

Building ONE Wroughton Wiltshire

Heritage Assessment



Report prepared for:
Science Museum Group

CA Project: 6420

CA Report: 17601

October 2017




Building ONE Wroughton Wiltshire

Heritage Assessment

CA Project: 6420

CA Report: 17601

prepared by	Joanne Robinson, Heritage Consultant
date	October 2017
checked by	Julia Sulikowska, Senior Heritage Consultant
date	October 2017
approved by	Duncan Coe, Principal Heritage Consultant
signed	
date	October 2017
issue	3

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes 41 Burners Lane South Kiln Farm Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK11 3HA t. 01908 564660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630	Exeter Unit 53 Basepoint Business Centre Yeoford Way Marsh Barton Trading Estate Exeter EX2 8LB t. 01392 826185
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.	METHODOLOGY	7
3.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	12
4.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & POTENTIAL EFFECTS.....	23
5.	THE SETTING OF HERITAGE ASSETS.....	27
6.	CONCLUSIONS	42
7.	REFERENCES.....	44

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Selected heritage assets

Figure 3: Extract from the Wroughton enclosure map of 1796

Figure 4: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886

Figure 5: The Site in relation to proximate designated heritage assets

In text photographs

Photograph 1: View towards the Site from the eastern entrance to Barbury Castle Hillfort

Photograph 2: View towards the Site from the western entrance of Barbury Castle Hillfort

Photograph 3: View from Saucer Barrow, view to the north towards the Site

Photograph 4: View from the east of Two Bowl Narrows, view to the north-west towards the Site

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was commissioned by the Science Museum Group (SMG) to undertake a Heritage Assessment in respect of land at the Science Museum Group at Wroughton (SMGW), Wiltshire (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The report has been prepared to accompany a pre-application advice request.
- 1.2. The Site extends to 220ha and contains the remnants of the former RAF Wroughton military air base including the runways, hangars and associated buildings, as well as woodland and private open space. The site is a primary storage facility for SMG. It also houses the Swindon Solar Farm on the southern half of the site and the Hive research facility for the University of Bath.
- 1.3. The proposed development will comprise the construction of a new storage facility (known as Building ONE), designed to accommodate 26,000m² of internal space with up to an additional 9,000m² of mezzanine space. Associated parking and a service yard will be positioned alongside the storage facility. The collections management facility will be used to house over 80% (approximately 340,000) of the SMG's collection in stable, accessible conditions.
- 1.4. The site for Building ONE is positioned in the northern part of the former airfield. It measures 19.9ha in area (including access road) and comprises two areas of grassland and sections of the taxiways and runways. The Site is situated 1.4km south of the settlement of Wroughton (Figure 1).

Objectives and professional standards

- 1.5. Cotswold Archaeology (CA) is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This report has been prepared in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment' published by the Chartered Institute (2014).
- 1.6. The composition and development of the historic environment within the Site and wider landscape are discussed. A determination of the significance of any heritage assets located within the Site, and any heritage assets beyond the Site boundary that may potentially be affected by the development proposals, is presented. Any potential development effects upon the significance of these heritage assets (both adverse and / or beneficial) are then described.

-
- 1.7. This approach is consistent with the Chartered Institute's 'Standard and Guidance for Heritage Desk-Based Assessment', which provides that, insofar as they relate to the determination of planning applications, heritage desk-based assessments should:

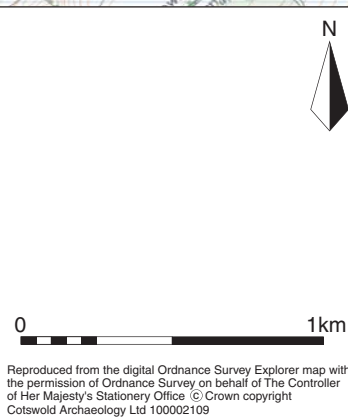
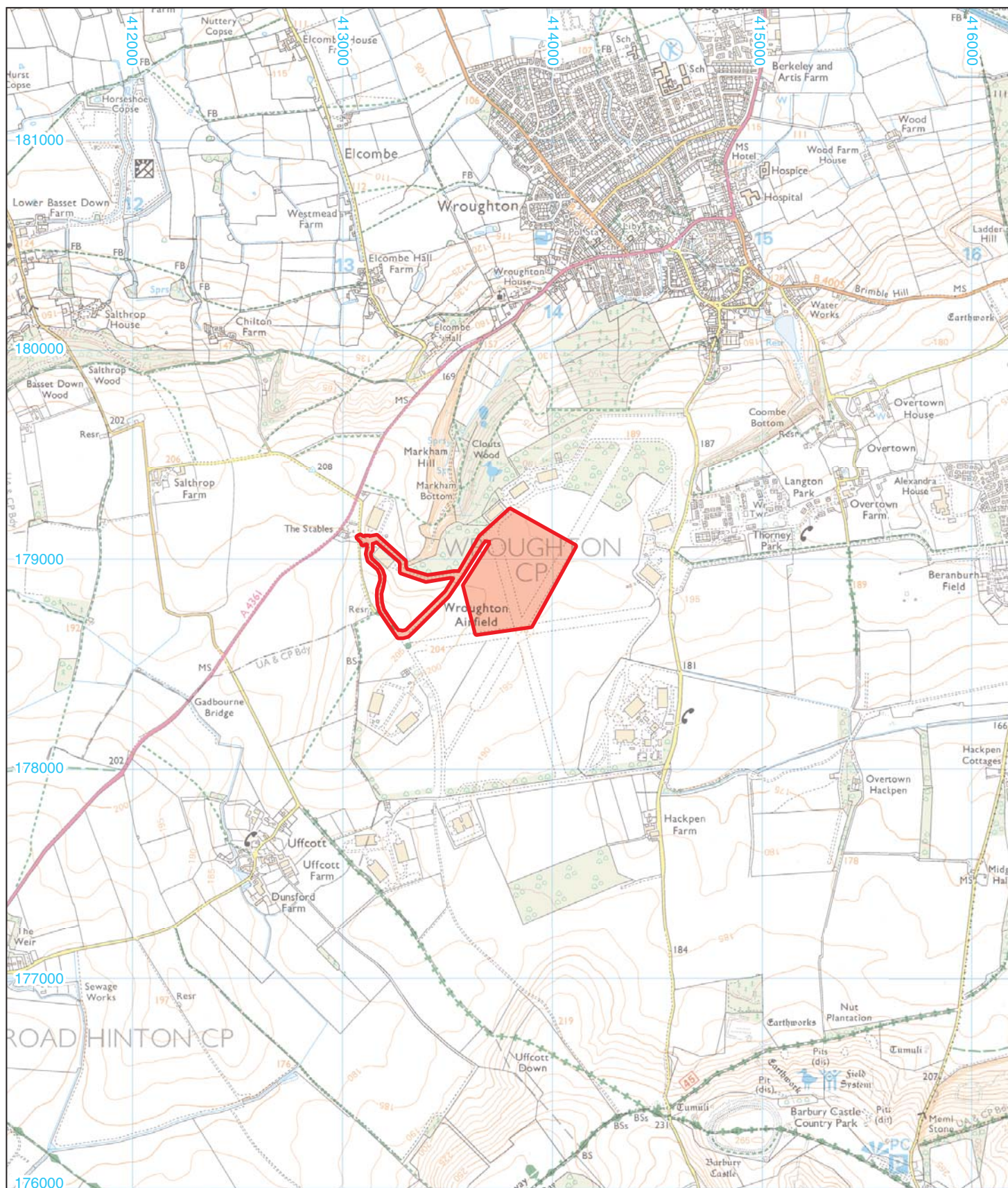
'...enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made [as to] whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention [any identified heritage] impact' (ClfA 2014, 4).

- 1.8. The 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2014), further clarifies that a desk-based assessment should:

'...determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment, or will identify the need for further evaluation' (Historic England 2014, 3).

Statute, policy and guidance context

- 1.9. This assessment has been undertaken within the key statute, policy and guidance context presented within Table 1.1. The applicable provisions contained within these statute, policy and guidance documents are referred to, and discussed, as relevant, throughout the text. Fuller detail is provided in Appendix 1.





Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Building ONE, Wroughton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY AO CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY DC	PROJECT NO. 6420 DATE 19/10/2017 SCALE @A4 1:25,000	FIGURE NO. 1
--	--	--

Statute and guidance	Description
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	Act of Parliament placing a duty upon the Local Planning Authority (or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State) to afford due consideration to the preservation of Listed buildings and their settings (under Section 66(1)), and Conservation Areas (under Section 72(2)), in determining planning applications.
National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002)	One of four Acts of Parliament providing for the protection and management of the historic environment, including the establishment of the Historic Monuments & Buildings Commission, now Historic England.
Swindon Borough Local Plan (2026)	Comprises the local development plan (local plan), as required to be compiled, published and maintained by the local authority, consistent with the requirements of the NPPF (2012). Intended to be the primary planning policy document against which planning proposals within that local authority jurisdiction are assessed. Where the development plan is found to be inadequate, primacy reverts to the NPPF (2012).
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	Provides the English government's national planning policies and describes how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. Heritage is subject of Chapter 12 (page 30).
Conservation Principles (Historic England 2008)	Guidance for assessing heritage significance, with reference to contributing heritage values, in particular: <i>evidential</i> (archaeological), <i>historical</i> (illustrative and associative), <i>aesthetic</i> , and <i>communal</i> .
Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 2 (GPA2): Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015a)	Provides useful information on assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.
Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3 (GPA3): The Setting of Heritage Assets (Historic England, 2015b)	Provides guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.

Table 1.1 Key statute, policy and guidance

2. METHODOLOGY

Data collection, analysis and presentation

- 2.1. This assessment has been informed by a proportionate level of information sufficient to understand the archaeological potential of the Site, the significance of identified heritage assets, and any potential development effects. This approach is in accordance with the provisions of the NPPF (2012) and the guidance issued by Historic England (2015a) and ClfA (2014). The data has been collected from a wide variety of sources, summarised in Table 2.1.
- 2.2. Prior to obtaining data from these sources, an initial analysis was undertaken in order to identify a relevant and proportionate study area. This analysis utilised industry-standard GIS software, and primarily entailed the generation of a digital terrain model (DTM) incorporating available topographic, elevation and historic landscape data.
- 2.3. On this basis a 1km study area, centred on the Site, was considered sufficient to capture the relevant Historic Environment Record (HER) and Historic England Archive (HEA) data, and provide the necessary context for understanding archaeological potential and heritage significance in respect of the Site. All of the spatial data held by the HER – the primary historic data repository – for the land within the study area, was requested. All of the records returned have been considered, analysed and further refined in order to narrow the research focus onto those of relevance to the present assessment. *Not all HER records are therefore referred to, discussed or illustrated within the body of this report, only those that are relevant.*
- 2.4. A site visit was undertaken on 17 October 2017 as part of this assessment. The primary objectives of the site visit were to assess the Site's historic landscape context, including its association with any known or potential heritage assets, and to identify any evidence for previous truncation of the on-site stratigraphy, particularly in relation to the construction of the airfield. The site visit also allowed for the identification of any previously unknown heritage assets within the Site, and assessment of their nature, condition, significance and potential susceptibility to impact. The wider landscape was examined, as relevant, from accessible public rights of way.

Source	Data
National Heritage List for England (NHLE)	Current information relating to designated heritage assets, and heritage assets considered to be 'at risk'.
Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER)	Heritage sites and events records, Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data, and other spatial data supplied in digital format (shapefiles) and hardcopy.
Historic England Archives (HEA)	Additional sites and events records, supplied in digital and hardcopy formats.
Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Centre	Historic mapping, historic documentation, and relevant published and grey literature.
Environment Agency (EA) website	LiDAR imagery and point cloud data, available from the Environment Agency website.
Old-Maps, National Library of Scotland & other cartographic websites	Historic (Ordnance Survey and Tithe) mapping in digital format.
British Geological Survey (BGS) website	UK geological mapping (bedrock & superficial deposits) & borehole data.
Cranfield University's LandIS Soil Portal	UK soil mapping.
Reports relating to previous archaeological works	Held by both the HER and HEA, or otherwise available via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website, or individual contractor online archives.

