

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Hanwell Fields,
Banbury, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

by Richard Tabor

**Site Code: HRB21/169
(SP 4466 4253)**

Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Manor Oak Homes Ltd

by Richard Tabor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRB 21/169

September 2021

Summary

Site name: Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 4466 4253

Site activity: Archaeological desk-based assessment

Project coordinator: Elspeth St John-Brooks

Site supervisor: Elspeth St John-Brooks

Site code: HRB 21/169

Area of site: c. 3.1ha

Summary of results: There are no known heritage assets within the site or in a position to be affected by the proposed development. However, recent archaeological investigations in the study area have identified significant survival of prehistoric and later sub-surface deposits on a similar topography and Lidar data appear to show potentially significant features. Mapping evidence shows that recent land use is unlikely to have had adverse impact on any archaeology present. It is anticipated that it will be required to provide further information about the below-ground archaeological potential of the site in order to draw up a scheme to mitigate the impact of development on any below-ground archaeological deposits, if necessary. Such a scheme could be implemented by an appropriately worded condition attached to any consent gained.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 13.09.21
	Steve Preston✓ 13.09.21

Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

by Richard Tabor

Report 21/169

Introduction

This report is an assessment of the archaeological potential of land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury (SP 4466 4253) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr William Main of Manor Oak Homes Limited, 21 The Point, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NU and comprises the first stage of a process to determine the presence/absence, extent, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains which may be affected by redevelopment of the area.

Planning permission is to be sought from Cherwell District Council for a residential development. This desk-based assessment will accompany the application in order to allow an informed decision to be made regarding the proposal's archaeological implications.

Site description, location and geology

The proposal site lies immediately to the north of Banbury's northernmost residential and amenity developments (Fig. 1). It is set on the east-facing slopes of a high ridge overlooking the valley of the river Cherwell. It comprises *c.* 3.1ha set back from the north side of Duke's Meadow Drive. The highest part of the site is in its north-west corner at approximately 130m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). To the east it falls to *c.* 108m aOD over a distance of 300m and to the south the fall is to 128m over 114m reflecting the impact of a west to east tributary to the river. Formerly on the southern edge of Hanwell parish, the area is now within Banbury.

A site visit was made on 4th August 2021. The plot is bounded by maturing hedges on its north and west sides (Pls 1 to 3) and a timber railed fence on the south side, with saplings and shrubs developing between the latter and the road (Pl. 4). The site was covered with seeded grass and weeds. The higher ground rises significantly above the roof-line of residential, industrial and amenity buildings in Banbury giving extensive vistas of the Cherwell valley and the slopes forming its east side (Pls 3 and 4).

The site straddles a Jurassic sedimentary geological boundary between Dyrham Formation interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone on the west side and underlying Charmouth Formation Mudstone to the west (BGS 1982).

Planning background and development proposals

Planning permission is to be sought from Cherwell District Council for the development of the site for a residential use (Fig. 13).

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* as revised in 2021 (NPPF 2021) sets out the framework within which local planning authorities should consider the importance of conserving, or enhancing, aspects of the historic environment, within the planning process. It requires an applicant for planning consent to provide, as part of any application, sufficient information to enable the local planning authority to assess the significance of any heritage assets that may be affected by the proposal.

The Historic Environment is defined (NPPF 2021, 67) as:

‘All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.’

Paragraphs 194 and 195 state that

‘194. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

‘195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.’

A ‘heritage asset’ is defined (NPPF 2021, 67) 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).’

‘Designated heritage asset’ includes (NPPF 2021, 66) any

‘World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.’

‘Archaeological interest’ is glossed (NPPF 2021, 65) as follows:

‘There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.’

Specific guidance on assessing significance and the impact of a proposal is contained in paragraphs 197 to 203:

‘197. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:
‘a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
‘b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
‘c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.’

‘199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

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

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional⁶⁸.

Footnote 68 extends the application of this provision considerably:

‘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.’

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

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

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

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

Paragraph 205 requires local planning authorities to ensure that any loss of heritage assets advances understanding, but stresses that advancing understanding is not by itself sufficient reason to permit the loss of significance:

‘205. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.’

‘206. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.’

‘207. Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 200 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 201, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.’

In determining the potential heritage impact of development proposals, ‘significance’ of an asset is defined (NPPF 2021, 71–2) 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.’

while ‘setting’ is defined (NPPF 2021, 71) 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.’

The Cherwell Local Plan 2011 - 2031 (Part 1), Partial Review – Oxford’s Unmet Housing Need (CDC 2020) notes that objectives set out in the Local Plan of 2015 ‘remain relevant’, among them SO15, which highlights the objective:

‘To protect and enhance the historic and natural environment and Cherwell’s core assets, including protecting and enhancing cultural heritage assets and archaeology....’

In the 2015 Local Plan policy ESD 15, ‘The Character of the Built and Historic Environment’, states that new development proposals should:

‘Contribute positively to an area’s character and identity by creating or reinforcing local distinctiveness and respecting local topography and landscape features, including skylines, valley floors, significant trees, historic boundaries, landmarks, features or views, in particular within designated landscapes, within the Cherwell Valley and within conservation areas and their setting ‘Conserve, sustain and enhance designated and non designated ‘heritage assets’ (as defined in the NPPF) including buildings, features, archaeology, conservation areas and their settings, and ensure new development is sensitively sited and integrated in accordance with advice in the NPPF and NPPG. Proposals for development that affect non-designated heritage assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset as set out in the NPPF and NPPG. Regeneration proposals that make sensitive use of heritage assets,

particularly where these bring redundant or under used buildings or areas, especially any on English Heritage's At Risk Register, into appropriate use will be encouraged
'Include information on heritage assets sufficient to assess the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Where archaeological potential is identified this should include an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
'Respect the traditional pattern of routes, spaces, blocks, plots, enclosures and the form, scale and massing of buildings. Development should be designed to integrate with existing streets and public spaces, and buildings configured to create clearly defined active public frontages.'

The proposal site lies 1.5km beyond the northern boundary of the Banbury Conservation Area and is hidden from it by urban development.

Methodology

The assessment of the site was carried out by the examination of pre-existing information from a number of sources recommended by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' paper '*Standards in British Archaeology*' covering desk-based studies (CifA 2020). These sources include historic and modern maps, the Oxfordshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record, geological maps and any relevant publications or reports within 1000m of the proposal site's limits.

Archaeological background

Banbury probably owes its origin to the location of a crossing point of the River Cherwell. It has been suggested that on the west side of the river Banbury Lane on the ridge between Northampton and Banbury may have had prehistoric antecedents whilst the 'Saltway' passing south of the town was a route probably in use by the Saxo-Norman period (VCH 1972). Although there is a dearth of Palaeolithic worked stone from the Banbury area itself there have been significant finds of the Lower phase from gravel terraces low on the Cherwell valley sides close to the confluence with the Thames (Wymer 1999, 46-7, 56). Probable Mesolithic artefacts have been discovered less than 2km south-east of the site at Nethercote, east of the Cherwell (Wymer 223, 223). Perhaps the most significant recent prehistoric discoveries were made during this century's first decade in archaeological investigations in advance of clay extraction 1.6km from the site east of the intersection between the railway line and the M40 motorway. Thirty-five pits were dominated by large amounts of Middle Neolithic pottery and flint but a Middle Bronze Age ditch was less productive and further evidence of Late Iron Age to Middle Roman occupation was represented by a double-ditched enclosure and a farmstead. A short-lived Late Iron Age settlement at Jugglers Close, a similar distance south-east of the site, appeared to be set within a field system (Stevens 2004, 414-5). Work in advance of the Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme, west of the M40, also

revealed extensive multi-period evidence (Simmonds 2014), with the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age and Roman periods all well represented. Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age features have been found on the north-east side of Bloxham where a Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead may reflect an incipient growth of settlement in the late first millennium BC (Ford 2010, 116-7). On the south-east periphery of Banbury there is evidence for a Late Iron Age enclosure and probably a roundhouse, as well as metalworking (Carlyle 2012, 14). Roman finds around Banbury have been sparse but the site of a substantial building is recorded at Wickham Park and geophysical survey following a metal detectorist's discoveries identified the plan of an exceptionally large courtyard villa at Broughton Castle, 5km south-west of the site, implying a populated and productive wider contemporary landscape (VCH 1972; BANR 2018).

A sub-Roman occupation site has been recorded near the road linking the castle to the town and there is placename evidence for earlier Saxon settlement (VCH 1972). A smattering of Late Saxon artefacts and a few discrete and linear features have been found in and around the town (Stevens 2004, 387, 415-7). Excavations from the 1970s onwards within the town found presumed prehistoric or Roman features, and Saxo-Norman features including a wooden fortification predating the initial building of Banbury Castle in the first half of the 12th century which appears to have been associated with the development of a planned town (Fasham 1983, 117; Litherland and Nichol 1999, 2-3). There are deserted Medieval settlements on the periphery and beyond the study area. The nearest beyond it is 1.5km to the north at Hanwell where Henry VII's cofferer, William Cope was permitted to build a castle in around 1498 (Chambers 1975; HE 2021).

Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record

A search was made on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) on 27th July 2021 over a radius of 1000m around the proposal site. This revealed 44 entries within the search radius made up of 10 'monuments', 9 'events (archaeological investigations) and 25 historic landscape character (HLC) records. Apart from the HLC entries, These are summarized as Appendix 1 and their locations are plotted on Figure 1.

