

birmingham archaeology



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

LAND OFF COPPY NOOK LANE

BURNTWOOD
STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological
Desk-based Assessment

2007

Checked by	
Supervisor.....	date.....
Project Manager..... <i>P. Hewitson</i>	date <i>22/10/07</i>



LAND OFF COPPY NOOK LANE, BURNTWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, October 2007

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	SITE LOCATION.....	1
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
4	METHODOLOGY.....	2
4.1	Documentary Research	2
4.2	Walkover Survey.....	2
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
5.1	Prehistoric	2
5.2	Roman	2
5.3	Anglo-Saxon	2
5.4	Medieval.....	2
5.5	Post Medieval.....	4
6	PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK.....	5
7	WALKOVER SURVEY	5
8	HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY AREA	7
9	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	7
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	8
11	SOURCES.....	9
	Appendix A: Staffordshire HER data	11
	Appendix B : Overton Manor Statutory List Entry.....	11
	Appendix C : Tithe Map Apportionments	12

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location plan.

Figure 2: Key plan of Study Area (including key to plates).

Figure 3: Hammerwich Tithe map of 1844.

Figure 4: Burntwood Tithe Map of 1845.

Figure 5: Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st Edition map of 1884.

Figure 6: *Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st Revision map of 1902.*

Figure 7: *Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 2nd Revision map of 1923.*

Figure 8: *Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 map of 1963.*

List of Plates

Plate 1: *Parcel A, looking east.*

Plate 2: *Parcel A, looking west along Crane Brook.*

Plate 3: *Parcel B, looking north-east from the 'Triangle'.*

Plate 4: *Parcel B, looking north-west from Meerash Lane.*

Plate 5: *Parcel B, Brook Farm from the west.*

Plate 6: *Parcel B, 'finger' of woodland north of Brook Farm.*

Plate 7: *Parcel B, Overton Farm from the south-east.*

Plate 8: *Parcel B, early 20th-century residential development on Overton Lane.*

Plate 9: *Parcel B, Overton Manor, Overton Lane.*

Plate 10: *Parcel B, 1960s development along Hospital Road.*

Plate 11: *Parcel C, sports field looking south-west.*

Plate 12: *Parcel C, arable field looking south-east towards Copsy Nook Lane.*

Plate 13: *Parcel C, 20th-century residential development along Norton Lane.*

Plate 14: *Parcel C, arable field looking north-west*

Plate 15: *Parcel C, pasture south-west of Apple Tree Farm.*

Plate 16: *Parcel C, Apple Tree Farm and barn from the south.*

Plate 17: *Parcel C, Apple Tree Farm barn.*

Plate 18: *Parcel C, earthwork to south of Apple Tree Farm. (Image © Google Earth)*

Plate 19: *Parcel D, arable field looking north.*

Plate 20: *Parcel D, arable field looking south.*

Plate 21: *Parcel D, Elias Ashmole Ashmall Institute, Hammerwich.*

Plate 22: *Parcel D, 20th-century residential development along Burntwood Road.*

Plate 23: *Parcel E, 20th-century residential development along Norton Lane.*

Plate 24: *Parcel E, looking north-west.*

LAND OFF COPPY NOOK LANE, BURNTWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, October 2007

SUMMARY

Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment in October 2007 on a series of parcels of land to the south of Burntwood and west of Hammerwich in Staffordshire (centred on NGR SK 0620 0770). The assessment was undertaken as part of pre-planning investigations into their potential for development.

The assessment comprised a documentary search of all readily available published and unpublished sources at the Staffordshire Record Office, The William Salt Library, Stafford and the Lichfield Record Office, in addition to a walkover survey of the study area. The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was also consulted.

The assessment revealed that the study area has experienced little historical development, originating as heathland cleared from the Royal Cannock Forest, passing into the ownership of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in the 13th century and to the Paget family (later the Marquis of Anglesey) in the 16th century following the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Throughout its history the study area appears to have constituted common heathland and subsequently undeveloped arable farmland and pasture. Extensive urban development to the west, associated with the rise of coal mining in the later 19th century, has not encroached upon the study area, which has retained its rural, agricultural aspect. Such development that has occurred within the boundary of the study area has comprised small-scale residential developments of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The inclusion of Hammerwich in Domesday Book implies that the settlement dates to the pre-conquest period, and this is recognised in its inclusion on the Staffordshire HER. However, the likelihood is that any early settlement would have occupied the site of the later, medieval village to the east of the study area and the potential for associated archaeological remains within the study area is correspondingly low. The dispersed nature of the medieval Hammerwich settlement is of interest and there is a potential for the survival of medieval remains related to the former 14th-century centre of Overton documented to have been located on Overton Lane.

Overall, the results of the present desk-based assessment indicate that the archaeological potential within the study area is low and the implementation of an initial programme of trial trenching would serve as an appropriate mitigation strategy.

LAND OFF COPPY NOOK LANE, BURNTWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, October 2007

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Development Planning Partnership on behalf of Maple Oak Limited of Wolverhampton to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of a block of land to the south of Burntwood and west of Hammerwich in Staffordshire (hereafter referred to as the study area), as part of pre-planning investigations into their potential for development.
- 1.2 This report outlines the results of the assessment which was carried out in October 2005 and which conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA, 1999).
- 1.3 The assessment was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (2007) and approved by Staffordshire County Council.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The study area, which comprises five parcels of land (A-E, Figure 2 inset), lies to the west of Hammerwich village, to the south of Burntwood and to the east of the urban expanse of Chasetown and is centred on NGR: SK 0620 0770 (Figure 1). It is bounded to the north-west by Norton Lane, to the west by Hospital Road, to the south by Hanney Hay Road, to the south-east by Meerash Lane and to the north-east by Burntwood Road. The site is traversed by Copsy Nook Lane and Overton Lane. The area under consideration does not include the triangle of land enclosed by Pingle Lane, Overton Lane and Burntwood Road (Figure 2), which was developed during the later 1980s.
- 2.2 The study area lies mainly within Hammerwich civil parish (CP) though, in the north-eastern corner, is a small triangle of land bounded by Hammerwich Road, Lichfield Road and Stockhay Lane falls within Burntwood CP.
- 2.3 The terrain of the study area is gently undulating, falling away to the south-west towards Hanney Hay Road. Hammerwich Church to the east (built between 1873 and 1883, probably on the site of an earlier edifice) forms a landmark, standing atop a hill at 148m OD. The land around the southern end of Overton Lane lies at c.152m OD and is known as the Plateau (reflected in a 1904 house name on Overton Lane). The eastern part of Hammerwich parish is underlain by the Lower Keuper sandstone, while the western part is underlain by the Bunter Upper Mottled Sandstone and pebble beds.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The principal objective of the project, as stated in the WSI (Birmingham Archaeology, 2007), was to ‘collate existing archaeological and historical information relating to the proposed development site to enable informed decisions to be taken regarding any further archaeological input which may be required as proposed development proceeds’.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Documentary Research

- 4.1.1 A search was made of all readily available published and non-published documentary sources including historic maps was made at the Staffordshire Record Office (SRO), The William Salt Library, Stafford (WSL) and the Lichfield Record Office (LRO). A search was also made of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the primary source for archaeological information for the county, extending to known archaeological sites, finds and Statutory Listed Buildings.

4.2 Walkover Survey

- 4.2.1 A walkover survey was undertaken on 19.10.07 in order to assess the topography and any above ground earthworks of possible archaeological interest (see §.8).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

- 5.1.1 There is no known prehistoric activity or settlement within the study area or its immediate environs. A single findspot of a Neolithic flint waste-flake is recorded in the Staffordshire SMR (PRN. 01091) as being recovered from the field south-west of Hanney Hay Road, just beyond the limits of the study area. While this find may indicate prehistoric activity within the general area, its isolated and non-contextual nature negate any firm conclusions being drawn.

5.2 Roman

- 5.2.1 There is no recorded evidence for Roman activity within the study area, despite the fact that the line of Watling Street (the modern A5) runs ESE-WSW less than a mile to the south of the centrepoint, and the settlement of Lecocetum, the most important Roman site in Staffordshire, is located only 2 ½ miles to the south-east at Wall. Investigations undertaken in advance of the construction of the M6 Toll Motorway (see §.6 below) revealed the remains of a Romano-British field system and a contemporary aisled building and well, possibly forming part of a larger villa complex, located south of Watling Street, c.1 mile south-east of the study area (A. Crockett, Wessex Archaeology, *pers. comm.*).

5.3 Anglo-Saxon

- 5.3.1 There is no recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity or settlement within the study area. Its subsequent inclusion within the bounds of Cannock Forest and its status as undeveloped heathland into the medieval period suggests it comprised woodland and heathland throughout the earlier period.