Table 2.1 Key data sources

Assessment of heritage significance

- 2.5. The significance of known and potential heritage assets within the Site, and any beyond the Site which may be affected by the proposed development, has been assessed and described, in accordance with paragraph 128 of the NPPF (2012), 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2' (Historic England 2015a) and the guidance issued by ClfA (2014). Determination of significance has been undertaken according to the industry-standard guidance on assessing heritage value provided within 'Conservation Principles' (Historic England 2008). This approach considers heritage significance to derive from a combination of discrete heritage values, principal amongst which are: **i)** evidential (archaeological) value, **ii)** historic (illustrative and associative) value, **iii)** aesthetic value, **iv)** communal value, amongst others. Further detail of this approach, including the detailed definition of those aforementioned values, as set out, and advocated, by Historic England, is provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

Assessment of potential development effects (benefit and harm)

- 2.6. The present report sets out, in detail, the ways in which identified susceptible heritage assets might be affected by the proposals, as well as the anticipated extent of any such effects. Both physical effects, i.e. resulting from the direct truncation of archaeological remains, and non-physical effects, i.e. resulting from changes to the setting of heritage assets, have been assessed. In regard to non-physical effects or 'settings assessment', the five-step assessment methodology advocated by Historic England, and set out in GPA3 (Historic England, 2015b), has been adhered to (presented in greater detail in Appendix 1).
- 2.7. Identified effects upon **designated** heritage assets have been defined within broad 'level of effect' categories (Table 2.2). These are consistent with key national heritage policy and guidance terminology, particularly that of the NPPF (2012). This has been done in order to improve the intelligibility of the assessment results for purposes of quick reference and ready comprehension. These broad determinations of level of effect should be viewed within the context of the qualifying discussions of significance and impact presented in Chapter 5.
- 2.8. It should be noted that the overall effect of development proposals upon the designated heritage asset are judged, bearing in mind both any specific harms or benefits (an approach consistent with the Court of Appeal judgement *Palmer v. Herefordshire Council & ANR* Neutral Citation Number [2016] EWCA Civ 1061).
- 2.9. In relation to non-designated heritage assets, the key applicable policy is paragraph 135 of the NPPF (2012), which states that:
- 'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the **scale of any harm or loss** and the **significance of the heritage asset**' [our emphasis].*
- 2.10. Thus with regard to non-designated heritage assets, this report seeks to identify the significance of the heritage asset(s) which may be affected, and the scale of any harm or loss to that significance.

Level of effect	Description	Applicable statute & policy
Heritage benefit	The proposals would better enhance or reveal the heritage significance of the designated heritage asset.	Enhancing or better revealing the significance of a designated heritage asset is a desirable development outcome in respect of heritage. It is consistent with key policy and guidance, including the NPPF (2012) paragraphs 126 and 137.
No harm	The proposals would preserve the significance of the designated heritage asset.	Preserving a Listed building and its setting is consistent with s66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990). Preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area is consistent with s72 of the Act. Sustaining the significance of a designated heritage asset is consistent with paragraph 126 of the NPPF, and should be at the core of any material local planning policies in respect of heritage.
Less than substantial harm (lower end)	The proposals would be anticipated to result in a restricted level of harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, such that the asset's contributing heritage values would be largely preserved.	In determining an application, this level of harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposals, as per paragraph 134 of the NPPF (2012).
Less than substantial harm (upper end)	The proposals would lead to a notable level of harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset. A reduced, but appreciable, degree of its heritage significance would remain.	Proposals involving change to a Listed building or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses, or change to the character or appearance of Conservation Areas, must also be considered within the context of Sections 7, 66(1) and 72(2) of the 1990 Act. <i>The provisions of the Act do not apply to the setting of Conservation Areas.</i> Proposals with the potential to physically affect a scheduled monument (including the ground beneath that monument) will be subject to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979); <i>these provisions do not apply to proposals involving changes to the setting of scheduled monuments.</i>
Substantial harm	The proposals would very much reduce the designated heritage asset's significance or vitiate that significance altogether.	Paragraphs 132 and 133 of the NPPF (2012) would apply. Sections 7, 66(1) and 72(2) of the Planning Act (1990), and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), may also apply.

Table 2.2 Summary of level of effect categories (benefit and harm) referred to in this report in relation to designated heritage assets, and the applicable statute and policy.

Limitations of the assessment

- 2.11. In addition to the historic environment data provided by both the HER and HEA, this assessment has reviewed reports for those previous intrusive works undertaken within the Site and its immediate environs. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonable accurate. The records held by the HER and HEA are not a record of all surviving heritage assets, but a record of the discovery of a wider range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.
- 2.12. With regards to the assessment of the setting of heritage assets, sufficient access was granted, via public rights of way, to all those designated heritage assets which were identified as being potentially sensitive to the proposed development. The walkover survey was undertaken in overcast conditions, however, visibility was good, and allowed for a full assessment to be undertaken. The walkover survey was undertaken in October, when the screening effect of vegetation is much reduced, affording a clear appreciation of the 'worst case scenario', where the setting of a heritage asset is influenced or defined by the screening effect of vegetation.

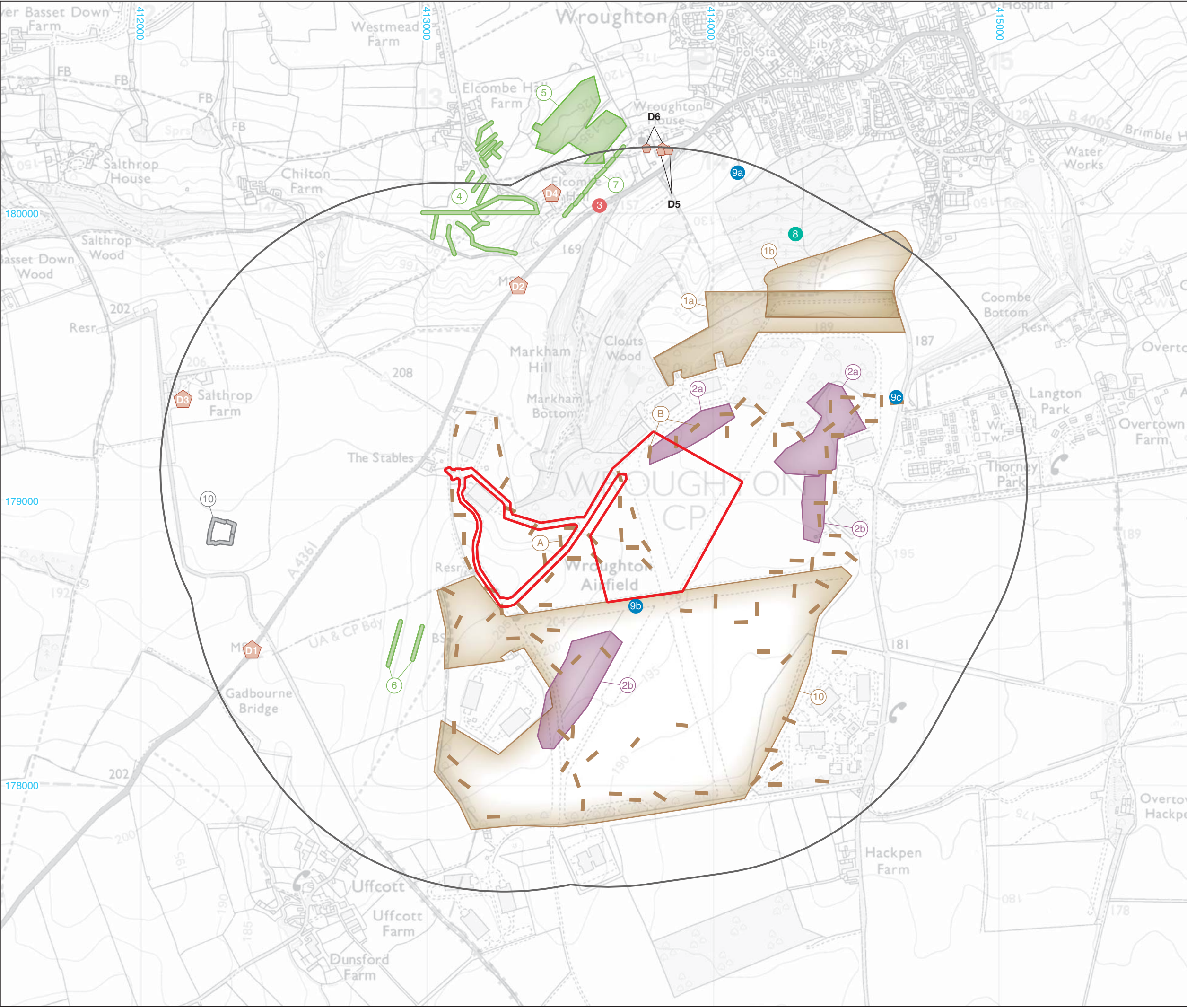
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Landscape context

- 3.1. The Site is located on the Lower Chalk Plain, a gently undulating ledge of marly chalk that extends to the north and west of the Marlborough Downs, at approximately 200m AOD. Approximately 300m north of the Site, the Lower Chalk Plain ends abruptly with a steep northern scarp formed of Upper Greensand that drops to the clay vales to the north. A narrow, spring formed coombe cuts south into the chalk at Markham Bottom, its head is situated c. 330m north of the Site. Approximately 1.3km south of the Site the northern scarp of the Marlborough Downs rises steeply forming a prominent ridge of downland, c. 260m AOD. This ridge is made of Middle and Upper Chalk deposits that are more pure, and harder than those of the Lower Chalk.
- 3.2. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data records the Site within an area of 'military' land use, which reflects the Site's former use as part of Wroughton Airfield. Prior to the establishment of the airfield in the 20th-century the Site comprised modern enclosure, having otherwise remained part of a large open field since the time of the formal enclosure of Wroughton parish in 1796.

Designated heritage assets

- 3.3. There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.
- 3.4. There are no World Heritage Sites (the most proximate World Heritage Site is Avebury, c.8km to the south), scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields within the 1km study area. There are a number of Scheduled monuments within the wider environs of the Site, beyond the Study Area, which will be discussed, where relevant, in the period sections below.
- 3.5. There are eight listed buildings within the study area, all listed at grade II, comprising: three dwellings (one with an associated grade II listed ornamental table which incorporates a medieval font, Figure 2, **D3 - 5**); two milestones (Figure 2, **D1** and **D2**); and the wall of the grade I listed Parish Church of St John and St Helen (which falls just outside of the study area) and an associated tomb (Figure 2, **D6**). Where relevant, these listed buildings are discussed in greater detail in the period summaries below.



