

P22-218



Padbury Brook Solar Farm, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

For **ADAS Planning**

04/11/2022

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November 2022

Ver 0.0

PROJECT INFORMATION:

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PARISH	Stratton Audley
COUNCIL	Cherwell District

PROJECT TEAM:

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report is an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for a proposed development site at Land near Stratton Audley, Cherwell District, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 62559 27391), post code OX27 9AL. It has been prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd on behalf of ADAS Planning on behalf of their clients JBM Solar Projects 8 Ltd in support of a planning application for the installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station.

The DBA Study Area includes a 1.5km buffer beyond the proposed development area (PDA) boundary, within which the archaeological and historical development of the site and surrounding area is discussed. In accordance with national and local planning policy and guidance, the possible impacts that the proposed development could have on known and potential below-ground archaeological remains within the PDA is considered.

There are no designated heritage assets within the PDA. There are 16 listed buildings, one scheduled monument and one conservation area within the wider Study Area.

There are areas of ridge and furrow (identified in geophysical survey and aerial photography) and a headland, there is also a possible former enclosure within the site boundary (located from aerial photography). Burnt stones were found within the PDA which may relate to the burning events identified in the geophysical survey and could indicate former prehistoric burnt mounds.

There are a further 31 non-designated heritage assets recorded by the Oxfordshire HER and Buckinghamshire HER in the study area.

There is a potential for the presence of hitherto unknown archaeological remains of local significance to be preserved within the site: this is assessed as medium for those of medieval date, low to medium for Roman, Bronze Age and Mesolithic and low for other periods.

In light of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, the local planning authority may require archaeological investigations to be undertaken, either as a staged field evaluation to be submitted as supporting information with a planning application or secured by a condition of consent.

Such a staged programme of works is could comprise a programme of site investigation and targeted archaeological trial trenching and dependent upon the results of this, a programme of archaeological mitigation such as a watching brief or formal excavations ahead of construction ground works.

Permission will need to be sought from the LPA for the removal of hedgerows which has been identified as 'important' under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. It is not anticipated that this would be cited as a reason to refuse planning consent for the proposed development.

It is not anticipated that any proposals to develop the site should represent a conflict with legislation or national or local planning policies. The likely development impacts are not considered sufficiently significant to warrant refusal of a planning application to develop the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PLANNING BACKGROUND

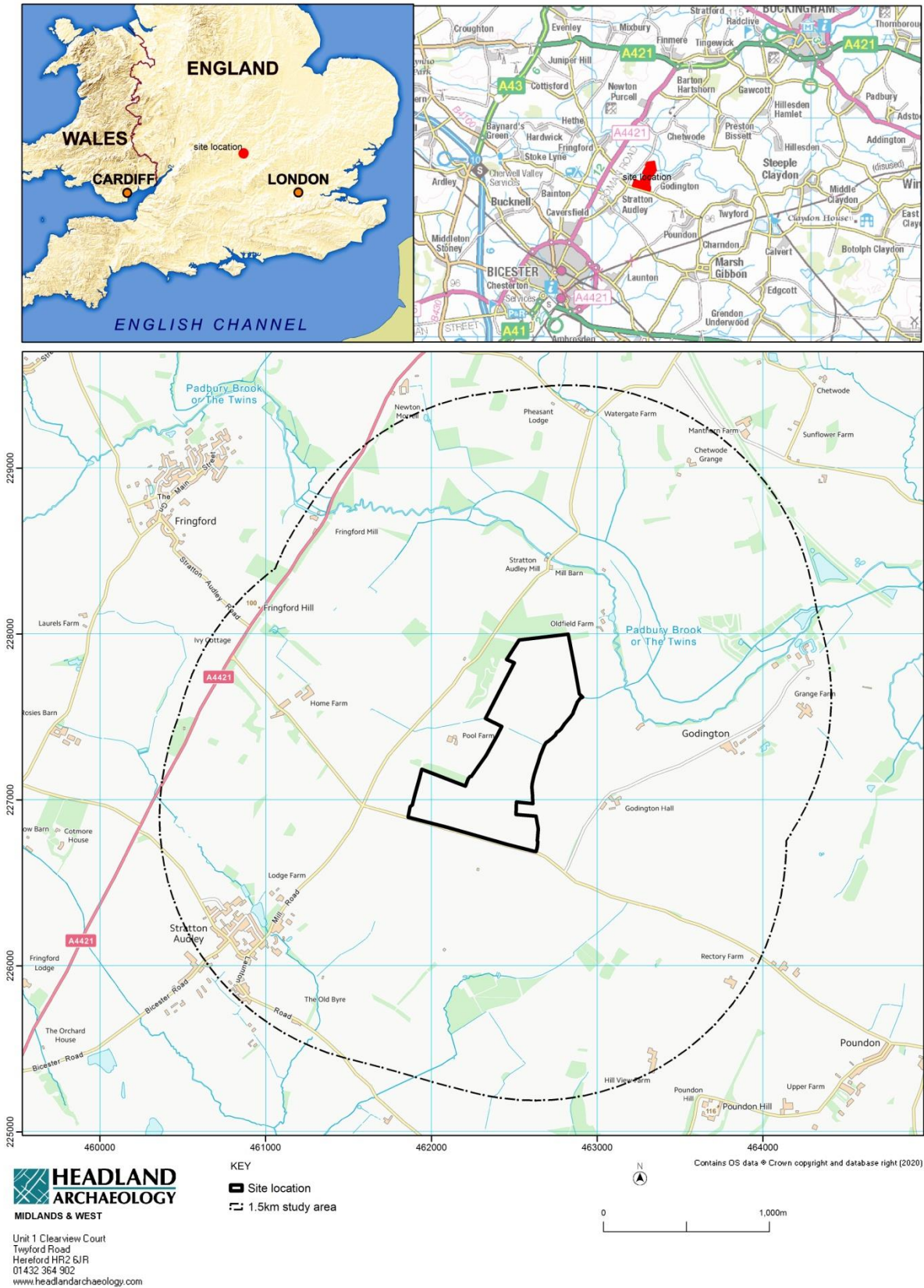
- 1.1.1. This report was commissioned by ADAS Planning on behalf of their clients JBM Solar Projects 8 Ltd, and presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) to support a planning application for the installation of a renewable energy generating station comprising solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, switchgear container, inverter/transformer units, site access, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. It is located at Land near Stratton Audley, Cherwell District, Oxfordshire, OX27 9AL(NGR SP 62559 27391) (Illus 1).
- 1.1.2. This report describes and assesses the significance and importance of known heritage assets and potential archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA) and provides an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on the significance of heritage assets, in order to identify potential historic environment planning constraints.
- 1.1.3. This approach is consistent with the requirements of national and local planning policies on the historic environment in the planning process (see Part 3).

1.2. CONSULTATION

- 1.2.1. The archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council was contacted to advise on the scope of the assessment. A 1.5 km study area was determined as appropriate and a WSI for this report was provided on the 3rd of August 2022 to the archaeological advisor, as requested.

1.3. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.3.1. The PDA is located less than 1 km from the village of Stratton Audley in the south-west and 3.7km from Bicester in the same direction (Illus 1). It is bounded to the east by fields and a lane to the south which also provides access into the site (Illus 2). The west corner is bounded by Mill Road which runs parallel to the rest of the fields, between the road and the PDA on the west is Stratton Court Barn events venue (also known as Pool Farm). The PDA is bounded by an area of mixed woodland at the north end, called Oldfields Copse. The A4421 runs c.1 km to the north-west of the PDA.
- 1.3.2. The PDA comprises seven arable fields, separated by boundary hedges (Illus 2-7). Access is from the south and another footpath runs from Mill Road in the north west.
- 1.3.3. The PDA is c.100 m above Ordnance datum (AOD) in the south-west and c.90 m AOD in the north-east. The surrounding topography is gently undulating. A drain runs though the centre of the PDA from Pool Farm and joins Padbury Brook further east.



Illus 1. Site Location and Proposed Development Area (PDA)



Illus 2. Recent satellite imagery of the site location, extracted from Google Earth.

1.4. GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

- 1.4.1. The underlying solid geology is recorded as Peterborough Member - Mudstone. Superficial deposits are recorded in the south-west and northern areas of the PDA only, these are Till¹, specifically Mid Pleistocene Diamicton² and a small amount of alluvium in the north-east.

¹ A boulder clay, with a wide range of particle size

² BGS, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> viewed 14/9/2022



Illus 3. View of PDA from south-west corner, near entrance. Looking east.



Illus 4. View from east of PDA, looking north



Illus 5. View from east of PDA towards Pool Farm / Stratton Court Barn. Looking west.



Illus 6. View from east side of PDA (4th field from south). Looking south-west



Illus 7. Northern most field being ploughed. Looking west.

2. LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

2.1. STATUTORY PROTECTION

2.1.1. The relevant heritage legislation in the context of the present site is described in the table below.

Table 1. Historic Environment Statutory Legislation

Legislation	Key Issues
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or near to a Scheduled Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent. Development must preserve in-situ protected archaeological remains and landscapes of acknowledged significance and protect their settings.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	<p>The 1990 Act is amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 to introduce additional controls for works to listed buildings.</p> <p>Section 1 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to compile and maintain lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The principal statutory duty under the Act is to preserve the special character of these heritage assets, including their setting. Buildings on the list are assessed and graded against the criteria of architectural and historic interest. Buildings listed at Grade I are defined as those considered to be of exceptional interest. Grade II* listed buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest, while Grade II listed buildings are of special interest.³This may include the extent to which the exterior of a building contributes to the interest of a group of buildings, i.e. 'group value'.</p> <p>Relevant Statutory Tests of the Act are as follows:</p> <p>Section 66: General duty as respects listed buildings in exercise of planning functions.</p> <p><i>(1) In considering whether to grant planning permission [or permission in principle] for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Without prejudice to section 72, in the exercise of the powers of appropriation, disposal and development (including redevelopment) conferred by the provisions of sections 232, 233 and 235(1) of the principal Act, a local authority shall have regard to the desirability of preserving features of special architectural or historic interest, and in particular, listed buildings.</i></p> <p>Section 72: General duty as respects conservation areas in exercise of planning functions.</p> <p><i>(1) In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any [functions under or by virtue of] any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.</i></p>
Treasure Act (1996)	The 1996 Act defines 'Treasure' as any object that is at least 10% gold or silver, associated with coins or groups of coins which are over 300 years old, objects formerly classed as 'treasure trove' (i.e. deliberately deposited items with a high content of gold or silver) and any objects found in association with the above. Any find of 'Treasure' must be reported to the local Coroner.

³<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/>

Legislation	Key Issues
Burial Act (1857)	Under Section 25 of the 1857 Act, it is generally a criminal offence to remove human remains from any place of burial without an appropriate licence issued by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), although recent legislative changes indicate that some cases are exempt from this requirement.
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	An Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom which provides protection for the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels. Certain activities are prohibited at protected sites, without the authority of the Ministry of Defence.
Hedgerow Regulations (1997)	<p>A local authority can prohibit the removal of an ‘important’ hedgerow. Hedgerows can be considered important on grounds of historical or archaeological value or association in line with following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marks a pre-1850 parish boundary (Criterion 1) ○ Physically incorporates or is part of a known and listed heritage asset; where the hedgerow is a contemporaneous or related to part of that heritage asset (Criterion 2 & 3) ○ Marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor (Criterion 4) ○ Is part of a pre-Parliamentary Inclosure field system (i.e. pre-dates the Inclosure Act 1796 – it may be recorded as “old enclosure” on the tithe/enclosure map or may be recorded on an earlier estate map) (Criterion 5)
<p>Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act (1953)</p> <p>National Heritage Act (1980, amended 1983 & 1997)</p>	<p>The 1983 Act created the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (HBMC) – now Historic England, a non-departmental public body, given the broad remit of managing the historic built environment of England. The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 authorises Historic England to compile a register of “gardens and other land” situated in England that appear to be of special historic interest.</p> <p><u>Registered Parks and Gardens</u></p> <p>The Register was established in 1984 and there are currently over 1,600 sites included. Sites are graded I, II*, or II along the same lines as listed buildings. A registered park or garden is not protected by a separate consent regime, but applications for planning permission will give great weight to their conservation. The NPPF defines them as designated heritage assets and as such their conservation should be an objective of all sustainable development. Substantial harm to or total loss of a Grade II registered park or garden should be exceptional and for a Grade II* or I registered park or garden such loss or harm should be wholly exceptional.</p> <p><u>The Register of Historic Battlefields</u></p> <p>Historic England maintains a Register of Historic Battlefields. Battlefields are not graded. Like registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields are not subject to a separate consent regime, but they are considered designated heritage assets under the NPPF and therefore, as with parks and gardens, great weight should be given to their conservation and substantial harm or total loss of a registered battlefield should be wholly exceptional.</p>

2.2. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021⁴) confirms that the historic environment, including archaeological remains, constitutes a material consideration in planning decisions, requiring applicants to describe the significance of heritage assets potentially affected by the development, including any contribution made by their setting.

2.2.2. Heritage and conservation forms one of the core planning principles of NPPF:

(189) *“[Planning should conserve heritage assets] in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life for this and future generations.”*

2.2.3. This report contributes to meeting the following Policies on the historic environment contained in the document (paragraph numbers in bold text)⁵.

(194) *“In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”*

(200) *Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:*

a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;

b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

(footnote 68) [Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.]

(202) *Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.*

(203) *The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.*

(206) *Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.*

2.3. LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

2.3.1. The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 which forms part of the Development Plan was formerly adopted on the 20th July 2015.⁶

⁴https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004408/NPPF_JULY_2021.pdf

⁵ Government guidance on the application of the policies contained within the NPPF is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁶<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/83/local-plans/376/adopted-cherwell-local-plan-2011-2031-part-1>

- 2.3.2. The Local Plan includes the following policies which relate to the historic environment, although reference to heritage is mentioned within other policies as well.

