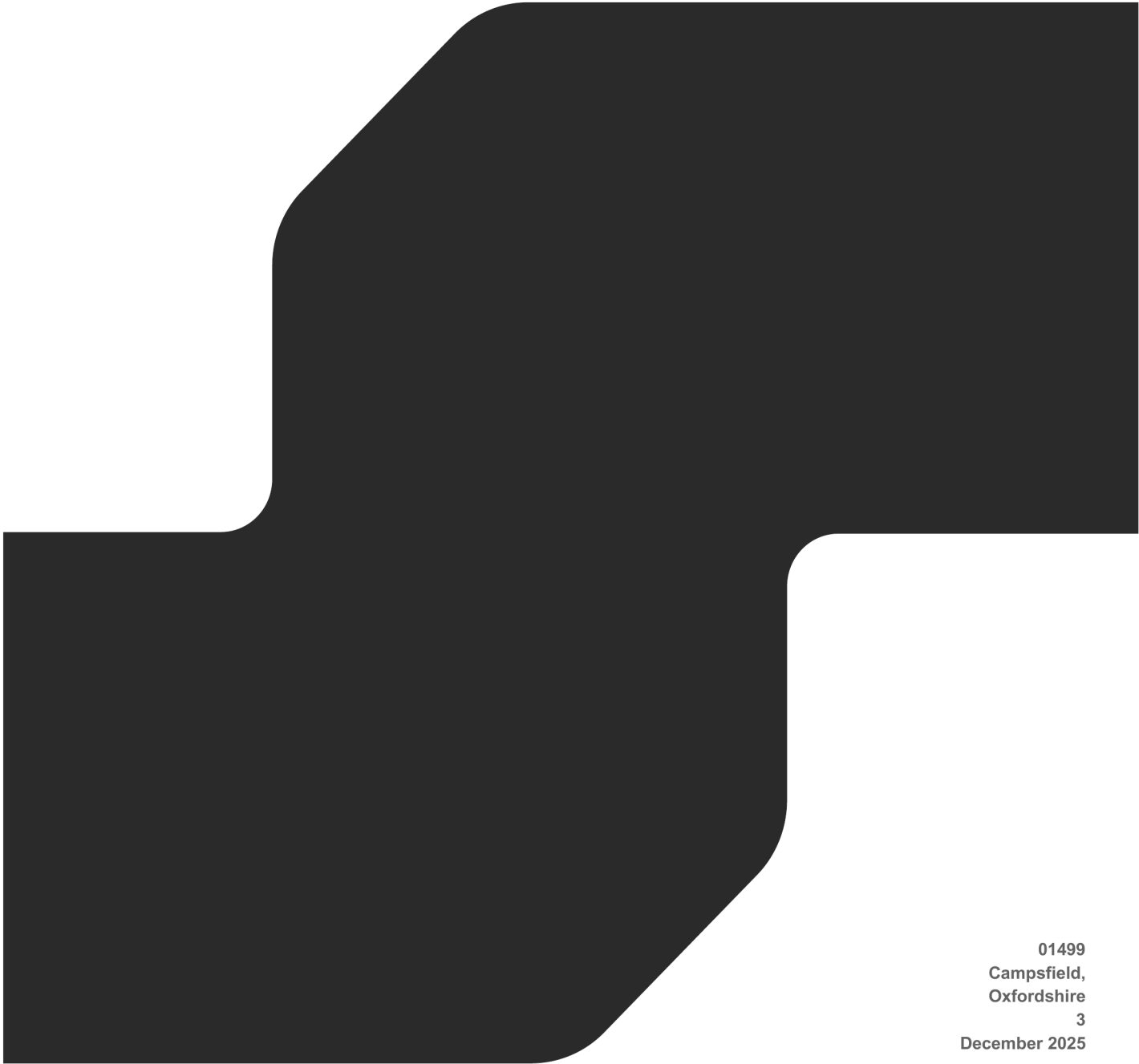


# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Land at Campsfield, Kidlington, Oxfordshire



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Campsfield,  
Oxfordshire  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study site comprising land at Campsfield, near Kidlington, Oxfordshire has been considered for its below ground archaeological potential.

In terms of relevant, nationally significant designated heritage assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the study site or its immediate vicinity.

The study site can be considered likely to have had a modest archaeological potential for the later Prehistoric and the Roman periods, prior to subsequent development impacts.

Outside of previously developed areas, areas of proposed development have remained open land throughout their documented history.

Redevelopment proposals include the expansion of the existing detention facility within the study site.

Pre-application advice provided by the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Officer has confirmed that a stage programme of archaeological investigation can be secured by means of an appropriately worded condition attached to planning consent. In the first instance, a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken in the form of trial trenching targeting the area of proposed development impact.

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Appendix 1 HER Gazetteer

# 1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS on behalf of Edgingtons Architects.
- 1.2 The assessment considers land south of Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, also referred to as the study site. The area of the study site is c.4.1 hectares and is centred at National Grid Reference SP47439 14525, within the administrative boundaries of Cherwell District Council (see Figures 1, 2 and 13).
- 1.3 Figure 2a spatially summarises relevant cultural heritage designations and archaeological findspot references in relation to the study site, primarily using data provided by the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.4 In terms of relevant nationally significant designated heritage assets, the study site does not lie within the vicinity of a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Historic Battlefield or Historic Wreck.
- 1.5 In accordance with relevant policy and guidance on archaeology and planning, including 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020), this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the likely archaeological potential and significance of the study site.
- 1.6 This desk-based assessment comprises an examination of evidence on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with other sources, including the Oxfordshire Record Office, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and RAF Hendon Department of Research and Information Services. The assessment also includes a comprehensive map regression exercise (see Figures 1-13 at the back of this document).
- 1.7 The assessment thus enables relevant parties to assess the archaeological potential of various parts of the study site, together with the likely significance of that potential, and to consider the need for design, civil engineering, and archaeological solutions to the archaeological potential and significance identified.

## 2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently updated in February 2025. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>)
- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

### National Planning Policy

- 2.4 Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development;
  - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
  - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
  - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.5 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 207 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.6 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.7 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- 2.8 A *Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 2.9 *Significance (for heritage policy)* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

- 2.10 *Setting* is defined as: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
- 2.11 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
  - Protects the settings of such designations;
  - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions;
  - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.
- 2.12 The NPPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available. Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF. Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.13 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

## Local Planning Policy

- 2.14 The study site is located within Cherwell District Council.
- 2.15 The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 was adopted in July 2015 and contains the following policy relating to the historic environment:

### Policy ESD 15 – The Character of the Built and Historic Environment

Successful design is founded upon an understanding and respect for an area's unique built, natural and cultural context. New development will be expected to complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high quality design. All new development will be required to meet high design standards. Where development is in the vicinity of any of the District's distinctive natural or historic assets, delivering high quality design that complements the asset will be essential.

