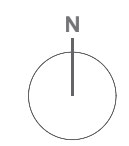


- Site Boundary
- SM XXX Scheduled Monument
- 5142 Listed Building
- Bicester Conservation Area
- 16540 HER Monument
- EOX1547 HER Event



**THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP**  
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client

**Gallagher Estates**

project title  
**Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire**

drawing title  
**Plan EDP 1: Known Heritage Assets**

date	21 OCTOBER 2014	drawn by	DB
drawing number	EDP124/84a	checked	MM
scale	NTS		



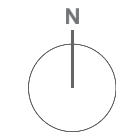
a) 1753



b) 1814



Approximate Site Boundary



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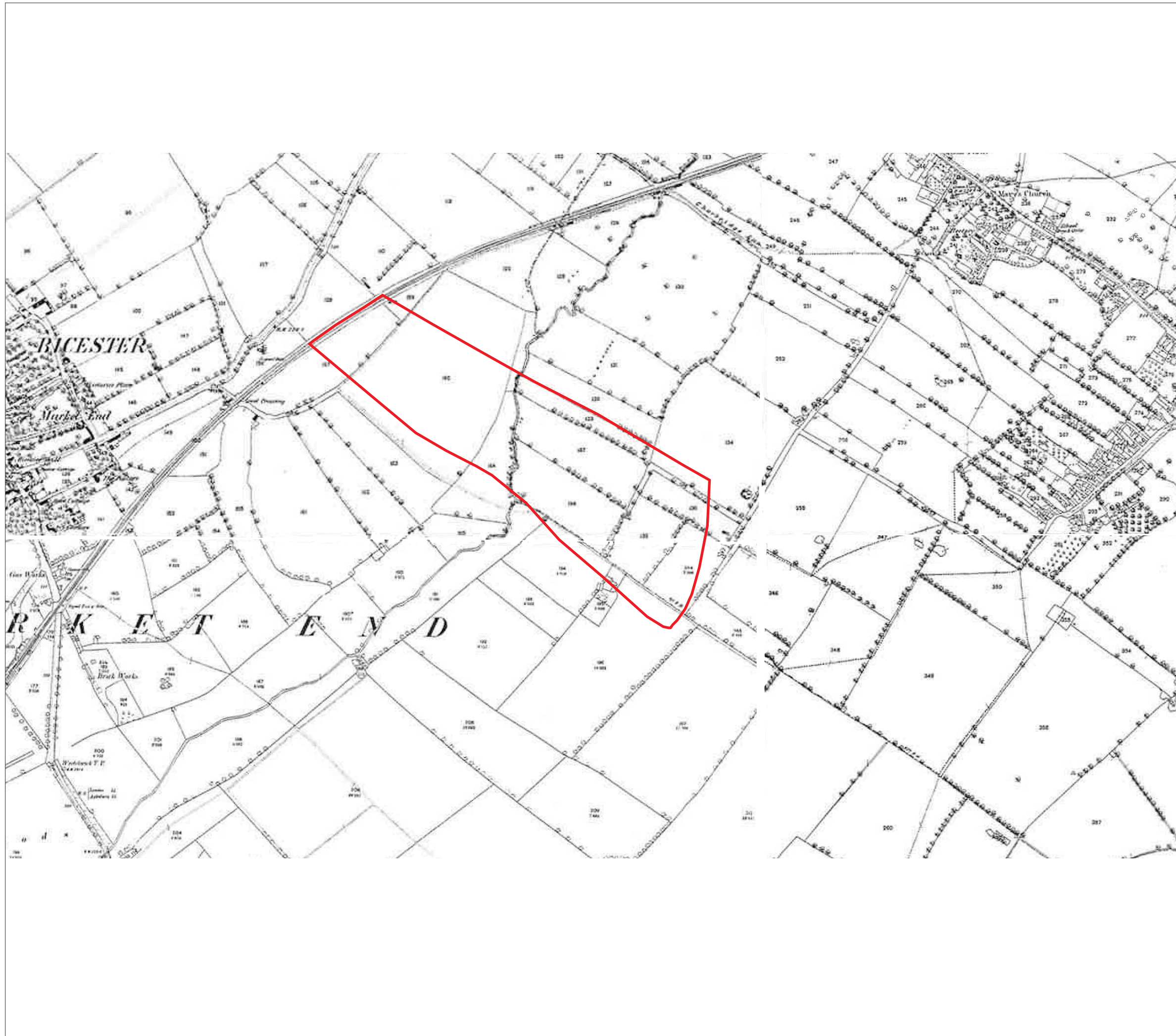
project title

**Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire**

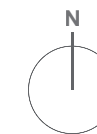
drawing title

**Plan EDP 2: Extracts from a) A New Map of the Two Manors of Bicester (c.1753) and b) A Plan of the Parish of Launton (c.1814)**

