

Land North of Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment



Report prepared for:
Beechcroft Developments Ltd

CA Project: CR0317

CA Report: CR0317_1

June 2021



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issue	1

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SUMMARY

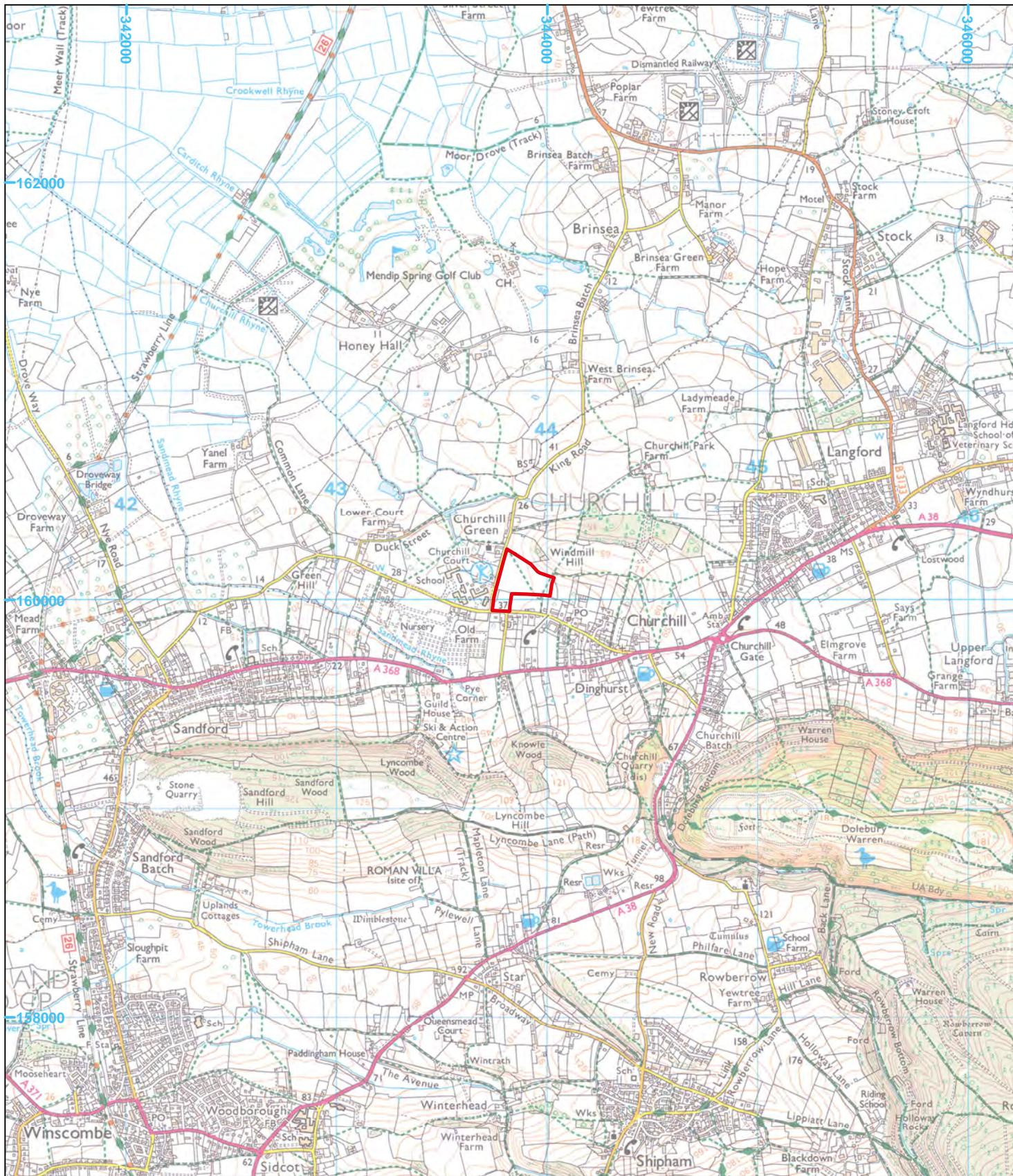
In December 2020, Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Beechcroft Developments Ltd (BDL) to undertake a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment in respect of land north of Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset. Presently enclosed fields utilised largely for grazing horses, the Site is located north of Front Street, east of Church Lane, c.350m north-west of the centre of Churchill in North Somerset. The Site is proposed for residential development, comprising of up to 62 dwellings (30% affordable housing), alongside a new access, landscape and other associated works.

A geophysical survey of the Site (Sumo 2020) detected no anomalies that could be interpreted as being of definitive archaeological origin. Several weak linear trends and a weak sub-circular enclosure were identified and are interpreted as likely to be due to modern or natural processes. However, an archaeological origin should not be entirely dismissed for the sub-circular enclosure. Evidence of modern ploughing is visible as well as a modern pipe leading to a water trough in the north-west of the Site. After analysing the archaeological resource for the area, including the geophysical survey results, this assessment has identified that the Site has potential for prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern deposits. Such remains would be of varying evidential and historic (illustrative) value, but it is highly unlikely that they would be of such significance that they would preclude development of the Site. The impacts of development could be mitigated through a programme of appropriate and proportionate archaeological works to be agreed with the North Somerset County Council.

The Site's hedgerows might comprise 'important' hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. These comprise non-designated 'heritage assets' of low heritage significance. The Hedgerow Regulations requires that suitable notice is given to the North Somerset County Council prior to removal of such hedgerows.

The Site does not possess a historic landscape character or contain features of heritage significance. The southern part of the Site lies within the Churchill Conservation Area; however, it makes no meaningful contribution to its overall significance. As such it is considered that the proposed development would result in no harm to the significance of the Churchill Conservation Area.

A full settings assessment has concluded that the proposals would result in no harm to the significance of any designated heritage assets through the alteration of their setting.



 Site Boundary



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PROJECT TITLE

Land to the North of Front Street,
 Churchill, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In December 2020, Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Beechcroft Developments Ltd (BDL) to undertake a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment in respect of land north of Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). Presently enclosed fields utilised largely for grazing horses, the Site is located north of Front Street, east of Church Lane, c.350m north-west of the centre of Churchill in North Somerset (NGR: 343864, 160082; Fig. 1).
- 1.2. The proposed development will comprise residential development, comprising of up to 62 dwellings (30% affordable housing), alongside a new access, landscape and other associated works (Fig. 1b).



Fig. 1b Proposed development masterplan

Objectives and professional standards

- 1.3. The composition and development of the historic environment within the Site and wider landscape are discussed in this report. A determination of the significance of any heritage assets located within the Site, and any heritage assets beyond the Site boundary that may potentially be affected by the development proposals, is

presented. Any potential development effects upon the significance of these heritage assets (both adverse and/or beneficial) are then described.

- 1.4. Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This report has been prepared in accordance with appropriate standards and guidance, including the 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment' published by CIfA in 2014 and updated in 2017 and 2020. This states that, insofar as they relate to the determination of planning applications, heritage desk-based assessments should:

'...enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made [as to] whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention [any identified heritage] impact' (CIfA 2020, 4).

- 1.5. The 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' further clarifies that a desk-based assessment should:

'...determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment or will identify the need for further evaluation' (Historic England 2015, 3).

Statute, policy and guidance context

- 1.6. The Site is situated within the local authority of North Somerset Council. The Core Strategy (North Somerset Council 2017) was adopted 10 January 2017. More detailed heritage policy is contained within the Development Management Policies Sites and Policies Plan Part 1 (adopted July 2016). Detail from both documents which is directly relevant to heritage and the proposed development is reproduced in Appendix 1.

- 1.7. The key heritage statute, policy and guidance relevant to the proposed development of the site for a residential scheme, including that defined above, is presented in Table 1.1, below. Where relevant at this stage, the applicable provisions contained within these documents are referred to, and discussed, in the following report. Fuller details are provided in Appendix 1.

Statute	Description
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	Act of Parliament providing for the maintenance of a schedule of archaeological remains of the highest significance, affording them statutory protection.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	Act of Parliament placing a duty upon the Local Planning Authority (or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State) to afford due consideration to the preservation of Listed Buildings and their settings (under Section 66(1)), and Conservation Areas (under Section 72(2)), in determining planning applications.
National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002)	One of four Acts of Parliament providing for the protection and management of the historic environment, including the establishment of the Historic Monuments & Buildings Commission, now Historic England.
Conservation Principles (Historic England 2008)	Guidance for assessing heritage significance, with reference to contributing heritage values, in particular: <i>evidential</i> (archaeological), <i>historical</i> (illustrative and associative), <i>aesthetic</i> , and <i>communal</i> .
National Planning Policy Framework (2019)	Provides the English government's national planning policies and describes how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. Heritage is subject of Chapter 16 (page 54).
National Planning Practice Guidance (updated July 2019)	Guidance supporting the National Planning Policy Framework.
Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 2 (GPA2): Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015)	Provides useful information on assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.
Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3 (GPA3): The Setting of Heritage Assets, Second Edition (Historic England, 2017)	Provides guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.
Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (2019)	This advice note explores the assessment of significance of heritage assets as part of a staged approach to decision-making in which assessing significance precedes designing the proposal(s).
North Somerset Core Strategy (Adopted 2017) and Development Management Policies and Plan	Comprises the local development plan (local plan), as required to be compiled, published and maintained by the local authority, consistent with the requirements of the NPPF (2019). Intended to be the primary planning policy document against which planning proposals within that local authority jurisdiction are assessed. Where the development plan is found to be inadequate, primacy reverts to the NPPF (2019).
Hedgerows Regulations (1997)	Provides protection for 'important' hedgerows within the countryside, controlling their alteration and removal by means of a system of statutory notification.

Table 1.1 Key statute, policy and guidance

2. METHODOLOGY

Data collection, analysis and presentation

- 2.1. This assessment has been informed by a proportionate level of information sufficient to understand the archaeological potential of the Site and the significance of identified heritage assets. This information will enable the identification of any heritage sensitivities in relation to the redevelopment of the site. The data has been collected from a wide variety of sources, summarised in Table 2.1.

Source	Data
National Heritage List for England (NHLE)	Current information relating to designated heritage assets, and heritage assets considered to be 'at risk'.
North Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER)	Heritage sites and events records, Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data, and other spatial data supplied in digital format (shapefiles) and hardcopy.
Historic England Archives (HEA)	Additional sites and events records, supplied in digital and hardcopy formats.
Somerset Archive and Record Service	Historic mapping, historic documentation, and relevant published and grey literature.
Historic England's Aerial Photograph Research Unit	Vertical and oblique aerial photography ranging in date from the 1940s to present.
Defra Data Services Platform (environment.data.gov.uk)	LiDAR imagery and point cloud data, available from the Defra Data Services Platform
The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain online Resource	A comprehensive resource detailing excavated evidence for Romano-British rural settlement and activity.
Genealogist, Envirocheck, Know your Place & other cartographic websites	Historic (Ordnance Survey and Tithe) mapping in digital format.
British Geological Survey (BGS) website	UK geological mapping (bedrock & superficial deposits) & borehole data.
Grey literature	Reports of relevant sites in and around the study area.

Table 2.1 Key data sources

- 2.2. Prior to obtaining data from these sources, an initial analysis was undertaken to identify a relevant and proportionate study area. This analysis utilised industry-standard GIS software, and primarily entailed a review of recorded heritage assets in the immediate and wider landscape, using available datasets.

2.3. On this basis a 1km study area, measured from the boundaries of the Site, was considered sufficient to capture the relevant HER data, and provide the necessary context for understanding archaeological potential and heritage significance in respect of the Site. All of the spatial data held by the HER – the primary historic data repository – for the land within the study area, was requested. The records were analysed and further refined in order to narrow the research focus onto those of relevance to the present assessment. Not all HER records are therefore referred to, discussed or illustrated further within the body of this report, only those that are relevant. These are listed in a cross-referenced gazetteer provided at the end of this report (Appendix 2) and are illustrated on the figures accompanying this report.

2.4. A site visit was also undertaken as part of this assessment. The primary objectives of the site visit were to assess the Site’s historic landscape context, including its association with any known or potential heritage assets, and to identify any evidence for previous truncation of the on-site stratigraphy. The site visit also allowed for the identification of any previously unknown heritage assets within the Site, and assessment of their nature, condition, significance and potential susceptibility to impact. The wider landscape was examined, as relevant, from accessible public rights of way.

Aerial photographs held at Historic England Archives

2.5. Aerial photographs held at Historic England were examined as part of this assessment, ranging in date from 1946 to 2000. The Site and its study area were also included within several programmes of analysis of aerial imagery (including historic photographs) such as the Mendip Hills AONB National Mapping Project (Jamieson 2006) and The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource (3994) - Archaeological Aerial Photograph Interpretation in the Central Mendip Hills (Truscoe 2008). These studies have examined existing aerial photographs of the area in order to provide primary information and synthesis for all archaeological sites and landscapes visible on aerial photographs, or other airborne remote sensed data, to enhance our understanding of past human settlement. The data and results produced by these studies has been provided by the HER and where relevant is discussed further at Section 3 of this report.

2.6. In addition, and to supplement the HER information received, a search of relevant aerial photographs was undertaken using the Britain from Above website (accessed December 2020), however, no relevant photographs for the Site were identified.

Assessment of heritage significance

- 2.7. The significance of known and potential heritage assets within the Site, and any beyond the Site which may be affected by the proposed development, has been assessed and described, in accordance with paragraph 189 of the NPPF (2019), the guidance issued by ClfA (2020), Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (HE 2015) and Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (Historic England 2019). Determination of significance has been undertaken according to the industry-standard guidance on assessing heritage value provided within Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008). This approach considers heritage significance to derive from a combination of discrete heritage values, principal amongst which are: i) evidential (archaeological) value, ii) historic (illustrative and associative) value, iii) aesthetic value, iv) communal value, amongst others. Further detail of this approach, including the detailed definition of those aforementioned values, as set out, and advocated, by Historic England, is provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

The setting of heritage assets

- 2.8. This assessment identifies those heritage assets beyond the Site which may be susceptible to indirect effects as a result of changes to the use and appearance of the Site. Those heritage assets for which the Site forms part of their setting, be that positive or negative, are detailed in Section 5 – the Setting of Heritage Assets. Steps 1 and 2 of the five-step assessment methodology advocated by Historic England and set out in the Second Edition of GPA3 (Historic England, 2017), has been adhered to (presented in greater detail in Appendix 1). Such assessment at an early stage offers the opportunity to identify heritage led design measures which can feed into the design stage.

