

P25-253



Land East of Calne Road, Lyneham, Wiltshire

Archaeological and Built Heritage Desk-Based Assessment

for Ashflame Properties Limited

05/12/2025

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December 2025

Ver 2.1

PROJECT INFORMATION:

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COUNCIL	Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council

PROJECT TEAM:

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological and built heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) for a proposed residential development at Calne Road, Lyneham, Wiltshire (NGR 402063, 177818). The assessment was prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd on behalf of Ashflame Properties Limited to support a planning application for the construction of up to 200 dwellings on a 8.76-hectare site.

The study area includes a 1 km buffer zone around the proposed development area (PDA), within which the archaeological and historical context has been evaluated. The assessment considers the potential impact of the proposed development on known and potential heritage assets, in line with national and local planning policy.

No designated heritage assets are located within the PDA. Within the wider study area, 13 designated heritage assets have been identified, comprising one Scheduled Monument and 12 Grade II Listed Buildings. Additionally, 29 non-designated heritage assets are recorded in the study area, primarily associated with Medieval and Post-Medieval agricultural activity and the development of MOD Lyneham.

There are no known heritage assets within the PDA itself. However, limited evidence from aerial imagery suggests the possible presence of a sub-rectangular enclosure of unknown date. The archaeological potential of the PDA is assessed as negligible for Roman and earlier periods, and low for Early Medieval to Modern periods. Any remains, if present, are likely to be of low (local) to medium (regional) importance.

The western boundary of the PDA has been identified as 'important' under Criterion 5 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, due to its depiction on pre-1845 mapping. Any partial or total removal would require a formal hedgerow removal notice submitted to the local planning authority, and mitigation measures may be necessary if removal or alteration is proposed to facilitate site access.

The proposed development is not anticipated to impact the setting of any designated heritage assets. One non-designated asset, Freegrove Farm, may experience a limited adverse effect on the significance it derives from its setting. Its proximity to the PDA means that the contextual historic value provided by the wider rural landscape will be impacted to a limited degree.

In light of the findings, the local planning authority may request further archaeological investigation in the form of a non-intrusive geophysical survey. Depending on the results, additional evaluation such as trial trenching may be required. These investigations would help determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and inform appropriate mitigation strategies.

The assessment concludes that the proposed development is unlikely to conflict with heritage legislation or planning policy. Any potential impacts are considered to be of a scale that can be appropriately managed through a staged programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation.

1. Introduction

1.1. *Planning Background*

- 1.1.1. This report was commissioned by RSK Geosciences on behalf of Ashflame Properties Limited. It presents the results of an archaeological and built heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) to support an outline planning application (with all matters reserved except for access) for residential development (Use Class C3), provision of public open space, and associated infrastructure on land east of the A3102, Lyneham. (Grid Ref: 402063, 177818). (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2. This report describes and assesses the significance of known heritage assets and potential archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA). It provides an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on the significance of heritage assets, including upon the contribution made by their setting, in order to identify potential historic environment planning constraints.
- 1.1.3. This approach is consistent with the requirements of national and local planning policies on the historic environment in the planning process (see Part 3).

1.2. *Consultation*

- 1.2.1. To date no consultation has been undertaken with the archaeological advisor or conservation officer with regards to the heritage impact of the proposed development.

2. Proposed Development

- 2.1.1. The proposed development is for up to 200 residential dwellings on an 8.76-acre site, located on the southern edge of Lyneham village and adjacent to MOD Lyneham, in the parish of Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Wiltshire.
- 2.1.2. The development will involve extensive ground-breaking works for the installation of building foundations, utilities and services, access roads, as well as gardens and green space landscaping.

P25-253
 Lymington Residential
 Development
 DBA

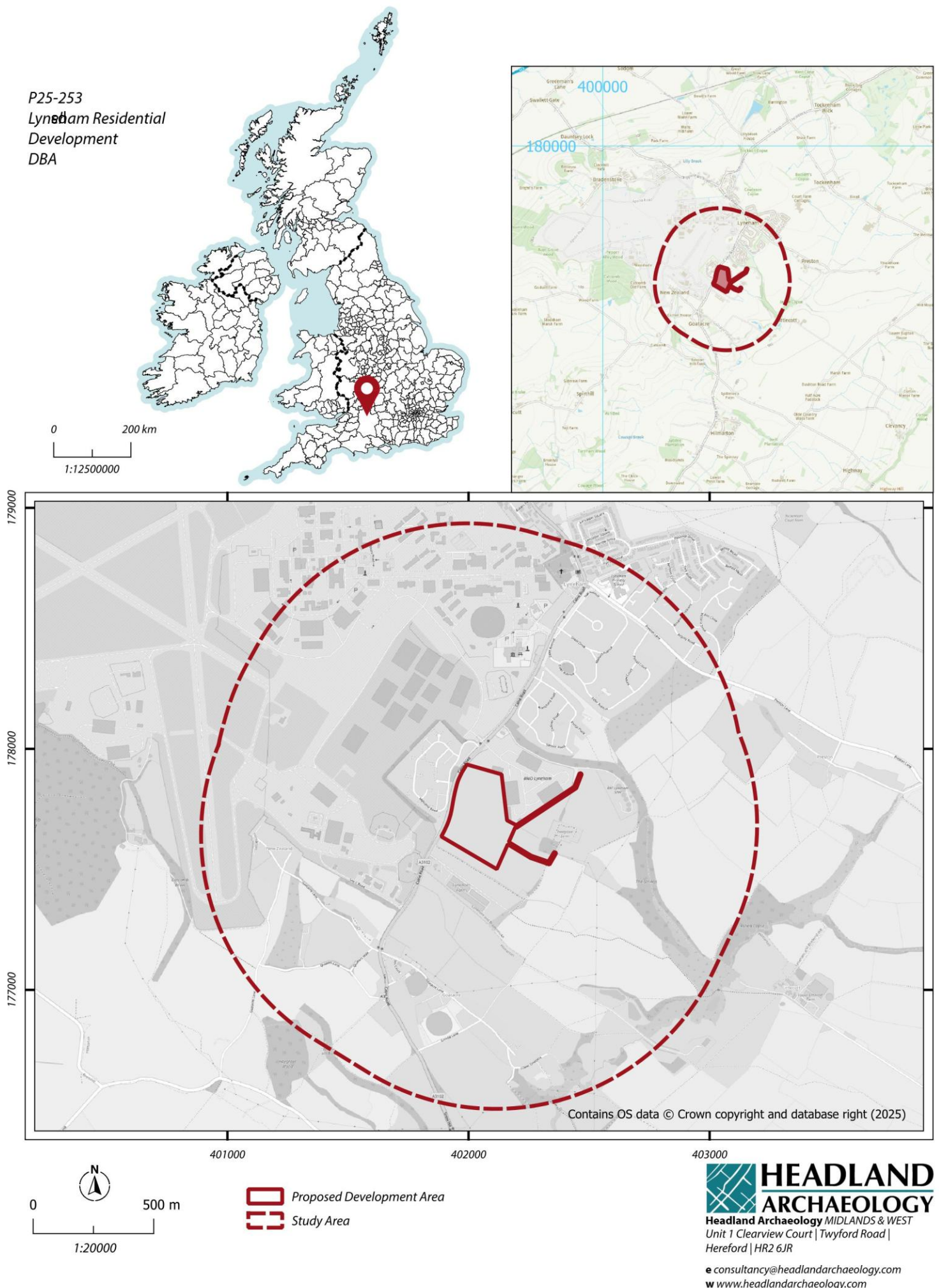


Figure 1: Site Location and Proposed Development Area (PDA)

2.2. Site Description

- 2.2.1. The PDA comprises two land parcels, under long term pasture, enclosed by low lying hedgerows, within the parish of Lyneham and Bradenstoke, comprising 8.76 ha.
- 2.2.2. The PDA is relatively level, between 121 to 123 m above Ordnance datum (AOD). It is bounded by MoD Lyneham to the north, agricultural fields; interspersed by copses (The Strings and Ashen Copse) to the east, the A43102 Carriageway (Calne Road) to the west, and an agricultural lane leading to Freegrove Farm to the south.
- 2.2.3. The closest settlement is Lyneham to the north-east, accessed via Calne Road.



Figure 2: General view of PDA, looking south from north

2.3. Geology and Geomorphology

- 2.3.1. The underlying solid geology is recorded by BGS as Stanford Formation - Limestone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 163.5 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period¹. Superficial deposits are recorded as limestone and/or marl.

¹ BGS, <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/viewed-01/11/2025>

3. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

3.1. Statutory Protection

3.1.1. The relevant heritage legislation in the context of the present site is described in the table below.

Table 1. Historic Environment Statutory Legislation

Legislation	Key Issues
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or near to a Scheduled Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent. Development must preserve in-situ protected archaeological remains and landscapes of acknowledged significance and protect their settings.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	The 1990 Act is amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 to introduce additional controls for works to listed buildings. Section 1 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to compile and maintain lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The principal statutory duty under the Act is to preserve the special character of these heritage assets, including their setting. Buildings on the list are assessed and graded against the criteria of architectural and historic interest. Buildings listed at Grade I are defined as those considered to be of exceptional interest. Grade II* listed buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest, while Grade II listed buildings are of special interest.² This may include the extent to which the exterior of a building contributes to the interest of a group of buildings, i.e. 'group value'. Relevant Statutory Tests of the Act are as follows: Section 66: General duty as respects listed buildings in exercise of planning functions. <i>(1) In considering whether to grant planning permission [or permission in principle] 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 features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.</i> <i>(2) Without prejudice to section 72, in the exercise of the powers of appropriation, disposal and development (including redevelopment) conferred by the provisions of sections 232, 233 and 235(1) of the principal Act, a local authority shall have regard to the desirability of preserving features of special architectural or historic interest, and in particular, listed buildings.</i> Section 72: General duty as respects conservation areas in exercise of planning functions. <i>(1) In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any [functions under or by virtue of] any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.</i>

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/>

Legislation	Key Issues
Hedgerows Regulations 1997	A local authority can prohibit the removal of an 'important' hedgerow. Hedgerows can be considered important on grounds of historical or archaeological value or association in line with following criteria: ○ Marks a pre-1850 parish boundary (Criterion 1) ○ Physically incorporates or is part of a known and listed heritage asset; where the hedgerow is a contemporaneous or related to part of that heritage asset (Criterion 2 & 3) ○ Marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor (Criterion 4) ○ Is part of a pre-Parliamentary Inclosure field system (i.e. pre-dates the Inclosure Act 1796 – it may be recorded as "old enclosure" on the tithe/enclosure map or may be recorded on an earlier estate map) (Criterion 5) A judicial review in 2002³ ruled that any hedgerow can be deemed of a pre-inclosure date if it is depicted on a map dating to 1845 or earlier, regardless of whether Inclosure Acts exist for that location.

3.2. National Planning Policy Framework

3.2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024⁴) confirms that the historic environment, including archaeological remains, constitutes a material consideration in planning decisions, requiring applicants to describe the significance of heritage assets potentially affected by the development, including any contribution made by their setting.

3.2.2. Heritage and conservation forms one of the core planning principles of NPPF:

(202) "[Planning should conserve heritage assets] in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life for this and future generations."

3.2.3. This report contributes to meeting the following Policies on the historic environment contained in the document (paragraph numbers in bold text)⁵.