date	21 OCTOBER 2014	drawn by	DB
drawing number	EDP124/85a	checked	MM
scale	NTS		



Approximate Site Boundary



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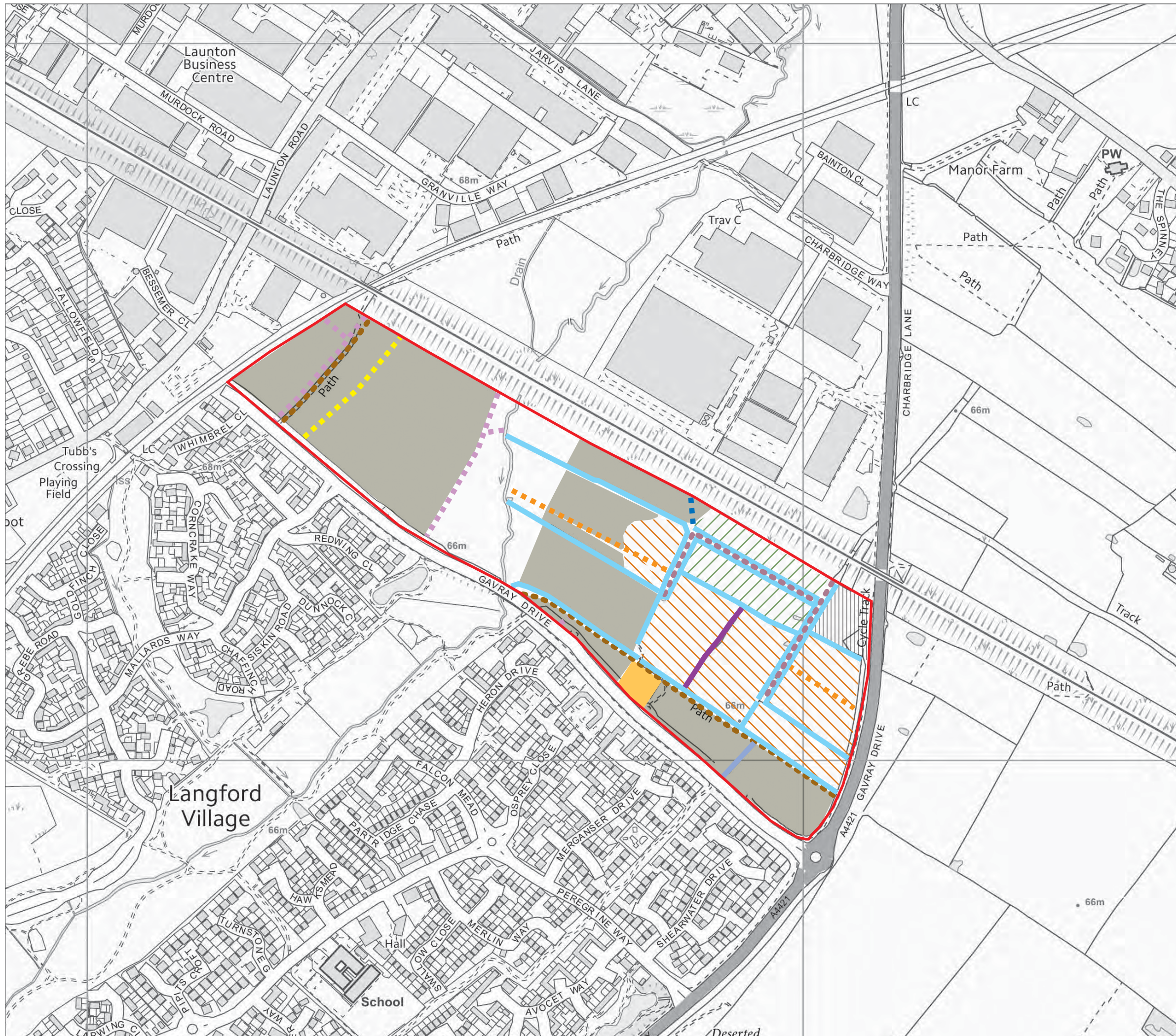
project title
















**Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire**

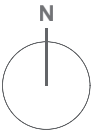

drawing title

**Plan EDP 3: Extract from First Edition  
Ordnance Survey Map (1881)**

date	21 OCTOBER 2014	drawn by	DB
drawing number	EDP124/86a	checked	MM
scale	NTS		



-  Site Boundary
-  Extant Ridge and Furrow Noted on Walkover (September 2013)
-  Extant Ridge and Furrow Noted on Previous Survey (OAU 1997) but not Confirmed by Site Walkover
-  Extant Hedges Depicted on the Launton Parish Map of 1607
-  Extant Hedges Noted on Plan of the Parish of Launton c.1814
-  Extant Hedge Noted on First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881
-  Extant Trackway Noted on Launton Parish Map of 1607
-  Path Noted on First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881
-  Non-extant Ridge and Furrow Noted on Aerial Photographs
-  Non-extant Hedges Depicted on the Launton Parish Map of 1607
-  Non-extant Hedge Depicted on the Map of Bicester 1753
-  Non-extant Hedge Noted on First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881
-  Non-extant Trackway Noted on Launton Parish Map of 1607
-  Approximate Location of Non-extant Victorian Farmstead
-  Area Inaccessible for Survey

**edp**

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client	<b>Gallagher Estates</b>		
project title	<b>Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire</b>		
drawing title	<b>Plan EDP 4: Historic Landscape Character</b>		
date	21 OCTOBER 2014	drawn by	DB
drawing number	EDP124/87a	checked	MM
scale	NTS		



THE  
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**Gavray Drive  
West, Bicester,  
Oxfordshire**

**Specification for  
Archaeological  
Mitigation**

Prepared by:  
**The Environmental  
Dimension  
Partnership (EDP)**

On behalf of:  
**Gallagher Estates  
Ltd**

March 2015  
Report Reference  
**EDP124\_31a**



THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIMENSION  
PARTNERSHIP



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## Appendix

**Appendix EDP 1** Archaeological Evaluation Report

## Plan

**Plan EDP 1** The Site Archaeology Areas Requiring Mitigation  
(EDP124/106 27 October 2014 TS/MM)

*This version is intended for electronic viewing only*

<b>For EDP use</b>	
Report no.	H_EDP124_31a
Author	Matthew Morgan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Read	Andrew Crutchley
Formatted	Sarah Compton
Proofed	Jo Moody
Proof Date	18 March 2015

## Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Specification for archaeological recording been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Gallagher Estates Ltd (the client), and sets out the scope of a programme of works intended to preserve by record those significant archaeological remains that have been found within the site by past investigation.
- 1.2 It builds upon a previous specification for archaeological works at the Gavray Drive site, which was first prepared by EDP for the client and then agreed with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) - acting as archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council (CDC) – in 2006. This was confirmed by OCC as still presenting a robust and appropriate approach to archaeological mitigation (in respect of residential development) through a process of subsequent consultation with Richard Oram of OCC in 2011.
- 1.3 The original Specification (referenced here as EDP 2006) addressed the whole of the Gavray Drive site – i.e. east and west of the brook – for which outline planning permission was granted for residential development on 12 July 2006 [04/02797/OUT]. The original Specification specifically responded to Condition 13, which was worded as follows:  
  
