



**Symmetry Park
Gloucester West**

**Archaeology
Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental
Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Tritax Symmetry

October 2020
Report Reference
edp5060_r006b

Contents

Non-technical Summary

Section 1	Introduction.....	1
Section 2	Planning Guidance	3
Section 3	Methodology.....	9
Section 4	Existing Information.....	11
Section 5	Conclusions.....	23
Section 6	Bibliography	25

Plans

Plan EDP 1	Designated Heritage Assets (edp5060_d015a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
Plan EDP 2	Non-designated Heritage Assets (edp5060_d016a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
Plan EDP 3	Archaeological Event and Historic Landscape Characteristics (edp5060_d017a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
Plan EDP 4	Military Features, National Mapping Programme Data and Ridge and Furrow Records (edp5060_d018a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
Plan EDP 5	Historic Mapping 1885 (edp5060_d039 15 October 2020 EJ/JV)
Plan EDP 6	Historic Mapping 1954 (edp5060_d040 15 October 2020 EJ/JV)

This version is intended for electronic viewing only

	Report Ref: edp5060_r006			
	Author	Formatted	Peer Review	Proofed by/Date
006_DRAFT				-
006a				011020
006b			-	-

Non-technical Summary

- S1 This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Limited (EDP) on behalf of Tritax Symmetry, in order to inform the site development proposals for local plan consultation of land at Symmetry Park Gloucester West.
- S2 This report sets out the potential for the site to contain archaeological deposits and the significance of these, based on the consultation of the existing archaeological record. Any effects on significance, with regard to the setting of both designated and non-designated heritage assets, are addressed in a separate report (edp5060_r008a).
- S3 The site does not contain any designated heritage assets. The Historic Environment Record has provided data indicating that there are five records within the site (four relate to generic records for the wider parish and the fifth identifies a foot and mouth pit) and that it sits within a much larger area identified by the HER as the former RAF Haresfield. There are also records relating to three previous archaeological events within the site, undertaken in advance of the construction of the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility. Data regarding archaeological sites and features up to 1km from the site boundary were also reviewed to provide context, which comprised a further 186 records.
- S4 The assessment has identified that the potential to encounter finds or features from all periods, with the exception of the early 20th century, is low. This is on the basis of the evidence provided by the recent archaeological work undertaken for the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility, including part of the current site, which found no evidence for the survival of archaeological deposits, presumably due to the truncation of the site for the construction of the airfield.
- S5 However, the potential to encounter features relating to the airfield is considered very high and remnants of the former runways are visible on the ground, as are the remains of the perimeter circuit.
- S6 Based on the data referenced to inform this report, there is currently no evidence to suggest that the site would contain any archaeological deposits of such significance that they might constrain the development of the site in the form proposed. Further surveys may be useful to establish if, and to what extent, the features relating to the airfield do survive and the levels of truncation as a result of its construction. However, the content of this report is considered sufficient to support the promotion of the site through the local plan process.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Tritax Symmetry and presents the results of an archaeological assessment of land at Symmetry Park, Gloucester West ('the site').
- 1.2 It has been prepared to inform the site development proposals for local plan consultation. The proposed development comprises warehousing and associated infrastructure. The site comprises an L-shaped field to the immediate east of the M5 measuring c.26.99 hectares (ha), the extent of which is shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.3 The aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources to establish its likely archaeological potential in accordance with the requirements of national and local planning policy. A separate Heritage Assessment considers the potential for effects on the significance of both designated and non-designated heritage assets as a result of changes within their setting (edp5060_r008a).
- 1.4 In accordance with professional best practice, a thorough review of the available desktop sources has been augmented through the completion of walkover surveys, which were undertaken in 2019 and June 2020.

Location, Boundaries and Topography

- 1.5 The site comprises a single field in agricultural use and is located c.1.3km to the south of the southern suburbs of Gloucester, and c.1km to the west of the main settlement area of the village of Haresfield. The M5 bounds the site to the west and Junction 12 is located c.200m to the north of the site boundary.
- 1.6 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 379792 210154 (**Plan EDP 1**). The site is relatively flat at c.23m aOD above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.7 The boundaries of the site are defined by the M5 to the west, with which the site is predominantly open, Junction 12 and a garden centre to the north. To the east, the site is bounded by the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility and the B4008/Gloucester Road and its roadside verges and hedges. The southern boundary is formed by a 20th century fence line.
- 1.8 The majority of the site is an agricultural field. However, in the area where the site adjoins Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility this was recently used as a construction compound for the park. A length of tarmac adjacent to the western boundary is the remains of the former RAF perimeter road, which has piles of waste material along its length.

Geology

- 1.9 With regard to the underlying solid geology of the site it is located on mudstones and sedimentary bedrock of the Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, deposited approximately 183–210 million years ago (www.bgs.ac.uk).

Section 2 Planning Guidance

- 2.1 This section sets out existing legislation and planning policy, governing the conservation and management of the historic environment, of relevance to a proposed application on the site.

Current Legislation

- 2.2 The *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)* addresses the designation and management of scheduled monuments.
- 2.3 Designation of archaeological and historic sites as scheduled monuments applies only to those which are deemed to be of national importance, and is generally adopted only if it represents the best means of protection. The contents of the Act do not confer any protection on the ‘setting’ of scheduled monuments, just their physical remains. However, the setting of scheduled monuments is addressed within Paragraph 194 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy

- 2.4 The revised *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* was published in 2019; Section 16 sets out the government’s approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment through the planning process.
- 2.5 The opening paragraph (Paragraph 184) recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
- 2.6 Paragraph 189 concerns planning applications, stating 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. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”

- 2.7 Paragraph 193 considers the weighting given within the planning decision with regard to impacts on designated heritage assets, stating 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.”

- 2.8 Paragraph 194 considers the level of harmful effects on designated heritage assets and states that:

“Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;*
- b) 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.”*

- 2.9 With regard to the decision-making process, Paragraphs 195 and 196 are of relevance. Paragraph 195 states that:

“Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;*
- b) No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;*
- c) Conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.”*

- 2.10 Paragraph 196 states 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.”

- 2.11 The threshold between substantial and less than substantial harm has been clarified in the Courts. Paragraphs 24 and 25 of *Bedford BC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2013] EWHC 2847 are of relevance here, in the way they outline the assessment of ‘harm’ for heritage assets:

“What the inspector was saying was that for harm to be substantial, the impact on significance was required to be serious such that very much, if not all, of the significance was drained away.

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 [i.e. destroyed] or very much reduced.”

2.12 In other words, for the ‘harm’ to be ‘substantial’, and therefore require consideration against the more stringent requirements of Paragraph 195 of the NPPF compared with Paragraph 196, the proposal would need to result in the asset’s significance either being *“vitiating altogether or very much reduced.”*

2.13 Paragraph 196 refers to non-designated heritage assets, identifying 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 directly or indirectly effect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.”

Local Planning Policy –Stroud District Council

2.14 The Stroud District Local Plan was adopted in November 2015 for the period up to 2031. Delivery Policy ES10 (Valuing our historic environment and assets) sets out the district’s approach to archaeology and heritage matters and states:

“Stroud District’s historic environment will be preserved, protected or enhanced, in accordance with the principles set out below:

1. *Any proposals involving a historic asset shall require a description of the heritage asset significance including any contribution made by its setting, and an assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on that significance, using appropriate expertise. This can be a desk based assessment and a field evaluation prior to determination where necessary and should include the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.*
2. *Proposals and initiatives will be supported which conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the heritage significance and setting of the Districts heritage assets, especially those elements which contribute to the distinct identity of the District.*

These include:

- A. *the 68 sites of national archaeological importance (which are designated as Ancient Monuments), any undesignated archaeology of national significance, and*

the many buildings that are Listed as having special architectural or historic interest

- B. the stone, bronze, iron age and roman settlements and remains; the medieval settlements including Berkeley Castle; historic houses; historic parks; gardens and villages*
 - C. the townscapes of the larger towns such as Stroud where the industrial heritage influenced its historic grain, including its street layouts and plot sizes*
 - D. the District's historic market towns and villages, many with designated conservation areas, such as Berkeley, Wotton Under Edge, Minchinhampton, Painswick and Dursley.*
- 3. Proposals will be supported which protect and, where appropriate, enhance the heritage significance and setting of locally identified heritage assets, such as buildings of local architectural or historic interest, locally important archaeological sites and parks and gardens of local interest.*
 - 4. Proposals will be supported which protect and, where appropriate, enhance key views and vistas, especially of the spires and towers of historic churches and mills.*
 - 5. Any harm or loss would require clear and convincing justification to the relevant decision-maker as to why the heritage interest should be overridden. A full programme of work shall be submitted with the application, together with proposals to mitigate any adverse impact of the proposed development, and where appropriate, be implemented through measures secured by planning condition(s) or through a legal agreement."*

2.15 In the qualifying text that accompanies the above policy within the local plan, the district's heritage assets are identified as including:

- i conservation areas; listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments;*
- ii the character of the historic cores of the market towns and villages;*
- iii landscape features, including ancient woodlands and veteran trees; field patterns; watercourses; drainage ditches and hedgerows of visual, historic or nature conservation value;*
- iv archaeological remains; and*
- v historic parks and gardens.*

A Heritage Statement will be required for development proposals which will have a potential impact on any of the assets listed in (i)- (v) or for any major development proposal.