POLICY ESD 15: THE CHARACTER OF THE BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 2.3.3. "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.
- 2.3.4. New development proposals should:
- *Be designed to deliver high quality safe, attractive, durable and healthy places to live and work in. Development of all scales should be designed to improve the quality and appearance of an area and the way it functions*
 - *Deliver buildings, places and spaces that can adapt to changing social, technological, economic and environmental conditions*
 - *Support the efficient use of land and infrastructure, through appropriate land uses, mix and density/development intensity*
 - *Contribute positively to an area's character and identity by creating or reinforcing local distinctiveness and respecting local topography and landscape features, including skylines, valley floors, significant trees, historic boundaries, landmarks, features or views, in particular within designated landscapes, within the Cherwell Valley and within conservation areas and their setting*
 - *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.*
 - *Respect the traditional pattern of routes, spaces, blocks, plots, enclosures and the form, scale and massing of buildings. Development should be designed to integrate with existing streets and public spaces, and buildings configured to create clearly defined active public frontages"*

2.4. GUIDANCE

- 2.4.1. This DBA has been prepared with reference to the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2014, revised 2020⁷) and *Code of Conduct* (2014, revised 2019⁸), in addition to *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning GPA3, 2017⁹).
- 2.4.2. *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (Historic England Advice Note 12, 2019¹⁰) contains guidance on the assessment of heritage significance through consideration of the component heritage values of an asset, and further guidance on the assessment of significance as part of the

⁷https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf

⁸https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Code%20of%20conduct%20revOct2019_0.pdf

⁹<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>

¹⁰<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/>

planning application process is contained in *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning GPA2, 2015¹¹).

- 2.4.3. This DBA has also been prepared with reference to IEMA, IHBC and ClfA's July 2021 publication *Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK*¹². This document presents the principles of and suggests good practice for assessment of the impact of a development proposal on cultural heritage assets.

2.5. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.5.1. Headland Archaeology (UK) is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), an audited status which confirms that all work is carried out in accordance with the highest standards of the profession.
- 2.5.2. Headland Archaeology (UK), as part of the RSK Group, is recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) under their 'Historic Environment Service Provider Recognition' scheme. This quality assurance standard acknowledges that RSK works to the conservation standards of the IHBC, the UK's lead body for built and historic environment practitioners and specialists.
- 2.5.3. Headland Archaeology (UK) operates a quality management system to help ensure all projects are managed in a professional and transparent manner, which enables it to qualify for ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 45001 (health and safety management) and ISO 14001 (environmental management).
- 2.5.4. Ordnance Survey data is produced under © Crown copyright and database rights Licence 100065113.
- 2.5.5. LiDAR data is reproduced © Environment Agency copyright and/or database rights 2022. All rights reserved.

¹¹<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

¹²https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/j30361_iema_principlesofchia_v8.pdf

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1. The aim of this DBA is to inform determination of a planning application for redevelopment of the PDA in relation to its likely impact on the historic environment. The assessment aims to identify all known heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed development, and the potential for currently unknown heritage assets to be present.
- 3.1.2. The purpose is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the PDA, their significance, importance and strategies for further evaluation, mitigation or management as appropriate.
- 3.1.3. The ClfA's Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2017¹³) defines a DBA as '...a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the Study Area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.'
- 3.1.4. GPA2¹⁴, para 12.3 requires that a DBA will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment, or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so.
- 3.1.5. The objectives are therefore to:
- Collate all available written, graphic, photographic and electronic information relevant to the PDA;
 - Describe the nature, extent and significance and importance of the historic environment within the area potentially affected by the development, identifying any uncertainties in existing knowledge;
 - Determine the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains;
 - Determine the likely impact of the proposed development;
 - Identify any requirements for further investigation that may be necessary to understand the impacts of the proposed development on the historic environment.

¹³https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf

¹⁴ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. TERMINOLOGY – ‘SIGNIFICANCE’ AND ‘IMPORTANCE’

- 4.1.1. Heritage assets are assessed in this report in terms of their significance and importance, following the requirement in NPPF paragraph 194 and HEAN12, and taking account of Historic England’s guidance in *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (GPA2¹⁵).
- 4.1.2. Impact assessment is concerned with effects on significance, the value or interest that applies to all heritage assets and relating to the ways in which the historic environment is valued both by specialists and the public.
- 4.1.3. The significance of a heritage asset will derive from factors including fabric, setting, rarity, completeness, historic and cultural associations, community, research and place-making potential. Significance is assessed in relation to the criteria in HEAN12¹⁶ (i.e. in *archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic* terms), which are intended primarily to inform decisions regarding heritage designations, but may also be applied more generally in identifying the ‘special characteristics’ of a heritage asset, which contribute to its significance and should be protected, conserved and enhanced according to the NPPF.
- 4.1.4. This use of the word ‘significance’, referring to the range of values or interest attached to an asset, should not be confused with the unrelated usage in EIA where the ‘significance of an effect’ reflects the weight that should be attached to it in a planning decision.
- 4.1.5. Relative importance of each identified heritage asset potentially affected by the proposed development has been determined to provide a framework for comparison between different heritage assets and to inform subsequent stages of archaeological assessment and the development of any appropriate mitigation which may be required (See Table 2 below).
- 4.1.6. For further terminology and definitions, see the Glossary.

4.2. IDENTIFICATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED

STUDY AREA

- 4.2.1. The Study Area for this assessment comprises a 1.5 km buffer surrounding the PDA, within which the archaeological and historical development of the site and surrounding area has been considered. This area covers both Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire counties.
- 4.2.2. The setting of built heritage assets is beyond the scope of this report, this will be covered in another report.

DATA SOURCES

- 4.2.3. The assessment has been based on a study of all readily available documentary sources, following the ClfA Standards and Guidance. The following sources of information were referred to:
- Designation data from the National Heritage List for England, downloaded from the Historic England website¹⁷ on 12/6/2022 and descriptions of designated heritage assets viewed on the Historic England website;
 - Archaeological and architectural records from the National Record of the Historic Environment, viewed through the Heritage Gateway website¹⁸;
 - Aerial Photo Explorer¹⁹;
 - Aerial Photography held at National Monument Archives, Swindon;

¹⁵ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

¹⁶ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/>

¹⁷ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/data-downloads/>

¹⁸ www.heritagegateway.org.uk

¹⁹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>

- Archaeological records held by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire HERs (Buckinghamshire enquiry ref 1336, Oxfordshire ref 133RL);
- Historic Landscape Characterisation from the HER;
- Aerial photography, historic maps and plans held in the local council archive;
- Environment Agency Lidar data²⁰;
- Geological data available online from the British Geological Survey²¹;
- Portable Antiquities Scheme data;
- Geophysical survey results of the site;
- Readily available published sources and unpublished archaeological reports.

- 4.2.4. Heritage assets within the Proposed Development Area are shown in Illus 10-11, with detailed descriptions compiled in a gazetteer (Appendix A).
- 4.2.5. Designated heritage assets are referenced in this report by National Heritage List for England list entry number. Undesignated assets are referenced by HER Preferred Reference or the National Record of the Historic Environment reference. Any newly discovered assets are assigned a number prefixed HA for Heritage Asset. A single asset number can refer to a group of related features, which may be recorded separately in the HER and other data sources.
- 4.2.6. This report makes reference to the results of the geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys Ltd in September 2022. No archaeological anomalies were positively identified, agricultural anomalies were detected in the form of former field boundaries, ridge and furrow cultivation, drainage features and ploughing trends. Several anomalies of undetermined origin have been detected. A spread of ferrous debris across the survey area could have potentially obscured weak anomalies of anthropological origin, if present.
- 4.2.7. This archaeological DBA should be read in conjunction with the geophysical survey report.

SITE VISIT

- 4.2.8. A site visit was undertaken on the 2nd of September 2022, during which notes were made regarding site characteristics, any visible archaeology and geographical/geological features which may have a bearing on previous land use and archaeological survival, as well as those which may constrain subsequent archaeological investigation.
- 4.2.9. Conditions were dry and overcast. The fields had been cleared of vegetation and some ploughing was being undertaken.
- 4.2.10. Records were made regarding extant archaeological features, such as earthworks or structural remains, any negative features, local topography and aspect, exposed geology, soils, watercourses, health and safety considerations, surface finds, and any other relevant information.

HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION

- 4.2.11. The historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping sequence corresponding with the PDA was consulted to collect information on former land use and development throughout the later historic periods.
- 4.2.12. Parish tithe mapping and associated apportionment documents were consulted to identify annotated structures and record any field name evidence indicative of archaeological potential.

LIDAR

- 4.2.13. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between the aircraft and the ground. Up to 500,000 measurements per second are made of the ground, allowing highly detailed terrain models to be generated in which it is possible to identify shallow or otherwise imperceptible topographic features.

²⁰ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/>

²¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

- 4.2.14. A Composite Digital Terrain Model (DTM) has been produced by removing objects from the Digital Surface Model (DSM) which is available at 1m resolution for the Site. Composite data breaks down by spatial resolution i.e. 2m, 1m, 50cm and 25cm and is made up from a combination of the full EA dataset which has been merged and re-sampled to give the best possible coverage. This means that a 1m resolution tile may contain decimated 50cm data as well as native captured 1m data. It is not possible using only the composite to know which part of a given tile was surveyed at which resolution.
- 4.2.15. Analysis was undertaken by a professional archaeologist using QGIS imaging and geo-referencing/mapping software.

4.3. LIMITATIONS OF BASELINE DATA

DATA SOURCES

- 4.3.1. Information held by public data sources is generally considered to be reliable; however, the following general points are noted:
- Documentary sources are rare before the medieval period;
 - Whilst it is accepted that historic documents may be biased depending on the author, with content seen through the lens of context, wherever such documentary sources are used in assessing archaeological potential professional judgment is used in their interpretation that the functionality of the document is considered;
 - HER records can be limited because opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery depend on the situation of commercial development and occasional research projects, rather than the result of a more structured research framework. A lack of data within the HER records does not necessarily equal an absence of archaeology;
 - Where archaeological sites have been identified solely from aerial imagery without confirmation from archaeological excavation or supporting evidence in the form of find-spots for example, it is possible the interpretation may be revised in the light of further investigation.
 - The significance of sites can be difficult to identify from HER records, depending on the accuracy and reliability of the original source; and
 - There can often be a lack of dating evidence for archaeological sites.

SITE VISIT

- 4.3.2. Any archaeological site visit has inherent limitations, primarily because archaeological remains below ground level may have no surface indicators.

4.4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

- 4.4.1. The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of undesignated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (Table 3). Historic England guidance also refers to an asset's 'level of significance' (GPA2²², paragraph 10), which in this usage has the same meaning as importance.
- 4.4.2. Any feature which does not merit consideration in planning decisions due to its significance may be said to have negligible importance. It is the role of the professional judgements made by the assessor to identify any historic remains within the PDA that are considered to be of negligible importance, to justify no further works.

Table 2. Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

²² <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Very High (International)	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance, that contribute to international research objectives
High (National)	Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, and undesignated heritage assets of equivalent importance that contribute to national research objectives. Also Conservation Areas, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens and Grade II Listed Buildings which have particular characteristics that merit a high level of importance.
Medium (National or Regional)	Conservation Areas, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, Grade II Listed Buildings except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, heritage assets on local lists and undesignated assets that contribute to Regional research objectives
Low (Local)	Locally listed heritage assets, except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, undesignated heritage assets of Local importance, including assets that may already be partially damaged
Negligible	Identified historic remains of no importance in planning considerations, or heritage assets and findspots that have already been removed or destroyed (i.e. 'site of')
Unknown / Uncertain	Heritage assets for which a level of importance cannot be defined on current information

4.4.3. The importance of heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development is identified in the impact assessment and summarised in the Gazetteer (Appendix A).

POTENTIAL FOR UNKNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS

4.4.4. Archaeological features are often impossible to identify through desk-based assessment. The likelihood that significant undiscovered heritage assets may be present within the Proposed Development Area is referred to as *archaeological potential*. Overall levels of potential can be assigned to different landscape zones, following the criteria in Table 4, while recognising that the archaeological potential of any zone will relate to particular historical periods and types of evidence. The following factors are considered in assessing archaeological potential:

- The distribution and character of known archaeological remains in the vicinity, based principally on an appraisal of data in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire HERs;
- The history of archaeological fieldwork and research in the surrounding area, which may give an indication of the reliability and completeness of existing records;
- Environmental factors such as geology, topography and soil quality, which would have influenced land-use in the past and can therefore be used to predict the distribution of archaeological remains;
- Land-use factors affecting the survival of archaeological remains, such as ploughing or quarrying; and
- Factors affecting the visibility of archaeological remains, which may relate to both environment and land-use, such as soils and geology (which may be more or less conducive to formation of cropmarks), arable cultivation (which has potential to show cropmarks and create surface artefact

scatters), vegetation, which can conceal upstanding features, and superficial deposits such as peat and alluvium which can mask archaeological features.

Table 3. Archaeological potential

Potential	Definition
High	Undiscovered heritage assets of high or medium importance are likely to be present.
Medium	Undiscovered heritage assets of low importance are likely to be present; and it is possible, though unlikely, that assets of high or medium importance may also be present.
Low	The study area may contain undiscovered heritage assets, but these are unlikely to be numerous and are highly unlikely to include assets of high or medium importance.
Negligible	The study area is highly unlikely to contain undiscovered heritage assets of any level of importance.
Nil	There is no possibility of undiscovered heritage assets existing within the study area.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.4.5. Impact assessment considers the effects of the proposed development on the significance of the identified heritage assets, or its assessed archaeological potential, including both positive ('beneficial') and adverse ('harm') impacts.
- 4.4.6. The assessment of physical impacts considers the extent or degree of harm proposed relative to the importance of the physical remains.
- 4.4.7. The level of harm predicted is stated in accordance with the criteria contained in Paragraphs 200-203 of the NPPF (2021).

SETTING IMPACTS

- 4.4.8. Visual impacts are most commonly encountered but other introduced environmental factors can affect setting such as noise, light or air quality. Impacts may be encountered at all stages in the life cycle of a development from construction to decommissioning but they are only likely to lead to substantial harm during the prolonged operational life of the development.
- 4.4.9. Where potential impacts on the settings of a heritage assets are identified, the assessment of significance includes 'assessing whether, how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s)', following Step 2 of the staged approach to setting recommended in Historic England's guidance in *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (GPA3²³).
- 4.4.10. Attributes of an asset's setting which can contribute to its significance are listed on page 9 of GPA3.
- 4.4.11. An assessment of the sensitivity of a heritage asset to change within its setting is a professional judgement, based on consideration of the asset's significance and the contribution its current and historical setting makes to that significance.
- 4.4.12. In accordance with GPA3, and through an assessment of significance in accordance with NPPF and HEAN 12, a screening exercise has been undertaken to identify the heritage assets that are likely to be affected by the proposed development and therefore require detailed assessment.

