

SEMINGTON ROAD, MELKSHAM

An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
Prepared for: Hollins Strategic Land

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

This report presents a synthesis of known heritage assets for an area of land to the east of Semington Road, Melksham (NGR: ST 90323 62360), so that the potential impact of a proposed residential use development on the historic environment can be assessed. The desk study and assessment has been prepared by SLR Consulting on behalf of Hollins Strategic Land (hereafter the Client). The desk study highlights the presence/absence of listed buildings and archaeological remains in regard to the development, and assesses the heritage significance of the historic environment as well as the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to lie buried within the application site.

1.2 Planning Background

The site is currently undeveloped however to the north there is a residential development. A full description of the proposed development is as follows:

Outline planning permission for up to 150 dwellings with informal and formal open space, including allotments and formal open space, associated landscaping and vehicular and pedestrian accesses off Semington Road. All matters reserved except for principal means of access.

1.3 Sources Consulted

This study has gathered data from a variety of resources, including the National Heritage List for England online (see Drawings 1 and 2), Heritage Gateway Portal¹, Wiltshire Council² and National Library of Scotland³. A search request was also made to Wiltshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER) for a 1km search radius of NGR: SP 47539, 13256. The data purchased from the HER has been layered into a GIS and used for analysis (see Drawings 3 and 4).

1.4 Consultation

Consultation with Wiltshire Council was undertaken on the 14th of February in regard to the acquisition of Historic Environment Record data.

¹ https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx

² <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-core-strategy>

³ <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15.086443252382937&lat=51.8178&lon=-1.3071&layers=11&b=1>

2.0 Legislation and Planning Policy

2.1 Legislation

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty upon the local planning authority in determining applications for development or works that affect a listed building to 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. It is also a duty, with regard to applications within conservation areas, to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area. Importantly, however, the concept of the setting of a conservation area is not enshrined in the legislation and does not attract the weight of statutory protection.⁴

2.2 Planning Policy

2.2.1 National Planning Policy

In the NPPF, Section 16 deals with the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, and Paragraph 189 requires applicants to consult the relevant HER and submit a desk-based assessment. This report fulfils that requirement on behalf of the client.

In NPPF Section 16, the conservation of the historic environment is governed by several basic concepts, principal amongst which is when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance (Paragraph 193).

Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use (Paragraph 196).

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be considered in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (Paragraph 197).

Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred (Paragraph 198).

Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible (Paragraph 199).⁵

2.2.2 Regional and Local Policy

As relevant to this application, parts of Wiltshire Local Development Policy⁶ (as adopted January 2015) are quoted below.

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁶ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-core-strategy>

Core Policy 58: Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment

Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.

Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:

- *nationally significant archaeological remains*
- *World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire*
- *buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest*
- *the special character or appearance of conservation areas*
- *historic parks and gardens*
- *important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.*

Distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping).

Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications.

3.0 Site Location and Description

3.1 Location and Land use

The application site comprises an area of 8.1ha, and lies to the south of Melksham, to the immediate west of the A350 (Figure 1), within the parish of Melksham Without, Wiltshire. The proposed development is for residential development of up to 150 dwellings, with associated access and attenuation ponds that lie to the central north of the site. The site is accessed from Semington Road. To the south-east the area is occupied by residential housing, whilst pastoral fields lie to the immediate north of the site. To the east the A350 has been upgraded with recent residential development further north by Bellway Homes.

The site lies immediately to the south of a sewage works, with Hampton Business park 30m to the south of the proposed development (Figure 2 (the redline application boundary is shown on the Drawings, on Figure 1 and on the historic maps Figure 7 and 8)). The land is currently agricultural comprising six fields in arable use.

Figure 1 Site Plan (with north to the left)



Drawing Title: Sketch Layout (with Google Base)
Drawing Number: UG1851 - URB - UD - XX - XX - SK - (90) - 001
Project: Melksham, Wiltshire

Revision: D
Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3
Date: 20.02.20



3.2 Geological and topographic background

The site lies over Oxford Clay and the West Walton Formation of mudstone, with no superficial deposits to the north of the development and river terrace deposits to the south⁷. The altitude is c. 35m AOD with land gently

⁷ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

rising to the east. Natural drainage is westwards towards the River Avon with its floodplain adjacent to the 1km search area, and Semington Brook lies 1.1km to the south (see Drawing 5).

Figure 2
General site location

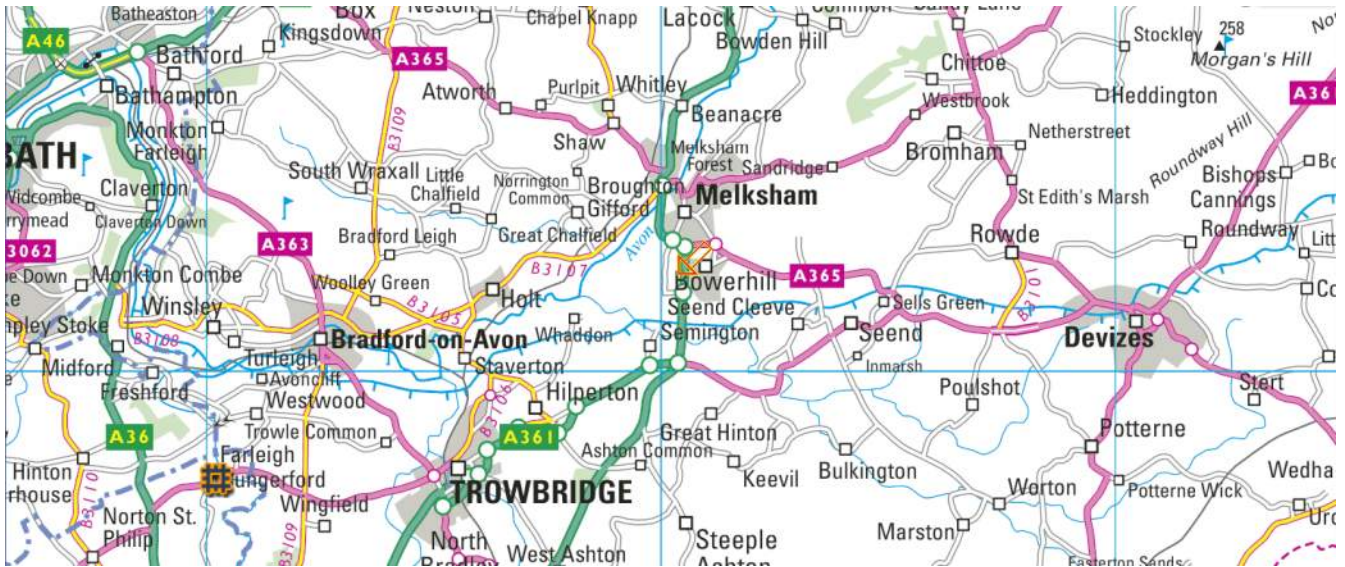
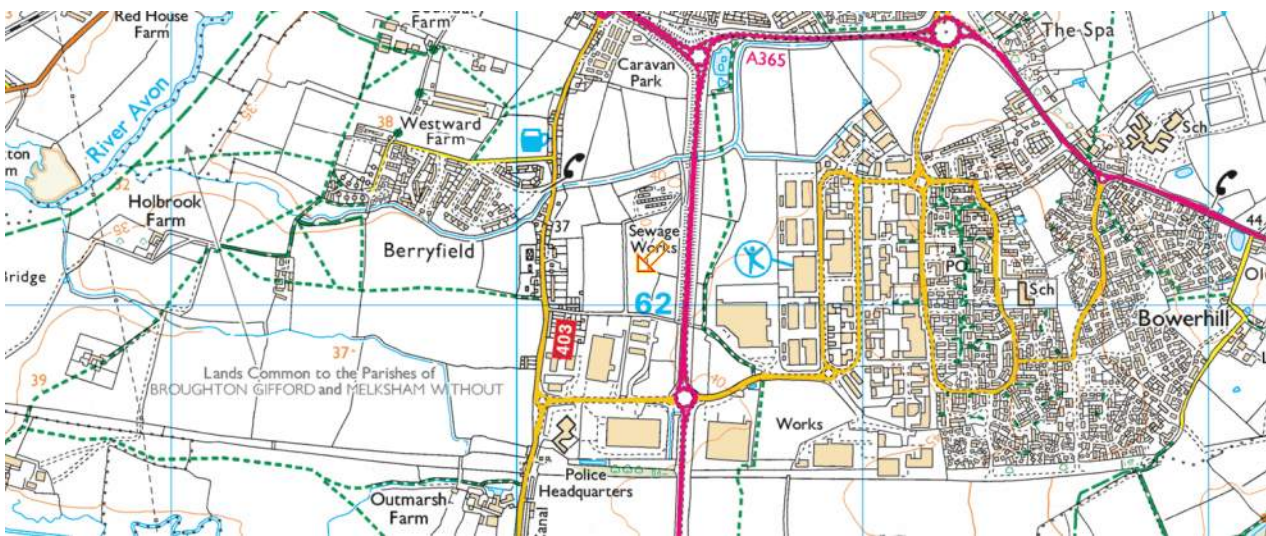


Figure 3
Detailed site location



3.3 Surveys

3.3.1 Previous Archaeological Work

Previous archaeological work on the site includes a Geophysical Survey undertaken in January 2020 by Sumo Survey. Results of this survey were broken down into five areas (See Figure 4 and Drawing 6). Area 1 and 3 revealed evidence of the former Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, (MWI9472). Previously unknown remains were identified within Area 4 consisting of a series of rectilinear and curvilinear anomalies (1) (ditches) that were cut by a modern underground utility. Further ditches north of the curvilinear features were also identified (2), and weaker curvilinear trends (3) to the west of the circular feature formed part of a smaller irregular enclosure⁸.