Prehistoric

The earliest well-attested features within the study radius are two Middle and three Late Neolithic pits dated by substantial assemblages of Peterborough and Grooved Ware from an evaluation east of the River Cherwell on the eastern fringe of the study area (Williams and Brennan 2013) [Fig. 1: 1]. The same investigation identified a Middle Bronze Age enclosure dated by pottery. A broadly contemporary flint scatter was found to the east of Hardwick during an evaluation further to the north [2]. Similarly dated worked flint was found during

excavations following geophysical survey on the higher ground at around 700m to the west of the site in a ring gully and a posthole group (Ford 2015; McNicoll-Norbury 2015, fig. 3) [3]. The same features produced very broadly dated prehistoric pottery (Blinkhorn 2015). An irregular ring ditch on the site produced no dating evidence. Some of several undated ditches, pits and post holes first identified by geophysical survey and confirmed by trial trenching on slopes north-east of the Cherwell may also have been prehistoric or Roman. A cremation burial was undated [4].

Roman, Saxon

In addition to the undated features just noted which might be Roman, there was also some evidence for Roman settlement found during the evaluation east of Hardwick [2]. No Saxon remains or documents pertaining to the study area are recorded.

Medieval

A settlement is documented Hardwick during the 13th century with physical relics of the settlement provided by earthworks of roads and pottery [1, 2]. A causewayed ring ditch was tentatively identified as the site of a windmill during the excavations to the west [3]. In other respects the Medieval record for the area is based mainly on inferences made from documentary work incorporated into the characterisation of the historic landscape (not plotted on Fig. 1). It is posited that open fields dominated the landscape from around the time of the Norman Conquest often until the late 18th century. During the early post-medieval period farmsteads developed on the south-facing slopes east of the Cherwell on land judged to have been either enclosed in a piecemeal fashion but typically unenclosed and often only rough. Bases of furrows found during investigations 300m east of the site may be residues of Medieval cultivation [5].

Post-medieval

The social and economic changes of the late 18th century were marked in Banbury by the arrival of the Oxford Canal, engineered by James Brindley and often the route by which coal arrived [6]. Again much of the HER data refers to historic landscape development (not plotted on Fig. 1). There appears to have been an intensification of piecemeal enclosure during the late 18th and very early 19th centuries. During the 19th century, continuing into the early 20th century, planned enclosure became the dominant trend, although piecemeal enclosure remained an occasional agricultural adaptation and there was already some amalgamation of fields which continues today. The railway station was opened in 1850. Calcining kilns which once stood next to the line 500m south of the site testify to the significance of ironstone transport [6]. A bridge over the canal [8] may be contemporary with and have served the Northern Aluminium Company which a factory in Banbury in 1930 and from which a World War II war memorial survives [9].

Negative

No archaeological features were found in what was then the south-east area of Hanwell Fields [10].

Cartographic and documentary sources

Historically the site has been within Hanwell parish. The earliest surviving record of the Oxfordshire Hanwell is in Domesday Book as *Hanewege*. There is agreement that Han is a Saxon personal name, *Hana* but the toponymic second syllable might refer merely to a road (Ekwall 1960, 217) or to a 'Way (and stream)' (Mills 1998, 164). The manor comprised 5 hides which had been retained from before the Norman invasion by Leofwine, a servant of the king from whom he held it. There were 14 acres of meadow and land for 8 ploughs with 22 householders having 7 ploughs. Three ploughs and 6 slaves were in demesne. The value of the land had increased from 100s to £7 over the preceding two decades (Williams and Martin 2002, 442). As is typical, spellings of the placename varied with the Book of Fees recording it as *Haneweie* in 1220, *Hanewey* in 1246 and between the two in 1236 as *Haneuell*, a version which anticipates the modern form and which may have been influenced by the presence of the 'never failing' spring around which the settlement developed (Ekwall 1960, 216; VCH 1969). It is thought that during the 12th century the manor had passed to the Vernon family, which held other Oxfordshire estates, and branches of this family retained it until 1415, when it was conveyed to the courtier and politician Thomas, son of Geoffrey Chaucer. By the end of the 15th century it had passed into the Cope family which retained it until the late 18th century (VCH 1969).

Medieval tax records for tenants suggest that the village economy was generally modest but by the early 16th century some individuals and their families were profiting, and by 1572 the prosperity of five farmers was such that their tax was assessed alongside the lord. During the 16th and 17th centuries arable regimes were dominant but by the 18th century there was a trend towards more balanced agriculture and from around 1788 a progressive farmer, Thomas Wyatt, was exploring more intensive methods of production through complimentary maintenance of livestock and cultivated land (VCH 1969). During this period Hanwell was a largely self-sufficient settlement sustained by its own craft and trades people but by the later 19th century imports brought agricultural depression which combined with increasing mechanisation led increasingly to inhabitants seeking employment in Banbury (VCH 1969).

The town had peripheral involvement in Medieval power-struggles but was more acutely involved in the English Civil War where the Parliamentary sympathies in the town were at odds with those of the Royalist garrison of the castle which finally surrendered in 1646 after three years of occupation and intermittent siege

(VCH 1972). In the 18th century Banbury became a local centre for the weaving industry, with additional infrastructure provided by the opening by the Coventry to Banbury section of the Oxford Canal in 1778, but it was not immune from a national wave of food riots in 1800 nor from the Swing riots associated with agricultural workers 30 years later. However, relative prosperity began to return with the coming of the railway in 1850 (VCH 1972).

In 1904 Hanwell Fields or Bismore Hall was one of six tenant farms in the parish and one of the three larger holdings of between 240 and 300 acres compared with the smaller holdings of between 110 and 160 acres. At that time all the land remained the property of the lord of the manor, the Sackville-Wests (VCH 1969).

A range of Ordnance Survey and other historical maps of the area were consulted in order to ascertain what activity had been taking place throughout the site's later history and whether this may have affected any possible archaeological deposits within the proposal area (see Appendix 2).

The earliest surviving map is Saxton's of 1574 which shows *Harwell* as a middle-sized settlement set between two watercourses, both unnamed but the one to the east flowing into the Cherwell at Banbury (Fig. 3). Similar attributes are represented in Speed's map of 1611 which marks *Hanwell* within the Bloxham Hundred Boundary which forms an untidy arc from north to south around the west side of the Banbury Hundred and which allows closer identification of the site's location (Figure. 4). Plot's map of 1677 appears to mark Hanwell as a parish with a manor set in enclosed grounds (Fig. 5). Morden's map of 1695 adds significant roads in the north of the county, none of which are north of Banbury. Hanwell is a rare example of a settlement represented by two discrete but similar structures one of which is partially enclosed. In sharp contrast Van der Aa's map of 1715 fails even to name the symbol which may represent Hanwell (Fig. 7). The name is resurrected on Sellers map of 1733 with the settlement shown on the west side of a major road between Banbury and Coventry (Fig. 8). Kitchen's map of 1750 shows the road well to the east of the settlement and indeed of the tributary to the Cherwell. The parish is shown to the west of an area labelled 'Hanwell Place & Park' (Fig. 9). The location of the site may best be judged by its position relative to the hundred boundary between Drayton and Hardwick. The marking of fields on Davis' map of 1797, of the tributary to the Cherwell and of the boundary between Banbury and Hanwell, as well as a clear representation of the roads structuring Hanwell village and linking them to the road between Banbury and Warmington allow a closer approximation of the site's location, although it appears at odds with the marked topography (Fig. 10). A more detailed representation of the tributary in Bryant's map of 1824 allows further refinement, although the topographic representation remains problematic (Fig. 11). Enclosure was in progress in 1768 when Charles Cope, who owned the whole parish, arranged to pay the rector a

fixed sum in place of the tithe, an agreement ratified in the Inclosure Act of 1783 (VCH 1969). As a consequence there is neither an inclosure nor a tithe map of the parish.

The modern re-structuring of the roads and the consequent impact upon the outlines of the fields has rendered precise location and scaling of the site outline problematic (Fig. 12). The north-west corner of a field shown in the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882 is clearly that of the site's corresponding corner and give its present northern and western limits but there is room for doubt about its southerly and easterly extents. No structures are shown within the site but a footpath is set inside the length of the northern boundary (Fig. 12). The footpath was unmarked on the map of 1922 but there were no other changes (Fig. 13) and by 1976 the only difference was the introduction of a 'track' where the old footpath had been (Fig. 14). Maps up to 2005 continue to show the site in Hanwell, but the most modern map (Fig. 1) shows the parish boundary has moved north and the site is in Banbury.

Scheduled Monuments

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the study area and none upon which the proposed development would have impact.

Listed buildings

There are no listed buildings within proximity of the proposal site, the closest being well to the east and separated from the site by extensive modern development.

Registered Parks and Gardens; Registered Battlefields

There are no registered parks or gardens or battlefields within the study area and none upon which the proposed development would have impact.

Historic Hedgerows

There are no hedgerows on the site that would qualify as 'important' as defined by Schedule 1 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

Aerial Photographs

Due to restrictions at the time of the preparation of this assessment no aerial photographs have been viewed.

LiDAR

Lidar data tile SP44sw_DTM_1M was downloaded from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website (DEFRA 2021) and added to a Geographical Information System programme, QGIS. The tile gave complete coverage of the site.

Terrain analysis was carried out in QGIS using the ‘hillshade’ function. Virtual shade plot files with a vertical angle of 15° from the earth’s surface were created at every 45° from azimuth 0° to 315° with vertical settings varying from z=1 to z=3. A selection of the most informative plots is shown in Figures 16 and 17. It should be noted that the mapping of features is not precise as the pseudo light source creates a ‘shadow’ which displaces them in a direction opposite to it. The results were compared with modern ordnance survey data to ensure that extant features were not represented wrongly as of potential archaeological significance.

