

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Land at Blowers Wood, Hoath Way, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent

28427
Blowers Wood, Hoath Way,
Gillingham
V2 Final
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Quality Management

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Redrow Homes in support of a planning application for residential development of land at Blowers Wood, Hoath Way, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent.

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 site or within three kilometres of the site, the closest being a motte and bailey castle c.3km to the south-east. The site does not form an important element of the historical setting of this scheduled monument and has no inter-visibility with the proposals, given the modest height of the residential development and the nature of the intervening topography, vegetation and built environment.

The site is located on Clay-with-flints geology which can in theory include artefacts of Palaeolithic date but such finds are rarely found in situ. Combined with the absence of finds within a kilometre of the site, there is a low potential for significant Palaeolithic archaeology.

A low potential has been identified for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods based on a paucity of local finds in the relatively 'inland' study area (a higher potential would be expected closer to the coast and River Medway where associated resources were exploited).

A low potential is considered for the presence of archaeology of Bronze Age based on the heavy Clay-with-Flint geology and paucity of local finds of Bronze Age date on the HER. However, although this paucity may reflect a genuine absence of settlement/farming of the location there has also been a lack of archaeological fieldwork in areas immediately proximate to the site, which precludes a firm conclusion.

There is low-moderate potential for Iron Age and Roman archaeology based on the scale of the site based on evidence for increasing colonisation of claylands regionally across these periods, due to advances in plough technology and the effect of increasing population. However, it is also possible that the site itself remained wooded at that time.

The hamlet of Hempstead was located within the medieval Hundred of Chatham & Gillingham but is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, the place name is typical of the Anglo-Saxon period, with its 'stead' or 'sted' suffix referencing a homestead.

The earliest standing building in Hempstead is an early 16th century farmhouse (Grade II listed) but the settlement's first documentary mention is not until the 17th century when the hamlet was known as 'Hemsted' and comprised several houses at Hempstead Road. At present there is considered to be a low potential for significant Anglo-Saxon/early medieval and medieval settlement-related archaeology at the site, although evidence for agricultural activities might be present. There is also a low potential for Post Medieval settlement, based on an absence of farms or outfarms/barns on the historic mapping within or immediately adjacent to the site, but a high potential for the presence of former field boundaries (based on the historic map evidence). Significant modern archaeology, such as military (defence of Britain) remains, is not expected based on current information.

The Historic Landscape Character of the Site is defined by its rural farmland. There are no relict field-boundaries within the site, although it is crossed by a historic footpath.

Overall, it would appear that while it is possible that archaeological remains may be present within the 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. Given the modest archaeological known potential, whilst acknowledging the absence of local fieldwork with which not make a more informed judgement, it is anticipated that the local planning authority will wish to secure an archaeological evaluation of the site, and any resulting mitigation, via a suitably worded planning condition.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This below ground archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched by Alex Slater and prepared by Robert Masefield for Redrow Homes in support of a planning application and Environmental Statement for residential development of c. 3.84 hectares of agricultural pasture land at Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3DT (site centred on NGR TQ 79812 63013).
- 1.2 The Site is located to the south side of Blowers Wood, with woodland also to the west, Hoath Way to the east and Maidstone Road flanking the site to the south. The M2 runs c.110m to the south of the south-west corner of the site.
- 1.3 The proposals are for construction of 88 dwellings including 25% affordable together with associated parking, access, open space, landscaping and SuDS.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 The scope of this report addresses below ground archaeology. No assessment of built heritage assets has been made within this report.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

National Legislation

- 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.

National Planning Policy

- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently revised 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.
- 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.
- 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 of the contribution that heritage makes towards 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 the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be *no more than sufficient* to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.6 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
- 2.7 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds, or potentially holds, 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 designated under the relevant legislation.

- 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 of a heritage asset* 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.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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

- 2.15 The relevant Local Plan framework is provided by the Medway Local Plan (adopted 2003, retained in 2007). A new Local Plan (2019-2037) is currently being prepared but the timing of its adoption is currently uncertain. Policies relevant to the historic environment in the current Local Plan comprise:

POLICY BNE20 SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS ARE DEFINED ON THE PROPOSALS MAP. DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS OR OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT SITES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IF IT WOULD:

- (I) DAMAGE OR DESTROY SUCH SITES; OR
- (II) BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR SETTING.

POLICY BNE 21 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED, UNLESS:

- (I) THE DEVELOPER, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICER, HAS ARRANGED FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION TO BE CARRIED OUT BY AN APPROVED ARCHAEOLOGICAL BODY BEFORE ANY DECISION ON THE PLANNING APPLICATION IS MADE; AND
- (II) IT WOULD NOT LEAD TO THE DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS. THERE WILL BE A PREFERENCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU.
- (III) WHERE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE DAMAGING TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, SUFFICIENT TIME AND RESOURCES ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR AN APPROPRIATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION UNDERTAKEN BY AN APPROVED ARCHAEOLOGICAL BODY. SUCH INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD BE IN ADVANCE OF DEVELOPMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SPECIFICATION AND PROGRAMME OF WORK APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. RESOURCES SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION.

- 2.16 In terms of archaeological designated heritage assets, as defined above and as shown on Figure 2a, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefields or Historic Wreck sites are known within the immediate vicinity of the site or within the 1km HER study area. The closest Six Scheduled Monument is Binbury motte and bailey castle (National List entry 1010713) located c.3km to the south-east of the site.
- 2.17 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 superficial geology comprises of Clay-with-flints above solid geology comprising Seaford Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey Online https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.130005196.1116815402.1661866874-896818113.1661866874 accessed August 2022). The Clay-with-flints is defined as 'Clay, silt, sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 23.03 million and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Neogene and Quaternary periods.'
- 3.2 Ground Investigations were undertaken for the project in 2022 (Jomas Associates Ltd June 2022). Their findings identified c.0.3m of topsoil underlain by a '*high strength clay of the Clay-With-Flints Formation, proven to depths of up to 1.2-2.7m (but in some places >3.5m); underlain by varying weathered deposits of the Seaford Chalk Formation to the base of the boreholes (maximum depth of 6.0m).*' The data suggests a former ploughsoil above untruncated geology and does not suggest any significant variation in 'topsoil' or the presence of 'made ground' deposits that might betray the presence of sub-surface archaeological features of particular interest for this assessment.

Topography

- 3.3 According to topographical survey within the Ground Investigation report (Jomas Associates 2022) the site slopes gently down from east to west; from a north-east corner at c.127.46 mAOD and south east corner at c.128.25m AOD to c.123.37 at the north-western corner. The south-west corner of the site is at c.127.02 and the centre of the site is at c.125.86m AOD,

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	-	800	BC
Iron Age	800	-	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 around the perimeter of the Site (Fig. 2a), also referred to as the study area, held on the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise (incorporating aerial photographs of 1940 and Google Earth images from 1990 to 2020) charting the development of the study area from the 18th century up to the present day (Figs. 4-16). A LiDAR plot is also provided (Fig. 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 site (none within the 1km HER study area).
- 4.3 This section provides a statement of potential for each period that takes into consideration regional research priorities and in particular the South Eastern Research Framework (SERF).
- 4.4 A review of historical mapping indicates that the site was undeveloped open land from at least the mid 19th century, when it was surrounded by woodland and agricultural land, as it is today. There were some quarries and chalk pits noted between 1866 and 1895 in areas surrounding the site (150-250m from the site). Significant road construction was undertaken to the east and south of the site prior to 1965.
- 4.5 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

Events

- 4.6 A total of eleven Events are recorded on the Kent HER within the study area shown by Figure 2a. These are cross referenced in the period-based text below where relevant.
- 4.7 Four stages of Desk Based Assessment (DBA) work were undertaken in 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1999 for the M2 widening between Junctions 1 and 4 (EKE10642; EKE11532, EKE17649, EKE17650). Junction 4 is located from c.200m to the south of the site.
- 4.8 In 2004 Essex County Council & Kent County Council. Produced an 'Archaeological survey of mineral extraction sites around the Thames Estuary' comprising a GIS-related database of important archaeological sites, that extends to the study area (EKE14761).
- 4.9 Similarly, the study area falls within the (peripheral) zone of study for 'Planarch 2 action 2A: archaeological evaluation for wetlands' project (EKE20308).
- 4.10 In terms of fieldwork a walkover survey (2004), a walkover and photographic survey (2001) and trial trenching evaluation were undertaken for the A2/M2 widening between Junctions 1 and 4 (EKE11572; EKE17651 & EKE17652). The latter also included some areas of Strip Map and Sample investigation. Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval features were identified by the intrusive fieldwork although no dated features were recorded within the present study area.
- 4.11 A negative watching brief on the instillation of a new soakaway was undertaken c.800m to the south of the site at St Peter's Church, Bredhurst in 2000 (EKE5724). In 1964 the Lower Medway Archaeological Rescue Group undertook a series of excavation trenches targeting the deserted medieval village near St Peters Church, Bredhurst (EKE4163).

Palaeolithic

- 4.12 The earliest archaeological finds in Kent date to the Palaeolithic period (c.900, 000 - 10,000BC). Even though Kent was not directly affected by glaciations, peri-glacial conditions and later erosional and depositional processes meant that few finds and activity horizon of hominins and early Homo-sapiens remained in situ. Palaeolithic hand-axes and other flint items are occasionally found disturbed within river sediments or terrace gravels.
- 4.13 The Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project (MVPP) (Wenban-Smith et al 2007; Wenban-Smith 2009) was created to aid management of the Lower/Middle Palaeolithic resource for aggregate extraction landscapes (therefore not specifically for the Clay-with-Flint geology that underlies the present site). This included 'characterisation and predictive modelling of the Palaeolithic resource in the Medway region with identification of zones of significance and research priorities'. In summary the project;
- 'builds on previous work, in particular the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project (SRPP) and The English Rivers Palaeolithic Survey (TERPS) in the 1990s, and on work carried out since 2000 under phase 1 of ALSF by the Shotton Project, the Thames Estuary Survey of Mineral Extraction Sites (TESMES). These projects have essentially been about collating known information on Palaeolithic find-spots, and relating them to existing British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping. The MVPP builds on this work in three main directions. Firstly, fieldwork was carried out to validate and develop the essential chrono-stratigraphic framework...Secondly, the MVPP has involved a more detailed analysis of previous Palaeolithic finds from aggregate deposits in the study region...These data can contribute to assessing the significance of surviving aggregate bodies, as well as in constructing a regional framework of Palaeolithic occupation and cultural change. Thirdly, while previous projects have generally produced relevant information from which to develop a predictive model, this step has not yet been taken. The MVPP [combines] collation and analysis of findspot information with better understanding of the Pleistocene framework, achieved through a combination of improved

lithostratigraphic synthesis and OSL dating, to, for the first time, generate a GIS Palaeolithic Resource Predictive Model that both characterises the Palaeolithic resource and predicts zones of interest and significance.'

- 4.14 The site also lies just outside the area of study for the Stour Basin Palaeolithic Project (Wenban-Smith 2015; Fig. 2), the limit of the study area being well to the east of the site.
- 4.15 Clay-with-Flints geology was formed both significantly prior to and also during the Palaeolithic but is generally highly disturbed by such freeze thaw conditions. No Palaeolithic finds have been recorded on the HER within the 1km study area, which probably reflects a genuine low incidence of such artefacts within associated ploughsoils at surface level. As would be expected, the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project (Wenban-Smith et al 2007) has not identified zones of potential Palaeolithic significance (that are recorded on the HER) for the study site area.
- 4.16 The potential for Palaeolithic archaeology at the site may therefore considered to be low.

