

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Camp Road, Heyford Park, Oxfordshire

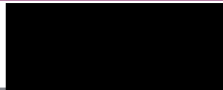
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment considers 11.7ha of land to the north of Camp Road, Heyford Park, Oxfordshire, which is being proposed for residential development.

The assessment identifies and provides a description of archaeological assets potentially affected by the development of the site and addresses the information requirements of Government's National Planning Policy Framework. No consideration is given to built heritage assets within this report.

There are no designated archaeological assets within the study site, and there will be no impact upon any designated archaeological assets within the wider area.

Geophysical survey has been undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site; this identified possible archaeology in the form of undated boundaries and enclosures, alongside evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation. It is concluded that there is a low potential for the site to contain any significant remains that have not been identified by the geophysical survey.

Discussions with the Lead Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council have confirmed that he will require evaluation trenching to test the results of the geophysical survey.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This below ground archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by Paul Clark of RPS on behalf of Richborough Estates Ltd and Lone Star Land.
- 1.2 The site, also referred to in this report as the study site, comprises a c.11.7ha parcel of land which is located to the north of Camp Road, at the eastern edge of Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SP 52137 25982 (Figure 1). It is bounded to the east by Chilgrove Drive, to the south by Camp Road, to the west by an unnamed road and a field boundary beyond which is an outlying field consented for 79 residential dwellings and to the north by mature trees beyond which is the former RAF Upper Heyford.
- 1.3 This assessment has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework, to identify and provide a description of the significance of heritage assets on the site and the likely effects of future development. This study concentrates on identifying any archaeological interest in the site and assessing the potential impact of development on the archaeological significance of any identified assets. No consideration is given within this report to any impact upon the significance of built heritage assets – this has been considered in the RPS Built Heritage Statement (RPS ref: JAC26665.02).
- 1.4 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence obtained from the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Listed Buildings was obtained from Historic England's National Heritage List for England. The assessment incorporates published and unpublished material, including the results of geophysical survey undertaken in support of the current application. The assessment charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise. A site visit was made on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 1.5 This study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site and the significance of any archaeological heritage assets within and around the site. As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to identify and assess the impact of the proposed development and identify any necessary mitigation measures.

## 2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently updated in July 2021. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

### National Planning Policy

- 2.4 Section 16 of the NPPF, 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. 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;
  - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
  - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.5 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 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.
- 2.6 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 *Significance (for heritage policy)* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

- 2.10 *Setting* is defined 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.
- 2.11 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
  - 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.
- 2.12 The NPPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available. Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF. Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.13 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

## Local Planning Policy

- 2.14 In considering the proposed planning application, Cherwell District Council will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 2.15 Cherwell's Adopted Development Plan comprises:
- Adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011 - 2031 Part 1 (July 2015)
  - Adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review – Oxford's Unmet Housing Need (September 2020)
  - Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (September 2017)
  - 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans in Cherwell District
  - Saved, retained policies of the Adopted Cherwell Local Plan 1996
  - Saved policies from Oxfordshire County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1996



2.16 Of the above documents only the Adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 (July 2015), and the Saved, retained policies of the Adopted Cherwell Local Plan 1996 are relevant in relation to the site and archaeology.

2.17 The Local Plan policies relevant to the site in respect of archaeology are copied below;

### **Saved, retained policies of the Adopted Cherwell Local Plan (1996)**

2.18 Planning policy C25 - Development affecting the site or setting of a scheduled ancient monument has been retained from the 1996 Local Plan.

#### **POLICY C25**

*IN CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE SITE OR SETTING OF A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT, OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS OF SPECIAL LOCAL IMPORTANCE, THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING ITS OVERALL HISTORIC CHARACTER, INCLUDING ITS PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION WHERE APPROPRIATE.*

### **The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 (July 2015)**

#### **Policy ESD 15: The Character of the Built and Historic Environment**

*Successful design is founded upon an understanding and respect for an area's unique built, natural and cultural context. New development will be expected to complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high quality design. All new development will be required to meet high design standards. Where development is in the vicinity of any of the District's distinctive natural or historic assets, delivering high quality design that complements the asset will be essential.*

*New development proposals should:*

- Be designed to deliver high quality safe, attractive, durable and healthy places to live and work in. Development of all scales should be designed to improve the quality and appearance of an area and the way it functions.*
- Deliver buildings, places and spaces that can adapt to changing social, technological, economic and environmental conditions.*
- Support the efficient use of land and infrastructure, through appropriate land uses, mix and density/development intensity.*
- 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.*
- *Reflect or, in a contemporary design response, re-interpret local distinctiveness, including elements of construction, elevational detailing, windows and doors, building and surfacing materials, mass, scale and colour palette.*
- *Promote permeable, accessible and easily understandable places by creating spaces that connect with each other, are easy to move through and have recognisable landmark features.*
- *Demonstrate a holistic approach to the design of the public realm to create high quality and multi-functional streets and places that promotes pedestrian movement and integrates different modes of transport, parking and servicing. The principles set out in The Manual for Streets should be followed.*
- *Consider the amenity of both existing and future development, including matters of privacy, outlook, natural lighting, ventilation, and indoor and outdoor space.*
- *Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.*
- *Be compatible with up to date urban design principles, including Building for Life, and achieve Secured by Design accreditation.*
- *Consider sustainable design and layout at the masterplanning stage of design, where building orientation and the impact of microclimate can be considered within the layout.*
- *Incorporate energy efficient design and sustainable construction techniques, whilst ensuring that the aesthetic implications of green technology are appropriate to the context (also see Policies ESD 1 - 5 on climate change and renewable energy).*
- *Integrate and enhance green infrastructure and incorporate biodiversity enhancement features where possible (see Policy ESD 10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment and Policy. ESD 17 Green Infrastructure). Well designed landscape schemes should be an integral part of development proposals to support improvements to biodiversity, the micro climate, and air pollution and provide attractive places that improve people's health and sense of vitality.*
- *Use locally sourced sustainable materials where possible.*

*The Council will provide more detailed design and historic environment policies in the Local Plan Part 2.*

*The design of all new development will need to be informed by an analysis of the context, together with an explanation and justification of the principles that have informed the design rationale. This should be demonstrated in the Design and Access Statement that accompanies the planning application. The Council expects all the issues within this policy to be positively addressed through the explanation and justification in the Design & Access Statement. Further guidance can be found on the Council's website.*

*The Council will require design to be addressed in the pre-application process on major developments and in connection with all heritage sites. For major sites/strategic sites and complex developments, Design Codes will need to be prepared in conjunction with the Council and local stakeholders to ensure appropriate character and high quality design is delivered throughout. Design Codes will usually be prepared between outline and reserved matters stage to set out design principles for the development of the site. The level of prescription will vary according to the nature of the site.*

- 2.19 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

## 3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

### Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 records the solid geology of the site as limestone belonging to the White Limestone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded within the site. (BGS 2021). (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).
- 3.2 The soils within the site consist of freely draining lime-rich loamy soils (Soilscapes, 2021).

### Topography and Site Conditions

- 3.3 The site is located on a gentle south-west facing slope, with the ground rising from 115m AOD in the south-western part of the site to 121m AOD along the north-eastern site boundary. Chilgrove Drive to the east of the site runs north-north-east/south-south-west along a ridge of high ground. A stream is located within the western part of the site.
- 3.4 A site visit was undertaken on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The site was divided into three parcels of land comprising an arable field to the east (Plates 1 & 2), a pasture field to the west and north-west which is interspersed by a series of ponds and trees (Plates 3 & 4) and another pasture field to the north. The site's western and northern fields are accessed via a trackway from Camp Road (Plate 3).
- 3.5 Examination of the LIDAR data (Figure 16) for the easternmost field shows modern ploughing across the majority of the field, with a possible area of quarrying adjacent to Camp Road, with a slight spoil heap immediately to the north. Little detail is visible in the parcel to the west and north-west, in part due to vegetation, whilst in the northernmost parcel a broadly east/west ploughing regime is visible, the western end of which appears to end against a low bank.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Timescales used in this report

#### Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43

#### Historic

Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

### Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the study site (Figure 3), also referred to as the study area, held on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the early nineteenth century onwards until the present day.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

### Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.4 A geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2020) of the site has been undertaken in support of the current application.
- 4.5 The geophysical survey identified possible archaeological activity in the northernmost part of the survey area comprising a series of disjointed linear ditch-like features, which did not match former field boundaries shown on historical maps. They were interpreted as possibly representing former landscape divisions and included a possible larger enclosure.
- 4.6 Historical agricultural activity was detected immediately to the south of these anomalies, comprising a possible former north/south aligned field boundary and the remnants of ridge and furrow immediately to the east.

- 4.7 Linear trends corresponding to modern cultivation practices, including probable drains were also identified and several areas of probable extraction were identified, including one close to the southern boundary which coincided with the LIDAR data (Section 3.5)
- 4.8 A band detected in the north of the survey presented an ambiguous response; its general shape indicated a natural origin, but a series of weak discrete magnetic anomalies running within the band suggested an anthropogenic origin. This band was located in the vicinity of the possible bank identified from the LIDAR data (*ibid*) and was also located next to the anomalies identified as possible archaeology.
- 4.9 A geophysical survey (EOX6216) and subsequent trial trenching (EOX6217) were undertaken in support of a planning application for the parcel of land immediately to the west of the site, to the north of Camp Road. The geophysical survey identified anomalies that were interpreted as possible archaeological features, although the trenching confirmed that these were actually caused by natural geological variations. No archaeology was identified.
- 4.10 Within the wider search area, a number of archaeological investigations have taken place, although most have failed to identify significant archaeology – those located within the former Raf Upper Heyford in particular have identified widespread ground disturbance.

## Earlier Prehistoric

- 4.11 There are no records of Earlier Prehistoric activity in the study area and no anomalies indicative of archaeology dating to this period were identified by the geophysical survey. The site is considered to have a negligible potential for significant activity dating from this period.