Figure 4: Interpretive Geophysical Survey by Sumo Geophysics⁹



An evaluation prior to this took place in 2014 by Thames Valley Archaeological Service which was carried out to the north of the site. The evaluation yielded positive results (Figure 5 and Drawing 6). The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features, with a single posthole of possible Saxon/medieval date, as well as two linear ditches with medieval pottery as well as residual Iron Age pottery. This investigation was in close vicinity to the current application and, although not within the red line boundary, nonetheless adds to the evidence base on which the potential for buried archaeological remains on site can be assessed.

⁸ Sumo Survey: Geophysics for Archaeology and Engineering.2020. *Geophysical Survey report. Melksham, Wiltshire on behalf of Hollins Strategic Land.* Report No. 16842

⁹ Sumo Survey: Geophysics for Archaeology and Engineering.2020. *Geophysical Survey report. Melksham, Wiltshire on behalf of Hollins Strategic Land.* Report No. 16842

Figure 5: Trench Plan of Thames Valley Archaeology Services evaluation¹⁰



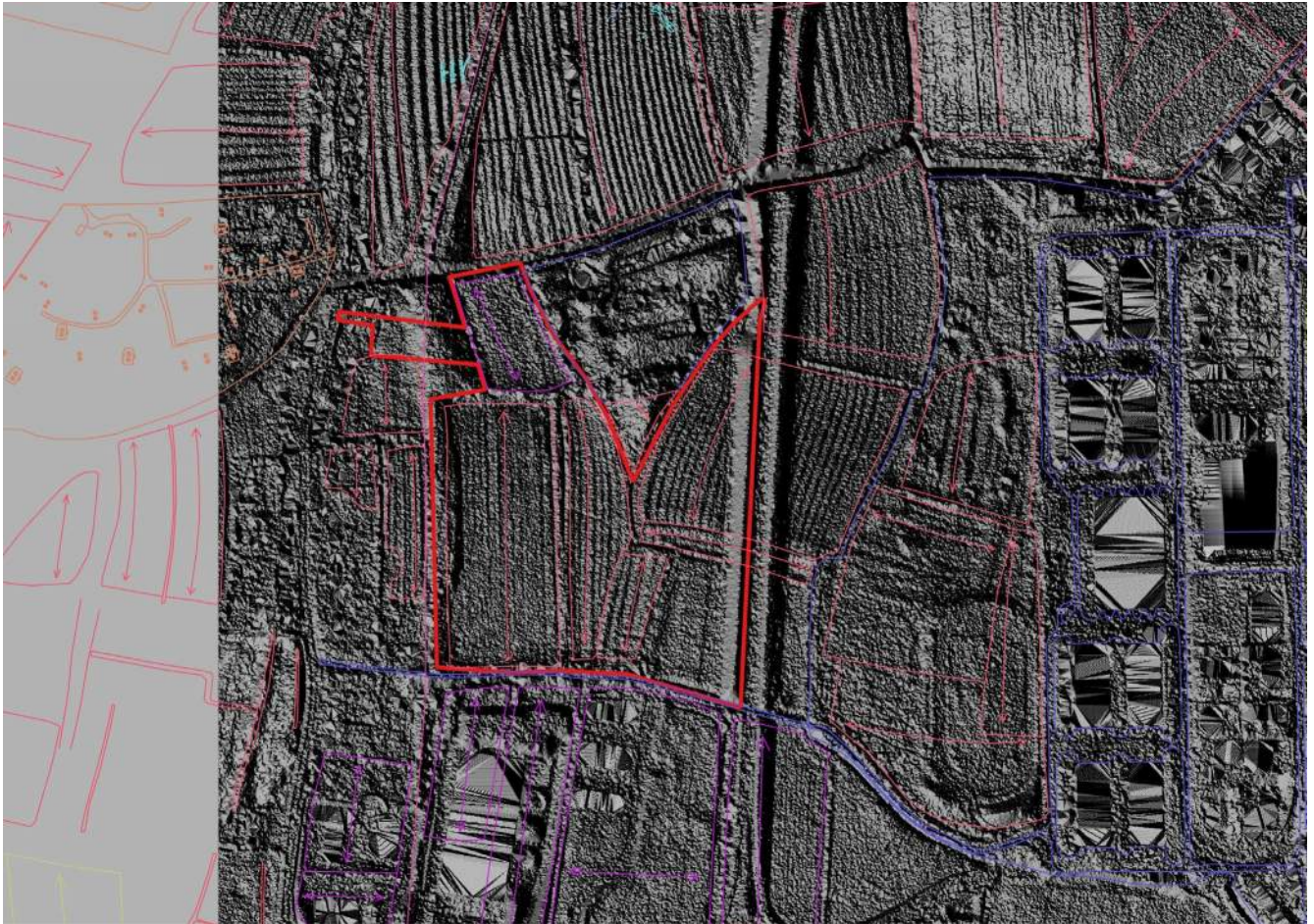
3.3.2 Lidar

LiDAR data (Digital Terrain Model) on a 1m grid was obtained from the Environment Agency website, layered into a GIS, and visualised as a hillshade diagram (Figure 6). The LiDAR shows evidence for Ridge and Furrow as described in the HER, as well as the backfilled Wiltshire Canal.

The LiDAR data does not identify any additional below ground features that are shown in the geophysical survey in 2020.

¹⁰ Thames Valley Archaeology Service. 2014. *Land at Semington Road, Berryfield, Melksham Wiltshire. An archaeological Evaluation for Mark Chard and Associates.* Report Number: 14/130c.

Figure 6:
Lidar Data overlain with HER Data



4.0 Results of Desk Study

4.1 Archaeological Background

4.1.1 Designated Heritage Assets

Within 1km of the proposed development there are five designated heritage assets, which all are Grade II Listed Buildings and the nearest is over 500m from the red line boundary (Drawings 1 and 2, Appendix 2). There are no scheduled monuments or Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields. The closest scheduled monument lies 1.9km to the south-west of the proposed development which is a medieval settlement at Whaddon. Of the listed buildings within the 1km search area there are two farmhouses, a farm hotel, a public house and walls, as well as cottages. Two listed buildings are within the urban area of Melksham, a third is on the western edge of the modern built up area of Berryfield (Cottages), and the remaining two are either side of Semington Road, to the south of Hampton Business Park.

4.1.2 Non-designated Heritage Assets

There are 89 non-designated heritage assets identified on Wiltshire's HER within the search area. In addition, the geophysical survey has located what are likely to be buried archaeological features within the eastern part of the site. The HER data have been sorted, and from this a chronological synthesis is presented below to help assess the development of the historic landscape.

4.2 Chronological Summary

4.2.1 Prehistoric

There are no recorded prehistoric or Roman sites within the boundary of the proposed development. Within 1km of the proposed development there is a single Neolithic or Early Bronze Age site (a rectangular enclosure), and 11 Bronze Age sites. These consist of nine Bronze Age Barrows, (**MWI75770, MWI1921, MWI1922, MWI1919, MWI1920, MWI1923, MWI73490, MW73491**) and a Bronze Age ditch, pit and findspot (**MWI77010, MWI77009, MWI4926**). All are located to the north-west (enclosure and funerary monuments) or north (pits and ditches) apart from a bronze palstave found to the south at Outmarsh Farm.

The Bronze age barrows that lie to the north-west of the proposed development indicate a zone set aside for Bronze age funerary activity within the liminal space of the juncture between the flood plain of the River Avon and slightly drier land to the east. Bronze Age barrows are often circular ditches and burial mounds ranging from 5m to 50m in diameter with the main period of construction between primarily between 2000BC and 1500BC. Barrows often occur in groups sometimes in two to three but occasionally up to thirty or more¹¹. The Bronze Age was a pivotal time of agricultural development in Britain and the importing of metal artefacts into the local area. It was also the time of large ritualistic landscapes and definition of areas of agriculture and settlement that respected the pre-existing ritualistic landscape. A key example of defining lowland areas is the Stanwell Cursus¹² which, although Neolithic in date, shows a clear definition in the landscape by separating areas of agriculture and settlements with a processional bank that can be seen through the landscape.

