

# PATTERDOWN ROAD, CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE

**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation**

Prepared for: Hollins Strategic Land

Client Ref: 16/09277/OUT

SLR Ref: 416.05627.00004  
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June / 2017



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## 1.0 Introduction

Hollins Strategic Land are applying for outline planning permission to build 72 dwellings on land at Patterdown Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 2NP (Application 16/09277/OUT). A Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment was completed as part of this application<sup>1</sup>. Wiltshire County Council's archaeological advisor, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, highlighted the archaeological potential of the site and stated there was a requirement for archaeological works to inform a planning decision. A geophysical survey had been carried out by Sumo in March 2017. This identified a number of anomalies, some of which were suggested as being Iron Age settlement features, that were targeted by trenches during this evaluation. The work was carried out as described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd May 2017<sup>2</sup>. The fieldwork was carried out between 30<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> SLR Consulting 2017 Patterdown Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire; Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

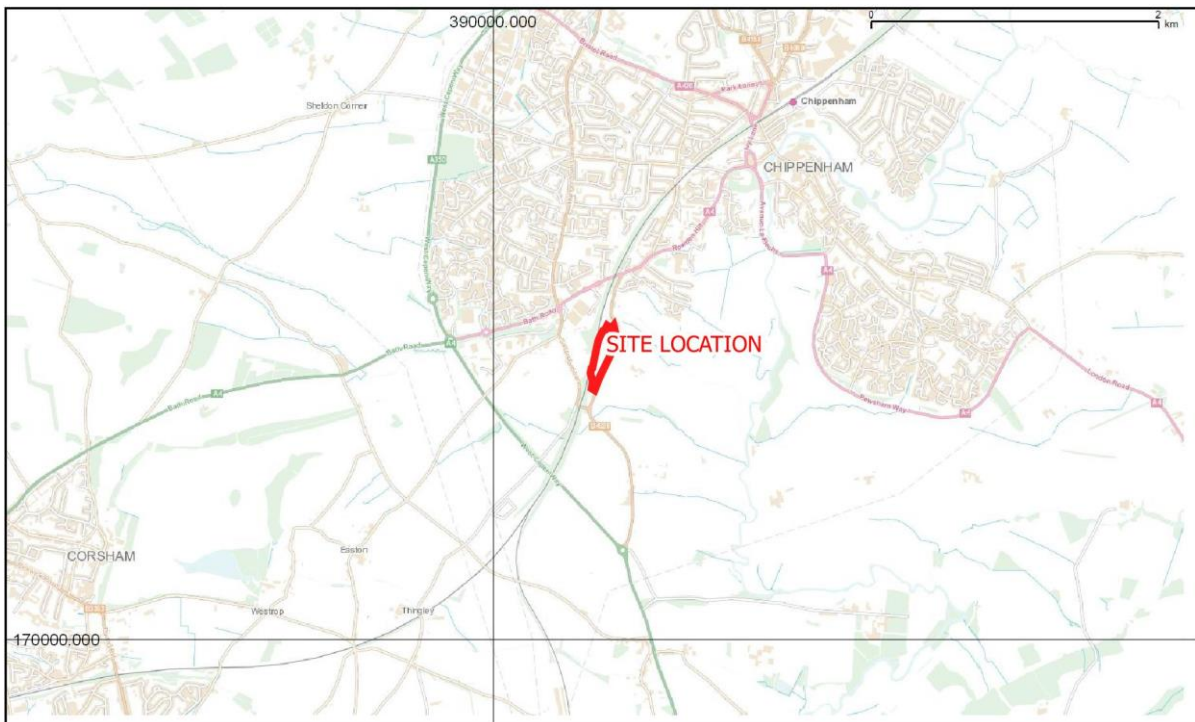
<sup>2</sup> SLR Consulting 2017 Patterdown Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire; Written *Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation*

## 2.0 The Site

The Site is approximately 3.6 hectares (ha) in area, centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference ST90725 71133.

The Site is within a rural context, located 1 km south of the Bath Road industrial Estate, in the southern area of Chippenham.

**Figure 1**  
**Site Location**



OpenData Mapping: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

### 2.1.1 Geology

Within the Site the British Geological Survey (BGS) Online shows the Site lies within an area of Kellaways Formation Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone bedrock. This is sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 161 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period indicating a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. There are no superficial deposits recorded in this part of the Site<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> British Geological Survey, available from <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

The following information is taken from the Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment written for the site by SLR in January 2017<sup>4</sup>.