Development proposals that involve any harm to or loss of a heritage asset would require clear and convincing justification, in accordance with the NPPF. A development proposal will not be permitted where substantial harm to an existing or potential heritage asset is likely to occur, unless there are substantial public benefits.”

- 2.16 Stroud District Council has also produced a Supplementary Planning Advice (SPA) document relating to archaeology and heritage matters entitled ‘A *Heritage Strategy for Stroud District. Valuing our Historic Environment and Assets*’ dated February 2018. The purpose of this document is to:

“...set informed priorities for the conservation, management and monitoring of the District’s heritage assets, including the effective and efficient discharge of the Council’s statutory duties and obligations.”

- 2.17 The second part of the strategy was to be an Action Plan; however, this is still at the consultation stage.
- 2.18 The plans and policies listed above have all been considered in the preparation of this assessment.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Section 3

Methodology

- 3.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2017). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 3.2 At the time of writing, due to Covid-19, visits to the Historic England Archive to observe, among other data, historic aerial photographs have not been possible. Depending on the timescale of a future planning application it may be possible to access the archive at a later date.
- 3.3 At this stage, to inform the masterplanning of the site, a visit to the Gloucestershire Archive has not been undertaken. However, should the site progress then a visit will be made to access any further information that may be of relevance to the site.
- 3.4 In light of the above, the assessment involved consultation of readily available on-line archaeological and historical information comprising:
- Records of known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots, within the vicinity of the site, maintained by the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - Maps and documents available on-line;
 - The Know Your Place website for Gloucestershire;
 - *The National Heritage List for England* curated by Historic England; and
 - Records made during site visits in 2019 and June 2020.
- 3.5 This report provides a synthesis of the available and relevant information for the site and thereafter concludes with an assessment of its likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Section 4 Existing Information

Introduction

- 4.1 The Symmetry Park Gloucester West site contains no designated heritage assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks, gardens or registered battlefields where there would be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ*.
- 4.2 The site is not immediately adjacent to any designated heritage assets. The closest is The Mount scheduled monument, which is located c.950m to the east. In close proximity to this, is the Grade II* listed Church of St Peter and the monuments within its graveyard, of which four groups of monuments are listed at Grade II* and a further eight groups at Grade II, totalling 50 listed monuments.
- 4.3 Within the 1km study area identified for this assessment there are a further 19 listed buildings, all of which are listed at Grade II (**Plan EDP1**).
- 4.4 The potential for setting effects, whereby the significance of any designated or non-designated heritage in the site's wider zone of influence (i.e. beyond the site boundary) may be affected by the development, is addressed in a separate report (edp5060_r008a).
- 4.5 Within the Symmetry Park, Gloucester West site, there are five recorded non-designated heritage assets, as identified by the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record, and the site sits within a much larger area identified by the HER as the former RAF Haresfield site. There are three previous events within the site relating to works undertaken in advance of the construction of Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility (**Plans EDP 2 and 3**). These are described in detail below. The HER has also provided information regarding the National Mapping Programme (NMP) which is the digitisation of archaeological features from aerial photography (**Plan EDP 4**).
- 4.6 Data relating to non-designated heritage assets within 1km of the site boundary has also been assessed to provide further information regarding the archaeological potential of the site. Within this area, 186 records were identified by the HER which included references to interventions, designated heritage assets duplicated from the National Heritage list and duplicated information from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (**Plans EDP 2 and 3**). These are discussed, where relevant to the archaeological background and potential of the site, below. As such, not all records provided by the HER within the search area are discussed or identified on the plans.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.7 As set out above The Mount scheduled monument (**SM1020655; HER 388**) is located c.950m to the east of the site boundary and comprises a square moat enclosing an island, c.1m high and measuring c.50m by 48m, bounded by a slight ditch and bank.

- 4.8 The Mount is variously described within the HER as the former site of a Manor House and/or a castle, although the exact date of the monument is unknown but is likely to be medieval in origin.
- 4.9 In 2013, works commissioned by Historic England to repair and restore damage caused by badgers and works to dredge the moat, were subject to an archaeological watching brief (**HER 47227**). This work identified no archaeological finds or features although residual medieval finds were present. There is no evidence to suggest that any features associated within this monument extend towards, or into, the site.
- 4.10 The Grade II * Church of St Peter (**LB1090521**) is located c.950m to the east of the site with the boundary of its historic churchyard (there is also a modern extension) c.350m to the east. The church dates to the 12th century and has always been defined by its church yard, within which its many listed and unlisted tombs and graves are located.
- 4.11 Given the distance of both these highly graded designated assets from the site, there is no potential for archaeological deposits associated with them to extend into the site.
- 4.12 Within c.1km of the site boundary there is one scheduled monument, 16 Grade II* listed buildings and a further 54 listed at Grade II (inc. churchyard monuments), which, as they are designated on their architectural merit, are unlikely to influence the potential for archaeological deposits within the site. Where relevant, these are discussed further below in the period-specific sections.
- 4.13 As set out above, the designated heritage assets in the site's wider zone of influence, as defined by a ZTV, are assessed in more detail in the Heritage Assessment (edp5060_r008a). This will identify their significance in greater detail and whether, and to what extent, the site forms any part of their setting such that changes within it may affect their significance.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Palaeolithic – Iron Age (c.500,000 BC–AD 43)

- 4.14 There are no known prehistoric finds or features within the site boundary. Approximately 500m to the north-east the Gloucestershire HER records a small circular feature identified from aerial photographs (**HER 4149**). A geophysical survey in 2016 (**HER 4149**) in the same field detected probable prehistoric ditches in the south-eastern part of the site, which comprised an almost entire circular enclosure ditch, with further ditches (some possibly defining the boundaries of a partially recorded enclosure) extending northwards.
- 4.15 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the same site as part of the proposed St Modwen Park Gloucester development. A total of twenty-three trenches were excavated. A ring ditch was identified in the south-eastern corner of the site, interpreted as the remains of a possible Bronze Age round barrow, although it may have been constructed, or at least

re-used, in the medieval period. The majority of features identified within the trenches were medieval in date and are discussed in the relevant section below.

- 4.16 More recently (2019) an archaeological excavation (**HER 51151**) was undertaken on the St Modwen Park Gloucester site. The post-excavation assessment has preliminarily identified that the earliest remains comprised two flints, both residual and within later deposits. One was only broadly dateable as prehistoric, whilst the other was identified as a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic blade. A small undated ring-ditch was also recorded, which may date to the Early to Middle Bronze Age period, although the dating was uncertain.

