

**BOVIS HOMES LIMITED**

**Land West of Witney, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment**

**Oxford Archaeological Unit  
March 1998**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit was asked by Bovis Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment of an area of 61.8 hectares 130m to the west of Witney, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3310 0945). The proposed development will have a varied schedule of land use, although over half will be allocated to the construction of houses. A detailed ground plan of the development has not yet been drawn up.
- 1.2 In this report the documentary and archaeological sources relating to the area of the proposed development and study area (1km around the site) are examined in order to determine the likely nature, extent, preservation and importance of archaeological remains, and how these may be effected by the development. No site visit was undertaken as part of this assessment in anticipation of a fieldwalking program proposed by the Oxford Archaeological Unit, in consultation with Bovis Homes Limited.

## **2. Geology and Topography of the Survey Area**

- 2.1 The site lies 130m to the west of Witney on the north side of the A40 road. The village of Minster Lovell and the River Windrush lie 1.7km to the north-west. Three hundred metres to the south, on the other side of the A40, is the village of Curbridge. The ground slopes down to the south and to the south-east, from c.104m OD in the north-eastern corner to c.87m OD in the south-east corner, over a distance of approximately 1.5km. The geology is Middle Jurassic Cornbrash. A thin strip parallel to Downs Road, along the north-west part of the site, lies on the border of Cornbrash and Forest Marble.

## **3. Archaeology of the Survey Area**

- 3.1 The Oxfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Monuments Record (NMR), are repositories of all known archaeology in the area. The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) requested a list of sites and finds within a 1km study area surrounding SP 3310 0945 from the NMR. A similar study area was examined at the SMR. A summary of this information is supplied in Appendix One, with reference to figure 1.
- 3.2 The SMR search revealed one known archaeological site within the area of proposed development; the cropmark of a possible Bronze Age ring-ditch. Several areas of prehistoric and Roman occupation lie just outside the area to be developed. The archaeology of the 1km study area around the proposed development (hitherto referred to as 'the site') has been divided by period and is discussed below.
- 3.3 *Prehistoric*
- 3.3.1 Two fields c.500m to the north of the site were fieldwalked by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT). Forty-seven pieces of flint were found (OAU 21). All were heavily battered, suggesting low exposure in the ploughsoil. The assemblage was thought to be indicative of low density Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, possibly small-scale/localised sites, using flint cobbles from drift deposits in the manufacture of tools. A trench was positioned across a flint scatter identified in fieldwalking by CAT, as part of an archaeological evaluation at Downs Road (1992). This revealed two rock-cut pits containing burnt stone and a small quantity of early Bronze Age pottery.

3.3.2 Cropmark evidence of a possible ring-ditch (the ploughed out remains of a Bronze Age Burial Mound) within the northern half of the area of proposed development was revealed during air survey in 1970 (photo BCR 19) (OAU 1). Benson and Miles used this photograph to plot the feature in their survey of the River Gravels of the Upper Thames Valley (1974). Other photographs of the site, dating from 1944 to 1991, were examined at the NMR and SMR as part of this desk based assessment. No traces of the ring-ditch were visible. It has been estimated that this feature is approximately 50m in diameter and this has led to suggestions that it may be too large to be a ring ditch (Mudd 1988). The exact nature of this feature is therefore uncertain. As the land here has been used for arable farming in the past, it is possible that it has been damaged by ploughing

3.3.3 Excavations by CAT in 1992, on land east of Deer Park Road c.450m to the north-east, recorded the remains of an unenclosed middle Iron Age settlement (OAU 4). The site consisted of two main areas. To the south the excavations revealed a roundhouse, two possible structures with hearths, several groups of hearths (14 in total), a 'cistern', and a post-trench and pits. This was interpreted as an occupation area. Clearly distinct from this a second area of features was found, grouped around an extensive limestone pavement 140m to the north. These included seven shallow hearth pits and gullies with evidence of metal working, concentrated burning and a relatively high concentration of cereal remains. This part of the site was interpreted as a general utility area where a range of activities were performed. Although both areas are dissimilar, it is thought that they are disparate elements of a single settlement as there is a lack of evidence for comparable activity in the immediate vicinity (Walker 1996, 90). While the southern half of the site lies on well-drained gravels (not indicated on the Geology Survey Sheet), it is unlikely that the surrounding Cornbrash and heavy clays were suitable for settlement. The small assemblage of pottery and the rather limited fabric range was interpreted, along with other site evidence, as an indication of relatively short occupation. This might have been due to the location of the site on ground prone to waterlogging during wet periods. A ditch c.100m to the east of this excavation was uncovered during an evaluation by the OAU in 1994 (OAU 26). Although no finds were retrieved, it was thought that this might have been a peripheral element of the middle Iron Age settlement (OAU 1994, 5).

