

# Land to the east of Whelford Road, Kempsford

**Desk-Based Assessment** 

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# Land to the east of Whelford Road, Kempsford Archaeological Desk-based Assessment.

#### Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by West Waddy ADP to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed residential development of an area of land to the east of Whelford Road and North of The Knoll, Kempsford, henceforth 'site'. The site is centred on NGR 415899 197007 and lies within the Cotswold district of Gloucestershire.

Cropmarks likely representing two double-ditched trackways, a possible enclosure and possible pits have been recorded on the site. These are part of a larger complex of cropmarks extending to the north. The site is within a known Romano-British archaeological landscape comprising enclosures, field systems and settlements, and it is probable that at least some of the features within the site relate to activity of this period. The site is therefore considered to have a high potential to contain archaeological remains dating to the Romano-British period, as well as a high potential to contain antecedent Iron Age activity. The site is also located immediately adjacent to areas of probable medieval and certain post medieval settlement, and as such has a moderate potential to contain remains of these periods.

Three buildings dating to the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, were located in the south-east part of the site. These structures have since been demolished. Ground works associated with the construction and demolition of these building would have caused disturbance to any archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of the former buildings. The entirety of the site has also been repeatedly ploughed in modern times. Plough damage would adversely impact any shallow archaeological remains present, the depth of this impact would increase over time as ploughing continued. Below this level of disturbance and away from the former 20th century buildings any archaeological remains are likely to be well preserved.

The development proposal for the site includes the provision of 62 new homes. Ground works associated with this development would have an adverse effect upon any archaeological remains present. Due to the archaeological potential of the site it is probable that an archaeological evaluation comprising trial trenching would be required by Gloucestershire Archaeological Services. The purpose of the evaluation would be to investigate and more clearly define the nature of any archaeological deposits within the site and to inform a mitigation strategy intended to reduce or remove any archaeological impacts identified.

The scope of all archaeological works will need to be agreed with the relevant Gloucestershire County Council Planning Archaeology Service prior to commencement.

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# LAND TO THE EAST OF WHELFORD ROAD, KEMPSFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT FOR WEST WADDY ADP

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by West Waddy ADP to carry out an archaeological desk based assessment for an area of land to the east of Whelford Road and to the north of The Knoll, Kempsford, henceforth known as 'the site'. The site is centred on NGR 415899 197007, and its location is shown on **Figure 1**.
- 1.1.2 The aim of this project is to:
  - provide an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site;
  - assess the likely impacts of previous development on the survival of any archaeological remains; and
  - assess the potential for impacts from the proposed development on the surviving archaeological resource.
- 1.1.3 For the purposes of this report a variety of archaeological sources, including the results of previous archaeological investigations, were consulted for an area with a 1km radius from the boundary of the site (the study area). The sources consulted are discussed in Section 3, and a detailed list can be found in **Appendix 2.**

#### 2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1.1 The site is located in the middle of the village of Kempsford. It is bounded on its eastern, southern and western sides by residential developments, and arable farmland to the north. The site is currently also used for arable purposes. It is flat, lying at c.77m OD and is within the Cotswold district of Gloucestershire.
- 2.1.2 The bedrock deposit underlying the site is part of the Oxford Clay Formation, mudstone deposits which were laid down 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic period. The superficial deposits are part of the Summertown-Radley Second gravel terrace, laid down in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017).

#### SOURCES CONSULTED

- 2.1.3 The study area crosses both Gloucestershire and Wiltshire as the Thames forms the county boundary. Both the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) were contacted and supplied the data of known assets, events and designated assets within the site and the surrounding study area. Information was collected for a 1km study area surrounding the site (hereafter known as the study area). Aerial photographs from the Historic England archive were also examined. All of the heritage assets identified within the study area have been presented in the heritage gazetteer provided in **Appendix 1**. A full list of sources consulted can be found in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.1.4 Each heritage asset identified has been allocated a unique OA number. This is included in the heritage gazetteer, referred to in the text where relevant and marked on **Figures 2-4**.

- 2.1.5 **Figure 5** shows a transcription of cropmarks within the site and areas to the north and east
- 2.1.6 **Figure 6** is an early 18<sup>th</sup> century engraving of the village. **Figures 7-9** show historic mapping of the site, and **Figure 10** is a sketch of the proposed development footprint.

#### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF: issued March 2012) sets out the Government's planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.
- 3.1.2 Policies 12.128 and 12.129 state:
  - "128. 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 asset's 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.
  - 129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal"

# 4 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 4.1.1 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2017 in dry, overcast conditions. All areas of the site were accessed and no new archaeological features were identified during the visit.
- 4.1.2 The site comprises a single roughly square arable field, 2.29ha, and has probably been ploughed within the last year. It is flat with some minor undulations. The site is bounded to the west, south and east by modern housing, and to the north by a hedge with further arable fields beyond. The field is accessible through a gap in the hedge to the north. Alternatively, John of Gaunt Road leads to the site from the east.
- 4.1.3 Young grasses are currently growing within all areas of the site. There are occasional tufts of longer grass, some of which may be related to known cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. Patches in the south-west of the site are particularly prominent, and a possible linear area of longer grass can be observed (**Plates 1 and 2**). The hedge to the north separating the site from the another arable field is slightly raised compared to the fields on either side (**Plate 3**). This is probably due to both fields being ploughed.
- 4.1.4 Small amounts of modern detritus comprising fragments of glass bottles, plastic packaging, broken tennis balls and other objects were found in the southern and southeast area of the site near the area of modern housing. Clinker deriving from a fireplace or furnace was also discovered in this area. The date of this material is unconfirmed but it is considered likely to be modern rather than archaeological in nature. No certain premodern objects were noted during the walkover survey.

4.1.5 No earthworks were observed despite the presence of archaeological features on the site as shown by aerial photographs.

