

- 2.21 The document also states that the contribution made to the significance of heritage assets by their settings will vary depending on the nature of the heritage asset and its setting, and that different heritage assets may have different abilities to accommodate change without harming their significance. Setting should, therefore, be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.22 Historic England recommends using a series of detailed steps in order to assess the potential effects of a proposed development on significance of a heritage asset. The 5-step process is as follows:
1. Identification of heritage assets which are likely to be affected by proposals. The guidance states that if development is capable of affecting the contribution of a heritage asset's setting to its significance or the appreciation of its significance, it can be considered as falling within the asset's setting. Importantly, it is distinguished that an impact on setting does not necessarily equate with harm and may be positive or neutral. This judgement of impact instead depends upon a detailed understanding of the individual heritage asset's significance, of which setting may form a greater or lesser part.
 2. Assessment of whether and what contribution the setting makes to the significance of a heritage asset. This depends upon an understanding of the history and development of the site, utilising historic mapping where possible. This assessment should also be informed by the physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets, the way in which the asset is experienced and the asset's associations and patterns of use. All this information will inform an assessment of the effects of a proposed development on the significance of a heritage asset;
 3. Assessing the effects of proposed development on the significance of a heritage asset. With the information gathered at Stage 2 it will be possible to identify a range of effects development may have on setting, which will be evaluated as beneficial, neutral or harmful to the significance of the heritage asset. The location and siting, form and appearance, permanence and any other effects of proposals will all inform the assessment process;
 4. Maximising enhancement and reduction of harm on the setting of heritage assets. Measures to reduce harm could include relocation of all or parts of a development, changes to the layout, screening, etc. Where harm cannot be eliminated, design quality of the proposed development may be one of the main factors in assessing the balance of harm and benefit. Where a development cannot be adjusted and where some harm to the setting of heritage assets is unavoidable, appropriate screening may be required to reduce the extent of the harm caused;
 5. Making and documenting the decision and monitoring outcomes. Decisions are made on a case by case basis, recognising that all heritage assets are not of equal importance and the contribution made by their setting to their significance also varies.
- 2.23 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

Cherwell Local Plan 2011 - 2031 Part 1 (July 2015)

- 2.24 The saved policies of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996 remain relevant for the site and the following policy has been saved:

C25 IN CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE SITE OR SETTING OF A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT, OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS OF SPECIAL LOCAL IMPORTANCE, THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING ITS OVERALL

HISTORIC CHARACTER, INCLUDING ITS PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION WHERE APPROPRIATE.

2.25 The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 was adopted in July 2015 and replaced many of the policies in the previous 1996 plan. The following policy is relevant to archaeology at the site:

Policy ESD 15: The Character of the Built and Historic Environment Successful design is founded upon an understanding and respect for an area's unique built, natural and cultural context. New development will be expected to complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high quality design. All new development will be required to meet high design standards. Where development is in the vicinity of any of the District's distinctive natural or historic assets, delivering high quality design that complements the asset will be essential. New development proposals should:

- ...Conserve, sustain and enhance designated and non designated 'heritage assets' (as defined in the NPPF) including buildings, features, archaeology, conservation areas and their settings, and ensure new development is sensitively sited and integrated in accordance with advice in the NPPF and NPPG. Proposals for development that affect non-designated heritage assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset as set out in the NPPF and NPPG. Regeneration proposals that make sensitive use of heritage assets, particularly where these bring redundant or under used buildings or areas, especially any on English Heritage's At Risk Register, into appropriate use will be encouraged
- Include information on heritage assets sufficient to assess the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Where archaeological potential is identified this should include an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation...

2.26 The Mid-Cherwell Area Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2013 was "made" by Cherwell District in May 2019. The Neighbourhood Plan will be used to help decide planning applications in the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan area. This included the western site parcel only. Relevant policy is as follows:

POLICY PD1: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY A VILLAGES

Any residential development proposal which is outside the settlement areas of these three villages must have particular regard to all the following criteria...

...d) The development should conserve and, where possible, enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the conservation areas and the significance of other heritage assets (see Appendix K: Heritage and Character Assessment)...

POLICY PC1: LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Proposals for the establishment of new small businesses will be considered favourably where they:...

...b) do not have an adverse affect on the surrounding built, natural or historic environment that is not clearly outweighed by the economic benefits of the development...

POLICY PD5: BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN

New development should be designed to a high standard which responds to the distinctive character of the settlement and reflects the guidelines and principles set out within the Heritage and Character Assessment (see Appendix K). Development proposals should have full regard to the following criteria:

a) Proposals should wherever possible include appropriate landscape mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the built form, to ensure that development is in keeping with the existing rural character of the village, and to provide a net gain in biodiversity.

b) Development affecting existing traditional stone walls should identify them on proposals drawings, and wherever possible retain and/or repair them using traditional forms and materials.

c) Proposals for minor development schemes (excluding infill and conversions) of new housing will be required to provide new or improve existing footpaths and cycle ways to ensure that new residents of all ages and mobility have safe access to village amenities such as the school, bus stops, shop and green spaces. Where new routes are proposed to meet this requirement, the development proposals shall contain full details of all associated materials and infrastructure.

d) The section on Managing Change on p.76 -77 of the Heritage and Character Assessment (see Appendix K), which sets out general principles and specific recommendations for villages highlighted in the document.

NOTE 1: This policy does not apply to development within the area covered by CDC's policy Villages 5, where site-specific design and place-shaping standards are already set out.

NOTE 2: Part 2 of APPENDIX K covers only Category A and B villages and Upper Heyford; other Category C villages were excluded from AECOM's study because of funding limitations affecting the scope of the work

Relevant Guidance

2.27 Criteria used to determine important historic hedgerows (The Hedgerows Regulations 1997);

2.28 To be 'important', a hedgerow must be at least 30 years and meet at least one of eight set criteria summarised below [they do not apply to hedgerows within the curtilage of, or marking a boundary of the curtilage of, a dwelling-house]:

1. Marks a pre-1850 parish or township boundary.
2. Incorporates an archaeological feature such as a Scheduled Monument.
3. Is part of, or associated with, an archaeological site listed on the relevant Historic Environment Record.
4. Marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor.
5. Forms an integral part of a pre-1845 field system.
6. Contains certain categories of species of animals or plants listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act or Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) publications.
7. Includes:
 - a. at least 7 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length;
 - b. at least 6 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least 3 associated features;
 - c. at least 6 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length, including a black-poplar tree, or large-leaved lime, or small-leaved lime, or wild service-tree; or
 - d. at least 5 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least 4 associated features. The number of woody species is reduced by one in northern counties. The list of 56 woody species comprises mainly shrubs and trees. It

generally excludes climbers (such as clematis, honeysuckle and bramble) but includes wild roses.

8. Runs along a bridleway, footpath, road used as a public path, or a byway open to all traffic and includes at least 4 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least 2 of the associated features listed at (i) to (vii) below.
 - i. a bank or wall supporting the hedgerow;
 - ii. less than 10% gaps;
 - iii. on average, at least one tree per 50 metres;
 - iv. at least 3 species from a list of 57 woodland plants;
 - v. a ditch;
 - vi. a number of connections with other hedgerows, ponds or woodland;
 - vii. a parallel hedge within 15 metres.

Relevant National and Local Designations

- 2.29 In terms of relevant designated heritage assets, as defined above and as shown on Figure 2a, no designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield sites or Historic Wreck sites lie within the vicinity of the study site.
- 2.30 The site does not contain any listed buildings and does not fall within a conservation area. Three designated heritage assets, all Grade II listed, were identified within a 1km radius of the site.
- 2.31 The Local Authority's list of Local Heritage Assets has not yet been finalised. Local Heritage Assets have however been identified as part of the conservation area appraisals and these are intended to eventually form part of an adopted list.
- 2.32 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential, identify relevant heritage assets, and consider the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS Online 2021) as White Limestone Formation. A small band of head deposits is recorded in the southern part of the western site parcel, whilst alluvial deposits are recorded along the southern boundary of the eastern site parcel.
- 3.2 Geotechnical site investigations have been undertaken historically at the site, which have identified a sequence of topsoil overlying superficial silt deposits, and in turn the limestone bedrock in the western site parcel (BGS Online and see Appendix 2). The superficial deposits may represent hillwash colluvial deposits.

Topography

- 3.3 The natural topography of the study site trends fairly gently downwards in a southerly direction, from circa 128m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the northern corner of the western site parcel, down to 110m AOD at the southern boundary of the eastern site parcel. An east-west watercourse is located to the immediate south of the eastern site parcel.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	2,500 BC
Bronze Age (including Chalcolithic)	2,500 -	800 BC
Iron Age	800 -	AD 43

Historic

Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the study site and surrounding area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site prior to any assessment of any later development or below ground impacts.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km buffer of the study site (Figs. 2a-b), also referred to as the study area, held on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the 18th century onwards until the present day. National Monument Records data from Historic England is shown on Figure 2c.
- 4.3 In general, the majority of HER records within the study area comprise evidence for cropmarks identified as possible archaeological anomalies. A focus of Medieval village activity is recorded at Baynards Green to the immediate north of the site.
- 4.4 The map regression exercise has demonstrated that the study site has likely remained open agricultural land or pasture since at least the 18th century through to the present day. Minor development is shown, comprising localised areas of agricultural buildings and a small extraction pit.
- 4.5 A programme of geophysical survey has been undertaken separately across each site parcel to support this assessment.
- 4.6 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions, later development and below ground impacts, and whether the proposed development is likely to impact archaeological assets and potential archaeological assets identified below.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.7 Recent archaeological work within the study site has comprised geophysical survey undertaken separately across the western and eastern site parcels. The survey across the western site parcel was undertaken in two phases.
- 4.8 Survey across the western site parcel (SUMO 2021 and Appendix 3) concluded the following:
- The survey at Baynards Green has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest. Tentative linear and curvilinear trends have been mapped, though their exact origin remains unclear; they could be archaeological, natural or a result of agricultural practice. Ploughing effects are mapped in the results, along with possible drains / services, areas of natural magnetic variation and ferrous disturbance.*
- 4.9 Whilst survey works across the eastern parcel (Magnitude 2021 and see Appendix 4) concluded the following:
- Agricultural activity has been identified in the form of multiple systems of modern ploughing cultivation. Some areas of enhanced ploughing have also been detected around the edges of the survey area.*
- Natural variations in the background geology of the survey area have been detected. These anomalies are likely related to imperfections in the limestone bedrock and changes in the superficial/sedimentary deposits.*
- No anomalies strongly suggestive of archaeological activity have been identified, however anomalies of undetermined origins have been detected. It has not been possible to definitively determine whether these anomalies are the result of archaeological, agricultural or modern practises.*
- 4.10 Overall, it is apparent that no clear archaeological anomalies are present at the site other than evidence for Modern agricultural activity, although a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin were identified.

Early Prehistoric – Palaeolithic & Mesolithic

- 4.11 No evidence for Palaeolithic activity is recorded on the HER within a 1km buffer of the study site boundary. The only evidence for Mesolithic finds comprises a lithic implement found during evaluation at the A43 and recorded at the south western part of the study area (NMR Ref: 1211493, SP 54 28). The presence of early Prehistoric material can be notoriously difficult to predict and is typically dependent upon the presence of an appropriate underlying geology sequence (such as terrace gravels or brickearth), as well as suitable topography and access to nearby resources and water. There are no river terrace gravels or other suitable deposits recorded at the site which might be considered conducive to the survival of early Prehistoric artefacts. The possible head, colluvium, or alluvial deposits recorded sporadically at the site may retain a limited potential for isolated residual artefacts only.
- 4.12 Therefore, given the lack of evidence from the nearby area, combined with a lack of a suitable underlying geological sequence, the archaeological potential at the study site for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds is considered to be low. The potential presence of residual flintwork artefacts cannot be entirely discounted within any underlying alluvial, colluvial or head deposits, although such finds would be of limited significance.

