Bicester Arc, Bicester, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Peveril Securities Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land north of Bicester Avenue Garden Centre, Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire; centred on NGR 457850 221584. The proposed development comprises the erection of a business park of up to 60,000 m² (GEA) of flexible Class B1(a) office / Class B1(b) research & development floorspace; associated vehicle parking, landscaping, highways, infrastructure and earthworks (Planning Application ref. 17/02534/OUT). A total of ten trenches were excavated, with nine trenches evaluating the area to the north west of the site and trench 10 evaluating the pond which is to be created 317 m to the south-east, within the proposed ecopark area.

Six trenches, contained archaeological features; five trenches contained linear features and one trench contained a pit. The pit and two of the linear features were dated to the medieval period, with continuity of use into the post-medieval period evidenced within one of the linear features (gully 4003), on the basis of material culture remains. The remaining linear features did not produce artefactual evidence and remain undated.

The archaeological features support previous evidence (evaluation and mapping) identifying multiple phases of agricultural usage of the area.

The evaluation was undertaken 23 – 27 October 2023.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Peveril Securities Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council, who monitored the project for Cherwell District Council, and to Sladen Estates for their cooperation and help on site.

Bicester Arc, Lakeview Drive

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Peveril Securities Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land north of Bicester Avenue Garden Centre, Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire; centred on NGR 457850 221584 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the erection of a business park of up to 60,000 m² (GEA) of flexible Class B1(a) office / Class B1(b) research & development floorspace; associated vehicle parking, landscaping, highways, infrastructure and earthworks.

1.1.3 This investigation evaluated the area to the north west of the site and the pond situated within the proposed ecopark area to the east (Fig. 1). The area to the west has previously been investigated (AOC 2018). This report constitutes the final area of archaeological investigation within the development. Sufficient archaeological evaluation has previously been carried out across the rest of the development area (Fig. 1).

1.1.4 A planning application (17/02534/OUT) submitted to Cherwell District Council, North Oxfordshire, was granted 06 May 2020, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 22 *Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

***Reason** – To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (2019). This information is required prior to commencement of any development on the appropriate phase as it is fundamental to the acceptability of the scheme.*

***Condition 23** Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 22, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research, and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.*

***Reason** – To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (2019).*

This information is required prior to commencement of any development on the appropriate phase as it is fundamental to the acceptability of the scheme.

1.1.5 The Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council was consulted and initially required pre-application investigation. This was amended on receipt of an evaluation report (AOC 2018) that demonstrated that the areas of archaeological interest did not extend into the site:

The archaeological evaluation did not record any significant archaeological deposits.

There remain archaeological deposits within this application site and across the wider Bicester 4 site. Should planning permission be granted, a staged programme of archaeological investigation will need to be undertaken across the site during the period of construction. This will need to be secured though appropriately worded conditions.

1.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.7 The evaluation, comprising nine trial trenches (trenches 32 – 40) in the north west area of the development, and an additional trench (trench 41) targeting the pond area situated within the proposed ecopark area was undertaken 23 – 27 October 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development is located within the fold of the A41 as it turns from north-west to south-east on the outskirts of the town of Bicester in Oxfordshire. The parcel of land is an irregular shape, incorporating a number of agricultural fields, and bounded to the south by a retail park and sewage plant, and partially to the north by a Tesco Supermarket. A railway line forms the south-east boundary.

1.3.2 The proposed evaluation area forms a 2 ha rectangle within a field to the south of the Tesco supermarket. A trench was also placed in the footprint of a planned pond in the 5.78 ha landscaped area, to the south-east of the red line planning boundary. The site is relatively flat at 66 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as Kellaways Clay Member – Mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic period. There is a narrow band of Cornbrash Formation – Limestone sedimentary bedrock to the south-east that may just be into the site. A clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium formed during the Quaternary period, underlies part of the landscape area (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior heritage impact assessment (HIA; Trium 2017), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

2.2.1 The site is part of a larger development area (Planning Ref: 07/01106/OUT) that has been subject to previous archaeological investigations by Network Archaeology in 2007 and AOC Archaeology in 2014 and 2018. These investigations were carried out to the north (the Tesco plot), to the west, and across this site.

2.2.2 Thirty-one evaluation trenches were excavated across the wider site, including the Tesco plot, this site, and an area immediately to the east of this site (Network Archaeology 2007). The most significant finding was a quantity of exceptionally well-preserved Mesolithic flint, to the immediate south-east of the site. Possible evidence of late prehistoric and Roman settlement was indicated by the presence of postholes and two possible drip gulleys, indicative of circular buildings. Fragments of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the subsoil of one of the trenches. The evaluation also revealed numerous ditches, which indicate several phases of agricultural land management. Some of these ditches could be attributed to known post-medieval boundaries, whilst the remainder could be late prehistoric or later in date. Overall, very few finds were recovered, apart from the Mesolithic flint.