## Iron Age/Roman

- 4.12 There are eleven records of possible late Prehistoric/Romano-British activity in the search area.
- 4.13 The line of a 3 mile long Iron Age boundary ditch and bank, known as Aves Ditch (HER 8925) is recorded along the eastern boundary of the site along the route of Chilgrove Drive. Excavation elsewhere on Aves Ditch has shown it is an Iron Age territorial boundary which was re-used in the Saxon period. There is no known archaeological evidence of the ditch in the vicinity of the site. Chilgrove Drive immediately to the east of site is located on top of a ridge of higher ground which may represent the location of the Iron Age bank, although no ditch has been identified within the site in the site visit, the LIDAR data or the geophysical survey.
- 4.14 Conjectural evidence of 'remains' as recorded on the 1833 Ordnance Survey map have been interpreted as an earthwork possibly associated with Aves Ditch, c.470m north of the site (HER 16844) and a possible Roman settlement c.440m north of the site (HER 2610). No intrusive works have been undertaken to confirm these interpretations.
- 4.15 Other records relating to Prehistoric or Roman activity in the search area comprise cropmark evidence identified on aerial photographs of possibly Iron Age enclosures (HER 17446; 13483; 15872 & 17443) c.270m north-east, c.590m east and c.650m and c.940m south-east of the site; an undated but possibly Prehistoric or later circular enclosure (HER 17448) c.540m north-east of the site and undated but possibly Prehistoric/Roman rectilinear and circular enclosures located c.470m and c.610m east and 770m south-west (HER 17447; 12247 & 17444) of the site.
- 4.16 The geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies that are obviously Iron Age or Roman in date, although it is not impossible that the putative enclosure ditches identified at the northern end of site could date to these periods. Overall, the site is considered to have a low potential for significant Iron Age and Roman remains.

## Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval

- 4.17 Conjectural evidence of human skeletons with stirrup irons and pieces of armour is recorded on the 1865 OS map. These remains have been interpreted as Saxon inhumation burials. The location of the burials is unclear; however, the favoured location is c.540m north of the site (HER 5915), with the alternative being c.100m south of the site (HER 17003).
- 4.18 No confirmed archaeological evidence dating from the Saxon period is recorded in the search area, although there is evidence of the Saxon re-use of Aves Ditch elsewhere.
- 4.19 The geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies associated with Aves Ditch and the site is considered to have a low potential for significant Saxon remains.

## Medieval

- 4.20 There are no records of Medieval activity in the search area. Heyford (lower and upper) and Ardley are recorded in Domesday (1086), which suggest the settlements originated in at least the Late Saxon periods. The site is likely to have been located within the agricultural hinterland of the settlements, as evidenced by remains of ridge and furrow cultivation identified by the geophysical survey, and is therefore, considered to have a negligible potential for significant Medieval settlement remains. Given their broadly shared alignment with the ridge and furrow, the cluster of possible enclosures at the northern end of the site appear most likely to date to this period, although the geophysical survey suggested that the ridge and furrow may have been later than the enclosures, so they perhaps relate to an earlier phase of land management.

## Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.21 There are 3 entries of Post-Medieval/Modern activity within the search area; the Upper Heyford airfield (HER 16781) and the hangar and control tower (HER 28987 and 28801), each record having a well-defined extent.
- 4.22 The 1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Figure 5) shows the site as part of an area of unenclosed land called Heyford Heath (extending to the north and south). The site's present southern and eastern road boundaries are evident on the map, and a further road is also shown running south-to-north through the eastern portion of the site. This road is not shown on later mapping and no trace of it was identified by the geophysical survey, suggesting it has been entirely ploughed out.
- 4.23 A 1922 tracing of the 1842 enclosure map (Figure 6) shows the site comprising the south-east portion of a larger allotment continuing to the north-west of the. The map shows no sub-divisions within the allotment, although a stream is shown running along the site's western boundary, on a south-to-north-west alignment.
- 4.24 The 1884-1885 Ordnance Survey (Figure 7) shows the site comprising two fields. The north-western part of the western field was covered by woodland surrounding the stream, which forked within the site to the north and west. A possible quarry is shown in the south-eastern corner of the site, although due to a large spread of magnetic material this was not confirmed by the geophysical survey.
- 4.25 The woodland located within the site is not shown on a 1927 copy of the Upper Heyford Tithe Map (Figure 8).
- 4.26 The site and the immediate surrounding area to the north and west is not shown on Ordnance Survey mapping from 1927-1975 or on 1947 aerial photography, owing to the site's close proximity to the airbase of RAF Upper Heyford. This whitewashing of the Ordnance Survey mapping was a common occurrence for protecting the location and layout of military installations (Figures 9 & 10).

- 4.27 The RAF Upper Heyford Conservation Area Appraisal (2006) and the RAF Upper Heyford Heritage Centre has reproduced several maps and plans of the airfield and the immediate area. A 1942 plan of the airfield (Appraisal Figure 3b, p.10) shows the site as located outside of the airfield's formal boundary. However, a small, unidentified building or small compound is shown located within the south-eastern corner of the site, at the road junctions of Camp Road and Chilgrove Drive. This area is possibly related to a former quarry rather than the airfield. The compound is shown on several plans and aerial photographs of the airfield from c.1942-1993 but no evidence of this area remains present on the site, although the large spread of magnetic material in this area identified by the geophysical survey may be masking any such remains.
- 4.28 The 1975-1976 Ordnance Survey (Figure 11) shows only small changes with the site with very little woodland situated within its western extent and with the small subdivision situated within the south-east corner.
- 4.29 Later twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 12) show no changes within the site.
- 4.30 Twenty-first century changes within the site are first shown on satellite imagery from between 2006-2009 (Figure 14). This shows a new trackway was created off Camp Road, into the site and along the western boundary. Within the same period a series of ponds were created to the west of the trackway and the pasture on the eastern side subdivided by fencing to create the present northern field. The site's eastern field was under arable cultivation during this period. Current satellite imagery (Figure 15 – 2020) shows the maturity of planting within the western parts of the site.
- 4.31 The site appears to have been used predominantly as agricultural land throughout these periods, although also saw some localised areas of extraction. It is considered to have a negligible potential for significant activity dating from the Post-Medieval and Modern periods.

## Assessment of Significance (Designated Assets)

- 4.32 Existing national policy guidance for archaeology (the NPPF as referenced in section 2) enshrines the concept of the 'significance' of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its 'heritage interest' to this or future generations.
- 4.33 Data obtained from Historic England (NHLE) and the Local Authority confirms that there are no designated heritage assets located within the site. Designated Built Heritage assets are considered in the RPS Built Heritage Statement (RPS ref: JAC26665.02). There are no archaeological (below ground) designated heritage assets within 1km of the site and development on the site will not impact upon the significance of any such assets in the wider landscape.

## Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

- 4.34 As identified by desk based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present is summarised in table form below:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential	Identified Archaeological Significance
Earlier Prehistoric	Negligible	Local
Iron Age/Roman	Possible enclosures identified on geophysics may date to these periods on typological grounds; low potential for further remains.	Local
Anglo-Saxon	Low	Local
Medieval	Contains ridge and furrow; further enclosures identified on geophysics most likely to date to this period.	Local
Post-Medieval/Modern	Negligible	Local



- 4.35 There are no non-designated heritage assets recorded on the HER on the site.
- 4.36 The geophysical survey identified possible archaeological activity in the northernmost part of the site comprising a series of disjointed linear ditch-like features, which were interpreted as possibly representing former landscape division/enclosures. Historical agricultural activity was detected immediately to the south of these anomalies, comprising a possible former north/south aligned field boundary and the remnants of ridge and furrow immediately to the east. The ridge and furrow potentially cut the possible archaeological anomalies, making them earlier than the ridge and furrow, although they do share an alignment, so perhaps only slightly predate the ridge and furrow cultivation. Several areas of probable extraction were identified, including one close to the southern boundary which coincided with the LIDAR data. A band detected in the north of the survey presented an ambiguous response; its general shape indicated a natural origin, but a series of weak discrete magnetic anomalies running within the band suggested an anthropogenic origin. This band was located in the vicinity of the possible bank identified from the LIDAR data and was also located next to the anomalies identified as possible archaeology. If proven as archaeological in nature, the features identified by the geophysical survey are unlikely to be of more than local importance, but would be significant for their evidential value and potential to contribute to local and regional research agendas.
- 4.37 This assessment has considered the potential for other as-yet to be discovered archaeological assets within the site. Due to the success of the geophysical survey there is considered to be a low or negligible potential for the site to contain significant remains dating to all periods. Should any such evidence be present within the site, it will be significant for its evidential value and its potential to contribute to local and regional research agendas.

## **5 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS**

### **Proposed Development**

- 5.1 The proposal is for an outline planning application for the erection of up to 230 dwellings, creation of new vehicular access from Camp Road and all associated works.

### **Review of Potential Development Impacts on Designated Archaeological Assets**

- 5.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the study site and there will be no impact upon any designated archaeological assets within the wider area.

### **Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets**

- 5.3 There are no non-designated heritage assets recorded on the HER on the site.
- 5.4 The geophysical survey identified possible archaeological activity comprising boundary ditches and enclosures, as well as ridge and furrow which potentially cut the possible archaeological anomalies, which would make them earlier than the ridge and furrow. The two sets of features, share a similar alignment, so are perhaps broadly contemporary.
- 5.5 This assessment has considered the potential for other as-yet to be discovered archaeological assets within the site. Due to the success of the geophysical survey there is considered to be a low or negligible potential for the site to contain significant remains dating to all periods.
- 5.6 The construction techniques employed in modern development are such that any buried archaeological remains now present on the study site are unlikely to survive the development process.

## 6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The study site has been assessed for its below ground archaeological potential.
- 6.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the study site and there will be no impact upon any designated archaeological assets within the wider area. Built Heritage assets are considered in the RPS Built Heritage Statement (RPS ref: JAC26665.02)
- 6.3 As identified by desk based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present is summarised in table form below:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential and Significance:
Earlier Prehistoric	Negligible; local importance
Iron Age/Roman	Possible enclosures identified on geophysics may date to these periods on typological grounds. Low potential for further remains; local importance
Anglo-Saxon	Low; local importance
Medieval	Contains ridge and furrow; further enclosures identified on geophysics most likely to date to this period; local importance
Post Medieval/Modern	Negligible; local importance

- 6.4 The geophysical survey of the site has identified possible archaeology in the form of undated boundaries and enclosures, alongside evidence for ridge and furrow. It is concluded that there is a low potential for the site to contain any significant remains that have not been identified by the geophysical survey.
- 6.5 Discussions with the Lead Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council have confirmed that he will require evaluation trenching to test the results of the geophysical survey.

## Sources Consulted

### General

Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record

### Internet

British Geological Survey – <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Domesday Online – <http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/>

Historic England: The National Heritage List for England <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

National Planning Policy Framework – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

### Bibliographic

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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard & Guidance for historic environment desk based assessment 2014, updated 2020.