The monuments that lie in the search area show potential for understanding this development of the landscape through the previous Neolithic enclosure to the north-west of the proposed development (**MWI75667**), which is then progressed into the Bronze Age with the zone of funerary monuments (See Drawings 2 - 5) along the edge

¹¹ Historic England, 2018. *Prehistoric Barrows and Burial Mounds: Introduction to Heritage Assets*

¹² Oxford Archaeology. 2007. *The Archaeology of the A1 (M). Darrington to Difshorth DBFO Road Scheme*. Lancaster Prints

of the flood plain for the River Avon. A series of Bronze Age pits and ditches were uncovered in 2018 by Cotswold Archaeology dating previously unknown features of which a single pit contained Bronze Age pottery to the north-west of the site¹³ north of Berryfield. This ditch shows that the Bronze age activity in the region progresses east from the known funerary sites and towards the proposed development. There is Bronze Age evidence to the north of the proposed development from the Thames Valley Archaeological Services evaluation on behalf of Bellway Homes (**MWI77010**), and to the east of the proposed development a series of cropmark ditches could be associated with agriculture such as a coaxial field system and droveway, although these features are still currently undated (**MWI74360**). If these features form part of a field system, it is likely to have had to have had a settlement close by, which could be the source for the geophysical curvilinear anomaly within the proposed development. The anomaly appears to be a circular ditch with the circumference of 45m in diameter. However, given the location of these Bronze Age monuments within the landscape formed by the confluence of two rivers (which is often linked to a ritualistic landscape) the anomalies may be something more significant such as a henge or a concentric ring monument similar to the Ferrybridge excavations in Dishforth¹⁴. The topographical relevance of the surrounding area is significant due to the gentle slope to the west and the zone of Bronze Age barrows, with the potential settlement/monument from the geophysical results looking down towards the Bronze Age barrows and river beyond (See Drawing 5 and 6).

4.2.2 Roman

Within the 1km search area of the proposed development there are four Roman sites; an enclosure (**MWI1924**) to the west of the site at Berryfield, and a series of ditches to the north of this (**MWI75668**); seven Roman coins at the northern edge of the search area (**WMI4927**) and a hexagonal temple or shrine with an offering of 30 coins (**MWI76045**) c.500m to the south (Drawings 3 and 4).

The proposed development lies exactly 15.39km to the south-east of Bath, Somerset. Bath was a popular town in the Roman period, *Aquae Sulis*, and as such there are many Roman roads leading to the popular town¹⁵. Bath is famous for its shrine to *Sulis Minerva*, and the shrine (**MWI76045**) which lies to the south of the proposed development could have similar sacred associations. The enclosures and ditches (**MWI1924**, **MWI75668**) dating to the Romano-British period show a wider more domesticated use of the landscape. Roman ditches lie to the north-west of the proposed development and therefore the enclosures within the geophysical survey carried out in 2020 within the north-western part of the proposed development, could indicate further agricultural activity, specifically Roman ladder enclosures¹⁶.

4.2.3 Medieval

Within the proposed development it is recorded that there is medieval ridge and furrow (**MW173961**). Within 1km of the proposed development there are 12 recorded medieval sites. These are ridge and furrow (**MWI1910**, **MWI73880**, **MWI73882**, **MWI73892**, **MWI73961**, **MWI73967**, **MWI73961**, **MWI73881**); two settlements (**MWI13626**, **MWI3632**) and a field boundary (**MWI73902**) (Drawings 3 and 4).

The area of Melksham that the proposed development falls within is a known agricultural landscape with medieval ridge and furrow within the proposed development and a further two settlements to the north-west at Berryfield. The Berryfield district was never referred to as a tithing¹⁷. The name Berryfield seems to have been derived from Hill or Barrow as the site is not situated on a hill but is within 300m of the south-east of the Bronze

¹³ Cotswold Archaeology. 2018. *Land at Semington Road, Melksham, Wiltshire*.

¹⁴ Oxford Archaeology North. 2007. *The Archaeology of the A1(M). Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Road Scheme*.

¹⁵ Davenport P. 1994. *Town and Country: Roman Bath and its Hinterland*. Bath History.

¹⁶ Northamptonshire Archaeology. 2008. *A roman-British Ladder Enclosure at Milton Ham, Northampton*. Report 08/118

¹⁷ Victoria County History. 1953. *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 7: Parishes: Melksham*.

Age barrows discussed above¹⁸. This shows evidence of respect in the landscape throughout periods such as this. Melksham is first referenced by the Domesday Survey in 1086 as the manor owned by the King. In 1155, the manor changed hands to Humphrey de Bohun¹⁹. The town of Melksham previously known from historic mapping as *Melkesham*, believed to originate from Anglo-Saxon origins: *Meolcham*, “*Meolc*” being the old English name for milk and “*ham*” a village²⁰. The proposed development lies in an area of defined medieval ridge and furrow as shown on the HER and LiDAR Data (See Figure 5 and Drawing 3). This shows a high level of agriculture in the area. The installation of Spa Road out of Melksham also appears to follow the line and route of the potential Bronze Age coaxial field system which may have become fossilised in the landscape.

4.2.4 Post-Medieval

The remains of the Wiltshire Canal lie within the proposed development boundary (**MWI9472**). Within the 1km search area there are 27 sites. There are four post-medieval ridge and furrow sites (**MWI73885**, **MWI73941**, **MWI73958**, **MWI73944**). There are also 21 farm buildings of Post-Medieval date, (**MWI68667**, **MWI68695**, **MWI68666**, **MWI68698**, **MWI68699**, **MWI68696**, **MWI68697**, **MWI68702**, **MWI68703**, **MWI68700**, **MWI68701**, **MWI68749**, **MWI68750**, **MWI68704**, **MWI68705**, **MWI68755**, **MWI68849**, **MWI68751**, **MWI68752**, **MWI68850**, **MWI31389**).

The modern field system appears to have been laid out prior to 1873²¹ and predominantly run north – south, and west – east. Proximity to the flood plain of the River Avon, suggests drainage is a likely reason for the orientation, as well as for the drainage ditch to the south and a small watercourse to the north-east.

The Wiltshire to Berkshire canal was constructed in 1810, it’s primary use was for the transportation of coal from Somerset to Chippenham and the north. The Wiltshire Canal then became a link in a series of canals to transport coal, but with the construction of the Great Western Railway the Canal’s commercial use reduced from 1841 onwards, finally abandoned in 1914²².

Due to the supply and demand of coal across the south-west there was an increase in transportation, such as seeing the installation of the railway running to the south of the proposed development, the Devizes branch of the Great Western Railway and then later the Wiltshire, Somerset and Weymouth section of the Great Western Railway. Increased transportation and the upgrading of infrastructure can be seen in the Ordnance Survey mapping for 1888 and 1937 (Figures 8 and 9), during which time Semington Lane is changed to Semington Road, and showing that there was an increase in residential development and transportation links.

4.2.5 Modern

There are no Modern sites within the proposed development. Within the 1km search area there are six sites. Of those six sites, there is an anti-tank gun emplacement (**MWI31886**), a World War Two Pillbox (**MWI31753**), a firing range (**MWI73884**), a military camp (**MWI73883**), a twenty-first century restaurant (**MWI73267**) and RAF Bowerhill (**MWI4954**), an airfield.

Bowerhill Airfield was opened in 1940 as a school of technical training for the Royal Air Force, it was opened due to the numbers of trainees required for the Second World War. The Airfield consisted of 8 hangars, a hospital and similar infrastructure as well as associated buildings such as the firing range and anti-tank gun emplacement against the fear of invasion. An associated military camp included an air raid shelter, as well as a pillbox for defensive structures to the Airfield.

¹⁸ Gover, J.E.B et al, 1939, *The Place-names of Wiltshire*, p129

¹⁹ Victoria County History. 1953. *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 7 :Melksham Hundred* .

²⁰ History of Melksham: <http://www.visit-melksham.com/melksham-information/history-melksham> Accessed 20/02/2020

²¹ OS Mapping 1873 1st edition six inch

²² Clew, Kenneth R. (1970). *The Somersetshire Coal Canal and Railways*. Newton Abbot: David and Charles

4.2.6 Undated

There are no undated sites within the proposed development boundary. There are nine undated sites which can be listed in Appendix 2 and shown on Figures 3 and 4.

4.2.7 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The historic landscape within the site is characterised as amalgamated fields with fields and enclosed land, previously strip fields of medieval/Saxon period. The historic landscape surrounding the site is characterised as modern housing dating as early as the 1st edition Ordnance Survey. OS historic mapping shows the grain of the historic landscape with five – six north-south rights of way (footpaths, lanes, and roads) depicted. The confluence of two rivers, and the crossing points of these rivers, strongly influence how the landscape has developed.

The historic landscape of the area is diverse ranging from the prehistoric to the modern 20th century. The origin of the Berryfields place name respects the Bronze Age barrows to the west, and Melksham place name indicates the importance of the use of the land for dairy farming during the early medieval period. The prehistoric landscape can be shown to have significant elements which formed a sacred landscape with Bronze Age barrows north-west of the site, a local manifestation of the much larger and famous wider landscape with Salisbury Plain lying 11km to the south and Stonehenge 20 km to the north-east of the proposed development. A more agricultural and domesticated landscape can be seen represented by later Bronze Age and Roman field systems and enclosures, which was then succeeded by an agricultural landscape of medieval and post-medieval farming, transportation infrastructure and settlements. Then as the beginning of the 20th Century the landscape changes further from an agricultural landscape to a well developed residential area with agricultural pockets and military organisation and infrastructure throughout.

