

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Rea Farm, Upton Magna Shropshire**

Archaeological Assessment



By  
Kate Pitt MA ACIfA  
Dr Irene Garcia Rovira  
Ian Davies

Report No. 1427

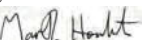
Archaeology Wales Limited,  
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,  
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF  
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371  
E-mail: [admin@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:admin@arch-wales.co.uk)


# Archaeology Wales

## Rea Farm, Upton Magna Shropshire

Archaeological Assessment

Prepared For: Balfours LLP

Edited by: Mark Houlston  
Signed:   
Position: Managing Director  
Date: 4/5/16

Authorised by: Mark Houlston  
Signed:   
Position: Managing Director  
Date: 4/5/16

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## **Summary**

*In August 2015, Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Balfours LLP to carry out an Archaeological Assessment, including a geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, to determine the archaeological potential of land at Rea Farm, Upton Magna. The assessment has been undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for the development of a bird broiler unit.*

*No Registered Historic Landscape areas, Historic Parks & Gardens or Conservation Areas lie within the bounds of the proposed main development site. Attingham Park (1001114) lies within the 2km search radius defined for the site, but will not be impacted upon by the development.*

*Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments are recorded within the 2km search radius: a site discovered by aerial photography (1006236) and a moated site and associated structures (1019645), although both are at distances of over 1.5km from the main development site. Likewise, 32 listed buildings lie between 1- 2km radius of the site. These buildings mostly date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and are associated with agricultural activities. No recorded site will be directly affected by the proposed development.*

*The proposed passing bays lie close to and within the area of Scheduled Ancient Monument 1006236. Passing Bay 2 would require Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England for any groundworks to be undertaken.*

*A geophysical survey was undertaken in order to further assess the archaeological potential of the development site. The results defined evidence for a series of parallel land drains and two, smaller, discrete anomalies of unknown function.*

*These works were followed by a trenched archaeological evaluation at the site. No evidence for archaeological features or artefacts was discovered. The parallel land-drains identified by the geophysics were exposed.*

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In October 2015, Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Balfours LLP to undertake an Archaeological Assessment to investigate the heritage potential of land at Rea Farm, Upton Magna (SJ 56811,12371) and associated passing bay locations (Figure 1). The Assessment has been undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for a bird broiler unit. The proposed development is 1.5 ha in area. The local planning authority is Shropshire County Council. The Assessment serves to inform a Scoping Planning Application.
- 1.2 A Specification for the Assessment was produced by AW in August 2015 and approved by Dr Andy Wigley, Heritage Environment Manager with Shropshire County Council (see Appendix II).
- 1.3 The purpose of the Assessment, which is detailed in the following report, is to provide Shropshire County Council with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

## **2 Site Description**

- 2.1 This site proposed for development is located at the north-western end of a field used to grow crops. The Rea Cottages are located to the west of the field and adjacent to the main road. To the north, the proposed development is delimited by a field boundary.
- 2.2 Vehicular access to the site is currently gained from the west, adjacent to Rea Cottages.
- 2.3 The geology of the area proposed for development forms part of the Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation, composed of cross bedded Aeolian stones of medium-grain. Superficial deposits are constituted by Devensian-Diamacton till (BGS 2015).
- 2.4 The topography of the proposed development area is predominantly flat. The field is currently used to grow crops (Figure 1a-b).
- 2.5 Three passing bays are included in the development proposals, located on Pelham Road, to the south of the A5 (Figure 1a-c).

## **3 Methodology**

- 3.1 The methodology for the Assessment follows that set out in the Specification (Appendix II).
- 3.2 The primary objectives have been to assess the impact of the proposed development on the historic environment. The work has highlighted and assessed the impact on standing and buried remains of potential archaeological interest and ensured that

they are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of subsequent activities associated with the development. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies.

- 3.3 The aim has been to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.
- 3.3 The work includes a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aims to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.
- 3.4 This report provides information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* has been advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record has been recommended.
- 3.5 The Assessment considers the following:
  - a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area through assessment of various readily available primary sources:
    1. Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the regional HER at Shropshire Historic Environment Record within a 2km radius from the centre of the development.
    2. Collation and basic assessment of the impact on all Designated archaeological sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks & Gardens, Conservation Areas) within a 2km radius of the aforementioned area.
    3. Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
    4. Assessment of all relevant extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence, including that held at Shropshire Archives.
    5. All sources indexed in the County Archive.
    6. Heritage Gateway sources.
    7. Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. All editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, Tithe and early estate maps (as available).
    8. Place name evidence.
    9. Internet sourced satellite imagery.
    10. Historic documents (e.g. Charters, registers, estate papers).

b) The presence of potential buried archaeological remains as defined by a geophysical survey of the development site.

c) The presence of potential buried archaeological remains as defined by a trenched evaluation of the development site.

d) The significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk based study, the geophysical survey and the trenched evaluation.

3.6 The work conforms to:

- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
- Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey
- Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation

as produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

## **4 Archaeological and Historical Background**

### ***4.1 Previous archaeological studies***

4.1.1 In 1978, the Natural and Historical Environment Team of Shropshire County Council conducted a Visual Assessment of an area of 100m<sup>2</sup> centred on SJ 5601 1408 (ESA2007). This study area is located c. 1.83km away from the proposed development site. The Grade II Listed Building of Moat House (Hunkington) (01468) lies c 200 m east of the study area.

4.1.2 In 1968, the Ordnance Survey carried out a Visual Assessment centred on the area of SJ5601 1408 (ESA2008). The Grade II Listed Building of Moat House (Hunkington) (01468) lies c 500 m east of the area examined.

4.1.3 In 1960, the Ordnance Survey conducted a Visual Assessment of a 100m<sup>2</sup> area centred on SJ5599 1135 (ESA2153). The site of Upton Forge (01613) lies in close proximity and was explored by the OS at this time. This forge was built in 1653 and operated until the 1840s.

4.1.4 In 1982, the Natural and Historical Environment Team of Shropshire County Council conducted a Visual Assessment of an area of 100m<sup>2</sup> centred on SJ 5712 1160 (ESA2715). A pillbox was documented c.260 NW from Duncote Farm.

4.1.5 From 1995 to 2001, the Defence of Britain project conducted a survey of a pillbox located c260 NW from Duncote Farm (ESA2715).

4.1.6 In 1978, the Natural and Historical Environment Team of Shropshire County Council conducted a Visual Assessment of an area of 100m<sup>2</sup> centred on SJ 5598 1124 (ESA3127). Upton Forge pillbox (03472) is found in close proximity to the area examined.



- 4.1.7 In 1996, the Defence of Britain project conducted a survey of Upton Forge pillbox (03472) and a surrounding 100m<sup>2</sup> area centred on SJ5598 1124 (ESA3128).
- 4.1.8 In 1989, the Iron Bridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) carried out a trial excavation in the area, centred on SJ5707 1154, in advance of the construction of the A5 bypass (Clarke 1989) (ESA3341). This trial trenching led to an archaeological intervention in 1990 (ESA3342) (Hugh 1990). IGMT excavated a series of industrial features at Duncot Farm, including a post-medieval mill (04320) and a possible iron work complex (04321) (ESA3343).
- 4.1.9 In 1964, Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society carried out an excavation at the Roman fort of Duncot (00045) (ESA4212). This excavation was preceded by a Magnetometer survey of the area (ESA4213).
- 4.1.10 In 1990, BUFAU conducted a series of excavations in advance of the development of the Shropshire bypass (ESA4214) at Duncote Farm. The excavation was centred at SJ5782 1136 and covered an area of 499m x 219m. This excavation evidenced 5 phases: (1) A series of Iron Age field ditches, (2) probable Romano-British market garden plots, 1st or 2nd century, (3) Romano-British ditches, marking abandonment, (4) Romano-British enclosure, of a British type (with a hearth and some possible traces of ephemeral structures in the interior), (5) later activity. Two monuments are associated with this event: the Cropmark Complex c500m E of Duncote Farm (00046), and a possible Roman Road from Robertsford to Duncote Farm (00096).
- 4.1.11 In 1976, English Heritage carried out a Visual Assessment of a 100m<sup>2</sup> area centred on SJ5220 1150 (ESA4215). This area is associated with a series of cropmarks defining a possible Saxon Palace site at Frogmore (00047) (SAM 17056). A further survey was carried out in 1983 (ESA4216).
- 4.1.12 A series of investigations was carried out from 1976-1990 to assess the archaeological potential of the area proposed for the A5 Shrewsbury bypass (ESA4737). From 1988 to 1990, BUFAU produced a series of evaluations of threatened sites. These works included a geophysical survey, field-walking and trial trenching. Four large scale excavations were carried out by Shropshire County Council Archaeological Unit revealing two enclosures, a Romano-British road-side settlement and a field system. ESA4737 refers to a series of specialised reports produced in response to the development of the A5 Shrewsbury bypass, and ESA4272 details the work carried out by BUFAU during the evaluation period (see section 4.7 for details).
- 4.1.13 In 1988, BUFAU carried out investigations in the area affected by the construction of the A5/A49 Shrewsbury Bypass. These works consisted of trial trenching and also integrated a number of geophysical surveys. A number of sites are associated with the works: (1) the Roman Roadside Settlement at Hay Field, Meole Brace (00002), (2) the cropmarks SW of Preston Farm (00019), (3) the cropmark Enclosures on Ford Hill, c700m SW of Preston Farm (00020), (4) the cropmark enclosures and field system NE of Preston Farm (00023), (5) the cropmark Complex c500m E of Duncote Farm (00046), (6) the postulated (but largely rejected) alignment of Roman Wroxeter - Forden Gaer road north of Meole Brace (00057), (7) the Roman Road from Wroxeter to Rutinium, Whitchurch and Chester (00066), (8) the Roman Road from Wroxeter to Forden Gaer (00098), (9) Watling Street, east of Wroxeter (00099), (10) the possible site of brick Kiln, Leasow (00105), (11) the Marching Camp c1km SW of Uffington

(00124), (12) 2 Postulated Cropmark Enclosures c600m NE of Aston Farm (02354), (13) the cropmark Enclosure c700m WNW of Montford Bridge (02470), (14) the cropmark Enclosure c300m NW of Calcott Farm (04237) and (15) Duncot Forge, Upper Rea Ironworks (04320).

- 4.1.14 From 1998 to 1991, Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service carried out a series of watching briefs and evaluations during the construction of the A5 bypass. A number of sites are associated with this event: (1) the cropmarks SW of Preston Farm (00019), (2) the cropmark Enclosures on Ford Hill, c700m SW of Preston Farm (00020), (3) the cropmark enclosures and field system NE of Preston Farm (00023), (4) the postulated (but largely rejected) alignment of Roman Wroxeter - Forden Gaer road north of Meole Brace (00057), (5) the Roman Road from Wroxeter to Rutinium, Whitchurch and Chester (00066), (6) the possible Roman Road from Robertsford to Duncote Farm (00095), (7) the Roman Road from Wroxeter to Forden Gaer (00098), (8) the Watling Street, east of Wroxeter (00099), (9) the Marching Camp c1km SW of Uffington (00124), (10) the trackway between Bayston Hill and Sutton (01268), and (11) the curving Ditch underlying Uffington Marching Camp (04431).
- 4.1.15 In 1989, Ironbridge Archaeology carried out a survey of the known industrial sites affected by the construction of the A5 (ESA4749). This survey was produced as it was thought that previous works in the area had not covered the totality of the heritage sites.
- 4.1.16 From 1994 to 1999, studies associated with Wroxeter Hinterland Project were carried out across the area, The project aimed to measure the local impact of the foundation of the Roman city of Viroconium (ESA4787).
- 4.1.17 From 1988-1989, the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit carried out a survey of a Walled Garden and Farm in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the area. These structures were associated with the following works: (1) Walled Garden N of stable block (08469), (2) former garden walls, barn and outbuildings to NW of Stables at Apley Castle (17432), (3) Dovecote NE of former garden walls to NW of Stables at Apley Castle (17433) and (4) site of ice house adjacent to walled garden (20395).
- 4.1.18 From 2000 to 2003, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council carried out an examination of all the listed buildings in the district (ESA5888). This project catalogued more than a 100 buildings of local historical interest.
- 4.1.19 In 1999, a building survey was produced for at Church Farm (16196). It suggested that the building was initially built during the late 15<sup>th</sup> century (ESA6349).
- 4.1.20 In 2009, the National Trust produced a DBA in advance of a planning application produced for the construction of a new car park at Attingham Park (ESA6367). The area considered in the study is registered as a historical park (07650) and associated to a Country House (13204) and is close to a Scheduled Monument. A Visual Assessment of the park was carried out in during the period of 1988 and 1995 (ESA4930).
- 4.1.21 In 2012, Castleryn Archaeology carried out a watching brief prior the construction of new detached poultry shed at Forge Farm (ESA6683).

- 4.1.22 In 1994-95, BUFAU carried out a walking survey at Duncote. The team walked over 16.25ha (ESA6765). This survey recovered material culture that suggested a continued occupation of the area from AD20 to 200.
- 4.1.23 In 1994-95, BUFAU carried out a walking survey at Withington (ESA6777). This initiative was centred at SJ577 132 and covered an area of 445ha. The survey was carried out in conjunction with the study of 31 sites, with the purpose of determining the spread of material culture, both chronologically and spatially, from the population centre of Wroxeter. This event is associated to the following monuments: (1) cropmark Enclosure c1km S of Withington (00043), (2) Roman Road from Wroxeter to Rutinium, Whitchurch and Chester (00066), (3) cropmark Complex c1km SSW of Withington (00100), (4) cropmarks of ring ditches c130m S of Sandy Lane Cottages (00491), (5) site of a burnt mound c 400m SW of Church Farm (01610), (6) cropmark enclosure c600m S of Church Farm, Withington (02456) and (7) arc of a possible circular cropmark south of Withington (04510).
- 4.1.24 In 1997, BUFAU opened up a series of evaluation trenches across the cropmark at Duncote Fort (00045) (ESA6791). This cropmark was the imprint of a double ditched enclosure of Roman military type and date.
- 4.1.25 In 2010, Worcestershire Archaeological Survey carried out a management survey over 12 fields with archaeological sites (ESA6889). This survey was associated to (1) the cropmarks SW of Preston Farm (00019), (2) the cropmark enclosures on Ford Hill (00020), (3) the enclosure NE of the Oaks plantation (00022), (4) the cropmark field system SE of Atcham (00032), (5) the cropmark enclosure c.330m NE of the Hollow (00076), (6) the cropmark of a rectangular enclosure c. 400m SW of Tern Brudge (00475), (7) cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure c 550m SE of Preston Boats Farm (02234), (8) cropmarks of an enclosure c 570m SE of Tunnel Cottage (02235), (9) cropmark enclosure c.275m SW of Home Farm (04055), (10) enclosure c 150m SSE of The Hollow (04164), (11) cropmark rectangular enclosure c.165m N of Ferry House (04472), (12) possible ring ditch c.195m S of Berwick Grove (04521) and (13) enclosure c150m W of The Hollow (04873)
- 4.1.26 In 2013, Malcolm L. Reid monitored a wood clearance at Sales Farm. The Moat house (01468) located N of the proposed development site is associated with this event (ESA7410).
- 4.1.27 In 2011, ArchaeoPhysical Ltd was commissioned to carry out a magnetic survey over the Saxon Halls (00047) located S from Upton Magna (ESA7237). These works covered an area of c. 4ha and helped confirm the archaeological nature of the cropmarks evidenced in the area. They also revealed an Iron Age/Romano-British field system, a ditch and pit fills.

## **4.2 The Historic Landscape (Figure 2 and 2b)**

- 4.2.1 The proposed development lies within the boundaries of the Historic Landscape Categorisation Areas (HLCA) recorded in the Shropshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment Report.

4.2.2 The field (F14920) is defined as a 'very large' post-war field. This categorisation is given to fields of more than 10ha that have been created through 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural improvements intended to meet the requirements of intensive arable cultivation.

