



Hilperton, Trowbridge

**Archaeology and
Heritage Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

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Contents

Executive Summary	4
Section 1 Introduction	5
Section 2 Legislation and Planning Guidance	7
Section 3 Methodology.....	14
Section 4 Baseline Information	18
Section 5 Heritage Impact Assessment	32
Section 6 Conclusions	34
Section 7 References	35

APPENDICES

Appendix EDP 1 Site Photographs

Appendix EDP 2 Geophysical Surveys

Appendix EDP 3 Trial Trenching Report

PLANS

Plan EDP 1: Overview of Designated Heritage Assets
(edp9542_d001a 30 January 2026 JLe/MGI)

Plan EDP 2: Overview of HER Monuments
(edp9542_d002a 30 January 2026 GYo/MGI)

Plan EDP 3: Overview of HER Events
(edp9542_d003a 30 January 2026 GYo/MGI)

Plan EDP 4: Plan EDP 3: Extracts of Historic Maps
(edp9542_d004a 30 January 2026 GYo/MGI)

Plan EDP 5: LiDAR Mapping
(edp9542_d005a 30 January 2026 JLe/MGI)

Executive Summary

- S1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Redcliffe Homes Ltd, to inform outline planning proposals for a residential development on land north of Devizes Road, Hilpertont, Trowbridge (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- S2 This assessment concludes that the site does not contain any designated heritage assets, as defined in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and its development would not result in any harm to such assets in the wider landscape (i.e. in terms of changes to their setting). As such, the proposals comply with relevant legislation and national and local planning policy concerning designated heritage assets.
- S3 In terms of non-designated heritage assets, the site is identified as having a high potential to contain significant archaeological remains from the prehistoric period. This conclusion is based not only on the results of desk-based research, but also on the results of the 2025 geophysical survey. At this stage, there is nothing identified within the site that would prevent the development of the site; however, given the known remains on the site, it is anticipated that further work would be needed to more fully understand the archaeological remains present, and this would most likely be required before determination of the outline or reserved matters application, as per the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and local policy.

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Redcliffe Homes Ltd (here after referred to as the client), and presents the results of an archaeological and heritage assessment of land at Hilperton, Trowbridge, (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). This document has been produced to provide a heritage impact assessment to support an outline planning application for the residential development of the Site.
- 1.2 The first aim of this assessment is to identify and assess the potential for development within the study area to cause change to designated heritage assets, either directly or through changes within their setting, and to determine whether, and to what extent, those changes might affect their heritage significance.
- 1.3 The second aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological information for the site and its immediate environs and to establish its likely archaeological potential in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local planning policy.
- 1.4 In accordance with best practice guidance, desktop sources have been augmented through a walk over survey of the Site and its environs.

SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.5 The Site is located 2.5km north-east of the centre of Trowbridge. It measures approximately c.4.3 hectares (ha) in size and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 388074,159317. The Site comprises three fields and a domestic plot containing two houses and associated gardens and driveways (**Plan EDP 1**).
- 1.6 The Site is bounded to the south by a low post and rail fence onto the A361 and Devizes Road roundabout, to the east by a thickly hedged and tree-lined unnamed single-track road, with Trowbridge Rugby club with its pavilion, parking, and pitches beyond. The northern boundary is defined by a thick hedgerow, with large agricultural fields beyond, while the western boundary is formed by domestic rear gardens, including large paddock-like gardens to the north-west.
- 1.7 Topographically, from the southern boundary, the Site rises gently to the north, from approximately c.62m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to around c.63m aOD. The land rises more steeply east to west, from c.61m aOD to c.65m aOD.
- 1.8 The British Geological Survey¹ records that the underlying solid geology of the Site as the Jurassic era Cornbrash Formation-Limestone. There are no overlying superficial deposits, and the soils are shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone².

¹ <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/>

² <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/index.cfm>

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.9 The client has described the proposed scheme as an outline planning application, with all matters reserved, except for access, for the demolition of the existing buildings, and development of up to 80 dwellings, public open space, drainage, landscaping and ancillary works.

Section 2

Legislation and Planning Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following section summarises the key legislation and national/local planning policies which are relevant to this assessment.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

- 2.2 In relation to archaeology, the relevant legislation concerning the treatment of scheduled monuments is the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*³ (HM Government, 1979). This act details the designation, care and management of scheduled monuments, as well as detailing the procedures needed to obtain permission for works that would directly impact upon their preservation. The Act does not confer any statutory protection on the setting of scheduled monuments, although this is considered as a policy matter in the relevant paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

- 2.3 Sections 66(1) and 72(1) of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*⁴ (HM Government, 1990). set out the duties of Local Planning Authorities in respect of the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas through the planning process.
- 2.4 Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act sets out the statutory duty of the decision-maker where proposed development would affect a listed building or its setting. It sets out the statutory duty as follows:

“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.”

- 2.5 This “special regard” duty has been tested in the Court of Appeal and confirmed to require that “considerable importance and weight” should be afforded by the decision maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building along with its setting. The relevant Court judgement is referenced as *Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northants DC, English Heritage and National Trust [2014] EWCA Civ 137*.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>

- 2.6 However, it must be recognised that Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act does not identify that the local authority or the Secretary of State *must* preserve a listed building or its setting. Neither is it the case that a proposed development that does not “*preserve*” is unacceptable and should be refused. It is for the decision maker to evaluate and determine.
- 2.7 Section 66(1) of the Act sets out the statutory duty of the decision-maker, where proposed development would affect a listed building or its setting. It states that:
- “...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”*
- 2.8 Section 69 of the Act requires local authorities to define as conservation areas any “*areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*”. Section 72 gives local authorities a general duty to pay special attention “*to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area*”.
- 2.9 Paragraph 212 of the NPPF transposes these sections of the 1990 Act into national planning policy as they come under the category of designated heritage assets. The balancing exercise to be performed, between any harm arising from a development proposal and the benefits which would accrue from its implementation, is then subsequently presented in paragraphs 214 and 215 of the NPPF.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

- 2.10 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in 2021, with the latest revision occurring in February 2025. Section 16 sets out the government’s approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment through the planning process.
- 2.11 The opening paragraph (202) recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
- 2.12 Paragraph 207 concerns planning applications, stating that:
- “In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. 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.”*

2.13 NPPF paragraph 210 is relevant when it states that:

“In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.”*

2.14 Paragraph 212 considers the weighting given within the planning decision with regard to impacts on designated heritage assets, stating that:

“When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the 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.”

2.15 Paragraph 213 considers the level of harmful effects on designated heritage assets and states that:

“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; and*
- 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.”*

2.16 With regard to the decision-making process, paragraphs 214 and 215 are of relevance. Paragraph 214 states that:

“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;*
- b) No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;*

- 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."*

2.17 Paragraph 215 states that:

"Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use."

2.18 The threshold between substantial and less than substantial harm has been clarified in the Courts. Paragraphs 24 and 25 of *Bedford BC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2013] EWHC 2847 are of relevance here in the way they outline the assessment of 'harm' for heritage assets:

"What the inspector was saying was that for harm to be substantial, the impact on significance was required to be serious such that very much, if not all, of the significance was drained away.

Plainly in the context of physical harm, this would apply in the case of demolition or destruction, being a case of total loss. It would also apply to a case of serious damage to the structure of the building. In the context of non-physical or indirect harm, the yardstick was effectively the same. One was looking for an impact which would have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether [i.e. destroyed] or very much reduced."

2.19 In other words, for the 'harm' to be 'substantial' and therefore require consideration against the more stringent requirements of paragraph 214 of the NPPF compared with paragraph 215, the proposal would need to result in the asset's significance either being *"vitiating altogether or very much reduced."*

2.20 Paragraph 216 refers to non-designated heritage assets identifying that:

"The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that 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."

2.21 In relation to non-designated heritage assets, Footnote 75 explains the exemption to the 'balanced judgement' exercise outlined in paragraph 216 in cases where:

"Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets."

2.22 Paragraph 219 of the NPPF sets out that:

“Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.”

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE (ON HARM)

2.23 Planning Policy Guidance at paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 18a-018-20190723 provides further clarification with regards to the identification of harm. This identifies that harm to the significance of heritage assets can arise through physical changes or change within their settings. With regard to the scale of harm, it identifies Substantial Harm to be a *“high test, so it may not arise in many cases”*. It iterates that harm may arise in certain circumstance and that even large changes may less than substantial or indeed not harmful at all.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

2.24 The current Development Plan includes the Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted 2015)⁵ (Wiltshire Council, 2015), where Core Policy 58 covers the historic environment and states:

“Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.

- i. Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:*
- ii. nationally significant archaeological remains;*
- iii. World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire;*
- iv. buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest;*
- v. the special character or appearance of conservation areas;*
- vi. historic parks and gardens; and*
- vii. important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.*

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).

⁵ <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-core-strategy>

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."

- 2.25 The Council's Development Plan also includes the 'saved' policies of the West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration, dating from 2004 (WWDC, 2004). The following 'saved' policies are of relevance.

- 2.26 Policy C13 of the 2004 District Plan covers nationally important archaeological sites and clearly states that:

"All Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important sites and monuments will be protected and preserved in situ. Planning permission for development proposals in or near such sites which would be damaging and/or detrimental to the monument and its setting will not be permitted."

- 2.27 Policy C14 covers archaeological field evaluation, and states:

"An archaeological field evaluation will be required where development proposals would affect a site of known archaeological interest or where evidence suggests the existence of such a site. An archaeological field evaluation may be requested prior to a decision on an application for development where the archaeological value of the site is as yet unknown."

- 2.28 Regarding conservation areas, Policy C17 initially highlights that:

"The special character or appearance of the designated conservation areas and their settings in West Wiltshire, including those shown on the Proposals Map and listed in Appendix A will be preserved and enhanced..."

- 2.29 Policy C27 covers listed buildings and states that:

"The character of buildings listed as being of special architectural or historic interest in the District will be protected. Planning permission or listed building consent will not be granted for any development that would adversely affect the character or setting of any listed building."

Hilperton Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 2.30 The Hilperton Neighbourhood Development Plan⁶ was made in November 2018 and covers the whole parish. There are three policies within the plan, one of which relates to Heritage. Policy 3 Heritage and Design, however, this is focused on development within the Conservation Area. Policy 3 states:

“New development in Hilperton Conservation Area must demonstrate how the design chosen reflects the principles of the Village Design Statement 2005, including use of local and traditional materials and architectural features where appropriate.

Applications for development should demonstrate how they have paid attention to the village design statement as appropriate.”

- 2.31 The plans and policies listed above have all been considered in the preparation for this assessment.

⁶<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/562/Hilperton-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan/pdf/sppnp-hilperton-neighbourhood-development-plan-made-november-2018.pdf?m=637102871516770000>

Section 3 Methodology

INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*⁷ issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 3.2 It has also given due regard to the potential for effects on designated heritage assets, in terms of their setting, in line with the five-step process outlined in national guidance (HE 2017) and other relevant documents related to the historic environment (HE 2015).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.3 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major repositories of relevant information comprised:
- *“Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) for known archaeological sites, monuments, findspots and previous archaeological investigations within 1km of the site;*
 - *Maps and documents held by the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives;*
 - *Aerial photographs held at the Historic England archives;*
 - *The National Heritage List for England curated by Historic England; and*
 - *LiDAR data*
 - *Geophysical Surveys undertaken in 2022 and 2025*
 - *Trial Trenching of the southern part of the Site undertaken in 2022”.*
- 3.4 The assessment provides a synthesis of relevant archaeological information for the Site derived from a search area, hereafter known as the ‘study area’, to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest and/or potential to be gathered. A study area of 1km diameter from the Site boundary was considered proportionate and appropriate.
- 3.5 The information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above was checked and augmented through the completion of a site visit and walkover undertaken in December 2025. This walkover considered the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the site, identified visible historic features and

⁷ <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf>

assessed possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential archaeological assets.

- 3.6 As part of a previous proposal for the Site, the southern area was surveyed by geophysical survey and trial trenching in 2022 and has now been augmented by a geophysical survey of the northern part of the Site carried out in 2025. The reports are included within **Appendix EDP 2** and **Appendix EDP 3**.
- 3.7 The report thereafter concludes with an assessment of the Site's likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines.

SETTING ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.8 In addition, the report also considers the nature and significance of any effects arising through potential changes to the settings of designated heritage assets, as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF (see below).
- 3.9 In that regard, the Site walkover (completed December 2025) also considered, where appropriate, the contribution (if any) made by the land within the Site to the settings of designated heritage assets situated within its wider zone of influence.
- 3.10 As set out above, the assessment process has given due consideration to Historic England guidance on setting as set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning, Note 3, The Setting of Heritage Assets* (HE, 2017).
- 3.11 On a practical level, the Historic England guidance identifies an approach to assessing setting in relation to development management which is based on a five-step procedure, i.e.:
1. Identify which heritage assets are capable of being affected;
 2. Assess whether, how and to what degree setting makes a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s);
 3. Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance;
 4. Explore ways of maximising enhancement and avoiding or minimising harm; and
 5. Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 3.12 As far as identifying the heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed scheme is concerned, this was determined in the first instance through desk-based assessment, then verified during the subsequent field visit.
- 3.13 The report concludes with (1) an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development upon designated and non-designated built heritage assets, whether direct or indirect, and (2) an assessment of the Site's likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines.

- 3.14 In light of the above, the assessment has been carried out in a robust manner employing current best practice professional guidance, giving due regard to the methodology and guidance detailed above.

LIDAR DATA

- 3.15 Existing Environment Agency LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data was analysed with the specific aim of clarifying the extent of any potential archaeological remains. Airborne LiDAR data was utilised as a source of primary data for the current assessment. LiDAR scanning records height data and has applications in the recording of archaeological earthworks.
- 3.16 Environment Agency LiDAR composite Digital Terrain Model (DTM) tiles were obtained from the Defra Data Services Platform, under the Open Government Licence v3.0. The data was available at 1m resolution, surveyed in 2022, for the study area.
- 3.17 The tiles were downloaded in ASCII (.asc) format, with each .asc file covering an area measuring 100x100m-square. The Environment Agency state that their specifications for LiDAR data requires absolute height error to be less than $\pm 15\text{cm}$, and relative error to be less than $\pm 5\text{cm}$ (EA, 2016). The planar accuracy of the data is guaranteed to $\pm 40\text{cm}$ (absolute), while relative planar accuracy depends on the altitude of the survey aircraft but can generally be said to be $\pm 20\text{cm}$ (*ibid*).
- 3.18 The LiDAR .asc files contain British National Grid as the 'native' coordinate reference system.
- 3.19 Where necessary, the tiles were combined into a mosaic raster dataset using QGIS 3.40 and exported as a TIFF.
- 3.20 The DTM was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT; version 1.3 ZRC SAZU, 2016) plugin for QGIS to create a number of visualisations, including a multi-direction hillshade and local relief model following Historic England guidelines (Historic England, 2018), Guidance in Airborne Laser Scanning Raster Visualisation: A guide to good practice and the Guidelines (Kokalj & Hesse, 2017) for the use of Airborne Laser Scanning (LiDAR) in Archaeology (EAC GUIDELINES 10). The parameters were set to those appropriate for the topography of the area. The output images from the RVT software were then imported into the QGIS 3.40, where further settings manipulation was undertaken to enhance the visualisation for archaeological feature detection.
- 3.21 This software allows for a range of visualisation techniques to be applied to the data. Different techniques have varying degrees of successful application, depending on the nature of the environment where the data was collected. As such, the whole suite of visualisations was produced, and then the individual images appraised as to their usefulness in the current context. This appraisal identified that of the visualisation techniques, multiple direction hill-shades produced the best quality and most useful imagery for the archaeology assessment, but for comparison purposes, open negative and positive models are also reproduced.

Multiple Direction Hill-shades

- 3.22 Relief shading or hill-shading is the most commonly used LiDAR visualisation technique. It illuminates the DTM from a specific angle, imitating the sun and as such produces the most 'natural' and intuitively readable imagery. However, it is limited in that areas facing directly towards or away from the illumination source are saturated (homogeneously bright or dark, respectively), and little detail can be perceived plus features that lie parallel to the light source can be imperceptible.
- 3.23 This effect can be overcome by combining hill-shades from different directions in three different colour bands into a single image. This technique was used to produce useful images for the assessment, providing an additional source of data on the Site's archaeological potential and was used for guiding the walkover survey (see **Plan EDP 5**).

Local Dominance

- 3.24 Local dominance visualisation is well suited for very subtle positive relief features such as former field boundaries or strongly eroded burial mounds but also delivers very good results for topographic depressions such as dolines, mining traces or hollow ways.

Section 4

Baseline Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Site does not contain any designated heritage assets, such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields or conservation areas. The designated heritage assets in the wider area have been assessed to identify those that have the potential to experience change to their setting, such that could result in harm to their significance. The locations of designated heritage assets considered below are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 4.2 In terms of archaeological remains, the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) includes six records that are within or overlap with the Site, comprising a probable Iron Age enclosure (**MWI1277**), an area of former ride and furrow cultivation earthworks (**MWI73787**), undated and Roman ditches (**MWI78183**), plus findspots of Iron Age and Roman pottery (**MWI1279** and **MWI1287**) and a Bronze Age flint scraper (**MWI1272**). These are shown on **Plan EDP 2**.
- 4.3 In addition, there are many records which comprise archaeological and historical sites, artefact findspots and buildings within the study area, as well as records of events in the form of archaeological desk-based assessments or fieldwork investigations and observations within the study area (**Plan EDP 3**). Those records and events considered relevant to this assessment are discussed below; therefore, not all the returned records are included in the text or on the accompanying plans.
- 4.4 A geophysical survey of the southern part of the Site was carried out in June 2022 by Sumo Survey, the results of which are presented in **Appendix EDP 2**. While the remainder of the Site was surveyed by Sumo in December 2025, the results of which are shown in **Appendix EDP 3**.
- 4.5 Where relevant, historic cartographic extracts and LiDAR mapping are included as **Plan EDP 4** and **Plan EDP 5**.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- 4.6 The following section addresses Step 1 of the five-step approach to setting assessment recommended in the Historic England guidance (Historic England, 2017). The identification of designated heritage assets that may potentially be affected by the proposed development was completed through an initial map analysis, which was followed by a visual inspection carried out during the Site visit in December 2025.
- 4.7 As noted above, the Site contains no designated heritage assets. Within the study area, there are the following:
- One scheduled monument – Shrunken Settlement of Paxcroft to the east of Lower Paxcroft Farm (**1442589**) which lies 640m to the south-east of the Site;

- Twenty-seven listed buildings, one of which is Grade II* listed, with the remainder being Grade II listed; and
- One conservation area – Hilperton Conservation Area which lies 580m to the west of the Site.

Scheduled Monument

4.8 There is one scheduled monument within the proposed study area. This comprises the Shrunk Settlement of Paxcroft to east of Lower Paxcroft Farm (**1442589**), which lies 650m to the south-east of the site.

4.9 The NHLE citation summarises the monument as follows:

"PRINCIPAL FEATURES: the monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of the shrunk hamlet of Paxcroft which has circa early-C13 origins. The site has a linear plan at the intersection of two hollow ways, and is situated on low-lying Oxford Clay to the east of Lower Paxcroft Farm, and adjacent to a field drain fed by Paxcroft Brook, a minor tributary of the River Bliss."

"...The site extends [over] an area of approximately 13ha. It is centred on ST8872458579. The earthworks include the remains of at least four or five croft and toft farmsteads, of various phases, on a north-east to south-west alignment at the intersection of a southern and a western hollow way. The southern hollow way runs east-west and is visible as an irregular ditch up to 12m wide and now serves as a field drain. It has a post-medieval hedged-and-fenced boundary and a C19 pond. The western hollow way is between 8m and 15m wide and has also been cut into by a C19 pond. A partially surviving third hollow way survives to the north, comprising a 4m wide ditch, running north-west to south-east. Each croft is defined by parallel banks spaced about 50m apart and running for approximately 100m north to south and about the southern hollow way. At the south-west end of each croft are angular ditched enclosures. The size and form of these vary, implying more than a single phase of construction. Five of them contain evidence of buildings are recorded in areas showing no occupation on the 1818 enclosure map or subsequent records. The best preserved toft earthworks are found at the south-east end of the settlement. The earthworks on the north-west side of the site are more irregular and have suffered some damage since aerial photographs taken in the mid-C20; they do, however, correspond to buildings recorded on the early-C19 maps. At the north end of the crofts are earthwork remains of associated ridge and furrow cultivation which run parallel to the croft boundaries..."

