

Land at Huntingford, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



on behalf of

TGC Renewables Limited

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Avon Archaeology Limited

Bristol: February 2014

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ABSTRACT

Avon Archaeology Limited was commissioned by TGC Renewables to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Huntingford, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. The site, on which the developer is proposing to establish a solar panel array, is centred on NGR ST 72009 93950. It lies immediately to the north of Huntingford Farm, at the very western edge of the large parish of Wotton, nearly 4km to the west-north-west of Wotton church, and just over 2.6km to the north of the historic settlement core of Charfield parish, around the now-isolated church of St James. Today the site consists of a single, large, very irregularly-shaped enclosure extending to just under 13ha, but historically it incorporated all or parts of at least six separate plots, including a small wood. The site lost the last of its internal historic field boundaries between the late 1970s and 1999. The current land use is as undeveloped farmland, and the field is regularly ploughed.

Historically, Huntingford was one of four tithings within Wotton parish, although the site itself falls just within the eastern extremity of the very large parish of Berkeley, immediately to the west. Huntingford enjoys an unusually early first appearance in the historical record in the form of a boundary point in a supposedly Anglo-Saxon charter purporting to date to the mid 10th century, and it is possible that the historic parish boundary in this position, and now a modern local authority boundary, may mark its course in this area. Huntingford is not separately noted in the Domesday survey of 1086, but it was by that date, if not before, presumably included in the assessment for Wotton. There are no buildings or structures of any kind currently occupying the site, and neither are there any statutory designations, of any kind, affecting the area of the site itself, and this includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the nearest of which is Damery Camp, probably in origin an Iron Age site, about 1km to the north-west. The nearest buildings, immediately to the south of the site, are those belonging to Huntingford Farm, although the farmhouse itself is not listed. Huntingford Mill, a little distance to the west, survives as a listed, early 19th century structure, but may well stand on a far earlier, medieval mill site. The study area lies about 2km to the west of the western boundary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Trawls of the two relevant local authority HERs (for Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire) found no items at all within the site boundary itself, and only a scatter of mainly irrelevant records within a radius of 300m of the site. The study found that there had been no previous archaeological work, of any description, carried out on the study site, prior to the present work. Crucially however, the Gloucestershire HER, strongly reinforcing local landscape and place-name evidence, suggested that the course of a Roman road was likely to run through the northern part of the site. The earliest available map covering the area of the site appears to be the Alkington section of the tithe map of Berkeley parish, dating to 1839, which shows the site pretty much in the state in which it emerged onto the large-scale OS maps of only some four decades later. The whole series of historic maps examined for present purposes reveals, at least, that historically, the site appears always to have been undeveloped agricultural land, although some of the field boundaries have undergone change, and as already noted, internally they have now been completely removed.

Purely on the basis of the documentary and other evidence reviewed in this report, we have been able to identify a potential resource, in the form of a Roman road that may pass through the northern part of the study site, and it is therefore our professional judgement that it is considered to offer a moderate potential for the survival of buried archaeologically-significant deposits and structures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Avon Archaeology Limited wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by the following in the production of this report: Tim Mourant, of TGC Renewables; Dr Paul Driscoll, Archaeological Officer for South Gloucestershire Council; Anna Morris, HER Officer for Gloucestershire County Council; Charles Parry, County Archaeologist for Gloucestershire; Briege Williams, Assistant Project Officer at Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service; the staff of the Gloucestershire Record Office; the staff of the National Monuments Record, Swindon; and the landowner, Mr Will de la Hey.

NOTES

Whereas Avon Archaeology Limited have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAL	Avon Archaeology Limited
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
GHER	Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record
GRO	Gloucestershire Record Office
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMR	National Monuments Record, Swindon
OS	Ordnance Survey
SGHER	South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record



1 INTRODUCTION

Avon Archaeology Limited was commissioned by TGC Renewables Limited to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Huntingford, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. The site, on which the developer is proposing to establish a solar panel array, is centred on NGR ST 72009 93950. It lies immediately to the north of Huntingford Farm, at the very western edge of the large parish of Wotton, nearly 4km to the west-north-west of Wotton church, and just over 2.6km to the north of the historic settlement core of Charfield parish, around the now-isolated church of St James (**Figures 1 and 2**). Today the site consists of a single, large, very irregularly-shaped enclosure extending to just under 13ha. Its shape is such that it has a long axis oriented north-east to south-west, which at its maximum is just over 600m in length; while the maximum width, from north-west to south-east, is 360m. Historically however, the study site incorporated all or parts of at least six separate plots, including a small wood at its extreme south-west corner. The site lost the last of its internal historic field boundaries between the late 1970s and 1999. The current land use is as undeveloped farmland, and the field is regularly ploughed.

There are no buildings or structures of any kind currently occupying the site, and neither are there any statutory designations, of any kind, affecting the area of the site itself, and this includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the nearest of which is Damery Camp, probably in origin an Iron Age fortification, about 1km to the north-west¹. The nearest buildings, immediately to the south of the site, are those belonging to Huntingford Farm, although the farmhouse itself is not listed. However, the site also lies only about 2km to the west of the western boundary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which includes the town of Wotton-under-Edge itself. The site is bounded immediately to its north by land under Entry Level Stewardship, and a short distance to the west is a tract of land under Organic Entry plus Higher Level Stewardship. The site itself is included in the South-West Region Higher Level Stewardship Theme, which is linked to Natural England's regional theme statements, identifying a number of specific themes to help determine the potential for qualification for HLS in the future.


2 METHODOLOGY

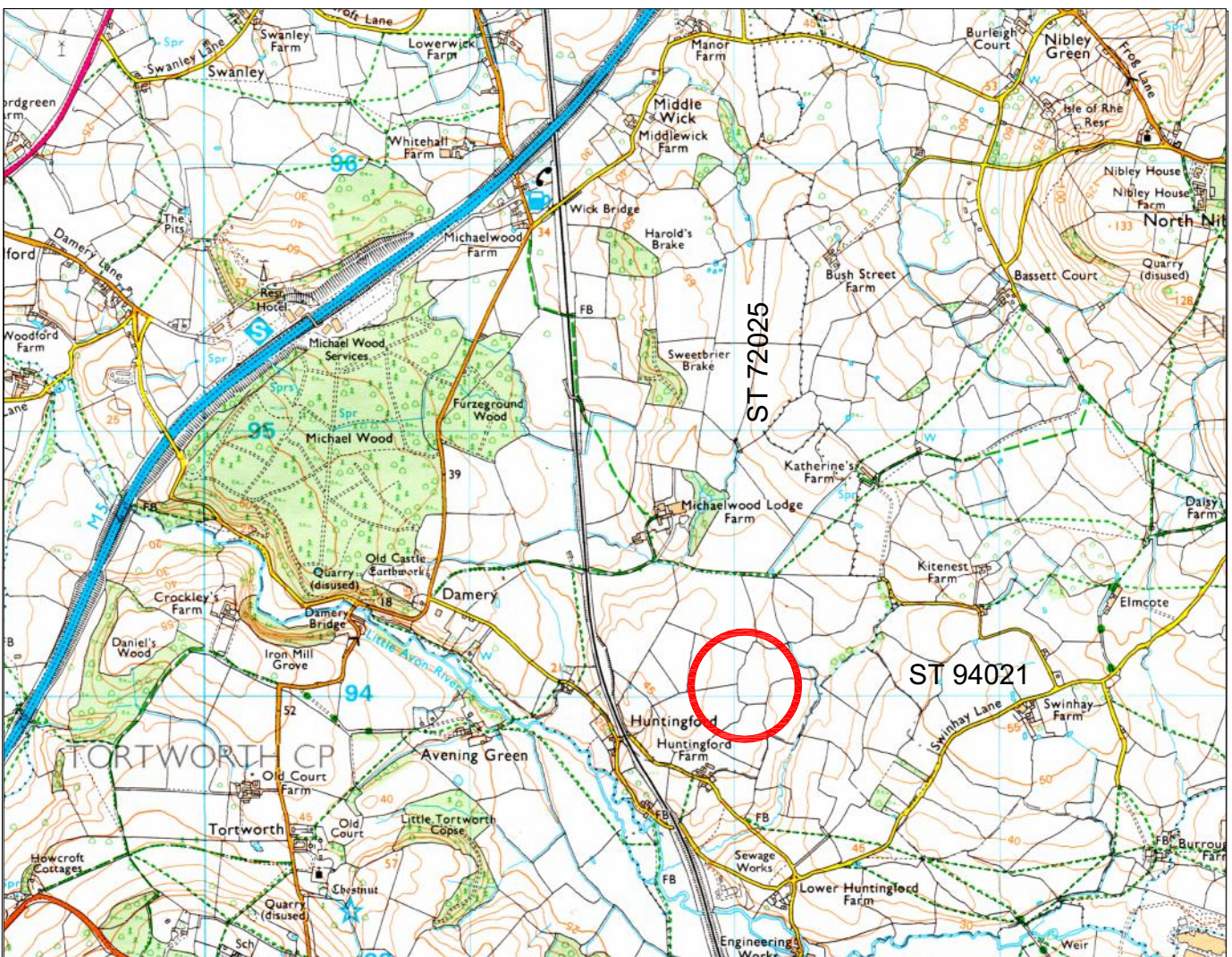
Searches were made of the indices of the collections of the Gloucestershire Record Office, Bristol Record Office, and the main Arts and Social Sciences Library of the University of Bristol. A variety of online bibliographic resources, most notably COPAC, BIAB, The Archaeology Data Service, and Google Scholar, were used to