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Historic England, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets December 2017 unpublished document

Historic England, 2015, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide

Magnitude Surveys 2021, *Geophysical Survey Report: Camp Road, Heyford Park, Oxfordshire*, rep MSSP1040

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2021, National Planning Policy Framework

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Planning practice guidance, 2019, Historic environment

### Cartographic:

Ordnance Survey Drawing: 1815 Bicester (William Stanley)

Map of the Parish of Upper Heyford in the County of Oxford, 1922 tracing of 1842 Enclosure Map by James Saunders, Kirtlington, Oxon.

Upper Heyford Tithe Map (1850/1927) – Apportionment revised in 1927.

Ordnance Survey: 1,2:500: 1881, 1900, 1922, 1975-1976 and 1994

Ordnance Survey: 1,10:560/1,10:000: 1884-1885, 1900, 1923, 1955, 1966, 1982, 1993, 1999, 2006 and 2021.

Aerial Photography (Ordnance Survey): 1947

Satellite Imagery (GoogleEarth): 1947, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2020

*Upper Heyford Heritage Centre Plans:*

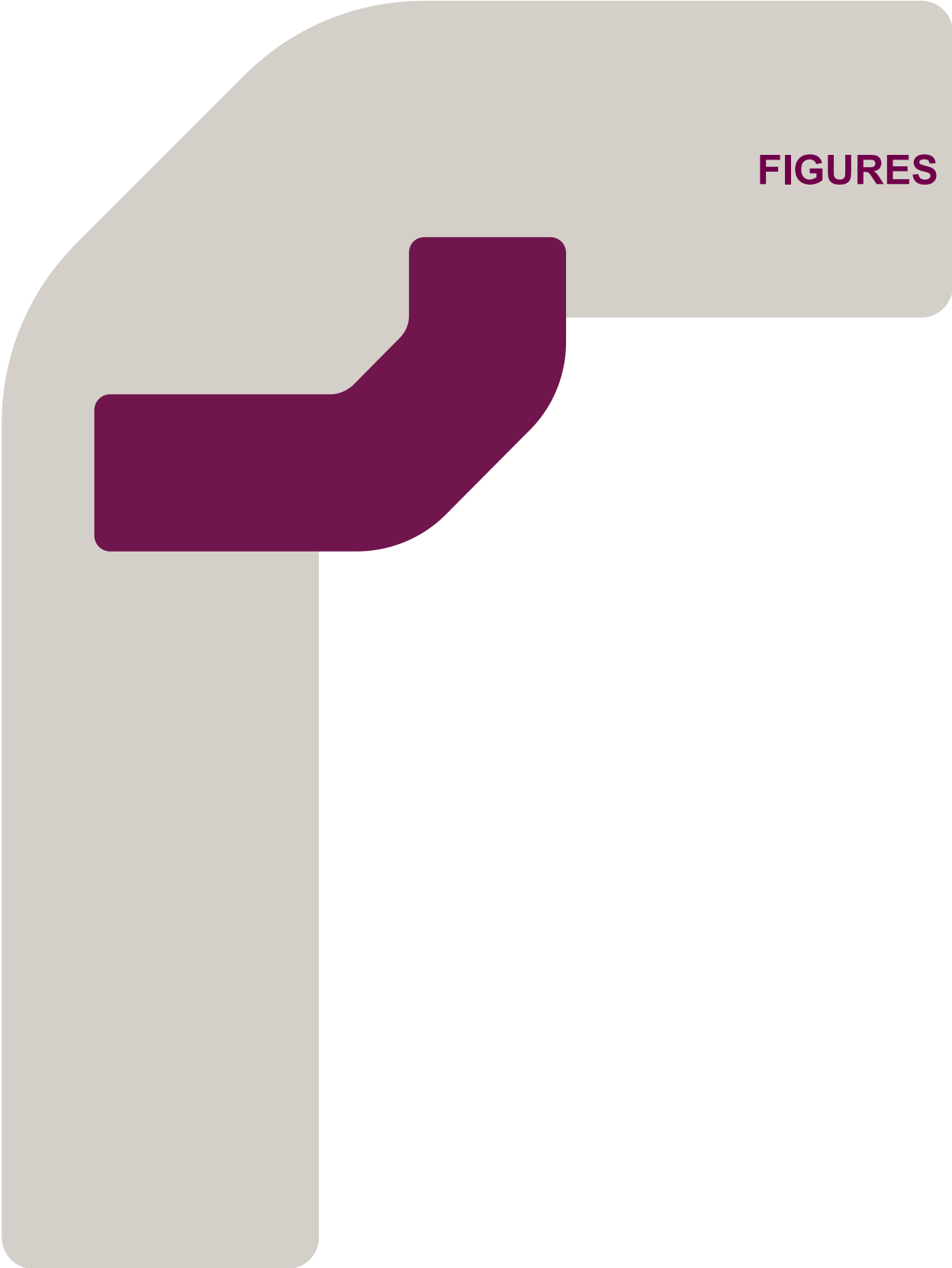
RAF Upper Heyford, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942 (aerial photography)

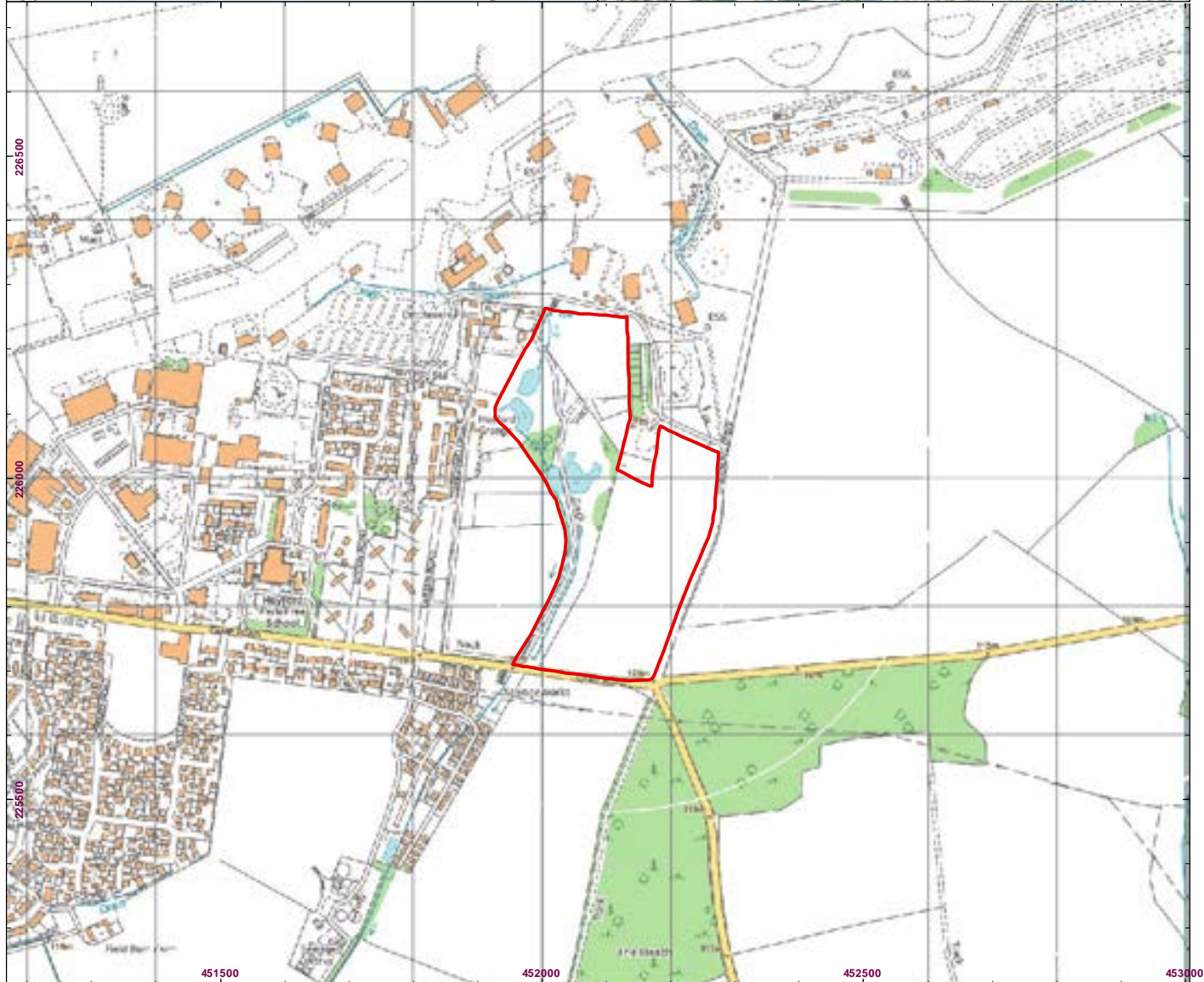
Plan of RAF Upper Heyford, October 1957


RAF Upper Heyford, 1969 (aerial photography)