Mesolithic

- 4.17 Mesolithic (c.10,000BC - 4,000BC). At the end of the upper Palaeolithic period there was still a land bridge connecting south-east England with the continent. A net rise in sea levels since the end of the last glaciation progressively flooded the former land-bridge and by the end of the Mesolithic the coastline and river systems, including the Medway, had taken a similar appearance to that of today (although there were subsequent sea level rises in later periods). Hunter-foragers of the Mesolithic tended to concentrate their activities in coastal and riverine zones where the food resources of fish, shellfish and fowl were plentiful. Despite the location relatively close to the Medway Thames confluence there are currently no Mesolithic finds on the HER within a kilometre of the site.
- 4.18 The South East Regional Framework (SERF) draws attention to coastal and riverine preference for Mesolithic activities in Kent and Sussex, although inland camps away from rivers are sometimes encountered. A generally low potential for Mesolithic evidence is therefore identified at the site itself.

Neolithic

- 4.19 The first farmers of the Neolithic (c.4000BC - 2,000BC) are credited with the establishment of forest clearances for the newly domesticated crops and stock. Rivers and streams remained of importance for the establishment of (temporary) settlement, whilst settlements are usually located on the lighter geologies such as chalk or gravel.
- 4.20 Causewayed enclosures (along with certain long-barrows) are the earliest monuments of the Neolithic dating to the 4th Millennium BC (from the 38th century BC) as the first expression of large scale communal working in Britain. They therefore also reflect the coming of the Neolithic package of the growing of crops, domestication of livestock, use of pottery etc, from continental Europe.
- 4.21 Further afield, survey work ahead of residential development at Kingsborough Farm, Eastchurch on the central ridge that runs through Sheppey, was able to identify two of the three certain causewayed enclosures from Kent (the other confirmed example is at Castle Hill, Ramsgate on the Isle of Thanet) (Wessex Archaeology 2002, 13, Whittle, Healy and Bayliss 2011, 364-371). The enclosures, which date from 3780-3520 cal BC at Kingsborough 1 and 3790-3630 cal BC at Kingsborough 2, may have been complementary with one (triple ditched Kingsborough 1) enclosure on the south facing slope of the ridge overlooking the Swale and the other (single ditched Kingsborough 2) on the north facing slope overlooking the Thames. The south facing causewayed enclosure contained a series of placed deposits of flint and pottery within its causeway ditch terminals (Champion 2007, 81-2). The exact functions of causewayed enclosures are unclear although it is likely that they were used for gatherings of groups of dispersed groups of early agriculturalists, perhaps for trading/exchange,

ceremonies and feasting. As such the location of two enclosures on the island is likely to indicate that a significant population of early Neolithic people inhabited or regularly frequented this area.

- 4.22 A radiocarbon-dating programme associated with the enclosures (Whittle, Healy and Bayliss 2011) appears to demonstrate that these particular examples were very early indeed in the causewayed enclosure sequence (but post-dating the 'Chalk Hill', Ramsgate example on Thanet) and may reflect either a culmination of an earlier 41st to 40th century BC 'bow-wave' of immigration of farmers bringing livestock and seed grain but following a period of acculturation of the indigenous hunter-gatherers, or another wave of cross-Channel/ North Sea immigration specifically bringing the causewayed enclosure building practice.
- 4.23 Also, further afield the importance of the lowland next to the Swale for occupation is shown by another important site in the area Grovehurst, near Sittingbourne (Champion 2007, 75; Lis Dyson pers comm.) where cluster of pits of a settlement site were identified. Certainly, the Medway Valley further west proved an important location for funerary monuments, rare elsewhere in Kent.
- 4.24 Despite the above no Neolithic date sites or finds are recorded on the HER for the study area. The absence of definite Neolithic archaeology at the site and within the study area, may reflect a paucity of archaeological investigation. However, the Clay-with-flints geology would have proven difficult to plough with the simple ard and Neolithic sites found regionally (usually defined by pits containing occupation evidence) tend to be associated with lighter soils.
- 4.25 The above suggests that the potential of the site itself for Neolithic settlement remains is low.

Bronze Age

- 4.26 There was a proliferation of barrows (often defined archaeologically by their external ring-ditches) in early Bronze Age date, usually associated with the 'Beaker package' including the new style of decorated Beaker vessels, beads, barbed and tanged arrowheads and stone wrist guards. Recent genetic studies have indicated that those individuals buried in British Beaker package associated barrows from 2,500BC to c.1,600BC were largely (c.90%) descended from populations from the Steppes of Eurasia, who had buried their dead in round barrows and assimilated Beaker culture during a wave of migration across Europe (e.g. Nature 2018; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982219307717>).
- 4.27 Ring-ditch monuments, often noted from aerial photographic evidence, are common in parts of Kent, especially Thanet and eastern Kent areas associated with Chalk geology. Where excavated these are usually found to date to the Early Bronze Age (with the Chalcolithic – 'copper age', encompassing the period from c.2,500 BC to c.1,500 BC), although some also date to later in the period. There is some evidence from archaeological excavations regionally, for example on the Hoo Peninsula, of accompanying occupation from around 2,500 BC, such as pottery from Allhallows (Bannister 2012).
- 4.28 Field-systems and associated settlement sites tend not to be archaeologically visible in coastal areas of Kent until the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (c.1500 BC), for example at 'Thanet Earth' (Rady and Holman et al 2019). They continue to be found in the Late Bronze Age, although not necessarily at the same locations. Mid to later Bronze Age ditched field-systems, which are usually found associated dispersed occupation sites (of round-houses), are commonly situated on low lying ground associated with river valleys in southern England generally. These field-systems demonstrate clearance of wide swathes of former forest in Kent for the earliest stable and long-lived farming settlements.
- 4.29 The above evidence attests to an increasing presence of activity in the landscape during this period, including some expansion into marginal zones such as Clay-with-Flints, which underlies the present

site. However, despite finds and features of Bronze Age date from the wider Gillingham and Rainham area there are currently none known from the study area.

- 4.30 The site's potential for Bronze Age remains is nevertheless considered to be low. If present, and given the relatively small area of the site, remains are most likely to represent land divisions rather than settlement, although the potential for settlement features cannot be ruled out.

Iron Age

- 4.31 Iron Age (c.800BC - AD43) society seems to have become increasingly territorial, with political power apparently focussed on hill forts. No defensive hillforts are found within the local area, but the area is likely to have been farmed following expansion onto clay geology areas from the lighter geologies in the period.
- 4.32 The area notionally lay within the territory of the Cantiaci in the Late Iron Age, although the political situation was turbulent and the influence of the Catuvelluani was evident at times.
- 4.33 There is considerable evidence of Late Iron Age activity along the north Kent coastline with a great diversity of sites including enclosed defensive sites and non-defensive settlements, such as the 'Thanet Earth' site on the Isle of Thanet near Ramsgate (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 2010; Rady and Holman 2019).
- 4.34 Although there are currently no certain Iron Age sites at or within the close vicinity of the site, two ditches and a pit of 'possible prehistoric date' were found at Abbot's Court Farm, c.570m to the south-west of the site, during the archaeological investigations in advance of the A2/M2 widening in 2000 and may therefore be of Iron Age or earlier prehistoric date (EKE17652).
- 4.35 A low to moderate potential can be ascribed for this period given the paucity of local investigations and the wider evidence for agricultural expansion in this period. Evidence of agricultural/pastoral activity is most likely to be represented.

Roman

- 4.36 With the Roman Period (AD43- AD410) came a re-organisation of the settlement system with the establishment of an efficient road network. The further rise of non-agriculturally based professions such as traders and administrators was indicative of a boom in the rural economy. As a result of an increase of wealth, stability and rising population Romano-British sites are relatively common in the region.
- 4.37 The nearest major Roman settlement to the site was Rochester, c.6 km to the north-west, whilst the course of Roman Watling Street is followed by the modern High Street at Gillingham and Moor Street at Rainham (the A2) some 3.8 km to the north of the site (HER ref: TQ 86 SW 132; Margary 1955). Excavations along the course of the road (beyond the present study area) have shown it to be 8m wide with compacted gravel surfaces and ditches on each side (HER ref: MKE4004). Typical archaeological features within landscapes associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, roadside ditches and associated land division, together with quarry pits, burials and chance losses.
- 4.38 Margary (1955, 36-7) considered that there may be an earlier pre-existing trackway (also beyond the study area shown as Fig. 2a) but argued on balance the evidence was inconclusive. Part of an earlier road was uncovered in Dartford, along Spital Street (HER ref: TQ 57 SW 247), preceding the established Watling Street but it is unknown if it extends the whole route.
- 4.39 Despite the presence of the Roman road in the wider area, the HER for the 1km study area around the site itself has no records relating to occupation or farming of the study area.

- 4.40 Given the existence of a major Roman road and a town within the wider area, the possibility of archaeological evidence for farming cannot be discounted (although equally the site may also have remained wooded in this period). The archaeological potential for Roman evidence on the site can be considered as generally low to moderate.

Saxon/Early Medieval

- 4.41 The Saxon Period (AD410-AD1066) is marked by the evacuation of the Roman army and administration under Honorius in AD410. Saxons, Jutes and Angles arrived in a gradual response to the power vacuum left by the departure of the Romans and population pressures in their homelands. Later in the period a defensive camp of Saxon date may be located at the site of Queenborough Castle on Sheppey (Scott Wilson 2008, 18) and may be linked to the 9th century records of Danish wintering and grazing stock at Sheppey.
- 4.42 The village of Bredhurst and hamlet of Hempstead were located within the medieval Hundred of Chatham & Gillingham. Neither is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, the place names are typical of the Anglo-Saxon period, with Bredhurst's suffix from the Old English 'hyrst' meaning "hillock, eminence, height, wood, wooded eminence" and the 'stead' or 'sted' suffix of Hempstead referencing a homestead.
- 4.43 Nearby Gillingham and Rainham also have are early Anglo-Saxon place names (originally ending as '-ingaham'). Gillingham is thought to have been named after a warlord, 'Gyllingas'. The earliest documentary evidence for the settlement at Rainham is a charter of 811 AD when it is recorded as a Royal Estate (K. P. Witney, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 104, p102-103). Early Saxon features including sunken floored features have been investigated in the wide area (e.g. Wessex Archaeology 2020), including at Rainham, but no such settlements are yet known from the present study area. The location of the Anglo-Saxon estate centre at Rainham is unknown, but it is likely to have been close to the Roman Road and the late Medieval St Margaret's Church which is approximately 3.6 km to the north-east of the site.
- 4.44 There are no Anglo-Saxon period sites or finds recorded within the study area suggesting that the site was located beyond the core of local settlements in the Anglo-Saxon period at which time the rural settlement pattern was characterised by dispersed farmsteads. The site is therefore likely to have comprised of woodland or agricultural land at this time. As such, the potential for Saxon settlement remains on the site can be defined as generally low. Evidence for agricultural activity and land division may be present.

Medieval

- 4.45 With the arrival of the Norman aristocracy in 1066 came a further reorganisation of the settlement pattern based on feudalism and the 'three field' system of farming. Medieval rural sites beyond the key market towns include religious centres such as a Nunnery at Hoo and Minster Abbey on Sheppey.
- 4.46 Gillingham was gifted given to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, the half-brother of William the Conqueror, after the conquest of 1066 and he rebuilt the parish church and constructed an 'Archbishop's Palace' at land bordered by Grange Road (the ruins of which remained were extant until the 1900's). In 1086 Gillingham comprised a modest hamlet around the parish church and surrounded by large farms. By the time of Domesday Book (1086), Rainham had been absorbed into the large Royal Manors of Milton and therefore does not have a separate entry. Later documentary evidence suggests that St Margaret's Church was in existence by AD 1100, while the earliest fabric in the existing building is 13th century.

