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Unit 1
 Hunmanby Industrial Estate
 Hunmanby
 North Yorkshire
 TA 1055 7685

Archaeological Watching Brief

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 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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MAP
 June 2004

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Unit 1, Hunmanby Industrial Estate, Hunmanby, North Yorkshire during June 2004. The work involved monitoring groundworks associated with the construction of a new industrial unit on the site.

The topsoil and overburden had been stripped over the development area by the contractors without archaeological supervision. No archaeological features were identified during a close examination of the stripped area. Excavations continued under supervision to a maximum depth of 1.50m below existing ground level. Natural geological deposits were encountered at a depth of approximately 0.30m below ground level. Following consultation with the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council, the Watching Brief was abandoned after half the groundworks had been completed due to the manifestly archaeologically sterile nature of the site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Unit 1, Hunmanby Industrial Estate, Hunmanby, North Yorkshire, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of June 2004.
- 1.2 All work was funded by N & B Shopfitters Ltd.
- 1.3 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies on the south-eastern outskirts of the town of Hunmanby at TA 1055 685 (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the north by playing fields, to the south and west by industrial units and to the east by agricultural land. The site consists of a modern steel-framed building, situated in an enclosed compound. The excavation area, situated to the rear of the existing building, consisted of an undeveloped area within the compound.
- 2.2 The topsoil and overburden had been stripped from the new development area without archaeological supervision. Examination of the associated spoil-heaps suggested that the excavation area had been covered in grass or scrubland, incorporating dumps of modern refuse.
- 2.3 The site lies on soils of the Burlingham 2 Association, which consist of permeable deep fine loamy soils that overlie a solid geology of chalky till (Mackney, 1984, 130).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Aerial photographic evidence for the site's environs illustrates a number of linear cropmarks to the south and south-east of the site, which may represent field boundaries and possible enclosures (Fig. 2). To the north of the site are a number of rectangular features, which have been previously interpreted as forming a square barrow cemetery.
- 3.2 Known archaeological sites within the site's environs are restricted to a single Square Barrow which was recorded during quarrying immediately to the north-west of the site in 1907 and the Motte and Bailey Castle (SAM 20531) situated on the western fringe of Hunmanby village (Fig. 3).
- 3.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1854) shows that the site is situated in a large rectangular plot of open land fronting onto Bridlington Road (Fig. 4).
- 3.4 The 1911 Ordnance Survey illustrates how the development of the Brick Works to the west has resulted in a series of new boundaries (Fig. 5).
- 3.5 A total of six areas were evaluated by Trial Trenching in September 2000, on the plot immediately west of the access Road fronting onto Bridlington Road. No archaeological features were revealed, but colluvial deposits in Trenches 3 & 5 contained struck flint flakes. Further development to the west is recorded (Fig. 6) and also the location of a chariot burial found in 1907.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of an area measuring 30m x 20m in size, situated along the eastern boundary of the site. This part of the site consisted of the western slope of a low ridge or hill that extended to the east beyond the limits of the site. Excavation therefore involved cutting into the side of the hill to create a level terrace or platform for the erection of the new building.
- 4.2 The topsoil and overburden had been removed by the contractors over the area of the site before the commencement of the Watching Brief and without archaeological supervision. The initial archaeological investigation therefore consisted of a thorough walk-over of the stripped area in an attempt to identify any archaeological features that might have been visible in plan. Following the walk-over, sub-soil excavations were allowed to commence, using a mechanical excavator operating under full archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 4.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.

5. Results

- 5.1. The removal of topsoil and overburden had left a partial section exposed along the eastern site boundary. From this it was possible to conclude that a maximum depth of between 0.20m to 0.30m of material had been removed over the Watching Brief area. It was clear that, along the eastern edge of site, the removed material consisted of a loose humic topsoil (context 1000) with a probable covering of turf weeds and scmb. It was not possible to ascertain how far to the west Deposit 1000 had extended; numerous plastic toy fragments and other refuse around the margins of the site suggested that considerable amounts of dumping had occurred.

