

Yarnton PR9: Archaeology ES Addendum

This short statement represents an addendum to the Archaeology ES statement submitted as part of the PR9 planning application in October 2021. The archaeology chapter was informed by a programme of desk-based works and a geophysical survey, the latter survey being carried out in October 2022. In summary the ES suggested that there was no indication that the Site was likely to contain deposits as to represent significant constraints to the proposed scheme but suggested that it had a general potential to contain hitherto undetected deposits and recommended, as part of the mitigation exercise for the site, that a programme of archaeological field evaluation should be carried out in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site and, as necessary, inform the preparation of a mitigation strategy designed to remove or reduce any adverse impacts upon the archaeological resource arising from the construction of the Proposed Development.

Subsequent to the submission of the ES the suggested evaluation was carried out, with the on-site works being carried out in November and December 2021 and the report (Worcestershire 2022) produced in January 2022. The works were summarised as follows:

The results of the evaluation indicate two main phases of archaeological activity on the site, consisting of a likely prehistoric phase characterised by dispersed charcoal filled pits, thought to be of Iron Age date, and by a later phase of medieval to post-medieval agricultural activity. This second phase is characterised by ridge and furrow cultivation along with a number of field boundaries. A single possible Roman gully was found, although this date is tentative at best due to the nature of the dating evidence. A number of undated features were also found on site, consisting of a small number of ditches and pits. Many of these features were sterile and may be related to agricultural activity. Few finds were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil across the site, indicative of a lack of any concentrated activity.

The prehistoric activity is likely to be of local significance, while the later agricultural activity is of negligible significance. The results correlate well with those of the geophysical survey in terms of both negative areas and anomalies (Worcestershire Archaeology 2022, 1).

In summary therefore the results of the evaluation can be considered to have both validated and further clarified the conclusions of the ES, in demonstrating that the site does not contain significant archaeological deposits and in demonstrating that the deposits within the site can be considered to be of low or negligible value. The development will have a **Substantial** impact on these Assets of **Low** Value indicating that (as previously suggested in the ES chapter) that the Development will have a Minor Adverse impact on the archaeological resource.

Oxford Archaeology

May 2022