²³ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>

- 4.4.13. Heritage assets screened as sensitive to visual change were visited and assessed with a view to potential setting impacts. The site visit enabled assessment of likely impacts of the proposed development: locations which would remain unaffected, locations which have some visibility but that is minimal and does not affect the baseline condition, and locations where visibility is possible/prominent.
- 4.4.14. The scope of this DBA is limited to identifying where no substantial setting impacts are anticipated requiring no further works, or where substantial setting impacts are anticipated, to identify which heritage assets are considered likely to be affected, and to make recommendations for proportionate further detailed assessments.

MINIMISING HARM

- 4.4.15. Where appropriate, measures for further assessment of, or mitigation of identified impacts are recommended.
- 4.4.16. A summary is presented of the measures to remove, reduce or mitigate harm to heritage assets through careful design and consideration within the development proposals.

5. RESULTS

5.1. OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1.1. The full list of known heritage assets is presented in the gazetteer (Appendix A), and the location of each is shown on Illus 10 and 11.
- 5.1.2. The significance of these assets is discussed in the Assessment of Heritage Significance section below.
- 5.1.3. There are no designated heritage assets within the site boundary.
- 5.1.4. There are 16 listed buildings, one scheduled monument and one conservation area in the wider study area.
- 5.1.5. There are two known non-designated heritage assets within the site boundary: an area of ridge and furrow and a relict field boundary. There are a further 31 non designated heritage assets within 1.5 km of the site boundary recorded in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire HERs.

5.2. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (HLC)

- 5.2.1. Historic Landscape Characterisation of the study area from Oxfordshire defines two zones within the PDA, one in the north and one in the south (HOX1729 and HOX1727). These are both identified as areas of 19th century planned enclosures of previously open fields (Illus 8).

5.3. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

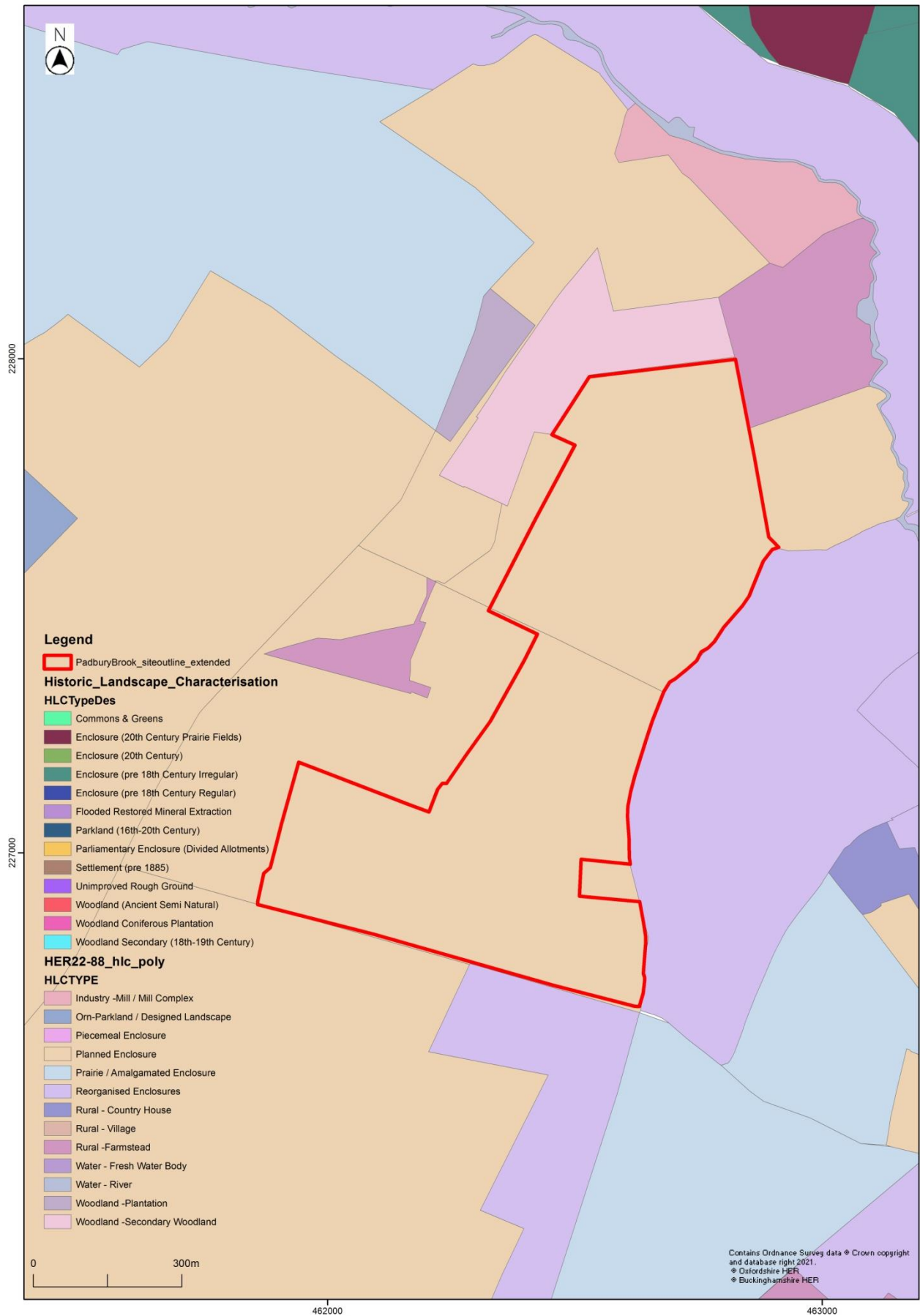
- 5.3.1. There have been a total of five previous archaeological investigations in the study area (Illus 9). The Oxfordshire HER records three within Stratton Audley. Two of these relate to the Church of St Mary and St Edburga 1.3 km to the south-west. These include a watching brief (EOX2044) in advance of building works to construct new facilities and sewer trench in the graveyard by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in 2007. The other is a building survey (EOX6660) to investigate and records features exposed during works in the nave by Oxford Archaeology in 2009. The other relates to the Monuments Protection Programme scheduling at the moated site around the castle (EOX2317) at Stratton Audley, and lies to the south-east of the church, by OCC Archaeological Service in 2000.
- 5.3.2. The Buckinghamshire HER records a metal detecting rally (EBC17124) in fields 250 m to the east of the PDA in 2008 by Weekend Wanderers Metal Detectors. The other is a remote sensing survey (EBC17782) for HS2 which incorporated the very north-east of the study area and included aerial survey and LiDAR in advance of the new rail route.

5.4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

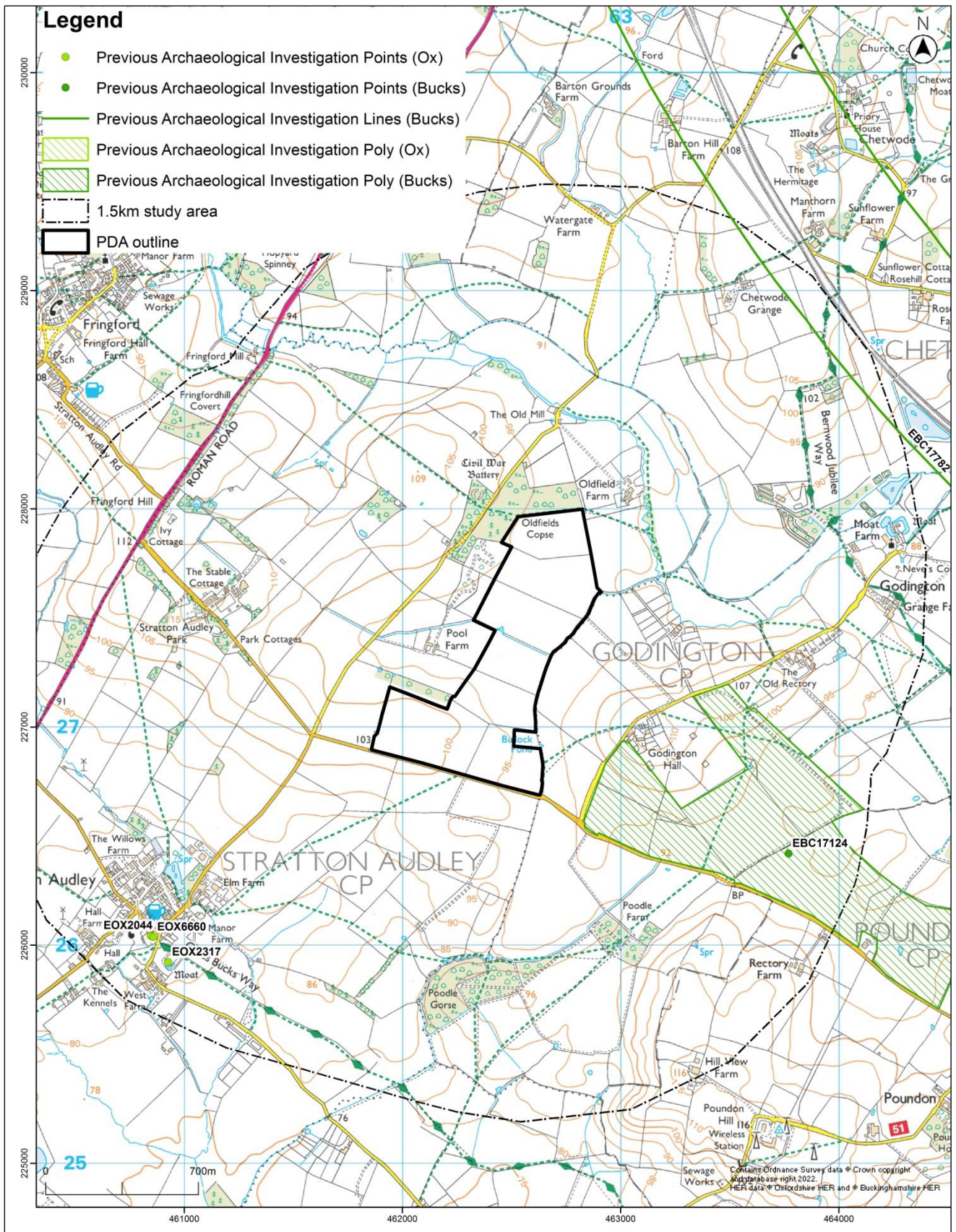
PREHISTORIC PERIODS

PALAEOLITHIC (800,000 – 8500 BCE)

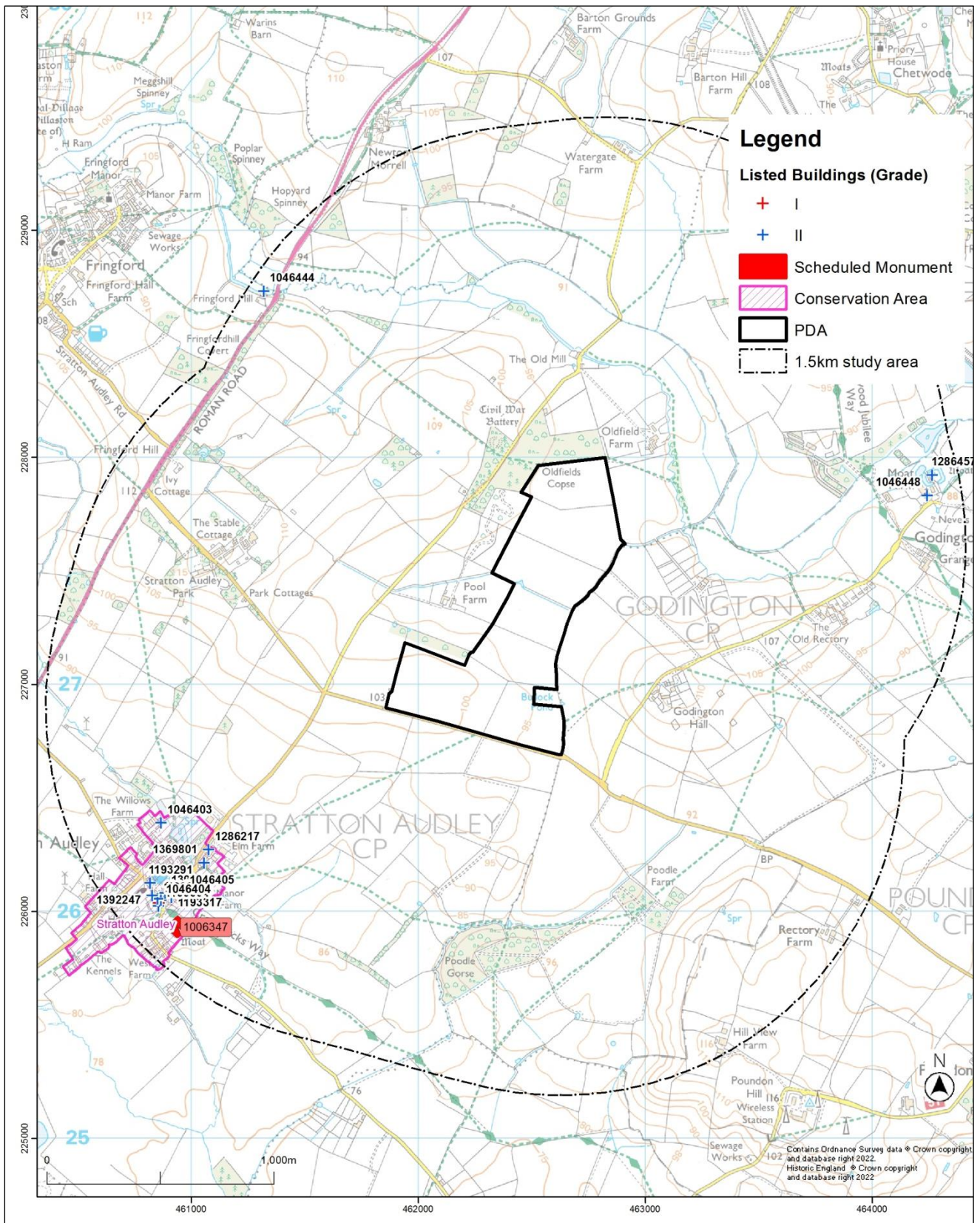
- 5.4.1. Archaeology from this period is normally represented by chance findspots rather than more substantial remains of in-situ activity such as settlements or burials. Material from the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic is rare on a national scale.
- 5.4.2. There is no evidence of known heritage assets recorded in the HERs relating to this period within the PDA or study area. The nearest evidence from this period is in the form of Pleistocene mammal bones from Buckinghamshire in the parishes of Steeple Claydon 6km to the east and Preston Bisset 4km to the north-east (0913100000 & 0752000000 respectively) which were recovered from gravel pits. The superficial geology in this area of the county is not dissimilar to the PDA but with a greater density which includes mid-Pleistocene till but also deposits of head, alluvium and glaciofluvial material
- 5.4.3. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site due to the scarcity of the evidence and the absence of glaciofluvial deposits of gravel normally associated with finds of this period.