- Site boundary
- Study area
- Grade II Listed Building
- Previous archaeological works
- 2006 evaluation trenches
- Prehistoric/Romano-British
- Romano-British
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- Modern
- Undated

0 1:12,500 500m

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

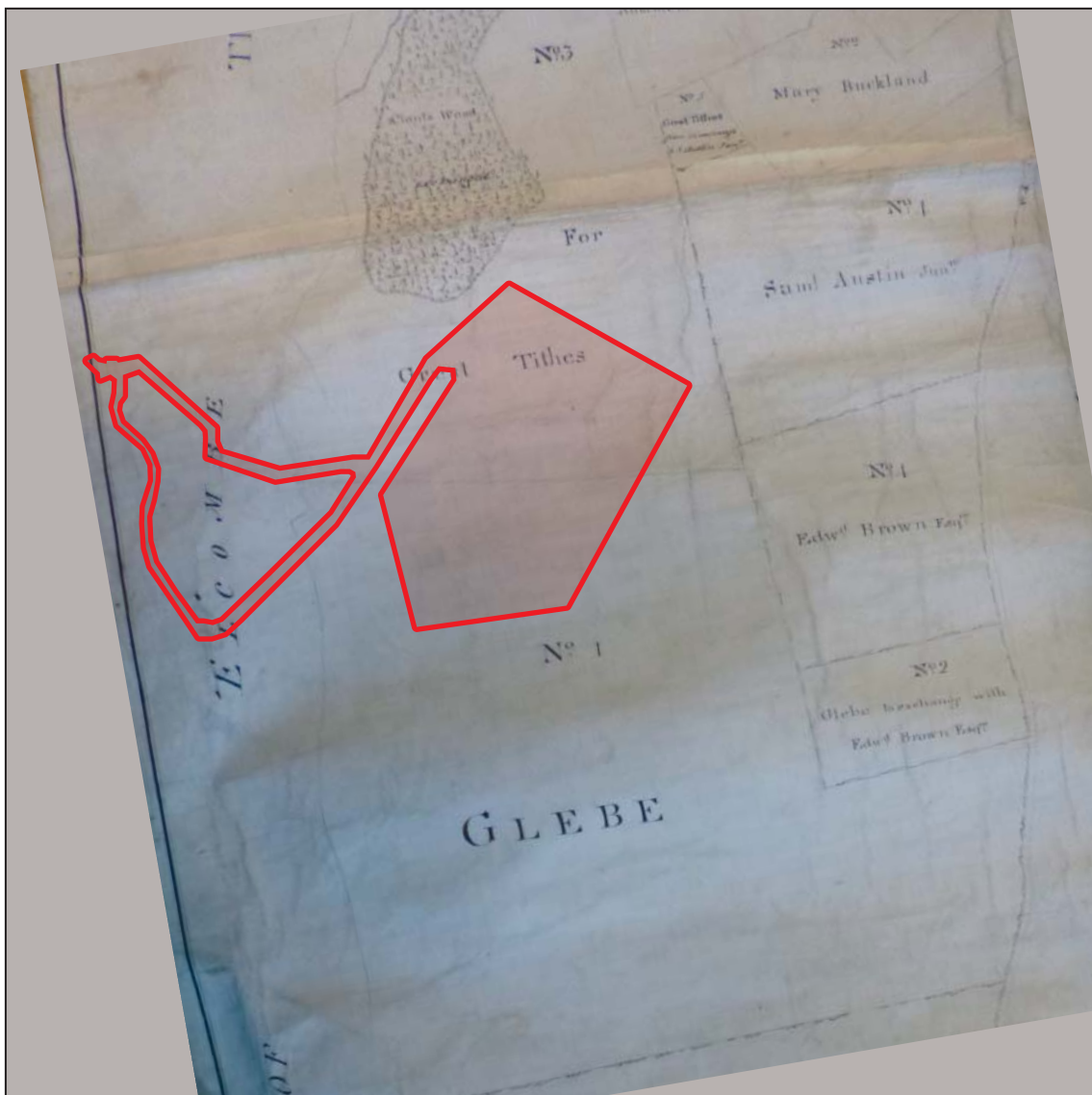


Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Building ONE, Wroughton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Selected heritage assets



Extract from the Wroughton enclosure map of 1796



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Building ONE, Wroughton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Historic map

DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 6420
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 19/10/2017
 APPROVED BY DC SCALE@A4 approx. 12,500

FIGURE NO.

3

-
- 3.6. Any non-physical effects of designated heritage assets, i.e. through alteration of their settings, are discussed in Section 5, The Setting of Heritage Assets.

Previous archaeological works

- 3.7. The Site was included in a programme of evaluation trenching in 2006 as part of a separate planning application for the construction of a National Collections Centre and an associated landscaping project. To summarise, the evaluation revealed evidence for early Iron Age settlement, comprising post-built circular structures and associated post-holes and pits within the Site and immediately north and north-east of the Site. Large linear features of possible Iron Age/Romano-British date were also recorded within the Site and its environs, including possible elements of a Romano-British field system. Evidence for modern landscaping was recorded within the Site and its environs associated with the construction of the former airfield, including levelling and infilling; some evidence of truncation as a result of this landscaping was observed to the south of the Site, and is believed to have 'compromised' the survival of archaeological features in this area (Bashford, 2006). The results of this evaluation are discussed in greater detail in the period sections below.
- 3.8. An earlier programme of evaluation trenching, comprised of two phases was undertaken in the north of the Site in 2005, in respect of an application for a proposed new planting of woodland (Figure 2, Phase 1: **1a** and Phase 2: **1b**). The trenching recorded a 20th-century gun emplacement, and undated extraction, ditches and a hollow way (Laws, 2005).
- 3.9. A geophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken in the southern half of the former airfield in 2013 (Figure 2, **10**), which didn't identify any archaeological finds or features, but noted that ferrous material relating to the laying out of the airfield and the spreading of material associated with the demolished Wroughton Down Farm, may have been masking any buried archaeological deposits, particularly in the north of the Site.
- 3.10. The Site was also included in The Avebury Project, an assessment undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME, now Historic England), which set out to look for evidence for medieval and post-medieval settlement within the wider context of Avebury World Heritage Site (RCHME, 1996).

Those sites identified within the study area are discussed within the period sections below.

- 3.11. Neither the HER or the HEA record any further relevant previous archaeological works within the Site or study area.

Prehistoric – Romano-British

- 3.12. The 2006 evaluation trenching, which included part of the Site, recorded buried archaeological remains potentially dating from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. The focus of the early Iron Age settlement, as mapped by the HER, is reproduced on Figure 2 (2a). This area of potential settlement focus, which comprised circular post-built structures with associated postholes and pits, extends into the north of the Site. The settlement features were recorded in a number of trenches spread over an area of c. 1200m², and may represent a loose cluster of contemporary habitation, or possibly a shifting nucleus of settlement within the area (Bashford, 2006). The 2005 evaluation to the north of the Site didn't record any Iron Age settlement remains, indicating that the settlement didn't extend any further north, and disturbance relating to the laying out of the airfield has resulted in heavy truncation to the stratigraphy to the south of the identified settlement remains, south of the Site (*ibid*). However, a small number of potentially associated features were recorded in those trenches enclosed by the access roads to the west of the main site area, which have been interpreted as peripheral remains of the settlement (*ibid*), indicating potential for further associated features in the south of the Site.
- 3.13. A number of shallow linear features, which may be associated with the settlement (possibly relating to a field system), were recorded across area investigated. Bronze Age pottery was recovered from one of the features, in a trench excavated immediately west of the main body of the Site (Figure 2, A), indicating that some of the linear features may pre-date the early Iron Age settlement. However the regular spacing of the shallow linears could potentially be indicative of a later date – potentially suggesting the remains of lynchets or ridge and furrow (*ibid*), with the Bronze Age pottery representing residual material.
- 3.14. The evaluation trenching also recorded a number of large features (the exact form of which could not be established conclusively within the confines of the evaluation trenches), with two main concentrations (as mapped by the HER) recorded c. 200m east and c. 100m south of the Site, as depicted on Figure 2 (2b). These features,

which could represent quarrying, or linear features, are of uncertain date due to the paucity of dating material recovered; some Romano-British material was recovered from the upper fills. The fills of these features suggested that they were not open for any significant time, and that they were situated well away from the core of any associated activity. Possible interpretations of these features include linear features of a defensive nature, on the basis of their size and their apparent alignment in the direction of Barbury hillfort, which is located c. 2.4km south-east of the Site (*ibid*). An alternative interpretation is that they are quarry pits, located on the periphery of associated settlement (*ibid*). Three features identified as linears with confidence, and dated to the Romano-British period, were recorded in trenches in the north and north of the Site (Figure 2, **B**). It has been tentatively suggested that these features represent a trackway.

- 3.15. Elsewhere within the study area, the HER and HEA record chance finds of Bronze Age tools and Romano-British coins. These finds represent material which is no longer *in-situ*, i.e. material which has been removed from its original point of deposition by later processes and activity. However, a particular concentration of Romano-British finds, recovered by field walking, is recorded c. 760m north of the Site (Figure 2, **3**). These finds include pottery, animal bone, baked clay and other finds, and may be indicative of proximate buried remains.
- 3.16. In summary, the Site is known to contain Iron Age settlement remains, Romano-British features, and potential for possible Bronze Age linear features / medieval – post-medieval agricultural features. It is likely that further associated remains survive elsewhere within the Site, particularly in the northern half in proximity to the presumed focus of the early Iron Age settlement.

Early medieval and medieval

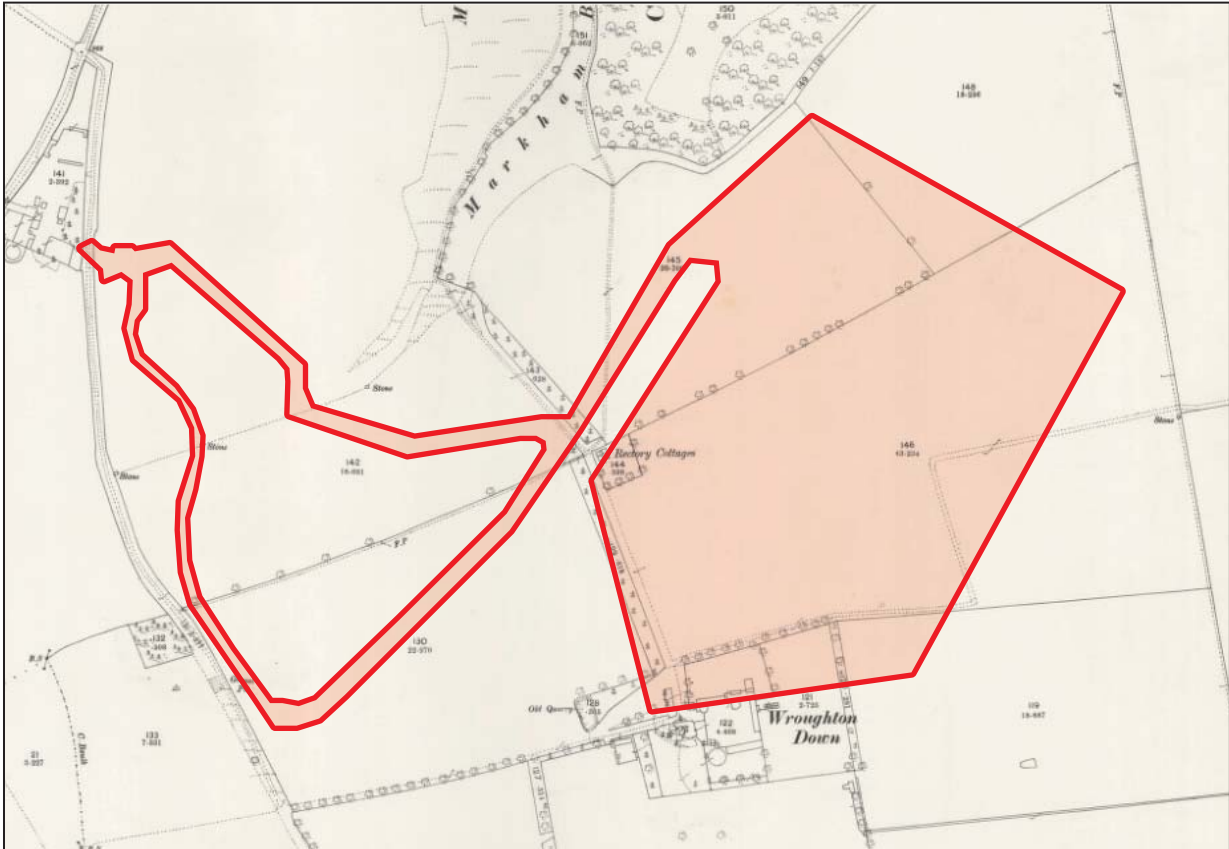
- 3.17. There are no early medieval finds or features recorded within the Site. As noted above, previous evaluation trenching within the Site recorded linear features which may represent medieval or later agricultural features. No above ground remains of these features survive owing to landscaping undertaken during the laying out of Wroughton Airfield in the 20th-century. Some slight undulations were observed across the Site, but these almost certainly relate to the 20th-century landscaping and, potentially, to modern agricultural activity.