Plan of RAF Upper Heyford, February 1980

# FIGURES





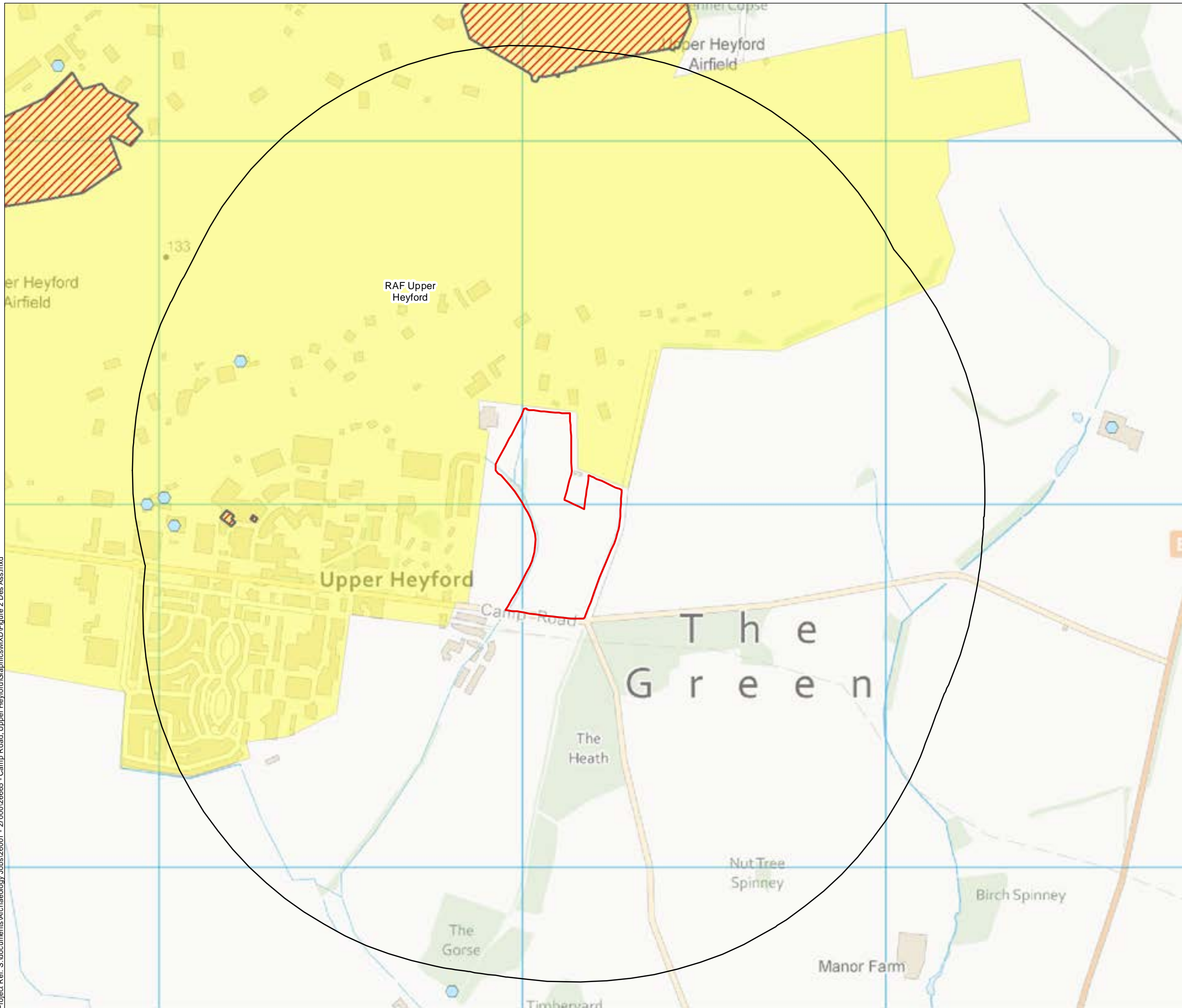
 Site boundary



0 100 200 300m  
Scale at A4: 1:10,000



Figure 1  
Site Location



Site  
 Search Area  
**Listed Buildings**  
**Grade**  
● I  
● II\*  
● II  
 RAF Upper Heyford Conservation Area  
 Scheduled Monuments

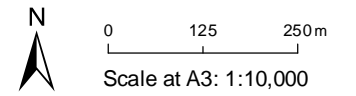
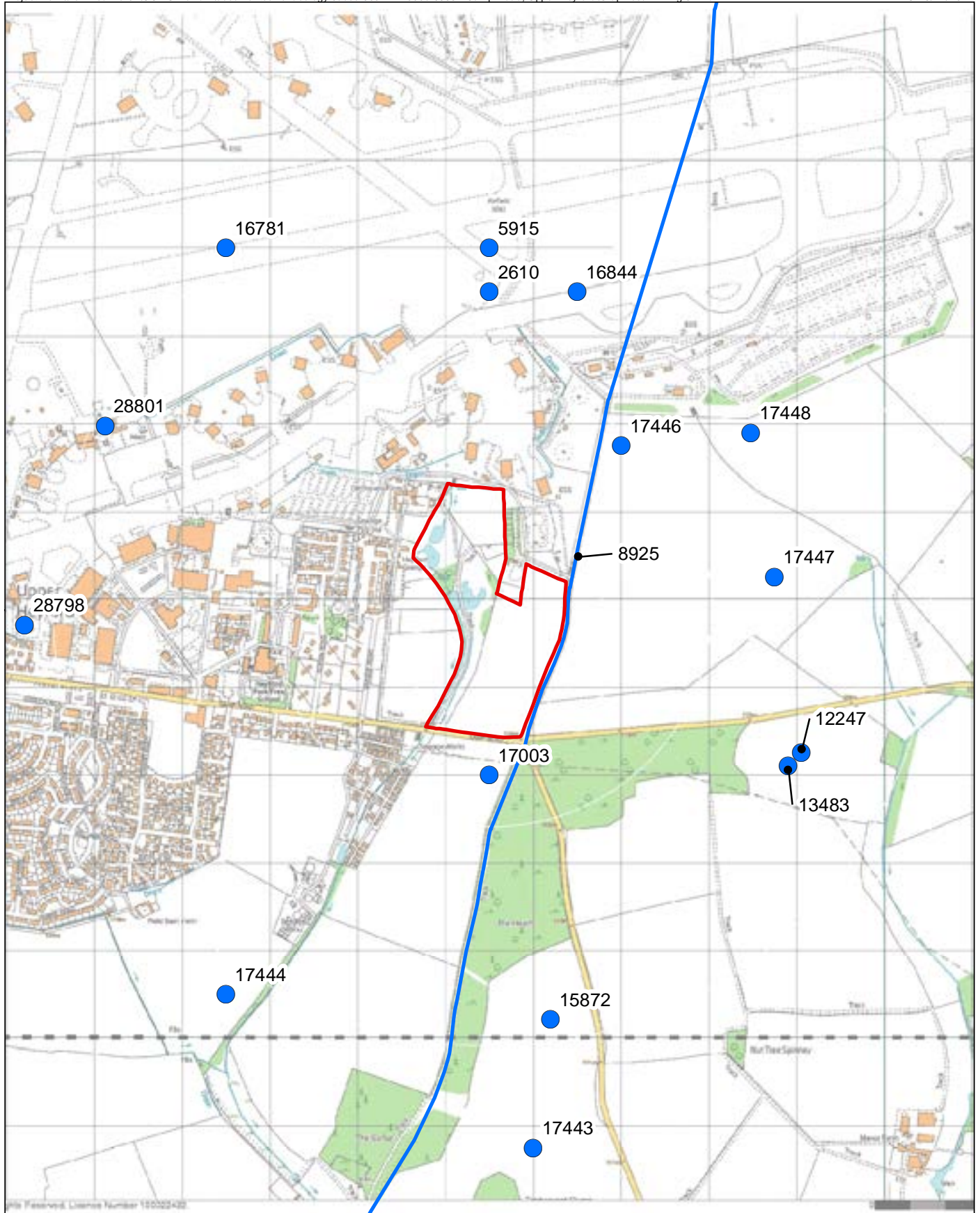