5.4 Medieval

- 5.4.1 Cannock Forest along with Kinver Forest were probably established as Royal Forests soon after the Norman Conquest by an Act of William I. The status of Royal Forest brought with it new and particular laws, and only the King or those under his warrant were allowed to hunt the deer, while access to other resources was also restricted. The limits of Cannock

Forest originally extended to the rivers Trent, Tame, Sow and Penk encapsulating a total area of *c.*230 square miles (Gould 1966, 23; Fig.1a). Both Burntwood and Hammerwich lie within the historic boundaries of the forest. The original area of the forest was soon reduced, first in 1125 with the removal of Sutton Chase to the south of Watling Street, and again in 1189 under Richard I when all of the lands of the Bishop of Coventry and his churches (including Lichfield) were disafforested (*ibid.*). Throughout the 13th century, the limits of the forest were slowly eroded by assarts and encroachments and by 1300AD, the holdings were much reduced (*ibid.* 35; Fig.1b, p.34).

- 5.4.2 At the dissolution of the Monasteries, the lands of Lichfield were taken into Crown ownership and were subsequently sold to Sir William Paget, 1st Baron Paget of Beaudesert in 1546. The lands remained in the hands of the Paget family (from 1815, the Marquis of Anglesey) down to the 20th century, and for most of their history remained as common heathland.
- 5.4.3 The name of Burntwood appears in the documentary record from the late 13th century variously as *Brendwode* (1298), *Brendwode* (1370), *Brendwodde* (1546), *Brandewodd* (1570) *Brundwood* (1571), *Brandewodd* (1570), *Brendwood*, *Brendwoode* (both 16th century) and *Burndwood* (1680) (Duignan 1902, 28; Horovitz 2005, 162). The name Brundwood became common in the late 16th century and was superseded by the modern spelling in the 17th century (VCH, 1990, 198). Its origins are in the Middle English '*brend*' meaning burnt and it has traditionally been held that the name originated from an incidence of clearing of forest lands by burning by the villains of Hammerwich 'to the injury of the King's game', recorded in the Forest Pleas of 1262 (Birrell J (ed.) 1999, 41). Although the name occurs from the 13th century onwards, Burntwood is not recorded as a settlement until the later 16th century (see §.5.5.1 below).
- 5.4.4 Hammerwich is of greater antiquity and appears in the Domesday Book as a dependency of Lichfield, and is listed as '*duæ Humeruich*' or the 'two Hammerwiches', holding 5 carucates of land, described as waste (Morris 1976). The second element of the name derives from the Old English '*wic*' meaning a dwelling or settlement, while the first element, from the Old English '*hamor*' may be interpreted as meaning 'hill' or 'hammer', with an interpretation of 'the place with the smithy' or 'the place with the hand-tool workshops' (Horovitz 2005, 294). Duignan (1902, 72) by contrast, argues that *Homa* or *Hama* may represent Anglo-Saxon personal names and the village name should thus be interpreted as meaning Homa or Hama's village. The inference that two places (an Upper and Lower Hammerwich) existed in 1086 was accepted by Erdeswick (1844, 298), though it has more recently been rejected in favour of an interpretation that envisages two separate holdings or manors, which were administratively a part of the same vill (Thorn 1997, 371, quoted in Horovitz 2005, 294).
- 5.4.5 Whatever the early arrangements, by the 14th century it seems that three centres to the settlement had developed; Middleton, Netherton and Overton, each with its own Green (Cockin 2000, 256). Middleton Green appears to have been the open area now known as the village green, Netherton Green lay around the junction of Hall Lane and Coppice Lane to the east, while Overton Green lay along Overton Lane between its junction with Pingle Lane and Coppy Nook Lane (*ibid.*) within the current study area. Greens survived at each location until the early 19th century (VCH 1990, 259).
- 5.4.6 By the late 14th century, there were at least three open fields; Chapel Field, Lightwood Field and Little Field (VCH 1990, 266). An area of ridge and furrow (SMR PRN 20075-

MST5346) was identified from aerial photographs from 1963 in a field to the south of Hammerwich village, south-east of the study area (Figure 2, 10).

5.5 Post Medieval

- 5.5.1 There was a settlement at Burntwood by 1570 (VCH 1990, 198) and the hamlet was probably centred upon the Green at the junction of Norton Lane and Cannock Road at the north-east corner of the study area, formerly known as Hanley Green, though taking the name of Burntwood Green by the early 18th century (*ibid.*). Only twenty nine people were assessed for the hearth tax of 1666, and the census of 1801 recorded a population of 426 within the hamlet and outlying areas (VCH 1990, 199). Iron-working was present in the Burntwood area from the 17th century, and from the 18th century brick making and stone quarrying were being practiced (Raven 2005, 63); a brick yard is indicated south of Norton Lane on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1884 (Figure 5) while a brick kiln is indicated on the Burntwood Tithe map of 1844, just beyond the study area at Burntwood Green (Figure 4). In the 19th century, Burntwood formed a joint township with the hamlets of Edial to the east and Woodhouses to the north-east, and remained very sparsely populated.
- 5.5.2 The development and expansion of Burntwood, together with the related settlements of Chasetown and Chase Terrace to the west, belongs essentially to the post-medieval period, and predominantly to the modern era. Burntwood remained ‘a place of little or no account’ down to the middle years of the 19th century (Barber 1980, 6), being described as a ‘three hamlets of straggling houses’ in 1834 (White’s Directory of Staffordshire, 104), and it was only with the exploitation of the Cannock Chase coalfields from 1849 onwards that significant population growth was recorded in the area.
- 5.5.3 Although coal had been mined on the Chase since the 13th century, by comparison with the coalfields of North and South Staffordshire exploitation had always been on a reduced scale, impeded by geological factors and only for the supply of domestic needs. However, by the middle of the 19th century, the reduced working of the South Staffordshire fields together with increased accessibility offered by the new rail and canal networks gave impetus to further exploitation of the coal measures of the Chase. The first pit (Hammerwich Pit No.1, known as ‘The Marquess’) was sunk on the Marquis of Anglesey’s land in 1849 to the east of Chasewater reservoir (formed as a canal reservoir in c.1798), followed closely by Pit No.2, ‘The Fly’. In 1853, the Marquess offered for lease ‘the collieries now at work and the unopened mines of coal and ironstone on Cannock Chase’. The lease was taken up in 1854 by John Robinson McClean in partnership with Richard Chawnor of Wall, for a sum of £16,000 p.a. plus royalties on sold coal. The Cannock Chase Colliery Company was formed in 1859 and, by 1886, had alone sunk ten pits and was employing over 2000 people (Anon 1980, 6).
- 5.5.4 Though the main mines were concentrated to the west of the current study area north of Chasewater reservoir (see Mills 1987, Appendix A1), census records show the dramatic effects they had in the rise in population of Burntwood Parish.

Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
1801	852	1841	749	1881	6241
1811	659	1851	781	1891	7113
1821	675	1861	1634	1901	8195
1831	731	1871	4525		

Table 1: Population figures for Burntwood, 1801-1901. (Source: Gregory 1953).

- 5.5.5 The rapid rise in population saw the creation of new residential areas and former farmland and common land was developed, with the establishment of two new villages at Chasetown (originally known simply as ‘Cannock Chase’) to the east of the Chasewater reservoir and Chase Terrace to the north of the Cannock Road. Expansion continued into the 20th century and, in the interwar years, development moved eastwards notably along the Cannock and Springhill Roads while soon after the Second World War, the Oakdene estate was begun. After nationalisation in 1947, only four pits remained operative and by 1961 all the collieries were closed (Anon. 1980, 6). Since the closing of the mines, there has been extensive residential development within Burntwood and Chasetown and the population has nearly doubled as the town became an overspill area for Birmingham and the Black Country (VCH, 1990, 201), extending residential development up to the line of Hospital Road which forms the western boundary of the study area (see Figure 8).
- 5.5.6 By contrast with Burntwood, development in Hammerwich has been comparatively restrained. Settlement was concentrated in the eastern part of the parish until the later 19th century, with the western part remaining as open heathland. The village itself remained small and secluded and is listed in White’s Directory of 1834 as having only 218 inhabitants, mostly involved in agriculture and related trades. Within the study area, Coppy Nook, on the northern side of Coppy Nook Lane, was an inhabited area in 1783 (VCH 1990, 259) and Hammerwich Square, off the southern part of Overton Lane, existed by 1871 when several miners were living there (Cockin 2000, 256). Overton Manor is a Grade II listed late 18th century house with later alterations (Appendix B, Plate 9). A number of large houses were erected in the village in the latter years of the 19th century (Hammerwich House, Fair View, Gartmore) while the later years of the 20th century have also seen development within the village centre, along the southern end of Overton Lane and along Burntwood Road.