3.3.4 A cropmark of a possible 'Banjo' type enclosure, similar to the rectangular Upper Cranbourne type associated with the late Iron Age, lies c.100m to the west of the development area (OAU 18). The entrance of the enclosure is on the south-east side, with 'antennae' extending to the north-east towards the site and to the south-west away from the site.

#### 3.4 *Roman*

3.4.1 Nineteen burials of a previously unknown Romano-British cemetery were discovered among the ditches, pits and dark occupation spreads of a Romano-British settlement, less than 50m south-east of the area of proposed development, during the construction of the Witney bypass (OAU 12). Traces of rubble- and timber-founded buildings were noted, although later ploughing had damaged much of the original land surface (Chambers 1976, 41). From the limited area investigated, settlement appears to have started during the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD, with the presence of curving boundary and enclosure ditches of possible hut circles. The area was probably deserted by the 4th century AD, when part of the area was used for a cemetery, with continued occupation nearby (Chambers 1976, 53).

3.4.2 The inhumation burials are thought to represent the southern half of a cemetery of unknown size. Within the cemetery there was a preference for north-south burial, although orientation varied greatly. All of the graves were shallow, which may explain the poor preservation of the skeletons on land ploughed at a later date. Also, some skeletons had been partly or

severely damaged by machine-stripping. The graves were scattered, with a minor concentration in the north-west corner of the excavated area. The cemetery appeared to extend under the paddock to the north and may extend into the area of proposed development, although a watching brief 200m to the north revealed no archaeological features (OAU 11). Stray finds from the topsoil around the watching brief included coins, bronze fragments and late 3rd century pottery. By 1985 the Burwell Farm housing estate had encroached upon the north side of the area, but a build-up of waste soil prevented archaeological investigation. It is possible that further burials lie beyond the southern edge of the excavations (Chambers 1978, 53). No settlement features or graves were recorded to the west of the Curbridge-Witney road during the topsoil stripping for the Witney by-pass (this section of the road forms the southern boundary of the area of proposed development). Here the underlying Cornbrash limestone formed a very stony topsoil and it is possible that occasional features within the Cornbrash might easily have been missed (Chambers 1978, 54). The eastern boundary of the cemetery is likely to have been the Colwell Brook, outside the area of proposed development (Chambers 1978, 53). Further to the east, c.600m from the site, several sherds of Samian ware were found during development (OAU 8).

### 3.5 *Saxon*

3.5.1 The focus of settlement in the Saxon period was the town of Witney, the centre of which lies c.2km to the east of the site. Witney is named in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Witenie*, meaning 'Witta's island'. It was a place of some importance before the Norman Conquest, for the Witan, the council of the Saxon kings, met there (Foster *et al* in Rodwell 1975, 179). There is little known documentary or archaeological evidence of Saxon activity on land west of Witney. Two coins dated AD700 and AD729 were found on the spoil heap from topsoil clearance, during building operations c.450m to the east of the site (OAU 7). The area of proposed development lies 700m to the south of the 'Witney Ridgeway' (Grundy's 'Road 4' in *Saxon Oxfordshire: charters and ancient highways*) (OAU 22). This routeway continued through Northleach to join the Great Cotswold Ridgeway near Winchcombe, and is known from charters to have been a salt way at least as far as Northleach.

### 3.6 *Medieval*

3.6.1 During the medieval period it would appear likely that the area of proposed development lay within the open fields of Curbridge. Davies' Map of Oxfordshire (1793-94) shows the site as being within 'Curbridge Field', common land presumably owned by the inhabitants of Curbridge township (figure 4). An Estate Map of 1822 (copied from an Estate Map of the Manor of Witney, 1814-1816) also shows land within the area of proposed development as being open fields, or common land (figure 5). This would suggest that the development site has been in arable cultivation since the medieval period onwards and the potential for settlement remains dating from the medieval or post-medieval is consequently low. Traces of ridge and furrow could be seen just to the north of the excavations at Coral Springs in 1974, on the south-east side of the Curbridge-Witney road, adjacent to the area of proposed development (OAU 12).