- 5.2 The initial walk-over, undertaken after the topsoil strip, failed to identify any archaeological features in plan. A mid grey-brown sandy subsoil was revealed on the surface (context 1001) that appeared to be of natural origin.
- 5.3 The monitored groundworks involved cutting into the hillside to form a level terrace. At the western side of the area, this involved a partial excavation of Deposit 1001 to a maximum depth of 0.10m. Owing to the slope of the site, the maximum depth of excavation along the eastern boundary was 1.50m. At their deepest, excavations revealed Deposit 1001 to be a maximum of 0.30m deep, becoming progressively thinner towards to west. No finds were recovered from Deposit 1001 and no evidence was seen either in section or in plan to suggest that the deposit had been truncated by later archaeological features.
- 5.4 Situated immediately beneath Deposit 1001 were mixed interleaved deposits of silty sand and clays that contained occasional sub-rounded cobbles (context 1002). Deposit 1002 did not contain any finds and was a sub-soil of natural geological origin. There was no evidence either in section or in plan of archaeological truncation. At the eastern end of site, Deposit 1002 was exposed for a depth of approximately 1.20m.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered during the watching Brief, suggesting that the immediate environs of the site are archaeologically sterile.

7. Bibliography

Mackney, D. (Ed.) 1984 Soils and their use in Northern England

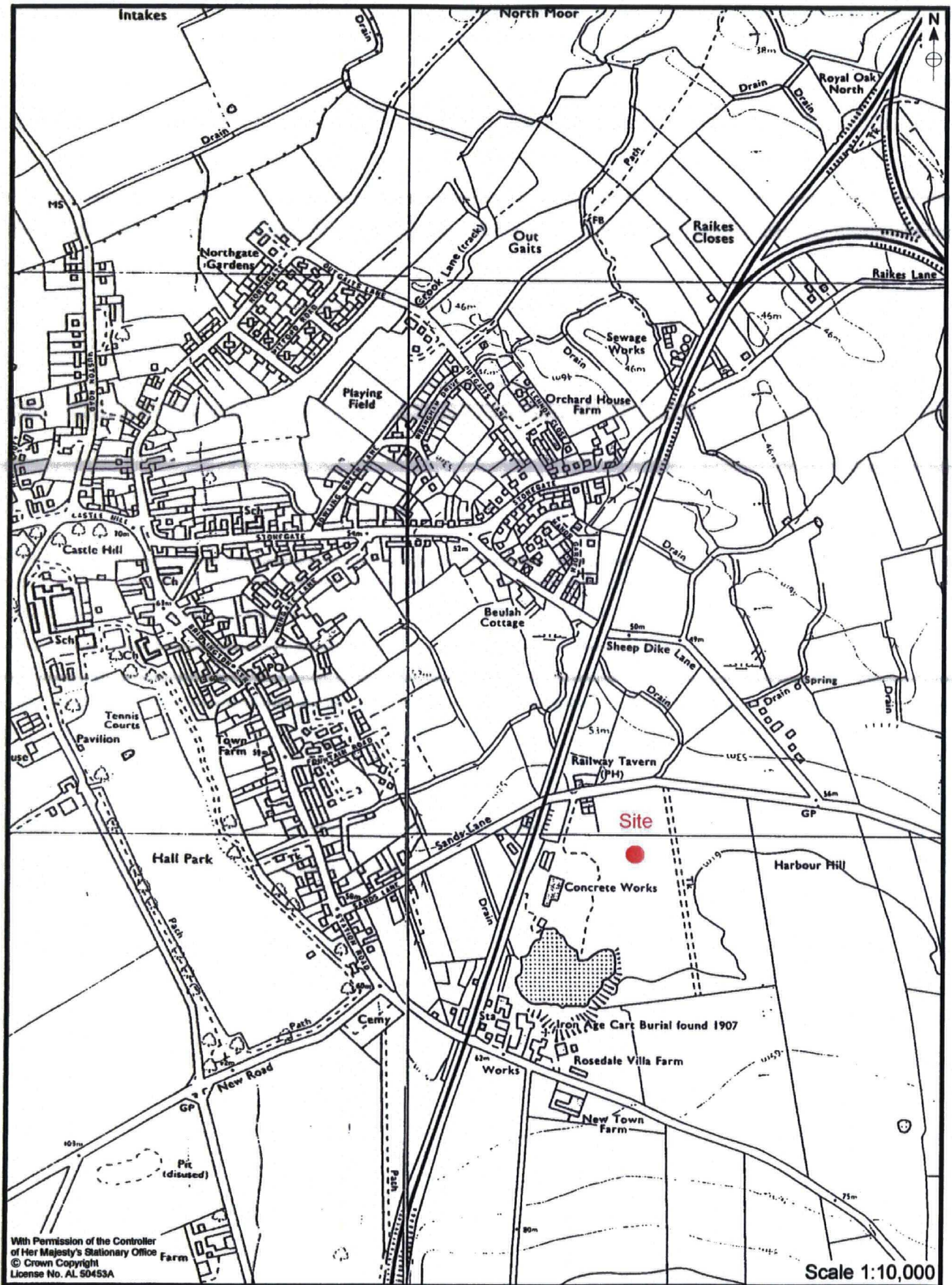


Figure 1. Site Location

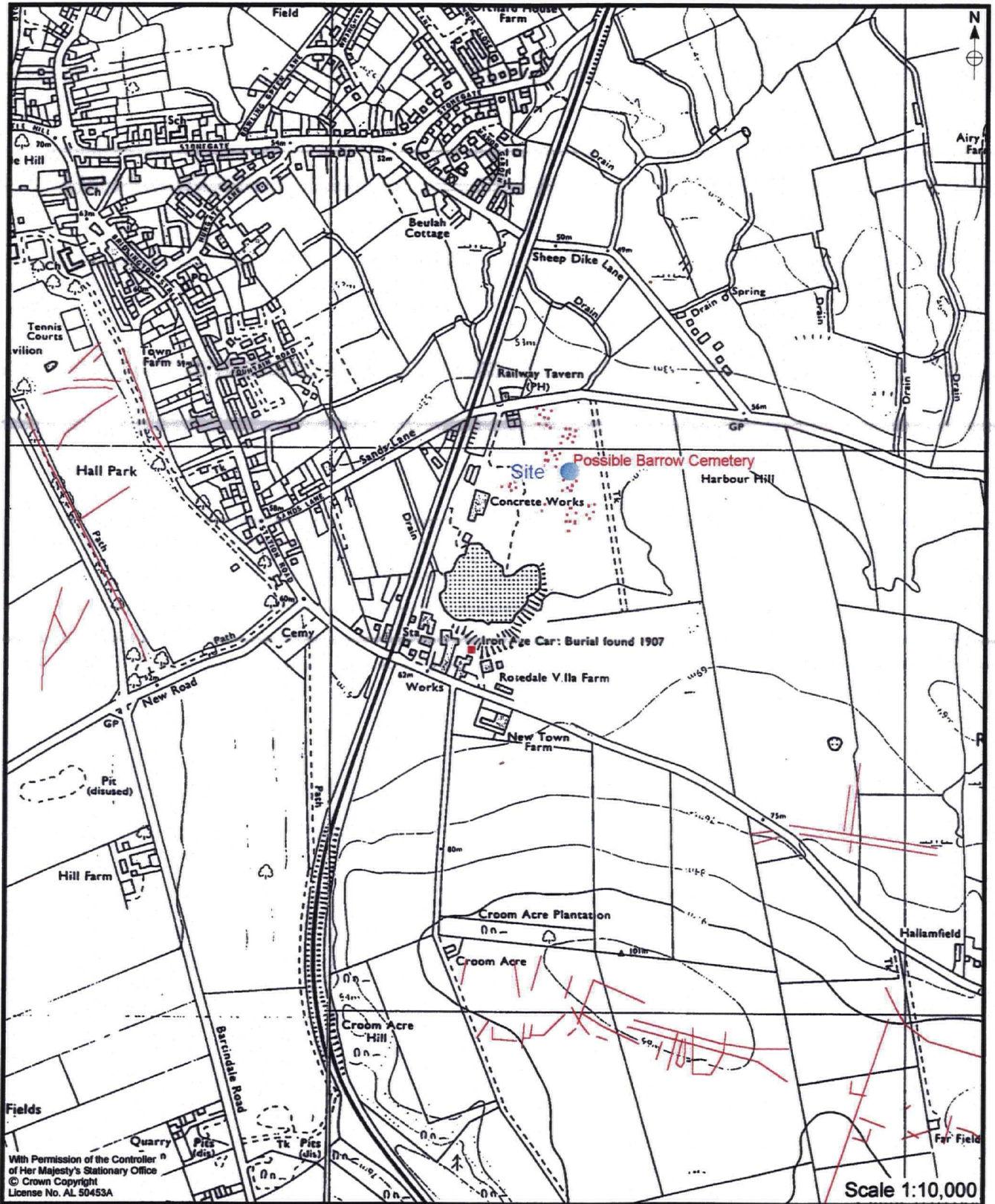


Figure 2. Aerial Photograph Coverage

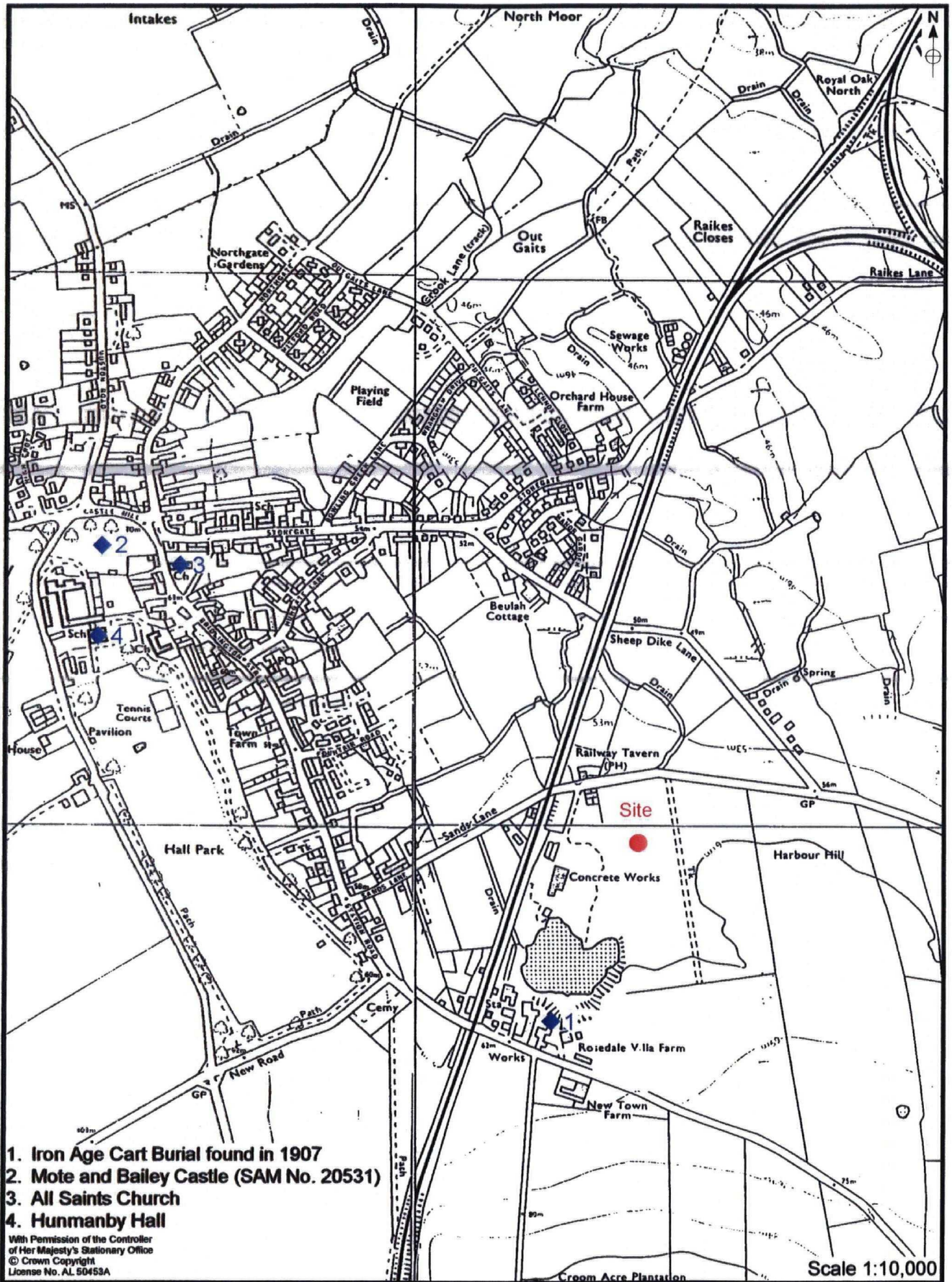


Figure 3. Archaeological Sites

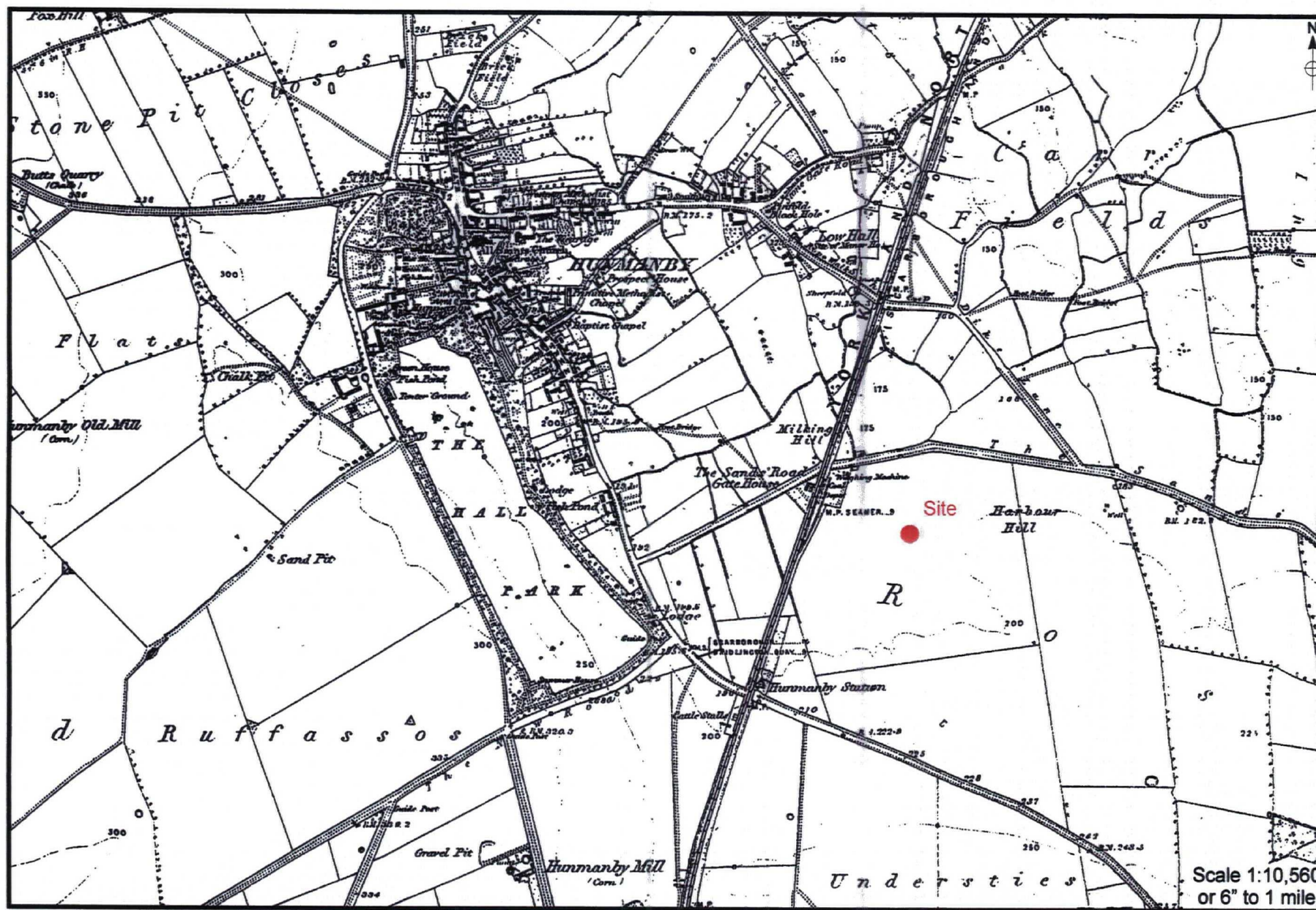


