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LAND NORTH OF HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

HER Req. No. 155/13

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NGR: TL 3233 1481	Report No: 4423
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: N/A
Approved: C. Halpin MifA	Project No: 5430
Signed:	Date: 29 October 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Land north of Hertford, Hertfordshire</i>		
<i>In October 2013, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment/walkover survey of land north of Hertford, Hertfordshire SG8 9NN. The assessment was undertaken to assess archaeology aspects and was to be submitted as part of an EIA accompanying a proposed planning application to extract minerals on the site.</i>			
<i>The site contains eight findspots from the HER database and this has resulted in the designation of an Alert Area in a band across its northern section. Cropmarks of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure have been identified towards the site's north-western boundary and were apparently revealed to be late Bronze Age by a 1966 evaluation. A second cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure lies within the central northern section of the site. A possible Roman temple has also been postulated in the central eastern section of the site, whilst a Roman coin and three medieval findspots known from the site's eastern section. Two undated cropmarks are also recorded within the site.</i>			
<i>The site is judged to have lain within the manor of Revel's Hall, which is first recorded in the late 15th century, and in the 19th century formed part of the principal manor of Ware Park, which lies to the east. In 1842, the tithe map reveals that the site formed part of Bengoe Field Hills Common and was predominantly owned by the trustees of the late Thomas Hope Byde, who owned Ware Park. The 1919 sales particular reveals that the site formed the westernmost extent of Ware Park Estate and was then still associated with Revells Hall and the Palmer. Cartographic sources have confirmed that the site has remained as agricultural land throughout the early modern and modern period. The site therefore has a high potential for prehistoric remains, a moderate to high potential for Romano-British finds and features, a moderate potential for medieval remains, but only a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval periods.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>n/a</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>5430</i>	Site code	<i>n/a</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i>		
Site status	<i>Alert area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Mineral extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Bengoe</i>
HER for area	<i>Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER Req, No. 155/13)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 40 ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3233 1481</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 47 - 72m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>n/a</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Ware Park Estate Trustees/RJD Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land north of Hertford, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.</i>		
Authors	<i>Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.)</i>		
Report no.	<i>4423</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2013</i>		

LAND NORTH OF HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

In October 2013, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment/walkover survey of land north of Hertford, Hertfordshire SG8 9NN. The assessment was undertaken to assess archaeology aspects and was to be submitted as part of an EIA accompanying a proposed planning application to extract minerals on the site.

The site contains eight findspots from the HER database and this has resulted in the designation of an Alert Area in a band across its northern section. Cropmarks of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure have been identified towards the site's north-western boundary and were apparently revealed to be late Bronze Age by a 1966 evaluation. A second cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure lies within the central northern section of the site. A possible Roman temple has also been postulated in the central eastern section of the site, whilst a Roman coin and three medieval findspots known from the site's eastern section. Two undated cropmarks are also recorded within the site.

The site is judged to have lain within the manor of Revel's Hall, which is first recorded in the late 15th century, and in the 19th century formed part of the principal manor of Ware Park, which lies to the east. In 1842, the tithe map reveals that the site formed part of Bengeo Field Hills Common and was predominantly owned by the trustees of the late Thomas Hope Byde, who owned Ware Park. The 1919 sales particular reveals that the site formed the westernmost extent of Ware Park Estate and was then still associated with Revells Hall and the Palmer. Cartographic sources have confirmed that the site has remained as agricultural land throughout the early modern and modern period. The site therefore has a high potential for prehistoric, a moderate to high potential for Romano-British finds and features, a moderate potential for medieval remains but only a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2013, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment/walkover survey of land north of Hertford, Hertfordshire SG8 9NN (NGR TL 3233 1481; Figs. 1 - 2). The assessment was undertaken on behalf of the clients Ware Park Estate Trustees and RJD Ltd and is to be submitted as part of an EIA accompanying a proposed planning application to extract minerals.

1.2 The assessment was undertaken according to a specification prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 2nd August 2013). It also followed the

procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2012).

1.3 The aims of the desk-based assessment were to provide for the identification of areas of archaeological potential within the site, to consider the site within its wider archaeological context and to describe the likely extent, nature, condition, importance and potential state of preservation of the archaeology. The context of future development proposals for the site has been examined and areas of significant previous ground disturbance have been identified.

Planning policy

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located to the north of the county town of Hertford, which lies within the district of East Hertfordshire and the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The historic core of Hertford lies 2km to the south, whilst the suburb and former village of Bengoe is situated only 200m to the south. The hamlet of Chapmore End lies 1.3km to the site's north-north-east. The site lies along the western frontage of the B158 Wadesmill Road, which runs roughly south-

west to north-eastwards between Bengoe and Wadesmill 4km to the north-east. Along part of the western boundary of the site lies Sacombe Road, beyond which are the River Beane and A119 North Road. To the immediate north of the site lies the covert of St John's Wood.

2.2 The site comprises an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 40 hectares (Fig. 2). It is bound to the east by the B158 Wadesmill Road, to the west by Sacombe Road, a public footpath and field boundary, and to the north by St John's Wood. The southern boundary of the site is demarcated by two perpendicular field boundaries, beyond which lies a plant nursery. A Westmill public water supply borehole and associated building and enclosure also lie along the eastern boundary of the site. The site comprises an agricultural field, which is traversed by two farm tracks. The main track, which runs north to south down the centre of the site is also used as a public footpath.

3 METHODOLOGY

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within the district comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; request No. 155/13). Significant entries within a 1km radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 3. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for this type of evidence was the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4 - 13.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford, and AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was

drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

3.5 Site Inspection

3.5.1 In the course of the desk-based assessment, a physical walkover of the site was undertaken on Wednesday 16th October 2013. The inspection had the following purposes:

- to examine the areas of archaeological potential identified during the desk-based assessment; in particular, with a view to gauging the likely survival and condition of archaeological remains; and
- to consider the significance of any above ground structures, historic buildings, and historic landscape features, and their potential impact on the proposed development.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, Geology & Soils

4.1.1 The site is situated on a ridge of high-lying ground located to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Beane, Rib and Lea (Fig. 1). The River Beane flows roughly north to southwards 700m to the west of the site, whilst the River Rib is located 400m to the east. The larger River Lea flows through Hertford 1.4km to the site's south-east. The site thus lies upon sloping land, with the surrounding relief declining into each of the three river valleys. The site's relief slopes down to the east, with its north-western corner located at 72m AOD and its central eastern boundary located at 47m AOD. The area surrounding the site is dominated by the suburb of Bengoe and former and existing gravel extraction, including Rickneys Quarry to the north and Waterford Plantation 1.3km to the west.

4.1.2 The solid geology of the site comprises Upper Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1978), overlain by glacial gravels (with Bunter pebbles; Preston 2005). Soils of the area comprise those of the Ludford Association, which are described as deep, well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel (SSEW 1983). A previous archaeological evaluation undertaken to the immediate north of the site and St John's Wood revealed varied topsoil between c. 0.20m to 0.40m in depth with an orange/brown sandy silt subsoil beneath (Wallis 2005). The latter lay directly above the underlying geology, which consisted of orange/brown sand and gravel in most places, but there were some patches of sand, silty sand and clay. Previous geotechnical data for the evaluation site suggested glacial sand and gravel deposits buried beneath an average of some 2.8m of topsoil and subsoil (Preston 2005).

4.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

Prehistoric

4.2.1 The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological potential. Although no previous archaeological investigation has taken place within the site, the archaeological evaluation undertaken to the immediate north of the site and St John's Wood revealed considerable multi-phase features (Wallis 2005). The evaluation consisted of 73 trenches, of which only 12 contained archaeological features. The trenches containing features were concentrated in a band across the centre of the site and in its north-eastern section, thus not in the immediate vicinity of the site. The evaluation revealed a modest range of occupation deposits mostly of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date (HER 17497), which were concentrated 500m beyond the site's northern boundary. One pit contained iron slag of Roman or later date, whilst several undated features were also recorded and a sherd of late Iron Age pottery was also retrieved (*ibid.*).

4.2.2 The gravels of major river valleys such as the Rivers Beane, Rib and Lea are known to have been preferentially settled in the early prehistoric period. The River Lea catchment and its tributaries in particular is important for Mesolithic remains and seems to have been especially favoured for early settlement (Austin 1997, 9). It is evident, however, that this picture has been distorted by the concentration of research on gravels, particularly those subject to gravel extraction. Nonetheless, there is significant evidence for extensive prehistoric settlement on the gravels in the wider area surrounding the site. The Neolithic period is represented by a Neolithic polished flint axe ploughed up at Ware Park and 700m to the east of the site (HER 6661). A probable later Bronze Age field system has been identified 200m to the south-west of the site in association with a group of deep shafts and enclosure with bank and internal ditch (HER 17997).

4.2.3 Further later Bronze Age occupation evidence is known from the site itself, and has resulted in the designation of an Alert Area in a band across the northern section of the site (Fig. 3). Cropmarks of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure have been identified to the south-west of St John's Wood and towards the site's north-western boundary (HER 7609). The cropmarks were apparently revealed to be late Bronze Age by a 1966 evaluation, yet no further information is known about the previous archaeological investigation and the HER database did not list it as a source. A second cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure lies to the south of St John's Wood and within the central northern section of the site to the west of the public footpath (HER 7610). It was also apparently trenched in 1966 and is probably Bronze Age in date.

Romano-British

4.2.4 There is little indication that the area surrounding the site was particularly prominent in the late Iron Age and Romano-British period, with the focus falling more on *Verulamium* (St Albans), Welwyn, Baldock and Braughing. However, the site lies between two major Roman roads and thus

lay within the Roman landscape of agricultural land and villa settlements. The Roman road connecting *Verulamium* (St Albans), Baldock and Braughing lies approximately 4.5km to the north-west of the site, whilst Ermine Street, which ran from London to Braughing, crossed the River Lea at Ware and 3.5km to the east (Margary 1955, 171). Part of a Roman field system, with a possible round house, has been identified near the Sacombe Road and 200m to the south of the site (HER 18001). Roman pottery has also been found on the allotments at the junction of Sacombe Road and Bengoe Street (HER 18759).

