APPENDIX 11A

Exemplar Site Heritage Desk Based Assessment

P3 Eco Ltd and a2dominion

Bicester Eco Town - Exemplar Site

Desk-based Assessment

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P3 Eco Ltd and a2dominion

Bicester Eco Town - Exemplar Site

Desk-based Assessment

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CONTENTS

1 Introduction

Hyder Consulting Ltd was commissioned by P3 Eco Ltd and a2dominion to undertake an archaeological and built heritage desk-based assessment of the exemplar site of the proposed Eco town development at Bicester. The research was carried out in July 2010.

The aim of the assessment was to determine the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains and historic structures/features within the proposed development site and to assess the extent of modern disturbance.

1.1 Site Location and Land-use

The exemplar site is situated on the outskirts of the town of Bicester. It is irregular in plan and covers an area of c.33ha centred upon NGR 457740, 225111 (Figure 1). It is bounded to the east by the B4100 and Caversfield village and to the north-west and south by open fields. At present the site comprises open fields with a small wooded area in the north-west corner.

1.2 Geology and Topography

The BGS survey 1:625,000 Scale Solid Geology map shows the geology of the site and middle Jurassic Cornbrash. The topography of the exemplar site is generally flat although it dips towards the east-west running watercourse in the south and then rises again to the south on either side of the north-south running watercourse.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the study is to assess the cultural heritage resource within the exemplar site through the collation of existing written, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and electronic evidence. It will identify the likely character, extent, quality and significance of the known or potential archaeological and built heritage resource.

The specific aims of the desk-based assessment are:

- To identify known archaeological assets within or in the vicinity of the exemplar site
- To assess the likely survival of buried archaeological deposits across the site, the significance of these deposits, and the potential impact of the development upon them
- To assess the significance of the built heritage resource and the potential impacts of the development on it
- To asses the impact that any former intrusive activities have had on any potential archaeological deposits
- To assess the need for further intrusive and non-intrusive investigative works, where necessary, to determine the potential of the site and
- To formulate a strategy for mitigation, if appropriate.

2 Methodology

2.1 The Study Area

The study area was defined by a 500m radius from the site boundary (Figure 2) as set out in the scoping report (doc ref). this report is based on a search of the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record (NMR), a selection of historical maps and published and unpublished sources.

2.2 Consultation

The Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire Richard Oram and the Conservation Officer at Cherwell District Council Claire Sutton were consulted during the preparation of this document.

2.3 Site Walkover Survey

A site visit to assess the current ground condition and archaeological potential of the site was undertaken on the 23rd July 2010. As assessment of the potential level of disturbance on the site was also carried out. All observations on the present layout of the site are based on this site visit.

2.4 Sources

Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record

Records of all known sites, find spots and buildings of archaeological/historical significance within the study area were obtained from the Oxfordshire HER. These have been identified in this report be a primary record number (PRN) and represented in Figure 2; they are referred to in bold in the text and catalogued in Appendix 1.

National Monument Record

Records of archaeological assets and Listed Buildings within the study area were obtained from the NMR. These have been identified with a PRN and represented in Figure 2: Listed Buildings are referred to in the text prefaced with BH and catalogued in Appendix 2.

Cartographic Sources

A selection of historic maps were analysed in the production of this report. These included the 1853 Caversfield Tithe map and Ordnance Survey editions. These were obtained from the Oxfordshire record office and Landmark Information Group.

3 Planning Policy

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with current legislation, national, regional and local plans and policies. Outlined below are those elements of current legislation, policy and guidance relevant to archaeology in the context of this assessment.

The relevant parliamentary act which provided the legislation framework for development and archaeology is the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This assessment also considered the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

3.1 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 gives statutory protection to any structure, building or work which is considered to be of particular historic or archaeological interest and regulates any activities which may affect such areas. Under the Act any work that is carried out on a Scheduled Ancient Monument must first obtain Scheduled Monument Consent.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their setting are a material consideration in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5.

3.2 Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment

PPS5 sets out the Government's planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment. These policies should be read alongside other relevant statements of national planning policy. The policies in PPS5 are a material consideration which must be taken into account in development management decisions, where relevant.

The Government's overarching aim is that the historic environment and its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations.

Policy HE1: *'Heritage assets and climate change'* states that local authorities should identify opportunities to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change when making decisions relating to heritage assets (para HE1.1). The policy also states that where proposals that are promoted for the contribution to mitigating climate change have a potentially negative effect on heritage assets, local planning authorities (LPAs) should, prior to determination, help the applicant identify feasible solutions that deliver similar mitigation but with less harm to the significance of the heritage asset or its setting (para HE1.2). Where conflict between climate change objectives and the conservation of heritage assets is unavoidable, the PPS advises that the public benefit of mitigating the effects of climate change should be weighed against any harm to the significance of heritage assets (para HE1.3). It should be noted that English Heritage has also produced guidance entitled *'Wind Energy and the Historic Environment'* (English Heritage, 2005).

Policy HE6: *'Information requirements for applications for consent affecting heritage assets'* deals with the requirement for applicants to provide descriptions of the significance of any heritage assets that may be affected by a proposal, along with a description of the contribution of the setting of the heritage asset to that significance. Where a proposal includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest the LPA should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation (para HE6.1). The policy also states that LPAs should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage assets affects cannot adequately be understood from the application and supporting documents (para HE6.3).

Policy HE7: *'Policy principals guiding the determination of applications for consent relating to all heritage assets'* deals with the factors LPAs must take into account when considering applications for developments. It stresses the need to consider the significance of the heritage assets that may be affected and its value for future generations. The policy states that this understanding should be used by the LPA to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage assets conservation and any aspect of the proposals (para HE7.3).

Policies HE8 and HE9 deal with the additional policy principals guiding the consideration of applications for consent relating to heritage assets. The policies state that the effects of a development proposal are a material consideration in determining planning applications. The policies indicate that there is a general presumption that any previously unidentified heritage assets will be indentified during the pre-application stage (para HE8.1). The policies also state that there should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the heritage asset is, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be (para HE9.1). The policy explains that significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting (para HE9.1). Where a proposal has a harmful impact on the significance of a designated asset which is less than substantial harm, the policy directs the LPA to consider the public benefit of the proposal (para HE9.4).

Policy HE10: *'Additional policy principles guiding the consideration of applications for development affecting the setting of a designated heritage asset'* states that when considering applications for development that affect the setting of a heritage asset, LPAs should treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset (para HE10.1). LPAs are also directed by the policy to identify opportunities for changes in the setting to enhance or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset and that these opportunities should be seen as a public benefit (para HE10.2).

Policy HE12: *'Policy principles guiding the recording of information relating to heritage assets'* recognises that a documentary record of a heritage asset is not as valuable as the retaining the heritage asset. However it does state that where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage assets significance is justified, LPAs should require developers to record and advance understanding of the heritage asset before it is lost using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate (para HE12.3). Developers are required by the policy to publish the information gained and deposit copies of the report with the relevant Historic Environment Record (HER). The policy also requires that an archive is generated and deposited with an appropriate depository (para HE 12.3).

3.3 Planning Policy Statement: Ecotowns

Planning Policy Statements (PPS) set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of spatial planning in England. PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. The PPS on eco-towns supplements PPS1, it does not seek to assemble all national planning policy relevant or applicable to designing new settlements and should be read alongside the national PPS/G series.

The PPS sets out a range of Ecotown targets. ET15 deals with landscape and historic environment. It states:

> "Planning applications for eco-towns should demonstrate that they have adequately considered the implications for the local landscape and historic environment. This evidence, in particular that gained from landscape character assessments and historic landscape characterisation should be used to ensure that development complements and enhances the existing landscape character. Furthermore, evidence contained in relevant Historic Environment Records, should be used to assess the extent, significance and condition of known heritage assets (and the potential for the discovery of unknown heritage assets) and the contribution that they may make to the eco-town and surrounding area. Eco-town proposals should set out measures to conserve and, where

appropriate, enhance heritage both assets and their settings through the proposed development."

3.4 South East Plan

The South East Plan was published in May 2009 and sets out a vision for the future of the South East region to 2026. It covers the areas of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex. The South East Plan is a full revision of Regional Planning Guidance 9 (RPG9 - the current Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East) to cover the period to 2026. It is not considered a minor amendment of RPG9.

Section D8 of the Plan deals with management of the built and historic environment. Within this section Policy BE7: Management of the Historic Environment states:

> "In developing and implementing plans and strategies, local authorities and other bodies should adopt policies and proposals which support the conservation and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the historic environment and the contribution it makes to local and regional distinctiveness and sense of place. Proposals that make sensitive use of historic assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-used buildings and areas into appropriate use, should be encouraged."

3.5 Cherwell Local Plan

The Cherwell Local Plan was adopted in 1996 and is due to be replaced by the Local Development Framework which will establish planning policy for the district up to 2026. In the meantime existing planning policy for the district is contained in the saved policies of the Cherwell Local Plan, adopted 1996. These are the policies used when making planning decisions.

Of the Saved polices the only one which may apply to the development is policy C25 which states:

> "In considering proposals for development which would affect the site or setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, other nationally important archaeological sites and monuments of special local importance, the council will have regard to the desirability of maintaining overall historic character, including it protection, enhancement and preservation where appropriate."

The Plan goes on to say that it must be acknowledged that the character and setting of an archaeological site or monument which may include historic landscapes, parks and gardens may be damaged or even destroyed by certain forms of development. In such cases policy C25 will apply.

4 Site Walkover Survey

A site walkover survey was carried out at the exemplar site on the 23rd July 2010. During the walkover survey the site was observed to be under short grass with field boundarys defined by hedges and post and rail fences. The site was generally flat with the exception of one of the fields adjacent to the southern boundary of the site which was observed to have a slight rise in ground level. This field is named on the tithe map as Little Hill.