¹ Damery is usually described, even in modern accounts, as a medieval ringwork – see for example Janik, Dickson and Priest 2011, 71-72. It is certainly possible that it was *modified* in the post-Conquest period, but its general form and morphology very strongly suggest an Iron Age origin; *pers comm.* Andrew Young.

Figure 1



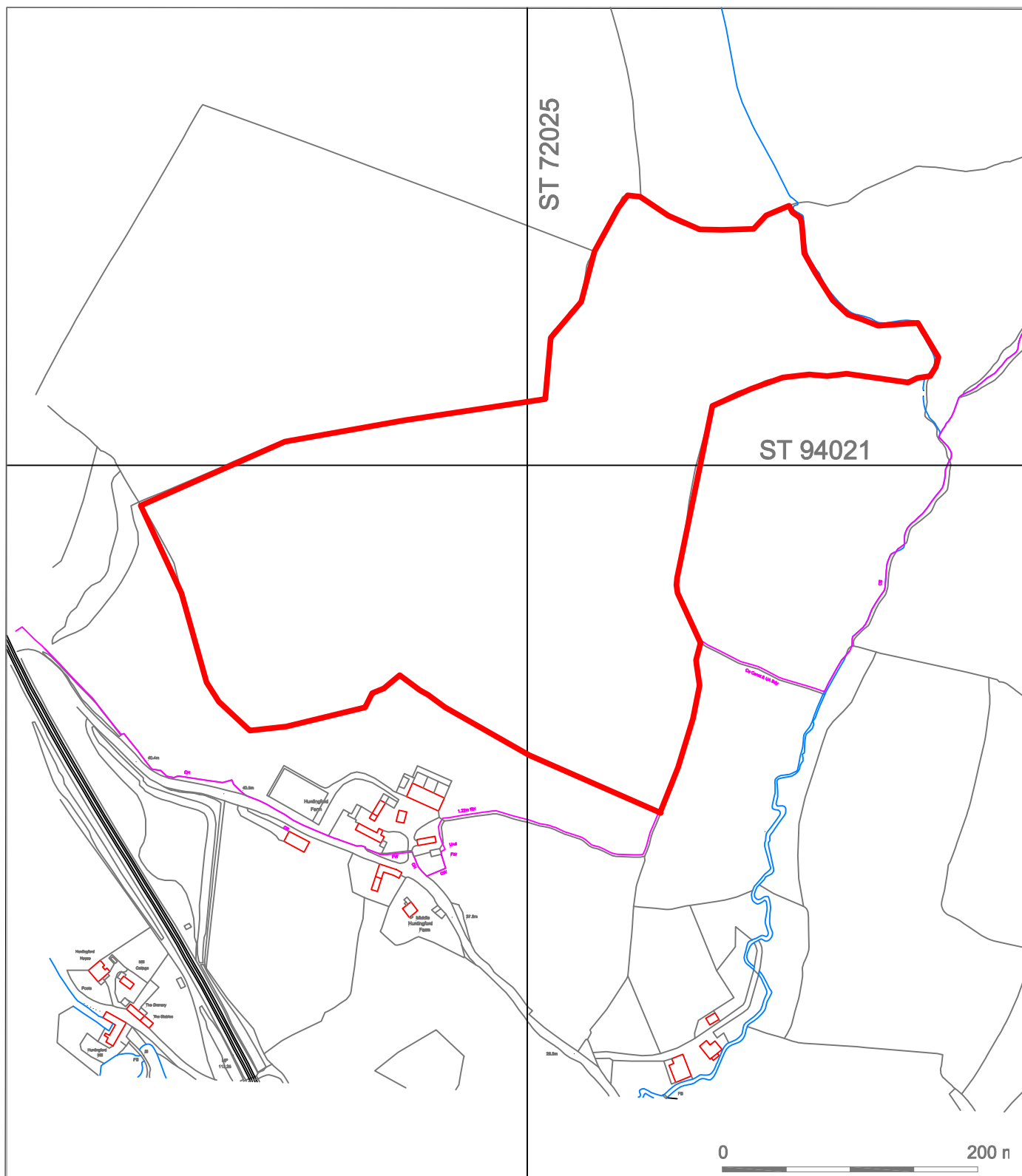
Location of the Study Area 
Grid lines at 1 km intervals (extract from OS 1:25 000)





Site Location Plan and Boundary of the Study Area

Figure 2



identify potentially useful sources of information, whether published or otherwise². In addition, information was utilised from a trawl of the Gloucestershire County Council Historic Environment Record, conducted on behalf of AAL by Anna Morris, HER Officer for that local authority; and from the online HER system of the neighbouring local authority of South Gloucestershire.

A visit to the site was made by the author on Friday, 31st January, 2014, and a digital photographic record was made (**Cover** and **Plates 1 to 3**).

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

As might be expected of a location so relatively close to the western scarp of the Cotswolds, which lies only about 4km away to the east, the geological underpinning of the site is essentially of Jurassic age, and consists of a variety of different lithologies in which clays, limestones and mudstones are to the fore. The eastern extremity of the site probably sits, for the most part, on formations of Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone, which straddle the late Triassic/early Jurassic boundary. The hard geology then becomes progressively older towards the west, with narrow bands of, respectively, undifferentiated mudstones of the Westbury and Cotham Formation, from the Upper Triassic; mudstones of the Blue Anchor Formation, rather earlier but still part of the Upper Trias; and finally, *perhaps* forming the western extremity of the site, deposits of the Mercia Mudstone group, a highly variable sequence of calcareous clays, sands and mudstones, with a depositional history extending throughout the entire duration of the Triassic period (BGS).

Huntingford Farm, immediately south of the study site, occupies a slightly elevated site forming the eastern flank of the small valley occupied by the Little Avon River, here flowing from south-east to north-west just to the south-west of the study area. Immediately to the south-east of the site, the ground slopes down to a small tributary stream which flows south-westwards into the Little Avon River, so that the study site, in effect, occupies a slightly elevated bluff in the angle between the two streams. The site sits on a small plateau above the two watercourses, and its topography is essentially pretty level; although from about the middle part of the site there is a distinct downward gradient northwards and eastwards, towards the little stream that forms the site's extreme north-eastern boundary. Elevations on the western and southern parts of the site centre around 42-43m aOD, and decline north-eastwards to around 37-39m aOD close to the north-eastern boundary.

² www.copac.ac.uk; www.biab.ac.uk; <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>;
www.scholar.google.com

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is as yet no volume of the *Victoria County History* for Gloucestershire which covers the area in which the study site lies, although that lack is by no means terminal and it has been possible to present the following, brief account account based on a variety of other available sources, each of which is individually referenced at its appropriate place in the text. It should be noted from the outset that, in view of the study site's position at the extreme periphery of its parish, and the fact that it lay in a formally recognised tithing, the history of Wotton *itself* will be dealt with only briefly here, and the main focus will then move to the study area itself and its immediate environment.

