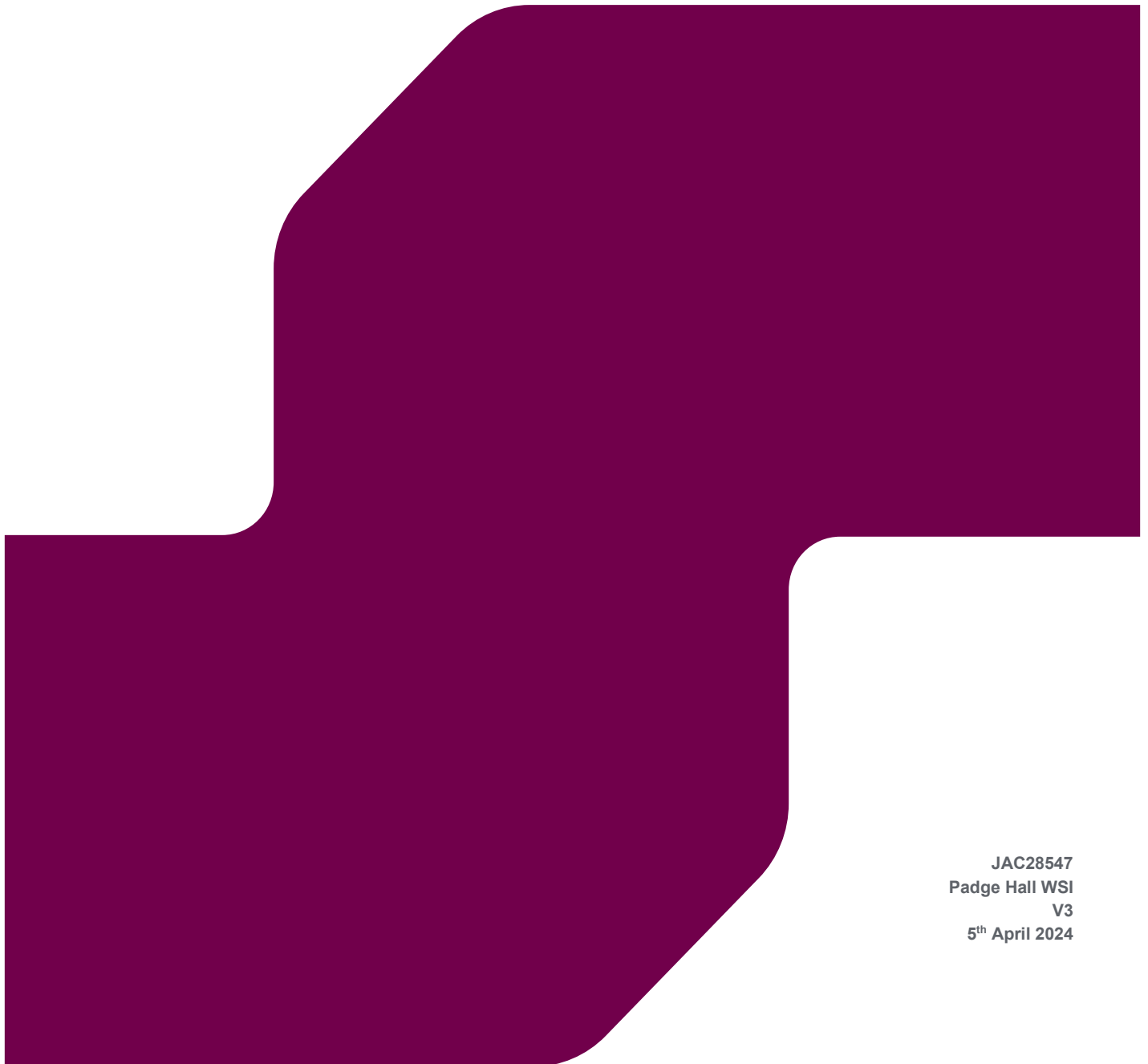


WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Land South of the A5 at Padge Hall Farm, Hinckley