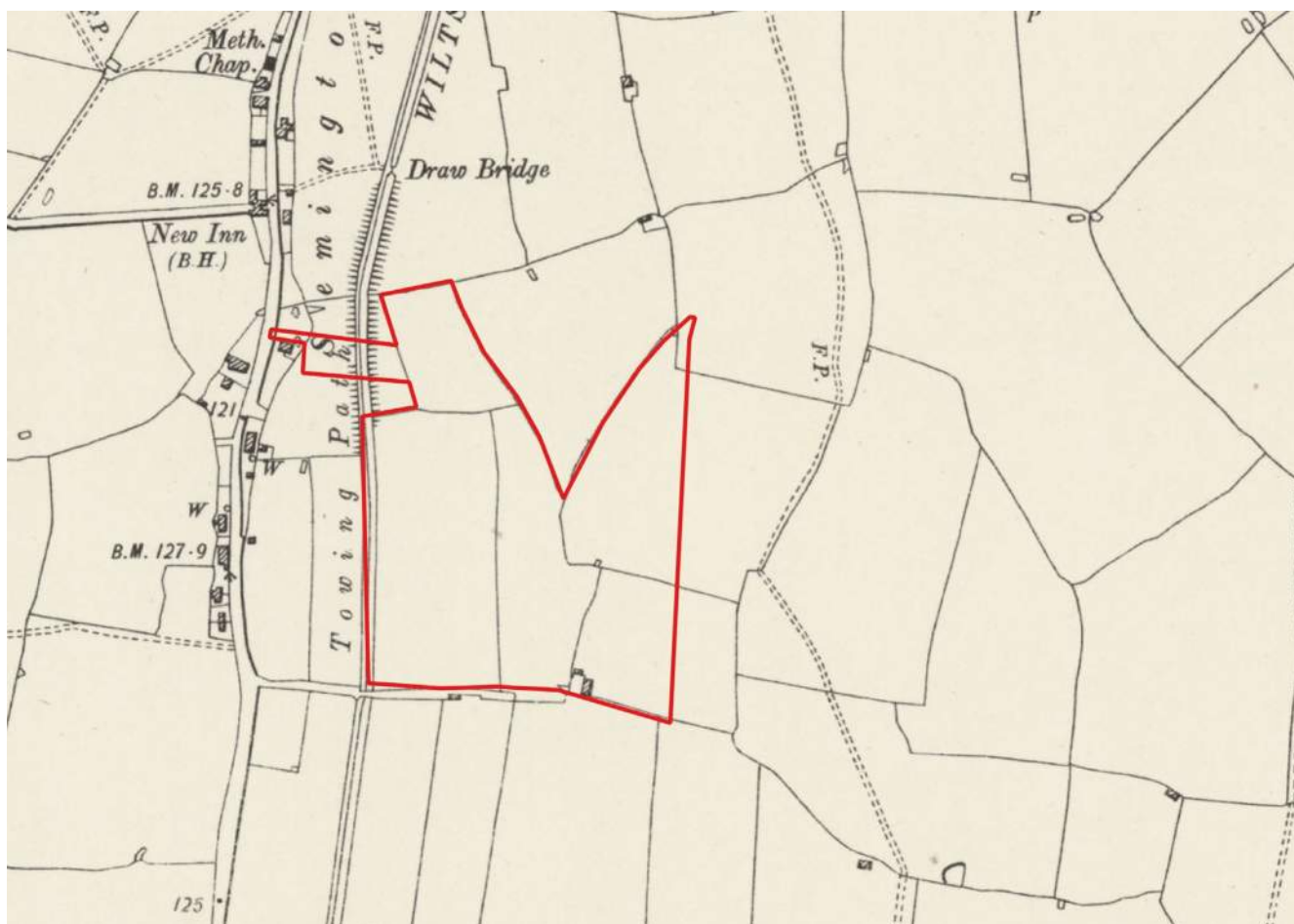
5.0 Historic Mapping

Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1st edition of 1885 (Figure 7) notes the area of the site as undeveloped, large open fields, with the exception of the Wiltshire Canal which runs north/south along the west of the application site. Later OS mapping indicates that the canal had fallen into disuse in the early 20th Century, (See Drawing 2 and 4).

Figure 7: OS Map of 1885



Figure 8: OS Map of 1888

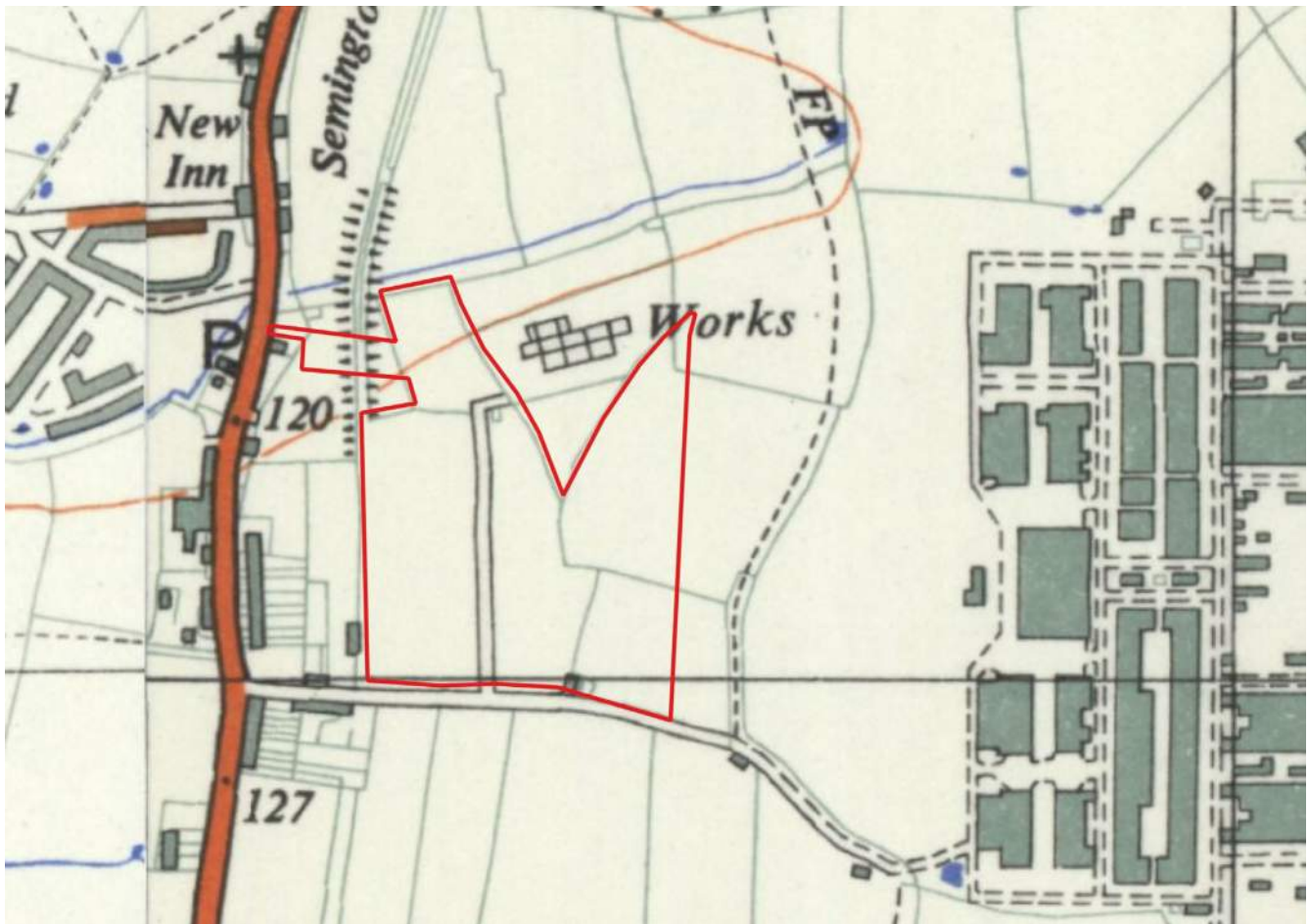


The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 depicts field boundaries that are currently in place today as well as a farm building (**MW168702**), not previously depicted. Also depicted is the towing path along the canal and canal respectively (Figure 8).

On the 1926 map of the Ordnance Survey²³ map it is depicted that the canal is disused, and further residential development to the east. There is also a footpath in the place of the current A350.

²³ Ordnance Survey. 1922. *Ordnance Survey Wiltshire XXXIII.SW (Melksham within; Melksham without; seend; Semington.* <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101463101> Accessed 18/02/2020

Figure 9: OS Map of 1937



The Ordnance Survey of 1937 depicts the sewage works to the north of the development which was previously not depicted, as well as RAF Bowerhill (east) and the disuse of the canal. It also depicts the changing of the road name, to Semington Road from what was previously Semington Lane.

On the 1951 Ordnance Survey²⁴ map it shows that the residential development of the area continues as well as the labelling of Shails Lane to the south of the proposed development.