4.10 The significance of this asset is clearly predominantly derived from its archaeological and historic interest, as the remains of a fairly well surviving medieval settlement (albeit buried) that holds evidence relating to the inhabitants of Paxcroft, including aspects of their economy and character of the surrounding area. There will also be some contribution to the significance from its setting, such as its topographic location at the intersection of two hollows, and adjacent to Paxcroft Brook, a tributary of the River Bliss, as well as the immediately adjoining fields that reflect its links to the historic agricultural management of the land. However, considering that the monument comprises mostly of buried remains, its setting is likely to make only a limited contribution to its significance.

- 4.11 The asset lies some distance from the Site, being over 500m away, and the local topography and built and vegetated intervening form inhibit any visual connection. There are no other identified connections. It is therefore considered that the Site does not form part of the setting of this asset and neither does it contribute to the significance. Implementation of the proposed development within the Site will not result in any changes to its setting or cause harm to its significance, or the ability to appreciate the significance. This position was verified during the Site visit. This asset is, therefore, not considered further within this assessment.

Listed Buildings

- 4.12 There are 27 listed buildings, one of which is Grade II* listed with the remainder being Grade II listed within the study area.
- 4.13 All bar one of the listed buildings lie within or on the boundary of Hilpertont Conservation Area, which is located c.0.5km to the west of the Site, and are discussed further below. These listed buildings are a mix of residential dwellings, farmhouses, religious buildings (and associated churchyards and graves and tombs within), commercial properties and war memorials. The significance of these assets is primarily derived from their historic and architectural interest of their built form.
- 4.14 These buildings also derive a degree of significance from elements of their setting, mainly through their placement within the historic settlement of Hilpertont, and position within the local streetscape and immediate gardens and/or plots/yards, especially along Church Street, or (in the case of the graveyard memorials), within the churchyard associated within the Grade II listed Church of St Michael and All Angels (**1021792**).
- 4.15 This being the case, these buildings are considered in the assessment of the conservation area as a whole, discussed below, rather than individually.
- 4.16 The single listed building that does not lie within the conservation area is Lower Paxcroft Farmhouse (**1021784**), which dates to the 19th century and lies circa. 520m to the south-east of the Site. The listing citation summarises the building as follows:

“Coursed rubble stone, Bridgwater tiled roof with gable end brick stacks. L-plan. Two-storey, 2-window. Central door with 6 vertical panels, 16-pane sash either side. First floor has two 2-light flush mullioned casements. Wing to left of rear has segmental-headed 2-light late C19 casements and late C19 addition to north end.”

- 4.17 The significance of the listed building is considered to mostly derive from the historic and architectural interest of its built form, representing as it does, a good example of a 19th century farmhouse in a local vernacular style. Being of a simplistic form with little design pretension, the asset possesses some very limited artistic interest inherent in the aesthetic qualities of its built form. There is likely to be some limited archaeological interest as well, in terms of any information contained within the fabric of the building that demonstrates earlier arrangements of the building reflecting periods of social and economic change.

- 4.18 These interests are best appreciated 'up-close' from the grounds of the farmhouse and farmstead. There is a level of contribution to the significance of the listed building through its relationship with the immediately adjoining farmland and the surviving historic farm buildings to its north and east that form the remainder of the farmstead.
- 4.19 By comparison, no connection between the Site and the asset has been identified, including historical, functional or visual connections. Therefore, it is considered that there is no potential for the proposed development to result in a change to the setting of this listed building or to affect its significance. It will not be considered further in this report.

Conservation Area

- 4.20 There is one conservation area within the study area. This comprises Hilperton Conservation Area, which was adopted by West Wiltshire District Council in two phases in 1991. The conservation area lies 600m to the west of the Site at its closest point.
- 4.21 A Character appraisal⁸ of the Hilperton Conservation Area has been prepared in January 2023 by the Hilperton Area Action Group, which is a 'working group' of the Hilperton Parish Council. While this has not been adopted by the council to date, it provides a current assessment of the special interest of the conservation, its character and appearance. It states that:

"The existing boundary to the Conservation Area encapsulates most of the townscape that creates the familiar and cherished local scene. It is tightly drawn and the architectural character of the enclosed area is comparatively homogeneous. The buildings can be characterized as being largely vernacular although architecturally polite buildings are dotted throughout the core. The best individual houses are Hilperton House (18th century clothier-type), Woodcote House (early 19th century Regency villa), and Hilperton Grange (a mid 19th century mansion terminating the Conservation Area in Ashton Road)."

- 4.22 It goes on to state that the village has a close relationship with the comparatively open rural landscape that surrounds the settlement and which provides a positive but minimal contribution to the overall significance of the conservation area. It does, however, enable Hilperton's origins as a village based around the exploitation and management of the wider farming landscape to be experienced and appreciated, thus contributing to its historic interest.
- 4.23 The document also discusses key views and vistas on page 20, and while there is one key view from the eastern side of the conservation area, this is experienced from the fields immediately east of the conservation area boundary, looking towards the spire of St Michael's church. The other key views identified are from the north and west of the village.
- 4.24 In addition, an earlier leaflet about the conservation area, dated to 1991/1992, states that:
- "the historic part of the village is centred on Church Street with a nucleus at its junction with Hill Street and Whaddon Lane to the north and Trowbridge Road and Ashton Road to*

⁸ <https://hilperton.wixsite.com/haag/heritage>

the south” and then adds that, “the village is characterised by its rows of brick or rubble stone built cottages dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which line the roadside giving an attractive enclosed streetscene. The cottages are interspersed with larger houses set back off the road, often with large gardens, these are either constructed of rubble stone or the ashlar associated with the typical Georgian façade.”

- 4.25 The leaflet referred to is in the only adopted material and dates from 1991/1992 and notes that the Grade II listed church of St Michael and All Angels is a “*prominent feature in the landscape*”, there are no further comments in terms of the wider setting of the conservation area, nor does it identify any features or landmarks in its wider surroundings which are considered to contribute to its special interest.
- 4.26 The leaflet goes on to infer that the conservation area’s significance is considered to be principally drawn from the architectural and historic interest of the buildings, streets and spaces that collectively make up the core of the village. A degree of archaeological interest is reflected in the potential for features and deposits of significance to be preserved within, between and underneath the buildings and spaces of the conservation area and which may provide information on the origins and chronological development of the settlement. As discussed further below, placenames give Hilperton an origin dating from the medieval period.
- 4.27 The Site walkover identified that the conservation area, and the listed building it contains, are not experienced from the Site, or vice versa. This is due to the topography of the local area and the intervening vegetated and built environment. No other connections have been identified between the conservation area and land within the Site. Therefore, the Site is not considered to form part of this asset’s setting, nor does it contribute to its significance. The conservation area is not assessed further as part of this report.

Summary

- 4.28 It is considered that the site does not form part of the setting of any designated heritage assets, nor does it contribute to their significance. This represents the completion of Steps 1 and 2 of (Historic England, 2017) and, based on this conclusion, it is not necessary to continue with the further assessment steps.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- 4.29 The following paragraphs describe the relevant non-designated heritage assets that are located within the study area as recorded by the HER. Following this, there is a consideration of the geophysical survey results undertaken in the Site (**Appendix EDP 2**) and the subsequent trial trench evaluation of the southern part of the Site (**Appendix EDP 3**).
- 4.30 This evidence is discussed in order of chronological period, and the HER records are illustrated on **Plan EDP 2**. There are six records from within the Site itself, and these relate to a probable Iron Age enclosure (**MWI1277**), undated and Roman ditches (**MWI78183**), plus stray findspots of Iron Age (**MWI1279**) and Roman (**MWI1287**) pottery and a Bronze Age flint scraper (**MWI1272**). There is also a small area of levelled medieval ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks (**MWI73787**) near the centre of the Site. There are numerous

records from the wider study area, which suggest activity in the landscape from the prehistoric to modern periods.

Prehistoric (Palaeolithic - Iron Age, c.500,000 BC-AD 43)

- 4.31 The HER records three previously identified archaeological finds from within the Site, dating from the Bronze Age and Iron Ages.
- 4.32 The earliest evidence comprises an early Bronze Age worked flint tool (**MWI1272**), which was found during fieldwalking in 1987. It is of note, however, that no prehistoric archaeology, either *in situ* or in addition to the two stray sherds of pottery that were identified by the fieldwork investigations in 2022, was found within the southern part of the Site. As such, it appears most likely that this flint tool represents an accidental loss in antiquity, rather than relating to any further buried remains in the southern part of the Site.
- 4.33 Within the northern part of the Site, there is a cropmark of a possible Iron Age enclosure (**MWI1277**) which was identified on aerial photographs and mapped as part of the National Mapping Programme and confirmed by geophysical survey in 2025 (**Appendix EDP 2**). This comprises a single ditched sub-circular enclosure measuring c.160m x c.110m. The geophysical survey shows circular and subcircular features indicative of round house gullies, as well as pit features contained within the enclosure ditch. These internal features were not discernible from the aerial imagery.
- 4.34 Within the study area, there are a number of prehistoric records. The HER records a Palaeolithic hand axe (**MWI1266**) c.500m to the west of the Site, however, no further information is provided, and once more, it seems probable that it represents an accidental loss in antiquity.
- 4.35 An evaluation (**EWI5470**) in 1996, c.20m to the south of the Site, identified a number of prehistoric features, including Neolithic/Bronze Age pits (**MWI1276**) along with possible settlement activity dating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British features (**MWI1291**).
- 4.36 Further cropmarks of possible Iron Age or Romano-British rectilinear enclosures (**MWI1352**, **MWI1926**) have been identified c.440m and c.650m to the north-east of the Site. However, these cropmarks have not been tested through intrusive archaeological investigations and alternative origins or interpretations cannot be entirely ruled out.
- 4.37 The majority of the prehistoric records within the study area dating to the prehistoric period are situated to the north-east of the Site. A series of evaluations (**EWI9659**, **EWI6228**, **EWI1020**, **EWI7854**, **EWI7127**) at Trowbridge Rugby Football Club, adjacent to the Site, prior to development in 2005, identified a possible late Neolithic or early Bronze Age ring ditch (**MWI75792**) and two enclosures of Iron Age or Romano-British date (**MWI1352**, **MWI1926**). The enclosures seem to surround small settlements that were associated with a field system which was represented by undated ditches and pits. A second phase of activity was identified during the evaluations required for planning applications, and this dates to the Anglo-Saxon period, where two possible Sunken-Feature Buildings (**MWI1296**) were identified, again likely to have an associated field system. The presence of these archaeological remains did not prevent the development, which was approved with

conditions for a programme of archaeological works prior to the commencement of construction.

- 4.38 Further cropmarks (**MWI78876** and **MWI1340**) have been recorded to c.120m to the west and c.260m north-west of the Site, and while they are undated or have been ascribed a possible Roman date, this has not been supported by fieldwork, and consequently, they too have the potential to have prehistoric origins.
- 4.39 Whilst the evidence from the HER demonstrates the use of the landscape throughout the prehistoric period, with a peak during the Bronze Age and Iron Age, no evidence for *in situ* remains dated to the prehistoric period was identified in the southern part of the Site by the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation within the Site in 2022 (see further below), with potential activity focussed within the north.
- 4.40 In summary, the Site bisects a large, probable prehistoric single ditched enclosure (**MWI1277**), identified from aerial photographs of cropmarks and the 2025 Geophysical survey. The geophysical survey does not suggest any features outside of the enclosure. Fieldwalking in 1989 recovered Iron Age pottery (**MWI1279**) was recovered from over this cropmark, which adds credence to the date of the enclosure. The archaeological potential for prehistoric archaeology is considered to be High. However, the likely level of preservation is such that any remains are unlikely to be of such significance to warrant preservation *in situ*, as evidenced by neighbouring development schemes where similar archaeological remains were encountered, and the impact of the developments was mitigated via a conditional programme of works. It is acknowledged, nonetheless, that further information on the remains present would be required in the form of a trial trench evaluation, prior to the determination of the application.

Roman (AD43-410)

- 4.41 The HER records that in addition to the Iron Age pottery found over the cropmark enclosure in the north of the Site, some sherds of possible Romano-British pottery were also recovered during the 1987 fieldwalking survey (**MWI1287**), however, the date of these sherds has not been confirmed. The evaluations in the southern part of the Site, undertaken in 2022, identified two sherds of pottery with a Roman date within a ditch in the south-east of the Site. The function of this ditch remains unclear, and it is considered most likely to represent a land division or drainage feature or be associated with other small-scale agricultural activities. No other Romano-British features were identified.
- 4.42 The 2025 geophysical survey did not identify any features that could be ascribed to the Roman period based on the form and character of the anomalies revealed. This evidence, therefore, suggests that there is a very low potential for remains of this period within the Site.
- 4.43 Within the study area, to the south of the Site, c.20m, a series of Romano-British ditches (**MWI1291**) were found during an evaluation (**EWI3343**) in 1989, with a further ditch identified in 1996 (**EWI5470**). The HER also records another group of Romano-British ditches, possibly representing a field system (**MWI1292**) was identified 810m to the west of the Site during the same evaluation in 1989.

- 4.44 As previously mentioned, several archaeological investigations within the study area have identified evidence for Romano-British activity. This includes evidence for settlement activity (**MWI1352** and **MWI1926**) comprising enclosures with associated field systems, located nearby to the north-east of the Site.
- 4.45 Further enclosures (**MWI78876**) attributed possibly to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period, are located c.120m to the west of the Site, but as stated above, these remains have not been evaluated to determine their date and so remain conjectural.
- 4.46 To the south of the Site, c.20m distance, a series of Romano-British ditches (**MWI1291**) were found during an evaluation (**EWI3343**) in 1989, with a further ditch identified in 1996 (**EWI5470**). The HER also records another group of Romano-British ditches possibly representing a field system (**MWI1292**) was identified c.810m to the west of the Site during the same evaluation in 1989.
- 4.47 As with the prehistoric period, the desk-based evidence above suggests a landscape that was utilised for settlement and agriculture from the late prehistoric period into the Roman period. Evidence from within the Site is limited to a field boundary ditch containing two sherds of Romano-British pottery identified during the 2022 field evaluation within the southern part of the Site, and some probable Romano British pottery recovered during fieldwalking in the northern area of the Site in 1989. This suggests a low potential for the Site to contain significant remains for this period, with the Site appearing to be located within a wider agricultural hinterland, outside the areas of settlement and occupation during the Roman period.

Early Medieval (AD410-10-66)

- 4.48 There are no known remains relating to the early medieval period recorded within the Site by the HER. As mentioned previously, evaluations to the north-east of the Site at Trowbridge Rugby Football Club identified a phase of activity that dates to the Anglo-Saxon period. This comprised two possible Sunken-Feature Buildings (**MWI1296**) with a likely associated field system. It is probable that these early medieval remains most likely represent a localised small settlement or farmstead, and the likelihood of another such settlement being within the Site, which is already in relatively proximity to those at the Rugby Football club, is considered to be low.
- 4.49 The geophysical surveys and trenching in the southern part of the Site did not identify any archaeological remains that could be attributed to the early Medieval period, such as sunken-feature buildings. This evidence, therefore, suggests that there is a very low potential for remains of this period within the Site.

Medieval (AD1066-1540)

- 4.50 There is a single asset recorded on the HER within the Site, and this relates to an area of levelled medieval ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks (**MWI73787**). Further levelled ridge and furrow were recorded in the 2025 geophysical survey, which aligns with that recorded on the HER and is likely to form part of the same furlong.

- 4.51 Within the study area, the HER records widespread and frequent areas of predominantly levelled ridge and furrow and boundaries; for clarity, these are not reproduced on **Plan EDP 2**.
- 4.52 Approximately 650m to the south-east of the Site is the scheduled monument of the Shrunk Settlement of Paxcroft to the east of Lower Paxcroft Farm (**1442589**, **MWI1306**), discussed previously above.
- 4.53 The village of Hilperton (**MWI1304**), c.650m to the west of the site, is thought to have medieval origins, based on place name evidence, as well as the listed 15th-century church (**1021792**), and the general layout of tenement plots typical of the period.
- 4.54 The Site lies outside of the extent of the known settlement from this period and most likely formed part of agricultural land. Indeed, the geophysical survey identified possible ridge and furrow across the Site, along with other possible field boundaries that could date to this or later periods. Whilst the trial trench evaluation did not confirm the presence of all of these anomalies, perhaps some of them being contained within topsoil overburden, it also did not find any evidence to contradict this conclusion.
- 4.55 Therefore, there is considered to be a very low potential for medieval archaeology to be present, other than a 'negligible' value remains related to agricultural activity (e.g. plough furrows).

Post Medieval to Modern (AD1540 – Present)

- 4.56 There are no known archaeological remains relating to the post-medieval to modern periods recorded within the Site.
- 4.57 The 2025 geophysical survey identified linear features that are attributed to modern field boundaries associated with the recent subdivision of the northern field. These would be considered to be of negligible significance.
- 4.58 Within the study area records relate to well-understood and documented features (such as buildings) and, other than underlining the settled core of Hilperton and the use of the surrounding area outside of the site at this time, are not considered to influence the archaeological potential of the Site itself.
- 4.59 These records include several 18th and 19th century farmsteads, comprising Rookery Farm (**MWI70163**), Manor Farm (**MWI70162**), Lower Paxcroft Farm (**MWI70150**), Brook Farm (**MWI70146**), Paxcroft Farm (**MWI68648**) and Church Farm (**MWI70164**), with associated field boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow. Other records refer to several buildings in Hilperton, some of which are also listed buildings.
- 4.60 Based on this evidence, the Site is considered to have a very low potential to contain significant archaeological remains from post medieval and modern periods, apart from 'negligible' value evidence for agricultural activity. Indeed, two undated ditches (which may be a single feature) identified by the trial trench evaluation of the Site in 2022 are likely to relate to post-medieval or later field divisions.

Undated or Unknown

- 4.61 The HER records several features of unknown date within the study area. These include several trackways, ditches and pits identified through a number of evaluations across the study area. Aerial photographs have also identified some linear features, an enclosure, ridge and furrow and curvilinear features, all of which are currently undated.
- 4.62 There is no evidence to suggest that these features extend into the site, and they are not considered to influence the site's potential to contain hitherto unrecorded features.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

- 4.63 The southern part of the Site was evaluated by geophysical survey (**EWI10056**) and trial trenching (**EWI10111**) in 2022, while the northern part was surveyed by geophysical survey in December 2025. Further trial trenching is to be undertaken of the northern field and will be presented as part of the submission documents.
- 4.64 Where relevant, the results of previous fieldwork in the study area are summarised briefly below. Otherwise, the HER records numerous instances where no archaeological remains of significance were recorded.
- 4.65 Within the southern part of the Site, the 2022 geophysical survey revealed faint anomalies indicative of linear ditched features. Subsequently, seven trenches were excavated during the 2022 evaluation carried out by Cotswold Archaeology to determine the nature and date of these anomalies. Two unstratified sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from the subsoil of one trench at the northern side of the southern field, while two sherds of Roman pottery were recorded from the fill of a linear ditch in Trench 4. All the recorded ditches were interpreted as being a land division or drainage feature rather than indicative of settlement.
- 4.66 The 2025 geophysical survey of the northern part of the Site revealed clear anomalies indicative of part of a large single ditched curvilinear enclosure. The enclosure ditch is c.4m wide, and no evidence of an entrance gap could be seen. A large pit-like anomaly appeared to cut the western side of the enclosure. Several circular and subcircular ring ditches can be seen within the enclosure and are likely to represent positions of former roundhouses. Other, more ambiguous linear and pit-like features are also recorded. Overlaying the enclosure are faint traces of levelled ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks aligned broadly north-south.
- 4.67 Adjacent to the north-east of the site, at Trowbridge Rugby Football Club, a series of evaluations including two magnetometry surveys in 2004 (**EWI1020**) and 2014 (**EWI7854**), two trial trench evaluations in 2004 (**EWI6228**) and 2020 (**EWI19659**) and a watching brief in 2012-2013 were undertaken. This series of evaluations identified prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon remains. Features included a Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditch, enclosures surrounding possible farmsteads with associated field systems dating from the Iron Age to Romano-British periods and a later phase of activity dating the Anglo-Saxon period comprising of sunken feature buildings and a field system.