JAC28547
Padge Hall WSI
V3
5th April 2024

Document status

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Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Proposed Trench Location Plan

Figure 3: Illustrative Landscape Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 RPS has been commissioned by Oxalis Planning to prepare and agree a specification of works with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for a programme of archaeological investigation that is required in association with a planning application (21/01191/HYB). The Nuneaton & Bedworth Council reference is 038340, and the Rugby Borough Council application number is R21/0985.
- 1.2 Conditions relating to a programme of archaeological works have been attached to the applications. They are worded as follows:

RBC (ref. R21/0985):

"No development shall take place in each phase until:

a) where relevant to that phase, the programme of archaeological evaluative fieldwork and associated post-excavation analysis and report production detailed within the WSI approved by Warwickshire County Council in April 2023 (Document 'Written Scheme of Investigation - Land South of the A5 at Padge Hall Farm, Hinckley (038340 and 21/01191/HYB)', Reference JAC28547 V2, April 2023) has been undertaken. A report detailing the results of this fieldwork, and confirmation of the arrangements for the deposition of the archaeological archive, has been submitted to the planning authority.

b) An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy document (including a Written Scheme of Investigation for any archaeological fieldwork proposed) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This should detail a strategy to mitigate the archaeological impact of the proposed development in that phase and should be informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.

The development, and any archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, publication of results and archive deposition detailed in the approved documents, shall be undertaken in accordance with those documents."

HBBC (ref. 21/01191/HYB):

"No development shall take place in each phase until:

a) where relevant to that phase, the programme of archaeological evaluative fieldwork and associated post-excavation analysis and report production detailed within the WSI approved by

Leicestershire County Council in April 2023 (Document 'Written Scheme of Investigation - Land South of the A5 at Padge Hall Farm, Hinckley (038340 and 21/01191/HYB)', Reference JAC28547 V2, April 2023) has been undertaken. A report detailing the results of this fieldwork, and confirmation of the arrangements for the deposition of the archaeological archive, has been submitted to the planning authority.

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writing by the Local Planning Authority. This should detail a strategy to mitigate the archaeological impact of the proposed development in that phase and should be informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation.

The development, and any archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, publication of results and archive deposition detailed in the approved documents, shall be undertaken in accordance with those documents."

- 1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlines the scope of a programme of archaeological evaluation in relation to parts A and B of the draft Condition. The objective of this document is to provide the details, programme, methodology for the works, the means of reporting and the timescales for notification.
- 1.4 This project design and specification details the scope and methodology that has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority. It provides for the implementation of a programme of archaeological works and the reporting of these results, as appropriate. This WSI forms the basis for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological contractor to implement the works.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.5 The site comprises land south of the A5, Watling Street, Hinckley, LE10 3ED. The site is centred on National Grid reference SP 39800 92750, and is roughly triangular in shape, with a very straight south-eastern boundary formed by a railway line, a straight north-eastern boundary formed by the A5 Watling Street, and an irregular boundary largely formed by the Harrow Brook to the west.
- 1.6 The bedrock across the site is composed of Triassic mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group. Superficial glacial deposits of Quaternary Diamicton of the Thussington Member lie along the western third of the study site, bounded to the west by Quaternary alluvium along the course of the Harrow Brook. Quaternary clays and silts of the Bosworth Clay Member lie centrally across the study site, with a band of Quaternary Anker sand and gravel further to the east. The superficial deposits cover the whole study site, trending in bands roughly from south-west to north-east.
- 1.7 The soil across the whole study site is composed of 'slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils', Soilscape 18 on the Cranfield University Soilscales website (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>).
- 1.8 The topography of the study site largely occupies the top of a very low, flat-topped south-west to north-east ridge, which slopes very gently down to the west towards the Harrow Brook (which forms the western boundary of the study site), and to the south-east towards the Sketchley Brook. The study site is approximately 90m-94m above Ordnance Datum.
- 1.9 The 'no-build zone', or 'A5 safeguarded area' is an area of land along the A5 frontage which is safeguarded to help enable any future A5 dualling/expansion scheme and only the site access and part of the frontage green infrastructure is proposed within this area. The 'no-build zone' is shown on Figure 3 'Illustrative Landscape Plan'.