The site is set on the southern limit of a field system which was represented by linear elements in maps from 1868 to 1976 (Fig. 18, A). There is a slight trace of a southward projection of one line west of the site’s centre which is not shown on, and presumably predates, the 1868 map. To its east roughly west to east orientated trends, B, may represent elements also predating modern maps. Curved lines, C, are of varying strength but along with straight lines, D, they form no coherent pattern. In contrast weak and strong lines, E, in the centre and north-west of the site, imply organisation and given that they are on a slope there is little reason to attribute them to land drainage. There is also a possible enclosure, F, in the site’s north-east corner, although similar anomalies can be caused by vegetation.

Discussion

There are no known heritage assets on the site or in a position to be affected by its development. It remains therefore to establish if there may be potential for previously unknown heritage assets, that is, below-ground archaeological remains.

In considering the archaeological potential of the study area, various factors must be taken into account, including previously recorded archaeological sites, previous land-use and disturbance and future land-use including the proposed development. There have been significant gains in knowledge of remains within the

study area due to recent development-led projects in areas for which there were previously few or no archaeological records. Some of the most significant prehistoric finds have been on the slopes east of the River Cherwell but discoveries nearer to hand, west of the site, have identified the remains of prehistoric and later deposits on similar geography and topography. The lidar data suggests the potential presence of archaeological features within the site. Any surviving deposits would certainly be liable to be adversely affected by the groundworks for the proposed development, most notably foundation and service trenches.

It is anticipated that it will be necessary to acquire further data about the potential of the site from field observations in order to provide information on which to base a scheme to mitigate the impact of development on any below ground archaeological deposits. This might include a combination of non-intrusive (geophysical survey) and intrusive investigation (trial trenching). A scheme for this evaluation will need to be drawn up and approved by the archaeological advisers to the District Council and implemented by a competent archaeological contractor.

References

- BAJR, 2018, 'One of the largest villas in Roman Britain found in Oxfordshire', British Archaeology News Resource, <http://www.bajrfed.co.uk/bajrpress/one-of-the-largest-villas-in-roman-britain-found-in-oxfordshire/#imageclose-173809> (accessed: 24th August 2021)
- BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000 Sheet 201, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Blinkhorn, P, 2015, 'Pottery', in J McNicoll-Norbury, 2015b, 'Land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury, Oxfordshire, An archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **14/255b**, Reading, 6
- Bray, D and Dawson, T, 2015, 'Land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury, Oxfordshire, geophysical survey (magnetic)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **14/255**, Reading
- Carlyle, S, 2012, 'Land East of Bloxham Road, Banbury: Archaeological Evaluation', Cotswold Archaeology report **11326**, Milton Keynes
- CDC, 2020, *The Cherwell Local Plan 2011 - 2031 (Part 1), Partial Review – Oxford's Unmet Housing Need*, Cherwell District Council
- CIFA, 2020, 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment', Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- DEFRA 2021, <https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>, (accessed: 27th July 2021)
- Ekwall, E, 1960, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th edition, Oxford
- Ford, S, 2010, 'Middle Iron Age occupation at Ells Lane, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **74** (for 2009), 113–26
- Ford, S, 2015, 'Struck flint', in J McNicoll-Norbury, 'Land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury, Oxfordshire, An archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **14/255b**, Reading, 7
- Fasham, P, J, 1983, 'Excavations in Banbury 1972, Second and final report', *Oxoniensia* **48**, 71–118
- HE, 2021, 'Hanwell Castle', Historic England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1287674> (accessed: 8th September 2021)
- Litherland, S and Nichol, K, 1999, 'Banbury Town Centre Redevelopment: A post-excavation assessment and research design', Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit **609**, Birmingham
- McNicoll-Norbury, J 2015a, 'Land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury, Oxfordshire, An archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **14/255b**, Reading
- McNicoll-Norbury, J 2015b, 'Land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury, Oxfordshire, An archaeological Excavation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **14/255c**, Reading

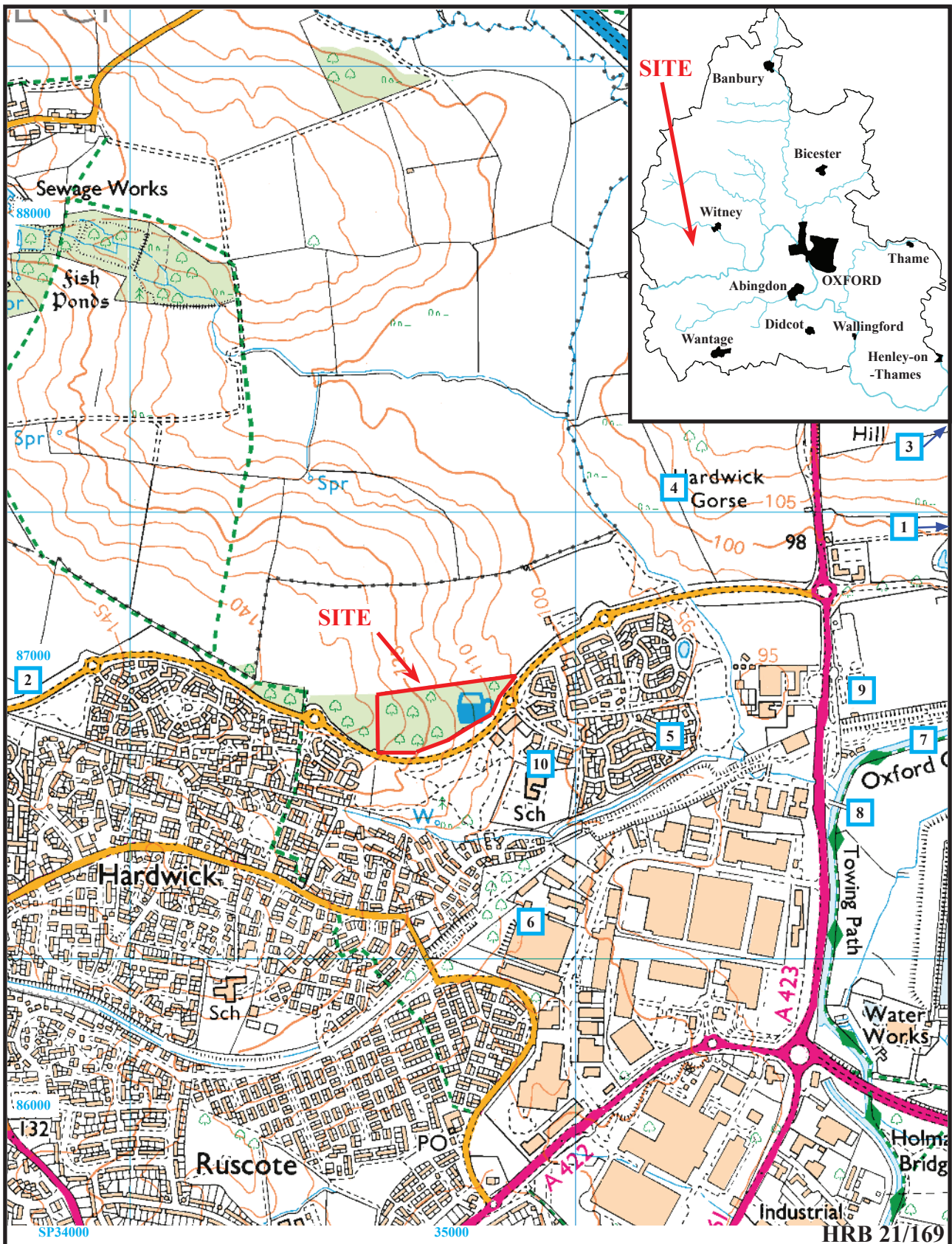
- Mills, A D, 1998, *Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford
- NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Simmonds, A, 2014, *The Archaeology of Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxfordshire: Neolithic and Roman occupation in the Cherwell Valley*, Oxford Archaeology Monogr **21**, Oxford
- Stevens, C, 2004, 'Iron Age and Saxon Settlement at Juggler's Close, Banbury, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **69**, 385-416
- VCH, 1969, 'Parishes: Hanwell', *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 9, Bloxham Hundred*, British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol9/pp112-123> (accessed: 9th September 2021)
- VCH, 1972, 'Banbury: Introduction', *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 10, Banbury Hundred*, British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol10/pp5-18> (accessed: 9th September 2021)
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, A complete Translation*, London
- Williams, M and Brennan, N, 2013, ' Banbury – Land to the East of Southam Road', *South Midlands Archaeology* **43**, 81-2
- Wymer, J, 1977, *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales*, CBA research report **20**
- Wymer, J, 1999, *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain volume 1*, Salisbury

APPENDIX 1: Historic Environment Records within a 1km search radius of the development site