### 3.1.1 Prehistoric (up to 42 AD)

There are twenty three sites of prehistoric origin recorded on Wiltshire HER within 1km of the site. None are recorded within the site itself. The sites date from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age.

Approximately 400m south of the site evidence for late Neolithic and early Bronze Age activity in the form of two ring ditches is recorded. A multiphase excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology Unit approximately 800m to the south east of the site combining Iron Age, Bronze Age and Neolithic settlement features.

### 3.1.2 Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)

There are four Roman records within 1km of the site. These comprise Romano-British field systems and a 2<sup>nd</sup> century coin find spot.

### 3.1.3 Early Medieval (410 AD to 1065 AD)

There are no records contained on Wiltshire HER relating to the Early Medieval period for the surrounding area.

### 3.1.4 Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

Medieval features located within 1km of the site generally relate to the area around Rowden Manor, approximately 900m east of the site. The other features are field boundaries. One of which is located immediately east of the site.

### 3.1.5 Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1750 AD)

A number of post medieval records are held on the HER for features within 1km of the site. These show the rural nature of the area during this period relating to farms, their outbuildings and other features.

### 3.1.6 Twentieth Century onwards (1901 AD onwards)

Two pillboxes are recorded to the south of the site, either side of the railway line. Map regression suggest the site

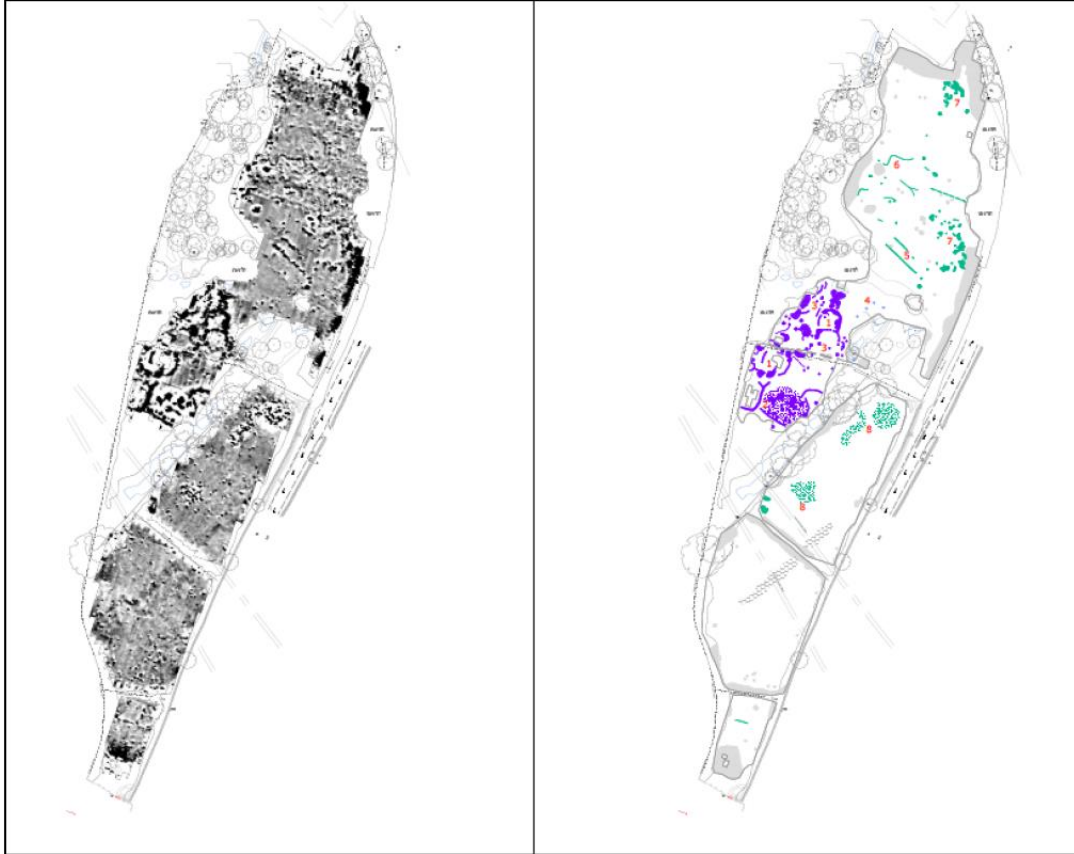
### 3.1.7 Geophysical Survey

Hollins Strategic Land commissioned Sumo to undertake a magnetic survey of the site in March 2017. Most of the site was devoid of significant anomalies. However a concentration of features along the western central area of the site seemed to suggest evidence for late prehistoric activity (Figure 2).

