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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



WATERLOO HOUSING GROUP

LAND ADJACENT TO 2440 STRATFORD ROAD, HOCKLEY HEATH, SOLIHULL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT




February 2017

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Waterloo Housing Group

Land Adjacent to 2440 Stratford Road, Hockley Heath, Solihull

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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SUMMARY

In January 2017, Wardell Armstrong (WA) were invited by Waterloo Housing Group, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land adjacent to 2440 Stratford Road, Hockley Heath, Solihull. This was in advance of the proposed development of new domestic housing. The area occupies a previously un-developed area of pasture land within a village landscape, south of the centre of the small village of Hockley Heath.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of five trenches that revealed post-medieval remains. Ditches associated with occupation to the north of the site were identified in Trench 1, and a ditch that is believed to have formed the parish boundary between Nuthurst and Lapworth was identified in Trenches 2 and 4. The trenches were located in an area of the site previously identified as “part croft” during the 19th century. Evidence associated with this activity was observed in the eastern half of Trench 2, where irregular features possibly associated with agriculture were identified.

No further archaeological evidence was encountered during the fieldwork, with only root disturbance and land drains identified in Trenches 3 and 5. This absence of archaeological evidence predating the later post-medieval period demonstrates that the area was outside of the medieval focus of settlement at Hockley Heath and the potential for earlier features or deposits to be present is low.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong (WA) thanks Hazel Pennington of Waterloo Housing Group, for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Thanks also to Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist at Warwickshire County Council for her assistance throughout the project.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In January 2017, Wardell Armstrong (WA) were invited by Waterloo Housing Group, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at the southern end of Hockley Heath, Solihull, West Midlands (centred on NGR SP 15221 72311, Figure 1). This was in advance of proposed residential development for which planning permission is being sought from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Planning Application number; PL/2016/00723/PPFL). The area occupies a previously undeveloped area of pasture land within a village landscape, south of the centre of the small village of Hockley Heath. (Figure 2).
- 1.1.2 A desk based assessment conducted by Wardell Armstrong (2017a) revealed the potential for below ground remains to be present associated with the former parish boundary and medieval settlement within the boundary of the proposed development.
- 1.1.3 To test this potential, Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist at Warwickshire County Council working on behalf of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, requested an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to establish the presence / absence, date and character of potential archaeological features. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.4 This report outlines the archaeological investigation undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork assessment, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works carried out in order to meet the requested aims.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Archaeological Evaluation

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of five trenches, three measuring 30m in length by 1.50m in width and two measuring 20m in length by 1.50m in width, which provided a 4% sample strategy across the area of investigation. The investigation trenches were placed in a random array to best capture any linears that may cross the investigation area as well as to establish any areas of foci that might exist. This array was limited due to the presence of live services and trees that restricted the placing of the trenching. The purpose of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was to determine the presence or absence, significance, date, depth and preservation of any potential archaeological remains, prior to their removal/truncation by the proposed development of the site.

2.1.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field investigations were:

- to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the site boundary;
- to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- to determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from plough damage or from any other agricultural practices;
- to investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the development;
- to determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the development;
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of recording.

2.1.3 Overburden was removed by a JCB 3CX back axled-hoe under close archaeological supervision to the top of the first potentially significant archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate, whichever was higher. The trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA, 2017c).

2.1.4 The treatment of the finds followed the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b). All finds encountered on site were retained and returned to the office where they

were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the Wardell Armstrong Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged.

2.2 The Archive

- 2.2.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with the EAC guidelines (2014) and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Birmingham Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Historic Environment Record office at Warwick, where they will be made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WA17, SRS-A ST15913**.
- 2.2.2 Wardell Armstrong and CCCHES, support the **Online AccesS** to the **Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong, as a part of this national project under unique identifier: **wardella2-274377**.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The village of Hockley Heath is located within the metropolitan borough of Solihull, c.19km to the south-east of Birmingham, and 20.1km to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon. The modern settlement straddles each side of the main A3400 trunk road from Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon and has the Avon-upon-Stratford canal passing through it. The M42 motorway is situated to the west, with the M40 to the south, highlighting the historical and contemporary importance of this area for transport routes (Figure 1).

3.1.2 The proposed development site comprises an area of c.0.5 hectares and is situated in an area of pasture land within a village landscape. The site is bounded on the east side by Stratford Road, to the west by Nuthurst Lane and to the north by residential development. Further residential dwellings are located to the south. The site consists of two fields, of semi approved grassland and an area of tarmac/compacted hardcore on which outbuildings are situated (Figure 2). The site is located at a height of c.140m AOD (above ordnance Datum).

3.1.3 The village of Hockley Heath is situated in a landscape character area known as Arden, which comprises farmland and former wood-pasture lying south and east of Birmingham, including part of the West Midlands conurbation (Natural England 2014).

3.1.4 Arden is geologically diverse, ranging from Precambrian to the Jurassic. At the site, the geological deposits comprise siltstone and sandstone known as the Arden Sandstone formation. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 217 to 229 million years ago in the Triassic Period. (BGS 2017). This bedrock is overlain by glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (*ibid*).

3.2 Historic and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 This historical background comprises excerpts taken from an archaeological desk-based assessment, compiled in January 2017 (WA 2017a; Appendix 4), focusing on the site (Figure 1). The Warwickshire and Solihull Historic Environment Records were consulted for entries within a 1km radius from the site boundary. Historic Environment Record (HER) reference numbers and National Heritage Listings (NHL) are used where known.

- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** the HER does not record any evidence for prehistoric activity within the boundary of the site. At Hobditch, roughly 750m south-west of the site, cropmarks or earthworks of a boundary thought to date to the later Prehistoric have been noted (reference **MWA5610**).
- 3.2.3 **Romano-British:** no Romano-British activity was identified within the search area whilst searching the HER.
- 3.2.4 **Anglo-Saxon:** no Anglo-Saxon activity was identified within the search area whilst searching the HER.
- 3.2.5 **Medieval:** the site is located within an area which is thought to have contained dispersed settlement associated with the medieval village of Hockley Heath (reference **5832**). It is likely however, that the site was located within an associated field system or outlying land, with the core of the settlement being located to the north.
- 3.2.6 **Post-medieval and Modern:** the earliest cartographic evidence studied as part of the archaeological desk based assessment, comprised the tithe maps for Nuthurst and Lapworth. These showed the parish boundary between the two parishes crossing the site on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment. Visible on the map, and to the east of the parish boundary the land had been divided into plots. The western plot was described as “part croft”, whereas the eastern was described as “garden slip”. Immediately north of the site, a row of cottages and a house were recorded on the tithe map.
- 3.2.7 The 1883 first edition Ordnance Survey map showed the removal of the boundary between the plots. No other change was recorded within the site boundary, until the 1938 Ordnance Survey map, which showed the parish boundary as having moved to the west of the Church of St. Thomas, which had been constructed in 1879.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.2.8 The land within the site boundary has not been subject to previous archaeological fieldwork.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 16th and 19th of January 2017. A total of five trenches were excavated across the proposed development area (Figure 2). Topsoil was removed down to reveal the underlying deposits by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Potential features observed were cleaned and investigated.

4.2 Evaluation Results

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located in the north of the proposed development area, and was aligned broadly northeast by southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.42m (139.75m AOD) and a maximum of 0.54m (139.49m AOD). This revealed mixed drift geology comprised of grey and yellow sandy clay with gravel patches **(102)** (Plate 1).

4.2.2 Located towards the centre of Trench 1, two potential ditches were identified, each spanning the width of the trench (Figure 3). The western most ditch **[103]** was orientated broadly north-northwest by south-southeast and measured up to 0.72m wide by 0.20m in depth, it contained a single fill consisting of soft dark brown silty clay **(104)** (Plate 2).

4.2.3 Spaced roughly 4.3m to the east, the second ditch **[105]** was observed to also contain a similar silty clay fill **(106)** set within a regular concave profile (Plate 3). Ditch **[105]**, measured up to 0.71m wide and to a depth of 0.16m, and was orientated roughly north – south (Figure 3).

4.2.4 The above was sealed by a maximum depth of 0.27m of loose silt rich clay subsoil **(101)** that was highly mixed and this in turn was covered by up to 0.27m of loose humeric topsoil **(100)** highly disturbed by root and plough action.

4.2.5 No further archaeological features were identified in Trench 1. Root disturbance was noted along the length of the trench.

4.2.6 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located in the north of the proposed development area and was aligned east-northeast to west-southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.34m (139.94m AOD) and a maximum of 0.55m (139.71m AOD). Mixed drift geology comprising grey and yellow, sand, gravel and clay **(202)**. This was overlain by a soft silty clay subsoil **(201)**, up to 0.27m thick. (Plate 4).

- 4.2.7 A ditch **[203]**, orientated north-northwest by south-southeast, and traversing the width of the trench was identified in the eastern half of Trench 2 (Figure 4). The ditch measured up to 2m in width with moderately steep producing a 0.60m deep concaved profile containing three fills. The primary fill comprised soft greyish brown silty clay **(204)** that was overlain by a 0.36m thick deposit of moderately compact silty clay **(205)**. The last fill within the ditch consisted of soft light to mid brown silty clay **(206)** (Plate 5).
- 4.2.8 The ditch **[203]** was observed to cut through the subsoil **(201)** and a root disturbance **(207)**. Approximately 2.20m to the east, further features orientated along the same alignment to that of the ditch were observed (Figure 4). Of these eight features, four were sampled, and each of was observed to contain soft brownish grey clayey silt and pebble gravel. The western two features, **[208]** and **[210]**, were observed to be very irregular in profile (Plate 6), and were initially interpreted as rooting, similar to **(207)**. By contrast, the other two sampled, **[212]** and **[214]**, displayed evidence to demonstrate that they were of probable man-made origin (Plate 7). Based on the current evidence the eight features have been interpreted as agricultural in origin, and believed to be associated with orchard planting such as that seen around Evesham.
- 4.2.9 Trench 2 was sealed by up to 0.20m of brown clayey silt topsoil **(200)**.
- 4.2.10 No further archaeological features were identified in Trench 2 although clearly modern root disturbance was noted along the length of the trench.
- 4.2.11 **Trench 3:** The trench was located towards the west of the site and was aligned roughly north – south (Figure 2). Trench 3 was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.45m (139.38m AOD) and a maximum depth of 0.50m (139.36m AOD). Mixed drift geology comprised of grey and yellow mixed clay and sand and gravels **(300)** and was overlain by 0.10m of greyish brown sandy silt subsoil **(301)** which was itself covered by a brown clayey silt topsoil **(302)**, up to 0.35m thick (Plate 8).
- 4.2.12 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 3. Two land drains were identified towards the north eastern end of the trench, on a northwest to southeast orientation. Root disturbance, was noted along the length of the trench.
- 4.2.13 **Trench 4:** The trench was located at the south of the proposed development area and aligned east to west (Figure 2). Trench 4 was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.40m (139.84m AOD), and a maximum depth of 0.58m (139.33m AOD). The mixed

reddish brown sandy clay natural drift geology **(400)** was overlain by grey brown clayey silt subsoil up to 0.15m thick **(401)**, that was in turn covered by up to 0.42m of silty topsoil **(402)** (Plate 9).