4.2.5 Further Romano-British evidence is known from within the site itself. A Bronze nummus coin of Maximian, c. AD 296 - 97, was found near the Wadesmill Road and within the eastern section of the site (HER 21528). A cropmark of a double square enclosure is also known to lie in the site's central eastern section, opposite the drive to Ware Park Farm (HER 7996). It has been postulated that the cropmark represents a Roman temple on the basis of its square, 30m by 30m form, yet the orientation of the enclosure indicates that it might be a modern feature.

Anglo-Saxon & Medieval

4.2.6 There is only limited evidence for Saxon remains in the area and the site lay well-beyond the extent of the occupied manor of Bengoe. Further southwards, Hertford consisted of a Saxon *burh* with a probable 10th century foundation. However, a shallow fire pit located near the Sacombe Road and 200m to the south of the site has been radiocarbon-dated to the 8th - 10th century AD. Added to the aforementioned evidence of the probable later Bronze Age field system, Roman field system, with a possible round house and Roman pottery all from the vicinity, there is significant evidence for continuous occupation to the north of Bengoe Primary School from the late Bronze Age until at least the 10th century.

4.2.7 The manor of Bengoe is listed in the 11th century Domesday Book as *Belingehou*, with the -hou suffix deriving from the Old English *hoh*, meaning 'heel' and would usually refer to a sharply projecting spur of land (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). The first part of the place-name appears to refer to '*those who dwell by the River Beane*', although this is also by no means certain (Cameron 1996, 184- 5). The name thus implies an Anglo-Saxon settlement by the river, possibly on the ridge where the site is located. At the time of Domesday, the manor at Bengoe was held by Hugh de Beauchamp and was a very minor holding of just 6 hides with 13 villagers plus two slaves, a mill, and fairly extensive woodland, the whole being valued at £3 (Morris 1976).

4.2.8 The site also contains a number of medieval findspots, all of which are small finds and appear to suggest that the site has been subject to metal-detecting or informal field-walking. A shield-shaped mount with enamel decoration, dated to c. 1250 - 1350, was found along Wadesmill Road and within the eastern section of the site (HER 21527). A medieval copper alloy shield-shaped mount decorated in enamel with arms dating to 1296 - 1313 was also found in the same vicinity (HER 21921). A small copper alloy purse

bar, dated c. 1450 - 1550, was also found along Wadesmill Road and in the site's north-eastern section (HER 21526).

Post-Medieval & Later

4.2.9 The site is judged to have lain within the manor of Revel's Hall, which is first recorded in the late 15th century and place-name evidence for which survives as Revels Croft Farm, which lies to the immediate south-east of the site. In 1495, the manor of Revels in Bengeo was taken from the late Thomas Babthorpe into the possession of the king. It passes through a large number of hands in the post-medieval period until 1728, when it was left to Henry Dunster (Page 1912). Revel's Hall remained with the Dunster family until the death of Edward Dunster in 1791, when it was sold to Thomas Hope Byde, who is also listed as the former owner of much of the site on the parish of Bengeo tithe apportionment of 1840 (Appendix 3 below). Thomas Hope Byde also owned Ware Park and was responsible for the demolition of the Tudor mansion there, and it is known that Revel's Hall came together by purchase with the principal manor of Ware Park (Page 1912).

4.2.10 The Ware Park Estate, containing Revel's Hall and the site itself, had passed to William Parker and his family by the 1820s, and it is he who is responsible for the third Ware Park mansion, rebuilt c. 1875 in the style of an Italian villa. The whole Ware Park Estate, which totalled 1,130 acres, was advertised for sale in July 1919 and the sales particulars confirm that the site formed part of the estate (HALS Ref. D/EX871). In 1919, the site was still associated with Revells Hall and consisted of five enclosures of arable land. The five fields (#218, #219, #226, #235 & #244) covered an area of 137 acres 2 roods 33 perches and was in the occupancy of the representatives of the late alderman G. E. Palmer, '*who and his family have been tenants for upwards of a century*'.

4.2.11 Post-medieval and later findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the site, yet none lie within the site itself. The majority relate to extant early modern residential dwellings such as Bengeo Cottage, Willow Cottage and Rickneys (HERs 17988, 30142 & 30143). An early modern granite horse trough also lies at the junction of Wadesmill Road and Sacombe Road (HER 5271), whilst post-medieval gravel pits are recorded at the edge of Bengeo Meadows (HER 7245). The aforementioned Westmill public water supply borehole, which lies along the eastern boundary of the site, is also recorded as a mid 20th century depot within a broad pit (HER 18123).

Undated

4.2.7 The HER database also records undated features in the area surrounding the site, including registered common land at Waterford Marsh (HER 12450). The remaining undated findspots consist of cropmark features, with a rectangular enclosure 250m to the west of the site judged to represent the remains of a building (HER 7450). Indeterminate linear features have also been identified to the east (HER 7458), whilst buried pits and possible ditches lie between Wadesmill Road and the River Rib (HER 18425). Within the

south-western section of the site, and along the existing west to east aligned field boundary lies further undated cropmarks of buried ditches and possible rectilinear enclosures (HER 18424).

4.3 Cartographic Evidence

Pre-Ordnance Survey maps

4.3.1 The earliest cartographic source to depict the site comprises Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire, which dates to 1766 (Fig. 4). It confirms that the site lay within the parish of Bengoe, yet to the north of the village and the larger town of Hertford to the south. In 1766, the site consisted of a series of adjoining agricultural fields located on high ground between the Rivers Beane, Rib and Lea, and there is little evidence of significant post-medieval development within the site. Similarly, Bryant's map of Hertfordshire, which date to 1822 (Fig. 5), confirms that site's rural character to the north of Bengoe and Hertford. The extant farm of Rickneys was depicted to the north of the site in 1822, *Godwins* to the south, whilst the estate of Ware Park to the east remained on the eastern side of the River Rib.

4.3.2 The first cartographic source to depict the site in any significant detail comprises the parish of Bengoe tithe map, which dates to 1842 (Fig. 6). It reveals that the site lay to the north of Bengoe in the area known as Bengoe Field Hills Common. In 1842, the site was divided into no less than 15 plots of land, but it appears that many of the holdings consist of sections of open common land, rather than established fields demarcated by field boundaries. As now, in 1842, a public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, whilst three former field boundaries ran on a west to east alignment across the site at the time of tithing. The accompanying parish of Bengoe tithe apportionment of 1840 (see Appendix 3, below) reveals that the majority of the site consisted of arable land owned by William Mastermans and Richard Geldard, trustees under the will of the late Thomas Hope Bye Esquire, who formerly owned Ware Park.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1899

4.3.3 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1899, is significant in that it confirms that the site was traversed by three west to east aligned field boundaries in the late 19th century (Fig. 7). A public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, as now, with the result that the site consisted of seven adjoining agricultural fields in 1899. A second public footpath ran along the site's north-western boundary as far as St John's Wood.

Ware Park Estate sales plan, 1919

4.3.4 The Ware Park Estate sales plan, which dates to 1919, accompanied the aforementioned sales particular for the division of the estate, and confirms that the site formed part of Ware Park Estate. Significantly, only the site and the adjoining St John's Wood constituted sections of the estate located to the

west of Wadesmill Road. In 1919, the site was traversed by the three west to east aligned field boundaries. The public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, as now, with the result that the site consisted of seven adjoining agricultural fields in 1919. A second public footpath ran along the site's north-western boundary as far as St John's Wood.

3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1925

4.3.5 The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1925, depicts only limited change to the site or its immediate area in comparison to the previous cartographic source of six years earlier (Fig. 9). In 1925, the site was traversed by the three west to east aligned field boundaries, the southernmost of which was labelled as a municipal borough boundary. The public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, as now, with the result that the site consisted of seven adjoining agricultural fields. A second public footpath ran along the site's north-western boundary as far as St John's Wood.

4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1946

4.3.6 The 4th edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1946, also depicts only limited change to the site or its immediate area (Fig. 10). In 1946, the site was traversed by the three west to east aligned field boundaries, although the northernmost appeared to have been partially removed. A series of 'posts' were also labelled along the southernmost of the three field boundaries. The public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, as now, with the result that the site consisted of seven adjoining agricultural fields. A second public footpath ran along the site's north-western boundary as far as St John's Wood. The 4th edition Ordnance Survey map is significant in that it is the first map to depict the presence of the Westmill public water supply borehole along the eastern boundary of the site.

Aerial photograph, 1948

4.3.7 The 1948 aerial photograph dates to only two years after the previous cartographic source (Fig. 11) and confirms the presence of the Westmill public water supply borehole along the eastern boundary of the site. As previously, the 1948 aerial photograph reveals that the site was traversed by the three west to east aligned field boundaries, along which lay some established trees. The public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, as now, with the result that the site consisted of seven adjoining agricultural fields. The 1948 aerial photograph does not appear to show any evidence for the cropmarks of the two Bronze Age enclosures known to lie within the site, nor the undated cropmark within the south-western section of the site. In contrast, the aerial photograph does appear to depict the cropmark of a double square enclosure known to lie in the site's central eastern section.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1960

The 1960 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 12) also depicts only limited change to the site and its immediate area. In 1960, the site was traversed by the three west to east aligned field boundaries, although the western section of the northernmost field boundary had been removed. A series of 'posts' were also still labelled along the southernmost of the three field boundaries. The public footpath ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, as now, with the result that the site consisted of six adjoining agricultural fields. A second public footpath ran along the site's north-western boundary as far as St John's Wood.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1977

In contrast to previous cartographic sources, the 1977 Ordnance Survey map depicts significant, albeit localised changes to the site (Fig. 13). By 1977, the site was traversed by only one section of the three former west to east aligned field boundaries, which remained in the site's south-western section. The public footpath still ran north to southwards down the centre of the site, yet no longer appeared to run alongside a field boundary. By 1977, the majority of the site thus consisted of a single agricultural field, whilst a second, much smaller field lay in its south-western section. A second public footpath ran along the site's north-western boundary as far as St John's Wood. In 1977, the former Westmill public water supply borehole along the eastern boundary of the site was labelled as a pumping station and electricity sub-station.