3.6.2 There is a possibility that the north/north-east corner of the site (OAU 31) lay within the area of the medieval deer park owned by the Bishop of Winchester. Such deer parks were a common feature of medieval England. The optimum shape was circular or elliptical because of the amount of time and money involved in constructing the boundary and were usually surrounded by a substantial boundary (Park Pale) designed to keep the deer inside the park. This normally consisted of a combination of a large earth bank, topped by a fence, and a ditch which was placed on the inside of the bank. The perimeter of the deer park was broken by gates and occasionally by a deer leap. This was a device which enabled deer to enter the park but not

leave it and was generally formed by an arrangement of poles across a gap in the pale with a pit in the interior of the park.

- 3.6.3 Medieval deer parks contain a mixture of woodland and grassland and during its heyday the park was a carefully and economically managed unit, often providing other sources of revenue such as pasturage, timber, wood, rabbit warrens, dovecotes and fishponds. The woodland provided cover for the deer and a forest setting for the hunt and the pasture provided fodder for the deer in areas called 'laundes' (later lawns).
- 3.6.4 Witney Park Farm, c.500m to the north-east of the site, was probably the site of a medieval park lodge within the deer park (Steane 1985, 85) (OAU 5). The Bishop's land is described in the Domesday Book of 1086AD as '*thirty hides of land, with 24 ploughs*'. It was classified as a medieval deer park for the Monuments Protection Program in 1993. The Ordnance Survey (OS) marks the Bishop's Palace site incorrectly here - '*..actually it was a park for animals, and like other medieval parks, had nothing to do with a house.*' (Wickham-Steed MS - *A History of the Wychwood Country*).
- 3.6.5 The park was first mentioned in the Bampton Hundred Rolls of 1279., when it is said that the Bishop of Winchester has a free park (Oxford Record Society 1968, 71 *quoted in* Steane 1985, 85). The bounds of the park are shown on a drawing based on an Estate Map of a portion of the Manor of Witney, 1662 (reproduced in Bolton and Maslen 1985) (figure 2). The south-western boundary is shown to extend over the Colwell Brook, which would place it within the area of proposed development. The Estate Map of 1662 also shows a large lake, with a bridge spanning it, along the course of the Colwell Brook. The south-western half of the lake lies within the area of proposed development. The lake is not shown on any other map, and is further to the north-west along the Brook than the fishponds shown on the Tithe Map of 1840.
- 3.6.6 The park is indicated on Plot's Map of Oxfordshire (1677). It is shown as an enclosed subrectangular area of land (figure 3). There is not enough detail to be able to locate the bounds of the park with any accuracy. It is only possible to establish that it is situated to the west of Witney town and to the north-east of Curbridge.
- 3.6.7 Comparison of the 1662 map and later maps suggests that the area of the Park and of the land owned by the Bishop was reduced after the date of this map. Later maps shows the Colwell Brook as forming the post-medieval boundary of the Bishop's lands and from this date evidence for this includes:
- An Estate Map of 1822 (copied from an Estate Map of 1814-1816) shows land belonging to the Manor of Witney extending northwards from the present town of Curbridge up to the Colwell Brook and not beyond it (figure 5).
  - The Enclosure Map of 1844 shows the land of the Bishop of Winchester extending up to the Brook and not beyond it (figure 8).
  - Davies Map of Oxfordshire (1793-94) shows a similar demarcation of land; an expanse of open field to the north of Curbridge township, named as 'Curbridge Field', clearly extends up to the line of the Brook and not beyond it. The area beyond is surrounded by trees and is named as 'Witney Park' (figure 4).
- 3.6.8 The Tithe Map of 1840 indicates various 'Park' field names west of Park Farm, on the north side of the Colwell Brook. These are; 'Park Hill', 'Park Corner', 'Hilly Park', 'Upper Park', 'Fish Pond Ground', 'Mowing Park'. Land to the east of the farm is indicated as 'Park Piece'. The field named 'Fish Pond Ground' (Tithe Apportionment field 236) (OAU 2)

extends very slightly into the north-eastern part of the site. The map shows two ponds here, along the course of the Brook (at this point the Brook falls outside the area of proposed development). It is possible that there were medieval fishponds here, associated with Witney Park. The 'dog-leg' in the stream course here might mark the site of a dam. Further to the east, c.300m from the site, traces of a stone wall were recorded by the OAU in 1988 prior to development (OAU 3). This was thought to be the remains of an enclosure boundary on the southern side of the deer park, rather than of a building. Two trenches positioned nearby failed to locate the park pale. It is possible that the pale ran under the bridleway on the other side of the field boundary.