6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 6.1 The study area lies immediately north of the line of the M6 Toll Motorway, completed in 2003. Archaeological work associated with the construction of the motorway included an initial Archaeological Assessment undertaken by Staffordshire County Council, followed by a major programme of documentary research and fieldwork undertaken as a joint venture by Wessex Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology by way of mitigation. Fieldwork included fieldwalking of the entire route, targeted evaluations and watching briefs, a series of site-specific excavations and a construction wide ‘strip and record’ exercise as construction progressed. Archaeological fieldwork in the immediate vicinity of the study area comprised targeted excavations to the south of Watling Street, which revealed evidence of Roman occupation (see §.5.2.1 above) as well as investigating remains of the industrial era (A. Crockett, Wessex Archaeology, *pers. comm.*). The publication of fieldwork is imminent at the time of writing.

7 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 7.1 A walkover survey was undertaken on 19.10.07 in order to assess the present state of the land and to identify any previously unknown archaeological features or earthworks of potential archaeological interest. For the purposes of the survey, the study area was divided into five parcels of land (A-E, see Figure 2, inset).

7.2 Parcel A

- 7.2.1 Parcel A comprises a triangle of land to the south-west corner of the study area bounded by Hanney Hay Road and Hospital Road (Plate 1). It is currently laid to grass and is used as a public park, with the exception of an enclosed water pumping station facing onto Hospital Road. Crane Brook runs across the park in a south-easterly direction (Plate 2) extending into Parcel B to the east. No features of archaeological interest were identified.

7.3 Parcel B

- 7.3.1 Parcel B comprises a large area of land bounded by Hospital Road to the west, Hanney Hay Road to the southwest, Meerash Road to the south east and Overton Lane / Coppy Nook Lane to the north and north-east. The land is predominantly arable in nature (Plate 3) formed of large fields, the majority of the former field boundaries having been removed during the course of the 20th century in response to changing farming practices. A narrow 'finger' of woodland (historically 'Brook Piece' ; Appendix C(b) nos. 120/21) is located to the rear of Brook Farm (Plates 5/6). Residential development, dating to the early 20th century and later, extends along the south-western end of Overton Lane (Plate 8), with further blocks of housing on the south side of Coppy Nook Lane and the east side of Hospital Road. Midway along Overton Lane stands Overton Manor, a Grade II listed Georgian brick-built house (Plate 9; see Appendix B), with an earlier cellar (VCH 1990, 259). Overton Farm, at the corner of Overton Lane and Coppy Nook Lane, dates to the 19th century though the buildings have been much extended during the course of the 20th century (Plate 7). No features of archaeological interest were identified.

7.4 Parcel C

- 7.4.1 Parcel C comprises the block of land north of Coppy Nook Lane and south of Norton Lane; it is bounded to the west by the northern end of Hospital Road and to the east by Overton Lane and Hammerwich Road. The majority of the area again constitutes open farmland, here being split approximately 50/50 between arable to the west and pasture to the east. Many of the former field boundaries have been removed during the course of the 20th century, though survival is enhanced in the pastureland to the east. The south-western corner of the parcel has been laid out as a sports field (Plate 11); banking to the edges of the field imply that its construction involved a significant degree of earth moving. Residential development is confined to the central part of the south side of Norton Lane, dating mostly to the 20th century (Plate 13). Apple Tree Farm (Plates 16-18) on Hammerwich Road (formerly Star Lane) retains fabric dating to the 17th century or earlier (VCH 1990 259) and is understood to incorporate wattle and daub infill panels. To the north of the farmhouse is a brick-built barn (Figure 2, 3; Plate 17) which is included on the Staffordshire SMR (51087-MST12747, see Appendix A); neither building is listed. An earthwork was noted in the field to the south of the farmhouse (Figure 2, 7; Plate 18) though it was not possible to gain access to this feature to investigate it in detail or to plot its extent. It would appear to correspond to the historic Apple Tree Farm property boundary as indicated on early Ordnance Survey maps.
- 7.4.2 A brickyard is indicated south of Norton Lane on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (Figure 5), the former clay pits are indicated on subsequent editions and remain recognisable on the ground in the form of distinct vegetation growth (Figure 2; 6).

7.5 Parcel D

- 7.5.1 Parcel D comprises a small block of land enclosed by Overton Lane, Burntwood Road and Meerash Lane. Mainly arable farmland (Plate 19/20), residential development dating to the later 20th century extends along Meerash Lane / Burntwood Road to the east, each side of the Elias Ashmole Ashmall Institute (Plate 21), built in 1911. No features of archaeological interest were identified.

7.6 Parcel E

- 7.6.1 Parcel E comprises a small triangle of land at the north-east of the study area, bounded by Hammerwich Road, Stockhay Lane and Norton Lane. The northern strip of the parcel has been developed for residential purposes during the late 19th and 20th centuries (Plate 23) and a single large house occupies the southern tip of the triangle. The central area comprises meadow and heath (Plate 24). No features of archaeological interest were identified.

8 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY AREA

- 8.1 As outlined above, it would appear that the study area has remained as undeveloped heathland and following enclosure, as arable farmland and pasture down to the 20th century in which state, for the most part, it remains today (Figure 2). The vigorous urban development of Burntwood, Chasetown and Chase Terrace from the mid 19th through to the late 20th centuries, fuelled first by the rise of the coal-mining industry and, in later years, by the town's status as an overflow for the Black Country, has not been reflected in Hammerwich, where development has been more low-key.
- 8.2 Development within the area down to the mid 19th century amounted to a number of isolated farmhouses and a review of historic mapping (Figures 5-8) allows for a reconstruction of the limited development that has taken place since that date. The housing stretching south-westwards from Hammerwich Square towards Meerash Lane dates to the early and middle years of the 20th century, evident on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 editions of 1923 and 1963 (Figures 8 and 9 respectively). The houses in Pingle Lane date from the late 19th century onwards and those in Burntwood road from the early 20th century onwards. The housing estates between Highfields Road, Hospital Road and Queen Street/Chase Street, which border the study area to the west (Plate 10), date to the 1960s and 1970s. A single notable loss within the study area is at Coppy Nook, on the northern side of Coppy Nook Lane. This was an inhabited area in 1783 (VCH 1990, 259) and both the 1844 tithe map (Figure 3) and 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1884 (Figure 5) indicate buildings on the site. The 1844 Tithe apportionment lists the buildings as a 'Homestead' in the ownership of Richard Bird (Appendix C(b); Appt. 7); they appear reduced in extent by the time of the Ordnance Survey edition of 1963 (Figure 8), and were demolished between the editions of 1967 and 1977. The houses on the south side of Coppy Nook Lane are 20th century in date.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 From a review of the available sources, it appears that the study area has for much of its history constituted open heathland, common land or arable farmland and pasture with limited and localised occupation. Such development that has occurred has been of a residential character, small-scale and confined to the boundary roads of the study area; it

- dates predominantly to the late 19th and 20th centuries. Thus the overall potential for archaeological remains within the study area is low.
- 9.2 Archaeological evidence for prehistoric and Roman remains is low within the actual study area.
- 9.3 The inclusion of Hammerwich in Domesday Book, taken together with the onomastic evidence of the village name, implies that the settlement dates to the pre-conquest period, and this is recognised in its inclusion on the Staffordshire HER (PRN 02470-MST2460). However, the likelihood is that any early settlement would have occupied the site of the later, medieval village to the east of the study area and the potential for associated archaeological remains within the study area is correspondingly low.
- 9.4 The dispersed nature of the medieval Hammerwich settlement is of interest and there is a potential for the survival of medieval remains related to the former 14th-century centre of Overton documented to have been located on Overton Lane.
- 9.5 Though the main extraction areas of the later 19th and early 20th centuries were located over a mile to the west, there is a low possibility of remains related to small-scale mining activity within the study area. Other small-scale industry is known within the study area, for example the former brick yard south of Norton Lane (§.8.4.2), though again the archaeological potential of such industries is low.
- 9.6 Within the study area the majority of the building stock dates to the 19th and 20th centuries. However, the remains of Overton Manor date to the 18th century and are Grade II listed and Apple Tree Farm although unlisted potentially has fabric dating to the 17th century. Earthworks associated with the farm were identified although not investigated.
- 9.7 Overall, the results of the present desk-based assessment indicate that the archaeological potential within the study area remain low. However, given the extensive nature of the site and lack of previous archaeological work in the area the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation may be required by the Staffordshire County Council Planning Department in order to satisfy point 21 of the Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16).
- 9.8 There may be a necessity for targeted archaeological evaluation in areas of higher potential under the same criteria. These areas are likely to be in the vicinity of Overton Lane (see 9.4), and to a lesser extent the industrial brick yard south of Norton Lane (see 9.5).

