

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

LAND AT POSSINGHAM FARM, CHILMINGTON GREEN, ASHFORD

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Possingham Farm
2
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LAND AT POSSINGHAM FARM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Hodson Developments in support of development of land at Possingham Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford.
- The assessment provides a review of the site's below-ground archaeological potential and addresses the information requirements of national, regional and local planning policy.
- In terms of designated archaeological assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the study site.
- Based on current evidence, the study site is considered to have a low to moderate potential for Prehistoric and Roman remains, and a low potential for all other past periods of human activity. Should any such evidence be present within the site, it would most likely be of local significance.
- The study site is proposed for residential development.
- Given the perceived archaeological potential of the study site and past post-depositional impacts, the proposals are considered unlikely to have a widespread, negative archaeological impact.
- The local planning authority is likely to consider that further archaeological mitigation measures are required; it is suggested that these could follow planning consent secured by an appropriate worded archaeological planning condition.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Hodson Developments in support of development of land at Possingham Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford.
- 1.2 The site, also referred to as the study site, is centred at NGR SO 82868 13148, and comprises c.20 hectares of agricultural land at Chilmington Green to the southwest of Ashford.
- 1.3 In accordance with the guidance provided in the NPPF, this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.4 This desk-based assessment comprises an examination of evidence from the Kent Historic Environment Record (GLHER), published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise.
- 1.5 The Assessment therefore enables relevant parties to assess the significance of designated and undesignated archaeological assets on or near the site, to consider the impact of the proposed development on the significance of these assets and to consider the need for design, civil engineering, and/or archaeological solutions to the archaeological potential identified.
- 1.6 The scope of this report addresses below ground archaeology only. An assessment of built heritage assets has been made in an accompanying report.

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 The government last updated the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in June 2019, which supersedes previous national planning guidance. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014, with the guidance on Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment last updated 23 July 2019. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>).
- 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 189 states that applicants should provide a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected 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 *Nationally Important 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* 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 The relevant Local Plan framework is provided the Ashford Borough Local Plan 2030, which was adopted in February 2019 and now forms the main statutory development plan for the borough to 2030. Policy relating to the historic environment consists of:

Policy ENV13 - Conservation and Enhancement of Heritage Assets

Proposals which preserve or enhance the heritage assets of the Borough, sustaining and enhancing their significance and the contribution they make to local character and distinctiveness, will be supported. Proposals that make sensitive use of heritage assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-

used buildings and areas into appropriate and viable use consistent with their conservation, will be encouraged.

Development will not be permitted where it will cause loss or substantial harm to the significance of heritage assets or their settings unless it can be demonstrated that substantial public benefits will be delivered that outweigh the harm or loss. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, or where a non-designated heritage asset is likely to be impacted, harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing the optimum viable use of the heritage asset.

All applications with potential to affect a heritage asset or its setting should be supported by a description of the asset's historic, architectural or archaeological significance with an appropriate level of detail relating to the asset and the likely impact of the proposals on its significance.

Policy ENV15 – Archaeology

The archaeological and historic integrity of Scheduled Monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and where possible enhanced. Development which would adversely affect such designated heritage assets will be assessed in line with Policy ENV13.

In addition, where the assessment outlined in Policy ENV13 reveals that important or potentially significant archaeological heritage assets may exist, developers will be required to arrange for field evaluations to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications.

Where the case for development affecting a site of archaeological interest is accepted, any archaeological remains should be preserved in situ as the preferred approach. Where this is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative dependent upon their significance. Any archaeological recording should be by an approved archaeological body and take place in accordance with a specification and programme of work to be submitted to and approved by the Borough Council in advance of development commencing.

- 2.15 In terms of archaeological designated heritage assets, as defined above and as shown on Figure 2, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefields or Historic Wreck sites are known within the immediate vicinity of the study site.
- 2.16 In line with exiting national, strategic and local planning policy and guidance, this assessment also seeks to clarify the sites archaeological potential and the need or otherwise for additional archaeological mitigation measures prior to the determination of a planning application.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 records the solid geology of the study site as Weald Clay Formation- Sandstone. No Superficial deposits are recorded.
(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).
- 3.2 Archaeological trial trench evaluation to the immediate north of the study site (ASE 2017) confirmed the above geology, with weald clay deposits identified between 41.6m and 42.2m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), overlain by topsoil of c.0.5m depth.

Topography

- 3.3 The site study site is on slightly undulating, but generally level ground at approximately 42m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 3.4 Two drains cross the site on a northwest/southeast alignment , while the River Beult is located 800m to the northwest and the River Stour lies c3km to the northeast.

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 What follows comprises a review of archaeological findspots within a 1km radius of the study site (Figs. 2a & 2b), also referred to as the study area, held on the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the early 19th century up to the present day (Figs. 3-17).
- 4.2 In terms of designated heritage assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wreck or Historic Battlefield sites have been identified on or in the immediate vicinity of the study site.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

Prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Iron Age)

- 4.4 A small number of possibly Palaeolithic findspots are recorded on the HER within a 1km radius of the study site. Two residual finds of a stone implement (that may be of later date) and a flint flake, were retrieved 300m south of the study site (MKE93908 & MKE93910, TQ 97300 40200).
- 4.5 A flint core (MKE109104, TQ 97600 40100), handaxe (109168, TQ 97655 40115) and scraper (MKE109169, TQ 97655 40115) are also recorded 700m east of the study site.
- 4.6 The only Mesolithic evidence recorded within the 1km study area are three Mesolithic or possibly Mesolithic tools (axe, pick and blade) recorded 1km east of the site during excavations in 2019 (Wessex 2020)

