



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

A41 PIONEER ROUNDABOUT,

GRAVEN HILL, BICESTER

NGR: SP 59672 20740

JULY 2021

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FIELDWORK 15th to 17th June 2021

REPORT ISSUED 1st July 2021

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JMHS Project No: 4510
OASIS No: johnmoor1-424842
Site Code: AMPR21
Archive Location: A copy of the digital archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4510). Digitised copies of the primary records are available on OASIS



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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land immediately to the north-west and the south-east of Pioneer Road, near Ambrosden, Bicester, Oxfordshire, where the road forms a junction with the A41. The evaluation identified one archaeological feature; a shallow ditch orientated north-east to south-west, on the north-west side of Pioneer Road. The ditch contained no finds. No other finds or features were identified across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the north eastern edge of the wider Graven Hill site (centred SP 59672 20740) and is an irregular shape, encompassing a section of the A41 and extending to the south west where it also encompasses a length of Pioneer Road. The site is currently hardstanding (the A41 and Pioneer Road) and grassed and wooded roadside verge. The site lies at between 60 to 65m AOD and the underlying geology is Oxford Clay.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted by Cherwell District Council for **Proposed Roundabout Access to Graven Hill and Wretchwick Green London Road Bicester** (20/01830/F). Due to the potential presence of archaeological features two conditions have been attached requiring a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation to be undertaken during any development:

10. Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason – To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2019). This information is required prior to commencement of the development as it is fundamental to the acceptability of the scheme.

11. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 10, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two years of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