- 4.47 The site is located within Bredhurst parish which, as noted, was not mentioned at the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, documentary records summarised by British History Online (accessed September 13 2022) includes the following:

“THE last parish undescribed in this hundred is that of Bredhurst, which lies at the north-west corner of it, adjoining to the parish of Rainham northward, being wholly in the division of West Kent. This place takes its name from its situation among the woods, Brade, in old English, signifying broad, and burst a wood, i. e. the broad extended wood.

The manor of Hollingborne claims over a part of this parish. Bredhurst lies about two miles northward from the summit of the chalk hills, and joins that part of Boxley which lies above them; to the northward it joins Rainham, the churches being about two miles and a half apart. The parish is surrounded by an extensive range of woods...

THE MANOR of Bredhurst was antiently part of the possessions of the eminent family of Northwood, of Northwood Castenors, in Middleton; one of whom, John de Northwood, died possessed of it in the second year of king Richard II as appears by the escheat-rolls of that year. And in this church was once a brass plate for William Northwood, and four of his sons, who lie buried here. Soon after which, this manor, with that of Merecourt, in the adjoining parish of Rainham, and the estates called Merethorne, now Meresbarrow, was purchased, among others, by John, duke of Lancaster, and others...in the last will of king Edward III. That king... the duke of Lancaster, and others his feoffees. ... in compliance with the king's will, purchased the manors of Bredhurst and Mere, among other premises in this county and elsewhere, in the beginning of king Richard II's reign...”

- 4.48 The site of a deserted Medieval village (DMV) known as ‘Bredhurst town’ is located from 650m to the south of the site (MKE2459). An area of copse c.70m to the south-east of the Church of St Peter was excavated via trenches in 1964 and exposed a number of flint rubble and mortar wall foundations considered part of the DMV, datable via pottery to AD 1300-1400. Two c.10m diameter depressions, 1.5m deep, were reported to be collapsed deneholes (or quarries).
- 4.49 The associated Grade II listed church of St Peter, Bredhurst Site (National List 1185866; TQ 76 SE 7) is of Norman origin with a 13th century south aisle (partially rebuilt in 1866). The church is built from flint with stone dressings and has a tiled roof.
- 4.50 Abbots Court Farmhouse at Bredhurst, c.300m to the south of the site, also dates from c.AD1400 and later and is a Grade II Listed Building (MKE89052; TQ 76 SE 74; National List 1186019).
- 4.51 The HER reports that the site of St Mary Magdalene's chapel, as mentioned from AD 1500 in the Consistory Wills and as in use up until 1782, was located at Lidsing c.550m to the north-west of the site (MKE2457; TQ 76 SE 3). A low mound and building debris represent the surface remains of the chapel and several fragments of gravestones represent the graveyard.
- 4.52 Medieval building and ditch are recorded in 1965 near St Peter's Church for a location c.650m to the south of the site (MKE2481; EKE4163; TQ 76 SE 29).
- 4.53 As with the Saxon period, the site was probably characterised by either woodland or farmland in the Medieval period. As such, the site can be considered to have a low potential for Medieval settlement remains. Evidence of agricultural activity / land division or quarrying is most likely to be represented.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.54 There are a larger number of Post Medieval sites detailed in the HER for the study area. These include Post Medieval farmsteads recorded by the Kent Farmsteads & Landscape Project in 2012 within the study area. These include Abbots Court Farm, loose courtyard plan farmstead of c.AD

1540 c. 250m to the south of the site (MKE89052); Green Court (Green Farm), a dispersed farmstead of c.AD 1700 c.590m to the south west of the site (MKE84846); a c.AD 1800 outfarm with a loose courtyard plan to the north east of Green Court c.570m to the south west of the site (MKE84847); Paris Farm, a loose courtyard plan farmstead of c. AD 1800 c.600m to the south east of the site (MKE84870); Kemsley Street Farm, a regular multiyard farmstead of c. AD 1700 c.590m to the south east of the site (MKE84871); and an outfarm in Kemsley Street comprising a field barn and courtyard of c.AD 1800 c.550m to the south east of the site (MKE84872).

- 4.55 Grade II Listed Buildings of Post Medieval date within the study area (not plotted on Figure 2a) include the 17th century 'The Bell' Public House at Bredhurst (TQ 76 SE 63; National List 1086218); the 17th century house, 'Horseshoes' (TQ 76 SE 65; National List 1086219); a 17th century house 'Hollyhock Cottage' (TQ 76 SE 72, National List 1186014 & TQ 76 SE 66, National List 1336267); the 18th century Kemsley Street Farmhouse (TQ 86 SW 87; National List 1336268); 18th century table tombs at the Church of St. Peter (TQ 76 SE 68, National List 1086217; TQ 76 SE 67; National List 1186003); and an 18th century and later house at Boxley 'Green Court' (TQ 76 SE 73; National List 1186007). A former Congregational Chapel of c.1860 is located at Bredhurst (TQ 76 SE 117).
- 4.56 During the later Post Medieval and Modern periods, our understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 4.57 The approximate location of the site is shown on the 1596 Symondson's Map of Kent (not illustrated) and the 1796 Andrews, Dury and Herbert map (Fig. 3) depicts the local settlements, roads and woodland of the area but the site area is not detailed other than as open landscape south of a wood.
- 4.58 The Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1801 (Fig. 4) shows the site area approximately in fields south of 'Park Wood'.
- 4.59 The 1839 Tithe Map, Bredhurst (Fig.5) provides added detail and the site can be accurately located. The site is formed by parts of two fields owned by Charles James Auriel Esq. and occupied by Thomas Pell (Field 16 – 'Foster Field and 9 Acres' and Field 17 'Old Chalk Pit Wood'). The name 'Blowers Wood' (for the woodland fringe immediately north of the site) may originate from the 'Blower' or the 'Bloor' family who lived at 'Bloor Place', now a Grade II* listed building (National List 1267763) to the south side of Lower Rainham Road c.4.5km north east of the site. Christopher Blower (or 'Bloor') Esq. held 'Bloors Place' (formerly Blowers Place) in c. AD 1500. His first daughter Olympia married Sir John Tufton in 1611, and they came into possession of the house. Their first son Sir Nicholas Tufton was created Earl of Thanet in 1628. The 1839 tithe map confirms 'Blowers Wood' adjacent to the site continued to be held by the Earl of Thanet (<http://www.rainham-history.co.uk/>; Kent online Parish Clerks <https://www.kent-opc.org/>).
- 4.60 The general character of the Site has been altered since then by removal of most of the 19th century field boundaries to provide larger fields more suitable for modern arable farming techniques.
- 4.61 The associated apportionment provides further information on land ownership and use:

1839 Tithe Apportionments, Bredhurst - Kent

Land Parcel	Landowner	Occupant	Description	Land Use/ Cultivation
16	Charles James Auriel Esq.	Thomas Pell	Foster Field and 9 Acres	Arable
17	Charles James Auriel Esq.	Thomas Pell	Old Chalk Pit Wood	Wood
81	The Crown	The Crown	Wood	Wood
82	Earl of Thanet	Earl of Thanet	Blowers Wood	Wood
87	Earl of Thanet	Earl of Thanet	Shaw Adjoining	Wood

- 4.62 The 1865 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 (Fig. 6) shows the site as undeveloped. There is a pathway running through the centre of the site. The site is surrounded by woodland immediately north, from c.50m to the south east, from c.350m north east and from c.500m south west. A graveyard is depicted approximately 625m to the north west.
- 4.63 The 1876 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (Fig. 7) also shows a quarry c.150m to the west of the site, whilst the 1897 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 and 1897 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale show no changes on the site (not illustrated). The woodland c.50m to the south east has been felled and the quarry 150m to the west is no longer present, but an 'old chalk pit' c.250m to the west is shown/ An old gravel pit is also depicted 675m north west.
- 4.64 No significant changes are shown on the 1908 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey (Fig.8), or the 1938 1:10,560 and 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey maps (see Fig. 9 for the latter), although a there is a reservoir depicted c.300m north-east on the latter.
- 4.65 Vertical aerial photographs of 1940 and 1960 vertical aerial photograph (Figs 10 and 11) and the 1955 1:10,560 and 1965 1:1,250 Ordnance Survey maps also show no changes at the site. There is some suggestion on the 1940 aerial photograph of former rows of planting such as for fruit trees or for another form of horticulture during the war.
- 4.66 By the 1966 – 1968 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey (Fig. 12) roads are shown running directly along the eastern (Hoath Way A278) and southern (Maidstone Road) boundaries and the M2 motorway is now present c.100m to the south, running east to south west. These roads are shown constructed on raised embankments.
- 4.67 The 1974 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey (Fig. 13) shows no changes at the site, although the reservoir to the north has been increased in size and is now covered.
- 4.68 Aerial images of 1990 (Fig. 14) and 1999 (not illustrated) show the site without its western boundary such that it forms a single field with the area to the west. There are no further changes by the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey map of 2001. By the aerial image of 2008 the western boundary of the site is shown once more and the area to the west is now shown with a combination of tree / shrub and grass vegetation. Shrubs / trees are also shown in the north-western area of the site, to the west of the footpath which forms a boundary within the site. The 2013 aerial image shows no changes (Fig. 15).
- 4.69 There is no further changes by the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey map of 2010 but the 2015 and 2018 aerial images shows the former area of trees/ shrubs in the north-western area of the site had now been cleared (see Fig. 16). No archaeological features are apparent on the various Google Earth images.
- 4.70 Based on the above data and on the absence of farms or outfarms/barns on the historic mapping, there is a low potential for post medieval settlement within the site but a high potential for the presence of former field boundaries (also based on the historic mapping). Significant modern archaeology, such as military (defence of Britain) remains, is not expected based on current information.

Undated / Crop Marks

- 4.71 There were two undated ditches recorded during the A2/M2 widening works ahead of the Junction 4 roundabout construction in 2000 (TQ 76 SE 127). One of the ditches may have been associated with a trackway.

- 4.72 An undated denehole known (known as chalkwells in the area) was identified in 1990 within a road near Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (TQ 76 SE 44).
- 4.73 A negative watching brief on the instillation of a new soakaway was undertaken at St Peter's Church, Bredhurst in 2000 (EKE5724).

LiDAR

- 4.74 As noted above Environment Agency LiDAR data for the Site (Fig. 17) illustrates the topography of the site is relatively flat with no clear evidence for archaeology.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 4.75 The area is described by the Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation (Fig. 2b) as "Prairie fields (19th cent enclosure with extensive boundary loss)". There are no surviving hedgerows within the site due to boundary loss.

Assessment of Significance

- 4.76 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.
- 4.77 This assessment has been developed in accordance with the South-East Research Framework Resource Assessment & Research Agenda documents (held on-line at www.kent.gov.uk/serf) to inform understanding of significance.

Designated archaeological assets

- 4.78 No archaeological designated archaeological heritage assets as defined in the NPPF are recorded on or in close proximity to the site. The closest is a nationally significant Medieval motte and bailey castle Scheduled Monument located c.3km to the south-east (National List entry 1010713).

