

## **Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan Minerals and Waste Core Strategy**

### **Background Paper revised April 2012**

## **Heritage Assets and Archaeology**

Note: This background paper was largely prepared prior to publication of the government's National Planning Policy Framework on 27 March 2012 and it has only been partially updated to reflect this new national policy document.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This background paper is one of a series which together form part of the evidence base for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is part of the Minerals and Waste Plan that will set out a strategy and polices for where minerals should be worked and where waste should be managed in Oxfordshire over the period to 2030. More information about the plan can be found on the Oxfordshire County Council website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)
- 1.2 The background papers have been used to identify baseline data and inform the preparation of draft policies for inclusion in the Core Strategy. The papers are intended to present evidence as it stands at this stage. They build on work carried out at the previous preferred options stage, incorporating feedback from that consultation and addressing areas that require further discussion. They also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to check the information to ensure the Council's knowledge and understanding is up to date and robust.
- 1.3 The background papers are 'living draft' documents and may be further revised throughout the process of preparing the Core Strategy.
- 1.4 This paper is part of the evidence base for the County Council's Minerals and Waste Core Strategy proposed submission document, which includes policy C7 on historic environment and archaeology.

## **2 Executive summary**

- 2.1 This background paper provides a description of the heritage assets, including archaeological assets, in Oxfordshire. Heritage assets are defined in PPS5 as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
- 2.2 They include assets that are identified in the Historic Environment Record that is maintained by the County Council. Heritage assets include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas designated as such under the relevant legislation.

## **3 Legislation and Policy**

- 3.1 This section identifies legislation and planning policy which is relevant to the designation of areas for their importance as heritage assets.
- 3.2 Legislation
  - 3.2.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) makes provision for scheduling of ancient monuments for their national importance and for the protection of them and their settings. The Secretary of State has discretion in whether to schedule a site or to decide whether another form of management is more beneficial.
  - 3.2.2 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires local authorities to designate and manage conservation areas.
  - 3.2.3 Designed landscapes may be registered under the Register of Parks and Gardens which was established under the 1983 National Heritage Act; and battlefields may be registered under the Battlefields Register which was established in 1995. Both Registers are administered by English Heritage.
- 3.3 Planning Policy
  - PPS 1
  - 3.3.1 The importance of the historic environment is fully acknowledged in PPS1 Sustainable Communities where the role of planning as an important instrument for protecting and enhancing the environment and preserving the built and natural environment is recognised. The PPS identifies an essential objective of the planning process to reconcile the need for economic growth with the need to protect the natural and historic environment.

## PPS 5

3.3.2 PPS5 sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and covers both designated and non designated heritage assets. Policy HE 9.6 notes that there are many heritage assets with archaeological interest that are currently not designated as scheduled monuments but which are demonstrably of equivalent significance.

These include heritage assets:

- Which have yet to be formally assessed for designation
- Which have been assessed as being designatable, but which the Secretary of State has decided not to designate; or
- Which are incapable of being designated by virtue of being outside the scope of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

3.3.3 The absence of designation for such heritage assets does not indicate lower significance.

## PPS 5 Practice Guide

3.3.4 In collecting and collating the evidence base for plan-making, local planning authorities are advised to use a variety of sources of information including the Historic Environment Record, the register of Parks and Gardens and local sources of data such as the County record office and environmental data.

## National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

3.3.5 The government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and has replaced PPS1 and PPS5 with immediate effect. The NPPF states 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. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. ... As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II\* listed buildings, grade I and II\* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional” (para 132).*

3.3.6 Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

### 3.4 Regional Planning Policy

3.4.1 The Regional Spatial Strategy, the South East Plan<sup>1</sup>, adopted in May 2009 is part of the statutory development plan for Oxfordshire. The Coalition Government has stated its intention to revoke all regional strategies, and this is provided for in the Localism Act 2011.

3.4.2 Policy BE6 of the South East Plan states that:  
*“when developing...plans and strategies, local authorities and other bodies will adopt policies and support proposals which protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment and the contribution it makes to local and regional distinctiveness and sense of place. The region’s internationally and nationally designated historic assets should receive the highest level of protection.”*

### 3.5 Local planning policy

3.5.1 Policies PE8 and PE9 are saved policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1996, and will remain as part of the development plan until replaced by new policies when new Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents are adopted. Policy PE8 states that:  
*“Before determining an application for mineral extraction the County Council will normally require the applicant to carry out a preliminary assessment to determine the nature and significance of any archaeological remains. The County Council may, subject to the results of this initial assessment require an archaeological field evaluation of the site to determine the appropriate means for mitigating the impact of extraction on the archaeological resource.”*

3.5.2 Policy PE9 states that:  
*“Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other archaeological remains of national importance and their settings should be preserved in situ. For all other remains of importance preservation in situ will be preferred. Where this is not appropriate, and for all other remains, adequate provision should be made for their excavation and recording. This policy applies to all remains, including those not revealed by policy PE8.”*

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<sup>1</sup> Government Office for the South East (2009) The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England

#### 4. Heritage assets in Oxfordshire

4.1 Oxfordshire contains many buildings, areas, designed gardens and designed landscapes which together make up a valuable part of the county's heritage. There are 22,878 assets on the Historic Environment Record. There are 12,073 listed buildings and structures in Oxfordshire and over 200 conservation areas. Blenheim Palace and Park has been designated by UNESCO as a world heritage site, which reflects its outstanding international importance. In Oxford there are buildings spanning every major period of British architectural history dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The table below shows the location of the World Heritage Site, conservation areas and listed buildings by district.

Table 1; designated historic sites in Oxfordshire<sup>2</sup>.

	World Heritage Sites	Conservation Areas	Listed Buildings
<b>Cherwell</b>		54	>3000
<b>Oxford</b>		16	1551
<b>South Oxfordshire</b>		71	>3500
<b>Vale of White Horse</b>		52	>2000
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	1	49	3200

4.2 Many of the conservation areas are villages which lie in close proximity to existing or proposed mineral working. They include Eynsham, Ducklington, Nuneham Courtenay, Hatford, Sonning Eye and Shellingford close to existing working areas and Cholsey and Wallingford close to a proposed new area of working. Figure 1 shows the location of conservation areas, together with the Blenheim World Heritage Site and scheduled ancient monuments.