Limitations of the assessment

- 2.9. Whilst the results of non-intrusive geophysical survey of the Site are included, this assessment is principally a desk-based study and has utilised secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purpose of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from secondary sources, is reasonably accurate. The records held by HER and HEA are not a record of all surviving heritage assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within these repositories is not complete and

does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

- 2.10. A selection of archival material pertaining to the Site and study area was consulted in person at the North Somerset Archives. There may be other relevant material held by the National Archives, other local repositories, and in private collections, which were not reviewed as part of this assessment.
- 2.11. The Site is not covered by Environment Agency for LiDAR; the landscape beyond the Site does have some coverage, though largely limited to 2m resolution, which is not sufficient for detailed earthwork analysis. As such, no detailed LiDAR analysis has been undertaken for the Site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

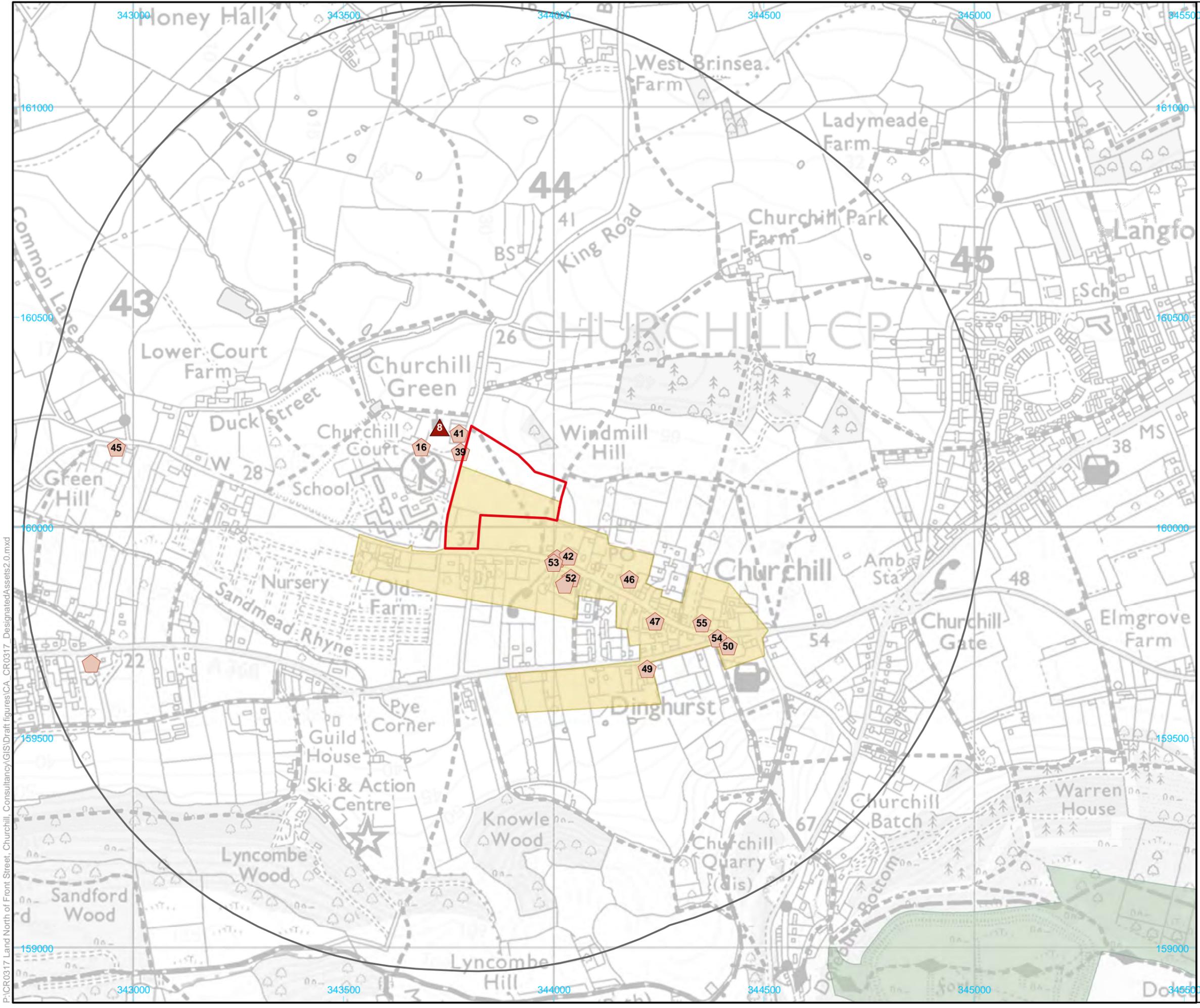
Landscape context

- 3.1. The Site is located north of Front Street, east of Church Lane, c.350m north-west of the centre of Churchill in North Somerset and presently consists of three enclosed fields with a stabling block and an associated ménage in the north-west corner of the Site.
- 3.2. The Site lies upon the Mudstone and Halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group. The bedrock geology is sedimentary in origin and were formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. This geology is typical of environments previously dominated by hot deserts. (BGS, accessed 2020). Within the northern part of the Site, there is also a small amount of Oxwich Head Limestone Formation. This formed from shallow carbonate seas during the Carboniferous Period approximately 329 to 337 million years ago. There are also detrital superficial deposits recorded in the south of the Site which rest upon the older bedrock deposits. These superficial deposits consist of clays, silts, sands and gravels which formed approximately 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These deposits typically formed in environments previously dominated by subaerial slopes (BGS, accessed 2020).
- 3.3. The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for North Somerset suggests the land within the Site was enclosed by way of local arrangement and exchange in the latter half of the medieval period. However, the character of the current field boundaries of the Site is highly indicative of later reorganisation. The Site is situated immediately adjacent to higher ground to the north which was once part of Churchill deer park in the later medieval period (Fig. 3). The HLC suggests that this higher land to the north was enclosed during the post-medieval period after the park fell out of use.
- 3.4. The land to the west of the Site is recorded by the HLC as post-medieval designed ornamental landscape features, though there is little information available from historic mapping to support this, and from the late 19th century (as recorded on the tithe) the land has been used agriculturally. HER data, on the other hand, provides evidence that many of the features that make up this area may well medieval, or at the very least exist on the sites of medieval precursors. Ecclesiastical records show that the Church of St. John the Baptist (Fig. 2, 8), c.75m west of the Site, may have

existed as a chapel as early as 1180, before being subsequently restored and expanded to church status in the 15th century. Documentary evidence also suggests that Churchill Court (Fig. 2, 16), c.100m west of the Site, was likely constructed on the Site of an earlier manor which dated to at least the 13th century. Furthermore, the land just to the north of the church, c.150m north-west of Site, has been suggested as a possible location of a deserted medieval village (Fig. 3, 9), though earthworks are indicative of a single dwelling, suggesting that parts of the designed landscape directly west of the Site may well be medieval in origin.

Designated heritage assets

- 3.5. There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. There are several designated assets recorded within the 1km study area, including the aforementioned Grade I Listed Church of St. John the Baptist and a further 16 Grade II Listed Buildings (Fig. 2).
- 3.6. Designated heritage assets in Churchill are largely separated into three separate clusters. A group of three Grade II Listed Buildings and the church are located just to the west of the Site and are largely late medieval and post-medieval in origin. Another group of Listed Buildings are present c.100m south-east of the Site and are largely post-medieval and modern in character, ranging in date from the mid-16th century Grade II listed April Cottage (Fig. 2, 42) and the 1907 Grade II listed Sidney Hill Cottage Homes (Fig. 2, 52). A further group is located centred around Churchill Turnpike c.500m south-east of the Site and are largely modern in origin, likely being related to the development of the road as a major route to Bristol. There are also three other designated assets at further distances from the Site which relate to post-medieval farm buildings.
- 3.7. Two assets which lie just outside of the study area are referenced within this report, as they provide context for the historic development of the Site. c.1.2km south-east of the Site, is the Scheduled Monument of Dolebury Camp, a large univallate hillfort and later earthworks (Fig. 2). The site of a minor Roman villa, c.1.2km south of the Site (Fig. 3, 7) is also mentioned within this assessment.



- Site Boundary
 - Study Area
 - Dolebury Camp Hillfort
 - Churchill Conservation Area
- Listed Buildings**
- ▲ Grade I
 - ⬠ Grade II



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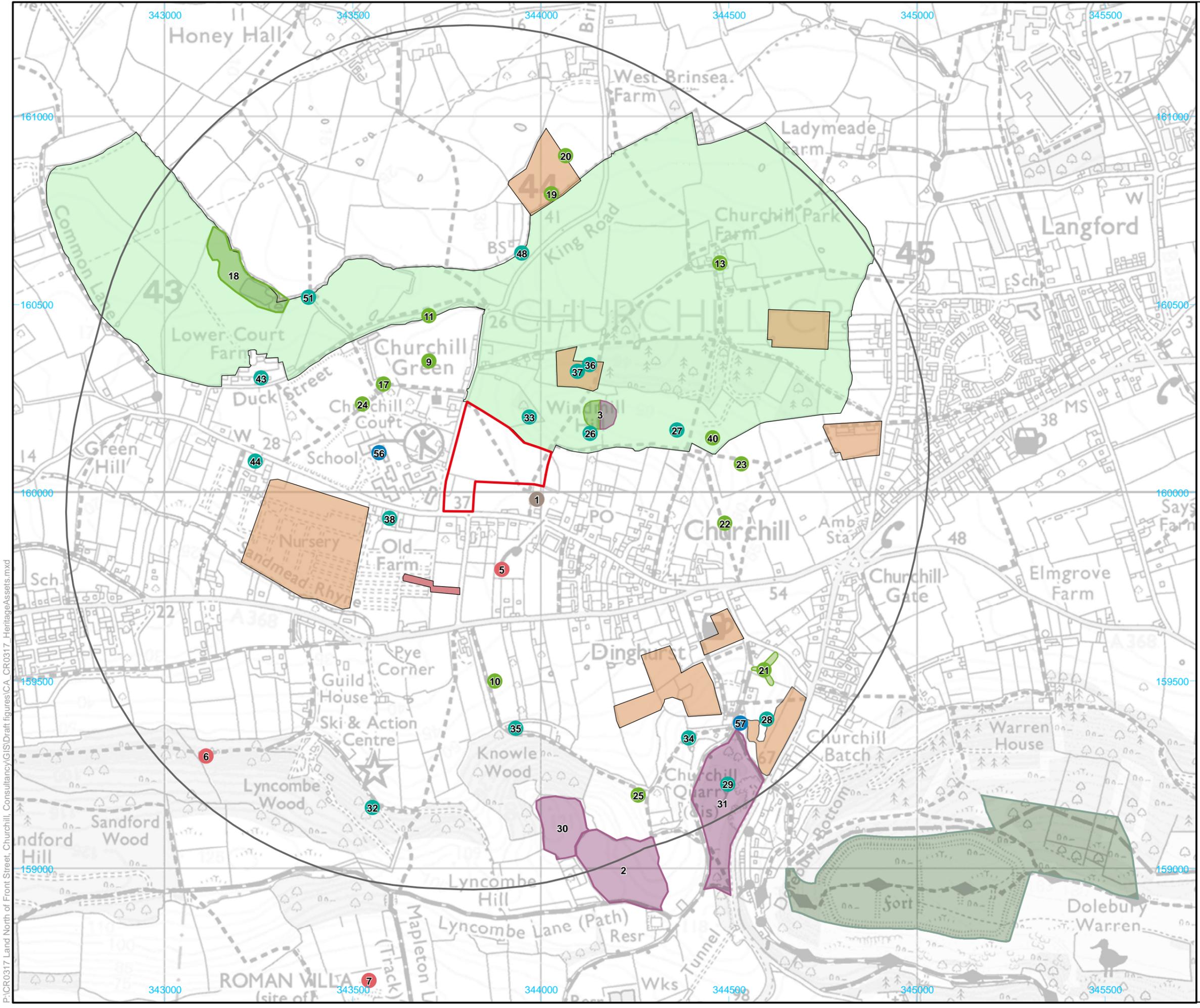
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PROJECT TITLE
**Land North of Front Street, Churchill,
North Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE
Designated Heritage Assets

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CHECKED BY	JR	DATE	17/12/2020	
APPROVED BY	RS	SCALE @ A4	1:8 500	2

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- Site Boundary
- Study Area
- Neolithic
- Romano British
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern
- Undated
- Dolebury Camp Hillfort
- Iron Age
- Medieval
- Medieval Deer Park
- Medieval Plough Headland
- Medieval Ridge and Furrow



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PROJECT TITLE
**Land North of Front Street, Churchill
 North Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE
Archaeological features

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APPROVED BY	RS	SCALE @ A3	1:9,500	3

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Previous archaeological works

- 3.8. During the writing of this report a programme of geophysical survey was undertaken by Sumo Geophysics within the Site (Sumo 2020). The final report is included within Appendix 3 of this assessment, but a summary of the results can be found below.
- 3.9. Several programmes of archaeological fieldwork have previously been carried out elsewhere within the study area. Previous investigations, which included assessments as well as a range of intrusive works, such as watching briefs, evaluations and excavations, if of relevance to this assessment are listed in Appendix 2 and their results are discussed chronologically below.

Geophysical Survey of the Site (Sumo 2020, Appendix 3)

- 3.10. The magnetometer survey of the 4.5ha of the Site has detected no anomalies that could be interpreted as being of definitive archaeological nature. Several weak linear trends and a weak sub-circular enclosure were identified and are interpreted as likely to be due to modern or natural processes. However, an archaeological origin should not be entirely dismissed for the sub-circular enclosure. Evidence of modern ploughing is visible as well as a modern pipe leading to a water trough in the north-west of the Site.

Prehistoric

- 3.11. There are no known prehistoric heritage assets recorded within the Site.
- 3.12. At the time of the Churchill parish tithe map of 1842 the Site is recorded as 'Barrowfield'. Such a field name has some potential to be a reference to prehistoric barrow mounds, a type of monument usually associated with burials and dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. However, the Site contains some earthworks which are referenced in the draft Churchill Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (North Somerset Council, 2019) as potential remains of medieval settlement, though not recorded on the HER or by the HEA. It is possible, therefore, that later features were interpreted as prehistoric remains. It should be noted that no clear earthworks were observed during the site visit.
- 3.13. Within the study area a Neolithic thumb scraper (Fig. 3, 1) of grey flint was found in the grounds of Ivy Lodge c.50m south-east of the Site. The scraper appears to represent an unstratified find unrelated to any nearby Neolithic features. On its own, the artefact provides very little detail regarding the nature of landscape during the Neolithic period. Just beyond the study area, Palaeolithic flintwork and Bronze Age

pottery is recorded at Dolebury Camp Hillfort, c.1.2km south-east of the Site. This activity, which precedes the Iron Age hillfort, demonstrated activity within the wider environs of the Site which is in line with national trends; prehistoric peoples often favoured land on high ground overlooking watercourses (in this instance, Churchill Rhyne). The floodplains surrounding the watercourse are likely to have seen hunter gatherer related activity, which commonly leaves little physical evidence beyond unstratified finds of tools and implements, as with the Neolithic scraper referenced above.

