Wykham Park Farm, Banbury, Oxfordshire, Banbury Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Wykham Park Farm, Banbury, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by EDP on behalf of L&Q Estates to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed drainage outfall. The site comprises two land parcels, one to the north and one to the south of Wykham Lane.

A geophysical survey of the site identified a number of possible archaeological features across the site, including two NW-SE trends, a number of amorphous features and truncated ridge and furrow. However, no archaeological features were recorded within the site during the evaluation. The anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey may have been caused by variations in the natural geology.

A layer of peat was recorded and sampled in the southern part of the site. This suggests that the southern part of the site was previously waterlogged, and it may indicate the former course of a stream which is located just south-east of the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Matthew Morgan of EDP and L&Q Estates for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Lee Sparks, who was supported by Nick Jones and Megan Lillington. Survey and digitising were carried out by Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicolson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by EDP on behalf of L&Q Estates to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed drainage outfall. The site will form part of the Wykham Park Farm mixed development area, which includes the proposed construction of up to 1000 dwellings, shops, restaurants, a school, park areas and associated infrastructure.

1.1.2 The work was being undertaken at the request of Richard Oram, Oxfordshire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority. Specifically, the work was required to augment the results of a geophysical survey in 2020 which identified the potential for archaeological remains within the proposed footprint of the drainage outfall. This document illustrates how Oxford Archaeology implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; OA 2020) and local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (CIfA 2014). The WSI was approved by Richard Oram before work commenced.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located south of Banbury and comprised two parcels of land located either side of Wykham Lane. The northern parcel of land, is currently in use as 2.04ha of arable farmland. The southern parcel of land is located across part of an arable field and a rough pasture field and covers 0.74ha. In total the site comprises 2.78ha and is centred on SP 44990 38097 (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site is situated on a slope and the northern edge is located at *c* 128m above Ordnance Datum. The slope falls to the south-east. The lowest part of the site is located at the south-eastern corner at *c* 115m OD, adjacent to a brook. This brook perhaps rises from a spring line further north and is mapped from Wykham Lane. The brook continues 800m southwards to the Sor Brook, which is a tributary of the River Cherwell.

1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the north-western part of the site is mapped as Marlstone Rock Formation (ferruginous limestone and ironstone). The bedrock geology of the south-eastern part of the site is Dyrham Formation of interbedded siltstone and mudstone. Bedrock of the Whitby Mudstone Formation is also mapped just north of the site. There are no superficial deposits recorded for the site. Alluvial deposits are mapped 700m south of the site, associated with the Sor Brook (British Geological Survey 2020).

1.3 Previous investigations

2005 watching brief of Banbury Booster pipeline

1.3.1 In 2005, John Moore Heritage Services conducted a watching brief during the stripping of 4km of a proposed pipeline. Part of this pipeline route was located along the eastern boundary of the site. Two roughly circular pits were recorded directly east of the site centred on SP 45055 38260. These pits were located just west of Wykham Farm and were 37m apart. The pits were *c* 0.3m deep and were cut into natural. One pit was 1.8m wide and contained stones, several fragments of early Neolithic pottery and worked flint. The smaller pit was 0.6m wide and contained burnt material and late Neolithic pottery (John Moore Heritage Services 2005, 8–10).

2013 geophysical survey and aerial survey of Wykham Park Farm

1.3.2 A geophysical survey and an aerial survey were undertaken by AS WYAS in 2013 across fields just west of the site and the adjacent fields to the north. The survey recorded a dense area of enclosures and linear features located 200–300m north-east of the site. This included the presence of a possible causewayed enclosure located *c* 200m north-east of the site. A number of other linear features, pits and trackways were also recorded north and south of the possible causewayed enclosure. Several possible sub-rectangular enclosures were also recorded 300–400m north of the site and 250m north-east of the site. Another cluster of linear features and pits was recorded 0.7km west of the site and a large rectangular enclosure was recorded 0.6km north-west of the site. Furrows were also recorded in the field north of the site and these were aligned either north–south or east–west. The aerial survey also recorded four circular features in fields north-east and north of the site, which were thought to represent ring ditches.

1.3.3 The aerial survey also recorded a number of possible cropmarks in the vicinity of the site. This included a feature aligned roughly north–south along the western boundary of the site and two parallel features and a curvilinear feature located *c* 100m west of the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2013, fig. 2).