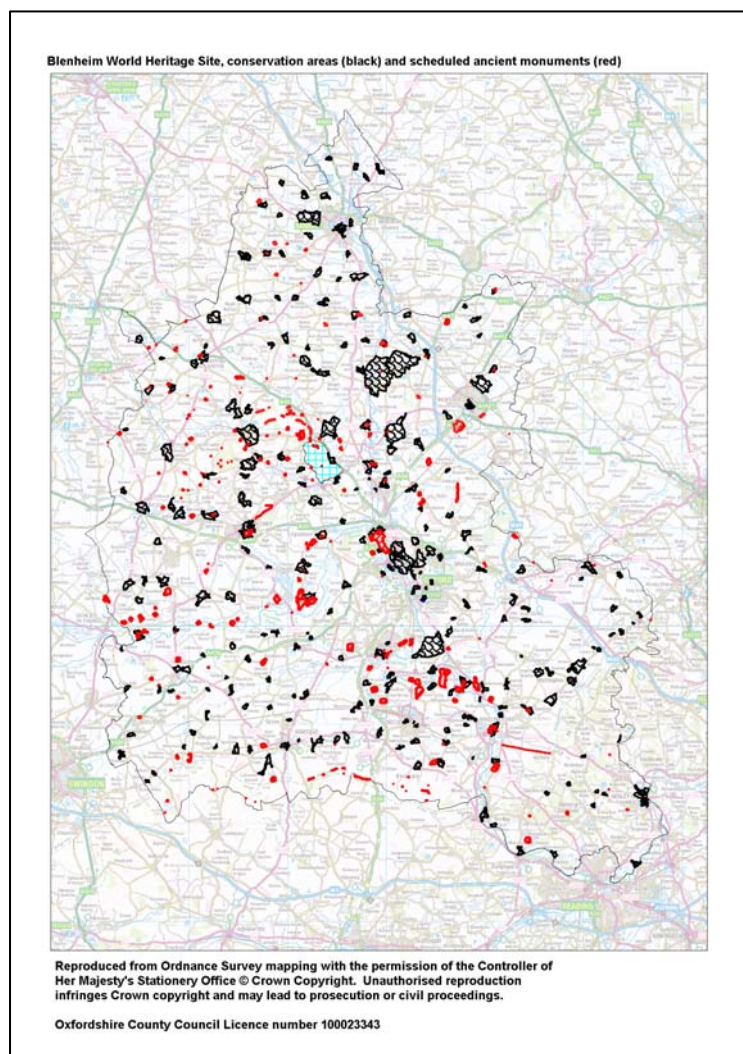
4.3 There are 55 registered Parks and Gardens in Oxfordshire, including Sutton Courtenay Manor House, Nuneham Courtenay and Kelmscott Manor. There are two registered battlefields in the county at Chalgrove and Cropredy Bridge.

4.4 Oxfordshire has a rich archaeological resource with 296 Scheduled Ancient Monuments as shown in Figure 1. There are many scheduled and non-scheduled archaeological sites along the Thames valley, which have been assessed in a jointly funded English Heritage and Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund project. The report from this has not yet been finalised nor received by the council. Some areas of the county have experienced extensive mineral working in the past which has had significant effects on archaeological sites. Areas where the

<sup>2</sup> Source: Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016

cumulative impact of development has been felt include the Lower Windrush Valley, the Lower Evenlode Valley and the Radley area.

**Figure 1: Blenheim World Heritage Site, conservation areas and scheduled ancient monuments**

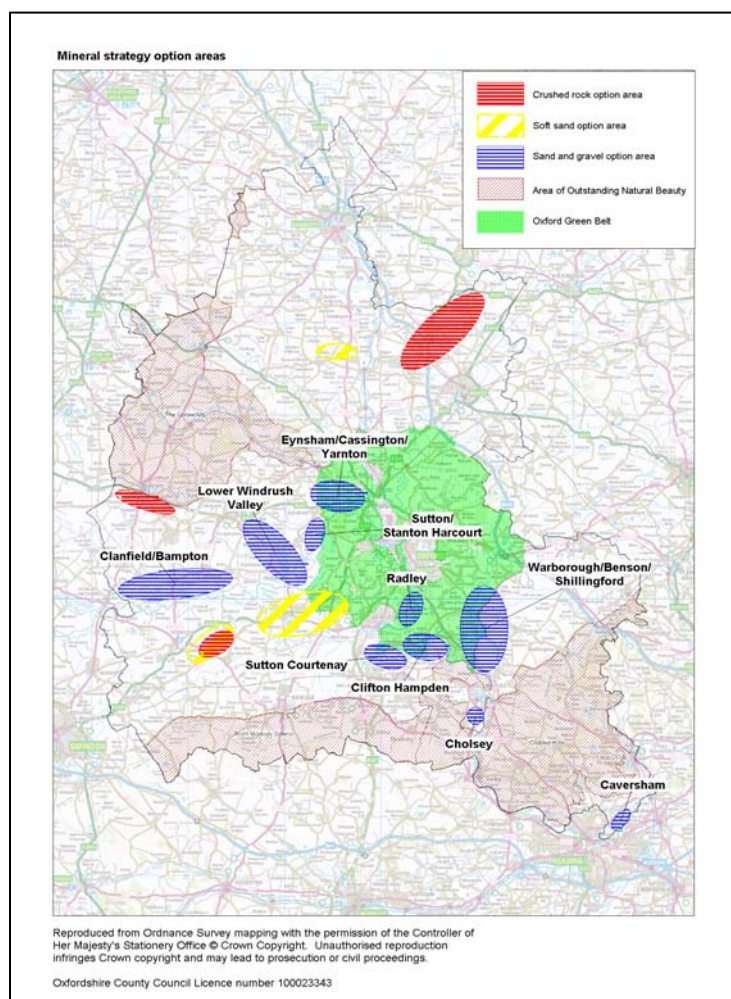


- 4.5 No historic landscape characterisation work has been undertaken in Oxfordshire to date; it is hoped that funding for this work will enable it to take place shortly.
- 4.6 Economic success and expanding development puts intense pressure on the fragile historic environment. Over the last decade, there has been a 36% increase in the number of planning applications and an increase of 156% in archaeological interventions recommended<sup>3</sup>.
- 4.7 Section 5 provides an archaeological assessment of each of the sand and gravel, soft sand and crushed rock option areas and the sites

<sup>3</sup> Oxfordshire County Council

within those areas nominated by mineral operators and landowners for possible inclusion in the Minerals and Waste Plan. This information was used to inform the Preliminary Assessment of Mineral Site Options undertaken by the Council in January 2011. The option areas listed in section 5 are identified in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Mineral strategy option areas



## **5. Archaeological Assessment**

### **Sand and gravel areas**

#### **Lower Windrush Valley**

This section is split into four subsections: North of Gill Mill, West of Stanton Harcourt, Brighthampton and Northmoor.

##### **North of Gill Mill**

1. The area north of Gill Mill contains four fairly contiguous nomination sites. Around the River Windrush there is alluvium with first terrace gravel to the east.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows a number of enclosed fields on the gravel terrace with the depiction suggesting arable cultivation. Around the river there are unenclosed meadows. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS however shows a markedly different landscape with the floodplain meadows now subdivided into fields, with ditched boundaries. The first terrace is also shown as having more, smaller enclosed fields and with the hedgerows having been replaced with ditched boundaries. The 1961 aerial photographic survey shows little appreciable change to either the landuse or the physical landscape. There has been some change in recent years with field boundaries removed on the first terrace and some of the floodplain pasture being ploughed. There is no evidence of ridge and furrow.
3. The area contains a number of cropmark features including some enclosures, several Bronze Age funerary monuments and some linear features. It is bisected by a former railway line. To the south is an existing mineral working area. This is centred around Gill Mill where a Romano British roadside settlement has been revealed within an area of field systems. Features relating to this site undoubtedly spread in to this area but the evidence from the archaeological investigations within the current extraction area suggest that the settlement is to the south and this is an area of field systems. The alluvium may however mask other archaeological features. The area is currently at the pre-application stage prior to a full application being submitted. A desk based assessment is currently being prepared. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

##### **Site nomination SG – 24**

1. This area is split by a small water course. The eastern part of it is first terrace gravel whilst the western part is flood plain covered by alluvium.
2. The area contains a number of cropmarks, including linear features and enclosures. Most of these lie on the first terrace. It is possible that the alluvium masks other archaeological features. The landscape has not changed dramatically since the end of the nineteenth century



3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 23**

1. The area is covered by alluvial overburden.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area. The alluvial overburden may however mask other archaeological features. Since the end of the nineteenth century the majority of field boundaries and hedgerows within this area have been removed.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 22**

1. The area is covered by alluvial overburden.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area. The alluvial overburden may however mask other archaeological features. Since the end of the nineteenth century the majority of field boundaries and hedgerows within this area have been removed.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 34**

1. This area is split by a small water course. The eastern part of it is first terrace gravel whilst the western part is flood plain covered by alluvium.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area. The alluvial overburden may however mask other archaeological features. The landscape has changed relatively since the end of the nineteenth century although the gravel terrace has at various times been ploughed.