²⁴ Ordnance Survey. 1951. *Ordnance Survey Wiltshire XXXIII.SW (Melksham within; Melksham without; seend; Semington.* <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101463098> Accessed 18/02/2020

6.0 Discussion and Assessment of Significance

6.1 Heritage Significance

The development site lies within a zone of river terracing where there is extensive evidence for prehistoric activity, with several other periods also well represented. Within 1km there are 89 entries within the HER (Appendix 2), at least 11 of which are Bronze Age, including a zone of funerary monuments and an early Bronze Age artefact found in a potentially wet context at Outmarsh Farm. Roman coins found to the north and south of the site, and the temple/shrine also to the south, suggests a continuation of the sacred element to this landscape during later times. The evidence for medieval cultivation which is now only visible from Lidar data, is of low significance, and the later periods of canal and military activity are also considered of low significance. Preliminary geophysical survey within the site has identified several anomalies which could have archaeological origins. Overall this site therefore has the potential to be of local importance and has the potential to increase understanding of the historical landscape south of Melksham.

6.2 Potential

From the background HER data there would appear to be a potential for unknown settlement activity, or at the very least further diagnostic assemblages, deposits or features of local value could lie buried within the application site. Previous investigations to the north, and within the application site, show that there is strong evidence of potential prehistoric activity in the north-eastern part of the site, and so the probability for surviving buried archaeological remains is assessed as high.

Due to the close proximity of recorded Roman HER sites and geophysical survey carried out in 2020, there is also a reasonable potential for later phases within the proposed development, perhaps similar to what was uncovered to the north and north-west of the site. This activity could continue south and be present in the site, therefore, the potential for Roman buried remains is moderate to high.

The high medieval agricultural landscape of the area and HER records of agriculture in the proposed development indicates that there is a high chance of agricultural medieval remains within the proposed development, but these have low significance.

There is a moderate to high potential for post medieval remains within the site due to the recorded canal that runs north-south through the westerly edge of the site, but its heritage significance is considered low as it is a linear monument with much surviving elsewhere, and its size and depth making it likely that it would be largely unaffected by the proposed development.

There is a moderate potential for modern remains within the site due to the close proximity of RAF Melksham and its associated infrastructure. The field that the proposed development is within was probably used as a training area for the RAF base as it is known that the canal was used for training exercises.

6.3 Potential Impacts

Due to the nature of the development and the large ground breaking works through the attenuation ponds, utilities and access road, building foundations and landscaping, there is a potential for a high impact on potential unknown buried archaeological remains. The geophysical survey results suggest the presence of surviving buried remains.

7.0 Recommendations and conclusions

it is advised that a mitigation strategy be adopted if permission is granted, to design a scheme of archaeological investigation to reveal and record below-ground archaeological deposits as necessary. A scheme for this programme of investigation would need to be drawn up and approved by the local authority's archaeological planning advisor. It is likely that trial trenching followed by an archaeological excavation such as a strip, map and sample approach would be recommended to address the moderate - high potential of the site and its association with the surrounding prehistoric landscape.

This heritage assessment has gathered data for the application site and 1km around it. The results of the work show that in spite of modern development within the surrounding landscape, the application site has remained undeveloped, and that historically it is sensitive due to prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains which might survive within it. As shown by the 2020 geophysical survey of the proposed development there is an indication of possible buried archaeological remains.

It is therefore assessed that the level of potential for unknown buried archaeology is moderate - high and post-determination mitigation works are recommended to record the presence or absence of any unknown archaeology. In accordance with the NPPF Paragraph 189 this HEDBA has been completed as a planning supporting statement, which should include an appropriate level of baseline and assessment information to determine the application.

8.0 References

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DRAWINGS

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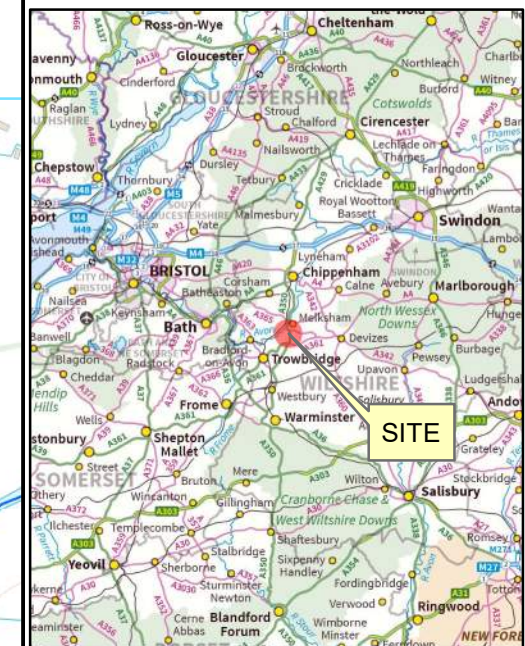
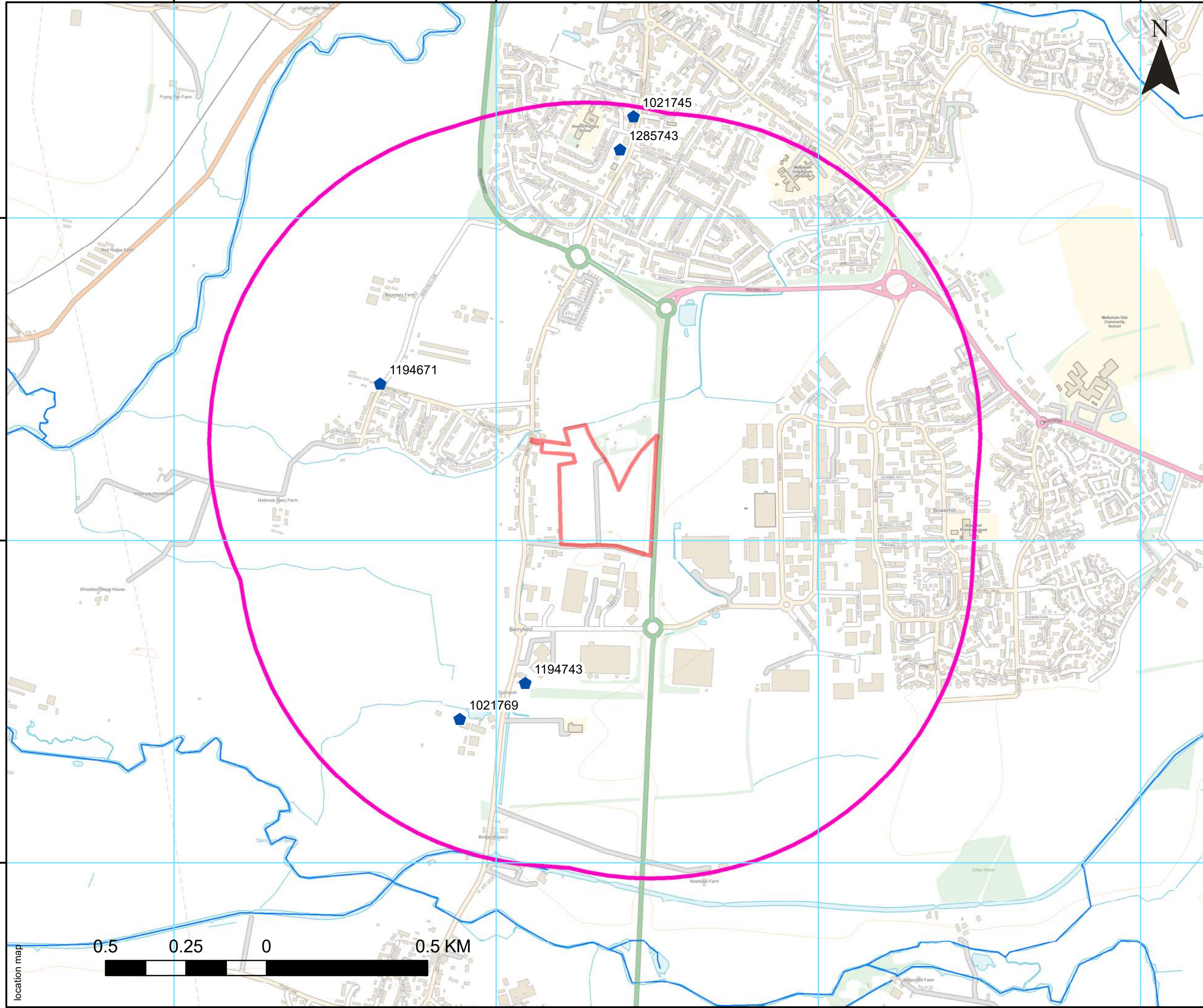
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LEGEND

-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  SEARCH AREA 1KM

LISTED BUILDING WITH GRADE

-  II



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 DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
 DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