Undesignated archaeological assets

- 4.79 As identified by desk-based work and the results of nearby archaeological work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance (DCMS 2013) 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) Prior to an Assessment of 20 th century development impacts:
Palaeolithic	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance;
Mesolithic	Low potential, Low (Local) Significance. Residual worked flint may be present
Neolithic (excluding Chalcolithic)	Low potential, Low (Local) most likely such as isolated pits and/or residual flintwork.
Bronze Age (including Chalcolithic)	Low-Moderate potential, Low (Local) significance.
Iron Age	Low-Moderate potential, Low (Local) significance.
Roman	Low-Moderate potential, Low (Local) Significance.
Anglo-Saxon (early medieval) & Medieval	Low potential for evidence of occupation or settlement activity (evidence for land division and agricultural activity could conceivably have been present), Low (Local) Significance;

Post Medieval & Modern	Low for settlement and High potential (former field boundaries), Low (Local) Significance.
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- 4.80 This assessment has identified that the archaeological potential of the site can be considered to be a low for the Palaeolithic period.
- 4.81 A low potential and most likely low (local) significance (if present) is predicted for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, with isolated pits and/or residual flintwork most likely to be found. A higher potential would be expected closer to the coast.
- 4.82 A low to moderate potential and likely low (local) significance is considered most likely at this stage for Bronze Age archaeology.
- 4.83 A low to moderate potential for Iron Age archaeology of probable low (local) significance is predicted based on the HER context.
- 4.84 A low-moderate potential and low (local) significance is predicted for archaeology of Roman date.
- 4.85 A low potential for evidence of occupation or settlement activity of Anglo-Saxon and/or medieval date is concluded (evidence for land division and agricultural activity could conceivably have been present). Such archaeology is most likely to be of low (local) significance.
- 4.86 There is also a low potential for post medieval settlement but high potential for the presence of former field boundaries (based on historic map evidence). Such archaeology is most likely to be of low (local) significance. Modern archaeology such as military (defence of Britain) remains is not expected based on current information.
- 4.87 Overall, it would appear that while it is possible that archaeological remains may be present within the 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. However, there is a possibility that some currently poorly defined remains or currently unknown archaeology may be of moderate significance. Given the land has been subject to ploughing that will have removed upstanding earthworks, removed former ground surfaces and truncated upper levels of buried features, well-preserved archaeology of high (national) significance is not anticipated.

Historic Landscape significance

- 4.88 The Historic Landscape of the site has been altered since the 19th century due to the removal of a former 19th century enclosure boundary shown on the 1839 Tithe Map (Fig. 5). The present footpath alignment is only shown on historic maps from 1865 onwards and is at odd with the earlier field alignment. Therefore, the historic landscape of the site is of relatively low significance.

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

Site Conditions

- 5.1 A site visit and walkover was conducted on 31st August 2022. The weather conditions were high cloud with bright spells and visibility was generally good. Site photographs are provided as Plates at the end of the report.
- 5.2 The A278, Hoath Way, runs to the east side of the site but is separated from the site by a wooded fringe. A similarly narrow vegetated fringe flanks Maidstone Road to the south-east of the site. Wider bands of deciduous woodland, 'Blowers Wood' flank the northern and western sides of the site. In the wider area the site is surrounded by residential properties to the north and east, with undeveloped fields to the south and west.
- 5.3 The site is accessed via a 2.7m long gate via a bell-mouth off Maidstone Road. There are two concrete blocks 2.2m apart at the entrance.
- 5.4 The site is covered by grass with 8-10m tall trees running along the site boundaries. A footpath (used for access) runs across the site from north to south. There are no extant structures or evidence for demolished buildings within the site.
- 5.5 The Ground Investigation preliminary risk assessment report (March 2022) identified 'mounds scattered throughout the site' although these were found to be small natural hummocks as are often found on grassland and are associated with ants/insects.
- 5.6 No archaeological features of interest were observed.

Proposed Development

- 5.7 The proposals are for construction of 88 dwellings including 25% affordable together with associated parking, access, open space, landscaping and SuDS. The proposed detailed layout is provided as Appendix 2.

Review of Development of Designated Archaeological Assets

- 5.8 As indicated there are no nationally significant Scheduled Monuments within the vicinity of the site, the closest being c.3km to the south-east. The site walkover confirmed that views south-east from the site, towards the distant medieval motte and bailey castle, are blocked by the trees bordering the southern edge of the site and by more distant topography, vegetation and built environment. Therefore, there would be no visual effect from development on the significance of the castle, and people's ability to appreciate its significance would be unaffected. This assessment is also applicable for several other more distant Scheduled Monuments further afield but within 5km of the site.
- 5.9 Overall, the above initial setting assessment suggests there would be no setting effects in terms of inter-visibility between the proposed residential development and scheduled monuments.

- 5.10 This report does not assess potential effects to Listed Buildings although these too would be well screened by the surrounding woodland fringes.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

- 5.11 Overall, it would appear that while it is possible that archaeological remains may be present within the 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.
- 5.12 In view of the site's low or low-moderate archaeological potential based on the HER record, development on the site is considered unlikely to have a widespread or high level of adverse effect on buried archaeology.
- 5.13 However, given the absence of archaeological fieldwork at the site itself, it is anticipated that Kent County Council's Heritage advisors (at KCC Heritage) will recommend that a suitably worded pre-commencement archaeological condition is applied to the Outline Planning Consent. The purpose of the condition would be to secure archaeological evaluation fieldwork ahead of detailed design, to ensure that archaeological remains, if present, are suitably mitigated by design or by preservation by record.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Redrow Homes in support of a planning application for residential development of land at Blowers Wood, Hoath Way, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent.
- 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 site or within three kilometres of the site, the closest being a motte and bailey castle c.3km to the south-east. The site does not form an important element of the historical setting of this scheduled monument and has no inter-visibility with the proposals, given the modest height of the residential development and the nature of the intervening topography, vegetation and built environment.
- 6.4 The site is located on Clay-with-flints geology which can in theory include artefacts of Palaeolithic date but such finds are rarely found in situ. Combined with the absence of finds within a kilometre of the site, there is a low potential for significant Palaeolithic archaeology.
- 6.5 A low potential has been identified for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods based on a paucity of local finds in the relatively 'inland' study area (a higher potential would be expected closer to the coast and River Medway where associated resources were exploited).
- 6.6 A low potential is considered for the presence of archaeology of Bronze Age based on the heavy Clay-with-Flint geology and paucity of local finds of Bronze Age date on the HER. However, although this paucity may reflect a genuine absence of settlement/farming of the location there has also been a lack of archaeological fieldwork in areas proximate to the site which precludes a firm conclusion.
- 6.7 There is low-moderate potential for Iron Age and Roman archaeology based on the scale of the site based on evidence for increasing colonisation of claylands regionally across these periods, due to advances in plough technology and the effect of increasing population. However, it is also possible that the site itself remained wooded at that time.
- 6.8 The hamlet of Hempstead was located within the medieval Hundred of Chatham & Gillingham but is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, the place name is typical of the Anglo-Saxon period, with its 'stead' or 'sted' suffix referencing a homestead.
- 6.9 The earliest standing building in Hempstead is an early 16th century farmhouse (Grade II listed) but the settlement's first documentary mention is not until the 17th century when the hamlet was known as 'Hemsted' and comprised several houses at Hempstead Road. At present there is considered to be a low potential for significant Anglo-Saxon/early medieval and medieval settlement-related archaeology at the site, although evidence for agricultural activities might be present. There is also a low potential for Post Medieval settlement, based on an absence of farms or outfarms/barns on the historic mapping within or immediately adjacent to the site, but a high potential for the presence of former field boundaries (based on the historic map evidence). Significant modern archaeology, such as military (defence of Britain) remains, is not expected based on current information.
- 6.10 The Historic Landscape Character of the Site is defined by its rural farmland. There are no relict field-boundaries within the site, although it is crossed by a historic footpath.
- 6.11 Overall, it would appear that while it is possible that archaeological remains may be present within the 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. Given the modest archaeological known potential, whilst acknowledging the absence of local fieldwork with which not make a more informed judgement, it is anticipated that the local

planning authority will wish to secure an archaeological evaluation of the site, and any resulting mitigation, via a suitably worded planning condition.

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Cartographic

1596 Symonson's Map of Kent

1796 Andrews, Dury and Herbert map

1798 Map of the Hundred of Hoo and of Chatham and Gillingham

1839 Tithe Map, High Halstow

1862-3 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

1863-64 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

1897 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

1908 -09 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

1927 Aerial Photographs (Britain From Above)

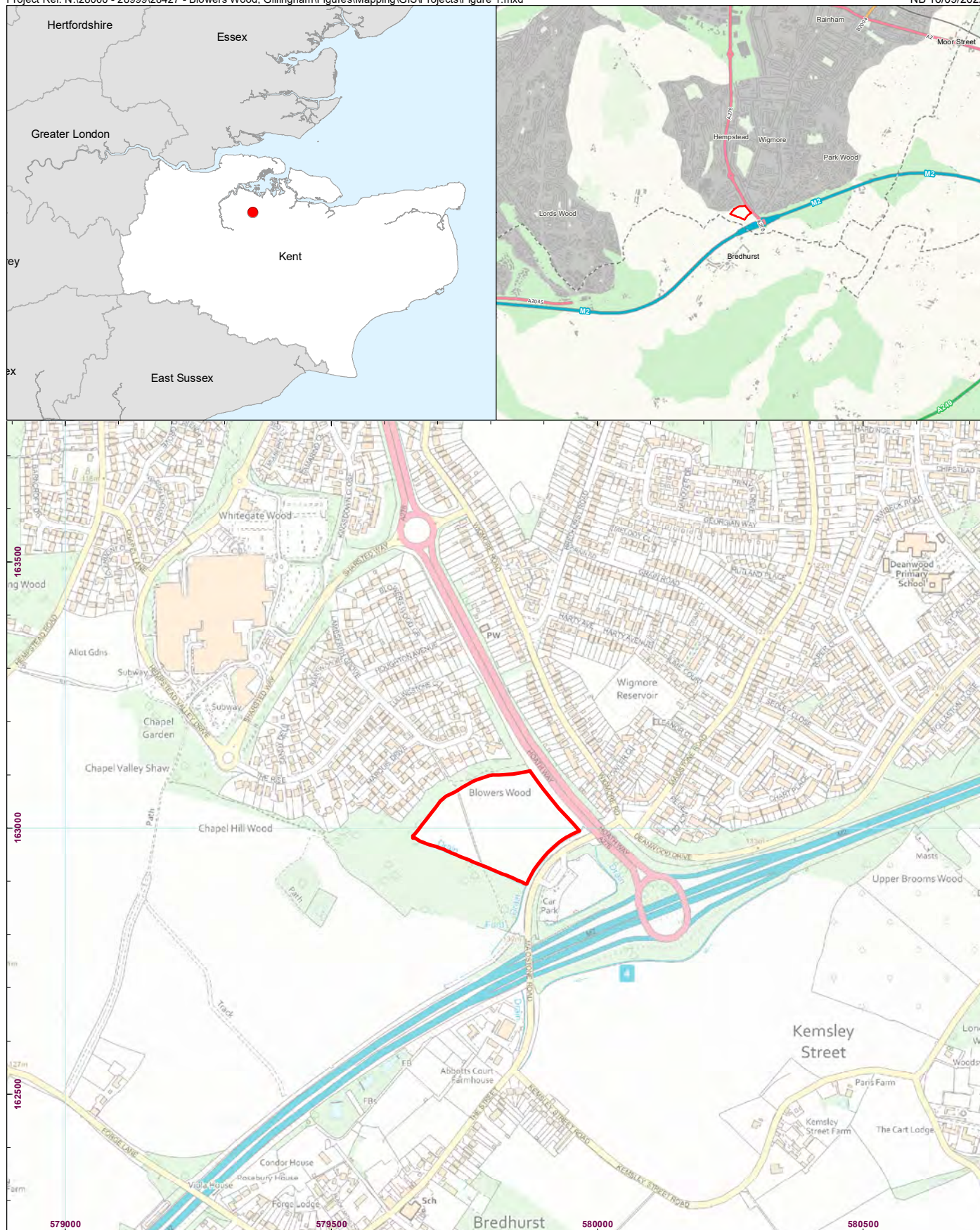
1961 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