**No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a staged programme of archaeological investigation measures in accordance with a written scheme of investigations which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and full report for publication. The work shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the local authority.**
- 1.4 Whilst this Specification addresses only the land at Gavray Drive to the west of the brook, it continues to follow the approach to archaeological mitigation that was previously presented in EDP 2006 and agreed as being robust by OCC in 2011. This included two areas of archaeological recording within the footprint of the proposed development: i.e. Area A and Area B.
- 1.5 The Specification forms the basis for archaeological contractors to cost the necessary fieldwork and to prepare a written scheme of investigation with information regarding research strategy, staffing levels etc.

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## **Section 2**

### **The Site**

- 2.1 The following paragraph identifies the location of the site and its boundaries, and present additional information in respect of topography and geology.

#### **Location and Boundaries**

- 2.2 The site is located on the eastern edge of the town of Bicester, Oxfordshire. It comprises an area of agricultural farmland arranged in a roughly wedge shape and oriented broadly east-west. The total size amounts to c.6.92 hectares (ha).
- 2.3 It is bounded to the north east by the Birmingham to London railway line, to the north west by the Brackley to Oxford railway line, to the south west by Gavray Drive and to the south east by the sinuous course of a brook.
- 2.4 The site area is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 459446,222460, and its location and layout are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

#### **Geology and Topography**

- 2.5 With regard to the underlying solid geology, the Gavray Drive West site is located on deposits of sandstone and siltstone of the Kellaways Sand Member, which are overlain along the line of the brook and its immediate vicinity by alluvium.
- 2.6 The site is roughly flat and situated at a height of c.68m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

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## Section 3 Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The site has been subject to a desk-based assessment (EDP 2014), as well as previous field investigation in the form of geophysical survey, trial trench evaluation and a watching brief during geotechnical works.
- 3.2 The following paragraphs summarise the site area's archaeological interest/potential, based on the results of the desk and field-based investigations completed to date.

### Archaeology in the Surrounding Area

- 3.3 Desk-based assessment confirms that the Bicester area was extensively occupied during the later prehistoric Iron Age/Romano British periods. Settlement evidence has been recorded at Bure Park (Slade Farm) in the north of the town.
- 3.4 Archaeological investigations at Bicester Fields Farm to the south of the site revealed evidence of later prehistoric settlement in the form of a substantial rectilinear ditched enclosure of Middle to Late Iron Age date occupying around a hectare, with a possible causeway formed from a dump of burnt stone (OCC November 1998). A central building was indicated by a group of stone-packed postholes and curvilinear gullies. There was also evidence of animal and human burial.
- 3.5 Bicester is located approximately 2km north of the Roman town of Alcester, which was built near the crossroads of Akeman Street and the Alcester to Towcester Roman road. Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement is known in the area from an investigation on the A421 main road and an excavation to the south west of the site at the Bicester Village shopping centre.
- 3.6 To the north of Gavray Drive and the railway that forms the site's northern boundary, archaeological excavations undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2004 revealed evidence for Roman activity. The features consisted primarily of a Romano-British field system and enclosures, including two wells. One well contained a Roman writing tablet and the second was stone lined. Both dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
- 3.7 The Roman field system appeared to comprise two main developmental phases – i.e. from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD – with associated enclosures and pit groups. The enclosures were thought to have been largely for animals (e.g. paddocks), rather than human habitation. (S. Parry pers. comm.).
- 3.8 A lack of archaeological evidence for the period after the 3<sup>rd</sup> century indicates that the site was probably then abandoned. Although a small scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery dating from the 6/7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries was recorded from the overlying subsoils, no *in situ* features were attributed to this period.

- 3.9 Northamptonshire Archaeology concluded that the main focus of archaeological settlement was probably located further to the south under the railway embankment, and was probably largely destroyed by its construction (S Parry pers. comm.).
- 3.10 In 1996, the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation; in this case comprising the excavation of 19 trial trenches, c.100m south of the Northamptonshire Archaeology excavations.
- 3.11 The main concentration of archaeological deposits was located in the most northern trench excavated adjacent to the railway line (Trench 16). This produced evidence for a Roman ditch, which appeared to enclose an area that extended under the railway embankment – reminiscent of the features found to the north of the railway line by Northamptonshire Archaeology.
- 3.12 Two lengths of curving gullies were also recorded, together with a series of irregular shaped features that contained Roman finds, as well as three sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery. The deposits in Trench 16 contained nineteen sherds of Roman pottery, three fragments of Roman tile, as well as the Anglo-Saxon pottery. There were no other Roman finds or any animal bones, thus indicating that the soils/fills are quite acidic.
- 3.13 Trench 17, also immediately south of the railway, contained a single archaeological feature – a possible pit or ditch terminal. Trenches 14 and 15 – further south – were both devoid of archaeological features or deposits. This evidence strongly suggests that the main focus of Roman settlement was located to the north, under the railway, a conclusion also reached by Northamptonshire Archaeology (S Parry pers. comm.).
- 3.14 The trial trenches to the south of Trenches 14 and 15 produced even lower levels of archaeological deposits. These related largely to linear features, some of which have been interpreted as field boundary ditches relating to the Romano-British settlement, although very few contemporary finds were found within the deposits excavated. This supports the interpretation that the main focus of settlement was located to the north.
- 3.15 One shallow feature in Trench 2 produced a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery. The discussion section of the report addresses the possibility that there are two alignments of field system. Alignment 1, which is roughly ENE-WSW (or right angles to it), may be of Roman date, as it is on the same orientation as the enclosure ditch in Trench 16. Alignment 2 is roughly NE-SW (or at right angles to it) and appears parallel or perpendicular to the ridge and furrow, and may therefore be of a later date. Alternatively, the field systems may both date to the Roman period.