(207) *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. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

(208) *Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.*

(212) *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 (and the more important the asset, the*

³ DEFRA 2002 Hedgerow Regulations 1997 - A Guide to the Law and Good Practice - Amendment May 2002

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec00f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2024.pdf

⁵ Government guidance on the application of the policies contained within the NPPF is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

(213) Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of: a) grade II Listed Buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; b) assets of the highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck sites, Registered Battlefields, grade I and II Listed Buildings, grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

(214) Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply: a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

(215) 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, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

(216) 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 directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

(217) Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

(220) Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 214 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 215, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

(221) Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies. Local Planning Policy

- 3.2.4. The NPPF does not define "substantial harm" or "less than substantial harm", however case law and planning appeal decisions have determined that substantial harm is a high threshold where the heritage significance of an asset is almost completely lost.

3.3. Local Planning Policy

- 3.3.1. This report has been producing in line with the Wiltshire Local Plan, which covers the period up to 2026 (adopted in 2015⁶). Policies relating to archaeology and heritage are contained in Core Policy 58.

Core Policy 58

Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment

- 3.3.2. *Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.*

⁶https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/372/Wiltshire-Core-Strategy-adopted-2015/pdf/Wiltshire_Core_Strategy_2015.pdf?m=1735555642237

- 3.3.3. *Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:*
- i. nationally significant archaeological remains*
 - ii. World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire*
 - iii. buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest*
 - iv. the special character or appearance of conservation areas*
 - v. historic parks and gardens*
 - vi. important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.*
- 3.3.4. *Distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping).*
- 3.3.5. *Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications.*

The report has been produced to comply with the Local Plan Policy Changes set out by the Local Plan Review

Table 3: Proposed changes to local planning policy

Wiltshire Core Strategy	Policy Review outcome and Wiltshire Local Plan (WLP) Position
Core Policy 58: Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment	Updated and Replaced by WLP Policy 98 Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping and WLP Policy 99 Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment. The policy aims to ensure Wiltshire's heritage is conserved and where possible enhanced to ensure the important contribution it makes to Wiltshire's environment and quality of life is maintained. The broad policy objective aligns with the National Planning Policy Framework which requires Plans to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. However, the policy is strengthened to provide support for the reuse of historic buildings and encouragement for the integration of the historic environment in new development and regeneration projects.

3.4. Guidance

- 3.4.1. This DBA has been prepared with reference to the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2014, revised 2017 and 2020⁷) and *Code of Conduct* (2014, revised 2022⁸), in addition to *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning GPA3, 2017⁹).
- 3.4.2. ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2017¹⁰) defines a DBA as '...a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an

⁷ https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf

⁸ <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Code%20of%20conduct%20revOct2022.pdf>

⁹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>

¹⁰ https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf

analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the Study Area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.'

- 3.4.3. GPA2¹¹, para 12.3 requires that a DBA 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.
- 3.4.4. It might achieve this via specific objectives such as establishing the known and potential archaeological remains at a site from a wide range of sources, noting the heritage significance of the respective remains, identifying likely development impacts and assessing what the risks are of there being heritage-related constraints on development of the site.
- 3.4.5. *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (Historic England Advice Note 12, 2019¹²) contains guidance on the assessment of heritage significance through consideration of the component heritage values of an asset, and further guidance on the assessment of significance as part of the planning application process is contained in *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning GPA2, 2015¹³).
- 3.4.6. This DBA has also been prepared with reference to IEMA, IHBC and ClfA's July 2021 publication *Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK*¹⁴. This document presents the principles of and suggests good practice for assessment of the impact of a development proposal on cultural heritage assets.

3.5. Professional Standards and Acknowledgements

- 3.5.1. Headland Archaeology (UK) is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), an audited status which confirms that all work is carried out in accordance with the highest standards of the profession.
- 3.5.2. Headland Archaeology (UK), as part of the RSK Group, is recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) under their 'Historic Environment Service Provider Recognition' scheme. This quality assurance standard acknowledges that RSK works to the conservation standards of the IHBC, the UK's lead body for built and historic environment practitioners and specialists.
- 3.5.3. Headland Archaeology (UK) operates a quality management system to help ensure all projects are managed in a professional and transparent manner, which enables it to qualify for ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 45001 (health and safety management) and ISO 14001 (environmental management).
- 3.5.4. Ordnance Survey data is produced under © Crown copyright and database rights Licence AC0000811465.
- 3.5.5. LiDAR data is reproduced under the Open Government Licence.

¹¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

¹² <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/>

¹³ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

¹⁴ https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/j30361_iema_principlesofchia_v8.pdf

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1. The aim of this DBA is to inform the determination of the planning application for development of the PDA by assessing its likely impact on the historic environment. This includes identifying all known heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed development, evaluating the potential for currently unknown heritage assets within the PDA, and providing a clear understanding of the historic environment to guide strategies for further investigation, mitigation, or management as appropriate.
- 4.1.2. The objectives are therefore to:
- Collate all available written, graphic, photographic and electronic information relevant to the PDA;
 - Describe the nature, extent, significance, and importance of the historic environment within the area potentially affected by the development, identifying any uncertainties in existing knowledge;
 - Determine the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to be present at the site;
 - Determine the likely impact of the proposed development;
 - Identify heritage assets beyond the PDA that may be affected by development within their setting, to describe their significance and the contribution made by their setting, and make an assessment of how this significance may be affected by the proposed development; and
 - Understand and identify the likelihood that the planning authority may require further investigations.

5. Methodology

5.1. Terminology – ‘Significance’ and ‘Importance’

- 5.1.1. Heritage assets are assessed in this report in terms of their significance and importance, following the requirement in NPPF paragraph 194 and HEAN12, and taking account of Historic England’s guidance in *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (GPA2¹⁵).
- 5.1.2. Impact assessment is concerned with effects on significance, the value or interest that applies to all heritage assets and relating to the ways in which the historic environment is valued both by specialists and the public.
- 5.1.3. The significance of a heritage asset will derive from factors including fabric, setting, rarity, completeness, historic and cultural associations, community, research and place-making potential. Significance is assessed in relation to the criteria in HEAN12¹⁶ (i.e. in *archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic* terms), which are intended primarily to inform decisions regarding heritage designations, but may also be applied more generally in identifying the ‘special characteristics’ of a heritage asset, which contribute to its significance and should be protected, conserved and enhanced according to the NPPF.
- 5.1.4. This use of the word ‘significance’, referring to the range of values or interest attached to an asset, should not be confused with the unrelated usage in EIA where the ‘significance of an effect’ reflects the weight that should be attached to it in a planning decision.
- 5.1.5. Relative importance of each identified heritage asset potentially affected by the proposed development has been determined to provide a framework for comparison between different heritage assets and to inform subsequent stages of archaeological assessment and the development of any appropriate mitigation which may be required (See Table 2 below).
- 5.1.6. For further terminology and definitions, see Glossary at Appendix 2.

5.2. Identification of Heritage Assets that may be Affected

Study Area

- 5.2.1. The Study Area for this assessment comprises a 1 km buffer surrounding the PDA, within which the archaeological and historical development of the site and surrounding area has been considered.

Data Sources

- 5.2.2. According to the ClfA DBA guidance, the archaeologist undertaking desk-based assessment should consider all appropriate sources of information and give an assessment of their relevance and reliability. All sources consulted should be listed in the report, whether or not they have been productive.
- 5.2.3. According to ClfA guidance the report should contain a full discussion of the implications of the choice of sources consulted in relation to the reliability of the conclusions reached.
- 5.2.4. The assessment has been based on a study of all readily available documentary sources, following the ClfA Standards and Guidance. The following sources of information were referred to:
 - Designation data from the National Heritage List for England, downloaded from the Historic England website in September 2025 and descriptions of designated heritage assets viewed on the Historic England website;
 - Historic England research records, viewed through the Heritage Gateway website¹⁷;
 - Archaeological records held by Wiltshire HER – acquired August 2025.
 - Historic Landscape Characterisation provided by Wiltshire County Council HER;

¹⁵ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

¹⁶ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/>

¹⁷ www.heritagegateway.org.uk

- Historic maps, plans and aerial image available online;
- Environment Agency Lidar data¹⁸;
- Geological data available online from the British Geological Survey¹⁹;
- Portable Antiquities Scheme data;
- Relevant internet sources including Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Websites²⁰
- Readily available published sources and unpublished archaeological reports.

- 5.2.5. Detailed descriptions of all heritage assets identified through this assessment are visible compiled in a gazetteer (Appendix 2).
- 5.2.6. Designated heritage assets are referenced in this report by National Heritage List for England list entry number. Non-designated assets are referenced by HER Preferred Reference or the National Record of the Historic Environment reference. Any newly discovered assets are assigned a number prefixed HA for Heritage Asset. A single asset number can refer to a group of related features, which may be recorded separately in the HER and other data sources.

Field Visit

- 5.2.7. A field visit was undertaken on 05/09/25, during which notes were made regarding site characteristics, any visible archaeology and geographical/geological features which may have a bearing on previous land use and archaeological survival, as well as those which may constrain subsequent archaeological investigation.
- 5.2.8. Records were made regarding extant archaeological features, such as earthworks or structural remains, any negative features, local topography and aspect, exposed geology, soils, watercourses, health and safety considerations, surface finds, and any other relevant information.

Historic Map Regression

- 5.2.9. The historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping sequence corresponding with the PDA was consulted to collect information on former land use and development throughout the later historic periods.
- 5.2.10. Parish tithe mapping and associated apportionment documents were unavailable for the PDA.

LiDAR

- 5.2.11. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between the aircraft and the ground. Up to 500,000 measurements per second are made of the ground, allowing highly detailed terrain models to be generated in which it is possible to identify shallow or otherwise imperceptible topographic features.
- 5.2.12. A Composite Digital Terrain Model (DTM) has been produced by removing objects from the Digital Surface Model (DSM) which is available at 1 m resolution for the Site. Composite data breaks down by spatial resolution i.e. 2 m, 1 m, 50 cm and 25 cm and is made up from a combination of the full EA dataset which has been merged and re-sampled to give the best possible coverage. This means that a 1 m resolution tile may contain decimated 50 cm data as well as native captured 1 m data. It is not possible using only the composite to know which part of a given tile was surveyed at which resolution.
- 5.2.13. Analysis was undertaken by a professional archaeologist using QGIS imaging and geo-referencing/mapping software.

5.3. Limitations of Baseline Data

Data Sources

- 5.3.1. Information held by public data sources is generally considered to be reliable; however, the following general points are noted:

¹⁸ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/>

¹⁹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

²⁰ [A Brief History - Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council - Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council, Lyneham, Chippenham](#)

- The tithe map was not available for consultation for this DBA;
- Documentary sources are rare before the Medieval period;
- Whilst it is accepted that historic documents may be biased depending on the author, with content seen through the lens of context, wherever such documentary sources are used in assessing archaeological potential professional judgment is used in their interpretation in that the functionality of the document is considered;
- HER records can be limited because opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery depend on the situation of commercial development and occasional research projects, rather than the result of a more structured research framework. A lack of data within the HER records does not necessarily equal an absence of archaeology;
- Where archaeological sites have been identified solely from aerial imagery without confirmation from archaeological excavation or supporting evidence in the form of find-spots for example, it is possible the interpretation may be revised in the light of further investigation.
- The significance of sites can be difficult to identify from HER records, depending on the accuracy and reliability of the original source; and
- There can often be a lack of dating evidence for archaeological sites.

Field Visit

- 5.3.2. Any archaeological field visit has inherent limitations, primarily because archaeological remains below ground level may have no surface indicators.

5.4. Impact Assessment

Assessment of Importance

- 5.4.1. The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of non-designated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (Table 2). Historic England guidance also refers to an asset's 'level of significance' (GPA2²¹, paragraph 10), which in this usage has the same meaning as importance.
- 5.4.2. Any feature which does not merit consideration in planning decisions due to its significance may be said to have negligible importance. It is the role of the professional judgements made by the assessor to identify any historic remains within the PDA that are considered to be of negligible importance, to justify no further works.