- 3.6.9 The northern boundary of the park is likely to be the linear earthwork marked as a 'fosse' on the OS 1st Edition 6" map of 1864. The earthwork is shown running parallel to the A40 road on the southern side (centred at SP 337 104). This may be part of park pale (boundary fence). A linear earthwork was noted here in 1988, possibly the remains of an attempt to mark the older bank (Turrell 1988, 2).
- 3.6.10 The western limit of the medieval park within the area of the development appears to have lain along the southern side of the Colwell Brook (as noted above). To the north of this the boundary appears to have followed the line of a road shown on the earliest maps ( the Estate Map of 1662, the Estate Map of 1822, and the OS 1" Map of 1833 (OAU 29) (figures 2, 5 and 6). The road runs northwards from the village of Curbridge across the western half of the site. This road is not shown on either the Tithe Map of 1840 nor the Enclosure Map of 1844 (figures 7 and 8). It appears that between 1833 and 1840 the road had shifted westwards to its present position, possibly due to changes associated with enclosure. This shift resulted in a road with a 'dog-leg'. This has remained up to the present day and forms the western boundary of the area of proposed development.
- 3.6.11 Davies' Map of Oxfordshire shows a road junction to the north-west of Curbridge township comprised of five roads, and not four, as indicated on the other early maps, including the Estate Map of 1662. Davies' Map might be inaccurate, being only a general survey of the County, or it is possible that during the 18th century there were five roads at this junction (located within the area of proposed development).

### 3.7 *Post-medieval*

- 3.7.1 From the lack of documentary and archaeological evidence it is unlikely that the area of proposed development was settled during this period. The earliest maps of the area do not show any buildings, only fields used as arable. Common land neighbouring Witney was enclosed in 1761 (Giles 1852, 68), although an Estate Map of 1822 (figure 5) does not show enclosed fields. The earliest Enclosure Map was drawn in 1844, and shows field boundaries that appear to have remained unchanged up to the present day (figure 8). The Map also indicates that much of the land belonging to the Bishop of Winchester (i.e. the remnants of the deer park) had been leased to the Duke of Marlborough. The Tithe Map and Tithe Apportionment of 1840/1841 reveal that the land use in all fields on the site at that time was arable (figure 7).
- 3.7.2 The earliest maps of the site, the Estate Map of 1662, the Estate Map of 1822 and the OS 1st Edition 1" Map (1833) all show a road crossing the centre of the site (OAU 29) (figures 2, 5 and 9). It is possible that the road existed in medieval times. No traces of the road were visible as cropmarks on air photographs. It is possible that it has been damaged by subsequent ploughing.

- 3.7.3 Excavations by CAT c.450m to the north-east of the site in 1994 (OAU 4) uncovered parts of a broad low bank that crossed the middle of the excavation. The bank ran approximately NE-SW, with ditches on either side. No finds were retrieved. This was thought to be part of the 18th century enclosures at Witney Park as illustrated on a contemporary map, rather than being associated with the medieval deer park.
- 3.7.4 An 'Old Quarry' (stone) is shown on the OS 1st Edition 25" and 6" Maps c.50m west of the site (OAU 17) (figure 9). The date of the workings is not known.

