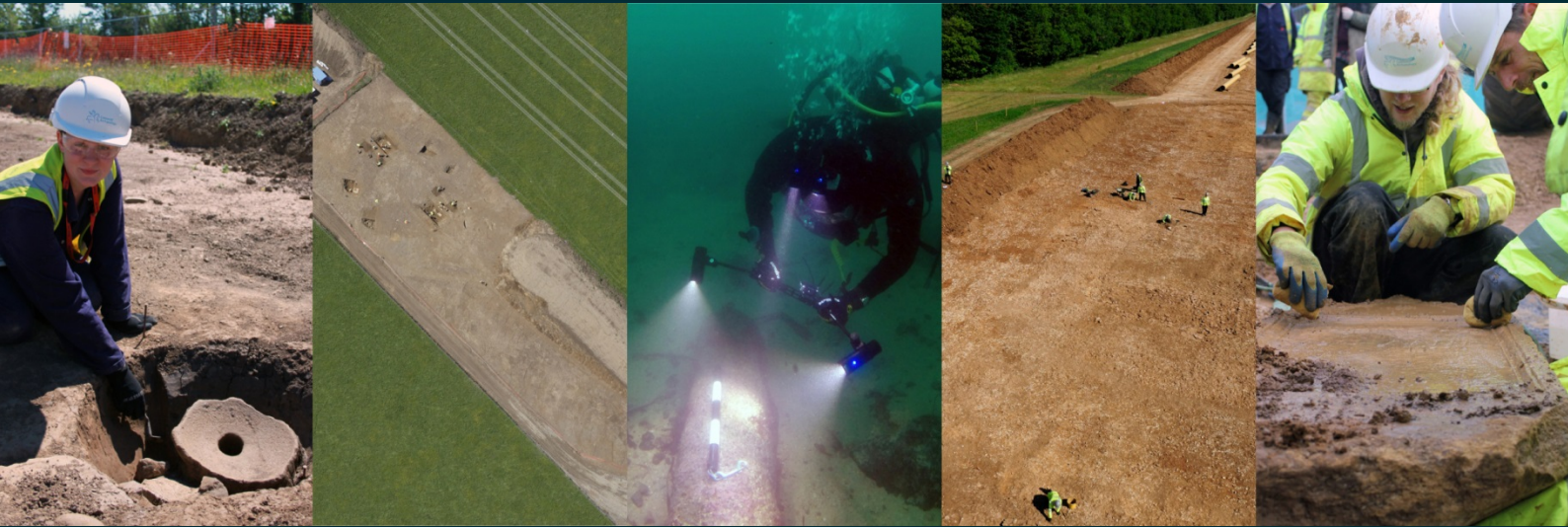


Hampden Field Development Phase 1 Chalgrove Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Bidwells

on behalf of
Jennings of Garsington Ltd

CA Project: 660581
CA Report: 15758

November 2015



Hampden Field Development Phase 1 Chalgrove Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project Name: | Hampden Field Development, Phase 1 |
| Location: | Chalgrove, Oxford |
| NGR: | SU 6478 9740 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date: | 12 to 13 October 2015 |
| Planning Reference: | South Oxfordshire District Council: P13/S3488/O |
| Location of Archive: | To be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service |
| Site Code: | HFC 15 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2015 at land off Warpsgrove Lane, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. The work was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition that was attached to planning consent for the expansion of the existing business park and the construction of a photovoltaic solar array. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench.

Archaeological interest in the site derives from its location c. 750m south-west of recorded prehistoric and Roman activity identified at Warpsgrove and from its use during the Second World War as an airbase. The airfield and runways are located to the immediate west of the site.

Trenching revealed the cement, brick and mortar bases of three buildings, associated with Chalgrove airfield, which was occupied by photo-reconnaissance units of the United States Army Air-Force during the Second World War.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bidwells on behalf of Jennings of Garsington Ltd at Hampden Field, South Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SU 6478 9740; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition (South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) planning ref: P13/S3488/O; Conditions 4 and 5). The development comprises the expansion of the existing business park and a photovoltaic solar array.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of a single 50m long trench was defined in discussions between CA and Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Services (OCCAS), the archaeological advisor to SODC.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Richard Oram. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The proposed Phase 1 development area is approximately 0.4 ha in size and comprises part of a pasture field (Figs 1 and 2). The site is located on land previously used for accommodation for Chalgrove Airfield during the Second World War. It is bounded to the north by a large industrial unit, to the east and south by fields, currently under arable cultivation and to the south-west by Monument Park Industrial Estate. The western boundary of the site comprises Warpsgrove Lane. The site lies at approximately 75m AOD, sloping gently downwards from east to west.
- 1.5 The bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation mudstone of the Cretaceous Period, overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of Summertown-Radley sands and gravels (BGS 2015). Grey-brown clay was encountered during the evaluation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Reference to the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site is located in an area where there is the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains, with significant prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval sites recorded within or surrounding the proposed development site. The following is a summary of sites in close proximity to the proposed development area (HER numbers in parentheses).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) and Roman (AD 43-AD410)