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<sup>4</sup> SLR Consulting 2017 Patterdown Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire; Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

**Figure 2**  
**Results of Geophysical Survey**





## 4.0 Aims and Objectives

The trial trenching was targeted to investigate geophysical anomalies with trenches spread across the site to allow sufficient information to be available for planning consent and to inform any subsequent mitigation scheme required.

The aims set out in the WSI for this work were:

- to establish the extent and significance of any extant archaeological remains relating to possible prehistoric remains identified through geophysical survey;
- to establish the extent and significance of any buried archaeological remains which might exist within the Site especially;
- to identify archaeological remains which would merit preservation through record; and
- to assess the impact on their heritage significance from the permitted development in order to recommend a detailed mitigation strategy.

The evaluation sought to address the following objectives:

- to identify and record extant archaeological features
- to interpret the features within the historic context of the Site;
- to record the general deposit–sequence;
- to establish the nature, date, extent and condition of preservation, for any man-made archaeological features or remains which may be present on the site;
- to assess the potential for evidence on past environment related to human activity to exist within the site;
- to investigate the inter-action between human and natural activity within the site; and
- to provide an appropriate level of information for discharging the planning condition and planning further mitigation (if required)

## 5.0 Methodology

It was proposed to undertake the excavation of nine trenches 20m long x 1.8m wide to evaluate the site (Drawing 4). This represented a 2.5% sample of the available area and they were located based on the results of the geophysical survey undertaken by Sumo.

All works were carried out as outlined in the WSI for this work<sup>5</sup>.

### 5.1.1 Monitoring

All archaeological work was monitored by the PA via telephone / email conversations with SLR.

### 5.1.2 Destination Museum

This report will be uploaded to the OASIS website.

### 5.1.3 Reporting

Approved versions of this report will be circulated to:

- The Client;
- The PA;
- The Local Planning Authority
- SLR Consulting Limited.

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<sup>5</sup> SLR Consulting 2017 Patterdown Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire; Written *Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation*

## 6.0 Results

### 6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was the most northerly trench excavated at the site and was orientated north – south (Figure 3). The natural subsoil in the area was a light yellow brown clay (100) which was overlain by reworked clay, derivative of the natural subsoil, which contained occasional pieces of burnt material and rubble (101). This suggested the northern area of the site had previously been stripped of topsoil. This material was overlain by imported dark grey peaty clay silt topsoil. Natural subsoil was recorded at between 55.68m and 56.17m AOD.

**Figure 3**  
**Trench 1 looking south**



Trench 1 had targeted a curvilinear feature which appeared to be orientated roughly east – west. No evidence of this features were identified and no other features of archaeological significance were identified in the trench. A single north south orientated plough scrape contained material the same as (101). It was not clear what may have caused the geophysical anomaly.

### 6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located approximately 25m south of Trench 1 and was orientated east – west (Figure 4). It was targeted on an area containing a number of substantial irregular geophysical anomalies. Brown grey clay natural subsoil (201) was overlain by 0.14m of mid grey peaty clay silt (200). The natural subsoil was recorded

at between 56.33m and 56.46m AOD. No features of archaeological significance were identified within the trench. It was not clear what may have caused the geophysical anomalies.

**Figure 4**  
**Trench 2 looking east**



### 6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located approximately 11m south west of Trench 2. It was orientated north – south and was targeted on two linear features identified by the geophysical survey.

Yellow grey clay natural subsoil (301) was overlain by dark grey peaty clay silt (300) up to 0.24m thick. The natural subsoil was recorded at between 56.85m and 57.96m AOD. Two linear features were identified cutting through the natural subsoil which are thought to represent the anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey.