- 4.68 To the south of the Site, evaluations in 1989 (**EWI3343**) and in 1996 (**EWI5470**) identified a number of Romano-British ditches possibly representing a field system. The later evaluation also identified a number of Neolithic/Bronze Age pits.
- 4.69 Immediately to the north-west of the Site, a geophysical survey (**EWI10612**), carried out in 2024, revealed a complex of rectilinear and irregularly shaped enclosures, linear ditches and tentative ring-ditches, all of which were indicative of a multi-phased settlement. Traces of levelled ridge and furrow cultivation were also recorded.

LIDAR ANALYSIS

- 4.70 Analysis of the LiDAR data (see **Plan EDP 5**) shows little of potential heritage interest, other than two wide but subtle linear earthworks extending across the western side and middle of the Site, aligned broadly north-northwest to south-southeast. These are most likely remnants of former field boundary banks. The two geophysical surveys did not identify these features, and there was no associated ditch showing that they only survive as slightly raised ground in the topsoil. The 2022 trial trenching in the southern part of the Site did reveal traces of this linear feature, which cut through the subsoil, suggesting that it may be a post medieval or modern field boundary. There was no evidence of these linear features observed during the Site visit, further suggesting that they have all but been levelled by agricultural practices. There is also no evidence in the LiDAR data of the large enclosure seen in the 2025 geophysical survey.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.71 The earliest map consulted that shows the Site in detail is the 1838 Tithe Map for Hilperton Parish (**Plan EDP 4**). This shows the Site as comprising parts of three fields, two of which extend beyond the northern boundary. The central and western plots are noted as arable and the smaller plot in the east as pastureland. The smaller plot is owned and occupied by James Blake. With regard to the names of the plots of land, they do not give much indication regarding previous use with names like "*Bottles*", western plot, "*Shoulder of Mutton*" central plot and "*Plot*" for the small eastern plot. Shoulder of Mutton may indicate former sheep grazing within the area.
- 4.72 The first edition OS map of 1884 (published 1890), This shows that there has been a process of field amalgamation, with the north-south boundary separation the two large fields being removed, and the addition of a new, east-west boundary along the northern edge of the Site. The smaller plot on the east still remains and is shown to contain a small farm building, such as a cattle shelter or stable, along its northern edge. There is no indication of this upon the Tithe map.
- 4.73 The subsequent edition of 1901 (**Plan EDP 4**) shows no change to that of the First Edition. There is no change within the Site until the 1938 edition (**Plan EDP 4**), where the Site is divided east-west from the top of the small plot, which extends to the new plots for nine detached dwellings, one of which lies within the south-western corner of the Site. The north-eastern corner of the site is subdivided into two further small fields. To the west of the

Site, a new reservoir has been constructed by the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board.

- 4.74 The analysis of cartographic sources underlines that the site was in agricultural use throughout the 19th and 20th centuries but otherwise does not identify any features of archaeological or heritage interest. Whilst it does suggest the potential for a localised spread of demolition material related to the Victorian farm building, such remains are considered to be of 'negligible' value.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

- 4.75 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for the study area categorises the agricultural land within site as 'Piecemeal Enclosure'(HWI5044). The HLC states that these fields are:

"angular and irregular fields seem to have changed little since the 1 ed 6" OS map. They probably represent post medieval piecemeal enclosure. Field morphology may suggest the consolidation of earlier medieval open fields."

- 4.76 As discussed below, a review of cartographic sources nevertheless demonstrates that the Site has been much changed in the 20th century and that there is all but no resemblance in the current layout to that of the 19th century.
- 4.77 The western side of the Site is recorded as 'Detached Housing'(HWI7530). The HLC states that:
- "These detached houses are mainly early/mid C20. Before their construction, the land here was part of the wider post-medieval piecemeal field system. However, this prior character is not legible, so the previous type has been inferred."*

- 4.78 The Site is considered to have negligible value in terms of historic landscape character.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4.79 Aerial photographs held at the Historic England Archive, Swindon, were examined as part of this assessment in December 2025 with many of the prints being photographed for research purposes as part of the data trawl. The search results included images taken from between 1945 and 2001. In addition, online sources, including Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer website⁹ and Britain from Above¹⁰ were accessed.
- 4.80 The earliest image of the Site dates to 13 June 1945 (106G/UK377 3041) and shows the Site as being a single larger field. The small plot of land in the south-eastern corner appears to contain a small building, with another in the internal field boundary within the site, there

⁹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>

¹⁰ <https://britainfromabove.org.uk/>

is no evidence for this on the cartographic sources. On the subsequent photograph dating from 1955 these buildings are no longer present and the plot appeared clear.

- 4.81 In July 1959, an RAF vertical image (RAF/58/3021 0040) clearly shows a single ditched curvilinear enclosure in the field immediately to the north of the Site, which is later seen in more detail in the July 2013 oblique images. This is recorded on the HER as a possible Iron Age enclosure (**MW11277**).
- 4.82 A photograph, dating to 1974 shows a track across the Site from the top of the small plot of land extending to the west and across other agricultural fields. The photograph clearly shows the curvilinear cropmark to the north of the Site, and extending into the Site, although only the eastern side is visible.
- 4.83 However, in June 1976, the curvilinear enclosure can be seen in its entirety in a vertical photograph (OS/76079 024), being visible both in the field to the north of the Site and within the Site itself, its form clearly matching that revealed by the 2025 geophysical survey. There may possibly internal subdivision visible in the northern half of the enclosure, or it may be an earlier or later, smaller one. Conversely, these may also be geological marks as seen in surrounding fields.
- 4.84 A photograph, dating to 1995, shows the two areas of woodland within the Site and the house in the north-western corner having been established.
- 4.85 To complement the above, a review of the Britain from Above website was undertaken in December 2025 but did not identify any relevant photographs for the Site or its immediate area.
- 4.86 The aerial photographs indicate that the internal field boundaries were possibly removed, with the exception of the small plot in the south-east, allowing the Site to be incorporated into a larger field and then reinstated at a later date prior to the development of the house in the north-western corner of the Site.
- 4.87 Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer⁹ website has several oblique aerial photographs taken in July 2013 showing cropmarks of part of a large curvilinear single ditched enclosure immediately to the north of the Site (e.g. image reference 27729_040). This enclosure clearly continues into the Site as evident from the 1976 vertical photograph and the 2025 geophysical survey.
- 4.88 A review of other freely available satellite imagery, including Google Earth, reflects the changes in internal field boundaries. Whilst providing further information on the history of the agricultural use of the Site, this analysis did not identify any further features of archaeological or heritage interest.

SITE WALKOVER

- 4.89 The Site walkover was undertaken in December 2025 in order to assess the current ground conditions and topography within it, as well as to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.

- 4.90 The Site visit did not identify any additional features of archaeological or heritage potential within nor immediately adjacent to the Site.
- 4.91 The walkover included the Hilpertont Conservation Area, where views from and to the Site were assessed, and views towards the Grade II listed Lower Paxcroft Farmhouse (**1021784**), and the scheduled remains of the Shrunken Settlement of Paxcroft to the east of Lower Paxcroft Farm (**1442589**).
- 4.92 It was confirmed that there was no experience of the Hilpertont Conservation Area from within the Site (**Image EDP A1.3** and **A1.4**), due to intervening vegetation and that the topography slopes gently down towards the west and the conservation area, and as such, there would be no harm to its significance.
- 4.93 There was also no experience of Lower Paxcroft Farmhouse (**1021784**), and the scheduled remains of the Shrunken Settlement of Paxcroft to the east of Lower Paxcroft Farm (**1442589**) due to intervening topography, infrastructure and vegetation (**Image EDP A1.5**). Consequently, the development of the Site would not affect their setting, and as such, there would be no harm to either of their significance.

Section 5

Heritage Impact Assessment

- 5.1 This section considers the potential direct and indirect effects upon the significance of susceptible heritage assets within the Site and the study area. Indirect effects are those that derive from changes to the setting of heritage assets, as a result of new development.

DESIGNATED ASSETS

- 5.2 The assessment (see **Section 4**) identifies that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets.
- 5.3 Step 1 of the Second Edition of Historic England's 2017 *Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3 (GPA3)* is to “*identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected*”. This has been completed in **Section 4**, where it was determined no designated assets would be directly or indirectly affected by the development of the Site, and as such, there would be no harm to any of the following designated assets in the Study area:
- Lower Paxcroft Farmhouse (**1021784**);
 - The scheduled remains of the Shrunk Settlement of Paxcroft to the east of Lower Paxcroft Farm (**1442589**); and
 - Hilperton Conservation Area or any of the listed buildings within the conservation area.

NON-DESIGNATED ASSETS

Archaeological Deposits

Significance

- 5.4 The Site has a high potential for later prehistoric (Iron Age) archaeological remains, as evidenced by the aerial photographic evidence and geophysical survey, which has recorded part of a levelled large curvilinear enclosure (**MW1277**) in the northern part of the Site.
- 5.5 If present, such remains would have been truncated by later land management, as evident from the traces of levelled ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks are unlikely to be of more than local value.

Heritage Impact Assessment

- 5.6 Construction phase impacts may include the following activities that are likely to have an adverse impact on any archaeological deposits:
- Level reductions for the Site access, new internal roads and car parking;
 - The excavation of foundations and ground slabs for the residential buildings;
 - The excavation of easements for new services; and
 - Landscaping and SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) provision.
- 5.7 Whilst it is expected that any below-ground archaeological remains within the built footprint of the proposed development would be lost to construction groundworks, they are currently assessed as being unlikely to be of any more than 'low' or 'local' significance and so the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource as a whole would be at most limited in terms of magnitude.
- 5.8 Archaeological trial trenching has been arranged to determine the date, significance and extent of the remains revealed by the geophysical survey in the northern field (the southern part of the Site having already been fully assessed). However, the results of this current trial trenching will not be available until after the submission of this desk-based study, which will be provided as supporting evidence for the outline application.
- 5.9 Any impact on potential archaeological remains could be suitably mitigated through a phased programme of mitigation, if necessary, as part of a conditional programme of archaeological works.

Summary

- 5.10 The proposed development of the Site will therefore affect non-designated heritage assets in the form of below-ground archaeological deposits.
- 5.11 It has been demonstrated that these assets are most likely to be of no more than local interest and significance, and that development of the Site would lead to the further loss or truncation of any below-ground archaeological remains that have not already been impacted by medieval to modern agricultural practices.

Section 6 Conclusions

- 6.1 This report has been prepared by EDP on behalf of Redcliffe Homes Ltd, and presents the results of an archaeological and heritage assessment of land at Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, to provide baseline information to support an outline planning application for the residential development.
- 6.2 It has provided evidence that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets, as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF, where there would be a presumption in favour of their retention or preservation *in situ*.
- 6.3 It has also been demonstrated that the development of the Site will not indirectly affect the significance of any designated assets due to changes to their setting.
- 6.4 As such, concerning designated heritage assets, the proposals accord with the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and the Wiltshire Core Strategy concerning the Historic Environment.
- 6.5 In terms of archaeological remains, the Site, following desk study supported by geophysical survey, is considered to have a high potential to contain deposits of archaeological interest from the later prehistoric period (Iron Age). Based on the evidence presented in this assessment, there is no reason to consider that the Site contains archaeological remains that would be of such significance as to warrant complete preservation *in situ*.
- 6.6 Further investigation via trial trenching is likely to be carried out before the determination of the outline or reserved matters application.
- 6.7 Depending upon the results of the trial trenching, it is anticipated that it would be likely that, should the remains be confirmed as being of local significance, then any further investigation could successfully be carried out and implemented as a condition of outline planning consent.
- 6.8 In line with paragraph 216 of the NPPF, a balanced view will be required in determining the overall scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset against the benefits of the proposed development. However, there is no reason to believe that the proposals could not be treated favourably in compliance with the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Section 7

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Appendix EDP 1 Site Photographs



Image EDP A1.1: View across the southern part of the Site from the southern boundary looking north.



Image EDP A1.2: General view across the northern part of the Site looking east.



Image EDP A1.3: View westwards towards Hilperton Conservation Area from the northern part of the Site. This demonstrates that the existing distance, higher elevation and topography, hedgerows and tree cover limit any appreciation of the conservation area, this far east of it.



Image EDP A1.4: View towards the Hilperton Conservation from the footpath c.90 west of the Site showing the screening of the hedgerow, trees and wooden pylons. This demonstrates the existing screening to the east of the conservation area limits the appreciation of it, even from land between the Site and the conservation area.



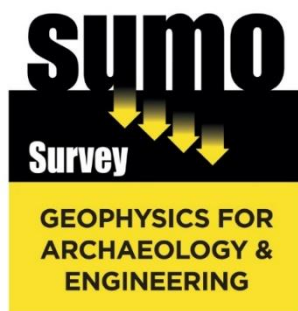
Image EDP A1.5: View from the southern boundary of the Site looking south, demonstrating that the intervening tree cover, vegetation, infrastructure and topography prevent any experience of the Grade II listed Lower Paxcroft Farmhouse (**1021784**), nor the scheduled remains of the Shrunken Settlement of Paxcroft (**1442589**).

Appendix EDP 2

Geophysical Surveys

2022 Sumo Geophysical Survey (southern part of the Site).

2025 Sumo Geophysical Survey (northern part of the Site).



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire

Client

Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

For

Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Survey Report

08041

OASIS Ref. No.

sumogeop1-507431

Date

16 June 2022



Survey Report 08041: Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire

Survey dates	27 May 2022
Field co-ordinator	Jordan Morris BA
Field Team	Darcey Hooper MSc
Report Date	16 June 2022
CAD Illustrations	Simon Lobel BSc
Report Author	Thomas Cockcroft MSc Simon Lobel BSc
Project Manager	Simon Haddrell BEng AMBCS PCIfA
Report approved	Dr John Gater BSc DSc(Hon) MCIfA FSA

SUMO Geophysics Ltd

Vineyard House
Upper Hook Road
Upton upon Severn
Worcestershire
WR8 0SA

T: 01684 592266

www.sumoservices.com
geophysics@sumoservices.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	LIST OF FIGURES.....	4
2	LIST OF APPENDICES	4
3	SURVEY TECHNIQUE	4
4	SUMMARY OF RESULTS	5
5	INTRODUCTION.....	5
6	RESULTS.....	6
7	DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT	6
8	CONCLUSION	7
9	REFERENCES.....	8
10	ARCHIVE	8

1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 01	NTS	Site Location
Figure 02	1:700	Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plots
Figure 03	1:700	Magnetometer Survey - Colour Plots
Figure 04	1:700	Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation
Figure 05	1:1200	Greyscale Plots, Interpretation, Historic Mapping, Aerial Photography
Figure 06	1:5000	Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plots / Cropmarks
Figure 07	1:700	Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plots
Figure 08	1:700	XY Trace Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)

2 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A	Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Methods, Processing and Presentation
Appendix B	Technical Information: Magnetic Theory
Appendix C	OASIS Data Collection Sheet

3 SURVEY TECHNIQUE

- 3.1 Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site. All survey techniques will follow the guidance set out by CIFA (2014, updated 2020), Historic England (2008), and the European Archaeology Council (EAC) (2016).

Bartington Grad 601-2

Traverse Interval 1.0m

Sample Interval 0.25m

The only processes performed on data are the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

Zero Mean Traverse	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes instrument striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 4.1 A magnetometer survey of land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton has recorded several magnetic responses which have been interpreted as being of archaeological interest. A number of ditch-like anomalies can be seen in Area 2 which have been assigned to the category of possible archaeology. Uncertain linear responses could also mark the locations of ditches but they could simply be agricultural effects. Ridge and furrow ploughing has been detected in Area 3 along with a former field boundary.

5 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd** on behalf of **Redcliffe Homes Ltd**.

5.2 Site Details

NGR / Postcode	ST 88138 59265 / BA14 6JB
Location	The site lies 4.7km SW of Melksham and 5.5km E of Bradford-Upon-Avon. It is bounded to the south by a roundabout on Hilperton Drive and Paxcroft, to the West of Trowbridge Rugby Club.
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER
OASIS Ref. No.	sumogeop1-507431
District	Chippenham
Parish	Hilperton
Topography	Flat
Land Use	Pasture
Geology	Bedrock: Cornbrash Formation - Limestone.
(BGS 2022)	Superficial: n/a
Soils (CU 2022)	Soilscape3: Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	1.3 ha

5.3 *Archaeological Background*

- 5.3.1 Data from the HER has revealed that one findspot is located within the site itself while numerous other findspots and cropmarks are recorded within the surrounding area.
- 5.3.2 A Bronze Age flint tool (MWI1272), north of Blue Hills, is recorded in the north half of the site. While 30m north of the site a probable Iron Age Enclosure (MWI1277) is visible as cropmarks which also correspond with finds spots of Iron Age (MWI1279) and Romano-British Pottery (MWI1287). 30m south of the site a Neolithic/Bronze Age Pit (MWI1276) and Romano-British Ditches (MWI1291) are recorded as find spots.
- 5.3.3 150m north-east of the site is a complex of cropmarks which include; a possible Bronze Age Round Barrow (MWI75792), possible Iron Age Hut Circles (MWI74383), an early Iron Age enclosure (MWI1341), an Iron Age enclosure (MWI1339) and numerous undated pits (MWI74816). Within the vicinity of these cropmarks are a number of possible Saxon Grubenhauser (MWI1296). While 400m to the north-east of the survey area an Iron Age / Roman Settlement, North of Upper Paxcroft Farm (MWI1352) has also been recorded. Numerous other cropmark and ridge and furrow ploughing are visible in the wider area (see Figure 06).

5.4 ***Aims and Objectives***

- 5.4.1 To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

6 **RESULTS**

- 6.1 *The survey has been divided into three survey areas (Areas 1-3).*

6.2 ***Possible Archaeology***

- 6.2.1 A number of linear responses have been detected in the survey are likely to mark the locations of ditches. These appear to be part of a wider field system visible on aerial photographs (see Fig 06) and include a partial enclosure which is presumed to extend to the south beyond the survey area. Strong ferrous responses and some gaps in the survey area have masked some of the anomalies. Given the abundance of cropmarks within the vicinity of the site they have been categorised as *Possible Archaeology*.

6.3 ***Uncertain***

- 6.3.1 Several linear trends, a band of increased response and a negative linear anomaly have been detected in Area 2 which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. Being magnetically weaker than the anomalies of possible archaeology (see 6.2) they are probably agricultural effects; however, an archaeological interpretation remains possible.

6.4 ***Former Field Boundary – Corroborated***

- 6.4.1 A field boundary is recorded on historical mapping in Area 3 (see Figure 05) and corresponds with a linear anomaly which is visible in the magnetic data.

6.5 ***Agricultural – Ridge and Furrow***

- 6.5.1 A few parallel linear anomalies have been recorded in Area 3 which are likely to be due to ridge and furrow ploughing.

6.6 ***Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance***

- 6.6.1 In Area 2 there are three strong ferrous anomalies which appear to form a straight line, but this may be coincidental. Other Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent roads, fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

7 **DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is variable to good. The results from this survey indicate the presence of ditch like responses of possibly archaeological origin; as a consequence, the survey is deemed to have worked well.