Historically, the study site lay at the very western extremity of the large parish of Wotton-under-Edge, in the Hundred of Upper Berkeley (Smith 1964, 206), and at least by the 16th century, Huntingford was one of four tithings subsidiary to the main settlement and, latterly, borough of Wotton itself; the others being Sinwell and Bradley, Simondshall and Combe, and Wortley (Rudder 1779, 848-849)³. In the post-Conquest period, Huntingford tithing in fact formed a detached part of Wotton parish, and survived as a distinct, bounded entity in this respect well into the 20th century. The background to the establishment of Huntingford tithing, probably from the 12th century, its relationship to the massive Berkeley fief, and its eventual attachment to the manor of Wotton, is reviewed in detail by Lindley (1962, 332-334), and documented, at least to some extent, from the extensive Berkeley archive, by Wells-Furby (2004 and 2012); the upshot, however, was that the north-western boundary of the tithing ran very close to the southern side of what is now Upper Huntingford Farm, leaving both it, and, crucially, the study site itself, in the adjacent parish of Alkington, immediately to the west, and which had itself originated as a tithing of Berkeley⁴.

All the Wotton tithings appear in muster lists from the first half of the 16th century (GRO D837/1), and although none is separately listed in the pages of Domesday Book, it is highly likely that such a system of separately bounded tithings, formally recognised for administrative and possibly even for agrarian purposes, was in place by the early post-Conquest period; although it is also likely that these arrangements would have been somewhat fluid, and the exact administrative composition of what emerged as the parish of Wotton in the post-Conquest period would certainly have changed over time (Moore 1982; Winchester 2000, 21-25).

³ As Smith is at pains to point out, there was, strictly speaking, no formal Hundred of Berkeley at the time of the Domesday survey, and its establishment seems to have been a post-Conquest, and specifically 12th century development. However, in the late 11th century, Wotton was one of numerous manors, not assigned to named entities which were explicitly noted as 'hundreds', but which were instead said to 'pertain' to Berkeley. It seems clear then that at least by 1086, if not before, the vast Berkeley estate was effectively acting, and was regarded as, a Hundred in all but name; Moore 1982.

⁴ Alkington only became a parish, albeit a *civil* parish only, in its own right in 1866 (Youngs 1979, 162). At the time of the tithe survey, it was counted as one of the tithings of Berkeley, and its lands appear on that place's tithe map and in its apportionment; GRO GDR/T1/21, 1839.

Wotton itself first emerges into the historical record in the form of a charter bearing the purported date of 940, by which King Edmund leased four hides of land to one of his (probably) senior followers. This document is No. 467 in Sawyer's catalogue, which is the standard reference for Anglo-Saxon charters (Sawyer 1968)⁵. It survives in a single manuscript which is dated to the 12th century, and importantly, it contains a detailed boundary clause in Old English, which presents, in effect, a word picture of a small part of the landscape on the periphery of the Wotton estate. However, as with all charters of this date, a great deal of scholarly ink has been spilled in reviewing it in terms of its *actual* (as opposed to its *purported*) date, and the veracity, or otherwise, of its content. The minutiae of these views stands well outside the remit of this study, and it will be sufficient for present purposes to present a very brief overview of the main lines of argument. The general balance of scholarly opinion tends to the view that the charter is essentially genuine in terms of its provenance and content, and, most crucially, in terms of the boundary clause itself (see the *Electronic Sawyer* website for a summary of these views; f/n 2). Perhaps surprisingly however, the most recent assessment of the charter, and specifically of the boundary clause, dates to as long ago as 1958, and it does not seem to have been subject to more modern, and more rigorous analysis since that time (Lindley 1958). This is not to say that Lindley's analysis of the bounds *themselves* is necessarily deficient – that is a question which must remain open for future assessment. However, his presentation of his argument is deeply flawed, simply because it contains no *map* showing his proposed solution of the boundary in detail, and it is therefore extremely difficult to follow the thrust of his argument. Modern analyses of these records always present such maps as a matter of course, at varying levels of detail, since there has been a recognition that it is often difficult or impossible fully to understand charter bounds without their assistance.⁶ It is, however, worth noting that the boundary which runs very close to Upper Huntingford Farm, and which historically separated the parishes of Wotton-under-Edge (to the east) and Berkeley (to the west), may well represent the position of the Anglo-Saxon charter bound, at least in this location⁷. This line has survived into modern times and now marks the boundary line between the two modern local authority areas of South Gloucestershire (to the east), and Gloucestershire County Council (to the west).

If the charter is based on genuine exemplars, then it at least contains the earliest occurrence of the place-name Wotton, where it is *t Wudetune* and *Wudutune*. The suffix *under edge* does not seem to have been applied until the 14th century. The meaning of the name is pretty straightforwardly the estate/farmstead/settlement associated with a tract of woodland, almost certainly indicating coining at a time in the early medieval period when this western scarp of the Cotswold plateau was

⁵ The text of the charter is available online on the *Electronic Sawyer* website:
<http://www.esawyer.org.uk/charter/467.html>

⁶ A typical example of the modern approach to presenting charter bounds, with maps, can be found in Hooke 1999.

⁷ Or more strictly, the *detached* part of Wotton-under-Edge parish that historically formed the Tithing of Huntingford.

heavily wooded⁸. The exact nature of that association is problematic and it absolutely *cannot* be assumed to imply a place literally *in* woodland (as, for example, Smith 1964, 255-256; for correctives, see Gelling and Cole 2000, 257-258, and Hooke 2011).

As already noted, the mid tenth century lease that was the subject of the charter S467, involved an estate of only 4 hides; but nearly a century and a half later, at the time of Domesday Book in 1086, the Wotton estate, which by that time fell within the massive fiefdom, and Hundred, of Berkeley, was rated at just over 15 hides. There may be any number of reasons for the *apparent* increase in the intervening period between the two records, but by far the most straightforward would be to suppose that the grant of 940 did not include all the territorial elements that would later become incorporated into the parish of Wotton. Conversely however, Lindley, from his analysis of the charter bound, is of the view that Nibley was included within it, and although it emerged as a parish in its own right in the post-Conquest period, its church remained a chapelry of Wotton until the mid-16th century (Lindley 1958, 45; Rudder 1779, 575). It is deeply regrettable that the Domesday entry for Wotton gives no detail whatsoever, other than the hidage assessment; so that it is not possible to determine whether, by the late 11th century, the chief settlement there was already displaying indications of incipient urbanism, through, for example, the inclusion of burgesses in the assessment. There is a shadowy reference to burgesses at a place which *may* be Wotton, from the reign of King John (Beresford and Finberg 1973, 117), but in any event it seems clear that by the late medieval period at least, Wotton was effectively functioning as a town, in which a wide range of non-agrarian crafts and trades was carried on. These activities were underpinned for the most part by the existence of a rural trading hinterland built on wool production from the sometimes very large flocks of sheep which were run on the Cotswold plateau in the high middle ages, and indeed later (Dyer 1995 and 2012); and Wotton's development in the medieval period cannot but have been assisted by the formal sanctioning, in the mid 13th century, of both a market and a fair, and also a grant of a borough charter, by a member of the Berkeley family (see, for the fair and market, CMH; and for the borough charter, Beresford and Finberg 1972, 117). Douthwaite and Devine remark of the borough grant that

In the terms of the charter the burgesses were granted burgages of one-third of an acre *to hold according to the customs and uses of Tetbury*, at a rent of 1s per annum..... Each burgess was also to have free pasture for a sheep and a cow in the fields of the manor after Michaelmas day, paying 12d yearly for the privilege.....In 1273 the burgesses were granted the right to nominate three men from among their number, one of whom would be appointed mayor by the lord of the Manor..... Joan de Somery's son.....confirmed the grant in 1282, and this, noted Smith in 1639, *was the time and this was the manner of the New Town's beginning and building where it now standeth, the backer part of which is still called the Old Town*.....It would therefore appear that

⁸ Indeed the toponym Cotswold itself carries connotations of formerly very extensive woodland on the plateau top, because the second element is Old English *wald*, 'a large area of woodland'; the word *Weald* has the same origin, as indeed, so far as we know, do all the English *-wold* names; Gelling and Cole 2000, 253-257.

the thirteenth century borough was attached to an earlier settlement which had developed around the church. When the borough was created, certain areas were excluded from its bounds, including the manor house, Culverhay and the area known as Old Town.....(Douthwaite and Devine 1999, 19-20).