New development proposals should:

- Be designed to deliver high quality safe, attractive, durable and healthy places to live and work in. Development of all scales should be designed to improve the quality and appearance of an area and the way it functions.
- Deliver buildings, places and spaces that can adapt to changing social, technological, economic and environmental conditions.
- Support the efficient use of land and infrastructure, through appropriate land uses, mix and density/development intensity.
- Contribute positively to an area's character and identity by creating or reinforcing local distinctiveness and respecting local topography and landscape features, including skylines, valley floors, significant trees, historic boundaries, landmarks, features or views, in particular within designated landscapes, within the Cherwell Valley and within conservation areas and their setting.
- Conserve, sustain and enhance designated and non designated 'heritage assets' (as defined in the NPPF) including buildings, features, archaeology, conservation areas and their settings, and ensure new development is sensitively sited and integrated in accordance with advice in the NPPF and NPPG. Proposals for development that affect non-designated heritage assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset as set out in the NPPF and NPPG. Regeneration proposals that make sensitive use of heritage assets, particularly where these bring redundant or under used buildings or areas, especially any on English Heritage's At Risk Register, into appropriate use will be encouraged.
- Include information on heritage assets sufficient to assess the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Where archaeological potential is identified this should include an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
- Respect the traditional pattern of routes, spaces, blocks, plots, enclosures and the form, scale and massing of buildings. Development should be designed to integrate with existing streets and public spaces, and buildings configured to create clearly defined active public frontages.
- Reflect or, in a contemporary design response, re-interpret local distinctiveness, including elements of construction, elevational detailing, windows and doors, building and surfacing materials, mass, scale and colour palette.
- Promote permeable, accessible and easily understandable places by creating spaces that connect with each other, are easy to move through and have recognisable landmark features.
- Demonstrate a holistic approach to the design of the public realm to create high quality and multi-functional streets and places that promotes pedestrian movement and integrates different modes of transport, parking and servicing. The principles set out in The Manual for Streets should be followed.
- Consider the amenity of both existing and future development, including matters of privacy, outlook, natural lighting, ventilation, and indoor and outdoor space.
- Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.
- Be compatible with up to date urban design principles, including Building for Life, and achieve Secured by Design accreditation.
- Consider sustainable design and layout at the masterplanning stage of design, where building orientation and the impact of microclimate can be considered within the layout.
- Incorporate energy efficient design and sustainable construction techniques, whilst ensuring that the aesthetic implications of green technology are appropriate to the context (also see Policies ESD 1 - 5 on climate change and renewable energy).

- Integrate and enhance green infrastructure and incorporate biodiversity enhancement features where possible (see Policy ESD 10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment and Policy ESD 17 Green Infrastructure ). Well designed landscape schemes should be an integral part of development proposals to support improvements to biodiversity, the micro climate, and air pollution and provide attractive places that improve people's health and sense of vitality.
- Use locally sourced sustainable materials where possible.

The Council will provide more detailed design and historic environment policies in the Local Plan Part 2.

The design of all new development will need to be informed by an analysis of the context, together with an explanation and justification of the principles that have informed the design rationale. This should be demonstrated in the Design and Access Statement that accompanies the planning application. The Council expects all the issues within this policy to be positively addressed through the explanation and justification in the Design & Access Statement. Further guidance can be found on the Council's website.

The Council will require design to be addressed in the pre-application process on major developments and in connection with all heritage sites. For major sites/strategic sites and complex developments, Design Codes will need to be prepared in conjunction with the Council and local stakeholders to ensure appropriate character and high quality design is delivered throughout. Design Codes will usually be prepared between outline and reserved matters stage to set out design principles for the development of the site. The level of prescription will vary according to the nature of the site.

- 2.16 The following saved policy from the 1996 Cherwell Local Plan was retained:

**Policy C25 – Development affecting the Site or Setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument**

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 its overall historic character, including its protection, enhancement and preservation where appropriate.

- 2.17 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

## 3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

### Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey have mapped the geology underlying the bulk of the study site to comprise mudstone deposits of the Kellaway's Clay Member. To the north the study site is underlain by Limestone deposits of the Cornbrash Formation and Mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation. Superficial deposits have not been mapped.
- 3.2 Site specific geotechnical information is currently unavailable.

### Topography

- 3.3 The ground surface of the study site is level at c. 73m above Ordnance Datum.
- 3.4 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known to be present within the immediate vicinity of the study site.
- 3.5 The course of the Rowel Brook flows from west to east, c. 600m south of the study site, while ponds, drains and the Oxford Canal (built 1788) lies c. 320-440m east of the study site.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Timescales used in this report:

#### Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43

#### Historic

Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

### Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the study site (Figs. 2a-2b), also referred to as the study area, held on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards until the present day.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

### Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.4 The Oxfordshire HER does not record any archaeological work undertaken within the study site.
- 4.5 A number of previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the wider landscape. The closest of these include:
- HER EOX7508 – An archaeological watching brief undertaken approximately 75m to the northeast of the study site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.
  - HER EOX7283 - An archaeological watching brief undertaken approximately 600m to the southwest of the study site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.
  - HER EOX16 - An archaeological watching brief undertaken approximately 425m to the south of the study site. Evidence of Romano-British activity was recorded.

- HER EOX7888 – An archaeological evaluation undertaken 620m south of the study site. Evidence of Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity was recorded.

## Prehistoric

- 4.6 No finds or features of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date have been recorded on the Oxfordshire HER within a 1km radius of the study site.
- 4.7 From around 4000 BC the mobile hunter-gathering economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social and other factors. The trend was one of a slow, but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance.
- 4.8 By the 1st millennium, i.e. 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.
- 4.9 Interpretation of aerial photographs on land to the south and south-east of the study site revealed features including a ring ditch (2640-MOX3912, SP4787 1376) driveway and field system (7350-MOX3953, SP4830 1358), enclosures and pits (9599-MOX3957, SP4773 1373) and possible round barrows (13294- MOX3992, SP4790 1397; 13295-MOX3993, SP4796 1396).
- 4.10 Undiagnostic Prehistoric flintwork has been identified to the south of the study site in the area of Begbroke Hill (3357-MOX3913, SP475 135; 3932-MOX3917, SP475 136), amongst which has been identified a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrow head (3933-MOX3918, SP477 137) and a hollow-based flint arrowhead (4166-MOX3923, SP4813 1350), together with pottery to the east at Begbroke Hill Farm (4163-MOX3920, SP4822 1371).
- 4.11 Archaeological evaluation and excavation works on the line of the Begbroke Science Park Access Road, on the southern edge of the 1km study area, revealed Bronze Age enclosures including ditches and gullies (EXO3191, EOX3387, SP47639 13475; 7336-MOX3952, SP4769 1351; 27977-MOX24503, SP4754 1347). Iron Age and Roman pottery is known from the Begbroke area to the south-east of the study site (4169- MOX3926, SP483 137).
- 4.12 Overall, the study site can reasonably be identified as having a generally low archaeological potential for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. The study site's archaeological potential for the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age can reasonably be determined as moderate, with evidence for agricultural activity and land division most likely to be represented in the archaeological record, prior to later development impacts.