#### **4 Potential for archaeological deposits in the proposed development area**

- 4.1 Although the potential archaeology in the area of proposed development is uncertain, some attempt has been made to grade potential archaeological remains on the basis of the archaeology within the 1km study area.
- 4.2 The potential for prehistoric remains within the area of proposed development is moderate to high. Cropmark evidence of a large ring-ditch within the northern half of the site was revealed during air survey in 1970 (OAU 1). Benson and Miles plotted the feature in their survey of the River Gravels of the Upper Thames Valley (1974). Other photographs of the site, dating from 1944 to 1991, were examined at the NMR and SMR. No traces of the ring-ditch were visible. As the land here has been used for arable farming in the past, it is possible that it has been damaged by ploughing
- 4.3 There is evidence of low-density Neolithic and Bronze Age activity c.500m to the north-east of the development site (OAU 21). It is not possible to say whether such activity extends further to the south-east into the area of the site. Excavations by CAT in 1992, on land east of Deer Park Road c.450m to the north-east, recorded the remains of an unenclosed middle Iron Age settlement on an area of gravel (OAU 4). A ditch, thought to be a peripheral element of the settlement, was found c.100m to the east of this excavation by the OAU in 1994 (OAU 26). Other evidence of settlement within the study area during the Iron Age is revealed by the cropmark of a possible 'Banjo' type enclosure, c.100m to the west (OAU 18). Air photographs show one 'antennae' extending in a north-easterly direction towards the site, but it does not appear to continue into the area of proposed development.
- 4.4 The potential for Roman remains within the area of proposed development is moderate to high. On land adjacent to the south-eastern corner of the site, part of a Romano-British cemetery and settlement has been excavated, partly damaged by later ploughing (OAU 12). It is possible that the cemetery extends either to the north or to the west into the site. A watching brief 200m to the north of the cemetery revealed no archaeological features, but stray finds from the topsoil included coins, bronze fragments and late 3rd century pottery (OAU 11). No settlement features or graves were recorded to the west during the topsoil stripping, although the underlying Cornbrash meant that occasional features might easily have been missed (Chambers 1978, 54). The Witney by-pass now crosses this area and forms the southern boundary of the site.
- 4.5 The potential for Saxon remains within the area of proposed development is uncertain. There is little known documentary or archaeological evidence of Saxon activity on land west of Witney. The focus of settlement is likely to have been c.2km to the east in Witney town, which is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1083. The area of proposed development lies 700m to the south of the 'Witney Ridgeway' a possible ancient/Saxon routeway (OAU 22).
- 4.6 The potential for medieval archaeology within the area of proposed development is mixed. The northern/north-eastern part of the proposed development site may contain remains



associated with the medieval deer park owned by the Bishop of Winchester. The earliest map of the site, a map based on an Estate Map of 1662, clearly shows the pale (boundary) of the deer park (OAU 31) on the south-western side of the Colwell Brook, within the northern/north-eastern part of proposed development (figure 2). The same map also shows a lake with a bridge spanning it, along the Colwell Brook. The south-western half of the lake falls within the site. None of these features are visible on air photographs held by the NMR or SMR. The nature of any deposits present is therefore uncertain but it should be noted that these may include the sub-surface remains of the park pale, which is likely to have consisted of a substantial bank and ditch. The area may also contain the remains of a medieval or early post-medieval lake or pond. Such ponds were an integral part of the internal layout of medieval deer parks providing both water for the deer and possibly also acting as fishponds or decoy ponds (for the capture of ducks). If remains of this feature exist it is possible that these may include the waterlogged remains of organic artefacts and natural flora and fauna. These would be of environmental archaeological value in providing information about the nature of the economic and natural utilisation of the medieval park.

- 4.7 The potential for finding traces of medieval settlement within the rest of the site may be lower. From the early medieval period this area of land comprised open fields, or common land, owned by the inhabitants of Curbridge township. It is unlikely that any building would have been allowed on common land. This area may however contain the remains of an undated, but possibly medieval (or earlier) road (OAU 29). No traces of the road were visible as cropmarks on air photographs held by the NMR or SMR. The feature may have been damaged by subsequent ploughing but it is possible that deposits associated with the road may survive beneath the topsoil.
- 4.8 The proposed development site would appear unlikely to contain any traces of post-medieval settlement. The site is well covered by a range of 17th-19th century maps, all of which show the land as open fields during this time. Field boundaries have remained unchanged since they were first enclosed.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 This desk-based assessment has identified the potential for prehistoric, Roman, medieval and Post-medieval remains within the area of proposed development. This is based on evidence from early maps, air photographs and also excavations on land adjacent to the site.
- 5.2 Potential archaeology on the site may include a possible ring-ditch, peripheral elements of a Romano-British cemetery and settlement, features associated with a medieval deer park belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, and a Post-medieval (possibly earlier) road, although the presence of these deposits has not been confirmed at this stage.
- 5.3 Any impacts on presently known deposits within the development area (or on deposits which can reasonably be predicted from the information available from adjoining sites) which might arise from typical residential development can reasonably be expected to be mitigated by archaeological field investigation and recording action.
- 5.4 Subject to this, the assessment has not identified any deposit that would present a constraint on development, and therefore does not preclude its allocation for development.
- 5.5 At a later more detailed stage of planning, the presence or absence and character of any deposits could be clarified by further archaeological work such as systematic surface collection, geophysical survey and trenching. In considering the outcome of further

archaeological evaluation work with other master planning work, there may be an opportunity to preserve potential archaeological deposits identified in 5.2 above as areas of open space.