3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 21**

1. This area is first terrace gravel.
2. The area contains a number of cropmarks, including three probable Bronze Age barrows and some linear features and enclosures, possibly relating to the Romano British field systems previously identified within the existing mineral workings. Since the end of the nineteenth century the majority of field boundaries and hedgerows within this area have been removed.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **West of Stanton Harcourt**

1. The area west of Stanton Harcourt slopes gently down to the River Windrush. The upper part is third terrace gravel, sloping down to second terrace gravel and the alluvium covered floodplain.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows the area is divided into fields with hedgerow boundaries, with the landuse being arable. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS suggests that there was little change by the late nineteenth century, although the flood plain appears to be pasture. The 1961 aerial survey likewise suggests little change. The most recent surveys show that many of the hedges or boundaries have been removed.
3. The area lies on the edge of a concentration of prehistoric sites and activity. The cropmarks include a number of feature types that would nowadays be considered as being of national importance. The waterlogged conditions of the terrace gravels resulted in many features being well preserved. Unfortunately most of these features have been removed, either through mineral extraction or during the construction of Stanton Harcourt airbase during WW II. Although some features do survive they are fragmentary or peripheral to the main focuses of activity and settlement. Given that the bulk of this very important area of archaeology has been lost the importance of the surviving features is increased and this additional weight has been taken into account. This also increases the potential importance of features hidden beneath the alluvium. Any mineral

extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

4. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 36**

1. This area is third terrace gravel.
2. There are some cropmarks including pits and linear features. These appear to relate to a small settlement site just to the north outside the nomination area. There is a small patch of ridge and furrow on the southern edge of the area. Since the end of the nineteenth century most of the hedgerows and field boundaries have been lost.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SG – 27**

1. This area is second terrace gravel.
2. The south eastern part of this area contained an extensive and complex spread of cropmarks that have been removed by gravel extraction. This site was excavated prior to extraction. It included a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, enclosures, an Iron Age and Romano British farmstead and Neolithic occupation. Some more peripheral elements of this site extend into the unexcavated parts. These include an enclosure, concentrations of pits and other discreet features.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. It formed part of an important complex of monuments and the surviving features may contain elements that could provide further important information about the site and its wider environs. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SG – 28**

1. This area is covered by alluvium that may mask earlier surviving archaeological features.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area. The alluvial overburden may however mask other archaeological

features. Since the end of the nineteenth century the majority of field boundaries and hedgerows within this area have been removed.

3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Brighthampton**

1. The eastern part of this area contains first terrace gravel, the western part is alluvium around a series of streams that run to the south east.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows the area as being arable open fields. The 1st edition OS shows defined fields with either hedges or ditches forming boundaries. The 1961 aerial photographic survey shows a few elements of the late nineteenth century landscape surviving. Most of the current field boundaries are relatively modern and define the arable landscape. There is aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow but this has now been removed by ploughing.
3. The area contains a number of monuments that are identifiable as cropmarks. These include a number of potentially important monuments, including Anglo Saxon settlement and a barrow of the same period and Iron Age and Romano British settlement. Large parts of the area are covered by alluvium that may mask significant archaeological features. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction. Large areas of cropmarks have been destroyed by extraction but there are still surviving areas around Standlake including SM 140.
4. Whilst we are recommending that two of these areas are not considered for gravel extraction it may be possible to reduce the archaeological constraints by changing the current nomination boundaries.

### **Site Nomination SG – 32**

1. This area is first terrace gravel.
2. This area contains a number of archaeological features identifiable as cropmarks. These spread beyond the area and some limited investigation was undertaken when extraction destroyed them. This suggests that the features within the nomination area include Iron Age settlement and an cemetery Anglo Saxon settlement. These features are potentially very important. The landscape has changed little since the late nineteenth century.

3. The large cropmark site is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 30**

1. This area is first terrace gravel.
2. It contains a number of cropmark features including a substantial later prehistoric and Romano British settlement. Other features, including linear features and enclosures are identifiable beneath ploughed out ridge and furrow. The landscape has changed little since the late nineteenth century.
3. The large cropmark site is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 39**

1. The north eastern half of this site is first terrace gravel. The south western half is covered by alluvium.
2. There are a number of small cropmark complexes within this area, including a probable Romano British settlement in the south and a number of linear features. The landscape has not significantly changed since the late nineteenth century.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Northmoor**

1. The eastern nomination is first terrace gravel and the western is covered by alluvium.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows this area as pasture with few landscape features. By the later nineteenth century there has been enclosing of the land and there are hedgerows and a small coppice. The landscape has not changed significantly since that time.
3. There is a large Scheduled Ancient Monument to the east that includes an extensive spread of cropmarks (SM 141). Some features from this monument extend into one of the nomination areas. Other features may be masked by the alluvium. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 18**

1. This area is covered by alluvium.
2. It contains no known archaeological features. The alluvium may however mask archaeological features.

3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 14**

1. This area is first terrace gravel.
2. The area is directly adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 141). This is an extensive later prehistoric and Romano British settlement. Some features spread into this nomination area.
3. Given that the cropmark features within this area form part of a scheduled monument this area should not, on archaeological grounds, be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Cholsey**

1. This area is first terrace gravel with areas of alluvial overburden.
2. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows a series of small arable fields. There is no suggestion of hedgerows.
3. There are no known archaeological features within the area but alluvial overburden may mask archaeological features.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 33**

1. There is a strip of first terrace gravel in the north part of the area. The rest is alluvium apart from a small gravel island in the centre of the area.
2. There are several linear features in this area that are identifiable as cropmarks. These appear to be trackways. It is possible that the alluvium may be masking other archaeological features. Approximately 30m to the north east is a circular cropmark that may be a henge. Although the proximity of this feature does not justify the exclusion of this nomination area, re-determination evaluation should establish whether features relating to it extend into the nomination area and whether they should be protected from extraction.
3. Whilst there are no significant archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site Nomination SG – 57**

1. This area is covered by alluvium.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area although the alluvium may be masking other archaeological features.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site Nomination SG – 60**

1. This area is covered by alluvium.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area although the alluvium may be masking other archaeological features. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