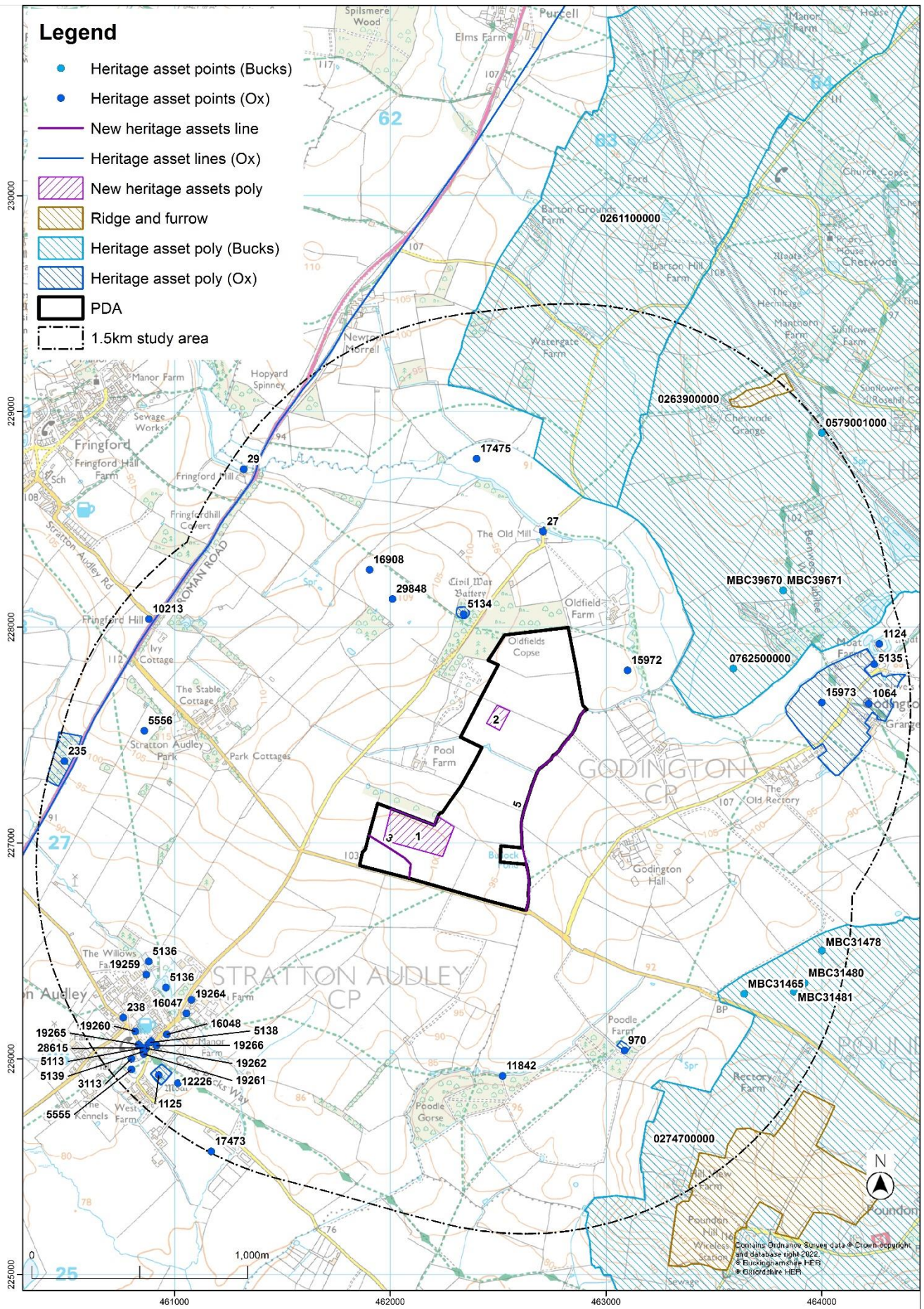
Illus 8. Historic Landscape Characterisation map



Illus 9. Previous Archaeological Investigations In the study area



Illus 10. Designated heritage assets within the study area



Illus 11. Heritage assets recorded in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire HERs

MESOLITHIC (8500-4000 BCE)

- 5.4.4. Evidence of Mesolithic activity tends to be represented by lithic findspots, small flakes of flints known as microliths typified this period.
- 5.4.5. There is no evidence for known heritage assets recorded in the HER relating to this period within the PDA or study area.
- 5.4.6. There is evidence for Mesolithic activity from around Bicester about 6km to the south-west. This includes a large assemblage of flint work (28310) found in tree throw holes found during an excavation in 2014, suggesting a temporary camp where flint tools were manufactured and utilised. An evaluation in 2007 uncovered another well preserved assemblage of worked flint and cores (26128) which are of regional importance. The rare find of a sub-rectangular feature and gully and postholes from the period was found with a number of microliths (16026). Just outside of Bicester to the south-west by the M40 an Ordnance Survey card records that a Mesolithic quartzite macehead (2547) was found.
- 5.4.7. There is assessed to be a low to medium potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site because although the likelihood of activity being found here is low due to the distance to the known sites, the potential importance of this activity is medium to high.

NEOLITHIC (4000-2200 BCE)

- 5.4.8. The Neolithic period was a gradual transition towards settlement which facilitated a shift towards agriculture.
- 5.4.9. There is one record in the Buckinghamshire HER in the study area from the Neolithic, this is the findspot of a flint tool during a metal detecting rally 1.4km to the east of the PDA. There are no other records dated to this specific period in the study area although other prehistoric activity.
- 5.4.10. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site because of the limited nature of the evidence.

BRONZE AGE (2200-700 BCE)

- 5.4.11. The Oxfordshire HER records two Bronze Age ring ditches within the study area and another is recorded in the Buckinghamshire HER, none are present in the PDA.
- 5.4.12. One is located on the south-eastern edge of Stratton Audley 1.3 km to the south-west. This ring ditch (12226) interpreted as a ploughed out round barrow was identified from aerial photographs as a cropmark. The other ring ditch in the Oxfordshire HER is also a cropmark (15972) which lies 235 m to the east of the northern part of the PDA. It was identified by the aerial photo unit within the RCHME. Another ring ditch cropmark (0762500000) is recorded in the Buckinghamshire HER 500m east of (15972) again identified from aerial photographs and interpreted as a possible Bronze Age round barrow. They are located on either side of the Padbury Brook or The Twins and there may be some significance in this relationship and there is the potential for satellite burials around the mounds.
- 5.4.13. There is assessed to be low to medium potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site as there is evidence from this period in proximity to the PDA although no aerial photographs that have been examined suggested activity of this date.

IRON AGE (700 BCE- 43 CE)

- 5.4.14. The Oxfordshire HER has two records from the Iron Age. There is a possible hut circle settlement (29848) of the late prehistoric period 525 m north-west of the PDA. The evidence for this is from a large number of ring ditches seen as crop marks which are thought to be hut circles.
- 5.4.15. The other evidence is a findspot of Iron Age pottery (5556) 1.3 km to the west of the PDA, which was reported by a local informant. The Portable Antiquities Scheme records a copper alloy brooch dating to the 1st century BCE, it was found on the west side of the A4421.
- 5.4.16. Given the evidence from the study area there is assessed to be a low to medium potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the PDA.

HISTORIC PERIODS

ROMAN/ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD (43CE- 410CE)

- 5.4.17. A Roman road (8922) runs along the west of the study area, along the line of the A4421 1.4km to the north-west which is part of the Margary Road 160a; section of Alchester to Towcester.
- 5.4.18. A possible Roman shrine (16908) is located 690 m north-west of the PDA. It is suggested by a large assemblage of typical temple material comprising 288 coins (some silver), 3 brooch and 2 bracelet fragments, a lead weight and a selection of pottery which are recorded within the Portable Antiquities Database. The pottery and coins give a date range of 2nd to 4th century. The site is visible as a discoloured area on aerial photographs, indicating building foundations.
- 5.4.19. Other coins (3113) of the period are found in fields near Stratton Audley 1.3 km to the south-west
- 5.4.20. A chance find of Roman tile (MBC39670 and MBC39671) was made during metal detecting 1 km to the north-east of the PDA.
- 5.4.21. There is assessed to be low to medium potential for previously unknown remains of the Romano-British period to be encountered at the site.

EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD (410-1066 CE)

- 5.4.22. The only evidence for the early medieval period in the study area comes from placename evidence. Stratton Audley derives its name from Old English for a 'farm/settlement on a Roman road'. The element which make it up are strat (Old English) for Roman road. (May be a form of "stret") and tun (Old English) for an enclosure, farmstead or village and the remainder is derived from a later personal name when the manor was held in the 13th century onwards by the Audley family. Other villages such as Fringford and Godington are also derived from Old English.
- 5.4.23. Although there were settlements originating from this period in the study area there is low potential for previously unknown remains of this period because of the lack of physical evidence.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD (1066CE- 1500CE)

- 5.4.24. The settlements of Stratton Audley, Fringford and Godington are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. They are all within the Hundred of Kirtlington. Fringford records a population of 34 households which makes it one of the larger settlements in the survey, whilst Godington and Stratton Audley had 19 and 11 households respectively, today Stratton Audley and Fringford are similar sizes and Godington is a small hamlet. The small size of Stratton relates the current parish being part of the manor of Caversfield and this is recorded under another entry.
- 5.4.25. The Tenant-in-chief in Fringford was Bishop Odo of Bayeux and the Lord was Wadard of Cogges, the settlement also had two mills. There were eight ploughlands, 2 Lord's plough teams and six men's plough teams. The value is given as £8.²⁴
- 5.4.26. The Tenant-in-chief in Godington was Richard Poynant and the Lord was William. The settlement had one mill. The annual value was £5. There were 7 ploughlands, two Lord's plough teams and 6.5 men's plough teams.²⁵
- 5.4.27. Stratton Audley's Tenant-in-chief was Robert d'Oilly, and the Lord was Alward. The settlement also had a meadow. The value of Stratton Audley had increased by one third from £2 in 1066 to £3 in 1086. There were six ploughlands, one Lord's plough team and two men's plough teams.²⁶ The area is known to have mainly been arable.²⁷
- 5.4.28. Bicester Priory held an estate in Stratton Audley known as Rectory Manor and in 1542 this manor was granted to Christ Church, Oxford who leased it. In the 13th century a small estate was also held by Cirencester Abbey until the Dissolution.
- 5.4.29. The shrunken medieval village of Godington (1064) is recorded in the HER 1.3 km to the north-east, it was depopulated in the late medieval and early medieval period. Three farms and the church survive the remainder of the village is visible as earthworks. The church (5138 / LB) Holy Trinity the circular font is the only relic of the medieval church which was in such poor state of repair it had to be rebuilt in 1790.