4.2.3 A 2km search around the proposed site for development has produced the following information:

Object_ID	Description
F4844	Very large post-war fields
F4845	Very large post-war fields
Ind188	Industrial complex
F4923	Piecemeal enclosure
F4924	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F4925	Large irregular fields
F4926	Very large post-war fields
F4927	Very large post-war fields
F4928	Very large post-war fields
F4929	Small irregular fields
F4930	Very large post-war fields
F4931	Very large post-war fields
Opr496	Parks and gardens
W3009	Other plantation
W3010	Other plantation
W3011	Coniferous plantation
W3013	Broadleaved plantation
W3014	Other plantation
F14884	Very large post-war fields
F14911	Very large post-war fields
F14912	Very large post-war fields
W3016	Other plantation
F14913	Very large post-war fields
F14914	Planned enclosure
F14915	Rectilinear squatter enclosure
F14916	Irregular squatter enclosure
F14918	Other large rectilinear fields
F14919	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14917	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14921	Large irregular fields
F14922	Rectilinear squatter enclosure
F14927	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
W3017	Other plantation
F14928	Large irregular fields
Set3691	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3692	Post-1880s settlement

F14929	Paddocks/ closes
F14930	Very large post-war fields
F14931	Very large post-war fields
F14932	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14933	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14934	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14935	Small irregular fields
Set3693	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3694	Post-1880s settlement
F14936	Paddocks/ closes
Set3695	Post-1880s settlement
Set3696	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3697	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3698	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3699	Post-1880s settlement
Set3700	Post-1880s settlement
Set3701	Post-1880s settlement
Set3702	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3703	Post-1880s settlement
F14937	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14938	Paddocks/ closes
F14939	Small irregular fields
F14940	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14941	Piecemeal enclosure
F14942	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14943	Very large post-war fields
F14944	Very large post-war fields
F14945	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
Set3704	Pre-1880s settlement
F14946	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14947	Very large post-war fields
F14948	Very large post-war fields
W3019	Other plantation
F14949	Other large rectilinear fields
W3020	Other plantation
Set3705	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3706	Post-1880s settlement
F14920	Very large post-war fields
F14950	Very large post-war fields
F14951	Very large post-war fields
F14952	Very large post-war fields
F14953	Large irregular fields
F14954	Large irregular fields

F14955	Very large post-war fields
Set3707	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3708	Pre-1880s settlement
F14956	Paddocks/ closes
Wvf499	Miscellaneous floodplain fields
F14957	Small irregular fields
F14958	Small irregular fields
Set3709	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3710	Post-1880s settlement
F14959	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14960	Piecemeal enclosure
F14961	Piecemeal enclosure
F14962	Other small rectilinear fields
F14963	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14964	Small irregular fields
F14965	Very large post-war fields
F14966	Piecemeal enclosure
F14967	Piecemeal enclosure
F14968	Paddocks/ closes
Set3712	Post-1880s settlement
Set3713	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3714	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3711	Post-1880s settlement
Set3715	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3716	Post-1880s settlement
Set3717	Redeveloped pre-1880s settlement
Set3718	Post-1880s settlement
F14969	Very large post-war fields
F14970	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14971	Small irregular fields
F14973	Small irregular fields
F14974	Very large post-war fields
Set3719	Pre-1880s settlement
Set3720	Post-1880s settlement
F14983	Very large post-war fields
F14984	Very large post-war fields
F14985	Very large post-war fields
F14986	Large irregular fields
F14987	Piecemeal enclosure
F14988	Piecemeal enclosure
F14989	Large irregular fields
F14990	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14991	Small irregular fields

F14992	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14993	Piecemeal enclosure
F14994	Very large post-war fields
F14995	Very large post-war fields
F14996	Very large post-war fields
F14997	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F14998	Large irregular fields
F15000	Large irregular fields
F14999	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F15001	Very large post-war fields
F15002	Very large post-war fields
W3021	Other woodland with sinuous boundaries
F15003	Very large post-war fields
F15004	Very large post-war fields
F15006	Very large post-war fields
Wvf502	Miscellaneous floodplain fields
F15007	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F15008	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F15009	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
W3292	Mixed plantation
W3293	Mixed plantation
W3294	Broadleaved plantation
W3295	Broadleaved plantation
W3296	Coniferous plantation
W3297	Broadleaved plantation
F16579	Very large post-war fields
F16580	Very large post-war fields
F16581	Very large post-war fields
F16582	Very large post-war fields
F16583	Paddocks/ closes
F16584	Very large post-war fields
Wvf470	Miscellaneous floodplain fields
F16585	Very large post-war fields
F16586	Very large post-war fields
F16587	Large irregular fields
F16588	Small irregular fields
Set4085	Pre-1880s settlement
Set4086	Post-1880s settlement
F16589	Reorganised piecemeal enclosure
F16591	Very large post-war fields
F16593	Planned enclosure
F16594	Very large post-war fields
F16595	Very large post-war fields

Mil83	Former military airfield
Ind354	Industrial complex
F16600	Small irregular fields
F16601	Large irregular fields
F16602	Very large post-war fields
F16603	Very large post-war fields

4.2.4 One park located within 2km radius of the proposed site – Attingham Park (1001114) - is listed within the Register of Parks and Gardens.

4.2.5 The proposed main development will not have an impact upon Attingham Park (1001114), as it is located over 1km to the south-west of the study site, on flat land on the opposite side of the A5. The passing bays, limited works adjoining the modern road, at a minimum distance of 0.3km from Attingham Park, would also have no impact on Attingham Park. The passing bays, within F14920 and F14884 of the Historic Landscapes Categorisation Area, would have a very low impact.

### **4.3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Figure 3)**

4.3.1 In order to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on designated archaeological sites, a search area of 2km from the proposed development has been applied.

4.3.2 No Scheduled Ancient Monument lie within the boundary of the main proposed development area.

4.3.4 Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments have been registered within 2km search area. The first is located 1.7km to the south-west of the main development site and corresponds to a site discovered by aerial photography (1006236). The second is a moated site discovered 450m NW of Hunkinton (1019645), located 1.5km to the north of the main development site.

4.3.5 At these distances and on flat land, it is concluded that no Scheduled Ancient Monument or its setting will be directly affected by the main development.

4.3.6 The three parking bays included in the development proposals lie within and in proximity to Scheduled Ancient Monument 1006236. Pastscape (accessed April 2016) describes the site as follows:

‘Cropmarks of two, perhaps three timber buildings were revealed by air-photography in 1975 on a gravel ridge at the edge of a plateau immediately to the west of the Atcham to Upton Magna Road. To the north-east is a complex of overlapping cropmarks, most of which can be interpreted as Iron Age/Romano-British ditches, tracks and field systems overlain by Medieval ridge and furrow. No trace of any of these features is visible on the ground. The two buildings are nearly in line, the southern most measuring fourteen metres by eight metres, with a small addition or porch at each end, bringing the total length to twenty-one metres. No trace of sub-divisions are visible. A large pit or hole has cut through part of the building. The



second building, to the north-east is of similar character and has a small part separated by a sub-division near each end. It seems likely that these buildings belong to a Dark Ages palace, probably of the 7th century AD. The buildings closely resemble the 7th century 'villa regalis' or palace at Yeavering, Northumberland. This site is unique in the West Midlands and probably represents the centre of power of an important Saxon overlord.'

4.3.7 The SAM 1006236 site lies partly on level, arable land, north of the Pelham Road, and partly on a gentle southeast facing slope of ploughed land south of it. Being limited works adjacent to the modern road, the passing bays would have a low impact on the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument 1006236 if located outside the designated area, as with passing bays 1 and 3. Scheduled Monument Consent would be required for any groundworks to be undertaken within the area of SAM 1006236, where passing bay 2 is proposed, as this would have a direct impact on the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. However, the highway verge upon which the passing bay would be sited which still forms part of the Scheduled Monument, has been trafficked by heavy goods vehicles and agricultural vehicles as an informal passing bay already (see Plate 12) and therefore the disturbance and loss of impact on the Scheduled Monument would be minimal.

#### **4.4 Listed Buildings (Figure 4)**

4.4.1 No listed buildings lie within the bounds of the proposed development site.

4.4.2 A search within 2km of the proposed site has recorded 32 listed buildings. These are mostly Grade II buildings associated with agricultural activities.

1222751	The Corner House	Grade II
1222780	The Old Rectory	Grade II
1222782	Pump immediately North of Old Rectory	Grade II
1222784	Allen Memorial	Grade II
1222785	Walnut Cottage	Grade II
1224462	Smetchcotte Farm	Grade II
1239508	Church Farmhouse	Grade II
1239509	Forge Farmhouse	Grade II
1239510	8, Upton Magna	Grade II
1267504	Chest tombs	Grade II
1267543	Lychgate	Grade II
1267583	The Porche House	Grade II
1267600	Church of St Lucia	Grade II*
1267601	Nevett Memorial	Grade II
1267630	The Gate house	Grade II
1267641	The Old Shop	Grade II
1273669	Cruck Cottage	Grade II
1223170	Pump immediately North of	Grade II
1223827	Duncote Farmhouse	Grade II
1222786	The Old Cottage	Grade II
1222790	Manor Farmhouse	Grade II

1223022	3, Canearvon Road	Grade II
1267602	Pump approximately 2m south to 3, Canearvon Road	Grade II
1222789	Garden Cottage	Grade II
1267427	Yew Tree Cottage	Grade II
1223062	The Gatehouse Cottage	Grade II
1223161	Smith memorial	Grade II
1267492	Pump to south of number 3 Church Farm Cottages	Grade II
1267426	Church of St John the Baptist	Grade II
1222792	The Old Hall	Grade II*
1223162	The Old Vicarage	Grade II
1223048	Former Farm Cottage	Grade II

4.4 There are two concentrations of Listed Buildings within the search area, the villages of Upton Magna 1.25km to the west, and Withington 1km to the north-east. Others are dispersed to the south of the A5, over 1km from the study site. The mature hedged northern boundary of the site, defined as the line of the former Shropshire Union Canal, shields the views from Upton Magna and Withington to the development site. At these distances, no Listed Building or its setting will be directly affected by the proposed development.

#### **4.5 Non-designated sites (Figures 5 – 8)**

4.5.1 There are no non-designated sites located within the proposed development area.

4.5.2 The HER records 147 non-designated sites of archaeological and historic significance outside the development area, within the 2km applied study area.

<b>SMR NUMBER</b>	<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>FORM</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>
00042 - MSA118	Walcot Waste cropmark complex	Enclosure Ridge and Furrow	Early Iron Age to Roman Medieval	
00044 - MSA119	Pit Alignment W of The Lees	Pit alignment	Not known	
00045 - MSA120	Duncot Fort (Wroxeter Fort B)	Fort	Roman	
00046 - MSA121	Cropmark Complex c500m E of Duncote Farm	Ring Ditch Field system  Hearth Market Garden Pottery Works Settlement Enclosure	Bronze Age Bronze- Roman Roman Roman Roman Roman Roman	

00047 - MSA122	Cropmarks of possible Saxon palace site at Frogmore (or Froghall)	Field System Palace Ridge and Furrow	Iron Age-Roman Early Saxon-Mid Saxon Medieval	SAM 1006236
00049 - MSA123	Cropmark rectangular enclosure at Smethcott	Linear Feature Rectangular enclosure	Iron Age to Roman	
00051 - MSA124	Cropmark complex c.800m SE of Upton Magna	Field System Pit Alignment Rectangular Enclosure	Iron Age to Roman	
00066 - MSA136	Roman Road from Wroxeter to Rutinium, Whitchurch and Chester	Road	Roman	
00076 - MSA144	Cropmark enclosure c.330m NE of The Hollow	Doubled Ditched enclosure Trackway	Iron Age to Roman	
00105 - MSA156	Possible site of brick Kiln, Leasow	Brick Kiln	Post-Medieval	
01468 - MSA1124	Moat House, Hunkington	Fishpond Manor House Moat Moated Site	Medieval	SAM1019645
01613 - MSA1251	Upton Forge	Forge Iron working site	Post-Medieval	
02599 - MSA1672	Find in 1970 of a spearhead at Hunkington Farm	Findspot	Late Bronze Age	
03410 - MSA2203	Shrewsbury Canal	Canal	Post-Medieval	
3472 - MSA2260	Upton Forge pillbox	Pillbox	Modern	
04320 - MSA2801	Duncot Forge, Upper Rea Ironworks	Iron working site	Modern	
04321 - MSA2802	Duncote Mill(s)	Ironworking site Watermill	Medieval Post-Medieval	
04391 - MSA2872	Duncot Farm circular enclosure cropmark	Circular enclosure	Knot known	
04407 - MSA2888	Cropmark enclosure c.670m N of Uckington	Enclosure	Unknown date	
04510 - MSA2971	Arc of a possible circular cropmark	Enclosure? Non antiquity? Ring ditch?	Unknown date	

	south of Withington			
04665 - MSA3078	Withington ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	
04666 - MSA3079	Ploughed out and earthwork Ridge and Furrow at Upton Magna	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	
07650 - MSA4098	Attingham Park	Deer park Landscape park Kitchen garden	Post-Medieval	Registered Park or Garden (II*) – 1001114
13389 - MSA7739	Church of St Lucia, Upton Magna	Parish Church	Medieval Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II*) – 1267600
13390 - MSA7740	The Old Rectory, Upton Magna	House Vicarage	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222780
13391 - MSA7741	No 3 (The Corner House), Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222751
13392 - MSA7742	No 8, Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1239510
13393 - MSA7743	Cruck Cottage (No 12), Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1273669
13394 - MSA7744	Church Farmhouse, Upton Magna	Farmhouse	Medieval Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1239508
13396 - MSA7745	The Porch House, Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267583
13397 - MSA7746	Walnut Cottage, Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222785
13406 - MSA7754	The Old Hall, Withington	House Vicarage	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II*) – 1222792
13407 - MSA7755	The Shrubbery, Withington	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223162
13408 - MSA7756	Church of St John the Baptist, Withington	Parish Church	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267426
15572 - MSA8457	Former farm cottage apx 25m NW of Walcot Road Farmhouse	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223048
M16196 - MSA8511	Nos 1-3 (consec ) Church Farm Cottages, Withington	Farmhouse Wall painting	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222788
16199 - MSA8512	The Old Vicarage, Withington	House Vicarage	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223126

16204 - MSA8513	Yew Tree Cottage, Withington	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267427
16205 - MSA8514	Manor Farmhouse, Withington	Farmhouse	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222790
16206 - MSA8515	Garden Cottage, Withington	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222789
16210 - MSA8516	No 3 CAERNARVON ROAD, Withington	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223022
18178 - MSA9803	Forge Farmhouse, UPTON FORGE	Farmhouse	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1239509
18179 - MSA9804	Pump immediately to N of The Old Rectory	Pump	Modern	Listed Building (II) – 1222782
18180 - MSA9805	Lychgate apx 20m to NE of Church of St Lucia	Gate	Modern	Listed Building (II) – 1267543
18181 - MSA9806	Allen memorial apx 10m to S of nave of Church of St Lucia	Tomb	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1222784
18182 - MSA9807	Nevett memorial apx 7m to S of nave of Church of St Lucia	Tomb	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267601
18183 - MSA9808	Group of 6 chest tombs apx 15m to S of chancel of Church of St Lucia	Tomb	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267504
18184 - MSA9809	Pump apx 2m to SE of No 3 CAERNARVON ROAD	Pump	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267602
18186 - MSA9811	Pump to S of No 3, Church Farm Cottages	Pump	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267492
18187 - MSA9812	The Gatehouse Cottage	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223062
18188 - MSA9813	Smith memorial apx 3m to S of nave of Church of St John the Baptist	Chest tomb	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223161