- 3.14. The earliest recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area tentatively dates to the Iron Age. A possible prehistoric field system (Fig. 3, 2) identified through the aerial photography has been mapped by the Mendip Hills AONB National Mapping Project (NMP). The linear banks are located to the west of Lyncombe Lane and southeast of Knowle Wood, c.900m south of the Site. Directly north-west of the field system, a further area of earthworks has been suggested as relating to either prehistoric or medieval field lynchets (Fig. 3, 30). If both systems are Iron Age in origin, they likely are part of the agricultural hinterland Dolebury Camp located atop Dolebury Warren (Fig. 2).
- 3.15. Dolebury Camp Hillfort is a large univallate hillfort with associated later earthworks. An area directly to the north-west of the hillfort has also been suggested as a site of prehistoric earthworks, possibly a smaller satellite fort of the main enclosed hilltop (Fig. 3, 31). Like many of the univallate hillforts along the Mendip's Ridge, its ramparts and terraces likely date to the Iron Age period, most having been constructed and used between the fourth century BC and the first century AD. Furthermore, most hillforts in the Mendip Hills are multi-period sites, and Dolebury Camp is no exception, with the aforementioned Palaeolithic flintwork and Bronze Age pottery, as well as later Romano-British coins and pottery. In the post-medieval period a series of pillow mounds were constructed within the hillfort representing a rabbit warren. It was this that gave Dolebury Warren its name.
- 3.16. Although there is no current evidence to suggest that the prehistoric field systems associated with Dolebury camp reached as far to the north-west to enclose the Site, an area c.125m north-east of the Site has been suggested as a possible location of an Iron Age farmstead (Fig. 3, 3). The area is located on the western edge of Windmill Hill and identified through aerial photography. Photographs have demonstrated a sizeable oval feature with two opposed entrances. The semi-circular

earthwork was examined in 1975 and interpreted as being a probable Iron Age farmstead enclosure measuring c.53m in diameter (Neale, 1975). There is, however, no finds or previous intrusive archaeological examination of the site that has provided a confident Iron Age date.

- 3.17. Although no prehistoric evidence is recorded within the Site, the recent findings of the geophysical survey (Sumo 2020) indicate the faint remains of a semi-circular enclosure of unknown date and nature. This may relate to Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement evidence and hence there is potential for prehistoric remains to survive within the Site, though the anomalies may also be modern or natural in origin.

Romano-British

- 3.18. There are no known Romano-British remains recorded within the Site.
- 3.19. The closest Romano-British asset relates to native course pottery found at Church Farm c.200m south of the Site (Fig. 3, 5). A hoard of Roman coins dating between AD193-267 was discovered in Lyncombe Wood c.900m south-west of the Site in the 19th century (Fig. 3, 6). The most proximate evidence for settlement comprises a small villa located c.1.2km south of the Site (Fig. 3, 7). The villa lies just north of a Roman road (Allen et al. accessed February 2020) which runs east to Salisbury and west to just south of Weston-Super-Mare, indicating roadside settlement. The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain online viewer also records a Romano-British farm c.4km north-east of the Site near Lower Langford, adjacent to a Roman road which runs broadly north/south from Bristol and recorded to terminate just east of Lower Langford. Again, this farmstead is indicative of roadside settlement. The Site itself lies some distance from both roads and may well have formed part of the wider agricultural hinterland of these most proximate settlements. A change that appears likely to have occurred is that rather than being administered from the hillfort at Dolebury Camp, the agricultural centre shifted to the villa close to Pyne Well Spring c.1.2km south of the Site (Fig. 3, 7). With regards to larger settlement in this period, the closest confirmed nucleated settlement exists at Wint Hill in Banwell over 4km to the south-west of the Site.
- 3.20. As with the previous period, there is no evidence for the Roman period within the Site and within the study area the evidence is scarce. Although it would be fair to assume that there is low potential for the presence of Roman period remains within the Site, given the above resource, the results of the geophysical survey do show

some faint anomalies of unknown origin, and a possible Roman date could not be excluded without further intrusive investigation.

Early medieval and medieval

- 3.21. There are no known early-medieval or medieval remains recorded within the Site. The Churchill Conservation Area Appraisal references the presence of several settlement earthworks and plague pits within the Site's area although no other known source has documented similar evidence. No LiDAR coverage is available for the Site, and aerial photographs do not provide any clarity on the apparent earthworks noted by the Conservation Area Appraisal, no such evidence was recorded during the geophysical survey (Sumo 2020).
- 3.22. Churchill is not mentioned in Domesday book of 1086. The earliest known reference to "Land at Cherchille" occurs in a Feet of Fines of 1205, after which an award was made in 1231, by Bishop Jocelyn, concerning "the chapel of Cerceles" (Bruton Cartulary Deed 114, bafhs.or.uk, accessed 2020). It is possible that this chapel relates to the current Site of the Church of St John the Baptist (Fig. 2). Although the current Church dates broadly to the 14th and 15th century, it retains internal elements which likely relate to its predecessor, namely two medieval fonts, the oldest of which is Norman. The Church exists in isolation from the main nucleus of the modern settlement of Churchill c.300m to the south-east of the Site. For this reason, it has been suggested that the settlement of Churchill shifted south-east since the medieval period as a result of the settlement shrinking; as noted above, there is some suggestion that the Site contains earthworks associated with former medieval settlement, though no such features are recorded by the HER or HEA.
- 3.23. The HER does record the evidence for some possible medieval settlement (Fig. 3, 9) located c.150m north-west of the Site (Neale, 1977) but it also notes that rather than a deserted medieval settlement, the features likely relate to a single house platform alongside the route of what was a road or hollow way (Fig. 3, 24) though no previous archaeological investigation appears to have been undertaken to provide a definitive answer. Only 2m LiDAR coverage is available for the area of the proposed settlement/dwelling, which does not provide any clear detail of the earthworks on which to base more detailed analysis; aerial photographs did not aid assessment of the likely extent of the potential settlement and indicate that the land is or has been subject to ploughing. Some ridge and furrow were observed immediately north-west of the potential settlement. It is apparent, however, that the disused trackway of

“Duck Street” c.250m north-west of the Site (Fig. 3, 11) is confirmed to be older than that of King Road, the modern road that links Congresbury to Churchill; King Road makes a sharp deviation at where it crosses Duck Street in order to follow the older line. It appears from current evidence that there was a deer park, established almost certainly with some form of lodge or dwelling.

- 3.24. The presence of a medieval Church, next to a post-medieval manor house, suggests the earlier medieval dwelling may have been rebuilt in a grandeur style with the Church also being renovated and expanded to its current form. The separation of the village may then be explained by the establishment of tenements, or burgage plots, by the owners of the manor, to provide accommodation for the tenant farmers working the associated agricultural land.
- 3.25. The suggested deserted settlement is also host to what is claimed to be a medieval fishpond c.225m north-west of the Site (Fig. 2, 17). The fishpond is one of a number of fishponds in the study area. Others like it, for example, are located c.650m north-west of the Site (Fig. 3, 18). There is no confirmed dating evidence in the form of chance finds or previous archaeological work, other than a measured survey, to confirm their attribution to the medieval period.
- 3.26. An alternative location for the medieval site of the “Land at Chercille”, mentioned in the Feet of Fines of 1205 exists c.450 south of the Site, north of Knowle Wood. At this location there are the earthwork remains of small buildings near the footpath from Lyncombe Lane to Churchill. This has been suggested as a possible deserted medieval village in the HER records, although no earthwork or cropmark evidence has been identified.
- 3.27. The former estate of Churchill is evidenced by the remains of Churchill Deer Park. Churchill Deer Park was a large area incorporating over 100ha of land and is immediately adjacent to the north of the Site (Fig. 3). The HER notes that the boundary is known from extant park walls, and adjoining field names including ‘Old Walls’ and ‘Park Walls’. Park Farm (Fig. 3, 13), the boundaries of which largely follow that of the former deer park, has been suggested as the site of a park lodge building. The presence of a ‘distinctly concentrated scatter of around 50 12th-14th century pottery sherds’ have also been discovered c.600m north of the Site (Fig. 3, 19) along the northern boundary of the deer park. The absence of a bank and internal ditch or other features usually associated with the classic medieval park

'pale' suggest it was probably laid out at a late stage, perhaps by the St. Loe family who were lords of the manor in the late 15th century. The deer park would have been associated with some form of dwelling, such as a hunting lodge, but no firm evidence for any medieval dwelling in the immediate environs of the medieval Church is recorded; though there of course lies some potential in the building earthworks located to the north of the Church. The HER notes that Churchill Court, listed at Grade II and located just west of the Site (Fig. 2, 16) has medieval origins, though the Historic England listing description notes that the core is probably 16th-century in date.

- 3.28. Beyond the apparent focus of settlement near the Church of St John the Baptist and the deer park, the records suggest an agricultural landscape, evidenced by remains of ridge and furrow and plough headland identified through aerial photography between 1947 and the present (Fig. 3). Also included are former field boundaries (Fig. 3, 20 & 21) and medieval strip lynchets (Fig. 3, 22 & 23).
- 3.29. A windmill may have existed atop Windmill Hill as early as the late 13th or early 14th centuries when they were first introduced into the South West of the country. The exact position of the windmill has not yet been identified. Although a location c.425m east of Site, near the summit of Windmill Hill, has been suggested (Fig. 3, 40), the ringwork identified as an Iron Age farmstead enclosure (Fig. 3, 3) remains a likely location, possibly utilised following its abandonment as a windmill enclosure. The first documentary evidence, however, for the presence of a windmill on Windmill Hill is the Churchill Manor records of 1652.
- 3.30. In summary, the origins of the settlement of Churchill remain uncertain. Immediately, south of the Site, to west of Barrowfield Cottage, three trial trenches were excavated; no archaeological evidence was recovered (TVAS, 2019). Although no clear evidence of the existence of settlement activity within the Site is recorded during this period, there is some potential for the remains recorded during the geophysical survey (Sumo 2020) to be medieval in date, however, further investigation is needed to ascertain this.

Post-medieval

- 3.31. There are no post-medieval remains recorded within the Site.
- 3.32. The earliest surviving features of Churchill Court (Fig. 2, 16) appear to date from the 16th century and it seems to have been extensively rebuilt on several occasions

throughout the post-medieval period. The grounds of Churchill Court were also extensively remodelled within the post-medieval period. The stable block, now the Grade II listed The Cottage (Fig. 2, 41) c.25m west of the Site are a late 17th century design stated to have been used as a barracks by John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough. The Grade II listed gatepiers and gates (Fig. 2, 39), adjacent to the western side of the Site, were 18th and 19th century additions.

- 3.33. In the post-medieval period, the landscape within the study area had developed distinct characteristics. Extraction and processing of limestone into lime is attested to by a significant quantity of disused quarry sites and the remains of several limekilns scattered throughout the study area. The closest of these features to Site is a limekiln located on Windmill Hill (Fig. 3, 33) c.50m north of the Site and its likely associated quarry (Fig. 3, 26) c.100m north-east of the Site. There are many other examples within the study area of post-medieval limestone quarrying and its processing into lime (Fig. 3, 25-30, 32-36). Many of these, such as a limekiln c.900m south-east of the Site (Fig. 3, 25) display later medieval characteristic which demonstrate that the exploitation of the landscape for lime had likely been underway in the later medieval period.
- 3.34. Another distinct characteristic of the study area which developed within the post-medieval period is the landscape pattern of dispersed farmhouses. The earliest surviving examples of these farmhouses within the study area is the early 16th century Old Farmhouse (Fig. 3, 38) c.150m south-west of the Site, and the early to mid-16th century Grade II listed April Cottage (Fig. 2, 42) c.100m south-east of the Site. Other dispersed farms within the study area are broadly dated between the 17th and 19th centuries and include the 17th century Dinghurst Farmhouse (Fig. 2, 49) c.450m south-east of the Site, the late 18th century Grade II listed Churchill Green Farm (Fig. 2, 45) c.800m west of the Site and a host of other isolated examples (Fig. 3, 43 & 44).
- 3.35. The location of dwellings dated to the post-medieval period appears to suggest that there was a degree of abandonment and settlement shift from the area around the Church and Churchill Court, to the west of the Site, to the area of the modern village centred around Churchill Turnpike c.450m south-east of the Site. This indicates that the shift in settlement location may have been as a result of the growing importance of the road toward Bristol in the post-medieval period. Examples of these post-medieval dwellings include the 17th century Grade II listed Ash Green (Fig. 2, 46)

c.200m south-east of the Site and the 18th century Grade II listed Mountain Ash Cottage (Fig. 2, 47) c.350m south-east of the Site. Both dwellings are located at least 500m south-east of what was likely the medieval core of the village.