Table 2. Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Very High (International)	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance, that contribute to international research objectives
High (National)	Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, and undesignated heritage assets of equivalent importance that contribute to national research objectives. Also Conservation Areas, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens and Grade II Listed Buildings which have particular characteristics that merit a high level of importance.
Medium (National or Regional)	Conservation Areas, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, Grade II Listed Buildings except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, heritage assets on local lists and undesignated assets that contribute to Regional research objectives

²¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Low (Local)	Locally listed heritage assets, except where their particular characteristics merit a higher level of importance, undesignated heritage assets of Local importance, including assets that may already be partially damaged
Negligible	Identified historic remains of no importance in planning considerations, or heritage assets and findspots that have already been removed or destroyed (e.g. through excavation)
Unknown / Uncertain	Heritage assets for which a level of importance cannot be defined on current information

- 5.4.3. The importance of heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development is identified in the impact assessment and summarised in the Gazetteer (Appendix 2).

Potential for Unknown Heritage Assets

- 5.4.4. Archaeological features are often impossible to identify through desk-based assessment. The likelihood that significant undiscovered heritage assets may be present within the Proposed Development Area is referred to as *archaeological potential*. Overall levels of potential can be assigned to different landscape zones, while recognising that the archaeological potential of any zone will relate to particular historical periods and types of evidence. The following factors are considered in assessing archaeological potential:
- The distribution and character of known archaeological remains in the vicinity, based principally on an appraisal of data in the Wiltshire Council Environmental Service;
 - The history of archaeological fieldwork and research in the surrounding area, which may give an indication of the reliability and completeness of existing records;
 - Environmental factors such as geology, topography and soil quality, which would have influenced land-use in the past and can therefore be used to predict the distribution of archaeological remains;
 - Land-use factors affecting the survival of archaeological remains, such as ploughing or quarrying; and
 - Factors affecting the visibility of archaeological remains, which may relate to both environment and land-use, such as soils and geology (which may be more or less conducive to formation of cropmarks), arable cultivation (which has potential to show cropmarks and create surface artefact scatters), vegetation, which can conceal upstanding features, and superficial deposits such as peat and alluvium which can mask archaeological features.

Impact Assessment

- 5.4.5. Impact assessment considers the effects of the proposed development on the significance of the identified heritage assets, or its assessed archaeological potential, including both positive ('beneficial') and adverse ('harm') impacts.
- 5.4.6. The assessment of physical impacts considers the extent or degree of harm proposed relative to the importance of the physical remains.
- 5.4.7. The level of harm predicted is stated in accordance with the criteria contained in Paragraphs 200-203 of the NPPF (2021). However, it must be understood that there is no definite criteria or method for categorising harm, as this judgement ultimately rests within the authority of the decision-maker, in this case the local planning authority.

Setting Impacts

- 5.4.8. Visual impacts are most commonly encountered but other introduced environmental factors can affect setting such as noise, light or air quality. Impacts may be encountered at all stages in the life cycle of a development from construction to decommissioning but they are only likely to lead to substantial harm during the prolonged operational life of the development.

- 5.4.9. Where potential impacts on the settings of a heritage assets are identified, the assessment of significance includes 'assessing whether, how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s)', following Step 2 of the staged approach to setting recommended in Historic England's guidance in *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (GPA3).
- 5.4.10. Attributes of an asset's setting which can contribute to its significance are listed on page 9 of GPA3.
- 5.4.11. An assessment of the sensitivity of a heritage asset to change within its setting is a professional judgement, based on consideration of the asset's significance and the contribution its current and historical setting makes to that significance.
- 5.4.12. In accordance with GPA3, and through an assessment of significance in accordance with NPPF and HEAN 12, a screening exercise has been undertaken to identify the heritage assets that are likely to be affected by the proposed development and therefore require detailed assessment.
- 5.4.13. All assets in the study area should be considered ('screened') to identify whether they may be affected by the proposed development:
- sensitive to change within setting (designed vistas or sightlines between contemporary assets or natural focal points, intentionally constructed to be prominent or dominant etc.)
 - has a historically significant relationship with the PDA
- 5.4.14. The scope of this DBA is limited to identifying where no substantial setting impacts are anticipated requiring no further works, or where substantial setting impacts are anticipated, to identify which heritage assets are considered likely to be affected, and to make recommendations for proportionate further detailed assessments.

Minimising Harm

- 5.4.15. Where appropriate, measures for further assessment of, or mitigation of identified impacts are identified.

6. Results

6.1. Overview of the Historic Environment

- 6.1.1. The full list of known heritage assets is presented in the gazetteer (Appendix 2), and the location of each is shown on Figures 7 - 10.
- 6.1.2. The significance of these assets is discussed by period in the Statement of Significance and Importance section below.
- 6.1.3. No Scheduled Monuments have been identified within the 1 km study area. The closest recorded Scheduled Monument is *Medieval settlement immediately north-west of Upper Littlecott Farm* (ref. 1018420). This asset is located approximately 1.10 km from the south-west of the PDA and due to its proximity has been included within this assessment.
- 6.1.4. No listed building have been identified within the PDA.
- 6.1.5. In the 1 km study area there are 12 Listed Buildings, all of which are Grade II. These buildings are located within the villages of Goatacre (to the south of the PDA) and Lyneham (to the north). No further designated heritage assets have been identified within the study area.
- 6.1.6. This assessment has identified 29 non-designated heritage assets within the PDA and the 1 km study area dating from the Bronze Age to the Modern periods. The western boundary of the PDA qualifies as an 'important' hedgerow under Criterion 5 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, due to its depiction on pre-1845 mapping.
- 6.1.7. The archaeological potential of the PDA is assessed as negligible for Roman and earlier periods, and low for Early Medieval to Modern periods. While no heritage assets have been definitively identified within the PDA, limited evidence suggests the possible presence of a sub-rectangular enclosure of unknown date.

6.2. Historic Landscape Character (HLC)

- 6.2.1. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of the study area comprises 31 areas, which are listed in the table below. Broadly the study area is characterised as a rural landscape formed of villages; re-organised field systems; military installations, residences and an airfield; meadows; hamlets; and farmsteads.

6.3. Previous Investigations

- 6.3.1. Multiple archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the study area, relating to various developments associated with RAF Lyneham. These investigations included intrusive and non-intrusive phases of archaeological works that included a heritage statement, magnetometry survey and trial trench evaluation and a programme of archaeological excavation.
- 6.3.2. The results of works as recorded by the HER area as below;
 - Between 1991 and 1992 Wessex Archaeology carried out a study and compilation of all lower and Middle Palaeolithic discoveries for an area south of the rivers Severn and Thames, which included the PDA. Following the study three reports on the Palaeolithic archaeological resource were published.
 - In 2012, AMEC undertook a desk-based assessment ahead of the proposed redevelopment of the former RAF Lyneham site. The assessment determined that the site held both historic significance and archaeological interest. In addition, potential remains of the Medieval moated site of Lyneham Court were identified within the area, along with possible buried archaeological features indicated by cropmarks, including the remains of barrows.
 - In 2012, AMEC undertook a Magnetometry Survey across MOD Lyneham. Four areas of archaeological interest were identified. Anomalies were found to be consistent with Medieval enclosures and associated ridge and furrow cultivation, as well as possibly earlier features including groups of discrete pit-like features.
 - In 2013, Wessex Archaeology, were commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluations, over two areas within MOD Lyneham. The evaluation was split between two

development areas. In east of the site, the investigation focused on the footprints of the proposed new buildings and also targeted a Medieval moated site known to have existed before the airfield was built. No remaining evidence of this was found. Archaeological features were identified across this area, though no artefactual evidence was recovered. Investigation in the centre of the site revealed numerous features including ditches, a possible enclosure, a post hole and five small, undated pits. In addition, a sherd of abraded Romano-British or Medieval pottery was recovered from a small gully, which may have been part of the possible enclosure.

- In 2022, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record excavation of two parcels in the eastern part MOD Lyneham, approximately 500 m to the North of the PDA. The archaeological remains revealed in excavation Area 1 were limited and comprised two parallel ditches that may relate to part of a Late Iron Age or Roman field system or trackway. A group of three intercutting pits of late prehistoric date were exposed within excavation Area 3. The associated finds and environmental remains, although limited in quantity and condition, suggest the presence of a later prehistoric settlement within the vicinity. The pits had been truncated by a Post-Medieval boundary ditch.

6.4. Archaeological and Historical Narrative

Prehistoric Periods

- 6.4.1. Crop marks indicating the potential location of barrows were identified within the site of RAF Lyneham during archaeological desk-based investigation prior to the redevelopment of the site. In addition, during archaeological fieldwork for the same site, three intercutting pits (MWI79046) of a late prehistoric date were identified. These were found to contain limited associated finds and environmental remains.

Palaeolithic (800,000 – 8500 BCE)

- 6.4.2. Archaeology from this period is normally represented by chance findspots rather than more substantial remains of in-situ activity such as settlement sites or burials. Material from the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic is rare on a national scale.
- 6.4.1. No evidence of heritage assets relating to this period has been identified within the PDA or the study area.
- 6.4.2. For the county as a whole, the Wiltshire HER holds the point locations of 157 heritage assets dated to this period. These consist mainly of spot finds, most of which are flint hand tools. The closest recorded example was found approximately 6.7 km to the west of the PDA: a pointed hand axe (1521) discovered in 1943. The hand axe was found at a depth of approximately 8 m in gravels, about 550 m west of the River Avon. Assets dated to this period follow a general pattern of being located in the vicinity of a significant water course or in the undulating landscape of the North Wessex Downs. In contrast, the area in which the PDA is located is notably void of known heritage assets dated to this period.
- 6.4.3. There is assessed to be a negligible potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site.

Mesolithic (8500-4000 BCE)

- 6.4.4. Evidence of Mesolithic activity tends to be represented by lithic findspots, small flakes of flints known as microliths typified this period. Settlement sites are generally rare.
- 6.4.5. No evidence of heritage assets relating to this period has been identified within the PDA or the study area.
- 6.4.1. For the county as a whole, the Wiltshire HER holds the point locations of 468 heritage assets dating to this period. These consist mainly of spot finds, most of which are flint hand tools. The closest recorded example was found approximately 3.7 km to the east of the PDA: a bifacially worked [flint] core (5295). In general, the pattern of known heritage assets dated from this period follows a similar distribution to those dated from the Palaeolithic. With concentrations around significant water courses and in the North Wessex Downs. Similarly, the area around the PDA is void of heritage assets dated to this period.
- 6.4.2. There is assessed to be a negligible potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site.

Neolithic (4000-2200 BCE)

- 6.4.3. The Neolithic period was a gradual transition towards settlement, which facilitated a shift towards agriculture. The shifting relationship with the land stimulated the development and construction of monuments and new burial practices.
- 6.4.4. No evidence of heritage assets relating to this period has been identified within the PDA or the study area.
- 6.4.5. Approximately 8.7 km to the south-east of the PDA lies the *Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites* World Heritage Site. This internationally significant designation encompasses two areas of chalk downland that contain extensive complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial, funerary, and related monuments.
- 6.4.6. For the county as a whole, the Wiltshire HER includes 1,129 heritage assets dating to this period. These consist largely of spot finds, most commonly flint hand tools, as well as several settlement sites and ritual monuments. The closest recorded example lies approximately 2.9 km to the south-west of the PDA, which comprises a transverse arrowhead, two small circular scrapers, a small side-scraper, and a fabricator (12691). In general, heritage assets dated from this period are more evenly distributed than earlier periods. However, a denser number of heritage assets can be seen to follow the band chalk, which forms the North Wessex Downs. The PDA in contrast occupies an area where a lower density of heritage assets dated to this period is known.
- 6.4.7. There is assessed to be a negligible potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site.