### **Archaeology within the Site Area**

- 3.16 The site area (i.e. the land to the west of the brook) has previously been evaluated using both geophysical survey and trial trenching techniques.

- 3.17 The geophysical survey did not produce any anomalies of potential archaeological interest or significance, and so, because of these inconclusive results, a programme of trial trenching was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (see **Annex EDP 1**).
- 3.18 A total of ten 15m by 4m trial trenches was mechanically excavated – and then manually investigated, sampled and recorded – within the site area. However, archaeological features/deposits were restricted to a pit of possible Iron Age date in Trench 3 and two undated gullies in Trenches 1 and 2.
- 3.19 All these features were heavily truncated by ridge and furrow and more recent cultivation. The results of the evaluation indicate that the site does not exhibit the same level of archaeological interest or potential as the landscape to the east.
- 3.20 Indeed, an archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken as part of a programme of geotechnical investigations during October 2006, identified no archaeological finds or features, thereby lending added weight to this assessment.



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## **Section 4**

### **Aims of the Investigation**

- 4.1 The investigation will investigate and record significant archaeological deposits that are to be impacted by development.
- 4.2 As part of this process, it will be necessary for the successful archaeological contractor to demonstrate a research approach to the excavation/post-excavation programme that will address how the site fits into the broader late prehistoric/Romano British/medieval historic landscape around Bicester.
- 4.3 The general aims of the investigation are to:
- Record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, gravel, organic materials etc) and their archaeological formation (primary deposits, secondary deposits etc);
  - Assess the overall presence and survival of structural remains relating to the main periods of occupation revealed and the potential for the recovery of additional structural information given the nature of the features/deposits encountered (e.g. extent of later disturbance – which will include later cultivation activity);
  - Assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of artefactual evidence (including pottery, brick, tile, stone, glass, metal, bone, small finds, industrial residues etc), and its condition, given the nature of the deposits encountered; and
  - Assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual and environmental evidence (including animal bone, human bone, plant remains, pollen, charcoal, molluscs, soils etc), its condition and potential, given the nature of the deposits encountered.
- 4.4 Furthermore, the specific aims are to:
- Record any evidence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval settlement or other forms of land use; and
  - Sample and analyse any preserved environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use.

4.5 The project will be managed by a member of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and the following guidelines and standards for archaeological fieldwork will be adhered to during the execution of the investigation:

- IfA - *Code of Conduct* (2013);
- IfA - *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2008);
- English Heritage - *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)* (1991); and
- English Heritage – *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (2011).

## Section 5 Fieldwork Methodology

- 5.1 The two areas of the site that will be subject to mitigation (Areas A and B) are both depicted on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 5.2 These two areas (each measuring 50 m<sup>2</sup>) will each be subject to 'strip and record' style excavation, in order to clarify the nature of the archaeological deposits located by the evaluation. These included undated gullies (Area A) and a possible Iron Age pit (Area B).

### Site Preparation

- 5.3 Within each area, any topsoil proposed for removal will be mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision. Wherever necessary and appropriate, any subsoil will be mechanically removed, in successive spits of appropriate depth, to either the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever is reached first. This will be completed using a machine with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 5.4 All machine work will be completed under archaeological supervision and will cease immediately if significant evidence is revealed. Care will be taken to ensure that plant and machines do not damage underlying remains, particularly in soft conditions.
- 5.5 The machine used will be powerful enough for a clean job of work and, given the distances involved, it is likely that dumpers will need to be provided to allow spoil to be mounded at a safe distance from excavation edges or to remove the spoil from the site. If feasible, all spoil will be observed and metal detected for any archaeological finds.
- 5.6 The stripped topsoil and any overburden will be removed from the excavation area using suitable plant, i.e. tracked mechanical excavators and dumpers etc.
- 5.7 Once the topsoil/subsoil has been stripped, the ground will be hand-cleaned and a site plan, showing any exposed archaeological remains, prepared. The Council's archaeological advisor (OCC) will be notified in writing within one week of the completion of stripping operations.
- 5.8 The topsoil strip will be followed by the mapping, investigation, sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features and/or deposits. Prior to the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork, the council's advisor (OCC) will be notified in writing, no less than three weeks in advance.

## Excavation Procedures

- 5.9 Any significant archaeological deposits or features exposed by the strip will be subject to an appropriate level of excavation. In summary, this will equate to the following:
- Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activity (e.g. burials, cremations) and domestic/industrial activity (e.g. walls, post-holes, hearths, floor surfaces/floor make-up deposits) will be investigated by removing a 100% sample of the deposit from each feature; and
  - Features relating to agricultural and other activities will be subject to the following sampling levels. Pits will require a minimum of a 50% sample of the deposits from each feature; linear features (e.g. ditches/gullies, paths/tracks) will require a minimum of a 20% sample of the deposits from each feature.
- 5.10 However, it is recognised that there may be cases when individual features do not merit these levels of sampling. Nonetheless, any variation to these levels will need to be approved by the council's advisor (OCC) following on-site discussion.
- 5.11 Any human remains that are encountered will initially be left *in situ* and reported to the appropriate authorities. Subsequent removal will comply with the relevant Home Office regulations and current archaeological best-practice.
- 5.12 All finds of gold and silver or hoards of prehistoric metals will be moved away from the site to a safe place of storage and reported to the coroner's office according to the procedures set out in the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be completed on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be implemented to protect the artefacts from either theft or damage.
- 5.13 Suitable contexts will be subjected to environmental sampling at an appropriate scale. This work will meet the minimum standards recommended by OCC. Decisions regarding which contexts are suitable for environmental sampling will be made on site in consultation with the council's advisor and the English Heritage regional scientific advisor.
- 5.14 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, and including material from spoil tips, will be collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts will be subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date excavation contents.
- 5.15 Spoil generated by hand-cleaning of excavated areas, or the hand-excavation of features and deposits will be stockpiled beyond the limits of the excavated area, or where that is impractical, on areas of the stripped surface free from archaeological features or deposits.