2.2 Prehistoric activity and Roman settlement are recorded c. 750m to the north-east at Warpsgrove (17488; SU 654 976). Excavations during pipeline construction of an area c. 136m long by 10m wide revealed features dating from the Bronze Age to the Late Roman period. Unstratified and residual Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flints were recovered as well as a ditch and a small scoop tentatively dated to the Bronze Age. Middle Iron Age features consisted of ditches, including a possible ring ditch, pits/scoops and postholes. Roman activity consisting of large ditches, pits and gullies were dated by recovered pottery to the late 3rd to 4th century AD, with a further pit and posthole dated to the late 4th century AD. Unstratified human bone was also recovered from the site (Ford *et al* 2004).

2.3 A fieldwalking survey to the north of the Roman settlement recovered a moderately dense scatter of Roman pottery. Subsequent geophysical survey detected magnetic disturbance in the centre of this field, corresponding to the highest pottery concentration (NA 1999).

Post-medieval

2.4 The site of the Battle of Chalgrove Field, fought in 1673 (21341) is located in the fields to the immediate west of the site. The battle involved a cavalry skirmish in which Prince Rupert defeated the Parliamentarians and John Hampden was mortally wounded. Hampden's Monument, at SU 6458 9715, was erected on the bicentenary of his death (see below).

Modern

2.5 Located c. 250m to the south-west of the site is a limestone obelisk (21341), erected in 1848 to commemorate John Hampden, who was killed at the battle of Chalgrove Field.

- 2.6 The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1881) indicates that the proposed development site and the site of Monument Park comprised parts of four fields.
- 2.7 The site remained unchanged until the construction, during the Second World War, of Chalgrove Airfield. The airfield and runways are located to the immediate west of the site. The development site and Monument Park are built on land previously used for the airfield accommodation (16333). The associated stores (16331) were located approximately 300m to the south-east of the site. The airfield was opened in 1943, for use by both the Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Forces. The airfield ceased to be used as a military site in 1946 and is now primarily used by the Martin-Baker company for testing ejector seats.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the evaluation was to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The evaluation report (this document) will allow SODC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and to develop appropriate strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 3.2 During the course of the fieldwork the results were assessed and, where relevant, reference was made to the regional research objectives outlined in *Solent-Thames Archaeological Research Framework (Chapters published 2006-2009)*, so that a project-specific research agenda could be implemented.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench 50m long by 1.8m wide, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed industrial unit, in order to assess the impact of the

development on the extant archaeological record. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.

- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*; no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The geological substrate 103, which comprised orange brown clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil (102), 0.2m thick, which comprised light orange brown silty clay. The subsoil was cut by a series of construction cuts (115, 116 and 117), into which poured concrete foundations were set. A series of three brick structures (104, 108 and 110) constructed from cement bonded, machine frogged bricks set in stretcher courses was constructed on these. A deposit of purple brown compacted clay (106, 111) was deposited within each of the building footprints, overlain by a layer of orange sands

and gravels (107, 109 and 112). Located at the south-western end of the trench a thin layer of loose brick and rubble (105) was identified, which probably represents the buildings demolition.

5.3 A probable drainage ditch running parallel with the north-facing wall of structure 104 was recorded. This was cut from the topsoil-subsoil horizon, and measured 0.8m wide and 0.8m deep. A machine manufactured iron nail was recovered from the single fill 114, which, along with the alignment and stratigraphic position of the cut, suggests that the drainage ditch was contemporary with the construction of the adjacent buildings.

5.4 All the deposits were sealed by topsoil 101, c. 0.2m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The evaluation has revealed archaeological features dating from the modern period, comprising a ditch, walls and demolition deposits related to buildings associated with the sites use as an airfield during the Second World War.

6.2 The brick walls and cement foundations identified within Trench 1 correspond with the location of buildings, depicted on historic aerial photographs. The buildings are recorded on the Oxfordshire HER as accommodation blocks, occupied by photo-reconnaissance units of the United States Army Air-Force during the Second World War. The demolition deposit identified within Trench 1, results from the destruction of this building. Ditch 113 is considered to be broadly contemporary with the buildings within Trench 1.