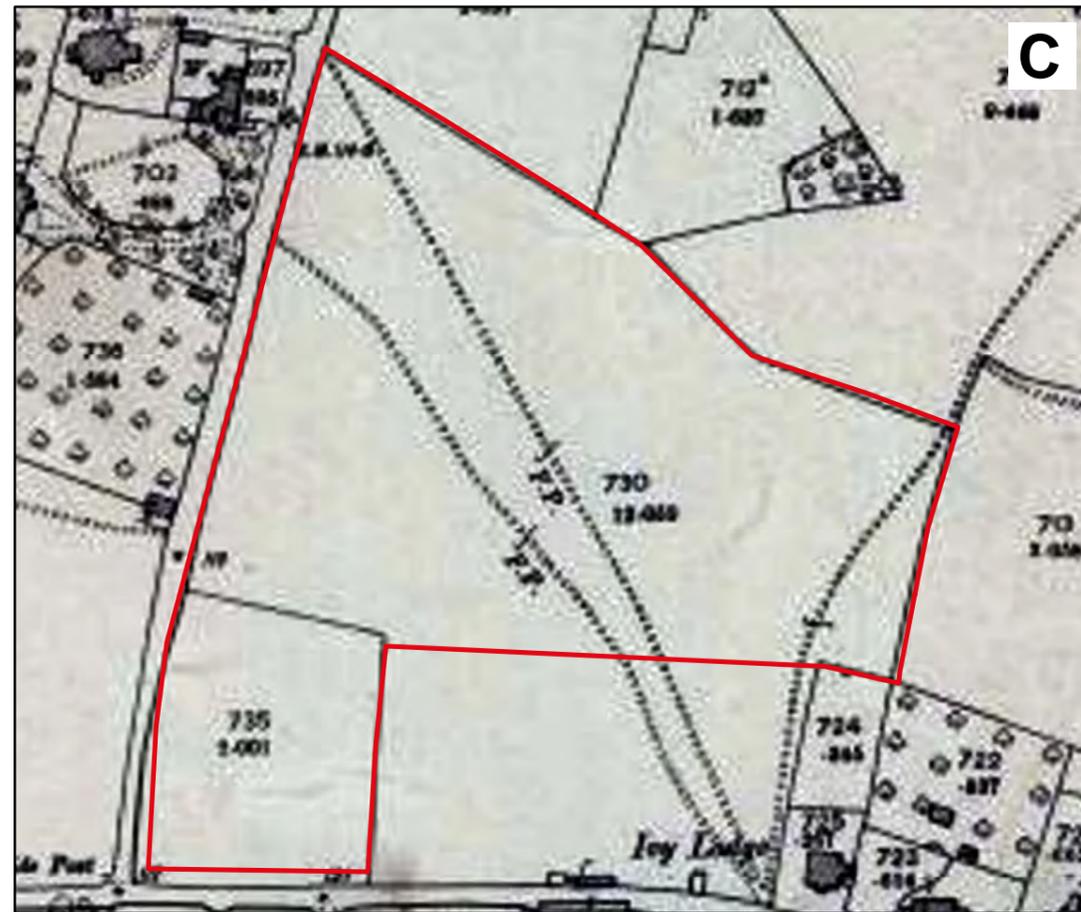
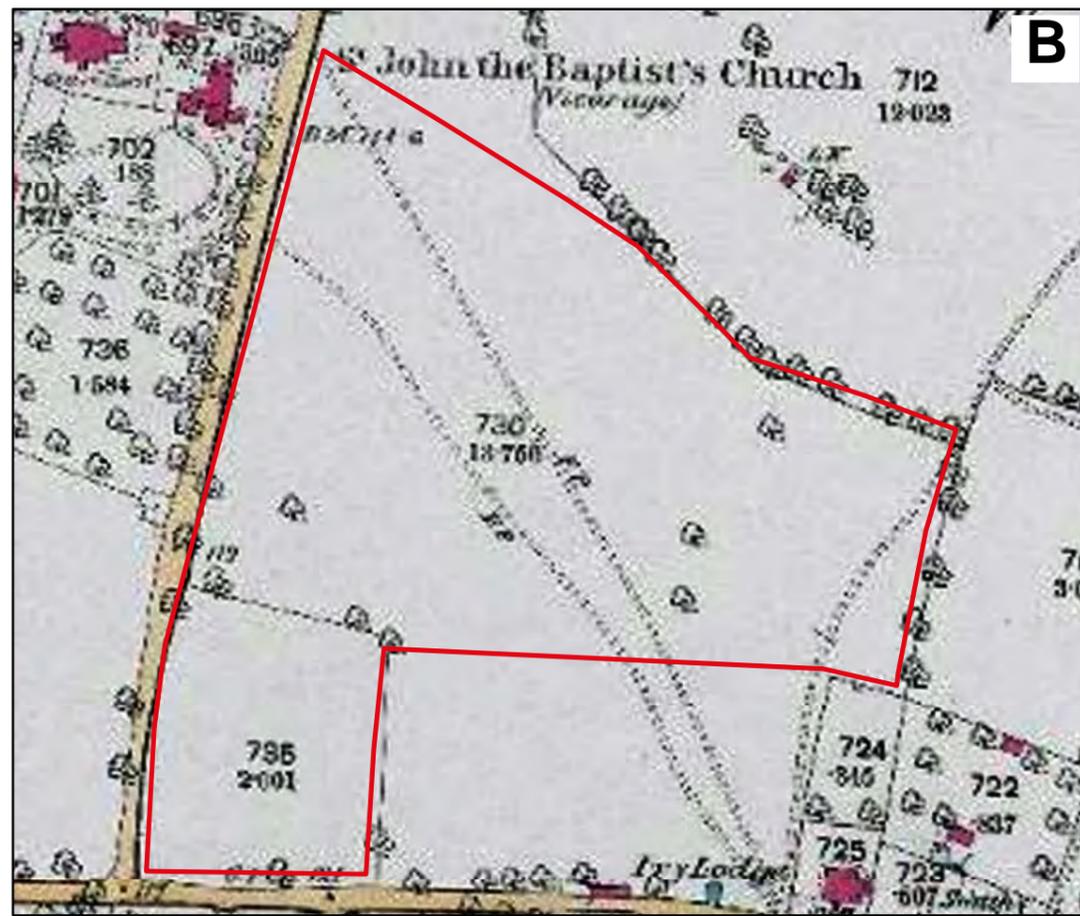
- 3.36. During this period, the Site was probably under agricultural uses, and there is a possibility that the remains recorded during the geophysical survey (Sumo 2020) may relate to some type of agricultural feature for this period. Further investigation is necessary to establish this feature's origin and date.

Cartographic Regression and Modern

- 3.37. The Tithe map demonstrates that the Site has changed very little since this time and still comprises of the same two fields. There may have been some small changes to the field boundaries in the northern part of the Site, with the Tithe map displaying that the field boundary in the north-east corner once encroached slightly further into the Site.
- 3.38. The 1842 Churchill Tithe map (Fig. 4, A) also demonstrates that by this time, the area centred around Churchill Court and the church was largely free of buildings other than the designated assets.
- 3.39. The accompanying Tithe apportionment from 1842 labels the land of both fields within Site as pasture. The southern field is owned by the reverend of the Church but appears to be rented out to a local farmer rather than forming glebe lands associated with the Church. This is similar to the northern field which appears to be owned by a separate reverend and rented out to a different farmer. Although both fields are recorded in the ownership of clergy there is no suggestion within the Tithe Apportionment that the land is glebe land and appears to be in agricultural use; glebe lands are specifically recorded elsewhere within the parish by the Apportionment.
- 3.40. The 1885 first edition OS map (Fig. 4, B) displays that very little changed on Site between the 1842 Tithe map and 1885. There is the addition of a footpath, which is still recorded on modern OS maps, directly passing through the Site in a north-west to south-east direction connecting the village to the Church. However, footpaths were not recorded on Tithe mapping, so there is a possibility that there had been an established routeway through the Site for some time before 1885. Between the Tithe and the first edition OS, there is also little that had changed within the wider study area. There is, however, the addition of a few more buildings within what is now the

modern centre of Churchill village. For example, the Grade II Listed Clockhouse (Fig. 2, 50) c.500m south-east of Site appears to be dated from this era as well as the addition of the 1879 Grade II Listed Methodist church (Fig. 2, 55) c.450m south-east of Site.

- 3.41. The changes that occurred to the field boundaries in the northern part of the Site appear to have been conducted between the 1885 first edition OS map and the second edition OS map of 1903 (Fig. 4, C). In this period there are significant changes to the field boundaries in the fields directly adjacent to the north of the Site. In terms of changes within the Site itself, very little alteration appears to have occurred. The one change within the two periods regarding significant built form appears to be the addition of the Grade II Listed Clock Tower (Fig. 2, 54) at Churchill Turnpike c.475m south-east of the Site.
- 3.42. Both maps do not yet display either the Grade II Listed Sidney Hill Cottage Homes (Fig. 2, 52) or its associated Grade II Listed Matron's House (Fig. 2, 53). The earliest cartographic source displaying these buildings is the 1931 edition OS Map (see Appendix 3). Documentary sources attribute both designated assets to being built in 1907, after the publishing of the second edition OS map. The Sidney Hill Cottage Homes were originally built as the Wesleyan Almshouses and are now private apartments c.125m south-east of the Site.
- 3.43. The location of Churchill school, just west of the Site, is attributed on all historical maps as being green fields. Documentary sources reference a tented training camp being present in this location during WWI known as Daniel's Field (Fig. 3, 56). In the unlikely event that there were any material remains of this training camp, the construction of Churchill School in the mid-1950s likely removed all traces. There appears to have been very little activity within the study area during WWII other than a Spigot Mortar position and trench (Fig. 3, 57) c.800m south-east of the Site. The most recent designated heritage asset to have been constructed within the study area is the 1936 Grade II Listed Type K6 Telephone kiosk (Fig. 2, 58) c.100m south-east of the Site.



N

Legend

Site



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Andover
 Cirencester
 Exeter
 Milton Keynes
 Suffolk

w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the north of Front Street,
 Churchill, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location on historic maps and
 aerial imagery

DRAWN BY	CJ	PROJECT NO.	CR0317	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JR	DATE	08/12/2020	
APPROVED BY	RS	SCALE @ A4	1:2,000	4

P:\CR0317 Land North of Front Street, Churchill, Consultancy\GIS\CR0317_FrontStreet_Workspace.mxd

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
 Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID,
 IGN, and the GIS User Community

3.44. The boundary hedgerows within the Site are considered to be historic and might comprise 'important' hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. These comprise non-designated heritage assets of low heritage significance. The Hedgerow Regulations require that suitable notice is given to the North Somerset Council prior to the removal of such hedgerows.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Previous impacts

- 4.1. Cartographic regression suggests that the Site has been in use as agricultural land since at least the late post-medieval period. As such, associated pre-existing impacts to any potential buried archaeological remains would chiefly result from agricultural practices, including ploughing, land drains, and subsoiling which may have caused damage to the upper horizons of any potential buried remains situated beneath the topsoil layer. The former presence of short-lived agricultural buildings is also a possibility.
- 4.2. The construction of a modern stable block and horse yard in the western part of the Site may also have impacted the on-site stratigraphy. Potential impacts relate to any levelling and excavation of land relating to the installation of buildings and the yard.
- 4.3. The geophysical survey of the Site (SUMO 2020) has revealed no anomalies that could be interpreted as being of definitive archaeological nature as well as substantial indication of modern impacts and truncation, including modern pipe trenches.

The significance of known and potential archaeological remains within the Site

- 4.4. This assessment has identified that no designated archaeological remains are located within the Site; no designated archaeological remains will therefore be adversely physically affected by development within the Site. As previously mentioned, a geophysical survey of the Site revealed no remains that could conclusively be identified as archaeological in nature, however, magnetic anomalies were identified and thus, the presence of archaeological remains cannot be completely ruled out. Potential archaeological remains identified within the Site comprise:
 - Prehistoric ring ditches and enclosures;
 - Medieval buildings and associated features;
 - Medieval and post-medieval agricultural features;
 - Finds associated with the WWI training camp in Daniel's field adjacent to the west of the Site; and

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- The hedgerow boundaries of the Site might comprise an ‘important’ hedgerow under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. These comprise non-designated ‘heritage assets’ of low heritage significance.

Prehistoric ring ditches and enclosures

- 4.5. Field name evidence suggests the Site has some potential for prehistoric ring ditch features. Although no such features were observed on aerial photographs of the Site the geophysical survey revealed faint remains of a semi-circular enclosure (Sumo 2020) which might be prehistoric or later in date. Should such features be present, they would be of evidential and historic (illustrative) value and thus comprise heritage assets. However, it is unlikely that they would be of such significance as to preclude the development of the Site.

Medieval buildings and associated features

- 4.6. There is some evidence to suggest that a medieval settlement was once centred on the Church of St. John the Baptist c.75m west of the Site which now exists in relative isolation from the rest of Churchill village. It is possible that remains of buildings associated with this settlement core may extend within the Site. A lack of previous archaeological investigation regarding the existence of the potential medieval settlement, as well as over interpretation regarding small-scale earthworks in the field immediately adjacent to the north of the Church aid this investigation very little in establishing the potential for these remains existing on Site.

- 4.7. The geophysical survey of the Site (Sumo 2020) evidences the presence of a faint semi-circular enclosure of unknown date which cannot be discounted as being possibly medieval in date, representing for example a pond or stock enclosure perhaps. Medieval settlement remains, such as house platforms and other features, hold a level of evidential (archaeological) value in their potential to contain archaeological material, and historic (illustrative) value as they represent a historic settlement and layout of the past urban landscape. However, such remains are very unlikely to be of such significance that they would preclude the development of the Site.

Medieval and Post medieval agricultural features

- 4.8. The resource discussed in Section 3 demonstrates that the study area includes an historic agricultural landscape. Whilst likely modified over time, it retains some of the character of a medieval and/or post-medieval field system, some of which may in

fact have origins in prehistory. There is a possibility that a small number of pre-tithe historic field boundaries may be present (represented by ditches for example) that may date to the medieval or earlier periods. Medieval and later field boundaries as well as plough marks and other ephemeral remains associated with agriculture, would be of relatively limited significance due to the frequency of well-preserved examples throughout the county. The potential for the remains of the former field boundary displayed on the 1842 Churchill Tithe map and the first edition OS maps (Fig. 4) is of negligible heritage significance.

Finds associated with the WWI Daniel's Field Camp

- 4.9. As previously mentioned, Daniel's field camp (Fig. 3, 56), existed in the area of Churchill School, c.100m west of the Site. It is possible that this camp existed over a larger area than has previously been considered by the HER data, or that its garrison used the surrounding agricultural land to undertake training. It is therefore possible that there may be some isolated small finds or features such as trenches and dugouts associated with training in the nearby vicinity. These would be of some limited evidential and historic, illustrative value in their contribution to our understanding of the nature and extent of WWI activities in this local area.

Potential development effects

- 4.10. Any truncation (physical development effects) upon those less significant archaeological remains identified within the Site would primarily result from groundworks associated with construction. Such groundworks might include:

- pre-construction impacts associated with ground investigation works;
- ground reduction;
- construction ground works, including excavation of building foundations, service trenches and stripping for roads/car parks;
- excavation of new site drainage channels (including soakaways); and
- landscaping and planting.

Summary

- 4.11. After analysing the archaeological resource for the area this assessment has identified that the Site has some potential for prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern deposits to survive within the Site. Such remains would be of varying evidential and historic (illustrative) value, but it is highly unlikely that they would be of such significance that they would preclude development of the Site. The

development impacts would need to be mitigated through a programme of appropriate and proportionate archaeological works to be agreed with the North Somerset County Council.

- 4.12. The Site's hedgerows might comprise 'important' hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. These comprise non-designated 'heritage assets' of low heritage significance. The Hedgerow Regulations requires that suitable notice is given to the North Somerset County Council prior to removal of such hedgerows.

5. CHURCHILL CONSERVATION AREA

- 5.1. The southern part of the Site lies within Churchill Conservation Area, and hence an appraisal of the effects of the proposed development on its significance is included below.

Special architectural and historic interest

- 5.2. The Churchill Conservation Area (Fig. 2) was designated in 2019 and the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAA&MP) was adopted in January 2020.
- 5.3. The CAA&MP rightly focuses on the main thoroughfare of Front Street, characterised “by the presence of numerous historical dwellings, ranging from 16th to mid-19th Centuries, many of which are listed, with small housing developments (post 1948) branching off, particularly at the eastern end. Many of the detached properties have rubble limestone-walled boundaries onto Front Street but notably, the late 19th century Sidney Hill Cottage Homes and Methodist Church were built predominantly in brick. These walls give Front Street its distinct character.”
- 5.4. The CAA&MP goes on to state that “There is no overarching architectural style within Churchill; the style present ranges from 16th century to Georgian and early Victorian, through to post war. Churchill, like many villages was not planned out as with bigger towns but was a result of fortuitous design. It is this diversity of styles that adds to the character of the conservation area.”
- 5.5. The Conservation Area contains several Listed Buildings, most of which are in the eastern half of the Conservation Area. The setting of individual Listed Buildings which have the potential to be affected by the proposed development are considered separately within Section 6.
- 5.6. The significance of the Churchill Conservation Area derives from its historic (illustrative and associative) and aesthetic values embodied by the physical built form of its buildings and layout. The land parcels north of Front Street and east of Church Lane (including the southern part of the Site) are the only substantive open spaces incorporated within the Conservation Area; although parts of smaller agricultural land parcels, south of Dinghurst Road, are included too.

