



**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**LAND AT STREETLY HALL FARM
WEST WICKHAM
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**PREPARED ON BEHALF OF
STREETLY HALL ESTATES**

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Non-Technical Summary

GHC Archaeology & Heritage was commissioned by Streetly Hall Estates to produce an historic environment desk-based assessment to inform a planning application for a proposed anaerobic digestion plant at land at Streetly Hall Farm, West Wickham (centred at TL 6001 4858).

The desk-based assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF. It draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the significance and archaeological potential of the study site.

The assessment has established that there are no designated heritage assets in the study site and that the proposed development will have no impact upon any designated heritage asset.

The proposed access track crosses the line of the Via Devana Roman road, which is considered to be a heritage asset of regional importance. Impact upon the Roman road, without design solutions would be relatively low and localised, however, if considered necessary it is possible to construct the crossing with a no-dig solution removing any impact.

Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the search area, show that the study site has a moderate potential for prehistoric and Roman remains of local importance, which, if present, are unlikely to survive the development process.

There is no evidence to suggest that the site contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to prevent or constrain development. Under these circumstances, it would be reasonable for any further investigation to be secured by a condition attached to any grant of planning consent.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This historic environment desk-based assessment of land at Streetly Hall Farm, West Wickham (TL 6001 4858) has been prepared by GHC Archaeology & Heritage Limited on behalf of Streetly Hall Estates. The assessment has been undertaken to inform a planning application for a proposed anaerobic digestion plant on the site.
- 1.2 This document provides an assessment of the heritage interest in the study site, the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the study site and assesses the potential impacts that the proposed development could have on these and other heritage assets in the vicinity.
- 1.3 The assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Section 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'; revised July 2021) and is in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2020).

2 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 2.1 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by current legislation, the policy framework set by government planning policy, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

Current Legislation

- 2.2 The applicable legislative framework is summarised as follows:
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAAA) 1979;
 - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (P(LBCA)) Act 1990
- 2.3 The AMAAA largely relates to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and designated archaeological areas, detailing in particular what can and cannot be undertaken on archaeological grounds.
- 2.4 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (the 1990 Act) provides for the protection of listed buildings and Conservation Areas and is largely expressed in the planning process through policies in regional and local planning guidance, as outlined below. This act is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings and Conservation Areas through the planning process.
- 2.5 Section 66 of the 1990 Act states that '*...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses*'.

2.6 Section 72 then adds that ‘...with respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area’.

2.7 As far as Section 72 is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts that development which does not detract from the character or appearance of a Conservation Area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively ‘enhance’.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.8 Section 16 of the NPPF (revised July 2021), entitled ‘Conserving and enhancing the historic environment’ provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets.

2.9 Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

- Delivery of sustainable development
- Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment, and
- Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance

2.10 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 194 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

2.11 A Heritage Asset is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: ‘A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).’

2.12 Annex 2 also defines ‘Archaeological Interest’ as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage Assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

2.13 A Designated Heritage Asset comprises a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.

- 2.14 Significance is defined as: *'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.'*
- 2.15 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas)
 - Protects the settings of such designations
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk-based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in situ* preservation

Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.16 The Planning Practice Guidance is a web-based resource which is to be used in conjunction with the NPPF. It is aimed at planning professionals and prescribes best practice within the planning sector. The relevant section is entitled *'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'*. The guidance given in this section sets out the best practice to applying government policy in the NPPF.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.17 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036 was adopted in July 2021. It sets the requirements for Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities to prepare development plan documents and contains one policy relating to the historic environment:

POLICY 21: THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Councils recognise the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets (and their setting); the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and the opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

As such, all mineral and waste management proposals will be subject to the policy requirements set out in the NPPF, including striking an appropriate balance between harm

and public benefit, but, as a first principle, development should avoid harm on the historic environment.

To assist decision makers, all development proposals that would directly affect any heritage asset and/or its setting (whether designated or non-designated), must be accompanied by a Heritage Statement which, as a minimum, should:

(a) describe and assess the significance of the asset and/or its setting to determine its architectural, historic, artistic or archaeological interest;

(b) identify the impact of the development on the special character of the asset (including any cumulative impacts); and

(c) provide clear and convincing justification for any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting).

The level of detail in the Heritage Statement should be proportionate to the asset's significance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance and/or setting.

Where appropriate, and particularly for minerals development proposals, the Heritage Statement must also consider:

(d) the hydrological management of the site and the potential effects that variations in the water table or water flow patterns may have on known or potential archaeological remains. This assessment may be required to address an area beyond the planning application boundary; and

(e) the potential for palaeolithic or later archaeology at depth, possibly making use of, where appropriate, a deposit model looking at the characteristics and distribution of deposits and natural landforms across the site and the likely potential for archaeology of all periods.

2.18 The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was adopted in September 2018 and provides the spatial planning framework for development decisions. It contains one policy that is relevant to this historic environment assessment:

Policy NH/14: Heritage Assets

1. Development proposals will be supported when:

a. They sustain and enhance the special character and distinctiveness of the district's historic environment including its villages and countryside and its building traditions and details;

b. They create new high quality environments with a strong sense of place by responding to local heritage character including in innovatory ways.

2. Development proposals will be supported when they sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their settings, as appropriate to their significance and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly:

c. Designated heritage assets, i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens;

d. Non-designated heritage assets including those identified in conservation area appraisals, through the development process and through further supplementary planning documents;

e. The wider historic landscape of South Cambridgeshire including landscape and settlement patterns;

f. Designed and other landscapes including historic parks and gardens, churchyards, village greens and public parks;

g. Historic places;

h. Archaeological remains of all periods from the earliest human habitation to modern times.

Professional Guidance

2.19 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2020) provides guidelines and recommendations for best practice in undertaking archaeological desk-based research and assessment.

2.20 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015) outlines a seven-stage process for the assembly and analysis of relevant information relating to heritage assets potentially affected by a proposed development:

- Understand the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
- Understand the significance of the affected assets;
- Understand the impact of the proposal on that significance;
- Avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of the NPPF;
- Look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance;
- Justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development objective of conserving significance and the need for change; and

- Offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving archaeological and historical interest of the important elements of the heritage assets affected.
- 2.21 In order to understand the nature, extent and level of significance the note advocates considering the four types of heritage value an asset may hold, as identified in Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008): aesthetic, communal, historic and evidential. Significance results from a combination of any, some or all of the values.
- 2.22 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2017) recognises that whilst setting is not a heritage asset, elements of a setting ‘may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral’ (para. 4). Setting is described as being distinct to curtilage, character and context. This guidance also notes that the contribution of setting to the significance of a heritage asset is often expressed by reference to views, although the importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset, and this can be influenced by a number of other factors.
- 2.23 In order to assess the contribution made by setting to the significance of a heritage asset, and the implications of new developments, the guidance recommends that a systematic and staged ‘5-step process’ to assessment should be adopted, namely:
- i) identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
 - ii) assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - iii) assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
 - iv) explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm;
 - v) make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 2.24 This report therefore follows steps (i) and (ii) to identify the local heritage assets and their settings and then makes an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development having regard to steps (iii) and (iv).
- 2.25 The Historic England advice note, *Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12* (2019), brings together all of the above guidance in an analysis of an appropriate approach for applicants for heritage and other consents in providing an understanding of the significance of heritage assets in line with NPPF. This is aimed at providing assistance for owners, applicants, local planning authorities, planning and other consultants in the implementation of not only the guidance but also historic environment legislation and policy. It emphasises the level of detail required in support of both planning and

listed building consent applications, which should be no more than is necessary, i.e. proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected, to reach an informed decision.

3 METHODOLOGY

Information Sources

- 3.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted for all records within 1km of the study site. A gazetteer of all records held on the HER and the Historic England National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for within a 1km search area is provided in Appendix 1, and their locations marked on a plan in Figures 1-4.
- 3.2 Online repositories were consulted for historical maps, plans and relevant documentary sources, including published and unpublished documentary sources, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the ClfA (2020).
- 3.3 The Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Cambridgeshire including *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) were also consulted.
- 3.4 A site visit was undertaken on 25th October 2022 in sunny, dry conditions to provide an assessment of the character of the site and appraise the potential impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets (see Plates 1 to 14).

Assessment Criteria

Setting

- 3.5 The NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset as: *'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral'*.
- 3.6 Historic England's *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets Setting* (2017) was used to inform the methodology for this assessment which follows steps i) to iv) outlined in the guidance.

Significance

- 3.7 Paragraph 194 of the NPPF (2021) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 3.8 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance

of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 194, NPPF 2021) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

- 3.9 Assessment of significance has been undertaken in accordance with the Historic England's *Statements of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (2019).

Definition of Harm

- 3.10 Current guidance by Historic England is that 'change' does not equate to 'harm'. The NPPF and its accompanying PPG effectively distinguish between two degrees of harm to designated heritage assets – substantial and less than substantial. Paragraph 201 of the NPPF states that:

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

- 3.11 Paragraph 202 of the NPPF states that:

'Where a development proposal would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposals...'

- 3.12 In determining the effects of the Proposed Scheme this heritage statement is cognisant of case law. Including the below:

- Flag Station, Mansel Lacy, Herefordshire [22/09/2015] Case Number EWHC 2688

- 3.13 This ruling has emphasised the primacy of the 1990 Planning Act – and the fact that it is up to the decision makers in the planning system to 'have special regard to the desirability of preserving the [listed] building or its setting'. As stated by HH Judge David Cooke in a judgment of 22 September 2015 regarding the impact on the setting of a listed building:

'It is still plainly the case that it is for the decision taker to assess the nature and degree of harm caused, and in the case of harm to setting rather than directly to a listed building itself, the degree to which the impact on the setting affects the reasons why it is listed.'

- PALMER Appellant and Herefordshire Council and ANR [04/11/16] Case No: C1/2015/3383

- 3.14 The judgment was agreed by Lord Justice Lewison at the Court of Appeal, who stated that:

'It is also clear as a matter both of law and planning policy that harm (if it exists) is to be measured against both the scale of the harm and the significance of the heritage asset. Although the statutory duty requires special regard to be paid to the desirability of not

harming the setting of a listed building, that cannot mean that any harm, however minor, would necessarily require planning permission to be refused.

- 3.15 In assessing harm to non-designated heritage assets, the NPPF does not differentiate between substantial and less than substantial harm and is clear that no additional weight is added to the asset in determining the application.

4 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 4.1 The study site includes approximately 7.6ha of land at Streetly Hall Farm to the south-east of West Wickham including a c.965m long proposed access track leading from the main site to the A1307 to the south (centred at NGR TL 6001 4858; Figure 1). The study site lies on gently undulating land at approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the western end and rising to c.80m aOD at the eastern end with the access track crossing a broad plateau lying at c.100m aOD.
- 4.2 The study site comprises an agricultural field accessed by Webb's Road on the north-eastern edge. It is bounded on all sides by agricultural fields and by the Streetly Hall Estate to the east. The proposed access track follows an established farm track in the north before crossing two arable fields in the south.
- 4.3 The recorded bedrock geology within the study site comprises chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation. The superficial geology includes diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2022).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 5.1 This section reviews existing archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological and historical background of the general area based on a consideration of evidence in the Cambridgeshire HER and the NHLE. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the study site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the NPPF.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the study site. Within the surrounding 1km there are two designated heritage assets (Grade II listed Streetly Hall Farmhouse and Grade II listed Horseheath Lodge) details of which are listed in a gazetteer in Appendix 1 and their positions marked on Figure 1.
- 5.3 The site visit, undertaken as part of this study has confirmed that there is no visibility between the study site and Horseheath Lodge nor are there any historic or functional links between the

study site and the lodge that could be considered to contribute to its significance. Therefore, this designated heritage assets is not considered to be sensitive to future development on the study site and, following step i) of the Historic England setting guidance (2017; see Section 2.23 above), has been scoped out of further assessment.

- 5.4 The Grade II listed Streetley Hall Farmhouse is located c.300m to the east of the study site and shares some intervisibility with the study site. As such this designated heritage asset will be discussed in more detail below.
- 5.5 During the site visit undertaken as part of this study some distant visibility with two high grade designated heritage assets beyond 1km from the study site was noted (the Grade II* Church of St Mary in West Wickham and the Grade II* West Wratting Park House, Figure 2). Therefore, both of these assets will also be discussed below.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 5.6 There is currently no list of locally important structures within South Cambridgeshire (although Non-designated Heritage Assets (NDHA's) are identified through other Supplementary Planning Documents such as Conservation Area Appraisals and Neighbourhood Plans). The West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan (adopted August 2022) identifies eight NDHAs within the parish, none of which fall within the study site or could be considered sensitive to development proposals in terms of their setting and are, therefore given no further consideration within this report.
- 5.7 Whilst the West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan does discuss the Roman road which crosses the proposed access track as a heritage asset, it is not specifically identified as a NDHA, however, as it has been specifically identified within the neighbourhood policy relating to heritage assets it has been assessed as a NDHA within this report.
- 5.8 Horseheath does not currently have an adopted neighbourhood plan.

Recorded Archaeology and potential

- 5.9 There are three heritage assets recorded within the study site, two of which are cropmarks. The first includes a linear feature that runs diagonally across the field in a roughly north-east/south-west direction (MCB29119). The second is a cluster of pits of uncertain date or function, but may represent a pit alignment of structural remains (MCB32049). The proposed access track also crosses the course of a Roman road, which runs along the line of Worsted Street (07970).
- 5.10 The HER contains 49 records within the wider search area, consisting of 39 'monument' records, five 'event' records, including five designated heritage assets also included on the NHLE.
- 5.11 Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Appendix 1 and their positions marked on Figures 1-4.

- 5.12 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the search area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Study Site	Within Search Area
Prehistoric	0	5
Roman	1	3
Saxon	0	1
Medieval	0	6
Post-medieval	0	11
Modern	0	9
Undated	1	7

Previous investigations

- 5.13 Other than the geophysical survey commissioned as part of this study no previous archaeological investigations are recorded within the study site, although in the wider search area an excavation was undertaken in 1910, c.900m to the south-east of the study site (07373, 07328). This revealed evidence of a Roman settlement on either side of the Roman road, *Via Devana* (07970), that runs through the southern part of the study site. The finds included Roman bricks, tiles and paving, along with pottery, coins, brooches, nails and so on and it has been suggested that there was a villa on the site.
- 5.14 Aerial photography shows cropmarks of earlier activity in the wider landscape. The most significant of these shows a settlement complex with numerous conjoined rectangular ditched enclosures with trackways surrounded by larger enclosures, which are probably associated fields. Whilst the dating of these features is uncertain, it is possible that they date to the late Iron Age/Roman period (MCB29120) and lie approximately 700m to the south-east of the main part of the study site and c.30m to the east of the access track at the closest point.
- 5.15 Further cropmarks of uncertain date include a sub-circular enclosure c.600m to the east (MCB29118), a rectilinear enclosure c. 900m to the south-east of the main site and c.300m east of the access track (MCB21151) and a possible boundary ditch/trackway that runs through the study site (MCB29119).
- 5.16 A Saxon and medieval occupation site was discovered through test pitting in West Wickham, c.1km to the north-east of the study site (ECB4481). The evidence suggests there was a Saxon estate and a small hamlet arranged around the church. Occupation continued into the medieval period to the west of the church. By the 15th century, however, this part of the village had become pasture land.

- 5.17 An earthwork survey was undertaken c.1km to the south-east of the study site (ECB6802), which identified an area of medieval and post-medieval activity (07339, 07339A). A post-medieval brick kiln was ascertained as a result (07339A).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 5.18 No confirmed prehistoric assets are recorded within the study site, although cropmarks of a cluster of pits within the study site may represent a pit alignment or structures that may be prehistoric in date (MCB32049). This pit cluster (along with a second, smaller cluster just to the south) was picked up in the geophysical survey, however, other than confirming their presence the geophysical survey has not aided in dating these features.
- 5.19 Ring ditches, which may represent Bronze Age barrows, have been identified as cropmarks c.500m to the west (MCB31974) and c.900m to the south-west of the study site, where fieldwalking also identified a small quantity of worked flint (08773).
- 5.20 A piece of worked flint has been found at Horseheath, c.1km to the south-east of the study site (07332).
- 5.21 Iron Age pottery (0737a, 07328A) was found at the Roman settlement (07328, 07373) next to the Roman road, c.900m to the south-east of the study site (07970). Further enclosures of potential Iron Age/Roman date have been recorded c.250m to the south-east (c.30m to the east of the proposed access track) (MCB29122) and c.1km to the east of the study site (MCB21152).
- 5.22 The cropmarks discussed above of enclosures and a boundary ditch/trackway are of uncertain date and may have prehistoric origins (MCB29120, MCB29118, MCB21151, MCB29119). Indeed, the latter feature runs in a diagonal across the study site from Streetly Hall towards Mark's Grave. However, the eastern end of the feature meets the western end of a former track shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) and there is a high likelihood that the feature is, therefore, an earlier continuation of this post-medieval track.
- 5.23 The relatively flat land, water and chalk resources make the wider area favourable location for settlement in the prehistoric period, although this is not particularly reflected in the HER data with only evidence for Iron Age activity recorded in the vicinity. The topography of the main part of the study site (sloping down to what was likely rather wet ground) does, however, make it an unlikely situation for settlement of any period. Despite this, a potential prehistoric trackway/boundary ditch runs through the study site as indicated by cropmarks (although a post-medieval date is equally likely). As such, there is moderate potential for prehistoric remains within the study site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 5.24 There is one asset of Roman date recorded within the study site comprising the *Via Devana*, which runs in a roughly north-west/south-east direction from Haverhill to Godmanchester (07970). This is known variously as the Roman road, Worstead Street or Wool Street and is a scheduled monument in places, although the nearest scheduled section of the road is c.4.5km to the west of the study site (NHLE SM 1003263). There is also clear evidence for Roman occupation in the wider search area following the excavation of a settlement c.900m to the east of the study site (07373, 07328), which flanks the Roman road. Enclosures just to the north of this, c.1km to the east of the study site, may represent further Roman activity (MCB21152).
- 5.25 Cropmarks of enclosures suggest a further Roman settlement, although this has yet to be verified by intrusive investigation (MCB29120). These lie approximately 200m to the east of the main study site (c.30m east of the proposed access track) and include conjoined rectangular ditched enclosures surrounded by larger enclosures, which are probably associated fields. Whilst the dating of these features is uncertain, it is possible that they date to the Roman period. Further cropmarks lie to the south of this, c.300m to the south-east of the study site comprising enclosures of uncertain date, but may have Iron Age/Roman origins (MCB29122).
- 5.26 Further Roman evidence includes a scatter of Roman pottery c.600m to the north-east of the study site (07327A).
- 5.27 Place-name evidence indicates that ‘Wickham’ is derived from the Old English meaning ‘homestead associated with a *vicus*’, i.e. a Romano-British settlement, whilst ‘Streetly’ means ‘woodland clearing by a Roman road’ and is also Old English (Mills 2011) both of which clearly indicate Roman occupation and activity in the area.
- 5.28 The close proximity of a Roman settlement and Roman road as well as the potential for further activity in the wider landscape as indicated by the cropmarks suggests that the potential for Roman evidence within the study site is considered to be moderate, however, the sloping topography of the main part of the study site is such that it is considered unlikely that any settlement remains would be present.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 5.29 West Wickham is listed in Domesday as *Wicheham*, although it is recorded as three settlements in 1086. Wickham itself was located in the centre of the parish, Enhale (later Yen Hall) to the north and Streetly to the south. This is likely to have centred around the hamlet of Streetly End, c.1km to the south-east of the study site. The former Roman road, which later became Wool Street, formed the southern boundary of the parish. Streetly is recorded as having ten tenants in 1086 and appears to have been occupied by at least the late Saxon period.