## Roman

- 4.13 The line of the Oxford-Banbury Road, running on a northwest-southeast alignment to the east of the study site, is believed to have Roman antecedents (8861-MOX809, SP4738 1445).
- 4.14 The sole artefacts of Roman date identified on the Oxfordshire HER within the 1km study area comprises a find of coins north of the study site (1311-MOX3804, SP4751 1538).
- 4.15 A number of linear features of possible Romano-British origin (HER MOX3842) are recorded by the HER approximately 900m north-west of the study site. An area of Romano-British occupation is also recorded by the HER approximately 1km south-east of the study site.
- 4.16 Beyond the 1km study area, Roman settlement evidence has been found between Begbroke Wood and Begbroke Hill to the south-west, and east of the northern end of Kidlington, to the north-east of the study site (e.g. 2372 – MOX 3909, SP 4725 1312; EOX101, SP 4960 1474; VCH 1990: 183).

- 4.17 Overall, the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can reasonably be defined as low to moderate, prior to later development impacts. Evidence of low significance agricultural activity and/or land division is considered most likely to be represented in the archaeological record.

## Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 4.18 Both Kidlington to the east and Begbroke to the south-west are recorded in Domesday (Aubertin-Potter 1984; VCH 1990). No finds or features of Anglo Saxon date are recorded on the Oxfordshire HER within the 1km study area. Overall, the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can reasonably be defined as low.
- 4.19 Geophysical survey of land at Yarnton, to the south-west of the study site, revealed evidence of historical agricultural activity, comprising ridge and furrow, together with mapped/un-mapped field boundaries, possibly related to nearby early Medieval settlement (EOX6937, SP4700 1295).
- 4.20 The study site lies c. 600m north-east of the village of Begbroke, which includes the Norman church of St Michael, dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century (MOX3931, SP4684 1394; Sherwood & Pevsner 1974: 449; VCH 1990). A cross at the south door of the church has been dated to the late 14<sup>th</sup> / early 15<sup>th</sup> century (MOX3950, SP4684 1392), and a grave slab in the churchyard has also been dated to the Medieval period (MOX13831, SP46840 13936). The HER also records indications of shrunken Medieval settlement in the fields to the north of the church: possible croft sites are recorded, together with ridge and furrow and a later hollow way (13296-MOX3994, SP467 140).
- 4.21 The historic core of Kidlington to the east of the study site includes the church of St Mary, originating in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and reused 15<sup>th</sup> century masonry is present in the vicarage (Sherwood & Pevsner 1974: 671-2; VCH 1990).
- 4.22 During these periods, the study site is thought to have lain away from known centres of settlement activity and as such a generally low potential can be identified for the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods for the study site itself. Evidence of agricultural activity and land division can be considered most likely to be represented in the archaeological record, but would be of low archaeological significance.

## Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.23 Langford Lane to the north was known as Wood Way into the early-18<sup>th</sup> century, and the first recorded use of the present name occurs in 1733 (VCH 1990: 182).
- 4.24 Early maps of the Kidlington area show the study site within undeveloped land, away from known areas of settlement (Figure 4: 1785 Kitchin map of Oxfordshire, Figure 5: 1811 Ordnance Survey Drawing). The area of the study site is recorded to have lain within '*Fernhill Field*' in c. 1800 (VCH 1990: 180).
- 4.25 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6: 1873) shows the study site within open land with a boundary diagonally crossing the centre of the study site. No significant changes are shown within the study site on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps dated 1898 (not reproduced here) and the 1922 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7).
- 4.26 Kidlington Aerodrome, to the north of the study site, was established in 1935; a training school was added in 1938 and it was requisitioned by the Air Ministry at the beginning of World War Two (MOX28160, SP4692 1553; information from the Kidlington Historical Society at Oxford Record Office; VCH 1990). A plan of Kidlington Aerodrome dated March 1945 derived from Hendon Air Museum shows the study site remaining as open land (Figure 8), although the RAF aerial

photograph dated the same year (Figure 9) shows the development of buildings immediately to the west of the study site.

- 4.27 Another plan of the aerodrome dated 1950 (not reproduced here) shows the study site remaining in open fields, but the 1955 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 10) shows buildings within the south-eastern areas, with the layout of Evenlode Crescent running south from Langford Lane into the north-eastern area of the study site.
- 4.28 The 1974 Ordnance Survey (Figure 11) shows the presence of '*HM Detention Centre Campsfield House*' within the eastern areas of the study site, with open space within the southern boundary. The north-eastern area is shown laid out with houses west of Evenlode Crescent, with further houses beyond the study site boundary.
- 4.29 The 2009 aerial photograph (Figure 12) shows the removal of the housing formerly within the north-eastern part of the study site and the development of the buildings focussed within the southeastern part of the study site.
- 4.30 The current site survey (Figure 13) shows the development of the '*Immigration Detention Centre*' within the south-eastern area of the study site, including car parking towards the north-eastern boundary.
- 4.31 The potential of the study site for the Post Medieval and Modern periods can be identified as low.

## Negative & Neutral Data

- 4.32 Archaeological monitoring at The Coach House, 25 Spring Hill Road, south-west of the study site, revealed no archaeological finds or features (EOX1378, SP4685 1381); nor did archaeological monitoring of the Begbroke rising main to the south (EOX16, SP4768 1403).
- 4.33 Archaeological evaluation at the Begbroke Business and Science Park on the southern edge of the 1km study area revealed a single shallow pit (EOX848, SP4790 1355; see also paragraph 4.16 above).
- 4.34 To the south of the study site, undated, possibly periglacial cropmarks have been identified via aerial photography analysis at Lankets, Begbroke Hill (MOX3955, SP4801 1378); possible enclosures and pits have been identified at Sands, Begbroke Hill (MOX3967, SP4774 1373).

## LiDAR

- 4.35 Lidar survey for the study site reproduced at Figure 3 indicates the remains of former 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings within the northern part of the study site.

## Aerial Photography

- 4.36 Aerial photography held by Historic England shows the presence of a number of buildings present within the study site in 1944 and 1945 (see Figure 9). Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation can also be noted in the southern half of the study site. No other features of an archaeological interest are identified on the study site or in the surrounding fields.

## Portable Antiquities Scheme

- 4.37 The Portable Antiquities Scheme is run by the British Museum and Museum Wales to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public. Every year, many archaeological objects are discovered, often by metal detectorists, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work.

4.38 A search of the Portable Antiquities Scheme database reveals that a small number of Roman coins and a Post Medieval coin have been found in the area around Kidlington (<https://finds.org.uk>).

## Historic Landscape Characterisation

4.39 The Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) records the study site as early 20<sup>th</sup> century to late 20<sup>th</sup> century (1921-1999) ‘Civil Provision – Immigration Detention Centre’ (HLC HOX4059). The HLC also records the study site as a probable Open Field System from 1540-1797, probable Piecemeal Enclosure from 1798-1811, and Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosure from 1811-1920.

## Assessment of Significance (Designated Assets)

4.40 Existing national policy guidance for archaeology (the NPPF as referenced in section 2) enshrines the concept of the ‘significance’ of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its ‘heritage interest’ to this or future generations.

4.41 No designated heritage assets as defined in the NPPF are recorded on or in close proximity to the study site (see Figure 2a).

4.42 In view of the above it is concluded that the redevelopment proposals will have no direct archaeological impact upon relevant designated heritage assets.

## Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

4.43 As identified by desk-based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present is summarised in table form below and mapped where possible on Figure 2a:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential	Identified Archaeological Significance
Prehistoric	Low to Moderate	Low (Local)
Roman	Low to Moderate	Low (Local)
Anglo-Saxon	Low	Low (Local)
Medieval	Low	Low (Local)
Post Medieval/Modern	Low	Low (Local)

4.44 Any archaeological remains, should they occur at the study site, would in the context of the Secretary of State’s non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013) most likely be of local significance.

## **5 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS**

### **Site Conditions**

- 5.1 The study site currently comprises the existing detention facility building complex focussed within the south-eastern part of the study site, with open space to the west and north and hardstanding adjacent to the eastern boundary (see Figures 12 and 13).
- 5.2 The construction of the existing buildings can be considered likely to have had a negative archaeological impact through the cutting of foundations and services.
- 5.3 The construction and subsequent demolition of the buildings previously occupying the northern part of the study site can be considered likely to have had a cumulative negative archaeological impact, through the cutting of any basements/cellars, foundations and services, together with their subsequent demolition and removal.
- 5.4 Agricultural and horticultural use of the study site can be anticipated to have had a widespread, moderate negative archaeological impact.

### **Proposed Development**

- 5.5 The redevelopment proposals include the expansion of the existing detention facility buildings. Areas of new buildings are shown in green, areas of expansion of existing buildings are shown in blue, with both principally focussed within the southern part of the study site. Within the northern part of the study site, an area of proposed new car parking is proposed.

### **Review of Potential Development Impacts on Designated Archaeological Assets**

- 5.6 In terms of relevant nationally significant designated heritage assets, as defined above and as shown on Figure 2, no nationally designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield or Historic Wreck sites lie within the vicinity of the study site.
- 5.7 In view of the above it is concluded that the redevelopment proposals will have no direct archaeological impact upon any designated heritage assets.

### **Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets**

- 5.8 The nature of archaeological survival will necessarily depend upon the impact of past post-depositional impacts as a result of development since deposition, which in this case comprises the construction of the existing buildings.
- 5.9 As set out in Section 4 above, the available evidence suggests a relatively modest archaeological potential for the later Prehistoric and Roman periods at the study site, and if hitherto previously unknown remains were to be present, they can be considered most likely to be of local (i.e. low) significance.

- 5.10 Pre-application advice provided by the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Officer has confirmed that a stage programme of archaeological investigation can be secured by means of an appropriately worded condition attached to planning consent. In the first instance, a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken in the form of trial trenching targeting the area of proposed development impact.

## 6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Land south of Langford Lane Kidlington Oxfordshire has been reviewed for its below ground archaeological potential.
- 6.2 In accordance with relevant government planning policy and guidance, a desk-based assessment has been undertaken to clarify the archaeological potential of the study area.
- 6.3 In terms of relevant nationally significant designated heritage assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefields or Historic Wreck sites have been identified within the vicinity of the study site.
- 6.4 The study site can be considered likely to have had a modest potential for the later Prehistoric and the Roman periods. Any remains which may be present are most likely to be of local (i.e. low) significance.
- 6.5 Past-post depositional impacts within the areas of the study site are considered likely to have had a negative archaeological impact, due to the construction of previous and existing development, since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The south-western area of the study site proposed for development appears to have remained open land throughout its documented history.
- 6.6 Proposals comprise the extension of the existing detention facility, including elements of new build together with additions to existing buildings and the provision of additional car parking.
- 6.7 Pre-application advice provided by the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Officer has confirmed that a stage programme of archaeological investigation can be secured by means of an appropriately worded condition attached to planning consent. In the first instance, a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken in the form of trial trenching targeting the area of proposed development impact.

## Sources Consulted

### General

Ashmolean Museum Oxford

British Library

Oxfordshire Record Office

Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record

RAF Hendon Department of Research and Information Services

### Internet

Archaeological Data Service: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>

Aerial photography: <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>

British Geological Survey: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

British History: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Domesday Book: <https://opendomesday.org.uk>

Historic England (National Heritage List): <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

Past Scape: <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>

Portable Antiquities Database: <https://finds.org.uk/database/>

NPPG: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>

### Bibliographic

Aubertin-Potter *Begbroke: Fragments of a History* 1984

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard & Guidance for historic environment desk based assessment* 2014, revised 2020 unpublished document

Department of Communities and Local Government *Scheduled Monuments and Nationally Important Non-Scheduled Monuments* 2013

Department of Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* 2012 (revised July 2021)

Department of Communities and Local Government/Department of Culture Media and Sport/English Heritage

*PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* 2010

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* 2008 (new draft 2017)

Historic England *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1 The Historic Environment in Local*

*Plans* July 2015 unpublished document

Historic England *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 Managing Significance in Decision-*

*Taking in the Historic Environment* July 2015 unpublished document

Historic England *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets*

December 2017 unpublished document

Margary Roman Roads in Britain 2 Volumes 1955

Sherwood & Pevsner Buildings of England Oxfordshire 1974

Victoria County History Oxfordshire Volume 12 1990

## **Cartographic**

1785 Kitchin map of Oxfordshire

1811 Ordnance Survey Drawing

1873 Ordnance Survey

1898 Ordnance Survey

1922 Ordnance Survey

1936 Ordnance Survey

March 1945 Kidlington Record Site Plan (RAF plan)