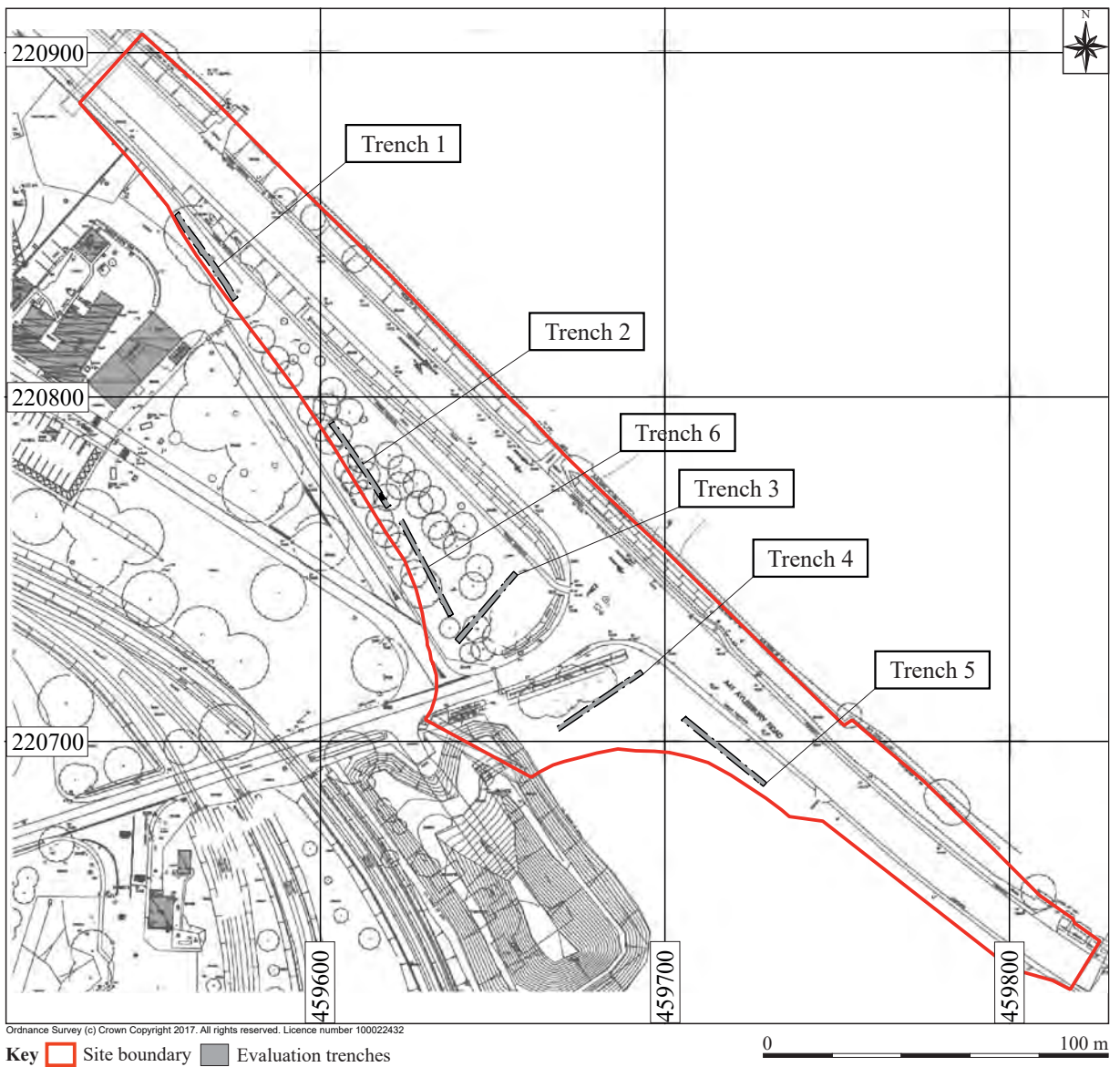
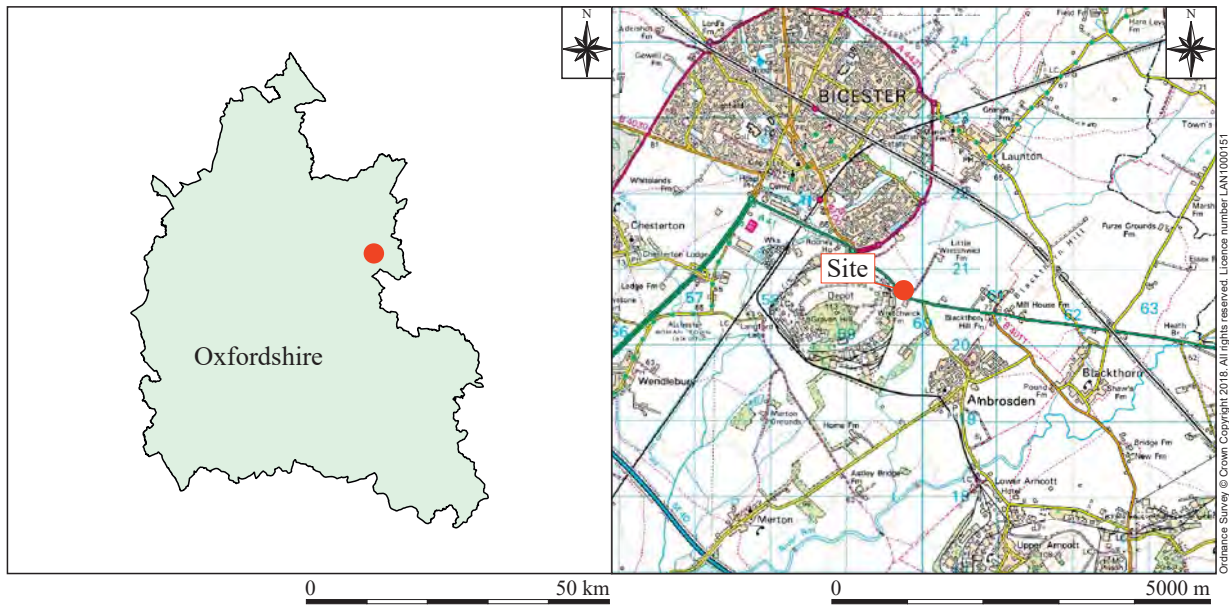


Figure 1: Site location

Reason – To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with the NPPF (2019). This information is required prior to commencement of the development as it is fundamental to the acceptability of the scheme.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The wider Graven Hill Site history presented below is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Waterman 2021) and summarises that set out in the ES authored by Amec (2011) and submitted with the wider outline planning application.

There are no recorded assets dating to the prehistoric period within the Site, however evidence from the surrounding area shows that it was occupied during this period.

There has been suggestion in the past that the top of Graven Hill was the Site of an Iron Age hill fort and that a linear earthwork, which is still visible within the Graven Hill Wood, formed part of the ramparts. However, these earthworks were investigated by an archaeological trial trenching evaluation (Saur 2000) which produced no clear evidence of Iron Age activity being recovered. No other known evidence for Iron Age activity has been identified within Graven Hill Wood and an alternative interpretation is that the earthworks represent the remains of post-medieval lynchets of agricultural origin.

