

In the Inspector's document 'Responses due by deadline 4: 22nd August there is reference to Sansoms Platt - the protected monument within the Northern Sector of the proposed Botley West Solar Farm.

In the section ' Archaeology. 2.6.19 the question to the applicant begins:

Trial trenching results, Sansoms Platt

It is noted that in their submission [REP2-056], HE (Historic England) is still concerned about the level of impact assessed and the potential for the area of nationally important archaeological remains to be greater than the area currently scheduled.

It is also noted in HE's response to EXQ1.6.45 [REP2-025] that the results of trial trenching will be available at DL5. However, in [CR1-003] HE state that the trial trenching was commenced in August 2024. In their responses to EXQ1.6.35, both Oxford County Archaeology Service (OCAS) [REP2-050] and HE [REP2-056] have indicated that **"they are awaiting this important information in order to be able to more fully assess the potential impact on archaeological site....."**

The applicants response (Q2.6.19. Aug 2025) is to affirm "the Applicant has committed to avoiding impacts on all areas of significant archaeological remains through the design of the Project." and refers to awaiting the trial trenching results.

The applicants reliance on trial trenching to inform its decision as to where to build solar panels in the Northern section is absolutely flawed.

They are ignoring satellite evidence – see below - and crucially they are ignoring Blenheim's own Ground Radar mapping which has uncovered an enormous extension of the Roman Town extending a considerable distance alongside their planned positioning of solar panels and within their planned cable run. See Ground radar map below.

The satellite picture below clearly identifies below surface disturbances justifying a complete ground radar survey of this field meaning it must be completely taken out of the proposed Botley West Solar Farm scheme.

I note that the developers have acknowledged the presence of Roman remains in the top right hand corner and have taken this area out of their plans but completely surrounded it with solar panels – no buffer zone included. It is, I suggest, unlikely that a solitary random building was positioned outside of the town in that area - rather it demonstrates the town extends throughout this field as will be explained below.

Similarly, the developers have pulled back from the bottom of the field (Akeman Street) because of the results of the trial trenching conducted by Oxford County Council archaeologists. However, as is acknowledged above, OCC wish to **"be able to more fully assess the potential impact on the archaeological site....."**



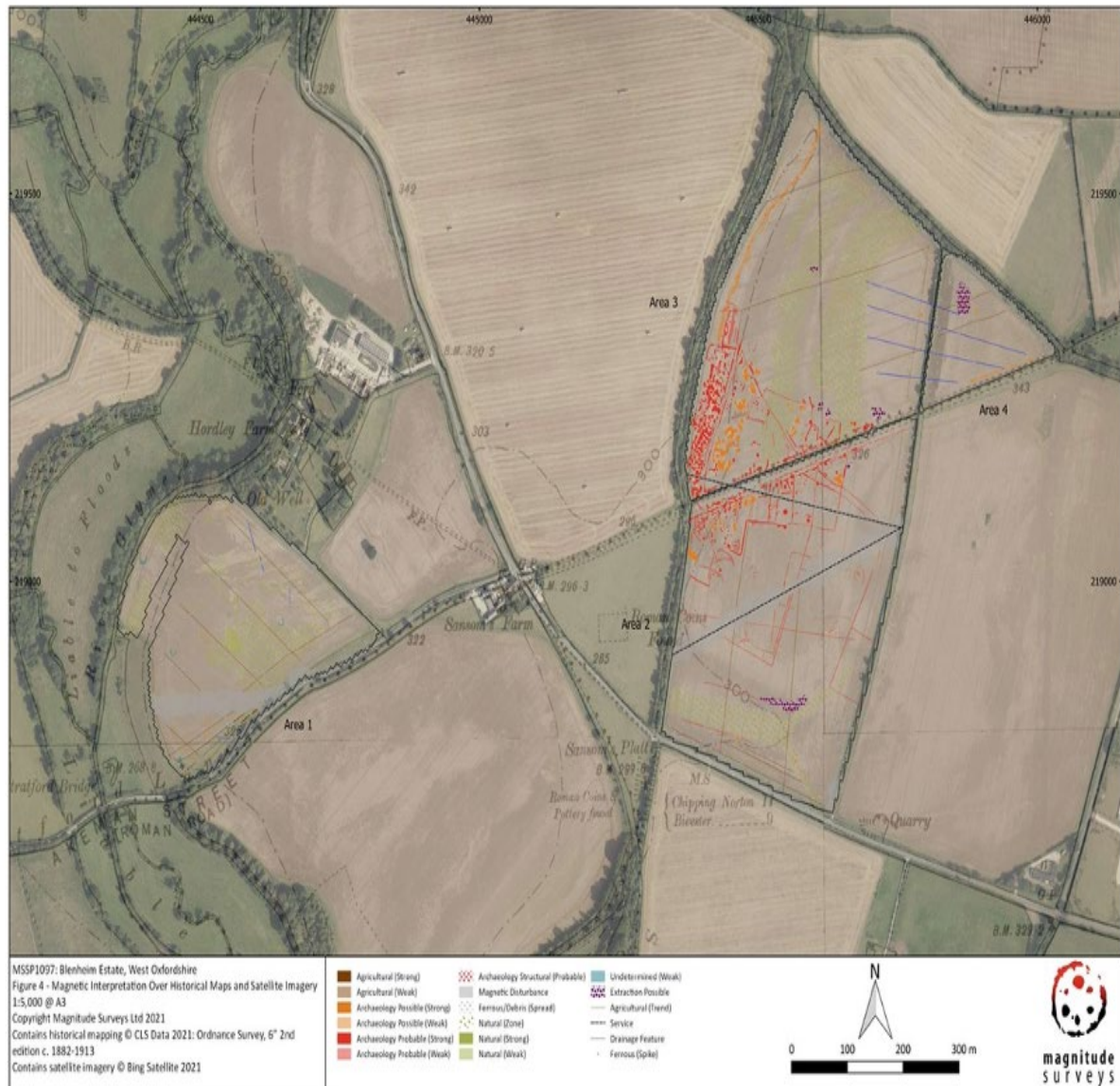
The extent of the Roman Town in this main field must without doubt extend alongside the below photo which is a ground radar survey undertaken by Blenheim and shows the considerable extent of the Roman Town extending beyond Hordley House. And up to Lower Dornford Farm and Cottage to the North West - the red areas being Roman buildings.