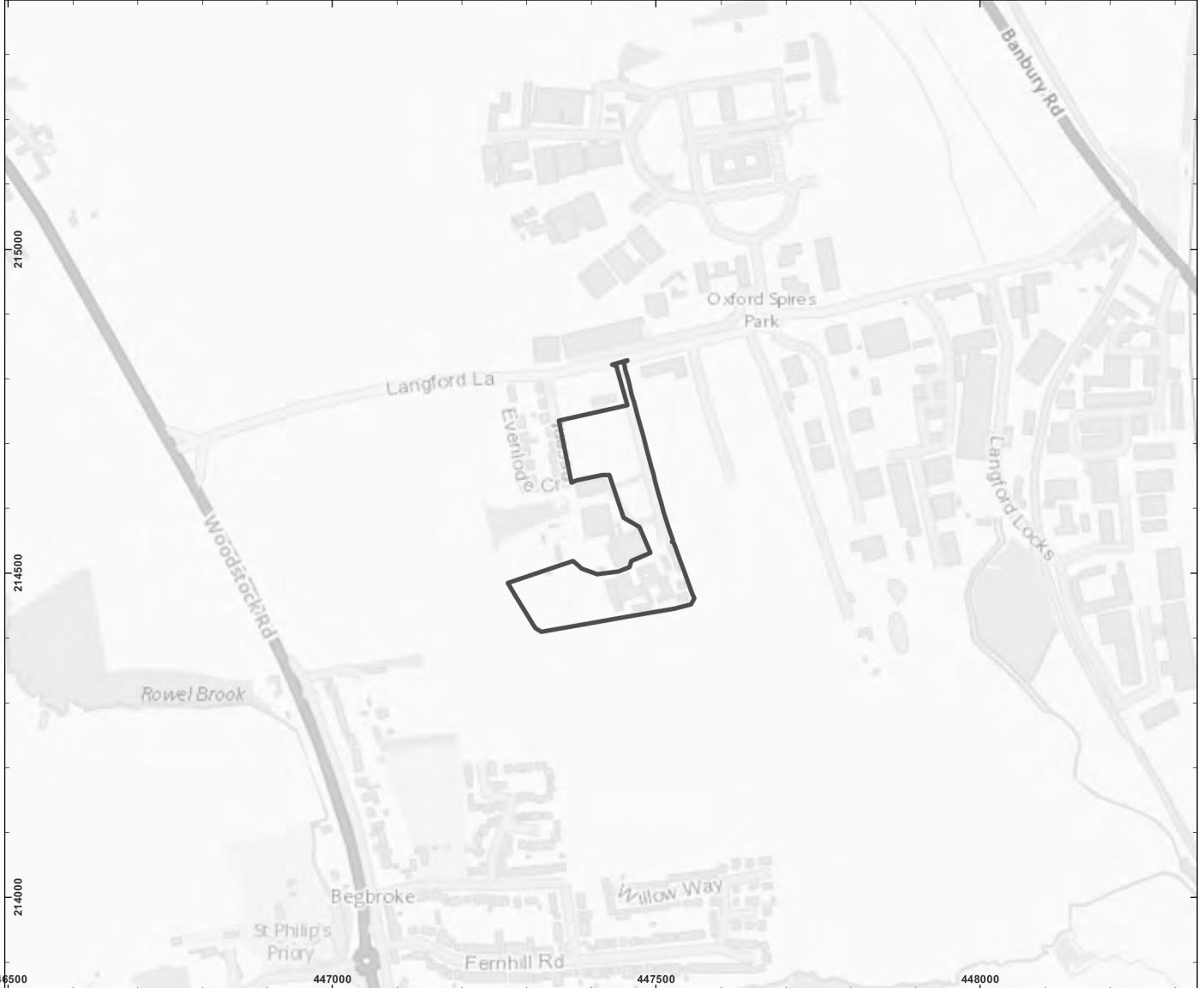
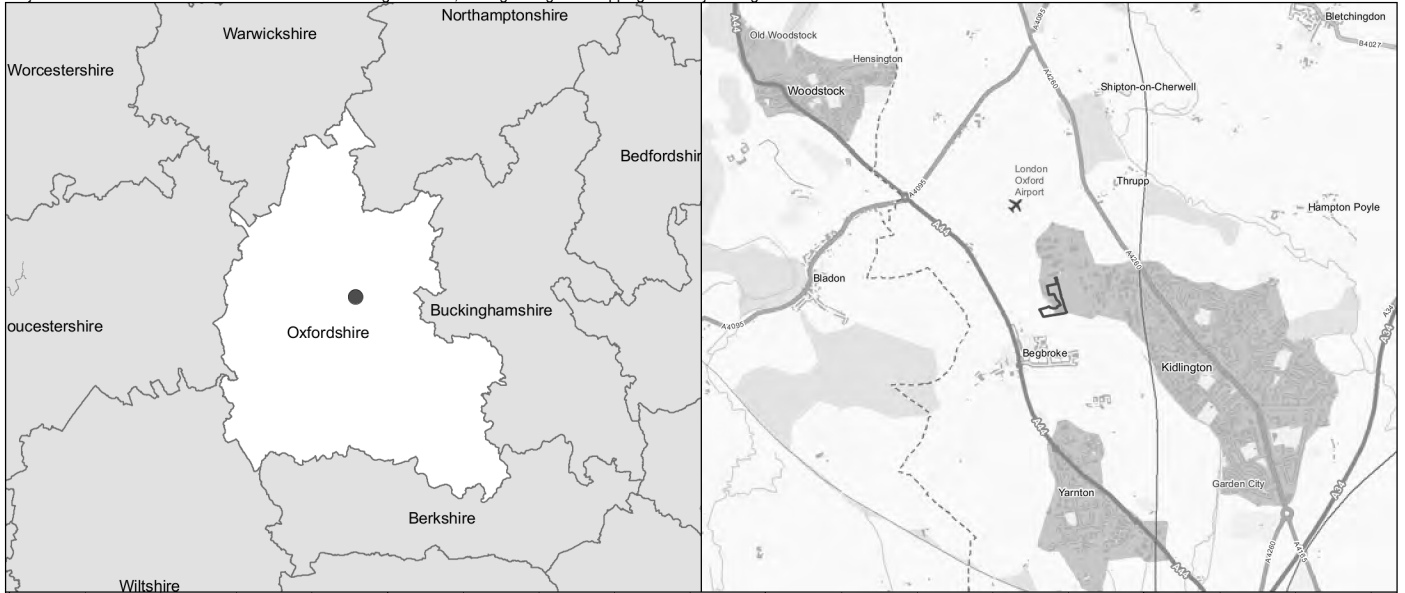
1950 Plan of Kidlington Aerodrome

1955 Ordnance Survey

1974 Ordnance Survey



**FIGURES**



 Site Boundary



0 100 200m  
Scale at A4: 1:10,000



Figure 1  
Site Location



**Legend**

- Site Boundary
- 1km Search Radius

**Non-designated Heritage Assets:**

- Monument
- Findspot
- HER Building
- Element
- Monument
- HER Record (linear)

**Previous Archaeological Work:**

- Event Record (point)
- Event Record (polygon)

N

0 100 200 300m

Scale at A3: 1:10,000



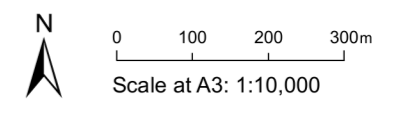
Figure 2a  
 Summary of heritage designations and archaeological findspots (data from Oxfordshire HER)

Project Ref: N:\1794-PL\N\HER-01000-01999\01499 - Langford Lane, Kirtlington\Figures\Mapping\GIS\Projects\Figure 02a HER.mxd

Project Ref: N:\1794-PL\N\HER-01000-01999\01499 - Langford Lane, Kirtlington\Figures\Mapping\GIS\Projects\Figure 02b\_HLC.mxd



- Legend**
- Site Boundary
  - 1km Search Radius
- Historic Landscape Characterisation:**
- Civil Provision - Immigration Detention Centre
  - Commercial - Business Park
  - Communication - Airfield (Commercial)
  - Communication - Canals and Locks
  - Communication - Rail transport sites
  - Industry - Industrial Estate
  - Piecemeal Enclosure
  - Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure
  - Recreation - Other Leisure facilities
  - Recreation - Sports Facilities
  - Reorganised Enclosures
  - Rural - Hamlet
  - Rural - Village
  - Woodland - Secondary Woodland



**Figure 2b**  
 Historic Landscape Characterisation  
 (data from Oxfordshire HER)

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020



**Legend**

□ Site Boundary

**LiDAR DATA**

Source:  
Environment Agency

Data Type: DTM

Resolution: 1m

Date Captured:  
2022

Processing:  
Multi-direction Hillshade overlaid on  
simple Local Relief Model

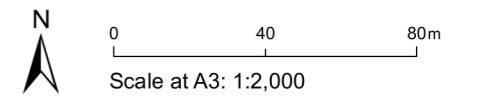


Figure 3

LiDAR Plot



Approximate Site Location



Not to Scale.  
Illustrative only.