4.4 Constraints

Listed Buildings – There are no listed buildings within the site and none are recorded in the surrounding area.

Registered Park and Gardens – The site is not within or close to any Registered Parks and Gardens.

Archaeological Priority Area – The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Area, although an Alert Area lies across the northern section of the site.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments – There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site and none are recorded in the surrounding area.

Conservation Areas – The site does not lie within a conservation area.

5 SITE VISIT

5.1 A physical walkover of the site was conducted on Wednesday 16th October 2013. Access to the site is via the public footpath and farm track running from the site's south-eastern corner along its southern boundary and northwards up the centre of the site. Further access to the site can be gained

from Wadesmill Road beside the pumping station and electricity sub-station, a second farm track running west to eastwards from Wadesmill Road to the aforementioned public footpath and farm track, and via the public footpath running along the western and north-western boundaries of the site.

5.2 The site visit confirms that the site comprises an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 40 hectares. It is bound in most areas by established hedges, which run along the course of Wadesmill Road, Sacombe Road, the public footpath and the two perpendicular field boundaries to the south. The pumping station and electricity sub-station along the eastern boundary of the site is demarcated by a fence, whilst the boundaries of St John's Wood to the north are clearly defined. The site visit also confirmed that the site comprises a single agricultural field, which is traversed by the two farm tracks, rather than the seven fields depicted in the early 20th century.

5.3 At the time of the site visit, the field forming the site consisted of ploughsoil and had been cultivated in the recent past (DP 1). The site displayed a varied relief (DP 3), which is consistent with it having formerly been known as Bengeo Field Hills Common at the time of the 1842 tithe map. The north to south aligned track was evident though the centre of the site, as was the remnants of a former west to east aligned field boundary (DP 3). The south-western and southern sections of the site, in contrast, comprised an area of set-aside margin and headland (DPs 4 & 6) located beside the established hedges (DP 5). No evidence for cropmarks within the site could be identified during the site visit.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The Impact of the Proposed Development

6.1.1 The proposed development for the site will comprise the winning and working of sand and gravel as part of the expansion of Rickneys Quarry, which lies to the north of the site. The mineral extraction proposals will thus cause extensive ground disturbance and truncation, which will have a significant impact on the stratigraphy of the site, and its known archaeology in particular. The site is known to contain a number of cropmark enclosures, which have resulted in the designation of an Alert Area in a band across the northern section of the site. Of particular interest are the late Bronze Age cropmarks of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure towards the site's north-western boundary (HER 7609), the probably Bronze Age cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure within the central northern section (HER 7610), the possible Roman temple cropmark in the site's central eastern section, and the undated cropmarks of buried ditches and possible rectilinear enclosures within the site's south-western section.

6.1.2 The site has been undeveloped throughout the early modern and modern periods and therefore any remains present are likely to be well-preserved. The mineral extraction proposals will inevitably destroy any remains that may be present on the site, particularly the aforementioned

cropmarks. The eastern section of the site is also known to have yielded a number of medieval findspots.

6.1.3 Any archaeology encountered in the extraction area will be destroyed by the initial mineral extraction, whilst the quarry extension will presumably necessitate plant and stocking. It is unclear if construction of tips and areas for stockpiled material will involve removal of topsoil, but if so then any archaeology present in these areas is likely to suffer damage during this process. Further impacts on the site may be caused by the restoration of the land (Fig. 14).

6.2 Previous Ground Disturbance

6.2.1 Previous ground disturbance at the site and pre-dating the 21st century is not judged to be significant. Cartographic sources dating from the early modern and modern periods consistently confirm that the site was agricultural, and predominantly arable, land associated with Revel's Hall and later forming the western extent of Ware Park Estate. The site was sold as part of the division of Ware Park in 1919 and although its 20th century owners remain unknown, the site has remained as agricultural land.

6.3 Archaeological Potential

6.3.1 Based on the known archaeology the potential of the site may be judged as follows:

Prehistoric – high. Two Bronze Age cropmark enclosures have been identified within the site.

Romano-British – moderate to high. A possible Roman temple has also been postulated in the central eastern section of the site.

Anglo-Saxon – low. Only limited evidence for Saxon remains in the area.

Medieval – moderate. Three medieval findspots known from the site's eastern section.

Post-Medieval – low. Only limited evidence for post-medieval remains in the area.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological potential. Although no previous archaeological investigation has taken place within the site, the archaeological evaluation undertaken to the immediate north of the site and St John's Wood revealed considerable multi-phase features dating from the late Bronze Age to Roman period. The site also contains eight findspots from the HER database and has resulted in the designation of an Alert Area in a band across its northern section. Cropmarks of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure have been identified towards the site's north-western boundary and were apparently revealed to be late Bronze Age by a 1966 evaluation. A second cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure lies within the

central northern section of the site. A possible Roman temple has also been postulated in the central eastern section of the site, whilst a Roman coin and three medieval findspots known from the site's eastern section. Two undated cropmarks are also recorded within the site.

7.2 The site is judged to have lain within the manor of Revel's Hall, which is first recorded in the late 15th century, and in the 19th century formed part of the principal manor of Ware Park, which lies to the east. In 1842, the tithe map reveals that the site formed part of Bengoe Field Hills Common and was predominantly owned by the trustees of the late Thomas Hope Byde, who owned Ware Park. The 1919 sales particular reveals that the site formed the westernmost extent of Ware Park Estate and was then still associated with Revells Hall and the Palmer. Cartographic sources have confirmed that the site has remained as agricultural land throughout the early modern and modern period. The site therefore has a high potential for prehistoric remains, a moderate to high potential for Romano-British finds and features, a moderate potential for medieval remains but only a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval periods.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr. Douglas Symes at D. K. Symes Associates for commissioning the desk-based assessment on behalf of the clients Ware Park Estate Trustees & RJD Ltd.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Ms. Isobel Thompson. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

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Web resources

www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

www.british-history.ac.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

HER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric		
6661	3330 1505	Neolithic polished flint axe ploughed up at Ware Park near the river
7609	32203 15203	Cropmarks of three sides of a rectilinear enclosure to the south-west of St John's Wood, which was revealed to be late Bronze Age by a 1966 evaluation
7610	32371 15117	Cropmarks of a sub-circular enclosure to the south of St John's Wood and probably Bronze Age in date
17497	3246 1580	Four ditches and three pits containing later Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age pottery were found in five evaluation trenches in the planned eastern extension of the sand and gravel quarry
17997	3221 1413	Group of deep shafts near the Sacombe Road, with probable later Bronze Age field system, and enclosure with bank and internal ditch and thick deposit of radiocarbon-dated fire-cracked flint
Romano-British		
7996	32523 14797	Cropmark of a double square enclosure that could possibly be a Roman temple, but could be a modern feature
18001	3223 1414	Part of a Roman field system, with a possible round house, near the Sacombe Road
18759	3236 1416	Roman pottery has been found on the allotments at the junction of Sacombe Road and Bengoe Street, by an allotment holder
21528	32 14	Bronze nummus of Maximian, c. AD 296-97, found near the Wadesmill Road
Anglo-Saxon		
18002	3220 1413	Shallow fire pit near the Sacombe Road radiocarbon-dated to the 8th to 10th century AD
Medieval		
21526	32 15	Small copper alloy purse bar, dated c.AD 1450-1550, found on Wadesmill Road
21527	32 14	Shield-shaped mount with enamel decoration, c.AD 1250-1350, found on Wadesmill Road
21921	32 14	Medieval copper alloy shield-shaped mount decorated in enamel with arms dating to 1296-1313, found near the Wadesmill Road
Post-medieval & later		
5271	32362 14067	Site of a granite horse trough on Wadesmill/Sacombe Roads
7245	3270 1400	Post-medieval gravel pits at the edge of Bengoe Meadows
17988	32415 14130	Post-medieval farmstead at Bengoe House now

		known as Bengeo Cottage
18123	31684 14954	Mid 20th century depot within a broad pit on Vicarage Lane
30142	31513 14703	Willow Cottage at Stapleford is a probable 17 th century timber-framed house given a brick casing in the early 19 th century
30143	32629 15732	Rickneys is the site of a post-medieval farmstead with probable medieval origins, succeeded after 1852 by a new farmstead in a slightly different position
Undated		
7450	32779 14846	Cropmark of a rectangular enclosure approx. 10m by 7m in size, probably representing the remains of a building
7458	32808 14685	Cropmarks of indeterminate linear features, which may be associated with a nearby small rectangular cropmark
12450	3160 1460	Registered common land at Waterford Marsh
18424	3221 1448	Cropmarks of buried ditches and possible rectilinear enclosures on high ground north of Hertford
18425	3280 1503	Cropmarks of buried pits and possible ditches between Wadesmill Road and the river Rib, north of Hertford

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Fig.	Date	Title	Scale	Location
4	1766	Dury & Andrews' map of Hertfordshire	-	AS
5	1822	Bryant's map of Hertfordshire	-	AS
6	1842	Parish of Bengeo tithe map	-	HALS
7	1899	2 nd edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet IV.II	6"	HALS
8	1919	Ware Park Estate sales plan	6"	HALS
9	1925	3 rd edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet IV.II	6"	HALS
10	1946	4 th edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet IV.II	6"	HALS
11	1948	Aerial photograph	6"	HALS
12	1960	Ordnance Survey map, sheets TL 31 SW & TL 31 NW	1:10,000	HALS
13	1977	Ordnance Survey map, sheets TL 31 SW & TL 31 NW	1:10,000	HALS