<i>No</i>	<i>HER Ref</i>	<i>Grid Ref (SP)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	EOX6526 28166- MOX24696 HOX3168	45876 43231 4585 4310 4579 4327	Evaluation Excavation	Neolithic Bronze Age Medieval Post-Medieval	Neolithic Early Bronze Age pits, Middle Bronze Age enclosure and Medieval features, latter associated with a Deserted Medieval Village. Piecemeal enclosure (c.1540-1797) Reorganised enclosures (1798-1810). Prairie/Amalgamated enclosure (post med. 1811-1881).
2	1098- MOX4496	459 430	Documentary Evaluation Watching brief, Listed building	Neolithic/ Bronze Age Roman Medieval	Neolithic-Bronze Age flint scatter east of Hardwick Farm. Possible Roman settlement. Hardwick Deserted Medieval Village associated with pottery, a farm and earthworks including Holloways. Hardwick Farm Grade II* listed building, 16th century
3	EOX5869 EOX6019 EOX6025 28514- MOX26838 28566- MOX26898	4378 4264 4380 4260 4385 4270 4382 4266	Geophysical survey Evaluation Excavation	Prehistoric Medieval Post-medieval Undated	Magnetometry survey undertaken at land adjacent to Dukes Meadow Drive. Subsequent evaluation unearthed undated linear features and potential Iron Age features. Excavation then carried out with prehistoric ring ditches, undated features and late med/post-med windmill.
4	28168- MOX24698 EOX3435 EOX5792	4526 4304 45300 43050 4527 4305 4515 4303	Geophysical survey Evaluation	Prehistoric Roman Post-Medieval Undated	Possible archaeological remains in 15 of 32 trenches. Both carried out in 2012. Undated features including ditches, pits, gullies and a cremation burial.
5	EOX907 EOX911 16513- MOX12217	452 425	Watching brief Evaluation	Medieval Post-Medieval Undated	Some archaeological features including furrow bases suggesting medieval agriculture and drainage channels for med-postmedieval land use. Finds including post-med pottery.
6	8951- MOX4204	4490 4210	Documentary	Post-Medieval	Railway track and ironstone calcining kilns
7	16429- MOX27509	4811 2875	Documentary	Post-Medieval	Oxford Canal. Designed by James Brindley. Opened between 1774-1790. Coal distribution.
8	4314- MOX4519	4558 4235	Monument	Modern	Canal Bridge No.161 (early 20 th century to WWII). Possibly built at same time as Northern Aluminium Co works (1930s).
9	28616- MOX26955	45633 42581	Listed Building	Modern	Grade II Office building, Gates and WWII Memorial plaque of the former Northern Aluminium Co Ltd. Brick Office built 1936/1937. Designed by Gilbert Gardner. Art deco style. Aluminium Gates built 1931 by Wallis Gilbert and partners. Now relocated to War memorial pond area.
10	EOX859	449 424	Evaluation	Negative	Evaluation at Hanwell Fields, no archaeological finds or features.

APPENDIX 2: Historic and modern maps consulted

1574	Saxton, Oxfordshire (Fig. 3)
1611	Speed, Oxfordshire (Fig. 4)
1677	Plot, Oxfordshire (Fig. 5)
1695	Morden, Oxfordshire (Fig. 6)
1715	Aa, Oxfordshire (Fig. 7)
1733	Seller, Oxfordshire (Fig. 8)
1750	Kitchen, Oxfordshire (Fig. 9)
1797	Davis, Oxfordshire (Fig. 10)
1824	Bryant, Oxfordshire (Fig. 11)
1882	Ordnance Survey First Edition (Fig. 12)
1900	Ordnance Survey Second Edition
1922	Ordnance Survey (Fig. 13)
1965	Ordnance Survey
1967	Ordnance Survey
1976	Ordnance Survey (Fig. 14)
1989	Ordnance Survey
1993	Ordnance Survey
2003	Ordnance Survey (Figs. 2 and 15)



**Land at Hanwell Fields,
Banbury, Oxfordshire**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
 Figure 1. Location of site within Banbury and Oxfordshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
 Crown Copyright reserved





HRB 21/169



**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Dukes Meadow Drive showing directional photographic viewpoints.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 3. Location of site on Saxton Map 1574.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

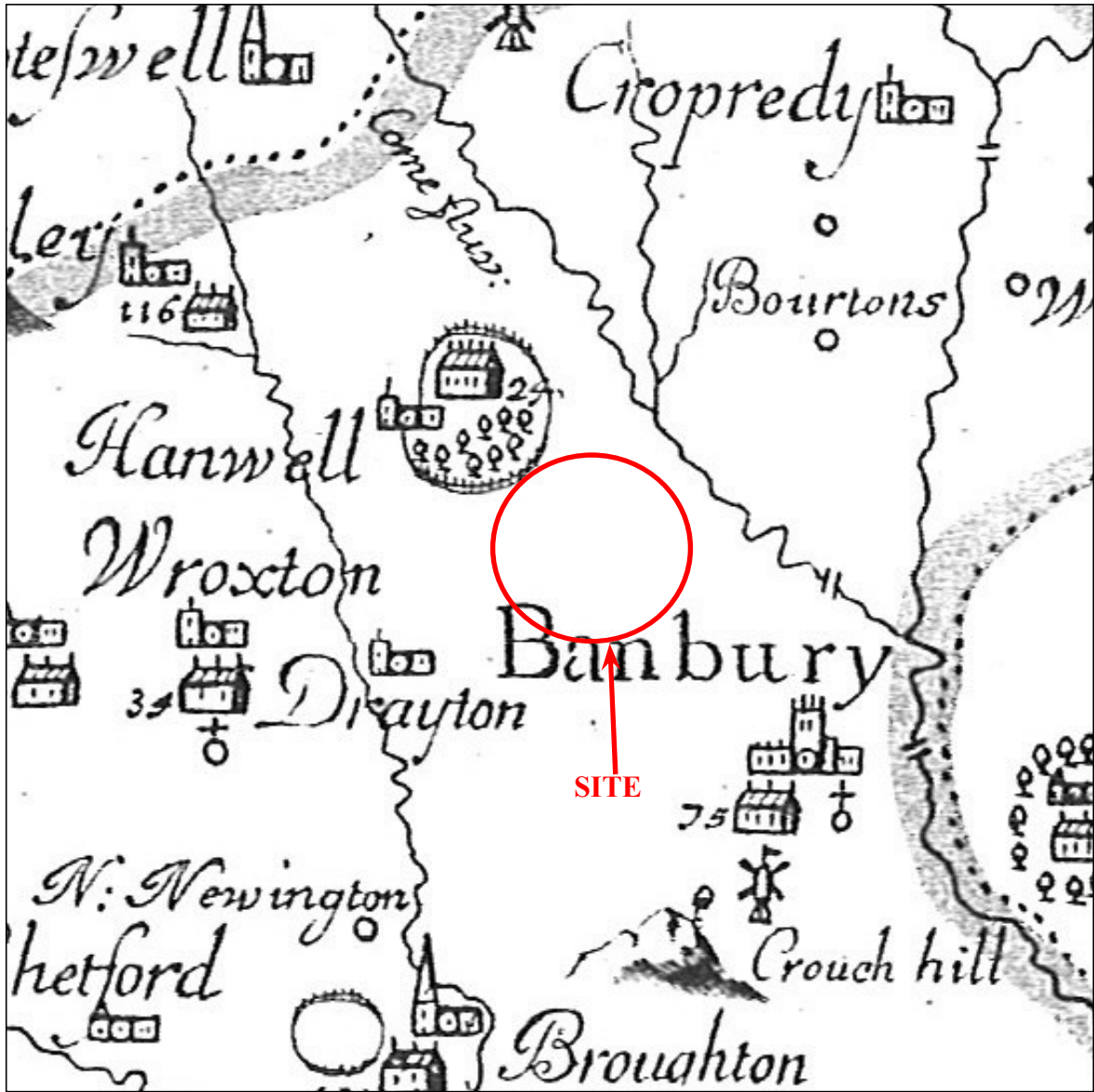


HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 4. Location of site on Speed map 1611.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

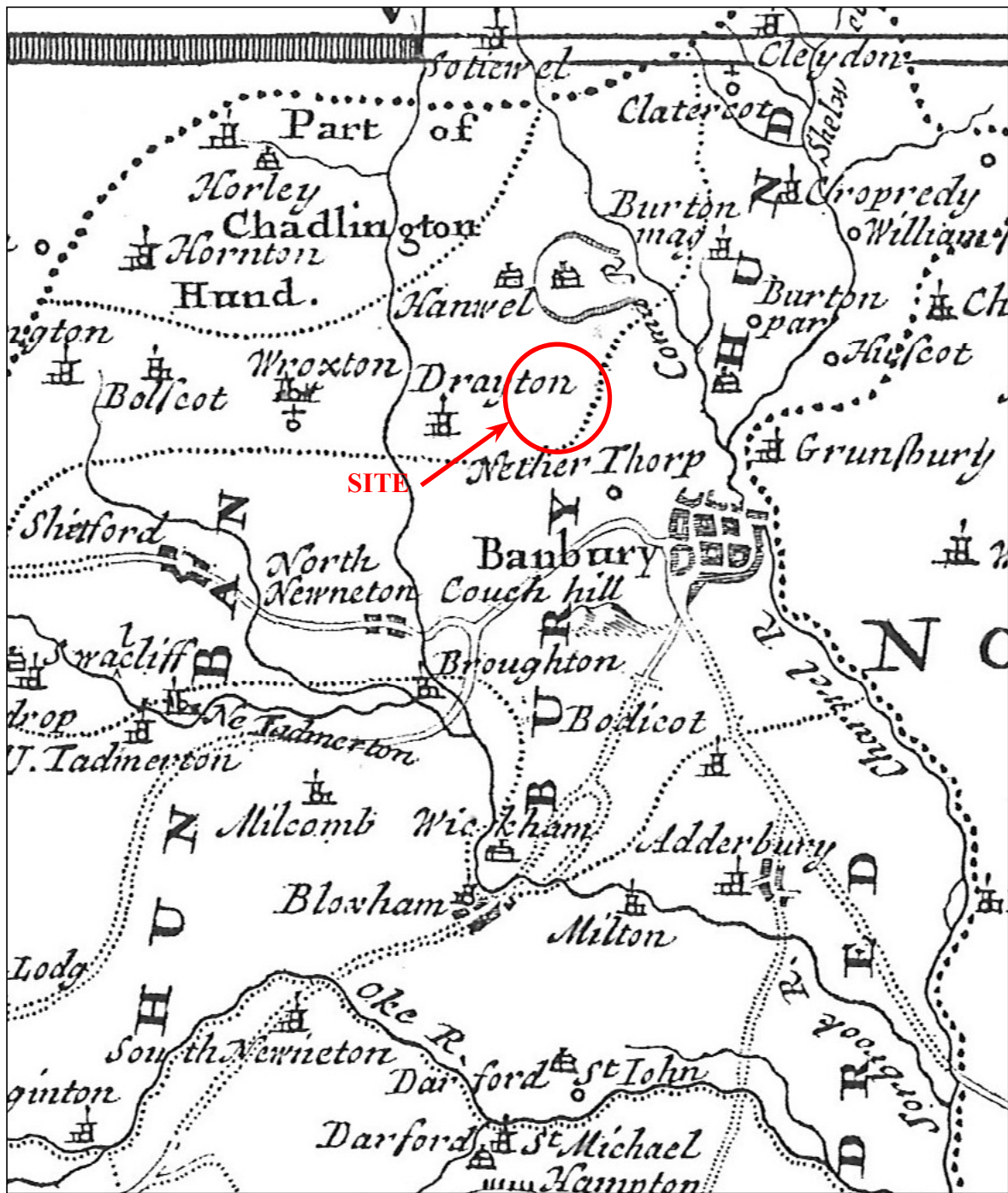


HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 5. Location of site on Plot map 1677.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 6. Location of site on Morden map 1695.



HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 7. Location of site on van der Aa map 1715.



HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 8. Location of site on Seller map 1733.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

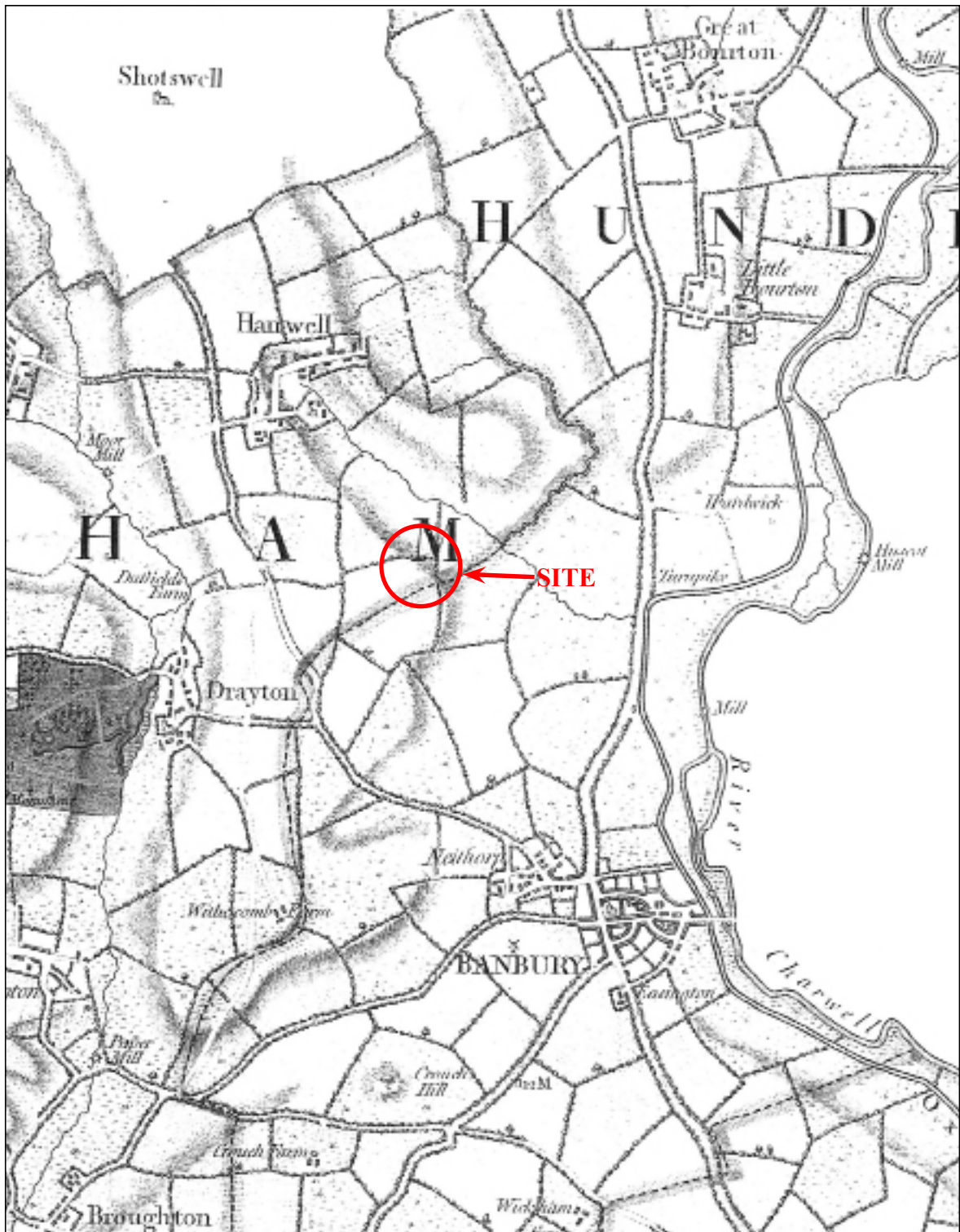


HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 9. Location of site on Kitchen map 1750.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 10. Location of site on Davis map 1797.

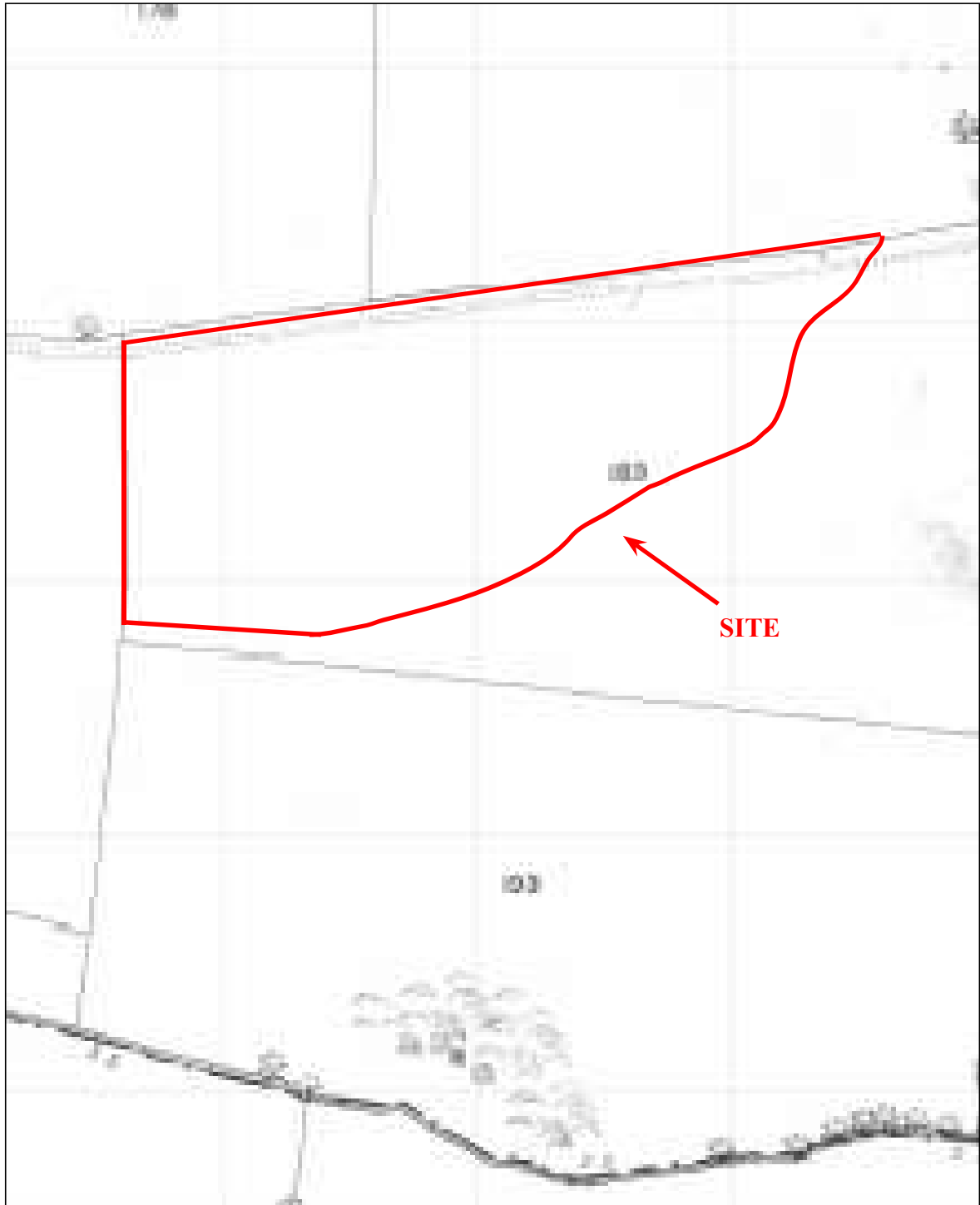
THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HRB 21/169



Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Figure 11. Location of site on Bryant map 1824.