2.2.3 AOC undertook detailed archaeological investigations on the Tesco site between November 2013 and January 2014 (AOC 2014). The excavations revealed a sequence of at least seven Bronze Age buildings and activities either side of a relict watercourse. The buildings were represented by postholes forming two roundhouses which were kept in good repair and rebuilt, probably across generations and are likely to represent buildings of a farmstead. The settlement is also represented by the presence of three cremation burials at the top of the hill above the farmstead. Other postholes represented fences, which may have formed stock enclosures or settlement boundaries on flat ground either side of a river. Roman and post-medieval features were also identified on the site.

2.2.4 An evaluation to the west of the current site (AOC 2018) found that on the eastern side of the site, the natural substrate indicates a braided river channel was present, as seen in earlier excavations (AOC 2014). An undulating deposit of clayey peat was also visible in the south-eastern limit of the site overlying archaeology. The earliest archaeological evidence comprised a single abraded flint collected from the topsoil. The only dated feature was a ditch located in trench 10, which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. Another ditch sealed by alluvium and peat was observed in trenches 19, 20 and 21, but is undated. Several shallow irregular pits were also identified along with a single posthole observed in trench 22, which also are undated.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

2.3.1 Oxfordshire is towards the northern limits of Palaeolithic occupation, due to climatic conditions, and human presence was likely to have been intermittent. The variation in the availability of lithic resources and the distribution of artefacts is probably the most interesting feature of this period in the area. There were no Palaeolithic artefacts in the study area.

2.3.2 A Mesolithic flint scatter was recorded during a previous evaluation within the site (Network Archaeology 2007, trench 30). Whilst located within two linear features and alongside a sherd of Romano-British pottery, the flint was in very good condition and, while likely to have been residual, had probably not moved far. A further flint assemblage contained within tree-throw holes is situated to the north-east of the site.

2.3.3 The HER records four heritage assets of Neolithic date within 1 km of the site, including a small assemblage of artefacts dating to the Neolithic recovered during an excavation of Middle Iron Age to Roman Settlement and a Neolithic axehead found 270 m west of the site.

2.3.4 An area of Bronze Age settlement was identified through archaeological evaluation immediately to the north, which included seven Bronze Age buildings and three cremation burials at the top of the hill above the settlement. The buildings were represented by postholes forming two roundhouses which were kept in good repair and regularly rebuilt. Two Bronze Age barrows are recorded 280 m north-east of the site, a Bronze Age enclosure ditch was recorded to the north-east and a burial recorded during extensive investigations to the south of the site during the Wendlebury-Bicester A421 Dualling works (CA 2016).

2.3.5 Iron Age activity is recorded within the study area, mostly together with Romano-British activity.

2.3.6 The site is located 650 m north of the Roman Town of Alchester (NHLE 1006365) and is located along the line of the Roman road heading north/south from this town (NHLE 1015169). Iron Age and Romano-British settlement evidence has been recorded along the route of this road in the vicinity of this site including 300 m south and 260 m north-east of the proposed site. A further Iron Age and Roman settlement has also been recorded 280 m north of the site. The evaluation to the west of the site found a north-west / south-east aligned ditch that contained Romano-British pottery.

2.3.7 The modern settlement of Bicester evolved with the Anglo-Saxon farmers who settled on the Cornbrash, a flaggy type of limestone, either side of a ford over the River Bure and close to the existing Saxon Minster of St Edburg's. And there are assets on the HER relating to Anglo-Saxon and medieval Bicester town to the north of the site.

2.3.8 The first reference to Brewer Street is from 1608, when it was named Brewhouse Street. Brewerstreet Farmhouse, directly south of the site dates to the 15th century, with 16th and 19th century alterations. It is Grade 1 listed (List Entry No. 1281258) and is a half-timbered two-storey house. The site itself is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map with one northern field and five southern fields. During the 20th century, the divisions were gradually removed, leaving just two fields, divided by a footpath aligned east-west.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and

- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the Solent-Thames Research Framework regional research framework (REF.), the site-specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- test the results of the previous evaluations of the site survey (Network Archaeology 2007);
- examine evidence for remains of a Roman road that may exist within the site (one is known from the HER and projected to cross the east of the evaluation area);
- test whether Bronze Age activity to the north-west of the site continues into the site
- test whether the Mesolithic potential extends beyond the flint scatter.
- determine the depth of the alluvial sequence and examine the archaeological and paleoenvironmental potential of alluvial deposits;
- examine the artefactual and ecofactual potential of archaeological deposits, some of which may be waterlogged; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although trenches 35, 38 and 40 had to be

slightly moved because of located services; trench 40 was additionally shortened by 5 m due to the presence of a bund (Fig. 1).