TETRA TECH




A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Figure 4

1785 Kitchin Map of Oxfordshire



 Site Boundary (approximate location)

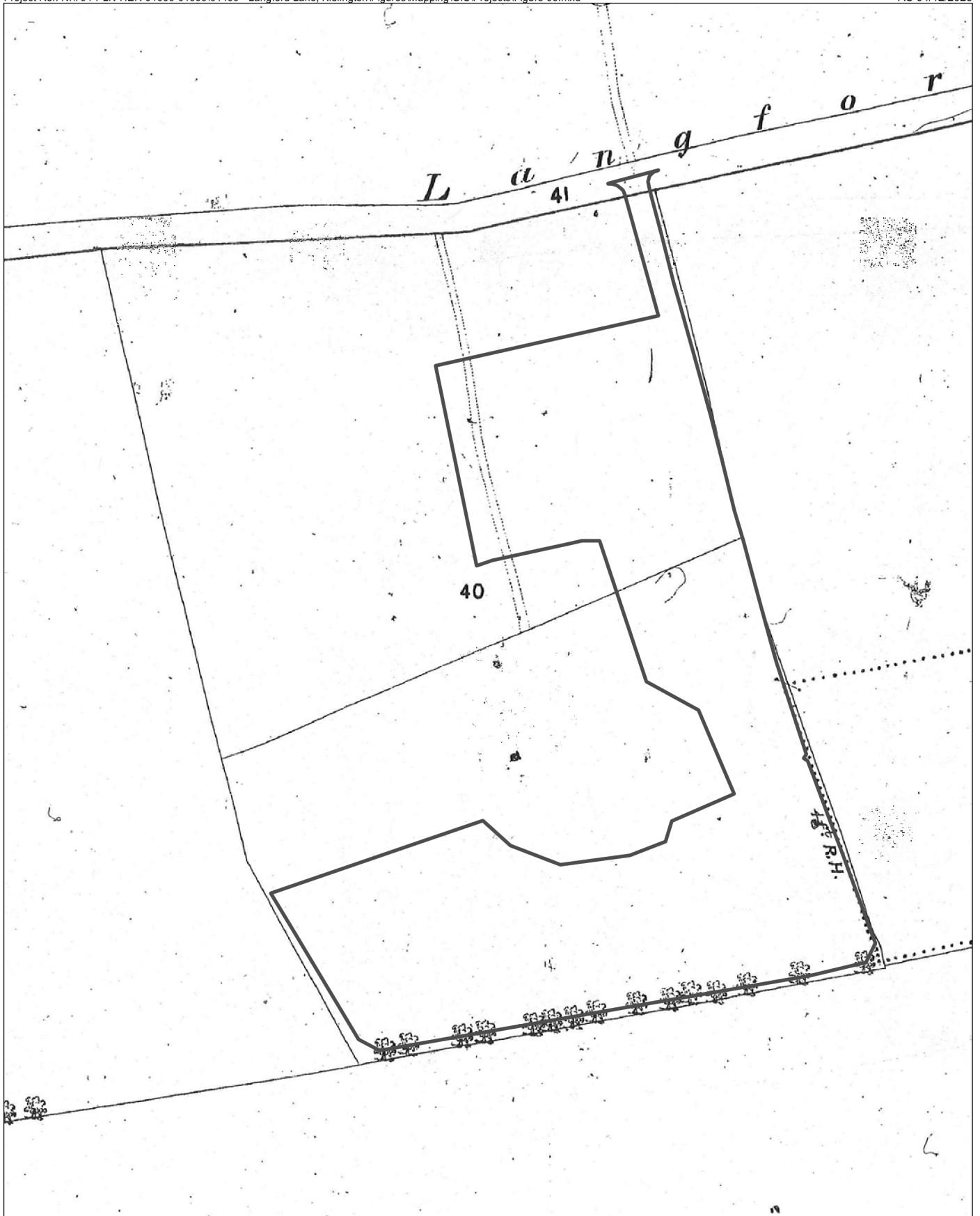


0 250 500m  
Scale at A4: 1:25,000  
(approximately)