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Documentary research and the walkover survey were undertaken by Ric Tyler of Birmingham Archaeology, who also produced the current report. The report was illustrated by Nigel Dodds and the project was managed for BA by Chris Hewitson.
- 10.2 Thanks are due to the staff of the Staffordshire and Lichfield Record Offices and The William Salt Library, Stafford and to Ms. Suzy Blake and Ms. Debbie Langley of the Staffordshire HER. In addition, thanks are extended to Bob Williams of Oxford Archaeology and Andy Crockett of Wessex Archaeology for informal discussions on the results of archaeological work associated with the construction of the M6 Toll Motorway (Birmingham Northern Relief Road) in advance of publication.

11 SOURCES

Cartographic Sources

- Yates's Map of the County of Staffordshire of 1775.
- Hammerwich Tithe Map of 1844; LRO B/A/15/144 (with accompanying apportionment B/A/15/511).
- Burntwood Tithe Map of 1845; LRO B/A/15/64 (with accompanying apportionment B/A/15/422).
- Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st Edition map of 1884.
- Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st Revision map of 1902.
- Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 2nd Revision map of 1923.
- Ordnance Survey National Grid 1:2500 1st Edition map of 1963.
- Ordnance Survey National Grid 1:2500 1st Revision map of 1967.
- Ordnance Survey National Grid 1:2500 2nd Revision map of 1977.

Trade Directories (in chronological order)

- White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire, 1834.
- White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire, 1851.
- Post Office Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, 1850.
- Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire, 1880.
- Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire, 1896.

Secondary Sources

Anon, 1980. 'Old Chasetown'. Staffordshire County Council Local History Source Book, L.38.

Barber PJ, 1980. 'Township in Transition: A Study of 19th Century Burntwood'. Unpublished Thesis.

Birrell J (ed.) 1999. 'The Forests of Cannock and Kinver: Selected Documents 1235-1372'. Collections for the History of Staffordshire, Fourth Series, **18**. Staffordshire Record Society.

Brown DG, 1985. 'The Economic Development of the Marquis of Anglesey's Cannock Chase Estate 1842-1891'. Unpublished MA Thesis.

Cockin T, 2000. *Encyclopedia of Staffordshire*.

Duignan W, 1902. *Notes on Staffordshire Place Names*. London.

Erdswick S, 1884. *Survey of Staffordshire*.

Gould J, 1966. 'Food, Foresters, Fines and Felons: A History of Cannock Forest (1086-1300)'. Trans. Lich. and S. Staffs. Arch and Hist. Soc. **VIII**

Gregory CH, 1953. *Burntwood, Past and Present*.

Horovitz D, 2005. *The Place Names of Staffordshire*.

Mills ME, 1987. 'Women Family and Community on the Cannock Chase Coalfield in the 1880s.' Unpublished MA Thesis.

Morris J, 1976. *Domesday Book 24: Staffordshire*.

Phillips ADM, 1984. 'A Map of the County of Stafford by William Yates: An Introduction.' *Collections for the History of Staffordshire* Fourth Series Volume **12**.

Pitt W, 1817. *A Topographical History of Staffordshire*.

Raven M, 2005. *A Guide to Staffordshire and The Black Country, The Potteries and The Peaks*.

Rumble AR & Mills AD (eds), 1997. *Names, Places and People: An Onomastic Miscellany in Memory of John McNeal Dodgson*. Stamford.

Thorn FR, 1997. 'Another Seaborough, the Other Dinnation: Some Manorial Affixes in Domesday Book' in Rumble & Mills 1997, p.345-77.

Victoria County History, 1908. *A History of the County of Stafford, I*.

Victoria County History, 1990. *A History of the County of Stafford, XIV; The City of Lichfield*. Greenslade MW (ed.).

APPENDIX A: Staffordshire HER data

BA Ref	SMR PRN	Type	Date	Description
1	13673-MST10155	Listed Building: (Grade II)	Georgian	Overton Manor: A listed late C18th house of red brick with C20th alterations. (see Appendix B)
3	51087-MST12747	Extant building: Barn	Not stated	Apple Tree Farm barn: Brick and stone barn with tiled gabled roof of King-post construction.
9	01091-MST1089	Findspot	Neolithic	A flint flake of probable Neolithic date.
10	20075-MST5346	Earthwork	Med-post. Med	Ridge and furrow identified from aerial photograph of 1963 to south of Hammerwich village centre.

* BA reference numbers relate to Figure 2; only numbers 1 and 3 lie within the study area.

APPENDIX B : Overton Manor Statutory List Entry

SK 00 NE

OVERTON LANE

(west side)

HAMMERWICH C.P.

5/39

Overton Manor

II

House. Late C18 with C20 alterations. Red brick, raised band at first- floor level; tiled roof; end stacks. Two-storey, 3-window front: 3-:2-:3-light casements with gauged brick heads and painted keystones; similar head to central entrance with overlight and C20 part-glazed door.

APPENDIX C : Tithe Map Apportionments**(a) The Burntwood Tithe Map of 1844**

(NB: the Burntwood map covers only that area in the far north-east of the study area bounded by Hammerwich Road, Stockhay Lane and Lichfield Road)

No	Owner	Occupier	Description	State of Cultivation
251	Marquis of Anglesey	Benjamin Bird	House	
252	Marquis of Anglesey	Benjamin Bird	Croft	
253		Joseph Ashmall		Arable
254	Thomas Horton	Thomas Horton	Slang	Pasture
255	Thomas Horton	Thomas Horton	Meadow	Meadow
256	Thomas Horton	Thomas Horton	Little Broomey Close	Arable
257	Thomas Horton	Thomas Horton	Broomey Piece	Pasture
258	Thomas Horton	Thomas Horton	Horse Shoe Public House and Offices	
259	Thomas Horton	Thomas Horton	Intake	Arable

(b) The Hammerwich Tithe Map of 1844

(NB: the Hammerwich map omits Parcel A and the westernmost portions of Parcel B and C, which still formed part of the unenclosed Cannock Chase at this time; see Yates map of Staffordshire of 1775).

No	Owner	Occupier	Description	State of Cultivation
1	Marquis of Anglesey	George Burton	Old Hannals Croft	Arable
2	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Coppice Nook	Arable
3	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Little Coppice	Arable
4	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Great Coppice	Arable
5	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Well Leasow	Arable
6	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	The Field	Arable
7	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Homestead	---
8	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Orchard	Meadow
9	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	Clover Leasow	Arable
10	Richard Bird	Richard Bird	The Meadow	Meadow or Pasture
11	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Upper Wood Croft	Arable
12	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	The Paddock	Pasture
13	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Lower Wood Croft	Arable
14	Richard Tho. Cooke	Henry Webb	Part of West Close	Arable
15	Richard Tho. Cooke	Henry Webb	Part of West Close	Arable
16	Richard Tho. Cooke	William Phillips	House and Garden	---
17	Richard Tho. Cooke	Henry Webb	Wood Croft	Arable or Garden
18	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Part of Star Croft	Arable
19	Richard Tho. Cooke	Henry Webb	East Close	Meadow or Pasture
20	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	Wood Croft	Arable
21	Will. Middleton	John Lane	Wood Croft	Arable
22	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	Gorsey Leasow	Arable
23	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	Wood Croft	Arable
24				
25	Hammerwich Church	William Atkins	House and Garden	---
26	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Barn Yard and Shed	---
27	Hammerwich Church	Thomas Atkins	House and Garden	---
28	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Part of Star Croft	Arable
29	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Part of Star Croft	Arable
30	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Part of Star Croft	Arable
31	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Part of Star Croft	Arable
32	Hammerwich Church	George Burton	Part of Star Croft	Arable
33	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	Bard Croft	Arable
34	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	Barn, Shed and Yard	---
35	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	House and Gardens	---