2013 evaluation of Wykham Park Farm

1.3.4 In August and September 2013, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising 161 trenches, at Wykham Park Farm. This evaluation was undertaken over a large area within the fields directly north of the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2013). The evaluation tested features that were recorded by the geophysical and aerial survey.

1.3.5 The possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure ditch was investigated in two trenches. No dating material was found in the ditch, but an early Neolithic flint blade was recovered from the subsoil nearby, which suggests activity in this area during this period. The sub-rectangular enclosure adjacent to the possible causewayed enclosure was also undated. The other possible enclosures identified by the geophysical survey appeared to have been created by geological variations.

1.3.6 The evaluation recorded part of a late Iron Age settlement located 0.6km north-west of the site. This extended north and west of the 2013 evaluation in an area that had previously

been investigated by Cotswold Archaeology in 2011. The 2013 evaluation recorded the east side of an enclosure ditch and further ditches. The 2011 evaluation dated this settlement to the late Iron Age (Cotswold Archaeology 2013, 4).

1.3.7 The 2013 evaluation also recorded medieval furrows which had largely been ploughed out, across the central and eastern part of the evaluation.

1.3.8 The evaluation also tested a number of the anomalies and cropmarks that were recorded the 2013 geophysical and aerial survey. Many of these features, including four possible ring ditches, were found to be caused by variations in the geological substrate.

2014 evaluation south of the Saltway

1.3.9 In 2014, Archaeological Research Services conducted an evaluation of eighty trenches located 350m east of the site. Previous to this, a geophysical survey had identified a large number of enclosures and linear features located 370m east of the site. This evaluation confirmed the presence of a number of enclosures dated to the mid–late Iron Age. These enclosures contained evidence of animal husbandry and butchery, particularly of sheep. The enclosures were therefore characterised as a pastoral site (Archaeological Research Services 2014).

2015 evaluation

1.3.10 In 2015, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation adjacent and directly east of the 2013 evaluation. This evaluation comprised nine trenches and was located 300m north-east of the site. In this area, the 2013 geophysical survey had recorded a possible north-east to south-west aligned trackway. The evaluation recorded five shallow ditches which corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey. These ditches were undated but stratigraphically they predated the medieval furrows, so a prehistoric or Roman date is probable (Cotswold Archaeology 2015).

2020 geophysical survey of the site

1.3.11 In 2020, a geophysical survey was undertaken of the site itself which identified a number of potential archaeological remains (AS WYAS 2020). This included two NNW–SSE-aligned roughly linear features located in the northern part of the site and several amorphous anomalies towards the centre and south of the site. The two roughly linear features were thought to be archaeological in origin. Possible furrows were also recorded, and these were aligned NW–SE in the northern field and NNW–SSE in the southern field. The other amorphous features may represent geological features.

1.4 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.4.1 The site is located in an area of considerable prehistoric potential as indicated by the results of a number of archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site.

1.4.2 The remains of a possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure were recorded by geophysical survey *c* 200m north-east of the site. The survey recorded an east–west aligned ditch with segmented and unsegmented sections. The possible causewayed enclosure is located on the edge of a slope which overlooks the Sor Brook Valley. In 2013, two trenches recorded parts of the unsegmented ditch, but no finds were recorded, and the ditch fills were sterile. Causewayed enclosures are thought to date to the early Neolithic (4000–3300 BC).

1.4.3 In 2005, two Neolithic pits were recorded immediately east of the site during a watching brief. These pits were located 250m south-west of the possible causewayed enclosure. One of these contained early Neolithic pottery and may be contemporary with the possible causewayed enclosure. The other pit contained late Neolithic pottery, and this suggests this area was used during both the early and late Neolithic period.

1.4.4 In 2011, a late Iron Age enclosure and roundhouse were recorded 0.6km north-west of the site. Part of this settlement was also recorded during the 2013 evaluation at Wykham Park Farm. Another mid–late Iron Age settlement was also recorded 370m east of the site. In 2015, a north-east to south-west aligned trackway was recorded 300m north-east of the site. Although the ditches of this trackway were undated, they predated the medieval furrows so were likely to date to the prehistoric or Roman period.

Roman (AD 43–410)

1.4.5 During the mid-19th century the remains of a Roman villa were recorded 950m west-south-west of the site. This villa was found whilst excavating the kitchen garden of Wykham Park. The features recorded included a stone-vaulted kiln or oven, walls, tesserae and human remains. Finds were also recorded including coins, pottery and animal bone (Bromley 1964, 114).