The later history of the town of Wotton itself is dealt with in some detail by Douthwaite and Devine, and indeed their account remains the most reliable, authoritative, and up to date review which is currently available, and has the benefit of being extremely well referenced. These authors do not, however, touch on the question of the way that Wotton's own agriculture was organised, and in particular, the nature of its arable field system, if any. It is neither possible nor relevant, here, to examine this question in detail, but a couple of brief observations may be appropriate. The borough charter to which we have already alluded refers to the right to graze animals on the fields of the manor after Michaelmas, which is 29th September. This seems to suggest that the charter is here talking explicitly about open, common arable fields after harvest, which would have been in August, and it would be no surprise if Wotton were indeed operating open fields at this date (the mid 13th century). Indeed it has recently been noted how

Wotton-under-Edge [falls] within the heavily lynched area of the [Cotswold] escarpment. The density of lynchets here points towards the intensive exploitation of the landscape from the 12th and 13th centuries onwards, as such steeply sloping hillsides are unlikely to have been ploughed without a lack of available level farmland elsewhere. This medieval demand for land is also demonstrated by the subdivision of yardlands in the area (as seen at Berkeley), as well as the introduction of a more intensive four-field system of rotation.....The agrarian crisis of the 14th century.....and the subsequent shift to an increase in upland pasture.....meant that the demand for available plough-land decreased, and these steeply sloping fields gradually fell out of arable cultivation; thereby preserving their earthworks through disuse (Janik, Dickson and Priest 2011, 74-75).

However, the sheer *size* of the parish raises the question of the extent of the fields which were operated directly from Wotton itself – if we take the example of Huntingford itself, at a distance of some 4km from Wotton, the day to day logistics of operating parts of an open field system at such a remove from a settlement, would have presented enormous, and possibly insurmountable problems. It therefore seems most likely that each of Wotton's four tithings, *including* Huntingford, operated its own, separate field system which was worked from the settlement, or farms, from which each respective tithing took its name.

Turning our attention, now, to the location of the study site itself; Huntingford, like Wotton, enjoys a particularly early appearance in the historical record, since it is used by S467, the Anglo-Saxon charter purportedly of 940, as a marker in its boundary clause, where it is recorded as *huntena forda*. Huntingford is considered to have a meaning of 'the hunters' ford' (Smith 1964, 257), and is now represented by Huntingford Farm, Huntingford Mill, and Lower Huntingford Farm. After its appearance in the mid 10th century, Huntingford does not seem to emerge into the documentary sources again until around 1200 (*ibid*), although it is clear from Rudder's account of this little estate that it was considered to have the status of a

formal manor by the 15th century at the latest (Rudder 1779, 849). Huntingford Mill straddles an arm of the Little Avon River about 220m south-west of Huntingford Farm, and as it stands today is a Grade II Listed Building which is said to be of early 19th century date in its present form. It is, however, very likely to occupy a far earlier site, and it is possible, and unusual, to be able to say this with some confidence because Huntingford is a very small place, and the stretch of the Little River Avon which flows through it is relatively limited. There was certainly a mill at Huntingford by 1376 because it is explicitly mentioned in a quitclaim of that date (GRO D225/T11). While it is only to be expected that the mill buildings and structures will have undergone successive rebuildings, over a period of many generations, there is no reason to suppose that the site *itself* has not remained pretty much stable, even over centuries, and we must always wonder whether the present building may even conceal earlier fabric behind a 19th century façade. It seems at least possible that the mill, or somewhere very nearby, may actually mark the site of the original *huntena forda* across the Little River Avon, and that the mill site itself represents the *original* occupation focus of the little Huntingford estate⁹.

Upper Huntingford Farm and Lower Huntingford Farm are something of an enigma. They are both on sites which were occupied by buildings by 1830, which is the date of the First Edition One Inch map of this part of Gloucestershire (Cassini 2007). A 'Huntingford Farm' is mentioned in documents of the post-medieval period, and especially of the 17th century (see for example GRO D2078/Box 24/12, 1620-1640; and GRO D2078/Box 22/8, 1609-1698); but there is a problem of identification in that, certainly as far as the late 19th century, First Edition OS maps are concerned, the farms called 'Huntingford' which are now distinguished by the prefixes 'Upper' and 'Lower', were at that date *both* identified as merely 'Huntingford Farm' (and see further below).

The present Upper Huntingford farmhouse, to which the study site belongs, is not a listed building, and in terms of its architectural affinities, has a completely symmetrical frontage and does not look much earlier than the late 18th/early 19th century. But there is no reason why, as with Huntingford Mill, it should not be standing on a far earlier site, and it is of course perfectly possible that a much earlier building was simply remodelled at about that time. Middle Huntingford Farm, on the opposite, southern side of the road, must date from after 1830 as it not marked on the OS One Inch map of that date (Cassini 2007). Indeed, Middle Huntingford Farm did not acquire that name on OS maps until *after* the mid 1950s, and before that time it is simply marked as an unnamed dwelling with outbuildings, although it is possibly significant that some outbuildings do appear on the OS First Edition 25-inch map of the early 1880s, which is the first survey to show buildings on that site (Old Maps). It

⁹ Although it is also worth noting here that, counter-intuitively, Huntingford is located at almost exactly the point on the Little River Avon where its flood plain is pretty much at its widest, with the area most in danger of flooding extending to some 400m across from south-west to north-east, as shown by the Environment Agency's online flood maps. If the *Huntena forda* of 940 was somewhere in this area, as it surely must have been, one wonders whether it actually took the form, at least in part, of a causeway across the floodable river course.

seems at least possible, then, that Middle Huntingford Farm originated as outbuildings and/or perhaps dwellings attached to Upper Huntingford Farm. The present Lower Huntingford Farm lies about 500m to the south-east of Upper Huntingford, and as already noted, there were buildings on the site by 1830. Like Upper Huntingford, it too is not a listed building. As already noted, in the early 1880s (OS First Edition 25"), the place was apparently, and confusingly, called simply Huntingford Farm, and it was not until the Second Edition of the same map, in 1903, that the prefix Lower had been added to the name, presumably in an attempt to avoid precisely that potential confusion. One cannot, of course, ever be 100% certain, but in view of this, it needs explicitly to be stated that the present Upper Huntingford Farm is on balance rather more likely to be a candidate for the original farm of that name that appears in documents by the 17th century, simply because of its very close proximity to Huntingford Mill – together these two sites may represent the core historic occupation area associated with the late pre-Conquest *huntena forda*.

Finally, a brief word needs to be said about the appearance in the Anglo-Saxon charter (S467) of a boundary point which may have direct, archaeological implications for the study site which we are examining here. Further on in the charter, *after* the place-name Huntingford appears, the word *street* is mentioned twice in quick succession – once as *stret*, and then again as *str t*. This word is the usual term which in Old English was applied specifically to roads with a properly engineered surface and sub-structure, and in the Anglo-Saxon period, that meant Roman roads (Gelling and Cole 2000, 93-94). Unfortunately, as already noted, and notwithstanding the work of Lindley (1958), the state of research on this particular bound means that it is not at present possible to elucidate with certainty the exact spatial relationship between the road and the *huntena ford*, other than to make the general observation that charter bounds were usually followed clockwise around the estate which was being recorded. However, the existence of a Roman road in this area has long been suspected, and Ivan Margary lists it as his number 541a, Berkeley Road to Iron Acton (Engine Common) (Margary 1973, 141). Margary is clear that there are traces of an *agger* which

appear west and then east of the lane from Clingre House to Stinchcombe. South of the Upper Wick-Nibley Green road the *agger* appears just after crossing a stream, and again east of the hamlet of Huntingford, where it is descending with a hedgerow to another small stream, just before reaching the railway.....