Later Prehistoric – Neolithic, Bronze Age & Iron Age

- 4.13 A single bank and ditch forming an incomplete sub-rectangular enclosure is present as earthworks at Stoke Lyne Wood c.700m south east of the study site. Interpretations have suggested that the feature may comprise part of a Neolithic long mortuary enclosure, a possible cursus, or a currently unknown monument type (HER Ref: MOX12362, SP 5543 2780).
- 4.14 Two possible ring ditch cropmarks are recorded from aerial photography, including one 490m north east of the study site (HER Ref: MOX27036, SP 5533 2946), and a second at Ardley House c.970m to the south (HER Ref: MOX4829, SP 5403 2776).
- 4.15 Cropmarks of a banjo enclosure, along with likely associated paddock enclosures and an extensive irregular boundary ditch, are shown in the area c.650m west of the study site (HER Ref: MOX4865, SP 5362 2865 & NMR Ref: 1059364). Analysis of further aerial photographs identified two banjo enclosures connected via a linear boundary in the area c.710m to the south of the site (HER Ref: MOX4873, SP 546 277 & NMR Ref: 1392362). One side of a possible banjo enclosure and a short section of a possibly associated trackway are visible as cropmarks c.620m to the east (HER Ref: MOX23339, SP 5576 2902 & NMR Ref: 1620873).
- 4.16 The surrounding area would have most likely comprised a settled landscape during the Later Prehistoric periods, as indicated by the identification of various cropmark anomalies of likely Later Prehistoric origin across the study area. Geophysical survey at the site has not indicated any particular anomalies that may comprise similar later Prehistoric monuments within the site boundary itself. Overall, the study site is considered to have a moderate archaeological potential for the Later Prehistoric periods.

Roman

- 4.17 The only finds of Roman date within the 1km study area search radius comprise coins and pottery sherds found in a garden at Bucknell Road c.950m south of the study site (HER Ref: MOX4812, SP 5434 2748 & NMR Refs: 338880 & 338863).
- 4.18 The Roman town at Bicester was located circa 7km to the south of the study site, with radial roads leading north west and north east from the town. The nearest of these to the site was the Bicester to Stratford-upon-Avon road, which has been posited in the area circa 2.5km to the south west of the study site on a NW-SE alignment (Margary 1955).
- 4.19 Based on current evidence, the archaeological potential for evidence dating to the Roman period at the study site is considered to be low.

Saxon/Early Medieval & Medieval

- 4.20 No finds of Saxon date have been recorded within the vicinity of the study site.
- 4.21 The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded various early Medieval estates in the surrounding area, with the nearest located at Ardley to the south, Fritwell to the west, and Stoke (Lyne) to the east (Open Domesday Online 2021). Ardley and Fritwell were recorded as mid-size estates of 23 and 22 households respectively, with Stoke (Lyne) recorded as a large estate of 67 households. The associated estate lands comprised of ploughlands, pasture, meadow and woodlands.
- 4.22 A deserted Medieval village (DMV) is conjectured at “Cotes” in the area c.850m north east of the study site (HER Ref: MOX4745, SP 55 30). The village green at Baynard’s Green is thought to have originated as an area of open space utilised for Medieval horsemanship tournaments and racing. It has been suggested that this area of open space would have once straddled the Brackley Road (now the A43) in the area to the immediate north of the study site (HER Ref: MOX4853, SP 5480

2924). The name Baynard's Green is thought to have originated from the Anglo-French name for a bay horse, "bayard" (The English Place Name Society n.d.).

- 4.23 Overall, the study site likely lay within an agricultural and pastoral landscape during the Saxon and Medieval periods. It is possible that the site may have been worked as arable land or utilised for pasture since the Saxon period. The extent of the green to the immediate north of the site is unclear and may have theoretically extended southwards into the study site itself. Therefore, a moderate archaeological potential can be considered at the study site for the Saxon and Medieval periods, with evidence thought most likely to comprise of agricultural activity, land division, and ephemeral activity associated with transient activity within the green area.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.24 A number of the HER records within the study area refer to Post Medieval and Modern archaeological remains which are not discussed in detail here unless relevant to the study site. One of these records was associated with a 19th century milestone formerly located at the southern part of the study site adjacent to the A43 and recorded as lost during works to construct the M40 (HER Ref: MOX4836, SP 548 285). Geophysical survey has identified evidence for Modern agricultural activity (Magnitude 2021 and SUMO 2021, Appendices 3-4).
- 4.25 During the later Post Medieval and Modern periods, our understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 4.26 The earliest such cartographic source is a 1768 Jeffrey's Map of Oxfordshire (Fig. 4), which shows the site in land to the south of what was then known as *Bayard's Green*. The Green is shown in a similar fashion to how a common might be depicted and is bisected by the now A43 road as well as a number of other trackways. The site itself is likely located within open land to the south of the Green and divided into the existing eastern and western site parcels by the precursor road to the A43. The early road now formed by the B4100 is shown along the site's northern boundary.
- 4.27 The 1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Fig. 5) shows the study site parcels divided by this roadway and likely in use for agriculture or pasture. A building is shown in the northern part of the western site parcel, possibly a farm building associated with those buildings at Baynard's Green to the immediate north east, as well as buildings at the location later associated with Baynard's Green Farm.
- 4.28 The 1880 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig. 6) is a detailed survey of the site undertaken to modern cartographic standards. The site is divided into a number of field parcels with a small cluster of agricultural buildings in the western site parcel. The earlier buildings in the northern part of this parcel had been demolished by this time. A footpath is shown in the southern part of the western parcel. A small pond, or former extraction pit, is shown in the eastern site parcel. Baynard's Green Farm is clearly visible as a group of buildings to the north east of the Site, formed in a polygonal arrangement.
- 4.29 The only changes shown within the site during the early 20th century (Fig. 7) and through to the present day (Figs. 8-12) comprised of minor internal field boundary changes. The M40 was constructed to form the Site's south western boundary by 1992 (Fig. 9), whilst the A43 was constructed by 2004 (Fig. 10) to replace the previous road which bisected the study site. By the 1980s, several buildings associated with Baynard's Green Farm had been demolished, with the barn building being one of the few remaining.
- 4.30 Overall, the historic mapping has demonstrated that the study site has likely remained open agricultural land or pasture since at least the 18th century through to the present day. Minor

development is shown, comprising localised areas of agricultural buildings and a small extraction pit.

- 4.31 Therefore, aside from remains associated with agricultural activity, land division, and localised areas of known modern development, a low archaeological potential is considered at the study site for the Post Medieval and Modern periods. Evidence for agricultural activity, land division and Modern building foundations of negligible significance is likely to be present which is not discussed further in this assessment.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 4.32 The Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data records each study site parcel within an area of enclosed fields (Fig. 2b).

LiDAR Plot

- 4.33 The Environment Agency LiDAR data shows a number of possible anomalies throughout much of the site (Fig. 3).
- 4.34 In the first instance, this includes evidence for Modern agricultural activity, which is shown as very regular on the plot. Existing field boundaries, as well as likely former field boundaries corresponding to historic mapping, are also apparent.
- 4.35 Further anomalies of unknown origin are also present in the data. There appears to be little correlation in general between the LiDAR and the geophysical survey data, although there may be some anomalies shown on both sets of data in the south western part of the eastern site parcel (Magnitude 2021 and see Figure 3).

Aerial Photographic Analysis

- 4.36 A range of aerial photographs supplied by Historic England have been analysed as part of this assessment, including from the 1940s and 1990s (not reproduced here). No clear archaeological anomalies have been identified within the site from those photographs.

Undated Evidence

- 4.37 Geophysical survey across an area of land to the immediate north east of the study site has identified linear anomalies of possible archaeological origin, as well as small-scale quarrying activity and Post Medieval to Modern agricultural activity. The western part of the survey area nearest to the study site was considered to have a very low archaeological potential on the basis of these results (WYAS 2015, HER Ref: EOX6619, SP 5561 2908).
- 4.38 Further undated features of possible archaeological origin recorded on the HER within 1km of the study site include possible rectilinear enclosures and circular enclosures at the far north eastern part of the study area (HER Refs: MOX23340-1, SP 5542 2995 and SP 5533 2986), undated rectilinear and sub-rectilinear enclosures at the far northern part of the study area (HER Ref: MOX27354, SP 54402 30455), an undated circular enclosure c.550m to the west (HER Ref: MOX4838, SP 5361 2934), a possible enclosure recorded at the far eastern part of the 1km study area (HER Ref: MOX27151, SP 5600 2848), and vague linear anomalies at the far southern extent of the study area (HER Ref: MOX4833, SP 550 274).

Negative Evidence

- 4.39 Archaeological evaluation at Fewcott Wind Farm in the area 330m west of the study site identified only two undated linears across a total of eight trenches (HER Ref: EOX3489, SP 5383 2884).

4.40 Phases of archaeological monitoring at Ardley to the south have identified no evidence for archaeological remains (HER Refs: EOX1814, SP 54250 27570; EOX3509, SP 5425 2757).

Assessment of Significance

4.41 Existing national policy guidance for archaeology (the NPPF as referenced in section 2) enshrines the concept of the ‘significance’ of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its ‘heritage interest’ to this or future generations.

4.42 No relevant nationally significant designated heritage assets as defined in the NPPF are recorded within, or within the vicinity of, the study site.

4.43 A non-designated heritage asset comprising a 19th century milestone is recorded at the southern part of the study site on the HER, adjacent to the A43, however this is thought to have been lost during construction of the M40 in the later 20th century.

4.44 Based on current evidence, a moderate archaeological potential has been identified at the study site for the Later Prehistoric periods, as well as for evidence of Saxon and Medieval agricultural activity, land division, and transient activity. A low potential is considered for all other past periods of human activity within the study site. In addition, a number of possible anomalies have been identified during geophysical survey which may retain an archaeological interest.

4.45 The significance of any archaeological remains which may be present would be derived from their evidential value and contributions that could be made towards most likely local research agendas. It might be possible that Later Prehistoric monument evidence could contribute towards regional research objectives.

4.46 Whilst it is possible that archaeological remains could be present within the site, on the basis of the above, any remains, should they occur on the study site, would in the context of the Secretary of State’s non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013) most likely be of local or possibly regional significance.

4.47 As identified by desk based work and recent geophysical survey, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the study site is summarised in table form below:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential and Likely Significance (if present):
Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic & Mesolithic)	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance;
Later Prehistoric (Neolithic, Bronze Age & Iron Age)	Moderate potential, generally Low (Local) Significance, although evidence for similar monuments to those identified in the nearby area could be of Medium (Regional) Significance;
Roman	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance;
Saxon	Moderate potential for evidence of agricultural activity and land division, Low (Local) Significance;
Medieval	Moderate potential for evidence of agricultural activity, land division, and transient activity associated with the nearby village green, most likely to be of Low (Local) Significance;
Post Medieval & Modern	Low potential (likely to be entirely invested in evidence of agricultural activity, land division, and localised development for modern agricultural buildings), likely to be of Negligible (None) Significance.
Undated	A number of possible archaeological anomalies have been identified during geophysical survey and on LiDAR data which are currently uncharacterised and undated.

5 HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL

Identification of Built Heritage Assets

- 5.1 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and the Historic Environment Record (HER) were consulted in order to identify relevant designated and non-designated heritage assets. The search and scoping were further informed by comments received from Cherwell District Council.
- 5.2 The search concluded that the site does not contain any designated heritage assets. Three designated heritage assets were identified within a 1km search radius around the site (see Figure 2d). Non-designated heritage assets were not identified. The designated assets include:
- BARN AT SP 5487 2940, Grade II listed (List entry number: 1046400)
 - MANOR FARMHOUSE Grade II listed (List entry number: 1369564)
 - FEWCOTT FARMHOUSE Grade II (List entry number: 1046880)
- 5.3 The search result also included the very northern edge of Ardley Conservation Area, south of the site.
- 5.4 The site visit in August 2021 confirmed that only the Barn at SP 5487 2940, located in Baynard's Green, had the potential to be affected by the proposed development, due to its close proximity to the Site.
- 5.5 Manor Farmhouse and Fewcott Farmhouse are located in the village of Fewcott, circa 800m from the site. These assets have no visual, historical or functional connection to the site and are, furthermore, separated from the site by agricultural field boundaries and the M40 motorway network. As these assets would draw their significance from their historical connection and setting of Fewcott and Ardley, they have been scoped out of this built heritage assessment.
- 5.6 The Ardley Conservation Area also draws its historical interest from within the conservation area rather than from the area to the north. It shares no views with the Site and is separated from the Site by residential roads within Ardley and Fewcott, agricultural fields and the M40 motorway. It has therefore, been scoped out of this assessment.
- 5.7 The subsequent assessment of built heritage assets will focus on the Barn at SP 5487 2940.

Assessment of Built Heritage Assets

- 5.8 In accordance with Step 2 of the 5-step process that is recommended by Historic England's GPA3 The Setting of Heritage Assets, this section provides an assessment of the significance of the identified heritage assets, including the degree to which their settings and views make a contribution to their significance.

