



# Overy Mead

## Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation

---

Manda Forster, Stuart Noon, Chris Casswell and  
Joshua Hogue

# Overy Mead, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

## Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared on behalf of:

Earth Trust

Compiled by:

Manda Forster, Stuart Noon, Chris Casswell and Joshua Hogue  
With contributions from Mark Whittingham and Matthew Law

### **DigVentures**

The Workshop  
Victoria Yard  
26 Newgate  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 8NG

hello@digventures.com  
0333 011 3990  
@thedigventurers



## Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as a Written Scheme of Investigation for Earth Trust. The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of development stages, highlighting planned archaeological fieldwork, aims and objectives of the work, and methodology to be employed. The document will be supported by stage specific WSIs prepared in advance of each package of archaeological fieldwork.

DigVentures accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared. DigVentures has no liability regarding the use of this report except to the Earth Trust.

## Copyright

© DigVentures Limited 2019

## Project summary

OASIS ID	digventu1-349366
DV project code and type	OVM19 Archaeological Evaluation
National Grid Reference	SU 58013 93785
County	Oxfordshire
Title:	Overy Mead, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire; Written Scheme of Investigation
Author(s):	Manda Forster PhD MCIfA Stuart Noon MCIfA Chris Casswell MCIfA Joshua Hogue DPhil
Origination date:	05 June 2019
Circulation:	Earth Trust
Reviewed by:	Chris Casswell MCIfA
Approval:	Brendon Wilkins MCIfA



## Social Value Act

DigVentures is a social enterprise dedicated to designing and delivering publicly focussed archaeology projects. We are constituted as a limited company, with a constitution reflecting the wider social, economic and environmental benefits of the projects we deliver.

## Carbon Footprint

A printed copy of the main text in this document will result in a carbon footprint of 99g if 100% post-consumer recycled paper is used and 126g if primary-source paper is used. These figures assume the report is printed in black and white on A4 paper and in duplex.

DigVentures is aiming to reduce its per capita carbon emissions.

## Acknowledgements

We'd like to begin with a sincere thank you to the Project Team at Earth Trust for inviting us to take part in this project, specifically to Chris Parker, for help and support throughout. Additional thanks are due to Rebecca Chiazzese and the team at Hydro-Logic Services, who are managing the River of Life II project with Earth Trust. Thanks also to Richard Oram of the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services for advice and support. We would also like to thank Mark Whittingham and the team at Phase Site Investigations (geophysics) and Matthew Law (geoarchaeology), for specialist contributions.



## Table of contents

1	INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE	7
1.1	Project background	7
1.2	Scope of document	7
1.3	Site location and geology	8
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND	8
2.1	Clifton Meadows	8
2.2	Church Farm	9
2.3	Overy Mead	10
3	GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND GEOARCHAEOLOGY	10
3.1	Geoarchaeological assessment	10
3.2	Geophysical survey	11
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS	12
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	13
5.1	Monitoring of archaeological works	13
5.2	Archaeological evaluation methodology	13
5.3	Finds and environmental samples	14
5.4	Human remains	15
5.5	Treasure	16
6	POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING	16
6.1	Archaeological fieldwork report	16
7	ARCHIVE	17
7.1	Preparation and deposition	17
8	PROJECT MANAGEMENT, STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS	18
8.1	Staffing	18
8.2	Quality and professional standards	18
9	INSURANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY	19
9.1	Policy and Risk Assessment	19
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	19



## Figures

- Figure 1 Earth Trust Site Location
- Figure 2 Overy Mead: Proposed archaeological trenches overlying magnetometry survey interpretation and grayscale
- Figure 3 Overy Mead: Proposed archaeological trenches in relation to previous geophysical survey

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 OASIS record



# 1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

## 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 DigVentures has been appointed by the Earth Trust (hereafter the Client) to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of proposed works to be undertaken at the site of the Overy Mead, Dorchester-on-Thames (hereafter the Site). The programme of works has been prepared in consultation with Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (hereafter OCAS). The project is part of the River of Life II project, developing a wetland landscape comprising ponds, backwaters and wet woodland environments within areas of the floodplain of the River Thames and River Thame.

1.1.2 The development area of the River of Life II project, centered on SU 58013 93785, comprises three areas, Clifton Meadows, Church Farm and Overy Mead (Figure 1). Two of the sites, Clifton Meadows and Church Farm, are located along the southern and western bank of the River Thames to the west of Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The third, Overy Mead, is situated to the east of Dorchester on the banks of the Rover Thame, a tributary of the River Thames. Due to significant archaeological potential of the site, OCAS has advised a programme of archaeological investigation in order for the development to comply with paragraphs 187 and 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019), which will be carried out in accordance with the relevant Standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

1.1.3 The current document presents the Written Scheme of Investigation for a stage of archaeological evaluation at Overy Mead. It supplements a pre-planning stage desk based assessment undertaken by Atkins (2018), and geophysical survey and geoarchaeological assessment undertaken as part of this stage of development (Phase Site Investigations 2019; Law 2019). The programme of works proposed will include two main phases of archaeological works;

- Archaeological evaluation (this stage)
- Archaeological watching brief (during construction phases)

1.1.4 Each of the above phases of work will require a stage specific WSI for each of the areas impacted to be agreed in advance by the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council.