In landscape terms there are also clear hints about the presence of a former Roman road running north-south in this area; most notably the place-name *wick*, appearing as Upper Wick, Middle Wick, and several other minor farm names, about 2km to the north of Huntingford; this element has been repeatedly associated by place-name scholars with Roman activity of one sort or another, most usually roads or settlement (Gelling 1997, 67-74; Coates 1999)¹⁰; and in this case the potential association gains

¹⁰ For a discussion of the settlement implications of this word as it relates specifically to Somerset, see Costen 2011, 56-58.

support from the fact that the parish boundary between Alkington and North Nibley is dead straight in this area, and to its south, apart from an extraordinary subcircular deviation which certainly marks the site of an archaeological feature of some kind¹¹. Further, the name Bush Street Farm appears immediately to the east of a very straight section of parish boundary (at ST 72375 95630), and it seems perfectly reasonable to suggest that this may be another occurrence of *stræt*, surviving as a minor toponym¹². The Gloucestershire HER (see below) is able to identify only two separate, short stretches of this road, to the south of Katherine's Farm (at ST 72510 94815), and as we have already noted, Ivan Margary believed that the road then continued southwards, running slightly to the east of Huntingford. Further south, and perhaps rather contrary to the impression lent by Margary, the route of this road is problematic and is known for certain only intermittently, but a section has been excavated in the vicinity of Hall End, at Wickwar in South Glos., about 6.5km to the south of Huntingford, and its course and physical nature in that area at least, is now firmly proven archaeologically (Young 2009; Janik, Dickson and Priest 2011, 50)¹³. We do not, then, know exactly how close the road passed to the site which is the subject of this review, or indeed whether it may have actually run through the site itself; but its line as suggested by the two items on the Gloucestershire HER (below) suggests very strongly that it may well have transited through the northern part of the site in its course southwards, and this might have direct implications for the proposed scheme in terms of potential impact on any surviving *in-situ* archaeology.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The strict remit of this study is to consider the *known* evidence for archaeological survival in the vicinity of the study site, based on current knowledge as expressed in both the South Gloucestershire, and the Gloucestershire HERs respectively, since the boundary between the two local authorities runs very close to the eastern side of the site, and indeed forms a part of it along a short stretch. Information from the Gloucestershire HER was obtained from a trawl carried out on behalf of AAL by the local authority's HER officer; for South Gloucestershire, the information was obtained from that authority's online HER¹⁴. Items relating to relatively modern features, ie from the 19th century onwards, are not further discussed here unless they are deemed to have the potential to represent material considerations for the purposes and remit of this review.

¹¹ Centred on ST 72182 96198. This feature has now unfortunately been destroyed by removal of its boundaries, but it is clearly shown on the relevant OS 1:25000 map revised in 1998 (Sheet 167, Thornbury, Dursley and Yate).

¹² Although of course earlier spellings and occurrences of the name would be required before this could be admitted as even circumstantial evidence.

¹³ I am very grateful to Andrew Young for the former reference. It is that excavator's view that Hall End may represent a *mansio* deliberately sited on Margary 541a

¹⁴ At <http://maps.southglos.gov.uk/communitymap/?menuconfig=HistoricEnvironmentRecord/>

It should be noted from the outset that neither HER revealed any Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the boundary of the study site itself, the closest one to it, as already noted, being the so-called medieval ringwork of Damery Camp (or Castle), lying about 1km to the north-west (GHER 317). On balance, and again as already noted, this is likely to have Iron Age antecedents even if it was modified in the medieval period. There are no records at all, from either HER, within the bounds of the study site itself, and indeed, few in the immediate vicinity. To deal with those few from the SGHER first: SGHER 2360 relates to Huntingford Mill, which in its present form, as already noted, appears to be of early 19th century date. Such is the view of the EH's formal Grade II Listing description, and it is confusing that the SGHER appears completely to contradict this by assigning the mill to the modern period, with a date range of 1901-1999. The EH account is far to be preferred in this respect, but in fact both records entirely miss the rather important point that, again as already noted, the present building is likely to stand on or very close to a far earlier (ie at least medieval) mill site. There is a group of SGHER items around Tortworth, most notably the area of a medieval deer park and its rather smaller post-medieval successor (SGHER 3370), but these are a km or more to the west of the study site and cannot therefore be said to have any direct implications for it, in terms of either setting or of any buried archaeology which may survive *in situ*.

The GHER is a somewhat more productive source for present purposes, and the trawl map is reproduced here as **Figure 3**. We may at least note the 19th century line of the Bristol and Gloucester Railway (GHER 11269), since it passes very close to the south and west of Huntingford. 38270 relates to a site which actually abuts the study area on its western side, and identifies remnants of two potentially historic field boundaries which are not, apparently, recorded on the First Edition large-scale OS map. These features survive only as earthworks and lie outside the site boundary.

A possible medieval moat (GHER 2926) is truncated by the railway about a km north-north-west of the study site, but could not be considered of material interest for present purposes. About a km to the east of the study site, GHER 20799 records an evaluation in 2001 which revealed little of interest other than, in one trench, a single ditch and posthole, both features possibly of Romano-British date. GHER 16853 relates to the apparently early 19th century, Grade II listed Kitenest Farm; but it lies some 800m to the north-west of the most northerly boundary of the study site, and is of little or no relevance for present purposes.

By far the most important single record in this context, from either of the two local authority HERs, is GHER 38262, which abuts the northern side of the study site. Unusually, while this is one record, it is split into two north-south linear sections, as shown on **Figure 3**; and it can immediately be seen to have a pretty strong correlation, in terms of both its position and its orientation, with a straight stretch of parish boundary a little further to the north, and running immediately to the west of Bush Street Farm. The HER characterises this feature as a Roman road, and its information has been collated on the basis of cropmarks noted in both new aerial survey, and a reassessment of existing aerial images, most notably that conducted

for the Cotswold Hills NMP¹⁵. It can confidently be asserted that this is a part of Ivan Margary's road number 541a, the course and general nature of which we have already noted (above, **Historical Evidence**). The most significant fact about this record in the present context is that if the line of the putative road is projected southwards, we can see that its most likely course brings it well within the boundary of the study area, as it transits through its north-eastern corner. While it is true that the GHER does not record the road's existence in that area of the site, it should be borne in mind, as we have already emphasised, that the whole site has been under the plough since at least 2005, and in fact the northern half, which includes the projected line of the Roman road, has been arable since 1999 (Google Earth). This is not, of course, by any means to make inferences about the survival or otherwise of traces of the road in the form of surviving sub-surface archaeology, which at present, of course, is unknown; and indeed it is perfectly possible that the modern soil profile may be masking such remains which, notwithstanding potential plough damage in the upper horizons, might otherwise be well preserved (see further below, **Site Visit and Aerial Photographic Evidence**).

6 HISTORIC MAP EVIDENCE

It should be stated at the outset here that, regrettably, the earliest available map in the GRO that was found to depict the site, is not reproduced here, because it could not be examined at first hand, and therefore neither could it be photographed. This was the Alkington section of the Berkeley tithe map of 1839, GRO GDR/T1/21, which is considered by archival staff to be unfit for production, and the GRO does not hold copies of the map in any other format. A modern transcription of the relevant part of the map, showing the study site, was kindly supplied by the Gloucestershire Archaeology Service, but again, copyright restrictions preclude its inclusion in the present report¹⁶. The transcription shows that just before the mid 19th century, the study site consisted of five separate, complete enclosures, and part of a sixth. Only one of the enclosures, the northernmost, called Ploughed Ground, was arable land; all the rest were pasture, with the exception of a small plot at the extreme south-western corner of the site, which was a wood called Huntingford Grove, possibly originally a plantation and/or a rather informal orchard. The *external* boundary of the site follows hedgelines that remain in existence today, although at the extreme western side, the study site follows a boundary line which did not exist in 1839. We may note that none of the fieldnames shown on the tithe map has any particular archaeological resonance (Corcos, u.d.)

The First Edition OS 6 map (**Figure 4**) was surveyed in 1879-81, and published in 1884. In terms of both the internal field composition, and the external boundary of the

¹⁵ Although note that this feature is not explicitly mentioned in the *published* account of the NMP; Janik, Dickson and Priest, 2011).

¹⁶ AAL is very grateful to Briege Williams, of Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service, for allowing us sight of this map for the purposes of this report.

study site, it shows no change since the time of the tithe map some 45 years earlier. The later Upper Huntingford Farm is shown immediately south of the site, as is the little complex of buildings on the other (southern) side of the road that was later to form the core of Middle Huntingford Farm. No buildings of any kind whatsoever are shown within the study site boundary. The map does, however, show the line of a footpath running from a point just to the west of Upper Huntingford Farm, south-west/north-east through the study site, and exiting at its north-western corner. We may also, note, in passing, that, although not shown on **Figure 4**, this map in its wider view gives an extremely good impression of the extent and shape of the old Tithing of Huntingford, the bounds of which are depicted, still at this relatively late date, as a detached part of Wotton parish.