4.2.2 Nine trial trenches, each measuring 50 m in length and 2 m wide, and one trial trench measuring 45 m in length and 2 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360º tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 The numbering of the trenches within the current works continued the sequence from the former evaluation.

4.2.4 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.5 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.6 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.7 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.8 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.9 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Six of the ten excavated trial trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating medieval and post-medieval land-use across the site (Figs 1 - 2).

5.1.2 The uncovered features comprise five linear features and one pit, though three linear features remain of uncertain date due to a lack of archaeological finds.

5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.

5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with preceding evaluation trench locations (AOC 2018).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The soil sequence encountered was consistent across the site. It comprised a moderately compact mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with rare, poorly sorted, sub-rounded medium gravel. It varied slightly in thickness: between 0.32 and 0.38 m (Fig. 3).

5.2.2 The natural was a moderately compact mid-orangish brown sandy clay, with rare, poorly sorted, sub-rounded fine gravel throughout trenches 32 to 40 but had changed to a mid-brownish grey sandy clay with rare, poorly sorted, sub-rounded fine gravel within trench 41 (located approximately 317 m to the south-east of trenches 32 to 40; Fig. 4).

5.3 Summary of archaeological results – by trench

Trench 32

5.3.1 A linear gully (3203; Figs. 5 and 6) aligned north – south, measuring 0.53 m wide and 0.12 m deep, was located at the northern end of trench 32. Comprising shallow concave sides and flat base, the gully contained a single mid-brownish grey silty clay with poorly sorted gravel inclusions (3204). Pottery was recovered from the deposit, which appeared to have accumulated through natural erosion and silting processes. Examination of the pottery has confirmed a medieval date, with the pottery sherds being of mid-13th to early-15th century in origin. An environmental sample was taken for the purposes of finds recovery.

Trench 34

5.3.2 Trench 34 contained two, relatively parallel linear features (3403 and 3405) aligned north – south.

5.3.3 Ditch 3403 (Fig. 7), measuring 2.54 m wide and 0.24 m deep, had shallow straight sides and contained a single deposit of natural derivation. Fill 3404 appeared as a mid-yellowish grey silty clay and was similar in appearance and compaction to the natural geology. No dating evidence was observed within this feature.

5.3.4 Ditch 3405 (Fig. 8), measuring 1.09 m wide and 0.16 m deep, was located 16.7 m to the ENE of 3403. It had moderate concave sides with a flat base and contained a single fill (3406), which was a mid-brownish grey silty clay with rare fine to medium gravels. No dating evidence was observed within this fill.

5.3.5 Neither ditch was found to continue in any of the surrounding trenches.

Trench 36

5.3.6 A shallow sub-rectangular pit (3603; Fig. 9), measuring 0.37 x 0.40 m, with a depth of 0.09 m, was recorded and contained a deliberate backfill (3604) from which animal bone, ceramic building material, fired clay, glass and pottery were recovered. The pottery is indicative a post-medieval date for the feature, which is regarded as a rubbish pit due to the material the pit contained. It is thought that the material contents had been pressed and compacted into the surface of the natural, creating a shallow feature, as opposed to the feature having been dug and backfilled.

Trench 38

5.3.7 Trench 38 contained a linear gully (Fig. 10) with shallow concave sides and flat base. Gully 3803 was, however, orientated east – west and contained a dark greyish black silty clay deposit (3804) which was relatively compacted. The linear, measuring 0.6 m wide and 0.12 m deep, was truncated by a land drain to the east and did not contain any dating evidence. An environmental sample was taken due to the nature of the fill.

Trench 39

5.3.8 Ditch 3903, measuring 0.87 m wide and 0.07 m deep, was particularly ephemeral. Positioned on a north – south alignment the ditch comprised shallow straight sides and its single fill (3904) appeared as a mid-yellowish grey silty clay with rare angular stone inclusions. It was noted that the consistency of the deposit was similar to the natural geology. No artefactual evidence was observed.

Trench 40

5.3.9 A north-west – south-east aligned linear feature, measuring 0.53 m wide and 0.08 m deep, was recorded. Appearing very diffuse, the gully (4003) was only observed in the section of the trench and contained a single deposit (4004) of natural derivation. This secondary fill contained a mixture of medieval pottery consistent with that recovered from a similar feature within Trench 32 (3203) and post-medieval wares.