6.3 No archaeological remains, relating to the 17th-century battlefield or the nearby Late Iron Age/Romano British settlement were encountered.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jake Streatfeild-James, assisted by Kim Devereux-West. The report was written by Jake Streatfeild-James. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans,

and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.



8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 2 November 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Hampden Field Development: WSI for Archaeological Evaluation*
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- Ford, S., Howell, I. and Taylor, K. 2004 *The Archaeology of the Aylesbury-Chalgrove Gas Pipeline, and the Orchard, Walton Road Aylesbury, Thames Valley Archaeological Monograph Series 5*, Reading
- NA (Network Archaeology Ltd) 1999 *Aylesbury to Chalgrove Proposed Gas Pipeline: Archaeological Field Surveys* (Unpublished document).

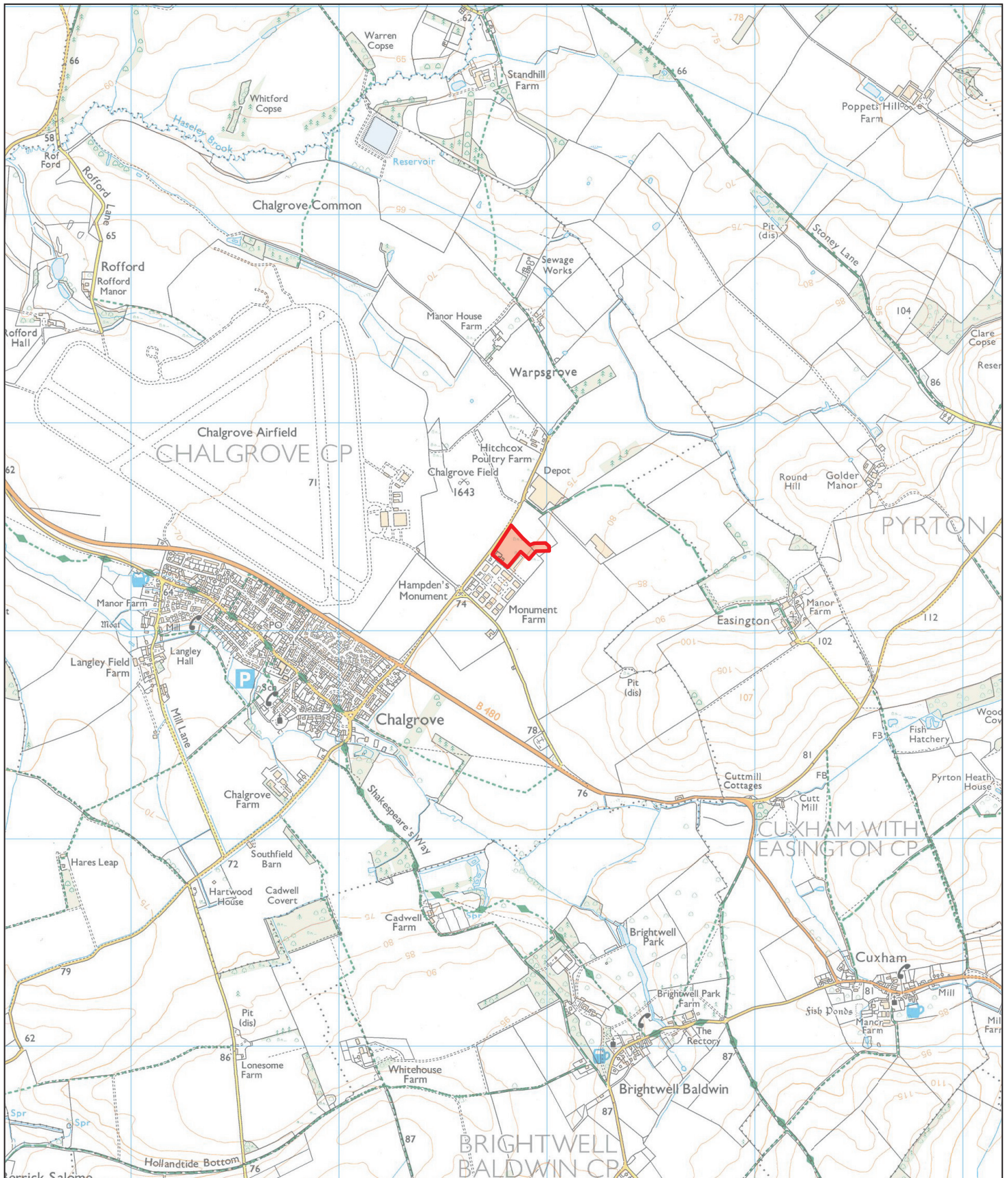


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | D (m) |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 101 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark grey-brown sandy loam | | | 0.2 |
| 1 | 102 | Layer | | Subsoil | Light orange-brown loam | | | 0.2 |
| 1 | 103 | Layer | | Natural | Orange brown clay | | | |
| 1 | 104 | Struc | | Hut base | Brick and cement hut base | 13.4 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| 1 | 105 | Layer | | Made ground | Loose brick and rubble | 2.5 | 1.8 | 0.1 |
| 1 | 106 | Dep | | Made ground | Dark purple brown clay – turves | 13.4 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| 1 | 107 | Dep | | Made ground | Orange sands and gravels | 13.4 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| 1 | 108 | Struc | | Hut base | Brick and cement hit base | 6.5 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| 1 | 109 | Dep | | Made ground | Dark grey brown loam and rubble | 6.5 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| 1 | 110 | Struc | | Hut base | Brick and cement hut base | 5.0 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| 1 | 111 | Dep | | Made ground | Dark purple brown clay – turves | 5.0 | 1.8 | 0.3 |