Evidence of Prehistoric settlement and activity within the 1 km study area used for the baseline presented in the ES (Amec 2011) comes from a variety of sources, including those which have been recorded by excavation, sites identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, and as artefact finds.

Iron Age settlement sites have been identified at Chesterton Lane and Bicester Fields Farm. The Chesterton Lane site was investigated in advance of construction for dualling of the A41 (Booth et al 1991) and identified the presence of middle Iron Age gullies, postholes and sub-rectangular enclosures, all being indicative of settlement. An isolated Bronze Age burial was also identified. The Bicester Fields Farm site (OA 1998) is north of Graven Hill and excavation identified an Iron Age enclosure of two phases, and surrounded by other domestic features: pits, boundary ditches and both human and animal burials. A late Iron Age date was identified on the basis of the pottery assemblage, and other finds suggested an economy of pastoralism, with unusually large cattle and ironworking, indicating that the farmstead may have been of relatively high status. Evidence for earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic) activity was also identified (Cromarty et al 2000).

Cropmark evidence from aerial photography (APS Ltd 2005), includes two possible round barrows of probable Bronze Age date to the north-west of the Site which are visible as ring ditches. In addition, a banjo-type enclosure, three hut circles and a number of sinuous ditches have been identified on aerial photographs to the immediate south-west of the Alchester Roman town (Oxfordshire HER ref. 13904) (Heritage Gateway 2015). These have been interpreted as possible evidence for pre-Roman settlement within this area. Further evidence recorded in the Oxfordshire HER has been found in the form of artefacts, including a Bronze Age palstave (Oxfordshire HER ref. 16086) found in the vicinity of Alchester Roman Town and Bronze Age spearhead (Oxfordshire HER ref. 13922) from south of Graven Hill. There are also a number of finds of late Iron Age pottery recorded in the HER.

The principal settlement site of Roman date within the area is the town of Alchester, a Scheduled Monument. Together with the associated Roman roads, one of which crosses the Site, Alchester defines the Roman settlement pattern in the immediate surrounds of the Site.

Other areas of Roman settlement were also present, including a site which has been excavated at London Road in Bicester (Oxfordshire HER ref. 26005). This was within an area of raised ground between two paleo-channels, and comprised a large number of ditches, pits and postholes. The excavation presented a picture of settlement within an area which was generally wet and marshy.

Another Roman period settlement site has been excavated to the north of Graven Hill at Oxford Road (Bevan and Leach 1993; Mould 1997). Evaluation revealed extensive survival of late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement within the floodplain of Langford Brook. All identified features were preserved under post-Roman alluvium, and appeared to represent two phases of occupation. The first of these phases was dated to the 1st century AD, and the second to the 2nd century AD. It was interpreted as a low status rural site typical of Upper Thames region for the period, at a time when increasing agricultural intensification required use of previously marginal land.

A feature of interest in the early Ordnance Survey (OS) editions is the course of Langford Lane which ran within the Graven Hill Site boundary. From its current location at Alchester, the lane continued toward Merton, remaining outside of the wider Graven Hill Site boundary. The other branch continued to the east, following a line on the north side of Graven Hill, within the wider Graven Hill Site boundary, joining the line of Akeman Street at Wretchwick Farm. Given its location, it is possible that this may be a survival of the original Roman Road which led east from Alchester to link with Akeman Street. This route appears to have survived the initial construction of the Graven Hill ordnance depot as it can be seen on aerial photographs of 1945 as a double line of trees.

There is also a significant body of evidence of Roman occupation documented in the Oxfordshire HER in the form of numerous artefact finds, many of which have been from within and around the Alchester site or along the known routes of Roman roads.

There is relatively little known of the early medieval settlement within the area, though the Roman town at Alchester was abandoned, perhaps from around the 5th century AD. Bicester appears to have been established as a Saxon settlement in the 6th century and was named as Burencestre in the Domesday Book. The name has been described as either meaning 'fort of Bern' with 'Bern' being derived from the personal name for Beorna (Lobel 1959), or alternatively being derived from two separate elements – 'byrgen' meaning burial mound, and 'ceaster' meaning Roman for (Ekwell 1960). The earliest excavated evidence for settlement within the town is from a site to the rear of the King's Arms (Harding and Roberts 2000) which lies to the north of Graven Hill. Excavated remains included pits, gullies and evidence for a number of sunken-feature buildings, which may represent former houses.