8 CONCLUSION

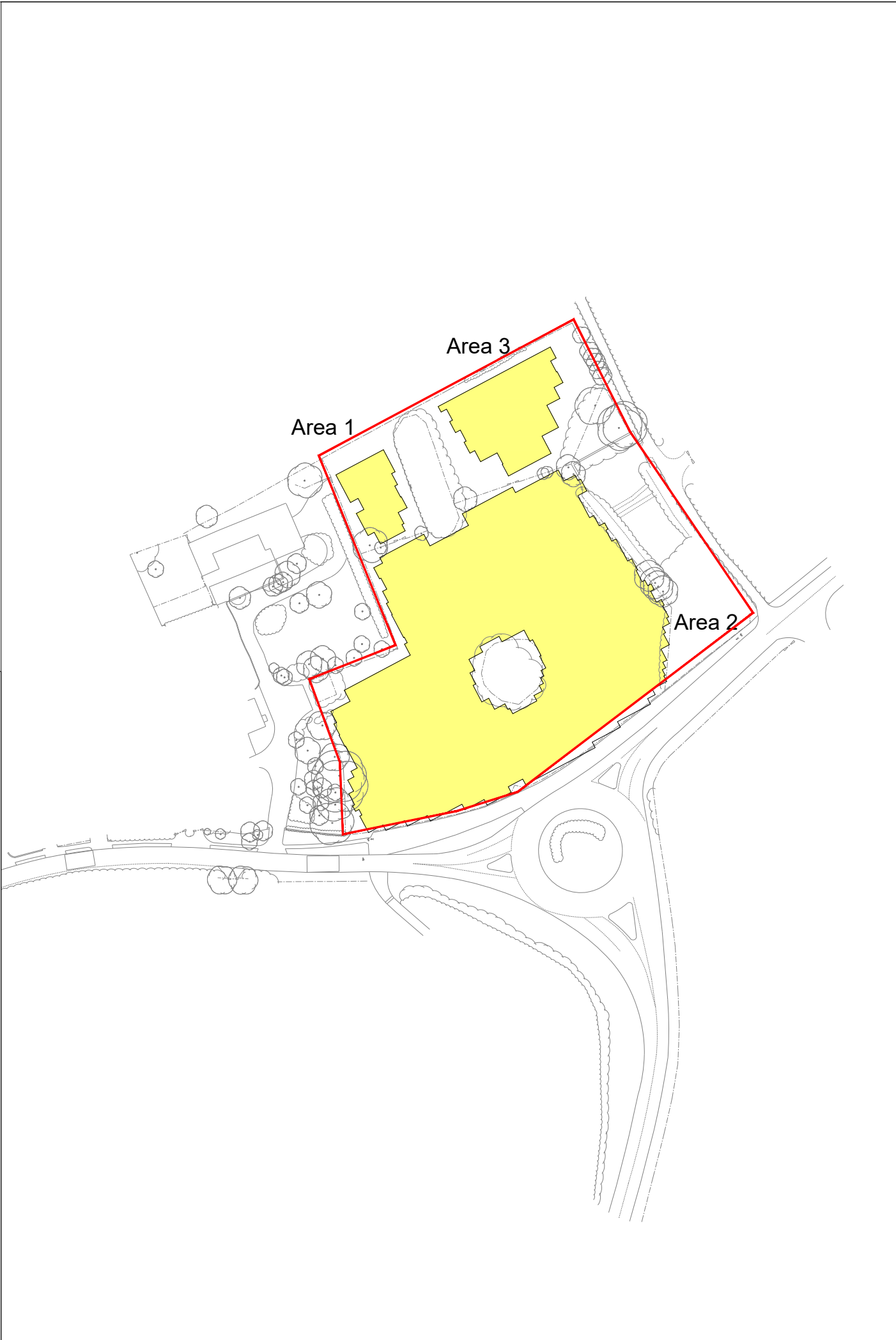
- 8.1 The magnetometer survey has recorded a number of magnetic responses deemed to be of archaeological interest. Ditch-like anomalies including a possible enclosure are visible in Area 2 and have been assigned to the category of possible archaeology. A number of weaker linear trends have been assigned to the category of uncertain; however, these could also have archaeological origins. Ridge and furrow ploughing has been detected in Area 3 along with a former field boundary.

9 REFERENCES

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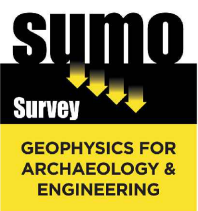
10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The minimally processed data, data images, XY traces and a copy of this report are stored in **SUMO Geophysics Ltd.'s** digital archive, on an internal RAID configured NAS drive in the Midlands Office. These data are also backed up to the Cloud for off-site storage.
- 10.2 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.

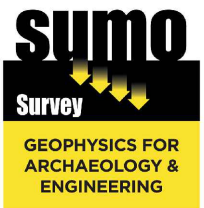
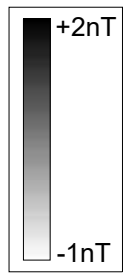


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	Survey Areas	
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Client: The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd	
Project: 08041 - Hilpertown, Wiltshire	
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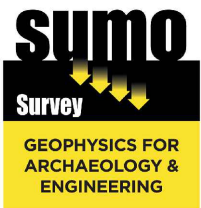
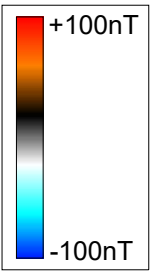
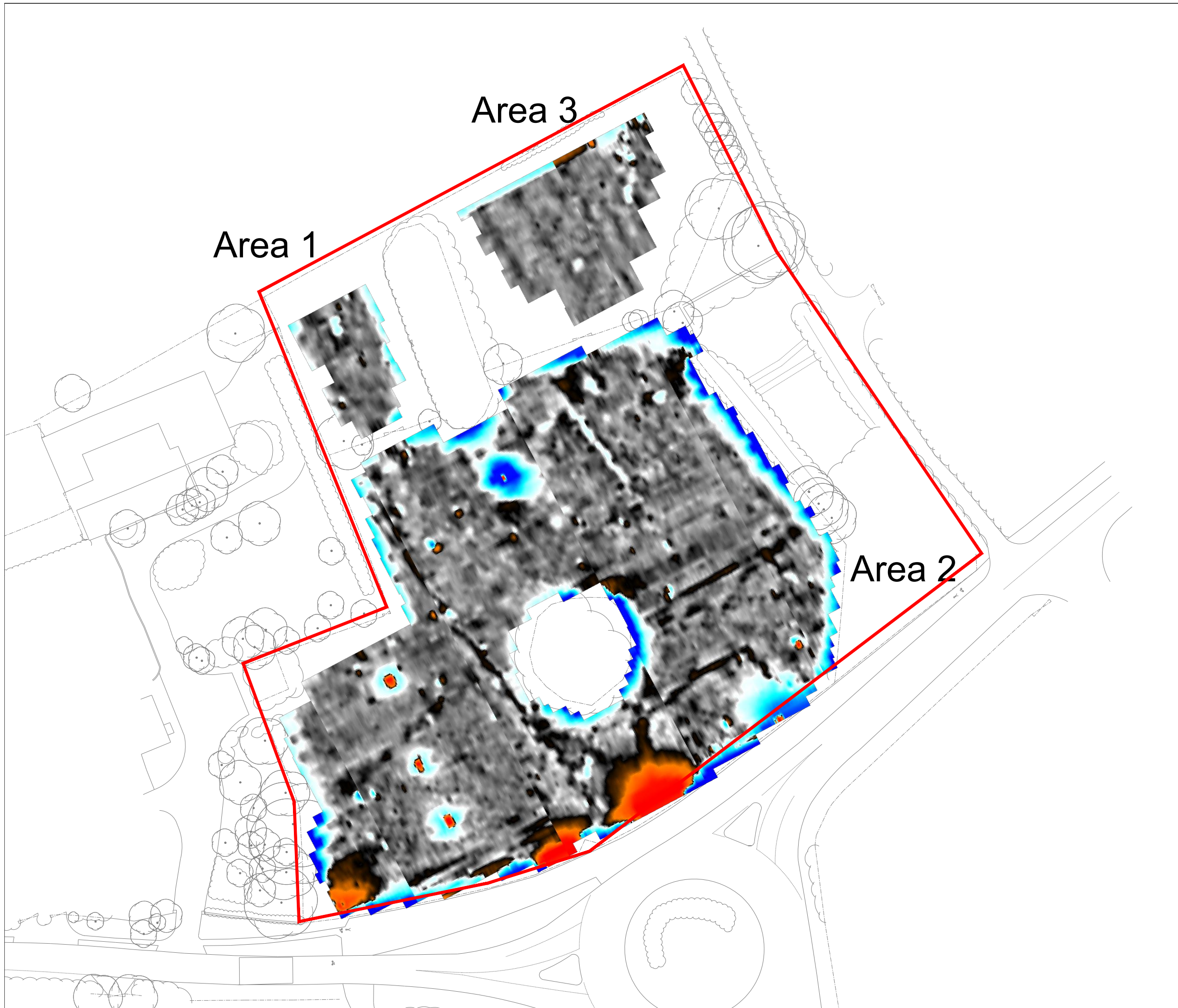
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Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plots

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
08041 - Hilperton, Wiltshire

Scale:
0 metres 35
1:700 @ A3

Fig No:
02

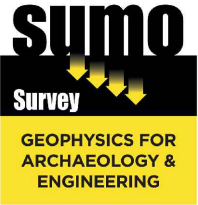


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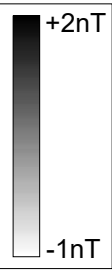


KEY

	Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Uncertain Origin (negative anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Ferrous

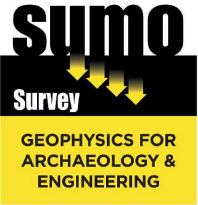


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Project: 08041 - Hilpertont, Wiltshire	
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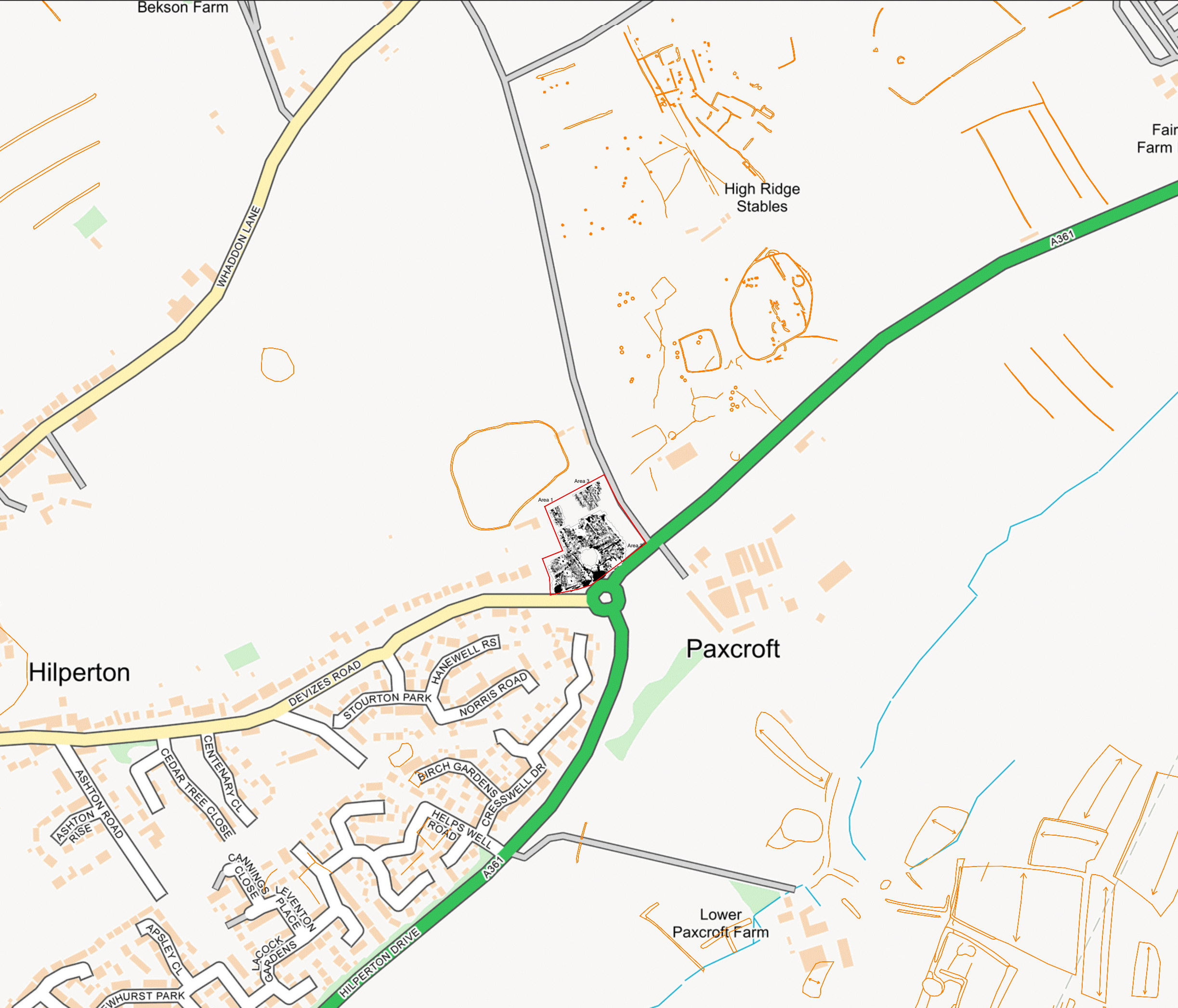


KEY

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	Uncertain Origin (negative anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Ferrous



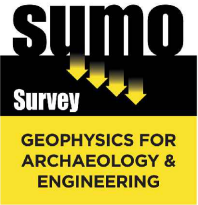
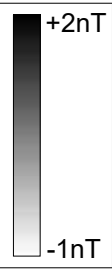
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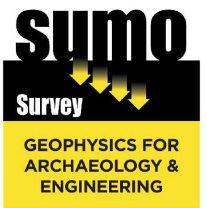
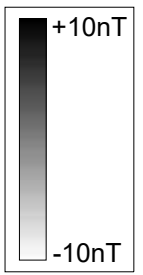
KEY



Cropmarks



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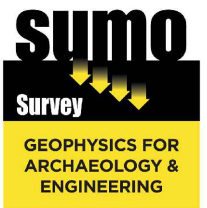
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Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plots

Client:
The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Project:
08041 - Hilperton, Wiltshire

Scale:
0 metres 35
1:700 @ A3

Fig No:
07



Title: XY Trace Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)	
Client: The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd	
Project: 08041 - Hilperton, Wiltshire	
Scale: 0 35 metres 1:700 @ A3	Fig No: 08

Appendix A - Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Method

Grid Positioning

For hand held gradiometers the location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Trimble R8 Real Time Kinematic (RTK) VRS Now GNSS GPS system.

An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference, resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station re-broadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. This results in an accuracy of around 0.01m.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Grad 601-2	1.0m	0.25m
Magnetometer	Bartington Cart System	1.0m	0.125m

Instrumentation:

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted horizontally, set 1.0m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths.

Bartington Grad 601-2

Hand-Held: Data will be collected using a Bartington Grad 601-2. The instrument consists of two paired sensors and readings are logged at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart across 30m grids. The collection of data at 0.25m centres provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution as per Historic England guidelines

Bartington Cart System

Data will be collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings will be taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart.

Data Processing

Zero Mean Traverse	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

Display

Greyscale/ Colourscale Plot	This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.
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Interpretation Categories

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road, Wall*, etc.) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the results.

<i>Archaeology / Probable Archaeology</i>	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
<i>Possible Archaeology</i>	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
<i>Industrial / Burnt-Fired</i>	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
<i>Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)</i>	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
<i>Ridge & Furrow</i>	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
<i>Agriculture (ploughing)</i>	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
<i>Land Drain</i>	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
<i>Natural</i>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
<i>Magnetic Disturbance</i>	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present.
<i>Service</i>	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear features are indicative of ferrous pipes/cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
<i>Ferrous</i>	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.
<i>Uncertain Origin</i>	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns; material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

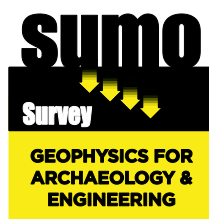
Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried feature. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by this feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity and disturbance from modern services.

Summary for sumogeop1-507431

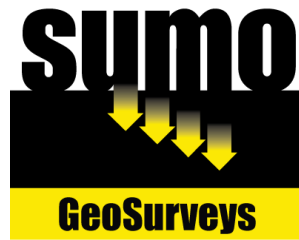
OASIS ID (UID)	sumogeop1-507431
Project Name	Geophysical Survey at Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire
Sitename	Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire
Activity type	Geophysical Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Project Identifier(s)	08041
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
Project Dates	27-May-2022 - 27-May-2022
Location	Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire NGR : ST 88122 59295 LL : 51.332618595417, -2.1718840390418 12 Fig : 388122,159295
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Wiltshire District : Wiltshire Parish : Hilperton
Project Methodology	A temporary grid system was established over the site and marked out using canes. The location of the grid will be set out using an RTK GPS system theoretically accurate to some 0.01m and referenced to OS co-ordinates. Hand Held: Data will be collected using a Bartington Grad 601-2. The instrument consists of two paired sensors (see below) and readings are logged at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart across 30m grids. The collection of data at 0.25m centres provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution as per Historic England guidelines. Two sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background.
Project Results	The magnetometer survey has recorded a number of magnetic responses deemed to be of archaeological interest. Ditch-like anomalies including a possible enclosure are visible in Area 2 and have been assigned to the category of possible archaeology. A number of weaker linear trends have been assigned to the category of uncertain; however, these could also have archaeological origins. Ridge and furrow ploughing has been detected in Area 3 along with a former field boundary.
Keywords	Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Coaxial Field System - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Thomas, Cockcroft, Simon, Lobel

HER Identifiers	
Archives	



- Archaeological
- Geophysical
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Building
- Topographic
- Utility Mapping

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Registered Office Unit 8 Hayward Business Centre, New Lane, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2NL



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Hilperton, Wiltshire

Client

Redcliffe Homes Limited

Survey Report

SUMO-25380

OASIS Ref. No.

Sumogeop1- 538498

Date

13 January 2026



Survey Report SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire

Survey dates	4 December 2025
Field co-ordinator	Gabriel Mazeski BA
Field team	Gabriel Mazeski BA Amy Allinson MSc
Report date	13 January 2026
Report author	Darcy Hooper MSc ACIfA
CAD Illustrations	Thomas Cockcroft MSc MCIfA Darcy Hooper MSc ACIfA
Project manager	Thomas Cockcroft MSc MCIfA
Office	Eckington
Report approved	Dr John Gater BSc DSc(Hon) MCIfA FSA

SUMO GeoSurveys

Deer Park Business Centre, Eckington, Pershore, WR10 3DN
01684 592266

Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AU
01325 311 751

www.sumoservices.com
geophysics@sumoservices.com

SUMO GeoSurveys is a trading name of SUMO Geophysics Ltd.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2	PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	1
2.1	Site details	1
2.2	Archaeological context.....	1
2.3	Aims and objectives	2
3	SURVEY METHODOLGY AND DATA PROCESSING	2
3.1	Instrumentation	2
3.2	Survey methodology	2
3.3	Data processing and display.....	2
4	RESULTS.....	3
4.1	Known archaeology	3
4.2	Probable / Possible archaeology	4
4.3	Ridge and furrow	4
4.4	Uncertain.....	4
4.5	Ferrous / fired	4
5	DATA APPRAISAL AND CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT	4
6	CONCLUSION	5
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES	6
8	ARCHIVE	7
9	COPYRIGHT	7

Appendix A Magnetometer survey methods, processing and presentation

Appendix B Magnetic theory

Appendix C OASIS Data collection sheet

Appendix D Data management plan & archive selection strategy

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 01	Various	Site Location
Figure 02	1:1000	Magnetic Gradient Data - Greyscale Plots
	1:1000	Magnetic Gradient Data - Greyscale Plots
Figure 03	1:1000	Magnetic Gradient Data - Interpretation
Figure 04	NTS	Greyscale Plots / Interpretation / C. 1873-1888 Ordnance Survey Map / 2025 Aerial Image
Figure 05	1:1000	Minimally Processed Magnetic Gradient Data - Greyscale Plots
Figure 06	1:1000	Magnetic Gradient Data - X-Y Trace Plots (Clipped At +/- 15nt)

The geophysical interpretation drawings must be used in conjunction with the relevant results section and appendices of this report.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 SUMO GeoSurveys was commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **Redcliffe Homes Limited**.