## 1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This WSI sets out the overarching strategy and general archaeological methodology by which the archaeological contractor will implement the archaeological works. In format and content, it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* (2014).



This WSI has been submitted to the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council who provides archaeological planning advice to the Local Planning Authority. Prior to the commencement of archaeological works, a WSI specific to each stage should be prepared and agreed by the Planning Archaeologist.

### 1.3 Site location and geology

- 1.3.1 The site of Overy Mead is situated to the north of the River Thames, to the east of the River Thame in Oxfordshire (centred at NGR SU 580 936) and immediately to the south-east of Dorchester on Thames. Overy Mead is to the east of Dorchester on the north side of the river. The site encompassed two meadow fields, known as Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Piece, and covered an area of approximately 3.6ha. The site is relatively level with some significant areas of dense vegetation and the ground conditions were uneven underfoot in places due to the presence of reeds and clumps / tussocks of low, but dense, vegetation. The site is bordered in the south by the River Thames, in the west by the River Thame and dense vegetation, by a stone wall in the north and by wooden and metal wire fencing in the east. (Figure 1).
- 1.3.2 The geology of the site consists of mudstone of the Gault Formation overlain by alluvial deposits (British Geological Survey, 2019). The soils of the site are described as loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (Soilscapes, 2019)
- 1.3.3 The sub-surface geology comprises of modern topsoil underlain by Holocene overbank alluvium at all sites, which in turn overlies gravelly sands of the Northmoor (Floodplain) Terrace of the River Thames. The sedimentary sequence consists of Northmoor terrace sandy gravels dated to the Late Devensian period overlain by Holocene overbank alluvium and a loamy modern topsoil. Sand and gravel deposits are overlain by Holocene overbank alluvium at all sites. These are fine grained sandy-silty clays, which are usually stone free. But Overy Mead does contain large nodular flint cobbles which may be indicative of bedload transport in more energetic flow. The lower level of the surface here may be indicative of a palaeochannel which remained into the Holocene. The overbank alluvium is overlain at all sites by a modern topsoil, which is a sandy to silty clay loam, with occasional limestone pebbles derived from the underlying gravel (see Law 2019).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Clifton Meadows

- 2.1.1 The earliest indication of human activity at Clifton Meadows dates to the Paleolithic, with a single findspot of a flint flake recovered at Burcot, 200m north of the River Thame (MOX6072). Fieldwalking undertaken by Oxford Archaeology suggested that later Mesolithic activity was represented by a 'light scattering' of activity in region but with no significant concentrations (Allen and Munby 2006, 352). Two Mesolithic tranchet axes were found at Northfield Farm (MOX11078) and a flint scatter was





collected in the 1980s (MOX6092), just south of the southern field boundary of Thomas' field, comprising 21 objects including flakes, cores and microlith and an axe. The same area was subject to trial excavations, but no archaeological features were recorded. Excavations undertaken in 1969 in Scabbs Field, north of Northfield Farm, revealed a penannular ring ditch including Bronze Age ceramics and a possible cremation (Gray 1977, cited in Allen et al 2006, 9). The investigations at Northfield Farm also recorded a series of enclosures interpreted as pre-Roman and a north to south trackway, and the extent and complexity of cropmarks around the location of the farm led to the area to the south of Clifton Meadows being designated as a scheduled monument (List entry 1002925).

- 2.1.2 An extensive series of cropmarks to the south of Clifton Meadows and west of Church Farm reveals a landscape which has been utilised and settled since early prehistory. Interpretation of the cropmarks by Miles (1977, cited in Allen et al 2006, 3) and Baker (1999, cited in Allen et al 2006, 3) has suggested the presence of a Neolithic henge, early Bronze Age barrows, an extensive Bronze Age field system, Iron Age settlement and a Roman trackway with settlement alongside (Allen et al 2006, 9 and fig 1.3). Archaeological trenching in Clifton Meadow recorded the presence of the Roman trackway at three locations (Trenches 12, 20 and 21), identifying two ditches running parallel on a north-south alignment. At the southernmost trench, Trench 12, the trackway ditches were overlain by 0.3m of deposits. At Trench 20, towards the centre of the field, the ditches were overlain by 0.5m of alluvial deposits and excavated to approximately 0.6m deep, 1.1m to the base from the land surface. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch features but waterlogged seeds from the basal layer was 14C dated to 80-250 cal AD (Allen and Munby 2006, 317). At the northernmost trench excavated (Trench 21), features were far more ephemeral, although the presence of an undated linear feature was recorded at a depth of 1m which followed the alignment of the western ditch of the trackway.
- 2.1.3 Fieldwalking to the east of Clifton Meadows recovered flint dating to the late Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age, and a scattering of Roman pottery and SBM, probably reflecting the peripheral location of the field examined to Northfield Farm (Field 3, Allen and Munby 2006, 330). The Roman trackways (MOX24186) running both north-south and east-west indicate a major communication links across the gravel terraces. Post Roman evidence is less comprehensively studied but Lambrick noted visible ridge and furrow over much to the gravel terrace (Gray 1977, cited in Allen 2006, 9).