- 5.30 Saxon evidence is attested by the discovery of an inhumation found during pipe-laying operations, c.700m to the east of the study site (07349). The skeleton was found with a few scattered glass beads and two bronze brooches.
- 5.31 A Saxon settlement has been recorded through a community excavation at West Wickham, c.1km to the north-east of the study site (ECB4481).
- 5.32 A manor house was recorded at Streetly in 1260 and was called Streetly Hall by 1280 (MCB8842, MCB8843), which lies c.400m to the east of the study site. It also had a park, which was first mentioned in 1393 (MCB14363), although the form and extent of this park is not known.
- 5.33 Earthworks with evidence of pitting have been recorded c.900m to the south of study site of medieval and post-medieval date (MCB31442) as well as c.1km to the south-east of the study site (07339).
- 5.34 Medieval pottery has been found in vicinity of cropmarks of ring ditches c.900m to the south-west of the study site (08773A).
- 5.35 As discussed below the study site appears to have formed part of Streetly End's open field system in the medieval period with little suggestion of any significant activity within its extents. The study site is, therefore, considered to have low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 5.36 No post-medieval or modern activity is recorded within the study site.
- 5.37 The parish economy was based on agriculture during the post-medieval period and each manor maintained a separate identity as a tenanted farm of the Horseheath Estate (the Alington family from Horseheath began acquiring land in West Wickham from the early 15th century and they owned most of the parish by 1600). Settlement was concentrated in three areas – by the church in West Wickham, Burton End and Streetly End.
- 5.38 At the end of the 18th century, parts of West Wickham parish were bought by the Earl of Hardwick of Wimpole Hall. In 1812, the process of enclosure began to take place, although this was not completed until 1822. Each of the three settlements were largely self-sufficient with a range of tradesmen and services, along with a public house in each place.
- 5.39 The current Streetly Hall (NHLE1165019, 07326, 07326A) is recorded as a timber framed farmhouse of 18th century date, although it is likely that it is built on the site of (if not incorporating elements of) the earlier Hall. A larger house was built about 1912, although the old farm buildings were burnt down in 1930.
- 5.40 MCB29121 relates to a now demolished post-medieval building just to the east of the central part of the proposed access track. The HER records this building as a former barn, however, it does not mention the former cottage located to its immediate north that is shown on the

tithe map of 1839 and continues to be shown on Ordnance Survey mapping through to at least the 1950s.

- 5.41 Within the surrounding 1km search area there are 20 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the study site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Appendix 1).
- 5.42 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 5.43 The earliest detailed historic mapping for the area comes from the enclosure map of 1812 (Figure 6). It shows that the study site lay in a field called 'Down Field' owned by Phillip, Earl of Hardwicke and would appear to have been enclosed from the former open field system. This shows that it was not part of the Streetly Hall Estate at this time, which was occupied by a Samuel Webb.
- 5.44 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Figure 7) shows the main study site as a single field that appears to have been part of the Streetly Hall Estate. A track is shown leading from the farm yard at Streetly Hall to the eastern edge of the study site. Whilst no continuation of this track is shown on any historic mapping, the end point of the track aligns with the cropmark, MCB29119, that can be seen to cross the study site (and which has also been picked up by geophysical survey). This may suggest that the cropmark represents a continuation of this post-medieval track (possibly lost at the time of enclosure when the field in which the study site is located was allotted to the Earl of Hardwicke).
- 5.45 No changes are apparent on the subsequent 1903, 1924 or 1951 Ordnance Survey maps within the study site (Figures 8, 9 and 10). The footpath/boundary ditch from Streetly Hall towards Mark's Grave has disappeared, however.
- 5.46 The LiDAR (Figure 5) show several linear features that run in a roughly north/south direction. These may be natural in origin or form part of a trackway as indicated by the cropmarks.
- 5.47 During the post-medieval and modern periods, the study site has remained in agricultural use. Therefore, the potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence is considered to be low/nil.

Geophysical Survey

- 5.48 A geophysical survey of the main part of the study site (the access track being too narrow to gain any meaningful information) was undertaken in November 2022 (Appendix 2).
- 5.49 The survey has identified several features of potential archaeological interest, including a pair of roughly parallel features aligned east to west across the site, the northern one far

more distinct than the ephemeral one 10 to 15m to the south. These correspond very well to cropmarks, MCB29119, seen on aerial photographs, which have previously been interpreted as boundary ditches either side of a likely prehistoric trackway (although as discussed above these features also align with a post-medieval trackway to the east). The distance between the two linear anomalies would suggest that forming either side of a trackway is unlikely, however, it could be a result of a trackway shifting over time or relate to a former boundary.

- 5.50 The survey also revealed a couple of potential pit clusters to the north of the two linear features. The larger, northern, of these two clusters would appear to show a linear nature to some of the central pits (aligned broadly east-west) which would support an anthropogenic rather than natural origin for the features.
- 5.51 The survey also revealed a potential former course of the water channel running north-east to south-west along the north-western edge of the field, along with likely modern cultivation trends within the field.
- 5.52 Across a large part of the eastern half of the site are positive linear striations that likely represent geological variation in this location. Magnetic noise along the south-eastern edge of the site corresponds with the trackway running up that edge of the field.

6 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1 Paragraph 194 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 6.2 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 195, NPPF 2021) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.
- 6.3 Based on the above evidence in Section 5 and the on-site assessment, and in accordance with Steps 1 and 2 contained in *GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets*, the following section contains an assessment of the significance of the heritage assets considered sensitive to any proposed development.
- 6.4 Section 7 demonstrates how any future development on the study site may affect the significance of identified heritage assets.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.5 There are no recorded designated heritage assets within the study site. As discussed above three designated heritage assets are potentially sensitive to future development in the study site in terms of impact to their setting comprising: Streetly Hall Farmhouse, St Mary's Church and West Wratting Park House.

Church of St Mary – Grade II* listed building (NHLE 1127918)

Description

- 6.6 This asset was first listed on the 22nd November 1967 and is located c.1.25km to the north-east of the study site within the historic core of the West Wickham. The list entry describes this asset as follows:

Parish Church. Mainly C14 with restoration of c.1900. Coursed flint with clunch and limestone dressings, tiled roofs. West tower, nave, south porch and north chapel and chancel. West tower of four stages, with blocked parapet and three-stage diagonally set buttressing. Restored reticulated tracery to west window. Newel stair turret in south west angle. Aisleless nave, c.1350 with south porch. South wall has three windows, restored, of cinquefoil lights. South porch has two centred outer arch of one continuous wave and one ogee moulded order. Inner archway of two continuous ogee moulded orders. Chancel: c.1320. Three restored windows of clunch, of two cinquefoil lights with reticulated tracery in two-centred arches. East window of similar period, restored. North chapel added C15. Two blocked windows, clunch, with vertical tracery. Blocked doorway on west side. North doorway to nave of clunch. Interior: two-centred west tower arch of three chamfered orders on high chamfered base. Roof in four bays. Braced tie beams and collar. Tie beam nearest chancel arch enriched with chevron ornament and the date 1615 is carved on it. North chapel now organ chamber. Reset C13 arch of two chamfered orders on half octagonal responds. Chancel arch of two centred arch on three shaft responds. Chancel has moulded string at sill height and a label carried above the rear window arches and terminating in a mask head on either side of east window. Two niches flank the east window, each with trefoil head as is the arch to the piscina in the south. Monument: north wall of chancel. Henry Harrison (d.1690). Black marble tablet in bolection moulded frame flanked by Corinthian pilasters.

Setting

- 6.7 The Church of St Mary is located approximately 1.25km to the north-east of the study site and forms part of the historic core of West Wickham. It is located on the northern side of West Wickham Road, at the south-western end of the village (which is a linear settlement stretching out along High Street to the north-east). The church is set within its own, reasonably large, churchyard which is itself bound by paddocks to the north and east, built development to the south and the road and further paddocks to the west. The boundary treatment to the churchyard is patchy to the north and east but formed of a strong treeline

to the south and west. There are extensive views from the churchyard to the west, but those to the south-west (towards the study site) are obscured by the strong boundary treatment on both sides of West Wickham Road.

Significance

- 6.8 The Grade II* listed Church of St Mary is recognised as having a high level of significance which is largely derived from its architectural, historic, aesthetic, communal and archaeological interest as a medieval parish church, its interrelationship with its churchyard, the associated structures and monuments, its relationship with the site of the villages manor to the immediate south, its position at the heart of the settlement and for its physical and symbolic function as a place of worship and community.
- 6.9 The contribution of setting to this asset's significance is principally derived from its village centre location and the relationship it has with the other historic buildings in the core of the village, its immediate churchyard setting, the associated monuments and planting within the churchyard.

Contribution of the Study Site to Significance

- 6.10 The west tower of the church can be discerned from some sections of the study site (Plate 1). In these views the top of the tower is visible at a distance above the treeline of the churchyard boundary and the planting to the south of West Wickham Road. The tower is not prominent in these views, can be difficult to recognise and there is nothing about the views from within the study site that allow for any particular appreciation of the significance of the building other than noting its presence. There is no visibility of the study site from the church (Plate 2), nor does the study site form part of any significant or Key views of the church.
- 6.11 The study site is, therefore, not considered to make any contribution to the significance of the Grade II* listed Church of St Mary through forming a part of its setting.

West Wrattling Park House – Grade II* listed building (NHLE 1127092)

Description

- 6.12 This asset was first listed on the 22nd November 1967 and is located c.3.25km to the north-north-east of the study site on the south-eastern edge of the village of West Wrattling. The list entry describes this asset as follows:

Mansion house. c1730, remodelled and extended late C18. Red brick and stone details and dressings. Hipped roof of slate concealed by a blocked parapet with sunk panels. Two pairs of end stacks to main block. Double pile with slightly projecting flanking wings. Centre block of three storeys with dentilled main cornice and plat bands between the storeys. Symmetrical five window range of twelve pane double hung sashes in gauged brick arches. The attic storey windows are of nine panes. Central bay has moulded stone surrounds to the windows. Late C18 porch with stuccoed walls incised in imitation of ashlar and a flat roof recently restored.

Tuscan pillars and columns at the corners and a metope frieze. Panelled double doors. South east front has similar fenestration and a central pedimented doorway of wood. Flanking wings. Red brick and stone dressings. Similar parapets. Each wing is of two bays. South west wing of two storeys with two double hung sashes to each storey. A range of service and outbuildings, some altered and including a laundry, adjoins this wing. The north east wing is also of two storeys but the ground floor rises through the two storeys and the first floor windows are false. There is a C19 canted bay window added at the east end. Interior: A number of the rooms retain original details, including late C18 papier mache ceiling and cornice in the drawing room in the north east wing. The hall and dining room have stucco ceiling decoration. There are a number of marble fireplaces and moulded doorcases both at ground and first floor level. The open well staircase is in two flights with a landing and has balusters of column-on-vase type. The walls and ceiling of the stairbay are panelled and two panels are filled with wall paintings. A corridor off the landing has C18 raised and fielded panelling, and at attic level two rooms have early C17 sunk panelling reset. The house was built for Col Sir John Jacob, 3rd Bt.

Setting

- 6.13 West Wrating Park House is located approximately 3.25km to the north-east of the study site and forms part of the historic core of West Wickham. As suggested by the name the house is set within its own former parkland. The area to the north of the house, through which the main approach passes, remains as more formal parkland and gardens, that to the immediate south-east (the direction in which the rear of the house faces) is now under arable cultivation although the stands of trees marking the limits of the park are still extant. These stands of trees channel views from the house to the south-east, although the topography of the area does allow the wider countryside to be viewed beyond the limits of the park.

Significance

- 6.14 The Grade II* listed West Wrating Park House is recognised as having a high level of significance which is largely derived from its architectural, historic and aesthetic interest as an 18th century country house, its interrelationship with its parkland and the associated structures and buildings.
- 6.15 The contribution of setting to this asset's significance is principally derived from its surrounding parkland and the relationship it has with the other historic buildings within that parkland (including the stable block and walled garden which are both listed in their own right) and aspects of the surrounding rural countryside which serve to illustrate its rural surroundings.

Contribution of the Study Site to Significance

- 6.16 It has not been possible to assess views from West Wrating Park House as it is in private ownership, however, the house is visible in distant views from the study site (Plate 3) and it

is, therefore, assumed that such visibility would be reciprocal. However, the study site does not fall in a direct line of site from either of the main elevations of the house and lies at some considerable distance, therefore, any visibility of the study site would be at an oblique angle and merely form a small part of a much wider vista of the surrounding countryside. Similarly in views from the study site, whilst West Wrattling Park House is visible it is at such a distance that no real appreciation of the special interest in the building is possible. The study site is, therefore, not considered to make any appreciable contribution to the significance of the Grade II* listed West Wrattling Park House through forming a part of its setting.

Streetly Hall Farmhouse – Grade II listed building (NHLE 11605019)

Description

- 6.17 This asset was first listed on the 22nd November 1967 and is located c.325m to the south-east of the study site. The list entry describes this asset as follows:

Mid-late C18. Timber-framed, rendered and tiled. Internal stack across the ridge. Main range with lower kitchen wing at the west and a small projection to the south. Two storeys and attic. Two gable dormers. Range of three flush frame, twelve pane hung sashes in open boxing. Central doorway in small porch with tented metal roof on slender wood colonettes with pierced lattice work decoration. Flanking canted bays with hung sashes. The kitchen wing is contemporary. Timber-framed, rendered and tiled. The ridge stack has been removed. Curtailed at west end by removal of bay. One storey and attic. One gable dormer. Small pane ground floor window and kitchen door. Site of manor house.

Setting

- 6.18 Streetly Hall Farmhouse is located approximately 325m to the south-east of the study site within the historic and modern farm complex. The house itself is set at the southern end of the farm, in an elevated position with its principal elevation overlooking both historic and modern farm buildings to the north (Plates 4 & 5).
- 6.19 The earliest available historic mapping (that of 1812: Figure 6) shows the house set on the southern side of a loose courtyard arrangement of farm buildings with a pond further to the north. At that time the study site was in separate ownership to the farmhouse and would appear to have been part of the parishes open field system prior to enclosure (as indicated by the 'field' element of the name). The fields immediately surrounding the farmhouse were, however, old enclosures belonging to the farm, and thus more intimately associated with the building. By the end of the 19th century additional farm buildings had been added between the house and the original farm buildings. Some of these late 19th century farm buildings survive, however, the original farm buildings and some of the late 19th century buildings were destroyed by fire in the 1930s. Some smaller scale buildings were built within the farmyard to replace those lost to fire and since the 1990s the farmyard has extended

significantly to the north-west with the addition of a number of large format agricultural buildings.

- 6.20 To the west of the farmhouse are a number of paddocks, divided by post and rail fencing, with the boundary between the paddocks and the arable land, further to the west, marked by a high hedgerow. To the south of the farmhouse the topography continues to rise and is heavily wooded.

Significance

- 6.21 The Grade II listed Streetly Hall Farmhouse is considered to have a high level of significance which is largely derived from its architectural, historic, aesthetic and evidential values as a good example of a 18th century yeoman style vernacular farmhouse, potentially with earlier origins.
- 6.22 The contribution of setting to this asset's significance is principally derived from its relationship with the agricultural buildings (both historic and modern) which attest to both its original and continuing function at the heart of the farmstead. The range of dates of the farm buildings, combined with the eclectic use of building materials (redbrick, buff brick, stone and modern sheeting) add to the feeling of time depth and contrast with the white rendered façade of the farmhouse. The setting of the farm buildings at a lower elevation than the farmhouse increase the prominence of the building, especially when approached from the north. The arrangement of farm buildings to the north of the house combined with the rising topography and tree cover to the south serve to give the farmstead a somewhat secluded feel, although the elevated position of the farmhouse does allow for views of the surrounding agricultural land above the level of the farm buildings.
- 6.23 As far as the contribution to significance made by historic and functional associations of the buildings setting is concerned, those are considered to be limited to the land known to have been in the same ownership as the farmhouse at the time of enclosure.

Contribution of the Study Site to Significance

- 6.24 There is no visibility of the study site from Streetly Hall Farmhouse at ground level due to the intervening topography which rises slightly to the west of the house before dropping again before the edge of the study site (Plates 6 & 7). It is possible that there would be some visibility of the study site from the upper floors of the farmhouse, however, apart from one small window in the western gable end of the buildings all other windows face away from the study site.
- 6.25 The farmhouse is visible from many parts of the main study site (though not the proposed access track) where there is a large gap in the hedgerow (Plates 8 to 10). In these views the farmhouse can be seen across the intervening paddocks along with some of the modern large format agricultural buildings and the roof tops of some of the historic farm buildings. It is, therefore, possible to appreciate some of the aspects which add to the significance of

the building in these views, however, not to the full extent that can be gained from within the farmyard itself, particularly to the north of the building where the full arrangement of farm buildings and the prominence of the house in its agricultural setting are best experienced. Furthermore, the views from the study site are not publicly accessible, not do they facilitate views from public rights of way in the surrounding area.