4.2.14 A single feature **[403]**, demonstrated to be the continuation of ditch **[203]** was observed in the north eastern end of the trench (Figure 5). As the ditch had been characterised in Trench 2, the ditch was not excavated in Trench 4. The only visible fill of ditch **[403]** was greyish brown silty clay **(404)** (Plate 10).

4.2.15 No other archaeological features were identified in Trench 4. Rooting was observed in the western half of the trench, and a single northwest – southeast orientated land drain was recorded roughly 6m from the north-eastern end of the trench.

4.2.16 **Trench 5:** The trench was located towards the centre of the proposed development area, and aligned broadly northwest to southeast (Figure 2). Trench 5 was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.38m (139.63m AOD) and a maximum depth of 0.44m (139.54m AOD). A firm yellow and grey mixed sandy gravelly clay **(500)** was observed to underlay up to 0.15m of soft greyish brown clayey silt subsoil **(501)** which in turn was demonstrated to be sealed by a silty topsoil **(502)** up to 0.32m thick (Plate 11).

4.2.17 An area of root disturbance was identified towards the southeastern end of the trench. An east to west orientated land drain was also observed in the southern half of the trench. No archaeological features were identified.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of five artefacts, weighing 184g, were recovered from two deposits during an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Stratford Road, Solihull.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and the potential for further work on the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Sue Thompson.
- 5.1.5 Quantification of bulk finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Date	Comments
100	Pottery	2	35	19th-20th	Jam jar, transfer print
100	Ceramic	1	5	20th cent	Glazed tile
104	CBM	1	138	Post Med	Roof tile
104	Glass	1	6	Post Med	Window glass
Total		5	184		

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context

5.2 Ceramics

- 5.2.1 Two sherds of post-medieval pottery sherds, weighing 35g, were recovered from a single deposit (**100**) (Table 1). The sherds comprise a W.P. Hartley jam jar base fragment dating to the late 19th-early 20th century and a 19th century transfer printed plate rim sherd. They are in good condition and display little evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.2.2 A single fragment of ceramic glazed wall tile, weighing 5g, was also recovered from (**100**). The tile fragment is in good condition, and dates to the second half of the 20th century.
- 5.2.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.3 **Glass**

5.3.1 A single shard of modern window glass, weighing 6g, was recovered from deposit **(104)**, (Table 1). The shard is in good condition and displays no evidence of post-depositional damage.

5.3.2 No further analysis is necessary on the glass.

5.4 **CBM**

5.4.1 A fragment of clay roof tile was recovered from context **(104)**, weighing 138g. The sherd is in moderate condition with some post-depositional abrasion. The roof tile is likely to be post-medieval to modern in date.

5.4.2 No further analysis is warranted.

5.5 **Conclusions**

5.5.1 The small finds assemblage dates from the late post medieval to modern period, and is most likely 19th -20th century.

5.6 **Statement of Potential**

5.6.1 As three of the finds were recovered from topsoil **(100)**, and deposit **(104)** contained material dated to the late post-medieval to modern period, the assemblage is of limited archaeological interest.

5.6.2 The finds will not be retained with the archive.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at land off Stratford Road, Hockley Heath, five randomly placed investigation trenches were excavated. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the site boundary. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 6.1.2 Archaeological features were identified in the Trenches 1, 2 and 4. The ditches in Trench 1 were of a post-medieval date, with glass and a CBM fragment recovered from the fill of ditch **[103]** dating to this period, these ditches may have related to the dwellings to the north as detailed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883. The ditch in Trenches 2 and 4 appeared to have formed a substantial boundary, and based on the stratigraphic relationship, truncating the subsoil is likely dated to the same broad late post-medieval period. This argument is further strengthened by the loose humeric rich nature of the fills similar to that seen in the ditches recorded in Trench 1. The ditch may have physically formed the parish boundary between Nuthurst and Lapworth, as detailed on the 1842 tithe map, discussed in paragraph 3.2.6 of this document. Although there is a variation in alignment and location this is believed to be a result of broad brush surveying and possible migration, this conclusion based on the presence of such a clearly late, large ditch which would be expected present on at least one historic map. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from the ditch, and although the parish boundary was moved between 1914 and 1938, it is possible that there was a degree of migration before this date.
- 6.1.3 The agricultural features located in Trench 2, to the east of ditch **[203]** likely relate to the activities of this late post-medieval period, with the plot within which these features would have been located, described as “part croft” in 1842. It is likely the features were the result of tenants using this part of the plot in which to grow food, and would explain the irregular appearance of the cuts.
- 6.1.4 No further archaeological evidence was encountered during the fieldwork, with only root disturbance and land drains identified in Trenches 3 and 5. The desk-based study preceding this fieldwork identified the potential for finding evidence of activity associated with the medieval settlement at Hockley Heath. The apparent lack of archaeological features across the site, and absence of archaeological evidence that

predates the later post-medieval period would suggest the focus for this medieval activity would lie outside the proposed development boundary.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench 1

Length: 32.32m Width: 1.58m Orientation: ENE-WSW
 Maximum Depth: 0.54m Minimum Depth: 0.42m

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Subsoil
102	Deposit	Natural Geology
103	Cut	Cut of Ditch
104	Deposit	Fill of Ditch 103
105	Cut	Cut of Ditch
106	Deposit	Fill of Ditch 105
107	Deposit	Rootbole

Trench 2

Length: 30.05m Width: 1.52m Orientation: ENE-WNW
 Maximum Depth: 0.55m Minimum Depth: 0.34m

Context Number	Context Type	Description
200	Deposit	Topsoil
201	Deposit	Subsoil
202	Deposit	Natural Geology
203	Cut	Cut of Ditch
204	Deposit	Primary fill of Ditch 203
205	Deposit	Secondary fill of Ditch 203
206	Deposit	Fill of Ditch 203
207	Deposit	Root Channel
208	Cut	Cut of
209	Deposit	Fill of
210	Cut	Cut of
211	Deposit	Fill of
212	Cut	Cut of
213	Deposit	Fill of
214	Cut	Cut of
215	Deposit	Fill of

Trench 3

Length: 22.58m

Width: 1.64m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Minimum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description
300	Deposit	Natural Geology
301	Deposit	Subsoil
302	Deposit	Topsoil

Trench 4

Length: 30.09m

Width: 1.60m

Orientation: NE-SW

Maximum Depth: 0.56m

Minimum Depth: 0.40m

Context Number	Context Type	Description
400	Deposit	Natural Geology
401	Deposit	Subsoil
402	Deposit	Topsoil

Trench 5

Length: 20.95m

Width: 1.64m

Orientation: NW-SE

Maximum Depth: 0.44m

Minimum Depth: 0.38m

Context Number	Context Type	Description
500	Deposit	Natural Geology
501	Deposit	Subsoil
502	Deposit	Topsoil

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1 – Trench 1 overview, looking north-north east, 2 x 1m scale



Plate 2 – Ditch [103], looking North East, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 3 –Ditch [105], looking south south-east, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 4 – Trench 2 overview, looking east north-east, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 5 – Ditch [203], looking south south - east, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 6 – Features [208] and [210], looking south south - east, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 7 – Features [212] and [214], looking south south - east, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 8 – Trench 3 overview, looking west south - west, 1 x 1m scale