APPENDIX 3 PARISH OF BEN GEO TITHE APPORTIONMENT, 1840

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	Plot name	Land use	Area (a.r.p)	Tithe (l.s.d.)*	Tithe (l.s.d.)+
390	<i>Not listed</i>						
391	John Green	George Adell	In Bengeo Field Hills	Arable	3 acres 1 rood 5 perches	2s. 2d.	9s. 10d.
392	William Mastermans & Richard Geldard, trustees under the will of the late Thomas Hope Byde Esquire	George Palmer	In Bengeo Field Hills	Arable	2 acres 24 perches	-	-
393	William Lockett	William Lockett	Bavy Croft	Arable	1 acre 27 perches	-	-
394	William Mastermans & Richard Geldard, trustees under the will of the late Thomas Hope Byde Esquire	George Palmer	In Bengeo Field Hills	Arable	21 acres 2 roods 6 perches	-	-
412			Buckwell Field	Arable	12 acres 3 roods 6 perches	-	-
413			In Bengeo Field	Arable	2 roods 37 perches	-	-
414			Many Gold Shot	Arable	36 acres 1 rood 25 perches	-	-
415			Many Gold Shot	Arable	1 acre 2 roods 39 perches	-	-
416			In Bengeo Field	Arable	2 roods 3 perches	-	-
417			In Bengeo Field	Arable	3 roods 30 perches	-	-
418			In Bengeo Field	Arable	1 acre 27 perches	-	-
419			In Bengeo Field	Arable	31 acres 3 roods 28 perches	-	-
420			In Bengeo Field	Arable	17 acres 2 roods 7 perches	-	-

- * Payable to the Vicar
- + Payable to the Appropriators

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
North-eastern corner of the site comprising a ploughed field beside Wadesmill Road and its adjoining established hedge, view south



2
North-eastern corner of the site comprising a ploughed field with a varied relief and formerly known as Bengoe Field Hills Common, view south



3
Northern section of the site comprising a ploughed field containing the remnants of a former west to east aligned field boundary and the footpath, view south



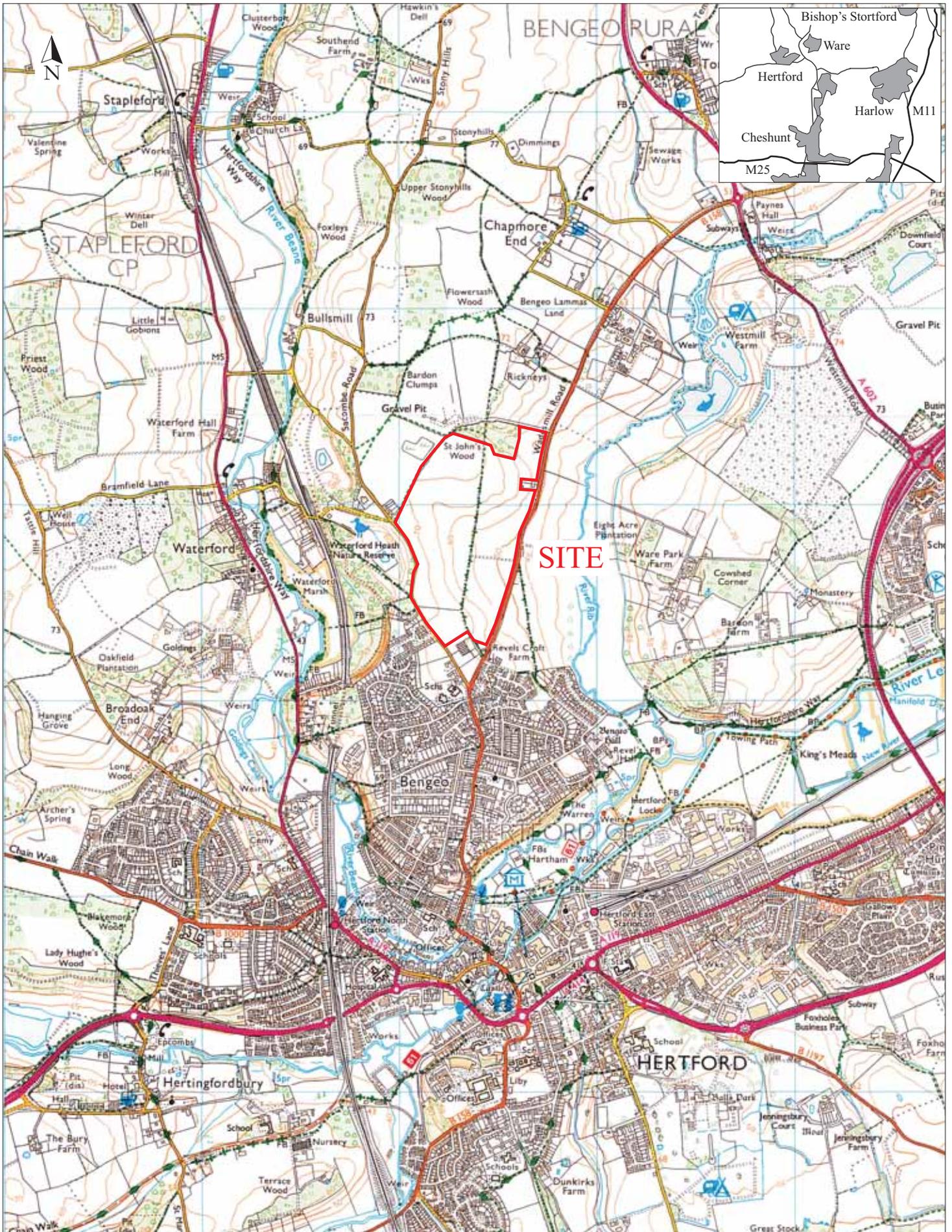
4
South-western corner of the site consisting of an area of setaside margin and headland located beside Sacombe Road and its established hedge, view east



5
North-western boundary of the site comprising an established hedge located along the public footpath leading to St John's Wood, view north



6
Southern section of the site consisting of an area of setaside, with an established hedge beyond forming the site's southern boundary, view east