## **Caversham**

1. This area consists of two nomination areas on the north bank of the River Thames. They are both on first terrace gravel but are overlain with alluvium and loam.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows them both on the floodplain with a series of small arable fields. The fields are defined with hedgerows. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows them as on the floodplain with a number of fields with hedgerows. These boundaries have changed little since that time. There is no evidence of ridge and furrow.
3. There are a number of cropmarks within this area but none are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There are a number of concentrations of Bronze Age barrows with two barrow cemeteries.
4. Whilst we are recommending that one of these areas is not considered for gravel extraction it may be possible to reduce the archaeological constraints by changing the current nomination boundaries.
5. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

### **Site Nomination SG – 12**

1. This area is a combination of loam and gravel overlying terrace gravel.
2. This area contains a small possible barrow cemetery that survives as a cropmark. It is possible that the alluvium masks other archaeological features.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site Nomination SG - 11**

1. This area is a combination of loam and gravel overlying terrace gravel.
2. This area contains a small possible barrow cemetery that survives as a cropmark. It is possible that the alluvium masks other archaeological features.
3. A desk based assessment of this site has been undertaken to support a planning application. A programme of geophysics has also been completed. The applicant has agreed that the barrow cemetery should not be included in application when it is submitted. Evaluation is to be undertaken.
4. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed. Also as agreed with the applicant the barrow cemetery area will be excluded from the application area and steps will be taken to minimise the effect upon the hydrology.

### **Eynsham/Cassington/Yarnton**

1. This area, containing seven nomination areas, lies to the north of the River Thames and is bounded to the west by the Lower Evenlode Valley. The central area is a low but prominent hill overlooking the two river courses. The solid geology is Oxford Clay but the two river valleys contain terrace gravel some of which is covered by alluvium.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows most of the area as arable open fields with some hedge bordered pasture enclosures near to the rivers. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows that the area has been further enclosure with a considerable increase in the number of small enclosed fields, many with hedgerows boundaries. The density of the small enclosed fields increases in the proximity of settlement. Around the Upper Evenlode Valley a number of the field boundaries were removed between the late nineteenth century and the early sixties when the 1961 aerial survey



was made. The landscape around Yarnton and north of the Thames had however not changed dramatically. The ridge and furrow is mostly found on the higher clay terrain with the gravel terrace and flood plain being mainly pasture. Since the sixties however there has been some arable cultivation in these areas.

3. This is an area that is rich in archaeological sites. From the later prehistoric period onwards the floodplain and lower gravel terraces have been utilised for pasture with arable farming concentrated on the higher ground. South of Cassington and east of the River Evenlode there has been mineral extraction and this has resulted in the loss of several archaeological sites that would be accepted today as being of demonstrably equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6) These are the settlement sites at Perwell Farm and City Farm and the late prehistoric enclosure south of Cassington. The site at Perwell Farm was occupied from the Neolithic period through to the Anglo Saxon period. A substantial Bronze Age barrow cemetery was located at City Farm. The site near Cassington, known as the Big Ring, was identified as a cropmark in the early twentieth century. This consisted of an Iron Age valley fort. Within it and outside of it are earlier and later features, including funerary monuments from the periods represented. Some elements from these monuments that still survive are within nomination areas. The area does contain a number of surviving archaeological sites. None of them are Scheduled Ancient Monuments but some are potentially at least of regional significance. These include a Bronze Age settlement east of Eynsham, various barrows and enclosures and the site of a deserted medieval village. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 08**

1. This nomination area is on the west side of the River Evenlode. It is bisected by the Eynsham/Hanborough road. East of the road it is floodplain. The gravel is covered by alluvium which may have masked the identification of archaeological features. West of the road the geology is second terrace gravel.
2. Whilst the gravel beneath the alluvium may contain archaeological features there are cropmarks on the second terrace. These include a number of barrows, probably associated and contemporary with the cemetery at City Farm, some enclosures and pits. Although some boundaries have been removed it appears that the landscape and land use has not changed significantly since the late nineteenth century.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. A large part of the nomination area is covered by alluvium and this may mask previously unknown archaeological features. The potential of such features is impossible to assess but it is possible that features that are demonstrably of equivalent status to scheduled sites may be present. This possibility therefore has to be assessed. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the

cropmarks and of those areas covered by alluvium (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG- 20**

1. This area, bisected by the A40, is covered by alluvium.
2. There are no known archaeological sites within this area. The area is covered by alluvium which may be masking archaeological sites of features.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 20b**

1. This area, bordered to the west by the B4449 is mostly covered by alluvium. There is a small raised gravel island within it.
2. An archaeological investigation of this site in 1991, including geophysical survey and field evaluation identified a Bronze Age settlement on a small raised gravel island.
3. This area is currently being considered for mineral extraction and a desk based assessment has highlighted the potential importance of the Bronze Age site. Evaluation has also been undertaken. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If permission is granted, based upon the available evidence we will require further investigation of the area. This will include the excavation and recording of the Bronze Age settlement (HE12.13).

#### **Site Nomination SG – 20a**

1. This area is bisected by the River Thames. It is mostly covered by alluvium.
2. This nomination area directly south of the Big Ring. It is highly probable that related features extend into the nomination area beneath the alluvium. Such features are of enhanced significance because whilst most of the site has been lost any features beneath the alluvium are likely to be very well preserved. A cropmark enclosure is discernable within the area south of the river. It is plausible that this is contemporary and associated with it. Also north of the river are the earthwork remains of Somerford deserted medieval village. These medieval features post date the alluvium and are therefore discernable. The earthworks include house platforms, trackways, crofts and probably ridge and furrow beneath the earthworks that predate the village. Well preserved deserted medieval villages

3. The features within this nomination area site are, when combined, demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 16**

1. This nomination area lies directly south of Yarnton. The geology is alluvium.
2. There are no known archaeological features within the area. The alluvial overburden may however mask other archaeological features. To the south east archaeological investigation has revealed an extensive spread of archaeological features and activity from the Neolithic period to the Anglo Saxon period.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 04**

1. This nomination area lies to the south of Yarnton. The geology is second terrace gravel.
2. There are no known archaeological features within the area. To the south archaeological investigation has revealed an extensive spread of archaeological features and activity from the Neolithic period to the Anglo Saxon period.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 05**

1. This nomination site lies between the A40 and the railway line. The geology is alluvium.
2. There are no known archaeological features within the area. The alluvial overburden may however mask other archaeological features. To the east archaeological investigation has revealed an extensive spread of archaeological features and activity from the Neolithic period to the Anglo Saxon period.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological

features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Radley**

1. This area is bisected by the River Thames with nomination areas on either bank. On each side of the river is a strip of floodplain that is covered by alluvium. As the ground rises from the floodplain there are two gravel terraces.
2. The Rocque Map of 1761 and the Davis Map of 1797 both show the floodplain as being rough pasture with the fields on the gravel terrace being mostly arable but with some pasture. Most of the fields are depicted with hedgerow boundaries. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows the east bank as retaining a series of small enclosed fields but on the west side many of the boundaries on the gravel terrace have seemingly been removed. There seems to have not been significant changes by the end of the twentieth century. There is no evidence of ridge and furrow.
3. The area contains a number of scheduled Ancient Monuments (SM 240 and SM 241). It also includes Nuneham Park, a Grade I Registered Park (PG 1017). On the east bank is a Romano British pottery production site. Geophysical survey and limited trial trenching has revealed an extensive area of well preserved kilns covered with the residual evidence of pottery manufacturing. The southern side of Oxford was the scene of pottery production in the later Romano British period. Elsewhere the evidence has been lost through later development and this is a rare example where it has survived. Whilst this area is not scheduled its state of preservation rarity enhances its importance. On the east bank there is evidence of historic field systems and a multi period site on the gravel terrace overlooking the river. The extent of this has not been defined.
4. Whilst we are recommending that one of these areas is not considered for gravel extraction it may be possible to reduce the archaeological constraints by changing the current nomination boundaries.