Figure 2  
Designated Heritage Assets





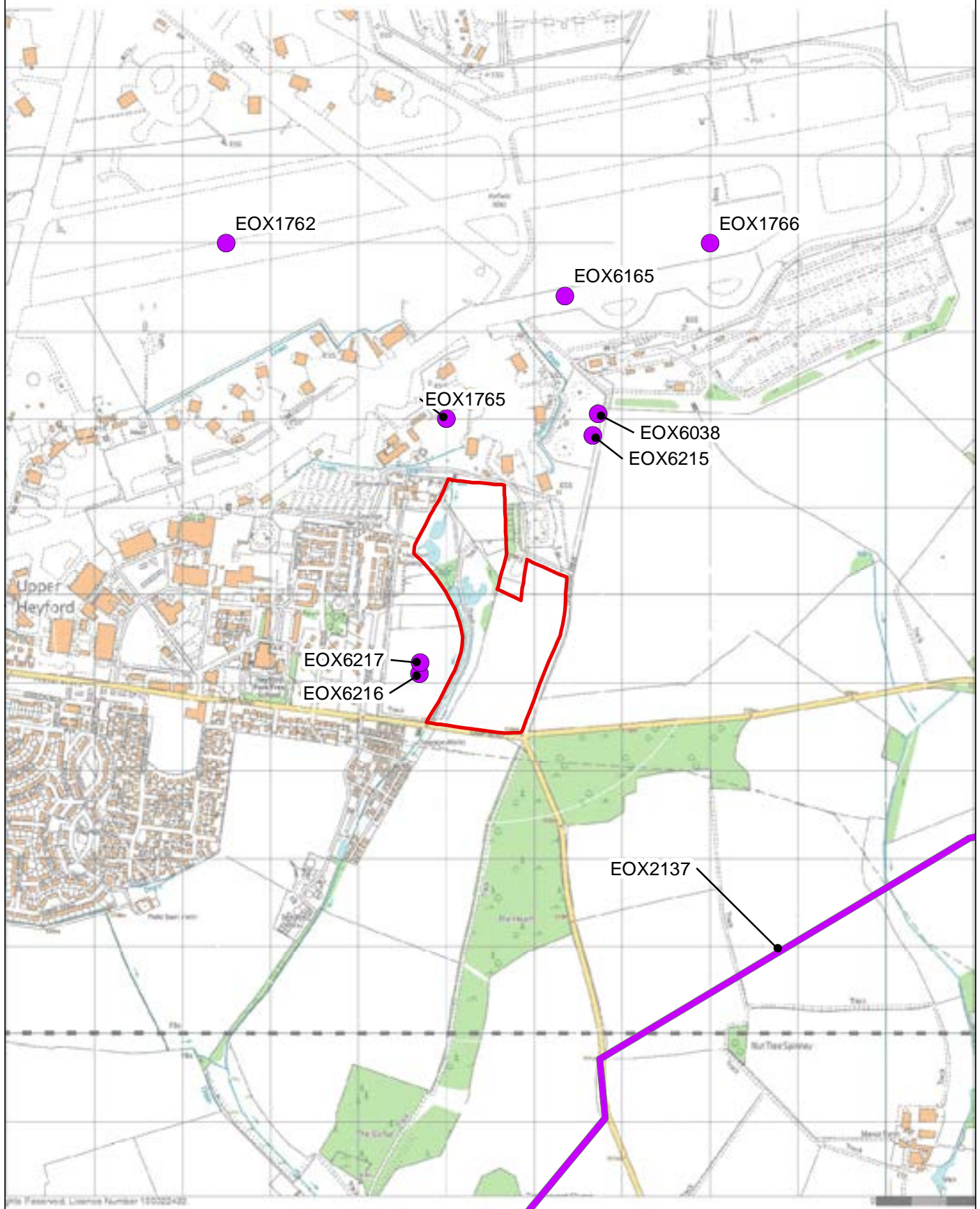
-  Site Boundary
-  HER Monument






0 120 240 360m  
Scale at A4: 1:12,000



Figure 3  
HER Monuments



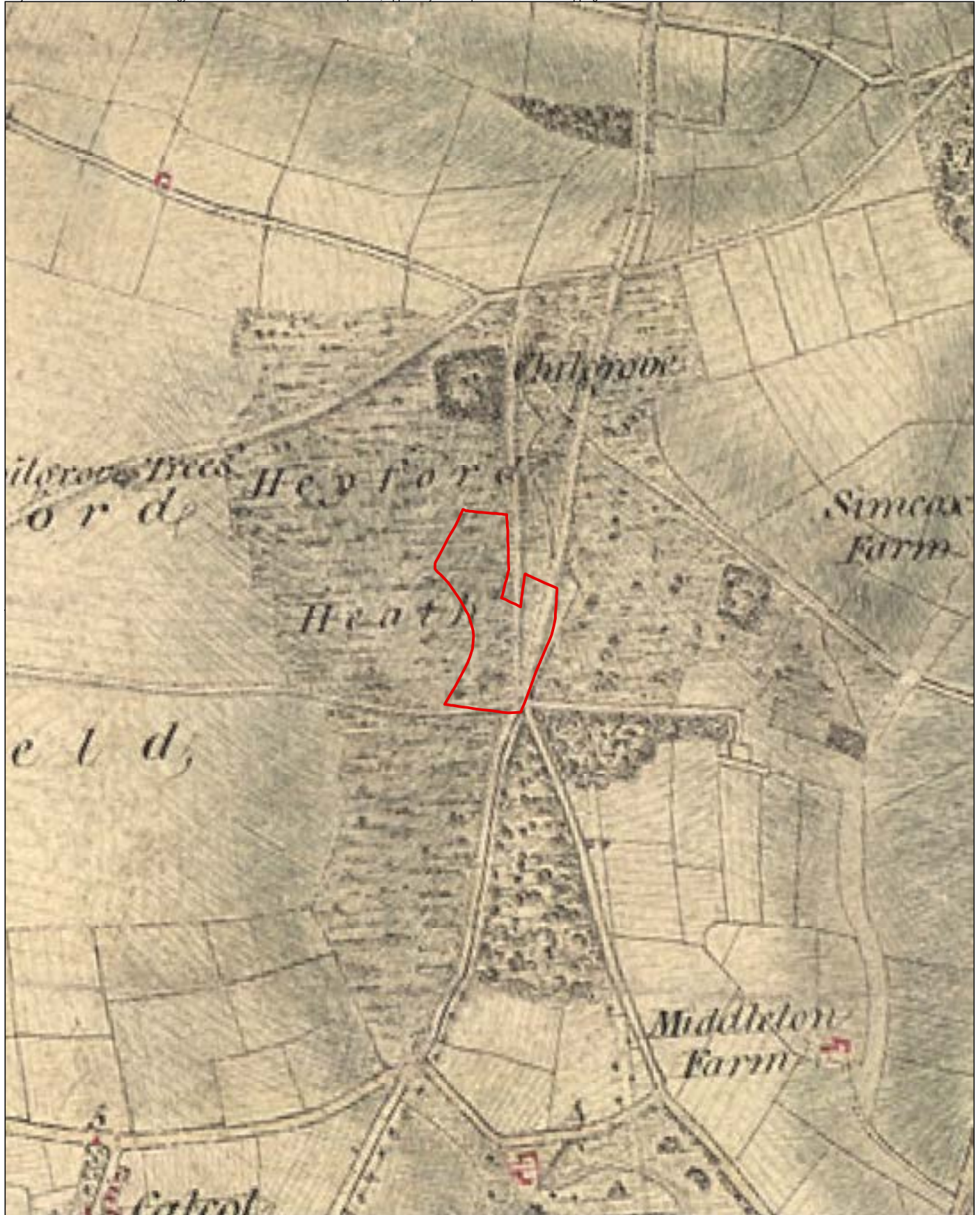
-  Site Boundary
-  HER Event (point data)
-  HER Event (polygon data)



0 120 240 360m  
Scale at A4: 1:12,000



Figure 4  
HER Events



 Site Boundary

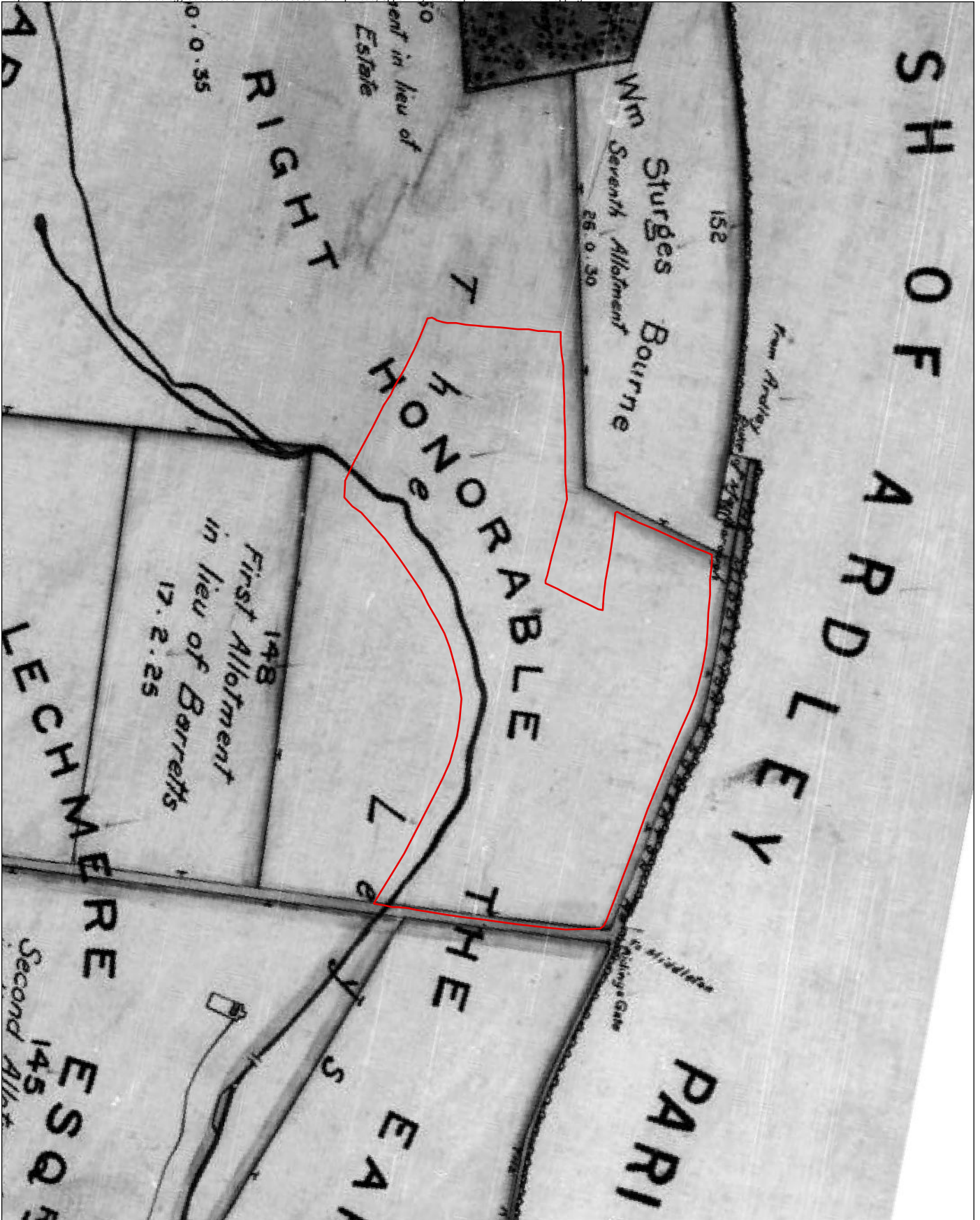


0 150 300 450m  
Scale at A4: 1:15,000



Figure 5

1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing



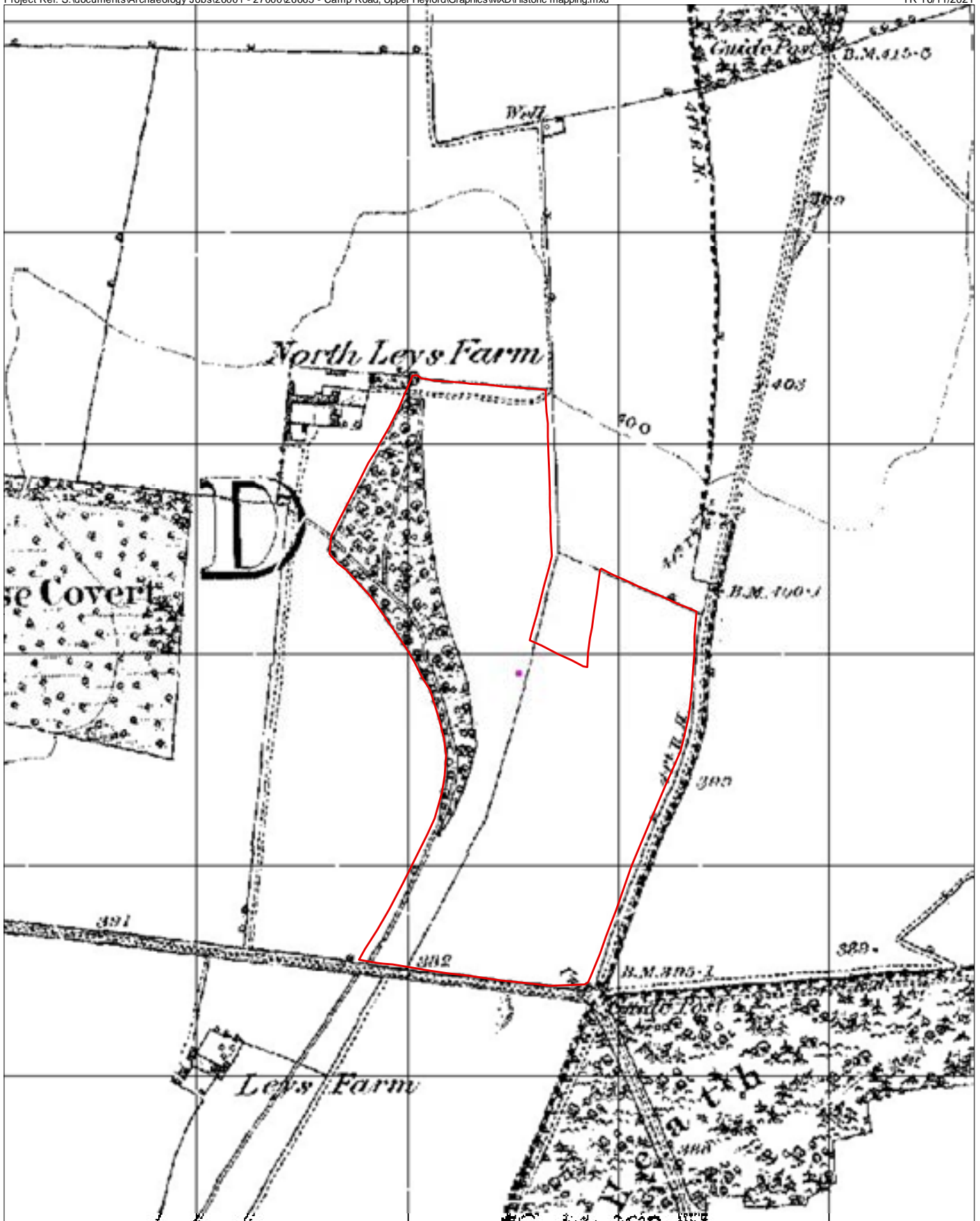
 Site Boundary



0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 6  
Upper Heyford Enclosure  
Map 1842  
(1921 tracing)