Archaeological Background

- 1.10 The site has already been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA), a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation.
- 1.11 The trial trench evaluation previously undertaken on the site was focused upon the area of the proposed development. One hundred and twenty-eight trenches were excavated, none of which identified any finds or deposits of archaeological significance. Two undated features were recovered which were tentatively interpreted as a pit and gully (Archaeology Warwickshire 2021).

2 SCOPE OF WORKS AND ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Scope of Works

- 2.1 This document outlines a scope for archaeological evaluation trenching. Thirty-seven evaluation trenches will be excavated within the site as shown on Figure 2. Each trench will be 50m long by 1.8m wide. Trenches may be re-positioned to avoid on-site constraint such as public rights of way and buried/overhead utilities.
- 2.2 Depending on the findings of the initial trial trenching there may be a requirement for a programme of archaeological mitigation. The requirement for and scope of any mitigation will be agreed through negotiation between the LPA Archaeological Advisor and RPS and carried out in accordance with a separate Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 2.3 The trial trenching will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined below.

Objectives

- 2.4 The objective of the archaeological work is to better understand the archaeological potential of the site in order that an informed decision can be made regarding mitigation requirements, if/as required.

Specific Aims

- 2.5 Research aims will be in line with the West Midlands Regional Research Framework and the East Midlands Regional Research Framework.
- 2.6 Specific aims include:
- If archaeological remains are present with the site, what is their date, character, extent, form, function, state of preservation and significance?

3 METHOD STATEMENT

General

- 3.1 In order that the investigation supplies information of the required quality, the Codes, Standards and Guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) form a requirement of this specification.
- 3.2 Should the archaeological trial trenches identify significant archaeological remains, a programme of mitigation may be required. If archaeological mitigation is required in those areas, it will be carried out in accordance with a separate WSI submitted to and approved by the LPA's Archaeological Advisor.
- 3.3 The position of the trial trenches may have to be adjusted if topographical features or site constraints prevent their excavation in the locations shown in Figure 2.
- 3.4 The archaeological contractor is currently expected to be Archaeology Warwickshire. This contractor is an organisation registered with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This WSI will be updated accordingly if the details of the archaeological contractor need to be changed.

Methodology

- 3.5 All areas requiring trial trench evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with this WSI and will be undertaken separately ahead of development.
- 3.6 Topsoil or overburden will be excavated by a 360° tracked or JCB-type machine, fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of in-situ subsoil/weathered natural, archaeological or significant palaeoenvironmental deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 3.7 Where archaeological deposits are exposed machining will cease and excavations will continue by hand to clean the exposed surface. Archaeological features and deposits will be fully recorded by context as per the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' [Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation](#). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.
- 3.8 All archaeological features will be investigated and as a minimum:
 - discrete features will be 50% excavated, and
 - long linear features will be sample (up to 10%) excavated along their length – with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.
- 3.9 If excavations reveal a substantial number of repetitive discrete features, such as stake-holes, the County Archaeologist would require that these should be adequately sampled by excavation to understand their character rather than the complete excavation of all such features.
- 3.10 Should the above excavation sampling strategy not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts.
- 3.11 Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the County Archaeologist.
- 3.12 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be employed. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and

undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits, if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with guidance in [Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation](#).