Plate 1: looking across Little Hill showing change in ground level

In the south west corner of the site is an area of woodland and St Lawrence's Church is visible from the exemplar site along a line of sight running from the north west corner of this wood. Home Farmhouse is also visible from some parts of the site, although it is partially secluded behind hedgerows.

The only other feature of note which was observed during the site visit was that the field which extended from the south east corner of the woodland was approximately 1m higher than the field immediately to the north of it. The lower field also has a number of circular depressions 5-7m diameter. This is interpreted as evidence of quarrying activity in this area.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following presents a synthesis of the baseline evidence for the archaeological development of the site and the study area, including information from a number of previous archaeological interventions which have taken place within the defined study area (Figure 2). Significant archaeological and historical features from outside the study area have also been considered, where they have been deemed relevant to establish the site in its wider context.

5.1 Prehistoric

It is known that there was activity in the area around Bicester in the prehistoric period. At Bicester Fields farm approximately 3.5km south of the study area evidence of later prehistoric settlement in the form of sub-rectangular enclosures and associated pits and gullies was recorded. Pottery revealed Middle to Late Iron Age activity and later ridge and furrow was also observed. Evidence for activity dating to the Mesolithic period was also uncovered at this site.

Within the study area itself a Mesolithic flint scatter was found during an evaluation and excavation at Slade Farm **(1)** to the south of the exemplar site. Over 1000 flint items including a high proportion of blades were recovered from the site. Work at this site also uncovered

numerous late Bronze Age to late Iron Age features including a major north south linear boundary, mulit-period pit clusters and at least one sub-circular ditched enclosure.

To the west of the application site examination of aerial photographs has revealed the presence of a rectilinear enclosure thought to date to the prehistoric period **(4)**. At least one curvilinear enclosure may also be present at this location.

5.2 Roman

Alchester was a Roman settlement which lay approximately 1 mile to the south of the centre of modern Bicester. Initially a Marching Camp was established here with a defensive ditch around it. The earliest permanent construction at Alchester was wooden Vexillation Fort which had been established by late AD 43 or early AD.

44. This date is confirmed by analysis of the fort's western gatepost which provides tree ring pattern confirmation (www.blhs.org.uk/romanbicester). This indicates that the Roman settlement at Bicester is amongst the earliest in the country dating to the time of the Claudian invasion. Later the fort had an Annex added on its western side and could then house five thousand troops at its maximum. Whilst the fort was in operation a civilian settlement grew up outside it. When the fort was abandoned in the mid AD 60's as the occupied areas moved north and westward and as the strategic position of the fort became less important. A civilian settlement was able to expand into the fort. Once the fort had been abandoned the civilian settlement continued to grow and expand developing along a regular grid pattern and became an administrative and market focus in the area. Temples and several stone buildings have been identified within the town. The stone town wall was built in the 2nd Century. Outside the walls further rural activity in the form of small farm and industrial units that supplied the settlement with goods have been recorded. Cemeteries have also been located outside the town boundaries (www.blhs.org.uk).

No archaeological remains dating to the Roman period have been recorded either within the exemplar site itself or the surrounding study area.

5.3 Early Medieval

Bicester is recorded in the Domesday Book and there is evidence of a Saxon settlement at Bicester. This settlement is thought to be located to the north of the Roman town but adjacent to the Roman road. The name Bicester is thought to originate from Bernecestre which can be interpreted as meaning 'the fort of the warriors' or 'of Beorna', possibly a notable person in the area in the Anglo Saxon period (Lobel, 1959).

The exemplar site itself lies within the parish of Caversfied. Early records show this area as having five hides and being held originally by Edward, a man of Earl Tosti. However by the time of Domesday it was among the possessions of William de Warenne (Page, 1927).

No archaeological remains dating to the Early Medieval period have been recorded either within the exemplar site or the surrounding study area. St Lawrences Church is located in the study area to the east of the exemplar site and has early medieval origins. The church is a Listed Building and is discussed in further detail in the Built Heritage section below.

5.4 Medieval

The town of Bicester developed in the Medieval period and the population in the 11th century was around 200. The town was granted a market in 1239. The early town developed at King's End and Market End, linked by a causeway across the Bure. Evidence of the Medieval town can

be observed in the present property boundaries in the town centre which reflect the medieval burgage plots laid out in the town. Medieval Bicester expanded once Bicester Priory was founded in 1182 AD. The priory became a major employer within the town. Excavations in the 1960s revealed a religious complex containing a large church, which housed the shrine of St Edburg, and other associated monastic buildings, including a hospital (www.blhs.org.uk).

At the beginning of the Medieval period the overlordship of Caversfield was in the hands of the Earls Warenne who continued to hold it until the beginning of the 14th century. By 1317 it had passed to the Earl of Pembroke. This attachment is believed to have continued until the 17th century. The manor Caversfield itself was probably held in the 12th century by the Gargate family. Towards the middle of the 12th century a significant proportion of the land at Caversfield was endowed to the priory of Bicester. Between the 12th and the 15th century the manor at Caversfield was in the hands of the de Wynncote family and then later the Langstons and then the Moyles.

The property of the Gargates in Caversfield in the 13th century included a windmill and water-mill and 'the capital court of Caversfield.'. In the 16th and 17th centuries the manor-house was included in the Moyle property. A lease made of it in 1588–9 excepted to the use of Thomas Moyle a chamber over the kitchen and inner chamber over the larder and the gallery over the said chamber, the stable near the brew-house with ingress and egress. It is mentioned in the sales in the manorial property in the 18th century, at which time a close called the Park, containing 21 acres, was also included (Page 1927).

There is a Deserted Medieval Village recorded at Caversfield to the east of the exemplar site **(6)**. The village appears to have developed in the medieval period, having a population of 21 and a fishpond in 1086 and 178 by 1841. In 1854 the fields containing the site of Caversfield DMV were called Old Walls. This may indicated that there were some standing remains in this area at this time.

5.5 Post-medieval

Bicester continued to develop in the Post-medieval period although the dissolution of the priory in 1536 caused it to change dramatically with religious affecting the town. Agriculture remained the main economic activity in the area at this time and further unrest occurred when the former open fields were enclosed in the 18th century.

There is no evidence of any archaeological remains either within the exemplar site itself or the surrounding study area in the Post-medieval period. Caversfield House to the east of the exemplar site was constructed in this period. This will be discussed in further detail in the Built heritage section below.

5.6 Modern

In the Modern period the town of Bicester continued to expand with numerous new residential properties being constructed. The first modern housing estates developed in the 1920s and 1940s/50s, mainly comprising public and social housing projects. But from the 1960s there was significant with a rapid increase of large estates located on the outskirts of the town. Improved communications and strategic growth planning have attracted an increased range of industrial units to the town.

In 1917 RAF Bicester was constructed to the west of the exemplar site and became a permanent RAF base. The base contains a number of important examples of early permanent airfield buildings.

No archaeological remains dating to the Modern period have been recorded either within the exemplar site or the surrounding study area.

6 Cartographic Analysis

The following presents an analysis of the cartographic sequence from the 1853 tithe map to the 2010 Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

The 1853 tithe map shows the exemplar site as open fields under either arable or grassland with a small coppice in the south west corner. The field boundaries are the same as the modern boundaries. There are some fieldnames recorded on the tithe award which indicate former activity within the site. For example the field to the north east of the area of woodland is named The Limekiln Ground which may indicate there once was a limekiln in the vicinity. The small narrow field to the east of the woodland is named Stone Pit Pieces which could suggest quarrying activity in the area.

The 1881 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows there has been no change from the tithe map.

The 1885 1:10,560 scale OS map shows the exemplar site as open fields set in a rural landscape and displays no real changes from the tithe map. Home farm is marked, as are St Lawrence's Church and Caversfield House, both of which are surrounded by woodland. The B4100 which forms the eastern boundary of the exemplar site is marked.

The 1899 1:2,500 scale OS maps shows evidence of water management along the stream next to Home Farm with a sluice marked close to the farm buildings.

The 1900 1:10,560 scale OS map shows little change. The site is still open fields although the area of woodland is now shown as being much less dense. The U shaped area of water to the south of Caversfield House is marked on this map as a fish pond. An old quarry is also marked just to the south of the fish pond.

The 1922 1:2,500 scal OS map and the 1923 1:10,560 scale OS map shows the site remained relatively unchanged, however a filter bed is now marked to the north of Home Farm, just outside the site boundary. Further afield the expansion of Bicester is now visible with housing plots marked along the roads to the south of the site.

There is no change on the 1938-1952 1:10,560 scale OS map, the 1955 1:10,000 scale OS map or the 1968 – 1976 1;2,500 scale OS map. By the time of the 1970 1:10,000 scale OS map the development of Bicester has spread up along Srimmingdish Lane to the Old Vicarage south of Home Farm.

The 1999 1;10,000 scale OS map shows the exemplar site in its modern state and also demonstrates how Bicester has by this time expanded almost up to Caversfield House. There is no change up to the 2010 1:10,000 scale OS map.

7 Built Heritage Assessment

7.1 Baseline Conditions

The following section sets out the built heritage baseline conditions for the study area. It identifies designated and undesignated buildings and structures within the study area and provides an assessment of them.

Listed Buildings

There are two Listed Buildings within the study area (Figure 2). One is grade II* listed and the other is Grade II listed.

St Lawrence's Church (Grade II* listed) (BH1)

St Lawrence's Church is located in the grounds of Caversfield House and has a Norman nave with later aisles, an Early English chancel with a north chapel and a gabled west tower. The earliest part of St Lawrence's Church is the Anglo-Saxon tower which is built of courses rag-stone with dressed quoins. In the north and south faces of the tower are round-headed double-splayed windows of late Sxaon date. The upper portion of the tower is modern. The rest of the church dates to the11th, late 12th, 13th and 15th centuries and was restored and partially rebuilt in 1874 by Henry Woodyer.