Bronze Age (2200-700 BCE)

- 6.4.8. This period saw the intensification of agriculture, patterns of land holding, funeral practices and artefact manufacture and use.
- 6.4.9. One heritage asset relating to this period has been identified within the Study Area. The Wiltshire HER notes that a Bronze Age (Beaker), Goatacre (MW18974) pottery fragment was discovered approximately 530 m to the south of the PDA. The HER provides limited detail about the artefact beyond the entry's title, and no associated archaeological features or related finds are noted in the HER.
- 6.4.1. For the county as a whole, Wiltshire HER includes 1,054 heritage assets dating to this period. These consist largely of spot finds, as well as settlement sites and ritual monuments. The distribution of heritage assets dated from this period follows a similar pattern to that seen for the Neolithic. With a greater number of known heritage assets date to the period having been found in general. Though a clear contrast in the distribution density between the North Wessex Downs is seen with the lower density in the numbers of known heritage assets dated from this period in the vicinity of the PDA.
- 6.4.2. There is assessed to be a negligible potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site.

Iron Age (700 BCE- 43 CE)

- 6.4.1. During the Iron Age period, Britain saw a societal shift towards the formation of larger organised tribal communities, with significant development in agriculture, technology and the establishment of fortified settlements. During the early Iron Age, defensive settlements began to be constructed across the country, in the form of hillforts. The Durotriges tribe occupied what is now mostly Wiltshire, and records suggest the county was densely populated during this period.
- 6.4.2. No evidence of heritage assets related to this period has been identified within the PDA or the study area.
- 6.4.3. For the county as a whole, the Wiltshire HER includes 655 heritage assets dating to this period. These consist of spot finds, burial sites, and settlements. The closest recorded example lies approximately 6 km to the south-east of the PDA, which consists of a pottery sherd discovered during fieldwork. The distribution of heritage assets dated from this period follows a similar pattern to that seen for the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. With a greater number of known heritage assets dated to this period having been found in general, but with a clear contrast in density between the North Wessex Downs and a lower density in the numbers of known heritage assets dated from this period in the vicinity of the PDA.
- 6.4.4. There is assessed to be a negligible potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site.

Historic Periods

Roman/Romano-British Period (43CE- 410CE)

- 6.4.5. During the Roman period, Wiltshire remained predominantly rural, with its fertile river valleys (such as the Avon) well suited to agricultural production. The county lay between major Roman centres, including Silchester (Callewa Atrebatum) to the east and Bath (Aqua Sulis) to the west. The landscape was traversed by Roman roads, notably the Fosse Way, a principal highway linking Exeter and Lincoln that ran along Wiltshire's northern edge. Several roadside settlements developed along these routes, supporting trade and movement through the region. From the distribution of the known heritage assets for Wiltshire as a whole, the PDA appears to have occupied a hinterland, not serviced by the road network. The closest known site of Roman activity to the PDA is approximately 2.3 km to the north-east, The Romano-British villa complex 330m north-west of Queen Court Farm (1017015) Scheduled Monument.
- 6.4.6. No evidence of heritage assets dated to this period has been identified in the PDA.
- 6.4.7. Two spot-finds (Romano-British Coin, Lyneham (MWI8975) and Romano-British Coins, Goatacre (MWI8977)) dating to this period are recorded in the HER within the study area. Only limited details are provided in their respective HER entries. These artefacts are likely to represent items of incidental loss.
- 6.4.8. There is assessed to be a negligible potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site.

Early Medieval Period (410-1066 CE)

- 6.4.9. The place-name Lyneham derives from Old English, with *lin* meaning "flax" and *ham* meaning "homestead"; thus, Lyneham translates as "homestead where flax is grown." Following the withdrawal of the Roman Empire from Britain in c. 410 CE, Roman settlements and infrastructure in the area declined. This period was marked by widespread changes, including significant migration across Britain, particularly the settlement of Anglo-Saxons in the Thames Valley and the chalklands of southern Britain. By the latter part of this period, the area corresponding to the modern county of Wiltshire had become part of the Kingdom of Wessex. The archaeological record for this period is generally limited.
- 6.4.10. No evidence of heritage assets relating to this period has been identified within the PDA or the study area.
- 6.4.11. There is no direct entry for Lyneham in the Domesday Book (1086); however, it is thought to have been included within the record for Stoeche (modern Bradenstoke)²². The modern village of Bradenstoke lies approximately 2 km north-east of the PDA. The entry notes that the lord prior to the Norman Conquest was Strami (further details are provided in the Medieval period section below). The Domesday entry indicates that the PDA would have been part of a rural peripheral landscape, with open and marshy land as well as meadowland.
- 6.4.12. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. Although settlements in the area surrounding the PDA are recorded in the Domesday Book, no specific reference is made to the PDA, and no further documentary or archaeological evidence has been identified to suggest activity at this location during the period. Any potential remains are likely to be associated with subsistence agricultural activity or may occur as isolated spot finds related to the incidental loss of artefacts.

Medieval Period (1066CE- 1500CE)

- 6.4.13. The Medieval period in England is generally considered to begin with the Norman conquest in 1066 and to end with the Reformation of the Church in the early 16th century. This period saw dramatic and widespread changes in material culture and societal structure. Archaeological evidence from this period includes structures such as castles and churches, many of which are still visible today, as well as numerous artefactual and documentary resources. During this period, many of the country's market towns were established. Although many field layouts were altered by the enclosure acts of the 18th and 19th centuries, it is still possible in some areas to identify traces of Medieval layouts through field names and early maps.

²² <https://opendomesday.org/>

- 6.4.14. The Domesday Book records Bradenstoke (Stoche) as being within the hundred of Kingsbridge, in the county of Wiltshire. The settlement comprised 8 villain (freemen), 16 smallholders, 16 cotters, and 2 slaves, giving an estimated population of around 200 people. The entry also notes the presence of plough teams, meadows, pasture, woodland, and a mill, indicating a mixed agricultural economy.
- 6.4.15. No evidence of heritage assets dating to this period has been identified within the PDA. Three Medieval settlements are known to have been present within the 1 km study area: the Medieval core of Lyneham (SU07NW455), located approximately 830 m north-east of the PDA; Goatacre (SU07NW463), approximately 500 m south-west of the PDA; and Freegrove Farm (SU07NW461), approximately 130 m east of the PDA. In addition, the Medieval settlement immediately north-west of Upper Littlecott Farm (1018420) scheduled monument lies approximately 40 m beyond the eastern edge of the 1 km study area. On the northern limit of the 1 km study area was the site of Lyneham Court, the remains of which now lie beneath the former RAF Lyneham hangar area.
- 6.4.16. There is no direct evidence in the historical record to indicate how the land within the PDA was used during the Medieval period; however, given its proximity to Freegrove Farm, it is likely that the land was utilised for agricultural purposes during this time.
- 6.4.17. A church was first recorded in Lyneham in 1182, as belonging to Bradenstoke Priory, located approximately 2.5 km north-east of the PDA. In the modern village of Lyneham stands the Church of St Michael and All Angels (1022671), a Grade II Listed Building dating from the 14th century, with restoration work carried out on the chancel and nave roof between 1862 and 1865. The church is situated approximately 875 m north of the PDA.
- 6.4.18. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. Available archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that the PDA occupied an agricultural hinterland throughout this period. Any hitherto unknown heritage assets are likely to be associated with subsistence agricultural activity or may occur as isolated spot finds related to the incidental loss of artefacts.

Post-Medieval Period (1500-1900CE)

- 6.4.19. This period spans from the Reformation in the early 16th century to the end of the Victorian period (1901). It was marked by significant material and societal changes, including the decline of the feudal system, the proliferation of literacy, the rise of industrialisation, and the growth of urban settlements. Consequently, the archaeological record for this period is extensive and diverse.
- 6.4.20. No evidence of heritage assets relating to this period has been identified within the PDA.
- 6.4.21. Sheet 34 of the One Inch Old Ordnance Survey mapping series (Figure 3), dated to 1828, shows that an orchard extended from Freegrove Farm into the eastern part of the PDA. The remains of the orchard's boundaries may be preserved below ground.
- 6.4.22. The first edition OS map (Figure 4) shows that by 1885 the PDA formed part of a large field extending to the north and east. The orchard depicted on the earlier One Inch Old Series map is not present on the 1885 map.
- 6.4.23. In the study area, and number of known heritage assets date from this period, including eleven Grade II Listed Buildings. These are concentrated in the village of Lyneham, in the north-east of the 1 km study area, and in the village of Goatacre, in the south-west of the 1 km study area. These listed buildings largely comprise residential dwellings, farm buildings, as well as two tombs in the ground of the Church of St Michael and All Angels, and two milestones. On the periphery of Goatacre village, approximately 800 m to the south-west of the PDA, is Corton House, a Grade II Listed Building, built of rubble stone in 1850 for the Poynder estate.
- 6.4.24. Within the study area, 12 non-designated heritage assets dating to this period have been identified. These comprise seven farmsteads, all located in the southern part of the study area; a Quaker burial (SU07NW527) ground approximately 840 m south of the PDA; three ditches within the site of Lyneham Airfield; and an 18th-century pottery sherd (SU07NW525) discovered on the northern edge of the study area.
- 6.4.25. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. Available archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that the PDA remained an agricultural hinterland throughout this period. Any hitherto unknown heritage assets are likely to be

associated with agricultural activity or may occur as isolated spot finds related to the incidental loss of artefacts.



Figure 4: Location of PDA marked on One Inch Old Series (England and Wales), Sheet 34.



Figure 3: First Edition OS with PDA overlay.

- 6.4.26. Modern (1900CE – present)
- 6.4.27. In the modern period, the PDA has remained largely unchanged since its depiction on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. However, the larger field of which it originally formed part was subdivided and developed during the second half of the 20th century. Today, the northern boundary of the PDA is bound by the headquarters of the 5 Force Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers headquarters, the north-western boundary by the A3102 and, southern and eastern boundaries by fields.
- 6.4.28. Mapping and aerial imagery indicate that the southern part of the 1 km study area, to the south of the PDA, has remained largely rural to date. In contrast, the northern part of the study area has undergone significant development, including the establishment of MOD Lyneham (formerly RAF Lyneham) in the mid-20th century, as well as the expansion of Lyneham village.
- 6.4.29. No heritage assets dated to this period have been identified within the PDA. In the wider study area, five non-designated heritage assets have been identified, for are associated with RAF Lyneham. The other comprise a Second World War Stanton Shelter (MW178023), approximately 540 m to the south-east of the PDA.
- 6.4.30. Today, MOD Lyneham is the Defence School of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering. The site ceased being operated by the RAF in 2012 and is now known as MOD Lyneham.

- 6.4.31. The airfield originated prior to World War Two, towards the end of the 1930s, initially intended to be an Aircraft Storage Unit. During the Second World War, the airfield served several roles including as a training centre, as well as an aircraft transport and maintenance hub. On the 19th September 1945, a Luftwaffe aircraft attacked the airfield²³, dropping an incendiary and two high-explosive bombs, killing five civilian workmen.
- 6.4.32. Following 1945, the site continued to be developed and became a principal RAF transport hub.
- 6.4.33. In 2012, the site was taken over by the MOD, which in 2015 carried out a major redevelopment of the site. Before the redevelopment works, an archaeological DBA and geophysical survey were carried out. From these assessments, it was concluded that before the military development of the site, the land was primarily used for agricultural activity during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. However, the development of RAF Lyneham in the late 1930s and 1940s resulted in the removal of some heritage assets, principally Lyneham Court (a Medieval moated site). The assessment also identified, through field name evidence and early aerial photos, the possible presence of prehistoric barrows.
- 6.4.34. Aerial images from 2015 (Figure 5) show a backfilled trench running through the PDA on a north-west to south-east alignment, from the A3102 on the PDA's south-western boundary to the 5 Force Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers headquarters on the PDA's north-eastern boundary. Likely the result of the installation of a service across the PDA as part of the redevelopment works.