5.7. One can experience the Conservation Area by walking, driving or cycling through almost all its extension. The CAA&MP refers to the views afforded from and within the Conservation Area. Specific mention is made to a view from the west end of Front Street, across Barrowfield, towards the Church and Churchill Court. There are locations on Front Street where breaks in the hedgerow afford glimpsed views in this direction but for the avoidance of doubt the Church and Churchill Court cannot be seen. Furthermore, the character of Barrowfield cannot be easily discerned from the west end of Front Street either, because of the rising landform and mature hedgerows.

5.8. While passing along the footpath that runs through the Site no meaningful experience can be had of the character of the village or the component parts of the Conservation Area that possess special architectural or historic interest.

Contribution of the Site and impact assessment

5.9. Although, the southern part of the Site is located within Churchill Conservation Area, it does not possess a character and appearance of special architectural or historic interest. Lying within the agricultural outskirts of the village, it makes a neutral contribution to the Conservation Area, neither enhancing nor detracting from the component parts which do possess heritage significance. The existing historic landscape character of the Site is of no heritage significance. It shares the same or similar features of many or all the agricultural land parcels that lie on the edge of Churchill, and beyond. Specifically, the Site does not possess any remnants of medieval or post-medieval landscape divisions (burgage plots, ridge and furrow or strip field boundaries). Furthermore, the Site does not contribute to the heritage significance of, or aids in the experience of, the areas (i.e. Front Street) which manifestly do possess special architectural or historic interest.

5.10. As is the duty under Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (“the Act”) special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area. This duty plainly applies to elements which are of special interest, for which the Site does not qualify. Any suggestion that the Site possesses special interest would go to undermining the value judgements for those elements of the Conservation Area which are clearly and manifestly of special architectural or historic interest.

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- 5.11. The directions within local and national planning policy mirror the intentions of the Act. Paragraph 201 of the NPPF states that “not all elements of a Conservation Area ... will necessarily contribute to its significance.” The same paragraph goes on to state that the “relative significance” of the component elements of Conservation Areas needs to be understood when making planning judgments involving change. The southern part of the Site is an example of this, in so far as this element of the Conservation Area does not contribute to the heritage significance of the whole.
- 5.12. The proposed development will introduce new built elements into the agricultural surroundings of the village, changing its character. Any new residential development on the edge of a town or village would do the same. The post-war bungalows on The Drive, off Dinghurst Road, are an example of built-form lying outside the ‘older linear structure of the village’. These do not detract or cause harm to the heritage significance of the Conservation Area and could even be described as an example of the “diversity of styles that adds to the character of the conservation area” (CAA&MP).
- 5.13. Therefore, the matter at hand is whether, in this specific instance, this change in character from agricultural to residential would bring about harm to the contributors to the significance of the Conservation Area; which it plainly would not.
- 5.14. Policy DM3 shares the intentions of the Act and NPPF re Conservation Areas. Therefore, no conflict will arise with the Act, NPPF or the Local Plan in regard to the matter of the Conservation Area.

6. THE SETTING OF LISTED BUILDINGS

6.1. This section identifies heritage assets which may be susceptible to non-physical effects that derive from changes to their setting as a result of new development within the Site. As noted above, this section considers Steps 1 and 2 of the relevant Historic England Guidance, as detailed below.

Step 1: Identification of heritage assets potentially affected

6.2. Step 1 of the Second Edition of Historic England's 2017 'Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3' (GPA3) is to 'identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected' (see Appendix 1). GPA3 notes that Step 1 should identify the heritage assets which are likely to be affected as a result of any change to their experience, as a result of the development proposal (GPA3, page 9).

6.3. Several heritage assets were identified as part of Step 1, as potentially susceptible to impact as a result of changes to their setting. These include the Grade I Listed Church of St. John the Baptist (Fig. 2, 8) and several Grade II Listed Buildings near the Site. These assets have been identified using a combination of GIS analysis and field examination, which has considered, amongst other factors, the surrounding topographic and environmental conditions, built form, vegetation cover, and lines of sight, within the context of the assets' heritage significance.

6.4. The Site visit, and study area walkover, identified that there would be no non-physical impact upon the significance of any other heritage assets as a result of changes to the use and/or appearance of the Site. These unaffected assets include late-19th century and early-20th century houses, a phone kiosk and a clocktower centred around Churchill Turnpike, c.500m south-east of the Site, which are consistent with the mixed local vernacular. Their setting comprises the post-medieval and modern development of Churchill village, a location in which they are best perceptible and intelligible as heritage assets. This setting would not be altered, and would be preserved, as would the assets' key contributing values and views. Views of the surrounding landscape (including the Site) from these assets are blocked by other modern built form, settlement and tall vegetation and there are no other discernible (non-visual) historical or landscape associations between any of these assets and the Site.

6.5. Furthermore, there are several farmhouses in the wider landscape, such as Dinghurst Farmhouse (Fig. 2, 49) which hold neither visual nor associative

representation with the land on Site. As such, the proposals will not result in any non-physical harm to the significance of these assets, and they have not been assessed in any further detail.

- 6.6. All heritage assets assessed as part of Step 1, but which were not progressed to Steps 2 – 3, are included in the gazetteer in Appendix 2 of this report.

Step 2: Assessment of setting

- 6.7. This section presents the results of Step 2 of the settings assessment, which has been undertaken regarding those potentially susceptible heritage assets identified in Step 1. Step 2 considers the contribution that setting makes to the significance of potentially susceptible heritage assets.

Grade I listed Church of St. John the Baptist (Fig. 2, 8)

- 6.8. The Grade I Listed Church of St. John the Baptist, henceforth the Church, is located c.100m west of the Site. The Church is of evidential value, being comprised of multiple phases of architectural construction. The historical (illustrative) value of this building is attributed in its representation of past activity which provides a link between the historic settlement and the present community which it serves for the same purpose. Aesthetic and communal values also contribute to the significance of the Church. The architectural features of each component of the building represent an aesthetic specific to its date, while also demonstrating high quality craftsmanship. Communal values are afforded by the cultural, spiritual, and social values typical of local places of worship.

- 6.9. What follows is a description of the component parts of its surrounds and how it is experienced from outside the building. However, it must be noted that, in the most part, the key heritage significance of the Church (and nearly all churches) is experienced from inside the structure.

Physical Surrounds – ‘What Matters and Why’

- 6.10. The churchyard is thought to have been in use since medieval times and represents both the Churches’ historic and current setting. The churchyard provides the key and immediate setting of the Church with which it shares a strong functional relationship and associated historic assets. As such, this aspect of its setting makes the most important contribution towards its significance.

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- 6.11. The presence of Churchill Court and The Cottages, forming a group of associated structures also contributes to its heritage significance.
- 6.12. Further afield, the village (the community to which the Church owes its existence) forms part of the story too as does any potential surviving buried archaeological remains of the deserted or shrunken village to north of the Church. The character and land-use of the wider agricultural landscape, the story of the former deer park for instance, plays a far more peripheral role in its heritage significance.



Fig. 5 The Church of St. John the Baptist – view to the south-west

Experience – ‘What Matters and Why’

- 6.13. The Church is best experienced from within its churchyard, with which it shares a strong functional relationship, but which also provides an enclosed space that affords an opportunity for quiet contemplation often associated with non-urban churches.
- 6.14. From Front Street, the main thoroughfare through the village, looking across the Site in a north-west direction, experience of the Church is prohibited by elements of modern and late post-medieval built form and by heavy vegetation including mature trees.

6.15. The Church tower is visible from the footpath in the north of the Site, though views of the Church building are screened by the intervening built form of The Cottages, the former stables to Churchill Court. This view does make a small positive contribution towards the significance of the Church based on the potential relationship between these assets as part of a former manor complex, providing an opportunity to appreciate their group value.

Contribution of the Site and impact assessment

6.16. No direct historical associations between the Site and the Church were identified during this assessment. The character and current land-use (pasture) of the Site is not an important or relevant component of the story the Church. Although some tenuous association could be derived from the ownership of the land and the potential for it to be 'glebe land' (prior to the known records that suggest otherwise), this is not sufficient to attribute heritage significance. Therefore, the Site is not part of the physical surrounds of the building that contribute to its heritage significance (it is a neutral component of its setting).

6.17. The change of character / land-use of the Site from pasture to residential (i.e. the proposed development) will have no effect on the heritage significance of the Church. Parallels can be drawn from the recent changes to physical surrounds of the Church with the presence of the school and sports centre; the changes to Churchill Court; the carpark and the conversion of the stables (The Cottages), none of which have adversely affected the significance of the Church.

6.18. As mentioned above, the key experience of the Church is had from within the building and from within its churchyard; and the proposed development will not form a discernible component of these views. Moving further afield the views become less important and the experience of a lesser quality. One example of this is from a footpath through the Site, where the Church tower can be seen. Thoroughfares and a footpath will be retained within the proposed development to preserve this part of the experience of the Church.

6.19. In summary, the proposed development would not change the heritage significance or the way in which its significance is experienced; the special architectural and historic interest of the Church will be preserved.

Grade II Listed Churchill Court (Fig. 2, 16) and associated Grade II Listed Gatepiers and Gate (Fig. 2, 39)

- 6.20. The Churchill Court consists of a probable 16th century core with 17th century additions with a thorough restoration in 1877 (Fig. 6). The building is constructed of coursed rubble with ashlar dressings and stone copings and double Roman tile roof to main range. It has an L-shaped plan with a staircase tower in north-east external angle. This staircase is thought to be mid-16th century, and likely forms the oldest architectural feature of a private dwelling in Churchill.



Fig. 6 Churchill Court from the churchyard – view to the south

- 6.21. Churchill Court is of evidential and aesthetic value, embodied within its physical fabric which demonstrates 16th, 17th and potentially later forms of architecture (both aesthetic and structural). The building holds historical (illustrative) value in its representation of past activity which provides a link between the development of the historic settlement and use of the surrounding landscape as a deer park. It also holds historical (associative) value, given the important historical figures, such as John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, who resided there. The Court is also directly related to the Grade II Listed The Cottage (Fig. 2, 41) which likely served as the buildings stable block in the late 17th century.



Fig. 7 The Grade II Listed Gatepiers and Gate of Churchill Court – View from Church Road to the west

Physical Surrounds – ‘What Matters and Why’

6.22. Churchill Court is located to the west of Church Lane, c.90m to the west of the Site. The immediate setting of Churchill Court comprises a range of outbuildings set within its grounds and gardens. The Church is located less than 50m to its north-east and a little further east of the Church are The Cottages (the converted former stables of the Court). Beyond the grounds of the Court, to its south, its setting is dominated by the presence of the school and sports centre. Beyond the churchyard, to the north is agricultural farmland; the village of Churchill lies several hundred metres to its south-east.

6.23. The historical relationship between Churchill Court and the Church contributes to the significance of the building, as does the relationship with The Cottages; and the gates and gatepiers too. The wider landscape while forming part of the medieval and later story of the building (such as the former Deer Park) doesn't play a meaningful role in the significance of the building and certainly plays no role in its architectural and historic interest (the reason for its listing).

Experience – ‘What Matters and Why’

6.24. Churchill Court is approached along Church Lane. Access is made through the gatepiers which are visible from the road and public rights of way (Fig. 7), but

Churchill Court is not visible due to vegetation and distance. A historical link / pathway between it and the Church no longer exists.

- 6.25. The best experience of Churchill Court is from up close within its grounds and gardens, where all of the architectural and aesthetic values of the building can be appreciated. The same is true for the gates and gatepiers.
- 6.26. The only substantive views of Churchill Court available from public rights of way are from the inside of the churchyard (Fig. 6), which affords partial views of the north facing elevation.
- 6.27. Although the school and sports centre dominate the setting south of Churchill Court, their presence in no way affects the experience of heritage significance of building (because of screening and distance).

Contribution of the Site and impact assessment

- 6.28. No direct historical associations between the Site and Churchill Court were discerned during this assessment. The character and current land-use (pasture) of the Site is not an important or relevant component of the story of the building. In this sense, the Site is not part of the physical surrounds of the building that contribute to its heritage significance (it is a neutral component of its setting).
- 6.29. The Site is not a location where the special architectural and historic interest (or lesser heritage significance) of Churchill Court can be experienced. As mentioned above, the key experience of the asset can only be obtained in proximity, within its grounds and gardens, with a partial experience being afforded from within the churchyard. The Site is not discernible within views of the building. In summary the land-use and character of the Site plays no role in the experience of Churchill Court or its gates and gatepiers.
- 6.30. Because of these two factors, the proposed development would not change the heritage significance or the way in which its significance is experienced; the special architectural and historic interest of Churchill Court (with its gates and gatepiers) will be preserved.

Grade II listed The Cottage (Fig. 2, 41)

- 6.31. The Grade II Listed The Cottage, henceforth The Cottage, is a late 17th century building that once served as a stable block for Churchill Court (Fig. 8). It is built of

randomly coursed rubble with dressed stone openings, with some render to dormers and pantile roof. It is a two-storey building, with a four-bay 17th century range with one-bay right-hand 19th century addition.

- 6.32. The building has historical (illustrative) value attributed in its representation of past activity which provides a link between the development of the historic settlement and use of the surrounding landscape as a deer park. It is also imbued with a similar historical (associative) value as Churchill Court itself, given that John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, was said to have used the building as a barracks during the late 17th century and early 18th century.

Physical Surrounds – ‘What Matters and Why’

- 6.33. The Cottage is located to the west side of Church Lane, directly opposite to the Site, and c.60m north-east of Churchill Court and c.30m to the south-east of the Church. Historically The Cottage had been a part of Churchill Court as its stable block, and there was a functional and aesthetic separation between the two, as a status marker. The Cottage, since its conversion into a residential property has taken on a very different character, as has the character of its immediate setting, of domestic gardens. Its group value with the Church but more meaningfully, with Churchill Court plays a key role its heritage significance.
- 6.34. As with Churchill Court, the wider landscape, while forming part of the medieval and later story of The Cottage doesn't play a meaningful role in the significance of the building and certainly plays no role in its architectural and historic interest (the reason for its listing).

Experience – ‘What Matters and Why’

- 6.35. The Cottage is best experienced from within its grounds but also from Church Lane which affords an opportunity to appreciate its architecture and thus its evidential, historic, and aesthetic values with direct views of its main elevation (Fig. 8). From the churchyard there are also some limited views of the western facing elevation of The Cottage, slightly impeded by a dividing wall and vegetation.
- 6.36. There are no other locations within the landscape / setting where a meaningful view or experience of the building can be had.