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**APPENDIX ONE**

**Gazetteer of Archaeology within 1km study area (refer to figure 1).**

OAU No.	Description	NMR UID/ SMR NO.
1	Ring-ditch revealed as a cropmark in 1970. It is possibly too large to be a barrow, being 50m in diameter (A Mudd 1984).	SMR 8204
2	Field name on 1840 Tithe Map is 'Fish Pond Ground'. The dog-leg in the stream course possibly marks the site of a dam (not examined on ground). Insufficient information for presence of fishponds for Monuments Protection Programme (SV Lisk 1993).	SMR 10520
3	Traces of a stone wall, thought to be the remains of an enclosure boundary were recorded by the OAU in 1988 prior to development around Witney Park Farm. Two trenches at near this location failed to locate the pale of Witney Park. It is possible that the pale ran under the bridleway on the other side of the field boundary.	----
4	Iron Age settlement. An area of settlement that includes closes, paddocks and approach ways, ditches and gullies with a slightly curving alignment, post-pits and hearths. Artefacts recovered were abundant; sherds of unabridged pottery both fragmentary and large, along with fragments of daub and animal bone. A limestone slabbed area was also found in the northern part of the site. Although there were no waterlogged features, wood had survived in the anaerobic clay. Excavated by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 1992. It was thought that the settlement was short-lived and abandoned due to ground water. A broad low bank crossed the middle of the excavation, running approximately NE-SW, with ditches on either side. No finds were retrieved. This was thought to be part of the 18th century enclosures at Witney Park as illustrated on a contemporary map, rather than being associated with the medieval deer park.	SMR 14,254
5	Witney Park - a medieval deer park, classified as such for the Monuments Protection Program (SV Lisk 1993). The exact bounds of the park are unknown. First mentioned in the Bampton Hundred Rolls of 1279, when the Bishop of Winchester has a free park, although it is not known by what warrant. The park is indicated on Plot's Map of 1677. On the Tithe Map of 1840 various 'Park' field names are indicated west of Park Farm. The OS 1" sheet 236 shows a 'fosse' at SP 337 104; this may be part of Park Pale. OS marks Palace site incorrectly here - 'Actually it was a park for animals, and like other medieval parks, had nothing to do with a house.' (Wickham-Steed MS - A History of the Wychwood Country). A site visit was undertaken to assess the historic environment in 1985. Witney Park Farm 'on the site of Bishop's Palace', is probably the site of a medieval Park Lodge. It has had rebuilding and alterations in the 17th and 18th centuries. The park is at present being encroached by housing development. Fieldwork and excavation by the OAU suggested the possible extent of the original park and later reduced area (OAU 16).	334822 SMR 4382
6	Large circular cropmark noted on oblique air photographs (1976).	----
7	During building operations two coins were found on the spoil heap from topsoil clearance. Dated to AD700 and AD729.	SMR 13281
8	During building operations at Burwell Farm several sherds of late 3rd century AD pottery, including two fragments of Samian ware, were found. Also scattered in the vicinity were several badly abraded bronze coins of indeterminate date. The whole site was disturbed to a great extent by mechanical grading and no archaeological features were observed.	334486 SR 13282
9	Burwell Farmhouse. Post-medieval farmhouse. Listed Grade II (6/72). The name 'Burwell' from the 1226 Close Rolls suggests a stream by a burh	SMR 10521 SMR 11225