1976 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

1993 Ordnance Survey 1:2500

FIGURES





 Site Boundary

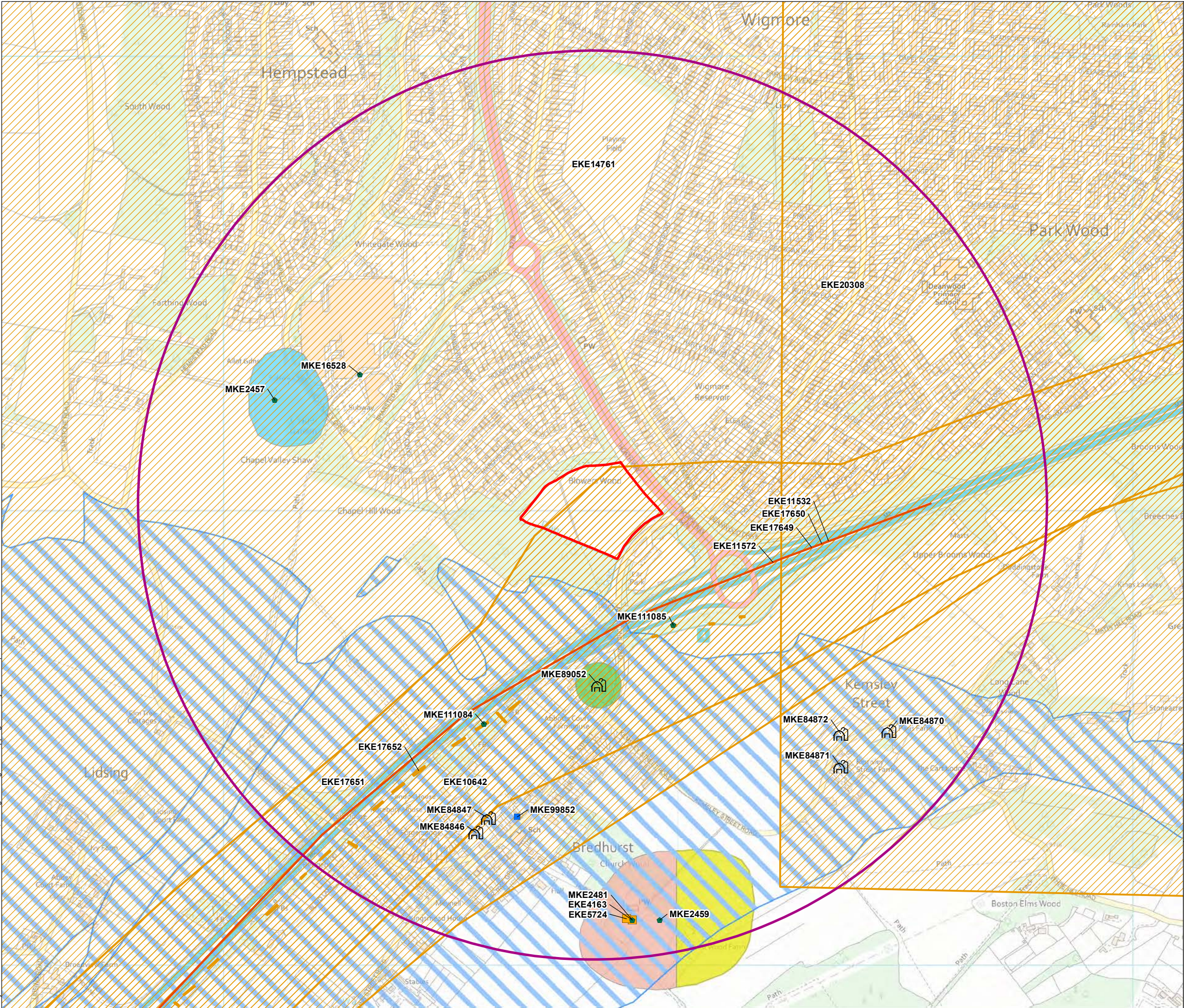


0 100 200m
Scale at A4: 1:10,000

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Figure 1
Site Location

Project Ref: N128000 - 28999128427 - Blowers Wood, GillinghamFiguresMapping(GIS)Projects\HER plot.mxd



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 1km search radius

Non-designated Heritage Assets:

HER Records Points

- Monuments
- Buildings
- Farmsteads

Areas of Archaeological Potential

- AAP Surrounding Md & Pm church, village and other building/ditch
- AAP around Bredhurst
- AAP around historic farmstead (within 75m of medieval structure)
- AAP surrounding MD & PM chapel
- ANA around area of multiperiod

Previous Archaeological Work:

- HER Events Points
- HER Events Lines
- HER Events Polygons

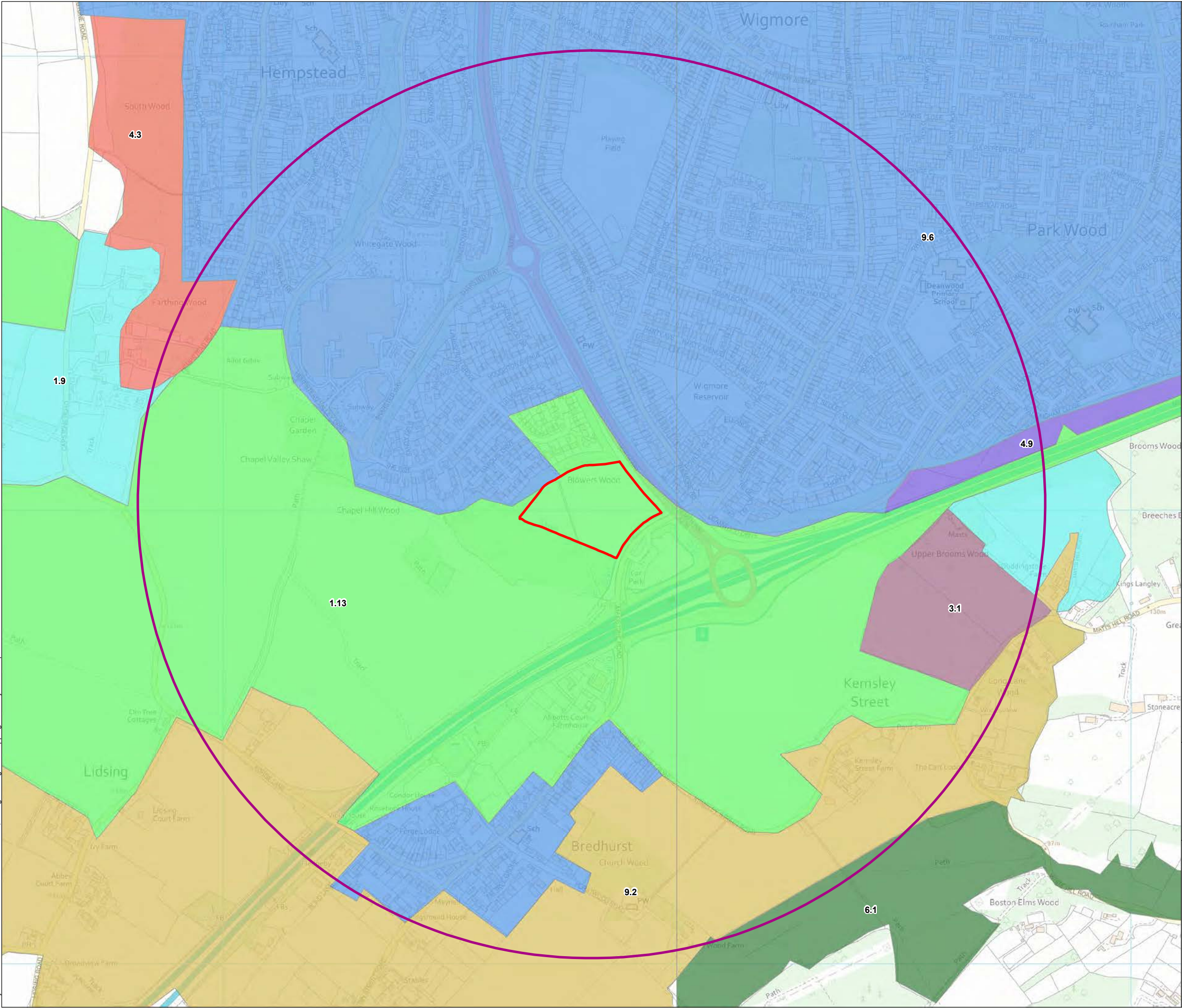


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Scale at A3: 1:8,000



Figure 2a

HER Plot



Legend

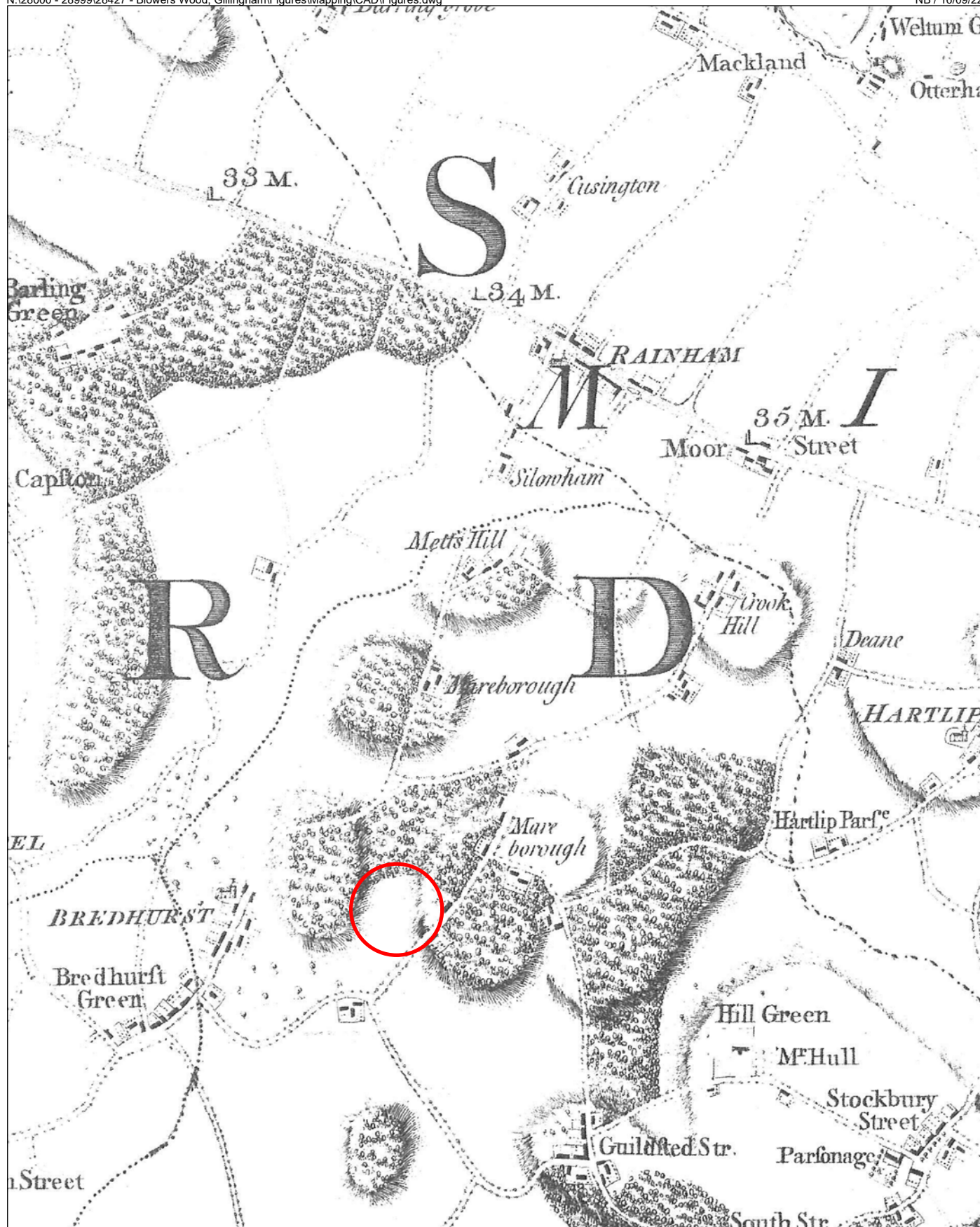
- Site Boundary
- 1km search radius
- Historic Landscape Characterisation:
 - Downland
 - Orchards
 - Other pre-1810 Woodland
 - Post 1810 settlement (general)
 - Prairie fields (19th cent enclosure with extensive boundary loss)
 - Pre 19th century Coppices
 - Scattered settlement with paddocks (post 1800 extent)
 - Small regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)