The first edition OS map of 1885 includes the note site of battle between the Danes and Saxons in 871 AD within Graven Hill Wood. However, there is no other known reference to an early medieval battle at this location and it is not clear on what this is based. Without further evidence, this record should be treated with caution.

The first edition OS also indicates the boundary between the parishes of Ambrosden and Merton cutting across Graven Hill Wood. The division into two halves may be significant since they are divided by a dry ditch starting at the northern 300' contour and rising with the landscape to possibly 370' and down again to the southern 300' contour. The two halves of woodland are approximately 53.333 acres each. It may be that the woodland was equally divided between the parishes of Ambrosden and Merton (Oxfordshire HER ref. 13593).

Ambrosden formed the principal medieval settlement within its parish, though other settlements are also known, such as the one at Arncott. During the medieval period, much of the land around Graven Hill appears to have been in arable use, and the Victoria County History (Lobel 1957) records that the agricultural land of Ambrosden village was organised around three main fields known by the seventeenth century as East, South and West Fields.

The extent of arable cultivation is indicated on aerial photographs of the 1940s which show ridge and furrow earthworks (derived from medieval and post-medieval ploughing) on much of the land surrounding the hill, including some of the lower slopes.

In addition to the surviving settlements of medieval origin, there was also a medieval settlement at Wretchwick, to the north of Graven Hill, and possibly extending into its lower slopes. Wretchwick, now a Scheduled Monument, was in the possession of Bicester Priory, before being depopulated by the priory to make way for sheep grazing.

The wider Graven Hill Site is shown in detail on a series of OS Maps dating from 1880 onwards. In 1880, the wider Graven Hill Site is shown comprising a series of enclosed fields arranged around Graven Hill Wood. A single farmstead was present within the wider Graven Hill Site boundary in 1880, located on the southern edge of Graven Hill Wood, and known as Mount Pleasant. A building is shown on this location on the aerial photographs of 1944-45 and it is possible that Mount Pleasant remained until the development of St David's Barracks in the 1950s.

The major development of the 20th century, which has shaped the current form of the wider Graven Hill Site, was the establishment of the Central Ordnance Depot I 1941 during World War Two (WWII). The Bicester site was chosen as being suitable as it was located within southern England, with good road and rail links, and with sufficient space for the creation of a dispersed complex required for protection against air attack. It was also felt that the presence of Graven Hill will provide some additional protection in this regard. The depot was to spread over a wide area, occupying a number of sites from Graven Hill in the north to Arncott and Piddington in the south, collectively known as MOD Bicester.

The selection of MOD Bicester was approved in May 1941 and construction began soon after. Initial construction involved the laying of a 42 mile military rail network within and linking the various sites, followed by construction of the warehouse buildings. Graven Hill comprised D Site (armaments stores) to the south and E Site (small arms) to the north. Stores began to be issued from the MOD Bicester depot in August 1942, and it remained a key supply point for the army for the remainder of the war.

The entry of the United States into the war led to the arrival of large numbers of American troops into Britain, and it was necessary to provide depot facilities for their equipment. This operation was codenamed Bolero and at Bicester it involved the construction of temporary warehouse in the form of groups of Romney huts served by rail spurs and roads. The completed depot at MOD Bicester served as a key facility in supplying equipment for the Normandy landings in June 1944 and subsequent European campaign. It was also necessary to provide accommodation within the depot for a workforce which during construction reached 24,000, and this was provided by Nissen huts organised into nine self-contained camps. Three of these, Camp nos. 5, 6 and 7 were located on the slopes around Graven Hill Wood. This is depicted in the earliest aerial photography available for the wider Graven Hill Site. In 1944 much of the agricultural land surrounding the depot was occupied by ridge and furrow and areas of ridge and furrow also survived within the depot. Changes visible on aerial photographs within the wider Graven Hill Site are:

- Construction of St David's Barracks by 1954;
- Hutted accommodation north of Graven Hill Wood had been removed by 1959;
- More of the hutted accommodation had been removed by 1966 and trees within the Graven Hill Wood had been felled;
- Only a small number of accommodation huts were still present by 1975. Graven Hill Wood had been replanted and no ridge and furrow earthworks are shown to survive within the Site; and
- All accommodation huts had been removed by 1989.