	or beorg. Post-medieval granary. Timber-framed, weather boarded granary with hipped roof on 9 square topped staddles. Listed Grade II (6/73).	
10	Site of Lew Gate toll house as shown on OS map of 1880.	SMR 10180
11	A watching brief 200m to the north of the excavations at Coral Springs (OAU 12) revealed no distinguishable archaeological features, although stray finds from the topsoil revealed coins, bronze fragments and late 3rd century AD pottery sherds.	SMR 8880 SMR 8881
12	Romano-British cemetery (classified as such by the Monuments Protection Program in 1993). Thirty inhumation burials, in shallow graves and on differing orientations, were excavated by the OAU prior to development at Burwell Farm and Coral Springs. Radiocarbon dated to AD110 ± 80yrs to AD130 ± 70yrs. Graves cut into underlying pits and ditches of a Romano-British settlement dated 1st-4th centuries AD. Several flimsy rubble footings belonging to timber buildings were found. The previously unknown Romano-British settlement was exposed during construction of the Witney bypass, and excavated briefly by the OAU. Due to the absence of cropmarks and the limited information revealed during the rescue excavations, the site was not classified for the Monuments Protection Program (SV Lisk 1993). Field name on 1840 Tithe Map is 'Long Miskin' (= 'Dunghill').	334482 SMR 8880 SMR 8881
13	Post-medieval railway. New Act of Parliament in 1864 empowered EGR to build a line from Cheltenham to Faringdon, with a branch to Witney. Construction began at Cheltenham in 1866, but main line was subsequently abandoned. In 1869 work began on the Fairford-Witney branch, and the line, operated by GWR, was opened in 1873. Line taken over completely by GWR in 1890. Line closed 1962. Rails lifted 1964-5.	SMR 8995
14	Site of Methodist chapel. Post-medieval, constructed of tin chapel.	----
15	Methodist chapel. Post-medieval. Cut sandstone with rusticated faces and laid in courses. Gable ended with decorated bargeboarding. Roof slated with finials.	SMR 779
16	Church of St. John the Baptist, 1906, by Nicholson and Corlette. A chapel of ease, built of stone, in Arts and Crafts Mediterranean style. Listed Grade II 16/350	766900 SMR 4579
17	Old Quarry (stone) shown on OS maps of 1881 (1st Edition 25")	SMR 4576
18	A possible 'Banjo' type enclosure, similar to the rectangular Upper Cranbourne type associated with the late Iron Age, shown as a cropmark (1972). Entrance to the south-east.	SMR 5720
19	Romano-British pottery found by WEJ Mussett in 1975.	334836
20	Scatter of Roman pottery found in a field in Minster Lovell, just to the north-west of the boundary with Curbridge (1967).	334831 SMR 3271
21	Fieldwalking over two fields revealed 17 pieces of flint in the northern field and 30 in the southern field. This included seven core fragments and one scraper. All were heavily battered, suggesting low exposure in the ploughsoil. Flint assemblage is indicative of low density Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, possibly a small-scale/localised site using flint cobbles from drift deposits.  Trenching by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust at Downs Road (1992) revealed two rock-cut pits containing burnt stone and a small quantity of early Bronze Age pottery. One trench was positioned across a flint scatter identified in fieldwalking.	SMR 15, 828
22	The 'Witney Ridgeway' (Grundy's 'Road 4' in Saxon Oxfordshire: charters and ancient highways); this routeway continued through Northleach to join the Great Cotswold Ridgeway near Winchcombe. Known from charters to have been a salt way at least as far as Northleach.	8863
23	Milestone. Extant, but also marked on OS 1st Edition 25" Map (1881).	SMR 10023
24	An evaluation by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in 1992 revealed negative evidence.	----

25	Linear earthwork that runs parallel and just south of the A40. This is marked as a 'fosse' on OS map of 1876, although the present earthwork might be an attempt to mark the older bank.	----
26	An undated ditch running east-west was found during development of the West Witney Community Centre, by the OAU in a 1994 evaluation.	SMR 14,254
27	Line of road shown on: Davies' (1793-94), Estate Map (1822), OS 1st Edition 1" Map (1833), Tithe Map (1840), and Enclosure Map (1844).	----
28	Line of road shown on: Davies' Map (1793-94), Estate Map (1822), OS 1st Edition 1" Map (1833), Tithe Map (1840), and Enclosure Map (1844).	----
29	Line of road shown on: Estate Map (1822), OS 1st Edition 1" Map (1833)	----
30	Line of road shown on Davis's map (1793-4), Estate Map (1822), OS 1st edition 1" Map (1833), Tithe Map (1840) and Enclosure Map (1844)	
31	Area of Deer Park within the proposed development area, as shown on 1662 map of a Portion of the Manor of Witney.	----

## APPENDIX TWO

### **Bibliography and List of Sources Consulted**

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### **Other Sources**

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National Monuments Record Air Photographic Archive

National Monuments Record Database MONARCH

Oxfordshire Archives

Oxfordshire Local Studies Library

Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record

Records of the Oxford Archaeological Unit

Thames Valley Archaeological Trust

Tithe Apportionment (1840/1841) OLSL/1840/27/47

Tithe Apportionment Alterations (1893), (1933), (1934), (1935)

## Cartographic Sources

Abbreviations: OLSL=Oxfordshire Local Studies Library. OA=Oxfordshire Archives. B=Bodelian