Plate 2: St Lawrence's Church showing Anglo-Saxon Tower

The church is located within well-defined grounds surrounded by mature planting. The tower of the church is visible from certain key vantage points in the surrounding area. The setting of St Lawrence's Church is defined by its immediate environs and is characterised by its relationship with Caversfield House. The only point where the tower is visible from the exemplar is along the sightline stretching from the church to the south west corner of the site.

Home Farmhouse (Grade II listed) (BH4)

Home Farmhouse is located in a rural setting, but close to the urban development of Bicester. It is adjacent to the B4100. The farmhouse dates to the early/mid 17th century and was extended in the 18th or 19th century. The farmhouse is two storeys constructed of coursed squared limestone with ashlar dressings. It has an old plain-tiled roof with rebuilt brick gable stacks.

The setting of the farmhouse is defined by its function as a working farmhouse within a mainly rural location, however the setting of the farmhouse is significantly characterised by its proximity

to the urban development of Bicester. The Farmhouse is partially screened from the exemplar site by the high hedges which form the field boundaries on the south eastern boundary of the site.

Non-listed buildings

There is one non listed building of historical interest within the study area. It is recorded on the NMR.

Caversfield House (BH6)

Caversfield House was built in 1842 by CR Cockerall on the site of a former manor house. The House is located adjacent to the B4100 within a secluded area of mature planting and separated from the road by a wall. There is a large fish pond to the south of the house which separates it from the area to the south. The setting of the house is defined by its immediate environs and its relationship with St Lawrence's Church. There are no apparent views between the house and the exemplar site.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

8.1 Archaeology

The exemplar site occupies an area of open fields which have remained undeveloped and unchanged since the mid 19th century and possibly before. There is place name evidence from the tithe map of a possible limekiln within the site along with possible quarrying activity. Within the wider study area there is a prehistoric rectilinear enclosure and a possible curvilinear enclosure to the south west of the site **(4)**, a Mesolithic flint scatter and some Bronze Age and Iron Age remains to the south of the site **(1)** and a Deserted Medieval Village to the east of the site **(6)**. All of these assets are considered to be of local significance. The location of the enclosures **(4)** and the DMV **(6)** and the undeveloped nature of the exemplar site suggests that there is the potential for archaeological remains associated with these assets to extend into the site. There is also the possibility that there may be the remains of a limekiln within the site as the place name evidence suggests.

The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological remains which may exist within the exemplar site. These remains are currently unknown but could relate to the enclosures to the south west of the site or the DMV to the east, they could also be related to the possible limekiln indicated by place name evidence.

8.2 Built Heritage

There are three assets within the study area that have some significance in built heritage terms. The grade II* listed St Lawrence's Church **(BH1)** can be considered to be nationally significant while the grade II listed Home Farmhouse **(BH4)** and the non-listed Caversfield House **(BH6)** are considered to be of local significance. The setting of St Lawrence's Church and Caversfield House is restricted as they are enclosed within an area of mature planting, although the setting of the church does also include some key sightlines to and from the tower. The setting of the grade II listed Home Farmhouse is defined by its location close to both open farmland and the urban development of Bicester.

The proposed development has the potential to have a minor impact upon the setting of St Lawrence's Church and Home Farmhouse. It is not considered that Caversfield House will be impacted upon as it is shielded from the site by mature planting and a roadside wall.

9 Recommendations

9.1 Archaeology

The exemplar site is situated in an area of some archaeological potential and this assessment has shown that there are some known archaeological remains within the area that may extend into the site but overall the potential of the site is not fully defined.

It is recommended that further archaeological investigation is required to fully determine the archaeological potential of the site and give a greater understanding of its significance. Consultation with the Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council carried out during the course of this assessment indicates that he is of this opinion as well. A sample archaeological evaluation carried out at the site would enable any possible archaeological remains within the site to be located and from this it may be possible to design the location of structures within the development to avoid any significant remains or devise a programme of mitigation to record the remains. The evaluation will also be able to determine areas within the exemplar site which do not contain any archaeological remains which will allow the development to continue without constraint.

9.2 Built Heritage

On the basis of the built heritage assessment it is recommended that the line of sight from the north east corner of the wooded area to the church tower be preserved. This would significantly lessen the impact of the development of this area on this asset. It is also recommended that some open space is maintained between Home Farmhouse and the development and the development is screened from the asset through careful planning and maintaining the existing hedgerows.

On a more general note sympathetic design of key structures within the development to compliment the historic structures in the area will allow the development to blend well with the existing historic settlements allowing a greater sense of place connecting the new development with important buildings in the area.

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Roman Bicester www.blhs.org.uk

www.bicesterlocalhistorysociety.org.uk

Appendix 1

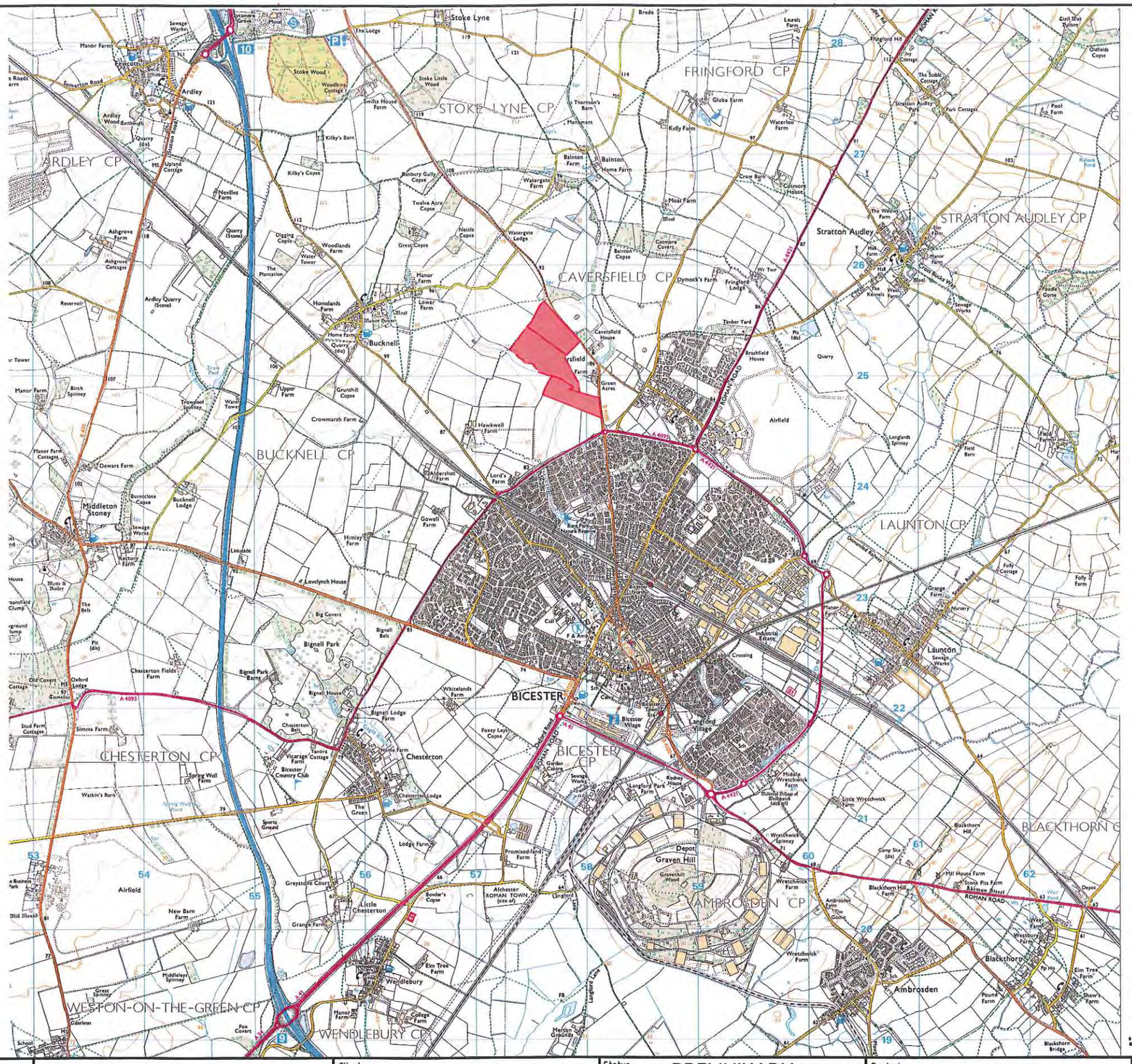
Catalogue of archaeological assets

Hyder Number	HER/NMR Number	Grid Reference	Period	Description
1	1212379, 1097292, 1097296, 1097300	458000, 224000	Prehistoric	A Mesolithic flint scatters were found during an evaluation and excavation at Slade Farm, Bicester. A geophysical survey, evaluation and excavation were undertaken at the site in the 1990s
4	15958 - MOX5633	457300, 224800	Prehistoric	Rectilinear enclosures identified from aerial photographs. Curvilinear enclosures may also be present
6	338860	458400, 225400	Medieval	Caversfield Deserted Medieval Village, had a population of 21 in 1086, 6 in 1524 and 178 in 1841. In 1854 fields containing the site of Caversfield DMV were called Old Walls. The high population in 19th century can be explained by houses scattered in the parish. A fishpond is recorded in Domesday Book.