- 6.26 Whilst the study site is currently in the same ownership as the farmhouse it is known that this has not always been the case and certainly was not the case when the building was constructed. The study site is, therefore, not considered to have any meaningful historic functional association with the farmhouse.
- 6.27 Overall the study site, in its current form, is currently considered to be a neutral to minor positive element within the setting of Streetly Hall Farmhouse.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 6.28 The known Roman road, the *Via Devana*, crosses the line of the proposed access track. The *Via Devana* originally ran from Colchester, through Cambridge and on to Chester (a total distance of over 300 miles). The best preserved sections of the road are subject to designation as a Scheduled Monument, with the closest scheduled sections to the study site lying approximately 4.5km to the north-west (NHLE 1003263) where a c. 7km long stretch of the road leading to Cambridge is designated.
- 6.29 The NPPF states at footnote 68 that: *Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.* However, whilst the section of *Via Devana* that runs across the study site is part of the same road as the scheduled sections, the course of the road was well known at the time of designated and a decision was made not to designate this section (indeed the vast majority of the road is without designation), which is understood to be due to the state of preservation. Therefore, as the route of the road was known and a decision was made to schedule some parts and not others it is clear that the unscheduled sections are clearly not of demonstrably equivalent significance to the scheduled sections.
- 6.30 Whilst the unscheduled sections of the *Via Devana* are clearly not of demonstrable national importance they do retain a high level of significance which is largely vested in its evidential value and the archaeological potential to add to the understanding of how and when the road was constructed and when it fell into disuse, its contribution to landscape character and influence on field patterns, parish boundaries etc. and its communal value as a well-used public footpath (with sections also forming parts of the Harcamlow Way long distance route).
- 6.31 The portion of the *Via Devana* that falls within the study site is very small (c. 10m in length or c. 67m²). It is overlain by a modern, metalled, farm track which turns to the north and there are no visible upstanding earthwork remains of Roman road at this point. Whilst it is likely that the Roman road would have originally had flanking ditches, no such features

survive on the surface and it is not known whether they survive as below ground remains. Similarly the extent to which the original road was surfaced is not known and whether any such metalling survives below ground is not currently known, however, the construction of the current (and historic) track is likely to have had a detrimental effect upon the original road surface.

- 6.32 In summary it is clear that not all sections of the Via Devana are of an equal level of significance, with much depending upon the state of preservation, association with contemporary and other archaeological remains, landscape features etc. The short section of the road crossed by the study site does not survive as an upstanding earthwork feature, but is likely to survive, at least in part, as a buried archaeological feature, but is likely to have been subject to a higher degree of disturbance than the section to the immediate west due to the presence of the modern track. It is not directly associated with any other archaeological features, although it does lie on the parish boundary between West Wickham and Horseheath, therefore, it is likely to be considered of low to moderate regional significance.

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 6.33 The study site has been assessed as having a moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposed Development

- 7.1 The study site is being proposed for an anaerobic digestion plant, associated works, landscaping, and construction of access road and vehicular access to the A1307. The construction of the access track is currently proposed to be c.8m wide and formed of a 300mm thick stabilised material. Full details are contained within the documentation submitted with the application.

Previous Impacts

- 7.2 The study site does not appear to have been developed in the past and was likely used for agricultural purposes indicating it has not been subjected to any significant below ground disturbances since at least the post-medieval period. The arable use of the land and modern ploughing will have caused widespread, yet low level, truncation of potential archaeological horizons.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.3 The proposed development will have no direct impact upon any designated heritage asset.
- 7.4 The study site is not currently considered to make any contribution to the significance of either the Grade II* listed St Mary's Church or West Wrattling Park House. The changes brought about by the proposed development will continue to be screened from St Marys Church and as such will present no harm to the significance of the asset. In terms of West Wrattling Park House it is likely that the proposed development will be discernible in distant views from the house, however, given the distances involved (c.3.25km) any such views from the house will merely form part of a wider patchwork of agricultural land and settlement without any distinguishing features or facilitating any significant views. Whilst the study site will change from agricultural land to anaerobic digestion plant, in a landscape dotted with large format agricultural buildings this will not be an alien element in the wide-ranging vistas. The plant will appear below the skyline and with a backdrop of rising land and woodland, as such it will not dominate or detract from any significant views. In this way, the special historic interest of the house, derived from its historic, aesthetic, architectural and evidential values, will remain unaltered.
- 7.5 The designated heritage asset in closest proximity to the study site is the Grade II listed Streetly Hall Farmhouse. Currently there is no visibility of the study site from ground level at the building, however, the height of the proposed digesters (after the reduction in ground level) will mean that their apex sits at 92.1mAOD and is likely to result in some visibility of the tops of the digesters in views from immediately outside the farmhouse (which sits at c. 87mAOD, though with the ground rising by c.2m to the west before dropping to the study site) and will, therefore, result in a change to the baseline conditions. The visibility of the digesters will, however, only be from certain directions and will lie beyond the paddocks which have historically been part of the early farmstead and which provide a physical, aesthetic and associative buffer between the proposed development and the farmhouse. The digesters will also not be visible in any of the views of the farmhouse that make the greatest contribution to its significance, i.e. those from the north where the building can be viewed in its prominent position above the working farmyard and the historic and modern buildings contained therein.
- 7.6 Change, and mere visibility, however, does not necessarily equate to harm. Whilst the tops of the digesters will be visible from the farmhouse, they are sufficiently removed and in a position that will not vie for visual prominence with the farmhouse. Furthermore, they are a feature of modern farming and as such will not be seen as out of place in connection with the farmhouse and its views across both historic and modern farm buildings. As discussed above Streetly Hall Farmhouse lies at the heart of a historic, yet also modern, farmstead. The buildings within the farmstead span the 18th to 21st centuries and provide an illustration of how farming has evolved over the centuries with each element still retaining a function. The proposed anaerobic digestion plant will, therefore, add to this understanding of this

evolution and will add to the economic viability of the farm ensuring the continued survival of the farmhouse in its original function.

- 7.7 Overall, the impact of the proposed development upon the significance of the Grade II listed Streetly Hall Farmhouse is considered to be neutral, i.e. no harm.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 7.8 The proposed access track crosses the Via Devana Roman road. The width of the proposed access track is c.8m. Should the track across the road be constructed in the same manner as that proposed to the south it will comprise an impact of approximately 300mm depth. Such an impact is unlikely to result in complete removal of archaeological remains relating to the road, although they may impact upon the upper horizons. An impact upon such a small length of the overall road is not considered sufficient to prevent construction and could be mitigated through archaeological recording and advancing of understanding of the road. However, if deemed necessary plans have been drawn up to allow for a no-dig solution to build up the track so that there is no impact upon the Via Devana.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 7.9 This assessment has concluded that there is moderate potential for archaeological evidence dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods to be present within the study site. The processes associated with the construction of the anaerobic digestion plant have the potential to impact upon any archaeological deposits which may survive within the study site. In the case of any potential archaeology within the main part of the study site the works involved would likely remove all archaeological remains within the area of ground reduction. The proposed access track is likely to have a much lesser impact as it will not require deep foundations. Additionally, where the track is proposed to cross the course of the Roman road it coincides with the current field access which already has a metaled track *in situ* (Plates 11 & 12).
- 7.10 There is no evidence to suggest that the study site contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to prevent or constrain development.

8 CONCLUSIONS

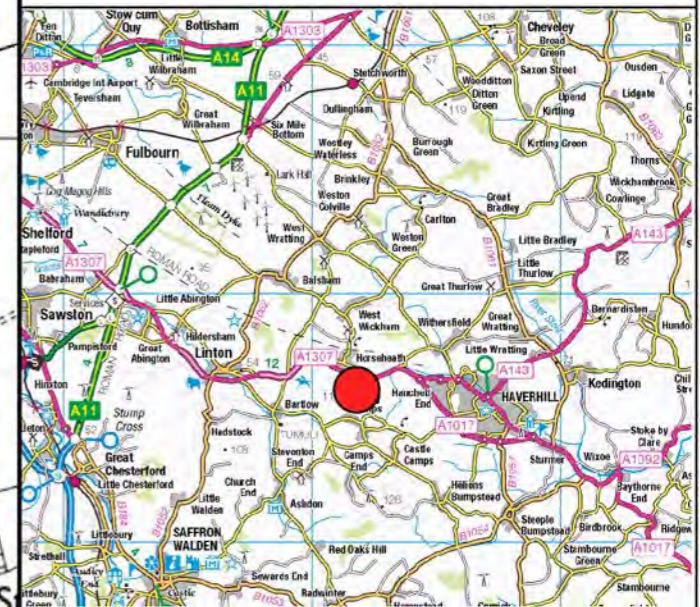
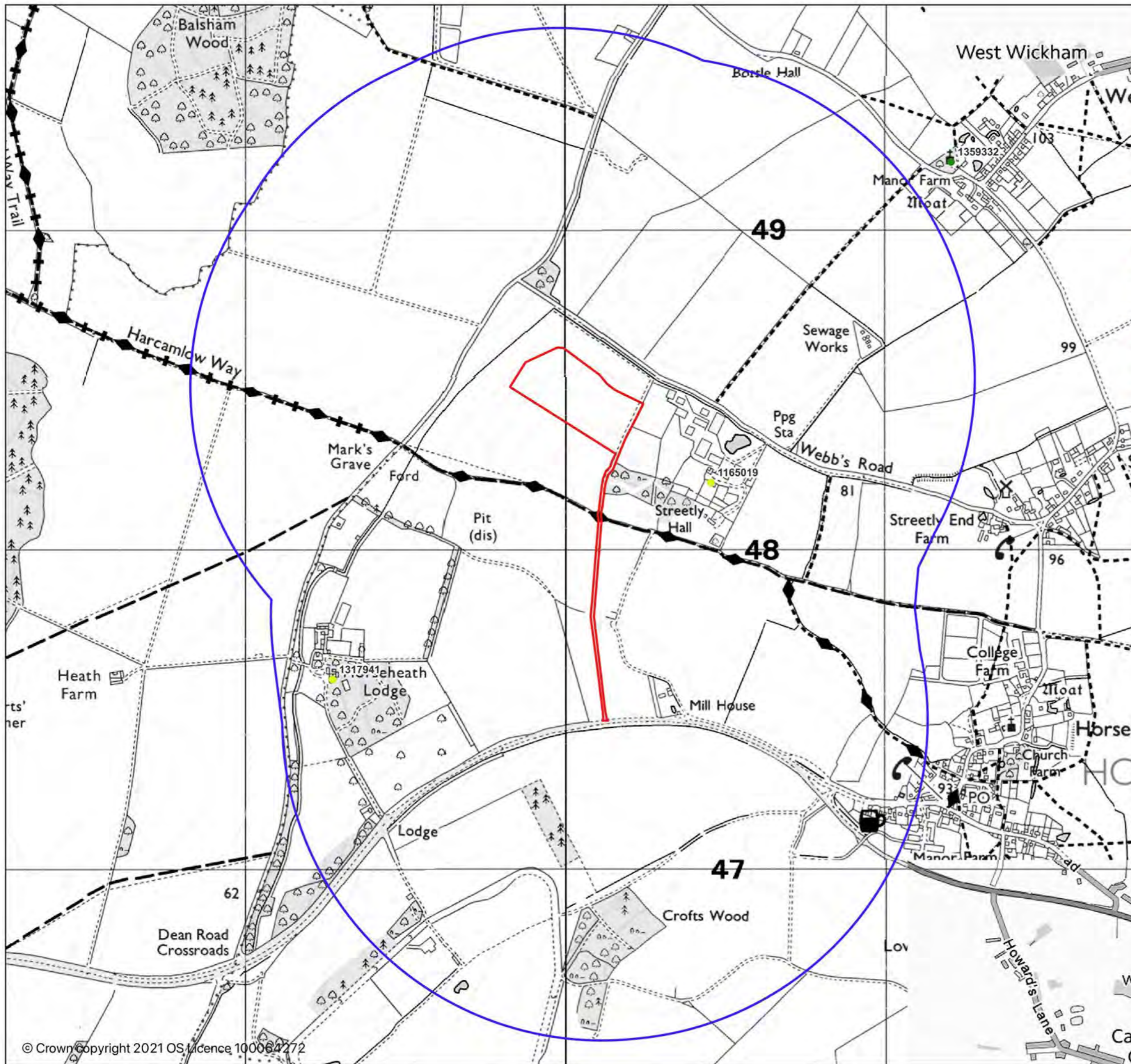
- 8.1 This historic environment desk-based assessment draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of land at Streetly Hall Farm, West Wickham. The assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the NPPF and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF.
- 8.2 The assessment has established that there are no designated heritage assets in the study site and that the proposed development will have no impact upon any designated heritage asset in the surrounding area.

- 8.3 The proposed access track crosses the line of the Via Devana Roman road, which is considered to be a heritage asset of regional importance. Impact upon the Roman road, without design solutions would be relatively low and localised, however, if considered necessary it is possible to construct the crossing with a no-dig solution removing any impact.
- 8.4 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the search area, show that the study site has a moderate potential for prehistoric and Roman remains of local importance, which, if present, are unlikely to survive the development process.
- 8.5 There is no evidence to suggest that the site contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to prevent or constrain development. Under these circumstances, it would be reasonable for any further investigation to be secured by a condition attached to any grant of planning consent.

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- Ordnance Survey 1951, County Series 6 inch map (Cambridgeshire) sheet LV.SE

Figures



- Key**
- ▭ Study Site
 - Search Area
 - NHLE Listed Buildings
 - Church of St John the Baptist

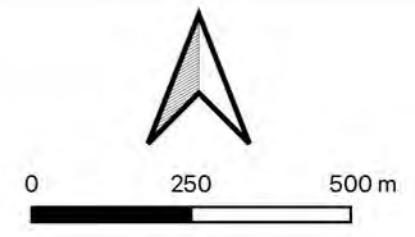
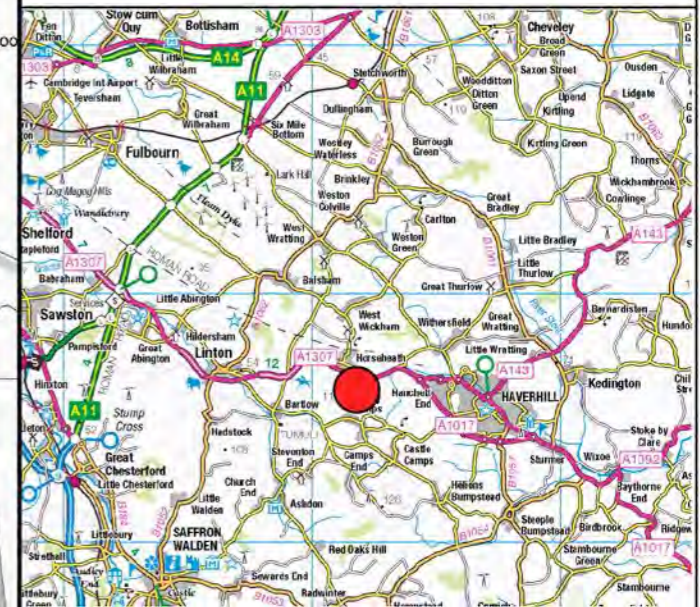
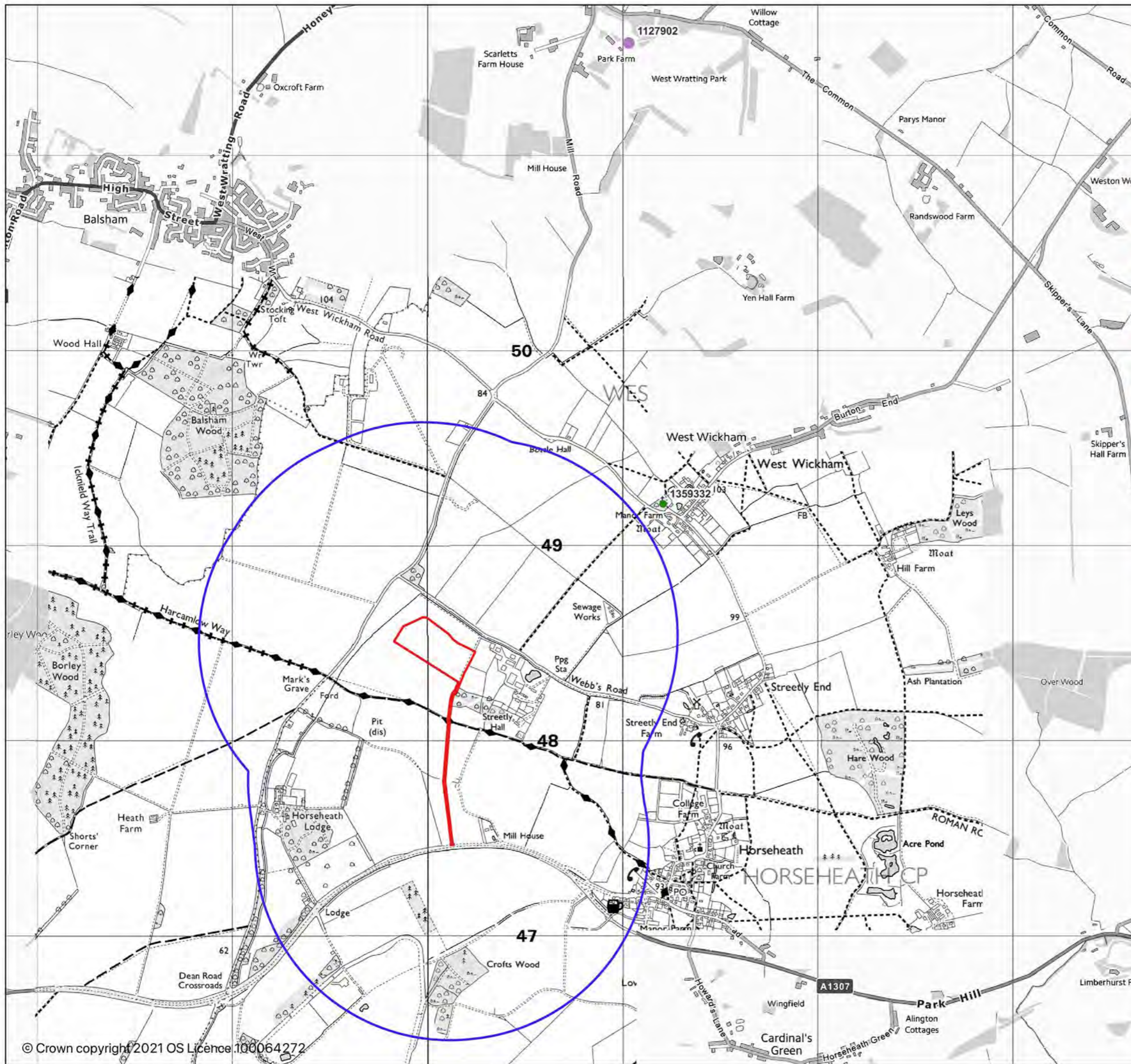