Some twenty years later, in 1903, the Second Edition OS 6 map was published (**Figure 5**). Again, there has been no change in either the internal boundaries, or the external site boundary, in the intervening period, with the sole, crucial exception of the loss of Huntingford Grove, the plot of which had by this date been dis-enclosed, and incorporated into the field immediately to its north-west; at the time of the tithe survey, in 1839, this already very large plot had been called High Field. The north-south footpath through the site, recorded on the First Edition map, remained in place at this date. The Third Edition OS 6 map (**Figure 6**) appeared a further eighteen years later, in 1921, and again, there had been no change at all in the disposition of either external or internal boundaries of the study site. As for the First Edition, so also for the two subsequent revisions, there are no buildings depicted within the bounds of the study site, which remained as completely undeveloped agricultural land. However, the north-south footpath that was a feature of the earlier two editions, had now gone, and has never, apparently, been subsequently reinstated. For the later history of the fields of which the site is composed, we must turn to later OS maps, not reproduced here, and it is interesting to note that change in this respect only occurred after the mid 1950s (Old Maps). At some point between this date and the mid 1970s, a long boundary running south-east/north-west, at the western end of the study site, and which had been in place at the time of the tithe survey in 1839, was removed. In the same period, a new, short stretch of hedge was inserted running north-east/south-west, also towards the western side of the site, so that by this date the current, external boundary of the study site, as marked by *in situ* hedgerows, had been established. The remaining internal hedgerows were all removed between the mid 1970s and 1999 (Google Earth), and the site now consists of a single very large enclosure. There is a sole hedgerow tree remaining within the main body of the modern enclosure, towards its eastern side (at NGR ST 72074 93982), which we can certainly correlate with one of the historic hedgerows in existence by 1839, and subsequently removed (see further below, **Site Visit**). It should also be noted that the minor high-tension power line which today runs north-south through the eastern side of the site, carried on small pylons, does not appear to be depicted on *any* OS map, even on the more modern sheets.

7 SITE VISIT

The **Cover**, and **Plates 1 to 3** represent part of a photographic record made by the author during a site visit conducted on Friday, 31st January, 2014, during which the entire field was found to be under a recently sown crop of grass. The descriptive captions accompanying the plates will, it is hoped, be reasonably clear, but it should be explicitly stated that a particularly close examination was made at the northern part of the site, where, as we have already suggested on the evidence of the Gloucestershire HER, the possible line of a Roman road (Margary 541a) may transit through on its way southwards towards Hall End (Wickwar), and Engine Common. However, it was not possible to discern any surface expression whatsoever of the presence of this putative feature. In addition, there was little or no indication of any of the known former field boundaries which used to sub-divide the site, and it is clear that they have been effectively eradicated by continued ploughing; the sole exception was in the vicinity of the only former hedgerow tree which survives within the body of the site itself (**Plate 3**).

8 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

For the purposes of this review, a trawl of all the available aerial photographic material held at the National Monuments Record, Swindon, was carried out on behalf of AAL by staff at the NMR; and the results of the entire trawl are given in **Appendix 1. Figure 7**, dating to 1947, represents part of an early run of RAF vertical images of the site in the collections of the NMR, and is reproduced here as an example, to emphasise this point (NMR/RAF/CPE/UK/1961, Frame 4086, 9th April, 1947). The image does not initially appear to show much of interest within the bounds of the study site – there is, for example, no trace whatsoever of ridge and furrow, although in this area it is unlikely that it did not once exist. If so, it is likely to have been another casualty of ploughing since the mid 19th century. Crucially however, at the very northern point of the site, there is perhaps a vestige of a soil mark running from that point, in a straight line south-westwards, and then kinking slightly to the south-south-west, right in the middle of the site, virtually at the junction of three fields then still extant. The kink point is marked pretty much by the position of the only surviving hedgerow tree within the site boundary (**Plate 3**). It is perhaps tempting to wonder whether this mark may represent the line of the supposed Roman road, Margary 541a, on its passage through the site, and if so then its alignment is obviously different from that suggested on **Figure 3**. But this is highly problematic, and the mark may be more apparent than real, or merely the result of an idiosyncrasy of the underlying geology. Only further, and more stringent ground investigation would illuminate this point. The high-tension power line which now runs north-south through the site, already noted, is almost certainly not present on this image, dating its establishment to after 1947.

9 NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

Planning policies both national and local which have direct implications for the site under consideration here, cascade down in the following order of primacy:

- National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012, Dept of Communities and Local Government. See especially Section 12, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, 30-32.
- Stroud District Council Local Plan, adopted November 2005. Matters relating to archaeology are dealt with as part of Chapter 7, *Built Environment*, under Section 7.6 (pages 110-111). The local authority's rationale in regard to the protection of archaeology within the district is outlined in two Policy Statements, as follows:

Policy BE13

Development will not be permitted where it would involve significant alteration or cause damage to nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled or not) or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains.

Policy BE14

Development that detrimentally affects archaeological remains of other than national significance will not be permitted unless the importance of the development outweighs the value of the remains.

10 CONCLUSIONS

The study found that, prior to the present review, there had been no previous archaeological work, of any description, carried out within the site boundaries. Historically, Huntingford was one of four tithings within Wotton parish, although the site itself falls just within the eastern extremity of the very large parish of Berkeley. Huntingford is first mentioned as a boundary point in a charter of the late Anglo-Saxon period, although it is not separately noted in the Domesday survey of 1086, and it was by that date, if not before, presumably included in the assessment for Wotton. There are no buildings or structures of any kind currently occupying the site, and neither are there any statutory designations, of any kind, affecting the area of the site itself. The nearest buildings, immediately to the south of the site, are those belonging to Upper Huntingford Farm, although the farmhouse itself is not listed. Huntingford Mill, a little distance to the west, survives as a listed, early 19th century structure, but may well stand on a far earlier, medieval mill site. The study area lies about 2km to the west of the western boundary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Trawls of the two relevant local authority HERs (for Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire) found no items at all within the site boundary itself, and only a scatter of mainly irrelevant records within a radius of 300m of the site. Crucially however, the Gloucestershire HER, strongly reinforcing local landscape and place-

name evidence, suggested that the course of a Roman road was likely to run through the northern part of the site, although no discernible surface evidence for its survival was seen during a walkover of the site, even given that particular attention was paid to its north-easternmost corner.

The earliest available map covering the area of the site appears to be the Alkington section of the tithe map of Berkeley parish, dating to 1839, which shows the site pretty much in the state in which it emerged onto the large-scale OS maps of only some four decades later. The whole series of historic maps examined for present purposes reveals, at least, that historically, the site appears always to have been undeveloped agricultural land, although some of the field boundaries have undergone change, and as already noted, internally they have now been completely removed.

In conclusion, and on the basis of the documentary and other evidence reviewed here, the study area is considered to offer a low to moderate potential for the survival of archaeologically-significant buried deposits and structures.

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1901

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1919-1920

Third Edition OS 6 map, Gloucestershire Sheet 56/SW. Published 1921.

NMR, Aerial Photographs

RAF/CPE/UK/1961, Frame 4086. 9th April, 1947

APPENDIX 1

ENGLISH HERITAGE Air Photographs

Full single listing - Verticals, Standard order
Customer enquiry reference: 83660

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)	Film held by
RAF/CPE/UK/1961	572	RS	4085	P	ST 719 943	13	09 APR 1947	AB	9840	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1961	572	RS	4086	P	ST 725 940	13	09 APR 1947	AB	9840	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/2110	669	RS	4020	P	ST 716 941	16	28 MAY 1947	A	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/2110	669	RS	4021	P	ST 722 943	16	28 MAY 1947	A	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/2030	2761	V	5099	P	ST 706 931	10	26 APR 1947	AB	15600	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/69383	9402	V	197	P	ST 723 941	2	31 JUL 1969	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/69383	9402	V	198	P	ST 723 935	2	31 JUL 1969	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/92191A	13963	V	181	N	ST 726 941	4	14 JUN 1992	A	8300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/92191A	13963	V	182	N	ST 721 941	4	14 JUN 1992	A	8300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/92191A	13963	V	183	N	ST 715 941	4	14 JUN 1992	A	8300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/92064	14605	V	96	P	ST 720 943	1	13 MAY 1992	A	8600	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/92064	14605	V	97	P	ST 726 944	1	13 MAY 1992	A	8600	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/96147	20734	V	61	N	ST 727 943	4	14 JUN 1996	A	8200	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/96147	20734	V	62	N	ST 720 943	4	14 JUN 1996	A	8200	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/96147	20734	V	63	N	ST 713 943	4	14 JUN 1996	A	8200	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
ADA/574	26824	V	1	N	ST 728 938	1	24 AUG 1993	A	12000	6	Colour 9 x 9	NMR

Total Sorties 8
Total Frames 16



Map showing trawl from Gloucestershire HER, with individual items numbered. Study site outlined in red. Suggested line of Roman road, Margary 541a, shown as light blue line. Scale as indicated, original based on OS 1:25,000 survey.