In addition, the sequence of aerial photographs show the gradual removal by ploughing of ridge and furrow from the surrounding agricultural land, and this was largely absent by 1975.

MOD Bicester continued to operate as a Central Ordnance Depot in the post-war period, though the military workforce was gradually replaced by an increasing number of civilian workers. This meant the need for civilian workers to move into the area and some new housing to be built in Bicester to accommodate them. The temporary hatted accommodation camps were gradually removed and in 1956 new barracks had been completed to the west of Graven Hill Wood on the current St David's Barracks site. Other changes include the removal of the Bolero warehouses in the period after WWII.

In 2006, two trial trenches were excavated within a former tennis court at St David's Barracks in advance of the construction of an accommodation block, though no archaeological features were identified (G Laws 2007).

The Site has not previously been subject to archaeological fieldwork, mainly because of the previous woodland cover and due to the original construction works of the A41 not being archaeologically monitored.

As part of a site wide geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys in June 2020 on behalf of the Client, an area immediately adjacent to the northern parcel of former woodland (known as Area 5) was undertaken.

While services were identified, the entire area was characterised as 'magnetic disturbance' (Magnitude Surveys 2020). Such areas were described as obscuring the response of weaker features that might lie underneath, as such, the potential for archaeology in this area (which could provide an indication of archaeology that might extend into the northern parcel) is currently unknown.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site as a first stage of a programme of archaeological work. In particular to:

- determine the presence or absence of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be affected by the Development and where remains are present, to make an appropriate record to CIfA standards ;
- determine the approximate extent, condition, state of preservation and depth of any surviving remains;
- confirm the approximate date or range of dates of the remains;
- sample deposits to assess potential paleoenvironmental evidence;
- produce a report on the results of the archaeological evaluation;
- consult with the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (OCAS) on the need for archaeological mitigation; and
- ensure adequate provision for archival deposition of the archaeological record.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Waterman 2021) and a Method Statement (JMHS 2021) agreed with OCAS the archaeological advisors to Cherwell District Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

3.2 Methodology

Five evaluation trenches 30m long by 1.65m wide and a further Trench 26m long were excavated across the site of the proposed roundabout. The initial proposal was for five trenches, however, difficulties arising from the presence of services across the north-west of the site; dense tree stumps in areas of the site and other obstructions resulted in an altered scheme. Trench 2 was moved towards the south to avoid services. The angle of Trench 3 was changed to avoid a concentration of tree stumps resulting in a shortened trench due to the limits of the site boundary. A further 30m trench, Trench 6 was added towards the west of Trench 3.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scales used for plans and section drawings. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figures 1 and 2)

Trench 1 and Trenches 3 to 6 (Appendix 1)

The whole of the site had been disturbed by the presence of trees which had been recently cut down to the base.

Trench 1 was located in the far north-west of the site (Plate 1). The area had been highly disturbed by both tree rooting, and by storm water drainage at the far north west of the site. The deposits below the current turf deposit consisted of made ground deposits overlying the natural. At the south east end of the trench, the natural geology (1/05) was overlain by a 0.05m to 0.2m thick deposit of bluish grey clay loam (1/04) which was identified as a buried top/subsoil. This was overlain by two layers of made ground, (1/03) and (1/02) with a combined thickness of 0.38m. Above (1/02) was the current topsoil (1/01) which was 0.08m to 0.13m thick. Deposits (1/04) and (1/03) only continued for 15.3m towards the north-west. At the north-west end of the trench a deposit of white limestone aggregate was identified. This was overlying an area heavily disturbed by storm-water drainage. This was overlain by made-ground deposit (1/02) which was 0.27m thick at this point.