Figure 5: Aerial image showing the location of a backfilled trench through the PDA. Google Earth.

- 6.4.35. OS mapping shows that, in the early part of the 20th century, the large field seen on the first edition OS map, in the location of the PDA, was split to form two smaller fields. A division that is all so visible on a mid-19th-century aerial image (Figure 6).
- 6.4.36. There is assessed to be a low potential for previously unknown remains of this period to be encountered at the site. Available archaeological and documentary evidence shows that the PDA continued to be utilised for agricultural activity into this period. Any hitherto unknown heritage assets are likely to be associated with agricultural activity or may occur as isolated spot finds related to the incidental loss of artefacts. Given the proximity of the PDA to MOD Lyneham, there is a possibility that artefacts associated with the airfield may be present within the site. The location suggests that the field could have been utilised in an unrecorded capacity during the Second World War. Furthermore, there remains a limited potential for

²³ [Brief History of RAF Lyneham - Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council, Lyneham, Chippenham](#)

unexploded ordnance (UXO) or other material to have been deposited as a result of wartime activities at the airfield or the documented attack on the site in 1940.



Figure 6: Aerial Image (July 1950) showing the historic division of the field of which the PDA was part.

6.5. Undated heritage assets

- 6.5.1. A sub-rectangular crop mark of unknown origin is visible on a satellite image dated to 1999 (Figure 7). The feature may indicate the presence of a historic enclosure, or equally of modern agricultural activity. No supporting evidence for this feature has been identified.



Figure 7: Aerial image dated to 1999 which depicts a possible historic enclosure. Google Earth.

6.6. Disturbance

- 6.6.1. The only conclusive evidence for ground disturbance within the PDA, likely to have resulted in the truncation of previously unknown archaeological features, is visible in an aerial photograph dated 2015 (Figure 5) and corroborated by LiDAR imagery. These sources show a backfilled trench extending across the PDA on a north-west to south-east alignment, running from the A3102 along the south-western boundary to the 5 Force Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers headquarters on the north-eastern boundary. This disturbance is most likely associated with the installation of a service trench during redevelopment works.

6.7. Important Hedgerows

Parish Boundaries

- 6.7.1. No historical or modern parish boundaries pass through or bound the site. No 'important' hedgerows' in accordance with Criterion 1 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations will be impacted by the proposed development.

Heritage Assets

- 6.7.2. There are no known designated or non-designated heritage assets located within or bounding the site. No 'important' hedgerows' in accordance with Criteria 2 and 3 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations will be impacted by the proposed development.

Estate Boundaries

- 6.7.3. No boundaries have been identified as estate boundaries which would clarify as 'important' under Criterion 4 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations.

Pre-Inclosure Field Boundaries

- 6.7.4. One field boundary (the western boundary of the PDA) is shown on the One Inch Old Series (England and Wales), Sheet 34 map (Figure 3). As this boundary predates 1845 it qualifies for protection under Criterion 5 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations.

6.8. Palaeoenvironmental potential

- 6.8.1. A borehole²⁴ excavated approximately 95 m southwest of the PDA indicates that the stratigraphy in the immediate vicinity of the PDA consists of 0.3–0.4 m of topsoil overlying limestone bedrock. The bedrock formed between 163.5 and 157.3 million years ago. The underlying limestone geology is not expected to contain palaeoenvironmental deposits.

²⁴ <https://api.bgs.ac.uk/sobi-scans/v1/borehole/scans/items/399507>

7. Statement of Significance and Importance

7.1. *Known and Potential Heritage Assets within the PDA*

Known Heritage Assets

- 7.1.1. This assessment has identified no known heritage assets within the PDA boundary. However, the western boundary of the PDA has been found to qualify for protection under Criterion 5 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations.

Archaeological Potential

- 7.1.2. Following a review of known heritage assets within the PDA and 1 km study area, it is concluded that the archaeological potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets of Roman date and earlier is negligible. Any remains from these periods are likely to comprise isolated artefactual finds indicative of transient or low-intensity activity, rather than substantial archaeological deposits. Should such material be present, it would be of Low (Local) to, at most, Medium (Regional) importance.
- 7.1.3. In addition, this assessment has found there to be a low potential for archaeological features to be present, dated from the Early Medieval, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. The Domesday Book indicates the presence of settlement in the local area before the Norman conquest (in 1066). With more assured evidence of substance and agricultural activity close to the PDA from the Medieval period onwards. There is no indication, based on the results of this assessment, that agricultural activity before the Post-Medieval period extended into the PDA. Further to this, this assessment has identified there to be a low potential for archaeological features to be present related to agricultural activity in the modern period. Archaeological features dated to these periods are likely to be subsistence and agricultural activities in the form of land divisions (post-holes) and are of negligible to Low (Local) Importance.
- 7.1.4. This assessment has identified limited evidence for a possible sub-rectangular enclosure, measuring approximately 37 m by 38 m, visible on a 1999 satellite image (Figure 7). A number of additional satellite images and historic aerial photographs, as well as LiDAR data, have been reviewed as part of this assessment. These sources do not corroborate the presence of this feature within the PDA. There is a strong possibility that the feature is related to modern agricultural activity. However, the possibility remains that the feature may indicate an enclosure of unknown date. Should an enclosure be present and dated to the Medieval–Modern periods, it is likely to be of Low (Local) importance; if it is of an earlier date, it could be considered up to Medium (Regional) importance.

7.2. *Setting of Heritage Assets in the Study Area*

- 7.2.1. No heritage assets have been identified within the PDA.

Scheduled Monument

- 7.2.2. Within the wider 1 km study area, no Scheduled Monument is present. However, due to its proximity to the study area boundary, the Medieval Settlement Immediately North-West of Upper Littlecott Farm (1018420) has been included in the baseline for this assessment. The Scheduled Monument is of High (National) Importance. Its significance derives from its evidential value, reflecting its archaeological potential, and from its historic value, informed by references in historic documentary records. The rural landscape which surrounds the Scheduled Monument at present reflects a late 18th and 19th-century field system, post-enclosure. The modern rural landscape contributes in a limited way to the monument's significance through a maintained ability to appreciate an agricultural landscape. However, appreciation of the wider landscape does not extend to the PDA, which is naturally separated from the site of the scheduled monument by Cowage Brook, which flows adjacent to the western edge of the Scheduled Monument. In addition mature trees along the line of the brook screen the PDA from the site of the scheduled monument.

Listed Buildings

- 7.2.3. Within the 1 km study area there are 12 Grade II listed buildings. All are considered to be of Medium (Regional) Importance. All date from the Post-Medieval period with the exception of the Church of St Michael and All Angels and RAF Chapel (1022671) that dates to the Medieval period. Within the church's yard are two listed chest tombs, dating to the Post-Medieval period (1022672 and 1200073). The setting of which are limited to the churchyard.
- 7.2.4. The Church of St Michael and All Angels and RAF Chapel (1022671) derives its significance primarily from its architectural value as a well-preserved Anglican parish church and chapel dating from the 14th century. In addition, the church holds considerable historical interest for its dual role as both the local parish church and the Station Church for RAF Lyneham. Several artefacts within the church illustrate this association and reflect its long-standing relationship with the airbase. The church's immediate setting within the village of Lyneham contributes to its significance, particularly through the visual and functional relationship between the building and the community. Beyond its immediate surroundings, the church is well screened by residential buildings and mature trees within the churchyard and the wider village. Consequently, the setting of the church is not experienced from the PDA, nor is the PDA visible from the church.
- 7.2.5. Of the remaining Listed Buildings, six comprise residential properties in the form of farmhouses (and associated agricultural buildings), cottages, and an estate house. These buildings derive their significance primarily from their architectural interest, as well as their historic value as maintained and living elements of the historic environment. Five of these Listed Buildings are concentrated within the village of Goatacre, located to the south of the PDA.
- 7.2.6. The setting that contributes to their significance is largely confined to the village itself, reflecting a historic association with the settlement's appearance and development during the late Post-Medieval period. The surrounding rural landscape makes a limited contribution to their significance, providing contextual value through its reinforcement of the wider historic character. At a distance of over 550 m from the nearest Listed Building, the PDA lies outside their immediate rural setting. Furthermore, the PDA is screened from the village of Goatacre by substantial modern farm buildings located to its south.
- 7.2.7. Colton House (1022494), located on the outskirts of Goatacre, is an estate house. The setting of the building is limited to its immediate curtilage, which is screened from public view by mature trees.
- 7.2.8. In addition two listed milestones (1363681 and 1200073) and a mount block (1300924) are present within the 1 km study area. The historical significance that derives from their settings comprise their position adjacent to the A3102 road which provides context to the milestones as way markers and the mounting block as part of historic transport infrastructure.

Non-designated heritage Assets

- 7.2.9. Of the non-designated heritage assets, only Freegrove Farm (MW18995 and SU07NW461) has been determined to have a setting that includes the PDA. The farmstead, which has Medieval origins, is considered to be of Low (Local) Importance. It derives significance from its evidential value relating to archaeological potential associated with Medieval and Post-Medieval farming practices, as well as from its historical interest through the continuity of agricultural activity on the site from the Medieval period onwards. The surrounding farmland, which due to its proximity includes the PDA, contributes to the asset's significance by illustrating its historic function and providing relevant contextual understanding.

8. Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Development

8.1. *Archaeological Remains*

- 8.1.1. The assessment presented in this report has considered the evidence for the known archaeological and heritage resource within and surrounding the application site in order to establish the potential constraints and implications for the construction of up to 200 dwelling residential development on the 8.76 ha site.
- 8.1.2. Direct impacts upon known or previously unknown buried archaeological remains have the potential to occur during development as a result of intrusive groundworks causing truncation, fragmentation or complete removal. Activities which may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains include groundbreaking works for the creation of foundations, the installation of utilities and services, and the construction of internal access roads.
- 8.1.3. No heritage assets have been definitively identified within the PDA that would be affected by the proposed development. However, this assessment has found limited evidence to indicate the possible presence of a sub-rectangular enclosure of unknown date. Should an enclosure be present, construction of the proposed development has the potential to result in its partial or total removal.
- 8.1.4. The western boundary of the PDA has been found to qualify for protection under Criterion 5 of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. The boundary has potential to be impacted by the creation of a new access to the PDA.
- 8.1.5. This assessment identifies a negligible potential for below-ground archaeological remains dating from the Roman period and earlier to be present within the PDA. Any unknown heritage assets of these periods are anticipated to comprise isolated spot finds, indicative of transient or low-intensity activity and be of Low (Local) to, at most, Medium (Regional) importance
- 8.1.6. There is considered to be a low potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets dating from the Early Medieval period and later. Any such remains, if present, are anticipated to be associated with agricultural activity or in the modern period to MOD Lyneham, of negligible to Low (Local) Importance.