Hunts Grove, Multi-period Site

- 4.17 To the north of the site and the M5 corridor, a large area of the former RAF Quedgeley known as Hunts Grove has recently been the subject of considerable archaeological work prior to its redevelopment, the southern edge of which is c.350m to the north of the site boundary. Those phases of work within the study area are discussed below.
- 4.18 An initial desk-based assessment in 1993 (**HER 33391**), which was subsequently updated in 1999, 2001 and 2002 (all **HER 20712**), identified the potential for both Romano British and medieval settlement, including a Romano-British cemetery, at least two Romano-British settlement sites and a large undated cropmark complex. Haresfield Lane and Shorn Brook, are documented medieval features.
- 4.19 To inform the desk-based assessments a geophysical survey (**HER 33393**) was undertaken in 2002 targeting 13 areas, which recorded widespread ridge and furrow cultivation, but also a wide range of archaeological features including a possible settlement enclosure, hearths and kilns.
- 4.20 Further geophysical survey was undertaken in 2005 (**HER 27957**) covering 40ha. Again, large areas of ridge and furrow were recorded but also a number of rectilinear enclosures and the edge of a substantial settlement area.
- 4.21 During 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken covering 97ha (**HER 33396**). A Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British double-ditched enclosure, forming part of a farmstead, was recorded amid undated field systems comprising ditches, gullies, pits and postholes to the east of the site. An Iron Age burial and an undated cremation were also recorded. Finds included Mid-Late Iron Age pottery, Roman pottery, a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British parallelepiped die worked from a piece of bone from a large animal, possibly cattle, and an iron awl.
- 4.22 In 2010 an archaeological excavation (**HER 42729/20712**) on the Hunts Grove site, of 10 areas, targeting the lines of proposed haul roads and associated works, recorded a series of ditches, interpreted as part of a field system of possible Roman date. This was associated with the potential settlement area indicated by preceding evaluation.
- 4.23 Further geophysical survey was undertaken in 2012 (**HER 43925/20712**) which identified three distinct areas of complex archaeological activity, indicative of significant historic settlement activity on the site. The survey also noted that the edges of these areas of

increased activity appeared to taper away rather than have a distinct edge. This would suggest that further archaeological activity may be present, possibly obscured by greater depths of topsoil or wash down. Former ridge and furrow cultivation was also evident across much of the survey area.

- 4.24 Following on from a phase of geophysical survey (**HER 33393**) a further trial trench evaluation was undertaken in 2012 (**HER 20712**). Sixty nine trenches were excavated, confirming three distinct areas of archaeological activity comprising a series of prehistoric and early Roman enclosures in the south-west (Area 1) and north-west (Area 2) with a series of regular, later Roman enclosures formed either side of a broadly contemporary trackway within the north-eastern part of the evaluated area (Area 3). The area in closest proximity to the site was Area 1 and here a series of Middle Iron Age enclosures were recorded, which continued in use into the later Roman period.
- 4.25 A watching brief in 2014 was undertaken on the Hunts Grove site during geotechnical test pitting (**HER 51144**); no archaeological features were recorded.

New Moreton Farm, Standish, Multi-period Site

- 4.26 Numerous phases of archaeological work have been undertaken c.900m to the south of the site boundary, at New Moreton Farm to the north of Standish. In 2000, a series of geophysical surveys were undertaken (**HER 33350/20999**) identifying cropmarks of possible prehistoric date. This was followed in 2001 by fieldwalking and metal detecting (**HER 33347**), which recorded finds via the portable antiquities scheme ranging in date from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. The Iron Age finds comprised pottery and a socketed axe-head.
- 4.27 An evaluation in 2003 found no evidence for archaeological activity other than possible Roman pottery (**HER 33349**). A further geophysical survey was undertaken in 2004 (**HER 33350/20999**). The results indicated numerous small ditched enclosures/paddocks/fields, several round houses and numerous pit-like responses including some evidence for burnt/fired features of possible prehistoric and/or Romano-British date.
- 4.28 The site was then subject to a Time Team investigation (**HER 27610**) in 2004, which was subsequently reported upon by Wessex Archaeology. Time Team's evaluation consisted of six trenches and a geophysical survey, which covered c.4.95 hectares. The results revealed a series of curvilinear ditch-type anomalies, which were interpreted as Iron Age settlement with small enclosures, paddocks and gardens and at least three roundhouses and a possible Roman building.

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

- 4.29 There are no known Romano-British finds or features within the site boundary. As set out in the preceding section, the works at Hunts Grove c.350m to the north of the site boundary have recorded extensive remains of Romano-British activity which followed on from the prehistoric settlement of the area.

- 4.30 To the north-east of the site boundary, observations made during the excavations for the Haresfield to Cam water pipeline (**HER 10991**) recorded Roman pottery and sandstone fragments. Further Roman material, again predominantly pottery (**HER 7090**), was recovered from a field c.350m to the east of the eastern site boundary during excavations for the same pipeline.
- 4.31 Further evidence for Roman activity was recorded c.750m to the north-east of the site boundary. Here also, Roman pottery and sandstone tile were recovered from the grounds of a private house during the monitoring of a pipe trench (**HER 7091**).
- 4.32 During the excavation undertaken c.200m to the north-east of the site for St Modwen Park Gloucester (**HER 51151**) a single Roman inhumation burial was found. The bones were in very poor condition, but radiocarbon assay produced a determination of cal. AD 125-251.
- 4.33 During the construction of the M5 motorway, evidence for Romano-British settlement (**HER 4422**) was recorded c.600m to the north of the site boundary and within the grounds of Haresfield Court, c.900m to the east, a Romano-British cemetery was recorded (**HER 3846**) although the exact location is unknown.
- 4.34 More widely, the line of the A38 c.900m to the west of the site is on the probable alignment of the former Roman Road from Gloucester to Sea Mills (**HER 7365**); Margary's Roman Road 541). The presence of this major Roman route in the wider landscape surrounding the site highlights the potential for the use of the site and its surrounds for settlement and/or farming during this period.
- 4.35 An extensive area of land reclamation (**HER 36335**) thought to have started in the Roman period, incorporating part of the parishes of Epney, Longney and Moreton Valence, is identified by the HER extending into the north-western extent of the 1km study area. This area does not include the site.
- 4.36 The archaeological work undertaken at the Moreton Farm site, c.900m to the south of the site boundary (**HER 20999/33347/27515/27516**), also recorded evidence for Roman activity, although this was predominately from fieldwalking/metal detecting finds rather than excavation. There is a further record of Roman pottery in the fields to the west of the Moreton Farm site (**HER 9662**). In this area the line of a Roman road (**HER 21903**) has also been tentatively identified c.350m to the south of the site boundary.

Early Medieval (AD 410–1066)

- 4.37 There are no HER records relating to early medieval activity within the site. Evidence for activity of this date within the wider study area is limited to two Saxon grave markers (**HER 4866** and **HER 3851**) within the graveyard attached to St Peters Church c.800m to the east, and a Saxon strap end to the south-east of the site (**HER 21901**).

Medieval (AD 1066–1485)

- 4.38 The HER places four records of this date within the site boundary. Three relate to the presence of a former mill, (**HER 7369, 7370** and **13632**). The references appear to be generalised ones, i.e. the site has been used a convenient centrepiece for the labeling of parish-wide information, one indicating that a mill or mills existed in the parish during the medieval period. It is considered unlikely, as attested by historic mapping, that a mill ever existed within the site boundary. This also applies to the fourth record (**HER 7371**), which references Netheridge Manor and/or farm; there is evidence for neither within the site according to historic mapping.
- 4.39 In terms of general background for the parish, documentary evidence for the Haresfield area collated by the HER (**HER 16790**) notes that:
- “Potters are documented at Haresfield in the Domesday Book (1086). The vill is currently believed to have been the place of production of C11 and C12 Gloucester TF416 ware. Petrological analysis of this fabric indicates that the clay matrix was probably obtained from Middle Lias and is highly micaceous and variable in colour. The tempering, however, is probably derived from the Great Oolite and consists of waterworn fragments. The description of the likely source agrees well with the geology of Haresfield. The distribution of Gloucester TF416 vessels suggest that the industry producing it was operating on a relatively large scale.”*
- 4.40 In that regard, the road that forms the eastern site boundary was in existence in the mid-13th century (**HER 12651**) and a watching brief on a watermain c.200m to the south-east of the site (**HER 20828**) recovered medieval and possibly Roman pottery.
- 4.41 A recent geophysical survey (**HER 4149/48642**) and subsequent archaeological evaluation, 200m to the north-east of the site (**HER 4149/49229**) on the St Modwen Park Gloucester site, identified a ring ditch in the south-eastern corner of the site. Whilst this was interpreted as the remains of a possible Bronze Age round barrow, it was also stated that it may have been constructed, or at least re-used, in the medieval period. Across the evaluation area the majority of features were medieval in date and comprised ditches that produced relatively large quantities of locally produced medieval pottery (TF41B) dating between the 11th to the mid-13th centuries. The ceramics were attributed to the postulated Haresfield industry that is first recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey. No evidence for the associated pottery kilns was identified. A large circular geophysical anomaly, previously identified from aerial photography, was initially interpreted as a possible kiln, but was revealed to be a large modern pit containing burnt material and ironwork, possibly associated with the nearby former RAF station.
- 4.42 Approximately 200m to the north of the site medieval pottery (**HER 7089**) in a field known as 'Burnt House Meadow'.
- 4.43 Following on from the evaluation at the St Modwen Park Gloucester site, an excavation was undertaken in 2019 (**HER 51151**). The majority of the features recorded related to a medieval farmstead, associated with locally produced TF41b pottery dateable to the mid-11th to early 13th centuries. An enclosure containing sub-enclosures was thought to be the

location of the farm buildings, but for which there was no evidence. Other features included enclosures for livestock, trackways and/or driveways. There were indications from the pottery assemblage that at least some of the sherds may be wasters from a pottery kiln; although no kiln structure was found. A large ring ditch truncated some of the earlier medieval features, interpreted as a late 13th century moat, no internal features were present. Ridge and furrow was also recorded across the site.