Plate 9 – Trench 4 overview, looking north east, 1 x 1m scale

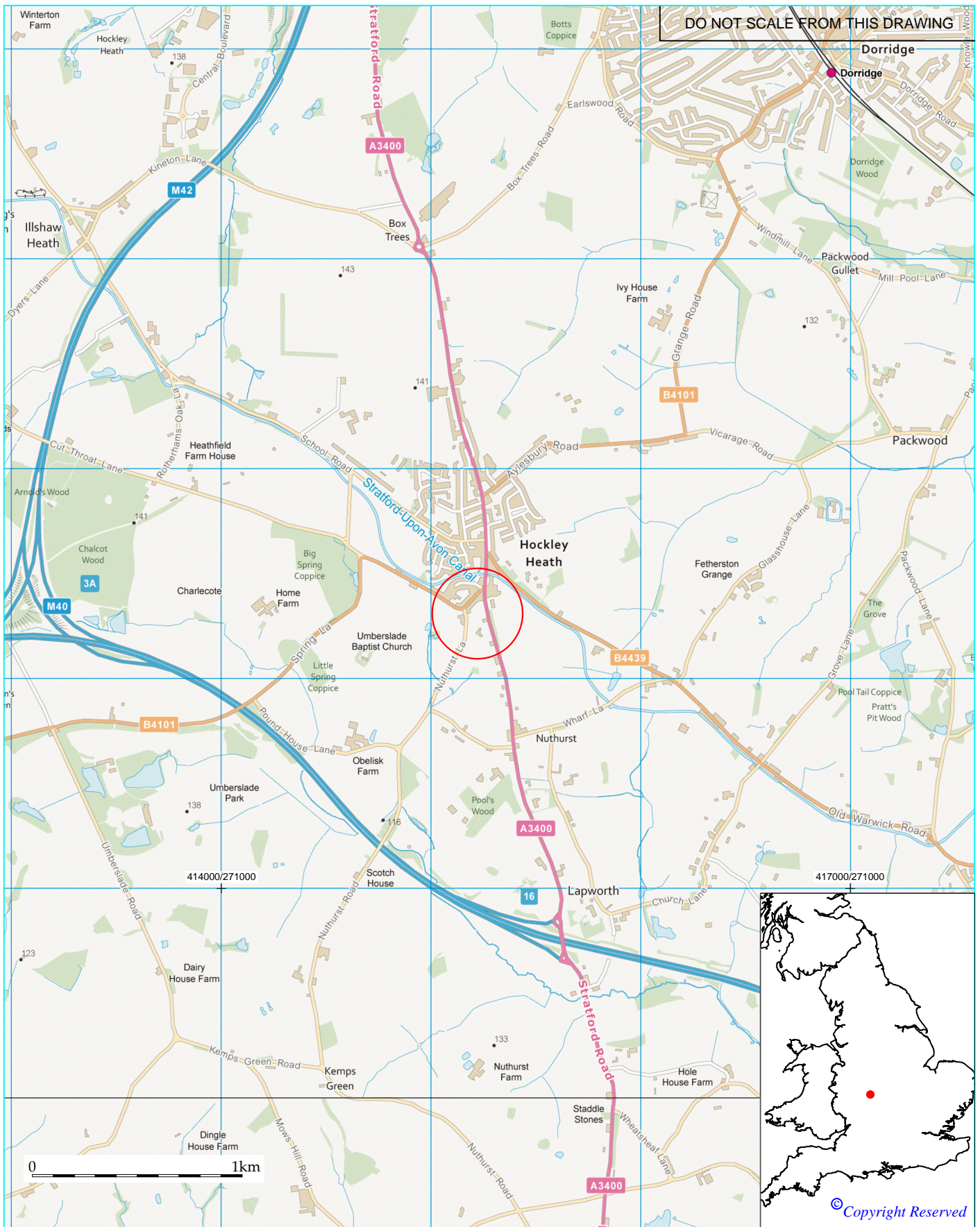


Plate 10 – Ditch [403], unexcavated, looking east, 1 x 1m scale



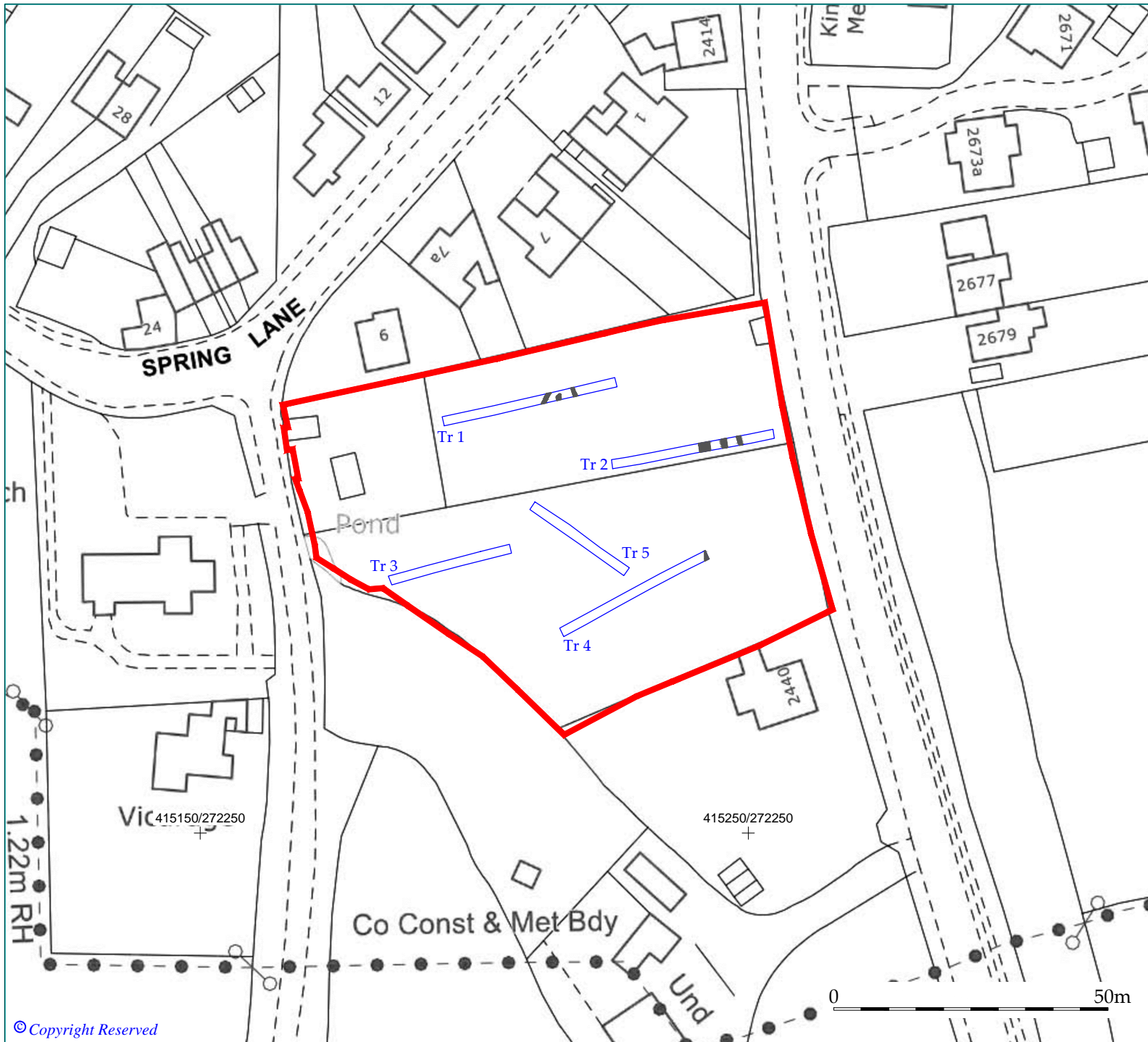
Plate 11 – Trench 5 overview, looking north west, 1 x 1m scale

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



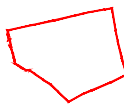


CLIENT	Waterloo Housing Group		DRG No.	ST15913.001	REV	001
	PROJECT	Land off Stratford Road, Hockley Heath, Solihull		SIZE	A4	SCALE
DRAWING TITLE		Figure 1: Site Location		DRAWN BY	HP	CHECKED BY
					APPROVED BY	JW





DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

KEY:

-  Site boundary
-  Evaluation trenches
-  Archaeology

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D
CLIENT					
Waterloo Housing Group					
PROJECT					
Land off Stratford Road, Hockley Heath, Solihull					
DRAWING TITLE					
Figure 2: Trench location Plan					
DRG No ST15913.002				REV 002	
SIZE A4		SCALE 1:1,000		DATE 08/02/2017	
DRAWN BY HP		CHECKED BY AB		APPROVED BY JW	



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DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Height mAOd
- Section location
- Limit of excavation

Scale: Plan 1:75 / Sections 1:20 at A3

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DR'N	CHK'D	APP'D

CLIENT

Waterloo Housing Group

PROJECT

Land off Stratford Road,
Hockley Heath,
Solihull

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and sections.

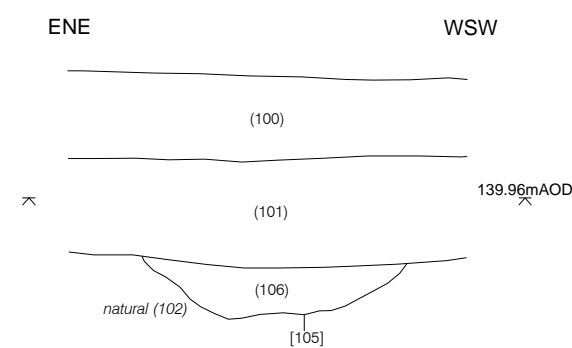
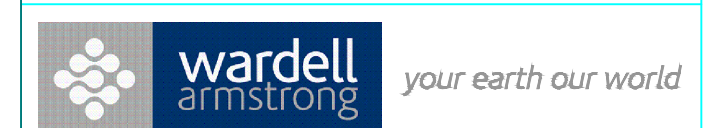
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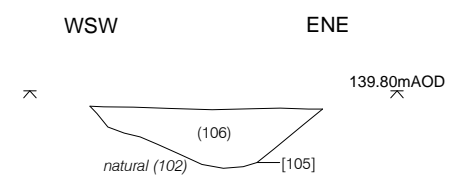
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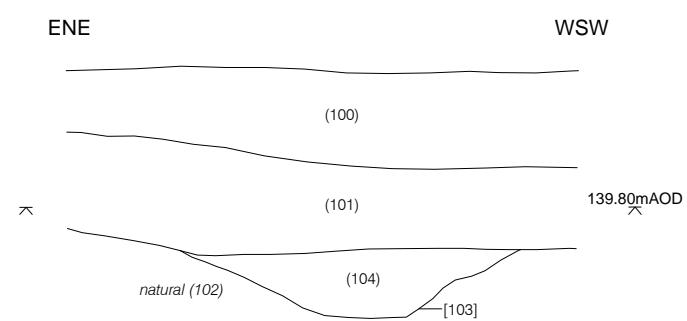
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- CARLISLE
- CROYDON
- EDINBURGH
- GLASGOW
- LEIGH
- LONDON
- MANCHESTER
- NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
- SHEFFIELD
- STOKE-ON-TRENT
- TAUNTON



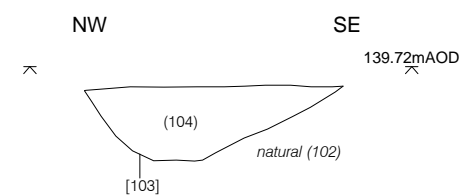
Section 2. NNW facing section across ditch [105].