## **Section 6 Recording Systems**

- 6.1 The recording system will be compatible with the most widely used in the county, in this case Oxfordshire. Pro-forma context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and, for complex stratigraphy, a separate matrix diagram will be employed.
- 6.2 The following plans and sections are required:
- An overall site plan of the excavated area will be prepared detailing archaeological deposits, as well as the extent of the area relative to the National Grid on a 1:2500 plan. An overall excavation plan will be prepared at a 1:100 scale;
  - Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn as appropriate. Section drawing will include heights AOD;
  - All archaeological plans and sections will be on drawing film and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and will include context numbers and AOD spot heights for all principal strata and features; and
  - An appropriately detailed photographic record of any significant archaeological remains will be maintained, in both plan and section.
- 6.3 Confirmation of the approach to be followed, in respect of the on-site recording, will be identified in the appointed contractor's Method Statement.

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## **Section 7**

### **Finds and Samples**

- 7.1 A high priority will be given to dating any archaeological remains and so all artefacts and finds will be retained. Consideration will also be given to the recovery of specialist samples for scientific analysis, particularly samples for absolute dating, structural materials and cultural/environmental evidence. Environmental samples will be taken from suitable deposits and examined for carbonised remains, macroscopic plant remains, pollen, seeds, insects, molluscs etc.
- 7.2 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner to prevent deterioration. This will involve cleaning and conservation, where necessary, and labelling, cataloguing and secure storage in appropriate containers.
- 7.3 The fieldwork contractor will include a strategy for palaeo-environmental sampling on the site and for processing and analysis of samples in their Method Statement. This work will accord with the minimum standard and guidance provided by OCC and the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor (as needs be).
- 7.4 The appointed contractor will carry out an assessment of the palaeo-environmental potential of the site and submit this in concise form in writing within the full post-excavation assessment report. The appointed fieldwork contractor will seek the advice of a palaeo-environmental specialist in this regard.
- 7.5 The appointed fieldwork contractor will demonstrate that appropriate arrangements are in hand to cover all processing, conservation and specialist analysis of finds and samples, including (if necessary) for any organic and composite materials and for dendro-chronological and environmental analysis of samples.
- 7.6 Every effort will be made, by the appointed fieldwork contractor, to ensure that any analysis of artefacts, which is required, is consistent with existing local systems.



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## **Section 8**

### **Monitoring and Access**

- 8.1 The council's advisor (OCC) will inspect the archaeological works to ensure that they are being conducted to the proper professional standards and in accordance with this Specification and the appointed contractor's Method Statement. To facilitate this, a projected timetable for site work will be agreed in advance between the council's advisor, the client, and the appointed archaeological organisation.
- 8.2 As a result, appropriate access to the site will be granted, by the appointed archaeological contractor, to the client, their representative and the council's advisor (OCC).
- 8.3 The Council's advisor (OCC) will be notified of the start of the works, giving at least three weeks' notice in writing where possible.
- 8.4 A first review meeting will be held between the appointed fieldwork contractor, the client and the council's advisor (OCC) once any archaeological deposits have been identified and characterised, in order to consider the preliminary results and to progress the required works to a satisfactory standard.
- 8.5 The archaeological programme, comprising the on-site fieldwork and the subsequent post-excavation and reporting phases, will be monitored by the Council's archaeological advisor (OCC) by means of regular meetings and site visits.

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## **Section 9**

### **Health and Safety**

- 9.1 All relevant health and safety legislation and regulations will be followed. In particular, machines will be kept away from unsupported excavation edges and public access will be prevented. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate.
- 9.2 High visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be used by all personnel operating at or visiting the site. Other items of PPE - such as dust masks, goggles and gloves - will need to be worn as appropriate. The appointed archaeological contractor will provide a full risk assessment and their Health and Safety manual for the approval of the client prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 9.3 The appointed archaeological contractor must be satisfied that they are in receipt of all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before any site work takes place. Excavations will be checked using a CAT scanner.
- 9.4 The presence of the relevant utilities must be accounted for in the contractor's Risk Assessment and in addition appropriate consultation must be carried out with the relevant utility providers in that connection.
- 9.5 No trees or protected species are to be harmed by site works. Adjacent public roads will be kept free of mud and spoil.

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## Section 10 Post-Excavation

- 10.1 The archive will be prepared, and a preliminary post-excavation assessment undertaken, immediately after site works are completed. This will be prepared in accordance with the specification given in Appendices 4 and 5 of MAP 2 (English Heritage 1991) and will be completed within a period of six months.
- 10.2 Full details of the approach to be followed, and the specialist staff that will be engaged, are presented here in the appointed contractor's Method Statement.
- 10.3 Each category of finds will be assessed by specialist staff and recommendations prepared for further study, where appropriate. Funds will be made available by the client for any additional works required and for conservation purposes where applicable.
- 10.4 All artefacts and ecofacts will be processed in accordance with professional best practice. In common with the environmental samples, none of them will be discarded without prior written permission from the Council's advisor (OCC).
- 10.5 One draft copy of the report will be made available to the client as soon as it is ready. It will be evaluated and recommendations then made for improvement, where appropriate. Four copies of the finished report (three bound and one unbound) will subsequently be provided to the client, for their approval, before submission to the Local Planning Authority and its archaeological advisor (OCC), along with digital data on CD-ROM.
- 10.6 Following approval by the Council's archaeological advisor (OCC), the recommendations of the intermediate assessment, in terms of the need for and scope of further analysis and the publication format, will be undertaken. In that regard, the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* will form a framework for the completion of the post-excavation investigation and publication.
- 10.7 Suitable provision will be made for an appropriate level of academic publication of the results of the excavation and will reflect the results of the intermediate assessment. The excavation report should include:
  - A review of the aims and methods employed;
  - A table summarising the descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts and their interpretation, with reference to the county artefacts type series where it is available;
  - Artefact analysis to include the production of a descriptive catalogue, with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated;