#### 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

#### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The site lies within the village of Kempsford. No designated heritage assets have been identified within the site itself, however the surrounding study area contains 19 Grade II listed buildings (**OA 63-79, 81-2**) and one Grade I listed building (**OA 80**). The majority of the listed buildings are located within the historic core of Kempsford which has been designated as a conservation area (**OA 62**) and lies immediately to the south of the site, see **Figure 2**. Two Grade II listed buildings (**OA 67** and **OA 79**) fall outside the conservation area and are situated within the village to the west of the site.
- A large number of cropmarks are known in the site and study area, a number of which have been excavated. A part of one of these concentrations is a scheduled monument (**OA 18**), located 1km to the south-east of the site. The scheduled monument falls just outside the study area. However, it has been included within this discussion as it forms part of a cropmark complex which extends into the study area.
- 5.1.3 There are no registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields within the site or surrounding study area.

# 5.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 5.2.1 The study area is within an extensive archaeological landscape that has been documented by the analysis of cropmarks alongside numerous excavations. The most common features within the ancient landscape include later prehistoric settlements, and primarily Late Iron Age and Romano-British field systems, trackways and enclosures. Other features include Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and settlements (e.g. Booth and Stansbie 2007; Cromarty et al. 2007; Fenner and Dyer 1994; Hayden *et al.* forthcoming; Jennings et al. 2004; Lamdin-Whymark et al. 2009; Leach 1977; Pine and Preston 2004; TVAS 2005).
- 5.2.2 The primary excavations within the study area itself have been in advance of gravel quarrying to the east of the site (**Figure 4**). Two of the major sites have been published Stubbs Farm (**OA 2**; Cromarty et al. 2007), and the Kempsford Quarry Multi-Agg site (**OA 1**; Booth and Stansbie 2007). Multiple excavations at the Kempsford Quarry Manor Farm area have yet to be synthesised (e.g. TVAS 2005; 2014).
- 5.2.3 A series of excavations took place at RAF Fairford uncovering evidence ranging in date from the Early Bronze Age to the post-Medieval period (**OA** 5-8; CA 2007; Hoad 2006). Two further evaluations and a watching brief in the study area also produced material from multiple periods (**OA** 4, 83, 84; TVAS 2012), and there are three recorded investigations that did not uncover any archaeologically significant finds or features (**OA** 9-11).

# 5.3 *Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP - 43 AD)*

- 5.3.1 No Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic finds or features have been recorded within the site or surrounding study area.
- 5.3.2 No certain Bronze Age finds or features have been recorded from the study area, although there are numerous circular cropmarks at least some of which may be the ring-ditches of Bronze Age round barrows (OA 12-16, 96, 97, 102, 106). These are located

1km to the south-west of the site (**OA 12**); 875m to the north-west (**OA 13**); 250m and 375m to the north (**OA 14, 15**); and 875m to the south-east (**OA 16**). Several adjoining ring-ditches have been recorded within the study area, located 720m to the south (**OA 96, 97**); 1km to the south-east (**OA 102**); and 750m to the south of the site (**OA 106**). Of these, **OA 106** is perhaps the least likely to date to the Bronze Age given its less regular nature, size and incomplete circuit. A better interpretation of this feature might be a later prehistoric enclosure.

- 5.3.3 Excavations at RAF Fairford uncovered extensive Early Iron Age activity (**OA 17**; Hoad 2006). Features included pits, gullies and postholes. The partially articulated remains from at least nine individuals were found within one of the excavated pits and tentatively phased to the Iron Age due to the proximity of other Iron Age remains. However, no dating evidence from this pit was recovered and such a large deposition of human remains from a discrete feature would remain unique to the Iron Age of the region. Accordingly, this feature is perhaps better regarded as undated.
- 5.3.4 An evaluation at Top Road 450m to the north-west of the site (**OA 4, 29**; TVAS 2012) uncovered ditches and a pit of Iron Age date. The results of a geophysical survey in combination with a programme of cropmark analysis in this area, demonstrated that both the pit and ditch were situated within a wider complex of linear features which are likely to be Romano-British in date and are detailed below (section 5.4). It is likely that at least some represent the continuation of activity from the Middle or Late Iron Age into the Romano-British period. Several sub-circular features have been recorded within this landscape, and have been interpreted as the remains of roundhouses, enclosures and pit clusters. These features are clustered at three locations and have been interpreted as evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British settlement remains. They include a scheduled monument located 1km to the south-east of the site (**OA 18** further details in section 5.4), cropmarks located 1km south-west of the site (**OA 107**) and a complex of other cropmarks comprising circular features, pits and linear features that can be followed into the site of the proposed development (**OA 32**).
- 5.3.5 Other evidence of later prehistoric settlement activity comprising the cropmark remains of possible pits and postholes have been recorded at two locations within the study area located 700m (OA 54) and 1km (OA 56) to the north-west of the site. These clusters of features have not been firmly dated and could also date to the Romano-British or early medieval periods.
- 5.3.6 Unstratified Iron Age finds have been recovered from the banks of the Thames in Kempsford. The closest of these finds to the site were a Middle Iron Age jar (**OA 87**) and a gold stater (**OA 85**). Both finds were recoded 400m to the south of the site. Further down the river another Iron Age coin (**OA 86**) and a Late Iron Age bronze toggle or horse-bit with engraved decoration and enamelled terminals (**OA 88**) have been discovered.