1.4.6 Wykham Lane, located either side of the site, may have originated during the Roman period. This may have been part of a road connecting Droitwich and Stratford-upon-Avon and continuing to Broughton, Bodicote and on to Finmere (Wickham Steed 1964, 117).

Early Medieval (AD 410–1066)

1.4.7 No Anglo-Saxon remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

1.4.8 The Domesday survey records that the settlement of Wykham had nine householders in 1086 (Powell-Smith 2020). The location of this settlement is unknown.

Medieval (AD 1066–1539)

1.4.9 The site is located to the south of one possible route of the medieval Saltway. This was a long-distance route connecting Droitwich (a centre of salt production) with towns in Oxfordshire and further south-east to Buckinghamshire (Colvin *et al*. 1972).

1.4.10 Wykham Park, situated approximately 900m west-south-west of the site, has medieval origins and was fortified by Sir Robert de Arden in 1331 (Cotswold Archaeology 2013). The site may have been part of this manor during the later medieval period.

1.4.11 The 2013 geophysical survey and the 2013 evaluation indicated that furrows survive in the fields north of the site. Analysis of LiDAR data also indicates that these fields north of the site contain evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks above ground. LiDAR data also shows that the field to the east of the site (containing Wykham Farm) has extant ridge and furrow aligned NW–SE. The area of the site and the fields immediately west of the site do not contain any evidence of ridge and furrow above ground. The 2020 geophysical survey indicated that truncated ridge and furrow may partly survive across the site, and this may be aligned NW–SE. These furrows suggested that the site was part of a medieval open field system.

Post-medieval (AD 1539–1900)

1.4.12 In the later post-medieval period, the site was almost certainly used as agricultural fields associated with Wykham Farm, located just east of the site. This farmhouse is Grade II listed (NHLE: 1046877) and dates from the late 17th century. The first edition OS map of 1887 indicates that the northern part of the site was part of two fields; a NW–SE field boundary divided the northern part of the site into two. The 1882 OS map shows that there was a trough at the northern edge of the southern field of the site. This suggests that it was used for pasture.

Modern (1900–present)

1.4.13 The site remained in use as agricultural land associated with Wykham Farm, although the northern part of the site became part of a large arable field. The southern part of the site continued to be used as a rough pasture field located adjacent to a brook.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

General aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive,
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence,
iii. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains,
iv. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical
v. stratigraphy,
vi. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive,
vii. To generate an accessible and useable archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate,
viii. To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings.

Specific aims and objectives

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

ix. To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey (AS WYAS 2020)

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The trenching program comprised a total of 13 trenches, of which nine trenches measured 20m by 1.6m, two trenches measured 50m by 1.6m, one trench measured 12m x 1.6m and one trench measured 10m by 1.6m. Trenches 1–11 were located in the land parcel north of Wykham Lane and Trenches 12 and 13 were located in the land parcel south of Wykham Lane. The excavation and recording of archaeological features was undertaken as outlined in the WSI (OA 2020) and the trench layout is shown on Figure 2.

2.2.2 Prior to excavation, each trench location was set out by an Oxford Archaeology surveyor using GPS equipment, following the approved trench plan. The trenches were numbered from 1–13.

2.2.3 Plough-disturbed soil horizons were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide toothless bucket to expose archaeologically significant horizons or the surface of the superficial geology, whichever was encountered first. If archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation would have proceeded by hand. Spoil was monitored for the recovery of artefacts.

2.2.4 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers relating to the individual trench (e.g. Trench 8, context 800, 801 etc).

2.2.5 Once the trenches had been excavated and recorded, they were signed off by Richard Oram, and were backfilled using the arisings in reverse order of excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented in this section. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Environmental data from one sample (Sample 1) is presented in Appendix B.

3.1.2 No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the evaluation. Therefore, the trenches will not be individually described below. Similarly, natural soil sequences such as topsoil, subsoil and geological variations are not described trench by trench.

3.1.3 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. 200 is ploughsoil within Trench 1, while 901 is a subsoil within Trench 9.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Natural geology was overlain by subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil. Layers of colluvium and alluvium were also recorded in the southern part of the site.

3.2.2 The natural geology ranged from yellow or orange brown sandy silt in the northern part of the site (Trenches 1–10; Plates 1, 2 and 3) to a brown sandy/silty clay towards the southern part of the site (Trenches 11–13; Plates 4, 5, and 6). The natural geology also contained large limestone inclusions within Trenches 2, 3, 8 and 9. The natural geology in Trenches 1–10 probably represents the Marlstone Rock Formation (ferruginous limestone and ironstone). The brown sandy/silty clay recorded in Trenches 11–13 probably represents the Dyrham Formation of interbedded siltstone and mudstone.