1.2 The survey identified numerous magnetic responses of definite archaeological interest. A strong curvilinear response running across the site aligns with a recorded monument which is part of a large enclosure of probable Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Three partial circular responses are indicative of ring ditches which could represent round houses or possible barrows. Other irregularly-shaped and discrete anomalies have been identified, including a possible kiln. Ridge and furrow is present throughout the site, and in some places has truncated anomalies of archaeological interest. A few weak curvilinear trends have been assigned to the category of Uncertain.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Site details

NGR / Postcode	ST 88003 59352 / BA14 6JB
Location	The site lies approximately 13km southeast of Bath and 1km east of Trowbridge, on the eastern outskirts of the village of Hilperton. It lies just north of the roundabout where Devizes Road and the A361 meet.
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER
OASIS Ref. No.	Sumogeop1- 538498
District	Wiltshire
Parish	Hilperton CP
Topography	Fairly flat
Land use	Arable/ Pasture
Geology	Bedrock: Cornbrash Formation – Limestone
(BGS 2025)	Superficial: None recorded
Soils	Soilscape 3: Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone
(CU 2025)	
Survey method	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Site area	2 ha

2.2 Archaeological context

2.2.1 A review of Wiltshire HER highlighted several monuments within a 500m radius of the site (WC 2026). These included Iron Age enclosures (ST85NE200, ST85NE603, ST85NE605); Romano-British enclosures and ditches (ST85NE311, MWI78876); undated enclosures and ditches (ST85NE604, ST85NE613, ST85NE622, MWI78183); Neolithic/Bronze Age pit (ST85NE159) and undated pits (MWI74386, MWI7816, MWI78877); possible hut circle (MWI74383); possible Saxon Grubenhaus (ST85NE401); possible Bronze Age round barrow (MWI75792); post medieval field boundaries (MWI73751, MWI73772); and ridge and furrow (MWI73753, MWI73787, MWI74384, MWI74815). Several find spots were also identified, including Romano-British pottery (ST85NE307), Iron Age pottery (ST85NE202) and a Bronze Age flint scraper (ST85NE155).

2.2.2 A number of geophysical surveys have been carried out in the vicinity of the site in the past 20 years (SS 2004; EH 2014; SS 2015; SG 2022; SG 2024). These have identified a range

of archaeological features and demonstrated the effectiveness of magnetometry in evaluating the archaeological assets.

2.3 Aims and objectives

- 2.3.1 To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND DATA PROCESSING

A magnetic survey was employed as the most effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site (see 2.2.2 above).

The survey fieldwork and this report follow the general guidance set out by ClfA (2020) and the European Archaeology Council (EAC) (2016).

3.1 Instrumentation

- 3.1.1 The magnetic survey was undertaken using the following equipment configuration:

Sensors	Equipment configuration	Traverse interval (m)	Sample interval (m)
4 No. Bartington Grad 601	Cart-based system Hand pushed Data is georeferenced by RTK GNSS	1.0	0.25

3.2 Survey methodology

- 3.2.1 The cart-based system can be towed by an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or pushed by hand, depending on the ground conditions, accessibility and size of fields. The hand-pushed method was used in this instance.
- 3.2.2 The cart is fitted with a GNSS guidance system which is used to align the survey profiles and direct the operator.
- 3.2.3 The survey profiles are usually offset from field boundaries, buildings and other metallic features by several metres to reduce the detrimental effect that these surface magnetic features have on the data. Gaps were also left adjacent to boundaries and surface obstructions to allow the ATV and cart-based system sufficient space to safely pass and turn.
- 3.2.4 The location of the cart-based survey data is converted direct to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates, using the UK OSTN15 transformation.

3.3 Data processing and display

- 3.3.1 The only processes performed on data are the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

Zero Mean Traverse: This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes instrument striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.

- 3.3.2 The data was stored direct to a laptop using in-house software which automatically corrects for instrument drift and calculates a mean value for each profile. A positional value is

assigned to each data point based on the sensor number and recorded GNSS co-ordinates. The data is gridded using in-house software and parameters are set based on the sensor spacing and mean values. No additional processing is required.

Greyscale raster images (PNG files) are displayed at a range of -1 nT to 2nT, which is 'standard' for archaeological surveys. A second range of -3 to 4 nT is also included; this can make it easier to identify some anomalies but very weak responses may not be visible in the wider range.

- 3.3.3 X-Y trace plots are examined for all the data and overlain onto the greyscale plot to assist in the interpretation, primarily to help identify dipolar / bipolar responses (that will probably be associated with surface / near-surface iron objects) and thermoremanent material. When not displayed in the report, a digital drawing showing the X-Y trace plot is provided in the Archive.
- 3.3.4 A detailed discussion of data processing, display and the general categories of anomaly which have been identified by the survey is provided in the Appendices.

4 RESULTS

The survey has been divided into two survey areas (Areas 1 and 2) and specific anomalies have been given numerical labels [1] [2] which appear in the text below, as well as on the Interpretation Figure(s).

A discussion of the general anomaly categories is provided for the entire site.

4.1 Known archaeology

- 4.1.1 Running across most of the site is a strong curvilinear response [1] which aligns with a recorded monument (ST85NE200) visible as cropmarks on aerial imagery (see Figure 5). This ditch is part of a larger enclosure of probable Bronze Age or Iron Age date, which extends into the field immediately north of the site (see Plate 1 below) and has maximum dimensions measuring 152m by 132m. No internal features are visible on the aerial imagery, nor are there any entrances shown on the aerial transcriptions. However, the magnetic data show clear activity inside the enclosure (see 4.2 and 4.3) and there are suggestions of possible breaks in the ditch at points [2] and [3], though ferrous responses are partially obscuring the results.

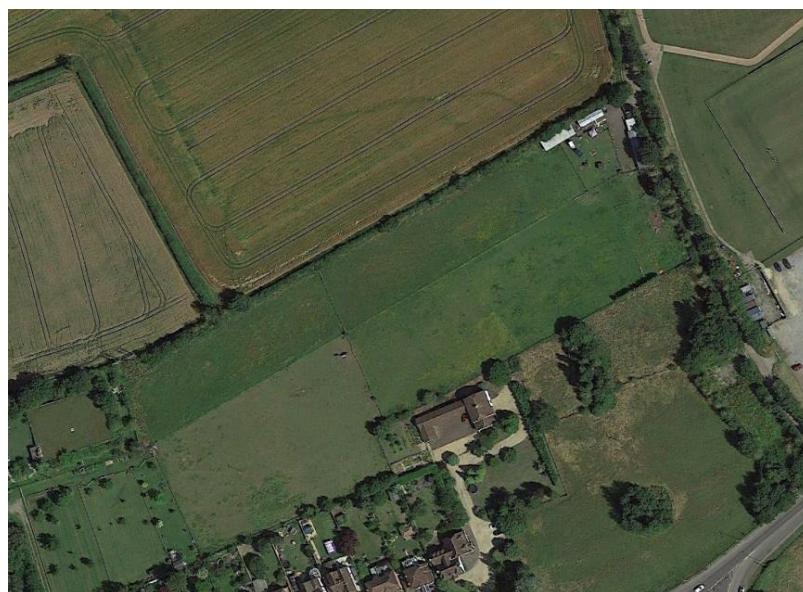


Plate 1: 2021 Aerial imagery showing cropmark extending into northern field (Google Earth 2025)

4.2 Probable / Possible archaeology

- 4.2.1 A number of magnetic responses have been recorded that could be interpreted as being either of probable or possible archaeological interest dependent upon their magnetic strength; this is to some extent a subjective exercise. An added complication is that the responses are partially obscured by the ridge and furrow cultivation (see 4.3) and this has made it difficult to interpret / categorise of some of the anomalies.
- 4.2.2 There are three strong partial circular responses [4-6] along the northern edge of the site, each measuring approximately 13m in diameter. These are indicative of ring ditches and could represent round houses or possibly barrows, though the latter interpretation seems less likely given the other results.
- 4.2.3 A few other irregularly-shaped and discrete anomalies have been interpreted as having probable archaeological origins, and some of these may be evidence for pits or hearths. One particularly strong, discrete anomaly [7], outside of the enclosure [1], could be thermoremanent and might indicate a kiln or similar fired feature
- 4.2.4 Multiple weak linear and curvilinear trends plus numerous pit-like responses have been interpreted as having archaeological origins due to their location 'inside' the large enclosure. However, with reference to the discrete responses it should be noted that the underlying limestone geology often results in a natural 'pitting' effect and it is not always possible to differentiate between archaeological and natural anomalies. One linear response [8] correlates with a crop mark visible in aerial imagery (Figure 5). This does not appear to align with any former field boundaries present on historic mapping, hence its possible archaeological interpretation.

4.3 Ridge and furrow

- 4.3.1 A series of linear, roughly parallel trends have been detected at varying orientations across the site which reflect a former ridge and furrow agricultural scheme. Area 1 displays very clear and regularly spaced responses aligned NW-SE, whilst there are much weaker linear trends running NE-SW across the whole site. The stronger ridge and furrow responses reflect where the ploughing has cut into the magnetically enhanced archaeological features below.

4.4 Uncertain

- 4.4.1 A few weak curvilinear trends have been detected in the west of the site and have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*. They generally lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would usually be interpreted as being of archaeological interest.

4.5 Ferrous / fired

- 4.5.1 Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris in the topsoil. Some fired material (brick / tile) can produce similar responses as can gravels derived from igneous rocks. These types of responses are commonly assigned a modern origin, unless there is strong supporting evidence indicating a different cause. Where isolated responses are grouped together, they are usually categorised as magnetic disturbance and indicate the presence of a concentration of (usually modern) material. Only the most prominent of these are isolated responses and areas of magnetic disturbance are highlighted on the interpretation diagram
- 4.5.2 Ferrous responses close to field boundaries are usually due to adjacent fences and gates.

5 DATA APPRAISAL AND CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The results from this survey indicate the presence of a known enclosure, plus several possible ring ditches, pits, other archaeological features and ridge and furrow;

consequently, the technique is deemed to have worked well. However, it is possible that the ridge and furrow and ferrous responses have obscured some anomalies of interest.

- 5.2** It should be noted that a geophysical survey does not directly locate sub-surface features - it identifies variations or anomalies in the background response caused by features. The interpretation of geophysical anomalies is often subjective, and it is rarely possible to identify the cause of all such anomalies. Not all features will produce a measurable anomaly, and the effectiveness of a geophysical survey is also dependant on the site-specific conditions. The main factors that may limit whether a feature can be detected are the composition of a feature, its depth and size and the surrounding material. It is not possible to guarantee that a geophysical survey will identify all sub-surface features.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The magnetometer survey has recorded numerous magnetic responses interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. A strong curvilinear response running across the site aligns with a recorded monument (ST85NE200) visible as cropmarks on aerial imagery. This ditch is part of a larger enclosure of probable Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Three partial circular responses are indicative of ring ditches which could represent round houses or possibly barrows. Other irregularly-shaped and discrete anomalies have been identified, including a possible kiln. Ridge and furrow is present throughout the site, and in some places has truncated anomalies of archaeological interest. A few weak curvilinear trends have been detected in the west of the site and have been assigned to the category of Uncertain.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

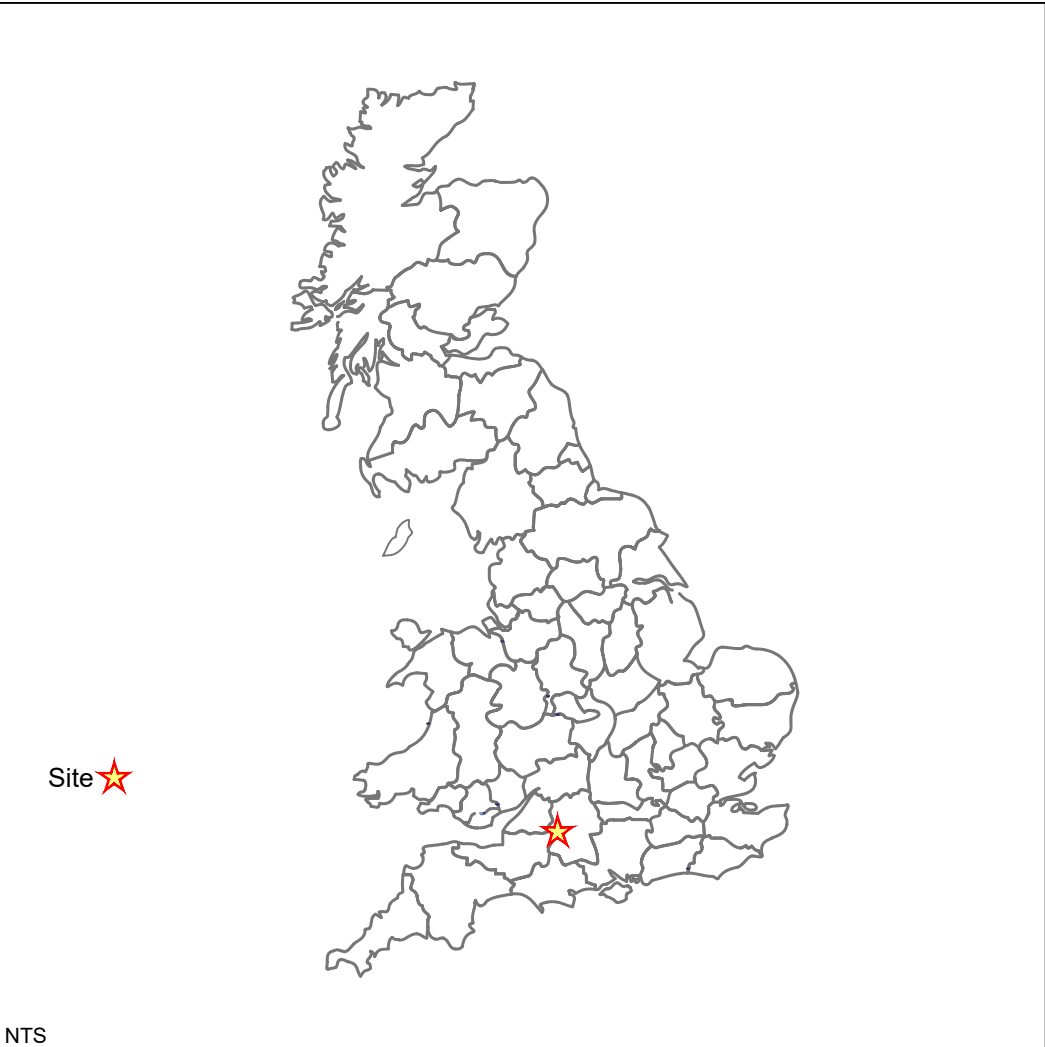
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- SS 2015 *Land at Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire*, Geophysical Survey Report J8695,
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- SG 2022 *Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire*, Geophysical Survey Report
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- SG 2024 *Land at Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire*, Geophysical Survey Report 14721,
SUMO GeoSurveys, unpublished
- WC 2026 *Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record*. Website:
<https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/HistoryEnvRecord/Home/Index>

8 ARCHIVE

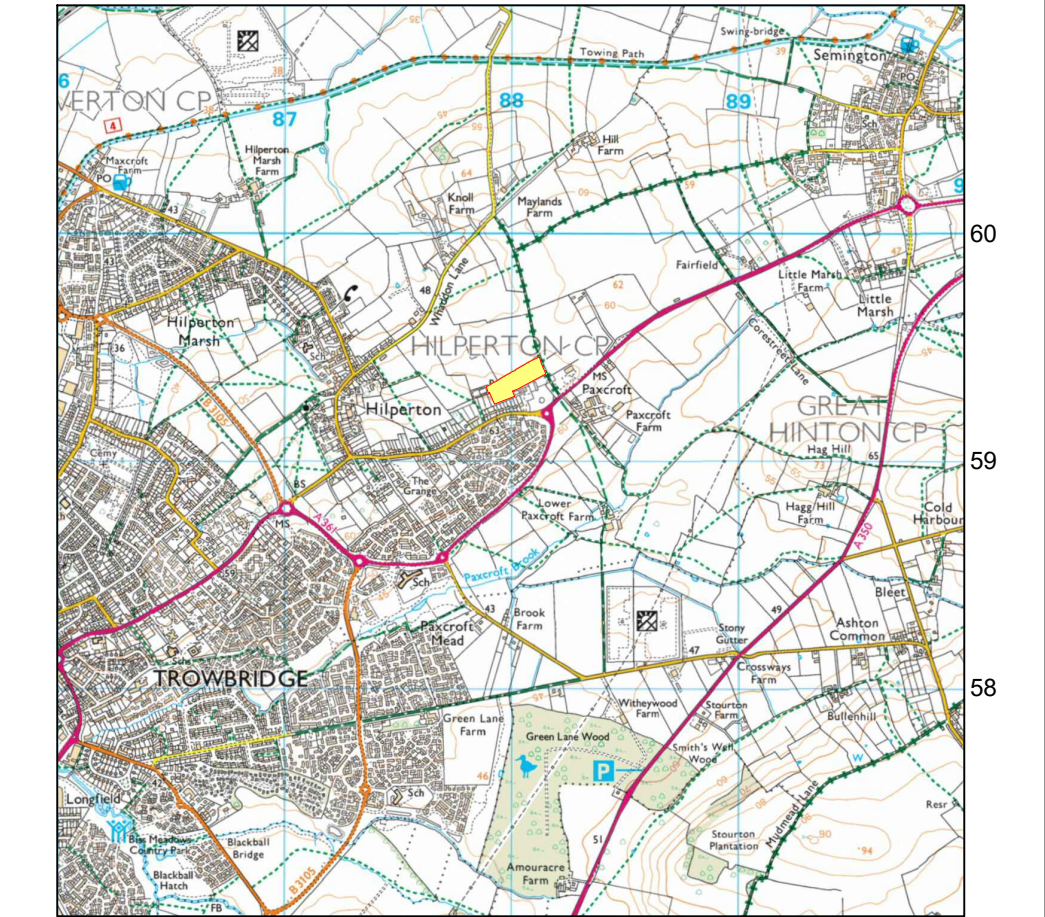
- 8.1.1 The minimally processed data, data images, X-Y traces and a copy of this report are stored in **SUMO GeoSurveys'** digital archive, on an internal RAID configured NAS drive in the Eckington Office. These data are also backed up to the Cloud for off-site storage.
- 8.1.2 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.