Appendix 2

Catalogue of built heritage assets

Hyder Number	Grid Reference	Grade	Period	Description
BH1	458063, 225202	II*	Early medieval	St Lawrence Church. Medieval building with Anglo Saxon tower and later addittions
BH4	458070, 224974	II	Post medieval	Home Farmhouse dated to 17th centry
BH6	458200, 225300	Non-listed	Post-medieval	Caversfield House



KEY

EXEMPLAR SITE BOUNDARY

Issue	Description	Date
01	FIRST ISSUE	29/07/10

Client: a2dominion / P3Eco Ltd

Status: PRELIMINARY

Scales	SHOWN	Current Issue Signatures
		Author M.LLEWELLIN
Original Size	A3	Checker J.BENTLEY
Height Datum		Approver P.HARKER
Grid	GRID	© Copyright reserved

Filename: 0006-UA001881-UP21D-01.DWG

Project: BICESTER ECO TOWN

Title: SITE LOCATION PLAN

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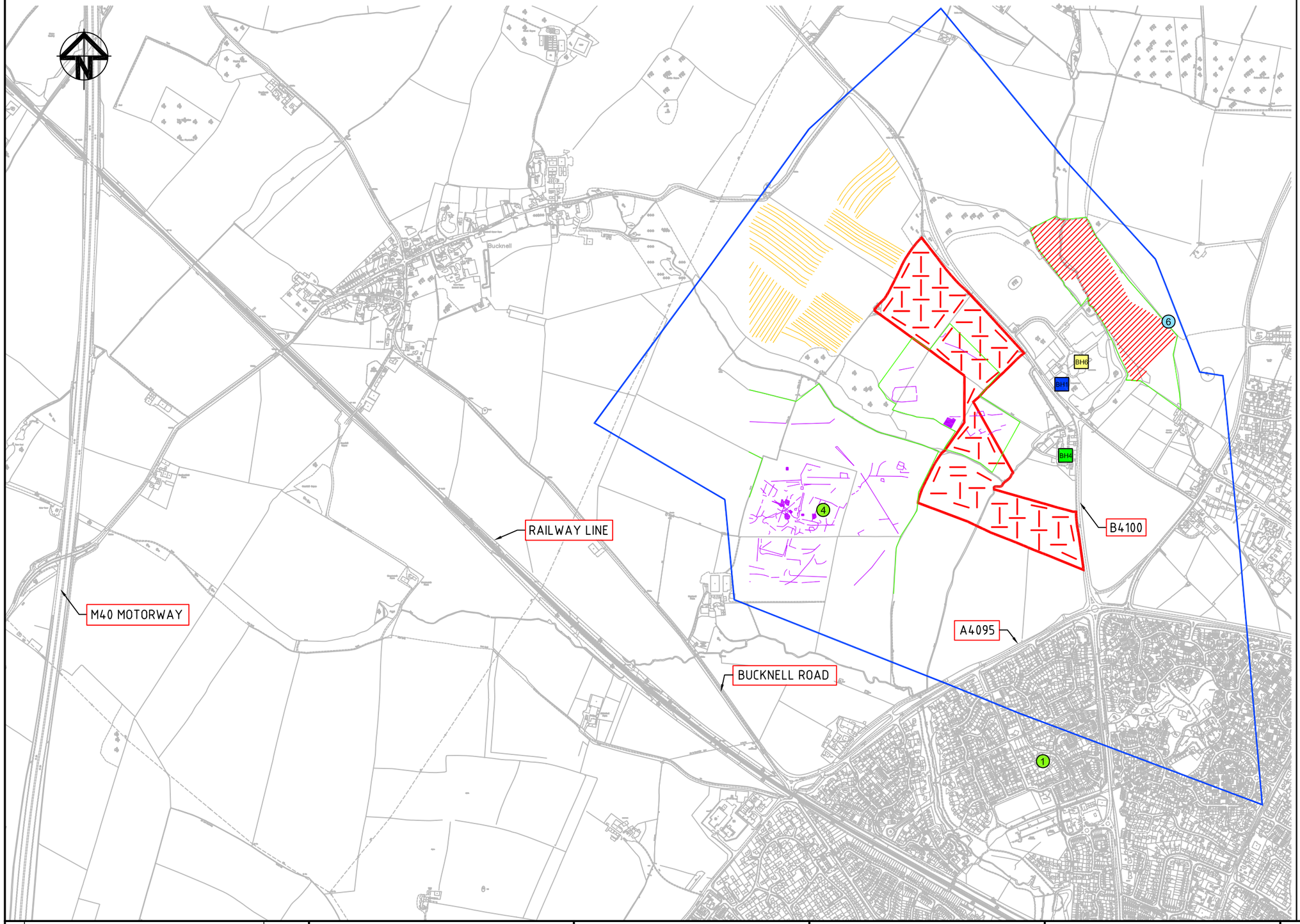
Fax: +44 (0)870 000 3906

Drawing No.	Project No.	Issue
FIGURE 1—	UA001881—	01



KEY

- EXEMPLAR BOUNDARY
- STUDY AREA

ARCHAEOLOGY RECEPTORS

- 1 PREHISTORIC
- 5 ROMAN
- 6 MEDIEVAL
- 7 POST-MEDIEVAL
- 8 MODERN

BUILT HERITAGE RECEPTORS

- BH1 LISTED II*
- BH2 LISTED II
- BH6 NON LISTED

- AREAS OF MEDIEVAL PLOUGHING (RIDGE AND FURROW)
- AP SITE POLYGONS
- BURIED FEATURES (SHOWN AS MARKS IN CROPS)
- DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE (DMV) AT CAVERDFIELD
- EVALUATION TRENCH

Issue	Description	Date
01	FIRST ISSUE	29/07/10

NOTES

Client: a2dominion / P3Eco Ltd

Status: PRELIMINARY

Scales: 1:12,500

Original Size: A3

Height Datum:

Grid: GRID

Filename: 0005-UA001881FIGURE2

Current Issue Signatures

Author M.LLEWELLIN

Checker J.WYLIE

Approver P.HARKER

Project: BICESTER ECO TOWN

Title: LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND BUILT HERITAGE RECEPTORS

Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited
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London
SW15 5DZ
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Drawing No. FIGURE 2 | Project No. UA001881 | Issue 01

50mm on Original

12/Oct/2010 8:09 AM K:\UA001881_BicesterEco\E-OurDrawings\0005-UA001881-UP21D-02-FIGURE 2-LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND BUILT HERITAGE RECEPTORS.dwg

APPENDIX 11B

Interpretation of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology

AIRPHOTO SERVICES

Archaeology ▪ Research ▪ Law ▪ Environment ▪ Planning

Bicester Eco Town, Oxfordshire

PART 2: The Exemplar Site

Interpretation of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology

October 2010

AIRPHOTO SERVICES

Archaeology ▪ Research ▪ Law ▪ Environment ▪ Planning

Bicester Eco Town, Oxfordshire

PART 2: The Exemplar Site

Interpretation of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology

Client Name: Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd

Document Reference: CC210-0802-2-2

Project Number: CC210-0802

Quality Assurance

Issue	**Date**
02	9th October 2010

Prepared by	**Signed**
Chris Cox BA MA MIfA	

Director

QA Checked by

Tracy Michaels
BA AIfA

AIR PHOTO SERVICES

Archaeology ▪ Research ▪ Law ▪ Environment ▪ Planning

Contents

AIRPHOTO SERVICES

Archaeology ▪ Research ▪ Law ▪ Environment ▪ Planning

SUMMARY

S1 This interpretation of aerial photographs was prepared by Chris Cox at Air Photo Services Ltd on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd in October 2010. The work was commissioned to support the assessment of the potential impact of a proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the proposed Bicester Ecotown development site. The development site is split into two parts, the Exemplar Site, which is a small area in the north east of the development site, and the rest of the site, which is referred to as the Whole Site

S2 The report contains two parts, of which this is Part 2 and assesses the Exemplar Site (**Plan 1 0802/07**). Part 1 of the report is concerned with the Proposed Development Site, which comprises the Exemplar Site and the Whole Site.

S3 The Exemplar Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 578 254, near Caversfield to the north west of Bicester in Oxfordshire, UK. It comprises c. 3.5 ha of agricultural land and lies within the north east portion of the Proposed Development Site. The Exemplar Site lies on limestone substrates which give rise to well drained calcareous soils and has been ploughed and used for agriculture. Calcareous soils and substrates are free draining and thus conducive to the formation of crop marks, where cereal and other crops grow more vigorously over buried ditches and pits, or less well over banks and metalled surfaces if these features are present within or below the topsoil.

S4 The object of this aerial photographic interpretation was to provide information on the location and nature of any archaeological features or areas of archaeological potential visible on existing aerial photographs within the Exemplar Site.

S5 Aerial photographs taken between the 1946 and the present day were examined in the library of the English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR), the Oxfordshire Heritage Environment Record (OHER) and online at Google Earth (timelines between 1999 and 2010) and Multimap.co.uk (Getmapping, 1999). Photographs were examined by Chris Cox and Rog Palmer. Data supplied by the NMR Monuments Reports the OHER, Ordnance Survey (OS) and mapping and data supplied by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

S6 The Exemplar Site contains fragmentary buried ditches and natural geological features which show as marks in crops over a small part of its area.

S7 It lies adjacent to other crop marked sites which indicates probable occupation in the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods, and to areas of Medieval farming and settlement features.

S8 This assessment has added features to the known resource in this area. These data have been derived from oblique and vertical aerial photographs which have not been previously interpreted in detail for archaeological purposes.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This interpretation of aerial photographs was prepared by Chris Cox at Air Photo Services Ltd on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd., in October 2010.

1.2 The work was commissioned to support the assessment of the potential impact of a proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the site.

1.3 The object of this aerial photographic interpretation was to provide information on the location and nature of any archaeological features or areas of archaeological potential visible on existing aerial photographs within the study area and its environs.

1.4 It is important to note that aerial photographs usually only show part of the horizontal and vertical extent of buried features. Their capacity to reveal features as vegetation marks, soil marks or upstanding features depends upon a number of environmental and agricultural factors prevalent at the time of photographic survey. The appearance of marks in crops over buried features is also governed by a complex interaction of land use, soil type, weather and other factors (Riley 1980, Wilson 1982 and 2000).