Ditch [302] was the most northerly of the two features. It was orientated north west – south east and was up to 0.85m wide and 0.33m deep with a shallow step in its northern side (Figure 5). The ditch contained three fills. Primary fill (303) was a grey yellow sit clay, up to 0.13m deep, which appeared derivative of the surrounding natural subsoil. It may represent the falling back into the ditch of a shallow bank from the north of the ditch. This bank was not identified in this trench however it was visible in parts of the field. Secondary fill (304) was a dark grey peat, up to 0.2m deep, which was in turn covered by dark grey peaty clay silt (305) which was very similar to the topsoil and was 0.1m deep. The ditch was still visible in the field with a shallow bank on

its northern side. It appears to be visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1886 and it may be a small field boundary.

**Figure 5**  
**Trench 3 Ditch [302] looking north west**



Approximately 8.5m to the south of [302] a further parallel ditch/drain was recorded. This feature was 1.02m wide and over 0.25m deep. It was not fully excavated as it filled with water during excavation (Figure 6). It was filled by light yellow grey clay silt (307) which contained frequent large Victorian brick fragments.

**Figure 6**  
**Trench 3 Ditch [306] looking north west**



## 6.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located approximately 45m south west of Trench 3 and was orientated roughly east west. Natural subsoil (403) was identified at between 62.56m and 62.87m AOD. This was covered by made ground comprising rubble and burnt material (402) up to 0.6m thick. Above this was imported dark brown peaty silt clay (400) topsoil (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**  
**Trench 4 looking east**



Deposit (402) also filled two large shallow cuts at either end of the trench ([404] at the east and [405] at the west). Feature [404] also contained reworked natural subsoil (401) (Figure 8). The extent of these features was not recorded as they continued on beyond the length of the trench. Both continued on for over 2m, [404] was up to 0.4m deep and [405] up to 0.36m deep. Both appear to date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These features, as well as ditch [703] in Trench 7, are thought to be responsible for a large circular geophysical anomaly which may relate to a crane base or some other industrial activity related to the construction of the railway line to the west. Such machines would have been necessary for the creation of the railway embankment and the railway line as well as the building of the bridge over Bath Road, 340m to the north which was finished in about 1840.

**Figure 8**  
**Trench 4 Ditch [404] looking south**



## 6.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located approximately 65m south east of Trench 4 and was orientated roughly east –west (Figure 9). Natural subsoil (501), a yellow clay silt which was observed at between 60.45m and 61.67m AOD, was identified below up to 0.15m of mid brown grey clay silt topsoil (500).

**Figure 9**  
**Trench 5 looking west**



No archaeological features were observed. The natural subsoil was siltier at the western end of the trench and this may account for the positive anomaly in the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were observed.

## 6.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located approximately 25m south west of Trench 5 at the southern end of the site and was orientated roughly north west –south east (Figure 10). Natural subsoil (601), a yellow clay silt was observed at between 61.47m and 62.46m AOD. It was covered by up to 0.2m of mid brown grey clay silt topsoil (600).

**Figure 10**  
**Trench 6 looking south east**



No archaeological features were observed. The natural subsoil was siltier towards the south of the trench and this may account for the anomaly in the geophysical survey. A single modern service trench was recorded running roughly east - west at the southern end of the trench. No archaeological features were observed.

## 6.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 created a 'T' shape with Trench 4 and was orientated roughly north – south (Figure 11). Yellow grey clay natural subsoil (702) was identified at between 62.14m and 62.76m AOD. It was covered by made ground (701) comprising rubble and burnt material which was up to 0.25m thick. This was covered by an imported grey peaty clay silt topsoil (700) up to 0.1m thick.



**Figure 11**  
**Trench 7 looking south**



Ditch [703] was identified towards the southern end of the trench. It ran through the trench and was 1.9m wide and 0.39m deep. It was filled by (704) a grey clay containing rubble. The ditch had stepped sides at the north and south and had steep sides and a flat base in the middle (Figure 12). The purpose of the ditch is unclear. It appears to relate to part of a circular geophysical anomaly which relates to the construction of the Victorian railway to the west.

**Figure 12**  
**Trench 7 Ditch [703] looking east**



## 6.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located approximately 25m south west of Trench 4 at the west of the site. It was orientated north west – south east (Figure 13). The trench was excavated to the east of its intended position due to electric cables. Yellow grey natural clay (801) was overlain by up to 0.2m of mid grey clay silt (800) which contained occasional rubble inclusions. Natural subsoil was recorded at between 63.52m and 63.67m AOD.