This town was not built in an L shape as the developers would seem to imply. Rather, a more accurate extent of the town would be to circle the red dotted area with the currently protected Platt area which then indicates that this was a large, significant trading town extending to Hordley House, Lower Dornford Farm and Cottage, around Sansoms Cottage and The Oxford School of Drama and NE towards Sturdy's Castle – all proven by ground radar, Roman remains, trenching and Satellite images.

Crucially, it was a days march from Bicester Fort and, therefore, a stop over for legionnaires, their chariots, weapons of war and troops and horses who all needed supplies and accommodation.

Historians know it was supplied from farms in Tackley giving access to Akeman Street which ran through the Town and provided a major trading route between Cirencester and St Albans, hence the towns value to troop movements. The horses would have to be housed overnight and so, I suggest field 1.11 provides an ideal turnout location for this, giving reason as to why some areas of field 1.11 have no detectable buildings and why there is

further development at the top end of the field. Horses would not be housed and turned out in the centre of the town -where we have discovered Roman buildings nor in the hilly fields around Sansoms Platt containing a Villa and other buildings.



There are more unprotected areas of this major Roman Town than are currently protected

Finally, the row of trees going top to bottom in photo 1 and photo 2 and alongside the ground radar discovery of buildings is Dornford Lane - a route that was used by a farm further North to bring produce and animals to Blenheim Hunting Lodge for King Richards feasts.

The developers intend to run their cables down this route which means they will dig right through this section of the Roman Town (field 1.11 which the developers have acknowledged contains Roman buildings following OCC's trenching and the red dots which indicate by Blenheim's ground radar more Roman buildings.)

It is beyond argument - this route cannot be used for cabling otherwise the developer is digging through a major part of the town which, at Sansoms Platt, is a protected monument

I submit, the developers relying on trial trenching to determine the full extent of this huge Roman Town and its surrounds is akin to holding a candle in the doorway of a darkened aircraft hanger to determine its size.

As so many parties are saying – more investigation needs to be done throughout the Northern sector. Indeed the Dornford Farm area has its own rich history alongside the Roman era.

So, please take out the whole of the Northern sector from the developers plans.

Future generations are about to lose their heritage and this uniquely pristine area lost forever.