1.5 Air Photo Interpretation (API) data thus acts as a starting point for ground-based investigations, which may reveal further details of the date and nature of the deposits which are initially identified from the air.

2 THE STUDY AREA

Location

2.1 The Exemplar Site is located near Caversfield to the north-west of Bicester in Oxfordshire, UK and is centred at NGR SP 578 254.

2.2 **Plan 1** (0802/07) shows the location of the Exemplar Site, which comprises agricultural land.

2.3 The Exemplar Site has been observed on aerial photographs under arable cultivation (bare soil, growing crops and ripe crops) with some smaller areas under grass, on aerial photographs taken between 1946 and the present day.

Geology and Soils

2.4 The Exemplar Site lies on limestone substrates, which are particularly conducive to the formation of marks in crops over more humic, moisture retentive, buried features. These substrates give rise to well drained calcareous soils which are conducive to the formation of marks in vegetation and crops in times of drought over the sites of buried features. These soils are equally suitable for the cultivation of cereals or pasture and were attractive to past settlers due to the well drained soil and fertile environment.

2.5 The soil in the Exemplar Site is classified by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) as the Aberford type soil association (511a).

Archaeology

2.6 The areas to the south and north of, but outside the boundaries of, the Exemplar Site contain recorded archaeological assets. These comprise a buried eroded ring ditch (OHER 13907) and curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures (HER 15958). There is also recorded evidence for prehistoric, Iron Age, Romano-British, Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern military sites in the immediate environs. The Exemplar Site does not contain any previously recorded archaeological features. There are also built heritage assets (OHER 18643) to the south of the Exemplar Site and Bignall House and its gardens lie over 2km to the south-west of the Exemplar Site. The Exemplar site has been subject to an archaeological and built heritage Desk-based assessment (Wylie 2010) which contains more detailed information on the archaeological background of the site

2.7 This assessment aimed to identify and clarify the nature and extent of features visible on aerial photographs within the Exemplar Site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGY FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The Role of Aerial Photographic Interpretation

3.1 Air photo interpretation provides an overview of landscape history and changes in land use. It provides informed guidance for subsequent desk and ground-based investigations and complements cartographic and documentary research.

3.2 Some information gained from aerial photographs cannot easily be detected by other means. Aerial photographs provide a chronologically documented and seasonal overview of a landscape and sites and features within it. The interpretation of contemporary and archival aerial photographs is thus an important component of multi-disciplinary archaeological investigation.

3.3 Interpretation of aerial photographs allows the accurate mapping of archaeological sites or natural features recorded as crop, grass or vegetation marks (caused by the differential growth of plants over buried features); soil marks (caused by differences in soil colour over ploughed buried features) and shadows cast by upstanding earthworks and features seen in relief.

Limitations of the Data

3.4 Aerial photographic evidence is limited by seasonal, agricultural, meteorological and environmental factors which affect the extent to which either buried or upstanding archaeological features can be detected. It is thus advantageous to examine a range of photos taken under a variety of environmental conditions in order to build up a comprehensive interpretation of the archaeological landscape. The visibility of archaeological features may differ from year to year, and be obscured by differential depths of soil or differing types of vegetation. Individual photographs often record only a small percentage of the actual extent of buried or upstanding features.

Relevance in this case

3.5 In this case, the range of aerial photographs available for interpretation was comprehensive, both seasonally and chronologically. It is obvious from the range of available aerial images that the area around Bicester has been surveyed and examined from the air by specialist archaeological surveyors, and also covered in full over many decades by vertical aerial surveys for non-archaeological purposes.

4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS: Types and Sources

Types

4.1 Two types of aerial photograph are used for archaeological interpretation. Vertical aerial photographs are taken for general-purpose survey using a camera mounted inside a modified aircraft. The aircraft is flown on a pre-planned set of overlapping flight-lines which cover the survey area completely. The camera points straight towards the ground. The vertical viewpoint provides aerial photographic coverage from a fixed scale and constant 180° angles at the centre of each frame. The overlap between the areas covered by each consecutive frame is usually 60%. This overlap between frames enables the photo interpreter to study each pair of vertical photos under a stereoscope.

4.2 The stereoscope combines the two images to allow the interpreter to see one three-dimensional image of the ground surface. Vertical aerial photographs carry inherent distortions introduced by variations in perspective and ground height, but are essentially 'map-like' in appearance. They are generally taken for non-archaeological, civil and military purposes and form the basic data from which most modern maps are compiled. Vertical aerial photographs are a very useful source of archaeological data, particularly in areas where features survive as earthworks.

4.3 Oblique aerial photographs are taken using a hand held camera by an aerial archaeologist to portray features which have been identified during specialist survey. These photos are extremely useful, but contain inherent perspective distortions, which must be accounted for in rectification and mapping procedures. In this case, both vertical aerial photographs, and specialist obliques which are taken with a hand held camera by an archaeological surveyor, were available for interpretation.

Sources of Data

English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR)

4.4 National Monuments Record (NMR) Centre, English Heritage, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Coversearch number 53316. Vertical and oblique photographs dating from 1946 to 1996 provided a primary source of data for the assessment. Photographs held at OHER were also consulted. The oblique photos in the OHER are also held in the NMR, but the OHER also hold vertical aerial photographs taken in 1961 (FAS), 1981 and 1991 (Geonex).

4.5 The ortho-rectified mosaics of vertical aerial photographs provided by Bluesky, the GeoInformation Group, Getmapping plc and TeleAtlas were consulted online for this assessment in September and October 2010 and included all available timelines.

5 INTERPRETATION AND MAPPING METHODOLOGY

5.1 All photographs were interpreted in accordance with the client's brief for works at this site and Palmer & Cox (1993).

5.2 The photographs were closely examined, under 1.5x and 4x magnification and interpreted with the aid of a mirror stereoscope where appropriate, or in detail on screen when consulted as digital files.

5.3 Photographs which were selected for mapping were scanned and ortho-rectified using AirPhoto 3.41 software to a 1:2500 scale surveyed OS digital map base. The resulting rectified files were then imported to AutoCad as geo-tiff files and the accurate positions of all visible archaeological features were mapped as a separate digital layer.

5.4 All control point mismatch values between the map and the photographs fell below 2.0 m, which lies within the stated accuracy of OS mapping at 1:2500 scale.

5.5 Printed maps are presently scaled to fit the appropriate paper size for illustration. They are also provided digitally for accurate scaling as required by the client, for import to a Geographic Information System (GIS) in Drawing Exchange Format release 12 (DXF 12).

6 RESULTS

6.1 The Exemplar Site lies on limestone, in an area where surrounding fields show extensive evidence for 'patterned ground', other buried periglacial features and cracking and jointing in the underlying rocks (Stephens 1990). These features show as marks in the crops alongside marks caused by buried ditches and pits which show the position of eroded archaeological sites.

6.2 The area to the immediate south of the Exemplar Site contains extensive evidence for buried enclosures, ditches and pits which indicates the presence of a probable Prehistoric or Romano-British settlement or farmstead site. This, and other sites in the vicinity, are detailed in Part 1 of this report and lie within the Whole Site.

6.3 All sites within or adjacent to the Exemplar Site are illustrated in **Plan 2** (0802/08). It is not possible to accurately date these sites without reference to excavated dating material. AP1, described below, lies partially within the Exemplar Site.

AP Site	AP 1, **Plan 2** (0802/08)
NGR	SP 576 254
Location	Partially within Exemplar Site at Caversfield
Site type	Ditches and enclosure
OHER	NA
DBA	NA
Photo references	75/312 031, 68/252 017, 94-214 005 – 007, SP 5724/1 & 2

Description
The Exemplar Site contains evidence for fragmentary ditches and possible ditched enclosures. These are heavily masked by natural geological features and show as marks in crops on vertical aerial photographs. The focus of these features is a buried ditched sub rectangular enclosure which lies to the immediate south of the Exemplar Site, outside its boundary. These features are all eroded and buried and are visible only via marks in crops where the plants grow more vigorously over the buried ditches in times of drought.

There is also a sub-rectangular area of deeper soil which may be a place where local quarrying has been undertaken for stone extraction, then filled in when worked out. The majority of the Exemplar Site contains no further visible archaeological features.

6.4 Other sites lie to the south, north and west of the Exemplar Site. These comprise the upstanding remains of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) over 250m to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site (AP 2), eroded and upstanding remains of Medieval fields to the immediate west and northwest of the Exemplar Site, partially within the Whole Site (AP 3) and an area of complex crop marked enclosures, ditches and pits at AP 4, to the south and west of the Exemplar Site, within the Whole Site.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The Exemplar Site contains evidence for anomalies in the top and sub soils caused by periglacial features and jointing in the underlying limestone which show as marks in crops. These features underlie evidence for archaeological ditches, enclosures and pits the majority of which lie just outside the boundary of the Exemplar Site, ad some fragmentary features which are visible within one portion of the Exemplar Site..

7.2 The crop marked features which lie within the Exemplar Site are not as apparently complex nor as extensive as the features which lie outside the Exemplar Site to the south in the Whole Site.

7.3 The visible archaeological features within the Exemplar Site comprise fragmentary ditches which may be associated with an enclosure which lies just outside the boundary of the Exemplar Site (0802/08), within the Whole Site.

7.4 The Exemplar Site is separated from the remains of the DMV at Caversfield by Caversfield House and its grounds, which lies to the north and outside of the Proposed Development Area. There are no visible traces of Medieval settlement features within the Exemplar Site from the aerial photographs.

7.5 The majority of the Exemplar Site contains no visible crop marked archaeological features beyond the fragmentary ditches illustrated at **Plan 2** (0802/08). Its proximity to other buried archaeological sites, which lie within the Whole Site, may be considered when determining any potential for archaeological deposits within the Exemplar Site.

8 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 6, South East England.1:250000 scale.

