR SP 5017 1256 (Figure 1). It contains fields bounded to the west by the Bicester Road, to the south by the A4165, to the east by the A34, fields and Water Eaton Lane and to the north by a further field.
- 1.3 Topographically the Application Site falls away gently to the north from about 67 to 60m AOD and the geology consists of the Oxford Clay and West Walton Formations.

2.0 RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS

Introduction

2.1 This section summarises the recorded heritage resource within and around the Application Site. This heritage resource includes listed buildings and archaeological assets.

Listed Buildings

2.2 The following grade II listed buildings are located close to the Application Site:

- the Kings Arms Public House and attached mounting block (Figure 1, no. 1);
- Stratfield Farmhouse (Figure 1, no. 2);
- Kidlington Green Lock on the Oxford Canal (Figure 1, no. 3); and
- Middle Farmhouse (Figure 1, no. 4).

2.3 Given the distance between the Application Site and these listed buildings and the presence of modern built development and the road network, it is unlikely that development will affect their settings or significance as heritage assets.

Other Recorded Heritage Assets on the Oxfordshire HER

2.4 Other heritage assets are recorded within and in the vicinity of the Application Site on the Oxfordshire HER. However, it should be emphasised that the HER database is constantly being updated and, as it can only include archaeological sites and artefact findspots which are known about, cannot be interpreted as a definitive list of all surviving archaeological remains.

2.5 The following relevant archaeological sites and artefact findspots of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date are recorded on the HER around the Application Site:

- a late Mesolithic to early Neolithic flint assemblage, a Neolithic pit, linear features of possible prehistoric date and a late Iron Age to early Roman enclosure which were all found in archaeological investigations in 1994 (HER ref. 15811; Figure 1, no. 5);
- two ring ditches of potential later prehistoric date identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs (HER ref: 13924; Figure 1, no. 6);
- an Iron Age field system which consists of rectilinear enclosures identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs (HER ref: 9654; Figure 1, no. 7);

- enclosures and associated trackways of potential Iron Age and/or Roman date observed as field system cropmarks on aerial photographs (HER ref: 17430 and 17431; Figure 1, nos. 8 & 9);
- several ditches, one of which was of early Roman date, found in an archaeological evaluation in 1998 (HER ref: 16191; Figure 1, no. 10);
- the site of the shrunken medieval village of Water Eaton which was depopulated between 1450 and 1700 (HER ref: 1109; Figure 1, 11);
- findspot of a medieval axehead of possible 13th century date (HER ref: 5624; Figure 1, no. 12); and
- ridge and furrow and undated linear features identified in an archaeological evaluation in 2010. This evaluation, which took place adjacent to the northern boundary of the Application Site, consisted of nine trenches totalling 270m in length (HER ref: 26418; Figure 1, no. 13).

Historic Ordnance Survey maps and a modern aerial photograph

- 2.6 Study of Ordnance Survey maps available on-line shows that between 1884 and 1923 the Application Site was part of a field system to the east of Gosfordhill Farm. The small linear settlement of Gosford lay to the east along Water Eaton Lane. However by the Ordnance Survey map of 1949 Gosfordhill Farm had been turned into the Oxford Zoological Gardens.
- 2.7 The landscape around the Application Site has since been radically altered with the demolition of Gosfordhill Farm, the expansion of Kidlington to the west and the construction of the Bicester Road, the A4165 and the A34.
- 2.8 Of the field system shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map, one field bounded by hedgerows survives within the Application Site (see Figure 1). Study of recent Google Earth mapping shows that east-west aligned ridge and furrow earthworks survive in this field and further ridge and furrow earthworks also survive over the remainder of the Application Site.