 Site Boundary

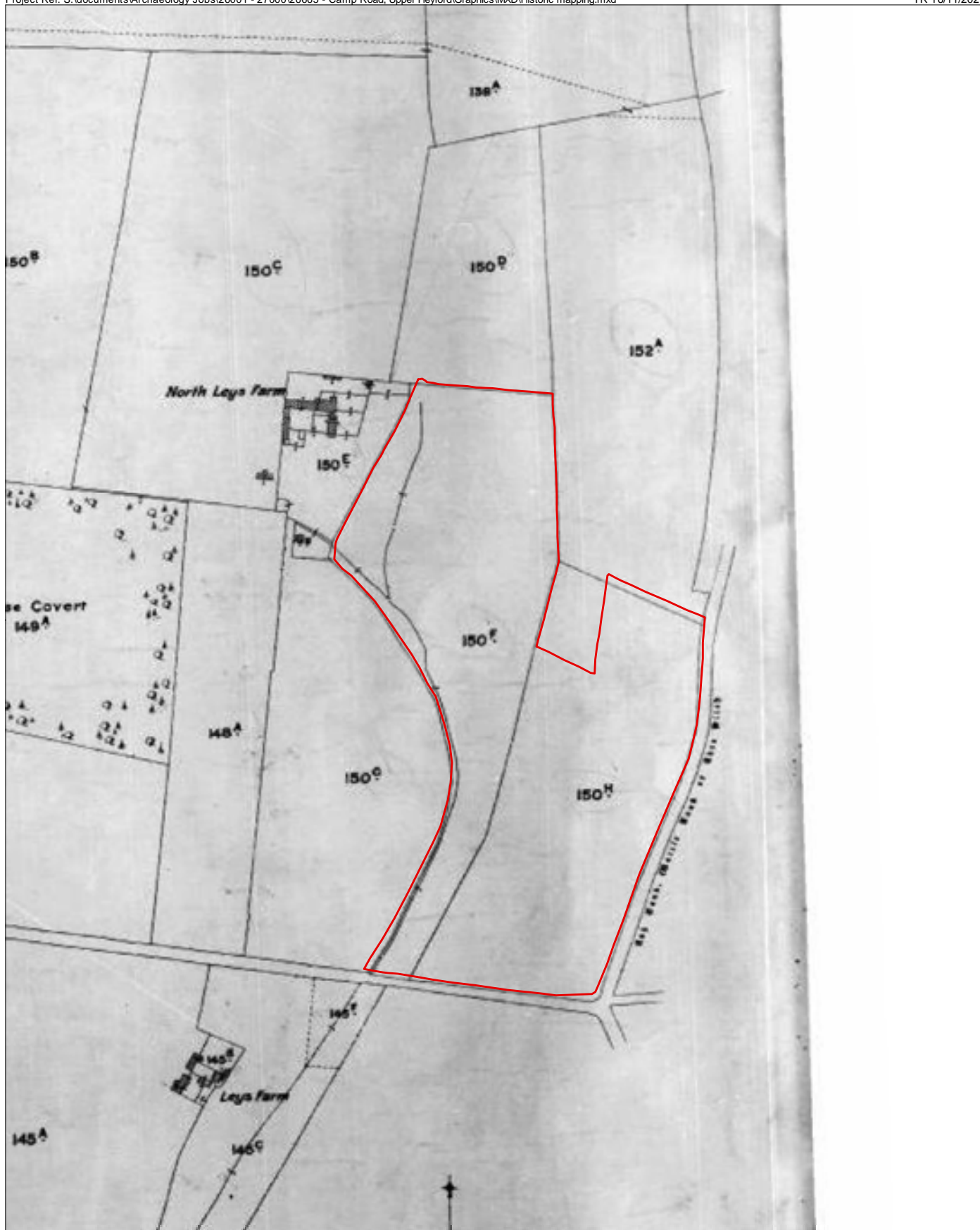


0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 7

1884-1885 Ordnance Survey



 Site Boundary

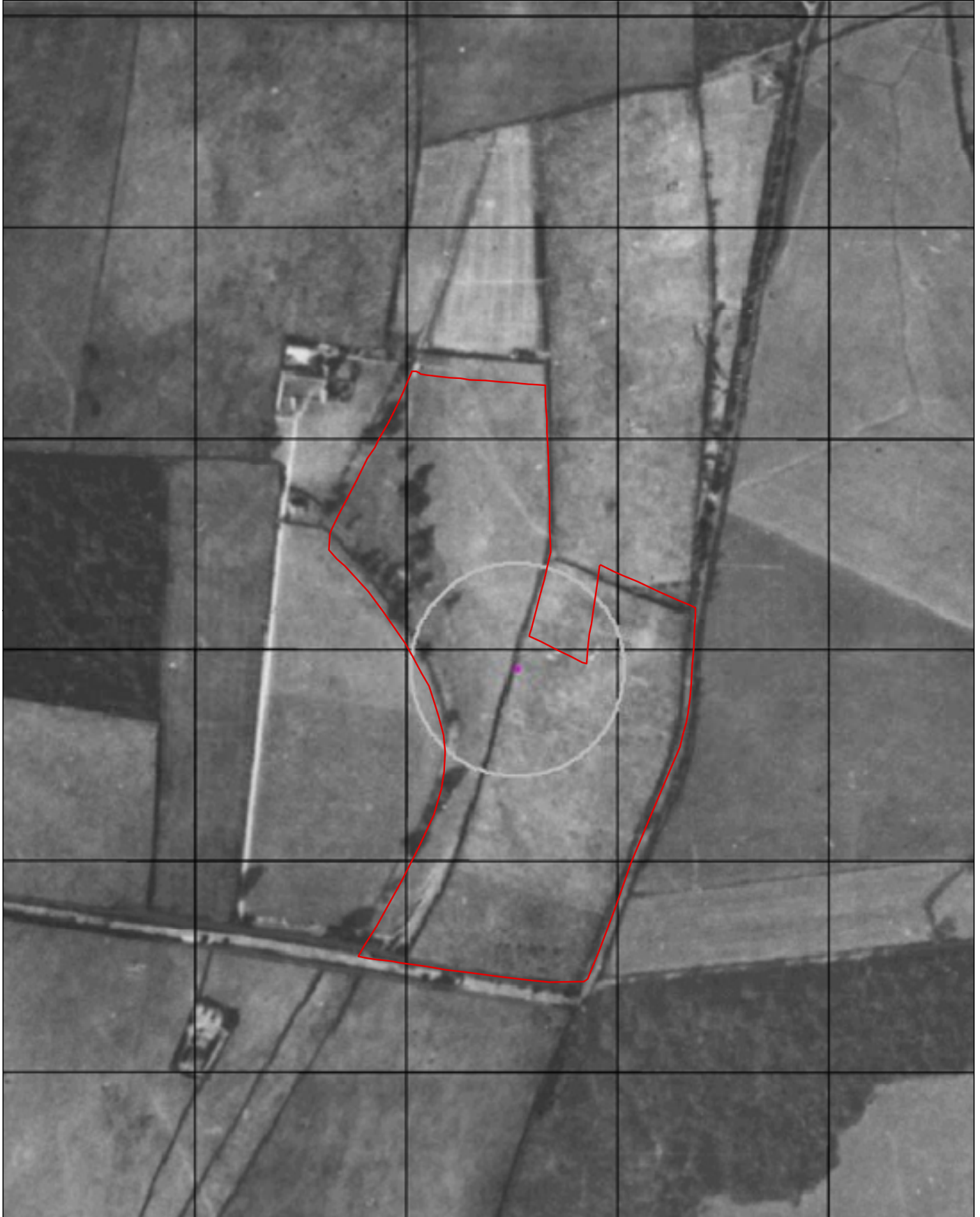


0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 8

Upper Heyford Tithe Map  
(1927 Apportionment Revision)