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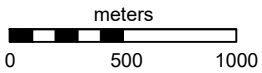


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KEY

-  Site boundary
-  Survey area(s)

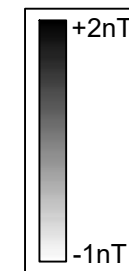


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Project: SUMO-25380: Hilpertown, Wiltshire Phase 2	
Scale: As shown	Fig No: 01



NOTES

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Magnetic Gradient Data - Greyscale Plot

Client:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Project:
SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire Phase 2

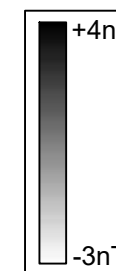
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Fig No:
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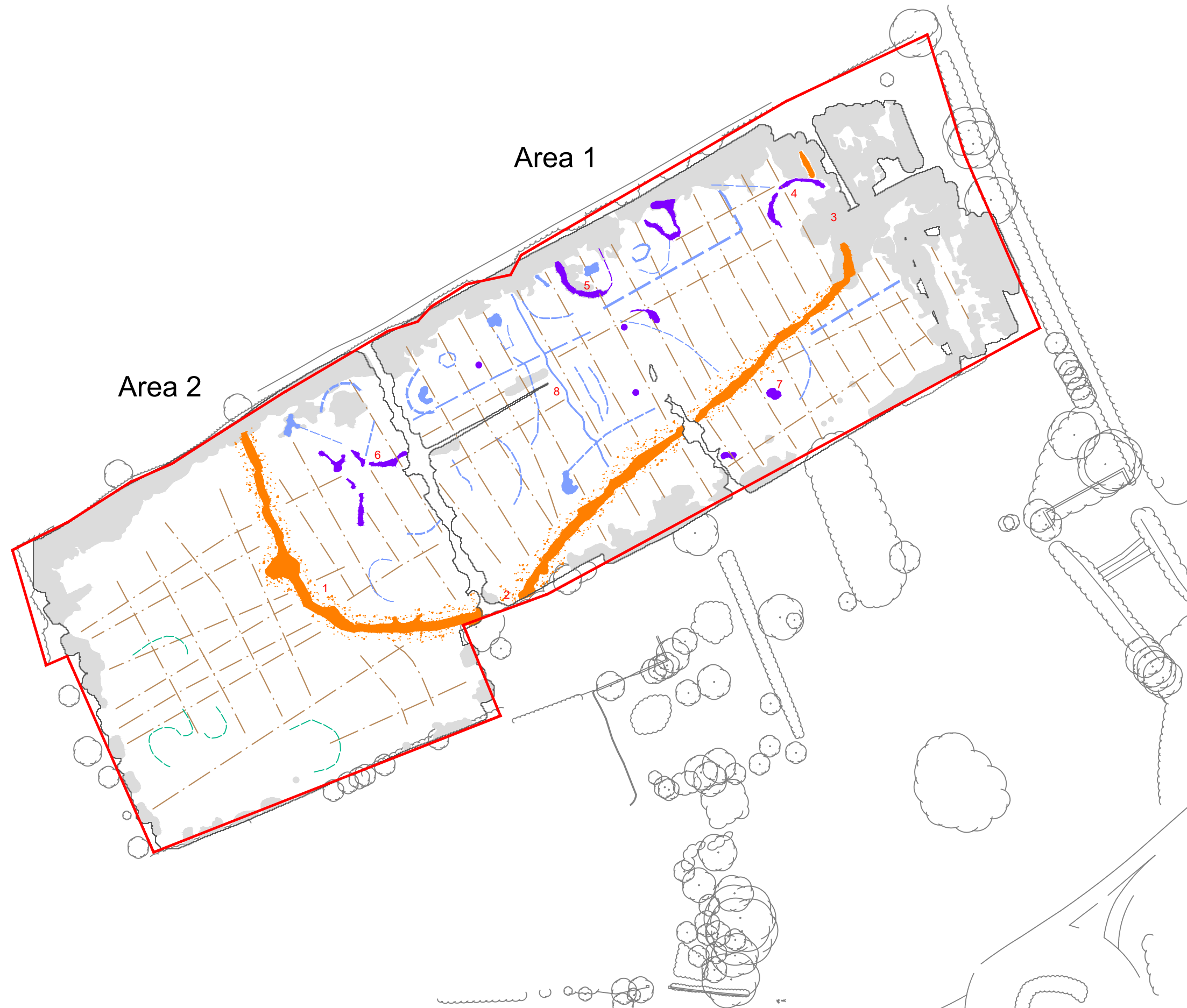
Title:
Magnetic Gradient Data - Greyscale Plot

Client:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Project:
SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire Phase 2

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Fig No:
03



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KEY

	Known (corroborated) archaeology (discrete anomaly / increased response)
	Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Ridge and furrow
	Uncertain origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Ferrous and / or fired material



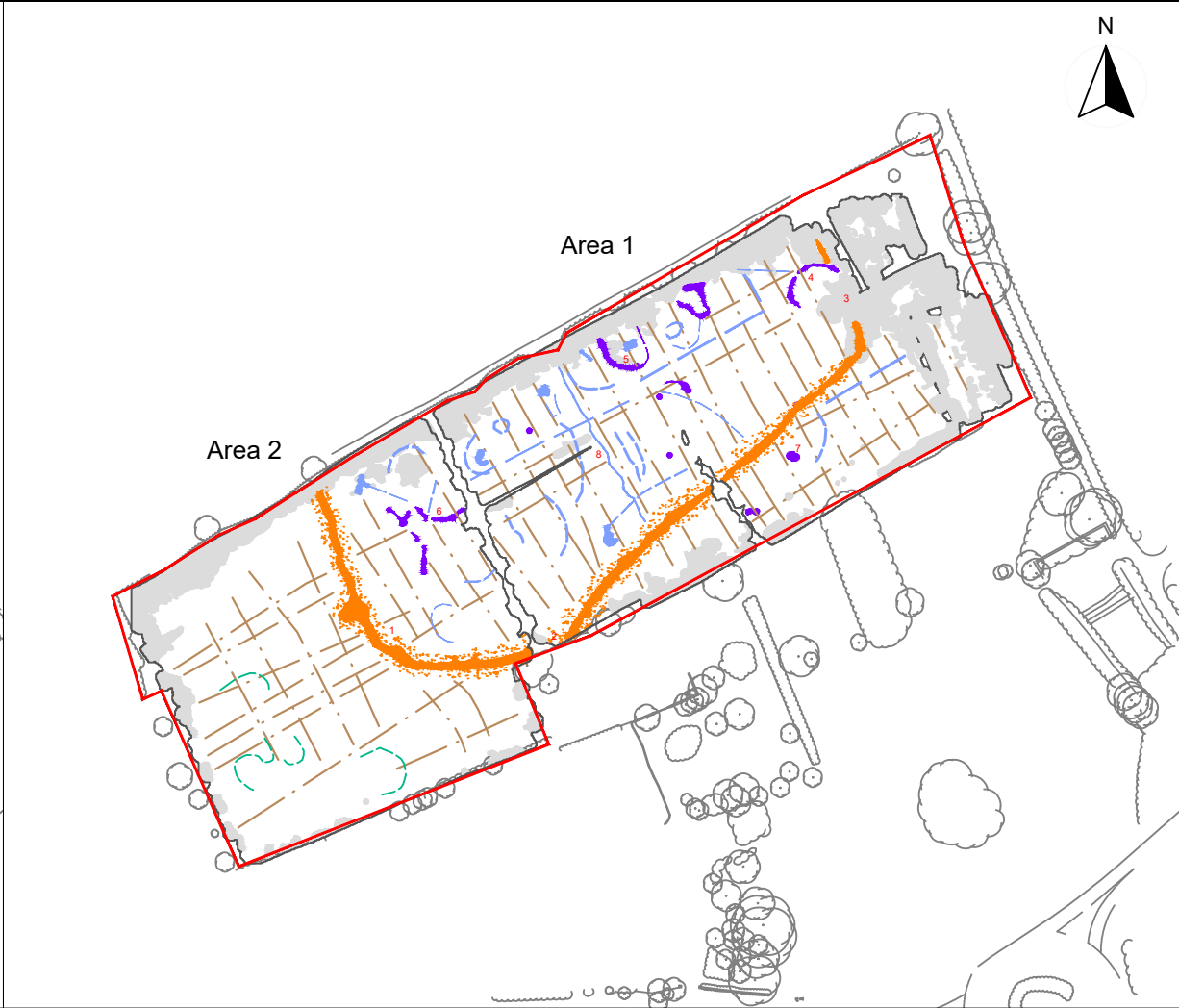
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Magnetic Gradient Data - Interpretation

Client:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Project:
SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire Phase 2

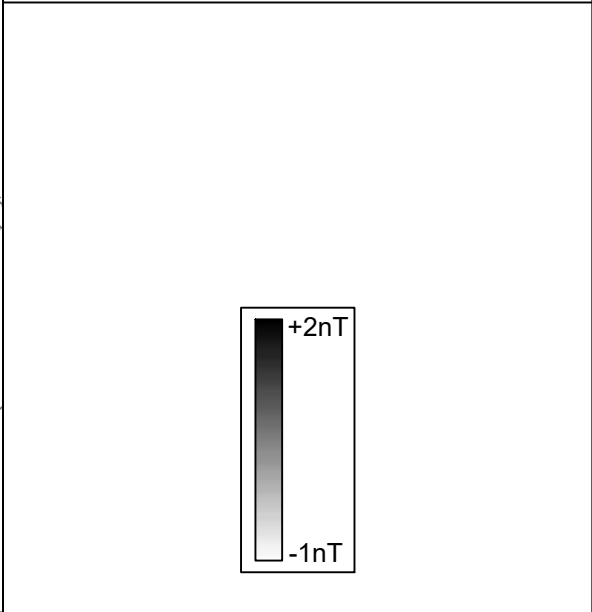
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Fig No:
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KEY	
	Known (corroborated) archaeology (discrete anomaly / increased response)
	Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Ridge and furrow
	Uncertain origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
	Ferrous and / or fired material

Title:
Greyscale Plot / Interpretation / c. 1873-1888
Ordnance Survey Map / 2025 Aerial Image

Client:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

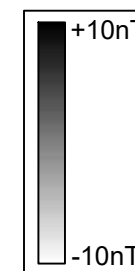
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Scale: NOT TO SCALE / AS SHOWN	Fig No: 05
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1. The Ordnance Survey co-ordinates obtained for this survey were measured using the UK OSTN15 transformation. This transformation should be taken into account if the survey data is relocated.
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3. This drawing and the information contained therein is issued in confidence and is the copyright of SUMO GeoSurveys. Disclosure of this information to third parties and unauthorised copying or replication of this data without approval is forbidden.



Title:
Minimally Processed Magnetic Gradient Data -
Greyscale Plot

Client:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Project:
SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire Phase 2

Scale: 1:1000@A3
0 25 50
meters

Fig No:
06





NOTES

1. The Ordnance Survey co-ordinates obtained for this survey were measured using the UK OSTN15 transformation. This transformation should be taken into account if the survey data is relocated.
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Title: Magnetic Gradient Data - X-Y Trace
Plots (clipped at +/-15nT)

Client: Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Project: SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire Phase 2

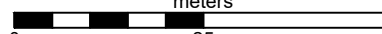
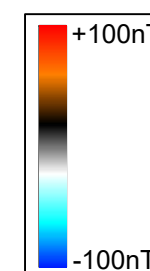
Scale: 1:1000@A3

0 25 50 meters

Fig No:
07





Title:
Magnetometer Survey - Colour Plots

Client:
Redcliffe Homes Ltd

Project:
SUMO-25380: Hilperton, Wiltshire Phase 2

Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
08

Appendix A - Technical information: Magnetic survey

Instrumentation:

Fluxgate gradiometers were used for the magnetic survey. These are systems that have two fluxgate magnetometers a set distance apart in a vertical sensor each of which measures the vertical component of the earth's magnetic field. The difference in measurements between the two magnetometers indicates the gradient of the earth's magnetic field.

Generally, features up to 1 m deep may be detected using fluxgate gradiometers, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths and features / material that produce relatively weak magnetic responses may only be detected at shallower depths.

Data points and survey grids are georeferenced using using an RTK GNSS (Real-Time Kinematic Global Navigation Satellite System) to an accuracy usually in the order of +/- 0.05 m, and at all times better than 0.1 m. Positional data is converted to the Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates, using the UK OSTN15 transformation.

SUMO GeoSurveys utilise Bartington or Foerster fluxgate gradiometers in several different configurations, depending on the client's requirements, survey objectives and site specific conditions. These include:

Bartington cart system

Cart survey: Four Grad601 sensors, with a sensor spacing of 1.0 m, are mounted on a non-magnetic cart. Readings are taken at nominal 0.125 m intervals. The sensors and an on-board RTK GNSS are connected to a control unit / data logger which allows each data point to be geo-referenced and related to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Readings are triggered at time intervals so the speed of survey can affect how often a reading is taken but the frequency a reading is taken and the speed of survey are set so that on average a reading will be taken at the required interval or better.

Bartington Grad 601-2

Hand-held: In this configuration two paired sensors, connected to a control unit / data logger, are carried by hand. The sensor are spaced 1 m apart and readings are taken at 0.25 m centres along traverses. Regular 30 m grids are set out across the survey area and the data is collected over these.

Foerster cart system (MACS)

Cart survey: A multi-sensor array cart system (MACS) utilising 4 or 8 Foerster 4.032 Ferex CON 650 gradiometers that are mounted on a non-magnetic cart. Readings are taken at between 0.1 and 0.15 m intervals. The sensors and an on-board RTK GNSS are connected to a control unit / data logger (an Eastern Atlas digitiser) which allows each data point to be geo-referenced and related to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Readings are triggered at time intervals so the speed of survey can affect how often a reading is taken but the frequency a reading is taken and the speed of survey are set so that on average a reading will be taken at the required interval or better.

Foerster cart system (MACS)

Cart survey: A multi-sensor array cart system (MACS) utilising 4 Foerster 4.032 Ferex MG-10-550 gradiometers that are mounted on a non-magnetic cart. Readings are taken at between 0.1 and 0.15 m intervals. The sensors and an on-board RTK GNSS are connected to a control unit / data logger which allows each data point to be geo-referenced and related to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Readings are triggered at time intervals so the speed of survey can affect how often a reading is taken but the frequency a reading is taken and the speed of survey are set so that on average a reading will be taken at the required interval or better.

Data processing

The processing sequence used for the data will depend on the instrument and configuration used.

Bartington Grad601 cart survey data

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse to zero. The operation
Traverse	removes striping effects and edge discontinuities caused by individual sensors having slightly different values when zeroed or where striping errors occur due to instrument drift or are a product of data collection.

Bartington Grad601-2 hand-held data

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero.
Traverse	The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities caused by individual sensors having slightly different values when zeroed or where striping errors occur due to instrument drift or are a product of data collection.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors or stagger can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

Foerster cart system (MACS)

ealdec	This process decodes the raw data and converts it to a csv file. Positional values are assigned to each data point based on data from the GNSS and the offset of each sensor relative to the GNSS.
Ealmat.m	This is the equivalent of a zero mean traverse, wherein the data is normalised and a drift correction applied for each probe.
Ealgrid.m	This grids the data by merging each profile file. Parameters are set by based on the sensor spacing and resolution required.

Foerster cart system (MACS)

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse to zero. The operation
Traverse	removes striping effects and edge discontinuities caused by individual sensors having slightly different values when zeroed or where striping errors occur due to instrument drift or are a product of data collection.

Display

Greyscale plot	A greyscale plot of magnetic data is a visual representation of magnetic field strength variations over a given area. Magnetic gradient measurements are converted into a two-dimensional image where different shades of grey correspond to different magnetic values. This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. In this instance black is used for the maximum intensity values and white for the minimum.
X-Y trace plot	An X-Y trace plot of magnetic data is a visual representation of magnetic field strength variations over a given area. Magnetic gradient measurements along a single traverse are displayed as a graph where the X-axis represents the distance along a traverse and the Y-axis is the measured magnetic gradient value at that point. Plots for each traverse are stacked to produce the X_Y trace plot for an area. The main advantage of the shape of individual anomalies can be viewed, and if required the full range of data can be viewed, although the data is often clipped at +/- 15 nT to +/- 20 nT.

Interpretation Categories

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road*, *Wall*, etc.) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the magnetic gradient data.

<i>Archaeology / probable archaeology</i>	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
<i>Possible archaeology</i>	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth or plough damage.
<i>Industrial / Burnt / fired</i>	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal- working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
<i>Ridge and furrow</i>	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
<i>Uncertain origin</i>	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.
<i>Former field boundary (probable and possible)</i>	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
<i>Agriculture (ploughing)</i>	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes. The general orientation of the cultivation regime is shown but, for the sake of clarity, each individual anomaly has not been shown.
<i>Agriculture (land drain)</i>	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
<i>Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)</i>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
<i>Magnetic disturbance</i>	Areas of strong dipolar / bipolar anomalies, usually related to a spread / concentration of modern magnetic including ferrous and fired (e.g. brick or tile rubble) material.
<i>Service (e.g. pipe, cable or drain)</i>	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear alignments are indicative of ferrous pipes cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
<i>Ferrous</i>	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

Appendix B - Technical information: Magnetic theory

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning, soil formation, weathering, erosion and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns; material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

A magnetic survey is carried out using a magnetometer which can measure these small changes in magnetic properties, which are referred to as anomalies. Magnetometers can either measure the total field or the gradient. Measuring the gradient of the earth's magnetic field can suppress any diurnal or regional effects and makes the instrument sensitive to smaller, localised anomalies, which is critical for archaeological surveys. The total field or magnetic gradient are measured in Tesla (T) with the small variations detected in archaeological surveys recorded in nanoTesla (nT).

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity and disturbance from modern services (pipes, cables or drains) or other modern material / activity.

Appendix C - OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS Summary for sumogeop1-538498

OASIS ID (UID)	sumogeop1-538498
Project Name	Magnetometry Survey, Geophysical Survey at Hilperton, Wiltshire
Sitename	Hilperton, Wiltshire
Sitecode	SUMO-25380
Project Identifier(s)	SUMO-25380 Hilperton, Wiltshire
Activity type	Magnetometry Survey, Geophysical Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	SUMO Geophysics Ltd.
Project Dates	04-Dec-2025 - 04-Dec-2025
Location	Hilperton, Wiltshire NGR : ST 88003 59352 LL : 51.333132758971416, -2.173588576959493 12 Fig : 388003,159352
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Wiltshire Local Authority District : Wiltshire Parish : Hilperton
Project Methodology	Data was collected using a cart carrying four paired Bartington magnetic sensors. Four sensors mounted 1m horizontally apart and very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the earth's magnetic field. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background. Each data point is geographically referenced using an on-board Trimble RTK survey grade GPS system. Readings were taken at 0.125m centres along traverses 1.0m apart. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background.
Project Results	The survey identified numerous magnetic responses of definite archaeological interest. A strong curvilinear response running across the site aligns with a recorded monument which is part of a large enclosure of probable Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Three partial circular responses are indicative of ring ditches which could represent round houses or possible barrows. Other irregularly-shaped and discrete anomalies have been identified, including a possible kiln. Ridge and furrow is present throughout the site, and in some places has truncated anomalies of archaeological interest. A few weak curvilinear trends have been assigned to the category of Uncertain.

Keywords	Curvilinear Enclosure - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - MIDDLE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Curvilinear Enclosure - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - MIDDLE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Redcliffe Homes Limited
HER	Wiltshire and Swindon HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Darcy Hooper
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Appendix D – Data Management Plan & Archive Selection Strategy

Data Management Plan

Project ID / OASIS ID

SUMO-25380 / sumogeop1-538498

Project Name

Hilperton, Wiltshire

Project Description

Detailed magnetic survey over approx. 2ha

Client

Redcliffe Homes Limited

Project Manager

Thomas Cockcroft

Field Leader

Gabriel Mazeski

Date DMP created

18/11/2025

Date DMP last updated

13/01/2026

Version

2

Technique - data

Detailed magnetic survey.

Manual – cart - other

ATV/Cart Handheld magnetometers

Documentation and metadata

All documentation and data produced are stored on SUMO servers in a specific job file.

Data storage, access and back-up

- SUMO Secure server during the project life set up in a RAID configuration (a RAID configuration incorporates a level of data redundancy meaning if a single hard drive in fails data can still be restored).

- Snap shots of the data will be made at several intervals during the day to allow data to be restored for up to 30 days if changed / deleted.
- Once the final report has been completed data will be moved onto NAS drive set up in a RAID configuration.
- All data is backed up to an off-site location (Cloud storage).

Archive Selection Strategy

Digital Data

Selection

It is proposed that only the final version of all born digital documents (reports, images and CAD files) will be selected for inclusion in the Preserved Archive. All raw and processed survey data will be included in the preserved archive. Below is what will constitute the selected archive:

- Raw data in XYZ format .csv and .png plus .pgw world file
- Processed data as .png plus .pgw world file
- Final survey report .pdf
- CAD and Vector graphics (interpretations) in .dwg format

De-selected digital data

The de-selected material will be retained on the SUMO Secure server and Cloud storage.