0 100 200m
Scale at A3: 1:8,000



Figure 2b
Historic Landscape
Characterisation



Approximate site location



Not to Scale
Illustrative Only



Figure 3

1769 Andrews, Dury and Herbert
Map



Approximate site location



Not to Scale
Illustrative Only



Figure 4

1801 Ordnance Survey Drawing



 Site Boundary

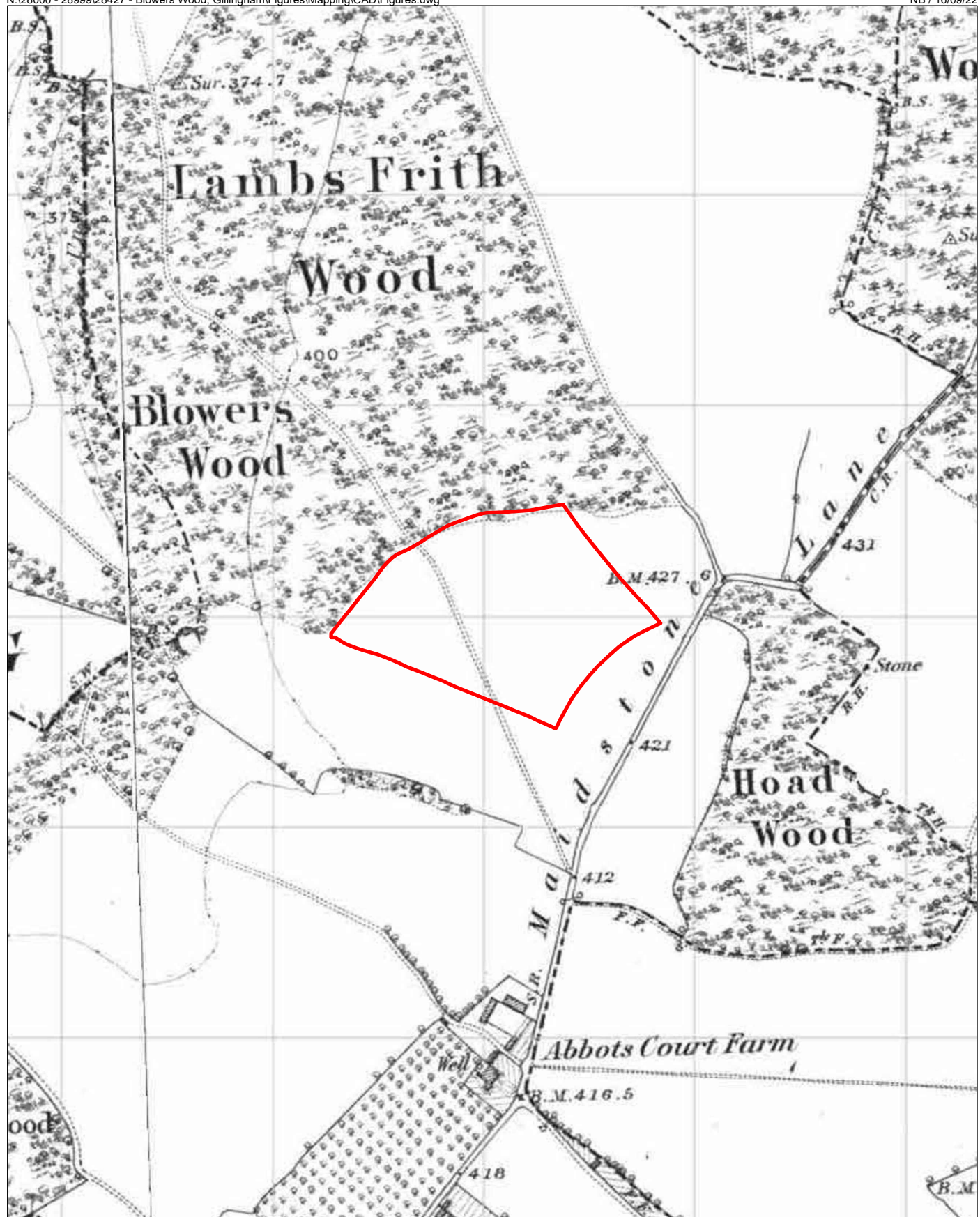


0 50 100m
Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 5

1839 Tithe Map, Bredhurst



 Site Boundary



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

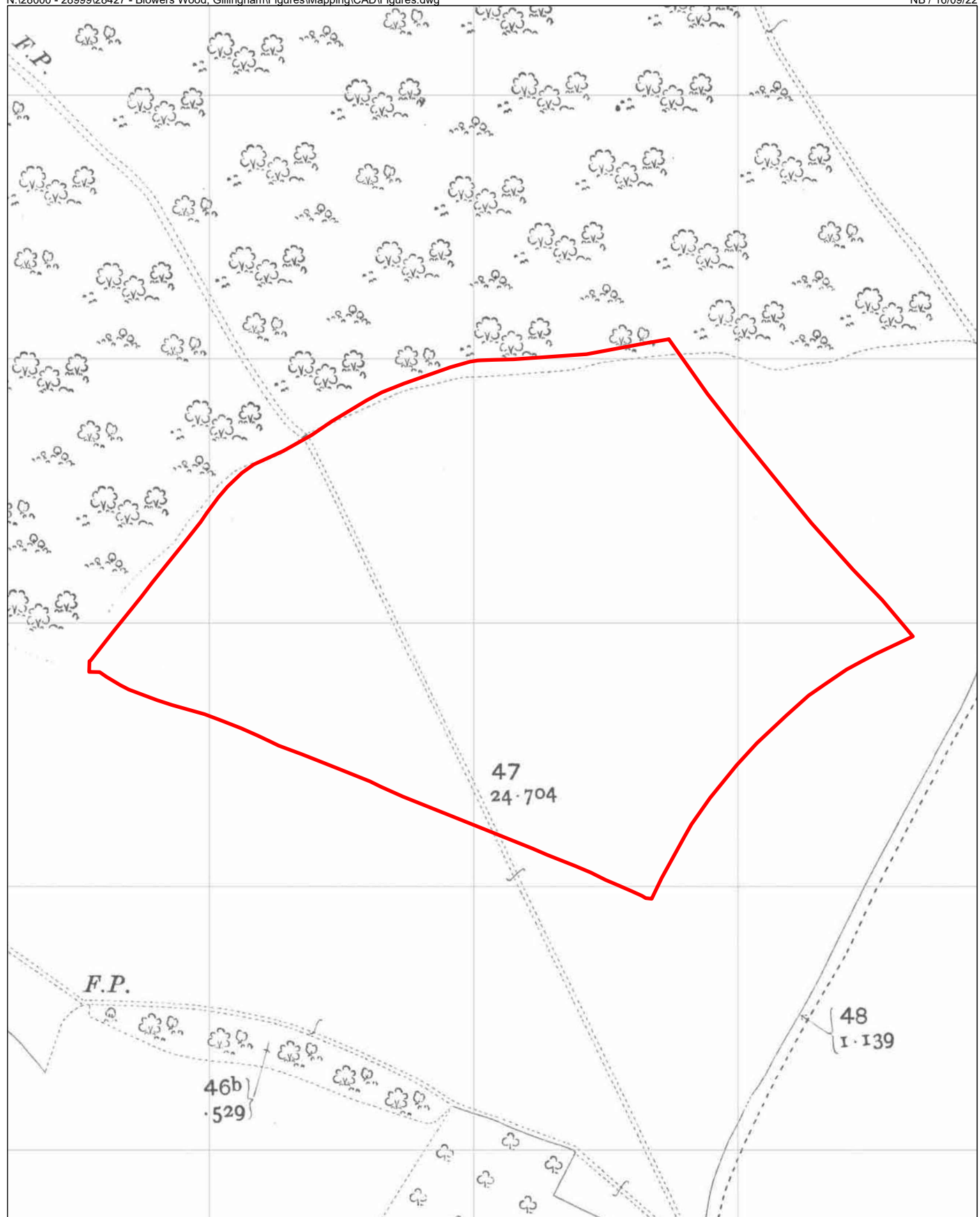
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Figure 6