Trench 3 was located towards the centre of the site. The trench was located in an area of dense tree rooting with an abundance of tree stumps in this location. Deposited above the natural (3/05) in the north-east of the trench was 0.14m thick subsoil deposit (3/05). Above this was a buried topsoil deposit (3/03) that was between 0.06m and 0.14m thick. It contained rare fragments of brick and tile and was overlain by the

current topsoil (3/01) which was between 0.16m and 0.24m thick. In the south-west of the trench a possible deposit of made ground was recorded (3/02). It was 0.24m thick and deposited above the subsoil (3/05). It is possible that the deposit was a continuation of the subsoil which had been disturbed by rooting.

Located near to Trench 3 was Trench 6 (Plate 2) which revealed a simple stratigraphy of 0.18m deposit of topsoil (6/01) overlying the natural geology (6/03). A 0.18m subsoil/buried topsoil deposit was identified at the north-west end of the trench extending for 1m to towards the south-east in section. The deposit was not however apparent throughout the rest of Trench 6.



Trench 1. NW View



Plate 2. Trench 6. NW View

Plate 1.



Plate 3. Trench 5. NW View

Trenches 4 and 5 (Plate 3) were located on the south-east side of Pioneer Road. Both trenches revealed a similar profile of 0.1m thick buried top/subsoil (4/03) and (5/03) deposited above the natural geology. Above this was a 0.16m to 0.25m thick deposit of made ground (4/02) and (5/02). The uppermost deposit was a 0.08m to 0.18m thick topsoil deposit (4/01) and (5/01). The deposit was heavily disturbed by recent tree clearance and contained an abundance of tree bracken and wood debris, as well as modern material.

Trench 2 (Appendix 1)

Trench 2 was located between Trenches 1 and 6 on the north-west side of Pioneer Road (Figure 2; Plate 4). Cut into the natural, one feature, Ditch 2/04, was identified at the south-east end of the Trench 2 (Figure 2, Section 2.02; Plates 4 and 5). The north-east to south-west orientated ditch was 2.07m wide and greater in length than the 1.65m width of the trench. The ditch was 0.15m deep and had shallow concave sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay (2/05) which contained no finds.



Plate 4. Trench 2. NW View.



Plate 5. Section 2.02. Ditch 2/04. East view

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from the site.

6 DISCUSSION

The results of the excavation revealed one ditch which contained no dating evidence. No other finds or features were identified.

7 CONCLUSION

A condition of planning permission for proposed roundabout access to Graven Hill Wretchwick Green off London Road required a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation. The evaluation identified one archaeological feature; a shallow ditch orientated north-east to south-west, on the north-west side of Pioneer Road. The ditch contained no finds. No other finds or features were identified across the site.