1

Scale 1:11,257 @ A3 Date FEB 2020

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 KM



location map

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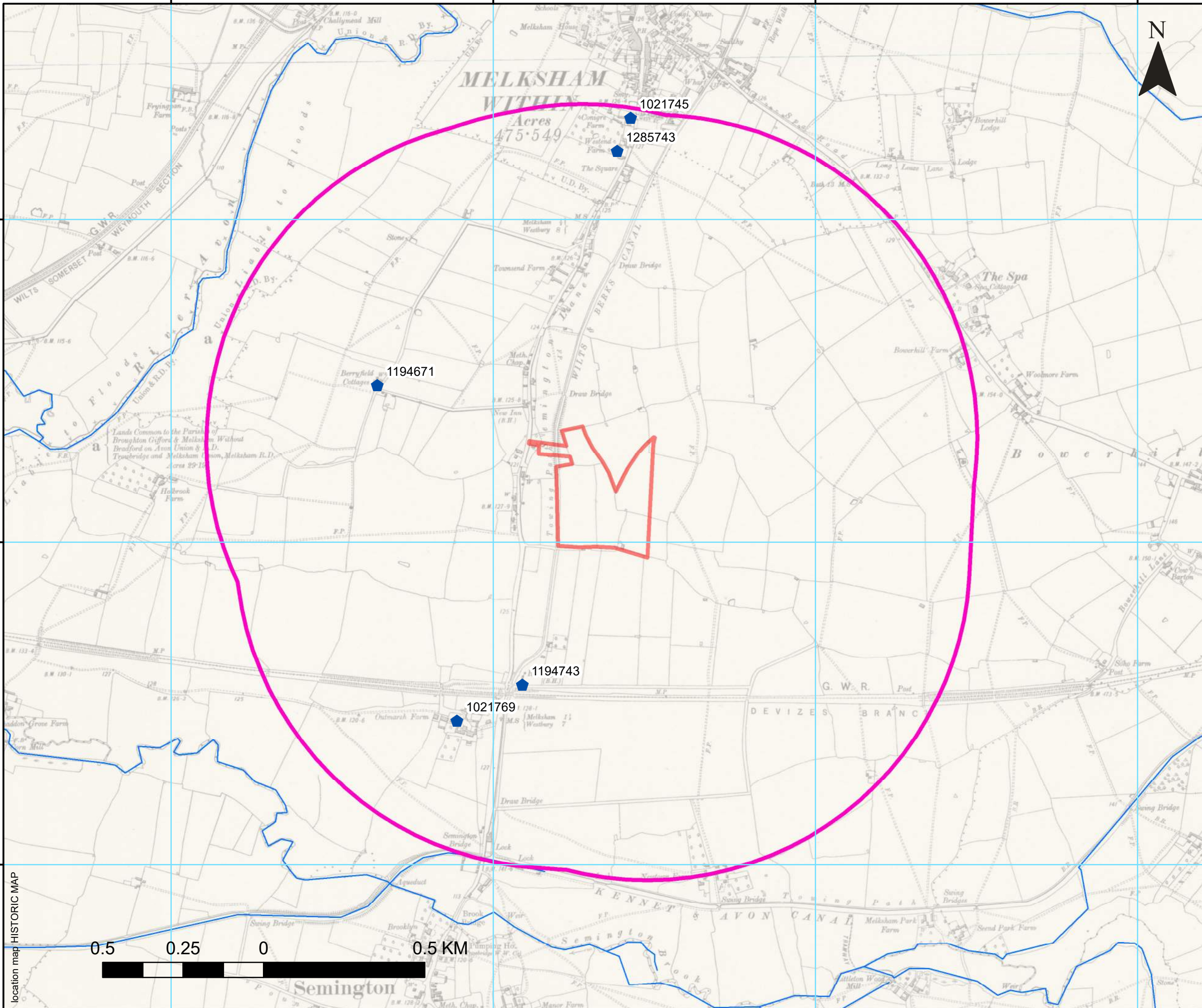
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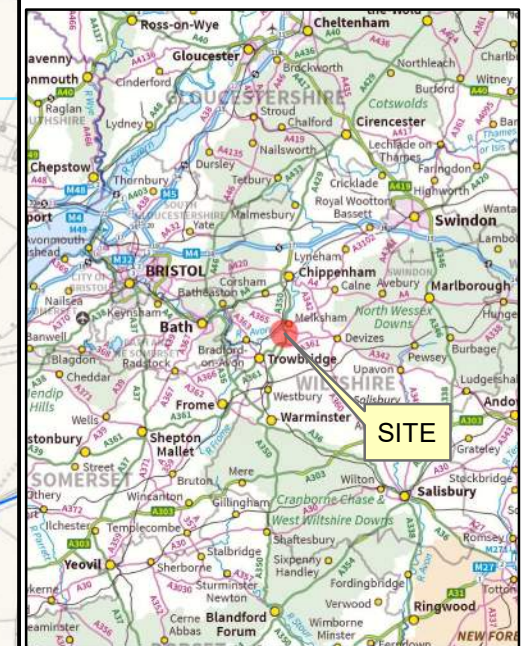
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LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- SEARCH AREA 1KM
- LISTED BUILDING WITH GRADE
- II



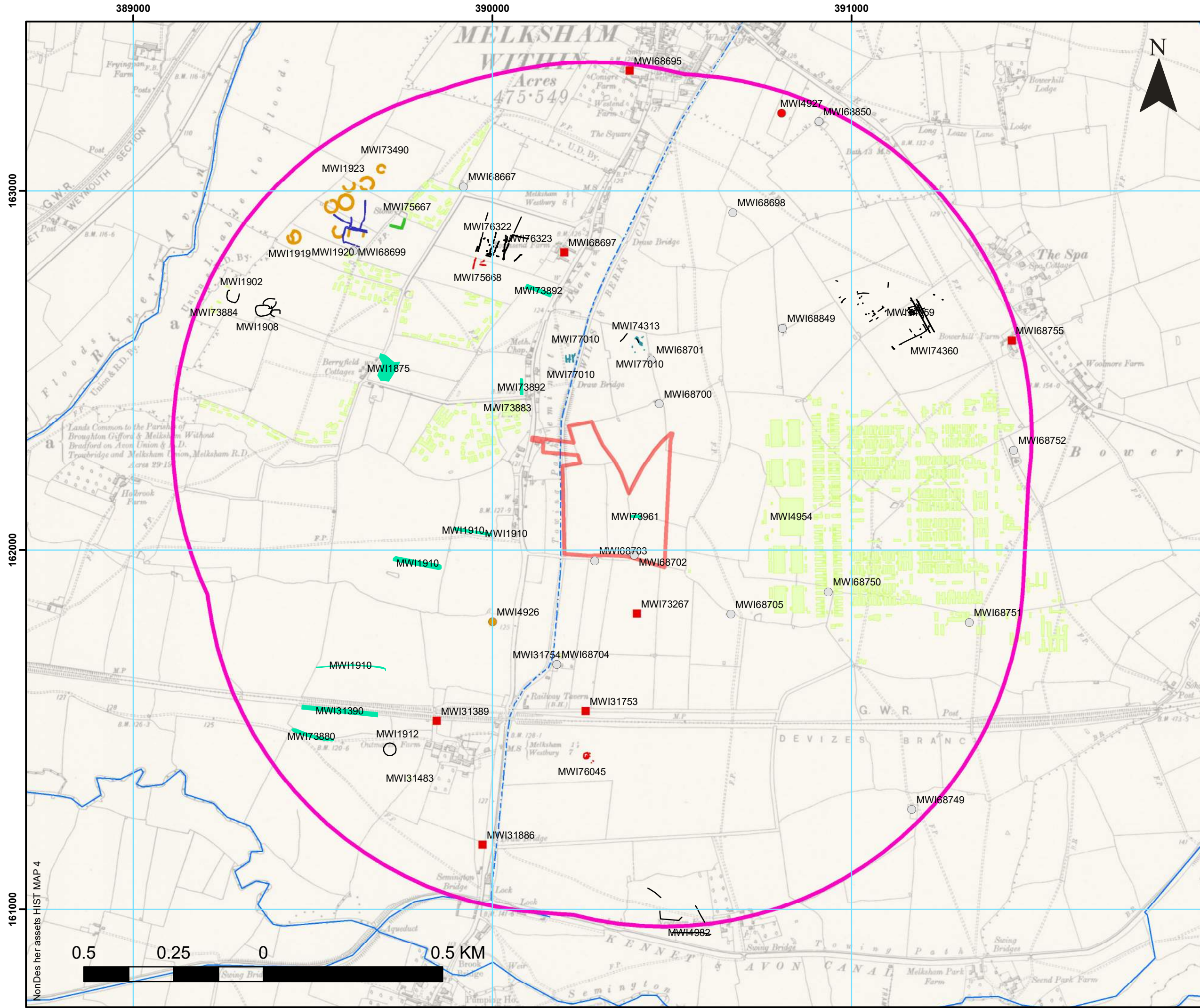
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DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

2

Scale 1:11,257 @ A3 Date FEB 2020



LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- SEARCH AREA 1KM
- BRONZE AGE FINDSPOT
- ROMAN FINDSPOT
- LATE NEOLITHIC -EARLY BRONZE AGE
- LATE BRONZE AGE - EARLY IRON AGE
- BRONZE AGE
- EARLY IRON AGE - ROMAN
- ROMAN
- UNDATED
- HER POINT
- MEDIEVAL
- FORMER WILTSHIRE/BERKSHIRE CANAL
- 19C FARM SITE
- 20C MILITARY SITE