- 4.7 Although notoriously difficult to predict, the potential for significant early Prehistoric remains on the study site can be considered to be generally low.
- 4.8 There is very limited evidence for the Neolithic period at Chilmington Green. A small quantity of residual struck flints have been recovered from all fieldwork in a 1km radius of the study site, including an extensive programme of fieldwalking (WA 2010). This is typically Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in character, mostly comprising of debitage, with few actual tools (MKE93478 TQ 96500 40000; MKE78991, TQ 97500 40500; MKE93433, TQ 97000 40000; MKE93842, MKE93843, MKE93908- MKE93911, TQ 97300 40200; MKE94015-MKE94019, TQ 97300 40300).
- 4.9 There is no evidence of in-situ knapping or preserved flint scatters and no cut features dated to these periods. The available evidence indicates there is a low potential for Neolithic remains on the study site.
- 4.10 A fragment of Bronze Age copper alloy axe is recorded on the HER, 500m northeast of the study site (MKE56471, TQ 97500 40500). A small number of Bronze Age features indicating occupation of an undefined nature were identified during a 2016 trial trench evaluation, 600m northeast of the study site (EKE16209, TQ 9733 4081, ASE 2017).
- 4.11 Excavation in 2017 recorded substantial pits of Middle Bronze Age/ Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date, located north of Mock Lane (700m northeast of the site). One rubbish pit contained a deliberate backfill containing several large possibly Bronze Age loom weights (TQ 94 SE 240/EKE 17659, TQ 9760 4110).
- 4.12 The available evidence indicates the wider vicinity of the site was occupied during the Prehistoric period, although the limited number of recorded remains suggests low density occupation.
- 4.13 As a result, the study site can be considered to have a low to moderate potential for Prehistoric remains.

Iron Age & Roman

- 4.14 A large-scale programme of geophysical survey (EKE 11639, TQ 9778 3986), trial trenching (EKE14740, TQ 9763 4076; EKE16209 TQ 9733 4081) and excavation (EKE17659, TQ 9753 4091) on the northeast side of Chilmington Green Road, 600m northeast of the study site, identified limited evidence for early Iron Age occupation in the form of a pit cluster. This evidence is not definitive as it is dated by grog-tempered pottery, which can run into the 2nd century AD, but suggests that there was some occupation here in the early part of the 1st century AD before an intensification of settlement activity in the Roman period.
- 4.15 Chilmington Green Road, 400m northeast of the study site, follows the alignment of a Roman road. Forming an element of the communication system that underpinned Roman settlement of the area, the road has been identified by geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2010) heading southeastwards through Stubbs Cross Wood. At its clearest it comprised a central band of anomalies and increased magnetic response with ditches to both the north and south. This was provisionally interpreted as a surviving agger with flanking roadside ditches. In total, some 575m of the course of the Roman road has been identified.
- 4.16 The 2010-2017 archaeological investigations identified a number of Romano-British features on the northeast side of Chilmington Green Road that indicate a roadside settlement was located there. Pits along with ditches and gullies broadly aligned or perpendicular to the road were also recorded.
- 4.17 Further settlement remains were identified c800m northeast of the study site. These included a pit containing burnt bone and ditches that contained large quantities of pottery of 1st/ early 2nd century AD date. Limited evidence for industrial activity was also indicated with the presence of tap slag

from iron smelting in one of the features (TQ 94 SE 162, TQ 9765 4077; Wessex Archaeology 2011b).

- 4.18 In the fields around the study site, metal detecting has retrieved a number of Roman coins and other residual finds (eg MKE 93483, TQ 96500 40000; MKE79010-MKE79029 & MKE78911-MKE78919, TQ 97500 41000; MKE93414-MKE93417, TQ 97300 40300).
- 4.19 A further Roman road (also aligned approximately northwest/southeast) lies c.1.3km northeast of the study site and connects Westhawk Farm with Brisley Farm; the latter of which is a highly significant and partly excavated settlement located 1.5km southwest of the study site that likely represented the major focus of activity in the wider area.
- 4.20 The available evidence indicates a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains of Iron Age and Roman date to be present within the study site. Any such remains are perhaps most likely to be associated with agricultural, rather than settlement, activity.

Saxon/Early Medieval

- 4.21 The only evidence of activity from the Saxon/Early Medieval periods recorded on the HER in a 1km radius of the study site is a very small number of isolated, residual finds.
- 4.22 These include: an Early Medieval copper alloy belt retrieved c.200m west of the study site (MKE55616, TQ 96725 40644), one coarseware body sherd of possible Early Medieval date found c200m east of the study site (MKE93443, 97000 40000), and an Early Medieval copper alloy coin retrieved c.400m southwest of the study site (MKE56476, TQ 97500 40500). It should be noted the latter two findspot locations are only as accurate as their recorded grid references.
- 4.23 The nearest settlement to the study site recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey is Great Chart, which was located c1.2km to the northeast.
- 4.24 The paucity of evidence recorded on the HER and the distance to known settlement foci of the period indicates a low potential for Saxon/Early Medieval occupation evidence on the study site.