**Figure 13**  
**Trench 8 looking north west**



Two features were identified cut into the base of the trench. Feature [802] was cut into the very northern end of the trench. It was over 5.6m long, running beyond the limit of the trench to the north and over 2m wide, continuing on beyond the trench to the east and west. It was up to 0.62m deep and had gradual sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by rubble and burnt material (803). Ditch [804] was located approximately 8m to the south east. It ran through the extent of the trench and was 1.55m wide. It was not excavated by contained rubble/burnt material (805). These two ditches appear to relate to a circular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey which may be related with the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century railway line to the west.

## 6.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located approximately 10m south of Trench 8 and was orientated north west – south east. Yellow grey natural clay (902) was observed at between 62.47m and 62.61m AOD (Figure 14). This was covered by up to 0.3m of made ground (901) comprising rubble and burnt material. This was then covered by imported mid brown grey clay silt topsoil (900) which was up to 0.45m thick (Figure 15).

**Figure 14**  
**Trench 9 looking north west**



A gully approximately 0.4m wide and 7.2m long ran along the northern side of the trench orientated north west – south east. The bottom of the trench was covered with water before there it was possible to examine this feature. It was filled by rubble/burnt material (904) and may represent a drain.

**Figure 15**  
**Trench 9 Section looking north east**



## 7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

### 7.1 Discussion

Nine trenches were excavated at Patterdown road, each targeted on one or more geophysical anomalies.

Trenches 4, 7, 8 and 9 at the west of the site were targeted on a concentration of sub-circular positive anomalies that were thought to represent settlement activity, potentially dating to the Iron Age. The excavation of these trenches identified a number of potentially 19<sup>th</sup> century features, the location of which tie in with the anomalies. The features are filled with rubble and burnt material and may represent a compound for the construction of the Great Western Railway immediately to the west, the construction of which was completed by 1854. The bridge over Bath Road, to the north, was completed by 1840. A circular feature uncovered in Trenches 4 and 7 may relate to a crane base while a deposit of burnt material/rubble up to 0.3m thick in Trench 9 may be part of a compound floor. This trench flooded after excavation and the rubble may have created a hard permeable surface on which vehicles could manoeuvre and temporary offices could be sited. The feature recorded in Trench 8 appear to be a similar circular feature to that identified in Trenches 4 and 7 and is presumed to have been for a similar purpose.

Two parallel ditches/gullies in Trench 3 appear to be Victorian in date. One is still visible running across the field. They may be small field boundaries or drains.

No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 5 while only a modern service cut was identified in Trench 6. Trench 1 was targeted towards the end of a linear feature. This feature may have terminated before reaching the area in which the trench was excavated. Trench 2 was targeted on several small discrete positive responses which geophysical analysis had suggested may represent a series of pits. No features were identified in this area and the results may represent variations in the natural subsoil. Trenches 5 and 6 both targeted areas of strong magnetic disturbance. This may be a result of modern debris in the topsoil or be due to more silty areas within the natural subsoil.

### 7.2 Conclusion

Two ditches/drains identified during the evaluation appear to relate to the agricultural development of the site during the Victorian period. Features at the west of the site containing quantities of burnt material and rubble are thought to date to between the 1830's and 1850's and relate to the construction of the Great Western Railway. This area may have been used as a construction compound with possible crane bases and an area of hardstanding also recorded. No evidence was found of habitational activity and the workers may have lived in Chippenham. The rubble used to make the hardstanding is presumed to have been brought in from outside the site as no evidence of any structures was identified. No in situ soil levels were identified in trenches 1, 4, 7, 8 and 9 suggesting part of the site has been stripped of soil during these works and possibly landscaped.

No other features of archaeological significance were identified.