Palmer R & Cox C, 1993	*Uses of Aerial photography in Archaeological Evaluations* IfA Technical Paper 12. IfA Reading
Riley DNR, 1980	*Early Landscape from the Air.* Sheffield
Stephens N (ed), 1990	*Natural Landscapes of Britain from the Air* Cambridge
Wilson DR 1982 and 2000	*Air Photo Interpretation for Archaeologists* London 1st Ed 1982 and 2nd Ed 2000, Stroud
Wylie, 2010	*Bicester Ecotown – Exemplar Site Desk-based Assessment.* Hyder Consulting, unpublished client report. report no. 0505-UA001881-UE31-R-01

AIRPHOTO SERVICES

Archaeology ▪ Research ▪ Law ▪ Environment ▪ Planning

APPENDIX 1
Aerial Photographs Consulted at English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR)

ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Air Photographs

Customer oblique listing - Obliques, Standard Order

Customer enquiry reference number: 53316

Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Film and frame number	Original number	Date	Film type		Map Reference (6 figure grid ref)
SP 5724 / 1	NMR 4634 / 05		02 JUN 1990	Black& white	70mm,120,220	SP 573248
SP 5724 / 2	NMR 4634 / 06		02 JUN 1990	Black& white	70mm,120,220	SP 573248

AIRPHOTO SERVICES

Archaeology ▪ Research ▪ Law ▪ Environment ▪ Planning

ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Air Photographs

Full single listing - Verticals, Standard order

Customer enquiry reference: 53316

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RP	3152	P	SP 566 257	4	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RP	3153	P	SP 574 258	4	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4152	P	SP 570 242	10	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4153	P	SP 578 243	10	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4319	P	SP 581 241	12	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4320	P	SP 575 240	12	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4321	P	SP 569 240	12	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
FSL/6125	1118A	V	12109	P	SP 562 224	43	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
FSL/6125	1118A	V	12110	P	SP 569 224	43	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
FSL/6125	1118A	V	13114	P	SP 567 251	46	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9

FSL/6125	1118A	V	13115	P	SP 574 251	46	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
FSL/6125	1118A	V	13116	P	SP 581 251	46	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/73252	10419	V	76	P	SP 569 249	1	06 JUN 1973	A	7700	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/73252	10419	V	77	P	SP 576 249	1	06 JUN 1973	A	7700	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/73252	10419	V	78	P	SP 583 249	1	06 JUN 1973	A	7700	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/66042	11626	V	35	P	SP 565 252	5	29 APR 1966	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/66042	11626	V	36	P	SP 574 251	5	29 APR 1966	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/66042	11626	V	37	P	SP 579 252	5	29 APR 1966	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/68252	11632	V	16	P	SP 568 250	2	05 JUL 1968	A	6400	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/68252	11632	V	17	P	SP 572 247	2	05 JUL 1968	A	6400	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/68252	11632	V	18	P	SP 576 243	2	05 JUL 1968	A	6400	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/75312	12174	V	31	P	SP 576 243	1	05 JUL 1975	A	10600	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/84243	12669	V	1024	P	SP 575 249	5	26 NOV 1984	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
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OS/96633	15201	V	77	P	SP 570 255	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96633	15201	V	78	P	SP 575 255	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96633	15201	V	79	P	SP 580 255	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96634	15202	V	50	P	SP 579 245	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
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OS/96634	15202	V	52	P	SP 569 245	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9

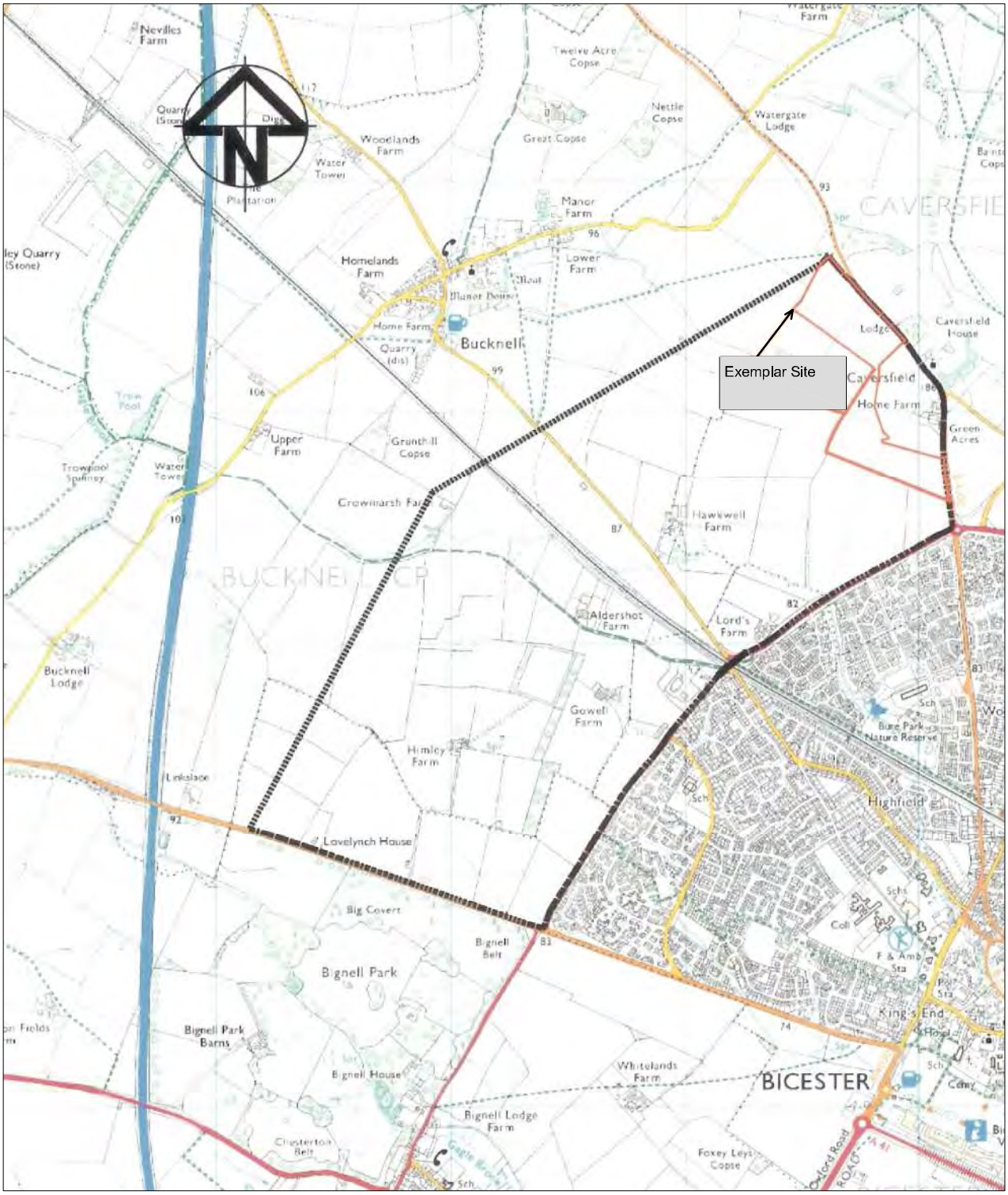
PLANS

Plan 1 Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site
Location of the Study Area

0802/07 October 2010 CC

Plan 2 Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site
Sites identified from aerial photographs

0802/08 October 2010 CC

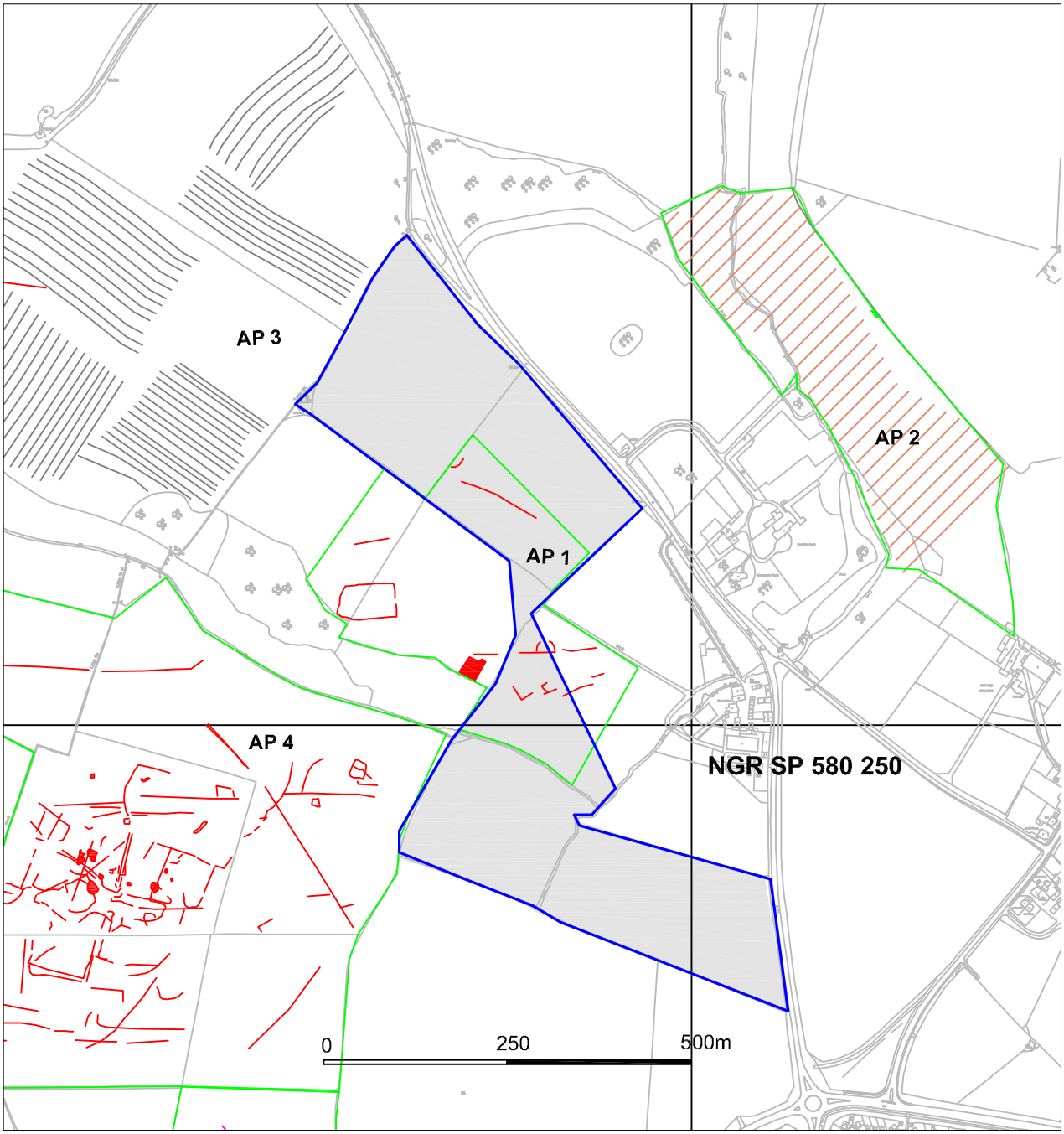


Drawing Title	PLAN 1 Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site Location of the Study Area
Client	Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd
Project	Bicester Eco Town
Plan no	0802/07
Scale	NA
Date	10 2010 cc