Medieval

- 4.25 Metal detecting in the fields around the study site has retrieved a number of residual finds of Medieval date that include silver coins (eg MKE 93480, TQ 96500 40000; MKE 79027 & MKE 79028, TQ 97500 41000), copper alloy items comprising vessel fragments (eg MKE93496, TQ 96500 40000; MKE 93841, TQ 97300 40200), a dagger (MKE 93843, TQ 97300 40200) and harness pendent (MKE 56473, TQ 97500 40500).
- 4.26 The 2010-2017 archaeological investigations on the northeast side of Chilmington Green Road identified a number of pits and ditches adjacent to the road, 700m northeast of the study site. These contained pottery and roof tile assemblages of later 13th to mid-14th century date (EKE 16209, TQ 9733 4081).
- 4.27 Excavations undertaken 800m east of the site recorded the remains of a Medieval field system (EKE 17653, TQ 9779 4007).
- 4.28 A Scheduled moated site 'The Moat' (SM1013948), which represents a high-status residence of c1250-1350 date is located 1.1km north of the study site. A number of other moated sites are present in the surrounding landscape, including at Great (Old) Chilmington, 800m east of the study site (TQ 94 SE 11, TQ 9786 4021) and at Singleton Manor, 2.5km to the northeast.
- 4.29 The first reference to a settlement at Chilmington dates to 1226 when it is named as 'Chelminton', the name thought to derive from 'Ceolhelm's farmstead'.

- 4.30 The available evidence indicates widespread Medieval activity in the wider landscape that included the founding of high-status residences. However, in the immediate vicinity of the site itself, activity appears to be predominantly agricultural and so a low potential can be identified for significant (ie non-agricultural) Medieval remains on the study site.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.31 Great Chart continued as the principle settlement foci of the area into the Post Medieval period, with farmsteads dispersed throughout the surrounding landscape. The HER records several of Post Medieval origin within a 1km radius of the study site, including Possingham Farm to the immediate south of the study site (MKE 89036, TQ 9656 3962), a now demolished farmstead 200m west of the site (MKE89037, TQ 9611 3977), and Lodge Farm 200m southwest of the site MKE 83046, TQ 9611 3963).
- 4.32 During the Post Medieval and Modern periods, our understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is also enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 4.33 The approximate location of the study site can be identified on the 1769 Andrews, Dury & Herbert Map (Fig. 3) which shows it as undeveloped, open ground bounded to the west by a precursor of the current A238 Ashford Road.
- 4.34 The 1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Fig. 4) is of poor quality, but the study site can be accurately located. It remains undeveloped and has been subdivided by irregular field parcels by this time.
- 4.35 The 1839 Tithe Map (Fig. 5) provides greater detail than the earlier mapping and appears to show some remodelling of field boundaries has taken place. In addition, a presumed stock enclosure is depicted in the northwestern field and a small number of probable quarry pits/ponds are also shown on the site.
- 4.36 The associated apportionment provides further information on land use and ownership of the study site:

Land Parcel	Landowner	Occupant	Description	Land Use
173	Governors of Aske Hospital Worshipful Company of Haberdashers	Robert Bean	Swine Land	Pasture
174	As above	Robert Bean	Shaw in Swine Land	Wood
175	As above	Robert Bean	Little Shaw	Wood
176	As above	Robert Bean	Little Swine	Arable
177	As above	Robert Bean	Lower House Field	Arable
178	As above	Robert Bean	Shaw in Lower House Field	Wood
179	As above	Robert Bean	Another Arable Piece	Hops
180	As above	Robert Bean	Outer Swine	Arable
181	As above	Robert Bean	Large Swine Land	Arable

182	As above	Robert Bean	Shaw in Large Swine Land	Wood
183	As above	Robert Bean	Corner Outer Swine	Arable
184	As above	Robert Bean	Shaw in Corner Outer Swine	Wood
185	As above	Robert Bean	Long Five Acres	Hops

- 4.37 By 1871 (Fig. 6), a number of the previous fields have been amalgamated into larger, more regular parcels. There are then no substantive changes to the site until World War II (Figs. 7-9).
- 4.38 The general area of Chilmington Green contains Modern remains of World War II activity, and the study site fell within the grounds of RAF Ashford (TQ 93 NE 65, Centred TQ 9721 3995). One of ten Advanced Landing Grounds built in 1942-3, it consisted of two Sommerfeld Tracking runways, 4800 feet and 3750 feet long, with taxiways parallel 300-500 feet to the side. It was used by the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1943 onwards, with Mustangs from Nos. 414 and 430 Squadrons. An early Prefabricated Bituminised Surfaced runway was laid in 1943 by the RCAF.
- 4.39 Up to the present day (Figs. 10-12), the site has remained as undeveloped agricultural land.
- 4.40 The study site has remained undeveloped throughout its documented history, except for its temporary wartime function as part of RAF Ashford. As such, a generally low potential can be ascribed for settlement remains from these periods on the study site. Although some remnants associated with RAF Ashford may survive, it is anticipated that any evidence from these periods will most likely derive from agricultural activity.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 4.41 The study site is described as Prairie fields (19th cent enclosure with extensive boundary loss). This corresponds with the historic map evidence noted above.

LiDAR Plot

- 4.42 The LiDAR plot shows evidence of ridge and furrow as well as possible former field boundaries across the site (Appendix 2). A number of depressions can also be made out, which generally correlate with the quarry pits/ponds depicted on historic mapping.
- 4.43 There is no evidence for unrecorded settlement remains visible on the plot.

Assessment of Significance

- 4.44 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.
- 4.45 No archaeological designated heritage assets as defined in the NPPF are recorded on or in close proximity to the study site.
- 4.46 This assessment has identified that the study site has a low to moderate potential for Prehistoric and Roman remains, and a low potential for all other past periods of human activity.
- 4.47 Overall it would appear that while it is possible that archaeological remains may be present within the study site boundary, the balance of probability is that these would, in the context of the Secretary

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of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS2013), most likely be of local significance.