## 2.2 Church Farm

- 2.2.1 Fewer finds have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the Church Farm area, although the presence of an undated ring ditch recorded (MOX7358) to the northwest of Little Town field confirms the region was utilised to some extent. Fieldwalking undertaken as part of the Oxford Archaeology investigations to the southwest of the area examined a series of undated cropmarks (Field 5, Allen and Munby, 2006). Finds



recovered included worked flint of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date, sherds of prehistoric pottery of later Bronze age and Iron Age date, a dense scatter of Roman pottery and a few sherds of Saxon pottery (ibid). To the west, cropmarks also suggest a linear feature running east to west, which is potentially part of the Roman series of trackways that are visible across the area (Allen and Munby, 2006, Figure 14.7). Immediately opposite, on the eastern bank of the Thames, Roman rectilinear enclosures are situated at right angles to the river, with single finds spots of Iron Age pottery (MOX7246) and evidence for Saxon occupation and an inhumation cemetery (MOX11050), suggesting a concentration of multiple phases of activity in the area. Slightly further south but also on the eastern bank opposite Church Farm, evidence for prehistoric pits and a ring ditch was also recorded during gravel extraction in 1973 (MOX7319).

### 2.3 Overy Mead

- 2.3.1 A similarly low level of archaeological evidence has been recorded around the site at Overy Mead, although magnetometry survey published in 2011 revealed an extensive series of roadside enclosures linked to the Roman town of Dorchester (Ainslie 2011, fig 1). The Roman road apparent in the survey, crosses the northern part of the Overy Mead site and potentially links with a Roman street which Frere identified during excavations located in allotments which were, at the time, threatened by housing development (Frere 1984, 91). The line of the street also appears to be reflected in the location of the earlier river crossing and site of the medieval Dorchester Bridge (MOX27265), first mentioned in 1146 and destroyed in 1816.

## 3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND GEOARCHAEOLOGY

### 3.1 Geoarchaeological assessment

- 3.1.1 L~P Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a geoarchaeological survey as part of the River of Life Project, Oxfordshire (Law 2019). The aim of the survey was to develop a preliminary assessment of the potential for archaeological preservation at the site, help establish the presence / absence, extent, character, relationships and date (as far as circumstances and the inherent limitations of the technique permits) of archaeological features within the survey area. The following is a summary of the results presented in the full report (Law 2019).
- 3.1.2 The survey was carried out on three sites adjacent to the River Thames near Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire as part of the River of Life II project. It revealed that the modern topsoil is underlain by Holocene overbank alluvium at all sites, which in turn overlies gravelly sands of the Northmoor (Floodplain) Terrace of the River Thames. The sedimentary sequence consists of Northmoor terrace sandy gravels dated to the Late Devensian period overlain by Holocene overbank alluvium and a loamy modern topsoil. Sand and gravel deposits are overlain by Holocene overbank



alluvium at all sites. These are fine grained sandy-silty clays, which are usually stone free. Preservation of biological remains is good within the alluvium, and shells are well-preserved within the gravel. The overbank alluvium is overlain at all sites by a modern topsoil, which is a sandy to silty clay loam, with occasional limestone pebbles derived from the underlying gravel.

- 3.1.3 Overy Mead does contain large nodular flint cobbles which may be indicative of bedload transport in more energetic flow. The lower level of the surface here may be indicative of a palaeochannel which remained into the Holocene. The sedimentary sequence at Overy Mead was dry, with occasional blue grey mottles suggesting waterlogging at some times in the past. Organic remains are unlikely to be preserved here, although the sediment is calcareous and so shells and bones may be preserved.

## 3.2 Geophysical survey

- 3.2.1 A magnetic gradient survey was undertaken by Phase Site Investigations in May 2019 as part of the River of Life II project (Whittingham 2019). The aim of the survey was to help establish the presence / absence, extent and character of archaeological features within the survey area. The following is a summary of the results presented in the full report (Whittingham 2019).