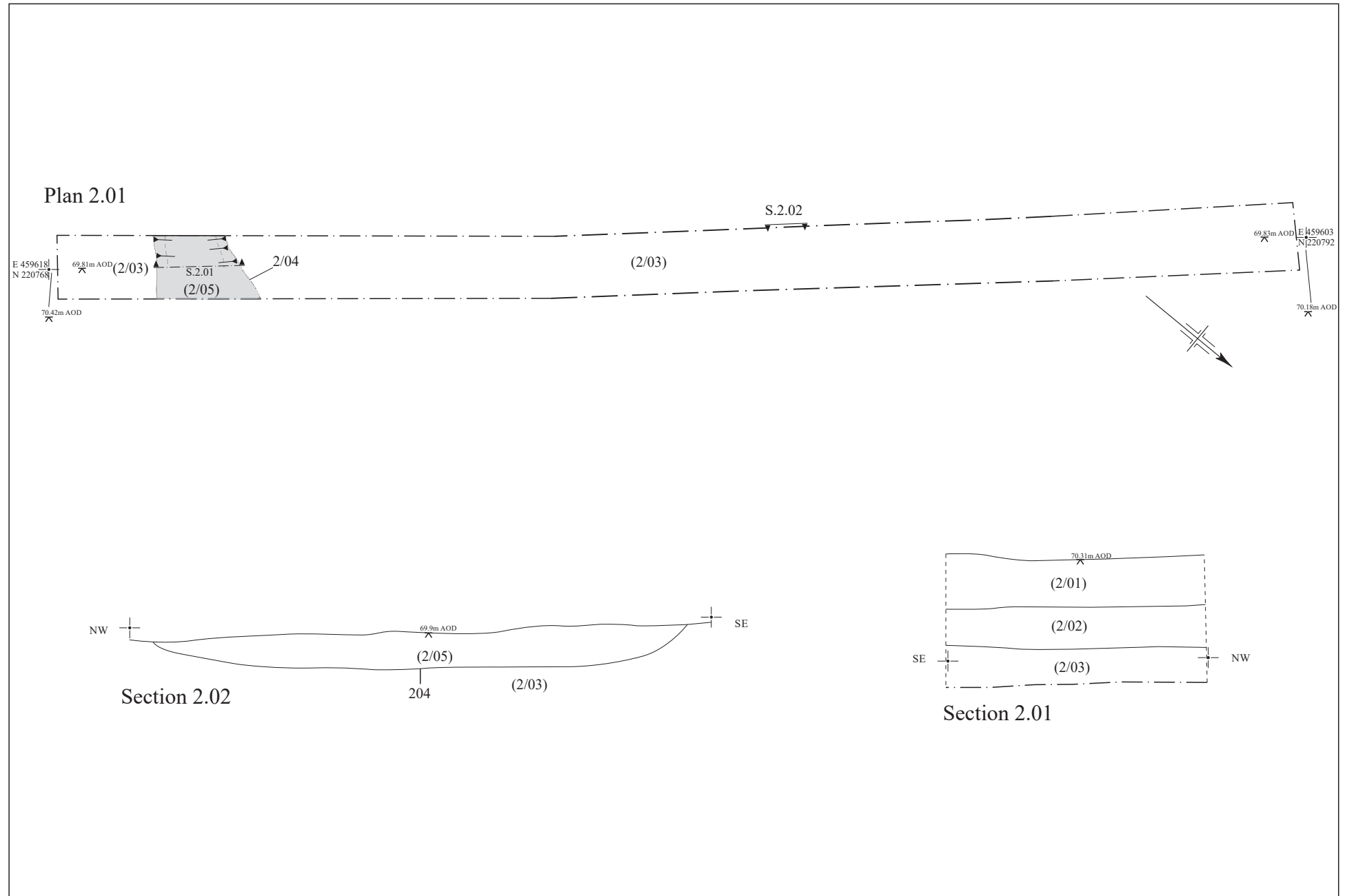
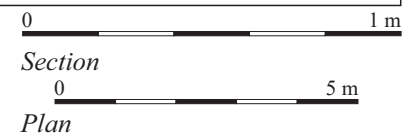


Figure 2: Plan of Trench 2 and Sections



8 ARCHIVE

A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4510) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Digitised copies of all the primary records will be made publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS (ID johnmoor1-424842).

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Appendix 1: Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth/Thickness	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Friable, dark brown sandy silt loam. Frequent grass rooting and moderate tree and plant roots	0.08m	>1.65	>30m	None	Topsoil/turf line above 1/02	Modern
1/02	Deposit	Friable mid-reddish brown sandy clay loam. Very frequent rooting. Moderate small sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.18m to 0.27m	>1.65	>30m	None	Made-ground-redeposited top/subsoil. Deposited above 1/03 and 1.06	Modern
1/03	Deposit	Firm, greenish yellow clay. Frequent tree rooting, moderate burnt material occasional small stone inclusions	0.20m	>1.65	>15.3m	None	Made ground deposit at the south east end of the trench.	Modern
1/04	Deposit	Firm bluish grey clay loam. Frequent burnt material, moderate tree rooting and occasional medium small stone inclusions	0.05m to 0.2m	>1.65	>15.3m	None	Disturbed and buried top/subsoil. Underlying 1/03 and overlying 1/05.	Undated
1/05	Deposit	Reddish brown clay with bluish brown patches	>0.13m	>1.65	>30m	-	Natural. Weathered Oxford Clay Formation	Formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
1/06	Deposit	Loose brown sand and yellowish white, sub-rounded and sub angular gravel. Gravel is 50mm to 100mm in size and dominates the deposit.	>0.07m	>1.65m	>2m	None	Aggregate deposits associated with storm-water drainage piping at the north-west end of the trench. Below 1/02 and overlying 1/05	Modern
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Friable clay loam with frequent grass and tree rooting.	0.19m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Topsoil	Modern
2/02	Deposit	Friable to compact, mid-reddish brown clay loam with frequent tree roots	0.16m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Subsoil	Undated
2/03	Deposit	Compact mid-orange brown clay with patches of light bluish grey clay	>0.14m	>1.65m	>30m	-	Natural. Weathered Oxford Clay Formation	Formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
2/04	Cut	SW to NE orientated linear cut with sharp break of slope at the top and shallow concave sides. Gradual lower break of slope and a flattish base.	0.15m	2.07m	>1.65m	-	Cut of undated ditch. Filled by 2/05	Undated