#### 5.4 Romano-British Period (AD 43-410)

- 5.4.1 The study area is within an important Romano-British agricultural landscape noted for its dense concentration of occupation. Settlements, enclosures and field systems are evidenced by numerous cropmarks in the study area. These are found in almost every direction away from the site. No positive cropmark evidence has been recorded within the area now occupied by RAF Fairford to the north-west of the site however it is likely that such remains were present and destroyed during the construction of the airfield.
- 5.4.2 Cropmarks have been recorded within the site comprising an almost square enclosure containing a pit, located in the south-east corner of the site. Two larger less regular features are present to the east just outside the enclosure. Further to the east still are two intersecting ditch defined trackways and a linear feature. The western trackway runs into the area of recent housing development to the west. The northern fork of the

- trackway can be followed some c750m where it joins a complex of enclosures, pits, trackways, other linear and circular features (**OA 32**). The cropmarks within the site are part of a larger complex of cropmarks which covers some 12ha and has been plotted on **Figure 5**.
- 5.4.3 The cropmarks within the site and in the study area to the north appear to represent a multi-phased settlement and/or system of animal management. The focus of this appears to be *c*400m to the north of the site. While these cropmarks strictly remain undated, similar trackways and enclosures have been excavated within the study area, and these primarily date to the Romano-British period (Booth and Stansbie 2007; Cromarty et al. 2007; TVAS 2005; 2014).
- 5.4.4 Another complex of comparable cropmarks have been identified 950m to the southeast of the site, spreading to the east (**OA 18**). Part of this has been scheduled, although the scheduled area is not within the study area. This complex comprises a probable settlement surrounded by a system of conjoined rectangular enclosures with an average size of 80m x 50m. Several trackways run between these enclosures and into the central area. Small curvilinear and rectangular enclosures and pits are present, some probably representing hut circles. Numerous pits are also scattered across the site. There are a number of overlapping elements suggesting that the site is multi-phased. Like all cropmark sites, excavation is required to provide a firm date, although it is likely that this complex primarily dates to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.
- 5.4.5 A series of excavations have taken place to the east of the site in advance of gravel quarrying at Stubb's Farm (Cromarty et al. 2007; OA 2, 25, 27), Kempsford Quarry Multi-Agg site (Booth and Stansbie 2007), and Manor Farm. Excavations at Manor Farm have yet to be synthesised (but see TVAS 2005; 2014). Prior to the excavation and quarrying cropmarks could be seen at all of these sites. The excavation at Stubb's Farm recorded a multi-ditched circular enclosure approximately 55m in diameter alongside double ditched rectangular enclosure measuring 53x42m. Both features were surrounded by a series of field ditches and dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, although it is possible that activity began in the late Iron Age (Cromarty et al. 2007). The Kempsford Quarry Multi-Agg site excavation revealed a very regular layout of trackways dating to the early Roman period linking nearby settlements outside the excavated area to wider field systems. After a hiatus in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the principle trackway was reestablished and a substantial post-built stockade was constructed (Booth and Stansbie 2007; **OA 1, 24, 26**). Excavations at Manor Farm also uncovered comparable elements of this extensive and long-lived pastoral landscape largely of Romano-British date (TVAS 2005; 2014; **OA 20**).
- 5.4.6 An evaluation at Top Road 450m to the north-west of the site uncovered Romano-British ditches (**OA 4, 29**; TVAS 2012). This sequence of activity appears to have begun in the Iron Age.
- 5.4.7 Other cropmarks that appear to be of Romano-British date north of the Thames include an oval enclosure 500m to the north-east of the site (**OA 19**), a possible villa building with eight internal rooms visible 500m to the east, possible roads 700m to the east (**OA 23**), field boundaries 350m to the north-west (**OA 55**), and possible trackways 925m and 950m to the south-east, 950m to the south-west, and 450m to the east of the site (**OA 28, 30, 31, 33**).
- 5.4.8 South of the Thames further possible Romano-British cropmarks are known. A particularly prominent feature is a probable trackway terminating at the Thames 450m to the south-west of the site and can be traced running south over c.550m (**OA 98**). A series of other trackways, linear features and enclosures of possible Iron Age and/or Romano-British date have been recorded on the Wiltshire side of the Thames (**OA 99-101, 103-107**).

- 5.4.9 At least 31 Roman coins have been found on the riverbank of the Thames at Kempsford (**OA 34**). The majority date to the first century and might be a partial hoard. Four coins dating to the second century are notably more worn than the Flavian examples, suggesting that at least two episodes of deposition is represented (Robertson 2000, 20-1).
- 5.4.10 A crossbow brooch appears to have been found in the Thames (**OA 89**). Excavations on the bank of the river uncovered numerous 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds (**OA 83**, **89**), and another scatter of pottery sherds including examples dating throughout the Roman period were found 800m south of the site (**OA 90**).

# 5.5 The Medieval Period (AD 410-1550)

Early medieval Period (AD 410 -1065)

- 5.5.1 The village of Kempsford has its origins in the early medieval period and appears to have been mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of AD 800 as 'Cymeresford', where it is recorded that Ethelmund, alderman of the Wiccians crossed the Thames to battle alderman Woxtan and the men of Wiltshire (**OA 35**). A Saxon earthwork is said to be located at the ford in the Thames at Kempsford (**OA 37**). This may have been incorporated into the rampart of a 12<sup>th</sup> century castle which was replaced by Kempsford House during the reign of James I, in turn replaced by Manor House in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.5.2 No early medieval remains have been recorded within the site. However Anglo-Saxon inhumations (**OA 55** and **OA 91**) have been recorded in the study area at two locations 550m to the north west of the site and 950m to the south of the site. In addition, an early medieval spearhead was found during excavations at Manor Farm (**OA 3**) and a 10<sup>th</sup> century spearhead, axehead and adze have come from the Thames near Kempsford (**OA 92**).