The Proposed Development Site

The Exemplar Site

Air Photo Services Ltd www.airphotoservices.co.uk



Drawing Title	PLAN 2 Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site Sites identified from aerial photographs
Client	Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd
Project	Bicester Eco Town
Plan no	0802/08
Scale	As shown
Date	10 2010 cc

The Exemplar Site

AP site polygons

AP 1 AP site numbers referred in the text

Buried features which show as marks in crops

Areas of Medieval ploughing (ridge and furrow)

Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) at Caversfield

Air Photo Services Ltd www.airphotoservices.co.uk

APPENDIX 11C

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site Caversfield Oxon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology
southsouthsouth

October 2010

Client: Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 4841
NGR: SP 5788 2520

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client Name:	Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd
Client Ref No:	
Document Title:	Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Oxon
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number:	1
Grid Reference:	SP 5788 2520
Planning Reference:	n/a
OA Job Number:	4841
Site Code:	BIECO 10
Invoice Code:	BIECO EV
Receiving Museum:	Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Museum Accession No:	OXCMS:2010.65
Event No:	

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Brian Dean Project Officer	Andrew Norton Senior Project Manager	Alan Hardy Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location	\\SERVER1\Projects\Bicester Eco Town\eval rep
Graphics File Location	\\Servergo\invoice codes a thru h\B_invoice codes\BIECOEV
Illustrated by	Markus Dylewski

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Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Oxon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Brian Dean

and illustrated by Markus Dylewski

Table of Contents

List of Figures

Summary

Between 6th and 24th September 2010, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) completed a programme of archaeological evaluation at Home Farm, Bicester on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. A total of 70 trenches measuring 50 m x 2 m were excavated accounting for 4% of the 21 ha site.

Only six trenches contained features worthy of further investigation. These features were all linear and varied in orientation and dimensions. The features were recorded and interpreted as possible agricultural ditches, but with the caveat that they were ambiguous and could equally be natural features. The fills of the excavated features bore a marked resemblance in colour, composition and compaction to the natural geology observed in low-lying areas of the site, and towards the southern limit of the site. No finds were recovered.

The results suggest that the exemplar site lies in an area devoid of significant archaeological activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 The site lies to the north-west of Bicester and is bounded by Home Farm and the B4100 to the north and east, and farmland to the south and west (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 Richard Oram (OCC) issued a brief (OCC 2010) detailing the archaeological requirements of the work, and OAS produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how those requirements would be met (OA 2010). The evaluation comprised 70 trenches measuring 50 m x 2 m, which represents 4% of the site (Fig. 2). Areas of saplings, manure storage areas and streams could not be evaluated.

1.1.3 Because of the presence of livestock the site was split into two areas (A and B), with the trenches within Area A being fully recorded and backfilled before commencing work in Area B.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies at approximately 85.7 m OD and the underlying geology is cornbrash. The site is currently agricultural land and comprises c. 21 ha. The majority of the land is currently utilised as grazing land for livestock with only a single field (eastern field in Area A) used for crops.

1.2.2 The natural geology within the northern part of the site comprises limestone, and the geology within the southern part of the site comprises sandy clay with limestone patches.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site is described in the brief (OCC 2010) and is summarised below.

1.3.2 There has been no previous archaeological investigation within the proposed site but several recorded monuments lie close by.

1.3.3 Aerial photographs show a series of rectangular enclosures 400 m to the south-west of the proposed site. These are likely to be Iron Age in origin, and associated with a settlement recorded in advance of the construction of a housing estate at Slade Farm,

1.3.4 The 10th- or 11th-century Church of St Lawrence lies to the north-east of the site and a post-medieval fishpond survives to the south of the church. A Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) is recorded at Caversfield to the east of the exemplar site.

1.3.5 Home Farm is a listed 17th-century farmhouse and lies to the south of the church and east of the site.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Jenny Wylie of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd and Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Council for their help and advice throughout the work. Thanks are also extended to Mr and Mrs Phipps, the landowners, for their assistance during the works. The fieldwork was directed by the author who was assisted by Kevin Moon, John Boothroyd and Gemma Stewart.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains.

2.1.2 To identify any prehistoric remains and any settlement associated with the Church of St Lawrence and Caversfield DMV.

2.1.3 To make available the the results of the work.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Prior to excavation all trenches were scanned with a CAT to identify any unrecorded services. Excavation was carried out by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon (the natural geology), in successive, level spits.

2.2.3 Following mechanical excavation, all areas of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Recording took place in accordance with the OA fieldwork manual (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented as a written description of the features and deposits observed. An index of all trenches is also presented in tabular form (Appendix 1).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 All deposits appeared to be undisturbed by modern activity, although truncation through ploughing cannot be ruled out. The natural geology comprised cornbrash in the north of the site, and a sandy silt deposit in the south of the site and in lower lying areas. The area was free-draining and the water-table was not encountered at any point during the evaluation. The natural geology was overlain by a buried ploughsoil averaging 0.06 m in depth, which was overlain by 0.3 m of topsoil (Figs. 3-7). Sections 4001 and 6701 (Fig. 7) are not located on a trench plan but are designed to be representative of the soil sequence in the southern fields (Trenches 40 and 67).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Six of the seventy trenches contained features worthy of further investigation. The limited possible archaeological deposits were not exclusive to specific area or topology.

3.4 Trenches in Area A

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3) contained a NE-SW aligned linear feature with irregular sides and base running across the width of the trench. The feature (103) was 1.1 m wide by 0.32 m deep. The fill (104) was a homogeneous mid orangey brown silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

3.4.2 Trench 30 (Fig. 4) contained a N-S aligned linear feature with irregular sides running across the width of the trench. The feature (3003) was 1.16 m wide by 0.13 m deep. The fill (3004) was a homogeneous mid orangey brown sandy silt. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit. As with the deposit observed in Trench 1 (104) the fill appeared very similar to the natural deposits in the south of the site.

3.5 Trenches in Area B

3.5.1 Trench 47 (Fig. 5) contained a NW-SE aligned wide linear feature with an irregular base. The feature (4703) measured 2.7 m wide by 0.34 m depth and extended across the width of the trench. The fill (4704) was a homogeneous mid reddish brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered from this fill.

3.5.2 Trench 52 (Fig. 6) contained a NW-SE aligned linear feature with an uneven base and irregular sides. This feature (5203) measured 2.5 m width by 0.27 m depth and extended across the width of the trench. The fill (5204) was a homogeneous mid reddish brown clayey sand.

3.5.3 Trench 53 (not illustrated) contained a shallow linear feature oriented N-S. The feature (5303) measured 1.96 m width by 0.12 m depth and extended across the width of the trench. The fill (5304) was a homogeneous mid reddish brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit, which was most likely a natural hollow.

3.5.4 Trench 54 (Fig. 7) contained a linear feature with irregular sides and base oriented NE-SW. The feature (5402) measured 2.4 m width by 0.36 m depth and extended across

the width of the trench. The fill (5403) was a homogeneous mid orangey brown silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 Only a single feature contained any artefactual evidence. Fill 5204 (Trench 52) contained two fragments of eroded animal bone. These fragments were retrieved from the top of the fill deposit and may be intrusive and result from ploughing activity.

3.6.2 Modern metalwork was noted in Trenches 50 and 53. Each trench contained a single item recovered from the bottom of the topsoil and in both cases the items were iron pins from modern agricultural machinery.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches represented a fair sample of the available site (4%) and were located in such a manner as to maximise the probability of exposing archaeological deposits. The trenches targeted different topologies within the site allowing clear characterisation of the area.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and to assess the extent, condition, character, quality and date of these remains. The specific aims of this evaluation were to identify any Prehistoric remains and any settlement associated with the Church of St Lawrence and Caversfield DMV.

4.2.2 These aims were met with the results being that a low density of possible archaeological deposits were observed. Dating was not available for any feature excavated.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 A total of six features were investigated in the process of this evaluation programme. Five were linear in nature and were located in a dispersed pattern across the site, one feature was most likely a natural hollow.

4.3.2 Two features were located in Area A. Both were linear in plan but excavation revealed them to have irregular shallow sides with uneven bases. It is possible that these represent ditches despite the diffuse nature of the cuts. The areas in which these 'ditches' were located were relatively flat, which leaves them more open to be interpreted as anthropogenic in nature though natural action cannot be ruled out with confidence.