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

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential and Likely Significance (if present):
Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic & Mesolithic)	Low potential, Low (Local) to Moderate (Regional) Significance;
Later Prehistoric (Neolithic & Bronze Age)	Low to Moderate potential. Low (Local) Significance;
Iron Age & Roman	Low to Moderate. Low (Local) Significance;
Saxon & Medieval	Low potential. Low (Local) Significance;
Post Medieval & Modern	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance;

5 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Site Conditions

- 5.1 The Site, centred at NGR SO 82868 13148, is located at Chilmington Green to the southwest of Ashford. The site comprises c.20 hectares of agricultural land divided into four fields lying east of the A28 (Ashford Road). The fields are divided and bounded by dense tree and hedge lines.
- 5.2 The landing ground and any associated infrastructure of RAF Ashford present on the site during World War II is likely to have had a moderate to severe negative impact on any underlying archaeological features, through ground levelling and stabilisation, as well as the cutting of any foundations or services.
- 5.3 Historic agricultural activity would have had a generally widespread, moderate impact, but also a localised severe impact where quarrying activity has taken place.

Proposed Development

- 5.4 The current proposals are for residential development on the study site (Fig. 13).

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Designated Assets

- 5.5 In terms of designated archaeological assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the study site and there would therefore be no direct development impacts.
- 5.6 The scheduled monument 'The Moat' is located 1km northeast of the study site (SM1013948/TQ94SE3, TQ 9743 4139). Due to the distance, topography, intervening development and trees/hedgerows, the proposed development will have no direct or indirect impact on the Scheduled Monument.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

- 5.7 This assessment has identified that the study site has a low to moderate potential for Prehistoric and Roman remains, and a low potential for all other past periods of human activity.
- 5.8 Overall it would appear that while it is possible that archaeological remains may be present within the study site boundary, the balance of probability is that these would, in the context of the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS2013), most likely be of local significance.
- 5.9 In view of the study site's archaeological potential, development on the site is considered unlikely to have a widespread or negative archaeological impact.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Hodson Developments in support of development of land at Possingham Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford.
- 6.2 The assessment provides a review of the site's below-ground archaeological potential and addresses the information requirements of national, regional and local planning policy.
- 6.3 In terms of designated archaeological assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the study site.
- 6.4 Based on current evidence, the study site is considered to have a low to moderate potential for Prehistoric and Roman remains, and a low potential for all other past periods of human activity. Should any such evidence be present within the site, it would most likely be of local significance.
- 6.5 The study site is proposed for residential development.
- 6.6 Given the perceived archaeological potential of the study site and past post-depositional impacts, the proposals are considered unlikely to have a widespread, negative archaeological impact.
- 6.7 The local planning authority is likely to consider that further archaeological mitigation measures are required; it is suggested that these could follow planning consent secured by an appropriate worded archaeological planning condition.

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<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>
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Williams, A. & Martin, G.H. (trans). 2002. The Domesday Book. London: Penguin Books.