Section 3. SSE facing section across ditch [105].



Section 4. NNW facing section across ditch [103].



Section 5. South-west facing section across ditch [103].



DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Height mAOd
- Section location
- Limit of excavation

Scale: Plan 1:75 / Sections 1:20 at A3

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DR'N	CHK'D	APP'D
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CLIENT

Waterloo Housing Group

PROJECT

Land off Stratford Road,
Hockley Heath,
Solihull

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 4: Trench 2; plan and sections.

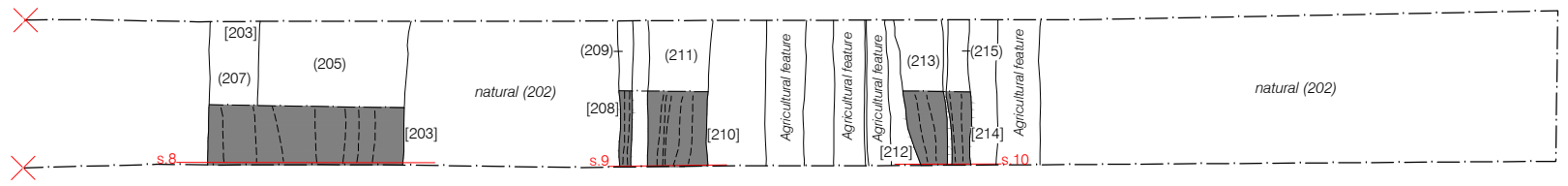
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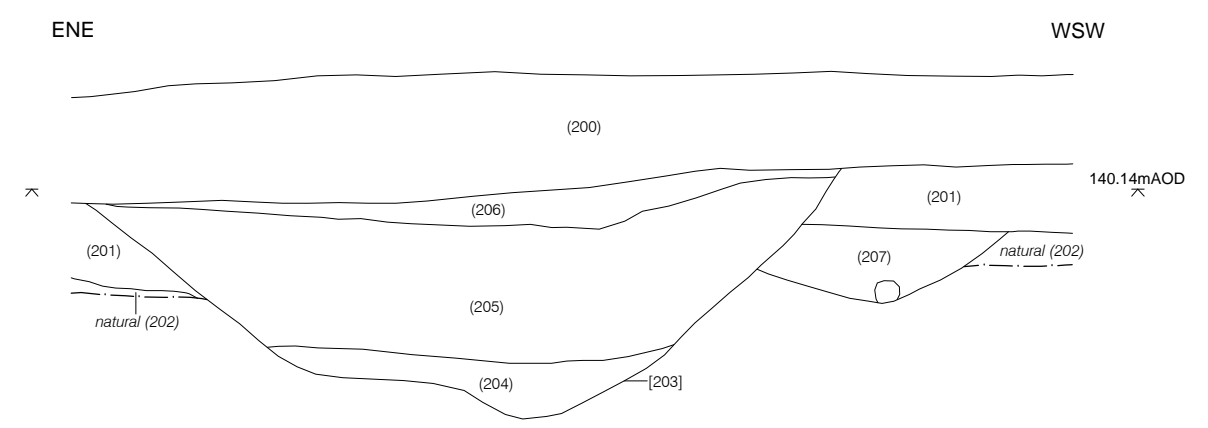
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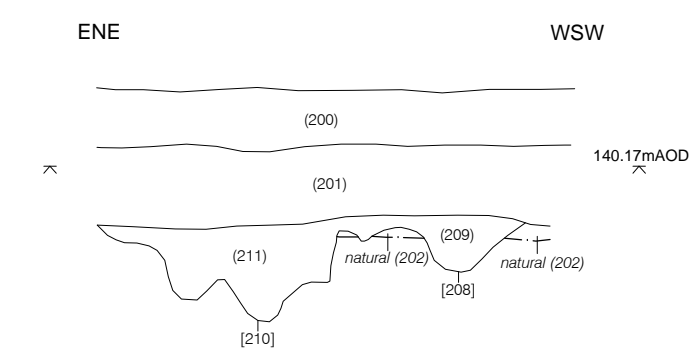
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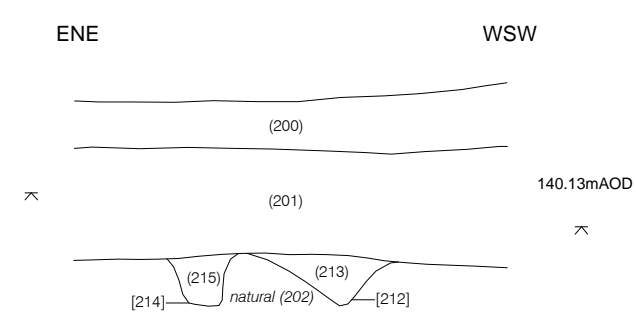
Trench 2. Plan.



Section 8. NNW facing section across ditch [203].



Section 9. NNW facing section across channel rooting [208] and [210].



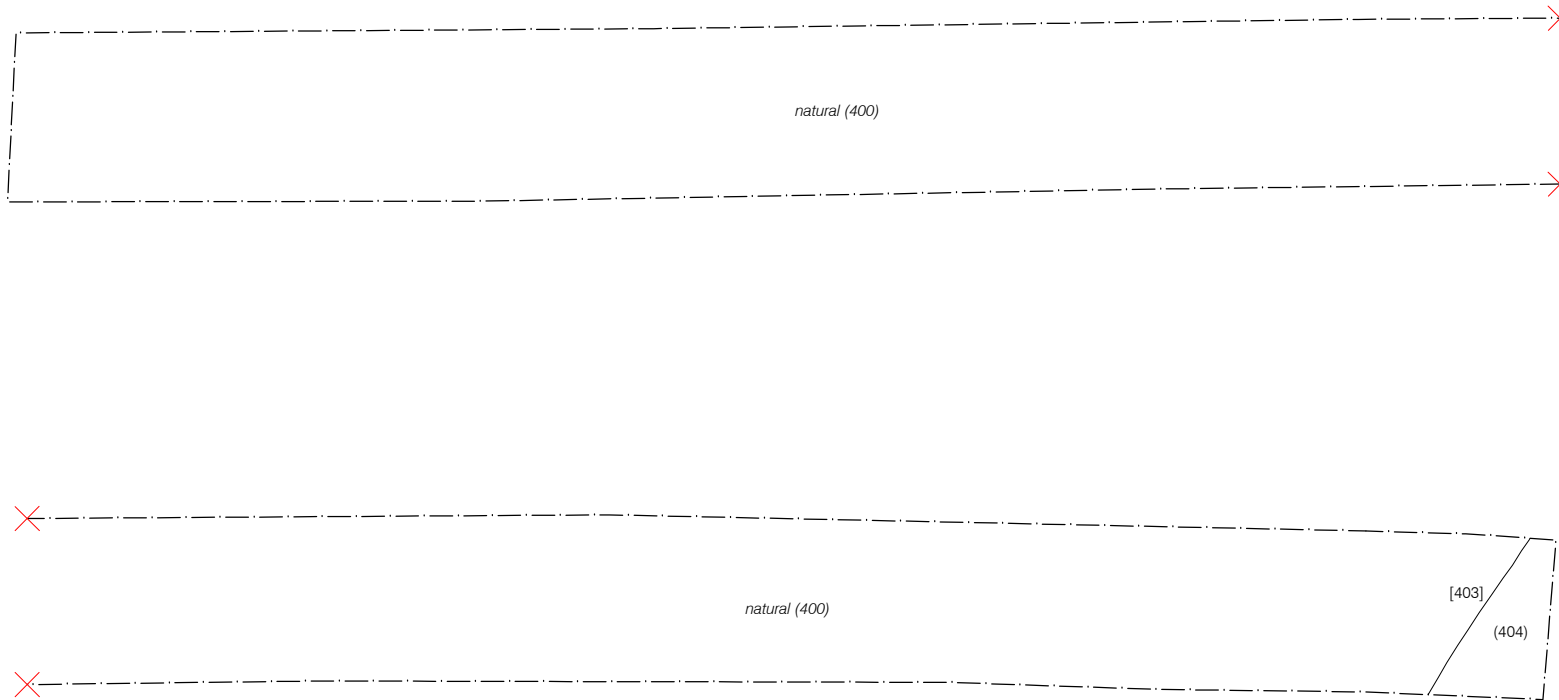
Section 10. NNW facing section across channel rooting [212] and [214].



DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Limit of excavation



Trench 4. Plan.



REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D

CLIENT
Waterloo Housing Group

PROJECT
Land off Stratford Road,
Hockley Heath,
Solihull

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 5: Plan of Trench 4.

DRG No ST15913_001	REV 001
SIZE A4	SCALE 1:75
DRAWN BY HP	DATE 02/02/2017
CHECKED BY AB	APPROVED BY JW



APPENDIX 4: DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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WATERLOO HOUSING GROUP

LAND ADJACENT TO 2440 STRATFORD ROAD, HOCKLEY HEATH, SOLIHULL

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

February 2017

your earth our world



Wardell Armstrong

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DATE ISSUED: February 2017
JOB NUMBER: ST15913
REPORT NUMBER: ARCH1

WATERLOO HOUSING GROUP

Land Adjacent to 2440 Stratford Road, Hockley Heath, Solihull

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES AND QUARRYING
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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Appendix 2	Historic Maps
Appendix 3	Impact Assessment Methodology

DRAWINGS

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Heritage Assets

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the archaeological and historical background of a site at Hockley Heath, NGR SP 1525 7232. Planning permission is being sought for residential development from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 1.2 The Planning Archaeologist has recommended a programme of trial trenching as a condition to consent. This Desk Based Assessment provides background information to inform on the location of trial trenches and the findings of the evaluation.
- 1.3 The assessment has been undertaken in respect to potential direct impacts to heritage assets and was undertaken following the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014) and in accordance with terminology expressed within the National Planning Policy Framework. This assessment does not assess any potential in-direct impacts to the setting of heritage assets.
- 1.4 In order to inform this assessment baseline data was obtained from the following:
- Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) consulted December 2016;
 - Solihull Historic Environment Record (HER) consulted December 2016; and
 - Historic Mapping.
- 1.5 In addition, a walkover survey of the Site was undertaken in January 2017.