- 3.13 There will be provision within the project organisation for the site attendance of specialists who can advise on sampling strategies for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental information and with regard to specialist dating techniques, such as archaeomagnetic and OSL dating.
- 3.14 Topsoil should be examined and scanned with a metal detector for the recovery of artefacts.
- 3.15 Artefacts should be labelled and bagged on site.
- 3.16 An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. Digital images taken during the course of the fieldwork will form part of the digital archive to be submitted and curated by the ADS (see archive section below). The drawn and written record must be on an appropriately archivable medium.
- 3.17 Where human remains are encountered, their excavation and removal will only be undertaken on receipt of the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice. Any consents or licences required will be obtained on behalf of the client by the archaeological contractor. The District Coroner will be informed immediately. Wherever possible, human remains will be left in-situ during the evaluation trenching. In most cases it will be preferable that any human remains will be excavated and lifted during the archaeological mitigation phase of works. This will enable sufficient time for a MoJ licence to be sought and sufficient time for the planning of excavation and recording, ensuring that relevant specialists will be available.
- 3.18 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.19 The results of the desk-based research and a copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation will be made available to the site director/supervisor to enable the adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and so that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

Monitoring

- 3.20 The archaeological consultant will agree monitoring arrangements with the County Archaeologist and give two weeks' notice (unless a shorter period is agreed) of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.
- 3.21 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.
- 3.22 The archaeological contractor undertaking the fieldwork will notify the County Archaeologist upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.

Reporting

- 3.23 Upon completion of the fieldwork and required post-excavation analysis an illustrated report will be prepared. The report will collate the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above

3.24 The report will include:

- a summary of the project's background;
- description and illustration of the site location;
- a methodology of the works undertaken;
- include plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- a description of the project's results;
- an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- site layout plans on an OS base;
- a plan showing the location of the areas subject to the archaeological excavations in relation to the site boundaries;
- detailed plans of areas in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans will show the orientation of north. Section drawing locations will be shown on these plans. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- section drawings of deposits and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and will show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- site matrices where appropriate;
- photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs will contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- a consideration of evidence within its wider context;
- a summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken;
- an evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating).

3.25 The fieldwork report will be available within three months of the completion on site, dependent upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc. the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then the County Archaeologist will be informed of this and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the County Archaeologist and the archaeological contractor. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

- 3.26 A draft report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist for comment prior to its formal submission to the Planning Authority.
- 3.27 Should the development proceed in a staged manner, with each stage requiring archaeological fieldwork, and where a period of more than three months between each stage is anticipated or occurs, then the archaeological contractor will prepare an interim illustrated summary report at the end of each stage. The report will set out the results of that phase of archaeological works, including the results of any specialist assessment or analysis undertaken.
- 3.28 On completion of the final report, in addition to copies required by the Client, a digital copy of the report (in a format to be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist) will be submitted to the County Archaeologist on the understanding that it will be deposited for public reference in the HER and via a web-based version of the HER.
- 3.29 The archaeological consultant and/or contractor will complete an online [OASIS](#) (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) form in respect of the archaeological work. This will include the uploading of a digital version of the report. The report will also include the OASIS ID number.

Deposition of Archive and Finds

- 3.30 The archive will be deposited with either the Warwickshire or Leicestershire Museums Service. The archaeological contractor (Archaeology Warwickshire) will liaise with the relevant museum services prior to the commencement of fieldwork to ensure that there is an agreement between the two services.
- 3.31 Completion of the project is dependent on the compilation of an ordered and integrated project archive by the archaeological contractor in accordance with this Specification, the ClfA [Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives](#) and with [Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment](#) (MoRPHE). The archive must also be transferred for long-term curation to a recognised, accredited or trusted repository. An archive is defined as “all records and materials recovered during an archaeological project and identified for long term preservation, including artefacts, ecofacts and other environmental remains, waste products, scientific samples and also written and visual documentation in paper, film and digital form” ([ARCHES](#)).
- 3.32 The Archaeology Data Service advises that “Good data management from the very beginning of a project can be key to its success and makes preserving data and preparing it for deposit with ADS much easier”.
- 3.33 The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital, the latter comprising all born-digital data and digital copies made of the primary site records and images.
- 3.34 It is anticipated that the archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of fieldwork, pending specialist input.