Figure 1. The study site and search area showing designated heritage assets



- Key**
- ▭ Study Site
 - ▭ Search Area
 - Church of St John the Baptist
 - West Wrating Park House

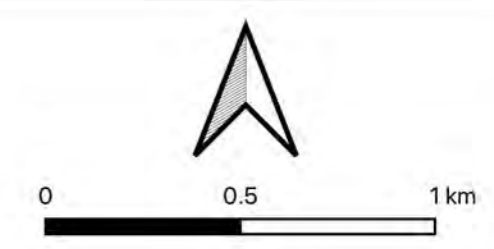
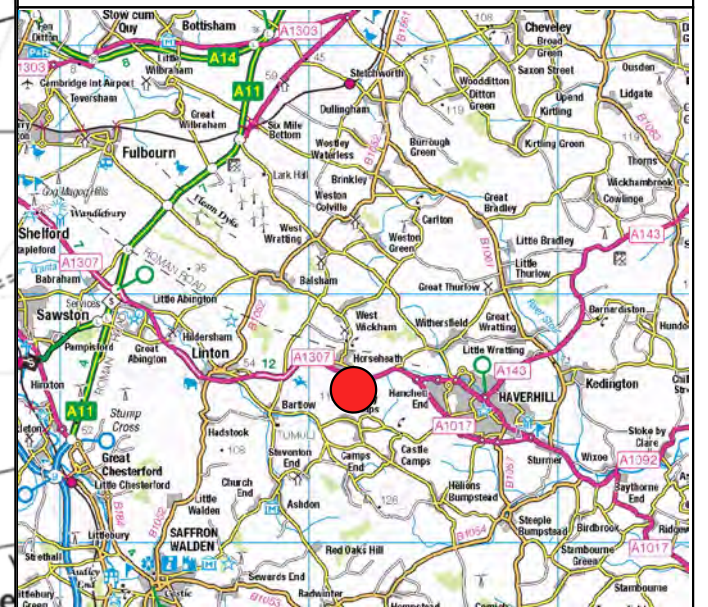
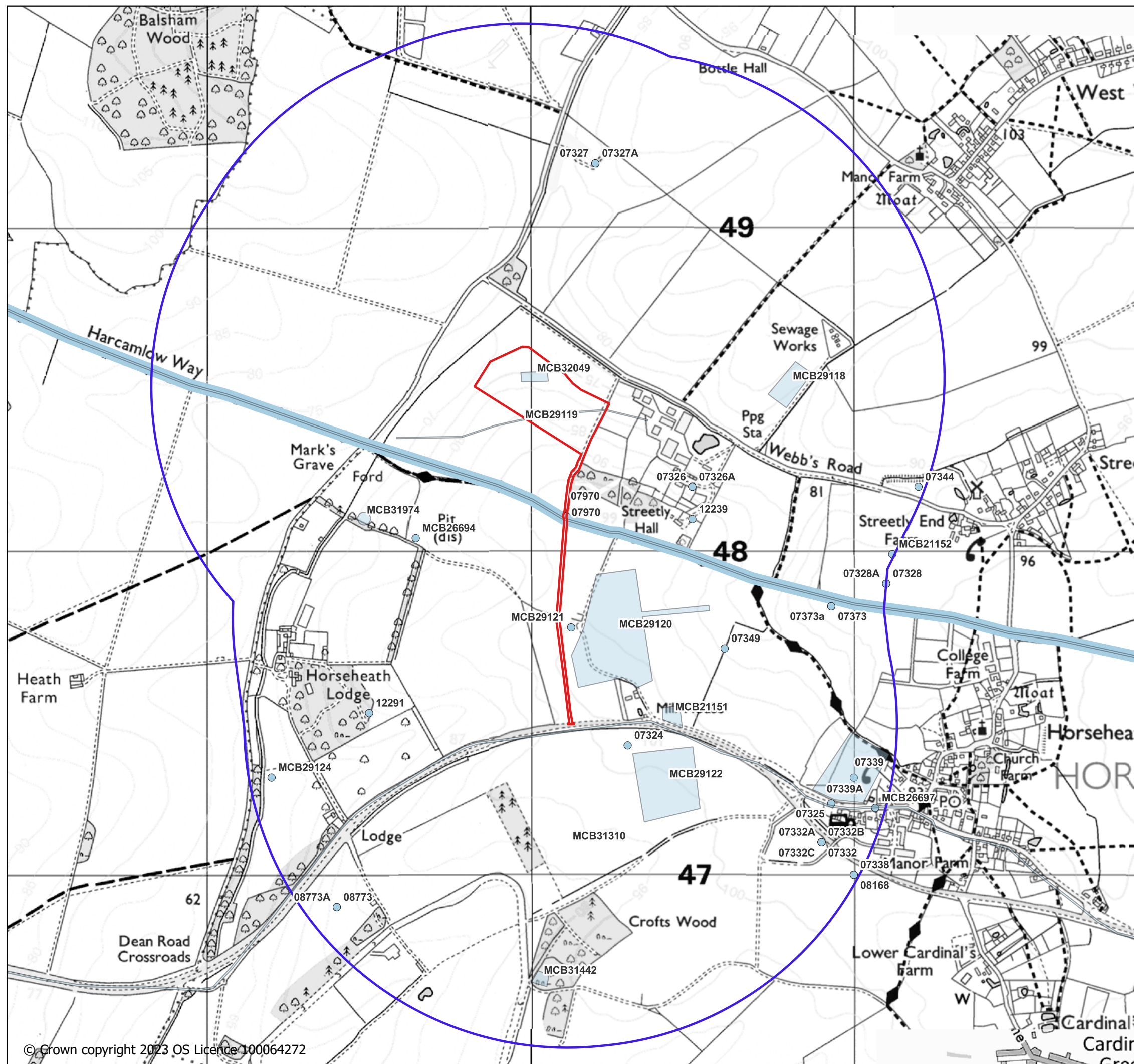


Figure 2. The Study Site and Search Area showing NHLE 2* Listed Buildings outside the Search Area



- Key
- Study Site
 - Search Area
 - HER Monument Point
 - HER Monument Polygon

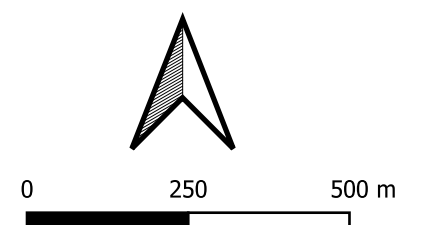
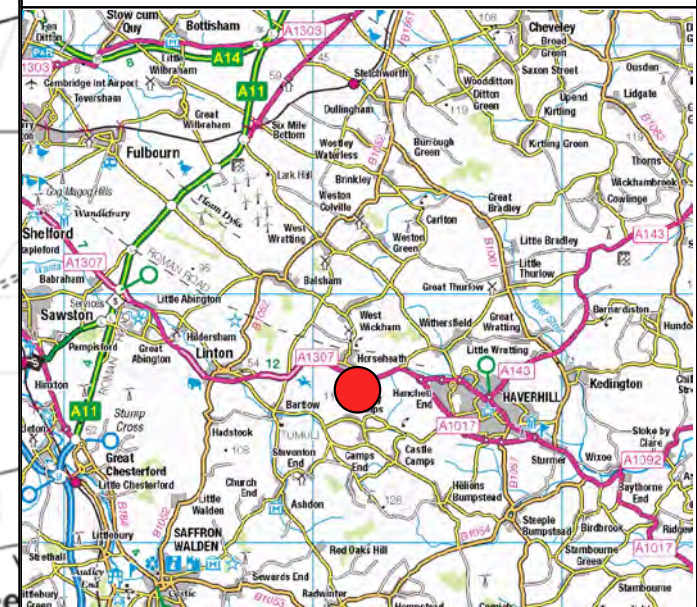
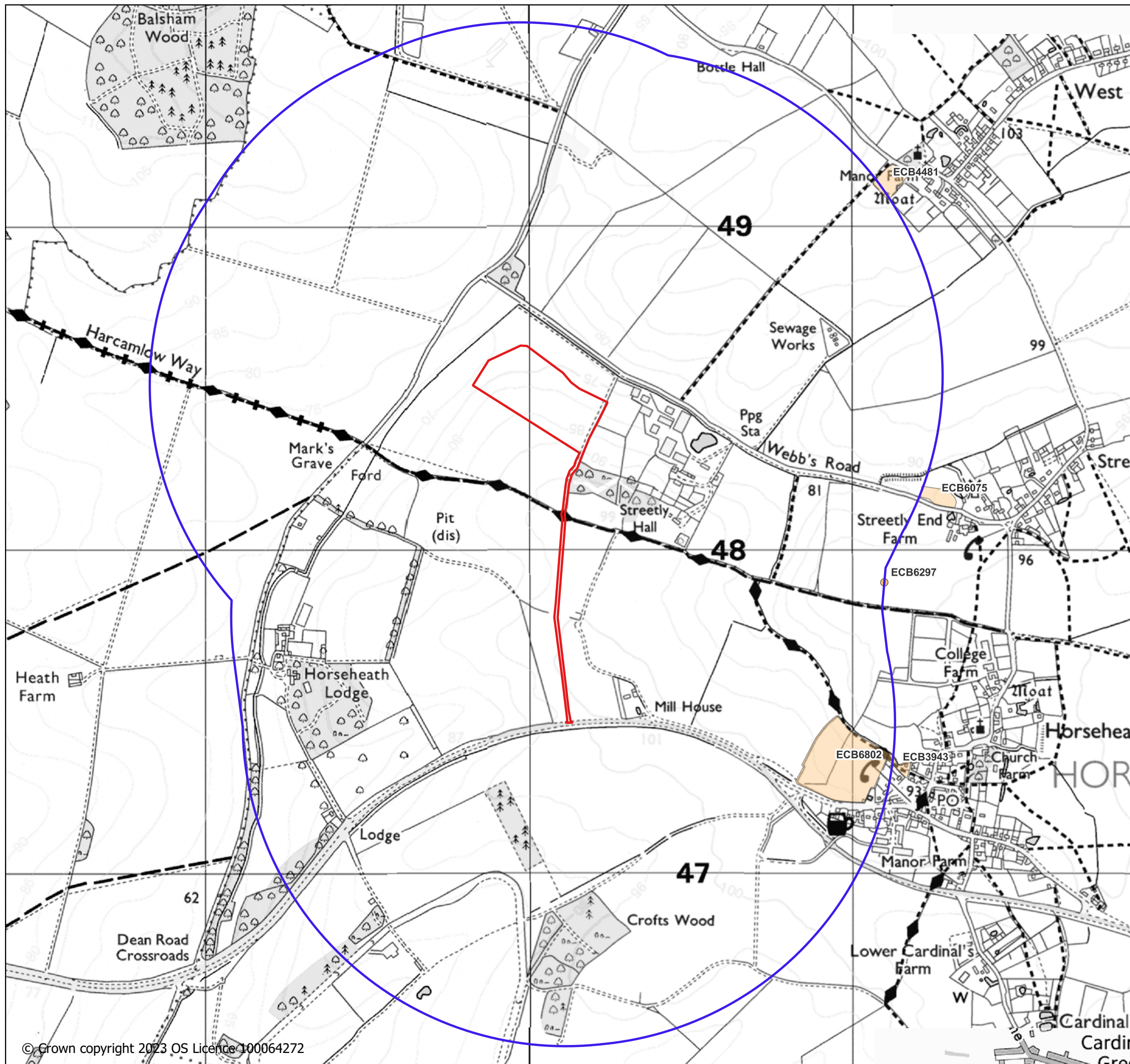