3.2.3 Subsoil was uniform across the northern part of the site (Trenches 1–9) and was a yellow brown sandy silt that was 0.06–0.15m thick. No subsoil was observed in Trench 10, which was located to the south of the northern land parcel of the site.

3.2.4 Trenches 11–13 revealed a more varied geological sequence than the rest of the site. In Trench 11 the natural white-brown sandy/silty clay was observed in the northern end of the trench (Plate 4). A possible colluvial layer was observed in the southern part of this trench and was not bottomed. This layer was an orange brown clayey silt with small stones and manganese flecks (Plate 4). This colluvial layer had formed towards the base of the slope on which the site is situated.

3.2.5 Trenches 12 and 13 were in the land parcel to the south of Wykham Lane. In Trench 12 the orange brown sandy clay natural (1204) was observed at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 5). At the western end, an alluvial layer of dark black, brown silty clay peat (1203) was recorded (Plates 5 and 6). This layer was sampled (sample 1). The natural and the peat deposit were overlain by an alluvial layer of grey brown silty clay (1202). The upper layers of this trench comprised an orange brown sandy silt subsoil and topsoil. In Trench 13 the orange brown sandy clay natural (1302) was overlain by an orange brown sandy loam subsoil.

3.2.6 The topsoil across the site was a brown sandy silt across all trenches with the exception of Trench 13. Trench 13 was located south of Wykham Lane, and here the topsoil was a dark orange brown silty loam.

3.2.7 Ground conditions during the evaluation were dry and the different geological layers were easy to identify.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The 13 trenches were devoid of archaeological features.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 This archaeological evaluation, in combination with the preceding geophysical survey (AS WYAS 2020), has provided a robust assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.1.2 The geophysical survey indicated that there may have been two linear trends, a number of amorphous features and possible evidence for ridge and furrow across the site. No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the evaluation. It is possible that the features noted by the geographical survey were caused by variations in the natural geology in the site. For example, limestone stone inclusions were recorded within Trenches 2, 3, 8 and 9. The Marlstone Rock Formation underlies the northern part of the site and the limestone is known to be ferruginous and contain ironstone. This may have caused the amorphous features recorded by the geophysical survey. The southern part of the site also contained alluvium and colluvium which may have interfered with the results in this part of the site.

4.1.3 Several alluvial layers were recorded within Trench 12. This included the presence of an alluvial layer of dark black silty clay peat (1203) at the western end of the trench. This was overlain by an alluvial layer of grey brown silty clay (1202). Peat is formed by waterlogged plant material which does not fully decay. An environmental sample was taken from peat 1203 to see if it contained any dateable material. The sample contained fine fibrous plant material and seeds from plants which inhabit damp ground, but no pottery or other finds. It is possible this peat layer was formed close to a former stream which cut across the southern part of the site. The existing stream is located just south-east of the site but may have been diverted from its original course.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 Section 2.1 outlined both the general and specific aims and objectives of the evaluation. The major objective was to target anomalies identified by trial trenching and investigate areas that had previously not been targeted. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and the anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey may have been caused by variations in the underlying natural geology. A layer of peat in Trench 12 was sampled and it is possible that the southern part of the site contains a potential palaeochannel, the former course of an existing stream to the south-east of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The site contained no archaeological features or finds. This may be due to modern ploughing which may have removed the ridge and furrow within the site and also truncated any features underlying the ridge and furrow. However, it appears more likely that that no archaeological remains were ever present.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology, consists of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	10
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
101	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
102	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown, sandy silt		

Trench 2

General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology, consists of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.29	Ploughsoil. Brown sandy silt		
201	Layer			0.04	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
202	Layer				Natural. Orange brown, sandy silt with large limestone stones		

Trench 3

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, consists of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer			0.29	Ploughsoil. Brown, sandy silt		
301	Layer			0.06	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
302	Layer				Natural. Orange brown, sandy silt with occasional limestone stone inclusions		

Trench 4

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology, consists of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer			0.24	Ploughsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
401	Layer			0.07	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
402	Layer				Natural. Orange, sandy silt		

Trench 5

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology, consists of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
501	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
502	Layer				Natural. yellow brown, sandy silt		

Trench 6

General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology, consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer			0.29	Topsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
601	Layer			0.06	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
602	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown, sandy silt		