-
- 3.18. The Site is located within the parish of Wroughton. The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 records Wroughton by the name of 'Elendune', the name of the principal Saxon estate, which is referred to in Anglo-Saxon charters of AD 844 and 956, and is thought to have been a larger, older estate which underwent a process of subinfeudation (Crowley, 1980). The Survey recorded a very large settlement of 68 households, with resources such as meadow, pasture, woodlands and six mills (Powell-Smith, nd). The presence of such a well-established settlement at the time of the Survey indicates pre-medieval origins. A find spot of four sherds of Saxon pottery is recorded within the study area, immediately south of Wroughton. These sherds are likely to have originated from deposits associated with the early medieval settlement at Wroughton, having been moved by later activity and development. The Site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the settlement at Wroughton during the early medieval period.
- 3.19. During the medieval period Ellendune's lowland part became known as Wroughton (meaning 'settlement on the river Worfe'), but the name only begun to apply exclusively to the whole parish in the 15th century (*ibid*). The parish of Wroughton, like others in the locality, extends from north to south, and comprises a lowland area of Kimmeridge Clay in the north and the Lower Chalk plateau in the south (Crowley, 1980). This allowed for a good balance of agriculture with sheep husbandry and corn in the south and pasture on the heavier soil to the north. This agricultural regime would have been typical for the chalk downs where sheep and corn husbandry was practiced, with sheep grazed on the high downlands by day in order to manure the chalk soils, which rapidly lose their fertility (Brown *et al*, 2005).
- 3.20. Settlement continued at Wroughton during the medieval period, and the HER records further evidence for medieval settlement c. 1km north of the Site, where earthworks indicating a possible deserted settlement are recorded (Figure 2, 5), with a possible medieval hollow way to the south (Figure 2, 7). Further earthworks are recorded to the south-west of the aforementioned deserted medieval settlement, including building platforms, boundaries and lynchets (Figure 2, 4). Further possible medieval lynchets are recorded c. 300m south-west of the Site (Figure 2, 6). A number of medieval find spots are recorded within the study area; this material is likely to have originated from these known / presumed areas of medieval settlement, having been disturbed from their original point of deposition by later processes, including farming activity such as ploughing.

-
- 3.21. As in the preceding period, the Site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the known and presumed medieval settlement within the Site environs, as indicated by the potential medieval / post-medieval agricultural features recorded during the evaluation trenching within the Site. It is likely that further remains of these features survive elsewhere within the Site, particularly in the north where better preservation of the on-site stratigraphy was observed during the 2006 evaluation trenching.

Post-medieval and modern

- 3.22. Linear features recorded across the 2006 evaluation trenching area, and potentially within the Site, have been interpreted as the possible remains of medieval – post-medieval agricultural features such as ridge and furrow or lynchets. As previously noted, no above ground remains of these features survive owing to the landscaping of the Site during the laying out of Wroughton Airfield in the 20th century.
- 3.23. The medieval sheep and corn farming regime on the chalk downs intensified during the post-medieval period aided by various agricultural improvements. However, by the late 18th century, this method of farming went into decline, owing to various factors, such as the use of artificial fertilisers and the increase in rearing sheep for meat rather than for wool (Brown *et al*, 2005). Open land generally resisted enclosure where the sheep and corn regime persisted, but was eventually enclosed by an Act of Parliament. Former open land at Wroughton was formally enclosed in 1796. The Site formed part of a large open field at this time (Figure 3), indicating that it most likely remained under the sheep and corn regime. The Site is recorded as ‘Glebe’ land, and was thus part of an ecclesiastical holding at this time.
- 3.24. By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886, the former Glebe land in which the Site had been situated had been subject to further enclosure (Figure 4). At this time, the Site occupied six agricultural fields, as well as some small parcels associated with Wroughton Down, a probable farm dwelling (See also Figure 2, **9b**), part of which fell within the southern half of the Site, and Rectory Cottages and their associated plot in the western half of the main Site area. The Site also incorporated two areas of plantation. The Site remained in much the same condition on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 and the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (not reproduced).



Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Building ONE, Wroughton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Historic map

DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 6420
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 19/10/2017
 APPROVED BY DC SCALE@A4 approx. 7500

FIGURE NO.

4

-
- 3.25. The most major change to the Site in the 20th century is associated with the removal of those rural and agricultural dwellings within the Site (and in its environs) in order to lay out Wroughton Airfield. The airfield was constructed by the RAF to house No. 15 Maintenance Unit. Construction of the airfield began in 1939, with the first concrete runway finished in spring 1941; all three runways had been constructed by 1944, and the airfield was an active wartime establishment which employed over 700 civilians by the end of 1941 (Gibbs, 1992). The Site incorporates two stretches of runway, and two areas of grass land between the runway strips; no other features associated with the former World War Two airfield are recorded within the Site. The western access routes comprise existing access to the Site.
- 3.26. After the war, the air force was greatly reduced, and Wroughton Airfield also reduced in size, with some of the outlying dispersal areas having been sold to farmers by the 1960s; as part of the landscape management regime grasslands within the Site are used in part for the grazing of sheep, though the principal use is for museum related activities. The airfield did continue to provide aircraft services, including aircraft maintenance and scrappage, up until its closure in 1978, shortly after which it became a storage annex for part of the Science Museum's aircraft and other exhibits.
- 3.27. Aside from sparse, largely agricultural settlement such as that mapped at the Site, settlement during these periods remained principally focussed at Wroughton; good examples of surviving post-medieval and modern buildings include the grade II listed Elecombe Hall (Figure 2, **D4**) and Ivery House (Figure 2, **D5**). The continuing farming economy is also demonstrated by farm houses within the study area, including the grade II listed Upper Salthrop Farmhouse (Figure 2, **D3**), and a number of non-designated partially extant and some now demolished farmsteads and outfarms (Figure 2, **9a - c**).
- 3.28. The Site has some potential for post-medieval agricultural remains. The Site also has some potential for the survival or buried remains associated with the Wroughton Down farmstead and its associated structures, and Rectory Cottages. Should such remains survive, they would be anticipated to be highly truncated owing to the landscaping of the Site during the laying out of Wroughton Airfield.

Undated

- 3.29. The HER records an undated square cropmark enclosure, c. 800m west of the Site (Figure 2, **10**). The exact nature and date of this features remains unknown.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Previous truncation within the Site

- 4.1. A programme of evaluation trenching undertaken in 2006 identified that the laying out of Wroughton Airfield in the 20th-century had resulted in some truncation to any buried archaeological deposits within its footprint, particularly to the south and west of the Site. As a result of this truncation, archaeological deposits are best preserved in the north, and to the north of the Site, whilst the significance of deposits to the south of the Site was found to have been compromised.

The significance of known and potential archaeological remains within the Site

- 4.2. This assessment has identified that no designated archaeological remains are located within the Site; no *designated* archaeological remains will therefore be adversely physically affected by development within the Site. Known and potential *non-designated* archaeological remains identified within the Site comprise:

- Partially excavated shallow linear features of potential Bronze Age – post-medieval date;
- Partially excavated remains of an early Iron Age settlement;
- Potential remains of possible Iron Age / Romano-British linear features;
- Potential remains of early-medieval – modern agricultural features; Potential buried remains of post-medieval and modern dwellings and associated outbuildings; and
- Remains of the former Wroughton Airfield runways.

- 4.3. The significance of these assets is discussed further below.

Partially excavated linear features of Bronze Age – post-medieval date

- 4.4. Remains of linear features have been partially excavated within the Site. One of the linears (located outside of the Site) recorded Bronze Age material, although their regular spacing has also been suggested to indicate a later date, with the features potentially representing lynchets or ridge and furrow, largely attributed to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Equally, the proximity of these features to the early Iron Age and Romano-British activity suggests that they may be associated with this period of activity.
- 4.5. The exact nature and date of these features remains uncertain. However, should these features be prehistoric in date, they would be of evidential and historical (illustrative) value in their contribution towards our understanding of the nature and

extent of prehistoric activity within the local landscape. The features would also be of some evidential and historical value if they are Romano-British in date, as such features would contribute towards our understanding of the nature and extent of Romano-British activity within the local landscape, which is poorly understood at present. If the linear features represent lynchets or ridge and furrow, which would presumably be medieval / post-medieval in date, they would be of much more limited evidential and historical value, making only a small contribution towards our understanding of local land use during these periods, and making a neutral contribution towards our understanding of medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices more broadly.

- 4.6. Whilst such remains would be of some heritage significance on the basis of their evidential and historical value, they would not be anticipated to be of such significance that they would require preservation *in-situ*, or otherwise constrain development within the Site.

Remains of an early Iron Age settlement

- 4.7. The remains of an early Iron Age settlement have previously been recorded in the north of the Site, and there is potential for further associated features to survive within the remaining Site area. Such remains would be of evidential and historic (illustrative) value, enhancing our understanding of the nature of prehistoric settlement within the local landscape, and more widely, particularly in terms of landscape preferences and settlement size.

- 4.8. However, whilst such remains would be of heritage significance, they would not be anticipated to be of such significance that they would require preservation *in-situ*, or otherwise constrain development of the Site.

Potential remains or Iron Age / Romano-British linear features

- 4.9. The remains of possible Iron Age/Romano-British linear features are recorded within the Site and its environs, the exact nature and extent of which remain uncertain. Further remains would be of some evidential and historic (illustrative) value in their ability to better establish the nature of the activity during this period, and thus in their contribution towards our understanding of local land use during these periods.
- 4.10. Whilst such remains would be of some heritage significance on the basis of their evidential and historic (illustrative) value, they would not be of such significance that

they would require preservation *in-situ*, or otherwise constrain development of the Site.

Potential remains of early-medieval – modern agricultural features

- 4.11. The Site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the established settlement at Wroughton during the early medieval – post-medieval periods, and is known to have remained in agricultural use from at least the 19th-century, up until the establishment of Wroughton Airfield in the 20th century. As such, there is some potential for early medieval – modern agricultural remains to survive within the Site, such as infilled boundary and drainage ditches, field boundary post-holes and infilled furrows relating to former ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 4.12. Medieval and post-medieval agricultural remains would make only a small contribution towards our understanding of the local land use during these periods, and would make a neutral contribution towards our understanding of medieval and post-medieval farming practices more broadly. On this basis, such remains would be of very limited heritage value, but would not be of sufficient heritage value to require preservation *in-situ* or otherwise constrain development within the Site.

Potential buried remains of post-medieval and modern buildings and remains of Wroughton Airfield runways

- 4.13. There is some limited potential for the remains of former post-medieval and modern buildings within the Site, associated with Wroughton Down and Rectory Cottages. Any such remains would be anticipated to be highly truncated, owing to landscaping associated with the laying out of Wroughton Airfield. Should any buried remains of these structures and buildings survive, such as foundations and floor surfaces.
- 4.14. The remains of the Wroughton Airfield runways survive within the Site, and are utilised as an internal roadway. The wider runway remains are also used for other activities including commercial driving events and as a testing facility for the automated barrier system for Dartford Tunnel barrier upgrades. The solar farm to the south of the Site extends over the runways. The remains of the former runways within the Site are of some limited evidential and historic (illustrative) value, in their ability to demonstrate the layout and construction techniques of the former World War Two airfield. The runways lie outside of the footprint of the proposed new museum store, however, the associated car parking and service yard will extend onto the surface of the runway aligned north-east / south-west. No significant physical effects are anticipated in relation to this proposed use of the runways, and

both the physical remains of the runway and the legibility of its alignment will be preserved. On this basis, it is considered that the proposed development will not result in any adverse effects on the significance of the former airfield runways.