BARN AT SP 5487 2940, Grade II listed (List entry number: 1046400)

- 5.9 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) describes the asset as *a late C18 barn built from coursed squared limestone. Steeply pitched old-tile roof. 10 bays. 2 threshing floor entrances have C20 doors. Square ventilation holes and slits. Interior. Principal rafter roof with collars and ties, Some C20 repairs. Dividing wall at 5th bay.*
- 5.10 In the 19th century, the Barn was located to the north east of Bayard's Green (later renamed to Baynard's Green). It stood relatively isolated, consisting of several buildings, which formed a polygonal arrangement. The surrounding setting consisted mainly of open agricultural fields. The barn and associated farm lay on the route now forming the A43. Only two other buildings were visible

on the 1880 OS Map within a 500m radius, one of these included Baynard's House, as well as a building on the plot now including the western part of the Site.

- 5.11 The relative scarcity of population at the time has been partially attributed to the fact that from the 17th century the area underwent a conversion from arable land to pasture. For instance, before inclosure, the manor of Bainton, which included slightly over half the parish, was divided into five farms, and there were ten or eleven others of about 100 acres or more in size.
- 5.12 In 1816 the manor still consisted of five farms, but by 1832 there were only two and there was a tendency in the 19th century for farms in the rest of the parish to increase in size. Judged by the evidence provided by historical maps, these observations appear to be consistent with the farm at Baynard's Green.
- 5.13 During the 17th century, the green at Baynard's Green was well known for its horse racing tournaments and in the 19th century the parish was a noted hunting centre.
- 5.14 Parts of the Barn were demolished during the mid-20th century and converted into business premises (Plates 2-3). Today the building forms part of a small business estate.

Significance

- 5.15 The asset derives its significance predominantly from its history as one of the oldest remaining buildings in Baynard's Green. It also holds architectural interest as a late 18th century stone barn, however to a lesser extent, due to significant alterations and conversions in the 20th century.

Setting

- 5.16 The Barn's immediate setting consists of the business units, which includes modern extensions to the barn, as well as 20th century warehouses and yards. It is positioned adjacent to Baynard's Trading Estate. The Barn is accessible via a private drive near the A43/B4100 roundabout (Plate 4), which also holds a Service Station. The wider setting includes open farmland to the north, west and south, with the A43 running closely along its eastern boundaries and the B4100 to the south-west.

Contribution the setting makes to Significance

- 5.17 The immediate setting, consisting of the small Business Unit, contributes to the asset's significance as it continues to facilitate the formation of a self-contained plot within the landscape, which has persisted since the late 18th century. The adjacent Baynard's Trading Estate and 20th century alterations and additions of modern warehouses near the Barn, have diminished the asset's significance as a late 18th century farm barn. The wider landscape is not appreciable from the Barn's location as it is surrounded by mature vegetation and modern buildings, with the functional and visual link between the listed building and this wider agricultural landscape now severed. The traffic noise from the nearby A43 is clearly audible from the Barn's location and further detracts from its significance as a 18th century rural building.

Contribution the Site makes to Significance

- 5.18 Despite its close proximity, the Site shares no visual or functional connection to the asset. The asset's historical connection to the open countryside was disrupted when the barn was converted for business use in the 20th century. Therefore, the site no longer contributes to its significance.

6 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

Site Conditions

- 6.1 The study site currently comprises a series of enclosed fields utilised for agriculture, which are divided into two site parcels to the east and west of the A43 (Fig. 12 & Plate 4).
- 6.2 Very localised areas of Modern agricultural development, as well as a small possible pond or former extraction pit, will have likely had a severe, negative below ground impact in the footprint of such works.
- 6.3 Past agricultural land use will have had a moderate but widespread archaeological impact as a result of past ploughing.

Proposed Development

- 6.4 Development proposals comprise the commercial development of the site with associated landscaping and hardstanding.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Archaeological Assets

- 6.5 The proposed development will not impact on any designated archaeological assets.
- 6.6 The results of this assessment and recent geophysical survey have suggested a moderate archaeological potential at the site for the Later Prehistoric periods and for Saxon/Medieval rural and transient activity. A specific potential is identified in association with possible archaeological anomalies identified during geophysical survey. If present at the site, it is most likely that any remains would be of a local or possibly a regional significance.
- 6.7 Past ground disturbance at the site is likely to have been widespread as a result of historic agricultural activity, as well as very localised areas of development and extraction.
- 6.8 Overall, the site is likely to retain an archaeological potential and it is possible that development at the site could impact upon remains of a local or possibly regional significance. The results of this assessment and geophysical survey would suggest that there are no high significance remains at the site which might preclude development or be a material design consideration.

Assessment of Built Heritage Impact

- 6.9 Paragraph 195 of the NPPF states that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
- 6.10 The assessment of significance determined that the Site currently does not contribute to the significance of the Barn of the former Baynard's Green Farm. Therefore, the proposed development would have no impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Land at J10, M40, Baynards Green, Bicester is under consideration for commercial development with associated landscaping and hardstanding. Therefore, in accordance with relevant government planning policy and guidance, a desk-based assessment and site visit were undertaken to clarify the below ground archaeological potential of the study area, as well as assess the impact on the historic built environment.
- 7.2 In terms of relevant designated heritage assets, no designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield sites or Historic Wreck sites lie within the vicinity of the study site.
- 7.3 The NHLE search identified the Grade II listed Barn at SP 5487 2940 (List entry number: 1046400), which lies approx. 200m away from the Site. It has been concluded that the proposed development would have no impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset.
- 7.4 As identified by desk based work and recent geophysical survey, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the study site is summarised in table form below:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential and Likely Significance (if present):
Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic & Mesolithic)	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance;
Later Prehistoric (Neolithic, Bronze Age & Iron Age)	Moderate potential, generally Low (Local) Significance, although evidence for similar monuments to those identified in the nearby area could be of Medium (Regional) Significance;
Roman	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance;
Saxon	Moderate potential for evidence of agricultural activity and land division, Low (Local) Significance;
Medieval	Moderate potential for evidence of agricultural activity, land division, and transient activity associated with the nearby village green, most likely to be of Low (Local) Significance;
Post Medieval & Modern	Low potential (likely to be entirely invested in evidence of agricultural activity, land division, and localised development for modern agricultural buildings), likely to be of Negligible (None) Significance.
Undated	A number of possible archaeological anomalies have been identified during geophysical survey and on LiDAR data which are currently uncharacterised and undated.

- 7.5 Past ground disturbance at the site is likely to have been widespread as a result of historic agricultural activity, as well as very localised areas of development and extraction.
- 7.6 Overall, the site is likely to retain an archaeological potential and it is possible that development at the site could impact upon remains of a local or possibly regional significance.
- 7.7 Given that the results of this assessment and geophysical survey suggest that high significance remains which might preclude development or provide a material design consideration are unlikely to be present at the site or impacted by proposals, per paragraph 194 of the NPPF it is suggested that this information is sufficient to confirm the site's suitability for development from an archaeological and built heritage perspective, and that any further archaeological works could be reasonably secured by an appropriately worded planning condition.

Sources Consulted

General

British Library
Historic England Archive (NMR and Aerial Photographs)
Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record
Oxfordshire History Centre
The National Archive

Internet

Bombsight – <http://bombsight.org/#17/51.49200/-0.03924>
British Geological Survey – <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
British History Online – <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>
Domesday Online – <http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/>
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The English Place Name Society *A Survey of English Place Names*, n.d.