Trench 7

General description						Orientation	ESE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer			0.29	Topsoil. Brown, sandy silt		
701	Layer			0.06	Subsoil. Yellow brown, sandy silt		
702	Layer				Natural. Orange brown, sandy silt		

Trench 8

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	20
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.43

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.32	Topsoil. Brown, sandy silt		
801	Layer			0.11	Subsoil. Yellow brown, sandy silt		
802	Layer				Natural. Orange brown, silty sand with large limestone stone inclusions		

Trench 9

General description	Orientation	ESE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology, consist of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	20
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.57

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.36	Topsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
901	Layer			0.11	Subsoil. Yellow brown, sandy silt		
902	Layer				Natural. Yellow brown, sandy silt with large stone inclusions		

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.6
	Avg. depth (m)	0.41

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt.		

1001	Layer				Natural. yellow brown, sandy silt with large stones		
Trench 11							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench has a colluvial layer along most of its length. Natural is clear at northern end. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and possible colluvial layer overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Orange brown, clayey silt.		
1101	Layer			0.41	Subsoil. Orange brown, clayey silt		
1102	Layer				Colluvial Layer. Firm orange brown, clayey silt with infrequent small stones and manganese flecks Not bottomed		
1103	Layer				Natural. Off white-brown sandy/silty clay		
Trench 12							
General description						Orientation	ESE-WSW
Trench has an alluvial layer, excavated down to a metre. Natural is clear at eastern end. Consists of topsoil, subsoil, alluvial layer and peat overlying natural geology.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.21	Topsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
1201	Layer			0.4	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy silt		
1202	Layer			0.4	Alluvial Layer. Grey brown, silty clay		
1203	Layer				Peat layer, dark black brown, silty clay		
1204	Layer				Natural. Orange brown, sandy clay		
Trench 13							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.						Length (m)	10
						Width (m)	1.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.55

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer		11	0.22	Topsoil. Dark orange brown, silty loam.		
1301	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Orange brown, sandy loam.		
1302	Layer				Natural. Orange brown, sandy clay.		
1303	Void						

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

By Sharon Cook

B.1.1 A single sample was taken during the evaluation. The sample was taken from a peaty deposit in Trench 12 (1203) to evaluate the presence and condition of palaeoenvironmental remains and to establish whether any artefacts were present.

B.1.2 The sample was black (10YR 2/1) and contained waterlogged plant material within a silty clay matrix.

B.1.3 100% of the sample (4 litres) was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraf system) for the recovery of plant remains and any bones or artefacts that might be present. The sample produced a large flot of *c* 3.5 litres which was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh; no residue was produced.

B.1.4 The flot was kept wet, and 100ml from various parts of the flot was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 to x20 to identify the presence of any palaeoenvironmental remains.

B.1.5 The flot is rich in fine fibrous plant material largely derived from roots and stems. Seeds are rare overall, with only two bramble (*Rubus* sp.), three sedge (*Carex* sp.), one goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), a single fragment of fumitory (*Fumaria* sp.) seed and <10 very small seeds of probable rushes (cf. *Juncus* sp.) identified in the 100ml scanned portion.

B.1.6 The seeds are from plants which inhabit damp ground and neglected areas, which is consistent with the interpretation of this as being a damp area close to water. The samples contain material that could provide a radiocarbon date if this is required but no further work on the assemblage is otherwise warranted.

B.1.7 No insect remains were seen in the scanned portion of the flot.

B.1.8 Deposits of this type often have potential for pollen preservation and if the site were to go to further mitigation, this deposit, if suitably dated, should potentially be considered for further sampling for pollen.

Recommendations

B.1.9 It is not recommended that the flot should be retained in the archive.

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APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Wykham Park Farm, Banbury
Site code:	BAWYK20
Grid Reference	SP 44926 38686
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	3–5 August (3 days)
Area of Site	2.78ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2020.43.
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by EDP on behalf of L&Q Estates to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed drainage outfall. The site comprises two land parcels, one to the north and one to the south of Wykham Lane. A geophysical survey of the site identified a number of possible archaeological features across the site, including two NW-SE trends, a number of amorphous features and truncated ridge and furrow. However, no archaeological features were recorded within the site during the evaluation. The anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey may have been caused by variations in the natural geology. A layer of peat was recorded and sampled in the southern part of the site. This suggests that the southern part of the site was previously waterlogged, and it may indicate the former course of a stream which is located just south-east of the site.