Documents

Not applicable – no archive

Materials

Not applicable – no archive



- Archaeological Geophysics
- Engineering Geophysics
- Measured Building Services
- Utility and Topographic Services
- Aerial Surveys
- Rail Surveys

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Registered Office Unit 8 Hayward Business Centre, New Lane, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2NL

Appendix EDP 3

Trial Trenching Report

2022 Cotswold Archaeology Field Evaluation (southern part of the Site).

**Land off Hilperton Drive
Hilperton
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



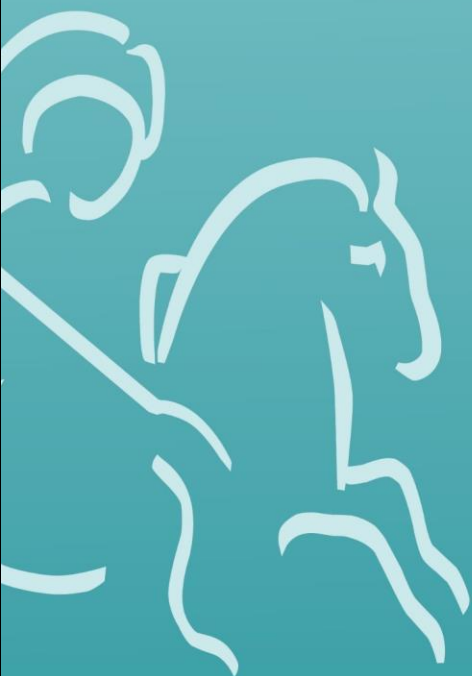
for:
EDP

on behalf of:
Redcliff Homes Limited

CA Project: CR1150
CA Report: CR1150_1

WM Accession No.: DZSWS40-2022

August 2022



Land off Hilpertont Drive Hilpertont Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: CR1150
CA Report: CR1150_1

WM Accession No.: DZSWS40-2022

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	23 August 2022	Kinga Werner	Steven Sheldon	Draft	–	Alex Thomson
B	30 August 2022	Kinga Werner	Steven Sheldon	Draft	EDP Comment	Alex Thomson

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e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS	7
6. THE FINDS	8
7. DISCUSSION.....	9
8. CA PROJECT TEAM	10
9. REFERENCES.....	10
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	11
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	12
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	13

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:2000)

Fig. 3 Trench 3: plan (1:200), section (1:20) and photograph

Fig. 4 Trench 4: plan (1:200), section (1:20) and photograph

Fig. 5 Trench 5: plan (1:200), section (1:20) and photograph

Fig. 6 Trench 7: plan (1:200), section (1:20) and photograph

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land off Hilperton Drive
Location:	Hilperton, Wiltshire
NGR:	388138 159265
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	27-29 July 2022
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	DZSWS:40-2022
Site Code:	HILD22

In July 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire. A total of 7 trenches were excavated.

Two sherds of abraded pottery of broad late prehistoric date were recovered from the subsoil within a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site. No *in-situ* features of prehistoric date were identified.

Two sherds of pottery of Roman date were recovered from the fill of a ditch identified cutting the natural substrate in a trench excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site.

Two further artefactually undated ditches of indeterminate, although likely recent and agricultural, function were identified cutting the subsoil in two trenches excavated in the south-western part of the site. These may represent a single feature.

1. INTRODUCTION

In July 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 388138 159265; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for EDP, who were acting on behalf of Redcliffe Homes Limited.

1.1. The evaluation results will inform a forthcoming planning application for residential development of the site, which will be made to Wiltshire Council (WC).

1.2. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

1.4. The proposed development site is approximately 1.3ha in extent and is located on the north-eastern edge of Hilperton. The site currently comprises of three fields, currently under pasture or scrub. It is bounded to the southeast by the A361 and Devizes Road, to the south-west by residential development, to the north-west by further agricultural land and to the north-east by an unnamed lane adjacent to Trowbridge Rugby Football Club. The site lies at approximately 62m AOD and is broadly level, although a gentle drop in ground level was noted in the north-eastern corner of the site during the evaluation.

1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Cornbrash Formation - Limestone, which formed in the Jurassic period (BGS 2022). The natural substrate, comprising compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt, was identified in all of the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.

The site is located in an area where a number of sites and findspots of artefacts are recorded by the Wiltshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER). These include; a complex of cropmarks which include a possible Bronze Age Round Barrow (MW175792) c. 150m to the north-east of the site, a number of possible Iron Age Hut Circles (MW174383) c. 300m to the north-east of the site and a probable Iron Age Enclosure MW1277), visible as a cropmark, c. 30m to the north of the site. A small early Bronze Age flint thumb scraper has also been recovered during field walking undertaken in the northern part of the current site itself (MW1272).

2.2.

An archaeological evaluation, undertaken on land a short distance to the east of the current site (CA 2005), revealed evidence for a possible Late Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditch, two enclosures of prehistoric or Romano-British date, two possible Anglo-Saxon Sunken Feature Buildings, as well as a number of undated ditches. However, these remains appear to be concentrated in the south-eastern quarter of the evaluated area (i.e. c. 125m to the south-east of the current site) with the remainder of the investigated area (i.e. toward the site) appearing to be devoid of archaeological features (ibid.).

2.3.

A geophysical survey (SUMO 2022), undertaken to support the forthcoming planning application for the site, recorded several linear magnetic responses which may be of an archaeological origin in the southern and western parts of the site (see Fig. 2 for locations). Evidence of agricultural activity, including probable ridge and furrow, was also recorded throughout the site and a ditch corresponding to field boundary depicted by historic mapping was identified in the north-eastern part of the site (ibid.).

3.1.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable WC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

4. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, and one trench measuring 15m in length by 1.8m in width (see Fig. 2 for locations). The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. All trenches were moved slightly from their original positions, as proposed within the WSI, due to the presence of overhead cables and the orientation of Trench 1 was changed to avoid a tree canopy, with the approval of Mr Adam.

4.1.

Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.

4.2.

Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3.

Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.4.

Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.5.

CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Museum (Wiltshire Museum Acc. No.: DZSWS: 40-2022) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

4.6.

A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. A digital (pdf)

copy of the final report will also be made available for public viewing via CA's Archaeological Reports Online web page (<http://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>).

5. RESULTS

This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.

5.1. In Trenches 1 and 4-7 an analogous stratigraphic sequence was revealed; with the natural substrate, comprising compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt, being revealed at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil measuring between 0.13m and 0.33m in thickness. The subsoil was subsequently sealed by topsoil measuring between 0.25m and 0.42m in thickness. In Trench 2 and across the north-eastern end of Trench 3 the natural substrate was directly overlain by sterile silt clay deposits, probably representing an episode of colluviation and measuring up to 0.38m in thickness, which were in turn overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

5.2. In Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6 a small number of irregular pit-like features, containing sterile silt-clay fills, were identified. Where investigated (see Fig. 3), these features exhibited highly irregular profiles and their fills demonstrably undermined the adjacent natural substrate; therefore, they are considered most likely to represent tree-throw pits. In Trenches 4 and 6 two field drains, both of which corresponded closely with liner anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey, were noted.

5.3. **Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 4)**

North-east/south-west aligned ditch 403 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was identified cutting the natural substrate towards the centre of the trench, where it correlated closely with a linear anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular concave base and contained a single fill, 404, from which two sherds of pottery of Roman date were recovered.

5.4. **Trench 5 (Fig. 5)**

Narrow north-west/south-east aligned ditch 503 (Fig. 5, Section CC) was identified cutting the subsoil in the central part of the trench, where it correlated closely to a linear anomaly identified during the preceding geophysical survey. It had an irregular 'U'-shaped profile, measured at least 1.8m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.17m in

depth, and contained a single undated fill, 504. It appears to represent a continuation of ditch 703 identified in Trench 7

Trench 7 (Fig. 6)

5.6. Narrow north-west/south-east aligned ditch 703 (Fig. 6, Section DD) was identified cutting the subsoil in the central part of the trench, where it correlated closely to a linear anomaly identified during the preceding geophysical survey. It had an irregular profile with a concave base and measured at least 1.8m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.34m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 704. It appears to represent a continuation of ditch 503 identified in Trench 5.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. Artefactual material, comprising four sherds of pottery, was recovered by hand from two deposits. The material is listed by context in Appendix B and further described below. The data was recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet, from which Table 1 is taken. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and sherd count, weight, and fabric. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the ClfA finds Toolkit (ClfA 2022).

Pottery

6.2. Two abraded unfeatured bodysherds weighing 3g were hand recovered from subsoil layer 101. They present in a shell and limestone tempered fabric (SLT). In the absence of decoration or indicators of form, a Late Prehistoric date is considered most likely on the basis of fabric and firing characteristics.

6.3.

Two sherds of pottery weighing 51g were hand recovered from fill 404 of ditch 403 and include one sherd (3g) in a greyware (GW) fabric and another (48g) in a grog tempered (GT) fabric. First century dating is suggested for the grog tempered sherd and the greyware is broadly datable to the Roman period.

7. DISCUSSION

The evaluation has identified a very small number of ditches within the proposed development area. The majority of these features remained undated despite 100% excavation of their fills within the evaluation trenches.

- 7.1. Where linear features were encountered there was a good correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey (SUMO 2022). However, an anomaly interpreted as a possible former field boundary, identified by the geophysical survey and shown on historic mapping, was not identified in Trench 2 of the current evaluation.
- 7.2.

Prehistoric

- 7.3. Two abraded sherds of pottery broad late prehistoric date were recovered from the subsoil within Trench 1. Whilst evidence of prehistoric activity is recorded or indicated in the wider area a short distance beyond the site (see *Archaeological Background* above) the limited evidence provided by the current evaluation does little to enhance our understanding of such activity in the area during this period. No *in-situ* features were identified and it appears likely that the site was beyond concentrations of activity, particularly those recorded to the east and north-east.

Roman

- 7.4. Ditch 403, identified in Trench 4, contained two sherds of pottery of Roman date. Whilst the precise function of this feature remains unclear, due to its isolated nature within the trench, it is considered most likely to represent a land division or drainage feature or be associated with other small-scale agricultural activities.

7.5.

Undated

The function of undated ditches 503 and 703 (which may be a single feature), identified in Trenches 5 and 7 respectively, also remains unclear. However, the absence of artefactual and faunal material within the fills of these feature suggests that they lie at an appreciable distance from any area of settlement and they would therefore most likely also represent drainage feature or be associated with other small-scale agricultural activities, most likely of a relatively recent date given that they cut the subsoil within the excavated trenches.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kinga Werner, assisted by Alistair Thomson and Chris Hayward. This report was written by Kinga Werner. The finds report was written by Claire Collier-Jones. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled by Kinga Werner, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8.1.

9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2022 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 1 August 2022

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites: Technical Manual No. 2

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2022 *Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CIfA 2021 CIfA Finds reporting toolkit <https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit> (accessed 4 Aug 2022)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 National Planning Policy Framework

SUMO Geophysics Ltd 2022 *Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire: Geophysical Survey Report*. SUMO Report No. **08041**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>15	>1.8	0.28	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>15	>1.8	0.27	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>15	>1.8	>0.01	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>30	>1.8	0.29	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>30	>1.8	0.32	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
2	203	Layer		Colluvial Layer	Mid greyish brown clayey sand, compact with 10-25% natural limestone	>30	>1.8	0.38	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>30	>1.8	0.37	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>30	>1.8	0.33	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
3	303	Cut		Tree-throw	Sub-circular in plan, slightly irregular	>1.8	0.8	0.35	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	>1.8	0.8	0.35	
3	305	Layer		Colluvial Layer	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with 50-70% limestone	>15	>1.8	0.21	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>30	>1.8	0.26	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>30	>1.8	0.15	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
4	403	Cut		Ditch	North-east/south-west aligned ditch	>1.8	1.13	0.28	
4	404	Fill	403	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt with fragments of limestone	>1.8	1.13	0.28	RB
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>30	>1.8	0.25	

5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>30	>1.8	0.27	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
5	503	Cut		Ditch	East/west aligned ditch V-shaped profile	>1.8	0.62	0.17	
5	504	Fill	503	Fill	Mid brownish grey clayey silt with inclusion of limestone	>1.8	0.62	0.17	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>30	>1.8	0.25	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>30	>1.8	0.15	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestones	>30	>1.8	0.42	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey-brown compact clay silt with small sub-angular limestone	>30	>1.8	0.13	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Compact limestone brash with patches of yellow-brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	>0.01	
7	703	Cut		Ditch	North-west/south-east aligned ditch V-shaped profile	>1.8	0.5	0.34	
7	704	Fill	703	Fill	Mid brownish grey clayey silt with inclusion of limestone	>1.8	0.5	0.34	

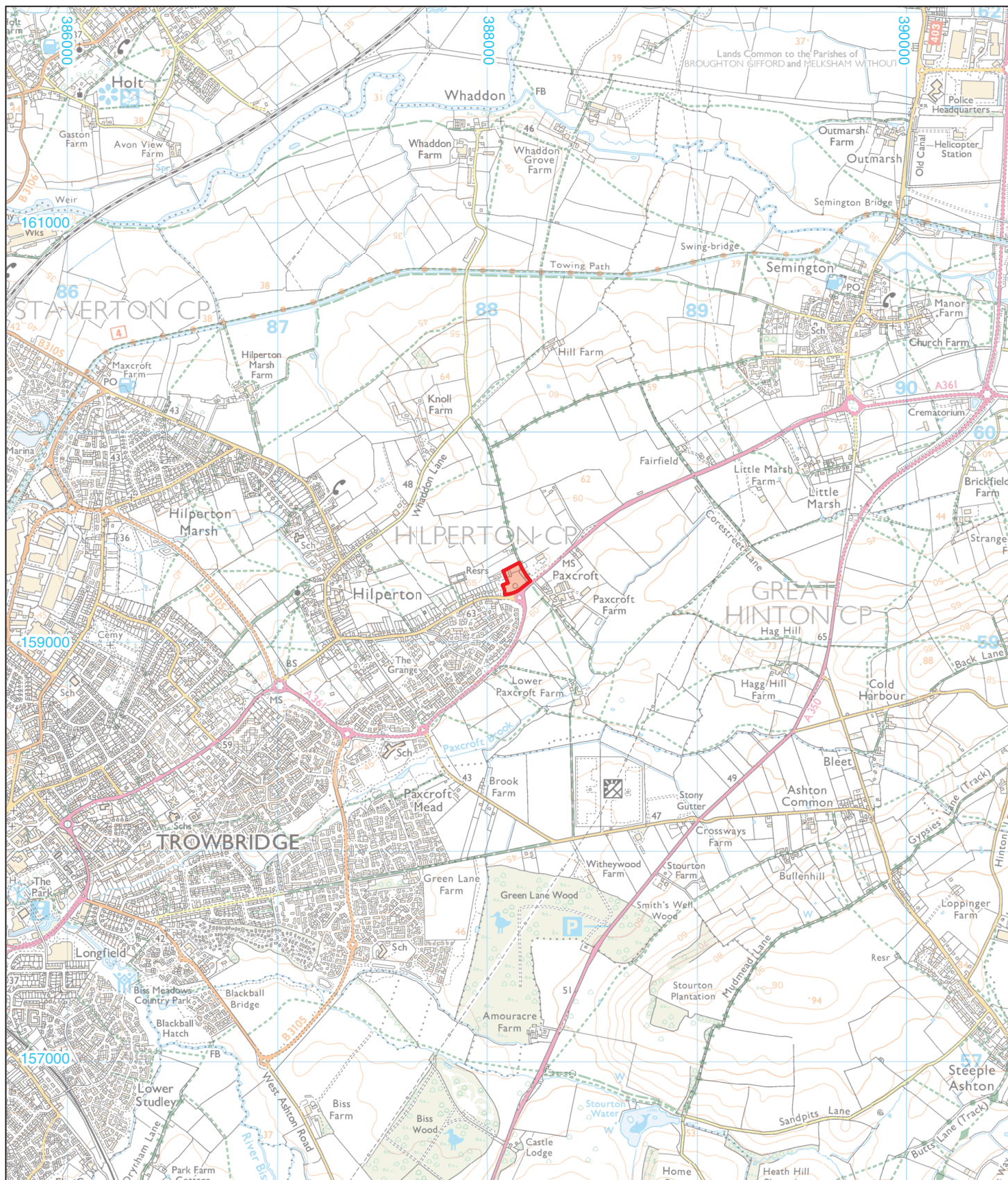
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Type	Category	Count	Weight(g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	2	3
Pottery	Roman	2	51

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire	
Short description	In July 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire. A total of 7 trenches were excavated. Two sherds of abraded pottery of broad late prehistoric date were recovered from the subsoil within a trench excavated in the north-western part of the site. No in situ features of prehistoric date were identified. Two sherds of pottery of Roman date were recovered from the fill of a ditch identified cutting the natural substrate in a trench excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site. Further artefactually undated ditches of indeterminate, although likely recent and agricultural, function were identified cutting the subsoil in two trenches excavated in the south-western part of the site. They may represent a single feature.	
Project dates	27-29 July 2022	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (SUMO 2022)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	1.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	388138 159265	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Kinga Werner	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:
Physical	Wiltshire Museum Accession Number: DZSWS:40-2022	Pottery
Paper	Wiltshire Museum Accession Number: DZSWS:40-2022	Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings, photographic registers
Digital	Wiltshire Museum Accession Number: DZSWS:40-2022 and Archaeology Data Service	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Land off Hilperton Drive, Hilperton, Wiltshire; Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR1150_1		



 Site boundary

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hilpertons Drive, Hilpertons,
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY HMM
CHECKED BY KL
APPROVED BY SS
PROJECT NO. CR1150
DATE 02/08/2022
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Tree-throw

Geophysical survey results
(SUMO 2022)

- Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly/trend)
- Uncertain Origin (negative anomaly/trend/increased response)
- Agriculture (plough)
- Former field boundary (corroborated)
- Ferrous



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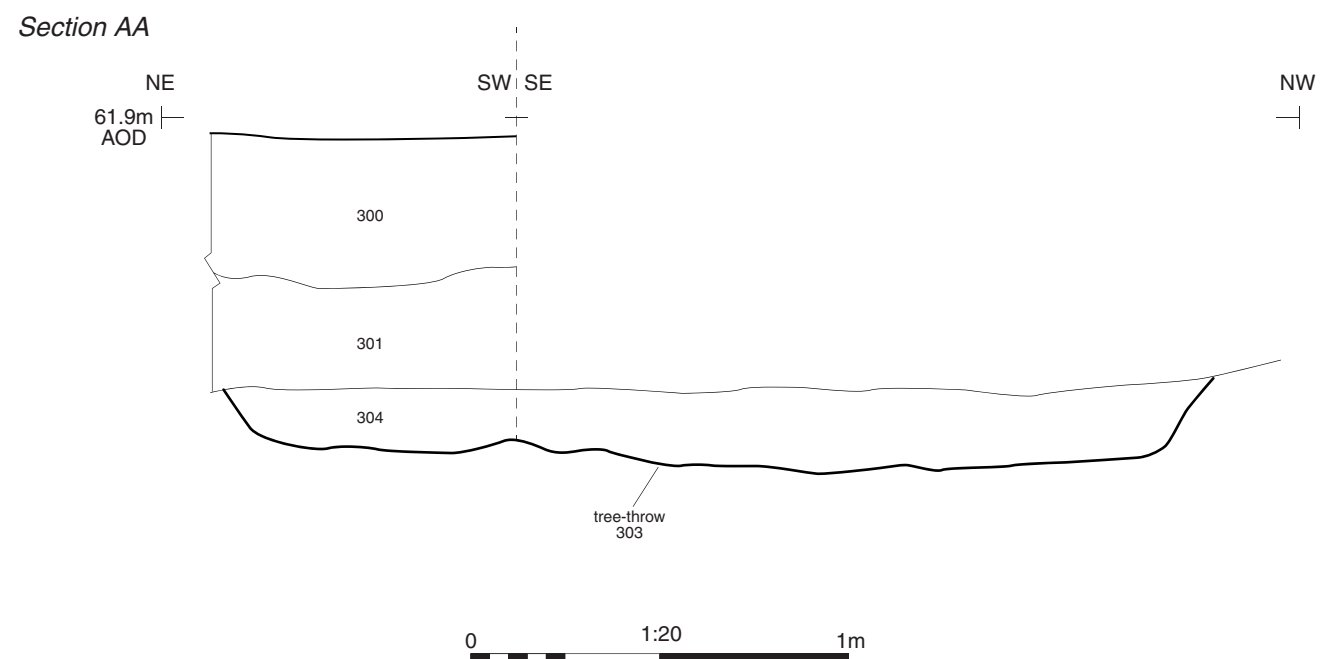
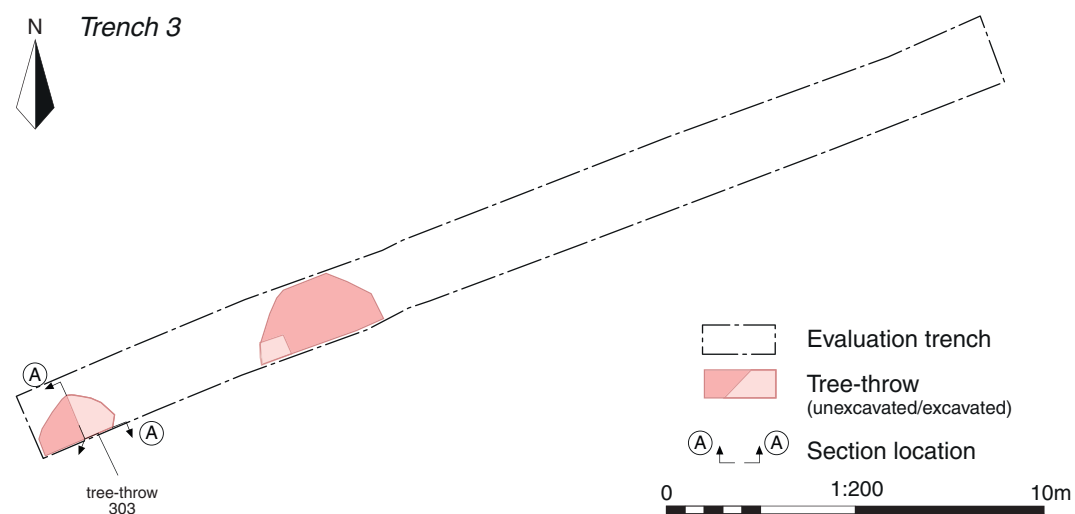
Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land off Hilpert Drive, Hilpert,
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing
identified archaeological features and
geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1150	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	KL	DATE	02/08/2022	2
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE	A3 1:1000	