The Material (Finds) Archive

- 3.35 Items in the material archive must be cleaned (or otherwise appropriately treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards of the relevant museum. It is advised that early consultation with the museum will facilitate transfer of the material archive.
- 3.36 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum, in a manner to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the County Archaeologist. The composition of the archive shall conform to the collecting museum’s accession guidelines for depositing archaeological material. The acceptance of an archive by the museum will be in accordance with the museum’s accession/collection policies and early consultation with the relevant collecting museum is advised.
- 3.37 The archaeological contractor will, on behalf of the museum, obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in the material archive to the receiving museum. It is preferable

for this agreement to be made at the earliest possible stage following assessment after data-collection. It is not advisable to wait until the archive has been compiled before obtaining transfer of title.

- 3.38 If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

Deposition of the digital archive

- 3.39 The digital archive will consist of:

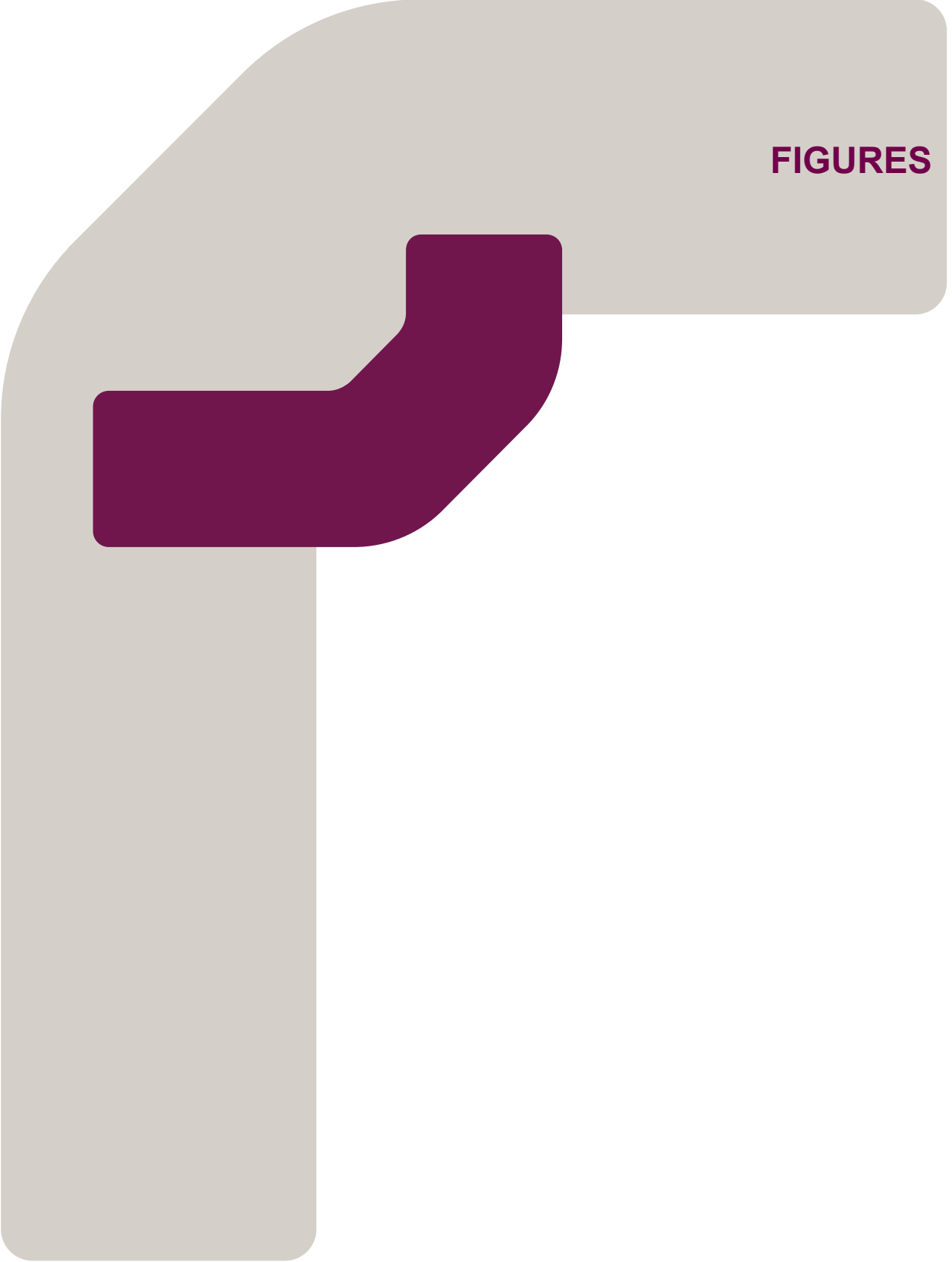
- all born-digital data (images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and
- digital copies made of all other relevant written and drawn data produced and/or collected during fieldwork – i.e. the primary record comprising context records and indices, sample sheets and indices, finds records and indices, site drawings – earthwork surveys, sections and plans, as well as relevant sketches or notes that aid the interpretation and understanding of the site and its recording, any relevant information undertaken as part of the post-excavation assessment or analysis, etc.