8.2. *Setting Effects*

- 8.2.1. Impacts upon the setting of heritage assets in the area surrounding the site may occur during the construction and operation of the development as a result of visual or other sensory changes (such as noise, light and movement) within their settings, such that our ability to appreciate the significance of the asset as adversely (or beneficially) affected.
- 8.2.2. This assessment has identified no designated heritage assets whose setting includes the PDA and, therefore, the proposed development is not anticipated to impact on the setting of any designated heritage assets.
- 8.2.3. One non-designated heritage asset has been determined to have a wider setting that includes the PDA and is likely to be adversely affected by the proposed development.
- 8.2.4. It is anticipated that the significance derived from the setting of Freegrove Farm (MWI66904), a 19th-century farmstead with Medieval origins (SU07NW461), would be adversely affected to a limited degree by the proposed development. Freegrove Farm is located within a pocket of large, enclosed fields, bounded by Lyneham village to the north and Goatacre village to the south and MOD Lyneham to the west. The farmstead's immediate rural setting contributes to its historic interest by preserving the agricultural context to which it is related. The surrounding rural landscape has already been partially encroached upon by the development of MOD Lyneham, an encroachment which will be furthered by the proposed development.
- 8.2.5. The farmstead is considered to be of Low (Local) Importance. Accordingly, the anticipated adverse effect is unlikely to be of sufficient magnitude to warrant refusal of consent for the proposed development. While the proposal would result in some further encroachment, it would not wholly remove the rural character of the surroundings. The remaining agricultural landscape is expected to continue making a contextual contribution to the heritage asset's significance.

8.3. *Historic Landscape Character*

- 8.3.1. The development proposal is for a residential scheme of 200 dwellings, located alongside existing areas of settlement. The current Historic Landscape Character (HLC) of the PDA is defined by fields and enclosed land; however, the wider character of the surrounding area is that of a residential village setting. The proposed development would alter the immediate HLC of the PDA through the introduction of built form, but this change would align with the established wider HLC. Consequently, the additional development is considered capable of being absorbed within the broader landscape context without resulting in a significant alteration to the overall character of the area.

9. Discussion of Heritage Risk

- 9.1.1. The western boundary of the PDA has been identified as qualifying for protection under Criterion 5 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Consequently, any removal of a portion of this boundary to widen or create a new access into the field is likely to require formal consent from the local planning authority. Such consent would also specify any necessary mitigation measures to offset the impact on the protected hedge.

9.2. *Evaluation Investigations*

- 9.2.1. In light of the specific circumstances of this site (including the possible presence of an undated enclosure) and the potential development impacts described in Section 8, it is considered likely that the LPA's archaeological advisor may request a targeted programme of archaeological evaluation to inform the LPA's consideration of the application. The primary purpose of any such evaluation would be to determine the presence or absence of the potential archaeological enclosure identified from satellite imagery within the PDA. Any evaluation is likely to adopt a staged approach, beginning with a non-intrusive geophysical survey. The results of this survey would then be used to assess whether intrusive investigation, in the form of an archaeological trial trench evaluation, may be required. It is anticipated that a non-intrusive survey would be requested prior to determination of the application, with any necessary intrusive investigation potentially undertaken following determination, depending on the survey findings.

9.3. *Mitigation Measures*

- 9.3.1. Depending on the results of any evaluation investigations, no further mitigation may be necessary. In the event that archaeological remains are identified, a programme of archaeological recording may be required as mitigation. Any such mitigation would likely be secured through a condition of consent and defined in a Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological mitigation may take one or more of the following forms:
- Adjustment of design to avoid impacts (typically reserved for remains of the highest importance), securing preservation *in situ*;
 - Archaeological excavation, recording, and reporting;
 - Watching brief during groundworks, with subsequent reporting.

10. Conclusions

- 10.1.1. It is intended that this report contains sufficient objective data to enable an informed and reasonable decision to be made regarding the potential heritage constraints to the proposed development and whether further investigation and mitigation is required.
- 10.1.2. The DBA identified no designated heritage assets within the PDA but 13 in the 1 km study area, comprising one Scheduled Monument and 12 grade II Listed Buildings.
- 10.1.3. The assessment identified no definitive non-designated heritage assets in the PDA; however, limited evidence was identified to indicate the possible presence of a sub-rectangular enclosure within the PDA. In addition, the western boundary of the PDA has been identified as likely to require consent prior any removal to widen or create a new access to the PDA.
- 10.1.4. In the wider study area, 27 non-designated heritage assets are present. Largely associated with the development of Lyneham and Goatacre village, Medieval and Post-Medieval agricultural activity, and with MOD Lyneham.
- 10.1.5. There is considered to be a negligible potential for the presence of previously unknown archaeological remains from the Roman period and earlier, and a low potential for remains dated from the Early Medieval period and later.
- 10.1.6. The likely impacts from the scheme are potential partial or total removal of hitherto unknown heritage assets, including the possible undated enclosure. As well as a limited impact on the wider setting of Freegrove non-designated farmstead.
- 10.1.7. Archaeological constraints to the scheme are most likely to take the form of a targeted programme of archaeological evaluation, initially through non-intrusive geophysical survey.
- 10.1.8. It is not anticipated that proposals to develop the site should represent a conflict with legislation or national or local planning policies relating to the historic environment. The likely development impacts are considered to be of a level of significance that they could be adequately mitigated through a staged programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation.
- 10.1.9. Any further investigations required by the LPA archaeological advisor should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeological organisation in accordance with a written specification agreed in advance with the Local Planning Authority.

11. GLOSSARY

Definitions

Term	Definition
Curator	Archaeological advisor working to a statutory organisation controlling consents, such as the local planning authority, national heritage body or other government body.
Designated Heritage Asset	Assets registered on the National Heritage List for England. These may be protected by primary legislation (e.g. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments) or have a non-statutory designation (e.g. World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, registered parks and gardens, designated wrecks)
Heritage Asset NPPF (Annex 2)	"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." Some heritage assets are designated as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, or locally designated through policies in the Local Plan. Undesignated assets may be recorded in Historic Environment Records, while many other assets are currently unrecorded. Information contained in HERs and SMRs is not definitive, since they may include features which, for instance, have been entirely removed, or are of uncertain location, dubious identification, or negligible importance. The identification of undesignated heritage assets is therefore to some extent a matter of professional judgement. Both discrete features, and extensive landscapes defined by a specific historic event, process or theme, can be defined as heritage assets; and assets may overlap or be nested within one another.
Listed Building	A building or structure which is considered to be of 'special architectural or historic interest'
Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Assets identified by the local planning authority or national registers for the historic environment which have no formal designation but are considered to have a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. These can include locally listed buildings, information on sites held by the relevant Historic Environment Record and National Record of the Historic Environment
Archaeological Site (also 'Monuments')	Heritage assets which may consist of surface and/or sub-surface remains, features, deposits and/or material relating to past human activity with a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
Significance: NPPF	"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. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting"

Term	Definition
Significance: GAPN 2	"The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its archaeological, architectural, historic, and artistic interest. A variety of terms are used in designation criteria (for example, outstanding universal value for World Heritage Sites, national importance for scheduled monuments and special interest for listed buildings and conservation areas), but all of these refer to a heritage asset's significance."
Significance: NPPF (PPG para 6) and Historic England guidance Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (2019, HEAN 12)	Cultural values in the historic environment that people want to enjoy and sustain for the benefit of present and future generations. Archaeological - There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point; Architectural - These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types; Artistic - Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture; Historic - An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.
Setting: NPPF	"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 the significance or may be neutral" (an extended consideration of Setting is contained in GAPN 3)

Terms

Term	Definition
Artefact	An item of archaeological interest
Baseline	'Baseline conditions' are the environmental conditions in existence just before the occurrence of an impact – i.e. they are the conditions that would be affected.
Bronze Age	The period of human activity between 2,500 BCE and 700 BCE
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A plan prepared by a contractor before the start of construction work, detailing 'environmental aspects' that may be affected by the construction work and management methods to prevent any such effects. The CEMP would include methods and site management practices to be applied to prevent generation of nuisance dust, accidental pollution events and a range of other potential sources of accidental damage to the environment, and response and reporting procedures to minimise the damage in the event of a pollution incident.

Term	Definition
Construction activity	Vegetation removal, topsoil stripping, temporary storage of materials, ground excavation and remodelling, bare earth, movement of construction vehicles and tall features such as cranes and other construction plant.
Desk study	A collation and review of relevant existing information available from published, archival or online sources, including for instance geological and hydrogeological mapping, historical maps, environmental records etc., allowing an assessment of risks to the human and environmental receptors to be undertaken.
Earthworks	The moving of soil or rock to reconfigure the topography of a site.
Enclosure	A single or collection of boundaries surrounding a parcel of land. e.g.: hedgerows, walls, ditches, earth banks, fences etc.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An assessment of certain types of major project of the significant effects that the project could have on the environment. The applicant is required to carry out the assessment by law, in this case under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 2017.
Environmental Statement (ES)	The report on the results of the EIA.
Fieldwalking survey	Method of systematic non-intrusive survey involving walking across a plough field along transects to collect archaeological artefacts.
Geology	Geology is the study of solid earth, the material of which it is composed (principally rocks) and the processes by which they evolve.
Geophysical survey	Method of non-intrusive investigation involving the use of magnetometers to identify fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field which might indicate the presence of archaeological remains. Burnt remains and metals are best identified through this method of survey.
Heritage asset	An item of heritage interest, for example an historic building or an archaeological find.
Historic Environment Records (HER)	A database maintained by individual counties or local authorities, containing records of archaeological sites, historic buildings and other aspects.
Historic landscape character types (HLCT)	Historic landscape character types are distinctive and repeated combinations of components defining generic historic landscapes such as 'ancient woodland' or 'parliamentary enclosure'. The types used in this study were defined based on evidence from historic maps and other sources.
Inclosure	A process of consolidating and adding fixed boundaries to agricultural fields by act of parliament, local government or, in some cases, by formal civil contract. The spelling of "inclosure" changed by time and location and thus, acts of "Inclosure" or "Enclosure" are interchangeable in the historical record. In this report, Inclosure is used for consistency.