- 3.2.2 A large part of the three areas surveyed (Clifton Meadows, Church Farm and Overy Mead) were dominated by responses relating to natural features / variations, probably including gravel / alluvial deposits and palaeochannels. These responses created a variable magnetic background which made it difficult to differentiate between individual responses that could be related to infilled features or other potential archaeological activity, and responses caused by natural features variations. As such the majority of isolated responses within these areas have not been shown on the interpretation and it should be noted that if discrete archaeological features are present it is unlikely it would be possible to differentiate between responses related to discrete features and the responses related to natural features / variations.

- 3.2.3 Within the Overy Mead area the survey did provide further possible evidence for archaeological activity in the form of positive linear / curvi-linear responses and trends. A low level of archaeological evidence has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site at Overy Mead, although an extensive series of roadside enclosures linked to the Roman town of Dorchester with a Roman road crossing the northern part of the Overy Mead site potentially lining up with a Roman street have been identified previously through cropmark analysis, geophysics and archaeological investigation (see above, Section 2.3). In the Old Bridge Meadow field two linear bipolar anomalies were associated with sub-surface utility apparatus (pipes, cables or drains). In the Overy Mead field areas of magnetic disturbance were likely to be associated with relatively modern features / material. The fields show a variable background with broad / diffuse positive and negative anomalies that will be related to natural features / variations, possibly including palaeochannel deposits.



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

4.1.1 The development area of the River of Life II project is situated in a landscape with evidence for settlement and use since early prehistory. The area of Overy Mead is located near to an extensive series of roadside enclosures linked to the Roman town of Dorchester with a Roman road crossing the northern part of the Overy Mead site potentially lining up with a Roman street. The archaeological evaluation will seek to establish the character, date, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area.

4.1.2 The archaeological aims listed below take account of the aims and objectives set out in the Regional Research Framework for the Solent-Thames Region (Hey and Hind 2014). The archaeological works undertaken at each of the areas included in the development are designed to achieve the following:

**Aim 1 – To evaluate, with sufficient detail, the areas impacted through the development of the site, to establish the extent, nature and chronology of any extant archaeology.**

- Q1. Can we corroborate chronological phasing for archaeological features at the Site, including the presence of earlier and later features and structures, as suggested from geophysical survey?
- Q2. What are the typical and atypical features of the area under investigation, and did this influence the functions and activities that took place?

**Aim 2 - To investigate the nature of surviving archaeological deposits, and the presence of deposits masking archaeological material.**

- Q3. How well do deposits and artefacts survive, and how deeply are they buried?
- Q4. What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the site?
- Q5. Can the palaeoenvironmental data recovered from sampling in the trenches inform us about past land use and activity?

**Aim 3 – To inform an appropriate mitigation strategy for the development phase of the project.**

- Q6. What can an integrated synthesis of the results of this work with previous geophysics and geoarchaeological survey tell us about the site and its setting?
- Q7. Discuss the results in their local, regional and national setting, in order to provide a better understanding of the significance of recorded archaeology.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Monitoring of archaeological works

- 5.1.1 Archaeological works must be undertaken on the commencement of any groundwork that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits. Any works requiring archaeological investigation cannot be undertaken without prior written approval of the scope of works and methodology employed via submission of an area specific WSI to the Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council.
- 5.1.2 DigVentures will inform OCAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The strategy for archaeological evaluation, including the size, number and location of archaeological trenches has been discussed in advance with Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, OCC and is included below. Each trench will be stripped of topsoil mechanically under archaeological supervision and down to the archaeological horizon. Trenches will be cleaned by hand and any archaeological features will be excavated by context to the level of natural deposits, where it is safe to do so. No trenches will be handed back to the Client until written confirmation that they have been signed off is obtained from OCAS. A post-excavation plan showing the features and interventions along with grid references will be provided to facilitate sign off of areas in advance of this written confirmation. All GIS files of the final site plans will be submitted to OCAS once completed.
- 5.1.3 A site visit will be undertaken to monitor the archaeological evaluation during works. Access to the site will be arranged with 2 weeks' notice for representatives of OCAS to visit the site to inspect and monitor the archaeological investigation as it progresses (standard charge of £54 per visit). Variations to the WSI and method statements will be agreed in advance with the Client and OCAS. No areas of archaeological investigation should be handed back to the Client until they have been formally signed off by OCAS.

### 5.2 Archaeological evaluation methodology

- 5.2.1 All work will comply to ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014). All works will be undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI provided by DigVentures and the requirements of OCAS. The Client will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundwork can be investigated and recorded appropriately.
- 5.2.2 Four trenches (Trenches 36 to 39) will be excavated at the site totalling 100m of linear trenching (see Figure 2). All trenches will be excavated with a toothless ditched bucket using a bucket size of 1.8m. Trenches will comprise one 40m trench and three 20m trenches.