- Appropriate illustrative materials, including site and excavation area plans, relevant sections (1:10), plans of any archaeological features (1:20) and general and detailed photographs;
  - Information on the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of the archaeological and environmental material uncovered with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites in the area;
  - An interpretation of the results, with attention given to the significance of the remains in local, regional and national terms, if appropriate; and
  - A reconsideration of the methodology used, including a confidence rating of the strategy and the results.
- 10.8 The full programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis and publication will be completed within two years from the cessation of archaeological site works.
- 10.9 Copies of any reports and/or publication texts arising from fieldwork will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). These will be submitted in the form of single bound and pdf copies.

## **Section 11**

### **Archiving**

- 11.1 At the outset, the site archive, which will comprise records of the archaeological excavations and any materials recovered, including written elements, plans and drawings, digital photographs, photographic prints and transparencies (where appropriate) and other primary data recovered during the investigation, will be quantified, ordered, indexed and made internally consistent. It will also contain as a minimum requirement a site matrix, site summary (a short report giving a preliminary account of the discoveries) and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 11.2 All artefacts (e.g. pottery, metalwork, objects in worked flint and stone, wood, bone, horn, leather and slag), ecofacts (e.g. organic finds such as bones, preserved ancient plant remains, seeds, pollen, charcoal and soil samples), recovered during the excavation will be made available to the appointed contractor pending completion of the report, to be stored during the course of the archaeological investigation at the contractor's secure offices or usual place of secure storage of archaeological finds.
- 11.3 All artefacts recovered during the archaeological investigation will be suitably washed (where the condition of the artefacts allows) and marked by the contractor and all artefacts and ecofacts bagged and boxed by the contractor, in accordance with current United Kingdom Institute for Conservation/RESCUE publication First Aid for Finds (3rd. ed. 1998). All 'small finds' will be boxed together, separate from bulk finds.
- 11.4 In preparing cost estimates for the archaeological investigation, the contractor will include provision for at least a basic minimum level of conservation of finds liable to deterioration after excavation.
- 11.5 Within 12 months of completion of the written and drawn site archive, a microfiched security copy of these elements of the archive will be deposited by the contractor in the National Monuments Record (English Heritage) and confirmed in writing to the council and the council's advisor (OCC), except where further excavation/post-excavation work is required, when, by agreement, the period may be extended.
- 11.6 The appointed contractor will contact the National Monuments Records for advice and/or a suitable microfilming/microfiching contractor in connection with the making of this copy and consult Microfilming Archaeological Archives (IFA Paper No 2, 1999). Cost estimates for the microfiching/microfilming of the site archive will be included within the contractors' quotations for this project.
- 11.7 Subject to the legislation of the Treasure Act 1996, all artefacts and ecofacts unearthed from the investigation and all other elements of the site archive (as defined in the English Heritage's The Management of Archaeological Projects [1991]) will be deposited by the contractor at the recipient museum. No artefacts or ecofacts from the site shall be deposited without the prior written consent of the landowner.



- 11.8 Prior to the deposition of finds at the recipient museum, the contractor will agree with them the sample or quantity of bulk finds (i.e. pottery, animal and, if appropriate, human bone, other ecofactual material, building material, burnt flint, worked flint and stone), to be deposited. Details are to be set out in the contractor's Method Statement.
- 11.9 All excavated artefacts and ecofacts and all other elements of the site archive will be delivered by the contractor to the recipient museum as one deposit. Where this arrangement is not practicable, lists will be submitted by the contractor of any objects that are not deposited, together with information as to the quantity involved and their current location, reasons for non-deposition and a timetable for their ultimate deposition.
- 11.10 The contractor will contact the recipient museum prior to preparing cost estimates for the work in order to discuss any special requirements for the deposition of finds.
- 11.11 All articles needing conservation will be properly stabilised by the appointed contractor prior to their deposition at the recipient museum and records of their treatment lodged with the museum. Those items for which available resources do not permit stabilisation will be separately packed and listed by the appointed fieldwork contractor.
- 11.12 Prior to commencement of the archaeological excavation, the appointed fieldwork contractor will obtain from the recipient museum an accession number for excavated artefacts and ecofacts from the project and any guidelines regarding deposition of such artefacts and ecofacts.
- 11.13 All finds, save those specifically excluded by the recipient museum or excluded on grounds of size/material, will also be marked by the appointed fieldwork contractor with the recipient museum's accession number.
- 11.14 Artefacts and ecofacts deposited by the appointed contractor in the recipient museum will be accompanied by the remainder of the original site archive or by a complete duplicate record thereof. A microfiched security copy of the site archive will also be supplied by the contractor to the recipient museum.
- 11.15 Subject to the agreement of the landowner, all artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the archaeological investigation will be deposited by the appointed contractor at the recipient museum within five years from the date of the investigation's completion.
- 11.16 Work on the site archive will be completed within twelve calendar months of completion of the archaeological field investigation. Upon completion of the site archive, the contractor will, if appropriate, arrange a meeting with the council's advisor to present the archive for inspection prior to its deposition in the recipient museum.
- 11.17 Copyright of the written, drawn and photographic elements of the site archive will be vested jointly with the appointed contractor and the recipient museum.

11.18 The following documents will be adhered to:

- Museum and Galleries Commission - Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992); and
- English Heritage - Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) (1991).