Term	Definition
Iron Age	The period of human activity between 700 BCE and 43 CE
Made Ground	Ground created by infilling an area with material taken from elsewhere; typically, reworked soils, rubble, gravel, sand or former waste material e.g. ash.
Medieval	The period of human activity between 1066 CE and 1550 CE
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age. The period of human activity between 10,000 BCE and 4,500 BCE.
Metal detector survey	Method of intrusive investigation involving the use of metal detectors to locate buried metal objects.
Mitigation	Measures which have the purpose of avoiding, reducing or compensating for adverse environmental impacts. It may also include measures to create environmental benefits.
Modern	The period of human activity from 1900 to the present day
National Mapping Programme (NMP)	A project funded by Historic England and local councils involving assessment and interpretation of aerial photographs and other remote sensing data, such as LiDAR.
Neolithic	New Stone Age. The period of human activity between 4,500 BCE and 2,500 BCE
Ordnance Datum	The standard measure of sea level in the UK, from which all heights are measured for mapping purposes.
Palaeolithic	Old Stone Age. The period of human and pre-human activity before around 10,000 BCE
Photomontage	A photorealistic image of the scheme, based on a 3D computer model of the scheme, overlaid onto a base photograph to visually represent the scheme. Features that would be removed as part of the scheme are removed from the base photograph.
Post-medieval	The period of human activity between 1550 CE and 1900 CE
Prehistoric	The period before the year 43 CE
Receptor	The existing environmental feature that would be affected by an impact – for instance a specific archaeological site
Requirement	A requirement listed as a condition of planning permission
Roman	The period of human activity between 43 CE and 410 CE
Saxon	The period of human activity between 410 CE and 1066 CE

Term	Definition
Statutory Consultation	Community and stakeholder consultation carried out in line with the statutory requirements set out in s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008
Statutory consultees	Organisations that the Client is required to consult under s42 of the Planning Act 2008. Statutory consultees are listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP 2009
Zone of Theoretical Influence (ZVI)	The zone from which the scheme could theoretically impart an impact based partly on visibility and professional judgement
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	The zone from which the scheme is theoretically visible over 'bare earth'

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (above sea-level)
AP	Aerial Photograph
ASA	Archaeologically Sensitive Area
BCE	Before Common Era
BGS	British Geological Survey
BH	Borehole
C	Century
c.	Circa
CA	Conservation Area
CBM	Ceramic building material
CE	Common Era
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
DBA	Desk-based Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DMV/SMV	Deserted/Shrunken Medieval Village
EMS	Environmental Management System certified to ISO 14001: 2004
ES	Environmental Statement
Eval.	Evaluation Trial Trenching
Geophys.	Geophysical Survey
HA	Headland Archaeology
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Character(isation)
HSE	Health and Safety Executive

LB	Listed Building
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MLWS	Mean low water springs
NGR	National Grid Reference
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
NRHE	National Record of the Historic Environment
OS	Ordnance Survey
R&F	Ridge and Furrow (earthwork cultivation)
RO	Registered Organisation (with ClfA)
RPG	Registered Park & Garden
SM	Scheduled Monument
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SMS	'Strip, Map and Sample'
WB	Watching Brief
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation (project design or method statement)
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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Historic Maps

One inch Old Series Ordnance survey map, sheet 34

First Edition 25 inch to one mile OS Wiltshire XXI.6 Surveyed: 1885, Published 1886

Six inch to one mile OS Wiltshire Sheet XXI Surveyed: 1885, Published: 1889

25 inch to one mile OS Wiltshire XXI.6 Revised: 1921 to 1922, Published: 1923

OS SU07NW – A Surveyed / Revised: Pre-1930 to 1959, Published: 1960

Aerial Photographs

Air Photo Mosaic Sheet (1:10,560 scale): 41/07 N.W. / SU 07 N.W. Prepared from Air Photos taken: July, 1950, Publication date: no date Available: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/238922713>

Google historic satellite images accessed through Google Earth

Appendix 1: Illustrations

Key

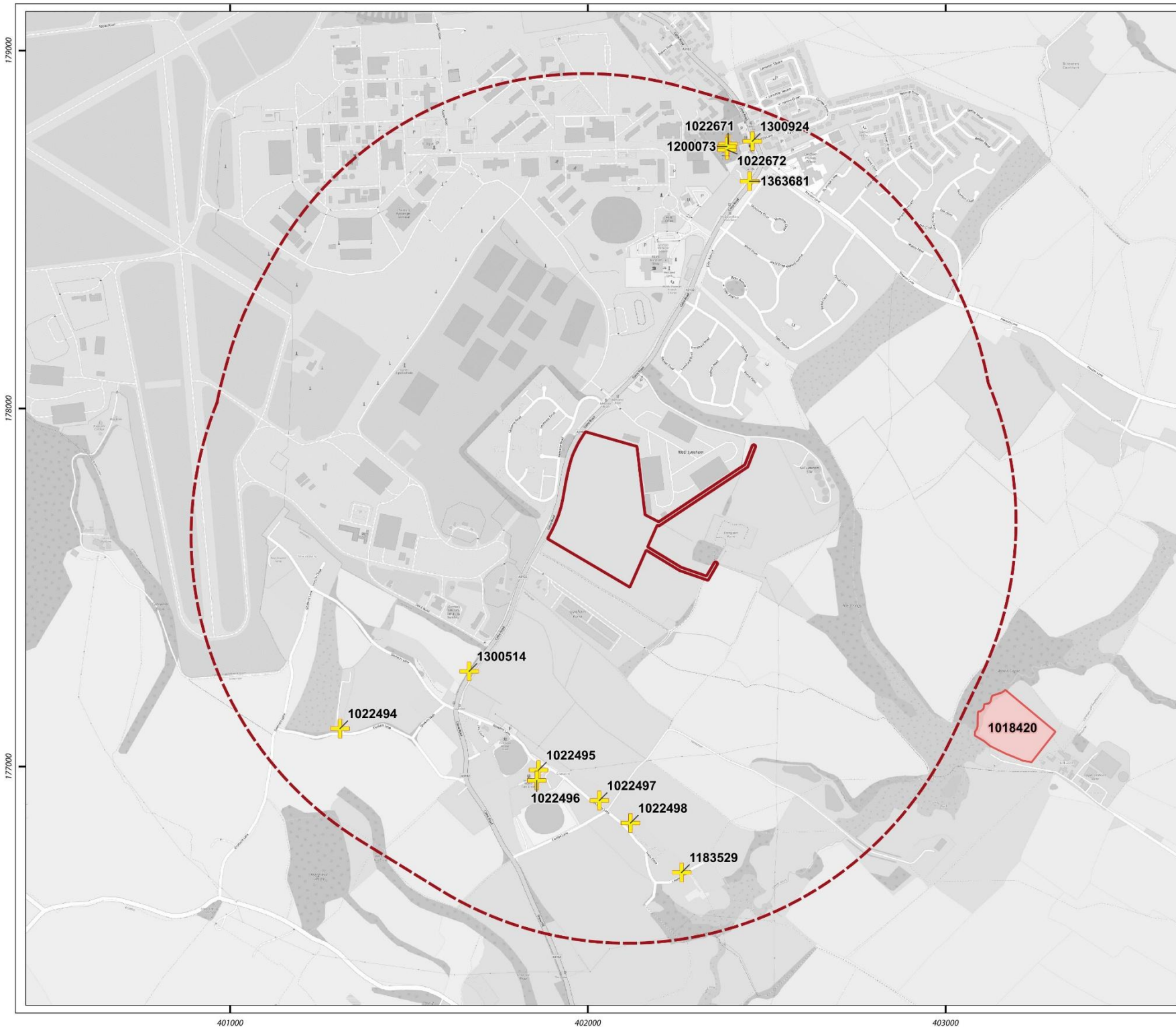
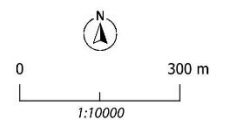
- PDA
 - Study Area
 - Scheduled Monuments
 - + I
 - + II*
 - + II
- Listed Buildings

Figure 8: Plan showing the location of designated heritage assets within study area.

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The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained in October 2025. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://historicengland.org.uk)



Key

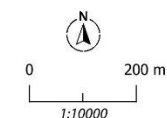
-  PDA
-  Study Area
-  HER Monuments
- 



Figure 9: Plan showing non-designated heritage assets within the study area

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Warwickshire HER data obtained 14/09/2025



Key

- PDA
- Study Area
- Location of previous investigation

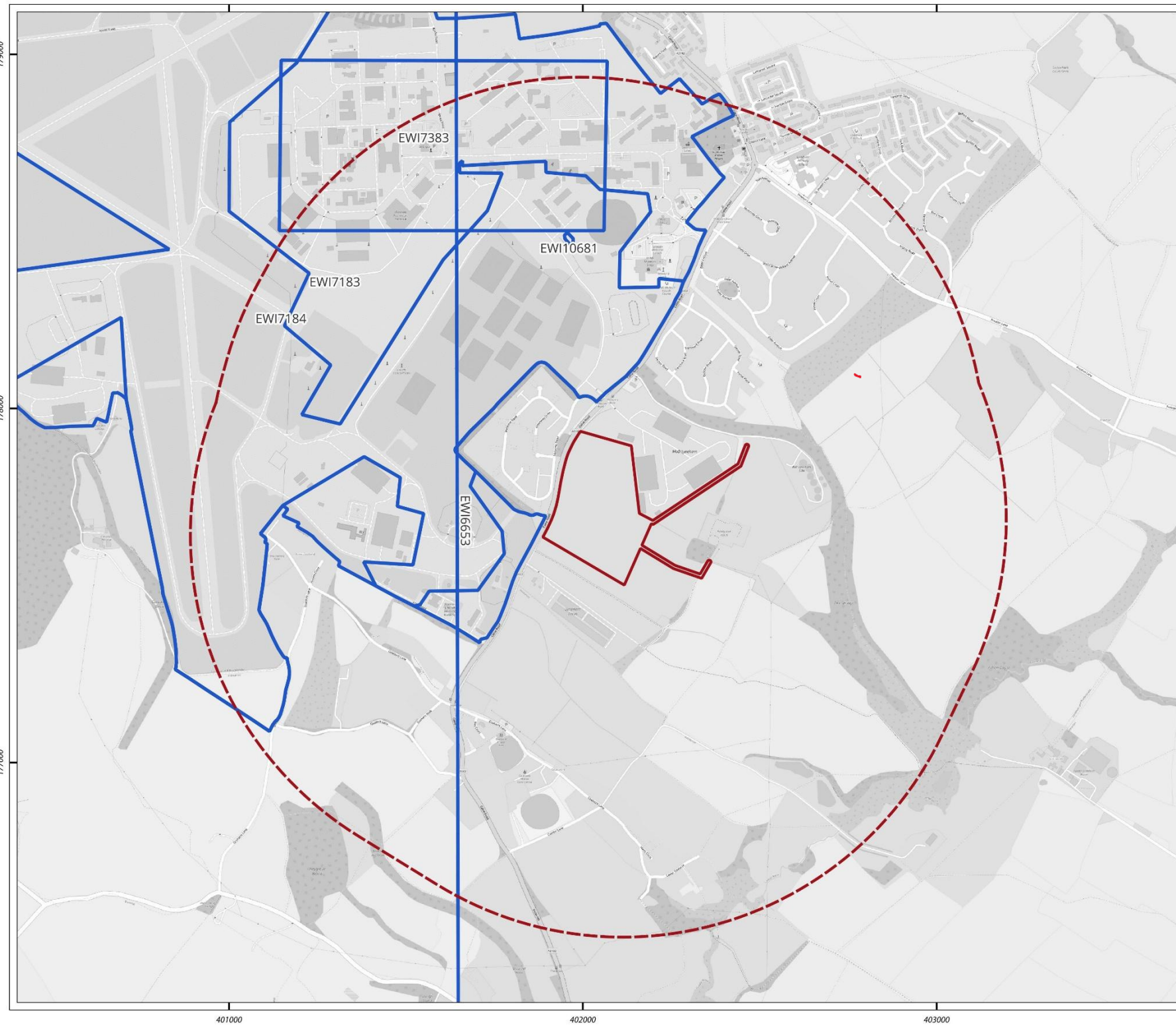
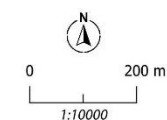


Figure 10: Plan showing the location of previous archaeological investigations

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Warwickshire HER data obtained 14/09/2025