Fig. 8 The view of The Cottage (with the Church of St. John the Baptist in the background) from the north-west corner of the Site, just off Church Lane - looking west

Contribution of the Site and impact assessment

- 6.37. No direct historical associations between the Site and The Cottages were discerned during this assessment. The character and current land-use (pasture) of the Site is not an important or relevant component of the story the building. In this sense, the Site is not part of the physical surrounds of the building that contribute to its heritage significance (it is a neutral component of its setting).
- 6.38. Although the Site is a location where the special architectural and historic interest (or lesser heritage significance) of the Cottages can be experienced, a similar but better experience can be had from Church Lane. As mentioned above, the best experience of the asset can be had in proximity, within its gardens, with a partial experience being afforded from within the churchyard. In summary the land-use and character of the Site plays no role in the experience of The Cottage.
- 6.39. Because of these two factors, in exactly the same way as was described for Churchill Court, the proposed development would not change the heritage significance or the way in which its significance is experienced; the special architectural and historic interest of The Cottages will be preserved.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1. This assessment has included a review of a comprehensive range of available sources, in accordance with key industry guidance, as well as the results of geophysical survey of the Site, in order to identify known and potential heritage assets located within the Site and its environs which may be affected by the proposed development.
- 7.2. The significance of the identified known and potential heritage assets has been determined, as far as possible, on the basis of available evidence. The potential effects of the proposals on the significance of identified heritage assets, including any potential physical effects upon buried archaeological remains, and potential non-physical effects resulting from the anticipated changes to the settings of heritage assets, have been assessed. Any physical or non-physical effects of the proposals upon the significance of the heritage resource will be a material consideration in the determination of the planning application for the proposed development.

Physical effects

- 7.3. A geophysical survey of the Site (Sumo 2020) detected no anomalies that could be interpreted as being of definitive archaeological origin. Several weak linear trends and a weak sub-circular enclosure were identified but are interpreted as likely to be due to modern or natural processes. However, an archaeological origin should not be entirely dismissed for the sub-circular enclosure. Evidence of modern ploughing is visible as well as a modern pipe leading to a water trough also in the north-west of the Site.
- 7.4. The Site has some potential for prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern archaeological remains to survive buried within the Site. Such remains would be of varying evidential and historic (illustrative) value, but it is highly unlikely that they would be of such significance that they would preclude development of the Site. The impact of their truncation and / or removal could be mitigated through a programme of appropriate and proportionate archaeological works to be agreed with the North Somerset County Council. This is in accordance with the NPPF and Policy DM6.
- 7.5. The Site's hedgerows might comprise 'important' hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. These comprise non-designated heritage assets of low heritage significance. The Hedgerow Regulations requires that suitable notice is

given to the North Somerset County Council prior to removal of such hedgerows. It is normally the case that a degree of removal of boundaries is acceptable, although an emphasis on retention and/or improvement could be regarded as a benefit.

Non-physical effects

- 7.6. The southern part of the Site lies within Churchill Conservation Area (NSCC 2020). However, the Site possesses no features or evidence of heritage significance. The existing historic landscape character of the Site is not rare and the rationale for its inclusion within the Conservation Area is ill-defined. It shares the same or similar features of many of the agricultural land parcels that lie on the edge of the village (outside and excluded from the Conservation Area). Any suggestion that the Site possesses *special interest* would go to undermining the value judgements for those elements of the Conservation Area which are clearly and manifestly of special architectural or historic interest. With no component elements of heritage significance, the Site is an example of an area / place described in paragraph 201 of the NPPF, in so far as this element of the Conservation Area does not contribute to the heritage significance of the asset. The proposed development would in no way harm the heritage significance of the Conservation Area or how its important component parts are experienced. Therefore, there is no conflict with the Act, the NPPF or local policies C55 and DM3.
- 7.7. In a similar sense to that described in relation to the Conservation Area, the character and land-use of the Site plays no meaningful role in the heritage significance of the Listed Buildings of the Church, Churchill Court or The Cottages. The proposed development would in no way harm their heritage significance or how the heritage significance is experienced. Therefore, there is no conflict with the Act, the NPPF or local policies C55 and DM4.
- 7.8. The proposals are considered to be consistent with the requirements of paragraph 189 of the NPPF (2019) by describing the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting in appropriate detail.

8. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: HERITAGE STATUTE POLICY & GUIDANCE

Heritage Statute: Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments are subject to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The Act sets out the controls of works affecting Scheduled Monuments and other related matters. Contrary to the requirements of the Planning Act 1990 regarding Listed Buildings, the 1979 Act does not include provision for the ‘setting’ of Scheduled Monuments.

Heritage Statute: Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings are buildings of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ and are subject to the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (‘the Act’). Under Section 7 of the Act ‘no person shall execute or cause to be executed any works for the demolition of a Listed Building or for its alteration or extension in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, unless the works are authorised.’ Such works are authorised under Listed Building Consent. Under Section 66 of the Act ‘In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a Listed Building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any feature of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses’.

Note on the extent of a Listed Building

Under Section 1(5) of the Act, a structure may be deemed part of a Listed Building if it is:

- (a) fixed to the building, or
- (b) within the curtilage of the building, which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1st July 1948

The inclusion of a structure deemed to be within the ‘curtilage’ of a building thus means that it is subject to the same statutory controls as the principal Listed Building. Inclusion within this duty is not, however, an automatic indicator of ‘heritage significance’ both as defined within the NPPF (2019) and within Conservation Principles (see Section 2 above). In such cases, the significance of the structure needs to be assessed both in its own right and in the contribution it makes to the significance and character of the principal Listed Building. The practical effect of the inclusion in the listing of ancillary structures is limited by the requirement that Listed Building Consent is only needed for works to the ‘Listed Building’ (to

include the building in the list and all the ancillary items) where they affect the special character of the Listed Building as a whole.

Guidance is provided by Historic England on '[Listed Buildings and Curtilage: Historic England Advice Note 10](#)' (Historic England 2018).

Heritage Statue: Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are designated by the local planning authority under Section 69(1)(a) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act'), which requires that '*Every local planning authority shall from time to time determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*'. Section 72 of the Act requires that '*special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area*'.

The requirements of the Act only apply to land within a Conservation Area; not to land outside it. This has been clarified in various Appeal Decisions (for example APP/F1610/A/14/2213318 Land south of Cirencester Road, Fairford, Paragraph 65: '*The Section 72 duty only applies to buildings or land in a Conservation Area, and so does not apply in this case as the site lies outside the Conservation Area.*').

The NPPF (2019) also clarifies in [Paragraph 201](#) that '*Not all elements of a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area will necessarily contribute to its significance*'. Thus land or buildings may be a part of a Conservation Area, but may not necessarily be of architectural or historical significance. Similarly, not all elements of the setting of a Conservation Area will necessarily contribute to its significance, or to an equal degree.

National heritage policy: the National Planning Policy Framework

Heritage assets and heritage significance

Heritage assets comprise 'a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest' (the NPPF (2019), Annex 2). Designated heritage assets include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas (designated under the relevant legislation; NPPF (2019), Annex 2). The NPPF (2019), Annex 2, states that the significance of a heritage asset may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' looks at significance as a series of 'values' which include 'evidential', 'historical', 'aesthetic' and 'communal'.

The July 2019 revision of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) expanded on the definition of non-designated heritage assets. It states *that 'Non-designated heritage assets are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets.'* It goes on to refer to local/neighbourhood plans, conservation area appraisals/reviews, and importantly, the local Historic Environment Record (HER) as examples of where these assets may be identified, but specifically notes that such identification should be *made 'based on sound evidence'*, with this information *'accessible to the public to provide greater clarity and certainly for developers and decision makers'*.

This defines *non-designated heritage assets* as those which have been specially defined as such through the local HER or other source made accessible to the public by the plan-making body. Where HERs or equivalent lists do not specifically refer to an asset as a *non-designated heritage asset*, it is assumed that it has not met criteria for the plan-making body to define it as such, and will be referred to as a *heritage asset* for the purpose of this report.

The assessment of *non-designated heritage assets* and *heritage assets* will be equivalent in this report, in line with industry standards and guidance on assessing significance and impact. They may not, however, carry equivalent weight in planning as set out within the provisions of the NPPF, should there be any effect to significance.

The setting of heritage assets

The 'setting' of a heritage asset comprises 'the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral' (NPPF (2019), Annex 2). Thus it is important to note that 'setting' is not a heritage asset: it may contribute to the value of a heritage asset.

Guidance on assessing the effects of change upon the setting and significance of heritage assets is provided in 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets', which has been utilised for the present assessment (see below).

Levels of information to support planning applications

Paragraph 189 of the NPPF (2019) identifies that '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 assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance'.

Designated heritage assets

Paragraph 184 of the NPPF (2019) explains that heritage assets 'are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance'. Paragraph 193 notes that 'when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance'. Paragraph 194 goes on to note that 'substantial harm to or loss of a grade II Listed Building...should be exceptional and substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance (notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* Listed Buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites)...should be wholly exceptional'.

Paragraph 196 clarifies that 'Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'.

Local Planning Policy

North Somerset Core Strategy, adopted January 2017, forms the key planning document for planning applications within North Somerset. Relevant planning policies are reproduced below. [only those sections relevant to the historic environment, the Site and the proposed development are reproduced].

C55: Landscape and the historic environment

The council will conserve the historic environment of North Somerset, having regard to the significance of heritage assets such as conservation areas, Listed Buildings, buildings of local significance, scheduled monuments, other archaeological sites, registered and other historic parks and gardens.

CS12: Achieving high quality design and place-making

North Somerset Council is committed to achieving high quality buildings and places across all of North Somerset [...]. High quality architecture and urban design will be sought from

development demonstrating a robust design process to generate solutions that have clearly considered the existing context, and contribute to social, economic and environmental sustainability. As part of a comprehensive place-making strategy new development should function well, supporting sustainable land uses and seek to improve the image of the area. Poor design standards in individual buildings and larger schemes are not acceptable.

Proposals of all scales will be required to demonstrate sensitivity to the existing local character already established in an area and should take the opportunity to enhance the sense of place and local identity through a well thought out design. Where the existing design characteristics are not considered of a high quality, new development should actively aim to enhance the area through good design. Schemes must be based on a thorough site appraisal.

In particular the following aspects of North Somerset's character should be maintained and enhanced in addition to the heritage aspects identified through Policy CS5.

- [...] The historic rural settlements, particularly those in the Green Belt.*

Design priorities include [...], delivering high quality new communities that exhibit best practice in place-making, and consolidating the individual character of settlements across the district informed by site/settlement character appraisals.

More specific heritage policy is contained within the North Somerset Council Development Management Policies Sites and Policies Plan Part 1 (adopted July 2016). Relevant planning policies are reproduced below. [only those sections relevant to the historic environment, the Site and the proposed development are reproduced].

DM3: Conservation Areas

When considering proposals within a Conservation Area, the council will seek to:

- Secure the retention of the existing buildings, features, hard and soft landscape that contribute to its special character.*
- Ensure that new development will not cause harm to the existing character and appearance of the Conservation Area and wherever possible positively enhance it.*

-
- *Ensure that new development affecting the setting of a conservation area preserves those elements of its setting that make a positive contribution and, where possible, better reveals the significance of the conservation area.*
 - *[...] ensure that development conforms to published guidance as set out within Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans.*

When determining applications for new development the council will have regard to matters such as bulk, height, materials, colour, vertical or horizontal emphasis and design.

Where a Conservation Area contains buildings, features, structures or spaces which detract from its special character, development proposals will seek to mitigate these adverse impacts and enhance the character and appearance will be supported. Where appropriate, the council will consider the use of enforcement powers to secure enhancement and prevent further deterioration.

DM4: Listed Buildings

Development will be expected to preserve and where appropriate enhance the character, appearance and special interest of the Listed Building and its setting [...].

In some cases contributions may be sought towards enhancement of the setting of the Listed Building in order to mitigate other unavoidable harm caused.

[...] Applicants should provide the council with sufficient information to enable an assessment to be made of the impact of the proposals on the special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building and its setting. [...]

DM6: Archaeology

Archaeological interests will be full taken into account when determining planning applications.

Where an initial assessment indicates that the development site includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interests, the council will seek an archaeological assessment and field evaluation. This is to establish the extent and importance of the remains and the potential harm of the proposals to their significance before the planning application is determined. An initial field evaluation as opposed to a desk-based assessment will only be required where necessary.

It is nearly always preferable that archaeological remains are preserved 'in situ' as even archaeological excavation means the total destruction of evidence, apart from removable artefacts. In some cases, applicants will be required to modify their proposal to take account of the archaeological remains, for example by using foundations which avoid disturbing the remains or by the careful siting of landscaped or open areas.

In cases where the council decides that it is not necessary to preserve remains 'in situ' developers will be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains before development commences. Planning conditions will be attached to the grant of planning permission requiring an approved programme of archaeological work to be undertaken before development commences, which may include the submission of geotechnical information. Alternatively, legal agreements may be sought with developers, before permission is granted, to excavate and record the remains and to publish the results.

Where archaeological assets are considered to be at risk, the council will seek to secure their protection to prevent continued deterioration.

DM7: Non-designated heritage assets

When considering proposals involving non designated heritage assets the council will take into account their local significance and whether they warrant protection where possible from the removal or inappropriate change including harm to their setting.

Good Practice Advice 1-3

Historic England has issued three Good Practice Advice notes ('GPA1-3') which support the NPPF. The GPAs note that they do not constitute a statement of Government policy, nor do they seek to prescribe a single methodology: their purpose is to assist local authorities, planners, heritage consultants, and other stakeholders in the implementation of policy set out in the NPPF. This report has been produced in the context of this advice, particularly 'GPA2 – Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' and 'GPA3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets'.

GPA2 - Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment

GPA2 sets out the requirement for assessing 'heritage significance' as part of the application process. Paragraph 8 notes 'understanding the nature of the significance is important to understanding the need for and best means of conservation.' This includes assessing the extent and level of significance, including the contribution made by its 'setting' (see GPA3

below). GPA2 notes that ‘a desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment, or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so’ (Page 3).

GPA3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets

The NPPF (Annex 2: Glossary) defines the setting of a heritage asset as ‘the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced...’. Step 1 of the settings assessment requires heritage assets which may be affected by development to be identified. Historic England notes that for the purposes of Step 1 this process will comprise heritage assets ‘where that experience is capable of being affected by a proposed development (in any way)...’.

Step 2 of the settings process ‘assess[es] the degree to which these settings and views make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated’, with regard to its physical surrounds; relationship with its surroundings and patterns of use; experiential effects such as noises or smells; and the way views allow the significance of the asset to be appreciated. Step 3 requires ‘assessing the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the asset(s)’ – specifically to ‘assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on the significance or on the ability to appreciate it’, with regard to the location and siting of the development, its form and appearance, its permanence, and wider effects.

Step 4 of GPA3 provides commentary on ‘ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm’. It notes (Paragraph 37) that ‘Maximum advantage can be secured if any effects on the significance of a heritage asset arising from development liable to affect its setting are considered from the project’s inception.’ It goes on to note (Paragraph 39) that ‘good design may reduce or remove the harm, or provide enhancement’.