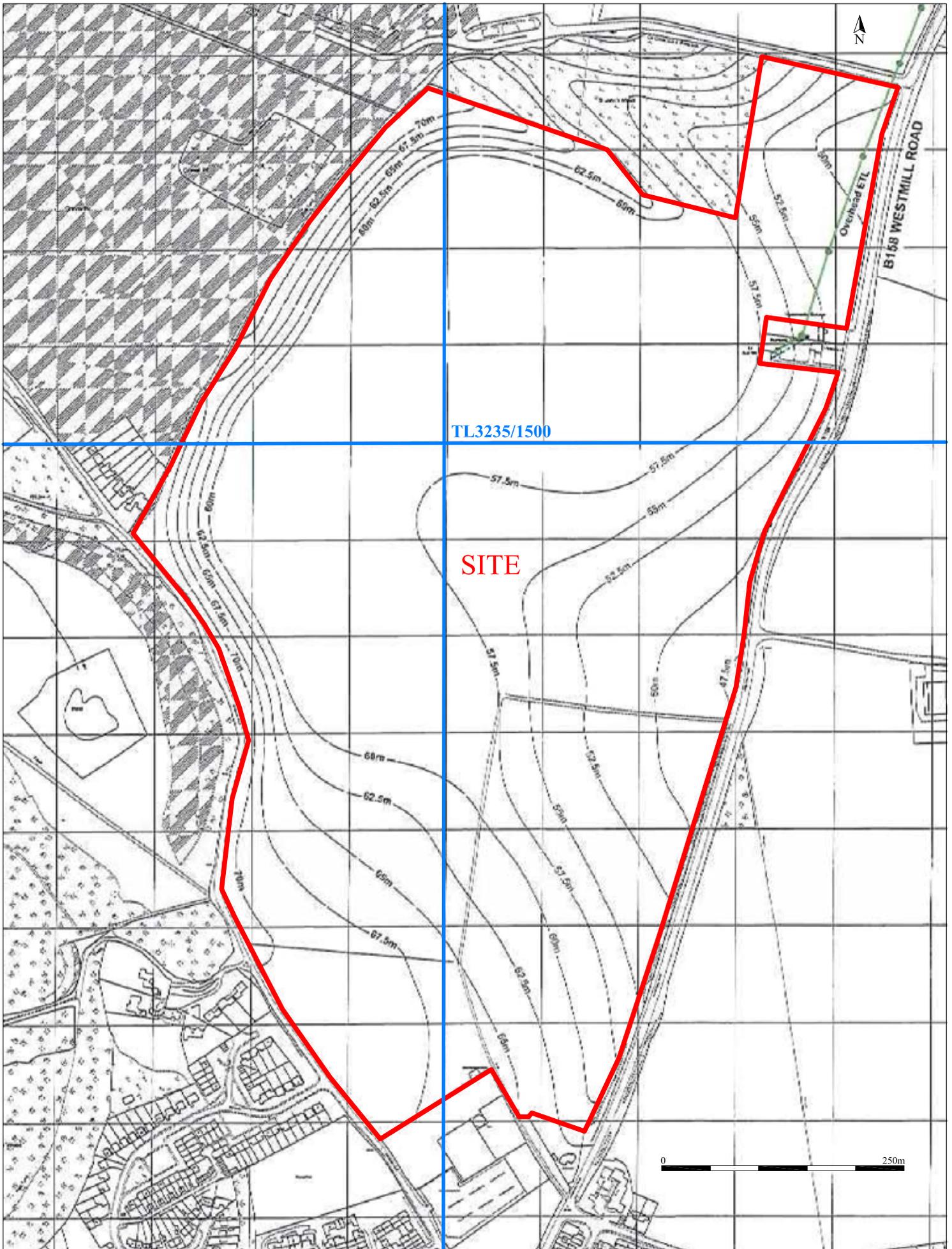


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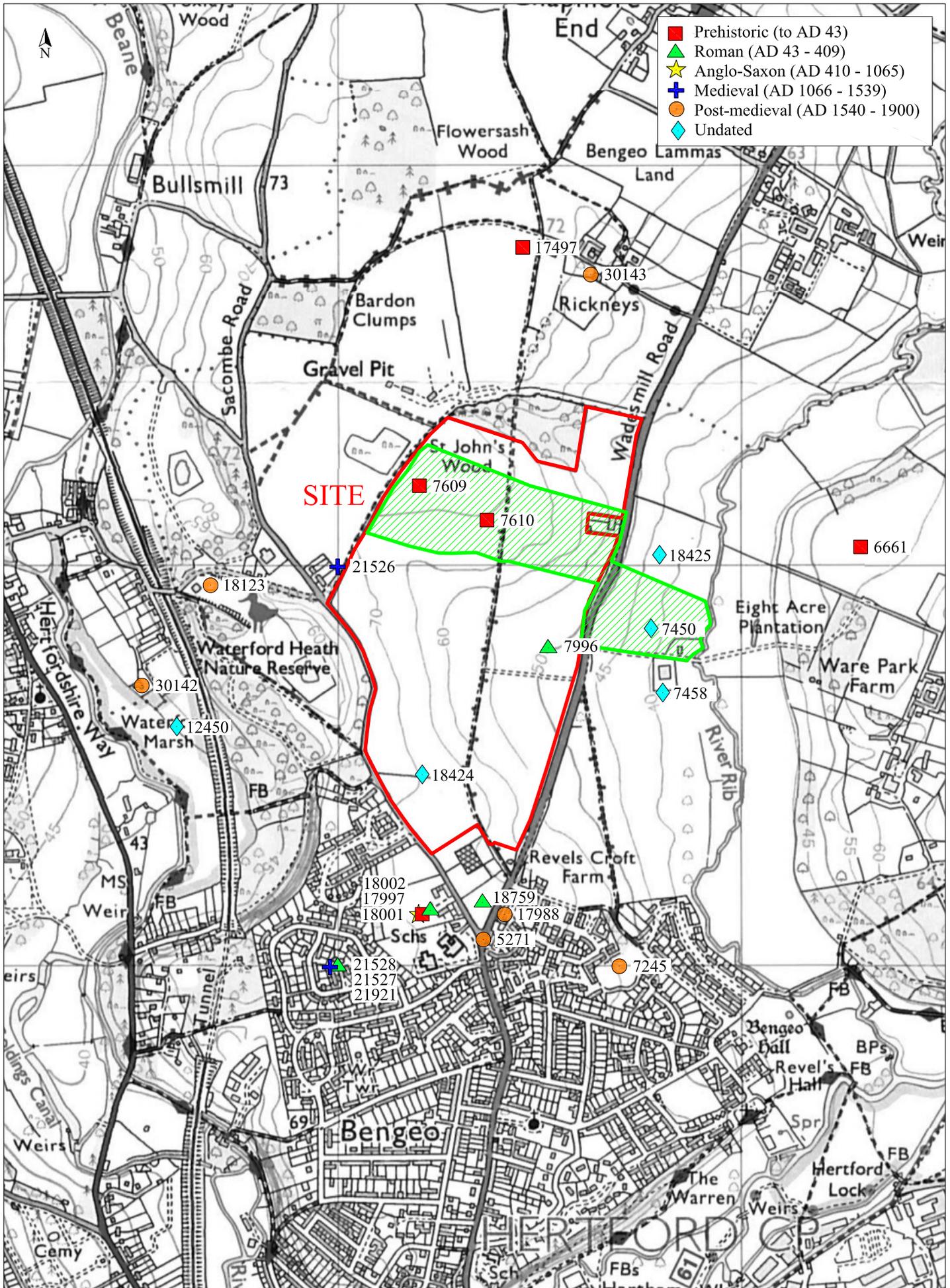
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



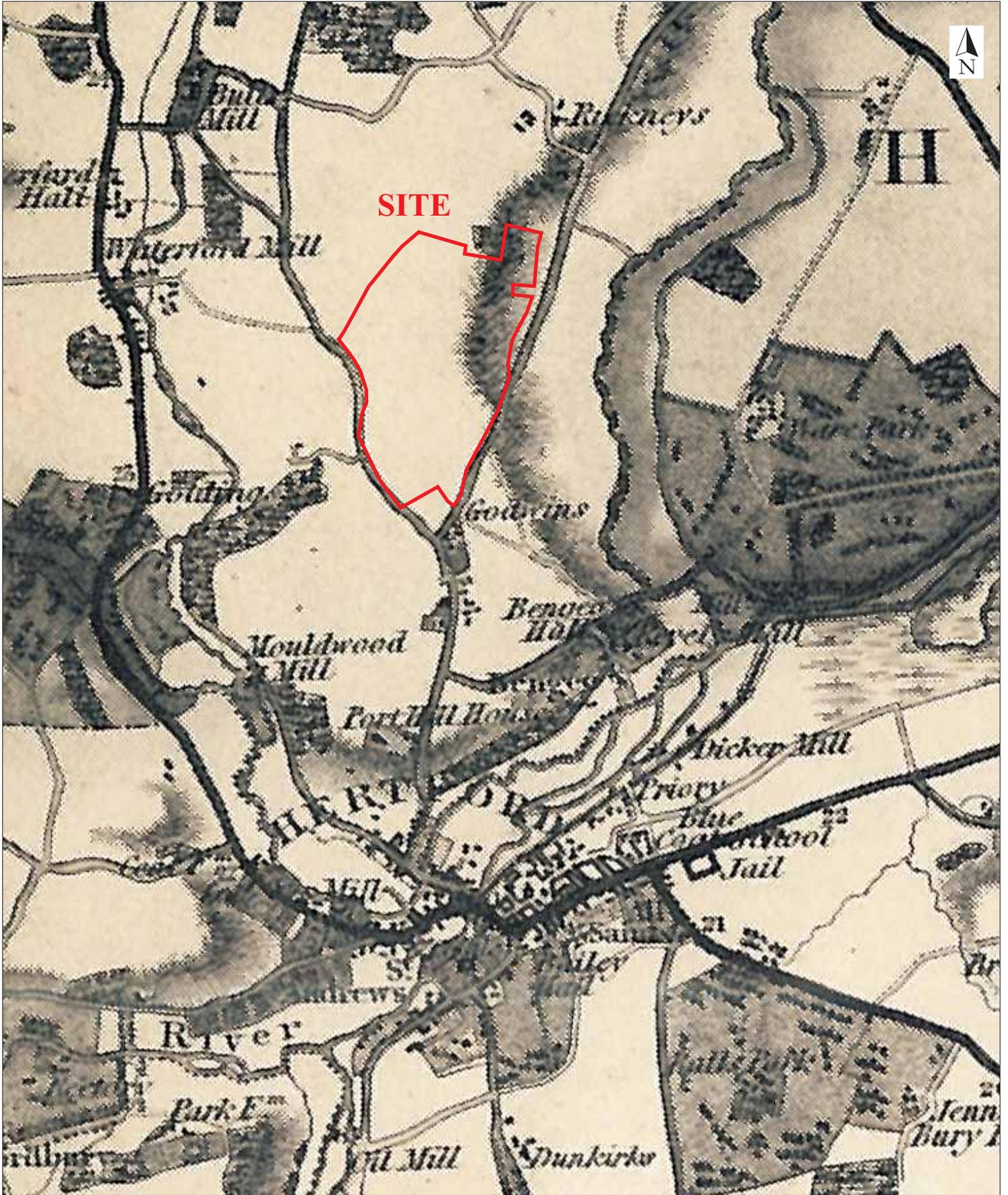
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 Alert Area

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Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