- 3.40 The digital archive will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository and thus made publicly accessible, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2021). It is understood that the only suitable repository for digital archaeological archive is the [Archaeology Data Service](#) (ADS). Digital archive must be compiled in accordance with the [standards and requirements](#) of the ADS.

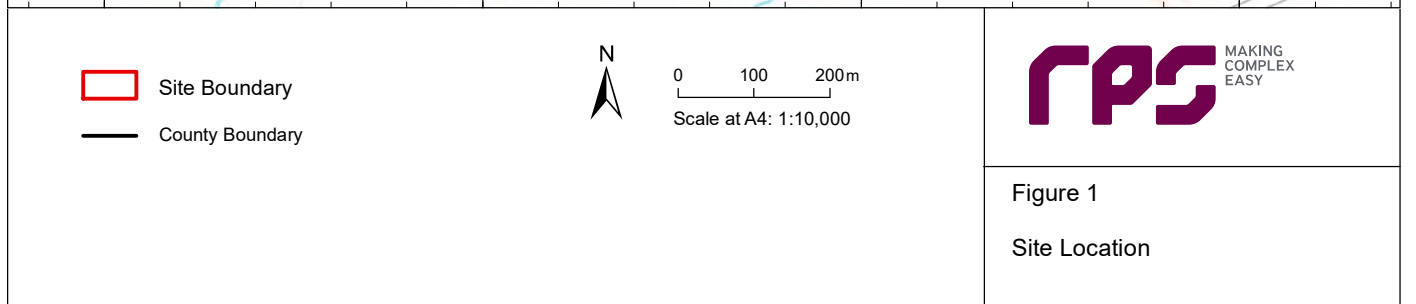
- 3.41 It is expected that a licence to copyright for documentary material, in both physical and digital forms, will be given to the receiving repository. This must be stated within the Written Scheme of Investigation, which should also identify the recipients of each element of the documentary archive.