 Site Boundary

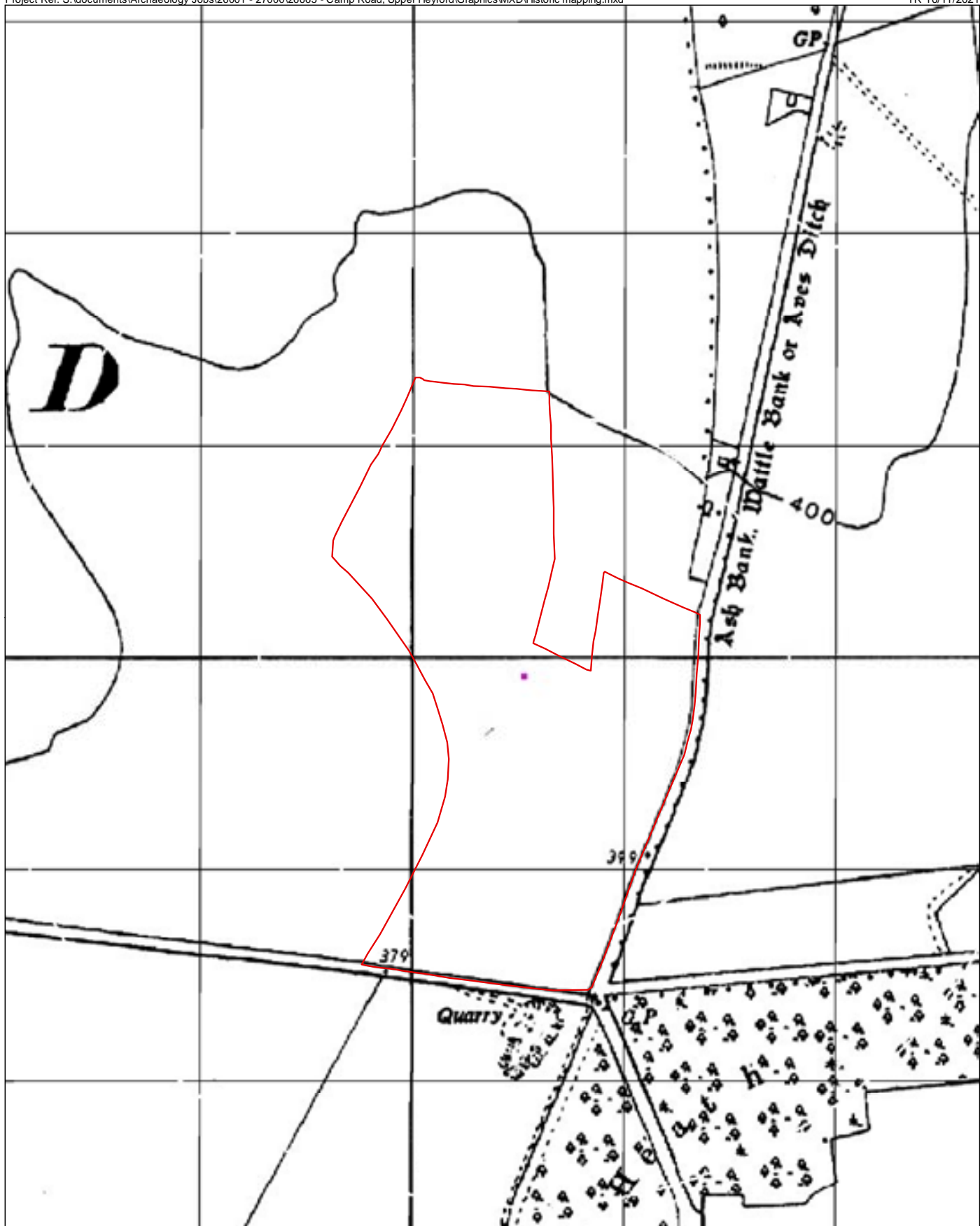


0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 9

Aerial Photography 1947



 Site Boundary

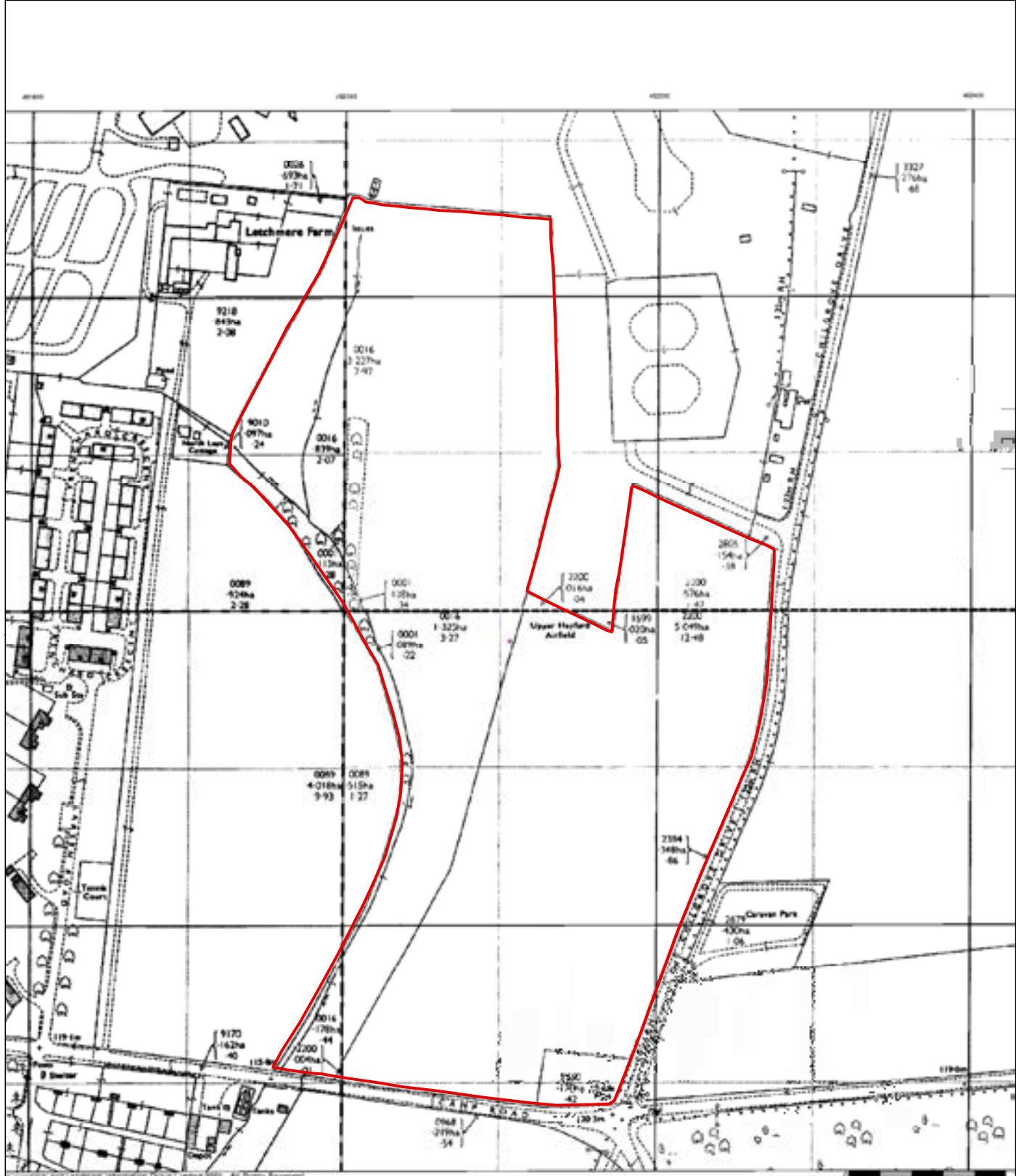


0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 10  
1955 Ordnance Survey





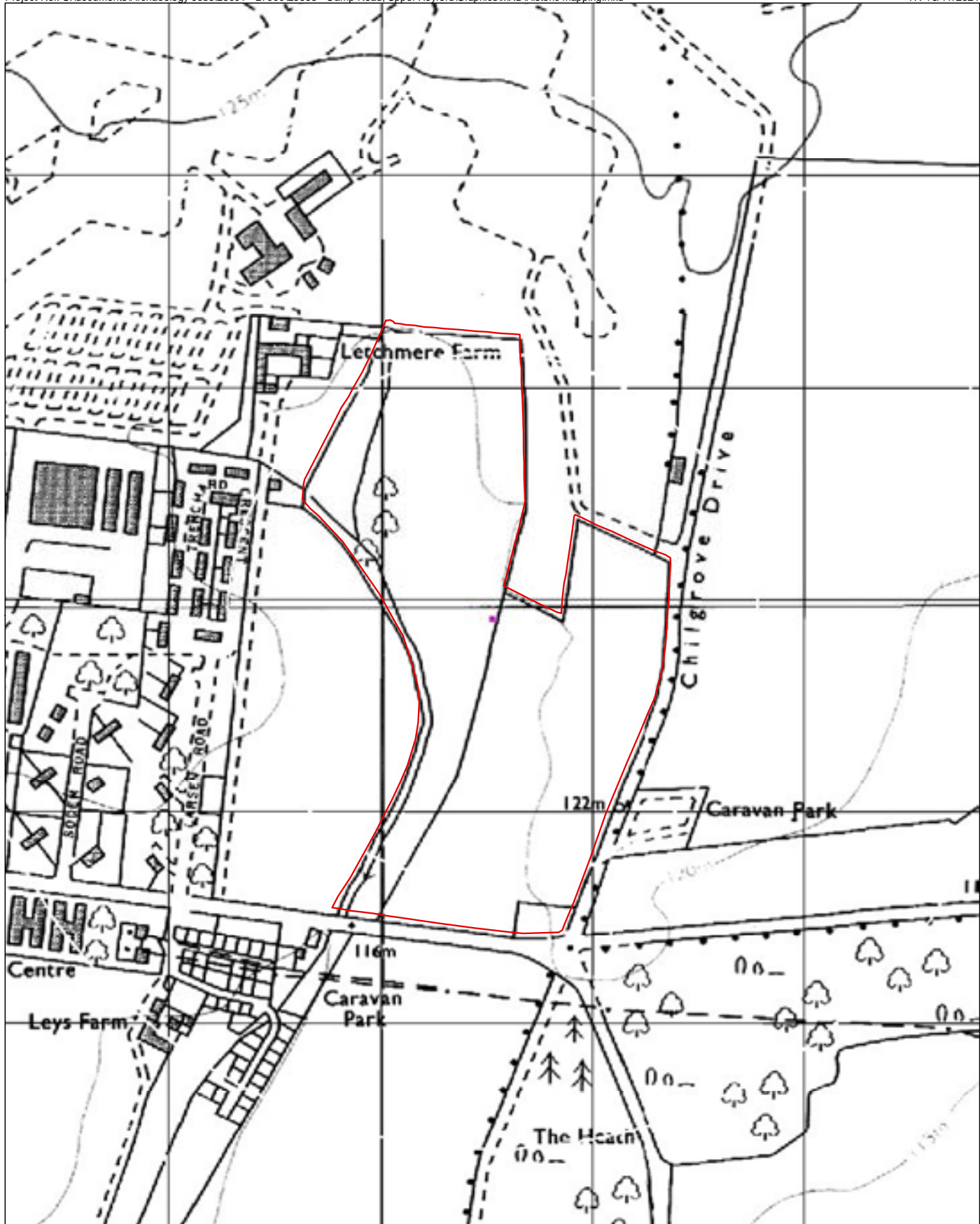
 Site Boundary



0 30 60 90m  
Scale at A4: 1:3,500



Figure 11  
1975-1976 Ordnance Survey



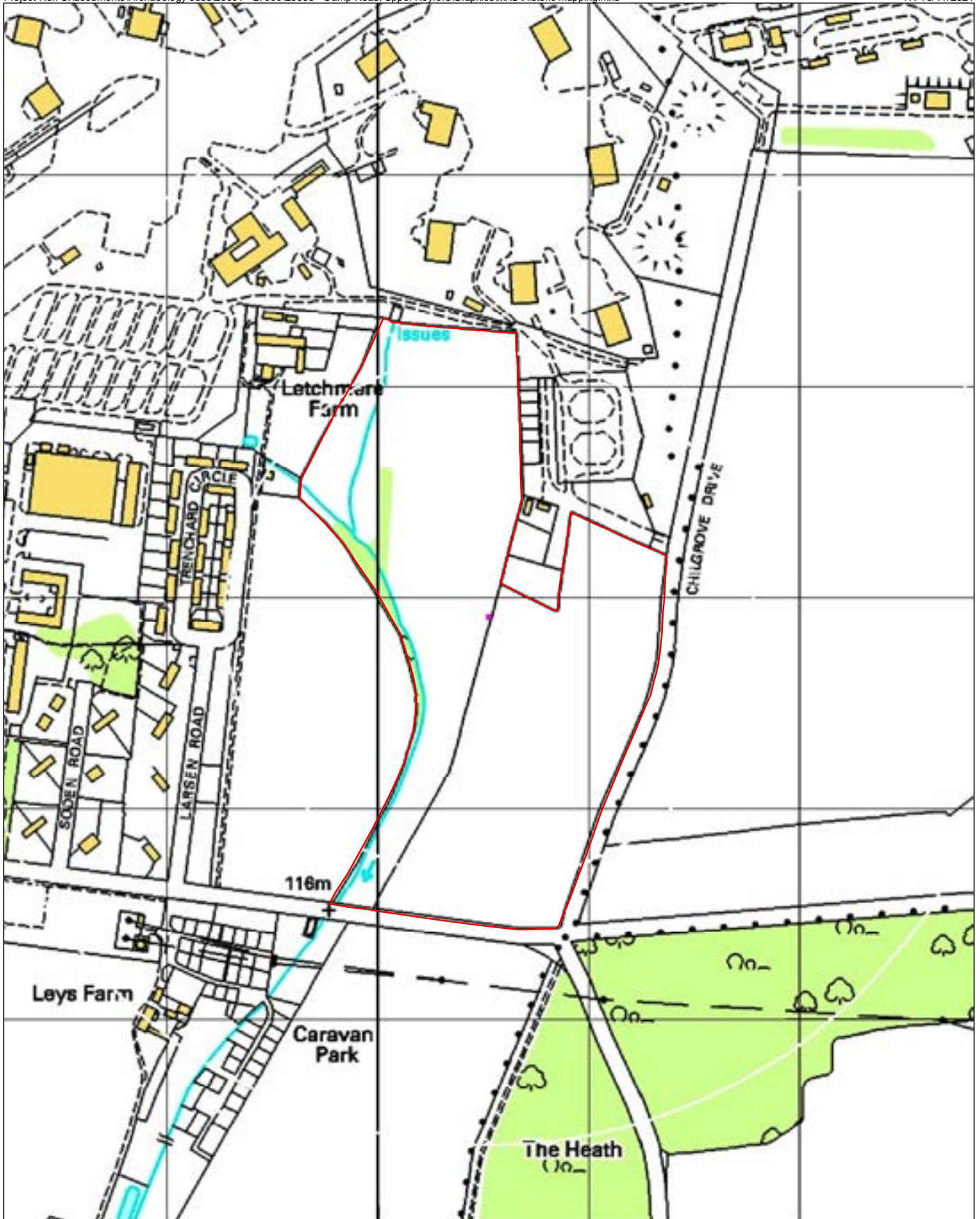
Site Boundary



0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 12  
1993 Ordnance Survey



 Site Boundary



0 50 100 150m  
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 13  
1999 Ordnance Survey



 Site Boundary



0 30 60 90m  
Scale at A4: 1:3,500



Figure 14

2009 GoogleEarth



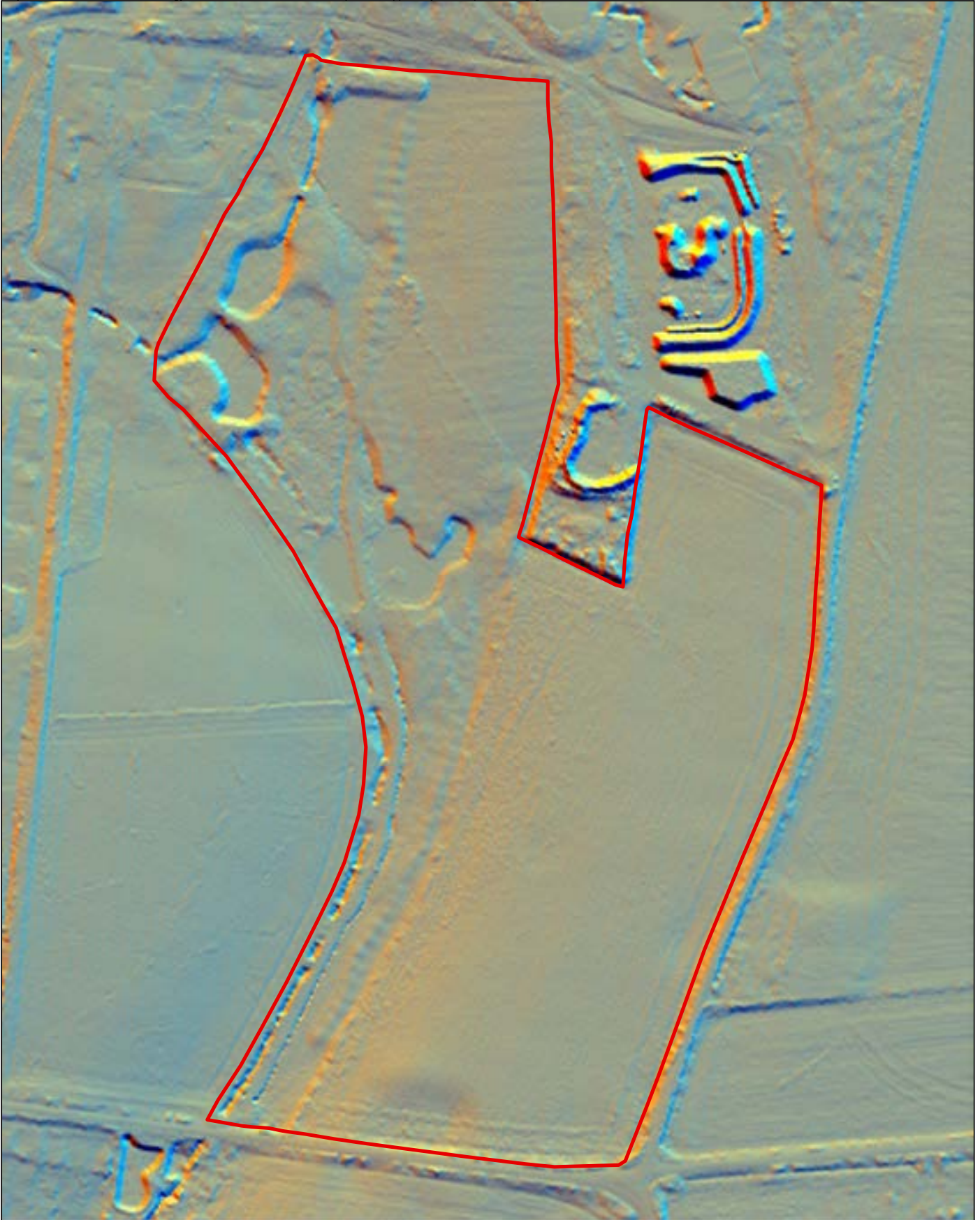
 Site Boundary



0 30 60 90m  
Scale at A4: 1:3,500



Figure 15  
2020 GoogleEarth



 Site Boundary



0 25 50 75m  
Scale at A4: 1:2,750



Figure 16

Multi-directional hillshade plot of 1m DTM LIDAR data



**PLATES**



Plate 1: View south across site's eastern field, towards Camp Road.



Plate 2: View north from the southern boundary of site's eastern field.





Plate 3: View north along access track located within the western part of site.



Plate 4: View across ponds and trees in north-western part of site

## APPENDICES

## Appendix 1

### HER Data

## HER Monuments

PrefRef	Name	Period
16781	Upper Heyford USAF Airfield	20th Century
16844	Earthworks at Ballard's Copse	Roman
17003	Possible Anglo Saxon Inhumations/Cemetery near Upper Heyford	Early Medieval/Dark Age
17443	Banjo enclosure N of Timberyard Clump	Iron Age
17444	Partial Rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures S of Upper Heyford Airfield	Unknown