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

4

Scale 1:9,908 @ A3 Date FEB 2020

NonDes her assets HIST MAP 4

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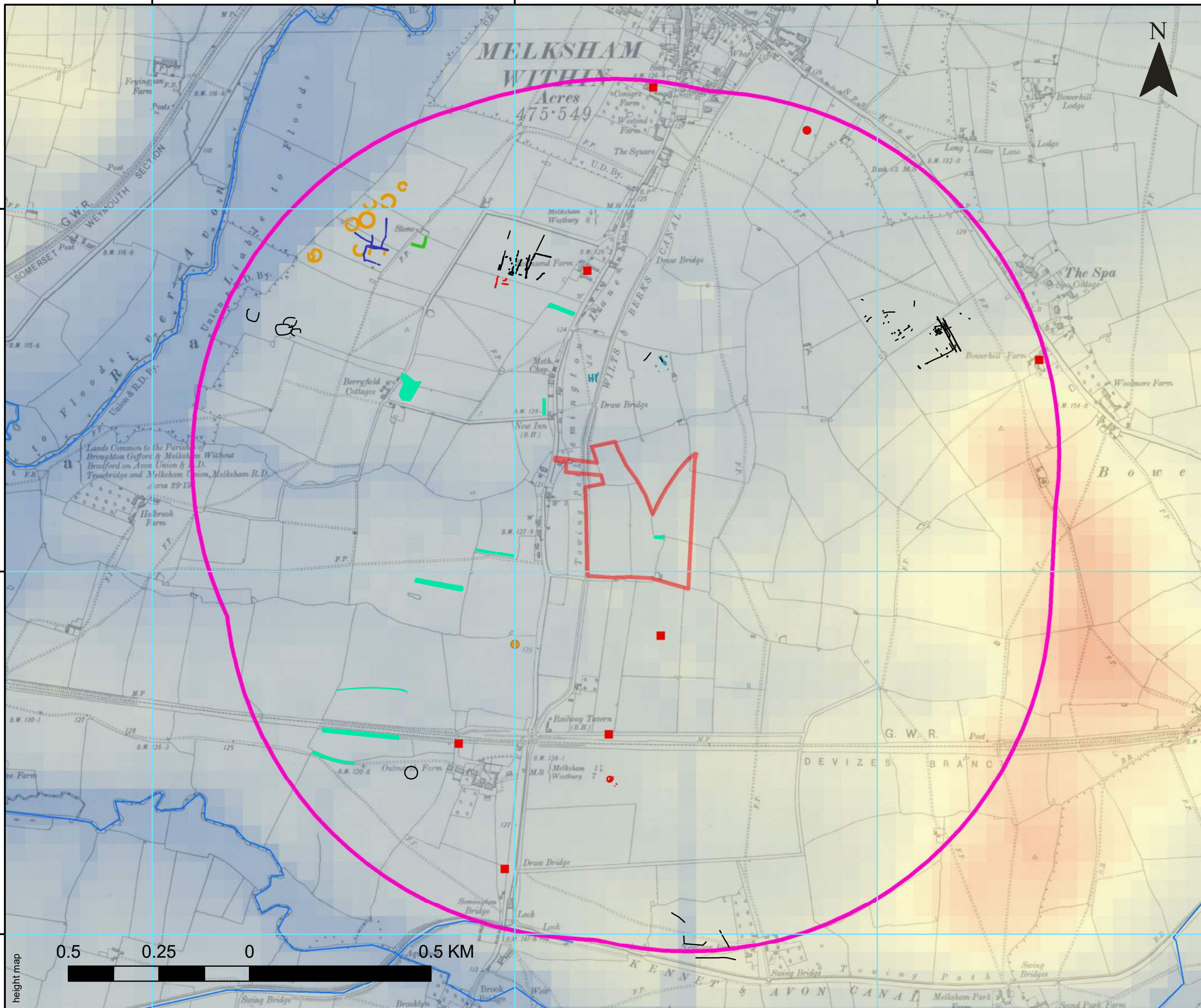
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LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
 - SEARCH AREA 1KM
 - BRONZE AGE FINDSPOT
 - ROMAN FINDSPOT
 - LATE NEOLITHIC -EARLY BRONZE AGE
 - LATE BRONZE AGE - EARLY IRON AGE
 - BRONZE AGE
 - EARLY IRON AGE - ROMAN
 - ROMAN
 - UNDATED
 - HER POINT
 - MEDIEVAL
- METERS AOD
- High : 75.8
- Low : 29.6

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 KM

height map

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
HEIGHT MAP

5

Scale 1:10,000 @ A3 Date FEB 2020

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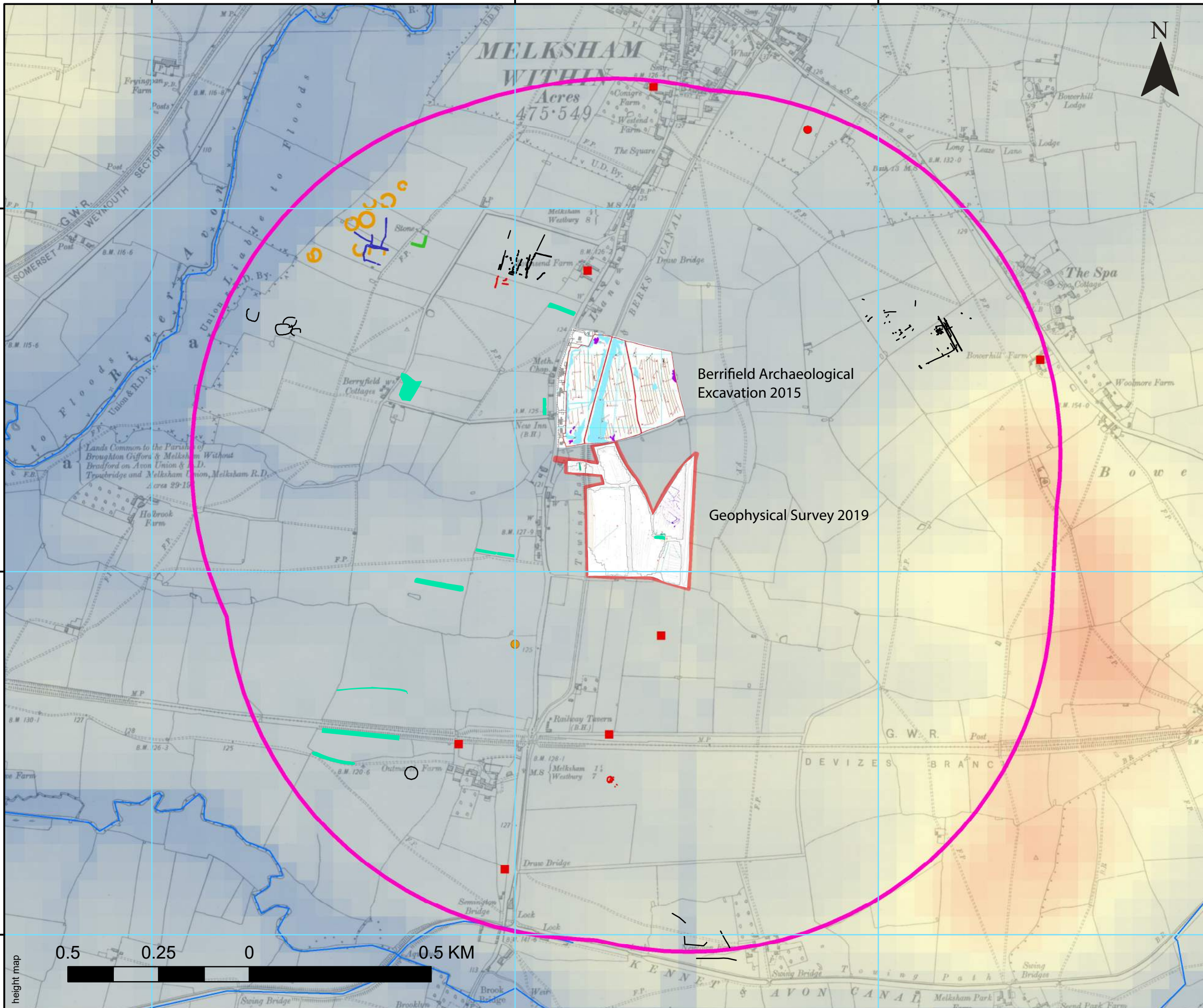
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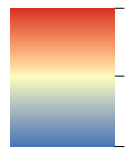


LEGEND

-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  SEARCH AREA 1KM
-  BRONZE AGE FINDSPOT
-  ROMAN FINDSPOT
-  LATE NEOLITHIC -EARLY BRONZE AGE
-  LATE BRONZE AGE - EARLY IRON AGE
-  BRONZE AGE
-  EARLY IRON AGE - ROMAN
-  ROMAN
-  UNDATED
-  HER POINT
-  MEDIEVAL

METERS AOD

High : 75.8



Low : 29.6



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DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
Previous Archaeological Work