- 4.44 Approximately 900m to the east of the site boundary at Mount Farm, works to install a water pipe (**HER 9615**) recorded pottery dating to the 12th–13th century associated with stone and occupational debris. An archaeological evaluation (**HER 33390**) c.800m to the east of the site boundary, in advance of an extension to the churchyard, also recorded evidence for medieval activity.
- 4.45 Haresfield Court (**HER 3850**) is located c.900m to the east of the site boundary. According to the HER record it was known as Moat Place until 1816 and it is suggested that it was the site of a manor house belonging to Llanthony Priory. The record identifies that “*Old massive foundations were found in 1890, stretching beneath the present lawn towards the church*”. A site visit was conducted by the HER and no evidence of a moat was found. The remains of a 15th century village cross (**HER 3848**) is recorded by the HER adjacent to Haresfield Court. A neatly perforated undated stone hammer was found west of Haresfield Court in 1875 (**HER 3847**). The Severn Vale NMP project recorded a possible trackway (**HER 48461**) thought to be medieval in date, c.300m to the east of the site boundary leading towards Haresfield Court.
- 4.46 Approximately 1km to the south-west of the site a series of earthworks (**HER 40729**) have been identified by the NMP as a medieval settlement site, possibly part of Puloe.

Summary

- 4.47 The current archaeological evidence suggests that there is a focus of medieval activity both to the east, north-east and south-west of the site boundary. This activity appears to have focussed on the settlement at Haresfield and, more distantly, Putloe. Newly recorded evidence on the St Modwen Park Gloucester site to the north indicates that the village of Haresfield was more extensive in the medieval period than its modern form.
- 4.48 There is currently no evidence for medieval activity within the site, particularly from the recent evaluation undertaken within it, as such the potential for encountering finds and features of this date is assessed as low.
- 4.49 However, the site may contain the buried remains of former field boundaries and cultivation such as ridge and furrow which, if present, will be of local significance only.

Post Medieval–Modern (AD 1485–present)

- 4.50 There are two identified heritage assets from these periods within the Symmetry Park Gloucester West site.

4.51 Firstly, there is a record relating to the position of a foot and mouth pit (**HER 15495**) in the centre of the site. Whilst of no archaeological value, all potential for archaeological remains will have been removed in this location.

4.52 Secondly the site sits within the former extent of Moreton Valence Airfield (**HER 21459**). The HER describes that it:

“Opened as Haresfield in 1939 Moreton Valence was used by 6 AONS Staverton for staff pilot training (Ansons). In 1941 it was rebuilt with three runways and two Blister hangars and renamed Moreton Valence. B and C flights of 6 AONS moved into the airfield on permanent detachment and on the 17th January 1942 the unit was renamed 6 Air Observers School (6 (Observer) Advanced Flying Unit ((O)AFU) in June 1943). The Pilot Refresher Training Unit also shared the accommodation in 1942 for a few weeks before moving to Scotland.

Following a Ministry of Aircraft Production proposal, aircraft assembly sheds were built in the north east corner of the airfield for a flight test facility for Gloster who moved in in October 1943. All Gloster F9/40 and Meteor test flying was undertaken at Moreton alongside a Bell YP-59A shipped to Britain for evaluation alongside the Meteor.

(O)AFU closed in December 1944 but Moreton was taken over immediately by 3 (P)AFU South Cerney as a satellite. After VE day the AFU closed down and the station was transferred to 6 (P)AFU Little Rissington from July to December 1945. On October 13th 1946 the airfield was handed to the Gloster Aircraft Company and several experimental Meteor flights were made from the airfield. The factory area subsequently increased and a single lengthened runway was prepared for the testing of the Javelin. The last production Javelin flew in from Brockworth on the 8th April 1960 but modification work on Meteors continued. The last flight by Gloster was made on the 25th July 1962 and within days the airfield was inactive. The M5 motorway now bisects the airfield leaving only the derelict ATC tower and a piece of perimeter track still visible.”

4.53 The airfield comprised three runways surrounded by a perimeter track, with the M5 motorway now on the alignment of the main runway. The south end of the airfield contained blister hangars, Nissen huts, possible bunkers, blast pens and bomb stores. The majority of these structures were demolished by 1958.

4.54 The site encompasses part of the alignment of the former eastern runway. This runway was aligned north-west by south-east, the outline of which is shown on **Plan EDP 4**. The buried remains of the runway can be clearly seen on current Google Earth mapping. (**Image EDP 4.1**)



Image EDP 4.1: Google Earth mapping showing the position of the buried remains of a runway

- 4.55 In addition to this, a length of the perimeter track for the airfield survives and runs parallel to the B4008. As it has not been possible to access historic aerial photographs to inform this assessment it is not known if, or to what extent, other airfield features or ancillary buildings may survive as buried remains within the site.
- 4.56 In advance of the construction of Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility, a desk-based assessment (**HER 36128**), geophysical survey (**HER 48741**) and a field evaluation (**HER 48742**) were undertaken and included part of the site, found no evidence for the airfield or indeed any other significant buried archaeological deposits.
- 4.57 More widely, Haresfield Court (**LB1091320**) is a Grade II listed building located c.1km to the south-east of the site boundary. Now converted into flats, it was constructed in c.1676 and substantially altered in 1869 and 1893. To the immediate east of the site is an area of unlisted former parkland (**HER 44904**) associated with Haresfield Court. The parkland was assessed in 2018 as Grade C by the Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust, which they define as “Sites of special historic interest when considered in the local context.” It is described as:
1. *Remains of small park and Victorian pleasure grounds surrounding country gentry seat. Exotic plantings remain.*
 2. *Original approach from W (now disbanded) allows view of nearby church and house.*
 3. *House dates back to late C17 and there are ancient oaks in park.*
 4. *Site marred by views of recycling facilities to W and motorway noise pollution.”*

- 4.58 Closely associated with both the house and the park is the former lodge to Haresfield Court (**HER 44903**) located c.150m to the north-east of the site boundary.
- 4.59 The area of the parkland closest to the B4009 and the site, the Severn Vale NMP project identified, was the site of a WWII supply or storage depot (**HER 48462**). The extent of the depot is described as enclosing an area of c.83,600 square metres, containing two blister hangars and associated infrastructure. The HER record notes that:
- “...that these stores were part of the preinvasion build-up of Normandy in June 1944, or directly related to supplying the operational needs of RAF Moreton Valence, or a dispersed site for nearby RAF depot, 7 Maintenance Unit (MU) RAF Quedgeley. The military depot does not appear as a dispersed site on the Site Plans for either RAF station. The depot is not visible in aerial photographs taken in 1946 though the roadway and the blister hangar at SO 80308 10363 remains. Although that building appears to have been demolished by 1947, the roadway is still visible in aerial photographs taken in 2010.”*
- 4.60 The work required to create the depot will have removed any former parkland features and, as such, the inclusion of this area as possessing any special historic interest relating to its former use as a park is considered to be unlikely. As such, this area should not be considered to make any such contribution, even at a local level.
- 4.61 Other dispersed sites relating to the activities of the airfield are identified to the west comprising four camps (**HER 48426, 48423, 48424 and 48432**).
- 4.62 More widely the A38, c.1km to the west, is a former turnpike road (**HER 41848**) on the line of a former Roman road.