Trenches 33, 35, 37 and 41

5.3.10 No archaeological features were encountered within these trenches.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Finds amounting to just 162 g dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods were recovered from three deposits. The finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type (Table 1) within each context. This data has been recorded using a digital database which forms part of the project archive.

Table 1 Finds by trench, feature and material type (by count and weight in grammes)

		Animal bone	Ceramic building material	Fired clay	Glass	Pottery	Grand Total
Trench	**Feature**	**Ct./Wt. (g)**	**Ct./Wt. (g)**	**Ct./Wt. (g)**	**Ct./Wt. (g)**	**Ct./Wt. (g)**	**Ct./Wt. (g)**
32	Gully 3203					2/9	**2/9**
36	Pit 3603	1/3	7/72	1/20	1/7	10/44	**20/146**
38	Gully 3803				1/1		**1/1**
40	Gully 4003					2/6	**2/6**
	Grand total	**1/3**	**7/72**	**1/20**	**2/8**	**14/59**	**25/162**

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The earliest sherds came from gullies 3203 and 4003, comprising body sherds of Brill/Boarstall type ware which date from the mid 13th to early 15th centuries AD (Mellor 1994, 117, fabric OXAM). Two post-medieval sherds were recovered alongside the medieval sherds, a redware body sherd, of 16th to 18th century AD date, from gully 4003 and a flake of refined whiteware (late 18th to 19th century AD) from gully 3203. The largest group, from pit 3603, is exclusively post-medieval in date and comprises four sherds of redware along with four Staffordshire-type slipwares (late 17th to 18th centuries AD) and two of brown-glazed earthenware sherds (18th to 19th centuries AD).

6.3 Animal bone

6.3.1 A single fragment of sheep/goat tibia shaft came from post-medieval pit 3603. The fragment is from the proximal end of the bone and is split axially, possibly for marrow.

6.4 Ceramic building material

6.4.1 All the ceramic building material derived from pit 3603. Most pieces (six) are flakes, retaining no features to identify form or date. One fragment is from a peg tile of medieval or post-medieval date, which accords with the ceramic evidence from the feature, and on the basis of the fabric the other fragments would not be out of place within this period.

6.5 Fired clay

6.5.1 A single, amorphous fragment of fired clay came from pit 3603. It retains no original surfaces or features to identify function or date.

6.6 Glass

6.6.1 Two glass fragments were recovered. A dark green glass bottle fragment of post-medieval date came from pit 3603. A pale blue/green vessel fragment, possibly also of post-medieval date, came from gully 3803.

6.7 Environmental evidence

Acknowledgements

6.7.1 The samples were processed by Saskia Brogan. The flots were sorted and assessed by Charlotte Cooper and Saskia Brogan This report was written by Megan Scantlebury and edited by Inés López-Dóriga

6.8 Introduction

6.8.1 Two bulk sediment samples were taken from medieval to post-medieval/modern gullies in trenches 32 and 38 and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

6.9 Aims and methods

6.9.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

6.9.2 The samples were both of 16 litres in volume. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank. The flots were retained on a 0.25 mm mesh. Once processed, the residues were dried in a low temperature oven, and the flots were air-dried before being transferred to labelled containers. The residues were retained on a 1 mm mesh and were split into coarse (≥4 mm) and fine (<4 mm) residue fractions.

6.9.3 The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains. A stereomicroscope was used to scan the fine residue fractions and the flots at up to 40x magnification for uncharred and charred botanical remains, as well as other environmental remains (e.g., insects/invertebrates, molluscs, fish bone etc.). The presence of recent and/or intrusive material was noted in the samples including modern roots, modern seeds, mycorrhizal fungi, earthworm eggs and shells of the burrowing blind snail (*Cecilioides acicula*). Environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots.

6.9.4 Plant macroremains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers et al. 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary et al. (2012) for cereal remains and other cultivated crops (using traditional names). Additional habitat information has been taken from Stroh et al. (2023). For simplicity, the term 'seed' is used to refer to different types of plant macroremain (e.g., achene, fruit etc.).

6.9.5 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant').

6.10 Results

6.10.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2, Table 2. The flots from the bulk sediment samples were generally small. Potential indicators of bioturbation are present in high quantities (e.g., abundant modern roots, uncharred seeds, soil fungal sclerotia, earthworm eggs, fragments of modern cereal chaff, fragments of plastic).