| 1 | 112 | Dep | | Made ground | Orange gravel and sands | 5.0 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| 1 | 113 | Cut | | Gully | Linear, moderate sides concave base | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| 1 | 114 | Dep | | Gully Fill | Mid orange brown clay | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| 1 | 115 | Cut | | Construction Cut | Cut for 104 | 13.4 | 1.8 | 0.6 |
| 1 | 116 | Cut | | Construction Cut | Cut for 108 | 6.5 | 1.8 | 0.6 |
| 1 | 117 | Cut | | Construction cut | Cut for 110 | 5.0 | 1.8 | 0.6 |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name | Hampden Field Development, Chalgrove | |
| Short description | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2015 at land off Wasperton Lane, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. The work was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition that was attached to planning consent for the expansion of the existing business park and the construction of a photovoltaic solar array. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench.</p> <p>Archaeological interest in the site derives from its location c. 750m south-west of recorded prehistoric and Roman activity identified at Warpsgrove and from its use during the Second World War as an airbase. The airfield and runways are located to the immediate west of the site.</p> <p>Trenching revealed the cement, brick and mortar bases of three buildings, associated with Chalgrove airfield, which was occupied by photo-reconnaissance units of the United States Army Air-Force during the Second World War.</p> | |
| Project dates | 12 to 13 October 2015 | |
| Project type | Archaeological evaluation | |
| Previous work | Not Known | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Hampden Field, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 0.4ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SU 6478 9740 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Service | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Stuart Joyce | |
| Project Supervisor | Jake Streatfeild-James | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | | |
| NONE | | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | | |
| NONE | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | n/a | None |
| Paper | Oxfordshire County Museums Service | WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs |
| Digital | Oxfordshire County Museums Service | Digital photographs and survey data |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Hampden Field Development: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15758 | | |