- 5.2.3 Although the geophysical survey provided unclear results, Overy Mead is immediately adjacent to an Iron Age/Roman settlement with a substantial road projected to run on the southern side of Henley Road across the northern boundary of the survey area (Figure 3). Trenches 36-38 will evaluate the potential for continuation of the settlement and determine the level of preservation. Trench 39 will be excavated to investigate a linear anomaly running into the river; potentially a previous crossing point.
- 5.2.4 All areas identified for evaluation through trial trenching will be stripped of overburden deposits with a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision down to the first archaeological horizon. All machine excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket, and will include visually scanning spoil for artefacts. The first archaeological deposit will be cleared by machined and the trench cleaned by hand. Archaeological deposits will be excavated by context, and recorded by a professional archaeologist to establish the extent of survival and preservation of archaeological remains. Excavation will continue in this manner, removing material in successive spits until significant archaeological remains are encountered or, should buried archaeology be absent, the natural horizon is reached. Spoil will be removed in a systematic order, with overburden and topsoil kept separate from subsoil.
- 5.2.5 Where appropriate a sample of potentially significant deposits will be examined in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. In the event that unexpectedly complex and widespread archaeological remains are revealed, the Client and OCAS will be informed in order that the provisions of this WSI may be reviewed. Archaeological trenches, the location of archaeological finds of particular interest and environmental samples taken will be surveyed using a Total Station or GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey. Variations to the WSI and Method Statement will be agreed in advance with the Client and OCAS. The trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of OCAS.
- 5.3 Finds and environmental samples**
- 5.3.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2014), and the *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below. Archaeological material will be handled and sorted following advice in Watkinson and Neal (1998).
- 5.3.2 All artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits undoubtedly of modern date. In these circumstances, sufficient artefacts will only be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit. Finds recovered will be assessed by appropriately qualified specialists, who will examine the finds to provide an identification, date and provenance of the material, and will also evaluate the significance of the assemblage.



5.3.3 All artefacts from the investigation will, as a minimum, be washed, counted, weighed and identified. Any stratified ironwork will be X-rayed and stored in a stable condition along with other fragile and delicate material. Suitable material, primarily the pottery and non-ferrous metalwork, will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage. The results of this scan will be appended to the submitted report.

5.3.4 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate sealed and dateable archaeological contexts (each context will normally be sampled). Samples of between 40-60 litres will be taken or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features. Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits, but will not be fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive. A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits will be included to the evaluation report. Environmental finds will be treated in accordance with relevant guidance, in particular the Historic England guidance documents;

- 2011 Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)
- 2014 Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice
- 2015 Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record

5.3.5 The project manager will ensure that the results of palaeoenvironmental investigation, industrial residue assessments, analyses and other scientific analyses are included in a full evaluation report and a copy sent to the Historic England Science Advisor.

#### 5.4 Human remains

5.4.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains, the OCAS will be informed immediately. Any remains will be left in situ, covered and protected, until the Client, Coroner and Local Planning Authority Advisor have been informed. Where development will unavoidably disturb them they will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by DigVentures.

5.4.2 Should human remains be excavated during the evaluation, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in ClfA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains* (1993) and Historic England 2004 *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites A guideline for best practice for producing human osteological assessments and analytical reports*. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.



## 5.5 Treasure

- 5.5.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act 1996, their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, Coroner, British Museum and OCAS. Advice on reporting and management of any Treasure finds will be sought from the appropriate Finds Liaison Officer.

## 6 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

### 6.1 Archaeological fieldwork report

- 6.1.1 Within eight weeks of completion of all fieldwork, a draft report setting out the results will be produced and forwarded to the Client and OCAS for approval. The report will be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for excavation* (Revised 2014) and ClfA *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Revised 2014), except where superseded by statements below. On approval, a final version of the report will be submitted the CHER and a digital copy uploaded to OASIS within two weeks of approval.

- 6.1.2 Emphasis will be given to placing the results into the context of the archaeology of the region, and their significance in the context of the priorities outlined in the research framework for the Regional Research Framework for the Solent-Thames Region (Hey and Hind 2015). The report will comply with the requirements of OCAS and in any case may include:

- a non-technical summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale and with an 8 figure grid reference
- the site code, planning application number, and dates of work carried out
- aims, objectives and methodology of the work undertaken
- a summary by category of the material types recovered
- a summary of the palaeoenvironmental evidence
- results and conclusions, including a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the site set in its broader landscape and historic setting
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the site, the, known and projected archaeological deposits and the extent and nature of colluvial and/or alluvial deposits, including od heights
- tabulation of finds data by context and by material type
- tabulation of contexts and archaeological features recorded
- statement of archive location

- 6.1.3 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:

- the conservation of appropriate material, including the x-raying of ironwork
- the spot dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material