²⁴ <https://opendomesday.org/place/SP6028/fringford/>

²⁵ <https://opendomesday.org/place/SP6427/godington/>

²⁶ <https://opendomesday.org/place/SP6026/stratton-audley/>

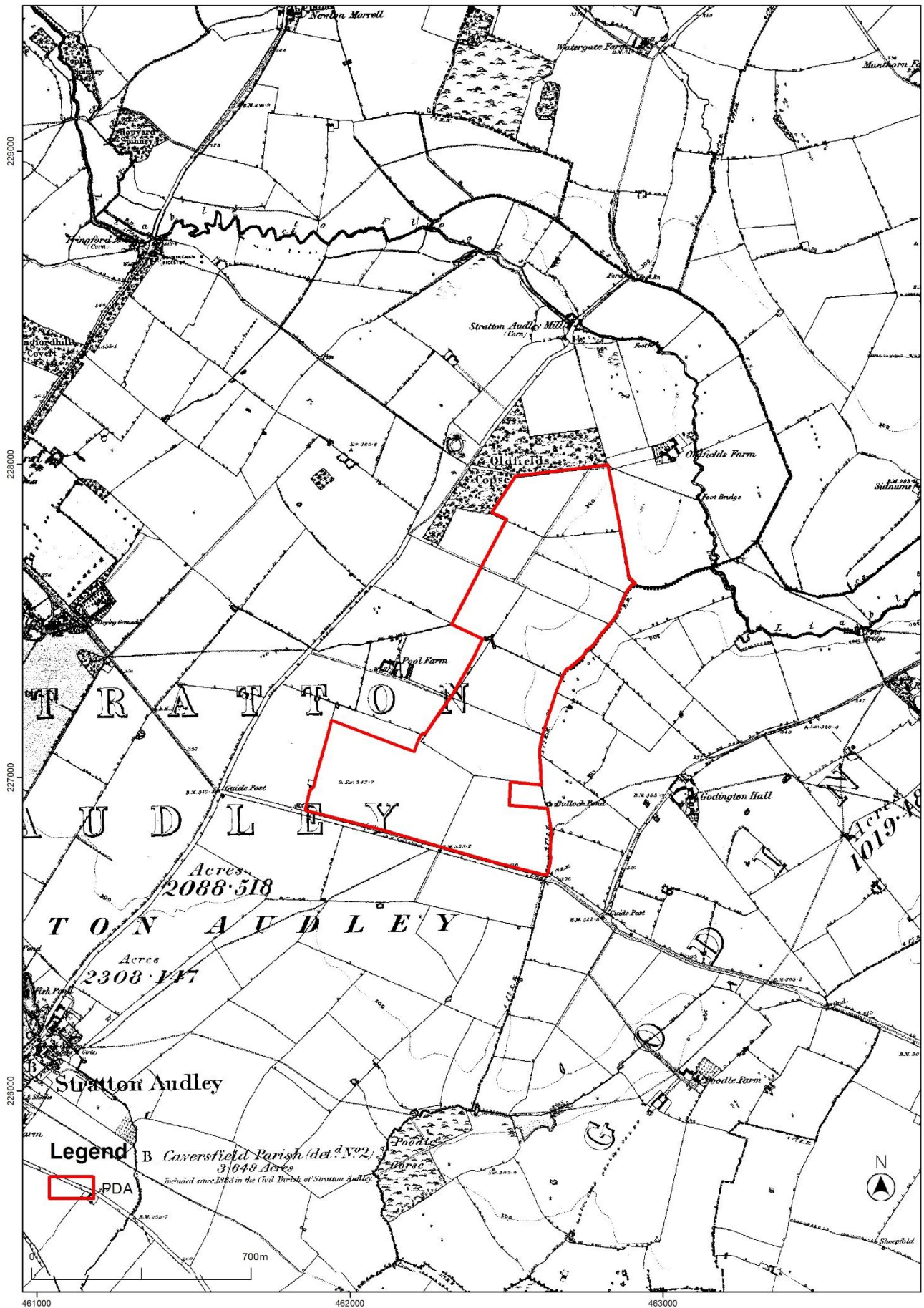
²⁷ VCH Vol 6

- 5.4.30. Just north of the village is Moat farmhouse (1124 / LB 1286457) which is listed Grade II. The medieval building is still enclosed by a moat.
- 5.4.31. The HER also records the shrunken medieval village in Stratton Audley (5555) where two closes south-west of the church contain earthworks of house platforms and crofts, some of the village disappeared in the late 19th century.
- 5.4.32. The Church of St Mary and St Edburga, in Stretton Audley (5139 / LB 1046404) dates from the 14th and 15th century and is grade I listed. It is mainly late Perpendicular in style and was restored in the mid 19th century. The churchyard includes a medieval cross base (5113 / LB) which is listed grade II
- 5.4.33. Buildings within Stratton Audley from the medieval period include The Manor House (5138) grade II listed building – late med. A large square moated site (1125 / SM 1006347) is located south-east of the church in Stratton Audley which is also a scheduled monument, this was once the location of Audley castle and survives as earthworks.,
- 5.4.34. A medieval grange (970) was once present 800 m to the south-east of the PDA belonging to Missendon Abbey, it is now the site of Poodle Farm.
- 5.4.35. In the north of Stratton Audley are two fish ponds connected by a sluice (5136 & 5137), both may have been created through stone quarrying. Their date is uncertain but thought most likely to be post medieval.
- 5.4.36. Fringford mill (29 / LB Grade II) and Mill House is located 1.4 km to the north-west of the PDA has possible medieval origins.
- 5.4.37. Two silver coins (MBC31480 & MBC31481) were found 1.3 km to the east of the PDA from the medieval period during a metal detecting event and are recorded in the Portable Antiquities Database.
- 5.4.38. A cast copper alloy brooch from the period is also recorded on Portable Antiquities Database (BERK-C3A2DC).
- 5.4.39. Areas of ridge and furrow are recorded in the Buckinghamshire HER to the east and the north in the study area. Aerial photography²⁸ examined in Swindon showed a substantial amount of ridge and furrow fields surviving in and around the PDA in the mid 1940s (some of these can still be seen in LiDAR Illus 14). These do not generally follow the existing field layout in the south which was probably implemented when the area was enclosed in the post medieval period. There is a strong possibility that the ridge and furrow is medieval in date since its orientation is different to the later enclosed field system. The majority of these have been lost to modern farming practices as today LiDAR indicates only one area of poorly preserved ridge and furrow earthworks in the southern part of the PDA (Heritage asset 1, Illus 11, Illus 14, Illus 16), none of these earthworks were visible to the naked eye during the site walkover survey. They probably survive below the surface as regular shallow linear cut features penetrating into the top of the underlying drift geology beneath the plough soil
- 5.4.40. The geophysical survey undertaken in September 2022 has shown areas of ridge and furrow in the south and middle of the PDA (referenced as Areas 2, 3 in the south and up to and including area 6 in the report), (see Figures 4 and 6 in the Geophysical Survey Report, Padbury Brook Solar Farm, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSP1362A).
- 5.4.41. Recent aerial photography on Google Earth (2018, 2017, 2013) showed the southern field with a slightly meandering linear feature running east-west (Heritage assets 3, Illus 11, Illus 14, Illus 16) and another running parallel outside of the site. A return of the feature in the east connected the two. It was clear from the same 1946 photography that this was the former headland of the ridge and furrow in the early field system which survives as cropmarks. It is also faintly visible in the geophysical data.
- 5.4.42. There is assessed to be a medium potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. The PDA was agricultural land during this period, medieval deposits are likely to be present but will probably be ploughed-out agricultural features of low importance.

POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD (1500-1900CE)

- 5.4.43. The HERs record 18 records from the post medieval period in the wider study area: the majority are buildings within Stratton Audley with a few exceptions such as the site of the brick, tile and drainpipe works (235) along the A4421 1.4 km to the west. The site includes a clay pit, kiln, tile works and brick works. There is documentary evidence from the 1861 census onwards of incumbent brick and tile makers until the early 19th century.

²⁸ CPE/UK1897 f/20 3158 & 3159 12/12/1946



Illus 12. 1st Edition OS map from 1885, area of PDA is indicated in red

- 5.4.44. Other evidence of the brick industry comes from the edge of Poodle Gorse, 760 m south of the PDA is the site of a brick kiln (11842).
- 5.4.45. A water powered corn mill (27) was located 450 m north of the PDA and appears on the OS 1st Edition map of 1885. The remains of the mill building have been converted to a house. The water passes beneath the building and the arches of the wheel can be seen.
- 5.4.46. A civil war battery (5134) is located 200 m west of the PDA called Stuttle's bank. It is a circular earthwork bank with a hollow and was formerly identified as a Danelaw early medieval fort. This appears on the 1st Edition OS map of 1885. During the Civil War Mainwaring's Red Regiment was quartered at Stratton in 1643; and in the following year the king's forces were quartered in the village. In 1645 the parliamentarian Captain Abercromby was defeated and fatally wounded in a skirmish near Stratton Audley.
- 5.4.47. On the north-east edge of the study area the Buckinghamshire HER records the line of the dismantled Great Central Mainline (0579001000), built by the Great Central Railway in 1899 as a route from the north and east Midlands to London. Although designed for passenger traffic, it mainly carried coal. The line was closed in the 1960s.
- 5.4.48. Fringford tollgate (10213) once stood 1.3 km to the west of the PDA on the A4421 which was part of the Bicester to Buckingham route.
- 5.4.49. The HER records two 17th century headstones in the churchyard at Stratton Audley (19261 & 19262 / LB 1193304 & 1392244) which are listed grade II.
- 5.4.50. The remaining records are of buildings within Stratton Audley which date from the 17th and 18th century when the village was well populated. They include the Red Lion Public House, two farmhouses, one with a dairy, a barn, a smithy, a row of two cottages and two houses. They are all listed grade II with the exception of the smithy. Building continued into the mid 19th century but the population had declined by 1901.
- 5.4.51. The earliest detailed map of the area available for examination is A map of the County of Oxford by R. Davis from 1797.²⁹ This showed the PDA as made up of three large fields (south, middle and north).
- 5.4.52. There is no tithe map available of this area which was subject to an inclosure award in 1780 when the open fields were enclosed and no map is available of the inclosure award. Some earlier enclosure is also recorded but is thought to be limited to meadows.
- 5.4.53. On the 1st Edition map from 1885 (Illus 12) the PDA was made up of 11 fields, which is more than the present day. Poole Farm was indicated on the map at this date. A small enclosure is shown on the western edge outside the PDA in the south. A pond is located within the PDA at the corner of fields north-east of Poole Farm. Guide posts are located on the road south of the PDA, 260m to the west and another 230m to the east.
- 5.4.54. To the west is Stratton Park with formal gardens and opposite the Park on the other side of the Roman road is the Brick, tile and drainpipe works. To the east of the PDA is Godington Hall.
- 5.4.55. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. There are likely to be assets from this period but they are most likely to field boundaries lost to subsequent amalgamation, and of low or negligible importance.

MODERN (1900CE - PRESENT)

- 5.4.56. There are no entries in the HER relating to the modern period. The evidence for this time comes from historic mapping.
- 5.4.57. The 2nd Edition map of 1900 shows no changes in the PDA. Stratton Park had altered the layout of some of its gardens and a pumping engine house appeared 1.3 km west of the PDA. A quarry was also present 460 m south of the pump.
- 5.4.58. The 3rd Edition map from 1923 was also largely unchanged but the brickworks had gone and appeared as old clay pits. No changes were apparent within the PDA but a small structure had been built 250 m to the west and labelled 'oW' on the map.

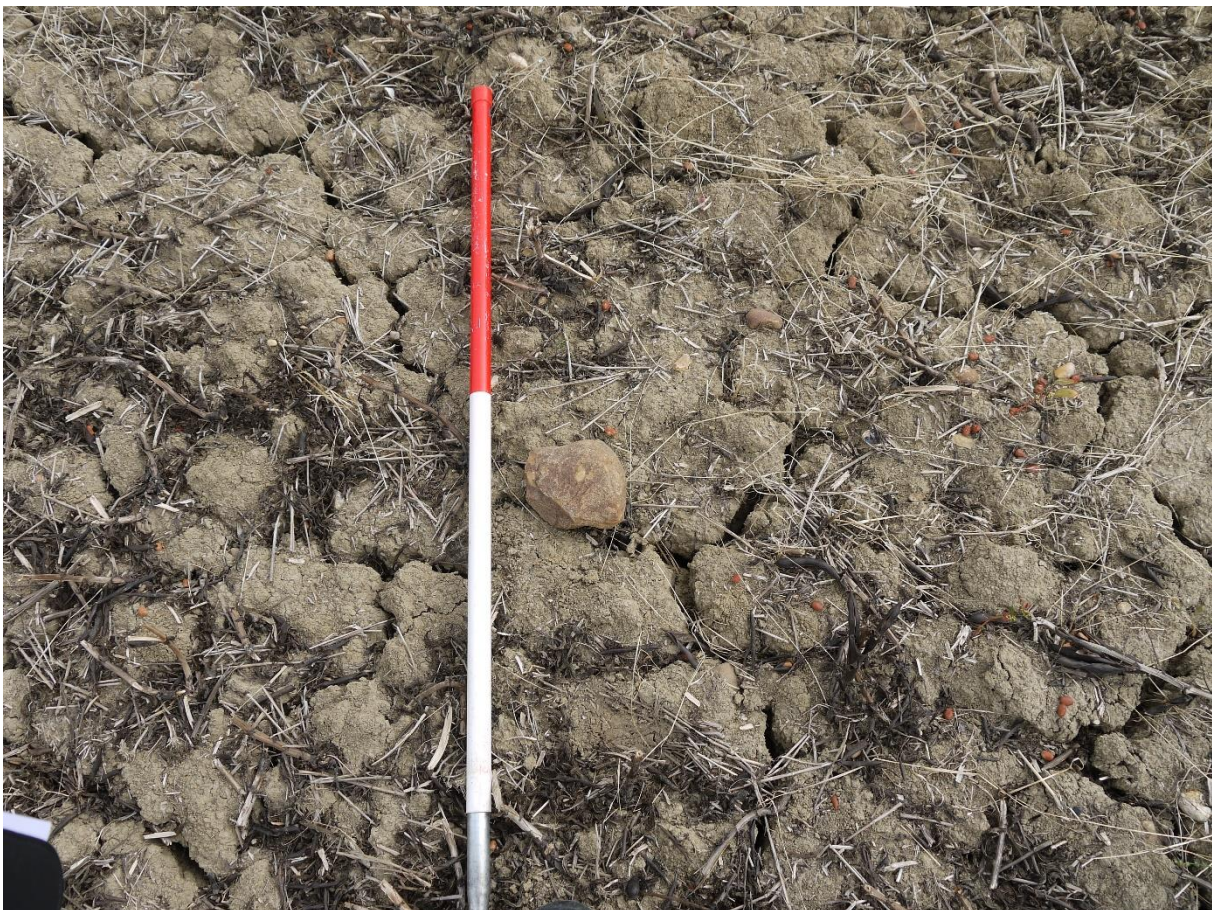
29

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dc/Bodleian Libraries%2C A map of the County of Oxford_5.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dc/Bodleian_Libraries%2C_A_map_of_the_County_of_Oxford_5.jpg) [accessed 19/10/2022]

- 5.4.59. By the time of the survey of the 4th Edition map of 1952 there were no changes in the PDA but some additional buildings had been constructed in the north-west area of Stratton Audley. The village had increased little in the 20th century. The 1983 National Grid 1:10 000 (Illus 15) showed a little more expansion of the settlement. It also showed some changes to field boundaries within the PDA, with the amalgamation of some fields in the north of the PDA resulting in 11 fields reduced to seven fields.
- 5.4.60. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. These may be present as material relating to contemporary agricultural practise (such as manuring of domestic rubbish) but they will be of negligible importance.

UNDATED

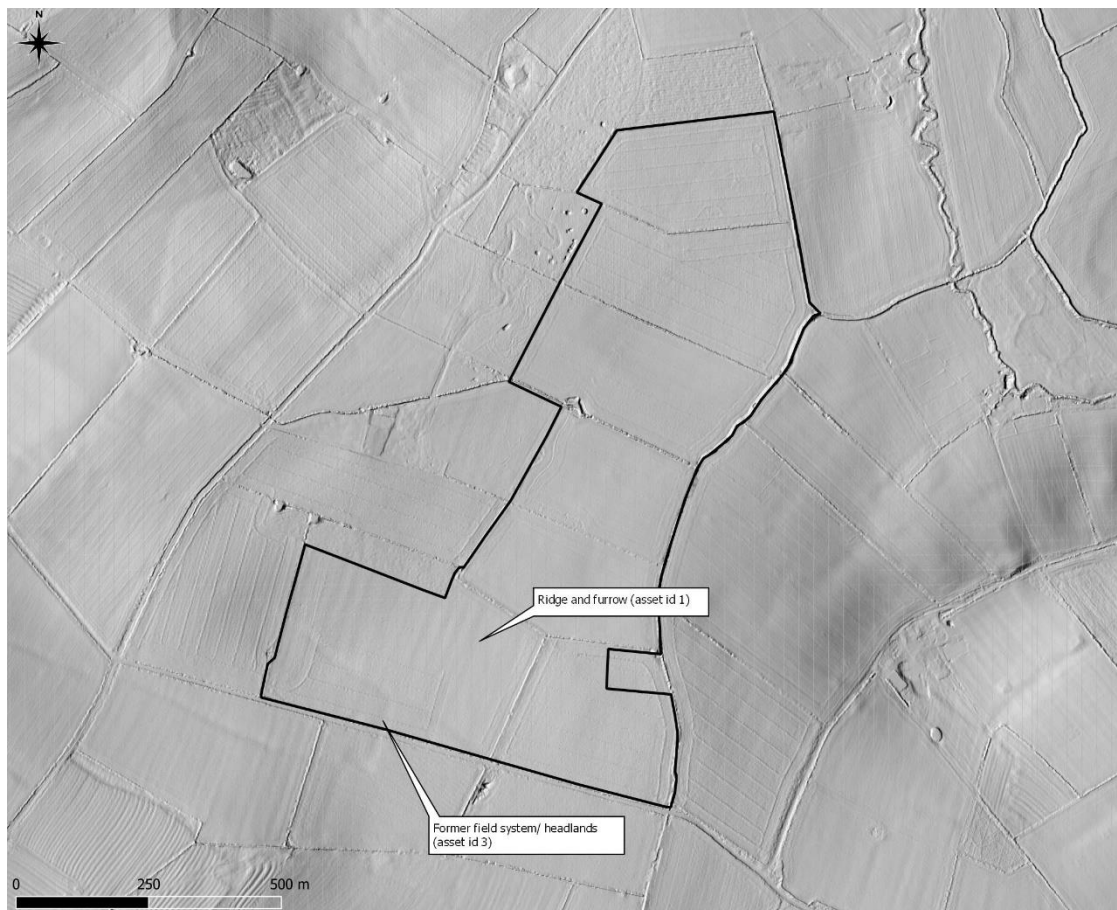
- 5.4.61. There are three undated features in the HER, A small curvilinear enclosure (17473) is located 1.5 km south-west of the PDA, identified as a crop mark in aerial photographs from the 1961 Fairey AP series. The feature is D-shaped and is suggested as recent as it is distinct.
- 5.4.62. Another enclosure (17475) was identified from aerial photographs 860 m north of the PDA, it is rectangular with rounded corners.
- 5.4.63. A field system of unknown date (15973) is recorded 1.1 km to the east of the PDA, comprising conjoined rectilinear enclosures they too were identified from aerial photography from the 1961 Fairey AP series.
- 5.4.64. Assessment of photographs at the National Monuments Archive and the Oxfordshire History Centre collection on-line found a possible cropmark feature in the western edge of the PDA near Pool Farm (Heritage asset 2, Illus 11, Illus 16), this is a rectangular feature (aligned north-south) with parallel linear features connecting to it from the south or two sets of parallel lines. It was identified in Fairy 1961, 6125/14007³⁰. It is possible this is a former enclosure or part of a field boundary, predating the map sources.