Map of a Portion of the Manor of Witney reduced from an old map dated 1662. Map can be found within *Witney*, IV 1653 1797. B/MS Top Ox.m.d.212/f10-11. Reproduced as Map III in Bolton and Maslen 1985

Plot's Map of Oxfordshire (1677)

Davies' Map of Oxfordshire (1793-94)

Estate Map (based on Map of the Manor of Witney made in 1814/1815/1816) (1822)  
OA/Marshall II/viii/6

Tithe Map (1840) OLSL/1840/27/47

Plan of the Township of Curbridge in the Parish of Witney. Surveyed by J. Underwood and T. Dandridge (1844) OA/QSD/A.Vol.26

Enclosure Map (1844) OLSL/MPC 886

Estate Map (1845) OA/Misc. Rippon I/5

Plan of Freehold Plots (1888) OA/Dr.V/ii/1

Plan of Conveyance, Curbridge Farm (1905) OA/Welch V/IX/19

Plan of Conveyance, Curbridge Farm (1905) OA/Welch V/IX/21

Plan Engrossed on a Conveyance of a Cottage at Curbridge (1905) OA/Welch/V/X/6

Ordnance Survey Old Series 1" Map (1833)

Map Sheet XXXI.7

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Map (1880)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map (1899)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map with Revisions (1921)

Map Sheet XXXI.8

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Map (1876)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map (1899)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map with Revisions (1921)

Map Sheet XXXI.11

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Map (1880)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map (1899)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map with Revisions (1921)

Map Sheet XXXI.12

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Map (1876)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map (1899)  
 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map with Revisions (1921)

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" Map (1864)  
 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6" Map (1873-79, revised 1898)  
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 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Scale Map (1938) (1938 revised)  
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### **Air Photographs Consulted**

#### Vertical Photographs (B/W)

<u>Sortie No.</u>	<u>Library No.</u>	<u>Frame</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Scale</u>	<u>Repository</u>
106G/UK/1721	474	4235-4236	06-SEP-46	1:9930	MOD
106G/UK/1721	474	6231-6236	06-SEP-46	1:9930	MOD
CPE/UK/1846	515	3029-3034	18-NOV-46	1:9950	MOD
CPE/UK/1936	559	2449-2450	18-JAN-46	1:9960	MOD
CPE/UK/1936	559	3450-3451	18-JAN-46	1:9960	MOD
CPE/UK/1897	562	3141-3142	12-DEC-46	1:9800	MOD
CPE/UK/2013	603	3168-3169	16-APR-47	1:9800	MOD
FSL/6125	1118A	4044-4048	01-JUN-61	1:8000	CSL
58/2321	1805	73-75	02-DEC-57	1:20000	MOD
58/2321	1805	124-125	02-DEC-57	1:20000	MOD
58/5503	2124	59-61	03-OCT-62	1:11000	MOD
58/5503	2124	84-87	03-OCT-62	1:11000	MOD
541/272	2670	4132-4136	21-JUN-49	1:10000	MOD
540/1724	2781	1	10-OCT-55	1:20000	MOD
106G/UK/1413	3345	3360-3365	14-APR-46	1:9800	MOD
US/7PH/GP					
/LOC154	6853	5003	23-JAN-44	1:18000	FDM
OS/76157	9889	9-13	11-JUL-76	1:7700	OS
OS/72036	10321	36-37	22-MAR-72	1:7400	OS
OS/72036	10321	67-71	22-MAR-72	1:7400	OS
OS/70168	10529	176-179	02-JUN-70	1:7500	NMR
OS/70158	10533	14-17	26-MAY-70	1:7500	NMR
OS/69190	11630	40-43	07-JUN-69	1:7500	NMR
15/AUG/6125	4044-4047	---	12-MAY-61	1:10000	SMR
5091*	230-232	---	29-JUL-91	1:10000	SMR

\*Colour

#### Oblique/Specialist Photographs (B/W)



<u>NGR Index No.</u>	<u>Accession No.</u>	<u>Frame</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Repository</u>
SP3108/5	NMR 15137	16	13-JUL-94	NMR
SP3208/1	NMR 970	393-395	24-JUL-96	NMR
SP3209/1	NMR 402	114-117	24-JUL-72	NMR
SP3209/2	NMR 118-121	118-121	24-JUL-72	NMR
SP3210/1	NMR 882	357-358	27-JUL-75	NMR
SP3210/2	NMR 882	359-360	27-JUL-75	NMR
SP3409/2	NMR 970	396-398	24-JUL-76	NMR