Figure 3. The Study Site and Search Area showing HER Monument Records



- Key
- Study Site
 - Search Area
 - HER Event Point
 - HER Event Polygon



0 250 500 m

Figure 4. The Study Site and Search Area showing HER Event Records

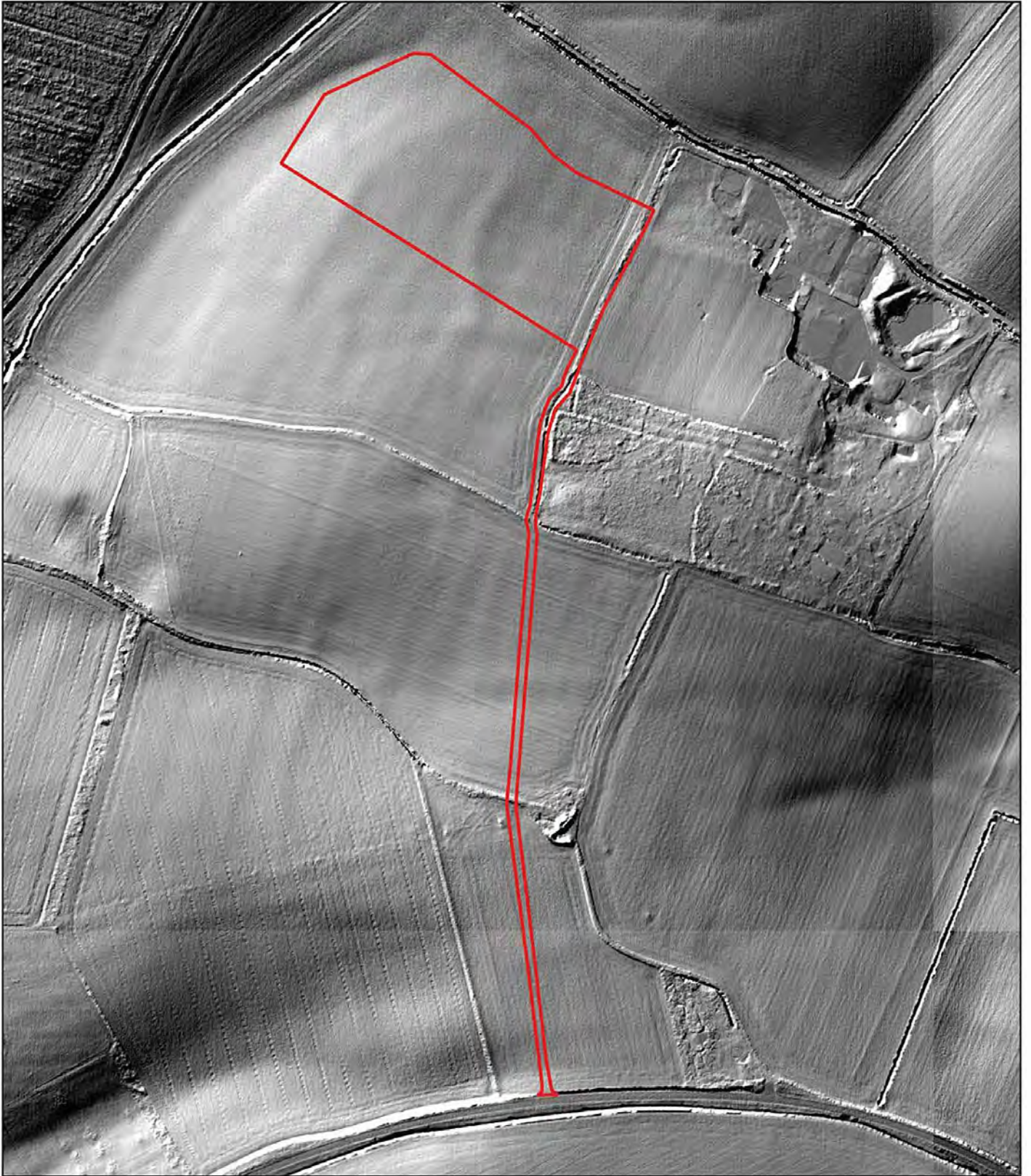



Figure 5. .LiDAR Composite 1M DTM 2020 Hillshade



Key

 Study Site

GHC ARCHAEOLOGY
& HERITAGE

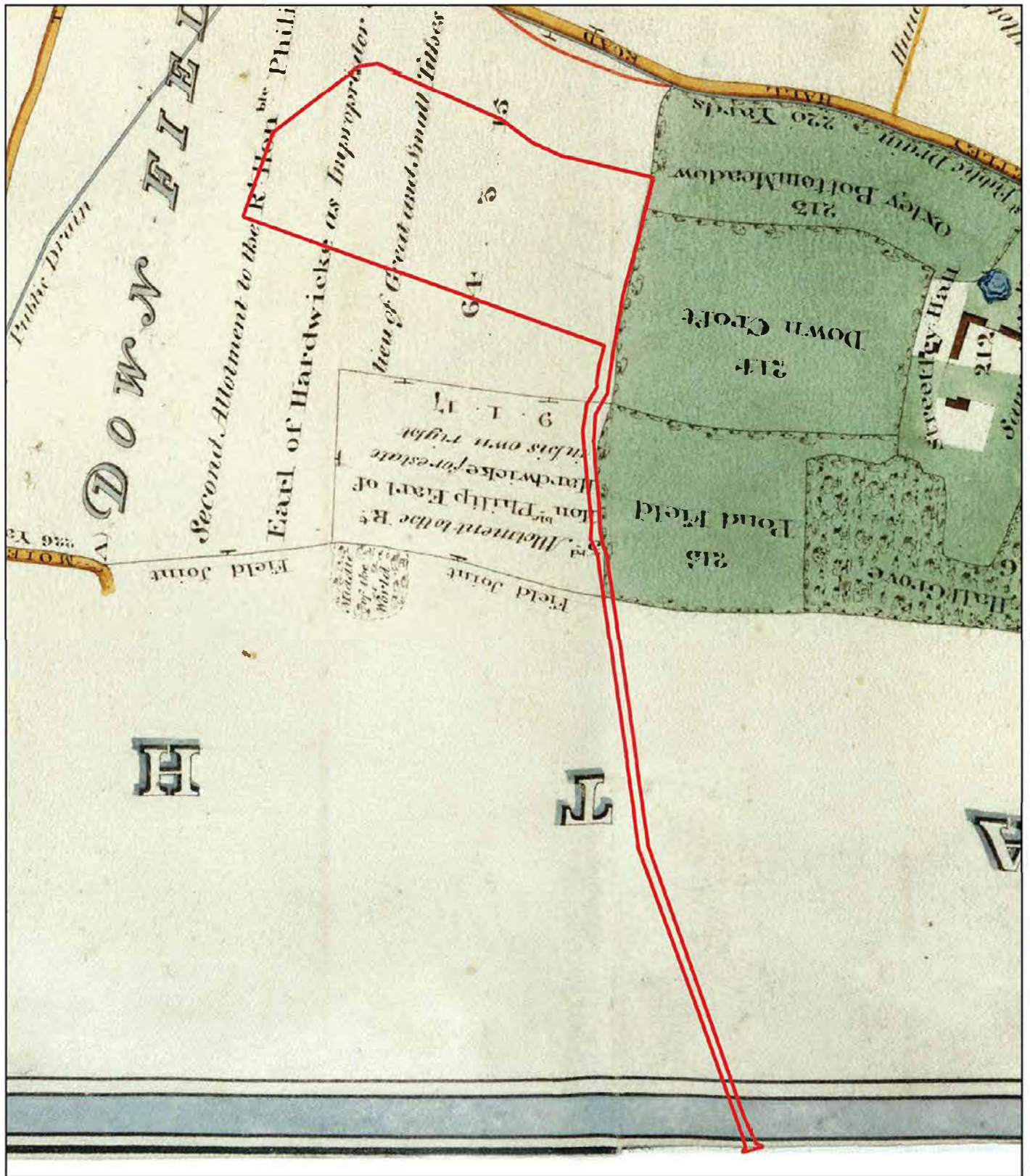


Figure 6. Extract from the Plan of the Parish of West Wickham from 1812

	<p>Key</p> <p> Study Site</p>		
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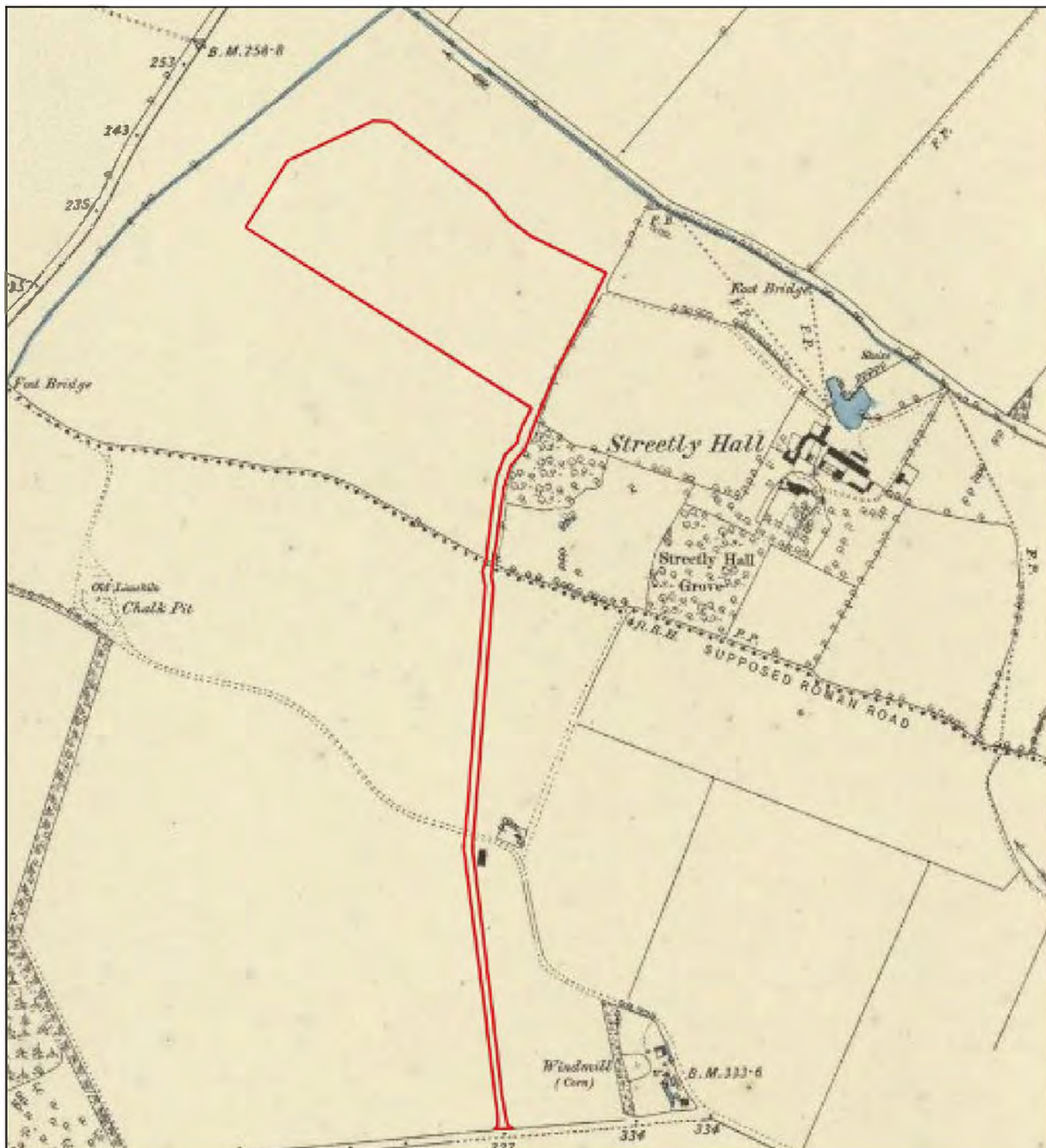



Figure 7. Extract from the Cambridgeshire OS LV.SE 6" edition from 1886



Key

 Study Site

GHC ARCHAEOLOGY
& HERITAGE

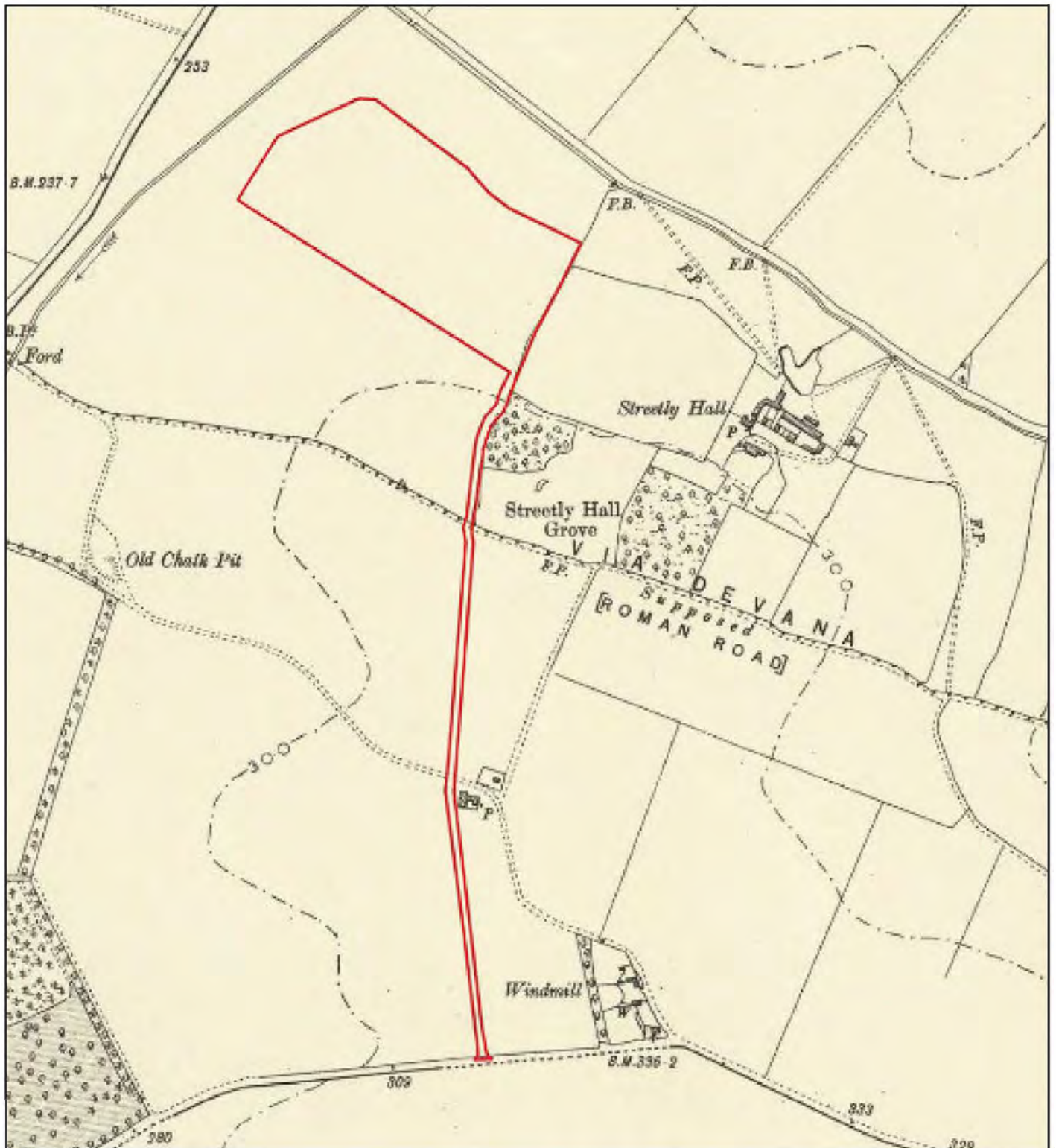


Figure 8. Extract from the Cambridgeshire OS LV.SE 6" edition from 1903

	<p>Key</p> <p> Study Site</p>		
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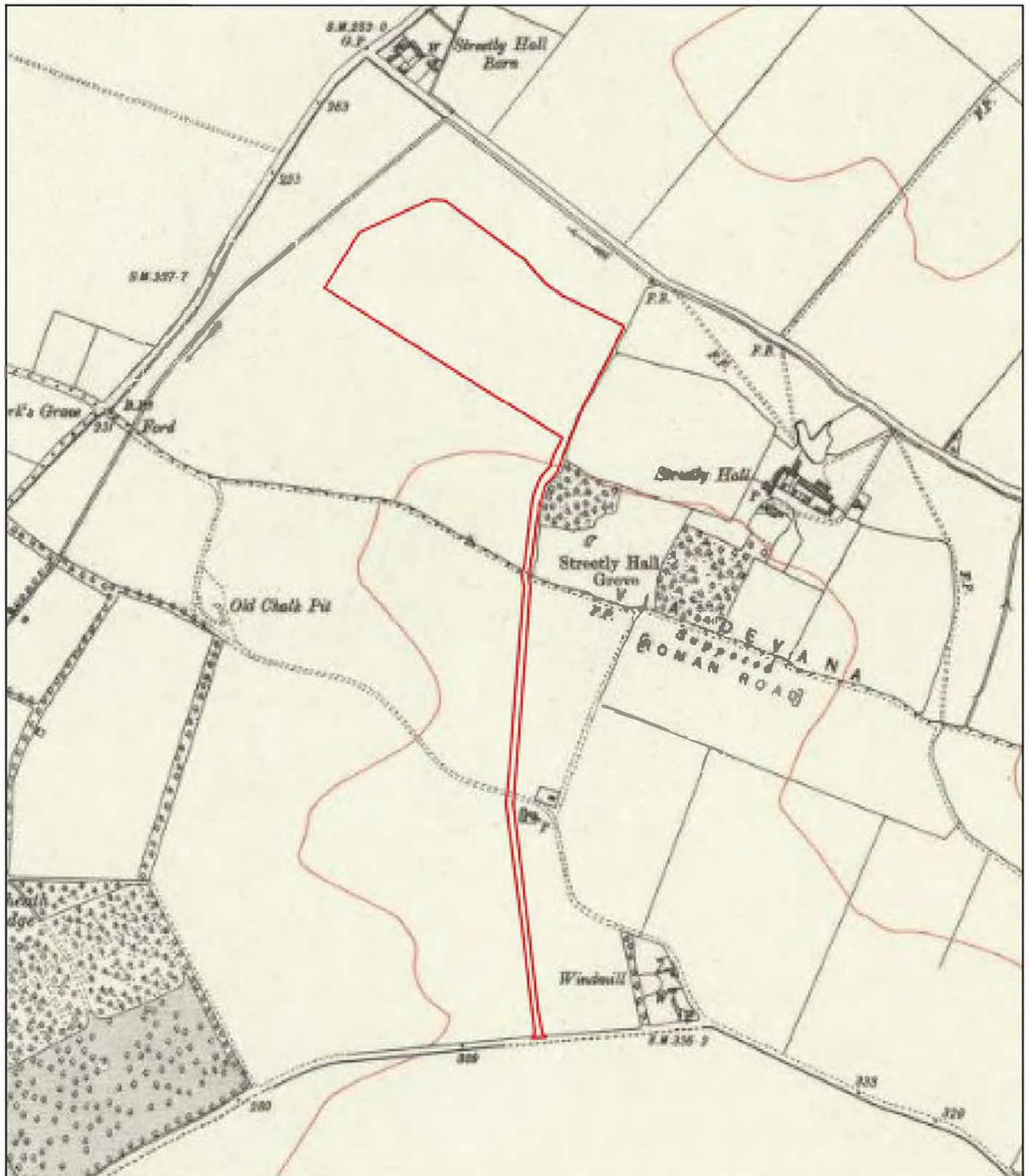


Figure 9. Extract from the Cambridgeshire OS LV.SE 6" edition from 1924

	<p>Key</p> <p> Study Site</p>		
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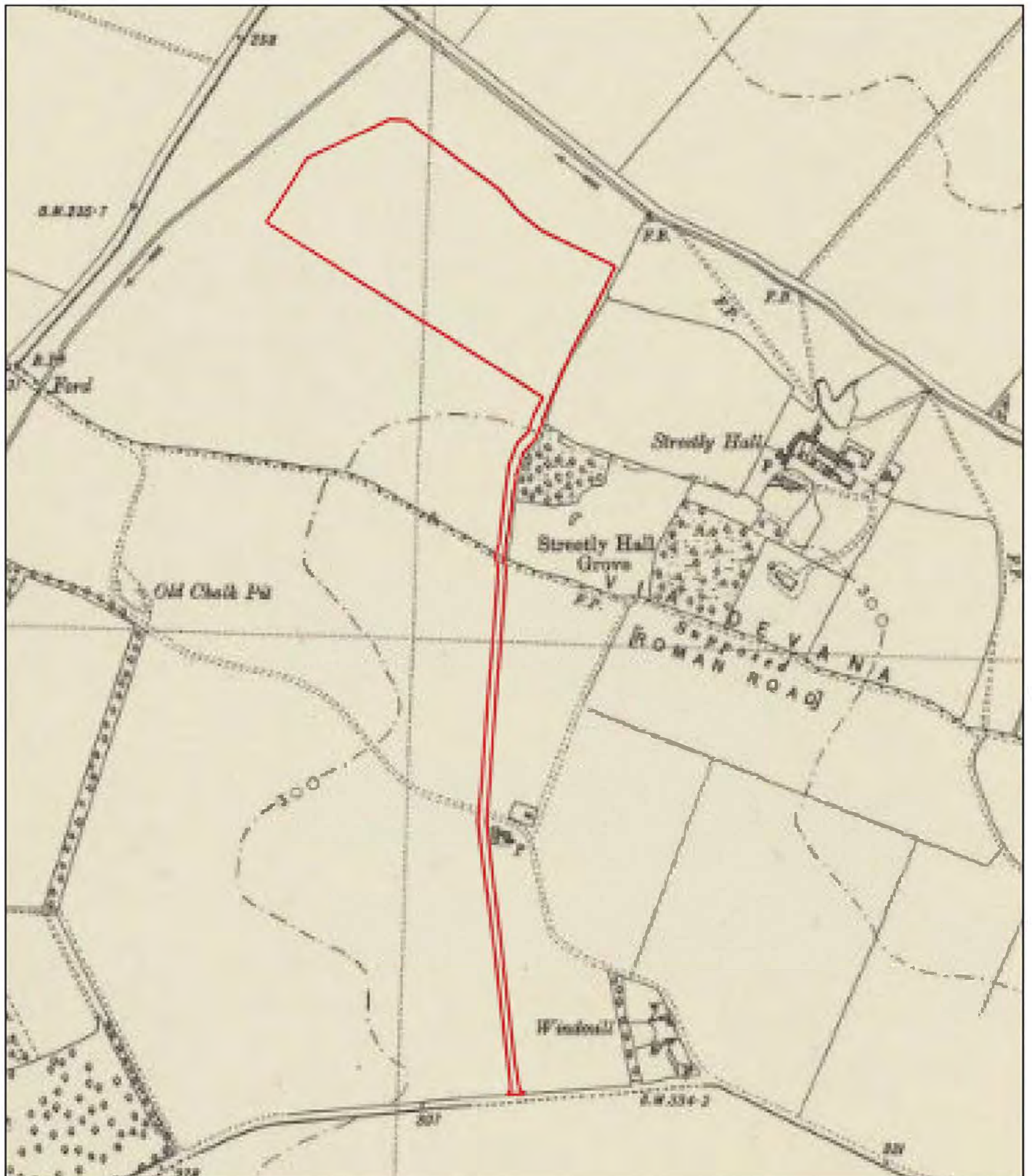



Figure 10. Extract from the Cambridgeshire OS LV.SE 6" edition from 1951

	<p>Key</p> <p> Study Site</p>		
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Plates



Plate 1. St Mary's Church tower from study site



Plate 2. Looking towards study site from St Mary's Church



Plate 3. West Wratting Park House from study site



Plate 4. Streetly Hall Farmhouse from north



Plate 5. Streetly Hall Farmhouse from north-east showing varying ages of farm buildings



Plate 6. Streetly Hall Farmhouse from east looking towards study site



Plate 7. In front of Streetly Hall Farmhouse looking towards study site



Plate 8. Eastern boundary of study site looking towards Streetly Hall Farmhouse



Plate 9. North-western part of study site looking towards Streetly Hall Farmhouse



Plate 10. Western part of study site looking towards Streetly Hall Farmhouse



Plate 11. Line of Roman road (07970)



Plate 12. Detail of where proposed access track crosses Roman road



Plate 13. Central part of proposed access track looking north



Plate 14. Central part of proposed access track looking south

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of heritage assets

The following table provides details of heritage assets recorded on the Cambridgeshire HER and on the Historic England National Heritage List for England within 1km of the study site. These have been listed in order of their HER references, and their locations are marked on Figures 1-4.

Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Designation	Period
NHLE Scheduled Monument Records:					
1003263	Worsted Street (Via Devana) Roman road	This section of the road is from Haverhill to Godmanchester and is thought to be part of the Roman Military Way from Camulodunum to Camboritum.	TL 477 568	SM	Roman
NHLE Listed Building Records:					
1127902	West Wrating Park House	Mansion house. c1730, remodelled and extended late C18. Red brick and stone details and dressings. Hipped roof of slate concealed by a blocked parapet with sunk panels. Centre block of three storeys with dentilled main cornice and plat bands between the storeys. A range of service and outbuildings, some altered and including a laundry, adjoins this wing. The house was built for Col Sir John Jacob, 3rd Bt.	TL 61030 51577	II*	Post-Medieval
116509	Streetly Hall Farmhouse	Mid-late C18. Timber-framed, rendered and tiled. Internal stack across the ridge. Main range with lower kitchen wing at the west and a small projection to the south. Two storeys and attic.	TL 60455 48210	II	Post-Medieval
1317941	Horseheath Lodge	House c.1815-25. Gault brick with parapetted, slate roof. Single range with domestic offices to north east. Two storeys. Principal front in six window range. Built for Stanlake Batson (d.1857) who trained racehorses.	TL 59271 47594	II	Post-Medieval
1359332	Church of St John the Baptist	Parish Church. Late C15, incorporating some earlier stonework. Knapped flint with stone dressings; some stone to lower walls of chapel, rendered. Interior. arch to chapel C14, chancel arch and arcades may also predate the recorded C15 rebuilding; Two-bay chancel arcade, three-bay nave arcade much restored 1844-47. Chancel with medieval tiles, reset.	TQ38898 64854	II*	Medieval
Cambridgeshire HER 'Monument' records:					
07324	Post Mill, Horseheath	Site of a windmill. Post mill depicted on 1828 map of lands of Pembroke College.	TL 603 474		Modern

07325	Milestone, Horseheath	Milestone.	TL 6093 4722		Modern
07326	Streetly Hall, West Wickham	The site of a manor house recorded in 1260 and called Streetly Hall by about 1280. Its park was mentioned in 1393. It had a timber-framed farmhouse, although the old farm buildings burnt down in 1930.	TL 605 482		Medieval to Post-Medieval
07326A	Streetly Hall, West Wickham	The timber-framed farmhouse was enlarged eastwards in the C18 with a three bay brick fronted range which survived in 1975. A larger house was built about 1912 and the old farm buildings were burnt down in 1930.	TL 605 482	II 1165019	Post-Medieval to Modern
07327	Ditch, West Wickham	A V-shaped ditch with no associated dating evidence seen in chalk working.	TL 602 492		Unknown
07327A	Roman pottery scatter, West Wickham	Near 07327 was a thin scatter of Roman sherds.	TL 602 492		Roman
07328	Roman occupation site, Hanging Hill	A Roman occupation site was discovered by trial trenching in a field at Hanging Hill, Horseheath in 1910. An area of pebble paving, 75ft x 172ft, together with numerous fragmentary iron and bronze objects, animal bone, oyster shells, glass and 29 brass coins ranging from Hadrian to Constants (117 AD to 350 AD) were discovered. Large quantities of pottery, including Samian and Castor were also found.	TL 611 479		Roman
07328A	Iron Age Pottery, Horseheath	Large quantities of pottery including "Belgic" were also found.	TL 611 479		Prehistoric
07332	Worked flint, Horseheath	One worked flint found while fieldwalking on route of bypass.	TL 609 471		Prehistoric
07332A	Medieval Pottery, Horseheath	Four sherds of Medieval pottery.	TL 609 471		Medieval
07332B	Post-Medieval Pottery, Horseheath	Six sherds of post-medieval pottery.	TL 609 471		Post-Medieval
07332C	Glass and Bone fragments, Horseheath	Glass and bone fragments.	TL 609 471		Unknown
07338	Horseheath Lodge	Built C19 (c 1820) by Stanlake Batson, the son of the purchaser of much of the land formerly attached to Horseheath Hall. He trained horses, including the Derby winner of 1834, and may have laid out the small racecourse now used for point-to-point races. The house, which has unfortunately been much altered, is now the home of Sir Arthur Marshall, the engineer and former athlete, who married a descendant of Doctor Thomas Dimsdale (whose inoculation of Catherine the Great for smallpox earned him a Russian barony).	TL 61 47		Modern

07339	Medieval earthworks, Horseheath	Two pasture fields containing hollow way, house platforms, pond and boundary ditches, which mark the extent of the Medieval village.	TL 609 473		Medieval
07339A	Post-medieval brick kiln, Horseheath	One feature has been shown to be a Post Medieval brick kiln.	TL 610 473		Post-Medieval
07344	Roman pottery finds, West Wickham	Roman pottery.	TL 612 482		Roman
07349	Saxon inhumation, Horseheath	A skeleton was found during pipe-laying operations near Streetly Hall. The spot is just below the brow of the chalk hill occupied by the Horseheath Roman settlement. The remains were few in number and were fragmentary, and represented a variety of bones. At the point where the find was made, the trench was 15ft deep and running through solid chalk. The skeleton lay at a depth of 12ft, roughly across the trench (E - W), and covered by a layer of rough flint lumps. With the skeleton were found a few scattered beads, mostly of blue glass but one of amber, and two small long brooches of bronze with iron pins.	TL 606 477		Saxon
07373	Roman settlement, Horseheath	Excavations in 1910 along either side of the Via Devana revealed evidence for a settlement with Roman bricks, tiles, paving, pottery, coins, shells, nails, etc.	TL 6093 4783		Roman
07373a	Iron Age pottery, Horseheath	Scatter of Belgic pottery.	TL 6093 4783		Prehistoric
07970	Worsted Street (Via Devana) Roman road	This section of the road is from Haverhill to Godmanchester and is thought to be part of the Roman Military Way from Camulodunum to Camboritum.	TL 477 568	SM 1003263	Roman
08168	Settlement shift, Horseheath	Village moved towards the main road during the C15 and C16 when part of the village street was enclosed in Horseheath Park.	TL 61 47		Medieval to Post-Medieval
08773	Ring ditch, Horseheath	Cropmarks of ring ditches.	TL 594 469		Prehistoric
08773A	Medieval pottery sherd, Horseheath	Medieval sherd.	TL 594 469		Medieval
12239	Streetly Hall, West Wickham	Streetly Hall set in gardens with park to the south.	TL 605 481		Post-Medieval
12291	Horseheath Lodge, Horseheath	William Kent park and gardens, now destroyed. The present park/grounds of 18ha are associated with the lodge with a walled kitchen garden and stables to the north and woodland and parkland to the south.	TL 594 475		Modern
MCB21151	Rectilinear enclosure, Horseheath	Rectilinear enclosure identified by aerial photographs measuring 48m wide.	TL 6043 4750		Unknown

MCB21152	Rectilinear enclosure, Horseheath	Linear features suggest probable field boundaries and small enclosures.	TL 6111 4799		Unknown
MCB26694	Lime Kiln and Chalk Pit, Horseheath	Site of an 'old' lime kiln and chalk pit illustrated in the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1885.	TL 5964 4804		Modern
MCB26697	Blacksmiths Workshop, Horseheath	Site of a blacksmiths workshop illustrated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1885.	TL 6106 4720		Modern
MCB29118	Undated sub-circular enclosures, West Wickham	Cropmarks of a sub-rectangular enclosure of uncertain date. It is defined by a single thin ditch with a rounded eastern end and two rounded corners. The southern side is partially obscured by the edge of the modern field.	TL 6078 4850		Unknown
MCB29119	Possible boundary ditch, West Wickham	A possible later prehistoric sinuous boundary ditch, defining one side of a track, was recorded as cropmarks on 2015 Historic England aerial photographs. The other side of the track is visible as a diffuse mark parallel to the ditch. The boundary/track appears to underlie remnants of a medieval or post-medieval cultivation field system.	TL 5995 4832		Unknown
MCB29120	Undated cropmarks of rectilinear enclosures, Horseheath	Cropmarks of an Iron Age or Roman settlement complex with numerous conjoined rectangular ditched enclosures with trackways surrounded by larger enclosures which are probably associated fields. The course of the Roman road from Colchester to Godmanchester forms the northern edge of the modern field these settlement remains are located in.	TL 6025 4772		Unknown
MCB29121	Site of a former barn, Horseheath	A late 17 th to early 18 th century barn.	TL 6012 4776		Post-Medieval
MCB29122	Undated cropmarks of enclosures possible prehistoric to Roman settlement, Horseheath	The cropmark of possible Iron Age or Roman enclosures and associated features can be seen on Historic England Reconnaissance aerial photographs taken in July 2015. These cropmarks include conjoined curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures and other ditches defining possible field boundaries and a trackway.	TL 6041 4727		Prehistoric to Roman
MCB29124	Possible World War II searchlight battery site, Horseheath	The site of a Second World War searchlight battery, allegedly situated at "Bartlow", TL 592 473; MGR M 043660. It was manned by 33 Searchlight Regiment. The battery was operational from October 1941. It formed part of a network of searchlights named Area DN02, which along with another such area (DN01) formed a defensive belt in the Essex-Cambridgeshire-Suffolk borders area.	TL 5919 4730		Modern
MCB31310	Red Cross Turnpike Trust	Toll road, also known as the Linton Turnpike. Started in 1766 and continued until 1876.	TL 5569 5079		Post-Medieval to Modern

MCB31442	Earthwork enclosure and pitting, Crofts Wood, Horseheath	Earthwork remains of a probable enclosure measuring 41m east-west and 38m north south with evidence of extensive extractive pitting inside visible on LiDAR imagery from c.2020.	TL 6002 4667		Medieval to Post-Medieval
MCB31974	Undated ring ditch, east of Dene Road Cottage, Horseheath	Faint cropmark remains of a ring ditch approximately 32m in diameter with a ditch 4m in width visible on aerial imagery from 2022.	TL 5948 4810		Unknown
MCB32049	Pit Group	Cluster of possible pits, visible as cropmarks on aerial imagery from 2015. May represent pit alignments or structural remains.	TL 6001 4854		Unknown
Cambridgeshire HER 'Event' Records:					
ECB6297	Antiquarian excavation at Hanging Hill, Horseheath		TL 6110 4790		
ECB6802	Earthwork survey at Linton Road, Horseheath in 1982	Fieldwalking followed by earthwork survey undertaken in early 1982.	TL 6096 4735		
ECB3943	Evaluation at Audley Way, Horseheath 2013	An archaeological evaluation consisting of four trial trenches was carried out. No archaeological finds or features were identified.	TL 6114 4733		
ECB4481	Test pits in fields to the south and west of St Mary's Church, West Wickham in 2015	Series of five 1m square test pits excavated in two fields adjacent to St Mary's Church in West Wickham by the local community archaeology group. The investigation was intended to further questions raised during an earlier phase of work in 2013. Geophysical survey was carried out across both areas, however, the results were limited to a possible sunken path or road and former field boundaries.	TL 6116 4922		
ECB6075	Geophysical survey at Streetly End in 2016	Magnetometry and resistivity survey carried out at Streetly End in order to identify surviving remains of buildings shown on the Inclosure map at this location.	TL 6126 4816		

Appendix 2: Geophysical Survey

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY BY MAGNETOMETRY ON LAND OFF WEBB'S ROAD, WEST WICKHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Planning Reference: Pre-application
NGR: TL 5999 4850
AAL Site Code: WWWR 22
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-511352



Report prepared for GHC Archaeology and Heritage

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL2022144

November 2022



Allenarchaeology



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Report reviewed by:	Chris Clay BA MA (Hons)	30/11/2022
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Cover image: View from northeast corner of the site looking west

Executive Summary

- GHC Archaeology and Heritage commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land off Webb's Road, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire, to inform and support a future planning application for an anaerobic digester plant.
- The survey area lies within a larger field, with cropmarks within the field and extending into the survey area possibly representing a later prehistoric boundary, or later trackway. A Roman road runs along the southern edge of the field.
- The survey revealed a pair of roughly parallel positive linear features, which correlate with the cropmarks. A couple of potential pit clusters were also identified to the north of the possibly prehistoric boundary.
- The possible former course of the water channel running along the northwest edge of the site was also identified, along with likely modern cultivation trends and probably geological variation within the field.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 GHC Archaeology and Heritage commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land off Webb's Road, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire, to inform and support a future planning application for an anaerobic digester plant.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines as set out in '*EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology*' (EAC 2016), '*The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*' (Gaffney et al. 2002), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey*' (CIfA 2020).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 West Wickham is located in the South Cambridgeshire district, approximately 18.5km southeast of central Cambridge and 29km southwest of Bury St Edmunds. The survey area comprises part of a larger agricultural field, measuring c.7.5ha, located approximately 1.4km west-southwest of the main settlement of West Wickham, and bounded by Webb's Road to the north. The site centres on NGR TL 5999 4850.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, with no recorded overlying superficial deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Responses of magnetometry to the bedrock of Cretaceous chalk is good (English Heritage 2008).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The geophysical survey has been undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for an anaerobic digester plant. The work will provide further information concerning the nature and extent of the archaeological resource.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being '*Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Seen as cropmarks in the 2015 Historic England oblique aerial photographs, within the site, and extending to the southwest is a possible later prehistoric sinuous boundary ditch defining one side of a track. The other side of the track is visible as a diffuse mark parallel to the ditch (Monument Number 1622929). The record describes the feature of possible prehistoric date, however the eastern end of the feature aligns with a track shown in the neighbouring field and it is possible that the feature is a continuation of a post medieval track.
- 4.2 Approximately 800m to the south-southeast of the site are cropmarks of an Iron Age/Roman settlement complex with numerous conjoined rectangular ditched enclosures with trackways surrounded by larger enclosures, which are probably associated fields (Monument Number 1582140).
- 4.3 The Roman Road between Colchester and Godmanchester runs along the southern edge of the larger field the survey site is located within (Figure 7). The site is adjacent to Streetly Hall Estate, the name Streetly coming from the Old English 'Stradleia' meaning a woodland clearing near a Roman road (Mills 2011). A thin scatter of Roman pottery sherds were recovered from approximately 750m north of the site (Monument Number 376983).
- 4.4 An early medieval grave (Monument Number 376987) was located approximately 750m southeast of the site during pipe-laying. Grave goods associated with the burial included a few beads and two small Anglo-Saxon brooches.
- 4.5 Located directly southeast of the site is Streetly Hall Farmhouse, a Grade II listed mid to late 18th century farmhouse building (List Entry Number 1165019). This is located on the site of a former manor house, recorded in 1260 as Streetly Hall.
- 4.6 Approximately 1km to the southwest of the site is Horseheath Lodge, another Grade II listed building (List Entry Number 1317941). This was built between 1815 and 1825 for Stanlake Batson who trained race horses.
- 4.7 Illustrated on the 1st Edition OS map of 1885, approximately 400m to the south-southwest of the site, was a lime kiln and chalk pit (CHER Number MCB 26694).
- 4.8 Undated enclosure cropmarks have been located approximately 600m east of the site (Monument Number 1582138).

5.0 Geophysical Survey Methodology

- 5.1 The geophysical survey consisted of a detailed gradiometer survey of the entire development area. The survey was undertaken in a series of 30m grids across the site, and due to the irregular shape of the site this meant an area of 9.6 hectares was surveyed.

Summary of Survey Parameters

5.2 Fluxgate Magnetometer

Instrument:	Bartington Grad601-2 Dual Fluxgate Gradiometer
Sample Interval:	0.25m
Traverse Interval:	1.00m

Traverse Separation:	1.00m
Traverse Method:	Zigzag
Resolution:	0.01nT
Processing Software:	Terrasurveyor 3.0.37.30
Surface Conditions:	Pasture
Area Surveyed:	9.6 hectares
Date Surveyed:	Wednesday 9 th to Friday 11 th November 2022
Surveyor:	Robert Evershed BSc (Hons)
Survey assistant	Ben Jenkins BSc (Hons)
Data Interpretation:	Robert Evershed BSc (Hons)

Data Collection and Processing

5.3 The grids were marked using pre-programmed grids on the Leica GS08 Net rover. Magnetic data was collected on a northeast to southwest alignment due to the layout of the site boundaries. A traverse pattern close to north – south is preferable as the fluxgate gradiometer is set up and balanced with respect to the cardinal points. Since the data is plotted as north – south traverses there is considerable merit sampling the north – south response of a magnetic anomaly with as many data points as is possible, this is accomplished as the density collected along the traverse line is greater than that between traverses (Aspinall *et al.* 2008).

5.4 The data collected from the survey has been analysed using Terrasurveyor 3.0.37.30. The resulting data set plots are presented with positive nT/m values and high resistance as black and negative nT/m values and low resistance as white.

The data sets have been subjected to processing using the following filters:

- De-striping
- Clipping
- De-staggering

5.5 The de-stripe process is used to equalise underlying differences between grids or traverses. Differences are most often caused by directional effects inherent to magnetic surveying instruments, instrument drift, instrument orientation (for example off-axis surveying or heading errors) and delays between surveying adjacent grids. The de-stripe process is used with care as it can sometimes have an adverse effect on linear features that run parallel to the orientation of the process.

5.6 The Bartington Grad 601-2 is set to record data within the range between -100 and 100 nT/m. The clipping process is used to remove extreme data point values which can mask fine detail in the data set. Excluding these values allows the details to show through.

5.7 The de-staggering process compensates for data correction errors caused by the operator commencing the recording of each traverse too soon or too late. It shifts each traverse either forward or backwards by a specified number of intervals.