6.10.2 Environmental evidence comprises a small number of plant remains preserved by charring, and abundant uncharred seeds. The charred plant material is poorly preserved and mineral-stained, and there are abundant uncharred, likely modern, plant remains present in both samples. The uncharred remains are generally well-preserved. Uncharred wood was noted, although it is very highly fragmented. Wood charcoal is noted in very small or trace quantities and, when present, it is heavily mineral-stained. Remains of terrestrial molluscs and a small animal bone are also noted in low numbers. Uncharred, likely modern, invertebrates are also preserved in the bulk sediment samples. Highly fragmented

clinker/cinder and coal was frequent in both samples, alongside fragments of fired clay/CBM, and small clear fragments of glass.

6.10.3 The plant remains in both samples are very similar, comprising the charred remains of cereal grains, some of which were identifiable as free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) varieties, alongside indeterminate wheats (*Triticum* sp.) and indeterminate cereal grains (Triticeae) and cereal grain fragments. No charred chaff elements or wild plant taxa were identified in the samples.

6.10.4 Uncharred 'seeds' of edible fruits are present, including kiwis (*Actinidia* sp.), grapes (*Vitis vinifera*), and probable raspberries (*Rubus* cf. *idaeus*). Other uncharred plant remains included taxa which are characteristic of disturbed habitats (e.g., arable fields, roadsides, waste ground), such as persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.), common chickweed (*Stellaria media*), black nightshades (*Solanum nigrum*), buttercups (*Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus*), crane's-bill (*Geranium* sp.), common knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* agg.), violets (*Viola* sp.), species of the cabbage family (Brassicaeae), and species of the carrot family (Apiaceae). A small number of woodland/hedgerow species were also present, including the 'seeds' of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), birch (*Betula* sp.), and a hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) endocarp.

6.11 Conclusions

6.11.1 The samples do not contain any environmental evidence of note, and what little was recovered is indicative of medieval/post-medieval/modern chronologies, as free-threshing wheat varieties were extensively cultivated from medieval period to the present day (Moffett 2006). This assessment indicates that similar features (linear shallow gullies) on the site have low potential for the preservation of charred plant remains and charcoal. Although it should be noted that environmental samples containing a rich array of Romano-British charred plant remains, charcoal and molluscs have been recovered from the land adjacent to the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2016).

6.11.2 The samples produced abundant evidence for recent contamination, including plastic and an array of well-preserved uncharred plant remains, including the 'seeds' of several edible species such as kiwi, raspberries, and grapes. While there is some evidence for fluctuating water levels on site (as indicated by the mineral staining on the charred plant remains and charcoal), these particular taxa are likely very modern contaminants. These taxa are consistent with the spread of sewage as fertiliser across arable fields. These remains then likely became incorporated into the features through ploughing and/or bioturbation. This is especially likely considering the shallow depth of the features. Similar finds of kiwi seeds have been identified as modern contaminants from manuring and other process at other sites across Britain, including in Romano-British features at Silbury Hill, Wiltshire (Pelling 2013), Iron Age features from Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Wales (Carruthers 2014), and a kiwi seed from the Tankerton Bay shipwreck was radiocarbon dated as modern (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The other uncharred plant remains identified in the sample are consistent with disturbed habitats (goosefoots, knotgrasses, chickweeds, nightshades) and likely grew on or in the vicinity of the site, and/or potentially on the site of the sewage treatment works from which the fertiliser was sourced (Carruthers 2014).

6.11.3 Both samples produced flots which contained varying quantities of highly fragmented coal and clinker/cinder. Coal was widely used as a fuel in the post-medieval and modern periods. The waste from burning coal was often discarded onto fields where it may then have become reworked into archaeological features.

6.12 Recommendations

6.12.1 This assessment indicates that similar shallow linear features on the site have low potential for the preservation of charred plant remains and charcoal. Although previous excavations have identified deposits of charred plant remains and charcoal on land adjacent to the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2016).

6.12.2 Any further environmental sampling should continue to follow Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance. Samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal should be taken from as wide a range of feature types as possible, covering different phases of activity. Samples should be 40 litres in size (or 100% of small contexts), and they should be taken from individual, secure contexts.

6.13 Selection strategy

6.13.1 Should no further excavation work be undertaken, the samples can be dispersed in light of their low significance and the significant evidence for later contamination.