- the preparation of a preliminary phased site matrix with supporting lists of contexts by type (ditch fill, pit fill etc.), by spot-dated phase (early bronze age, middle iron age, roman etc.), by structural grouping (e.g. contexts by pit, by building etc.), supported by preliminary phase plans
- a statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety, condition and existence of other primary sources
- the selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains, including references as for the categories of material
- a statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities

6.1.4 All specialist reporting will be undertaken by experienced specialists, including;

- Animal bone – Hannah Russ
- Environmental – Rosalind McKenna
- Geoarchaeology – Joanne McKenzie
- Prehistory pottery – Emily Edwards
- Roman pottery – David Griffiths
- Human bone – Natasha Powers
- Medieval / post medieval pottery – Stephanie Ratkái
- Glass – Cecily Cropper
- Lithics – Joshua Hogue
- Small finds and leather – Quita Mould

6.1.5 Where appropriate and subject to further agreement, further analysis may be undertaken and the results published in a journal appropriate to the significance of finds.

## 7 ARCHIVE

### 7.1 Preparation and deposition

7.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014), and in line with guidance from the Oxfordshire County Council. The material archive from the project, including the finds and subject to the wishes of the landowner will be deposited at the County Archive Facility. Transfer of Title will be secured from the landowner where agreement has been achieved to deposit the archive with the County Archive Facility.



- 7.1.2 Guidelines for preparation and deposition have been fully reviewed to ensure that the curator's requirements can be fully met. Deposition of the Digital Archive will follow guidelines outlined by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS 2015), and a selected digital version of the project archive will be deposited with ADS.

## 8 PROJECT MANAGEMENT, STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

### 8.1 Staffing

- 8.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by Chris Casswell MCIfA, Head of Fieldwork, DigVentures, supported by a team of professional archaeologists, who will be on site, having been given prior notification by the Client, as soon as groundworks are being undertaken that could have an impact on potential archaeological features. No groundworks which could have an impact on extant archaeology should be undertaken prior to the archaeological evaluation if it has been determined that mitigation is required. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of DigVentures' Projects Director, Brendon Wilkins MCIfA, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed Projects Director and Head of Fieldwork will be involved in all phases of the project through to its completion.
- 8.1.2 The analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by DigVentures' core staff or external specialists (identified above), using DigVentures' standard pro forma recording system. The work will be carried out under the supervision of the following departmental managers under the overall direction of the Project Manager. Further information on DigVentures' external finds and environmental specialists can be provided on request.

### 8.2 Quality and professional standards

- 8.2.1 DigVentures is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. All senior managers are MCIfA registered. The company endorses the *Code of conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and complies with the Institutes' *Standards and guidance* documents.
- 8.2.2 All core staff employed by DigVentures are appropriately qualified and employed in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of conduct*. DigVentures operates a Project Management System based on MoRPHE. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to the Projects Director, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Managing Director has ultimate responsibility for all of the company's work.



## 9 INSURANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### 9.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

- 9.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times. DigVentures will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy (2018), to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (1996). Trench excavation and design shall conform to Health and Safety legislation, incorporating current best engineering practice where possible.
- 9.1.2 A Risk Assessment will be undertaken in advance of fieldwork, under the direction of Chris Casswell (Head of Fieldwork) and approved by Brendon Wilkins (Projects Director) in liaison with the Client and OCAS. A copy will be given to OCAS prior to the commencement of works. DigVentures holds public liability insurance (£5,000,000), employers liability insurance (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£1,000,000).

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ainslie, R, 2011, Dorchester on Thames, Overy, South Midlands Archaeology 2011, 41, pp35-36

Allen, T, Cramp, K, Lamdin-Whymark, H and Webley, L, 2006 Castle Hill and its landscape, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire; report upon the archaeological Investigations 2002-2006, unpublished client report prepared for the Heritage Lottery on behalf of the Northmoor Trust

Allen, T, Cramp, K, Lamdin-Whymark, H and Webley, L, 2010 Castle Hill and its Landscape; Archaeological Investigations at the Wittenhams, Oxfordshire, Oxford Archaeology Monograph 9

Allen, T and Munby, J, 2006, Aspects for the wider landscape: a discussion, in Allen, T, Cramp, K, Lamdin-Whymark, H and Webley, L, 2006 Castle Hill and its landscape, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire; report upon the archaeological Investigations 2002-2006, unpublished client report prepared for the Heritage Lottery on behalf of the Northmoor Trust, pp352 - 362

British Geological Survey online (<http://mpas/bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer>)

British Geological Survey, 2019. 'Borehole Data'. GeoRecords Plus+ . Available at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/GeoRecords/GeoRecords.html> [Accessed February 19, 2019]



Brooks, I P, 1992 Interim report on fieldwalking for the Chalgrove to Didcot pipeline, unpublished client report for British Gas

Brown, D, 2007 Archaeological Archives: a Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, Accessed May 2018  
[https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GWatchingbrief\\_2.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation, Accessed May 2018  
[https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GExcavation\\_1.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GExcavation_1.pdf)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Accessed May 2018  
[https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GArchives\\_2.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GArchives_2.pdf)

English Heritage, 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects 2

English Heritage, 2001 Archaeometallurgy, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2001.01.