1865 Ordnance Survey Map



1897 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary

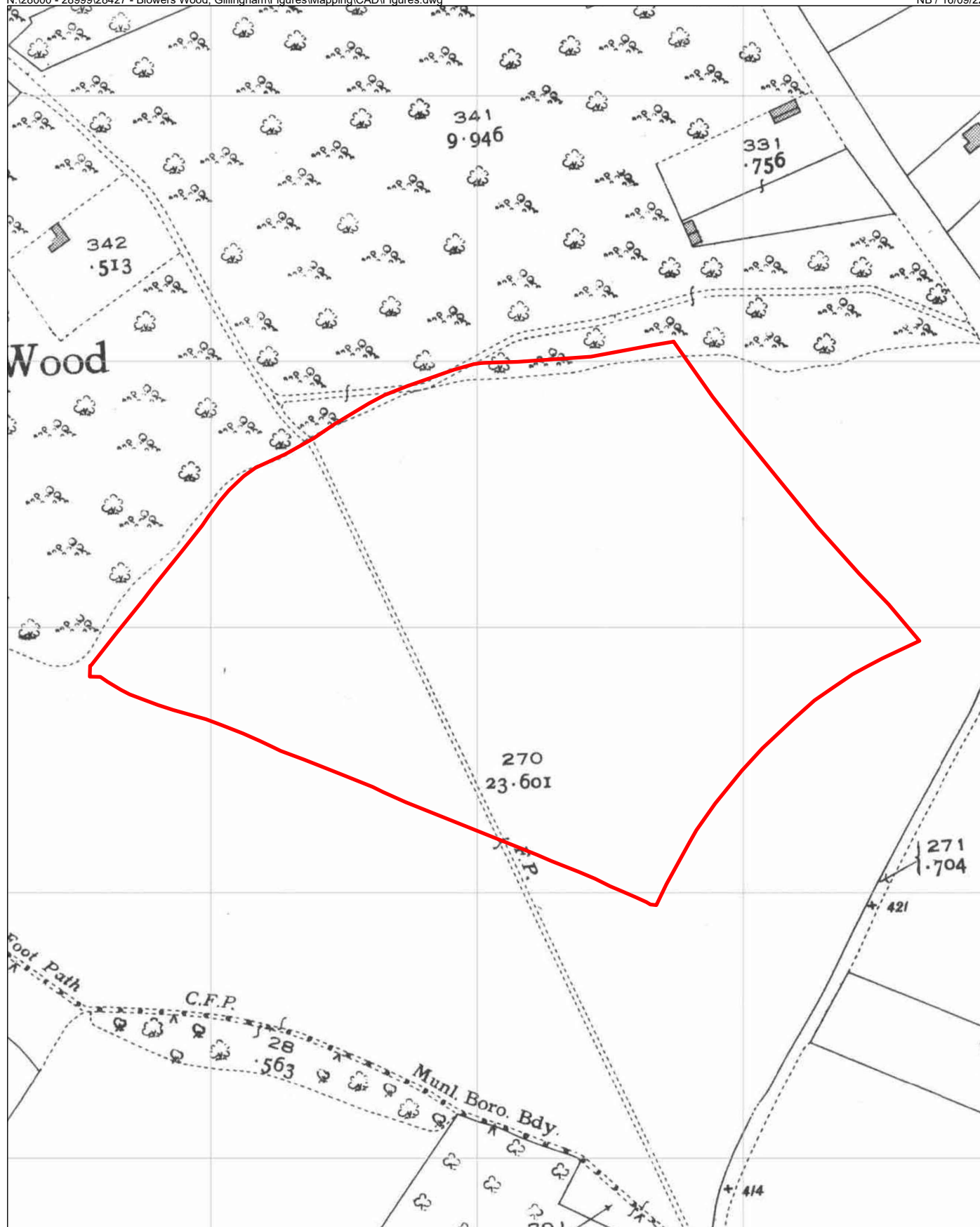


0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000

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Figure 8

1908 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000

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Figure 9

1938 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 10

1940 Aerial Photographs (Google Earth)



 Site Boundary

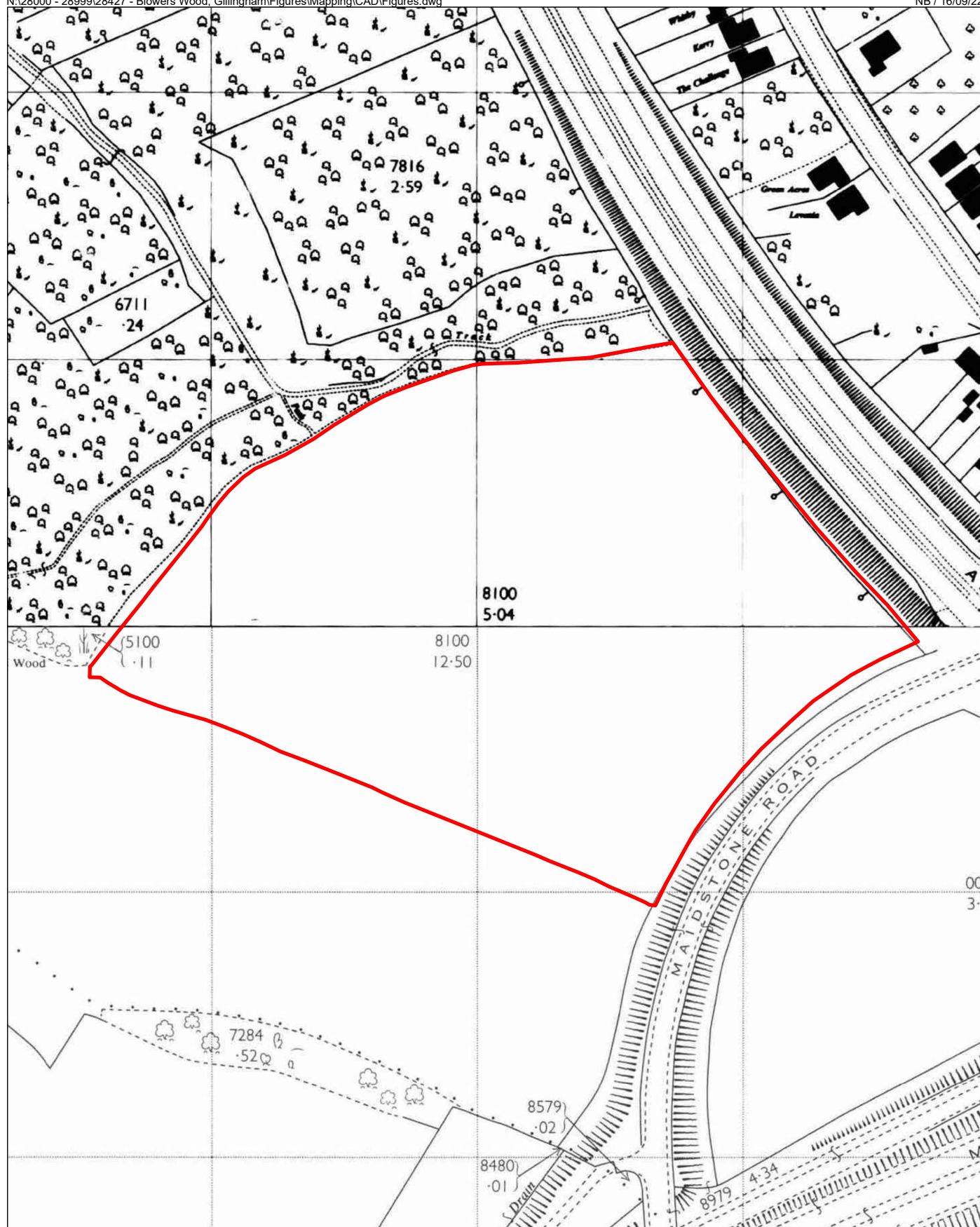


0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 11

1960 Aerial Photographs (Google Earth)



 Site Boundary

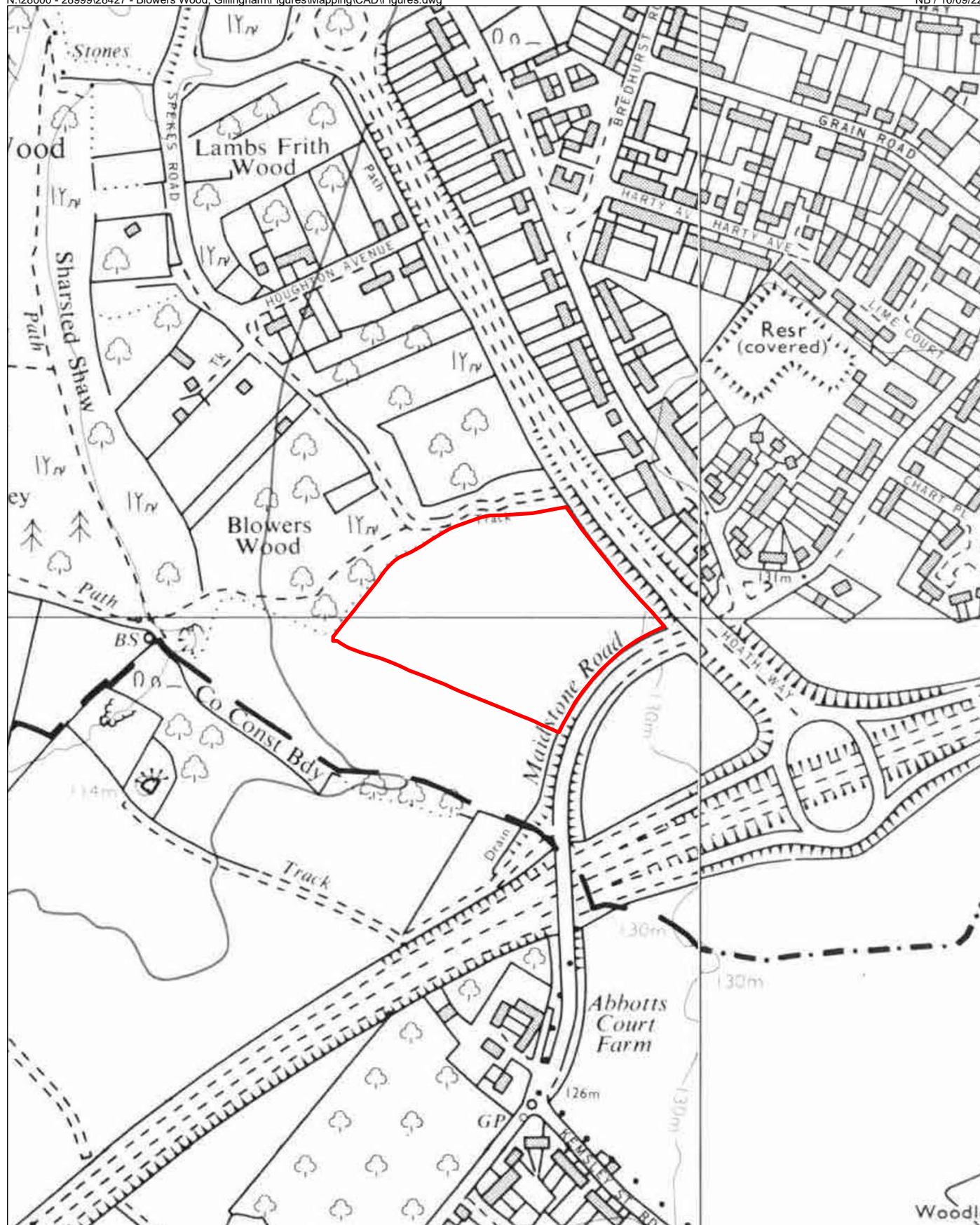


0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000

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Figure 12

1966-1968 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



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

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Figure 13

1974 Ordnance Survey Map



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 14

1990 Aerial Image (Google Earth)



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 15

2013 Aerial Image (Google Earth)



 Site Boundary



0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000

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Figure 16

2020 Aerial Image (Google Earth)



Legend

 Site Boundary

LiDAR DATA

Source:
Environment Agency

Data Type: DTM

Resolution: 1m

Date Captured:
17/04/2018

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

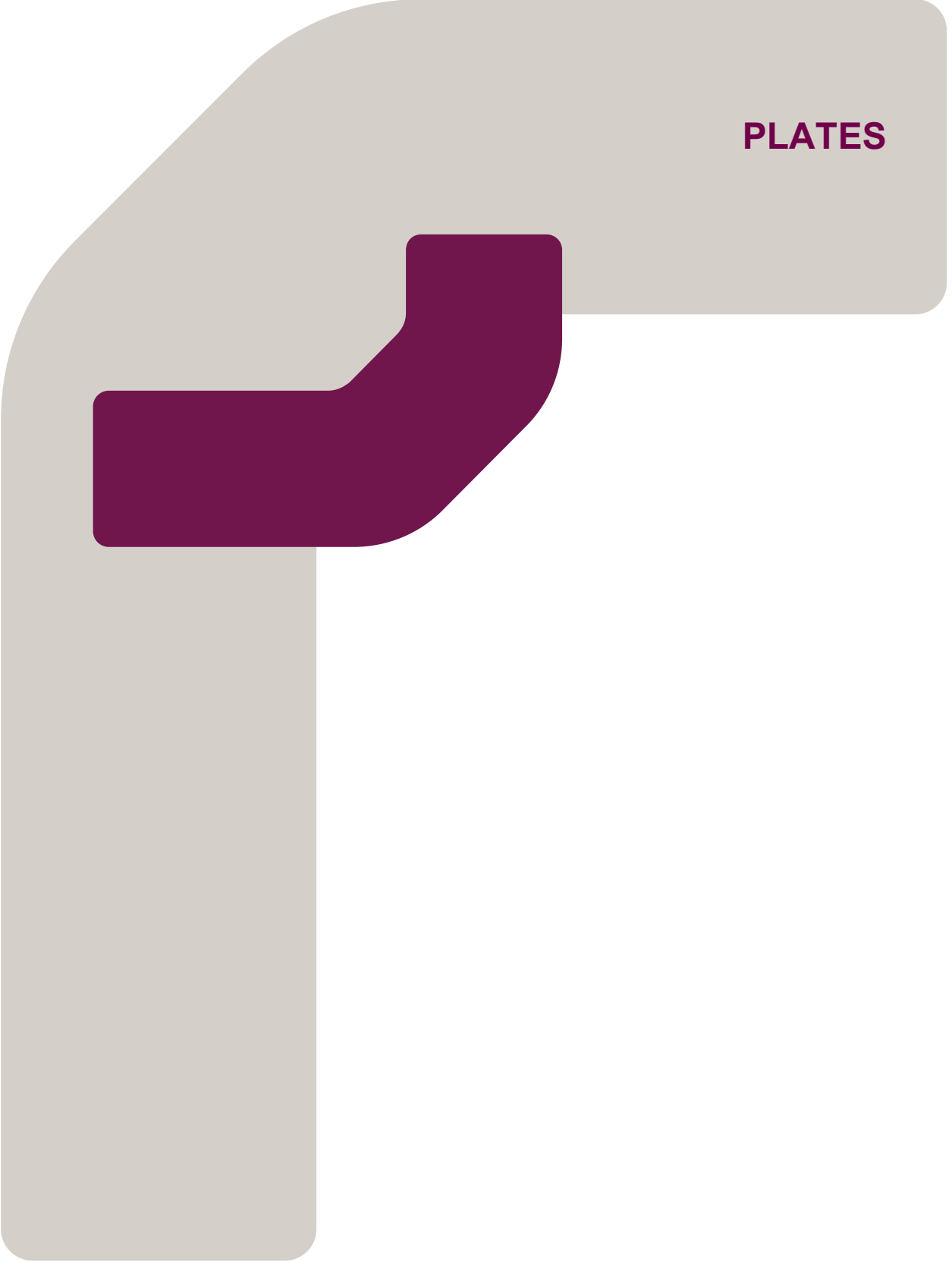


0 25 50m
Scale at A3: 1:1,500



Figure 17

LiDAR Plot



PLATES

Plates



Plate 1: View looking south-east along the public footpath



Plate 2: View east from the northern end of the footpath



Plate 3: View looking south along site boundary from north end of footpath



Plate 4: Southern area of the site looking south west from footpath



Plate 5: View looking south from footpath



Plate 6: View of the northern field looking north east from central area of footpath



Plate 7: View looking east of northern from close to north end of the footpath



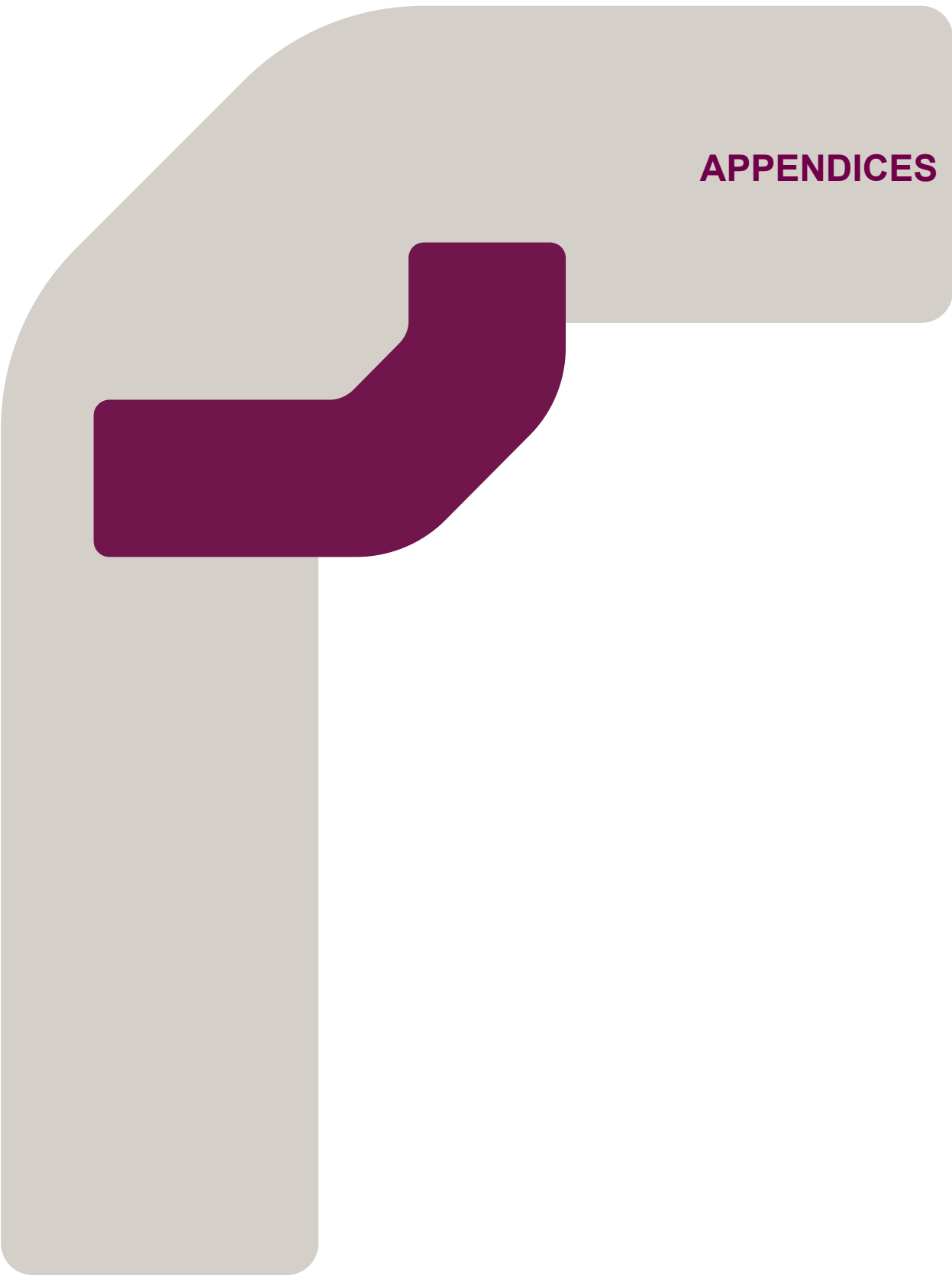
Plate 8: View east of northern from footpath towards eastern corner of the site



Plate 9: Southern field looking south west from southern end of footpath



Plate 10: View north of footpath and fields either side from southern end of the footpath



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

HER GAZETTEER

HER Records

MonUID	Name	PeriodRang
MKE99852	Former Congregational Chapel, The Street, Bredhurst	Post Medieval to Modern
MKE84846	Green Court (Green Farm)	Post Medieval
MKE84847	Outfarm north east of Green Court	Post Medieval
MKE84870	Paris Farm	Post Medieval
MKE84871	Kemsley Street Farm	Post Medieval
MKE84872	Outfarm in Kemsley Street	Post Medieval
MKE89052	Abbots Court Farm	Post Medieval
MKE16528	Location of a possible Dene hole, Gillingham	Unknown
MKE2457	St. Mary Magdelene's chapel, Lidsing	Medieval
MKE2459	Bredhurst town Site of deserted medieval village.	Medieval
MKE2481	Medieval Building and Ditch	Medieval
MKE111084	Two possible prehistoric ditches and a pit, Abbot's Court Farm	Later Prehistoric
MKE111085	Two undated ditches, Junction 4 M2	Early Mesolithic to Modern

HER Events

EvUID	Name	Organisati
EKE4163	NEAR ST PETER'S CHURCH	
EKE5724	Watching Brief at St Peter's Church, Bredhurst	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
EKE11532	A desk based assesment between Junction 1-4 M2	Maunsell