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## **Section 12**

### **Requirements of the Archaeological Contractor**

- 12.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will provide a Method Statement setting out how it will undertake the investigation in accordance with the requirements of the council's advisor (OCC). This Method Statement will include details of all field and post-excavation work, including project archiving.
- 12.2 The contractor's Method Statement will summarise resourcing levels and will include a risk assessment, programme/schedule and a brief career profile of the site director, which demonstrates their suitability for undertaking the archaeological work.

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## **Section 13**

### **References**

Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) 2006 *Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire: Specification for Archaeological Recording – excavation, ‘strip and record’ and watching briefs* Unpublished

Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) 2014 *Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire: Archaeological and Heritage Assessment* Unpublished

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## **Appendix EDP 1 Archaeological Evaluation Report**



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LAND NORTH OF GAVRAY DRIVE  
BICESTER  
OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 1963  
CA REPORT: 05102

Author:	Tim Havard
Approved:	Mary Alexander
Signed:	..... <i>MA</i> .....
Issue: 01	Date: 14 JUNE 2005

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## SUMMARY

**Site Name:** Land north of Gavray Drive  
**Location:** Bicester, Oxfordshire  
**NGR:** SP 5941 2249  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 26 May – 7 June 2005  
**Planning Reference:** 04/02797/OUT  
**Location of Archive:** Oxfordshire County Museum Service  
**Accession no.** OXCMS 2005.75.  
**Site Code:** GLB 05

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May and June 2005 at the request of CPM Environmental Planning and Design (on the behalf of Gallagher Estates Limited) on land north of Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire. In compliance with an approved WSI (CA 2005), ten trenches were excavated across the development area.

A pit of possible Iron Age date, two undated gullies and a post-medieval stone spread were identified. The pit and two gullies were heavily truncated by later ploughing which could be seen in the furrows which were encountered in several trenches. No other remains of archaeological significance were identified.

The evaluation has demonstrated that the study area has low archaeological potential.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May and June 2005 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CPM Environmental Planning and Design (on behalf of Gallagher Estates Limited) on land north of Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SP 5941 2249; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of an outline planning consent application for residential development.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation* prepared by CPM and approved by Hannah Fluck of Oxfordshire County Council, archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council, and with a subsequent detailed WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CA (2005). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Hannah Fluck, including a site visit on 7th June 2005.

### *The site*

1.3 The site is currently set aside grassland, lies at approximately 68m AOD and is generally flat. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Clay Member (BGS 2002).

### *Archaeological background*

1.4 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Previous evaluation of the south eastern part of the development site by OAU (now Oxford Archaeology) uncovered archaeological features of the Roman period, indicative of a low status settlement. Excavations to the north in 2004 by Northamptonshire Archaeology, as yet unpublished, showed that Roman activity (field boundaries and settlement) also extended beyond the modern railway line. Iron Age settlement was recorded during investigations by OAU to the south of the site in 1997 and 1998. Geophysical survey of the area which is the subject of this evaluation did not locate any areas of archaeological potential.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of ten trenches each measuring 15m in length and 4m in width (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.10 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and, where appropriate, sampled and processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). In the event no samples were taken. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service under accession number OXCMS 2005.75.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

### *Trench 1 (Fig. 3)*

- 2.2 The south-western extent of a shallow gully 106 lay at the western end of trench one. It contained a single sandy clay fill 105 from which no finds were recovered. It was unresolved whether this was the terminus of the feature or if it had simply been totally truncated beyond here. A further section of this gully was excavated at the northern edge of the trench but revealed no new information.
- 2.3 The gully was sealed by up to 0.7m of sandy clay subsoil 102 which was noticeably deeper towards the western end of the trench. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a knife handle were recovered from this deposit.

### *Trench 2 (Fig. 3)*

- 2.4 A shallow gully 208 lay towards the centre of trench two and contained a single sandy silt fill 209 from which no finds were recovered.
- 2.5 Furrow 206 lay towards the south-eastern extent of trench two and was aligned north-east to south west. It contained a single fill 207 from which two sherds of medieval pottery of 13th to 14th-century date were recovered.
- 2.6 The south-western extent of both features was sealed by subsoil 203 and then by a stone spread 202. Although quite a dense concentration of stone, the feature did not appear to have been laid as a surface and there was no hint of metalling. Flat roof tile and a single piece of clay pipe of 18th to 19th-century date were recovered from 202.

### ***Trench 3 (Fig. 4)***

- 2.5 Pit 304 lay towards the south-eastern end of trench three. Although its full extent lay beyond the trench it appeared circular in plan, measured 0.08m in depth and contained a single blue grey clay fill 305. Three sherds of Iron Age limestone tempered pottery were recovered from the top of this fill.
- 2.6 Furrow 306 ran the length of trench three and contained a single fill 307 from which a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

### ***General***

- 2.7 Furrows were identified, but not excavated, in trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 respectively. No other features were identified in the evaluation trenches.

### ***The Finds***

- 2.6 Small quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe and metalwork were recovered (appendix 2).

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Pit 304 may be of Iron Age date though this remains tentative as the pottery was recovered from the top of the fill 305 and may represent intrusion from the overlying ploughsoil.
- 3.2 No further interpretation can be offered for gullies 104/106 and 208 given their extensive truncation and lack of dating evidence recovered.
- 3.3 The truncation of the above features revealed was likely to have been caused by ploughing. This was evidenced by the presence of furrows in several trenches, some of which were still visible in relief through differential rates of vegetation growth. The composition of subsoil which sealed all features was suggestive of a ploughsoil. This was significantly deeper in trenches 1 and 10 compared to other trenches. A



headland was visible in relief towards the western extent of trench 1 and as such may have continued through into trench 10 though it was not visible in relief here.