Victoria County History *A History of the County of Oxford Volume 6*, 1959

WYAS *Junction 10, M40, Ardley, Oxfordshire, Geophysical Survey* 2015

Wymer *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain* 2 volumes 1999

Cartographic

17th Century Plan showing Baynards Green

1768 Jeffreys Map of Oxfordshire

1785 Kitchin Map of Oxfordshire

1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing

1870 Stuchbury's Farm Plan and Schedule

1880 Ordnance Survey (1:10560)

1900 Ordnance Survey (1:10560)

1910 District Valuation Map

1920 Ordnance Survey (1:10560)

1923 Ordnance Survey (1:10560)

1945 Aerial Photograph

1946 Aerial Photograph

1947 Aerial Photograph

1954 Ordnance Survey (1:10560)

1960-69 Aerial Photograph

1961 Aerial Photograph

1965 Ordnance Survey (1:10560)

1981 Aerial Photograph

1981 Ordnance Survey (1:10000)

1991 Aerial Photographs

1992 Ordnance Survey (1:10000)

2001 Ordnance Survey (1:10000)

2004 Google Earth Image

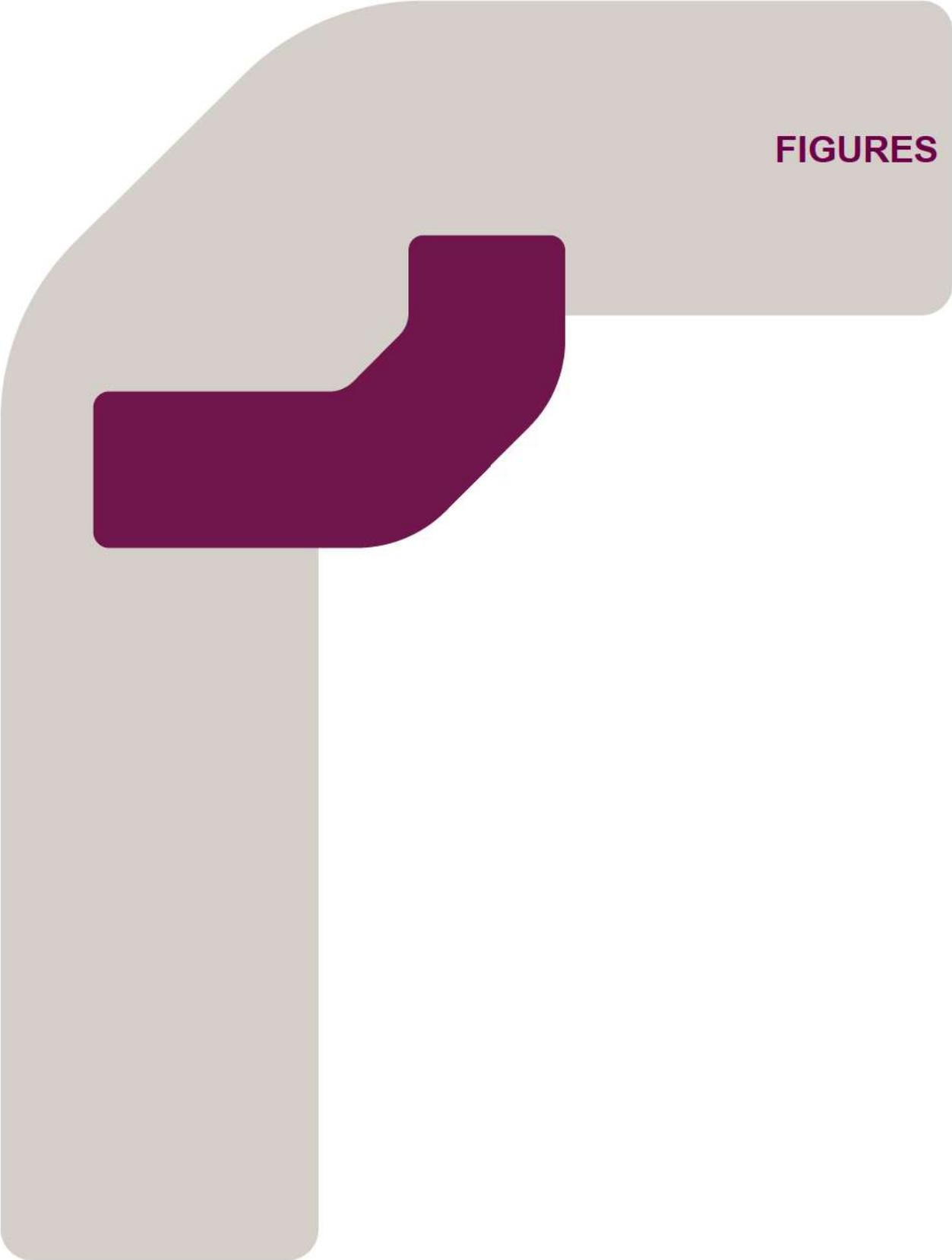
2006 Google Earth Image

2010 Ordnance Survey (1:10000)

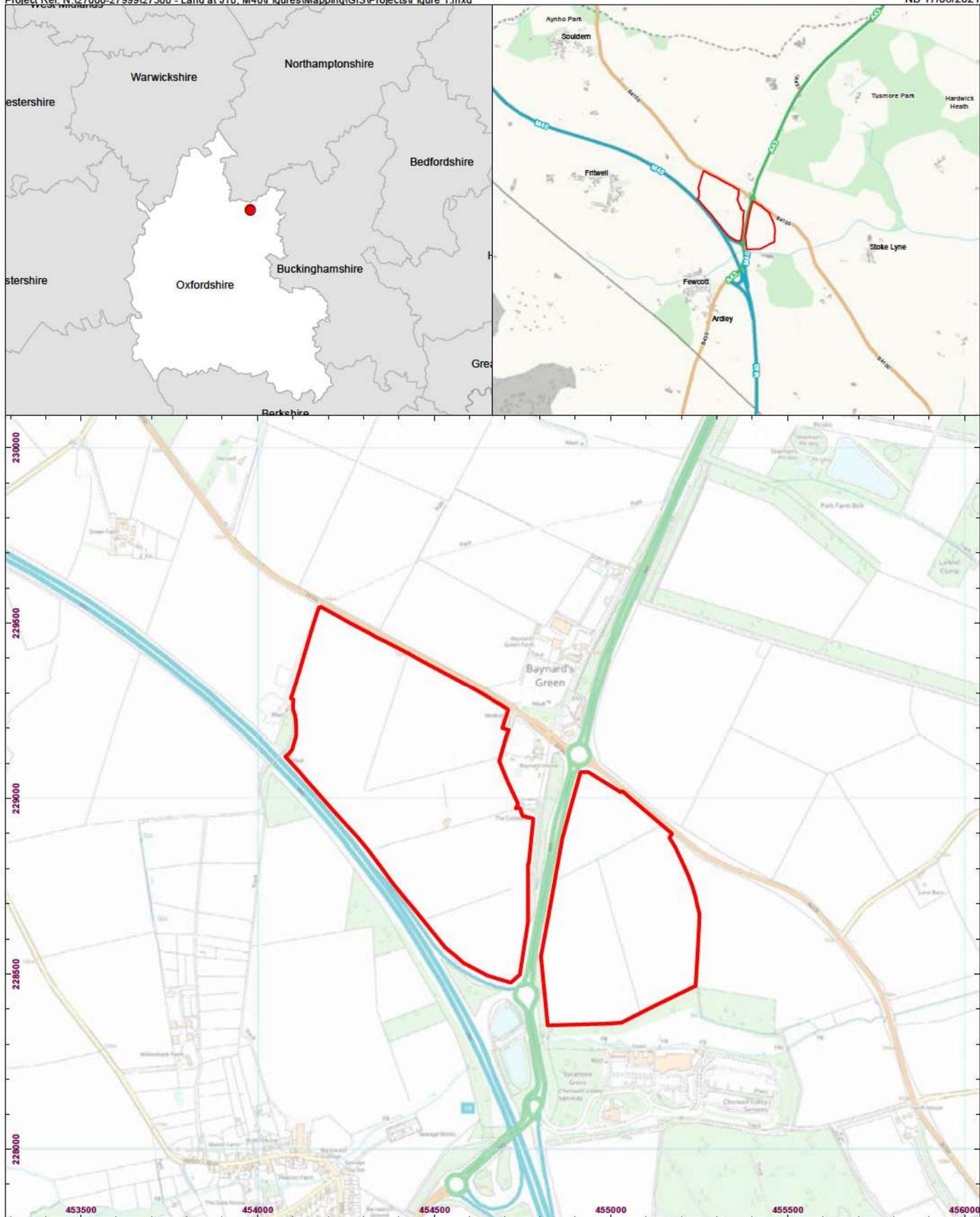
2017 Google Earth Image

2020 Google Earth Image

2021 Ordnance Survey (1:10000)



FIGURES



 Site Boundary



0 200 400m
Scale at A4: 1:15,000



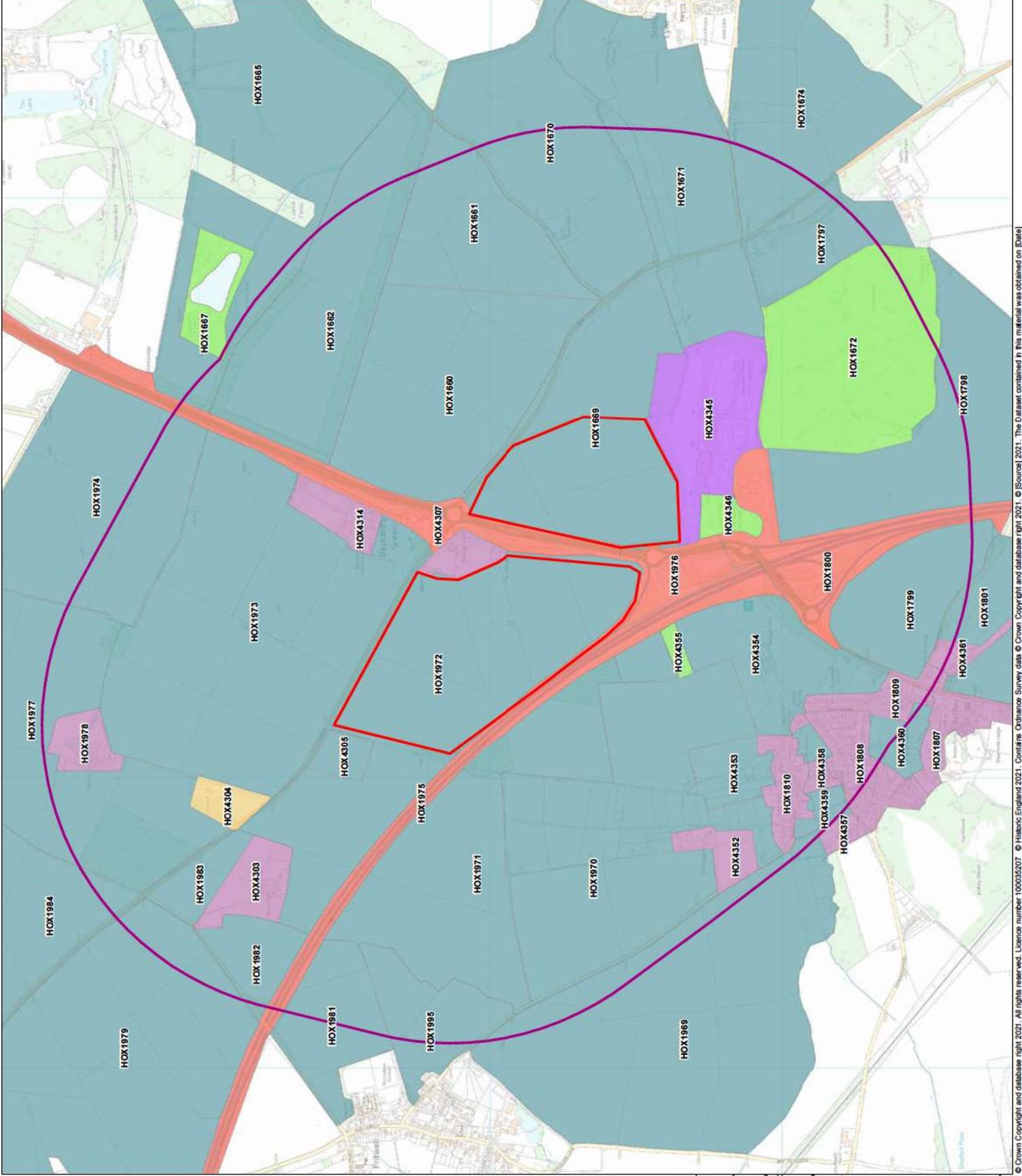
Figure 1
Site Location

Legend

- Site Boundary
- 1km search radius
- Historic Landscape Characterisation:**
- Commercial
- Communication
- Enclosure
- Ornamental
- Rural Settlement
- Woodland



Figure 2b
HLC Data Plot (Data from Oxfordshire HER)



Legend

- ▭ Site Boundary
- ▭ 1km search radius
- NMR Records:**
- NMR Feature (Point)
- ▭ NMR Feature (Polygon)
- ▭ NMR Event (Point)

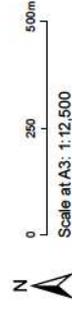
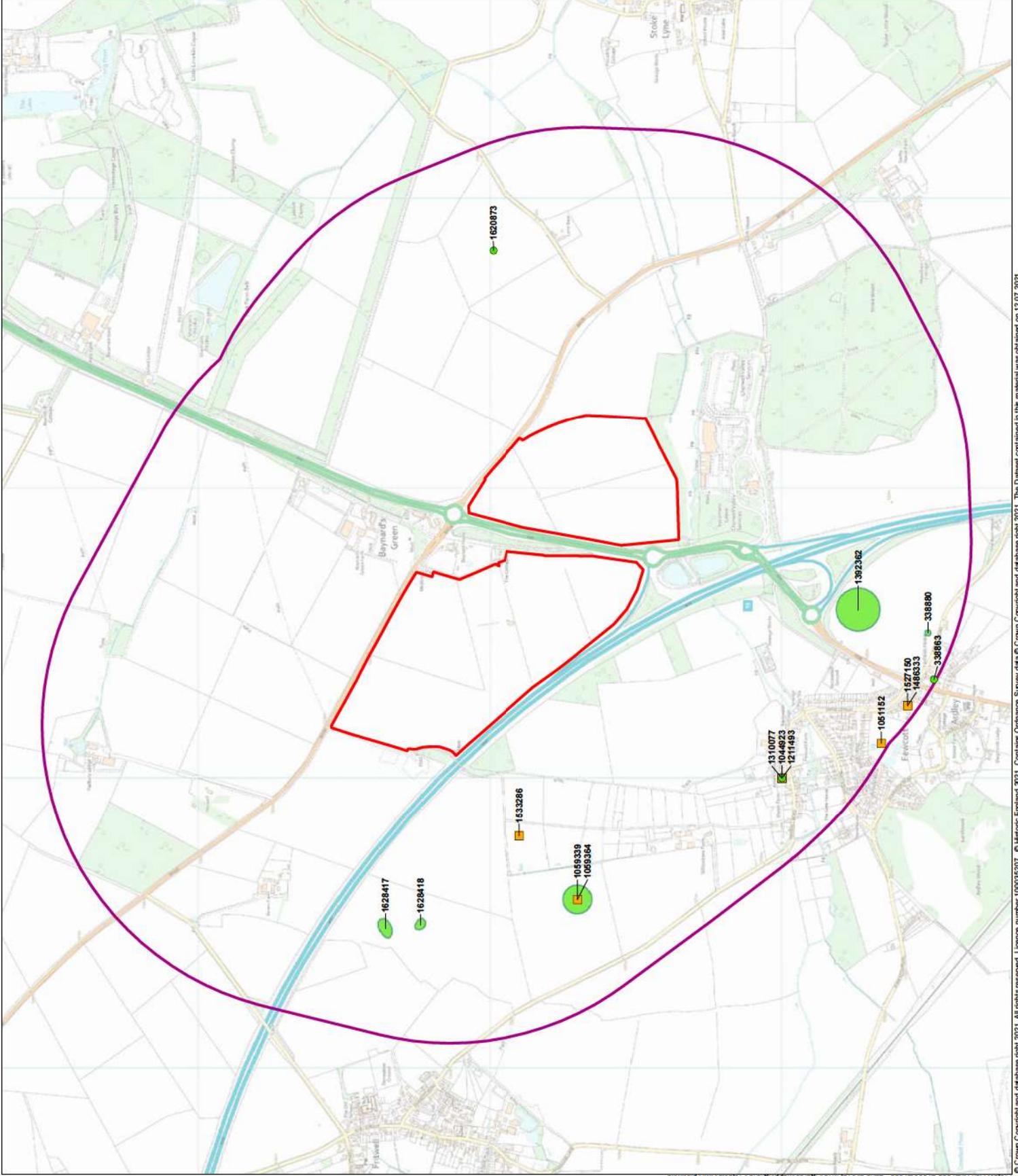


Figure 2c

NMR Data Plot (Data from Historic England)



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 1km search radius
- Designated Heritage Assets:**
- Listed Buildings ■
- Grade II ■
- Conservation Area
- Ardley