Later Medieval Period (1066 -1550)

- 5.5.3 Kempsford is recorded in the Domesday Book as comprising a very large population of 69 households, assessed at 21 geld units. The lord in 1066 was Asgot of Hailes, recorded as the lord of five other manors in the north of Gloucestershire. The lord in 1086 was Arnulf of Hesdin who also held five other manors in Gloucestershire (Palmer 2017).
- 5.5.4 The site of a 12th century castle (**OA 37**) is recorded 500m to the south of the site. It has been suggested that rather than a castle this site represents a large moated manor house associated with Kempsford manor which was the head of a reputed barony comprising manors mainly in Wiltshire. This was held by Patrick de Chaworth in 1096, and was granted to the hospital of Annunciation at Lancaster in 1355. When this collegiate church was supressed in 1548, the manor was granted to Sir John Thynne (VCH 1981).
- 5.5.5 The Church of St Mary the Virgin is located 550m to the south-east of the site and is Grade I listed (**OA 80**). The nave dates to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, and the chancel was added in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Alterations took place in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the tower and nave heightened in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century. The church was further restored in both *c*1858 and the 1880s, when the south-east chapel was also added. The churchyard contains a 14<sup>th</sup> century cross consisting of a hexagonal socket and a 3ft octagonal shaft (**OA 39**).
- 5.5.6 Aerial photographs from the 1940s show extensive ridge and furrow earthworks across the study area (**OA 22**). Ridge and furrow earthworks are still present in the fields to the east and north-east of the site although no such remains extend into the site itself.
- 5.5.7 The ridge a furrow earthwork in the field to the north east of the site suggest that the present day field was once divided into 4 smaller fields. This contrasts with the layout

- shown upon the 1801 Inclosure map (**Figure 7**) suggesting that the ridge and furrow in this field predates the Inclosure survey.
- 5.5.8 Another notable area of ridge and furrow is located 900m to the south-west of the site, immediately beyond the church. At least two remnant fields are visible, shown by ridge and furrow groups. A square enclosure can be seen cutting across these earthworks and might be related to the reordering of the area during the construction of Kempsford House by Thomas Thynne in the 1630s. A further field boundary cuts this later enclosure.
- 5.5.9 A single linear ditch 700m to the west of the site is visible in aerial photographs (**OA 38**). This has been interpreted as a medieval or later field boundary due to its relationship to the extant roads adjacent to the feature.

# 5.6 *Post Medieval Period (1550 – 1900)*

- 5.6.1 Within the study area there is evidence for the continuation of the area as a rural agricultural village from the medieval to post medieval period.
- 5.6.2 There are 19 post medieval Grade II listed structures in the study area (OA 63-79, 81, 82). These comprise funerary monuments in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, domestic and agricultural buildings, a gate, and a bridge.
- 5.6.3 A number of Grade II listed chest tombs are located in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, 550m to the south-east of the site (**OA 68, 69, 73, 76, 77, 78, 81, 82**). These primarily date to the later 18<sup>th</sup> and earlier 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, although include examples dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Vicarage is located just to the north of the church (**OA 71**). This Grade II listed large detached house dates to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, with substantial 19<sup>th</sup> century additions. It is built from rubble, coursed and dressed stone with quoins, a stone slate roof and stone stacks with moulded cornices.
- 5.6.4 Manor House is Grade II listed and located 600m to the south-east of the site (**OA** 75). Although earlier elements exist, this house primarily dates to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and is built of random coursed or coursed rubble stone with slate roofs. It is on the site of Kempsford House, built by Thomas Thynne in the 1630s, in turn replacing a possible castle and Saxon earthwork. A 1712 engraving by Johannes Kip shows Kempsford House with its gardens to the north-west in relation to church and other elements of the small village (**Figure 6**). Lady Maud's Walk (**OA** 70) and Manor Farm Barns (**OA** 74) are also depicted. These are both Grade II listed and contemporary with Thynne's house. Lady Maud's Walk is a riverside terrace with central steps and end pavilions, now only partially surviving. A shot tower is also shown (**OA** 47). This is not listed but recorded as a heritage asset.
- 5.6.5 The site of the proposed development can be seen in the background of the 1712 engraving by Johannes Kip (**Figure 6**). This approximately shows the site within a large field near two enclosed areas, one apparently used for settlement, the other under agricultural use. However, although Kip is noted for his accuracy in depicting country estates, the site is positioned in the background and the land-use portrayed should not necessarily be taken as entirely precise.
- 5.6.6 Other Grade II listed buildings in the study area include Kempsford Manor, primarily dating to the early/mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, located 150m to the south-west of the study area (**OA 63**). The core of Tuckwell House dates to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and is located 50m to the south of the southern corner of the site (**OA 72**). Paradise Farm cottage probably dates to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and is the only remaining of several formally thatched cottages in the village. This can be found 200m to the west of the site. The original Kempsford School House, dating to 1750, has been incorporated into the modern school (**OA 67**). This is constructed of random coursed rubble stone with alternating flush quoins, a stone slate roof and a large brick stack. Reevey Gate is