### **Conclusions**

- 3.4 The evaluation strategy was successful in that it provided a broad coverage of the development area, successfully identified archaeological features where they were present and showed that they had been subject to truncation. The trenching also identified archaeologically sterile areas.
- 3.5 The evaluation uncovered a pit of possible Iron Age date, two undated gullies and evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation. Truncation may account for the limited presence of archaeological features on site. However the total lack of artefactual recovered from the topsoil of all trenches, other than trenches 1, 2 and 3, is suggestive of an absence of archaeological features on the site.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Dave Cudlip, Jon Hart, Emily King, Darran Muddiman and Jon Webster. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Mary Alexander and Mark Collard.

## **5. REFERENCES**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2002 Sheet 219

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Land to the North of Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CPM 2005 Land North of Gavray Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire: Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 Existing ground level: 69.09m to 69.21m AOD

101	Topsoil: grey brown humic clay silt, 0.15m to 0.25m depth.
102	Subsoil: mid brown sandy clay, 0.5m to 0.7m depth.
103	Single fill of 104: light grey brown sandy clay.
104	Cut for gully: linear in plan aligned NE-SW, shallow sides with flat base, 0.1m depth, 1.05m width, at least 1m length. Same as 106.
105	Single fill of 106: as 103.
106	Cut for gully: linear in plan aligned NE-SW, shallow sides with flat base, 0.1m maximum depth, 0.6m width, at least 1m width.
107	Natural substrate: mid reddish brown sandy clay with frequent patches of blue grey clay.

Trench 2 Existing ground level: 68.74m to 68.80m AOD

201	Topsoil: dark grey brown humic clay silt, 0.3m depth.
202	Stone spread, irregular limestone fragments, not metalled, 0.2m maximum depth, 5.4m length, at least 2.7m width. Overlies 203.
203	Subsoil: mid brown sandy clay, 0.2m to 0.25m depth.
204	Void
205	Void
206	Cut for furrow: linear in plan, aligned NE-SW, 0.33m maximum depth, 2.2m width, at least 2m length.
207	Single fill of 206: dark yellow brown sandy silt.
208	Cut for gully: linear in plan aligned NE-SW, 0.05m depth, 0.5m width, at least 2m length.
209	Single fill of 208: dark yellow brown sandy silt.
210	Natural substrate: dark orange brown slightly gravely sand with frequent patches of blue grey clay.

Trench 3 Existing ground surface: 68.27m to 68.40m AOD

301	Topsoil: as 201, 0.25m to 0.35m depth.
302	Subsoil: as 203, 0.15m maximum depth.
303	Natural substrate: light to mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional patches of sandy gravel and blue/grey clay patches.
304	Cut for pit: circular in plan, shallow sides with flat bottom, 0.08m depth, 0.5m diameter.
305	Single fill of 304: light to mid blue grey clay.
306	Cut for furrow: moderately sloped sides with flat base aligned NW-SE, 0.16m depth, 1.4m width, at least 15m length.
307	Single fill of 306: light to mid brown clay silt.

Trench 4 Existing ground level: 67.54m to 67.66m AOD

401	Topsoil: mid grey brown humic clay silt, 0.25m to 0.35m depth.
402	Subsoil: mid brown sandy clay, 0.25m to 0.35m depth.
403	Natural substrate: mixed 50% brown orange silty clay with very occasional gravel 50% patches of blue grey clay.

Trench 5 Existing ground level: 66.95m to 67.11m AOD

501	Topsoil: mid grey brown humic clay silt with occasional irregular stone inclusions, 0.25m to 0.35m depth.
502	Subsoil: light brown slightly orange silty clay, 0.2m to 0.3m depth.
503	Natural substrate: 80% light orange brown slightly silty clay with occasional gravels, 20% patches of blue grey clay.

Trench 6 Existing ground level: 67.44m to 67.46m AOD

601	Topsoil: mid grey brown humic clay silt with occasional irregular stone inclusions, 0.25m to 0.3m depth.
602	Subsoil: mid brown sandy clay, 0.1m to 0.2m depth.

## APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Wt (g)	Spot-date
102	Roman pottery: shell-tempered	1	7	C18+
	Post-medieval pottery: glazed red earthenware, iron-glazed earthenware	2	10	
	CBM: flat roof tile	2	60	
	bottle glass	1	19	
	clay pipe	1	1	
	fe/cua knife handle	1	-	
201	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware ?Brill	1	50	-
202	CBM: flat roof tile	2	30	C18-19
	Clay pipe	1	1	
	Fe strip	2	-	
	slate	1	15	
203	medieval pottery: Brill/Boarstall	1	4	C13-C14
207	medieval pottery: Brill/Boarstall	2	15	C13-C14
	oyster shell	1	2	
302	medieval pottery: Brill/Boarstall	1	4	-
305	Iron Age pottery: limestone-tempered	3	10	IA
307	Post-medieval pottery: tin-glazed earthenware	1	2	C18+
	CBM: flat roof tile	1	31	

Small quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe and metalwork were recovered.

Three sherds of handmade, limestone-tempered pottery are typical of the Middle or later Iron Age and represent the earliest material recovered. A single shell-tempered sherd from 102 is probably Roman in date but is residual in its context. Several abraded sherds of medieval Brill/Boarstall pottery, including the simple pulled spout from a jug, originate from the kiln sites less than 5km to the south-east. Post-medieval pottery of likely 17th to 18th date includes glazed earthenwares from Brill-Boarstall and Staffordshire and a tin-glazed sherd from Bristol or London.

Of interest from subsoil context 102 is a scale tang knife handle with decorative copper alloy pommel and hilt guard. The wooden handle plates are affixed by a series of copper-alloy rivets. The pommel is cast in the form of a helmeted human head surmounted by a crest. The date of this object is uncertain, however the survival of portions of the wooden handle may suggest it is of no great antiquity and a most likely an example of 17th/18th classical revival.