Definitions of Terms

- 1.6 A heritage asset is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (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*' (NPPF page:52).
- 1.7 The significance of a heritage asset is defined within the national planning policy framework (NPPF) 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*' (DCLG 2012:56).
- 1.8 Where heritage assets are to be affected by development, '*local authorities should require the applicant to describe the significance of the assets affected, including the contribution made to the significance of the asset by its setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance*' (NPPF para: 128).

National Heritage Legislation

- 1.9 Designated heritage assets protected by statutory legislation comprise scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, listed buildings and conservation areas; nationally significant archaeological Sites, monuments and structures are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).
- 1.10 Listed buildings and conservation areas are protected under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act (1990). In relation to development proposals, the act states that 'in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the secretary of state shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses' (section 66).
- 1.11 Non-statutory designated heritage assets, comprising registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields, are protected under national and local planning policy only. This is also the case for the remainder of the archaeological resource; entries onto a historic environment record or Sites and monument record as well as previously unknown features which may be recorded during the course of data collection in respect to a given development proposal.
- 1.12 In determining applications, NPPF stipulates that '*great weight*' should be given to the assets conservation and that '*substantial harm to or loss of a grade II Listed Building, Park or Garden should be exceptional*' whilst '*substantial harm to or loss of assets of highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, Grade I and II* listed Buildings and Grade I and II* Parks and Gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional*' (NPPF para:132).
- 1.13 Developments where substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a heritage asset should be assessed against specific tests and should deliver substantial public benefits which outweigh any loss or harm (NPPF para:133). Less than substantial harm to a designated asset would require public benefits including the securement of an optimum viable use (NPPF para:134). Impacts to the significance of non-designated assets will require a balanced judgement based on the level of significance and the scale of harm (NPPF para:135), although non-designated assets which are of equivalent significance to designated assets will be considered as such (NPPF para:139).

2 BASELINE INFORMATION

Geology and Topography of Site

- 2.1 The 0.5ha site is located at a height of 140m AOD on the southern edge of Hockley Heath between Stratford Road and Nuthurst Lane present to the east and west respectively.
- 2.2 The land within the boundary of the site comprises two fields of semi-improved grassland and an area (in the north-western corner of the site) of tarmac/compacted hardcore encroached upon by ruderals and vegetation.
- 2.3 The underlying solid geology is mapped as siltstone and sandstone (Arden Formation) overlain by till.

Archaeological Background

- 2.4 The Warwickshire and Solihull Historic Environment Records were consulted for entries within the search area (taken as an area of approximately 1km radius from the site boundary). Besides identifying heritage assets that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development this search boundary was expected to provide sufficient data to represent the archaeological character of the area.

Known Non Designated Heritage Assets

Non-Designated HER Entries

- 2.5 All non-designated heritage assets within the 1km search area are shown on Figure 2 and detailed within Appendix 1.
- 2.6 The Solihull HER records the following assets within the boundary of the Site:
- Hockley Heath medieval settlement (reference 5832).

Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.7 The land within the boundary of the site has not been subject to previous archaeological fieldwork.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 2.8 The Solihull Historic Landscape Characterisation records the site as being located within a 35ha plot of land. Whilst the plot is described as 'settlement' (post 1900s but pre 1955), the description goes onto to say that the plot is characterised by small

rectangular fields with straight boundaries; the site of the medieval settlement of Hockley Heath.

General Historical Background

Prehistoric

- 2.9 The HER does not record any evidence for prehistoric activity within the boundary of the site. Within the search area, the earliest evidence for activity comprises cropmarks/earthworks of a linear boundary thought to potentially date to the end of the period, the Iron Age; Hobditch (reference MWA5610). This is recorded 750m south-west of the site.

Romano British

- 2.10 The HER does not record any evidence for Romano British activity within the boundary of the site or within the search area.

Anglo Saxon (c.410 to 1066AD)

- 2.11 The HER does not record any evidence for Anglo Saxon activity within the boundary of the site or within the search area.

Medieval (c.1066 to 1540AD)

- 2.12 The site is located within an area which is thought to have contained dispersed settlement associated with the medieval village of Hockley Heath (reference 5832). It is likely, however, that the site was located within an associated field system or outlying land; the core of settlement being located to the north.

Post Medieval (c.1540AD to present)

- 2.13 The earliest cartographic evidence studied as part of this assessment comprised the tithe maps for Nuthurst and Lapworth (see Appendix 2). These showed that the parish boundary between the two parishes crossed the site on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment. The land to the west and east of the parish boundary was recorded as being owned by Thomas Roe and Joseph Roe respectively. Plots 3 and 64 were both described as 'part croft' whilst plot 65 immediately parallel to and adjacent to Stratford Road was described as 'garden slip'. A row of cottages (plot 63) and a house (plot 2) were recorded to the immediate north of the site.
- 2.14 The 1883 first edition Ordnance Survey map showed the removal of the boundary between the former plots labelled 64 and 65 on the Tithe map. No other change was recorded within the boundary of the site. This map illustrated the continued presence

of cottages and a house to the north and the establishment of the Church of St Thomas which had been constructed to the west of the site in 1879. By this time a property had also become established to the south of the site.

- 2.15 The 1914 Ordnance Survey map showed no change within the boundary of the site or within its vicinity. By the time of the production of the 1938 Ordnance Survey, however, the parish boundary had been re-aligned to the west of the site.

Hedgerows

- 2.16 In assigning a hedgerow as historic, paragraph 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 reads “The hedgerow is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts”. The ‘relevant date’ is 1997 (the date of the Regulations). The earliest Inclosure Act mentioned in the Short Titles Act 1896 was made in 1845. Therefore the phrase ‘pre-dating the Inclosure Acts’ should be taken to mean before 1845 (Defra 2002).
- 2.17 The tithe maps for Lapworth and Nuthurst date to 1842. Therefore they depicts boundaries which, if extant today, would be classified as historic. The presence/absence of historic hedgerows is assessed below in the site visit section.

Site Visit

- 2.18 A walkover survey of the Site was undertaken in January 2017.
- 2.19 The Site was inspected to:
- establish the presence of above ground archaeology, whether or not previously recorded;
 - assess and validate data collected as part of the desk-based assessment; and to
 - assess the topography of the Site.
- 2.20 The land within the boundary of the site was observed to include two parcels of pasture. These were separated by a post and wire fence on an east-west alignment. In addition, an enclosed parcel of land was present in the north-western corner of the site within which a number of structures, formerly used for stabling, were located. No features of archaeological interest were observed within the boundary of the site; no earthworks or associated features were noted along the former line of the parish boundary between Lapworth and Nuthurst. No historic hedgerows were present within the boundary of the site.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

3.1 The development within the boundary of the site has the potential to cause direct impacts to heritage assets. Direct impacts would be caused by ground disturbance.

3.2 The heritage interests of potential receptors are described below. Interests are described in accordance with NPPF terminology; archaeological, architectural, historic or artistic. The importance of given interests will also be cited in accordance with the methodology presented in Appendix 3. Appendix 3 also describes the methodology for assessing the magnitude of impact and the overall significance of impact.

Construction Impacts

3.3 Ground disturbance would have the potential to disturb known and potential heritage assets within the boundary of the Site. The significance of this impact is presented below.

Table 1: Potential Construction Impacts

Physical impact to heritage assets			
Receptor	Interest and Significance of Interest	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Impact
Below ground remains of the parish boundary between Nuthurst and Lapworth	The asset is of low archaeological interest. Below ground remains could provide evidence of the nature of the parish boundary which may date to the medieval period	Whilst development would disturb the entirety of the part of the asset located within the boundary of the site, the proportion of the asset affected when considered in respect to its entire length would be minimal. Magnitude of impact = negligible	No greater than slight adverse
Hockley Heath medieval settlement (reference 5832)	There is a potential for below ground remains associated with the former extent of the medieval settlement to extend within the boundary of the site. If present these would be of low/medium importance depending upon whether they are directly associated with settlement activity or whether they are agricultural in nature	Development has the potential to remove below ground remains. Magnitude of impact = major	Most likely, no greater than moderate adverse
Unknown buried remains	Any other remains are most likely to be of negligible/low importance; there is no evidence for the presence of other unknown buried remains	Development has the potential to remove below ground remains. Magnitude of impact = major	Most likely, no greater than slight adverse

4 MITIGATION

- 4.1 It has been established with the Planning Officer that should the proposals be consented, archaeological evaluation would be required ahead of the commencement of works. In the first instance this should comprise 120m of trial trenching. The necessity for additional fieldwork and its scope and extent would be determined on the results of the trial trenching.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Baseline information was gathered from the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record, historic maps and a site walkover survey.
- 5.2 Whilst this has established the potential presence of below ground remains of a former parish boundary and remains potentially associated with the medieval settlement at Hockley, there is no evidence to indicate the presence of extensive or significant remains which would preclude development. Consequently trial trenching, required to establish the presence/absence of remains of the parish boundary and medieval remains, can be undertaken as a condition to consent.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Documentary Sources

- British Geology Service (2016) *Geology of Britain viewer*: Available <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
- CIfA (2014) *Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- DCLG. (2012) *National planning policy framework*
- DCLG. (2014) *Planning Practice Guidance*
- Defra. (2002) *Amendment to the Hedgerow Regulations 1997: A guide to the law and good practice – amendment 2002*
- Highways Agency. (2007) *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2*
- Historic England. (2016) *National Heritage List for England downloadable GIS data*