English Heritage, 2004 Dendrochronology: Guidelines on Producing and Interpreting Dendrochronological Dates

English Heritage, 2006a Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork

English Heritage, 2006b Archaeomagnetic Dating. Guidelines for Producing and Interpreting Archaeomagnetic Dates

English Heritage, 2006c Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

English Heritage, 2008a Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains

English Heritage, 2008b Luminescence Dating. Guidelines on Using Luminescence Dating in Archaeology

English Heritage, 2009 Metric Survey Specifications for Cultural Heritage

English Heritage, 2010 Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation, and curation of waterlogged wood

English Heritage, 2011 Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation

English Heritage, 2012 Waterlogged organic artefacts. Guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation

English Heritage, 2014 Animals Bones. Guidelines for Best Practice



English Heritage (forthcoming) Guidelines on the use of radiocarbon dating and chronological modelling in archaeology

Frere, S S, 1984 Excavations at Dorchester on Thames, 1963, *Archaeological Journal*, 141:1, 91-174, DOI: 10.1080/00665983.1984.11077773

Historic England, 2015 *Geoarchaeology. Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (3rd edition)

Law, M, 2019 *Geoarchaeological Survey Report, River of Life II, L~P Archaeology*, Unpublished report

McKinley, J, 2004 Compiling a skeletal inventory: cremated human bone. In Brickley, M, and McKinley, J (eds) *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, IFA Technical Paper No. 7. 9-13.

Oram, R, 2015a *Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief*

Oram, R, 2015b *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Soilscapes 2019 online resource - [www.landis.org.uk/soilscape](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscape)

SMA 1993 *Guidelines for the Selection, Retention & Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*

UKIC, 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly-Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites. Conservation Guidelines No.2.* Archaeology Section, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

UKIC, 1988 *Excavated Artefacts and Conservation: UK sites Revised Edition. Conservation Guidelines No.1.* Archaeology Section, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

UKIC *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*

Watkinson, D E and Neal, V, 1998 *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition), RESCUE & UKIC

Whittingham, M, 2019, *River of Life Project, Archaeological Geophysical Survey, Phase Site investigations*, unpublished report





## Appendix 1 OASIS Entry

OASIS ID: digventu1-349366

### Project details

Project name	River of Life II
Short description of the project	Geophysical survey, geoarchaeological assessment and archaeological evaluation of three water-side areas ahead of riverside environment development and maintenance. Hurst Water Meadow, Clifton Meadow and Church Farm, South Oxfordshire
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2019 End: 31-12-2022
Previous/future work	Not known / Yes
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Wetlands
Monument type	TOWN Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey"
Development type	River-side environment improvement scheme
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Solid geology (other)	Gault Formation - Mudstone
Drift geology	ALLUVIUM
Techniques	Magnetometry

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DORCHESTER Hurst Water Meadow; Clifton Meadow; Church Farm
Study area	65 Hectares
Site coordinates	NZ 457987 193539 54.567209913751 -1.291572971054 54 34 01 N 001 17 29 W Point
Site coordinates	NZ 456827 194299 54.567903432375 -1.293355326542 54 34 04 N 001 17 36 W Point
Site coordinates	NZ 456827 194299 54.567903432375 -1.293355326542 54 34 04 N 001 17 36 W Point