Illus 13. Large burnt flint in the south-west field

³⁰ <https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk/images/POX0456071> Oxfordshire History Centre [last accessed 31/10/22]

- 5.4.65. The geophysical survey did not find these features in their results but the cropmarks are crossed by a buried service (Figure 5, in the Geophysical Survey Report, Padbury Brook Solar Farm, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSP1362A) which could mask their signal.
- 5.4.66. The site visit found large amounts of burnt flint and stone within the site, these were mainly small in size (1cm-4cm) although larger examples were also present. They were most numerous in the southern fields although found distributed throughout the PDA (heritage asset 4, Illus 13) . The origin of this may be post medieval soil improvement through the addition of chalk or burnt lime. Burnt flint is also a feature sometimes found in relation to prehistoric sites and might suggest a ploughed out burnt mound. The geophysical survey in September 2022 found a number of discrete anomalies with inverted dipolar signal, characteristic magnetic signal that is sometimes associated with burning events. These discrete areas were found in the south (areas 2 & 3 in the geophysical report) and in the north of the PDA (area 7), (see Figures 8, 10, 14 and 20 in the Geophysical Survey Report, Padbury Brook Solar Farm, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSP1362A). This may support the latter suggestion.
- 5.4.67. The geophysical survey also found a number of weak linear and curvilinear anomalies, of undetermined origin, particularly in the northern two fields, (see Figure 6 in the Geophysical Survey Report, Padbury Brook Solar Farm, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSP1362A).

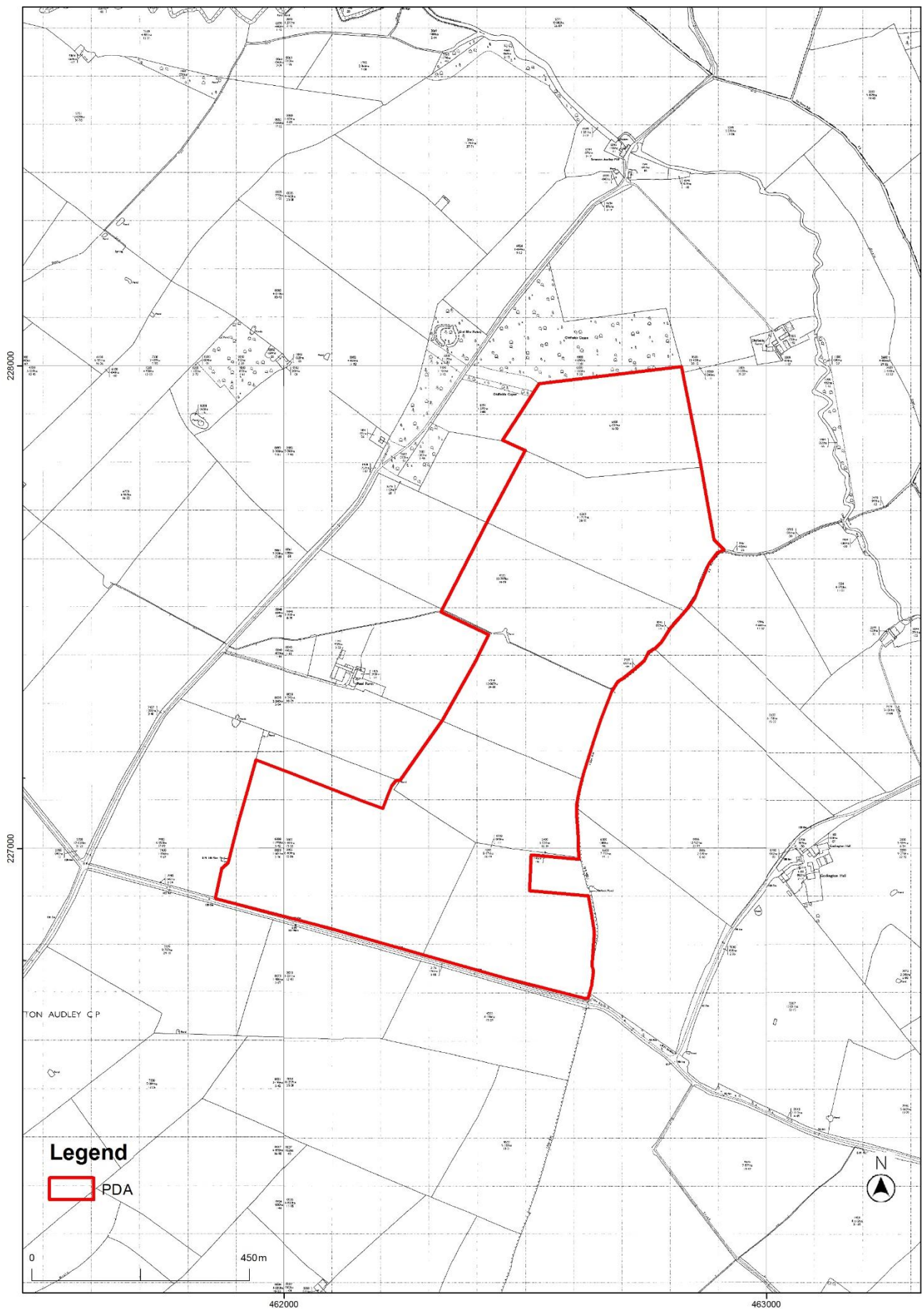


Illus 14. LiDAR from 2020 showing 1m DTM, hillshade with 'Z' exaggeration x3

5.5. IMPORTANT HEDGEROWS

PARISH BOUNDARIES

- 5.5.1. The parish boundary for Stratton Audley runs along the eastern edge of the PDA.
- 5.5.2. This may be 'important' hedgerows' in accordance with Criterion 1 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations which potentially could be impacted by the proposed development (heritage asset 5, Illus 11, Illus 16).



Illus 15. National Grid 1:10 000 map from 1983

HERITAGE ASSETS

- 5.5.3. There are non-designated heritage assets located within the site. The PDA may contain 'important' hedgerows' in accordance with Criteria 2 and 3 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations will be impacted by the proposed development.

PRE-INCLOSURE FIELD BOUNDARIES

- 5.5.4. Hedgerows are present within and enclosing the PDA. No early map evidence is available to help determine the date of hedgerows. There have been changes in the arrangement of fields within the PDA especially in the south which may have occurred during inclosure in 1780. It is possible the earliest map evidence from 1797 which showed three field division was the initial enclosure of the PDA. The earliest layout which is partly visible in aerial photo evidence of surviving ridge and furrow suggests that the eastern edge of the PDA and some field divisions in the north and middle areas do follow the layout suggested in the earthworks. It is likely that some of the field boundaries predate inclosure. These are likely to be of substantial age, potentially indicating increased archaeological potential. And may qualify for protection under Criterion 5 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations.

5.6. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL

- 5.6.1. There is no evidence to suggest there are palaeoenvironmental remains present within the PDA.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE

6.1. KNOWN AND POTENTIAL HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE PDA

6.1.1. The known heritage assets within the PDA are:

- Remnant ridge and furrow (heritage asset 1, Illus 11)
- Crop mark of a possible field boundary or enclosure (heritage asset 2, Illus 11)
- Crop mark of a former headland of ridge and furrow (heritage asset 3, Illus 11)
- Burnt flint and stones (throughout PDA, more frequent in southern fields) (heritage asset 4, Illus 13)
- Hedgerows following parish boundary (heritage asset 5, Illus 11)

6.1.2. Evidence from the study area suggests the archaeological potential of the PDA is low for prehistoric periods, with the exception of the Bronze Age which is low to medium. It is low to medium for Roman deposits. Although there is no direct evidence for Bronze Age or Roman remains the level is suggested due to the proximity of sites of these dates within the wider study area.

6.1.3. The potential for below ground deposits is medium for the medieval period, and any such remains are likely to relate to agricultural activity. This assessment identifies that there is a low potential for below ground archaeological remains to be present within the footprint of the PDA for all other periods. Although post medieval or modern remains may be present, these are likely to be negligible or low significance.

6.1.4. There is evidence for the presence of ridge and furrow in both aerial photos from the 20th century and in more recent LiDAR data. Agricultural practice during recent decades (ploughing) appears to have heavily truncated the upstanding earthworks. This suggests that archaeological remains at the site will have been degraded. In the absence of other development activities, there remains a potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to survive at the site beneath the modern plough horizon. Typically these take the form of cut features, although surfaces and truncated structural remains can also survive in rural sites such as is being considered here. There remains a potential for archaeological material to be present at the site.

6.2. SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE PDA

6.2.1. The remnant ridge and furrow (heritage asset 1) and cropmark of the former headland (heritage asset 3) are degraded survivors of once extensive agricultural earthworks. Their value is from their archaeological significance. The fragmentary nature and current condition of the remains would suggest they are of negligible importance.

6.2.2. The cropmark (heritage asset 2) in the west is less clear in its origin, although it has been speculated that it is a former field boundary or enclosure. The value of this asset comes from its archaeological significance and is of low importance.

6.2.3. The find of burnt stone spread in the PDA is also of negligible importance, the distribution of material is wider and the origin of the material is uncertain and it has low value.

6.2.4. The hedgerows along the western edge of the PDA follow the old parish boundary and will have been established for a long period of time. They have evidential value and archaeological value and as non-designated assets they are of low importance.

6.3. SETTING OF HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE STUDY AREA

6.3.1. This assessment does not address the built heritage outside of the site boundary. There are 16 listed buildings in the wider study area. Assessment of their heritage significance and importance, the contribution setting makes to their heritage significance and an assessment of the development impact is considered elsewhere.

6.3.2. The potential receptors of setting effects include the conservation area in Stratton Audley and the scheduled monument of the moated site of a former castle (1006347) which is also located within it. These are at least 1 km to the south of the PDA, there is no intervisibility with the PDA and the PDA does not appear in key views towards these assets. No setting effects on these assets are expected from the proposed scheme.

- 6.3.3. Stratton Audley Park, is a small mid 19th century park and house is located c.900 m to the west. The park is not recorded in the HER, nor is it designated. Today there is little surviving of the original gardens and park. There is no evidence for any designed landscape views, especially in a park of this scale and the property is surrounded by mature mixed tree planting. There is likely to be minimal intervisibility and no potential setting effects have been identified.

7. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 7.1.1. The proposed development (Appendix B) comprises the installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, switchgear container, inverter/transformer units, Site access, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.
- 7.1.2. The expected life span of the development is 40 years. The solar PV array type is not yet determined as fixed or tracked and the capacity is up to 44 MW. The proposal includes the following components:
- Deer Fencing, fitted with Mammal pass-through points.
 - Battery Containers
 - Client Storage Cabinet
 - Client Substations
 - DNO Substation
 - Fencing and CCTV Cameras
 - Landscaping Works
 - Internal Access Tracks
 - Other Associated Infrastructure

8. PREDICTED IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

8.1. DIRECT IMPACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

- 8.1.1. The assessment presented in this report has considered the known archaeological and heritage resource within and surrounding the application site in order to establish the potential constraints and implications for construction of a residential development.
- 8.1.2. Direct impacts upon buried archaeological remains have the potential to occur during development as a result of intrusive groundworks. The development proposals comprise the construction which may remove previously unknown buried archaeological remains within its footprint. Activities which may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains include construction enabling works, any areas of cut and fill, bulk excavation and topsoil stripping, site compound establishment and excavations for access, footings, roads, utilities, drainage and landscaping.
- 8.1.3. Development activities within the site as described above have the potential to truncate or remove buried archaeological remains, resulting in a direct impact on these assets. The archaeological significance of surviving remains will be directly impacted by groundworks associated with construction activity within the PDA.
- 8.1.4. Archaeological potential suggests that buried deposits within the site are most likely to be agricultural remains of the medieval period and are likely to be of low significance. There is also a low to medium potential for remains from the Mesolithic, Roman or Bronze Age.
- 8.1.5. There are known remains within the PDA comprising crop marks of a former headland and possible enclosure, ridge and furrow earthworks and burnt stone. The geophysical survey also suggests the potential for discrete burning events which may suggest the site of former prehistoric burnt mounds. These are all assets of low to negligible importance. There are also undetermined linear and curvilinear features which may or may not be archaeological in origin.
- 8.1.6. The potential impact from the installation of solar panels is typically 7-10% of the total development area through dispersed foundations, cable runs and discrete infrastructure. A compound will be located in the south-west and will impact directly on the cropmark of the former headland (heritage asset 3). The tracks mainly follow existing footpaths along the edge of the fields.
- 8.1.7. Dependent on the implementation of the scheme, the current surviving ridge and furrow and crop marks could potentially benefit from the proposal by removing these from further damage from modern ploughing.