Potential development effects

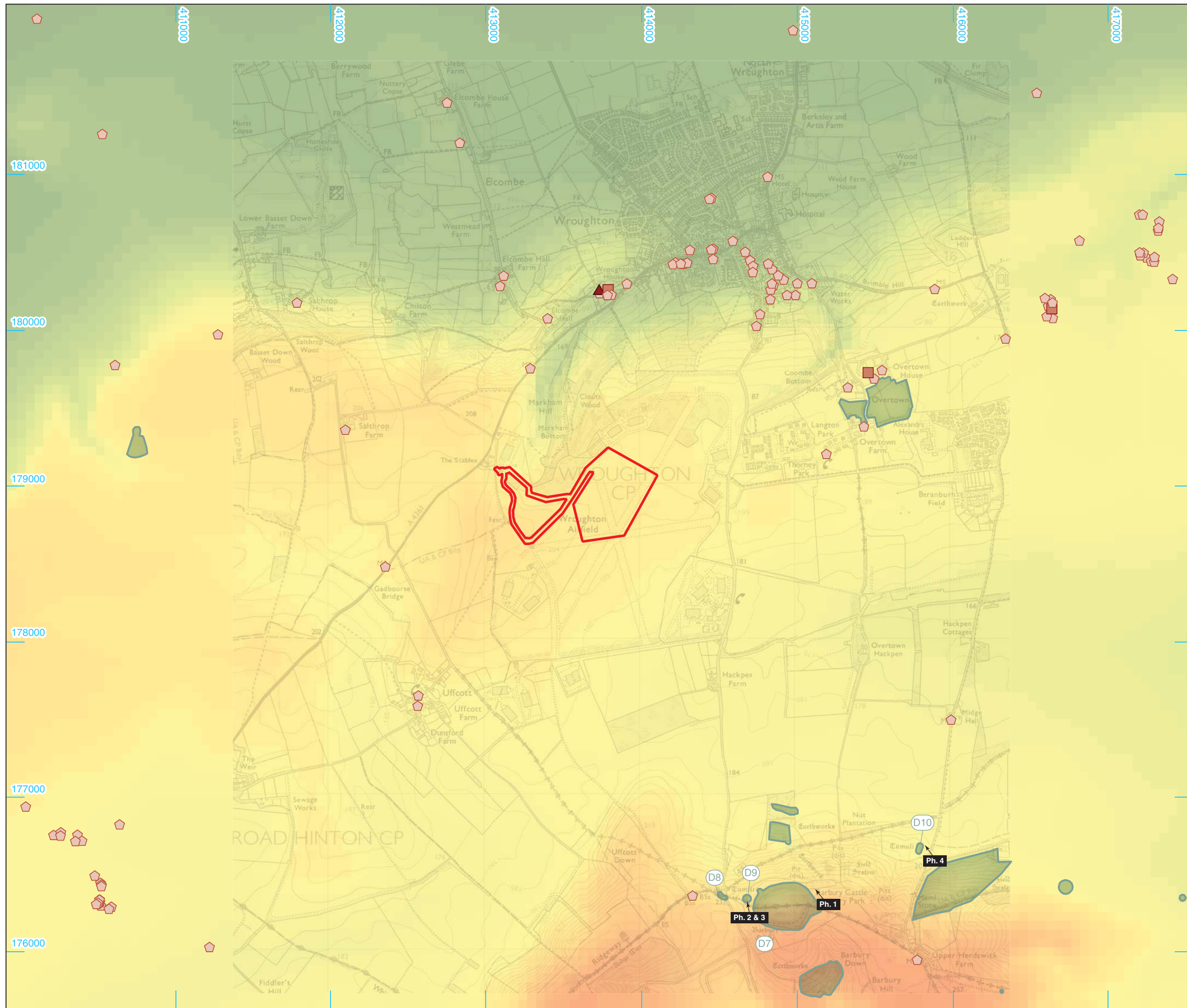
- 4.15. The proposed development comprises the construction of a new museum storage facility in the north of the Site, with associated parking and a service yard utilising the north-east / south-west aligned runway surface. No further development is currently proposed within the remaining site area.
- 4.16. Any truncation (physical development effects) upon known and potential archaeological remains identified within the Site would primarily result from groundworks associated with the construction of the new museum storage unit. Such groundworks might include pre-construction impacts associated with any ground investigation works, and construction ground works, including the excavation of the buildings foundations and the excavation of any service trenches. Such works have the potential to truncate and / or wholly remove those known and potential heritage assets defined above, with the exclusion of the potential buried remains of Wroughton Down and Rectory Cottage, and the surviving World War Two runways, which lie beyond the footprint of the proposed development, and would remain unaffected by the proposed development.

5. THE SETTING OF HERITAGE ASSETS

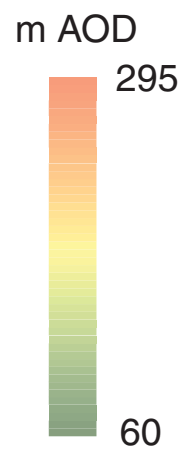
- 5.1. This section considers potential non-physical effects upon the significance of susceptible heritage assets within the Site environs. Non-physical effects are those that derive from changes to the setting of heritage assets as a result of new development.

Step 1: Identification of heritage assets potentially affected

- 5.2. Step 1 of Historic England's 'Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3' (GPA3) is to identify *'the heritage assets affected and their settings'* (see Appendix 1). GPA3 notes that Step 1 should focus on those heritage assets for which *'the development is capable of affecting the contribution of [their] setting to [their] significance or the appreciation of [their] significance'* (GPA3, page 7).
- 5.3. The heritage assets summarised in Table 5.1 below are those that have been identified, as part of Step 1, as potentially susceptible to impact as a result of changes to their setting. These assets have been identified using a combination of GIS analysis and field examination, which has considered, amongst other factors, the surrounding topographic and environmental conditions, built form, vegetation cover, and lines of sight, within the context of the assets' heritage significance.
- 5.4. The Site visit, and study area walkover, identified that whilst there are a large number of designated assets within the Site environs (see Figure 5) there would be no non-physical impact upon the significance of any other heritage assets as a result of changes to the use and/or appearance of the Site. The Site shares no perceivable historical associations with any further designated heritage assets, nor does it feature in any key views towards, or designed views from any other designated heritage assets. As such, the Site does not form part of the setting of any other heritage asset from which they draw significance. As such, the proposed development would not harm the significance of any other heritage assets through alteration of their setting.



- Site boundary
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed
- Scheduled Monument
- Photograph location



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Building ONE, Wroughton, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
The Site in relation to proximate designated heritage assets

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6420	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/10/2017	5
APPROVED BY	DC	SCALE @A3	1:23,000	

Heritage Asset	Description	Setting
<p>Barbury Castle: a Hillfort and Bowl Barrow</p> <p>Scheduled monument</p> <p>Figure 5, D7</p>	<p>Barbury Castle is a large multi-vallate Iron Age hillfort located c. 2.4km south of the Site. It survives in a good condition, and is known from part excavation to contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction, economy and the landscape in which it was built. The hillfort has two rings of banks and ditches that enclose an oval area of 4.5ha. There are two original entrances, situated at the east and west ends of the enclosure. Also included within the scheduling is a Bowl Barrow located to the immediate north-west of the hillfort. The Bowl Barrow is likely to comprise a funerary monument dating from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (thus pre-dating the hillfort). The interpretation of this feature as a Bronze Age barrow is likely, but not certain (Bowden, 1998). This monument is a part of a barrow cemetery alongside a group of three barrows and a Saucer Barrow located to the west (Figure 5, D8 & D9). The Barrow is likely to contain both archaeological and environmental evidence.</p>	<p>Barbury Castle Hillfort and Bowl Barrow are located on a prominent ridge-top at the western end of Barbury Down. The ridge-top location is at a natural high point in the landscape and gives extensive views in all directions. To the north lies the agricultural landscape of the Lower Chalk Plateau, the Site and a solar farm, beyond which lie the clay vales around Swindon. To the south, west and east lies a mixed rural landscape and the thinly settled chalk downs with a prominent north facing escarpment that extends from west to east. The immediate environs of Barbury Castle Hillfort and Bowl Barrow comprise unenclosed, permanent grassland that is a remnant of former downland pastures.</p>
<p>Three Bowl Barrows: Part of the Barrow Cemetery west of Barbury Castle; and Saucer Barrow: Part of the Barrow Cemetery west of Barbury Castle</p> <p>Scheduled monuments</p> <p>Figure 5, D8, and D9</p>	<p>The western barrow mound of Three Bowl Barrows is 18m in diameter and 1m high, the central mound is 15m across and 0.7m high, and the eastern mound has been levelled and is no longer visible as an earthwork.</p> <p>Saucer Barrow is 21m in diameter and 0.2m high, surrounded by a ditch and lower outer bank. The ditch has become partially infilled, but survives as an earthwork 3m wide and 0.4m deep. The outer bank is 3m wide and 0.5m high on the downhill side. All four barrows are likely to represent Neolithic – Bronze Age burial monuments.</p> <p>Both of these separate designations were found to share a common setting and, as such, have been assessed together.</p>	<p>Three Bowl Barrows and Saucer Barrow are set within a small dip on the ridge to the west of Barbury Castle. The barrows are located immediately west of Barbury Castle and, as such, their wider environs are as defined above. These barrows form part of a barrow cemetery which includes the Bowl Barrow immediately north-west of Barbury Castle Hillfort, described above.</p>
<p>Two Bowl Barrows 680m North of Upper Herdswick Farm,</p>	<p>Two bowl barrows aligned north-south. The northern barrow measures 28m in diameter and 0.7m high and the southern barrow mound is 26m in</p>	<p>Situated on a low crest below the Barbury Escarpment to the north east of Barbury Castle Hillfort. The wider setting of this</p>

Heritage Asset	Description	Setting
Barbury Down Scheduled monument Figure 5, D10	diameter and 0.5m high. The mounds are surrounded by interconnecting ditches, which although no longer visible on the surface have been recorded from aerial photographs. Both barrows are believed to be funerary monuments dating from the late Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age.	scheduled monument is as described above.

Table 5.1 Heritage assets identified as part of Step 1

- 5.5. The Site visit, and study area walkover, identified that whilst there are a large number of designated assets within the Site environs (see Figure 5) there would be no non-physical impact upon the significance of any other heritage assets as a result of changes to the use and/or appearance of the Site. The Site shares no perceivable historical associations with any further designated heritage assets, nor does it feature in any key views towards, or designed views from any other designated heritage assets. As such, the Site does not form part of the setting of any other heritage asset from which they draw significance. As such, the proposed development would not harm the significance of any other heritage assets through alteration of their setting.

Steps 2 – 3: Assessment of setting and potential effects of the development

- 5.6. This section presents the results of Steps 2 to 4 of the settings assessment, which have been undertaken in regard to those potentially susceptible heritage assets identified in Table 5.1. Step 2 considers the contribution that setting makes to the significance of potentially susceptible heritage assets. Step 3 then considers how, if at all, and to what extent any anticipated changes to the setting of those assets, as a result of development within the Site, might affect their significance.