## APPENDIX 01

### Context Register

Context No	Type	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.3	Dark grey peaty clay silt	Imported topsoil
101	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.15	Light brown clay contains coal and burnt material	Reworked natural clay
102	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Light yellow brown clay	Natural subsoil
200	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.14	Mid grey peaty clay silt	Topsoil
201	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown grey clay	Natural subsoil
300	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.24	Dark grey peaty clay silt	Topsoil
301	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow grey clay	Natural subsoil
302	Cut	N/A	2+	0.85	0.33	Cut of ditch, shallow flat scoop at south, deeper at north. At north sides very steep, sharp break of slope bottom, flat base	Cut of small field boundary
303	Fill	302	2+	0.22	0.13	grey yellow silt clay	Primary fill of field boundary, possible slumping of bank
304	Fill	302	2+	0.8	0.2	Dark grey peat	Secondary fill of field boundary
305	Fill	302	2+	0.8	0.1	Dark grey peaty clay silt	Final fill of field boundary, similar to topsoil
306	Cut	N/A	2+	1.02	0.25+	Cut of ditch, parallel to 302, steep sides, base not recorded as under water.	Cut of drain
307	Fill	306	2+	1.02	0.25+	Light yellow grey clay silt, contains Victorian bricks	Fill of drain
400	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Dark brown peaty clay silt	Imported topsoil

Context No	Type	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
401	Deposit	404	1.2	Trench	0.5	Yellow grey clay	Reworked natural clay
402	Deposit	404/45	Trench	Trench	0.6	Rubble/burnt material	Made ground
403	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow grey clay	Natural subsoil
404	Cut	N/A	2m	Trench	0.4	Cut of ditch at east end of trench. Gradual sloping sides and sloping base	Cut of ditch
405	Cut	N/A	2.9	Trench	0.36	Cut of ditch at west end of trench. Gradual sloping sides and sloping base	Cut of ditch
500	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.15	Mid brown grey clay silt	Topsoil
501	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow clay silt	Natural subsoil
600	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Mid brown grey clay silt	Topsoil
601	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow clay silt	Natural subsoil
700	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.1	Grey peaty clay silt	Imported topsoil
701	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.25	Mixed rubble and burnt material	Made ground
702	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow grey clay	Natural subsoil
703	Cut	N/A	2+	1.9	0.39	Cut of ditch, scoops at both north and south. Main ditch near vertical sides, sharp break of slope bottom and flat base.	Cut of ditch
704	Fill	703	2+	1.9	0.39	Grey clay containing rubble	Fill of ditch
800	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Mid grey clay silt, occasional rubble	Topsoil
801	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow grey clay	Natural subsoil
802	Cut	N/A	5.6+	2+	0.62	Cut of ditch at north of trench. Gradual sloping sides and flat base	Cut of ditch
803	Fill	802	5.6+	2+	0.62	Rubble/burnt material	Fill of ditch
804	Cut	N/A	Trench	1.55	Unknown	Unexcavated	Cut of ditch
805	Fill	804	Trench	1.55	Unknown	Rubble/burnt material	Fill of ditch