- located 800m to the west of the site (**OA 79**). This now single house was formally three cottages and dates to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.6.7 The bridge at Kempsford was rebuilt in 1647 after it was destroyed during fighting in the Civil War (VCH 1981). Civil War weapons have been recovered from the Thames along with 11 skulls that probably date to the same period (**OA 95**).
- 5.6.8 Part of the Thames and Severn Canal formally ran though Kempsford north of the Thames, *c*250m to the south and south-west of the site (**OA 49**). This was completed in 1789, and was in use until 1911. A number of historic assets within the study area are related to the canal. Oatlands bridge is Grade II listed and contemporary with the construction of the canal (**OA 64**). Kempsford bridge was located 250m to the south-west of the site (**OA 42**), and some stonework of another canal bridge is visible 1km to the east of the site (**OA 48**). Milestones are found near both these bridge (**OA 43, 50**). Grade II listed Wharf House is located 150m to the south of the site (**OA 65**), and two pumps and a boat house were also associated with the canal (**OA 51-53**).
- 5.6.9 Other post medieval heritage assets include a house associated with the Old Bakery that used to have an advert for Hovis Bread above the loading door (**OA 44**); stocks that stood on the Green until about 1880 (**OA 46**); and a probable gravel pit visible on aerial photographs 700m to the east of the site (**OA 41**).
- 5.6.10 The 1801 Inclosure map of Kempsford shows that the site was located immediately north of domestic properties, with fields to the north, east and west (**Figure 7**). The site is shown with its current boundaries to the north, east and south. The western boundary does not exist, instead extending into a larger field in this direction. Settlement within the village is shown as structured around High Street, with houses on very few other roads. The site and the fields immediately surrounding the it were owned by Elishua Jones, who appears to owned little other land in the parish. The majority landowner within Kempsford was Lord Coleraine. George Hanger, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Coleraine (1751-1824), was an officer in the American Revolutionary War. A favourite to the Prince of Wales (later King George IV), Hanger was often the butt of caricaturists and known as a womaniser and eccentric (ODNB 2008).
- 5.6.11 The 25-inch OS map of 1875 (published 1882) shows the site with the same boundaries as the 1801 Inclosure map (**Figure 8**). The 1875 map shows some minor changes to field boundaries around the site during the previous 75 years.

# 5.7 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- 5.7.1 The 25-inch OS map surveyed 1920 (published in 1923) shows the site with the same boundaries as in 1801 and 1875. Few changes are visible comparing the two maps, except a rectangular building is present in the later map in the eastern area of the site. Up to three buildings are shown in this area on both the 1946 and 1975 aerial photographs. The 1960 OS map (not illustrated) shows the site to have its current boundaries. The 1975 OS map (not illustrated) illustrates housing development to the east and west of the site.
- 5.7.2 Apart from a small number of buildings formally occupying the south-east of the site, aerial photographs show that the site has been under arable cultivation since at least 1946.
- 5.7.3 RAF Fairford opened in January 1944 in preparation for the D-Day landings. The airfield is located 300m to the north-west of the site and was used in the 1950s by the US air force it was reclaimed in 1964 by the RAF. The base is still in use today.
- 5.7.4 The Thames and Severn Canal fell out of use in 1911 and saw steady decline through the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of the canal within the study area appears on

the 1960 OS map, but only a small portion in the centre of the village is shown on the 1975 map.

#### 5.8 Undated

5.8.1 A large number of cropmarks are known in the study area. These are discussed above primarily in relation to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods as given excavations in the east of the study area and in the wider environs, it is likely the majority date to these periods. However, excavation is necessary to provide a firm date, and the cropmarks strictly remain undated. Features include linear ditches, trackways, enclosures, ring-ditches and pits.

#### 6 PREVIOUS IMPACTS AND SURVIVAL

- 6.1.1 The site comprises a single arable field that has been ploughed since at least the 1940s, although probably for much longer. The continued ploughing of the site would have resulted in the truncation of any subsurface archaeological deposits. The depth of disturbance caused by these activities would increase the longer the field was under the plough; however, the presence of cropmarks across the site suggest that archaeological remains do survive below the plough soil.
- 6.1.2 Evidence from engravings and maps since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century show that the majority site has been in agricultural use for a number of centuries. Three buildings were present in the south-east corner of the site through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century although they have subsequently been demolished. Groundworks associated with these buildings are likely to have impacted upon earlier archaeological deposits in the footprint of the buildings.

### 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 7.1.1 Numerous cropmarks are visible on the site including two joining linear trackways, an enclosure, a further linear feature, and possible pits. These appear to be part of a larger complex extending to the north. No other finds or features of archaeological origin are recorded from the site, although the site has been subject to little development and no archaeological investigation. It is considered that the site has high potential to contain previously unidentified heritage assets.
- 7.1.2 The site is located within an area of known prehistoric activity. This primarily comprises Bronze Age funerary monuments, earlier Iron Age settlements, and later Iron Age field systems and enclosures. As such the site is considered to have high potential to contain archaeological remains of these periods. If such remains are present, the upper levels may have been truncated by ploughing carried out on the site during the post medieval period.
- 7.1.3 The site lies within an extensive known Romano-British agricultural landscape comprising enclosures, field systems and settlements. Similar cropmarks to those recorded within the site have been excavated to the east of the site, and it has been shown that these primarily date to the Romano-British period. Numerous Romano-British stray finds are also known from the study area. Given the presence of cropmarks within the site and Roman archaeological remains in the surrounding landscape, the site is considered to have a high potential to contain previously unidentified archaeological remains of this period.
- 7.1.4 A number of early medieval inhumations and stray finds are known within the study area. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book as being relatively large, and it slowly grew through the later medieval period. The site appears as agricultural land on maps and other images of Kempsford from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present, backing

- onto areas likely to have been occupied by tenements in the medieval and post medieval periods.
- 7.1.5 Settlement activity within the village was positioned along High Street, and the site is set just back from this road about half-way along the area of settlement recorded at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This pattern of land-use likely reflects the medieval landscape, suggesting that the site was in agricultural use during the later medieval period. Given the proximity of the site to the centre of the village, it is possible that some activity relating to the medieval settlement extended into the area. As a result, the site is considered to have moderate potential to contain previously unidentified archaeological remains of this period.
- 7.1.6 Many of the conclusions relating to the potential of later medieval archaeological remains on the site are relevant to the post medieval period. The village remained of modest size throughout the post medieval period, with tenements positioned along High Street, including immediately to the south of the site. The site appears to have been in agricultural use from at least the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, although the proximity to likely settlement suggests a moderate potential for the site to contain post medieval archaeological remains.