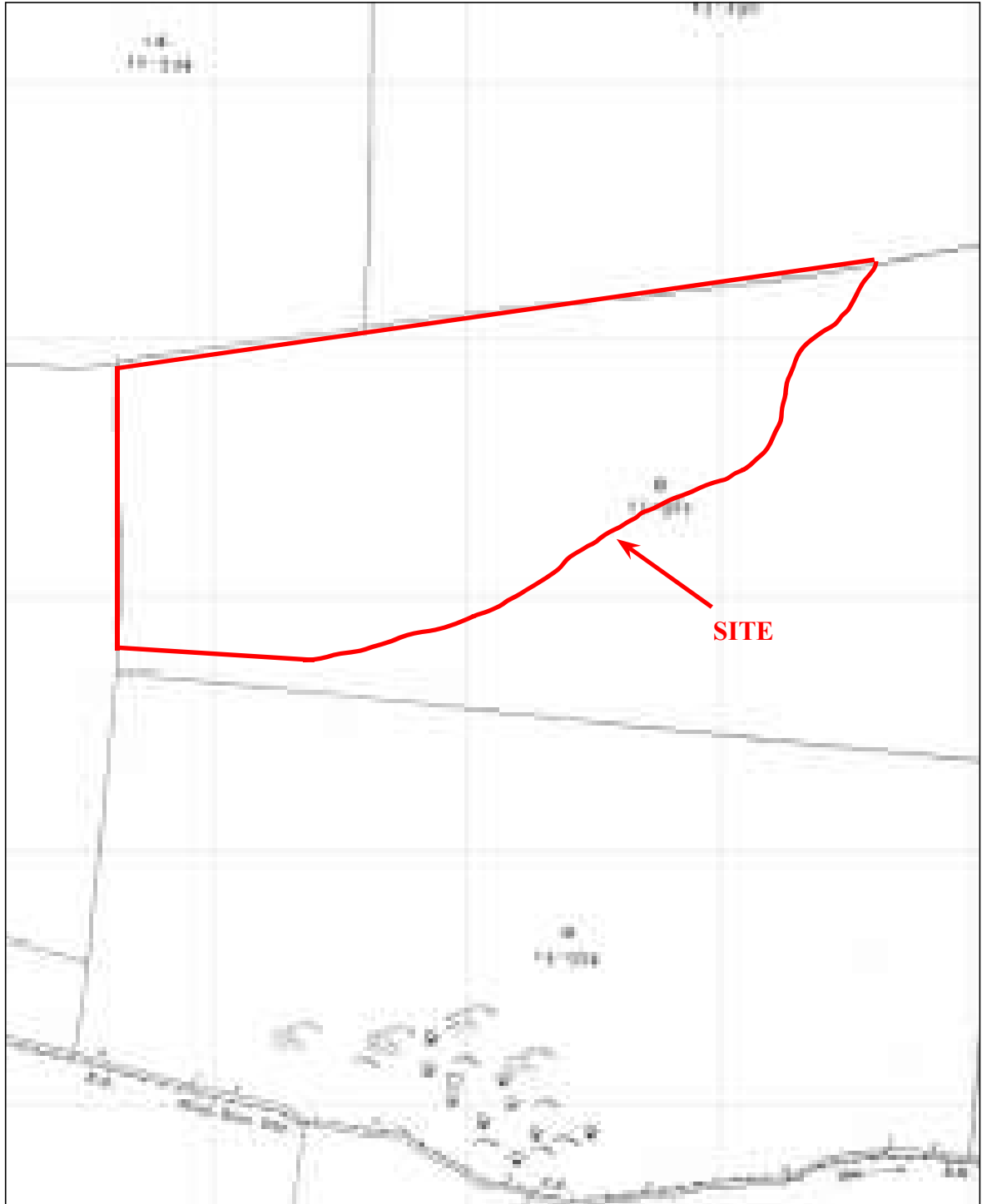
HRB 21/169



**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment**

Figure 12. Detailed location of site on Ordnance Survey
1882.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

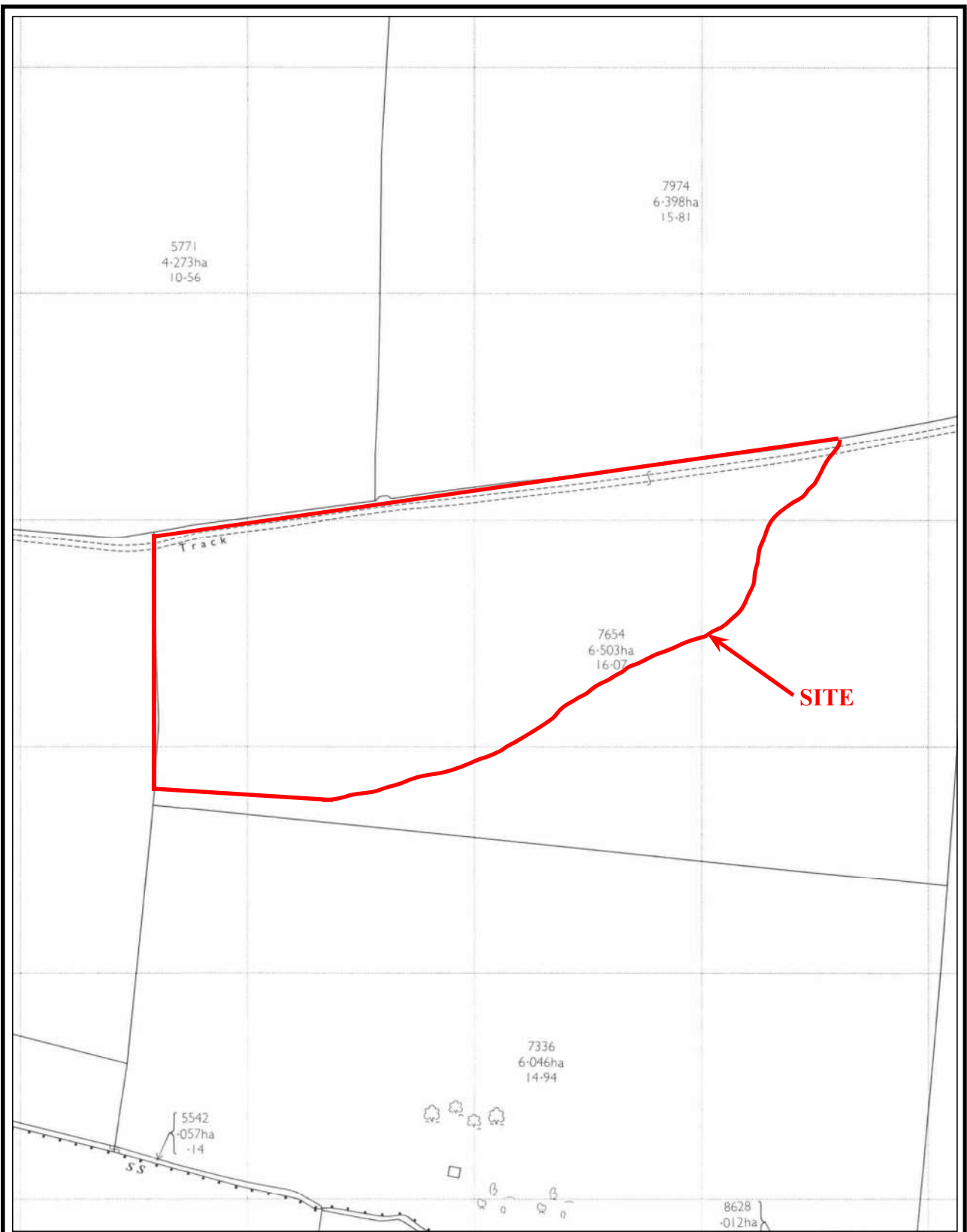


HRB 21/169



**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment**

Figure 13. Detailed location of site on Ordnance Survey
1922.