Cartographic Sources

- Nuthurst and Lapworth Tithe Maps 1842
- Historic Ordnance Survey 1883 onwards

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets

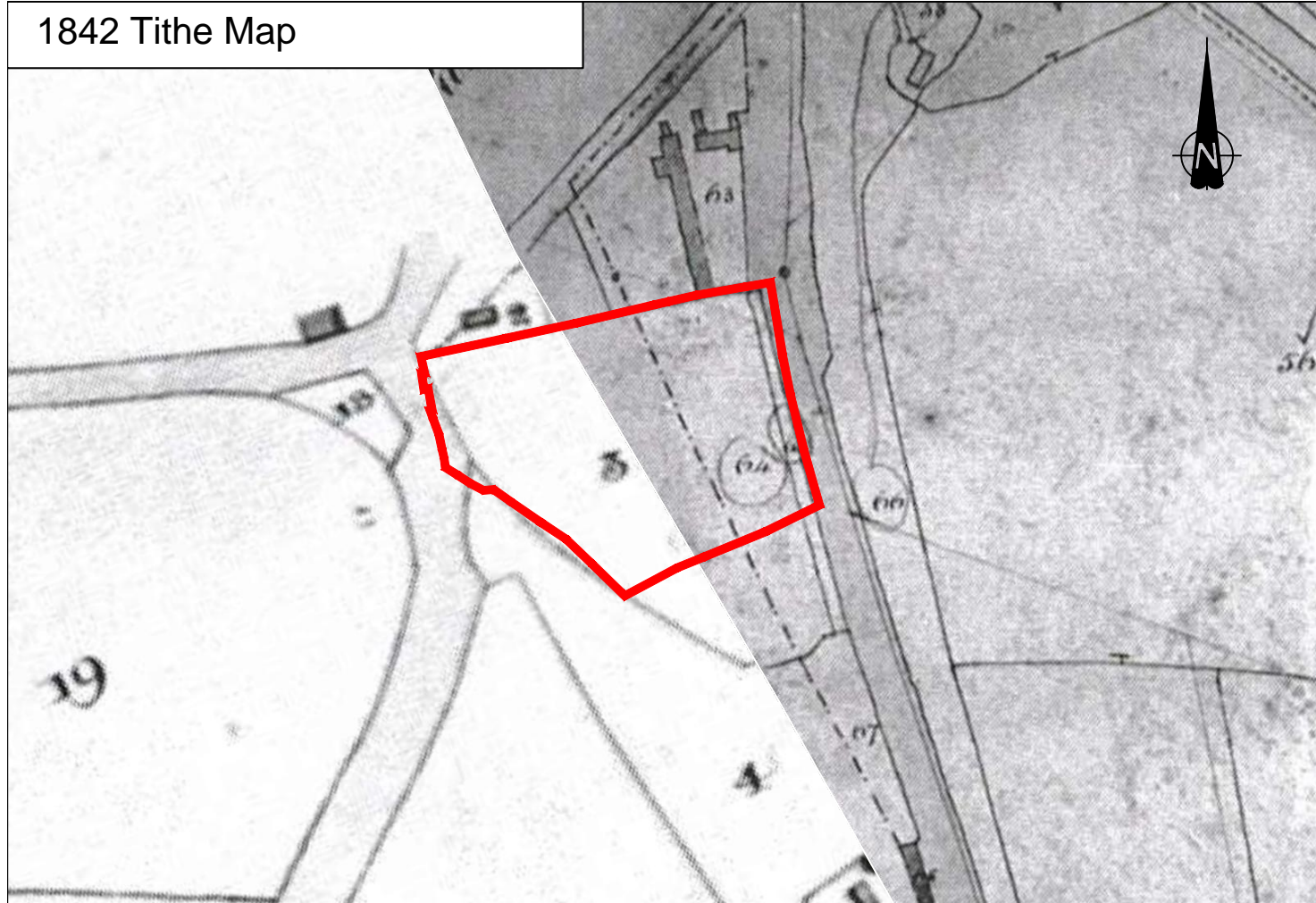
Table 1: Non-Designated Heritage Assets (within 1km)

Reference	Description	Distance from Site
1271	Coin. Medieval	950m south
MSI1592	Findspot (unknown) – metal detecting. Medieval	100m south-east
1468	Findspot (unknown) – metal detecting. Post medieval	100m south-east
MSI1851	RAF Hockley Heath	900m north
5687	Gas works. Post medieval	530m west
5832	Hockley Heath medieval settlement	Extends within the site
MWA1080	Site of manor house. Medieval	870m south-west
MWA1085	Site of an obelisk. Post medieval	940m south-west
MWA13052	Nuthurst Grange. House with pleasure grounds. Twentieth century	620m south
MWA20345	War memorial. Twentieth century	500m west
MWA22529	Findspot (unknown) – metal detecting. Medieval	840m east
MWA2463	Baptist Church. Nineteenth century	500m west
MWA4775	Turnpike road. Post medieval	Adjacent to site
MWA4808	Old Warwick Road toll gate. Eighteenth century	150m north
MWA5132	Nuthurst mortuary chapel. Eighteenth century	800m south-west
MWA5610	Hobditch. Cropmarks/earthworks of a linear boundary. Possibly Iron Age	750m south-west
MWA7104	Site of a canal wharf. Eighteenth century	620m south-east
MWA9294	Findspot (medalet) – metal detecting. Post medieval	900m south
MWA9295	Findspot (coin) – metal detecting. Medieval	900m south
MWA993	Site of a chapel. Medieval	800m south-west