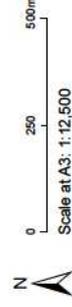
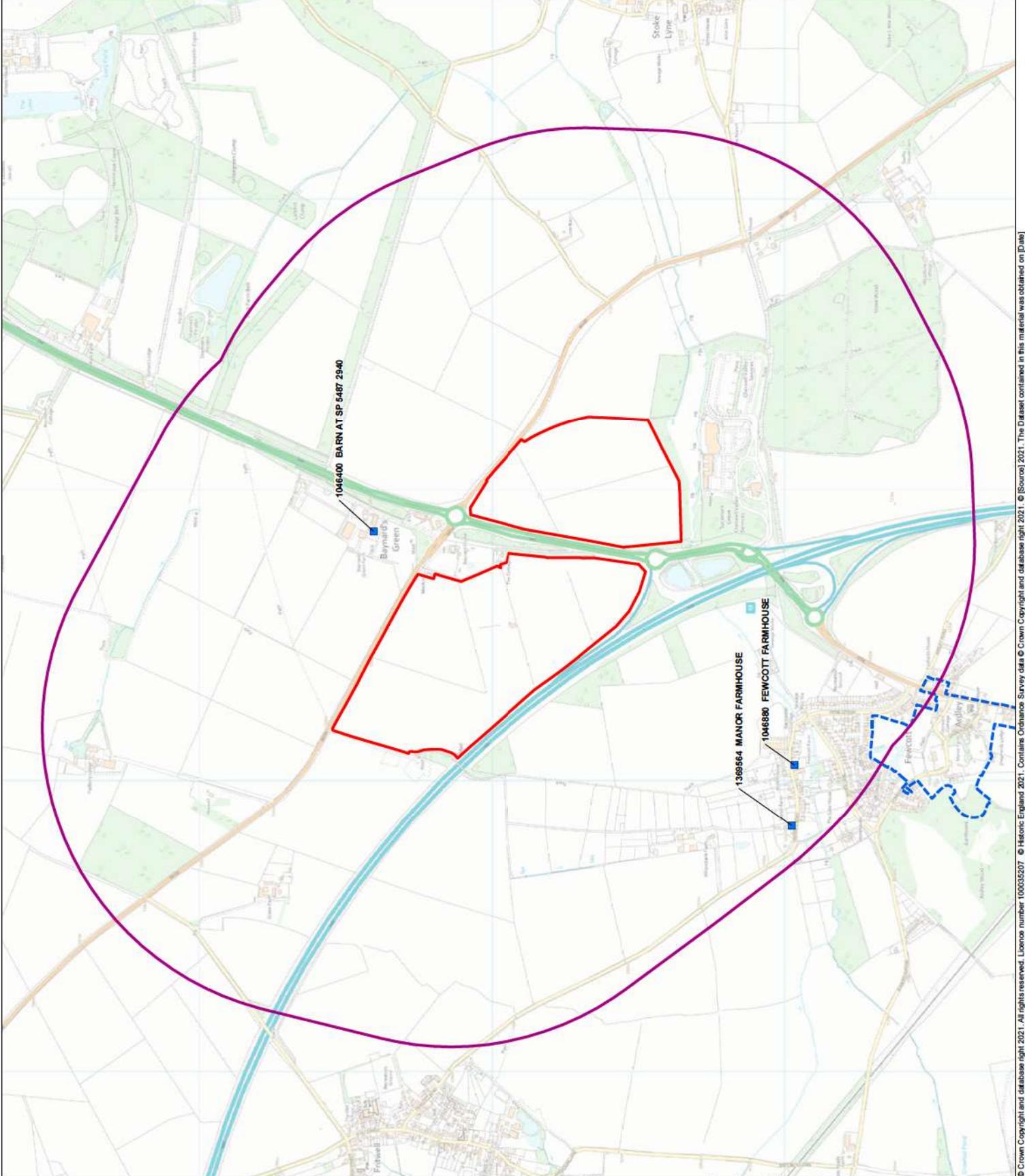


Figure 2d
Built Heritage Assets Plot



Legend

Site Boundary

LIDAR DATA

Source: Environment Agency

Data Type: DTM

Resolution: 1m

Date Captured: 18/01/2019 - 29/03/2019

Processing: Multi-direction Hillshade overlaid on simple Local Relief Model

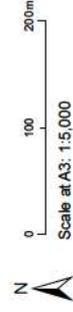
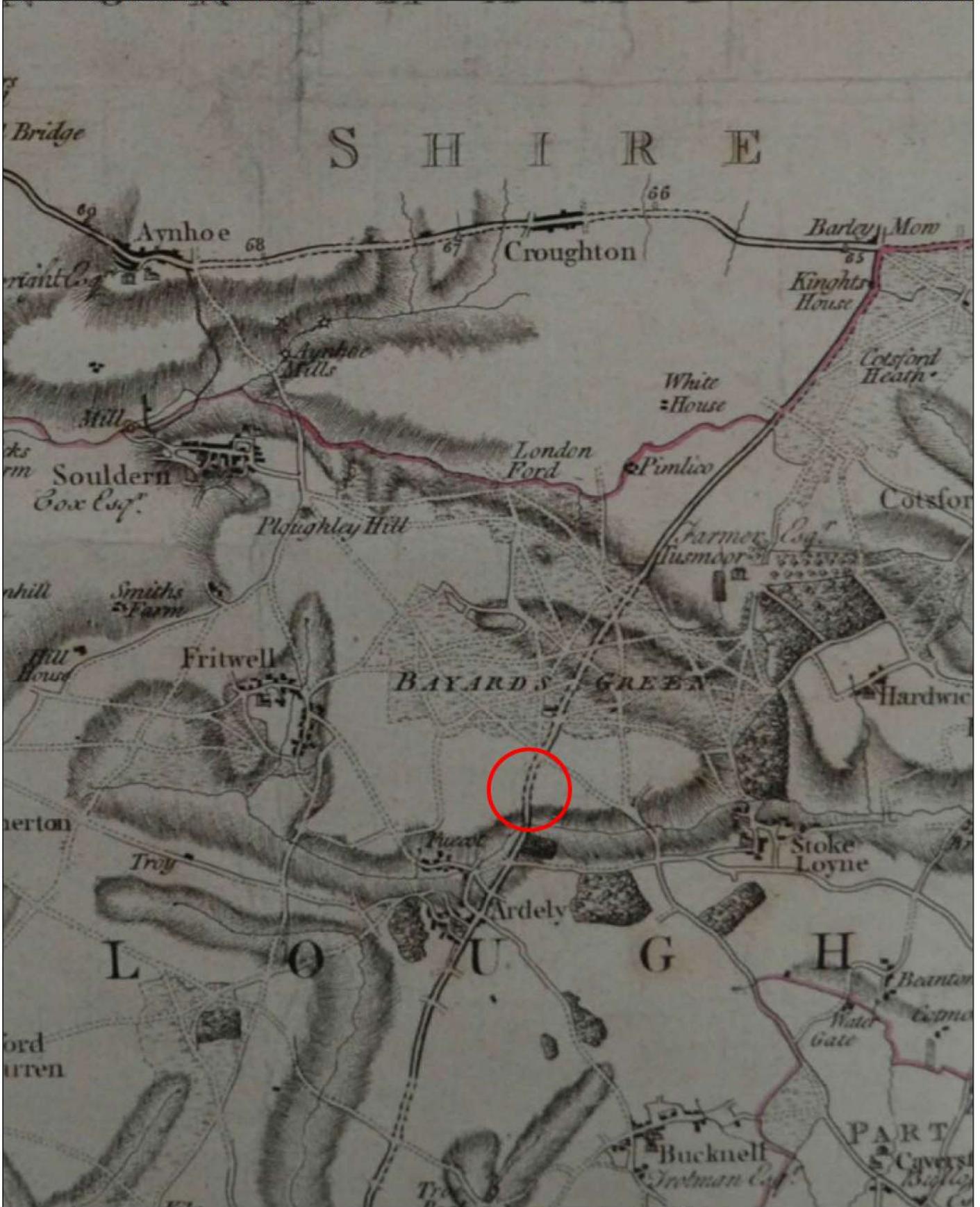