6

Scale 1:10,000 @ A3 Date FEB 2020

APPENDIX 1: DESIGNATED ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

List Entry	Name	Location	Grade	NGR	Easting	Northing
1021769	OUTMARSH FARMHOUSE	Melksham Without, Wiltshire, BA14	II	ST 89888 61447	389888	161447.3608
1021745	CONIGRE FARM HOTEL	Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12	II	ST 90427 63316	390427	163316.3608
1194671	BERRYFIELDS COTTAGES	Melksham Without, Wiltshire, SN12	II	ST 89641 62488	389641	162488.3608
1194743	OLD RAILWAY FARMHOUSE THE SIDING	Melksham Without, Wiltshire, BA14	II	ST 90091 61559	390091	161559.4
1285743	WEST END PUBLIC HOUSE AND GARDEN WALLS	Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12	II	ST9040763241	390407.1589	163240.8193

APPENDIX 2: NON- DESIGNATED ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Monument ID	Name	Monument Type	Period	NGR	Easting	Northing
MWI75770	Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery, Boundary Farm	BARROW CEMETERY	Bronze Age	ST 8956 6296	389560	162960
MWI1921	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8955 6295	389550	162950
MWI1922	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8959 6296	389590	162960
MWI1919	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8944 6287	389440	162870
MWI1920	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8959 6288	389590	162880
MWI1923	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8960 6301	389600	163010
MWI73490	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8969 6306	389690	163060
MWI73491	Barrow, Berryfield	BARROW	Bronze Age	ST 8965 6302	389650	163020
MWI4926	Outmarsh Farm	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age	ST 9000 6180	390000	161800
MWI1924	Probable Iron Age/Roman Enclosure, Berryfield	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; FIELD BOUNDARY	Early Iron Age to Roman	ST 8960 6290	389600	162900
MWI77009	Middle Bronze/Early Iron Age Pits, East of Semington Road	PIT	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	ST 9031 6256	390310	162560
MWI77010	Middle Bronze/Early Iron Age Ditches, East of Semington Road	DITCH	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	ST 9031 6255	390310	162550
MWI75667	Neolithic/Bronze Age Enclosure, North of Boundary Farm	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE	Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age	ST 8973 6290	389730	162900
MWI73974	Ridge and Furrow, South of Melksham	RIDGE AND FURROW; FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	ST 9055 6311	390550	163110

MWI1910	Ridge and Furrow, North of Outmarsh Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW; FIELD BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND	Medieval	ST 8979 6189	389790	161890
MWI3626	Newtown Farm	SETTLEMENT	Medieval	ST 9068 6096	390680	160960
MWI3632	Townsend Farm	SETTLEMENT	Medieval	ST 9019 6280	390190	162800
MWI73880	Ridge and Furrow, North of Semington Brook	RIDGE AND FURROW; FIELD BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND	Medieval	ST 8890 6183	388900	161830
MWI73882	Ridge and Furrow, South of Outmarsh	RIDGE AND FURROW; FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	ST 8957 6125	389570	161250
MWI73892	Ridge and Furrow, Berryfield	RIDGE AND FURROW; PLOUGH HEADLAND	Medieval	ST 8956 6282	389560	162820
MWI73942	Medieval Settlement, Melksham Park Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW; SETTLEMENT; HOLLOW WAY; BUILDING PLATFORM	Medieval	ST 9113 6094	391130	160940
MWI73961	Ridge and Furrow, South of Melksham	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval	ST 9077 6240	390770	162400
MWI73967	Medieval Ridge and Furrow, Little Bowerhill Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW; FIELD BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND	Medieval	ST 9201 6192	392010	161920
MWI73961	Ridge and Furrow, South of Melksham	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval	ST 9077 6240	390770	162400
MWI73881	Ridge and Furrow, North of Outmarsh Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval to Late C19	ST 8986 6172	389860	161720
MWI73902	Field Boundary, East of Red House Farm	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval to Late C19	ST 8924 6280	389240	162800
MWI48613	Holbrook Dairy Farm	FARMSTEAD	Modern	ST 8932 6207	389320	162070

MWI73884	Firing Range, West of Westward Farm	FIRING RANGE; GRENADE RANGE	Modern	ST 8924 6269	389240	162690
MWI73883	Military Camps, Melksham	MILITARY CAMP; AIR RAID SHELTER; EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY	Modern	ST 8963 6269	389630	162690
MWI73884	Firing Range, West of Westward Farm	FIRING RANGE; GRENADE RANGE	Modern	ST 8924 6269	389240	162690
MWI31886	Gunpit, North of Semington Bridge	ANTI TANK GUN EMPLACEMENT	Modern	ST 8997 6118	389970	161180
MWI31753	Pillbox East of Outmarsh	PILLBOX (TYPE FW3/22)	Modern	ST 9025 6155	390250	161550
MWI73267	The Milk Churn Pub and Restaurant	RESTAURANT	Modern	ST 9040 6182	390400	161820
MWI4954	Bowerhill RAF Camp	AIRFIELD	Modern	ST 9093 6209	390930	162090
MWI68695	Conigre Farm Hotel (Conigre Farm)	FARMSTEAD	Post Medieval	ST 9038 6333	390380	163330
MWI68696	The West End Inn (Westend Farm)	FARMSTEAD	Post Medieval	ST 9040 6321	390400	163210
MWI68667	Site of Outfarm Southeast of Frying Pan Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 8992 6301	389920	163010
MWI68666	Outmarsh Farm	FARMSTEAD	Post Medieval	ST 8987 6144	389870	161440
MWI68698	Site of Outfarm East-northeast of South Townsend Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9067 6294	390670	162940
MWI68699	Site of Outfarm West of South Townsend Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 8961 6283	389610	162830
MWI68697	South Townsend Farm (Townsend Farm)	FARMSTEAD	Post Medieval	ST 9020 6283	390200	162830

MWI68702	Site of Outfarm Southeast of New Inn PH	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9039 6198	390390	161980
MWI68703	Site of Outfarm Southeast of New Inn PH	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9028 6197	390280	161970
MWI68700	Site of Outfarm East of New Inn PH	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9046 6240	390460	162400
MWI68701	Site of Outfarm Northeast of New Inn PH	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9044 6252	390440	162520
MWI68749	Site of Outfarm Northeast of Newtown Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9116 6127	391160	161270
MWI68750	Site of Outfarm Northeast of Old Railway Farmhouse	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9093 6188	390930	161880
MWI68704	Site of Farmstead Northeast of Old Railway Farm	FARMSTEAD	Post Medieval	ST 9018 6168	390180	161680
MWI68705	Site of Outfarm Northeast of Old Railway Farmhouse The Siding	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9066 6182	390660	161820
MWI68849	Site of Outfarm Southeast of South Townsend Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9080 6261	390800	162610

MWI68751	Site of Outfarm West-southwest of Cow Barton	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9132 6179	391320	161790
MWI68752	Site of Outfarm Southwest of Woolmore Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9145 6227	391450	162270
MWI68850	Site of Outfarm, South-West of Bowerhill Lodge Farm	OUTFARM	Post Medieval	ST 9090 6319	390900	163190
MWI31389	Agricultural Building, Outmarsh Farm	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Post Medieval	ST 8984 6152	389840	161520
MWI73885	Post Medieval Ridge and Furrow, North of Berryfield	RIDGE AND FURROW; FIELD BOUNDARY	Post Medieval	ST 8965 6271	389650	162710
MWI73941	Ridge and Furrow, Melksham Park Farm	NARROW RIDGE AND FURROW	Post Medieval	ST 9108 6118	391080	161180
MWI73944	Ridge and Furrow, Southeast of Berryfield	NARROW RIDGE AND FURROW	Post Medieval	ST 9042 6193	390420	161930
MWI73958	Ridge and Furrow, Bowerhill	NARROW RIDGE AND FURROW; RIDGE AND FURROW	Post Medieval	ST 9171 6202	391710	162020
MWI9472	Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal	CANAL	Post -Medieval			
MWI76045	Romano-British Shrine, Outmarsh Farm	SHRINE	Roman	ST 9026 6142	390260	161420
MWI75668	Roman Ditches, North East of Boundary Farm	DITCH	Roman	ST 8996 6279	389960	162790
MWI4927	North West Melksham Hospital	FINDSPOT	Roman	ST 9080 6321	390800	163210

MWI74360	Ditches, Bowerhill	DITCH	Unknown	ST 9109 6266	391090	162660
MWI74313	Ditches, Semington Road	DITCH	Unknown	ST 9038 6259	390380	162590
MWI74359	Pits, Bowerhill	PIT	Unknown	ST 9111 6263	391110	162630
MWI76322	Undated Pits, South of Western Way	PIT	Unknown	ST 9000 6284	390000	162840
MWI76323	Undated Ditches, South of Western Way	DITCH	Unknown	ST 9002 6287	390020	162870
MWI1902	Enclosure, North West of Berryfield Cottages	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE	Unknown	ST 8927 6270	389270	162700
MWI1908	Ring Ditches, North West of Berryfield Cottages	RING DITCH	Unknown	ST 8927 6270	389270	162700
MWI1912	Mound, West of Outmarsh Farm	SITE	Unknown	ST 8971 6144	389710	161440
MWI4982	Newtown Farm	SETTLEMENT	Unknown	ST 9052 6099	390520	160990

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