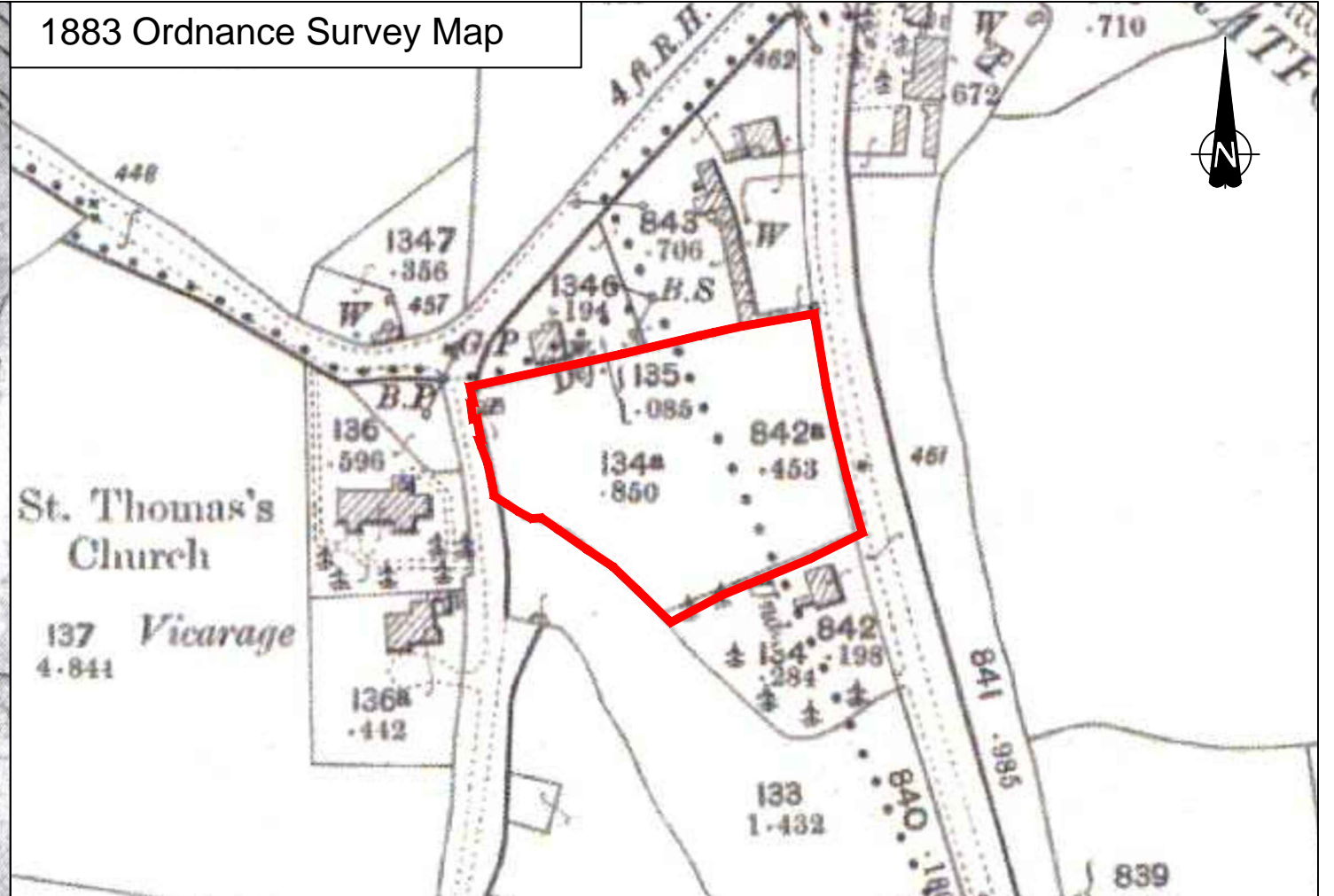
APPENDIX 2

Historic Maps

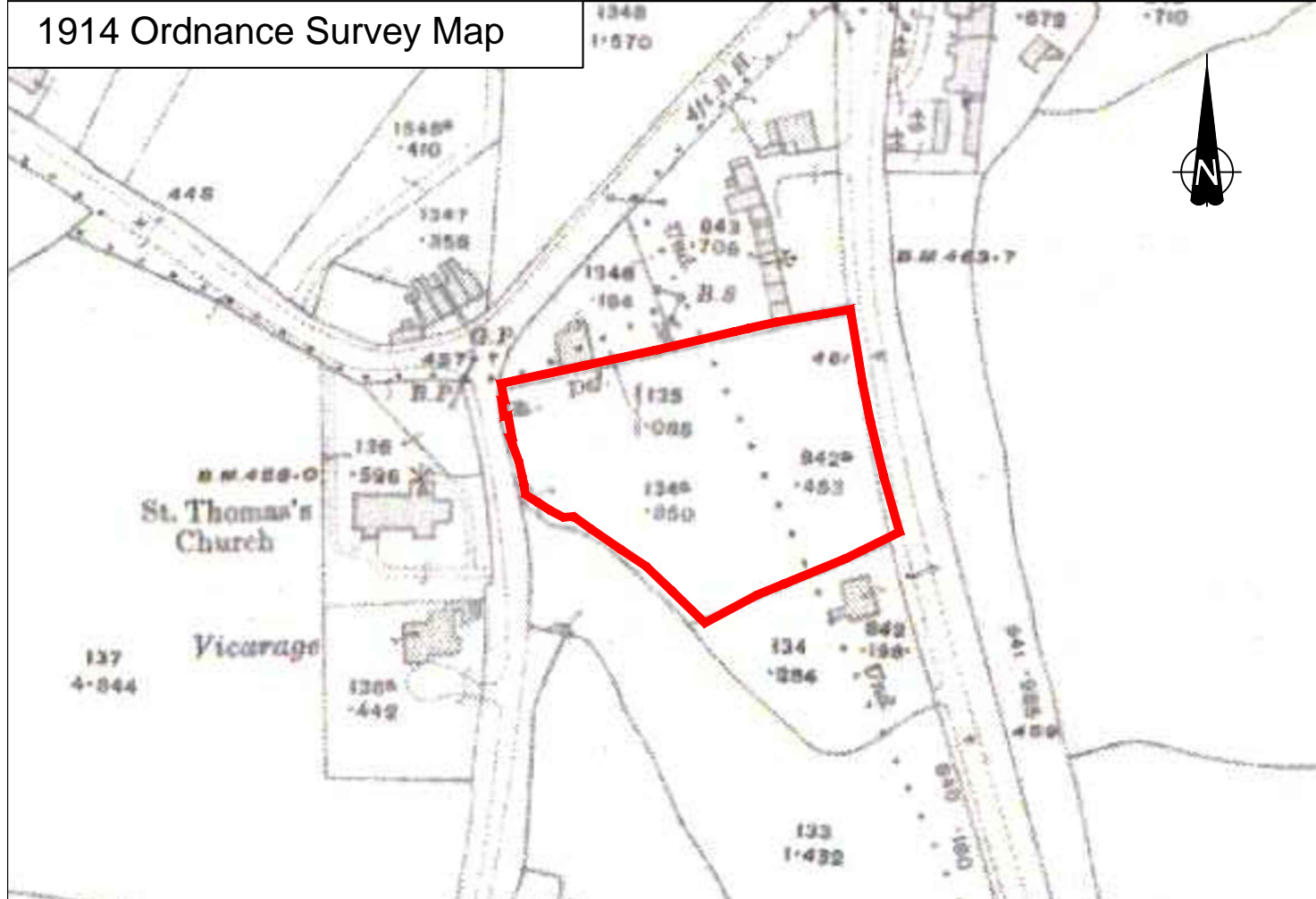
1842 Tithe Map



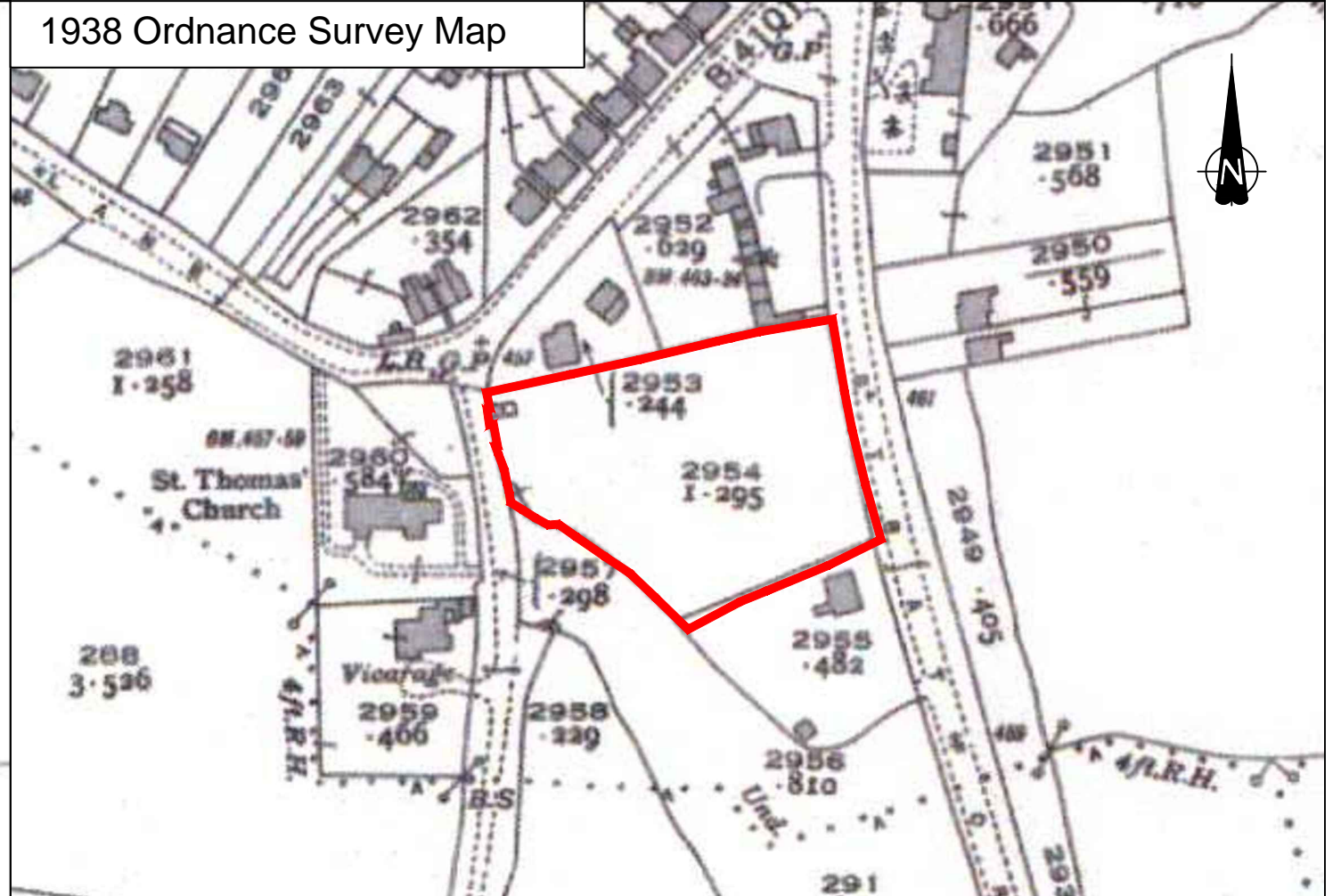
1883 Ordnance Survey Map



1914 Ordnance Survey Map



1938 Ordnance Survey Map



APPENDIX 3

Impact Assessment Methodology

In ascribing levels of **importance** to heritage assets, the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume II, Section 3, Part 2 (Highways Agency 2007) has been used, see Table 1 below.

The **magnitude of impact** is measured from the condition that would prevail in a 'do nothing' scenario and it is assessed without regard to the importance of the receptor (Highways Agency 2007).

Heritage assets are susceptible to numerous forms of development during the construction process and as a consequence of the operational life of the proposed development. These can be either direct (physical) impacts or indirect (non-physical) impacts.

The worst magnitude of impact would be complete physical removal of the heritage asset. In some instances it is possible to discuss percentage loss when establishing the magnitude of impact. However complex receptors will require a much more sophisticated approach (Highways Agency 2007).

In ascribing the magnitude of impact, guidance presented in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume II, Section 3, Part 2 (Highways Agency 2007) has been used, see Table 2 below.

The **significance of impact** is devised by cross referencing the importance of the receptor with the magnitude of the impact, see Table 3. The impacts which are in grey are considered significant impacts which would constitute substantial harm.

References

- Department for Communities and Local Government. (2012) *National planning policy framework*
- Department for Communities and Local Government. (2014) *Planning Practice Guidance*
- English Heritage. (2012 revision) *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: historic environment practice guide*
- Highways Agency. (2007) *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2*

Table 1: Establishing the importance of a heritage asset

Importance	Heritage Asset		
	Archaeological Remains (Archaeological Interest)	Historic Buildings (Architectural/Artistic Interest and/or Historic Interest)	Historic Landscapes (Historic Interest)
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Other Sites of acknowledged international importance Sites that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Other buildings of recognized international importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Historic landscapes of international value, whether designated or not Extremely well preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factor(s)
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Ancient Monuments Undesignated Sites of schedulable quality and importance Sites that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Ancient Monuments with standing remains All Grade I and all Grade II* Listed Buildings (Scotland Category A) Conservation Areas containing very important buildings Undesignated structures of clear national importance Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in their listing grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated historic landscapes of outstanding interest Undesignated landscapes of outstanding interest Undesignated landscapes of high quality and importance, and of demonstrable national value Well preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time depth or other critical factor(s)
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade II Listed Buildings (Scotland Category B) Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in their listing grade Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character Historic townscape or built up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated special historic landscapes Undesignated historic landscapes that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value Average well preserved historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time depth or other critical factor(s)
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undesignated assets of local importance Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally listed buildings (Scotland Category C) Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association Historic townscape or built up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust undesignated historic landscapes Historic landscapes with importance to local interest groups Historic landscapes whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings of no architectural or historical note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes with little or no significant historic interest

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Table 2: Establishing the magnitude of impact