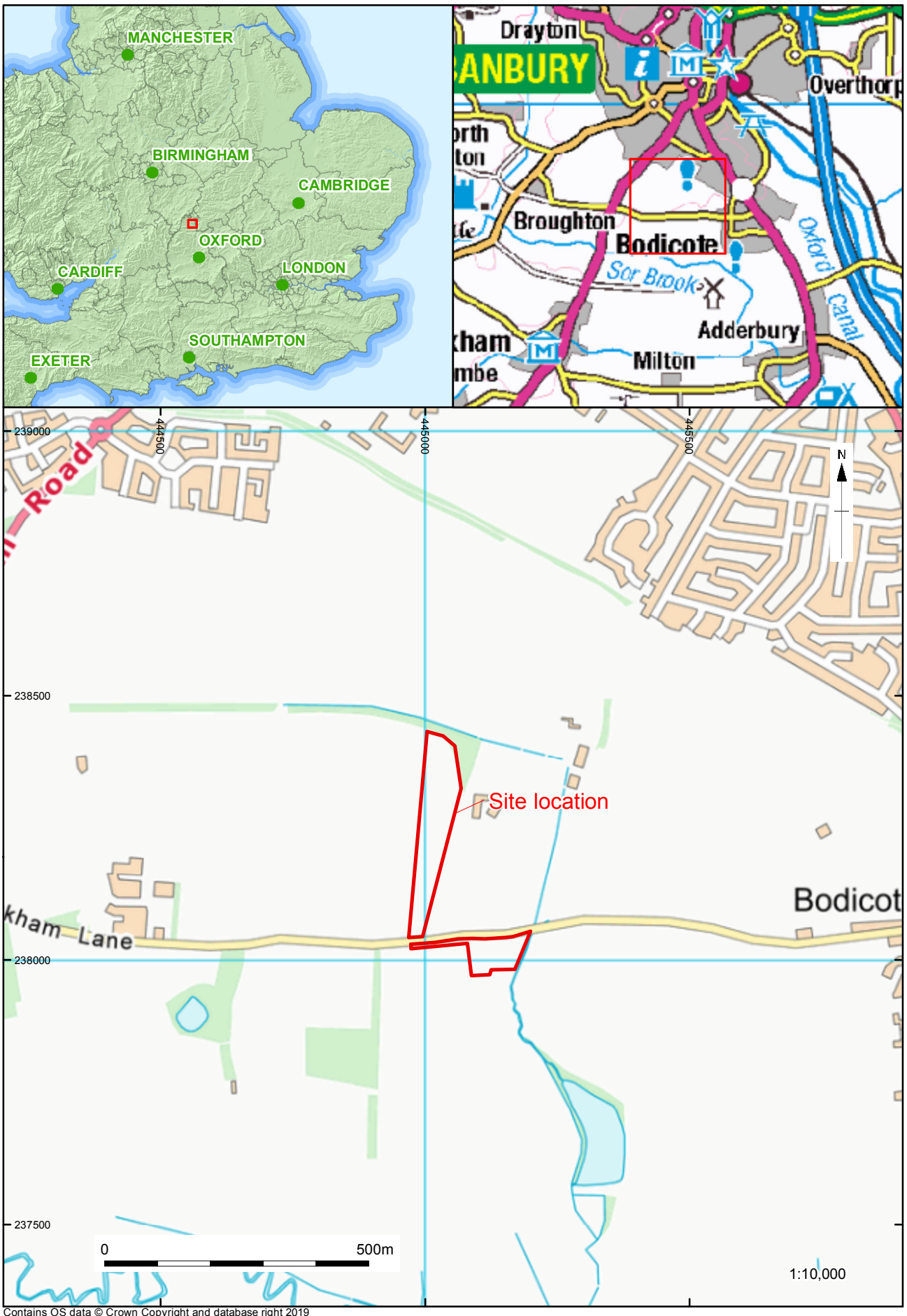

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Figure 1: Site location

X:\b\Banbury_Wykham Park Farm_EX\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects -BAWKY20\Figures\BAWYKEV_Figure1_2020-08-11.mxd*matt.bradley*11/08/2020

Figure 2: Trench layout

Plate 1: Trench 1, facing north-east

Plate 2: Trench 5, facing north-east

Plate 3: Trench 10, facing north-west

Plate 4: Trench 11, facing north-east

Plate 5: Trench 12, facing WSW

Plate 6: Trench 12, dark layer of peat 1203

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