### **Site Nomination SG – 41**

1. Adjacent to the river the floodplain is covered by alluvium. The ground rises to the west to the first and second gravel terraces.
2. There are a number of cropmarks visible on the alluvium consisting of trackways and enclosures. These either post date the alluvium or are revealed where the alluvium is either shallow or a gravel island projects through it. It is quite likely that other earlier features survive beneath the alluvium. On the first and second terraces are a number of cropmark features. These were, in part, investigated during the construction of a pipeline and included multi period settlement features.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation).

At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SG – 42**

1. This area is broadly covered by alluvium.
2. The southern boundary of this nomination area abuts Nuneham Courtenay Park. This is a Grade I registered park (PG 1017) and English Heritage should be consulted regarding its setting and the potential impact upon it. In the northern part are some cropmarks, albeit somewhat indistinct in terms of character. Prior to the construction of a pipeline field walking, geophysical survey and trenched investigation was undertaken, the latter within the pipeline footprint. This revealed an extensive spread of Romano British kilns. The site includes kilns and the associated settlement covering an area of approximately 20 hectares. The field work revealed a very high level of preservation. The Oxford area was an important pottery production area in the later Romano British period and this is best surviving example. There is evidence of earlier activity, including a number of ring ditches.
3. The large kiln site is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). Extraction of the site will also impact upon the registered park at Nuneham Courtenay. As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 56**

1. This site is first terrace gravel. OS show that mineral extraction has taken place but this could be either an error or relate to the extraction of upper levels of gravel.
2. To the north of this site are two Scheduled Monuments (SM 240 and SM 241). There is no evidence of archaeological features in this site but the presence of prehistoric activity on adjacent areas suggests that this is quite plausible.
3. Given that OS show this site as being a previously worked site and that there are no known archaeological features within it suggests that the nomination should be considered. However the close proximity of known archaeological features will require the site to be investigated. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Clifton Hampden**

1. This single nomination area lies on the north bank of the River Thames. The geology is first terrace gravel with a band of alluvial overburden running along the bank of the river. In places gravel islands project through the alluvium.

2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows the alluvial floodplain as pasture with some division. On the gravel terrace the land-use is arable with hedged field boundaries. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows fields boundaries but no longer with hedged boundaries. There are a number of small plantations. A railway line runs through the area on a north south axis. The field boundaries have not changed significantly since then. Most of the area is now arable. There is no evidence of ridge and furrow.
3. The north side of the Thames at Clifton Hampden is rich in archaeological features. There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument to the west of the railway (SM147). Elsewhere on the gravel terrace are a series of well defined settlements of late prehistoric and Romano British date. There is also a Bronze Age barrow cemetery. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will effect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.

### **Site Nomination SG – 17**

1. This area lies on the first gravel terrace. There is a band of alluvium running along the bank but this is interrupted by an island of first terrace gravel.
2. Within this area is a Bronze Age barrow cemetery. This was thought to be scheduled but it appears that the procedure was never finally completed and as a result the monument does not have scheduled status. Given that English Heritage was in the process of scheduling the monument we should consider it to be of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). This area also contains three other well defined cropmark settlement sites. The alluvial overburden may also mask other significant archaeological features.
3. This area is currently at a pre application stage. An archaeological desk based assessment has been undertaken and we have, in line with English Heritage advice requested archaeological field evaluation is undertaken to assess the barrow cemetery. Unless the state of preservation is found to be poor then we will look to recommend that permission is not granted.
4. The large barrow cemetery however is currently demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). Also there are other well defined settlements in the area that further increase its significance. As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction. With regards to this nomination the forthcoming evaluation will provide useful further information and we would reserve the right to reassess this nomination when this additional information is available.

### **Warborough/Benson/Shillingford**

1. This area contains four nomination areas. The topography consists of a narrow floodplain on the northern bank with gentle slopes rising away from the river. A number of small streams cross the area. The geology is first terrace gravel overlying gault clay with alluvial overburden lying

- over the gravel on the floodplain and adjacent to the river and stream courses.
2. The Davis Map of 1797 shows most of the Warborough and Drayton areas as being open arable fields with pasture on the floodplain and adjacent to the small streams. Around Stadhampton the area is shown as having arable fields with hedgerows. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows some additional boundaries around Warborough and the area remains essentially open. Around Stadhampton there is a reduction in the number of boundaries. There is not any significant change during the twentieth century and today the majority of the area consists of large arable fields with few surviving landscape features.
  3. The area is rich in archaeological sites and features. As with most gravel areas the sites are recognisable as cropmarks and they represent activity from the Neolithic period until enclosure. The area around Warborough contains seven Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SM9, SM186, SM116, SM 17, SM144, SM31435, SM31432 and SM 31431). This includes a number of prehistoric features including a cursus, a long mortuary enclosure, several Neolithic long barrows and an Iron Age settlement. This was a very important ritual landscape during those periods and that landscape extends outside the scheduled area and should be seen in a wider context than merely a number of separate distinct monuments. The Stadhampton area also contains potentially important prehistoric sites some of which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites. Dorchester was a very important regional centre in both the Romano British and Anglo Saxon periods. Elements of the settlement spread eastwards with cemeteries and further settlement. Not all these features are scheduled but some are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.
  4. Whilst we are recommending that some of these areas are not considered further for gravel extraction it may be possible to reduce the archaeological constraints by changing the current nomination boundaries.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 59**

1. This area is first terrace gravel with a small area of alluvial overburden in the north western corner.
2. This area contains three distinct areas of cropmarks. These include three Bronze Age ring ditches, two rectangular enclosures and three circular and one rectangular enclosure. There is no dating evidence at present for the latter two. The alluvium may mask earlier features.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of

such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 09**

1. This area is bisected by the road from Drayton Saint Leonard to Stadhampton. The geology is first terrace gravel with alluvium in a band adjacent to the River Thames.
2. On either side of the road are a series of cropmarks. These include a later prehistoric settlement, a series of barrows, enclosures, a pit alignment and a cursus. These form part of a very important prehistoric landscape with a combination of ritual, funerary and domestic settlement. All of the sites are related and its importance should be assessed as a landscape with preserved elements rather than a series of separate and distinct monuments.
3. This area contains evidence of an extensive historic landscape dating from the Neolithic to Iron Age period, with a large settlement, funerary and religious monuments, a ritual cursus and evidence of a landscape that was occupied and utilised in an extensive fashion over a long period of time. There is potential for the preservation of well preserved archaeological features with waterlogged deposits. The cropmark sites and the overall spread of the archaeological landscape are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 13**