Heritage significance

Discussion of heritage significance within this assessment report makes reference to several key documents. With regard to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas it primarily discusses ‘architectural and historic interest’, which comprises the special interest for which they are designated.

The NPPF provides a definition of ‘significance’ for heritage policy (Annex 2). This states that heritage significance comprises ‘The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or

historic'. This also clarifies that for World Heritage Sites 'the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance'.

Regarding 'levels' of significance the NPPF (2019) provides a distinction between: designated heritage assets of the highest significance; designated heritage assets not of the highest significance; and non-designated heritage assets.

Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' expresses 'heritage significance' as comprising a combination of one or more of: evidential value; historical value; aesthetic value; and communal value:

- Evidential value – the elements of a historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including physical remains, historic fabric, documentary/pictorial records. This evidence can provide information on the origin of the asset, what it was used for, and how it changed over time.
- Historical value (illustrative) – how a historic asset may illustrate its past life, including changing uses of the asset over time.
- Historical value (associative) – how a historic asset may be associated with a notable family, person, event, or moment, including changing uses of the asset over time.
- Aesthetic value – the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a historic asset. This may include its form, external appearance, and its setting, and may change over time.
- Communal value – the meaning of a historic asset to the people who relate to it. This may be a collective experience, or a memory, and can be commemorative or symbolic to individuals or groups, such as memorable events, attitudes, and periods of history. This includes social values, which relates to the role of the historic asset as a place of social interactive, distinctiveness, coherence, economic, or spiritual / religious value.

Effects upon heritage assets

Heritage benefit

The NPPF clarifies that change in the setting of heritage assets may lead to heritage benefit. Paragraph 200 of the NPPF (2019) notes that 'Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably'.

GPA3 notes that ‘good design may reduce or remove the harm, or provide enhancement’ (Paragraph 28). Historic England’s ‘Conservation Principles’ states that ‘Change to a significant place is inevitable, if only as a result of the passage of time, but can be neutral or beneficial in its effects on heritage values. It is only harmful if (and to the extent that) significance is reduced’ (Paragraph 84).

Specific heritage benefits may be presented through activities such as repair or restoration, as set out in Conservation Principles.

Heritage harm to designated heritage assets

The NPPF (2019) does not define what constitutes ‘substantial harm’. The High Court of Justice does provide a definition of this level of harm, as set out by Mr Justice Jay in *Bedford Borough Council v SoS for CLG and Nuon UK Ltd*. Paragraph 25 clarifies that, with regard to ‘substantial harm’: ‘Plainly in the context of physical harm, this would apply in the case of demolition or destruction, being a case of total loss. It would also apply to a case of serious damage to the structure of the building. In the context of non-physical or indirect harm, the yardstick was effectively the same. One was looking for an impact which would have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced’.

Effects upon non-designated heritage assets

The NPPF (2019) paragraph 197 guides that ‘The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset’.

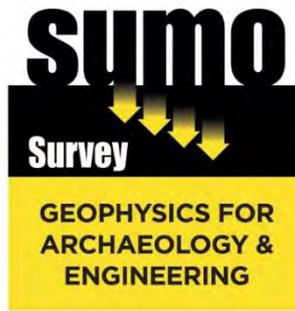
APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SELECTED RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS

Ref	Description	Grade	Period	HE ref. HER ref. HEA ref.
1	Findspot - A thumb scraper of grey flint	-	Neolithic	MNS240 194524
2	Field System	-	Iron Age	194561
3	Earthwork	-	Iron Age	MNS395
4	Dolebury Camp - a large univallate hillfort and associated and later earthworks	Scheduled Monument	Iron Age	NHLE 1008184
5	Findspot - Romano-British coarse pottery found at Church Farm	-	Romano-British	MNS241
6	Findspot - Three pots of Roman coins found about 1830.	-	Romano-British	194463
7	A small or minor Roman villa	Scheduled Monument	Romano-British	NHLE 1015499
8	Church	Grade I	Medieval	NHLE 1157891 NHLE 1129196
9	Deserted Medieval Village	-	Medieval	MNS384
10	Deserted Medieval Village	-	Medieval	MNS243
11	Trackway	-	Medieval	MNS720
12	Deer park	-	Medieval	MNS1655
13	Park Lodge	-	Medieval	MNS2656
14	Ridge and Furrow	-	Medieval	-
15	Plough Headland	-	Medieval	-
16	Churchill Court – Likely Site of medieval Manor House.	Grade II	Medieval – Post-medieval	NHLE 1320945 MNS840 MNS1235
17	Fishpond – Site of possible medieval fishpond	-	Medieval	MNS1656
18	Fishponds – Site of Two likely medieval fishponds	-	Medieval	
19	Findspot - A distinctly concentrated scatter of around 50 12th-14th century pottery sherds	-	Medieval	MNS1914
20	Feature - A wide, steep sided ditch, possibly a former holloway	-	Medieval	MNS1915

Ref	Description	Grade	Period	HE ref. HER ref. HEA ref.
21	Field Boundary	-	Medieval	MNS9075
22	Medieval Strip Lynchets	-	Medieval	MNS2145
23	Medieval Strip Lynchets	-	Medieval	MNS2146
24	Hollow way	-	Medieval/ Post-medieval	MNS9031
25	Limekiln	-	Medieval/ Post-medieval	MNS1106
26	Quarry	-	Post-medieval	MNS2148
27	Quarry	-	Post-medieval	MNS2147
28	Quarry	-	Post-medieval	1493986
29	Quarry	-	Post-medieval	MNS4754
30	Possible Lynchets	-	Iron Age/ medieval	MNS9104
31	Possible Hillfort	-	Iron Age	194536
32	Limekiln - Old limekiln 210m SSE of Lyncombe Lodge.	-	Post-medieval	MNS6703
33	Limekiln	-	Post-medieval	MNS6160
34	Limekiln – North-west of Churchill Quarry	-	Post-medieval	MNS937
35	Limekiln – North of Knowle Wood	-	Post-medieval	
36	Quarry	-	Post-medieval	MNS2194
37	Oxhouse	-	Post-medieval	MNS4750
38	Old Farmhouse	Former MOPBW Grade III	Post-medieval	MNS3430
39	Gatepiers and Gate south-east of Churchill Court	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1157915
40	Site of Windmill	-	Medieval/ Post-medieval	MNS402 MNS396
41	The Cottage	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1311756
42	April Cottage	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1129234

Ref	Description	Grade	Period	HE ref. HER ref. HEA ref.
43	Lower Court Farm	-	Post-medieval	MNS6159
44	Daniel's Farm	-	Post-medieval	MNS6708
45	Churchill Green Farm	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1391032
46	Ash Green	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1320946
47	Mountain Ash Cottage	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1157936
48	Boundary Stone	-	Post-medieval	MNS5290
49	Dinghurst Farmhouse	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1129197
50	Clockhouse	Grade II	Post-medieval	NHLE 1157918
51	Site of Watermill	-	Post-medieval	MNS1553
52	Sidney Hill Cottage Homes and attached Gatepiers, Walls and Gates - Wesleyan Almshouses.	Grade II	Modern	NHLE 1129199 NHLE 1157960
53	Matron's House - Matron's House to Almshouses. 1907	Grade II	Modern	NHLE 1320947 NHLE 1129230
54	Clock Tower - Clock Tower, Walls and Railings. Dated 1897 (on inscription), restored 1977	Grade II	Modern	NHLE 1129198
55	Methodist Church	Grade II	Modern	NHLE 1157925
56	Daniel's Field – Site of WWI tented Army Camp.	-	Modern	MNS4484
57	WWII Spigot mortar, dugout and trench	-	Modern	MNS3939
58	Telephone kiosk - Type K6. Designed 1935	Grade II	Modern	NHLE 11292230

APPENDIX 3: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Land off Front Street, Churchill, Somerset

Client

Cotswold Archaeology

Survey Report

17693

Date

October 2020



Survey Report 17693: Land off Front Street, Churchill, Somerset

Survey dates	28 September 2020
Field co-ordinator	Jay Griffiths BA
Field Team	Oliver Thomas Simon Haddrell BEng AMBCS PCIfA
Report Date	14 October 2020
CAD Illustrations	Thomas Cockcroft MSc
Report Author	Thomas Cockcroft MSc
Project Manager	Rebecca Davies BSc
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3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 3.1 A magnetometer survey of 4.5 ha of land off Front Street, Churchill has detected no anomalies that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Several weak linear trends and a weak sub-circular enclosure are present in the dataset and are likely to be due to modern or natural processes. However, an archaeological origin should not be entirely dismissed for the sub-circular enclosure. Evidence of modern ploughing is visible in the magnetic data and linear chains of dipolar responses in Area 1 mark the locations of temporary electric fences. There is a pipe leading to a water trough also in the north-west of Area 1.

4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **Cotswold Archaeology**.

4.2 Site details

NGR / Postcode	ST 438 601 / BS25 5QW
Location	The site is located 11.5km east of Weston-Super-Mare and 6km north of Cheddar. The survey area is bounded to the west by Church Lane and to the south by Churchill Green and Front Street.
HER	Somerset County Council
District	Axbridge
Parish	Churchill Civil Parish
Topography	Generally flat
Current Land Use	Horse pasture / arable farmland
Geology (BGS 2020)	Bedrock: Mercia Mudstone Group - mudstone and halite-stone Superficial: Head - clay, silt, sand and gravel
Soils (CU 2020)	Soilscape 8: slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.
Archaeology (KYP 2020)	A search of "know your place" has revealed no archaeological assets within the survey area. 175m north-east of the site is a circular earthwork that was identified by aerial photography and is suspected to date to the Iron Age (MNS395). To the west across church Lane is Churchill church and manor house. It has been suggested that the earthworks in a field north of the church could be the remanence of a deserted medieval village.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	4.5 ha

4.3 Aims and Objectives

To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

5 RESULTS

The survey has been divided into three survey areas (Areas 1-3).

5.1 **Probable / Possible Archaeology**

5.1.1 No magnetic responses have been recorded that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest.

5.2 **Uncertain**

5.2.1 A weak and ill-defined sub-circular enclosure has been recorded in Area 1 and has been categorised as *Uncertain*. It simply may be a combination of natural or agricultural effects; however, an archaeological origin cannot be entirely dismissed. Several other magnetically weak linear trends have been detected in Areas 1 and 2 which form no obvious pattern and lack context. These are likely to be due to modern agricultural or natural processes, therefore they also have been interpreted as *Uncertain*.

5.3 **Agricultural – Ploughing**

5.3.1 Numerous closely spaced, parallel and magnetically weak linear anomalies have been detected in Areas 1 and 2; these are evidence of relatively modern ploughing.

5.4 **Natural / Geological / Pedological / Topographic**

5.4.1 Two bands of increased response that have a weak magnetic signature have been recorded in Areas 1 and 2. These broad anomalies are most likely due to natural processes, perhaps relating to pedological variations.

5.5 **Electric Fence**

5.5.1 Three weak linear chains of dipolar anomalies have been recorded in Area 1 and are due to the presence of temporary electric fences which divide the area into horse paddocks.

5.6 **Service Pipe**

5.6.1 A line of dipolar responses and a large ferrous response in the north-west of Area 1 mark the route of a water pipe that connects to a water trough.

5.7 **Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance**

5.7.1 Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

6 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

6.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is poor. The results from this survey indicate the presence of linear trends and geological responses; as a consequence, there is no *a priori* reason why archaeological features would not have been detected.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The magnetometer survey has detected no anomalies that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. A faint sub-circular enclosure has been recorded in the dataset in Area 1 and could have archaeological potential; however, it may be a result of natural or modern agricultural processes. Several other weak linear trends are present, and they are also likely to be the result of modern or natural processes. Modern ploughing is visible in the dataset in Areas 1 and 2. Two weak bands of increased responses have been assigned to the category of natural. Chains of linear dipolar responses in Area 1 are due to electric fences and a pipe leading to a water trough.

8 REFERENCES

- BGS 2020 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer [accessed 14/10/2020] *website:* (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps>)
- ClfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. Amended 2016. ClfA Guidance note. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
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- EAC 2016 *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology*, European Archaeological Council, Guidelines 2.
- EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*. English Heritage, Swindon
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/geophysical-survey-in-archaeological-field-evaluation/geophysics-guidelines.pdf/>
- KYP 2020 *Know Your Place: West of England* [accessed 14/10/2020] *website:* (<http://www.kypwest.org.uk/>)

Standards & Guidance

This report and all fieldwork have been conducted in accordance with the latest guidance documents issued by Historic England (EH 2008) (then English Heritage), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the European Archaeological Council (EAC 2016).

Grid Positioning

For hand held gradiometers the location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Trimble R8 Real Time Kinematic (RTK) VRS Now GNSS GPS system.

An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference, resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station re-broadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. This results in an accuracy of around 0.01m.

Technique	Instrument	Traverse Interval	Sample Interval
Magnetometer	Bartington Grad 601-2	1m	0.25m

Instrumentation: **Bartington Grad 601-2**

Bartington instruments operate in a gradiometer configuration which comprises fluxgate sensors mounted vertically, set 1.0m apart. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. The instruments are carried, or cart mounted, with the bottom sensor approximately 0.1-0.3m from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is measured in nanoTesla (nT). The sensitivity of the instrument can be adjusted; for most archaeological surveys the most sensitive range (0.1nT) is used. Generally, features up to 1m deep may be detected by this method, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths. The Bartington instrument can collect two lines of data per traverse with gradiometer units mounted laterally with a separation of 1.0m. The readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily down-loaded into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of each site survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

Data Processing

Zero Mean	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero.
Traverse	The operation removes striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

Display

Greyscale/ Colourscale Plot	This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. Each class is represented by a specific shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. All values above the given range are allocated the same shade (maximum intensity); similarly, all values below the given range are represented by the minimum intensity shade. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. The assigned range (plotting levels) can be adjusted to emphasise different anomalies in the data-set.
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Presentation of results and interpretation

The presentation of the results includes a 'minimally processed data' and a 'processed data' greyscale plot. Magnetic anomalies are identified, interpreted and plotted onto the 'Interpretation' drawings.

When interpreting the results, several factors are taken into consideration, including the nature of archaeological features being investigated and the local conditions at the site (geology, pedology, topography etc.). Anomalies are categorised by their potential origin. Where responses can be related to other existing evidence, the anomalies will be given specific categories, such as: Abbey Wall or Roman Road. Where the interpretation is based largely on the geophysical data, levels of confidence are implied, for example: Probable, or Possible Archaeology. The former is used for a confident interpretation, based on anomaly definition and/or other corroborative data such as cropmarks. Poor anomaly definition, a lack of clear patterns to the responses and an absence of other supporting data reduces confidence, hence the classification Possible.