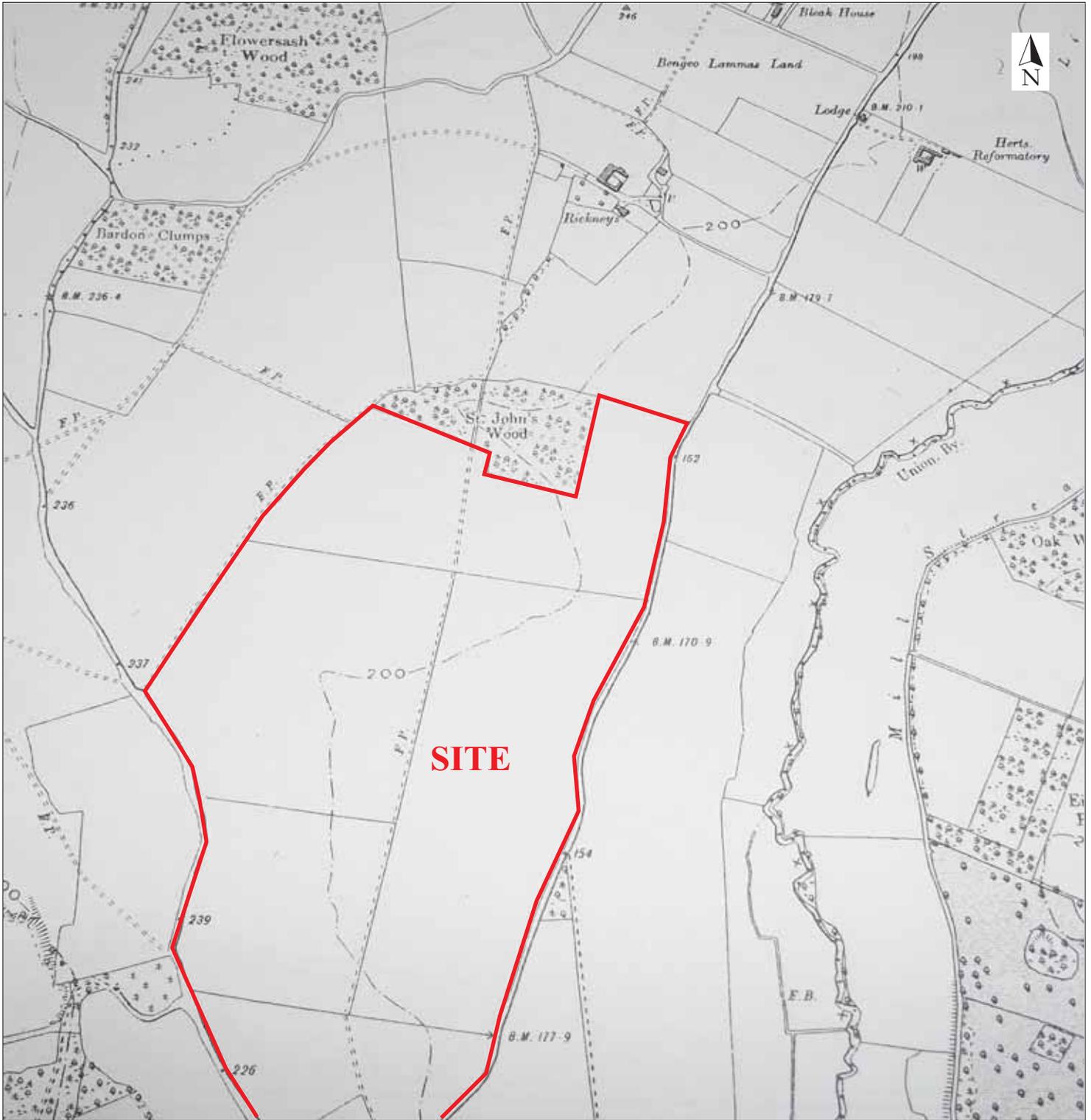
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Fig. 4 Dury & Andrews' map, 1766
Not to scale



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Fig. 5 Bryant's map, 1822
Not to scale

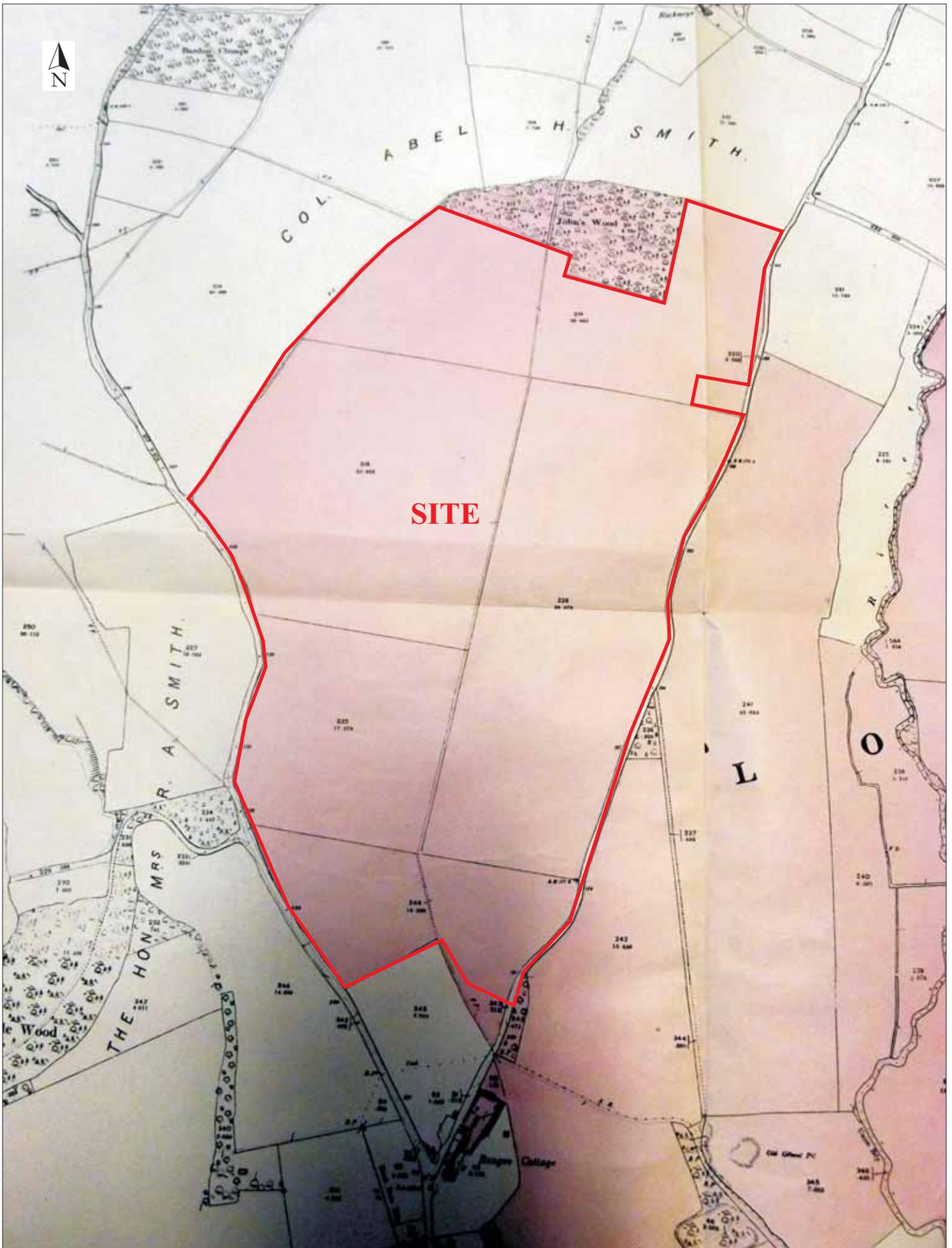


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Fig. 6 Bengoe tithe map, 1842
Not to scale