No	Owner	Occupier	Description	State of Cultivation
36	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	Meadow	Meadow
37	Joseph Ashmall	Joseph Ashmall	Meadow	Meadow
84	Marquis of Anglesey	Thomas Pheasant	Encroachment	Arable and Garden
85	Marquis of Anglesey	Thomas Pheasant	House and Land	Arable and Garden
86	Marquis of Anglesey	Thomas Pheasant	Garden	Garden
87	Marquis of Anglesey	Thomas Pheasant	Garden	Croft
88	C & J Forster Esq.	C & J Forster Esq.	Plantation	---
89	C & J Forster Esq.	C & J Forster Esq.	Plantation	---
90	C & J Forster Esq.	C & J Forster Esq.	Plantation	---
91	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Big Meadow	Meadow
92	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Pool and Plantation	----
93	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Part of Coney (?)Gree	Pasture
94	C & J Forster Esq.	C & J Forster Esq.	Part of Coney (?)Gree	Plantation
95	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Gorse Piece	Arable
96	Marquis of Anglesey	Elias Ashmall	Headlands Piece	Arable
97	John Tudor	John Tudor	Moss's Piece	Pasture or Meadow
98	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	Middle Piece	Arable
99	William Middleton	Elias Ashmall	Field Piece or 8 Acres	Arable
100	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Anell Stile Flat	Arable
101	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	Part of Flatt	Arable
102	John Pavier Esq	James Moss	House, Buildings and Garden	---
103	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	Part of Flatt	Arable
104	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	Homestead	---
105	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	The Calves Croft	Rick Yard
106	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	The Croft	Pasture
107	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Part of Upper Town Croft	
108	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	House and Garden	
109	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Homestead	
110	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Orchard	
111	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Barn Croft	Arable
112	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Nook Piece	Arable
113	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Near Broomey Half	Arable
114	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Far Broomey Half	Arable
115	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Little Field	Arable
116	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Lumpet Hole	Arable
117	NOT LISTED			
118	NOT LISTED			
119	Rev. Flavell	Richard Bird	Great Brook Piece	Arable
120	Samuel Jackson	Samuel Jackson	Part of Brook Piece	Arable
121	Samuel Jackson	Samuel Jackson	House and Part of Brook Piece	Pasture
122	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Brook Piece + ??	Arable
123	C & J Forster Esq.	William Middleton	Alder Tree Brook Piece	Arable

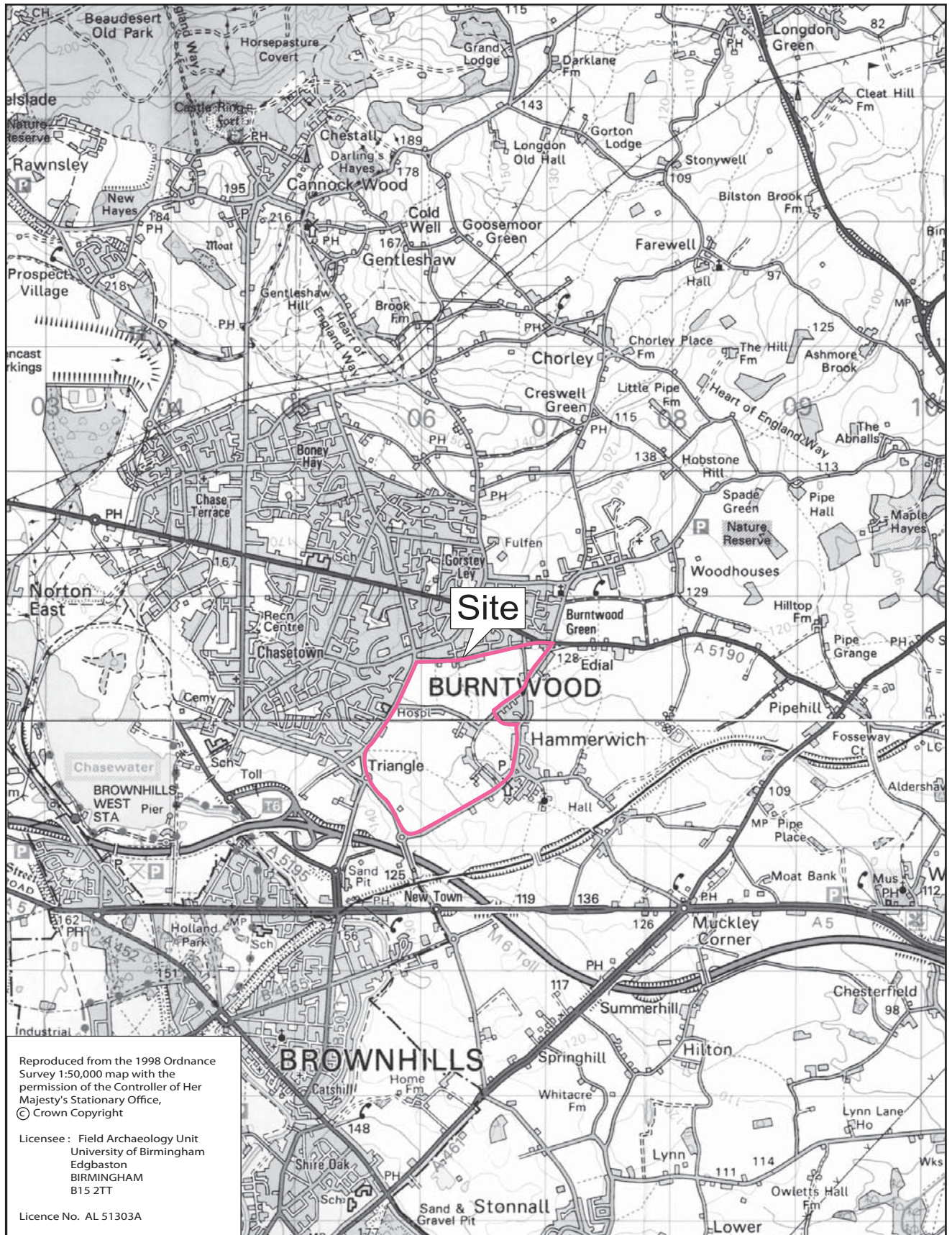


Fig.1

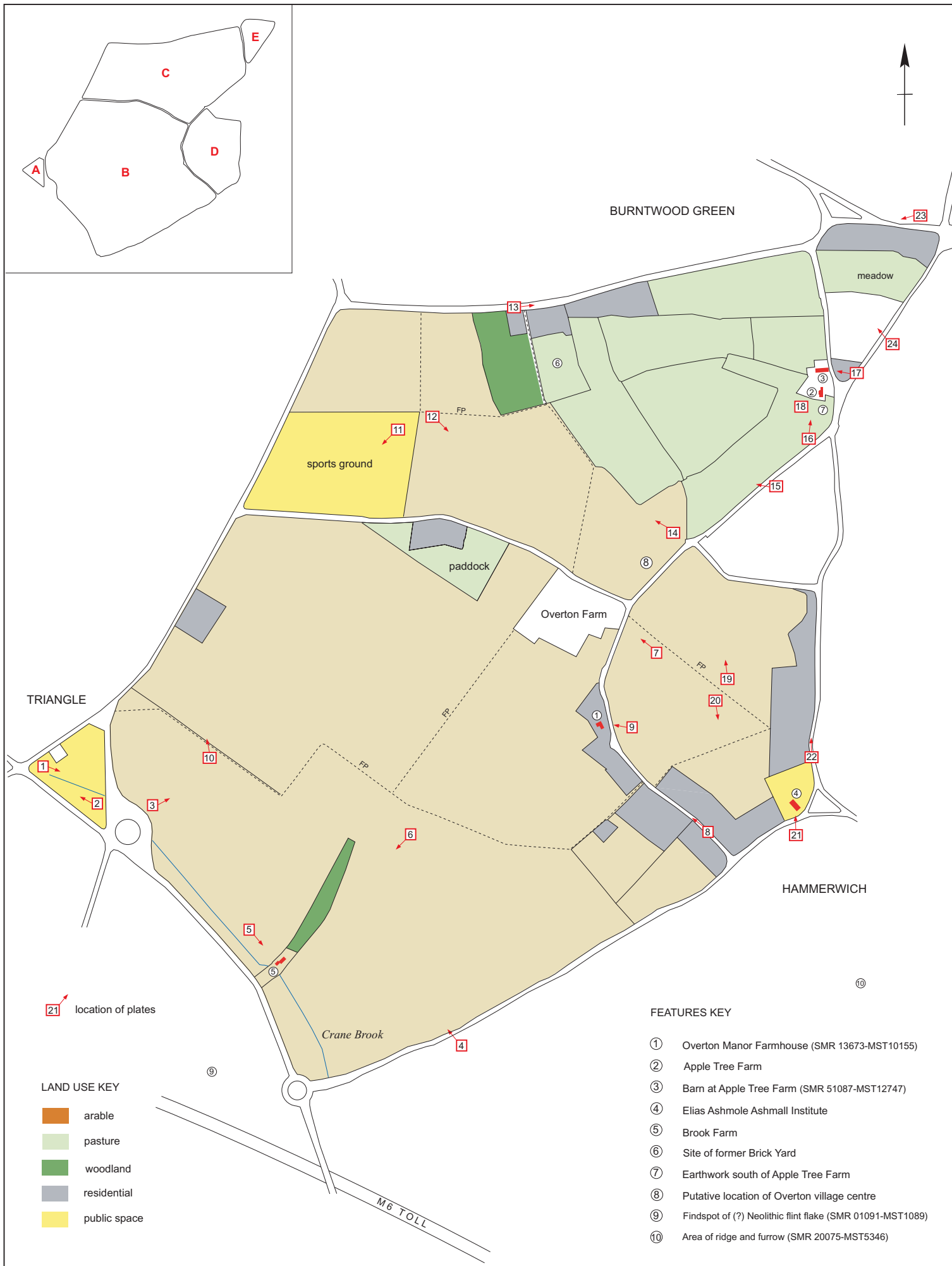


Figure 2: Study Area; current land use and archaeological features; key to plates