Barbury Castle; A Hillfort and Bowl Barrow scheduled monument (Figure 5, D7)

- 5.7. Barbury Castle Hillfort (hereafter ‘the Hillfort’) derives significance primarily from the evidential and historic (illustrative) value embodied within its buried and earthwork remains, as an example of an Iron Age defensive site. The Bowl Barrow also derives its significance primarily from the evidential and historic (illustrative) value embodied within its physical remains, as an example of a prehistoric funerary monument. Both the Hillfort (which is known to contain archaeological deposits within its earthworks, as noted above) and the Bowl Barrow also derive significance from the known and potential evidential value of their buried remains to yield further

information on Iron Age monumental construction, economy and environmental conditions, and Bronze Age prehistoric funerary practice and environmental conditions. Both the Hillfort and Bowl Barrow are publically accessible, furnished with interpretation panels, and frequented by tourists and the local community as part of the wider Barbury Castle Country Park landscape. As such, both assets are also considered to derive some significance from their communal value for those people for whom it figures within their collective experience and memory.

Setting – the asset's physical surrounds

- 5.8. The scheduled monument occupies a ridgeway location. Although there is conflicting evidence on the antiquity of the ridgeway as a routeway, the east and west entrances, and the east / west aligned routeway through the Hillfort, suggest a relationship with this route. It is likely that the Hillfort controlled communications and passage across this route, and therefore this aspect of its setting makes a positive contribution towards its historic (illustrative) value, and thus its heritage significance. Another aspect of the local topography which is considered to form part of the setting of the Hillfort is the River Og valley, c. 4km to the east. It is possible that the Hillfort and Liddington Castle were positioned to control access into the valley, which provides an important access route into the Marlborough Downs to the south.
- 5.9. The immediate surrounds of the scheduled monument comprise unenclosed, permanent grassland, which is a remnant of former downland pastures. This landscape has a high historical integrity, and has witnessed a low degree of change over time. This surrounding land use still largely reflects the mixture of pasture and arable agriculture which is reminiscent of the contemporary landscape of the Hillfort, and thus makes a positive contribution towards its historic (illustrative) value. Remains of prehistoric field lynchets and boundaries are recorded throughout the landscape surrounding the Hillfort, and are particularly extensive to the east and south, at Burderop Down, Preshute and Smeathe's Ridge. It is likely that the early Iron Age settlement recorded to the north of the Hillfort (i.e. within and to the north of the Site) formed a satellite settlement within its hinterland. The Hillfort would have served as a defensive enclosure for this settlement and any further, presently unknown, settlements within its environs. These contemporary landscape features make a positive contribution towards the historic (illustrative and associative) value of the Hillfort, affording an understanding of its contemporary landscape context, and thus make a positive contribution towards the significance.

-
- 5.10. A number of contemporary (Iron Age) features lie within the wider environs of the Hillfort, including other hillforts located on the ridgeline. From the Hillfort, contemporary hillforts at Liddington, Uffington and Martinsell are visible, and views from the Hillfort that include these contemporary monuments form key vistas, which make a positive contribution towards its historic (illustrative) value. Other contemporary hillforts within the wider environs include those on the Lower Chalk scarp to the north (Blinknoll, Ringsbury and Blunsdon). Whilst not visible from the Hillfort, these assets also make a positive contribution towards its historic (illustrative and associative) value, forming part of its wider contemporary landscape.
- 5.11. With regard to the Bowl Barrow at the Hillfort, this scheduled monument forms part of a wider barrow cemetery which extends to the west of the Hillfort, occupying the lower lying aspect of the ridgeway (see Figure 5, **D8** and **D9**). Intervisibility between barrows was an important consideration of their positioning, and their continuing intervisibility affords an appreciation of the wider barrow cemetery as a whole. The proximate, contemporary and associated scheduled barrows make a positive contribution towards the significance of the Bowl Barrow at the Hillfort. Many barrows are located within the wider environs of the Bowl Barrow at Barbury Castle Hillfort, beyond the cemetery group defined above, particularly to the east and south. These contemporary and associated assets make a positive contribution towards the historic (illustrative) value of the Bowl Barrow at Barbury Castle Hillfort, forming part of the wider prehistoric ritual landscape, and thus make a positive contribution towards its significance.

Setting – the experience of the asset

- 5.12. The experience of the Hillfort and Bowl Barrow is best expressed through views. Panoramic views are possible from the Hillfort, which emphasise its relationship with the surrounding contemporary landscape features. These views are likely to reflect the original design intentions of the hillfort builders, allowing extensive views across its associated hinterland. Specifically important views from the Hillfort comprise the views north-eastwards along the ridgeline towards contemporary Iron Age hillforts visible in the distance, as well as the view westwards from the hillfort towards the adjacent barrow cemetery. These views facilitate and appreciation of the historic landscape context of the Hillfort, and this make a positive contribution towards its significance. Other views which are considered to contribute towards the

significance of the Hillfort are those to the north and south. Views to the south across the Marlborough Downs extend across a relatively remote landscape, emphasising the Hillfort's relative isolation and its association with a traditionally agricultural landscape. The view north from the Hillfort extends across the lower-lying vale chalklands and claylands, which are likely to have formed an important part of the hinterland of the Hillfort, offering a different environment to exploit. As such, the views northwards across the vale emphasise a further component of the hillfort's hinterland. The Site dilutes the quality of these views to a degree, owing to its prominence within them, however, the prevailing rural character of the landscape to the north remains legible, thus views to the north are still considered to make a positive contribution towards the hillfort.

- 5.13. Views towards the Hillfort are also considered to make a positive contribution towards its significance, affording an appreciation of its landscape context, as well as its dominance within that landscape, which is a key contributor to its monumentality as a former defensive structure.
- 5.14. With regard to the experience of the Bowl Barrow, as noted above, views of the associated assets to the west are considered to be a key element of its experience, facilitating an appreciation of the wider prehistoric, ritual landscape. The sense of quietness and tranquillity provided by the prevailing agricultural landscape which surrounds the Bowl Barrow affords a sense of remoteness and isolation which makes a positive contribution towards its significance.

Summary of the potential development effects

- 5.15. The proposed development Site lies within the low lying landscape north of the scheduled monument. Due to its low lying position, the proposed development would not result in any reduced visibility to those key vistas identified above, and the intervisibility with contemporary assets which make a positive contribution to both the Hillfort and the Bowl Barrow would be preserved.
- 5.16. The proposed development would result in the introduction of new built form within the existing setting of the scheduled monument. Views of this existing built form are restricted within the Hillfort itself, and the approach to the east, owing to the size of the ramparts (Photograph 1, below). The existing built form, and thus the proposed development Site, are visible in views from the west (and from the ramparts themselves), and from the Bowl Barrow (Photograph 2, below), however, the area

of extant development at the Site, perceptible in these views, is not considered to make a positive contribution towards the significance of the monument. The proposed collections management facility would sit within the established context of existing built form on the Site, immediately in front of three existing aircraft hangars, and surrounded to the south by a relatively expansive solar farm and, as such, would not result in a change to the character of the existing setting of the Hillfort. The proposed collections management facility wouldn't result in any perceivable increase in noise or movement with regard to the experience of the scheduled monument. On this basis, the proposed development will not harm the significance of the scheduled monument through alteration of its setting.

- 5.17. The Site shares no perceivable historic associations with the Bowl Barrow. Excavation within the Site has identified remains of an early Iron Age settlement, contemporary with the Hillfort. Such remains, as noted above, make a positive contribution towards the significance of the Hillfort, providing information on its historic context. The proposed development would result in the removal of these assets. However, these features are not visible above ground, and lie within the modern context of the Site, which isn't considered to form part of the setting of the Hillfort which contributes to its significance. As such, whilst the buried remains of the early Iron Age settlement within the Site make a positive contribution towards its historic (illustrative) value, in line with the NPPF and guidance provided within GPA3, which state that the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced, these remains are not considered to form part of the setting of the Hillfort. As such, their removal would not result in harm to the significance of the Hillfort through alteration of its setting, and further investigation of such remains, through a programme of archaeological works, would provide an opportunity to enhance our understanding of the contemporary landscape associated with the scheduled monument.
- 5.18. In summary, the proposed development would not result in harm to the significance of the Hillfort and Bowl Barrow through alteration of their setting.



Photograph 1: View towards the Site from the eastern entrance to Barbury Castle Hillfort



Photograph 2: View towards the Site from the western entrance of Barbury Castle Hillfort

Three Bow Barrows: Part of the Barrow Cemetery west of Barbury Castle; and Saucer Barrow: Part of the Barrow Cemetery west of Barbury Castle (Figure 5, D8 and D9)

- 5.19. The Three Bow Barrows: Part of the Barrow Cemetery west of Barbury Castle and Saucer Barrow: Part of the Barrow Cemetery west of Barbury Castle (hereafter ‘the Barrow Cemetery’) derive significance primarily from the evidential and historic (illustrative) value manifested within their buried and earthwork remains, as examples of prehistoric funerary monument. The Barrow Cemetery also draws evidential value of their potential for buried remains, which may yield further information on prehistoric funerary practices.

Setting – the asset’s physical surrounds

- 5.20. The Barrow Cemetery includes the Bowl Barrow immediately north-west of the Hillfort (Figure 5, **D7**). All three separately designated barrows and barrow groups share good intervisibility. The associated Bowl Barrow at the Hillfort makes a positive contribution towards the historic (illustrative) value of the Barrow Cemetery as part of a prehistoric funerary complex. This grouping forms the key and immediate setting of the Barrow Cemetery from which it draws significance.
- 5.21. There has been a great deal of archaeological investigation, analysis and interpretation of the location of Bronze Age barrows, especially within the context of the Wessex Chalklands, which has shown that whilst ridge top or false crest locations are a common situation for barrows, the large majority of barrows are actually located in valley side or valley bottom locations. The perception that the favoured locations for barrows were ridge tops is probably a result of the survival of prominent examples on these locations, whereas the vast majority, located on flatter more favourable agricultural land, have been destroyed by farming activity and can now only be seen as ring ditches, often recorded from aerial photography. It is now understood that the motivations behind the siting of barrows by Bronze Age communities were subtle and complex. The location of the Barrow Cemetery within the dip in the landscape may indicate that this topographic feature was of some importance to the community who inhabited this area. It is likely that it formed a routeway from the lower chalk plateau to the higher downland area of the Marlborough Downs and it may also have been regarded as a boundary between these two distinctive landscapes. Marking this routeway/boundary may have been the primary factor in the decision to create these monuments.

-
- 5.22. The wider landscape environs of the Barrow Cemetery are predominantly comprised of 18th-century and later field enclosure, modified in the post-war period through boundary removal to create large arable fields. It is interspersed with woodland belt plantations and scattered farmsteads and villages such as Uffcott. This landscape makes a neutral contribution towards the significance of the Barrow Cemetery in terms of their physical environs. Imposed across the 18th-century rural landscape is a Second World War industrial airfield at Wroughton, and the solar farm to the south of the Site. The Site is associated with large hangars and other industrial buildings. Beyond the Site to the north the views afforded from the ridge are predominantly of an urban or industrial landscape. This landscape does not contribute positively to the value of the monuments. Both aspects of the wider landscape are considered to make a neutral contribution towards the significance of the Barrow Cemetery.