1. This area lies on the first gravel terrace, with alluvium around the stream at Gallows Leaze and second terrace gravel in the most north eastern part.
2. This area contains three Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SM31432, SM 31431 and SM 31435). These include two Neolithic long barrows and a substantial later prehistoric and Romano British settlement. North of these is a further late prehistoric and Romano British settlement on the second terrace. In the western part are a series of features associated with Roman Dorchester including a Roman road with settlement enclosures abutting it. These features are not scheduled but form part of a wider important Romano British town. The cropmarks that show these features have been identified recently and a limited geophysical survey has shown surprising detail. It is likely that these features and others survive in this part of the nomination area.
3. This area contains evidence of an extensive historic landscape dating from the Neolithic to the Romano British period, with two large settlements, funerary and religious monuments, a Romano British roadside settlement and evidence of a landscape that was occupied and utilised in an extensive fashion over a long period of time. There is potential for the preservation of well preserved archaeological features with waterlogged deposits. The cropmark sites and the overall spread of the archaeological landscape are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). As such this nomination area



should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

### **Site Nomination SG – 03**

1. This area lies immediately north of the Thames and is covered by alluvial overburden.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area but it is possible that archaeological features lie beneath the alluvium. However it should be noted that this area is of high archaeological potential. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Sutton Courtenay**

1. These nomination areas lie on the south side of the River Thames in the area of Sutton Courtenay. Immediately either side of the river is an area that is covered by alluvium. Beyond this strip gravel terraces rise up.
2. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the alluvium as being rough pasture. The gravel terraces are shown with field boundaries, some of which are defined by hedgerows. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows that field boundaries have changed relatively little since that time. Most of this area is now arable. There is little ridge and furrow.
3. This area is rich in archaeological sites and features. It contains four Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SM 248, SM 250 and SM). There has been extensive mineral extraction in the past and east of Appleford extraction is currently ongoing. The alluvium tends to mask earlier cropmarks but on the terraces features appear well defined. These include extensive prehistoric settlements and Romano British settlement. Some of the latter appears to date to the very earliest part of that period with a potential villa enclosure. These latter features have been removed by extraction. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will affect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction.
4. Whilst we are recommending that one of these areas is not considered for gravel extraction it may be possible to reduce the archaeological constraints by changing the current nomination boundaries.

### **Site Nomination SG – 06**

1. This nomination area consists of two areas. They are both first terrace gravel with some alluvial overburden in the northernmost area.

2. Neither of these areas contains any known archaeological features although it is possible that features are masked by the alluvium. Adjacent areas have however contained archaeological features.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive intact beneath the alluvial overburden. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 19**

1. This area is first terrace gravel although the strip adjacent to the Thames is covered with alluvial overburden.
2. The area contains several cropmarks, though visible on the alluvium probably post date the alluvium. A single ring ditch is visible on the gravel terrace. Recent investigation prior to extraction on an adjacent area has revealed Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano British deposits but little physical evidence of settlement. No evidence was found of a villa but the area is certainly of regional importance. The alluvium may mask earlier features.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 53**

1. The geology of this area is first terrace gravel.
2. This area contains a small cropmark complex. This appears to be a small later prehistoric or Romano British settlement. There is evidence of later ridge and furrow overlying these features but this has now been ploughed out.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 62**

1. This area contains a small series of cropmarks that appear to be enclosures. These probably relate to the extensive cropmark directly to the north. This is a Scheduled Ancient monument (SM 243). This is a

vast later prehistoric and Romano British settlement and the parts of it extending into this nomination area form an integral part of this monument. As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

### **Sutton/Stanton Harcourt**

1. The Sutton/Stanton Harcourt area is a low lying floodplain to the west of the River Thames. The geology map shows alluvial overburden over gravel. The solid geology is clay. Given that cropmarks are discernable within the area it is questionable whether the alluvium is as extensive or as thick as the geology survey suggests (Cropmarks are visible, often from the air as marks in some types of growing or mature crops and in pasture when conditions are suitable. They are essentially the result of differential growth in vegetation due to the presence of archaeological features and outlines of them are visible within the crop). Most of the area is currently arable/
2. The 1st edition OS and the Davis Map show an area of small fields, separated by hedges and ditches. One could assume that at that time the landscape had changed relatively little since enclosure and that pasture was then the main agricultural land use. The 1961 aerial survey shows that since then many of the field boundaries have been removed and arable farming has become the more common practice. This practice of hedgerow removal has continued although the most recent survey shows that the situation has stabilised and that the landscape has not changed significantly in the last ten years. The aerial photographic evidence shows no surviving ridge and furrow nor any evidence of ridge and furrow that has been removed as earthworks. This suggests that the area was historically pasture and that the arable usage is more recent and this has caused the removal of so many hedgerows and drainage ditches or streams.
3. The area contains two concentrations of cropmarks. One centred on Pinkhill Farm that includes funerary monuments, enclosures and field systems dating to the prehistoric period. The other centred on Taney's Farm appears to be a Romano British settlement with enclosures and trackways. Whilst neither of them is directly related they are linked by their proximity and the continuity of their occupation. Perhaps they represent the change in the local settlement focus at the end of the prehistoric period. Whilst neither of these is within a nominated area their complexity and importance within the historic landscape should preclude them from future consideration within this process. Any mineral extraction might have an adverse effect upon the hydrology of these sites and dewatering could have a significant effect upon waterlogged features and deposits.
4. Any mineral extraction will destroy these archaeological features and will effect the hydrology of the area, therefore effecting the preservation

of other archaeological sites in the area that are not physically disturbed by the extraction

#### **Site Nomination SG – 29**

1. The majority of the field boundaries within this nomination area that were shown on the 1st edition OS and the Davis Map have now been removed. There is no surviving ridge and furrow. There is a small area of cropmarks in the western part of the area. Rectangular block marks suggest previous quarrying. Other features include some circular enclosures or possible barrows, linear features forming part of an earlier field system, a concentration of pits that could be later prehistoric and or a possible small Anglo Saxon settlement. There is little evidence of continuity of settlement here but the variation of settlement type and period is interesting.
2. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site Nomination SG – 31**

1. The majority of the field boundaries within this nomination area that were shown on the 1st edition OS and the Davis Map have now been removed. Various water courses/ditches have also been removed. The three major east/west boundaries and tracks survive from the later part of the C19th as do the two north/south water courses. However the landscape has significantly changed since the late C19th. There is no evidence of ridge and furrow.
2. A number of cropmarks are discernable within the area. A sinuous trackway running north/south appears to lead towards the Romano British settlement at Tawneys Farm. Pottery from the trackway dates it to the Romano British period. There appear to be enclosures either side of it, some with internal divisions. There are other linear features that are also probably trackways. Investigation of some of them did not provide any dating evidence but burning from the primary fills suggest vegetation burning, possibly from scrub clearance when initial enclosure was being undertaken.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the cropmarks and the remaining area to test whether the alluvial overburden is masking archaeological features (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