5.8 Plots of the data are presented in processed linear greyscale (smoothed) with any corrections to the measured values or filtering processes noted, and as separate simplified graphical interpretations of the main anomalies detected.

6.0 Geophysical Survey Results (Figures 2 – 7)

- 6.1 For the purposes of interpreting the anomalies, the survey data has been processed to the values of -3 to 3 nT/m (Figure 3). This enhances faint anomalies that may otherwise not be noted in the data, with a number of anomalies identified across the data set. These are discussed in turn and noted as single- or double-digit numbers in square brackets. Positive anomalies represent material that is more magnetically susceptible than the surrounding material, with negative anomalies representing material that is less magnetically susceptible.
- 6.2 Along the southeastern edge there is an area of magnetic noise [1], producing readings of -10 to 10 nT/m with some occasional higher spikes. This area corresponds with the track running up the edge of the field.



Plate 1: View of the track running up the side of the site, looking south-southwest

- 6.3 Aligned roughly west to east and running across the site is the positive linear/curvilinear feature [2], 2 to 3 nT/m. This feature corresponds perfectly with the cropmark seen on aerial photography (Monument Number 1622929). This feature is also clearly visible on Google Earth historical imagery dated 2007.
- 6.4 Immediately south of [2] and running roughly parallel with it is the potential positive linear/curvilinear feature [3], 1 nT/m. This feature is far more ephemeral, but corresponds with a more diffuse cropmark that has been interpreted as a potential boundary ditch on the other side of the former trackway to [2]. These features appear to run halfway between the summit of the hill, and the watercourse at the base of it, potentially representing the best location for some cover from weather and away from the wettest part of the field.
- 6.5 Approximately 100m north of the potential ditches and former trackway in the centre of the site are a large number of small amorphous positive features [4], 2 to 3 nT/m. Within these features there does appear to be a possible linear trend aligned roughly east to west, broadly parallel with anomalies [2] and [3]. These features are approximately 2 to 3m in diameter, and could represent a pit cluster. Approximately 65m to the south are another smaller potential cluster of pits [5], 2 to 4 nT/m.

- 6.6 Towards the northwest of the site there are a few parallel positive linear/slightly curvilinear features [6] and [7], 1 to 2 nT/m. These features likely represent a former cultivation trend.
- 6.7 Close to the northwest edge of the surveyed area are a number of parallel positive linear features [8] and [9], 1 to 2 nT/m. These likely represent former channels of the watercourse that now runs northeast to southwest along the edge of the field, between 15 and 60m to the northwest of the survey area. These features also correspond with the lowest part of the field, seen in the Lidar data (Figure 6), which reinforced the idea that they represent a former river/stream course.
- 6.8 The positive linear feature [10] aligned roughly north to south, 1 to 2 nT/m, could represent a short drainage feature within the field.
- 6.9 The small amorphous positive feature [11], 4 nT/m, likely represents a small waterlogged area or former pond, potentially part of the former water channel within the field.
- 6.10 The amorphous positive feature [12], 2 to 3 nT/m, potentially represents a large quarry pit, soil-filled hollow or former pond.
- 6.11 The parallel potential positive linear features [13], 0.5 to 1 nT/m, likely represent the modern cultivation trend.
- 6.12 Across the eastern part of the site there are a large number of potential positive curvilinear features roughly aligned north-northeast to south-southwest [14], 1 to 2 nT/m. These features can be seen on Google Earth historic images dated 2007. Whilst these features could represent former cultivation trends, their slightly irregular nature likely suggests that they represent geological variation within this area of the field.
- 6.13 The positive curvilinear feature [15], aligned roughly northwest to southeast, 1 to 2 nT/m, may relate to the geological variation [14], as they don't appear to continue past it. This feature may represent a palaeochannel or geological variation within this area.
- 6.14 The potential positive linear/curvilinear feature [16], aligned roughly east to west, 1 to 2 nT/m, most likely represents a modern cultivation trend.
- 6.15 The positive linear feature [17], 1 nT/m, could represent a short ditch or drainage feature.
- 6.16 Scattered throughout the entire site are a large number of weak and strong dipolar responses, examples of which are highlighted as [18]. The characteristic dipolar response of pairs of positive and negative 'spikes' suggest near-surface ferrous metal or other highly fired material in the topsoil, which could represent small pieces of metal such as nails, horseshoes or parts of a tractor.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The survey has identified several features of potential archaeological interest, including a pair of roughly parallel features aligned east to west across the site, the northern one far more distinct than the ephemeral one 10 to 15m to the south. These correspond very well to cropmarks seen on aerial photographs, which have previously been interpreted as boundary ditches either side of a likely prehistoric trackway; however the distance between the two linear anomalies would suggest this seems unlikely and that they are more likely boundary features. The survey also revealed a couple of potential pit clusters to the north of the two linear features.
- 7.2 The survey also revealed a potential former course of the water channel running northeast to southwest along the northwestern edge of the field, along with likely modern cultivation trends within the field.
- 7.3 Across a large part of the eastern half of the site are positive linear striations that likely represent geological variation in this location. Magnetic noise along the southeastern edge of the site corresponds with the trackway running up that edge of the field.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The non-intrusive evaluation methodology employed is appropriate to the scale and nature of the site. Magnetometry was the prospection technique best suited to the identification of archaeological remains on the site. Other techniques would have required further justification and may have proved too time consuming or cost-prohibitive.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank GHC Archaeology and Heritage for this commission.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Oasis Summary

Summary for allenarc1-511352

OASIS ID (UID)	allenarc1-511352
Project Name	Geophysical Survey by Magnetometry Survey on Land off Webb's Road, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire
Sitename	Land off Webb's Road, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire
Activity type	Geophysical Survey, Magnetometry Survey, MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Allen Archaeology Limited
Project Dates	09-Nov-2022 - 11-Nov-2022
Location	Land off Webb's Road, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire NGR : TL 59990 48500 LL : 52.111683014297, 0.33499195347278 12 Fig : 559990,248500
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Cambridgeshire District : South Cambridgeshire Parish : West Wickham
Project Methodology	GHC Archaeology and Heritage commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake a geophysical survey using magnetometry on land off Webb's Road, West Wickham, Cambridgeshire, to inform and support a future planning application for an anaerobic digester plant. The geophysical survey consisted of a detailed gradiometer survey of as much of the development area as was suitable, coming to approximately 7.5 hectares. The survey was undertaken in a series of 30m grids across the site.
Project Results	The survey has potentially identified several features of archaeological interest, including a pair of roughly parallel features aligned east to west across the site, the northern one far more distinct than the ephemeral one 10 to 15m to the south. These correspond very well to cropmarks seen on aerial photographs, which have previously been interpreted as boundary ditches either side of a likely prehistoric trackway. The survey also revealed a couple of potential pit clusters to the north of the possible trackway. The survey also revealed a likely former course of the water channel now running northeast to southwest along the northwestern edge of the field, along with likely modern cultivation trends within the field. Across a large part of the eastern half of the site are positive linear striations that likely represent geological variation in this location. Magnetic noise along the southeastern edge of the site corresponds with the trackway running up that edge of the field.
Keywords	Boundary Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit Cluster - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	

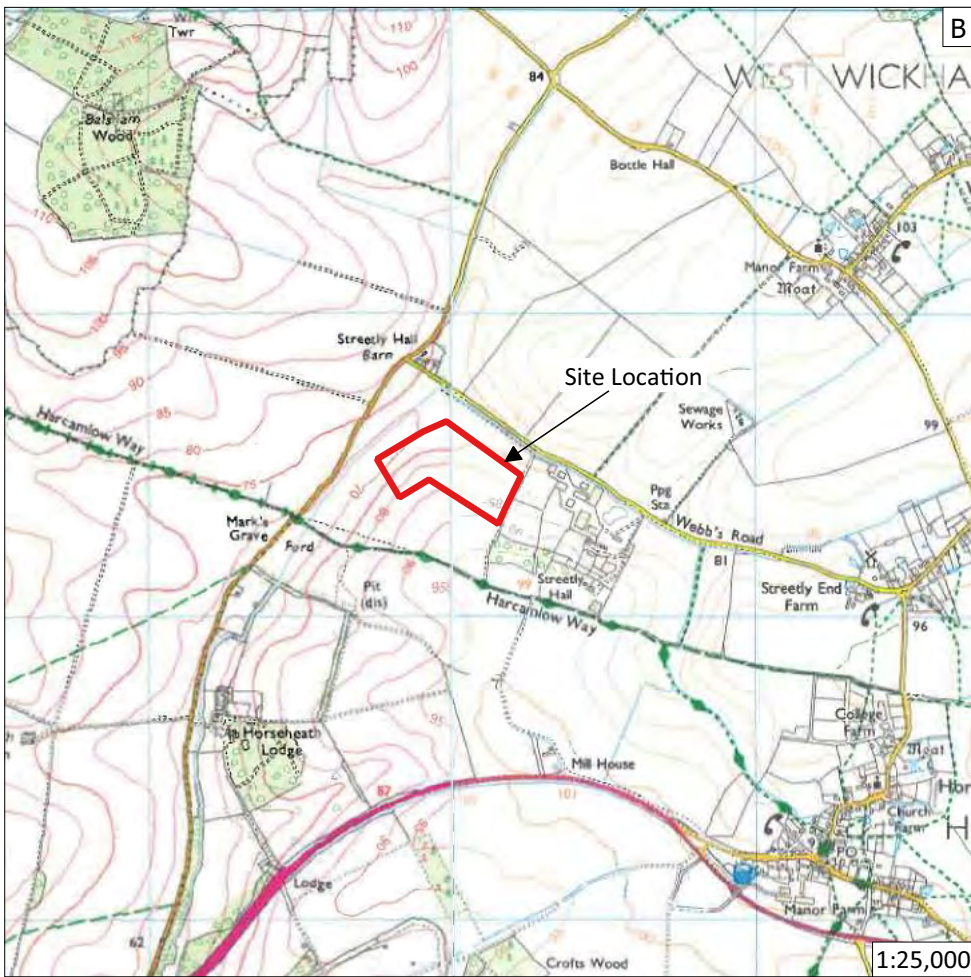
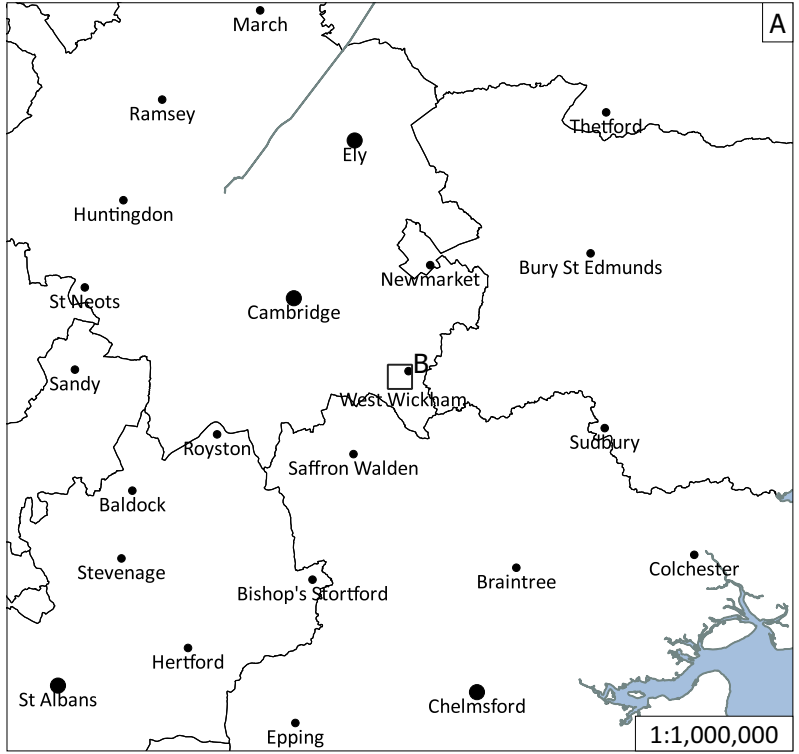


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	03/11/2022

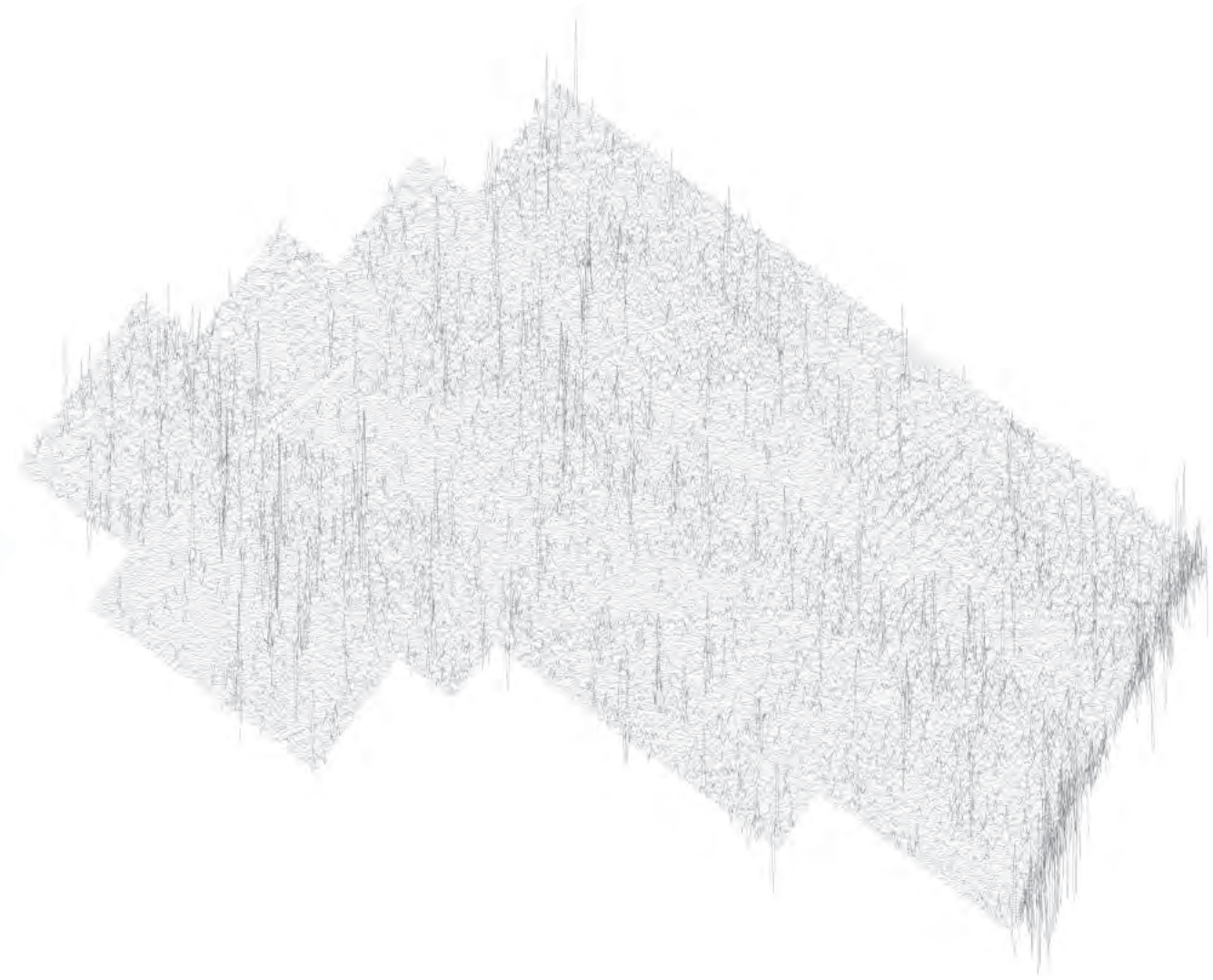
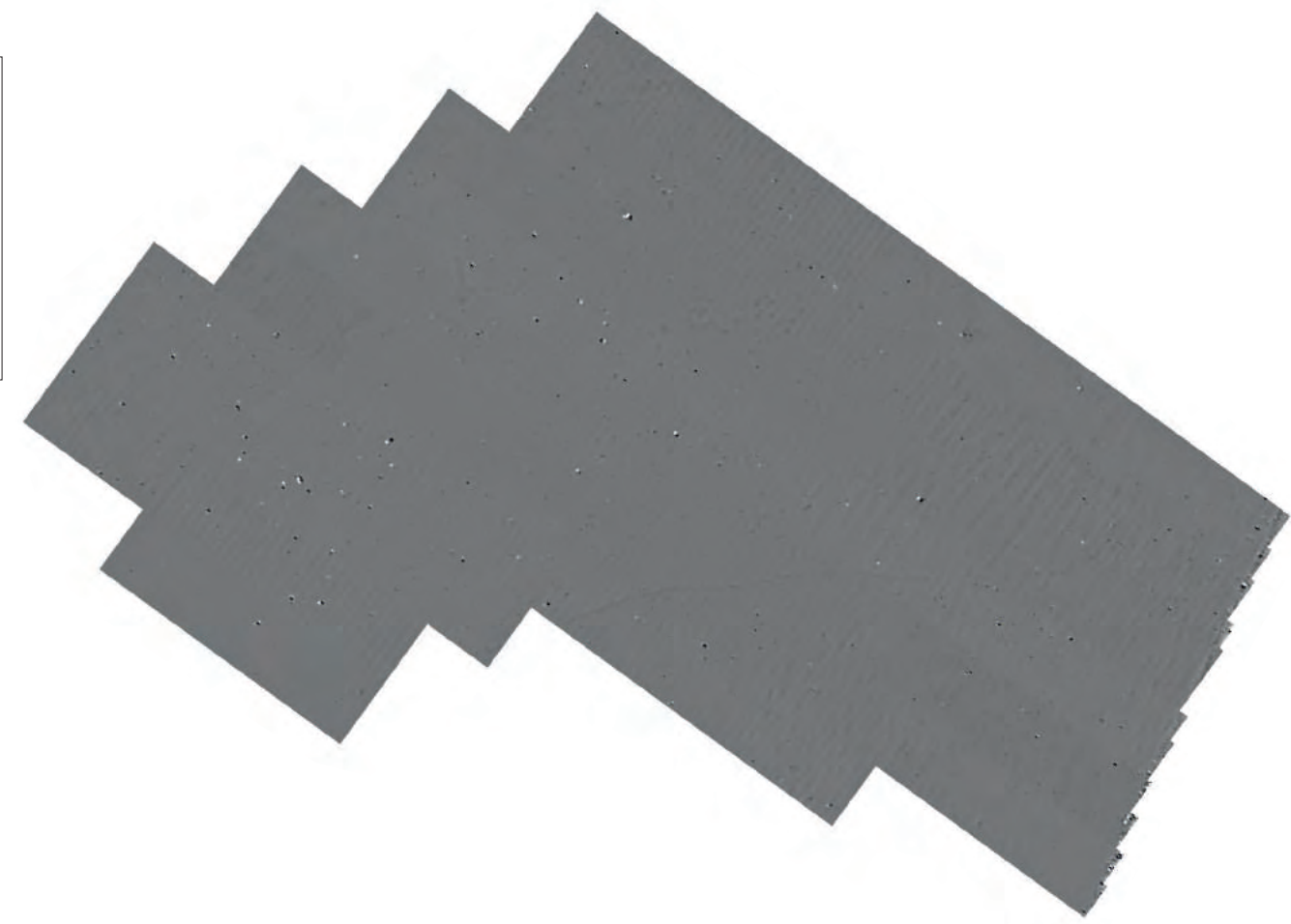
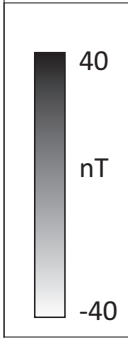
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Raw data (clipped to +/- 40 nT)