EKE11572	Walkover survey for the wideneing between Junction 1-4 M2	Maunsell
EKE17649	Desk-based assessment : M2 Junctions 1 to 4 widening	John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
EKE17649	Desk-based assessment : M2 Junctions 1 to 4 widening	John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
EKE17650	Desk-based assessment of A2/M2 Cobham to Junction 4 widening: further review of information	John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
EKE10642	Desk based assessment prior to M2 widening between Junctions 1 and 4	John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
EKE17651	A2/M2 Cobham to Junction 4 Widening, Kent: walkover and photgraphic survey	Museum of London Archaeology Service
EKE17652	Trial trenching evaluation: A2/M2 J 1 to 4 widening	Museum of London Archaeology Service
EKE20308	NKC Joint Fieldwork Report June-July 2004	Wessex Archaeology
EKE14761	Archaeological survey of mineral extraction sites around the Thames Estuary	Kent County Council

APPENDIX 2

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE MIX

House Name	Beds	Area (sqft)	No.	Total Area (sqft)
Maisonette GF	1 Bed	552	3	1,656
Maisonette 1F	1 Bed	637	3	1,911
Hexham	2 Bed	694	2	1,388
Letchworth	2 Bed + Study	983	2	1,966
Stratford	3 Bed + Study	1211	5	6,055
Oxford LS	3 Bed	1316	9	11,844
Cambridge	3 Bed + Study	1372	8	10,976
Overton	4 Bed	1392	1	1,392
Leamington LS	3 Bed	1394	8	11,152
Harrogate	4 Bed	1555	1	1,555
Henley	4 Bed	1769	11	19,459
Hampstead	5 Bed	1850	13	24,050
Total Private Market			66	93,404
				75%

Maisonette GF	1 Bed	552	2	1,104
Maisonette 1F	1 Bed	637	2	1,274
S-1A	1 Bed	754	3	2,262
S-2A	2 Bed	757	3	2,271
S-2B	2 Bed	763	3	2,289
Dart	3 Bed	896	3	2,688
Total Affordable			16	11,888

Hexham	2 Bed	694	6	4,164
Total First Homes			6	4,164
				25%

Total			88	109,456
-------	--	--	----	---------

CAR PARKING SCHEDULE

Type	Bedrooms	House Count	Per Unit	Required	Provided
Apartment	1	13	1	13	13
Apartment	2	6	1	6	6
House	2	10	1.5	15	17
House	3	33	2	66	66
House	4	13	2	26	26
House	5	13	2	26	26
		Total		152	154
Visitor			0.25	22	24
Total				174	178

POLICY MIX COMPARISON

	Bed No.	Policy Mix	Provided
Market	1 Bed	10-15%	9%
	2 Bed	25-30%	6%
	3 Bed	35-40%	45%
	4+ Bed	20-25%	40%
Affordable	1 Bed	30-35%	32%
	2 Bed	30-35%	55%
	3 Bed	25-30%	13%
	4+ Bed	5-10%	0%

NOTES

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0 10 20 30 40 50m

N

KEY

- Application Site Boundary
- Potential Vehicular Access
- 15m Offset to Ancient Woodland
- Affordable Rented Dwelling
- First Homes Dwelling
- Market Dwelling
- Proposed Attenuation Feature
- Existing Public Right of Way (PROW)
- New Diverted PROW
- Approximate size and location of proposed foul water pumping station with 15m offset
- Approximate size and location of proposed sub-station

P22 11/01/2023 Minor road amendment. HJL KMN

P21 15/11/2022 Updated as per latest tracking info. HJL KMN

P20 01/11/2022 Minor amendments. HJL KMN

rev	date	description	dm	chk
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masterplanning

environmental assessment

landscape design

urban design

ecology

architecture

arboriculture

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client

Redrow Homes

project

Blowers Wood,
Maidstone Road, Kent

drawing title

Site Layout

scale

1:500 @ A1

dm

HJL

chk

KMN

date created

09 March 2022

project number

10745

status

S1

issue

P22

document number

10745-FPCR-ZZ-XX-DR-A-0001

Project Code Originator Zone Level Type Risk Drawing Number

File: L:\10700\10745\ARCH\Drawings\10745-FPCR-ZZ-XX-DR-A-0001-P22 Site Layout.vwx



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