18200 - MSA9825	Duncote Farmhouse, DUNCOTE	Farmhouse	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223827
18201 - MSA9826	Pump apx one metre to NE of Duncote Farmhouse, DUNCOTE	Pump	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1223170
18216 - MSA9841	Nos 1 and 2, Smethcote Farm, SMETHCOTE	Farmhouse	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1224462
13395 - MSA11695	The Gatehouse, Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 1267630
05220 - MSA12790	Shrewsbury to Wellington joint SBR/SURC section of railway	Railway	Post-Medieval	
00491 - MSA13223	Cropmarks of ring ditches c130m S of Sandy Lane Cottages	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	
01610 - MSA13498	Site of a burnt mound c 400m SW of Church Farm	Burnt mound	Unknown date	
02239 - MSA13828	Cropmarks of a ring ditch c 290m N of Berwick House Farm	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	
02240 - MSA13829	Cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure c 900m N of	Rectangular enclosure	Iron Age Roman	
02241 - MSA13830	Cropmarks of a linear feature c 540m NE of Norton Cottage	Road	Unknown date	
02243 - MSA13831	Cropmarks of Pit Alignments and Linear features at Barker's Square	Linear feature Pit alignment	Unknown date	
02456 - MSA13986	Cropmark enclosure c600m S of Church Farm, Withington	Field system Rectangular enclosure	Iron Age Roman	
02890 - MSA14134	A pillbox c 260m NW of Duncote Farm	Pillbox	Modern	
03560 - MSA14375	Find Spot in 1983 of a flint flake in	Findspot	Prehistoric	

	the parish of Upton Magna.			
04163 - MSA14565	Ring ditch c 350m SE Berwick New House Farm	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	
04164 - MSA14566	Enclosure c 150m SSE of The Hollow	Rectangular enclosure	Unknown date	
04165 - MSA14567	Ring ditch 70m N of Smethcote Farm	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	
04166 - MSA14568	Linear feature in Wroxeter and Uppington parish	Linear feature	Unknown date	
04167 - MSA14569	Cropmark of an enclosure NW of Grove Farm	Enclosure	Iron Age Roman	
00043 - MSA14936	Cropmark Enclosure c1km S of Withington	Field system Rectangular enclosure	Iron Age Roman	
00048 - MSA14937	Circular Enclosure c400m NE of Duncote Farm	Circular enclosure	Unknown date	
00050 - MSA14938	Cropmark Complex c800m SE of Upton Magna	Enclosure Field system	Iron Age Roman Medieval	
00095 - MSA14955	Possible Roman Road from Robertsford to Duncote Farm	Road?	Roman	
00096 - MSA14956	Possible Spearhead Find SW of Upton Magna	Findspot	Bronze Age	
00100 - MSA14958	Cropmark Complex c1km SSW of Withington	Ring ditch Field system	Bronze Age Iron Age	
00103 - MSA14960	Cropmark Enclosure c300m NE of Rea Farm	Enclosure	Iron Age Roman	
15476 - MSA15579	5 & 6 Upton Magna	Timber framed building	Post-Medieval	
16208 - MSA15781	No 1 Withington	House	Post-Medieval	
04873 - MSA16610	Enclosure c150m W of The Hollow	Rectilinear enclosure	Iron Age Roman	
15661 - MSA17061	Duncott Mill	Watermill	Post-Medieval	

15662 - MSA17062	Upton Forge Mill	Watermill	Post-Medieval	
08097 - MSA17758	Cropmark Complex c350m NW of Upton Forge Farm	Enclosure Field System	Unknown date	
08098 - MSA17759	Cropmark Complex c150m N of Upton Forge	Enclosure	Unknown date	
08099 - MSA17760	Cropmark Enclosure c200m NE of Rea Farm	Enclosure	Unknown date	
20699 - MSA19109	Former Shropshire Union Canal Bridge 400m N of Upton Forge	Canal bridge	Post-Medieval	Listed Building (II) – 492392
40458 - MSA20862	Stable at Church Farm	Stable	Modern	
40459 - MSA20863	Stable, with Granary over, converted to a Grain Store, at Church Farm	Stable	Modern	
40460 - MSA20864	Unspecified Farm Building, with Granary over, converted to Cartshed, with Granary over, converted to a Grain Store,	Farm building	Modern	
40461 - MSA20865	Cartshed, converted to a Loose boxes, at Church Farm	Cart shed	Modern	
40462 - MSA20866	Cowhouse, converted to a Loose boxes, partly converted to Crop Storage, at Church Farm	Cow house	Modern	
40463 - MSA20867	Cartshed or Shelter Shed, converted to a Loose boxes, partly converted to Crop Storage, at Church Farm	Cart shed Shelter shed	Modern	
40490 - MSA20890	Threshing Barn, converted to	Threshing barn	Post-Medieval	



	Storage, Cartshed and Loose Boxes, at Church Farm			
40491 - MSA20891	Barn, converted to Storage, at Church Farm	Barn	Post-Medieval	
40492 - MSA20892	Cowhouse at Church Farm	Cow house	Modern	
40493 - MSA20893	Shelter Shed at Church Farm	Shelter shed	Modern	
40494 - MSA20894	Stable/Cowhouse, with Granary over, at Church Farm	Cow house Granary Stable	Modern	
40495 - MSA20895	Stable and Cartshed, converted to Cattle Shed, Storage and Garage, at Church Farm	Card shed Stable	Modern	
40496 - MSA20896	Covered Yard at Church Farm	Covered yard	Modern	
40497 - MSA20897	Shelter Shed, partly converted to Loose Box, at Church Farm	Shelter shed	Modern	
40498 - MSA20898	Stable at Church Farm	Stable	Modern	
40499 - MSA20899	Stable/Loose Box at Church Farm	Loose box Stable	Modern	
40500 - MSA20900	Stable/Tack Room, converted to Storage, at Church Farm	Stable Tack room	Modern	
40501 - MSA20901	Cartshed, converted to Garage, at Church Farm	Cart shed	Modern	
40502 - MSA20902	Cartshed, converted to Loose Box and Garage, at Church Farm	Cart shed	Modern	
41019 - MSA21352	Small House at Upton Forge Farm	Farmhouse	Modern	

41020 - MSA21353	Unspecified Farm Building at Upton Forge Farm	Farm building	Modern	
41021 - MSA21354	Threshing Barn, converted to Cowhouses, at Upton Forge Farm	Threshing barn	Post-Medieval	
41022 - MSA21355	Cowhouse, converted to Loose Boxes, at Upton Forge Farm	Cow house	Post-Medieval	
41023 - MSA21356	Threshing Machine House? at Upton Forge Farm	Farm building	Modern	
41024 - MSA21357	Cartshed, with Granary over, converted to Mixing House, at Upton Forge Farm	Card shed Granary	Post-Medieval	
41025 - MSA21358	Cartshed at Upton Forge Farm	Cart shed	Post-Medieval	
41026 - MSA21359	Shelter Shed, converted to Loose Box, at Upton Forge Farm	Shelter shed	Post-Medieval	
40457 - MSA22698	Church Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
40489 - MSA22702	Church Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
41018 - MSA22770	Upton Forge Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
16197 - MSA23153	Withington Hall	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
16198 - MSA23154	The Cottage, Withington	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
16200 - MSA23155	Bridge House, Withington	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
16201 - MSA23156	Hare and Hounds Public House, Withington	Public house	Post-Medieval Modern	
16203 - MSA23158	Burton Cottage, Withington	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
16207 - MSA23159	Next to Villa, Withington	House	Post-Medieval Modern	

16209 - MSA23160	No 2 The Cottage, Withington	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
17161 - MSA23318	Fields Cottage, Withington	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
19952 - MSA23451	Walcot Road Farm, Withington	Farmhouse	Modern	
21415 - MSA24038	Site of RAF Atcham	Military airfield	Modern	
21416 - MSA24039	Site of Slate Cottages	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
21417 - MSA24040	Site of smallholding c.330m SW of Ravenshaws Gorse	Smallholding	Post-Medieval Modern	
21420 - MSA24043	Former roads on Uckington Heath	Road	Modern	
15475 - MSA24162	No 4 Upton Magna	House	Post-Medieval Modern	
27735 - MSA29957	Site of unnamed farmstead at Smethcott	Farmstead	Modern	
27736 - MSA29958	Site of unnamed farmstead at Smethcott	Farmstead	Modern	
27737 - MSA29959	Site of unnamed Farmstead at Smethcott	Farmstead	Modern	
27738 - MSA29960	Smethcote Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
27769 - MSA29991	Hunkington Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
27770 - MSA29992	Manor Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
27771 - MSA29993	New House Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
27772 - MSA29994	Villa Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval Modern	
27812 - MSA30034	Duncote Farm	Farmstead	Post-Medieval	
27837 - MSA30059	The Rea Farm	Farmstead	Modern	
27838 - MSA30060	The Grange	Farmstead	Modern	
27839 - MSA30061	Corbet Arms	Farmstead	Modern	
28043 - MSA30800	Site of unnamed smallholding at Smethcott	Smallholding	Post-Medieval	

28337 - MSA31105	Cropmark enclosure c740m NNW of Wheathill Farm	Enclosure	Unknown date	
29229 - MSA33302	Site of leat, Upton Forge	Leat	Post-Medieval	

#### **4.6 Historical Background**

- 4.6.1 The prehistoric activity recorded in the area is sparse and constituted by isolated finds. A flint flake was found during field walking in the area of the proposed route of the A5 Shrewsbury by Pass (03560 - MSA14375). This find was found in the plough-soil (02599 - MSA1672). Furthermore, a Late Bronze Age spearhead was found in a garden at Hunkington Farm in the 1970s.
- 4.6.2 Iron Age/Roman activity is widespread in the area and has had a major imprint on the landscape. Most understandings of the archaeology of this period have been produced through a series of excavations and surveys carried out during the construction of the A5 Shrewsbury By-Pass. Overall, this area evidences a number of cropmarks that are the imprint of enclosures and field systems dating to Iron Age/Roman times. Furthermore, this area evidences a major Roman road c.300m to the east of the main proposed development, which linked the cities of Wroxeter to Rutinium (00066 - MSA136) (Kenyon 1949). Wroxeter, located south from the proposed development, was one of the largest cities of Roman Britain, founded sometime c. 58 AD.
- 4.6.3 Compared to the evidence existing for other time periods, medieval remains are sparse and, in almost every case, defined through the existence of ridge and furrow.
- 4.6.4 Post-medieval activity in the area is mostly evidenced through building structures associated with agriculture. Most heritage assets are found in Upton Magna and date to c. 16th century. These structures have been modified through the 19th and 20th century. Cruck Cottage (13393 - MSA7743), located in Upton Magna, is one of the oldest still-standing cottages in Europe, with dating evidence going as far back as 1269.
- 4.6.5 Agriculture related structures dominate the area during the post-medieval and modern periods. However, there are several 20th century pillboxes that form an important addition to the archaeological record of the area.

## **5 Map Regression**

### **5.1 Tithe map, Upton Magna, 1842 (Figure 9)**

- 5.1.1 The boundaries of the proposed development site, as well those of surrounding fields, have changed substantially since 1842. The researched area falls within 2 fields: 667 and 669. 669 is arable and the apportionments state that it is part of 'Leasow'. These and all the other adjacent fields were owned by Richard Humphrey.

- 5.1.2 At a wider scale, this map does not show any archaeological features or changes that are of significance to the study.

## **5.2 OS map First Edition, 1886, Shropshire Sheet XXXV SW, 6 inches (Figure 10)**

- 5.2.1 The area containing the development site changed substantially between 1842 and 1886. Fields 667 and 669 maintain their boundaries, however, in both instances, they were divided into two.
- 5.2.2 Interestingly, the northernmost boundary of the field in which the development site is located is seen as bounding a length of the Shropshire Union Canal. A towing path is adjacent to the canal, while the entrance to the field from the north is defined as a swing bridge.
- 5.2.3 The area currently occupied by Rea cottages is already defined in this map. At least one structure is depicted within the boundaries of the field.
- 5.2.4 Rea Farm is depicted to the south of the proposed development. While the boundaries of this site have not changed to date, the structures located within this area have altered dramatically.
- 5.2.5 The L & NW & GW Joint Railway runs on an E-W direction passing Upton Magna Station.
- 5.2.6 Upton Forge Farm is depicted on this map as The Rea.

## **5.3 OS map Second Edition, 1906, Shropshire Sheet XXXV SW, 6 inches (Figure 11)**

- 5.3.1 No substantial changes are evidenced in this map edition.
- 5.3.2 The Rea Farm is now labelled as Upton Forge Farm.

## **5.4 OS map 1950, 1: 25000**

- 5.4.1 No substantial changes are evidenced in this map edition.
- 5.4.2 The canal and the swing bridge located on the northern boundary of the proposed site are still depicted.

## **5.5 OS map 1970, 1: 25000**

- 5.5.1 The canal and the swing bridge located on the northern boundary of the proposed site for development are no longer depicted on this map. This area is now shown as a field boundary.
- 5.5.2 The Rea Cottages are displayed for the first time.

## **6 Aerial Photographs**

- 6.1 One image from the Shropshire County Council Survey of 1962 and one image recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1971 have been assessed in this report. The images do not show detail other than those already detailed in contemporary OS maps.
- 6.2 SCCAP/7841-7842 shows Rea Farm, and the pond located west from the proposed site. It is difficult to observe any extant evidence of the canal.
- 6.3 OS AP/70-71-112 14-5-71 shows Rea Farm, and the pond located west from the proposed site. The Rea Cottages are visible on this image.
- 6.4 No sites of archaeological interest were evidenced through the examination of aerial photographs.

## **7 Site Visit (Plates 1-3)**

- 7.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2015. Conditions were sunny and dry, and visibility was good. The site was in use for arable agricultural.
- 7.2 The northernmost area of the proposed site is delimited by an existing field boundary. An entrance to the field is located at the NE end of the development site.
- 7.3 The site has a clear view over the CJ Wildlife complex located at Rea Farm.
- 7.4 The Rea cottages are located at the western end of the field that includes the proposed development site. However, the topography limits the view of these cottages from the proposed site.
- 7.5 The area of proposed development is currently used to grow crops. Slight undulations are visible in the field, which may be possibly remnants of ridge and furrow.
- 7.6 No archaeological remains were observed during the site visit.

## **8 Assessing visual impact**

- 8.1 The field is currently used for agricultural purposes. The northern boundary of the site is a dense mature hedge along which lie remnants of the route of the former Shropshire Union Canal. The hedge shields the visual impact of the proposed development from location to the north. To the south of the proposed development, Rea Farm partially shields the visual impact from location further to the south. C.1km to the south of the proposed development the A5 runs approximately east to west, intersecting the landscape.
- 8.2 The natural topography is almost flat. Slight terrain undulations have been tentatively interpreted as the imprint of ridge and furrow.
- 8.3 Given the location of the site, the proposed main development will not have a visual impact on Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and other heritage assets. None are

within close proximity to the development area, all being over 1km from the main development site and on flat land.

## **9 Impact Assessment**

### **9.1 *Assessment of Archaeological Potential and Importance***

- 9.1.1 Research has identified that the proposed development lies within an area largely imprinted by Iron Age and Roman activity. Although much known evidence is located south of the proposed development site, it is feasible that Iron Age/Roman landscapes extended further to the north, as roads, enclosures or forts for example. A major Roman road runs c.300m to the east of the main proposed development, which linked the cities of Wroxeter to Rutinium.
- 9.1.2 Historic maps evidence that the current field boundary located at the northern edge of the proposed development site was once part of the Shropshire Union Canal. While this particular stretch of the canal is not listed in the HER, it should be treated as a feature of local historic importance.

### **9.2 *Potential impacts from proposed development***

- 9.2.1 The proposed bird broiler development covers the full extent of the area outlined in Figure 1. Associated groundworks such as topsoil stripping, foundation excavation and cable trenching all have the potential to expose, damage or destroy potential archaeological remains.
- 9.2.2 No registered Historic Landscape will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed main development. The current landscape setting is one of agricultural land, with dispersed rural settlement. It is considered, therefore, that the proposed development will not have a significant detrimental impact on the general archaeological and historical landscape setting.
- 9.2.3 No designated sites (Registered Parks & Gardens, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings) will be directly affected by the main proposed development.
- 9.2.4 The proposed passing bay 2 will directly affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument, being located within the designated area. However, the highway verge upon which the passing bay would be sited which still forms part of the Scheduled Monument, has been trafficked by heavy goods vehicles and agricultural vehicles as an informal passing bay already and therefore the disturbance and loss of impact on the Scheduled Monument would be minimal. The passing bays, within F14920 and F14884 of the Historic Landscapes Categorisation Area, would have a very low impact.

## **10 Geophysical Survey**

### **10.1 *Location and Methodology***

- 10.1.1 As part of the Assessment, Archaeology Wales carried out a geophysical survey of the development site in November 2005. The area surveyed was about 1.5ha in size.

- 10.1.2 The work was recommended by Dr Andy Wigley, Heritage Environment manager with Shropshire County Council.
- 10.1.3 The aim of the survey was to locate and define all sub-surface archaeological features that might be present in the development area.
- 10.1.5 A Bartington Grad601 gradiometer was used to undertake the survey. Previous research has shown that fired or cut and backfilled archaeological features have an anomalously higher magnetic susceptibility than the surrounding subsoil due to burning and biological processes. Differences in magnetic susceptibility within the subsoil and archaeological features can be detected as changing magnetic flux by a gradiometer. Data from this may be mapped at closely spaced regular intervals, to produce an image that can be interpreted to locate buried archaeological features (Clark, 1997)
- 10.1.6 Detailed survey was carried out in grids of 20m x 20m along parallel traverses spaced at 2m intervals, recording data points spaced at 0.25m intervals to a maximum instrument sensitivity of 0.1nT in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines.
- 10.1.7 The survey mode was set to bi-directional (traverses walked alternately south-north/north-south).
- 10.1.8 At regular intervals the data was downloaded in the field onto a laptop computer for storage and assessment. The location of the survey area was then surveyed using a Topcon GTS 725 total station.