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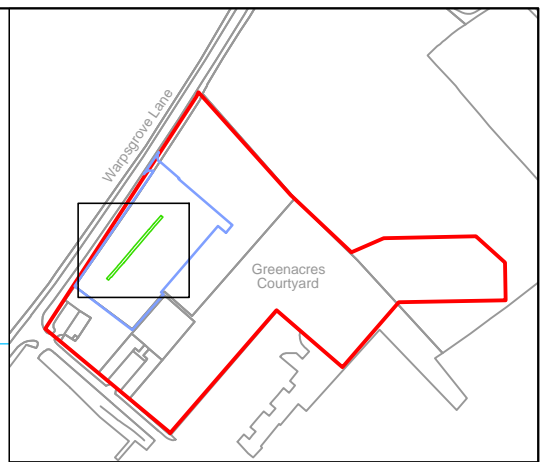
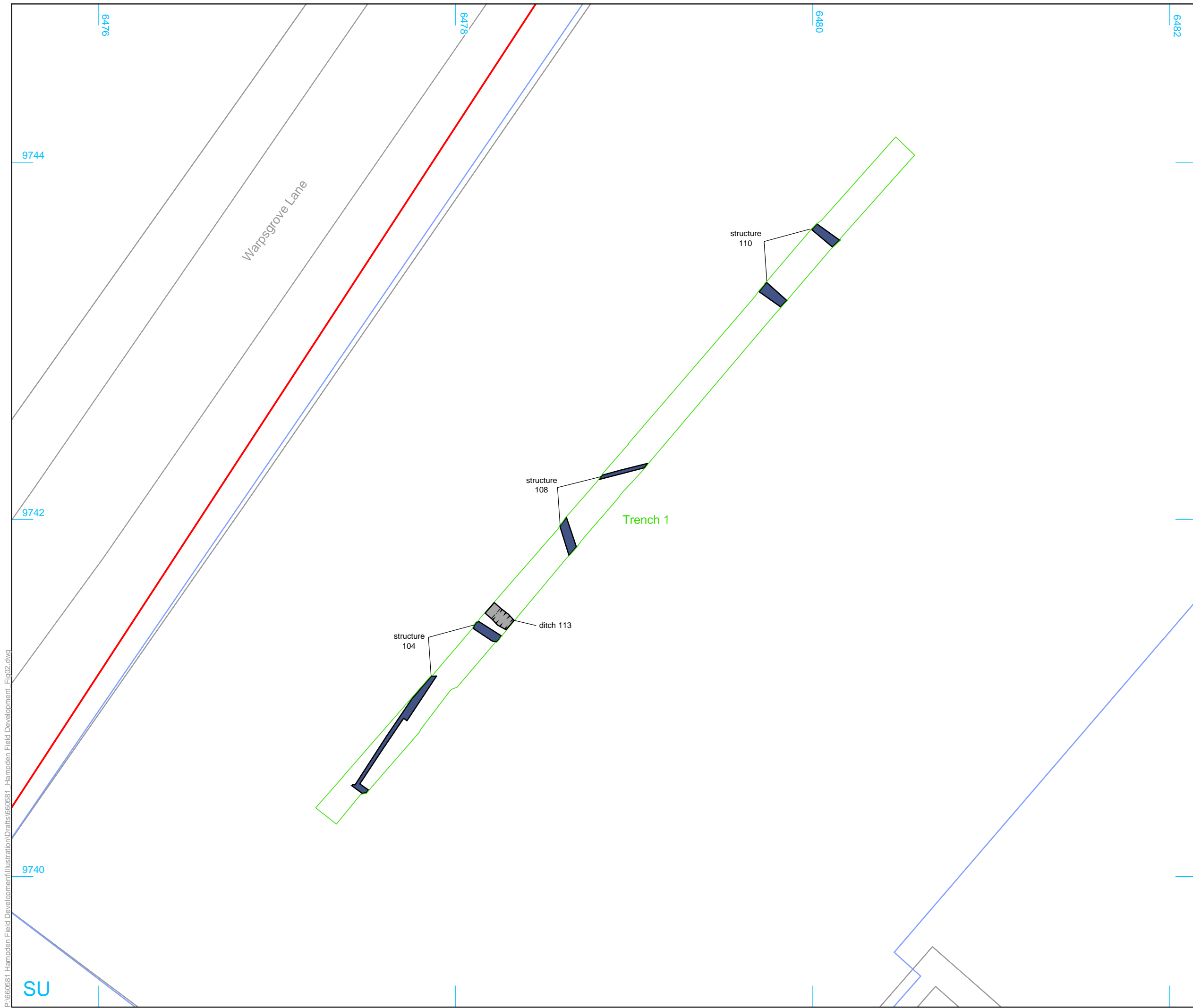
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PROJECT TITLE
 Hampden Field Development, Chalgrove
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| DRAWN BY | AO | PROJECT NO. | 660581 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | LM/DJB | DATE | 02/11/2015 | |
| APPROVED BY | SJ | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | 1 |



- site boundary
- Phase 1 development
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern structure



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PROJECT TITLE
 Hampden Field Development, Chalgrove
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <small>DRAWN BY</small> AO | <small>PROJECT NO.</small> 660581 | <small>FIGURE NO.</small> |
| <small>CHECKED BY</small> LM/DJB | <small>DATE</small> 02/11/2015 | 2 |
| <small>APPROVED BY</small> SJ | <small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200 | |

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SU



Site, looking east



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PROJECT TITLE

Hampden Field Development, Chalgrove
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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CHECKED BY LM/DJB
APPROVED BY SJ

PROJECT NO. 660581
DATE 02/11/2015
SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

**Hampden Field Development, Chalgrove
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY **AO**
 CHECKED BY **LM/DJB**
 APPROVED BY **SJ**

PROJECT NO. **660581**
 DATE **02/11/2015**
 SCALE@A4 **N/A**

FIGURE NO.

4



Ditch 113, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Hampden Field Development, Chalgrove
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY SRJ
 CHECKED BY SRJ
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PROJECT NO. 660581
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FIGURE NO.

5

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