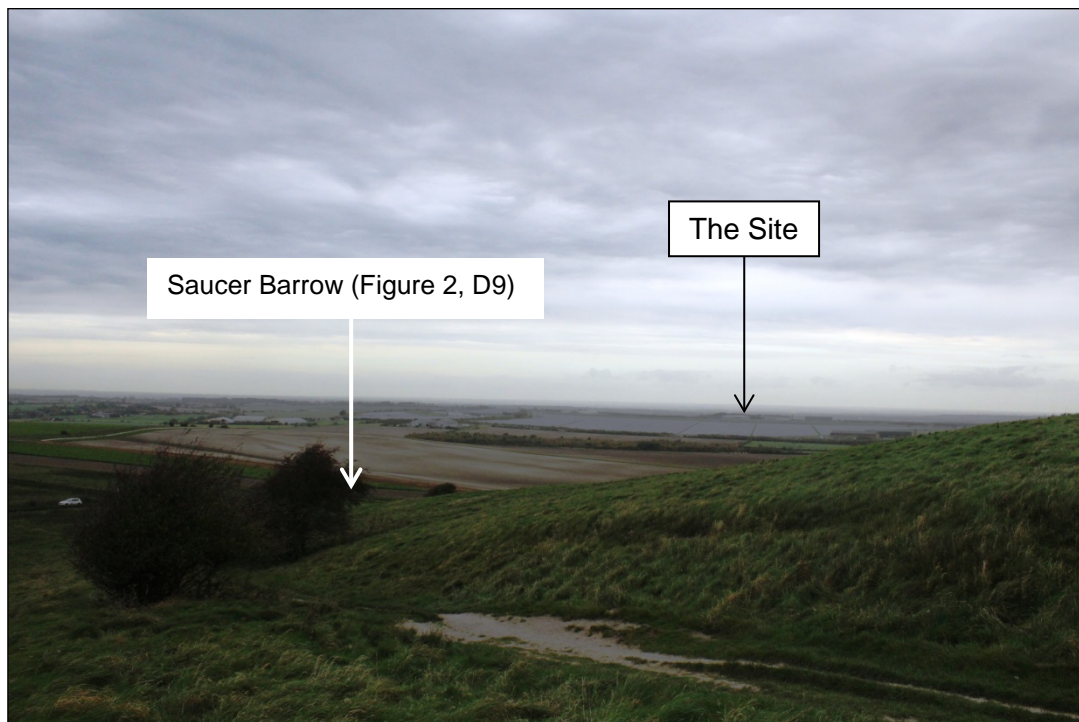
Setting – the experience of the asset

- 5.23. The topographic situation of the Barrow Cemetery, within a dip in the ridge line, allows views out into the wider landscape to the north and south, but results in a more enclosed and intimate feel overall, directing focus towards the barrows themselves. Although the escarpment is strongly defined when viewed from the Lower Chalk areas to the north the barrow group is not easily visible from distances further than its immediate locale.
- 5.24. Whilst the surrounding agricultural landscape makes a neutral contribution towards the significance of the Barrow Cemetery in terms of its physical surrounds, the prevailing sense of tranquillity and quiet provided by the rural landscape affords a sense of wildness and remoteness. This experience makes a positive contribution towards the significance of the Barrow Cemetery as an emotive, funerary landscape.

Summary of the potential development effects

- 5.25. The Site shares no perceivable historical associations with the Barrow Cemetery.
- 5.26. The proposed development would be visible in views to the north from the Barrow Cemetery. However, as above, the low lying nature of the Site means that the proposed development will not reduce visibility between the Barrow Cemetery and any of those key associated and contemporary assets within its environs.

- 5.27. Wroughton Airfield is not considered to contribute positively towards the significance of the Barrow Cemetery. The proposed collections management facility would comprise an addition to the Site, situated amongst the well-established built form of the Site, including three large aircraft hangars (Photograph 3, below). Due to its position within the Site, amongst similar existing structures, the proposed development would not alter the existing character of this aspect of the setting of the Barrow Cemetery. In particular, it wouldn't result in the expansion of the Site into the agricultural landscape which is considered to make a positive contribution towards the experience of this scheduled monument, nor would it result in any perceivable increase in noise or movement.
- 5.28. On this basis, the proposed development would not harm the significance of the Barrow Cemetery through alteration of its setting; those aspects of the setting of the Barrow Cemetery which are considered to contribute positively towards its significance would be preserved following the construction of the proposed collections management facility.



Photograph 3: View from Saucer Barrow, view to the north towards the Site

Two Bowl Barrows 680m North of Upper Herdswick Farm, Barbury Down (Figure 5, D10)

- 5.29. As with the Barrow Cemetery, Two Bowl Barrows 680m north of Upper Herdswick Farm, Barbury Down (hereafter 'Two Bowl Barrows') derive significance primarily from the evidential and historic (illustrative) value manifest within their remains, and their archaeological potential.

Setting – the asset's physical surrounds

- 5.30. Unlike the Barrow Cemetery, Two Bowl Barrows are situated on a low crest on the Lower Chalk below the downland escarpment. The barrows' location on a low crest overlooking the Lower Chalk plateau allows for limited views over the landscape to the north (including the Site) and east. As noted above in relation to the Barrow Cemetery, the wider landscape environs of Two Bowl Barrows are largely comprised of modern field enclosure, utilised as both arable and grassland, as well as for solar energy. The wider environs also include the Site and its associated built form, the solar farm to its south, and relatively scattered settlement; these aspects of the wider setting make a neutral contribution towards the significance of Two Bowl Barrows in terms of their physical environs.
- 5.31. As noted above, the choice of location for barrows is often the result of subtle and complex motivations. Two Bowl Barrows are located some way below the ridge of the chalk scarp, but are clearly located on spur of land that represents a high point within the immediate area. This might suggest that whilst the builders placed less emphasis on the visibility of Two Bowl Barrows within in the wider landscape, but still ensured that they were locally prominent. A low lying position could also be a reflection of status, for example, with elevated and more prominent positions reserved for those of a higher status.
- 5.32. Two Bowl Barrows are located on private land, and are not directly accessible. However, it is very likely that they share intervisibility with contemporary monuments along the line of the escarpment, albeit somewhat reduced to the denuded state of both Two Bowl Barrows and some of their contemporary monuments. Contemporary barrows within the environs of Two Bowl Barrows, with which they share intervisibility, provide historic context of the scheduled monument as part of a wider funerary landscape and, as such, make a positive contribution towards their historic (illustrative) value.

Setting – the experience of the asset

- 5.33. The immediate setting of the scheduled monument comprises an arable field that is under cultivation. To the west, south and south-east the field is surrounded by permanent grassland that is a remnant of former downland pastures. Whilst the present land use and its organisation are not contemporary with Two Bowl Barrows, as noted above, its open, undeveloped character results in a quiet, tranquil experience, affording a sense of remoteness and wildness, and makes a positive contribution towards the significance of Two Bowl Barrows as part of an emotive, funerary landscape. This experience is reduced to a small degree by the presence of a road immediately east of the scheduled monument, although the adverse effects of the road (i.e. the introduction of noise and movement) are somewhat lessened by the minimal traffic along this route.
- 5.34. Due to the low lying position of Two Bowl Barrows, they are best experienced from the south, from the elevated position afforded by the escarpment; from the landscape to the north, and from the roadside immediately east of the scheduled monument, the barrows are hard to discern owing to the denuded state of the mounds.

Summary of the potential development effects

- 5.35. As with those barrows assessed above, the Site shares no perceivable historical associations with the Barrow Cemetery.
- 5.36. There was no direct access to Two Bowl Barrows, however, it was established from the roadside immediately east that the Site would be visible from the slightly elevated position that Two Bowl Barrows occupy (Photograph 4, below). As such, the proposed development would be visible in views to the north from Two Bowl Barrows. However, the proposed development would not interrupt or alter the character of views towards associated and contemporary assets, which lie to the west (including **D8** and **D9** on Figure 5) and to the east along the ridgeway.
- 5.37. As described above, the Site is not considered to contribute positively towards the significance of Two Bowl Barrows and the proposed new storage unit would, of course, comprise an addition to it. However, as before, the proposed development would not alter the existing character of this aspect of the setting of Two Bowl Barrows, as it would be situated amongst existing built form of a similar scale,

wouldn't result in the expansion of the Site into the agricultural landscape which is considered to make a positive contribution towards the experience of this scheduled monument, nor would it result in any perceivable increase in noise or movement which might alter its current experience.

- 5.38. On this basis, the proposed development would not harm the significance of Two Bowl Barrows through alteration of their setting; those aspects of the setting of the Two Bowl Barrows which are considered to contribute positively towards their significance would be preserved following the construction of the proposed collections management facility.



Photograph 4: View from the east of Two Bowl Narrows, view to the north-west towards the Site

Summary of potential non-physical development effects on designated heritage assets

- 5.39. In summary, this assessment has found that the proposed development will not harm the significance of any designated heritage assets through alteration of their setting.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeology

- 6.1. There are no designated heritage assets, or heritage assets of commensurate value to that of a designated heritage asset, within the Site. As such, the proposed development will not result in any adverse physical impacts on the significance of any designated heritage assets, or non-designated heritage assets of commensurate value.
- 6.2. This assessment has identified some partially excavated and potential remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date, which are/would be of some evidential and historical value. Depending on the method of construction (particularly regarding the depth of any foundation trenches), the proposed development would likely lead to the truncation and/or total removal of these assets. Local planning policy EN10 (Historic Environment and Heritage Assets) states:

‘Any harm to the significance of a designated or non-designated heritage asset, or their loss, must be justified. Proposals will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, whether it has been demonstrated that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset [...]’.

- 6.3. In line with local planning policy EN10, archaeological works would be required in order to mitigate the loss of the evidential and historic (illustrative) values manifested within the physical remains of the known and potential archaeological resource within the Site. Suitable mitigation might include a programme of strip, map and record investigation within the footprint of the proposed collections management facility.

The setting of heritage assets

- 6.4. Heritage assessment has identified that there would be no non-physical impact upon the significance of any designated heritage assets as a result of the proposed development. In all instances where the proposed development would result in a perceivable change to the existing setting of designated heritage assets, the key contributing values to their significances, including any contribution made by setting, would be preserved.

-
- 6.5. The proposed development would thus be consistent with local planning policy EN10 and the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) and the NPPF (2012).

7. REFERENCES

- Bashford, R., 2006** *Archaeological Evaluation Report for the National Museum of Science and Industry, Wroughton*. Oxford Archaeology (Unpublished document)
- Bowden, M., 1998** *Barbury Castle: Archaeological Survey Report* (Unpublished document)
- Brown, G. Field, D. and McOmish, D. eds., 2005** *The Avebury Landscape: Aspects of the Field Archaeology of the Marlborough Downs*. Oxbow Books: Oxford
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014.** *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* [Online] available at http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIAS&GDBA_2.pdf [Accessed April 2017]
- Crowley, D. A. ed., 1980** *A history of the County of Wiltshire* [Online] available at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol11> [Accessed October 2017]
- Department for Communities and Local Government., 2012.** *National Planning Policy Framework* [Online] available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf [Accessed February 2017]
- Gibbs, J., 1982** Wroughton Airfield. In Wroughton History Society, Ed. 1982. *Wroughton History Society: Part 1*. Wroughton History Society. Pp.73-74
- Laws, G., 2005** *Wroughton, National Museum of Science & Industry: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Oxford Archaeology (Unpublished document)
- Historic England., 2015a.** *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* [Online] available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/> [Accessed March 2017]
- Historic England., 2015b.** *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* [Online] available at <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/> [Accessed March 2017]
- Historic England., 2016.** *Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management* [Online] available at <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/heag040-conservation-area-designation-appraisal-and-management.pdf/> [Accessed April 2017]
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).** Act of UK Parliament.
- Powell-Smith, A., nd** *Open Domesday* [Online] available at <http://opendomesday.org/place/SU1480/wroughton/> [Accessed October 2017]
- RCHME., 1996** *The Avebury Project, the Medieval and Post-Medieval Assessment*. (Unpublished document)

Cartographic sources

1796	Wroughton enclosure map
1846	Tithe map of Elecombe, Westlecot, Salthorp and Overtown
1886	First Edition Ordnance Survey map: 1:2,500 series
1900	Second Edition Ordnance Survey map: 1:2,500 series
1923	Third Edition Ordnance Survey map: 1:2,500 series
1982-1988	Ordnance Survey map: 1:10,000 series (Online)

APPENDIX 1: HERITAGE STATUTE POLICY & GUIDANCE

Heritage Statute: Listed buildings

Listed buildings are buildings of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ and are subject to the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (‘the Act’). Under Section 7 of the Act ‘no person shall execute or cause to be executed any works for the demolition of a listed building or for its alteration or extension in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, unless the works are authorised.’ Such works are authorised under Listed Building Consent. Under Section 66 of the Act ‘In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any feature of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses’.