## ***10.2 Results and interpretation (Figure 12)***

- 10.2.1 The area covered measured 150m east to west by 90m north to south.
- 10.2.2 A strip adjacent to the canal was left un-surveyed, because the excavation of the canal would have created a large amount of disturbance in this area, removing the evidence of earlier archaeological remains. A badger sett located at the western end of the survey area is also likely to have caused considerable disturbance to archaeological deposits.
- 10.2.3 The area surveyed was very quiet, the results being clipped down to slightly to a range less than 6Nt, that is +/- 3Nt around zero.
- 10.2.4 The results are dominated by a series of parallel lines (red), which were initially interpreted as the ploughed out remains of medieval ridge and furrow. These are now known to represent field drains. One line, running at an acute angle in the northwest corner of the survey area, may be interpreted as a relic field boundary.
- 10.2.5 The two areas marked in green may be interpreted as metal spikes or, more probably, postholes, as the data lacked the high spikes that are normally obtained from metal artefacts. The anomalies are widely separated and do not seem to be associated with any other features.
- 10.2.6 It can be concluded that no significant archaeological remains were located as a result of the geophysical survey.



## **11. Archaeological evaluation**

### **11.1 Background**

- 11.1.1 A trenched archaeological evaluation was conducted at the development site, from the 2nd to the 6th of November 2015, as part of the Assessment process.
- 11.1.2 The aim was to reveal and examine apparent features of a possibly archaeological nature recorded during the previous desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.
- 11.1.3 The evaluation area measured approximately 150m aligned ENE/WSW, by approximately 90m aligned NNW/SSE. This area sat within a very flat and roughly rectangular arable field approximately 500m ENE/WSW by 200m NNW/SSE.
- 11.1.4 Approximately 10m to the north of the field lay an ENE/WSW aligned stretch of the abandoned Shrewsbury Union Canal. This was constructed in c.1793-97, but had fallen into disuse and was finally abandoned in 1944. In the SW corner of the field lay Rea Farm itself.
- 11.1.5 Eight trenches were excavated, each trench being 2m wide by 20m long. All trenches were excavated using a 7 tonne wheeled mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

### **11.2 Results (Figure 13)**

#### **11.2.1 Trench 1 (52.707778 LAT -2.639955 LONG) Plate 4:**

Trench 1 was orientated ENE/WSW and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.65m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural ground surface, which consisted of a very clean and uniform mid yellow reddish brown sand (102). A machine cut *sondage* was excavated to a depth of 0.30m at the ENE end of the trench into this sand to test that this was indeed a natural deposit. No archaeological features or finds were revealed. Above the natural sand was revealed a very clean and uniform mid reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (101). This subsoil was approximately 0.30m deep and appeared to contain no organic material and only very occasional very small rounded stones and pebbles. No archaeological finds were recovered. The topsoil (100) above subsoil (101) consisted of mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep. No archaeological finds were recovered.

#### **Discussion**

Removal of the topsoil revealed a clean and apparently undisturbed subsoil, under which was revealed a clean and apparently undisturbed natural sand horizon. The smooth surface of the natural indicates that modern ploughing action had not penetrated to this depth. No archaeological features or remains were revealed, the area within the trench being archaeologically sterile.

#### **11.2.2 Trench 2 (52.707369 LAT -2.639514 LONG) Plate 5:**

Trench 2 was orientated NNW/SSE and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.55m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon which comprised of natural,

dry and occasionally stony silty clay sands varying from mid to light greyish yellows (202). No archaeological features were revealed. Above the natural horizon lay a mid-reddish brown sandy clay silt subsoil approximately 0.25m deep which appeared very clean and uniform, and contained no organic or archaeological remains (201). The topsoil (200) comprised of a mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep. No archaeological artefacts were found in this topsoil.

### **Discussion**

As with Trench 1, removal of the topsoil revealed a very clean and uniform natural subsoil under which lay natural sands, though these sands differed slightly in character from that seen in Trench 1 in colour and hue. During excavation a possible linear archaeological feature was identified at the northern end of the trench running in an E/W alignment across the trench. The geophysical survey had highlighted a possible modern drainage feature at this location. However, initial excavation revealed it be a variation in the natural sands and the investigation stopped. No archaeological features were revealed in Trench 2.

#### **11.2.3 Trench 3 (52.707412 LAT -2.640328 LONG) Plate 6:**

Trench 3 was orientated NNW/SSE and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.55m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon (302) which, at the northern end of the trench comprised of a silty and rather stony mid reddish yellow brown sand which extended southwards for approximately 5m, thereafter changing to become a much less stony, paler and finer mid reddish yellow sand. No archaeological features were revealed. The natural subsoil (301) above (302) comprised of a very uniform and sterile mid reddish brown clay sandy silt approximately 0.20m deep, which contained no organic material or archaeological artefacts. The topsoil (300) comprised of a mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep which contained no archaeological artefacts.

### **Discussion**

Excavation revealed natural sands beneath the subsoil which were similar in character to those seen in Trench 1 and 2. No archaeological artefacts or features were revealed.

#### **11.2.4 Trench 4 (52.707438 LAT -2.640977 LONG) Plate 7:**

Trench 4 was orientated NNW/SSE and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.50m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon (402) which comprised of a very uniform and clean mid reddish yellow brown fine sand, which was very similar in character to the natural sand (102) seen in Trench 1. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed. The natural subsoil (401) which overlaid natural sand (402) comprised of a very uniform mid reddish brown clay sandy silt 0.20m deep which contained no organic material or archaeological artefacts. The topsoil (400) comprised of a mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep and contained no archaeological artefacts.

### **Discussion**

The excavation of Trench 4 revealed that the natural sands in this trench were very similar indeed to the natural sand in Trench 1, but no archaeological features were revealed.

#### 11.2.5 **Trench 5** (52.707045 LAT -2.640253 LONG) Plate 8:

Trench 5 was orientated ENE/WSW was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.50m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon (502) which comprised of a stiff light orangey brown sandy boulder clay interspersed with lenses of light reddish brown sand. One modern drainage feature [503] was identified as a linear running intermittently along the length of the trench, which contained small modern brick fragments and one modern glass sherd. An irregular feature [504] was revealed in the south facing section at the western end of the trench which appeared to contain the natural subsoil (501), suggesting it was a natural or landscape feature such as a tree bole. No archaeological features were revealed. The natural subsoil (501) which overlaid (502) comprised of a mid-reddish brown sandy clay and was relatively shallow at approximately 0.10-15m, suggesting it had been largely ploughed through. No organic material or archaeological artefacts were recovered. The topsoil (500) comprised of a mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep and contained no archaeological artefacts.

##### **Discussion**

The excavation of Trench 5 revealed a stark change in the natural from the previous clean fine sands to a much heavier and stiff boulder clay. No archaeological features were revealed.

#### 11.2.6 **Trench 6** (52.707138 LAT -2.640574 LONG) Plate 9:

Trench 6 was orientated NNW/SSE and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.50m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon (602) which comprised, at the northern end of the trench, of a light greyish yellow clay sand with frequent inclusions of rounded pea gravel. This extended for approximately 7.5m to the south from which point the natural gradually changed through a mid-yellowish grey to a mid-reddish brown clay sand with less frequent stone inclusions. Two ceramic land drains cut into the natural, likely to date to the 18th/19th C, were also revealed, one at either end of the trench. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed. The natural subsoil (601) comprised of a mid-reddish brown sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep with infrequent stone inclusions, and was only present in the southern 7.5m of Trench 6. No archaeological artefacts were revealed. The topsoil (600) comprised of a mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.25m deep which did not contain any archaeological artefacts.

##### **Discussion**

While no archaeological features were revealed, it was noteworthy how different the natural strata was between trenches 5 and 6, despite their close proximity to one another, with Trench 5 containing stiff boulder clay compared to Trench 6's finer sands and silts.

#### 11.2.7 **Trench 7** (52.707124 LAT -2.641042 LONG) Plate 10:

Trench 7 was orientated NNW/SSE and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.40m at the northern end, increasing to a depth of 0.60-70m at the southern end. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon (702) at the northern end of the trench. This comprised of a stiff reddish brown boulder clay with mid greyish yellow sand lenses. This continued south for approximately 9m before transitioning to a uniform darker mid reddish brown clay silt which contained more frequent rounded stone inclusions and manganese flecks, and appeared very similar to (602) in the southern end of Trench 6. This change was tested during machining by excavating deeper and to establish that it was indeed just a change in the natural strata. Examination of the material showed no organic material content and it appeared to be very homogeneous, dry and clean, strongly suggesting it was indeed natural strata. Three ceramic land drains were revealed on a NE/SW alignment, likely dating to the 18th/19th C, and one other land drain filled with a very regular fine rounded pea gravel, which is likely to be a part of the very modern land drainage system installed in the early 1980's. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed. The natural subsoil (701) comprised of a mid-reddish brown sandy clay silt, very shallow at the northern end of the trench at 0.10m deep, increasing in depth slightly at the southern end to approximately 0.20m. No archaeological artefacts were revealed. The topsoil (700) comprised of a mid-dark reddish grey clay silt approximately 0.25m deep and it contained no archaeological artefacts.

##### **Discussion**

While no archaeological features were revealed in Trench 7, the change in the natural strata was noteworthy and consistent with that seen in Trench 6.

#### 11.2.8 **Trench 8** (52.707252 LAT -2.6412383 LONG) Plate 11:

Trench 8 was aligned ENE/WSW and was ultimately excavated to a depth of 0.50m. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural horizon (802) which comprised of a light yellowish brown sand interspersed with lenses of a reddish brown clay sand and patches of manganese. During excavation features which were potentially archaeological in nature were identified. These were tested by hand but proved to be just variations in the natural geology or possibly the result of previous tree or bush bole activity, and no organic material or artefacts were revealed from them. A very modern land drain filled with the same pea gravel material as seen in an identical land drain in Trench 7 ran diagonally across the western end of the trench. No archaeological features or artefacts were seen. The natural subsoil (801) above (802) consisted of a mid reddish brown sandy clay silt approximately 0.20m deep which was very clean and uniform and contained no organic material or archaeological artefacts. The topsoil (800) consisted of a mid-dark reddish grey sandy clay silt approximately 0.30m deep and contained no archaeological artefacts.

##### **Discussion**

As was encountered with the other trenches excavated, no archaeological features were revealed in Trench 8.

### **11.3 Finds**

There were no archaeological artefacts recovered during the field evaluation.

### **11.4 Summary of results**

The results of the archaeological evaluation were negative. No features or artefacts were encountered. It became apparent that the suspected ridge and furrow seen by the geophysical survey was in fact a series of parallel field drains.

## **12. Overall Discussion and Conclusions**

- 12.1 The archaeological Desk-based Assessment assessed the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource, and examined designated sites and landscapes, and undesignated sites and landscapes, within an agreed search area of 2km around the proposed development site.
- 12.2 The Archaeological Desk-based Assessment determined that the proposed main development does not lie within, or affect, any Registered Historic Landscapes, Historic Parks and Gardens or Conservation Areas.
- 12.3 There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 2km of the proposed development. The first corresponds to a site discovered by aerial photography (1006236) SW of the proposed site for development (1006236), and the second corresponds to a moated site discovered 450m NW of Hunkinton (1019645). Both SAMs are at a distance of over 1.5km and are situated on flat land. Because of this they will not be affected by the proposed main development.
- 12.4 Within the same 2km search area, there are 32 listed buildings. The listed buildings lie between 1- 2km radius of the site. There are two concentrations of Listed Buildings within the search area: the villages of Upton Magna 1.25km to the west and Withington, which lies 1km to the north-east. Others are dispersed to the south of the A5, over 1km from the study site. The mature hedged northern boundary of the development site, which is represented by a length of the former Shropshire Union Canal, shields the views from Upton Magna and Withington towards the site. At these distances, no Listed Building or its setting will be directly affected by the proposed development.
- 12.5 Within a 2km wide search area around the proposed development site, there are 147 non-designated sites of archaeological and historic significance. These sites echo three main episodes of activity: Iron Age/Roman occupation of the area, the post-medieval development of Upton Magna and associated to agricultural activities and, a series of structures built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century during the inter-war period. No non-designated sites will be affected by the development.

- 12.6 The proposed three passing bays lie close to and within the area of Scheduled Ancient Monument 1006236. Passing Bay 2 would have a direct impact and require Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England for any groundworks to be undertaken. Groundworks should be kept to an absolute minimum and an archaeological watching brief undertaken. Groundworks should be kept to an absolute minimum and an archaeological watching brief undertaken. The passing bays are within a Historic Landscape Characterisation Area, but their limited scope adjacent to a modern road would have a low impact.
- 12.7 No significant archaeological remains were located as a result of the geophysical survey in the main area. Possible evidence for medieval ridge and furrow was identified, but the evaluation determined that these features were field drains.
- 12.8 The results of the archaeological evaluation were also negative. No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were encountered. A series of parallel field drains was identified.

### **13. Mitigation**

- 13.1 The potential to encounter archaeological remains belonging to prehistoric and early historic landscapes is low. The same is the case for medieval and post-medieval deposits. However, the potential for remains associated with the canal is moderate.
- 13.2 The impact on these potential remains will depend on the final design of the development and its program of works.
- 13.2 In order to reduce the effect of the development on the archaeological resource, measures should be taken, where possible, to avoid the area of the former canal route. If this area cannot be omitted from the development plan, then 'preservation by record' may be an appropriate method to reduce the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. Watching brief monitoring during construction in areas located close to the canal should also be considered.
- 13.4 Every effort should be made to avoid damage to the mature field boundaries during the development, with particular regard to the access routes of machinery.
- 13.5 Scheduled Monument Consent would be required for any groundworks to be undertaken within the area of SAM 1006236, where passing bay 2 is proposed. Groundworks should be kept to an absolute minimum and an archaeological watching brief undertaken. Being limited works adjacent to the modern road, the passing bays would have a low visual impact on the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument 1006236 if located outside the designated area.

### **14 Sources**

***Published***

Kenyon K (1949) *Wroxeter Roman City*. London : H.M.S.O

### ***Unpublished***

Clark C (1989) Project brief: Duncote Farm, Atcham: Archaeological Proposals in Advance of the A5 Bypass.

Hugh H (1990) Excavation report: A5/A49 Shrewsbury By-Pass Archaeological Project (Duncot).

### ***Maps***

British Geological Survey	2015	Geology of Britain Viewer - (accessed 20/10/15)
	1842	Tithe map, Parish of Upton Magna
Ordnance Survey	1883	First Edition, Shropshire XXXV SW, 6 inches
Ordnance Survey	1906	Second Edition, Shropshire XXXV SW, 6 inches
Ordnance Survey	1950	OS map 1: 25000
Ordnance Survey	1970	OS map 1: 25000

### ***Aerial Photographs***

Accessed at Shropshire Archives.

Shropshire County Council Survey:  
SCCAP/7841-7842

Ordnance Survey:  
OS AP/70-71-112 14-5-71

### ***Databases***

Regional Historic Environment Record (HER), held and maintained by Shropshire Council.  
Database of listed and designated heritage sites maintained by Historic England.