3.0 CONCLUSION

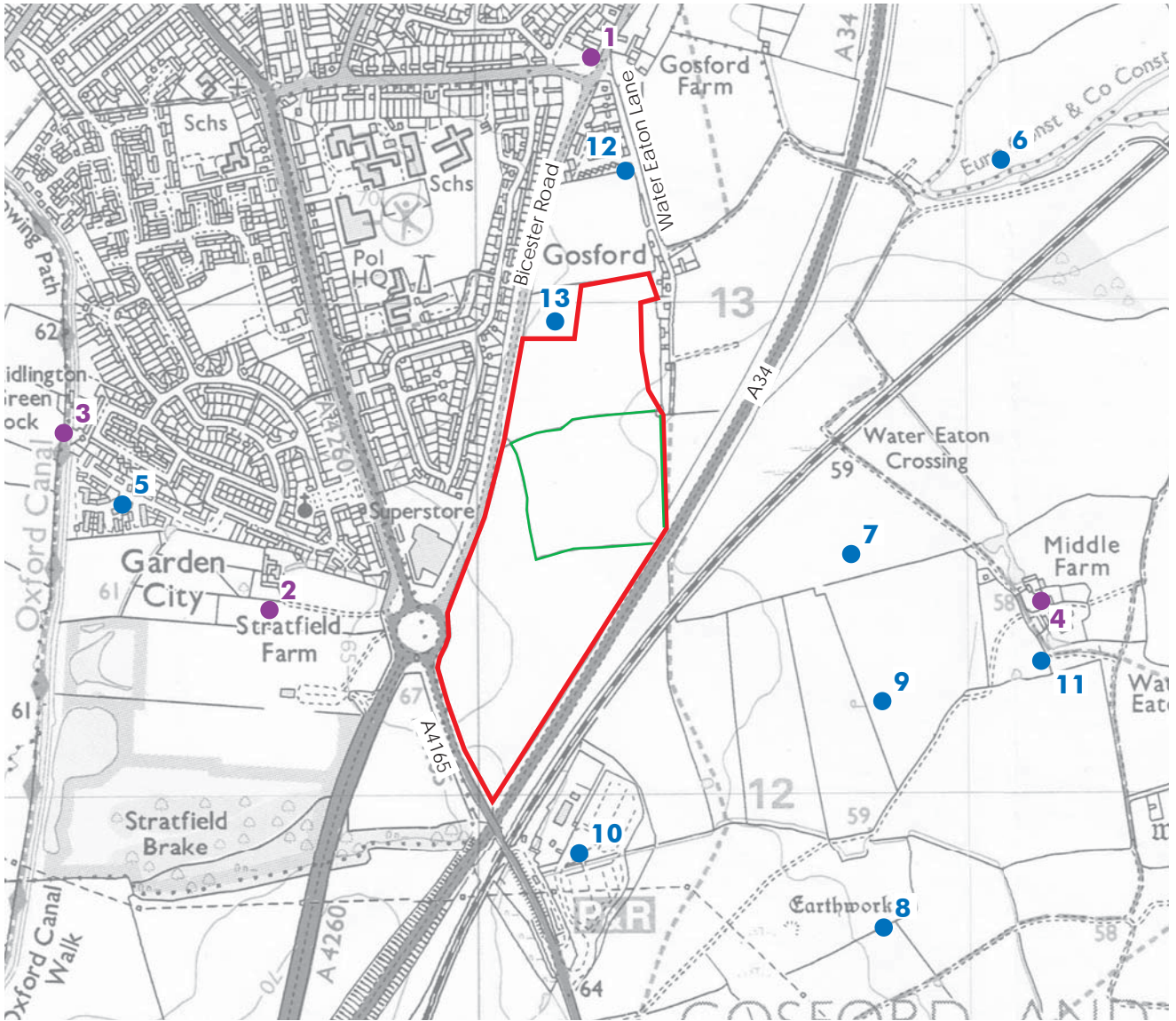
3.1 This appraisal report has established that the Application Site has the following heritage attributes:

- it lies within an area where significant archaeological remains of prehistoric and Roman date have been found. The possibility of such remains being present within the Application Site cannot be discounted;
- it contains ridge and furrow earthworks presumably relating to medieval open fields to the west of the shrunken medieval village of Water Eaton. Although these survive as earthworks they are considered to be of low archaeological significance;
- it contains hedgerows dating back to at least 1884 belonging to an enclosed field to the east of the now demolished Gosfordhill Farm.

3.2 It is therefore recommended that a full archaeological desk-based assessment be carried out in accordance with guidelines in the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments. This will need to be followed by an archaeological trial trench evaluation, the scope of which will need to be agreed in advance with the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service.

Appendix A

Figure 1. Site Location and recorded heritage assets



Based on the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Licence Number AR100031731.

- Site boundary
- 1 Listed buildings
- 5 Other recorded heritage assets
- hedges shown on 1884 map



Dixies Barns, High Street,
Ashwell, Hertfordshire SG7 5NT

t 01462 743647
e ashwell@csaenvironmental.co.uk
w csaenvironmental.co.uk

Project Land east of Kidlington, Oxfordshire

Drawing Title Figure 1: Site location and recorded heritage assets

Client Barwood Development Securities Ltd

Drawing No.
CSA/3263/103

Scale @ A4

Date
April 2017

Rev

Drawn
AT

Checked