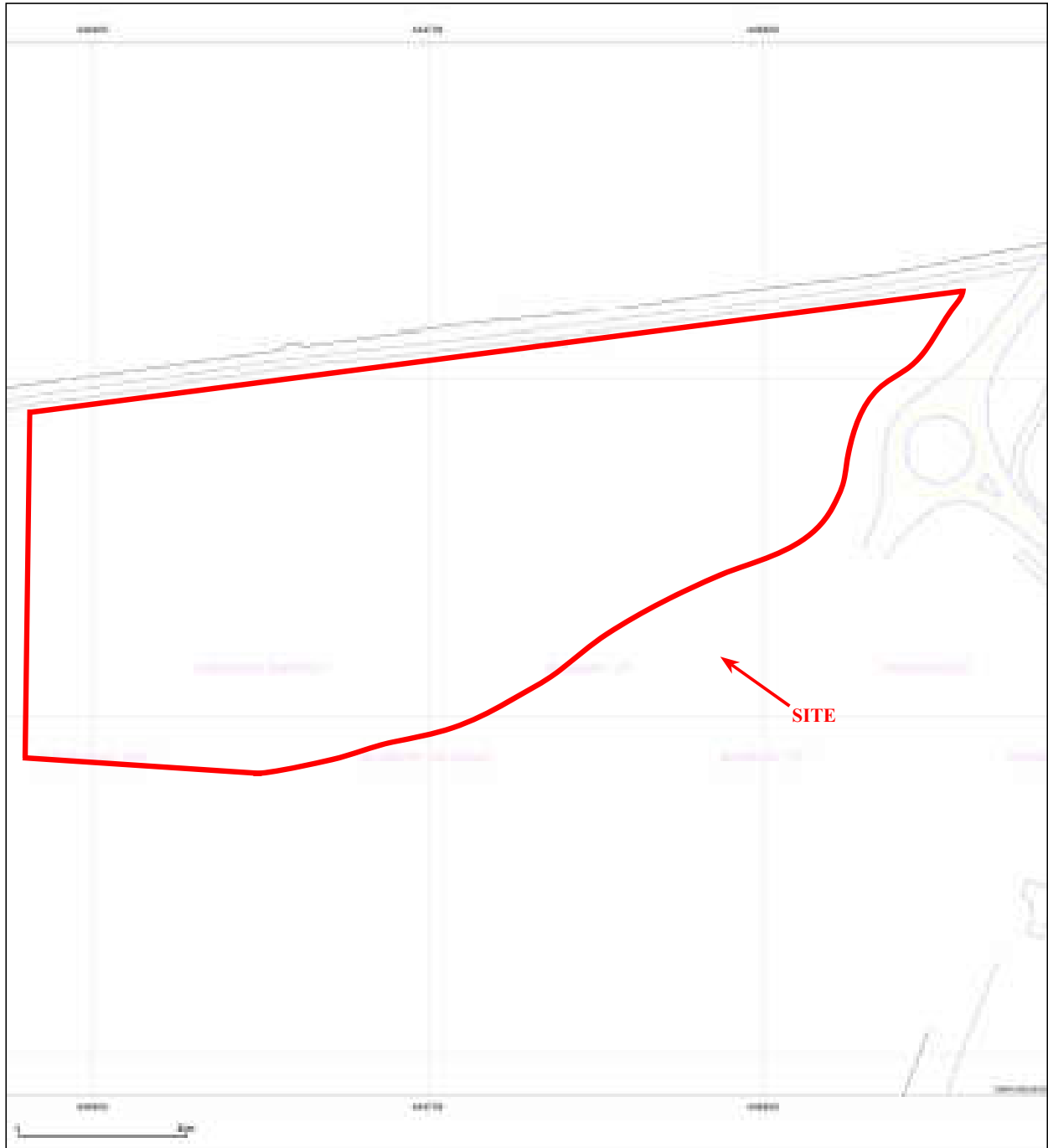


HRB 21/169



**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
 Figure 14. Detailed location of site on Ordnance Survey
 1976.





HRB 21/169

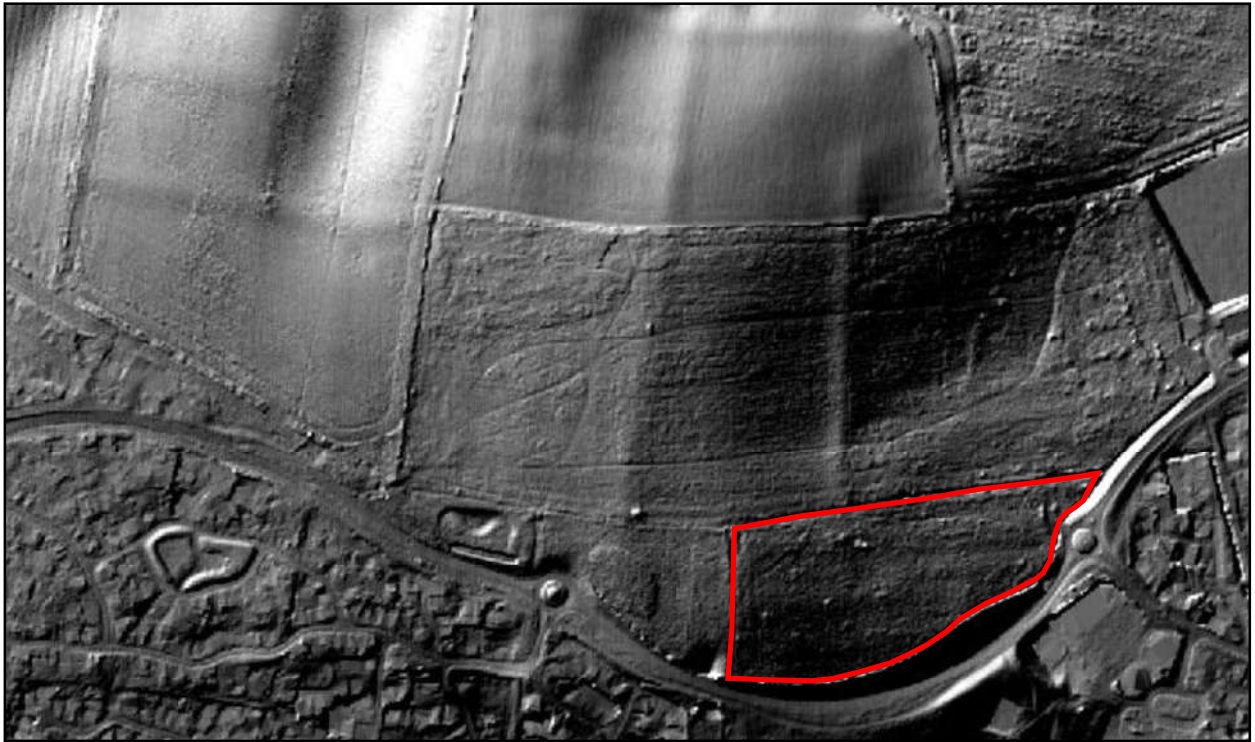


**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021**

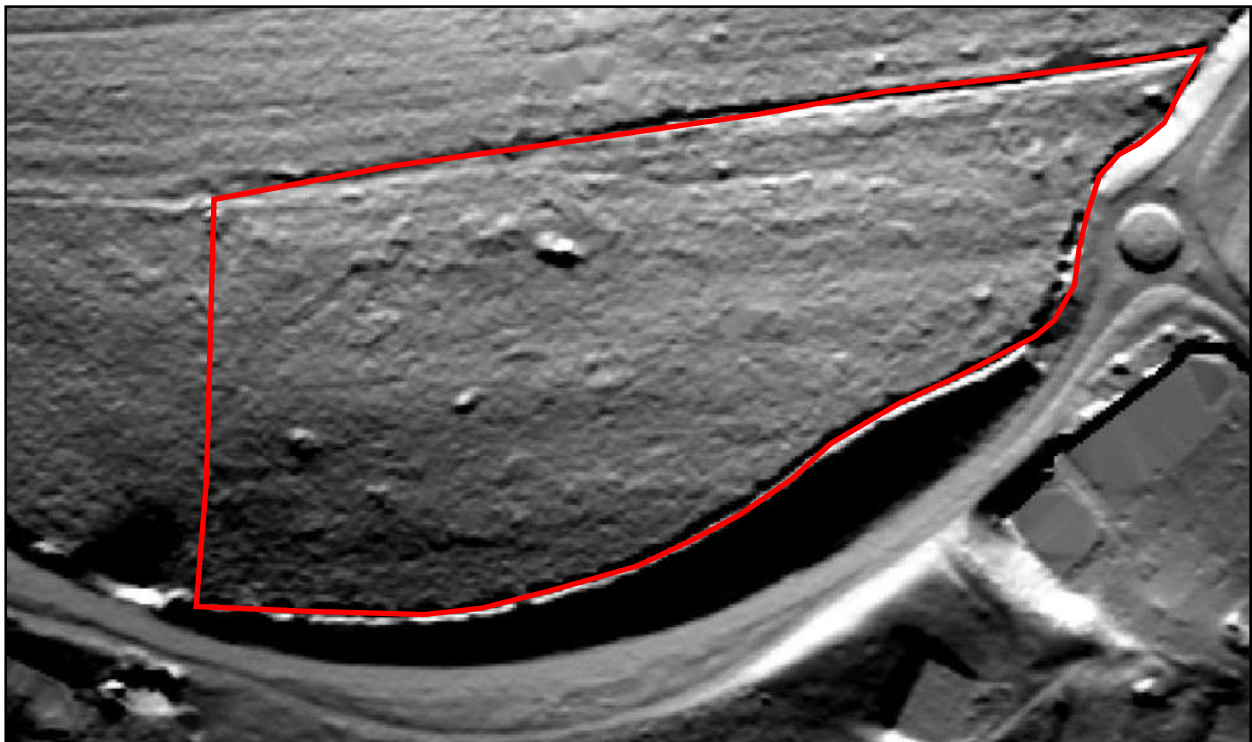
Figure 15. Detailed location of site on Ordnance Survey map
2003.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under
licence. Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



a. Azimuth 315°, vertical angle 15°.



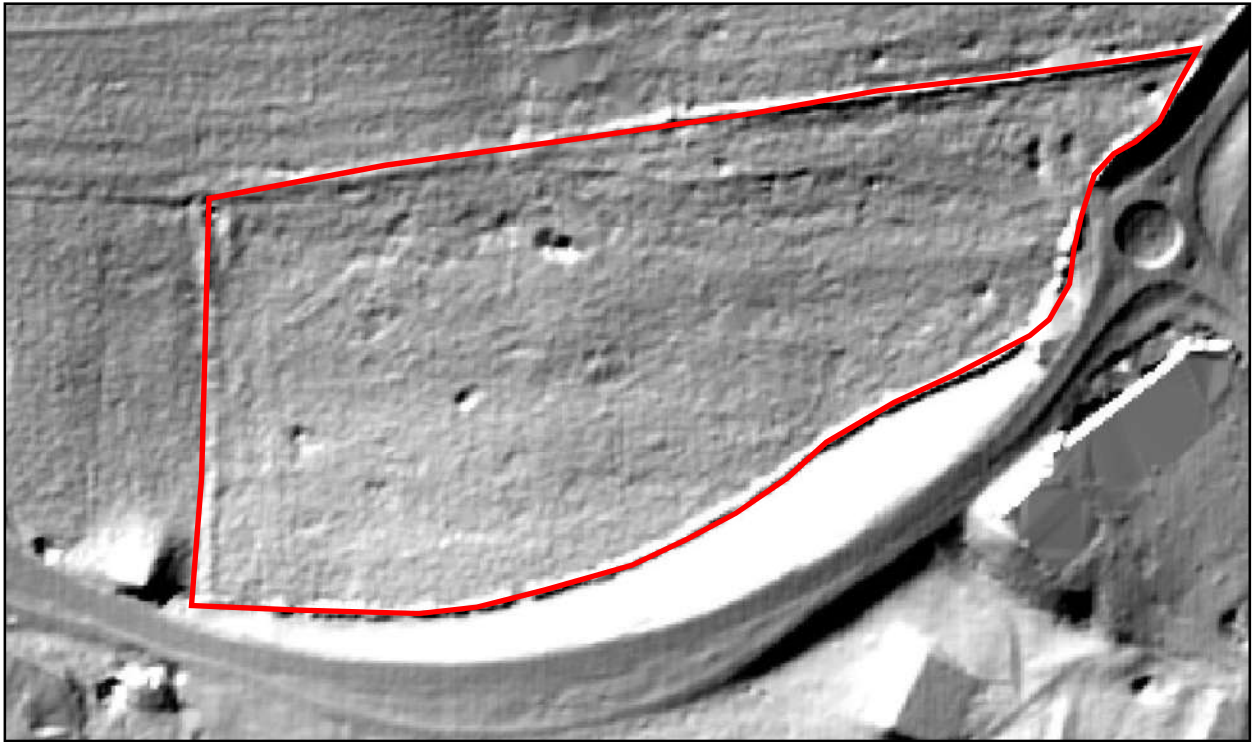
b. Azimuth 0°, vertical angle 15°.