### ***Online resources***

British Geological Survey – [bgs.ac.uk](http://bgs.ac.uk) (accessed 20/10/15)

Pastscape - <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/> (accessed 20/10/15, 29/04/16)





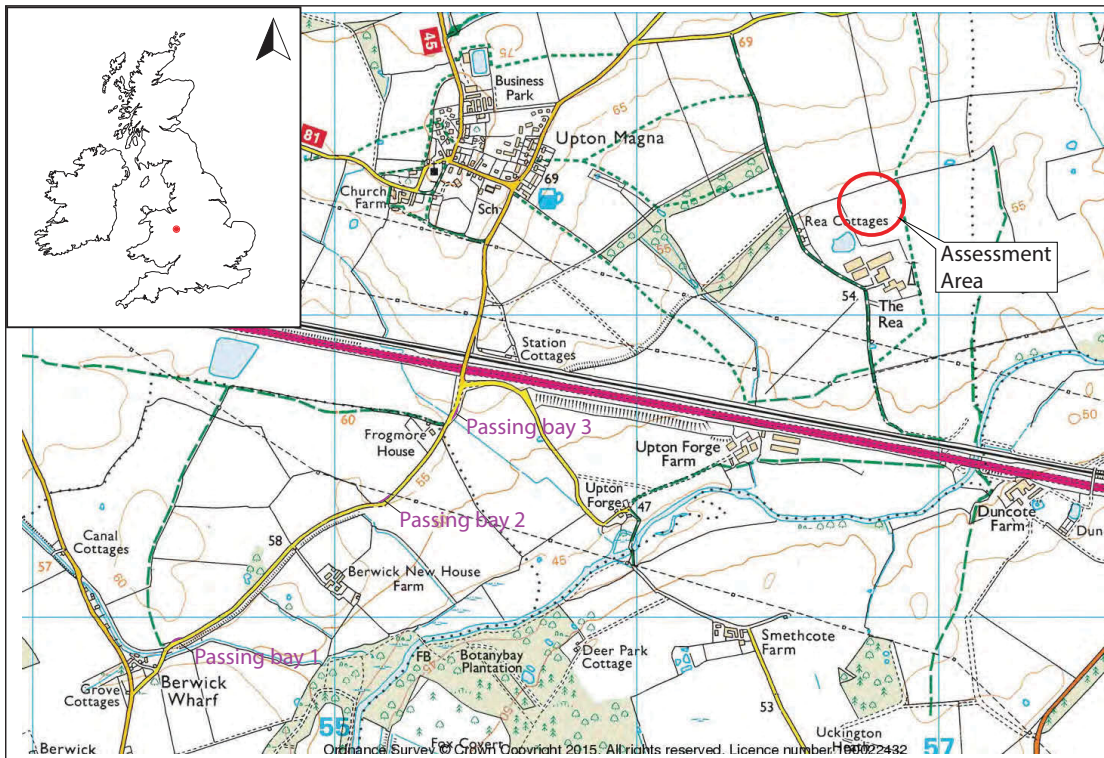
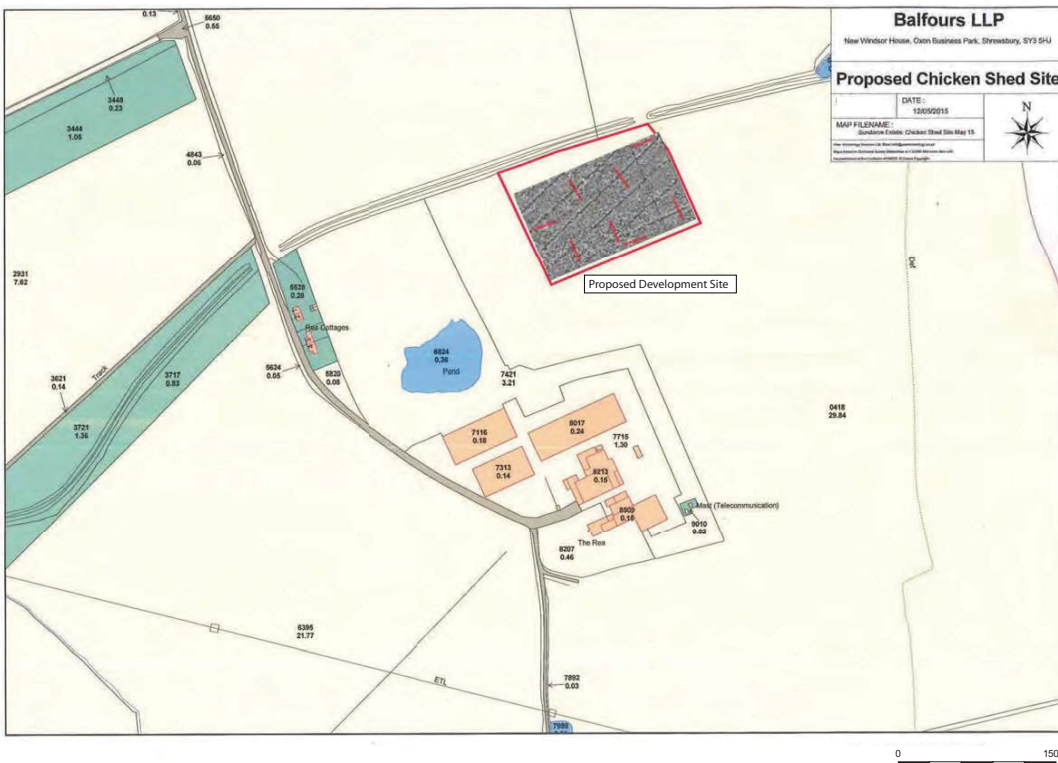


Figure 1a  
Location map showing  
Assessment Area



Job Title: Rae Farm, Upton Magna

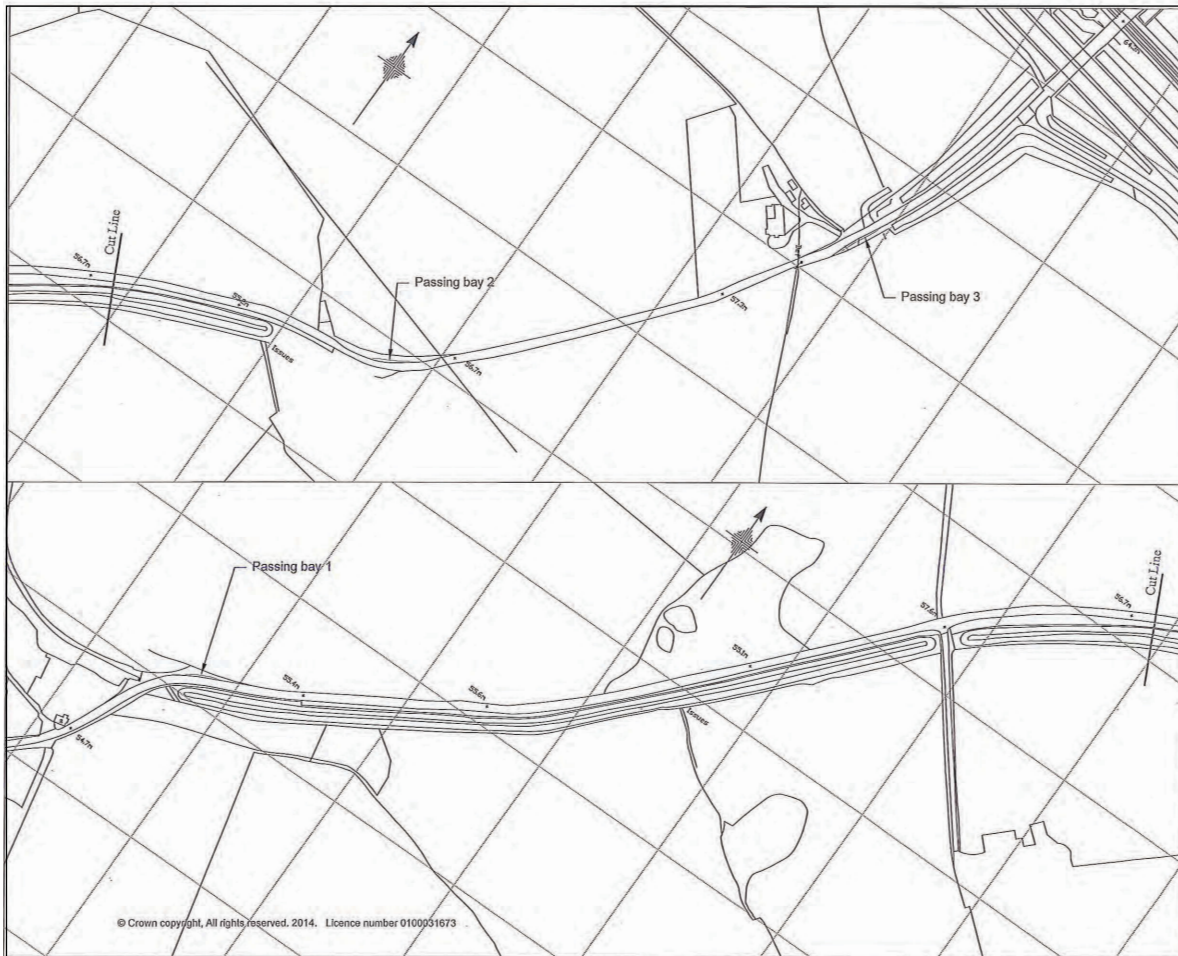
Drawing Title: Detailed Site Plan

Date: January 2016

Drawn By: ILB

Figure 1b





**Job Title:** Rea Farm, Upton Magna  
**Drawing Title:** Passing Bay Plan  
**Date:** May 2016  
**Scale:** 1:2500  
**Figure 1c**



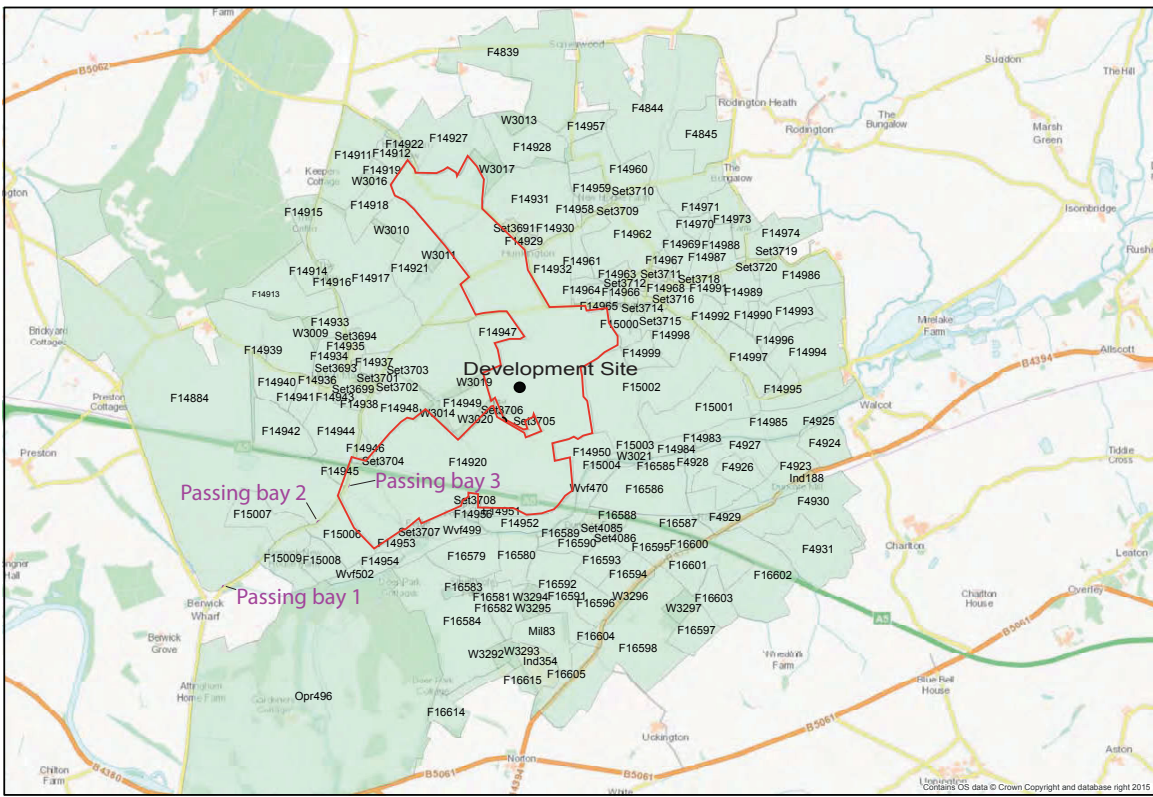


Figure 2a: HLC within 2 km radius from the site.

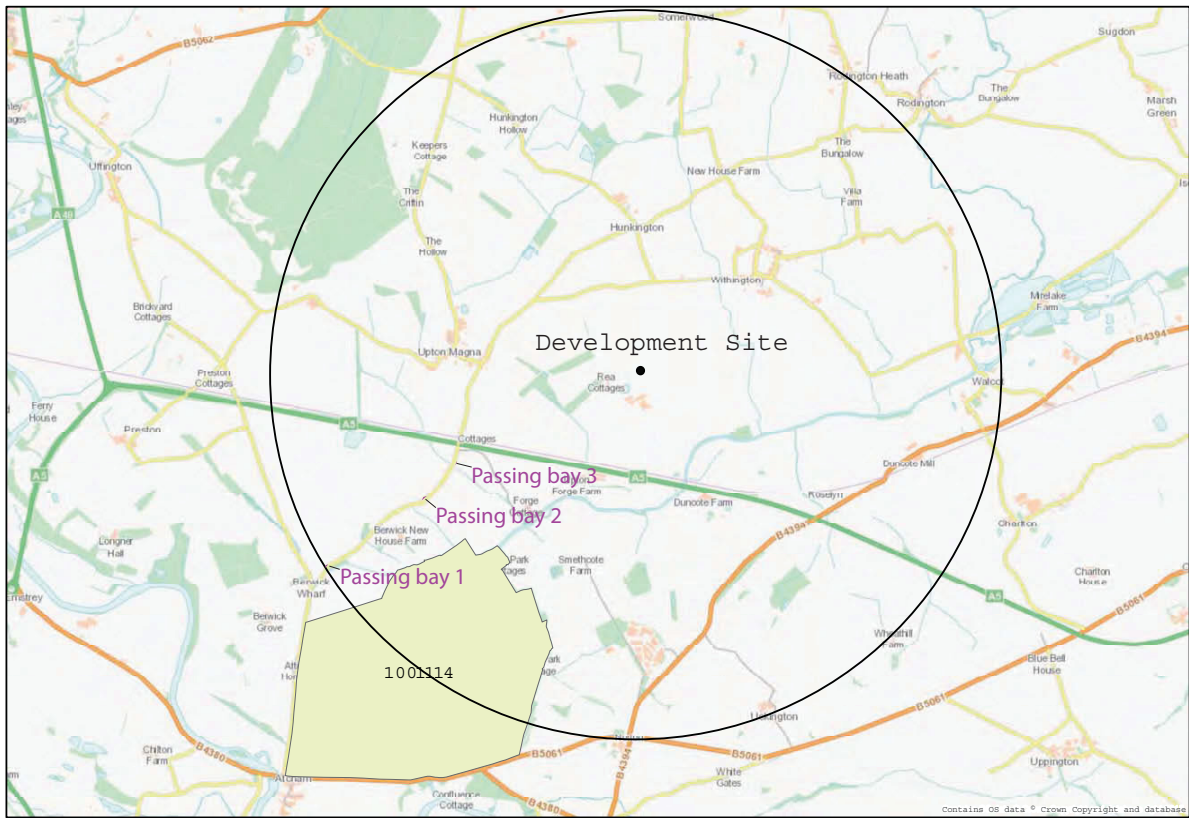


Figure 2b: Registered Parks and Gardens within 2km of proposed site

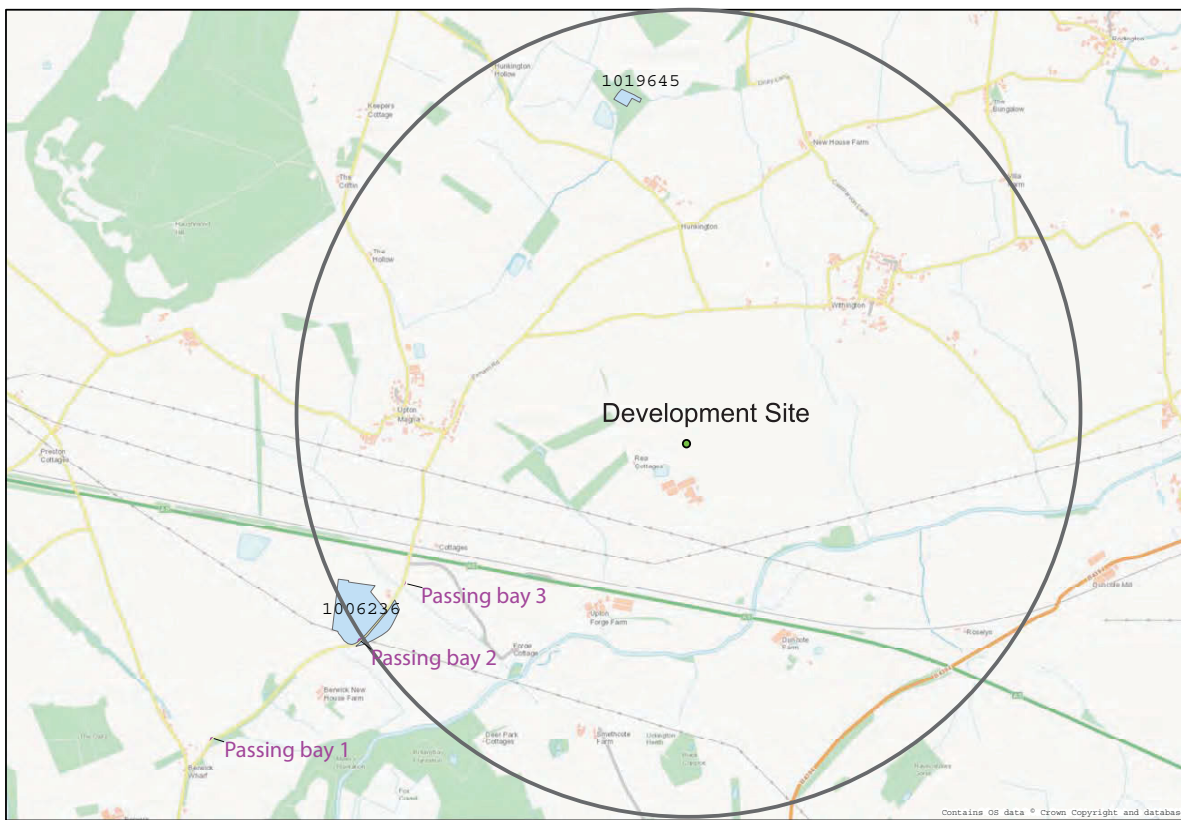


Figure 3: SAM within 2km of the proposed site.