Historic Mapping

- 4.63 The earliest available on-line historic mapping consulted dates to 1885 (**Plan EDP 5**). This shows the site as part of the wider agricultural landscape encompassing at least 10 whole or partial fields at this time. Stonehouse Lane originally crossed the northern tip of the site before being diverted for the M5. A brook ran to the north and east of the site (through the area of the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility), the former alignment of which may cross through the sites northern tip.
- 4.64 The same layout and features are shown on mapping dating to 1903 and 1924. By 1954 (**Plan EDP 6**) the site is within a large area with no mapped features but identified as an airfield. Mapping dating to 1968 still shows the extent of the airfield but cutting centrally through that is the M5 corridor to the west of the site. By 1974 an industrial area had been constructed to the north and east of the site boundary and an access track from this area to the south and into the site is annotated, but does not appear to lead to anything and may be a feature from its previous use as part of the airfield.
- 4.65 Mapping dating to 1980 identifies the industrial estate to the north and east as Bilton Industrial Estate and sewage beds are annotated within that area. This area is now the site of the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 4.66 Gloucestershire is covered in part by two areas of Historic landscape Characterisation (HLC) data relating to the River Severn corridor and the Cotswolds AONB, neither of which include the site; therefore, this information has not been made available via the HER. However, the historic character of the site is that of a late 20th century enclosed landscape resulting from the subdivision of a former airfield, of which the site forms a small part, and extending to the west and east of the site boundary.
- 4.67 To the east and south the landscape is defined by 19th century enclosures common across the Severn Valley, with the exception of a small area of former parkland to the east, which due to its subsequent use by the military now retains few of its historic features, other than the partial remains of a track and a tree lined avenue, adjacent to a former lodge to Haresfield Court which is now a private house. To the west the site is bounded by the M5 motorway and beyond this are remnant of the 19th century enclosed landscape, heavily remodelled by the former airfield.
- 4.68 To the north and north east the landscape is considered industrialised as it includes the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility, St Modwen Park Gloucester (former RAF Quedgeley), a garden centre and Junction 11 of the M5.

Site Walkover

- 4.69 The site was visited in June 2020 to assess the current ground conditions and topography within it, as well as to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.
- 4.70 Due to the former use of the site for military purposes and specifically a runway, the site is very flat. Due to the preceding dry weather the position of the former runway could be made out on the ground and the remains of the perimeter road are clearly visible and currently being used to dump waste material. No other features of archaeological interest were identified.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Section 5

Conclusions

- 5.1 This report comprises a preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential of the Symmetry Park Gloucester West site, based on readily available sources of information and data collected during a site visit.
- 5.2 The site does not contain any designated heritage assets. The Historic Environment Record has provided data indicating that there are five records within the site and that it sits within a much larger area identified by the HER as the former RAF Haresfield site. There are also records relating to three previous events within the site, undertaken in advance of the construction of the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility. Data regarding archaeological sites and features up to 1km from the site boundary was also reviewed to provide context, which comprised a further 186 records. However, only those of relevance have been discussed within this report and illustrated on the attached plans.
- 5.3 With regard to the potential for archaeological finds and features of prehistoric date to be present within the Symmetry Park Gloucester West site, the current record suggests that for the earlier prehistoric period the potential is very low, as the evidence comprises just two residual flint tools from the wider study area.
- 5.4 However, a potential Bronze Age round barrow has been recorded to the north-east of the site. Should this form part of a wider 'cemetery' it is possible that similar features may extend into the site area; as such the potential to encounter features of Bronze Age date based on the data held by the HER is assessed as medium.
- 5.5 Within 700m of the northern extent of the site boundary, Iron Age enclosures were recorded at the Hunts Grove site. To the south, at Moreton Farm, Iron Age settlement activity has also been recorded. Whilst the distance of these discoveries from the site precludes any features associated with them extending into it, Iron Age activity is well documented in the site's wider zone of influence. On this basis, the potential for Iron Age activity to be present within the site, based on the data held by the HER, is also assessed as medium.
- 5.6 However, it should be noted that evaluation undertaken to inform the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility planning application, which included part of the site, failed to find any evidence for significant archaeological activity. This is possibly due to the extensive reshaping of the landscape within the site as a result of the construction of the airfield in the early 20th century. As a result, the potential for encountering any archaeological features for any period other than those related to the airfield is considered to be low. Should finds or features of prehistoric date be present within the site the significance of these, based on the current archaeological record, will be of low or local significance.
- 5.7 This assessment concludes that on the basis of the current archaeological record, including the evidence from archaeological investigation already undertaken on the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility site, the potential for finds and features of

Roman date to be present within the site is low. However, this potential may increase towards the northern and southern extremes of the site, as, to the north there is evidence for both burial and settlement, including human skeletal remains recorded at the St Modwen Park Gloucester site, and to the south is the line of a postulated Roman Road and beyond this, the Roman-British activity at Moreton Farm. Should finds or features of Roman date be present within the site the significance of these, based on the current archaeological record, will be of low to medium significance (higher if burials or settlement activity is present), or local to regional significance.

- 5.8 There are no HER records relating to early medieval activity within the site and the presence of two Saxon grave markers within the graveyard attached to St Peters Church will not influence the archaeological potential of the site. On the basis of the current record, the potential for early medieval activity to be present within the site is assessed as very low to negligible when the truncation from the former airfield is also taken into account. Should finds or features of early medieval date be present within the site the significance of these, based on the current archaeological record, will be of low or local significance.
- 5.9 In terms of the post medieval period, in the 19th century, and no doubt prior to that, the site was in use for agriculture until the creation of Moreton Valance Airfield 1939. The site has now reverted to agriculture. It is assessed that the potential to encounter remains of the former airfield is very high and that the reshaping of the landscape for the airfield and its continued improvement through the latter part of the 20th century will have truncated any earlier archaeological activity, as confirmed by the archaeological fieldwork undertaken in connection with the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility. Should finds or features relating to the post medieval period be present within the site the significance of these, based on the current archaeological record will be of low or local significance only.
- 5.10 Based on the data referenced to inform this report, there is currently no evidence to suggest that the site would contain any archaeological deposits of such significance that they might constrain the development of the site in the form proposed. Further surveys may be useful to establish if, and to what extent, the features associated with the former use of the site for an airfield survive and the extent to which this may have truncated earlier features. However, the content of this report is considered sufficient to support the promotion of the site through the local plan process.

Section 6

Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2017. *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*, Reading.

Historic England (HE), 2015. *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*, London.