Land at Huntingford, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

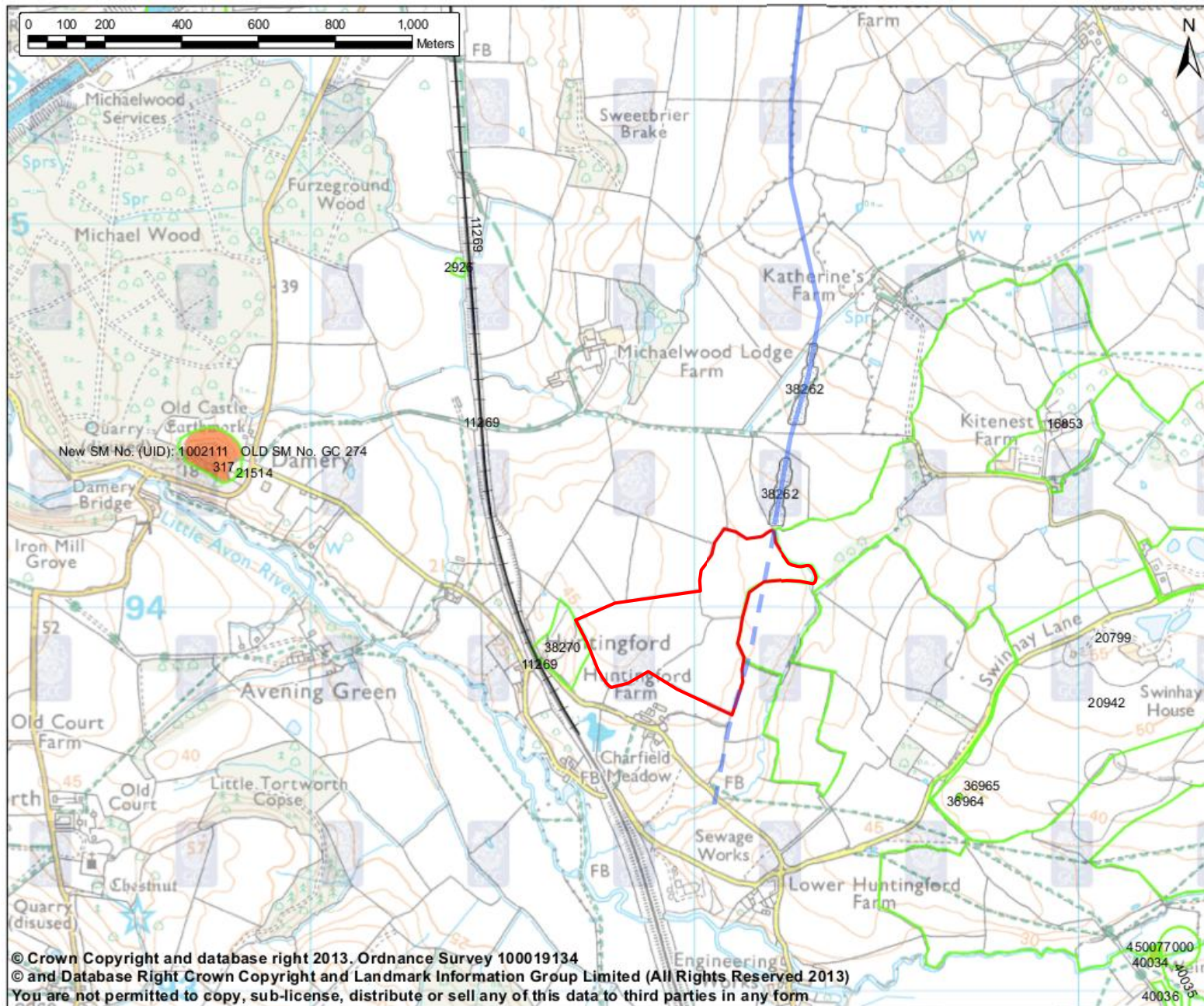


Figure 3

Figure 4



Extract from First Edition OS 6" map, Gloucestershire sheet 56SW. Surveyed 1879-81, published 1884. GRO. Outline of study site in red. Not to scale.

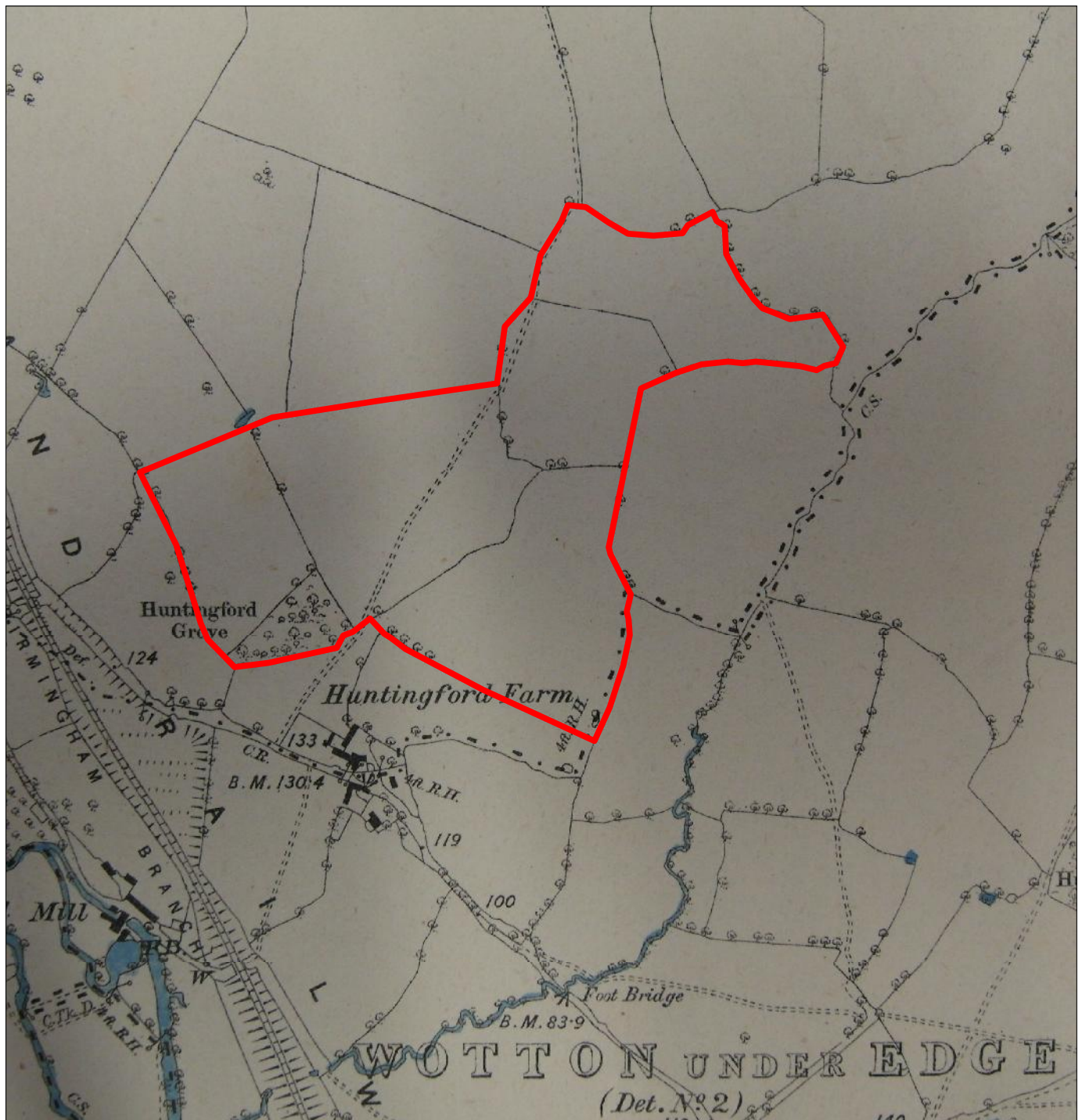


Figure 5



Extract from Second Edition OS 6" map, Gloucestershire sheet 56SW. Revised 1901, published 1903. GRO. Outline of study site in red. Not to scale.