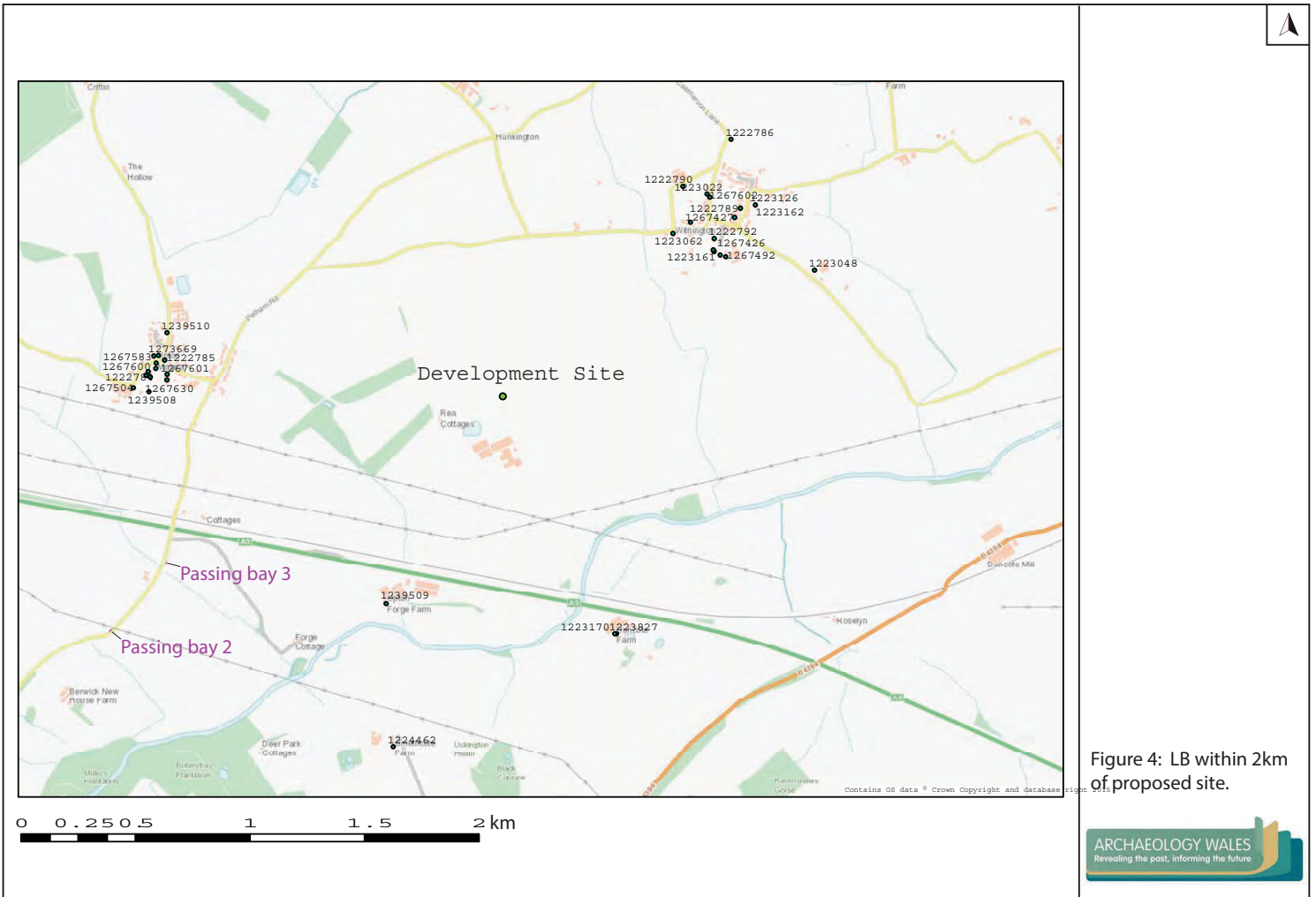


Figure 4: LB within 2km of proposed site.

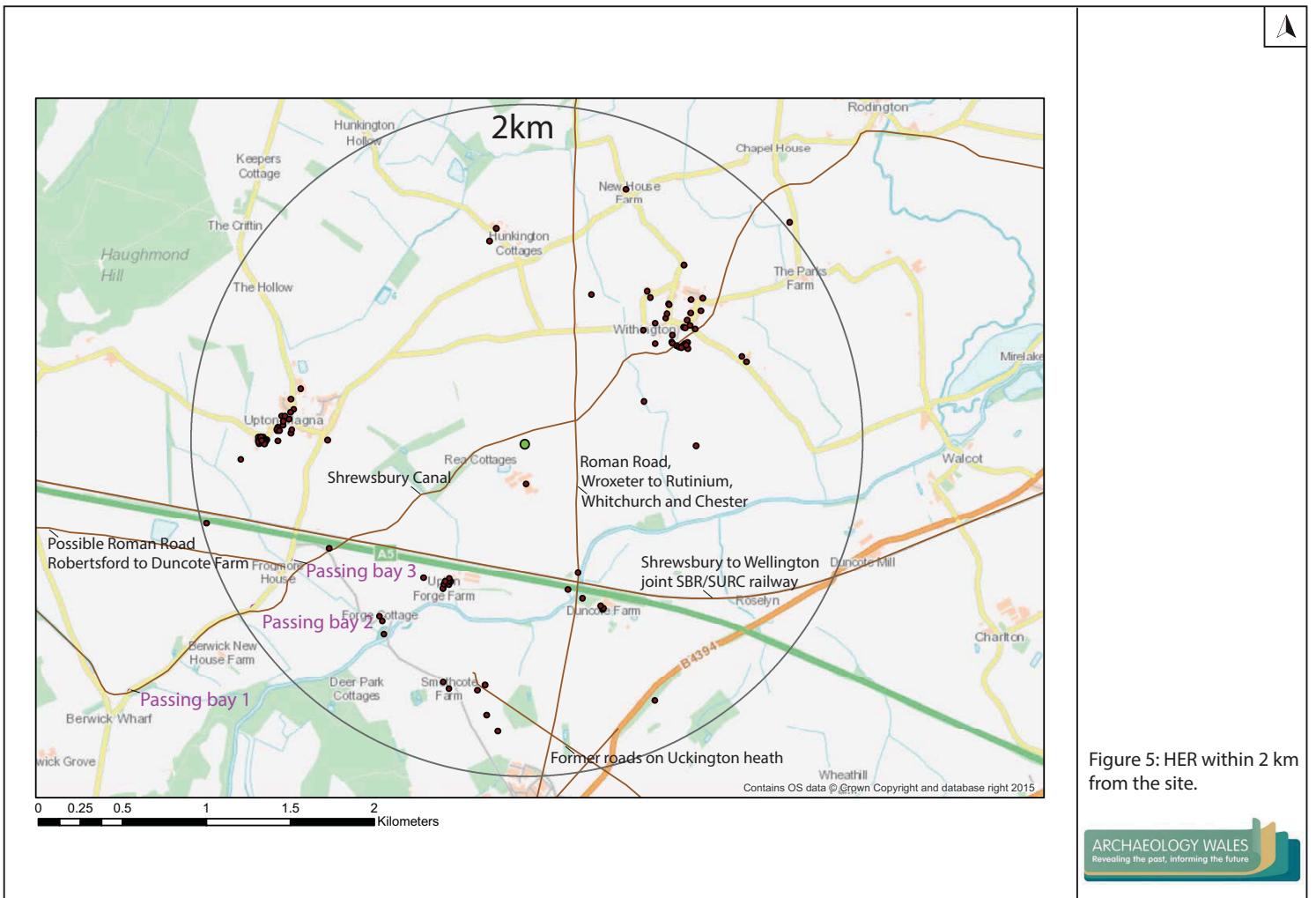


Figure 5: HER within 2 km from the site.



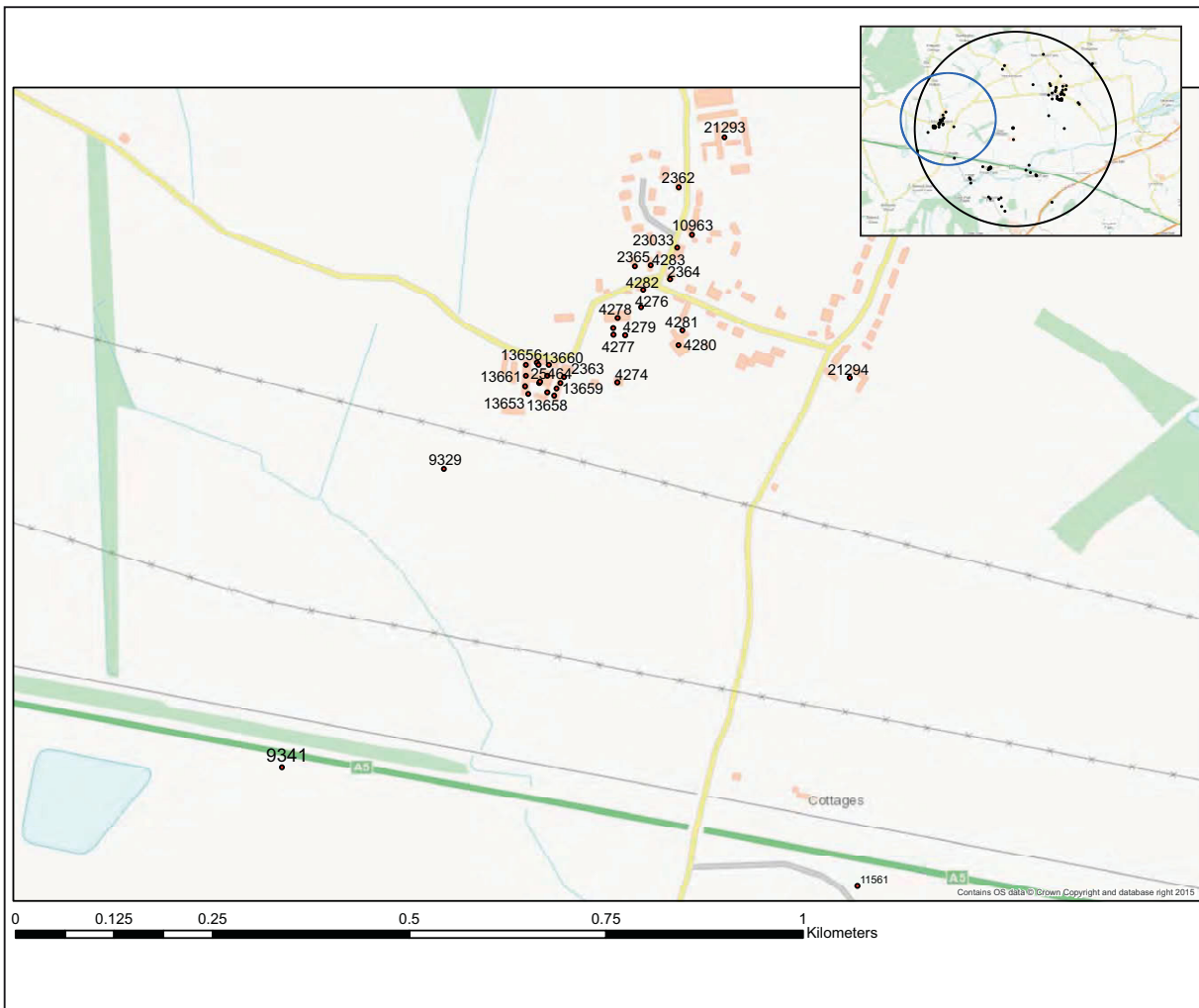


Figure 6: Detail of HER west of site.

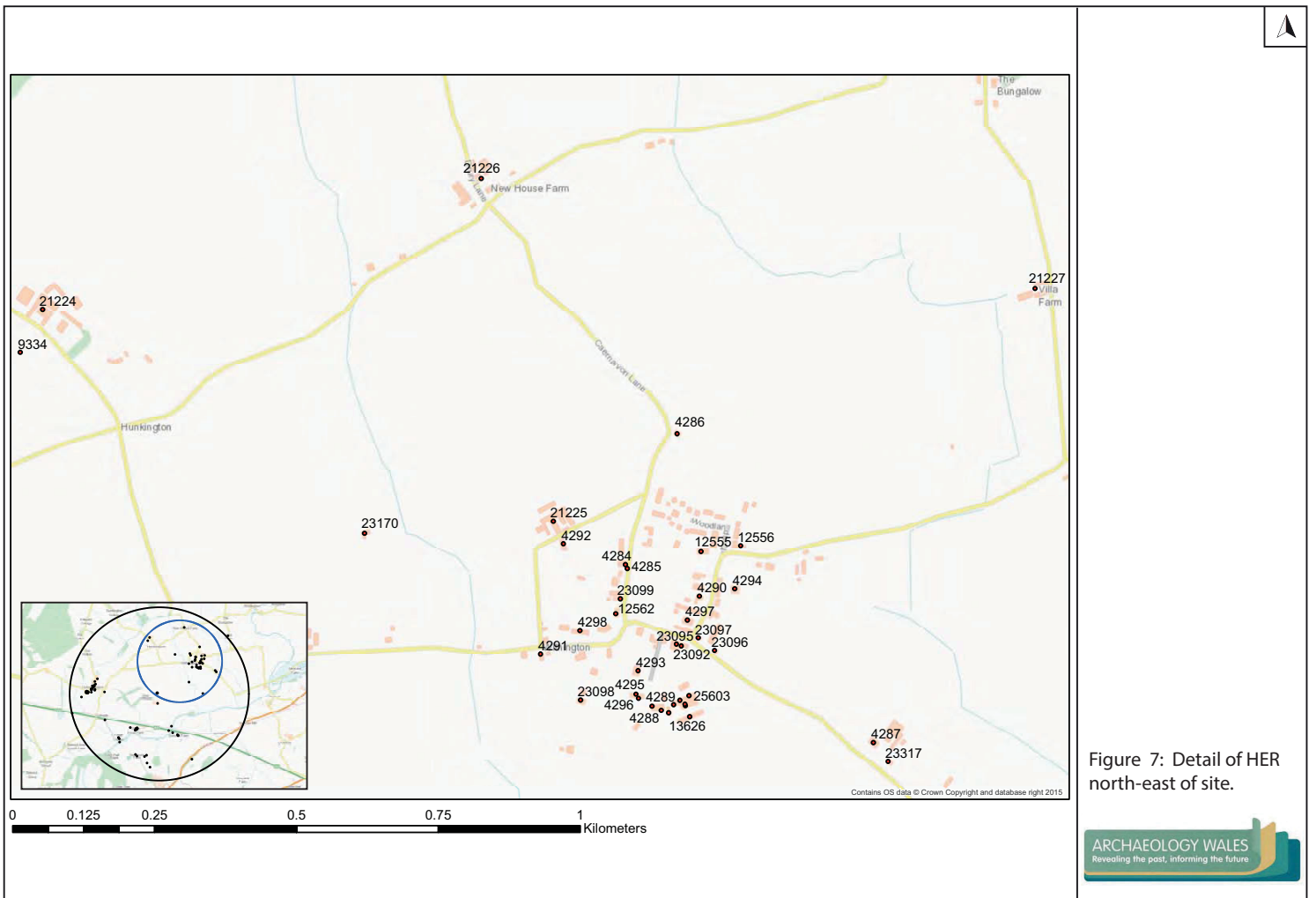


Figure 7: Detail of HER north-east of site.