Figure 3

LIDAR Plot





Approximate site location



Not to Scale
Illustrative Only



Figure 5

1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing



 Site Boundary

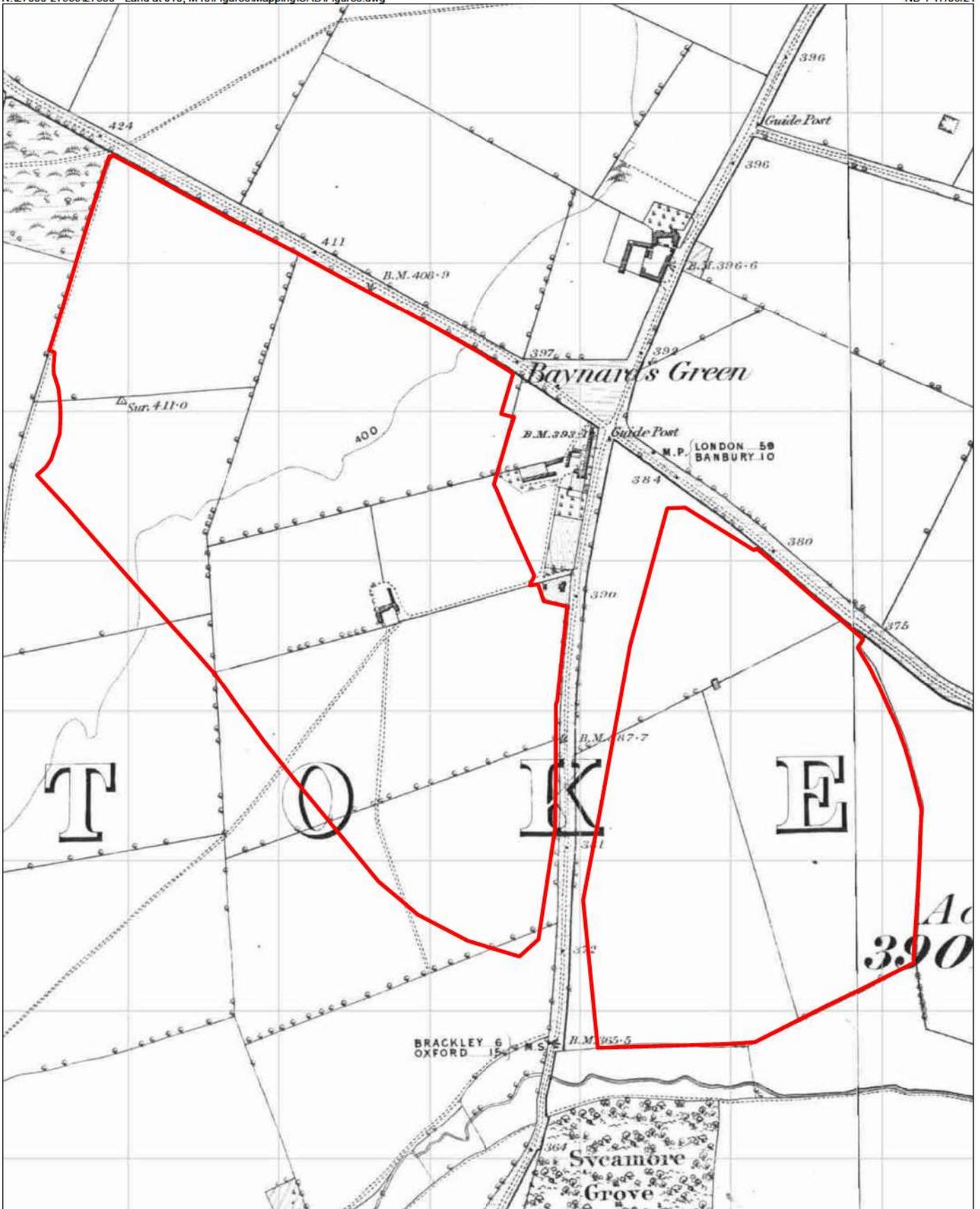


0 100 200m
Scale at A4: 1:15,000



Figure 5

1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing



 Site Boundary

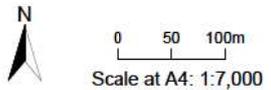
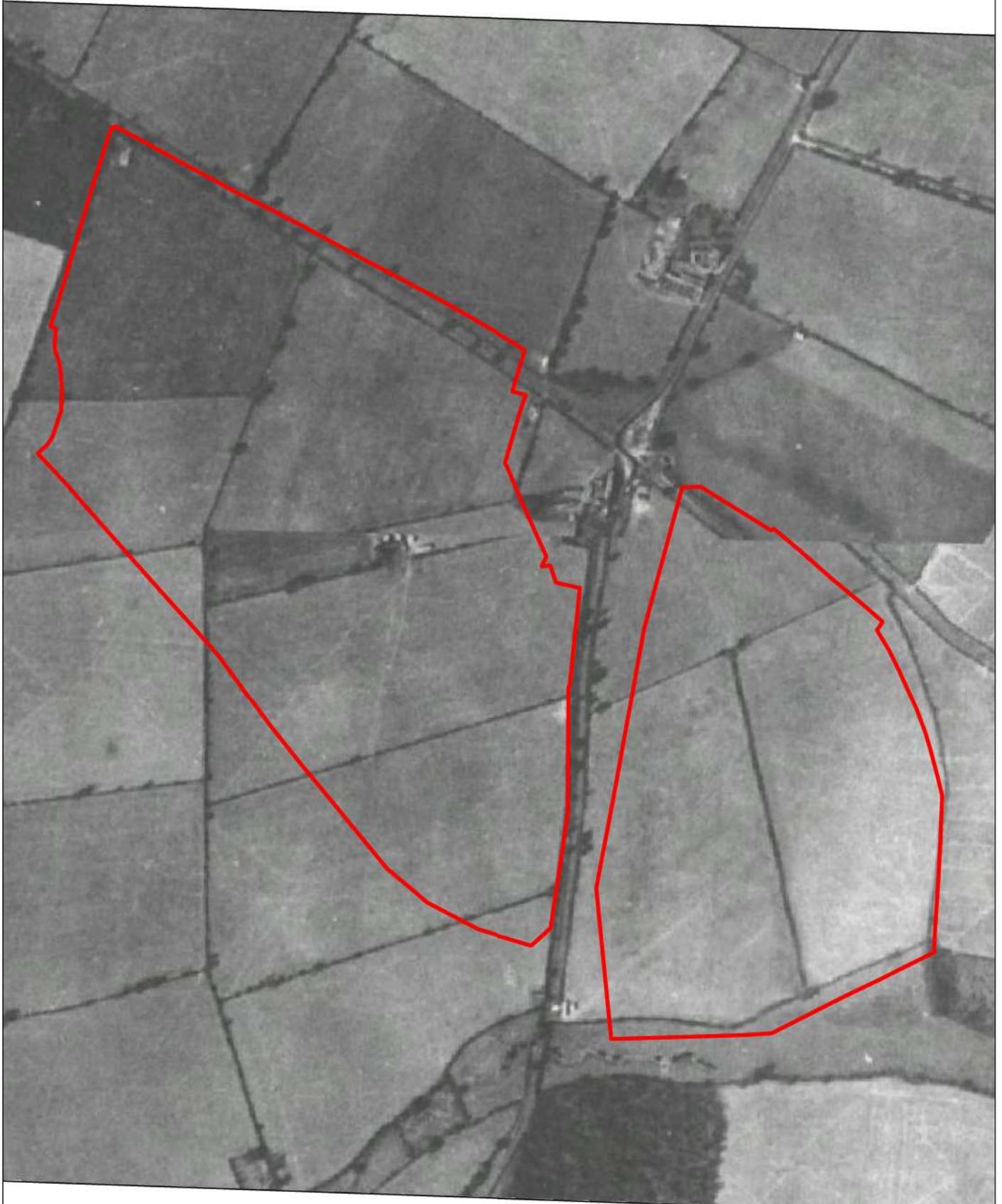