## **Soft Sand**

1. This assessment of the archaeological implications of the sand and gravel nomination areas attempts to initially assess the general area of groups of nominations before assessing each nomination individually. The assessment includes an appraisal of the geology, cartographic evidence and aerial photographic surveys.
2. There has not been a historic landscape characterisation study of Oxfordshire. To obviate this we have attempted a broadbrush assessment of the landscape character of each area by reviewing various sources. These have included two historic maps dating to the late eighteenth century (Davis and Rocque Maps), 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey and vertical aerial photographic surveys from 1961 to 2009. Whilst this coverage is not as comprehensive or reliable as a county wide survey it is a serious attempt to try fill this gap in our data.
3. Each assessment has included an appraisal of the known archaeology and the potential archaeology of both the wider areas and the specific nomination areas. The various sources are listed below. Where the nomination area includes archaeological assets that are either scheduled or are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6) we have tended towards recommending that the nomination area is not considered further. At this stage we have not considered or suggested specific alterations to nomination areas to reduce the impact upon the archaeological resource. This is perhaps something to investigate at a later time on specific nominations.
4. Where archaeological sites are not demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites but are of regional and local importance then we have advised that should the nomination area be included as a viable extraction site and planning permission sought we would require pre determination investigation. This would involve desk based assessment, where applicable geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (HE6.1). The information from this would assist in deciding whether permission should be granted and if it is then what level of mitigation would be most appropriate. We should stress that preservation in situ is always the preferred option should archaeological features are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites. Where they are not appropriate excavation and recording will be required.
5. Where the evidence suggests that the impact upon the archaeological resource is considered to be low we have advised that in the event of extraction then archaeological monitoring will be required. As with all the nomination sites our advice is based on current information and in the event of new information becoming available we would reserve the right to review our advice.
6. All the soft sand nomination areas, apart from Duns Tew (SG – 06) are located on the Corallian ridge that runs from west of Oxford to Faringdon. There is evidence of extensive activity from the Mesolithic period to the present along the ridge. This sometimes is discernable as cropmarks that are visible from the air. Cropmarks are visible, often from the air as marks in some types of growing or mature crops and in

pasture when conditions are suitable. They are essentially the result of differential growth in vegetation due to the presence of archaeological features and outlines of them are visible within the crop. In places however features have not shown as cropmarks because the soft sand does not have the same preserving qualities, as for instance are present in the gravels. Often features and sites have only been identified through trenching and recording prior to extraction and their condition has often been poor with only the discolouration of the sand enabling identification to be made. This makes it difficult to predict the likelihood of important archaeological deposits being encountered. Also the condition of the surviving features is often poor, with little chance of environmental or organic deposits surviving.

7. Evidence of Mesolithic activity has also been identified with concentrations of lithic artefacts. However evidence of activity beyond this has proved elusive. Whilst ground surfaces relating to the artefacts have not survived in any of the areas that have been examined it is possible that evidence of them do survive in situ. Should such features be revealed this would prove to be very important to our understanding of the earlier prehistoric period.

#### **Site nomination SS – 01**

1. This area lies immediately to the north of the A420 between Tubney and Fyfield. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the western part of the area as pasture with arable open fields in the eastern portion. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows a single field boundary, this is still extant and is still the only landscape feature within the area.
2. The area contains no known archaeological features. There are no significant archaeological features within the vicinity of the nomination area. Within the woodland to the east archaeological recording has been undertaken in advance of mineral extraction. Evaluation revealed some features along with concentrations of Mesolithic flint artefacts. Further investigation revealed Romano British burials that were only really identifiable as changes in the soil colouring. Related or similar features may extend into this nomination area.
3. Whilst there are no known archaeological features within this area it does lie within an area of archaeological potential and it is possible that archaeological features survive within the sand. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area to test whether archaeological features or artefact concentrations are present (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SS – 03**

1. This area lies to the west of the village of Hatford. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the area as being arable open fields with a small farm in the eastern side. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS a small farmstead in the north part of the area but the farmstead in the east has been abandoned and only a walled enclosure survives. None of these features now survive. There is evidence of ridge and furrow in the southwest corner but this

has been completely removed by ploughing. The whole area is now arable.

2. Romano British pottery and evidence of a wall of that date has been found in the north east part of the nomination area. There is evidence of extensive later prehistoric and Romano British settlement north of the Frogmore Brook. Whether this extended southwards is as of yet unclear. The cartographic evidence suggests the presence of a eighteenth century farmstead, although this may have been established earlier than this.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SS – 04**

1. This area lies directly north of the A420 at Longworth. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the area as being open fields in the northern half and rough pasture in the southern half. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows no landscape features within the area. It is currently pasture.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area but various artefact concentrations were revealed during the construction of the A420 dual carriageway.
3. A planning application was made to extract minerals from this site. Although the application was refused archaeology was **not** a material factor in the refusal. Prior to the refusal a programme of investigation was agreed with the applicant that included field walking, the evaluation of any artefact scatters and a programme of monitoring and recording during the initial topsoil strip of the site.
4. At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed. In the event of this nomination area being included we would envisage initiating a programme of investigation similar to that outlined in the above paragraph.

#### **Site nomination SS – 05**

1. This area lies directly south of the A 415 west of Frilford. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the area as being arable open field. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows no landscape features within the area. It is currently pasture. There is no ridge and furrow.
2. The area contains a number of archaeological features. These include a Roman villa that was found in the late nineteenth century by Sir Arthur Evans. The records suggest this was a corridor villa with approximately twelve rooms with a possible cistern or bath house just to the north east. However two watching briefs have failed to provide any evidence of a villa. Some geophysical survey has identified a number of enclosures but no more. It is unlikely that Evans misinterpreted the features or located it at the wrong place. There is an extensive cropmark site that covers the northern part of the nomination

area. This includes circular features, possibly eroded Bronze Age barrows, rectangular enclosures and an abundance of pits. This is probably an Iron Age and Romano British settlement. If this settlement is directly linked to a villa then the importance of it increases. A recent aerial photograph suggests the possible presence of an Iron Age banjo enclosure in the south of the area.

3. The large cropmark, in conjunction with the villa site is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6). As such this nomination area should not, on archaeological grounds be considered for mineral extraction.

#### **Site nomination SS – 06**

1. This nomination site lies south of Duns Tew. The Davis Map of 1797 shows the area as being arable open fields. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows it as a single field. It is currently a single arable field.
2. There are no known archaeological features within or within the vicinity of the nomination area.

#### **Site nomination SS – 07**

1. This area lies to the north of Shellingford. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the area as open arable fields. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows no significant landscape features. It appears to have changed little since the late nineteenth century and it is currently arable.
2. There are no known archaeological features within this area
3. The archaeological potential of this nomination area is currently considered to be low. In the event of extraction we would require archaeological monitoring. It does not appear that archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SS – 08**

1. This nomination area, comprising of two separate areas lies to the east of Shellingford. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the two areas as being arable open fields. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows no significant landscape features. It appears to have changed little since the late nineteenth century and it is currently arable.
2. A small lithic scatter has been found in the south east part of the nomination area.
3. The archaeological potential of this nomination area is currently considered to be low. In the event of extraction we would require archaeological monitoring. It does not appear that archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination SS – 12**

1. This nomination area, comprising of two separate areas lies to the north of the A415. The Rocque Map of 1761 shows the two areas as being arable open fields, with some pasture adjacent to the Frogmore Brook. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS shows no significant landscape features apart from some woodland and pasture around the brook. Both



portions are currently arable but there is a small copse in the southern most part of the northern portion.

2. Within the southern part of the nomination area a trackway and probable prehistoric field system has been identified as a cropmark. Recent archaeological investigation in advance of mineral extraction on adjacent sites have revealed a Bronze Age barrow, with the burial and grave goods intact and a series of substantial prehistoric enclosures and possible buildings. None of these features were visible as cropmarks.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is potentially however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

## **Crushed Rock**

This assessment of the archaeological implications of the sand and gravel nomination areas attempts to initially assess the general area of groups of nominations before assessing each nomination individually. The assessment includes an appraisal of the geology, cartographic evidence and aerial photographic surveys.