Figure 4. Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1849-1850

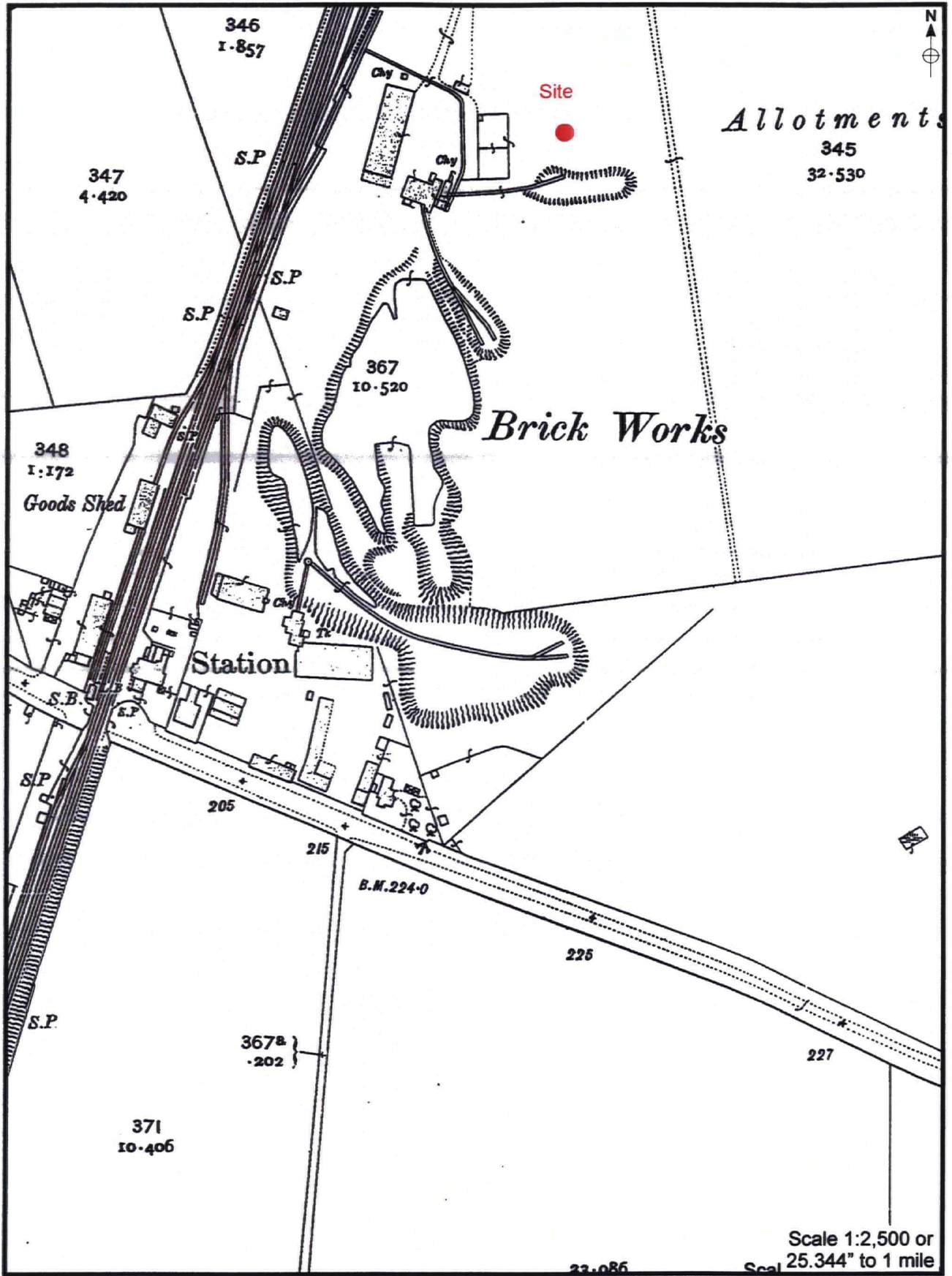


Figure 5. Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1911

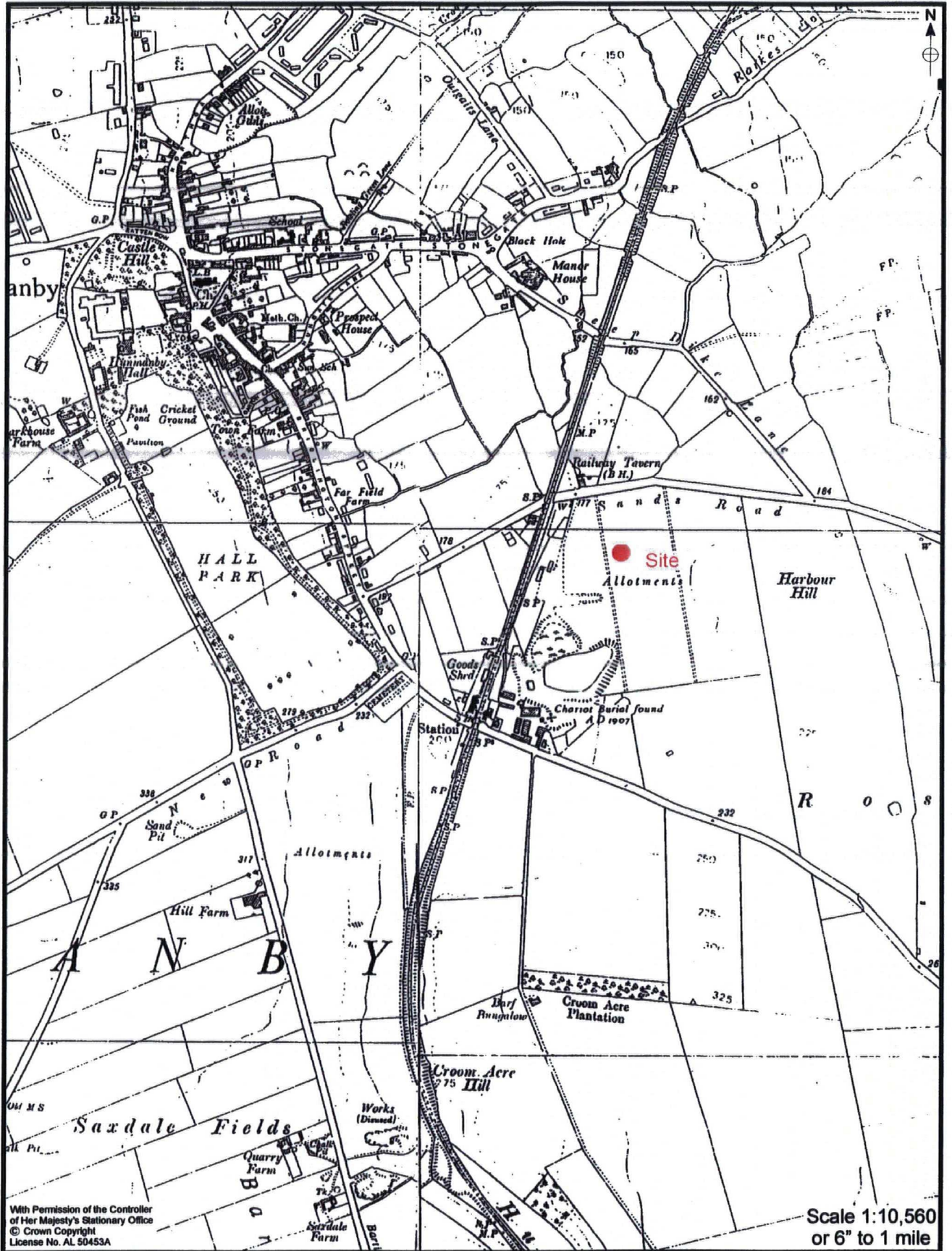


Figure 6. Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1958



Plate 1. View of the site. Facing east.



Plate 2. View of the site. Facing west.