2/05	Deposit	Compact mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded pebbles	0.15m	2.07m	>1.65m	None	Fill of undated ditch 2/04	Undated
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Dark brown, friable clay loam with occasional small sub-angular stones and frequent grass and tree rooting	0.16m to 0.24m	>1.65m	>26m	None	Topsoil	Modern
3/02	Deposit	Firm mid-greyish yellowish brown clay loam with frequent tree rooting	0.24m	>1.65m	-	None	Made-ground deposit/disturbed subsoil at south-west end of the trench above 3/05	Undated
3/03	Deposit	Firm to friable, dark greyish brown clay loam with frequent tree rooting and rare brick and tile	0.06m to 0.14m	>1.65m	-	None	Buried topsoil deposit below 3/01	Modern
3/04	Deposit	Firm mid-orange and greyish brown clay	>0.06m	>1.65m	>26m	-	Natural. Weathered Oxford Clay Formation	Formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
3/05	Deposit	Firm mid-greyish reddish brown clay loam with frequent rooting.	0.14m	>1.65m	>26m	None	Subsoil below 3/03	Undated
Trench 4								
4/01	Deposit	Friable, Dark blackish grey sandy clay loam with very frequent rooting, wood debris and modern material	0.18m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Recently disturbed topsoil deposit	Modern
4/02	Deposit	Firm mid-greyish brown clay loam with rooting	0.16m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Made-ground deposit below 4/01	Modern
4/03	Deposit	Firm mid-reddish brown clay loam with rooting.	0.09m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Buried top/subsoil below 4/02	Undated
4/04	Deposit	Firm, reddish brown clay with greyish patches	> 0.13m	>1.65m	>30m	-	Natural. Weathered Oxford Clay Formation	Formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
Trench 5								
5/01	Deposit	Friable, Dark blackish grey sandy clay loam with very frequent rooting, wood debris and modern material	0.08m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Recently disturbed topsoil deposit	Modern
5/02	Deposit	Firm, greyish brown clay loam with rooting.	0.25m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Made ground deposit below 5/01	Modern
5/03	Deposit	Firm, light reddish brown clay loam	0.1m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Buried top/subsoil below 5/02	Undated

5/04	Deposit	Firm, reddish brown clay with greyish patches	>0.1m	>1.65m	>30m	-	Natural. Weathered Oxford Clay Formation	Formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.
Trench 6								
6/01	Deposit	Friable, dark brown sandy clay loam. Very frequent grass rooting and moderate tree rooting. Occasional small to medium/small sub-angular stones.	0.18m	>1.65m	>30m	None	Topsoil	Modern
6/02	Deposit	Compact to friable, mid-reddish brown clay loam with frequent tree rooting	0.18m	>1.65m	>1m	None	Subsoil/buried topsoil deposit. Only identified in the north-west end of the trench below 6/01	Undated
6/03	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clay	>0.24m	>1.65m	>30m	-	Natural. Weathered Oxford Clay Formation	Formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.

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Project details

Project name	Pioneer Roundabout, Graven Hill
Short description of the project	ohn Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land immediately to the north-west and the south-east of Pioneer Rd, near Ambrosden, Bicester, Oxfordshire, where the road forms a Junction with the A41, London Rd. The evaluation identified one archaeological feature, a shallow ditch orientated north-east to south-west, on the north-west side of Pioneer Road. The ditch contained no finds. No other finds or features were identified across the site.
Project dates	Start: 15-06-2021 End: 17-06-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4510 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AMPR21 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Road scheme (new and widening)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location OXFORDSHIRE CHERWELL AMBROSDEN Pioneer Roundabout, Graven Hill, Bicester
Postcode OX26 6JP
Study area 0 Square metres
Site coordinates SP 59672 20740 51.88158638405 -1.132980555423 51 52 53 N 001 07 58 W Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 68.56m Max: 71.23m

Entered by Gavin Davis (admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)
Entered on 25 June 2021

OASIS:

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