4.3.3 In Area B three trenches contained possible archaeological deposits. Feature 5402 was a wide linear with an undulating base. The sides were relatively steep and regular but the north-western edge was markedly undercut. This may suggest water action having an affect on the geology. The two remaining features investigated were no less ambiguous. Features 4703 and 5203 were both wide and linear in plan. Again both had irregular sides and uneven bases. The base of 5203 was markedly undulating and its profile was a rounded 'W' in shape. This appears to represent geological formation rather than anthropogenic activity. With the exception of 5303 all the linear features examined in area B ran in the direction of the prevailing slope and this may add weight to their interpretation as natural/geological features in the landscape.

4.3.4 Evidence of geological variation was observed during the excavation of trenches in the southern field (Trenches 56-70). Isolated limestone patches and larger areas of sandy silt were observed. The consistency, compaction and colour of the sandy silt was similar to the 'fills' of the linear features, and as such a geological interpretation is more likely.

4.3.5 A very shallow N-S oriented linear was also excavated but not drawn (5303; Trench 53). The depth and profile was indicative of a furrow but as no other furrows were observed throughout the evaluation, it was determined that this was a natural hollow.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The results of the evaluation suggest no archaeological activity in the area of the exemplar site. No convincing evidence was recovered that could link any activity in this area with any of the monuments to the north-east or to the evidence for field systems to the south-west. This may mean that activity in this site was limited to agrarian practices that did not result in the partitioning of the land. Given the nature of the geology it is unlikely that drainage construction would have been necessary as the area is very quick draining.

4.4.2 The archaeological evidence is not significant and any construction is unlikely to disturb significant archaeological features.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single linear feature (103) oriented NE-SW which cut the natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	1.1	0.32	Cut of linear	-	-
104	Fill	1.1	0.32	Fill of linear		

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.49
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.26
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1200	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.22
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1400	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-

1601	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1700	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.27
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1800	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1900	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.52
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2100	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2200	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.01	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2300	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 24

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 25

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.33
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	43.5

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 26

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
	Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2600	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 27						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2800	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 29						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2900	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil	-	-
2902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single linear feature (3003) oriented N-S which cut the natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3003	Cut	1.16	0.13	Cut of linear	-	-
3004	Fill	1.16	0.13	Fill of linear	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3100	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.27
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
3201	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
3202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 33						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3300	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
3301	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
3302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 34						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 35						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.47
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3500	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-

3501	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
3502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3600	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
3601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
3602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 37						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
3701	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3801	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
3802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 39						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3900	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 40						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
4002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 41						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4100	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
4101	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
4102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 42		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.26
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
4201	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
4202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 43

General description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
4301	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
4302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 44

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash to the north with a mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand towards the southern quarter.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
4401	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
4402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 45

General description	**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
	Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4501	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
4502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 46						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.46
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4601	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
4602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 47						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Contained a single linear feature (4703) oriented NW-SE which cut the natural cornbrash. The natural deposit had an increase in clayey sand towards the lower eastern end.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
4701	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
4702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4703	Cut	2.7	0.34	Cut of linear	-	-
4704	Fill	2.7	0.34	Fill of linear	-	-

Trench 48						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4800	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4801	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
4802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 49						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4900	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4901	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
4902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 50						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.51
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5000	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
5001	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
5002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 51						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
5101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
5102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 52						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single irregular wide linear feature (5203) oriented E-W which cut the natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
521	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5203	Cut	2.5	0.27	Cut of linear	-	-
5204	Fill	2.5	0.27	Fill of linear	A. Bone	-

Trench 53						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a shallow furrow (5303) oriented N-S which cut the natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	0
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
5301	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
5302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5303	Cut	1.96	0.09	Cut of furrow	-	-
5304	Fill	1.96	0.09	Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 54		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a single wide linear feature (5402) oriented NW-SE which cut the natural cornbrash.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
	Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5400	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
5401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5402	Cut	2.4	0.36	Cut of linear	-	-
5403	Fill	2.4	0.36	Fill of linear	-	-
5404	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 55						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5500	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
5501	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 56						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand. Natural becomes stonier towards the western end of the trench where there is a break in slope.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5600	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
5601	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 57		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural cornbrash containing bands of mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.27
	Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5700	Layer	-	0.7	Topsoil	-	-
5701	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
5702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 58						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand. A stonier band up to 6 m wide was noted towards the SE end of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5800	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
5801	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
5802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 59						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash. Natural becomes sandier towards the north of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5900	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
5901	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 60						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand with stonier material present throughout.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.27
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6000	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
6001	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
6002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 61						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.41
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-

Trench 62						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash. Relatively large component of sandy silt within the natural matrix within this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6201	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
6202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 63						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6300	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-

6301	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
6302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 64						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural cornbrash with bands of sandy silt present at intervals along the length of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6400	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
6401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
6402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 65						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with a high component of sandy silt.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
6501	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
6502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 66						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mid-dark orangey brown, sandy silt.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
6602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 67						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, sandy silt. Irregular patches of stonier cornbrash were observed along length of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.29
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6700	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
6701	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
6702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 68						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with occasional bands of mid-dark orangey brown sandy silt.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6800	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
6801	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
6802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 69						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with frequent bands of mid-dark orangey brown sandy silt.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6900	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
6901	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-
6902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 70

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with frequent bands of mid-dark orangey brown sandy silt.					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7000	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
7001	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
7002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2010 Bicester Eco Town, Caversfield, Oxon, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, unpublished OA client report

OCC, 2010 Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation, OCC unpublished report

Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 Fieldwork Manual, OAU unpublished report

Appendix C. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Oxon

Site code: BIECO 10

Grid reference: SP 5788 2520

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 6/9/10 - 24/9/10

Area of site: 21 ha

Summary of results: A total of 70 trenches were excavated comprising 4% of the overall site. Of these five trenches contained features thought to require further investigation. The features excavated were all linear in plan but were found to be, at best, ambiguous in nature. The features were recorded in writing, plan and section as well as being recorded photographically in both colour and black and white.

The work allowed insight as to the topography of the site and of the natural formations observed in the area.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2010.65.

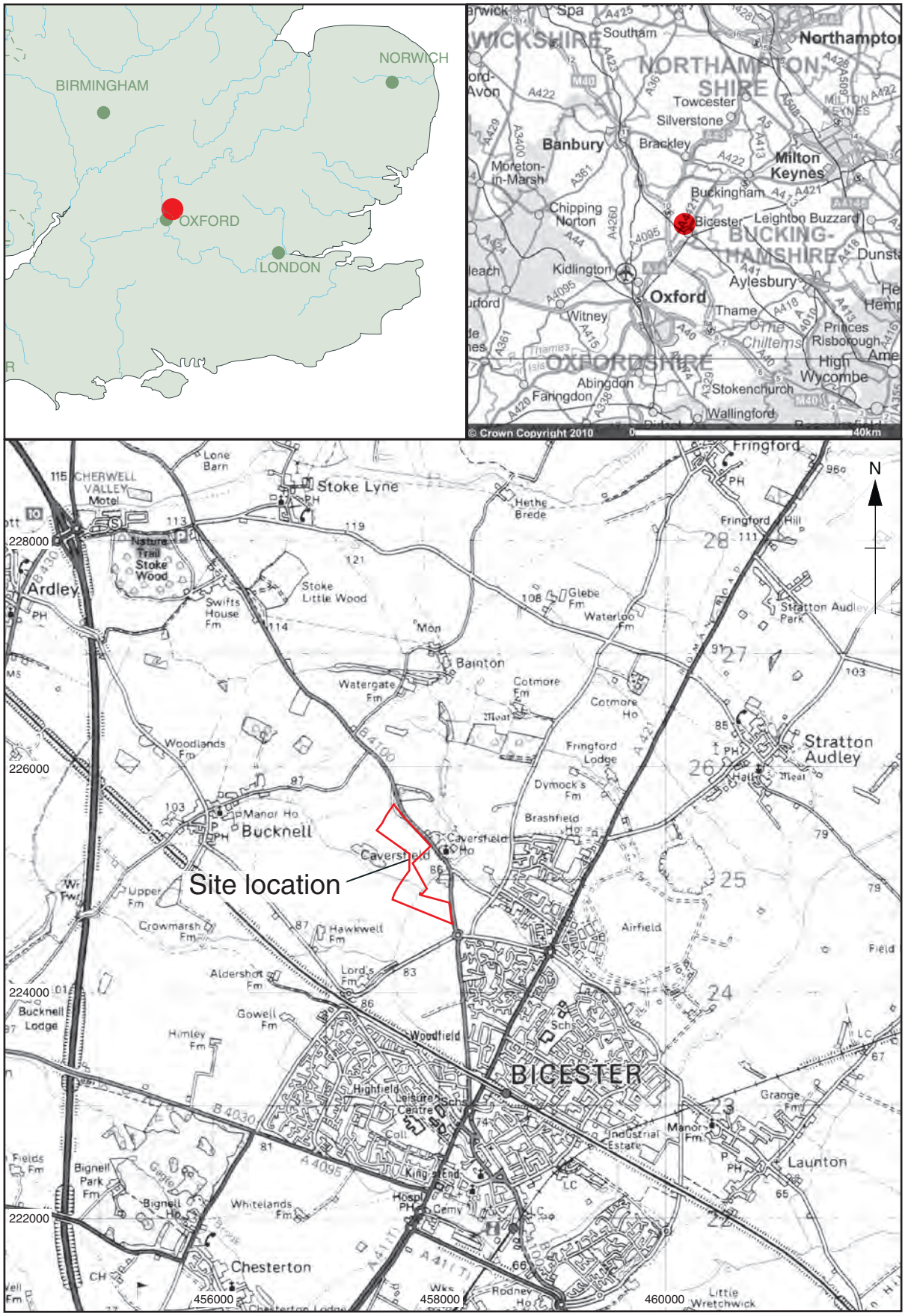

Figure 1: Site location