Magnitude of Impact	Heritage Asset		
	Archaeological Remains (Archaeological Interest)	Historic Buildings (Architectural/Artistic Interest and/or Historic Interest)	Historic Landscapes (Historic Interest)
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to most or all key archaeological materials, such that the resource is totally altered Comprehensive changes to setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to key historic building elements, such that the resource is totally altered Comprehensive changes to setting 	Major change to historic landscape character resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to most key historic landscape elements, parcels or components Extreme visual effects Major change to noise or change to sound quality Major changes to use or access
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to many key archaeological materials, such that the resource is clearly modified Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the asset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to many key historic building elements, such that the resource is significantly modified Changes to setting of an historic building such that it is significantly modified 	Moderate change to historic landscape character resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to many key historic landscape elements, parcels or components Visual change to many key aspects of the historic landscape Noticeable differences in noise or sound quality Considerable changes to use or access
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key archaeological materials, such that the asset is slightly altered Slight changes to setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to key historic building elements, such that the asset is slightly different Changes to setting of an historic building such that it is noticeably changed 	Limited change to historic landscape character resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to few key historic landscape elements, parcels or components Slight visual changes to few key aspects of the historic landscape Limited changes to noise levels or sound quality Slight changes to use or access
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very minor changes to archaeological materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slight changes to historic buildings elements or setting that hardly affect it 	Very small change to historic landscape character resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very minor changes to key historic landscape elements, parcels or components Virtually unchanged visual effects Very slight changes to noise levels or sound quality Very slight changes to use or access
No change	No change		

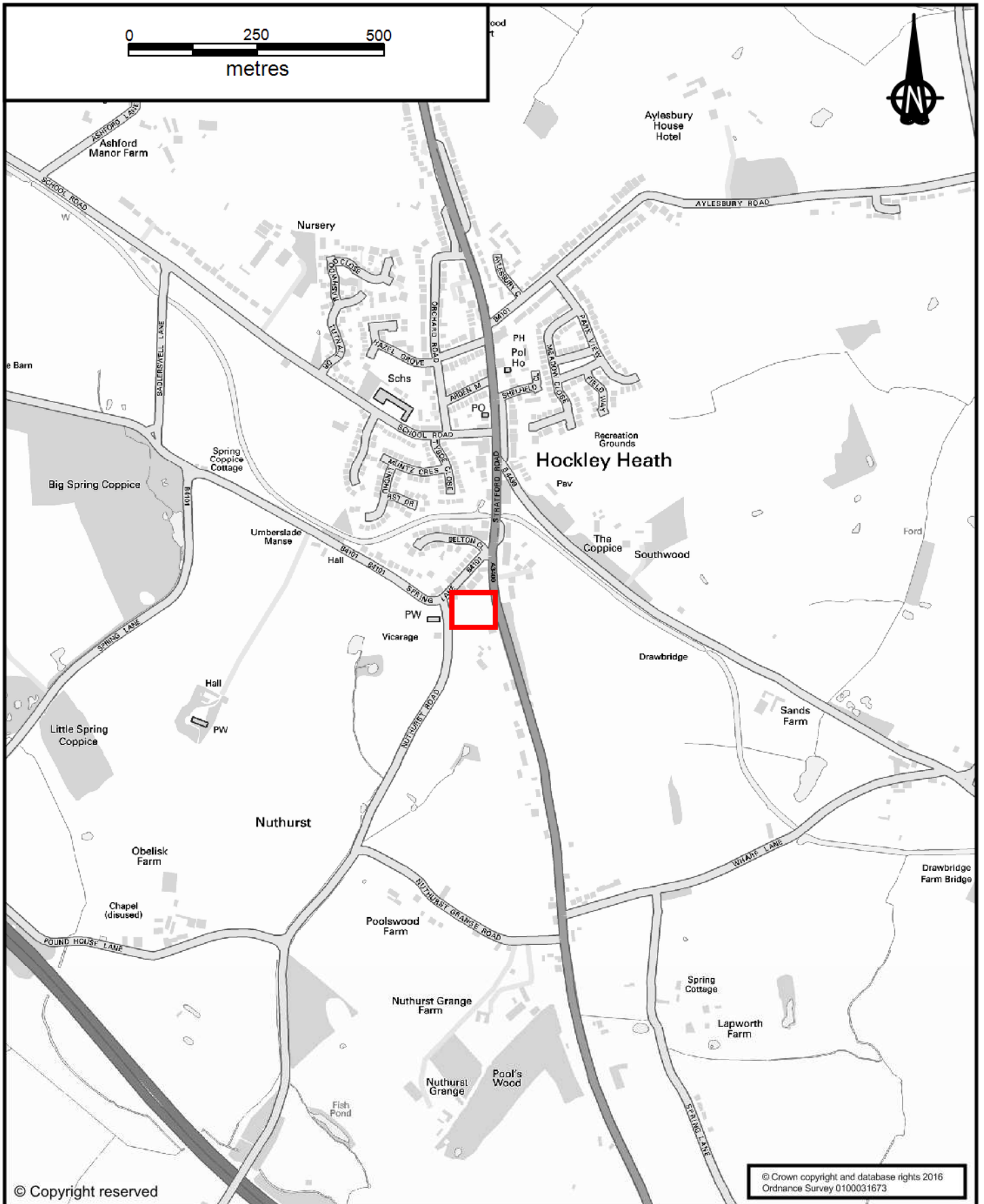
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Table 3: Establishing the significance of impact

IMPORTANCE	Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate/large	Large or very large	Very large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate/slight	Moderate/large	Large/very large
	Medium	Neutral	Neutral/slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate/large
	Low	Neutral	Neutral/slight	Neutral/slight	Slight	Slight/moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral/slight	Neutral/slight	Slight
	No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	
MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT						

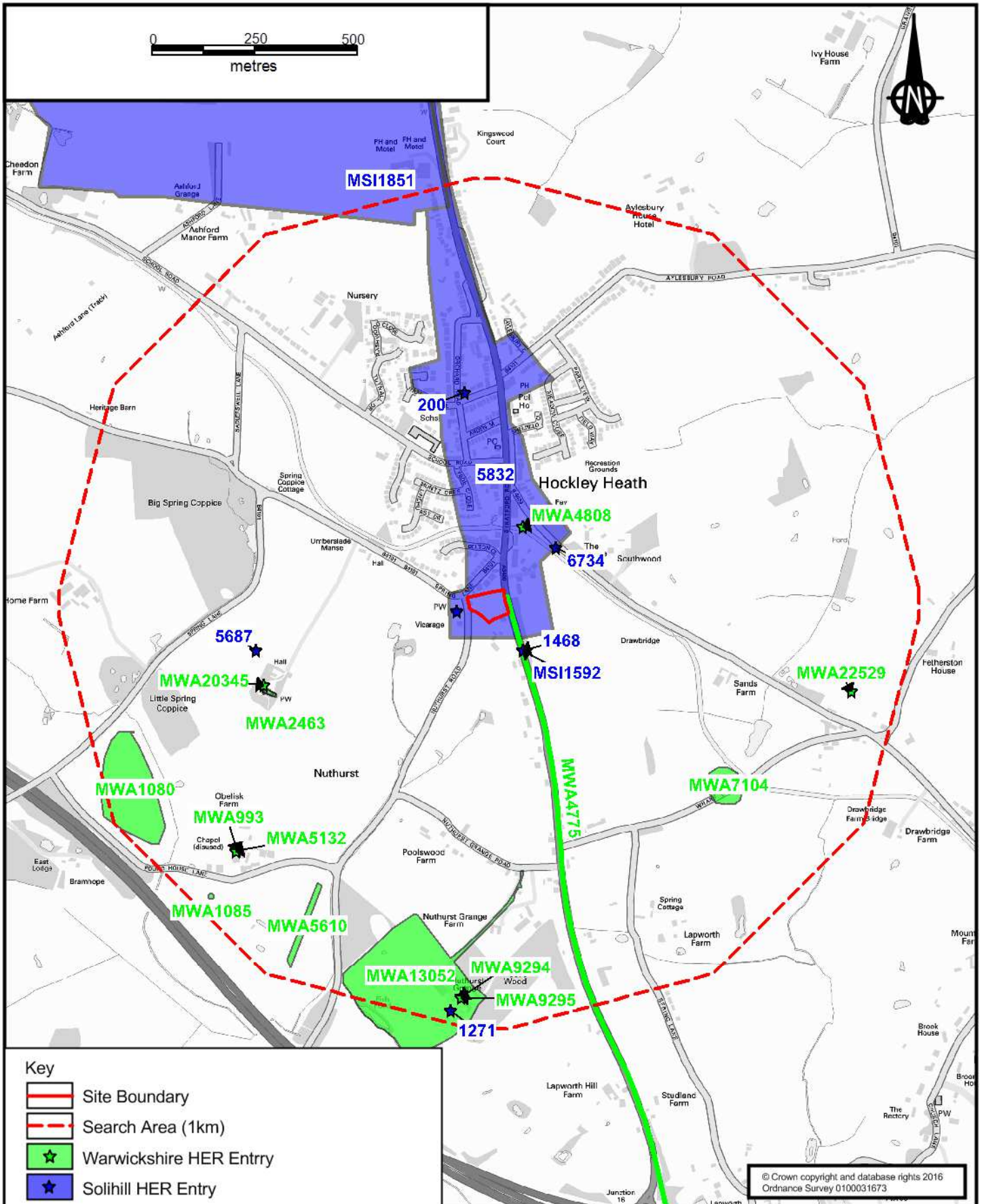
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DRAWINGS



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CLIENT Waterloo Housing Group	DRG No ST15913/004	SCALE 1:10,000 @ A4	DATE Dec 2016
PROJECT Land Adjacent to 2440 Stratford Road Hockley Heath	DRAWN BY CLD	CHECKED BY DFH	APPROVED BY DFH
DRAWING TITLE Figure 1 Site Location	 wardell armstrong your earth our world		



- Key**
-  Site Boundary
 -  Search Area (1km)
 -  Warwickshire HER Entry
 -  Solihill HER Entry

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CLIENT	Waterloo Housing Group	DRG No	ST15913/003	SCALE	1:12,500 @ A4	DATE	Dec 2016
PROJECT	Land Adjacent to 2440 Stratford Road Hockley Heath	DRAWN BY	CLD	CHECKED BY	DFH	APPROVED BY	DFH
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 2 Heritage Assets		 your earth our world				

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