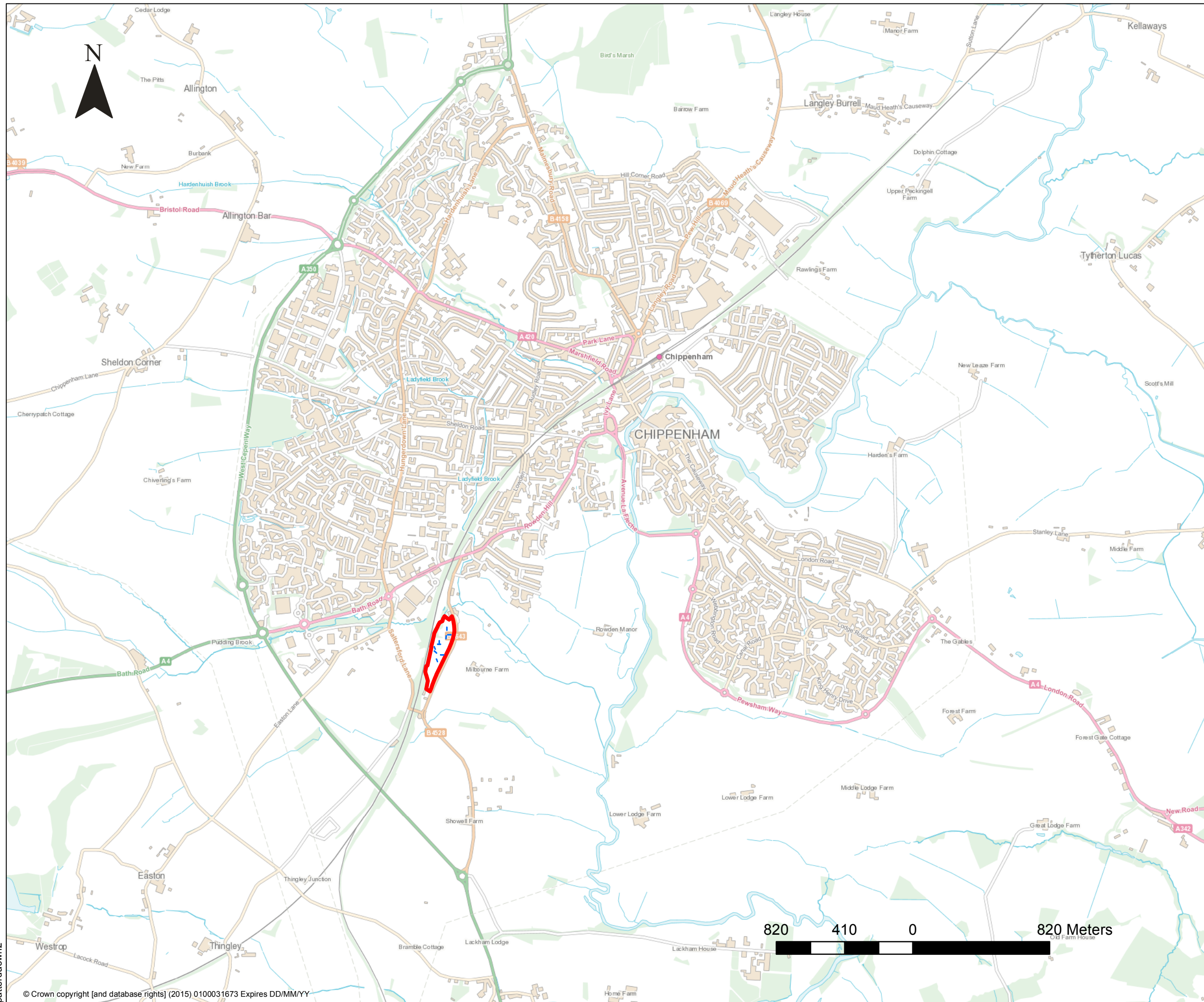
Context No	Type	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
900	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.45	Mid brown grey clay silt	Imported topsoil
901	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.3	Rubble/burnt material	Made ground
902	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Yellow grey clay	Natural subsoil
903	Cut	N/A	7.2	0.4	Unknown	Unexcavated due to water	Cut of gully
904	Fill	903	7.2	0.4	Unknown	Rubble/burnt material	Fill of gully

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## APPENDIX 02

### Drawings





**LEGEND**

- SITE BOUNDARY
- TRENCHES

**HOLLINS STRATEGIC LAND**

**SLR** global environmental solutions

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OXON BUSINESS PARK  
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**PATTERDOWN ROAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
LOCATION PLAN**

**1**

Scale 1:21,623 @ A3 Date JUNE 2017

patterdown2



**LEGEND**

- SITE BOUNDARY
- TRENCHES
- FEATURES
- TEST PITS
- MODERN FEATURES

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**PATTERDOWN ROAD**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**  
**MODERN AIR PHOTOGRAPH**

**2**

Scale 1:1,725 @ A3 Date JUNE 2017

130 65 0 130 Meters

patterdown2



**LEGEND**

- SITE BOUNDARY
- TRENCHES
- FEATURES
- TEST PITS
- MODERN FEATURES



**HOLLINS STRATEGIC LAND**

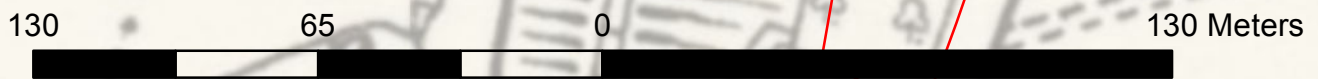
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PATTERDOWN ROAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
**HISTORIC MAP 1888**

**3**





Scale 1:1,725 @ A3 Date JUNE 2017



patterdown2



**LEGEND**

-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  TRENCHES
-  FEATURES
-  TEST PITS

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PATTERDOWN ROAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
**TRENCH PLAN**

**4**

Scale 1:778 @ A3 Date JUNE 2017



patterdown2

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