Key

- PDA
- Study Area
- Historic Landscape Character Areas

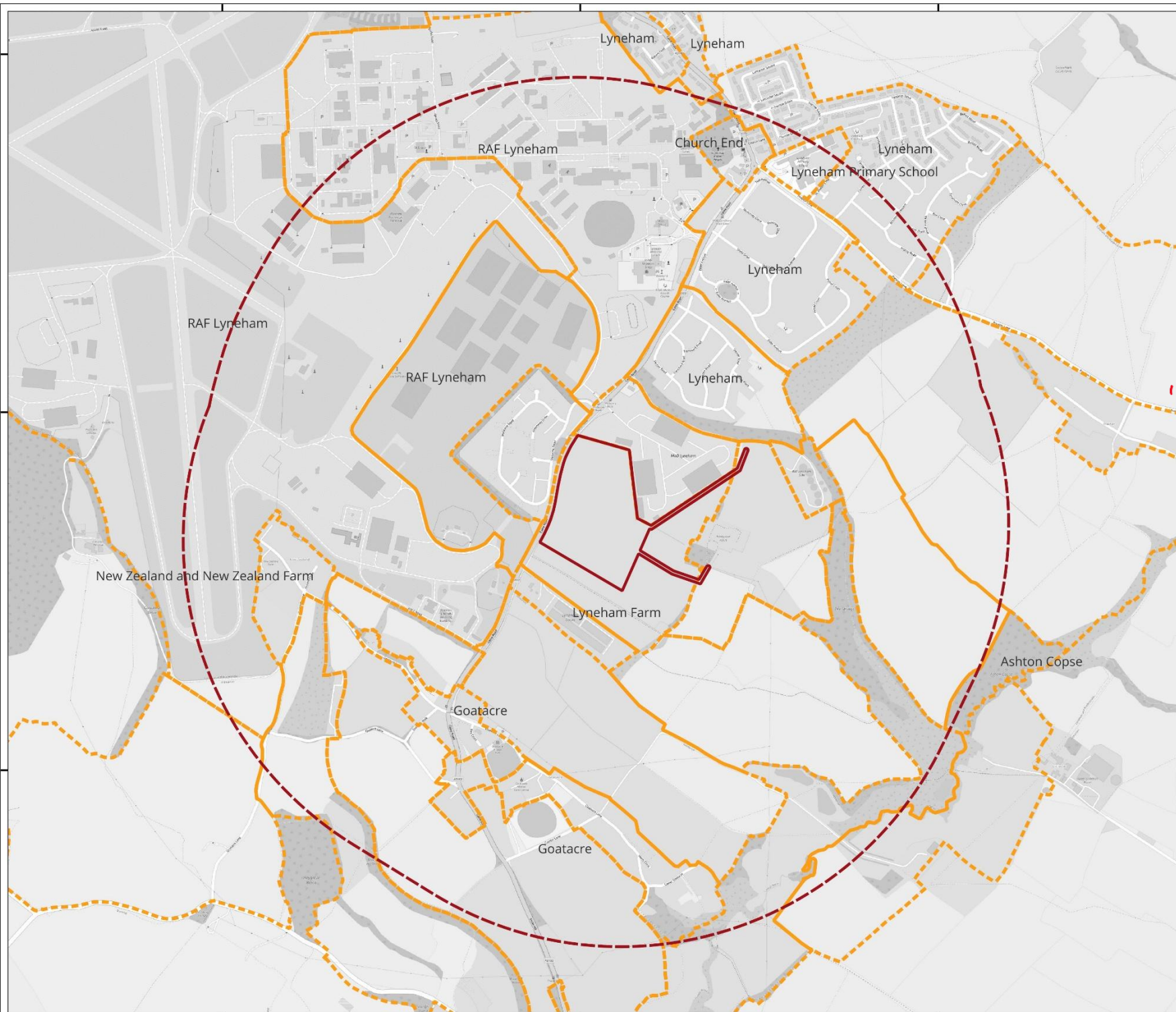
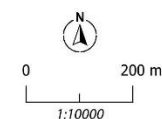


Figure 11: Plan showing the location of previous Historic Landscape

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Warwickshire HER data obtained 14/09/2025



Appendix 2: Known heritage assets within the study area

HER Designation Ref	Name	Description	Coordinates	Period	Status	Importance
1018420	Medieval settlement immediately north west of Upper Littlecott Farm	The monument includes the remains of a medieval settlement located on the eastern side of a small river valley, cut into coral rag, 2.6km north west of the chalk scarp of the Marlborough Downs. The monument includes a hollow way up to 1.6m deep and 10m wide running south east-north west down the side of the valley for a length of 140m. It is flanked on either side by substantial house platforms, up to 2m high set into the hillside. At its lower end, the hollow way opens out where it meets another shorter section running south west-north east for 40m. To the north east, another shallower hollow way, 0.6m deep running parallel to the main street is interpreted as a back lane to the settlement. Land in Littlecott (then Lytla Coton) was included in a grant dated AD 962 of ten estates in Hilmarton by King Edgar to theghe Wulfmaer. The descent of ownership can be traced from 1242 until the present day.	403195, 177108	Medieval	Scheduled Monument	High
1022494	CORTON HOUSE	HILMARTON GOATACRE SU 07 NW 6/254 Corton House II Estate house, c1850, built for Poynder estate, squared rubble stone with slate eaves roof and rear stacks. Two storeys, three-window range of flush beaded 2-light mullion windows with hoodmoulds. Small paned casements originally, some replaced. Centre door in large squared rubble porch with slate roof, gable finial and Tudor arched entry with hoodmould. Similar 2-light window each floor to south end wall, not beaded, and similar window each floor to south front of rear wing. West end stack.	401307 177106	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1022495	GOATACRE FARMHOUSE	HILMARTON GOATACRE LANE SU 07 NW 6/255 Goatacre Farmhouse GV II Estate farmhouse, mid C19, possibly on earlier core, probably by Henry Weaver for Poynder estate. Red brick with ashlar dressings to main range, ashlar cross wing with squared rubble stone north end addition. Stone slate eaves roofs with ornate barge boards to main gables and paired octagonal ashlar stacks.	401862 176990	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1022496	BARN AT GOATACRE FARM	HILMARTON GOATACRE LANE SU 07 NW 6/256 Barn at Goatacre Farm GV II Barn, mid C19, timber-frame, weatherboarded on high plinth of squared sarsen stone externally and brick internally; stone slate eaves roof.	401857 176961	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium

1022497	LONGRIDGE COTTAGE	HILMARTON GOATACRE LANE SU 07 NW 6/257 Longridge Cottage 23.4.80 II House, possibly C17, whitewashed rubble stone with thatched roof, half-hipped to west, hipped to east and two small ridge stacks.	402032 176905	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1022498	PEAR TREE COTTAGE	HILMARTON GOATACRE LANE SU 07 NW 6/258 Pear Tree Cottage II House, C18, painted brick and thatched half-hipped roof with end stacks.	402119 176842	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1022671	CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS AND RAF CHAPEL	Anglican parish church and chapel for R.A.F. base. C14 - C15 and chancel 1862-5 by William Butterfield. Coursed limestone, ashlar to lower part of tower and porch. Roof slate, some old stone slates and asbestos slates. Nave and south porch, north aisle C15, much restored. Short west tower, late C14. 3-light Perpendicular windows to aisle and blocked north door,	402392 178739	Medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1022672	SPACKMAN CHEST TOMB, 8 METRES SOUTH OF NAVE WALL EAST OF PORCH, IN THE CHURCHYARD, CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL	SU 07 NW LYNEHAM CALNE ROAD (west side) 8/62 Spackman chest tomb, 8m south of nave wall east of porch, in the churchyard, Church of St. Michael II Chest tomb, 1784, limestone, to ROGER SPACKMAN. Recessed corner pilasters oval panel with lightly carved putti around. Moulded table.	402389 178723	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1183529	JESSUPS COTTAGE	HILMARTON LOWER GOATACRE SU 07 NW 6/261 Jessups Cottage II House, C18, painted brick with thatched roof and east end stack. Single storey and attic, double fronted with leaded casement pair windows, two in thatched gabled dormers, one each side of centre door in picturesque thatched gabled porch with weatherboard and barge boards to gable.	402262 176704	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1200073	HEATH CHEST TOMB 2 METRES SOUTH OF NAVE WALL EAST OF PORCH IN THE CHURCHYARD, CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL	LYNEHAM CALNE ROAD (west side) Heath chest tomb 2m south of nave wall east of porch in the churchyard, Church of St. Michael II Chest tomb, 1757, limestone, to MATTHEW HEATH and MARY, his wife, died 1746 daughter ANN, died 1714 and son ANDREW, died 1730. Recessed corner balusters, chamfered plinth and moulded table.	402389 178732	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1300514	MILESTONE ON WEST SIDE ABOUT 100 METRES NORTH OF LANE TO NEW ZEALAND	HILMARTON SWINDON ROAD SU 07 NW (west side) 6/266 Milestone on west side about loom north of lane to New Zealand II Milestone, C19, pennant stone, inscribed 'To Swindon 12 miles From Calne 4 miles'.	401668 177266	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium

1300924	MOUNTING BLOCK ADJACENT TO STREET ENTRANCE TO PATH TO CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL	LYNEHAM CALNE ROAD (west side) Mounting Block adjacent to street entrance to path to Church of St. Michael II Mounting block, C17 - C19. Monolithic limestone, 4 steps.	402460 178747	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
1363681	MILESTONE OPPOSITE NO 23 CALNE ROAD	8/64 Milestone opposite No 23 Calne Road II Milestone, C18. Sarsen, peck dressed at rear. Round head. Inscription: To SWINDON 10 MILES. To CALNE 5 MILES.	402452 178635	Post-medieval	Grade II LB	Medium
MWI66802	Corton Hill	FARMSTEAD	401302 177113	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWI66904	Freegrove Farm	FARMSTEAD	402406 177650	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWI66905	Site of Outfarm, Southwest of Freegrove Farm	OUTFARM	401903 177362	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWI66906	Goatacre Manor Care Centre (Goatacre Farm)	FARMSTEAD	401868 176974	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWI66909	Lower End Farm	FARMSTEAD	402324 176708	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWI71408	New Zealand Farm	FARMSTEAD	401185 177541	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWI71409	Outfarm, Southeast of New Zealand Farm	OUTFARM	401414 177365	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW151	Bronze Age (Beaker) Pottery, Goatacre	FINDSPOT	401999 176997	Bronze Age	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW300	Romano-British Coin, Lyneham	FINDSPOT	402450 178648	Roman	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW302	Romano-British Coins, Goatacre	FINDSPOT	402000 176998	Roman	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW525	18th Century Pottery, Church End Area	FINDSPOT	402298 178886	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low

MWl78023	Second World War Stanton Shelter, New Zealand	STANTON SHELTER	401450 177340	Modern	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW455	Lyneham	SETTLEMENT	402410 178842	Medieval	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW461	Freegrove Farm	SETTLEMENT	402396 177645	Medieval	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW463	Goatacre	SETTLEMENT	401658 177066	Medieval	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW526	RAF Lyneham	MILITARY AIRFIELD	401149 178237	Modern	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW526	RAF Lyneham	MILITARY AIRFIELD	401149 178237	Modern	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW604	Undated Settlement, The String	SETTLEMENT	402809 177709	Unknown	Non-designated	Low
MWl45085	Officers' Mess (Building 311), Lyneham	OFFICERS MESS	402185 178415	Modern	Non-designated	Low
MWl45086	Terminal Building (Building 85), Lyneham	AIR TERMINAL; AIRCRAFT HANGAR	401487 178545	Modern	Non-designated	Low
MWl75366	Undated Post Hole, RAF Lyneham	POST HOLE	401829 178745	Unknown	Non-designated	Low
SU07NW527	Quaker Burial Ground, Goatacre	BURIAL	402239 176670	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWl77693	Stanton Shelter, Lyneham Airfield	STANTON SHELTER	401379 177531	Modern	Non-designated	Low
MWl79071	Post Medieval Ditches Lyneham Airfield	DITCH	401954 178477	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low
MWl79071	Post Medieval Ditches Lyneham Airfield	DITCH	401966 178479	Post-medieval	Non-designated	Low

MWl79071	Post Medieval Ditches Lyneham Airfield	DITCH	401960 178492	Post- medieval	Non-designated	Low
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MWl79046	Late Prehistoric Pits, Lyneham Airfield	PIT	401956 178478	Prehistoric	Non-designated	Low
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