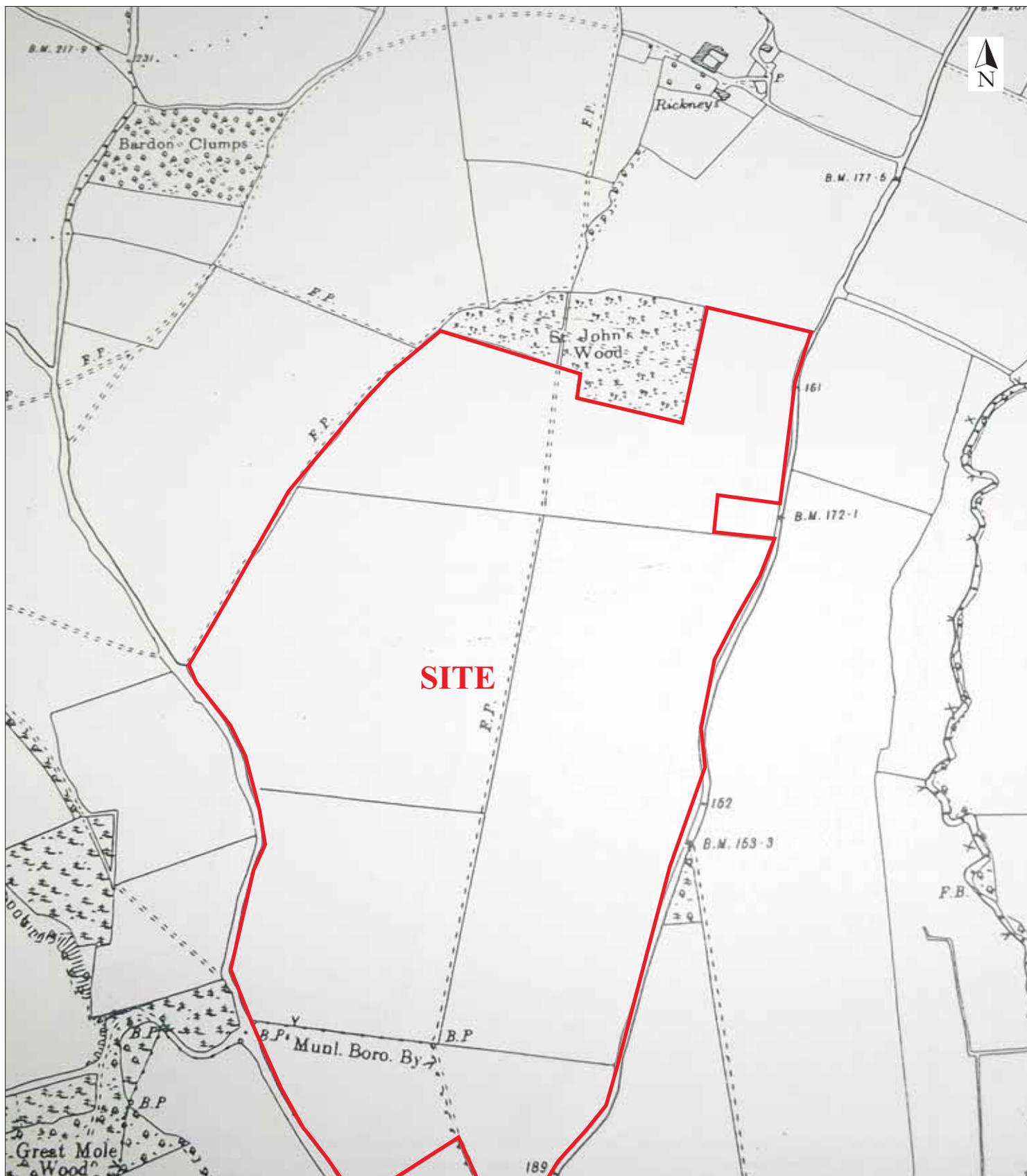
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Fig. 7 OS map, 1899
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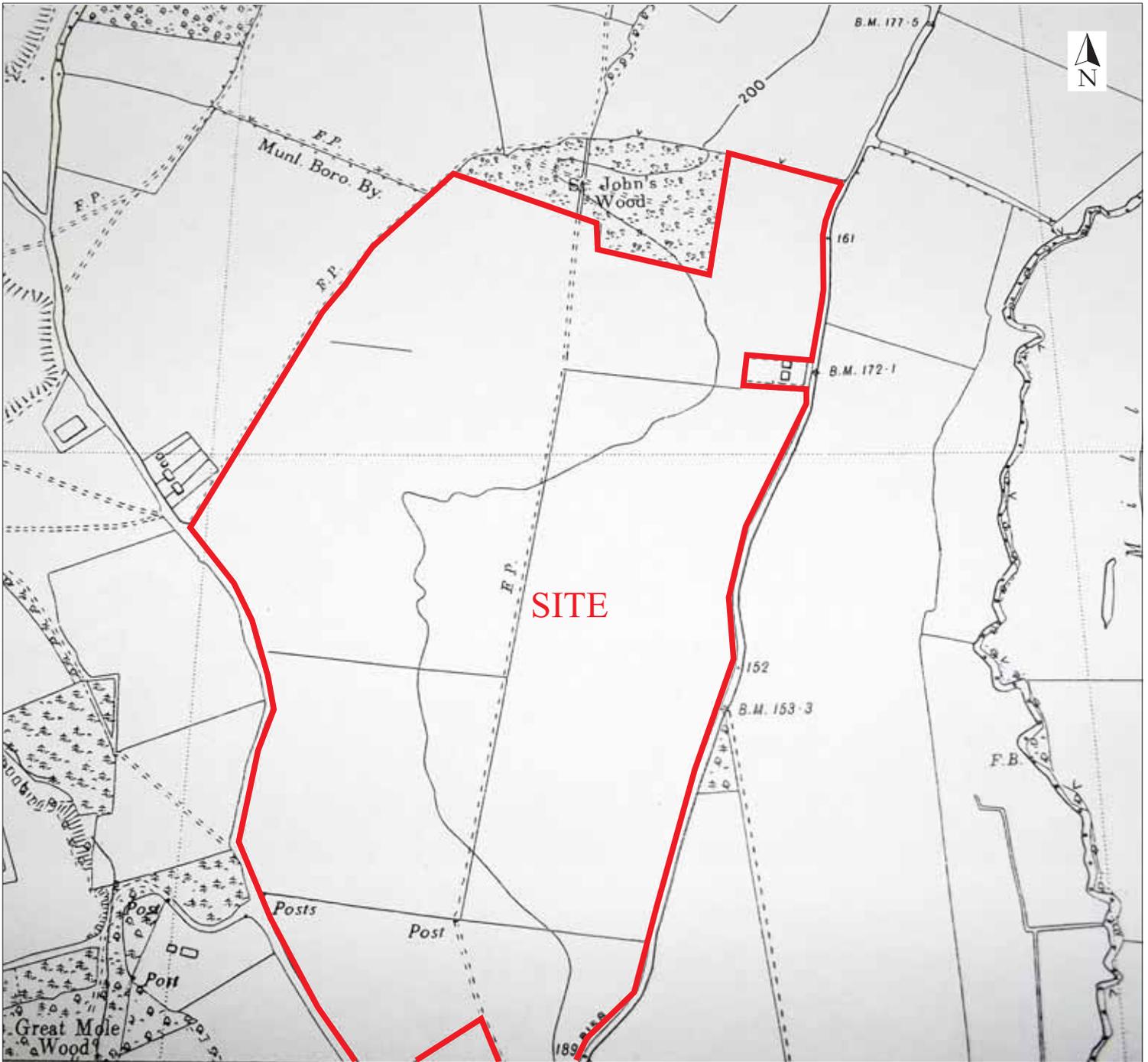
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Fig. 8 Sales plan, 1919
 Not to scale



SITE

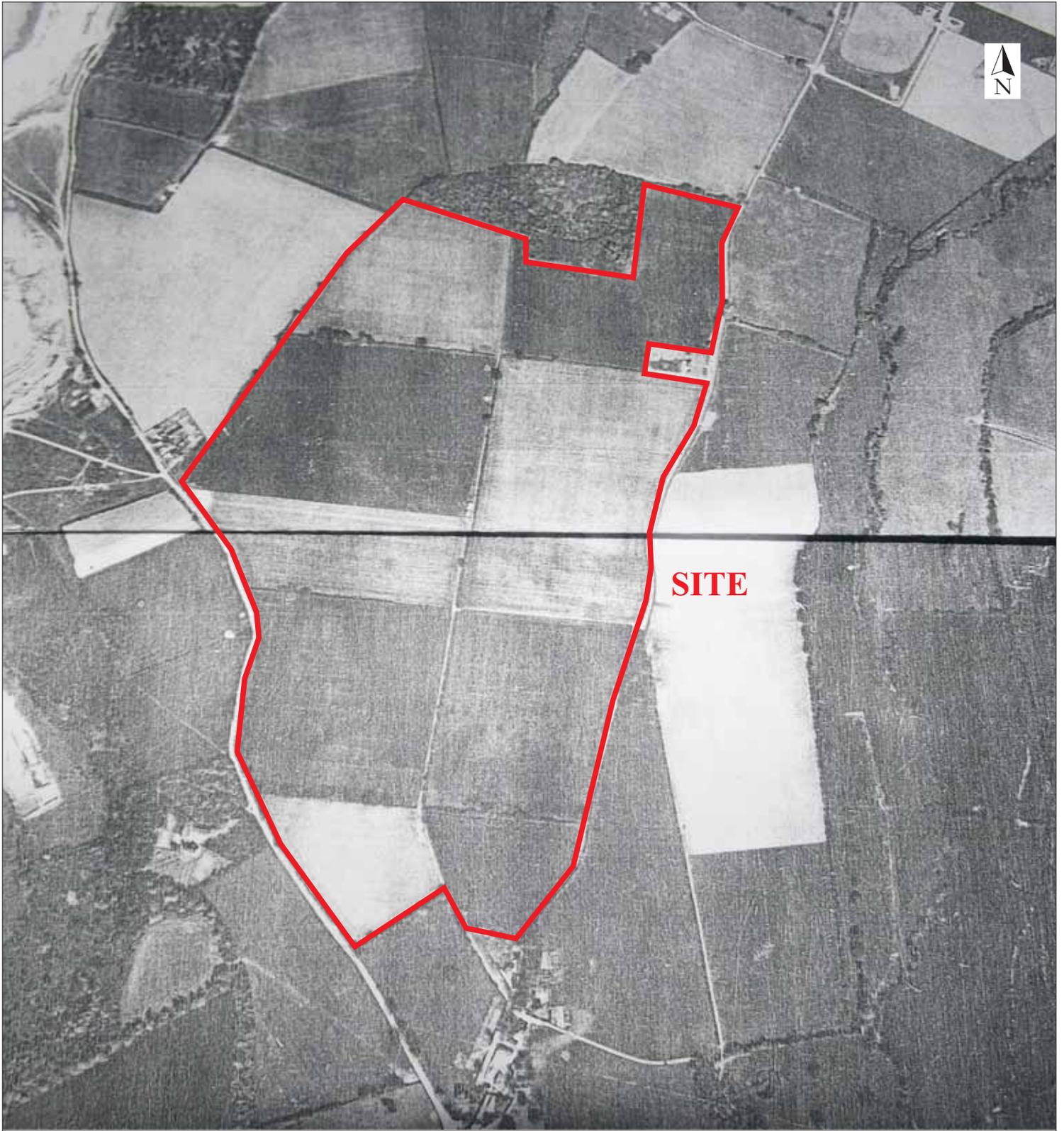
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Fig. 9 OS map, 1925
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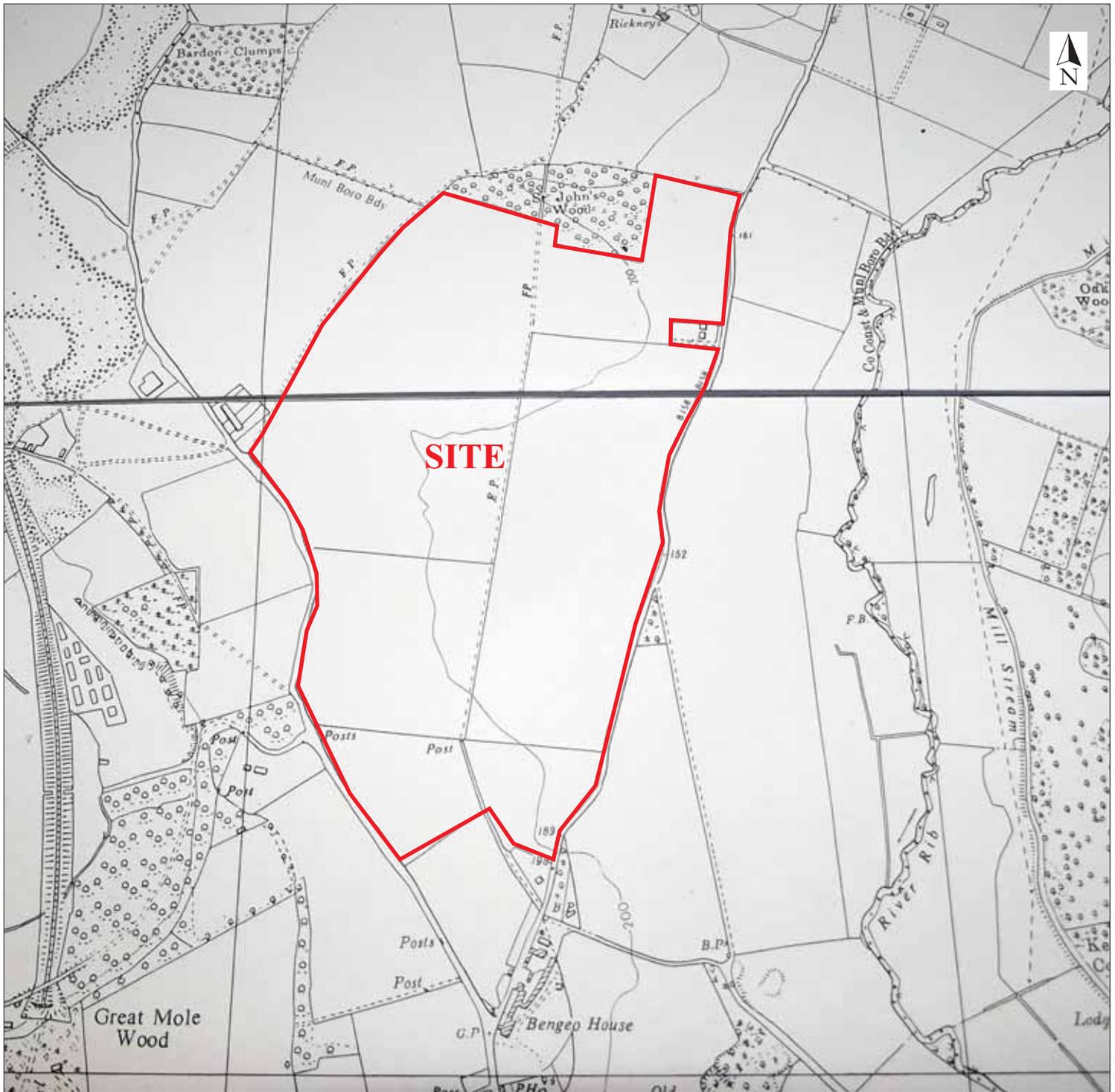