6.13.2 The residues were discarded after sorting.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary and Discussion

7.1.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of medieval and post-medeival agricultural land-use, reflected in the presence of former field boundaries within Trenches 32 and 40 (gullies 3203 and 4003). Indeed, it is known from Ordnance Survey mapping that the current site was, during the post-medieval period, separated into five smaller fields (AOC 2018), and was likely similarly divided during the medieval period. Indeed, the date range provided by the pottery for the medieval period (mid-13th to early 15th century) suggests that gullies 3202 (trench 32) and 4003 (trench 40) may be related to land use associated with the Grade I listed farmhouse to the south of the site (List entry: 1281258). This farmhouse was evident on the same OS mapping which depicted these field divisions. Furthermore, given the presence of post-medieval pottery within the assemblage recovered from gully 4003 continuity of the use of the boundary from the medieval into the post-medieval period is evident.

7.1.2 The uncovered rubbish pit within Trench 36 further indicates post-medieval activity within the bounds of the development site. The results conform to those of earlier investigations undertaken within the wider development area, and further indicate the presence of multiple phases of agricultural activity.

7.1.3 Linear features within Trenches 34, 38 and 39 remain undated due to a lack of material culture present. Whilst it is possible that these ditches and gully also pertain to medieval and/or post-medieval land use, given the presence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity present elsewhere within the site boundaries such origins are also possible and should not, at this stage, be discounted.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Oxfordshire Museums Service has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under **accession code: OXCMS: 2023.134**.

Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Oxfordshire Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard box or airtight plastic box of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type

Digital archive

8.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

Documentary archive

8.2.4 The physical archive currently includes paper records (site registers only), graphics and artefacts. Born digital data include site records, finds and environmental data, photographs, survey data and reports. Physical and digital records will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; NPAAW 2017; SMA 1995).

8.3 Selection strategy

8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further

comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- Animal bone (1 fragment): single fragment, no further research potential. Discard.
- Ceramic building material (7 fragments): small group of medieval/post-medieval date, highly fragmented. No further research potential, discard
- Fired clay (1 item): single item of no research potential. Discard.
- Glass (2 items): poor condition and of no further research potential, discard.
- Pottery (14 sherds): small group of medieval to post-medieval body sherds of common types for the area. No further research potential, discard.

Documentary records

8.3.5 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

8.3.6 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.5 OASIS

8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

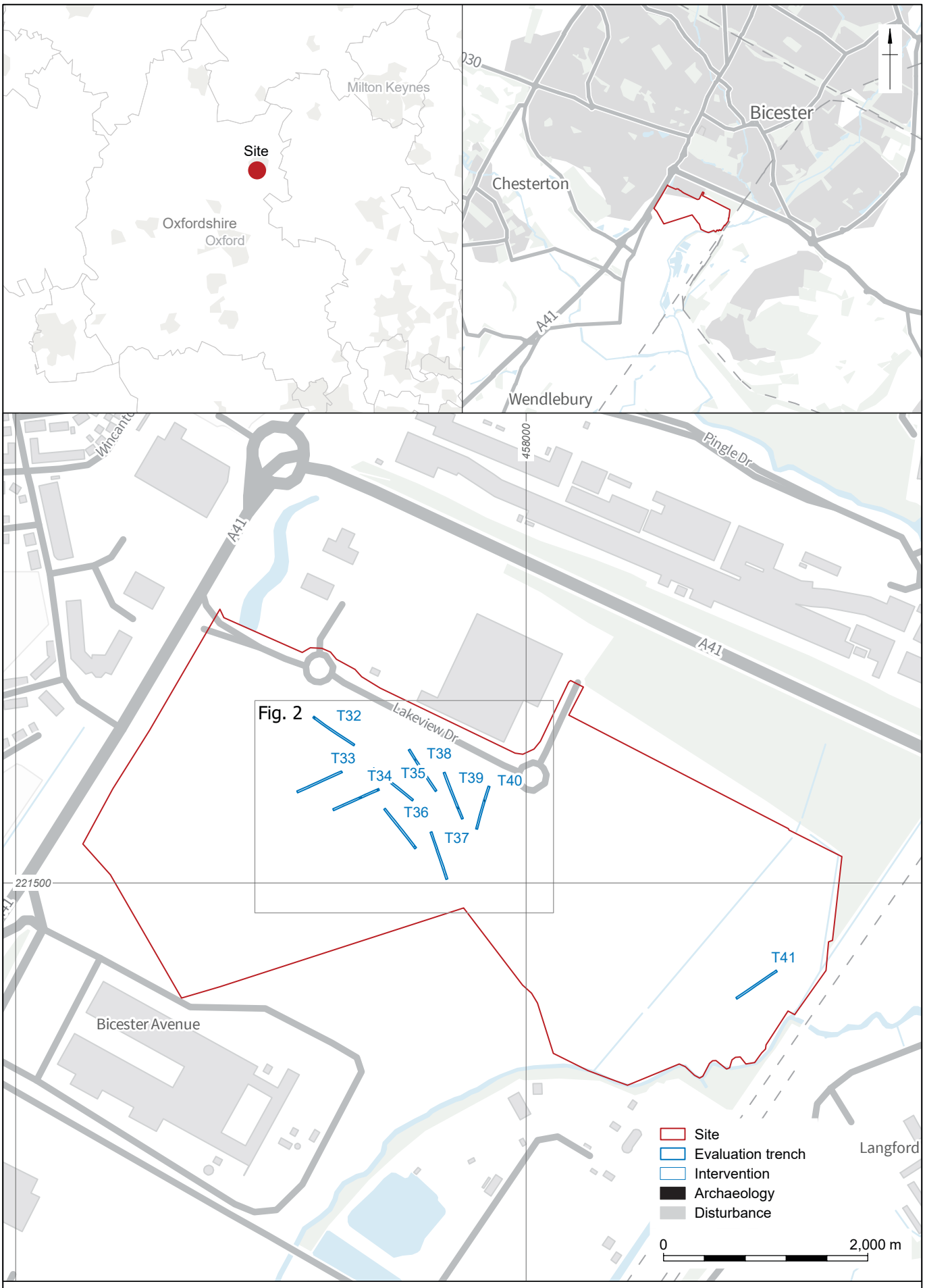
9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was

produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER), where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



Date: 15/11/2023	Created by: EG	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:5,000 at A4

Figure 1: Site location and trench plan

X:\Projects\270280\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\eval\2023_11_15\270280_Arcpro.aprx

457800

457900

458000

221600

221500

Lakeview Dr

Lakeview Dr

T32

3203

T33

T34

3405

3403

T35

T36

3603

T37

3803

T38

T39

3903

4003

T40

Site
Evaluation trench
Intervention
Archaeology
Disturbance

0

50 m

Date: 15/11/2023	Created by: EG	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:750 at A3

Figure 2: Evaluation trenches showing archaeology

Figure 3: North-west facing section of trench 35

Figure 4: North-west facing section of trench 41

Figure 5: Trench 32, viewed from north

Figure 6: Gully 3203, viewed from south-east

Figure 7: South facing section of ditch 3403

Figure 8: South facing section of ditch 3405, viewed from south-east

Figure 9: Plan view of pit 3603, viewed from south

Figure 10: Gully 3803, viewed from west

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 32	Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.44 m
Easting 457812.52	Northing 221647.43	m OD 66.74	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3201		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.36
3202		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.36–0.44+
3203	3204	Gully	Linear gully aligned N-S with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.53 m. Depth: 0.18 m.	0.25–0.42
3204	3203	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay with infrequent poorly sorted sub-rounded fine to medium gravel	0.25–0.42

Trench No 33	Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 457800.33	Northing 221599.96	m OD 66.64	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3301		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.0–0.32
3302		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.32–0.45+

Trench No 34	Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting 457832.66	Northing 221581.35	m OD 66.72	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3401		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.34
3402		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.34–0.42+
3403	3404	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N / S with shallow, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: >2.54 m. Depth: 0.50 m.	0.34–0.58
3404	3403	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish grey silty clay with rare sub-angular stone inclusions	0.34–0.58

3405	3406	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 1.09 m. Depth: 0.16 m.	
3406	3405	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay (40 / 60%) with rare stony inclusions 2-5cm in size	

Trench No 35	**Length 50 m**	**Width 2 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting 457870.13	**Northing 221596.11**	**m OD 66.73**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
3501		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.36
3502		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.36–0.45+

Trench No 36	**Length 50 m**	**Width 2 m**	**Depth 0.46 m**
Easting 457877.48	**Northing 221552.34**	**m OD 66.30**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
3601		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.34
3602		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.34–0.46+
3603	3604	Pit	Circular pit with vertical, straight sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.37 m. Depth: 0.16 m.	0.34–0.43
3604	3603	Deliberate backfill	Dark greyish black clayish silt (20 / 80%) with very densely packed stones 3-7cm in size that comprise 95% of the feature's fill	0.34–0.43

Trench No 37	**Length 50 m**	**Width 2 m**	**Depth Unknown**
Easting 457914.99	**Northing 221525.75**	**m OD 65.49**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
3701		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.37
3702		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.37–0.44+