HFB 21/169

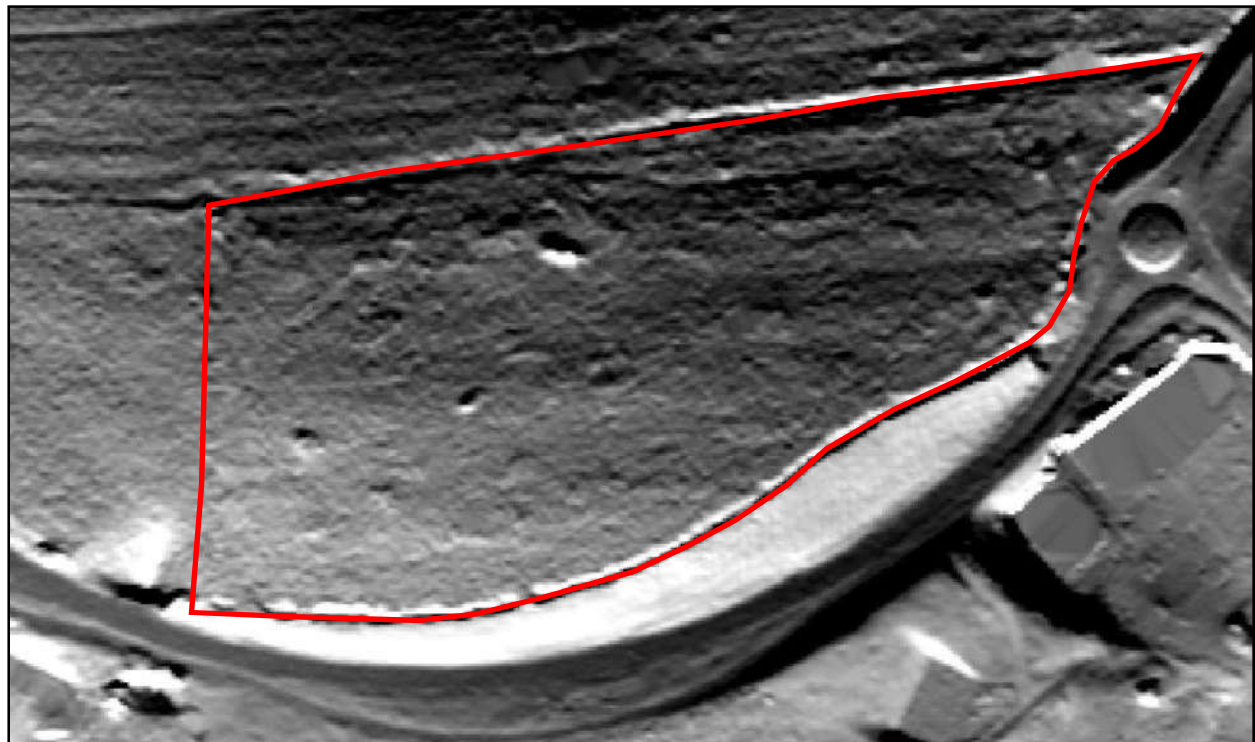


**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
 Figure 16. Lidar 'hillshade' gray scale plots.
 No scale

THAMES VALLEY
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES



a. Azimuth 135°, vertical angle 15°.



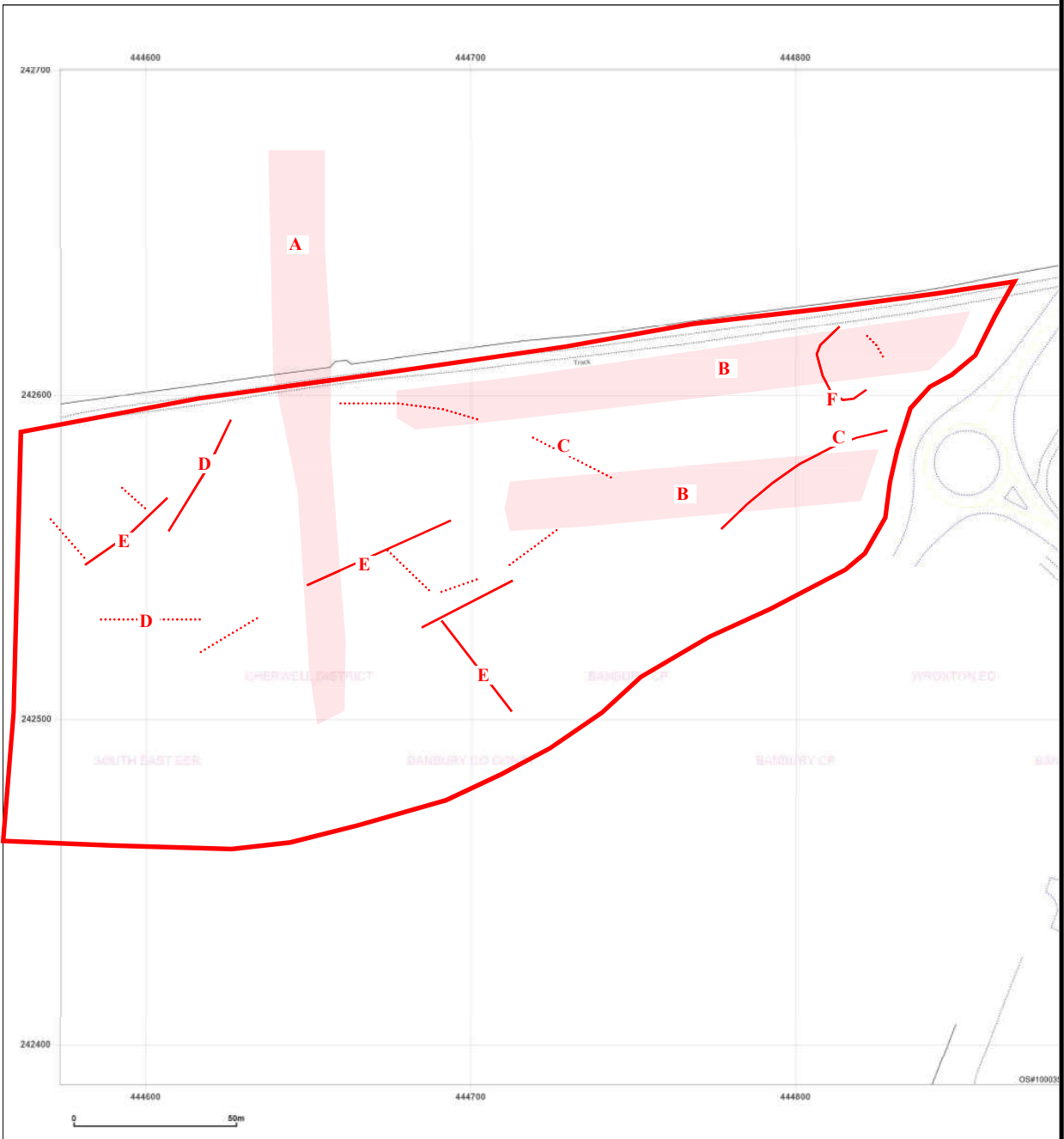
b. Azimuth 180°, vertical angle 15°.

HFB 21/169



**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
 Figure 17. Lidar 'hillshade' gray scale plots.
 No scale

THAMES VALLEY
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES



HFB 21/169



**Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury,
Oxfordshire, 2021**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
 Figure 18. Interpretation of Lidar images,
 Superimposed on Ordnance Survey map, 2003.
 Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
 Crown copyright reserved. No scale





Plate 1. East of site and access, looking north-north-east.



Plate 2. North-west of site, looking west-south-west.

HHC 21/169

**Land at Hanwell Fields,
Banbury, Oxfordshire**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 3. North of site and Cherwell valley, looking east.



Plate 4. North-west of site and Cherwell valley, looking south-south-east.

HHC 21/169

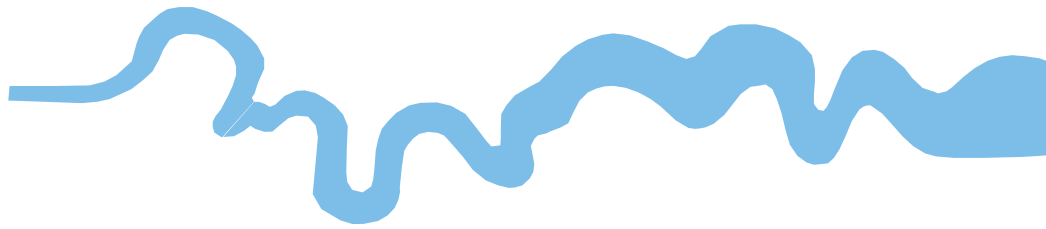
**Land at Hanwell Fields,
Banbury, Oxfordshire**
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Plates 3 and 4.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

***Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***