Figure 5

1811 Ordnance Survey Drawing



 Site Boundary

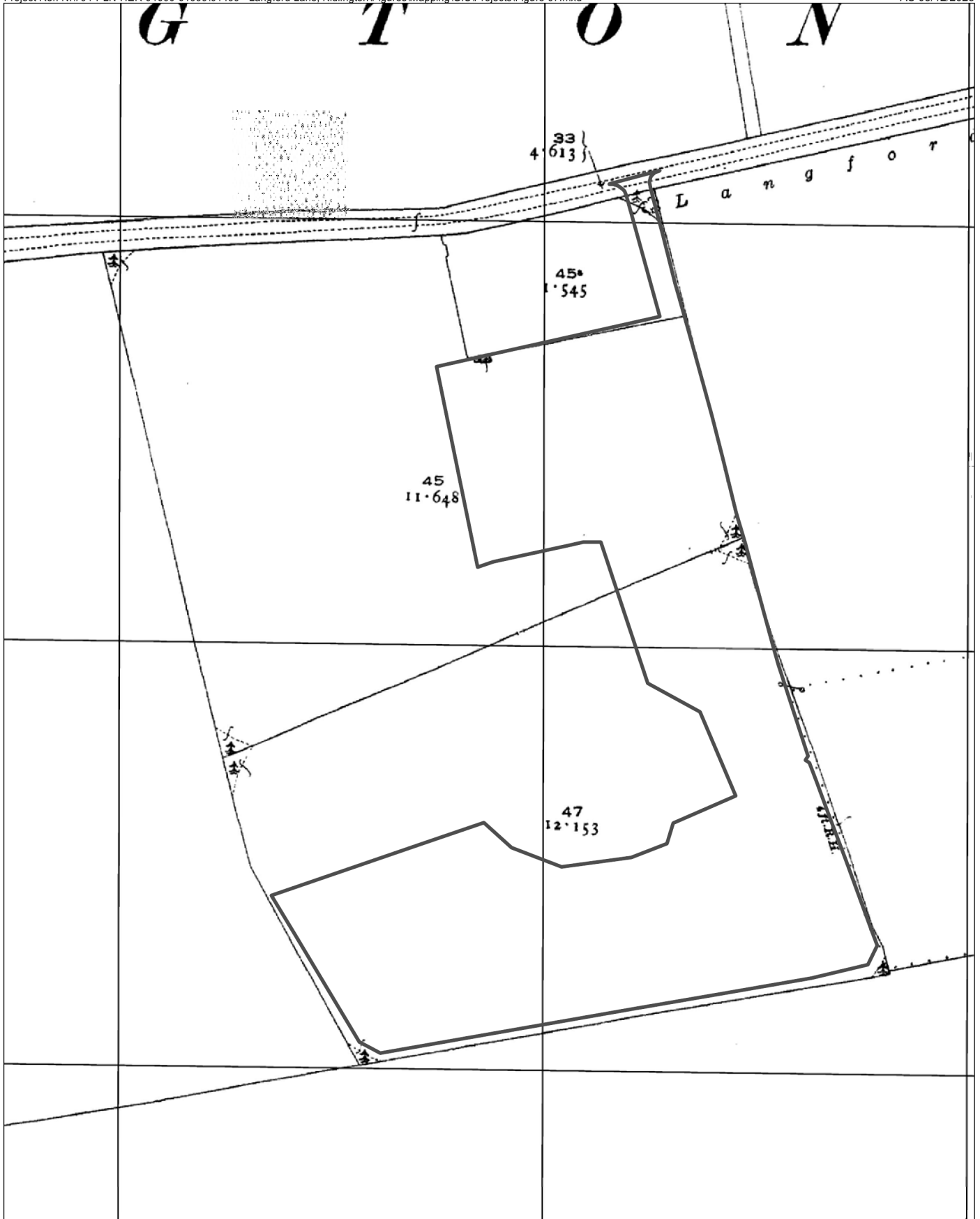


0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,500



Figure 6

1873 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,500



Figure 7

1922 Ordnance Survey Map





 Site Boundary

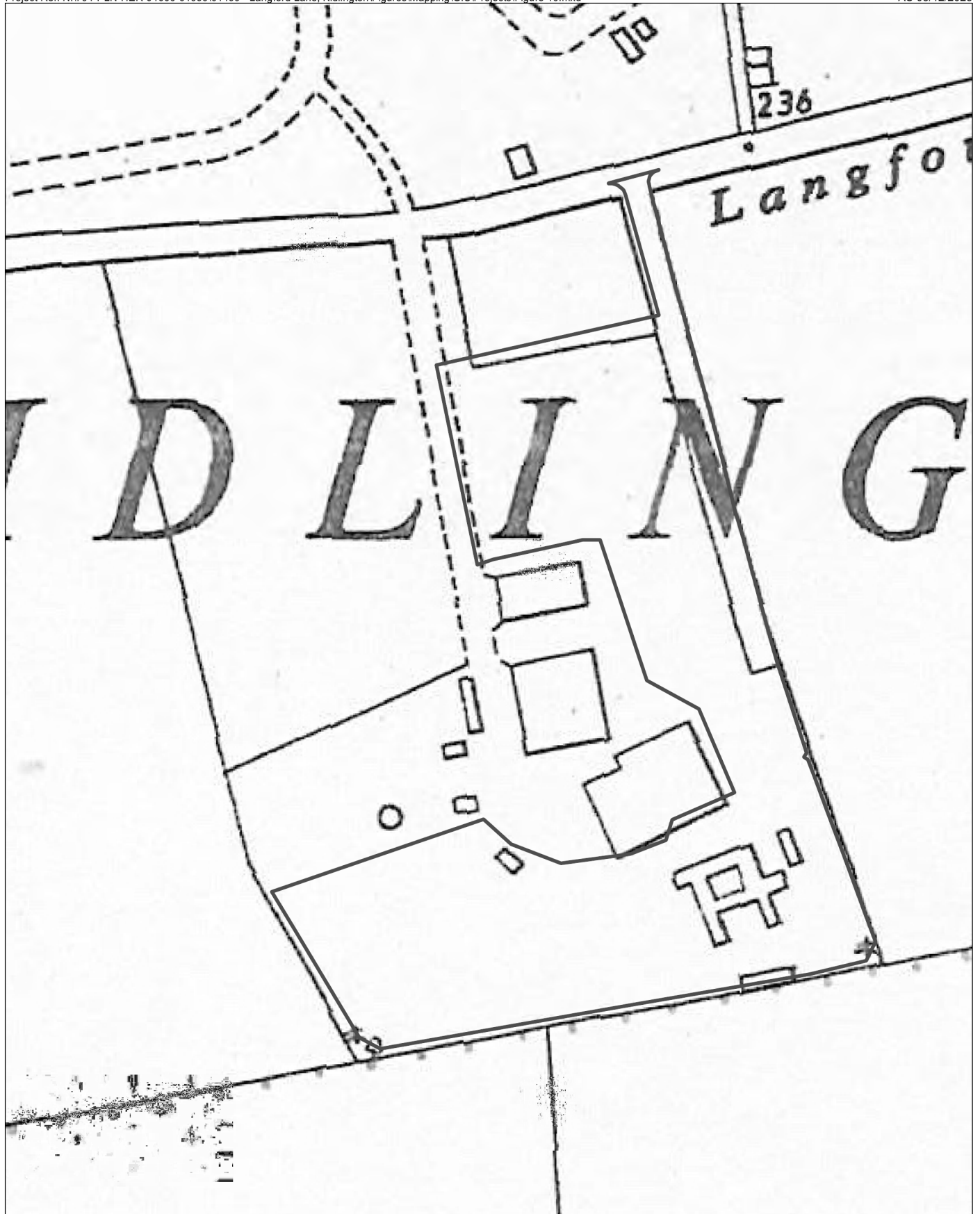


0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,500



Figure 9

1945 Aerial Photograph



 Site Boundary

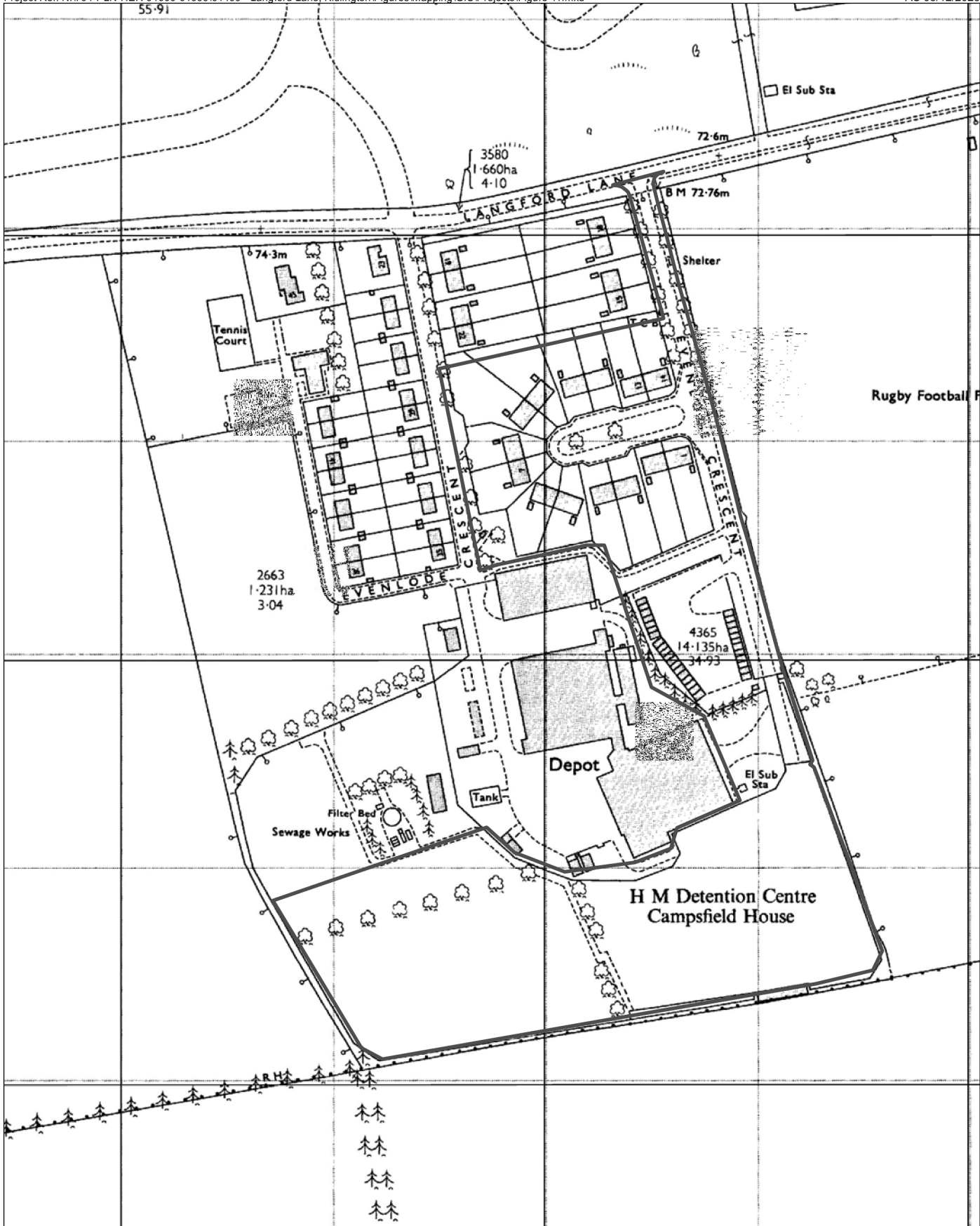


0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,500



Figure 10

1955 Ordnance Survey Map



Site Boundary



0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,500



Figure 11

1974 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,500



Figure 12  
2009 Aerial Photograph



**Existing Parking Schedule:**  
69 No. Standard Bays  
2 No. Disabled Bays  
71 No. Total Existing Car Parking Bays

 Site Boundary



0 25 50m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 13  
Current Site Survey



**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1**

**HER Gazetteer**

CAMPSFIELD, OXFORDSHIRE

MonUID	PrefRef	Name
MOX12415	16680	Patridge Pit Heavy Anti Aircraft Second World War Gunsite
MOX13502	19033	Cartshed
MOX13547	19141	LOWER FARMHOUSE AND ATTACHED GRANARY OUTBUILDING
MOX13557	19038	The Old Rectory
MOX13831	19036	Grave Slab approximately 5 metres south of south door of Church of St Michael
MOX13832	19031	No 50 (Hall Farmhouse, Spring Hill Road
MOX13833	19032	Barn
MOX13834	19035	Chest Tomb
MOX14475	19034	Chest Tomb
MOX14478	19079	Railway Bridge at SP 4832 1529
MOX14696	19037	Headstone
MOX14708	19039	The Old Rectory Coach House and Stable
MOX23588	26182	Undated ditches and post medieval field boundary
MOX24503	27977	Ditch and gully features found at Begbroke Science Park
MOX27509	29129	Oxford Canal
MOX27685	29298	Site of WWII defences at Kidlington aerodrome
MOX27706	29319	Site of WWII stanton shelter
MOX27926	29537	Medieval to Post-medieval agricultural activity
MOX28135	29748	Birmingham and Oxford Junction Railway
MOX28160	29773	Oxford Kidlington Airport
MOX28359	29969	Later Prehistoric activity
MOX28371	29981	Possible Bronze Age features
MOX28557	30169	Medieval or Post-Medieval Gravel Pits
MOX28575	30187	Post-Medieval Cottages
MOX28750	30361	Iron Age to Roman Settlement