Wymer The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain 2 volumes 1999

Cartographic & Imagery

1769 Andrews, Dury & Herbert Map

1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing

1839 Great Chart Tithe Map

1870 Ordnance Survey

1897 Ordnance Survey

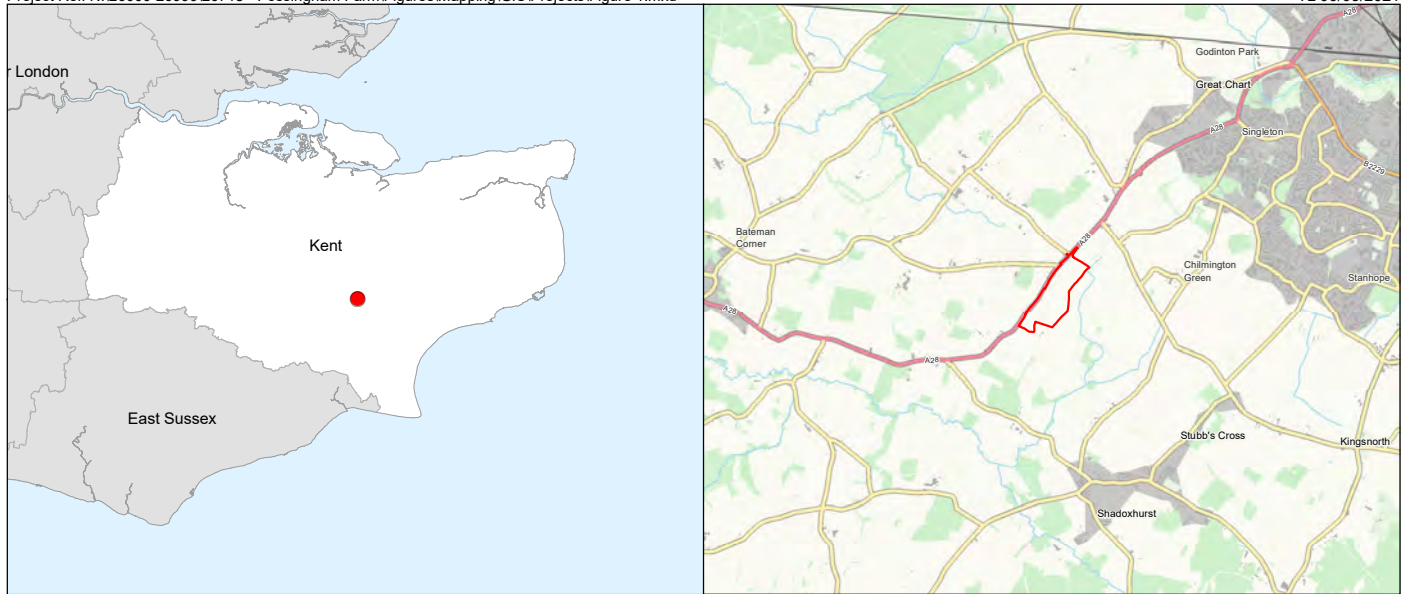
1907 Ordnance Survey

1938 Ordnance Survey

1949-2020 Aerial Photographs



FIGURES



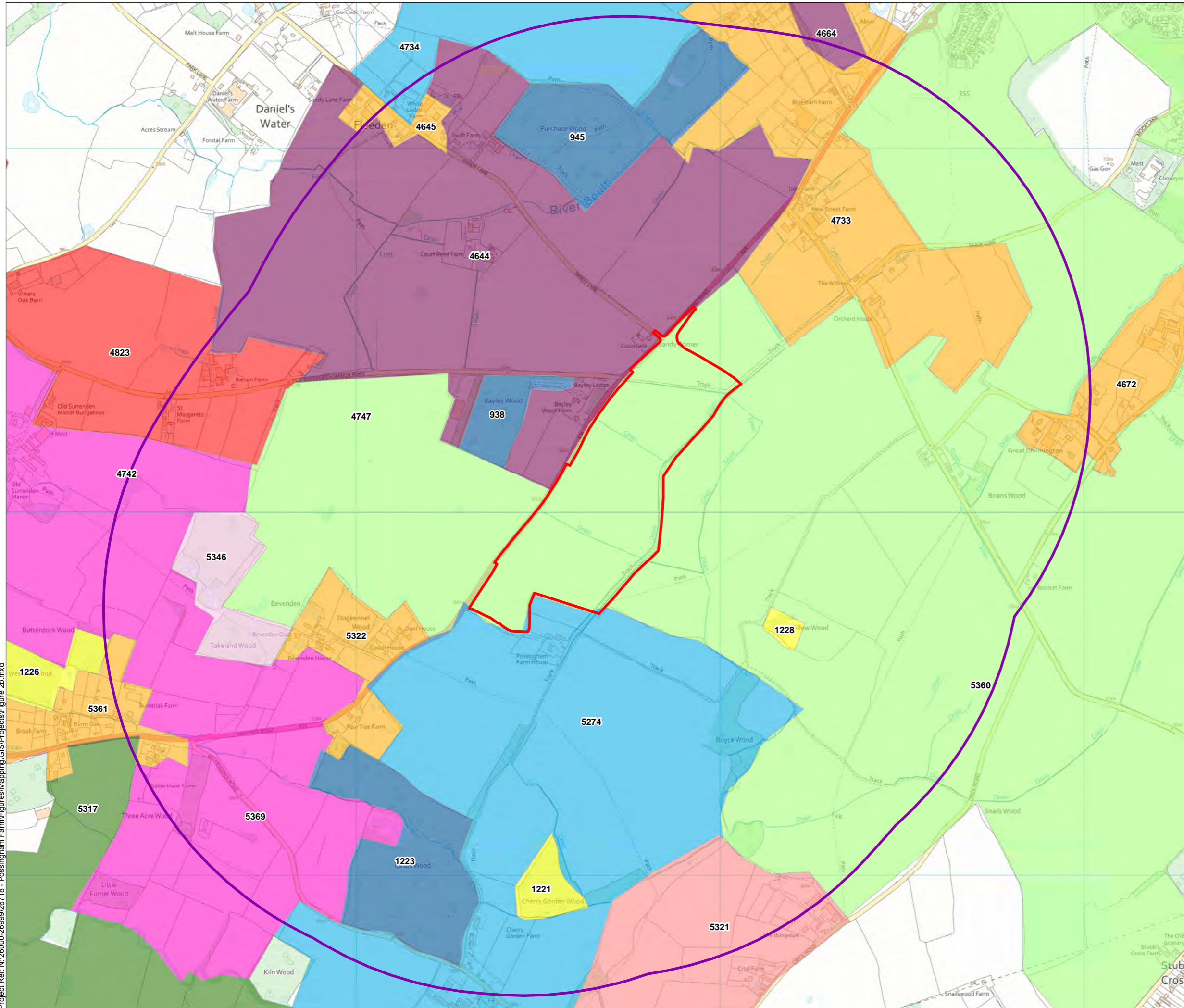
 Site Boundary



0 100 200m
Scale at A4: 1:8,000



Figure 1
Site Location



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 1km Site Buffer
- Historic Landscape Characterisation:**
- 19th century Plantations (general)
- Irregular straight boundaries
- Medium regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- Other pre-1810 Woodland
- Prairie fields (19th cent enclosure with extensive boundary loss)
- Pre 19th century Coppices
- Rectilinear with wavy boundaries (?late medieval to 17th / 18th century enclosure)
- Rectilinear with wavy boundaries and ponds
- Scattered settlement with paddocks (post 1800 extent)
- Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries
- Small regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)