Public Outreach

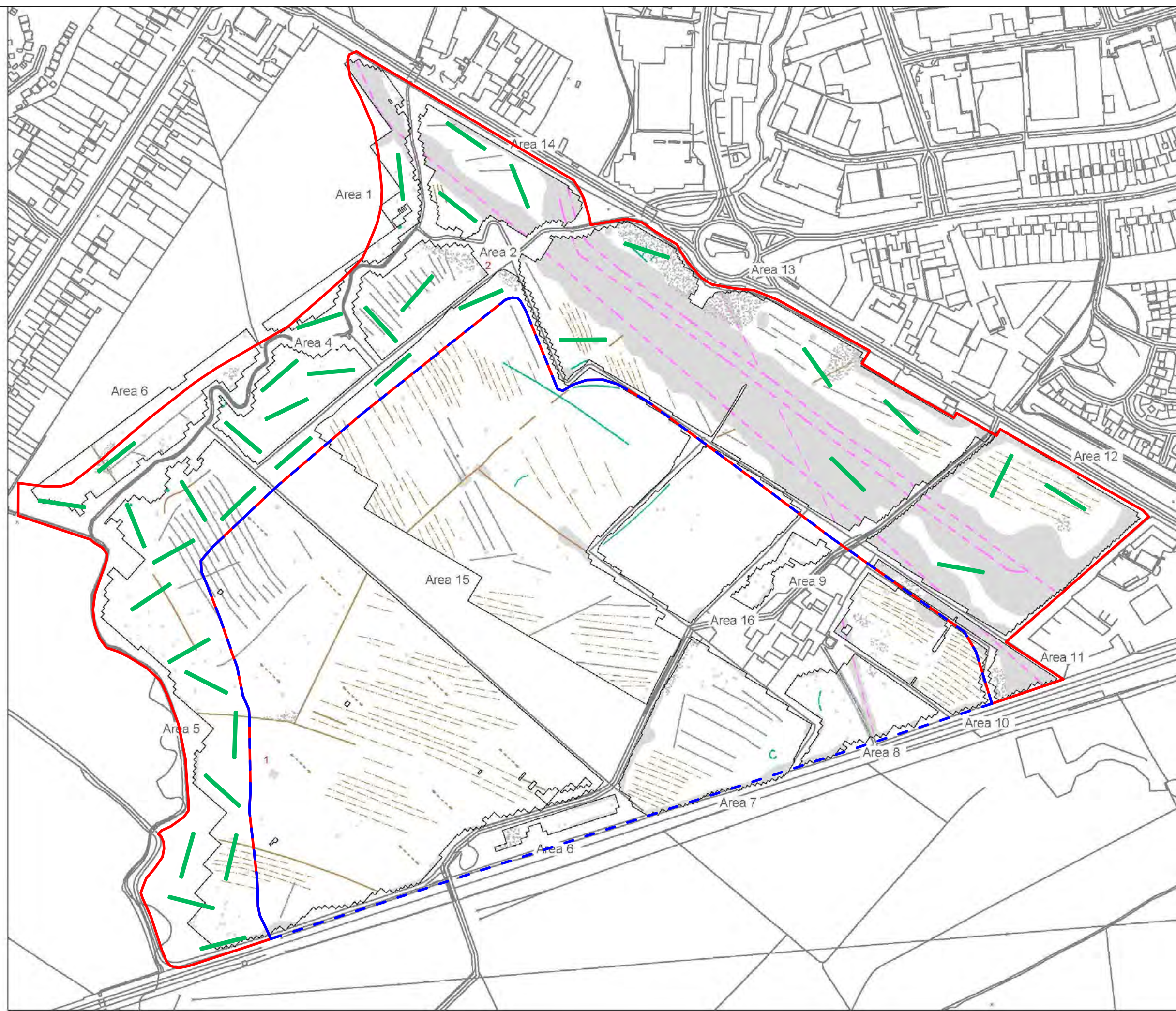
- 3.42 Should the excavations expose significant archaeological or artefactual deposits then the archaeological consultant will consider, with the developer or their agent, whether a programme of public outreach should be implemented. This may take a variety of forms, from the provision of notice boards on the site boundary with information on the site and the ongoing results of the archaeological excavations, and the preparation of press releases, through to public open day(s) and talks to local interested organisations. While the cost for undertaking such outreach is borne by the applicant/agent, in certain circumstances the County Archaeologist may be able to offer assistance in outreach undertaken.



FIGURES



N:\Gloucester Graphics\28000 - 28999\28547 - Land at Podge Hall, Hinckley\Graphics\CAD\Trench plan.dwg



Legend

- Area for Post-Consent Trial Trenching
- Area of Previous Trial Trenches
- Proposed Trial Trench (50m x 1.8m)

	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Former field boundary (corroborated)
	Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
	Agriculture (plough)
	Land drain
	Magnetic disturbance
	Service
	Ferrous

N
0 50 100m
Scale at A3: 1:6,000



Figure 2
Proposed Trench Plan



No-build zone / A5
safeguarded area

Figure 3: Illustrative Landscape Plan



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