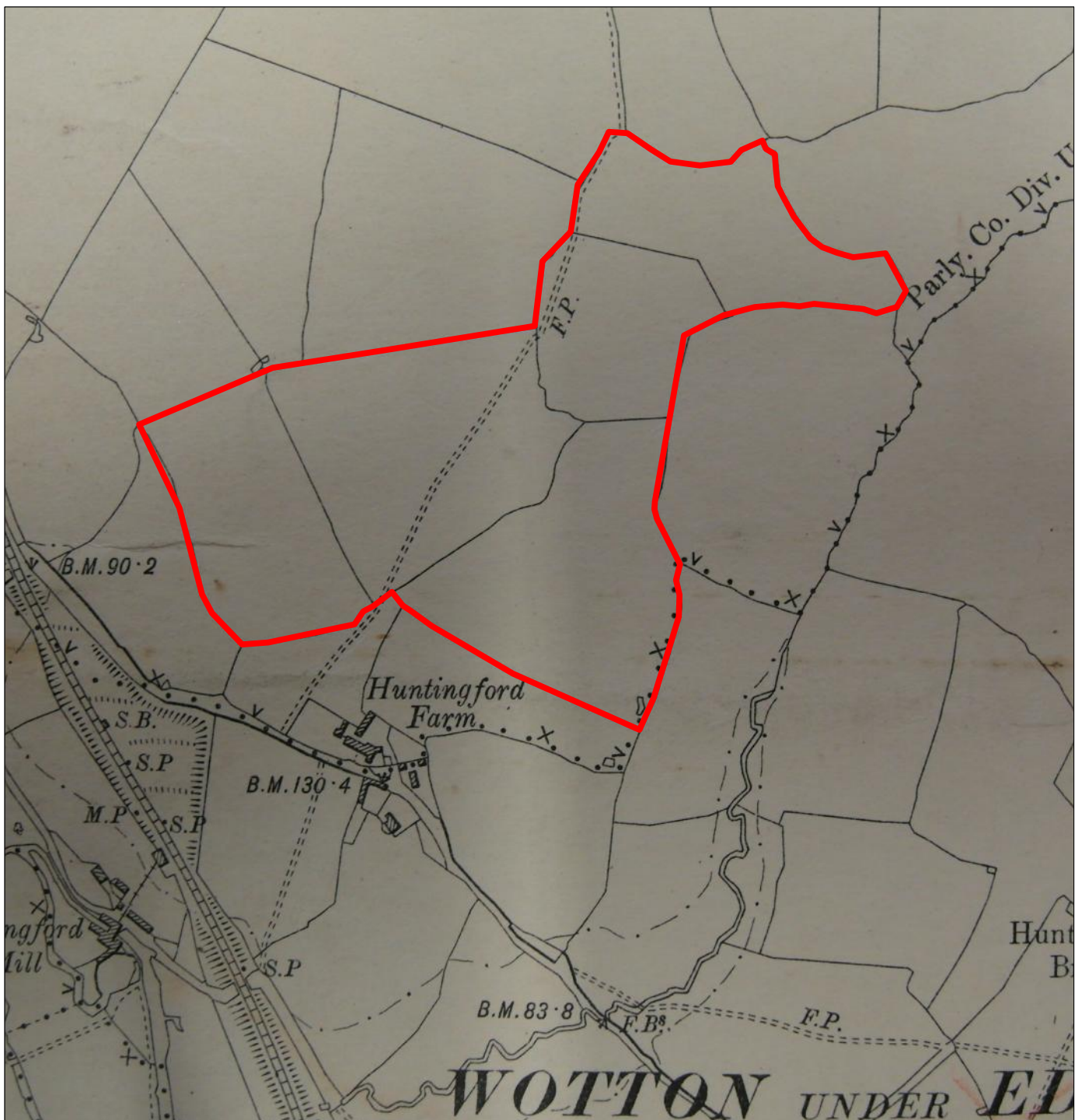


Figure 6



Extract from Third Edition OS 6" map, Gloucestershire sheet 56SW. Revised 1919-20, published 1921. GRO. Outline of study site in red. Not to scale.

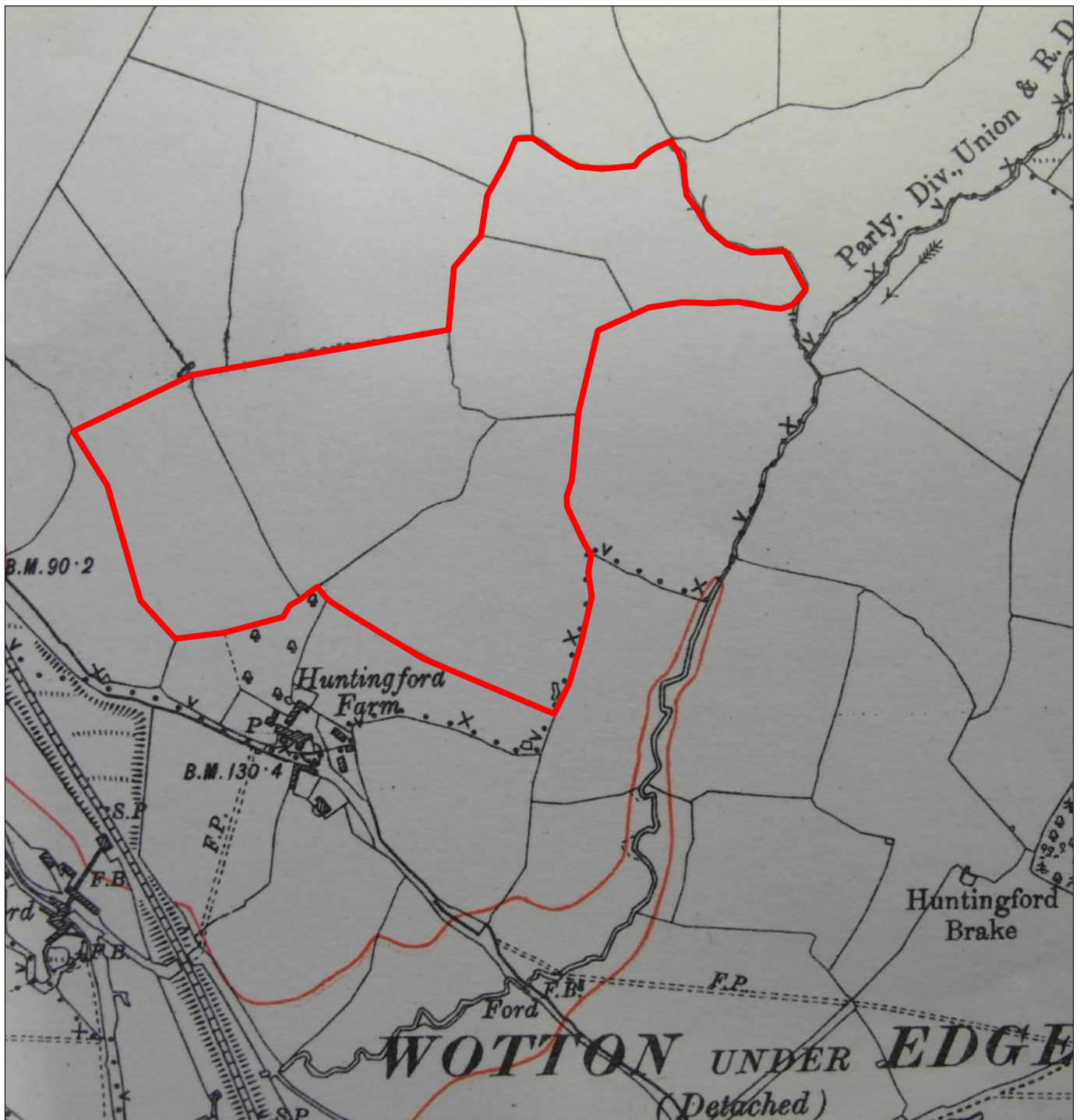


Figure 7



Extract from historic aerial photograph NMR/RAF/CPE/UK/1961, Frame 4086, 9th April, 1947. Study site outlined in red, not to scale. Blue arrows indicate possible line of Roman road through site (Margary 541a).