#### 8 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 8.1.1 Development plans of the proposed development is shown on **Figure 10**. As part of this scheme the site would be redeveloped for 62 dwellings. John of Gaunt road to the east will be extended through the site to provide the main access route.
- 8.1.2 The construction of the foundations of the new buildings, access roads and associated services would have a direct, negative impact upon the archaeological remains suggested by cropmark evidence, and any other unidentified archaeological deposits within the site. In particular, Iron Age and/or Roman archaeological features are likely to be encountered.
- 8.1.3 The proposed development would be located adjacent to the Kempsford conservation area. Much of this would be screened by existing housing running along High Street, although the site does sit immediately adjacent to the conservation area at its south-eastern and south-western corners. The setting of the proposed development with modern housing to the east, south and west means that the site represents a logical infill of extant modern buildings. The provision of screen planning surrounding the development mitigates potential impacts on the setting of the conservation area, and it is thought that the development would not significantly affect the context of the conservation area.

#### 9 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK

- 9.1.1 This desk-based assessment has identified cropmarks within the site that represent archaeological features. It is considered likely that these date to the Iron Age and/or Romano-British period given their appearance, and that the site is within a known Romano-British archaeological landscape. It is probable that further deposits of this date accompany the features visible as cropmarks. The site is also considered to have moderate potential to contain previously unidentified medieval and post medieval archaeological remains. The site has been under arable cultivation since at least the 1940s. As such, any earlier archaeological remains present may have been impacted upon by plough damage.
- 9.1.2 The potential impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource is uncertain. However, the presence of cropmarks within the site suggests the high probability of the existence of archaeological deposits. Any such remains would be

adversely affected by the groundworks associated with the proposed development. As a result, it is considered likely that further archaeological work would be required by the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Services in order to investigate the potential presence of archaeological deposits and inform an appropriate mitigation strategy to reduce the impact upon the archaeological resource. This work may consist of archaeological trial trenching which would be used to identify any remains present within the site. It is noted that archaeological works have been required on numerous occasions in recent years at land to the east of the site at Manor Farm quarry.

9.1.3 The scope of all archaeological works would need to be agreed with the relevant Gloucestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist prior to commencement.

#### 10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1.1 Cropmarks representing archaeological features have been recorded within the site. Given the nature of these and that the site is within a known Romano-British landscape, it is considered that there is a high potential for archaeological remains dating to this period and/or the Iron Age at the site. Furthermore, given the location of the site immediately adjacent to areas of probable medieval and certain post medieval settlement, the site is considered to have moderate potential to contain remains of these periods. A small number of early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings were present on the south-eastern area of the site, and these are likely to have negatively impacted upon any archaeological features beneath this area. Modern ploughing may also have disturbed archaeological remains in other areas of the site.
- 10.1.2 The proposed development would involve the construction of 62 residential dwellings with associated parking, gardens, access roads and services. These construction works would adversely impact upon any surviving archaeological features.
- 10.1.3 Given the uncertain archaeological potential of the site, it is probable that further archaeological works would be required by the County Council Archaeological Services. These works may comprise archaeological trial trenching which would be used to investigate and define the nature of any archaeological deposits present. The results of the survey would be used to develop a mitigation strategy intended to reduce or remove any adverse impacts to the archaeological resource.
- 10.1.4 The scope of all archaeological works would need to be agreed with the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service prior to commencement.

Oxford Archaeology

April 2017

# **PLATES**

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## Appendix 2

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### **Cartographic Sources**