Heritage Statute: scheduled monuments

Scheduled monuments are subject to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The Act sets out the controls of works affecting scheduled monuments and other related matters. Contrary to the requirements of the Planning Act 1990 regarding Listed buildings, the 1979 Act does not include provision for the ‘setting’ of scheduled monuments.

National heritage policy: the National Planning Policy Framework

Heritage assets and heritage significance

Heritage assets comprise ‘a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest’ (the NPPF (2012), Annex 2). Designated heritage assets include scheduled monuments and Listed buildings. The NPPF (2012), Annex 2, states that the significance of a heritage asset may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Historic England’s ‘Conservation Principles’ looks at significance as a series of ‘values’ which include ‘evidential’, ‘historical’, ‘aesthetic’ and ‘communal’.

The setting of heritage assets

The ‘setting’ of a heritage asset comprises ‘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.’ Thus it is important to note that ‘setting’ is not a heritage asset: it may contribute to the value of a heritage asset.

Guidance on assessing the effects of change upon the setting and significance of heritage assets is provided in ‘Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets’, which has been utilised for the present assessment (see below).

Levels of information to support planning applications

Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (‘the NPPF (2012)’) identifies that ‘In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.’

Designated heritage assets

Paragraph 126 of the NPPF (2012) notes that local planning authorities ‘should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.’ Paragraph 132 notes that ‘when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.’ It goes on to note that ‘substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building...should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments.....should be wholly exceptional.’

Paragraph 134 clarifies that ‘Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.’

Development Plan

The Swindon Borough Local Plan 20206 is the principal planning policy document for Swindon Borough. Those policies which are relevant to heritage and the proposed development are reproduced below.

Policy EN10: Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

- a. Swindon Borough’s historic environment shall be sustained and enhanced. This includes all heritage assets including historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens, landscape and archaeology.

-
- b. Proposals for development affecting heritage assets shall conserve and, where appropriate, enhance their significance and setting. Any harm to the significance of a designated or non-designated heritage asset, or their loss, must be justified. Proposals will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, whether it has been demonstrated that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset; and whether the works proposed are the minimum required to secure the long term use of the asset.
 - c. Any alterations, extensions or changes of use to a listed building, or development in the vicinity of a listed building, shall not be permitted where there will be an adverse impact on those elements which contribute to their special architectural or historic significance, including their setting.
 - d. Scheduled monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings will be preserved in situ, and where not justifiable or feasible, provision to be made for excavation and recording. Development proposals affecting archaeological remains of less than national importance will be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. An appropriate assessment and evaluation should be submitted as part of any planning application in areas of known or potential archaeological interest.
 - e. Development within or which would affect the setting of the Borough's Conservation Areas will conserve those elements which contribute to their special character or appearance.
 - f. Features which form an integral part of a Park or Garden's historic interest and significance will be conserved and development will not detract from the enjoyment, layout, design, character, appearance or setting of them, including key views into and out from, or prejudice future restoration.
 - g. Any development proposal that would affect a locally important or non-designated heritage asset, including its setting, will be expected to conserve its significance, and any harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

Policy EN5: Landscape Character and Historic Landscape [Only relevant sections are reproduced]

a. Proposals for development will only be permitted when:

- the intrinsic character, diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape within Swindon Borough are protected, conserved and enhanced;
- the design of the development and materials used are sympathetic to the surrounding landscape;
- unacceptable impacts upon the landscape are avoided; and,
- where other negative impacts are considered unavoidable, they are satisfactorily mitigated.

b. In meeting the requirements of EN5a, applicants for development should demonstrate how they have taken into account Landscape Character Assessments and assessed the potential impact of the proposal upon the following attributes of the landscape:

- views, visual amenity and the landscape setting; valuable historic and heritage areas and assets; [and]
- environmental amenity such as tranquillity & noise, pollution and light pollution [...]

Good Practice Advice 1-3

Historic England has issued three Good Practice Advice notes ('GPA1-3') which support the NPPF. The GPAs note that they do not constitute a statement of Government policy, nor do they seek to prescribe a single methodology: their purpose is to assist local authorities, planners, heritage consultants, and other stakeholders in the implementation of policy set out in the NPPF. This report has been produced in the context of this advice, particularly 'GPA2 – Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' and 'GPA3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets'.

GPA2 - Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment

GPA2 sets out the requirement for assessing 'heritage significance' as part of the application process. Paragraph 8 notes 'understanding the nature of the significance is important to understanding the need for and best means of conservation.' This includes assessing the extent and level of significance, including the contribution made by its 'setting' (see GPA3 below). GPA2 notes that 'a desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment

within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment, or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so' (Page 3).

GPA3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets

Step 1 requires heritage assets which may be affected by development to be identified. Historic England notes that for the purposes of Step 1 this will comprise heritage assets where 'the development is capable of affecting the contribution of a heritage asset's setting to its significance or the appreciation of its significance'.

Step 2 of the settings process requires 'assessing whether, how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s)', with regard to its physical surrounds; relationship with other heritage assets; the way it is appreciated; and its associations and patterns of use. Step 3 requires 'assessing the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the asset(s)', with regard to the location and siting of the development; its form and appearance; additional effects; and its permanence.

Step 4 of GPA3 provides commentary on 'maximising enhancement and minimising harm'. It notes (Paragraph 26) that 'Maximum advantage can be secured if any effects on the significance of a heritage asset arising from development liable to affect its setting are considered from the project's inception.' It goes on to note (Paragraph 28) that 'good design may reduce or remove the harm, or provide enhancement'.

Heritage significance

Discussion of heritage significance within this assessment report makes reference to several key documents. With regard to Listed buildings and Conservation Areas it primarily discusses 'architectural and historic interest', which comprises the special interest for which they are designated.

The NPPF provides a definition of 'significance' for heritage policy (Annex 2). This states that heritage significance comprises 'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic'.

Regarding 'levels' of significance the NPPF (2012) provides a distinction between: designated heritage assets of the highest significance; designated heritage assets not of the highest significance; and non-designated heritage assets.

Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' expresses 'heritage significance' as comprising a combination of one or more of: evidential value; historical value; aesthetic value; and communal value.

Effects upon heritage assets

Heritage benefit

The NPPF clarifies that change in the setting of heritage assets may lead to heritage benefit. Paragraph 137 of the NPPF (2012) notes that 'Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably'.

GPA3 notes that 'good design may reduce or remove the harm, or provide enhancement' (Paragraph 28). Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' states that 'Change to a significant place is inevitable, if only as a result of the passage of time, but can be neutral or beneficial in its effects on heritage values. It is only harmful if (and to the extent that) significance is reduced' (Paragraph 84).

Specific heritage benefits may be presented through activities such as repair or restoration, as set out in Conservation Principles.

Heritage harm to designated heritage assets

The NPPF (2012) does not define what constitutes 'substantial harm'. The High Court of Justice does provide a definition of this level of harm, as set out by Mr Justice Jay in *Bedford Borough Council v SoS for CLG and Nuon UK Ltd*. Paragraph 25 clarifies that, with regard to 'substantial harm': 'Plainly in the context of physical harm, this would apply in the case of demolition or destruction, being a case of total loss. It would also apply to a case of serious damage to the structure of the building. In the context of non-physical or indirect harm, the yardstick was effectively the same. One was looking for an impact which would have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced'.

Effects upon non-designated heritage assets

The NPPF (2012) paragraph 135 guides that 'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage

assets, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset’.

APPENDIX 2: DATA CAPTURE GAZETTEER

CA Ref. No.	Orig. Ref. HE, HER, HEA	Description	Period
D1	1023432	Milestone, grade II listed.	Post-medieval / Modern
D2	1355914	Milestone, grade II listed.	Post-medieval / Modern
D3	1023451 MWI67702	Upper Salthrop Farmhouse, grade II listed.	Post-medieval / Modern
D4	1185632	Elecombe Hall, grade II listed.	Modern
D5	1185613 1023437	Ivery House, grade II listed; and Ornamental Garden Table About 30 Yards East of Ivery House. Grade II listed.	Post-medieval and Medieval
D6	1023436 1299591	Wall to Churchyard and Street, East and South of Wroughton House, grade II listed; and Tomb of Thomas Washbourne.	Post-medieval and Modern
D7	1014557	Barbury Castle: a Hillfort and Bowl Barrow.	Prehistoric
D8	1012165	Three Bowl Barrows: Part of a Barrow Cemetery West of Barbury Castle.	Prehistoric
D9	1010468	Saucer Barrow: Part of a Barrow Cemetery West of Barbury Castle.	Prehistoric
D10	1016356	Two Bowl Barrows 680m North of Upper Herdswick Farm, Barbury Down.	Prehistoric
N/A	EWI6374 1445747	Evaluation trenching undertaken at the National Museum of Science and Industry (Wroughton Airfield) in 2006 by Oxford Archaeology.	N/A
N/A	EWI3508	The Avebury Project – The medieval and post-medieval assessment.	N/A
1	1494570	Evaluation trenching undertaken at Wroughton Science Museum (Wroughton Airfield) by Oxford Archaeology in 2005.	N/A
2a	MWI5214	Early Iron Age settlement.	Prehistoric
2b	MWI72696	Large, Iron Age / Romano-British possible linear features.	Prehistoric / Romano-British
3	MWI16460	Findspot – Romano-British pottery, bone, baked clay and other 'debris'.	Romano-British
4	MWI16576 MWI15283 MWI16591	Series of undated earthworks; probably medieval, including a probable sunken trackway.	Medieval?
5	MWI64468	Possible medieval settlement earthworks.	Medieval
6	MWI15303	Undated linear features – possible medieval strip lynchets visible as cropmarks.	Medieval?
7	MWI16569	Possible medieval Holloway.	Medieval

CA Ref. No.	Orig. Ref. HE, HER, HEA	Description	Period
8	MWI15256	The site of a Post Medieval 'Pest House' building.	Post-medieval
9a - c	MWI67703 MWI67799 MWI67802	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Barn partially extant 19th-century farmstead; • Demolished 19th-century outbarn; • Demolished 19th-century outfarm; and • Site of rectory farm demolished 19th-century farmstead. 	Modern
10	N/A	Geophysical survey (magnetometer) undertaken in 2013 at Wroughton Airfield by Archaeological Services WYAS.	N/A
N/A	1432155 1416416 1416417 1416439 1414566 1524420 MWI5257 MWI44963	Wroughton Airfield. Includes records for three pill boxes, a Royal Observer Corps monitoring post, a control tower.	Modern
10	MWI15285	Undated earthwork enclosure.	Undated
N/A	MWI15204 MWI16434	Find spots of Bronze Age implements, including two Bronze Age worked flints; Iron Age Brooch; Bronze Age arrow head.	Prehistoric
N/A	888040 888041 888043 MWI5223 MWI16457 MWI6459 MWI6498	Find spots of Roman coins.	Romano-British
N/A	MWI16516 MWI15252 MWI16532 MWI16543	<p>Early medieval and medieval find spots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Saxon pottery fragments; • Medieval pottery fragments; • Two fragments of medieval scratchware pottery; and • A quantity of medieval pottery fragments and animal bone. 	Early-Medieval and medieval
N/A	MWI15255	Find spots of two post-medieval coins.	Post-medieval

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660