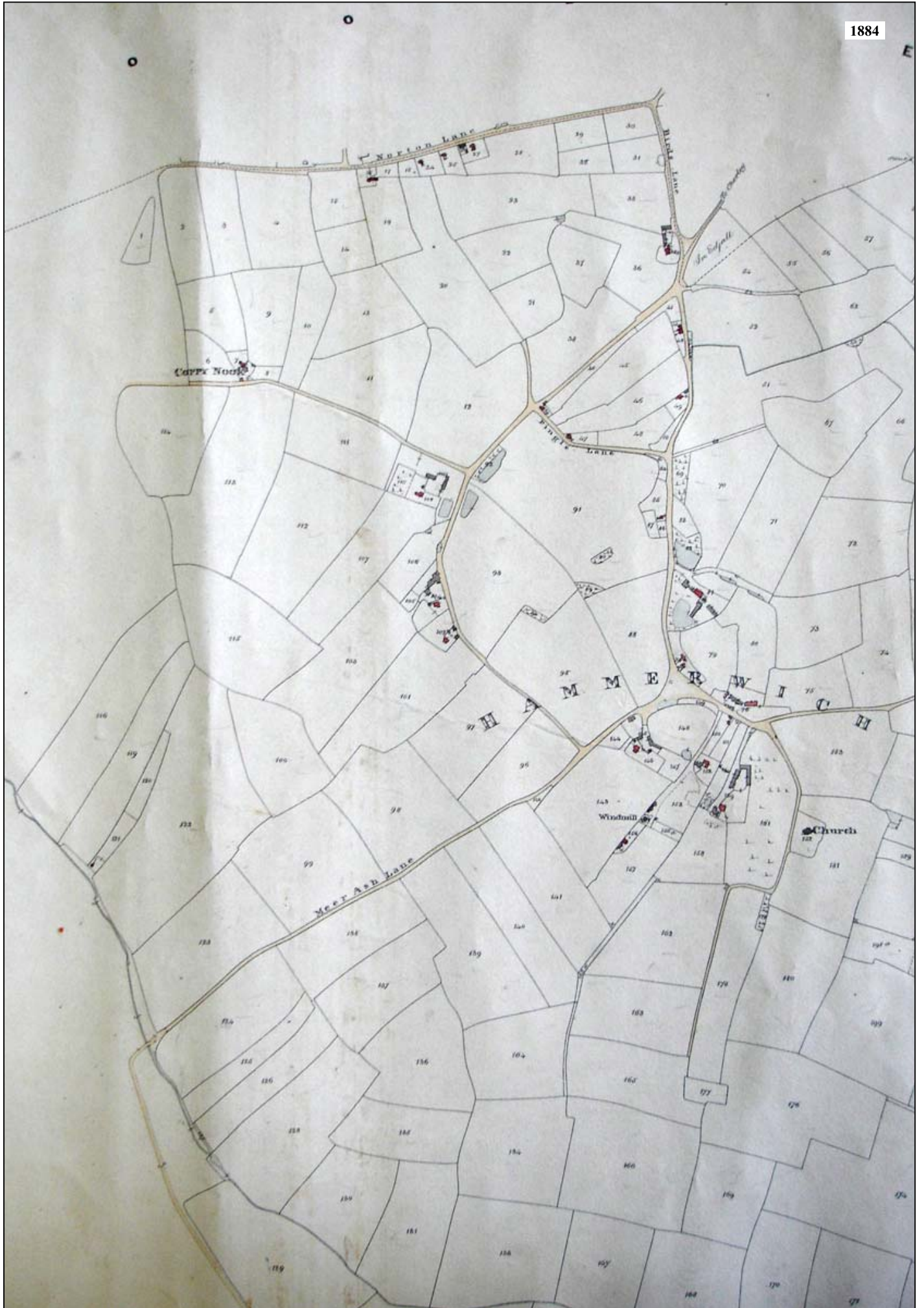


Figure 3

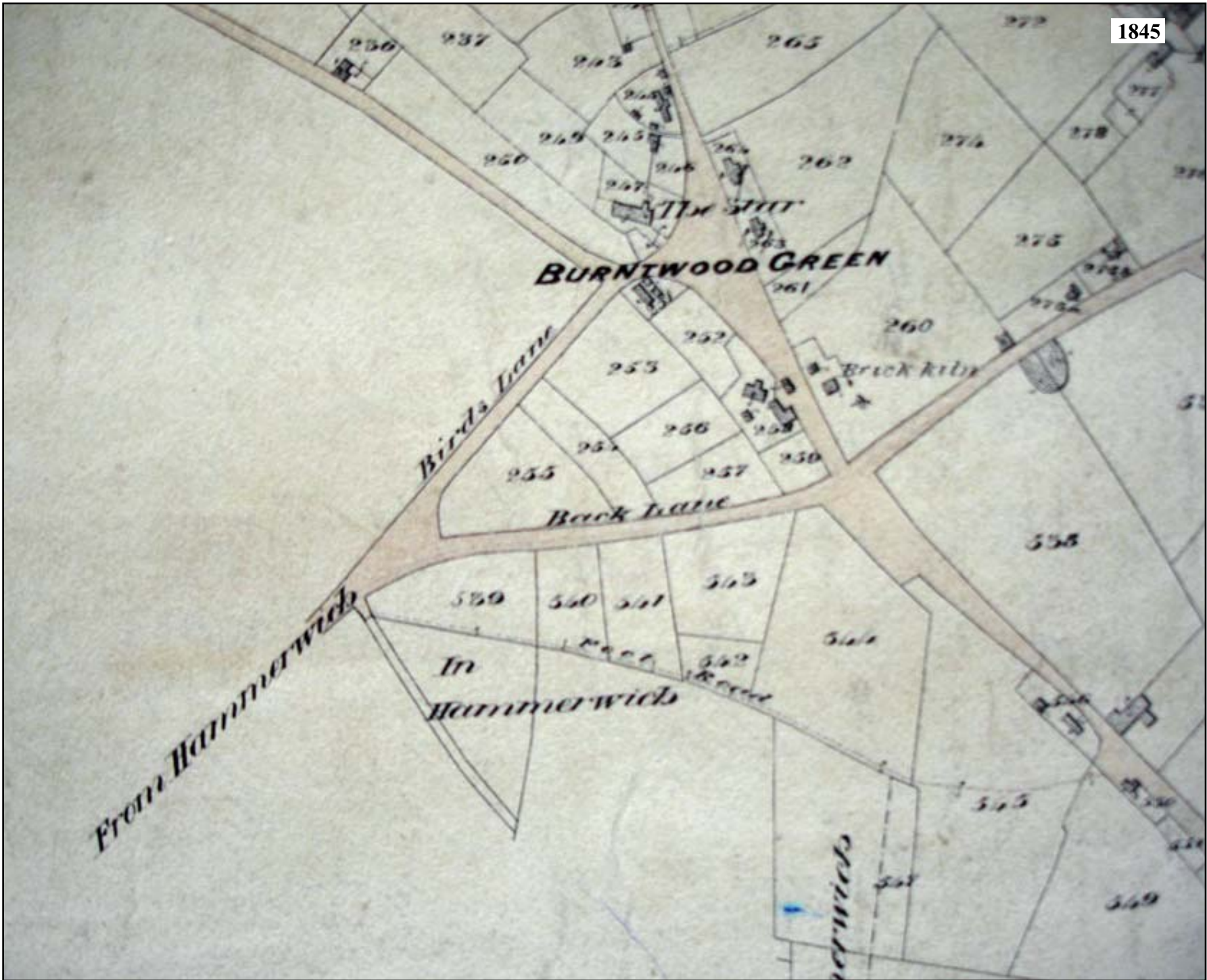


Figure 4