17446	Banjo enclosure at Upper Heyford Airfield	Iron Age
17447	Rectilinear possible settlement complex at Upper Heyford Airfield	Early Iron Age to Roman
17448	Vague cropmarked enclosure and linear features at Upper Heyford Airfield	Unknown
28798	Nose dock hangar at former RAF Upper Heyford (Building 325)	20th Century
28801	Control Tower (Building 340), Upper Heyford Airbase	20th Century
2610	Possible Romano British Settlement (W of Ballards Copse)	Roman
5915	Possible Anglo Saxon Inhumations at Upper Heyford	Early Medieval/Dark Age
8925	Aves Ditch	Early Iron Age to Early Medieval/Dark Age
12247	Undated Rectangular Enclosure (E of Middleton Stoney Heath)	Unknown
13483	Possible Iron Age Banjo Enclosure (E of Middleton Stone Heath)	Iron Age
15872	Iron Age Banjo Enclosure	Iron Age

## HER Events

Event ID	Type	Name
EOX1762	DBA	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: DBA for Upper Heyford
EOX1765	EX	Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at the former RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire
EOX1766	EX	Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at the former RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire
EOX6038	EV	Southern Bomb Store
EOX6165	GS	Southern Bomb Store

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: CAMP ROAD, HEYFORD PARK, OXFORDSHIRE**

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EOX6215	GS	Former RAF Upper Heyford Southern Bomb Store
EOX6216	GS	Land at Camp Road
EOX6217	EV	Land at Camp Road, Upper Heyford evaluation
EOX2137	WB	LINEAR Angelinos Pumping Station to Ardley Reservoir Mains Reinforcement



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