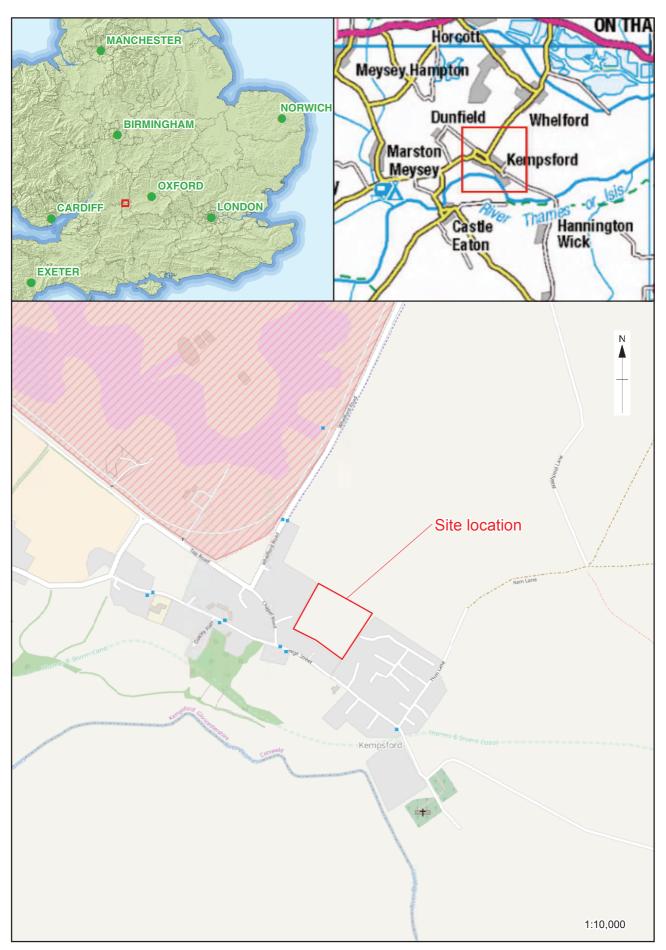
Inclosure map of Kempsford, 1801

Ordnance Survey 25-inch Map, Sheet Gloucestershire LX.8, 1875

Ordnance Survey 25-inch Map, Sheet Gloucestershire LX.8, 1920

Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Map, 1960

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map, 1975





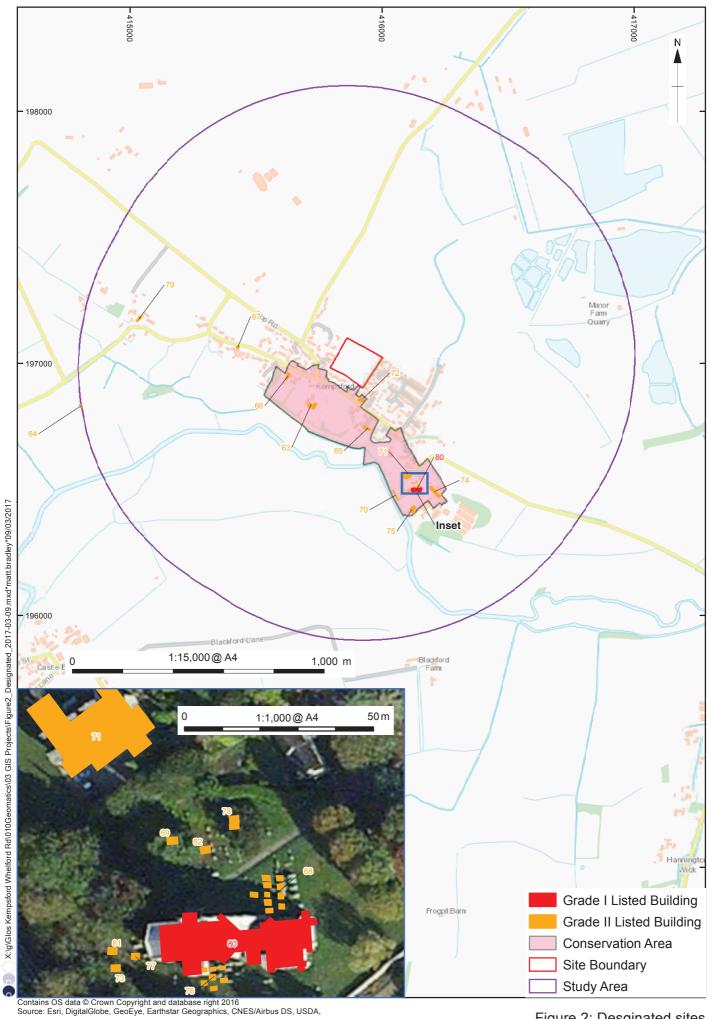
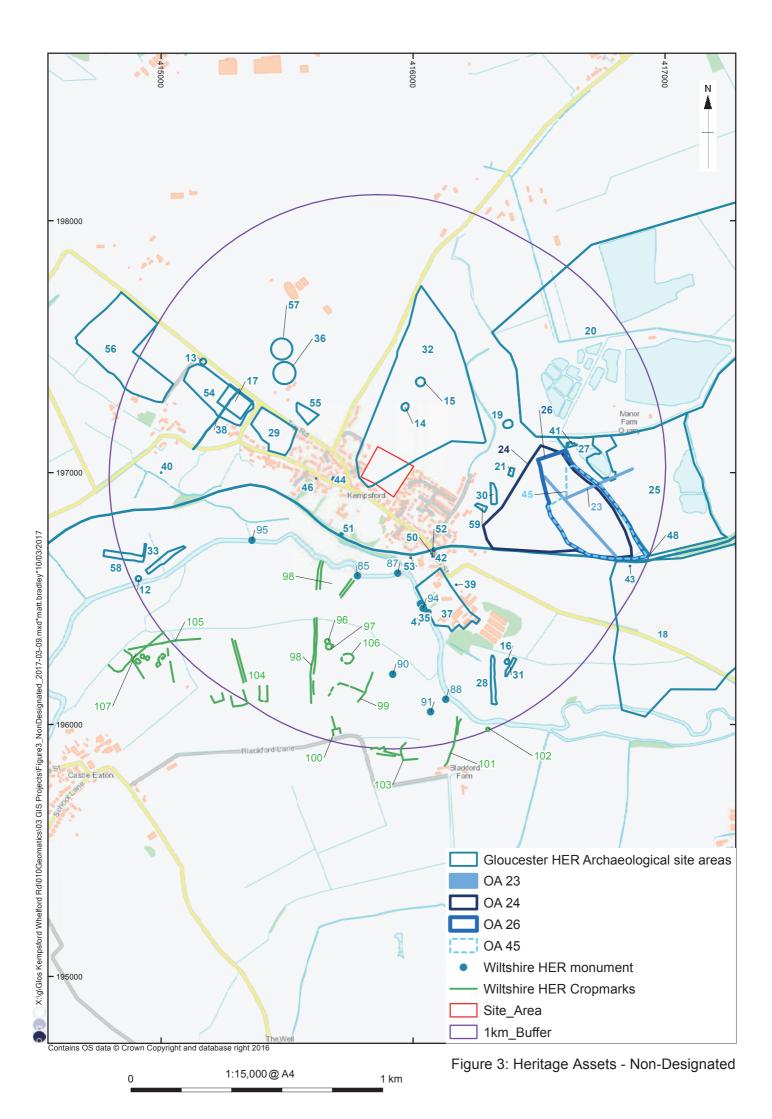
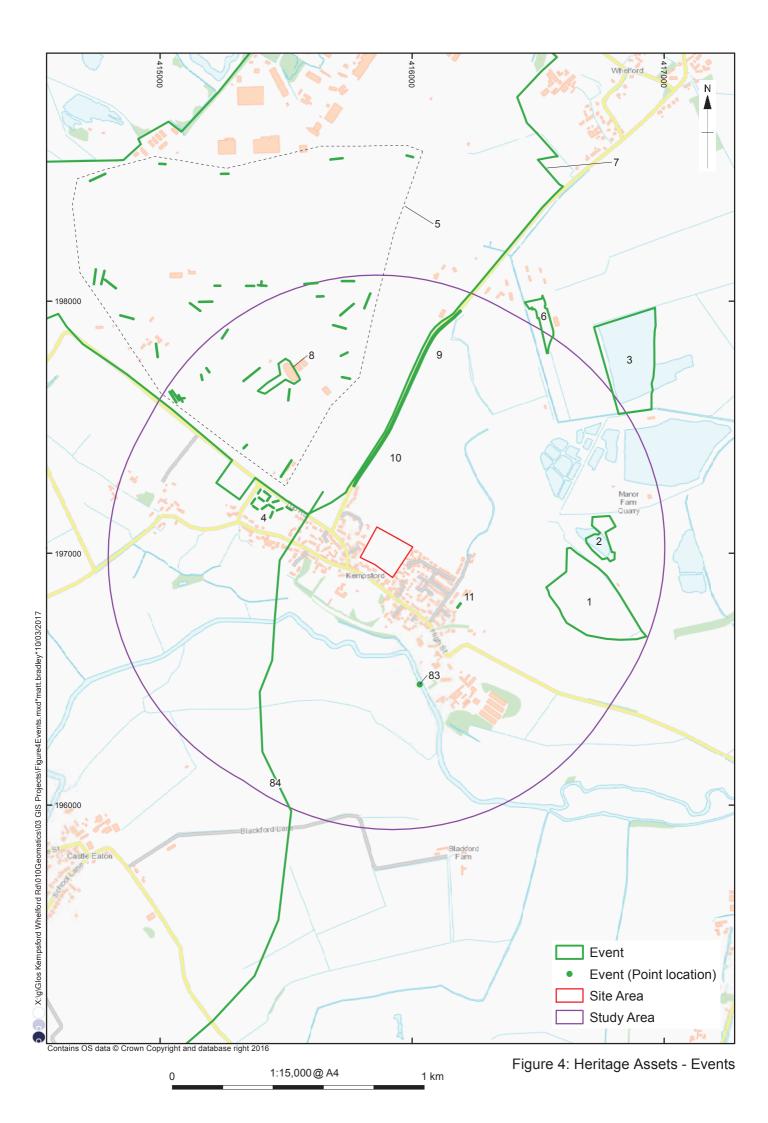
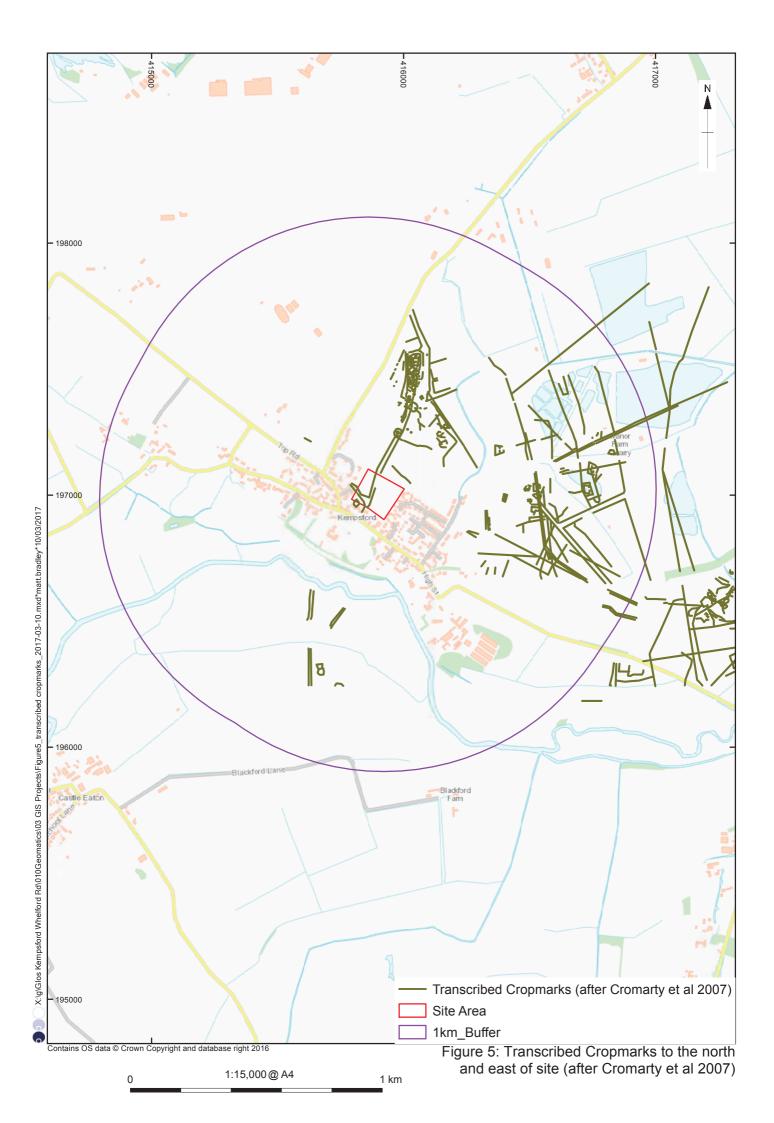


Figure 2: Desginated sites

















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Dimensions to be checked on site before work commence

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# **PLANNING**

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Red Line Boundary 2.50ha



Public Open Space 0.43ha



Affordable

SCHEDULE			
	М	Α	T
1 b	0	8	8
2 b	9	14	23
3 b	15	7	22
4 b	6	3	9
TOTAL			62

## Kempsford Gloucestershire

Site Layout

The Malthouse 60 East St. Helen Street Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 5EB Tel (01235) 523139 Fax (01235) 521662



 Date
 24.05.2017

 Scale
 1:1000 at A3

 Drawn
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Plate 1: View of the site from the south-west corner looking north



Plate 2: View of the site looking south, showing possible linear tufts of grass

Plate 3: View of the northern hedge looking east. The site is to the right of the picture





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