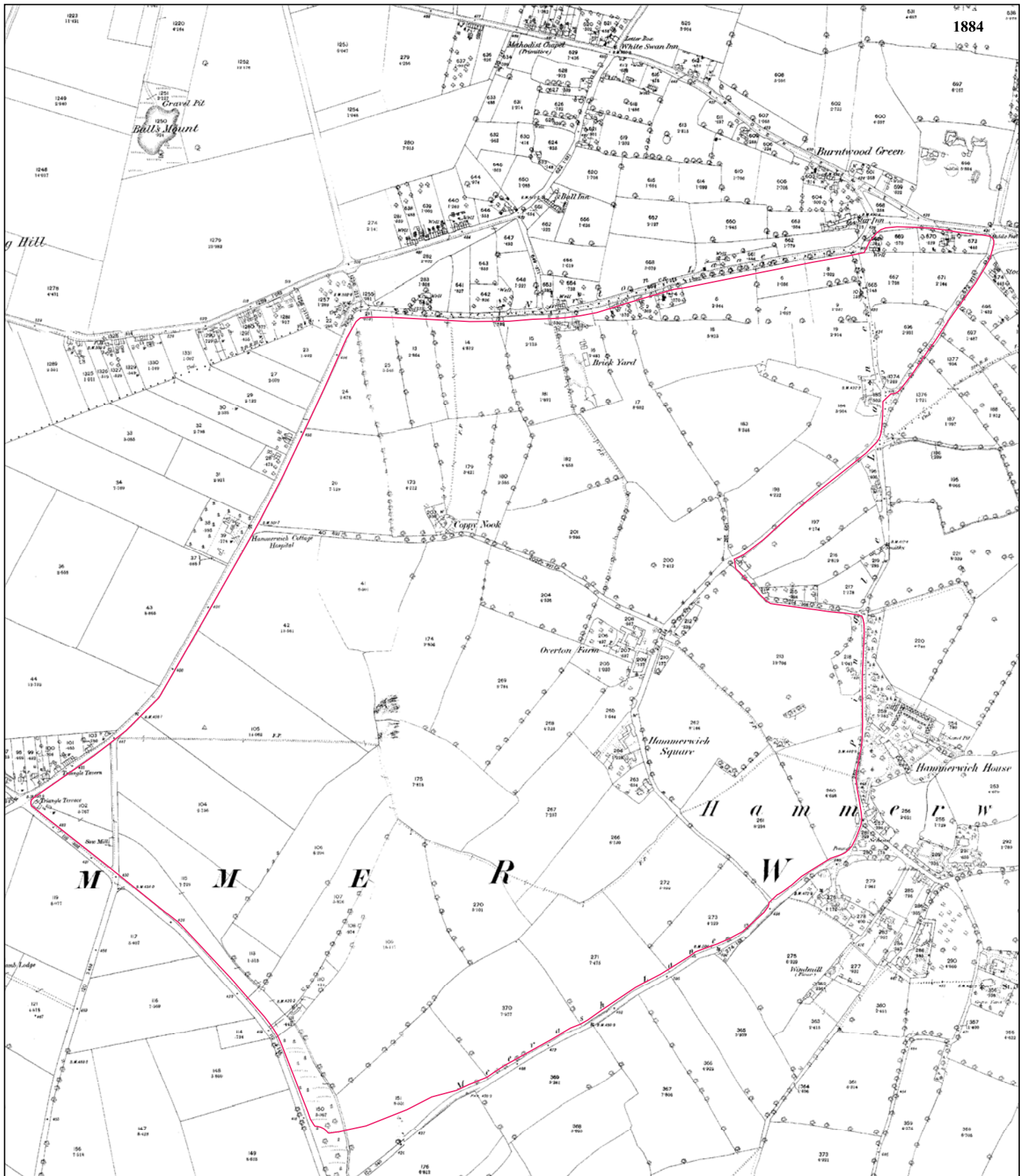


Figure 5

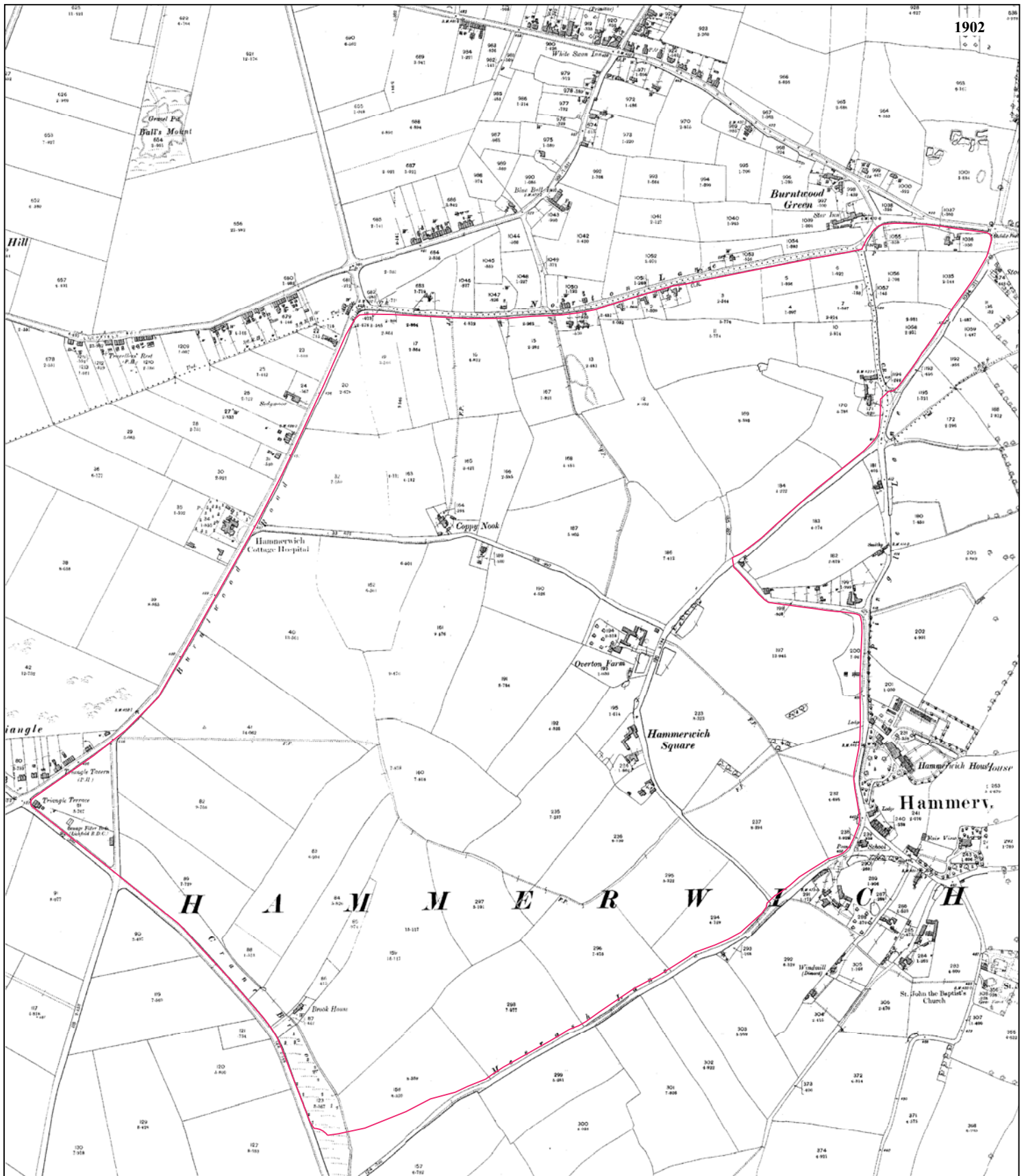
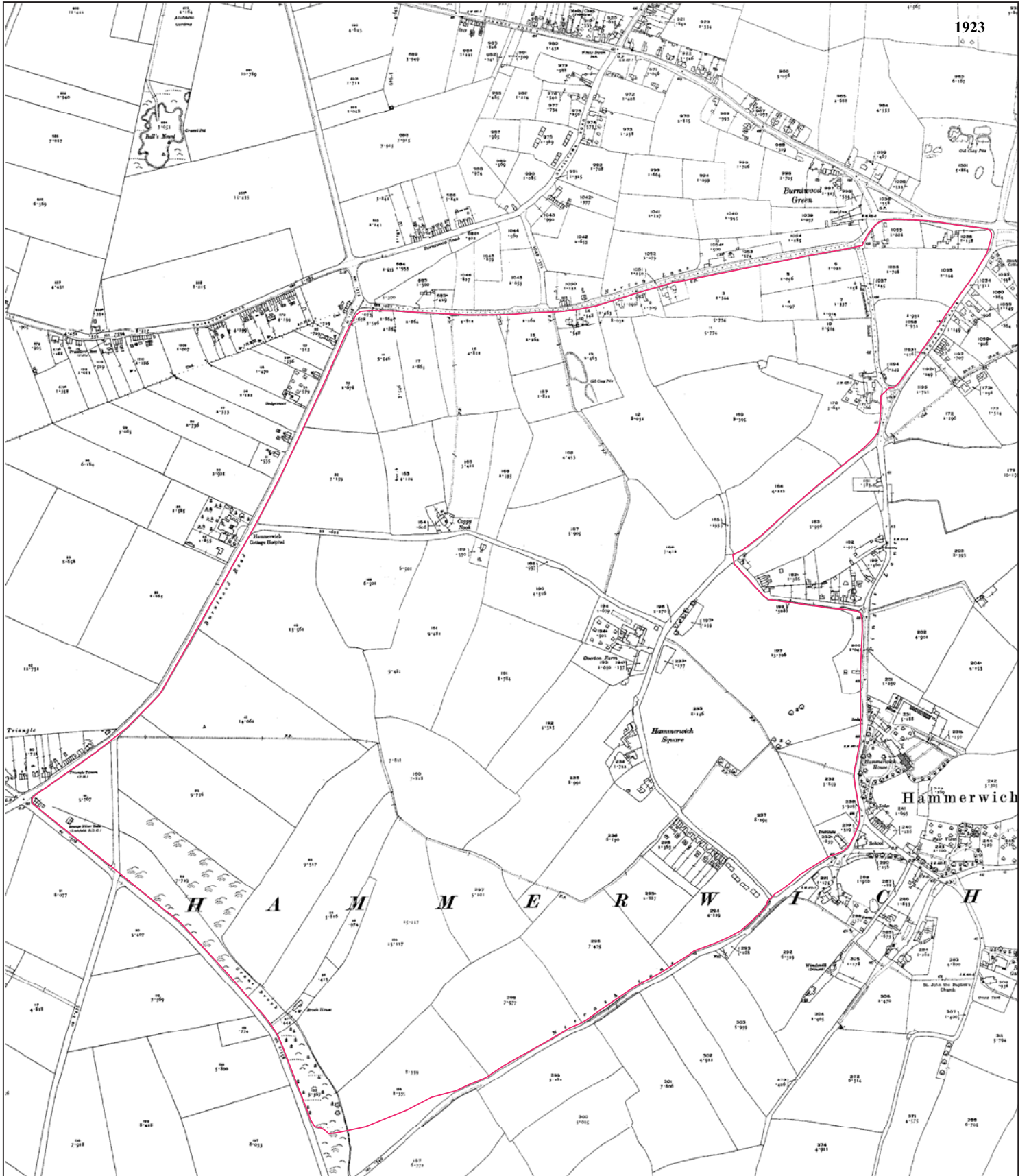