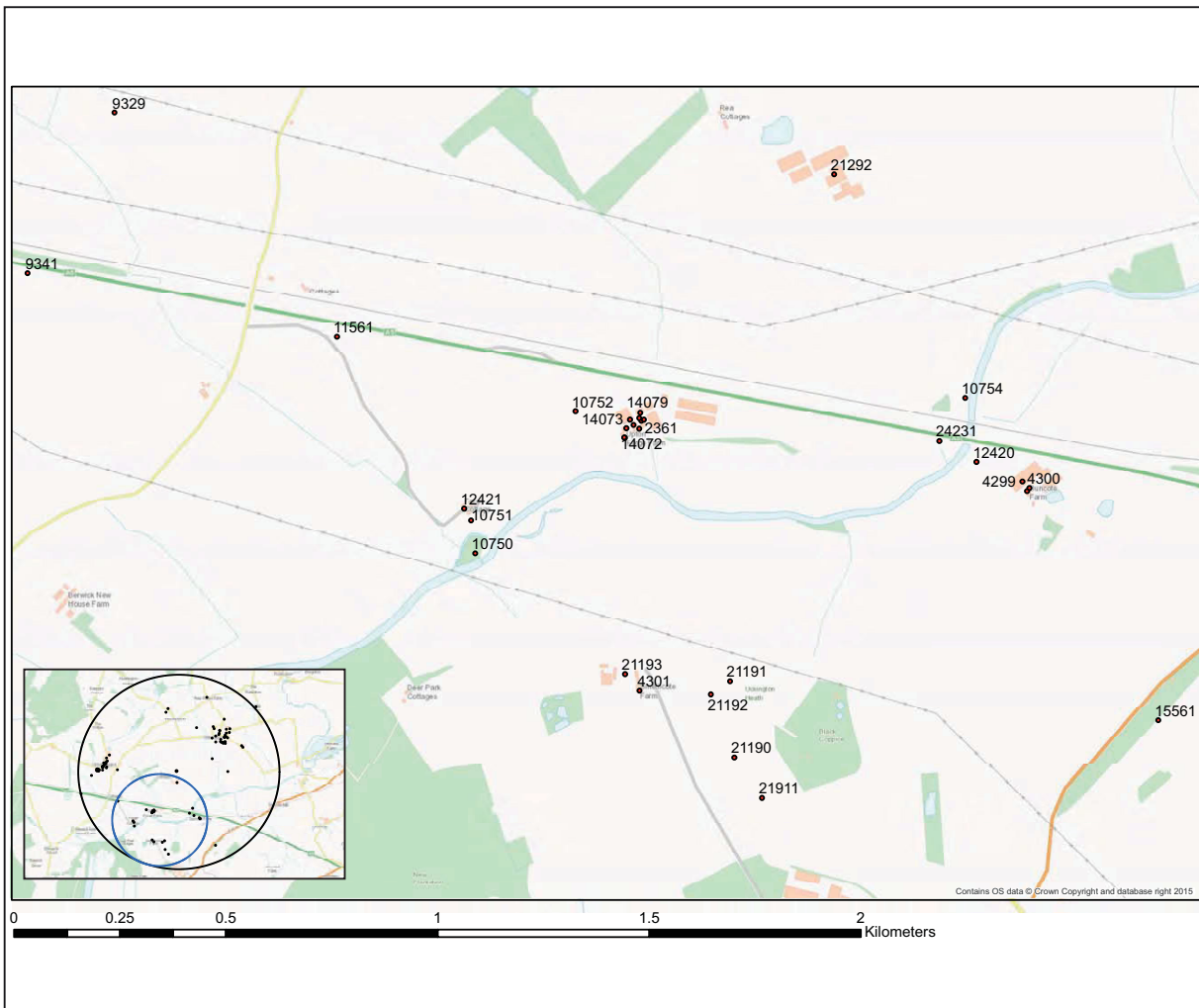


Figure 8: Detail of HER south of site.



Figure 9: Detail of tithe map, Upton Magna, 1842 including approximate location of site in red

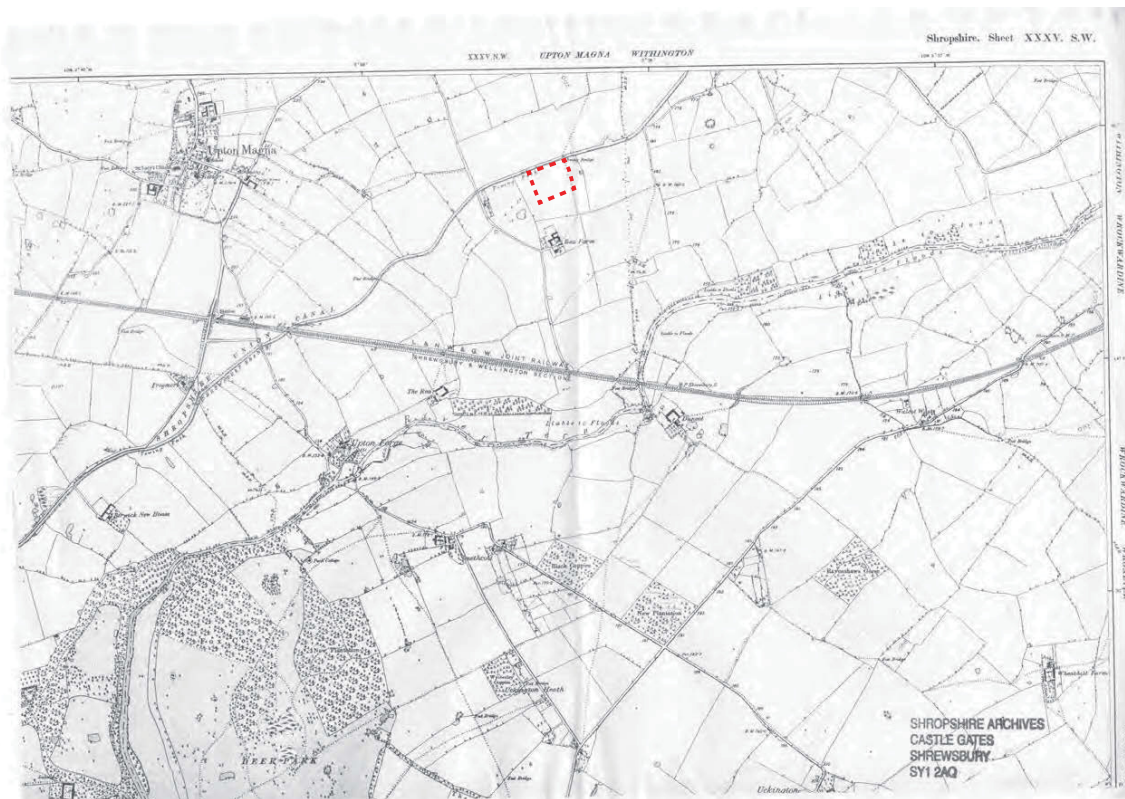


Figure 10: OS map First Edition, Shropshire Sheet XXXV,

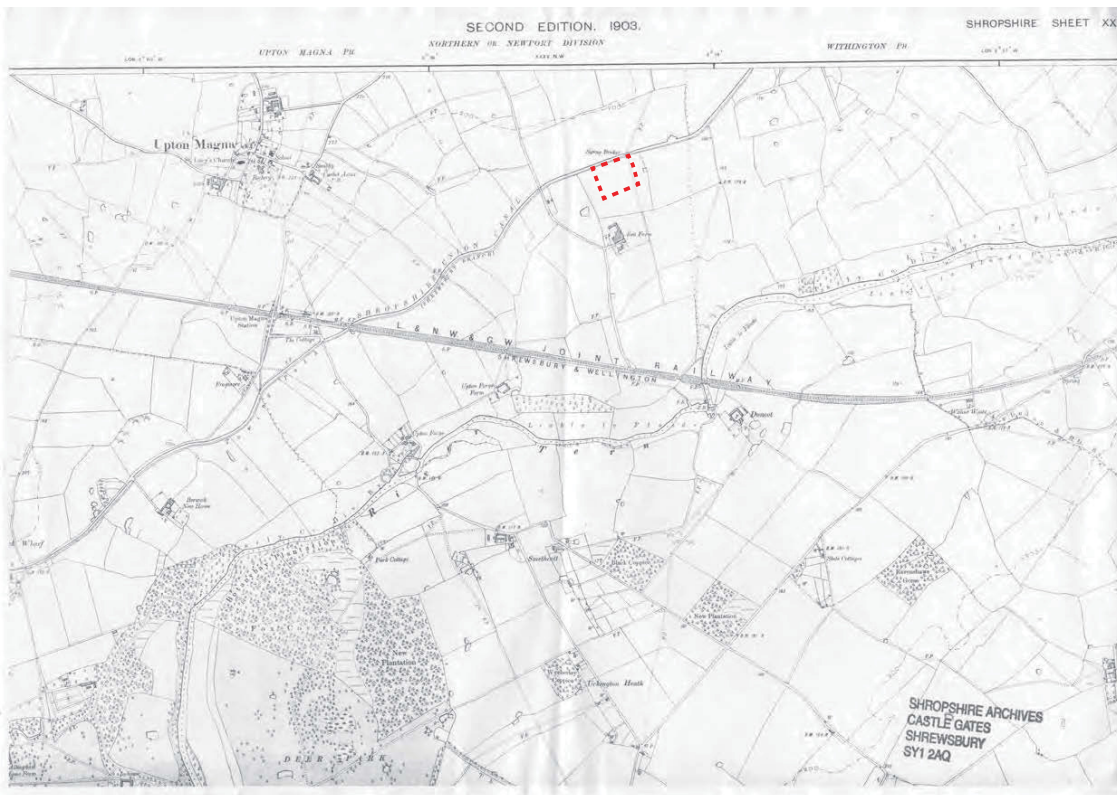
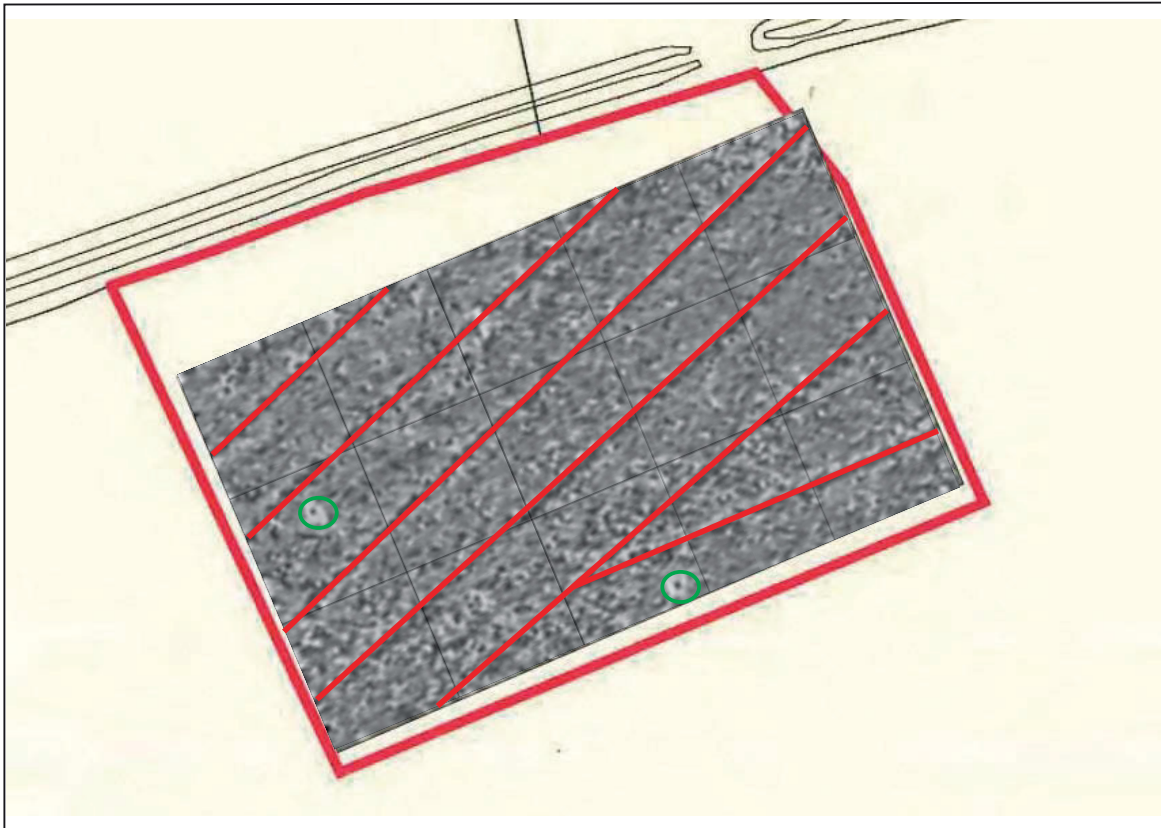
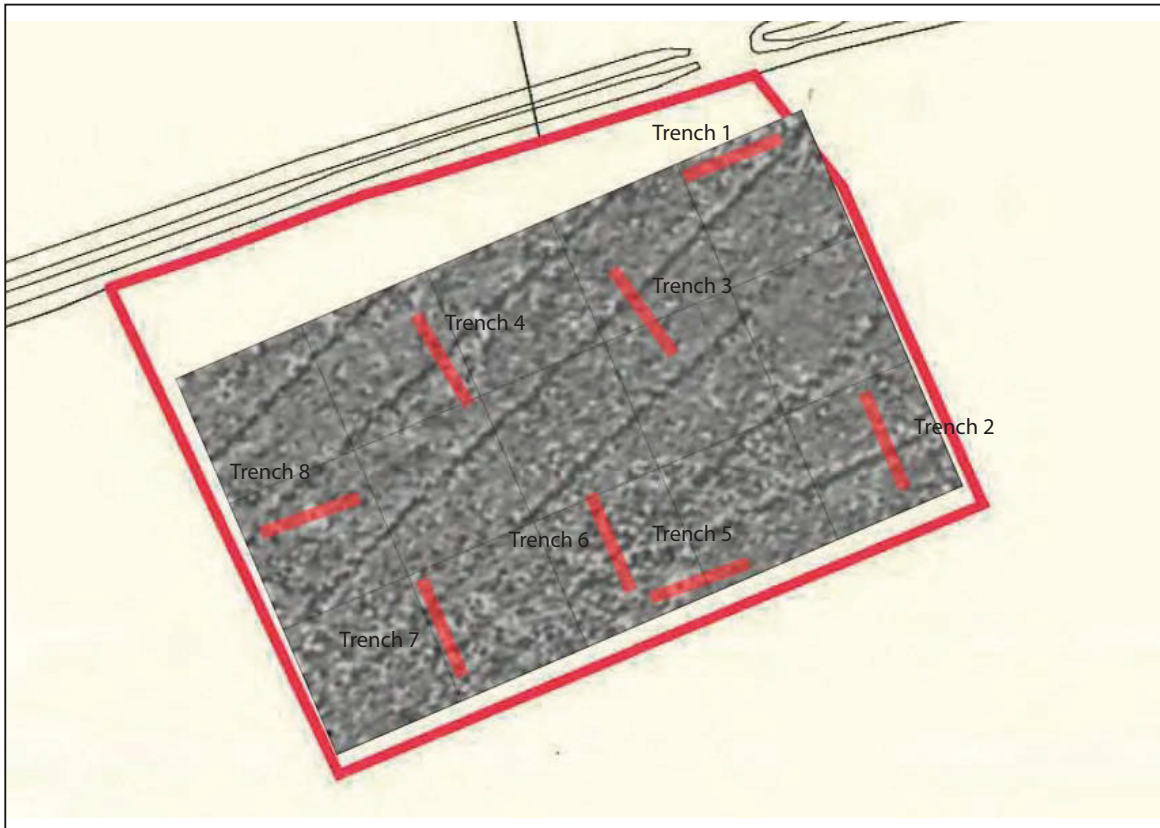


Figure 11: OS map Second Edition, Shropshire Sheet XXXV, 1903. Site marked in red.