Figure 6
1880 Ordnance Survey Map



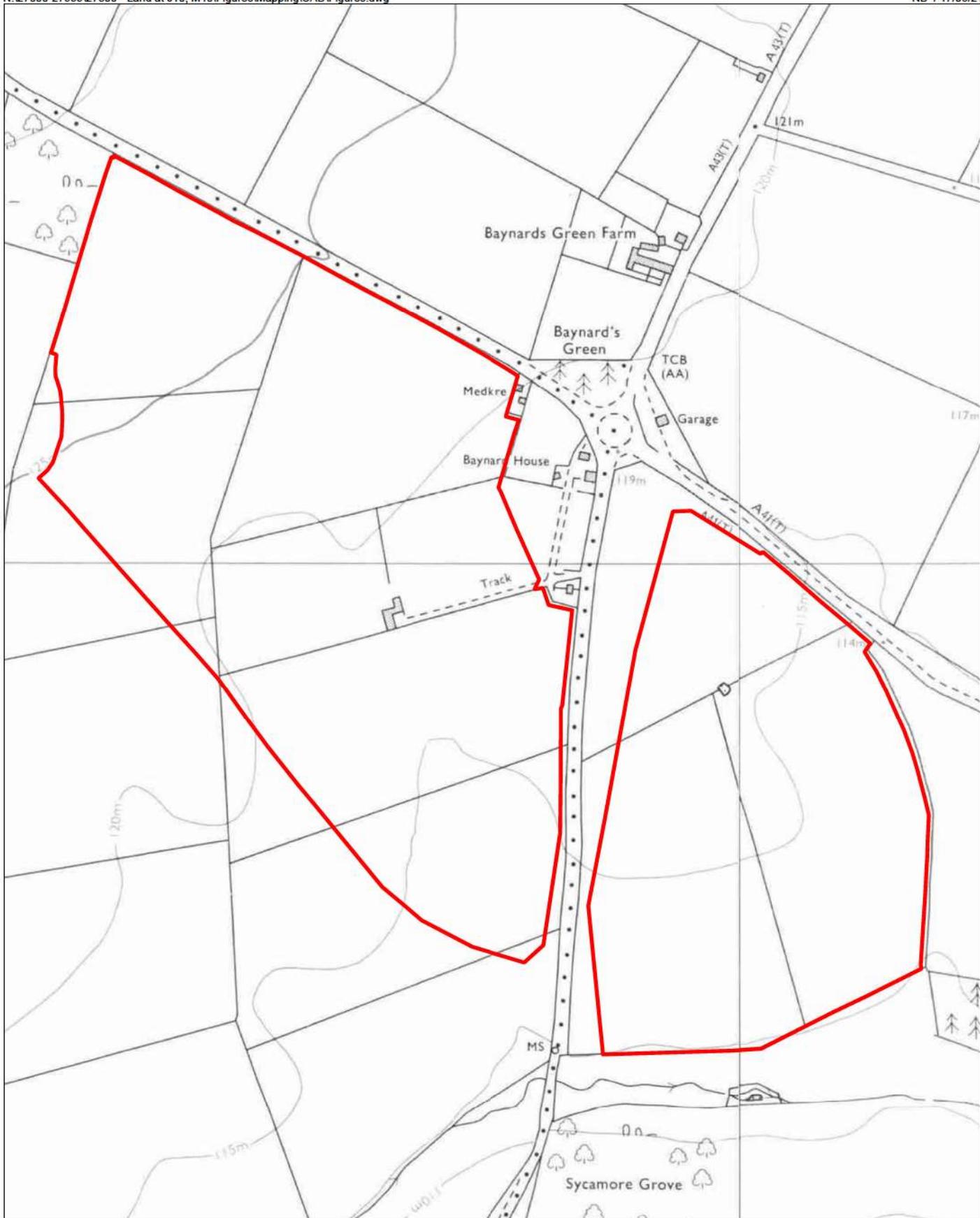
 Site Boundary



0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:7,000



Figure 7
1945 Aerial Photograph



 Site Boundary

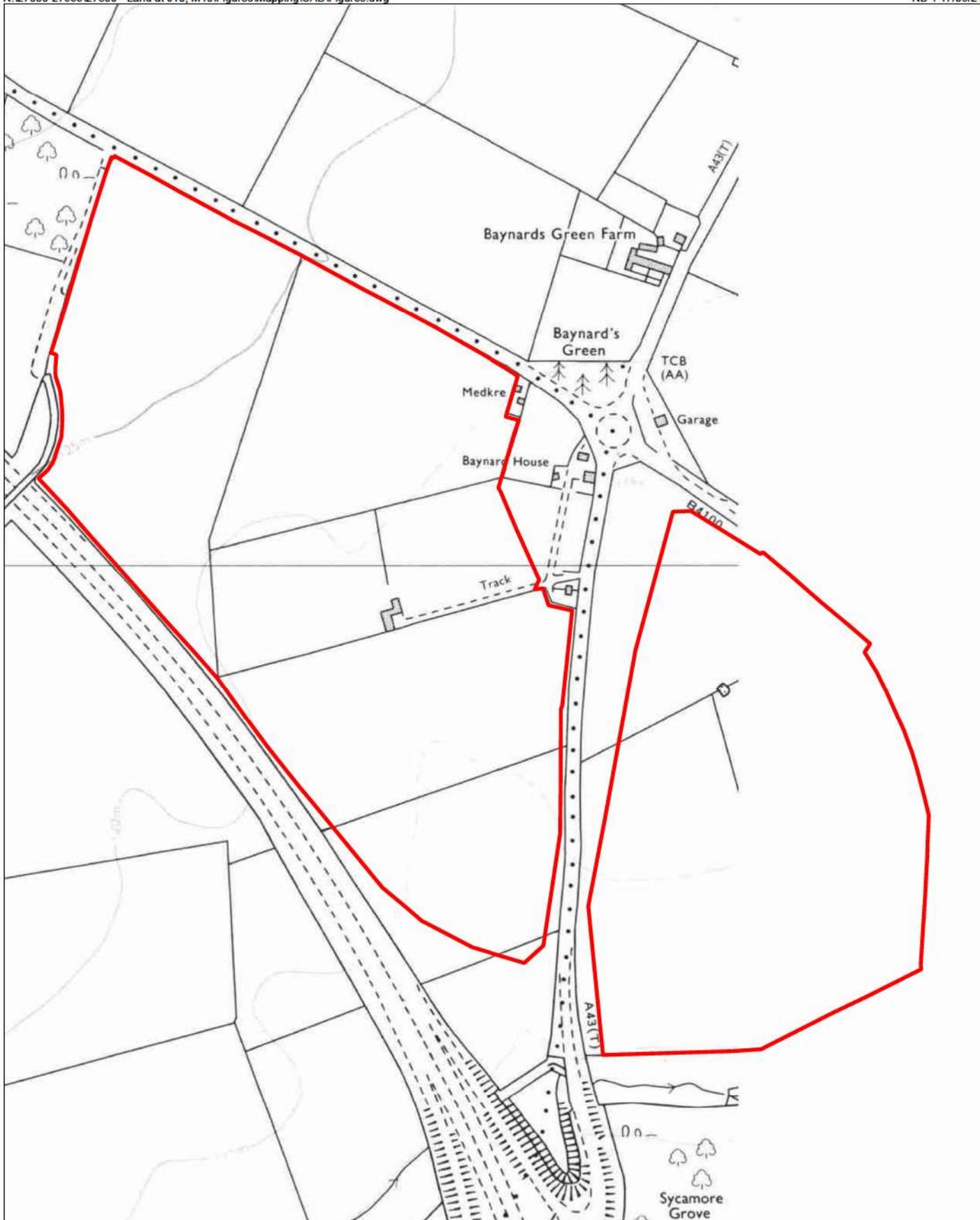


0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:7,000



Figure 8

1981 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary

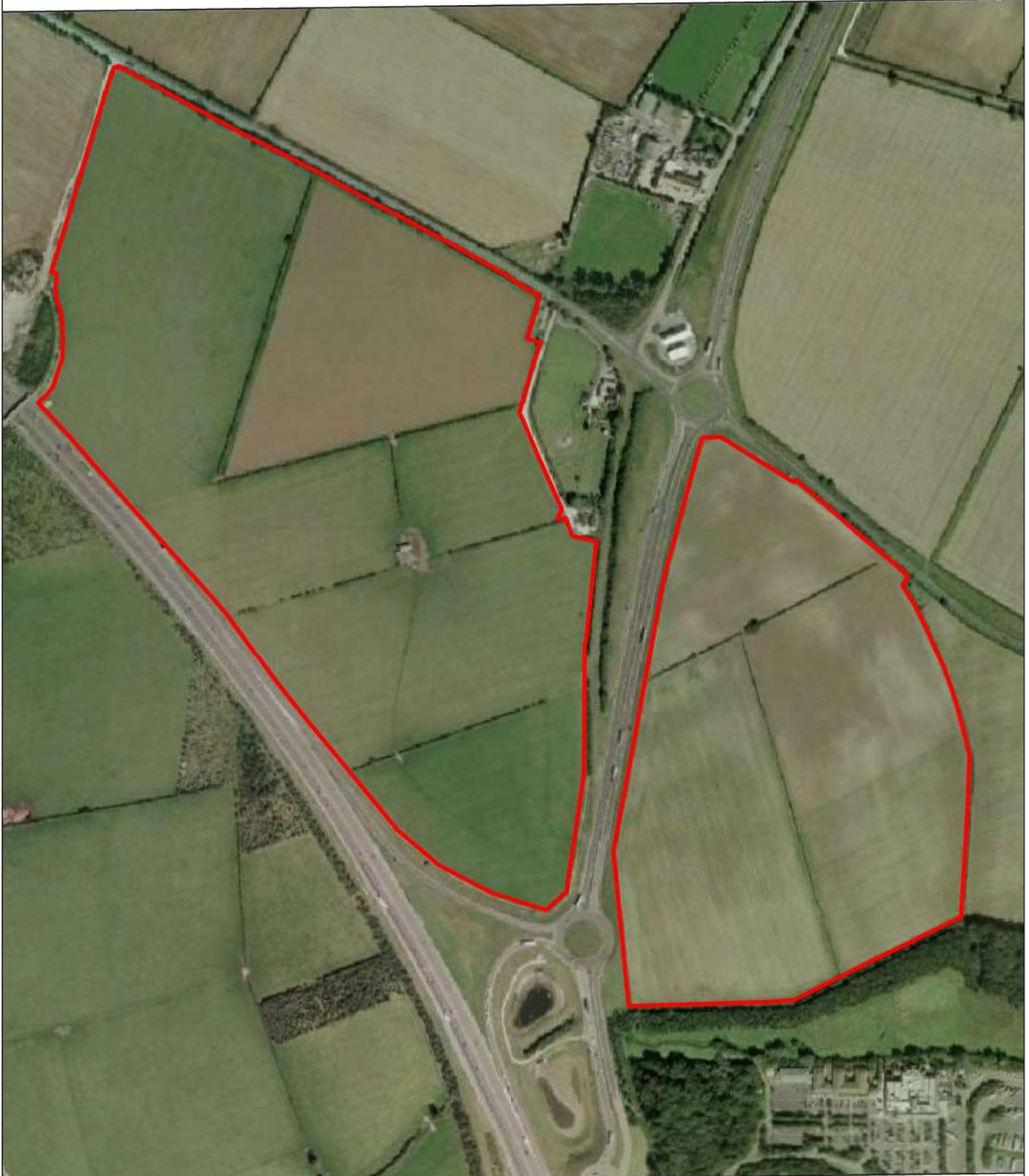


0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:7,000



Figure 9

1992 Ordnance Survey Map
(partial coverage)



 Site Boundary



0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:7,000



Figure 10

2004 Google Earth Image



 Site Boundary



0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:7,000



Figure 11

2020 Google Earth Image



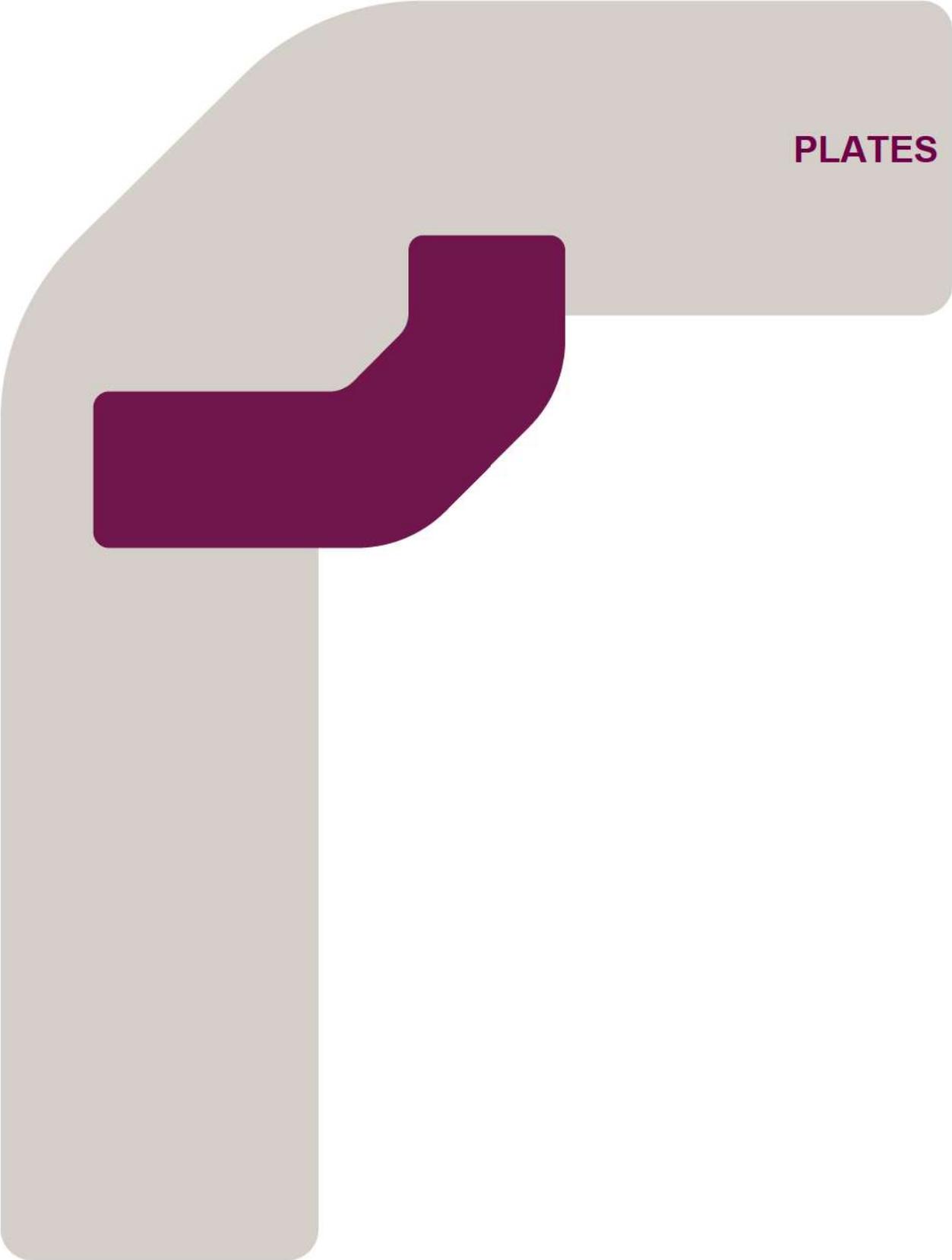
 Site Boundary



0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:7,000



Figure 12
Site Layout as Existing



PLATES



Plate 1: Entrance to the converted Barn at the former Baynard's Green Farm



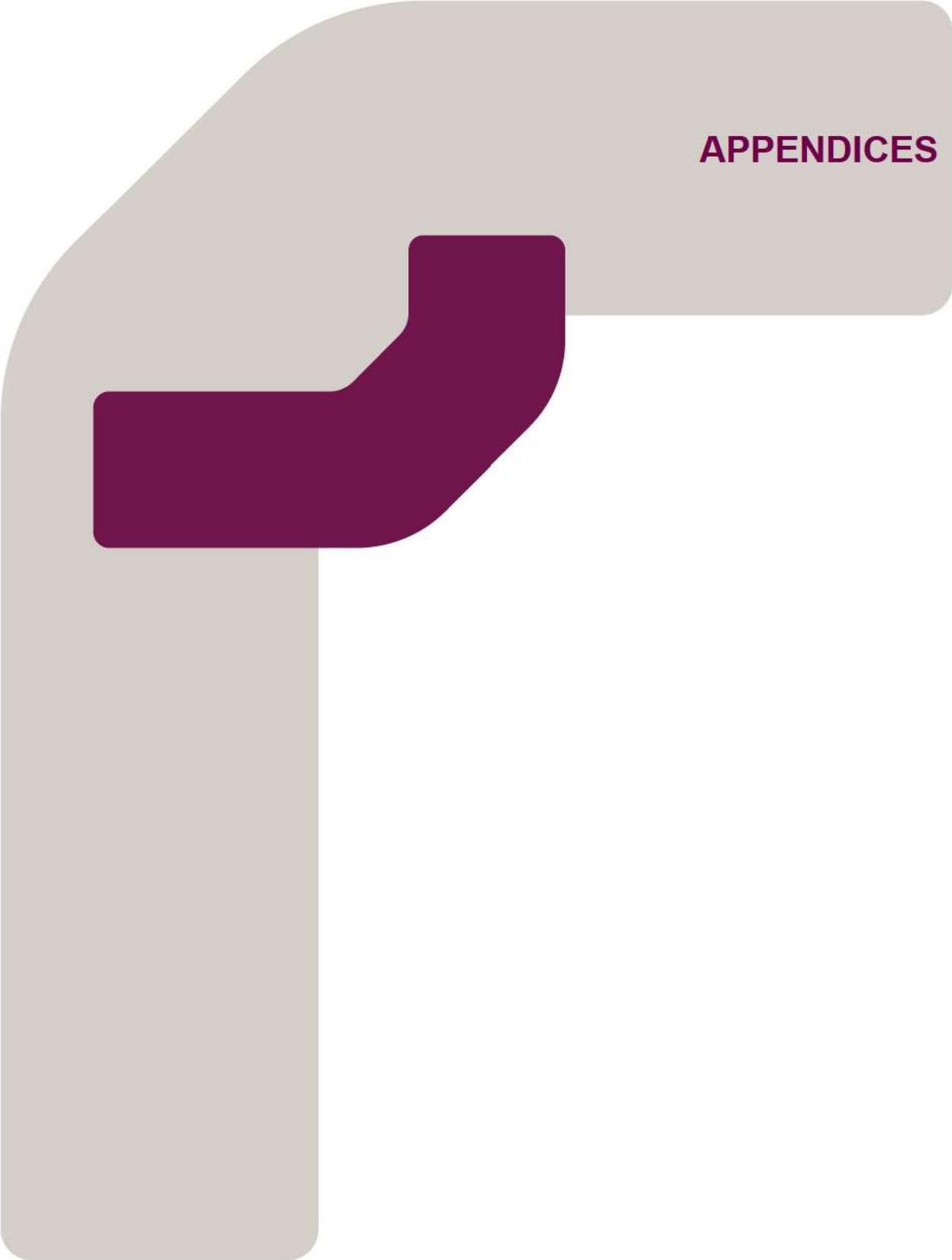
Plate 2: The Barn within the modern Business Park, viewed from Ambury Road



Plate 3: Access to Baynard's Training Estate & Baynard's Green Farm



Plate 4: Indicative Site Photo showing crop May 2021



APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Written Scheme of Investigation 2021

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Land at J10, M40, Baynards Green, Bicester

JAC27300
Land at J10, M40, Baynards
Green, Bicester
Version 1 For County
Archaeologist Comment
May 2021

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Version	Status	Authored by	Date
Version 1	For County Archaeologist Comment	James Archer	06/05/2021

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1	INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY	4
2	PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK.....	6

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment will be prepared by RPS Heritage who have been commissioned to assess the archaeological potential of the site, any possible archaeological constraints, and thus the site's suitability for appropriate development.
- 1.2 The assessment will consider an area of land at J10, M40, Baynards Green, Bicester, Oxfordshire, within Cherwell District. The site is approximately 66ha in area and is centred at SP 54690 28875 (Fig. 1).
- 1.3 The assessment will be prepared in accordance with relevant policy and guidance on archaeology and planning, and in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists October 2020), and will draw together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information from a variety of sources in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.4 The desk-based assessment will comprise an examination of evidence on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 1km buffer radius of the site, and will consider information from other sources, including:
 - British Geological Survey
 - British Library
 - Environment Agency LiDAR Data
 - Historic England Archives Monuments Information England including Aerial Photos
 - Historic England National Heritage List
 - Historic England National Mapping Programme
 - Historic Landscape Characterisation Data
 - Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record
 - Oxfordshire History Centre
 - The National Archives
- 1.5 Relevant internet sources will also be consulted. During the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, particular archival sources may be currently unavailable due to archive closures. Where possible, these sources will be included within the assessment once available.
- 1.6 The assessment will include a discussion of the archaeological potential of the site, broken down into Prehistoric and Historic time periods, followed by an evaluation of past development which may have had a negative below ground impact on any archaeological remains which may be present. If available, details of the proposed development will be provided. A judgement will then be made regarding the archaeological potential of the site, any past development impacts, and the likelihood of development having a significant and/or widespread archaeological impact. The assessment will be structured as follows:
 - Executive Summary
 - Introduction and Scope of Study
 - Planning Background and Development Plan Framework
 - Geology and Topography

- Archaeological and Historical Background, including Assessment of Significance and Map Regression Exercise
- Site Conditions, the Proposed Development and Impact on Archaeological Assets
- Summary and Conclusions
- Sources Consulted

1.7 The assessment will include a set of figures to include:

- Site Location
- Historic Environment Record Data Plot(s)
- Historic Landscape Characterisation Data
- Environment Agency LiDAR Data Plot (processed accordingly, with hill shade applied)
- Map Regression
- Aerial Photographs
- Site as Existing
- Proposed Development Plans (if available, subject to confidentiality issues)

1.8 If possible, a site visit will be undertaken, subject to health and safety requirements, access arrangements, agreement from the client and confidentiality issues. During the Covid-19 Pandemic site visits are only to be undertaken where absolutely necessary and to an approved Risk Assessment. If not possible at this stage, a site visit may be undertaken at a later phase of work.