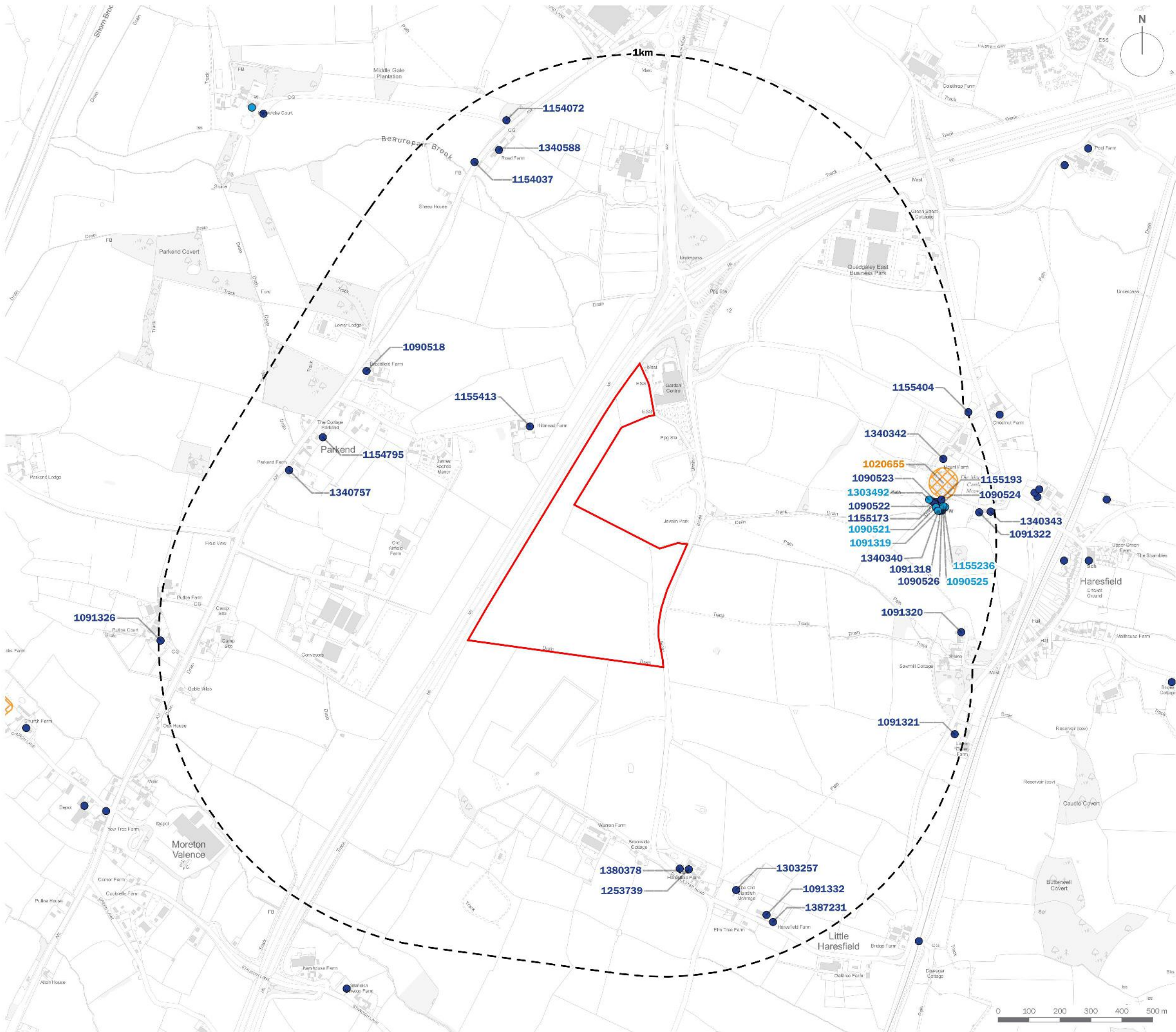
MHCLG, 2019. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

This page has been left blank intentionally

Plans

- Plan EDP 1** Designated Heritage Assets
(edp5060_d015a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
- Plan EDP 2** Non-designated Heritage Assets
(edp5060_d016a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
- Plan EDP 3** Archaeological Event and Historic Landscape Characteristics
(edp5060_d017a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
- Plan EDP 4** Military Features, National Mapping Programme Data and Ridge and Furrow Records
(edp5060_d018a 01 October 2020 GY/JV)
- Plan EDP 5** Historic Mapping 1885
(edp5060_d039 15 October 2020 EJ/JV)
- Plan EDP 6** Historic Mapping 1954
(edp5060_d040 15 October 2020 EJ/JV)

This page has been left blank intentionally

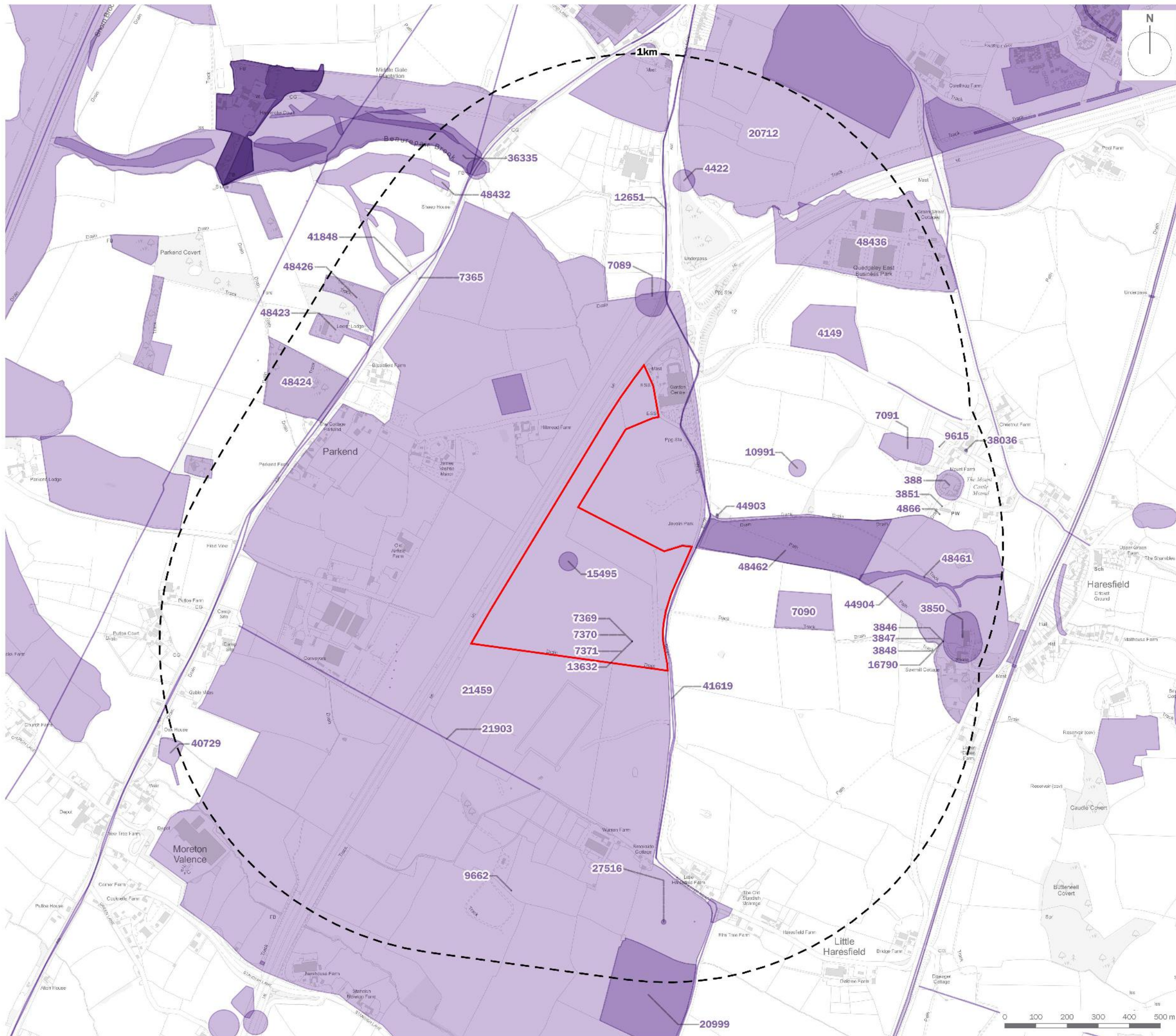


- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building

client	Tritax Symmetry	
project title	Symmetry Park Gloucester West	
drawing title	Plan EDP 1: Designated Heritage Assets	
date	01 OCTOBER 2020	drawn by
drawing number	edp5060_d015a	checked
scale	1:12,000 @ A3	QA



Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk



- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- HER

client
Tritax Symmetry

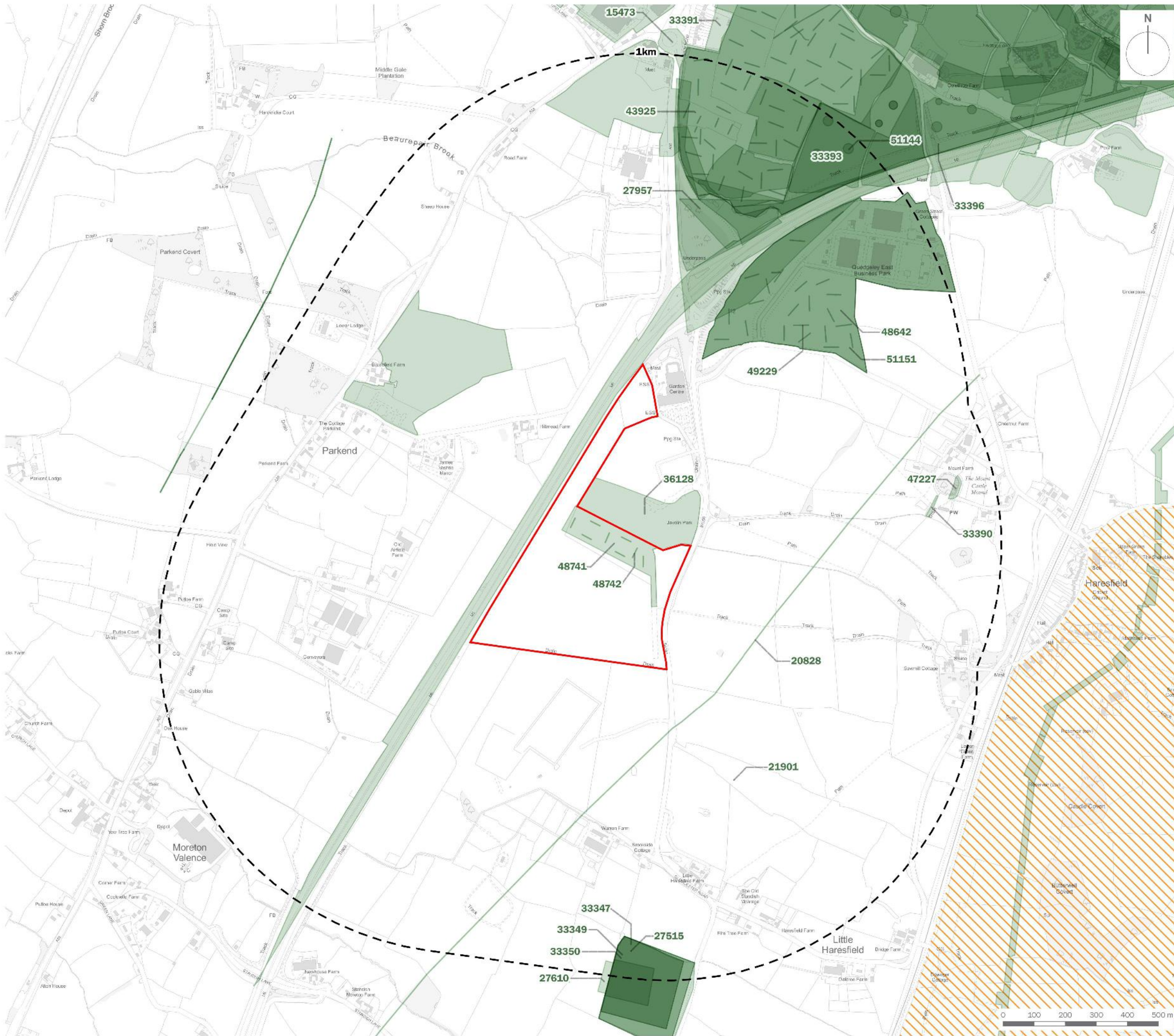
project title
Symmetry Park Gloucester West

drawing title
Plan EDP 2: Non-designated Heritage Assets

date	01 OCTOBER 2020	drawn by	
drawing number	edp5060_d016a	checked	
scale	1:12,000 @ A3	QA	



Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk



-  Site Boundary
-  1km Study Area
-  Events
-  HLC AONB

client
Tritax Symmetry

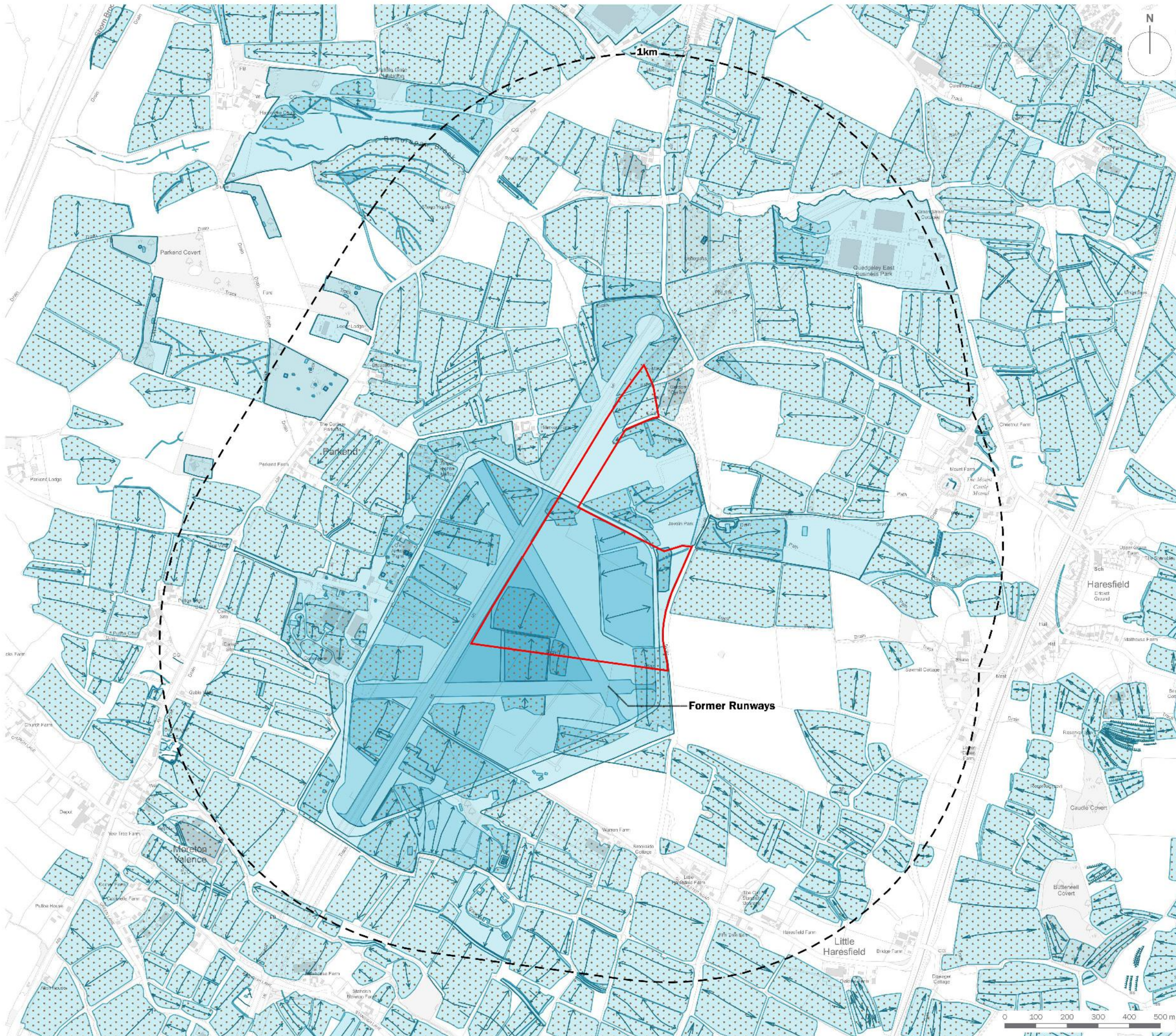
project title
Symmetry Park Gloucester West

drawing title
Plan EDP 3: Archaeological Event and Historic Landscape Characterisation

date	01 OCTOBER 2020	drawn by	
drawing number	edp5060_d017a	checked	
scale	1:12,000 @ A3	QA	



Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk



- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- NMP Data
- NMP Data Ridge and Furrow
- Ridge and Furrow

client
Tritax Symmetry

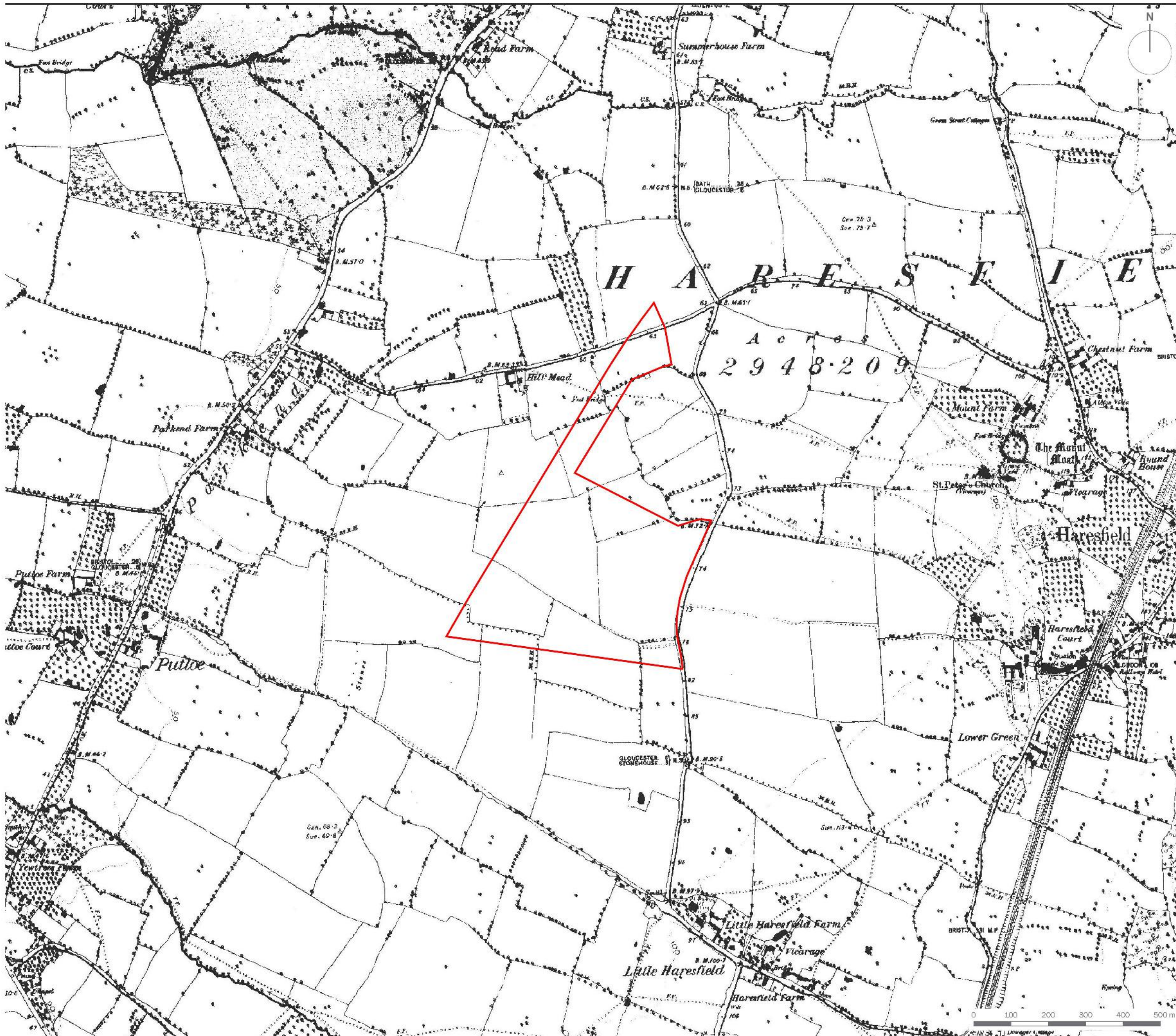
project title
Symmetry Park Gloucester West


drawing title
Plan EDP 4: Military Features, National Mapping Programme Data and Ridge and Furrow Records

date	01 OCTOBER 2020	drawn by	
drawing number	edp5060_d018a	checked	
scale	1:12,000 @ A3	QA	



Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk



 Approximate Site Boundary

client
Tritax Symmetry

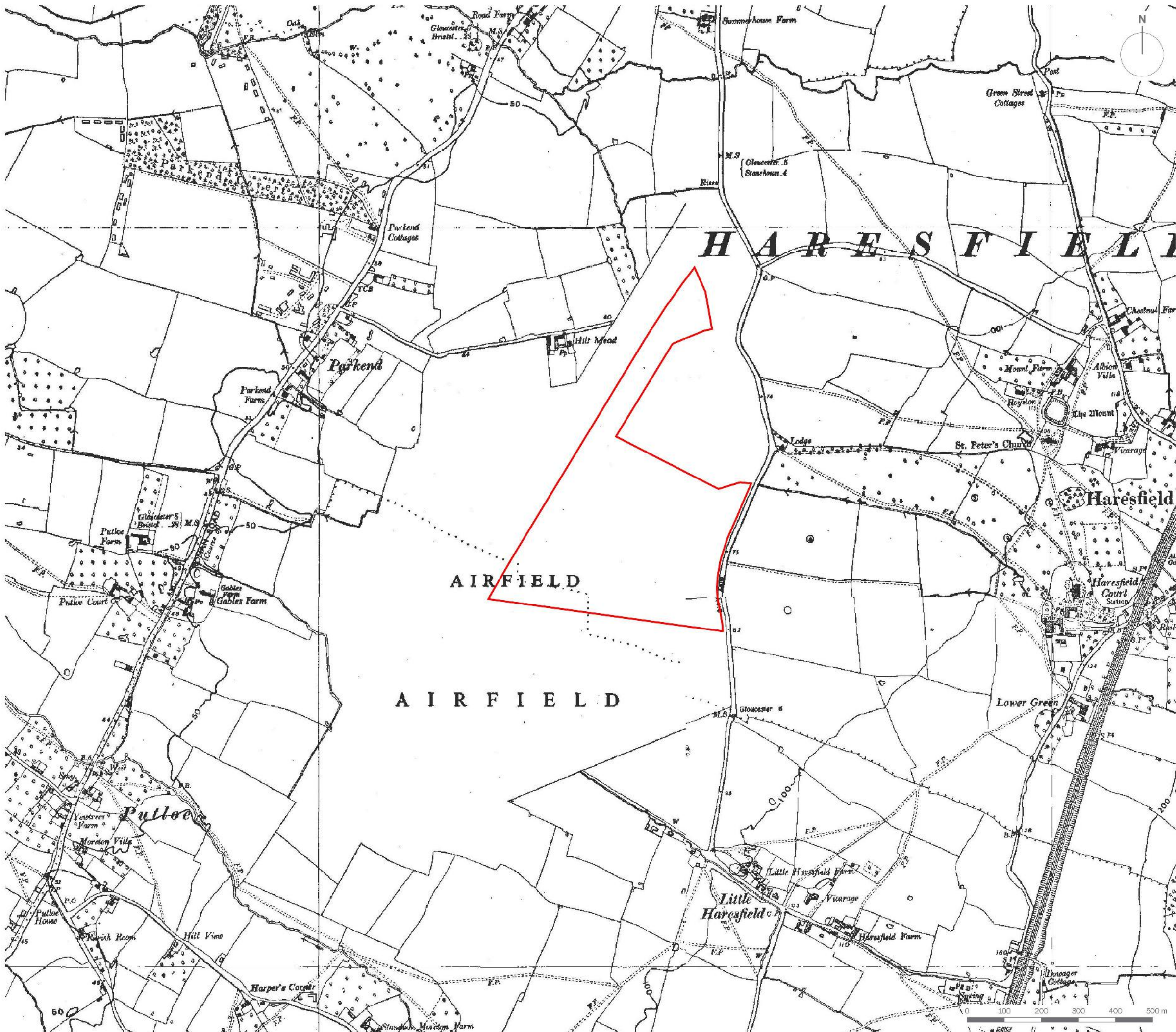
project title
Symmetry Park Gloucester West

drawing title
Plan EDP 5: Historic Mapping 1885

date 15 OCTOBER 2020 drawn by
drawing number edp5060_d039 checked
scale 1:10,000 @ A3 QA



Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk



 Approximate Site Boundary

client
Tritax Symmetry

project title
Symmetry Park Gloucester West

drawing title
Plan EDP 6: Historic Mapping 1954

date 15 OCTOBER 2020 drawn by
drawing number edp5060_d040 checked
scale 1:10,000 @ A3 QA



Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk

CARDIFF
02921 671900

CHELTENHAM
01242 903110

CIRENCESTER
01285 740427

SHREWSBURY
01939 211190

info@edp-uk.co.uk
www.edp-uk.co.uk

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. Registered as a Limited Company in England and Wales. Company No. 09102431. Registered Office: Tithe Barn, Barnsley Park Estate, Barnsley, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 5EG



**Landscape
Institute**
Registered practice

IEMA Transforming the world
to sustainability

**URBAN
DESIGN
GROUP** REGISTERED
PRACTICE