0 100m

Fig. 12: Rea Farm  
Geophysics Results.



0 100m

Fig. 13: Rea Farm, Trench layout using geophysics results.



# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX II: Plates**



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 1: View of site.  
Looking SW.

Plate 2: View of site.  
Looking SE.



Plate 3



Plate 3: The site, with  
slight undulations.  
Looking E.



Plate 4 (above): Trench 1 looking west.

Plate 5 (below): Trench 2 looking south.



Plate 6 (above): Trench 3 looking north-west.

Plate 7 (below): Trench 4 looking south-west.



Plate 8 (above): Trench 5 looking west.

Plate 9 (below): Trench 6 looking south.



Plate 10 (above): Trench 7 looking south.

Plate 11 (below): Trench 8 looking west.



Plate 12: Location of  
Passing Bay 2.  
Looking NE.



# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX III:**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation**

**ARCHAEOLOGY WALES LIMITED:**

**Specification**

**for Archaeological Assessment: Desk Based Assessment,  
Geophysical Survey and Field Evaluation**

**On Land at Rea Farm, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury**

Prepared for:  
Balfours LLP

**Project No: 2371**

**19 August 2015**

Archaeology Wales Limited  
Rhos Helyg, CwmBelan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF  
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371  
Email: [admin@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:admin@arch-wales.co.uk)

## NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Specification details the proposal and methodology to be employed for a program of Archaeological Assessment associated with the development of a proposed chicken farm. This includes a Desk Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd on behalf of Balfours LLP.

### **1 Introduction**

The proposed development is 1.5 ha in area and comprises plans to erect a 225,000 bird broiler unit (centred on NGR: SJ 56811,12371); fig. 1). The local planning authority is Shropshire County Council. This Archaeological Assessment serves to inform a Scoping Planning Application.

This Specification has been prepared by Kate Pitt (ACIfA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales (Henceforth - AW). It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during the Archaeological Assessment (AW Project Number 2371).

The archaeological work has been recommended by Dr Andy Wigley, Heritage Environment Manager with SCC. Details of the requirements of this work were set out in a Brief supplied by Dr Andy Wigley, against which this WSI has been drawn up.

The Shropshire Historic Environment Record indicates that a possible single ditched cropmark enclosure (HER PRN 08099) is partially located on the proposed development site itself. This site is located c.100m west-south-west of an irregular, single ditched cropmark enclosure of likely Iron Age to Roman date (HER 00103), and c. 180m west of the line of the main Roman Road from Wroxeter to Whitchurch and Chester (HER PRN 00066). The Portable Antiquities Scheme data includes a number of items of Roman metalwork found by metal detectorists within the general vicinity of the site. It is considered that there is high potential for non-designated archaeological features and deposits to be present on the proposed development site itself (Wigley, 2015).

The purpose of the Archaeological Assessment is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development.

The archaeological manager in overall charge of the project will be Kate Pitt (ACIfA) (AW). Kate Pitt and Chris Smith (MCIfA) will be the principle authors of the final report. The Senior Supervisor in charge of the evaluation will be Chris Smith. AW is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). All work will be undertaken by suitably qualified staff and in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the CIfA.

### **2 Site specific objectives**

The proposed archaeological work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material that might be affected by the proposed development, in particular its character, distribution, extent, condition, date and relative significance.

A report will be produced that will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to allow informed planning decisions to be made that can safeguard the archaeological resource. This will include:

- i) A predictive model of surviving archaeological deposits detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals;
- ii) An impact assessment;
- iii) A comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.

As a result the following will be formulated:

- A) A strategy to mitigate the potential impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of the proposed construction
- B) The formulation of a programme of further archaeological investigation (if required) to fulfil the above.

### **3 The proposed archaeological work**

The archaeological work for the site will be undertaken in four phases.

- Phase 1 – Desk Based Assessment
- Phase 2 – Geophysical Survey
- Phase 3 – Archaeological Evaluation
- Phase 4 – Report production and Archive deposition

The Desk Based Assessment (Stage 1) will examine all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial/ground photographic and oral sources in order to provide a historical framework for any surviving archaeological remains.

The Geophysical Survey (Stage 2) will aim to locate and describe all sub-surface archaeological features which may be present within the development area.

The Evaluation (Stage 3) will locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features which may be present within the development area. The aim will be to clarify the nature, date, chronology, quality, quantity, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains identified by the evaluation trenches. Preservation in situ will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors may result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

A Report (Stage 4) will be prepared and submitted that collates and presents the data from the Desk Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey, Evaluation and the Post-Excavation programme.

#### **4 Method statement for a desk based assessment (Stage 1)**

The desk-based assessment will consider the following:

1. Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the regional HER. Assessment of all available excavation reports and archives (including unpublished and unprocessed material) affecting the site and setting. The HER search will focus on sites and features within a 2km radius of the development boundary
2. Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence and, where relevant, a re-plotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist at an appropriate scale
3. Assessment of online records held by the Portable Antiquities Scheme relating to finds from the assessment area
4. Assessment of archive records held at the County Archives
5. Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference
6. Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference
7. Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference
8. Assessment of available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes
9. Assessment of the present topography and land use of the area through maps and site inspection
10. The history of the site will also be studied. This will involve the following:
  - A review of the published resources.
  - An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including tithe maps, enclosure act plans, estate maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and fieldname evidence from these sources must be considered.
  - An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library.

#### **5 Method statement for geophysical survey (Stage 2)**

The area to be surveyed will include all of the proposed development area outlined in red, being 1.5 ha (Figure 1).

A Bartington Grad601 gradiometer will be used to undertake the survey. Previous research has shown that fired, or cut and backfilled archaeological features such as kilns and hearths, ditches and pits often have an anomalously higher magnetic susceptibility

than the surrounding subsoil due to burning and biological processes. Differences in magnetic susceptibility within the subsoil and archaeological features can be detected as changing magnetic flux by an instrument such as a gradiometer. Data from this may be mapped at closely spaced regular intervals, to produce an image that may be interpreted to locate buried archaeological features (Clark, 1997) (Aspinall *et al*, 2011).

Detailed survey will be carried out in grids of 20m x 20m along parallel traverses spaced at 2m intervals, recording data points spaced at 0.25m intervals to a maximum instrument sensitivity of 0.1nT in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines. The survey mode will be set to bi-directional (traverses walked alternately south-north/north-south). At regular intervals the data will be downloaded in the field onto a laptop computer for storage and assessment. The location of the survey area will then be surveyed using a Topcon GTS 725 total station.

#### Data Processing and Presentation

Following the completion of the detailed survey, processing and analysis will take place using the Geoplot software package. After downloading, the results will be plotted in 2D. The most typical method of visualising the data is as a greyscale image. In a greyscale, each data point is represented as a shade of grey, from black to white at either extreme of the data range. A number of standard operations (including destriping and despiking) are carried out to process the data. The mean level of each traverse of data is reduced to zero and all grids matched so that there are no differences between background levels. The data is then analysed using a variety of parameters and styles and the most useful of these were saved as \*JPEG images and displayed using Adobe Illustrator software. The results of the survey are then overlaid onto a digital map of the study area. This is then used to produce interpretation figures.

All works are to be undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's Standards and Guidance for a geophysical survey (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

#### Monitoring

SCC-HET will be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to this specification that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to SCC-HET for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

## **6 Method statement for an archaeological evaluation (Stage 3)**

#### Preliminary work

The evaluation area is 1.5 ha, shown on Figure 1, being the area highlighted in red. The evaluation trenches will be targeted to any anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey, and trench layout plan agreed with SCC-HET. The evaluation trenches will cover a minimum of a 2% sample of the area of the proposed development site. Eight evaluation trenches 20m in length (or equivalent) will be excavated.

The project manager and supervisor in charge of the Evaluation will ensure that all live services and other obstructions are identified prior to the start of works. The site will be completely fenced off prior to evaluation commencing.

#### Evaluation

The trenches will be excavated initially using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade. Thereafter all identified archaeological contexts will be excavated manually unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. All modern

overburden and non-archaeological subsoils will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All archaeological contexts subsequently located will be adequately sampled in order to define their function, date, and relationship to adjacent features.

Sample percentages of each feature will include up to 50% of all linear features, 50% of postholes and sub-1m pits through half sectioning and 50% of pits over 1m in diameter through opposing quadrant excavation.

All trench sides and bases must be cleaned manually by trowelling to reveal contexts in plan and profile. This must be completed even if the trench apparently reveals only natural deposits. Spade or shovel cleaning only of trench bases and sides will not be acceptable. The level of natural soils below the archaeology should be tested for in at least one trench section location in each trench by means of machine/manual excavation or auguring.

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 14 mega pixels or above.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

#### Monitoring

The Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager will be contacted as soon as the work is underway.

Any changes to the specification that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to the Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

The Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager will be given access to the site so that he may monitor the progress of the excavation. The trench will not be back-filled until he has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. He will be kept informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

The Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager will be informed of the discovery of any potentially significant archaeological features prior to their excavation so that a monitoring visit can be arranged and/or an excavation strategy agreed. In the event of complex deposits being discovered AW will prepare an additional Specification for the work.

#### Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using a unique site code. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the Shropshire Museum Service.

All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and related to the contexts

from which they were derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services).

A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, will be compiled.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the CIfA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work.

The requirements for the conservation of artefacts will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

#### Environmental and technological samples

Samples will be taken where necessary if significant deposits are located. These will be retained for processing. The level of post-excavation processing will be dependent on the results of assessment of potential and following discussion with an environmental specialist and the Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager.

Any features with potential to contain deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. If required, the project manager will arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The assessment of potential should consider the guidelines set out in the English Heritage publication 'Environmental Archaeology' August 2011.

#### Human remains

Human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation will normally be permitted and the Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

#### Conservation

All archaeologically recovered artefacts, building materials, industrial residues, environmental material, biological remains (including human remains) and decay products (collectively referred to as 'finds') will be conserved following the guidelines set out in 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (CIfA, 2014).

#### Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.



Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

## **7 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 4)**

The report will provide a detailed account of all the archaeological work undertaken.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

### Report preparation

The report will contain the following:

- A fully representative description of the information gained from Stages 1-3 above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- At least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography, as well as the position of all assessed areas.
- Plan of geophysical survey results, related to Ordnance Datum with written description and interpretation.
- Suitably selected plans and sections of the evaluation trenches and any significant archaeological features. All plans and sections should be related to Ordnance Datum.
- Written descriptions of all features and deposits excavated and their considered interpretation.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the archaeological remains identified.
- Historical analysis of assessment results.
- Full post excavation specialist analysis and reporting.

Copies of the report will be sent to the Shropshire Council Heritage Environment

Manager, and to the regional HER. The DVDs will include the whole digital archive arising from the work including the photographs (as below). Digital copies of the report will be provided in pdf format.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal no later than one year after the completion of the work.

AW will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> at completion of the project.

#### The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the HER agreed structure and be deposited on completion of site analysis and report production.

The site excavation archive will be deposited with the Shropshire Museums Service. Arrangements will be made with the Shropshire Museums Service before work starts. When the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER and to the Shropshire Council Heritage Environment Manager.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than one year after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the HER officer in advance of its preparation.

## **8 Resources and timetable**

#### Standards

The field work will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice and in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (CIfA 2014), Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey (CIfA 2014) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014).

#### Staff

The project will be managed by Mark Houlston MCIfA.

#### Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

#### Expected timetable of archaeological works

The DBA work is proposed to start on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The Geophysical Survey is proposed to start on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

#### Insurance

Archaeology Wales Limited (AW) is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

#### Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the AW Health and Safety Policy.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

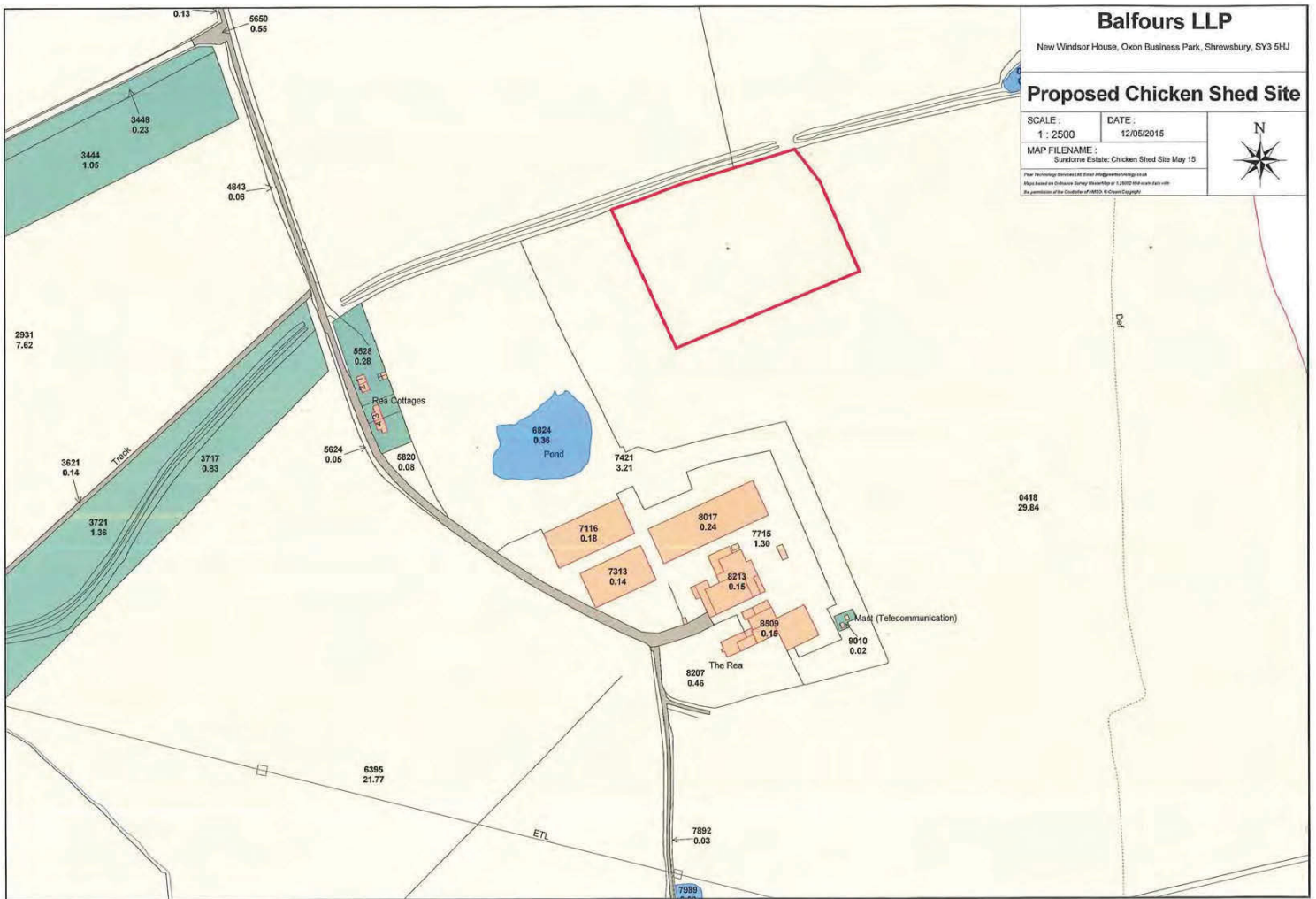


Figure 1 - Site Plan

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX IV:** Archive Cover Sheet

# ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

## Rea Farm, Upton Magna

Site Name:	Rea Farm
Site Code:	RFUM/15/DBA
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SJ56811,12371
Site Type:	Green Field
Project Type:	Archaeological Assessment
Project Manager:	Kate Pitt
Project Dates:	August-December 2015
Categories Present:	Undated & Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	Initially

# *Archaeology Wales*

Archaeology Wales Limited  
The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN  
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371  
Email: [admin@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:admin@arch-wales.co.uk)

Company Directors: Mark Houlston MIFA & Jill Houlston  
Company Registered No. 7440770 (England & Wales).  
Registered office: Morgan Griffiths LLP, Cross Chambers,  
9 High Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2NY