1.9 The Assessment will enable relevant parties to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to consider the need for design, civil engineering, and heritage solutions to the archaeological potential and archaeological impacts identified.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently revised in June 2019. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.
- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.
- 2.4 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
 - Protects the settings of such designations;
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions;
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.
- 2.5 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 2.6 The site is situated within the administrative area of Cherwell District. Local planning policy provided by the District Council is therefore relevant to the site and will be examined as part of the assessment.
- 2.7 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

Sources Consulted

Bibliographic

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Department of Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* 2012 (revised February 2019)

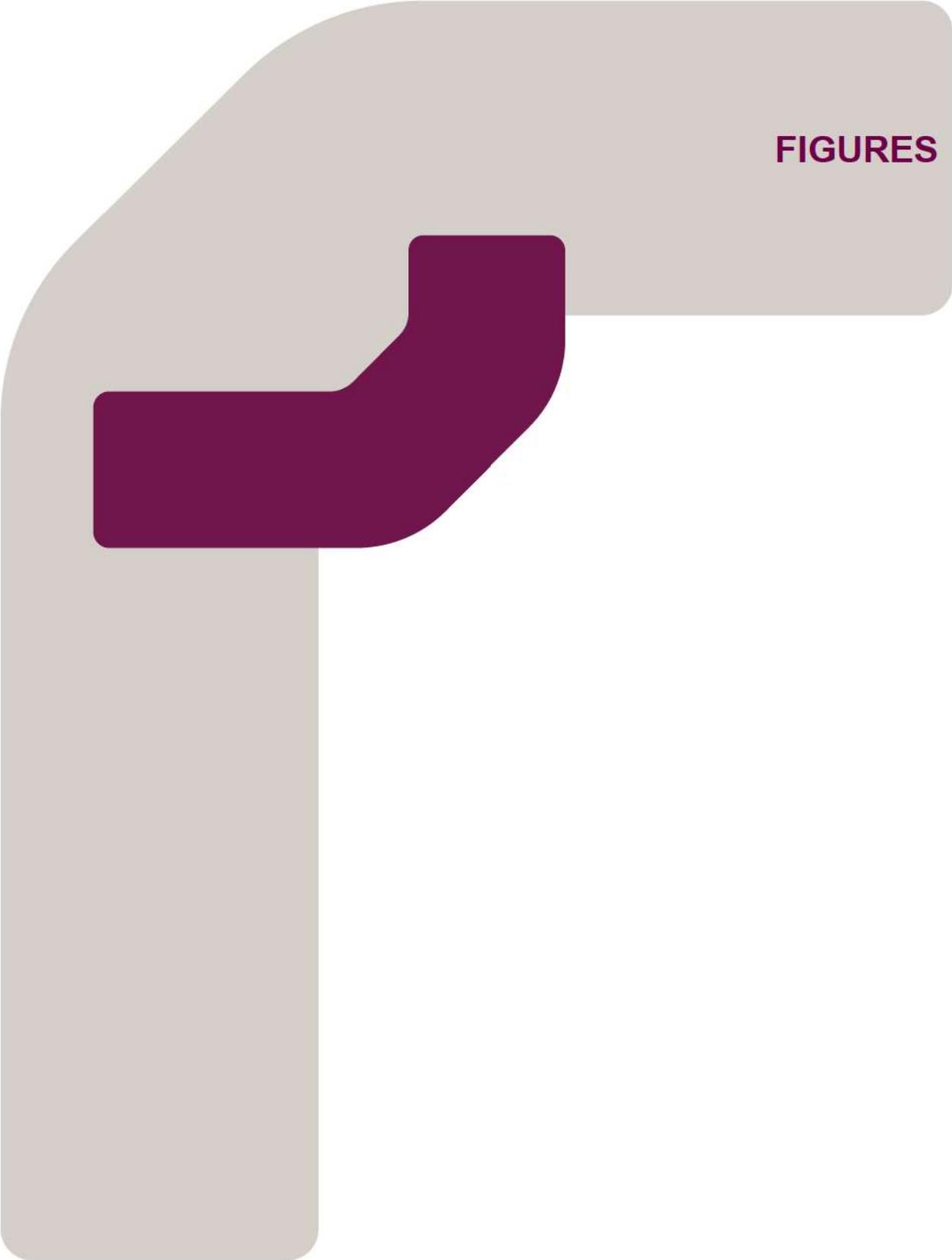
Department of Communities and Local Government/Department of Culture Media and Sport/English Heritage *National Planning Practice Guidance* 2014 (revised 2019)

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* 2008 (new draft 2017)

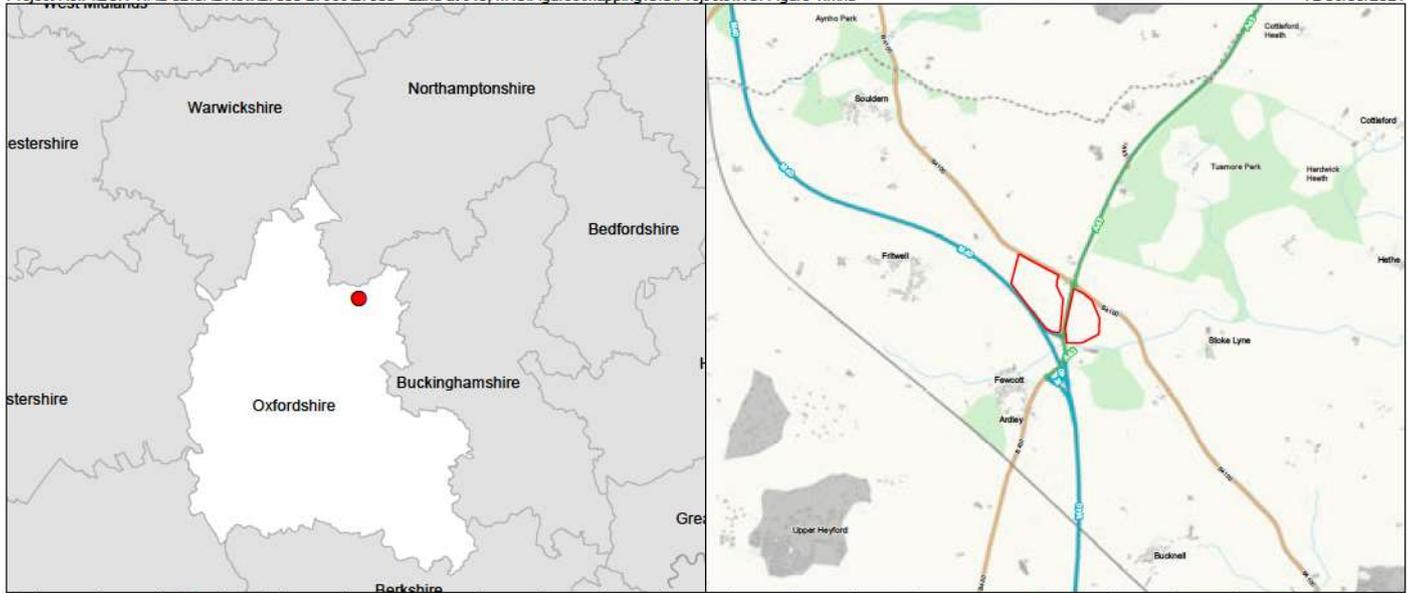
Historic England Historic Environment *Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1 The Historic Environment in Local Plans* July 2015 unpublished document

Historic England Historic Environment *Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* July 2015 unpublished document

Historic England Historic Environment *Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets* December 2017 unpublished document



FIGURES



 Site Boundary



0 200 400m
Scale at A4: 1:12,000



Figure 1
Site Location

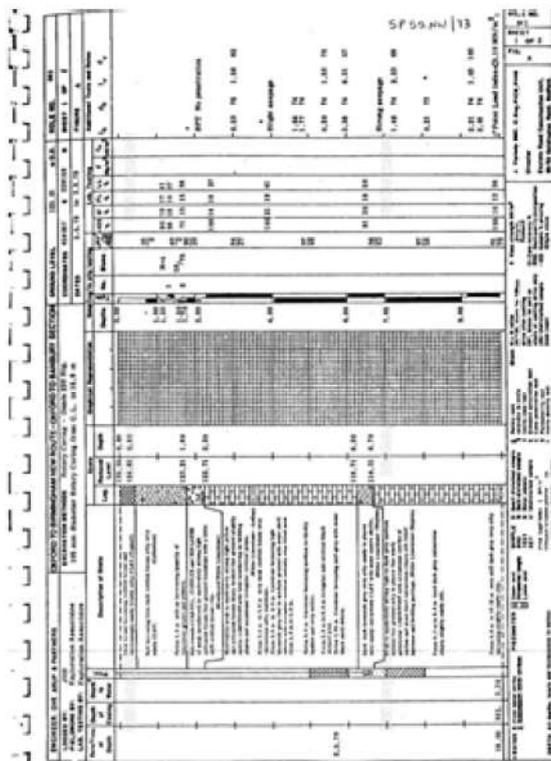


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Appendix 2

British Geological Survey Borehole Data





GENERAL AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT		OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		FORM NO. 1 (REV. 1-64)	
1. TITLE AND SYMBOLIC REFERENCE		2. QUANTITY		3. UNIT		4. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION	
5. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE		6. QUANTITY		7. UNIT		8. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION	
9. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE		10. QUANTITY		11. UNIT		12. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION	
13. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE	14. QUANTITY	15. UNIT	16. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION	17. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE	18. QUANTITY	19. UNIT	20. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION
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53. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE	54. QUANTITY	55. UNIT	56. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION	57. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE	58. QUANTITY	59. UNIT	60. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION
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93. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE	94. QUANTITY	95. UNIT	96. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION	97. DRAWING OR SPECIFICATION REFERENCE	98. QUANTITY	99. UNIT	100. GRADE OR CLASSIFICATION

OF 52 MM 74

PT 40.

1. Form No. 1 (Rev. 1-64)
 2. Quantity
 3. Unit
 4. Grade or Classification
 5. Drawing or Specification Reference
 6. Quantity
 7. Unit
 8. Grade or Classification
 9. Drawing or Specification Reference
 10. Quantity
 11. Unit
 12. Grade or Classification
 13. Drawing or Specification Reference
 14. Quantity
 15. Unit
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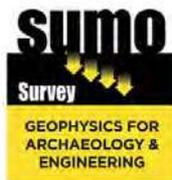
Appendix 3

Geophysical Survey Plans Western Site Parcel

Geophysical Survey Report

Land at J10, M40, Baynards Green (Western Parcel)

Prepared with:



JAC27300
Land at J10, M40, Baynards
Green, Oxfordshire
Version 2
August 2021

Quality Management

Version	Status	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date
Version 1	For Client Comment	Rebecca Fradgley	John Gater	James Archer	18/06/2021
Version 2	To include additional NW Area	Rebecca Fradgley	John Gater	James Archer	25/08/2021

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Survey Report 03077: Baynards Green, Oxfordshire

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Appendix B Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

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2. SURVEY TECHNIQUE

Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site.

Bartington Grad 601-2

Traverse Interval 1.0m

Sample Interval 0.25m

3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 3.1 A detailed magnetometer survey has been conducted over approximately 42 hectares at Baynards Green and has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest. Weak linear and curvilinear trends are of uncertain origin, and while an archaeological origin cannot be entirely ruled out, they could equally be natural or agricultural. Ploughing effects are visible in the results, along with possible services and a field drain, plus areas of magnetic disturbance from nearby ferrous objects. Natural responses associated with variations in the underlying limestone geology can also be seen in the data.

4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **RPS Consulting Services**.

4.2 Site details

NGR / Postcode	SP 55 289 / OX27 7SS
Location	The site is located at Baynards Green, which lies approximately 6km north-west of Bicester, Oxfordshire. The area is bound to the south-west by the M40 motorway and by the A43 to the east.
OASIS Ref.	sumogeop1-421413
District	Cherwell
Parish	Ardley CP
Topography	Mostly level with a slight fall from north to south.
Current Land Use	Arable
Geology (BGS 2021)	Solid: White Limestone Formation - limestone. Superficial: none recorded.
Soils (CU 2021)	Soilscape 5: freely draining lime-rich loamy soils.
Archaeology (OHER 2021)	Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) does not identify any designated or non-designated heritage assets within the boundary of the site. Approximately 600m to the northeast, a possible banjo enclosure (HER. 17456) is recorded, after being identified as cropmarks in aerial photographs. Further banjo enclosures (HER. 12329; HER. 15964) have been identified roughly 600m west and south of the site. The former comprises 3 paddocks adjacent to the banjo enclosure, as well as an extensive irregular boundary ditch while the latter has been identified as two banjo enclosures connected with a linear boundary. An undated circular enclosure (HER. 11618) visible on aerial photography is recorded roughly 580m to the northwest, and later prehistoric earthworks (HER. 16632) are identified in Stoke Wood to the south of the site.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	c. 42 ha

4.3 **Aims and Objectives**

To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.