Trace Plot (ZMT and clipped to +/- 25nT)



25nT



Site Code	WWWR 22
Scale	1:3,000 @ A3
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	28/11/22

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Figure 2: Greyscale raw data and processed trace plot

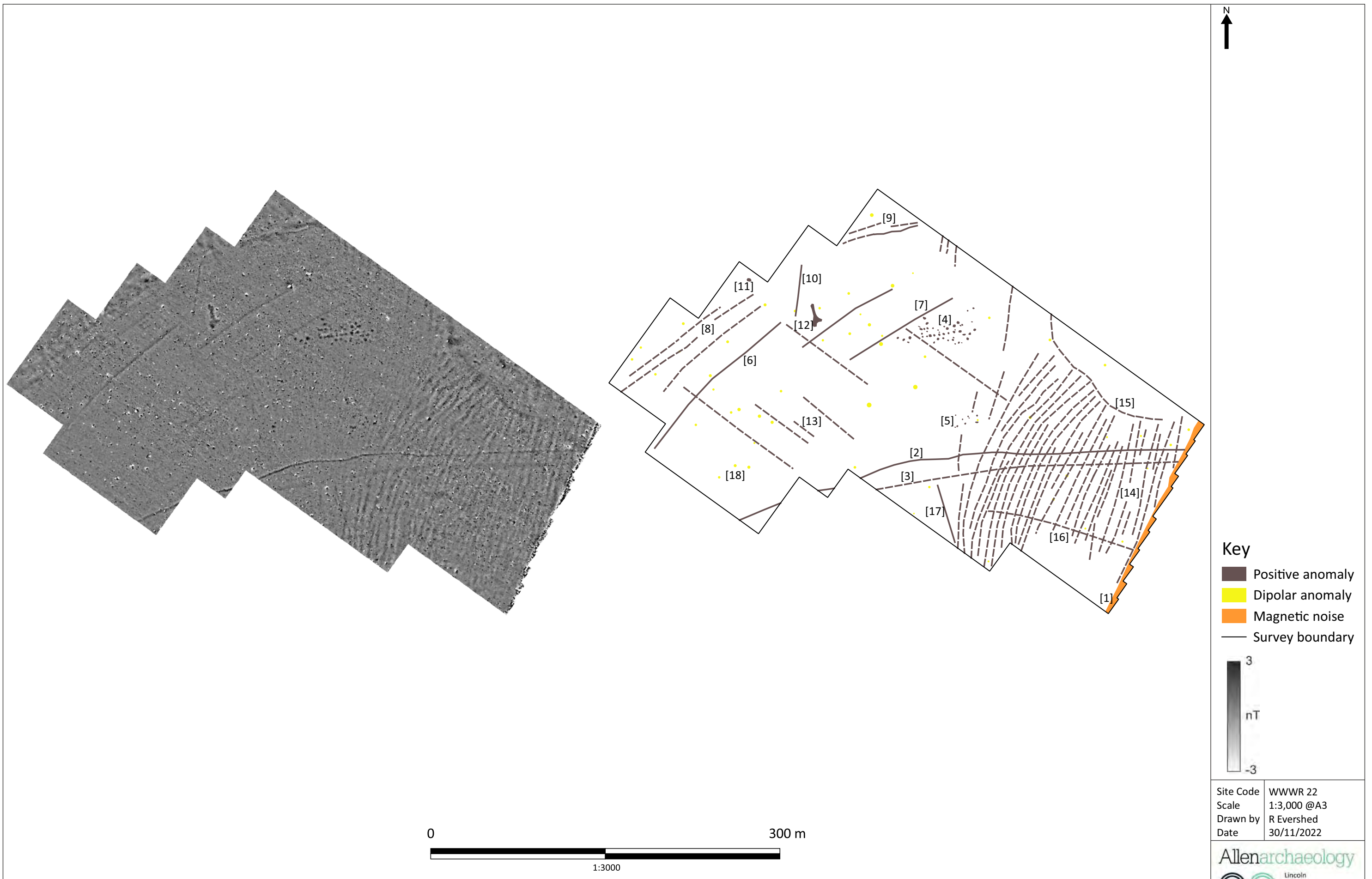


Figure 3: Processed greyscale plot and interpretation

Site Code	WWWR 22
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Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	30/11/2022

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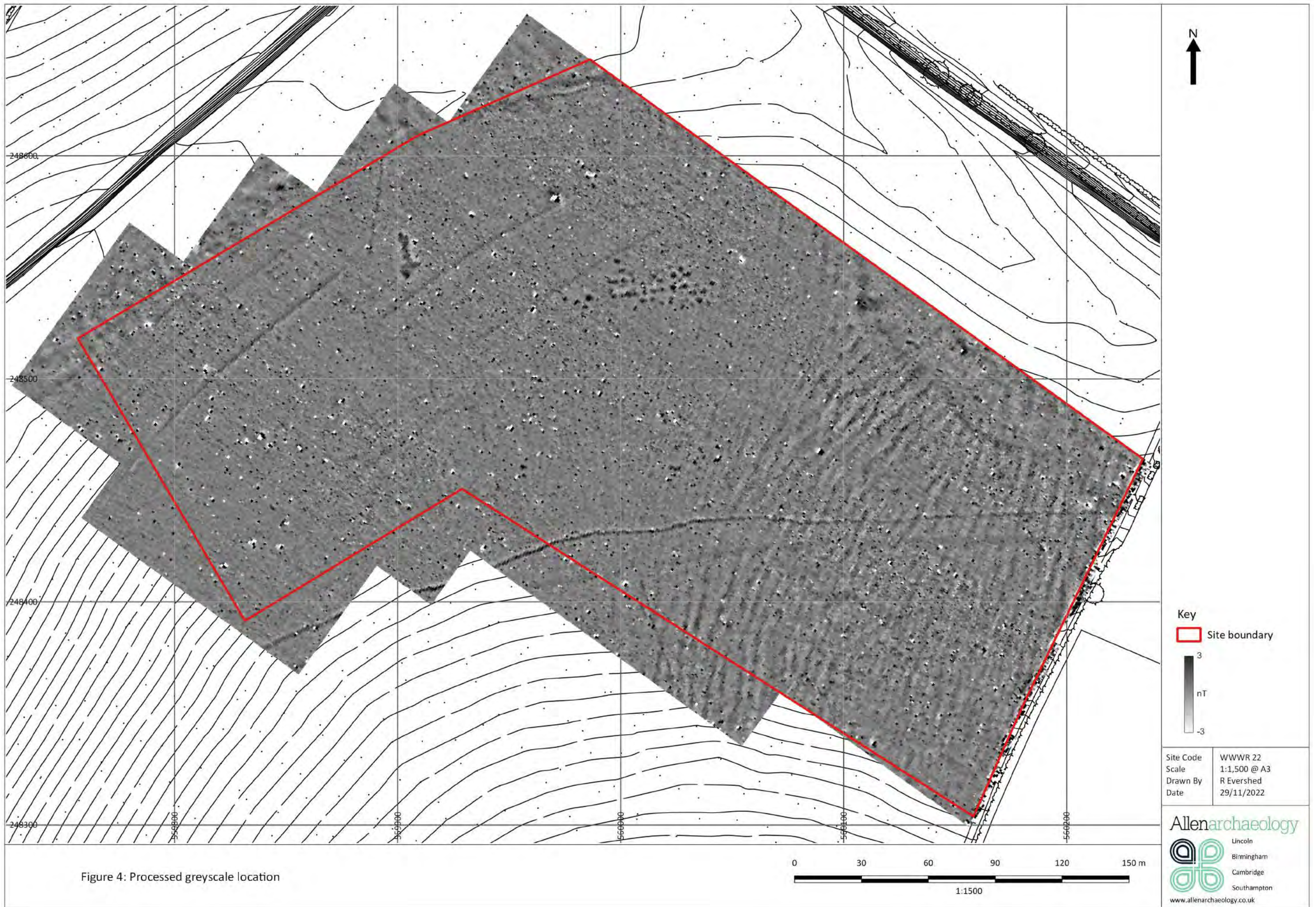
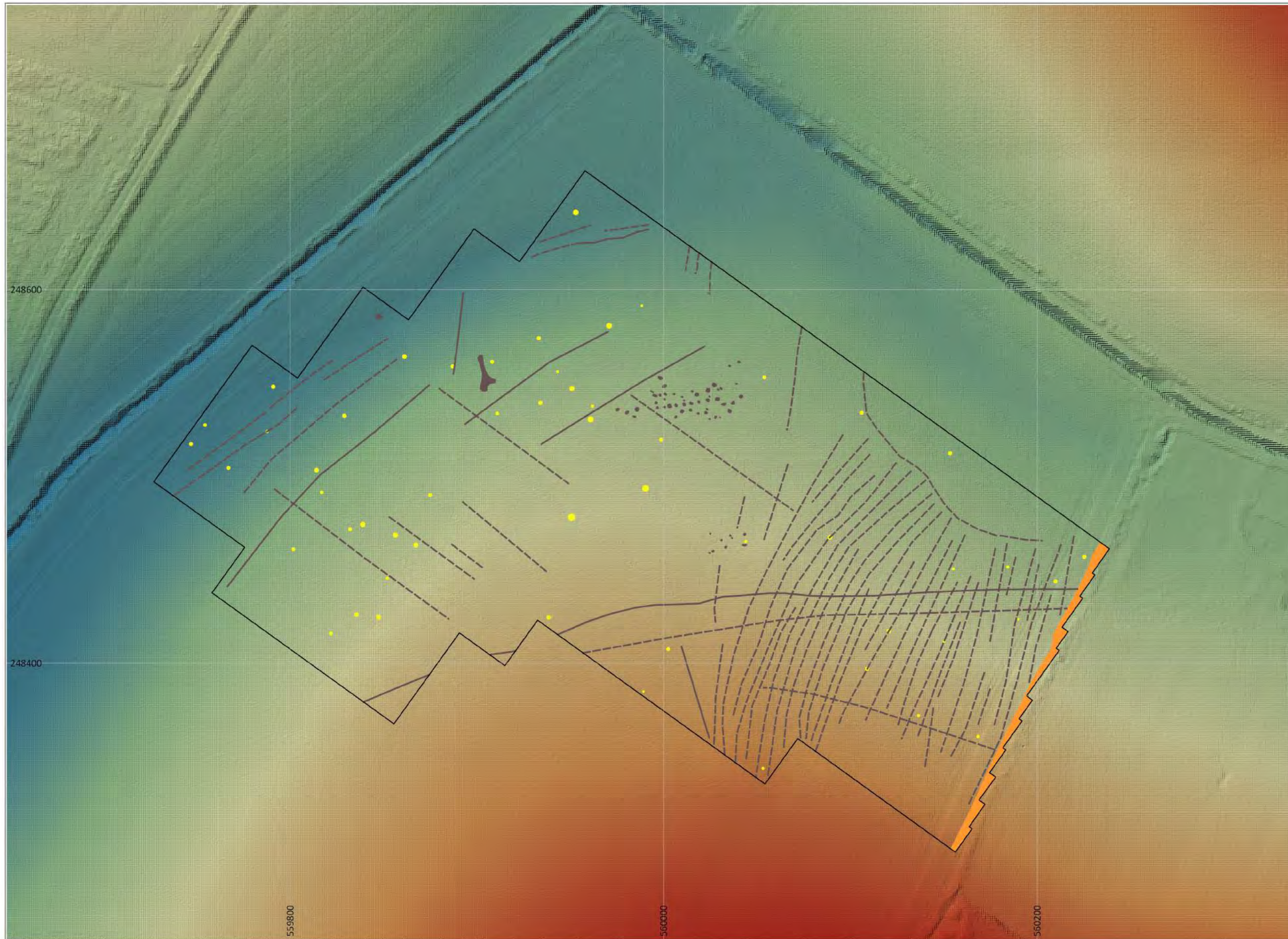


Figure 4: Processed greyscale location



Figure 5: Geophysical interpretation location



- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Height (m) OD**
 - 93.4
 - 87.0
 - 80.5
 - 74.1
 - 67.7
 - Positive anomaly
 - Dipolar anomaly
 - Magnetic noise
 - Survey boundary

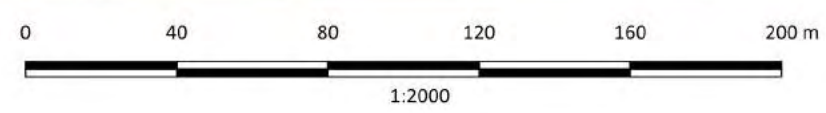
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Date	29/11/2022

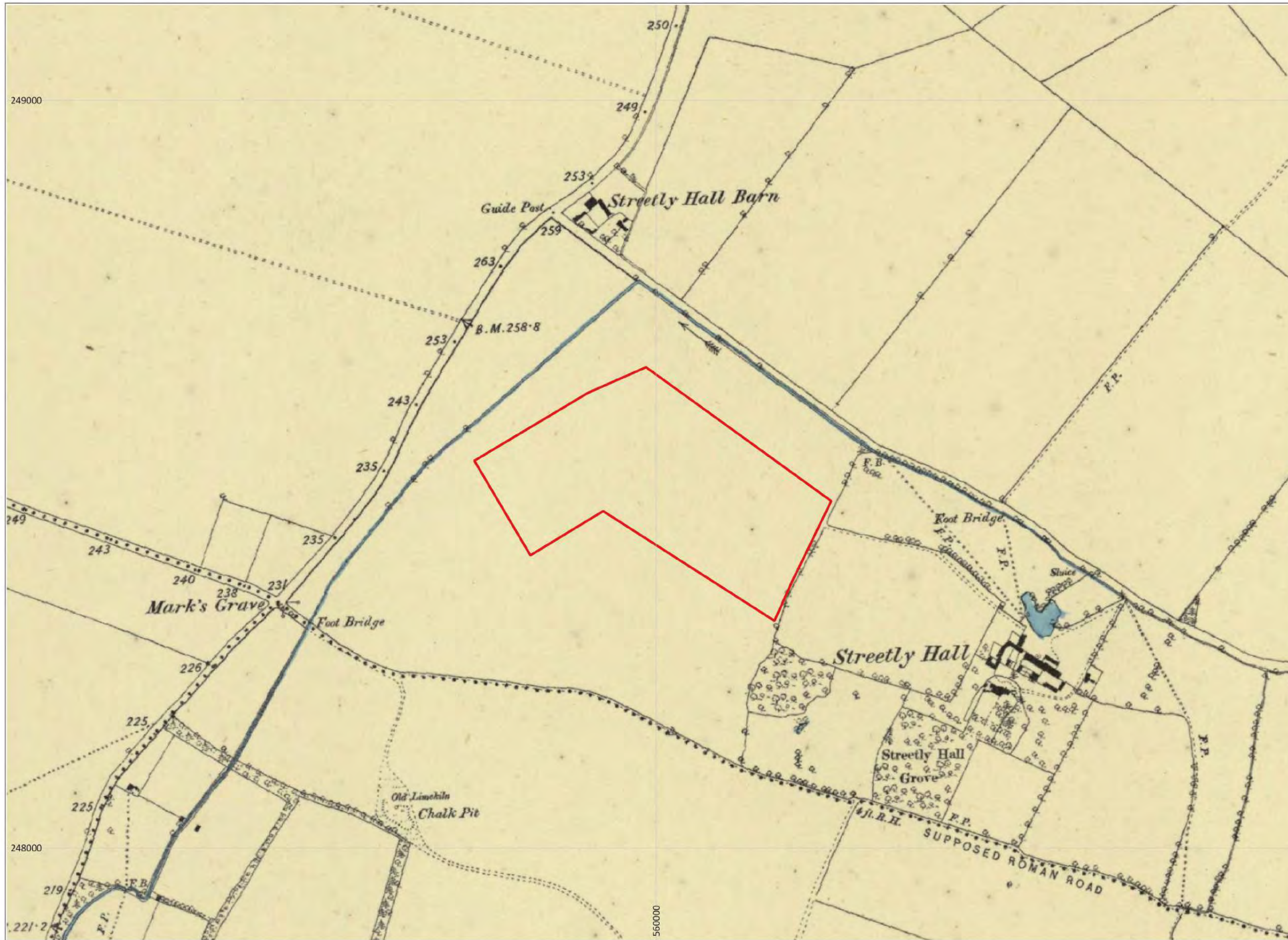
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Figure 6: Site boundary and geophysical interpretation superimposed over the Lidar data





Key
 Site boundary

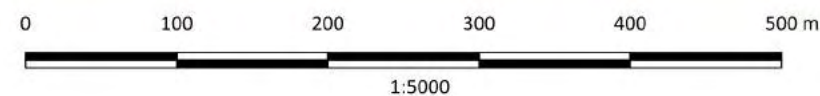
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Drawn By	R Evershed
Date	13/12/2022

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Figure 7: Site boundary superimposed over 1885 OS map





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