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 Fig. 10 OS map, 1946
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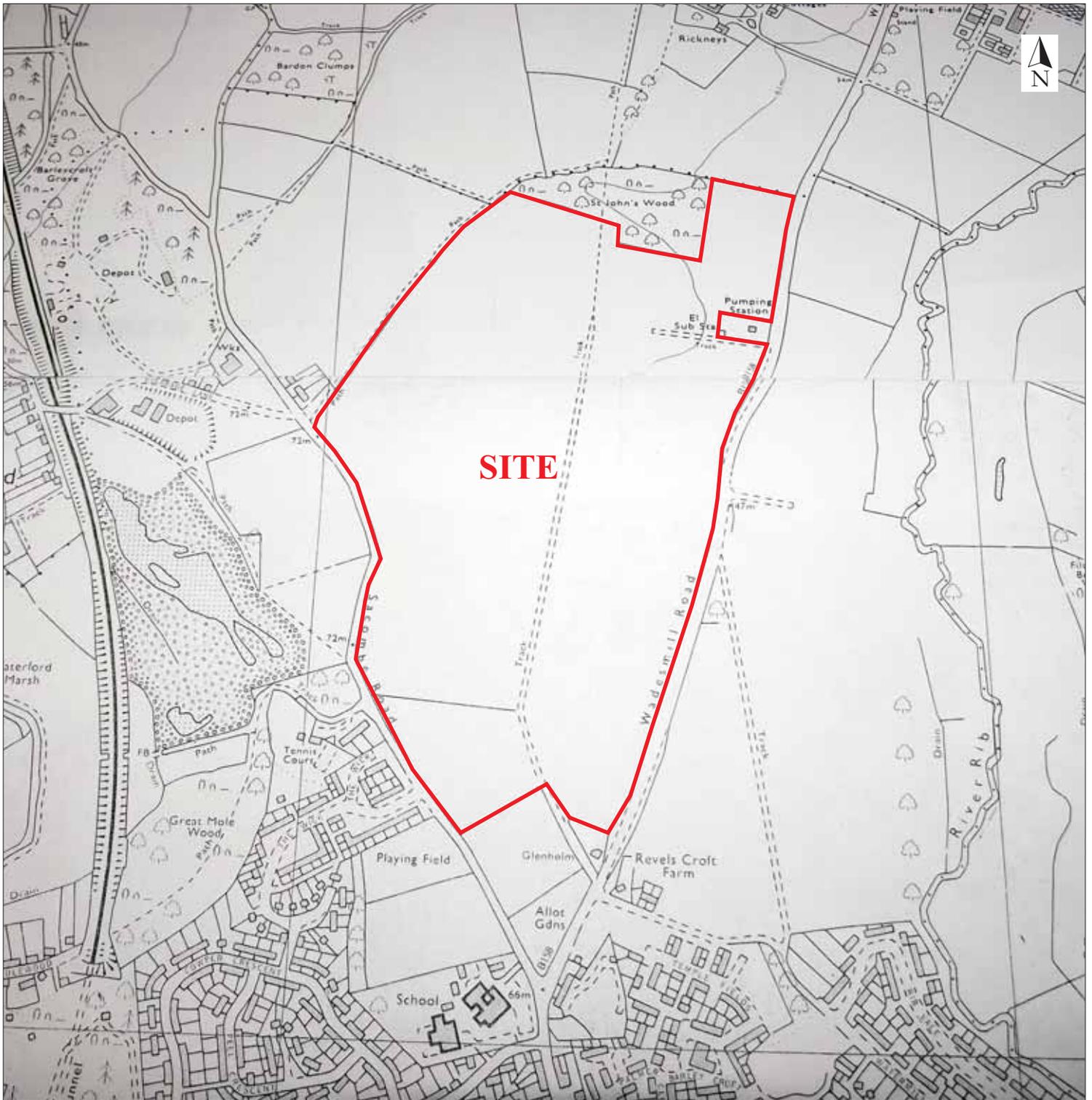


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Fig. 11 Aerial photograph, 1948
Not to scale



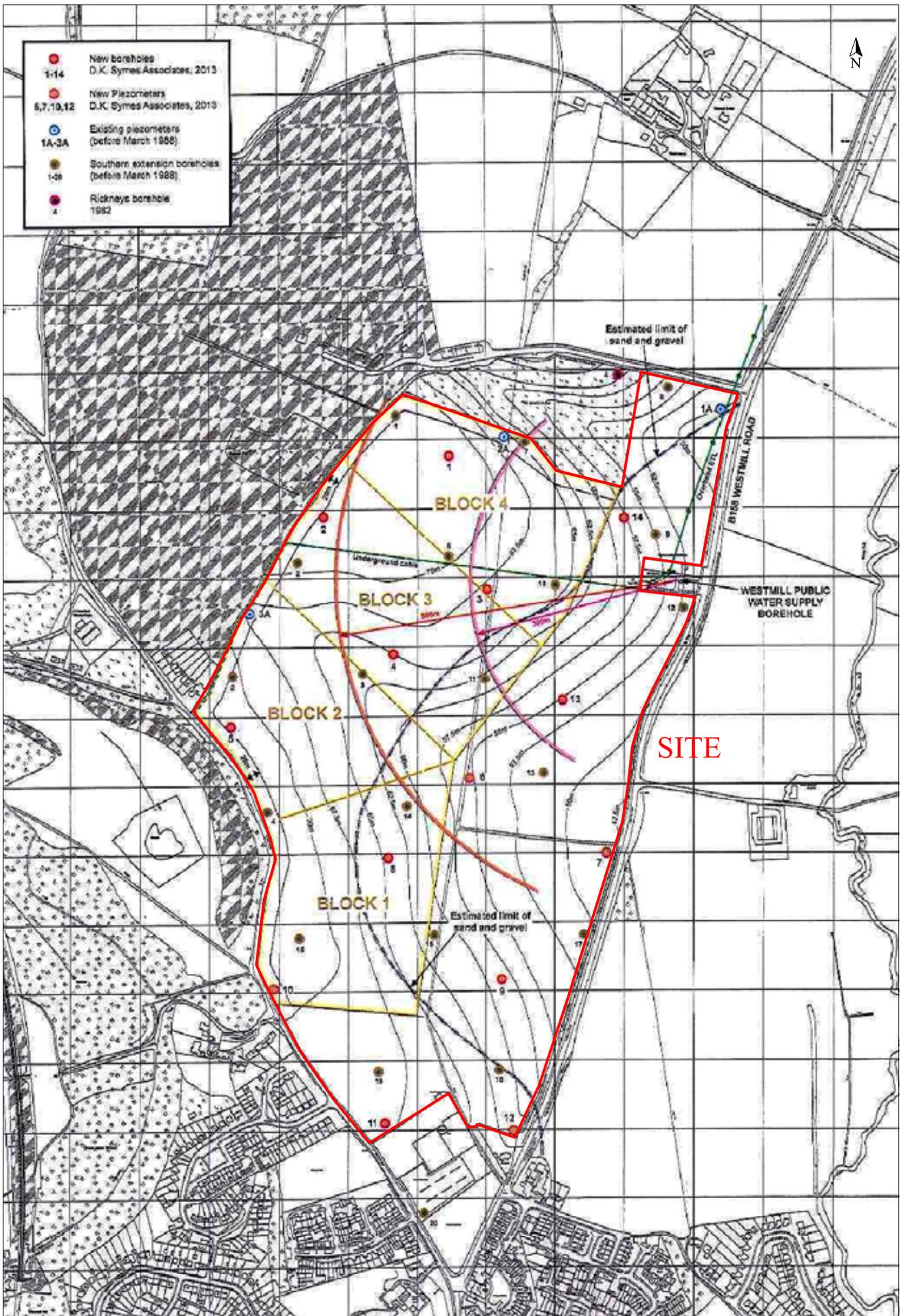
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Fig. 12 OS map, 1960
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Fig. 13 OS map, 1977
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Fig. 14 Proposed development plan
 Scale 1:7,500 at A4