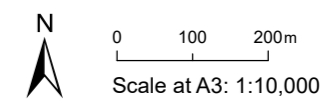
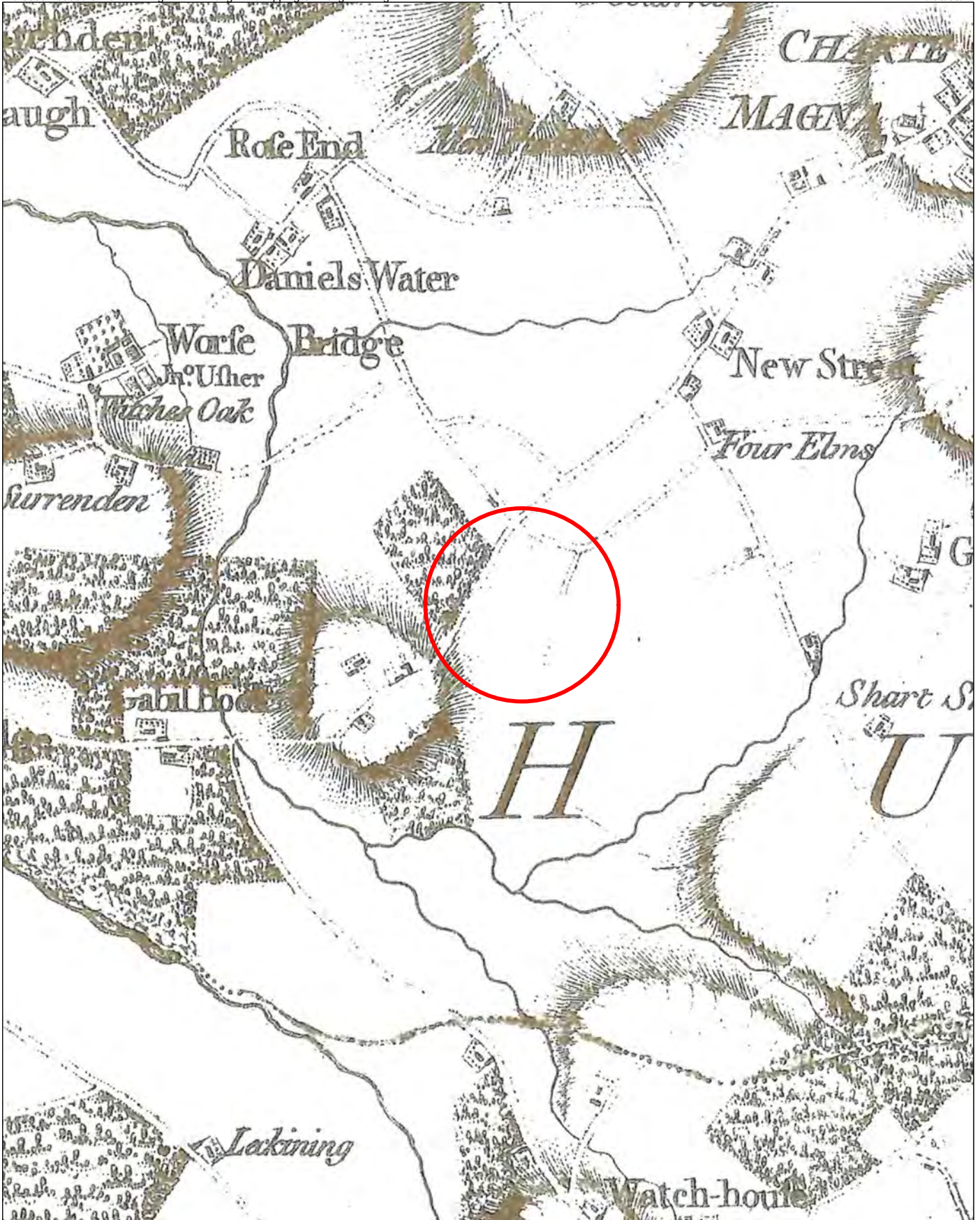



Figure 2b
HLC Data Plot
(data from GLHER)

Project Ref: N:\26000-26999\26718 - Possingham Farm\Figures\Mapping\GIS\Projects\Figure 2b.mxd



 Site Boundary (approximate)



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only



Figure 3

1769 Andrews, Dury, and Herbert
Map



 Site Boundary (approximate)




Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only



Figure 4

1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing



 Site Boundary (approximate)