Interpretation Categories

In certain circumstances (usually when there is corroborative evidence from desk-based or excavation data) very specific interpretations can be assigned to magnetic anomalies (for example, *Roman Road, Wall, etc.*) and where appropriate, such interpretations will be applied. The list below outlines the generic categories commonly used in the interpretation of the results.

<i>Archaeology / Probable Archaeology</i>	This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the responses are clearly or very probably archaeological and /or if corroborative evidence is available. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age.
<i>Possible Archaeology</i>	These anomalies exhibit either weak signal strength and / or poor definition, or form incomplete archaeological patterns, thereby reducing the level of confidence in the interpretation. Although the archaeological interpretation is favoured, they may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.
<i>Industrial / Burnt-Fired</i>	Strong magnetic anomalies that, due to their shape and form or the context in which they are found, suggest the presence of kilns, ovens, corn dryers, metal-working areas or hearths. It should be noted that in many instances modern ferrous material can produce similar magnetic anomalies.
<i>Former Field Boundary (probable & possible)</i>	Anomalies that correspond to former boundaries indicated on historic mapping, or which are clearly a continuation of existing land divisions. Possible denotes less confidence where the anomaly may not be shown on historic mapping but nevertheless the anomaly displays all the characteristics of a field boundary.
<i>Ridge & Furrow</i>	Parallel linear anomalies whose broad spacing suggests ridge and furrow cultivation. In some cases, the response may be the result of more recent agricultural activity.
<i>Agriculture (ploughing)</i>	Parallel linear anomalies or trends with a narrower spacing, sometimes aligned with existing boundaries, indicating more recent cultivation regimes.
<i>Land Drain</i>	Weakly magnetic linear anomalies, quite often appearing in series forming parallel and herringbone patterns. Smaller drains may lead and empty into larger diameter pipes, which in turn usually lead to local streams and ponds. These are indicative of clay fired land drains.
<i>Natural</i>	These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions.
<i>Magnetic Disturbance</i>	Broad zones of strong dipolar anomalies, commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials (e.g. brick rubble) are present.
<i>Service</i>	Magnetically strong anomalies, usually forming linear features are indicative of ferrous pipes/cables. Sometimes other materials (e.g. pvc) or the fill of the trench can cause weaker magnetic responses which can be identified from their uniform linearity.
<i>Ferrous</i>	This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil, larger buried objects such as pipes, or above ground features such as fence lines or pylons. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.
<i>Uncertain Origin</i>	Anomalies which stand out from the background magnetic variation, yet whose form and lack of patterning gives little clue as to their origin. Often the characteristics and distribution of the responses straddle the categories of <i>Possible Archaeology / Natural</i> or (in the case of linear responses) <i>Possible Archaeology / Agriculture</i> ; occasionally they are simply of an unusual form.

Where appropriate some anomalies will be further classified according to their form (positive or negative) and relative strength and coherence (trend: weak and poorly defined).

Appendix B - Technical Information: Magnetic Theory

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock. Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.1 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000 (nT), can be accurately detected.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

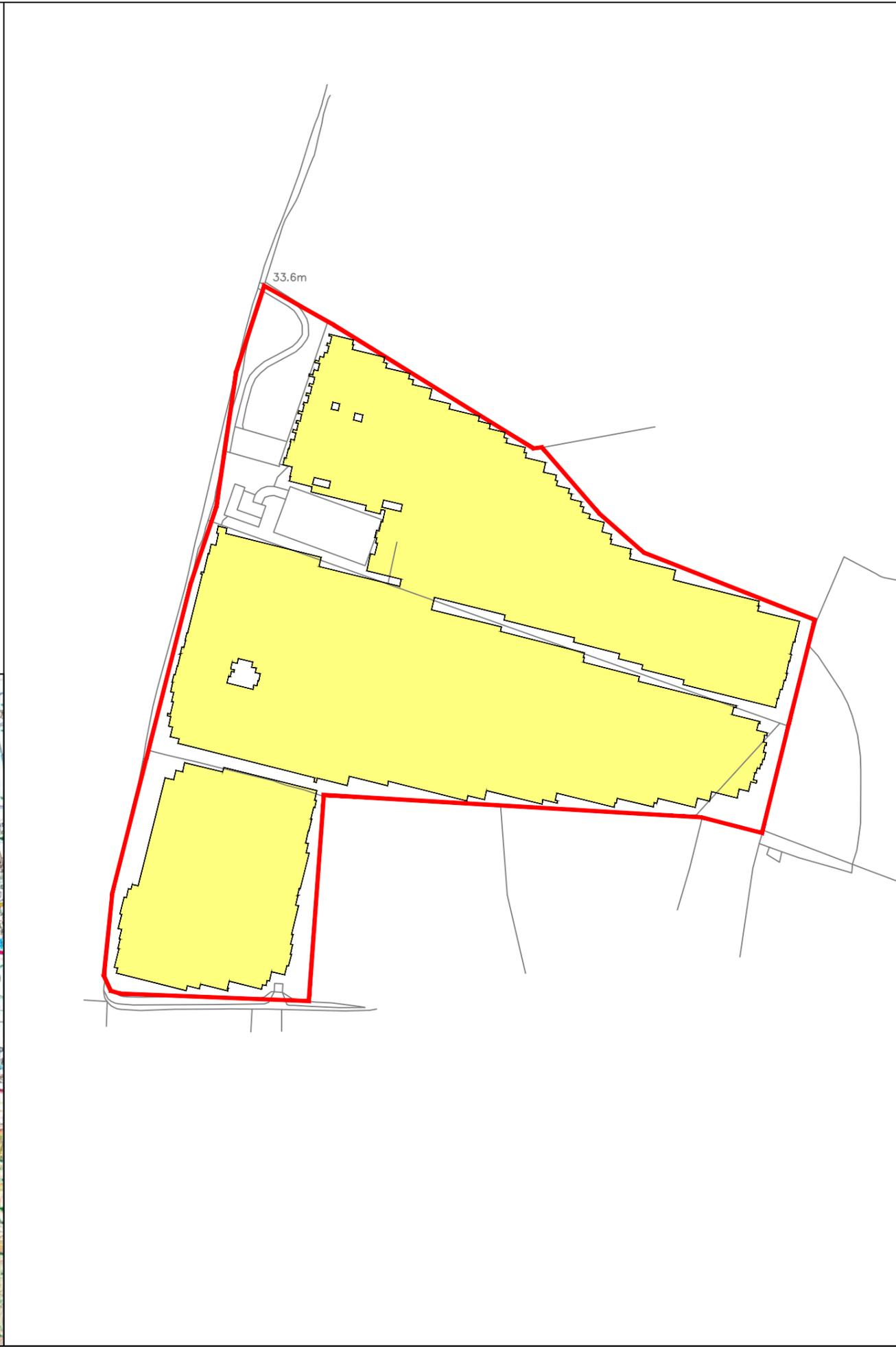
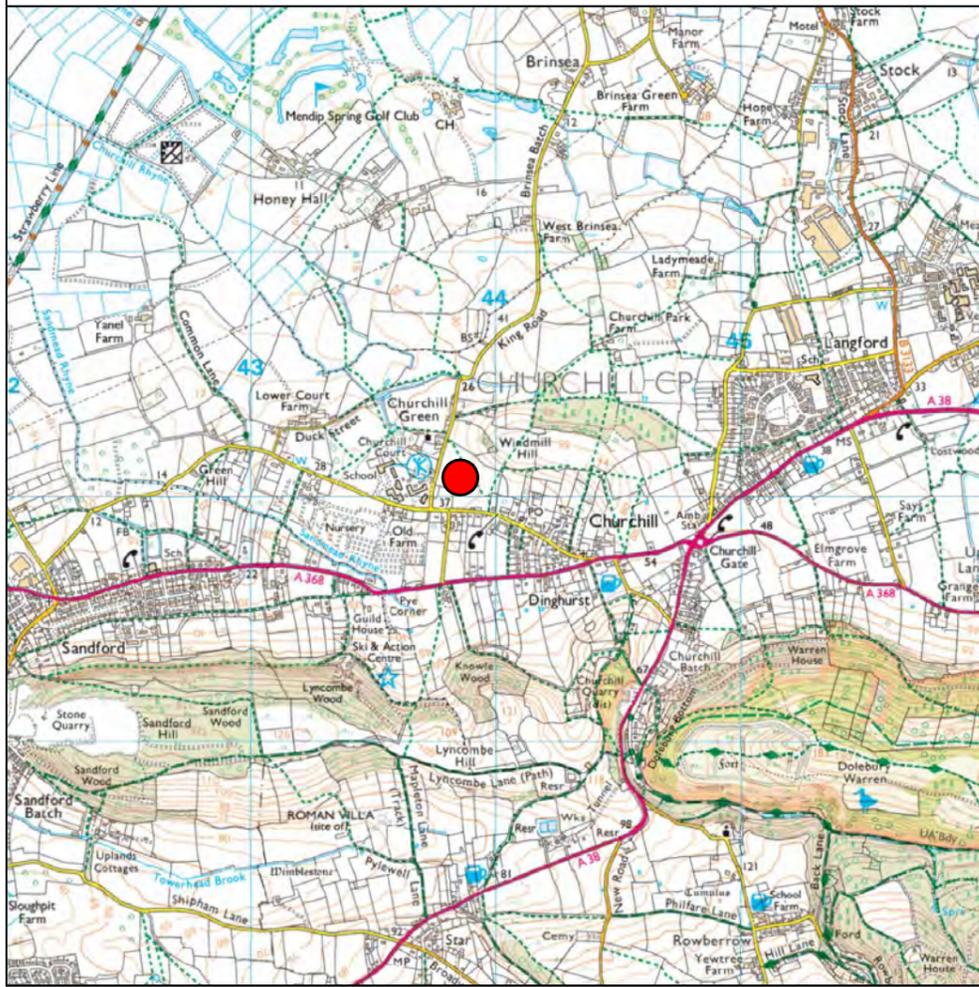
Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns; material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried feature. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by this feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity and disturbance from modern services.

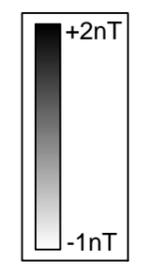


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	Site Location	
	Survey Areas	



Title:		Site Location
Client:		Cotswold Archaeology
Project:		17693 - Land off Front Street, Churchill, Somerset
Scale:	NOT TO SCALE	Fig No: 01



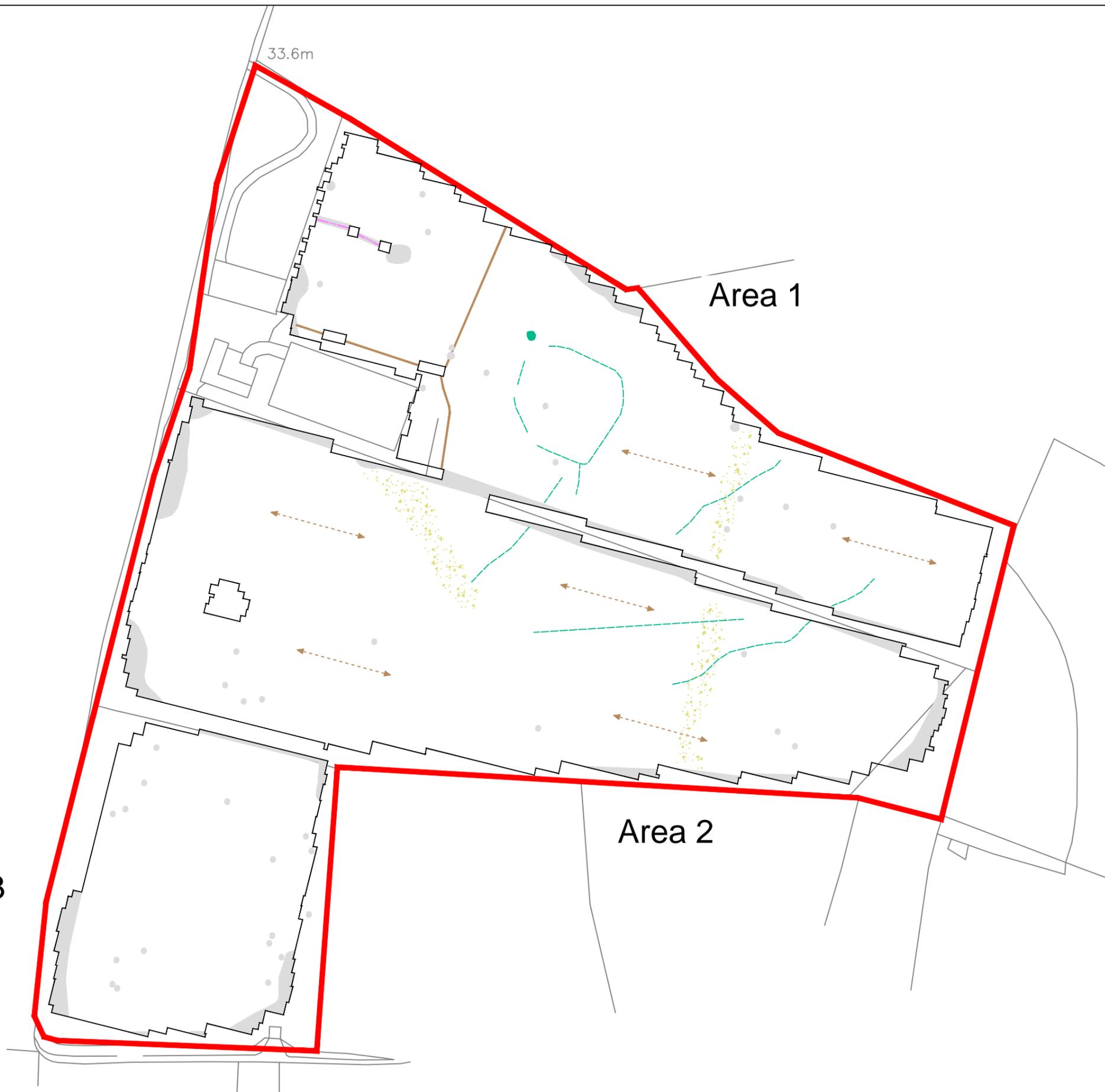
Title: Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plots

Client: Cotswold Archaeology

Project: 17693 - Land off Front Street, Churchill, Somerset



Fig No: 02



KEY

	Uncertain Origin (discrete anomaly / trend)
	Electric Fence
	Ploughing
	Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)
	Service
	Ferrous



Title: Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation

Client: Cotswold Archaeology

Project: 17693 - Land off Front Street, Churchill, Somerset

Scale: 0 metres 62.5
1:1250 @ A3

Fig No: 03



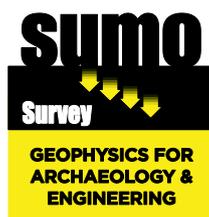
Title:
Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plots

Client:
Cotswold Archaeology

Project:
17693 - Land off Front Street, Churchill,
Somerset

Scale: 0 metres 62.5
1:1250 @ A3

Fig No:
04



- Archaeological
- Geophysical
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Building
- Topographic
- Utility Mapping

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