Figure 6



1923

Figure 7

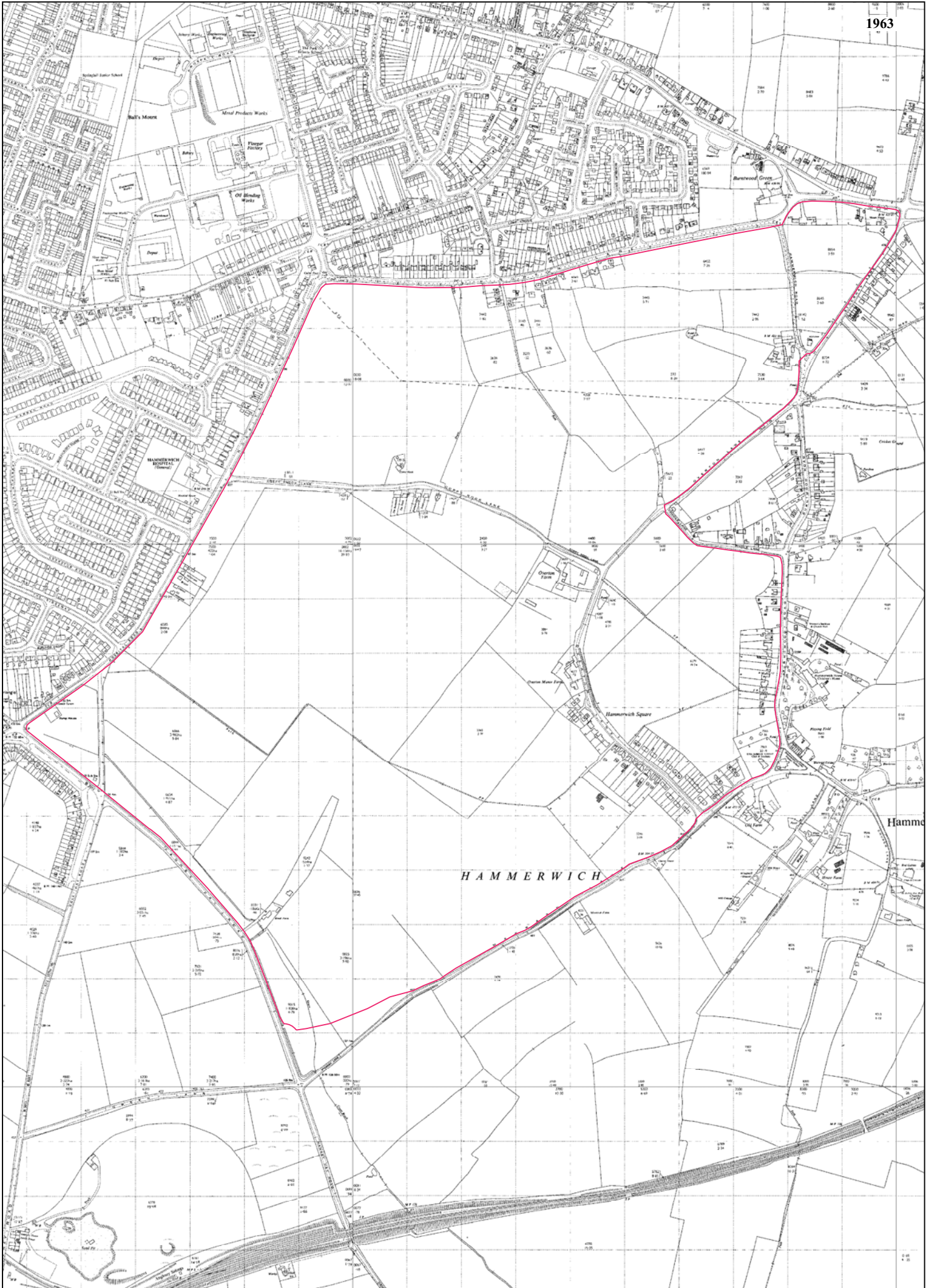


Figure 8



Plate 1: Parcel A 'Triangle', looking east.



Plate 2: Parcel A 'Triangle', looking west along Crane Brook.



Plate 3: Parcel B looking north-east from the Triangle.



Plate 4: Parcel B looking north-west from Meerash Lane.



Plate 5: Parcel B, Brook Farm from the west.



Plate 6: Parcel B, 'finger' of woodland to north of Brook Farm.



Plate 7: Parcel B, Overton Farm from the south-east.



Plate 8: Parcel B; early 20th-century residential development on Overton Lane.



Plate 9: Parcel B, Overton Manor, Overton Lane (SMR 13673-MST10155).



Plate 10: Parcel B, 1960s development along Hospital Road.



Plate 11: Parcel C, sports field looking south-west.



Plate 12: Parcel C, arable field looking south-east towards Coppy Nook Lane.



Plate 13: Parcel C, 20th-century residential development along Norton Lane.



Plate 14: Parcel C, arable field looking north-west.



Plate 15: Parcel C, pasture south-west of Apple Tree Farm.



Plate 16: Apple Tree Farm and barn from the south



Plate 17: Apple Tree Farm barn (SMR 51087-MST12747).



Plate 18: Earthwork to south of Apple Tree Farm. (Image © Google Earth)



Plate 19: Parcel D, arable field looking north.



Plate 20: Parcel D, arable field looking south.



Plate 21: Parcel D, Elias Ashmole Ashmole Institute, Hammerwich.



Plate 22: Parcel D, 20th-century residential development along Burntwood Road.



Plate 23: Parcel E, 20th-century residential development along Norton Lane.



Plate 24: Parcel E looking north-west.