IMPORTANT HEDGEROWS

- 8.1.8. Permission will need to be sought from the LPA for the removal of a hedgerow which has been identified as 'important' under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. It is not anticipated that this would be cited as a reason to refuse planning consent for the proposed development.
- 8.1.9. The majority of the hedgerows within and surrounding the PDA are unlikely to be affected by the proposed development and as such the historic landscape grain will be protected.

8.2. SETTING IMPACTS

- 8.2.1. Setting impacts upon heritage assets in the area surrounding the site may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the development causing visual or other sensory changes (such as noise, light, movement) within their settings, such that our ability to appreciate the significance of the asset as adversely (or beneficially) affected.
- 8.2.2. No heritage assets sensitive to visual change which have been identified within the visual envelope of the proposed development are likely to experience and setting effects due to the distance and lack of visibility with the PDA, this includes a conservation area and scheduled monument. A non-designated mid 19th century small park is not expected to experience any significant setting effects as it is well screened by tree, the gardens are much degraded for setting to contribute to its significance. Any change introduced by the likely nature of

the proposed development, and the receiving environment, means that setting impacts are unlikely to be significant.

- 8.2.3. We are not concerned principally with what is visible today. Whilst the view was historically important and remains so today, it's the historic context of that view which you are concerned with.
- 8.2.4. Also consider in terms of development of the site. Is there a clean line of sight between the proposals and the asset/building or does screening reduce the sensitivity? Also remember that greenery is seasonal.

8.3. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 8.3.1. The historic landscape character will not actually be changed by the proposed development due to the maintenance of the hedgerow within the scheme.



Illus 16. Potential assets identified in the PDA

9. HERITAGE RISK

9.1. DISCUSSION

- 9.1.1. The primary archaeological risk to the scheme lies in the potential for the presence of archaeological remains at the site of such importance that planning consent would be refused: there is no evidence for the presence of such remains, and the known remains are considered to be of low importance.
- 9.1.2. A secondary risk is related to what, if any archaeological investigations the planning authority may require, either predetermination investigations to accompany a planning application and/or a programme of works secured as a condition of consent. There is a potential for the survival of archaeological remains at the site whilst the known assets are considered to be of low importance
- 9.1.3. Given the large scale of solar schemes, and relatively small physical impact, it is often considered disproportionate to request large scale fixed percentage trial trenching prior to determination.
- 9.1.4. The archaeological potential of the PDA is medium for medieval, low to medium for Bronze Age, Roman and Mesolithic and low for all other periods. There are likely to be deposits relating to agricultural activity and are not expected to be higher than low importance. Remains of Bronze Age, Roman or Mesolithic period may be of greater significance but are less likely to be present.
- 9.1.5. Surviving ridge and furrow, headland and other cropmark, as well as the potential features identified by geophysics will be impacted by construction activity associated with the proposed development.
- 9.1.6. Archaeological remains at the site would largely be protected from future degradation by removing the PDA from modern farming practice which has mostly destroyed the ridge and furrow which was present in the PDA.
- 9.1.7. Based on the likelihood of buried archaeological remains being present within the site and their importance, the potential direct impacts upon known heritage assets arising from the proposed development are not considered to be sufficiently significant prevent development of the site.
- 9.1.8. It is possible that the local authority will require further assessment of the site's archaeological potential and mitigation of the development impact on archaeological remains as necessary and appropriate. Such works should be proportionate to the importance of the remains and significance of the impacts, and in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.
- 9.1.9. A geophysical survey of the PDA has already been undertaken.
- 9.1.10. Further assessment and mitigation could be required as follows:
- A programme of site investigation comprising targeted archaeological trial trenching to inform any further mitigation work; and
 - Dependent upon the result of the above, a programme of archaeological mitigation works such as a watching brief of groundworks for the construction of any haul roads, temporary compounds, laydown areas, or set piece excavation prior to any development within the footprint of the proposed new substation or part thereof.
- 9.1.11. Further investigations could be structured to take place post-determination, but this is typically negotiated with the LPA's archaeological advisor in light of the extant archaeological evidence presented here.
- 9.1.12. Any such works should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeological organisation in accordance with a written specification agreed in advance with the Local Planning Authority.

9.2. POTENTIAL SETTING IMPACTS

- 9.2.1. This assessment does not include built heritage. Within the remit of this assessment no likely significant setting impacts upon non-built heritage assets have been identified as a result of the proposed development.

10. CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1.1. This desk-based assessment has considered the likely impact that future development would have on potential below-ground archaeological remains within the PDA, and the setting of heritage assets within the Study Area, in accordance with planning policy and guidance.
- 10.1.2. It is intended that this report contains sufficient objective data to enable an informed and reasonable decision to be made regarding whether further investigation and mitigation is required at the proposed development site, in consultation with the local planning authority archaeological advisors.
- 10.1.3. The assessment located crop marks of a former headland, a possible enclosure, degraded ridge and furrow, possibly important hedgerows and a stone spread of burnt flint and burning events seen in geophysics which may indicate the site of former burnt mounds.
- 10.1.4. The likely development impacts are not considered sufficiently significant to warrant refusal of a planning application to develop the site. The likely development impacts are considered to be of a level of significance that they could be adequately mitigated through a staged programme of archaeological investigations. The need for, scope and scale of such works is suggested below for agreement with the LPA.
- 10.1.5. It is possible that the local authority will require further assessment of the site's archaeological potential.
- 10.1.6. It is recommended that, wherever feasible, the proposed development is adjusted such that the known archaeological remains including any historic field boundaries and hedgerows identified within the PDA are preserved in situ. Where this isn't feasible, development impacts can be mitigated by advance excavation and recording.
- 10.1.7. In accordance with the requirements of the NPPF, any subsequent mitigation should be proportionate to the importance of the remains and significance of the impacts as determined through evaluation.
- 10.1.8. No likely significant setting impacts upon designated or non-designated heritage assets have been identified as a result of the proposed development although the scope of this report is limited as the built heritage is not included in this assessment which is covered in another report.

GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Designated Heritage Asset	Assets registered on the National Heritage List for England. These may be protected by primary legislation (e.g. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments) or have a non-statutory designation (e.g. World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, registered parks and gardens, designated wrecks)
Heritage Asset NPPF (Annex 2)	<p>“A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.”</p> <p>Some heritage assets are designated as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, or locally designated through policies in the Local Plan. Undesignated assets may be recorded in Historic Environment Records, while many other assets are currently unrecorded.</p> <p>Information contained in HERs and SMRs is not definitive, since they may include features which, for instance, have been entirely removed, or are of uncertain location, dubious identification, or negligible importance. The identification of undesignated heritage assets is therefore to some extent a matter of professional judgement.</p> <p>Both discrete features, and extensive landscapes defined by a specific historic event, process or theme, can be defined as heritage assets; and assets may overlap or be nested within one another.</p>
Listed Building	A building or structure which is considered to be of ‘special architectural or historic interest’
Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Assets identified by the local planning authority or national registers for the historic environment which have no formal designation but are considered to have a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. These can include locally listed buildings, information on sites held by the relevant Historic Environment Record and National Record of the Historic Environment
Archaeological Site (also ‘Monuments’)	Heritage assets which may consist of surface and/or sub-surface remains, features, deposits and/or material relating to past human activity with a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
Significance: NPPF	“the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting”
Significance: GAPN 2	“The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its archaeological, architectural, historic, and artistic interest. A variety of terms are used in designation criteria (for example, outstanding universal value for World Heritage Sites, national importance for scheduled monuments and special interest for listed buildings and conservation areas), but all of these refer to a heritage asset’s significance.”

Term	Definition
Significance: NPPF (PPG para 6) and Historic England guidance Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (2019, HEAN 12)	<p>Cultural values in the historic environment that people want to enjoy and sustain for the benefit of present and future generations.</p> <p>Archaeological - There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point;</p> <p>Architectural - These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types;</p> <p>Artistic - Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture;</p> <p>Historic - An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation’s history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.</p>
Setting: NPPF	<p>“The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate the significance or may be neutral” (an extended consideration of Setting is contained in GAPN 3)</p>

TERMS

Term	Definition
Artefact	An item of archaeological interest
Baseline	‘Baseline conditions’ are the environmental conditions in existence just before the occurrence of an impact – i.e. they are the conditions that would be affected.
Bronze Age	The period of human activity between 2,500 BCE and 700 BCE
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A plan prepared by a contractor before the start of construction work, detailing ‘environmental aspects’ that may be affected by the construction work and management methods to prevent any such effects. The CEMP would include methods and site management practices to be applied to prevent generation of nuisance dust, accidental pollution events and a range of other potential sources of accidental damage to the environment, and response and reporting procedures to minimise the damage in the event of a pollution incident.
Construction activity	Vegetation removal, topsoil stripping, temporary storage of materials, ground excavation and remodelling, bare earth, movement of construction vehicles and tall features such as cranes and other construction plant.
Desk study	A collation and review of relevant existing information available from published, archival or online sources, including for instance geological and hydrogeological mapping, historical maps, environmental records etc., allowing an assessment of risks to the human and environmental receptors to be undertaken.

Term	Definition
Earthworks	The moving of soil or rock to reconfigure the topography of a site.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An assessment of certain types of major project of the significant effects that the project could have on the environment. The applicant is required to carry out the assessment by law, in this case under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 2017.
Environmental Statement (ES)	The report on the results of the EIA.
Fieldwalking survey	Method of systematic non-intrusive survey involving walking across a plough field along transects to collect archaeological artefacts.
Geology	Geology is the study of solid earth, the material of which it is composed (principally rocks) and the processes by which they evolve.
Geophysical survey	Method of non-intrusive investigation involving the use of magnetometers to identify fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field which might indicate the presence of archaeological remains. Burnt remains and metals are best identified through this method of survey.
Heritage asset	An item of heritage interest, for example an historic building or an archaeological find.
Historic Environment Records (HER)	A database maintained by individual counties or local authorities, containing records of archaeological sites, historic buildings and other aspects.
Historic landscape character types (HLCT)	Historic landscape character types are distinctive and repeated combinations of components defining generic historic landscapes such as 'ancient woodland' or 'parliamentary enclosure'. The types used in this study were defined based on evidence from historic maps and other sources.
Iron Age	The period of human activity between 700 BCE and 43 CE
Made Ground	Ground created by infilling an area with material taken from elsewhere; typically, reworked soils, rubble, gravel, sand or former waste material e.g. ash.
Medieval	The period of human activity between 1066 CE and 1550 CE
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age. The period of human activity between 10,000 BCE and 4,500 BCE.
Metal detector survey	Method of intrusive investigation involving the use of metal detectors to locate buried metal objects.
Mitigation	Measures which have the purpose of avoiding, reducing or compensating for adverse environmental impacts. It may also include measures to create environmental benefits.
Modern	The period of human activity from 1900 to the present day

Term	Definition
National Mapping Programme (NMP)	A project funded by Historic England and local councils involving assessment and interpretation of aerial photographs and other remote sensing data, such as LiDAR.
Neolithic	New Stone Age. The period of human activity between 4,500 BCE and 2,500 BCE
Ordnance Datum	The standard measure of sea level in the UK, from which all heights are measured for mapping purposes.
Palaeolithic	Old Stone Age. The period of human and pre-human activity before around 10,000 BCE
Photomontage	A photorealistic image of the scheme, based on a 3D computer model of the scheme, overlaid onto a base photograph to visually represent the scheme. Features that would be removed as part of the scheme are removed from the base photograph.
Post-medieval	The period of human activity between 1550 CE and 1900 CE
Prehistoric	The period before the year 43 CE
Receptor	The existing environmental feature that would be affected by an impact – for instance a specific archaeological site
Requirement	A requirement listed as a condition of planning permission
Roman	The period of human activity between 43 CE and 410 CE
Saxon	The period of human activity between 410 CE and 1066 CE
Statutory Consultation	Community and stakeholder consultation carried out in line with the statutory requirements set out in s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008
Statutory consultees	Organisations that the Client is required to consult under s42 of the Planning Act 2008. Statutory consultees are listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP 2009
Zone of Theoretical Influence (ZVI)	The zone from which the scheme could theoretically impart an impact based partly on visibility and professional judgement
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	The zone from which the scheme is theoretically visible over 'bare earth'

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (above sea-level)
AP	Aerial Photograph
ASA	Archaeologically Sensitive Area
BCE	Before Common Era

BGS	British Geological Survey
BH	Borehole
C	Century
c.	Circa
CA	Conservation Area
CBM	Ceramic building material
CE	Common Era
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
DBA	Desk-based Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DMV/SMV	Deserted/Shrunken Medieval Village
EMS	Environmental Management System certified to ISO 14001: 2004
ES	Environmental Statement
Eval.	Evaluation Trial Trenching
Geophys.	Geophysical Survey
HA	Headland Archaeology
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Character(isation)
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
LB	Listed Building
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MLWS	Mean low water springs
NGR	National Grid Reference
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
NRHE	National Record of the Historic Environment
OS	Ordnance Survey
R&F	Ridge and Furrow (earthwork cultivation)
RO	Registered Organisation (with CIfA)
RPG	Registered Park & Garden
SM	Scheduled Monument
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SMS	'Strip, Map and Sample'
WB	Watching Brief
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation (project design or method statement)
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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National Grid 1:2500 1st Edition 1976

National Grid 1:10 000 1983

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Prints held by National Monument Archives, Swindon

OBLIQUE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Film and frame number	Original number	Date	Film type	
SP 6025 / 8	NMR 18541	/ 18	16 NOV 1999	Colour neg	35 mm
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APPENDIX A: KNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

NEWLY IDENTIFIED HERITAGE ASSETS

Ref	Type	Name	Summary	Period	Importance
1	Earthwork	Ridge and furrow	Surviving area of ridge and furrow seen in LiDAR	Medieval?	Negligible
2	Cropmark	Rectangular area and parallel linears	Possible field boundary or enclosure	Medieval/Post medieval	Low
3	Cropmark	Linear of former headland	Formed from the headland of ridge and furrow, now destroyed	Medieval?	Low/negligible
4	Findspot	Spread of burnt stones, found across PDA, especially in the southern fields	Possibly deposited during improvement to fields or remains of a prehistoric burnt mound	Unknown	Negligible
5	Hedgerows	Hedgerows along the parish boundary	Maybe of some antiquity	Unknown	Low