There has not been a historic landscape characterisation study of Oxfordshire. To obviate this we have attempted a broadbrush assessment of the landscape character of each area by reviewing various sources. These have included two historic maps dating to the late eighteenth century (Davis and Rocque Maps), 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey and vertical aerial photographic surveys from 1961 to 2009. Whilst this coverage is not as comprehensive or reliable as a county wide survey it is a serious attempt to try fill this gap in our data.

Each assessment has included an appraisal of the known archaeology and the potential archaeology of both the wider areas and the specific nomination areas. The various sources are listed below. Where the nomination area includes archaeological assets that are either scheduled or are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6) we have tended towards recommending that the nomination area is not considered further. At this stage we have not considered or suggested specific alterations to nomination areas to reduce the impact upon the archaeological resource. This is perhaps something to investigate at a later time on specific nominations.

Where archaeological sites are not demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites but are of regional and local importance then we have advised that should the nomination area be included as a viable extraction site and planning permission sought we would require pre determination investigation. This would involve desk based assessment, where applicable geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (HE6.1). The information from this would assist in deciding whether permission should be granted and if it is then what level of mitigation would be most appropriate. We should stress that preservation in situ is always the preferred option should archaeological features are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites. Where they are not appropriate excavation and recording will be required.

Where the evidence suggests that the impact upon the archaeological resource is considered to be low we have advised that in the event of extraction then archaeological monitoring will be required. As with all the nomination sites our advice is based on current information and in the event of new information becoming available we would reserve the right to review our advice.

All the crushed rock nomination areas involve the extraction of either limestone or sandstone. These nomination areas tend to be located on higher ground with a lower depth of topsoil. Often the land is not especially agriculturally productive. The topsoil tends to be relatively thin and the presence of cropmarks varies not least due to the landuse. Cropmarks are visible, often from the air as marks in some types of growing or mature crops and in pasture when conditions are suitable. They are essentially the result of differential growth in vegetation due to the presence of archaeological features and outlines of them are visible within the crop. Historically archaeologists and archaeological surveys have tended to concentrate on the Oxford region and the area where gravels form the drift geology. The latter is because sites are often easily identified as cropmarks and the wet conditions prevalent provides conditions ideal for the preservation of features, deposits and artefacts. As a result the other areas of Oxfordshire have tended to be somewhat ignored. This has changed in recent years and with fewer restrictions on flying after the closure of Upper Heyford the number of known sites has increased dramatically and the clay vale and the uplands are being recognised as archaeologically important from the earlier prehistoric periods onwards.

#### **Site nomination CR – 02**

1. This area lies immediately to the south of the A40 east of Burford. The Davis Map shows this area as being part of Berkshire and was not included in the map. There is seemingly little change in the landscape between the late nineteenth century and the present day.
2. The area is bisected by Akeman Street, a Roman road running from Alchester to Corinium. In the earliest phase of the occupation this formed the line of the frontier with the as yet unconquered part of Britain. The road had a metalled surface with a cambered agger and side ditches. Elsewhere there is evidence of road side settlement. A small Romano British cemetery has been found adjacent to the road. Approximately a dozen burials were found but it is possible that the cemetery was more extensive than this.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

1.

#### **Site nomination CR – 03**

1. This area lies adjacent to the existing stone quarry west of Little Rollright. The Davis Map shows this as a single pasture field with a hedge boundary. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS does not show a hedge boundary. The recent aerial photographic evidence shows that it is now arable and that the boundary contains a few trees and bushes but is not contiguous.
2. The area contains no known archaeological features. An early Bronze Age beaker was found on an adjacent site but archaeological

monitoring undertaken when stripping for the adjacent quarry was undertaken failed to reveal any further features or artefacts.

3. The archaeological potential of this nomination area is currently considered to be low. In the event of extraction we would require archaeological monitoring. It does not appear that archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination CR – 06**

1. This area lies to the north west of Hatford. The eastern part of this nomination has had archaeological recording undertaken prior to stripping. The western part however has not been stripped and therefore any archaeological features survive in situ. The Rocque Map shows this nomination area as being arable open fields. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS does not show any landscape features. The western part is currently arable.
2. The eastern part of the nomination area and the area between the east and western parts of the nomination area have been subject to archaeological recording. This revealed an extensive spread of Iron Age and Romano British settlement. It is likely that this spreads into the western part of the nomination area.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is potentially however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

#### **Site nomination CR – 07**

1. This area lies immediately to the south of the A40 east of Burford. The Davis Map shows this area as being part of Berkshire and was not included in the map. There is seemingly little change in the landscape between the late nineteenth century and the present day.
2. The area is bisected by Akeman Street, a Roman road running from Alchester to Corinium. In the earliest phase of the occupation this formed the line of the frontier with the as yet unconquered part of Britain. The road had a metalled surface with a cambered agger and side ditches. Elsewhere there is evidence of road side settlement. A small Romano British cemetery has been found adjacent to the road. Approximately a dozen burials were found but it is possible that the cemetery was more extensive than this.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site nomination CR – 08**

1. This area lies west of the A361 near Sarsden. The Davis Map shows this area as being arable fields with hedged boundaries. Neither the Davis map nor the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS show the planting directly to the north. This is shown on the 1961 aerial survey. The area is currently arable.
2. Immediately to the north is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM28149). This is a Bronze Age bowl barrow that survives as an upstanding earthwork. The surrounding ditch is also still visible. It is possible that satellite and or associated features extend into the nomination area.
3. It is possible that the setting of the monument will be affected by mineral extraction. Advice concerning this should be sought from English Heritage. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). We are likely to require that a buffer zone be created to shield the Scheduled Monument from the quarry. At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site nomination CR – 09**

1. This nomination is located west of Great Tew. The Davis Map shows the area as being rough pasture. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS is subdivided into smaller paddocks with hedged partitions. The area is now arable but with the same field pattern although a small copse has been planted in the centre of it.
2. The area contains no known archaeological features.
3. The archaeological potential of this nomination area is currently considered to be low. In the event of extraction we would require archaeological monitoring. It does not appear that archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site nomination CR – 10**

1. This nomination area is located north east of Shilton. The Davis Map shows this area as being part of Berkshire and was not included in the map. There is seemingly little change in the landscape between the late nineteenth century and the present day
2. The area contains no known archaeological features. Archaeological investigation on a nearby area failed to reveal any archaeological features.
3. The archaeological potential of this nomination area is currently considered to be low. In the event of extraction we would require archaeological monitoring. It does not appear that archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.

### **Site nomination CR – 11**

1. This nomination area lies to the north west of Hatford. The Rocque Map shows this area as being arable open fields. There was little change by the end of the nineteenth century. During the last century the area has been divided by a hedgerow but it is still arable.

2. There has been some archaeological excavation within this nomination area. This has revealed Iron Age and Romano British settlement.
3. Whilst none of the archaeology here is demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled sites (HE9.6), it is however of regional importance. If extraction was proposed then we would require investigation of the area (evaluation). At this stage it does not appear however that the archaeology is of such significance as to preclude extraction, nor is there reason why this nomination should not proceed.