MOX28751	30362	Iron Age Settlement
MOX3792	718	Sparrowgap Canal Bridge (No 223), Oxford Canal
MOX3802	1309	Medieval Village
MOX3804	1311	Roman Coins
MOX3842	5693	Possible Roman Linear Marks
MOX3859	10311	C19 Milestone
MOX3874	13926	World War II Pillbox (E Side of Kidlington Aerodrome)
MOX3907	2244	Site of former Kidlington Railway Station, Station Approach
MOX3908	2371	Iron Age Hut, Ditches and Pits
MOX3909	2372	Romano British Settlement
MOX3910	2588	Iron Age and Anglo Saxon Enclosures (Deal Ground, Begbroke Hill)
MOX3911	2622	Possible Roman Farmstead
MOX3911	2622	Possible Roman Farmstead
MOX3912	2640	Possible Bronze Age Ring Ditch (Sands, Begbroke Hill)
MOX3913	3357	Prehistoric Flint Tool
MOX3917	3932	Later Prehistoric Scrapers and Struck Flints
MOX3918	3933	Neolithic Leaf-Shaped Arrowheads
MOX3920	4163	Neolithic Pottery
MOX3921	4164	Neolithic Leaf-Shaped Arrowhead
MOX3922	4165	Neolithic Lithic Scatter

**CAMPSFIELD, OXFORDSHIRE**

MOX3923	4166	Neolithic Hollow-Based Flint Arrowhead
MOX3924	4167	Later Prehistoric Flint Implements
MOX3925	4168	Roman Pottery
MOX3926	4169	Iron Age and Roman Pottery
MOX3927	4171	Medieval Pottery
MOX3928	4172	Medieval/Post Medieval Pottery and other finds
MOX3929	4173	Begbroke Hill Farmhouse, Sandy Lane
MOX3931	4643	St Michael's Church, St Michael's Lane
MOX3932	4644	Church of St Phillip, Spring Hill Road
MOX3942	5229	St Philip's Priory, Spring Hill Road
MOX3950	5872	Churchyard Cross, St Michaels Church, St Michael's Lane
MOX3952	7336	Mid-Late Bronze Age Barrows (Wrenches, Begbroke Hill)
MOX3953	7350	Iron Age to Anglo Saxon occupation site
MOX3954	7533	Undated Enclosure, Linear Feature, Pit (1st & 2nd Sand, near Begbroke Hill)
MOX3955	7536	Late Bronze Age pit clusters (Lankets, Begbroke Hill)
MOX3967	9599	IA Ditches, Postholes & Pits (Sands, Begbroke Hill)
MOX3970	10046	C18 Milestone
MOX3972	10227	Site of Langford Land Toll House
MOX3983	12648	Roundham Lock, Oxford Canal
MOX3992	13294	Possible Bronze Age Round Barrow (N of Rowel Brook)
MOX3993	13295	Smaller of pair of possible Bronze Age Round Barrows (N of Rowel Brook)
MOX3994	13296	Shrunken Medieval Village
MOX3995	13297	Post Med Hollow Way (N side of Image Ground or Priory Field)
MOX3996	13925	World War II Pillbox (beside canal N of Roundham Lock)
MOX809	8861	Oxford Ridgeway



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