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HER:

PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Summary	MonType	Period
579001000	MON	GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY	Historical records of the nineteenth century railway	RAILWAY	19th Century
MBC31465	FS	Godington (known as)		FINDSPOT	16th Century to Late Iron Age
MBC31478	FS	Godington	Neolithic flint tool found during metal-detecting rally	FINDSPOT	Unknown
MBC31480	FS	Godington (known as)		FINDSPOT	11th Century to 16th Century
MBC31481	FS	Godington (known as)		FINDSPOT	11th Century to 16th Century

762500000	MON	Ring ditch visible as cropmark	Ring ditch, visible as a cropmark on 1940s aerial photograph.	RING DITCH	Bronze Age
MBC39670	FS	Chetwode	Roman tile found whilst metal-detecting	FINDSPOT	Unknown
MBC39671	FS	Chetwode	Roman tile found whilst metal detecting	FINDSPOT	Unknown

OXFORDSHIRE HER:

PrefRef	Record Type	Name	MonType	Summary	Period
12226	MON	Bronze Age Ring Ditch	RING DITCH	Large ring ditch; identified from APs.	Bronze Age
15972	MON	Probable Bronze Age Ring Ditch	ROUND BARROW	Identified by APU staff at RCHME as round barrow.	Bronze Age
5134	MON	Civil War Battery (Stuttle's Bank)	HILLFORT?; BATTERY	Circular earthwork bank with hollow occupying east side of centre; formerly possibly interpreted as Danish hillfort.	Early Iron Age to Post Medieval
28615	BLD	1914-1918 War memorial N of Church of St Mary and Edburga	WAR MEMORIAL	War memorial c.1920 by W R Lethaby. Limestone.	First World War to Early 20th Century
5556	FS	Iron Age Pottery	FINDSPOT	Identified from Ashmolean 6" map.	Iron Age
29848	MON	Later Prehistoric Hut Circle Settlement	HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT; RING DITCH	Cropmarks of a large number of ring ditches thought to be hut circles associated with a later prehistoric settlement visible on aerial photographs. The settlement remains extend over an area 200m across but no evidence of a surrounding enclosure can be	Later Prehistoric
970	MON	Site of Medieval Grange, Poodle Farm	GRANGE	A history back to the C13 stands on site of a grange of Missendon Abbey. Not clear from MVRG file if a hamlet or a farm only.	Medieval

5113	BLD	Medieval Cross Base, Church of St Mary and Edburga	CROSS	Medieval cross stands on the north side of the medieval church near the churchyard and wall. Included for group value.	Medieval
1125	MON	Moated Site in Stratton Audley	MOAT	Site consists of a large moat, square, with two very deep arms. Area is 90m by 95m. Although masonry is indicated on OS map, none is visible on ground surface. Area is grazed.	Medieval
5135	BLD	Holy Trinity Church, Main Street	CHURCH	Circular font is only relic of medieval church. Church about to fall down in 1790 and rebuilt in 1792 and restored in 1852 and 1905.	Medieval to Edwardian
29	BLD	Fringford Mill and Millhouse, A421	WATERMILL; MILL HOUSE	Watermill and millhouse. C18 with possible medieval origins. C19 and C20 repairs and alterations.	Medieval to Late 20th Century
5138	BLD	The Manor House, Mill Street	MANOR HOUSE; FLATS	Manor house, now flats. Mid C16th with C19th and C20th rebuilding of house on garden side.	Medieval to Late 20th Century
1064	MON	Godington Medieval Shrunken Village	SHRUNKEN VILLAGE	Church and 3 farms remain at site. Village depopulated between c.1450-c.1700. Medium quality earthworks (1963).	Medieval to Post Medieval
1124	BLD	Moat Farmhouse, Main street	MOAT; FARMHOUSE	Dated 1672/CGB on weathervane and WF 1782 on front elevation. A rectangular moat with a short continuation on the north side towards the east and completely enclosing the house and outhouses with entrance from south.	Medieval to Post Medieval
5136	MON	Probable Post Medieval Fishponds	FISHPOND	In the north of Stratton are 2 large fishponds connected by sluices; near them are traces of excavations made early in the C19 by Sir John Barlase Warren in the vain hope of finding coal. Date of ponds not known.	Medieval to Post Medieval

5136	MON	Probable Post Medieval Fishponds	FISHPOND	In the north of Stratton are 2 large fishponds connected by sluices; near them are traces of excavations made early in the C19 by Sir John Barlase Warren in the vain hope of finding coal. Date of ponds not known.	Medieval to Post Medieval
5139	BLD	Church of St Mary and St Edburga, Church Lane	CHURCH	Dating from Early English to late Perpendicular (C14th and C15th) in style with extensive Victorian restoration in 1861.	Medieval to Post Medieval
5555	MON	Shrunken Medieval Village	SHRUNKEN VILLAGE	2 closes SW of church have earthworks of house platforms and traces of crofts and roadways. 1833 1" edition shows 3 cottages in this area which have now disappeared.	Medieval to Post Medieval
19261	BLD	Headstone approximately 8 metres S of South Aisle, Church of St Mary and Edburga, Church Lane	GRAVESTONE	Headstone. C17.	Post Medieval
19262	BLD	Headstone Approx 3m NE of North Aisle, Church of St Mary and St Edburga, Church Lane	GRAVESTONE	Headstone. C17.	Post Medieval
235	MON	Site of Brick, Tile and Drainpipe Works, SW of Fringford Hill	BRICKWORKS; TILE WORKS; KILN; CLAY PIT	Numerous documentary references, mainly of incumbent brick and tile makers, from 1861 census onwards up until 1919.	Post Medieval
238	BLD	Post Medieval Smithy	BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP	Small brick building with Welsh slate roof, stable door on south side.	Post Medieval
10213	MON	Site of Toll House	TOLL HOUSE	Site of Fringford Tollgate.	Post Medieval
11842	MON	Site of Brick Kiln, E of Poodle Gorse	BRICK KILN	Shown on 1st edition OS Geological Map but not on 25" OS map.	Post Medieval
19260	BLD	The Red Lion Public House, Church Lane	PUBLIC HOUSE	Public house. C18 with later alterations.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
19266	BLD	The Plough House, Mill Street	HOUSE; SITE; INN	Two houses, now one house. C18 with roof raised later and with C20 alterations.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century

19264	BLD	Elm Farmhouse, Barn approximately 50 metres N, Mill Street	BARN	Barn. Late C17 with C20 repairs.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
19259	BLD	The Willows Farmhouse, Cherry Street	FARMHOUSE; SITE; OUTBUILDING	Farmhouse. C17 origins with C18, C19 and C20 alterations and additions.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
19265	BLD	1 & 2, Church Lane	HOUSE	Row of 2 cottages. Mid C18 with later alterations in C18 and C20.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
27	BLD	Watermill (Corn), Now House	CORN MILL; HOUSE	Shown on OS map. Mill building remains at north end of block, now converted to a house. Water passes beneath building and the arches of wheel position can be seen.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
16047	BLD	Elm Farmhouse & Dairy/Stable Range, Mill Street	FARMHOUSE; DAIRY; STABLE	C17th with C19th/20th alterations.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
16048	BLD	Bay Tree House, Mill Street	HOUSE	C17th with later additions and alterations.	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century
16908	MON	Possible Roman shrine at Stratton Audley	SHRINE?	Reported large assemblage of typical temple material: coins, pottery and votive objects found by numerous metal detectorists.	Roman
8922	LIN	Roman Road	ROAD	Margary Road 160a; section of Alchester to Towcester road.	Roman
3113	FS	Roman Coins	FINDSPOT	Roman coins frequently found in Stratton Audley fields.	Roman
17473	MON	Small curvilinear enclosure S of Stratton Audley	D SHAPED ENCLOSURE	Small curvilinear enclosure identified as a cropmark in NMR aerial photos. Possibly modern, as it is distinct.	Unknown
17475	MON	Rectangular enclosure S of Watergate Farm	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE	Three side of a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners identified as a cropmark in NMR aerial photos.	Unknown
15973	MON	Undated Field System	FIELD SYSTEM	Identified as conjoined rectilinear enclosures by APU staff.	Unknown

DESIGNATED ASSETS

ListEntry	Name	Grade	Type
1046404	CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST EDBURGA	I	Listed Building
1046403	THE WILLOWS FARMHOUSE	II	Listed Building
1046405	BAY TREE HOUSE	II	Listed Building
1046444	FRINGFORD MILL AND ATTACHED MILLHOUSE	II	Listed Building
1046448	CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY	II	Listed Building
1193291	THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE	II	Listed Building
1193304	HEADSTONE APPROXIMATELY 8 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH AISLE, CHURCH OF ST MARY AND EDBURGA	II	Listed Building
1193317	THE PLOUGH HOUSE	II	Listed Building
1286217	ELM FARMHOUSE, BARN APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES NORTH	II	Listed Building
1286457	MOAT FARMHOUSE	II	Listed Building
1369801	ELM FARMHOUSE AND ABUTTING DAIRY/STABLE RANGE	II	Listed Building

1392244	HEADSTONE APPROXIMATELY 3 METRES NORTH EAST OF NORTH AISLE CHURCH OF ST MARY AND EDBURGA	II	Listed Building
1392245	1914-1918 WAR MEMORIAL APPROXIMATELY 6 METRES NORTH OF NORTH PORCH CHURCH OF ST MARY AND EDBURGA	II	Listed Building
1392246	BASE OF CHURCHYARD CROSS APPROXIMATELY 8 METRES NORTH OF PORCH CHURCH OF ST MARY AND EDBURGA	II	Listed Building
1392247	1 AND 2, CHURCH LANE	II	Listed Building
1392248	THE MANOR HOUSE	II	Listed Building
1006347	Moated site SE of church	n/a	Scheduled Monument
n/a	Stratton Audley	n/a	Conservation Area

APPENDIX B: DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUPPLIED BY CLIENT



REVISIONS:

- Initial design

Legend:

- Planning Red Line
- Landlord's property
- Inverter
- Battery stations
- Spare containers
- Customer switchgear container
- Solar panels
- Deer fence
- Overhead Lines
- Solar access track
- DND building & comms mast
- PROW
- Wildflower Meadow
- Drain/pond
- Hedges
- Construction compound
- CCTV Cameras
- Gate
- Permissive Path
- Tree/Hedge Planting



DATE: 12 October 2022

TITLE:
Padbury Brook

PROJECT TITLE:
Padbury Brook

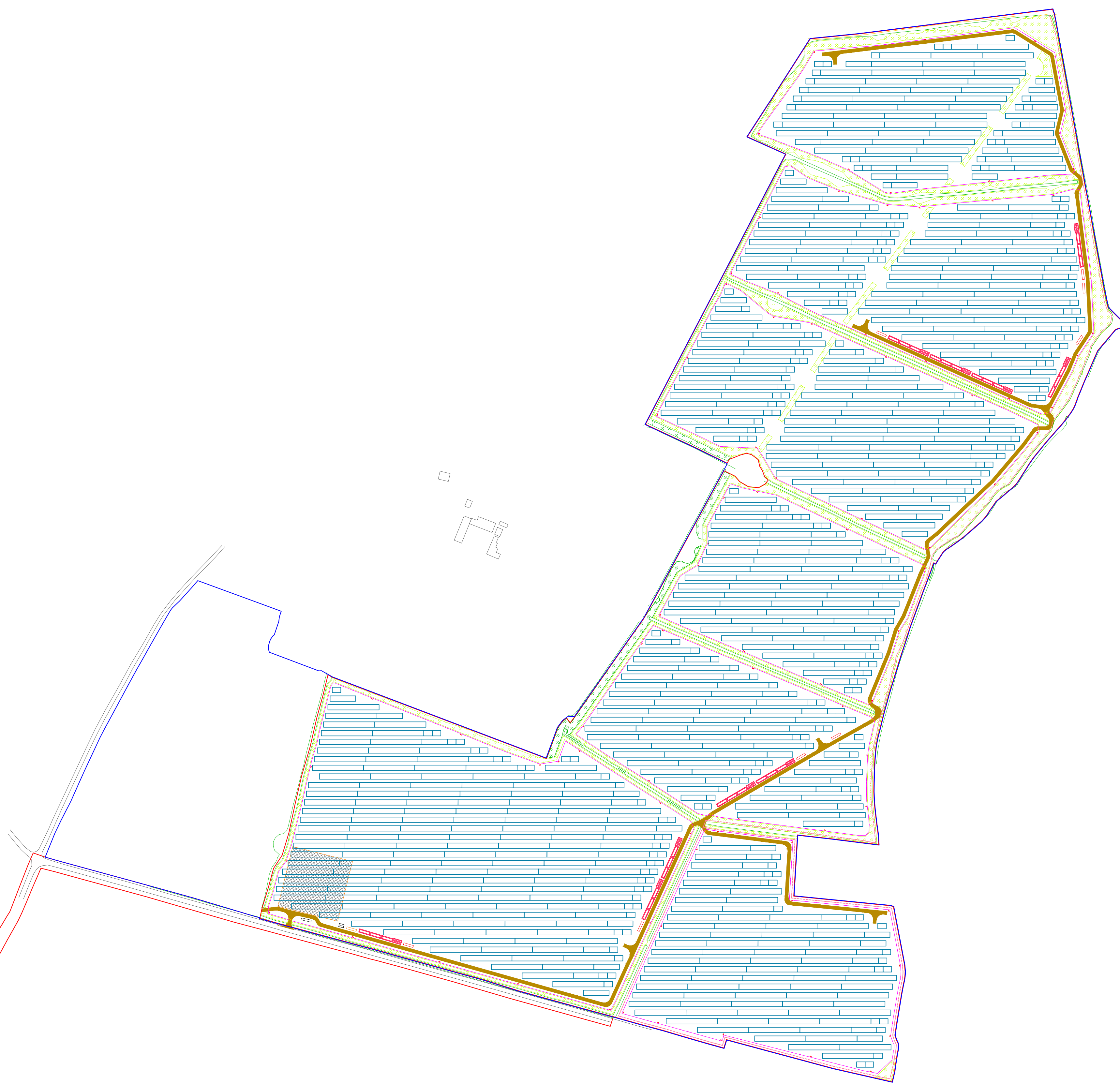
LOCATION:
OX27 0AD

CONFIGURATION:
Typical fixed design

REV: A

FILENAME:
20221012_A031_3P570B1.dwg

SCALE A1 @ 1:3000
0m 50m 100m 150m 200m 250m





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