Trench No 38	Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth 0.47 m
Easting 457898.03	Northing 221610.51	m OD 67.11	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3801		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.35
3802		Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.35–0.47+
3803	3804	Gully	Linear gully aligned E-W with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth: 0.12 m.	0.37–0.56
3804	3803	Secondary fill	Dark greyish black silty clay with infrequent poorly sorted sub-rounded fine to medium gravel	0.37–0.56

Trench No 39	Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting 457928.97	Northing 221584.22	m OD 66.53	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3901		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.38
3902		Natural	Light orangish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-angular medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.38–0.45+
3903	3904	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N / S with shallow, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: >0.87 m. Depth: 0.07 m.	0.38–0.45
3904	3903	Secondary fill	Mid yellowish grey silty clay with rare angular stone inclusions	0.38–0.45

Trench No 40	Length 45 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.48 m
Easting 457957.24	Northing 221574.50	m OD 66.36	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4001		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.34
4002		Natural	Mid orangish brown clayey sand. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.34–0.48+
4003	4004	Gully	Linear gully aligned NE-SW with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.00 m. Width: 0.53 m. Depth: 0.08 m.	0.34–0.41
4004	4003	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey sandy silt	0.34–0.41

Trench No 41	Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.49 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
4101		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded medium gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.00–0.36
4102		Natural	Mid brownish grey sandy clay. Rare poorly sorted sub-rounded fine gravel. Moderate compaction.	0.36–0.49+

Appendix 2 Environmental Evidence

Table 2 Assessment of the environmental evidence.

Scale of abundance: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant'). SAB = small animal bone Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, CBM = ceramic building material.

Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample	Sample Vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charred plant remains	Uncharred/modern plant remains			Charcoal >2mm vol. (ml)	Charcoal notes	Other
							Vegetative parts	Uncharred Other	Invertebrates			
Gully	3203	3204	3201	16	50	C - *Triticum* sp. grains, Triticeae grains and frags	A** - Highly degraded uncharred wood fragments, mostly <2mm, 80% modern rootlets, uncharred cereal chaff (C)	A** - *Actinidia* sp., *Vitis vinifera, Persicaria* sp., *Viola* sp., *Chenopodium* spp., *Stellaria media, Rubus* cf. *idaeus, Solanum nigrum, Sambucus nigra*, *Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus, Betula* sp., *Geranium* sp., Brassicaeae, Asteraceae	Earthworm egg capsules (C), fly puparia (C), Coleoptera fragments (C), soil fungal sclerotia (A)	<1	Highly fragmented, mineral-stained	Clinker/cinder (A), coal (A), fired clay/CBM (C), Moll-t (C), fragments of modern plastic (A), glass frags (C), SAB (C)
Gully	3803	3804	3801	16	30	B - *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* grains, *Triticum* sp. grains, Tricieae grain frags	A** - Highly degraded uncharred wood fragments, mostly <2mm, 20% modern rootlets	A** - *Actinidia* sp., *Vitis* sp., Apiaceae, *Persicaria* sp., *Polygonum aviculare* agg., *Viola* sp., *Chenopodium* spp., *Stellaria media, Rubus* cf. *idaeus, Crataegus* sp. endocarp, *Sambucus nigra*	Earthworm egg capsules (C), fly puparia (C), Coleoptera fragments (C), soil fungal sclerotia (A)	Trace	Highly fragmented, mineral-stained	Clinker/cinder (A), coal (A), fired clay/CBM (C), fragments of modern plastic (A)

OASIS Summary for wessexar1-520620

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-520620
Project Name	Evaluation at Bicester Arc, Lakeview Drive
Sitename	Bicester Arc, Lakeview Drive
Sitecode	270280
Project Identifier(s)	270280
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	17/02534/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	23-Oct-2023 - 27-Oct-2023
Location	Bicester Arc, Lakeview Drive NGR : SP 57850 21584 LL : 51.889817511633865, -1.160812585344912 12 Fig : 457850,221584
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Oxfordshire Local Authority District : Cherwell Parish : Bicester
Project Methodology	Trenched evaluation comprising 9 trenches measuring 50 m by 2 m and one trench measuring 45 m by 2 m.
Project Results	Ten trenches were excavated; numbered 32 to 41, with the sequence continuing from previous investigations of the area. Two post-medieval gullies were found in trenches 32 and 40. A post-medieval pit, found in trench 36, was thought to be a result of overlying materials being compressed into the underlying geological substrate. Two undated ditches from trench 34, one undated ditch from trench 39 and an undated gully from trench 38 were all suspected to be of post-medieval date, by association. None of the features could be identified as passing into other trenches.
Keywords	Gully - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Peveril Securities Limited
HER	
Person Responsible for work	Bianca Williams-San Martin
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 30 Nov 2023, 12:42

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