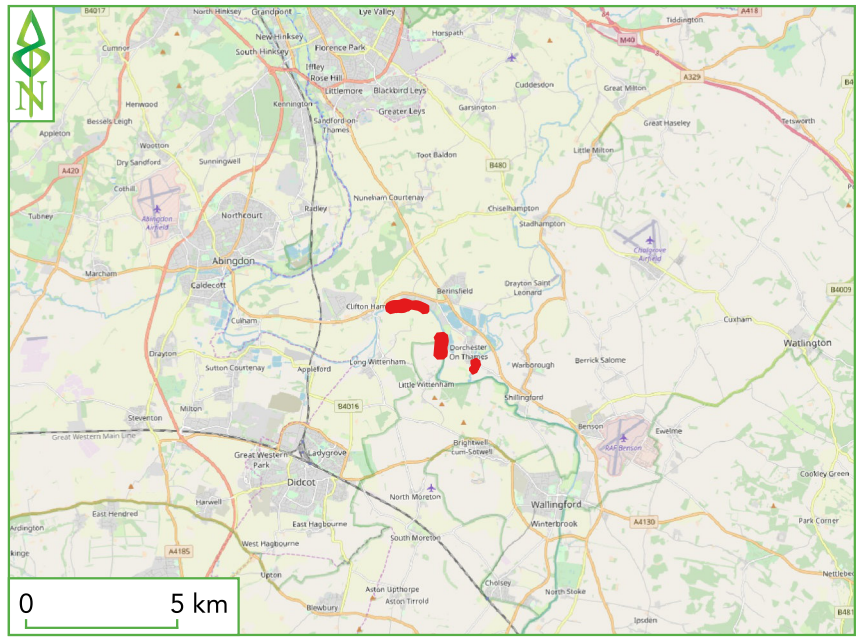


Figure 1 - River of Life: Clifton Meadow, Church Farm and Overy Mead



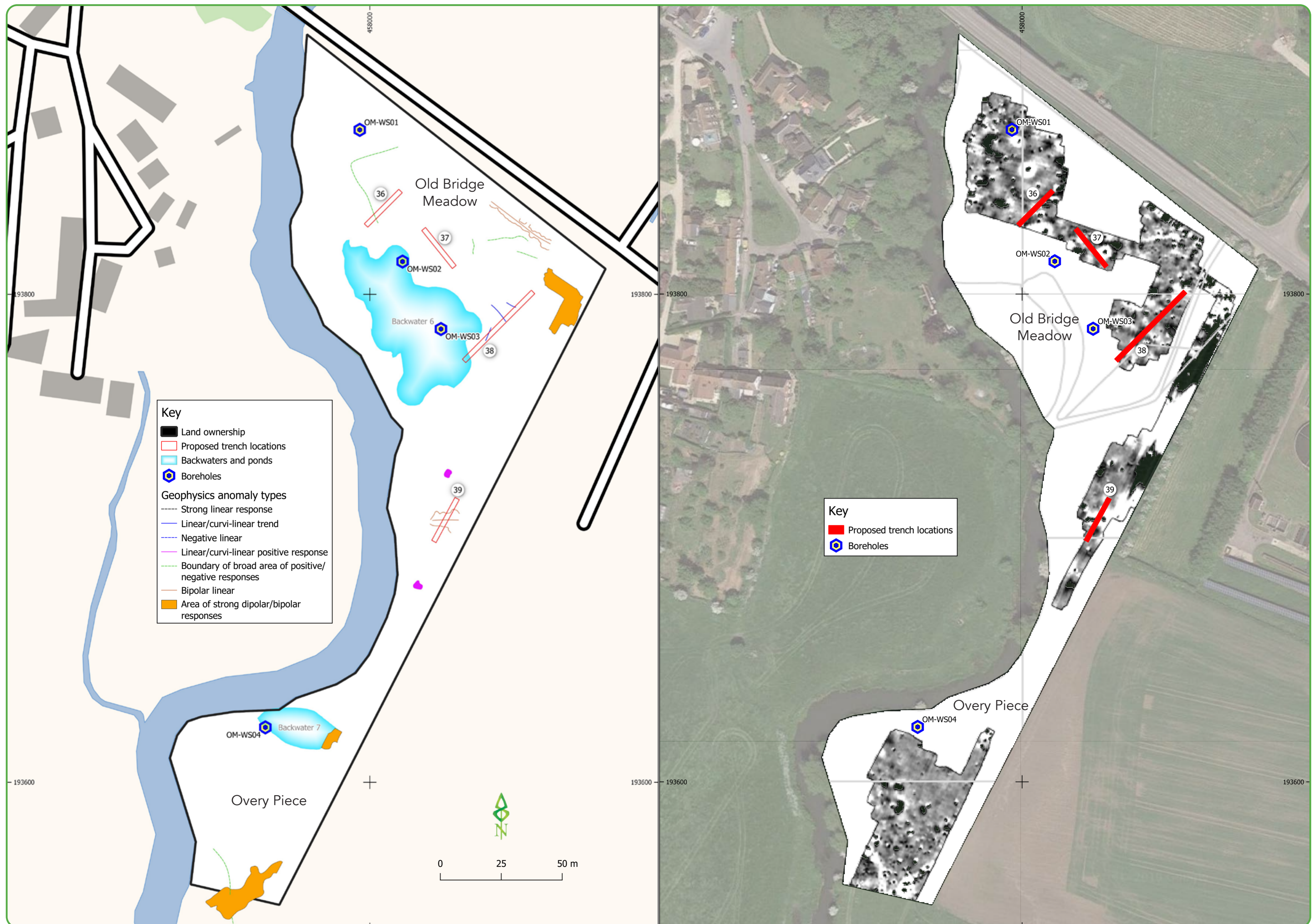


Figure 2 - Overy Mead: Proposed archaeological trenches overlying magnetometry survey interpretation and grayscale



Figure 3 - Overy Mead: Proposed archaeological trenches in relation to previous geophysical survey