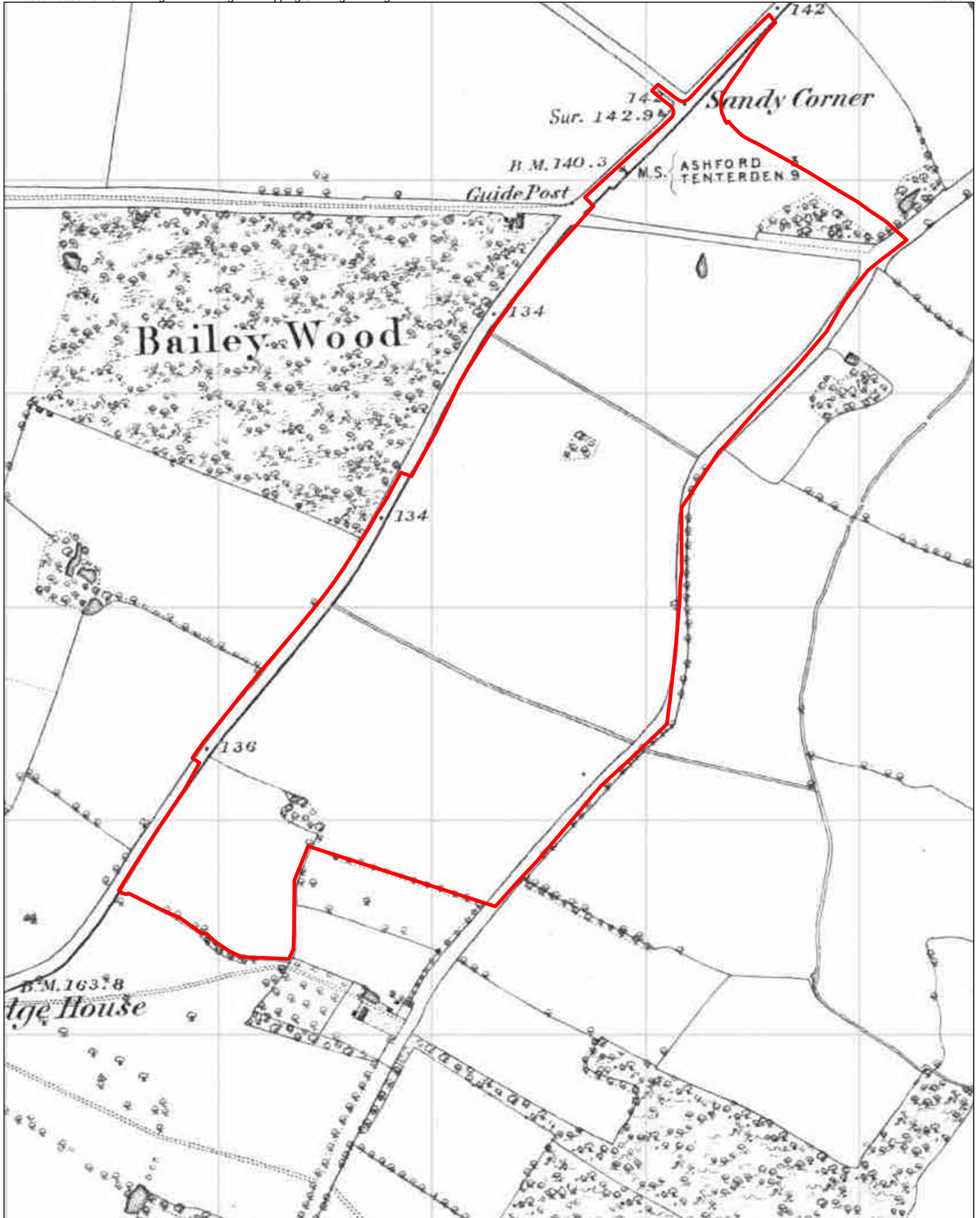


Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only



Figure 5

1839 Great Chart Tithe Map



 Site Boundary



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



Figure 6
1871 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary

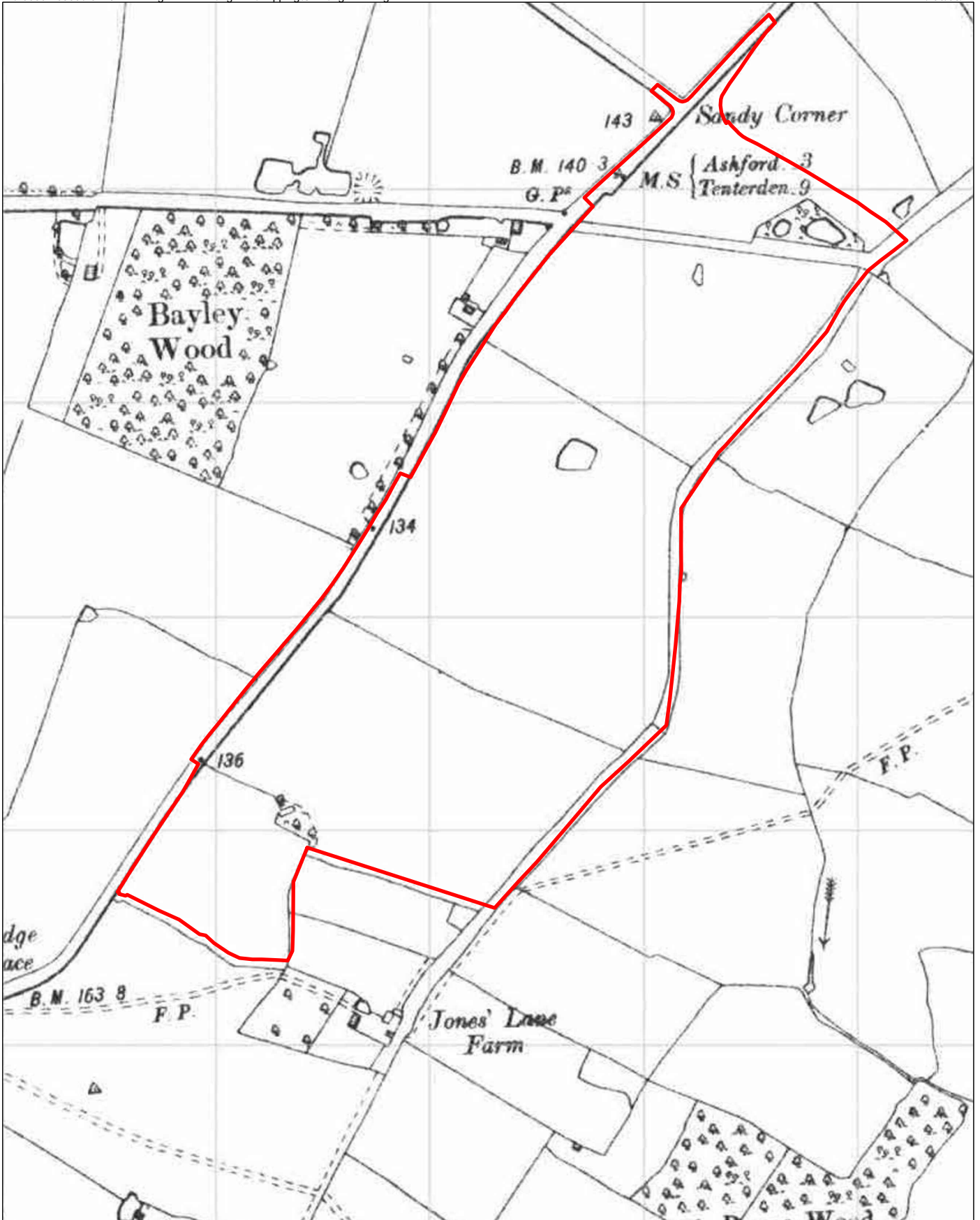


0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 7

1896 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary

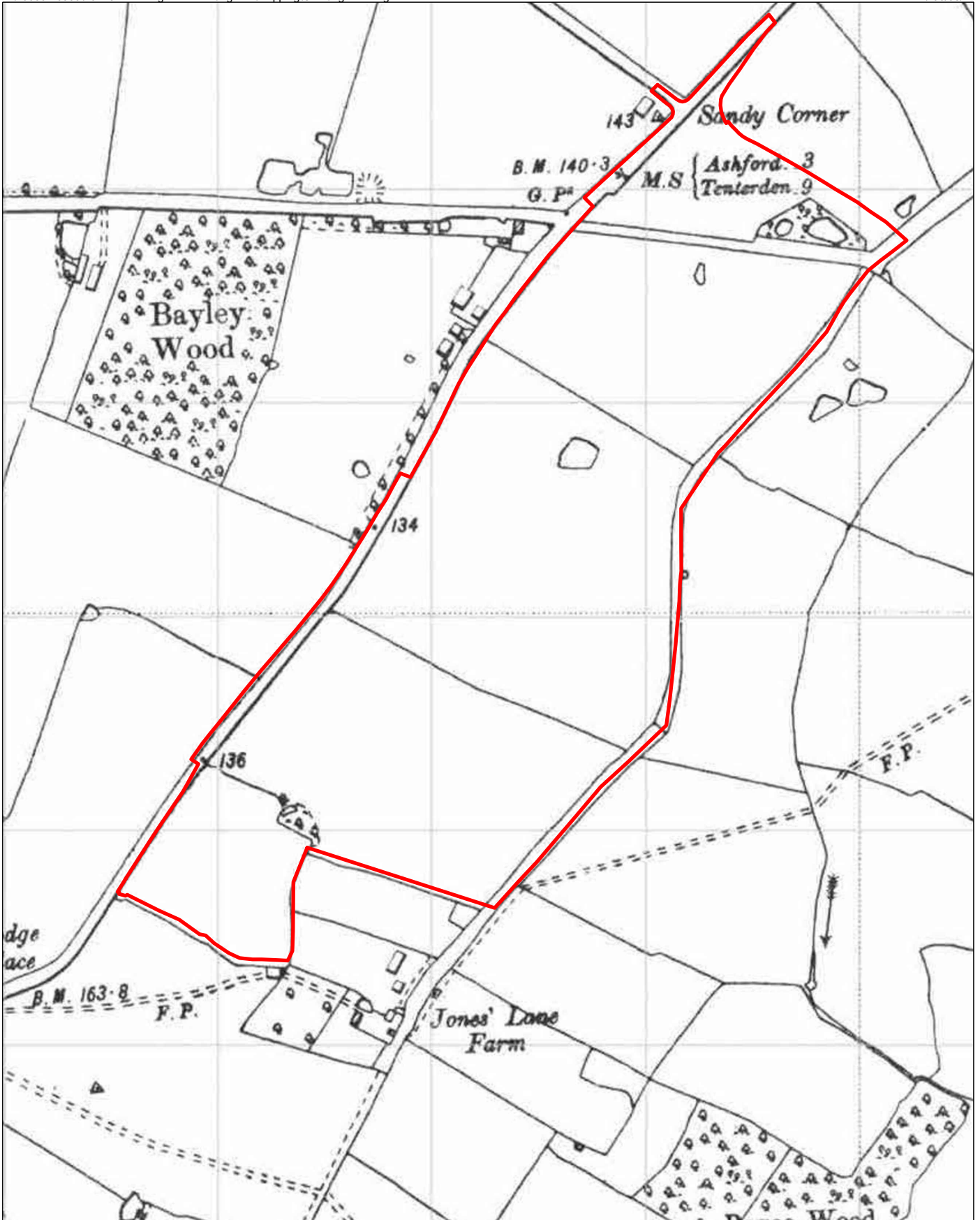


0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 8

1906 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



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



Figure 9

1938 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary




Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only



Figure 11

2018 Aerial Photograph
(Google Earth)



 Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only



Figure 12

2019 Aerial Photograph
(Google Earth)



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only



Figure 13

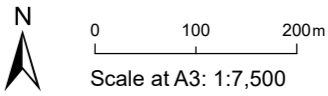
Proposed Development

APPENDIX 1
RAF Ashford Features (May 1944)1841-42



Legend

- Site Boundary
- ★ ME109E Crash Site (approximate location)
- RAF Features transcribed from Aerial Photograph**
- building/hangar
- building
- crew tents
- bund
- fence/barrier
- track
- other feature/ structure




Appendix 1:
 RAF Ashford Features
 (May 1944)

APPENDIX 2
LiDAR Survey



Legend

 Site Boundary

LiDAR DATA

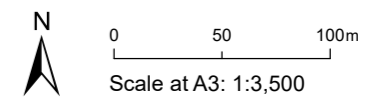
Source:
Environment Agency

Data Type: DSM

Resolution: 1m

Date Captured:
17/12/2015

Processing:
simple Local Relief Model overlaid on
Multi-direction Hillshade



Appendix 2

LiDAR Survey



rpsgroup.com