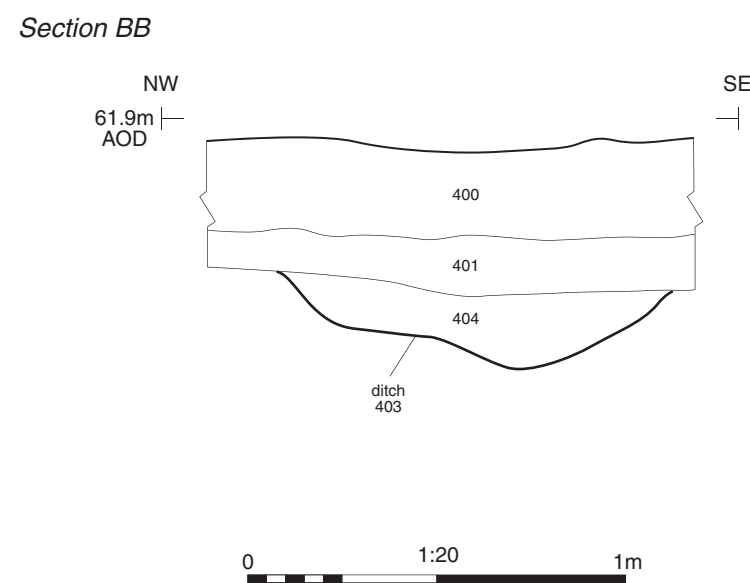
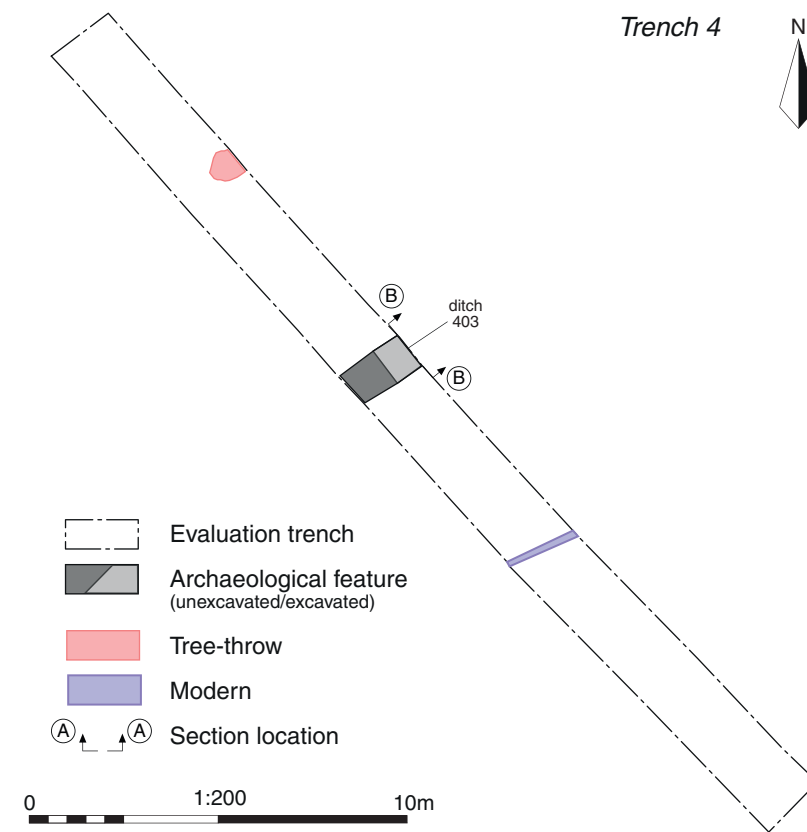
Tree-throw 303, looking south-west (1m scale)

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

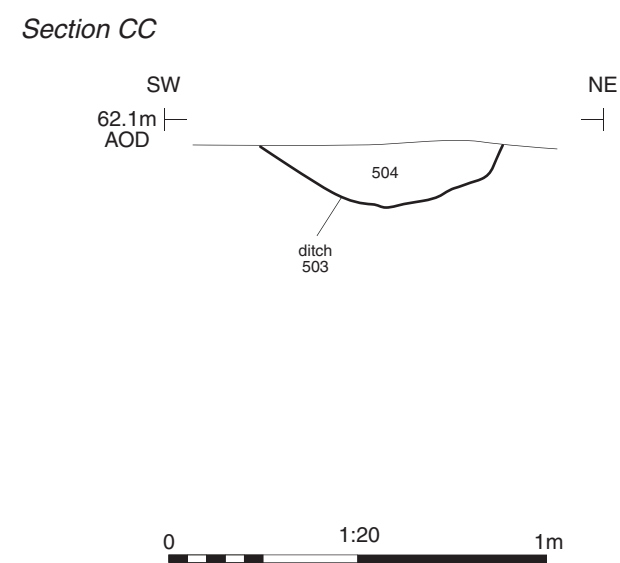
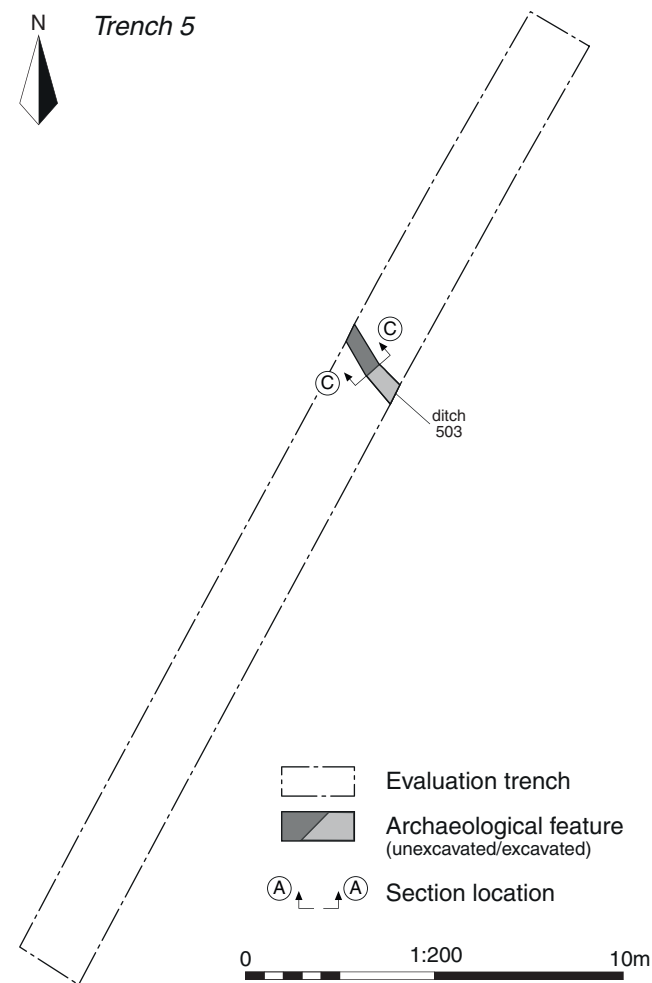
PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Hilpert Drive, Hilpert,
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

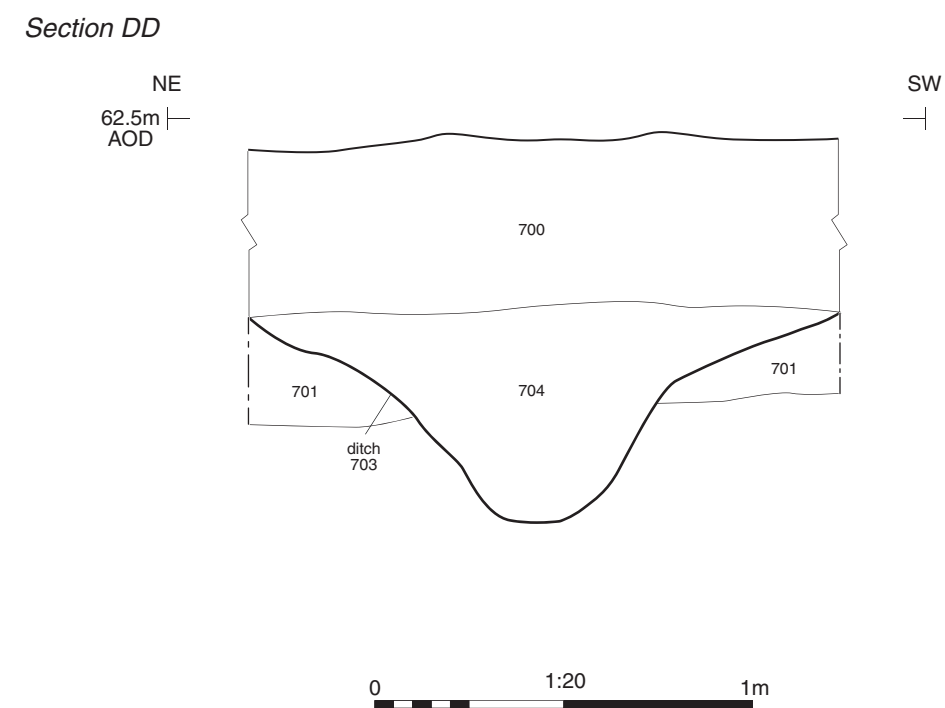
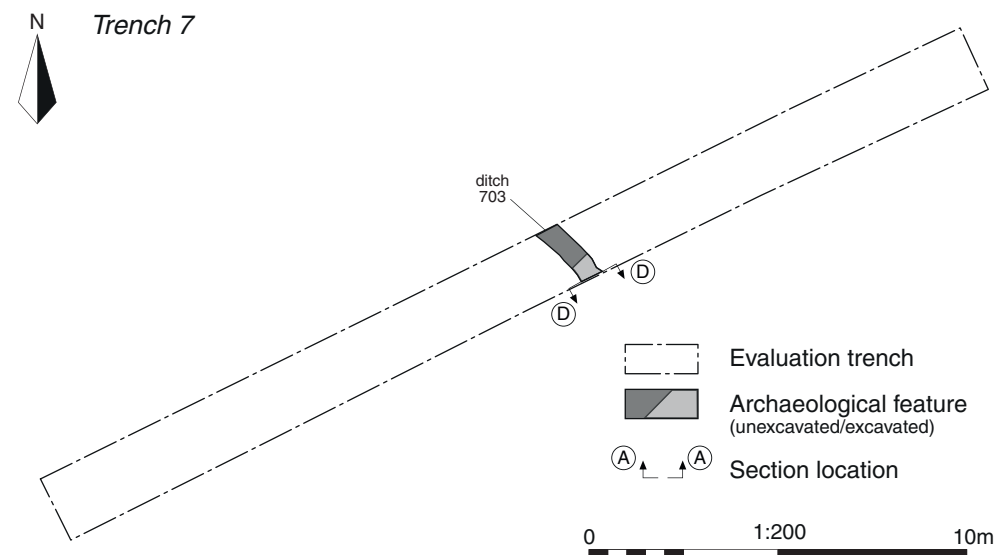
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CHECKED BY	KL	DATE	02/08/2022	3
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Ditch 403, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Ditch 503, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



Ditch 703, looking north-west (0.3m scale)

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land off Hilpert Drive, Hilpert,
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1150	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	KL	DATE	02/08/2022	
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	6

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk



Plans

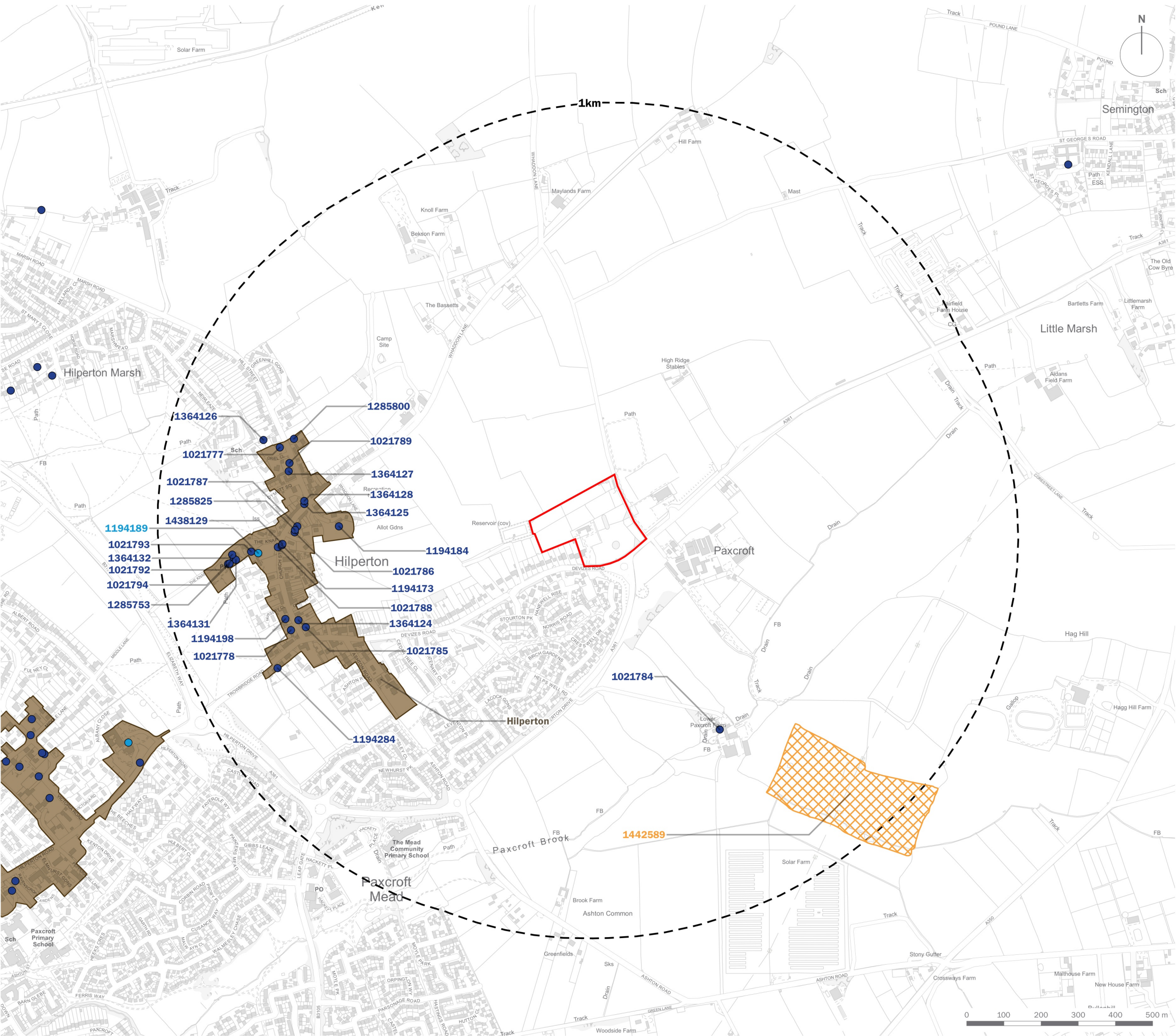
Plan EDP 1: Overview of Designated Heritage Assets
(edp9542_d001a 30 January 2026 JLe/MGI)

Plan EDP 2: Overview of HER Monuments
(edp9542_d002a 30 January 2026 GYo/MGI)

Plan EDP 3: Overview of HER Events
(edp9542_d003a 30 January 2026 GYo/MGI)

Plan EDP 4: Plan EDP 3: Extracts of Historic Maps
(edp9542_d004a 30 January 2026 GYo/MGI)

Plan EDP 5: LiDAR Mapping
(edp9542_d005a 30 January 2026 JLe/MGI)



Site Boundary

1km Study Area

Scheduled Monument

Conservation Area

Grade II* Listed Building

Grade II Listed Building

client

Redcliffe Homes Ltd

project title

Hilpertons, Trowbridge

drawing title

Overview of Designated Heritage Assets

date

30 JANUARY 2026

drawn by

JLe

drawing number

edp9542_d001a

checked

MGI

scale

1:10,000 @ A3

QA

JFr

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Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk



- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- HER Monument

client

Redcliffe Homes Ltd

project title

Hilperton, Trowbridge

drawing title

Overview of HER Monuments

date 30 JANUARY 2026
drawing number edp9542_d002a
scale 1:10,000 @ A3

drawn by GYo
checked MGI
QA JFr



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Site Boundary

1km Study Area

HER Event

client			
Redcliffe Homes Ltd			
project title			
Hilpertons, Trowbridge			
drawing title			
Overview of HER Events			
date	30 JANUARY 2026	drawn by	GYo
drawing number	edp9542_d003a	checked	MGI
scale	1:10,000 @ A3	QA	JFr

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1883 Hilperton Tithe Map



1887 Ordnance Survey Map



1901 Ordnance Survey Map



1924 Ordnance Survey Map



1938 Ordnance Survey Map

Approximate Site Boundary



client	Redcliffe Homes Ltd		
project title	Hilperton, Trowbridge		
drawing title	Extracts of Historic Maps		
date	30 JANUARY 2026	drawn by	GYo
drawing number	edp9542_d004a	checked	MGI
scale	1:4,000 @ A3	QA	JFr



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Multihillshade Model at 1m Resolution (2022)



Local Dominance Model at 1m Resolution (2022)



Simple Local Relief Model at 1m Resolution (2022)



Skyview Model at 1m Resolution (2022)



Site Boundary



client			
Redcliffe Homes Ltd			
project title			
Hilpertton, Trowbridge			
drawing title			
LiDAR Mapping			
date	30 JANUARY 2026	drawn by	JLe
drawing number	edp9542_d005a	checked	MGI
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Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk





the environmental
dimension partnership

CARDIFF
02921 671900

CHELTENHAM
01242 903110

CIRENCESTER
01285 740427

info@edp-uk.co.uk
www.edp-uk.co.uk

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